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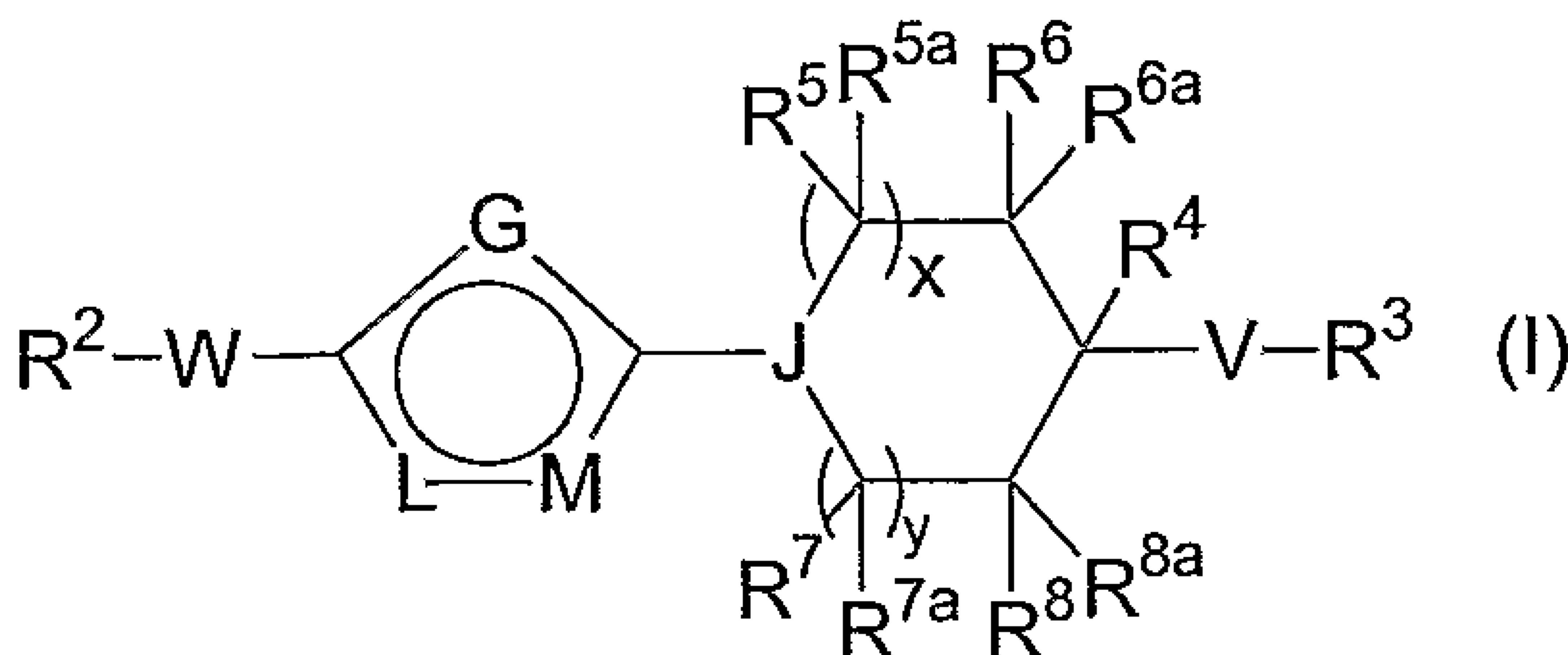
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(54) Titre : DERIVES HETEROCYCLIQUES ET LEUR UTILISATION EN TANT QUE MODULATEURS DE STEAROYLE-COA DESATURASE

(54) Title: HETEROCYCLIC DERIVATIVES AND THEIR USE AS MEDIATORS OF STEAROYL-COA DESATURASE



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

Methods of treating an SCD-mediated disease or condition in a mammal, preferably a human, are disclosed, wherein the methods comprise administering to a mammal in need thereof a compound of formula (I): Formula (I) where x, y, G, J, L, M, V, W, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R^{5a}, R⁶, R^{6a}, R⁷, R^{7a}, R⁸ and R^{8a} are defined herein. Pharmaceutical compositions comprising the compounds of formula (I) are also disclosed.

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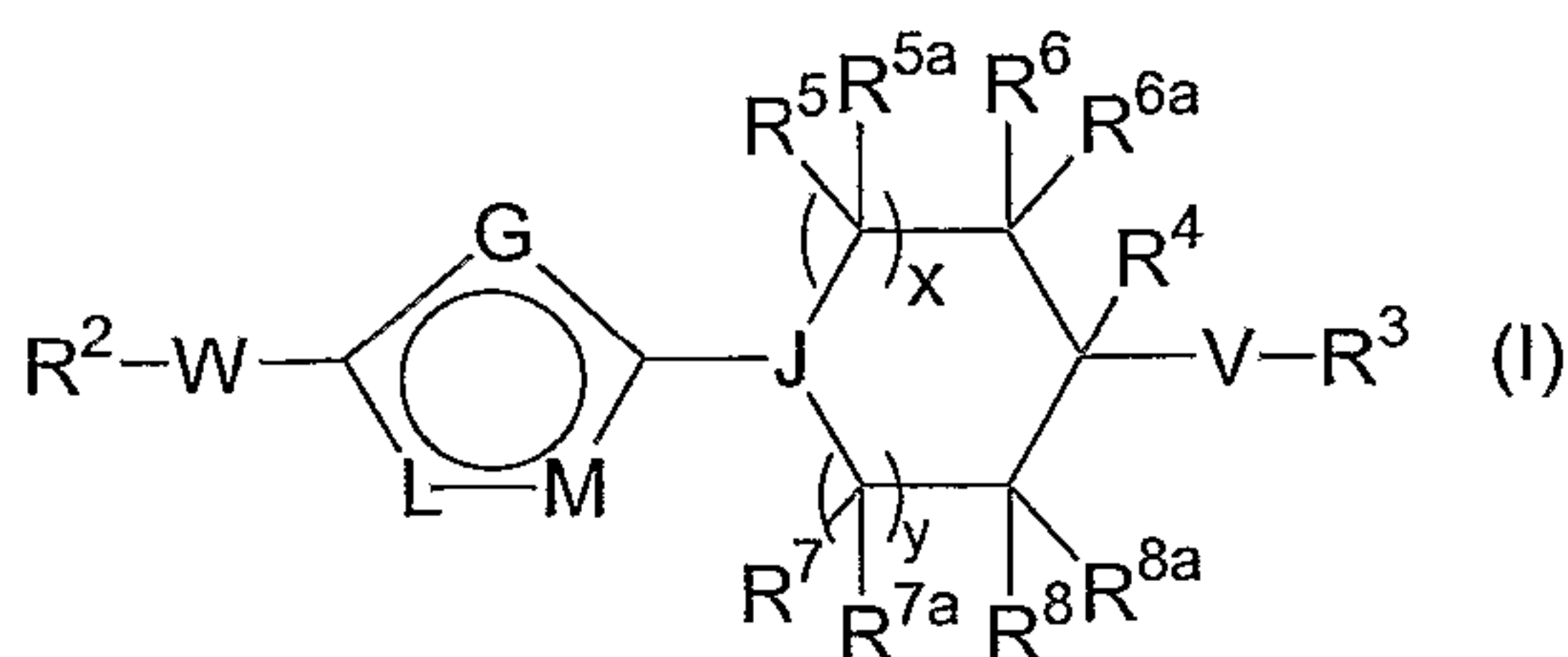
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(54) Title: HETEROCYCLIC DERIVATIVES AND THEIR USE AS MEDIATORS OF STEAROYL-COA DESATURASE



(57) Abstract: Methods of treating an SCD-mediated disease or condition in a mammal, preferably a human, are disclosed, wherein the methods comprise administering to a mammal in need thereof a compound of formula (I): Formula (I) where x, y, G, J, L, M, V, W, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R^{5a}, R⁶, R^{6a}, R⁷, R^{7a}, R⁸ and R^{8a} are defined herein. Pharmaceutical compositions comprising the compounds of formula (I) are also disclosed.

HETEROCYCLIC DERIVATIVES AND THEIR USE AS THERAPEUTIC AGENTS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to the field of inhibitors of stearyl-CoA desaturase, such as heterocyclic derivatives, and uses for such compounds in treating
5 and/or preventing various human diseases, including those mediated by stearyl-CoA desaturase (SCD) enzymes, preferably SCD1, especially diseases related to elevated lipid levels, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, metabolic syndrome and the like.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Acyl desaturase enzymes catalyze the formation of double bonds in fatty acids derived from either dietary sources or *de novo* synthesis in the liver. Mammals synthesize at least three fatty acid desaturases of differing chain length specificity that catalyze the addition of double bonds at the delta-9, delta-6, and delta-5 positions. Stearyl-CoA desaturases (SCDs) introduce a double bond in the C9-C10 position of
15 saturated fatty acids. The preferred substrates are palmitoyl-CoA (16:0) and stearyl-CoA (18:0), which are converted to palmitoleoyl-CoA (16:1) and oleoyl-CoA (18:1), respectively. The resulting mono-unsaturated fatty acids are substrates for incorporation into phospholipids, triglycerides, and cholesteryl esters.

A number of mammalian SCD genes have been cloned. For example, two
20 genes have been cloned from rat (SCD1, SCD2) and four SCD genes have been isolated from mouse (SCD1, 2, 3, and 4). While the basic biochemical role of SCD has been known in rats and mice since the 1970's (Jeffcoat, R. *et al.*, *Elsevier Science* (1984), Vol. 4, pp. 85-112; de Antueno, RJ, *Lipids* (1993), Vol. 28, No. 4, pp. 285-290), it has only recently been directly implicated in human disease processes.

25 A single SCD gene, SCD1, has been characterized in humans. SCD1 is described in Brownlie *et al.*, PCT published patent application, WO 01/62954, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. A second human SCD isoform has recently been identified, and because it bears little sequence homology to alternate mouse or rat isoforms it has been named human SCD5 or
30 hSCD5 (PCT published patent application, WO 02/26944, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety).

To date, no small-molecule, drug-like compounds are known that specifically inhibit or modulate SCD activity. Certain long-chain hydrocarbons have been used

historically to study SCD activity. Known examples include thia-fatty acids, cyclopropenoid fatty acids, and certain conjugated linoleic acid isomers. Specifically, *cis*-12, *trans*-10 conjugated linoleic acid is believed to inhibit SCD enzyme activity and reduce the abundance of SCD1 mRNA while *cis*-9, *trans*-11 conjugated linoleic acid
5 does not. Cyclopropenoid fatty acids, such as those found in sterula and cotton seeds, are also known to inhibit SCD activity. For example, sterculic acid (8-(2-octylcyclopropenyl)octanoic acid) and malvalic acid (7-(2-octylcyclopropenyl)heptanoic acid) are C18 and C16 derivatives of sterculoyl and malvaloyl fatty acids, respectively, having cyclopropene rings at their C9-C10 position. These agents are believed to
10 inhibit SCD enzymatic activity by direct interaction with the enzyme, thus inhibiting delta-9 desaturation. Other agents that may inhibit SCD activity include thia-fatty acids, such as 9-thiastearic acid (also called 8-nonylthiooctanoic acid) and other fatty acids with a sulfoxy moiety.

These known modulators of delta-9 desaturase activity are not useful for
15 treating the diseases and disorders linked to SCD1 biological activity. None of the known SCD inhibitor compounds are selective for SCD or delta-9 desaturases, as they also inhibit other desaturases and enzymes. The thia-fatty acids, conjugated linoleic acids and cyclopropene fatty acids (malvalic acid and sterculic acid) are neither useful at reasonable physiological doses, nor are they specific inhibitors of SCD1 biological
20 activity, rather they demonstrate cross inhibition of other desaturases, in particular the delta-5 and delta-6 desaturases by the cyclopropene fatty acids.

The absence of small molecule inhibitors of SCD enzyme activity is a major scientific and medical disappointment because evidence is now compelling that SCD activity is directly implicated in common human disease processes: See e.g., Attie,
25 A.D. *et al.*, "Relationship between stearoyl-CoA desaturase activity and plasma triglycerides in human and mouse hypertriglyceridemia", *J. Lipid Res.* (2002), Vol. 43, No. 11, pp. 1899-907; Cohen, P. *et al.*, "Role for stearoyl-CoA desaturase-1 in leptin-mediated weight loss", *Science* (2002), Vol. 297, No. 5579, pp. 240-3, Ntambi, J. M. *et al.*, "Loss of stearoyl-CoA desaturase-1 function protects mice against adiposity", *Proc.*
30 *Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A.* (2002), Vol. 99, No. 7, pp. 11482-6.

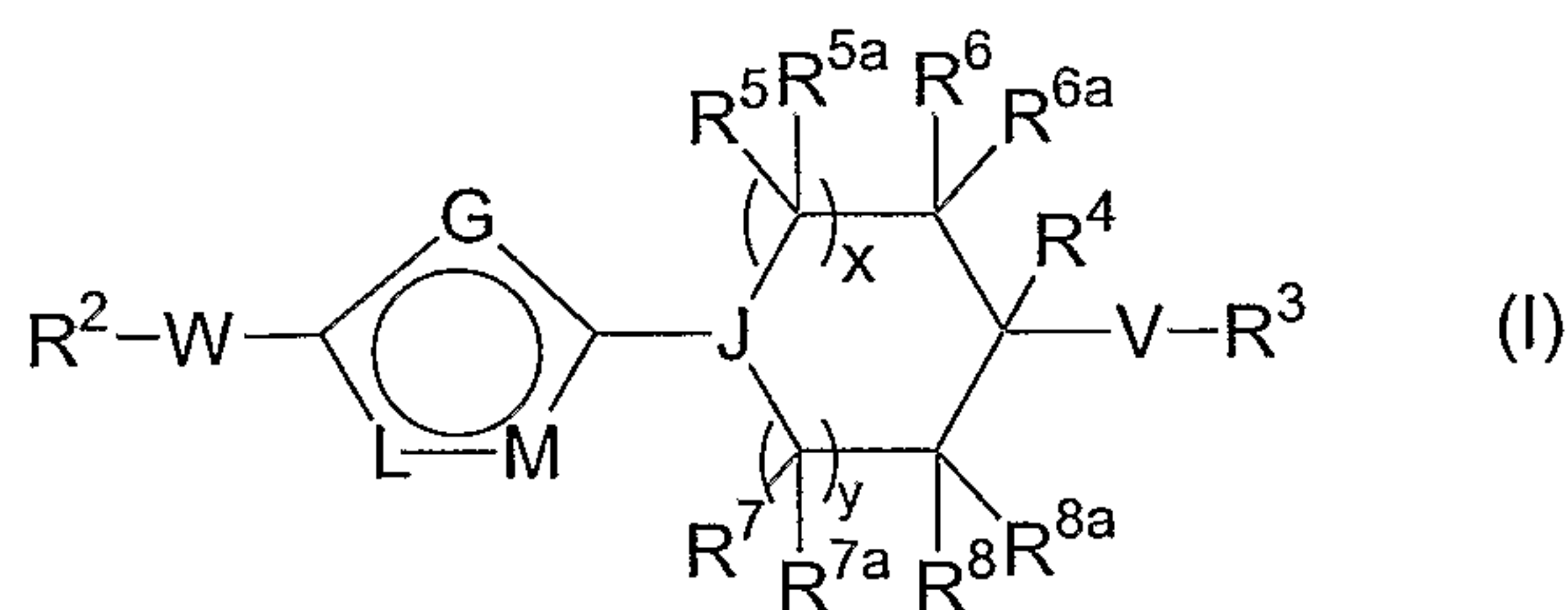
The present invention solves this problem by presenting new classes of compounds that are useful in modulating SCD activity and regulating lipid levels, especially plasma lipid levels, and which are useful in the treatment of SCD-mediated diseases such as diseases related to dyslipidemia and disorders of lipid metabolism,
35 especially diseases related to elevated lipid levels, cardiovascular disease, diabetes,

obesity, metabolic syndrome and the like.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides heterocyclic derivatives that modulate the activity of stearoyl-CoA desaturase. Methods of using such derivatives to modulate the activity of stearoyl-CoA desaturase and pharmaceutical compositions comprising such derivatives are also encompassed.

Accordingly, in one aspect, the invention provides compounds of formula (I):



wherein:

x and y are each independently 0, 1, 2 or 3;

G is $-N(R^4)-$, $-O-$, $-S(O)_t-$ (where t is 0, 1 or 2), $-C(R^4)=$ or $-C(R^4)=C(R^4)-$;

J is N or $C(R^{10})$;

L and M are each independently $-N=$ or $-C(R^4)=$, provided that when G is $-C(R^4)=$ or $-C(R^4)=C(R^4)-$, L and M can not both be $-C(R^4)=$;

V is a direct bond, $-N(R^1)-$, $-N(R^1)C(O)-$, $-O-$, $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-C(S)-$, $-C(O)N(R^1)-$, $-S(O)_p-$ (where p is 1 or 2), or $-S(O)_pN(R^1)-$ (where p is 1 or 2);

W is $-N(R^1)C(O)-$, $-C(O)N(R^1)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^1)-$, $-N(R^1)C(O)N(R^1)-$, $-O-$, $-N(R^1)-$, $-S(O)_t-$ (where t is 0, 1 or 2), $-N(R^1)S(O)_p-$ (where p is 1 or 2), $-S(O)_pN(R^1)-$ (where p is 1 or 2), $-C(O)-$, $-OS(O)_2N(R^1)-$, $-OC(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-N(R^1)C(O)O-$ or $-C(R^1)_2-$;

each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl and C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkoxyalkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclylalkyl, C_1 - C_{12} heteroaryl, and C_3 - C_{12} heteroarylalkyl;

or R^2 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkoxyalkyl,

C₃-C₁₂cycloalkyl, C₄-C₁₂cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C₇-C₁₉aralkyl, C₃-C₁₂heterocyclyl, C₃-C₁₂heterocyclylalkyl, C₁-C₁₂heteroaryl and C₃-C₁₂heteroarylalkyl;

or R³ is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

each R⁴ is independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, C₁-C₁₂alkoxy, haloalkyl, cyano, nitro or -N(R⁹)₂;

or two adjacent R⁴ groups, together with the carbons to which they are attached, may form an aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring system;

R⁵, R^{5a}, R⁶, R^{6a}, R⁷, R^{7a}, R⁸ and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C₁-C₃alkyl;

or R⁵ and R^{5a} together, R⁶ and R^{6a} together, or R⁷ and R^{7a} together, or R⁸ and R^{8a} together are an oxo group, provided that when V is -C(O)-, R⁶ and R^{6a} together or R⁸ and R^{8a} together do not form an oxo group, while the remaining R⁵, R^{5a}, R⁶, R^{6a}, R⁷, R^{7a}, R⁸ and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C₁-C₃alkyl;

or one of R⁵, R^{5a}, R⁶ and R^{6a} together with one of R⁷, R^{7a}, R⁸ and R^{8a} forms a direct bond or an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R⁵, R^{5a}, R⁶, R^{6a}, R⁷, R^{7a}, R⁸, and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C₁-C₃alkyl;

each R⁹ is independently selected from hydrogen or C₁-C₆alkyl; and

R¹⁰ is independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, C₁-C₁₂alkyl or C₁-C₁₂alkoxy;

as a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or as a prodrug thereof.

It is understood that the scope of the invention relating to the compounds of formula (I) as described above is not intended to encompass compounds specifically disclosed and/or claimed in previous publications, including, but not limited to, the compounds specifically disclosed in the following publications: PCT Published Patent Application, WO 03/076422;

PCT Published Patent Application, WO 03/076401;

PCT Published Patent Application, WO 03/076400;

PCT Published Patent Application, WO 03/075929; and

PCT Published Patent Application, WO 03/076395.

In another aspect, the invention provides methods of treating an SCD-mediated disease or condition in a mammal, preferably a human, wherein the methods comprise administering to the mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a

compound of the invention as set forth above.

In another aspect, the invention provides compounds or pharmaceutical compositions useful in treating, preventing and/or diagnosing a disease or condition relating to SCD biological activity such as the diseases encompassed by
5 cardiovascular disorders and/or metabolic syndrome (including dyslipidemia, insulin resistance and obesity).

In another aspect, the invention provides methods of preventing or treating a disease or condition related to elevated lipid levels, such as plasma lipid levels, especially elevated triglyceride or cholesterol levels, in a patient afflicted with such
10 elevated levels, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a composition as disclosed herein. The present invention also relates to novel compounds having therapeutic ability to reduce lipid levels in an animal, especially triglyceride and cholesterol levels.

In another aspect, the invention provides pharmaceutical compositions
15 comprising the compounds of the invention as set forth above, and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients. In one embodiment, the present invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the invention in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and in an amount effective to modulate triglyceride level, or to treat diseases related to dyslipidemia and disorders of lipid metabolism,
20 when administered to an animal, preferably a mammal, most preferably a human patient. In an embodiment of such composition, the patient has an elevated lipid level, such as elevated plasma triglycerides or cholesterol, before administration of said compound and said compound is present in an amount effective to reduce said lipid level.

25 In another aspect, the invention provides methods for treating a patient for, or protecting a patient from developing, a disease or condition mediated by stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SCD), which methods comprise administering to a patient afflicted with such disease or condition, or at risk of developing such disease or condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound that inhibits activity of SCD in a patient
30 when administered thereto.

In another aspect, the invention provides methods for treating a range of diseases involving lipid metabolism utilizing compounds identified by the methods disclosed herein. In accordance therewith, there is disclosed herein a range of compounds having said activity, based on a screening assay for identifying, from a
35 library of test compounds, a therapeutic agent which modulates the biological activity

of said SCD and is useful in treating a human disorder or condition relating to serum levels of lipids, such as triglycerides, VLDL, HDL, LDL, and/or total cholesterol.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Definitions

5 Certain chemical groups named herein are preceded by a shorthand notation indicating the total number of carbon atoms that are to be found in the indicated chemical group. For example; C₇-C₁₂alkyl describes an alkyl group, as defined below, having a total of 7 to 12 carbon atoms, and C₄-C₁₂cycloalkylalkyl describes a
10 cycloalkylalkyl group, as defined below, having a total of 4 to 12 carbon atoms. The total number of carbons in the shorthand notation does not include carbons that may exist in substituents of the group described.

Accordingly, as used in the specification and appended claims, unless specified to the contrary, the following terms have the meaning indicated:

"Methoxy" refers to the -OCH₃ radical.

15 "Cyano" refers to the -CN radical.

"Nitro" refers to the -NO₂ radical.

"Trifluoromethyl" refers to the -CF₃ radical.

"Oxo" refers to the =O substituent.

"Thioxo" refers to the =S substituent.

20 "Alkyl" refers to a straight or branched hydrocarbon chain radical consisting solely of carbon and hydrogen atoms, containing no unsaturation, having from one to twelve carbon atoms, preferably one to eight carbon atoms or one to six carbon atoms, and which is attached to the rest of the molecule by a single bond, e.g., methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, 1-methylethyl (*iso*-propyl), *n*-butyl, *n*-pentyl, 1,1-dimethylethyl (*t*-butyl), and
25 the like. Unless stated otherwise specifically in the specification, an alkyl group may be optionally substituted by one of the following groups: alkyl, alkenyl, halo, haloalkenyl, cyano, nitro, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, -OR¹⁴, -OC(O)-R¹⁴, -N(R¹⁴)₂, -C(O)R¹⁴, -C(O)OR¹⁴, -C(O)N(R¹⁴)₂, -N(R¹⁴)C(O)OR¹⁶, -N(R¹⁴)C(O)R¹⁶, -N(R¹⁴)(S(O)_tR¹⁶) (where *t* is 1 to 2), -S(O)_tOR¹⁶ (where *t* is 1 to 2), -S(O)_tR¹⁶ (where *t* is
30 0 to 2), and -S(O)_tN(R¹⁴)₂ (where *t* is 1 to 2) where each R¹⁴ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl (optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from halo or haloalkyl), aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl; and each R¹⁶ is alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,

aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl, and where each of the above substituents is unsubstituted unless otherwise indicated.

"C₁-C₃alkyl" refers to an alkyl radical as defined above containing one to three carbon atoms. The C₁-C₃alkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined for an alkyl group.

"C₁-C₆alkyl" refers to an alkyl radical as defined above containing one to six carbon atoms. The C₁-C₆alkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined for an alkyl group.

"C₁-C₁₂alkyl" refers to an alkyl radical as defined above containing one to twelve carbon atoms. The C₁-C₁₂alkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined for an alkyl group.

"C₂-C₆alkyl" refers to an alkyl radical as defined above containing two to six carbon atoms. The C₂-C₆alkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined for an alkyl group.

"C₃-C₆alkyl" refers to an alkyl radical as defined above containing three to six carbon atoms. The C₃-C₆alkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined for an alkyl group.

"C₃-C₁₂alkyl" refers to an alkyl radical as defined above containing three to twelve carbon atoms. The C₃-C₁₂alkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined for an alkyl group.

"C₆-C₁₂alkyl" refers to an alkyl radical as defined above containing six to twelve carbon atoms. The C₆-C₁₂alkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined for an alkyl group.

"C₇-C₁₂alkyl" refers to an alkyl radical as defined above containing seven to twelve carbon atoms. The C₇-C₁₂alkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined for an alkyl group.

"Alkenyl" refers to a straight or branched hydrocarbon chain radical group consisting solely of carbon and hydrogen atoms, containing at least one double bond, having from two to twelve carbon atoms, preferably one to eight carbon atoms and which is attached to the rest of the molecule by a single bond, e.g., ethenyl, prop-1-enyl, but-1-enyl, pent-1-enyl, penta-1,4-dienyl, and the like. Unless stated otherwise specifically in the specification, an alkenyl group may be optionally substituted by one of the following groups: alkyl, alkenyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, cyano, nitro, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, -OR¹⁴, -OC(O)-R¹⁴, -N(R¹⁴)₂, -C(O)R¹⁴, -C(O)OR¹⁴, -C(O)N(R¹⁴)₂,

-N(R¹⁴)C(O)OR¹⁶, -N(R¹⁴)C(O)R¹⁶, -N(R¹⁴)(S(O)_tR¹⁶) (where t is 1 to 2), -S(O)_tOR¹⁶ (where t is 1 to 2), -S(O)_tR¹⁶ (where t is 0 to 2), and -S(O)_tN(R¹⁴)₂ (where t is 1 to 2) where each R¹⁴ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl; and each R¹⁶ is alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl, and where each of the above substituents is unsubstituted.

"C₃-C₁₂alkenyl" refers to an alkenyl radical as defined above containing three to 12 carbon atoms. The C₃-C₁₂alkenyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined for an alkenyl group.

"C₂-C₁₂alkenyl" refers to an alkenyl radical as defined above containing two to 12 carbon atoms. The C₂-C₁₂alkenyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkenyl group.

