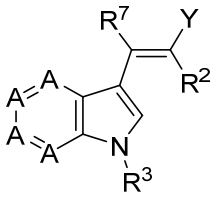
CLAIMS

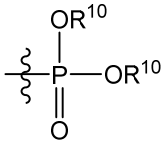
1. A compound of formula I,



(I)

wherein:

each A is independently CH, CR^4, or N;

Y is carboxyl, ester, amide, or  ;

R^2 is CN or carboxyl;

R^3 is aralkyl or aralkylacyl, and is optionally substituted by one or more R^5, wherein each R^5 is independently selected from alkyl, alkoxy, or halo;

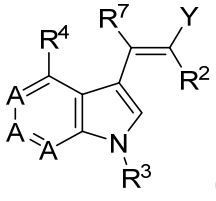
R^7 is hydrogen, alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxy, or acyloxy;

R^{10} is hydrogen or alkyl; and

n is 0-4;

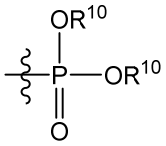
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is a compound of formula III,



(III)

wherein,

Y is carboxyl, ester, amide, or  ;

R^2 is CN or carboxyl;

R^3 is aralkyl or aralkylacyl, and is optionally substituted by one or more R^5, wherein each R^5 is independently selected from alkyl, alkoxy, or halo;

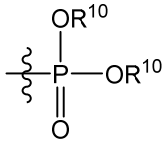
each instance of R^4 is independently alkyl, carboxyl, halo, hydroxy, ester, or CN;

R^7 is hydrogen, alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxy, or acyloxy;

R^{10} is hydrogen or alkyl; and

n is 0-4;

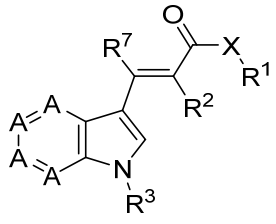
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein Y is  .

4. The compound of claim 3, wherein R^{10} is H or ethyl.

5. The compound of any one of claims 1-4, wherein Y is ester or amide.

6. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is a compound of formula V,



(V)

wherein:

each A is independently CH, CR^4, or N;

X is NR^6 or O;

R^1 is H or lower alkyl; or either R^1 and R^6 or R^1 and R^2, together with the atoms that separate them, complete a heterocycle;

R^2 is CN or carboxyl;

R^3 is aralkyl, or aralkylacyl, and is optionally substituted by one or more R^5, wherein each R^5 is independently selected from alkyl, alkoxy, or halo;

R^6 is from H, alkyl, or cycloalkyl;

R^7 is hydrogen, alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxy, or acyloxy; and

n is 0-4;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. The compound of any one of claims 1-6, wherein at least one A is N.

8. The compound of any one of claims 5-7, wherein X is NH.

9. The compound of any one of claims 5-7, wherein X is O.

10. The compound of claim 6 or 7, wherein R^1 is H.

11. The compound of claim 6 or 7, wherein R^1 is C_1-C_6alkyl.

12. The compound of claim 6 or 7, wherein R^1 and R^6, together with the atoms that separate them, complete a heterocycle (e.g., morpholinyl).

13. The compound of any one of claims 6-8, wherein R^6 is hydrogen.

14. The compound of any one of claims 6-13, wherein R^2 is CN.

15. The compound of any one of claims 6-13, wherein R^2 is carboxyl.

16. The compound of any one of claims 6-8, wherein R^1 and R^2, together with the atoms that separate them, complete a heterocyclyl selected from thiazolidine-2,4-dion-5-ylidene or 2-iminothiazolidin-4-one-5-ylidene.

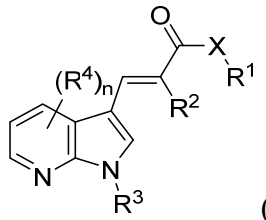
17. The compound of any one of claims 1-16, wherein R^3 is aralkylacyl (e.g., phenylacetyl).

18. The compound of any one of claims 1-16, wherein R^3 is benzyl.

19. The compound of claim 17 or 18, wherein R^3 is substituted by one or two R^5, and wherein each R^5 is independently selected from fluoroalkyl or fluoro.

