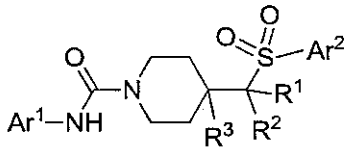
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound having formula (I):



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

Ar^1 is a 5- to 6-membered heteroaryl having at least one nitrogen atom ring member; and which is optionally substituted with from 1-3 R^a;

Ar^2 is a 5- to 10-membered aryl or heteroaryl which is optionally substituted with from 1-5 R^b;

R^1 and R^2 are each independently a member selected from the group consisting of H, F, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 deuteroalkyl, and C_1-C_4 haloalkyl; or optionally R^1 and R^2 can be combined to form a C_3- to C_5 carbocyclic ring which is optionally substituted with one or two F;

R^3 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, F, OH and C_1-C_4 alkyl;

each R^a is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, CN, hydroxyl, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 haloalkoxy, $-COR^{a1}$, $-CO_2R^{a1}$, $-SO_2R^{a1}$, $-SO_2NR^{a1}R^{a2}$, and $-CONR^{a1}R^{a2}$, wherein each R^{a1} and R^{a2} is independently selected from the group consisting of H and C_1-C_4 alkyl or optionally R^{a1} and R^{a2} when attached to a nitrogen atom are combined to form a 4- to 6- membered ring; and

each R^b is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, CN, hydroxyl, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 deuteroalkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 haloalkoxy, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, $-NR^{b1}R^{b2}$, $-COR^{b1}$, $-CO_2R^{b1}$, $-SO_2R^{b1}$, $-SO_2NR^{b1}R^{b2}$, $-CONR^{b1}R^{b2}$, and a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl which is optionally substituted with C_1-C_4 alkyl, and wherein each R^{b1} and R^{b2} is independently selected from the group consisting of H and C_1-C_4 alkyl or optionally R^{b1} and R^{b2} when attached to a nitrogen atom are combined to form a 4- to 6- membered ring; or optionally, two R^b substituents on adjacent ring members are combined to form a 5- or 6-membered ring having 0, 1 or 2 ring members selected from O, N and S.

2. A compound of claim **1**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar^1 is selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, pyridazinyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl,

1,2,3-thiadiazolyl, isothiazolyl, and thiazolyl, each of which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 2 R^a.

3. A compound of claim **1**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar^2 is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, pyridyl and pyrazolyl, each of which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 R^b.

4. A compound of claim **3**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^b is selected from the group consisting of halo, CN, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy and C_1-C_4 haloalkoxy.

5. A compound of claim **1**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, F and CH_3.

6. A compound of claim **1**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ,wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H, F and CH_3.

7. A compound of claim **1**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^1 and R^2 taken together with the carbon atom to which each is attached form a cyclopropane or cyclobutane ring.

8. A compound of claim **1**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^1 and R^2 are not the same and at least one of R^1 and R^2 is selected from F and CH_3.

9. A compound of claim **8**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the carbon atom bearing R^1 and R^2 has a stereochemical R configuration.

10. A compound of claim **1**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^3 is H or F.

11. A compound of claim **1**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar^1 is 4-pyridinyl and Ar^2 is phenyl, optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 R^b.

12. A compound of claim **11**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^3 is H, and each of R^1 and R^2 is F.

13. A compound of claim **11**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^3 is H, and each of R^1 and R^2 is CH_3.

14. A compound of claim **11**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^3 is H, R^1 is CH_3 and R^2 is F.

15. A compound of claim **14**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the carbon atom bearing R^1 and R^2 has a stereochemical R-configuration.

16. A compound of claim **1**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar^1 is 4-pyridazinyl and Ar^2 is phenyl, optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 R^b.

17. A compound of claim **16**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^3 is H, and each of R^1 and R^2 is F.

18. A compound of claim **16**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^3 is H, and each of R^1 and R^2 is CH_3.

