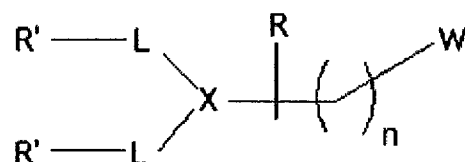


THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A compound of the formula



wherein:

X is N;

n is 1 to 10;

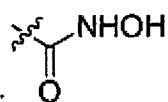
R is H;

each R' is independently selected from H and QR₁;

each Q is independently selected from a bond, C₁-C₄ alkylene, CO, CO₂, NH, S, SO, SO₂ or O;

each R₁ is independently selected from H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, C₁-C₁₀ cycloalkyl, halogen, C₁-C₁₀ alkylaryl, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl heteroaryl, C₁-C₁₀ heterocycloalkyl, NR₂R₃ or trifluoromethyl, wherein R₂ and R₃ are C₁-C₄ alkyl;

L is independently a 5- to 12-membered heteroaryl, wherein each L contains at least two nitrogen atoms;



W is a zinc-binding group -CONHOH of structure:

each aryl or heteroaryl may be substituted by up to five substituents selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₃ hydroxyalkyl, C₁-C₃ alkoxy, C₁-C₃ haloalkoxy, amino, C₁-C₃ mono alkylamino, C₁-C₃ bis alkylamino, C₁-C₃ acylamino, C₁-C₃ aminoalkyl, mono (C₁-C₃ alkyl) amino C₁-C₃ alkyl, bis(C₁-C₃ alkyl) amino C₁-C₃ alkyl, C₁-C₃-acylamino, C₁-C₃ alkyl sulfonylamino, halo, nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, carboxy, C₁-C₃ alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono C₁-C₃ alkyl aminocarbonyl, bis C₁-C₃ alkyl aminocarbonyl, -SO₃H, C₁-C₃ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, mono C₁-C₃ alkyl aminosulfonyl and bis C₁-C₃-alkyl aminosulfonyl; and

each alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl may be optionally substituted with C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, halogen, NH₂, NO₂ or hydroxyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R' is independently selected from H and QR₁;

each Q is independently selected from a bond, CO, CO₂, NH, S, SO, SO₂ or O;

each R₁ is independently selected from H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C₁-C₁₀ cycloalkyl, halogen, C₁-C₁₀ alkylaryl, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl heteroaryl, C₁-C₁₀ heterocycloalkyl, or trifluoromethyl.

3. The compound according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein at least one L is independently selected from pyrazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, thiadiazolyl, oxadiazolyl and imidazolyl, each of which may be optionally fused to a 5-membered heteroaryl, wherein the 5-membered heteroaryl contains at least one N or O

4. The compound according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein both L is independently selected from pyrazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, thiadiazolyl, oxadiazolyl and imidazolyl, each of which may be optionally fused to a 5-membered heteroaryl, wherein the 5-membered heteroaryl contains at least one N.

5. The compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one L is independently selected from pyrazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, thiadiazolyl and imidazolyl, each of which may be optionally fused to a 5-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaryl, wherein the 5-membered heteroaryl contains N or O.

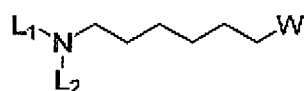
6. The compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein both L is independently selected from pyrazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, thiadiazolyl and imidazolyl, each of which may be optionally fused to a 5-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaryl, wherein the 5-membered heteroaryl contains N.
7. The compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein in at least one of L, the atom that is directly bonded to X is a carbon, and at least one nitrogen atom is directly bonded to said carbon.
8. The compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein in both of L, the atom that is directly bonded to X is a carbon, and at least one nitrogen atom is directly bonded to said carbon.
9. The compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one L is a 6-membered heteroaryl independently selected from pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl.
10. The compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein both L is a 6-membered heteroaryl independently selected from pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl.
11. The compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R' is independently selected from H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, O-(C₁-C₁₀ alkyl), N(C₁-C₁₀ alkyl)₂, heterocycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl or halogen.
12. The compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R' is independently selected from H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, O-(C₁-C₁₀ alkyl), N(C₁-C₁₀ alkyl)₂, heterocycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl or halogen, wherein the alkyl is substituted with at least one fluorine.
13. The compound according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the heterocycloalkyl is morpholino.

14. The compound according to claim 11 or 12, wherein R' is independently H and CF_3 .

15. The compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein n is 3 to 7.

16. The compound according to claim 15, wherein n is 5 to 7.

17. A compound represented by:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

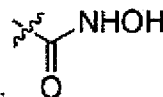
L_1 is a 5-6 membered monocyclic heteroaryl having at least 2 nitrogen atoms;

L_2 is a 5-6 membered monocyclic heteroaryl having at least 2 nitrogen atoms, or a 9-10 membered bicyclic heteroaryl having at least 2 nitrogen atoms; wherein L_1 and L_2 are each optionally substituted by one, two or three substituents each independently selected from RL;

