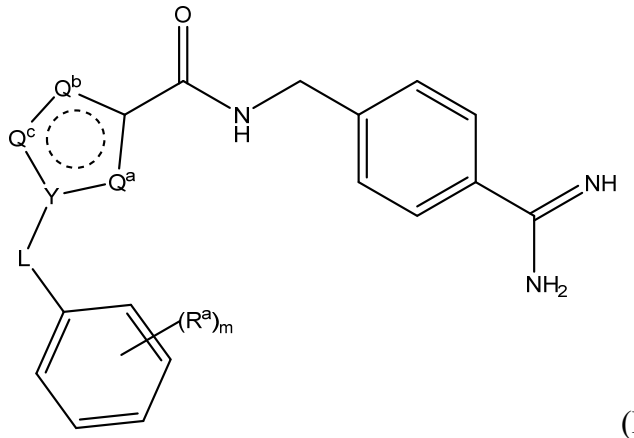
CLAIMS:

1. A process for preparing a compound of Formula I



(Formula I), or a salt thereof,

wherein the subscript m is an integer of from 0 to 3;

each R^a is independently selected from the group consisting of $(C_3$-$C_8)$cycloalkyl, $(C_1$-$C_4)$haloalkyl, halogen, -OH, -OR^1, -SH, -SR^1, -$S(O)R^1$, -$S(O)_2R^1$, -SO_2NH_2, -$C(O)NH_2$, -$C(O)NHR^1$, -$C(O)N(R^1)_2$, -$C(O)R^1$, -C(O)H, -CO_2H, -CO_2R^1, -NO_2, -NH_2, -NHR^1, -$N(R^1)_2$, wherein each R^1 is independently $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl;

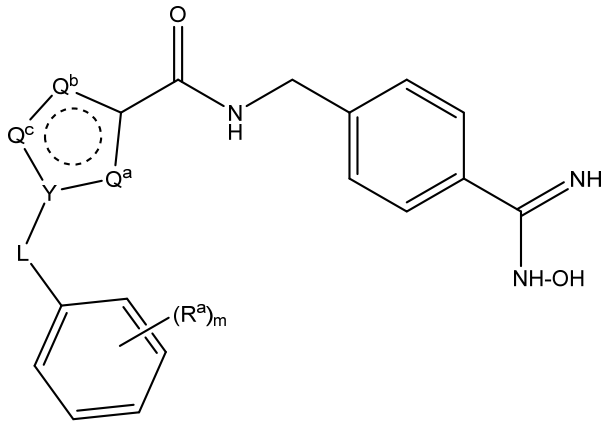
L is a linking group selected from the group consisting of a bond or CH_2;

Q^a, Q^b, and Q^c are each members independently selected from the group consisting of N, S, O and $C(R^q)$ wherein each R^q is independently selected from the group consisting of H, $C_{1\text{-}8}$ alkyl, halo and phenyl, and the ring having Q^a, Q^b, Q^c and Y as ring vertices is a five-membered ring having two double bonds; and

Y is selected from the group consisting of C and N;

the method comprising:

(a) subjecting a compound of Formula II to reducing conditions, to provide the compound of Formula I as a crude product, wherein the compound of Formula II is:



(Formula II).

2. The process of claim **1**, wherein the reducing conditions comprise Raney nickel and H_2.

3. The process of claim **2**, wherein the reducing conditions comprise Raney nickel at about 10 to about 40 mol%, and H_2 at about 2 to about 20 kg/cm^3.

4. The process of claim **3**, wherein the reducing conditions comprise Raney nickel at about 20 mol%, and H_2 at about 10 kg/cm^3.

5. The process of any one of claims **1** to **4**, wherein the reducing conditions further comprise acetic acid as a solvent, and heating at a temperature of about 30°C to about 70°C.

6. The process of any one of claims **2** to **5**, further comprising:

(b) forming a slurry of the crude product in water at a temperature of about 25°C to about 70°C to provide a nickel-depleted product.

