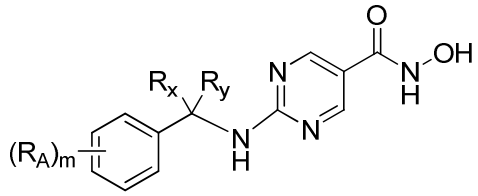
CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula VI:



(VI);

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or ester~~ thereof,

wherein,

R_x and R_y together with the carbon to which each is attached, forms a cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, cyclooctyl, tetrahydropyran, piperidine, piperazine, morpholine, tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydrothiophene, pyrrolidine, oxozolidine, or imidazolidine;

each R_A is independently alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halo, OH, $-NO_2$, -CN, or $-NH_2$; and

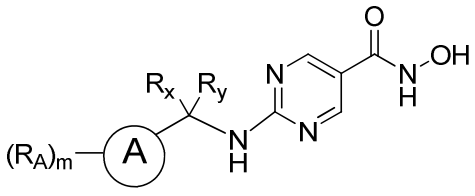
m is 0, 1, or 2.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_x and R_y together with the carbon to which each is attached, forms a cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or tetrahydropyran.

3. The compound of claim 1, wherein m is 1 or 2, and each R_A is independently methyl, phenyl, F, Cl, methoxy, OCF_3, or CF_3.

4. The compound of claim 1, wherein m is 0.

5. A compound of formula VIII:



(VIII);

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or ester~~ thereof,

wherein,

ring A is benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl, furanyl, imidazolinyl, imidazolyl, isoquinolinyl, morpholinyl, oxazolidinyl, pyrimidinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, pyridinyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolinyl, 2*H*-pyrrolyl, pyrrolyl, quinazolinyl, quinolinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, tetrahydroquinolinyl, thiophenyl, or triazinyl;

R_x and R_y together with the carbon to which each is attached, forms a cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, cyclooctyl, tetrahydropyran, piperidine, piperazine, morpholine, tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydrothiophene, pyrrolidine, oxozolidine, or imidazolidine;

each R_A is independently alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halo, OH, $-NO_2$, -CN, or $-NH_2$; and

m is 0, 1, or 2.

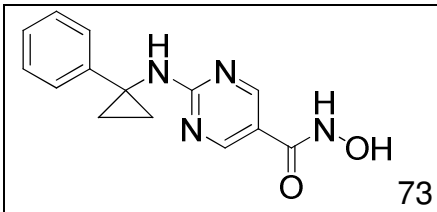
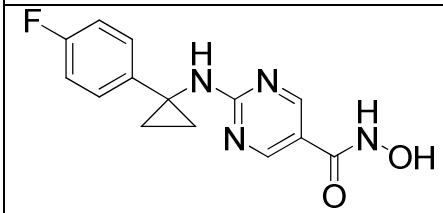
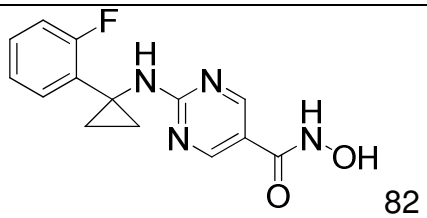
6. The compound of claim 5, wherein ring A is benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl, furanyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, or thiophenyl.

