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NOVEL ARYL POTASSIUM CHANNEL BLOCKERS AND USES THEREOF

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to compounds useful in the modulation of potassium channel activity in cells, in particular the activity of *Kv1.3* channels found in T cells. The invention also relates to the use of these compounds in the treatment or prevention of autoimmune and inflammatory diseases, including multiple sclerosis, pharmaceutical compositions containing these compounds and methods for their preparation.

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BACKGROUND

Many autoimmune and chronic inflammatory diseases are related to immunoregulatory abnormalities. Diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus, chronic rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and psoriasis have in common the appearance of autoantibodies and self-reactive lymphocytes.

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Multiple sclerosis is the most common neurological disease of young people. It is believed to cost more in medical care and lost income than any other neurological disease of young adults.

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Multiple sclerosis affects the myelin sheaths of nerves. Myelin is an insulating material that coats most axons and allows rapid signal conduction over long distances by saltatory conduction. It is thought that antibodies and specialised cells of the immune system attack the myelin coating. This process leads to inflammation and scarring (sclerosis) which damages blood vessels in the area by the formation of a lesion known as a plaque. These plaques are characterised by being infiltrated by macrophages and T cells. This results in demyelination with the consequential loss of the rapid signal conduction.

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A possible method of treating these autoimmune and inflammatory diseases is by suppressing T-cell proliferation and modulating their activation.

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The early stages of T-cell activation may be conceptually separated into pre-Ca²⁺ and post-Ca²⁺ events (Cahalan and Chandy 1997, *Curr. Opin. Biotechnol.* 8 749). Following engagement of the T-cell receptor by an antigen, activation of tyrosine
5 kinases and the generation of inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate lead to the influx of Ca²⁺ and a rise in the cytoplasmic Ca²⁺ concentration. The rise in Ca²⁺ activates the phosphatase calcineurin, which then dephosphorylates a cytoplasmically localized transcription factor (N-FAT) enabling it to accumulate in the nucleus and bind to a promoter element of the interleukin-2 gene. Along with parallel events involving
10 the activation of protein kinase C and ras, gene transcription leads to lymphokine secretion and to lymphocyte proliferation. Some genes require long-lasting Ca²⁺ signals while others require only a transient rise of Ca²⁺.

Ion channels underlie the Ca²⁺ signal of T-lymphocytes. Ca²⁺ ions move across
15 the plasma membrane through a channel termed the store-operated Ca²⁺ channel or the calcium release-activated Ca²⁺ channel. Two distinct types of potassium channels indirectly determine the driving force of calcium entry. The first is the voltage-gated Kv1.3 channel (Cahalan 1985, *J. Physiol.* 385: 197; Grissmer 1990, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87 9411; Verheugen 1995, *J. Gen. Physiol.* 105 765;
20 Aiyar 1996, *J. Biol. Chem.* 271 31013; Cahalan and Chandy 1997, *Curr. Opin. Biotechnol.* 8 749) and the second is the intermediate-conductance calcium-activated potassium channel, *IKCa1* (Grissmer 1993, *J. Gen. Physiol.* 102 601; Fanger 1999 *J. Biol. Chem.* 274 5746; Rauer 1999, *J. Biol. Chem.* 274 21885; VanDorpe 1998, *J. Biol. Chem.* 273 21542; Joiner 1997, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*
25 *USA* 94 11013; Khanna 1999, *J. Biol. Chem.* 274 14838; Lodgson 1997, *J. Biol. Chem.* 272 32723; Ghanshani 1998, *Genomics* 51 160). When these potassium channels open, the resulting efflux of K⁺ hyperpolarizes the membrane, which in turn accentuates the entry of Ca²⁺, which is absolutely required for downstream activation events (Cahalan and Chandy 1997, *Curr. Opin. Biotechnol.* 8: 749).

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The predominant voltage-gated channel in human T-lymphocytes is encoded by *Kv1.3*, a *Shaker*-related gene. *Kv1.3* has been characterised extensively at the molecular and physiological level and plays a vital role in controlling T-lymphocyte proliferation, mainly by maintaining the resting membrane potential of resting T-lymphocytes. Inhibition of this channel depolarises the cell membrane sufficiently to decrease the influx of Ca^{2+} and thereby prevents downstream activation events.

Accordingly, compounds which are selective *Kv1.3* blockers are potential therapeutic agents as immunosuppressants for the prevention of graft rejection, and the treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory disorders. They could be used alone or in conjunction with other immunosuppressants, such as selective *IKCa1* blockers or cyclosporin, in order to achieve synergism and/or to reduce toxicity, especially of cyclosporin.

Developments in the field of voltage-gated K-channel electrophysiology have strengthened the case for treating of multiple sclerosis and also diabetes mellitus by inhibiting the *Kv1.3* channel. It was found that autoreactive T-cells from multiple sclerosis patients exhibit highly elevated levels of *Kv1.3* (Wulff, H et al (2003) J. Clin Invest. 111 (11) 1703-1713). ShK-K22Dap, a selective peptide blocker of *Kv1.3*, potently inhibited the proliferation of T-cells with this high-*Kv1.3* phenotype. (Beeton, C. et al (2001) PNAS 98 13942-13947). The connection between T-cell replication and *Kv1.3* blockade has also been shown through the use of a small molecule, a psoralen derivative, that is an active and relatively specific inhibitor of the *Kv1.3* channel. The derivative showed specificity in inhibiting the proliferation of the high *Kv1.3* T-cells over peripheral blood T-cells (Vennekamp et al (2004) Mol. Pharm. 65 1364-1374).

The *Kv1.3* channel has also been associated with diabetes. Studies of *Kv1.3* knockout mice found that the mice have increased insulin sensitivity. The selective blockage of the *Kv1.3* channel also led to increased insulin sensitivity (Xu, J. et al. (2004) PNAS 101 (9), 3122-3117). It has been suggested by Wulff,

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who was involved in the electrophysiology on multiple sclerosis that diabetes also involves autoreactive T-cells that express very high levels of *Kv1.3* (Wulff, H. *et al.* (2003) *Curr. Op.DDD.* 6 640-647).

- 5 At present there exist a number of non-selective potassium channel blockers that will inhibit lymphocyte proliferation, but have adverse side effects. Other potassium channels exist in a wide range of tissues including the heart and brain, and generally blocking these channels is undesirable. Accordingly it would be advantageous to provide or identify compounds, which are selective inhibitors of
10 the *Kv1.3* channel.

US Patent No. 5,494,895 discloses the use of a thirty-nine amino acid peptide, scorpion peptide margatoxin, as a selective inhibitor and probe of *Kv1.3* channels present in human lymphocytes, and also as an immunosuppressant. However the
15 use of this compound is limited by its potent toxicity.

International Patent Application publication No's WO 97/16438 and WO 09/716437, and US Patent No. 6,051,590 describe the use of the triterpene, correolide and related compounds as immunosuppressants. The potential for
20 these compounds to become immunosuppressants was illustrated by experiments showing their attenuation of the delayed-type hypersensitivity (DTH) response in mini-swine.

US Patent 6,077,680 describes DNA segments and proteins derived from sea
25 anemone species, more particularly ShK toxin from *Stichodactyla helianthus*. The ShK toxin was found to block *Kv1.1*, *Kv1.3*, *Kv1.4* and *Kv1.6*, but a mutant ShK-K22DAP was found to selectively block *Kv1.3*. Unfortunately the mutant did not exhibit the requisite pharmacokinetic profile for clinical use. A recently reported ShK analog, ShK(L5), was at least 100-fold more active against *Kv1.3* ($K_d = 69$
30 pM) than *Kv1.1* and furthermore it showed at least 250-fold selectivity over every

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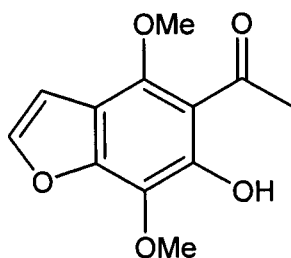
other relevant member of the Kv1 family (Beeton *et al.* (2005) *Mol. Pharm.* 67:1369-1381).

Both ShK toxin and ShK(L5) were shown to both prevent and treat experimental
5 autoimmune encephalomyelitis in Lewis rats, an animal model for human multiple
sclerosis (Beeton, *et al.* (2001) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 98 13942), by
selectively targeting T-cells chronically activated by the myelin antigen, MBP
(myelin basic protein). The same study also indicated that chronically activated
encephalitogenic rat T- cells express a unique channel phenotype characterised
10 by high expression of *Kv1.3* channels (approximately 1500 per cell) and low
numbers of *IKCa1* channels (approximately 120 per cell). This channel phenotype
is distinct from that seen in quiescent and acutely activated cells and may be a
functionally relevant marker for chronically activated rat T lymphocytes.

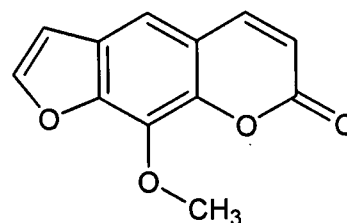
15 Other compounds which are blockers of *Kv1.3* include psoralens (Vennekamp *et al.* (2004) *Mol. Pharm.* 65, 1365-1374 and Wulff *et al.*, US 2006/0079535) and
selected benzamides (Schalhofer *et al.* (2002) *Biochem.* 41, 7781-7794 and
Schalhofer *et al.* (2003) *Biochem.* 42, 4733-4743). The reported compounds in
these classes did not exhibit drug-like characteristics.

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Khellinone, a substituted benzofuran and natural product from certain plants, and
8-Methoxypsoralen (8-MOP), both commercially available products, have been
found to exhibit weak blocking activity on the *Kv1.3* channel.



Khellinone



8-Methoxypsoralen

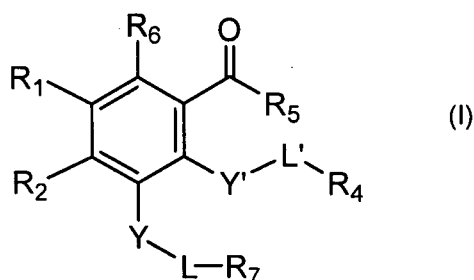
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The present invention is directed to a new class of compounds which exhibit useful Kv1.3 channel blocking activity.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

- 5 The invention provides compounds of formula (I) or salts thereof:



wherein

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- R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from hydrogen, cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, -OR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl), and
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wherein at least one of R₁ and R₂ is other than hydrogen;

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- R₆ is selected from cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₄₋₇ cycloalkenyl, -OR, -SR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R''
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and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);

L is a divalent linker group of 2-6 atoms in length selected from optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkylene, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenylene, or optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynylene;

L' is (i) a divalent linker group of 2-6 atoms in length selected from optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkylene, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenylene, or optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynylene; or
(ii) $\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$;

Y is selected from a single bond, -O- , -C(O)- , -S- , $\text{-NR'''}\text{-}$, $\text{-C(O)NR'''}\text{-}$, or $\text{-NR'''}\text{C(O)-}$ (where $\text{R'''} is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C}_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl);

Y' is selected from a single bond, -O- , -C(O)- , -S- , $\text{-NR'''}\text{-}$, $\text{-C(O)NR'''}\text{-}$, or $\text{-NR'''}\text{C(O)-}$ (where $\text{R'''} is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C}_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl);

R_5 is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, -OR , -C(O)R , -C(O)OR , SR , (where R is selected from optionally substituted C_{2-7} alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'' , -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);

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R₄ is selected from substituted aryl, substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy or -NR'''R''' (where R''' is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl, and where R''' is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl); and

R₇ is selected from optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy or -NHR''' (where R''' is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl).

In another aspect of the invention there is provided a method for the treatment or prevention of autoimmune or chronic inflammatory diseases, or the prevention of rejection of foreign organ transplants and/or related afflictions, by the administration of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a composition containing a compound of formula I or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In another aspect the invention provides the use of a compound of formula I or a salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of autoimmune or chronic inflammatory diseases, or the prevention of rejection of foreign organ transplants and/or related afflictions.

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In another aspect of the invention there is provided a method of intentionally modulating potassium ion channel activity of T-cells by the application of a compound of Formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to said T-cells.

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In a further aspect of the invention there is provided a pharmaceutical composition for use as an immunosuppressant, the composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of Formula I or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and optionally a carrier or diluent.

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In another aspect of the invention there is provided a process for the preparation of compounds of formula I or salts thereof.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

15 The invention is based on the discovery that compounds of the general formula I, as described in the above Summary of the Invention can have useful properties as inhibitors of potassium cell channels, and particularly the *Kv1.3* channel. Such compounds have significant potential as immunosuppressants for the treatment of autoimmune disorders such as multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis. They
20 may also be useful in the treatment or prevention of graft rejection.

The term "alkyl" as used alone or in combination herein refers to a straight or branched chain saturated hydrocarbon group. The term "C₁₋₁₂ alkyl" refers to such a group containing from one to twelve carbon atoms and the terms "C₁₋₆ alkyl" and
25 "lower alkyl" refer to such groups containing from one to six carbon atoms, such as methyl ("Me"), ethyl ("Et"), n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl and the like.

The term "alkylene" refers to divalent alkyl groups preferably having from 1 to 10
30 carbon atoms and more preferably 1 to 6 carbon atoms. Examples of such

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alkylene groups include methylene ($-\text{CH}_2-$), ethylene ($-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$), and the propylene isomers (e.g., $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ and $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2-$), and the like.

5 The term " C_{3-7} cycloalkyl" refers to non-aromatic, saturated non-aromatic carbocycles having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms. Examples include cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl.

10 The term "alkenyl" refers to a straight or branched hydrocarbon containing one or more double bonds, preferably one or two double bonds. The term " C_{2-12} alkenyl" refers to such a group containing from two to twelve carbon atoms. Examples of alkenyl include allyl, 1-methylvinyl, butenyl, iso-butenyl, 1, 3-butadienyl, 3-methyl-2-butenyl, 1,3-butadienyl, 1,4-pentadienyl, 1-pentenyl, 1-hexenyl, 3-hexenyl, 1,3-hexadienyl, 1,4-hexadienyl and 1, 3, 5-hexatrienyl.

15 The term "alkenylene" refers to divalent alkenyl groups preferably having from 2 to 8 carbon atoms and more preferably 2 to 6 carbon atoms. Examples include ethenylene ($-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$), and the propenylene isomers (e.g., $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ and $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{CH}-$), and the like.

20 The term " C_{4-7} cycloalkenyl" refers to non aromatic carbocycles having 4 to 7 carbon atoms and having one or more double bonds. Examples include cyclopentenyl, 1-methyl-cyclopentenyl, cyclohexenyl, 1,3-cyclopentadienyl, 1,3-cyclohexadienyl and 1,4-cyclohexadienyl.

25 The term "alkynyl" refers to a straight or branched hydrocarbon containing one or more triple bonds, preferably one or two triple bonds. The term " C_{2-12} alkynyl" refers to such a group containing from two to twelve carbon atoms. Examples include 2-propynyl and 2- or 3-butynyl.

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The term "alkynylene" refers to the divalent alkynyl groups preferably having from 2 to 8 carbon atoms and more preferably 2 to 6 carbon atoms. Examples include ethynylene ($-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$), propynylene ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$), and the like.

- 5 The term "alkoxy" as used alone or in combination refers to a straight or branched chain alkyl group covalently bound via an oxygen linkage ($-\text{O}-$) and the terms " C_{1-6} alkoxy" and "lower alkoxy" refer to such groups containing from one to six carbon atoms, such as methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, butoxy, t-butoxy and the like.

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The terms "alkenyloxy" and "alkynyloxy" as used alone or in combination respectively refer to an alkenyl and alkynyl group as earlier described linked via an oxygen linkage ($-\text{O}-$).

- 15 The term "aromatic" when used alone or in combination refers to monocyclic or bicyclic aryl rings and ring systems (aromatic hydrocarbon rings or ring systems) and also aromatic heterocyclic rings or ring systems, as known as heteroaryl or heteroaromatic rings. Preferred aromatic rings are optionally substituted phenyl ("Ph") rings.

