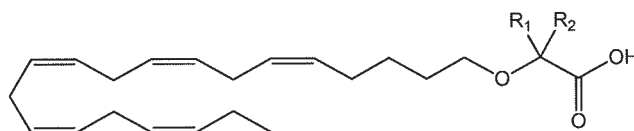


METHODS OF TREATMENT USING LIPID COMPOUNDS

[001] This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/410,445, filed on November 5, 2010, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[002] The present disclosure relates to methods of treating at least one disease or condition in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of Formula (I):



Formula (I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently chosen from a hydrogen atom or linear, branched, and/or cyclic C_1 - C_6 alkyl groups, with the proviso that R_1 and R_2 are not both hydrogen. Such diseases and/or conditions may, for example, relate to cardiovascular functions, immune functions, and/or insulin action. The present disclosure also provides for a method of treating atherosclerosis and reducing and/or slowing the progression of its development.

[003] Dietary polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs), including omega-3 fatty acids, have effects on diverse physiological processes impacting normal health and chronic diseases, such as the regulation of plasma lipid levels, cardiovascular and immune functions, insulin action, neuronal development, and visual function.

[004] Omega-3 fatty acids, e.g., (5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenoic acid (EPA) and (4Z,7Z,10Z,13Z,16Z,19Z)-docosa-4,7,10,13,16,19-hexaenoic acid (DHA), regulate plasma lipid levels, cardiovascular and immune functions, insulin action, and neuronal development, and visual function. Omega-3 fatty acids have been shown to have beneficial effects on the risk factors for cardiovascular diseases, for example hypertension and hypertriglyceridemia (HTG), and on the coagulation factor VII phospholipid complex activity. Omega-3 fatty acids have also been shown to lower serum triglycerides, increase serum HDL cholesterol, lower systolic and diastolic blood pressure and/or pulse rate, and lower the activity of the blood coagulation factor VII-phospholipid complex.

[005] In humans, cholesterol and triglycerides are part of lipoprotein complexes in the bloodstream that can be separated via ultracentrifugation into high-density lipoprotein (HDL), intermediate-density lipoprotein (IDL), low-density lipoprotein (LDL), and very-low-density lipoprotein (VLDL) fractions. Cholesterol and triglycerides are synthesized in the liver,

incorporated into VLDL, and released into the plasma. Conditions characterized by abnormally high blood cholesterol and/or lipid values include hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia (hyperlipoproteinemia), HTG, and mixed dyslipidemia. High levels of total cholesterol (total-C), LDL-C, and apolipoprotein B100 (a membrane complex for LDL and VLDL) may promote human coronary heart disease (CHD). In fact, the NCEP ATP III (National Cholesterol Education Program Adult Treatment Panel III) report specifies non-HDL cholesterol reduction as the primary treatment objective in the primary prevention of CHD.

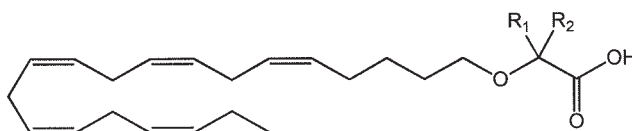
[006] Decreased levels of HDL-C and its transport complex, apolipoprotein A, are also associated with the development of CHD. Cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in humans correlates with the level of total-C and LDL-C, and inversely with the level of HDL-C.

[007] Factors such as, high LDL/non-HDL cholesterol, hypertriglyceridemia (HTG), and low HDL cholesterol are features of metabolic syndrome, which represents a collection of lipid and non-lipid (e.g., hypertension) risk factors of metabolic origin. Metabolic syndrome is closely linked to a generalized metabolic disorder called insulin resistance in which the normal actions of insulin are impaired.

The NCEP ATP III (National Cholesterol Education Program Adult Treatment Panel III) recommends treating of lipid and non-lipid factors associated with metabolic syndrome, such as reducing HTG and non-HDL cholesterol, as a secondary target in the primary prevention of CHD.

[008] The long-chain omega-3 fatty acids, EPA and DHA, are well established in the treatment of HTG and have beneficial effects upon other risk factors associated with CHD, such as hypertension and a prothrombotic state. However, due to their limited biological effects upon other cardiovascular risk factors, such as LDL, there is a need to improve their biological effects. Several research groups have studied chemical modification of omega-3 fatty acids to influence their biological effects. See, e.g., Rossmeisl et al. (*Obesity*, Jan. 15, 2009); Flock et al. (*Acta Chemica Scandinavica*, 53:436, 1999); Pitt et al. (*Synthesis*, 1240-42, 1997).

[009] The present disclosure generally relates to a method of treating or preventing at least one disease or condition in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of Formula (I):



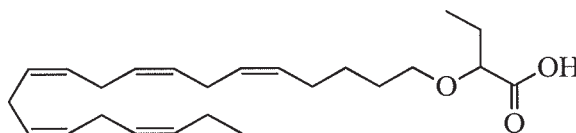
Formula (I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently chosen from a hydrogen atom or linear, branched, and/or cyclic C₁-C₆ alkyl groups, with the proviso that R₁ and R₂ are not both hydrogen.

[010] In at least one embodiment the at least one disease or condition is chosen from atherosclerosis, peripheral insulin resistance, a diabetic condition, or a dyslipidemic condition.

[011] The present disclosure also includes a method of reducing atherosclerosis development in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutically effective amount of 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-yloxy)butanoic acid:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[012] FIGURE 1 shows cholesterol and triglyceride levels in APOE*3Leiden mice after administration of Compound A (0.3 mmol/kg) according to the present disclosure or Omacor™ (3.3 mmol/kg).

