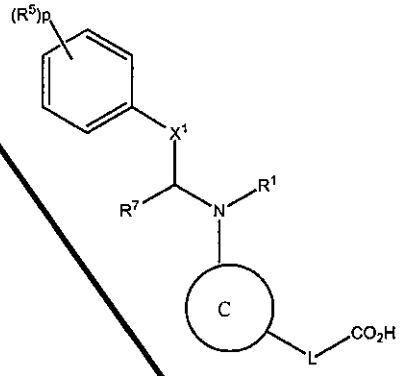
## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

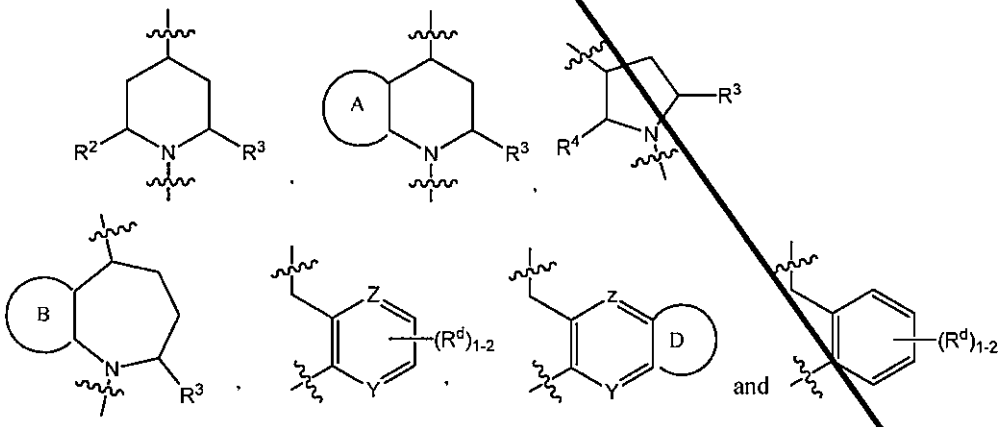
1. A method of treating, preventing or ameliorating atherosclerosis or dyslipidemia, or a method of raising HDL-C and/or lowering LDL-C, in a subject with high triglycerides level comprising, administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the following formula I:



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein:

C is a core structure selected from:



and



;

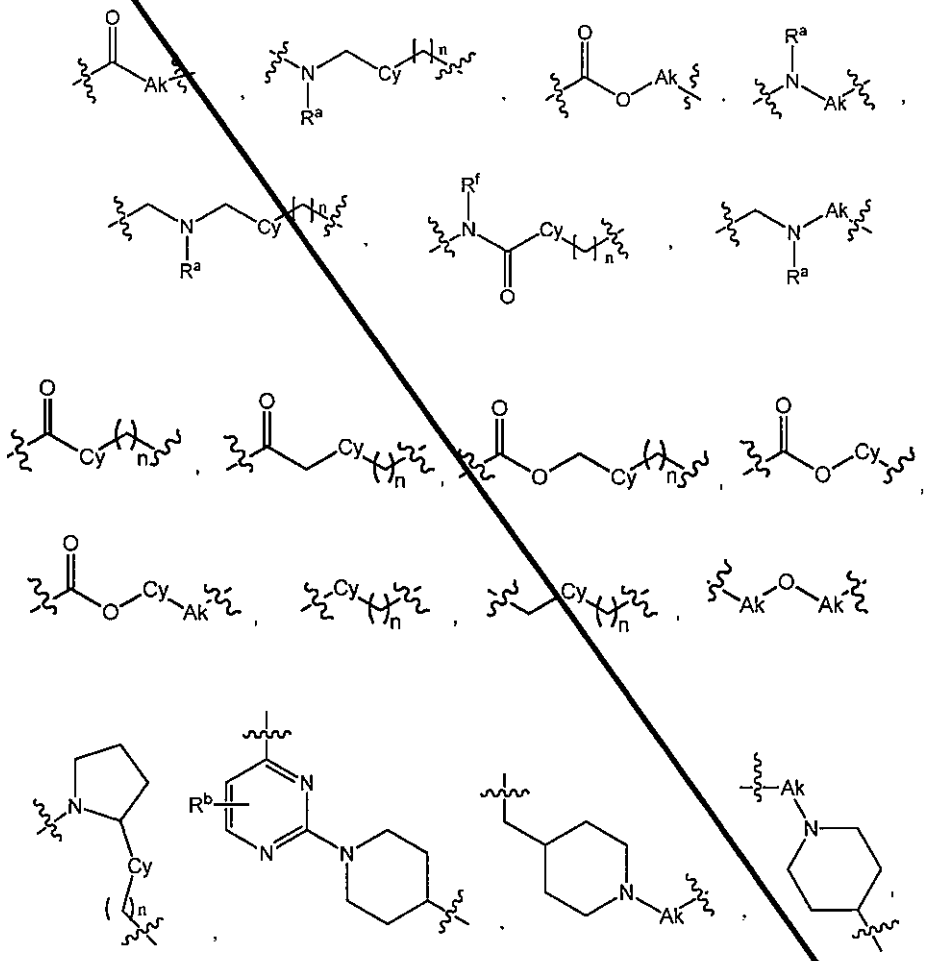
Y and Z are independently CH or N;

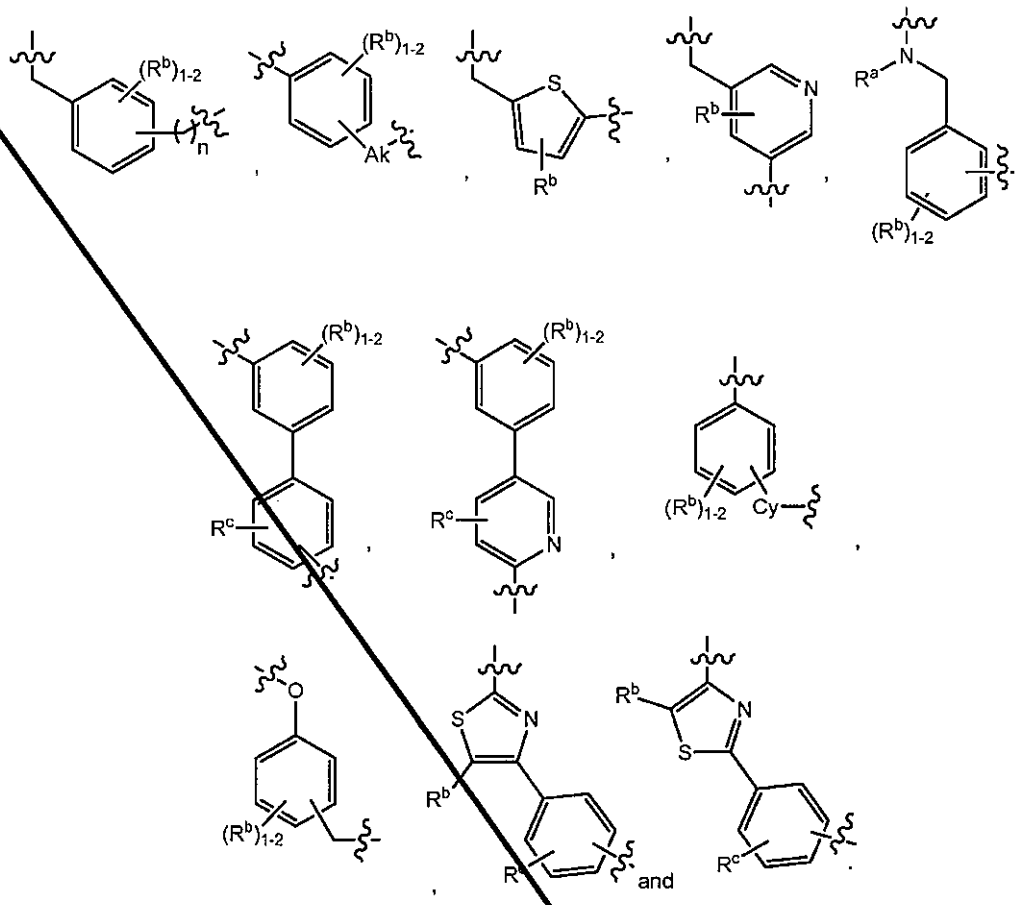
Rings A and B are independently phenyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl wherein phenyl and hereroaryl are optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents

independently selected from $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, halo, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, amino, $C_{1-7}$alkylamino, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl and $C_{3-7}$cycloalkoxy ;

D is $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, phenyl, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl wherein phenyl and hereroaryl are optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, CN, $NO_2$, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, amino, $C_{1-7}$alkylamino, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl and $C_{3-7}$cycloalkoxy;

