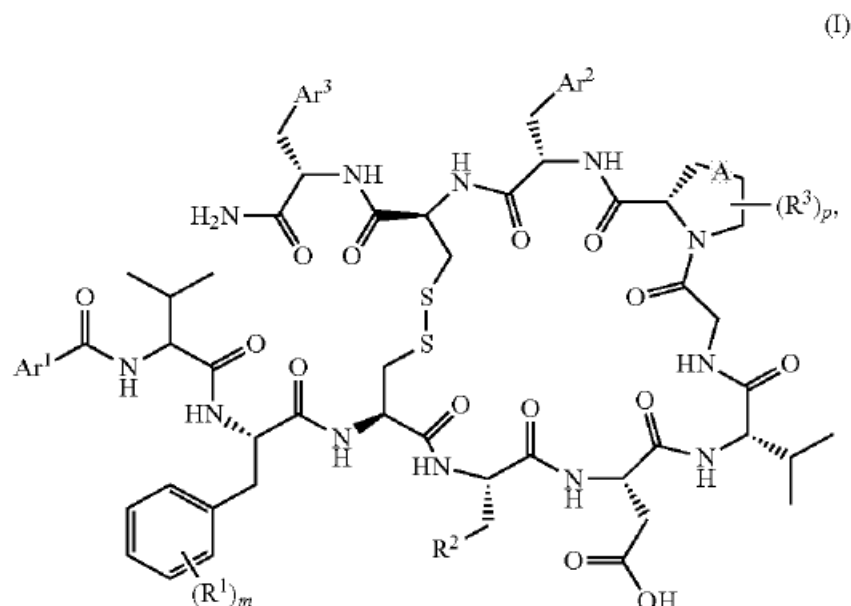


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein

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

p is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

A is single or double carbon-carbon bond;

Ar¹ is aryl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents, each substituent independently being halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ hydroxyalkyl, OR_a, or N(R_aR_a), in which each R_a, independently, is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl and each R_a>, independently, is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

Ar² is aryl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents, each substituent independently being halogen, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ aminoalkyl, C₁-C₄ hydroxyalkyl, OR_b, N(R_bR_b), C(O)—N(R_bR_b), or NH—C(O)—N(R_bR_b), in which each R_b, independently, is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl and each R_b>, independently, is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

Ar³ is aryl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents, each substituent independently being halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ hydroxyalkyl, OR_c, or N(R_cR_c), in which each R_c, independently, is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl and each R_c>, independently, is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

each independently, is C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ aminoalkyl, C₁-C₄ hydroxyalkyl, OR_d, or C(O)—N(R_dR_d'), in which each R_d, independently, is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl and each R_d', independently, is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R² is —(CH₂)_n—R, in which n is 0, 1, 2, or 3 and R is substituted or unsubstituted guanidino, aminoacyl, C₁-C₄ alkylaminoacyl, OR_e, N(R_eR_e'), NH—C(O)—CH(NH₂)—(CH₂)₄—N(R_eR_e'), NH—C(O)—CH₂—(OCH₂CH₂)₂—N(R_eR_e'), or 5-membered heterocycloalkyl optionally substituted with C₁-C₄ alkyl or N(R_eR_e'), in which each R_e, independently, is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl and each R_e', independently, is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl; and

each R³, independently, is halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, or OR_f, in which each R_f, independently, is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

with the provisos that, when n is 0, R is not amino or guanidino and that, when the amino acid residue bonded to Ar¹C(O) is L-Val, Ar¹ is not unsubstituted phenyl.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein Ar¹ is phenyl, pyridinyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrrolyl, or triazolyl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents, each substituent independently being F, Cl, NO₂, CH₃, CH₂OH, or NH₂.

3. The compound of claim 1, wherein Ar^e is phenyl or pyridinyl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents, each substituent independently being CH₂NH₂, C(O)NH₂, OH, CN, CH₂OH, NH₂, or NH—C(O)—NH₂.

