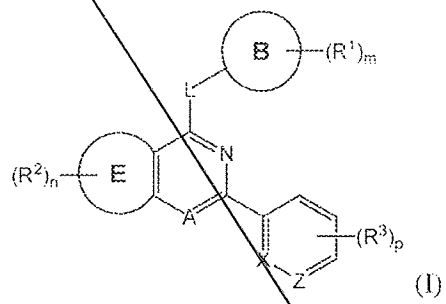
# CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

or a salt thereof,

wherein:

A is $CR^4$ or N;

B is aryl, cyclyl or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl;

m is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

E is aryl or a 5-membered heteroaryl;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

when E is aryl, n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and when E is a 5-membered heteroaryl, n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

L is $NR^5$, S, O or a direct bond;

one of X and Z is N and the other is CH;

p is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

each $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkynyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, oxo, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, $–SR^{d'}$, $–C(Y)R^e$ or $–S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^6$; wherein two $R^1$, together with the atoms to which they are attached, may form an optionally substituted cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl ring;

$R^d$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^6$;

$R^5$ is hydrogen; or when m is not 0, $R^5$ and one $R^1$ may be taken together with the atoms to which they are attached to form an optionally substituted heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring;

each $R^6$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thioxo, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^7$;

each $R^7$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thioxo, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^9$;

each $R^9$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy,

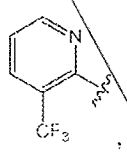
silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thioxo, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, $–SR^{d'}$, $–C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$;

Y is O or S;

q is 1 or 2 and

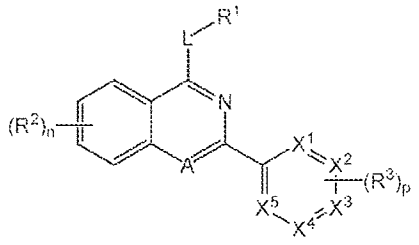
each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, acyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy or silylalkoxyalkyl;

wherein when B is phenyl, two $R^1$ are not taken together to form a pyrazole ring; and

when B is phenyl, $R^2$ is not 

,

a compound of formula (II):



(II)

or a salt thereof,

wherein:

L is $CR^4R^5$, O, C(O), $NR^6C(O)$ or $NR^7$;

A is N;

each $X^1$, $X^2$, $X^3$, $X^4$ and $X^5$ is independently CH or N, provided that at least two of $X^1$, $X^2$, $X^3$, $X^4$ and $X^5$ are N;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

p is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

$R^1$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl or heterocyclylalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-5 $R^9$; wherein $R^1$ or $R^9$ is optionally taken together with one of $R^4$, $R^5$, $R^6$ or $R^7$, and the atoms to which they are attached, to form a cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl ring that is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{10}$;

each $R^2$ and $R^3$ is independently hydrogen,$C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, $–SR^{d'}$, $–C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$; each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{11}$;

each $R^4$, $R^5$, $R^6$ and $R^7$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, $–SR^{d'}$, $–C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$;

each $R^9$, $R^{10}$ and $R^{11}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thioxo, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$,$–OR^d$, $–SR^{d'}$, $–C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{12}$;

wherein, two $R^9$, two $R^{10}$ or two $R^{11}$ is optionally taken together with the atoms to which they are attached to form an optionally substituted cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl ring;

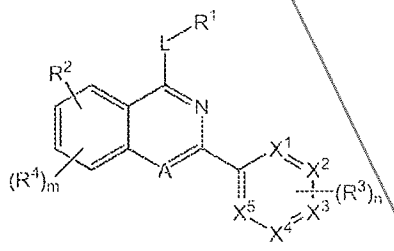
$R^{12}$ is $-OR^d$;

Y is O or S;

q is 1 or 2 and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$, $R^{e'}$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, acyl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, arylalkyl or heteroarylalkyl and

a compound of formula (III):



(III)

or a salt thereof,

wherein:

A is CH or N;

L is O, a direct bond or $NR^6$;

one of $X^1$, $X^2$, $X^3$, $X^4$ and $X^5$ is N and the others are CH;

m is 1, 2 or 3;

n is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

$R^1$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroaryl , heteroarylalkyl,arylalkyl, $-C(Y)R^c$, cyclyl ,cyclylalkyl or heterocyclyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^7$;

$R^2$ is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-5 $R^9$;

each $R^3$ or $R^4$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy,

silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, –$NO_2$, –C(O)$OR^a$, –C(Y)$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –OC(O)$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –C(Y)$R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{10}$;

$R^6$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, cyclyl or heterocyclyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{11}$;

each $R^7$, $R^9$ and $R^{10}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thioxo, –CN, –$NO_2$, –C(O)$OR^a$, –C(Y)$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –OC(O)$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$,–$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –C(Y)$R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{12}$; wherein two $R^7$, two $R^9$ or two $R^{10}$ are optionally be taken together with the atoms to which they are attached to form an optionally substituted cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl ring;

each $R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thioxo, –CN, –$NO_2$, –C(O)$OR^a$, –C(Y)$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –OC(O)$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$,–$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –C(Y)$R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$ ,each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{13}$;

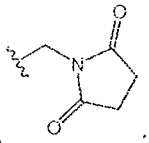
$R^{13}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, haloalkyl ,halo, heterocyclyl, cyclyl,oxo or –C(Y)$NR^bR^{b'}$ ;

Y is independently O or S;

q is 1 or 2 ;and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, acyl, haloalkyl alkoxyalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl,

dialkylaminoalkyl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, arylalkyl or heteroarylalkyl;

with proviso $R^9$ is not .

