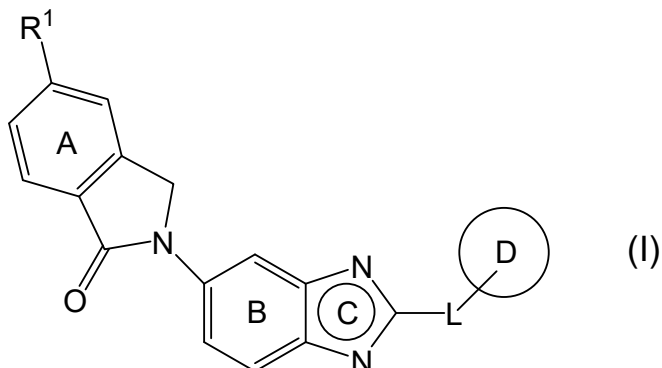


CLAIMS

1. A compound represented by the formula (I):



5 wherein

Ring A is a benzene ring;

Ring B is a benzene ring;

Ring C is an imidazole ring optionally further substituted by
C₁₋₆ alkyl group(s);

10 L is a bond or a methylene group;

R¹ is

(1) a hydrogen atom,

(2) a halogen atom,

(3) a mono- or di-C₁₋₆ alkylamino group,

15 (4) a 5- to 14-membered aromatic heterocyclic group, or

(5) a 3- to 14-membered non-aromatic heterocyclic group
optionally substituted by 1 to 3 C₁₋₆ alkyl groups; and

Ring D is

(1) a benzene ring optionally further substituted by 1 to 3

20 substituents selected from

(a) a halogen atom,

(b) a hydroxy group,

(c) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 C₁₋₆
alkoxy groups,

25 (d) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3
substituents selected from

(i) a carboxy group,

(ii) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy-carbonyl group,

(iii) a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyloxy-carbonyl group,
(iv) a carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-
substituted by substituent(s) selected from

(I) C₁₋₆ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3
substituents selected from

(A) a C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkyl group,

(B) a C₆₋₁₄ aryl group,

(C) a C₆₋₁₄ arylamino group optionally substituted
by 1 to 3 halogen atoms,

(D) a 5- to 14-membered aromatic heterocyclic
group,

(E) a 3- to 14-membered non-aromatic heterocyclic
group, and

(F) a carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-
substituted by substituent(s) selected from a C₁₋₆
alkyl group and a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyl group,

(II) a C₂₋₆ alkenyl group optionally substituted by 1
to 3 C₆₋₁₄ aryl groups,

(III) a C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkyl group optionally substituted
by 1 to 3 C₁₋₆ alkyl groups,

(IV) a C₆₋₁₄ aryl group optionally substituted by 1 to
3 substituents selected from

(A) a halogen atom, and

(B) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,

(V) a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyl group,

(VI) a 5- to 14-membered aromatic heterocyclic group,
and

(VII) a 3- to 14-membered non-aromatic heterocyclic
group, and

(v) a 3- to 14-membered non-aromatic
heterocyclylcarbonyl group optionally substituted by 1
to 3 substituents selected from

(I) a hydroxy group, and

(II) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, and

(e) a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyloxy group,

(2) a cyclohexane ring,
(3) a pyridine ring,
(4) an isoxazole ring,
(5) a thiophene ring,
5 (6) a piperidine ring optionally further substituted by 1 to 3
C₁₋₆ alkoxy-carbonyl groups, or
(7) a tetrahydropyran ring,
~~Ring A and Ring B are each~~
~~independently an optionally further substituted benzene ring,~~
~~L~~
10 ~~Ring C is an imidazole ring optionally further substituted by~~
~~C₁₋₆ alkyl group(s) optionally substituted by 1 to 3~~
~~substituents selected from~~
~~(1) a halogen atom,~~
~~(2) a nitro group,~~
15 ~~(3) a cyano group,~~
~~(4) an amino group,~~
~~(5) a hydroxy group, and~~
~~(6) an optionally halogenated C₁₋₆ alkoxy group,~~
~~L is a bond or an optionally substituted methylene group,~~
20 ~~R⁺ is a hydrogen atom or a substituent, and~~
~~Ring D is an optionally further substituted ring,~~
or a salt thereof.

~~2. The compound or salt according to claim 1, wherein, in the~~
25 ~~formula (I),~~
~~Ring A is a benzene ring,~~
~~Ring B is a benzene ring,~~
~~Ring C is an imidazole ring optionally further substituted by~~
~~C₁₋₆ alkyl group(s),~~
30 ~~L is a bond or a methylene group,~~
~~R⁺ is~~
~~(1) a hydrogen atom,~~
~~(2) a halogen atom,~~
~~(3) a mono or di C₁₋₆ alkylamino group,~~
35 ~~(4) a 5 to 14 membered aromatic heterocyclic group, or~~

~~(5) a 3 to 14 membered non-aromatic heterocyclic group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 C₁₋₆-alkyl groups; and
Ring D is-~~

