

IMIDAZOLIN-2-YLAMINOPHENYL AMIDES AS IP ANTAGONISTS

This invention relates to prostaglandin I₂ (IP) receptor antagonists, and associated pharmaceutical compositions containing them, and methods for their use as therapeutic agents.

Prostaglandins or prostanoids (PG's) are a group of bioactive compounds derived from membrane phospholipids and are formed from 20-carbon essential fatty acids containing
5 three, four, or five double bonds, and a cyclopentane ring. They fall into several main classes designated by the letters D, E, F, G, H, or I, and are distinguished by substitutions to the cyclopentane ring. The main classes are further subdivided by subscripts 1, 2, or 3, which reflect their fatty acid precursors. Thus, PGI₂ has a double ring structure, and the subscript 2 indicates that it is related to arachidonic acid.

10 PGI₂ (also known as prostacyclin) acts on platelets and blood vessels to inhibit aggregation and to cause vasodilation, and is thought to be important for vascular homeostasis. It has been suggested that PGI₂ may contribute to the antithrombogenic properties of the intact vascular wall. PGI₂ is also thought to be a physiological modulator of vascular tone that functions to oppose the actions of vasoconstrictors. The importance of these vascular
15 actions is emphasized by the participation of PGI₂ in the hypotension associated with septic shock. Although prostaglandins do not appear to have direct effects on vascular permeability, PGI₂ markedly enhances edema formation and leukocyte infiltration by promoting blood flow in the inflamed region. Therefore, IP receptor antagonists may relieve hypotension related to septic shock, may reduce edema formation, and may prevent con-
20 ditions associated with excessive bleeding such as, but not limited to, hemophilia and hemorrhaging.

Several *in vivo* analgesia studies in rodents suggest that PGI₂ plays a major role in the induction of hyperalgesia. Likewise, *in vitro* studies provide substantial evidence to suggest that "PGI₂-preferring" (IP) receptors act as important modulators of sensory neuron func-
25 tion [Bley et al., Trends in Pharmacological Sciences 19(4):141-147 (1998)]. Since IP receptors in sensory neurons are coupled to activation of both adenylyl cyclase and phospholipase C, and hence, cAMP-dependent protein kinase and protein kinase C, these receptors can exert powerful effects on ion channel activity and thus neurotransmitter release. Evidence of a prominent role for IP receptors in inflammatory pain has been ob-

tained from recent studies in transgenic mice lacking the IP receptor [Murata et al., Nature 388:678-682 (1997)].

In addition to being mediators of hyperalgesia, prostaglandins are known to be generated locally in the bladder in response to physiologic stimuli such as stretch of the detrusor
5 smooth muscle, injuries of the vesical mucosa, and nerve stimulation [Anderson, Pharmacological Reviews 45(3):253-308 (1993)]. PGI₂ is the major prostaglandin released from the human bladder. There are suggestions that prostaglandins may be the link between detrusor muscle stretch produced by bladder filling and activation of C-fiber afferents by bladder distension. It has been proposed that prostaglandins may be involved in the
10 pathophysiology of bladder disorders. Therefore, antagonists of prostaglandin IP receptors are expected to be useful in the treatment of such conditions.

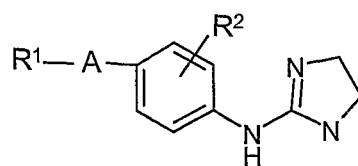
Antagonists of IP receptors are also expected to find a utility in respiratory allergies wherein PGI₂ production in response to an allergen is present or in respiratory conditions such as asthma.

15 IP receptor antagonists, as well as a variety of other drugs, have come under increasing scrutiny with regard to cardiovascular side effects. Promising IP receptor antagonists have failed during clinical evaluation because of ventricular arrhythmias, particularly "torsade de points" (TdP), that can occur in clinical trial subjects. The mechanism by which these drugs lead to ventricular arrhythmias has been identified with modulation of the "human
20 ether-a-go-go" or hERG ion channel. The hERG channel is a voltage-activated, inwardly-rectifying potassium channel, and is an important contributor to the repolarization of ventricular action potentials. Blockage of the hERG channel increases the duration of cardiac action potentials, which leads to prolonged ventricular depolarization. Because of the potentially fatal nature of such hERG channel modulation, IP receptor antagonists that will
25 ultimately be useful as drugs should cause minimal or no inhibition of the hERG channel.

Additional information relating to prostaglandins and their receptors is described in *Goodman & Gillman's, The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*, ninth edition, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1996, Chapter 26, pages 601-616.

All publications, patents, and patent applications cited herein, whether *supra* or *infra*, are
30 each hereby incorporated by reference their its entirety.

The invention provides compounds useful as IP receptor antagonists. The subject compounds are of the formula I:



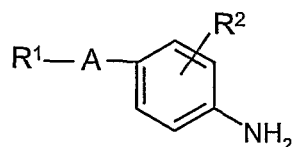
(I)

wherein:

- 5 R^1 is aryl or heteroaryl;
- R^2 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl or halogen;
- A is $-C(O)-NR^a-(CR^bR^c)_n-$ or $-NR^a-C(O)-(CR^bR^c)_n-$;
- n is from 1 to 6;
- R^a , R^b and R^c each independently is hydrogen or alkyl;
- 10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof.

The invention further relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of formula I, or individual isomers, racemic or non-racemic mixtures of isomers, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof, in admixture with at least one suitable carrier. In a preferred embodiment, the pharmaceutical compositions are suitable for administration to a subject having a disease state that is alleviated by treatment with an IP receptor antagonist.

The invention further relates to methods of preparing compounds of formula I. One such method comprises reacting a compound of the formula:



- 20 wherein R^1 , R^2 and A are as defined herein,
- with chloroimidazoline, to form a compound of formula I.

The invention further relates to methods of treatment of a disease that is mediated by an IP receptor antagonist, the method comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof.

The invention further relates to methods of treatment comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of formula I, or individual isomers, racemic or non-racemic mixtures of isomers, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof.

- 5 In one embodiment of the present invention a subject in need of such treatment is a subject having a disease state associated with pain, inflammation, urinary tract disease state, respiratory states from allergies or asthma, edema formation, or hypotensive vascular diseases. In another embodiment of the present invention a subject in need of such treatment is a subject having a disease state associated with pain.
- 10 In a preferred embodiment, the subject in need of such treatment has a disease state associated with IP receptor-mediated pain, such as inflammatory pain, neuropathic pain, cancer pain, acute pain, chronic pain, surgical pain, dental pain, premenstrual pain, visceral pain, pain due to burns, migraine or cluster headaches, neuralgias, post traumatic injuries, pain associated with functional bowel disorders such as irritable bowel syndrome, hyper-
- 15 algesia, or complex regional syndromes.

In another preferred embodiment, the subject in need of such treatment has a disease state associated with IP receptor-mediated inflammation, such as bacterial, fungal infections, viral infections, idiopathic bladder inflammation, over-use, old age, nutritional deficiencies, prostatitis, or conjunctivitis pain.

- 20 In another preferred embodiment, the subject in need of such treatment has a disease state associated with IP receptor-mediated urinary tract disease state, such as bladder outlet obstruction, urinary incontinence, reduced bladder capacity, frequency of micturition, urge incontinence, stress incontinence, bladder hyperreactivity, benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH), prostatitis, detrusor hyperreflexia, urinary frequency, nocturia, urinary urgency,
- 25 overactive bladder, pelvic hypersensitivity, urge incontinence, urethritis, prostatitis, pelvic pain syndrome, prostatodynia, cystitis, or idiopathic bladder hypersensitivity.

In another preferred embodiment, the subject in need of such treatment has a disease state associated with IP receptor-mediated respiratory disease such as allergies or asthma.

- In another preferred embodiment, the subject in need of such treatment has a disease state
- 30 associated with IP receptor-mediated edema formation or hypotensive vascular diseases.

Unless otherwise stated, the following terms used in this Application, including the specification and claims, have the definitions given below. It must be noted that, as used in the specification and the appended claims, the singular forms "a," "an" and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

- 5 "Acyl" (or alkanoyl) means the radical -C(O)-R, wherein R is lower alkyl as defined herein. Examples of acyl radicals include, but are not limited to, formyl, acetyl, propionyl, butyryl, and the like.

- 10 "Alkyl" means the monovalent linear or branched saturated hydrocarbon radical, consisting solely of carbon and hydrogen atoms, having from one to twelve carbon atoms inclusive, unless otherwise indicated. Examples of alkyl radicals include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, *sec*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, pentyl, n-hexyl, octyl, dodecyl, and the like.

- 15 "Lower alkyl" means the monovalent linear or branched saturated hydrocarbon radical, consisting solely of carbon and hydrogen atoms, having from one to six carbon atoms inclusive, unless otherwise indicated. Examples of lower alkyl radicals include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, *sec*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, n-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, and the like.

- 20 "Alkylene" means a linear saturated divalent hydrocarbon radical of one to six carbon atoms or a branched saturated divalent hydrocarbon radical of three to six carbon atoms, e.g., methylene, ethylene, 2,2-dimethylethylene, propylene, 2-methylpropylene, butylene, pentylene, and the like.

"Alkoxy" means the radical -O-R, wherein R is a lower alkyl radical as defined herein. Examples of alkoxy radicals include, but are not limited to, methoxy, ethoxy, isopropoxy, and the like.

- 25 "Alkoxyalkyl" means a moiety of the formula R^a-O-R^b -, where R^a is alkyl and R^b is alkylene as defined herein. Exemplary alkoxyalkyl groups include, by way of example, 2-methoxyethyl, 3-methoxypropyl, 1-methyl-2-methoxyethyl, 1-(2-methoxyethyl)-3-methoxypropyl, and 1-(2-methoxyethyl)-3-methoxypropyl.

- 30 "Alkylcarbonyl" means a moiety of the formula -R'-R", where R' is oxo and R" is alkyl as defined herein.

"Alkylamino" means the radical -NHR^d , wherein R^d is a lower alkyl radical as defined herein. Examples of alkylamino radicals include, but are not limited to, methylamino, ethylamino, butylamino, and the like.

5 "Alkylsulfonyl" means the radical $\text{-SO}_2\text{R}^f$ wherein R^f is a lower alkyl radical as defined herein. Examples of alkylsulfonyl radicals include, but are not limited to, methanesulfonyl, ethanesulfonyl, propanesulfonyl, and the like.

"Alkylsulfonylalkyl" means a moiety of the formula $\text{-R}'\text{-R}''\text{-R}'''$ where R' is alkyl, R'' is $\text{-SO}_2\text{-}$ and R''' is alkyl as defined herein.

10 "Alkylsulfamoyl" means a moiety of the formula $\text{-SO}_2\text{-NHR}'$ wherein R' is alkyl as defined herein.

"Dialkylsulfamoyl" means a moiety of the formula $\text{-SO}_2\text{-NHR}'\text{R}''$ wherein R' and R'' are alkyl as defined herein.

"Aryl" means a monovalent cyclic aromatic hydrocarbon moiety consisting of a mono-, bi- or tricyclic aromatic ring. The aryl group can be optionally substituted as defined herein.
15 Examples of aryl moieties include, but are not limited to, optionally substituted phenyl, naphthyl, phenanthryl, fluorenyl, indenyl, pentalenyl, azulenyl, oxydiphenyl, biphenyl, methylenediphenyl, aminodiphenyl, diphenylsulfidyl, diphenylsulfonyl, diphenyl-isopropylidenyl, benzodioxanyl, benzofuranyl, benzodioxyl, benzopyranyl, benzoxazinyl, benzoxazinonyl, benzopiperadiny, benzopiperazinyl, benzopyrrolidinyl, benzomorpho-
20 liny, methylenedioxyphenyl, ethylenedioxyphenyl, and the like, including partially hydrogenated derivatives thereof.

"Aryloxy" means the radical $\text{-O-R}'$, wherein R' is an aryl radical as defined herein. Examples of aryloxy radicals include, but are not limited to, phenoxy and the like.

25 "Aralkyl" means the radical $\text{-RR}'$ wherein R' is an alkylene radical as defined herein, and R is a lower aryl radical as defined herein. Examples of aralkyl radicals include, but are not limited to, benzyl, phenylethyl, 3-phenylpropyl, and the like.

"Aralkyloxy" means the radical $\text{-O-R}'$, wherein R' is an aralkyl radical as defined herein. Examples of aralkyloxy radicals include, but are not limited to, benzyloxy, phenylethyloxy, and the like.

"Cycloalkyl" means the monovalent saturated carbocyclic radical consisting of one or more rings, which can be optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, thioalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxy-

5 carbonylamino, aminosulfonyl, sulfonylamino and/or trifluoromethyl, unless otherwise indicated. Examples of cycloalkyl radicals include, but are not limited to, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, 3-ethylcyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cycloheptyl, and the like.

"Cycloalkyloxy" means the radical -OR' wherein R' is cycloalkyl as defined herein.

10 "Cycloalkylalkyl" means a radical of the formula -R'R" wherein R' is alkylene as defined herein and R" is cycloalkyl as defined herein.

"Cycloalkylalkoxy" means a radical of the formula -OR'R" wherein R' is alkylene as defined herein and R" is cycloalkyl as defined herein.