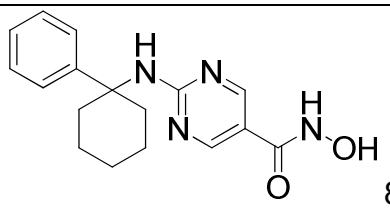
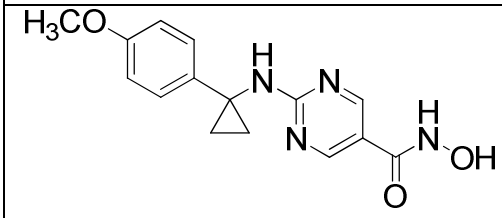
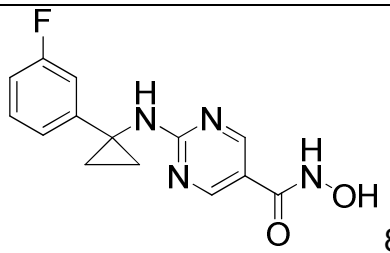
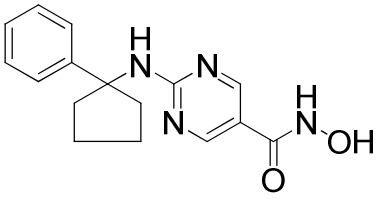
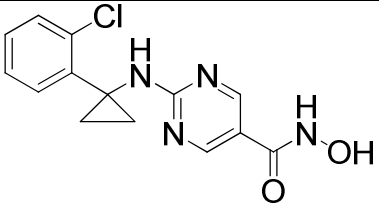
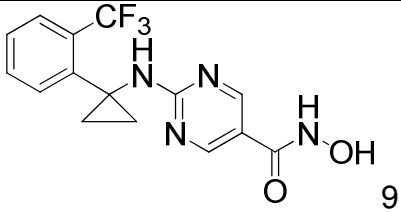
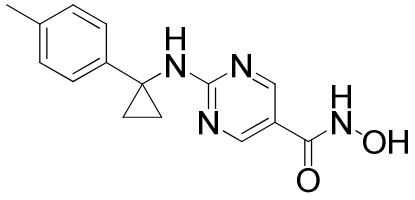
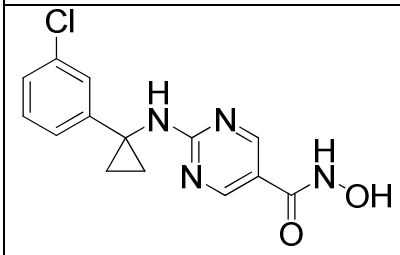
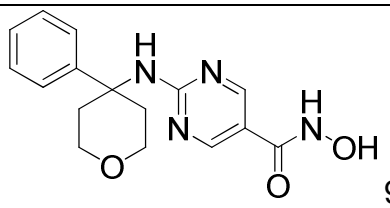
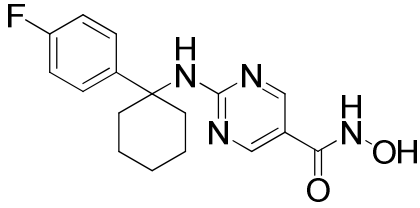
7. The compound of claim 5, wherein R_x and R_y together with the carbon to which each is attached, forms a cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or tetrahydropyran.