"Alkylene" and "alkylene chain" refer to a straight or branched divalent hydrocarbon chain, linking the rest of the molecule to a radical group, consisting solely of carbon and hydrogen, containing no unsaturation and having from one to twelve carbon atoms, preferably having from one to eight carbons, e.g., methylene, ethylene, propylene, *n*-butylene, and the like. The alkylene chain may be attached to the rest of the molecule and to the radical group through one carbon within the chain or through any two carbons within the chain. The alkylene chain may be optionally substituted by one of the following groups: alkyl, alkenyl, halo, haloalkenyl, cyano, nitro, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, -OR¹⁴, -OC(O)-R¹⁴, -N(R¹⁴)₂, -C(O)R¹⁴, -C(O)OR¹⁴, -C(O)N(R¹⁴)₂, -N(R¹⁴)C(O)OR¹⁶, -N(R¹⁴)C(O)R¹⁶, -N(R¹⁴)(S(O)_tR¹⁶) (where t is 1 to 2), -S(O)_tOR¹⁶ (where t is 1 to 2), -S(O)_tR¹⁶ (where t is 0 to 2), and -S(O)_tN(R¹⁴)₂ (where t is 1 to 2) where each R¹⁴ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl (optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from halo or haloalkyl), aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl; and each R¹⁶ is alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl, and where each of the above substituents is unsubstituted unless otherwise indicated.

"Alkenylene" and "alkenylene chain" refer to a straight or branched divalent hydrocarbon chain linking the rest of the molecule to a radical group, consisting solely of carbon and hydrogen, containing at least one double bond and having from two to twelve carbon atoms, e.g., ethenylene, propenylene, *n*-butenylene, and the like. The alkenylene chain is attached to the rest of the molecule through a single bond and to

the radical group through a double bond or a single bond. The points of attachment of the alkenylene chain to the rest of the molecule and to the radical group can be through one carbon or any two carbons within the chain. The alkenylene chain may be optionally substituted by one of the following groups: alkyl, alkenyl, halo, haloalkenyl, cyano, nitro, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, -OR¹⁴, -OC(O)-R¹⁴, -N(R¹⁴)₂,
 5 -C(O)R¹⁴, -C(O)OR¹⁴, -C(O)N(R¹⁴)₂, -N(R¹⁴)C(O)OR¹⁶, -N(R¹⁴)C(O)R¹⁶,
 -N(R¹⁴)(S(O)_tR¹⁶) (where t is 1 to 2), -S(O)_tOR¹⁶ (where t is 1 to 2), -S(O)_tR¹⁶ (where t is 0 to 2), and -S(O)_tN(R¹⁴)₂ (where t is 1 to 2) where each R¹⁴ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl (optionally substituted with one or more
 10 groups selected from halo or haloalkyl), aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl; and each R¹⁶ is alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl, and where each of the above substituents is unsubstituted unless otherwise indicated.

"Alkylene bridge" refers to a straight or branched divalent hydrocarbon bridge, linking two different carbons of the same ring structure, consisting solely of carbon and hydrogen, containing no unsaturation and having from one to twelve carbon atoms, preferably having from one to eight carbons, e.g., methylene, ethylene, propylene, *n*-butylene, and the like. The alkylene bridge may link any two carbons within the ring structure.

20 "Alkoxy" refers to a radical of the formula -OR_a where R_a is an alkyl radical as defined above. The alkyl part of the alkoxy radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl radical.

"C₁-C₆alkoxy" refers to an alkoxy radical as defined above containing one to six carbon atoms. The alkyl part of the C₁-C₆alkoxy radical may be optionally substituted
 25 as defined above for an alkyl group.

"C₁-C₁₂alkoxy" refers to an alkoxy radical as defined above containing one to twelve carbon atoms. The alkyl part of the C₁-C₁₂alkoxy radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

30 "C₃-C₁₂alkoxy" refers to an alkoxy radical as defined above containing three to twelve carbon atoms. The alkyl part of the C₃-C₁₂alkoxy radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"Alkoxyalkyl" refers to a radical of the formula -R_a-O-R_a where each R_a is independently an alkyl radical as defined above. The oxygen atom may be bonded to any carbon in either alkyl radical. Each alkyl part of the alkoxyalkyl radical may be
 35 optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"C₂-C₁₂alkoxyalkyl" refers to an alkoxyalkyl radical as defined above containing two to twelve carbon atoms. Each alkyl part of the C₂-C₁₂alkoxyalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"C₃alkoxyalkyl" refers to an alkoxyalkyl radical as defined above containing
5 three carbon atoms. Each alkyl part of the C₃alkoxyalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"C₃-C₁₂alkoxyalkyl" refers to an alkoxyalkyl radical as defined above containing three to twelve carbon atoms. Each alkyl part of the C₃-C₁₂alkoxyalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

10 "Alkylsulfonyl" refers to a radical of the formula -S(O)₂R_a where R_a is an alkyl group as defined above. The alkyl part of the alkylsulfonyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"C₁-C₆alkylsulfonyl" refers to an alkylsulfonyl radical as defined above having one to six carbon atoms. The C₁-C₆alkylsulfonyl group may be optionally substituted
15 as defined above for an alkylsulfonyl group.

"Aryl" refers to aromatic monocyclic or multicyclic hydrocarbon ring system consisting only of hydrogen and carbon and containing from 6 to 19 carbon atoms, preferably 6 to 10 carbon atoms, where the ring system may be partially or fully saturated. Aryl groups include, but are not limited to groups such as fluorenyl, phenyl
20 and naphthyl. Unless stated otherwise specifically in the specification, the term "aryl" or the prefix "ar-" (such as in "aralkyl") is meant to include aryl radicals optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, cyano, nitro, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, -R¹⁵-OR¹⁴,
25 -R¹⁵-OC(O)-R¹⁴, -R¹⁵-N(R¹⁴)₂, -R¹⁵-C(O)R¹⁴, -R¹⁵-C(O)OR¹⁴, -R¹⁵-C(O)N(R¹⁴)₂, -R¹⁵-N(R¹⁴)C(O)OR¹⁶, -R¹⁵-N(R¹⁴)C(O)R¹⁶, -R¹⁵-N(R¹⁴)(S(O)_tR¹⁶) (where t is 1 to 2), -R¹⁵-S(O)_tOR¹⁶ (where t is 1 to 2), -R¹⁵-S(O)_tR¹⁶ (where t is 0 to 2), and -R¹⁵-S(O)_tN(R¹⁴)₂ (where t is 1 to 2) where each R¹⁴ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl,
30 heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl; each R¹⁵ is independently a direct bond or a straight or branched alkylene or alkenylene chain; and each R¹⁶ is alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl, and where each of the above substituents is unsubstituted.

"Aralkyl" refers to a radical of the formula -R_aR_b where R_a is an alkyl radical as
35 defined above and R_b is one or more aryl radicals as defined above, e.g., benzyl,

diphenylmethyl and the like. The aryl part of the aralkyl radical may be optionally substituted as described above for an aryl group. The alkyl part of the aralkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"C₇-C₁₂aralkyl" refers to an aralkyl group as defined above containing seven to
5 twelve carbon atoms. The aryl part of the C₇-C₁₂aralkyl radical may be optionally substituted as described above for an aryl group. The alkyl part of the C₇-C₁₂aralkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"C₇-C₁₉aralkyl" refers to an aralkyl group as defined above containing seven to
10 nineteen carbon atoms. The aryl part of the C₇-C₁₉aralkyl radical may be optionally substituted as described above for an aryl group. The alkyl part of the C₇-C₁₉aralkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"C₁₃-C₁₉aralkyl" refers to an aralkyl group as defined above containing thirteen
15 to nineteen carbon atoms. The aryl part of the C₁₃-C₁₉aralkyl radical may be optionally substituted as described above for an aryl group. The alkyl part of the C₁₃-C₁₉aralkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"Aralkenyl" refers to a radical of the formula -R_cR_b where R_c is an alkenyl radical
as defined above and R_b is one or more aryl radicals as defined above, which may be optionally substituted as described above. The aryl part of the aralkenyl radical may be optionally substituted as described above for an aryl group. The alkenyl part of the
20 aralkenyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkenyl group.

"Aryloxy" refers to a radical of the formula -OR_b where R_b is an aryl group as
defined above. The aryl part of the aryloxy radical may be optionally substituted as defined above.

"Aryl-C₁-C₆alkyl" refers to a radical of the formula -R_h-R_i where R_h is an
25 unbranched alkyl radical having one to six carbons and R_i is an aryl group attached to the terminal carbon of the alkyl radical.

"Cycloalkyl" refers to a stable non-aromatic monocyclic or bicyclic hydrocarbon
radical consisting solely of carbon and hydrogen atoms, having from three to fifteen carbon atoms, preferably having from three to twelve carbon atoms, and which is
30 saturated or unsaturated and attached to the rest of the molecule by a single bond, e.g., cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, decaliny and the like. Unless otherwise stated specifically in the specification, the term "cycloalkyl" is meant to include cycloalkyl radicals which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, cyano,
35 nitro, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl,

heteroarylalkyl, $-R^{15}-OR^{14}$, $-R^{15}-OC(O)-R^{14}$, $-R^{15}-N(R^{14})_2$, $-R^{15}-C(O)R^{14}$, $-R^{15}-C(O)OR^{14}$,
 $-R^{15}-C(O)N(R^{14})_2$, $-R^{15}-N(R^{14})C(O)OR^{16}$, $-R^{15}-N(R^{14})C(O)R^{16}$, $-R^{15}-N(R^{14})(S(O)_tR^{16})$
 (where t is 1 to 2), $-R^{15}-S(O)_tOR^{16}$ (where t is 1 to 2), $-R^{15}-S(O)_tR^{16}$ (where t is 0 to 2),
 and $-R^{15}-S(O)_tN(R^{14})_2$ (where t is 1 to 2) where each R^{14} is independently hydrogen,
 5 alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclalkyl,
 heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl; each R^{15} is independently a direct bond or a straight or
 branched alkylene or alkenylene chain; and each R^{16} is alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl,
 cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaryl or
 heteroarylalkyl, and where each of the above substituents is unsubstituted.

10 "C₃-C₆cycloalkyl" refers to a cycloalkyl radical as defined above having three to
 six carbon atoms. The C₃-C₆cycloalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined
 above for a cycloalkyl group.

"C₃-C₁₂cycloalkyl" refers to a cycloalkyl radical as defined above having three to
 twelve carbon atoms. The C₃-C₁₂cycloalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as
 15 defined above for a cycloalkyl group.

"Cycloalkylalkyl" refers to a radical of the formula $-R_aR_d$ where R_a is an alkyl
 radical as defined above and R_d is a cycloalkyl radical as defined above. The
 cycloalkyl part of the cycloalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above
 for an cycloalkyl radical. The alkyl part of the cycloalkyl radical may be optionally
 20 substituted as defined above for an alkyl radical.

"C₄-C₁₂cycloalkylalkyl" refers to a cycloalkylalkyl radical as defined above
 having four to twelve carbon atoms. The C₄-C₁₂cycloalkylalkyl radical may be
 optionally substituted as defined above for a cycloalkylalkyl group.

"Halo" refers to bromo, chloro, fluoro or iodo.

25 "Haloalkyl" refers to an alkyl radical, as defined above, that is substituted by
 one or more halo radicals, as defined above, e.g., trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl,
 trichloromethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 1-fluoromethyl-2-fluoroethyl,
 3-bromo-2-fluoropropyl, 1-bromomethyl-2-bromoethyl, and the like. The alkyl part of
 the haloalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

30 "Haloalkenyl" refers to an alkenyl radical, as defined above, that is substituted
 by one or more halo radicals, as defined above, e.g., 2-bromoethenyl, 3-bromoprop-1-
 enyl, and the like. The alkenyl part of the haloalkenyl radical may be optionally
 substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"Heterocyclyl" refers to a stable 3- to 18-membered non-aromatic ring radical
 35 which consists of carbon atoms and from one to five heteroatoms selected from the

group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur. For purposes of this invention, the heterocyclyl radical may be a monocyclic, bicyclic, tricyclic or tetracyclic ring system, which may include fused or bridged ring systems; and the nitrogen, carbon or sulfur atoms in the heterocyclyl radical may be optionally oxidized; the nitrogen atom may be optionally quaternized; and the heterocyclyl radical may be partially or fully saturated. Examples of such heterocyclyl radicals include, but are not limited to, dioxolanyl, decahydroisoquinolyl, imidazolyl, imidazolidinyl, isothiazolidinyl, isoxazolidinyl, morpholyl, octahydroindolyl, octahydroisoindolyl, 2-oxopiperazinyl, 2-oxopiperidinyl, 2-oxopyrrolidinyl, oxazolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, 4-piperidonyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrazolidinyl, thiazolidinyl, tetrahydrofuryl, trithianyl, tetrahydropyranyl, thiomorpholyl, thiamorpholyl, 1-oxo-thiomorpholyl, and 1,1-dioxo-thiomorpholyl. Unless stated otherwise specifically in the specification, the term "heterocyclyl" is meant to include heterocyclyl radicals as defined above which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, cyano, oxo, thioxo, nitro, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, $-R^{15}-OR^{14}$, $-R^{15}-OC(O)-R^{14}$, $-R^{15}-N(R^{14})_2$, $-R^{15}-C(O)R^{14}$, $-R^{15}-C(O)OR^{14}$, $-R^{15}-C(O)N(R^{14})_2$, $-R^{15}-N(R^{14})C(O)OR^{16}$, $-R^{15}-N(R^{14})C(O)R^{16}$, $-R^{15}-N(R^{14})(S(O)_tR^{16})$ (where t is 1 to 2), $-R^{15}-S(O)_tOR^{16}$ (where t is 1 to 2), $-R^{15}-S(O)_tR^{16}$ (where t is 0 to 2), and $-R^{15}-S(O)_tN(R^{14})_2$ (where t is 1 to 2) where each R^{14} is independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl; each R^{15} is independently a direct bond or a straight or branched alkylene or alkenylene chain; and each R^{16} is alkyl, alkenyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl, and where each of the above substituents is unsubstituted.

"C₃-C₁₂heterocyclyl" refers to a heterocyclyl radical as defined above having three to twelve carbons. The C₃-C₁₂heterocyclyl may be optionally substituted as defined above for a heterocyclyl group.

"Heterocyclylalkyl" refers to a radical of the formula $-R_aR_e$ where R_a is an alkyl radical as defined above and R_e is a heterocyclyl radical as defined above, and if the heterocyclyl is a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl, the heterocyclyl may be attached to the alkyl radical at the nitrogen atom. The alkyl part of the heterocyclylalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group. The heterocyclyl part of the heterocyclylalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for a heterocyclyl group.

"C₃-C₁₂heterocyclalkyl" refers to a heterocyclalkyl radical as defined above having three to twelve carbons. The C₃-C₁₂heterocyclalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for a heterocyclalkyl group.

"Heteroaryl" refers to a 5- to 18-membered aromatic ring radical which consists of carbon atoms and from one to five heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur. For purposes of this invention, the heteroaryl radical may be a monocyclic, bicyclic, tricyclic or tetracyclic ring system, which may include fused or bridged ring systems; and the nitrogen, carbon or sulfur atoms in the heteroaryl radical may be optionally oxidized; the nitrogen atom may be optionally quaternized. Examples include, but are not limited to, azepinyl, acridinyl, benzimidazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzindolyl, benzothiadiazolyl, benzonaphthofuranyl, benzoxazolyl, benzodioxolyl, benzodioxinyl, benzopyranyl, benzopyranonyl, benzofuranyl, benzofuranonyl, benzothieryl (benzothiophenyl), benzotriazolyl, benzo[4,6]imidazo[1,2-a]pyridinyl, carbazolyl, cinnolyl, dibenzofuranyl, furanyl, furanonyl, isothiazolyl, imidazolyl, indolyl, indazolyl, isoindolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, indolizyl, isoxazolyl, naphthyridinyl, oxadiazolyl, 2-oxoazepinyl, oxazolyl, oxiranyl, phenazinyl, phenothiazinyl, phenoxazinyl, phthalazinyl, pteridinyl, purinyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, quinolyl, quinuclidinyl, isoquinolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, triazinyl, and thiophenyl. Unless stated otherwise specifically in the specification, the term "heteroaryl" is meant to include heteroaryl radicals as defined above which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, cyano, oxo, thioxo, nitro, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, -R¹⁵-OR¹⁴, -R¹⁵-OC(O)-R¹⁴, -R¹⁵-N(R¹⁴)₂, -R¹⁵-C(O)R¹⁴, -R¹⁵-C(O)OR¹⁴, -R¹⁵-C(O)N(R¹⁴)₂, -R¹⁵-N(R¹⁴)C(O)OR¹⁶, -R¹⁵-N(R¹⁴)C(O)R¹⁶, -R¹⁵-N(R¹⁴)(S(O)_tR¹⁶) (where t is 1 to 2), -R¹⁵-S(O)_tOR¹⁶ (where t is 1 to 2), -R¹⁵-S(O)_tR¹⁶ (where t is 0 to 2), and -R¹⁵-S(O)_tN(R¹⁴)₂ (where t is 1 to 2) where each R¹⁴ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocycl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl; each R¹⁵ is independently a direct bond or a straight or branched alkylene or alkenylene chain; and each R¹⁶ is alkyl, alkenyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocycl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl, and where each of the above substituents is unsubstituted.

"C₁-C₁₂heteroaryl" refers to a heteroaryl radical as defined above having one to

twelve carbon atoms. The C₁-C₁₂heteroaryl group may be optionally substituted as defined above for a heteroaryl group.

"C₅-C₁₂heteroaryl" refers to a heteroaryl radical as defined above having five to twelve carbon atoms. The C₅-C₁₂heteroaryl group may be optionally substituted as
5 defined above for a heteroaryl group.

"Heteroarylalkyl" refers to a radical of the formula -R_aR_f where R_a is an alkyl radical as defined above and R_f is a heteroaryl radical as defined above. The heteroaryl part of the heteroarylalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for a heteroaryl group. The alkyl part of the heteroarylalkyl radical may be
10 optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"C₃-C₁₂heteroarylalkyl" refers to a heteroarylalkyl radical as defined above having three to twelve carbon atoms. The C₃-C₁₂heteroarylalkyl group may be optionally substituted as defined above for a heteroarylalkyl group.

"Heteroarylcycloalkyl" refers to a radical of the formula -R_dR_f where R_d is a
15 cycloalkyl radical as defined above and R_f is a heteroaryl radical as defined above. The cycloalkyl part of the heteroarylcycloalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for a cycloalkyl group. The heteroaryl part of the heteroarylcycloalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for a heteroaryl group.

"Heteroarylalkenyl" refers to a radical of the formula -R_bR_f where R_b is an
20 alkenyl radical as defined above and R_f is a heteroaryl radical as defined above. The heteroaryl part of the heteroarylalkenyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for a heteroaryl group. The alkenyl part of the heteroarylalkenyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkenyl group.

"Hydroxyalkyl" refers to a radical of the formula -R_a-OH where R_a is an alkyl
25 radical as defined above. The hydroxy group may be attached to the alkyl radical on any carbon within the alkyl radical. The alkyl part of the hydroxyalkyl group may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"C₂-C₁₂hydroxyalkyl" refers to a hydroxyalkyl radical as defined above containing two to twelve carbon atoms. The alkyl part of the C₂-C₁₂hydroxyalkyl radical
30 may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"C₃-C₁₂hydroxyalkyl" refers to a hydroxyalkyl radical as defined above containing three to twelve carbon atoms. The alkyl part of the C₃-C₁₂hydroxyalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"C₇-C₁₂hydroxyalkyl" refers to a hydroxyalkyl radical as defined above
35 containing seven to twelve carbon atoms. The alkyl part of the C₇-C₁₂hydroxyalkyl

radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

"Hydroxyalkenyl" refers to a radical of the formula $-R_c-OH$ where R_c is an alkenyl radical as defined above. The hydroxy group may be attached to the alkenyl radical on any carbon within the alkenyl radical. The alkenyl part of the hydroxyalkenyl group may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkenyl group.

" C_2-C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl" refers to a hydroxyalkenyl radical as defined above containing two to twelve carbon atoms. The alkenyl part of the C_2-C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkenyl group.

" C_3-C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl" refers to a hydroxyalkenyl radical as defined above containing three to twelve carbon atoms. The alkenyl part of the C_3-C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkenyl group.

"Hydroxyl- C_1-C_6 -alkyl" refers to a radical of the formula $-R_h-OH$ where R_h is an unbranched alkyl radical having one to six carbons and the hydroxy radical is attached to the terminal carbon.

"Trihaloalkyl" refers to an alkyl radical, as defined above, that is substituted by three halo radicals, as defined above, e.g., trifluoromethyl. The alkyl part of the trihaloalkyl radical may be optionally substituted as defined above for an alkyl group.

" C_1-C_6 trihaloalkyl" refers to a trihaloalkyl radical as defined above having one to six carbon atoms. The C_1-C_6 trihaloalkyl may be optionally substituted as defined above for a trihaloalkyl group.

"Trihaloalkoxy" refers to a radical of the formula $-OR_g$ where R_g is a trihaloalkyl group as defined above. The trihaloalkyl part of the trihaloalkoxy group may be optionally substituted as defined above for a trihaloalkyl group.

" C_1-C_6 trihaloalkoxy" refers to a trihaloalkoxy radical as defined above having one to six carbon atoms. The C_1-C_6 trihaloalkoxy group may be optionally substituted as defined above for a trihaloalkoxy group.

"A multi-ring structure" refers to a multicyclic ring system comprised of two to four rings wherein the rings are independently selected from cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocyclyl or heteroaryl as defined above. Each cycloalkyl may be optionally substituted as defined above for a cycloalkyl group. Each aryl may be optionally substituted as defined above for an aryl group. Each heterocyclyl may be optionally substituted as defined above for a heterocyclyl group. Each heteroaryl may be optionally substituted as defined above for a heteroaryl group. The rings may be attached to other through direct bonds or some or all of the rings may be fused to each other. Examples include, but are not limited to a cycloalkyl radical substituted by aryl

group; a cycloalkyl group substituted by an aryl group, which, in turn, is substituted by another aryl group; and so forth.

"Prodrugs" is meant to indicate a compound that may be converted under physiological conditions or by solvolysis to a biologically active compound of the invention. Thus, the term "prodrug" refers to a metabolic precursor of a compound of the invention that is pharmaceutically acceptable. A prodrug may be inactive when administered to a subject in need thereof, but is converted *in vivo* to an active compound of the invention. Prodrugs are typically rapidly transformed *in vivo* to yield the parent compound of the invention, for example, by hydrolysis in blood. The prodrug compound often offers advantages of solubility, tissue compatibility or delayed release in a mammalian organism (see, Bundgard, H., Design of Prodrugs (1985), pp. 7-9, 21-24 (Elsevier, Amsterdam).

A discussion of prodrugs is provided in Higuchi, T., *et al.*, "Pro-drugs as Novel Delivery Systems," A.C.S. Symposium Series, Vol. 14, and in Bioreversible Carriers in Drug Design, ed. Edward B. Roche, American Pharmaceutical Association and Pergamon Press, 1987, both of which are incorporated in full by reference herein.

The term "prodrug" is also meant to include any covalently bonded carriers which release the active compound of the invention *in vivo* when such prodrug is administered to a mammalian subject. Prodrugs of a compound of the invention may be prepared by modifying functional groups present in the compound of the invention in such a way that the modifications are cleaved, either in routine manipulation or *in vivo*, to the parent compound of the invention. Prodrugs include compounds of the invention wherein a hydroxy, amino or mercapto group is bonded to any group that, when the prodrug of the compound of the invention is administered to a mammalian subject, cleaves to form a free hydroxy, free amino or free mercapto group, respectively. Examples of prodrugs include, but are not limited to, acetate, formate and benzoate derivatives of alcohol or amine functional groups in the compounds of the invention and the like.

"Stable compound" and "stable structure" are meant to indicate a compound that is sufficiently robust to survive isolation to a useful degree of purity from a reaction mixture, and formulation into an efficacious therapeutic agent.

"Mammal" includes humans and domestic animals, such as cats, dogs, swine, cattle, sheep, goats, horses, rabbits, and the like.

"Optional" or "optionally" means that the subsequently described event of circumstances may or may not occur, and that the description includes instances where said event or circumstance occurs and instances in which it does not. For example,

"optionally substituted aryl" means that the aryl radical may or may not be substituted and that the description includes both substituted aryl radicals and aryl radicals having no substitution.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient" includes without
5 limitation any adjuvant, carrier, excipient, glidant, sweetening agent, diluent, preservative, dye/colorant, flavor enhancer, surfactant, wetting agent, dispersing agent, suspending agent, stabilizer, isotonic agent, solvent, or emulsifier which has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration as being acceptable for use in humans or domestic animals.

10 "Pharmaceutically acceptable salt" includes both acid and base addition salts.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt" refers to those salts which retain the biological effectiveness and properties of the free bases, which are not biologically or otherwise undesirable, and which are formed with inorganic acids such as, but not limited to, hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid and the
15 like, and organic acids such as, but not limited to, acetic acid, 2,2-dichloroacetic acid, adipic acid, alginic acid, ascorbic acid, aspartic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, benzoic acid, 4-acetamidobenzoic acid, camphoric acid, camphor-10-sulfonic acid, capric acid, caproic acid, caprylic acid, carbonic acid, cinnamic acid, citric acid, cyclamic acid, dodecylsulfuric acid, ethane-1,2-disulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, 2-hydroxyethanesulfonic acid, formic
20 acid, fumaric acid, galactaric acid, gentisic acid, glucoheptonic acid, gluconic acid, glucuronic acid, glutamic acid, glutaric acid, 2-oxo-glutaric acid, glycerophosphoric acid, glycolic acid, hippuric acid, isobutyric acid, lactic acid, lactobionic acid, lauric acid, maleic acid, malic acid, malonic acid, mandelic acid, methanesulfonic acid, mucic acid, naphthalene-1,5-disulfonic acid, naphthalene-2-sulfonic acid, 1-hydroxy-2-naphthoic acid,
25 nicotinic acid, oleic acid, orotic acid, oxalic acid, palmitic acid, pamoic acid, propionic acid, pyroglutamic acid, pyruvic acid, salicylic acid, 4-aminosalicylic acid, sebacic acid, stearic acid, succinic acid, tartaric acid, thiocyanic acid, *p*-toluenesulfonic acid, trifluoroacetic acid, undecylenic acid, and the like.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salt" refers to those salts which retain
30 the biological effectiveness and properties of the free acids, which are not biologically or otherwise undesirable. These salts are prepared from addition of an inorganic base or an organic base to the free acid. Salts derived from inorganic bases include, but are not limited to, the sodium, potassium, lithium, ammonium, calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc, copper, manganese, aluminum salts and the like. Preferred inorganic salts are the
35 ammonium, sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium salts. Salts derived from

organic bases include, but are not limited to, salts of primary, secondary, and tertiary amines, substituted amines including naturally occurring substituted amines, cyclic amines and basic ion exchange resins, such as ammonia, isopropylamine, trimethylamine, diethylamine, triethylamine, tripropylamine, diethanolamine, ethanolamine, deanol, 2-dimethylaminoethanol, 2-diethylaminoethanol, dicyclohexylamine, lysine, arginine, histidine, caffeine, procaine, hydrabamine, choline, betaine, benethamine, benzathine, ethylenediamine, glucosamine, methylglucamine, theobromine, triethanolamine, tromethamine, purines, piperazine, piperidine, *N*-ethylpiperidine, polyamine resins and the like. Particularly preferred organic bases are isopropylamine, diethylamine, ethanolamine, trimethylamine, dicyclohexylamine, choline and caffeine.

