

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
14 January 2010 (14.01.2010)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2010/005520 A2**

(51) International Patent Classification:

**C07D 471/04** (2006.01) **A61P 11/06** (2006.01)  
**A61K 31/437** (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2009/003888

(22) International Filing Date:

30 June 2009 (30.06.2009)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

61/133,523 30 June 2008 (30.06.2008) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **CONCERT PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.** [US/US]; 99 Hayden Avenue, Suite 500, Lexington, MA 02421 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **LIU, Julie, F.** [US/US]; 3 Whitman Circle, Lexington, MA 02420 (US). **PERSICHETTI, Rose, A.** [US/US]; 375 Harvard Road, Stow, MA 01775 (US).

(74) Agent: **ABELLEIRA, Susan, M.**; Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds, P.C., 530 Virginia Road, P.O. Box 9133, Concord, MA 01742-9133 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report (Rule 48.2(g))

(54) Title: 2-ALKYL-3-ACYLPYRAZOLO[1,5-A]PYRIDINE DERIVATIVES

(57) Abstract: This invention relates to novel compounds that are 2-alkyl-3-acylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridines, their derivatives, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. More specifically, the invention relates to 2-alkyl-3-acylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine compounds that are derivatives of ibudilast. This invention also provides compositions comprising a compound of this invention and the use of such compositions in methods of treating diseases and conditions that are beneficially treated by administering a phosphodiesterase (PDE) inhibitor, a leukotriene CysLT1 (LTD4) antagonist, an inhibitor of nitric oxide synthase, and/or a glial cell activation suppressant, such as ibudilast.



WO 2010/005520 A2

## 2-ALKYL-3-ACYLPYRAZOLO[1,5-a]PYRIDINE DERIVATIVES

### RELATED APPLICATION

[1] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/133,523, filed on June 30, 2008. The entire teachings of the above application is incorporated herein by reference.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[2] Ibudilast, also known as 1-(2-isopropylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl)-2-methyl-1-propanone, is known to be a phosphodiesterase (PDE) inhibitor, a leukotriene CysLT1 (LTD4) antagonist, an inhibitor of nitric oxide synthase and platelet activation, and a glial cell activation suppressant. Its bronchodilation properties arise in part from its ability to act as a phosphodiesterase (PDE) inhibitor, preferentially inhibiting PDE3A, PDE4, PDE10 and PDE11. Additionally, its ability to act as a leukotriene CysLT1 (LTD4) antagonist and inhibitor of leukotriene release play a role in bronchodilation. Ibudilast's efficacy in the treatment of neuropathic pain arises from its action as a suppressant of glial cell activation through suppression of the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines IL-1 $\beta$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , and IL-6. This glial cell activation suppression may also enhance the production of the anti-inflammatory cytokine IL-10 and upregulate release of neurotrophic factors NGF, GDNF, and NT-4. (See Ledeboer, A et al., *Neuron Glia Biol*, 2007, 2(4): 279 and the Kyorin Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. label for Ketas).

[3] Ibudilast is currently approved in Japan for asthma, allergic conjunctivitis and cerebrovascular disorders including dizziness secondary to chronic cerebral circulation impairment associated with sequelae of cerebral infarction. Ibudilast is also currently in clinical trials for multiple sclerosis and neuropathic pain.

[4] In all reports of animal metabolism studies, ibudilast was metabolized by the epoxide-diol pathway and by  $\omega$ -hydroxylation of the isobutyryl group. Some of the  $\omega$ -hydroxylated metabolites were further oxidized to the carboxylate. In humans the major metabolites were 6,7-dihydrodiol ibudilast (product of the epoxide diol pathway) and 2-beta, 3-beta-diol ibudilast (product of  $\omega$ -hydroxylation of both isobutyryl groups). (See Takagi, K et al., *Oyo Yakuri*, 1985, 30(6): 983-94 and the Kyorin Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. label for Ketas).

- [5] The most frequently observed adverse events for ibudilast include, but are not limited to, anorexia (<1%), increased AST (GOT) levels (<1%), and increased ALT (GPT) levels (<1%). Occurrences of thrombocytopenia, hepatic dysfunction and jaundice have also been reported. Other adverse reactions seen include rash, dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and dyspepsia. (See the Kyorin Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. label for Ketas).
- [6] Despite the beneficial activities of ibudilast, there is a continuing need for new compounds to treat the aforementioned diseases and conditions.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

- [7] This invention relates to novel compounds that are 2-alkyl-3-acylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridines, their derivatives, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. More specifically, the invention relates to 2-alkyl-3-acylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine compounds that are derivatives of ibudilast. This invention also provides compositions comprising a compound of this invention and the use of such compositions in methods of treating diseases and conditions that are beneficially treated by administering a phosphodiesterase (PDE) inhibitor, a leukotriene CysLT1 (LTD4) antagonist, an inhibitor of nitric oxide synthase, and/or a glial cell activation suppressant, such as ibudilast.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- [8] The term "treat" means decrease, suppress, attenuate, diminish, arrest, or stabilize the development or progression of a disease (e.g., a disease or disorder delineated herein), lessen the severity of the disease or improve the symptoms associated with the disease.
- [9] "Disease" means any condition or disorder that damages or interferes with the normal function of a cell, tissue, or organ.
- [10] It will be recognized that some variation of natural isotopic abundance occurs in a synthesized compound depending upon the origin of chemical materials used in the synthesis. Thus, a preparation of ibudilast will inherently contain small amounts of deuterated isotopologues. The concentration of naturally abundant stable hydrogen and carbon isotopes, notwithstanding this variation, is small and immaterial as compared to the degree of stable isotopic substitution of compounds of this invention. See, for instance, Wada E et al., *Seikagaku* 1994, 66:15; Gannes LZ et al., *Comp Biochem Physiol Mol Integr Physiol* 1998, 119:725.
- [11] In the compounds of this invention any atom not specifically designated as a particular isotope is meant to represent any stable isotope of that atom. Unless otherwise stated, when a

position is designated specifically as “H” or “hydrogen”, the position is understood to have hydrogen at its natural abundance isotopic composition. Also unless otherwise stated, when a position is designated specifically as “D” or “deuterium”, the position is understood to have deuterium at an abundance that is at least 3340 times greater than the natural abundance of deuterium, which is 0.015% (i.e., at least 50.1% incorporation of deuterium).

[12] The term “isotopic enrichment factor” as used herein means the ratio between the isotopic abundance and the naturally occurring abundance of a specified isotope.

[13] In other embodiments, a compound of this invention has an isotopic enrichment factor for each deuterium present at a site designated as a potential site of deuteration on the compound of at least 3500 (52.5% deuterium incorporation), at least 4000 (60% deuterium incorporation), at least 4500 (67.5% deuterium incorporation), at least 5000 (75% deuterium), at least 5500 (82.5% deuterium incorporation), at least 6000 (90% deuterium incorporation), at least 6333.3 (95% deuterium incorporation), at least 6466.7 (97% deuterium incorporation), at least 6600 (99% deuterium incorporation), or at least 6633.3 (99.5% deuterium incorporation). It is understood that the isotopic enrichment factor of each deuterium present at a site designated as a site of deuteration is independent of other deuterated sites. For example, if there are two sites of deuteration on a compound one site could be deuterated at 52.5% while the other could be deuterated at 75%. The resulting compound would be considered to be a compound wherein the isotopic enrichment factor is at least 3500 (52.5%).