15 "Dialkylamino" means the radical -NR'R" wherein R' and R" are each independently lower alkyl radicals as defined herein. Examples of dialkylamino radicals include, but are not limited to, dimethylamino, methyl ethylamino, diethylamino, methyl propylamino, and the like.

"Ethylenedioxy" means the radical -OCH₂CH₂O-.

"Halogen" or "halo" means the radical fluoro, bromo, chloro, and/or iodo.

20 "Haloalkyl" means alkyl as defined herein substituted in any position with one or more halogen atoms as defined herein. Examples of haloalkyl radicals include, but are not limited to, 1,2-difluoropropyl, 1,2-dichloropropyl, trifluoromethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trichloroethyl, and the like.

25 "Heteroaryl" means a monocyclic or bicyclic radical of 5 to 12 ring atoms having at least one aromatic ring containing one, two, or three ring heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S, the remaining ring atoms being C, with the understanding that the attachment point of the heteroaryl radical will be on an aromatic ring. The heteroaryl ring may be optionally substituted as defined herein. Examples of heteroaryl moieties include, but are not limited to, optionally substituted imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazinyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, thiophenyl, furanyl, pyranal, pyridyl, pyrrol-
30 yl, pyrazolyl, pyrimidyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, benzofuryl, benzothiophenyl, benzo-

thiopyranyl, benzimidazolyl, benzooxazolyl, benzooxadiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzothiadiazolyl, benzopyranyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, azaindolyl, indazolyl, triazolyl, triazinyl, quinoxalyl, purinyl, quinazolyl, quinolizyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl, carbazolyl, azepinyl, diazepinyl, acridinyl and the like, including partially hydrogenated derivatives thereof.

- 5 "Heterocyclyl" means a monovalent saturated moiety, consisting of one to three rings, incorporating one, two, or three or four heteroatoms (chosen from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur). The heterocyclyl ring may be optionally substituted as defined herein. Examples of heterocyclyl moieties include, but are not limited to, optionally substituted piperidinyl, piperazinyl, homopiperazinyl, azepinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrazolidinyl, imidazolyl, imid-
- 10 azolidinyl, pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, oxazolidinyl, isoxazolidinyl, morpholinyl, thiazolidinyl, isothiazolidinyl, quinuclidinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, benzimidazolyl, thiadiazolylidyl, benzothiazolidinyl, benzoazolylidyl, dihydrofuryl, tetrahydrofuryl, dihydropyranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, thiamorpholinyl, thiamorpholinylsulfoxide, thiamorpholinylsulfone, dihydroquinolinyl, dihydroisoquinolinyl, tetrahydroquinolinyl, tetra-
- 15 hydroisoquinolinyl, and the like.

"Heterocycloxy" means a radical -O-R wherein R is heterocyclyl as defined herein.

"Heterocyclalkyloxy" means a radical -O-R'-R" wherein R' is alkylene as defined herein and R" is heterocyclyl as defined herein.

"Heterocyclsulfonyl" means a radical -SO₂-R' wherein R' is alkyl as defined herein.

- 20 "Hydroxyalkyl" means alkyl as defined herein, substituted with one or more hydroxy groups. Examples of hydroxyalkyl radicals include, but are not limited to, hydroxymethyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, 3-hydroxypropyl, 2-hydroxybutyl, 3-hydroxybutyl, 4-hydroxybutyl, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl, 1-(hydroxymethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl, 2,3-dihydroxybutyl, 3,4-dihydroxybutyl, and 2-(hydroxymethyl)-3-hydroxypropyl, and the like.

- 25 "Methylenedioxy" means the radical -OCH₂O-.

"Sulfamoyl" means a group of formula -SO₂NR'R" wherein R' and R" each independently may be hydrogen or alkyl.

"Sulfonylamino" means a group of formula -NHR'-SO₂-R" wherein R' and R" each independently may be hydrogen or alkyl as defined herein.

"Optional" or "optionally" means that the subsequently described event or circumstance may but need not occur, and that the description includes instances where the event or circumstance occurs and instances in which it does not. For example, "optional bond" means that the bond may or may not be present, and that the description includes single,
5 double, or triple bonds.

"Optionally substituted", when used in association with "aryl", "phenyl", "heteroaryl" or "heterocyclyl", means an aryl, phenyl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl which is optionally substituted independently with one to four substituents, preferably one or two substituents selected from alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, halo, nitro, cyano,
10 hydroxy, alkoxy, amino, acylamino, mono-alkylamino, di-alkylamino, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, heteroalkyl, -COR (where R is hydrogen, alkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl), (CR'R'')_n-COOR (where n is an integer from 0 to 5, R' and R'' are independently hydrogen or alkyl, and R is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl), or - (CR'R'')_n-CONR^aR^b (where n is an integer from 0 to 5, R' and R'' are independently
15 hydrogen or alkyl, and R^a and R^b are, independently of each other, hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl).

"Isomer" means different compounds that have the same molecular formula, but differ in the nature or the sequence of bonding of their atoms or in the arrangement of their atoms in space. Isomers that differ in the arrangement of their atoms in space are termed "stereo-
20 isomers". Stereoisomers that are mirror images of each other and optically active are termed "enantiomers", and stereoisomers that are not mirror images of one another are termed "diastereoisomers".

"Atropic isomer" means the isomers owing their existence to restricted rotation caused by hindrance of rotation of large groups about a central bond.

25 "Chiral isomer" means a compound with one chiral center. It has two enantiomeric forms of opposite chirality and may exist either as an individual enantiomer or as a mixture of enantiomers. A mixture containing equal amounts of individual enantiomeric forms of opposite chirality is termed a "racemic mixture". Compounds with more than one chiral center may exist as either an individual diastereomer or as a mixture of diastereomers,
30 termed a "diastereomeric mixture". When one chiral center is present, a stereoisomer may be characterized by the absolute configuration (R or S) of that chiral center. Absolute configuration refers to the arrangement in space of the substituents attached to the chiral center. The substituents attached to the chiral center under consideration are ranked in

accordance with the *Sequence Rule* of Cahn, Ingold and Prelog [Cahn et al., *Angew. Chem. Inter. Edit.* 5:385; errata 511 (1966); Cahn et al., *Angew. Chem.* 78:413 (1966); Cahn and Ingold, *J. Chem. Soc. (London)* 612 (1951); Cahn et al., *Experientia* 12:81 (1956); Cahn, *J. Chem. Educ.* 41:116 (1964)].

- 5 "Geometric isomer" means the diastereomers that owe their existence to hindered rotation about double bonds. These configurations are differentiated in their names by the prefixes *cis*- and *trans*-, or *Z* and *E*, which indicate that the groups are on the same or opposite side of the double bond in the molecule according to the Cahn-Ingold-Prelog rules.

- "Leaving group" means the group with the meaning conventionally associated with it in
10 synthetic organic chemistry, *i.e.*, an atom or group displaceable under alkylating conditions. Examples of a leaving group include, but are not limited to, halogen, alkane- or arylenesulfonyloxy, such as methanesulfonyloxy, ethanesulfonyloxy, thiomethyl, benzene-sulfonyloxy, tosyloxy, and thienyloxy, dihalophosphinoyloxy, optionally substituted benzyloxy, isopropyloxy, acyloxy, and the like.

- 15 "Protective group" or "protecting group" has the meaning conventionally associated with it in synthetic organic chemistry, *i.e.*, a group which selectively blocks one reactive site in a multifunctional compound such that a chemical reaction can be carried out selectively at another unprotective reactive site. Certain processes of this invention rely upon the protecting groups to block reactive oxygen atoms present in the reactants. Acceptable pro-
20 tective groups for alcoholic or phenolic hydroxyl groups, which may be removed successively and selectively, include groups protected as acetates, haloalkyl carbonates, benzyl ethers, alkylsilyl ethers, heterocyclyl ethers, methyl or other alkyl ethers, and the like. Protective or blocking groups for carboxyl groups are similar to those described for hydroxyl groups, preferably *tert*-butyl, benzyl, or methyl esters. Examples of protecting groups can
25 be found in Greene et al., *Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry*, 1999, J. Wiley, 2nd ed., and Harrison et al., *Compendium of Synthetic Organic Methods*, 1971-1996, Vols. 1-8, J. Wiley and Sons.

- "Amino-protecting group" or "N-protecting group" means the protecting group that refers to those organic groups intended to protect the nitrogen atom against undesirable reac-
30 tions during synthetic procedures and includes, but is not limited to, benzyl, benzyloxy-carbonyl (carbobenzyloxy, CBZ), *p*-methoxybenzyl-oxycarbonyl, *p*-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonyl (BOC), trifluoroacetyl, and the like.

"Deprotection" or "deprotecting" is the process by which a protective group is removed after the selective reaction is completed. Certain protective groups may be preferred over others due to their convenience or relative ease of removal. Deprotecting reagents for protected hydroxyl or carboxyl groups include potassium or sodium carbonates, lithium
5 hydroxide in alcoholic solutions, zinc in methanol, acetic acid, trifluoroacetic acid, palladium catalysts, or boron tribromide, and the like.

"Inert organic solvent" or "inert solvent" means a solvent inert under the conditions of the reaction being described in conjunction therewith, including, e.g., benzene, toluene, acetonitrile, tetrahydrofuran, N,N-dimethylformamide, chloroform, methylene chloride or di-
10 chloromethane, dichloroethane, diethyl ether, ethyl acetate, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, *tert*-butanol, dioxane, pyridine, and the like. Unless specified to the contrary, the solvents used in the reactions of the present invention are inert solvents.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable" means that which is useful in preparing a pharmaceutical
15 composition that is generally safe, non-toxic, and neither biologically nor otherwise undesirable and includes that which is acceptable for veterinary as well as human pharmaceutical use.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" means a carrier that is useful in preparing a pharmaceutical composition that is generally compatible with the other ingredients of the composition, not deleterious to the recipient, and neither biologically nor otherwise undesirable,
20 and includes a carrier that is acceptable for veterinary use or human pharmaceutical use. "A pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" as used in the specification and claims includes both one and more than one such carrier.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable salt" of a compound means a salt that is pharmaceutically
25 acceptable and that possesses the desired pharmacological activity of the parent compound. Such salts, e.g., include:

(1) acid addition salts, formed with inorganic acids such as hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, and the like; or formed with organic acids such as acetic acid, propionic acid, hexanoic acid, cyclopentanepropionic acid,
30 glycolic acid, pyruvic acid, lactic acid, malonic acid, succinic acid, malic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, benzoic acid, 3-(4-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid, cinnamic acid, mandelic acid, methanesulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, 1,2-ethanedisulfonic acid, 2-hydroxy-ethanesulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, 2-naphthalene-

sulfonic acid, 4-methylbicyclo-[2.2.2]oct-2-ene-1-carboxylic acid, glucoheptonic acid, 3-phenylpropionic acid, trimethylacetic acid, tertiary butylacetic acid, lauryl sulfuric acid, gluconic acid, glutamic acid, hydroxynaphthoic acid, salicylic acid, stearic acid, muconic acid, and the like;

- 5 (2) salts formed when an acidic proton present in the parent compound either is replaced by a metal ion, *e.g.*, an alkali metal ion, an alkaline earth ion, or an aluminum ion; or coordinates with an organic base. Acceptable organic bases include ethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, tromethamine, N-methyl-glucamine, and the like. Acceptable inorganic bases include aluminum hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, potassium
10 hydroxide, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide, and the like.

It should be understood that a reference to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt includes the solvent addition forms or crystal forms thereof, particularly solvates or polymorphs. Solvates contain either stoichiometric or non-stoichiometric amounts of a solvent, and are often formed during the process of crystallization. Hydrates are formed when the solvent
15 is water, or alcoholates are formed when the solvent is alcohol. Polymorphs include the different crystal packing arrangements of the same elemental composition of a compound. Polymorphs usually have different X-ray diffraction patterns, infrared spectra, melting points, density, hardness, crystal shape, optical and electrical properties, stability, and solubility. Various factors such as the recrystallization solvent, rate of crystallization, and
20 storage temperature may cause a single crystal form to dominate.

"Pharmacological effect" as used herein encompasses effects produced in the subject that achieve the intended purpose of a therapy. In one preferred embodiment, a pharmacological effect means the treatment of a subject in need of such treatment. For example, a pharmacological effect would be one that results in the prevention, alleviation, or reduction
25 of a disease state associated with pain, inflammation, urinary tract disease state, or asthma in a subject in need of such treatment. In a preferred embodiment, a pharmacological effect means that the activation of the IP receptors is associated with therapeutic benefit in a subject having a disease state treatable by the administration of an IP receptor modulator, in particular an IP receptor antagonist.

30 "Subject" means mammals and non-mammals. Examples of mammals include, but are not limited to, any member of the Mammalia class: humans, non-human primates such as chimpanzees and other apes and monkey species; farm animals such as cattle, horses, sheep, goats, swine; domestic animals such as rabbits, dogs and cats; laboratory animals

including rodents, such as rats, mice, and guinea pigs, and the like. Examples of non-mammals include, but are not limited to birds, and the like. The term does not denote a particular age or sex.

5 "Therapeutically effective amount" means an amount of a compound that, when administered to a subject for treating a disease state, is sufficient to effect such treatment for the disease state. The "therapeutically effective amount" will vary depending on the compound, and disease state being treated, the severity of the disease treated, the age and relative health of the subject, the route and form of administration, the judgement of the attending medical or veterinary practitioner, and other factors.