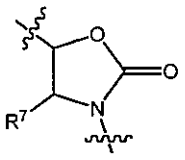
L is a linker selected from $C_{1-7}$alkyl (straight or branched) or a linker selected from:





with the proviso that core C and L do not form a N-N bond or a N-O bond;

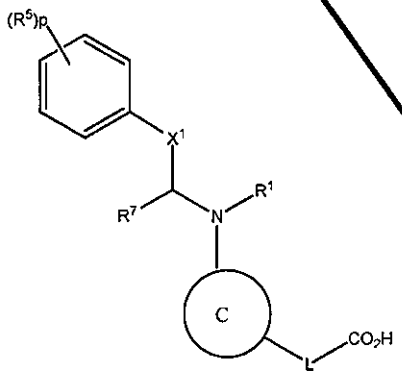
$X^1$ is absent or is $CR^6$ wherein $R^6$ forms with $R^1$ the following ring:



$R^1$ is C(O)O-alkyl, C(O)-alkyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from $C_{1-7}$alkyl, hydroxy-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy optionally substituted with $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, hydroxy, halo or $-S(O)_2C_{1-4}$alkyl; amino, $C_{1-7}$alkylamino, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino, amino-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkylamino-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, (hydroxy$C_{1-7}$alkyl)amino, hydroxy-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, halo, benzyloxy, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl wherein each heteroaryl and heterocyclyl are optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from oxo, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkanoyl and hydroxy;

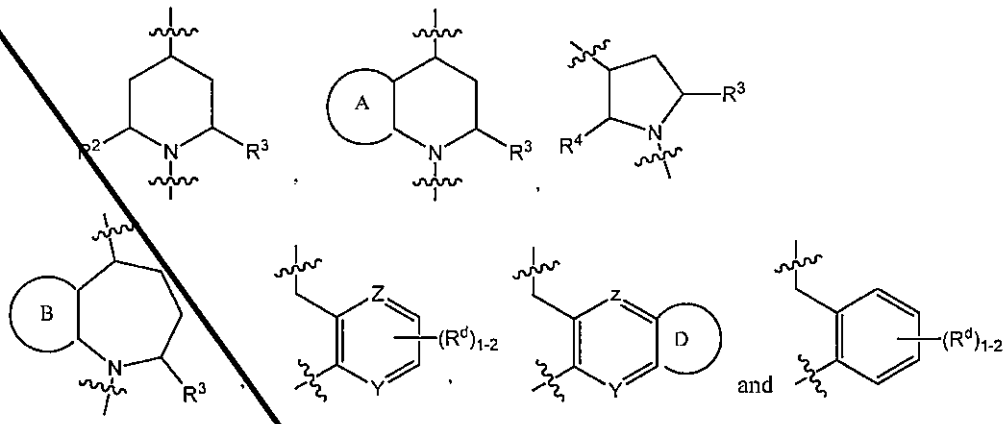
$R^5$ in each instance, is independently halo, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $NO_2$ or CN;
p is 0, 1 or 2;
m is 0, 1 or 2;
$R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently H, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy- $C_{1-7}$alkyl or $C_{6-10}$aryl-$C_{1-7}$alkyl;
$R^7$ is H or $C_{1-7}$alkyl;
$R^a$ is H, $C_{1-7}$alkyl or $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, C(O)-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, C(O)O-$C_{1-7}$alkyl;
$R^b$, $R^c$ and $R^d$ are independently H, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, CN, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, halo, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyloxy, phenyl, 5- or 6-membered ring heteroaryl, or hydroxy;
$R^f$ is H, $C_{1-7}$alkyl or $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl;
Ak is $C_{1-6}$ linear or branched alkyl;
Cy is $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl.

2. A method of treating atherosclerosis or dyslipidemia, or a method of raising HDL-C and/or lowering LDL-C comprising:
1. Selecting subject with high triglycerides level; and
2. Administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula I:




I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein:
C is a core structure selected from:



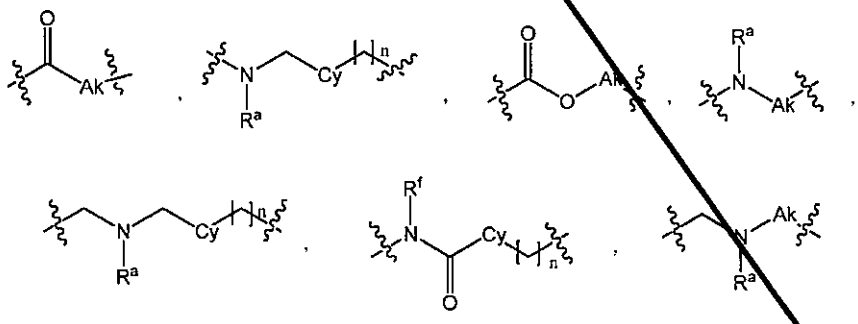
and

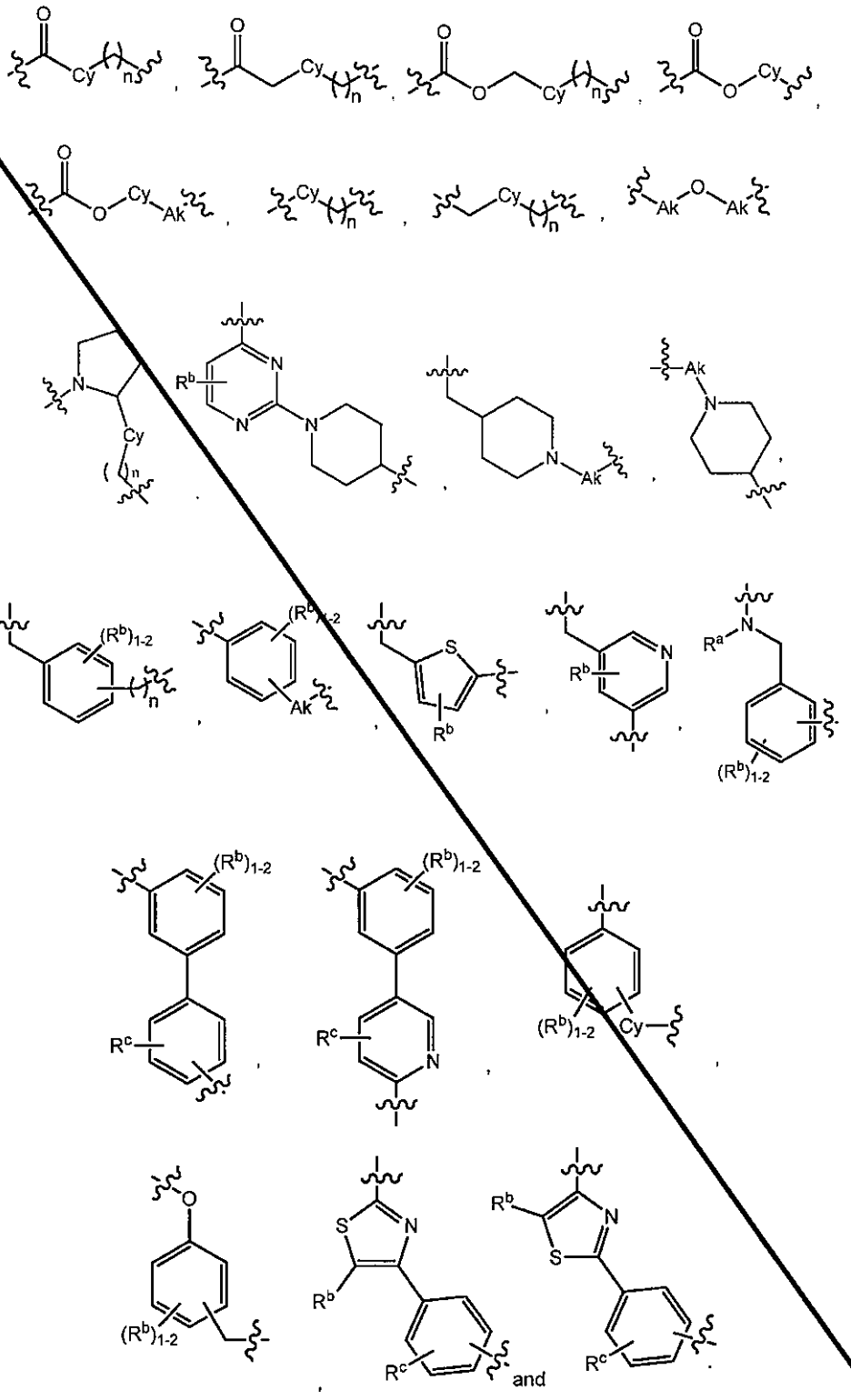
Y and Z are independently CH or N;

Rings A and B are independently phenyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl wherein phenyl and hereroaryl are optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, halo, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, amino, $C_{1-7}$alkylamino, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl and $C_{3-7}$cycloalkoxy ;