2. The compound according to claim 1 represented by general formula (I) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

A is $CR^4$ or N;

B is aryl ,cyclyl or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl;

m is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

E is aryl or a 5-membered heteroaryl;

when E is aryl, n is 0,1, 2, 3 or 4; and when E is a 5-membered heteroaryl, n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

L is $NR^5$ ,S,O or a direct bond;

one of X and Z is N and the other is CH;

p is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

each $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkynyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, oxo,–$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^6$; wherein two $R^1$, together with the atoms to which they are attached, may form an optionally substituted cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl ring;

$R^4$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, $–SR^{d'}$, $–C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^6$;

$R^5$ is hydrogen; or when m is not 0, $R^5$ and one $R^1$ may be taken together with the atoms to which they are attached to form an optionally substituted heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring;

each $R^6$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thioxo, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, $–SR^{d'}$, $–C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^7$;

each $R^7$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thioxo, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, $–SR^{d'}$, $–C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^9$;

each $R^9$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy,

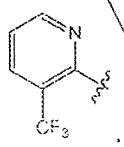
silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thioxo, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, $–SR^{d'}$, $–C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$;

Y is O or S;

q is 1 or 2; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, acyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy or silylalkoxyalkyl;

wherein when B is phenyl, two $R^2$ are not taken together to form a pyrazole ring; and

when B is phenyl, $R^2$ is not 

.

3. The compound according to claim 2 represented by general formula (I) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

A is CH or N;

B is aryl, cyclyl or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl;

m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

E is aryl or a 5-membered heteroaryl;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

when E is aryl, n is 0, 1 or 2 and when E is a 5-membered heteroaryl, n is 0 or 1;

p is 0, 1 or 2;

each $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkynyl, –CN, oxo, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$,

$-OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $-SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$, $-SR^{d'}$, $-C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^6$; wherein two $R^1$, together with the atoms to which they are attached, may form an optionally substituted cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl ring;

each $R^6$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, oxo, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$ or $-C(Y)R^e$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^7$;

each $R^7$ is oxo; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, acyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, haloalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxyalkyl.

4. The compound according to claim 3 represented by general formula (I) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

B or two $R^1$ and B are taken together to form a group is phenyl, dihydroindenyl, dihydrobenzoxazinyl, dihydrobenzodioxinyl, chromenyl, tetrahydroquinoxalinyl, tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, tetrahydroquinolinyl, dihydroquinolinyl, quinolyl, isoquinolinyl, tetrahydroquinazolinyl, indolinyl, dihydrobenzothiazolyl, dihydrobenzinnidazolyl, dihydrobenzoxazolyl, isoindolinyl, dihydroisobenzofuranyl, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, benzodioxolyl, indolyl, indazolyl, benzoimidazolyl, benzotriazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxadiazolyl, dihydrocyclopentathiophenyl, tetrahydrobenzothiophenyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrrolyl or pyridyl;

E is phenyl, thienyl or pyrrolyl ;

when E is phenyl , n is 1 or 2; and when E is thienyl, n is 0 or 1;

each $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl ,$C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, phenyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, oxadiazolyl, pyridyl, benzodioxolyl, furyl, pyrimidinyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl,

pyrazolyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, piperidyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, dioxolanyl, phenylalkyl, thiomorpholinylalkyl, pyrrolidinylalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, piperidylalkyl, piperazinylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkynyl, –CN, –$NO_2$, oxo, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$, $-SR^{d'}$, $-C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^6$;

each $R^6$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, tetrahydropyranyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, morpholinylalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, oxo, –CN, $-NO_2$, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$, alkoxyalkyl, $-OR^d$ or $-C(Y)R^e$; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, dihydroindenyl, morpholinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, piperidyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, thiomorpholinyl, phenylalkyl, thienylalkyl, furylalkyl, pyridylalkyl, tetrahydropyranylalkyl, dihydroindenylalkyl, tetrahydrofurylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, thiazolylalkyl, pyrazolylalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, pyrrolidinylalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, piperidylalkyl, benzodioxolylalkyl, dihydrobenzodioxinylalkyl, benzothienylalkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkylalkyl, oxazolidinylalkyl, haloalkyl or alkoxyalkyl.

5. The compound according to claim 3 represented by general formula (I) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

B or two $R^1$ and B are taken together to form a group is phenyl, dihydroindenyl, dihydrobenzoxazinyl, dihydrobenzodioxinyl, chromenyl, tetrahydroquinoxalinyl, tetrahydroisoquinolyl, tetrahydroquinolinyl, dihydroquinolyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, tetrahydroquinazolinyl, indolinyl, dihydrobenzothiazolyl, dihydrobenzimidazolyl, dihydrobenzoxazolyl, isoindolinyl, dihydroisobenzofuranyl, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, benzodioxolyl, indolyl, indazolyl, benzoimidazolyl, benzotriazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxadiazolyl, dihydrocyclopentathiophenyl,

tetrahydrobenzothienyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrrolyl or pyridyl;

E is phenyl, thienyl or pyrrolyl ;

when E is phenyl , n is 0, 1or 2; and when E is thienyl, n is 0 or 1;

each $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, phenyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, pyridyl, benzodioxolyl, furyl, pyrimidinyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, piperidyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, dioxolanyl, phenylalkyl, thiomorpholinylalkyl, pyrrolidinylalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, piperidylalkyl, piperazinylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkynyl, –CN, –$NO_2$, oxo, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $-OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$, $-SR^{d'}$, $-C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^6$;

each $R^6$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, tetrahydropyranyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, morpholinylalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, oxo, –CN, $-NO_2$, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$, alkoxyalkyl, $-OR^d$ or $-C(Y)R^e$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^7$;

$R^7$ is oxo; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, dihydroindenyl, morpholinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, piperidyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, thiomorpholinyl, phenylalkyl, thienylalkyl, furylalkyl, pyridylalkyl, tetrahydropyranylalkyl, dihydroindenylalkyl, tetrahydrofurylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, thiazolylalkyl, pyrazolylalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, pyrrolidinylalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, piperidylalkyl, benzodioxolilalkyl, dihydrobenzodioxinylalkyl, benzothienylalkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkylalkyl, oxazolidinylalkyl, haloalkyl or alkoxyalkyl.

