NOVEL IMIDAZOLE COMPOUNDS AS TRANSFORMING GROWTH FACTOR (TGF) INHIBITORS

Background of the Invention

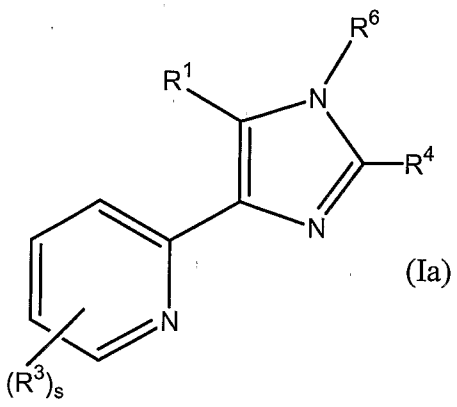
The present invention relates to novel imidazole compounds, including derivatives thereof, to intermediates for their preparation, to pharmaceutical compositions containing them and to their medicinal use. The compounds of the present invention are potent inhibitors of the transforming growth factor ("TGF")- β signaling pathway. They are useful in the treatment of TGF-β related disease states including, for example, cancer and fibrotic diseases.

TGF-β activates both antiproliferative and tumor-promoting signaling cascades. Three mammalian TGF-β isoforms have been identified (TGF-βI, -βII, and -βIII). TGF-β production promotes tumor progression while its blockade enhances antitumor activity. Blockade of TGF-β enhances antitumor immune responses and inhibits metastasis. Thus there exists a need in the art for compounds that inhibit the TGF-β signaling pathway. The present invention, as described below, answers such a need.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a novel compound containing a core imidazole ring substituted with at least one substituted or unsubstituted 2-pyridyl moiety and at least one R^1 moiety as set forth herein, and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts, prodrugs, tautomers, hydrates, and solvates thereof. In a compound of the invention, the substituted or unsubstituted 2-pyridyl moiety and R^1 moiety can be in an 1,2-, 1,3- or 1,4- relationship around the core imidazole ring; preferably, in an 1,2- or *ortho* relationship.

The present invention provides a compound of the formula (Ia):



(Ia)

and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts, prodrugs, tautomers, hydrates, and solvates thereof, where R^1, R^3, R^4, R^6, and s are each as set forth below, with the proviso that when R^4 is a substituted phenyl group, then (a) R^1 is not a naphthyl, anthracenyl or phenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety is substituted; and

with the proviso that when R^4 is hydrogen, then (a) R^1 is not a naphthyl or phenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety is substituted; and

with the proviso that when R^4 is not hydrogen or substituted phenyl, then (a) R^1 is not a naphthyl, anthracenyl or phenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl or pyridyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, and is optionally substituted by oxo (=O), then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety contains at least one substituted heteroatom.

In formula (Ia), as set forth above:

R^1 is a saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic C_3-C_{20} mono-, bi- or polycyclic ring optionally containing at least one heteroatom selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, wherein R^1 can optionally be further independently substituted with

at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of: carbonyl, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, hydroxy, oxo, mercapto, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_5-C_{10})aryl or (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxy or (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryloxy, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkyl or (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, HO-(C=O)-, ester, amido, ether, amino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, cyano, nitro, carbamoyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylcarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})arylcarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyl, and (C_5-C_{10})arylsulfonyl;

preferably, R^1 can optionally be further independently substituted with zero to two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of, but not limited to, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, amino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, $Ph(CH_2)_{1-6}HN$-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[(((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-,

$[(C_1\text{-}C_6)alkyl]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)alkyl)$-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-; preferably, R^3 is hydrogen or $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl; more preferably, R^3 is hydrogen or methyl;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^3 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, halo, H_2N-, $Ph(CH_2)_{1\text{-}6}HN$-, and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylHN-;

s is an integer from one to five; preferably, one to two; more preferably, one;

R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-S-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, aminoalkyl, $Ph(CH_2)_{1\text{-}6}HN$-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylHN-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)alkyl]_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$((C_1\text{-}C_6)alkyl)$-N-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)alkyl)$-N]-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)alkyl)_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)alkyl)$-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl; preferably, R^4 is hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl,

$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-S-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, amino(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, or $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl; more preferably, R^4 is hydrogen, methyl, t-butyl, trifluoromethyl, phenol, isopropyl, thiazole, cyclopropyl, or $H_2NC(=O)$- or methanol;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^4 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, halo, H_2N-, NC-, HO-, Ph $(CH_2)_{1\text{-}6}HN$-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylHN-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl and $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl; preferably, halo, HO-, NC-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, phenyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(SO_2)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(SO_2)-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl-(SO_2)-, H_2N-(SO_2)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(SO_2)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(SO_2)-NH-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(SO_2)-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2N$-$(SO_2)$-, phenyl-NH-$(SO_2)$-, $(\text{phenyl})_2N$-(SO_2)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-$(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-$(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-NH-$(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2N$-(C=O)-, $(\text{phenyl})_2N$-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-,

$(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-[$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, and
$(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-[$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-; preferably, R^6 is H, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(SO_2)-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(SO_2)-NH-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(SO_2)-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-$(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-$(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, or $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-NH-$(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^6 is optionally substituted with at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, formyl, NC-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, (C_3C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-(C=O)-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$)_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, phenoxy, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-O-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-O-, O_2N-, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$)_2$-amino, formamidyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-[$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-N]-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2NH-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-SO_2NH-, phenyl-SO_2NH-,

$(C_5$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-SO_2NH- and $(C_5$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-SO_2NH-; preferably, R^6 is substituted with zero to two groups independently selected from the group consisting of $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl and $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl;

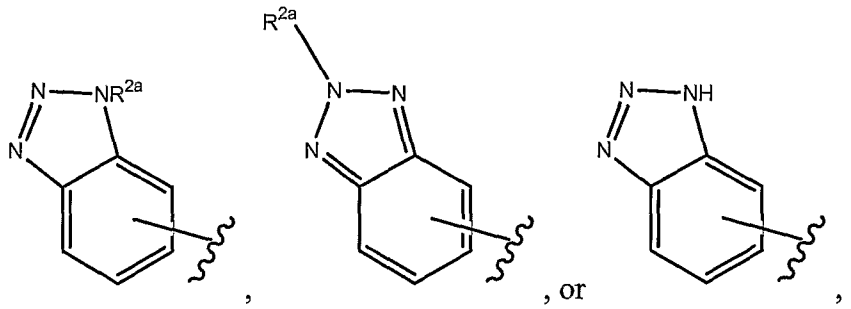
wherein the phenyl or heteroaryl moiety of a R^6 substituent is optionally further substituted with at least one radical independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perfluoro$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl and perfluoro$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy,

with the proviso that when R^4 is a substituted phenyl group, then (a) R^1 is not a naphthyl, anthracenyl or phenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety is substituted; and

with the proviso that when R^4 is hydrogen, then (a) R^1 is not a naphthyl or phenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety is substituted; and

with the proviso that when R^4 is not hydrogen or substituted phenyl, then (a) R^1 is not a naphthyl, anthracenyl or phenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl or pyridyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, and is optionally substituted by oxo, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety contains at least one substituted heteroatom.

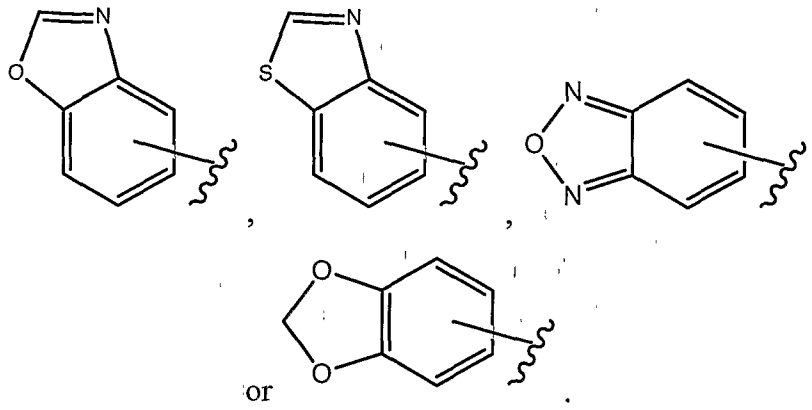
In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is



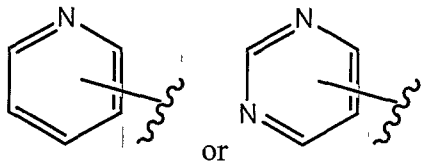
, , or ,

where R^{2a} is as set forth herein.

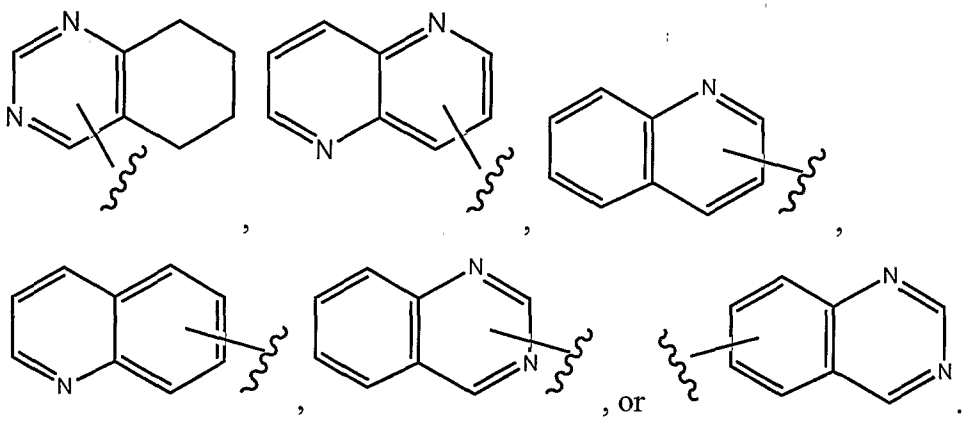
In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is



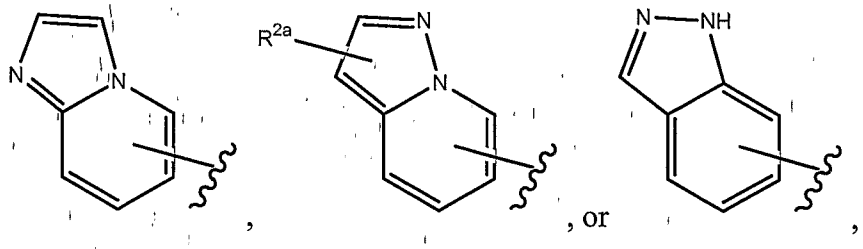
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In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is

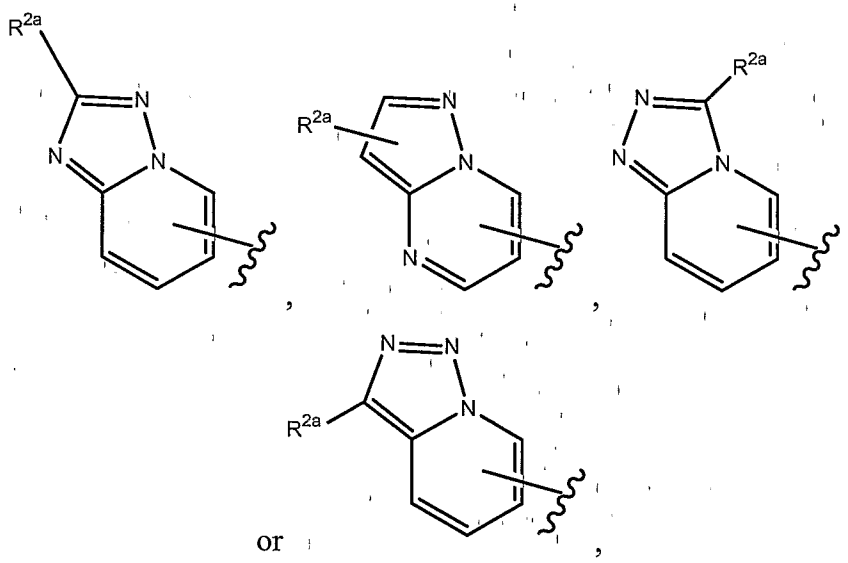


In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is



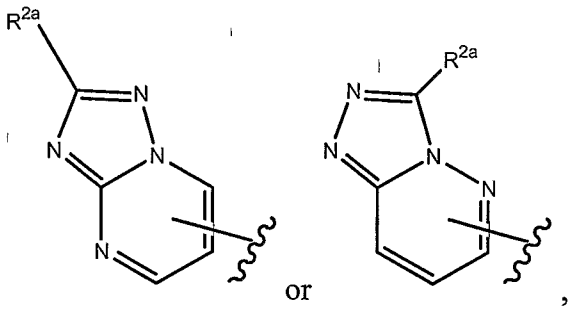
where R^{2a} is as set forth herein.