20. The compound of claim 19, wherein R^3 is substituted by two R^5, and wherein each R^5 is trifluoromethyl.

21. The compound of any one of claims 1-20, wherein the compound is represented by formula Vb:



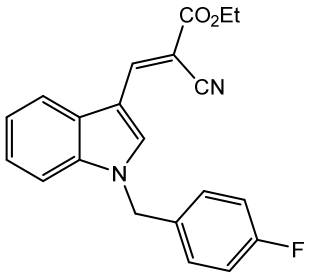
(Vb).

22. The compound of any one of claims 1-21, wherein n is 0 or 1.

23. The compound of claim 21 or 22, wherein R^4 is halo or haloalkyl.

24. The compound of any one of the preceding claims, wherein R^7 is hydrogen, hydroxyl, halo (e.g., chloro), or acyloxy (e.g., acetyloxy).

25. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:



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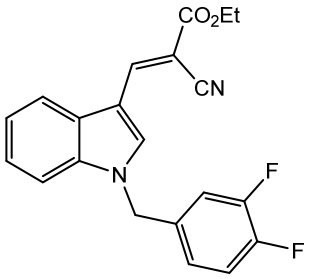

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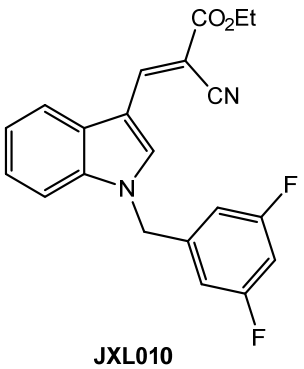

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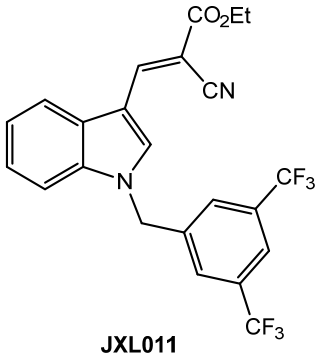

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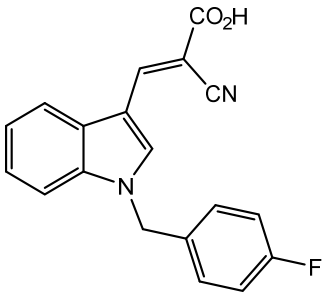

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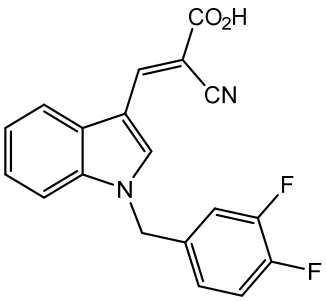

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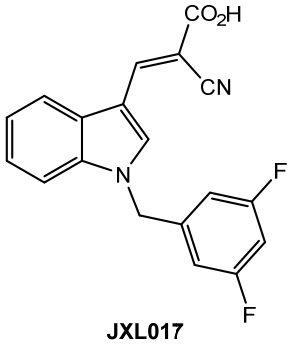

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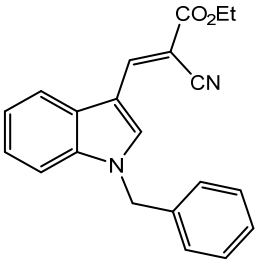

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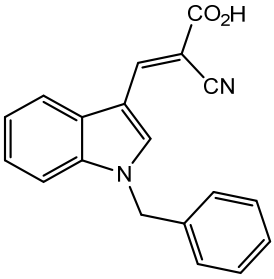

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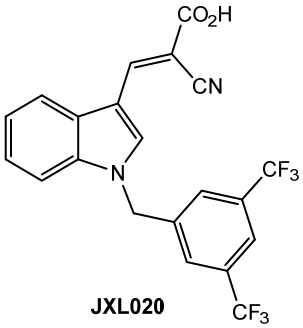

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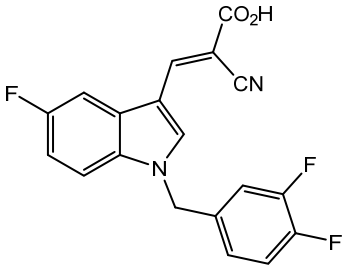

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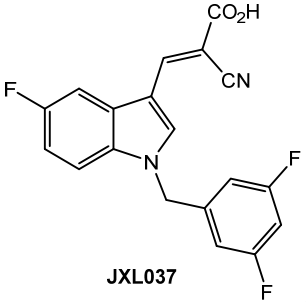