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The term "aryl" refers to carbocyclic (non-heterocyclic) aromatic rings or ring systems. The aromatic rings may be mono- or bi-cyclic ring systems. The aromatic rings or ring systems are generally composed of 5 to 10 carbon atoms. Examples of suitable aryl groups include but are not limited to phenyl, biphenyl, 25 naphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, and the like.

Preferred aryl groups include phenyl, naphthyl, indenyl, azulenyl, fluorenyl or anthracenyl.

- 30 The term "heteroaryl" refers to a monovalent aromatic carbocyclic group, preferably of from 2 to 10 carbon atoms and 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from

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oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur within the ring. Preferably the heteroatom is nitrogen. Such heteroaryl groups can have a single ring (e.g., pyridyl, pyrrolyl or furyl) or multiple condensed rings (e.g., indolizinyll or benzothienyl).

- 5 The term "heterocyclyl" refers to a monovalent saturated or unsaturated group having a single ring or multiple condensed rings, preferably from 1 to 8 carbon atoms and from 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, sulfur, oxygen, selenium or phosphorous within the ring.
- 10 Examples of 5-membered monocyclic heterocyclyl and heteroaryl groups include furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, H-pyrrolyl, pyrrolinyl, pyrrolidinyl, oxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, (including 1,2,3 and 1,2,4 oxadiazolylls) thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, furazanyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazolinyl, pyrazolidinyl, imidazolyl, imidazolinyll, triazolyl (including 1,2,3 and 1,3, 4 triazolyls), tetrazolyl, thiadiazolyl (including 1,2,3 and 1,3,4
- 15 thiadiazolylls).

Examples of 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclyl and heteroaryl groups include pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, pyranyl, pyrazinyl, piperidinyl, 1,4-dioxanyl, morpholinyl, 1,4-dithianyl, thiomorpholinyl, piperazinyl, 1,3,5-trithianyl and triazinyl.

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The above heterocycles may be optionally substituted with a broad range of substituents, such as C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, halo, hydroxy, mercapto, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, phenyloxy, phenylalkyl, phenylalkyloxy, amino, cyano or mono or di(C₁₋₆alkyl) amino.

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As referred to above heterocycle or heteroaryl may be fused to a carbocyclic ring such as phenyl, naphthyl, indenyl, azulenyl, fluorenyll, and anthracenyl.

- Examples of 8, 9 and 10-membered bicyclic heterocyclyl and heteroaryl groups
- 30 include 1H thieno[2,3-c]pyrazolyl, thieno[2,3-b]furyll, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzisoxazolyl,

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benzothiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, indazolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, quinoxalinyl, uridinyl, purinyl, cinnolinyl, phthalazinyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, benzotriazinyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl and the like. These heterocycles may be optionally substituted, for example with C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, halo, hydroxy, mercapto, trifluoromethyl, cyano, phenyl, phenyloxy, phenylalkyl, phenylalkyloxy, amino and mono or di(C₁₋₆alkyl) amino.

Examples of some heterocyclic and heteroaromatic radicals include (optionally substituted) isoxazoles, isothiazoles, 1,3,4-oxadiazoles, 1,3,4-thiadiazoles, 1,2,4-oxadiazoles, 1,2,4-thiadiazoles, oxazoles, thiazoles, pyridines, pyridazines, pyrimidines, pyrazines, 1,2,4-triazines, 1,3,5-triazines, benzoxazoles, benzothiazoles, benzisoxazoles, benzisothiazoles, quinolines, quinoxalines, furyl, thienyl, pyridyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, 1,2,3-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-one, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, 1,3,5-triazinyl, 1H thieno[2,3-c]pyrazolyl, thieno[2,3-b]furyl, indolizinyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, 3H-indolyl, indolinyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, 1H-indazolyl, benzimidazolyl, tetrazolyl, uridinyl, and cytosinyl. These radicals can be optionally substituted with, by example, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, halo, hydroxy, mercapto, trifluoromethyl, amino, phenyl, phenyloxy, phenylalkyl, phenylalkyloxy, cyano or mono or di(C₁₋₆alkyl) amino.

Heteroaryl or heteroaromatic rings may preferably be selected from isoxazolyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, isothiazolyl, furazanyl, triazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrazolyl, pyridazinyl, thienyl and aryl fused heteroaromatic rings such as benzfuranyl, benzothiophenyl and benzoisoxazolyl.

Heterocyclyl or heterocyclic rings may preferably be selected from pyrrolidine, imidazoline, 2-imidazolidone, 2-pyrrolidone, pyrrolin-2-one, tetrahydrofuran, 1,3-dioxolane, piperidine, tetrahydropyran, oxazoline, 1,3-dioxane, 1,4-piperazine, morpholine and thiomorpholine.

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The term "arylalkyl" refers to carbocyclic aromatic rings or ring systems as previously described and substituted by an alkyl group, also as previously described. Unless otherwise indicated the aryl substituent is attached by the alkyl
 5 part of the substituent. Likewise the terms "aryl C₁₋₁₂ alkyl", "aryl C₂₋₁₂ alkenyl" and "aryl C₂₋₁₂ alkynyl" refer to carbocyclic aromatic rings or ring systems as previously described and substituted by a C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₂₋₁₂ alkenyl or C₂₋₁₂ alkynyl group, as previously described.

10 The terms "halo" and "halogen" refers to fluoro, chloro, bromo and iodo groups.

The term "aryloxy" refers to an aryl group as earlier described linked to the parent structure via an oxygen linkage (-O-). A notable example is phenoxy. Similarly the term "heteroaryloxy" refers to a heteroaryl group as earlier described linked to
 15 the parent structure via an oxygen group. A notable example is a 4, 6 or 7-benzo[b]furanyloxy group.

The term "optionally substituted" means that a group may include one or more substituents. One or more hydrogen atoms on the group may be replaced by
 20 substituent groups independently selected from halogens (for example halo alkyl such as -CF₃), C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, -(CH₂)_pC₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, -(CH₂)_pC₄₋₇ cycloalkenyl, -(CH₂)_p aryl, -(CH₂)_p heterocyclyl, -(CH₂)_p heteroaryl, -C₆H₄S(O)_qC₁₋₆ alkyl, -C(Ph)₃, -CN, -OR, -O-(CH₂)₁₋₆-R, -O-(CH₂)₁₋₆-OR, -OC(O)R, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)NR'R'', -NR'R'', -NRC(O)R', -NRC(O)NR'R'', -
 25 NRC(S)NR'R'', -NRS(O)₂R', -NRC(O)OR', -C(NR)NR'R'', -C(=NOR')R, -C(=NOH)NR'R'', -C(O)NR'R'', -C(=NCN)-NR'R'', -C(=NR)NR'R'', -C(=NR')SR'', -NR'C(=NCN)SR'', -CONRSO₂R', -C(S)NR'R'', -S(O)_qR, -SO₂NR'R'', -SO₂NRC(O)R', -OS(O)₂R, -PO(OR)₂ and -NO₂;

where p is 0-6, q is 0-2 and each R, R' and R'' is independently selected from H,
 30 C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₄₋₇ cycloalkenyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, C₁₋₆ alkylaryl, C₁₋₆ alkylheteroaryl, and C₁₋₆

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alkylheterocyclyl, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, C₁₋₆ alkylaryl, C₁₋₆ alkylheteroaryl, or C₁₋₆ alkylheterocyclyl, may be optionally substituted with one to six of same or different groups selected from halogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, -CO₂H, CF₃, CN, phenyl, NH₂ and -NO₂; or when R' and R" are attached to the same nitrogen atom, they may, together with the atom to which they are attached, form a 5 to 7 membered nitrogen containing heterocyclic ring.

A list of preferred optional substituents includes halogens, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl (in particular -CF₃), C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy (such as -OCF₃), -OH, phenyl, benzyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, benzoyl, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄ alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂, -CN, -NO₂, mercapto, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl and CO₂H.

Unless otherwise defined and only in respect of the ring atoms of non-aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic compounds, the ring atoms of such compounds may also be optionally substituted with one or two =O groups, instead of or in addition to the above described optional substituents.

When the optional substituent is or contains an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl group, the group may itself be optionally substituted with one to six of the same or different substituents selected from halogens, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl (in particular -CF₃), C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy (such as -OCF₃), -OH, phenyl, benzyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, benzoyl, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄ alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂, -CN, -NO₂, mercapto, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl and CO₂H.

The salts of the compounds of formula I are preferably pharmaceutically acceptable, but it will be appreciated that non-pharmaceutically acceptable salts also fall within the scope of the present invention, since these are useful as intermediates in the preparation of pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

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It will be appreciated that the compounds of formula I, and the salts thereof, can be presented in the form of pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable derivative" includes pharmaceutically acceptable esters, prodrugs, solvates and hydrates of the compounds of formula I or salts thereof. Pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives may include any pharmaceutically acceptable hydrate or any other compound or prodrug which, upon administration to a subject, is capable of providing (directly or indirectly) a compound of formula I or an active metabolite or residue thereof.

10 The pharmaceutically acceptable salts include acid addition salts, base addition salts, and the salts of quaternary amines and pyridiniums. The acid addition salts are formed from a compound of the invention and a pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic or organic acid including but not limited to hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, phosphoric, methanesulfonic, toluenesulphonic, benzenesulphonic, acetic, 15 propionic, ascorbic, citric, malonic, fumaric, maleic, lactic, salicylic, sulfamic, or tartaric acids. The counter ion of quaternary amines and pyridiniums include chloride, bromide, iodide, sulfate, phosphate, methansulfonate, citrate, acetate, malonate, fumarate, sulfamate, and tartrate. The base addition salts include but are not limited to salts such as sodium, potassium, calcium, lithium, magnesium, 20 ammonium and alkylammonium. Also, basic nitrogen-containing groups may be quaternised with such agents as lower alkyl halides, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, and butyl chlorides, bromides and iodides; dialkyl sulfates like dimethyl and diethyl sulfate; and others. The salts may be made in a known manner, for example by treating the compound with an appropriate acid or base in the presence of a 25 suitable solvent.

The compounds of the invention may be in crystalline form and/or as solvates (e.g. hydrates) and it is intended that both forms be within the scope of the present invention. The term "solvate" is a complex of variable stoichiometry formed by a 30 solute (in this invention, a compound of the invention) and a solvent. Such solvents should not interfere with the biological activity of the solute. Solvents may

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be, by way of example, water, ethanol or acetic acid. Methods of solvation are generally known within the art.

The term "pro-drug" is used in its broadest sense and encompasses those derivatives that are converted *in vivo* to the compounds of the invention. Such derivatives would readily occur to those skilled in the art, and include, for example, compounds where a free hydroxy group is converted into an ester derivative or a ring nitrogen atom is converted to an N-oxide. Examples of ester derivatives include alkyl esters, phosphate esters and those formed from amino acids, preferably valine. Any compound that is a prodrug of a compound of the invention is within the scope and spirit of the invention.

The term "pharmaceutically acceptable ester" includes biologically acceptable esters of compound of the invention such as sulphonic, phosphonic and carboxylic acid derivatives.

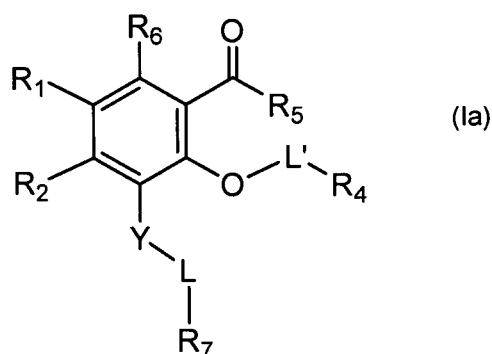
Thus, in another aspect of the invention, there is provided a prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable ester of a compound of formula I or salt thereof.

It will be appreciated that the compounds of formula I and some derivatives thereof may have at least one asymmetric centre, and therefore are capable of existing in more than one stereoisomeric form. The invention extends to each of these forms individually and to mixtures thereof, including racemates. The isomers may be separated conventionally by chromatographic methods or using a resolving agent. Alternatively the individual isomers may be prepared by asymmetric synthesis using chiral intermediates. Where the compound has at least one carbon-carbon double bond, it may occur in Z- and E- forms with all isomeric forms of the compounds being included in the present invention.

In a preferred embodiment Y' is O.

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Accordingly in a further preferred embodiment the present invention provides compounds of formula (Ia) or salts thereof,



5

wherein

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from hydrogen, cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, -OR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl), and

15

wherein at least one of R_1 and R_2 is other than hydrogen;

R_6 is selected from cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{4-7} cycloalkenyl, -OR, -SR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R''

20

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and $-NR'R''$ (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);

L is a divalent linker group of 2-6 atoms in length selected from optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkylene, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenylene, or optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynylene;

L' is a divalent linker group of 1-6 atoms in length selected from C_{1-6} alkylene, C_{2-6} alkenylene, or C_{2-6} alkynylene;

Y is selected from single bond, $-O-$, $-C(O)-$, $-S-$, $-NR'''-$, $-C(O)NR'''-$, or $-NR'''C(O)-$ (where R''' is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl);

R_5 is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, $-OR$, $-C(O)R$, $-C(O)OR$, SR , (where R is selected from optionally substituted C_{2-7} alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), $-C(O)NR'R''$, $-NR'C(O)R''$ and $-NR'R''$ (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);

R_4 is selected from substituted aryl, substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy or $-NR'''R''''$ (where R''' is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl, and where R'''' is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl,

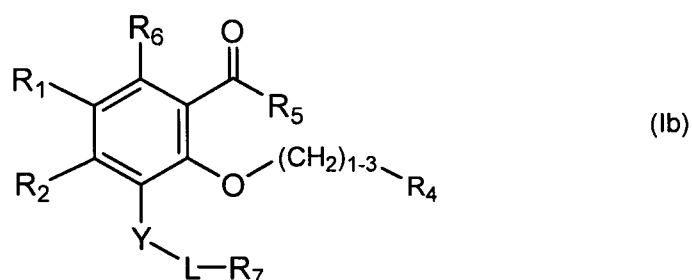
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optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl); and

R₇ is selected from optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted heterocyclxyloxy.

In a further embodiment Y' is O and L' is C₁₋₃ alkylene.

10 Accordingly in a further preferred embodiment the invention provides compounds of formula (Ib) or salts thereof:



15

wherein

R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from hydrogen, cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, -OR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl), and

25

wherein at least one of R₁ and R₂ is other than hydrogen;

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- R₆ is selected from cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₄₋₇ cycloalkenyl, -OR, -SR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);
- L is a divalent linker group of 2-6 atoms in length selected from optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkylene, optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkenylene, or optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkynylene;
- Y is selected from a single bond, -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -NR''', -C(O)NR''', or -NR'''C(O)- (where R''' is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl);
- R₅ is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, -OR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, SR, (where R is selected from optionally substituted C₂₋₇ alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);
- R₄ is selected from substituted aryl, substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy or -NR''''R'''' (where R''' is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally

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substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl, and where R''' is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl); and

R₇ is selected from optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy.

In some preferred embodiments of the invention, and with reference to the general formulae (I), (Ia) and (Ib), one or more of the following further preferred definitions apply:

a) R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from hydrogen, cyano, halo, optionally substituted lower alkyl, -OH, -O-optionally substituted lower alkyl, -C(O)-optionally substituted lower alkyl, and -C(O)NR'R'' (wherein R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl), wherein at least one of R₁ and R₂ is other than hydrogen;

b) R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, -OR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);

c) R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from cyano, halo, optionally substituted lower alkyl, -O-optionally substituted lower alkyl, -C(O)-optionally

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substituted lower alkyl, and $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}'\text{R}''$ (wherein R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);

d) R_4 is selected from optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy, or $-\text{NR}'''\text{R}''''$ (where R''' is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl, and where R'''' is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl);

e) R_7 is selected from optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, or optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy;

f) R_5 is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, for instance, methyl, ethyl and propyl, $-\text{OR}$, $-\text{SR}$ (where R is selected from optionally substituted C_{2-7} alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), and $-\text{NR}'\text{R}''$ (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);

g) R_6 is selected from cyano, halo, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $-\text{O}$ -optionally substituted lower alkyl, $-\text{O}$ -optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, or $-\text{O}$ -optionally substituted heteroaryl;

h) L is a divalent linker group of 2-6 atoms in length selected from C_{2-6} alkylene, C_{2-6} alkenylene, or C_{2-6} alkynylene, each of which may be optionally substituted by

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one or more of the following groups: halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl (in particular -CF₃), C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy (such as -OCF₃), -OH, phenyl, benzyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, benzoyl, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄ alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂, -CN, -NO₂, mercapto, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl and CO₂H, preferably the optional substituent is a lower alkyl group (for instance methyl); and

i) L' is a divalent linker group of 1-6 atoms in length selected from C₁₋₆ alkylene, C₂₋₆ alkenylene, or C₂₋₆ alkynylene, more preferably L' is a C₁₋₃ alkylene.

