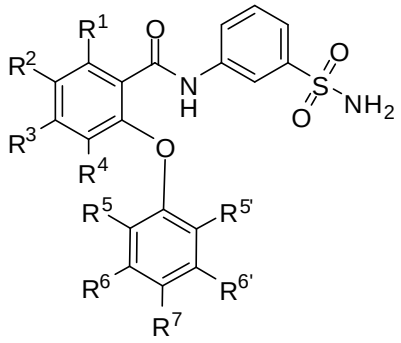
**We claim:**

1. A compound of formula **I**



**I**;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein, independently for each occurrence:

$R^1$ is H, Cl, $CH_3$, $CF_3$ or cyclopropyl;

$R^2$ is H, F, Cl, CN, $CH_3$, $CF_3$ or $CHF_2$;

$R^3$ is H, F, Cl, CN, $CF_3$, $OCF_3$ or $CF_2CF_3$;

$R^4$ is H;

$R^5$ is H, F, Cl, $CH_3$, $OCH_3$, $OCH_2CH_3$, $OCH_2CH_2CH_3$ or $OCHF_2$;

$R^{5'}$ is H, F, Cl, $CH_3$, $OCH_3$, $OCH_2CH_3$, $OCH_2CH_2CH_3$ or $OCHF_2$;

$R^6$ is H, F or Cl;

$R^{6'}$ is H, F or Cl; and

$R^7$ is H, F, Cl, $OCH_3$, $OCF_3$, $OCH_2CH_3$, $OCH(CH_3)_2$ or $OCHF_2$,

provided that $R^1$, $R^2$, and $R^3$ are not simultaneously hydrogen; and

that $R^5$, $R^{5'}$, $R^6$, $R^{6'}$, and $R^7$ are not simultaneously hydrogen..

2. The compound or salt according to claim 1, wherein $R^1$ is H, $CF_3$ or Cl.

3. The compound or salt according to claim 1 or 2, wherein $R^1$ is H or $CF_3$.

4. The compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein $R^2$ is H, $CF_3$ or Cl.

5. The compound or salt according to claim 4, wherein $R^2$ is H or $CF_3$.

6. The compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein $R^3$ is H, $CF_3$, Cl or $OCF_3$.

7. The compound or salt according to claim 6, wherein $R^3$ is H, $CF_3$ or Cl.

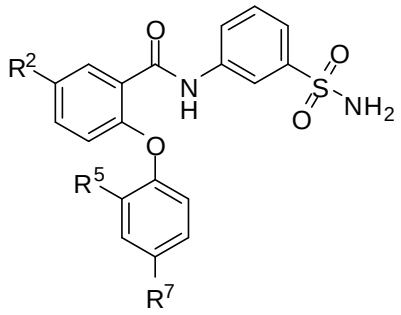
8. The compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein $R^5$ is H.

9. The compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein $R^6$ or $R^{6'}$ is H or F.

10. The compound or salt according to claim any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein $R^7$ is F, Cl, $OCH_3$ or $OCF_3$.

11. The compound or salt according to claim 10, wherein $R^7$ is F or $OCH_3$.

12. The compound or salt according claim 1, wherein the compound has formula I-D:




**I-D**,

wherein, independently for each occurrence:

$R^2$ is F, Cl, CN, $CH_3$, $CF_3$ or $CHF_2$;

$R^5$ is F, Cl, $CH_3$, $OCH_3$, $OCH_2CH_3$, $OCH_2CH_2CH_3$ or $OCHF_2$; and

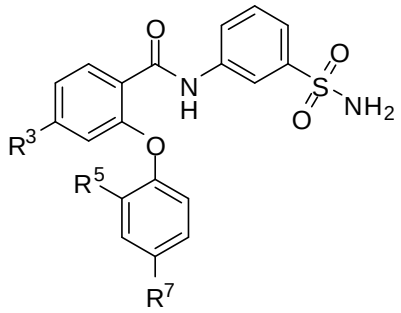
$R^7$ is F, Cl, $OCH_3$, $OCF_3$, $OCH_2CH_3$, $OCH(CH_3)_2$ or $OCHF_2$.

13. The compound or salt according to claim 12, wherein $R^2$ is Cl or $CF_3$.

14. The compound or salt according to claim 12 or 13, wherein $R^5$ is F, Cl, $CH_3$ or $OCH_3$.

15. The compound or salt according to any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein $R^7$ is F, Cl, $OCH_3$ or $OCF_3$.

16. The compound or salt according to claim 1, wherein the compound has formula I-E:



**I-E**,

wherein, independently for each occurrence:

$R^3$ is F, Cl, CN, $CF_3$, $OCF_3$ or $CF_2CF_3$;

$R^5$ is F, Cl, $CH_3$, $OCH_3$, $OCH_2CH_3$, $OCH_2CH_2CH_3$ or $OCHF_2$; and

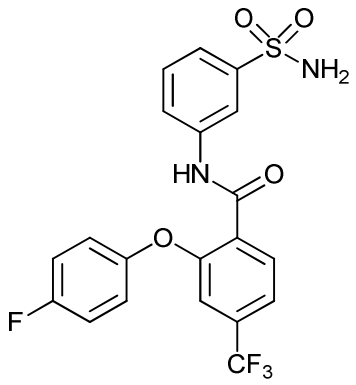
$R^7$ is F, Cl, $OCH_3$, $OCF_3$, $OCH_2CH_3$, $OCH(CH_3)_2$ or $OCHF_2$.

17. The compound or salt according to claim 16, wherein $R^3$ is Cl, $CF_3$ or $OCF_3$.

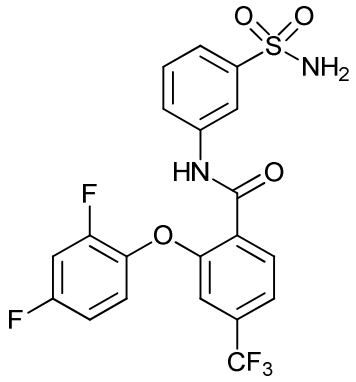
18. The compound or salt according to claim 16 or 17, wherein $R^5$ is F, Cl, $CH_3$ or $OCH_3$.

19. The compound or salt according to any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein $R^7$ is F, Cl, $OCH_3$ or $OCF_3$.