10 "Treating" or "treatment" of a disease state includes:

(1) preventing the disease state, *i.e.*, causing the clinical symptoms of the disease state not to develop in a subject that may be exposed to or predisposed to the disease state, but does not yet experience or display symptoms of the disease state,

(2) inhibiting the disease state, *i.e.*, arresting the development of the disease state or its
15 clinical symptoms, or

(3) relieving the disease state, *i.e.*, causing temporary or permanent regression of the disease state or its clinical symptoms.

Disease state" means any disease, disorder, condition, symptom, or indication.

20 "Disease state associated with the urinary tract" or "urinary tract disease state" or "uropathy" or "symptoms of the urinary tract", used interchangeably, means the pathologic changes in the urinary tract, or dysfunction of urinary bladder smooth muscle or its innervation causing disordered urinary storage or voiding. Symptoms of the urinary tract include (also known as detrusor hyperactivity), outlet obstruction, outlet insufficiency, and pelvic hypersensitivity.

25 "Outlet insufficiency" includes, but is not limited to, urethral hypermobility, intrinsic sphincteric deficiency, or mixed incontinence. It is usually symptomatically manifested as stress incontinence.

30 "Outlet obstruction" includes, but is not limited to, benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH), urethral stricture disease, tumors, and the like. It is usually symptomatically manifested as obstructive (low flow rates, difficulty in initiating urination, and the like), and irritative (urgency, suprapubic pain, and the like).

"Overactive bladder" or "detrusor hyperactivity" includes, but is not limited to, the changes symptomatically manifested as urgency, frequency, reduced bladder capacity, incontinence episodes, and the like; the changes urodynamically manifested as changes in bladder capacity, micturition threshold, unstable bladder contractions, sphincteric spasticity, and the like; and the symptoms usually manifested in detrusor hyperreflexia (neurogenic bladder), in conditions such as outlet obstruction, outlet insufficiency, pelvic hypersensitivity, or in idiopathic conditions such as detrusor instability, and the like.

"Pelvic Hypersensitivity" includes, but is not limited to, pelvic pain, interstitial (cell) cystitis, prostatic pain, prostatitis, vulvodynia, urethritis, orchialgia, and the like. It is symptomatically manifested as pain, inflammation or discomfort referred to the pelvic region, and usually includes symptoms of overactive bladder.

"Pain" means the more or less localized sensation of discomfort, distress, or agony, resulting from the stimulation of specialized nerve endings. There are many types of pain, including, but not limited to, lightning pains, phantom pains, shooting pains, acute pain, inflammatory pain, neuropathic pain, complex regional pain, neuralgia, neuropathy, and the like (*Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary*, 28th Edition, W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, PA). The goal of treatment of pain is to reduce the degree of severity of pain perceived by a treatment subject.

"Neuropathic pain" means the pain resulting from functional disturbances and /or pathological changes as well as noninflammatory lesions in the peripheral nervous system. Examples of neuropathic pain include, but are not limited to, thermal or mechanical hyperalgesia, thermal or mechanical allodynia, diabetic pain, entrapment pain, and the like.

"Modulator" means a molecule such as a compound that interacts with a target. The interactions include, but are not limited to, agonist, antagonist, and the like, as defined herein.

"Agonist" means a molecule such as a compound, a drug, an enzyme activator or a hormone that enhances the activity of another molecule or receptor site.

"Antagonist" means a molecule such as a compound, a drug, an enzyme inhibitor, or a hormone, that diminishes or prevents the action of another molecule or receptor site.

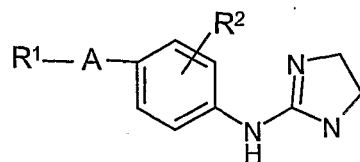
In general, the nomenclature used in this Application is based on AutoNom[®], a Beilstein Institute computerized system for the generation of IUPAC systematic nomenclature. Chemical structures shown herein were prepared using ISIS[®] version 2.2. Any open valency shown on a carbon, nitrogen or oxygen in the structures herein indicates the presence of a hydrogen.

As is well-known in the art, the imidazolin-2-ylamino group, in compounds such as the compounds of formula I, is in tautomeric equilibrium with the imidazolin-2-ylideneamino group:



For convenience, all the compounds of formula I are shown as having the imidazolin-2-yl-amino structure, but it is to be understood that compounds of both tautomeric forms are intended to be within the scope of the invention.

The invention provides compounds of the formula I:



(I)

wherein:

R¹ is aryl or heteroaryl;

R² is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl or halogen;

A is -C(O)-NR^a-(CR^bR^c)_n- or -NR^a-C(O)-(CR^bR^c)_n;

n is from 1 to 6;

R^a, R^b and R^c each independently is hydrogen or alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof.

Where R² is alkyl, or contains an alkyl moiety, and where R¹ contains an alkyl moiety, such alkyl is preferably lower alkyl, i.e. C₁-C₆alkyl, and more preferably C₁-C₄alkyl.

By way of example, and not of limitation, the aryl or heteroaryl R¹ may be optionally substituted by one, two, or three substituents independently selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, aralkyloxy, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkoxyalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, 5 nitro, cyano, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylalkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclylsulfonyl, optionally substituted heterocyclylalkyloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, sulfamoyl, alkylsulfamoyl, dialkylsulfamoyl or sulfonylamino. In certain embodiments R¹ is phenyl optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl, optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted hetero- 10 aryl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, nitro, cyano, or halogen.

In certain embodiments R¹ is phenyl optionally substituted by one, two, or three substituents independently selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, aralkyloxy, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxy, 15 hydroxyalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkoxyalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylalkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclylsulfonyl, optionally substituted heterocyclylalkyloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, sulfamoyl, alkylsulfamoyl, dialkylsulfamoyl or 20 sulfonylamino.

In certain embodiments R¹ is 4-alkoxyphenyl. The 4-alkoxyphenyl may be 4-methoxyphenyl, 4-ethoxyphenyl, 4-propoxyphenyl, 4-isopropoxyphenyl, 4-butoxyphenyl or 4-isobutoxyphenyl.

In certain embodiments R¹ is 4-alkylphenyl. The 4-alkyl phenyl may be 4-methylphenyl, 4-ethylphenyl, 4-propylphenyl, 4-isopropylphenyl, 4-butylphenyl or 4-isobutylphenyl. 25

In certain embodiments R¹ is aryloxyphenyl such as 4-phenoxyphenyl or 4-phenoxyphenyl wherein the phenoxy moiety is optionally substituted.

In certain embodiments R¹ is 4-cycloalkyloxyphenyl. The compound 4-cycloalkyloxyphenyl may be 4-cyclopentyloxyphenyl or 4-cycloheptyloxyphenyl.

30 In certain embodiments R¹ is 4-cycloalkylalkoxyphenyl, such as cyclopropylmethoxyphenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-alkoxyalkyloxyphenyl, such as 4-(2-methoxyethyloxy)-phenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-hydroxyalkyloxyphenyl. The 4-hydroxyalkyloxyphenyl may be 4-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)-phenyl, 4-(2,3-dihydroxypropyloxy)-phenyl or 4-(3-hydroxy-2-hydroxymethyl-propyloxy)-phenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-dialkylaminophenyl such as 4-(N,N-diethylamino)-phenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-halophenyl, such as 4-fluorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl or 4-bromophenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is optionally substituted 4-biphenyl. The optionally substituted 4-biphenyl may be 4'-fluoro-4-biphenyl, 4'-methoxy-4-biphenyl, 4'-methyl-4-biphenyl, 4'-chloro-4-biphenyl or 4-biphenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-cyanophenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-alkenylphenyl such as 4-vinyl-phenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-cycloalkylphenyl, such as 4-cyclohexylphenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is optionally substituted 4-benzyloxyphenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-dialkylsulfamoylphenyl such as 4-diethylsulfamoylphenyl or 4-dimethylsulfamoylphenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-alkylsulfamoylphenyl such as 4-ethylsulfamoylphenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-heteroarylphenyl wherein the heteroaryl moiety is optionally substituted. The 4-heteroarylphenyl may be, e.g., optionally substituted pyrazolyl, optionally substituted pyrimidinyl or optionally substituted thiophenyl. In specific embodiments, the 4-heteroarylphenyl may be optionally substituted 4-(4-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-phenyl, 4-(3-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-phenyl, 4-pyrazol-1-yl-phenyl, 4-thiophen-3-yl-phenyl, 4-pyrimidin-2-yl-phenyl or 4-(2-chloro-thiophen-3-yl)-phenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-heterocyclylphenyl wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is optionally substituted. The 4-heterocyclylphenyl may be morpholinylphenyl, thiomorpholinylphenyl, 1,1-dioxythiomorpholinylphenyl, optionally substituted piperazinylphenyl or optionally substituted piperidinylphenyl. In specific embodiments the 4-heterocyclyl-

phenyl may be 4-morpholin-4-yl-phenyl, 4-(4-carboxy ethyl ester, piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl, 4-(4-ethanesulfonyl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl, 4-(4-propane-2-sulfonyl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl, 4-(4-methanesulfonyl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl, 4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl, 4-(4-ethyl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl, 4-(4-methoxypiperidin-1-yl), 4-(8-aza-spiro[4.5]dec-8-yl)-phenyl, 4-piperazin-1-yl-phenyl, 4-methyl-piperidin-1-yl-phenyl, 4-pyrrolidin-1-yl-phenyl, 4-hydroxy-piperidine-1-yl-phenyl or 4-piperidin-1-ylphenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-heterocycloxyphenyl wherein the heterocycl moiety is optionally substituted. The 4-heterocycloxyphenyl may be tetrahydropyranyloxyphenyl or optionally substituted piperidin-4-yloxy-phenyl. In specific embodiments the 4-heterocycloxyphenyl may be 4-(tetrahydropyran-4-yloxy)-phenyl, 4-(piperidin-4-yloxy)-phenyl, 4-(1-ethyl-piperidin-4-yloxy)-phenyl or 4-(1-carboxylate ethyl ester-piperidin-4-yloxy)-phenyl.

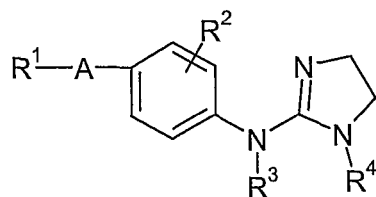
In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-heterocyclalkyloxyphenyl wherein the heterocycl moiety is optionally substituted. The 4-heterocyclalkyloxyphenyl may be tetrahydropyranylmethoxyphenyl or optionally substituted piperidinylmethoxyphenyl. In specific embodiments the 4-heterocyclalkyloxyphenyl may be 4-(tetrahydropyran-2-ylmethoxy)-phenyl, 4-(piperidin-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl, 4-(1-[ethyl carbamoyl]-piperidin-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl, 4-(1-methanesulfonyl-piperidin-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl, 4-(1-carboxylate ethyl ester-piperidin-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl, 4-(1-methyl-piperidin-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl or 4-(1-ethyl-piperidin-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl.

In certain embodiments R^1 is 4-heterocyclsulfonylphenyl wherein the heterocycl moiety is optionally substituted. The 4-heterocyclsulfonylphenyl may be morpholinylsulfonylphenyl, thiomorpholinylsulfonylphenyl, 1,1-dioxythiomorpholinylsulfonylphenyl, optionally substituted piperazinylsulfonylphenyl or optionally substituted piperidinylsulfonylphenyl. In specific embodiments the 4-heterocyclsulfonylphenyl may be 4-(morpholin-4-sulfonyl)-phenyl, 4-(4-methyl-piperazine-1-sulfonyl)-phenyl, 4-(piperidin-1-sulfonyl)-phenyl or 4-(4-methyl-piperidin-1-sulfonyl)-phenyl.

In certain embodiments A is $-C(O)-NR^a-(CR^bR^c)_n-$. In specific embodiments n is 1. In specific embodiments R^b and R^c are hydrogen.

In certain embodiments A is $-NR^a-C(O)-(CR^bR^c)_n-$. In specific embodiments n is 1. In specific embodiments R^a is hydrogen, and R^b and R^c each independently is hydrogen or alkyl.

In certain embodiments of the invention, the compounds may be embodiments of the formula II:



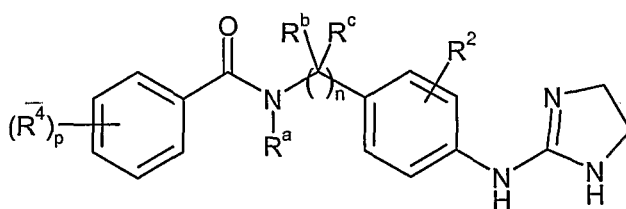
(II)

wherein:

- 5 R^1 is optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heteroaryl;
 R^2 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl or halogen;
 R^3 and R^4 each independently is hydrogen or alkoxy carbonyl;
 A is $-C(O)-NR^a-(CR^bR^c)_n-$ or $-NR^a-C(O)-(CR^bR^c)_n-$;
 n is from 1 to 6;
10 R^a is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl; and
 R^b and R^c each independently is hydrogen or alkyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof.