4. The compound of claim 1, wherein Ar^a is pyridinyl.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein m is 1.

6. The compound of claim 5, wherein R¹ is OH, C(O)NH₂, or CH₂NH₂.

7. The compound of claim 1, wherein n is 0, 1, or 2.

8. The compound of claim 1, wherein R is N(R_eR_e'), NH—C(O)—CH(NH₂)—(CH₂)₄—N(R_eR_e'), NH—C(O)—CH₂—(OCH₂CH₂)₂—N(R_eR_e'), triazolyl optionally substituted with NH₂, or guanidino optionally substituted with CN or CH₃, in which each R_e, independently, is H or C₁-C₃ alkyl and each R_e', independently, is H or C₁-C₃ alkyl.

9. The compound of claim 1, wherein R is NH₂, N(CH₃)₂, N(CH₂CH₃)₂, NH(CH(CH₃)₂), NH—C(O)—CH(NH₂)—(CH₂)₄—N(CH₃)₂, NH—C(O)—CH₂—(OCH₂CH₂)₂—NH₂, NH—C(O)—CH₂—(OCH₂CH₂)₂—NH(CH(CH₃)₂), 3-amino-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl, or guanidino optionally substituted with CN or CH₃.

10. The compound of claim 1, wherein p is 0.
11. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is Oxazole-2-carbonyl-D-Val-Phe(2-Cbm)-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Pro-Phe-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂.
12. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is Picolinoyl-D-Val-Tyr-c(Cys-Dab(Et₂)-Asp-Val-Gly-Pro-Phe-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Picolinoyl-D-Val-Tyr-c(Cys-Dab(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Pro-Phe-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Picolinoyl(5-F)-D-Val-Tyr-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Pro-Phe-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Picolinoyl-D-Val-Tyr-c(Cys-Orn(Et₂)-Asp-Val-Gly-Pro-Phe-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Picolinoyl-D-Val-Tyr-c(Cys-Orn-Asp-Val-Gly-Pro-Phe(4-CH₂OH)-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Picolinoyl(3,5-F₂)-D-Val-Tyr-c(Cys-Arg-Asp-Val-Gly-Pro-Phe-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Picolinoyl(5-F)-D-Val-Phe(2-Cbm)-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Dhp-3Pal-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Picolinoyl(5-F)-D-Val-Phe(2-Cbm)-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Pro-3Pal-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Oxazole-2-carbonyl-D-Val-Phe(2-Cbm)-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Pro-3Pal-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Oxazole-2-carbonyl-D-Val-Phe(2-Cbm)-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Dhp-Phe(3-CH₂NH₂)-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
1H-1,2,4-triazole-5-carbonyl(3-Me)-D-Val-Tyr-c(Cys-Arg-Asp-Val-Gly-Pro-Phe(2-CH₂NH₂)-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Oxazole-2-carbonyl-D-Val-Phe(2-Cbm)-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Dhp-4Aph-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Oxazole-2-carbonyl-D-Val-Phe(2-Cbm)-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Dhp-4Uph-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Picolinoyl(5-F)-D-Val-Tyr-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Pro-Phe(4-CH₂OH)-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Picolinoyl(3,5-F₂)-D-Val-Tyr-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Pro-Phe-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Picolinoyl(5-F)-D-Val-Phe(2-Cbm)-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Dhp-Phe(4-CH₂OH)-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Oxazole-2-carbonyl-D-Val-Phe(2-Cbm)-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Pro-Phe(4-CH₂OH)-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Oxazole-2-carbonyl-D-Val-Phe(2-Cbm)-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Dhp-Phe(3-Cbm)-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Picolinoyl(5-F)-D-Val-Phe(2-Cbm)-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Dhp-Phe(2-Cbm)-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Oxazole-2-carbonyl-D-Val-Tyr-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Dhp-Phe(3-Cbm)-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂;
Picolinoyl(5-F)-D-Val-Tyr-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Dhp-Phe(3-Cbm)-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂; or
Picolinoyl-D-Val-Tyr-c(Cys-Orn(iPr)-Asp-Val-Gly-Dhp-Phe(4-CH₂OH)-Cys)-3Pal-NH₂.

13. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the compound of claim **1** and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. The pharmaceutical composition of claim **13**, wherein the composition comprises an aqueous solution.

15. The pharmaceutical composition of claim **14**, wherein the composition comprises a sodium chloride aqueous solution.

16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim **15**, wherein the aqueous solution comprises about 0.9 wt % of sodium chloride.