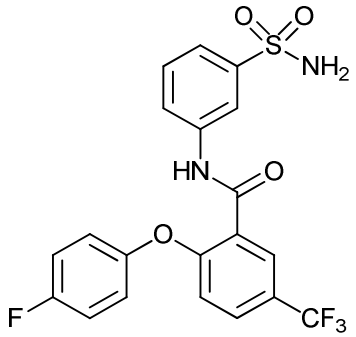
20. The compound or salt of claim 1, wherein the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is selected from a group consisting of:



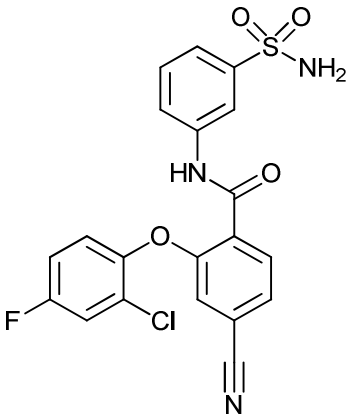
2-(4-fluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



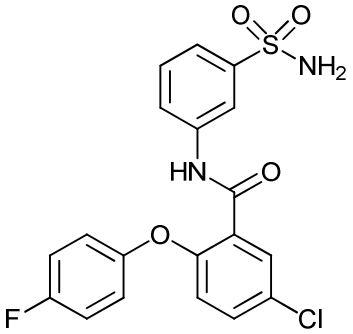
2-(2,4-difluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



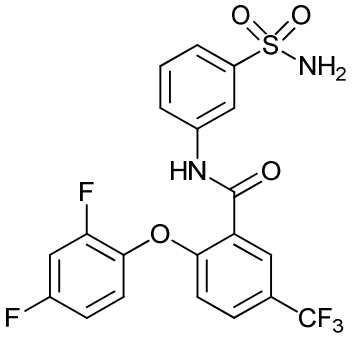
2-(4-fluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



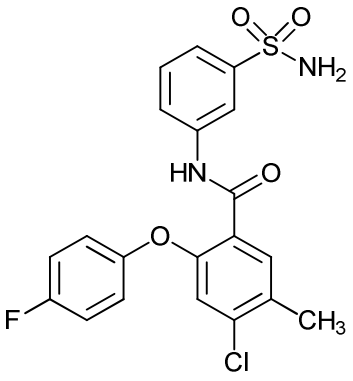
2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenoxy)-4-cyano-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



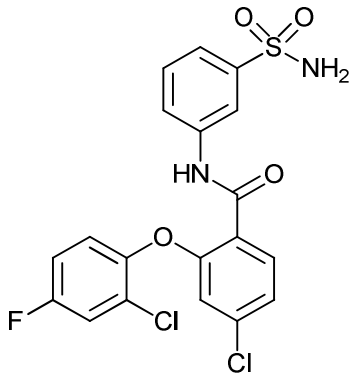
5-chloro-2-(4-fluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



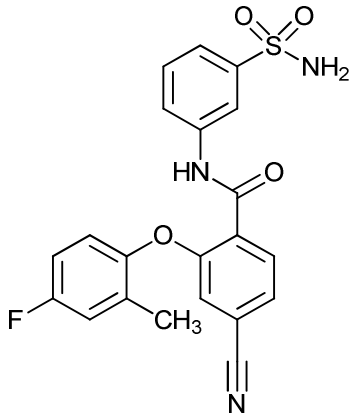
2-(2,4-difluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



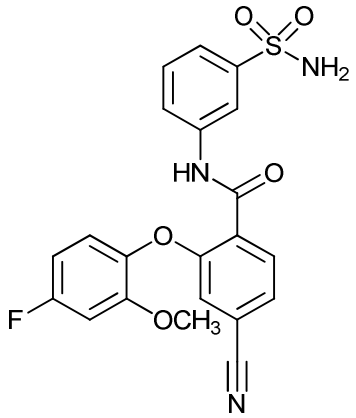
4-chloro-2-(4-fluorophenoxy)-5-methyl-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



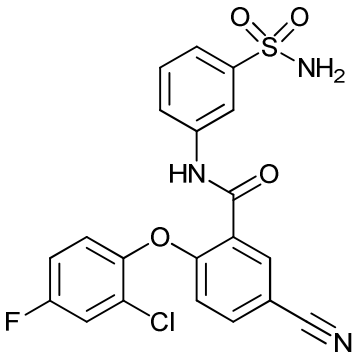

4-chloro-2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



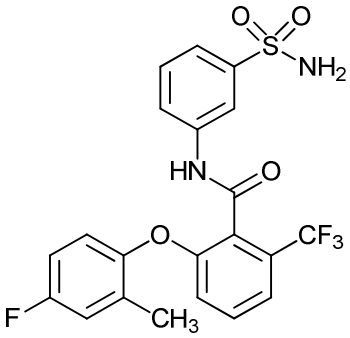

4-cyano-2-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



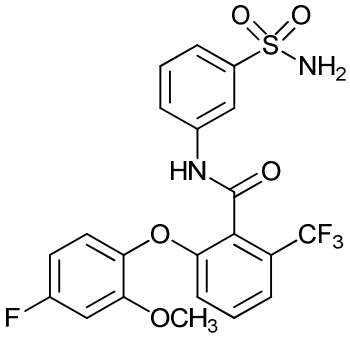

4-cyano-2-(4-fluoro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



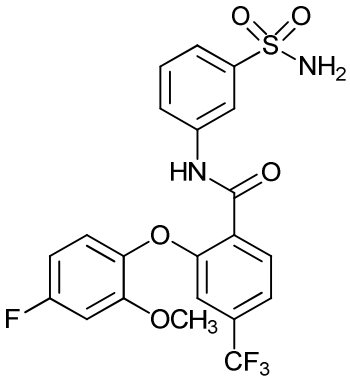
2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenoxy)-5-cyano-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



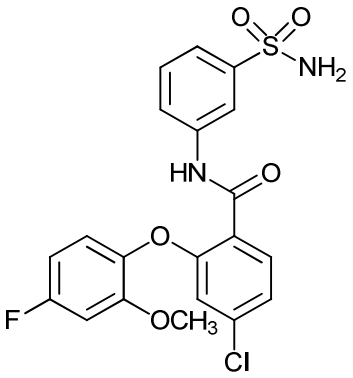
2-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



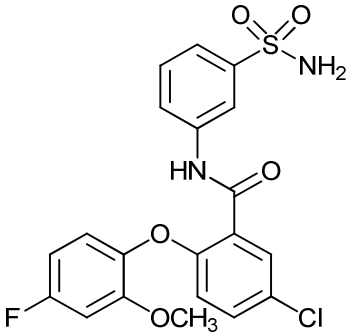
2-(4-fluoro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



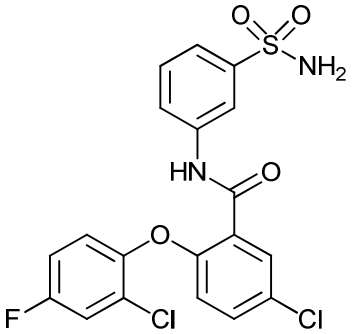
2-(4-fluoro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



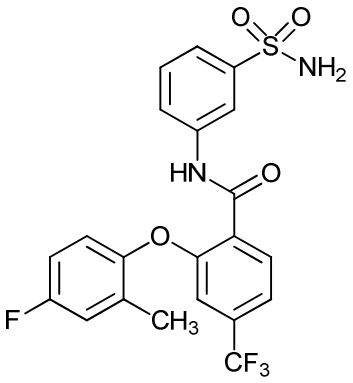
4-chloro-2-(4-fluoro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



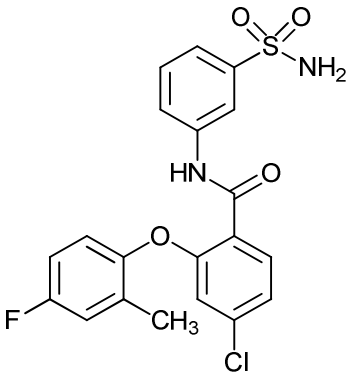
5-chloro-2-(4-fluoro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



