

**ORTHO SUBSTITUTED ARYL OR HETEROARYL AMIDE COMPOUNDS****Technical Field**

5 This invention relates to novel ortho substituted aryl or heteroaryl amide compounds. These compounds are useful as antagonists of prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> receptor, and are thus useful for the treatment or alleviation of pain and inflammation and other inflammation-associated disorders. The present invention also relates to a pharmaceutical composition comprising the above compounds.

**Background Art**

10 Prostaglandins are mediators of pain, fever and other symptoms associated with inflammation. Prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> (PGE<sub>2</sub>) is the predominant eicosanoid detected in inflammation conditions. In addition, it is also involved in various physiological and/or pathological conditions such as hyperalgesia, uterine contraction, digestive peristalsis, awakeness, suppression of gastric acid secretion, blood pressure, platelet function, bone metabolism, angiogenesis or the like.

15 Four PGE<sub>2</sub> receptor subtypes (EP<sub>1</sub>, EP<sub>2</sub>, EP<sub>3</sub> and EP<sub>4</sub>) displaying different pharmacological properties have been cloned. The EP<sub>4</sub> subtype, a Gs-coupled receptor, stimulates cAMP production, and is distributed in a wide variety of tissue suggesting a major role in PGE<sub>2</sub>-mediated biological events.

WO03/016254 and WO00/20371 describe carboxylic acids compounds as prostaglandin receptor antagonists.

20 Although ortho-alkoxybenzamide compounds are described in DE2517229, DE2532420, DE2604560, DE2500157, DE2639935, EP23569, they relate to treatment of hypoglycemic or hypolipidemic. Further, WO98/45268 and EP1229034 disclose substituted nicotinamide compounds, however they relate to inhibitors of phosphodiesterases 4 isozymes. Yet further, DE 2706977 describes benzyloxy nicotinamid compounds which are useful in the treatment of diabetes. Yet further, Journal of  
25 the Institution of Chemists 69(2), p.59-60, (1988), also describes ortho-alkoxybenzamide compounds which are useful for analgesics.

It would be desirable if there were provided a novel EP<sub>4</sub> selective antagonist with potent binding activity by systemic administration, and both with potent EP<sub>4</sub> receptor binding activity and with metabolic stability.

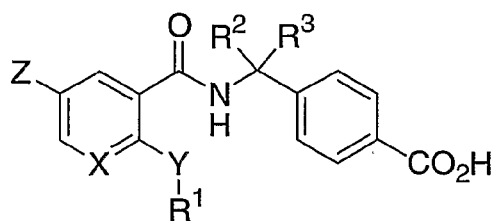
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**Brief Disclosure of the Invention**

It has now been found that certain ortho substituted aryl or heteroaryl amide compounds are EP<sub>4</sub> receptor selective antagonists with analgesic activity by systemic administration.

35 The compounds of the present invention may show less toxicity, good absorption, distribution, good solubility, low protein binding affinity, less drug-drug interaction, a reduced inhibitory activity at HERG channel and good metabolic stability. In particular, the compounds of the present invention display improved half life.

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



(I)

wherein

X represents a -CH- or a nitrogen atom:

5 Y represents  $\text{NR}^4$ , an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

Z represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;

R<sup>1</sup> represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted with 1 to 2 groups independently selected from an alkoxy group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a trifluoromethyl group, an alkanoyl group having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a heterocyclic group and a heteroaryl group; a cycloalkyl group having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted with an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; or a heterocyclic group;

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; or

15 R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> groups together form an alkylene chain having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms;

said heteroaryl group is a 4 to 7- membered aromatic ring system having either from 1 to 4 ring nitrogen heteroatoms or 0 to 2 nitrogen ring heteroatoms and 1 oxygen or 1 sulfur ring heteroatom;

said heterocyclic group is a 4 to 7- membered saturated ring system having either from 1 to 4 ring nitrogen heteroatoms or 0 to 2 nitrogen ring heteroatoms and 1 oxygen or 1 sulfur ring heteroatom;

20 said phenyl groups, phenoxy group and said heteroaryl groups referred to in the definitions of R<sup>1</sup> are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents  $\alpha$ ;

said substituent  $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxy groups, alkoxy groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, haloalkoxy groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, cyano groups, hydroxy alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, alkoxyalkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms in alkoxy and alkyl groups, alkylsulfonyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, alkanoyl groups having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms, alkenyl groups having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkynyl groups having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkylthio groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, nitro groups, amino groups, mono- or di-alkylamino groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, aminosulfonyl groups, alkoxycarbonyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, alkylsufonylamino groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl groups having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms and a mono- or di-alkylaminocarbonyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound;

35 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

The ortho substituted aryl or heteroaryl amide compounds of this invention have an antagonistic

action towards prostaglandin and are thus useful in therapeutics, particularly for the treatment of a disorder or condition selected from the group consisting of pain, neuropathic pain, fever or inflammation associated with rheumatic fever, influenza or other viral infections, common cold, low back and neck pain, skeletal pain, post-partum pain, dysmenorrhea, headache, migraine, toothache, sprains and strains, myositis, neuralgia, fibromyalgia, synovitis, arthritis, including rheumatoid arthritis, degenerative joint diseases (osteoarthritis), gout and ankylosing spondylitis, bursitis, burns including radiation and corrosive chemical injuries, sunburns, pain following surgical and dental procedures, bone fracture, immune and autoimmune diseases; cellular neoplastic transformations or metastatic tumor growth; diabetic retinopathy, tumor angiogenesis; prostanoid-induced smooth muscle contraction associated with dysmenorrhea, premature labor, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, asthma or eosinophil related disorders, hyperimmunoglobulinaemia, Castleman's disease, myeloma; Alzheimer's disease, sleep disorders, endocrine disturbance; glaucoma; promotion of bone formation; cytoprotection in peptic ulcers, gastritis, regional enteritis, ulcerative colitis, diverticulitis or other gastrointestinal lesions; GI bleeding and patients undergoing chemotherapy; coagulation disorders selected from hypoprothrombinemia, haemophilia, other bleeding problems; thrombosis; occlusive vascular disease; presurgery; and anti-coagulation; sympathetically maintained pain; pain resulting from amputation, skin conditions (e.g. eczema, psoriasis); ophthalmic diseases such as glaucoma, retinitis, retinopathies, uveitis and of acute injury to the eye tissue (e.g. conjunctivitis); lung disorders (e.g. bronchitis, emphysema, allergic rhinitis, respiratory distress syndrome pigeon fancier's disease, farmer's lung, COPD); gastrointestinal tract disorders (e.g. aphthous ulcer, Crohn's disease atopic gastritis, gastritis varioliforme, ulcerative colitis, coeliac disease, regional ileitis, irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, gastrointestinal reflux disease); organ transplantation; other conditions with an inflammatory component such as vascular disease, migraine, periarteritis nodosa, thyroiditis, aplastic anaemia, Hodgkin's disease, scleroderma, myaesthesia gravis, multiple sclerosis, sarcoidosis, nephrotic syndrome, Bechet's syndrome, polymyositis, gingivitis, myocardial ischemia, pyrexia, systemic lupus erythematosus, tendonitis, bursitis, and Sjogren's; abnormal platelet function (e.g. occlusive vascular diseases); diuretic action; impotence or erectile dysfunction; bone disease characterised by abnormal bone metabolism or resorption such as osteoporosis, hyper-calcemia, hyperparathyroidism, Paget's bone diseases, osteolysis, hypercalcemia of malignancy with or without bone metastases, rheumatoid arthritis, periodontitis, osteoarthritis, ostealgia, osteopenia, cancer cachexia, calculosis, lithiasis (especially urolithiasis), solid carcinoma, gout and ankylosing spondylitis, tendinitis and bursitis; the hemodynamic side effects of NSAIDs and COX-2 inhibitors, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension or myocardial ischemia; functional or organic venous insufficiency; varicose therapy; haemorrhoids; and shock states associated with a marked drop in arterial pressure (e.g. septic shock); neurodegenerative diseases and neurodegeneration such as dementia, particularly degenerative dementia (including senile dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Pick's disease, Huntingdon's chorea, Parkinson's disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, ALS, motor neuron disease); vascular dementia (including multi-infarct dementia); as well as dementia associated with intracranial space occupying lesions; trauma; infections and related conditions (including HIV infection); metabolism; toxins; anoxia and vitamin deficiency; and mild cognitive impairment associated with ageing, particularly Age Associated Memory Impairment; neuroprotection, neurodegeneration following stroke, cardiac arrest, pulmonary bypass, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury; tinnitus, complications of Type 1 diabetes (e.g.

diabetic microangiopathy, diabetic nephropathy, macular degeneration, glaucoma), nephrotic syndrome, aplastic anaemia, uveitis, Kawasaki disease and sarcoidosis; kidney dysfunction ( e.g. nephritis particularly mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis, nephritic syndrome), liver dysfunction (hepatitis, cirrhosis), gastrointestinal dysfunction (diarrhea), alcoholic cirrhosis, amyloidosis, atherosclerosis, cardiac disease, sclerosis, organ transplantation reactions, glucocorticoid induced osteoporosis, tooth loss, bone fractures, multiple myeloma, various edema, hypertension, premenstrual tension, urinary calculus, oliguria, hyperphosphaturia, pruritus urticaria, contact-type dermatitis, rhus dermatitis, pollakiuria, learning disability, gingivitis, periodontitis, lung injury, liver injury, and constipation, or the like in mammalian, especially humans.

The compound of formula (I) are also useful in preventing or reducing dependence on, or preventing or reducing tolerance or reverse tolerance to, a dependence-inducing agent. Examples of dependence inducing agents include opioids (e.g. morphine), CNS depressants (e.g. ethanol), psychostimulants (e.g. cocaine) and nicotine.

The compound of formula (I) have also diuretic activity with a various characteristic such as a lower kaluretic activity relative to natriuretic effect, a larger phosphorus excretion.

Preferably, the ortho substituted aryl or heteroaryl amide compounds of this invention have an antagonistic action towards prostaglandin and are thus useful in therapeutics, particularly for the treatment of a disorder or condition selected from the group consisting of pain or inflammation associated with rheumatic fever, influenza or other viral infections, common cold, low back and neck pain, skeletal pain, dysmenorrhea, headache, migraine, toothache, sprains and strains, myositis, neuralgia, fibromyalgia, synovitis, arthritis, including rheumatoid arthritis, degenerative joint diseases (osteoarthritis), gout and ankylosing spondylitis, bursitis, burns including radiation and corrosive chemical injuries, sunburns, pain following surgical and dental procedures, bone fracture, immune and autoimmune diseases; cellular neoplastic transformations or metastatic tumor growth; diabetic retinopathy, tumor angiogenesis; prostanoid-induced smooth muscle contraction associated with dysmenorrhea, premature labor, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, asthma or eosinophil related disorders; skin conditions (e.g. eczema, psoriasis); lung disorders (e.g. bronchitis, emphysema, allergic rhinitis, respiratory distress syndrome pigeon fancier's disease, farmer's lung, COPD); gastrointestinal tract disorders (e.g. aphthous ulcer, Crohn's disease atopic gastritis, gastritis varialoforme, ulcerative colitis, coeliac disease, regional ileitis, irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, gastrointestinal reflux disease); diuretic action; bone disease characterised by abnormal bone metabolism or resorption such as osteoporosis, hyper-calcemia, hyperparathyroidism, Paget's bone diseases, osteolysis, hypercalcemia of malignancy with or without bone metastases, rheumatoid arthritis, periodontitis, osteoarthritis, ostealgia, osteopenia and cancer cachexia.

The compounds of the present invention are useful for the general treatment of pain, particularly inflammatory or neuropathic pain. Physiological pain is an important protective mechanism designed to warn of danger from potentially injurious stimuli from the external environment. The system operates through a specific set of primary sensory neurones and is exclusively activated by noxious stimuli via peripheral transducing mechanisms (Millan 1999 Prog. Neurobio. 57: 1-164 for an integrative Review).

These sensory fibres are known as nociceptors and are characterised by small diameter axons with slow conduction velocities. Nociceptors encode the intensity, duration and quality of noxious stimulus and by

virtue of their topographically organised projection to the spinal cord, the location of the stimulus. The nociceptors are found on nociceptive nerve fibres of which there are two main types, A-delta fibres (myelinated) and C fibres (non-myelinated). The activity generated by nociceptor input is transferred after complex processing in the dorsal horn, either directly or via brain stem relay nuclei to the ventrobasal thalamus and then on to the cortex, where the sensation of pain is generated.

Intense acute pain and chronic pain may involve the same pathways driven by pathophysiological processes and as such cease to provide a protective mechanism and instead contribute to debilitating symptoms associated with a wide range of disease states. Pain is a feature of many trauma and disease states. When a substantial injury, via disease or trauma, to body tissue occurs the characteristics of nociceptor activation are altered. There is sensitisation in the periphery, locally around the injury and centrally where the nociceptors terminate. This leads to hypersensitivity at the site of damage and in nearby normal tissue. In acute pain these mechanisms can be useful and allow for the repair processes to take place and the hypersensitivity returns to normal once the injury has healed. However, in many chronic pain states, the hypersensitivity far outlasts the healing process and is normally due to nervous system injury. This injury often leads to maladaptation of the afferent fibres (Woolf & Salter 2000 Science 288: 1765-1768). Clinical pain is present when discomfort and abnormal sensitivity feature among the patient's symptoms. Patients tend to be quite heterogeneous and may present with various pain symptoms. There are a number of typical pain subtypes: 1) spontaneous pain which may be dull, burning, or stabbing; 2) pain responses to noxious stimuli are exaggerated (hyperalgesia); 3) pain is produced by normally innocuous stimuli (allodynia) (Meyer et al., 1994 Textbook of Pain 13-44). Although patients with back pain, arthritis pain, CNS trauma, or neuropathic pain may have similar symptoms, the underlying mechanisms are different and, therefore, may require different treatment strategies. Therefore pain can be divided into a number of different areas because of differing pathophysiology, these include nociceptive, inflammatory, neuropathic pain etc. It should be noted that some types of pain have multiple aetiologies and thus can be classified in more than one area, e.g. Back pain, Cancer pain have both nociceptive and neuropathic components.

Nociceptive pain is induced by tissue injury or by intense stimuli with the potential to cause injury. Pain afferents are activated by transduction of stimuli by nociceptors at the site of injury and sensitise the spinal cord at the level of their termination. This is then relayed up the spinal tracts to the brain where pain is perceived (Meyer et al., 1994 Textbook of Pain 13-44). The activation of nociceptors activates two types of afferent nerve fibres. Myelinated A-delta fibres transmitted rapidly and are responsible for the sharp and stabbing pain sensations, whilst unmyelinated C fibres transmit at a slower rate and convey the dull or aching pain. Moderate to severe acute nociceptive pain is a prominent feature of, but is not limited to pain from strains/sprains, post-operative pain (pain following any type of surgical procedure), posttraumatic pain, burns, myocardial infarction, acute pancreatitis, and renal colic. Also cancer related acute pain syndromes commonly due to therapeutic interactions such as chemotherapy toxicity, immunotherapy, hormonal therapy and radiotherapy. Moderate to severe acute nociceptive pain is a prominent feature of, but is not limited to, cancer pain which may be tumour related pain, (e.g. bone pain, headache and facial pain, viscera pain) or associated with cancer therapy (e.g. postchemotherapy syndromes, chronic postsurgical pain syndromes, post radiation syndromes), back pain which may be due to herniated or ruptured intervertebral discs or abnormalities of the lumbar facet joints, sacroiliac joints,

paraspinal muscles or the posterior longitudinal ligament.

Neuropathic pain is defined as pain initiated or caused by a primary lesion or dysfunction in the nervous system (IASP definition). Nerve damage can be caused by trauma and disease and thus the term 'neuropathic pain' encompasses many disorders with diverse aetiologies. These include but are not limited to, Diabetic neuropathy, Post herpetic neuralgia, Back pain, Cancer neuropathy, HIV neuropathy, Phantom limb pain, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, chronic alcoholism, hypothyroidism, trigeminal neuralgia, uremia, or vitamin deficiencies. Neuropathic pain is pathological as it has no protective role. It is often present well after the original cause has dissipated, commonly lasting for years, significantly decreasing a patient's quality of life (Woolf and Mannion 1999 Lancet 353: 1959-1964). The symptoms of neuropathic pain are difficult to treat, as they are often heterogeneous even between patients with the same disease (Woolf & Decosterd 1999 Pain Supp. 6: S141-S147; Woolf and Mannion 1999 Lancet 353: 1959-1964). They include spontaneous pain, which can be continuous, or paroxysmal and abnormal evoked pain, such as hyperalgesia (increased sensitivity to a noxious stimulus) and allodynia (sensitivity to a normally innocuous stimulus).

The inflammatory process is a complex series of biochemical and cellular events activated in response to tissue injury or the presence of foreign substances, which result in swelling and pain (Levine and Taiwo 1994: Textbook of Pain 45-56). Arthritic pain makes up the majority of the inflammatory pain population. Rheumatoid disease is one of the commonest chronic inflammatory conditions in developed countries and rheumatoid arthritis is a common cause of disability. The exact aetiology of RA is unknown, but current hypotheses suggest that both genetic and microbiological factors may be important (Grennan & Jayson 1994 Textbook of Pain 397-407). It has been estimated that almost 16 million Americans have symptomatic osteoarthritis (OA) or degenerative joint disease, most of whom are over 60 years of age, and this is expected to increase to 40 million as the age of the population increases, making this a public health problem of enormous magnitude (Houge & Mersfelder 2002 Ann Pharmacother. 36: 679-686; McCarthy et al., 1994 Textbook of Pain 387-395). Most patients with OA seek medical attention because of pain. Arthritis has a significant impact on psychosocial and physical function and is known to be the leading cause of disability in later life. Other types of inflammatory pain include but are not limited to inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD),

Other types of pain include but are not limited to;

- Musculo-skeletal disorders including but not limited to myalgia, fibromyalgia, spondylitis, sero-negative (non-rheumatoid) arthropathies, non-articular rheumatism, dystrophinopathy, Glycogenolysis, polymyositis, pyomyositis.

- Central pain or 'thalamic pain' as defined by pain caused by lesion or dysfunction of the nervous system including but not limited to central post-stroke pain, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, Parkinson's disease and epilepsy.

- Heart and vascular pain including but not limited to angina, myocardial infarction, mitral stenosis, pericarditis, Raynaud's phenomenon, scleroderma, skeletal muscle ischemia.

- Visceral pain, and gastrointestinal disorders. The viscera encompasses the organs of the abdominal cavity. These organs include the sex organs, spleen and part of the digestive system. Pain associated with the viscera can be divided into digestive visceral pain and non-digestive visceral pain. Commonly encountered gastrointestinal (GI) disorders include the functional bowel disorders (FBD) and

the inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). These GI disorders include a wide range of disease states that are currently only moderately controlled, including – for FBD, gastro-esophageal reflux, dyspepsia, the irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and functional abdominal pain syndrome (FAPS), and – for IBD, Crohn's disease, ileitis, and ulcerative colitis, which all regularly produce visceral pain. Other types of visceral pain include the pain associated with dysmenorrhea, pelvic pain, cystitis and pancreatitis.

- Head pain including but not limited to migraine, migraine with aura, migraine without aura cluster headache, tension-type headache.

- Orofacial pain including but not limited to dental pain, temporomandibular myofascial pain.

The present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of disease conditions mediated by prostaglandin, in a mammalian subject, which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I).

Further, the present invention also provides a composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of the ortho substituted aryl or heteroaryl amide compound of formula (I) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Among them, the composition is preferably for the treatment of disease defined above.

Also, the present invention provides for the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as a medicament.

Also, the present invention provides a method for the treatment of disease conditions defined above, which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I).

Further, the present invention provides a method for the treatment of disease conditions defined above in a mammal, preferably human, which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I).

Yet further, the present invention provides the use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of the disease conditions defined above.

#### **Detailed Description of the Invention**

As used herein, the term "**halogen**" means fluoro, chloro, bromo and iodo, preferably fluoro or chloro.

As used herein, the term "**alkyl**" means straight or branched chain saturated radicals, including, but not limited to methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *isopropyl*, *n*-butyl, *iso*-butyl, *secondary*-butyl, *tertiary*-butyl.

As used herein, the term "**alkylene**", means a saturated hydrocarbon (straight chain or branched) wherein a hydrogen atom is removed from each of the terminal carbons such as methylene, ethylene, methylethylene, propylene, butylene, pentylene, hexylene and the like.

As used herein, the term "**alkenyl**" means a hydrocarbon radical having at least one double bond including, but not limited to, ethenyl, propenyl, 1-butenyl, 2-butenyl and the like.

As used herein, the term "**alkynyl**", means a hydrocarbon radical having at least one triple bond including, but not limited to, ethynyl, propynyl, 1-butylnyl, 2-butylnyl and the like.

As used herein, the term "**alkoxy**" means alkyl-O-, including, but not limited to methoxy, ethoxy, *n*-propoxy, *isopropoxy*, *n*-butoxy, *iso*-butoxy, *secondary*-butoxy, *tertiary*-butoxy.

As used herein, the term "**cycloalkyl**", means a saturated carbocyclic radical ring of 3 to 7 carbon atoms, including, but not limited to, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl and the like.

5 As used herein, the term "**alkanoyl**" means a group having carbonyl such as R'-C(O)- wherein R' is C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-4</sub> cycloalkyl, including, but not limited to formyl, acetyl, ethyl-C(O)-, *n*-propyl-C(O)-, *isopropyl*-C(O)-, *n*-butyl-C(O)-, *iso*-butyl-C(O)-, *secondary*-butyl-C(O)-, *tertiary*-butyl-C(O)-, cyclopropyl-C(O)-, cyclobutyl-C(O)- and the like.

10 As used herein, the term "**haloalkyl**", means an alkyl radical which is substituted by halogen atoms as defined above including, but not limited to, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, 2-fluoroethyl, 2,2-difluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trichloroethyl, 3-fluoropropyl, 4-fluorobutyl, chloromethyl, trichloromethyl, iodomethyl and bromomethyl groups and the like.

15 As used herein, the term "**haloalkoxy**", as used herein, means haloalkyl-O-, including, but not limited to, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, 2-fluoroethoxy, 2,2-difluoroethoxy, 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy, 2,2,2-trichloroethoxy, 3-fluoropropoxy, 4-fluorobutoxy, chloromethoxy, trichloromethoxy, iodomethoxy and bromomethoxy groups and the like.