19. A compound of claim **16**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^3 is H, R^1 is CH_3 and R^2 is F.

20. A compound of claim **19**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the carbon atom bearing R^1 and R^2 has a stereochemical R-configuration.

21. A compound of claim **1**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar^1 is selected from the group consisting of 1,2,3-thiadiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, and thiazol-5-yl, each of which is optionally substituted with one R^a.

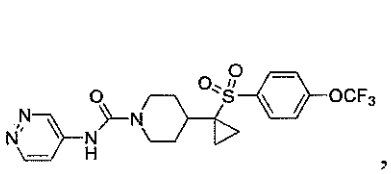
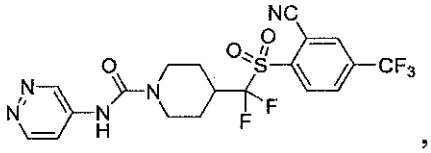
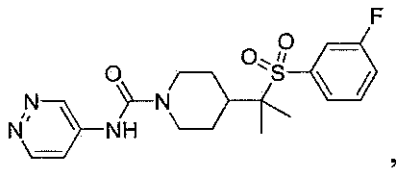
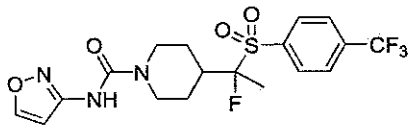
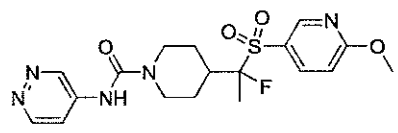
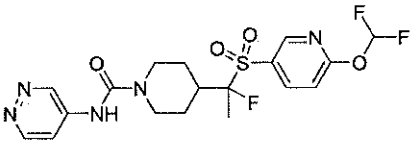
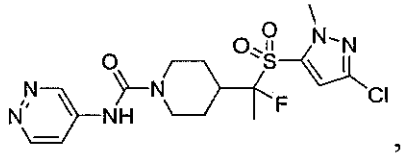
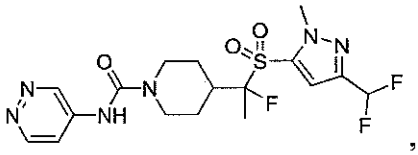