10 In other preferred embodiments of the invention and with reference to compounds of general formulae (I), (Ia), and (Ib), one or more of the following further preferred definitions may apply:

j) Y is a single bond or O;

15

k) L is optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene wherein the optional substituent is selected from halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl (in particular -CF₃), C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy (such as -OCF₃), -OH, phenyl, benzyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, benzoyl, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄ alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂, -CN, -NO₂, mercapto, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl and CO₂H, preferably the optional substituent is a lower alkyl group (for instance methyl); and

20

l) R₄ is selected from optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, or -NHC₃₋₇ cycloalkyl;

25

m) R₆ is selected from halo, optionally substituted alkyl, or -O-optionally substituted alkyl;

n) R₇ is selected from optionally substituted aryl, more preferably optionally substituted phenyl; and

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o) R_5 is C_{1-3} alkyl.

In even more preferred embodiments of the invention, and with reference to the above general formulae, one or more of the following further definitions apply:

5

p) R_1 is halo (even more preferably chloro) or lower alkyl (even more preferably methyl);

q) R_2 is C_{1-3} alkoxy (even more preferably methoxy);

10

r) L is optionally substituted propylene or butylene (even more preferably $-CH_2-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$, or $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$);

s) L' is C_{1-3} alkylene (even more preferably $-CH_2-CH_2-$);

15

t) R_7 is halo-substituted phenyl (even more preferably 4-fluorophenyl) or unsubstituted phenyl;

u) R_5 is methyl; and

20

v) R_6 is C_{1-3} alkyl (even more preferably methyl).

In relation to R_4 as described above for formulae (I), (Ia), and (Ib) preferred groups are as follows:

25

4-membered monocyclic heterocyclyls:

Azetidinyl;

5-membered monocyclic heterocyclyls:

30 pyrrolidinyl, pyrazolinyl, pyrazolidinyl, imidazolinyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrrolinyl (including 2 and 3 pyrrolinyls), dioxolane;

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5-membered monocyclic heteroaryls:

furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, H-pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, (including 1,2,3 and 1,2,4 oxadiazolyls) thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, furazanyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl (including 1,2,3 and 1,3, 4 triazolyls), tetrazolyl, and thiadiazolyl (including 1,2,3 and 1,3,4 thiadiazolyls);

6-membered monocyclic heteroaryls:

pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, and triazinyl;

6-membered monocyclic heterocyclyls:

Pyranyl (including 2H and 4H pyranlys), piperidinyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, 1,3,5-trithianyl, thiomorpholinyl, 1-oxo-thiomorpholinyl, 1,1-dioxothiomorpholinyl, 1,4-dithianyl, and 1,4-dioxanyl;

all of which may be optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl (in particular -CF₃), C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy (such as -OCF₃), -OH, phenyl, benzyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, benzoyl, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄ alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂, -CN, -NO₂, mercapto, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl and CO₂H.

Even more preferred R₄ groups include pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrazinyloxy, morpholinyl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, azetidyl, and thiomorphinyl (and oxidised derivatives thereof) all of which may be optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl (in particular -CF₃), C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy (such as -OCF₃), -OH, phenyl, benzyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, benzoyl, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄ alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂, -CN, -NO₂, mercapto, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl and CO₂H.

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The invention also includes where possible a salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative such as a pharmaceutically acceptable ester, solvate and/or prodrug of the above mentioned embodiments of the invention.

5 In another aspect of the invention, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition that comprises a therapeutically effective amount of one or more of the aforementioned compounds of Formulae (I), (Ia), and (Ib) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, including pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof, and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

10

In another aspect, the present invention provides pharmaceutical compositions for use as a *Kv1.3* ion channel blocker, more particularly as an immunosuppressant, the composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of Formula (I), (Ia), or (Ib) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, including a
15 pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

The term "composition" is intended to include the formulation of an active ingredient with encapsulating material as carrier, to give a capsule in which the
20 active ingredient (with or without other carrier) is surrounded by carriers.

The pharmaceutical compositions or formulations include those suitable for oral, rectal, nasal, topical (including buccal and sub-lingual), vaginal or parenteral (including intramuscular, sub-cutaneous and intravenous) administration or in a
25 form suitable for administration by inhalation or insufflation.

The compounds of the invention, together with a conventional adjuvant, carrier, or diluent, may thus be placed into the form of pharmaceutical compositions and unit dosages thereof, and in such form may be employed as solids, such as tablets or
30 filled capsules, or liquids such as solutions, suspensions, emulsions, elixirs, or capsules filled with the same, all for oral use, in the form of suppositories for rectal

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administration; or in the form of sterile injectable solutions for parenteral (including subcutaneous) use.

Such pharmaceutical compositions and unit dosage forms thereof may comprise
5 conventional ingredients in conventional proportions, with or without additional
active compounds or principles, and such unit dosage forms may contain any
suitable effective amount of the active ingredient commensurate with the intended
daily dosage range to be employed. Formulations containing ten (10) milligrams
of active ingredient or, more broadly, 0.1 to one hundred (100) milligrams, per
10 tablet, are accordingly suitable representative unit dosage forms.

The compounds of the present invention can be administered in a wide variety of
oral and parenteral dosage forms. It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that
the following dosage forms may comprise, as the active component, either a
15 compound of the invention or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound of
the invention.

For preparing pharmaceutical compositions from the compounds of the present
invention, pharmaceutically acceptable carriers can be either solid or liquid. Solid
20 form preparations include powders, tablets, pills, capsules, cachets, suppositories,
and dispensable granules. A solid carrier can be one or more substances which
may also act as diluents, flavouring agents, solubilisers, lubricants, suspending
agents, binders, preservatives, tablet disintegrating agents, or an encapsulating
material.

25

In powders, the carrier is a finely divided solid that is in a mixture with the finely
divided active component.

In tablets, the active component is mixed with the carrier having the necessary
30 binding capacity in suitable proportions and compacted in the shape and size
desired.

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The powders and tablets preferably contain from five or ten to about seventy percent of the active compound. Suitable carriers are 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 thus in association with it. Similarly, cachets and lozenges are included. Tablets, powders, capsules, pills, cachets, and lozenges can be used as solid forms suitable for oral administration.

For preparing suppositories, a low melting wax, such as an admixture of fatty acid glycerides or cocoa butter, is first melted and the active component is dispersed homogeneously therein, as by stirring. The molten homogeneous mixture is then poured into convenient sized moulds, allowed to cool, and thereby to solidify.

Formulations suitable for vaginal administration may be presented as pessaries, tampons, creams, gels, pastes, foams or sprays containing in addition to the active ingredient such carriers as are known in the art to be appropriate.

Liquid form preparations include solutions, suspensions, and emulsions, for example, water or water-propylene glycol solutions. For example, parenteral injection liquid preparations can be formulated as solutions in aqueous polyethylene glycol solution.

Sterile liquid form compositions include sterile solutions, suspensions, emulsions, syrups and elixirs. The active ingredient can be dissolved or suspended in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, such as sterile water, sterile organic solvent or a mixture of both.

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The compounds according to the present invention may thus be formulated for parenteral administration (e.g. by injection, for example bolus injection or continuous infusion) and may be presented in unit dose form in ampoules, pre-filled syringes, small volume infusion or in multi-dose containers with an added
5 preservative. The compositions may take such forms as suspensions, solutions, or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, and may contain formulation agents such as suspending, stabilising 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 with a suitable vehicle, eg. sterile,
10 pyrogen-free water, before use.

Aqueous solutions suitable for oral use can be prepared by dissolving the active component in water and adding suitable colorants, flavours, stabilising and thickening agents, as desired.

15

Aqueous suspensions suitable for oral use can be made by dispersing the finely divided active component in water with viscous material, such as natural or synthetic gums, resins, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, or other well known suspending agents.

20

Also included are solid form preparations that are intended to be converted, shortly before use, to liquid form preparations for oral administration. Such liquid forms include solutions, suspensions, and emulsions. These preparations may contain, in addition to the active component, colorants, flavours, stabilisers, buffers,
25 artificial and natural sweeteners, dispersants, thickeners, solubilising agents, and the like.

For topical administration to the epidermis the compounds according to the invention may be formulated as ointments, creams or lotions, or as a transdermal
30 patch. Ointments and creams may, for example, be formulated with an aqueous or oily base with the addition of suitable thickening and/or gelling agents. Lotions

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may be formulated with an aqueous or oily base and will in general also contain one or more emulsifying agents, stabilising agents, dispersing agents, suspending agents, thickening agents, or colouring agents.

- 5 Formulations suitable for topical administration in the mouth include lozenges comprising active agent in a flavoured 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 mouthwashes comprising the active ingredient in a suitable liquid carrier.

10

Solutions or suspensions are applied directly to the nasal cavity by conventional means, for example with a dropper, pipette or spray. The formulations may be provided in single or multidose form. In the latter case of a dropper or pipette, this may be achieved by the patient administering an appropriate, predetermined

15 volume of the solution or suspension. In the case of a spray, this may be achieved for example by means of a metering atomising spray pump. To improve nasal delivery and retention the compounds according to the invention may be encapsulated with cyclodextrins, or formulated with other agents expected to enhance delivery and retention in the nasal mucosa.

20

Administration to the respiratory tract may also be achieved by means of an aerosol formulation in which the active ingredient is provided in a pressurised pack with a suitable propellant such as a chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) for example dichlorodifluoromethane, trichlorofluoromethane, or dichlorotetrafluoroethane,

25 carbon dioxide, or other suitable gas. The aerosol may conveniently also contain a surfactant such as lecithin. The dose of drug may be controlled by provision of a metered valve.

30

Alternatively the active ingredients may be provided in the form of a dry powder, for example a powder mix of the compound in a suitable powder base such as lactose, starch, starch derivatives such as hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose and

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polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP). Conveniently the powder carrier will form a gel in the nasal cavity. The powder composition may be presented in unit dose form for example in capsules or cartridges of, e.g., gelatin, or blister packs from which the powder may be administered by means of an inhaler.

5

In formulations intended for administration to the respiratory tract, including intranasal formulations, the compound will generally have a small particle size for example of the order of 5 to 10 microns or less. Such a particle size may be obtained by means known in the art, for example by micronisation.

10

When desired, formulations adapted to give sustained release of the active ingredient may be employed.

The pharmaceutical preparations are preferably in unit dosage forms. In such form, the 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.

20

The invention also includes the compounds in the absence of carrier where the compounds are in unit dosage form.

The amount of compound of Formulae (I), (Ia), and (Ib) administered may be in the range from about 10 mg to 2000 mg per day, depending on the activity of the compound and the disease to be treated.

25

Liquids or powders for intranasal administration, tablets or capsules for oral administration and liquids for intravenous administration are the preferred compositions.

30

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The compositions may further contain one or more other immunosuppressants or other multiple sclerosis therapeutics. For example the compositions may contain a second immunosuppressive agent or other multiple sclerosis therapeutic such as
5 interferon beta-1b, interferon beta-1a, glatiramer acetate, natalizumab or mitoxantrone.

The pharmaceutical preparations of the compounds according to the present invention may be co-administered with one or more other immunosuppressants or
10 multiple sclerosis therapeutics in a combination therapy. For example the pharmaceutical preparation of the active compound may be co-administered (for example separately, concurrently or sequentially), with one or more other immunosuppressants or multiple sclerosis therapeutics, such as interferon beta-1b, interferon beta-1a, glatiramer acetate, natalizumab or mitoxantrone.

15

The compounds of the present invention may be useful in the therapeutic or prophylactic treatment of the resistance to transplantation of organs or tissue (such as heart, kidney, liver, lung, bone marrow, cornea, pancreas, intestine, limb, muscle, nerve, medulla, duodenum, small-bowel, medulla
20 ossium, skin, pancreatic islet-cell, etc. including xeno transplantation), graft-versus-host diseases; rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, nephrotic syndrome, lupus, palmoplantar pustulosis, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, multiple sclerosis, Guillain-Barre syndrome, myasthenia gravis, type I diabetes, uveitis, juvenile-onset or recent-onset diabetes mellitus, diabetic neuropathy,
25 posterior uveitis, allergic encephalomyelitis, glomerulonephritis, infectious diseases caused by pathogenic microorganisms, inflammatory and hyperproliferative skin diseases, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, eczematous dermatitis, seborrheic dermatitis, Lichen planus, Pemphigus, bullous pemphigoid, Epidermolysis bullosa, urticaria, angioedemas, vasculitides,
30 erythemas, cutaneous eosinophilias, Lupus erythematosus, acne, Alopecia areata, keratoconjunctivitis, vernal conjunctivitis, uveitis associated with Behcet's disease,

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keratitis, herpetic keratitis, conical cornea, dystrophia epithelialis corneae, corneal leukoma, ocular pemphigus, Mooren's ulcer, Scleritis, Graves' ophthalmopathy, Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada syndrome, sarcoidosis, etc.; pollen allergies, reversible obstructive airway disease, bronchial asthma, allergic asthma, intrinsic asthma, 5 extrinsic asthma and dust asthma, chronic or inveterate asthma, late asthma and airway hyper-responsiveness, bronchitis, gastric ulcers, vascular damage caused by ischemic diseases and thrombosis, ischemic bowel diseases, inflammatory bowel diseases, necrotizing enterocolitis, intestinal lesions associated with thermal burns and leukotriene B₄ -mediated diseases, Coeliac diseases, proctitis, 10 eosinophilic gastroenteritis, mastocytosis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, migraine, rhinitis, eczema, interstitial nephritis, Good-pasture's syndrome, hemolytic-uremic syndrome, diabetic nephropathy, multiple myositis, Meniere's disease, polyneuritis, multiple neuritis, mononeuritis, radiculopathy, hyperthyroidism, Basedow's disease, pure red cell aplasia, aplastic anaemia, 15 hypoplastic anemia, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, agranulocytosis, pernicious anemia, megaloblastic anemia, anerythroplasia, osteoporosis, sarcoidosis, fibroid lung, idiopathic interstitial pneumonia, dermatomyositis, leukoderma vulgaris, ichthyosis vulgaris, photoallergic sensitivity, cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, arteriosclerosis, 20 atherosclerosis, aortitis syndrome, polyarteritis nodosa, myocardosis, scleroderma, Wegener's granuloma, adiposis, eosinophilic fascitis, lesions of gingiva, periodontium, alveolar bone, substantia ossea dentis, glomerulonephritis, male pattern alopecia or alopecia senilis by preventing epilation or providing hair germination and/or promoting hair generation and hair growth; muscular 25 dystrophy; Pyoderma and Sezary's syndrome, Sjogren's syndrome, Addison's disease, ischemia-reperfusion injury of organs which occurs upon preservation, transplantation or ischemic disease, for example, thrombosis and cardiac infarction, endotoxin-shock, pseudomembranous colitis, colitis caused by drug or radiation, ischemic acute renal insufficiency, chronic renal insufficiency, toxinosis 30 caused by lung-oxygen or drug, for example, paracort and bleomycins, lung cancer, pulmonary emphysema, cataracta, siderosis, retinitis, pigmentosa, senile

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macular degeneration, vitreal scarring, corneal alkali burn; dermatitis erythema multiforme, linear IgA ballous dermatitis and cement dermatitis, gingivitis, periodontitis, sepsis, pancreatitis, diseases caused by environmental pollution, aging, carcinogenesis, metastasis of carcinoma and hypobaropathy; disease caused
5 by histamine or leukotriene- C_4 release; Berger's disease, Behcet's disease, autoimmune hepatitis, primary biliary cirrhosis sclerosing cholangitis, partial liver resection, acute liver necrosis, necrosis caused by toxin, viral hepatitis, shock, or anoxia, B-virus hepatitis, non-A/non-B hepatitis, cirrhosis, alcoholic cirrhosis, hepatic failure, fulminant hepatic failure, late-onset hepatic failure, "acute-on-
10 chronic" liver failure, augmentation of chemotherapeutic effect, preventing or treating activity of cytomegalovirus infection, HCMV infection, and antiinflammatory activity.