20 As used herein the term "**heterocyclic**" means a 4 to 7-membered saturated hetero mono-cyclic ring, which contains either from 1 to 4 ring nitrogen heteroatoms or 0 to 2 nitrogen ring heteroatoms and 1 oxygen or 1 sulphur ring heteroatom. Examples of such heterocyclics include, but are not limited to, piperidyl, piperidino, pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolidino, tetrahydrofuranyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl, morpholino or tetrahydropyranyl.

25 As used herein the term "**heteroaryl**" means a 4 to 7-membered aromatic, hetero mono-cyclic ring, which contains either from 1 to 4 ring nitrogen heteroatoms or 0 to 2 nitrogen ring heteroatoms and 1 oxygen or 1 sulphur ring heteroatom. Examples of such heteroaryls include, but are not limited to, pyrazolyl, furyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, tetrazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrrolyl, thiophenyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, isooxazolyl, isothiazolyl, triazolyl or furazanyl.

30 Where the compounds of formula (I) contain hydroxy groups, they may form esters. Examples of such esters include esters with a hydroxy group and esters with a carboxy group. The ester residue may be an ordinary protecting group or a protecting group which can be cleaved in vivo by a biological method such as hydrolysis.

35 The term "**esters**" means a protecting group which can be cleaved in vivo by a biological method such as hydrolysis and forms a free acid or salt thereof. Whether a compound is such a derivative or not can be determined by administering it by intravenous injection to an experimental animal, such as a rat or mouse, and then studying the body fluids of the animal to determine whether or not the compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be detected.

Preferred examples of groups for an ester of a carboxyl group or a hydroxy group include: (1) aliphatic alkanoyl groups, for example: alkanoyl groups such as the formyl, acetyl, propionyl, butyryl, isobutyryl, pentanoyl, pivaloyl, valeryl, isovaleryl, octanoyl, nonanoyl, decanoyl, 3-methylnonanoyl, 8-methylnonanoyl, 3-ethyloctanoyl, 3,7-dimethyloctanoyl, undecanoyl, dodecanoyl, tridecanoyl, tetradecanoyl, pentadecanoyl, 40 hexadecanoyl, 1-methylpentadecanoyl, 14-methylpentadecanoyl, 13,13-dimethyltetradecanoyl,

heptadecanoyl, 15-methylhexadecanoyl, octadecanoyl, 1-methylheptadecanoyl, nonadecanoyl, icosanoyl and heneicosanoyl groups; halogenated alkylcarbonyl groups such as the chloroacetyl, dichloroacetyl, trichloroacetyl, and trifluoroacetyl groups; alkoxyalkanoyl groups such as the methoxyacetyl group; and unsaturated alkanoyl groups such as the acryloyl, propioloyl, methacryloyl, crotonoyl, isocrotonoyl and (E)-2-methyl-2-butenoyl groups; (2) aromatic alkanoyl groups, for example: arylcarbonyl groups such as the benzoyl,  $\alpha$ -naphthoyl and  $\beta$ -naphthoyl groups; halogenated arylcarbonyl groups such as the 2-bromobenzoyl and 4-chlorobenzoyl groups; alkylated arylcarbonyl groups such as the 2,4,6-trimethylbenzoyl and 4-toluoyl groups; alkoxyated arylcarbonyl groups such as the 4-anisoyl group; nitrated arylcarbonyl groups such as the 4-nitrobenzoyl and 2-nitrobenzoyl groups; alkoxy carbonylated arylcarbonyl groups such as the 2-(methoxycarbonyl)benzoyl group; and arylated arylcarbonyl groups such as the 4-phenylbenzoyl group; (3) alkoxy carbonyl groups, for example: alkoxy carbonyl groups such as the methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, propoxycarbonyl, butoxycarbonyl, sec-butoxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl and isobutoxycarbonyl groups; and halogen- or tri(alkyl)silyl-substituted alkoxy carbonyl groups such as the 2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl and 2-trimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl groups; tetrahydropyranyl or tetrahydrothiopyranyl groups such as: tetrahydropyran-2-yl, 3-bromotetrahydropyran-2-yl, 4-methoxytetrahydropyran-4-yl, tetrahydrothiopyran-2-yl, and 4-methoxytetrahydrothiopyran-4-yl groups; tetrahydrofuranyl or tetrahydrothiofuranyl groups such as: tetrahydrofuran-2-yl and tetrahydrothiofuran-2-yl groups; (5) silyl groups, for example: tri(alkyl)silyl groups such as the trimethylsilyl, triethylsilyl, isopropyl dimethylsilyl, t-butyl dimethylsilyl, methyl diisopropylsilyl, methyl di-t-butylsilyl and triisopropylsilyl groups; and silyl groups substituted by one or more aryl and alkyl groups such as the diphenylmethylsilyl, diphenylbutylsilyl, diphenylisopropylsilyl and phenyl diisopropylsilyl groups; (6) alkoxy methyl groups, for example: alkoxy methyl groups such as the methoxymethyl, 1,1-dimethyl-1-methoxymethyl, ethoxymethyl, propoxymethyl, isopropoxymethyl, butoxymethyl and t-butoxymethyl groups; alkoxyated alkoxy methyl groups such as the 2-methoxyethoxymethyl group; and halo(alkoxy)methyl groups such as the 2,2,2-trichloroethoxymethyl and bis(2-chloroethoxy)methyl groups; (7) substituted ethyl groups, for example: alkoxyated ethyl groups such as the 1-ethoxyethyl and 1-(isopropoxy)ethyl groups; and halogenated ethyl groups such as the 2,2,2-trichloroethyl group; (8) aralkyl groups, for example: alkyl groups substituted by from 1 to 3 aryl groups such as the benzyl,  $\alpha$ -naphthylmethyl,  $\beta$ -naphthylmethyl, diphenylmethyl, triphenylmethyl,  $\alpha$ -naphthyl diphenylmethyl and 9-anthrylmethyl groups; alkyl groups substituted by from 1 to 3 substituted aryl groups, where one or more of the aryl groups is substituted by one or more alkyl, alkoxy, nitro, halogen or cyano substituents such as the 4-methylbenzyl, 2,4,6-trimethylbenzyl, 3,4,5-trimethylbenzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl, 4-methoxyphenyl diphenylmethyl, 2-nitrobenzyl, 4-nitrobenzyl, 4-chlorobenzyl, 4-bromobenzyl and 4-cyanobenzyl groups; alkenyloxycarbonyl groups such as the vinyloxycarbonyl; aryloxycarbonyl groups such as phenoxycarbonyl; and aralkyloxycarbonyl groups in which the aryl ring may be substituted by 1 or 2 alkoxy or nitro groups, such as benzyloxycarbonyl, 4-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, 3,4-dimethoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, 2-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl and 4-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl groups.

The term “**treating**”, as used herein, refers to reversing, alleviating, inhibiting the progress of, or preventing the disorder or condition to which such term applies, or one or more symptoms of such disorder or condition. The term “**treatment**” as used herein refers to the act of treating, as “treating” is

defined immediately above.

A preferred compound of formula (I) of this invention is that Y represents  $\text{NR}^4$  or an oxygen atom; and  $\text{R}^4$  represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms. More preferably, Y represents  $\text{NCH}_3$  or an oxygen atom. Most preferably, Y represents an oxygen atom

5 A preferred compound of formula (I) of this invention is that wherein Z represents a halogen atom. More preferably, Z represents a chlorine atom.

A preferred compound of formula (I) of this invention is that wherein  $\text{R}^1$  represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted with 1 to 2 groups independently selected from an alkoxy group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, and a heteroaryl group; said heteroaryl group is a 5 to 6- membered aromatic ring system having either from 1 to 2 ring nitrogen heteroatoms or 1 or 2 nitrogen ring heteroatoms and 1 oxygen or 1 sulphur ring heteroatom; said phenyl groups and said heteroaryl groups referred to in the definitions of  $\text{R}^1$  are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents  $\alpha$ ; said substituent  $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxy groups, alkoxy groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, haloalkoxy groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, cyano groups, hydroxy alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, alkoxyalkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms in alkoxy and alkyl groups, alkylsulfonyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms and alkanoyl groups having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms. More preferably,  $\text{R}^1$  represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted with 1 to 2 groups independently selected from an alkoxy group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having from 4 to 6 carbon atoms, a phenyl group, an oxazole group, an isoxazole group and a phenoxy group; said phenyl group, oxazole group, isoxazole group and phenoxy group are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents  $\alpha$ ; said substituent  $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 2 carbon atoms and cyano groups. More preferably,  $\text{R}^1$  represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted with 1 to 2 groups independently selected from a cycloalkyl group having from 4 to 6 carbon atoms, a phenyl group and a phenoxy group; said phenyl group is unsubstituted or is substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents  $\alpha$ ; said substituent  $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 2 carbon atoms and cyano groups. More preferably,  $\text{R}^1$  represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted with 1 to 2 groups independently selected from a cycloalkyl group having from 4 to 5 carbon atoms, a phenyl group and a phenoxy group; said phenyl group is unsubstituted or is substituted by 1 to 2 substituents selected from the group consisting of substituents  $\alpha$ ; said substituents  $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms such as a fluorine atom and a chlorine atom, alkyl groups having from 1 to 2 carbon atoms and cyano groups. Most preferably,  $\text{R}^1$  represents a pentyl group, a phenylmethyl group, a phenylethyl group, a phenoxyethyl group or a cyclobutylmethyl group; said phenyl is optionally substituted by 1 to 2 groups independently selected from a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a cyano group and a methyl group.

40 A preferred compound of formula (I) of this invention is that wherein  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  independently

represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms. More preferably, R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom; and R<sup>3</sup> represents a methyl group.

Particularly preferred compounds of the invention include those in which each variable in Formula (I) is selected from the preferred groups for each variable. Even more preferable compounds of the invention include those where each variable in Formula (I) is selected from the more preferred groups for each variable.

A preferred individual compound of this invention is selected from

4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[(3-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-(cyclobutylmethoxy)benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-(cyclohexyloxy)benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[(2-cyanobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-(3-methylbutoxy)benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[(4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[(2,5-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl}amino)methyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-(2-phenoxyethoxy)benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[(3,4-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[(4-chloro-2-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]pyridin-3-yl}carbonyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({2-(benzyloxy)-5-chlorobenzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]pyridin-3-yl}carbonyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl}carbonyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[(3,5-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid; and  
 4-[(1S)-1-({5-chloro-2-[2-(2,6-difluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound;  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

### General Synthesis

The compounds of formula I of the present invention may be prepared according to known preparation methods, or General Procedures or preparation methods illustrated in the following reaction schemes. Unless otherwise indicated R<sup>1</sup> through R<sup>3</sup> and X, Y, and Z in the reaction schemes and discussion that follow are defined as above. The term "protecting group", as used hereinafter, means a hydroxy or amino protecting group which is selected from typical hydroxy or amino protecting groups

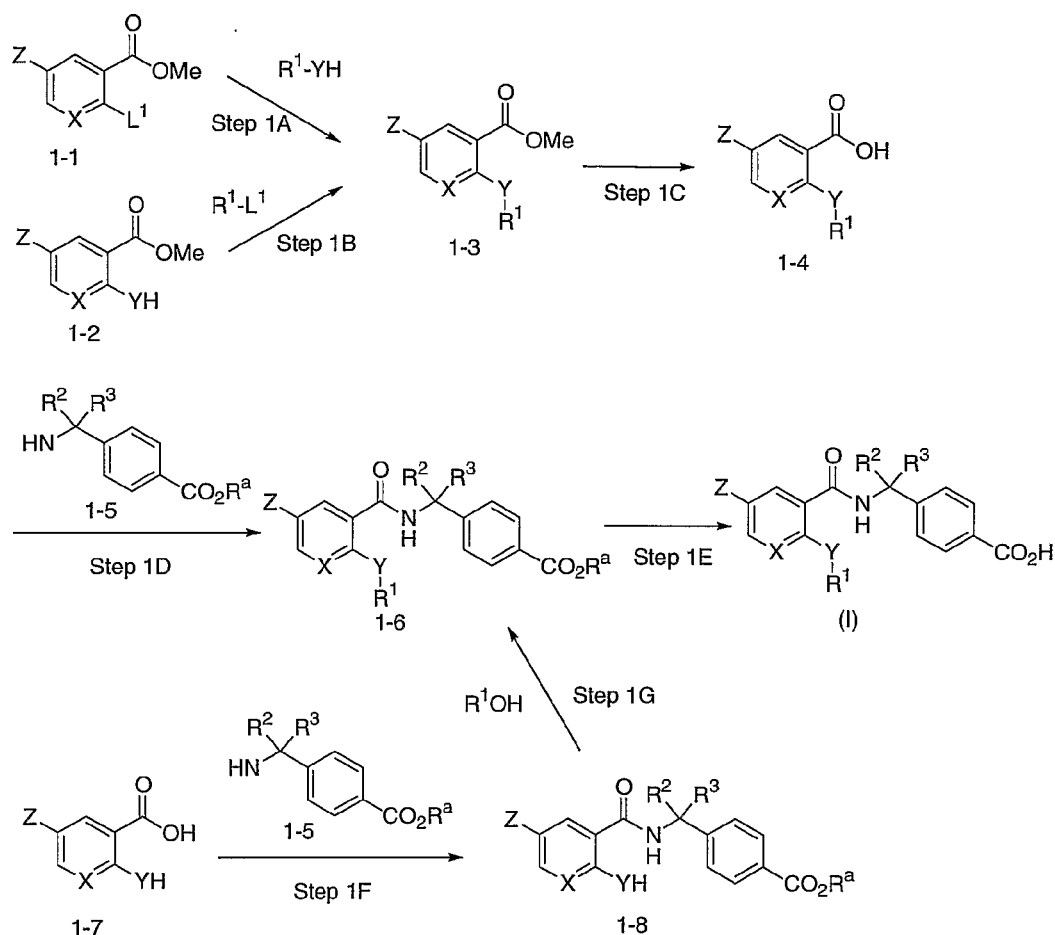
described in *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis* edited by T. W. Greene *et al.* (John Wiley & Sons, 1999);

The following reaction schemes illustrate the preparation of compounds of formula (I).

**Scheme 1:**

5 This illustrates the preparation of compounds of formula (I).

**Scheme 1**



In the above formula,  $R^a$  represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.  $L^1$  represents a leaving group. Examples of suitable leaving groups include: halogen atoms, such as chlorine, bromine and iodine; sulfonic esters such as TfO (triflates), MsO (mesylates), TsO (tosylates); or a boronic acid group.

**Step 1A**

In this Step, a compound of formula 1-3 may be prepared by the coupling reaction of an ester compound of formula 1-1 with a compound of formula  $R^1-YH$  in an inert solvent.

15 The coupling reaction may be carried out in the absence or presence of a base in a reaction inert solvent or without solvent. A preferred base is selected from, for example, an alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide, alkoxide, carbonate, or hydride, such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium methoxide, sodium ethoxide, potassium *tert*-butoxide, sodium carbonate, cesium carbonate or potassium carbonate, 2-*tert*-butylimino-2-diethylamino-1,3-dimethyl-perhydro-1,3,2-diazaphosphorine

(BEMP), *tert*-butylimino-tri(pyrrolidino)phosphorane (BTPP), cesium fluoride (CsF), potassium fluoride, sodium hydride or potassium hydride, or an amine such as triethylamine, tributylamine, diisopropylethylamine, 2,6-lutidine, pyridine or dimethylaminopyridine. Preferred reaction inert solvents include, for example, acetone, benzene, toluene, xylene, *o*-dichlorobenzene, nitrobenzene, nitromethane, pyridine, dichloromethane, dichloroethane, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide (DMF), dimethylacetamide (DMA), dioxane, dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), acetonitrile, sulfolane, *N*-methylpyrrolidinone (NMP), methyl ethyl ketone (2-butanone), tetrahydrofuran (THF), dimethoxyethane (DME) or mixtures thereof. Reaction temperatures are generally in the range of 0 to 200 °C, preferably in the range of room temperature to 150 °C. Reaction times are, in general, from 1 minute to a day, preferably from 1 hour to 10 hours. If desired, the reaction may be conducted in the presence of metal catalyst such as copper (e.g. copper bronze or cuprous iodide) and nickel.

When L<sup>1</sup> represents a boronic acid group, the reaction may be carried out in the presence of a suitable catalyst to form the compound of formula 1-3 by any synthetic procedure applicable to structure-related compounds known to those skilled in the literature (e.g., Lam, P. Y. S.; Clark, C. G.; Saubern, S.; Adams, J.; Winters, M. P.; Chan, D. M. T.; Combs, A., *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **1998**, *39*, 2941-2944., Kiyomori, A.; Marcoux, J.; Buchwald, S. L., *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **1999**, *40*, 2657-2660., Lam, P. Y. S.; Deudon, S.; Averill, K. M.; Li, R.; He, M. Y.; DeShong, P.; Clark, C. G., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2000**, *122*, 7600-7601., Collman, J. P.; Zhong, M., *Org. Lett.*, **2000**, *2*, 1233-1236.). A preferred reaction catalyst is selected from, for example, tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)-palladium, bis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(II) chloride, copper(0), copper(I) acetate, copper(I) bromide, copper(I) chloride, copper(I) iodide, copper(I) oxide, copper(II) trifluoromethanesulfonate, copper(II) acetate, copper(II) bromide, copper(II) chloride, copper(II) iodide, copper(II) oxide, or copper(II) trifluoromethanesulfonate.

#### Step 1B

In this Step, the ester compound of formula 1-3 may also be prepared by coupling reaction of an ester compound of formula 1-2 with a compound of formula R<sup>1</sup>-L<sup>1</sup>. This reaction is essentially the same as and may be carried out in the same manner as and using the same reagents and reaction conditions as Step 1A in Scheme 1.

#### Step 1C

In this step, an acid compound of formula 1-4 may be prepared by hydrolysis of the ester compound of formula 1-3 in a solvent.

The hydrolysis may be carried out by conventional procedures. In a typical procedure, the hydrolysis carried out under the basic condition, e.g. in the presence of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or lithium hydroxide. Suitable solvents include, for example, alcohols such as methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, 2-methoxyethanol, and ethylene glycol; ethers such as tetrahydrofuran (THF), 1,2-dimethoxyethane (DME), and 1,4-dioxane; amides such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) and hexamethylphosphotriamide; and sulfoxides such as dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). This reaction may be carried out at a temperature in the range from -20 °C to 100 °C, usually from 20 °C to 75 °C for 30 minutes to 48 hours, usually 60 minutes to 30 hours.

The hydrolysis may also be carried out under the acidic condition, e.g. in the presence of hydrogen halides, such as hydrogen chloride and hydrogen bromide; sulfonic acids, such as *p*-toluenesulfonic acid

and benzenesulfonic acid; pyridium *p*-toluenesulfonate; and carboxylic acid, such as acetic acid and trifluoroacetic acid. Suitable solvents include, for example, alcohols such as methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, 2-methoxyethanol, and ethylene glycol; ethers such as tetrahydrofuran (THF), 1,2-dimethoxyethane (DME), and 1,4-dioxane; halogenated hydrocarbons, such as dichloromethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, amides such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) and hexamethylphosphotriamide; and sulfoxides such as dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). This reaction may be carried out at a temperature in the range from -20 °C to 100 °C, usually from 0 °C to 65 °C for 30 minutes to 24 hours, usually 60 minutes to 10 hours.

#### Step 1D

In this step, an amide compound of formula 1-6 may be prepared by the coupling reaction of an amine compound of formula 1-5 with the acid compound of formula 1-4 in the presence or absence of a coupling reagent in an inert solvent. If desired, this reaction may be carried out in the presence or absence of an additive such as 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBt) or 1-hydroxyazabenzotriazole. Examples of suitable solvents include: acetone, nitromethane, *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF), sulfolane, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone (NMP), 2-butanone, acetonitrile; halogenated hydrocarbons, such as dichloromethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, chloroform; and ethers, such as tetrahydrofuran and 1,4-dioxane. This reaction may be carried out at a temperature in the range from -20 °C to 100 °C, more preferably from about 0 °C to 60 °C for 5 minutes to 1 week, more preferably 30 minutes to 24 hours, will usually suffice. Suitable coupling reagents are those typically used in peptide synthesis including, for example, diimides (e.g., dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC), water soluble carbodiimide (WSC)), *O*-benzotriazol-1-yl-*N,N,N',N'*-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate (HBTU), 2-ethoxy-*N*-ethoxycarbonyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline, 2-bromo-1-ethylpyridinium tetrafluoroborate (BEP), 2-chloro-1,3-dimethylimidazolium chloride, benzotriazol-1-yloxy-tris(dimethylamino)phosphonium hexafluorophosphate (BOP), diethyl azodicarboxylate-triphenylphosphine, diethylcyanophosphate, diethylphosphorylazide, 2-chloro-1-methylpyridinium iodide, *N,N'*-carbonyldiimidazole, benzotriazole-1-yl diethyl phosphate, ethyl chloroformate or isobutyl chloroformate. If desired, the reaction may be carried out in the presence of a base such as, *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine, *N*-methylmorpholine, 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine and triethylamine. The amide compound of formula (I) may be formed via an acylhalide, which may be obtained by the reaction with halogenating agents such as oxalylchloride, phosphorus oxychloride and thionyl chloride. The resulting acylhalide may be converted to the corresponding amide compound by treating with the amine compound of formula 1-13 under the similar conditions as described in this step.

#### Step 1E

In this Step, the compound of formula (I) may be prepared by hydrolysis of the ester compound of formula 1-6. This reaction is essentially the same as and may be carried out in the same manner as and using the same reagents and reaction conditions as Step 1C in Scheme 1.

#### Step 1F

In this Step, a compound of formula 1-8 may be prepared by the coupling reaction of an acid compound of formula 1-7 with the amine compound of formula 1-5 in an inert solvent.

This reaction is essentially the same as and may be carried out in the same manner as and

using the same reagents and reaction conditions as Step 1D in Scheme 1.