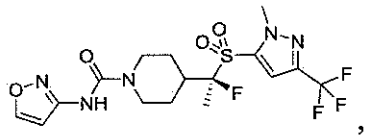
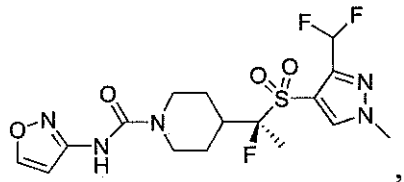
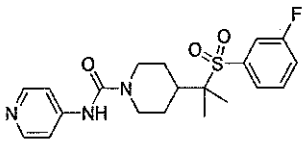
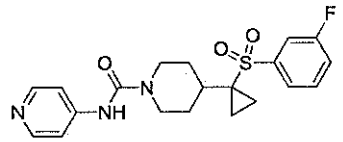
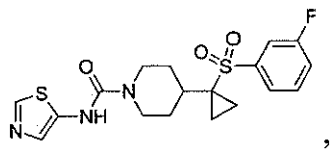
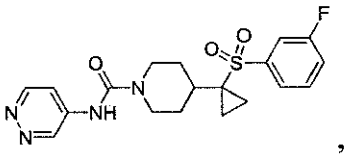
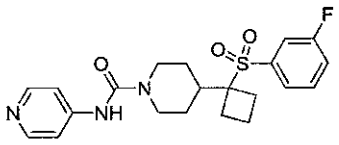
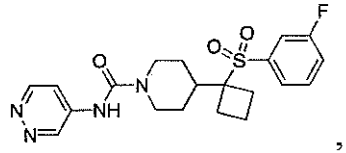
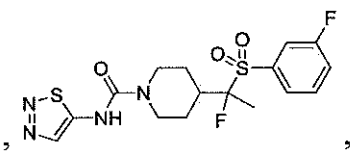
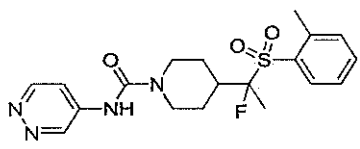
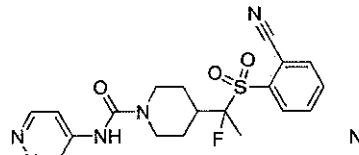
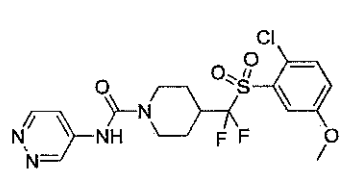
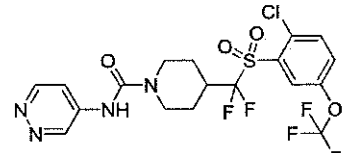
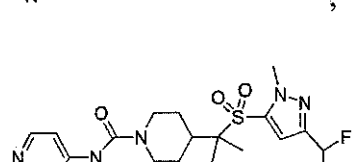
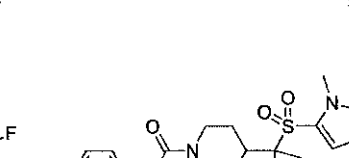
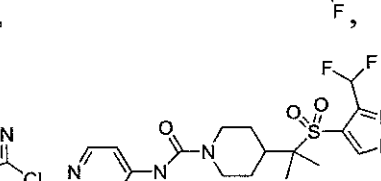
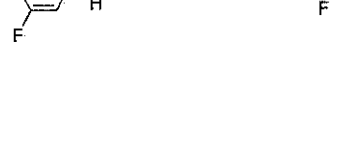
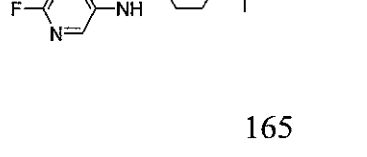
22. A compound of claim **21**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^3 is H, and each of R^1 and R^2 is F.