D is $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, phenyl, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl wherein phenyl and hereroaryl are optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, CN, $NO_2$, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, amino, $C_{1-7}$alkylamino, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl and $C_{3-7}$cycloalkoxy;

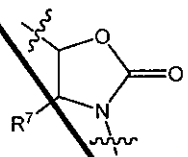
L is a linker selected from $C_{1-7}$alkyl (straight or branched) or a linker selected from:





with the proviso that core C and L do not form a N-N bond or a N-O bond;

$X^1$ is absent or is $CR^6$ wherein $R^6$ forms with $R^1$ the following ring:



$R^1$ is C(O)O-alkyl, C(O)-alkyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroary optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from $C_{1-7}$alkyl, hydroxy-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, amino, $C_{1-7}$alkylamino, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino, amino-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkylamino-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, (hydroxy$C_{1-7}$alkyl)amino, hydroxy-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, halo, benzyloxy, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl wherein each heteroaryl and heterocyclyl are optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from oxo, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkanoyl and hydroxy;

$R^5$ in each instance, is independently halo, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $NO_2$ or CN;

p is 0, 1 or 2;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

$R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently H, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy- $C_{1-7}$alkyl or $C_{6-10}$aryl-$C_{1-7}$alkyl;

$R^7$ is H or $C_{1-7}$alkyl;

$R^a$ is H, $C_{1-7}$alkyl or $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, C(O)-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, C(O)O-$C_{1-7}$alkyl;

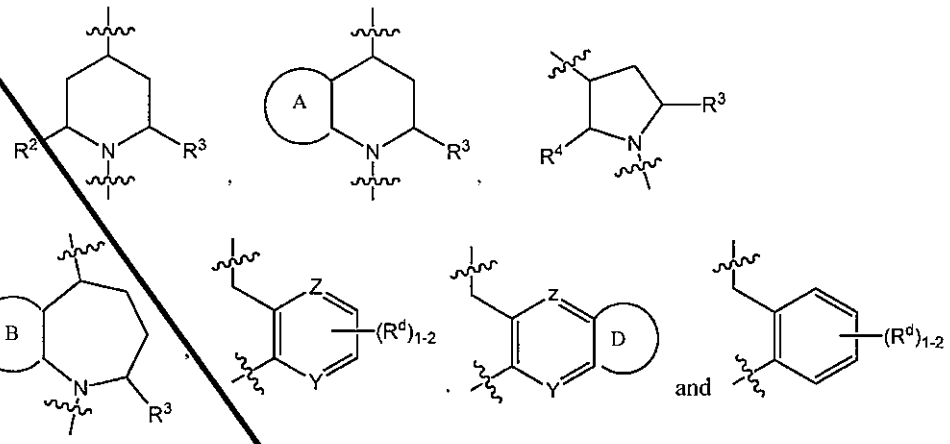
$R^b$, $R^c$ and $R^d$ are independently H, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, CN, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, halo, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyloxy, phenyl, 5- or 6-membered ring heteroaryl, or hydroxy;

$R^f$ is H, $C_{1-7}$alkyl or $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl;

Ak is $C_{1-6}$ linear or branched alkyl;

Cy is $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein C is a core structure selected from:



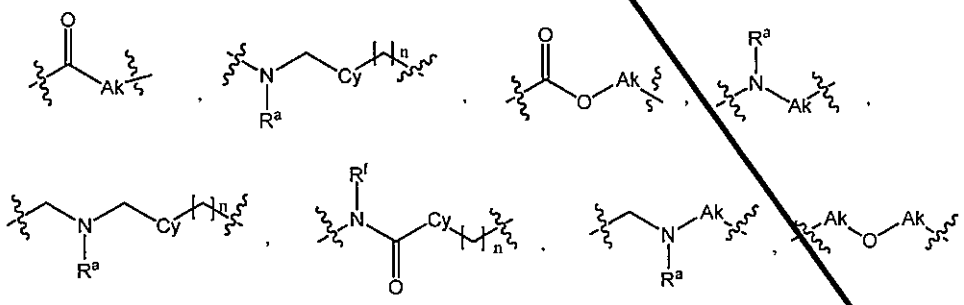
and

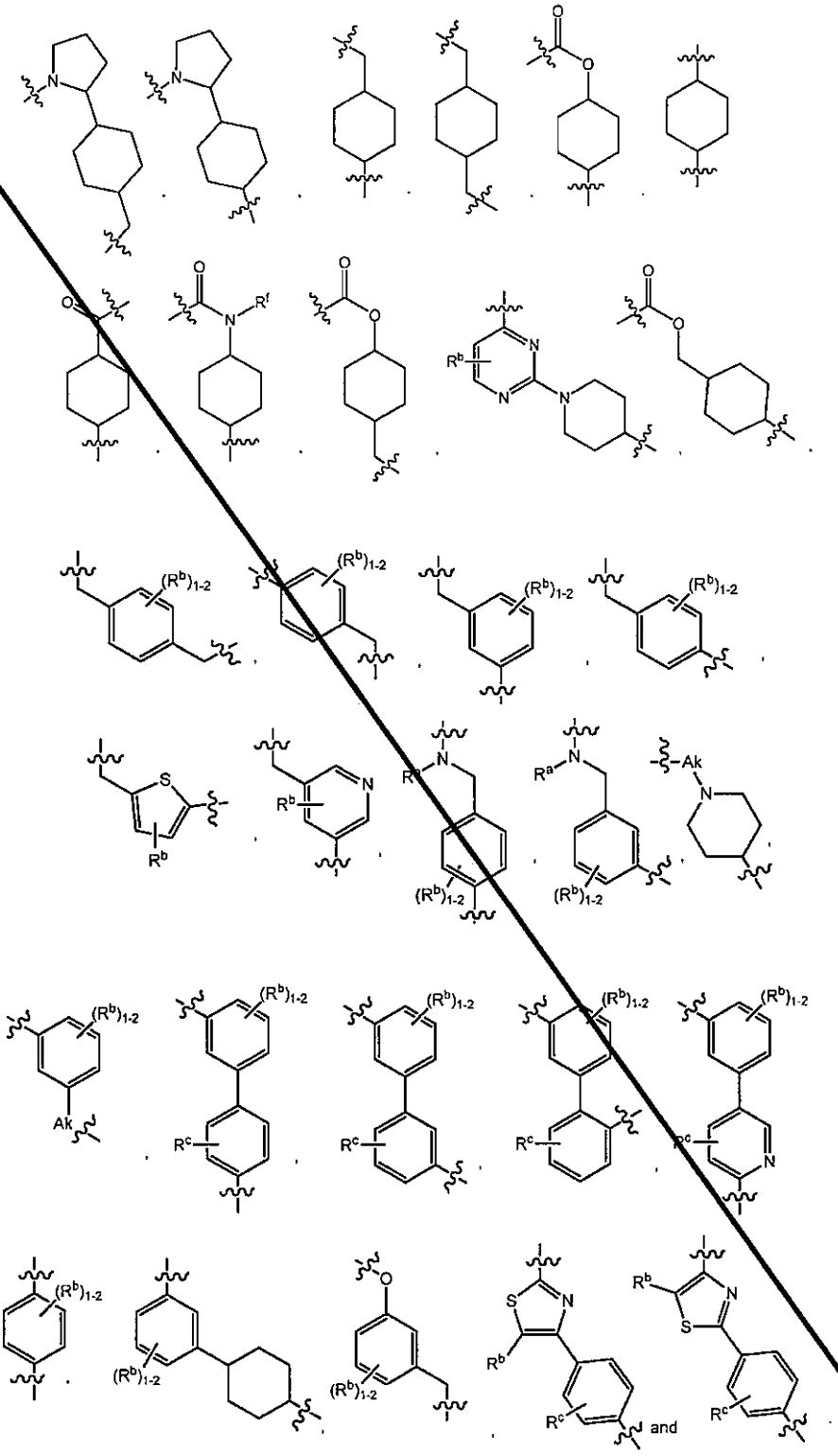
Y and Z are independently CH or N;

Rings A and B are independently phenyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl wherein phenyl and hereroaryl are optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, halo, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, amino, $C_{1-7}$alkylamino, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl and $C_{3-7}$cycloalkoxy ;

D is $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, phenyl, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl wherein phenyl and hereroaryl are optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, CN, $NO_2$, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, amino, $C_{1-7}$alkylamino, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl and $C_{3-7}$cycloalkoxy;

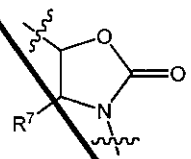
L is a linker selected from straight or branched $C_{1-7}$alkyl or a linker selected from:





with the proviso that core C and L do not form a N-N bond or a N-O bond;