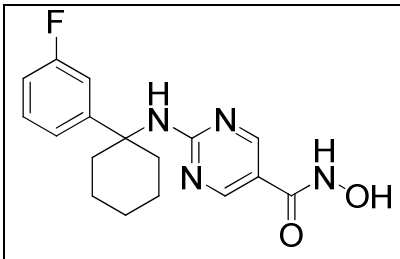
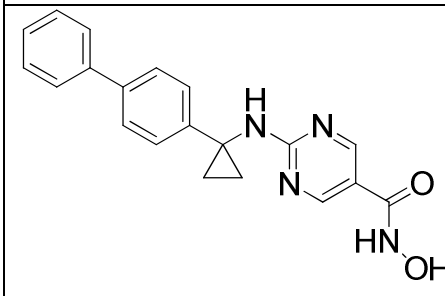
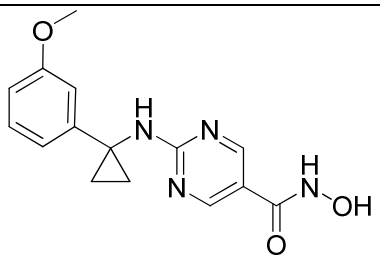
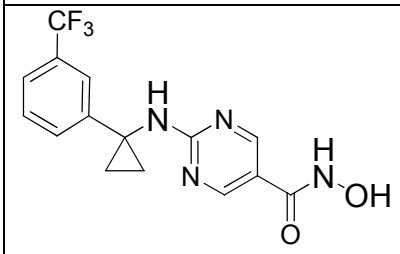
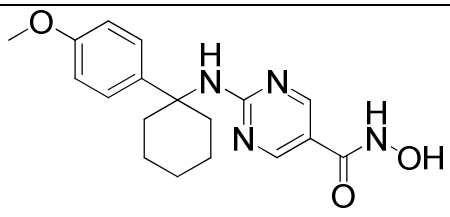
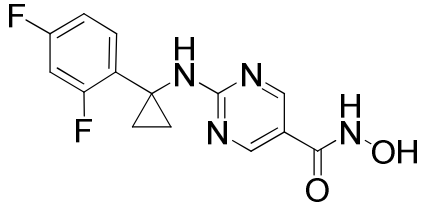
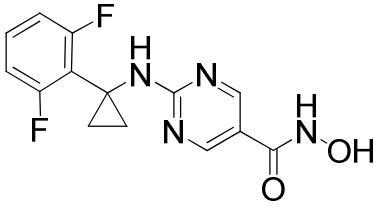
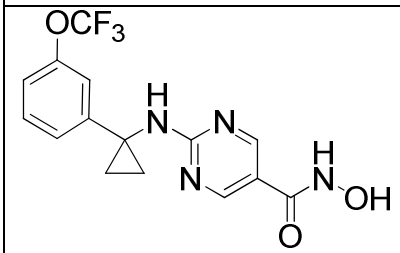
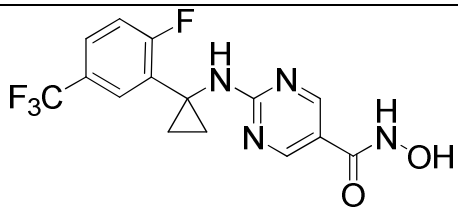
8. The compound of claim 5, wherein m is 1, and R_A is F, Cl, methoxyl, or CF_3.

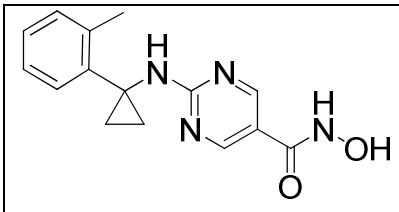
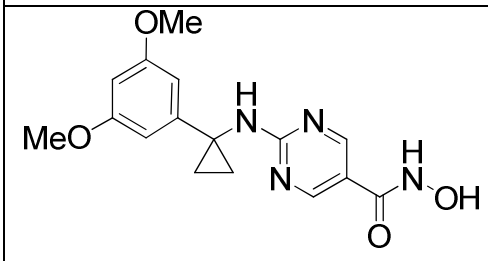
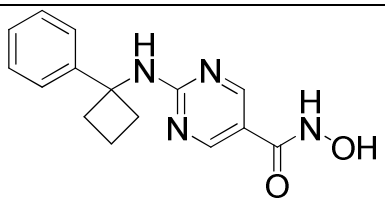
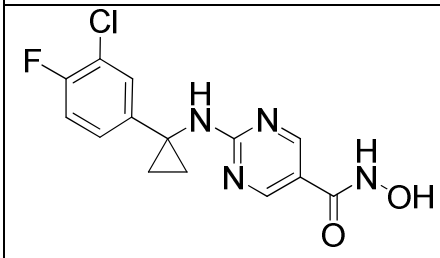
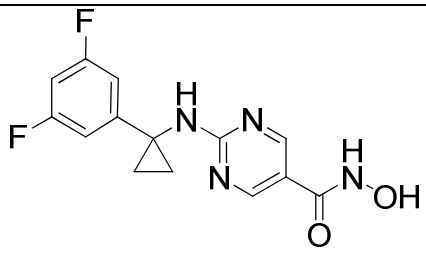
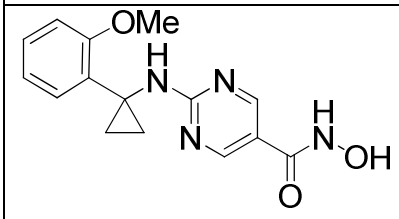
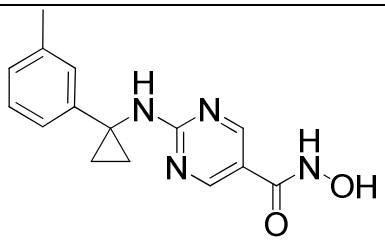
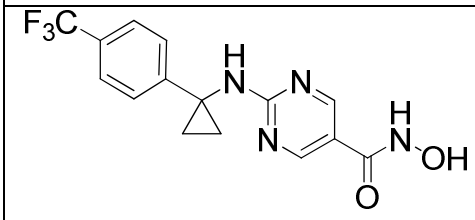
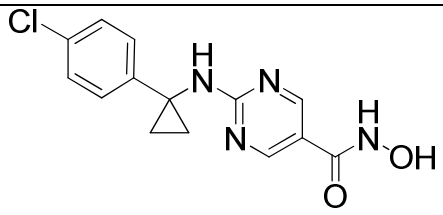
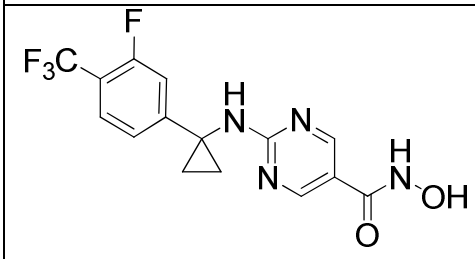
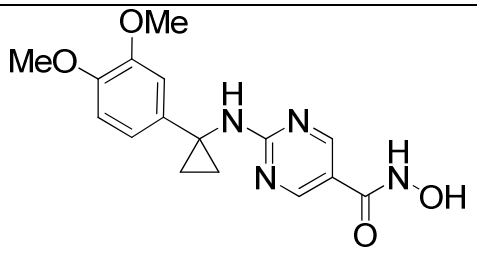
9. The compound of claim 5, wherein m is 0.