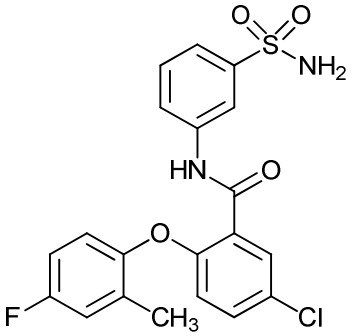
5-chloro-2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



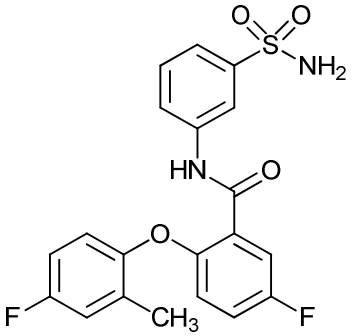
2-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



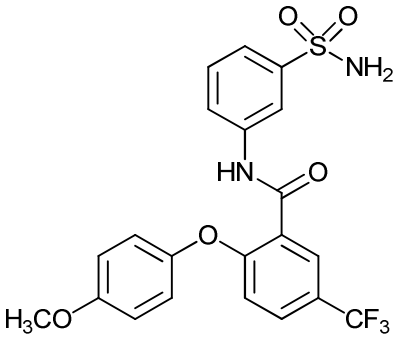
4-chloro-2-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



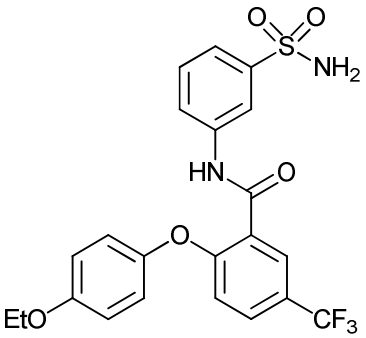
5-chloro-2-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



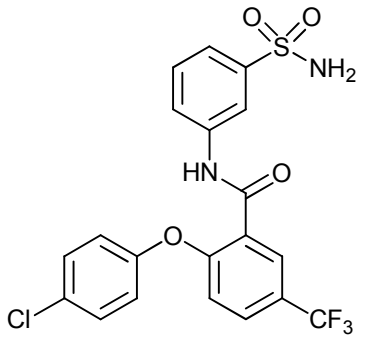
5-fluoro-2-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



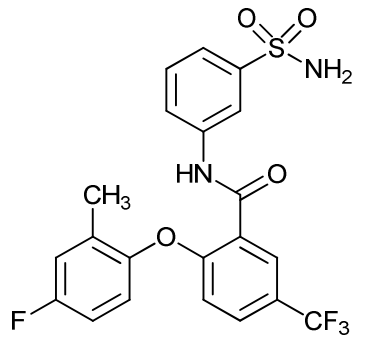
2-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



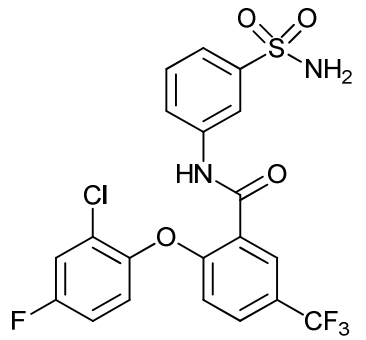

2-(4-ethoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



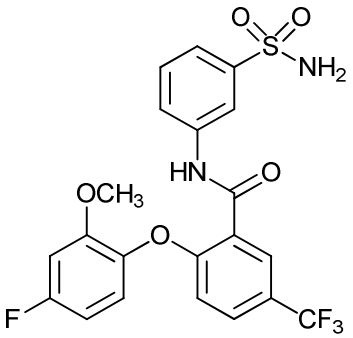

2-(4-chlorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



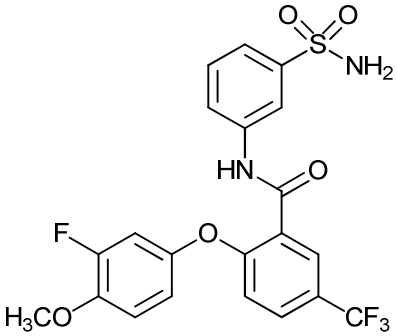

2-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



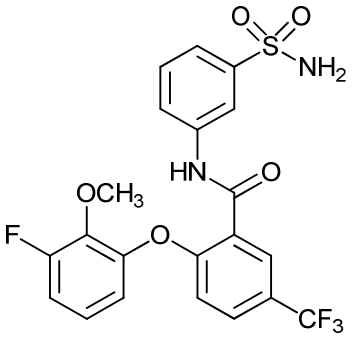

2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



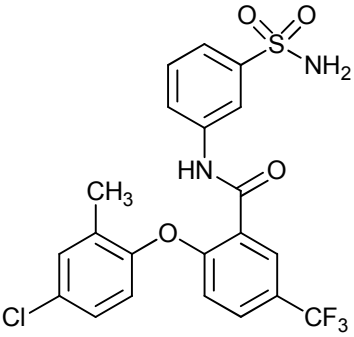
2-(4-fluoro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



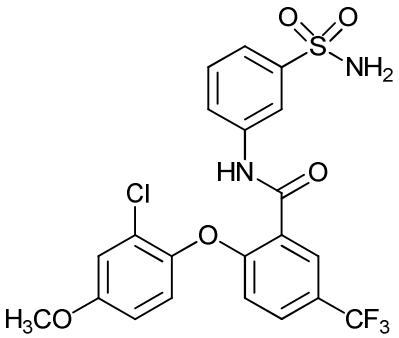
2-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



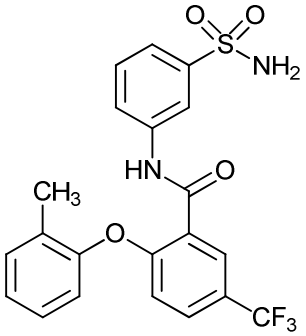
2-(3-fluoro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



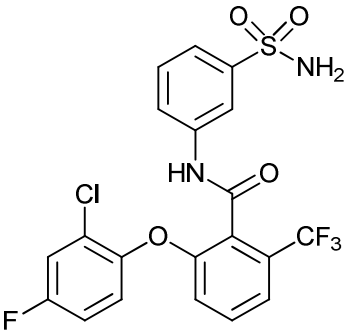
2-(4-chloro-2-methylphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



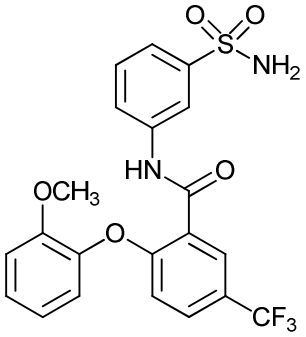
2-(2-chloro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



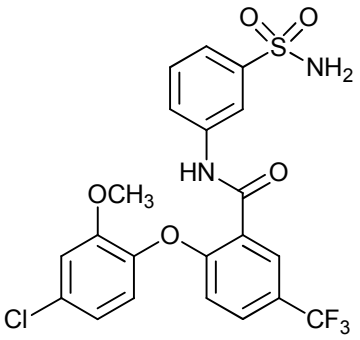
N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-2-(o-tolyloxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



