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S., Jr. [US/US]; 753 Orange Street #3, New Haven, CT 06511 (US). CHABALA, John, Clifford [US/US]; 602 Sherwood Parkway, Mountainside, NJ 07092 (US).

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(74) Agents: HALSTEAD, David, P. et al.; Ropes & Gray LLP, One International Place, Boston, MA 02110-2624 (US).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PROTEOLIX, INC. [US/US]; 225 Gateway Boulevard, South San Francisco, CA 94080 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SMYTH, Mark, S. [US/US]; 860 Pollux Court, Foster City, CA 94404 (US). LAIDIG, Guy, J. [US/US]; 329 Waverley Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (US). BORCHARDT, Ronald, T. [US/US]; 3100 Campfire Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049 (US). BUNIN, Barry, A. [US/US]; 4171 George Ave #4, San Mateo, CA 94403 (US). CREWS, Craig, M. [US/US]; 286 Livingston Street, New Haven, CT 06511 (US). MUSSER, John, H. [US/US]; 23 Michael Court, San Carlos, CA 94070 (US). SCHNEEKLOTH, John,

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(54) Title: COMPOUNDS FOR PROTEASOME ENZYME INHIBITION

(57) Abstract: Peptide-based compounds including heteroatom-containing, three-membered rings efficiently and selectively inhibit specific activities of N-terminal nucleophile (Ntn) hydrolases. The activities of those Ntn having multiple activities can be differentially inhibited by the compounds described. For example, the chymotrypsin-like activity of the 20S proteasome may be selectively inhibited with the inventive compounds. The peptide-based compounds include at least three peptide units, an epoxide or aziridine, and functionalization at the N-terminus. Among other therapeutic utilities, the peptide-based compounds are expected to display anti-inflammatory properties and inhibition of cell proliferation.

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