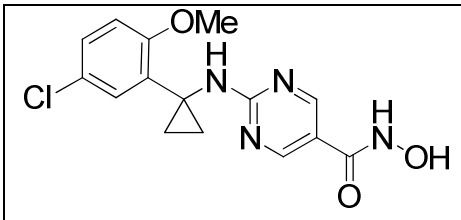
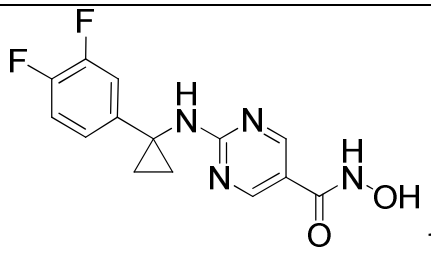
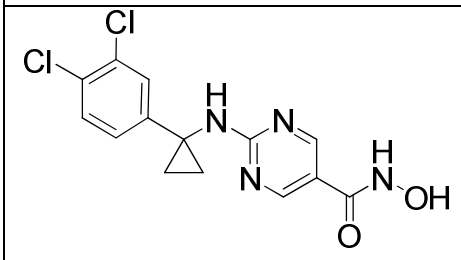
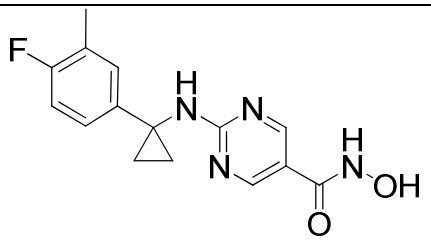
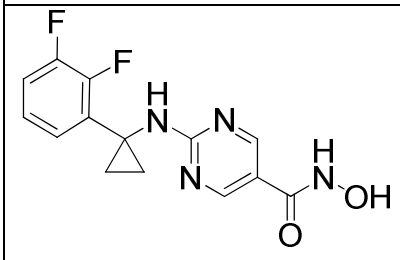
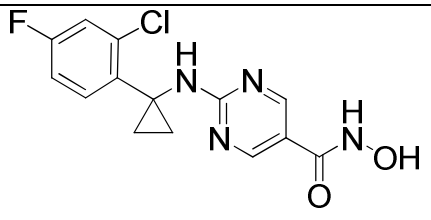
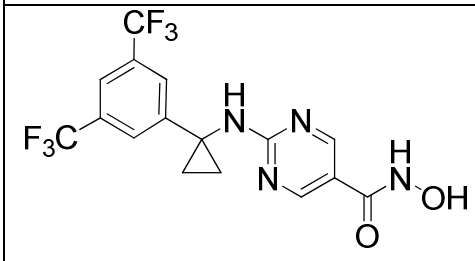
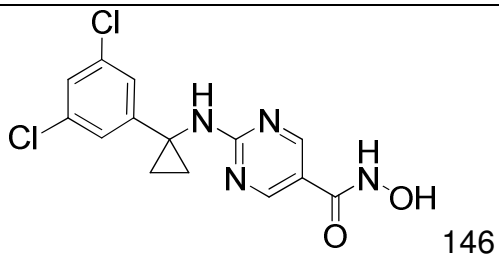
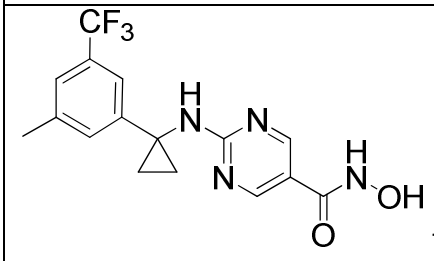
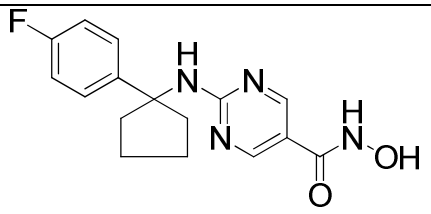
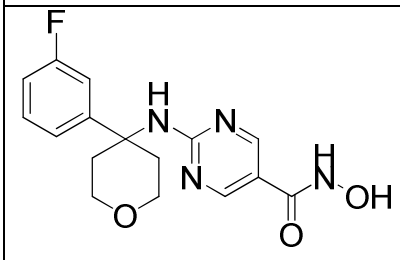
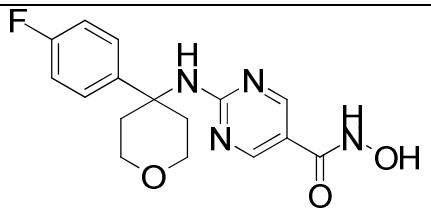
10. The compound of claim 1, selected from the following:

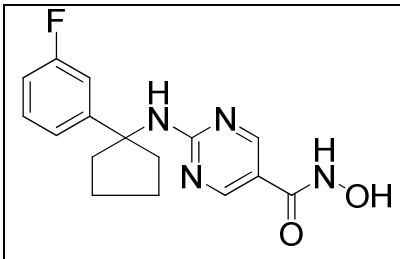
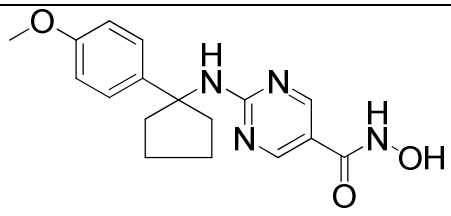
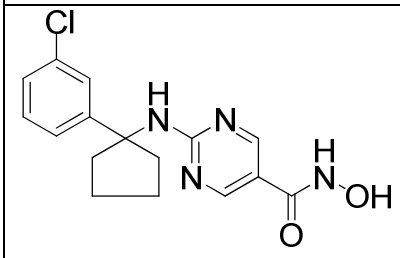
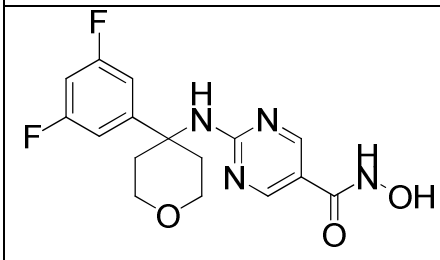
 73	
 81	 82