For certain of the abovementioned conditions it is clear that the compounds may
15 be used prophylactically as well as for the alleviation of acute symptoms.

References herein to "treatment" or the like are to be understood to include such prophylactic treatment, as well as therapeutic treatments.

20 It is envisaged that the compounds may be particularly useful in the treatment of multiple sclerosis. This chronic neurological disorder affects the nerves of the central nervous system. As discussed earlier most nerves in the body are normally insulated by a protective sheath of fatty substance called myelin. Multiple sclerosis causes demyelination, in which this protective sheath becomes inflamed
25 and ultimately destroyed.

By modulating or changing the immune system response that is thought to be responsible for the attack on the central nervous system it should be possible to attack the cause of the disease itself, rather than the more traditional method of
30 controlling the symptoms.

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The nature of the disease is such that it may be possible to control multiple sclerosis without unduly suppressing the patient's immune system. Based on the earlier discussed chronically activated human T-lymphocytes study, it is speculated that multiple sclerosis may be a product of chronically activated T-cells having a channel phenotype characterised by high expression of *Kv1.3* channels and low numbers of *IKCa1* channels. As this channel phenotype is distinct from that seen in quiescent and acutely activated cells it may provide a useful means for controlling multiple sclerosis without the significant side effects of less specific drugs.

In another aspect of the invention there is provided a method of preventing or treating autoimmune or chronic inflammatory diseases, the prevention of rejection of foreign organ transplants and/or related afflictions, said method including the step of administering a compound of Formula (I), (Ia), or (Ib), or salt thereof, or a composition comprising the compound or salt thereof.

Accordingly in a preferred form of the invention, there is provided a means for controlling multiple sclerosis by the application of a blocker of the *Kv1.3* channel, preferably a selective channel blocker of the *Kv1.3* channel, by the application of a compound of Formula (I), (Ia), or (Ib), or salt thereof, including a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, or a composition comprising the compound of Formula (I), (Ia), or (Ib), or salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

In another preferred form of the invention there is provided a method for preventing or treating diabetes including the step of administering a compound of Formula (I), (Ia), or (Ib), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, including a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, or a composition comprising the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

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In a further aspect, the invention provides a method of modulating potassium ion channel activity of T-cells by the application of a compound of Formula (I), (Ia), or (Ib), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, including a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, or a composition comprising the same, to said T cells. Preferably the compounds of the invention inhibit the potassium ion channel activity of T-cells.

Preferably the potassium channel activity inhibited by a compound of Formula (I), (Ia), or (Ib) is a voltage-gated potassium channel, for example, *Kv1.1-Kv1.7*. More preferably the potassium ion channel activity is the voltage-gated potassium channel, *Kv1.3* of a T-cell. Preferably the compound selectively inhibits the *Kv1.3* channel.

In a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided the use of a compound of Formula (I), (Ia), or (Ib), or salt thereof, in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment (therapeutic or prophylactic) of disease states mediated by potassium channels, and in particular by blocking the *Kv1.3* channel.

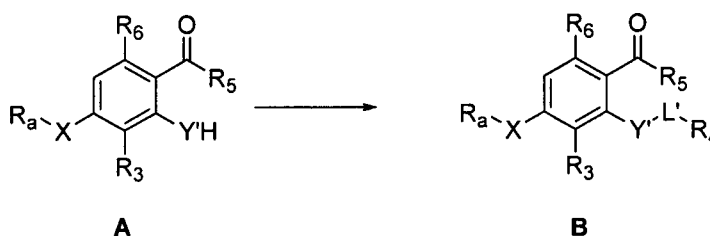
In a further aspect of the invention there is provided a process for the production of the compounds of Formula (I), (Ia), or (Ib), or salts thereof, including pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

The compounds of the present invention may be prepared from substituted benzenes which are commercially available or obtained by standard electrophilic aromatic substitution or nucleophilic aromatic substitution chemistry. Examples of electrophilic aromatic substitution reactions include: halogenation (including bromination, chlorination, and iodination), nitration, sulfonation, Friedel-Crafts alkylation or acylation, reduction of aromatic nitro groups, and alkali fusion of aromatic sulfonates. Examples of nucleophilic aromatic substitution reactions include: substitution of halides, sulfonate esters or diazonium salts by amines, thiols, amide anions, sulphide anions or alkoxide anions. The substitution of

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halides, sulfonate esters or diazonium salts can also be accomplished under palladium mediated conditions to introduce various carbon and heteroatom based substituents. Other transformations include: oxidation of alkylbenzene alkyl side chains to form benzoic acids, reduction of aryl alkyl ketones, amination of unactivated aryl halides, and phenol formation from activated aryl halides.

From the appropriately substituted benzenes, comparator compounds may be prepared by the following scheme:



10

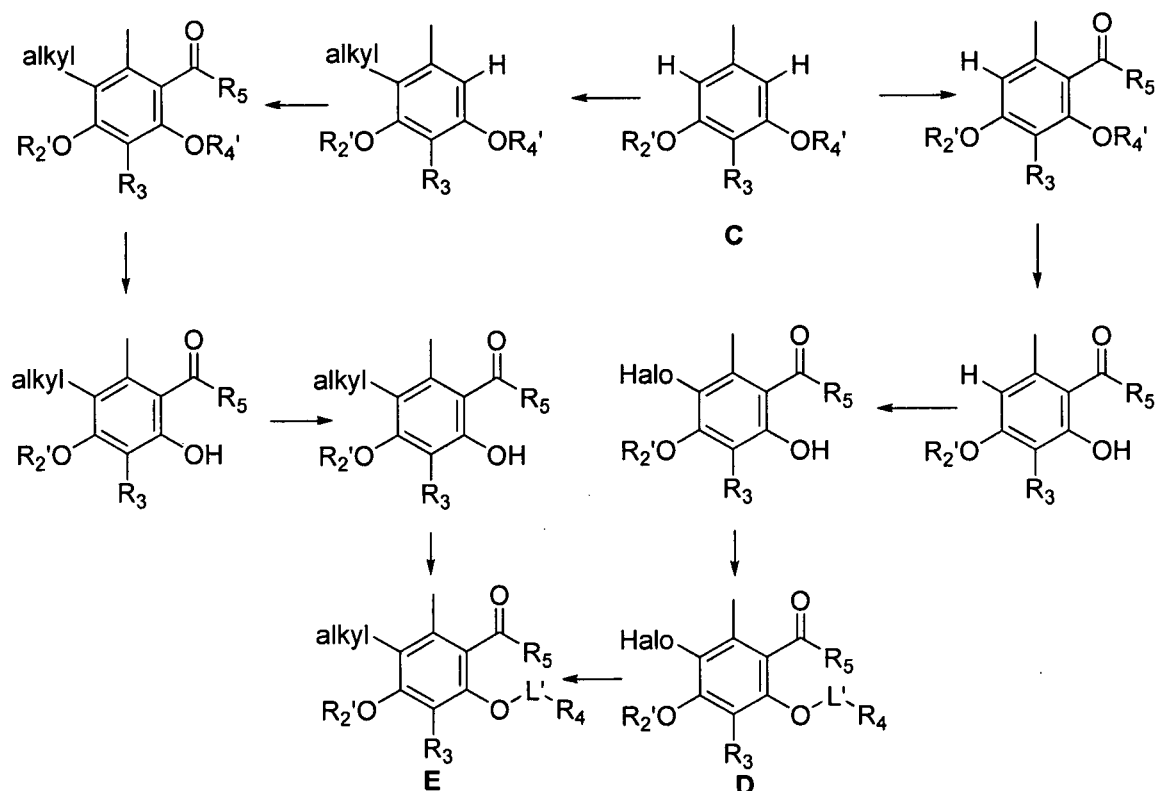
Compounds of the general structure **B** above may be prepared by reacting alkyl halides or carboxylic acids with compounds of the general structure **A**. Commercially available examples of compounds of formula **A** are shown in the table below.

15

R_a	X	Y	R_3	R_5	R_6
Et	NH	O	Pr	Me	H
Ac	NH	O	H	Me	H
Ac	NH	O	H	Pr	H
H	NH	O	H	Me	H
Ac	NH	O	$\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$	Me	H
Me	O	N	H	Me	H
Me	O	N	H	Me	H
Morph CH_2CH_2	O	O	H	Me	H

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Compounds of the present invention where R_6 is methyl, R_1 is alkyl or halo and R_2 is optionally substituted alkoxy may be prepared according to the following scheme which commences from general structure C:



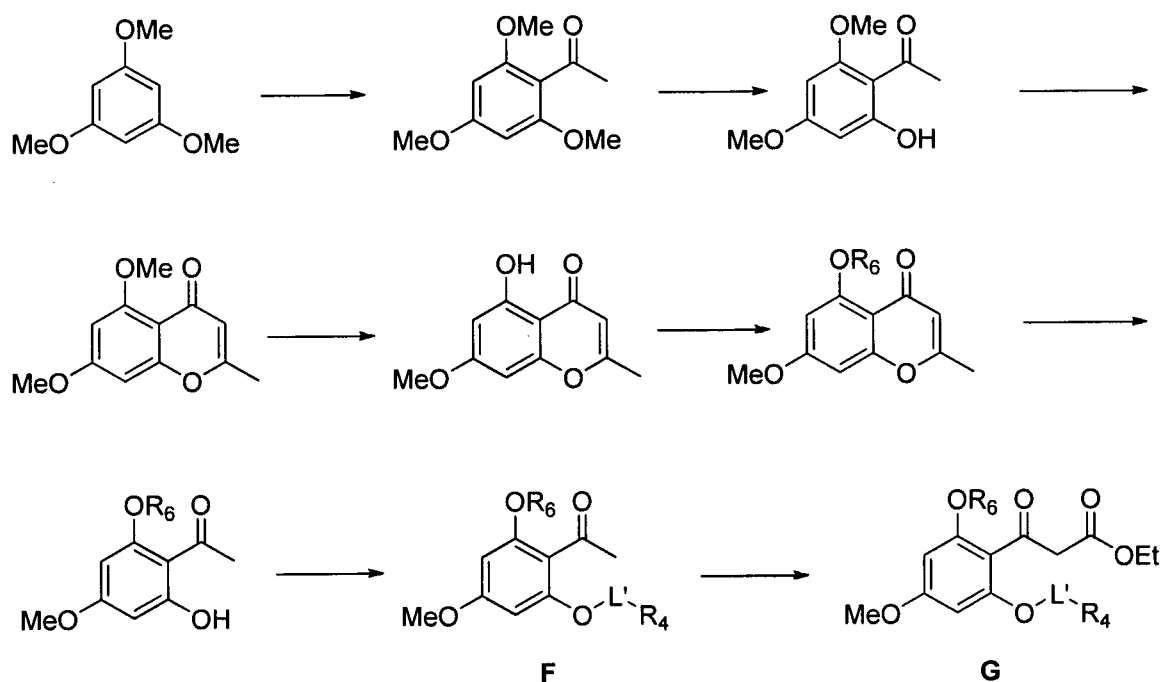
5

The above scheme illustrates that the $-C(O)R_5$ group may be introduced to a pre-functionalised benzene ring by standard Friedel-Crafts chemistry with, for instance, acetyl chloride in presence of a suitable transition metal catalyst such as $TiCl_4$. The group R_4' may represent a hydroxy protecting group such as methyl, which can be removed under standard demethylation conditions using, for instance, BCl_3 . Subsequent introduction of a halide (Halo) by electrophilic halogenations and introduction of the $-L'-R_4$ (as described above for compound B) gives compounds D. Compounds D can be further transformed to compounds E by palladium mediated coupling to an alkyl-metal coupling partner (where metal = ZnCl, borane or zircononcene).

- 40 -

Alkylation of the substituted benzene prior to Friedel-Crafts acylation may be accomplished by initial electrophilic halogenations (not shown) followed by palladium mediated coupling to an alkyl-metal coupling partner (where metal =
 5 ZnCl, borane or zircononcene). Alternatively the initially formed halide (bromide or iodide) can be metallated (eg lithiated) and reacted with an alkyl halide.

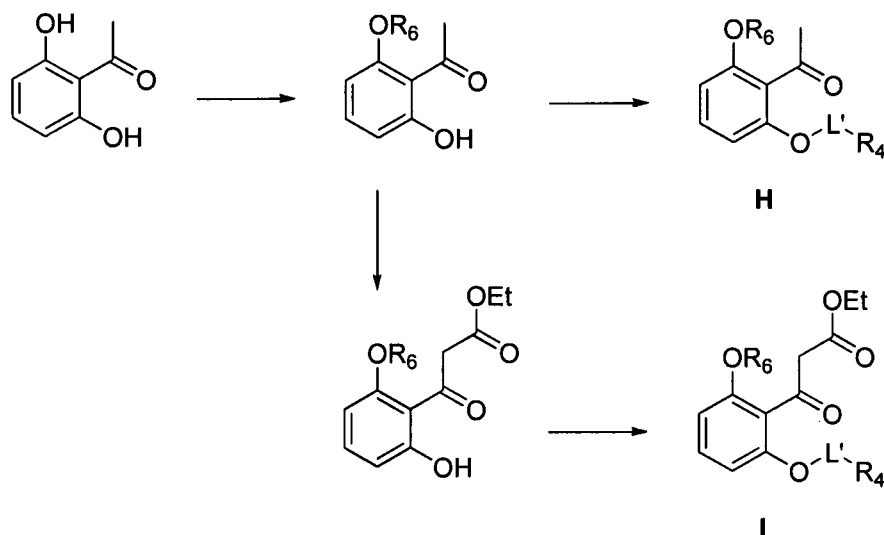
In a further process comparator compounds where R_2 is OR_6 (R_6 may be alkyl), and R_5 is $-C(O)CH_2(O)OEt$ or $-C(O)CH_3$ may be prepared by the following
 10 scheme:



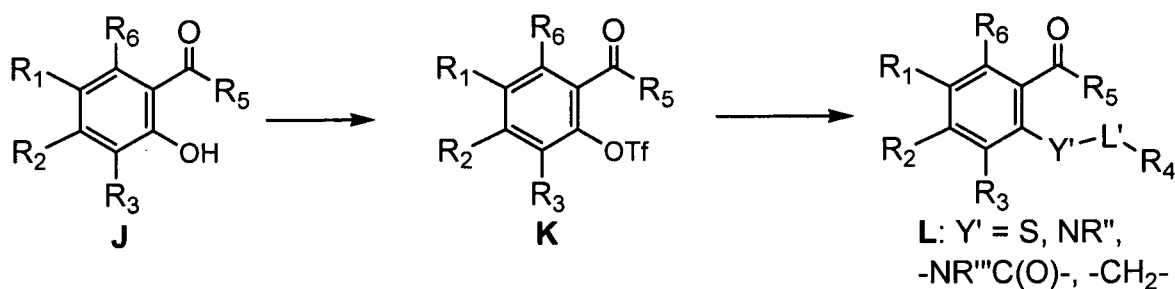
As shown in the above scheme compounds of the general formula F and G can be prepared from 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene through standard functional group
 15 interconversion and transformations known in the art such as: Friedel-Crafts acylation, methylether cleavage and condensation of an o-acetylphenol with an ester to form a chromenone ring. Group R^6 is introduced through alkylation of the phenol and the chromenone hydrolysed to form an o-acetylphenol which can be alkylated to introduce $-L'-R_4$. The acyl unit may then be reacted with

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dialkylcarboxylate and a base to introduce the carboalkoxy group. The order of the introduction of $-L'-R_4$ and the carboalkoxy group can be reversed (not shown).