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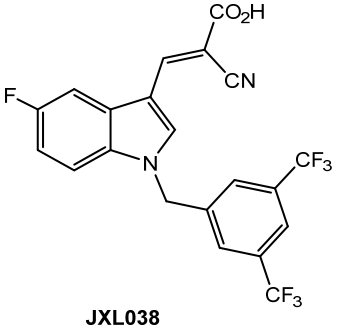

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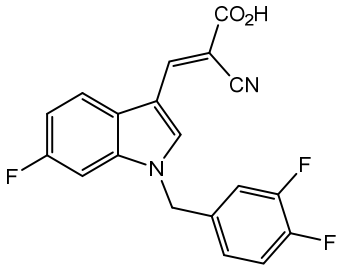

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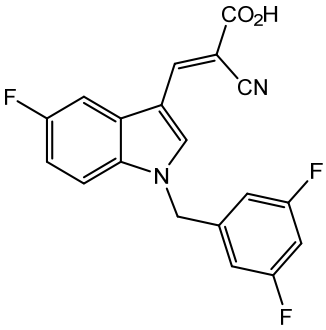

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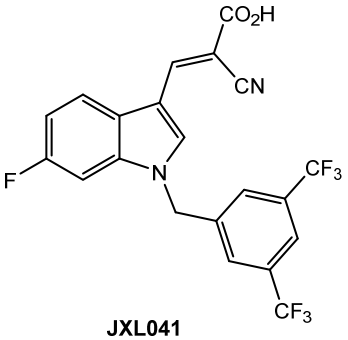

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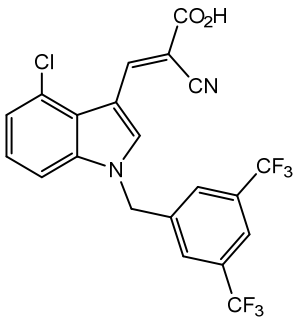

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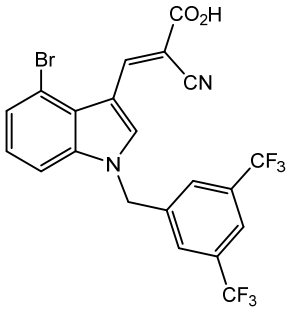

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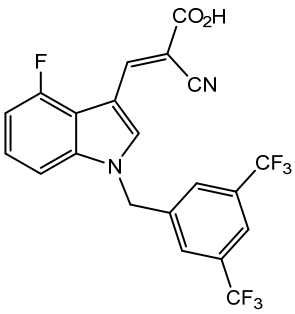

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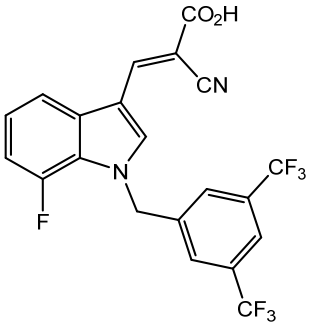

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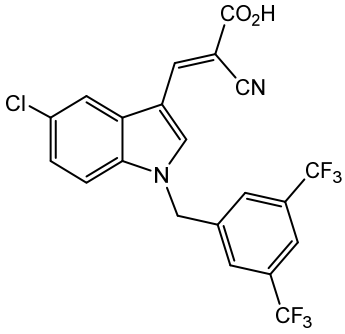

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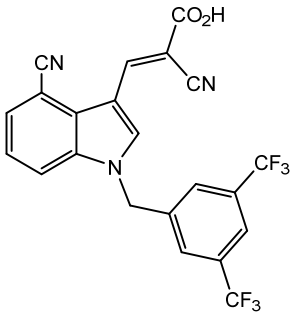

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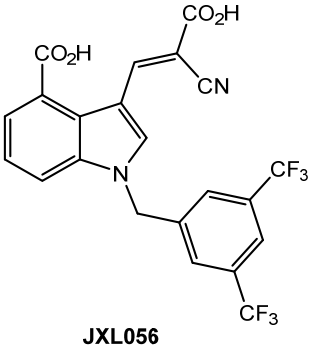

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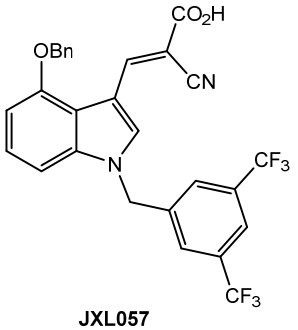