	 84
 97	 87
 88	
 90	 91
	 93
 94	 95
	 100

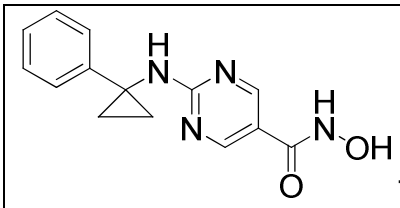
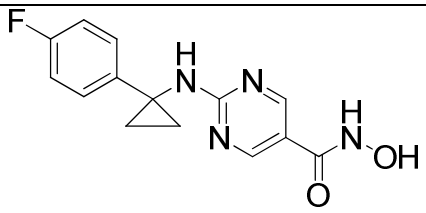
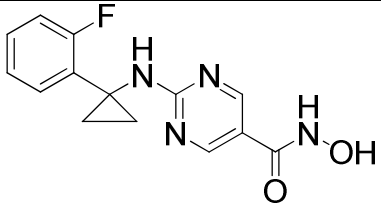
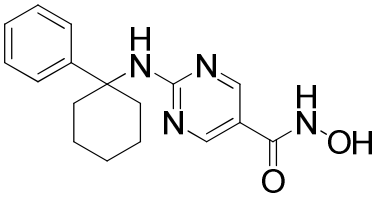
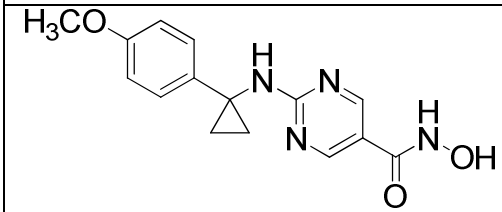
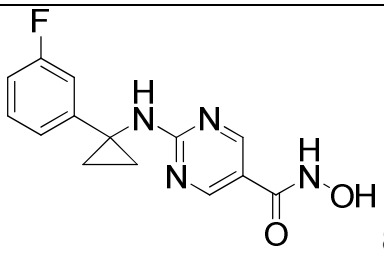
 101	
 117	
	 120
 121	 122
 123	 124
 125	 126

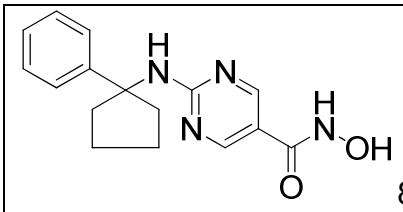
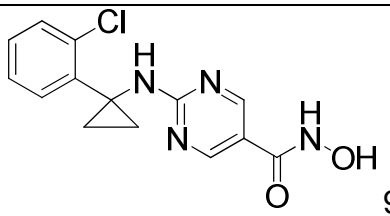
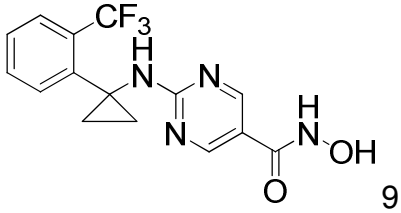
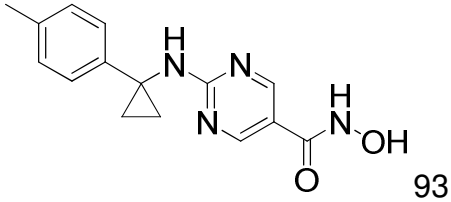
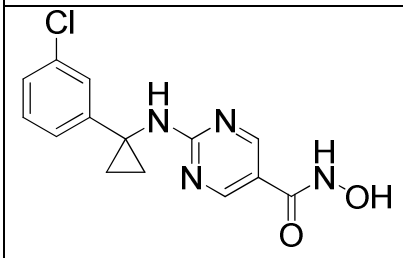
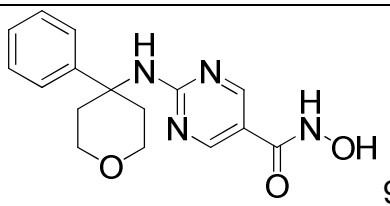
 127	
 129	 130
 131	 132
 133	 134
 135	 136
 137	 138