$X^1$ is absent or is $CR^6$ wherein $R^6$ forms with $R^1$ the following ring:



$R^1$ is C(O)O-alkyl, C(O)-alkyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroary optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from $C_{1-7}$alkyl, hydroxy-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, amino, $C_{1-7}$alkylamino, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino, amino-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkylamino-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, (hydroxy$C_{1-7}$alkyl)amino, hydroxy-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, halo, benzyloxy, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl wherein each heteroaryl and heterocyclyl are optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from oxo, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkanoyl and hydroxy;

$R^5$ in each instance, is independently halo, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $NO_2$ or CN;

p is 0, 1 or 2;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

$R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently H, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy- $C_{1-7}$alkyl or $C_{6-10}$aryl-$C_{1-7}$alkyl;

$R^7$ is H or $C_{1-7}$alkyl;

$R^a$ is H, $C_{1-7}$alkyl or $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, C(O)-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, C(O)O-$C_{1-7}$alkyl;

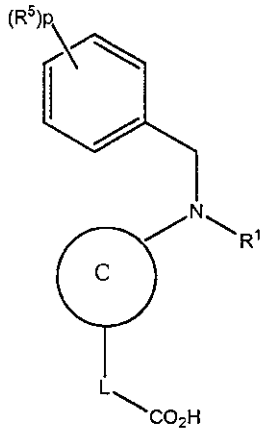
$R^b$, $R^c$ and $R^d$ are independently H, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, CN, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, halo, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyloxy, phenyl, 5- or 6-membered ring heteroaryl, or hydroxy;

$R^f$ is H, $C_{1-7}$alkyl or $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl;

Ak is $C_{1-6}$ linear or branched alkyl;

Cy is $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl.

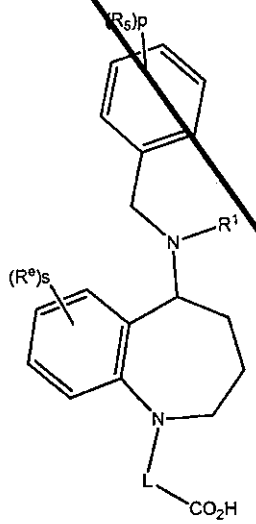
4. The method according to anyone of claims 1 to 3 wherein the compound has Formula II:




II,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

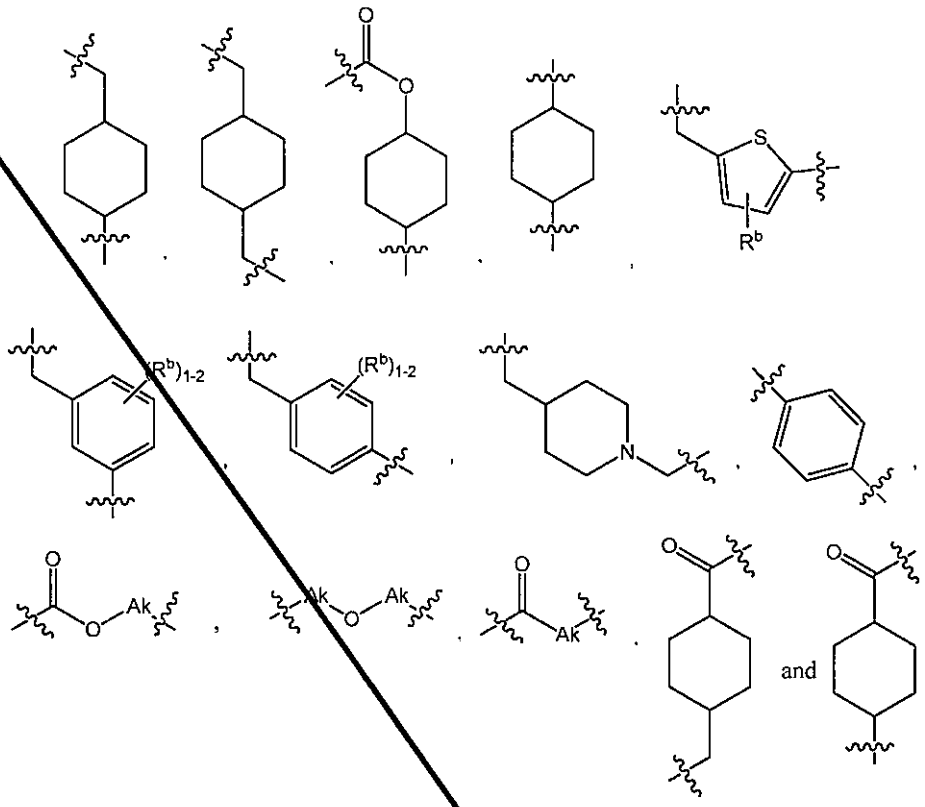
5. The method according to anyone of claims 1 to 4 wherein the compound has Formula IIIA:



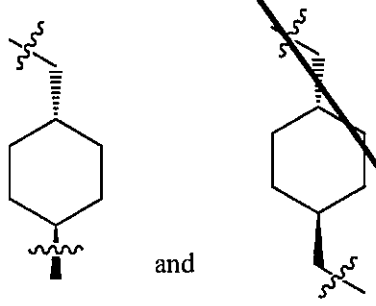

IIIA

wherein $R^e$ is $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, hydroxy, and s is 0, 1, 2 or 3, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. The method according to claim 5 wherein the Linker L is a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl or a linker selected from

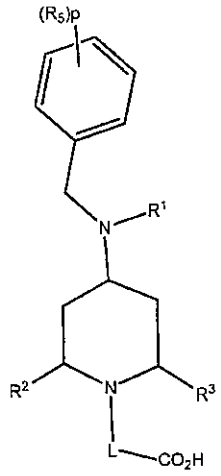


7. The method according to claim 5 or 6 wherein L is selected from:



8. The method according to any of claims 4 to 7 wherein $R^1$ is a tetrazole optionally substituted with $C_{1-4}$alkyl.

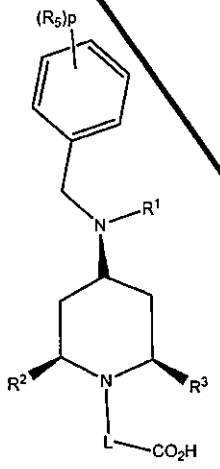
9. The method according to anyone of claims 1 to 4 wherein the compound has Formula IV:



IV,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

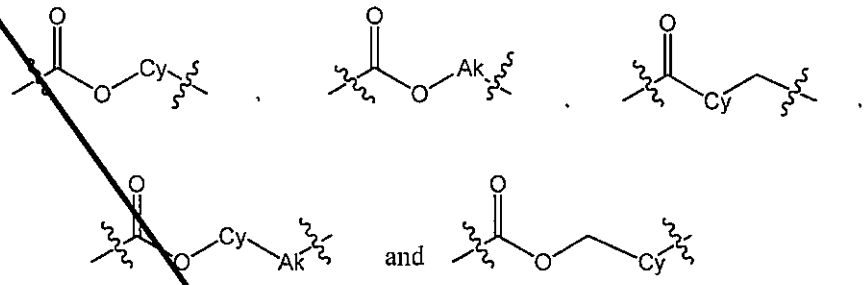
10. The method according to claim 9 wherein the compound has the formula IVA:



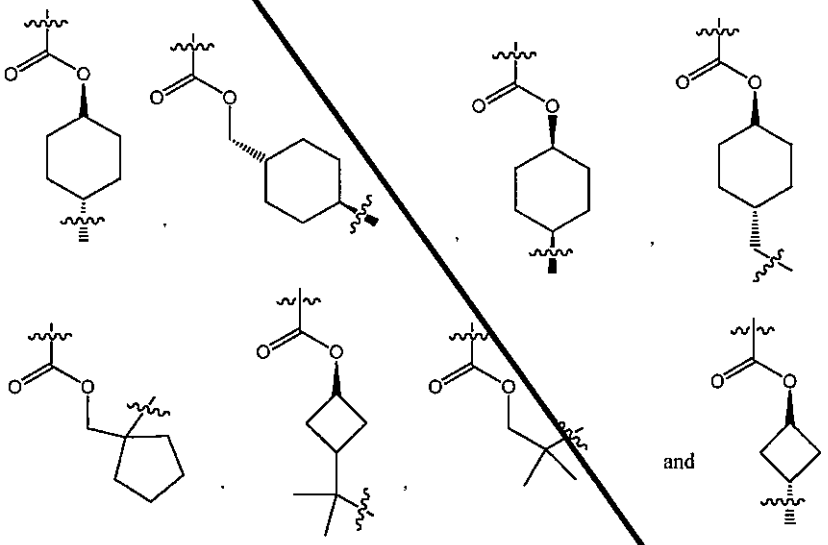
IVA,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. The method according to claim 9 or 10 wherein L is selected from:



12. The method according to claim 11 wherein L is selected from:

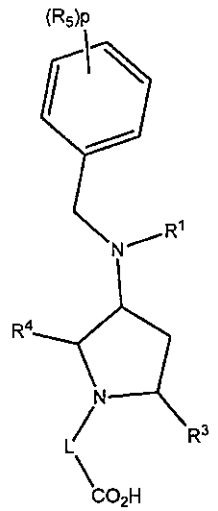


13. The method according to any of claims 9 to 12 wherein $R^1$ is a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, wherein said heteroaryl is optionally substituted with one to three substituents selected from halogen, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, hydroxy-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, wherein said heterocyclyl and heteroaryl are further optionally substituted with one to three substituents selected from $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkanoyl or hydroxy.