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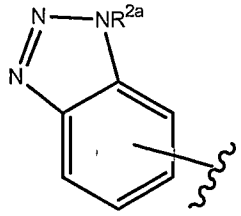
In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is



where R^{2a} is as set forth herein.

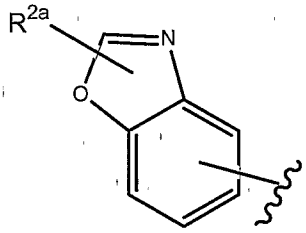
Each of R^1 above can optionally be further substituted by at least one R^{2a} group, as set forth herein.

In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is

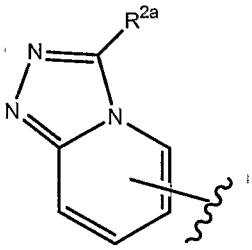


where R^{2a} is as set forth herein.

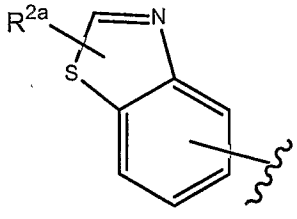
In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is



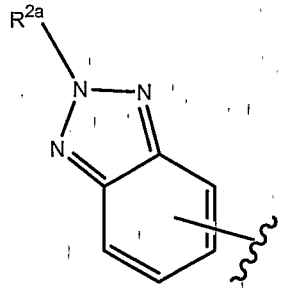
In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is



In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is

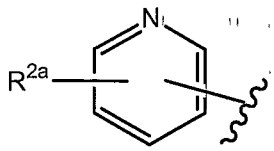


In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is

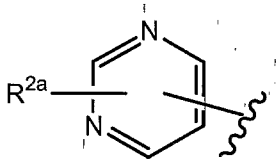


where R^{2a} is as set forth herein.

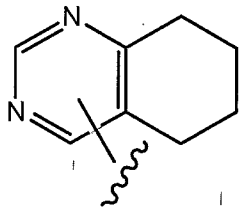
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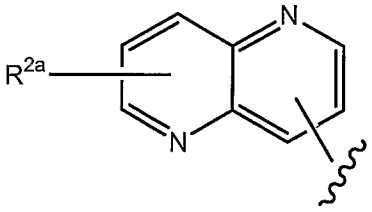
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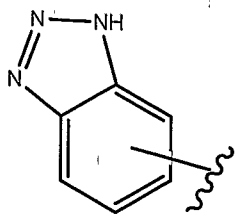
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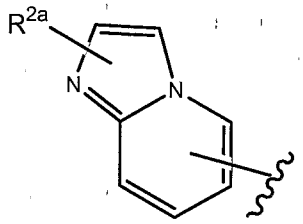
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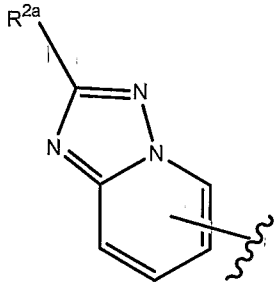
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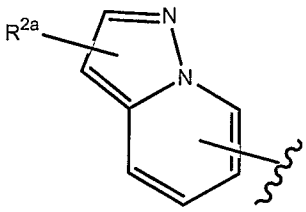


In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is



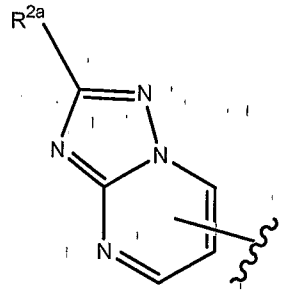
where R^{2a} is as set forth herein.

In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is



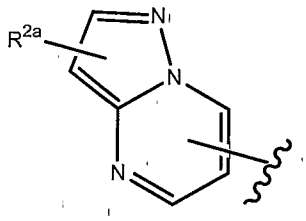
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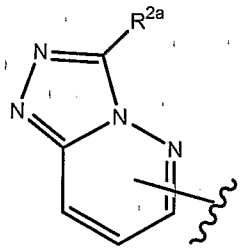
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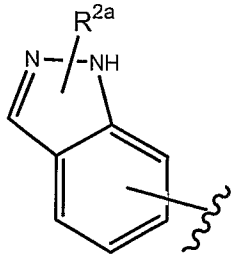
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In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is

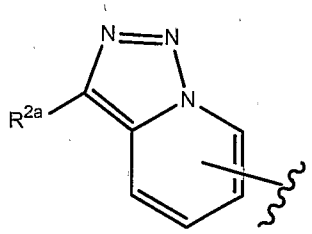


where R^{2a} is as set forth herein.

In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is

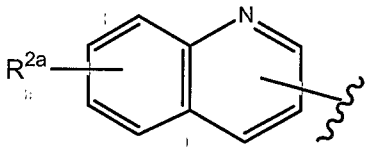


In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is

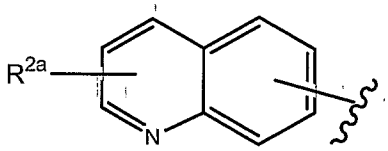


where R^{2a} is as set forth herein.

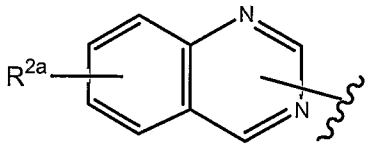
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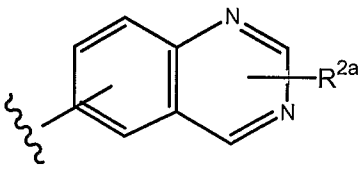
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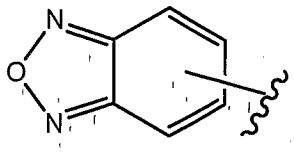
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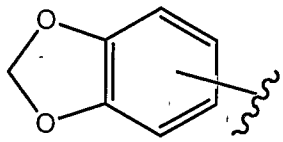
In another embodiment of the invention R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is



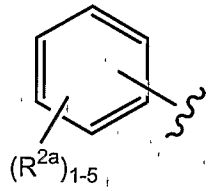
In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is



In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is

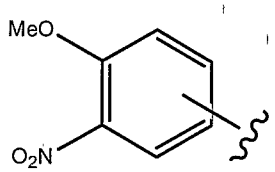
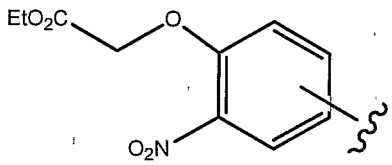
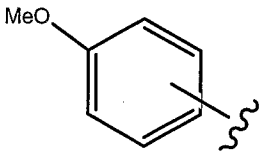
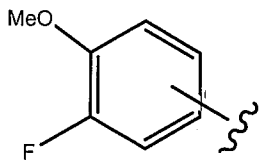
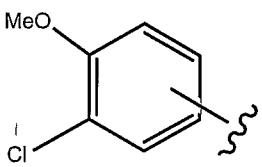


In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is

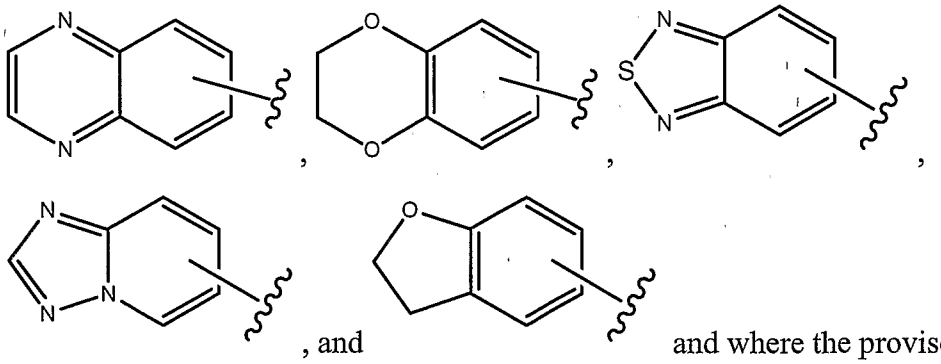


where R^{2a} is as set forth herein and where the proviso language does not apply.

In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula (Ia), as set forth above, is selected from the group consisting of:

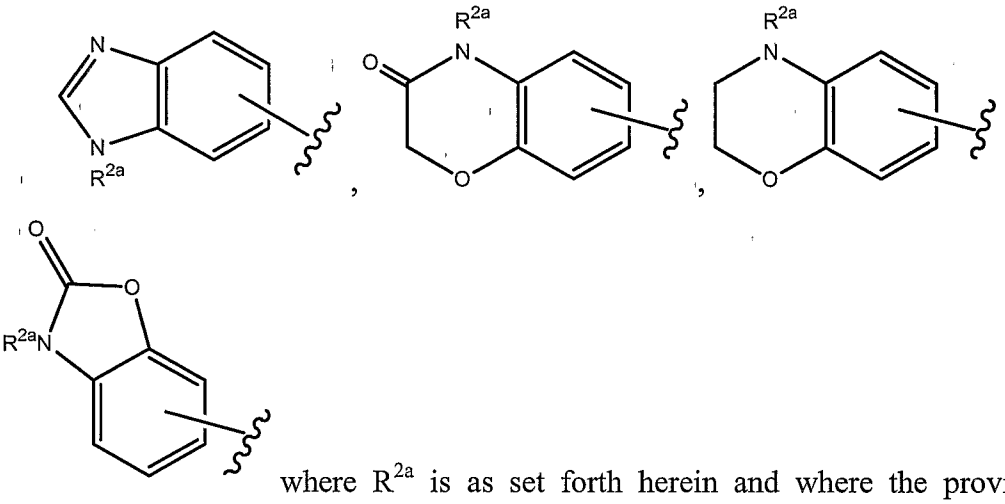

,

,

,

, and

and where the proviso language does not apply.

In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula of (Ia), as set forth above, is selected from the group consisting of:



, and and where the proviso language does not apply.

In another embodiment of the invention, R^1 of formula of (Ia), as set forth above, is selected from the group consisting of:



and where R^{2a} is as set forth herein and where the proviso language does not apply.

The invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of the invention and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

The invention further provides a method of preparation of a compound of the invention.

The invention still further provides a method of preventing or treating a TGF-related disease state in an animal or human comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of the invention to the animal or human suffering from the TGF-related disease state.

The invention still further provided the use of a compound in the preparation of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of a TGF-related disease state in an animal or human.

DEFINITIONS

As used herein, the article "a" or "an" refers to both the singular and plural form of the object to which it refers.

As used herein, the term "alkyl," as well as the alkyl moieties of other groups referred to herein (*e.g.*, alkoxy) refers to a linear or branched saturated hydrocarbon (*e.g.*, methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *iso*propyl, *n*-butyl, *iso*-butyl, *secondary*-butyl, *tertiary*-butyl).

As used herein, the term "cycloalkyl" refers to a mono or bicyclic carbocyclic ring (*e.g.*, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, cyclooctyl, cyclononyl, cyclopentenyl, cyclohexenyl, bicyclo[2.2.1]heptanyl, bicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl and bicyclo[5.2.0]nonanyl).

As used herein, the term "halogen" or "halo" refers to includes fluoro, chloro, bromo or iodo or fluoride, chloride, bromide or iodide.

As used herein, the term "halo-substituted alkyl" or "haloalkyl" refers to an alkyl radical, as set forth above, substituted with one or more halogens, as set forth above, including, but not limited to, chloromethyl, dichloromethyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, and 2,2,2-trichloroethyl.

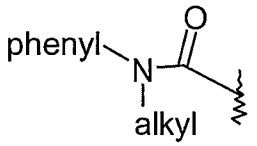
As used herein, the term "perhaloalkyl" refers to an alkyl radical, as set forth above, where each hyrdrogen of the alkyl group is replaced with a "halogen" or "halo", as set forth above.