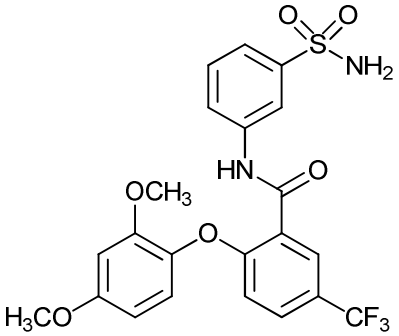
2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



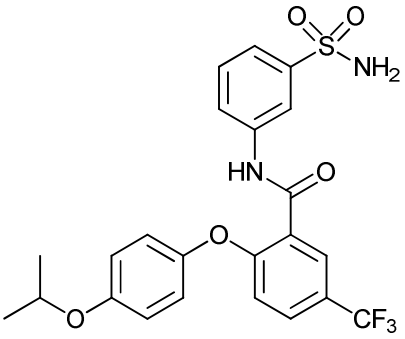
2-(2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



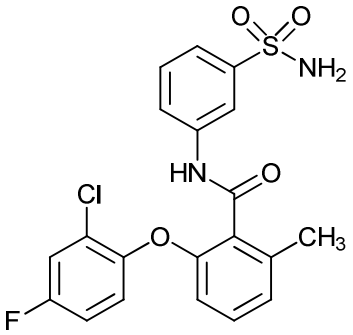
2-(4-chloro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



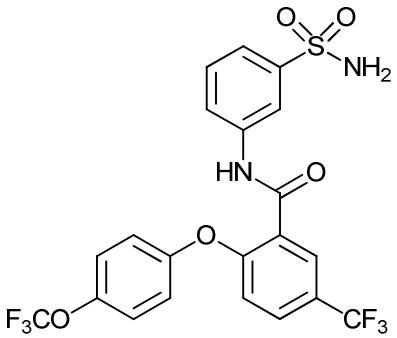
2-(2,4-dimethoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



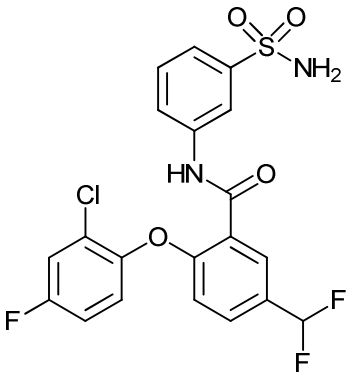
2-(4-isopropoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



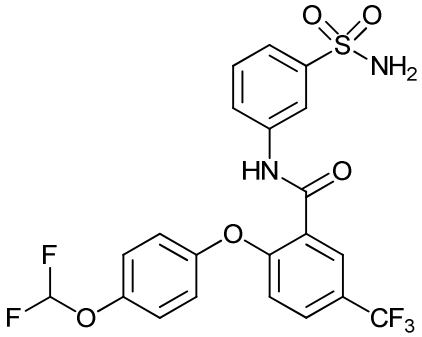
2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenoxy)-6-methyl-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



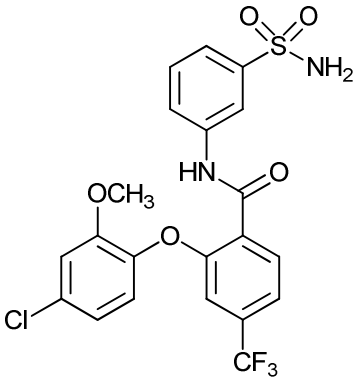
N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenoxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



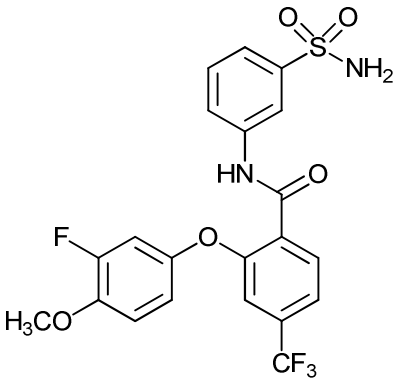
2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenoxy)-5-(difluoromethyl)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



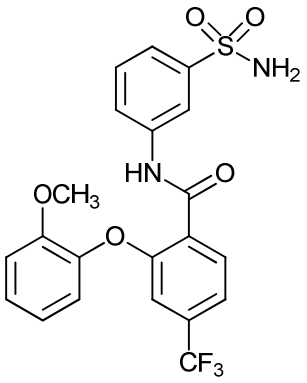
2-(4-(difluoromethoxy)phenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



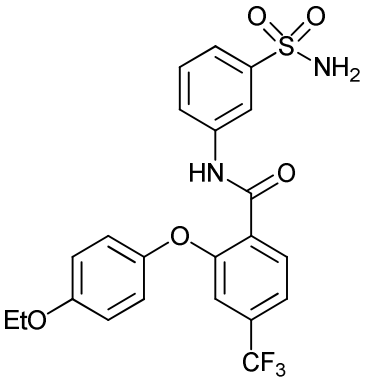
2-(4-chloro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



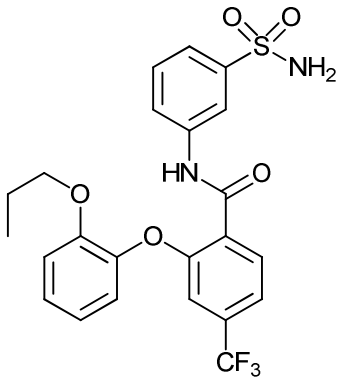
2-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



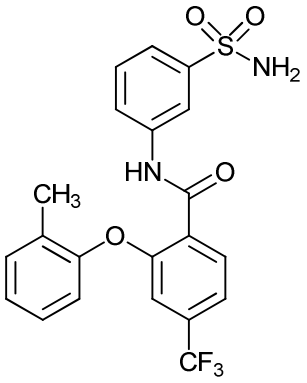
2-(2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



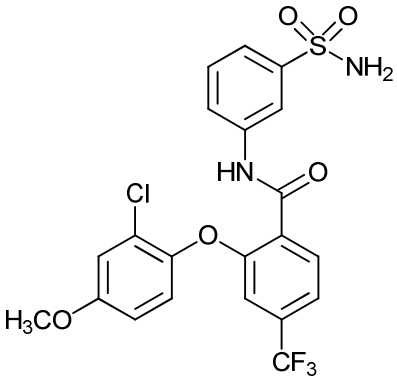
2-(4-ethoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



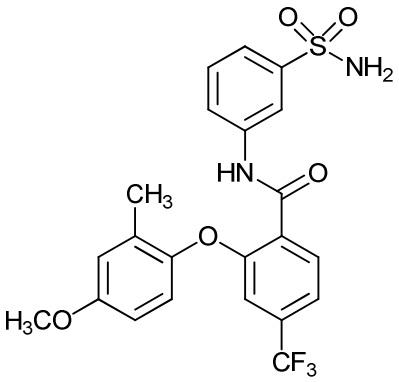
2-(2-propoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



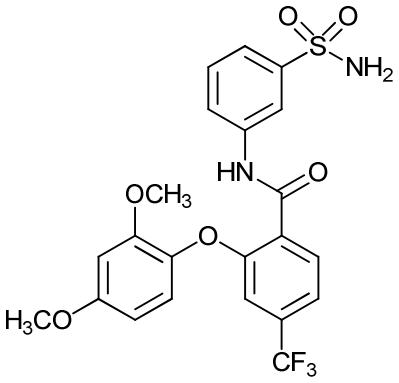
N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-2-(o-tolyloxy)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