[013] FIGURE 2 shows cholesterol and triglyceride levels in APOE*3Leiden.CETP mice after administration of Compound A according to the present disclosure or fenofibrate.

[014] FIGURE 3 shows HDL levels in APOE*3Leiden.CETP mice after administration of Compound A according to the present disclosure or fenofibrate.

[015] FIGURE 4 shows total cholesterol levels in APOE*3Leiden CETP mice after administration of Compound A according to the present disclosure, fenofibrate, or a negative control.

[016] FIGURE 5 shows HDL levels in APOE*3Leiden CETP mice after administration of Compound A according to the present disclosure, fenofibrate, or a negative control.

[017] FIGURE 6 shows diseased lesion area in APOE*3Leiden CETP mice after administration of Compound A according to the present disclosure, fenofibrate, or a negative control.

[018] FIGURE 7 shows undiseased lesion area in APOE*3Leiden CETP mice after administration of Compound A according to the present disclosure, fenofibrate, or a control.

DESCRIPTION

[019] Particular aspects of the disclosure are described in greater detail below. The terms and definitions as used in the present application and as clarified herein are intended to represent the meaning within the present disclosure.

[020] The singular forms “a,” “an,” and “the” include plural reference unless the context dictates otherwise.

[021] The terms “approximately” and “about” mean to be nearly the same as a referenced number or value. As used herein, the terms “approximately” and “about” should be generally understood to encompass $\pm 5\%$ of a specified amount, frequency, or value.

[022] The terms “treat,” “treating,” and “treatment” include any therapeutic application that can benefit a human or non-human mammal. Both human and veterinary treatments are within the scope of the present disclosure. Treatment may be responsive to an existing condition or it may be prophylactic, i.e., preventative.

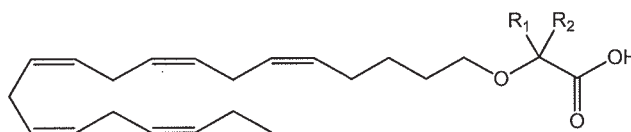
[023] The terms “administer,” “administration,” and “administering” as used herein refer to (1) providing, giving, dosing and/or prescribing by either a health practitioner or his authorized agent or under his direction a compound or composition according to the present disclosure, and (2) putting into, taking or consuming by the human patient or person himself or herself, or non-human mammal a compound or composition according to the present disclosure.

[024] The term “pharmaceutically effective amount” means an amount sufficient to achieve the desired pharmacological and/or therapeutic effects, i.e., an amount of the disclosed compound that is effective for its intended purpose. While individual subject/patient needs may vary, the determination of optimal ranges for effective amounts of the disclosed compound is within the skill of the art. Generally, the dosage regimen for treating a disease and/or condition with the compounds presently disclosed may be determined according to a variety of factors such as the type, age, weight, sex, diet, and/or medical condition of the subject/patient.

[025] The term “pharmaceutical composition” means a compound according to the present disclosure in any form suitable for medical use.

[026] The compounds of Formula (I) may exist in various stereoisomeric forms, including enantiomers, diastereomers, or mixtures thereof. It will be understood that the invention encompasses all optical isomers of the compounds of Formula (I) and mixtures thereof. Hence, compounds of Formula (I) that exist as diastereomers, racemates, and/or enantiomers are within the scope of the present disclosure.

[027] The present disclosure includes a method of treating or preventing at least one disease or condition in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of Formula (I):



Formula (I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,
 wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently chosen from a hydrogen atom or linear,
 branched, and/or cyclic C_1 - C_6 alkyl groups, with the proviso that R_1 and R_2 are not both
 5 hydrogen.

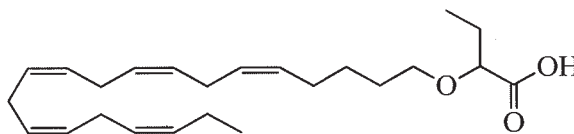
[028] In at least one embodiment, R_1 and R_2 are chosen from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl,
 n-propyl, and isopropyl.

[029] In at least one embodiment, the compound is present in its various stereoisomeric
 forms, such as an enantiomer (*R* or *S*), diastereomer, or mixtures thereof.

10 [030] In at least one embodiment, the compound is present in racemic form.

[031] In cases, where the compound according to Formula (I) is a salt of a counter-ion
 with at least one stereogenic center, or ester of an alcohol with at least one stereogenic center,
 the compound may have multiple stereocenters. In those situations, the compounds of the
 present disclosure may exist as diastereomers. Thus, in at least one embodiment, the compounds
 15 of the present disclosure are present as at least one diastereomer.

[032] In at least one embodiment, the compound of the present disclosure is 2-
 ((5*Z*,8*Z*,11*Z*,14*Z*,17*Z*)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-yloxy)butanoic acid:



[033] In at least one embodiment, at least one disease or condition is chosen from
 20 atherosclerosis, peripheral insulin resistance, a diabetic condition, or a dyslipidemic condition.

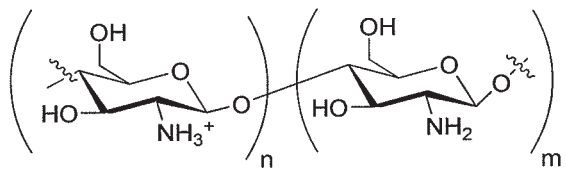
[034] In at least one embodiment blood cholesterol levels are reduced, triglycerides are
 reduced, HDL is increased, and/or the incidence of atherosclerosis lesions is reduced.