6. The compound according to claim 5 represented by general formula (I) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

$R^1$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, dioxolanyl, phenylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, –CN, oxo, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^6$;

$R^2$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, phenyl, thienyl, pyridyl, benzodioxolyl, furyl, pyrimidinyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl , thiomorpholinylalkyl, pyrrolidinylalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, piperiridylalkyl, piperazinylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkynyl, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$,–$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$ , –$OR^d$ or –$C(Y)R^e$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^6$;

$R^3$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, haloalkyl ,–$NR^bR^{b'}$ or –$OR^d$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^6$.

7. The compound according to claim 4 or 6 represented by general formula (I) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

$R^1$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, dioxolanyl, phenylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, –CN, oxo, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$;

$R^2$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, phenyl, thienyl, pyridyl, benzodioxolyl, furyl, pyrimidinyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinylalkyl, pyrrolidinylalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, piperiridinylalkyl, piperazinylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkynyl, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$,–$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$;

$R^3$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, haloalkyl ,–$NR^bR^{b'}$ or –$OR^d$,

8. The compound according to claim 7 represented by general formula (I) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

B or two $R^1$ and B are taken together to form a group is phenyl, dihydroindenyl, dihydrobenzoxazinyl, dihydrobenzodioxinyl, chromenyl, tetrahydroisoquinolyl, tetrahydroquinolinyl, dihydroquinolyl, quinolyl, tetrahydroquinazolinyl, indolinyl, dihydrobenzothiazolyl, dihydrobenzimidazolyl, dihydrobenzoxazolyl, isoindolinyl, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, benzodioxolyl, indolyl, indazolyl, benzoimidazolyl, benzotriazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxadiazolyl, tetrahydrobenzothienyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiadiazolyl or pyridyl;

m is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

$R^1$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, –CN, oxo, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, or $-S(O)_qR^f$;

$R^2$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, thiomorpholinylalkyl, pyrrolidinylalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, $–C(Y)R^c$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$;

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, phenyl, dihydroindenyl, morpholinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, piperidyl, pyrrolidinyl, thiomorpholinyl, phenylalkyl, thienylalkyl, pyridylalkyl, tetrahydropyranylalkyl, dihydroindenylalkyl, tetrahydrofurylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, pyrrolidinylalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, piperidylalkyl, benzodioxolilalkyl, dihydrobenzodioxinylalkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkylalkyl, haloalkyl or alkoxyalkyl.

9. The compound according to claim 1 represented by general formula (II) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

L is $CR^4R^5$, O, C(O), $NR^6C(O)$ or $NR^7$;

A is N;

each $X^1$, $X^2$, $X^3$, $X^4$ and $X^5$ is independently CH or N, provided that at least two of $X^1$, $X^2$, $X^3$, $X^4$ and $X^5$ are N;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

p is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

$R^1$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl or heterocyclylalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-5 $R^9$; wherein $R^1$ or $R^9$ is optionally taken together with one of $R^4$, $R^5$, $R^6$ or $R^7$, and the atoms to which they are attached to form a cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl ring that is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{10}$;

each $R^2$ and $R^3$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, $–SR^{d'}$, $–C(Y)R^c$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{11}$;

each $R^4$, $R^5$, $R^6$ and $R^7$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, $–SR^{d'}$, $–C(Y)R^c$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$;

each $R^9$, $R^{10}$ and $R^{11}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thioxo, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –

$NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $-SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$, $-SR^{d'}$, $-C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{12}$;wherein two $R^8$, two $R^9$, two $R^{10}$ or two $R^{11}$ is optionally taken together with the atoms to which they are attached to form an optionally substituted cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl ring;

$R^{12}$ is $-OR^d$;

Y is O or S;

q is 1 or 2; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$, $R^{e'}$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, acyl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, arylalkyl or heteroarylalkyl.

10. The compound according to claim 9 represented by general formula (II) or a salt thereof,

L is $NR^7$;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

p is 0;

$R^1$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl;

each $R^2$ and $R^3$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, aryl, halo, heterocyclylalkyl, $-NR^cC(Y)R^e$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$ or $-OR^d$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{11}$;

$R^7$ is hydrogen; and

each $R^9$, $R^{10}$ and $R^{11}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, heterocyclyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, $-CN$, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$ or $-C(Y)R^e$;

Y is O;

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$, $R^{e'}$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl.

11 .The compound according to claim 10 represented by general formula (II) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

$R^1$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl or benzodioxolyl;

each $R^2$ and $R^3$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl, halo, morholinylalkyl, $-NR^cC(Y)R^c$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$ or $-OR^d$;

$R^9$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, morpholinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, –CN, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$ or $-C(Y)R^e$; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$, $R^{e'}$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, tetrahydropyranyl, phenyl or pyridyl.

12. The compound according to claim 10 represented by general formula (II) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

$R^1$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl or benzodioxolyl;

each $R^2$ and $R^3$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl, halo, morholinylalkyl, $-NR^cC(Y)R^c$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$ or $-OR^d$ , each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{11}$;

each $R^9$, $R^{10}$ and $R^{11}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, morpholinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, –CN, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$,$-OR^d$ or $-C(Y)R^e$; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$, $R^{e'}$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, tetrahydropyranyl, phenyl or pyridyl.

