WE CLAIM:

1. A method of reducing the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) in a cancer patient having a tumor and having a NLR greater than 3, the method comprising:

administering an effective amount of a nonsteroidal selective glucocorticoid receptor antagonist (GRA) to said cancer patient,

Whereby the NLR of said cancer patient is reduced.

2. A method of reducing the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) in a cancer patient having a tumor and having a NLR greater than 3, the method comprising:

administering an effective amount of a cancer treatment and an effective amount of a nonsteroidal selective glucocorticoid receptor antagonist (GRA) to said cancer patient,

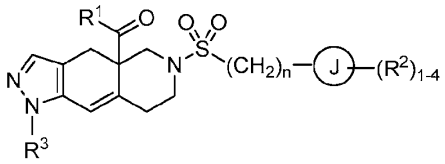
Whereby the NLR of said cancer patient is reduced.

3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) of said cancer patient is reduced to about 3 or less.

4. The method of claim 2 or claim 3, wherein said administration of a cancer treatment and administration of a nonsteroidal selective GRA is effective to reduce the tumor load of the patient.

5. The method of any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA comprises a fused azadecalin structure.

6. The method of any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA is a compound comprising a heteroaryl-ketone fused azadecalin structure, said GRA having the formula:



wherein

R^1 is a heteroaryl ring having from 5 to 6 ring members and from 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, optionally substituted with 1-4 groups each independently selected from R^{1a};

each R^{1a} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} haloalkoxy, CN, N-oxide, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, and C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl;

ring J is selected from the group consisting of a cycloalkyl ring, a heterocycloalkyl ring, an aryl ring and a heteroaryl ring, wherein the heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl rings have from 5 to 6 ring members and from 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from the group consisting of N, O and S;

each R^2 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} haloalkoxy, C_{1-6} alkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy, CN, OH, $NR^{2a}R^{2b}$, $C(O)R^{2a}$, $C(O)OR^{2a}$, $C(O)NR^{2a}R^{2b}$, SR^{2a}, $S(O)R^{2a}$, $S(O)_2R^{2a}$, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, and C_{3-8} heterocycloalkyl, wherein the heterocycloalkyl groups are optionally substituted with 1-4 R^{2c} groups;

alternatively, two R^2 groups linked to the same carbon are combined to form an oxo group (=O);

alternatively, two R^2 groups are combined to form a heterocycloalkyl ring having from 5 to 6 ring members and from 1 to 3 heteroatoms each independently selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, wherein the heterocycloalkyl ring is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 R^{2d} groups;

R^{2a} and R^{2b} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_{1-6} alkyl;

each R^{2c} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} haloalkoxy, CN, and $NR^{2a}R^{2b}$;

each R^{2d} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_{1-6} alkyl, or two R^{2d} groups attached to the same ring atom are combined to form (=O);

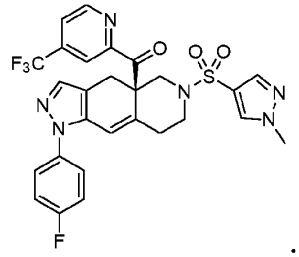
R^3 is selected from the group consisting of phenyl and pyridyl, each optionally substituted with 1-4 R^{3a} groups;

each R^{3a} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and C_{1-6} haloalkyl; and

subscript n is an integer from 0 to 3;

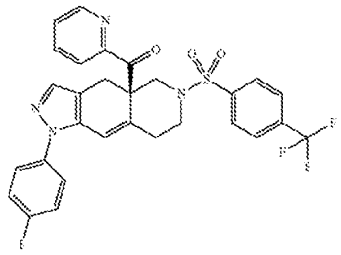
or salts and isomers thereof.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA is (R)-(1-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-((1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)sulfonyl)-4,4a,5,6,7,8-hexahydro-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-g]isoquinolin-4a-yl)(4-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl)methanone, which has the structure:



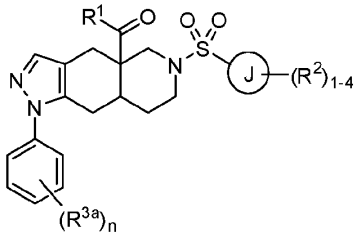
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8. The method of claim 6, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA is (R)-(1-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl) sulfonyl)-4, 4a, 5,6,7,8-hexahydro-1-H-pyrazolo 3,4-g]isoquinolin-4a-yl) (pyridin-2-yl)methanone, which has the structure:



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9. The method of any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA comprises an octahydro fused azadecalin structure, said GRA having the formula:



(I)

wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of pyridine and thiazole, optionally substituted with 1-4 groups each independently selected from R^{1a};

each R^{1a} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} haloalkoxy, N-oxide, and C_{3-8} cycloalkyl;

ring J is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, pyridine, pyrazole, and triazole;

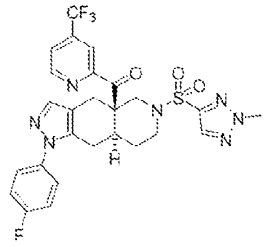
each R^2 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, and -CN;

R^{3a} is F;

subscript n is an integer from 0 to 3;

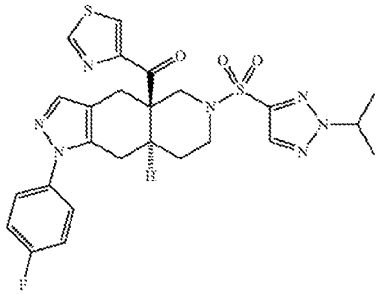
or salts and isomers thereof.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA is ((4aR,8aS)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-((2-methyl-2H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)sulfonyl)-4,4a,5,6,7,8,8a,9-octahydro-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-g]isoquinolin-4a-yl)(4-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl)methanone, which has the structure:



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11. The method of claim 9, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA is ((4aR,8aS)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-((2-isopropyl-2H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)sulfonyl)-4,4a,5,6,7,8,8a,9-octahydro-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-g]isoquinolin-4a-yl)(thiazol-4-yl)methanone, which has the structure:



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12. The method of any of claims 2 to 4, wherein the cancer treatment comprises administration of a chemotherapeutic agent.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the chemotherapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of antimicrotubule agents, alkylating agents, topoisomerase inhibitors,

endoplasmic reticulum stress inducing agents, antimetabolites, mitotic inhibitors and combinations thereof.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the chemotherapeutic agent is an antimicrotubule agent selected from plinabulin and a taxane.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the chemotherapeutic agent is nab-paclitaxel.

16. The method of any of claims 2 to 4, wherein the cancer treatment comprises administration of an immunotherapeutic agent.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the immunotherapeutic agent comprises administration of an antibody directed against a protein target selected from PD-1, PD-L1, CTKA4, LAG3, B7-H3, B7-H4, OX-40, CD137, and TIM3.

18. The method of any of claims 2 to 4, wherein the cancer treatment comprises one or more of cancer radiation therapy, administration of growth factor inhibitors, and administration of anti-angiogenesis factors.

19. The method of any of claims 2 to 18, wherein said reducing NLR is effective to enhance the response to cancer treatment in a cancer patient receiving cancer treatment and having a neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio of greater than 3, wherein said enhancing is as compared to the response in the absence of the present method, the method comprising:

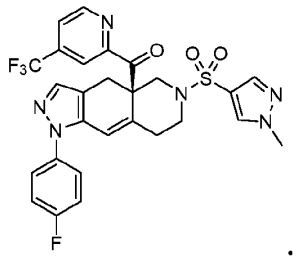
administering an effective amount of a cancer treatment and an effective amount of a nonsteroidal selective glucocorticoid receptor antagonist (GRA) to said cancer patient,

Whereby the cancer patient's NLR is reduced and the cancer patient's response to cancer treatment is enhanced.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA comprises a fused azadecalin structure.