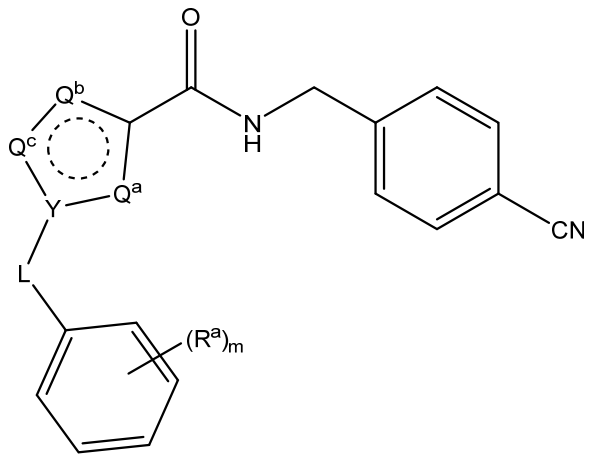
7. The process of claim **6**, further comprising:

(c) heating the nickel-depleted product in a solvent to remove further nickel.

8. The process of claim **7**, wherein the solvent comprises a mixture of ethanol and acetic acid.

9. The process of claim **7**, wherein the solvent comprises a mixture of methanol, dimethyl glyoxime, and methyl-t-butyl ether.

10. The process of any one of claims **1** to **9**, wherein the compound of Formula II is obtained by combining a compound of Formula III with hydroxylamine or a salt thereof under basic conditions, wherein the compound of Formula III is:



(Formula III),

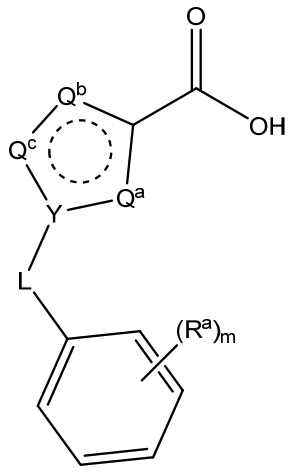
to provide the compound of Formula II.

11. The process of claim **10**, wherein the basic conditions comprise triethylamine and ethanol.

12. The process of claim **11**, wherein the basic conditions further comprise heating at a temperature of about 50°C to about 75°C.

13. The process of any one of claims **10** to **12**, wherein about 3 equivalents of hydroxylamine and triethylamine are used per equivalent of compound of Formula III.

14. The process of any one of claims **10** to **13**, wherein the compound of Formula III is obtained by reacting a compound of Formula IV with 4-(aminomethyl)benzonitrile hydrochloride under aprotic conditions, wherein the compound of Formula IV is:



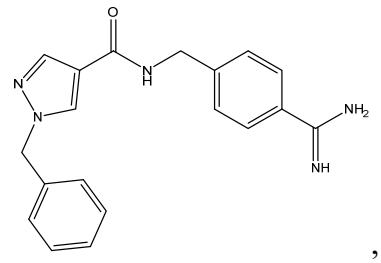
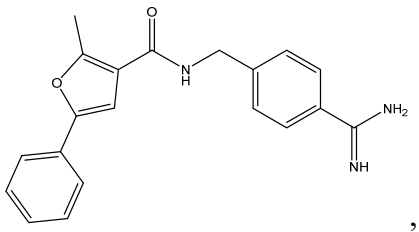
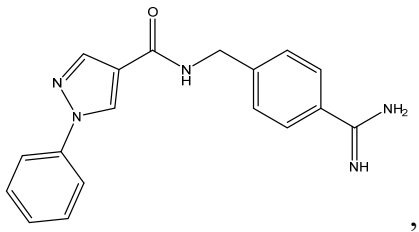
(Formula IV).