Step 1G

Alternatively, in this step, the compound of formula 1-6 can also be prepared by Mitsunobu reaction of the compound of formula 1-8 with a compound of formula  $R^1$ -OH in the presence of dialkyl azodicarboxylate in a reaction-inert solvent. The compound of formula 1-6 may be treated with a compound of formula  $R^1$ -OH in the presence of dialkyl azodicarboxylate such as diethyl azodicarboxylate (DEAD) and phosphine reagent such as triphenylphosphine. Preferably, this reaction may be carried out in a reaction-inert solvent. Preferred reaction inert solvents include, but are not limited to, tetrahydrofuran (THF), diethyl ether, dimethylformamide (DMF), benzene, toluene, xylene, *o*-dichlorobenzene, nitrobenzene, dichloromethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, dimethoxyethane (DME), or mixtures thereof. This reaction may be carried out at a temperature in the range from  $-50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $200\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , usually from  $0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $80\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 minutes to 72 hours, usually 30 minutes to 24 hours.

In the above Schemes from 1, examples of suitable solvents include a mixture of any two or more of those solvents described in each step.

The starting materials in the aforementioned general syntheses are commercially available or may be obtained by conventional methods known to those skilled in the art.

The compounds of formula (I), and the intermediates above-mentioned preparation methods can be isolated and purified by conventional procedures, such as recrystallization or chromatographic purification.

The various general methods described above may be useful for the introduction of the desired groups at any stage in the stepwise formation of the required compound, and it will be appreciated that these general methods can be combined in different ways in such multi-stage processes. The sequence of the reactions in multi-stage processes should of course be chosen so that the reaction conditions used do not affect groups in the molecule which are desired in the final product.

(a) **Method for assessing biological activities:**

***In vitro assays***

**Human EP receptor cell membrane binding assay:**

***Stable expression of human EP1, 2, 3 and 4 receptors in the human embryonic kidney (HEK293) cell line***

The cDNA clones of human EP1, 2, 3 and 4 receptors are obtained by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) from rat kidney or heart cDNA libraries (Clontech).

Human embryonic kidney cells (HEK 293) are stably transfected with expression vectors for human EP1, 2, 3 and 4 receptors in according to the method described in the article; the journal of biological chemistry vol.271 No.39, pp23642-23645.

**Preparation of membrane fraction:**

The EP1, 2, 3 and 4 transfectant are grown in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum, 50 U/ml penicillin, 50  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  streptomycin and 500  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  G418 (selection medium) at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a humidified atmosphere of 5%  $\text{CO}_2$  in air. For the membrane preparation, cells are

harvested with phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and centrifuged at 400 x g for 5 min. The pellet is suspended with cold (4°C) PBS containing 1/100 volume of protease inhibitor cocktail (SIGMA) ( 1 mM (4-(2-aminoethyl)-benzenesulfonyl fluoride (AEBSF)), 0.8  $\mu$ M Aprotinin, 22  $\mu$ M Leupeptin, 40  $\mu$ M Bestatin, 15  $\mu$ M Pepstatin A and 14  $\mu$ M E-64). Cells are lysed with ultrasonic cell disrupter for 60-sec sonication. Then cell mixtures are centrifuged at 1,000 x g for 10 minutes. The supernatant is centrifuged at 160,000 x g for 30 minutes at 4°C. The pellet is resuspended in assay buffer (10 mM 2-morpholinoethanesulfonic acid (MES)-KOH, 1 mM ethylenediamine tetra-acetic acid (EDTA), 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, pH 6.0 ), and protein concentration is determined by Bradford method (Bio-Rad assay). This membrane preparation is stored at -80°C freezer until use for binding assay.

#### **Binding assay:**

##### **Membrane binding assay**

[<sup>3</sup>H]-PGE<sub>2</sub> membrane binding assays are performed in the reaction mixture of 10 mM MES/KOH (pH6.0), 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM EDTA, 1 nM [<sup>3</sup>H]-PGE<sub>2</sub> (Amersham TRK431, 164Ci/mmol), 2~10  $\mu$ g of protein from membrane fraction (human EP<sub>1</sub>, 2, 3 and 4/HEK293 transfectant) and test compound (total volume is 0.1ml in 96 well polypropylene plate). Incubation is conducted for 60 min at room temperature prior to separation of the bound and free radioligand by rapid filtration through glass fiber filters (Printed Filtermat B, 1205-404, glass fiber, double thickness, size 102 x 258 mm, Wallac inc., presoaked in 0.2% polyethylenimine). Filters are washed with assay buffer and the residual [<sup>3</sup>H]-PGE<sub>2</sub> bound to the filter is determined by liquid scintillation counter (1205 Betaplate<sup>TM</sup>). Specific binding is defined as the difference between total binding and nonspecific binding which is determined in the presence of 10  $\mu$ M PGE<sub>2</sub>.

##### **cAMP assay in human EP<sub>4</sub> transfectant**

HEK293 cells expressing human EP<sub>4</sub> receptors (hEP<sub>4</sub> cells) are maintained in DMEM containing 10% FBS and 500  $\mu$ g/ml geneticin. For harvesting hEP<sub>4</sub> cells, culture medium is aspirated and cells in 75cm<sup>2</sup> flask are washed with 10 ml of phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Another 10 ml of PBS is added to the cells and incubated for 20 min at room temperature. Human EP<sub>4</sub> cells are harvested by pipetting and centrifuged at 300 x g for 4min. Cells are resuspended in DMEM without neutral red at a density of 7 x 10<sup>5</sup> cells/ml containing 0.2 mM IBMX (PDE inhibitor), 1 nM PGE<sub>2</sub> and test compounds in PCR-tubes, and incubated at 37°C for 10 min. The reaction is stopped by heating at 100°C for 10 min with thermal cycler. Concentration of cAMP in reaction mixtures is determined with SPA cAMP Kit (Amersham) or cAMP Screen<sup>TM</sup> (Applied Biosystems) according to the manufacture's instruction.

Reference : Eur.J.Pharmacol. 340 (1997) 227-241

#### **In vivo assays**

##### **Carrageenan induced mechanical hyperalgesia in rats:**

Male 4-week-old SD rats were fasted over night. Hyperalgesia was induced by intraplantar injection of  $\lambda$ -carrageenin (0.1 ml of 1% w/v suspension in saline, Zushikagaku). The test compounds (1 ml of 0.1% methylcellulose/100g body weight) were given per orally at 5.5 hours after the carrageenin injection. The mechanical pain threshold was measured by analgesy meter (Ugo Basile) at 4, 5, 6.5 and 7.5 hours after the carrageenin injection and the change of pain threshold was calculated.

Reference : Randall L.O. & Selitto I.J., Arch. Int. Pharmacodyn. **111**, 409-419, 1957

**Prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub>(PGE<sub>2</sub>)- induced thermal hyperalgesia in rats:**

Male 4-week-old SD rats were fasted over night. Hyperalgesia was induced by intraplantar injection of 100ng of PGE<sub>2</sub> in 0.05% ethanol/saline (100ul) into the right hindpaw of the rats. Animals were given orally or intravenously either vehicle (po : 0.1% methyl cellulose, iv: 10% DMSO/saline) or a test compound prior to PGE<sub>2</sub> injection, respectively. Rats were placed in plastic cages of plantar test apparatus (Ugo Basile) and the mobile radiant heat source was focused on right hind paw of the rats. The thermal paw-withdrawal latency (sec.) was measured at 15 min after PGE<sub>2</sub> injection.

Reference : Hargreaves K. et al., Pain **32**, 77-88, 1988.

**CFA-induced weight bearing deficits in rats:**

Male 7-week-old SD rats were fasted over night. CFA (300  $\mu$ g of *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* H37 RA (Difco Laboratories) in 100  $\mu$ L of liquid paraffin (Wako)) was injected into the rat's right hind footpad. Two days after the administration of CFA, the changes in hind paw weight distribution between the left (ipsilateral) and the right (contralateral) limbs were measured as an index of pain by using Linton Incapacitance tester (Linton Instrumentation, UK). The test compounds suspended in 0.1% MC (Wako) administered orally in a volume of 1 mL per 100 g body weight. Each animal was placed in the apparatus and the weight load exerted by the hind paws was measured before, 1, 2 and 4 hours after drug administration.

**Formalin-induced licking/biting behavior in rats:**

Male 4-week-old SD rats were fasted over night. Animals were habituated to observation chambers for at least 15 min prior to testing. Licking/biting behavior was induced by intraplantar injection of formalin (0.05 ml of 2% w/v solution in saline, 37% Formaldehyde solution, Wako Chemicals). The test compounds (1 ml of 0.1% methylcellulose/100 g body weight) were given per orally at 1 hour before the formalin injection. Behavior of animals after formalin injection was recorded for 45 minutes using video camera. The time spent licking or biting the injection paw was counted by stopwatch and summed in 5 minutes bins for 45 minutes. The results are expressed as licking/biting time for the early phase (0-10 min) and the late phase (10-45 min).

**Formalin-induced licking/biting behavior in mice:**

Male 4-week-old ddY mice were used. Animals were habituated to observation chambers for at least 30 min prior to testing. Licking/biting behavior was induced by intraplantar injection of formalin (0.02 ml of 2% w/v solution in saline, 37% Formaldehyde solution, Wako Chemicals). The test compounds (0.05 ml of 0.1% methylcellulose/10 g body weight) were given per orally at 1 hour before the formalin injection. Behavior of animals after formalin injection was recorded for 45 minutes using video camera. The time spent licking or biting the injection paw was counted by stopwatch and summed in 5

minutes bins for 45 minutes. The results are expressed as licking/biting time for the early phase (0-10 min) and the late phase (10-45 min).

Most of the compounds prepared in the working examples appearing hereafter demonstrate  
5 higher affinity for EP<sub>4</sub>-receptors than for EP<sub>1</sub>, 2 and 3-receptors.

#### **Caco-2 permeability**

Caco-2 permeability was measured according to the method described in Shiyin Yee, *Pharmaceutical Research*, 763 (1997).

10 Caco-2 cells were grown on filter supports (Falcon HTS multiwell insert system) for 14 days. Culture medium was removed from both the apical and basolateral compartments and the monolayers were preincubated with pre-warmed 0.3 ml apical buffer and 1.0 ml basolateral buffer for 0.75 hour at 37°C in a shaker water bath at 50 cycles/min. The apical buffer consisted of Hanks Balanced Salt Solution, 25 mM D-glucose monohydrate, 20 mM MES Biological Buffer, 1.25 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> and 0.5 mM  
15 MgCl<sub>2</sub> (pH 6.5). The basolateral buffer consisted of Hanks Balanced Salt Solution, 25 mM D-glucose monohydrate, 20 mM HEPES Biological Buffer, 1.25 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> and 0.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> (pH 7.4). At the end of the preincubation, the media was removed and test compound solution (10µM) in buffer was added to the apical compartment. The inserts were moved to wells containing fresh basolateral buffer and incubated for 1 hr. Drug concentration in the buffer was measured by LC/MS analysis.

20 Flux rate (F, mass/time) was calculated from the slope of cumulative appearance of substrate on the receiver side and apparent permeability coefficient (P<sub>app</sub>) was calculated from the following equation.

$$P_{app} \text{ (cm/sec)} = (F * VD) / (SA * MD)$$

where SA is surface area for transport (0.3 cm<sup>2</sup>), VD is the donor volume (0.3ml), MD is the total amount of drug on the donor side at t = 0. All data represent the mean of 2 inserts. Monolayer integrity  
25 was determined by Lucifer Yellow transport.

#### **Human dofetilide binding**

Cell paste of HEK-293 cells expressing the HERG product can be suspended in 10-fold volume of 50 mM Tris buffer adjusted at pH 7.5 at 25 °C with 2 M HCl containing 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 10 mM KCl. The  
30 cells were homogenized using a Polytron homogenizer (at the maximum power for 20 seconds) and centrifuged at 48,000g for 20 minutes at 4°C. The pellet was resuspended, homogenized and centrifuged once more in the same manner. The resultant supernatant was discarded and the final pellet was resuspended (10-fold volume of 50 mM Tris buffer) and homogenized at the maximum power for 20 seconds. The membrane homogenate was aliquoted and stored at -80°C until use. An aliquot was  
35 used for protein concentration determination using a Protein Assay Rapid Kit and ARVO SX plate reader (Wallac). All the manipulation, stock solution and equipment were kept on ice at all time. For saturation assays, experiments were conducted in a total volume of 200 µl. Saturation was determined by incubating 20 µl of [<sup>3</sup>H]-dofetilide and 160 µl of membrane homogenates (20-30 µg protein per well) for 60 min at room temperature in the absence or presence of 10 µM dofetilide at final concentrations (20 µl) for

total or nonspecific binding, respectively. All incubations were terminated by rapid vacuum filtration over PEI soaked glass fiber filter papers using Skatron cell harvester followed by two washes with 50 mM Tris buffer (pH 7.5 at 25 °C). Receptor-bound radioactivity was quantified by liquid scintillation counting using Packard LS counter.

5 For the competition assay, compounds were diluted in 96 well polypropylene plates as 4-point dilutions in semi-log format. All dilutions were performed in DMSO first and then transferred into 50 mM Tris buffer (pH 7.5 at 25 °C) containing 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 10 mM KCl so that the final DMSO concentration became equal to 1%. Compounds were dispensed in triplicate in assay plates (4 µl). Total binding and nonspecific binding wells were set up in 6 wells as vehicle and 10 µM dofetilide at final concentration, respectively. The radioligand was prepared at 5.6x final concentration and this solution was added to each well (36 µl). The assay was initiated by addition of YSi poly-L-lysine SPA beads (50 µl, 1 mg/well) and membranes (110 µl, 20 µg/well). Incubation was continued for 60 min at room temperature. Plates were incubated for a further 3 hours at room temperature for beads to settle. Receptor-bound radioactivity was quantified by counting Wallac MicroBeta plate counter.

#### 15 HERG assay

HEK 293 cells which stably express the HERG potassium channel were used for electrophysiological study. The methodology for stable transfection of this channel in HEK cells can be found elsewhere (Z.Zhou et al., 1998, Biophysical Journal, 74, pp230-241). Before the day of experimentation, the cells were harvested from culture flasks and plated onto glass coverslips in a standard MEM medium with 10% FCS. The plated cells were stored in an incubator at 37°C maintained in an atmosphere of 95%O<sub>2</sub>/5%CO<sub>2</sub>. Cells were studied between 15-28hrs after harvest.

20 HERG currents were studied using standard patch clamp techniques in the whole-cell mode. During the experiment the cells were superfused with a standard external solution of the following composition (mM); NaCl, 130; KCl, 4; CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 2; MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1; Glucose, 10; HEPES, 5; pH 7.4 with NaOH. Whole-cell recordings was made using a patch clamp amplifier and patch pipettes which have a resistance of 1-3MΩ when filled with the standard internal solution of the following composition (mM); KCl, 130; MgATP, 5; MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.0; HEPES, 10; EGTA 5, pH 7.2 with KOH. Only those cells with access resistances below 15MΩ and seal resistances >1GΩ was accepted for further experimentation. Series resistance compensation was applied up to a maximum of 80%. No leak subtraction was done. However, acceptable access resistance depended on the size of the recorded currents and the level of series resistance compensation that can safely be used. Following the achievement of whole cell configuration and sufficient time for cell dialysis with pipette solution (>5min), a standard voltage protocol was applied to the cell to evoke membrane currents. The voltage protocol is as follows. The membrane was depolarized from a holding potential of -80mV to +40mV for 1000ms. This was followed by a descending voltage ramp (rate 0.5mV msec<sup>-1</sup>) back to the holding potential. The voltage protocol was applied to a cell continuously throughout the experiment every 4 seconds (0.25Hz). The amplitude of the peak current elicited around -40mV during the ramp was measured. Once stable evoked current responses were obtained in the external solution, vehicle (0.5% DMSO in the standard external solution) was applied for 10-20 min by a peristaltic pump. Provided there were minimal changes in the amplitude

of the evoked current response in the vehicle control condition, the test compound of either 0.3, 1, 3, 10 $\mu$ M was applied for a 10 min period. The 10 min period included the time which supplying solution was passing through the tube from solution reservoir to the recording chamber via the pump. Exposing time of cells to the compound solution was more than 5min after the drug concentration in the chamber well reached the attempting concentration. There was a subsequent wash period of a 10-20min to assess reversibility. Finally, the cells were exposed to high dose of dofetilide (5 $\mu$ M), a specific IKr blocker, to evaluate the insensitive endogenous current.

All experiments were performed at room temperature (23  $\pm$  1°C). Evoked membrane currents were recorded on-line on a computer, filtered at 500-1KHz (Bessel -3dB) and sampled at 1-2KHz using the patch clamp amplifier and a specific data analyzing software. Peak current amplitude, which occurred at around -40mV, was measured off line on the computer.

The arithmetic mean of the ten values of amplitude was calculated under vehicle control conditions and in the presence of drug. Percent decrease of  $I_N$  in each experiment was obtained by the normalized current value using the following formula:  $I_N = (1 - I_D/I_C) \times 100$ , where  $I_D$  is the mean current value in the presence of drug and  $I_C$  is the mean current value under control conditions. Separate experiments were performed for each drug concentration or time-matched control, and arithmetic mean in each experiment is defined as the result of the study.

#### Drug-drug interaction assay

This method essentially involves determining the percent inhibition of product formation from fluorescence probe at 3 $\mu$ M of the each compound.

More specifically, the assay is carried out as follows. The compounds were pre-incubated with recombinant CYPs, 100 mM potassium phosphate buffer and fluorescence probe as substrate for 5min. Reaction was started by adding a warmed NADPH generating system, which consist of 0.5 mM NADP (expect; for 2D6 0.03 mM), 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 6.2 mM DL-Isocitric acid and 0.5 U/ml Isocitric Dehydrogenase (ICD). The assay plate was incubated at 37°C (expect; for 1A2 and 3A4 at 30°C) and taking fluoresce reading every minutes over 20 to 30min.

Data calculations were preceded as follows;

1. The slope (Time vs. Fluorescence units) was calculated at the linear region
2. The percentage of inhibition in compounds was calculated by the equation

$$\{(v_o - v_i) / v_o\} \times 100 = \% \text{ inhibition}$$

Wherein

$v_o$  = rate of control reaction (no inhibitor)

$v_i$  = rate of reaction in the presence of compounds.

Table 1. Condition for drug-drug interaction assay.

|                      | 1A2                    | 2C9              | 2C19                   | 2D6               | 3A4                   |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Substrate            | Vivid blue<br>(Aurora) | MFC<br>(Gentest) | Vivid blue<br>(Aurora) | AMMC<br>(Gentest) | Vivid red<br>(Aurora) |
| Substrate ( $\mu$ M) | 10                     | 30               | 10                     | 1                 | 2                     |

|               |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Enzyme (pmol) | 50      | 50      | 5       | 50      | 5       |
| EX./Em(λ)     | 408/465 | 408/535 | 408/465 | 400/465 | 530/595 |

#### **Half-life in human liver microsomes (HLM)**

Test compounds (1 μM) were incubated with 3.3 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> and 0.78 mg/mL HLM (HL101) in 100 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) at 37°C on the 96-deep well plate. The reaction mixture was split into two groups, a non-P450 and a P450 group. NADPH was only added to the reaction mixture of the P450 group. An aliquot of samples of P450 group was collected at 0, 10, 30, and 60 min time point, where 0 min time point indicated the time when NADPH was added into the reaction mixture of P450 group. An aliquot of samples of non-P450 group was collected at -10 and 65 min time point. Collected aliquots were extracted with acetonitrile solution containing an internal standard. The precipitated protein was spun down in centrifuge (2000 rpm, 15 min). The compound concentration in supernatant was measured by LC/MS/MS system.

The half-life value was obtained by plotting the natural logarithm of the peak area ratio of compounds/ internal standard versus time. The slope of the line of best fit through the points yields the rate of metabolism (k). This was converted to a half-life value using following equations:

$$\text{Half-life} = \ln 2 / k$$

Pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of formula (I) include the acid addition and base salts thereof.

Suitable acid addition salts are formed from acids which form non-toxic salts. Examples include the acetate, aspartate, benzoate, besylate, bicarbonate/carbonate, bisulphate/sulphate, borate, camsylate, citrate, edisylate, esylate, formate, fumarate, gluceptate, gluconate, glucuronate, hexafluorophosphate, hibenzate, hydrochloride/chloride, hydrobromide/bromide, hydroiodide/iodide, isethionate, lactate, malate, maleate, malonate, mesylate, methylsulphate, naphthylate, 2-napsylate, nicotinate, nitrate, orotate, oxalate, palmitate, pamoate, phosphate/hydrogen phosphate/dihydrogen phosphate, saccharate, stearate, succinate, tartrate, tosylate and trifluoroacetate salts.

Suitable base salts are formed from bases which form non-toxic salts. Examples include the aluminum, arginine, benzathine, calcium, choline, diethylamine, diolamine, glycine, lysine, magnesium, meglumine, olamine, potassium, sodium, tromethamine and zinc salts.

For a review on suitable salts, see "Handbook of Pharmaceutical Salts: Properties, Selection, and Use" by Stahl and Wermuth (Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, Germany, 2002).

A pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound of formula (I) may be readily prepared by mixing together solutions of the compound of formula (I) and the desired acid or base, as appropriate. The salt may precipitate from solution and be collected by filtration or may be recovered by evaporation of the solvent. The degree of ionisation in the salt may vary from completely ionised to almost non-ionised.

The compounds of the invention may exist in both unsolvated and solvated forms. The term 'solvate' is used herein to describe a molecular complex comprising the compound of the invention and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable solvent molecules, for example, ethanol. The term 'hydrate' is

employed when said solvent is water.

Included within the scope of the invention are complexes such as clathrates, drug-host inclusion complexes wherein, in contrast to the aforementioned solvates, the drug and host are present in stoichiometric or non-stoichiometric amounts. Also included are complexes of the drug containing two or more organic and/or inorganic components which may be in stoichiometric or non-stoichiometric amounts. The resulting complexes may be ionised, partially ionised, or non-ionised. For a review of such complexes, see J Pharm Sci, 64 (8), 1269-1288 by Haleblan (August 1975).

Hereinafter all references to compounds of formula (I) include references to salts, solvates and complexes thereof and to solvates and complexes of salts thereof.

The compounds of the invention include compounds of formula (I) as hereinbefore defined, polymorphs, prodrugs, and isomers thereof (including optical, geometric and tautomeric isomers) as hereinafter defined and isotopically-labeled compounds of formula (I).