13. The compoundaccording to claim 12 represented by general formula (II) or a salt thereof, wherein:

$R^2$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl, halo, morholinylalkyl, $-NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$ $-NR^bR^{b'}$or $-OR^d$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{11}$;

$R^3$ is hydrogen;

$R^9$ is halo, haloalkoxy, –CN, $-C(O)OR^a$ or $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$ ; and

$R^{11}$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, morpholinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, halo, –CN, $-OR^d$ or $-C(Y)R^e$;

14. The compound according to claim 11 or 13 represented by general formula (II) or a salt thereof, wherein:

$R^2$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl, halo, morholinylalkyl, $-NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$ or $-OR^d$;

$R^3$ is hydrogen; and

$R^9$ is halo, haloalkoxy, –CN, $-C(O)OR^a$ or $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$.

15. The compound according to claim 1 represented by general formula (III) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

A is CH or N;

L is O, a direct bond or NH;

one of $X^1$, $X^2$, $X^3$, $X^4$ and $X^5$ is N and the others are CH;

m is 1, 2 or 3;

n is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

$R^1$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, arylalkyl, $-C(Y)R^e$, cyclyl, cyclylalkyl or heterocyclyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^7$;

$R^2$ is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-5 $R^9$;

each $R^3$ or $R^4$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, $-NO_2$, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $-SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$, $-SR^{d'}$, $-C(Y)R^c$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{10}$;

each $R^7$, $R^9$ and $R^{10}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thioxo, –CN, $-NO_2$, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –

$NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $-SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$, $-SR^{d'}$, $-C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{12}$; wherein two $R^7$ or two $R^9$ are optionally be taken together with the atoms to which they are attached to form an optionally substituted cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl ring;

$R^{12}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thioxo, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $-SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$, $-SR^{d'}$, $-C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{13}$;

$R^{13}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, haloalkyl, halo, heterocyclyl, cyclyl, oxo or $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$;

Y is O or S;

q is 1 or 2; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, acyl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl, haloalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, heteroaryl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, arylalkyl or heteroarylalkyl..

16. The compound according to claim 15 represented by general formula (III) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

m is 1;

n is 1;

$R^1$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, cyclylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl or $-C(O)R^e$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^7$;

$R^2$ is aryl, heteroaryl or benzofuryl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-5 $R^9$;

each $R^3$ or $R^4$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, haloalkyl or $-OR^d$;

$R^6$ is hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl;

each $R^7$ and $R^9$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, oxo, –CN, $-NO_2$, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-C(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$, $-C(O)R^c$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{12}$;

$R^{12}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, oxo, halo, haloalkyl, –CN, $-C(O)NR^bR^{b'}$ or $-C(O)R^c$ each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{13}$;

$R^{13}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo or heterocyclyl ; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, arylalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl or phenyl.

17. The compound according to claim 16 represented by general formula (III) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

$R^1$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, imidazolyl, pyridylalkyl, phenylalkyl, oxazolylalkyl, thienylalkyl, thiazolidinyl isoindolyl, $-C(O)R^e$, dihydroindenyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkylalkyl, piperidyl, morpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl, azetidinyl or piperazinyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^7$;

$R^2$ is phenyl, naphthyl, benzofuryl, indazolyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, dihydrobenzodioxinyl, benzodioxolyl, benzoimidazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, indolinyl or benzoisoxazolyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-5 $R^9$;

each $R^3$ or $R^4$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, haloalkyl or $-OR^d$;

$R^6$ is hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl;

each $R^7$ and $R^9$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, oxo, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$C(O)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, phenylalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, morholinylalkyl, oxazolidinylalkyl, imidazolylalkyl, tetrahydropyranylalkyl, pyridylalkyl, pyrazolylalkyl, tetrazolylalkyl, thiazolylalkyl, pyrrolylalkyl, benzoxazolylalkyl, indazolylalkyl, dihydrobenzoxazinylalkyl, tetrahydrofurylalkyl, tetrahydrofuryl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl or phenyl.

18. The compound according to claim 16 represented by general formula (III) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

$R^1$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, imidazolyl, furylalkyl, pyridylalkyl, phenylalkyl, oxazolylalkyl, thienylalkyl, thiazolidinyl, isoindolyl, –$C(O)R^c$, dihydroindenyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkylalkyl, piperidyl, morpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl, azetidinyl or piperazinyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^7$;

$R^2$ is phenyl, naphthyl, benzofuryl, indazolyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, dihydrobenzodioxinyl, benzodioxolyl, benzoimidazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, indolinyl or benzisoxazolyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-5 $R^9$;

each $R^3$ or $R^4$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, haloalkyl or –$OR^d$;

$R^6$ is hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl;

each $R^7$ and $R^9$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, oxo, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$C(O)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{12}$;

$R^{12}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, oxo, halo, haloalkyl, –CN, –$C(O)NR^bR^{b'}$ or –$C(O)R^e$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{13}$;

$R^{13}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo or pyrrolidinyl; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, phenylalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, oxazolidinylalkyl, imidazolylalkyl, tetrahydropyranylalkyl, pyridylalkyl, pyrazolylalkyl, tetrazolylalkyl, thiazolylalkyl, pyrrolylalkyl, benzoxazolylalkyl, indazolylalkyl, dihydrobenzoxazinylalkyl, tetrahydrofurylalkyl, tetrahydrofuryl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl or phenyl.

