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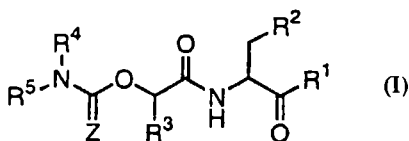
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ACTION

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(54) Title: CARBAMATE CASPASE INHIBITORS AND USES THEREOF



(57) Abstract: This invention provides caspase inhibitors of formula (I):
wherein Z is oxygen or sulfur; R¹ is hydrogen, -CHN₂R, CH₂OR, CH₂SR,
or -CH₂Y; Y is an electronegative leaving group; R² is CO₂H, CH₂CO₂H, or
esters, amides or isosteres thereof; R³ is a group capable of fitting into the S2
subsite of a caspase enzyme; R⁴ and R⁵ are taken together with the intervening
nitrogen to form heterocyclic ring and R is as described in the specification.
The compounds are effective inhibitors of apoptosis and IL-1β secretion.