In embodiments of the invention wherein R^3 or R^4 , or both are alkoxy carbonyl, R^3 and R^4 may be ethoxycarbonyl.

- 15 In embodiments of the invention wherein R^1 is optionally substituted phenyl, the compounds of the invention fall more specifically within the formula III:



(III)

wherein:

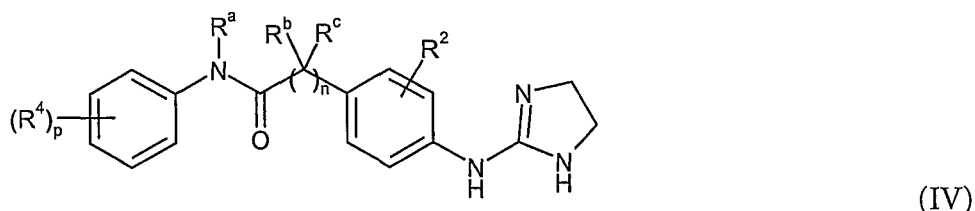
- p is from 0 to 4;
20 R^4 is alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, ar-alkyloxy, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkoxy-alkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cyclo-alkylalkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy, optionally

substituted heterocyclysulfonyl, optionally substituted heterocyclalkyloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, sulfamoyl, alkylsulfamoyl, dialkylsulfamoyl or sulfonyl-amino.

R^a , R^b and R^c each independently is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl; preferably R^b and R^c are hydrogen; and
 5 n and R^2 are as defined above. More preferably, p is 0 or 1.

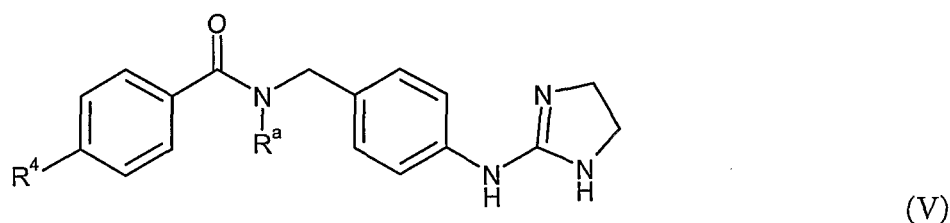
Where any of R^4 , R^a , R^b and R^c are alkyl or contain an alkyl moiety, such alkyl is preferably lower alkyl, i.e. C_1 - C_6 alkyl, and more preferably C_1 - C_4 alkyl.

In other embodiments the subject compounds may be of the formula IV:



wherein n , p , R^2 , R^4 , R^a , R^b and R^c are as defined above.

In certain embodiments, the compounds of the invention may be of the formula V:



wherein R^4 and R^a are as defined above.

15 In certain embodiments of formula V, R^a may be hydrogen, alkyl or cyclopropyl.

In certain embodiments of formula V, R^4 may be alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, aralkyloxy, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkoxyalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylalkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino,
 20 methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclsulfonyl, optionally substituted

heterocyclalkyloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, sulfamoyl, alkylsulfamoyl, dialkylsulfamoyl or sulfonylamino.

In embodiments wherein R^4 is alkoxy, the alkoxy may be methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, -butoxy or isobutoxy.

- 5 In embodiments wherein R^4 is alkyl, the alkyl may be methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl or isobutyl.

In embodiments wherein R^4 is aryloxy, R^4 may be phenoxy.

In embodiments wherein R^4 is cycloalkyloxy. The compound cycloalkyloxy may be cyclopentyloxy or cycloheptyloxy.

- 10 In embodiments wherein R^4 is cycloalkylalkoxy, R^4 may be cyclopropylmethoxy.

In embodiments wherein R^4 is alkoxyalkyloxy, R^4 may be 2-methoxyethyloxy.

In embodiments wherein R^4 is hydroxyalkyloxy, R^4 may be 2-hydroxyethyloxy, 2,3-dihydroxypropyloxy or 3-hydroxy-2-hydroxymethyl-propyloxy.

In embodiments wherein R^4 is dialkylamino R^4 may be N,N-diethylamino.

- 15 In embodiments wherein R^4 is halo, R^4 may be fluoro, chloro or bromo.

In embodiments wherein R^4 is optionally substituted phenyl, the optionally substituted phenyl may be 4-fluoro-phenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 4-chlorophenyl or phenyl.

In certain embodiments R^4 may be cyano.

- 20 In certain embodiments R^4 may be alkenyl, such as vinyl.

In certain embodiments R^4 may be cycloalkyl, such as cyclohexyl.

In embodiments wherein R^4 is optionally substituted aryloxy, R^4 may be benzyloxy.

In certain embodiments R^4 may be dialkylsulfamoyl such as diethylsulfamoyl or dimethylsulfamoyl.

- 25 In certain embodiments R^4 may be alkylsulfamoyl, such as ethylsulfamoyl.

In certain embodiments R^4 is heteroaryl wherein the heteroaryl moiety is optionally substituted, such as, e.g., optionally substituted pyrazolyl, optionally substituted pyrimidinyl or optionally substituted thiophenyl. In specific embodiments, R^4 may be optionally substituted methyl-pyrazol-1-yl, 3-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl, pyrazol-1-yl, thiophen-3-yl, pyrimidin-
5 2-yl or 2-chloro-thiophen-3-yl.

In certain embodiments R^4 is heterocyclyl wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is optionally substituted, such as morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, 1,1-dioxythiomorpholinyl, optionally substituted piperazinyl or optionally substituted piperidinyl. In specific embodiments R^4 may be morpholinyl, carboxylate ester piperazin-1-yl, ethanesulfonyl-piperazin-1-yl,
10 propane-2-sulfonyl-piperazin-1-yl, methanesulfonyl-piperazin-1-yl, methyl-piperazin-1-yl, ethyl-piperazin-1-yl, methoxypiperidin-1-yl, 8-aza-spiro[4.5]dec-8-yl, piperazin-1-yl, methyl-piperidin-1-yl, pyrrolidin-1-yl, hydroxy-piperidine-1-yl or piperidin-1-yl.

In certain embodiments R^4 is heterocyclyloxy wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is optionally substituted, such as optionally substituted tetrahydropyranyloxy or optionally substituted
15 piperidinyloxy-. In specific embodiments R^4 may be tetrahydropyranyloxy, piperidinyloxy, 1-ethyl-piperidin-yloxy or 1-carboxylate ethyl ester-piperidin-yloxy.

In certain embodiments R^4 is heterocyclylalkyloxy wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is optionally substituted, such as optionally substituted tetrahydropyranylmethoxy or optionally substituted piperidinylmethoxy. In specific embodiments R^4 may be tetra-
20 hydropyran-2-ylmethoxy, piperidin-ylmethoxy, 1-[ethyl carbamoyl]-piperidin-ylmethoxy, 1-methanesulfonyl-piperidin-ylmethoxy, 1-carboxylate ethyl ester-piperidin-ylmethoxy, 1-methyl-piperidin-ylmethoxy or 1-ethyl-piperidin-ylmethoxy.

In certain embodiments R^4 is heterocyclylsulfonyl wherein the heterocyclyl moiety is optionally substituted, such as optionally substituted morpholinylsulfonyl, optionally
25 substituted thiomorpholinyl, optionally substituted 1,1-dioxythiomorpholinyl, optionally substituted piperazinylsulfonyl or optionally substituted piperidinylsulfonyl. In specific embodiments R^4 may be morpholin-sulfonyl, methyl-piperazine-1-sulfonyl, piperidin-1-sulfonyl or methyl-piperidin-1-sulfonyl.

In certain embodiments, the invention provides a compound selected from
30 N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-yl-amino)-benzyl]-4-methoxy-benzamide;
(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-{4-[(4-methoxy-benzoylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-
carbamic acid ethyl ester;

- N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-2,4-difluoro-benzamide;
 N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-fluoro-benzamide;
 4-chloro-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide;
 N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-thiophen-3-yl-benzamide;
 5 N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(2-methoxy-ethoxy)-benzamide;
 N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-
 benzamide;
 4-{4-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylcarbamoyl]-phenoxy}-piperidine-1-
 carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
 10 N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-pyrazol-1-yl-benzamide;
 N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(3-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-benz-
 amide;
 N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-methoxy-N-methyl-benzamide;
 4-(4-benzenesulfonyl-piperazin-1-yl)-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-
 15 benzyl]-benzamide;
 4-{4-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylcarbamoyl]-phenyl}-piperazine-1-
 carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
 N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-benzamide;
 and N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-pyrimidin-2-yl-benzamide.
 20 Representative compounds in accordance with the invention are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

No.	Name (Autonom TM)	M+H
1	4-butoxy-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	367
2	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-propoxy-benz- amide	353
3	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-isopropoxy- benzamide	353

4	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(2,2,2-trifluoro- ethoxy)-benzamide	379
5	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-ethoxy-benzamide	339
6	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-2,4-difluoro-benz- amide	331

7	2,4-dichloro-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	364
8	4-cyclopentyloxy-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	379
9	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(tetrahydropyran-4-yloxy)-benzamide	395
10	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(tetrahydropyran-2-ylmethoxy)-benzamide	409
11	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-fluoro-benzamide	313
12	4-cycloheptyloxy-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	408
13	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-isobutoxy-benzamide	367
14	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethoxy)-benzamide	409
15	4-cyclopropylmethoxy-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	365
16	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(2-methoxy-ethoxy)-benzamide	369
17	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-dimethylamino-benzamide	338
18	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-methylamino-benzamide	324
19	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(piperidin-4-yl-methoxy)-benzamide	409
20	4-chloro-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	330
21	4-(4-benzenesulfonyl-piperazin-1-yl)-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	520
22	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	295

23	4-diethylamino-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	366
24	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(piperidin-4-yl-	394

	oxy)-benzamide	
25	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-morpholin-4-yl-benzamide	380
26	4-{4-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylcarbamoyl]-phenyl}-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid ethyl ester	452
27	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(4-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-benzamide	375
28	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(3-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-benzamide	375
29	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-pyrazol-1-yl-benzamide	361
30	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-benzamide	355
31	4-{4-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylcarbamoyl]-phenoxymethyl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid ethylamide	480
32	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(4-ethanesulfonyl-piperazin-1-yl)-benzamide	472
33	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-[4-(propane-2-sulfonyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-benzamide	486
34	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(4-methanesulfonyl-piperazin-1-yl)-benzamide	458
35	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-methyl-benzamide	309
36	4-cyano-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	320
37	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-ethyl-benzamide	323
38	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-propyl-benzamide	337
39	4-diethylsulfamoyl-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	430
40	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-benzamide	394
41	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(4-ethyl-piperazin-1-yl)-benzamide	408
42	4-butyl-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	351

43	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-isobutyl-benzamide	351
44	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-2-fluoro-4-methoxybenzamide	344
45	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-ethylsulfamoylbenzamide	402
46	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-dimethylsulfamoylbenzamide	402
47	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(1-methanesulfonyl-piperidin-4-ylmethoxy)-benzamide	487
48	4-bromo-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	374
49	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-[4-(propane-1-sulfonyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-benzamide	486
50	4-cyclohexyl-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	378
51	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-methanesulfonylbenzamide	373
52	4-{4-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylcarbamoyl]-phenoxy-methyl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid ethyl ester	481
53	4-benzyloxy-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	401
54	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(1-methyl-piperidin-4-ylmethoxy)-benzamide	423
55	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(morpholine-4-sulfonyl)-benzamide	445
56	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-vinyl-benzamide	321
57	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-phenoxy-benzamide	387
58	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-2-methoxy-benzamide	325
59	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-3-methoxy-benzamide	325
60	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-thiophen-3-ylbenzamide	377

61	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(4-methyl-piperazine-1-sulfonyl)-benzamide	458
62	biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid 4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylamide	371
63	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-benzamide	363
64	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(piperidine-1-sulfonyl)-benzamide	443
65	4'-methoxy-biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid 4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylamide	401
66	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-methoxy-N-methyl-benzamide	341
67	4'-fluoro-biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid 4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylamide	389
68	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-hydroxy-benzamide	311
69	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(1-ethyl-piperidin-4-ylmethoxy)-benzamide	437
70	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(4-methoxy-piperidin-1-yl)-benzamide	409
71	4'-methyl-biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid 4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylamide	385
72	4'-chloro-biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid 4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylamide	406
73	4-(8-aza-spiro[4.5]dec-8-yl)-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	433
74	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(1-ethyl-piperidin-4-yloxy)-benzamide	423
75	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-piperazin-1-yl-benzamide	379
76	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(4-methyl-piperidin-1-yl)-benzamide	393
77	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-pyrimidin-2-yl-benzamide	373

