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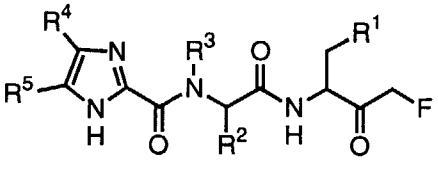
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(54) Title: IMIDAZOLE AND BENZIMIDAZOLE CASPASE INHIBITORS AND USES THEREOF



(I)

(57) Abstract: This invention provides caspase inhibitors having the formula (I): wherein R^1 is CO_2H, CH_2CO_2H, or esters, amides or isosteres thereof; R^2 and R^3 are each independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6 aliphatic group; and R^4 and R^5 are each independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted C1-C6 aliphatic group, or R^4 and R^5 taken together with the ring to which they are attached form an optionally substituted bicyclic ring. The caspase inhibitors are useful for treating a number of diseases such as cancer, acute inflammatory and autoimmune disorders, ischemic diseases and certain neurodegenerative disorders.