Often crystallizations produce a solvate of the compound of the invention. As used herein, the term "solvate" refers to an aggregate that comprises one or more molecules of a compound of the invention with one or more molecules of solvent. The solvent may be water, in which case the solvate may be a hydrate. Alternatively, the solvent may be an organic solvent. Thus, the compounds of the present invention may exist as a hydrate, including a monohydrate, dihydrate, hemihydrate, sesquihydrate, trihydrate, tetrahydrate and the like, as well as the corresponding solvated forms. The compound of the invention may be true solvates, while in other cases, the compound of the invention may merely retain adventitious water or be a mixture of water plus some adventitious solvent.

A "pharmaceutical composition" refers to a formulation of a compound of the invention and a medium generally accepted in the art for the delivery of the biologically active compound to mammals, e.g., humans. Such a medium includes all pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents or excipients therefor.

"Therapeutically effective amount" refers to that amount of a compound of the invention which, when administered to a mammal, preferably a human, is sufficient to effect treatment, as defined below, of an SCD-mediated disease or condition in the mammal, preferably a human. The amount of a compound of the invention which constitutes a "therapeutically effective amount" will vary depending on the compound, the condition and its severity, and the age of the mammal to be treated, but can be determined routinely by one of ordinary skill in the art having regard to his own knowledge and to this disclosure.

"Treating" or "treatment" as used herein covers the treatment of the disease or condition of interest in a mammal, preferably a human, having the disease or disorder of

interest, and includes:

- (i) preventing the disease or condition from occurring in a mammal, in particular, when such mammal is predisposed to the condition but has not yet been diagnosed as having it;
- 5 (ii) inhibiting the disease or condition, *i.e.*, arresting its development; or
- (iii) relieving the disease or condition, *i.e.*, causing regression of the disease or condition.

As used herein, the terms "disease" and "condition" may be used interchangeably or may be different in that the particular malady or condition may not have a known causative agent (so that etiology has not yet been worked out) and it is therefore not yet recognized as a disease but only as an undesirable condition or syndrome, wherein a more or less specific set of symptoms have been identified by clinicians.

The compounds of the invention, or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts may contain one or more asymmetric centers and may thus give rise to enantiomers, diastereomers, and other stereoisomeric forms that may be defined, in terms of absolute stereochemistry, as (*R*)- or (*S*)- or, as (*D*)- or (*L*)- for amino acids. The present invention is meant to include all such possible isomers, as well as their racemic and optically pure forms. Optically active (+) and (-), (*R*)- and (*S*)-, or (*D*)- and (*L*)- isomers may be prepared using chiral synthons or chiral reagents, or resolved using conventional techniques, such as HPLC using a chiral column. When the compounds described herein contain olefinic double bonds or other centers of geometric asymmetry, and unless specified otherwise, it is intended that the compounds include both *E* and *Z* geometric isomers. Likewise, all tautomeric forms are also intended to be included.

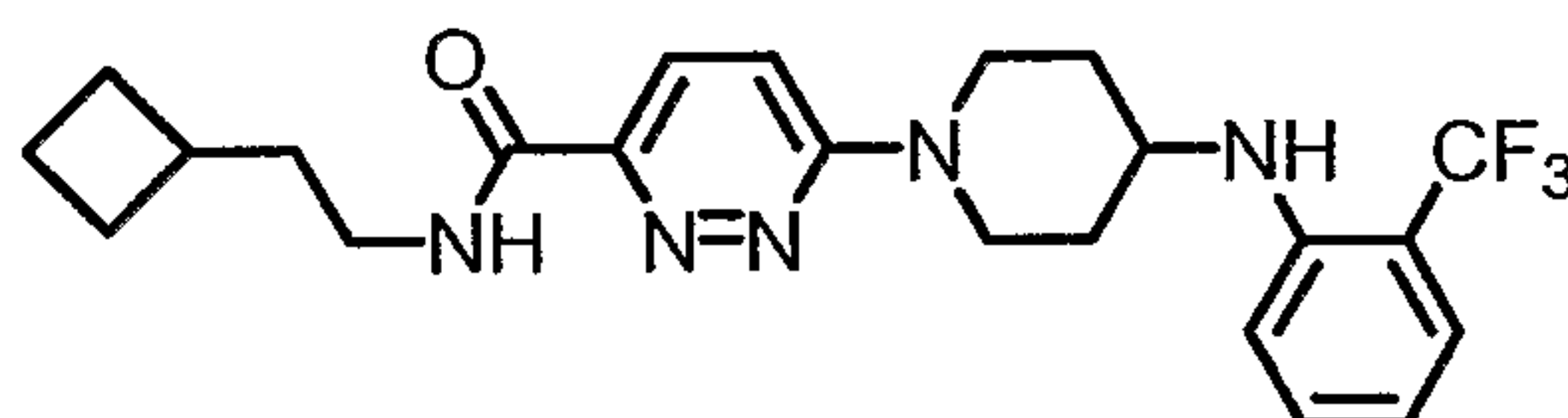
A "stereoisomer" refers to a compound made up of the same atoms bonded by the same bonds but having different three-dimensional structures, which are not interchangeable. The present invention contemplates various stereoisomers and mixtures thereof and includes "enantiomers", which refers to two stereoisomers whose molecules are nonsuperimposable mirror images of one another.

A "tautomer" refers to a proton shift from one atom of a molecule to another atom of the same molecule. The present invention includes tautomers of any said compounds.

The chemical naming protocol and structure diagrams used herein employ and rely the chemical naming features as utilized by Chemdraw version 7.0.1 (available

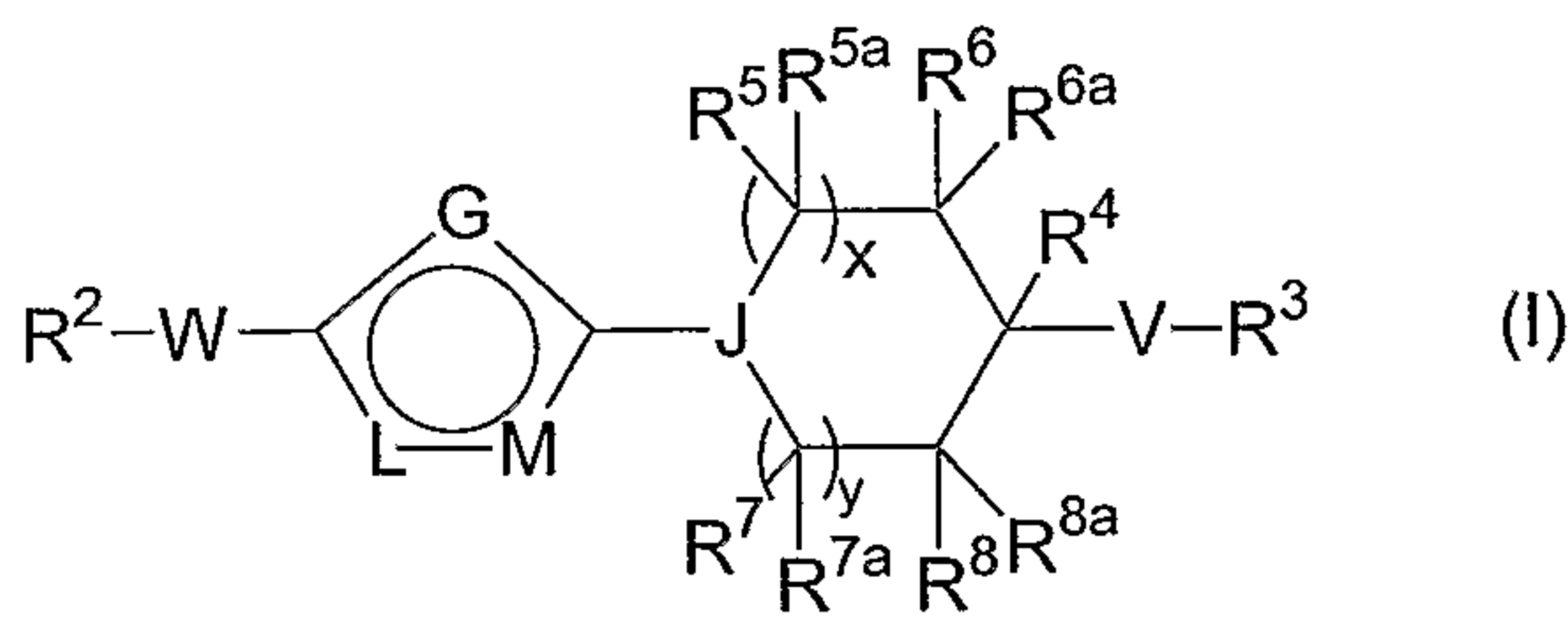
from Cambridgesoft Corp., Cambridge, MA). For complex chemical names employed herein, a substituent group is named before the group to which it attaches. For example, cyclopropylethyl comprises an ethyl backbone with cyclopropyl substituent. In chemical structure diagrams, all bonds are identified, except for some carbon atoms
 5 which are assumed to be bonded to sufficient hydrogen atoms to complete the valency.

For example, a compound of formula (I) wherein x and y are 1, J is N, G is -C(H)=C(H)-, L and M are both -N=, W is -N(H)C(O)-, V is -N(H)-, R² is 2-cyclobutylethyl, R³ is 2-trifluoromethylphenyl, and R⁴, R⁵, R^{5a}, R⁶, R^{6a}, R⁷, R^{7a}, R⁸ and
 10 R^{8a} are each hydrogen; *i.e.*, a compound of the following formula:



is named herein as 6-[4-(2-trifluoromethylphenylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclobutylethyl)amide.

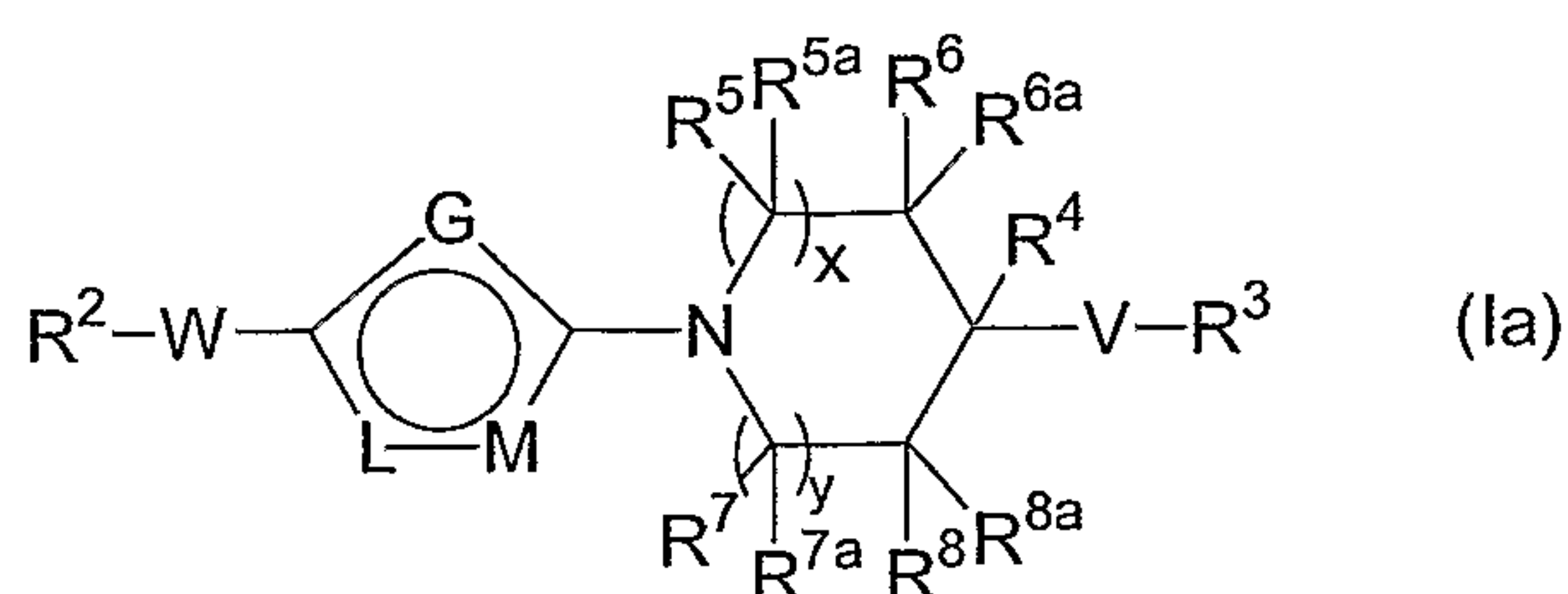
Certain radical groups of the compounds of the invention are depicted herein as
 15 linkages between two parts of the compounds of the invention. For example, in the following formula (I):



W is described, for example, as being -N(R¹)C(O)-, -C(O)N(R¹)-, or -N(R¹)C(O)N(R¹)-, and V is described, for example, as being -N(R¹)- or -C(O)-. This description is meant
 20 to describe a W group attached to the R² group as follows: R²-N(R¹)C(O)-, R²-C(O)N(R¹)-, or R²-N(R¹)C(O)N(R¹)-; and a V group attached to the R³ group as follows: -N(R¹)-R³ or -C(O)-R³. In other words, the description of the W and V linkage groups are meant to be read from left to right in view of formula (I) as depicted above.

Embodiments of the Invention

25 Of the compounds of formula (I) set forth above in the Summary of the Invention, one embodiment is the compounds of formula (I) where J is N, *i.e.*, a compound having the following formula (Ia):



Of this group of compounds, a subgroup of compounds includes those compounds wherein x and y are each independently 0 or 1; G is $-\text{C}(\text{R}^4)=\text{C}(\text{R}^4)-$; L and M are both $-\text{N}=\text{}$; V is a direct bond, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^1)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^1)\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, or $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^1)-$; each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{12}$ hydroxyalkyl, $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkylalkyl and $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{19}$ aralkyl; R^2 is selected from the group consisting of $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{12}$ alkenyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{12}$ hydroxyalkyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{12}$ hydroxyalkenyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{12}$ alkoxyalkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{19}$ aralkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{12}$ heterocyclyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{12}$ heterocyclylalkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}$ heteroaryl, and $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{12}$ heteroarylalkyl; R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{12}$ alkenyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{12}$ hydroxyalkyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{12}$ hydroxyalkenyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{12}$ alkoxyalkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{19}$ aralkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{12}$ heterocyclyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{12}$ heterocyclylalkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}$ heteroaryl and $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{12}$ heteroarylalkyl; each R^4 is independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}$ alkoxy, haloalkyl, cyano, nitro or $-\text{N}(\text{R}^9)_2$; and R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3$ alkyl, or one of R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , and R^{6a} together with one of R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 and R^{8a} forms a direct bond or an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 , and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3$ alkyl.

Of this subgroup of compounds, a set of compounds includes those compounds where V is $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$.

Specific embodiments of this set of compounds include, but are not limited to the following compounds:

4-Methyl-pentanoic acid {6-[4-(4-fluoro-benzoyl)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazin-3-yl}-amide;

6-[4-(4-Fluoro-benzoyl)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-methyl-butyl)-amide;

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

6-[4-(4-Fluorobenzoyl)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)methylamide; and

6-[4-(4-Fluorobenzoyl)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide.

Of the subgroup of compounds set forth above, another set of compounds includes those compounds where V is -N(R¹)C(O)-.

5 Specific embodiments of this set of compounds include, but are not limited to the following compounds:

6-[6-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoylamino)-3-aza-bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-3-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic
10 acid (3-methyl-butyl)-amide; and

6-[3-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoylamino)-pyrrolidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-methyl-butyl)-amide.

Of the subgroup of compounds set forth above, another set of compounds includes those compounds where V is -N(R¹)-

15 Specific embodiments of this set of compounds include, but are not limited to the following compounds:

6-(4-Amino-piperidin-1-yl)-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-methyl-butyl)-amide;

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid
(2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

20 6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-cyclopropyl-propyl)-amide;

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid
(2-cyclobutyl-ethyl)-amide;

25 6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid pentylamide;

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid
hexylamide;

6-[4-(4-Fluoro-2-trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-
carboxylic acid pentylamide;

30 6-[4-(4-Fluoro-2-trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-
carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

6-[4-(4-Fluoro-2-trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-
carboxylic acid (3-cyclopropyl-propyl)-amide;

35 6-[4-(4-Fluoro-2-trifluoromethylphenylamino)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-
carboxylic acid hexylamide;

6-{4-[Methyl(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amino]piperidin-1-yl}pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide.

Of the subgroup of compounds set forth above, another set of compounds includes those compounds where V is a direct bond.

5 Specific embodiments of this set of compounds include, but are not limited to the following compounds:

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzyl)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

10 6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)methyl)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

6-[4-(3,3-Difluoro-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-indol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-cyclopropylpropyl)amide;

6-[4-(3,3-Difluoro-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroindol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide; and

15 6-[4-(3,3-Difluoro-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroindol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid pentylamide.

Of the subgroup of compounds set forth above, another set of compounds includes those compounds where V is -O-.

20 Specific embodiments of this set of compounds include, but are not limited to the following compounds:

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

4-(Trifluoromethylphenoxy)-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']-bipyridinyl-5'carboxylic acid-(2-cyclopropyl ethyl) amide; and

25 6-[4-Methyl-4-(2-trifluoromethylphenoxy)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide.

Of the subgroup of compounds set forth above, another set of compounds includes those compounds where V is -C(O)N(R¹)-.

30 Specific embodiments of this set of compounds include, but are not limited to the following compounds:

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylcarbamoyl)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide; and

6-[3-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylcarbamoyl)-azetidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)-amide.

35 Another embodiment of the compounds of formula (I) includes those

compounds where G is $-N(R^4)-$ or $-C(R^4)=$, L is $-N=$ and M is $-N=$ or $-C(R^4)=$.

Preparation and use of the specific embodiments of the compounds of formula (I) are disclosed herein in the Reaction Schemes, Preparations and Examples set forth below.

5 In one embodiment, the methods of the invention are directed towards the treatment and/or prevention of diseases mediated by stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SCD), especially human SCD (hSCD), preferably diseases related to dyslipidemia and disorders of lipid metabolism, and especially a disease related to elevated plasma lipid levels, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, metabolic syndrome and the like by
10 administering an effective amount of a compound of the invention.

The present invention also relates to pharmaceutical composition containing the compounds of the invention. In one embodiment, the invention relates to a composition comprising compounds of the invention in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and in an amount effective to modulate triglyceride level or to treat diseases
15 related to dyslipidemia and disorders of lipid metabolism, when administered to an animal, preferably a mammal, most preferably a human patient. In an embodiment of such composition, the patient has an elevated lipid level, such as elevated triglycerides or cholesterol, before administration of said compound of the invention and the compound of the invention is present in an amount effective to reduce said lipid level.

20 Utility and Testing of the Compounds of the Invention

The present invention relates to compounds, pharmaceutical compositions and methods of using the compounds and pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases mediated by stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SCD), especially human SCD (hSCD), preferably diseases related to dyslipidemia and disorders of lipid
25 metabolism, and especially a disease related to elevated plasma lipid levels, especially cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, metabolic syndrome and the like, by administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of an SCD-modulating, especially inhibiting, agent.

In general, the present invention provides a method for treating a patient for, or
30 protecting a patient from developing, a disease related to dyslipidemia and/or a disorder of lipid metabolism, wherein lipid levels in an animal, especially a human being, are outside the normal range (*i.e.*, abnormal lipid level, such as elevated plasma lipid levels), especially levels higher than normal, preferably where said lipid is a fatty acid, such as a free or complexed fatty acid, triglycerides, phospholipids, or

cholesterol, such as where LDL-cholesterol levels are elevated or HDL-cholesterol levels are reduced, or any combination of these, where said lipid-related condition or disease is an SCD-mediated disease or condition, comprising administering to an animal, such as a mammal, especially a human patient, a therapeutically effective
5 amount of a compound of the invention or a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the invention wherein the compound modulates the activity of SCD, preferably human SCD1.

The compounds of the invention modulate, preferably inhibit, the activity of human SCD enzymes, especially human SCD1.

10 The general value of the compounds of the invention in modulating, especially inhibiting, the activity of SCD can be determined using the assay described below in Example 11. Alternatively, the general value of the compounds in treating disorders and diseases may be established in industry standard animal models for demonstrating the efficacy of compounds in treating obesity, diabetes or elevated
15 triglyceride or cholesterol levels or for improving glucose tolerance. Such models include Zucker obese *fa/fa* rats (available from Harlan Sprague Dawley, Inc. (Indianapolis, Indiana)), or the Zucker diabetic fatty rat (ZDF/GmiCrl-*fa/fa*) (available from Charles River Laboratories (Montréal, Quebec)).

The compounds of the instant invention are inhibitors of delta-9 desaturases
20 and are useful for treating diseases and disorders in humans and other organisms, including all those human diseases and disorders which are the result of aberrant delta-9 desaturase biological activity or which may be ameliorated by modulation of delta-9 desaturase biological activity.

As defined herein, an SCD-mediated disease or condition includes but is not
25 limited to a disease or condition which is, or is related to, cardiovascular disease, dyslipidemias (including but not limited to disorders of serum levels of triglycerides, hypertriglyceridemia, VLDL, HDL, LDL, fatty acid Desaturation Index (e.g. the ratio of 18:1/18:0 fatty acids, or other fatty acids, as defined elsewhere herein), cholesterol, and total cholesterol, hypercholesterolemia, as well as cholesterol disorders (including
30 disorders characterized by defective reverse cholesterol transport), familial combined hyperlipidemia, coronary artery disease, atherosclerosis, heart disease, cerebrovascular disease (including but not limited to stroke, ischemic stroke and transient ischemic attack (TIA)), peripheral vascular disease, and ischemic retinopathy. In a preferred embodiment, compounds of the invention will, in a patient, increase HDL
35 levels and/or decrease triglyceride levels and/or decrease LDL or non-HDL-cholesterol

levels.

An SCD-mediated disease or condition also includes metabolic syndrome (including but not limited to dyslipidemia, obesity and insulin resistance, hypertension, microalbuminemia, hyperuricaemia, and hypercoagulability), Syndrome X, diabetes, insulin resistance, decreased glucose tolerance, non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, Type II diabetes, Type I diabetes, diabetic complications, body weight disorders (including but not limited to obesity, overweight, cachexia and anorexia), weight loss, body mass index and leptin related diseases. In a preferred embodiment, compounds of the invention will be used to treat diabetes mellitus and obesity.

As used herein, the term "metabolic syndrome" is a recognized clinical term used to describe a condition comprising combinations of Type II diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance, insulin resistance, hypertension, obesity, increased abdominal girth, hypertriglyceridemia, low HDL, hyperuricaemia, hypercoagulability and/or microalbuminemia.

An SCD-mediated disease or condition also includes fatty liver, hepatic steatosis, hepatitis, non-alcoholic hepatitis, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), alcoholic hepatitis, acute fatty liver, fatty liver of pregnancy, drug-induced hepatitis, erythrohepatic protoporphyria, iron overload disorders, hereditary hemochromatosis, hepatic fibrosis, hepatic cirrhosis, hepatoma and conditions related thereto.

An SCD-mediated disease or condition also includes but is not limited to a disease or condition which is, or is related to primary hypertriglyceridemia, or hypertriglyceridemia secondary to another disorder or disease, such as hyperlipoproteinemias, familial histiocytic reticulosis, lipoprotein lipase deficiency, apolipoprotein deficiency (such as ApoCII deficiency or ApoE deficiency), and the like, or hypertriglyceridemia of unknown or unspecified etiology.

An SCD-mediated disease or condition also includes a disorder of polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) disorder, or a skin disorder, including but not limited to eczema, acne, psoriasis, keloid scar formation or prevention, diseases related to production or secretions from mucous membranes, such as monounsaturated fatty acids, wax esters, and the like.

An SCD-mediated disease or condition also includes inflammation, sinusitis, asthma, pancreatitis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, cystic fibrosis, and pre-menstrual syndrome.

An SCD-mediated disease or condition also includes but is not limited to a

disease or condition which is, or is related to cancer, neoplasia, malignancy, metastases, tumours (benign or malignant), carcinogenesis, hepatomas and the like.

An SCD-mediated disease or condition also includes a condition where increasing lean body mass or lean muscle mass is desired, such as is desirable in enhancing performance through muscle building. Myopathies and lipid myopathies such as carnitine palmitoyltransferase deficiency (CPT I or CPT II) are also included herein. Such treatments are useful in humans and in animal husbandry, including for administration to bovine, porcine or avian domestic animals or any other animal to reduce triglyceride production and/or provide leaner meat products and/or healthier animals.

An SCD-mediated disease or condition also includes a disease or condition which is, or is related to, neurological diseases, psychiatric disorders, multiple sclerosis, eye diseases, and immune disorders.

