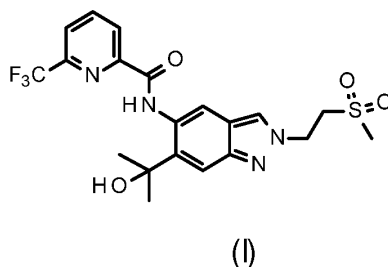


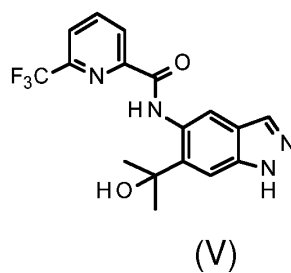
CLAIMS

1. A method of preparing a compound of formula (I):

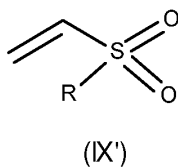


comprising the following step (A):

5 wherein a compound of formula (V):



is allowed to react with a vinyl sulfone compound of formula (IX'):

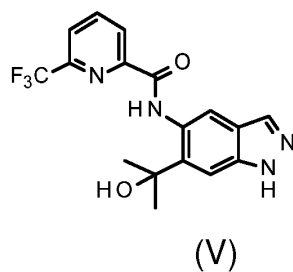


10 in which R represents an alkyl group, such as a methyl, ethyl or n-propyl group for example, or an aryl group, such as a phenyl group for example,

optionally in an aromatic hydrocarbon solvent, such as toluene for example, preferably at the reflux temperature of said solvent,

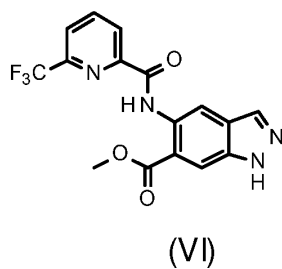
thereby providing said compound of formula (I).

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said aromatic hydrocarbon solvent is toluene.
3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said compound of formula (V):



is prepared by the following step (B):

- 5 wherein a compound of formula (VI):

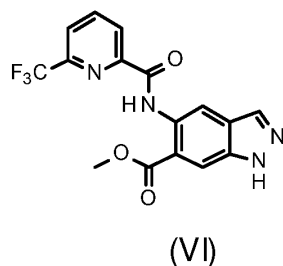


is allowed to react with a reductive methylating agent, such as a methylmetallic agent, such as a methylmagnesium halide, such as methylmagnesium chloride for example,

optionally in the presence of an alkali metal halide, such as lithium chloride for example,

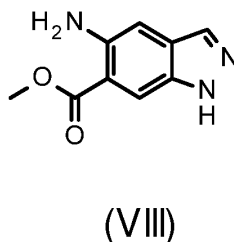
- 10 thereby providing said compound of formula (V).

4. The method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said compound of formula (VI):

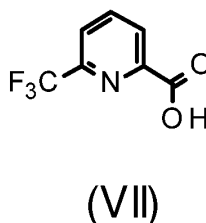


is prepared by the following step (C):

wherein a compound of formula (VIII):



5 is allowed to react with a compound of formula (VII):

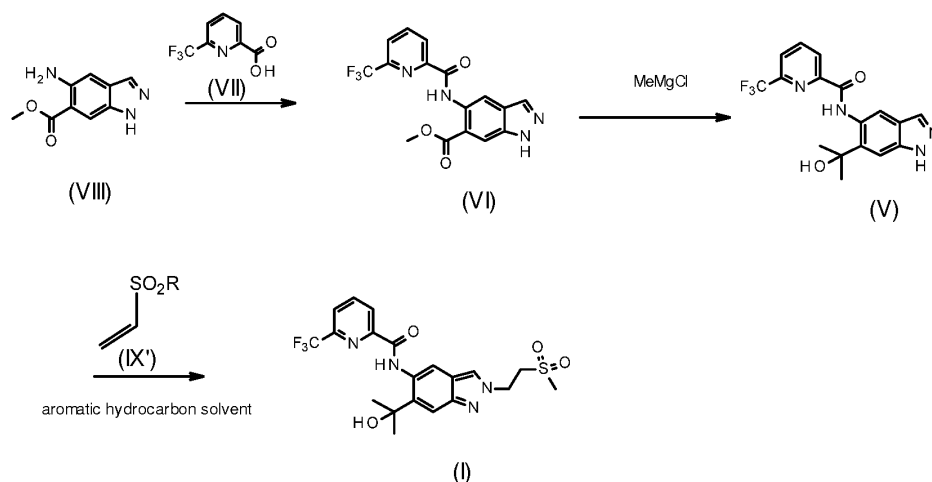


optionally in the presence of an organic base, particularly a weak organic base, such as a tertiary amine, such as N,N-diisopropylethylamine for example,

optionally in the presence of a coupling agent, such as 2,4,6-tripropyl-1,3,5,2,4,6-trioxatriphosphinane 2,4,6-trioxide (T3P) for example,

thereby providing said compound of formula (VI).