23. A compound of claim **21**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^3 is H, and each of R^1 and R^2 is CH_3.

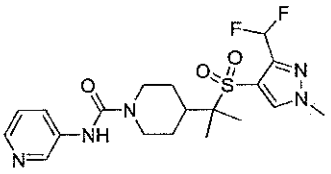
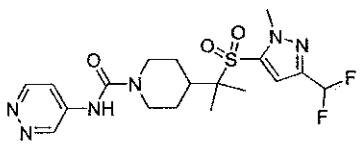
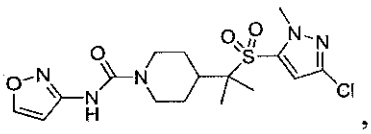
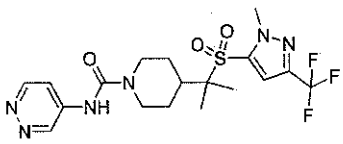
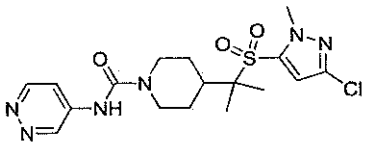
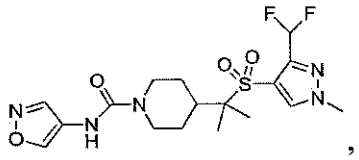
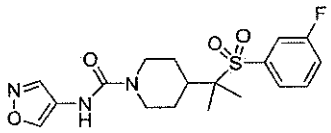
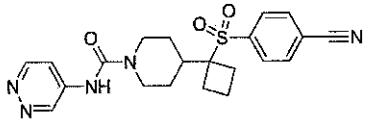
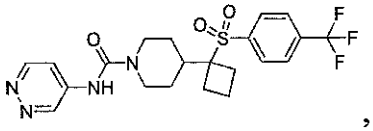
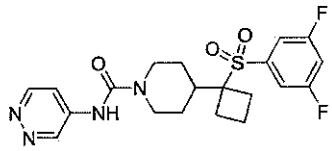
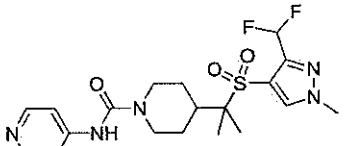
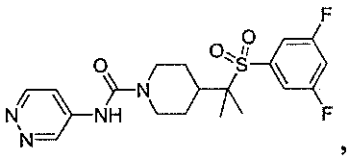
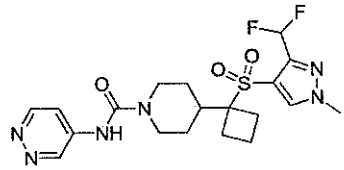
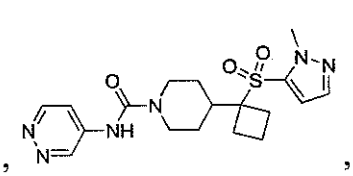
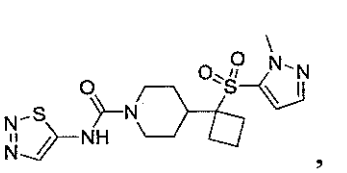
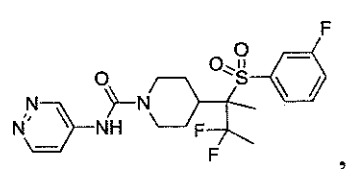
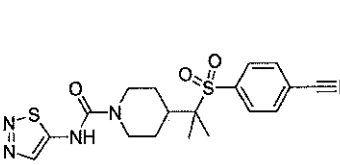
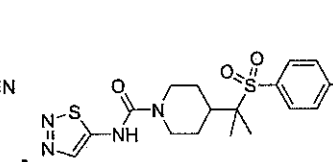
24. A compound of claim **21**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^3 is H, R^1 is CH_3 and R^2 is F.

25. A compound of claim **24**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the carbon atom bearing R^1 and R^2 has a stereochemical R-configuration.

26. A compound of claim **1**,wherein the compound is:

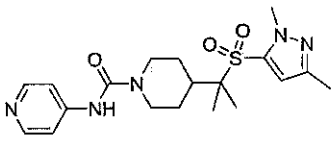
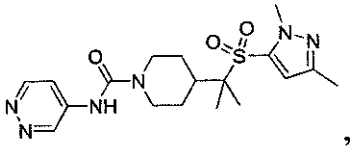
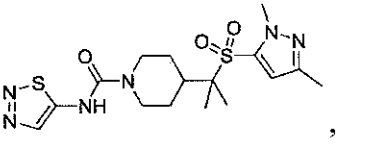
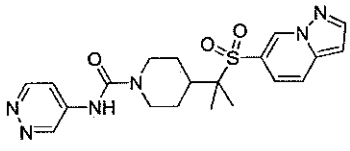
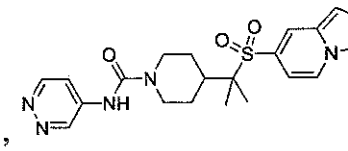
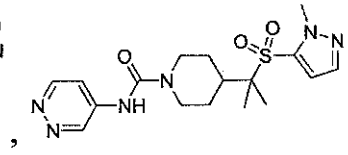
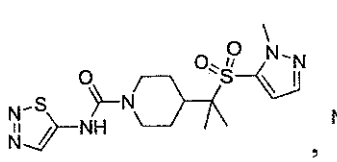
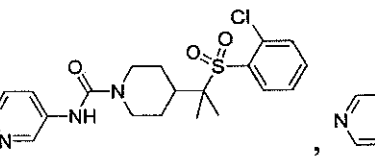
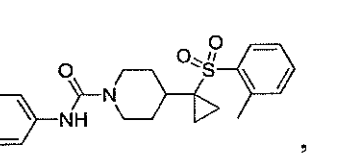