[14] The term “isotopologue” refers to a species that differs from a specific compound of this invention only in the isotopic composition thereof.

[15] The term “compound,” when referring to the compounds of the invention, refers to a collection of molecules having an identical chemical structure, except that there may be isotopic variation among the constituent atoms of the molecules. Thus, it will be clear to those of skill in the art that a compound represented by a particular chemical structure containing indicated deuterium atoms, will also contain lesser amounts of isotopologues having hydrogen atoms at one or more of the designated deuterium positions in that structure. The relative amount of such isotopologues in a compound of this invention will depend upon a number of factors including the isotopic purity of deuterated reagents used to make the compound and the efficiency of incorporation of deuterium in the various synthesis steps used to prepare the compound.

However, as set forth above the relative amount of such isotopologues will be less than 49.9% of the compound. In other embodiments, the relative amount of such isotopologues *in toto* will be less than 47.5%, less than 40%, less than 32.5%, less than 25%, less than 17.5%, less than 10%,

less than 5%, less than 3%, less than 1%, or less than 0.5% of the compound.

[16] The invention also provides salts of the compounds of the invention.

[17] A salt of a compound of this invention is formed between an acid and a basic group of the compound, such as an amino functional group, or a base and an acidic group of the compound, such as a carboxyl functional group. According to another embodiment, the compound is a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt.

[18] The term "pharmaceutically acceptable," as used herein, refers to a component that is, within the scope of sound medical judgment, suitable for use in contact with the tissues of humans and other mammals without undue toxicity, irritation, allergic response and the like, and are commensurate with a reasonable benefit/risk ratio. A "pharmaceutically acceptable salt" means any non-toxic salt that, upon administration to a recipient, is capable of providing, either directly or indirectly, a compound of this invention. A "pharmaceutically acceptable counterion" is an ionic portion of a salt that is not toxic when released from the salt upon administration to a recipient.

[19] Acids commonly employed to form pharmaceutically acceptable salts include inorganic acids such as hydrogen bisulfide, hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, hydroiodic acid, sulfuric acid and phosphoric acid, as well as organic acids such as para-toluenesulfonic acid, salicylic acid, tartaric acid, bitartaric acid, ascorbic acid, maleic acid, besylic acid, fumaric acid, gluconic acid, glucuronic acid, formic acid, glutamic acid, methanesulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, lactic acid, oxalic acid, para-bromophenylsulfonic acid, carbonic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, benzoic acid and acetic acid, as well as related inorganic and organic acids. Such pharmaceutically acceptable salts thus include sulfate, pyrosulfate, bisulfate, sulfite, bisulfite, phosphate, monohydrogenphosphate, dihydrogenphosphate, metaphosphate, pyrophosphate, chloride, bromide, iodide, acetate, propionate, decanoate, caprylate, acrylate, formate, isobutyrate, caprate, heptanoate, propiolate, oxalate, malonate, succinate, suberate, sebacate, fumarate, maleate, butyne-1,4-dioate, hexyne-1,6-dioate, benzoate, chlorobenzoate, methylbenzoate, dinitrobenzoate, hydroxybenzoate, methoxybenzoate, phthalate, terephthalate, sulfonate, xylene sulfonate, phenylacetate, phenylpropionate, phenylbutyrate, citrate, lactate,  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate, glycolate, maleate, tartrate, methanesulfonate, propanesulfonate, naphthalene-1-sulfonate, naphthalene-2-sulfonate, mandelate and other salts. In one embodiment, pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts include those formed with mineral acids such as hydrochloric acid and hydrobromic acid, and especially those formed with organic acids such as maleic acid.

[20] The disclosed compounds may exist in various stereoisomeric forms. Stereoisomers are compounds which differ only in their spatial arrangement. Enantiomers are pairs of stereoisomers whose mirror images are not superimposable, most commonly because they contain an asymmetrically substituted carbon atom that acts as a chiral center. "Enantiomer" means one of a pair of molecules that are mirror images of each other and are not superimposable. Diastereomers are stereoisomers that are not related as mirror images, most commonly because they contain two or more asymmetrically substituted carbon atoms. "R" and "S" represent the configuration of substituents around one or more chiral carbon atoms.

[21] When the stereochemistry of the disclosed compounds is named or depicted by structure, the named or depicted stereoisomer is at least 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 99% or 99.9% by weight pure relative to the other stereoisomers. When a single enantiomer is named or depicted by structure, the depicted or named enantiomer is at least 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 99% or 99.9% optically pure. Percent optical purity by weight is the ratio of the weight of the enantiomer over the weight of the enantiomer plus the weight of its optical isomer.

[22] When a disclosed compound is named or depicted by structure without indicating the stereochemistry, and has at least one chiral center, it is to be understood that the name or structure encompasses one enantiomer free from the corresponding optical isomer, a racemic mixture and mixtures enriched in one enantiomer relative to its corresponding optical isomer ("scalemic mixtures").

[23] When a disclosed compound is named or depicted by structure without indicating the stereochemistry and has at least two chiral centers, it is to be understood that the name or structure encompasses a diastereomer free of other diastereomers, a pair of diastereomers free from other diastereomeric pairs, mixtures of diastereomers, mixtures of diastereomeric pairs, mixtures of diastereomers in which one diastereomer is enriched relative to the other diastereomer(s) and mixtures of diastereomeric pairs in which one diastereomeric pair is enriched relative to the other diastereomeric pair(s).

[24] The term "substantially free of other stereoisomers" as used herein means less than 25% of other stereoisomers, preferably less than 10% of other stereoisomers, more preferably less than 5% of other stereoisomers and most preferably less than 2% of other stereoisomers, or less than "X"% of other stereoisomers (wherein X is a number between 0 and 100, inclusive) are present.

[25] The term "stable compounds," as used herein, refers to compounds which possess stability sufficient to allow for their manufacture and which maintain the integrity of the

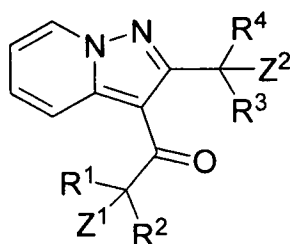
compound for a sufficient period of time to be useful for the purposes detailed herein (e.g., formulation into therapeutic products, intermediates for use in production of therapeutic compounds, isolatable or storable intermediate compounds, treating a disease or condition responsive to therapeutic agents).

[26] "D" refers to deuterium. "Stereoisomer" refers to both enantiomers and diastereomers. "Tert" and "t-" each refer to tertiary. "US" refers to the United States of America. "FDA" refers to Food and Drug Administration. "NDA" refers to New Drug Application.

[27] Throughout this specification, a variable may be referred to generally (e.g., "each R") or may be referred to specifically (e.g.,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , etc.). Unless otherwise indicated, when a variable is referred to generally, it is meant to include all specific embodiments of that particular variable.

#### THERAPEUTIC COMPOUNDS

[28] The present invention provides a compound of Formula I:



(I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt,

thereof, wherein:

each R is independently selected from  $-CH_3$ ,  $-CH_2D$ ,  $-CHD_2$  and  $-CD_3$ ;

each Z is independently selected from hydrogen and deuterium; and

when each R is  $-CH_3$ , at least one Z is deuterium.