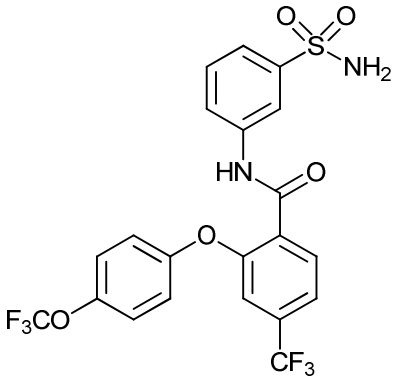
2-(2-chloro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



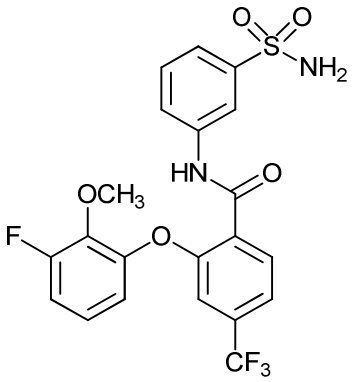
2-(4-methoxy-2-methylphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



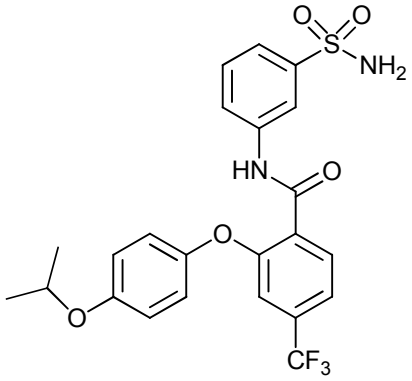
2-(2,4-dimethoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



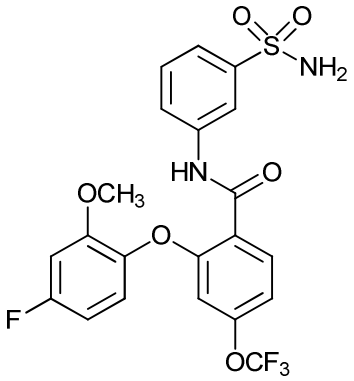
N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenoxy)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



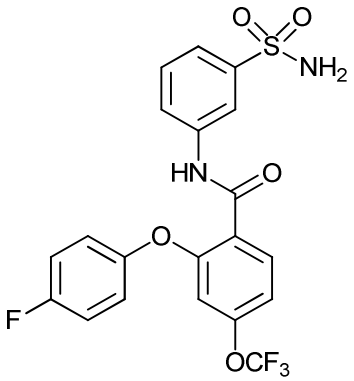

2-(3-fluoro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



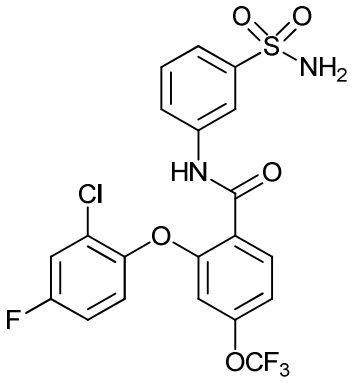

2-(4-isopropoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



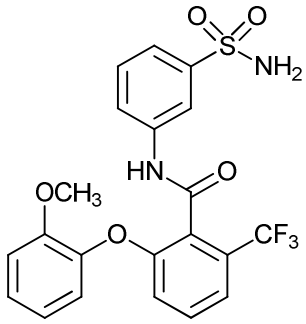

2-(4-fluoro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzamide;



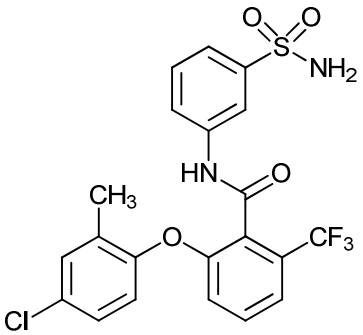
2-(4-fluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzamide;



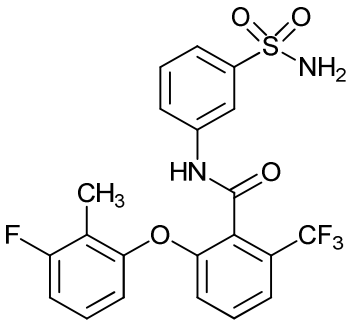
2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzamide;



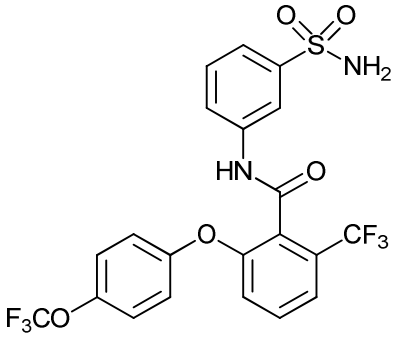
2-(2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



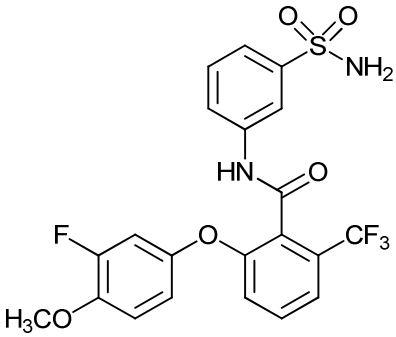
2-(4-chloro-2-methylphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



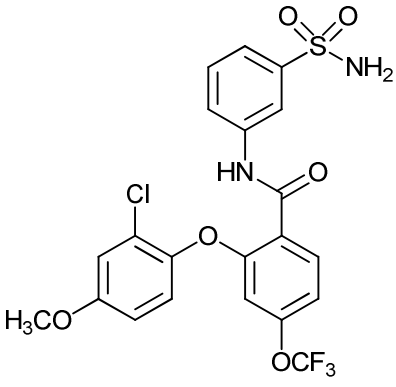

2-(3-fluoro-2-methylphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



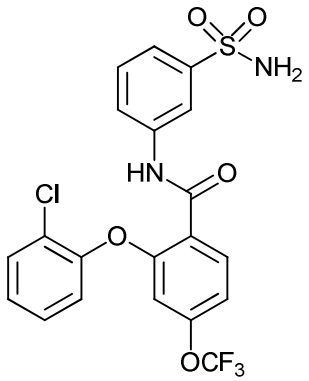

N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenoxy)-6-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



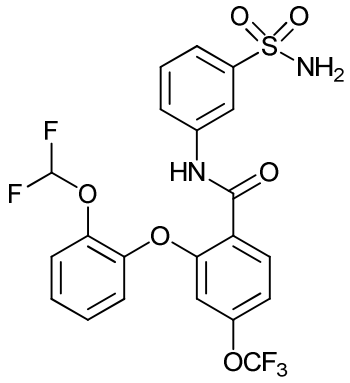

2-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



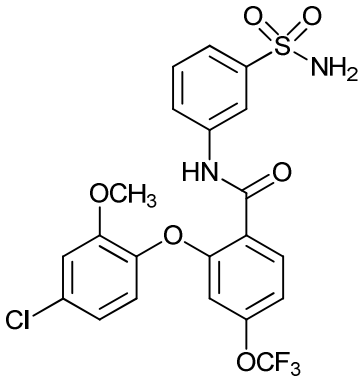

2-(2-chloro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzamide;