[035] Compounds of Formula (I) can be prepared as described, for example, in PCT
 Application No. PCT/IB10/001251 filed May 7, 2010, and according to Examples 1-11 below.
 25 Examples 1-11 are exemplary and one skilled in the art would understand how to apply these
 general methods to arrive at other compounds within the scope of Formula (I). Compounds of
 the present disclosure may be in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester. For
 example, the compounds of Formula (I) may be in the form of esters, such as a phospholipid, a
 triglyceride, a 1,2-diglyceride, a 1,3 diglyceride, a 1-monoglyceride, or a 2-monoglyceride.

30 [036] Salts suitable for the present disclosure include, but are not limited to, salts of
 NH_4^+ ; metal ions such as Li^+ , Na^+ , K^+ , Mg^{2+} , or Ca^{2+} ; a protonated primary amine such as *tert*-
 butyl ammonium, (3*S*,5*S*,7*S*)-adamantan-1-ammonium, 1,3-dihydroxy-2-
 (hydroxymethyl)propan-2-ammonium, a protonated aminopyridine (e.g., pyridine-2-

ammonium); a protonated secondary amine such as diethylammonium, 2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxy-N-methylhexan-1-ammonium, N-ethylnaphthalen-1-ammonium, a protonated tertiary amine such as 4-methylmorpholin-4-ium, and a protonated guanidine such as amino((4-amino-4-carboxybutyl)amino)methaniminium or a protonated heterocycle such as 1H-imidazol-3-ium.

- 5 Additional examples of suitable salts include salts of a diprotonated diamine such as ethane-1,2-diammonium or piperazine-1,4-diium. Other salts according to the present disclosure may comprise protonated Chitosan:



- [037] The present disclosure provides for methods of treating and/or preventing at least one disease or condition in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of Formula (I). The subject may be a human or a non-human mammal. The compounds presently disclosed may be administered as a medicament, such as in a pharmaceutical composition.

- [038] The composition presently disclosed may comprise at least one compound of Formula (I) and optionally at least one non-active pharmaceutical ingredient, i.e., excipient. Non-active ingredients may solubilize, suspend, thicken, dilute, emulsify, stabilize, preserve, protect, color, flavor, and/or fashion active ingredients into an applicable and efficacious preparation, such that it may be safe, convenient, and/or otherwise acceptable for use. Examples of excipients include, but are not limited to, solvents, carriers, diluents, binders, fillers, sweeteners, aromas, pH modifiers, viscosity modifiers, antioxidants, extenders, humectants, disintegrating agents, solution-retarding agents, absorption accelerators, wetting agents, absorbents, lubricants, coloring agents, dispersing agents, and preservatives. Excipients may have more than one role or function, or may be classified in more than one group; classifications are descriptive only and are not intended to be limiting. In some embodiments, for example, the at least one excipient may be chosen from corn starch, lactose, glucose, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, polyvinylpyrrolidone, citric acid, tartaric acid, water, ethanol, glycerol, sorbitol, polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, cetylstearyl alcohol, carboxymethylcellulose, and fatty substances such as hard fat or suitable mixtures thereof. In some embodiments, the compositions presently disclosed comprise at least one compound of Formula (I) and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable antioxidant, e.g., tocopherol and 3-BHA.

[039] The compositions presently disclosed may be formulated in oral administration forms, e.g., tablets or gelatine soft or hard capsules. The dosage form can be of any shape suitable for oral administration, such as spherical, oval, ellipsoidal, cube-shaped, regular, and/or irregular shaped. Conventional formulation techniques known in the art, may be used to
5 formulate the compounds according to the present disclosure. In some embodiments, the composition may be in the form of a gelatin capsule or a tablet.

[040] A suitable daily dosage of a compound of Formula (I) may range from about 5 mg to about 3 g. For example, in some embodiments, the daily dose ranges from about 5 mg to about 1 g, from about 10 mg to about 1 g, from about 10 mg to about 800 mg, from about 10 mg
10 to about 600 mg, from about 10 mg to about 500 mg, from about 50 mg to about 500 mg. In at least one embodiment, the daily dose ranges from about 50 mg to about 500 mg. The compounds may be administered, for example, once, twice, or three times per day. In at least one embodiment, the compound of Formula (I) is administered in an amount ranging from about 10 mg to about 500 mg per dose. In at least one embodiment, the compound of Formula (I) is
15 administered once per day.

[041] The compounds of Formula (I) disclosed herein may be administered to treat and/or prevent at least one disease, condition or risk factor associated with coronary heart disease (CHD). For example, in some embodiments, at least one disease or condition is chosen from atherosclerosis; peripheral insulin resistance and/or a diabetic condition such as type 2
20 diabetes; a dyslipidemic condition such as hypertriglyceridemia (HTG), elevated total cholesterol, elevated non-HDL cholesterol, elevated LDL-cholesterol, elevated Apo B, low HDL-cholesterol, primary hypercholesterolemia (heterozygous familial and nonfamilial), mixed dyslipidemia (Fredrickson Types IIa and IIb), primary dysbetalipoproteinemia (Fredrickson Type III); metabolic syndrome; obesity or an overweight condition; and a fatty liver disease such
25 as a non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).

[042] In at least one embodiment, at least one disease or condition is atherosclerosis. For example, the present disclosure further encompasses a method of reducing and/or slowing the progression of atherosclerosis development. The methods presently disclosed may, for example, reduce at least one of plasma insulin, blood glucose, and serum triglycerides in a
30 subject in need thereof. The present disclosure also provides for a method of treating and/or preventing at least one of elevated triglyceride levels, elevated VLDL/LDL cholesterol levels and low HDL cholesterol levels in a subject in need thereof.