[29] In a first embodiment, when  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are  $-CD_3$ ; and  $Z^1$  is deuterium, then at least one of  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $Z^2$  comprises a deuterium atom. In one aspect of this first embodiment, each of  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  is independently selected from  $-CH_3$ , and  $-CD_3$ . In another aspect of this first embodiment,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are the same; and  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are the same. In yet another aspect of this first embodiment,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are  $-CD_3$ ; and  $Z^1$  is deuterium. In still another aspect,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are  $-CD_3$ ;  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are  $-CH_3$ ;  $Z^1$  is deuterium; and  $Z^2$  is deuterium.

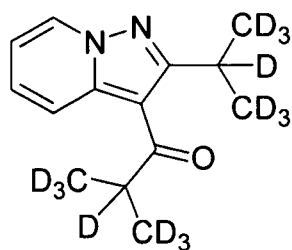
[30] A second embodiment provides a compound of Formula I wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are  $CH_3$ . In one aspect of this embodiment,  $Z^1$  is hydrogen. In another aspect,  $Z^1$  is deuterium. In still another aspect of this second embodiment,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are  $CH_3$ . In yet another aspect of this embodiment  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are  $CH_3$ ;  $Z^1$  is hydrogen; and  $Z^2$  is deuterium. In still another aspect of this second embodiment  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are  $CH_3$ ;  $Z^1$  is deuterium; and  $Z^2$  is hydrogen or deuterium.

In another aspect of this embodiment,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are  $CD_3$ . In one aspect of this second embodiment,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are  $CD_3$ ;  $Z^1$  is hydrogen; and  $Z^2$  is hydrogen or deuterium. In another aspect of this second embodiment,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are  $CD_3$ ;  $Z^1$  is deuterium; and  $Z^2$  is hydrogen or deuterium.

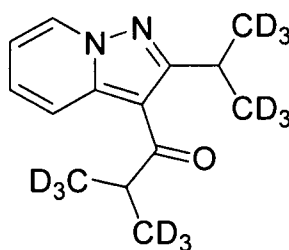
[31] In a third embodiment,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are  $CD_3$ ; and  $Z^1$  is hydrogen.

[32] In a fourth embodiment,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are  $CD_3$ ; and  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are  $CD_3$ . In one aspect of this embodiment,  $Z^1$  is hydrogen; and  $Z^2$  is hydrogen or deuterium. In another aspect of this embodiment,  $Z^1$  is deuterium; and  $Z^2$  is hydrogen or deuterium. In still another aspect,  $Z^1$  is deuterium and  $Z^2$  is deuterium.

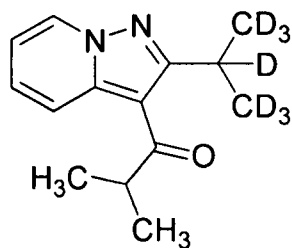
[33] Examples of specific compounds of Formula I include the following:



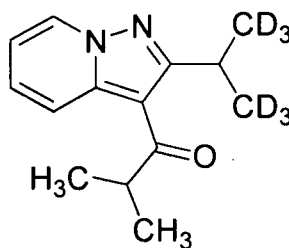
Compound 100;



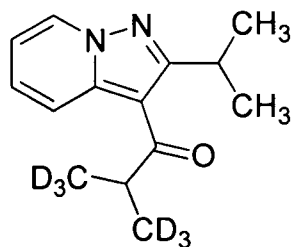
Compound 101;



Compound 102;



Compound 103; and



Compound 104 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

[34] In another set of embodiments, any atom not designated as deuterium in any of the embodiments set forth above is present at its natural isotopic abundance.

[35] The synthesis of compounds of Formula I can be readily achieved by synthetic chemists of ordinary skill. Relevant procedures and intermediates are disclosed, for instance in Japanese patent publication JP06184112A, Nagatsu, Y et al, J Label Comp Radiopharm 1985, 22(7):735-43; and Castañer, J et al, Drugs Fut 1984, 9(2): 113.

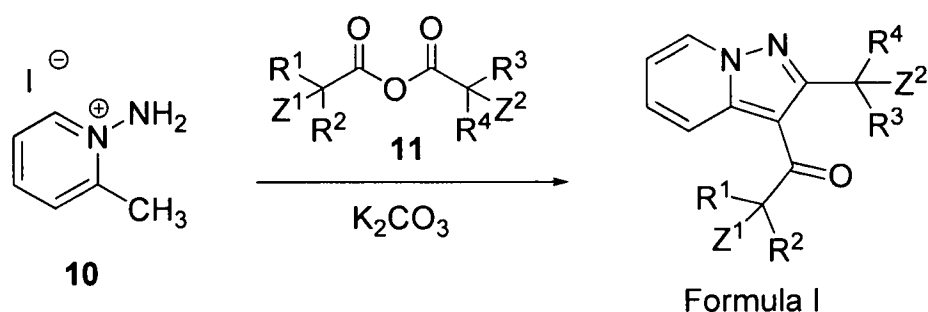


[36] Such methods can be carried out utilizing corresponding deuterated and optionally, other isotope-containing reagents and/or intermediates to synthesize the compounds delineated herein, or invoking standard synthetic protocols known in the art for introducing isotopic atoms to a chemical structure.

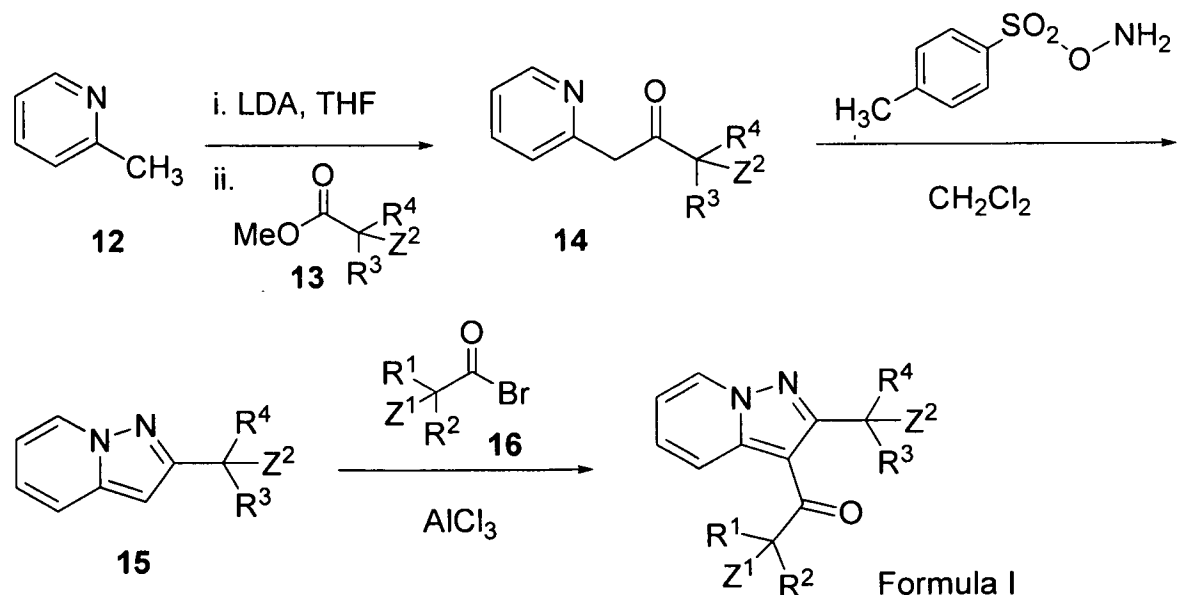
## EXEMPLARY SYNTHESIS

[37] Two convenient methods for synthesizing compounds of Formula I are depicted in Schemes 1a and 1b.