14. The method according to claim 13 wherein $R^1$ is pyrimidine substituted with morpholino, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl or tetrazolyl wherein imidazolyl, pyrazoyl and tetrazolyl are optionally substituted with $C_{1-7}$alkyl.

15. The method according to any of claims 9 to 14 wherein $R^2$ and $R^3$ are independently $C_{1-4}$alkyl.

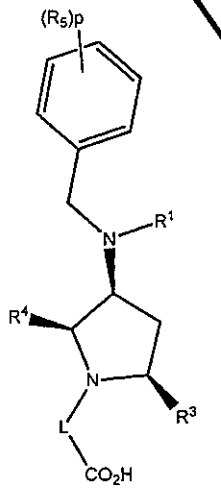
16. The method according to anyone of claims 1 to 4 wherein the compound has Formula V:



V,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

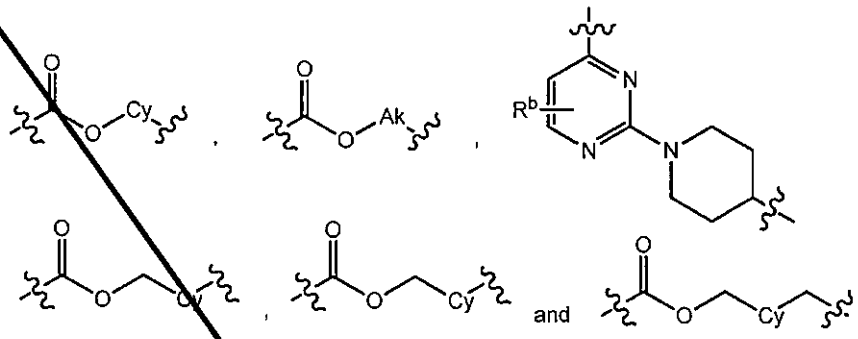
17. The method according to claim 16 wherein the compound has Formula VA:



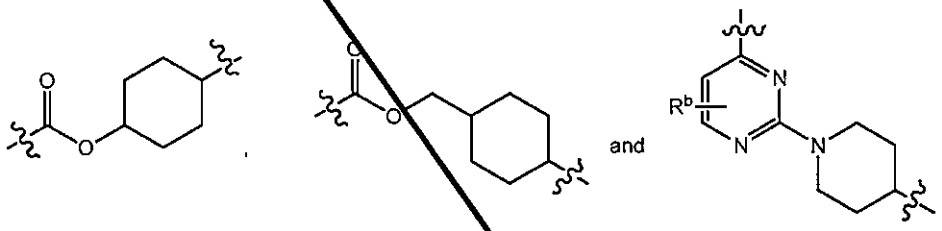
VA,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. The method according to claim 16 or 17 wherein L is selected from:



19. The method according to claim 18 wherein L is selected from:

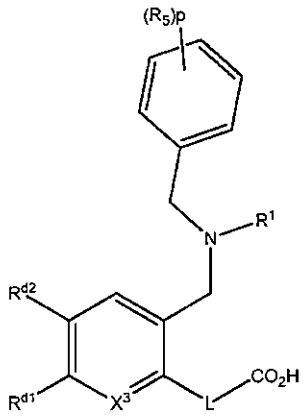


20. The method according to any of claims 16 to 19 wherein $R^3$ is alkyl and $R^4$ is H.

21. The method according to any of claims 16 to 20 wherein $R^1$ is a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, wherein said heteroaryl is optionally substituted with one to three substituents selected from halogen, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, hydroxy-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, di-$C_{1-7}$alkylamino, $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, wherein said heterocyclyl and heteroaryl are further optionally substituted with one to three substituents selected from $C_{1-7}$alkyl, $C_{1-7}$alkanoyl or hydroxy.

22. The method according to claim 21 wherein $R^1$ is pyrimidine substituted with morpholino, imidazolyl, pyrazoyl, or tetrazolyl wherein imidazolyl, pyrazoyl and tetrazolyl are optionally substituted with $C_{1-7}$alkyl.

23. The method according to anyone of claims 1 to 4 wherein the compound has Formula VI:

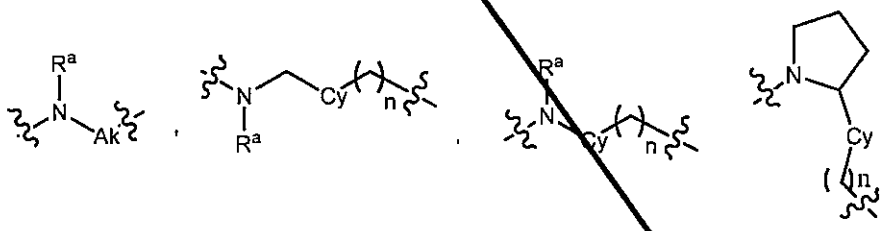


VI

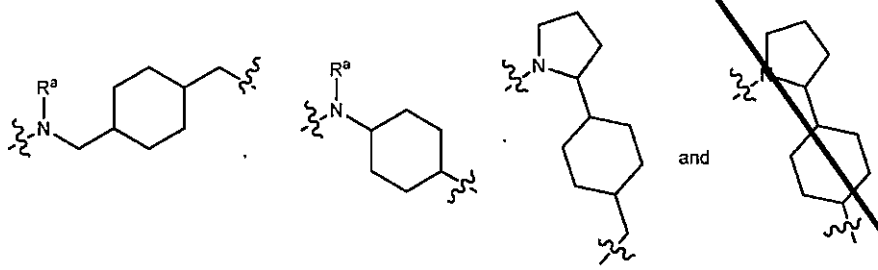
wherein $X^3$ is CH or N; and

$R^{d1}$ and $R^{d2}$ are independently selected from H, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl; or $R^{d1}$ and $R^{d2}$ form together with the atoms to which they are attached a phenyl optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from halo , $C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. The method according to claim 23 wherein L is selected from:



25. The method according to claim 24 wherein L is selected from:

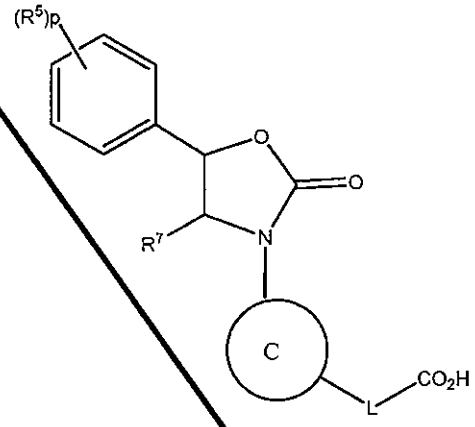


and

26. The method according to any of claims 23 to 25 wherein $R^1$ is tetrazole optionally substituted with $C_{1-4}$alkyl.

27. The method according to any of claims 23 to 26 wherein $X^3$ is N, $R^{d1}$ is H and $R^{d2}$ is halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl; or $R^{d1}$ and $R^{d2}$ form together with the atoms to which they are attached a phenyl which is optionally substituted with 1 to 2 substituents independently selected from halo, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo- $C_{1-7}$alkyl.