[043] The present inventors have found that compounds of Formula (I), such as 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-yloxy)butanoic acid, have remarkably good
35 pharmaceutical activity. The compounds of Formula (I) presently disclosed may exhibit

improved biological activity compared to naturally occurring omega-3 fatty acids, such as EPA and DHA.

In some embodiments, for example, compounds of Formula (I) may exhibit comparable or higher biological activity than other cholesterol-lowering pharmaceutical agents, e.g.,

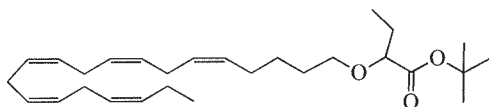
5 fenofibrate, without the side-effects associated with fibrates such as myopathy, gallstones, and dyspepsia.

[044] **EXAMPLES**

[045] The present disclosure may be further described by the following non-limiting examples, in which standard techniques known to the skilled chemist and techniques analogous
10 to those described in these examples may be used where appropriate. It is understood that the skilled artisan will envision additional embodiments consistent with the disclosure provided herein.

[046] Unless otherwise stated, reactions were carried out at room temperature, typically in the range between 18-25°C with solvents of HPLC grade under anhydrous conditions.
15 Evaporations were carried out by rotary evaporation *in vacuo*. Column chromatography was performed by the flash procedure on silica gel. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) shift values were recorded on a Bruker Avance DPX 200 or 300 instrument with peak multiplicities described as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; dd, double doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; p, pentet; m, multiplett; br, broad. Mass spectra were recorded with a G1956A mass spectrometer
20 (electrospray, 3000 V) switching positive and negative ionization mode. Reported yields are illustrative and do not necessarily represent the maximum yield attainable.

[047] **Example 1: Preparation of tert-butyl 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-yloxy)butanoate:**

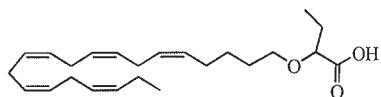


25

Tetrabutylammonium chloride (0.55 g, 1.98 mmol) was added to a solution of (5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-ol, (3.50 g, 12.1 mmol) in toluene (35 mL) at ambient temperature under nitrogen. An aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide (50% (w/w), 11.7 mL) was added under vigorous stirring at room temperature, followed by *t*-butyl 2-bromobutyrate (5.41 g, 24.3 mmol). The resulting mixture was heated to 50°C and additional *t*-
30 butyl 2-bromobutyrate was added after 1.5 hours (2.70 g, 12.1 mmol), 3.5 hours (2.70 g, 12.1 mmol) and 4.5 hours (2.70 g, 12.1 mmol) and stirred for 12 hours in total. After cooling to room temperature, ice water (25 mL) was added and the resulting two phases were separated. The

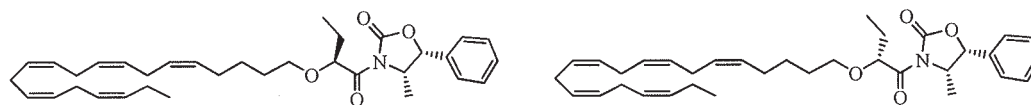
organic phase was washed with a mixture of NaOH (5%) and brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using increasingly polar mixtures of heptane and ethyl acetate (100:0 → 95:5) as eluent. Concentration of the appropriate fractions afforded 1.87 g (36% yield) of the title compound as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.85–1.10 (m, 6H), 1.35–1.54 (m, 11H), 1.53–1.87 (m, 4H), 1.96–2.26 (m, 4H), 2.70–3.02 (m, 8H), 3.31 (dt, 1H), 3.51–3.67 (m, 2H), 5.10–5.58 (m, 10H).

[048] **Example 2: Preparation of 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)butanoic acid (Compound A):**



tert-Butyl 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-yloxy)butanoate (19.6 g, 45.5 mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (200 mL) and placed under nitrogen. Trifluoroacetic acid (50 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for one hour. Water was added and the aqueous phase was extracted twice with dichloromethane. The combined organic extract was washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and concentrated. The residue was subjected to flash chromatography on silica gel using increasingly polar mixtures of heptane, ethyl acetate and formic acid (90:10:1 → 80:20:1) as eluent. Concentration of the appropriate fractions afforded 12.1 g (71% yield) of the title compound as an oil. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.90–1.00 (m, 6H), 1.50 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.80 (m, 2H), 2.10 (m, 4H), 2.80–2.90 (m, 8H), 3.50 (m, 1H), 3.60 (m, 1H), 3.75 (t, 1H), 5.30–5.50 (m, 10H); MS (electro spray): 373.2 [M-H]⁺.

[049] **Example 3: Preparation of (4S,5R)-3-((S)-2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)butanoyl)-4-methyl-5-phenyloxazolidin-2-one and (4S,5R)-3-((R)-2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)butanoyl)-4-methyl-5-phenyloxazolidin-2-one:**



DMAP (1.10 g, 8.90 mmol) and DCC (1.90 g, 9.30 mmol) were added to a mixture of 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)butanoic acid (3.20 g, 8.50 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (100 mL) held at 0°C under nitrogen. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0°C for 20 minutes. (4S,5R)-4-methyl-5-phenyloxazolidin-2-one (1.50 g, 8.50 mmol) was added and the resulting turbid mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for five days. The mixture was filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude product containing the desired product as a mixture of two diastereomers. The residue was purified by flash

chromatography on silica gel using 15% ethyl acetate in heptane as eluent. The two diastereomers were separated and the appropriate fractions were concentrated. (4S,5R)-3-((S)-2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)butanoyl)-4-methyl-5-phenyloxazolidin-2-one eluted first and was obtained in 1.1 g (40% yield) as an oil. (4S,5R)-3-((R)-2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)butanoyl)-4-methyl-5-phenyloxazolidin-2-one was obtained in 0.95 g (34% yield) as an oil.