[38] Scheme 1a. Synthesis of Compounds of Formula I.



[39] Scheme 1b. Alternative Synthesis of Compounds of Formula I.

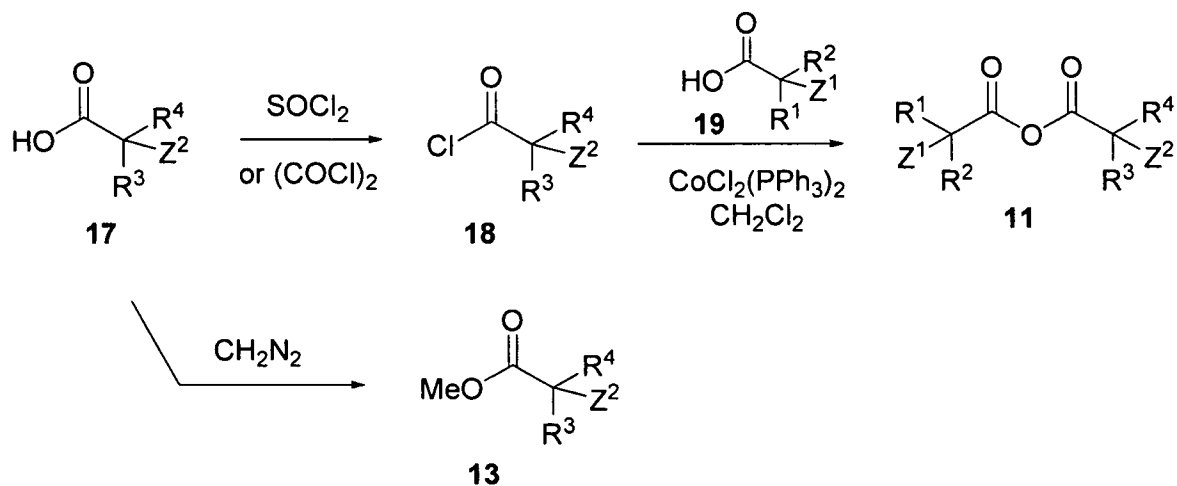


[40] Scheme 1a is particularly useful for preparing compounds of Formula I wherein the two isopropyl groups are identical. Commercially-available 1-amino-2-methylpyridinium iodide (**10**) is treated with  $K_2CO_3$  and a deuterated anhydride **11** to afford compounds of Formula I, according to the general methods of Japanese patent publication JP06184112A; and Nagatsu, Y et al, J Label Comp Radiopharm 1985, 22(7):735-43.

[41] Scheme 1b depicts an alternate route that is particularly useful for preparing compounds of Formula I wherein the two isopropyl groups are different. Commercially-available 2-picoline (**12**) is treated with lithium diisopropylamide, followed by a deuterated ester **13** to afford ketone **14** according to the methods of Natarajan, S et al, Tet Lett 2006, 47(29): 5063-5067. Ketone **14** is treated with known O-tosylhydroxylamine (Bottaro, JC, J Chem Soc Chem Comm 1980, 12: 560-1) to provide heterocycle **15** according to the methods of Japanese patent publication JP06016667 A. Heterocycle **15** is treated with deuterated acyl bromide **16** in the presence of aluminum trichloride to afford compounds of Formula I. The preparation of acyl bromide **16** and the Friedel-Crafts reaction of heterocycle **15** are performed using the methods of Nagatsu, Y et al, J Label Comp Radiopharm 1985, 22(7):735-43.

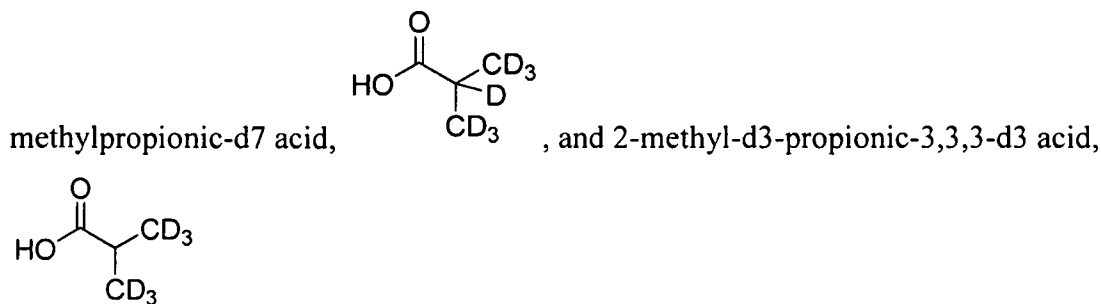
[42] Scheme 2 depicts the preparation of deuterated anhydride **11** and a deuterated ester **13**.

[43] Scheme 2. Synthesis of Deuterated Anhydride **11** and Deuterated Ester **13**



[44] As depicted in Scheme 2, a deuterated carboxylic acid **17** is converted to the acid chloride **18** via treatment with either thionyl chloride or oxalyl chloride. Via the methods of Leadbeater, NE et al, J Org Chem 2000, 65(15):4770-4772, acyl chloride **18** and deuterated carboxylic acid **19** are treated with dichlorobis(triphenylphosphine)cobalt(II) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  to afford anhydride **11**. Deuterated carboxylic acid **17** is converted to methyl ester **13** via treatment with diazomethane.

[45] Deuterated carboxylic acids **17** and **19** are commercially available and include 2-



[46] The specific approaches and compounds shown above are not intended to be limiting. The chemical structures in the schemes herein depict variables that are hereby defined commensurately with chemical group definitions (moieties, atoms, etc.) of the corresponding position in the compound formulae herein, whether identified by the same variable name (i.e.,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , etc.) or not. The suitability of a chemical group in a compound structure for use in the synthesis of another compound is within the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art.

[47] Additional methods of synthesizing compounds of Formula I and their synthetic precursors, including those within routes not explicitly shown in schemes herein, are within the means of chemists of ordinary skill in the art. Synthetic chemistry transformations and protecting group methodologies (protection and deprotection) useful in synthesizing the applicable compounds are known in the art and include, for example, those described in Larock R, *Comprehensive Organic Transformations*, VCH Publishers (1989); Greene TW et al., *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., John Wiley and Sons (1999); Fieser L et al., *Fieser and Fieser's Reagents for Organic Synthesis*, John Wiley and Sons (1994); and Paquette L, ed., *Encyclopedia of Reagents for Organic Synthesis*, John Wiley and Sons (1995) and subsequent editions thereof.

[48] Combinations of substituents and variables envisioned by this invention are only those that result in the formation of stable compounds.