As used herein, the term "alkenyl" refers to a linear or branched hydrocarbon chain radical containing at least two carbon atoms and at least one double bond. Examples include, but are not limited to, ethenyl, 1-propenyl, 2-propenyl (allyl), *iso*-propenyl, 2-methyl-1-propenyl, 1-butenyl, and 2-butenyl.

As used herein, the term "alkynyl" refers to a linear or branched hydrocarbon chain radical having at least one triple bond including, but not limited to, ethynyl, propynyl, and butynyl.

As used herein, the term "carbonyl" refers to a >C=O moiety. Alkoxycarbonylamino (*i.e.* alkoxy(C=O)-NH-) refers to an alkyl carbamate group. The carbonyl group is also equivalently defined herein as (C=O).

As used herein, the term "phenyl-[(alkyl)-N]-(C=O)- " refers to a N.N'-disubstituted amide group of the formula



As used herein, the term "aryl" refers to an aromatic radical such as, for example, phenyl, naphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, and indanyl.

As used herein, the term "heteroaryl" refers to an aromatic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from O, S and N. For example, heteroaryl groups include, but are not limited to, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl (*e.g.*, 1,3-oxazolyl, 1,2-oxazolyl), thiazolyl (*e.g.*, 1,2-thiazolyl, 1,3-thiazolyl), pyrazolyl, tetrazolyl, triazolyl (*e.g.*, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl), oxadiazolyl (*e.g.*, 1,2,3-oxadiazolyl), thiadiazolyl (*e.g.*, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl), quinolyl, isoquinolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuryl, and indolyl.

As used herein, the term "heterocyclic" refers to a saturated or unsaturated C_3-C_{20} mono-, bi- or polycyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from N, O, and S. Examples of heterocyclic groups include, but are not limited to, azetidinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, oxazolidinyl, thiazolidinyl, pyrazolidinyl, thiomorpholinyl, tetrahydrothiazinyl, tetrahydro-thiadiazinyl, morpholinyl, oxetanyl, tetrahydrodiazinyl, oxazinyl, oxcithiazinyl, indolinyl, isoindolinyl, quincuclidinyl, chromanyl, isochromanyl, benzocazinyl, and the like. Examples of monocyclic saturated or unsaturated ring systems are tetrahydrofuran-2-yl, tetrahydrofuran-3-yl, imidazolidin-1-yl, imidazolidin-2-yl, imidazolidin-4-yl, pyrrolidin-1-yl, pyrrolidin-2-yl, pyrrolidin-3-yl, piperidin-1-yl, piperidin-2-yl, piperidin-3-yl, piperazin-1-yl, piperazin-2-yl, piperazin-3-yl, 1,3-oxazolidin-3-yl, isothiazolidine, 1,3-thiazolidin-3-yl, 1,2-pyrazolidin-2-yl, 1,3-pyrazolidin-1-yl, thiomorpholin-yl, 1,2-tetrahydrothiazin-2-yl, 1,3-tetrahydrothiazin-3-yl, tetrahydrothiadiazin-yl, morpholin-yl, 1,2-tetrahydrodiazin-2-yl, 1,3-tetrahydrodiazin-1-yl, 1,4-oxazin-2-yl, and 1,2,5-oxathiazin-4-yl.

As used herein, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt" refers to non-toxic acid addition salts, *i.e.*, salts derived from pharmacologically acceptable anions, such as the hydrochloride, hydrobromide, hydroiodide, nitrate, sulfate, bisulfate, phosphate, acid phosphate, acetate, lactate, citrate, acid citrate, tartrate, bitartrate, succinate, maleate, fumarate, gluconate, saccharate, benzoate, methanesulfonate, ethanesulfonate, benzenesulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate and pamoate [*i.e.*, 1,1'-methylene-bis-(2-hydroxy-3-naphthoate)]salts.

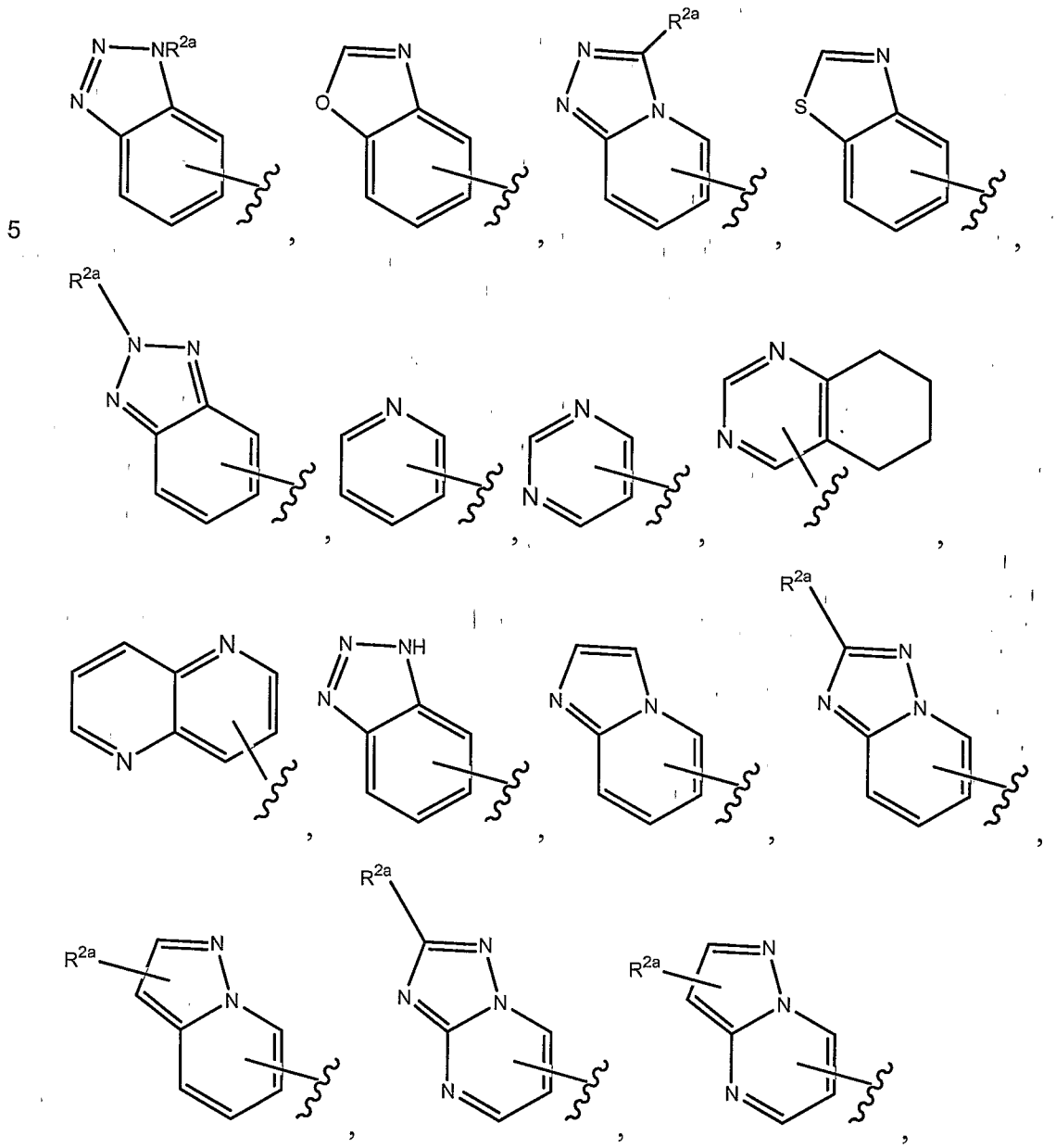
As used herein, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salt" refers to non-toxic base addition salts, *i.e.*, salts derived from such pharmacologically acceptable cations such as alkali metal cations (*e.g.*, potassium and sodium) and alkaline earth metal cations (*e.g.*, calcium and magnesium), ammonium or water-soluble amine addition salts such as N-methylglucamine-(meglumine), and the lower alkanolammonium and other base salts of pharmaceutically acceptable organic amines.

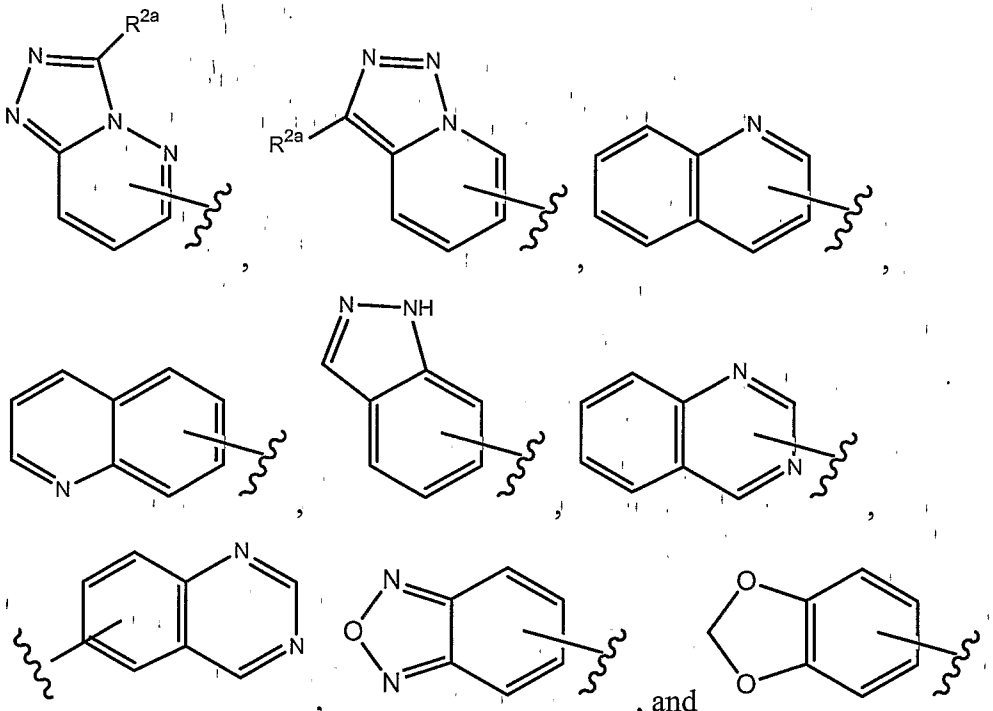
As used herein, the term "suitable substituent", "substituent", or "substituted" refers to a chemically and pharmaceutically acceptable functional group, *i.e.*, a moiety that does not negate the inhibitory and/or therapeutic activity of the inventive compounds. Such suitable substituents may be routinely selected by those skilled in the art. Illustrative examples of suitable substituents include, but are not limited to, carbonyl, halo, haloalkyl, perfluoroalkyl, perfluoroalkoxy, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxy, oxo, mercapto, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryl or heteroaryl, aryloxy or heteroaryloxy, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl, aralkoxy or heteroaralkoxy, HO-(C=O)-, ester, amido, ether, amino, alkyl- and dialkylamino, cyano, nitro, carbamoyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, dialkylaminocarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl and the like. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that many substituents can be substituted by additional substituents.

As used herein, the term "TGF-related disease state" refers to any disease state mediated by the production of TGF-ß.

As used herein, the term "Ph" refers to phenyl.