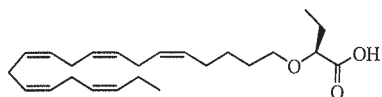
[050] (4S,5R)-3-((S)-2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)butanoyl)-4-methyl-5-phenyloxazolidin-2-one (E1):

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.90 (d, 3H), 1.00 (t, 3H), 1.07 (t, 3H), 1.45-1.57 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.76 (m, 3H), 1.85-1.95 (m, 1H), 2.05-2.15 (m, 4H), 2.87 (m, 8H), 3.39 (m, 1H), 3.57 (m, 1H), 4.85-4.92 (m, 2H), 5.30-5.45 (m, 10H), 5.75 (d, 1H), 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.43 (m, 3H).

[051] (4S,5R)-3-((R)-2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)butanoyl)-4-methyl-5-phenyloxazolidin-2-one (E2):

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.98 (d, 3H), 0.99 (t, 3H), 1.08 (t, 3H), 1.40-1.52 (m, 2H), 1.55-1.75 (m, 3H), 1.80-1.90 (m, 1H), 2.05-2.15 (m, 4H), 2.84 (m, 8H), 3.39 (m, 1H), 3.56 (m, 1H), 4.79 (pent, 1H), 4.97 (dd, 1H), 5.30-5.45 (m, 10H), 5.71 (d, 1H), 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.43 (m, 3H).

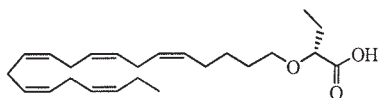
[052] **Example 4: Preparation of (S)-2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)butanoic acid (Compound B):**



Hydrogen peroxide (35% in water, 0.75 mL, 8.54 mmol) and lithium hydroxide monohydrate (0.18 g, 4.27 mmol) was added to a solution of (4S,5R)-3-((S)-2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)butanoyl)-4-methyl-5-phenyloxazolidin-2-one (1.10 g, 2.13 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (12 mL) and water (4 mL) held at 0°C under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 minutes. 10% Na₂SO₃ (aq) (30 mL) was added, the pH was adjusted to ~2 with 2M HCl and the mixture was extracted twice with heptane (30 mL). The combined organic extract was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and concentrated. The residue was subjected to flash chromatography on silica gel using increasingly polar mixtures of heptane and ethyl acetate (98:8 → 1:1) as eluent. Concentration of the appropriate fractions afforded 0.48 g (60 % yield) of the title compound as an oil. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.90-1.00 (m, 6H), 1.48 (m, 2H), 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.85 (m, 2H), 2.10

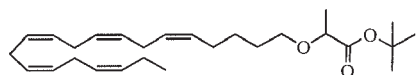
(m, 4H), 2.80-2.90 (m, 8H), 3.55 (m, 1H), 3.60 (m, 1H), 3.88 (t, 1H), 5.35-5.45 (m, 10H); MS (electro spray): 373.3 [M-H]⁻; [α]_D²⁵ +37° (c=0.104, ethanol).

[053] **Example 5: Preparation of (R)-2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)butanoic acid (Compound C):**



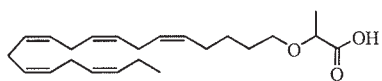
Hydrogen peroxide (35% in water, 0.65 mL, 7.37 mmol) and lithium hydroxide monohydrate (0.15 g, 3.69 mmol) was added to a solution of (4S,5R)-3-((R)-2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)butanoyl)-4-methyl-5-phenyloxazolidin-2-one (0.95 g, 1.84 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (12 mL) and water (4 mL) held at 0°C under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 minutes. 10% Na₂SO₃ (aq) (30 mL) was added, the pH was adjusted to ~2 with 2M HCl and the mixture was extracted twice with heptane (30 mL). The combined organic extract was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and concentrated. The residue was subjected to flash chromatography on silica gel using increasingly polar mixtures of heptane and ethyl acetate (98:8 → 50:50) as eluent. Concentration of the appropriate fractions afforded 0.19 g (29% yield) of the title compound as an oil. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.90-1.00 (m, 6H), 1.48 (m, 2H), 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.85 (m, 2H), 2.10 (m, 4H), 2.80-2.90 (m, 8H), 3.55 (m, 1H), 3.60 (m, 1H), 3.88 (t, 1H), 5.35-5.45 (m, 10H); MS (electro spray): 373.3 [M-H]⁻; [α]_D²⁵ -31° (c=0.088, ethanol).

[054] **Example 6: Preparation of tert-butyl 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)propanoate:**



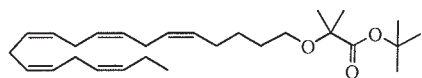
A mixture of (5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-ol, (1.00 g, 3.47 mmol), tetrabutylammonium chloride (0.24 g, 0.87 mmol) and *t*-butyl 2-bromo propionate (3.62 g, 17.3 mmol) was dissolved in toluene (36 mL) and placed under nitrogen. An aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide (50%, 8 mL) was added slowly under vigorous stirring and the resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for twenty hours. Water was added and the mixture was extracted three times with ether. The combined organic extract was washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using 2% ethyl acetate in heptane as eluent. Concentration of the appropriate fractions afforded 1.40 g (90% yield) of the title compound as an oil. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.95 (t, 3H), 1.41 (d, 3H), 1.48 (s, 9H), 1.48-1.66 (m, 4H), 2.05 (m, 4H), 2.83 (m, 8H), 3.35 (m, 1H), 3.55 (m, 1H), 3.79 (q, 1H), 5.32-5.44 (m, 10H).