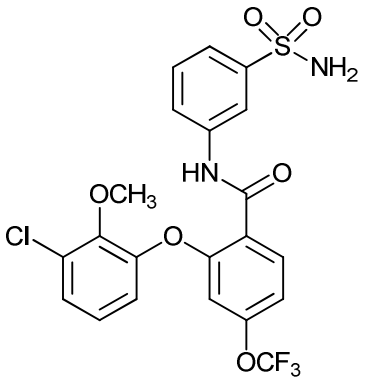
2-(2-chlorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzamide;



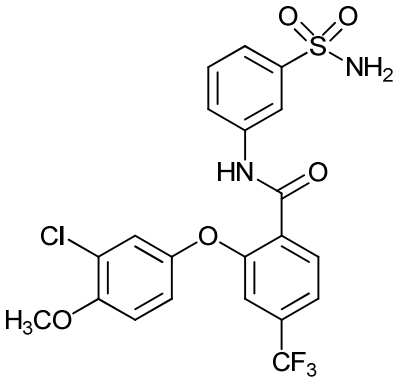
2-(2-(difluoromethoxy)phenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzamide;



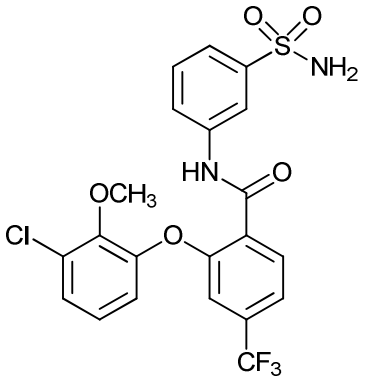
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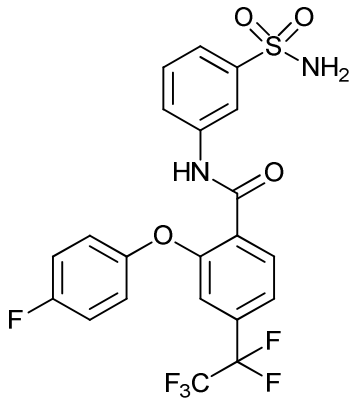
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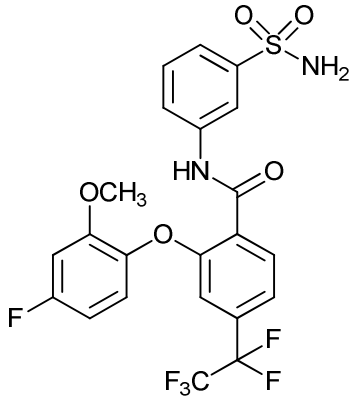
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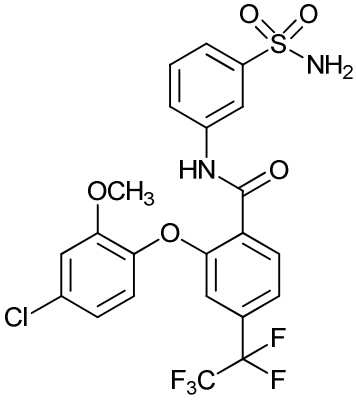
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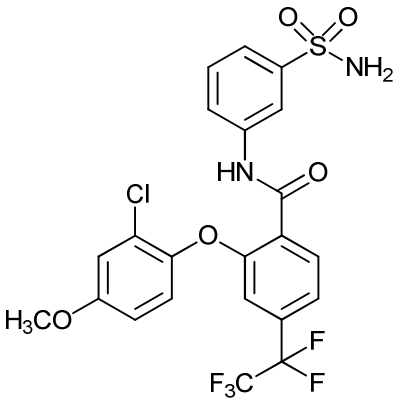

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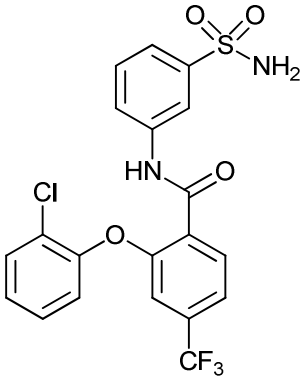

2-(4-fluoro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-4-(perfluoroethyl)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



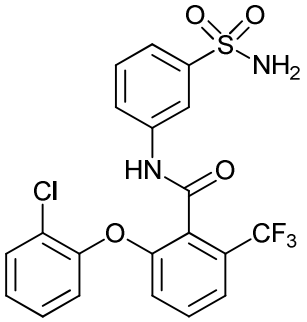

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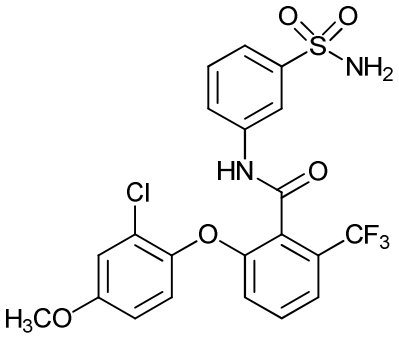
2-(2-chloro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-4-(perfluoroethyl)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



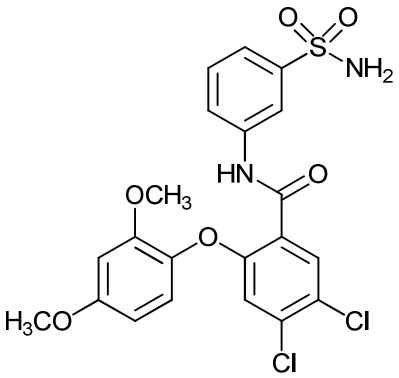
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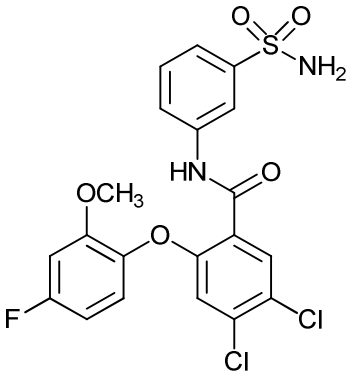
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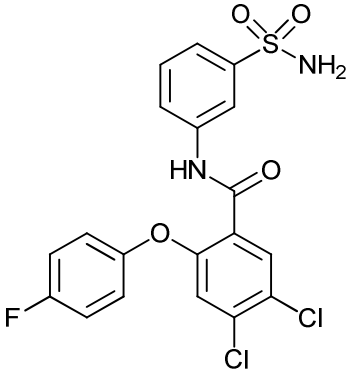
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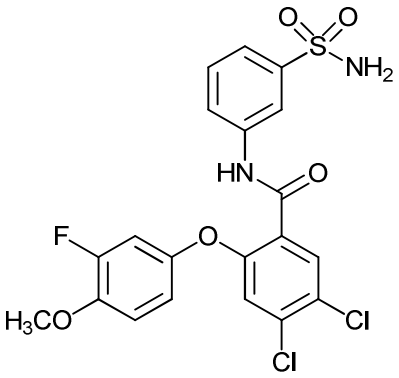
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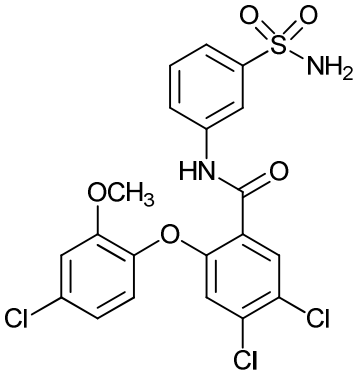
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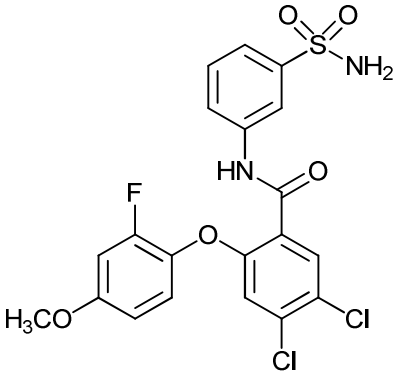
4,5-dichloro-2-(4-fluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