As stated, the invention includes all polymorphs of the compounds of formula (I) as hereinbefore defined.

Also within the scope of the invention are so-called 'prodrugs' of the compounds of formula (I). Thus certain derivatives of compounds of formula (I) which may have little or no pharmacological activity themselves can, when administered into or onto the body, be converted into compounds of formula (I) having the desired activity, for example, by hydrolytic cleavage. Such derivatives are referred to as 'prodrugs'. Further information on the use of prodrugs may be found in 'Pro-drugs as Novel Delivery Systems, Vol. 14, ACS Symposium Series (T Higuchi and W Stella) and 'Bioreversible Carriers in Drug Design', Pergamon Press, 1987 (ed. E B Roche, American Pharmaceutical Association).

Prodrugs in accordance with the invention can, for example, be produced by replacing appropriate functionalities present in the compounds of formula (I) with certain moieties known to those skilled in the art as 'pro-moieties' as described, for example, in "Design of Prodrugs" by H Bundgaard (Elsevier, 1985).

Some examples of prodrugs in accordance with the invention include:

- (i) where the compound of formula (I) contains a carboxylic acid functionality (-COOH), an ester thereof, for example, replacement of the hydrogen with (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)alkyl;
- (ii) where the compound of formula (I) contains an alcohol functionality (-OH), an ether thereof, for example, replacement of the hydrogen with (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkanoyloxymethyl; and
- (iii) where the compound of formula (I) contains a primary or secondary amino functionality (-NH<sub>2</sub> or -NHR where R ≠ H), an amide thereof, for example, replacement of one or both hydrogens with (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)alkanoyl.

Further examples of replacement groups in accordance with the foregoing examples and examples of other prodrug types may be found in the aforementioned references.

Finally, certain compounds of formula (I) may themselves act as prodrugs of other compounds of formula (I).

Compounds of formula (I) containing one or more asymmetric carbon atoms can exist as two or more stereoisomers. Where a compound of formula (I) contains an alkenyl or alkenylene group, geometric *cis/trans* (or *Z/E*) isomers are possible. Where the compound contains, for example, a keto oxime group or an aromatic moiety, tautomeric isomerism ('tautomerism') can occur. It follows that a

single compound may exhibit more than one type of isomerism.

Included within the scope of the present invention are all stereoisomers, geometric isomers and tautomeric forms of the compounds of formula (I), including compounds exhibiting more than one type of isomerism, and mixtures of one or more thereof. Also included are acid addition or base salts wherein the counterion is optically active, for example, D-lactate or L-lysine, or racemic, for example, DL-tartrate or DL-arginine.

*Cis/trans* isomers may be separated by conventional techniques well known to those skilled in the art, for example, chromatography and fractional crystallisation.

Conventional techniques for the preparation/isolation of individual enantiomers include chiral synthesis from a suitable optically pure precursor or resolution of the racemate (or the racemate of a salt or derivative) using, for example, chiral high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC).

Alternatively, the racemate (or a racemic precursor) may be reacted with a suitable optically active compound, for example, an alcohol, or, in the case where the compound of formula (I) contains an acidic or basic moiety, an acid or base such as tartaric acid or 1-phenylethylamine. The resulting diastereomeric mixture may be separated by chromatography and/or fractional crystallization and one or both of the diastereoisomers converted to the corresponding pure enantiomer(s) by means well known to a skilled person.

Chiral compounds of the invention (and chiral precursors thereof) may be obtained in enantiomerically-enriched form using chromatography, typically HPLC, on an asymmetric resin with a mobile phase consisting of a hydrocarbon, typically heptane or hexane, containing from 0 to 50% isopropanol, typically from 2 to 20%, and from 0 to 5% of an alkylamine, typically 0.1% diethylamine. Concentration of the eluate affords the enriched mixture.

Stereoisomeric conglomerates may be separated by conventional techniques known to those skilled in the art - see, for example, "Stereochemistry of Organic Compounds" by E L Eliel (Wiley, New York, 1994).

The present invention includes all pharmaceutically acceptable isotopically-labelled compounds of formula (I) wherein one or more atoms are replaced by atoms having the same atomic number, but an atomic mass or mass number different from the atomic mass or mass number usually found in nature.

Examples of isotopes suitable for inclusion in the compounds of the invention include isotopes of hydrogen, such as  $^2\text{H}$  and  $^3\text{H}$ , carbon, such as  $^{11}\text{C}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$ , chlorine, such as  $^{36}\text{Cl}$ , fluorine, such as  $^{18}\text{F}$ , iodine, such as  $^{123}\text{I}$  and  $^{125}\text{I}$ , nitrogen, such as  $^{13}\text{N}$  and  $^{15}\text{N}$ , oxygen, such as  $^{15}\text{O}$ ,  $^{17}\text{O}$  and  $^{18}\text{O}$ , phosphorus, such as  $^{32}\text{P}$ , and sulfur, such as  $^{35}\text{S}$ .

Certain isotopically-labelled compounds of formula (I), for example, those incorporating a radioactive isotope, are useful in drug and/or substrate tissue distribution studies. The radioactive isotopes tritium, *i.e.*  $^3\text{H}$ , and carbon-14, *i.e.*  $^{14}\text{C}$ , are particularly useful for this purpose in view of their ease of incorporation and ready means of detection.

Substitution with heavier isotopes such as deuterium, *i.e.*  $^2\text{H}$ , may 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.

Substitution with positron emitting isotopes, such as  $^{11}\text{C}$ ,  $^{18}\text{F}$ ,  $^{15}\text{O}$  and  $^{13}\text{N}$ , can be useful in Positron Emission Topography (PET) studies for examining substrate receptor occupancy.

Isotopically-labeled compounds of formula (I) can generally be prepared by conventional techniques known to those skilled in the art or by processes analogous to those described in the accompanying Examples and Preparations using an appropriate isotopically-labeled reagents in place of the non-labeled reagent previously employed.

5 Pharmaceutically acceptable solvates in accordance with the invention include those wherein the solvent of crystallization may be isotopically substituted, *e.g.* D<sub>2</sub>O, d<sub>6</sub>-acetone, d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO.

Compounds of the invention intended for pharmaceutical use may be administered as crystalline or amorphous products. They may be obtained, for example, as solid plugs, powders, or films by methods such as precipitation, crystallization, freeze drying, or spray drying, or evaporative drying. Microwave or  
10 radio frequency drying may be used for this purpose.

They may be administered alone or in combination with one or more other compounds of the invention or in combination with one or more other drugs (or as any combination thereof). Generally, they will be administered as a formulation in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients. The term "excipient" is used herein to describe any ingredient other than the compound(s) of  
15 the invention. The choice of excipient will to a large extent depend on factors such as the particular mode of administration, the effect of the excipient on solubility and stability, and the nature of the dosage form.

The compounds of the invention may be administered in combination, separately, simultaneously or sequentially, with one or more other pharmacologically active agents. Suitable agents, particularly for the treatment of pain, include:

- 20 (i) opioid analgesics, *e.g.* morphine, heroin, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, levorphanol, levallorphan, methadone, meperidine, fentanyl, cocaine, codeine, dihydrocodeine, oxycodone, hydrocodone, propoxyphene, nalmeferene, nalorphine, naloxone, naltrexone, buprenorphine, butorphanol, nalbuphine and pentazocine;
- 25 (ii) nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), *e.g.* aspirin, diclofenac, diflusal, etodolac, fenbufen, fenoprofen, flufenisal, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, indomethacin, ketoprofen, ketorolac, meclofenamic acid, mefenamic acid, nabumetone, naproxen, oxaprozin, phenylbutazone, piroxicam, sulindac, tolmetin, zomepirac, and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts;
- 30 (iii) barbiturate sedatives, *e.g.* amobarbital, aprobarbital, butabarbital, butabital, mephobarbital, metharbital, methohexital, pentobarbital, phenobarbital, secobarbital, talbutal, theamylal, thiopental and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts;
- (iv) benzodiazepines having a sedative action, *e.g.* chlordiazepoxide, clorazepate, diazepam, flurazepam, lorazepam, oxazepam, temazepam, triazolam and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts,
- 35 (v) H<sub>1</sub> antagonists having a sedative action, *e.g.* diphenhydramine, pyrilamine, promethazine, chlorpheniramine, chlorcyclizine and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts;
- (vi) miscellaneous sedatives such as glutethimide, meprobamate, methaqualone, dichloralphenazone and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts;
- (vii) skeletal muscle relaxants, *e.g.* baclofen, carisoprodol, chlorzoxazone, cyclobenzaprine, methocarbamol, orphenadrine and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts,
- 40 (viii) alpha-2-delta ligands, *e.g.* gabapentin and pregabalin;
- (ix) alpha-adrenergic active compounds, *e.g.* doxazosin, tamsulosin, clonidine and 4-amino-6,7-

- dimethoxy-2-(5-methanesulfonamido-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinol-2-yl)-5-(2-pyridyl) quinazoline;
- (x) tricyclic antidepressants, e.g. desipramine, imipramine, amitriptyline and nortriptyline;
- (xi) anticonvulsants, e.g. carbamazepine and valproate;
- (xii) serotonin reuptake inhibitors, e.g. fluoxetine, paroxetine, citalopram and sertraline;
- 5 (xiii) mixed serotonin-noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors, e.g. milnacipran, venlafaxine and duloxetine;
- (xiv) noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors, e.g. reboxetine;
- (xv) Tachykinin (NK) antagonists, particularly NK-3, NK-2 and NK-1 antagonists, e.g. ( $\alpha$ R,9R)-7-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]-8,9,10,11-tetrahydro-9-methyl-5-(4-methylphenyl)-7H-[1,4]diazocino[2,1-g][1,7]naphthridine-6,13-dione (TAK-637), 5-[[[(2R,3S)-2-[(1R)-1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethoxy-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-morpholinyl]methyl]-1,2-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one (MK-869), lanepitant, dapitant and 3-[[2-methoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]methylamino]-2-phenyl-piperidine (2S,3S)
- (xvi) Muscarinic antagonists, e.g. oxybutin, tolterodine, propiverine, trospium chloride and darifenacin;
- (xvii) COX-2 inhibitors, e.g. celecoxib, rofecoxib and valdecoxib;
- 15 (xviii) Non-selective COX inhibitors (preferably with GI protection), e.g. nitroflurbiprofen (HCT-1026);
- (xix) coal-tar analgesics, in particular, paracetamol;
- (xx) neuroleptics, such as droperidol;
- (xxi) Vanilloid receptor agonists, e.g. resiniferatoxin;
- (xxii) Beta-adrenergic compounds such as propranolol;
- 20 (xxiii) Local anaesthetics, such as mexiletine;
- (xxiv) Corticosteroids, such as dexamethasone
- (xxv) serotonin receptor agonists and antagonists;
- (xxvi) cholinergic (nicotinic) analgesics; and
- (xxvii) miscellaneous analgesic agents, such as Tramadol®.
- 25 (xxviii) NMDA receptor antagonists, e.g. dextromethorphan ((+)-3-hydroxy-N-methylmorphinan) and its metabolite dextrorphan ((+)-3-hydroxy-N-methylmorphinan), ketamine, memantine, pyrroloquinoline quinone and cis-4-(phosphonomethyl)-2-piperidinecarboxylic acid and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts;
- (xxix) PDEV inhibitors, such as sildenafil, vardenafil or tadalafil.

30 Thus, the invention further provides a combination comprising a compound of the invention or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof, and a compound or class of compounds selected from the group (i)-(xxix), above. There is also provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising such a combination, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier, particularly for the treatment of a disease for which an EP4 antagonist is implicated.

35

Pharmaceutical compositions suitable for the delivery of compounds of the present invention and methods for their preparation will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art. Such compositions and methods for their preparation may be found, for example, in 'Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences', 19th Edition (Mack Publishing Company, 1995).

40

### ORAL ADMINISTRATION

The compounds of the invention may be administered orally. Oral administration may involve swallowing, so that the compound enters the gastrointestinal tract, or buccal or sublingual administration may be employed by which the compound enters the blood stream directly from the mouth.

5        Formulations suitable for oral administration include solid formulations such as tablets, capsules containing particulates, liquids, or powders, lozenges (including liquid-filled), chews, multi- and nano-particulates, gels, solid solution, liposome, films (including muco-adhesive), ovules, sprays and liquid formulations.

10        Liquid formulations include suspensions, solutions, syrups and elixirs. Such formulations may be employed as fillers in soft or hard capsules and typically comprise a carrier, for example, water, ethanol, polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, methylcellulose, or a suitable oil, and one or more emulsifying agents and/or suspending agents. Liquid formulations may also be prepared by the reconstitution of a solid, for example, from a sachet.

15        The compounds of the invention may also be used in fast-dissolving, fast-disintegrating dosage forms such as those described in Expert Opinion in Therapeutic Patents, 11 (6), 981-986 by Liang and Chen (2001).

20        For tablet dosage forms, depending on dose, the drug may make up from 1 wt% to 80 wt% of the dosage form, more typically from 5 wt% to 60 wt% of the dosage form. In addition to the drug, tablets generally contain a disintegrant. Examples of disintegrants include sodium starch glycolate, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, calcium carboxymethyl cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, crospovidone, polyvinylpyrrolidone, methyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, lower alkyl-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, starch, pregelatinised starch and sodium alginate. Generally, the disintegrant will comprise from 1 wt% to 25 wt%, preferably from 5 wt% to 20 wt% of the dosage form.

25        Binders are generally used to impart cohesive qualities to a tablet formulation. Suitable binders include microcrystalline cellulose, gelatin, sugars, polyethylene glycol, natural and synthetic gums, polyvinylpyrrolidone, pregelatinised starch, hydroxypropyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose. Tablets may also contain diluents, such as lactose (monohydrate, spray-dried monohydrate, anhydrous and the like), mannitol, xylitol, dextrose, sucrose, sorbitol, microcrystalline cellulose, starch and dibasic calcium phosphate dihydrate.

30        Tablets may also optionally comprise surface active agents, such as sodium lauryl sulfate and polysorbate 80, and glidants such as silicon dioxide and talc. When present, surface active agents may comprise from 0.2 wt% to 5 wt% of the tablet, and glidants may comprise from 0.2 wt% to 1 wt% of the tablet.

35        Tablets also generally contain lubricants such as magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, zinc stearate, sodium stearyl fumarate, and mixtures of magnesium stearate with sodium lauryl sulphate. Lubricants generally comprise from 0.25 wt% to 10 wt%, preferably from 0.5 wt% to 3 wt% of the tablet.

Other possible ingredients include anti-oxidants, colourants, flavouring agents, preservatives and taste-masking agents.

40        Exemplary tablets contain up to about 80% drug, from about 10 wt% to about 90 wt% binder, from about 0 wt% to about 85 wt% diluent, from about 2 wt% to about 10 wt% disintegrant, and from about 0.25 wt% to about 10 wt% lubricant.

Tablet blends may be compressed directly or by roller to form tablets. Tablet blends or portions of blends may alternatively be wet-, dry-, or melt-granulated, melt congealed, or extruded before tableting. The final formulation may comprise one or more layers and may be coated or uncoated; it may even be encapsulated.

5 The formulation of tablets is discussed in "Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms: Tablets, Vol. 1", by H. Lieberman and L. Lachman, Marcel Dekker, N.Y., N.Y., 1980 (ISBN 0-8247-6918-X).

Solid formulations for oral administration may be formulated to be immediate and/or modified controlled release. Modified release formulations include delayed-, sustained-, pulsed-, controlled-, targeted and programmed release.

10 Suitable modified release formulations for the purposes of the invention are described in US Patent No. 6,106,864. Details of other suitable release technologies such as high energy dispersions and osmotic and coated particles are to be found in Verma *et al*, Pharmaceutical Technology On-line, 25(2), 1-14 (2001). The use of chewing gum to achieve controlled release is described in WO 00/35298.

## 15 PARENTERAL ADMINISTRATION

The compounds of the invention may also be administered directly into the blood stream, into muscle, or into an internal organ. Suitable means for parenteral administration include intravenous, intraarterial, intraperitoneal, intrathecal, intraventricular, intraurethral, intrasternal, intracranial, intramuscular and subcutaneous. Suitable devices for parenteral administration include needle  
20 (including microneedle) injectors, needle-free injectors and infusion techniques.

Parenteral formulations are typically aqueous solutions which may contain excipients such as salts, carbohydrates and buffering agents (preferably to a pH of from 3 to 9), but, for some applications, they may be more suitably formulated as a sterile non-aqueous solution or as powdered a dried form to be used in conjunction with a suitable vehicle such as sterile, pyrogen-free water.

25 The preparation of parenteral formulations under sterile conditions, for example, by lyophilisation, may readily be accomplished using standard pharmaceutical techniques well known to those skilled in the art.

The solubility of compounds of formula (I) used in the preparation of parenteral solutions may be increased by the use of appropriate formulation techniques, such as the incorporation of solubility-enhancing agents. Formulations for use with needle-free injection administration comprise a compound  
30 of the invention in powdered form in conjunction with a suitable vehicle such as sterile, pyrogen-free water.

Formulations for parenteral administration may be formulated to be immediate and/or modified controlled release. Modified release formulations include delayed-, sustained-, pulsed-, controlled-, targeted and programmed release. Thus compounds of the invention may be formulated as a solid, semi-  
35 solid, or thixotropic liquid for administration as an implanted depot providing modified release of the active compound. Examples of such formulations include drug-coated stents and PGLA microspheres.

## TOPICAL ADMINISTRATION

40 The compounds of the invention may also be administered topically to the skin or mucosa, that is, dermally or transdermally. Typical formulations for this purpose include gels, hydrogels, lotions, solutions, creams, ointments, dusting powders, dressings, foams, films, skin patches, wafers, implants, sponges,

fibres, bandages and microemulsions. Liposomes may also be used. Typical carriers include alcohol, water, mineral oil, liquid petrolatum, white petrolatum, glycerin, polyethylene glycol and propylene glycol. Penetration enhancers may be incorporated - see, for example, J Pharm Sci, 88 (10), 955-958 by Finnin and Morgan (October 1999).

5 Other means of topical administration include delivery by electroporation, iontophoresis, phonophoresis, sonophoresis and microneedle or needle-free (*e.g.* Powderject™, Bioject™, *etc.*) injection.

Formulations for topical administration may be formulated to be immediate and/or modified controlled release. Modified release formulations include delayed-, sustained-, pulsed-, controlled-, targeted and programmed release.

10

#### INHALED/INTRANASAL ADMINISTRATION

The compounds of the invention can also be administered intranasally or by inhalation, typically in the form of a dry powder (either alone, as a mixture, for example, in a dry blend with lactose, or as a mixed component particle, for example, mixed with phospholipids, such as phosphatidylcholine) from a dry powder inhaler or as an aerosol spray from a pressurised container, pump, spray, atomiser (preferably an atomiser using electrohydrodynamics to produce a fine mist), or nebuliser, with or without the use of a suitable propellant, such as 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane or 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane. For intranasal use, the powder may comprise a bioadhesive agent, for example, chitosan or cyclodextrin.

20 The pressurized container, pump, spray, atomizer, or nebuliser contains a solution or suspension of the compound(s) of the invention comprising, for example, ethanol, aqueous ethanol, or a suitable alternative agent for dispersing, solubilising, or extending release of the active, a propellant(s) as solvent and an optional surfactant, such as sorbitan trioleate, oleic acid, or an oligolactic acid.

25 Prior to use in a dry powder or suspension formulation, the drug product is micronised to a size suitable for delivery by inhalation (typically less than 5 microns). This may be achieved by any appropriate comminuting method, such as spiral jet milling, fluid bed jet milling, supercritical fluid processing to form nanoparticles, high pressure homogenization, or spray drying.

30 Capsules (made, for example, from gelatin or HPMC), blisters and cartridges for use in an inhaler or insufflator may be formulated to contain a powder mix of the compound of the invention, a suitable powder base such as lactose or starch and a performance modifier such as *l*-leucine, mannitol, or magnesium stearate. The lactose may be anhydrous or in the form of the monohydrate, preferably the latter. Other suitable excipients include dextran, glucose, maltose, sorbitol, xylitol, fructose, sucrose and trehalose.

35 A suitable solution formulation for use in an atomizer using electrohydrodynamics to produce a fine mist may contain from 1µg to 20mg of the compound of the invention per actuation and the actuation volume may vary from 1µl to 100µl. A typical formulation may comprise a compound of formula (I), propylene glycol, sterile water, ethanol and sodium chloride. Alternative solvents which may be used instead of propylene glycol include glycerol and polyethylene glycol.

40 Suitable flavors, such as menthol and levomenthol, or sweeteners, such as saccharin or saccharin sodium, may be added to those formulations of the invention intended for inhaled/intranasal administration.

Formulations for inhaled/intranasal administration may be formulated to be immediate and/or modified controlled release using, for example, poly(DL-lactic-coglycolic acid (PGLA). Modified release formulations include delayed-, sustained-, pulsed-, controlled-, targeted and programmed release.

5 In the case of dry powder inhalers and aerosols, the dosage unit is determined by means of a valve which delivers a metered amount. Units in accordance with the invention are typically arranged to administer a metered dose or "puff" containing from 1  $\mu$ g to 10mg of the compound of formula (I). The overall daily dose will typically be in the range 1  $\mu$ g to 10 mg which may be administered in a single dose or, more usually, as divided doses throughout the day.

#### 10 RECTAL/INTRA-VAGINAL ADMINISTRATION

The compounds of the invention may be administered rectally or vaginally, for example, in the form of a suppository, pessary, or enema. Cocoa butter is a traditional suppository base, but various alternatives may be used as appropriate.

15 Formulations for rectal/vaginal administration may be formulated to be immediate and/or modified controlled release. Modified release formulations include delayed-, sustained-, pulsed-, controlled-, targeted and programmed release.

#### OCULAR/AURAL ADMINISTRATION

20 The compounds of the invention may also be administered directly to the eye or ear, typically in the form of drops of a micronised suspension or solution in isotonic, pH-adjusted, sterile saline. Other formulations suitable for ocular and aural administration include ointments, biodegradable (e.g. absorbable gel sponges, collagen) and non-biodegradable (e.g. silicone) implants, wafers, lenses and particulate or vesicular systems, such as niosomes or liposomes. A polymer such as crossed-linked  
25 polyacrylic acid, polyvinylalcohol, hyaluronic acid, a cellulosic polymer, for example, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, or methyl cellulose, or a heteropolysaccharide polymer, for example, gelatin gum, may be incorporated together with a preservative, such as benzalkonium chloride. Such formulations may also be delivered by iontophoresis.