78	4-[4-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylcarbamoyl]-phenoxy]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid ethyl ester	467
79	N-{1-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-(S)-phenyl]-ethyl}-4-methoxy-benzamide	339
80	N-{1-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-(R)-phenyl]-ethyl}-4-methoxy-benzamide	339
81	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(4-methyl-piperidine-1-sulfonyl)-benzamide	457
82	4-tert-butyl-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	351
83	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-pyrrolidin-1-yl-benzamide	364
84	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-benzamide	394
85	4-(2-chloro-thiophen-3-yl)-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide	412
86	N-cyclopropyl-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-methoxy-benzamide	365
87	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-N-ethyl-4-methoxybenzamide	353
88	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-N-ethyl-4-fluorobenzamide	341
89	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-piperidin-1-ylbenzamide	378
90	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-fluoro-N-methylbenzamide	327
91	N-cyclopropyl-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-fluorobenzamide	353
92	(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-{4-[(4-methoxy-benzoylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester	
93	2-(ethoxycarbonyl)-{4-[(4-methoxy-benzoylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-amino)-4,5-dihydro-imidazole-1-carboxylic acid ethyl ester	
94	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(2,3-dihydroxy-	385

	propoxy)-benzamide	
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95	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(3-hydroxy-2-hydroxymethyl-propoxy)-benzamide	399
96	N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-yl-amino)-benzyl]-4-methoxy-benzamide	
97	2-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-yl-amino)-phenyl]-N-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-acetamide.	
98	5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2-carboxylic acid 4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylamide	
99	5-(4-chloro-phenyl)-furan-2-carboxylic acid 4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylamide	

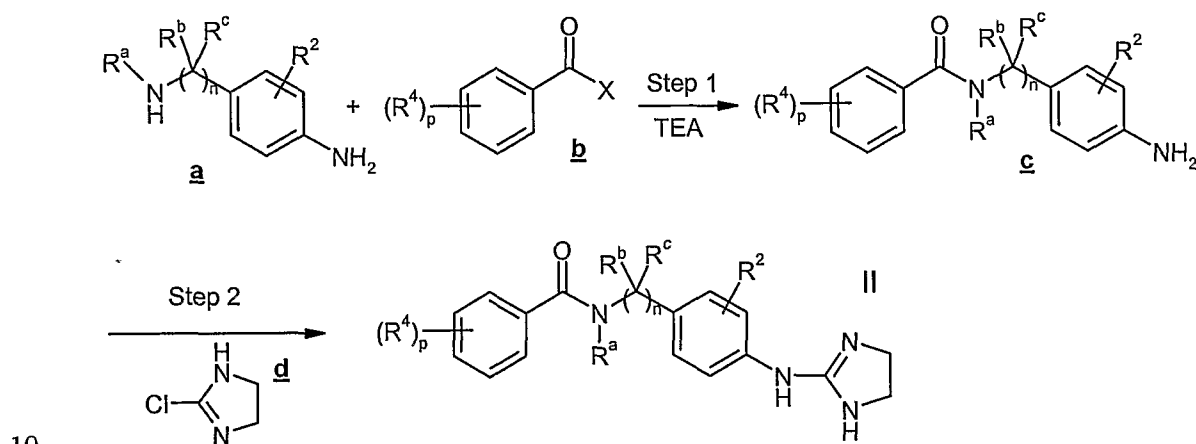
Compounds of the present invention may be made by the methods depicted in the illustrative synthetic reaction schemes shown and described below.

- 5 The starting materials and reagents used in preparing these compounds generally are either available from commercial suppliers, such as Aldrich Chemical Co., or are prepared by methods known to those skilled in the art following procedures set forth in references such as *Fieser and Fieser's Reagents for Organic Synthesis*; Wiley & Sons: New York, 1991, Volumes 1-20; *Rodd's Chemistry of Carbon Compounds*, Elsevier Science Publishers, 1989,
- 10 Volumes 1-5 and Supplementals; and *Organic Reactions*, Wiley & Sons: New York, 1991, Volumes 1-40. The following synthetic reaction schemes are merely illustrative of some methods by which the compounds of the present invention may be synthesized, and various modifications to these synthetic reaction schemes may be made and will be suggested to one skilled in the art having referred to the disclosure contained in this Application.
- 15 The starting materials and the intermediates of the synthetic reaction schemes may be isolated and purified if desired using conventional techniques, including but not limited to filtration, distillation, crystallization, chromatography, and the like. Such materials may be characterized using conventional means, including physical constants and spectral data.

Unless specified to the contrary, the reactions described herein preferably take place at
 20 atmospheric pressure over a temperature range from about -78°C to about 150°C, more

preferably from about 0°C to about 125°C, and most preferably and conveniently at about room (or ambient) temperature, *e.g.*, about 20°C.

Schemes A and B describe alternative methods to generate the compounds of the invention. Scheme A illustrates a preferred procedure for preparation of compounds of the embodiment of formula II, wherein X is halo or other leaving group, and n, p, R², R^a, R^b and R^c are as described herein. The procedure of Scheme A is exemplary, and alternative synthetic routes to the compounds of the invention will suggest themselves to those skilled in the art.



SCHEME A

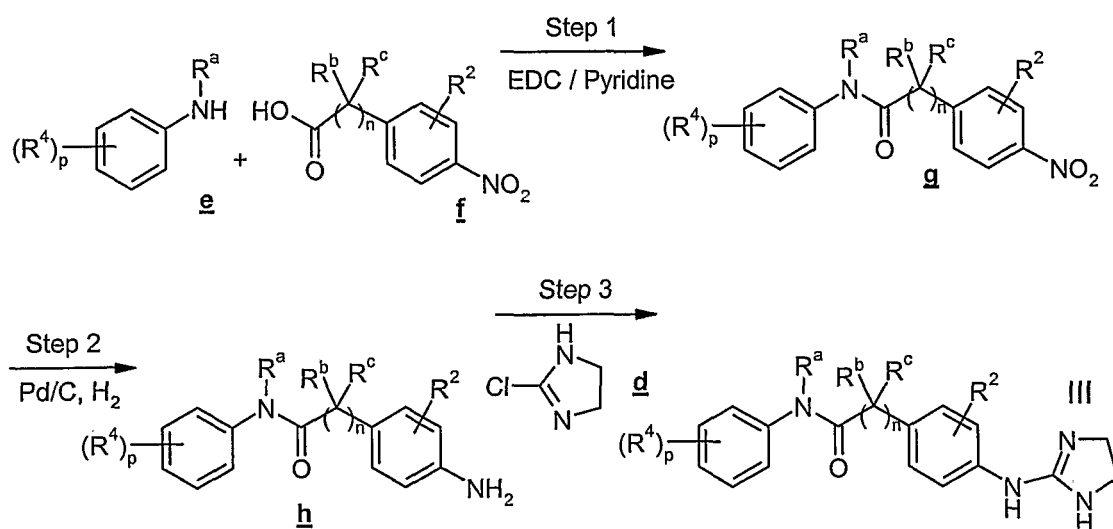
In step 1 of Scheme A, an aminoalkyl arylamine **a** is reacted with an aroyl halide **b**, to afford an aryl amide compound **c**. Step 1 is a straightforward condensation reaction that provides quantitative or substantially quantitative yields under mild conditions using a variety of aminoalkyl arylamine such as 4-aminomethyl-phenylamine with various aroyl halides. The aroyl halide **b** is shown as an optionally substituted benzoyl halide. Numerous substituted benzoic acid compounds are commercially available, and the acid chloride compounds of such compounds may be used in this step. The aroyl halide **b** may alternatively comprise other types of aroyl halide, including naphthalene carbonyl halides such as naphthalene-1-carbonyl halide and naphthalene-2-carbonyl halide, which may optionally be substituted. In other embodiments of the invention aroyl halide **b** may be replaced with various heteroaroyl halides such as quinoline-5-carbonyl halide, quinoline-6-carbonyl halide, isoquinoline-5-carbonyl halide, isoquinoline-6-carbonyl halide, isonicotinoyl halide, pyrimidine-4-carbonyl halide, furan-3-carbonyl halide, thiophen-3-carbonyl halide, and the like, which again may optionally be substituted. Also usable in

place of aroyl halide b are substituted benzoic anhydrides and heteroaromatic carboxylic anhydrides.

The aryl amide compound c of step 1 may then, in step 2, be heated with 2-chloroimidazoline sulfate under polar protic solvent conditions to provide an imidazolinylamino-substituted arylamide of formula II.

Many variations on the procedure of Scheme A are possible. Where substituents R^2 and/or R^4 are incompatible with or otherwise sensitive to the chemistry of step 1 or step 2, suitable protecting group strategies may be utilized. Numerous well-known protecting group schemes may be used in this regard. Exemplary protecting group strategies are described by, e.g., Greene et al. in *Protecting Groups in Organic Synthesis*, 3rd. Ed., Wiley & Sons, 1999. In certain embodiments, although generally less preferred, chloroimidazoline may first be reacted with aminoalkyl aniline a, provided that the suitable protection of amino groups is made to prevent unwanted reaction. The resulting product can then be deprotected or partially deprotected and reacted with aroyl halide b to yield imidazolinylamino-substituted arylamide II.

Scheme B illustrates a preferred procedure for preparation of compounds of the embodiment of formula III, wherein n , p , R^2 , R^a , R^b and R^c are as described herein.



20 SCHEME B

In step 1 of Scheme B, an aryl amine e is reacted with a nitroarylalkyl carboxylic acid f in the presence of a carbodiimide such as EDC (1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodi-

imide hydrochloride) to yield a nitro-substituted aryl amide compound g. The aryl amine e used in this step may comprise an optionally substituted phenylamine, many of which are commercially available, or an optionally substituted naphthalenylamine such as naphthalen-1-ylamine or naphthalen-2-ylamine. Alternatively, the compound e may comprise
5 an optionally substituted heteroaryl amine such as pyridin-4-ylamine, pyrimidin-5-ylamine, quinolin-5-ylamine, quinolin-6-ylamine, isoquinolin-5-ylamine, isoquinolin-6-ylamine, thiophen-3-ylamine, furan-3-ylamine, or the like.

The nitro-substituted aryl amide g of step 1 is reduced in step 2 to provide an aminoarylalkyl carboxylic acid h. The reduction of step 2 may be carried out using a platinum or
10 palladium catalyst on activated carbon in the presence of hydrogen under mild conditions.

The aminoarylalkyl carboxylic acid compound h of step 2 may then, in step 3, be heated with 2-chloroimidazoline sulfate under polar protic solvent conditions to provide an imidazolinylamino-substituted aryl amide of formula III.

The procedure of Scheme B, like that of Scheme A, is only exemplary and many alternate
15 procedures and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. For example, the nitro-substituted aryl amide compound g of step 1 may be replaced by an aminoarylalkyl carboxylic acid compound wherein the amino group is protected. In this case, step 2 would involve deprotection to provide the free amino group instead of reduction of a nitro group. In another variation of the procedure of Scheme B, an amino-substituted aryl
20 amide compound could first be reacted with chloroimidazoline, and the resulting product, using a suitable protection strategy, may then be reacted with aryl amine e to provide the aryl amide III.

The compounds of the present invention are IP receptor modulators, in particular, IP receptor antagonists, and as such possess selective antagonist activity at the IP receptor.
25 These compounds (and compositions containing them) are expected to be useful in the prevention and treatment of a variety of diseases in mammals, especially humans. The compounds of the invention also exhibit little or no hERG channel inhibition and thus are not expected to cause unwanted cardiovascular side effects.

In particular, the compounds of the invention possess anti-inflammatory and/or analgesic
30 properties *in vivo*, and accordingly, are expected to find utility in the treatment of disease states associated with pain conditions from a wide variety of causes, including, but not limited to, inflammatory pain, surgical pain, visceral pain, dental pain, premenstrual pain,

central pain, pain due to burns, migraine or cluster headaches, nerve injury, neuritis, neuralgias, poisoning, ischemic injury, interstitial cystitis, cancer pain, viral, parasitic or bacterial infection, post-traumatic injuries (including fractures and sports injuries), and pain associated with functional bowel disorders such as irritable bowel syndrome.

- 5 The compounds of the present invention are also useful in the treatment of inflammatory conditions from a variety of causes, including, but not limited to, bacterial, fungal or viral infections, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, surgery, bladder infection or idiopathic bladder inflammation, over-use, old age, or nutritional deficiencies, prostatitis, and conjunctivitis.
- 10 The compounds of this invention are also useful in treating disease states associated with urinary tract disease states associated with bladder outlet obstruction and urinary incontinence conditions such as bladder outlet obstruction, urinary incontinence, reduced bladder capacity, frequency of micturition, urge incontinence, stress incontinence, bladder hyperreactivity, benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH), prostatitis, detrusor hyperreflexia,
- 15 urinary frequency, nocturia, urinary urgency, overactive bladder, pelvic hypersensitivity, urge incontinence, urethritis, prostatitis, pelvic pain syndrome, prostaticodynia, cystitis, and idiopathic bladder hypersensitivity, and other symptoms related to overactive bladder.

The compounds of this invention may also find utility in the treatment of hypotensive vascular diseases such as hypotension associated with septic shock.

- 20 In addition, the compounds of this invention are useful in the treatment of respiratory diseases such as allergies and asthma.

These and other therapeutic uses are described, e.g., in *Goodman & Gilman's, The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*, tenth edition, McGraw-Hill, New York, 2001, Chapter 26; and Coleman, *Pharmacological Reviews*, 1994, 46:205-229.