As used herein, the term "a saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic C_3-C_{20} mono-, bi- or polycyclic ring optionally containing at least one heteroatom" refers to, but is not limited to,





, and

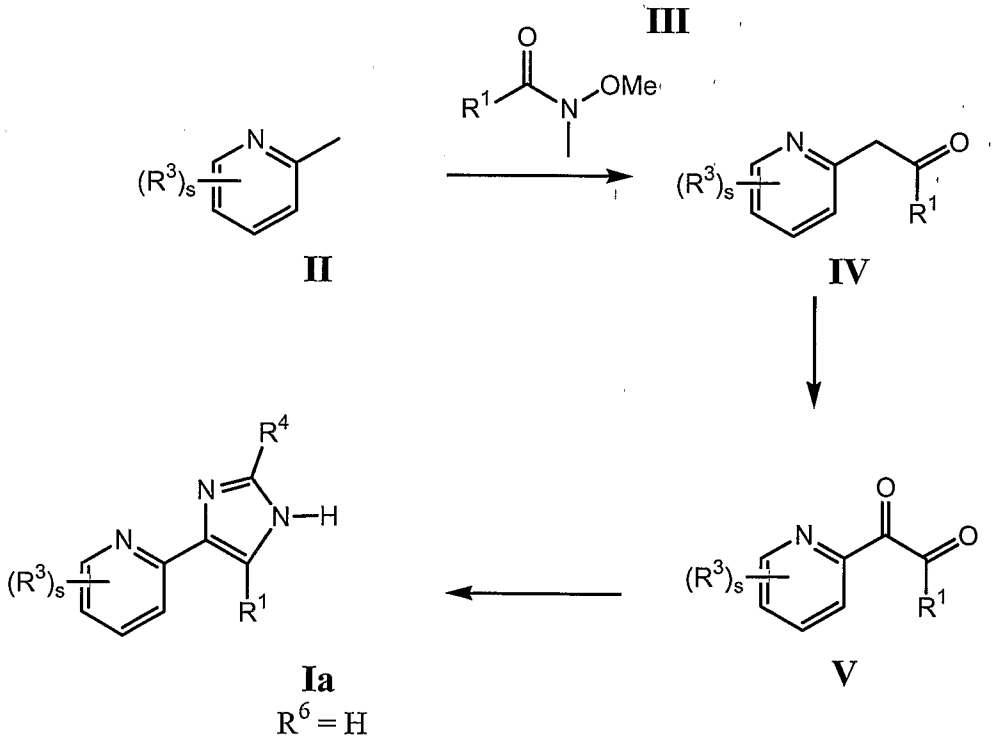
where R^{2a} is independently selected from the group consisting of: $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$aryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylaryl, amino, carbonyl, carboxyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$acid, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ester, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, nitro, halo, hydroxyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ester, and those groups described in U.S. Application Nos. 10/094,717, 10/094,760, and 10/115,952, each of which is herein incorporated in its entirety by reference; and where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, amino, acid, ester, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, and alkoxy of R^{2a} is optionally substituted by at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, formyl, NC-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, O_2N-, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-HN-(C=O)-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$N-(C=O)-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-N]-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-,

(phenyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-[(C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (phenyl-)$_2$N-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-[(alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2NH-, phenyl-SO_2NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, phenyl-SO_2-, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)ester-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, H_2N-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, and (phenyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following reaction schemes illustrate the preparation of the compounds of the present invention. A compound of the invention may be prepared by methods analogous to those described in U.S. Application Nos. 10/094,717, 10/094,760, and 10/115,952 and WO 02/40476. Unless otherwise indicated, R^1, R^3, R^4, R^6, and s in the reaction schemes and the discussion that follow are defined above.

SCHEME 1



Scheme 1 refers to the preparation of compounds of the formula (Ia) where R^6 = H. Referring to Scheme 1, a compound of the formula IV was prepared from a compound of the formula II by treating with a base, such as butyl lithium, at a temperature of about -60°C for a time period of about 90 minutes, followed by the slow addition of an amide of the formula III, which is either commercially available or prepared according to Preparation B, as set forth below, in a polar aprotic solvent, such as tetrahydrofuran. The aforesaid reaction was run at a temperature from about -78°C to about 0°C, preferably about -20°C, for a period from about 1 hour to about 10 hours, preferably about 3 hours.

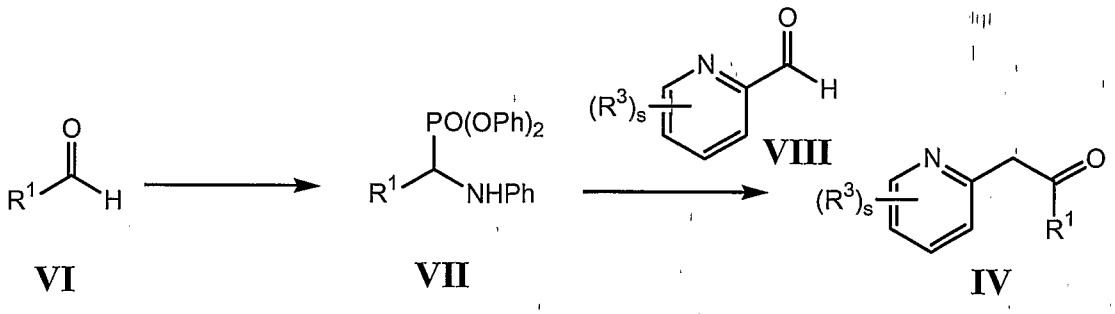
Alternatively the compound of formula IV is prepared according to the methods of Davies, I. W.; Marcoux, J.-F.; Corley, E. G.; Journet, M.; Cai, D.-W.; Palucki, M.; Wu, J.; Larsen, R. D.; Rossen, K.; Pye, P. J.; DiMichele, L.; Dormer, P.; Reider, P. J.; J. Org. Chem., Vol. 65, pp. 8415-8420 (2000).

The compound of formula V is prepared from a compound of the formula IV by reaction with an oxidizing reagent in a polar protic solvent. Suitable oxidizing reagents include hydrogen bromide, cuprous acetate, pyridiniumchlorochromate (PCC) and tetrapropylammonium peruthenate/N-methyl morpholine-N-oxide (TPAP/NMO), preferably cuprous acetate. Suitable solvents include acetic acid and dimethyl sulfoxide. The aforesaid reaction can be run neat or in the presence of a solvent such as alcohols (e.g., methanol, ethanol or butanol) and acetic acid. The aforesaid reaction can be run at a temperature from about 20°C to about 80°C for a period from about 15 minutes to about 4 hours. Preferably, the reaction is run under neat conditions at about 60°C for about 3 hours.

A compound of the formula (Ia) can be prepared from a compound of formula V by reaction with R^4-(C=O)H in the presence of an ammonia source. Suitable ammonia sources include ammonium trifluoroacetate, ammonia, and ammonium acetate, preferably ammonium acetate. The aforesaid reaction can be run neat or in the presence of a solvent such as alcohols (e.g., methanol, ethanol or butanol) and acetic acid. The aforesaid reaction can be run at a temperature from about 20°C to about 80°C for a period from about 15 minutes to about 4 hours, preferably neat conditions at about 60°C for about 2 hours.

Alternatively, compound of the formula (Ia) can be prepared according to the procedures set forth in WO 02/72576.

SCHEME 2



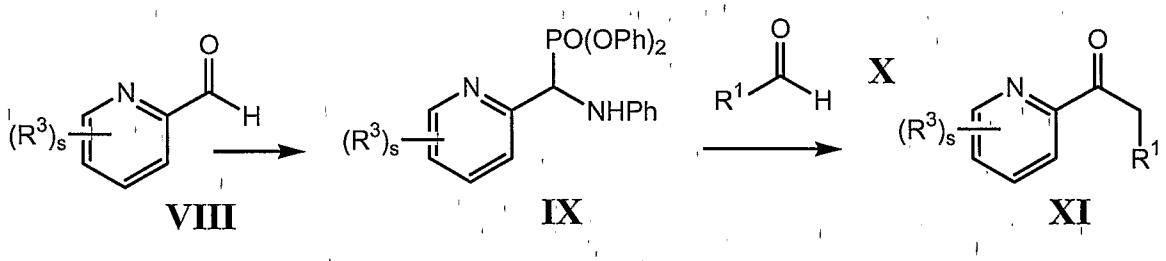
Scheme 2 refers to the preparation of compounds of the formula IV, which are intermediates useful in the preparation of compounds of the formula (Ia). Referring to Scheme 2, compounds of the formula VII were prepared from aldehydes of the formula VI by first treatment with an aromatic amine, such as aniline, in a polar solvent. Suitable solvents include ethyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, or tetrahydrofuran, preferably isopropyl acetate. The resulting reaction mixture is heated to a temperature from about 50°C to about 100°C, preferably about 60°C, and then slowly treated with phosphorous acid diphenyl ester. The temperature of the reaction mixture was maintained for a period from about 30 minutes to about 3 hours, preferably about 1 hour, and then cooled to ambient temperature overnight.

A compound of the formula IV was prepared from a compound of the formula VII by reaction with a pyridine aldehyde of the formula VIII in the presence of a base, such as potassium tert-butoxide, in a polar solvent. Suitable solvents for the aforesaid reaction include ethyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, or tetrahydrofuran, preferably a mixture of tetrahydrofuran and isopropyl acetate. The aforesaid reaction was run at a temperature from about 0°C to about 100°C, preferably about 22°C (ambient temperature), for a period from about 30 minutes to about 5 hours, preferably about 2 hours. The resulting reaction mixture was then treated with acid, such as hydrochloric acid for a period from about 30 minutes to about 5 hours, preferably about 1 hour.

The compound of formula VI can be prepared according to Preparation A, set forth below. The compound of formula VI can also be prepared according to the methods of Davies, I. W.; Marcoux, J.-F.; Corley, E. G.; Journet, M.; Cai, D.-W.; Palucki, M.; Wu, J.; Larsen, R. D.; Rossen, K.; Pye, P. J.; DiMichele, L.; Dormer, P.; Reider, P. J.; J. Org. Chem., Vol. 65, pp. 8415-8420 (2000).

A compound of the formula VIII was prepared according to Preparation D set forth below.

SCHEME 3



VIII IX XI

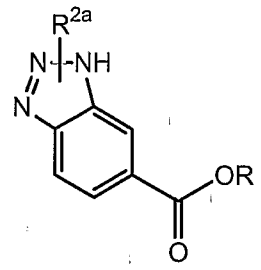
Scheme 3 refers to the preparation of compounds of the formula XI, which are intermediates useful in the preparation of compounds of the formula (Ia). Referring to Scheme 3, compounds of the formula IX were prepared from pyridine aldehydes of the formula VIII in a manner analogous to the procedure described in Scheme 2 for the preparation of a compound of the formula VII from a compound of the formula VI. A compound of formula VIII can be prepared according to Preparation D set forth below.

A compound of the formula XI was prepared by reaction of a compound of the formula IX with a compound of the formula X under conditions analogous to those described in Scheme 2 for the preparation of a compound of the formula IV from a compound of the formula VII.

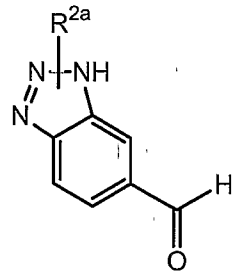
Alternatively the compound of formula XI can be prepared according to the methods of Davies, I. W.; Marcoux, J.-F.; Corley, E. G.; Journet, M.; Cai, D.-W.; Palucki, M.; Wu, J.; Larsen, R. D.; Rossen, K.; Pye, P. J.; DiMichele, L.; Dormer, P.; Reider, P. J.; J. Org. Chem., Vol. 65, pp. 8415-8420 (2000).

A compound of formula XI can be converted to a compound of formula (Ia) by methods analogous to those described in Scheme 1 for the conversion of compound IV to compound V to compound of formula (Ia).

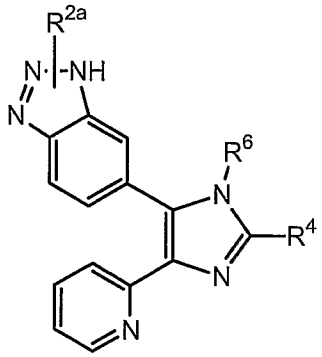
SCHEME 4



XII

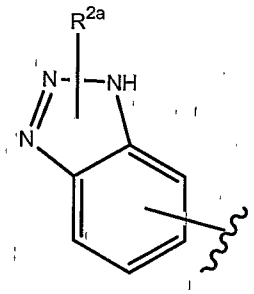


XIII



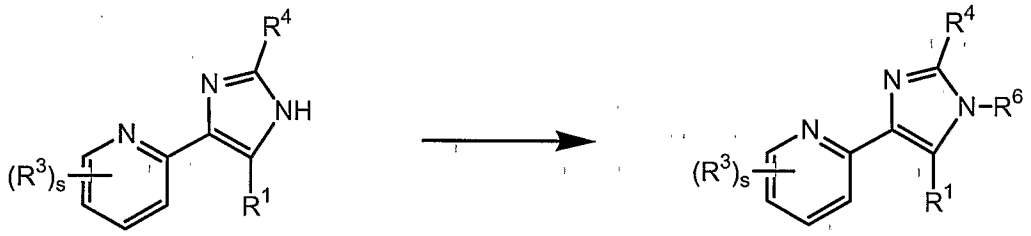
(Ia)

Scheme 4 refers to the preparation of compounds of the formula Ia where R^1 is



Referring to Scheme 4, compounds of the formula XIII were prepared from compounds of the formula XII, which are either commercially available or can be prepared according to the procedure described in Preparation A for the preparation of compound XVI or in Preparation C, each as set forth below. In Scheme 4 the compounds (Ia) were be prepared from compound XIII according to procedures described in Scheme 1.