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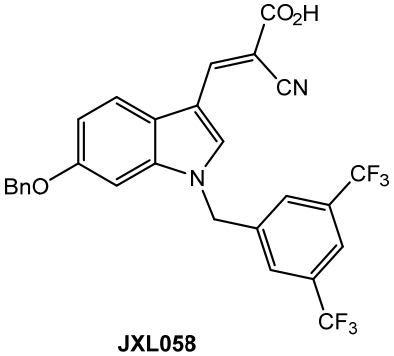

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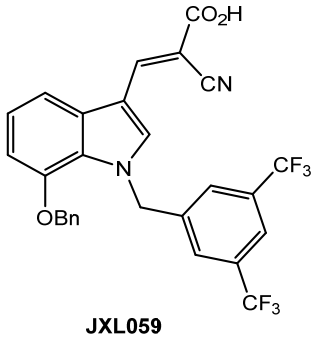

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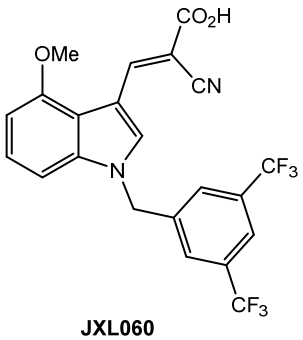

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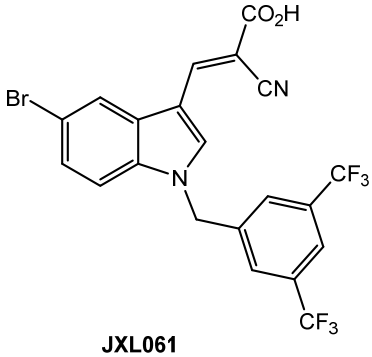

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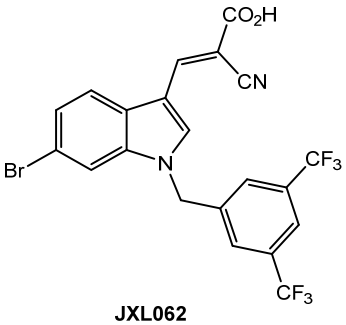

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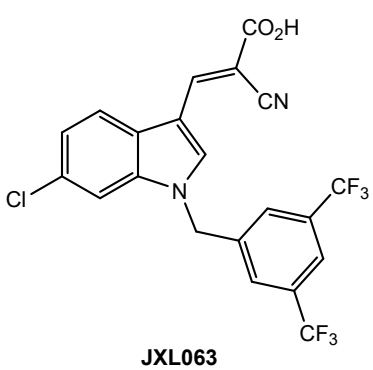

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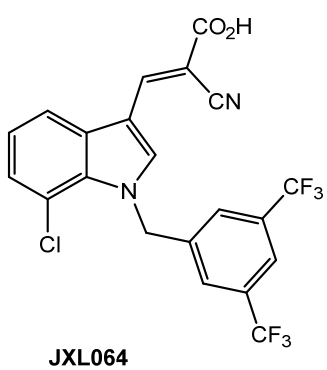

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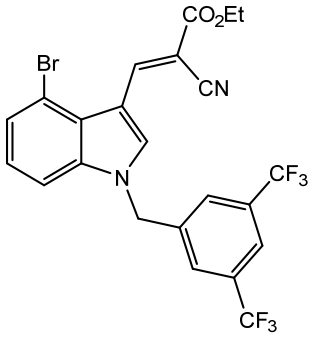

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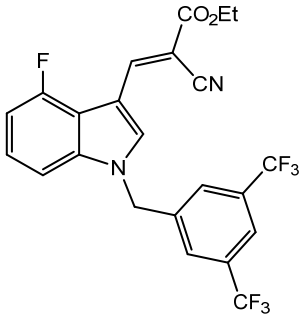

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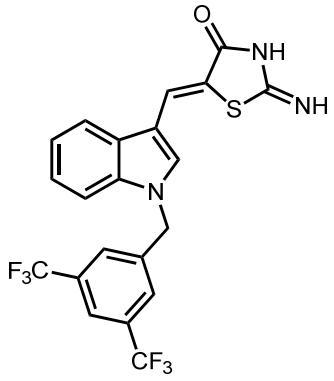