 139	 140
 141	 142
 143	 144
 145	 146
 147	 148
 149	 150

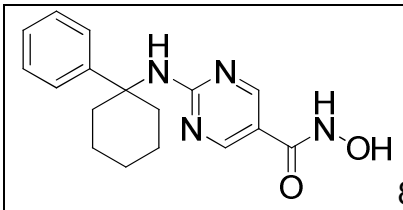
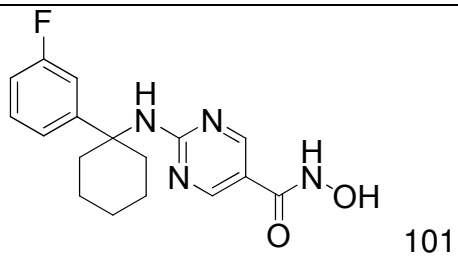
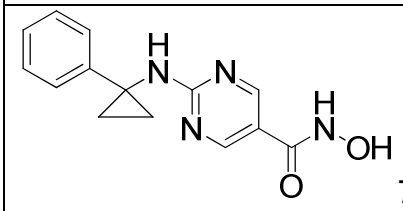
 151	 152
 153	
 155	

11. The compound of claim 10, selected from the following:

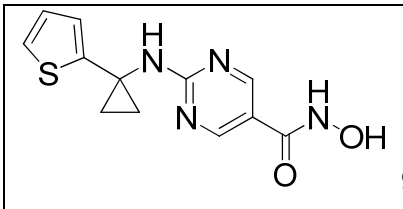
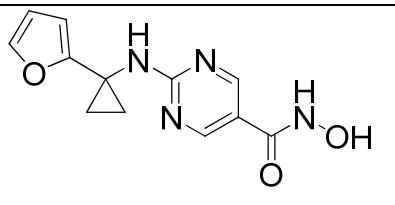
 73	 81
 82	 84
 97	 87

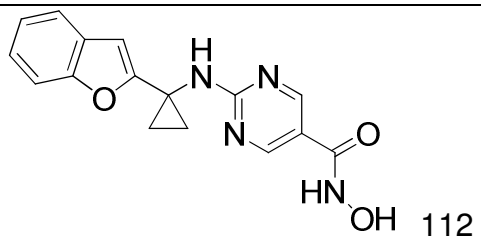
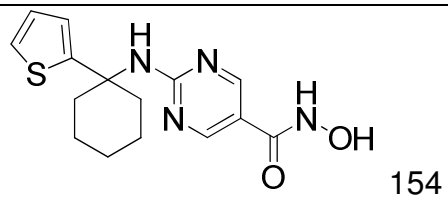
 88	 90
 91	 93
 94	 95

12. The compound of claim 10, selected from the following:

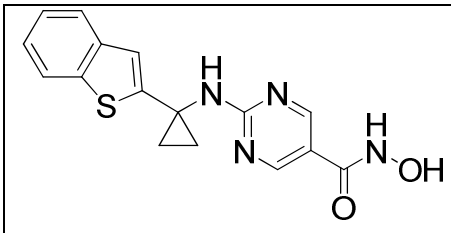
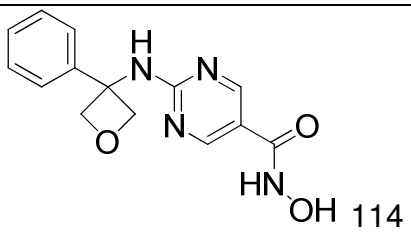
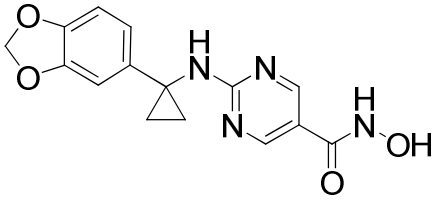
 84	 101
 73	

13. The compound of claim 5, selected from the following:

 98	 99

 112	 154

14. A compound selected from the following:

 102	 114
 128	

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of any one of claims 1-14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~ester or~~ salt ~~prodrug~~ thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. Use of a compound of any one of claims 1-14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~ester or~~ salt thereof, in the preparation of a medicament for selectively inhibiting HDAC6 over other HDACs in a subject.