- 25 The anti-inflammatory/analgesic activity of the compounds of this invention may be assayed by *in vivo* assays such as the Rat Carrageenan-Induced Mechanical Hyperalgesia Paw Assay and the Rat Complete Freund's Adjuvant-Induced Mechanical Hyperalgesia Assay, as described in more detail in the following Examples. Activity in the inhibition of bladder contractions may be assayed by *in vivo* assays such as the Inhibition of Bladder
- 30 Contractions Induced by Isovolumetric Bladder Distension Assay and the Inhibition of Volume-Induced Contracts in Rats Assay, as described in more detail in the Examples

below. Activity in the inhibition of the septic shock may be assayed by *in vivo* assays such as the Rat Reversal of Endotoxin-Induced Hypotension Assay, as described in more detail in the Examples below. The level of hERG channel inhibition of the compounds of the invention were assayed according to the procedure described in the Examples.

- 5 The present invention includes pharmaceutical compositions comprising at least one compound of the present invention, or individual isomers, racemic or non-racemic mixtures of isomers, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof, together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and optionally other therapeutic and/or prophylactic ingredients.
- 10 In general, the compounds of the present invention will be administered in a therapeutically effective amount by any of the accepted modes of administration for agents that serve similar utilities. Suitable dosage ranges are typically 1-500 mg daily, preferably 1-100 mg daily, and most preferably 1-30 mg daily, depending upon numerous factors such as the severity of the disease to be treated, the age and relative health of the subject, the potency of
- 15 the compound used, the route and form of administration, the indication towards which the administration is directed, and the preferences and experience of the medical practitioner involved. One of ordinary skill in the art of treating such diseases will be able, without undue experimentation and in reliance upon personal knowledge and the disclosure of this Application, to ascertain a therapeutically effective amount of the compounds of the present invention for a given disease.
- 20

In general, compounds of the present invention will be administered as pharmaceutical formulations including those suitable for oral (including buccal and sub-lingual), rectal, nasal, topical, pulmonary, vaginal, or parenteral (including intramuscular, intraarterial, intrathecal, subcutaneous and intravenous) administration or in a form suitable for ad-

25 ministration by inhalation or insufflation. The preferred manner of administration is generally oral using a convenient daily dosage regimen which can be adjusted according to the degree of affliction.

A compound or compounds of the present invention, together with one or more conventional adjuvants, carriers, or diluents, may be placed into the form of pharmaceutical com-

30 positions and unit dosages. The pharmaceutical compositions and unit dosage forms may be comprised of conventional ingredients in conventional proportions, with or without additional active compounds or principles, and the unit dosage forms may contain any suitable effective amount of the active ingredient commensurate with the intended daily

dosage range to be employed. The pharmaceutical compositions may be employed as solids, such as tablets or filled capsules, semisolids, powders, sustained release formulations, or liquids such as solutions, suspensions, emulsions, elixirs, or filled capsules for oral use; or in the form of suppositories for rectal or vaginal administration; or in the form of sterile injectable solutions for parenteral use. Formulations containing about one (1) milligram of active ingredient or, more broadly, about 0.01 to about one hundred (100) milligrams, per tablet, are accordingly suitable representative unit dosage forms.

The compounds of the present invention may be formulated in a wide variety of oral administration dosage forms. The pharmaceutical compositions and dosage forms may comprise a compound or compounds of the present invention or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof as the active component. The pharmaceutically acceptable carriers may be either solid or liquid. Solid form preparations include powders, tablets, pills, capsules, cachets, suppositories, and dispersible granules. A solid carrier may be one or more substances which may also act as diluents, flavoring agents, solubilizers, lubricants, suspending agents, binders, preservatives, tablet disintegrating agents, or an encapsulating material. In powders, the carrier generally is a finely divided solid which is a mixture with the finely divided active component. In tablets, the active component generally is mixed with the carrier having the necessary binding capacity in suitable proportions and compacted in the shape and size desired. The powders and tablets preferably contain from about one (1) to about seventy (70) percent of the active compound. Suitable carriers include but are not limited to magnesium carbonate, magnesium stearate, talc, sugar, lactose, pectin, dextrin, starch, gelatin, tragacanth, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, a low melting wax, cocoa butter, and the like. The term "preparation" is intended to include the formulation of the active compound with encapsulating material as carrier, providing a capsule in which the active component, with or without carriers, is surrounded by a carrier, which is in association with it. Similarly, cachets and lozenges are included. Tablets, powders, capsules, pills, cachets, and lozenges may be as solid forms suitable for oral administration.

Other forms suitable for oral administration include liquid form preparations including emulsions, syrups, elixirs, aqueous solutions, aqueous suspensions, or solid form preparations which are intended to be converted shortly before use to liquid form preparations. Emulsions may be prepared in solutions, e.g., in aqueous propylene glycol solutions or may contain emulsifying agents, e.g., such as lecithin, sorbitan monooleate, or acacia. Aqueous solutions can be prepared by dissolving the active component in water and adding suitable

colorants, flavors, stabilizing, and thickening agents. Aqueous suspensions can be prepared by dispersing the finely divided active component in water with viscous material, such as natural or synthetic gums, resins, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, and other well known suspending agents. Solid form preparations include solutions, 5 suspensions, and emulsions, and may contain, in addition to the active component, colorants, flavors, stabilizers, buffers, artificial and natural sweeteners, dispersants, thickeners, solubilizing agents, and the like.

The compounds of the present invention may be formulated for parenteral administration (*e.g.*, by injection, *e.g.*, bolus injection or continuous infusion) and may be presented in 10 unit dose form in ampoules, pre-filled syringes, small volume infusion or in multi-dose containers with an added preservative. The compositions may take such forms as suspensions, solutions, or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, *e.g.*, solutions in aqueous polyethylene glycol. Examples of oily or nonaqueous carriers, diluents, solvents or vehicles include propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, vegetable oils (*e.g.*, olive oil), and injectable 15 organic esters (*e.g.*, ethyl oleate), and may contain formulatory agents such as preserving, wetting, emulsifying or suspending, stabilizing and/or dispersing agents. Alternatively, the active ingredient may be in powder form, obtained by aseptic isolation of sterile solid or by lyophilisation from solution for constitution before use with a suitable vehicle, *e.g.*, sterile, pyrogen-free water.

20 The compounds of the present invention may be formulated for topical administration to the epidermis as ointments, creams or lotions, or as a transdermal patch. Ointments and creams may, *e.g.*, be formulated with an aqueous or oily base with the addition of suitable thickening and/or gelling agents. Lotions may be formulated with an aqueous or oily base and will in general also containing one or more emulsifying agents, stabilizing agents, dis- 25 persing agents, suspending agents, thickening agents, or coloring agents. Formulations suitable for topical administration in the mouth include lozenges comprising active agents in a flavored base, usually sucrose and acacia or tragacanth; pastilles comprising the active ingredient in an inert base such as gelatin and glycerin or sucrose and acacia; and mouth-washes comprising the active ingredient in a suitable liquid carrier.

30 The compounds of the present invention may be formulated for administration as suppositories. A low melting wax, such as a mixture of fatty acid glycerides or cocoa butter is first melted and the active component is dispersed homogeneously, *e.g.*, by stirring. The

molten homogeneous mixture is then poured into convenient sized molds, allowed to cool, and to solidify.

The compounds of the present invention may be formulated for vaginal administration. Pessaries, tampons, creams, gels, pastes, foams or sprays containing in addition to the
5 active ingredient such carriers as are known in the art to be appropriate.

The compounds of the present invention may be formulated for nasal administration. The solutions or suspensions are applied directly to the nasal cavity by conventional means, e.g., with a dropper, pipette or spray. The formulations may be provided in a single or multidose form. In the latter case of a dropper or pipette, this may be achieved by the
10 patient administering an appropriate, predetermined volume of the solution or suspension. In the case of a spray, this may be achieved, e.g., by means of a metering atomizing spray pump.

The compounds of the present invention may be formulated for aerosol administration, particularly to the respiratory tract and including intranasal administration. The com-
15 pound will generally have a small particle size, e.g., of the order of five (5) microns or less. Such a particle size may be obtained by means known in the art, e.g., by micronization. The active ingredient is provided in a pressurized pack with a suitable propellant such as a chlorofluorocarbon (CFC), e.g., dichlorodifluoromethane, trichlorofluoromethane, or dichlorotetrafluoroethane, or carbon dioxide or other suitable gas. The aerosol may con-
20 veniently also contain a surfactant such as lecithin. The dose of drug may be controlled by a metered valve. Alternatively the active ingredients may be provided in a form of a dry powder, e.g., a powder mix of the compound in a suitable powder base such as lactose, starch, starch derivatives such as hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose and polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP). The powder carrier will form a gel in the nasal cavity. The powder composition
25 may be presented in unit dose form, e.g., in capsules or cartridges of e.g., gelatin or blister packs from which the powder may be administered by means of an inhaler.

When desired, formulations can be prepared with enteric coatings adapted for sustained or controlled release administration of the active ingredient.

The pharmaceutical preparations are preferably in unit dosage forms. In such form, the
30 preparation is subdivided into unit doses containing appropriate quantities of the active component. The unit dosage form can be a packaged preparation, the package containing discrete quantities of preparation, such as packeted tablets, capsules, and powders in vials

or ampoules. Also, the unit dosage form can be a capsule, tablet, cachet, or lozenge itself, or it can be the appropriate number of any of these in packaged form.

Other suitable pharmaceutical carriers and their formulations are described in *Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy* 1995, edited by Martin, Mack Publishing Company, 19th edition, Easton, Pennsylvania. Representative pharmaceutical formulations containing a compound of the present invention are described in Examples 11 to 17.

The following preparations and examples are given to enable those skilled in the art to more clearly understand and to practice the present invention. They should not be considered as limiting the scope of the invention, but merely as being illustrative and representative thereof.

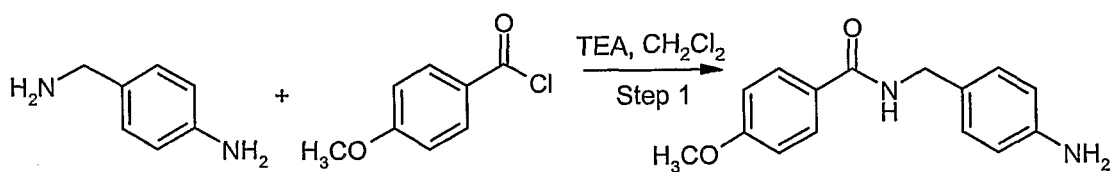
Efforts have been made to ensure accuracy with respect to numbers used (e.g., amounts, temperatures, etc.), but some experimental error and deviation should, of course, be allowed for as well as due to differences such as, e.g., in calibration, rounding of numbers, and the like.

15 EXAMPLES

The following preparations and examples are given to enable those skilled in the art to more clearly understand and to practice the present invention. They should not be considered as limiting the scope of the invention, but merely as being illustrative and representative thereof.

20 **Example 1: N-[4-(Imidazolidin-2-ylideneamino)-benzyl]-4-methoxy-benzamide**

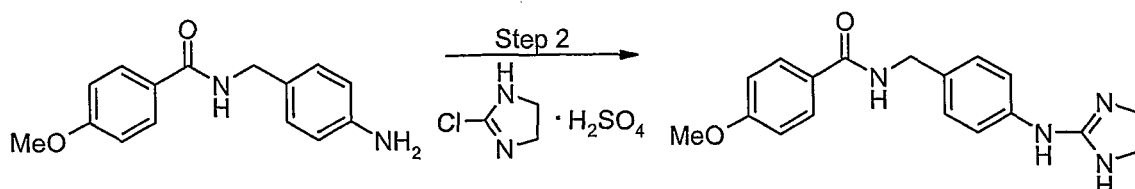
Step 1: N-(4-Aminobenzyl)-4-methoxybenzamide:



To a solution of 4-aminobenzylamine (7.14 g, 58.4 mmol) in dichloromethane (120 mL) were added at 0°C under N₂ triethylamine (16.4 mL, 118 mmol) and a solution of *p*-anisoyl chloride (10 g, 58.4 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 mL). The mixture was allowed to reach 25°C, stirred 16 h, and poured onto water/ice (ca. 200 mL). The resulting suspension was

stirred for 15 minutes and the white solid was filtered off and dried. Weight: 15 g (100% yield).

Step 2: N-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1*H*-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-methoxybenzamide:

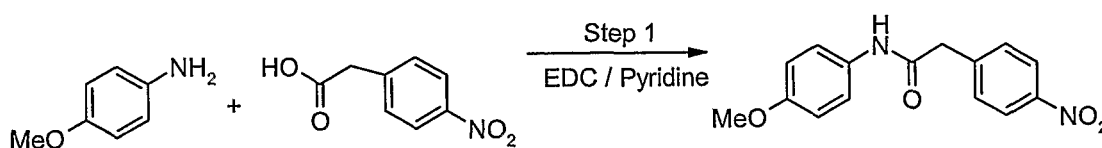


- 5 A mixture of N-(4-aminobenzyl)-4-methoxybenzamide (15 g, 58.4 mmol), 2-chloroimidazoline sulfate (15.2 g, 74 mmol) and 2-propanol (380 mL) was heated at reflux for 2.5 h under N₂. The mixture was cooled to 0°C and filtered, and the filtrate was concentrated to dryness. To the resulting residue 10% aqueous sodium hydroxide was added to reach pH 13-14. The resulting suspension was filtered, and the solid N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1*H*-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-methoxybenzamide was crystallized from dichloromethane.
- 10 Weight 11.9 g (61.4% yield). mp 160.3-160.6°C.

