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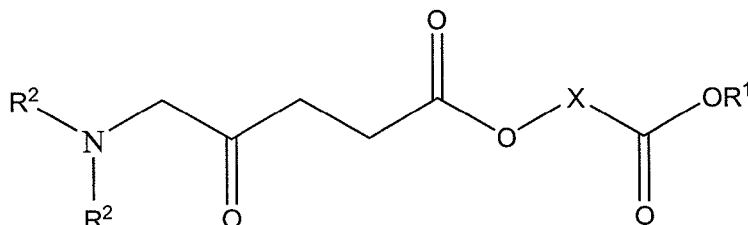
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N-0275 Oslo (NO).(72) Inventors: BRÆNDEN, Jon Erik; Kjelsåsveien 95C, N-
0491 Oslo (NO). CHARNOCK, Colin Barry; Soleveien
58, N-1540 Vestby (NO). GODAL, Aslak; Gaustadveien
77, N-0372 Oslo (NO). KLAVENESS, Jo; Midtåsen 5, N-
1166 Oslo (NO). NILSEN, Nils Olav; Luftfartsveien 8, N-
0770 Oslo (NO).(74) Agents: GOLDING, Louise et al.; St Bride's House, 10
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(I)

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to new derivatives of 5-aminolevulinic acid (5-ALA) and their use as photosensitizing agents. In particular, it relates to compounds of general formula I and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, to methods for preparing such compounds and their medical and cosmetic use, for example in methods of photodynamic therapy and diagnosis: wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl or cycloalkyl group; R², each of which may be the same or different, represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group; and X is a linking group.