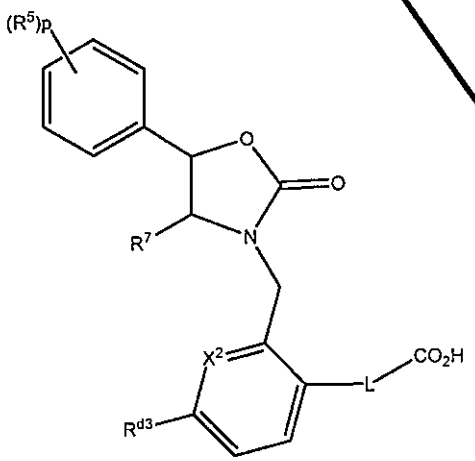
28. The method according to claim 1, 2 or 3 having Formula VII:



VII,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

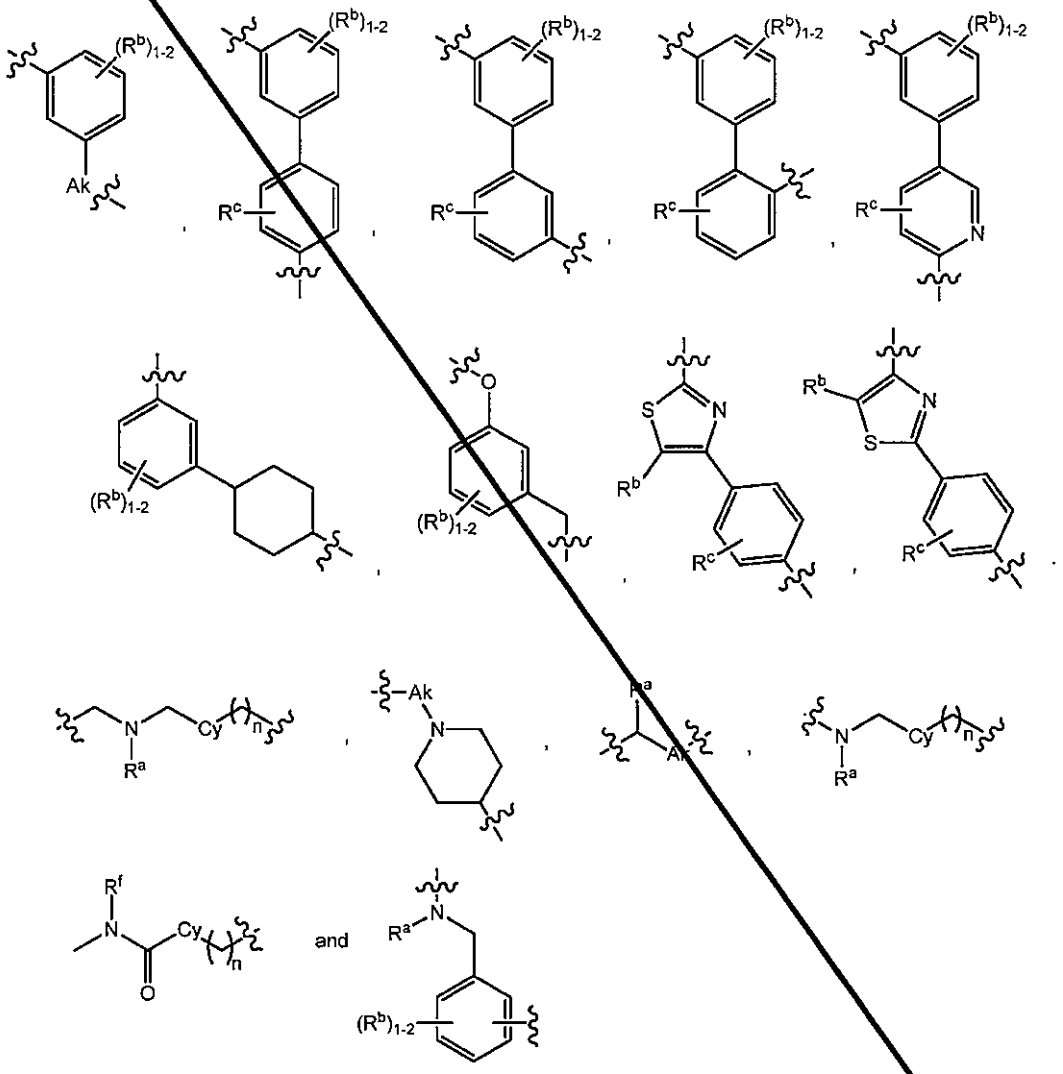
29. The method according to claim 28 having formula VIIA:



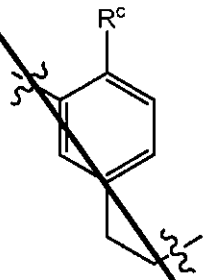
VIIA

wherein $X^2$ is $CR^{d4}$ or N, $R^{d3}$ is $C_{1-7}$alkoxy, $C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkyl, halo-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy, $R^{d4}$ is H or $R^{d3}$ and $R^{d4}$ can form together a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl, a phenyl or a cycloalkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. The method according to claim 28 or 29 wherein L is selected from:

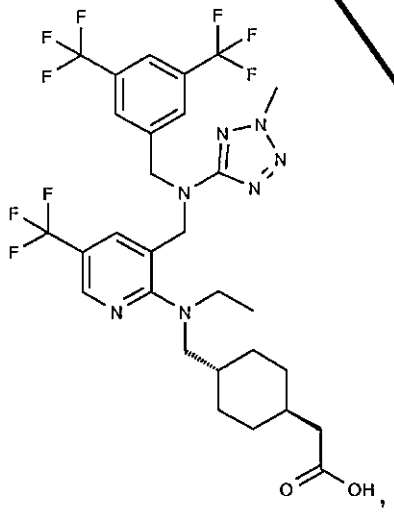


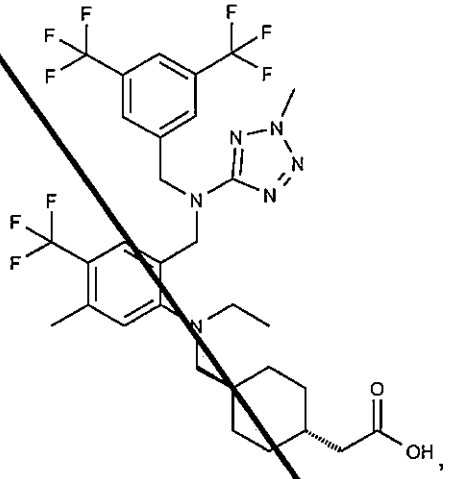
31. The method of any of claims 28 to 30 wherein L is

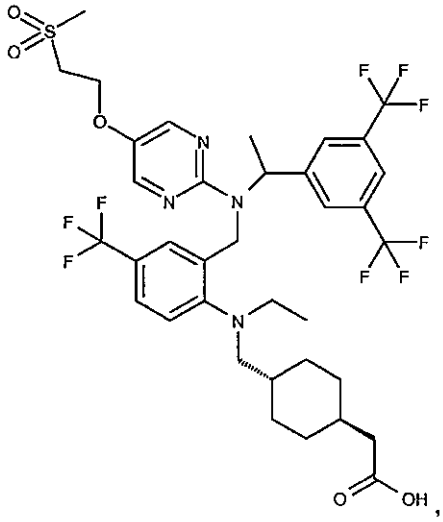


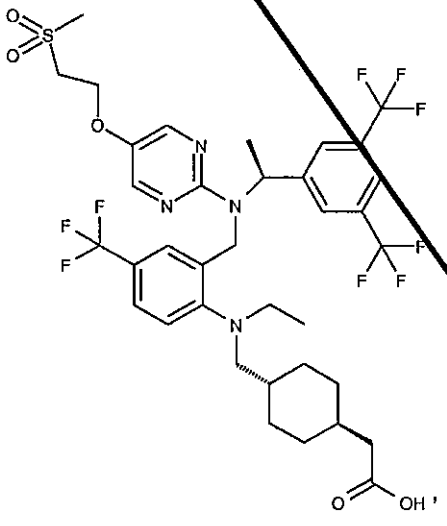
wherein $R^c$ is $C_{1-7}$alkoxy or halo-$C_{1-7}$alkoxy.