Additional compounds made by the above procedure are shown in Table 1.

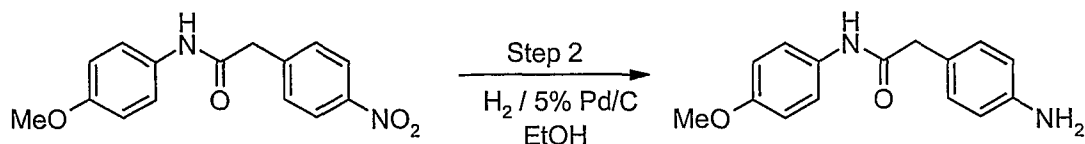
Example 2: 2-[4-(Imidazolidin-2-ylideneamino)-phenyl]-N-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-acetamide

- 15 Step 1: N-(4-Aminobenzyl)-4 methoxybenzamide



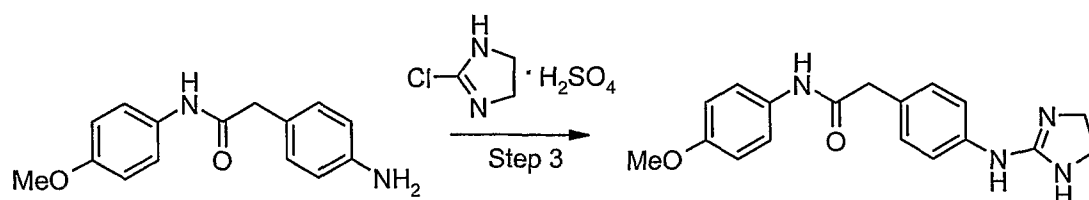
- A mixture of *p*-anisidine (4.92 g, 40 mmol), 4-nitrophenylacetic acid (7.25 g, 40 mmol) and 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC) (11.5 g, 60 mmol) in pyridine (40 mL) was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was evaporated, and HCl (1M, 50 mL) was added. The resulting product was filtered and washed with water and ether, and recrystallized from ethanol to give N-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-2-(4-nitro-phenyl)-acetamide (9.6 g, 84%).
- 20

Step 2: 2-(4-Amino-phenyl)-N-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-acetamide



A mixture of N-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-2-(4-nitro-phenyl)-acetamide (859 mg, 3 mmol), 5% Pd on C (16 mg) and EtOH (20 mL) was stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere (1 atm) for 5 hr. Filtration of the catalyst and evaporation of the solvent afforded 2-(4-amino-phenyl)-N-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-acetamide (732 mg, 95%).

Step 3: 2-[4-(Imidazolidin-2-ylideneamino)-phenyl]-N-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-acetamide hydrochloride



2-(4-Amino-phenyl)-N-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-acetamide (732 mg) was treated with 2-chloroimidazoline sulfate using the procedure of Example 1 above, to yield 2-[4-(imidazolidin-2-ylideneamino)-phenyl]-N-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-acetamide hydrochloride (10%); Mass Spec M+H: 314.

Additional compounds made by the above procedure are shown in Table 1.

Example 3: Formulations

Pharmaceutical preparations for delivery by various routes are formulated as shown in the following Tables. "Active ingredient" or "Active compound" as used in the Tables means one or more of the Compounds of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof.

Composition for Oral Administration

Ingredient	% wt./wt.
Active ingredient	20.0%
Lactose	79.5%
Magnesium stearate	0.5%

The ingredients are mixed and dispensed into capsules containing about 100 mg each; one capsule would approximate a total daily dosage.

Composition for Oral Administration

Ingredient	% wt./wt.
Active ingredient	20.0%
Magnesium stearate	0.5%
Crosscarmellose sodium	2.0%
Lactose	76.5%
PVP (polyvinylpyrrolidone)	1.0%

- 5 The ingredients are combined and granulated using a solvent such as methanol. The formulation is then dried and formed into tablets (containing about 20 mg of active compound) with an appropriate tablet machine.

Composition for Oral Administration

Ingredient	Amount
Active compound	1.0 g
Fumaric acid	0.5 g
Sodium chloride	2.0 g
Methyl paraben	0.15 g
Propyl paraben	0.05 g
Granulated sugar	25.5 g
Sorbitol (70% solution)	12.85 g
Veegum K (Vanderbilt Co.)	1.0 g
Flavoring	0.035 ml
Colorings	0.5 mg
Distilled water	q.s. to 100 ml

- 10 The ingredients are mixed to form a suspension for oral administration.

Parenteral Formulation

Ingredient	% wt./wt.
Active ingredient	0.25 g
Sodium Chloride	qs to make isotonic

Water for injection	100 ml
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- The active ingredient is dissolved in a portion of the water for injection. A sufficient quantity of sodium chloride is then added with stirring to make the solution isotonic. The solution is made up to weight with the remainder of the water for injection, filtered
- 5 through a 0.2 micron membrane filter and packaged under sterile conditions.

Suppository Formulation

Ingredient	% wt./wt.
Active ingredient	1.0%
Polyethylene glycol 1000	74.5%
Polyethylene glycol 4000	24.5%

The ingredients are melted together and mixed on a steam bath, and poured into molds containing 2.5 g total weight.

10 Topical Formulation

Ingredients	grams
Active compound	0.2-2
Span 60	2
Tween 60	2
Mineral oil	5
Petrolatum	10
Methyl paraben	0.15
Propyl paraben	0.05
BHA (butylated hydroxy anisole)	0.01
Water	q.s. 100

All of the ingredients, except water, are combined and heated to about 60°C with stirring. A sufficient quantity of water at about 60°C is then added with vigorous stirring to emulsify the ingredients, and water then added q.s. about 100 g.

15 Nasal Spray Formulations

Several aqueous suspensions containing from about 0.025-0.5 percent active compound are prepared as nasal spray formulations. The formulations optionally contain inactive in-

gredients such as, e.g., microcrystalline cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, dextrose, and the like. Hydrochloric acid may be added to adjust pH. The nasal spray formulations may be delivered via a nasal spray metered pump typically delivering about 50-100 micro-

5 hours.

Example 4: *In vitro* Human Platelet IP Receptor Radioligand Binding Assay

The Assay of this example was used to measure the strength of a potential drug's binding affinity to its intended target.

For each drug tested, the concentration producing 50% inhibition of binding (IC_{50}) and
10 Hill slope was determined using iterative curve fitting techniques. If a radioligand K_d was known the inhibition dissociation constant (K_i) of each drug was determined according to the method of Cheng & Prusoff (1973). For this receptor, a typical K_d , under the conditions of this example, was 1 E-8 M. Usually the negative logarithm of the K_i (pK_i) was presented.

15 The following buffers were prepared using purified water:

Lysis Buffer: 10mM Tris-HCl, 1.0 mM EDTA (di-Na)	pH 7.5 at 4°C
Assay Buffer: 20mM Tris-HCl, 5.0 mM $MgCl_2$	pH 7.4 at 25°C
Wash Buffer: 20mM Tris-HCl, 5.0 mM $MgCl_2$	pH 7.4 at 4°C

1. Membrane Preparation

20 250 mL Platelet Rich Plasma was transferred into 250 mL centrifuge tubes and spun at 6000g for 10 min at 20°C. Pellets were then resuspended in IP lysis buffer and homogenized using a polytron(setting 7, 1x20 sec burst), brought up to a final volume of 180 mL and centrifuged at 40,000g for 15 min at 4°C. The pellets were then resuspended in IP assay buffer, protein density determined by BCA method (Pierce) and stored in 2.0 mL
25 vials at -80°C for subsequent assay use.

To obtain at least 80 % specific binding, 50 μ g protein/assay tube were used in a competition experiment. The final radioligand concentration was 1 to 3E-8 M.

2. Competition Assay

The membranes were thawed at room temperature and then diluted in assay buffer to the appropriate concentration.

First buffer, drug, radioligand, and lastly, membranes were added to the assay tubes. The assay tubes were incubated at 25°C for 60 min. The assay tubes were filtered onto 0.3%

5 PEI pre-treated glass fiber filtermats (GF/ B) using Packard Top Count 96 well cell harvester. The tubes were rinsed three times with ice cold 20mM Tris-HCl, 5mM MgCl₂, pH=7.4 (3 x 0.5 mL/sample). Bound radioactivity was determined using liquid scintillation counting.

Using the above procedure, compounds of the invention were found to have affinity for
10 the IP receptor. For example, the compound 4-(2-chloro-thiophen-3-yl)-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide exhibited a pK_i value (10 µg) of approximately 9.73.

Example 5: Carrageenan-Induced Mechanical Hyperalgesia Assay

The anti-inflammatory/analgesic activity of compounds of this invention was determined
15 by the Carrageenan-Induced Mechanical Hyperalgesia Assay by measuring the inhibition of carrageenan-induced paw hyperalgesia in the rat, using a modification of the method described in Randall and Selitto [Archives of International Pharmacodynamics 11:409-419 (1957)], and Vinegar et al. [Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics 166:96-103 (1969)].

20 Male Sprague-Dawley rats (130-150 g) were weighed and randomly assigned to treatment groups (n=10). To induce mechanical hyperalgesia, rats were lightly anesthetized with halothane and administered 1% carrageenan or vehicle 1 (100 µl) in the plantar surface of the left hindpaw. Rats were administered vehicle (10 ml/kg, p.o. or 1 ml/kg, i.v) or compounds of this invention (at 1, 3, 10, 30 and 100 mg/kg, p.o.) or (0.3, 1.0, 3.0 and 10mg/kg,
25 i.v.) one hour before testing. Mechanical hyperalgesia was measured using an Analgesy-meter (UGO BASILE, Biological Research Apparatus, Comerio, Italy). The vehicle- or carrageenan-treated hindpaw was placed on the dome of the apparatus, plantar surface facing down. A constantly increasing force was then applied to the dorsal surface of the paw. The force at which the rat withdrew its paw, struggled, or vocalized was considered
30 the end point.

Treatment groups were compared using a one-way analysis of variance on the paw withdrawal force (RESP). Pairwise comparisons for the drug-treated groups to the vehicle group were made using Fisher's LSD strategy and Dunn's procedure. Percent inhibition of

mechanical hyperalgesia was calculated for each animal, and the average ID₅₀ value was estimated using the following sigmoidal model:

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = 100 / (1 + \exp ((\text{ID}_{50} - \text{dose}) / N))$$

where ID₅₀ is the dose of the compound needed to inhibit half of the maximum response (i.e., 100% in this model) and N is a curvature parameter. The compounds of this invention were active in this assay.

Example 6: Complete Freund's Adjuvant-Induced Mechanical Hyperalgesia Assay

The anti-inflammatory/analgesic activity of compounds of this invention may also be determined using an adjuvant-induced arthritis pain model in the rat, where pain is assessed by the animal's response to the squeezing of the inflamed foot, using a modification of the method described in Hylden et al. [Pain 37:229-243 (1989)]. The modification includes the assessment of hyperalgesia instead of changes in activity of spinal cord neurons.

Briefly, rats were weighed and randomly assigned to treatment groups. To induce mechanical hyperalgesia, rats were lightly anesthetized with halothane and 100 µl of Complete Freund's Adjuvant or saline was administered into the plantar surface of the left hindpaw. Twenty-four hours later, water (vehicle) or compounds of this invention were orally administered to the rats one hour before testing. Mechanical hyperalgesia was measured using an Analgesy-meter (UGO BASILE, Biological Research Apparatus, Comerio, Italy). The saline or carrageenan-treated hindpaw was placed on the dome of the apparatus, plantar surface facing down. A constantly increasing force was then applied to the dorsal surface of the paw, and the force at which the rat withdrew its paw, struggled, or vocalized was considered the end point. The treatment groups were compared using a one-way analysis of variance on the paw withdrawal force. Percent inhibition was calculated for each animal in the form:

$$100 \times ((c/d - c/v) \div (s/v - c/v))$$

where c/d is the paw withdrawal force for the carrageenan-treated paw in an animal to which drug has been administered; c/v is the paw withdrawal force for the carrageenan-treated paw in an animal to which vehicle has been administered; and s/v is the paw withdrawal force for the saline-treated paw in an animal to which vehicle has been admini-

stered. Significance was determined using Student's t-test. The compounds of the invention were active in this assay.

Example 7: Inhibition of Bladder Contractions Induced by Isovolumetric Bladder Distension in Rats

- 5 The inhibition of bladder contractions was determined by an assay using a modification of the method described in Maggi et al. [*J. Pharm. and Exper. Therapeutics* 230:500-513 (1984)].

Briefly, male Sprague-Dawley rats (200-250 g) were weighed and randomly assigned to treatment groups. A catheter was inserted through the urethra into the bladder to induce
10 bladder contractions, and a warm saline solution (5 mL) was infused. Rhythmic contractions were produced in about 30% of the animals. The compounds of the invention (0.1, 0.3 or 1 mg/kg) were administered intravenous at the onset of regular rhythmic contractions. The effects on rhythmic contracts were then measured. The compounds of this invention were active in this assay.

15 **Example 8: Inhibition of Volume-Induced Contractions in Rats**

The inhibition of bladder contractions was determined by an assay using a modification of the method described in Hegde *et al.*, *Proceedings of the 26th Annual Meeting of the International Continence Society* (August 27th-30th) 1996, Abstract 126.

