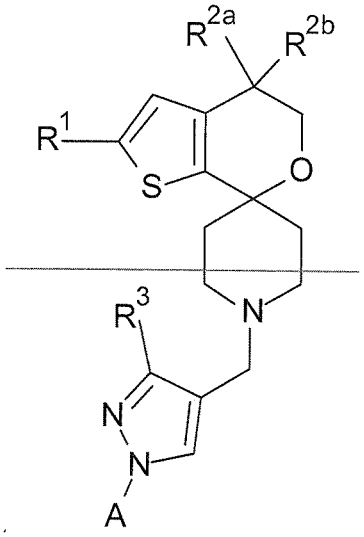
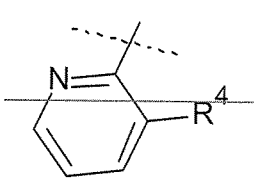
We CLAIM:

1. A method of treating an alcohol use disorder in a human comprising administering to a human in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

wherein



A is or

R^1 is fluoro or chloro;

R^{2a} and R^{2b} are each hydrogen or are each fluoro;

R^3 is hydrogen, methyl, hydroxymethyl, or (C_1-C_3) alkoxymethyl;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, cyano, cyanomethyl, (C_1-C_3) alkyl, cyclopropyl, hydroxymethyl, methoxy, cyclopropylmethoxy, aminocarbonylmethoxy, (C_1-C_3) alkoxymethyl, cyclopropyloxymethyl, cyclopropylmethoxymethyl, 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl, aminocarbonyloxymethyl, methylaminocarbonyloxymethyl, dimethylaminocarbonyloxymethyl, aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonylmethyl, $-CH_2-NR^5R^6$, hydroxyimine, methoxyimine, morpholin-4-yl,

morpholin-4-ylmethyl, Ar^1, $-CH_2Ar^1$, tetrahydrofuran-2-yl, 3-oxomorpholin-4-ylmethyl, 2-oxopyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl, and 2-oxopiperidin-1-ylmethyl;

$R^{4'}$ is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, cyano, cyanomethyl, (C_1-C_3) alkyl, cyclopropyl, hydroxymethyl, methoxy, methoxymethyl, aminocarbonyloxymethyl, methylaminocarbonyloxymethyl, dimethylaminocarbonyloxymethyl, methylcarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, methylaminocarbonyl, dimethylaminocarbonyl, $-NR^{5'}R^6$, $-CH_2-NR^{5'}R^6$, morpholin-4-yl, morpholin-4-ylmethyl, Ar^2, $-CH_2Ar^2$, 3,3-difluoroazetidin-1-ylmethyl, pyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl, 1-aminocyclopropyl, 1-methylaminocyclopropyl, and 1-dimethylaminocyclopropyl;

R^5 is hydrogen, C_1-C_3 alkyl, cyanomethyl, $-C(O)CH_3$, or aminocarbonylmethyl;

$R^{5'}$ is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, cyclopropyl, hydroxyethyl, methoxyethyl, $-C(O)CH_3$, or $-C(O)O(C_1$-$C_3)$ alkyl;

R^6 is hydrogen or methyl;

R^7 is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, hydroxymethyl, or methoxy;

Ar^1 is a moiety selected from the group consisting of imidizol-1-yl, imidizol-2-yl, 2-methylimidizol-1-yl, pyrazol-1-yl, 1,2,3-triazol-1-yl; 1,2,3-triazol-2-yl; 1,2,4-triazol-1-yl, isoxazol-3-yl, oxazol-5-yl, and 3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl; and

Ar^2 is a moiety selected from the group consisting of imidizol-1-yl, imidizol-2-yl, 2-methylimidizol-1-yl, 1-methylimidizol-2-yl, and 1,2,4-triazol-3-yl.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein R^{2a} and R^{2b} are each fluoro.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein R^1 is chloro and R^3 is methyl or hydroxymethyl.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein R^3 is methyl.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the compound is

[2-[4-[(2-chloro-4,4-difluoro-spiro[5H-thieno[2,3-c]pyran-7,4'-piperidine]-1'-yl)methyl]-3-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl]-3-pyridyl]methanol,

2-Chloro-4,4-difluoro-1'-[[1-(3-fluoro-2-pyridyl)-3-methyl-pyrazol-4-yl]methyl]spiro[5H-thieno[2,3-c]pyran-7,4'-piperidine], or

~~2-Chloro-1'-[[1-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-3-methyl-pyrazol-4-yl]methyl]-4,4-difluoro-spiro[5H-thieno[2,3-c]pyran-7,4'-piperidine], or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

~~6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the compound is [2-[4-[(2-Chloro-4,4-difluoro-spiro[5H-thieno[2,3-c]pyran-7,4'-piperidine]-1'-yl)methyl]-3-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl]-3-pyridyl]methanol, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

~~7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the alcohol use disorder is alcohol dependence.~~

~~8. The method of Claim 2 wherein the alcohol use disorder is alcohol dependence.~~

~~9. The method of Claim 5 wherein the alcohol use disorder is alcohol dependence.~~

~~10. The method of Claim 6 wherein the alcohol use disorder is alcohol dependence.~~

~~11. The method of Claim 1 wherein the alcohol use disorder is alcohol abuse.~~

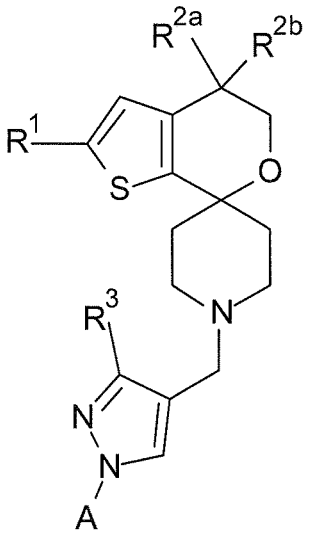
~~12. The method of Claim 2 wherein the alcohol use disorder is alcohol abuse.~~