An SCD-mediated disease or condition also includes a disease or condition which is, or is related to, viral diseases or infections including but not limited to all positive strand RNA viruses, coronaviruses, SARS virus, SARS-associated coronavirus, Togaviruses, Picornaviruses, Coxsackievirus, Yellow Fever virus, Flaviviridae, ALPHAVIRUS (TOGAVIRIDAE) including Rubella virus, Eastern equine encephalitis virus, Western equine encephalitis virus, Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus, Sindbis virus, Semliki forest virus, Chikungunya virus, O'nyong'nyong virus, Ross river virus, Mayaro virus, Alphaviruses; ASTROVIRIDAE including Astrovirus, Human Astroviruses; CALICIVIRIDAE including Vesicular exanthema of swine virus, Norwalk virus, Calicivirus, Bovine calicivirus, Pig calcivirus, Hepatitis E; CORONAVIRIDAE including Coronavirus, SARS virus, Avian infectious bronchitis virus, Bovine coronavirus, Canine coronavirus, Feline infectious peritonitis virus, Human coronavirus 299E, Human coronavirus OC43, Murine hepatitis virus, Porcine epidemic diarrhea virus, Porcine hemagglutinating encephalomyelitis virus, Porcine transmissible gastroenteritis virus, Rat coronavirus, Turkey coronavirus, Rabbit coronavirus, Berne virus, Breda virus; FLAVIVIRIDAE including Hepatitis C virus, West Nile virus, Yellow Fever virus, St. Louis encephalitis virus, Dengue Group, Hepatitis G virus, Japanese B encephalitis virus, Murray Valley encephalitis virus, Central European tick-borne encephalitis virus, Far Eastern tick-borne encephalitis virus, Kyasanur forest virus, Louping ill virus, Powassan virus, Omsk hemorrhagic fever virus, Kumilinge virus, Absetarov anzalova hypr virus, Ilheus virus, Rocio encephalitis virus, Langat virus, Pestivirus, Bovine viral diarrhea, Hog cholera virus, Rio Bravo Group, Tyuleniy Group,

Ntaya Group, Uganda S Group, Modoc Group; PICORNAVIRIDAE including Coxsackie A virus, Rhinovirus, Hepatitis A virus, Encephalomyocarditis virus, Mengovirus, ME virus, Human poliovirus 1, Coxsackie B; POTYVIRIDAE including Potyvirus, Rymovirus, Bymovirus. Additionally it can be a disease or infection caused
5 by or linked to Hepatitis viruses, Hepatitis B virus, Hepatitis C virus, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the like. Treatable viral infections include those where the virus employs an RNA intermediate as part of the replicative cycle (hepatitis or HIV); additionally it can be a disease or infection caused by or linked to RNA negative strand viruses such as influenza and parainfluenza viruses.

10 The compounds identified in the instant specification inhibit the desaturation of various fatty acids (such as the C9-C10 desaturation of stearoyl-CoA) which is accomplished by delta-9 desaturases, such as stearoyl-CoA desaturase 1 (SCD1). As such these compounds inhibit the formation of various fatty acids and downstream metabolites thereof. This may lead to an accumulation of stearoyl-CoA or palmitoyl-
15 CoA and other upstream precursors of various fatty acids; which may possibly result in a negative feedback loop causing an overall change in fatty acid metabolism. Any of these consequences may ultimately be responsible for the overall therapeutic benefit provided by these compounds.

Typically, a successful SCD inhibitory therapeutic agent will meet some or all of
20 the following criteria. Oral availability should be at or above 20%. Animal model efficacy is less than about 2 mg/Kg, 1 mg/Kg, or 0.5 mg/Kg and the target human dose is between 50 and 250 mg/70 Kg, although doses outside of this range may be acceptable. ("mg/Kg" means milligrams of compound per kilogram of body mass of the subject to whom it is being administered). The therapeutic index (or ratio of toxic dose
25 to therapeutic dose) should be greater than 100. The potency (as expressed by IC₅₀ value) should be less than 10 μ M, preferably below 1 μ M and most preferably below 50 nM. The IC₅₀ ("Inhibitory Concentration – 50%") is a measure of the amount of compound required to achieve 50% inhibition of SCD activity, over a specific time period, in an SCD biological activity assay. Any process for measuring the activity of
30 SCD enzymes, preferably mouse or human SCD enzymes, may be utilized to assay the activity of the compounds useful in the methods of the invention in inhibiting said SCD activity. Compounds of the invention demonstrate an IC₅₀ in a 15 minute microsomal assay of preferably less than 10 μ M, less than 5 μ M, less than 2.5 μ M, less than 1 μ M, less than 750 nM, less than 500 nM, less than 250 nM, less than 100 nM,
35 less than 50 nM, and most preferably less than 20 nM. The compound of the invention

may show reversible inhibition (i.e., competitive inhibition) and preferably does not inhibit other iron binding proteins. The required dosage should preferably be no more than about once or twice a day or at meal times.

The identification of compounds of the invention as SCD inhibitors was readily accomplished using the SCD enzyme and microsomal assay procedure described in Brownlie et al, *supra*. When tested in this assay, compounds of the invention had less than 50% remaining SCD activity at 10 μ M concentration of the test compound, preferably less than 40% remaining SCD activity at 10 μ M concentration of the test compound, more preferably less than 30% remaining SCD activity at 10 μ M concentration of the test compound, and even more preferably less than 20% remaining SCD activity at 10 μ M concentration of the test compound, thereby demonstrating that the compounds of the invention are potent inhibitors of SCD activity.

These results provide the basis for analysis of the structure-activity relationship (SAR) between test compounds and SCD. Certain R groups tend to provide more potent inhibitory compounds. SAR analysis is one of the tools those skilled in the art may now employ to identify preferred embodiments of the compounds of the invention for use as therapeutic agents.

Other methods of testing the compounds disclosed herein are also readily available to those skilled in the art. Thus, in addition, said contacting may be accomplished *in vivo*. In one such embodiment, said contacting in step (a) is accomplished by administering said chemical agent to an animal afflicted with a triglyceride (TG)- or very low density lipoprotein (VLDL)-related disorder and subsequently detecting a change in plasma triglyceride level in said animal thereby identifying a therapeutic agent useful in treating a triglyceride (TG)- or very low density lipoprotein (VLDL)-related disorder. In such embodiment, the animal may be a human, such as a human patient afflicted with such a disorder and in need of treatment of said disorder.

In specific embodiments of such *in vivo* processes, said change in SCD1 activity in said animal is a decrease in activity, preferably wherein said SCD1 modulating agent does not substantially inhibit the biological activity of a delta-5 desaturase, delta-6 desaturase or fatty acid synthetase.

The model systems useful for compound evaluation may include, but are not limited to, the use of liver microsomes, such as from mice that have been maintained on a high carbohydrate diet, or from human donors, including persons suffering from

obesity. Immortalized cell lines, such as HepG2 (from human liver), MCF-7 (from human breast cancer) and 3T3-L1 (from mouse adipocytes) may also be used. Primary cell lines, such as mouse primary hepatocytes, are also useful in testing the compounds of the invention. Where whole animals are used, mice used as a source of primary hepatocyte cells may also be used wherein the mice have been maintained on a high carbohydrate diet to increase SCD activity in microsome and/or to elevate plasma triglyceride levels (i.e., the 18:1/18:0 ratio); alternatively mice on a normal diet or mice with normal triglyceride levels may be used. Mouse models employing transgenic mice designed for hypertriglyceridemia are also available as is the mouse phenome database. Rabbits and hamsters are also useful as animal models, especially those expressing CETP (cholesteryl ester transfer protein).

Another suitable method for determining the *in vivo* efficacy of the compounds of the invention is to indirectly measure their impact on inhibition of SCD enzyme by measuring a subject's Desaturation Index after administration of the compound. "Desaturation Index" as employed in this specification means the ratio of the product over the substrate for the SCD enzyme as measured from a given tissue sample. This may be calculated using three different equations 18:1n-9/18:0 (oleic acid over stearic acid); 16:1n-7/16:0 (palmitoleic acid over palmitic acid); and/or 16:1n-7 + 18:1n-7/16:0 (measuring all reaction products of 16:0 desaturation over 16:0 substrate). Desaturation Index is primarily measured in liver or plasma triglycerides, but may also be measured in other selected lipid fractions from a variety of tissues. Desaturation Index, generally speaking, is a tool for plasma lipid profiling.

A number of human diseases and disorders are the result of aberrant SCD1 biological activity and may be ameliorated by modulation of SCD1 biological activity using the therapeutic agents of the invention.

Inhibition of SCD expression may also affect the fatty acid composition of membrane phospholipids, as well as production or levels of triglycerides and cholesterol esters. The fatty acid composition of phospholipids ultimately determines membrane fluidity, while the effects on the composition of triglycerides and cholesterol esters can affect lipoprotein metabolism and adiposity.

In carrying out the procedures of the present invention it is of course to be understood that reference to particular buffers, media, reagents, cells, culture conditions and the like are not intended to be limiting, but are to be read so as to include all related materials that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize as being of interest or value in the particular context in which that discussion is presented.

For example, it is often possible to substitute one buffer system or culture medium for another and still achieve similar, if not identical, results. Those of skill in the art will have sufficient knowledge of such systems and methodologies so as to be able, without undue experimentation, to make such substitutions as will optimally serve their purposes in using the methods and procedures disclosed herein.

Pharmaceutical Compositions of the Invention and Administration

The present invention also relates to pharmaceutical composition containing the compounds of the invention disclosed herein. In one embodiment, the present invention relates to a composition comprising compounds of the invention in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and in an amount effective to modulate triglyceride level or to treat diseases related to dyslipidemia and disorders of lipid metabolism, when administered to an animal, preferably a mammal, most preferably a human patient. In an embodiment of such composition, the patient has an elevated lipid level, such as elevated triglycerides or cholesterol, before administration of said compound of the invention and the compound of the invention is present in an amount effective to reduce said lipid level.

The pharmaceutical compositions useful herein also contain a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, including any suitable diluent or excipient, which includes any pharmaceutical agent that does not itself induce the production of antibodies harmful to the individual receiving the composition, and which may be administered without undue toxicity. Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include, but are not limited to, liquids, such as water, saline, glycerol and ethanol, and the like. A thorough discussion of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents, and other excipients is presented in REMINGTON'S PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES (Mack Pub. Co., N.J. current edition).

Those skilled in the art know how to determine suitable doses of the compounds for use in treating the diseases and disorders contemplated herein. Therapeutic doses are generally identified through a dose ranging study in humans based on preliminary evidence derived from animal studies. Doses must be sufficient to result in a desired therapeutic benefit without causing unwanted side-effects for the patient. The preferred dosage range for an animal is 0.001 mg/Kg to 10,000 mg/Kg, including 0.5 mg/Kg, 1.0 mg/Kg and 2.0 mg/Kg, though doses outside this range may be acceptable. The dosing schedule may be once or twice per day, although more often or less often may be satisfactory.

Those skilled in the art are also familiar with determining administration methods (oral, intravenous, inhalation, sub-cutaneous, etc.), dosage forms, suitable pharmaceutical excipients and other matters relevant to the delivery of the compounds to a subject in need thereof.

- 5 In an alternative use of the invention, the compounds of the invention can be used in *in vitro* or *in vivo* studies as exemplary agents for comparative purposes to find other compounds also useful in treatment of, or protection from, the various diseases disclosed herein.

Preparation of the Compounds of the Invention

- 10 It is understood that in the following description, combinations of substituents and/or variables of the depicted formulae are permissible only if such contributions result in stable compounds.

- It will also be appreciated by those skilled in the art that in the process described below the functional groups of intermediate compounds may need to be
15 protected by suitable protecting groups. Such functional groups include hydroxy, amino, mercapto and carboxylic acid. Suitable protecting groups for hydroxy include trialkylsilyl or diarylalkylsilyl (*e.g.*, *t*-butyldimethylsilyl, *t*-butyldiphenylsilyl or trimethylsilyl), tetrahydropyranyl, benzyl, and the like. Suitable protecting groups for
20 amino, amidino and guanidino include *t*-butoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, and the like. Suitable protecting groups for mercapto include -C(O)-R" (where R" is alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl), *p*-methoxybenzyl, trityl and the like. Suitable protecting groups for carboxylic acid include alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl esters.

Protecting groups may be added or removed in accordance with standard techniques, which are well-known to those skilled in the art and as described herein.

- 25 The use of protecting groups is described in detail in Green, T.W. and P.G.M. Wutz, *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis* (1999), 3rd Ed., Wiley. The protecting group may also be a polymer resin such as a Wang resin or a 2-chlorotrityl-chloride resin.

- It will also be appreciated by those skilled in the art, although such protected
30 derivatives of compounds of this invention may not possess pharmacological activity as such, they may be administered to a mammal and thereafter metabolized in the body to form compounds of the invention which are pharmacologically active. Such derivatives may therefore be described as "prodrugs". All prodrugs of compounds of this invention are included within the scope of the invention.

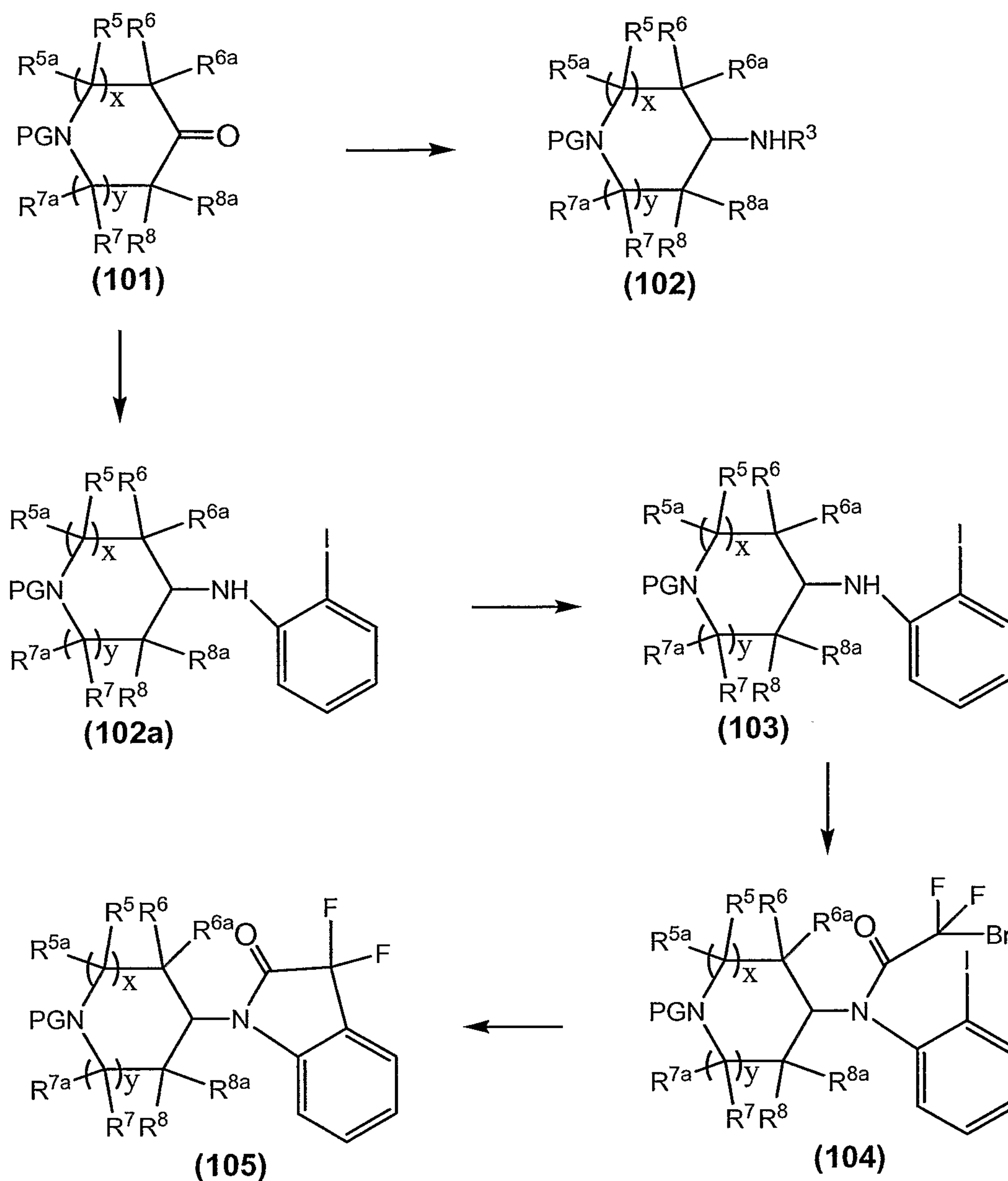
The following Reaction Schemes illustrate methods to make compounds of this invention. It is understood that one of those skilled in the art would be able to make these compounds by similar methods or by methods known to one skilled in the art. In general, starting components may be obtained from sources such as Sigma Aldrich, Lancaster Synthesis, Inc., Maybridge, Matrix Scientific, TCI, and Fluorochem USA, etc. or synthesized according to sources known to those skilled in the art (see, e.g., Advanced Organic Chemistry: Reactions, Mechanisms, and Structure, 5th edition (Wiley, December 2000)) or prepared as described in this invention. In addition, methods similar to those disclosed in the following publications may be used by one skilled in the art to prepare the compounds of the invention:

PCT Published Patent Application, WO 03/076422;
PCT Published Patent Application, WO 03/076401;
PCT Published Patent Application, WO 03/076400;
PCT Published Patent Application, WO 03/075929; and
PCT Published Patent Application, WO 03/076395.

In the following Reaction Schemes, R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 , R^{8a} and V are defined in the following Reaction Schemes as in the Specification unless specifically defined otherwise. PG represents a protecting group such as BOC, benzyl group and the like.

In general, the intermediates for the synthesis of compounds of formula (I) of this invention can be synthesized following the general procedure as described in Reaction Scheme 1.

REACTION SCHEME 1



The starting materials for the above reaction scheme are commercially available or can be prepared according to methods known to one skilled in the art or by methods disclosed herein. In general, the compounds of the invention are prepared in the above reaction scheme as follows:

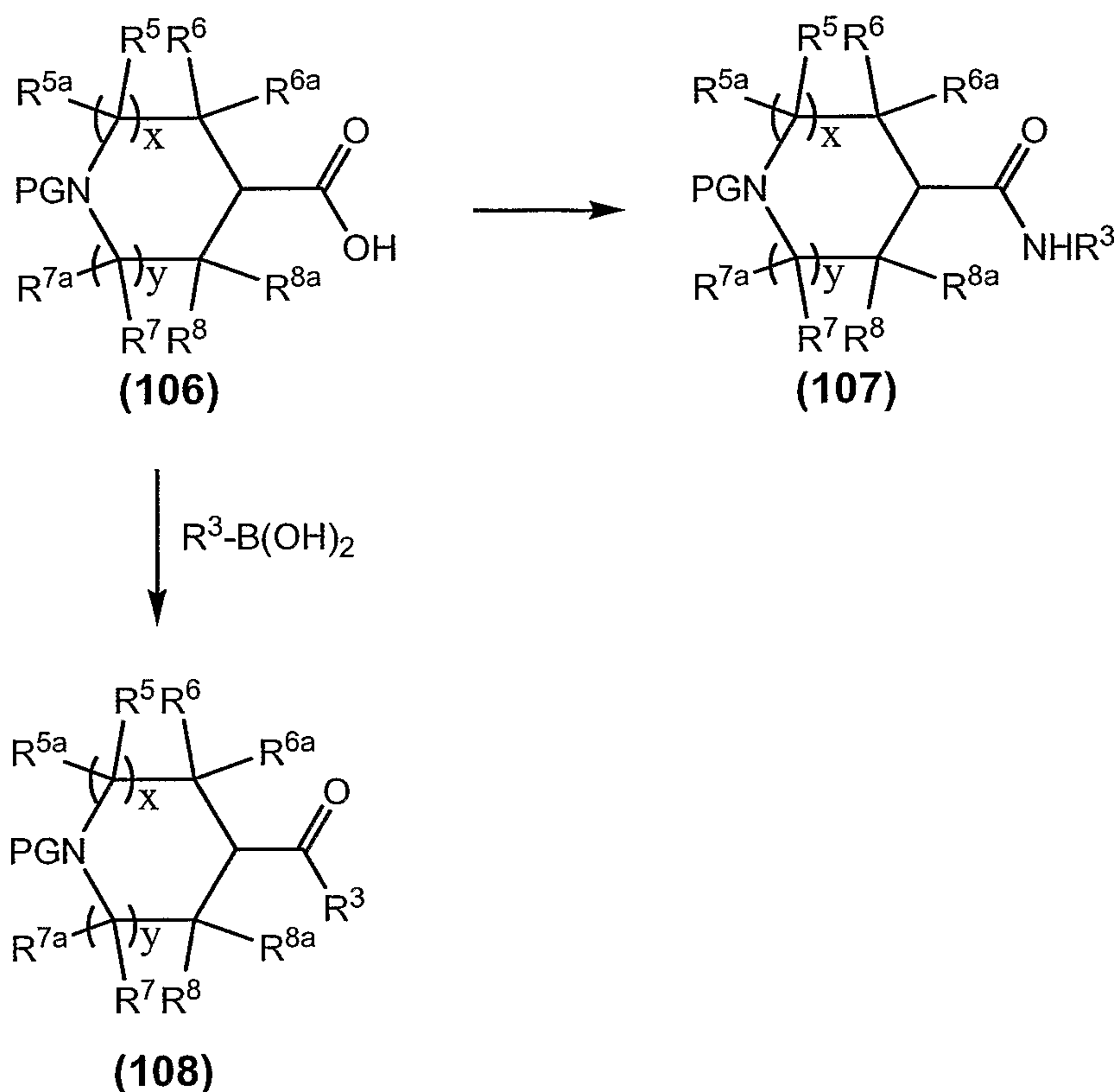
Reaction of the protected piperidone **101** with an appropriate amine under reductive amination conditions known to one in the art gives the amino piperidine compound **102**. Similarly, compound **102a** with an iodo group at the 2-position can be obtained. Acetylation of **102a** with bromodifluoroacetyl chloride in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, triethyl amine in a solvent such as, but not limited to,

dichloromethane affords the tertiary amide **104**. Treatment of **104** with copper bronze provides the intramolecularly cyclized compound **105**.

In general, the intermediates for the synthesis of compounds of formula (I) of this invention can be synthesized following the general procedure as described in

5 Reaction Scheme 2.

REACTION SCHEME 2



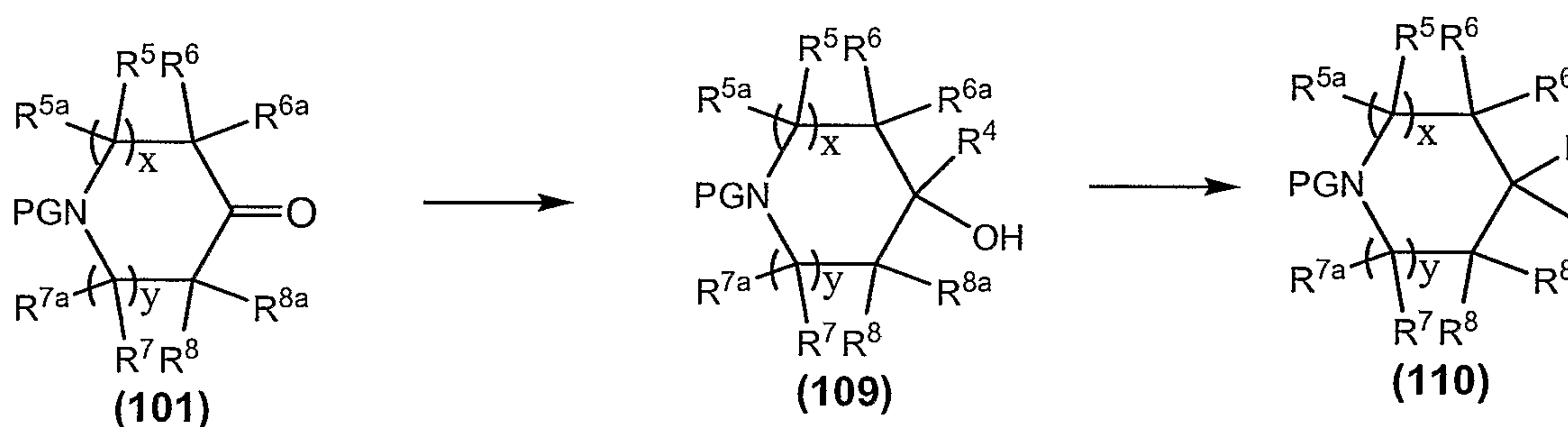
Amide **107** can be formed from carboxylic acid **106** by reaction with an appropriate amine in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, diisopropylethylamine, 1-hydroxyl-1*H*-benzotriazole and 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide in a solvent such as, but not limited to, dichloromethane. Alternatively, amide **107** can be prepared by reaction of the acyl chloride derivative of **106** with an appropriate amine. The reaction can be performed in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, diisopropylethylamine in a solvent such as, but not limited to, dichloromethane.

Carboxylic acid **106** can be converted to the ketone compound **108** by reaction with an appropriate boronic acid in the presence of palladium catalyst (e.g. palladium

acetate), ligand (e.g. tris-(4-methoxyphenyl)phosphine), activating agent (e.g. dimethyl dicarbonate) and water in a solvent such as, but not limited to, tetrahydrofuran (see Gooben, L. J. et al *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2002**, 3254).

In general, the intermediates for the synthesis of compounds of formula (I) of this invention can be synthesized following the general procedure as described in Reaction Scheme 3.

REACTION SCHEME 3

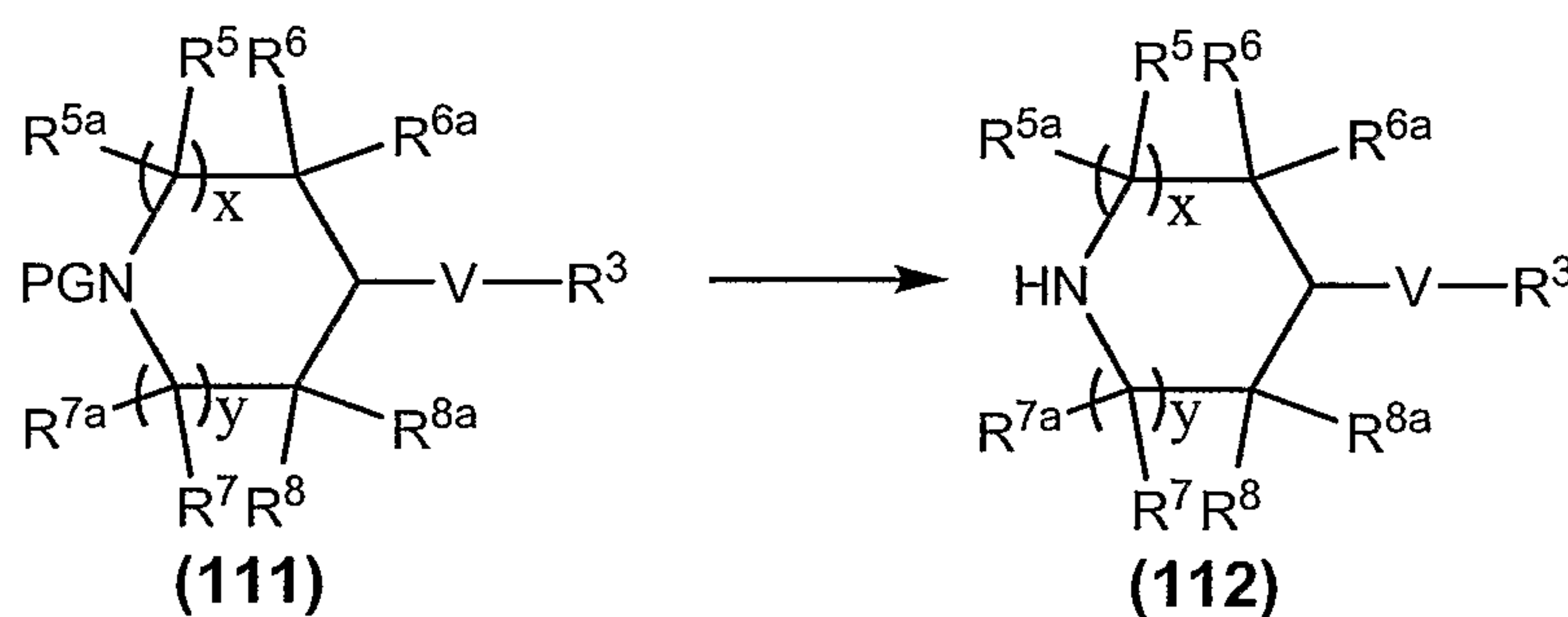


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Reaction of ketone **101** with an appropriate Grignard reagent provides alcohol **109**. Treatment of **109** under Mitsunobu conditions known to one in the art with an appropriate phenol gives the ether product **110**.