SCHEME 5



(Ia)

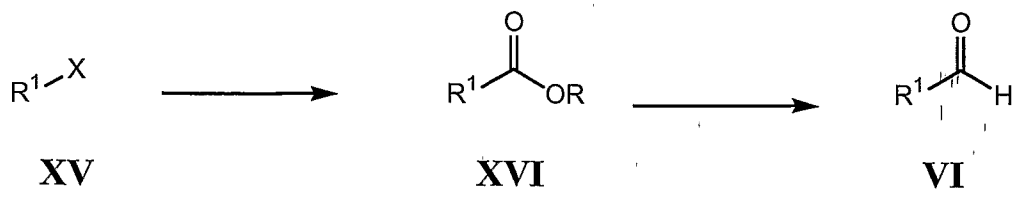
R^6=H

Ia

$R^6 \neq H$

Scheme 5 refers to the preparation of a compound of formula (Ia) where R^6 is other than H. Referring to Scheme 5, such a compound wasprepared by reaction of a compound of formula (Ia) where R^6 is H with an alkylating reagent of the formula R^6L', wherein L' is halo or other leaving group such as mesyl, in the presence of a base and a solvent. Suitable bases include sodium hydride and cesium carbonate. Suitable solvents include dimethyl sulfoxide, NN-dimethylformamide. The aforesaid reaction is conducted at a temperature from about 0°C to about 30°C, preferably about 22°C, for a period from about 10 minutes to about 2 hours, preferably about 1 hour. A compound of formula (Ia) where R^6 is H was prepared according to Scheme 1, set forth above.

PREPARATION A



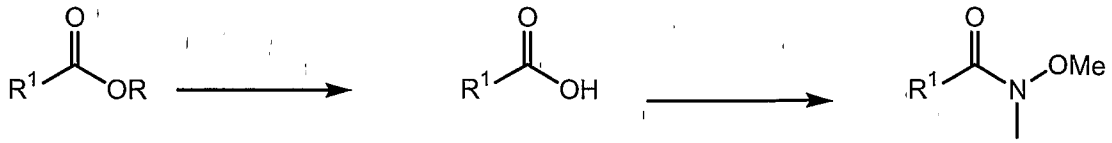
XV XVI VI

Preparation A refers to the preparation of compounds of the formula VI, which are intermediates useful in the preparation of compounds of the formula VIII and XI in Scheme 2 and Scheme 3, respectively. In Preparation A, R is a simple alkyl group such as methyl or ethyl. Referring to Preparation A, compounds of the formula XVI were prepared from a compound of the formula XV, wherein X is a chloride or bromide, by an alkoxycarbonylation reaction. Suitable conditions include metal-halogen exchange with butyl lithium in a solvent such as tetrahydrofuran at a temperature of about 0°C, for a period of time of about 30 minutes, followed by the addition of ethylchloroformate at a temperature of about 0°C, followed by a period of time of about 2.4 hours at about 50°C.

The compound of the formula VI was prepared from a compound of the formula XVI by a two-step process. First the compound of formula XVI was treated with a reducing agent in a suitable solvent. Suitable reducing agents include lithium borohydride, sodium borohydride, lithium aluminum hydride, and borane in tetrahydrofuran. Suitable solvents include methanol, ethanol, tetrahydrofuran, diethyl ether, and dioxane. The aforesaid reaction was run at a temperature from about 0°C to about 100°C, preferably about 65°C, for a period from about 10 minutes to about 1 hour, preferably about 30 minutes. The resulting primary alcohol was then oxidized to the corresponding aldehyde of the formula VI by treatment with an oxidizing agent, such as N-methyl morpholine N-oxide/TPAP, Dess-Martin reagent, PCC or oxalyl chloride-DMSO, preferably oxalyl chloride-DMSO in a suitable solvent. Suitable solvents for the aforesaid reaction include chloroform, tetrahydrofuran, or dichloromethane. The aforesaid reaction was conducted at a temperature from about

-78°C to about 22°C for a time from about 15 minutes to about 3 hours, preferably about 1 hour.

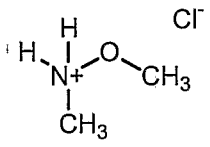
PREPARATION B



XVII **XVIII** **III**

Preparation B refers to the preparation of compounds of the formula III, which are intermediates useful in the preparation of compounds of the formula (Ia). In Preparation B, R is a simple alkyl group such as methyl or ethyl. Referring to Preparation B, compounds of the formula XVIII were prepared from a compound of the formula XVII, which may be prepared according to a procedure described in Preparation A or are commercially available, by treatment with a base such as lithium hydroxide, in a polar protic solvent. Suitable solvents for the aforesaid reaction included methanol, ethanol, and water. The aforesaid reaction was conducted at a temperature from about 0°C to about 30°C, preferably about 22°C (room temperature) for a time from about 15 minutes to about 3 hours, preferably about 1 hour.

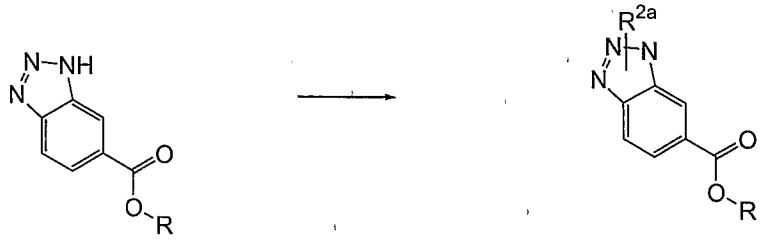
The compound of the formula III was prepared from a compound of the formula XVIII by reaction with a suitable activating agent and a compound of the formula



and a base. Suitable activating agents included thionyl chloride, carbonyldiimidazole, EDCI and DCC, preferably oxalyl chloride. Suitable bases included triethylamine, Hunig's base, or DBU, preferably triethylamine. Suitable solvents for the aforesaid reaction include methylene chloride, N,N'-dimethylformamide, tetrahydrofuran, and a mixture thereof, preferably methylene chloride. The aforesaid reaction was conducted at a temperature from about 0°C to

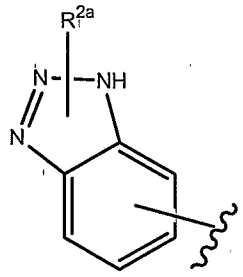
about 30°C, preferably about 22°C (room temperature) for a time from about 6 hours to about 48 hours, preferably about 12 hours.

PREPARATION C



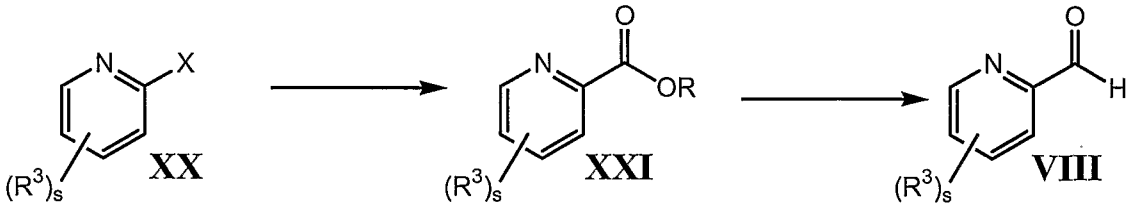
XIX XII

Preparation C refers to the preparation of compounds of the formula XII, which is an intermediate useful in the preparation of compounds of formula (Ia), as set forth above, where R^1 is



In Preparation C, R is (C_1-C_6)alkyl. The compound of formula XII was prepared from a compound of formula XIX by treatment with an alkyl halide, such as methyl iodide, in the presence of a base such as sodium hydride, in a polar aprotic solvent such as N,N'-dimethylformamide. Compounds of the formula XIX are commercially available.

PREPARATION D



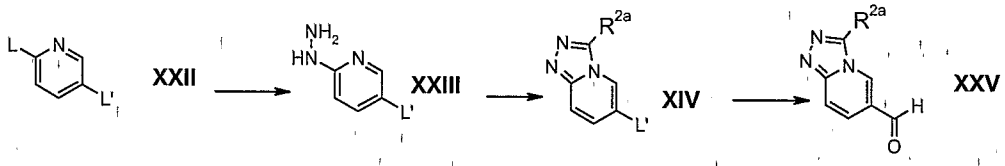
XX XXI VIII

Preparation D refers to the preparation of compounds of the formula VIII, which are intermediates useful in the preparation of compounds of formula (Ia), as

set forth above. In Preparation D, R is a simple alkyl group such as methyl or ethyl. Referring to Preparation D, compounds of the formula XXI were prepared from heteroarylhalides of the formula XX, wherein X is a chloride or bromide, under conditions analogous for the preparation of compound XVI from compound XV described in Preparation A set forth above.

The compound of the formula VIII was prepared from a compound of the formula XXI under conditions analogous to the two-step process described for the preparation of compound VI from compound XVI in Preparation A set forth above.

PREPARATION E



Preparation E refers to the preparation of compounds of the formula XXV which are intermediates in the preparation of compounds of the formula (Ia). Referring to preparation E, compounds of formula XXV were prepared from compounds of formula XIV by a formylation reaction. Suitable conditions for formylation include metal halogen exchange with isopropylmagnesium chloride in a solvent such as tetrahydrofuran at a temperature of about 0°C, for a period of time of about 30 minutes, followed by the addition of N,N-dimethylformamide at a temperature of about 0°C, followed by a period of time of about 2.5 hours at a temperature of about 50°C.

Compounds of formula XXIII were prepared as described in the literature (Moran, D. B.; Morton, G. O.; Albright, J. D., J. Heterocycl. Chem., Vol. 23, pp. 1071-1077 (1986)) or from compounds of formula XXII wherein L and L', which can be the same or different, are chloride, bromide or iodide, by reaction with hydrazine. A compound of formula XIV was prepared from a compound of formula XXIII by condensation of compound XIV with a cyclization reagent such as acid chloride, acid anhydride, trialkylorthoacetate or trialkylorthoformate. Compounds of formula XXII are commercially available.

All pharmaceutically acceptable salts, prodrugs, tautomers, hydrates and solvates of a compound of the invention is also encompassed by the invention.

A compound of the invention which is basic in nature is capable of forming a wide variety of different salts with various inorganic and organic acids. Although such salts must be pharmaceutically acceptable for administration to animals and humans, it is often desirable in practice to initially isolate a compound of the invention from the reaction mixture as a pharmaceutically unacceptable salt and then simply convert the latter back to the free base compound by treatment with an alkaline reagent, and subsequently convert the free base to a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt. The acid addition salts of the base compounds of this invention are readily prepared by treating the base compound with a substantially equivalent amount of the chosen mineral or organic acid in an aqueous solvent medium or in a suitable organic solvent such as, for example, methanol or ethanol. Upon careful evaporation of the solvent, the desired solid salt is obtained.

The acids which can be used to prepare the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts of the base compounds of this invention are those which form non-toxic acid addition salts, *i.e.*, salts containing pharmacologically acceptable anions, such as chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrate, sulfate or bisulfate, phosphate or acid phosphate, acetate, lactate, citrate or acid citrate, tartrate or bitartrate, succinate, maleate, fumarate, gluconate, saccharate, benzoate, methanesulfonate and pamoate [*i.e.*, 1,1'-methylene-bis-(2-hydroxy-3-naphthoate)] salts.

A compound of the invention which is also acidic in nature, *e.g.*, contains a COOH or tetrazole moiety, is capable of forming base salts with various pharmacologically acceptable cations. Although such salts must be pharmaceutically acceptable for administration to animals and humans, it is often desirable in practice to initially isolate a compound of the invention from the reaction mixture as a pharmaceutically unacceptable salt and then simply convert the latter back to the free acid compound by treatment with an acidic reagent, and subsequently convert the free acid to a pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salt. Examples of such pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salts include the alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal salts and particularly, the sodium and potassium

salts. These salts can be prepared by conventional techniques. The chemical bases which can be used as reagents to prepare the pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salts of this invention are those which form non-toxic base salts with the herein described acidic compounds of the invention. These non-toxic base salts include salts derived from such pharmacologically acceptable cations as sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium, etc. These salts can easily be prepared by treating the corresponding acidic compounds with an aqueous solution containing the desired pharmacologically acceptable cations, and then evaporating the resulting solution to dryness, preferably under reduced pressure. Alternatively, they may also be prepared by mixing lower alkanolic solutions of the acidic compounds and the desired alkali metal alkoxide together, and then evaporating the resulting solution to dryness in the same manner as before. In either case, stoichiometric quantities of reagents are preferably employed in order to ensure completeness of reaction and maximum product yields.