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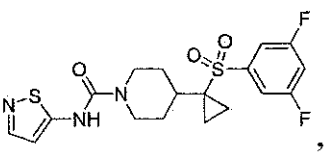
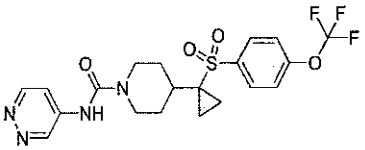
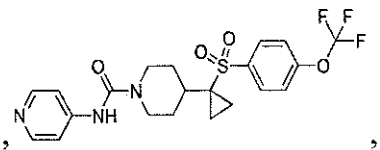
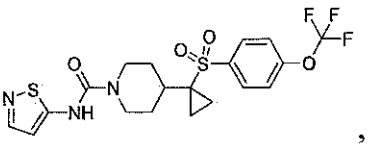
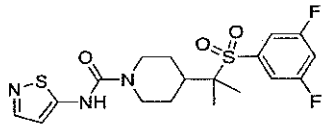
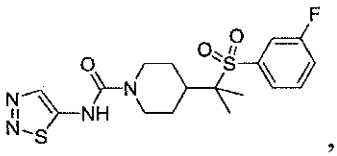
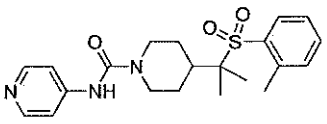
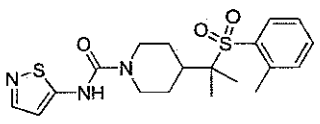
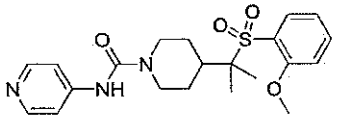
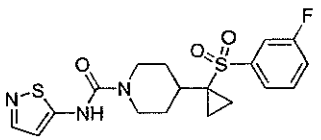
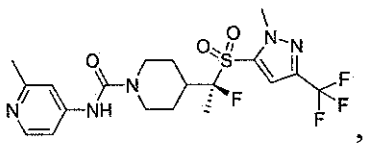
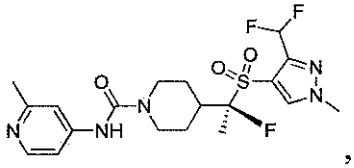
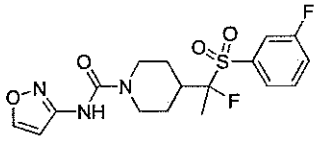
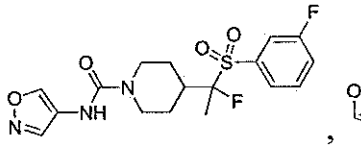
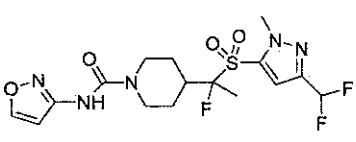
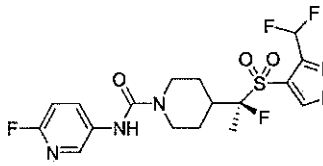
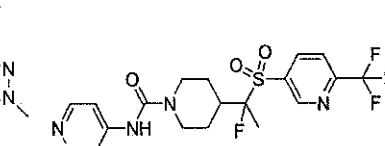
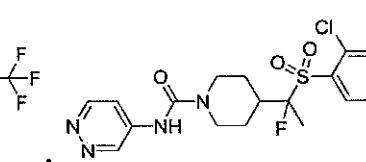