30 Formulations for ocular/aural administration may be formulated to be immediate and/or modified controlled release. Modified release formulations include delayed-, sustained-, pulsed-, controlled-, targeted, or programmed release.

#### OTHER TECHNOLOGIES

35 The compounds of the invention may be combined with soluble macromolecular entities, such as cyclodextrin and suitable derivatives thereof or polyethylene glycol-containing polymers, in order to improve their solubility, dissolution rate, taste-masking, bioavailability and/or stability for use in any of the aforementioned modes of administration.

40 Drug-cyclodextrin complexes, for example, are found to be generally useful for most dosage forms and administration routes. Both inclusion and non-inclusion complexes may be used. As an alternative to direct complexation with the drug, the cyclodextrin may be used as an auxiliary additive, i.e.

as a carrier, diluent, or solubiliser. Most commonly used for these purposes are alpha-, beta- and gamma-cyclodextrins, examples of which may be found in International Patent Applications Nos. WO 91/11172, WO 94/02518 and WO 98/55148.

## 5 KIT-OF-PARTS

Inasmuch as it may be desirable to administer a combination of active compounds, for example, for the purpose of treating a particular disease or condition, it is within the scope of the present invention that two or more pharmaceutical compositions, at least one of which contains a compound in accordance with the invention, may conveniently be combined in the form of a kit suitable for coadministration of the compositions.

Thus the kit of the invention comprises two or more separate pharmaceutical compositions, at least one of which contains a compound of formula (I) in accordance with the invention, and means for separately retaining said compositions, such as a container, divided bottle, or divided foil packet. An example of such a kit is the familiar blister pack used for the packaging of tablets, capsules and the like.

The kit of the invention is particularly suitable for administering different dosage forms, for example, oral and parenteral, for administering the separate compositions at different dosage intervals, or for titrating the separate compositions against one another. To assist compliance, the kit typically comprises directions for administration and may be provided with a so-called memory aid.

## 20 DOSAGE

For administration to human patients, the total daily dose of the compounds of the invention is typically in the range 0.1 mg to 3000 mg, preferably from 1mg to 500mg, depending, of course, on the mode of administration. For example, oral administration may require a total daily dose of from 0.1 mg to 3000 mg, preferably from 1mg to 500mg, while an intravenous dose may only require from 0.1 mg to 1000 mg, preferably from 0.1mg to 300mg. The total daily dose may be administered in single or divided doses.

These dosages are based on an average human subject having a weight of about 65kg to 70kg. The physician will readily be able to determine doses for subjects whose weight falls outside this range, such as infants and the elderly.

For the avoidance of doubt, references herein to "treatment" include references to curative, palliative and prophylactic treatment.

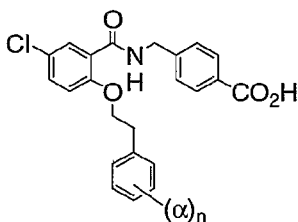
## **EXAMPLES**

The invention is illustrated in the following non-limiting examples in which, unless stated otherwise: all operations were carried out at room or ambient temperature, that is, in the range of 18-25 °C; evaporation of solvent was carried out using a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure with a bath temperature of up to 60 °C; reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC); melting points (mp) given are uncorrected; the structure and purity of all isolated compounds were assured by at least one of the following techniques: TLC (Merck silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> precoated TLC plates or Merck NH<sub>2</sub> gel (an amine coated silica gel) F<sub>254s</sub> precoated TLC plates), mass spectrometry, nuclear magnetic resonance

spectra (NMR), infrared absorption spectra (IR) or microanalysis. Yields are given for illustrative purposes only. Workup with a cation-exchange column was carried out using SCX cartridge (Varian BondElute), which was preconditioned with methanol. Flash column chromatography was carried out using Merck silica gel 60 (63-200  $\mu\text{m}$ ), Wako silica gel 300HG (40-60  $\mu\text{m}$ ), Fuji Silysia NH gel (an amine coated silica gel) (30-50  $\mu\text{m}$ ), Biotage KP-SIL (32-63  $\mu\text{m}$ ) or Biotage AMINOSILICA (an amine coated silica gel) (40-75  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Preparative TLC was carried out using Merck silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> precoated TLC plates (0.5 or 1.0 mm thickness). Low-resolution mass spectral data (EI) were obtained on an Integrity (Waters) mass spectrometer. Low-resolution mass spectral data (ESI) were obtained on a ZMD (Micromass) mass spectrometer. NMR data was determined at 270 MHz (JEOL JNM-LA 270 spectrometer), 300 MHz (JEOL JNM-LA300 spectrometer) or 600 MHz (Bruker AVANCE 600 spectrometer) using deuterated chloroform (99.8% D) or dimethylsulfoxide (99.9% D) as solvent unless indicated otherwise, relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard in parts per million (ppm); conventional abbreviations used are: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quint = quintet, m = multiplet, br. = broad, etc. IR spectra were measured by a Shimadzu infrared spectrometer (IR-470). Chemical symbols have their usual meanings; bp (boiling point), mp (melting point), L (liter(s)), mL (milliliter(s)), g (gram(s)), mg (milligram(s)), mol (moles), mmol (millimoles), eq. (equivalent(s)), quant. (quantitative yield).

#### THE SYNTHETIC PROCEDURE OF EXAMPLE 1- 4

The compounds disclosed hereinafter were prepared according to the following procedure:



In the above structure, n represents 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

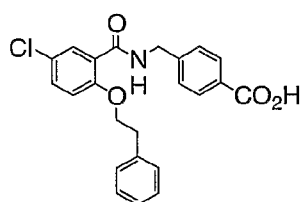
##### STEP 1. *tert*-Butyl 4-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]methylbenzoate

To a stirred solution of 5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoic acid (0.57 g, 3.3 mmol) and *tert*-butyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate (0.72 g, 3.5 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) were successively added 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (EDCI) (0.95 g, 5.0 mmol), 1-hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate (HOBT) (0.76 g, 5.0 mmol), and triethylamine (0.46 mL, 3.3 mmol). After being stirred overnight, the reaction mixture was poured into sodium bicarbonate aqueous solution (50 mL). The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (20 mL x 2). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (50 mL), dried (magnesium sulfate), and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (10/1) to afford 0.57 g (48%) of the title compound as white solids:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  12.12 (1H, s), 7.99 (2H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.47-7.30 (4H, m), 6.97 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 6.67-6.52 (1H, m), 4.68 (2H, d, J = 5.7 Hz), 1.59 (9H, s).

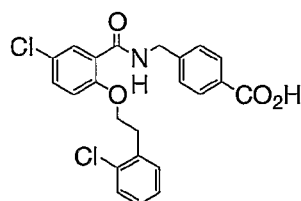
##### STEP 2. 4-[(5-Chloro-2-(substituted-phenoxy)pyridin-3-yl)benzoyl]amino)methylbenzoic acid

To a solution of substituted-alcohol (0.10 mmol) were added a solution of *tert*-butyl 4-({[5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl]amino}methyl)benzoate (step 1, 0.05 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (0.5 mL), triphenylphosphine on polystyrene (PS-PPh<sub>3</sub>, 0.15 mmol), and di-*tert*-butyl azodicarboxylate (0.10 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (0.2 mL). Then the mixture was agitated at room temperature overnight and filtered  
 5 PS-PPh<sub>3</sub>. The solvent was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was dissolved with ethyl acetate (0.65 mL), and then washed by water (0.45 mL). The organic layer was concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by preparative liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (LCMS) (XTerra® C18, 20x 50 mm) eluting with water/methanol/1% aqueous formic acid (90/5/5 to 0/95/5). After an addition of 1:1 mixture of trifluoroacetic acid and dichloroethane (0.6 mL) to the purified material, the mixture was stand  
 10 at room temperature for 1 hour. Then the mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the desired product.

**EXAMPLE 1****4-({[5-CHLORO-2-(2-PHENYLETHOXY)BENZOYL]AMINO}METHYL)BENZOIC ACID**

Observed MS (ESI)  $m/z$  409.99 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>

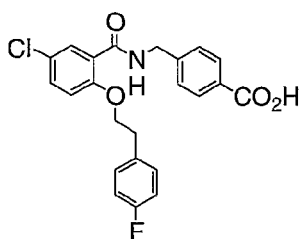
Exact Mass calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>20</sub>ClNO<sub>4</sub>:  $m/z$  409.11

**EXAMPLE 2****4-({[5-CHLORO-2-[2-(2-CHLOROPHENYL)ETHOXY]BENZOYL]AMINO}METHYL)BENZOIC ACID**

Observed MS (ESI)  $m/z$  443.92 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>

Exact Mass calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>19</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>:  $m/z$  443.07

**EXAMPLE 3****4-({[5-CHLORO-2-[2-(4-FLUOROPHENYL)ETHOXY]BENZOYL]AMINO}METHYL)BENZOIC ACID**

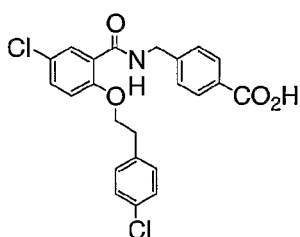


Observed MS (ESI)  $m/z$  427.96 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>

Exact Mass calcd for  $C_{23}H_{19}ClFNO_4$ :  $m/z$  427.10

#### 5 **EXAMPLE 4**

4-[(5-CHLORO-2-[2-(4-CHLOROPHENYL)ETHOXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]METHYL]BENZOIC ACID



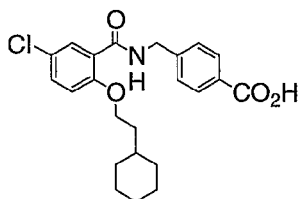
Observed MS (ESI)  $m/z$  443.93 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>

Exact Mass calcd for  $C_{23}H_{19}Cl_2NO_4$ :  $m/z$  443.07

10

#### **EXAMPLE 5**

4-[(5-CHLORO-2-(CYCLOHEXYLOXY)BENZOYL)AMINO]METHYL]BENZOIC ACID



15

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 2 of the synthetic procedure of example 1 - 4 from *tert*-butyl 4-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]methyl]benzoate (step 1 of example 1-4) and 2-cyclohexyl ethanol.

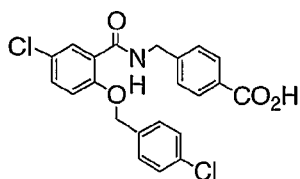
Observed MS (ESI)  $m/z$  387.98 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>

Exact Mass calcd for  $C_{21}H_{22}ClNO_4$ :  $m/z$  387.12

20

#### **EXAMPLE 6**

4-[(5-CHLORO-2-[4-CHLOROBENZYL)OXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]METHYL]BENZOIC ACID



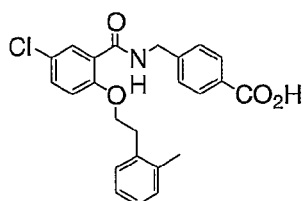
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 2 of the synthetic procedure of example 1 - 4 from *tert*-butyl 4-[[[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]methyl]benzoate (step 1 of example 1-4) and 4-chlorophenyl methanol.

Observed MS (ESI)  $m/z$  429.91 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>

5 Exact Mass calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>17</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>:  $m/z$  429.05

### EXAMPLE 7

#### 4-[[[(5-CHLORO-2-[2-(2-METHYLPHENYL)ETHOXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]METHYL]BENZOIC ACID



10

#### STEP 1. *tert*-Butyl 4-[[[(5-chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]methyl]benzoate

To a stirred solution of *tert*-butyl 4-[[[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]methyl]benzoate (step 1 of the synthetic procedure of example 1-4, 0.21 g, 0.58 mmol), 2-(2-methylphenyl)ethanol (0.16 g, 1.2 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (0.30 g, 1.2 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (5 mL) was added di-*tert*-butyl

15 azodicarboxylate (0.27 g, 1.2 mmol) at room temperature. After being stirred overnight, the reaction was quenched by the addition of sodium bicarbonate aqueous solution. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate and the combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried (magnesium sulfate), and evaporated. The remaining residue was purified by flush column chromatography on silica gel eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (5/1) to afford 0.21 g (76%) of the title compounds as a colorless oil:

20 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.20 (1H, d,  $J$  = 2.8 Hz), 7.99 (1H, t,  $J$  = 5.9 Hz), 7.91 (2H, d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz), 7.38 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 8.7, 2.8 Hz), 7.25 (2H, d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz), 7.16-7.03 (4H, m), 6.93 (1H, d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz), 4.52 (2H, d,  $J$  = 5.9 Hz), 4.34 (2H, t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz), 3.04 (2H, t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz), 2.25 (3H, s), 1.59 (9H, s);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  480 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>.

#### 25 STEP 2. 4-[[[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]methyl]benzoic acid

To a stirred solution of *tert*-butyl 4-[[[(5-chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]methyl]benzoate (step 1, 0.21 g, 0.45 mmol) in dichloromethane (2 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (2 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h and then evaporated. The residual solid was washed with ether, and collected by

30 filtration to afford 0.18 g (95%) of the title compound as white solids:

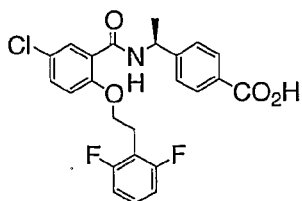
<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  12.86 (1H, br.s), 8.60 (1H, t,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz), 7.89 (2H, d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz), 7.66 (1H, d,  $J$  = 2.8 Hz), 7.50 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 8.9, 2.8 Hz), 7.40 (2H, d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz), 7.25 (1H, d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz), 7.22-7.04 (4H, m), 4.50 (2H, d,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz), 4.32 (2H, t,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz), 3.06 (2H, t,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz), 2.26 (3H, s);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  424 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 422 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

35

### EXAMPLE 8

4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[2-(2,6-DIFLUOROPHENYL)ETHOXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID



STEP 1. *tert*-Butyl [(1S)-1-(4-bromophenyl)ethyl]carbamate

- 5 A mixture of [(1S)-1-(4-bromophenyl)ethyl]amine (10.00 g, 50.0 mmol) and di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (11.45 g, 52.5 mmol), triethylamine (7.66 mL, 55.0 mmol) in dichloromethane (200 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. The mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (500 mL) and washed with 1 M hydrochloric acid (300 mL), saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate aqueous (300 mL), and brine (300 mL). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulfate, and concentrated under
- 10 reduced pressure. The residue was washed with cold hexane to afford 14.73 g (98%) of the title compounds as white solids:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.47-7.42 (2H, m), 7.18 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 5.30 (2H, br.s), 1.41 (12H, br.s)

STEP 2. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate

- 15 A mixture of *tert*-butyl [(1S)-1-(4-bromophenyl)ethyl]carbamate (step 1, 14.73 g, 49.1 mmol), 1,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)propane (2.03 g, 4.91 mmol), palladium (II) acetate (1.10 g, 4.91 mmol), triethylamine (20.5 mL, 147 mmol), *N,N*-dimethylformamide (120 mL) and methanol (180 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 16 h under carbon monoxide atmosphere. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with ether (800 mL) and washed with water (500 mL x 3). The organic layer was dried over
- 20 magnesium sulfate and evaporated. The residue was purified by flush column chromatography on silica gel eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (5/1) to afford 12.83 g (94%) of the title compounds as white solids:
- <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.02-7.99 (2H, m), 7.37 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 4.83 (2H, br.s), 3.91 (3H, s), 1.46-1.42 (12H, m)

25 STEP 3. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-aminoethyl]benzoate hydrochloride

- Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 2, 12.83 g, 45.9 mmol) was treated with trifluoroacetic acid (100 mL) and dichloromethane (100 mL) at room temperature for 16 hours. After removal of the solvent, the residue was diluted with 10% hydrogen chloride solution in methanol (100 mL). The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was washed with
- 30 ethylacetate to give 9.40 g (95%) of the title compounds as white solids:
- <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.67 (2H, br.s), 8.01 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.68 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 4.49 (1H, q, J = 6.9 Hz), 3.87 (3H, s), 1.53 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz)

STEP 4. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate

- 35 To a stirred solution of 5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoic acid (1.2 g, 7.0 mmol) and methyl 4-[(1S)-1-aminoethyl]benzoate hydrochloride (step 3, 1.5 g, 7.0 mmol) in dichloromethane (18 mL) were

successively added 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (EDCI) (2.0 g, 10 mmol), 1-hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate (HOBT) (1.6 g, 10 mmol), and triethylamine (1.0 mL, 7.3 mmol). After being stirred for 5 h, the reaction mixture was poured into sodium bicarbonate aqueous solution (100 mL). The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (50 mL x 2).

5 The combined organic layers were washed with brine (100 mL), dried (magnesium sulfate), and evaporated. The residue was purified by flush column chromatography on silica gel eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (5/1) to afford 1.8 g (76%) of the title compounds as white solids:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 12.08 (1H, s), 8.03 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.47-7.30 (4H, m), 6.93 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 6.59 (1H, d, J = 7.3 Hz), 5.12 (1H, dq, J = 7.3, 6.9 Hz), 3.92 (3H, s), 1.63 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz);

10 MS (ESI) m/z 334 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 332 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

STEP 5. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(2,6-difluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate

To a stirred solution of methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4, 0.12 g, 0.36 mmol), 2-(2,6-difluorophenyl)ethanol (0.12 g, 0.78 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (0.19 g, 0.72 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) was added di-*tert*-butyl azodicarboxylate (0.17 g, 0.72 mmol) at room temperature. After being stirred overnight, the reaction mixture was concentrated. Trifluoroacetic acid (2 mL) and dichloromethane (2 mL) were added to the residue, the solution was stirred for 1 h, and evaporated. The remaining residue was purified by flush column chromatography on silica gel eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (5/1) to afford 0.16 g (84%) of the title compound as white solids:

15 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.17 (1H, d, J = 7.3 Hz), 8.15 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.01 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.41 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.37 (1H, dd, J = 8.7, 2.8 Hz), 7.28-7.15 (1H, m), 6.92 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 6.91-6.80 (2H, m), 5.36 (1H, dq, J = 7.3, 6.9 Hz), 4.34 (2H, t, J = 7.1 Hz), 3.91 (3H, s), 3.19 (2H, t, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.57 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz);

MS (ESI) m/z 474 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>.

25

STEP 6. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(2,6-difluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

To a stirred solution of methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(2,6-difluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 5, 0.16 g, 0.34 mmol) in methanol (2 mL) and tetrahydrofuran (3 mL) was added 2 N sodium hydroxide aqueous solution (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h and then evaporated. The residue was partitioned between ethyl acetate (30 mL) and 10% citric acid aqueous solution (30 mL). The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (50 mL), dried (magnesium sulfate), and concentrated. The residual solids were washed with ether, and dried in vacuo to afford 0.10 g (65%) of the title compound as white solids:

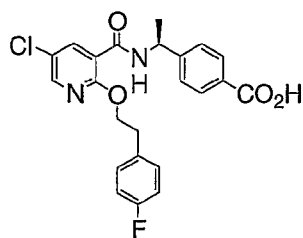
30 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.53 (1H, d, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.90 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.54 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.51-7.43 (3H, m), 7.42-7.30 (1H, m), 7.22 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 7.14-7.01 (2H, m), 5.13 (1H, dq, J = 7.6, 7.1 Hz), 4.30 (2H, t, J = 6.9 Hz), 3.13 (2H, t, J = 6.9 Hz), 1.41 (3H, d, J = 7.1 Hz);

MS (ESI) m/z 460 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 458 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

40

EXAMPLE 9

4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid



5 STEP 1. 5-Chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]nicotinic acid

A mixture of 2,5-dichloronicotinic acid (0.30 g, 1.6 mmol), 2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanol (0.23 mL, 1.9 mmol), and sodium hydride in oil (0.15 g, 3.7 mmol) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (2 mL) was heated at 90 °C in an oil bath for 3 hours. The reaction mixture was poured into 10% citric acid aqueous solution (50 mL), and extracted with ethyl acetate (50 mL x 2). The combined organic layers were washed with water (50 mL x 2) and brine (50 mL), dried (magnesium sulfate), and evaporated. The crude solids were washed with hexane/ether (10/1), and dried in vacuo to afford 0.31 g (68%) of the title compound as white solids:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.41 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.31 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.27-7.20 (2H, m), 7.08-6.98 (2H, m), 4.78 (2H, t, J = 6.8 Hz), 3.15 (2H, t, J = 6.8 Hz);

MS (ESI) m/z 294 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

15 STEP 2. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 4 of example 8 from 5-chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]nicotinic acid (step 1):

20 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.45 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.20 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.03-7.94 (3H, m), 7.27 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.18-7.08 (2H, m), 7.00-6.92 (2H, m), 5.25 (2H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 4.76 (1H, dq, J = 6.8, 2.8 Hz), 3.92 (3H, s), 3.10 (2H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 1.39 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz);

MS (ESI) m/z 457 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>.

25 STEP 3. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

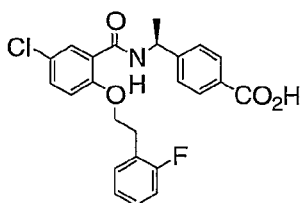
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 2):

30 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ((DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.54 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz), 8.36 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.04 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.89 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.43 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.33-7.24 (2H, m), 7.12-7.02 (2H, m), 5.12 (1H, dq, J = 7.7, 6.8 Hz), 4.60 (2H, t, J = 6.6 Hz), 3.07 (2H, t, J = 6.6 Hz), 1.37 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz);

MS (ESI) m/z 443 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 441 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

EXAMPLE 10

35 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[2-(2-FLUOROPHENYL)ETHOXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID



**STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in s step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethanol:

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  456 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>.

**STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

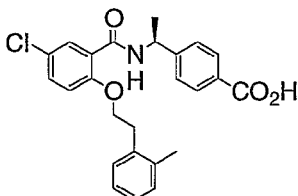
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.49 (1H, d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz), 7.82 (2H, d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz), 7.57 (1H, d,  $J$  = 2.8 Hz), 7.49 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 9.0, 2.8 Hz), 7.43 (2H, d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz), 7.39-7.22 (3H, m), 7.21-7.08 (2H, m), 5.12 (1H, dq,  $J$  = 7.5, 7.0 Hz), 4.36 (2H, t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz), 3.12 (2H, t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz), 1.36 (3H, d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  442 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 440 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

**EXAMPLE 11**

**4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[2-(2-METHYLPHENYL)ETHOXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID**



**STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 2-(2-methylphenyl)ethanol:

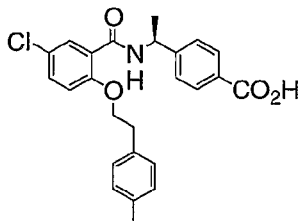
MS (ESI)  $m/z$  452 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>.

**STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.50 (1H, d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz), 7.88 (2H, d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz), 7.58 (1H, d,  $J$  = 2.8 Hz), 7.49 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 8.9, 2.8 Hz), 7.42 (2H, d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz), 7.25 (1H, d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz), 7.24-7.06 (4H, m), 5.11 (1H, dq,  $J$  = 7.6, 7.1 Hz), 4.34 (2H, t,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz), 3.06 (2H, t,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz), 2.28 (3H, s), 1.33 (3H, d,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  438 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 436 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

**EXAMPLE 12****4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[2-(4-METHYLPHENYL)ETHOXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID**

5

**STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate**

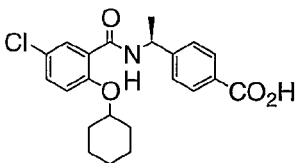
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 2-(4-methylphenyl)ethanol:

10 MS (ESI)  $m/z$  452 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>.**STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

15 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.44 (1H, d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz), 7.88 (2H, d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 7.60 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 7.50 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.9, 2.8$  Hz), 7.40 (2H, d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 7.23 (1H, d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 7.14 (2H, d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 7.07 (2H, d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 5.12 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.6, 6.9$  Hz), 4.34 (2H, t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz), 3.04 (2H, t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz), 2.24 (3H, s), 1.36 (3H, d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz);MS (ESI)  $m/z$  438 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 436 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

20

**EXAMPLE 13****4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-(CYCLOHEXYLOXY)BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID****STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-(cyclohexyloxy)benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate**

25 The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of example 8) and cyclohexanol:

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  416 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 414 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.**STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-(cyclohexyloxy)benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

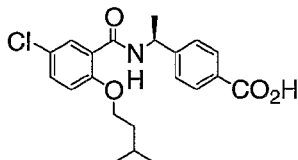
30 The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-(cyclohexyloxy)benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.60 (1H, d, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.91 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.60 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.51 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.47 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 2.8 Hz), 7.23 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 5.17 (1H, dq, J = 7.6, 7.1 Hz), 4.59-4.44 (1H, m), 2.05-1.85 (2H, m), 1.70-1.10 (8H, m), 1.48 (3H, d, J = 7.1 Hz);  
MS (ESI) *m/z* 402 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 400 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

5 :

#### EXAMPLE 14

##### 4-((1*S*)-1-[[5-chloro-2-(3-methylbutoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoic acid



##### 10 STEP 1. Methyl 4-((1*S*)-1-[[5-chloro-2-(3-methylbutoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1*S*)-1-[[5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 3-methylbutan-1-ol:

MS (ESI) *m/z* 404 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>.

15

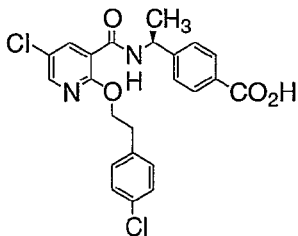
##### STEP 2. 4-((1*S*)-1-[[5-chloro-2-(3-methylbutoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1*S*)-1-[[5-chloro-2-(3-methylbutoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 1):

20 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.57 (1H, d, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.92 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.58 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 7.55-7.46 (3H, m), 7.20 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 5.16 (1H, dq, J = 7.6, 6.9 Hz), 4.09 (2H, t, J = 6.3 Hz), 1.76-1.54 (3H, m), 1.46 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz), 0.87 (3H, d, J = 6.1 Hz), 0.86 (3H, d, J = 6.1 Hz);  
MS (ESI) *m/z* 390 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 388 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

#### EXAMPLE 15

##### 25 4-((1*S*)-1-[[5-chloro-2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl]carbonyl]amino]ethyl)benzoic acid



##### STEP 1. 5-chloro-2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethoxy]nicotinic acid

30 The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 9 from 2,5-dichloronicotinic acid and 2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethanol :

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.38 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.29 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.35-7.12 (4H, m), 4.75 (2H, t, J = 6.8 Hz), 3.13 (2H, t, J = 6.8 Hz)

STEP 2. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 4 of Example 8 from 5-chloro-2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethoxy]nicotinic acid (step 1) and methyl 4-[(1S)-1-aminoethyl]benzoate hydrochloride (step 3 of Example 8):

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.44 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 8.19 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 8.01-7.95 (2H, m), 7.95-7.88 (1H, m), 7.30-7.18 (4H, m), 7.12-7.04 (2H, m), 5.30-5.15 (1H, m), 4.84-4.67 (2H, m), 3.90 (3H, s), 3.08 (2H, t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz), 1.37 (3H, d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz)

STEP 3. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

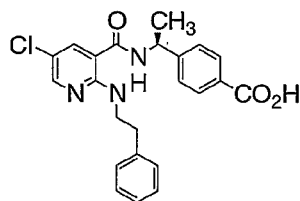
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 2):

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.51 (1H, d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz), 8.34 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 8.02 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 7.88 (2H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.40 (2H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.30-7.20 (4H, m), 5.09 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.7, 7.0$  Hz), 4.59 (2H, t,  $J = 6.4$  Hz), 3.05 (2H, t,  $J = 6.4$  Hz), 1.35 (3H, d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  459 ( $M + H$ ) $^+$ , 457 ( $M - H$ ) $^-$ .

EXAMPLE 16

4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[METHYL(2-PHENYLETHYL)AMINO]PYRIDIN-3-YL)CARBONYL]AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID



STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(2,5-dichloropyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate

To a stirred solution of 2,5-dichloronicotinic acid (*Syn. Commun.* **1989**, *19*, 553-9, 2.0 g, 10.4 mmol) and methyl 4-[(1S)-1-aminoethyl]benzoate hydrochloride (step 3 of Example 8, 2.35 g, 10.9 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) was added 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (CDI) (1.77 g, 10.9 mmol) in small portions. After being stirred overnight, the reaction mixture was poured into water (80 mL). The precipitated solids were collected by the filtration and dried. The crude product was purified by flush column chromatography on silica gel (100 g) eluting with dichloromethane/ethyl acetate (20/1) to afford 3.4 g (93%) of the title compound as white solids:

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.42 (1H, d,  $J = 2.6$  Hz), 8.10 (1H, d,  $J = 2.6$  Hz), 8.04 (2H, d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz), 7.46 (2H, d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz), 6.82 (1H, d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz), 5.40-5.30 (1H, m), 3.92 (3H, s), 1.64 (3H, d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  353 ( $M + H$ ) $^+$ , 351 ( $M - H$ ) $^-$ .

STEP 2. Methyl 4-((1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl}benzoate

A mixture of methyl 4-((1S)-1-((2,5-dichloropyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl}benzoate (step 1, 150 mg, 0.43 mmol), [2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]amine (64 mg, 0.47 mmol) and potassium carbonate (88 mg, 0.64 mmol) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (1.5 mL) was heated at 100 °C for 18 hours. After cooling, the mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The organic layer was separated, washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate, and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (3/1) to afford 140 mg (72%) of the title compound:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.40-8.22 (2H, m), 8.17 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.96 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.30-7.00 (7H, m), 5.35-5.15 (1H, m), 3.90 (3H, s), 3.63-3.38 (2H, m), 2.80 (2H, t, J = 7.0 Hz), 2.62 (3H, s), 1.33 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz).

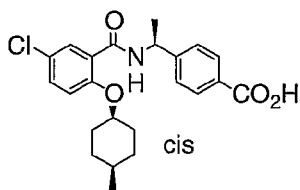
STEP 3. 4-((1S)-1-((5-Chloro-2-[methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl}benzoic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl}benzoate (step 2):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 9.06 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 8.15 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 7.88 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.55 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 7.47 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.30-7.10 (5H, m), 5.06 (1H, dq, J = 8.1, 7.3 Hz), 3.64-3.44 (2H, m), 2.80-2.70 (5H, m), 1.40 (3H, d, J = 7.3 Hz);  
MS (ESI) *m/z* 438 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 436 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**EXAMPLE 17**

4-[(1S)-1-((5-CHLORO-2-[(CIS-4-METHYLCYCLOHEXYL)OXY]BENZOYL)AMINO)ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID



STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(cis-4-methylcyclohexyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl}benzoate and methyl 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(trans-4-methylcyclohexyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl}benzoate

The title compounds were prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino)ethyl}benzoate (step 4 of example 8) and 4-methylcyclohexanol:

*cis*-isomer;

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.43 (1H, d, J = 7.4 Hz), 8.19 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.00 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.45 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.43 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 2.8 Hz), 6.89 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 5.40 (1H, dq, J = 7.4, 7.0 Hz), 4.75-

4.63 (1H, m), 3.89 (3H, s), 2.10-1.02 (9H, m), 1.61 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), 0.82 (3H, d, J = 6.2 Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  430 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 428 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>;

*trans*-isomer;

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.46 (1H, d, J = 7.4 Hz), 8.19 (1H, d, J = 2.9 Hz), 8.02 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.43 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.34 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 2.9 Hz), 6.93 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 5.33 (1H, dq, J = 7.4, 6.8 Hz), 4.39-4.22 (1H, m), 3.91 (3H, s), 2.25-2.08 (2H, m), 1.87-1.72 (2H, m), 1.58 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz), 1.50-1.26 (3H, m), 1.15-0.96 (2H, m), 0.93 (3H, d, J = 6.4 Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  430 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 428 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

#### 10 STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(*cis*-4-methylcyclohexyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(*cis*-4-methylcyclohexyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

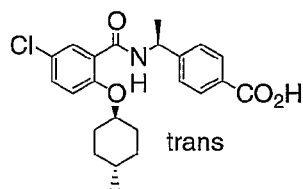
<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.58 (1H, d, J = 7.4 Hz), 7.91 (2H, d, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.62 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 7.51 (2H, d, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.49 (1H, dd, J = 9.1, 2.6 Hz), 7.19 (1H, d, J = 9.1 Hz), 5.20 (1H, dq, J = 7.4, 6.9 Hz), 4.83-4.68 (1H, m), 1.98-1.82 (2H, m), 1.68-0.96 (7H, m), 1.49 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz), 0.77 (3H, d, J = 6.1 Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  416 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 414 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

#### EXAMPLE 18

#### 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(*TRANS*-4-METHYLCYCLOHEXYL)OXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC

#### 20 ACID



#### STEP 1. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(*trans*-4-methylcyclohexyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(*trans*-4-methylcyclohexyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1 of example 17):

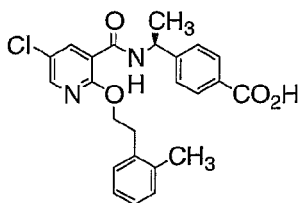
<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.58 (1H, d, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.91 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.60 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.51 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.46 (1H, dd, J = 9.1, 2.8 Hz), 7.25 (1H, d, J = 9.1 Hz), 5.15 (1H, dq, J = 7.6, 6.9 Hz), 4.48-4.30 (1H, m), 2.18-1.98 (2H, m), 1.77-1.62 (2H, m), 1.47 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz), 1.42-1.20 (3H, m), 1.15-0.95 (2H, m), 0.88 (3H, d, J = 6.4 Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  416 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 414 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

#### EXAMPLE 19

#### 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[2-(2-METHYLPHENYL)ETHOXY]PYRIDIN-3-YL)CARBONYL]AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID

35



**STEP 1. 5-Chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]nicotinic acid**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 9 from 2,5-dichloronicotinic acid and 2-(2-methylphenyl)ethanol :

- 5  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.42 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 8.31 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 7.25-7.15 (4H, m), 4.78 (2H, t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 3.19 (2H, t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 2.39 (3H, s);  
MS (ESI)  $m/z$  292 ( $M + H$ ) $^+$ , 290 ( $M - H$ ) $^-$ .

**STEP 2. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-**

10 **yl)]carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 4 of Example 8 from 5-chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]nicotinic acid (step1) and methyl 4-[(1S)-1-aminoethyl]benzoate hydrochloride (step 3 of Example 8):

- 15  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.44 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 8.20 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 8.10-8.00 (1H, m), 7.96 (2H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.30-7.10 (6H, m), 5.30-5.10 (1H, m), 4.87-4.65 (2H, m), 3.96 (3H, s), 3.10 (2H, t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz), 2.30 (3H, s), 1.34 (3H, d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz).

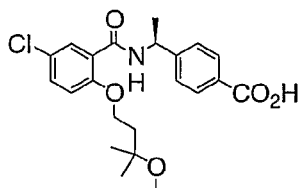
**STEP 3. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl)]carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

- 20 The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl)]carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 2):

- $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.57 (1H, d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz), 8.33 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 8.01 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 7.87 (2H, d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 7.41 (2H, d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 7.20-7.05 (4H, m), 5.15-5.01 (1H, m), 4.57 (2H, t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz), 3.03 (2H, t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz), 2.25 (3H, s), 1.33 (3H, d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz);  
25 MS (ESI)  $m/z$  439 ( $M + H$ ) $^+$ , 437 ( $M - H$ ) $^-$ .

**EXAMPLE 20**

**4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-(3-METHOXY-3-METHYLBUTOXY)BENZOYL]AMINO}ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID**



30

**STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-(3-methoxy-3-methylbutoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8

from methyl 4-((1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 3-methoxy-3-methylbutan-1-ol:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.32 (1H, d, J = 6.8 Hz), 8.14 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.02 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.45 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.37 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 2.8 Hz), 6.93 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 5.35 (1H, dq, J = 6.9, 6.8 Hz), 4.25-4.10 (2H, m), 3.91 (3H, s), 3.15 (3H, s), 1.98-1.83 (2H, m), 1.59 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz), 1.19 (3H, s), 1.18 (3H, s);

MS (ESI) m/z 434 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 432 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

#### STEP 2. 4-((1S)-1-[[5-Chloro-2-(3-methoxy-3-methylbutoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoic acid

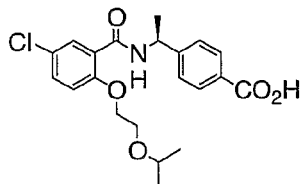
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-[[5-chloro-2-(3-methoxy-3-methylbutoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 12.87 (1H, br.s), 8.60 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.92 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.56 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.52 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.48 (1H, dd, J = 9.0, 2.8 Hz), 7.20 (1H, d, J = 9.0 Hz), 5.16 (1H, dq, J = 7.5, 7.0 Hz), 4.18-4.06 (2H, m), 3.06 (3H, s), 1.97-1.78 (2H, m), 1.46 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.11 (3H, s), 1.10 (3H, s);

MS (ESI) m/z 420 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 418 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

#### EXAMPLE 21

##### 4-((1S)-1-[[5-CHLORO-2-(2-ISOPROPOXYETHOXY)BENZOYL]AMINO]ETHYL)BENZOIC ACID



#### STEP 1. Methyl 4-((1S)-1-[[5-chloro-2-(2-isopropoxyethoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 2-isopropoxyethanol:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.44 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz), 8.15 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.01 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.47 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.37 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 2.8 Hz), 6.90 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 5.38 (1H, dq, J = 7.7, 7.1 Hz), 4.28-4.20 (2H, m), 3.90 (3H, s), 3.82-3.75 (2H, m), 3.58 (1H, sep, J = 6.1 Hz), 1.58 (3H, d, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.13 (3H, d, J = 6.1 Hz), 1.11 (3H, d, J = 6.1 Hz);

MS (ESI) m/z 420 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 418 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

#### STEP 2. 4-((1S)-1-[[5-Chloro-2-(2-isopropoxyethoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoic acid

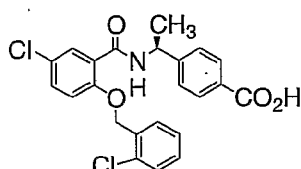
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from ethyl 4-((1S)-1-[[5-chloro-2-(2-isopropoxyethoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 12.88 (1H, br.s), 8.60 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.91 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.69 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.53 (1H, dd, J = 9.0, 2.8 Hz), 7.50 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.22 (1H, d, J = 9.0 Hz), 5.19 (1H, dq, J =

7.7, 7.1 Hz), 4.29-4.20 (2H, m), 3.78-3.70 (2H, m), 3.58 (1H, sep, J = 6.1 Hz), 1.47 (3H, d, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.04 (6H, d, J = 6.1 Hz);  
MS (ESI) m/z 406 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 404 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

## 5 **EXAMPLE 22**

### 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid



### STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate

- 10 The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and (2-chlorophenyl)methanol:

MS (ESI) m/z 458 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 456 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

### 15 STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

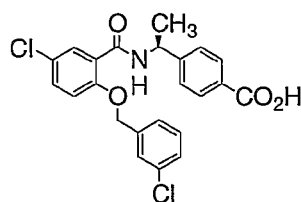
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.51 (1H, d, J = 8.6 Hz), 7.78 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.73-7.51 (4H, m), 7.50-7.30 (3H, m), 7.28 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 5.29 (2H, s), 5.08 (1H, dq, J = 8.6, 7.0 Hz), 1.26 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz);

- 20 MS (ESI) m/z 444 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 442 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

## **EXAMPLE 23**

### 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid



### 25 STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and (3-chlorophenyl)methanol:

MS (ESI) m/z 458 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 456 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

30

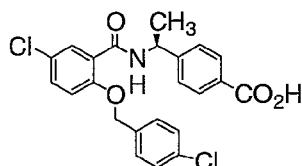
### STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.63 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.80 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.60-7.39 (5H, m), 7.34 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.29 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 5.22 (2H, s), 5.09 (1H, dq, J = 7.5, 6.8 Hz), 1.33 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz); MS (ESI) m/z 444 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 442 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

## 5 **EXAMPLE 24**

### 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid



#### STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate

- 10 The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and (4-chlorophenyl)methanol:

MS (ESI) m/z 458 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 456 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

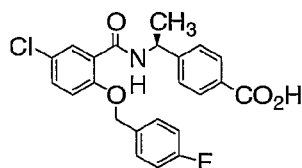
#### 15 STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

- <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.61 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.81 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.62-7.48 (4H, m), 7.44 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.34 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.29 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 5.20 (2H, s), 5.09 (1H, dq, J = 7.8, 6.8 Hz),  
20 1.32 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz);  
MS (ESI) m/z 444 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 442 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

## **EXAMPLE 25**

### 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid



25

#### STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and (4-fluorophenyl)methanol:

- 30 MS (ESI) m/z 442 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 440 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

#### STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8

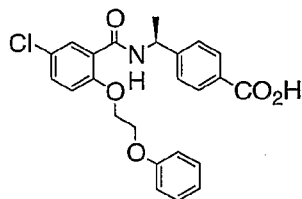
from methyl 4-((1*S*)-1-((5-chloro-2-((4-fluorobenzyl)oxy)benzoyl)amino)ethyl)benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.58 (1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.78 (2H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.60-7.50 (4H, m), 7.30 (3H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.20 (2H, t, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 5.17 (2H, s), 5.07 (1H, dq, *J* = 7.5, 7.0 Hz), 1.28 (3H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz); MS (ESI) *m/z* 428 (*M* + H)<sup>+</sup>, 426 (*M* - H)<sup>-</sup>.

5

#### EXAMPLE 26

##### 4-((1*S*)-1-[[5-CHLORO-2-(2-PHENOXYETHOXY)BENZOYL]AMINO]ETHYL)BENZOIC ACID



#### STEP 1. Methyl 4-((1*S*)-1-[[5-chloro-2-(2-phenoxyethoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1*S*)-1-[[5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 2-phenoxyethanol:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.32 (1H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 8.18 (1H, d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 7.85 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.40 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.8 Hz), 7.35-7.26 (4H, m), 7.04-6.95 (1H, m), 6.92 (1H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 6.89-6.81 (2H, m), 5.31 (1H, dq, *J* = 7.6, 6.9 Hz), 4.50-4.40 (2H, m), 4.37-4.26 (2H, m), 3.89 (3H, s), 1.38 (3H, d, *J* = 6.9 Hz); MS (ESI) *m/z* 454 (*M* + H)<sup>+</sup>, 452 (*M* - H)<sup>-</sup>.

15

#### STEP 2. 4-((1*S*)-1-[[5-Chloro-2-(2-phenoxyethoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoic acid

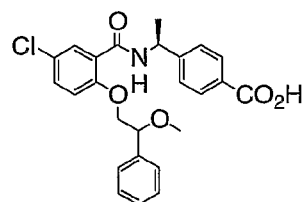
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from ethyl 4-((1*S*)-1-[[5-chloro-2-(2-phenoxyethoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 12.84 (1H, br.s), 8.59 (1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.81 (2H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.69 (1H, d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 7.56 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.8 Hz), 7.39 (2H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.33-7.23 (3H, m), 6.99-6.90 (3H, m), 5.12 (1H, dq, *J* = 7.5, 7.0 Hz), 4.54-4.45 (2H, m), 4.43-4.24 (2H, m), 1.30 (3H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz); MS (ESI) *m/z* 440 (*M* + H)<sup>+</sup>, 438 (*M* - H)<sup>-</sup>.