In general, the intermediates for the synthesis of compounds of formula (I) of this invention can be synthesized following the general procedure as described in Reaction Scheme 4.

REACTION SCHEME 4

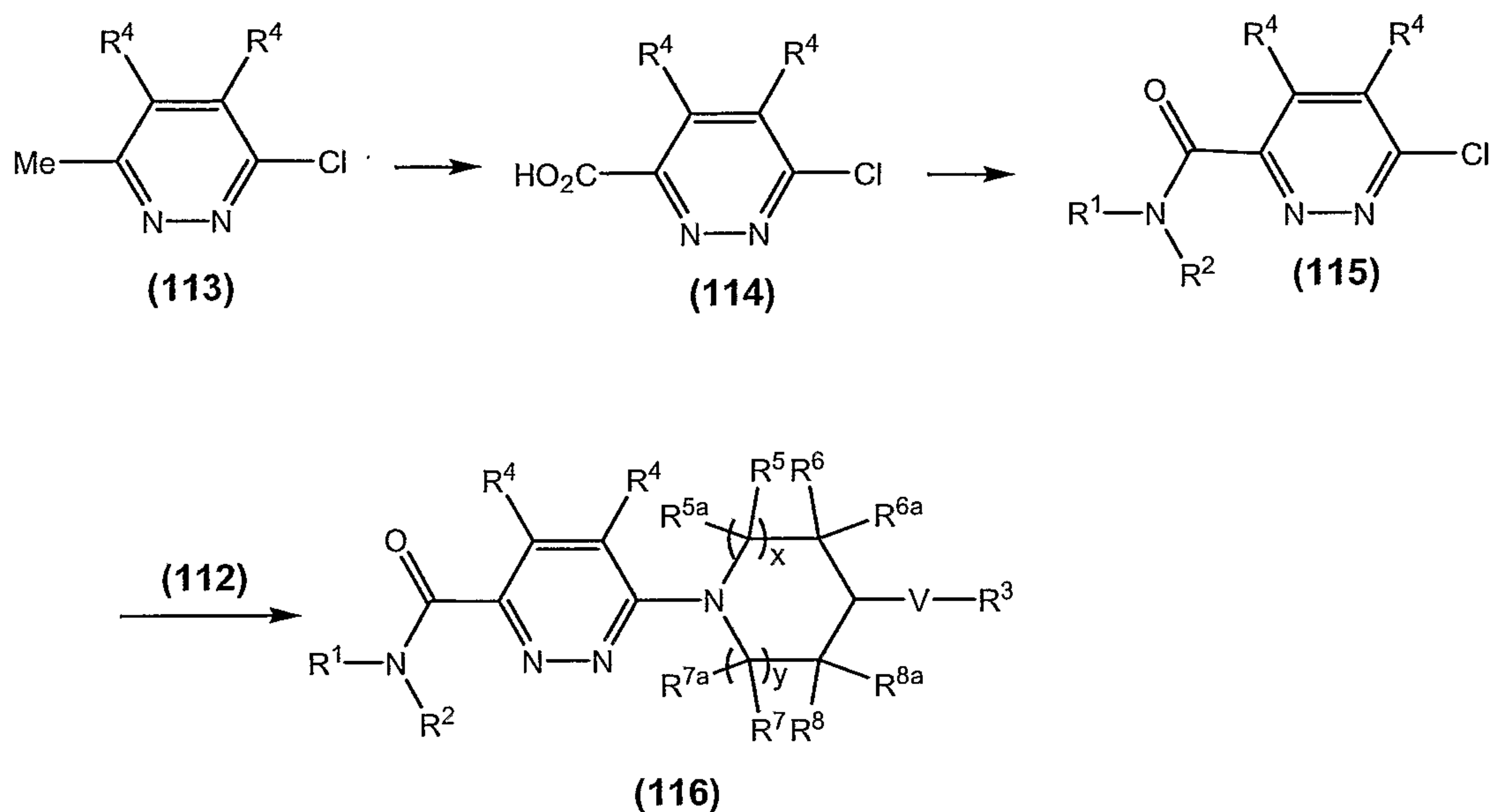


In the intermediates prepared above (Schemes 1-3), the protecting group, generally being a *t*-butyloxycarbonyl group, in compound **111** can be removed to give the desired product **112** by using acidic conditions as described in Green, T.W. and P.G.M. Wutz, *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis* (1999), 3rd Ed., Wiley.

In general, the compounds of formula (I) of this invention where G is -C(R⁴)=C(R⁴)-, W is -N(R¹)C(O)-, L and M are both -N=, J is N, V is a direct bond,

-C(O)NH-, -N(H)-, -O- and -C(O)- can be synthesized following the general procedure as described in Reaction Scheme 5.

REACTION SCHEME 5

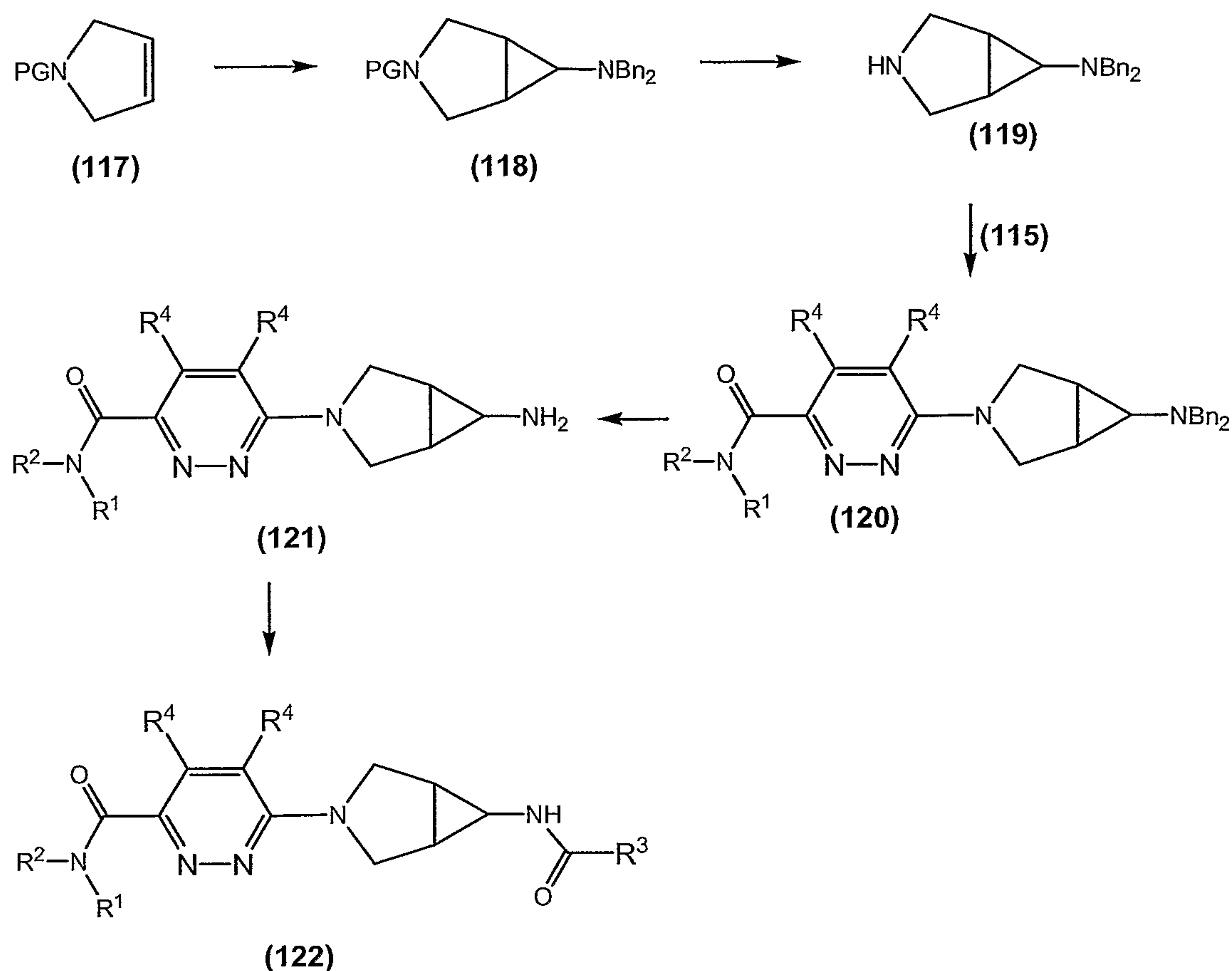


- 5 The methylpyridazine compound **113** can be oxidized to produce a carboxylic acid **114** by using an oxidant such as, but not limited to, potassium dichromate in an acid such as, but not limited to, concentrated sulfuric acid. Amide **115** can be formed from carboxylic acid **114** by reaction with an appropriate amine in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, diisopropylethylamine, 1-hydroxyl-1*H*-benzotriazole and 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide in a solvent such as, but not limited to, dichloromethane. Alternatively, amide **115** can be prepared by reaction of the acyl chloride derivative of **114** with an appropriate amine. The reaction can be performed in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, diisopropylethylamine in a solvent such as, but not limited to, dichloromethane. Reaction of the chloropyridazine compound **115** with the cyclized amine compound **112**, obtained from Reaction Scheme 4, in a refluxing solvent such as, but not limited to, 1,4-dioxane in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene or potassium carbonate and catalytic amount of tetra-*n*-butylammonium iodide gives compound **116**.

- 20 In general, the compounds of formula (I) of this invention where G is -C(R⁴)=C(R⁴)-; W is -N(R¹)C(O)-; L and M are both -N=; J is N; V is -N(H)C(O)-; R⁵, R^{5a}, R⁷, R^{7a}, R⁶, R⁸ are each hydrogen, and R^{6a} and R^{8a} are connected as a single bond can be synthesized following the general procedure as described in Reaction

Scheme 6.

REACTION SCHEME 6

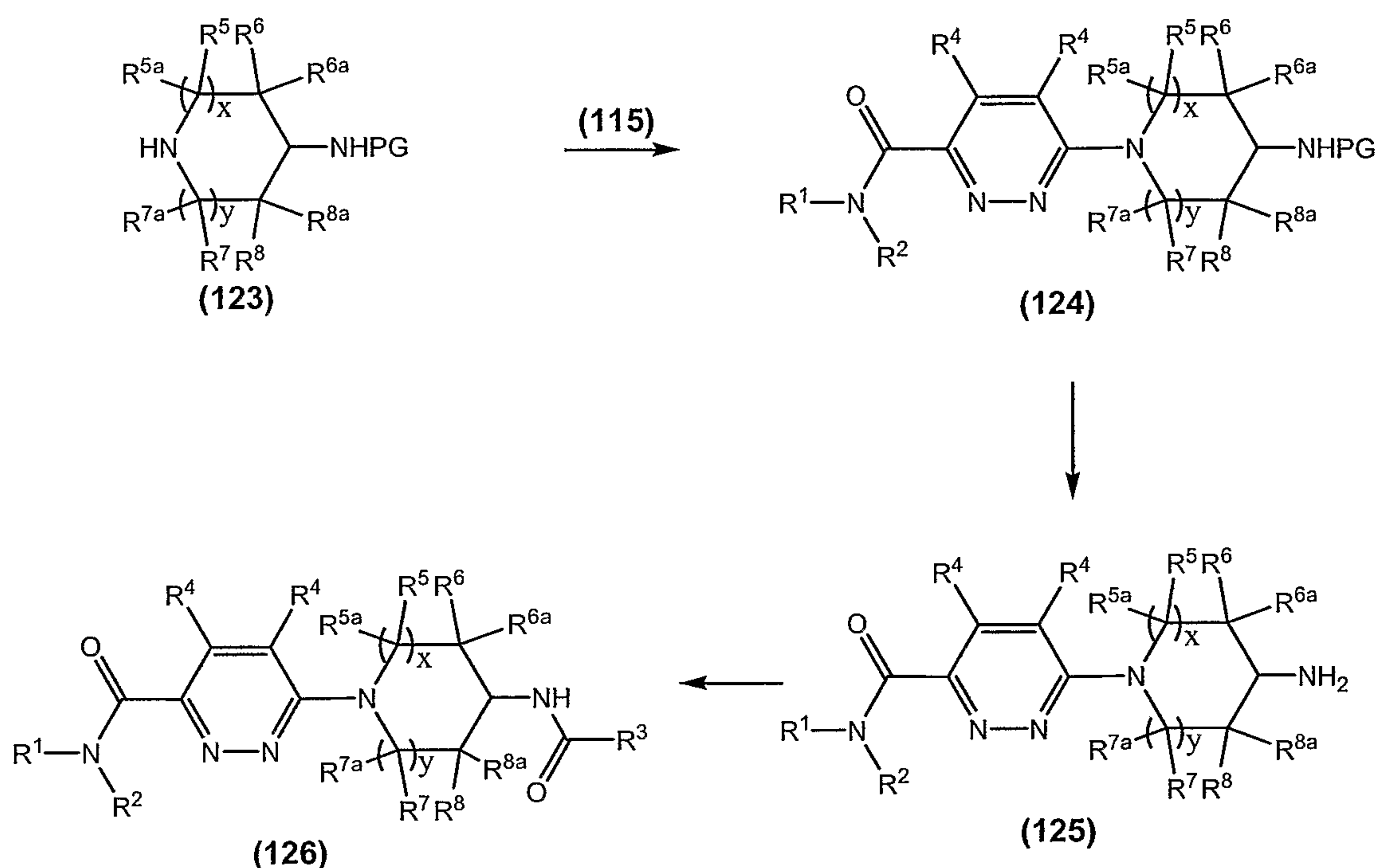


Treatment of the olefin compound **117** with titanium isopropoxide, a Grignard reagent (e.g. cyclohexylmagnesium chloride or ethylmagnesium chloride) and *N,N*-dibenzylformamide in a solvent such as, but not limited to, tetrahydrofuran (see de Meijere, A. et al *Chem. Eur. J.* **2002**, 8, 3789) gives the bicyclic compound **118**. The protecting group, generally being a *t*-butoxycarbonyl group, in compound **118** can be removed to give the desired product **119** by using acidic conditions as described in Green, T.W. and P.G.M. Wutz, *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis* (1999), 3rd Ed., Wiley. Reaction of the chloropyridazine compound **115** with the bicyclic amine **119** in a refluxing solvent such as, but not limited to, 1,4-dioxane in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene and catalytic amount of tetra-*n*-butylammonium bromide gives compound **120**. The benzyl groups in compound **120** can be removed by using the hydrogenation conditions known to one in the art to generate the amino compound **121**. Reaction of **121** with an appropriate acid or acyl chloride provides the final product **122**. With an acid, the reaction is performed in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, diisopropylethylamine, 1-hydroxyl-1*H*-

benzotriazole and 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide in a solvent such as, but not limited to, dichloromethane. With an acyl chloride, the reaction is performed in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, diisopropylethylamine in a solvent such as, but not limited to, dichloromethane.

- 5 In general, the compounds of formula (I) of this invention where G is $-C(R^4)=C(R^4)-$, W is $-N(R^1)C(O)-$, L and M are both $-N=$, J is N, and V is $-N(H)C(O)-$ can be synthesized following the general procedure as described in Reaction Scheme 7.

REACTION SCHEME 7



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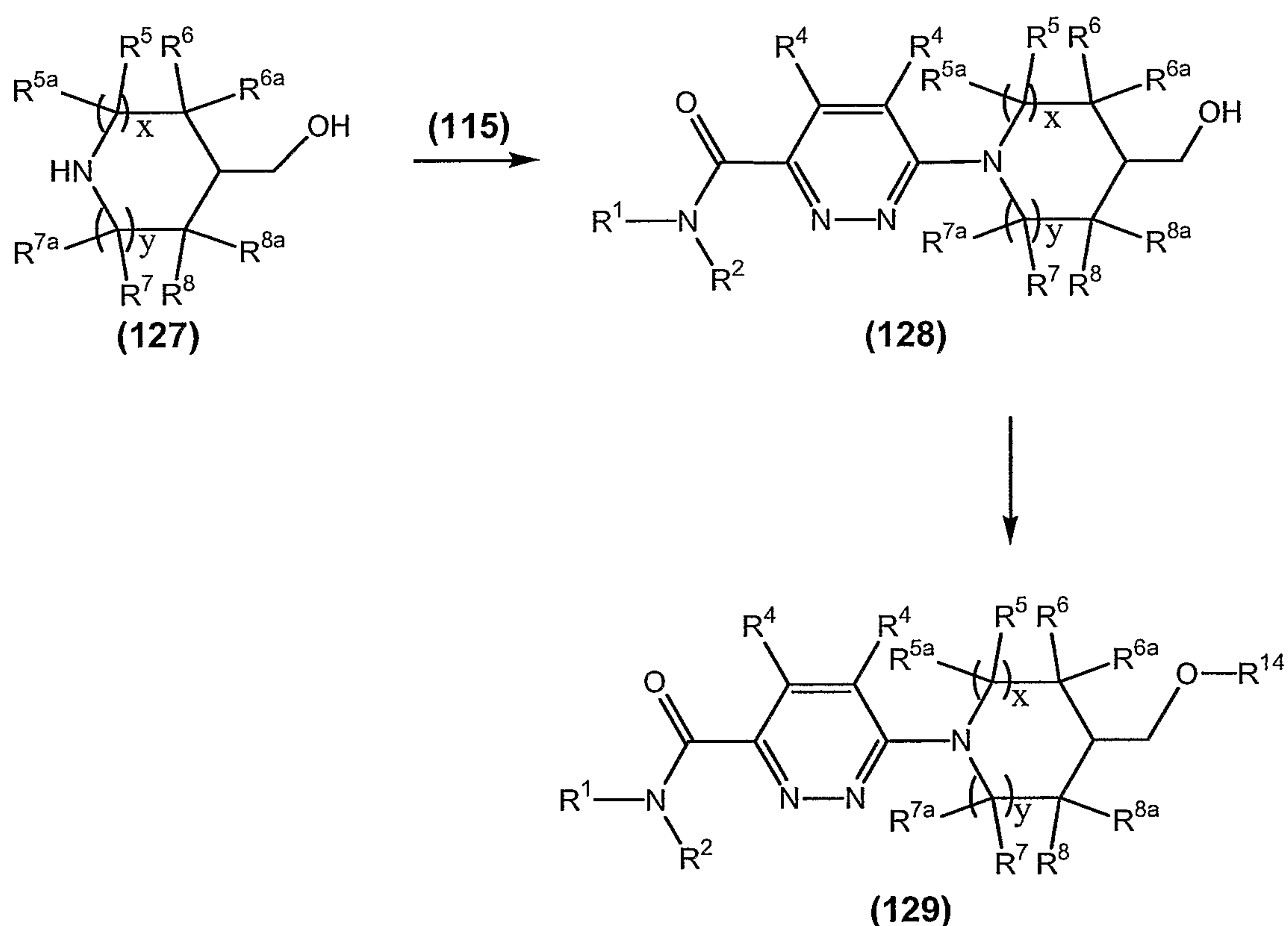
- The protected amino cyclic amine **123** can couple with chloropyridazine compound **115** in a refluxing solvent such as, but not limited to, 1,4-dioxane in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene and catalytic amount of tetra-*n*-butylammonium bromide to give compound **124**. The protecting group, generally being a t-butyloxycarbonyl group, in compound **124** can be removed to give the desired product **125** by using acidic conditions as described in Green, T.W. and P.G.M. Wutz, *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis* (1999), 3rd Ed., Wiley. Reaction of **125** with an appropriate acid or acyl chloride provides the final product **126**. With an acid, the reaction is performed in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, diisopropylethylamine, 1-hydroxyl-1*H*-benzotriazole and 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide in a solvent such as, but not limited to,
- 15
- 20

dichloromethane. With an acyl chloride, the reaction is performed in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, diisopropylethylamine in a solvent such as, but not limited to, dichloromethane.

In general, the compounds of formula (I) of this invention where G is
 5 -C(R⁴)=C(R⁴)-, W is -N(R¹)C(O)-, L and M are both -N=, J is N; V is a direct bond; and R³ is alkyl substituted by -OR¹⁴ where R¹⁴ is hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl (optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from halo or haloalkyl), aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl can be synthesized following the general procedure as described in Reaction Scheme 8.

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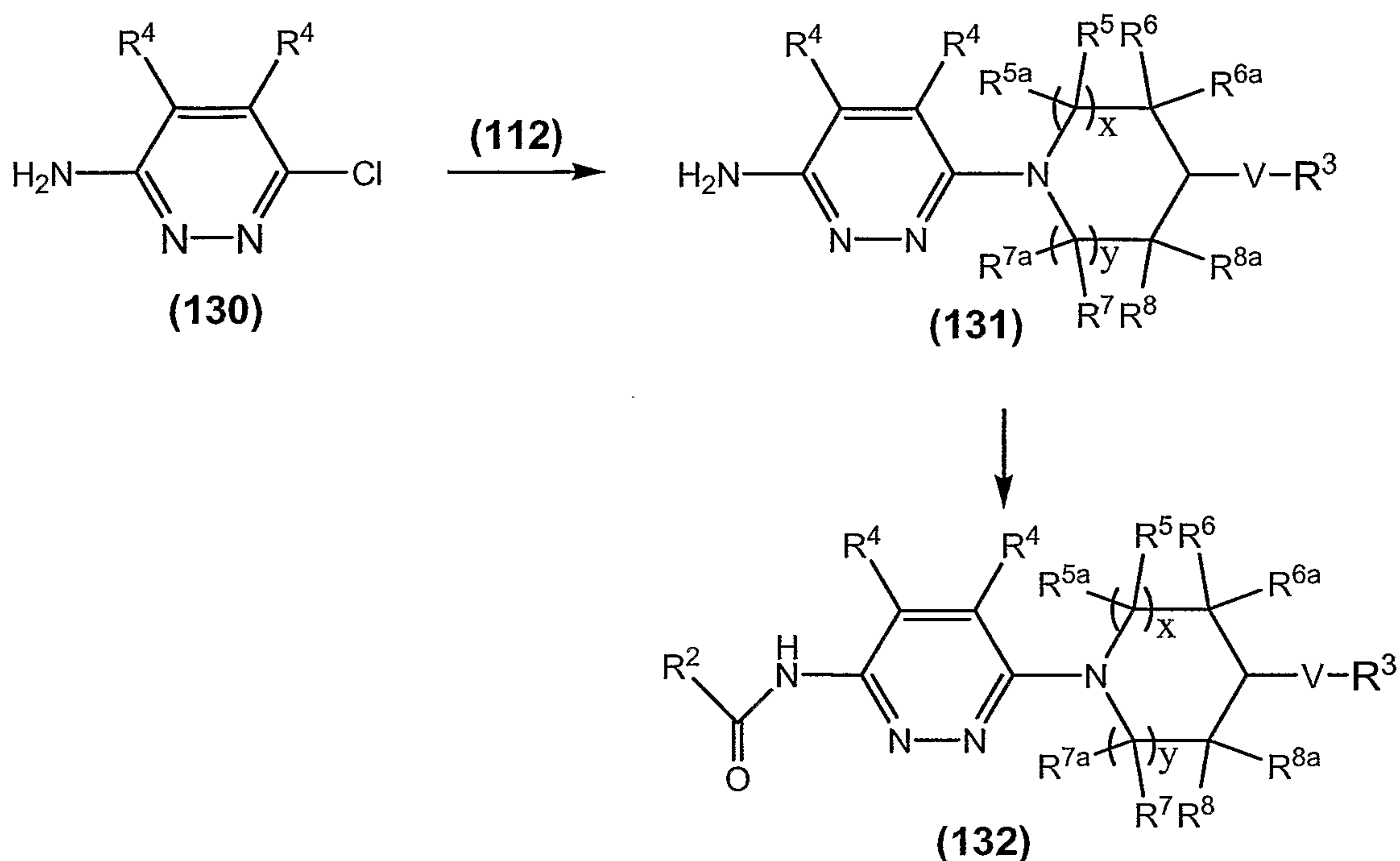
REACTION SCHEME 8



The hydroxymethyl cyclic amine **127** can couple with chloropyridazine compound **115** in a refluxing solvent such as, but not limited to, 1,4-dioxane in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene and catalytic amount of tetra-*n*-butylammonium bromide to give compound **128**. Treatment
 15 of **128** under Mitsunobu conditions known to one in the art with an appropriate phenol gives the ether product **129**.

In general, the compounds of formula (I) of this invention where G is $-C(R^4)=C(R^4)-$, W is $-C(O)N(R^1)-$, L and M are both $-N=$, and J is N can be synthesized following the general procedure as described in Reaction Scheme 9.

REACTION SCHEME 9



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The hydrochloride salt of cyclic amine **112** can couple with chloroaminopyridazine compound **130** in a refluxing solvent such as, but not limited to, *N*-methylpyrrolidinone. Reaction of **131** with an appropriate acid or acyl chloride provides the final product **132**. With an acid, the reaction is performed in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, diisopropylethylamine, 1-hydroxyl-1*H*-benzotriazole and 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide in a solvent such as, but not limited to, dichloromethane. With an acyl chloride, the reaction is performed in the presence of a base such as, but not limited to, diisopropylethylamine in a solvent such as, but not limited to, dichloromethane.

Although anyone skilled in the art is capable of preparing the compounds of the invention according to the general techniques disclosed above, more specific details on synthetic techniques for compounds of the invention are provided elsewhere in this specification for convenience. Again, all reagents and reaction conditions employed in synthesis are known to those skilled in the art and are available from ordinary commercial sources.

20

PREPARATION 1

SYNTHESIS OF PIPERIDIN-4-YL-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENYL)AMINE

A. Titanium isopropoxide (2.5 mL, 8.46 mmol) was added to a solution of 2-aminobenzotrifluoride (0.6 mL, 4.82 mmol) and 1-Boc-4-piperidone (1.05 g, 5.26 mmol) in THF (3 mL), the resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 4 hours, then sodium cyanoborohydride (0.800 g, 12.73 mmol) was added. The stirring was continued overnight. Aqueous sodium hydroxide (2.0 mL, 1.0 M) was added and the mixture was stirred for another 15 minutes. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (250 mL), washed with water, and brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography to afford 4-(2-trifluoromethylphenylamino)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (1.58 g, 95%). MS (ES+) *m/z* 345.1 (M+1).