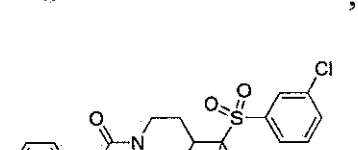
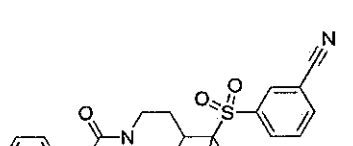
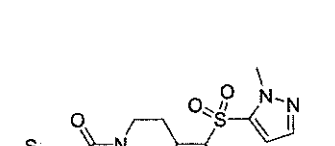
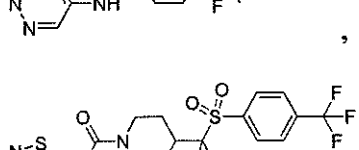
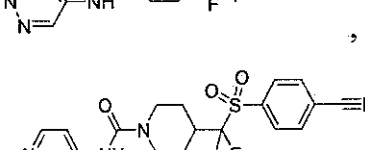
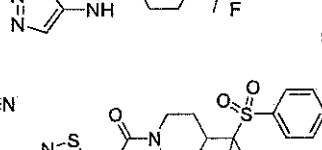
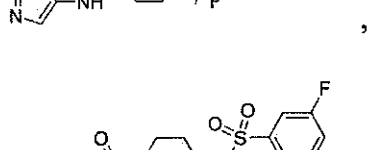
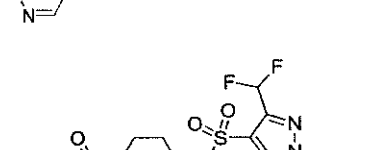
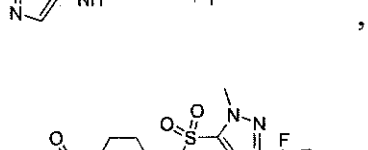
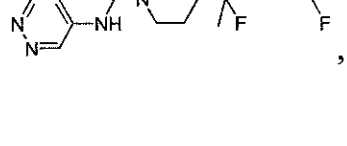
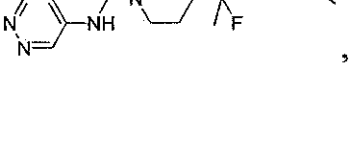
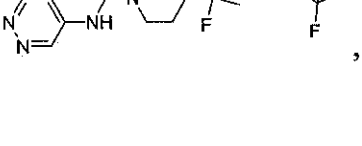
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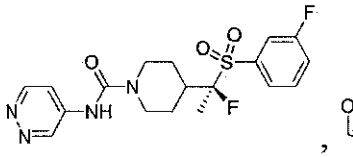
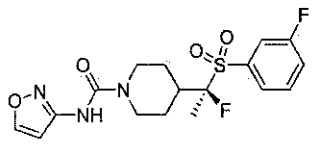
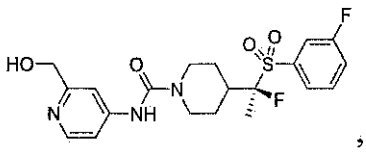
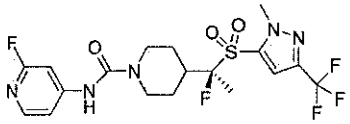
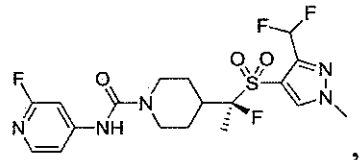
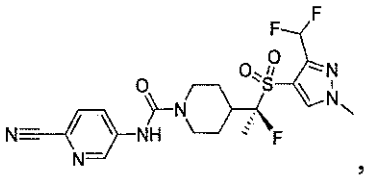
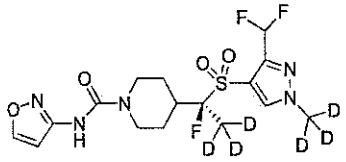