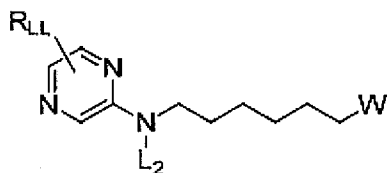
RL is selected for each occurrence from the group consisting of: C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl; C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, halogen, NR^aR^b ; $-C(O)-NR^aR^b$, $-NR^aC(O)-R^a$; and $-NR^aSO_2-R^a$ (wherein C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl may be optionally substituted by one, two or three halogens or C_{1-6} alkoxy);

R^a and R^b are each independently selected from H or C_{1-4} alkyl; or R^a and R^b taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 4-6 membered heterocycle; and

W is the zinc binding group $-CONHOH$ of structure:



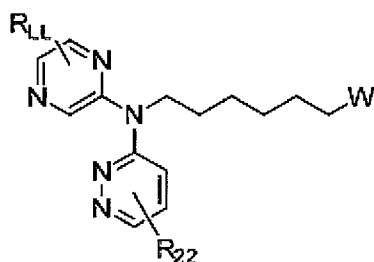
18. The compound of claim 17, represented by:



wherein R_{LL} is selected for each occurrence from the group consisting of H, F, CF_3 , and CH_3 .

19. The compound of claim 17 or 18, wherein L_2 is a 6 membered monocyclic heteroaryl having two nitrogens.

20. The compound of any one of claims 17-19, represented by:



; wherein R_{22} is selected from the group consisting of H, F, NR^aR^b , C_{1-2} alkoxy, and methoxymethyl.

21. The compound according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising:
 7-[Bis(pyrazin-2-yl)amino]-N-hydroxyheptanamide; N-Hydroxy-7-[(pyrazin-2-yl)(([1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyrazin-8-yl))amino]heptanamide; N-Hydroxy-7-[(pyrazin-2-yl)((pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-5-yl))amino]heptanamide; N-Hydroxy-7-[(pyrazin-2-yl)[6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridazin-3-yl]amino]heptanamide; N-Hydroxy-7-[(6-methoxypyridazin-3-yl)(pyrazin-2-yl)amino]heptanamide;
 N-Hydroxy-7-[(imidazo[1,2-b]pyridazin-6-yl)(pyrazin-2-yl)amino]heptanamide; N-Hydroxy-7-[(3-methyl-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl)[2-(morpholin-4-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl]amino]heptanamide; 7-[(5-Fluoropyrimidin-4-yl)(pyrazin-2-yl)amino]-N-hydroxyheptanamide;
 7-[(6-(Dimethylamino)pyrimidin-4-yl)(pyrazin-2-yl)amino]-N-hydroxyheptanamide;
 7-[(Furo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl)(pyrazin-2-yl)amino]-N-hydroxyheptanamide; N-

Hydroxy-7-[(pyrazin-2-yl)(pyrimidin-4-yl)amino]heptanamide;
 2-[[6-(hydroxycarbonyl)hexyl](3-methyl-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl)amino]-N,N,6-trimethylpyrimidine-4-carboxamide;
 N-hydroxy-7-[[6-(methoxymethyl)pyrimidin-4-yl](3-methyl-1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl)amino]heptanamide;
 N-hydroxy-7-[(5-methyl-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidin-4-yl)(pyrazin-2-yl)amino]heptanamide;
 7-[[6-(dimethylamino)pyridazin-3-yl](pyrazin-2-yl)amino]-N-hydroxyheptanamide;
 N-hydroxy-7-[(1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-yl)(pyrazin-2-yl)amino]heptanamide;
 7-[[5-(dimethylamino)pyrazin-2-yl](pyrazin-2-yl)amino]-N-hydroxyheptanamide;
 N-hydroxy-7-[(pyrazin-2-yl)(pyrimidin-5-yl)amino]heptanamide; or
 N-hydroxy-7-[(3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)[6-(morpholin-4-yl)pyrazin-2-yl]amino]heptanamide.

22. The compound according to any one of the preceding claims, for use in therapy.
23. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 21, for use in accelerating wound healing, protecting hair follicles, or as an immunosuppressant.
24. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 17, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
25. A product containing (a) a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 21, and (b) another inhibitor of HDAC, for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment or prevention of a condition mediated by HDAC.
26. A product containing (a) a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 21, and (b) another chemotherapeutic or antineoplastic agent, for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment or prevention of cancer.
27. Use of a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound, composition or product according to any one of the preceding claims in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition mediated by histone deacetylase (HDAC).
28. Use of a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 27, composition or product according to any one of the preceding claims in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition, wherein the condition is cancer, cardiac hypertrophy, chronic heart failure, an inflammatory condition, a cardiovascular disease, a

haemoglobinopathy, a thalassemia, a sickle cell disease, a CNS disorder, an autoimmune disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, MDS, benign prostatic hyperplasia, endometriosis, oral leukoplakia, a genetically related metabolic disorder, an infection, Rubens-Taybi, fragile X syndrome, or alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency.

29. The use according to claim 27 or 28, wherein the condition is chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, breast cancer, prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, mesothelioma, T-cell lymphoma, cardiac hypertrophy, chronic heart failure, a skin inflammatory condition (in particular psoriasis, acne or eczema), a musculoskeletal inflammatory condition (in particular rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis or osteoarthritis), or an inflammatory condition of the gastrointestinal tract (in particular inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or irritable bowel syndrome).