Isotopically-labeled compounds are also encompassed by the present invention. As used herein, an "isotopically-labeled compound" refers to a compound of the invention including pharmaceutical salts, prodrugs thereof, each as described herein, in which one or more atoms are replaced by an atom having an atomic mass or mass number different from the atomic mass or mass number usually found in nature. Examples of isotopes that can be incorporated into compounds of the invention include isotopes of hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorous, fluorine and chlorine, such as ^{2}H, ^{3}H, ^{13}C, ^{14}C, ^{15}N, ^{18}O, ^{17}O, ^{31}P, ^{32}P, ^{35}S, ^{18}F, and ^{36}Cl, respectively.

By isotopically-labeling a compound of the present invention, the compounds may be useful in drug and/or substrate tissue distribution assays. Tritiated (^{3}H) and carbon-14 (^{14}C) labeled compounds are particularly preferred for their ease of preparation and detectability. Further, substitution with heavier isotopes such as deuterium (^{2}H) can afford certain therapeutic advantages resulting from greater metabolic stability, for example increased *in vivo* half-life or reduced dosage requirements and, hence, may be preferred in some circumstances.

Isotopically labeled compounds of the invention, including pharmaceutical salts, prodrugs thereof, can be prepared by any means known in the art.

Stereoisomers (*e.g.*, cis and trans isomers) and all optical isomers of a compound of the invention (*e.g.*, R and S enantiomers), as well as racemic, diastereomeric and other mixtures of such isomers are contemplated by the present invention.

The compounds, salts, prodrugs, hydrates, and solvates of the present invention can exist in several tautomeric forms, including the enol and imine form, and the keto and enamine form and geometric isomers and mixtures thereof. All such tautomeric forms are included within the scope of the present invention. Tautomers exist as mixtures of a tautomeric set in solution. In solid form, usually one tautomer predominates. Even though one tautomer may be described, the present invention includes all tautomers of the present compounds.

The present invention also includes atropisomers of the present invention. Atropisomers refer to compounds of the invention that can be separated into rotationally restricted isomers.

A compound of the invention, as described above, can be used in the manufacture of a medicament for the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a TGF-related disease state in an animal or human.

A compound of the invention is a potent inhibitor of transforming growth factor ("TGF")-β signaling pathway and are therefore of use in therapy. Accordingly, the present invention provides a method of preventing or treating a TGF-related disease in an animal or human comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of the invention to the animal or human suffering from the TGF-related disease state.

As used herein, the term "therapeutically effective amount" refers to an amount of a compound of the invention required to inhibit the TGF-ß signaling pathway. As would be understood by one of skill in the art, a "therapeutically effective amount" will vary from patient to patient and will be determined on a case by case basis. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to, the patient being treated, weight, health, compound administered, etc.

There are numerous disease states that can be treated by inhibition of the TGF-ß signaling pathway. Such disease states include, but are not limited to, all types of cancer (e.g., breast, lung, colon, prostate, ovarian, pancreatic, melanoma, all hematological malignancies, etc.) as well as all types of fibrotic diseases (e.g., glomerulonephritis, diabetic nephropathy, hepatic fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis, arterial hyperplasia and restenosis, scleroderma, and dermal scarring).

The present invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of the invention and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The pharmaceutically acceptable carrier may be any such carrier known in the art including those described in, for example, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Co., (A. R. Gennaro edit. 1985). A pharmaceutical composition of the invention may be prepared by conventional means known in the art including, for example, mixing at least one compound of the invention with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

A pharmaceutical composition of the invention may be used in the prevention or treatment of a TGF-related disease state, as described above, in an animal or human. Thus, a compound of the invention may be formulated as a pharmaceutical composition for oral, buccal, intranasal, parenteral (*e.g.*, intravenous, intramuscular or subcutaneous), topical, or rectal administration or in a form suitable for administration by inhalation or insufflation.

For oral administration, the pharmaceutical composition may take the form of, for example, a tablet or capsule prepared by conventional means with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient such as a binding agent (*e.g.*, pregelatinized maize starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose); filler (*e.g.*, lactose, microcrystalline cellulose or calcium phosphate); lubricant (*e.g.*, magnesium stearate, talc or silica); disintegrant (*e.g.*, potato starch or sodium starch glycolate); or wetting agent (*e.g.*, sodium lauryl sulphate). The tablets may be coated by methods well known in the art. Liquid preparations for oral administration may take the form of a, for example, solution, syrup or suspension, or they may be presented as a dry product for constitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid preparations may be prepared by conventional means with a

pharmaceutically acceptable additive such as a suspending agent (*e.g.*, sorbitol syrup, methyl cellulose or hydrogenated edible fats); emulsifying agent (*e.g.*, lecithin or acacia); non-aqueous vehicle (*e.g.*, almond oil, oily esters or ethyl alcohol); and preservative (*e.g.*, methyl or propyl p-hydroxybenzoates or sorbic acid).

For buccal administration, the composition may take the form of tablets or lozenges formulated in conventional manner.

A compound of the present invention may also be formulated for sustained delivery according to methods well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Examples of such formulations can be found in United States Patents 3,538,214, 4,060,598, 4,173,626, 3,119,742, and 3,492,397, which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

A compound of the invention may be formulated for parenteral administration by injection, including using conventional catheterization techniques or infusion. Formulations for injection may be presented in unit dosage form, *e.g.*, in ampules or in multi-dose containers, with an added preservative. The compositions may take such forms as suspensions, solutions or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, and may contain a formulating agent such as a suspending, stabilizing and/or dispersing agent. Alternatively, the active ingredient may be in powder form for reconstitution with a suitable vehicle, *e.g.*, sterile pyrogen-free water, before use.

A compound of the invention may also be formulated in rectal compositions such as suppositories or retention enemas, *e.g.*, containing conventional suppository bases such as cocoa butter or other glycerides.

For intranasal administration or administration by inhalation, a compound of the invention may be conveniently delivered in the form of a solution or suspension from a pump spray container that is squeezed or pumped by the patient or as an aerosol spray presentation from a pressurized container or a nebulizer, with the use of a suitable propellant, *e.g.*, dichlorodifluoromethane, trichlorofluoromethane, dichlorotetrafluoroethane, carbon dioxide or other suitable gas. In the case of a pressurized aerosol, the dosage unit may be determined by providing a valve to

deliver a metered amount. The pressurized container or nebulizer may contain a solution or suspension of the compound of the invention. Capsules and cartridges (made, for example, from gelatin) for use in an inhaler or insufflator may be formulated containing a powder mix of a compound of the invention and a suitable powder base such as lactose or starch.

A proposed dose of a compound of the invention for oral, parenteral or buccal administration to the average adult human for the treatment of a TGF-related disease state is about 0.1 mg to about 2000 mg, preferably, about 0.1 mg to about 200 mg of the active ingredient per unit dose which could be administered, for example, 1 to 4 times per day.

Aerosol formulations for treatment of the conditions referred to above in the average adult human are preferably arranged so that each metered dose or "puff" of aerosol contains about 20μg to about 10,000μg, preferably, about 20μg to about 1000μg of a compound of the invention. The overall daily dose with an aerosol will be within the range from about 100μg to about 100 mg, preferably, about 100μg to about 10 mg. Administration may be several times daily, for example 2, 3, 4 or 8 times, giving for example, 1, 2 or 3 doses each time.

Aerosol combination formulations for treatment of the conditions referred to above in the average adult human are preferably arranged so that each metered dose or "puff" of aerosol contains from about 0.01 mg to about 1000 mg, preferably, about 0.01 mg to about 100 mg of a compound of this invention, more preferably from about 1 mg to about 10 mg of such compound. Administration may be several times daily, for example 2, 3, 4 or 8 times, giving for example, 1, 2 or 3 doses each time.

Aerosol formulations for treatment of the conditions referred to above in the average adult human are preferably arranged so that each metered dose or "puff" of aerosol contains from about 0.01 mg to about 20,000 mg, preferably, about 0.01 mg to about 2000 mg of a compound of the invention, more preferably from about 1 mg to about 200 mg. Administration may be several times daily, for example 2, 3, 4 or 8 times, giving for example, 1, 2 or 3 doses each time.

For topical administration, a compound of the invention may be formulated as an ointment or cream.

This invention also encompasses pharmaceutical compositions containing and methods of treatment or prevention comprising administering prodrugs of at least one compound of the invention. As used herein, the term "prodrug" refers to a pharmacologically inactive derivative of a parent drug molecule that requires biotransformation, either spontaneous or enzymatic, within the organism to release the active drug. Prodrugs are variations or derivatives of the compounds of this invention which have groups cleavable under metabolic conditions. Prodrugs become the compounds of the invention which are pharmaceutically active *in vivo*, when they undergo solvolysis under physiological conditions or undergo enzymatic degradation. Prodrug compounds of this invention may be called single, double, triple etc., depending on the number of biotransformation steps required to release the active drug within the organism, and indicating the number of functionalities present in a precursor-type form. Prodrug forms often offer advantages of solubility, tissue compatibility, or delayed release in the mammalian organism (see, Bundgard, Design of Prodrugs, pp. 7-9, 21-24, Elsevier, Amsterdam 1985 and Silverman, The Organic Chemistry of Drug Design and Drug Action, pp. 352-401, Academic Press, San Diego, Calif., 1992). Prodrugs commonly known in the art include acid derivatives well known to practitioners of the art, such as, for example, esters prepared by reaction of the parent acids with a suitable alcohol, or amides prepared by reaction of the parent acid compound with an amine, or basic groups reacted to form an acylated base derivative. Moreover, the prodrug derivatives of this invention may be combined with other features herein taught to enhance bioavailability. For example, a compound of the invention having free amino, amido, hydroxy or carboxylic groups can be converted into prodrugs. Prodrugs include compounds wherein an amino acid residue, or a polypeptide chain of two or more (*e.g.*, two, three or four) amino acid residues which are covalently joined through peptide bonds to free amino, hydroxy or carboxylic acid groups of compounds of the invention. The amino acid residues include the 20 naturally occurring amino acids commonly designated by three letter symbols and also include, 4-hydroxyproline, hydroxylysine, demosine,

isodemosine, 3-methylhistidine, norvalin, beta-alanine, gamma-aminobutyric acid, citrulline homocysteine, homoserine, ornithine and methionine sulfone. Prodrugs also include compounds wherein carbonates, carbamates, amides and alkyl esters which are covalently bonded to the above substituents of a compound of the invention through the carbonyl carbon prodrug sidechain.

According to the invention, in the treatment of a TGF-related disease state, a compound of the invention, as described herein, whether alone or as part of a pharmaceutical composition may be combined with another compound(s) of the invention and/or with another therapeutic agent(s). Examples of suitable therapeutic agent(s) include, but are not limited to, standard non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (hereinafter NSAID's) (*e.g*, piroxicam, diclofenac), propionic acids (*e.g.*, naproxen, flubiprofen, fenoprofen, ketoprofen and ibuprofen), fenamates (*e.g.*, mefenamic acid, indomethacin, sulindac, apazone), pyrazolones (*e.g.*, phenylbutazone), salicylates (*e.g.*, aspirin), COX-2 inhibitors (*e.g.*, celecoxib, valdecoxib, rofecoxib and etoricoxib), analgesics and intraarticular therapies (*e.g.*, corticosteroids) and hyaluronic acids (*e.g.*, hyalgan and synvisc), anticancer agents (*e.g.*, endostatin and angiostatin), cytotoxic drugs (*e.g.*, adriamycin, daunomycin, cis-platinum, etoposide, taxol, taxotere),alkaloids (*e.g.*, vincristine), and antimetabolites (*e.g.*, methotrexate), cardiovascular agents (*e.g.*, calcium channel blockers), lipid lowering agents (*e.g.*, statins), fibrates, beta-blockers, Ace inhibitors, Angiotensin-2 receptor antagonists and platelet aggregation inhibitors, CNS agents (*e.g.*, as antidepressants (such as sertraline)), anti-Parkinsonian drugs (*e.g.*, deprenyl, L-dopa, Requip, Mirapex), MAOB inhibitors (*e.g.*, selegine and rasagiline), comP inhibitors (*e.g.*, Tasmar), A-2 inhibitors, dopamine reuptake inhibitors, NMDA antagonists, Nicotine agonists, Dopamine agonists and inhibitors of neuronal nitric oxide synthase), anti-Alzheimer's drugs (*e.g.*, donepezil, tacrine, COX-2 inhibitors, propentofylline or metryfonate), osteoporosis agents (*e.g.*, roloxifene, droloxifene, lasofoxifene or fosomax), and immunosuppressant agents (*e.g.*, FK-506 and rapamycin).