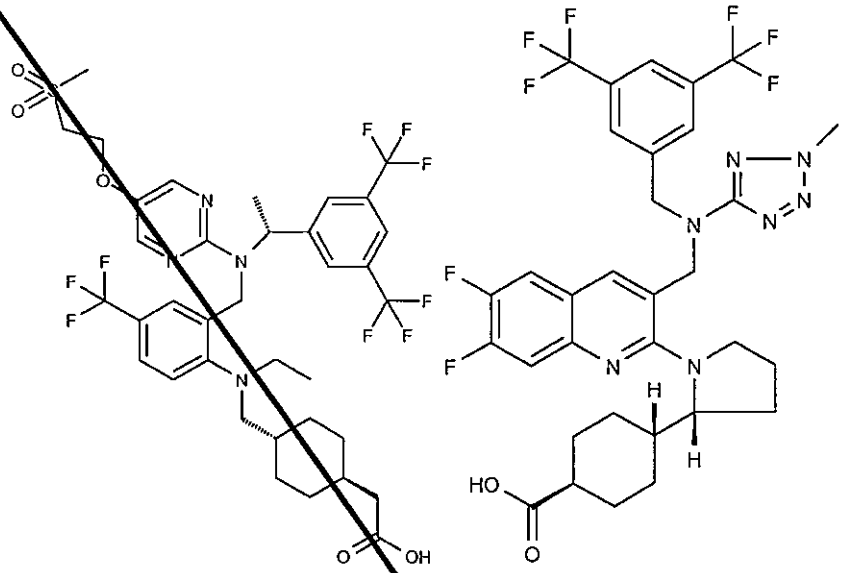
32. The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the compound is selected from:

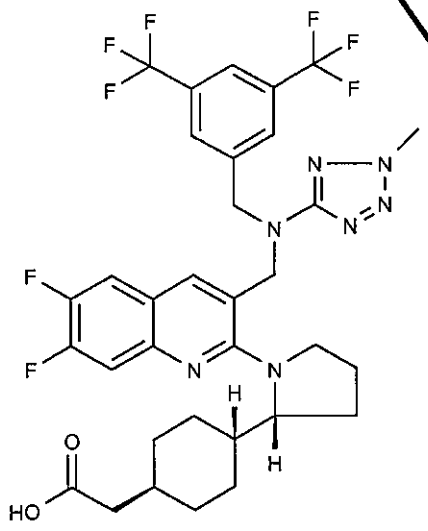


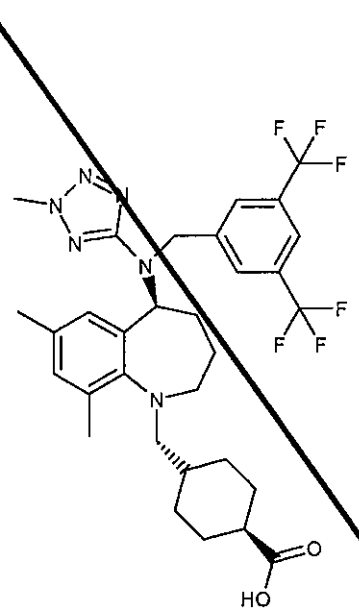


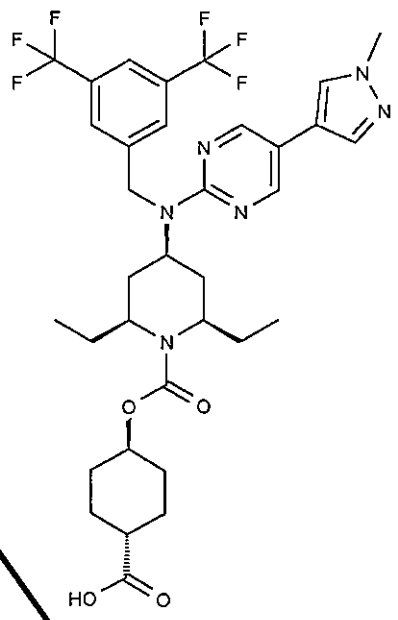


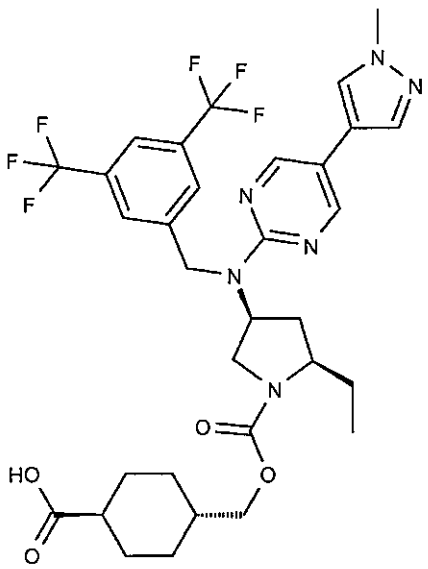


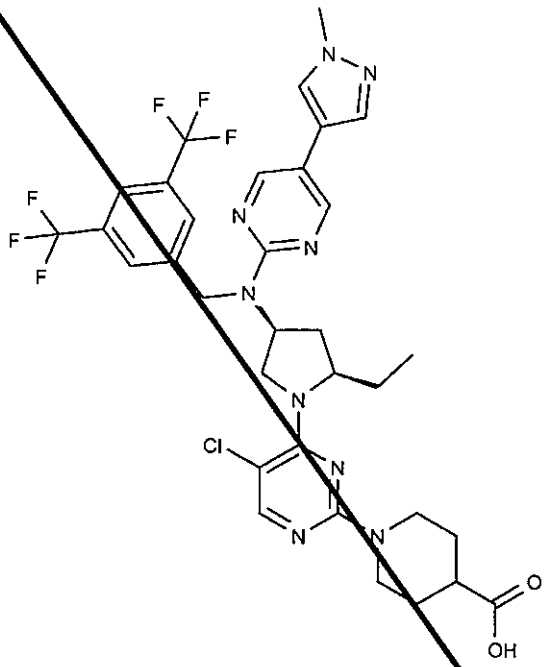


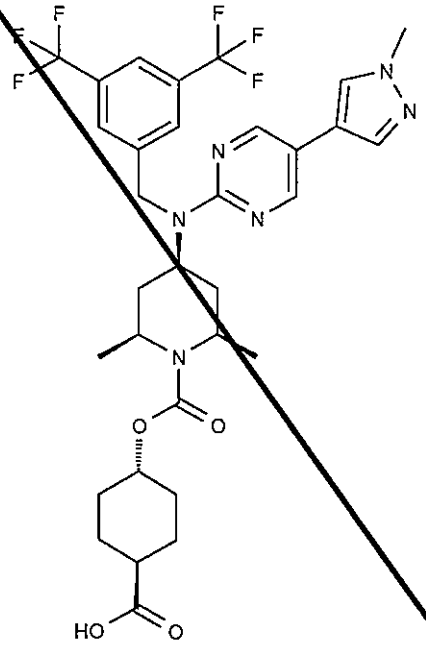


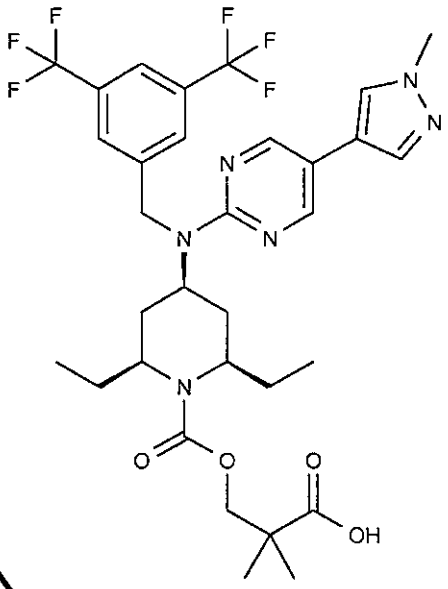


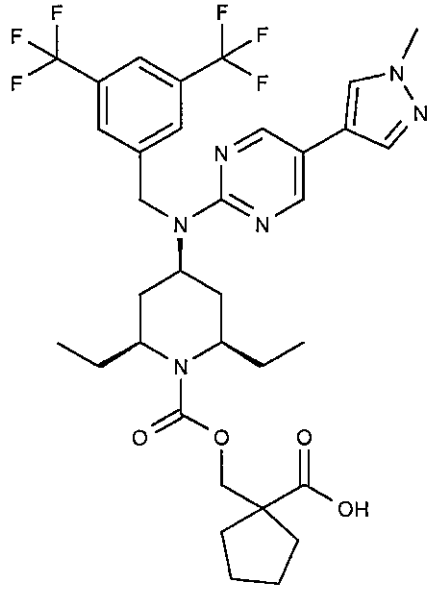


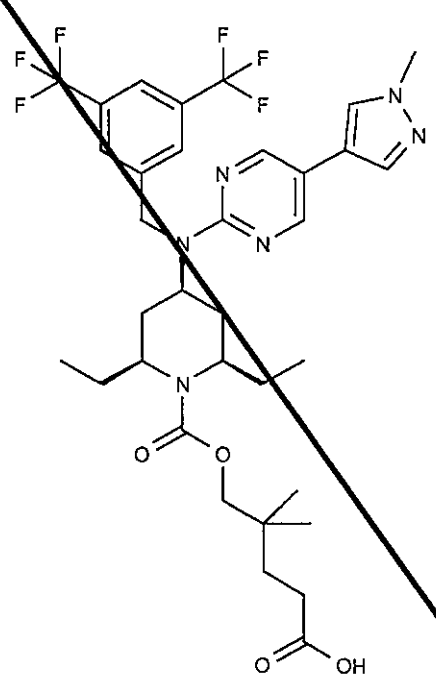


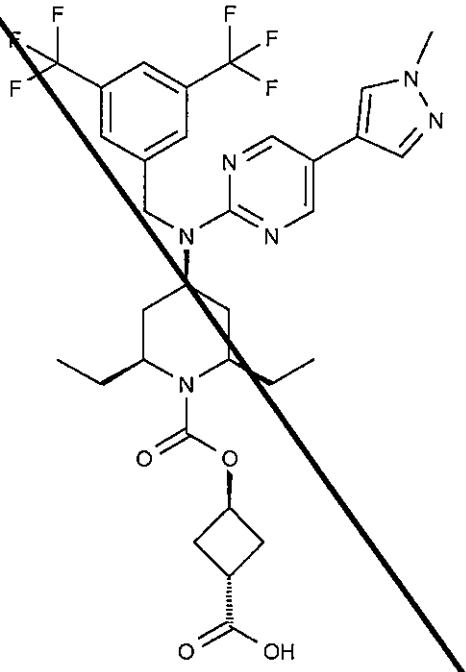


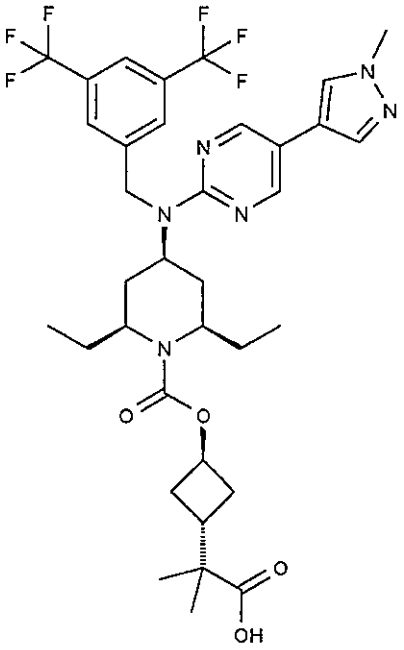


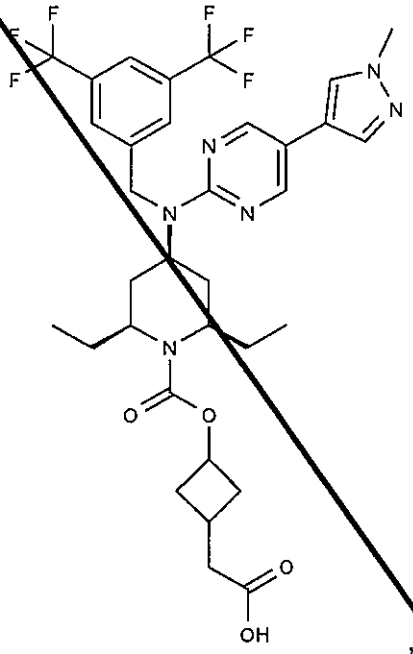




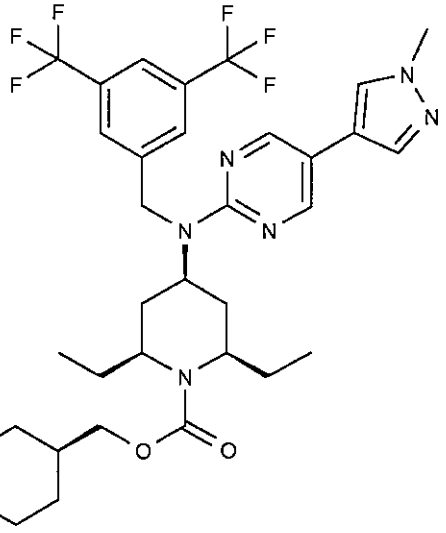




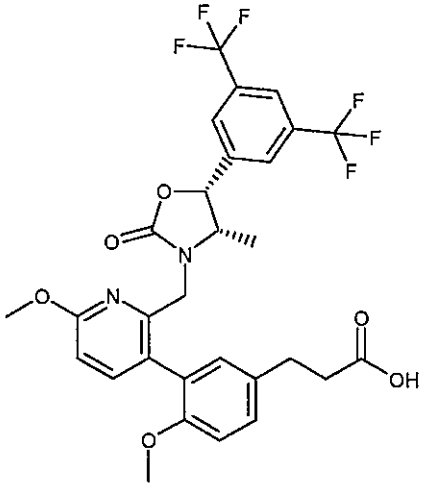




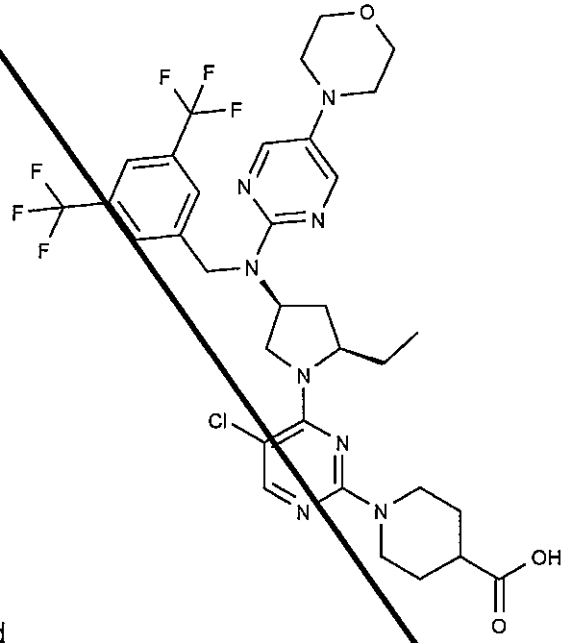
,



,

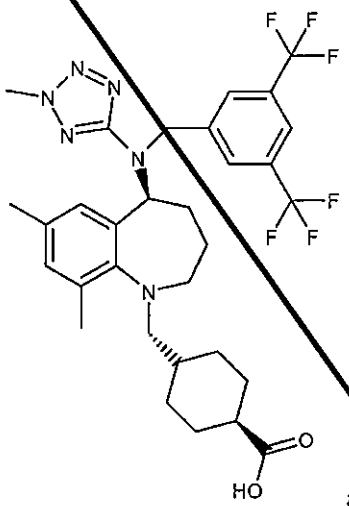


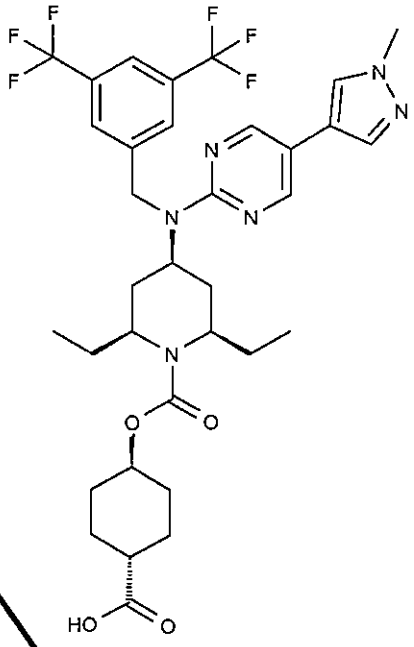
and



, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

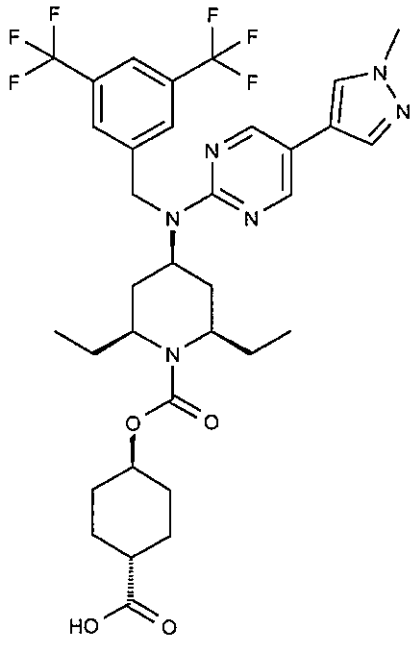
33. The method according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the compound is selected from:





and ; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

34. The method according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the compound is:



, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

35. The method according to anyone of the proceeding claims, comprising administering to the subject a compound of Formula I in combination with at least one other therapeutic agent.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein the other therapeutic agent is selected from statin, cholesterol absorption inhibitor, apoA-I up-regulator/inducer, pre-beta HDL mimetic, ABCA1 stabilizer or inducer, LXR agonist, FXR agonist, phospholipid transfer protein (PLTP) inhibitor, aldosterone synthase inhibitor (ASI), fibric acid derivative, fish oil, DGAT1 inhibitor and endothelial lipase inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

37. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein the triglyceride level is a fasting triglyceride level >150mg/dL.

38. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein the triglyceride level is a fasting triglyceride level >200mg/dL.

39. The method according to anyone of the preceding embodiments wherein the triglyceride level is a fasting triglyceride level >500mg/dL.

40. The method according to anyone of the preceding embodiments for raising HDL-C level by 100%.

**Claims**

1. An invention not claimed in any divisional application.