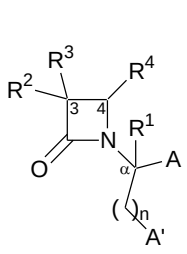
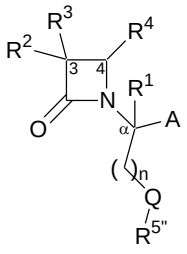
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. The use of a selective vasopressin V1a receptor antagonist in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of Huntington's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, or Alzheimer's Disease in a host animal, wherein the antagonist is a compound of the formula:



(I) or


(II)

or a salt thereof, wherein

A and A' are each an independently selected amide;

Q is oxygen; or Q is sulfur or disulfide, or an oxidized derivative thereof;

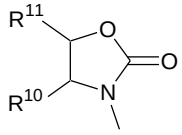
$R^{5"}$ is selected from hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted heterocyclylalkyl, and optionally substituted aminoalkyl;

n is an integer selected from 1 to about 3;

R^1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^2 is hydrogen;

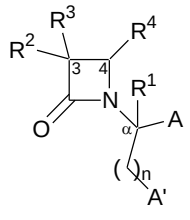
R^3 is of the formula



wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, optionally substituted arylalkyloxy, optionally substituted arylalkylcarbonyloxy, diphenylmethoxy, and triphenylmethoxy; and

R^4 is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkylcarbonyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, optionally substituted arylhaloalkyl, optionally substituted arylalkoxyalkyl, optionally substituted arylalkenyl, optionally substituted arylhaloalkenyl, or optionally substituted arylalkynyl.

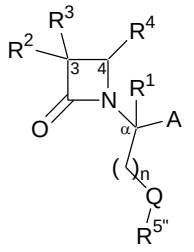
2. The use of claim 1 wherein the antagonist is a compound of the formula:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. The use of claim 1 wherein the antagonist is a compound of the formula:



(II)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. The use of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein n is 1 or 2.

5. The use of any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein R^1 is hydrogen; and R^2 is hydrogen or alkyl.

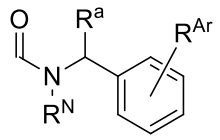
6. The use of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein one or both of A and A′ is an independently selected amido of the formula C(O)NHX or C(O)NR^{14}X, where R^{14} is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, and benzyl; X is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), R^6R^7N-, and R^6R^7N-(C_2-C_4 alkyl), where each heterocyclyl is independently selected.

7. The use of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein one or both of A and A′ is an amide of an independently selected optionally substituted nitrogen-containing heterocycle attached at a nitrogen, and selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, homopiperazinyl, triazolidinyl, triazinyl, oxazolidinyl, isoxazolidinyl, thiazolidinyl, isothiazolidinyl, 1,2-oxazinyl, 1,3-oxazinyl, morpholinyl, oxadiazolidinyl, and thiadiazolidinyl.

8. The use of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein one or both of A and A′ is an amide of an optionally substituted 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl.

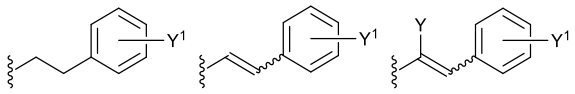
9. The use of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein one or both of A and A′ is an independently selected amide of a substituted piperidine or piperazine.

10. The use of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein A is of the formula



where R^N is hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl, or an amide prodrug forming group; R^a is hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl; and R^{Ar} is hydrogen or one or more aryl substituents.

11. The use of any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein R^4 is of the formulae:

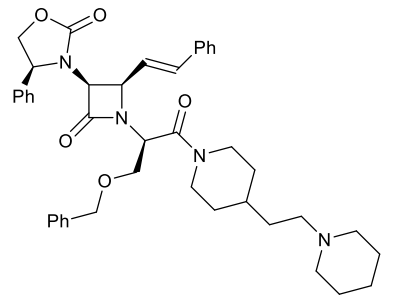


wherein Y an electron withdrawing group, and Y^1 is hydrogen or one or more aryl substituents.

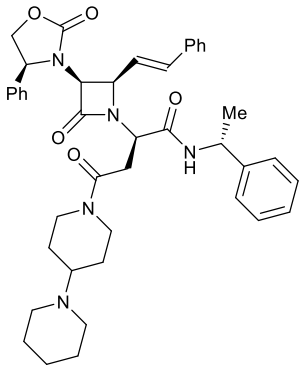
12. The use of any one of claims 1 or 3 to 11 wherein Q is oxygen or sulfur.

13. The use of any one of claims 1 or 3-12 wherein $R^{5''}$ is optionally substituted aryl(C_2-C_4 alkyl).

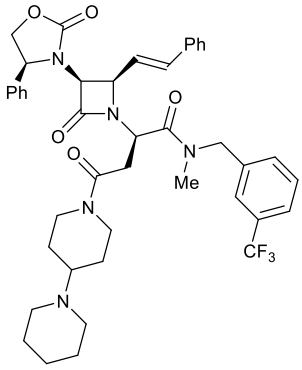
14. The use of claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of



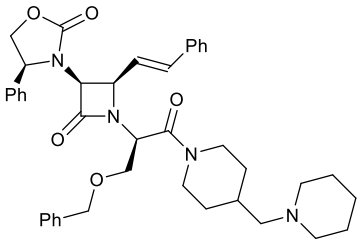
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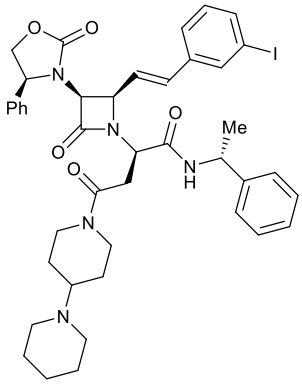
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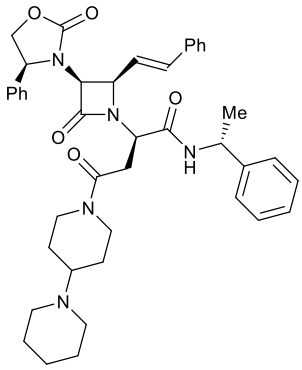


, and



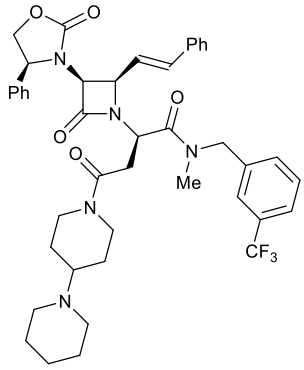
, and salts thereof, and combinations thereof.

15. The use of claim 1 wherein the compound is



, or a salt thereof.

16. The use of claim 1 wherein the compound is



, or a salt thereof.

17. The use of any one of claims 1 to 16 for treating one or more neuropsychiatric symptoms of Huntington’s Disease.

18. The use of any one of claims 1 to 16 for treating one or more neuropsychiatric symptoms of Parkinson's Disease.

19. The use of any one of claims 1 to 16 for treating one or more neuropsychiatric symptoms of Alzheimer’s Disease.

20. The use of any one of claims1 to 19 wherein the neuropsychiatric symptoms comprise aggression, irritability, or anger, or a combination thereof.