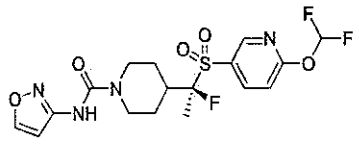
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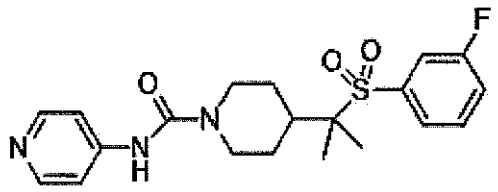
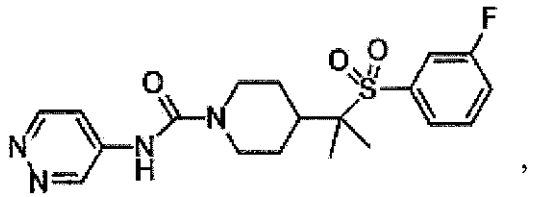
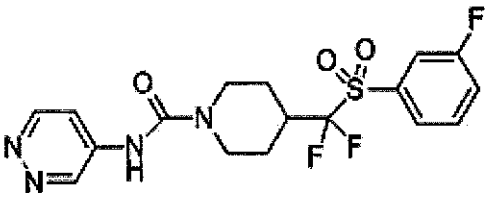
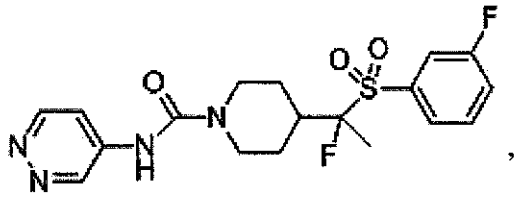
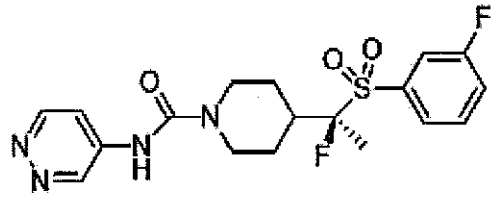
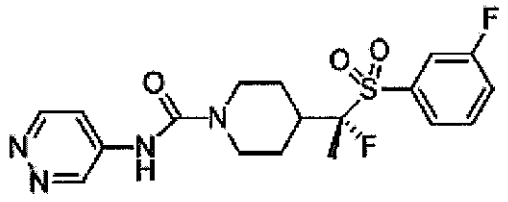
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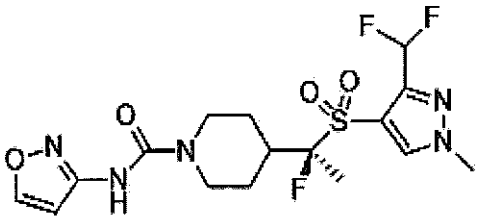
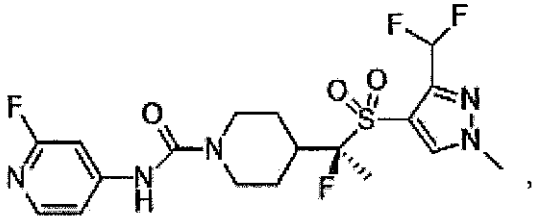
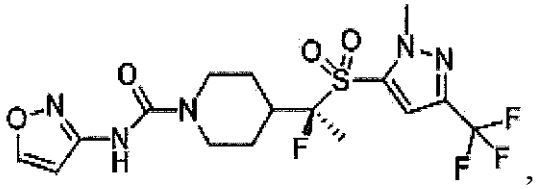
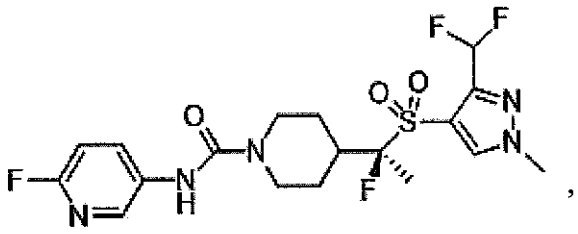
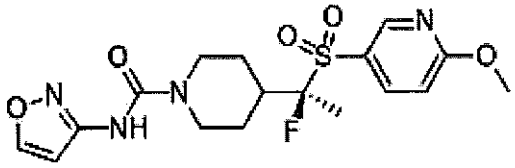
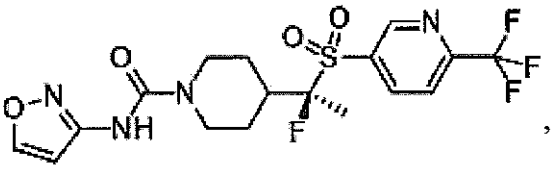
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, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. A compound of claim **1**, wherein the compound is:


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, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

28. A compound of claim **1**, wherein the compound is:


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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of any one of claims **1- 28**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

30. Use of a compound of any of claims **1-28**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), or a cardiac disorder having a pathophysiological feature of DCM, such as disorders with systolic dysfunction or a reduction in systolic reserves.

31. Use of a compound of any of claims **1-28**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease or disorder selected from the group consisting of systolic dysfunction, diastolic dysfunction, HFrEF, HFpEF, chronic heart failure and acute heart failure.

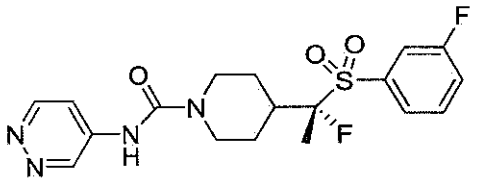
32. The use of claim **31**, wherein said compound is to be administered in an IV formulation for the treatment of acute heart failure.

33. Use of a compound of any of claims **1-28**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease or disorder characterized by left ventricular systolic dysfunction or symptoms or reduced exercise capacity due to systolic dysfunction; in conjunction with a therapy aimed at treating heart failure.

34. Use of a compound of any of claims **1-28**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), or a cardiac disorder having a pathophysiological feature associated with DCM, wherein the compound is to be combined with an ACE inhibitor, an angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB), a β-blocker, an aldosterone receptor antagonist, a neural endopeptidase inhibitor, a positive inotropic agent, a β-adrenergic agonist, dobutamine a phosphodiesterase inhibitor, milrinone, a diuretic, furosemide, a vasodilator, a calcium channel blocker, a phosphodiesterase inhibitor, an endothelin receptor antagonist, a renin inhibitor, and/or a smooth muscle myosin modulator.

35. The use of claim **34**, wherein said compound is to be administered in combination with a beta-blocker.

36. A compound having the structure

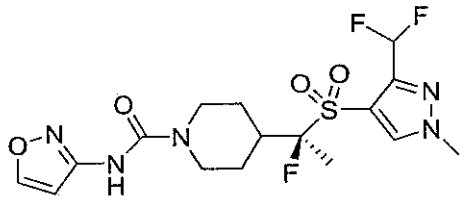


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

37. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim **36**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

38. Use of a compound of claim **36**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM).

39. A compound having the structure



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

40. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim **39**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

41. Use of a compound of claim **39**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM).

42. Use of a compound of claim 39, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HFrEF.

43. Use of a compound of claim 39, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of systolic dysfunction.

44. Use of a compound of claim 39, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound is to be combined with an ACE inhibitor, an angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB), a β-blocker, an aldosterone receptor antagonist, a neural endopeptidase inhibitor, a positive inotropic agent, a β-adrenergic agonist, dobutamine a phosphodiesterase inhibitor, milrinone, a diuretic, furosemide, a vasodilator, a calcium channel blocker, a phosphodiesterase inhibitor, an endothelin receptor antagonist, a renin inhibitor, and/or a smooth muscle myosin modulator.

45. The use of claim 39, wherein said compound is to be administered in combination with a beta-blocker.