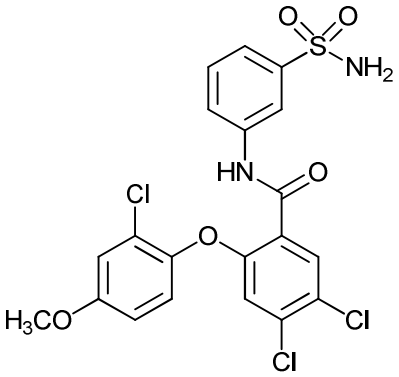
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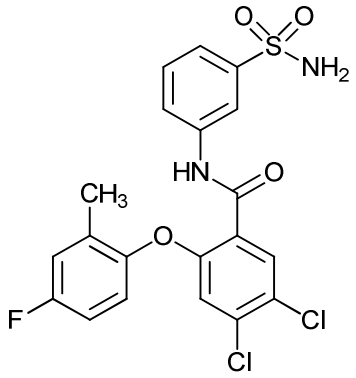
4,5-dichloro-2-(4-chloro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



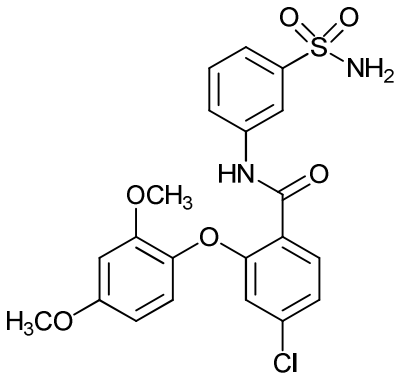
4,5-dichloro-2-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



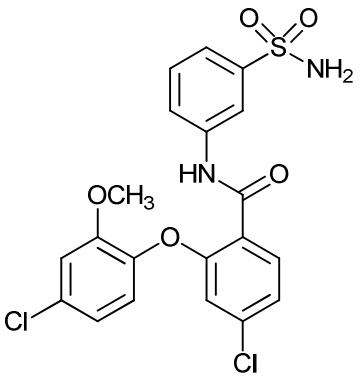
4,5-dichloro-2-(2-chloro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



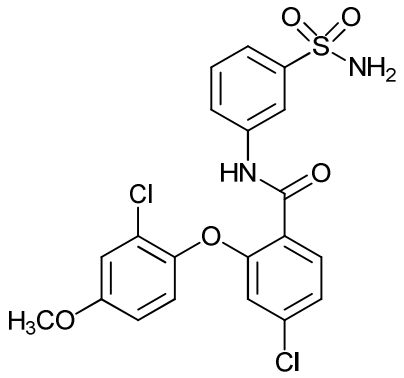
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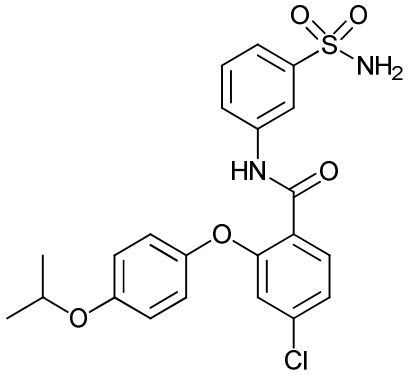
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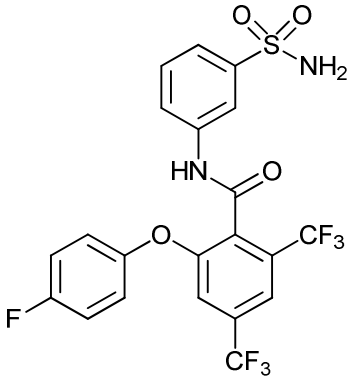
4-chloro-2-(4-chloro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



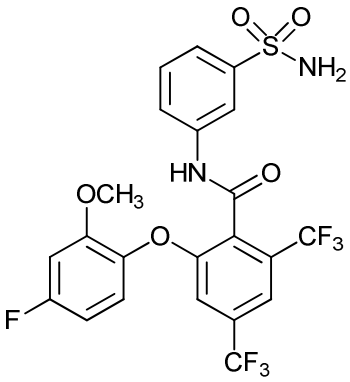
4-chloro-2-(2-chloro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



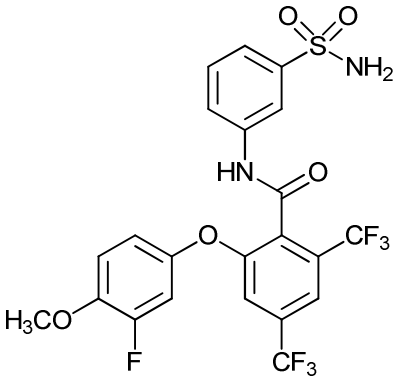
4-chloro-2-(4-isopropoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



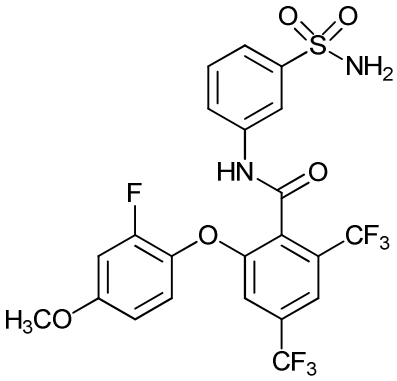
2-(4-fluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4,6-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



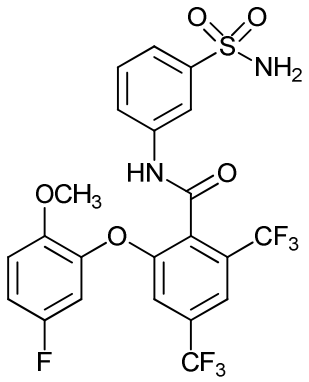
2-(4-fluoro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4,6-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



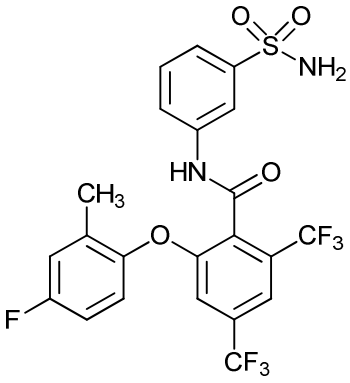
2-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4,6-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