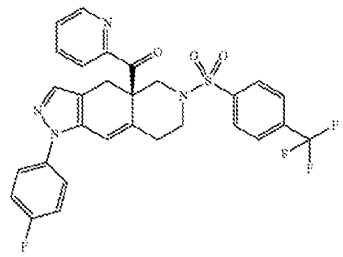
21. The method of claim 19 or claim 20, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA comprises a heteroaryl-ketone fused azadecalin structure.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA is (R)-(1-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-((1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)sulfonyl)-4,4a,5,6,7,8-hexahydro-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-g]isoquinolin-4a-yl)(4-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl)methanone, which has the structure:



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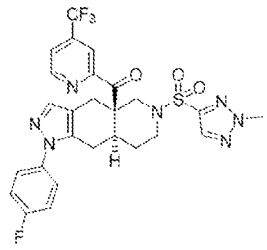
23. The method of claim 21, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA is (R)-(1-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl) sulfonyl)-4, 4a, 5,6,7,8-hexahydro-1-H-pyrazolo 3,4-g]isoquinolin-4a-yl) (pyridin-2-yl)methanone, which has the structure:



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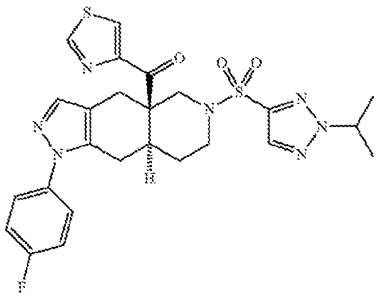
24. The method of claim 19 or claim 20, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA comprises an octahydro fused azadecalin structure.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA is ((4aR,8aS)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-((2-methyl-2H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)sulfonyl)-4,4a,5,6,7,8,8a,9-octahydro-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-g]isoquinolin-4a-yl)(4-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl)methanone, which has the structure:



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26. The method of claim 24, wherein the nonsteroidal selective GRA is ((4aR,8aS)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-((2-isopropyl-2H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)sulfonyl)-4,4a,5,6,7,8,8a,9-octahydro-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-g]isoquinolin-4a-yl)(thiazol-4-yl)methanone, which has the structure:



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27. The method of claim 19 or claim 20, wherein the cancer treatment comprises administration of a chemotherapeutic agent.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the chemotherapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of antimicrotubule agents, alkylating agents, topoisomerase inhibitors, endoplasmic reticulum stress inducing agents, antimetabolites, mitotic inhibitors and combinations thereof.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the chemotherapeutic agent is an antimicrotubule agent selected from plinabulin and a taxane.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the chemotherapeutic agent is nab-paclitaxel.

31. The method of claim 19 or claim 20, wherein the cancer treatment comprises administration of an immunotherapeutic agent.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the immunotherapeutic agent comprises administration of an antibody directed against a protein target selected from PD-1, PD-L1, CTKA4, LAG3, B7-H3, B7-H4, OX-40, CD137, and TIM3.

33. The method of claim 19 or claim 20, wherein the cancer treatment comprises one or more of cancer radiation therapy, administration of growth factor inhibitors, and administration of anti-angiogenesis factors.

34. The method of any of claims 12 to 15 and 27 to 30, wherein the chemotherapeutic agent is an antimetabolite.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the chemotherapeutic agent is gemcitabine.

36. The method of any of claims 19 to 35, wherein the patient exhibits a partial response to the cancer treatment and GRA treatment, wherein said partial response is an

improvement as compared to the patient's response to the cancer treatment alone,

Whereby the cancer patient's NLR is reduced and the cancer patient's response to cancer treatment is enhanced.

37. The method of any of claims 19 to 35, wherein the patient exhibits a complete response to the cancer treatment and GRA treatment, wherein said complete response is an improvement as compared to the patient's response to the cancer treatment alone,

Whereby the cancer patient's NLR is reduced and the cancer patient's response to cancer treatment is enhanced.

38. The method of any of claims 1 to 37, wherein said NLR of said cancer patient is reduced after at least 7 days of administration of said nonsteroidal selective GRA.