Biological Activity

The activity of the compounds of the invention for the various TGF-related disease states as described herein can be determined according to one or more of the following assays. According to the invention, a compound of the invention exhibits an *in vitro* IC_{50} value of less than about 10 μM. For example, the compound of Example 12 exhibits a TβRI IC_{50} value of about 44.5nM.

The compounds of the present invention also possess differential activity (*i.e.* are selective for) for TβRI over TβRII and TβRIII. Selectivity is measured in standard assays as a IC_{50} ratio of inhibition in each assay.

TGF-β Type II Receptor (TβRII) Kinase Assay Protocol

Phosphorylation of myelin basic protein (MBP) by the TβRII kinase was measured as follows: 80 microliters of MBP (Upstate Biotechnology #13-104) diluted in kinase reaction buffer (KRB) containing 50 mM MOPS, 5 mM $MgCl_2$, pH 7.2 to yield a final concentration of 3 micromolar MBP was added to each well of a Millipore 96-well multiscreen-DP 0.65 micron filtration plate (#MADPNOB50). 20 microliters of inhibitor diluted in KRB was added to appropriate wells to yield the desired final concentration (10 – 0.03 micromolar). 10 microliters of a mixture of ATP (Sigma #A-5394) and ^{33}P-ATP (Perkin Elmer #NEG/602H) diluted in KRB was added to yield a final concentration of 0.25 micromolar ATP and 0.02 microcuries of ^{33}P-ATP per well. 10 microliters of a GST-TβRII fusion protein (glutathione S-transferase at the N-terminal end of the cytoplasmic domain of TβRII - amino acids 193-567 with A to V change at 438) diluted in KRB was added to each well to yield a final concentration of 27 nanomolar GST-TβRII. Plates were mixed and incubated for 90 minutes at room temperature. After the reaction incubation, 100 microliters of cold 20% trichloroacetic acid (Aldrich #25,139-9) was added per well and plates were mixed and incubated for 60 minutes at 4°C. Liquid was then removed from the wells using a Millipore vacuum manifold. Plates were washed once with 200 microliters per well of cold 10% trichloroacetic acid followed by two washes with 100 microliters per well of cold 10% trichloroacetic acid. Plates were allowed to dry overnight at room temperature. 20 microliters of Wallac OptiPhase

SuperMix scintillation cocktail was added to each well. Plates were sealed and counted using a Wallac 1450 Microbeta liquid scintillation counter. The potency of inhibitors was determined by their ability to reduce TβRII-mediated phosphorylation of the MBP substrate.

ALK-5 (TβRI) Kinase Assay Protocol

The kinase assays were performed with 65 nM GST-ALK5 and 84 nM GST-Smad3 in 50 mM HEPES, 5 mM $MgCl_2$,1 mM $CaCl_2$, ,1 mM dithiothreitol, and 3 _M ATP. Reactions were incubated with 0.5 _Ci of [33 P]_ATPfor 3 h at 30°C. Phosphorylated protein was captured on P-81 paper (Whatman, Maidstone, England), washed with 0.5% phosphoric acid, and counted by liquid scintillation. Alternatively, Smad3 or Smad1 protein was also coated onto FlashPlate Sterile Basic Microplates (PerkinElmer Life Sciences, Boston, MA). Kinase assays were then performed in Flash-Plates with same assay conditions using either the kinase domain of ALK5 with Smad3 as substrate or the kinase domain of ALK6 (BMP receptor) with Smad1 as substrate. Plates were washed three times with phosphate buffer and counted by TopCount (Packard Bio-science, Meriden, CT). (Laping, N.J. et al. *Molecular Pharmacology* 62:58-64 (2002)).

The following Examples illustrate the preparation of the compounds of the present invention. Melting points are uncorrected. NMR data are reported in parts per million (d) and are referenced to the deuterium lock signal from the sample solvent (deuteriochloroform unless otherwise specified). Mass Spectral data were obtained using a Micromass ZMD APCI Mass Spectrometer equipped with a Gilson gradient high performance liquid chromatograph. The following solvents and gradients were used for the analysis. Solvent A; 98% water/2% acetonirile/0.01% formic acid and solvent B; acetonitrile containing 0.005% formic acid. Typically, a gradient was run over a period of about 4 minutes starting at 95% solvent A and ending with 100% solvent B. The mass spectrum of the major eluting component was then obtained in positive or negative ion mode scanning a molecular weight range from 165 AMU to 1100 AMU. Specific rotations were measured at room temperature using the sodium D line (589 nm). Commercial reagents were utilized without further purification. THF refers to tetrahydrofuran. DMF refers to

N,N-dimethylformamide. Chromatography refers to column chromatography performed using 32-63 mm silica gel and executed under nitrogen pressure (flash chromatography) conditions. Room or ambient temperature refers to 20-25°C. All non-aqueous reactions were run under a nitrogen atmosphere for convenience and to maximize yields. Concentration at reduced pressure means that a rotary evaporator was used.

One of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that in some cases protecting groups may be required during preparation. After the target molecule is made, the protecting group can be removed by methods well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, such as described in Greene and Wuts, "Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis" (2nd Ed, John Wiley & Sons 1991).

Analytical high performance liquid chromatography on reverse phase with mass spectrometry detection (LSMS) was done using Polaris 2x20 mm C18 column. Gradient elution was applied with increase of concentration of acetonitrile in 0.01 % aqueous formic acid from 5% to 100% during 3.75 min period. Mass spectrometer Micromass ZMD was used for molecular ion identification.

Example 1

Preparation of 1-Methyl-6-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole

Step A: Preparation of 3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazole-5-carboxylic acid methoxy-methyl-amide

3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazole-5-carboxylic acid (1.67g, 5.6mmol) was suspended in 25 ml N,N-dimethylformamide. 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (1.0g, 6.2mmol) was added and the reaction stirred at room temperature for 90 minutes. Then, N,O-dimethylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (593mg, 6.2mmol) was added and the reaction stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. The residue was dissolved in saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution and extracted three times with chloroform. The combined organics were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated to dryness. Crude material was purified on Biotage Flash 40S silica gel column using chloroform/methanol

gradient system (100:0 to 97:3, respectively) as eluent to afford 3-methyl-3H-benzotriazole-5-carboxylic acid methoxy-methyl-amide (1.01g, 82%).

Step B: Preparation of 1-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-2-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-ethanone

A solution of 2,6-dimethylpyridine (292µl, 2.5mmol) in 10 ml anhydrous tetrahydrofuran was cooled to -30°C. A 2.5M solution of n-butyllithium in hexanes (1.0ml, 2.5mmol) was slowly added dropwise. Once the addition was complete, the reaction was stirred at

-30°C for 1 hour. In a separate flask, a solution of 3-methyl-3H-benzotriazole-5-carboxylic acid methoxy-methyl-amide (500mg, 2.27mmol) in 3 ml anhydrous tetrahydrofuran was cooled to -30°C. The cold anion solution was slowly added dropwise to the cold amide solution. Once the addition was complete, the reaction was allowed to slowly warm to room temperature over several hours and stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched with water and the solvent removed by rotary evaporation. The residue was dissolved in saturated aqueous ammonium chloride and extracted three times with chloroform. The combined organics were washed once with water and then once with brine. The combined organics were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated to dryness. Crude material was purified on Biotage Flash 40S silica gel column using hexanes/ethyl acetate gradient system (80:20 to 40:60, respectively) as eluent to afford 1-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-2-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-ethanone (320mg, 53%).

Step C: Preparation of 1-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-2-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-ethane-1,2-dione

A solution of 1-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-2-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-ethanone (280mg, 1.05mmol) in 16 ml dimethyl sulfoxide was heated to 60°C. 48% hydrobromic acid solution in water (7.4ml, 65.1 mmol) was slowly added over several minutes. Once the addition was complete, the reaction was stirred at 60°C for 3 hours. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and poured into 75 ml water. The pH was adjusted to 8 with the addition of saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution. The aqueous layer was then extracted three times with ethyl

acetate. The combined organics were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated to afford 1-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-2-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-ethane-1,2-dione (146mg, 50%).

Step D. Preparation of 1-Methyl-6-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole

In a threaded glass pressure tube was combined 1-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-2-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-ethane-1,2-dione (35mg, 0.125mmol), 37% formaldehyde solution in water (14µl, 0.188mmol), ammonium acetate (97mg, 1.25mmol), 2 ml methyl t-butyl ether and 2 ml methanol. The tube was sealed and the reaction heated at 65°C for two days. The reaction was concentrated to dryness. Crude material was purified on Biotage Flash 12S silica gel column using chloroform/methanol gradient system (99:1 to 90:10, respectively) as eluent to afford 1-Methyl-6-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole (8mg, 22%). . HPLC t_R = 3.30 min, LC-MS = 291 (M+1).

Example 2

6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 2.92 min, LC-MS = 277 (M+1).

Example 3

2-Methyl-5-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 4.00 min, LC-MS = 291 (M+1).

Example 4

2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 3.84 min, LC-MS = 305 (M+1).

Example 5

6-[2-tert-Butyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 3.27 min, LC-MS = 319 (M+1).

Example 6

1-Methyl-6-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-2-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 4.45 min, LC-MS = 359 (M+1).

Example 7

2-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 3.12 min, LC-MS = 302 (M+1).

Example 8

2-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 3.12 min, LC-MS = 302 (M+1).

Example 9

6-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 2.89 min, LC-MS = 291 (M+1).

Example 10

1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 3.25 min, LC-MS = 305 (M+1).

Example 11

1-Methyl-6-(2-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-4-yl)-1H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 2.93 min, LC-MS = 291 (M+1).

Example 12

1-Methyl-6-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 2.92 min, LC-MS = 277 (M+1).

Example 13

2-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 3.16 min, LC-MS = 288 (M+1).

Example 14

6-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-3-trifluoromethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 3.9 min, LC-MS = 359 (M+1).

Example 15

6-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-3-trifluoromethyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 3.83 min, LC-MS = 345 (M+1).

Example 16

4-[4-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-phenol

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 4.36 min, LC-MS = 383 (M+1).

Example 17

4-[4-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-benzonitrile

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 5.29 min, LC-MS = 392 (M+1).

Example 18

5-[2-(2-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-1-methyl-ethyl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-2-methyl-2H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 5.2 min, LC-MS = 453 (M+1).

Example 19

2-Methyl-5-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-2-(2-methylsulfanyl-ethyl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 4.12 min, LC-MS = 365 (M+1).

Example 20

2-Methyl-5-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-2-thiazol-2-yl-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 4.75 min, LC-MS = 374 (M+1).

Example 21

6-[2-Cyclopropyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-1-methyl-1H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 3.62 min, LC-MS = 331 (M+1).

Example 22

5-[2-Cyclopropyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-2-methyl-2H-benzotriazole

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 3.82 min, LC-MS = 331 (M+1).

Example 23

6-[2-Cyclopropyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline

The title compound was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. HPLC t_R = 3.73 min, LC-MS = 328 (M+1).

Example 24

Preparation of [4-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-methanol

Step A: 5-[2-Dimethoxymethyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-2-methyl-2H-benzotriazole

5-[2-Dimethoxymethyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-2-methyl-2H-benzotriazole was prepared according to procedures analogous to those described in Example 1. LC-MS = 365 (M+1).

Step B: 4-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazole-2-carbaldehyde

5-[2-Dimethoxymethyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-2-methyl-2H-benzotriazole (700 mg, 1.92 mmol) was dissolved in 40 ml anhydrous tetrahydrofuran. 6M hydrochloric acid solution in water (3.2 ml, 19.2 mmol) was added. The reaction was refluxed for 3 hours and then cooled to room temperature. Saturated aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate solution was added until approximately pH 8. The organic solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. The residue was dissolved in water and then extracted three times with chloroform. The combined organic extracts were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated to afford 4-(2-methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazole-2-carbaldehyde (600 mg, 98% yield) as a brown solid.