19. The compound according to claim 18 represented by general formula (III) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

A is N;

$R^3$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, haloalkyl, or $-OR^d$;

$R^4$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, or $-OR^d$;

$R^7$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl, halo, haloalkyl, oxo, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-C(O)NR^bR^{b'}$ or $-OR^d$ each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{12}$;

$R^9$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-C(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$, $-C(O)R^e$ or $-S(O)_0R^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{12}$; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, phenylalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, oxazolidinylalkyl, imidazolylalkyl, tetrahydropyranylalkyl, pyridylalkyl, pyrazolylalkyl, tetrazolylalkyl, thiazolylalkyl, pyrrolylalkyl, benzoxazolylalkyl, indazolylalkyl, tetrahydrofurylalkyl, dihydrobenzoxazinylalkyl, tetrahydrofuryl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl or phenyl;.

20. The compound according to claim 17 or 19 represented by general formula (III) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

A is N;

$R^3$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, haloalkyl, or $-OR^d$;

$R^4$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, or $-OR^d$;

$R^7$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl, halo, haloalkyl, oxo, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-C(O)NR^bR^{b'}$ or $-OR^d$;

$R^9$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, phenyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, –CN, $-NO_2$, $-C(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$, $-C(O)R^e$ or $-S(O)_cR^f$; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, phenylalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, oxazolidinylalkyl, imidazolylalkyl, tetrahydropyranylalkyl, pyridylalkyl, pyrazolylalkyl, tetrazolylalkyl, thiazolylalkyl, pyrrolylalkyl, benzoxazolylalkyl, indazolylalkyl, tetrahydrofurylalkyl, tetrahydrofuryl, dihydrobenzoxazinylalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl or phenyl.

21. The compound according to claim 20 represented by general formula (III) or a salt thereof,

wherein:

$R^1$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, imidazolyl, furylalkyl, pyridylalkyl, phenylalkyl, oxazolylalkyl, thienylalkyl, isoindolyl, $-C(O)R^e$, dihydroindenyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkylalkyl, piperidyl, morpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl, azetidinyl or piperazinyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^7$;

$R^2$ is phenyl, which is optionally substituted with 1-5 $R^9$; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, alkoxyalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, tetrahydropyranylalkyl, pyridylalkyl, thiazolylalkyl, pyrrolylalkyl, tetrahydrofuryl, alkylaminoalkyl or phenyl.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound according to any one of claims 1 to 21 or a salt thereof as an active ingredient and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22 for preventing or treating central nervous system diseases.

24. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23 for treating or preventing central nervous system disorders selected from the group consisting of schizophrenia; refractory, intractable or chronic schizophrenia; emotional disturbance; psychotic disorder; mood disorder; bipolar I type disorder; bipolar II type disorder; depression; endogenous depression; major depression; melancholy and refractory depression; dysthymic disorder; cyclothymic disorder; panic attack; panic disorder; agoraphobia; social phobia; obsessive-compulsive disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; generalized anxiety disorder; acute stress disorder; hysteria; somatization disorder; conversion disorder; pain disorder; hypochondriasis; factitious disorder; dissociative disorder; sexual dysfunction; sexual desire disorder; sexual arousal disorder; erectile dysfunction; anorexia nervosa; bulimia nervosa; sleep disorder; adjustment disorder; alcohol abuse; alcohol intoxication; drug addiction; stimulant intoxication; narcotism; anhedonia; iatrogenic anhedonia; anhedonia of a psychic or mental cause; anhedonia associated with depression; anhedonia associated with schizophrenia; delirium; cognitive impairment; cognitive impairment associated with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases; cognitive impairment caused by Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease and associated neurodegenerative diseases; cognitive impairment of schizophrenia; cognitive impairment caused by refractory, intractable or chronic schizophrenia; vomiting; motion sickness; obesity; migraine; pain (ache) ; mental retardation; autism disorder (autism); Tourette's disorder; tic disorder; attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder; conduct disorder; and Down's syndrome.

25. A process for producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing a compound of the formula (I), (II), or (III) or a salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 21 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. Use of a compound of the formula (I), (II) or (III) or a salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 21 as a drug.

27. Use of the compound according to any one of claims 1 to 21 represented by general formula(I), (II) or (III) or a salt thereof as a STEP inhibitor .

28. A method of treating a disorder that would benefit by the modulation of STEP (e.g., by activation of inhibition of STEP) in a subject, the method comprising administering to a compound of formula (I), (II) or (III) or a salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 21.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the disorder is schizophrenia.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the disorder is cognitive deficit.

31. The method of claim 28, wherein the compound of formula (I), (II) or (III) is administered in combination with an additional therapeutic agent.

32. The method of claim 28, wherein the additional therapeutic agent is an atypical antipsychotic.

33. The method of claim 28, wherein the additional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of aripiprazole, clozapine, ziprasidone, risperidone, quetiapine, olanzapine, amisulpride, asenapine, iloperidone, melperone, paliperidone, perospirone, sertindole and sulpiride.

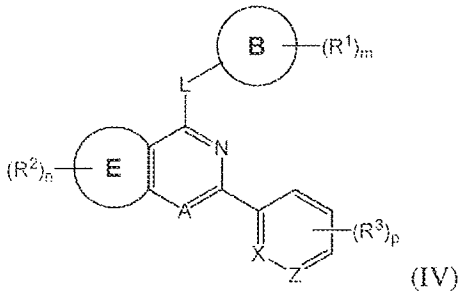
34. The method of claim 28, wherein the additional therapeutic agent is a typical antipsychotic.

35. The method of claim 28, wherein the additional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of haloperidol, molindone, loxapine, thioridazine, molindone, thiothixene, pimozide, fluphenazine, trifluoperazine, mesoridazine, chlorprothixene, chlorpromazine, perphenazine, triflupromazine and zuclopenthixol.