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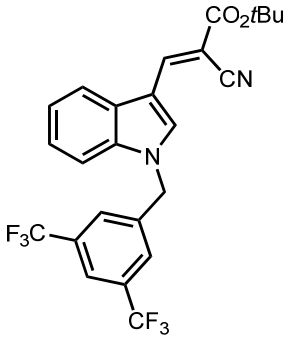

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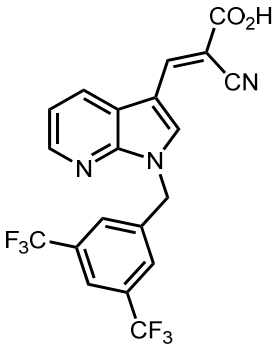

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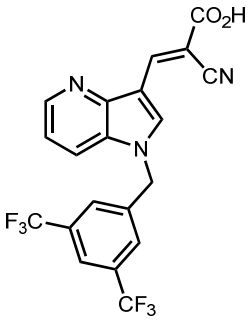

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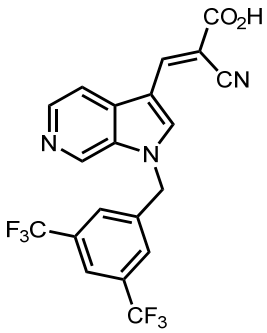

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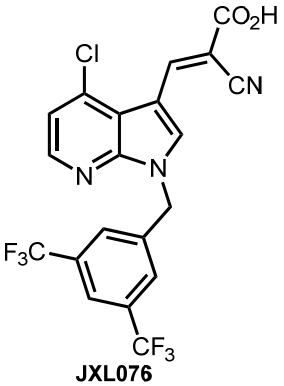

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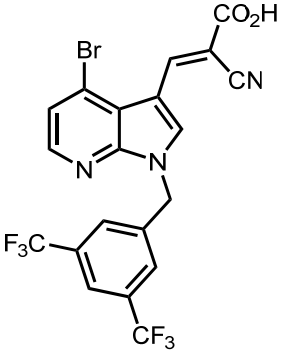

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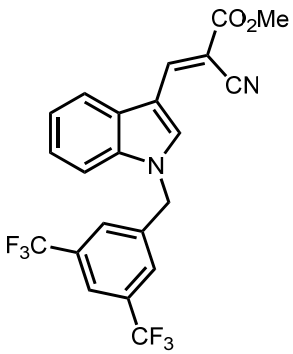

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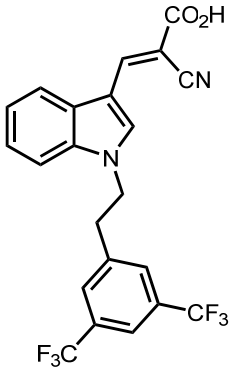

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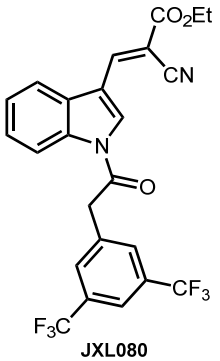

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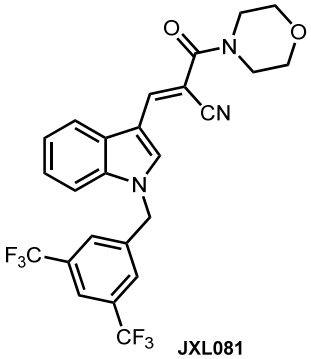