- 5 In the above scheme comparator compounds of the general formula **H** and **I** can be prepared from 2,6-dihydroxyacetophenone through standard functional group interconversion and transformations known in the art such as those used in the preparation of **F** and **G**.



10

- Compounds of the current invention with the general formula **L** can be prepared from compounds of the general formula **J** (see above), by triflation to give **K** (Tf = trifluoromethanesulfonate) and either nucleophilic or palladium mediated
- 15 substitution of the triflate with an organometallic, thiol, amine or sulfide. Similar chemistry can be used to introduce $Y-L-R_7$ ($Y = S, NR'', -NR'''C(O)-, -CH_2-$) groups at the position denoted by R_3 or R_6)

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Another variation is to add, remove or modify the substituents of the product to form new derivatives. This could be achieved again by using standard techniques for functional group inter-conversion, well known in the industry such as those described in Comprehensive organic transformations: a guide to functional group preparations by Larock R C, New York, VCH Publishers, Inc. 1989.

Examples of possible functional group inter-conversions are: $-C(O)NRR'$ from $-CO_2CH_3$ by heating with or without catalytic metal cyanide, e.g. NaCN, and $HNRR'$ in CH_3OH ; $-OC(O)R$ from $-OH$ with e.g., $ClC(O)R'$ in pyridine; $-NR-C(S)NR'R''$ from $-NHR$ with an alkylisothiocyanate or thiocyanic acid; $-NRC(O)OR$ from $-NHR$ with alkyl chloroformate; $-NRC(O)NR'R''$ from $-NHR$ by treatment with an isocyanate, e.g. $HN=C=O$ or $RN=C=O$; $-NRC(O)R'$ from $-NHR$ by treatment with $ClC(O)R'$ in pyridine; $-C(=NR)NR'R''$ from $-C(NR'R'')SR'''$ with $H_3NR^+OAc^-$ by heating in alcohol; $-C(NR'R'')SR$ from $-C(S)NR'R''$ with $R-I$ in an inert solvent, e.g. acetone; $-C(S)NR'R''$ (where R' or R'' is not hydrogen) from $-C(S)NH_2$ with $HNR'R''$; $-C(=NCN)-NR'R''$ from $-C(=NR'R'')-SR$ with NH_2CN by heating in anhydrous alcohol, alternatively from $-C(=NH)-NR'R''$ by treatment with $BrCN$ and $NaOEt$ in $EtOH$; $-NR-C(=NCN)SR$ from $-NHR'$ by treatment with $(RS)_2C=NCN$; $-NR''SO_2R$ from $-NHR'$ by treatment with $ClSO_2R$ by heating in pyridine; $-NR'C(S)R$ from $-NR'C(O)R$ by treatment with Lawesson's reagent [2,4-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3,2,4-dithiadiphosphetane-2,4-disulfide]; $-NRSO_2CF_3$ from $-NHR$ with triflic anhydride and base, $-CH(NH_2)CHO$ from $-CH(NH_2)C(O)OR'$ with $Na(Hg)$ and $HCl/EtOH$; $-CH_2C(O)OH$ from $-C(O)OH$ by treatment with $SOCl_2$ then CH_2N_2 then H_2O/Ag_2O ; $-C(O)OH$ from $-CH_2C(O)OCH_3$ by treatment with $PhMgX/HX$ then acetic anhydride then CrO_3 ; $R-OC(O)R'$ from $RC(O)R'$ by $R''CO_3H$; $-CCH_2OH$ from $-C(O)OR'$ with $Na / R'OH$; $-CHCH_2$ from $-CH_2CH_2OH$ by the Chugaev reaction; $-NH_2$ from $-C(O)OH$ by the Curtius reaction; $-NH_2$ from $-C(O)NHOH$ with $TsCl/base$ then H_2O ; $-CHC(O)CHR$ from $-CHCHOHCHR$ by using the Dess-Martin Periodinane reagent or $CrO_3 / aqH_2SO_4 / acetone$; $-C_6H_5CHO$ from $-C_6H_5CH_3$ with

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CrO_2Cl_2 ; -CHO from -CN with SnCl_2 / HCl; -CN from -C(O)NHR with PCl_5 ; -CH₂R from -C(O)R with N_2H_4 / KOH; -S(O)₂R from -SR with mCPBA.

In order that the present invention may be more readily understood, we provide
5 the following non-limiting examples.

EXAMPLES – GENERAL PROCEDURE

Synthetic Experimental

10

General Procedures

General Procedure A: Alkylation of 1,3-dimethoxyphenols

NaH (60% dispersion in oil, 1.2 eq.) was added to a stirred solution of 3,5-
15 dimethoxy-4-hydroxytoluene (1.0 eq.) in dry DMF (1.0 M) at room temperature.
After the reaction mixture was stirred for 0.25 h, a solution of the bromoalkane
(1.03 eq.) in dry DMF (5.0 M) was added, followed by stirring at room temperature
overnight. The mixture was quenched with $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}_{(\text{aq})}$ (sat.), extracted with EtOAc
and washed with water. The organic layer was separated and dried over MgSO_4
20 and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash
chromatography.

General Procedure B: Friedel-Crafts reaction with acetyl chloride

A mixture of the substituted benzene (1.0 eq.) and acetyl chloride (1.1 eq.) were
25 stirred under N_2 at room temperature for 0.25 h, then TiCl_4 (1.1 eq.) was added
dropwise. The dark brown mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h and
then quenched with $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}_{(\text{aq})}$ (sat.), extracted with EtOAc and washed with water.
The organic layer was separated, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated under
vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography to give the
30 ketone.

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General Procedure C: Selective demethylation of methyl ether

A solution of BCl_3 in DCM (1.0 M, 1.1 eq.) was added to a stirred solution of the methyl ether (1.0 eq.) in dry DCM (0.25 M) under N_2 at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 1-2 h, quenched with $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}_{(\text{aq})}$ (sat.), extracted with EtOAc and washed
5 with water. The organic layer was separated, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography to give the phenol.

General Procedure D: Chlorination of benzene ring with *N*-chlorosuccinimide

10 To a stirred solution of the substituted benzene (1.0 eq.) in dry DMF (0.10 M) was added *N*-chlorosuccinimide (1.0 eq.) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 6 h at room temperature. The solvent was distilled and the crude product was dissolved in EtOAc and washed with water. The organic layer was separated, dried over MgSO_4 , concentrated under vacuum and purified by flash chromatography to give
15 the product.

General Procedure E: Methylation of benzene ring via bromination step

Step i.

20

N-Bromosuccinimide (1.1 eq.) was added to a solution of the arene (1.0 eq.) in dry DMF (0.3 M by the arene) at 0 °C and the reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 3 h. After this time the reaction was quenched with 10% $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3_{(\text{aq})}$ and diluted with Et_2O . The organic phase was washed twice
25 with water and once with brine, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated under vacuum to provide the bromide intermediate.

Step ii.

30 *t*-Butyllithium (1.7 M in pentane, 2.1 eq.) was added dropwise *via* syringe to a solution of the bromide intermediate (1.0 eq.) in dry THF (0.25 M) at -78 °C and

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the reaction was stirred for 2 minutes then treated with methyl iodide (2.0 eq.) and allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. The reaction was quenched with 10% citric acid (aq) and extracted with Et₂O. The organic phase was washed with water then brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The crude
5 residue was purified by flash chromatography.

General Procedure F: Alkylation of phenols

A suspension of the phenol (1.0 eq.), Cs₂CO₃ or K₂CO₃ (1.5 eq.) and alkyl or benzyl halide (generally 1.2 eq.) in anhydrous DMF (0.2 M) was stirred under N₂ at
10 60 °C until completion as determined by TLC (1-5 h). The reaction mixture was then diluted with EtOAc and washed twice with either citric acid (aq.) (10%) or HCl(aq.) (2 M) and then brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography.

15 General Procedure G: Alkylation of amines and N-heterocycles

To a solution of the bromide (1.0 eq.) in anhydrous DMF (0.2-0.5 M) was added the amine or N-heterocycle (3-4 eq.) and the reaction was stirred at 80-90 °C under a N₂ atmosphere until the reaction was complete by TLC (~ 5 h). The reaction was quenched with NH₄Cl(aq.) (sat.) and extracted with EtOAc. The
20 organic phase was washed with water then brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography.

General Procedure H: Alkylation of 3,5-dimethoxytoluene

25 A solution of *n*-butyllithium in hexanes (1.7 M, 1.2 eq.) was added over 0.25 h to a solution of 3,5-dimethoxytoluene (1.0 eq.) in THF (1 M) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h then at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C and a solution of the alkyl bromide (1.2 eq.) in toluene (2 M) was added over 0.1 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room
30 temperature and heated to 80 °C for 3-4 h. The reaction was quenched slowly with water and partitioned over EtOAc and water. The phases were separated and the

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aqueous phase was extracted twice with EtOAc. The pooled organics were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography.

5 **General Procedure I: Alkylation of phenols**

To a stirred suspension the phenol (1.0 eq.), K₂CO₃ (2.0 eq.) and NaI (0.30 eq.) (pre-dried under vacuum at 100 °C for 5 h) in dry DMF or DMSO (0.1 M of phenol) was added the alkyl chloride (2.0 eq.) and the reaction was heated at 60 °C until the reaction was complete by TLC (~ 16 h). After this time the reaction was
10 cooled, diluted with EtOAc and washed thrice with water. The organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, concentrated under vacuum and the crude residue was purified by flash chromatography.

General Procedure J: Alkylation of *N*-heterocycles

15 To a solution of the bromide (1.0 eq.) in anhydrous DMF (0.2-0.5 M) was added diisopropylethylamine (3.5 eq.) and the *N*-heterocycle hydrochloride salt (2.5 eq.) and the reaction was stirred at 50-60 °C under a N₂ atmosphere until the reaction was complete by TLC (~ 16 h). The reaction was quenched with NH₄Cl_(aq.) (sat.) and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with water then brine,
20 dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography.

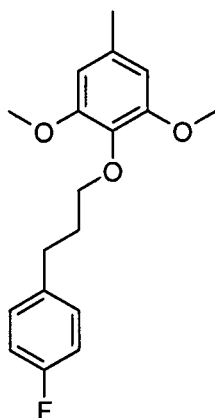
General Procedure K: Alkylation of *N*-heterocycles

To a solution of the *N*-heterocycle hydrochloride salt (2.5 eq.) in anhydrous DMF
25 (1 M) was added NaH (60% dispersion in oil, 3.0 eq.) and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2-3 h. To this was added the bromide (1.0 eq.) in anhydrous DMF (0.2-0.5 M) and the reaction was stirred at 50-60 °C under a N₂ atmosphere until the reaction was complete by TLC (~ 16 h). The reaction was quenched with NH₄Cl_(aq.) (sat.) and extracted with EtOAc. The organic phase was
30 washed with water then brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography.

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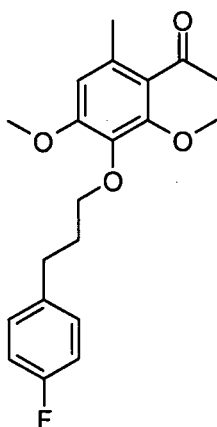
General Procedure L: Alkylation of amines and N-heterocycles

To a solution of the bromide (1.0 eq.) in anhydrous DMF (0.2-0.5 M) was added Cs_2CO_3 or K_2CO_3 (2-2.5 eq.) and the amine (1.5-2.5 eq.) and the reaction was stirred at 50-60 °C under a N_2 atmosphere until the reaction was complete by TLC (~ 16 h). The reaction was quenched with $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}_{(\text{aq.})}$ (sat.) and extracted with EtOAc. The organic phase was washed with water then brine, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated under vacuum. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography.

**Example 1****1a) 2-(3-(4-Fluorophenyl)propoxy)-1,3-dimethoxy-5-methylbenzene:**

3,5-Dimethoxy-4-hydroxy-toluene (1.0 g, 5.95 mmol) and 1-(3-bromopropyl)-4-fluorobenzene (1.5 g, 6.15 mmol) were reacted as described under General Procedure A and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, hexane/ Et_2O 19:1) to afford the title compound (1.64 g, 91%) as a colourless oil. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.31-7.19 (m, 6H), 4.06 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 2.81 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.10-2.05 (m, 2H).

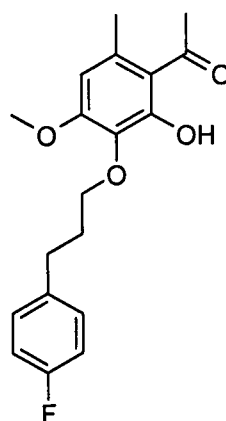
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1b) 1-(3-(3-(4-Fluorophenyl)propoxy)-2,4-dimethoxy-6-methylmethylphenyl) ethanone

Example 1a (380 mg, 1.25 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure B and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, hexane/Et₂O, gradient to 1:4) to afford the title compound (409 mg, 95%) as a light cream oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19-7.14 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.92 (m, 2H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 3.97 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.80 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.06-1.97 (m, 2H).

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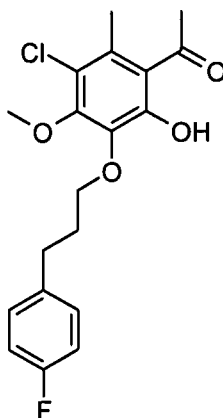
1c) 1-(3-(3-(4-Fluorophenyl)propoxy)-2-hydroxy-4-methoxy-6-methylmethylphenyl) ethanone

Example 1b (300 mg, 0.87 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure C and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, hexane/Et₂O, gradient to 1:4) to afford the title compound (281 mg, 98%) as a light cream oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19-7.14 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.91 (m, 2H),

15

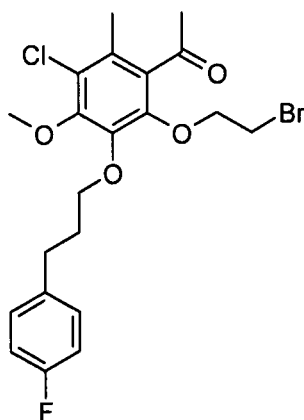
- 49 -

6.28 (s, 1H), 3.99 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.80 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.10-1.97 (m, 2H).



5 **1d) 1-(3-Chloro-5-(3-(4-fluorophenyl)propoxy)-6-hydroxy-4-methoxy-2-methylphenyl) ethanone**

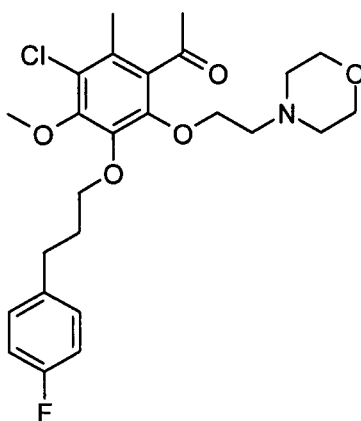
Example 1c (110 mg, 0.33 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure D and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, hexane/Et₂O, gradient to 1:4) to afford the title compound (121 mg, 99.5%) as
 10 a light cream oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.71 (s, 1H), 7.18-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.93 (m, 2H), 4.07 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.77 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.09-1.20 (m, 2H).



15 **1e) 1-(2-(2-Bromoethoxy)-5-chloro-3-(3-(4-fluorophenyl)propoxy)-4-methoxy-6-methylphenyl)ethanone**

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Example 1d (110 mg, 0.30 mmol) was reacted with 1,2-dibromoethane (3.0 eq.) as described under General Procedure F to afford the title compound (86 mg, 64%) as light cream oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19-7.14 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.93 (m, 2H), 4.28 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.50 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.78 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.05-2.02 (m, 2H).