36. A kit comprising a composition comprising a compound of formula (I), (II), or (III) or a salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 21 and an acceptable carrier.

37. A kit comprising a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), (II), or (III) or a salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 21 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

38. A compound of formula (IV):




(IV)

wherein:

A is CH, $CR^4$ or N;

B is aryl or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl;

m is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

E is aryl or a 5-membered heteroaryl;

when E is aryl, n is 1, 2, 3 or 4; and when E is a 5-membered heteroaryl, n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

L is $NR^5$ or O;

one of X and Z is N and the other is CH;

p is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

each $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$, each of which may be optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^6$; wherein two $R^1$, together with the atoms to which they are attached, may form an optionally substituted cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl ring;

$R^4$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$, each of which may be optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^6$;

$R^5$ is hydrogen; or when m is not 0, $R^5$ and 1 $R^1$ may be taken together with the atoms to which they are attached to form an optionally substituted heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring;

each $R^6$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thiono, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$, each of which may be optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^7$;

each $R^7$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl,

hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thiono, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or –$S(O)_qR^f$;

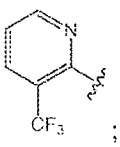
each Y is independently O or S;

q is 1 or 2; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$, $R^{e'}$ and $R^f$ is independently selected from hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, acyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy and silylalkoxyalkyl, each of which may be optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^6$, wherein $R^b$ and $R^{b'}$, together with the atoms to which they are attached, may form an optionally substituted cyclyl or heterocyclyl ring;

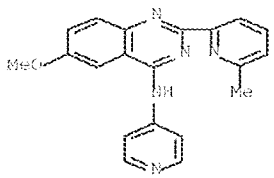
or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or prodrug thereof,

wherein when B is phenyl, two $R^1$ are not taken together to form a pyrazole ring;

when B is phenyl, $R^2$ is not 

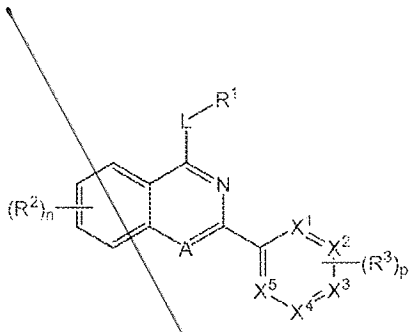
;

and where in the compound is not:




.

39. A compound of formula (V):



(V)

wherein:

L is $CR^4R^5$, O, C(O), $NR^6C(O)$, or $NR^7$;

A is $CR^8$, CH or N;

each $X^1$, $X^2$, $X^3$, $X^4$ and $X^5$ is independently CH or N, provided that at least two of $X^1$, $X^2$, $X^3$, $X^4$ and $X^5$ are N;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

p is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

$R^1$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, cyclylalkyl or heterocyclylalkyl, each of which may be optionally substituted with 1-5 $R^9$; wherein $R^1$ or $R^9$ may optionally be taken together with one of $R^4$, $R^5$, $R^6$ or $R^7$, and the atoms to which they are attached, to form a cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl ring that is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{10}$;

each $R^2$ and $R^3$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, $–SR^{d'}$, $–C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$; each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{11}$;

each $R^4$, $R^5$, $R^6$ and $R^7$ is independently H, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl,–CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, –

$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $-SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$, $-SR^{d'}$, $-C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$;

each $R^8$, $R^9$, $R^{10}$ and $R^{11}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thiono, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-C(O)OR^a$, $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $-NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, $-SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $-NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, $-NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $-OR^d$, $-SR^{d'}$, $-C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$, each of which may be optionally further substituted; wherein two $R^8$, two $R^9$, two $R^{10}$ or two $R^{11}$ may optionally be taken together with the atoms to which they are attached to form an optionally substituted cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl ring;

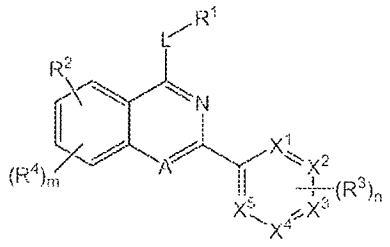
each Y is independently O or S;

q is 1 or 2; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$, $R^{e'}$ and $R^f$ is independently selected from hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, acyl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, aralkyl and heteroaralkyl, each of which may be optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^8$,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or prodrug thereof.

40. A compound of formula (VI):



(VI)

wherein:

A is $CR^5$, CH or N;

L is O or $NR^6$;

1, 2 or 3 of $X^1$, $X^2$, $X^3$, $X^4$ and $X^5$ are N and the others are CH;

m is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

$R^1$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, cyclyl or heterocyclyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^7$; or when L is $NR^6$, $R^1$ or $R^7$ may be taken together with $R^6$ and the atoms to which they are attached to form a heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring that is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^8$;

$R^2$ is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-5 $R^9$;

each $R^3$, $R^4$ and $R^5$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{10}$;

$R^6$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, cyclyl or heterocyclyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{11}$;

each $R^7$, $R^8$, $R^9$ and $R^{10}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy, silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thiono, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$, each of which is optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^{12}$; wherein two $R^7$, two $R^8$, two $R^9$ or two $R^{10}$ may optionally be taken together with the atoms to which they are attached to form an optionally substituted cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl ring;

each $R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ is independently $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxy, silyloxyalkyl, silylalkoxy,