25

#### EXAMPLE 27

##### 4-((1*S*)-1-[[5-CHLORO-2-(2-METHOXY-2-PHENYLETHOXY)BENZOYL]AMINO]ETHYL)BENZOIC ACID



30

#### STEP 1. Methyl 4-((1*S*)-1-[[5-chloro-2-(2-methoxy-2-phenylethoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8

from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 2-methoxy-2-phenylethanol:

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  468 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 466 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

5 **STEP 2. 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-(2-methoxy-2-phenylethoxy)benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

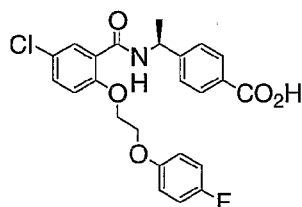
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-(2-methoxy-2-phenylethoxy)benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  12.88 (1H, br.s), 8.73-8.63 (1H, m), 7.99-7.89 (2H, m), 7.76-7.70 (1H, m), 7.56-7.46 (3H, m), 7.45-7.34 (5H, m), 7.26 (1H, d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz), 5.32-5.17 (1H, m), 4.77-4.65 (1H, m), 4.36-4.26 (2H, m), 3.13 and 3.12 (total 3H, each s), 1.55-1.45 (3H, m);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  454 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 452 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

**EXAMPLE 28**

**4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[2-(4-FLUOROPHENOXY)ETHOXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID**



15 **STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenoxy)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 2-(4-fluorophenoxy)ethanol:

20 MS (ESI)  $m/z$  472 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 470 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

**STEP 2. 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenoxy)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

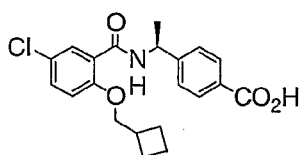
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenoxy)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

25 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.58 (1H, d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz), 7.80 (2H, d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 7.68 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 7.56 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.9, 2.8$  Hz), 7.40 (2H, d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 7.27 (1H, d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 7.15-7.05 (2H, m), 7.02-6.93 (2H, m), 5.12 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.4, 6.9$  Hz), 4.52-4.43 (2H, m), 4.40-4.31 (2H, m), 1.31 (3H, d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  458 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 456 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

30 **EXAMPLE 29**

**4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-(CYCLOBUTYLMETHOXY)BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID**



STEP 1. Methyl 4-((1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-(cyclobutylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino)ethyl)benzoate

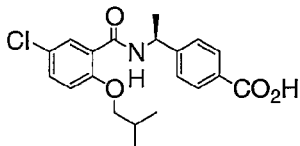
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and cyclobutylmethanol:

- 5  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.29 (1H, d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz), 8.17 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 8.02 (2H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.43 (2H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.37 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.9, 2.8$  Hz), 6.90 (1H, d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 5.35 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.3, 6.9$  Hz), 4.07 (2H, d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz), 3.91 (3H, s), 2.86-2.66 (1H, m), 2.20-1.75 (6H, m), 1.57 (3H, d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz);  
MS (ESI)  $m/z$  402 ( $M + H$ ) $^+$ , 400 ( $M - H$ ) $^-$ .

10 STEP 2. 4-((1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-(cyclobutylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino)ethyl)benzoic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-(cyclobutylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino)ethyl)benzoate (step 1):

- $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  12.87 (1H, br.s), 8.53 (1H, d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz), 7.92 (2H, d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 7.61 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 7.55-7.46 (3H, m), 7.19 (1H, d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 5.16 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.4, 6.9$  Hz), 4.08 (2H, d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz),  
15 2.80-2.65 (1H, m), 2.10-1.70 (6H, m), 1.47 (3H, d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz);  
MS (ESI)  $m/z$  388 ( $M + H$ ) $^+$ , 386 ( $M - H$ ) $^-$ .

EXAMPLE 304-((1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-ISOBUTOXYBENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL)BENZOIC ACID

20

STEP 1. Methyl 4-((1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-isobutoxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl)benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 2-methylpropan-1-ol:

- 25  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.31 (1H, d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz), 8.17 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 8.01 (2H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.44 (2H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.36 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.9, 2.8$  Hz), 6.88 (1H, d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 5.37 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.3, 6.9$  Hz), 3.91 (3H, s), 3.87 (2H, d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz), 2.20-1.96 (1H, m), 1.59 (3H, d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 1.03 (3H, d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz), 0.99 (3H, d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz);  
MS (ESI)  $m/z$  390 ( $M + H$ ) $^+$ , 388 ( $M - H$ ) $^-$ .

30

STEP 2. 4-((1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-isobutoxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl)benzoic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-isobutoxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 1):

- $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  12.88 (1H, br.s), 8.58 (1H, d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz), 7.91 (2H, d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 8.58 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 7.54-7.44 (3H, m), 7.17 (1H, d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz), 5.17 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.5, 7.0$  Hz), 3.87 (2H, d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz),  
35 2.15-1.95 (1H, m), 1.47 (3H, d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz), 0.95 (3H, d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz), 0.92 (3H, d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz)□  
MS (ESI)  $m/z$  376 ( $M + H$ ) $^+$ , 374 ( $M - H$ ) $^-$ .

**EXAMPLE 31****4-[(1*S*)-1-({[5-CHLORO-2-(3-METHYLBUTOXY)PYRIDIN-3-YL]CARBOXYL}AMINO)ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID****STEP 1. 5-Chloro-2-(3-methylbutoxy)nicotinic acid**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 9 from 2,5-dichloronicotinic acid and 3-methylbutan-1-ol:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.43 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.32 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 4.62 (2H, t, J = 6.6 Hz), 1.97-1.70 (3H, m), 1.00 (6H, d, J = 6.4 Hz)

**STEP 2. Methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-({[5-chloro-2-(3-methylbutoxy)pyridin-3-yl]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]benzoate**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 4 of Example 8 from 5-chloro-2-(3-methylbutoxy)nicotinic acid (step 1) and methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-aminoethyl]benzoate hydrochloride (step 3 of Example 8):

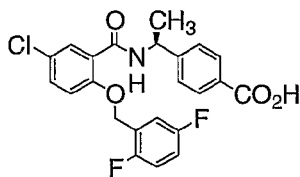
<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.46 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.40-8.28 (1H, m), 8.19 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.04 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.44 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 5.45-5.25 (1H, m), 4.50 (2H, t, J = 6.3 Hz), 3.91 (3H, s), 1.84-1.52 (6H, m), 0.94 (6H, d, J = 5.6 Hz)

**STEP 3. 4-[(1*S*)-1-({[5-Chloro-2-(3-methylbutoxy)pyridin-3-yl]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-({[5-chloro-2-(3-methylbutoxy)pyridin-3-yl]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]benzoate (step 2):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.66 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz), 8.32 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.00 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.90 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.50 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 5.09 (1H, dq, J = 7.5, 6.8 Hz), 4.35 (2H, t, J = 6.3 Hz), 1.70-1.50 (3H, m), 1.40 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz), 0.85 (6H, d, J = 6.3 Hz);

MS (ESI) *m/z* 391 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 389 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**EXAMPLE 32****4-[(1*S*)-1-({[5-CHLORO-2-[(2,5-DIFLUOROBENZYL)OXY]BENZOYL}AMINO)ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID****STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-({[5-chloro-2-[(2,5-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoate**

A mixture of 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8, 100 mg, 0.30 mmol), 2-(bromomethyl)-1,4-difluorobenzene (62 mg, 0.30 mmol), and potassium carbonate

(83 mg, 0.60 mmol) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide was stirred at room temperature overnight. To the mixture was added water and the resulting mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate, and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (3/1) to afford 130 mg (94%) of the title compound:

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  460 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 458 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

#### STEP 2. 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2,5-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid

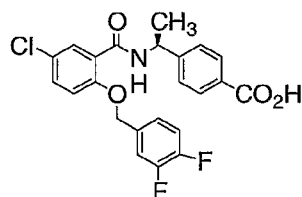
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2,5-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.57 (1H, d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz), 7.78 (2H, d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 7.55 (1H, s), 7.51-7.43 (2H, m), 7.40-7.20 (5H, m), 5.23 (2H, s), 5.07 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.7, 7.0$  Hz), 1.30 (3H, d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz) □

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  446 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 444 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

### EXAMPLE 33

#### 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3,4-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid



#### STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3,4-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 32 from 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 4-(bromomethyl)-1,2-difluorobenzene:

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  460 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 458 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

#### STEP 2. 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3,4-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid

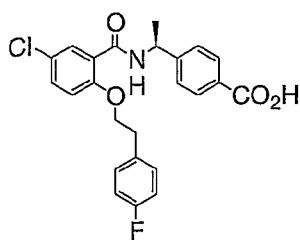
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3,4-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.61 (1H, d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz), 7.76 (2H, d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 7.64-7.23 (8H, m), 5.15 (2H, s), 5.02 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.5, 7.0$  Hz), 1.31 (3H, d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz) □

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  446 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 444 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

### EXAMPLE 34

#### 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid



#### STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate

To a stirred solution of methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of example 8, 73 mg, 0.22 mmol), 2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanol (46 mg, 0.33 mmol) and tributylphosphine (0.14 mL, 0.55 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) was added *N,N,N',N'*-tetramethylazodicarboxamide (95 mg, 0.55 mmol) at room temperature. After being stirred 3 days, the reaction was quenched by the addition of sodium bicarbonate aqueous solution (30 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL x 2) and the combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried (magnesium sulfate), and evaporated. The remaining residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (5/1) to afford a mixture (0.13 g) of the title compound and 2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanol as a colorless oil:

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  456 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>.

#### STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

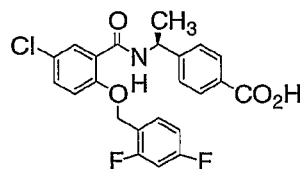
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 3 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.47 (1H, d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz), 7.89 (2H, d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz), 7.58 (1H, d,  $J$  = 2.6 Hz), 7.49 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 8.7, 2.6 Hz), 7.43 (2H, d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz), 7.33-7.17 (3H, m), 7.13-7.02 (2H, m), 5.12 (1H, dq,  $J$  = 7.6, 6.9 Hz), 4.34 (2H, t,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz), 3.07 (2H, t,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz), 1.37 (3H, d,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  442 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 440 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

#### EXAMPLE 35

##### 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(2,4-DIFLUOROBENZYL)OXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID



#### STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate

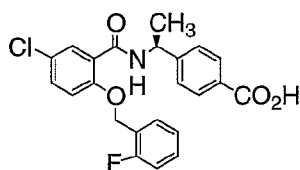
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 32 from 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 1-(bromomethyl)-2,4-difluorobenzene:

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  460 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 458 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

**STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

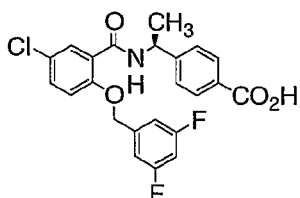
- <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.50 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.77 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.64 (1H, q, J = 6.6 Hz), 7.60-7.50 (2H, m), 7.38-7.24 (4H, m), 7.13-7.04 (1H, m), 5.21 (2H, s), 5.05 (1H, dq, J = 7.7, 7.0 Hz), 1.27 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz);
- MS (ESI) *m/z* 446 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 444 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**EXAMPLE 36****10 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(2-FLUOROBENZYL)OXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID****STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate**

- The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 32 from 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 1-(bromomethyl)-2-fluorobenzene:
- MS (ESI) *m/z* 442 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 440 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

- The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):
- <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 12.9-12.8 (1H, br.s), 8.53 (1H, d, J = 7.4 Hz), 7.79 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.67-7.51 (3H, m), 7.50-7.18 (6H, m), 5.29 (2H, s), 5.08 (1H, dq, J = 7.4, 6.6 Hz), 1.28 (3H, d, J = 6.6 Hz);
- MS (ESI) *m/z* 428 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 426 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**EXAMPLE 37****30 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(3,5-DIFLUOROBENZYL)OXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID****STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3,5-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate**

- The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 32 from 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 1-(bromomethyl)-3,5-difluorobenzene:

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  460 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 458 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

STEP 2. 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(3,5-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

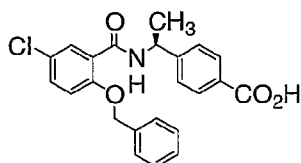
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3,5-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  12.9-12.8 (1H, br.s), 8.67 (1H, d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz), 7.79 (2H, d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 7.60-7.48 (2H, m), 7.37 (2H, d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 7.30-7.13 (4H, m), 5.20 (2H, s), 5.05 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.6, 7.1$  Hz), 1.34 (3H, d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  446 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 444 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

**EXAMPLE 38**

4-[(1*S*)-1-[(2-(Benzyloxy)-5-chlorobenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid



STEP 1. 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(2-(Benzyloxy)-5-chlorobenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

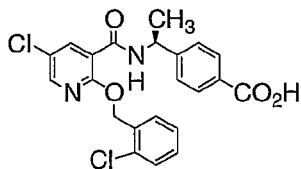
The title compound was prepared according to the two steps procedure described in step 1 of Example 32 and step 6 of Example 8. Firstly, 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) was benzylated by benzyl bromide. Next, the crude product was hydrolyzed to the corresponding carboxylic acid:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  12.9-12.8 (1H, br.s), 8.61 (1H, d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz), 7.78 (2H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.62-7.46 (4H, m), 7.45-7.25 (6H, m), 5.20 (2H, s), 5.07 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.9, 6.9$  Hz), 1.27 (3H, d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz) □

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  410 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 408 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

**EXAMPLE 39**

4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid



STEP 1. 5-Chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]nicotinic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 9 from 2,5-dichloronicotinic acid and (2-chlorophenyl)methanol:

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  298 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 296 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

STEP 2. Methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 4 of Example 8 from 5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]nicotinic acid (step 1) and methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-aminoethyl]benzoate hydrochloride (step 3 of Example 8):

- <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.17 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.02-7.95 (1H, m), 7.91 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.43 (1H, dd, J = 8.8, 2.8 Hz), 7.30-7.07 (5H, m), 7.04 (1H, d, J = 8.6 Hz), 5.32-5.16 (3H, m), 3.91 (3H, s), 1.36 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz);
- MS (ESI) m/z 459 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 457 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

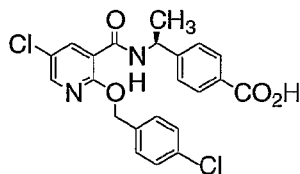
**STEP 3. 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

- The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 2):

- <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 12.9-12.8 (1H, br.s), 8.70 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz), 8.41 (1H, dd, J = 2.8, 1.1 Hz), 8.08 (1H, dd, J = 2.8, 1.1 Hz), 7.76 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.64-7.58 (1H, m), 7.56-7.50 (1H, m), 7.45-7.30 (4H, m), 5.52 (2H, s), 5.12 (1H, dq, J = 7.7, 7.0 Hz), 1.36 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz);
- MS (ESI) m/z 445 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 443 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**EXAMPLE 40**

**4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(4-CHLOROBENZYL)OXY]PYRIDIN-3-  
YL)CARBONYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID**



**STEP 1. 5-Chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]nicotinic acid**

- The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 9 from 2,5-dichloronicotinic acid and (4-chlorophenyl)methanol:
- MS (ESI) m/z 298 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 296 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**STEP 2. Methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate**

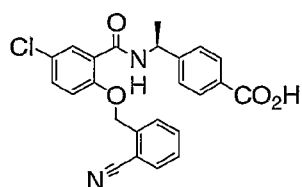
- The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 4 of Example 8 from 5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]nicotinic acid (step 1) and methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-aminoethyl]benzoate hydrochloride (step 3 of Example 8):

- <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.49 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.23 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.18-8.08 (1H, m), 7.93 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.39-7.30 (4H, m), 7.20 (2H, d, J = 8.6 Hz), 5.42 (2H, s), 5.33-5.16 (1H, m), 3.93 (3H, s), 1.40 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz);
- MS (ESI) m/z 459 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 457 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**STEP 3. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 2):

- 5 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.74 (1H, d, J = 7.3 Hz), 8.40-8.36 (1H, m), 8.07-8.03 (1H, m), 7.82 (2H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), 7.52 (2H, d, J = 7.3 Hz), 7.44 (2H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), 7.37 (2H, d, J = 7.3 Hz), 5.42 (2H, s), 5.11 (1H, dq, J = 7.3, 7.0 Hz), 1.37 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz);  
MS (ESI) *m/z* 445 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 443 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**10 EXAMPLE 41****4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(2-CYANO BENZYL)OXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID****STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-cyanobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate**

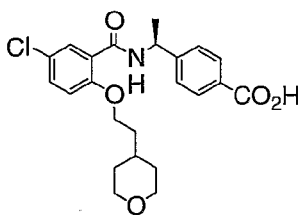
- 15 The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 32 from 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 2-(bromomethyl)benzitrile:  
20 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.13 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.92-7.80 (3H, m), 7.74-7.68 (1H, m), 7.65-7.46 (3H, m), 7.42 (1H, dd, J = 2.8, 8.8 Hz), 7.21 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.04 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz), 5.36-5.22 (3H, m), 3.91 (3H, s), 1.37 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz).

**STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(2-cyanobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-cyanobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

- 25 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.14 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.93 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.86 (1H, d, J = 7.3 Hz), 7.72 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.67-7.48 (3H, m), 7.43 (1H, dd, J = 2.8, 8.7 Hz), 7.27 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.05 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 5.39-5.22 (3H, m), 1.39 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz);  
MS (ESI) *m/z* 435 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 433 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**30 EXAMPLE 42****4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[2-(TETRAHYDRO-2H-PYRAN-4-YL)ETHOXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID**



**STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-yl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 2-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-yl)ethanol:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.23 (1H, d, J = 7.4 Hz), 8.17 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.02 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.44 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.37 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 2.8 Hz), 6.90 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 5.37 (1H, dq, J = 7.4, 7.1 Hz), 4.14 (2H, t, J = 6.4 Hz), 3.98-3.88 (2H, m), 3.91 (3H, s), 3.38-3.22 (2H, m), 1.80-1.20 (7H, m), 1.59 (3H, d, J = 7.1 Hz);

MS (ESI) m/z 446 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 444 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-yl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

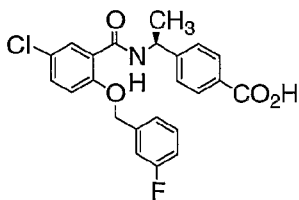
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-yl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 12.86 (1H, br.s), 8.58 (1H, d, J = 7.3 Hz), 7.92 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.58 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.52 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.49 (1H, dd, J = 8.8, 2.8 Hz), 7.19 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz), 5.16 (1H, dq, J = 7.3, 7.0 Hz), 4.12 (2H, t, J = 5.7 Hz), 3.84-3.73 (2H, m), 3.25-3.10 (2H, m), 1.70-1.44 (5H, m), 1.47 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.26-1.06 (2H, m);

MS (ESI) m/z 432 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 430 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**EXAMPLE 43**

**4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(3-FLUOROBENZYL)OXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID**



**STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 32 from 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 1-(bromomethyl)-3-fluorobenzene:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.19 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.16-8.05 (1H, m), 7.91 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.46-7.33 (2H, m), 7.24-7.04 (5H, m), 7.00 (1H, d, J = 8.6 Hz), 5.33-5.17 (1H, m), 5.11 (2H, s), 3.91 (3H, s), 1.33 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  442 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 440 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

**STEP 2. 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(3-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

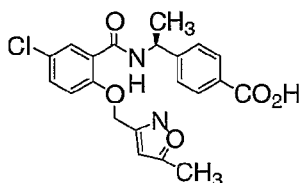
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.25-8.05 (2H, m), 7.97 (2H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.47-7.33 (2H, m), 7.33-7.06 (5H, m), 7.01 (1H, d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz), 5.40-5.20 (1H, m), 5.12 (2H, s), 1.33 (3H, d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  428 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 426 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

**10 EXAMPLE 44**

**4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(5-METHYLISOXAZOL-3-YL)METHOXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID**



**STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 32 from 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and 3-(chloromethyl)-5-methylisoxazole:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.35 (1H, d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz), 8.19 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 7.98 (2H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.45-7.37 (3H, m), 6.99 (1H, d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 5.95 (1H, s), 5.35 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.3, 7.0$  Hz), 5.21 (2H, s), 3.90 (3H, s), 2.43 (3H, s), 1.54 (3H, d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz)

**STEP 2. 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

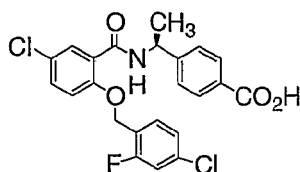
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  13.0-12.8 (1H, br), 8.74 (1H, d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz), 7.84 (2H, d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 7.60 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 7.55 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.8, 2.8$  Hz), 7.43 (2H, d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 7.32 (1H, d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.28 (1H, s), 5.28 (2H, s), 5.15 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.5, 7.0$  Hz), 2.40 (3H, s), 1.40 (3H, d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  415 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 413 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

**30 EXAMPLE 45**

**4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(4-CHLORO-2-FLUOROBENZYL)OXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID**



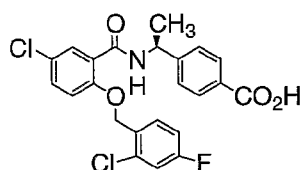
**STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(4-chloro-2-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and (4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)methanol:

- 5 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.17 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.03-7.95 (1H, m), 7.92 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.46-7.07 (6H, m), 7.02 (1H, d, J = 8.6 Hz), 5.32-5.17 (1H, m), 5.15 (2H, s), 3.92 (3H, s), 1.37 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz)

**STEP 2. 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(4-chloro-2-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

- 10 The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(4-chloro-2-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):  
<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.54 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.80 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.65-7.50 (4H, m), 7.37-7.28 (4H, m), 5.25 (2H, s), 5.08 (1H, dq, J = 7.5, 6.8 Hz), 1.36 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz);  
 MS (ESI) *m/z* 462 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 460 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**15 EXAMPLE 46****4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(2-CHLORO-4-FLUOROBENZYL)OXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID****20 STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate**

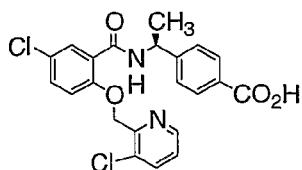
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and (2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methanol:

- 25 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.16 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.10-7.98 (1H, m), 7.89 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.48-7.36 (2H, m), 7.24-7.10 (3H, m), 7.08-6.95 (2H, m), 5.32-5.10 (3H, m), 3.92 (3H, s), 1.34 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz);  
 MS (ESI) *m/z* 476 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 474 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**STEP 2. 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid**

- 30 The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):  
<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.49 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.83-7.65 (3H, m), 7.64-7.50 (3H, m), 7.42-7.20 (4H, m), 5.25 (2H, s), 5.08 (1H, dq, J = 7.5, 6.8 Hz), 1.28 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz);  
 MS (ESI) *m/z* 462 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 460 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**35 EXAMPLE 47****4-[(1*S*)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(3-CHLOROPYRIDIN-2-YL)METHOXY]BENZOYL)AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC**

ACIDSTEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3-chloropyridin-2-yl)methoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and (3-chloropyridin-2-yl)methanol:

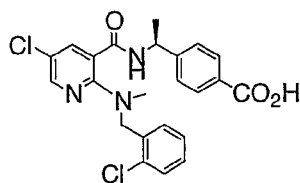
MS (ESI)  $m/z$  459 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 457 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(3-chloropyridin-2-yl)methoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3-chloropyridin-2-yl)methoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  9.26 (1H, d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz), 8.48 (1H, d,  $J = 4.4$  Hz), 8.05 (1H, d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 7.87-7.73 (3H, m), 7.59 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.8, 2.8$  Hz), 7.52-7.36 (4H, m), 5.55 (2H, s), 5.24 (1H, dq,  $J = 7.7, 6.8$  Hz), 1.45 (3H, d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz);

MS (ESI)  $m/z$  445 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>, 443 ( $M - H$ )<sup>-</sup>.

