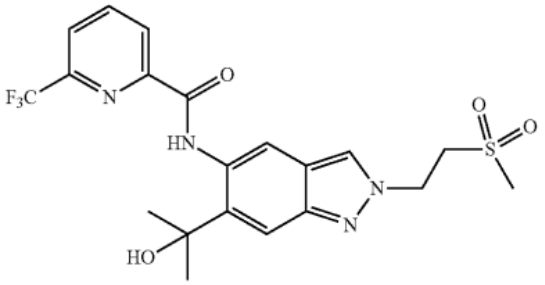
CLAIMS

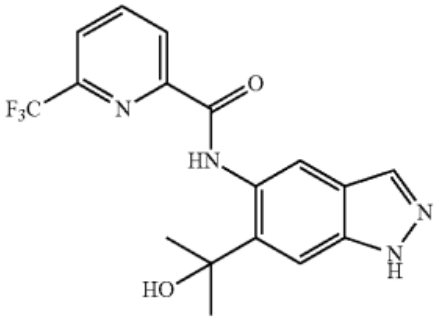
1. A method of preparing a compound of formula (I):



(I)

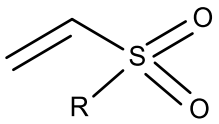
comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (V):



(V)

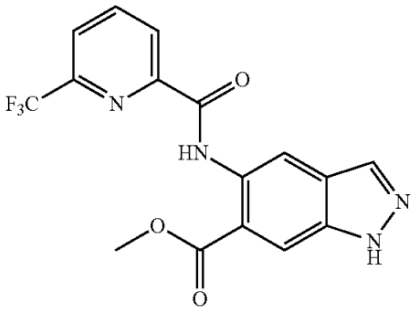
with a vinyl sulfone compound of formula (IX'):



(IX')

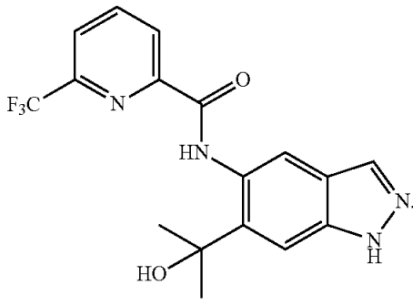
wherein R is methyl, to provide the compound of formula (I).

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (V) is reacted with the compound of formula (IX') in an aromatic hydrocarbon solvent.
3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising reacting a compound of formula (VI):



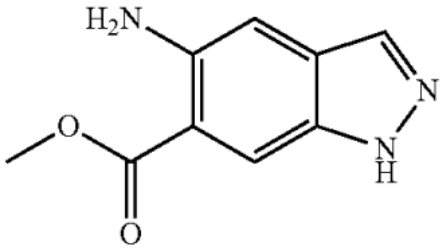
(VI)

with a reductive methylating agent, to provide the compound of formula (V):



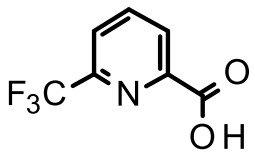
(V).

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising reacting a compound of formula (VIII):



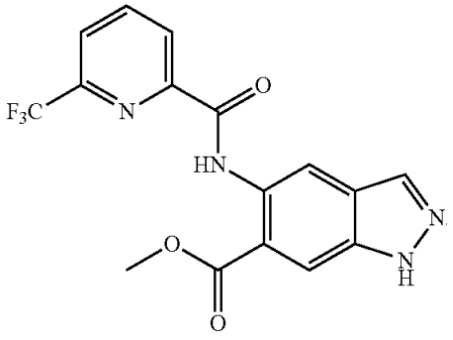
(VIII)

with a compound of formula (VII):



(VII)

to provide the compound of formula (VI):



(VI).

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the compound of formula (V) and the compound of formula (IX') are reacted in an aromatic hydrocarbon solvent, and wherein the reductive methylating agent is methylmagnesium chloride.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon solvent is toluene; and wherein the compound of formula (VI) is reacted with the reductive methylating agent in the presence of an alkali metal halide wherein the reductive methylating agent is methyl magnesium chloride and the alkali metal halide is lithium chloride.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound of formula (I) is purified by crystallization.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the compound of formula (I) is purified by crystallization from a solvent, and wherein said solvent is ethanol.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the compound of formula (I) is purified by crystallization from a solvent, and wherein said solvent is isopropanol.

10. The method according to claim 1, comprising reacting the compound of formula (V) with the compound of formula (IX') in an aromatic hydrocarbon solvent at the reflux temperature of said solvent.

11. The method according to claim 3, wherein the reductive methylating agent is a methylmetallic agent.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the methylmetallic agent is a methylmagnesium halide.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the methylmagnesium halide is methylmagnesium chloride.

14. The method according to claim 3, comprising reacting the compound of formula (VI) with the reductive methylating agent in the presence of an alkali metal halide.

15. The method of claim 4, comprising reacting the compound of formula (VIII) with the compound of formula (VII) in the presence of an organic base.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the organic base is a weak organic base.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the weak organic base is a tertiary amine.

18. The method according to claim 4, comprising reacting the compound of formula (VIII) with the compound of formula (VII) in the presence of a coupling agent.

19. The method of claim 2, wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon solvent is toluene.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the alkali metal halide is lithium chloride.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein the tertiary amine is N,N-diisopropylethylamine.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein the coupling agent is 2,4,6-tripropyl-1,3,5,2,4,6-trioxatriphosphinane 2,4,6-trioxide (T3P).