## COMPOSITIONS

[49] The invention also provides pyrogen-free compositions comprising an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and an acceptable carrier.

[50] Preferably, a composition of this invention is formulated for pharmaceutical use ("a pharmaceutical composition"), wherein the carrier is a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The

carrier(s) are “acceptable” in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the formulation and, in the case of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, not deleterious to the recipient thereof in an amount used in the medicament.

[51] Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, adjuvants and vehicles that may be used in the pharmaceutical compositions of this invention include, but are not limited to, ion exchangers, alumina, aluminum stearate, lecithin, serum proteins, such as human serum albumin, buffer substances such as phosphates, glycine, sorbic acid, potassium sorbate, partial glyceride mixtures of saturated vegetable fatty acids, water, salts or electrolytes, such as protamine sulfate, disodium hydrogen phosphate, potassium hydrogen phosphate, sodium chloride, zinc salts, colloidal silica, magnesium trisilicate, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, cellulose-based substances, polyethylene glycol, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, polyacrylates, waxes, polyethylene-polyoxypropylene-block polymers, polyethylene glycol and wool fat.

[52] If required, the solubility and bioavailability of the compounds of the present invention in pharmaceutical compositions may be enhanced by methods well-known in the art. One method includes the use of lipid excipients in the formulation. See “Oral Lipid-Based Formulations: Enhancing the Bioavailability of Poorly Water-Soluble Drugs (Drugs and the Pharmaceutical Sciences),” David J. Hauss, ed. Informa Healthcare, 2007; and “Role of Lipid Excipients in Modifying Oral and Parenteral Drug Delivery: Basic Principles and Biological Examples,” Kishor M. Wasan, ed. Wiley-Interscience, 2006.

[53] Another known method of enhancing bioavailability is the use of an amorphous form of a compound of this invention optionally formulated with a poloxamer, such as LUTROL™ and PLURONIC™ (BASF Corporation), or block copolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide. See United States patent 7,014,866; and United States patent publications 20060094744 and 20060079502.

[54] The pharmaceutical compositions of the invention include those suitable for oral, rectal, nasal, topical (including buccal and sublingual), vaginal or parenteral (including subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous and intradermal) administration. In certain embodiments, the compound of the formulae herein is administered transdermally (e.g., using a transdermal patch or iontophoretic techniques). Other formulations may conveniently be presented in unit dosage form, e.g., tablets, sustained release capsules, and in liposomes, and may be prepared by any methods well known in the art of pharmacy. See, for example, Remington’s Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Company, Philadelphia, PA (17th ed. 1985).

[55] Such preparative methods include the step of bringing into association with the molecule to be administered ingredients such as the carrier that constitutes one or more accessory ingredients. In general, the compositions are prepared by uniformly and intimately bringing into association the active ingredients with liquid carriers, liposomes or finely divided solid carriers, or both, and then, if necessary, shaping the product.

[56] In certain embodiments, the compound is administered orally. Compositions of the present invention suitable for oral administration may be presented as discrete units such as capsules, sachets, or tablets each containing a predetermined amount of the active ingredient; a powder or granules; a solution or a suspension in an aqueous liquid or a non-aqueous liquid; an oil-in-water liquid emulsion; a water-in-oil liquid emulsion; packed in liposomes; or as a bolus, etc. Soft gelatin capsules can be useful for containing such suspensions, which may beneficially increase the rate of compound absorption.

[57] In the case of tablets for oral use, carriers that are commonly used include lactose and corn starch. Lubricating agents, such as magnesium stearate, are also typically added. For oral administration in a capsule form, useful diluents include lactose and dried cornstarch. When aqueous suspensions are administered orally, the active ingredient is combined with emulsifying and suspending agents. If desired, certain sweetening and/or flavoring and/or coloring agents may be added.

[58] Compositions suitable for oral administration include lozenges comprising the ingredients in a flavored basis, usually sucrose and acacia or tragacanth; and pastilles comprising the active ingredient in an inert basis such as gelatin and glycerin, or sucrose and acacia.

[59] Compositions suitable for parenteral administration include aqueous and non-aqueous sterile injection solutions which may contain anti-oxidants, buffers, bacteriostats and solutes which render the formulation isotonic with the blood of the intended recipient; and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions which may include suspending agents and thickening agents. The formulations may be presented in unit-dose or multi-dose containers, for example, sealed ampules and vials, and may be stored in a freeze dried (lyophilized) condition requiring only the addition of the sterile liquid carrier, for example water for injections, immediately prior to use. Extemporaneous injection solutions and suspensions may be prepared from sterile powders, granules and tablets.

[60] Such injection solutions may be in the form, for example, of a sterile injectable aqueous or oleaginous suspension. This suspension may be formulated according to techniques known in the art using suitable dispersing or wetting agents (such as, for example, Tween 80) and

suspending agents. The sterile injectable preparation may also be a sterile injectable solution or suspension in a non-toxic parenterally-acceptable diluent or solvent, for example, as a solution in 1,3-butanediol. Among the acceptable vehicles and solvents that may be employed are mannitol, water, Ringer's solution and isotonic sodium chloride solution. In addition, sterile, fixed oils are conventionally employed as a solvent or suspending medium. For this purpose, any bland fixed oil may be employed including synthetic mono- or diglycerides. Fatty acids, such as oleic acid and its glyceride derivatives are useful in the preparation of injectables, as are natural pharmaceutically-acceptable oils, such as olive oil or castor oil, especially in their polyoxyethylated versions. These oil solutions or suspensions may also contain a long-chain alcohol diluent or dispersant.

[61] The pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may be administered in the form of suppositories for rectal administration. These compositions can be prepared by mixing a compound of this invention with a suitable non-irritating excipient which is solid at room temperature but liquid at the rectal temperature and therefore will melt in the rectum to release the active components. Such materials include, but are not limited to, cocoa butter, beeswax and polyethylene glycols.

[62] The pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may be administered by nasal aerosol or inhalation. Such compositions are prepared according to techniques well-known in the art of pharmaceutical formulation and may be prepared as solutions in saline, employing benzyl alcohol or other suitable preservatives, absorption promoters to enhance bioavailability, fluorocarbons, and/or other solubilizing or dispersing agents known in the art. See, e.g.: Rabinowitz JD and Zaffaroni AC, US Patent 6,803,031, assigned to Alexza Molecular Delivery Corporation.

[63] Topical administration of the pharmaceutical compositions of this invention is especially useful when the desired treatment involves areas or organs readily accessible by topical application. For topical application topically to the skin, the pharmaceutical composition should be formulated with a suitable ointment containing the active components suspended or dissolved in a carrier. Carriers for topical administration of the compounds of this invention include, but are not limited to, mineral oil, liquid petroleum, white petroleum, propylene glycol, polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene compound, emulsifying wax, and water. Alternatively, the pharmaceutical composition can be formulated with a suitable lotion or cream containing the active compound suspended or dissolved in a carrier. Suitable carriers include, but are not limited to, mineral oil, sorbitan monostearate, polysorbate 60, cetyl esters wax, cetearyl alcohol,

2-octyldodecanol, benzyl alcohol, and water. The pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may also be topically applied to the lower intestinal tract by rectal suppository formulation or in a suitable enema formulation. Topically-transdermal patches and iontophoretic administration are also included in this invention.