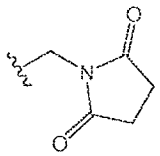
silylalkoxyalkyl, oxo, thiono, –CN, –$NO_2$, –$C(O)OR^a$, –$C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, –$NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OC(O)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cC(O)OR^{c'}$, –$SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, –$NR^cSO_2R^{c'}$, –$NR^cC(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, –$OR^d$, –$SR^{d'}$, –$C(Y)R^e$ or -$S(O)_qR^f$;

each Y is independently O or S;

q is 1 or 2; and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^{d'}$, $R^e$, $R^{e'}$ and $R^f$ is independently selected from hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, acyl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, aralkyl and heteroaralkyl, each of which may be optionally substituted with 1-3 $R^7$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or prodrug thereof,

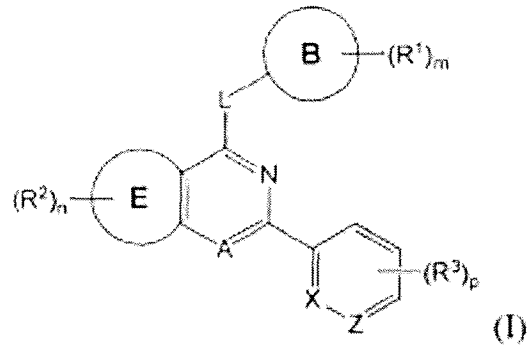


wherein when $R^1$ is cyclopropyl, $R^9$ is not;

41. A compound described herein.

## CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):




(I)

or a salt thereof,

wherein:

A is CH or N;

B is phenyl, dihydroindenyl, dihydrobenzoxazinyl, dihydrobenzodioxinyl, chromenyl, tetrahydroisoquinolyl, tetrahydroquinolinyl, dihydroquinolyl, quinolyl, tetrahydroquinazolinyl, indolinyl, dihydrobenzothiazolyl, dihydrobenzimidazolyl, dihydrobenzoxazolyl, isoindolinyl, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, benzodioxolyl, indolyl, indazolyl, benzoimidazolyl, benzotriazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxadiazolyl, tetrahydrobenzothienyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiadiazolyl or pyridyl;

m is 1, 2, 3, or 4;

E is phenyl, thienyl or pyrrolyl;

when E is phenyl, n is 1, or 2; and when E is thienyl or pyrrolyl, n is 0, or 1;

L is $NR^5$;

one of X and Z is N and the other is CH;

p is 0, 1, or 2;

$R^1$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, –CN, oxo, $–NO_2$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, or $-S(O)_qR^f$;

$R^2$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, thiomorpholinylalkyl, pyrrolidinylalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl,

hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(O)OR^a$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, $–C(Y)R^e$ or $-S(O)_qR^f$;

$R^3$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, haloalkyl, $–NR^bR^{b'}$ or $–OR^d$

$R^5$ is hydrogen;

Y is O or S;

q is 1 or 2 and

each $R^a$, $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$, $R^e$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, phenyl, dihydroindenyl, morpholinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, piperidyl, pyrrolidinyl, thiomorpholinyl, phenylalkyl, thienylalkyl, pyridylalkyl, tetrahydropyranylalkyl, dihydroindenylalkyl, tetrahydrofurylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, morpholinylalkyl, pyrrolidinylalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, piperidylalkyl, benzodioxolilalkyl, dihydrobenzodioxinylalkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkylalkyl, haloalkyl or alkoxyalkyl.

2. The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein

A is N;

B is phenyl or pyridyl;

m is 1, 2 or 3;

E is phenyl;

n is 1, or 2; and

p is 0 or 1.

3. The compound according to claim 2 or a salt thereof, wherein

m is 1or 2 ;

p is 0;

$R^1$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, –CN, $–NO_2$, $–C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$, $–NR^cC(Y)R^{c'}$, $–SO_2NR^bR^{b'}$, $–OR^d$, or $-S(O)_qR^f$; and

$R^2$ is $–OR^d$.

4. The compound according to claim 3 or a salt thereof, wherein

$R^2$ is $-OR^d$, in which $R^d$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl; and

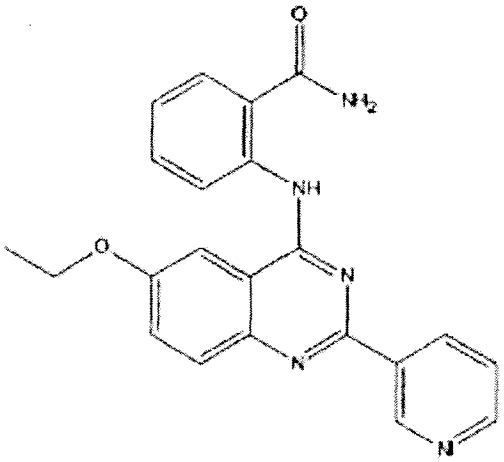
each $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, $R^d$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_8$ alkynyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl, phenyl, dihydroindenyl, tetrahydropyranyl, phenylalkyl, thienylalkyl, tetrahydropyranylalkyl, dihydroindenylalkyl, or haloalkyl.

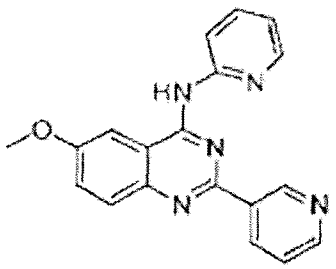
5. The compound according to claim 4 or a salt thereof, wherein

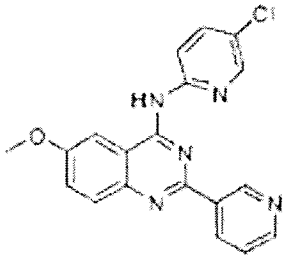
$R^1$ is $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, $-C(Y)NR^bR^{b'}$ or $-OR^d$; and

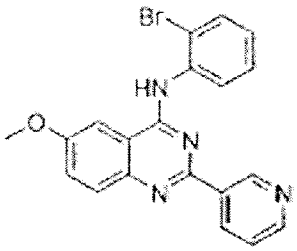
each $R^b$, $R^{b'}$, $R^d$ and $R^f$ is independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$ alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$ cycloalkyl or haloalkyl.