EXAMPLE 484-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(2-CHLOROBENZYL)(METHYL)AMINO]PYRIDIN-3-YL)CARBONYL]AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACIDSTEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 2 of Example 16 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1 of Example 16) and (2-chlorobenzyl)methylamine:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.54 (1H, d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 8.30 (1H, d,  $J = 2.7$  Hz), 8.18 (1H, d,  $J = 2.7$  Hz), 7.88 (2H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 7.46-7.16 (6H, m), 5.38-5.25 (1H, m), 4.55 (1H, d,  $J = 13.6$  Hz), 4.40 (1H, d,  $J = 13.6$  Hz), 3.90 (3H, s), 2.53 (3H, s), 1.47 (3H, d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz).

STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

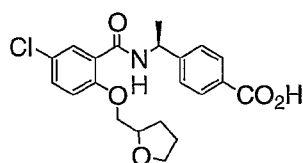
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8

from ethyl 4-((1S)-1-[[5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl]carbonyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 1):

- <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.59 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 8.31 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.19 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.93 (2H, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.43-7.36 (1H, m), 7.34-7.18 (5H, m), 5.40-5.25 (1H, m), 4.54 (1H, d, J = 13.5 Hz), 4.42 (1H, d, J = 13.5 Hz), 2.55 (3H, s), 1.48 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz);
- MS (ESI) m/z 458 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 456 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

#### EXAMPLE 49

4-((1S)-1-[[5-CHLORO-2-(TETRAHYDROFURAN-2-YLMETHOXY)BENZOYL]AMINO]ETHYL)BENZOIC ACID



STEP 1. Methyl 4-((1S)-1-[[5-chloro-2-(tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate

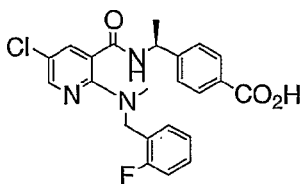
- The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 5 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-[[5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 4 of Example 8) and tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethanol:
- <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.74-8.60 (1H, m), 8.15-8.11 (1H, m), 8.01 and 7.99 (total 2H, each d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.50 and 7.48 (total 2H, each d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.35 (1H, dd, J = 8.8, 2.8 Hz), 6.89 and 6.87 (total 1H, each d, J = 8.8 Hz), 5.38 (1H, dq, J = 7.9, 7.0 Hz), 4.36-4.18 (2H, m), 3.94-3.70 (3H, m), 3.90 and 3.89 (total 3H, each s), 2.14-1.86 (3H, m), 1.70-1.55 (1H, m), 1.57 and 1.56 (total 3H, each d, J = 7.0 Hz);
- MS (ESI) m/z 418 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 416 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

STEP 2. 4-((1S)-1-[[5-Chloro-2-(tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoic acid

- The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-[[5-chloro-2-(tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino]ethyl)benzoate (step 1):
- <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.82-8.72 (1H, m), 7.91 and 7.90 (total 2H, each d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.68 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.60-7.46 (3H, m), 7.23 and 7.22 (total 1H, each d, J = 8.8 Hz), 5.28-5.10 (1H, m), 4.32-4.16 (2H, m), 4.03-3.92 (1H, m), 3.83-3.60 (2H, m), 2.05-1.76 (3H, m), 1.70-1.55 (1H, m), 1.46 and 1.45 (total 3H, each d, J = 6.9 Hz);
- MS (ESI) m/z 404 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 402 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

#### EXAMPLE 50

4-((1S)-1-[[5-CHLORO-2-[(2-FLUOROBENZYL)(METHYL)AMINO]PYRIDIN-3-YL]CARBONYL]AMINO]ETHYL)BENZOIC ACID



**STEP 1. Methyl 4-((1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-((2-fluorobenzyl)(methyl)amino)pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoate**

A mixture of methyl 4-((1S)-1-((2,5-dichloropyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoate, (step 1 of Example 16, 204 mg, 0.58 mmol), (2-fluorobenzyl)methylamine (264 mg, 1.9 mmol), and diisopropylethylamine (167 mg, 1.3 mmol) in dimethyl sulfoxide (5 mL) was heated at 150 °C in an oil bath for 24 hours. The reaction mixture was poured into water and the aqueous mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (sodium sulfate), and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (4/1 to 2/1) to afford 222 mg (86%) of the title compound:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.98 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 8.30 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 8.20 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 7.93 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.33 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.40-7.14 (2H, m), 7.12-6.96 (2H, m), 5.40-5.20 (1H, m), 4.41 (2H, s), 3.89 (3H, s), 2.57 (3H, s), 1.49 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz).

**STEP 2. 4-((1S)-1-((5-Chloro-2-((2-fluorobenzyl)(methyl)amino)pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid**

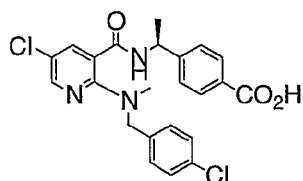
The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-((2-fluorobenzyl)(methyl)amino)pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.08 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz), 8.33 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.25 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 8.00 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.37 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.35-7.19 (2H, m), 7.12-6.99 (2H, m), 5.40-5.25 (1H, m), 4.43 (2H, s), 2.60 (3H, s), 1.51 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz);

MS (ESI) m/z 442 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 440 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**EXAMPLE 51**

**4-((1S)-1-((5-CHLORO-2-((4-CHLOROBENZYL)(METHYL)AMINO)PYRIDIN-3-YL)CARBONYL)AMINO)ETHYL)BENZOIC ACID**



**STEP 1. Methyl 4-((1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-((4-chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino)pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoate**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 50 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-((methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino)pyridin-3-

yl}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}benzoate (step 1 of Example 16) and (4-chlorobenzyl)methylamine:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.69 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz), 8.27 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 8.16 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 7.98 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.35 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.21 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.06 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 5.37-5.23 (1H, m), 4.34-4.29 (2H, brs), 3.91 (3H, s), 2.59 (3H, s), 1.53 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz).

5

STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl}benzoic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl}benzoate (step 1):

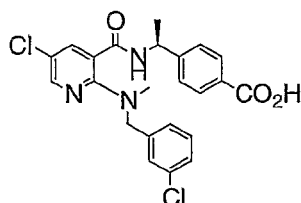
10

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.78 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz), 8.31 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 8.22 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 8.06 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.39 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.24 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.09 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 5.37-5.27 (1H, m), 4.33 (2H, s), 2.62 (3H, s), 1.55 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz);  
MS (ESI) m/z 458 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 456 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

15

#### EXAMPLE 52

4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(3-CHLOROBENZYL)(METHYL)AMINO]PYRIDIN-3-YL)CARBONYL]AMINO]ETHYL}BENZOIC ACID



20

STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3-chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl}benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 50 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl}benzoate (step 1 of Example 16) and (3-chlorobenzyl)methylamine:

25

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.67 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz), 8.28 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 8.17 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 7.96 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.35 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.29-7.16 (3H, m), 7.05 (1H, d, J = 7.3 Hz), 5.40-5.24 (1H, m), 4.38 (1H, d, J = 14.1 Hz), 4.31 (1H, d, J = 14.1 Hz), 3.90 (3H, s), 2.58 (3H, s), 1.53 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz).

30

STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(3-chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl}benzoic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3-chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl}benzoate (step 1):

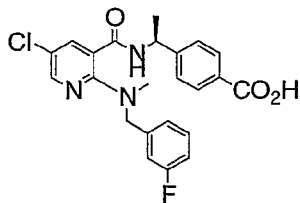
35

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.76 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 8.31 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 8.22 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 8.04 (2H, d,

J = 8.3 Hz), 7.40 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.32-7.18 (3H, m), 7.07 (1H, d, J = 7.2 Hz), 5.39-5.26 (1H, m), 4.39 (1H, d, J = 14.3 Hz), 4.34 (1H, d, J = 14.3 Hz), 2.60 (3H, s), 1.55 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz);  
MS (ESI) m/z 458 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 456 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

### 5 EXAMPLE 53

4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3-fluorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid



### 10 STEP 1. Methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3-fluorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 50 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1 of Example 16) and (3-fluorobenzyl)methylamine:

15 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.67 (1H, d, J = 7.6 Hz), 8.29 (1H, d, J = 2.3 Hz), 8.20-8.15 (1H, m), 7.98 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.36 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.24 (1H, dd, J = 7.4, 13.8 Hz), 7.03-6.86 (3H, m), 5.40-5.25 (1H, m), 4.39 (1H, d, J = 14.3 Hz), 4.34 (1H, d, J = 14.3 Hz), 3.90 (3H, s), 2.60 (3H, s), 1.53 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz).

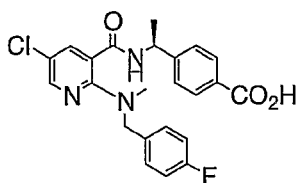
### 20 STEP 2. 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[(3-fluorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-chloro-2-[(3-fluorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoate (step 1):

25 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.76 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 8.31 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 8.21 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 8.04 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.39 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.32-7.20 (1H, m), 7.03-6.88 (3H, m), 5.40-5.28 (1H, m), 4.37 (2H, s), 2.62 (3H, s), 1.55 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz);  
MS (ESI) m/z 442 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 440 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

### EXAMPLE 54

### 30 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-CHLORO-2-[(4-FLUOROBENZYL)(METHYL)AMINO]PYRIDIN-3-YL)CARBONYL]AMINO]ETHYL]BENZOIC ACID



**STEP 1. Methyl 4-((1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-((4-fluorobenzyl)(methyl)amino)pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoate**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 1 of Example 50 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoate (step 1 of Example 16) and (4-fluorobenzyl)methylamine:

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.99 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 8.30 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 8.21 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 7.93 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.33 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.30-7.16 (2H, m), 7.10-6.96 (2H, m), 5.40-5.20 (1H, m), 4.41 (2H, s), 3.89 (3H, s), 2.57 (3H, s), 1.49 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz).

**STEP 2. 4-((1S)-1-((5-Chloro-2-((4-fluorobenzyl)(methyl)amino)pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid**

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure described in step 6 of Example 8 from methyl 4-((1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-((4-fluorobenzyl)(methyl)amino)pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoate (step 1):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.89 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz), 8.32 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 8.23 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 8.05 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.38 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.18-7.08 (2H, m), 7.02-6.90 (2H, m), 5.38-5.26 (1H, m), 4.33 (2H, s), 2.61 (3H, s), 1.54 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz);

MS (ESI) m/z 442 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>, 440 (M - H)<sup>-</sup>.

**Experimental Example**

cAMP assay in human EP<sub>4</sub> transfectant were conducted using the method described above. The results of these studies are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Results of cAMP assay in human EP<sub>4</sub> transfectant.

| Compound                                                                                | cAMP<br>IC <sub>50</sub><br>(nM) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| EXAMPLE 1<br>4-((5-Chloro-2-(2-phenylethoxy)benzoyl)amino)methyl)benzoic acid           | 149                              |
| EXAMPLE 2<br>4-((5-Chloro-2-[2-(2-chlorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino)methyl)benzoic acid | 108                              |
| EXAMPLE 3<br>4-((5-Chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino)methyl)benzoic acid | 126                              |
| EXAMPLE 4<br>4-((5-Chloro-2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino)methyl)benzoic acid | 107                              |
| EXAMPLE 5                                                                               | 270                              |

|                                                                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 4-[(5-Chloro-2-(cyclohexyloxy)benzoyl)amino)methyl]benzoic acid                                   |     |
| EXAMPLE 6                                                                                         | 441 |
| 4-[(5-Chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)methyl]benzoic acid                             |     |
| EXAMPLE 7                                                                                         | 62  |
| 4-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino)methyl]benzoic acid                        |     |
| EXAMPLE 8                                                                                         | 98  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(2,6-difluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid             |     |
| EXAMPLE 9                                                                                         | 240 |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid   |     |
| EXAMPLE 10                                                                                        | 48  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid                 |     |
| EXAMPLE 11                                                                                        | 20  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid                 |     |
| EXAMPLE 12                                                                                        | 21  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid                 |     |
| EXAMPLE 13                                                                                        | 35  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-(cyclohexyloxy)benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid                            |     |
| EXAMPLE 14                                                                                        | 41  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-(3-methylbutoxy)benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid                           |     |
| EXAMPLE 15                                                                                        | 78  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid   |     |
| EXAMPLE 16                                                                                        | 350 |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid |     |
| EXAMPLE 17                                                                                        | 510 |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[( <i>cis</i> -4-methylcyclohexyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid     |     |
| EXAMPLE 18                                                                                        | 260 |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[( <i>Trans</i> -4-methylcyclohexyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid   |     |
| EXAMPLE 19                                                                                        | 130 |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl]amino]ethyl]benzoic acid   |     |
| EXAMPLE 20                                                                                        | 510 |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-(3-methoxy-3-methylbutoxy)benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid                 |     |
| EXAMPLE 21                                                                                        | 200 |
| 4-[(1S)-1-[(5-Chloro-2-(2-isopropoxyethoxy)benzoyl)amino]ethyl]benzoic acid                       |     |

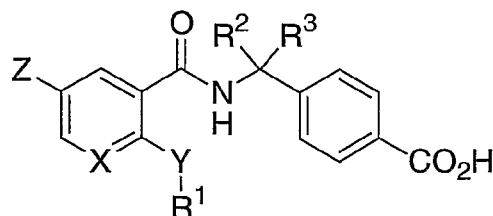
|                                                                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| EXAMPLE 22                                                                                 | 13  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid               |     |
| EXAMPLE 23                                                                                 | 22  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-[(3-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid               |     |
| EXAMPLE 24                                                                                 | 29  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid               |     |
| EXAMPLE 25                                                                                 | 46  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-[(4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid               |     |
| EXAMPLE 26                                                                                 | 62  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-(2-phenoxyethoxy)benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid                   |     |
| EXAMPLE 27                                                                                 | 140 |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-(2-methoxy-2-phenylethoxy)benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid          |     |
| EXAMPLE 28                                                                                 | 210 |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenoxy)ethoxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid         |     |
| EXAMPLE 29                                                                                 | 30  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-(cyclobutylmethoxy)benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid                 |     |
| EXAMPLE 30                                                                                 | 140 |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-isobutoxybenzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid                           |     |
| EXAMPLE 31                                                                                 | 140 |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-(3-methylbutoxy)pyridin-3-yl}carbonyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid      |     |
| EXAMPLE 32                                                                                 | 50  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-[(2,5-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid           |     |
| EXAMPLE 33                                                                                 | 63  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-[(3,4-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid           |     |
| EXAMPLE 34                                                                                 | 41  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid          |     |
| EXAMPLE 35                                                                                 | 110 |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid           |     |
| EXAMPLE 36                                                                                 | 170 |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-[(2-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid               |     |
| EXAMPLE 37                                                                                 | 78  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-[(3,5-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid           |     |
| EXAMPLE 38                                                                                 | 75  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({2-(Benzyloxy)-5-chlorobenzoyl}amino)ethyl]benzoic acid                         |     |
| EXAMPLE 39                                                                                 | 76  |
| 4-[(1S)-1-({5-Chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]pyridin-3-yl}carbonyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid |     |
| EXAMPLE 40                                                                                 | 72  |

|                                                                                                                     |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid                         |     |
| EXAMPLE 41<br>4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[(2-cyanobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid                          | 39  |
| EXAMPLE 42<br>4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[2-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-yl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid          | 467 |
| EXAMPLE 43<br>4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[(3-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid                         | 140 |
| EXAMPLE 44<br>4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methoxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid              | 130 |
| EXAMPLE 45<br>4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[(4-chloro-2-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid                | 65  |
| EXAMPLE 46<br>4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid                | 55  |
| EXAMPLE 47<br>4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[(3-chloropyridin-2-yl)methoxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid               | 480 |
| EXAMPLE 48<br>4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid | 100 |
| EXAMPLE 49<br>4-((1S)-1-([5-Chloro-2-(tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino)ethyl)benzoic acid                  | 360 |
| EXAMPLE 50<br>4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[(2-fluorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid | 120 |
| EXAMPLE 51<br>4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid | 25  |
| EXAMPLE 52<br>4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[(3-chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid | 65  |
| EXAMPLE 53<br>4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[(3-fluorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid | 180 |
| EXAMPLE 54<br>4-((1S)-1-(((5-Chloro-2-[(4-fluorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl)benzoic acid | 110 |

IC<sub>50</sub>: the concentration of the individual compound required to reduce the amount of ligand by 50%.

## CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein X represents -CH- or a nitrogen atom;

Y represents  $\text{NR}^4$ , an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

$\text{R}^4$  represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

Z represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;

$\text{R}^1$  represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted with 1 to 2 groups independently selected from an alkoxy group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a trifluoromethyl group, an alkanoyl group having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a heterocyclic group and a heteroaryl group; a cycloalkyl group having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted with an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; or a heterocyclic group;

$\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; or  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  groups together form an alkylene chain having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms;

said heteroaryl group is a 4 to 7-membered aromatic ring system having either from 1 to 4 ring nitrogen heteroatoms or 0 to 2 nitrogen ring heteroatoms and 1 oxygen or 1 sulfur ring heteroatom;

said heterocyclic group is a 4 to 7-membered saturated ring system having either from 1 to 4 ring nitrogen heteroatoms or 0 to 2 nitrogen ring heteroatoms and 1 oxygen or 1 sulfur ring heteroatom;

said phenyl groups, phenoxy group and said heteroaryl groups referred to in the definitions of  $\text{R}^1$  are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents  $\alpha$ ;

said substituent  $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxy groups, alkoxy groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, haloalkoxy groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, cyano groups, hydroxy alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, alkoxyalkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms in alkoxy and alkyl groups, alkylsulfonyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, alkanoyl groups having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms, alkenyl groups having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkynyl groups having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkylthio groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, nitro groups, amino groups, mono- or di-alkylamino groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, aminosulfonyl groups, alkoxycarbonyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, alkylsulfonylamino groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl groups having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms and a mono- or di-alkylaminocarbonyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein:

X represents a nitrogen atom.

3. A compound according to Claims 1, wherein

5 X represents -CH-.

4. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein

Y represents  $\text{NR}^4$  or an oxygen atom; and

$\text{R}^4$  represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

5. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein

10 Y represents an oxygen atom.

6. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein

Z represents a halogen atom.

7. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein

15  $\text{R}^1$  represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted with 1 to 2 groups independently selected from an alkoxy group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, and a heteroaryl group;

said heteroaryl group is a 5 to 6- membered aromatic ring system having either from 1 to 2 ring nitrogen heteroatoms or 1 or 2 nitrogen ring heteroatoms and 1 oxygen or 1 sulfur ring heteroatom;

20 said phenyl groups and said heteroaryl groups referred to in the definitions of  $\text{R}^1$  are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents  $\alpha$ ;

25 said substituent  $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxy groups, alkoxy groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, haloalkoxy groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, cyano groups, hydroxy alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, alkoxyalkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms in alkoxy and alky groups, alkylsulfonyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms and alkanoyl groups having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms.

8. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein

30  $\text{R}^1$  represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted with 1 to 2 groups independently selected from a cycloalkyl group having from 4 to 6 carbon atoms, a phenyl group and a phenoxy group;

said phenyl group is unsubstituted or is substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents  $\alpha$ ;

said substituent  $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 2 carbon atoms and cyano groups.

- 35 9. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein

$\text{R}^1$  represents a pentyl group, a phenylmethyl group, a phenylethyl group, a phenoxyethyl group or a cyclobutylmethyl group;

said phenyl is optionally substituted by 1 to 2 groups independently selected from a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a cyano group and a methyl group.

- 40 10. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, wherein

$R^2$  and  $R^3$  independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

11. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 10, wherein  
 $R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom; and  $R^3$  represents a methyl group.

- 5 12. A compound according to Claim 1 selected from:

4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(3-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 10 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-(cyclobutylmethoxy)benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-(cyclohexyloxy)benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(2-cyanobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 15 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-(3-methylbutoxy)benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(2,5-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(5-chloro-2-[2-(2-methylphenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino)methyl]benzoic acid;  
 20 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-(2-phenoxyethoxy)benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(3,4-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(4-chloro-2-fluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 25 4-[(1S)-1-([2-(benzyloxy)-5-chlorobenzoyl]amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethoxy]pyridin-3-yl)carbonyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[(3,5-difluorobenzyl)oxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid; and  
 4-[(1S)-1-((5-chloro-2-[2-(2,6-difluorophenyl)ethoxy]benzoyl)amino)ethyl]benzoic acid;  
 30 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound;  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12,  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt  
 thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

- 35 14. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of disease conditions mediated by prostaglandin, in a  
 mammalian subject, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to  
 any one of claims 1 to 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a  
 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15. A method for the treatment of disease conditions mediated by prostaglandin, in a mammalian subject,  
 40 which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound

- according to any one of claims 1 to 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
16. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as a medicament.
- 5 17. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of disease conditions mediated by prostaglandin in a mammalian subject.
18. A combination of a compound of the formula (I), as defined in any one of claims 1 to 12, and another pharmacologically active agent.