[055] **Example 7: Preparation of 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)propanoic acid:**



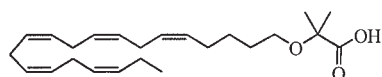
Trifluoroacetic acid (2 mL) was added to a solution of 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)propanoate (1.40 g, 3.36 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) held under nitrogen and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for three hours. Diethyl ether (50 mL) was added and the organic phase was washed with water (30 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The residue was subjected to flash chromatography on silica gel using increasingly polar mixtures of heptane, ethyl acetate and formic acid (95:5:0.25 → 80:20:1) as eluent. Concentration of the appropriate fractions afforded 0.67 g of slightly impure product. This material was dissolved in heptane (15 mL), washed three times with water (5 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and concentrated to afford 0.50 g (41% yield) of the title compound as an oil. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.99 (t, 3H), 1.40-1.48 (m, 5H), 1.67 (m, 2H), 2.09 (m, 4H), 2.80-2.60 (m, 8H), 3.53 (m, 2H), 4.01 (q, 1H), 5.31-5.47 (m, 10H); MS (electro spray): 359.2 [M-H]⁻.

[056] **Example 8: Preparation of tert-butyl 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)-2-methylpropanoate:**



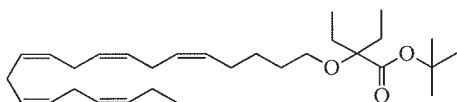
A mixture of (5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-ol, (0.83 g, 3.14 mmol), tetrabutylammonium chloride (0.24 g, 0.85 mmol) and *t*-butyl 2-bromo isobutyrate (3.50 g, 15.7 mmol) was dissolved in toluene (15 mL) and placed under nitrogen. An aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide (50%, 5 mL) was added slowly under vigorous stirring at room temperature. The resulting mixture was heated to 60°C and stirred for six hours. The mixture was cooled, added water and extracted three times with ether. The combined organic extract was washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using a gradient of 5-10% ethyl acetate in heptane as eluent. Concentration of the appropriate fractions afforded 0.60 g (44% yield) of the title compound as an oil. MS (electro spray): 453.3 [M+Na]⁺.

[057] **Example 9: Preparation of 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)-2-methylpropanoic acid:**



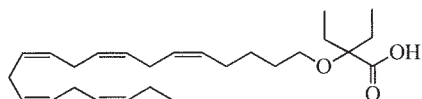
Trifluoroacetic acid (5 mL) was added to a solution of tert-butyl 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaenyloxy)-2-methylpropanoate (600 mg, 1.39 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 mL) under nitrogen and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for two hours. Water was added and the aqueous phase was extracted twice with dichloromethane. The combined organic extract was washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of heptane, ethyl acetate and formic acid (80:20:1) as eluent. The appropriate fractions were concentrated and the residue (135 mg) was purified further by flash chromatography on silica gel using a gradient of 5-10% of a mixture of ethyl acetate and formic acid (95:5) in heptane as eluent. Concentration of the appropriate fractions afforded 80 mg slightly impure product. This material was dissolved in heptane (5 mL), washed twice with water (5 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and concentrated to afford 40 mg (8% yield) of the title compound as an oil. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.99 (t, 3H), 1.47 (s, 6H), 1.64 (m, 2H), 2.07 (m, 4H), 2.81-2.88 (m, 8H), 3.46 (t, 2H), 5.29-5.44 (m, 10H); MS (electro spray): 373.3 [M-H]⁻.

[058] **Example 10: Preparation of tert-butyl 2-ethyl-2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-yloxy)butanoate:**



tert-Butyl 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-yloxy)butanoate (480 mg, 1.11 mmol) was added dropwise over 30 minutes to a solution of lithium diisopropylamine (LDA) (2.0 M, 750 µL, 1.50 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (10 mL) held at -70°C under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 minutes. Ethyl iodide (312 mg, 2.00 mmol) was added in one portion and the resulting mixture was warmed to ambient temperature during 1 hour. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 17 hours. The mixture was poured into saturated NH₄Cl (aq.) (50 mL) and extracted with heptane (2 × 50 mL). The combined organic phases was washed successively with brine (50 mL), 0.25 M HCl (50 mL) and brine (50 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using increasingly polar mixtures of heptane and ethyl acetate (100:0 → 95:5) as eluent. Concentration of the appropriate fractions afforded 343 mg (67% yield) of the title compound as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.84 (t, 6H), 0.99 (td, 3H), 1.35-1.55 (m, 11H), 1.54-1.69 (m, 2H), 1.68-1.87 (m, 4H), 1.99-2.24 (m, 4H), 2.74-2.99 (m, 8H), 3.31 (t, 2H), 5.23-5.52 (m, 10H); MS (electro spray): 401.3 [M-1]⁻.