B. A solution of 4-(2-trifluoromethylphenylamino)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (0.87 g, 2.52 mmol) in dichloromethane and trifluoroacetic acid (18 mL, 2:1) was stirred at ambient temperature overnight, the solvents were removed by evaporation. The residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate, and the resulting solution was washed with aqueous saturated NaHCO₃ and brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to give piperidin-4-yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amine (0.612 g, 99%) which was used directly for next step reaction without further purification. MS (ES+) *m/z* 245.0 (M+1).

PREPARATION 2

SYNTHESIS OF 4-(3,3-DIFLUORO-2-OXO-2,3-DIHYDROINDOL-1-YL)-PIPERIDINE-1-CARBOXYLIC ACID *TERT*-BUTYL ESTER

A. A mixture of 2-iodoaniline (1.100 g, 5.00 mmol), 1-Boc-4-piperidone (1.500 g, 7.50 mmol), acetic acid (1.0 mL, 17.5 mmol) and sodium triacetoxy borohydride (2.420 g, 11 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (30 mL) was stirred at ambient temperature for 2 days. The reaction was quenched with water, and the organic phase was separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography to afford 4-(2-iodophenylamino)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (1.560 g, 50%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (dd, *J* = 1.5 and 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 1H), 6.56 (d, *J* =

8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (dt, $J = 1.5$ and 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.99-3.95 (m, 2H), 3.48-3.43 (m, 1H), 3.03-2.94 (m, 2H), 2.02-1.97 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.36 (m, 11H).

B. Bromodifluoroacetyl chloride (0.800 g, 4.1 mmol) was added dropwise to a cooled (0°C) solution of 4-(2-iodophenylamino)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (1.500 g, 3.7 mmol) and triethylamine (1.0 mL, 7.1 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 mL). The cooling bath was removed 30 minutes after the addition of all reagents. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 1 hour, then diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with water and brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography to afford 4-[(2-bromo-2,2-difluoroacetyl)-(2-iodophenyl)amino]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (1.730 g, 83%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88 (dd, $J = 1.2$ and 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.06 (m, 3H), 4.45-4.37 (m, 1H), 4.17-4.03 (m, 2H), 2.81-2.64 (m, 2H), 2.18-2.12 (m, 1H), 1.89-1.84 (m, 1H), 1.59-1.52 (m, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H), 1.25-0.98 (m, 1H).

C. A mixture of 4-[(2-bromo-2,2-difluoroacetyl)-(2-iodophenyl)amino]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (1.670 g, 2.98 mmol) and copper (bronze, 0.480 g, 7.55 mmol) in DMSO (15 mL) was heated at 70°C overnight. The reaction mixture was quenched with water at 0°C and then extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography to afford the title compound in 93% yield (0.976 g). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.52-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.12 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.28-4.13 (m, 3H), 2.77 (t, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.32-2.18 (m, 2H), 1.73 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.45 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (75MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.5, 165.0, 164.6, 154.5, 142.6, 142.5, 142.4, 133.4, 125.0, 123.6, 120.6, 120.3, 120.0, 113.6, 110.9, 110.3, 107.0, 80.0, 77.5, 77.0, 76.6, 51.0, 43.2, 28.3, 27.9. MS (ES+) m/z 375.3 (M+Na).

PREPARATION 3

SYNTHESIS OF 4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENOXY)PIPERIDINE

To a stirred solution of 4-(2-trifluoromethylphenoxy)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (1.413 g, 4.000 mmol) in dichloromethane (40.0 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (6.0 mL, 80.00 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 24 hours and then quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of Na_2CO_3 (10.0 mL). The organic phase was washed with water (20.0 mL), brine (20.0

mL), dried over MgSO_4 and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The obtained crude product was used without further purification.

PREPARATION 4

5 SYNTHESIS OF 6-(6-AMINO-3-AZABICYCLO[3.1.0]HEX-3-YL)PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

A. A solution of *tert*-butyl 2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrole-1-carboxylate (4.370 g, 25.80 mmol), titanium isopropoxide (9.2 mL, 30.90 mmol) in THF (70 mL) was treated with methylmagnesium chloride (10.4 mL, 31.20 mmol), and then a solution of *N,N*-dibenzylformamide (6.980 g, 30.90 mmol) in THF (25 mL) was added in one portion.
10 Cyclohexylmagnesium chloride (23.5 mL, 51.70 mmol) was added at ambient temperature over 3 hours, and the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 15 minutes. Upon cooling to ambient temperature water (10 mL) was added to the mixture and the stirring was continued for another 5 minutes and followed by the addition of hexane (80 mL). The mixture was stirred for another 10 minutes, then filtered through a
15 small pad of silica gel. The obtained solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by column chromatography to yield the desired product, 6-dibenzylamino-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexane-3-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester which was used for the next step reaction.

B. To a stirred solution of 6-dibenzylamino-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexane-3-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (0.800 g, 2.10 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 mL) was
20 added trifluoroacetic acid (2.5 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 3 hours and then quenched with saturated aqueous solution of Na_2CO_3 (10 mL). The organic phase was separated, washed with water, saturated NaCl, dried over MgSO_4 and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The obtained crude product, (3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hex-6-yl)dibenzylamine, was used without further purification.
25

C. To a stirred solution of 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide (0.225 g, 1.00 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (10 mL) was added (3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hex-6-yl)dibenzylamine (0.440 g, 1.200 mmol), 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (0.5 mL, 3.00 mmol) and tetrabutyl ammonium bromide (0.032 g, 0.10 mmol).
30 The resulting mixture was stirred at reflux for 18 hours. 1,4-Dioxane was removed *in vacuo* and the obtained crude product was purified by column chromatography to yield the desired product, 6-(6-dibenzylamino-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hex-3-yl)pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide in

89% yield (0.415 g). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00-7.96 (m, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.21 (m, 10H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 5H), 3.55-3.48 (dd, *J* = 7.0 and 6.3 Hz, 3H), 3.44 (s, 2H), 1.57-1.48 (m, 5H), 0.76-0.67 (m, 1H), 0.46-0.40 (m, 2H), 0.09-0.04 (m, 2H). MS (ES+) *m/z* 468 (M+1).

5 D. To a stirred solution of 6-(6-dibenzylamino-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hex-3-yl)pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide (0.415 g, 0.90 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) was added Pd/C (0.200 g, 12 mol%). The mixture was placed under an atmosphere of hydrogen for 3 days. The reaction mixture was filtered through celite and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude title compound was obtained and used without
10 further purification.

PREPARATION 5

SYNTHESIS OF PIPERIDINE-4-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENYL)AMIDE

A. To a stirred solution of piperidine-1,4-dicarboxylic acid mono-*tert*-butyl ester (1.000 g, 4.00 mmol) in chloroform (15 mL) was added thionyl chloride (3.0 mL, 40.00 mmol). The reaction mixture was left stirring at reflux for 3 days and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The obtained crude solid, 4-chlorocarbonylpiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester, was used without further purification.

B. To a stirred solution of 2-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (0.5 mL, 4.20 mmol) in
20 dichloromethane (10.0 mL) was added 4-chlorocarbonylpiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (1.000 g, 4.00 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 10 minutes, then followed by the addition of triethylamine (0.6 mL, 4.20 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for another 10 minutes. Water (5.0 mL) was added to the mixture and the organic phase separated
25 and washed with saturated NaCl (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The obtained crude product was purified by column chromatography to yield the desired product, 4-(2-trifluoromethylphenylcarbamoyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester, in 30% yield (0.450 g). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.13-4.04 (m, 2H), 2.77-2.69 (m, 2H), 2.44-2.34 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.93 (m, 2H),
30 1.70-1.57 (m, 2H), 1.40 (s, 9H). MS (ES-) *m/z* 371 (M-1).

C. To a stirred solution of 4-(2-trifluoromethylphenylcarbamoyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (0.450 g, 1.20 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) was

added trifluoroacetic acid (1.4 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 16 hours and then quenched with saturated aqueous solution of Na₂CO₃ (10 mL). The organic phase was separated and washed with water (10 mL), saturated NaCl (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude
5 title compound was obtained and used without further purification.

PREPARATION 6

SYNTHESIS OF 6-(4-HYDROXYMETHYLPIPERIDIN-1-YL)PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

To a stirred solution of 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)-amide (0.200 g, 0.90 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (10 mL) was added 4-piperidine methanol (0.155 g, 1.40 mmol), 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (0.4 mL, 2.700 mmol) and tetrabutyl ammonium bromide (0.032 g, 0.10 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at reflux for 18 hours. 1,4-Dioxane was removed *in vacuo* and the obtained crude product was used without further purification.

15 PREPARATION 7

SYNTHESIS OF 4-METHYL-4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENOXY)PIPERIDINE

A. To a stirred solution of 4-oxopiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (2.000 g, 10.04 mmol) in THF (30 mL) was added methyl magnesiumchloride (3.7 mL, 11.04 mmol) at 0°C. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0°C for 60 minutes. Ethyl
20 acetate (40 mL) was added to the mixture and the organic solution was washed with water (20 mL), saturated NaCl (20 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by column chromatography to yield the desired product, 4-hydroxy-4-methylpiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester, in 66% yield (1.418 g). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.67-3.60 (m, 2H), 3.23-3.13 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.46
25 (m, 4H), 1.40 (s, 9H), 1.20 (s, 3H).

B. To a stirred solution of 4-hydroxy-4-methylpiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (0.500 g, 2.32 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was added 2-hydroxybenzotrifluoride (0.414 g, 2.56 mmol), triphenylphosphine (0.682 g, 2.555 mmol) and diethyl azocarboxylate (0.5 mL, 2.56 mmol). The resulting mixture was
30 stirred at reflux for 18 hours. Toluene was removed *in vacuo* and the obtained crude product was purified by column chromatography to yield the desired product, 4-methyl-4-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester, in 5% yield

(0.025 g). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.02-6.97 (m, 1H), 3.81-3.76 (m, 2H), 3.28 (t, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 2H), 2.15-2.11 (m, 2H), 1.67-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.44 (s, 9H), 1.39 (s, 3H).

C. To a stirred solution of 4-methyl-4-(2-trifluoromethylphenoxy)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (0.025 g, 0.070 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (1 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 24 hours and then quenched with saturated aqueous solution of Na₂CO₃ (5 mL). The organic phase was washed with water (10 mL), saturated NaCl (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude title compound was obtained and used without further purification.

PREPARATION 8

SYNTHESIS OF PIPERIDIN-4-YL-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENYL)METHANONE

A. To a 50-mL flask was charged with *N*-Boc-isonipecotic acid (0.916 g, 4.000 mmol), 2-(trifluoromethyl)phenylboronic acid (0.835 g, 4.400 mmol), palladium acetate (0.030 g, 0.12 mmol) and tris-(4-methoxyphenyl)phosphane (0.100 g, 0.280 mmol). THF (16 mL), dimethyl dicarbonate (DMDC) (1.600 g, 12 mmol) and water (190 μL, 10 mmol) were added by syringe. The reaction mixture was purged with nitrogen and stirred at ambient temperature overnight, then concentrated *in vacuo*. The product was isolated by column chromatography. Yield 0.812 g, 57%.

B. To a solution of 4-(2-trifluoromethylbenzoyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (0.812 g, 2.27 mmol) in dichloromethane (60 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature overnight, then washed with saturated NaHCO₃. The organic phase was separated, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The title compound was obtained in 55% yield (0.319 g) and used for next step reaction without further purification.

PREPARATION 9

SYNTHESIS OF 2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYLAMINE

Concentrated sulfuric acid (20.66 mL) was added dropwise to a vigorously stirred suspension of lithium aluminium hydride (764.4 mmol) in 800 mL of anhydrous ethyl ether (40 mL) at 0°C for at least 2 hour period. The reaction mixture was warmed to ambient temperature and stirred for 1 hour, and a solution of cyclopropylacetonitrile (246.5 mmol) in 100 mL of anhydrous ethyl ether was added dropwise. The resulting

mixture was heated to reflux for 2 hours, then cooled to 0 °C, cautiously quenched with crushed ice. A solution of 38 g of NaOH in 350 mL of water was added, and the organic layer was decanted from the resulting aluminium hydroxide precipitate. The precipitate was washed thoroughly with ethyl ether (3 x 600 mL). All ethereal extracts
5 were combined, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was distilled off to afford 172.5 mmol of 2-cyclopropylethylamine as a colorless liquid (bp ~ 100-108 °C). Yield 70%.

PREPARATION 10

10 SYNTHESIS OF 6-CHLOROPYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

To a solution of 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (15.8 mmol) in dichloromethane (95 mL) was added diisopropylethylamine (46.7 mmol), 1-hydroxybenzotriazole monohydrate (23.7 mmol) and 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide (23.7 mmol) under nitrogen atmosphere at ambient temperature.
15 The resulting mixture was stirred for 15 minutes and 2-cyclopropylethylamine (20.2 mmol) was added. After stirring for 36 hours at ambient temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (100 mL), then washed with water and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. Purification via column chromatography (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes) afforded the title compound (8.70
20 mmol). Yield 55%.

PREPARATION 11

SYNTHESIS OF 6-CHLOROPYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (3-METHYLBUTYL)AMIDE

The mixture of 6-oxo-1,6-dihydropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid monohydrate
25 (3.16 g, 20.0 mmol), dimethylformamide (0.5 mL) and thionyl chloride (5-7 mL) in chloroform (70 mL) was kept at 50-60 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was evaporated *in vacuo* to dryness. The solid residue was dissolved in dichloromethane (70 mL) and added dropwise to the mixture of 3-methylbutylamine (30 mmol, 2.7 mL) and triethylamine (5 mL) in dichloromethane (150 mL) at ambient temperature. The
30 mixture was stirred for 30 min, washed sequentially with 10% HCl solution, saturated NaHCO₃ and water, and then dried over MgSO₄. The final compound was isolated by recrystallization from ether:hexanes (5:1) (19.76 mmol). Yield: 4.5 g (19.76 mmol),

98%.

PREPARATION 12

SYNTHESIS OF 4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLBENZYL)PIPERIDINE

A. To a 100-mL round-bottomed flask was charged a solution of piperidine-4,4-diol hydrochloride (1.500 g, 10.000 mmol) in methanol (25 mL). Sodium hydroxide powder (0.5 g) was then added and the mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 1 hour. The di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (2.060 g, 10.000 mmol) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for another hour, then evaporated, diluted with water (25 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined extracts were dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the product, 4-Boc-piperidinone, was obtained as pale yellow solid in 95% yield (1.900 g).

B. To a solution of methyl triphenylphosphonium iodide (1.820 g, 4.500 mmol) in THF (30 mL) was slowly added *n*-butyllithium in hexane (1.6 M solution, 3 mL, 4.8 mmol) at 0°C. The mixture was stirred for 1 hour. 4-Boc-piperidinone (0.600 g, 3.000 mmol) in THF (8 mL) was added dropwise to the mixture. The resulting mixture was warmed to ambient temperature and stirred overnight. The reaction was then quenched with water, and the mixture was extracted with hexanes. The combined extracts were concentrated and filtered through silica gel to afford 0.527 g (2.67 mmol) of the crude 4-methylenepiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester in 89% yield.

C. To a degassed sample of 4-methylenepiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (0.527 g, 2.67 mmol) was added 9-borabicyclo[3,3,1]nonane (5.6 mL of a 0.5 M solution in THF, 2.8 mmol). The resulting solution was refluxed for 1 hour. After cooling to ambient temperature, the solution was added to a mixture of 1-iodo-2-trifluoromethylbenzene (0.707 mg, 2.600 mmol), Pd-catalyst (3 mol%), DMF (25 mL), water (1 mL), and K₂CO₃ (0.6 g). The resulting mixture was heated at 60°C for 3 hours. The mixture was cooled to ambient temperature and then poured into water. The pH of the solution was adjusted to 11 with 10% NaOH solution and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine and dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and evaporated to give a crude oil, which was further purified by column chromatography to afford 4-(2-trifluoromethylbenzyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester as a waxy solid (0.638 g) in 70 % yield.

D. *N*-Boc-2-trifluoromethylbenzylpiperidine (0.638 g, 1.860 mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (25 mL). Trifluoroacetic acid (1.5 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 2 hours, then mixed with saturated NaHCO₃ solution (60 mL), extracted with dichloromethane. Organic phase
 5 was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated. The title compound was obtained as a yellow oil (0.560 g) which was used in the next step without further purification.

The syntheses of compounds of this invention are illustrated by, but not limited to the following examples.

EXAMPLE 1

10 SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENYLAMINO)PIPERIDIN-1- YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE HYDROCHLORIDE

A. A mixture of piperidin-4-yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amine (0.380 g, 1.55 mmol), 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide (0.276 g, 1.00
 15 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.277 g, 2.0 mmol) and *n*-Bu₄NI (10 mg) in dioxane (10 mL) was heated to reflux overnight, then concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography to give 6-[4-(2-trifluoromethylphenylamino)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide (0.247 g). MS (ES+) *m/z* 434.3 (M+1).

B. 6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethylphenylamino)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-
 20 carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide was dissolved in dichloromethane (3 mL). Hydrochloric acid in ether (2 M, 0.18 mL, 0.36 mmol) was added to the solution. The mixture was kept at ambient temperature for 2 hours. The white precipitate obtained was collected by filtration and washed with ether and dried *in vacuo* to afford the title compound as a white solid (0.193 g). m.p. 158-163°C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆)
 25 δ 6.7 2(d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 5.86-5.82 (m, 2H), 5.43 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 2H), 2.42-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.07-1.89 (m, 4H), 0.74-0.70 (m, 2H), 0.21-0.17 (m, 2H), 0.01- -0.03 (m, 2H), -0.05- -0.10 (m, 2H), -0.77- -0.80 (m, 1H), -1.05- -1.18 (m, 2H), -1.42- -1.54 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.1, 153.9, 145.6, 145.1, 134.5, 132.5, 127.7, 124.5, 117.6, 114.3,
 30 49.5, 41.0, 35.4, 32.0, 9.4, 4.6. MS (ES+) *m/z* 434.3 (M+1-HCl).

EXAMPLE 1.1

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENYLAMINO)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLPROPYL)AMIDE HYDROCHLORIDE

5 Following the procedure as described in Example 1, making variations only as required to use 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylpropyl)amide in place of 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide to react with piperidin-4-yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amine, the title compound was obtained as a white powder in 38% yield. m.p. 117-121°C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.73 (br.,
10 s, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.37 (m, 2H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (br., s, 2H), 3.29-3.22 (m, 3H), 1.98 (d, *J* = 11.7 Hz, 2H), 1.61-1.54 (m, 4H), 1.20-1.13 (m, 2H), 0.65-0.63 (m, 1H), 0.33-0.26 (m, 2H), -0.03- -0.05 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.1, 157.4, 144.4, 144.1, 133.6, 126.4, 126.3, 116.3, 115.6, 113.0, 112.0, 48.9, 44.4,
15 31.4, 30.6, 29.2, 10.4, 4.3. MS (ES+) *m/z* 448.0 (M+1-HCl).

EXAMPLE 1.2

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENYLAMINO)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]-PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOBUTYLETHYL)AMIDE HYDROCHLORIDE

20 Following the procedure as described in Example 1, making variations only as required to use 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclobutylethyl)amide in place of 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide to react with piperidin-4-yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amine, the title compound was obtained as a white powder in 60% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.70 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H),
25 7.91 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, br., 1H), 3.30-3.13 (m, 4H), 2.29-2.16 (m, 1H), 1.99-1.97 (m, 4H), 1.84-1.55 (m, 8H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.4, 144.8, 144.6, 134.0, 128.3, 127.2, 126.9, 116.8, 116.1, 113.5, 112.6, 49.3, 44.9, 37.4, 36.6, 33.7, 31.1, 28.2, 18.6. MS (ES+) *m/z* 448.3 (M+1-HCl).

EXAMPLE 1.3

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENYLAMINO)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]
PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID PENTYLAMIDE HYDROCHLORIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 1, making variations only as
5 required to use 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid pentylamide in place of 6-
chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide to react with piperidin-4-
yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amine, the title compound was obtained as a white powder
in 37% yield. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 8.79 (t, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, $J = 9.9$
Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.05-7.02 (m, 1H), 6.72 (t, $J = 7.5$
10 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.83 (br., s, 1H), 3.34-3.26 (m, 4H), 2.02 (d, $J =$
10.8 Hz, 2H), 1.65-1.50 (m, 4H), 1.37-1.16 (m, 4H), 0.86 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR
(75 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 162.0, 157.3, 144.4, 144.1, 133.6, 127.9, 126.8, 126.5, 123.2,
116.5, 115.7, 113.0, 112.2, 48.9, 44.5, 30.6, 28.8, 28.6, 21.8, 13.9. MS (ES+) m/z
436.2 (M+1-HCl).

15

EXAMPLE 1.4

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(4-FLUORO-2-
TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENYLAMINO)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-
CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE HYDROCHLORIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 1, making variations only as
20 required to use 4-fluoro-2-trifluoromethylphenylamine in place of 2-trifluoromethyl-
phenylamine to react with 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)-
amide, the title compound was obtained as a white powder in 62% yield. m.p. 134-
137°C. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 8.75 (t, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, $J = 9.9$ Hz,
1H), 7.67 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.05-7.01 (m, 1H), 4.44 (d, $J = 13.2$
25 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 1H), 3.32-3.24 (m, 4H), 1.96 (d, $J = 11.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.61-1.28 (m, 4H),
0.64 (s, br, 1H), 0.50-0.35 (m, 2H), 0.33 - -0.85 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$)
 δ 161.9, 156.5, 155.0, 151.9, 144.3, 141.7, 129.1, 124.4, 121.1, 120.8, 118.7, 115.5,
115.4, 113.2, 49.5, 45.4, 34.4, 31.0, 8.9, 4.5. MS (ES+) m/z 452.2 (M+1-HCl).

EXAMPLE 1.7

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENYLAMINO)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID HEXYLAMIDE HYDROCHLORIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 1, making variations only as
5 required to use 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid hexylamide in place of 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide to react with 2-trifluoromethylphenylamine, the title compound was obtained as a white powder in 28%
yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 8.78 (br, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (m, 2H), 3.83 (br, 1H),
10 3.33-3.23 (m, 4H), 1.99 (m, 2H), 1.59-1.22 (m, 10H), 0.81 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 162.3, 157.4, 144.8, 144.6, 134.1, 128.6, 127.3, 127.0, 126.9, 117.4, 116.2, 113.6, 112.7, 112.3, 49.3, 45.1, 39.3, 31.4, 31.1, 29.5, 26.5, 22.5, 14.4. MS (ES+) *m/z* 450.3 (M+1-HCl).

EXAMPLE 1.8

15 SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(4-FLUORO-2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENYLAMINO)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID HEXYLAMIDE HYDROCHLORIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 1, making variations only as
required to use 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid hexylamide in place of 6-
20 chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide to react with 4-fluoro-2-trifluoromethylphenylamine, the title compound was obtained as a white powder in 47%
yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 8.77 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.04 (m, 1H), 4.42 (m, 2H), 3.78 (m, 1H), 3.31-3.21 (m, 4H), 1.98 (m, 2H), 1.61-1.46 (m, 4H), 1.26-1.22 (m, 6H), 0.81 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz,
25 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 162.3, 157.3, 155.0, 151.9, 144.5, 141.8, 128.7, 121.2, 120.9, 115.6, 115.5, 113.8, 113.5, 49.7, 45.1, 31.4, 31.1, 29.5, 26.5, 22.5, 14.4. MS (ES+) *m/z* 468.1 (M+1-HCl).

EXAMPLE 1.9

30 SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLBENZOYL)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]-PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 1, making variations only as

required to use piperidin-4-yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)methanone in place of piperidin-4-yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amine to react with 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide, the title compound was obtained as a white powder in 42% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.0 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (m, 1H), 7.72 (m, 1H), 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.40 (m, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (m, 2H), 3.53 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.24-3.07 (m, 4H), 2.1-1.9 (m, 3H), 1.85-1.65 (m, 2H), 1.5 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 0.75 (m, 1H), 0.48-0.42 (m, 2H), 0.09-0.07 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.3, 174.6, 163.2, 159.9, 144.6, 138.9, 130.3, 128.9, 127.5, 127.1, 127.0, 121.7, 112.2, 65.8, 51.9, 48.0, 44.5, 39.6, 34.5, 27.1, 8.6, 4.2. MS (ES+) *m/z* 447.2 (M+1).

10

EXAMPLE 1.10

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLBENZYL)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]-PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 1, making variations only as required to use 4-(2-trifluoromethylbenzyl)piperidine (Vice, S. et al *J. Org. Chem.* **2001**, 66, 2487 and refernces therein) in place of piperidin-4-yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amine to react with 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide, the title compound was obtained as a white powder in 35% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (m, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.26 (m, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (q, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.97-2.88 (m, 2H), 2.74 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.03-1.86 (m, 1H), 1.78 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.49 (q, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.41-1.27 (m, 2H), 0.79-0.67 (m, 1H), 0.48-0.37 (m, 2H), 0.10-0.05 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.4, 160.0, 144.3, 138.6, 131.7, 131.5, 126.7, 126.4, 126.3, 126.2, 112.0, 45.3, 39.6, 39.4, 37.9, 34.6, 31.7, 8.7, 4.2. MS (ES+) *m/z* 433.1 (M+1).

25

EXAMPLE 1.11

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[3-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENYLCARBAMOYL)AZETIDIN-1-YL]-PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 1, making variations only as required to use azetidine-3-carboxylic acid (2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amide in place of piperidin-4-yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amine to react with 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide, the title compound was obtained as a white powder in 11% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J*

30

= 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.0 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.55 (m, 3H), 7.27 (m, 1H), 6.65 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.4-4.5 (m, 4H), 3.75-3.65 (m, 1H), 3.6-3.5 (m, 2H), 1.5 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 0.75-0.70 (m, 1H), 0.5-0.4 (m, 2H), 0.10-0.06 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.9, 163.2, 160.5, 145.1, 134.5, 133.0, 126.6, 126.3, 125.2, 111.2, 55.0, 39.6, 36.0, 34.5, 8.6, 4.2.
5 MS (ES+) m/z 434 (M+1).