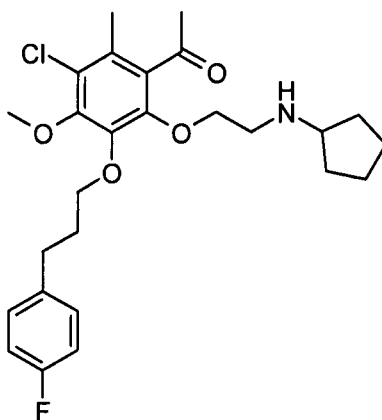


1f) 1-(3-Chloro-5-(3-(4-fluorophenyl)propoxy)-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-morpholinoethoxy)phenyl) ethanone

Example 1e (83 mg, 0.18 mmol) was reacted with morpholine (3 mL) as described under General Procedure G and the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, DCM/EtOAc/MeOH 1:0:0, 9:8:2) to afford the title compound (23 mg, 26%) as light creamy oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.93 (m, 2H), 4.10-4.03 (m, 4H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.68 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 4H), 2.78 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.62 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.46 (t, *J* = 4.45 Hz, 4H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.07-1.98 (m, 2H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 479.9 (M + H⁺).

Example 2

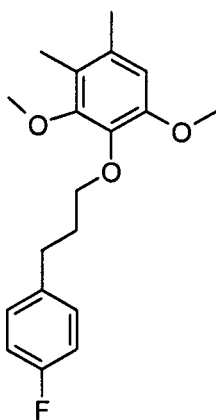
- 51 -



1-(3-Chloro-6-(cyclopentylamino)ethoxy)-5-(3-(4-fluorophenyl)propoxy)-4-methoxy-2-methylphenyl)ethanone

Example 1e (180 mg, 0.40 mmol) was reacted with cyclopentylamine (4 mL) as described under General Procedure G and the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, DCM/EtOAc/MeOH 1:0:0, 9:8:2) to afford the title compound (32 mg, 17%) as light cream oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.17-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.92 (m, 2H), 4.13 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 4.03 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.09-3.05 (m, 1H), 2.84 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 2.77 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.03-1.97 (m, 2H), 1.85-1.75 (m, 4H), 1.37-1.23 (m, 2H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 477.9 (M + H⁺).

Example 3

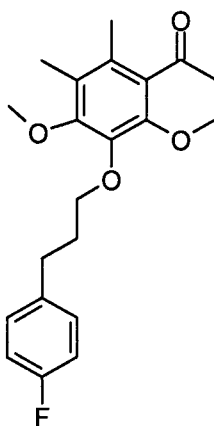


3a) 4-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-propoxy]-3,5-dimethoxy-1,2-dimethyl-benzene

Example 1a (1.0 g, 3.14 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure E Step i) to afford the bromide intermediate (1.16 g, 93%). A portion of

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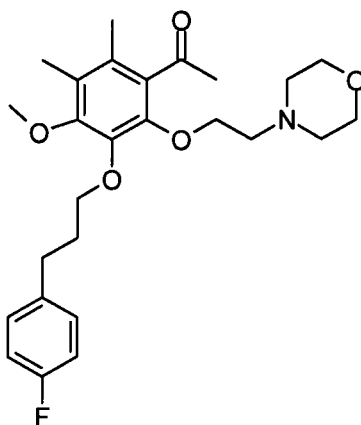
this material (500 mg, 1.3 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure E Step ii) and the crude residue was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, hexane / Et₂O 19:1) to provide the product as a clear oil (310 mg, 75%).
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.97 (m, 2H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 3.97 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.81 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 2.06-1.96 (m, 2H).



3b) 1-{3-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-propoxy]-2,4-dimethoxy-5,6-dimethyl-phenyl}-ethanone

Example **3a** (180 mg, 0.57 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure B and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, hexane/EtOAc, 9:1) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (55 mg, 27%).
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.92 (m, 2H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.80 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 2.06-1.98 (m, 2H).

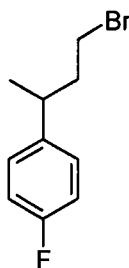
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3c) 1-[3-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-propoxy]-4-methoxy-5,6-dimethyl-2-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Example **3b** (50 mg, 0.139 mmol) was reacted with BCl_3 (1.1 eq.) according to General Procedure C. The material thus obtained was then reacted with 1,2-dibromoethane (3.0 eq.) according to General Procedure F and the product bromide reacted with morpholine according to General Procedure G to afford the product as a clear oil (21 mg, 33% over 3 steps). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.19-7.14 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.93 (m, 2H), 4.09-4.00 (m, 4H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.71-3.68 (m, 4H), 2.79 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.62 (t, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 2H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.49-2.46 (m, 4H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 2.05-1.97 (m, 2H).

Example 4



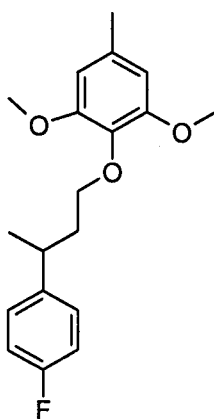
4a) 1-(3-Bromo-1-methyl-propyl)-4-fluoro-benzene

A solution of ethyl 3-(4-fluorophenyl)butanoate (2.85 g, 13.6 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added to a solution of lithium aluminium hydride (0.77 g, 1.5 mmol) in THF (60 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction was stirred at room temperature overnight, then cooled

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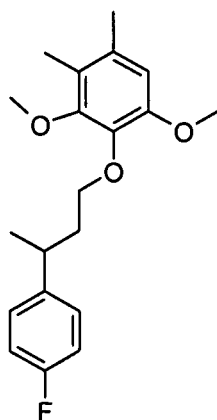
to 0 °C, quenched with $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}_{(\text{aq})}$ (sat., 50 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 100 mL). The pooled organics were washed with brine (100 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under vacuum to give the alcohol, which was used directly in the next step. Bromine (1.03 mL, 20.0 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of triphenylphosphine (5.24 g, 20.0 mmol) in DCM (80 mL) at 0 °C until an orange colour persisted. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1.5 h, then a solution of the alcohol (2.37 g, 14.1 mmol) in DCM (20 mL) was added and the reaction mixture stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum and the resulting residue was sonicated for 0.1 h in petroleum ether (100 mL). The suspension was filtered and the white solid washed with petroleum spirit. The washings were concentrated under vacuum to give the title compound (2.56 g, 81% over 2 steps) as a colourless oil. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.18-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.02-6.96 (m, 2H), 3.35-3.28 (m, 1H), 3.20-3.11 (m, 1H), 3.02-2.90 (m, 1H), 2.11-2.04 (m, 2H), 1.26 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H).

15

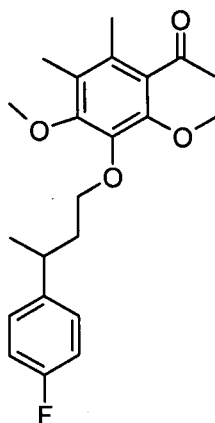
**4b) 2-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)butoxy]-1,3-dimethoxy-5-methylbenzene**

Example **4a** (2.54 g, 11 mmol) and 3,5-dimethoxy-4-hydroxy-toluene (1.68 g, 10 mmol) were reacted as described under General Procedure A and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, hexane/EtOAc 19:1) to provide the product as a clear oil (2.6 g, 82%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.97-6.91 (m, 2H), 6.35 (s, 2H), 3.85-3.37 (m, 8H), 3.10-3.02 (m, 1H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 2.04-1.89 (m, 2H), 1.26 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H).

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**4c) 4-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)butoxy]-3,5-dimethoxy-1,2-dimethylbenzene**

Example **4b** (640 mg, 2.01 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure E Step i) to afford the bromide intermediate (750 mg, 94%). This material was reacted as described under General Procedure E Step ii) except 1.1 eq. of *n*-butyllithium (2 M solution in cyclohexane) was used instead of 2.1 eq. of *t*-butyllithium to afford the title compound (600 mg, 97%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.92 (m, 2H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 3.92-3.81 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.09-3.02 (m, 1H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 2.01-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

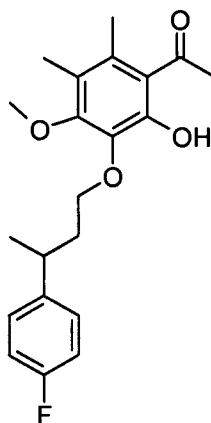
**4d) 1-{3-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-2,4-dimethoxy-5,6-dimethyl-phenyl}-ethanone**

Example **4c** (595 mg, 1.79 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure B and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, hexane/EtOAc 19:1, 9:1, 4:1) to afford initially quantities of recovered starting

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material (145 mg, 24%) then the product as a clear oil (240 mg, 36%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.93 (m, 2H), 3.91-3.85 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.06-2.99 (m, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 2.04-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.28 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). MS (ES^+) m/z 375.0 ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$).

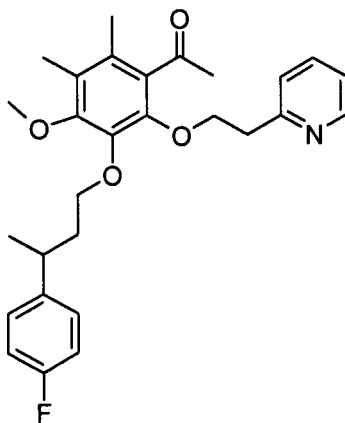
5



4e) 1-(3-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-2-hydroxy-4-methoxy-5,6-dimethyl-phenyl)-ethanone

Example 4d (240 mg, 0.64 mmol) was reacted as described under General
 10 Procedure C and the crude residue was rapidly filtered through a short silica-gel plug, eluting with hexane/EtOAc (9:1) to afford the product (220 mg, 95%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.44 (s, 1H), 7.18-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.00-6.93 (m, 2H), 3.91 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.02-2.94 (m, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 2.04-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.28 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). MS (ES^+) m/z 361.0 ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$).

15



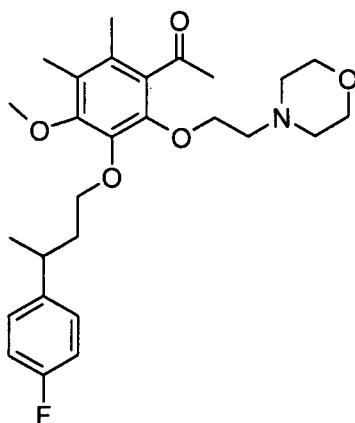
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4f) 1-[3-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-5,6-dimethyl-2-(2-pyridin-2-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Example **4e** (100 mg, 0.28 mmol) was reacted with 2-pyridin-2-ylethyl methanesulfonate (1.6 eq.) as described under General Procedure F to give the title compound (56 mg, 43%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.51 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dt, *J* = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.09 (m, 4H), 6.96-6.91 (m, 2H), 4.34 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.11 (6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.99-2.92 (m, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.95-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.25 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

10

Example 5

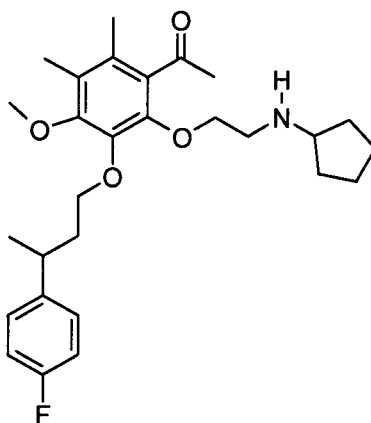


15 1-[3-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-5,6-dimethyl-2-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Example **4e** (100 mg, 0.21 mmol) was reacted over two steps in the same manner as described for the formation of Example **1f** from **1d**. The title compound was afforded in 66% yield (70 mg) over 2 steps. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.18-7.14 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.92 (m, 2H), 4.03 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.70-3.67 (m, 4H), 3.03-2.96 (m, 1H), 2.59 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.48-2.45 (m, 4H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.03-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 474.0 (M + H⁺).

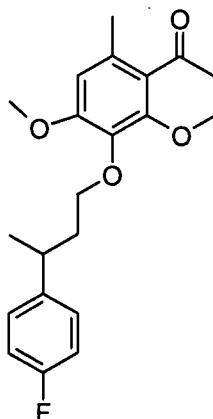
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Example 6

1-{2-(2-Cyclopentylamino-ethoxy)-3-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-5,6-dimethyl-phenyl}-ethanone

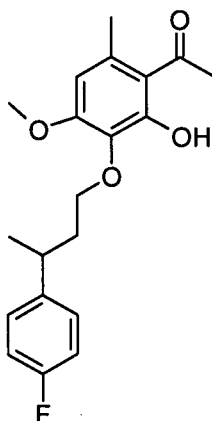
Example **4e** (160 mg, 0.34 mmol) was reacted over two steps in the same manner as described for the formation of Example **2** from **1d**. The title compound was afforded in 77% yield (130 mg) over 2 steps. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.18-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.92 (m, 2H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.11-2.93 (m, 2H), 2.80 (t, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 2.01-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.84-1.77 (m, 2H), 1.68-1.50 (m, 4H), 1.36-1.24 (m, 5H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 472.0 (M + H⁺).

Example 7

7a) 1-{3-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-2,4-dimethoxy-6-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone

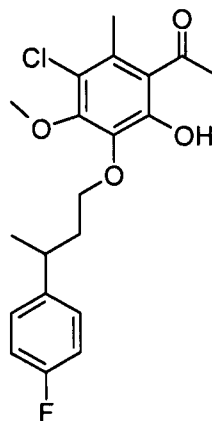
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Example **4b** (2.6 g, 8.2 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure B to offer the title compound (2.5 g, 86%) as creamy oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.93 (m, 2H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 3.91-3.75 (m, 8H), 3.10-2.99 (m, 1H), 3.45 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.04-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H).



7b) 1-{3-[3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-butoxy]-2-hydroxy-4-methoxy-6-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone

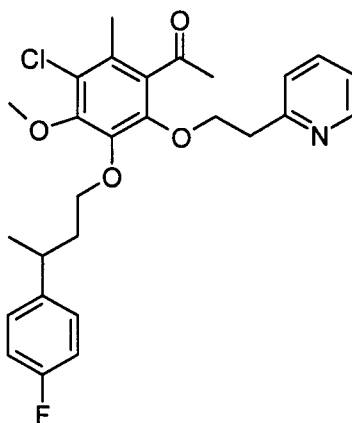
Example **7a** (400 mg, 1.11 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure C to afford the title compound (350 mg, 91%) as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.71 (s, 1H), 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.92 (m, 2H), 6.26 (s, 1H), 3.91-3.80 (m, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.09-3.01 (m, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.06-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H).



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7c) 1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-6-hydroxy-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl]-ethanone

Example 7b (350 mg, 1.0 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure D to afford the title compound (320 mg, 83%) as a clear oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.46 (s, 1H), 7.18-7.13 (m, 2H), 7.00-6.94 (m, 2H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.00-2.93 (m, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.06-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 380.9 (M + H⁺).

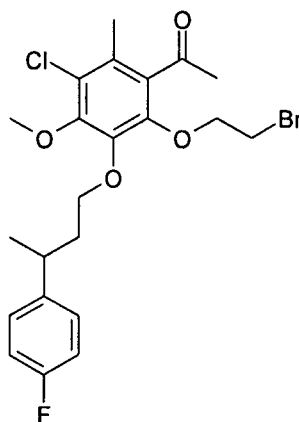


7d) 1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-pyridin-2-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Example 7c (500 mg, 1.31 mmol) was reacted with 2-pyridin-2-ylethyl methanesulfonate (2.0 eq.) as described under General Procedure F to give the title compound as an oil (410 mg, 89%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.52 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dt, *J* = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.10 (m, 4H), 6.97-6.90 (m, 2H), 4.37 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.10 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.98-2.91 (m, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.96-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.25 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 485.9 (M + H⁺).

20 Example 8

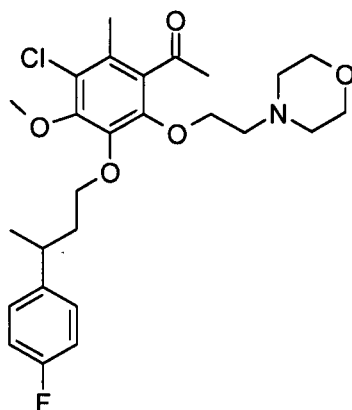
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8a) 1-{2-(2-Bromo-ethoxy)-5-chloro-3-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-6-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone

Example 7c (511 mg, 1.34 mmol) was reacted with 1,2-dibromoethane (20.0 eq.) as described under General Procedure F to afford the title compound (641 mg, quantitative yield) as a light brown oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.96 (m, 2H), 4.26 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.49 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (m, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.07-2.01 (m, 2H), 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 487.3 (M + H⁺).