[059] **Example 11: Preparation of 2-ethyl-2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-yloxy)butanoic acid:**

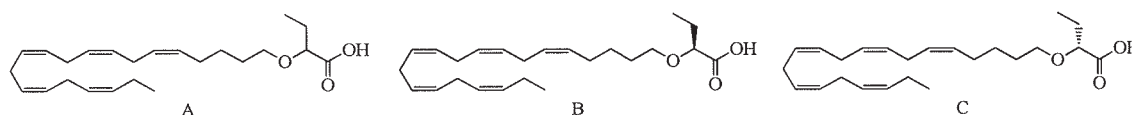


A mixture of formic acid (5 ml) and tert-butyl 2-ethyl-2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosapenta-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-yloxy)butanoate (250 mg, 0.55 mmol) was stirred vigorously under nitrogen at room temperature for 4.5 hours. The formic acid was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using increasingly polar mixtures of heptane and ethyl acetate (100:0 → 80:20) as eluent. Concentration of the appropriate fractions afforded 163 mg (74% yield) of the title compound as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.86 (t, 6H), 0.99 (t, 3H), 1.36 – 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.68 (dd, 2H), 1.73 – 1.98 (m, 4H), 2.11 (tt, 4H), 2.70 – 3.01 (m, 8H), 3.39 (t, 2H), 5.20 – 5.56 (m, 10H). MS (electrospray): 481.4 [M+Na]⁺.

10

[060] **Example 12: Evaluation of PPAR activation *in vitro***

[061] Compounds (A)-(C) and a positive control were tested at six different concentrations in duplicate:



[062] The positive controls were GW7647 (PPAR α), GW501516 (PPAR δ) and rosiglitazone (PPAR γ). The efficacy of the controls were set to 100%.

[063] Assays were carried out *in vitro* using mammalian-one-hybrid assays (M1H) comprising GAL4-DNA binding domain-PPAR-LBD fusion constructs in conjunction with 5xGAL4-sites driven *Photinus pyralis* luciferase reporter constructs in transiently transfected HEK293 cells. The cells were transfected 4-6 hours and grown overnight before compounds were added. Compound incubation was 16-20 hours. Renilla reniformis luciferase, driven by a constitutive promoter, was included as internal control to improve experimental accuracy. Results appear in Table 1.

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Table 1: PPAR activation *in vitro*.

Compound	PPAR α		PPAR δ		PPAR γ	
	EC ₅₀	Efficacy	EC ₅₀	Efficacy	EC ₅₀	Efficacy
Pos. ctr.	0.45 nM	100%	0.33 nM	100%	22 nM	100%
A	307 nM	82%	inactive	inactive	806 nM	22%
B	405 nM	86%	inactive	inactive	644 nM	27%
C	167 nM	54%	inactive	inactive	515 nM	25%

25

[064] **Example 13: Evaluation of the effects on *in vivo* lipid metabolism in a dyslipidemic mouse model (APOE*3Leiden transgenic mice)**

[065] The dyslipidemic mouse model has proven to be representative of the human situation with respect to plasma lipoprotein levels and responsiveness to hypolipidemic drugs, such as statins and fibrates, and nutritional intervention. In addition, depending on the level of plasma cholesterol, APOE*3Leiden mice develop atherosclerotic lesions in the aorta resembling those found in humans with respect to cellular composition and morphological and immunohistochemical characteristics.

[066] Female APOE*3Leiden mice were put on a semi-synthetic Western-type diet (WTD, 15% cocoa butter, 40% sucrose and 0.25% cholesterol; all w/w). With this diet the plasma cholesterol level reached mildly elevated levels of approximately 12-15 mmol/l. After a 4 week run-in period the mice were sub-divided into groups of 10 mice each, matched for plasma cholesterol, triglycerides and body weight (t=0).

[067] Test substances were administered orally as admix to the Western-type diet. To facilitate mixing of the compounds, sunflower oil was added to a total oil volume of 10 mL/kg diet. Compound (A) of Example 2 above was tested at 0.3 mmol/kg bw/day. A reference compound of omega-3 acid ethyl esters (Omacor™/Lovaza™) was tested at 3.3 mmol/kg bw/day. At t = 0 and 4 weeks, blood samples were taken after a 4 hour-fast to measure plasma cholesterol and triglycerides. Results are shown in FIGURE 1.

[068] **Example 14: Evaluation of the effects on *in vivo* lipid metabolism in a dyslipidemic mouse model (APOE*3Leiden.CETP transgenic mice)**

[069] The APOE*3Leiden.CETP transgenic mouse is a model where the human cholesterol ester transfer protein has been introduced to the APOE*3Leiden transgenic mouse. This results in a more human-like lipoprotein profile and is well-suited for testing the effects of drugs on plasma HDL and triglyceride levels.

[070] Female APOE*3Leiden.CETP mice were put on a semi-synthetic modified Western-type diet (0.15% cholesterol and 15% saturated fat, all w/w). With this diet the plasma cholesterol level reaches moderately elevated levels of about 13-15 mmol/l and triglyceride levels of approximately 3 mmol/l. After a 4 week run-in period, the mice were sub-divided into groups of 6 mice each, matched primarily for plasma cholesterol, triglycerides and body weight and secondarily for HDL-cholesterol (t=0).

[071] Test substances were administered orally as admix to the Western-type diet. At t = 0 and 4 weeks blood samples were taken after a 4 hour-fast to measure plasma cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol and triglycerides. Compound (A) of Example 2 above was tested at 0.18

mmol/kg bw/day. The reference (Fenofibrate) was tested at 10 mg/kg bw/day. Results are shown in FIGURES 2 and 3.

[072] **Example 15: Evaluation of the effects on *in vivo* atherosclerosis development in a mouse model (APOE*3Leiden.CETP transgenic mice)**

[073] The APOE*3Leiden.CETP transgenic mouse has proven to be representative of the human situation with respect to plasma lipoprotein levels and its responsiveness to hypolipidemic drugs (like statins, fibrates etc.) and nutritional intervention. APOE*3Leiden.CETP mice develop atherosclerotic lesions in the aorta resembling those found in humans with respect to cellular composition and morphological and immunohistochemical characteristics.