~~(1) a benzene ring optionally further substituted by 1 to 3-
5 substituents selected from~~

~~(a) a halogen atom,-~~

~~(b) a hydroxy group,-~~

~~(c) a C₁₋₆-alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 C₁₋₆-alkoxy groups,-~~

~~10 (d) a C₁₋₆-alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3-
substituents selected from~~

~~(i) a carboxy group,-~~

~~(ii) a C₁₋₆-alkoxy carbonyl group,-~~

~~(iii) a C₇₋₁₆-aralkyloxy carbonyl group,-~~

~~15 (iv) a carbamoyl group optionally mono or di-
substituted by substituent(s) selected from~~

~~(I) C₁₋₆-alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3-
substituents selected from~~

~~(A) a C₃₋₁₀-cycloalkyl group,-~~

~~20 (B) a C₆₋₁₄-aryl group,-~~

~~(C) a C₆₋₁₄-arylamino group optionally substituted
by 1 to 3 halogen atoms,-~~

~~(D) a 5 to 14 membered aromatic heterocyclic
group,-~~

~~25 (E) a 3 to 14 membered non-aromatic heterocyclic
group, and-~~

~~(F) a carbamoyl group optionally mono or di-
substituted by substituent(s) selected from a C₁₋₆-
alkyl group and a C₇₋₁₆-aralkyl group,-~~

~~30 (II) a C₂₋₆-alkenyl group optionally substituted by 1-
to 3 C₆₋₁₄-aryl groups,-~~

~~(III) a C₃₋₁₀-cycloalkyl group optionally substituted
by 1 to 3 C₁₋₆-alkyl groups,-~~

~~35 (IV) a C₆₋₁₄-aryl group optionally substituted by 1 to
3 substituents selected from~~

~~(A) a halogen atom, and~~
~~(B) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,~~
~~(V) a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyl group,~~
~~(VI) a 5 to 14 membered aromatic heterocyclic group,~~
5 ~~and~~
~~(VII) a 3 to 14 membered non aromatic heterocyclic~~
~~group, and~~
~~(v) a 3 to 14 membered non aromatic~~
~~heterocyclylcarbonyl group optionally substituted by 1-~~
10 ~~to 3 substituents selected from~~
~~(I) a hydroxy group, and~~
~~(II) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, and~~
~~(e) a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyloxy group,~~
~~(2) a cyclohexane ring,~~
15 ~~(3) a pyridine ring,~~
~~(4) an isoxazole ring,~~
~~(5) a thiophene ring,~~
~~(6) a piperidine ring optionally further substituted by 1 to 3~~
~~C₁₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl groups, or~~
20 ~~(7) a tetrahydropyran ring.~~

2. The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein
Ring A is a benzene ring;
Ring B is a benzene ring;
Ring C is an imidazole ring;
25 L is a bond;
R¹ is a 3- to 8-membered monocyclic non-aromatic heterocyclic
group; and
Ring D is
(1) a benzene ring optionally further substituted by 1 to 3
30 substituents selected from
(a) a halogen atom,
(b) a hydroxy group, and
(c) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group optionally substituted by carbamoyl
group(s) optionally mono- or di-substituted by 9- to 14-
35 membered fused polycyclic non-aromatic heterocyclic

group(s), or

(2) a pyridine ring.

3. The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein

5 Ring A is a benzene ring;

Ring B is a benzene ring;

Ring C is an imidazole ring;

L is a bond;

R¹ is a 3- to 8-membered monocyclic non-aromatic cyclic amino

10 group; and

Ring D is a benzene ring further substituted by one substituent
selected from

(a) a halogen atom, and

(b) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group substituted by carbamoyl group(s)

15 mono-substituted by a 9- to 14-membered fused polycyclic
non-aromatic heterocyclic group.

34. N-(1,1-Dioxido-2,3-dihydro-1-benzothiophen-5-yl)-2-(4-(5-(1-oxo-5-(piperidin-1-yl)-1,3-dihydro-2H-isoindol-2-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)phenoxy)acetamide, or a salt thereof.

45. 2-(2-(4-Bromophenyl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-5-(morpholin-4-yl)isoindolin-1-one, or a salt thereof.

25 56. 5-(Piperidin-1-yl)-2-(2-(pyridin-3-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)isoindolin-1-one, or a salt thereof.

67. 5-(Piperidin-1-yl)-2-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)isoindolin-1-one, or a salt thereof.

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78. 2-(2-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-5-(piperidin-1-yl)isoindolin-1-one, or a salt thereof.

89. A cardiomyocyte maturation promoter comprising the compound
35 or salt as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8~~according to~~

~~claim 1.~~

910. A method for preparing a mature cardiomyocyte, which
comprises a step of culturing an immature cardiomyocyte in the
5 presence of the compound or salt as defined in any one of
claims 1 to 8~~according to claim 1.~~

11. The compound or salt as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8
for use in the promotion of cardiomyocyte maturation.

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12. The compound or salt as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8,
for use in the preparation of a mature cardiomyocyte.