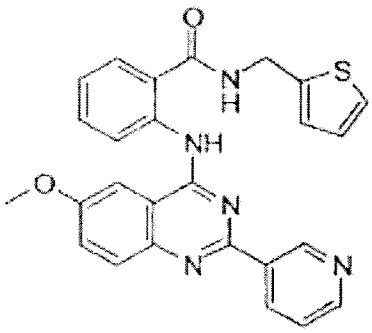
6. The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the compound of formula (I) is a compound selected from the group consisting of

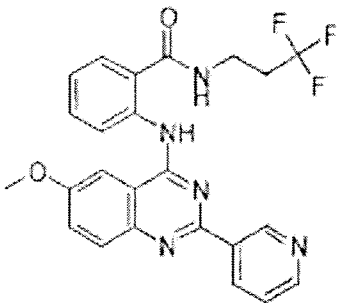


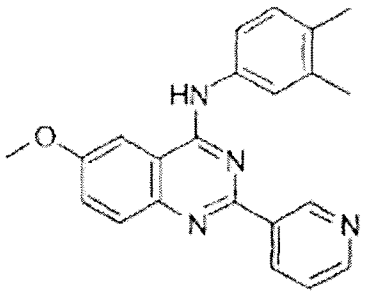




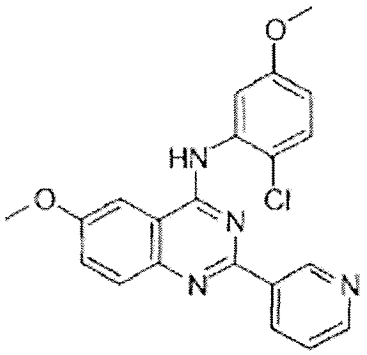




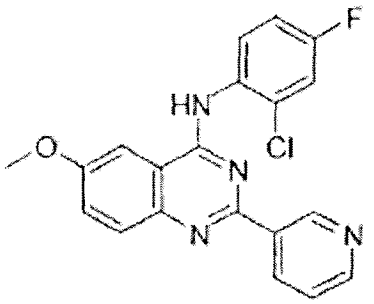




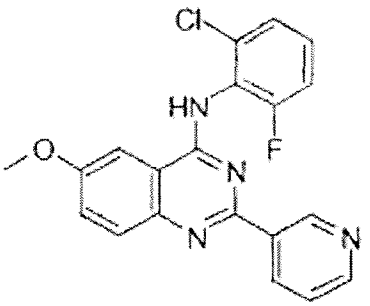
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, and



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7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a salt thereof as an active ingredient and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 for use in preventing or treating central nervous system diseases.

9. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 for use in treating or preventing central nervous system disorders selected from the group consisting of schizophrenia; refractory, intractable or chronic schizophrenia; emotional disturbance; psychotic disorder; mood disorder; bipolar I type disorder; bipolar II type disorder; depression; endogenous depression; major depression; melancholy and refractory depression; dysthymic disorder; cyclothymic disorder; panic attack; panic disorder; agoraphobia; social phobia; obsessive-compulsive disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; generalized anxiety disorder; acute stress disorder; hysteria; somatization disorder; conversion disorder; pain disorder; hypochondriasis; factitious disorder; dissociative disorder; sexual dysfunction; sexual desire disorder; sexual arousal disorder; erectile dysfunction; anorexia nervosa; bulimia nervosa; sleep disorder; adjustment disorder; alcohol abuse; alcohol intoxication; drug addiction; stimulant intoxication; narcotism; anhedonia; iatrogenic anhedonia; anhedonia of a psychic or mental cause; anhedonia associated with depression; anhedonia associated with schizophrenia; delirium; cognitive impairment; cognitive impairment associated with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases; cognitive impairment caused by Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease and associated neurodegenerative diseases; cognitive impairment of schizophrenia; cognitive impairment caused by refractory, intractable or chronic schizophrenia; vomiting; motion sickness; obesity; migraine; pain (ache) ; mental retardation; autism disorder (autism); Tourette's disorder; tic disorder; attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder; conduct disorder; and Down's syndrome.

10. A process for producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing a compound or a salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 6 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. A compound or a salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 6 for use as a drug.

12. A compound or a salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 6 for use in treating schizophrenia or cognitive deficit.

13. A combination of a compound or a salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 6 with an additional therapeutic agent for use in treating a disorder that would benefit by the modulation of STEP.

14. The combination for use according to claim 13, wherein the additional therapeutic agent is an atypical antipsychotic.

15. The combination for use according to claim 13, wherein the additional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of aripiprazole, clozapine, ziprasidone, risperidone, quetiapine, olanzapine, amisulpride, asenapine, iloperidone, melperone, paliperidone, perospirone, sertindole and sulpride.

16. The combination for use according to claim 13, wherein the additional therapeutic agent is a typical antipsychotic.

17. The combination for use according to claim 13, wherein the additional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of haloperidol, molindone, loxapine, thioridazine, molindone, thiothixene, pimozide, fluphenazine, trifluoperazine, mesoridazine, chlorprothixene, chlorpromazine, perphenazine, triflupromazine and zuclopenthixol.

18. A kit comprising a composition comprising a compound or a salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 6 and an acceptable carrier.

19. A kit comprising a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound or a salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.