17. The use of claim 16, wherein the compound of any one of claims 1-14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~ester or~~ salt thereof has a selectivity for HDAC6 of 5 to 1000 fold over HDAC1, HDAC2, and/or HDAC3.

18. The use of claim 17, wherein the compound of any one of claims 1-14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~ester or~~ salt thereof has a selectivity for HDAC6 when tested in a HDAC enzyme assay of about 5 to 1000 fold over HDAC1, HDAC2, and/or HDAC3.

19. The use of claim 17 or 18, wherein the compound has a selectivity for HDAC6 of 15 to 40 fold over HDAC1, HDAC2, and/or HDAC3.

20. A compound of any one of claims 1-14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~ester or~~ salt thereof, for use in medicine.

21. A compound of any one of claims 1-14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~ester or~~ salt thereof, for use in the preparation of a medicament to treat a disease.

22. The ~~use~~ compound of claim 21, wherein the disease is cancer or a proliferation disease.

23. The use of claim 22, wherein the disease is lung cancer, colon cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, liver cancer, brain cancer, kidney cancer, ovarian cancer, stomach cancer, skin cancer, bone cancer, gastric cancer, pancreatic cancer, glioma, gliobastoma, hepatocellular carcinoma, papillary renal carcinoma, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, leukemias, lymphomas, myelomas, and solid tumors.

24. The use of claim 23, wherein the cancer is multiple myeloma.

25. The use of claim 21, wherein the disease is Wilson's disease, spinocerebellar ataxia, prion disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, amytrophic lateral sclerosis, amyloidosis, Alzheimer's disease, Alexander's disease, alcoholic liver disease, cystic fibrosis, Pick's Disease, spinal muscular dystrophy or Lewy body dementia.

26. The use of claim 21, wherein the disease is rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis; rheumatoid spondylitis; psoriasis; post ischemic perfusion injury; inflammatory bowel disease; chronic inflammatory pulmonary disease, eczema, asthma, psoriasis, ischemia/reperfusion injury, ulcerative colitis, acute respiratory distress syndrome, psoriatic arthritis, infectious arthritis, progressive chronic arthritis, deforming arthritis, osteoarthritis, traumatic arthritis, gouty arthritis, Reiter's syndrome, polychondritis, acute synovitis and spondylitis, glomerulonephritis, hemolytic anemia, aplasic anemia, idiopathic thrombocytopenia, neutropenia, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, host versus graft disease,

graft versus host disease, allograft rejection, chronic thyroiditis, Graves' disease, schleroderma, diabetes, active hepatitis, primary binary cirrhosis, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis (MS), systemic lupus erythematosus, atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, skin sunburns, chronic renal insufficiency, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, idiopathic sprue, sarcoidosis, Guillain-Barre syndrome, uveitis, conjunctivitis, keratoconjunctivitis, otitis media, periodontal disease, pulmonary interstitial fibrosis, asthma, bronchitis, rhinitis, sinusitis, pneumoconiosis, pulmonary insufficiency syndrome, pulmonary emphysema, pulmonary fibrosis, or silicosis.

27. A compound of any one of claims 1-14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~ester or~~ salt thereof, for use in the preparation of a medicament to treat a subject suffering from or susceptible to multiple myeloma.

28. The use of claim 27, wherein the use further comprises co-administering one or more of a chemotherapeutic agent, radiation agent, hormonal agent, biological agent or an anti-inflammatory agent to the subject.

29. The use of claim 28, wherein the chemotherapeutic agent is tamoxifen, trastuzamab, raloxifene, doxorubicin, fluorouracil/5-fu, pamidronate disodium, anastrozole, exemestane, cyclophosphamide, epirubicin, letrozole, toremifene, fulvestrant, fluoxymesterone, trastuzumab, methotrexate, megastrol acetate, docetaxel, paclitaxel, testolactone, aziridine, vinblastine, capecitabine, goselerin acetate, zoledronic acid, taxol, vinblastine, or vincristine.