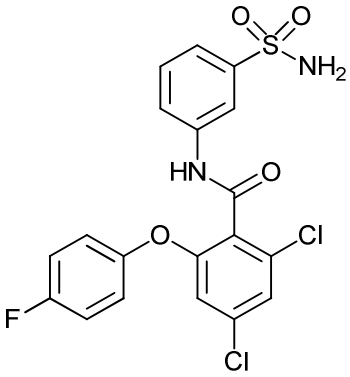
2-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4,6-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



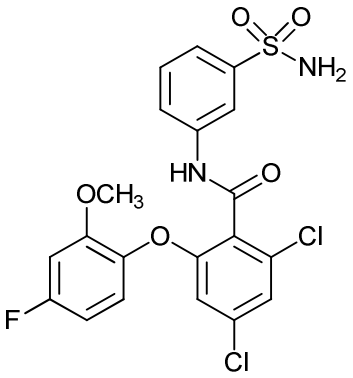
2-(5-fluoro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4,6-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



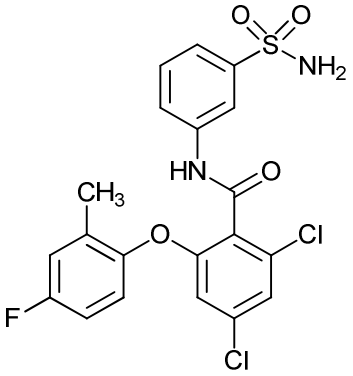
2-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4,6-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;



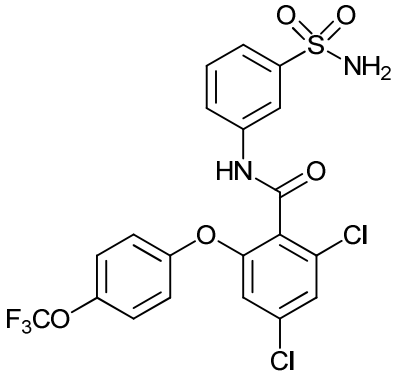
2,4-dichloro-6-(4-fluorophenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



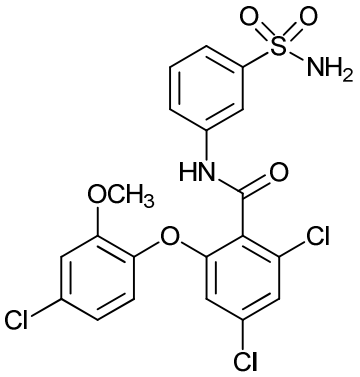
2,4-dichloro-6-(4-fluoro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



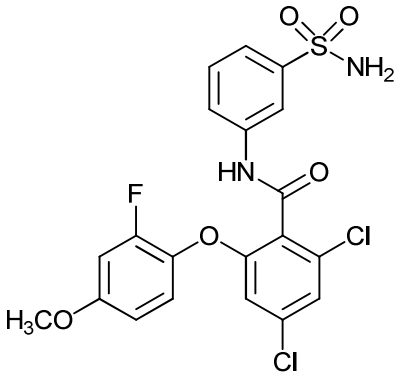
2,4-dichloro-6-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



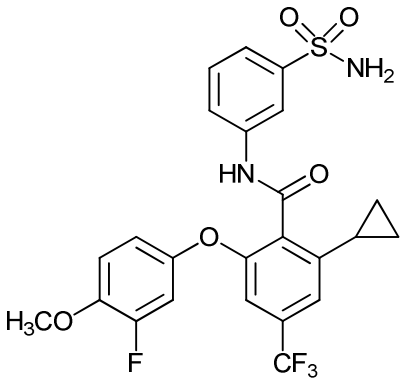
2,4-dichloro-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-6-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenoxy)benzamide;



2,4-dichloro-6-(4-chloro-2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide;



2,4-dichloro-6-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)benzamide; and



2-cyclopropyl-6-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenoxy)-N-(3-sulfamoylphenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of any one of claims 1 to 20 and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or vehicles.

22. A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of any one of claims 1 to 20 or a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21, for use in inhibiting a voltage-gated sodium channel in a patient, wherein the voltage-gated sodium channel is Nav 1.8.

23. An effective amount of a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of any one of claims 1 to 20 or a pharmaceutical composition of claim 21 for use in the treatment of or

lessening the severity in a subject of chronic pain, gut pain, neuropathic pain, musculoskeletal pain, acute pain, inflammatory pain, cancer pain, idiopathic pain, and postsurgical pain.

24. The use of a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of any one of claims 1 to 20 or a pharmaceutical composition of claim 21 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of or lessening the severity in a subject of chronic pain, gut pain, neuropathic pain, musculoskeletal pain, acute pain, inflammatory pain, cancer pain, idiopathic pain, and postsurgical pain.

25. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23 or the use according to claim 24, in the treatment of or lessening the severity in a subject of gut pain, wherein gut pain comprises inflammatory bowel disease pain, Crohn's disease pain or interstitial cystitis pain.

26. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23 or the use according to claim 24, in the treatment of or lessening the severity in a subject of neuropathic pain, wherein neuropathic pain comprises post-herpetic neuralgia, diabetic neuralgia, painful HIV-associated sensory neuropathy, trigeminal neuralgia, burning mouth syndrome, post-amputation pain, phantom pain, painful neuroma; traumatic neuroma; Morton's neuroma; nerve entrapment injury, spinal stenosis, carpal tunnel syndrome, radicular pain, sciatica pain; nerve avulsion injury, brachial plexus avulsion injury; complex regional pain syndrome, drug therapy induced neuralgia, cancer chemotherapy induced neuralgia, anti-retroviral therapy induced neuralgia; post spinal cord injury pain, idiopathic small-fiber neuropathy, idiopathic sensory neuropathy or trigeminal autonomic cephalalgia.

27. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or the pharmaceutical composition or the use according to claim 26, wherein neuropathic pain comprises idiopathic small-fiber neuropathy.

28. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or the pharmaceutical composition or the use according to claim 26, wherein neuropathic pain comprises post-herpetic neuralgia.

29. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23 or the use according to claim 24, in the treatment of or lessening the severity in a subject of musculoskeletal pain, wherein musculoskeletal pain comprises osteoarthritis pain, back pain, cold pain, burn pain or dental pain.

30. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or the pharmaceutical composition or the use according to claim 29, wherein musculoskeletal pain comprises osteoarthritis pain.

31. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23 or the use according to claim 24, in the treatment of or lessening the severity in a subject of inflammatory pain, wherein inflammatory pain comprises rheumatoid arthritis pain or vulvodynia.

32. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23 or the use according to claim 24, in the treatment of or lessening the severity in a subject of idiopathic pain, wherein idiopathic pain comprises fibromyalgia pain.

33. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23 or the use according to claim 24, in the treatment of or lessening the severity in a subject of acute pain, wherein acute pain comprises acute post-operative pain.

34. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23 or the use according to claim 24, in the treatment of or lessening the severity in a subject of postsurgical pain.

35. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or the pharmaceutical composition or the use according to any of one of claims 22 to 34, in combination therapy with one or more additional therapeutic agents, each of which is/are to be administered concurrently with, prior to, or subsequent to treatment with the compound, salt, or pharmaceutical composition.