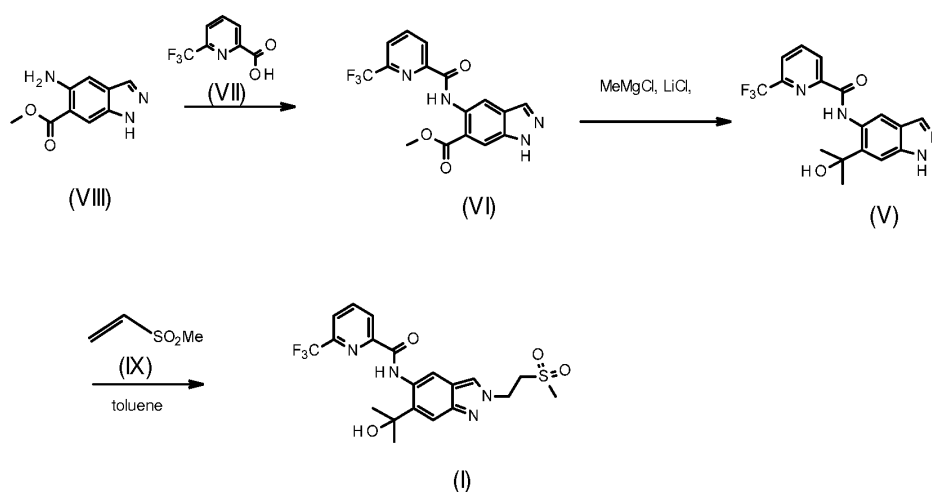
5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said compound of formula (I) is prepared *via* the following steps shown in reaction scheme IA, *infra*:



Scheme IA,

in which R and aromatic hydrocarbon solvent are defined in any one of claims 1 to 4.

6. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said compound of formula (I) is prepared via the following steps shown in reaction scheme I, *infra*:

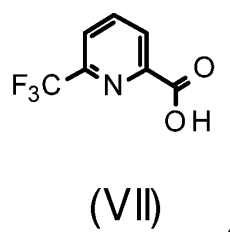
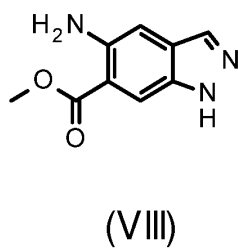
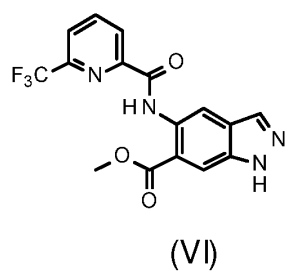
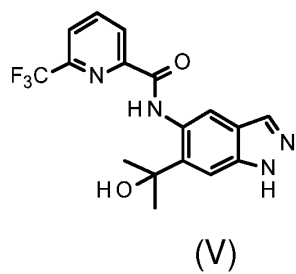


Scheme I.

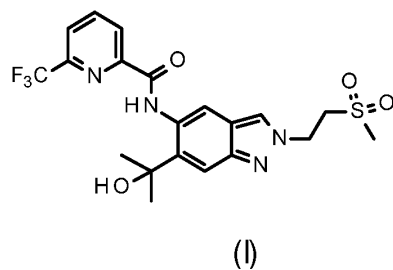
7. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said compound of formula (I) is purified by crystallization, particularly from a solvent such as ethanol or isopropanol, for example.
8. The method according to claim 7, wherein said solvent is ethanol.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein said solvent is isopropanol.

10. Use of a compound selected from:

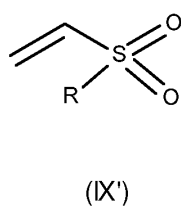


for preparing a compound of formula (I):



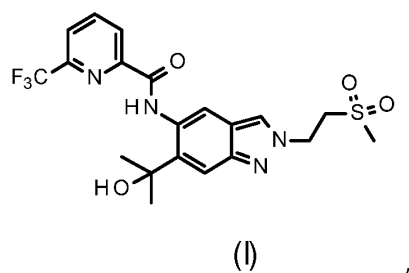
according to any one of claims 1 to 10.

11. Use of a vinyl sulfone compound of formula (IX'):



5 in which R represents an alkyl group, such as a methyl, ethyl or n-propyl group for example, or an aryl group, such as a phenyl group for example,

for preparing a compound of formula (I):



according to any one of claims 1 to 10.

10 12. Use according to claim 11, wherein said vinyl compound of formula (IX') is methyl vinyl sulfone.