EXAMPLE 1.12

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENOXY)PIPERIDIN-1-
YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 1, making variations only as
10 required to use 4-(2-trifluoromethylphenoxy)piperidine in place of piperidin-4-yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amine to react with 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide, the title compound was obtained as a white powder in 44% yield. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.97 (d, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.00-6.96 (m, 3H), 4.78 (t, $J = 4.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.03-3.95 (m, 2H),
15 3.83-3.74 (m, 2H), 3.56-3.50 (m, 2H), 2.00-1.98 (m, 4H), 1.51-1.45 (m, 2H), 0.75-0.70 (m, 1H), 0.46-0.40 (m, 2H), 0.09-0.04 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.2, 159.9, 154.9, 144.4, 133.2, 127.5, 127.4, 126.8, 120.2, 113.5, 112.1, 71.35, 41.1, 39.6, 34.6, 29.5, 8.7, 4.2 MS (ES+) m/z 457 (M+Na).

EXAMPLE 1.13

20 SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENYLCARBAMOYL)PIPERIDIN-1-
YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 1, making variations only as required to use piperidine-4-carboxylic acid (2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amide in place of piperidin-4-yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amine to react with 6-chloropyridazine-3-
25 carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide, the title compound was obtained as a white powder in 89% yield. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.06 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, $J = 9.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 1H), 6.97 (d, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.53-4.49 (m, 2H), 3.54-3.47 (m, 2H), 3.18-3.00 (m, 2H), 2.66-2.57 (m, 1H), 2.07-1.99 (m, 2H), 1.93-1.79 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.43 (m, 2H), 0.73-0.67 (m, 1H), 0.45-0.39 (m, 2H), 0.07-0.02
30 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.4, 163.2, 159.9, 144.6, 134.9, 132.9, 126.9, 126.2, 126.1, 125.2, 124.9, 122.2, 112.2, 44.4, 43.8, 39.6, 34.5, 27.9, 43.8, 8.6, 4.2. MS (ES+) m/z 462 (M+1).

EXAMPLE 1.14

SYNTHESIS OF 4-(TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENOXY)-3,4,5,6-TETRAHYDRO-2H-[1,2']-BIPYRIDINYL-5'-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 1, making variations only as
5 required to use 4-(2-trifluoromethylphenoxy)piperidine in place of piperidin-4-yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amine to react with 6-chloro-(2-cyclopropylethyl)nicotinamide, the title compound was obtained as a white powder in 17% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.52 (m, 1H), 7.91-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.01-6.96 (m, 2H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.11 (s, 1H), 4.75-4.71 (m, 1H), 3.88-3.68 (m,
10 4H), 3.54-3.48 (m, 2H), 2.02-1.94 (m, 4H), 1.53-1.46 (m, 2H), 0.76-0.64 (m, 1H), 0.49-0.44 (m, 2H), 0.11-0.06 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.9, 159.8, 155.1, 147.1, 136.9, 133.2, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 125.5, 121.9, 120.1, 119.9, 119.5, 118.8, 113.6, 105.7, 71.9, 41.2, 40.1, 34.5, 29.7, 8.7, 4.2. MS (ES+) *m/z* 434 (M+1).

EXAMPLE 2

15 SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(3,3-DIFLUORO-2-OXO-2,3-DIHYDROINDOL-1-YL)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLPROPYL)AMIDE

A mixture of 3,3-difluoro-1-piperidin-4-yl-1,3-dihydroindol-2-one (0.180 g, 0.71 mmol), 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylpropyl)amide (0.160 g, 0.66 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.150 g, 1.08 mmol) and *n*-Bu₄NI (10 mg) in dioxane (10 mL) was
20 heated to reflux overnight, then concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography to yield the title compound as a white powder in 60% yield (0.183 g). m.p. 51-53°C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (s, br, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12-6.91 (m, 3H), 4.66 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 2H), 4.35 (s, br, 1H), 3.46-3.42 (m, 2H), 3.09 (t, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 2H), 2.52-2.35 (m, 2H), 1.90 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz,
25 2H), 1.69-1.65 (m, 2H), 1.28-1.23 (m, 2H), 0.72-0.55 (m, 1H), 0.48-0.25 (m, 2H), 0.08-0.07 (m, 2H.); ¹³C NMR (75MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.1, 163.1, 159.7, 144.9, 142.4, 133.4, 127.0, 125.1, 123.7, 120.3, 112.3, 110.7, 106.9, 50.9, 44.6, 39.1, 35.1, 29.5, 28.3, 27.5, 26.1, 10.4, 4.4. MS (ES+) *m/z* 456.3 (M+1).

EXAMPLE 2.1

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(3,3-DIFLUORO-2-OXO-2,3-DIHYDROINDOL-1-YL)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 2, making variations only as
5 required to use 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide to
replace 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylpropyl)amide to react with
3,3-difluoro-1-piperidin-4-yl-1,3-dihydroindol-2-one, the title compound was obtained as
a white powder in 77% yield (0.075 g). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (m, 2H),
7.56-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.04 (m, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H),
10 4.73-4.69 (m, 2H), 4.46-4.35 (m, 1H), 3.61-3.52 (m, 2H), 3.17-3.09 (m, 2H), 2.50-2.37
(m, 2H), 1.97-1.93 (m, 2H), 1.59-1.43 (m, 2H), 0.81-0.68 (m, 1H), 0.51-40 (m, 2H),
0.11-0.06 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.2, 163.0, 159.6, 145.0, 142.4,
142.3, 133.5, 127.2, 125.2, 123.8, 120.4, 112.6, 110.8, 110.3, 50.9, 44.7, 39.7, 34.5,
27.6, 8.7, 4.2. MS (ES+) *m/z* 442.2 (M+1).

15

EXAMPLE 2.2

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(3,3-DIFLUORO-2-OXO-2,3-DIHYDROINDOL-1-YL)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID PENTYLAMIDE)

Following the procedure as described in Example 2, making variations only as
required to use 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid pentylamide in place of 6-
20 chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide to react with 3,3-difluoro-
1-piperidin-4-yl-1,3-dihydroindol-2-one, the title compound was obtained as a white
powder in 65% yield (0.063 g). m.p. 100-102°C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (d,
J = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 7.92 (br, 1H), 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz,
1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz), 6.95 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (m, 2H), 4.41 (m, 1H), 3.50 (m,
25 2H), 3.12 (t, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (m, 2H), 1.94 (m, 2H), 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.34 (m, 4H),
0.88 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.2, 164.8, 163.1, 159.8,
145.0, 142.5, 142.4, 133.5, 127.1, 125.2, 123.8, 120.7, 120.4, 120.1, 113.6, 112.4,
110.8, 110.3, 107.0, 50.9, 44.7, 39.4, 29.3, 29.1, 27.8, 22.4, 14.0. MS (ES+) *m/z* 444.1
(M+1).

EXAMPLE 2.3

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(4-FLUORO-BENZOYL)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (3-METHYLBUTYL)AMIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 2, making variations only as
5 required to use (4-fluorophenyl)piperidin-4-ylmethanone to replace 3,3-difluoro-1-
piperidin-4-yl-1,3-dihydroindol-2-one to react with 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid
(3-methylbutyl)amide in DMF, the title compound was obtained as a white powder in
36% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99-8.03 (m, 3H), 7.85-7.87 (m, 1H), 7.15-
7.19 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.50-4.54 (m, 2H), 3.47-3.60 (m, 3H), 3.26-3.31
10 (m, 2H), 2.00-2.04 (m, 2H), 1.85-1.93 (m, 2H), 1.73-1.72 (m, 1H), 1.48-1.53 (m, 2H),
0.94 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H).

EXAMPLE 3

SYNTHESIS OF 6-(4-AMINOPIPERIDIN-1-YL)PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (3-METHYLBUTYL)AMIDE

15 To 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-methylbutyl)amide (0.140 g, 0.610
mmol) in DMF (7 mL) was added piperidin-4-ylcarbamic acid *tert*-butyl ester (0.146 g,
0.730 mmol), followed by the addition of 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (0.280
mL, 1.84 mmol) and tetra-*n*-butylammonium iodide (6 mg). The reaction mixture was
stirred at 80°C for 16 hours. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was
20 dissolved in ethyl acetate, then washed with citric acid, sodium bicarbonate and brine
solution. The organic layer was separated, and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and
evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography and then treated
with trifluoroacetic acid. The title compound was obtained as a white powder in 50%
yield (0.090 g). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.75-8.77 (m, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz,
25 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.29-4.35 (m, 2H), 3.29-3.22 (m, 1H), 3.06-3.12 (m, 1H),
2.85-2.87 (m, 1H), 2.50 (m, 1H), 1.77-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.56-1.64 (m, 4H), 1.40-1.44 (m,
2H), 1.17-1.25 (m, 1H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H).

EXAMPLE 4

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[6-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLBENZOYLAMINO)-3-AZA-BICYCLO[3.1.0]HEX-3-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

5 To a stirred solution of 6-(6-amino-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hex-3-yl)pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide (0.258 g, 0.90 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) was added 2-trifluoromethylbenzoyl chloride (0.2 mL, 1.00 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 10 minutes, followed by the addition of triethylamine (0.1 mL, 1.000 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient
10 temperature for another 10 minutes. Water (5.0 mL) was added to the mixture and the organic phase was separated, washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The obtained crude product was purified by column chromatography to yield the title compound as a white powder in 15% yield (0.055 g). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.97 (t, $J = 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.42 (m, 4H), 6.67 (d, $J = 9.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 4.00-3.97 (m, 2H), 3.66 (d, $J = 10.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.51-3.44 (m, 2H), 2.63 (m, 1H), 2.03 (s, 2H), 1.49-1.42 (m, 2H), 0.72-0.66 (m, 1H), 0.45-0.39 (m, 2H), 0.07-0.02 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.4, 168.9, 163.4, 158.1, 144.4, 135.4, 135.3, 132.0, 129.9, 128.5, 126.7, 112.5, 127.3, 48.9, 39.6, 34.5, 33.8, 24.5, 8.6, 4.2. MS (ES+) m/z 460 (M+1).

20

EXAMPLE 4.1

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLBENZOYLAMINO)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (3-METHYLBUTYL)AMIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 4, making variations only as required to use 6-(4-aminopiperidin-1-yl)pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-methylbutyl)amide to replace 6-(6-amino-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hex-3-yl)pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide to react with 2-trifluoromethylbenzoyl chloride, the title compound was obtained as a white powder in 29% yield. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.00 (d, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.61 (m, 3H), 7.01 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.71 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.49 (d, $J = 13.7$ Hz, 2H), 4.30-4.38 (m, 1H), 3.49 (dd, $J = 6.6$ and 13.7 Hz, 2H), 3.22-3.27 (m, 2H), 2.20-2.23 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.76 (m, 5H), 0.94 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6H). MS (ES+) m/z 463.9 (M+1).

30

EXAMPLE 4.2

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[3-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLBENZOYLAMINO)PYRROLIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (3-METHYLBUTYL)AMIDE

Following the procedure as described in Example 4, making variations only as
5 required to use 6-(3-aminopyrrolidin-1-yl)pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-methylbutyl)-
amide to replace 6-(6-amino-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hex-3-yl)pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid
(2-cyclopropylethyl)amide to react with 2-trifluoromethylbenzoyl chloride, the title
compound was obtained as a white powder in 99% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ
7.99 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.61 (m,
10 3H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.86-4.89 (m, 1H), 3.94-3.97 (m,
1H), 3.64-3.73 (m, 3H), 3.47 (dd, *J* = 6.7 and 13.6 Hz, 2H), 2.42-2.49 (m, 1H), 2.20-
2.26 (m, 1H), 1.64-1.75 (m, 1H), 1.47-1.51 (m, 2H), 0.93 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H). MS (ES+)
m/z 450.4 (M+1).

EXAMPLE 5

15 SYNTHESIS OF 4-METHYLPENTANOIC ACID {6-[4-(4-FLUOROBENZOYL)-
PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZIN-3-YL}AMIDE

A. A stirred mixture of 6-chloropyridazin-3-ylamine (0.95 g, 7.28 mmol) and
(4-fluorophenyl)piperidin-4-ylmethanone hydrochloride (3.22 g, 10.92 mmol) was
heated at 150°C in *N*-methylpyrrolidinone (125 mL) for 24 hours. The solvent was
20 evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was treated with 1 N NaOH solution and
extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was separated, dried over Na₂SO₄ and
concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography to afford [1-(6-
aminopyridazin-3-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-(4-fluorophenyl)methanone in 46% yield (1.00 g,
3.33 mmol).

25 B. A mixture of [1-(6-Aminopyridazin-3-yl)piperidin-4-yl]phenylmethanone
(0.115 g, 0.380 mmol) and 4-methylpentanoic acid (0.090 g, 0.775 mmol) in the
presence of *N,N'*-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (0.116 g, 0.562 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was
stirred at ambient temperature overnight. The solvent was evaporated and the residue
was purified by column chromatography. Further purification by recrystallization from
30 ethyl acetate and methanol afforded the title compound as a white powder in 71% yield
(0.108 g). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.12 (br., s, 1H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 8.02-
7.98 (m, 2H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (dt, *J* = 3.3 and

13.3 Hz, 2H), 4.09 (br., s, 2H), 3.50-3.40 (m, 5H), 3.12 (dt, $J = 3.3$ and 13.3 Hz, 2H), 2.52-2.49 (m, 2H), 0.93 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6H). MS (ES+) m/z 399.1 (M+1).

EXAMPLE 6

5 6-[4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENOXYMETHYL)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

To a stirred solution of 6-(4-hydroxymethylpiperidin-1-yl)pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide (0.275 g, 0.90 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added 2-hydroxybenzotrifluoride (0.178 g, 1.10 mmol), triphenylphosphine (0.289 g, 1.100 mmol) and diethyl azocarboxylate (0.5 mL, 1.10 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 18 hours. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the obtained crude product was purified by column chromatography to yield the title compound in 40% yield (0.035 g). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.98 (d, $J = 9.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 1H), 6.99-6.92 (m, 3H), 4.57-4.53 (m, 2H), 3.89 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 2H), 3.56-3.49 (m, 2H), 3.11-3.02 (m, 2H), 2.25-2.15 (m, 1H), 2.01-1.97 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.27-1.20 (m, 2H), 0.75-0.68 (m, 1H), 0.47-0.41 (m, 2H), 0.09-0.05 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.3, 160.0, 156.7, 144.3, 133.3, 127.2, 127.1, 126.8, 125.5, 120.1, 112.5, 112.2, 72.6, 44.9, 39.6, 36.1, 34.6, 28.2, 8.7, 4.2. MS (ES+) m/z 449 (M+1).

EXAMPLE 7

20 SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-METHYL-4-(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENOXY)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

To a stirred solution of 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide (0.020 g, 0.090 mmol) in dioxane (5 mL) was added 4-methyl-4-(2-trifluoromethylphenoxy)piperidine (0.015 g, 0.060 mmol), potassium carbonate (0.033 g, 0.240 mmol) and tetrabutyl ammonium bromide (0.002 g, 0.001 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at reflux for 48 hours, filtered and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by column chromatography to yield the title compound in 20% yield (0.005 g). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.02-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.14-7.12 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.06-6.99 (m, 2H), 4.25-4.21 (m, 2H), 3.65-3.51 (m, 4H), 2.35-2.31 (m, 2H), 1.85-1.74 (m, 2H), 1.53-1.46 (dd, $J = 6.6$ and 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 0.77-0.69 (m, 1H), 0.48-0.42 (m, 2H), 0.11-0.05 (m, 2H). MS (ES+) m/z 449.4 (M+1).

EXAMPLE 8

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(4-FLUOROBENZOYL)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

A mixture of 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide
5 (0.500 g, 2.22 mmol), (4-fluorophenyl)piperidin-4-ylmethanone (0.620 g, 2.55 mmol)
and triethylamine (0.7 mL, 5 mmol) in acetonitrile (20 mL) was heated to reflux
overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was diluted with water,
then extracted with ethyl acetate. The residue obtained upon the evaporation of
solvent was purified by column chromatography. The title compound was obtained as
10 a white solid in 85% yield (0.270 g). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz,
1H), 8.02-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.2-7.11 (m, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz,
1H), 4.55-4.44 (m, 2H), 3.63-3.49 (m, 3H), 3.32-3.19 (m, 2H), 2.5-1.8 (m, 2H), 1.7-1.44
(m, 4H), 0.8-0.67 (m, 1H), 0.52-0.41 (m, 2H), 0.15-0.07 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz,
CDCl₃) δ 200.1, 167.5, 164.1, 163.2, 161.4, 159.9, 158.9, 151.8, 144.6, 132.0, 131.0,
15 130.9, 129.4, 128.0, 126.9, 116.1, 115.8, 112.2, 44.5, 43.1, 40.0, 39.6, 34.5, 34.3,
27.9, 8.64, 8.6, 4.2. MS (ES+) *m/z* 397 (M+1).

EXAMPLE 9

SYNTHESIS OF 6-[4-(4-FLUOROBENZOYL)PIPERIDIN-1-YL]PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)METHYLAMIDE

20 To a mixture of 6-[4-(4-fluorobenzoyl)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid
(2-cyclopropylethyl)amide (0.075 g, 0.189 mmol) and sodium hydride (0.009 g, 60% in
mineral oil) in THF (15 mL) was added methyl iodide (0.134 g, 0.945 mmol) at 0°C.
The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature overnight, then concentrated
in vacuo. The residue was diluted with water and then extracted with ethyl acetate.
25 The organic layer was dried, concentrated and purified by column chromatography to
yield the title compound in 52% yield (0.040 g). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.0-7.96
(m, 2H), 7.69-7.6 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.07 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.94 (m, 1H), 5.54-4.45 (m, 2H),
3.8-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.65-3.47 (m, 2H), 3.32-3.07 (m, 4H), 2.06-1.7 (m, 5H), 1.6-1.47 (m,
2H), 0.79-0.67 (m, 1H), 0.52-0.41 (m, 1H), 0.36-0.28 (m, 1H), 0.12-0.07 (m, 1H), 0.1 - -
30 0.06 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.1, 167.5, 167.2, 166.3, 164.1, 158.8,
148.6, 148.5, 132.1, 132.07, 131.0, 130.9, 129.2, 128.9, 116.1, 115.8, 112.3, 112.2,
51.6, 49.2, 44.5, 43.2, 38.2, 34.4, 33.6, 32.0, 27.9, 8.6, 8.3, 4.3, 4.26. MS (ES+) *m/z*

411 (M+1).

EXAMPLE 10

SYNTHESIS OF 6-{4-[METHYL(2-TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENYL)AMINO]PIPERIDIN-1-YL}PYRIDAZINE-3-CARBOXYLIC ACID (2-CYCLOPROPYLETHYL)AMIDE

5 A. A mixture of 2-(methylamino)benzotrifluoride (0.870 g, 5.000 mmol), 1-Boc-4-piperidone (1.500 g, 7.500 mmol), acetic acid (1.5 mL, 17.5 mmol) and sodium triacetoxy borohydride (2.420 g, 11.000 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (30 mL) was stirred at ambient temperature for 2 days. The reaction was quenched with water. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with
10 dichloromethane. The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography to afford 4-[methyl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amino]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (0.360 g, 20%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.14 (m, 3H), 4.08-4.00 (m, 2H), 2.95-2.87 (m, 2H), 2.68-2.58
15 (m, 5H), 1.72-1.67 (m, 1H).

 B. A solution of 4-[methyl(2-trifluoromethylphenylamino) piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (0.036 g, 1.000 mmol) in dichloromethane and trifluoroacetic acid (9 mL, 2:1) was stirred at ambient temperature overnight. The solvents were removed by evaporation. The residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate,
20 and washed with aqueous saturated NaHCO₃ and brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to afford methylpiperidin-4-yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amine (0.250 g, 99%), which was used directly for next step with further purification.

 C. A mixture of methylpiperidin-4-yl-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amine (0.130 g, 0.500 mmol), 6-chloropyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide (0.113 g, 0.500 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.100 g, 0.720 mmol) and *n*-Bu₄NI (10 mg) in dioxane (10 mL) was heated to reflux overnight, then concentrated and purified by column
25 chromatography to afford the title compound in 60% yield (0.147 g). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30-8.26 (m, 1H), 8.10-7.95 (m, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (s, br, 2H), 3.83-3.28 (m, 5H), 2.67 (s, 3H),
30 2.07-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.77 (s, br, 2H), 1.51-1.44 (m, 2H), 0.68-0.66 (m, 1H), 0.47-0.38 (m, 2H), 0.07- 0.03 (m, 2H). MS (ES+) *m/z* 448.4 (M+1).

EXAMPLE 11

MEASURING STEAROYL-COA DESATURASE INHIBITION ACTIVITY OF A TEST COMPOUND USING MOUSE LIVER MICROSOMES.

The identification of compounds of the invention as SCD inhibitors was readily accomplished using the SCD enzymes and microsomal assay procedure described in Brownlie *et al*, PCT published patent application, WO 01/62954.

Preparation of Mouse Liver Microsomes:

Male ICR mice, on a high-carbohydrate, low fat diet, under light halothane (15% in mineral oil) anesthesia are sacrificed by exsanguination during periods of high enzyme activity. Livers are immediately rinsed with cold 0.9% NaCl solution, weighed and minced with scissors. All procedures are performed at 4°C unless specified otherwise. Livers are homogenized in a solution (1:3 w/v) containing 0.25 M sucrose, 62 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), 0.15 M KCl, 1.5 mM *N*-acetylcysteine, 5 mM MgCl₂, and 0.1 mM EDTA using 4 strokes of a Potter-Elvehjem tissue homogenizer. The homogenate is centrifuged at 10,400 x g for 20 min to eliminate mitochondria and cellular debris. The supernatant is filtered through a 3-layer cheesecloth and centrifuged at 105,000 x g for 60 min. The microsomal pellet is gently resuspended in the same homogenization solution with a small glass/teflon homogenizer and stored at -70°C. The absence of mitochondrial contamination is enzymatically assessed. The protein concentration is measured using bovine serum albumin as the standard.

Incubation of Mouse Liver Microsomes with Test Compounds:

Reactions are started by adding 2 mg of microsomal protein to pre-incubated tubes containing 0.20 µCi of the substrate fatty acid (1-¹⁴C palmitic acid) at a final concentration of 33.3 µM in 1.5 ml of homogenization solution, containing 42 mM NaF, 0.33 mM niacinamide, 1.6 mM ATP, 1.0 mM NADH, 0.1 mM coenzyme A and a 10 µM concentration of test compound. The tubes are vortexed vigorously and after 15 min incubation in a shaking water bath (37 °C), the reactions are stopped and fatty acids are analyzed.

Fatty acids are analyzed as follows: The reaction mixture is saponified with 10% KOH to obtain free fatty acids which are further methylated using BF₃ in methanol. The fatty acid methyl esters are analyzed by high performance liquid chromatography

(HPLC) using a Hewlett Packard 1090, Series II chromatograph equipped with a diode array detector set at 205 nm, a radioisotope detector (Model 171, Beckman, CA) with a solid scintillation cartridge (97% efficiency for ¹⁴C-detection) and a reverse-phase ODS (C-18) Beckman column (250 mm x 4.6 mm i.d.; 5 μm particle size) attached to a pre-column with a μBondapak C-18 (Beckman) insert. Fatty acid methyl esters are separated isocratically with acetonitrile/water (95:5 v:v) at a flow rate of 1 mL/min and are identified by comparison with authentic standards. Alternatively, fatty acid methyl esters may be analyzed by capillary column gas-chromatography (GC) or Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC).

Those skilled in the art are aware of a variety of modifications to this assay that can be useful for measuring inhibition of stearyl-CoA desaturase activity in microsomes by test compounds.

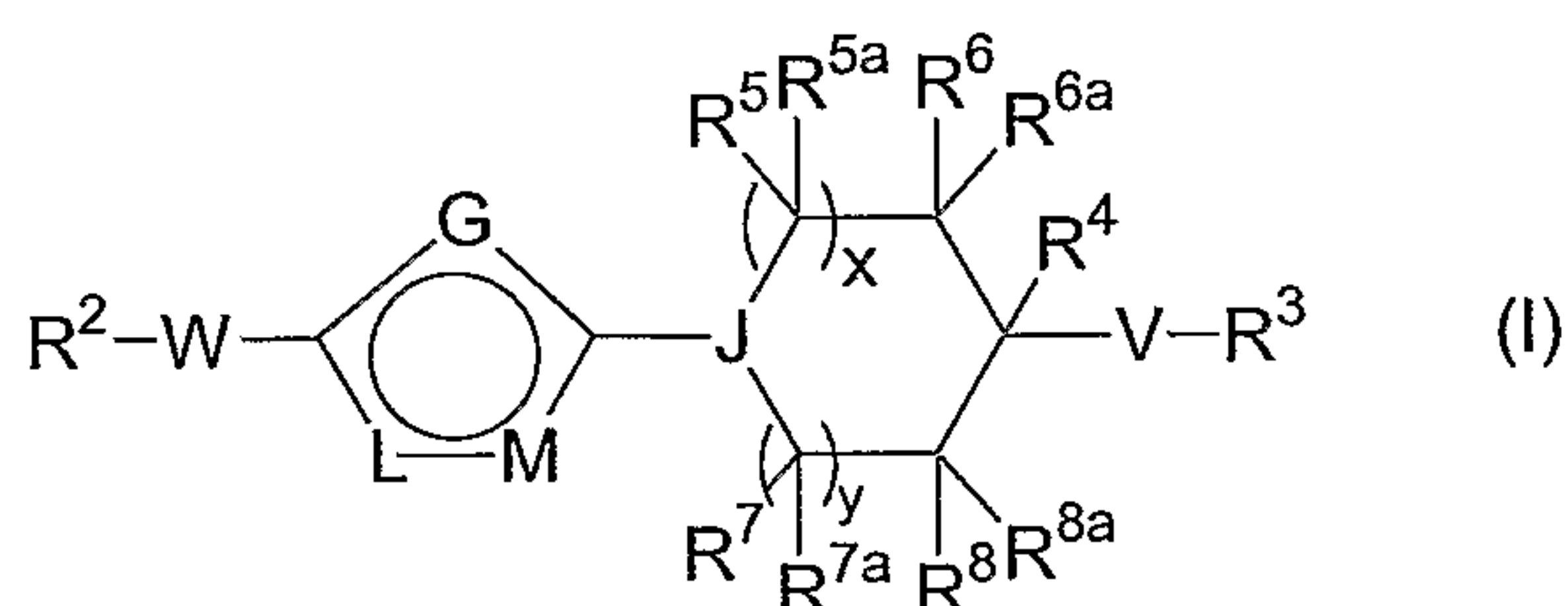
Representative compounds of the invention showed activity as inhibitors of SCD when tested in this assay. The activity was defined in terms of % SCD enzyme activity remaining at the desired concentration of the test compound.

All of the U.S. patents, U.S. patent application publications, U.S. patent applications, foreign patents, foreign patent applications and non-patent publications referred to in this specification and/or listed in the Application Data Sheet are incorporated herein by reference, in their entirety.