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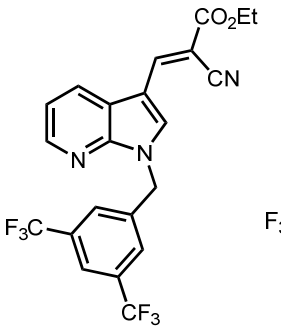
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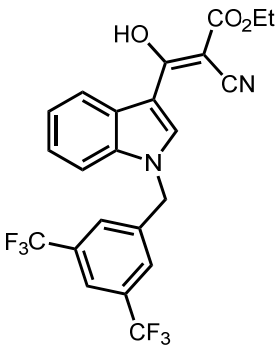
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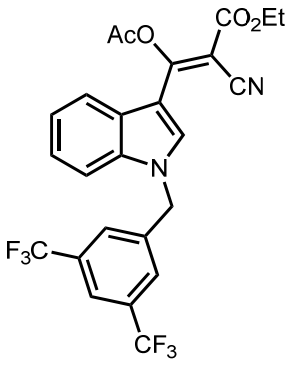
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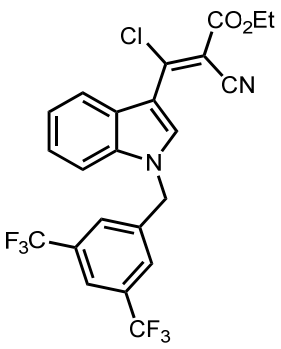
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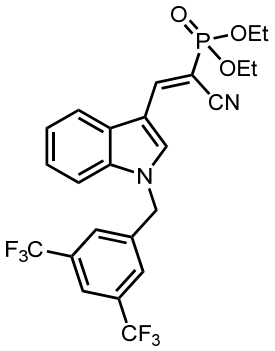
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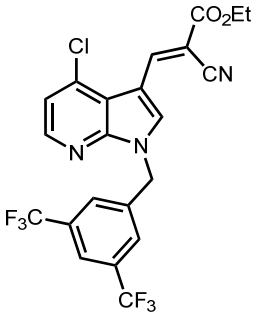
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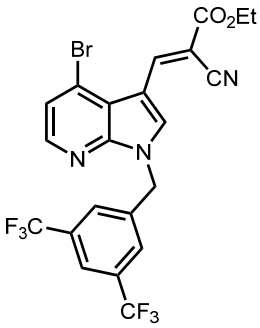
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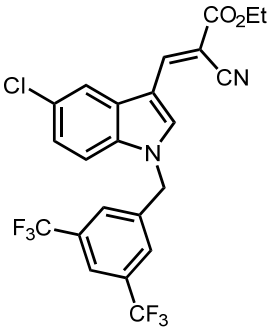
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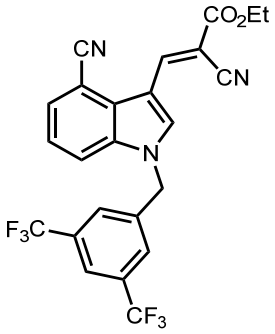
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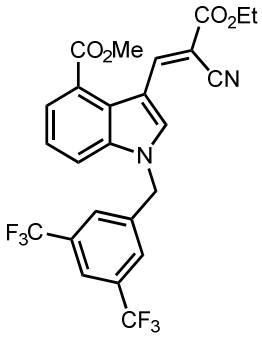
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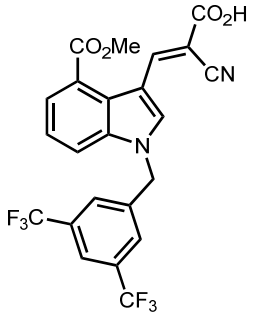
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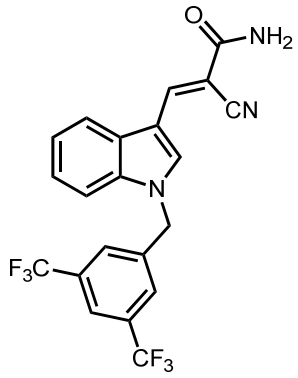
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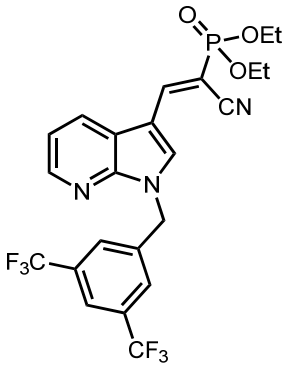
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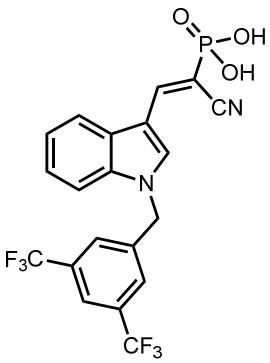
JXL096

, and ; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

26. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of any one of the preceding claims and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

27. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for topical administration.

28. A compound of any one of claims 1-25 for use as a medicament.

29. A compound of any one of claims 1-25 for use in promoting hair growth.

30. A compound of any one of claims 1-25 for use in treating a condition or disorder affecting hair growth.

31. The compound for use of claim 30, wherein the condition or disorder is baldness or alopecia.

32. Use of a compound of any one of claims 1-25 in the preparation of a medicament for treating a condition or disorder affecting hair growth.

33. The use of claim 32, wherein the condition or disorder is baldness or alopecia.