[64] Application of the subject therapeutics may be local, so as to be administered at the site of interest. Various techniques can be used for providing the subject compositions at the site of interest, such as injection, use of catheters, trocars, projectiles, pluronic gel, stents, sustained drug release polymers or other device which provides for internal access.

[65] Thus, according to yet another embodiment, the compounds of this invention may be incorporated into compositions for coating an implantable medical device, such as prostheses, artificial valves, vascular grafts, stents, or catheters. Suitable coatings and the general preparation of coated implantable devices are known in the art and are exemplified in US Patents 6,099,562; 5,886,026; and 5,304,121. The coatings are typically biocompatible polymeric materials such as a hydrogel polymer, polymethyldisiloxane, polycaprolactone, polyethylene glycol, polylactic acid, ethylene vinyl acetate, and mixtures thereof. The coatings may optionally be further covered by a suitable topcoat of fluorosilicone, polysaccharides, polyethylene glycol, phospholipids or combinations thereof to impart controlled release characteristics in the composition. Coatings for invasive devices are to be included within the definition of pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle, as those terms are used herein.

[66] According to another embodiment, the invention provides a method of coating an implantable medical device comprising the step of contacting said device with the coating composition described above. It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that the coating of the device will occur prior to implantation into a mammal.

[67] According to another embodiment, the invention provides a method of impregnating an implantable drug release device comprising the step of contacting said drug release device with a compound or composition of this invention. Implantable drug release devices include, but are not limited to, biodegradable polymer capsules or bullets, non-degradable, diffusible polymer capsules and biodegradable polymer wafers.

[68] According to another embodiment, the invention provides an implantable medical device coated with a compound or a composition comprising a compound of this invention, such that said compound is therapeutically active.

[69] According to another embodiment, the invention provides an implantable drug release device impregnated with or containing a compound or a composition comprising a compound of this invention, such that said compound is released from said device and is therapeutically active.

[70] Where an organ or tissue is accessible because of removal from the patient, such organ or tissue may be bathed in a medium containing a composition of this invention, a composition of this invention may be painted onto the organ, or a composition of this invention may be applied in any other convenient way.

[71] In another embodiment, a composition of this invention further comprises a second therapeutic agent. The second therapeutic agent may be selected from any compound or therapeutic agent known to have or that demonstrates advantageous properties when administered with a compound having the same mechanism of action as ibudilast. Such agents include those indicated as being useful in combination with ibudilast, including but not limited to, those described in WO 2004067006, and WO 2007047978.

[72] Preferably, the second therapeutic agent is an agent useful in the treatment or prevention of a disease or condition selected from asthma, allergic conjunctivitis, cerebrovascular disorders including dizziness secondary to chronic cerebral circulation impairment associated with sequelae of cerebral infarction, multiple sclerosis, neuropathic pain, addictions, including drug and behavioral addictions, rheumatoid arthritis, hyperparathyroidism, renal osteodystrophy, hypercalcemia, neurodegenerative disorder, neurological trauma including brain or central nervous system trauma, depression, anxiety, psychosis, learning and memory disorders, ischemia of the central and/or peripheral nervous systems, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, atopic dermatitis, psoriatic arthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), delirium, including postoperative delirium, sepsis-associated delirium, and drug or alcohol withdrawal-associated delirium, dysmnnesia, Parkinson' disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and integration dysfunction syndrome.

[73] In another embodiment, the invention provides separate dosage forms of a compound of this invention and one or more of any of the above-described second therapeutic agents, wherein the compound and second therapeutic agent are associated with one another. The term "associated with one another" as used herein means that the separate dosage forms are packaged together or otherwise attached to one another such that it is readily apparent that the separate dosage forms are intended to be sold and administered together (within less than 24 hours of one another, consecutively or simultaneously).



[74] In the pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, the compound of the present invention is present in an effective amount. As used herein, the term "effective amount" refers to an amount which, when administered in a proper dosing regimen, is sufficient to treat (therapeutically or prophylactically) the target disorder. For example, an effective amount is sufficient to reduce or ameliorate the severity, duration or progression of the disorder being treated, prevent the advancement of the disorder being treated, cause the regression of the disorder being treated, or enhance or improve the prophylactic or therapeutic effect(s) of another therapy.

[75] The interrelationship of dosages for animals and humans (based on milligrams per meter squared of body surface) is described in Freireich et al., (1966) *Cancer Chemother. Rep* 50: 219. Body surface area may be approximately determined from height and weight of the patient. See, e.g., *Scientific Tables*, Geigy Pharmaceuticals, Ardsley, N.Y., 1970, 537.

[76] In one embodiment, an effective amount of a compound of this invention can range from about 0.1 mg to 800 mg per treatment. In more specific embodiments the range is from about 1 mg to 400 mg, or from about 2 mg to 160 mg, or most specifically from about 10 mg to 80 mg per treatment. Treatment typically is administered two to three times daily.

[77] Effective doses will also vary, as recognized by those skilled in the art, depending on the diseases treated, the severity of the disease, the route of administration, the sex, age and general health condition of the patient, excipient usage, the possibility of co-usage with other therapeutic treatments such as use of other agents and the judgment of the treating physician. For example, guidance for selecting an effective dose can be determined by reference to the prescribing information for ibudilast.

[78] For pharmaceutical compositions that comprise a second therapeutic agent, an effective amount of the second therapeutic agent is between about 20% and 100% of the dosage normally utilized in a monotherapy regime using just that agent. Preferably, an effective amount is between about 70% and 100% of the normal monotherapeutic dose. The normal monotherapeutic dosages of these second therapeutic agents are well known in the art. See, e.g., Wells et al., eds., *Pharmacotherapy Handbook*, 2nd Edition, Appleton and Lange, Stamford, Conn. (2000); *PDR Pharmacopoeia*, Tarascon Pocket Pharmacopoeia 2000, Deluxe Edition, Tarascon Publishing, Loma Linda, Calif. (2000), each of which references are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

[79] It is expected that some of the second therapeutic agents referenced above will act synergistically with the compounds of this invention. When this occurs, it will allow the

effective dosage of the second therapeutic agent and/or the compound of this invention to be reduced from that required in a monotherapy. This has the advantage of minimizing toxic side effects of either the second therapeutic agent or a compound of this invention, synergistic improvements in efficacy, improved ease of administration or use and/or reduced overall expense of compound preparation or formulation.

#### METHODS OF TREATMENT

[80] In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of blocking the activity of phosphodiesterase (PDE), in particular PDE3A, PDE4, PDE10 and PDE11, of leukotriene CysLT1(LTD4), and of nitric oxide synthase, as well as suppressing glial cell activation in a cell, comprising contacting a cell with one or more compounds of Formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

[81] According to another embodiment, the invention provides a method of treating a disease that is beneficially treated by ibudilast in a patient in need thereof comprising the step of administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or a composition comprising a compound of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

[82] Such diseases are well known in the art and are disclosed in, but not limited to the following patents and published applications: US 3850941, US 4735954, US 4990516, WO 2000009127, WO 2004050091, WO 2004067006, WO 2005051293, WO 2006063048, WO 2007047978, WO 2007142924, WO 2008059854, and WO 2008057496. Such diseases include, but are not limited to, asthma, allergic conjunctivitis, cerebrovascular disorders including dizziness secondary to chronic cerebral circulation impairment associated with sequelae of cerebral infarction, multiple sclerosis, neuropathic pain, addictions, including drug and behavioral addictions, rheumatoid arthritis, hyperparathyroidism, renal osteodystrophy, hypercalcemia, neurodegenerative disorder, neurological trauma including brain or central nervous system trauma, depression, anxiety, psychosis, learning and memory disorders, ischemia of the central and/or peripheral nervous systems, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, atopic dermatitis, psoriatic arthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), delirium, including postoperative delirium, sepsis-associated delirium, and drug or alcohol withdrawal-associated delirium, dysmnnesia, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and integration dysfunction syndrome.