From the foregoing it will be appreciated that, although specific embodiments of the invention have been described herein for purposes of illustration, various modifications may be made without deviating from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not limited except as by the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A method of inhibiting human stearoyl-CoA desaturase (hSCD) activity comprising contacting a source of hSCD with a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

x and y are each independently 0, 1, 2 or 3;

G is $-N(R^4)-$, $-O-$, $-S(O)_t-$ (where t is 0, 1 or 2), $-C(R^4)=$ or $-C(R^4)=C(R^4)-$;

J is N or $C(R^{10})$;

L and M are each independently $-N=$ or $-C(R^4)=$, provided that when G is $-C(R^4)=$ or $-C(R^4)=C(R^4)-$, L and M can not both be $-C(R^4)=$;

V is a direct bond, $-N(R^1)-$, $-N(R^1)C(O)-$, $-O-$, $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-C(S)-$, $-C(O)N(R^1)-$, $-S(O)_p-$ (where p is 1 or 2), or $-S(O)_pN(R^1)-$ (where p is 1 or 2);

W is $-N(R^1)C(O)-$, $-C(O)N(R^1)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^1)-$, $-N(R^1)C(O)N(R^1)-$, $-O-$, $-N(R^1)-$, $-S(O)_t-$ (where t is 0, 1 or 2), $-N(R^1)S(O)_p-$ (where p is 1 or 2), $-S(O)_pN(R^1)-$ (where p is 1 or 2), $-C(O)-$, $-OS(O)_2N(R^1)-$, $-OC(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-N(R^1)C(O)O-$ or $-C(R^1)_2-$; each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl and C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkoxyalkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclylalkyl, C_1 - C_{12} heteroaryl, and C_3 - C_{12} heteroarylalkyl;

or R^2 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkoxyalkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclylalkyl, C_1 - C_{12} heteroaryl and C_3 - C_{12} heteroarylalkyl;

or R^3 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and

heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

each R^4 is independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy, haloalkyl, cyano, nitro or $-N(R^9)_2$;

or two adjacent R^4 groups, together with the carbons to which they are attached, may form an aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring system;

R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

or R^5 and R^{5a} together, R^6 and R^{6a} together, or R^7 and R^{7a} together, or R^8 and R^{8a} together are an oxo group, provided that when V is $-C(O)-$, R^6 and R^{6a} together or R^8 and R^{8a} together do not form an oxo group, while the remaining R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

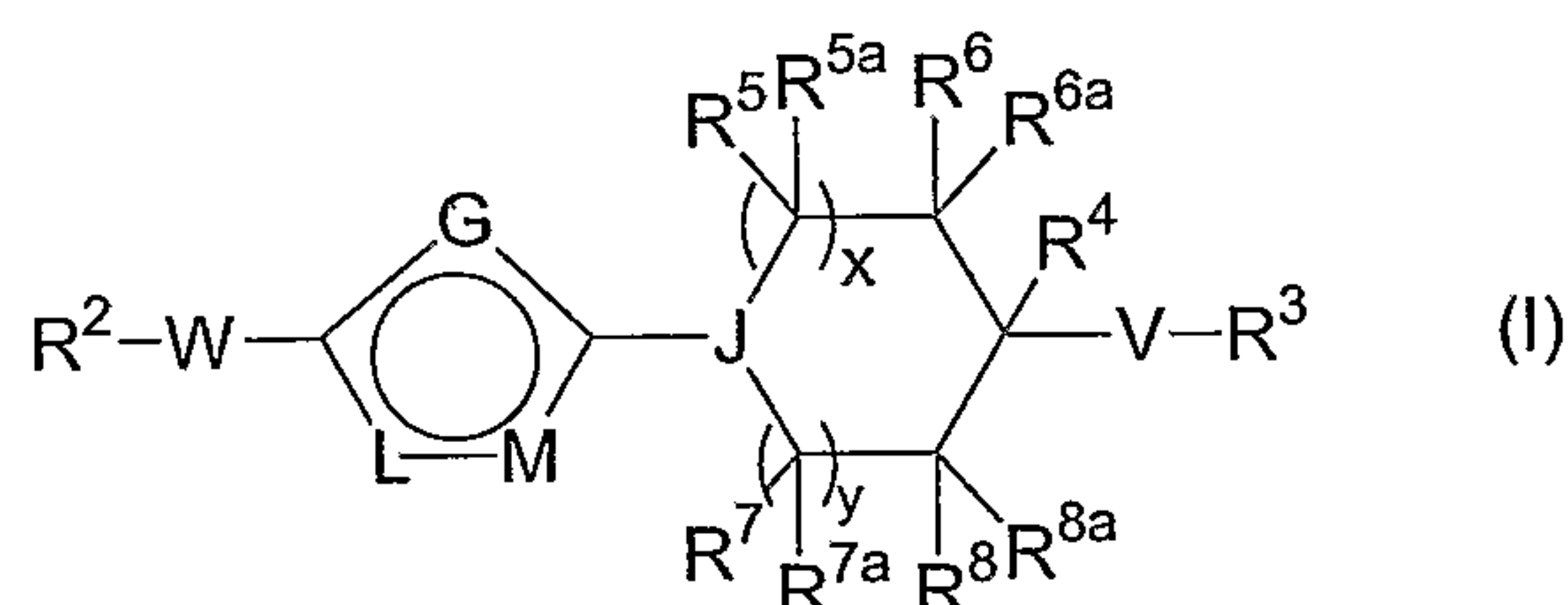
or one of R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 and R^{6a} together with one of R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 and R^{8a} forms a direct bond or an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 , and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

each R^9 is independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl; and

R^{10} is independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl or C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy;

as a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or as a prodrug thereof.

2. A method of treating a disease or condition mediated by stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SCD) in a mammal, wherein the method comprises administering to the mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

x and y are each independently 0, 1, 2 or 3;

G is $-N(R^4)-$, $-O-$, $-S(O)_t-$ (where t is 0, 1 or 2), $-C(R^4)=$ or $-C(R^4)=C(R^4)-$;

J is N or $C(R^{10})$;

L and M are each independently -N= or -C(R⁴)=, provided that when G is -C(R⁴)= or -C(R⁴)=C(R⁴)-, L and M can not both be -C(R⁴)=;

V is a direct bond, -N(R¹)-, -N(R¹)C(O)-, -O-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(S)-, -C(O)N(R¹)-, -S(O)_p- (where p is 1 or 2), or -S(O)_pN(R¹)- (where p is 1 or 2);

W is -N(R¹)C(O)-, -C(O)N(R¹)-, -OC(O)N(R¹)-, -N(R¹)C(O)N(R¹)-, -O-, -N(R¹)-, -S(O)_t- (where t is 0, 1 or 2), -N(R¹)S(O)_p- (where p is 1 or 2), -S(O)_pN(R¹)- (where p is 1 or 2), -C(O)-, -OS(O)₂N(R¹)-, -OC(O)-, -C(O)O-, -N(R¹)C(O)O- or -C(R¹)₂-; each R¹ is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, C₂-C₁₂hydroxyalkyl, C₄-C₁₂cycloalkylalkyl and C₇-C₁₉aralkyl;

R² is selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₁₂alkyl, C₂-C₁₂alkenyl, C₂-C₁₂hydroxyalkyl, C₂-C₁₂hydroxyalkenyl, C₂-C₁₂alkoxyalkyl, C₃-C₁₂cycloalkyl, C₄-C₁₂cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C₇-C₁₉aralkyl, C₃-C₁₂heterocyclyl, C₃-C₁₂heterocyclylalkyl, C₁-C₁₂heteroaryl, and C₃-C₁₂heteroarylalkyl;

or R² is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, C₂-C₁₂alkenyl, C₂-C₁₂hydroxyalkyl, C₂-C₁₂hydroxyalkenyl, C₂-C₁₂alkoxyalkyl, C₃-C₁₂cycloalkyl, C₄-C₁₂cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C₇-C₁₉aralkyl, C₃-C₁₂heterocyclyl, C₃-C₁₂heterocyclylalkyl, C₁-C₁₂heteroaryl and C₃-C₁₂heteroarylalkyl;

or R³ is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

each R⁴ is independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, C₁-C₁₂alkoxy, haloalkyl, cyano, nitro or -N(R⁹)₂;

or two adjacent R⁴ groups, together with the carbons to which they are attached, may form an aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring system;

R⁵, R^{5a}, R⁶, R^{6a}, R⁷, R^{7a}, R⁸ and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C₁-C₃alkyl;

or R⁵ and R^{5a} together, R⁶ and R^{6a} together, or R⁷ and R^{7a} together, or R⁸ and R^{8a} together are an oxo group, provided that when V is -C(O)-, R⁶ and R^{6a} together or R⁸ and R^{8a} together do not form an oxo group, while the remaining R⁵, R^{5a}, R⁶, R^{6a}, R⁷, R^{7a}, R⁸ and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C₁-C₃alkyl;

or one of R⁵, R^{5a}, R⁶ and R^{6a} together with one of R⁷, R^{7a}, R⁸ and R^{8a}

forms a direct bond or an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 , and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

each R^9 is independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl; and

R^{10} is independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl or C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy;

as a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or as a prodrug thereof.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the mammal is a human.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the disease or condition is selected from the group consisting of Type II diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance, insulin resistance, obesity, fatty liver, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, dyslipidemia and metabolic syndrome and any combination of these.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the disease or condition is Type II diabetes.

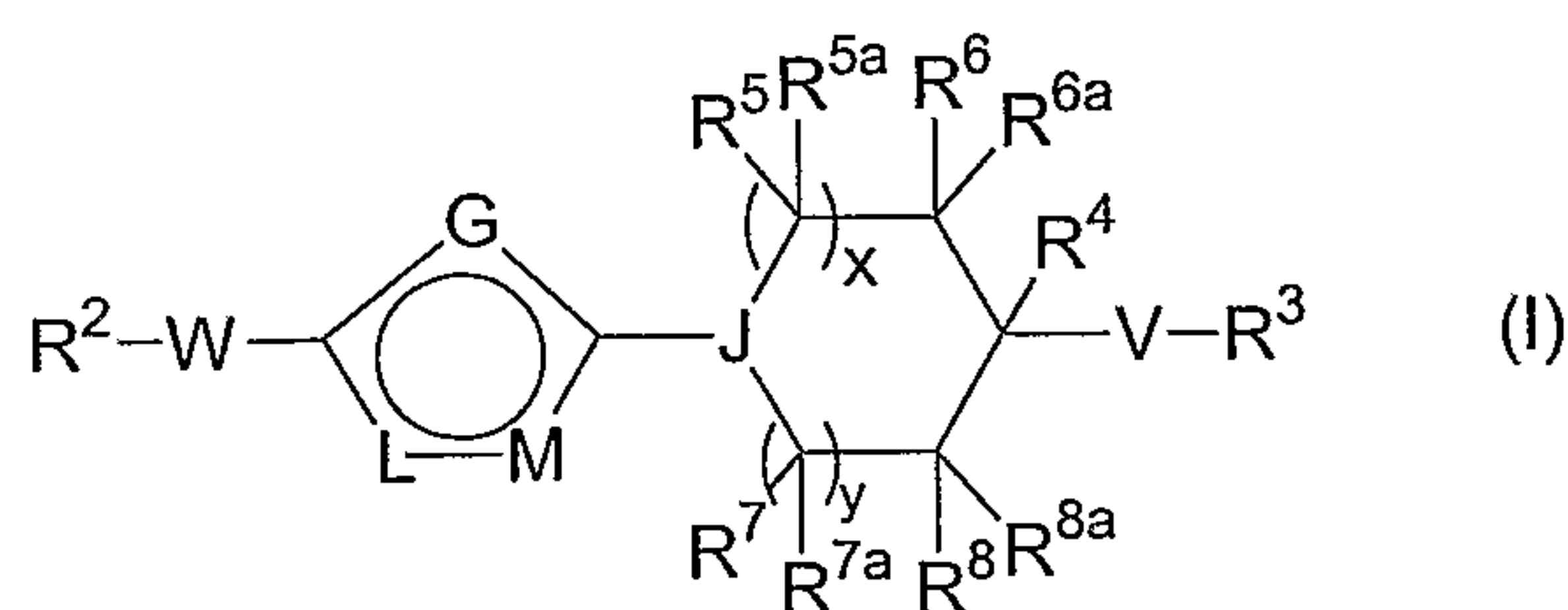
6. The method of Claim 4 wherein the disease or condition is obesity.

7. The method of Claim 4 wherein the disease or condition is metabolic syndrome.

8. The method of Claim 4 wherein the disease or condition is fatty liver.

9. The method of Claim 4 wherein the disease or condition is non-alcoholic steatohepatitis.

10. A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

x and y are each independently 0, 1, 2 or 3;

G is $-N(R^4)-$, $-O-$, $-S(O)_t-$ (where t is 0, 1 or 2), $-C(R^4)=$ or $-C(R^4)=C(R^4)-$;

J is N or $C(R^{10})$;

L and M are each independently $-N=$ or $-C(R^4)=$, provided that when G is $-C(R^4)=$ or $-C(R^4)=C(R^4)-$, L and M can not both be $-C(R^4)=$;

V is a direct bond, $-N(R^1)-$, $-N(R^1)C(O)-$, $-O-$, $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-C(S)-$, $-C(O)N(R^1)-$, $-S(O)_p-$ (where p is 1 or 2), or $-S(O)_pN(R^1)-$ (where p is 1 or 2);

W is $-N(R^1)C(O)-$, $-C(O)N(R^1)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^1)-$, $-N(R^1)C(O)N(R^1)-$, $-O-$, $-N(R^1)-$, $-S(O)_t-$ (where t is 0, 1 or 2), $-N(R^1)S(O)_p-$ (where p is 1 or 2), $-S(O)_pN(R^1)-$ (where p is 1 or 2), $-C(O)-$, $-OS(O)_2N(R^1)-$, $-OC(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-N(R^1)C(O)O-$ or $-C(R^1)_2-$;

each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl and C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkoxyalkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclylalkyl, C_1 - C_{12} heteroaryl, and C_3 - C_{12} heteroarylalkyl;

or R^2 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkoxyalkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclylalkyl, C_1 - C_{12} heteroaryl and C_3 - C_{12} heteroarylalkyl;

or R^3 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

each R^4 is independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy, haloalkyl, cyano, nitro or $-N(R^9)_2$;

or two adjacent R^4 groups, together with the carbons to which they are attached, may form an aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring system;

R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

or R^5 and R^{5a} together, R^6 and R^{6a} together, or R^7 and R^{7a} together, or R^8 and R^{8a} together are an oxo group, provided that when V is $-C(O)-$, R^6 and R^{6a}

together or R^8 and R^{8a} together do not form an oxo group, while the remaining R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

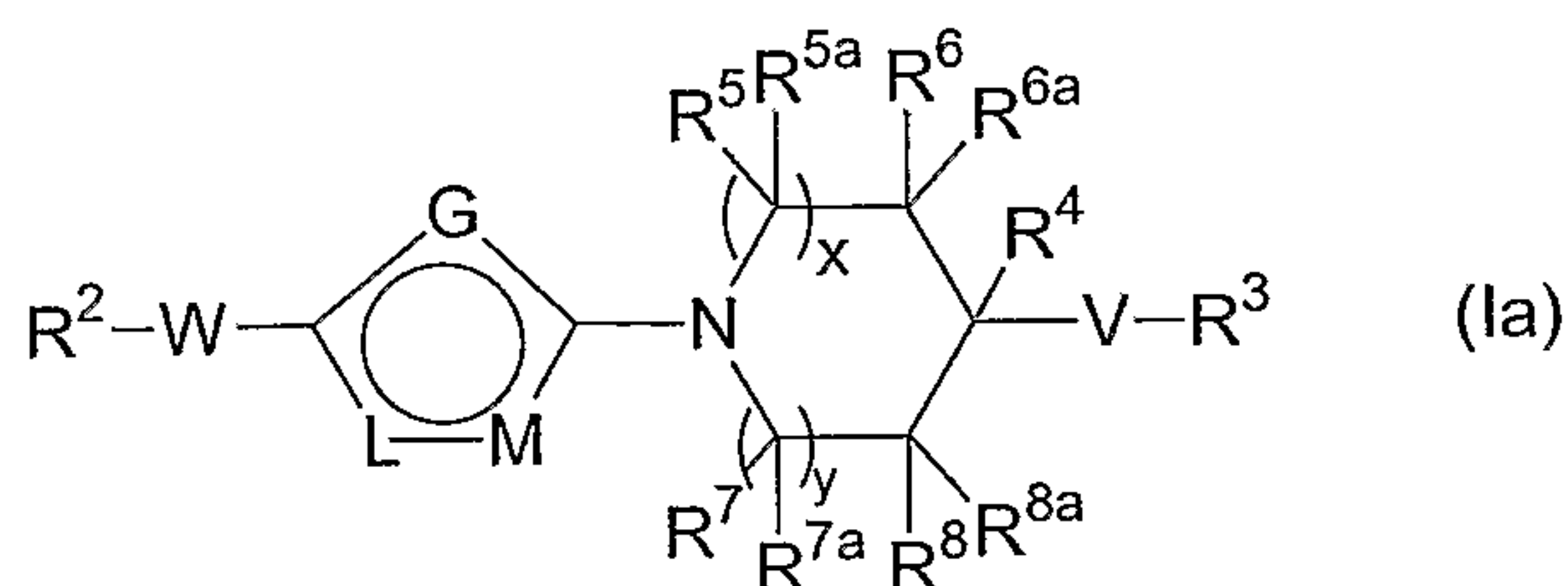
or one of R^5 , R^{5a} , R^{6l} and R^{6a} together with one of R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 and R^{8a} forms a direct bond or an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 , and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

each R^9 is independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl; and

R^{10} is independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl or C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy;

as a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or as a prodrug thereof.

11. The compound of Claim 10 where J is N, *i.e.*, a compound having the following formula (Ia):



12. The compound of Claim 11 wherein:

x and y are each independently 0 or 1;

G is $-C(R^4)=C(R^4)-$;

L and M are both $-N=$;

V is a direct bond, $-N(R^1)-$, $-N(R^1)C(O)-$, $-O-$, $-C(O)-$, or $-C(O)N(R^1)-$;

each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl and C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkoxyalkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclylalkyl, C_1 - C_{12} heteroaryl, and C_3 - C_{12} heteroarylalkyl;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkoxyalkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclylalkyl, C_1 - C_{12} heteroaryl and C_3 - C_{12} heteroarylalkyl;

each R^4 is independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy, haloalkyl, cyano, nitro or $-N(R^9)_2$; and

R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl, or

one of R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , and R^{6a} together with one of R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 and R^{8a} forms a direct bond or an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 , and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl.

13. The compound of Claim 12 where V is $-C(O)-$.

14. The compound of Claim 13 selected from the group consisting of the following:

4-Methyl-pentanoic acid {6-[4-(4-fluoro-benzoyl)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazin-3-yl}-amide;

6-[4-(4-Fluoro-benzoyl)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-methyl-butyl)-amide;

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

6-[4-(4-Fluorobenzoyl)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)methylamide; and

6-[4-(4-Fluorobenzoyl)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide.

15. The compound of Claim 12 where V is $-N(R^1)C(O)-$.

16. The compound of Claim 15 selected from the group consisting of the following:

6-[6-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoylamino)-3-aza-bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-3-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-methyl-butyl)-amide; and

6-[3-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoylamino)-pyrrolidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-methyl-butyl)-amide.

17. The compound of Claim 12 where V is $-N(R^1)-$.

18. The compound of Claim 17 selected from the group consisting of the following:

6-(4-Amino-piperidin-1-yl)-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-methyl-butyl)-amide;

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-cyclopropyl-propyl)-amide;

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclobutyl-ethyl)-amide;

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid pentylamide;

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid hexylamide;

6-[4-(4-Fluoro-2-trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid pentylamide;

6-[4-(4-Fluoro-2-trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

6-[4-(4-Fluoro-2-trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (3-cyclopropyl-propyl)-amide;

6-[4-(4-Fluoro-2-trifluoromethylphenylamino)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid hexylamide;

6-{4-[Methyl(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)amino]piperidin-1-yl}pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide.

19. The compound of Claim 12 where V is a direct bond.

20. The compound of Claim 19 selected from the group consisting of the following:

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzyl)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenoxyethyl)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

6-[4-(3,3-Difluoro-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-indol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-

3-carboxylic acid (3-cyclopropylpropyl)amide;

6-[4-(3,3-Difluoro-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroindol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide; and

6-[4-(3,3-Difluoro-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroindol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid pentylamide.

21. The compound of Claim 12 where V is -O-.

22. The compound of Claim 21 selected from the group consisting of the following:

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide;

4-(Trifluoromethylphenoxy)-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']-bipyridinyl-5'carboxylic acid-(2-cyclopropyl ethyl) amide; and

6-[4-Methyl-4-(2-trifluoromethylphenoxy)piperidin-1-yl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)amide.

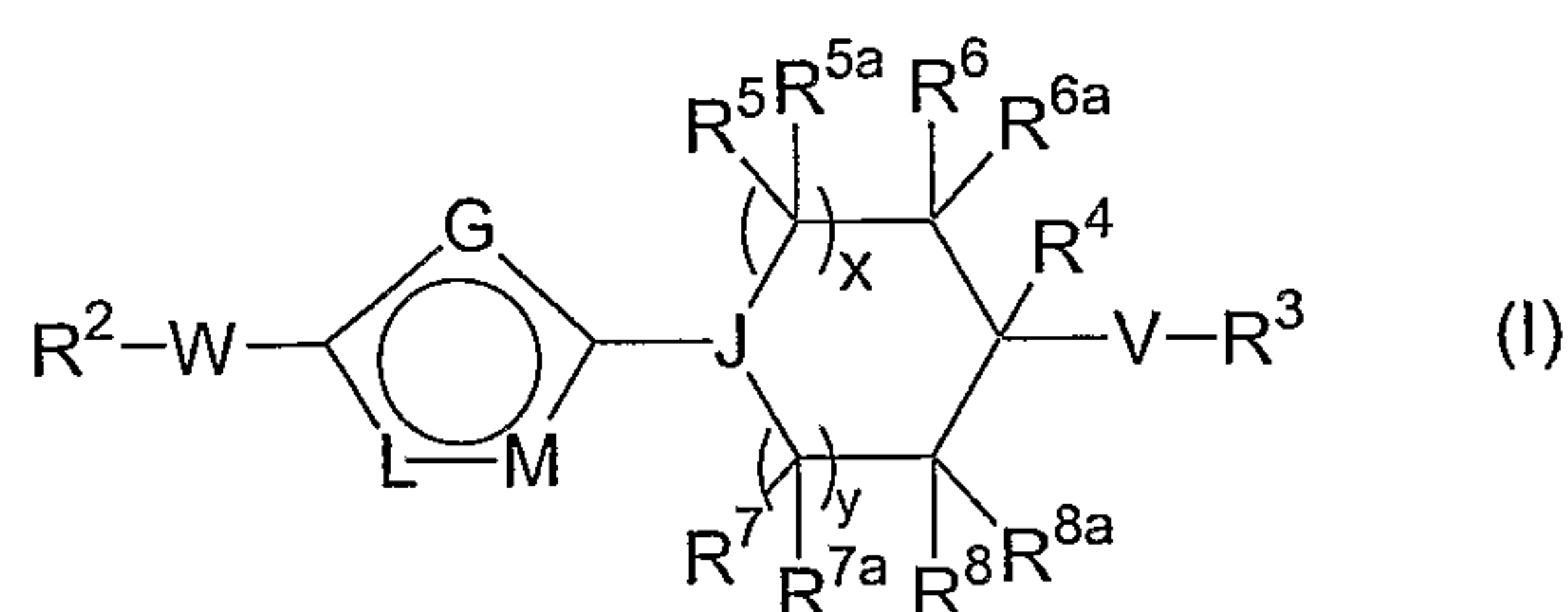
23. The compound of Claim 12 where V is -C(O)N(R¹)-.

24. The compound of Claim 23 selected from the group consisting of the following:

6-[4-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylcarbamoyl)-piperidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropyl-ethyl)-amide; and

6-[3-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenylcarbamoyl)-azetidin-1-yl]-pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid (2-cyclopropylethyl)-amide.

25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

x and y are each independently 0, 1, 2 or 3;

G is $-N(R^4)-$, $-O-$, $-S(O)_t-$ (where t is 0, 1 or 2), $-C(R^4)=$ or $-C(R^4)=C(R^4)-$;

J is N or $C(R^{10})$;

L and M are each independently $-N=$ or $-C(R^4)=$, provided that when G is $-C(R^4)=$ or $-C(R^4)=C(R^4)-$, L and M can not both be $-C(R^4)=$;

V is a direct bond, $-N(R^1)-$, $-N(R^1)C(O)-$, $-O-$, $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-C(S)-$, $-C(O)N(R^1)-$, $-S(O)_p-$ (where p is 1 or 2), or $-S(O)_pN(R^1)-$ (where p is 1 or 2);

W is $-N(R^1)C(O)-$, $-C(O)N(R^1)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^1)-$, $-N(R^1)C(O)N(R^1)-$, $-O-$, $-N(R^1)-$, $-S(O)_t-$ (where t is 0, 1 or 2), $-N(R^1)S(O)_p-$ (where p is 1 or 2), $-S(O)_pN(R^1)-$ (where p is 1 or 2), $-C(O)-$, $-OS(O)_2N(R^1)-$, $-OC(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-N(R^1)C(O)O-$ or $-C(R^1)_2-$; each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl and C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkoxyalkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclylalkyl, C_1 - C_{12} heteroaryl, and C_3 - C_{12} heteroarylalkyl;

or R^2 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} hydroxyalkenyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkoxyalkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_4 - C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{19} aralkyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclyl, C_3 - C_{12} heterocyclylalkyl, C_1 - C_{12} heteroaryl and C_3 - C_{12} heteroarylalkyl;

or R^3 is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

each R^4 is independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy, haloalkyl, cyano, nitro or $-N(R^9)_2$;

or two adjacent R^4 groups, together with the carbons to which they are attached, may form an aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring system;

R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

or R^5 and R^{5a} together, R^6 and R^{6a} together, or R^7 and R^{7a} together, or R^8 and R^{8a} together are an oxo group, provided that when V is $-C(O)-$, R^6 and R^{6a}

together or R^8 and R^{8a} together do not form an oxo group, while the remaining R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

or one of R^5 , R^{5a} , R^{6a} and R^{6a} together with one of R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 and R^{8a} forms a direct bond or an alkylene bridge, while the remaining R^5 , R^{5a} , R^6 , R^{6a} , R^7 , R^{7a} , R^8 , and R^{8a} are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

each R^9 is independently selected from hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl; and

R^{10} is independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl or C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy;

as a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or as a prodrug thereof.