Step C.[4-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-methanol

4-(2-methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazole-2-carbaldehyde (20 mg, 0.063 mmol) was dissolved in 2 ml anhydrous methanol. Sodium borohydride (3 mg, 0.069 mmol) was added and the reaction stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. The reaction was quenched with water and solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. The residue was purified on Biotage Flash 12S silica gel column using chloroform/methanol gradient system (97:3 to 95:5, respectively) as eluent to afford [4-(2-methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-methanol (13 mg, 64% yield) as a white solid. HPLC t_R = 3.18 min, LC-MS = 321 (M+1).

Example 25

Prepartion of Dimethyl-[4-(2-methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-2-ylmethyl]-amine

2M solution of dimethylamine in tetrahydrofuran (189 µl, 0.378 mmol) was dissolved in 2 ml anhydrous methanol. Glacial acetic acid was added until approximately pH 4. 4-(2-methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazole-2-carbaldehyde (20 mg, 0.063 mmol) was added and the reaction stirred at room temperature for 3 hours. Sodium cyanoborohydride (6 mg, 0.095 mmol) was added and the reaction stirred at room temperature overnight. 1M solution of sodium hydroxide in water was added until the reaction pH was 8 and the organic solvent was then removed by rotary evaporation. The residue was dissolved in water and extracted three times with chloroform. The combined organic extracts were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated to dryness. The residue was purified on Biotage Flash 12S silica gel column using chloroform/methanol gradient system (95:5 to 80:20, respectively) as eluent to afford dimethyl-[4-(2-methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-2-ylmethyl]-amine (6 mg, 28% yield). HPLC t_R = 3.29 min, LC-MS = 348 (M+1).

Example 26

Preparation of 4-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid amide

Suspension of ammonium chloride (12 mg, 0.21 mmol) in 2 ml dry benzene was cooled to 0°C. 2M solution of trimethylaluminum in toluene (105 µl, 0.21 mmol) was slowly added and the reaction warmed to room temperature and stirred for 2 hours. This suspension was added to separate suspension of 4-(2-ethyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester (25 mg, 0.07 mmol)(prepared according to procedures analogous to example 1) in 1 ml dry benzene and the reaction heated at 50°C overnight. The reaction was quenched by the addition of excess 1 M aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid. The reaction was extracted three times with chloroform. Mass spectrometry analysis of organic extracts show no presence of desired product. The remaining aqueous layer was concentrated to dryness. The aqueous extract reside was purified on Biotage Flash 12S silica gel column using chloroform/methanol gradient system (99:1 to 80:20, respectively) as eluent to afford 4-(2-methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-

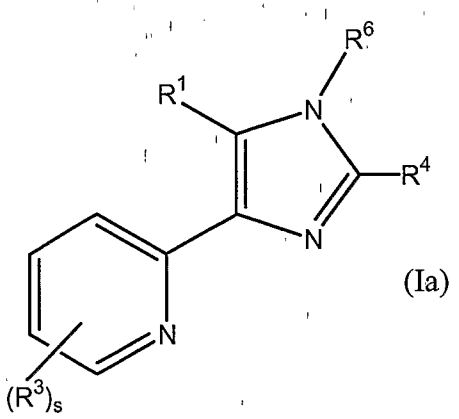
methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid amide (4 mg, 16% yield). HPLC t_R = 3.70 min, LC-MS = 344 (M+1).

All publications, including but not limited to, issued patents, patent applications, and journal articles, cited in this application are each herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Although the invention has been described above with reference to the disclosed embodiments, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the specific experiments detailed are only illustrative of the invention. It should be understood that various modifications can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is limited only by the following claims.

The claimed invention is:

1. A compound of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug, tautomer, hydrate, or solvate thereof, wherein:

R^1 is a saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic C_3-C_{20} mono-, bi- or polycyclic ring optionally containing at least one heteroatom selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, wherein R^1 can optionally be further independently substituted with at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of: carbonyl, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, hydroxy, oxo, mercapto, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_5-C_{10})aryl or (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxy or (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryloxy, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkyl or (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, HO-(C=O)-, ester, amido, ether, amino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, cyano, nitro, carbamoyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylcarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})arylcarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyl, and (C_5-C_{10})arylsulfonyl;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy,

(C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, $Ph(CH_2)_{1-6}HN$-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[(((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^3 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo, H_2N-, $Ph(CH_2)_{1-6}HN$-, and (C_1-C_6)alkylHN-;

s is an integer from one to five;

R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, aminoalkyl, $Ph(CH_2)_{1-6}HN$-, (C_1-C_6)alkylHN-, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-,

phenyl-[(C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^4 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo, H_2N-, NC-, HO-, Ph $(CH_2)_{1-6}HN$-, (C_1-C_6)alkylHN-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl and (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclyl;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(SO_2)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(SO_2)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl-(SO_2)-, H_2N-(SO_2)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(SO_2)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(SO_2)-NH-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(SO_2)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$N-(SO_2)-, phenyl-NH-(SO_2)-, (phenyl)$_2$N-(SO_2)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-(C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-(C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-NH-(C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-, (phenyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, and (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^6 is optionally substituted with at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, formyl, NC-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, (C_3C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $((C_1-C_6)alkyl)_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-[(C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, phenoxy, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-O-, O_2N-, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, $((C_1-C_6)alkyl)_2$-amino, formamidyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-NH-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[(C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-[(C_1-C_6)alkyl-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2NH-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-SO_2NH-, phenyl-SO_2NH-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-SO_2NH- and (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-SO_2NH-;

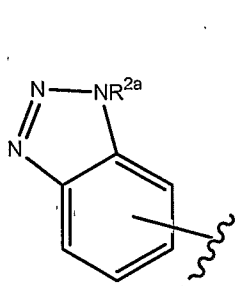
wherein the phenyl or heteroaryl moiety of a R^6 substituent is optionally further substituted with at least one radical independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perfluoro(C_1-C_6)alkyl and perfluoro(C_1-C_6)alkoxy,

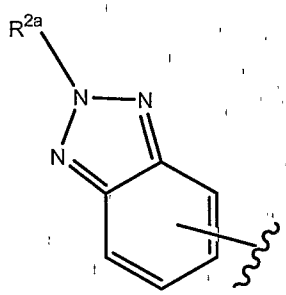
with the proviso that when R^4 is a substituted phenyl group, then (a) R^1 is not a naphthyl, anthracenyl or phenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety is substituted; and

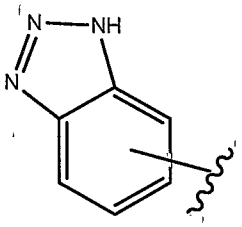
with the proviso that when R^4 is hydrogen, then (a) R^1 is not a naphthyl or phenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety is substituted; and

with the proviso that when R^4 is not hydrogen or substituted phenyl, then (a) R^1 is not a naphthyl, anthracenyl or phenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl or pyridyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, and is optionally substituted by oxo, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety contains at least one substituted heteroatom.

2. A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is

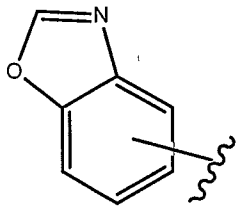


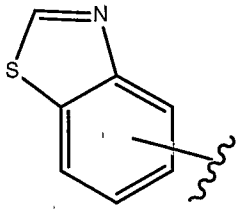
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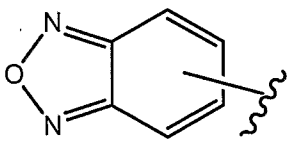
, or


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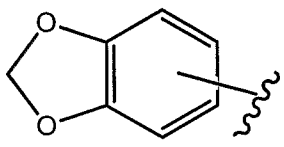
3. A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



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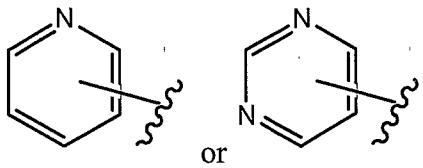
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or


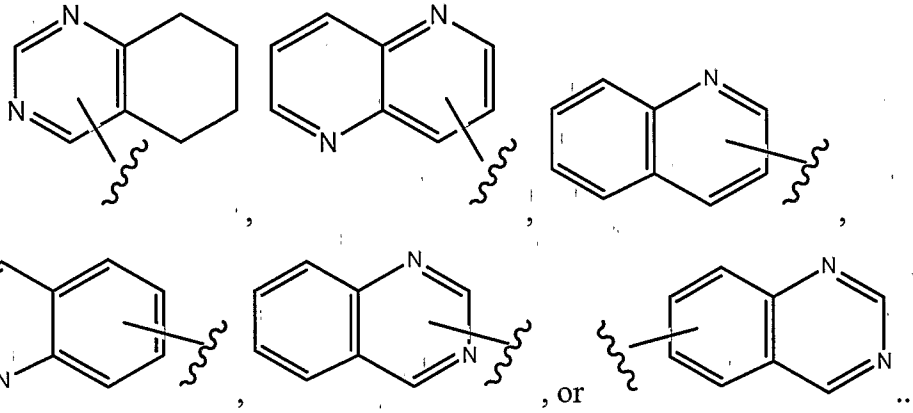
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4. A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



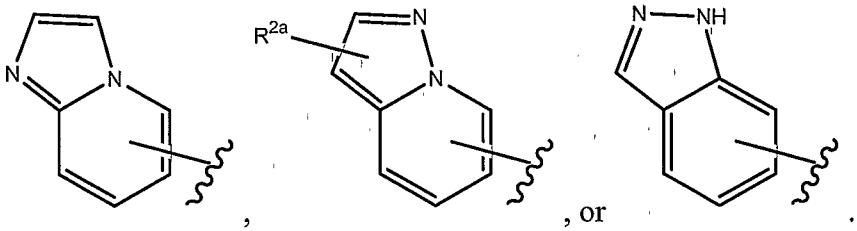
or .

5. A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



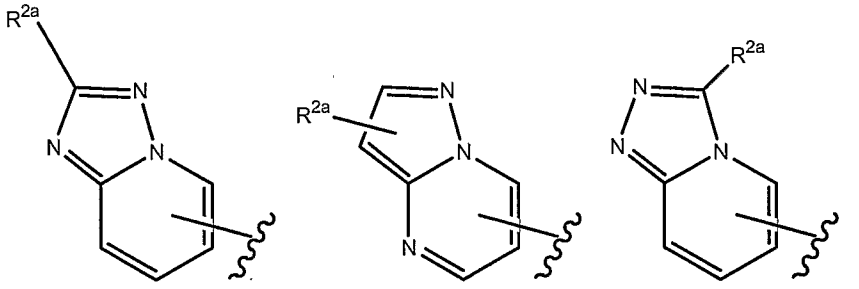
, , , , , , or .

6. A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



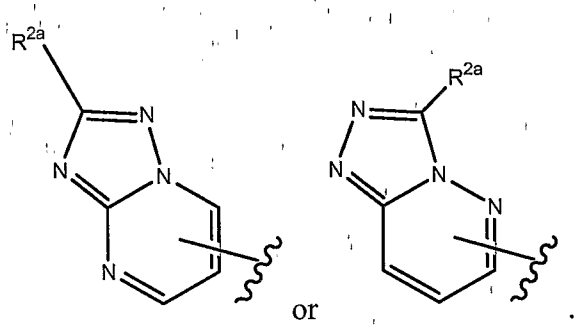
, , , or .

7. A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



, , , , or .

8. A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



or

9. A compound of claim 1, wherein s is one to two; R^3 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)alkyl; R^4 is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, amino(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, or (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl; and R^6 is H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(SO_2)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(SO_2)-NH-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(SO_2)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-(C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-(C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, or (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-NH-(C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. A method of preventing or treating a TGF-related disease state in an animal or human comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to the animal or human suffering from the TGF-related disease state.

12. A method of claim 11, wherein said TGF-related disease state is selected from the group consisting of cancer, glomerulonephritis, diabetic nephropathy,

hepatic fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis, intimal hyperplasia and restenosis, scleroderma, and dermal scarring.