[83] In one particular embodiment, the method of this invention is used to treat a disease or

condition selected from asthma, allergic conjunctivitis, cerebrovascular disorders including dizziness secondary to chronic cerebral circulation impairment associated with sequelae of cerebral infarction, multiple sclerosis, and neuropathic pain, in a patient in need thereof comprising the step of administering to the patient an effective amount of a compound of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

[84] In another particular embodiment, the method of this invention is used to treat a disease or condition selected from asthma, allergic conjunctivitis and cerebrovascular disorders including dizziness secondary to chronic cerebral circulation impairment associated with sequelae of cerebral infarction, in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a compound of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

[85] Methods delineated herein also include those wherein the patient is identified as in need of a particular stated treatment. Identifying a patient in need of such treatment can be in the judgment of a patient or a health care professional and can be subjective (e.g. opinion) or objective (e.g. measurable by a test or diagnostic method).

[86] In another embodiment, any of the above methods of treatment comprises the further step of co-administering to the patient one or more second therapeutic agents. The choice of second therapeutic agent may be made from any second therapeutic agent known to be useful for co-administration with ibudilast. The choice of second therapeutic agent is also dependent upon the particular disease or condition to be treated. Examples of second therapeutic agents that may be employed in the methods of this invention are those set forth above for use in combination compositions comprising a compound of this invention and a second therapeutic agent.

[87] The term "co-administered" as used herein means that the second therapeutic agent may be administered together with a compound of this invention as part of a single dosage form (such as a composition of this invention comprising a compound of the invention and an second therapeutic agent as described above) or as separate, multiple dosage forms. Alternatively, the additional agent may be administered prior to, consecutively with, or following the administration of a compound of this invention. In such combination therapy treatment, both the compounds of this invention and the second therapeutic agent(s) are administered by conventional methods. The administration of a composition of this invention, comprising both a

compound of the invention and a second therapeutic agent, to a patient does not preclude the separate administration of that same therapeutic agent, any other second therapeutic agent or any compound of this invention to said patient at another time during a course of treatment.

[88] Effective amounts of these second therapeutic agents are well known to those skilled in the art and guidance for dosing may be found in patents and published patent applications referenced herein, as well as in Wells et al., eds., *Pharmacotherapy Handbook*, 2nd Edition, Appleton and Lange, Stamford, Conn. (2000); *PDR Pharmacopoeia*, Tarascon Pocket Pharmacopoeia 2000, Deluxe Edition, Tarascon Publishing, Loma Linda, Calif. (2000), and other medical texts. However, it is well within the skilled artisan's purview to determine the second therapeutic agent's optimal effective-amount range.

[89] In one embodiment of the invention, where a second therapeutic agent is administered to a subject, the effective amount of the compound of this invention is less than its effective amount would be where the second therapeutic agent is not administered. In another embodiment, the effective amount of the second therapeutic agent is less than its effective amount would be where the compound of this invention is not administered. In this way, undesired side effects associated with high doses of either agent may be minimized. Other potential advantages (including without limitation improved dosing regimens and/or reduced drug cost) will be apparent to those of skill in the art.

[90] In yet another aspect, the invention provides the use of a compound of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, alone or together with one or more of the above-described second therapeutic agents in the manufacture of a medicament, either as a single composition or as separate dosage forms, for treatment or prevention in a patient of a disease, disorder or symptom set forth above. In still another aspect, the invention provides the use of a compound of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, alone or together with one or more of the above-described second therapeutic agents in the manufacture of a medicament, either as a single composition or as separate dosage forms, for treatment or prevention in a patient of a disease, disorder or symptom set forth above.

[91] Another aspect of the invention is a compound of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment or prevention in a patient of a disease, disorder or symptom thereof delineated herein.

#### PHARMACEUTICAL KITS

[92] The present invention also provides kits for use to treat asthma, allergic conjunctivitis,

cerebrovascular disorders including dizziness secondary to chronic cerebral circulation impairment associated with sequelae of cerebral infarction, multiple sclerosis, and neuropathic pain. These kits comprise (a) a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I or a salt thereof, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is in a container; and (b) instructions describing a method of using the pharmaceutical composition to treat asthma, allergic conjunctivitis, cerebrovascular disorders including dizziness secondary to chronic cerebral circulation impairment associated with sequelae of cerebral infarction, multiple sclerosis, and neuropathic pain.

[93] The container may be any vessel or other sealed or sealable apparatus that can hold said pharmaceutical composition. Examples include bottles, ampules, divided or multi-chambered holders bottles, wherein each division or chamber comprises a single dose of said composition, a divided foil packet wherein each division comprises a single dose of said composition, or a dispenser that dispenses single doses of said composition. The container can be in any conventional shape or form as known in the art which is made of a pharmaceutically acceptable material, for example a paper or cardboard box, a glass or plastic bottle or jar, a re-sealable bag (for example, to hold a "refill" of tablets for placement into a different container), or a blister pack with individual doses for pressing out of the pack according to a therapeutic schedule. The container employed can depend on the exact dosage form involved, for example a conventional cardboard box would not generally be used to hold a liquid suspension. It is feasible that more than one container can be used together in a single package to market a single dosage form. For example, tablets may be contained in a bottle, which is in turn contained within a box. In one embodiment, the container is a blister pack.

[94] The kits of this invention may also comprise a device to administer or to measure out a unit dose of the pharmaceutical composition. Such device may include an inhaler if said composition is an inhalable composition; a syringe and needle if said composition is an injectable composition; a syringe, spoon, pump, or a vessel with or without volume markings if said composition is an oral liquid composition; or any other measuring or delivery device appropriate to the dosage formulation of the composition present in the kit.

In certain embodiment, the kits of this invention may comprise in a separate vessel or container a pharmaceutical composition comprising a second therapeutic agent, such as one of those listed above for use for co-administration with a compound of this invention.