Female Sprague-Dawley rats were anesthetized with urethane and instrumented for intra-
20 venous administration of drugs and, in some cases, measurement of arterial pressure, heart rate and intra-bladder pressure. The effect of test compounds on volume-induced bladder contractions was determined in separate groups of animals. Volume-induced reflex bladder contractions were induced by filling the bladder with saline.

The test compounds were administered intravenously in a cumulative manner at 10
25 minute intervals. Atropine (0.3 mg/kg, iv) was administered at the end of the study as a positive control. The compounds of this invention were active in this assay.

Example 9: Reversal of Endotoxin-Induced Hypotension in Rats

Septic shock, sometimes referred to as endotoxic shock, is caused by the presence of infec-
30 tious agents, particularly bacterial endotoxins, in the bloodstream and is characterized by hypotension and organ dysfunction. Many symptoms of septic shock, in particular, hypo-

tension, are induced in the rat by the administration of bacterial endotoxins. The ability of a compound to inhibit endotoxin-induced hypotension is therefore predictive of the utility of the compound in the treatment of septic or endotoxic shock.

The activity of the compounds of the invention in the treatment of septic or endotoxic shock was determined by measuring the reversal of endotoxin-induced hypotension in the rat, using a modification of the method described in Giral et al. [British Journal of Pharmacology 118:1223-1231 (1969)].

Briefly, adult rats (>200 g) were anesthetized with an inhalation anesthetic and femoral arteries and veins were cannulated for insertion of blood pressure transducers and drug administration lines, respectively. They were placed in Mayo restrainers while still under the influence of the anesthetic. After recovery from anesthesia and stabilization of heart rate and blood pressure (which typically required about 30 minutes), endotoxin (50 mg/kg *E. coli* and 25 mg/kg *Salmonella*) was administered intravenously. Changes in blood pressure and heart rate were monitored. After one hour, compounds of this invention or vehicle were also administered intravenously, and cardiovascular parameters were continuously monitored for the next three hours. Responses are represented as percentage return to initial diastolic blood pressure. Significance was determined using Student's t-test. The compounds of this invention were active in this assay.

Example 10: hERG Potassium Channel Pharmacology Screening

The effects of the subject compounds on recombinant hERG potassium channels expressed in CHO-K1 cells was determined according to the procedure reported by Hamill et al. [Pflügers Arch. 391:85-100 (1981)].

The following solutions were used to isolate potassium currents in cultured cell lines: *extracellular* (in mM), NaCl (150), KCl (4), HEPES (10), CaCl₂ (1.2), MgCl₂ (1), adjusted to pH 7.4 with NaOH; *intracellular* (in mM), KCl (140), HEPES (10), EGTA (5), MgCl₂ (6), ATP-Na₂ (5), adjusted to pH 7.2 with KOH.

Whole-cell patch-clamp methods were used to record potassium currents from CHO.K1 cells expressing the human hERG channel. Each cell was held at a negative holding potential of -80 mV. At the beginning of each experiment, currents were characterized by obtaining current-voltage relationships. Cells were depolarized from -80 mV to +40 mV for 1 second followed by a 300 ms repolarization to potentials between -120 and +20 mV (in 20 mV increments). The stimulation frequency is 0.1 Hz. Peak tail current amplitudes at the different test potentials were measured to obtain the current-voltage relationship.

- A second protocol was used to investigate the effects of compounds on hERG currents. Cells were depolarized from -80 mV to +20 mV for 500 ms and then repolarized to -40 mV for 500 ms, followed by a 200 ms hyperpolarizing pulse to -120 mV. At the end of the hyperpolarizing pulse, the cells were returned to a holding potential of -80mV. Data points
5 were collected at a frequency of 0.1Hz (1 stimulus every 10 seconds) using pClamp 8.0 software from Axon Instruments in Clampex mode. Drugs were applied once a stable baseline has been recorded for 5 min. Data are collected for 5 or 10 minute blocks. The number of stimuli and therefore blocks of data for a given drug concentration depends on how quickly the drug reaches equilibrium.
- 10 If a compound had an effect on current amplitude, the reversibility of the effect was examined by returning the buffer to control solution. Compounds affecting the current were washed out and higher concentrations of the compound was applied to the same cells following full recovery.
- Voltage-dependent potassium currents were recorded from single cells at room tempera-
15 ture (20-22°C) using the whole-cell configuration of the patch-clamp technique. Cells were voltage-clamped using a patch-clamp amplifier (e.g., Axopatch 200; Axon Instruments) which is controlled by computer via a Digidata 1200 Interface (Axon Instruments). The voltage-clamp protocols used in this Example were generated using PClamp software (version 7 or later; Axon Instruments). Whole-cell currents were low-pass filtered (1-2
20 kHz, 4-pole Bessel), digitized (10 kHz) and stored on magnetic medium for off-line analysis using PClamp software, Microcal Origin, and Prism.
- The peak amplitude of outward currents are measured using Clampfit software to find peak amplitude. The peak amplitudes of the inward tail currents evoked are fit using a single exponential function:

25
$$f(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n A_i e^{(-t/\tau_i)} + C$$

- where A indicates the peak current, C is the plateau or anti-peak, and τ is the time constant. The Chebyshev search method with a four point smoothing function was applied. Once the tail currents were fit and peak amplitudes measured, the effects of the compound were determined as a % change compared to the peak amplitudes of the control peaks.
- 30 Statistics were calculated using Microcal Origin and Prism software, and results were reported as mean +/- standard error of the mean. A minimum of 3 cells/concentration of compound was required for testing of each compound.

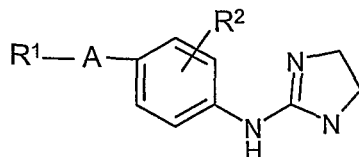
A compound, cisapride, known to inhibit hERG potassium channels, was used as a standard compound and a full concentration-response curve for cisapride was generated for comparison with the subject compounds.

5 The compounds of the invention did not significantly inhibit the hERG potassium channel using the above assay. Notably, the hERG outward current inhibition percentage for the representative compound N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-yl-amino)-benzyl]-4-methoxy-benzamide was $4.3 \pm 4.4\%$ at 1 μM , and $10.8 \pm 7.2\%$ at 10 μM .

10 While the present invention has been described with reference to the specific embodiments thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation, material, composition of matter, process, process step or steps, to the objective spirit and scope of the present invention. All such modifications are intended to be within the scope of the claims appended hereto.

What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the formula I:

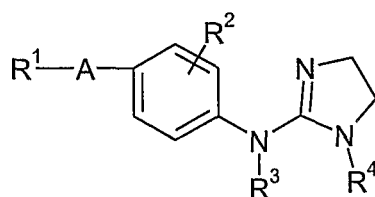


(I)

wherein:

- 5 R^1 is aryl or heteroaryl;
 R^2 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl or halogen;
 A is $-C(O)-NR^a-(CR^bR^c)_n-$ or $-NR^a-C(O)-(CR^bR^c)_n-$;
 n is from 1 to 6;
 R^a , R^b and R^c each independently is hydrogen or alkyl;
 10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof.

2. A compound of the formula II:



(II)

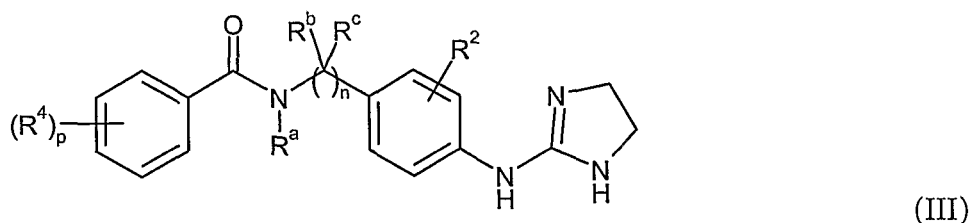
wherein:

- R^1 is optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heteroaryl;
 15 R^2 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl or halogen;
 R^3 and R^4 each independently is hydrogen or alkoxycarbonyl;
 A is $-C(O)-NR^a-(CR^bR^c)_n-$ or $-NR^a-C(O)-(CR^bR^c)_n-$;
 n is from 1 to 6;
 R^a is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl; and
 20 R^b and R^c each independently is hydrogen or alkyl;
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof.

3. The compound of claim 2, wherein A is $-C(O)-NR^a-(CR^bR^c)_n-$.

4. The compound of claim 2, wherein A is $-NR^a-C(O)-(CR^bR^c)_n-$.

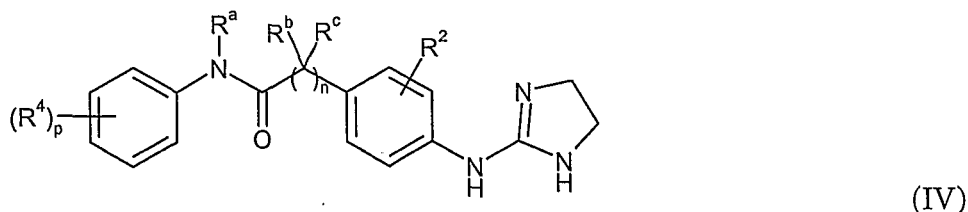
5. The compound of claim 3 or 4, wherein R^1 is phenyl optionally substituted by one, two, or three substituents independently selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, aralkyloxy, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkoxyalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylalkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclylsulfonyl, optionally substituted heterocyclylalkyloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, sulfamoyl, alkylsulfamoyl, dialkylsulfamoyl or sulfonylamino.
6. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is of the formula III:



wherein:

- p is from 0 to 4;
- R^4 is alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, aralkyloxy, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkoxyalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylalkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclylsulfonyl, optionally substituted heterocyclylalkyloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, sulfamoyl, alkylsulfamoyl, dialkylsulfamoyl or sulfonylamino;
- R^a is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl;
- R^b and R^c each independently is hydrogen or alkyl; and
- n and R^2 are as defined in claim 1.

7. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is of the formula IV:



wherein:

p is from 0 to 4;

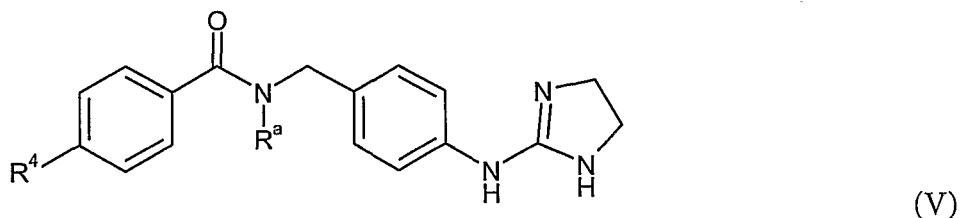
R⁴ is alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, ar-
 5 alkyloxy, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkoxy-
 alkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cyclo-
 alkylalkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, op-
 tionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy, optionally
 10 substituted heterocyclylsulfonyl, optionally substituted heterocyclylalkyloxy, option-
 ally substituted heteroaryl, sulfamoyl, alkylsulfamoyl, dialkylsulfamoyl or sulfonyl-
 amino;

R^a is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R^b and R^c each independently is hydrogen or alkyl; and

n and R² are as defined in claim 1.

15 8. The compound of claim 5, wherein said compound is of the formula V:



and wherein R⁴ and R^a are as defined in claim 5.

9. The compound of formula I according to claim 1 selected from

N-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-yl-amino)-benzyl]-4-methoxy-benzamide;

20 (4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-{4-[(4-methoxy-benzoylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-
 carbamic acid ethyl ester;

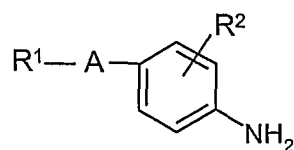
N-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-2,4-difluoro-benzamide;

N-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-fluoro-benzamide;

4-Chloro-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-benzamide;

25 N-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-thiophen-3-yl-benzamide;

- N-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(2-methoxy-ethoxy)-benzamide;
 N-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxy)-
 benzamide;
 4-{4-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylcarbamoyl]-phenoxy}-piperidine-1-
 5 carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
 N-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-pyrazol-1-yl-benzamide;
 N-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-(3-methyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-
 benzamide;
 N-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-methoxy-N-methyl-benzamide;
 10 4-(4-Benzenesulfonyl-piperazin-1-yl)-N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-
 benzyl]-benzamide;
 4-{4-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzylcarbamoyl]-phenyl}-piperazine-1-
 carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
 N-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-benzamide;
 15 and N-[4-(4,5-Dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-ylamino)-benzyl]-4-pyrimidin-2-yl-benzamide.
10. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9 for use as therapeutic active sub-
 stance.
11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least
 one compound of formula I according to claim 1 in admixture with at least one
 20 pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
12. A method of treatment of a disease that is mediated by an IP receptor antagonist, the
 method comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically
 effective amount of at least one compound of formula I according to claim 1.
13. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9 for the manufacture of a
 25 medicament for the control of a disease that is mediated by an IP receptor antagonist.
14. A method for preparing a compound of formula I according to claim 1, said method
 comprising reacting a compound of the formula:



with chloroimidazoline, to form a compound of the formula I.

15. A compound whenever prepared by the process according to claim 14.

16. The invention as herein described.