10



8b) 1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Example 8a (100 mg, 0.21 mmol) was reacted with morpholine (6.0 eq.) as described under General Procedure G. The title compound was afforded as an oil (72 mg, 71%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.18-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.89 (m, 2H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.70-3.67 (m, 4H),

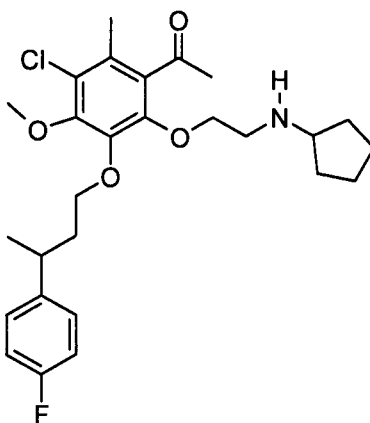
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3.02-2.95 (m, 1H), 2.59 (t, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.47-2.44 (m, 4H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 2.03-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.28 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) m/z 493.9 (M + H⁺).

Example 9

5

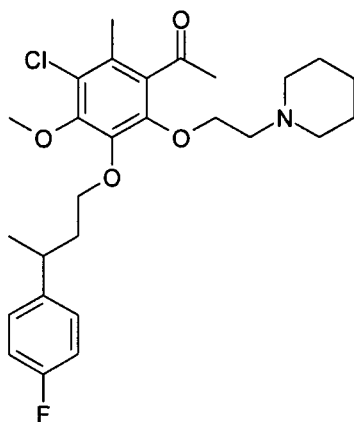


1-[3-Chloro-6-(2-cyclopentylamino-ethoxy)-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl]-ethanone

Example 8a (100 mg, 0.21 mmol) was reacted with cyclopentylamine (6.0 eq.) as described under General Procedure G. The title compound was afforded as an oil (65 mg, 65%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.17-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.93 (m, 2H), 4.07 (t, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.92 (t, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.06 (quintet, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.01-2.93 (m, 1H), 2.81 (t, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.03-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.84-1.76 (m, 2H), 1.68-1.49 (m, 4H), 1.33-1.23 (m, 2H), 1.27 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H).

Example 10

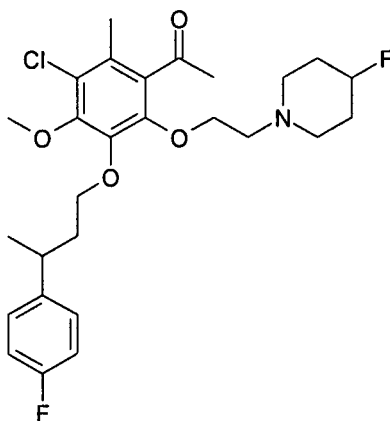
- 63 -



1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Example 8a (90 mg, 0.19 mmol) was reacted with piperidine (8.0 eq.) as described under General Procedure G and the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, DCM/MeOH 100:0, 49:1) to afford the title compound (40 mg, 43%) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.00 (m, 1H), 2.59 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.45-2.35 (m, 4H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.05-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.61-1.54 (m, 4H), 1.46-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.24 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 492.3 (M + H⁺).

Example 11

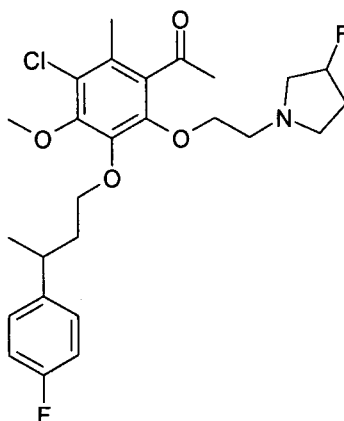


1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)butoxy]-6-[2-(4-fluoropiperidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl]-ethanone

- 64 -

Example 8a (89 mg, 0.18 mmol) was reacted with 4-fluoropiperidine hydrochloride (4.0 eq.) as described under General Procedure J and the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, Et₂O/hexane 3:2) to afford the title compound (38 mg, 41%) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.66 (m, 1H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.00 (m, 1H), 2.64-2.59 (m, 4H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.44-2.36 (m, 2H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.05-1.97 (m, 2H), 1.94-1.81 (m, 4H), 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 510.2 (M + H⁺).

10 **Example 12**

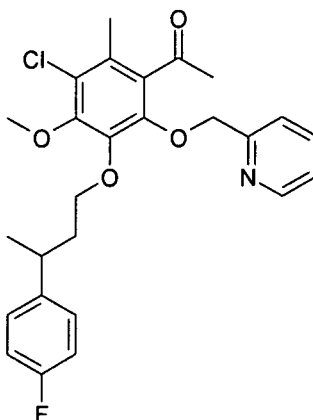


1-{3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-butoxy]-6-[2-(R-3-fluoropyrrolidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone

15 Example 8a (93 mg, 0.19 mmol) was reacted with (*R*)-3-fluoropyrrolidine hydrochloride (2.4 eq.) as described under General Procedure J and the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, Et₂O/hexane 3:2) to afford the title compound (27 mg, 29%) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.00-6.95 (m, 2H), 5.16 (m, 1H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.03-2.67 (m, 6H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.46 (m, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.15-1.98 (m, 4H), 1.29 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 496.3 (M + H⁺).

Example 13

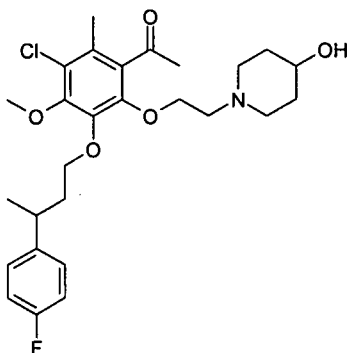
- 65 -



1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Example 8a (91 mg, 0.24 mmol) was reacted with 2-(bromomethyl)-pyridine hydrobromide (1.6 eq.) as described under General Procedure F and the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, Et₂O/hexane 1:1) to afford the title compound (55 mg, 49%) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.57 (m, 1H), 7.71 (dt, *J* = Hz, 1.8, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.06 (m, 2H), 6.94-6.88 (m, 2H), 5.17 (s, 2H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H) 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.93 (m, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.97-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.20 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 472.2 (M + H⁺).

Example 14

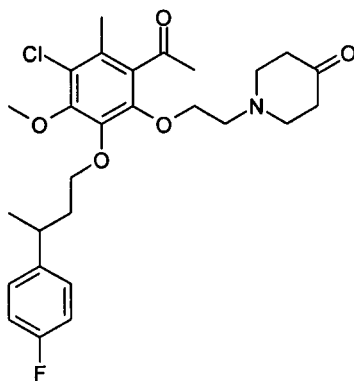


1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)butoxy]-6-[2-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl]-ethanone

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To a solution of N-BOC-4-hydroxypiperidine (42 mg, 0.21 mmol) in DCM (1 mL) was added TFA (1 mL) at room temperature and the solution was stirred for 0.1 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum and dried on the high vacuum pump for 1 h. Example 8a (100 mg, 0.21 mmol) was added and the mixture was suspended in DMF. Cs₂CO₃ (123 mg, 0.38 mmol) was added in one portion and the solution was heated at 60 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with water (20 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 15 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The crude material was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, MeOH/DCM 1:49) yielding the title compound (51 mg, 47%) as a clear brown oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.12 (m, 2H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.01-2.90 (m, 1H), 2.96-2.68 (m, 4H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.05-1.93 (m, 4H), 1.60-1.53 (m, 4H), 1.29 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 508 (M + H⁺).

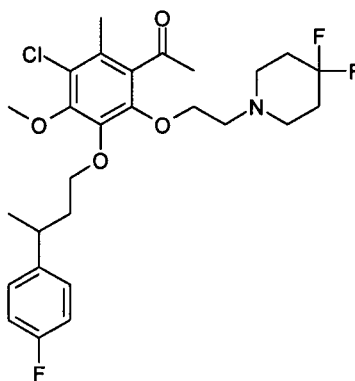
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Example 15**1-{3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-6-[2-(4-oxo-piperidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone**

To a solution of DMSO (24 μL, 0.34 mmol) in anhydrous DCM (0.5 mL) at -78 °C was added oxalyl chloride (14 μL, 0.17 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 0.5 h. Example 14 (29 mg, 0.056 mmol) in DCM (3 x 200 μL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 0.75 h. Triethylamine (94 μL, 0.67 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture stirred for a further 0.5 h at -

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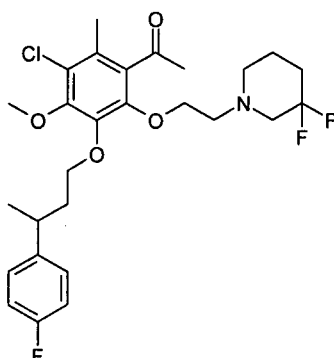
78 °C before warming to 0 °C and stirring for a further 0.5 h. The solvent was concentrated under vacuum and the crude was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, MeOH/DCM 1:49) to afford the title compound (29 mg, 100%) as a clear oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.10 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.12-2.90 (m, 1H), 2.76 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 2.73 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.45 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 2.05-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 506 (M + H⁺).

Example 16**1-{3-Chloro-6-[2-(4,4-difluoro-piperidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone**

Example 8a (56 mg, 0.12 mmol) was reacted with 4,4-difluoropiperidine hydrochloride (2.0 eq.) as described under General Procedure J to afford the title compound (19 mg, 31%) as a clear yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.11-2.89 (m, 1H), 2.66 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 2.58 (m, 4H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.05-1.92 (m, 6H), 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 528 (M + H⁺).

Example 17

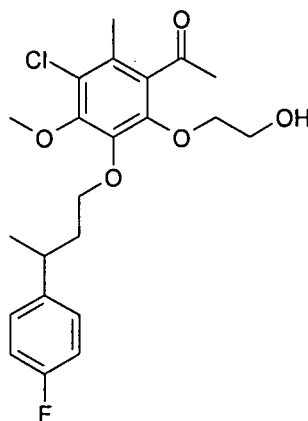
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1-[3-Chloro-6-[2-(3,3-difluoro-piperidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl]-ethanone

Example 8a (101 mg, 0.21 mmol) was reacted with 3,3-difluoropiperidine hydrochloride (2.5 eq.) as described under General Procedure K to afford the title compound (37 mg, 33%) as a clear oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (td, *J* = 6.9, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.05-2.83 (m, 1H), 2.75-2.68 (m, 4H), 2.50-2.46 (m, 5H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.13-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.74 (m, 4H), 1.29 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 528 (M + H⁺).

Example 18



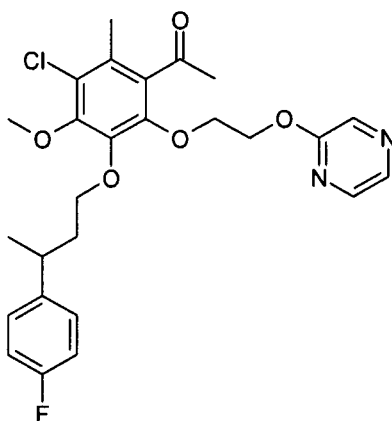
18a) 1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-6-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl]-ethanone

Example 7c (93 mg, 0.24 mmol) was reacted with 2-bromoethanol (1.5 eq.) as described under General Procedure F and the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, Et₂O/hexane 70:30) to afford the title compound (68

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mg, 67%) as a pale yellow oil. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.13-4.11 (m, 2H), 3.95 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.76-3.70 (m, 2H), 3.00 (m, 1H), 2.80 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.06-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.29 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H). MS (ES^+) m/z 425.2 ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$).

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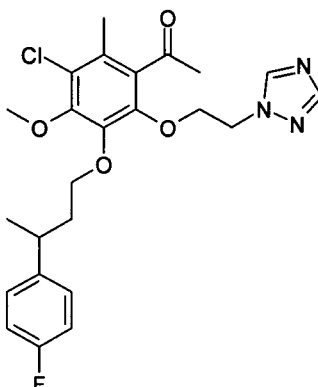


18b) 1-{3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-[2-(pyrazin-2-yloxy)ethoxy]-phenyl}-ethanone

A solution of Example 18a (43 mg, 0.10 mmol) and NaH (4 mg, 0.10 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (0.5 mL) was heated to 60 °C until H_2 evolution ceased (approx. 0.1 h). Chloropyrazine (11 μL , 0.12 mmol) was added dropwise and the solution heated at 100 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with EtOAc (20 mL), washed with water (10 mL) and NH_4Cl (10 mL), dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated under vacuum. The product was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, EtOAc/hexane 1:3) to afford the title compound (23 mg, 46%) as a clear, yellow oil. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.23 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.06 (dd, $J = 3.0, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.00-6.94 (m, 2H), 4.54-4.51 (m, 2H), 4.35-4.32 (m, 2H), 3.96 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.05-2.89 (m, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.03-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.28 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H). MS (ES^+) m/z 503 ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$).

Example 19

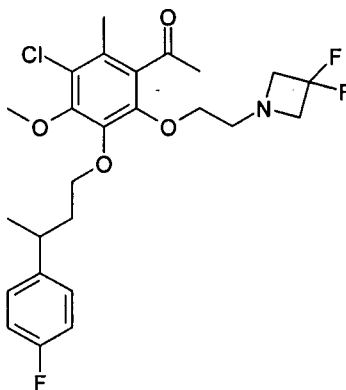
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1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-[1,2,4]triazol-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Example **8a** (85 mg, 0.17 mmol) was reacted with 1,2,4-triazole (2.5 eq.) and CsCO₃ (1.94 eq.) as described under General Procedure L and the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, Et₂O) to afford the title compound as a pale yellow oil (58 mg, 72%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.39-4.36 (m, 4H), 3.83-3.78 (m, 5H), 2.91 (m, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.94-1.89 (m, 2H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 476.2 (*M* + H⁺).

Example 20

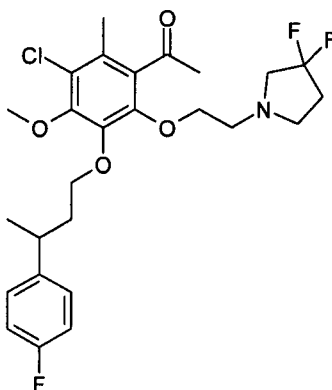


1-[3-Chloro-6-[2-(3,3-difluoroazetidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl]-ethanone

Example **8a** (102 mg, 0.21 mmol) was reacted with 3,3-difluoroazetidine hydrochloride (2.6 eq.) as described under General Procedure K and the crude

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mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, hexane/Et₂O 60:40) to afford the title compound as a pale yellow oil (39 mg, 37%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 3.98-3.91 (m, 4H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.62 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 4H), 2.99 (m, 1H), 2.80 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.07-2.01 (m, 2H), 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 500.1 (M + H⁺).

Example 21

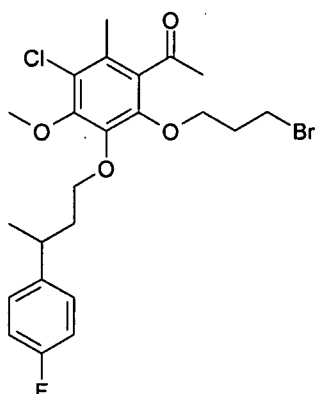
10 **1-{3-Chloro-6-[2-(3,3-difluoropyrrolidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone**

Example 8a (83 mg, 0.17 mmol) was reacted with 3,3-difluoropyrrolidine hydrochloride (2.5 eq.) as described under General Procedure K and the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, hexane/Et₂O 70:30) to afford the title compound as a pale yellow oil (47 mg, 54%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.03 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (dt, *J* = 2.1, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.97 (m, 1H), 2.95 (t, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 2H), 2.79-2.71 (m, 4H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.33-2.21 (m, 2H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.06-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 514.2 (M + H⁺).

