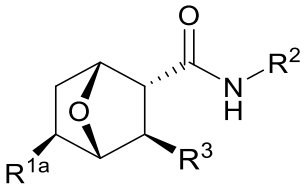
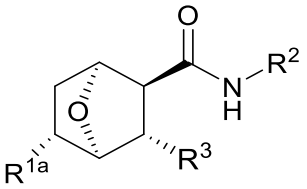
CLAIMS

1. A compound of Formula (2A) or (2G) , or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;


(2A)


(2G)

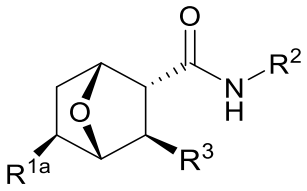
R^{1a} is hydroxyl;

R^2 is phenyl; a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or a 5- or 6- membered heterocyclyl, each having 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S; wherein R^2 is unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-6}alkoxy, cyano, C_{1-6}alkylsulfonyl, phenyl unsubstituted or substituted by halo or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^3 is pyridyl, unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 2 substituents independently selected from halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy or $-NR^5R^6$;

R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl; alternatively, R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are form a 5- or 6- membered heterocyclyl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S.

2. The compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said compound is Formula (2A)


(2A) .

3. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein R^2 is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl or piperidinyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 2 substituents independently selected from halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-6}alkoxy, cyano, C_{1-6}alkylsulfonyl, phenyl unsubstituted or substituted by halo.

4. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein R^2 is selected from:

phenyl substituted by 3,4-dichloro; 2-trifluoromethyl; 3-trifluoromethyl; 3-cyano-4-chloro; 2-cyano-4-chloro; 3-fluoro-4-chloro; 3-trifluoromethoxy; 3-fluoro-4- trifluoromethoxy; or 3-chloro-4-(2-fluorophenyl);

pyridin-4-yl substituted by 6-methoxy or 2-trifluoromethyl;

pyridin-3-yl substituted by 5,6-dichloro; 6-methoxy; 5-chloro-6-methyl or 5-trifluoromethyl-6-methyl;

pyridin-2-yl substituted by 4,5-dichloro;

1H-pyrazol-3-yl substituted 1-methyl;

thiazol-2-yl substituted by 5-methyl; and

piperidin-4-yl substituted by 1-methylsulfonyl.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^3 is selected from:

pyridin-4-yl unsubstituted or substituted by 2-methyl; 2-trifluoromethyl; 2-methoxy; 2-amino; 2-fluoro; 2,3-difluoro; or 2,5-difluoro;

pyridin-3-yl unsubstituted or substituted by 6-methyl; 6-methoxy; or 5,6-dichloro; pyridin-2-yl substittuted by 6-trifluoromethyl.

6. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is (1R,2R,3S,4R,5S)-N-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-hydroxy-3-(2-methylpyridin-4-yl)-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2-carboxamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is (1S,2S,3R,4S,5R)-N-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-hydroxy-3-(2-methylpyridin-4-yl)-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2-carboxamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

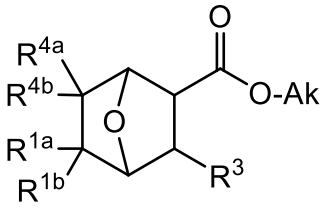
8. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is (1R,2R,3S,4R,5S)-N-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(2-fluoropyridin-4-yl)-5-hydroxy-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2-carboxamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is (1S,2S,3R,4S,5R)-N-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(2-fluoropyridin-4-yl)-5-hydroxy-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2-carboxamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is (1R,2R,3S,4R,5S)-N-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-hydroxy-3-(2-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-4-yl)-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2-carboxamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is (1S,2S,3R,4S,5R)-N-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-hydroxy-3-(2-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-4-yl)-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2-carboxamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. A compound having Formula (III)



(III)

wherein Ak is C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^3 is a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl having 1 to 2 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S; wherein R^3 is unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy or -NR^5R^6;

R^{1a} is hydroxyl;

R^{1b}, R^{4a}, and R^{4b} are hydrogen;

R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

alternatively, R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached in –NR^5R^6 form a 5- or 6- membered heterocyclyl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

14. A combination comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and one or more therapeutically active agents.

15. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating, ameliorating or preventing arthritis or joint injury in a mammal; or for cartilage repair.

16. Use according to claim 15, wherein the medicament further includes a second therapeutic agent or is for administration in combination with a second therapeutic agent.

17. An in vitro method of inducing hyaline cartilage production or a method of inducing differentiation of chondrogenic progenitor cells into mature chondrocytes, comprising contacting chondrogenic progenitor cells with a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, and optionally in combination with a second therapeutic agent; thereby inducing differentiation of chondrocyte progenitor cells into mature chondrocytes producing hyaline cartilage extracellular matrix.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said contacting step occurs in a matrix or biocompatible scaffold.