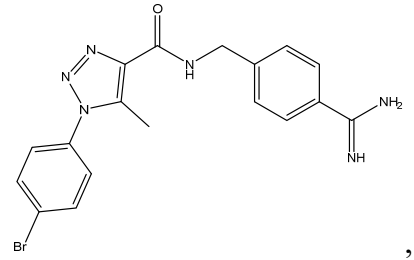
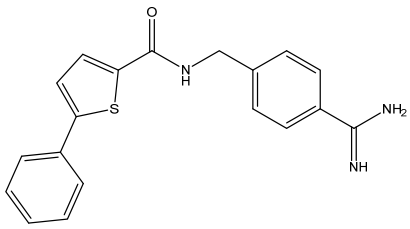
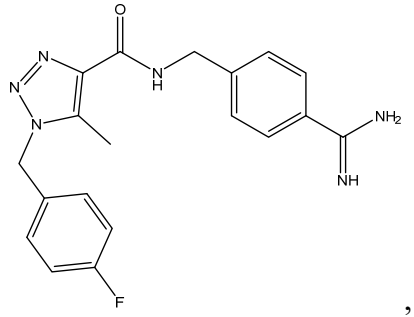
15. The process of claim **14**, wherein the aprotic conditions comprise triethylamine in dichloromethane.

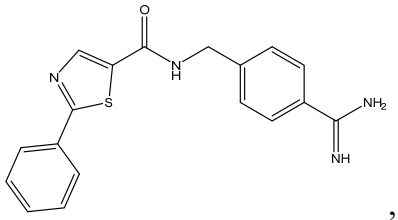
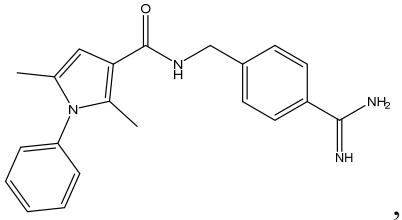
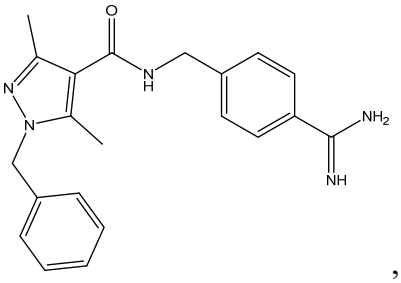
16. The process of claim **14** or **15**, wherein the aprotic conditions further comprise 1-propanephosphonic anhydride in ethyl acetate (T3P®).

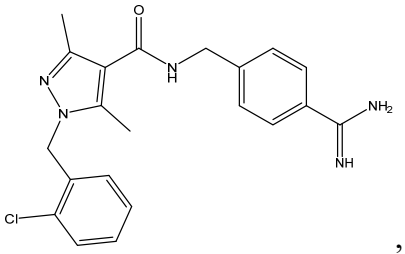
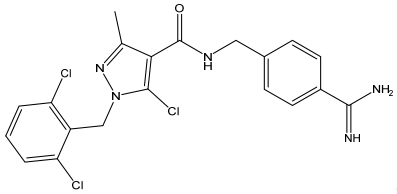
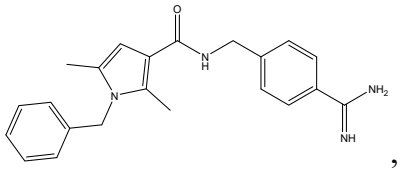
17. The process of and one of claims **14** to **16**, wherein the aprotic conditions comprise incubating the compound of Formula IV with 4-(aminomethyl)benzonitrile hydrochloride and 1-propanephosphonic anhydride at a temperature of about 5°C to about 39°C.

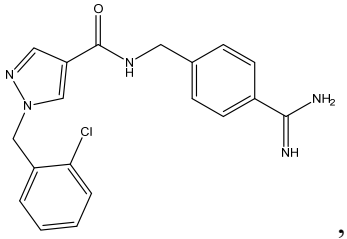
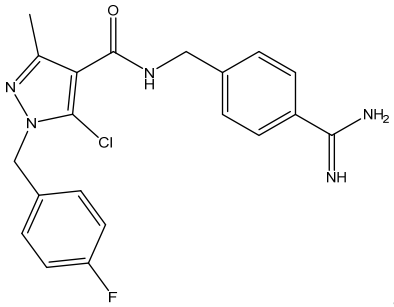
18. The process of claim **1**, wherein the compound of Formula I is selected from the group consisting of:

19. The process of any one of claims **1** to **18**, wherein the compound of Formula I is 1-benzyl-N-(4-carbamimidoylbenzyl)-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxamide or a salt thereof.

20. The process of claim **18**, wherein the compound of Formula I is 1-benzyl-N-(4-carbamimidoylbenzyl)-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxamide acetate.