**Example I. Evaluation of Metabolic Stability**

[95] **Microsomal Assay:** Human liver microsomes (20 mg/mL) are obtained from Xenotech, LLC (Lenexa, KS).  $\beta$ -nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate, reduced form (NADPH), magnesium chloride ( $\text{MgCl}_2$ ), and dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) are purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

[96] **Determination of Metabolic Stability:** 7.5 mM stock solutions of test compounds are prepared in DMSO. The 7.5 mM stock solutions are diluted to 12.5-50  $\mu\text{M}$  in acetonitrile (ACN). The 20 mg/mL human liver microsomes are diluted to 0.625 mg/mL in 0.1 M potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.4, containing 3 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ . The diluted microsomes are added to wells of a 96-well deep-well polypropylene plate in triplicate. A 10  $\mu\text{L}$  aliquot of the 12.5-50  $\mu\text{M}$  test compound is added to the microsomes and the mixture is pre-warmed for 10 minutes. Reactions are initiated by addition of pre-warmed NADPH solution. The final reaction volume is 0.5 mL and contains 0.5 mg/mL human liver microsomes, 0.25-1.0  $\mu\text{M}$  test compound, and 2 mM NADPH in 0.1 M potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.4, and 3 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ . The reaction mixtures are incubated at 37  $^\circ\text{C}$ , and 50  $\mu\text{L}$  aliquots are removed at 0, 5, 10, 20, and 30 minutes and added to shallow-well 96-well plates which contain 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of ice-cold ACN with internal standard to stop the reactions. The plates are stored at 4  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 20 minutes after which 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of water is added to the wells of the plate before centrifugation to pellet precipitated proteins. Supernatants are transferred to another 96-well plate and analyzed for amounts of parent remaining by LC-MS/MS using an Applied Bio-systems API 4000 mass spectrometer. The same procedure is followed for ibudilast and the positive control, 7-ethoxycoumarin (1  $\mu\text{M}$ ). Testing is done in triplicate.

[97] **Data analysis:** The *in vitro*  $t_{1/2}$ s for test compounds are calculated from the slopes of the linear regression of % parent remaining (ln) vs incubation time relationship.

$$\text{in vitro } t_{1/2} = 0.693/k$$

$$k = -[\text{slope of linear regression of \% parent remaining}(\ln) \text{ vs incubation time}]$$

[98] Data analysis is performed using Microsoft Excel Software.

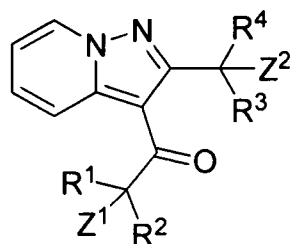
[99] Without further description, it is believed that one of ordinary skill in the art can, using the preceding description and the illustrative examples, make and utilize the compounds of the present invention and practice the claimed methods. It should be understood that the foregoing discussion and examples merely present a detailed description of certain preferred embodiments. It will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that various modifications and equivalents can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. All the patents,

journal articles and other documents discussed or cited above are herein incorporated by reference.

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A compound of Formula I:



(I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein:

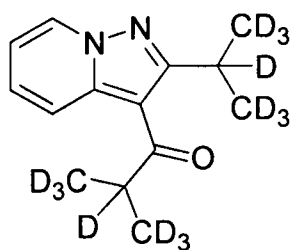
each R is independently selected from -CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>D, -CHD<sub>2</sub> and -CD<sub>3</sub>;

each Z is independently selected from hydrogen and deuterium;

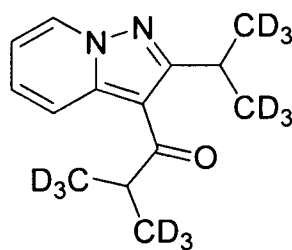
when each R is -CH<sub>3</sub>, at least one Z is deuterium; and

when each of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is -CD<sub>3</sub>, each of R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> is -CH<sub>3</sub> and Z<sup>1</sup> is deuterium, then Z<sup>2</sup> is a deuterium atom.

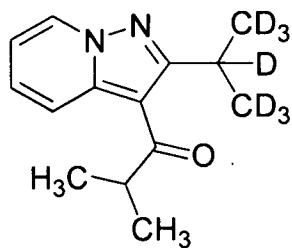
2. The compound of claim 1, wherein each of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> is selected from -CH<sub>3</sub>, and -CD<sub>3</sub>.
3. The compound of claim 2, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are the same; and R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are the same.
4. The compound of claim 1, selected from any one of:



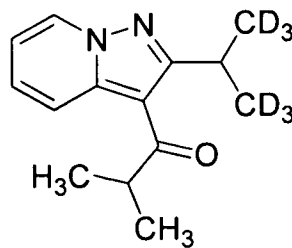
Compound 100;



Compound 101;

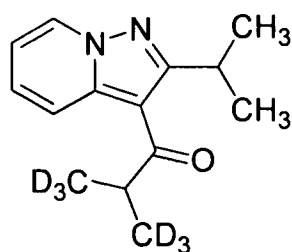


Compound 102;



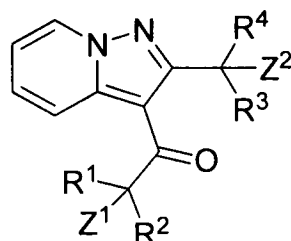
Compound 103; and





Compound 104, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

5. The compound of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein any atom not designated as deuterium is present at its natural isotopic abundance.
6. A pyrogen-free pharmaceutical composition comprising:
  - a. a compound of Formula I:



(I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

each R is independently selected from -CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>D, -CHD<sub>2</sub> and -CD<sub>3</sub>;

each Z is independently selected from hydrogen and deuterium; and

when each R is -CH<sub>3</sub>, at least one Z is deuterium; and

- b. a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
7. The composition of claim 6, further comprising a second therapeutic agent useful in treating a disease or condition selected from asthma, allergic conjunctivitis, cerebrovascular disorders including dizziness secondary to chronic cerebral circulation impairment associated with sequelae of cerebral infarction, multiple sclerosis, neuropathic pain, addictions, including drug and behavioral addictions, rheumatoid arthritis, hyperparathyroidism, renal osteodystrophy, hypercalcemia, neurodegenerative disorder, neurological trauma including brain or central nervous system trauma, depression, anxiety, psychosis, learning and memory disorders, ischemia of the central and/or peripheral nervous systems, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, atopic dermatitis, psoriatic arthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), delirium, including postoperative delirium, sepsis-associated delirium, and drug or alcohol withdrawal-

associated delirium, dysmnnesia, Parkinson' disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and integration dysfunction syndrome.

8. The composition of claim 6, for use in treating a disease or condition selected from asthma, allergic conjunctivitis, cerebrovascular disorders including dizziness secondary to chronic cerebral circulation impairment associated with sequelae of cerebral infarction, multiple sclerosis, neuropathic pain, addictions, including drug and behavioral addictions, rheumatoid arthritis, hyperparathyroidism, renal osteodystrophy, hypercalcemia, neurodegenerative disorder, neurological trauma including brain or central nervous system trauma, depression, anxiety, psychosis, learning and memory disorders, ischemia of the central and/or peripheral nervous systems, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, atopic dermatitis, psoriatic arthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), delirium, including postoperative delirium, sepsis-associated delirium, and drug or alcohol withdrawal-associated delirium, dysmnnesia, Parkinson' disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and integration dysfunction syndrome.
9. The composition of claim 8, wherein the disease or condition to be treated is selected from asthma, allergic conjunctivitis, cerebrovascular disorders secondary to chronic cerebral circulation impairment associated with sequelae of cerebral infarction, multiple sclerosis, and neuropathic pain.
10. The composition of claim 9, wherein the disease or condition to be treated is selected from asthma, allergic conjunctivitis and cerebrovascular disorders secondary to chronic cerebral circulation impairment associated with sequelae of cerebral infarction.