[074] Female APOE*3Leiden.CETP mice were put on a Western-type diet (WTD) with 0.15% cholesterol and 15% saturated fat; resulting in plasma cholesterol levels of about 13-15 mM. After a 3 week run-in period on the WTD, the mice were sub-divided into 4 groups of 15 mice, control (no treatment), Compound A of Example 2 above, fenofibrate and a low-cholesterol diet. The groups were matched for body weight, plasma total cholesterol (TC), HDL cholesterol (HDL-C) and triglycerides (TG) after 4h fasting (t=0).

[075] The test substances were administered orally as admix to the Western-type diet. To facilitate the mixing of the compounds sunflower oil was added to a total oil volume of 10 mL/kg diet. Compound (A) was tested at initially at 0.1 mmol/kg bw/day and reduced to 0.04 mmol/kg bw/day at 4 weeks; the initial dose was based on a prior dose-finding study to establish the required dosage that would reduce VLDL/LDL cholesterol by 25-30%. The fenofibrate dose was initially 10 mg/kg bw/day, and later reduced to 4.2 mg/kg bw/day to parallel reductions in VLDL/LDL cholesterol induced by Compound A.

[076] At t = 0 and t=17 weeks, blood samples were taken after a 4 hour-fast period to measure plasma cholesterol and triglycerides. Atherosclerosis development in aortic root (total lesion area) was measured at sacrifice.

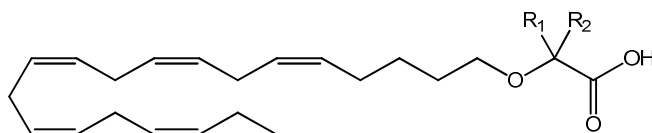
[077] The results for total cholesterol (mM), HDL cholesterol (mM), lesion area ($\mu\text{m}^2 \times 1000$) and undiseased segments (%) are shown in FIGURES 4, 5, 6, and 7, respectively.

[078] As shown in FIGURES 4 and 5, Compound A significantly decreased total cholesterol ($p < 0.001$) and significantly increased HDL cholesterol ($p < 0.003$) as compared to control. Compound A also significantly decreased lesion area ($p < 0.003$) and undiseased segments ($p < 0.003$) as compared to control (FIGURES 6 and 7).

[079] These results suggest that Compound A favorably influences lipid profiles and inhibits the development of atherosclerosis in APOE*3Leiden.CETP transgenic mice.

Claims

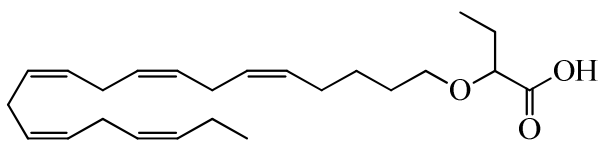
1. A compound of Formula (I):



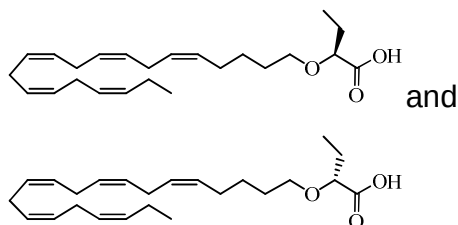
Formula (I)

wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently chosen from a hydrogen atom or linear, branched, and/or cyclic C₁-C₆ alkyl groups, with the proviso that R₁ and R₂ are not both hydrogen, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in treating or preventing at least one disease or condition selected from elevated Apo B, heterozygous familial and nonfamilial primary hypercholesterolemia, and Fredrickson Type III primary dysbetalipoproteinemia.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is present in the form of an enantiomer, diastereomer, or mixture thereof.
3. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are chosen from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, and isopropyl.
4. The compound according to claim 2, wherein the compound is present in its *R* form.
5. The compound according to claim 2, wherein the compound is present in its *S* form.
6. The compound according to claim 2, where the compound is present in racemic form.
7. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ is hydrogen and R₂ is ethyl and the formula is



8. The compound according to claim 7, wherein the compound is present in its *S* and/or *R* form represented by the formulas:



9. The compound according to claim 1, wherein a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound of Formula (I) ranges from about 5 mg to about 3 g per dose.

10. The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is administered once daily.

11. The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is formulated as a pharmaceutical composition for oral administration.

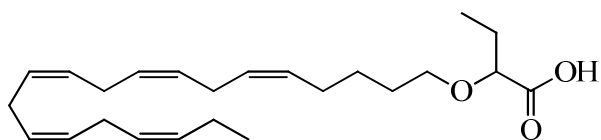
12. The compound according to claim 11, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is in the form of a gelatin capsule or a tablet.

13. The compound according to claim 12, wherein the pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one binder, excipient, diluent, or any combinations thereof.

14. The compound according to claim 11, wherein the pharmaceutical composition further comprises an antioxidant.

15. The compound according to claim 14, wherein the antioxidant is tocopherol or BHA.

16. A compound defined as 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-yloxy)butanoic acid:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,
for use in treating or preventing at least one disease or condition selected from elevated Apo B, heterozygous familial and nonfamilial primary hypercholesterolemia, and Fredrickson Type III primary dysbetalipoproteinemia.

17. The compound according to claim 16, wherein the pharmaceutically-effective amount of 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-yloxy)butanoic acid ranges from about 5 mg to about 3 g per dose.

18. The compound according to claim 17, wherein 2-((5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)-icosa-5,8,11,14,17-pentaen-1-yloxy)butanoic acid is administered once daily.