

(2009), 'Role of cathepsin S in ozone-induced airway hyperresponsiveness and inflammation', *Pulm Pharmacol Ther*, 22 (1), 27-32). Furthermore due to its extracellular functions in matrix degradation, inhibition of cathepsin S will impact neointima formation and angiogenesis (Burns-Kurtis, C. L., et al. (2004), 'Cathepsin S expression is up-regulated following balloon angioplasty in the hypercholesterolemic rabbit', *Cardiovasc Res*, 62 (3), 610-20; Cheng, X. W., et al. (2004), 'Increased expression of elastolytic cysteine proteases, cathepsins S and K, in the neointima of balloon-injured rat carotid arteries', *Am J Pathol*, 164 (1), 243-51; Shi, G. P., et al. (2003), 'Deficiency of the cysteine protease cathepsin S impairs microvessel growth', *Circ Res*, 92 (5), 493-500; Wang, B., et al. (2006), 'Cathepsin S controls angiogenesis and tumor growth via matrix-derived angiogenic factors', *J Biol Chem*, 281 (9), 6020-9). An inhibitor of Cathepsin S might therefore be useful in several different disease settings.

Cathepsin S plays also a role in the reduction of tumor growth and tumor cell invasion as described by Roberta E. Burden in *Clin Cancer Res* 2009;15(19). In addition, nephrectomized Cathepsin S knock out mice showed a significant reduction of arterial calcification when compared to nephrectomized wild type mice. This indicates that inhibition of Cathepsin S may have a beneficial effect on the reduction of cardiovascular events in chronic kidney disease patients (Elena Aikawa, *Circulation*, 2009, 1785-1794).

In one aspect, there is provided a compound of formula (2S,4R)-4-[4-(5-Methyl-tetrazol-2-yl)-2-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl]-1-(1-trifluoromethyl-cyclopropanecarbonyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid (1-cyano-cyclopropyl)-amide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

In another aspect, there is provided a compound as defined herein for use as therapeutically active substance.

In another aspect, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined herein and a therapeutically inert carrier.

In another aspect, there is provided use of a compound as defined herein in the preparation of medicaments for the treatment or prophylaxis of diabetes, atherosclerosis, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, cancer, reduction of cardiovascular events in chronic kidney disease, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic retinopathy or age related macular degeneration.

In another aspect, there is provided a compound as defined herein for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of diabetes, atherosclerosis, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, cancer, reduction of cardiovascular events in chronic kidney disease, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic retinopathy or age related macular degeneration.

In the present description the term “alkyl”, alone or in combination, signifies a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group with 1 to 8 carbon atoms, particularly a straight or branched-chain alkyl group with 1 to 6 carbon atoms and more particularly a straight or branched-chain alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Examples of straight-
5 chain and branched-chain C₁-C₈ alkyl groups are methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, tert.-butyl, the isomeric pentyls, the isomeric hexyls, the isomeric heptyls and the isomeric octyls, particularly methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl and pentyl more particularly methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, tert.-butyl and isopentyl. A particular example of alkyl is methyl.

10 The term “cycloalkyl”, alone or in combination, signifies a cycloalkyl ring with 3 to 8 carbon atoms and particularly a cycloalkyl ring with 3 to 6 carbon atoms. Examples of cycloalkyl are cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl and cyclooctyl. A particular example of “cycloalkyl” is cyclopropyl.

The term “oxy”, alone or in combination, signifies the -O- group.

15 As an exception, “(oxy)pyridinyl” refers to py⁺-O⁻, wherein py represents pyridine.

The term “alkoxy”, alone or in combination, signifies a group of the formula alkyl-O- in which the term "alkyl" has the previously given significance, such as methoxy,

Claims

1. A compound of formula

(2S,4R)-4-[4-(5-Methyl-tetrazol-2-yl)-2-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl]-1-(1-trifluoromethyl-cyclopropanecarbonyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid (1-cyano-cyclopropyl)-amide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.
5
2. A compound according to claim 1 for use as therapeutically active substance.
3. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound in accordance with claim 1 and a therapeutically inert carrier.
4. The use of a compound according to claim 1 in the preparation of medicaments for
10 the treatment or prophylaxis of diabetes, atherosclerosis, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, cancer, reduction of cardiovascular events in chronic kidney disease, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic rethinopathy or age related macular degeneration.
5. A compound according to claim 1 for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of diabetes,
15 atherosclerosis, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, cancer, reduction of cardiovascular events in chronic kidney disease, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic rethinopathy or age related macular degeneration.