~~13. The method of Claim 5 wherein the alcohol use disorder is alcohol abuse.~~

~~14. The method of Claim 6 wherein the alcohol use disorder is alcohol abuse.~~

We CLAIM:

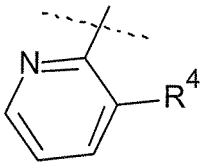
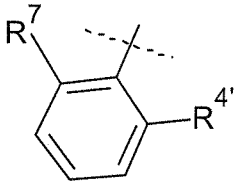
15. Use of ~~A~~ a compound of the formula:



,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, ~~for use~~ in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of an alcohol use disorder;

wherein

A is  or 

R^1 is fluoro or chloro;

R^{2a} and R^{2b} are each hydrogen or are each fluoro;

R^3 is hydrogen, methyl, hydroxymethyl, or (C_1-C_3) alkoxymethyl;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, cyano, cyanomethyl, (C_1-C_3) alkyl, cyclopropyl, hydroxymethyl, methoxy, cyclopropylmethoxy, aminocarbonylmethoxy, (C_1-C_3) alkoxymethyl, cyclopropyloxymethyl, cyclopropylmethoxymethyl, 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl, aminocarbonyloxymethyl, methylaminocarbonyloxymethyl, dimethylaminocarbonyloxymethyl, aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonylmethyl, -CH_2-NR^5R^6, hydroxyimine, methoxyimine, morpholin-4-yl, morpholin-4-ylmethyl, Ar^1, -CH_2Ar^1, tetrahydrofuran-2-yl, 3-oxomorpholin-4-ylmethyl, 2-oxopyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl, and 2-oxopiperidin-1-ylmethyl;

$R^{4'}$ is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, cyano, cyanomethyl, (C_1-C_3) alkyl, cyclopropyl, hydroxymethyl, methoxy, methoxymethyl,

aminocarbonyloxymethyl, methylaminocarbonyloxymethyl, dimethylaminocarbonyloxymethyl, methylcarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, methylaminocarbonyl, dimethylaminocarbonyl, $-NR^{5'}R^6$, $-CH_2-NR^{5'}R^6$, morpholin-4-yl, morpholin-4-ylmethyl, Ar^2, $-CH_2Ar^2$, 3,3-difluoroazetidin-1-ylmethyl, pyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl, 1-aminocyclopropyl, 1-methylaminocyclopropyl, and 1-dimethylaminocyclopropyl;

R^5 is hydrogen, C_1-C_3 alkyl, cyanomethyl, $-C(O)CH_3$, or aminocarbonylmethyl;

$R^{5'}$ is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, cyclopropyl, hydroxyethyl, methoxyethyl, $-C(O)CH_3$, or $-C(O)O(C_1$-$C_3)$ alkyl;

R^6 is hydrogen or methyl;

R^7 is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, hydroxymethyl, or methoxy;

Ar^1 is a moiety selected from the group consisting of imidizol-1-yl, imidizol-2-yl, 2-methylimidizol-1-yl, pyrazol-1-yl, 1,2,3-triazol-1-yl; 1,2,3-triazol-2-yl; 1,2,4-triazol-1-yl, isoxazol-3-yl, oxazol-5-yl, and 3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl; and

Ar^2 is a moiety selected from the group consisting of imidizol-1-yl, imidizol-2-yl, 2-methylimidizol-1-yl, 1-methylimidizol-2-yl, and 1,2,4-triazol-3-yl.

2~~16~~. The ~~compound or salt for~~ use according to Claim ~~15~~ 1 wherein R^{2a} and R^{2b} are each fluoro.

1~~73~~. The ~~compound or salt for~~ use according to Claim ~~16~~ 2 wherein R^1 is chloro and R^3 is methyl or hydroxymethyl.

1~~84~~. The ~~compound or salt for~~ use according to Claim ~~17~~ 3 wherein R^3 is methyl.

1~~95~~. The ~~compound for~~ use according to Claim ~~15~~ 4 wherein the compound is

[2-[4-[(2-chloro-4,4-difluoro-spiro[5H-thieno[2,3-c]pyran-7,4'-piperidine]-1'-yl)methyl]-3-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl]-3-pyridyl]methanol,

2-Chloro-4,4-difluoro-1'-[[1-(3-fluoro-2-pyridyl)-3-methyl-pyrazol-4-yl]methyl]spiro[5H-thieno[2,3-c]pyran-7,4'-piperidine], or

2-Chloro-1'-[[1-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-3-methyl-pyrazol-4-yl]methyl]-4,4-difluoro-spiro[5H-thieno[2,3-c]pyran-7,4'-piperidine], or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

206. The ~~compound for~~ use according to Claim 15 wherein the compound is [2-[4-[(2-chloro-4,4-difluoro-spiro[5H-thieno[2,3-c]pyran-7,4'-piperidine]-1'-yl)methyl]-3-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl]-3-pyridyl]methanol, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

721. The ~~compound or salt for~~ use according to any one of Claims 15 to 206, wherein the alcohol use disorder is alcohol dependence.

228. The ~~compound or salt for~~ use according to any one of Claims 15 to 206, wherein the alcohol use disorder is alcohol abuse.