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Example 22

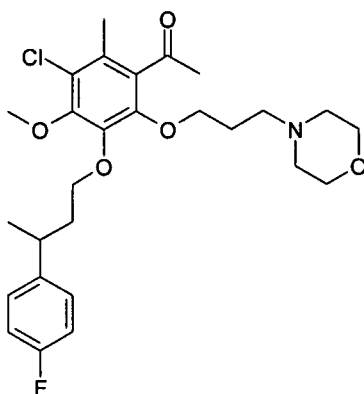
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22a) 1-[2-(3-Bromo-propoxy)-5-chloro-3-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-6-methyl-phenyl]-ethanone

Example 7c (179 mg, 0.47 mmol) was reacted with 1,3-dibromopropane (10.0 eq.) as described under General Procedure F to afford the title compound (641 mg, quantitative yield) as a light yellow oil. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.10 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.49 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (m, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.17 (m, 5H), 2.07-1.99 (m, 2H), 1.30 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H). MS (ES^+) m/z 503.0 ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$)

10



22b) 1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(3-morpholin-4-yl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

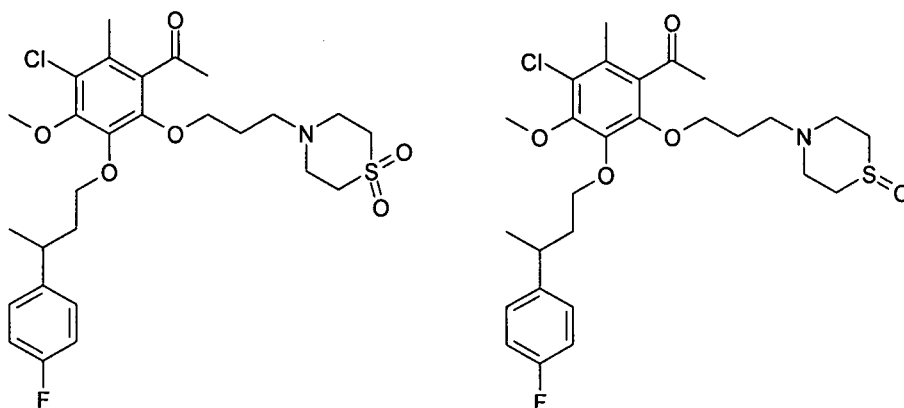
Example 22a (40 mg, 0.08 mmol) was reacted with morpholine (0.2 mL, 2.29 mmol) as described under General Procedure G and the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, DCM/EtOAc/MeOH 1:0:0, 9:8:2) to afford the title compound (36 mg, 88%) as yellow/brown oil. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.00 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (t, J =

15

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6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.72-3.69 (m, 4H), 3.07-2.95 (m, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.45-2.40 (m, 6H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.02-1.99 (m, 2H), 1.88-1.79 (m, 2H), 1.30 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) m/z 508.3 (M + H⁺)

5 **Examples 23 and 24**



23) 1-[3-Chloro-6-[3-(1,1-dioxo-thiomorpholin-4-yl)-propoxy]-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl]-ethanone

10 **24) 1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-[3-(1-oxo-thiomorpholin-4-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl]-ethanone**

A solution of N-BOC-1,1-dioxothiomorpholine (85 mg, 0.365 mmol) in a mixture of DCM (1 mL) and TFA (1mL) was stirred at room temperature for 0.1 h before concentrating under vacuum and drying the TFA salt of 1,1-dioxothiomorpholine on the high vacuum pump for 3 h. The salt was dissolved in dry DMF (1 mL) and reacted with Example **22a** (92 mg, 0.18 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (2.16 eq.) under General Procedure L. The crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, hexane/Et₂O 1:4 -> MeOH/DCM 1:19) to afford **23** (14 mg, 14%) and **24** (13 mg, 13%) as clear colourless oils.

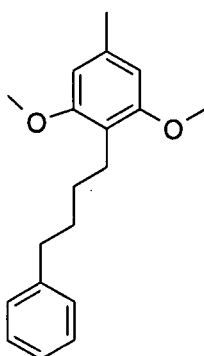
Example 23: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 3.99 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.93 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.06-3.02 (m, 5H), 2.98-2.94 (m, 4H), 2.58 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.04-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.78 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.30 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) m/z 556.2 (M + H⁺).

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Example 24: ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 3.99 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.93 (dt, $J = 0.9, 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.20-2.95 (m, 2H), 2.95-2.75 (m, 4H), 2.70-2.60 (m, 2H), 2.51 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 2.04-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.81 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.30 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H).

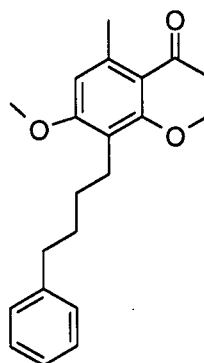
5 MS (ES^+) m/z 540.2 ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$).

Example 25



25a) 1,3-Dimethoxy-5-methyl-2-(4-phenylbutyl)benzene

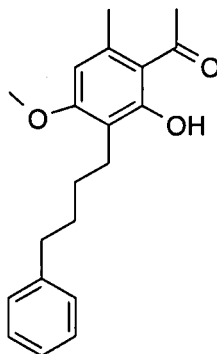
- 10 3,5-Dimethoxytoluene (2.93 mL, 20 mmol) and 4-phenylbutylbromide (4.13 mL, 1.2 mmol) were reacted as described under General Procedure H and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc 200:1) to afford the product as a clear oil (4.6 g, 81%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.13-7.22 (m, 5H), 6.34 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s, 6H), 2.60-2.64 (m, 4H), 2.31 (s, 3H),
- 15 1.53-1.67 (m, 4H).



25b) 1-(2,4-dimethoxy-6-methyl-3-(4-phenylbutyl)phenyl)ethanone

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Example **25a** (0.500, 1.76 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure B to give the title compound (543 mg, 95%) as light cream oil. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.12-7.31 (m, 5H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 2.57-2.66 (m, 4H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 1.5-1.71 (m, 4H).

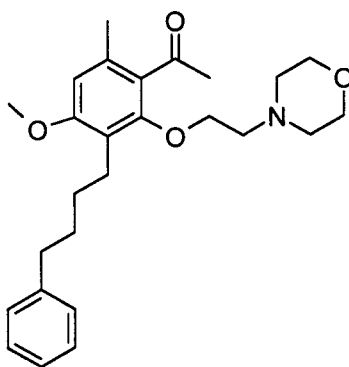


5

25c) 1-(2-Hydroxy-4-methoxy-6-methyl-3-(4-phenylbutyl)phenyl)ethanone

Example **25b** (0.54 g, 1.65 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure C to give the title compound (0.51 g, 99%) as light cream oil. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.36 (s, 1H), 7.27-7.10 (m, 5H), 6.25 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.7-2.5 (m, 10H), 1.7-1.5 (m, 4H).

10

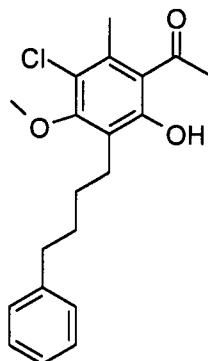


25d) 1-[4-Methoxy-6-methyl-2-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-3-(4-phenyl-butyl)-phenyl]-ethanone

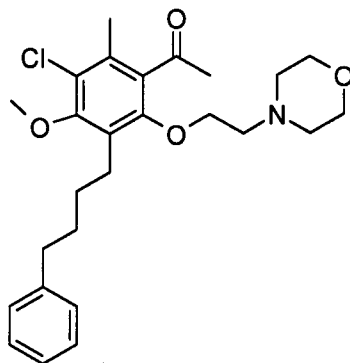
Example **25c** (63 mg, 0.15 mmol) was reacted over two steps in the same manner as described for Example **1f** from **1d**. The title compound was afforded in 44% yield over 2 steps (36 mg). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.3 -7.1 (m, 5H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 3.81-3.7 (m, 5H), 3.74-3.68 (m, 4H), 2.66-2.56 (m, 6H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.52-2.45 (m, 4H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 1.72-1.5 (m, 4H).

15

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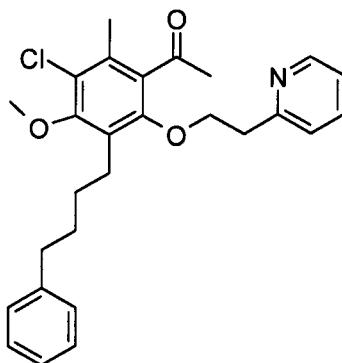
Example 26**26a) 1-(3-Chloro-6-hydroxy-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(4-phenylbutyl)phenyl)ethanone**

Example **26c** (379 mg, 1.18 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure D to give the title compound (200 mg, 50%) as creamy solid. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.89 (s, 1H), 7.3-7.1 (m, 5H), 3.8 (s, 3H), 2.7-2.58 (m, 7H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 1.74-1.54 (m, 4H).

**26b) 1-(3-Chloro-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-morpholinoethoxy)-5-(4-phenylbutyl)phenyl)ethanone**

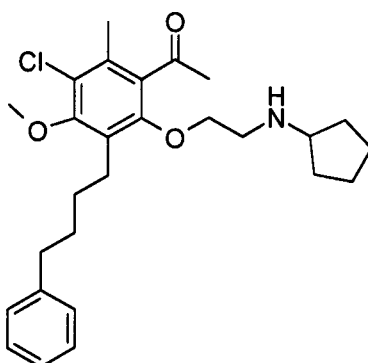
Example **26a** (117 mg, 0.26 mmol) was reacted over two steps in the same manner as described for Example **1f** from **1d**. The title compound was afforded in 51% yield (79 mg) over 2 steps as a colourless syrup. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.3-7.11 (m, 5H), 3.82-3.7 (m, 5H), 3.75-3.6 (m, 4H), 2.7-2.5 (m, 6H), 2.51-2.4 (m, 7H), 2.2 (s, 3H), 1.8-1.5 (m, 4H).

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Example 27

1-(3-Chloro-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(4-phenylbutyl)-6-(2-(pyridine-2-yl)ethoxy)phenyl)ethanone

Example 26a (47 mg, 0.136 mmol) was reacted with 2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethyltrifluoromethanesulphonate (0.3 mL) according to General Procedure F to give the title compound (38 mg, 60%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.54 (dd, 1H), 7.57 (t, 1H), 7.28-7.08 (m, 7H), 4.09 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.11 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.54 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 1.56-1.43 (m, 4H).

Example 28

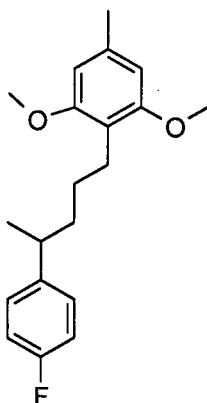
1-(3-Chloro-6-(2-(cyclopentylamino)ethoxy)-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(4-phenylbutyl)phenyl)ethanone

Example 26a (64 mg, 0.14 mmol) was reacted over two steps in the same manner as described for Example 2. The title compound was afforded in 55% yield (46 mg)

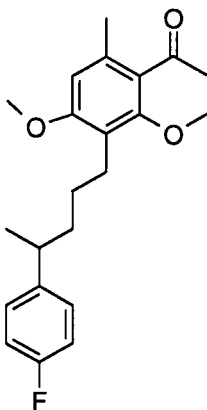
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over 2 steps. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.28-7.11 (m, 5H), 3.81 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.09 (q, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, 2H), 2.7-2.52 (m, 4H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.99-1.78 (m, 3H), 1.73-1.5 (m, 8H), 1.35-1.28 (m, 2H).

5

Example 29**29a) 2-[4-*RS*-(4-Fluorophenyl)]pentyl]-1,3-dimethoxy-5-methylbenzene**

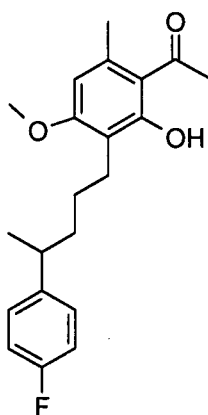
3,5-Dimethoxytoluene (0.25 mL, 1.70 mmol) and 4-[*RS*-(4-fluorophenyl)]
10 pentylbromide (0.50 g, 2.0 mmol) were reacted as described under General
Procedure H and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica-
gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc 250:1) to afford the product as a clear oil (0.18 g,
33%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.10-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.97 (m, 2H), 6.34 (s,
2H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 2.69-2.76 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.59 (m, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.54-1.62 (m,
15 2H), 1.38-1.43 (m, 2H), 1.35 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 3H).



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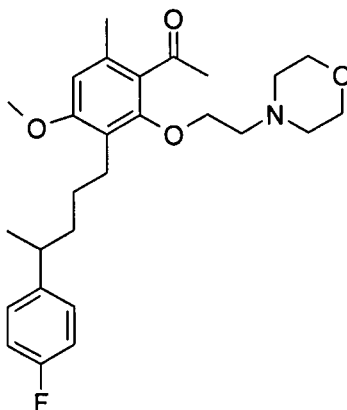
29b) 1-(3-(4-*RS*-(4-Fluorophenyl)pentyl)-2,4-dimethoxy-6-methylphenyl)ethanone:

Example **29a** (166 mg, 0.56 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure B to give the title compound in 95% yield (189 mg). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.13-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.97-6.8 (m, 2H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.59 (m, 5H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.65-1.43 (m, 2H), 1.41-1.32 (m, 2H), 1.19 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 3H).



29c) 1-(3-(4-(4-Fluorophenyl)pentyl)-2-hydroxy-4-methoxy-6-methylphenyl)ethanone

Example **29b** (189 mg, 0.56 mmol) was reacted as described under General Procedure B to give the title compound in 98% yield (178 mg). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.13-7.09 (m, 2H), 7.08-6.8 (m, 2H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 3.8 (s, 3H), 3.59 (m, 3H), 2.69 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.6 (s, 3H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 1.61-1.5 (m, 2H), 1.5-1.2 (m, 2H), 1.18 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 3H).



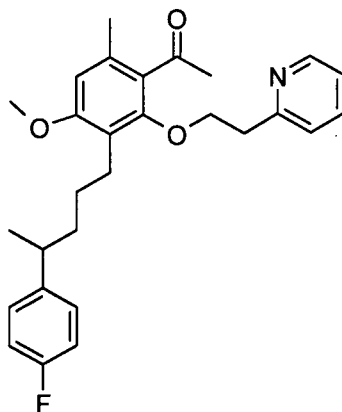
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29d) 1-[4-Methoxy-6-methyl-2-(2-morpholinoethoxy)-3-[4-*RS*-(4-fluorophenyl)pentyl]] phenyl]ethanone

Example 29c (14 mg, 0.04 mmol) was reacted with 4-(2-chloroethyl)-morpholine hydrochloride (9 mg, 0.05 mmol) as described under General Procedure I and the
5 crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, DCM/EtOAc/MeOH 100:0:0, 90:8:2) to afford the title compound (5 mg, 26%) as a colourless oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.09-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.99 (m, 2H), 6.43 (s, 1H), 3.73-3.77 (m, 9H), 2.69-2.76 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.62 (m, 11H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.55-1.64 (m, 2H), 1.45-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.23 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 3H).

10

Example 30

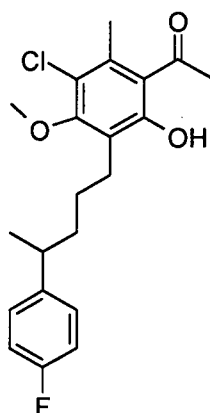


15 1-[3-[4-*RS*-(4-Fluorophenyl)pentyl]-4-methoxy-6-methyl-2-(2-pyridin-2-yl-ethoxy)phenyl]ethanone

Example 29c was reacted with 2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethyltrifluoromethanesulphonate according to General Procedure F a to give the title compound (22%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.55 (d, 1H), 7.60 (t, 1H), 6.91-7.26 (m, 6H), 6.41 (s, 1H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.14 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.59-2.68 (m, 2H), 2.34-
20 2.41 (m, 4H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.15-1.58 (m, 7H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 450.1 (*M* + H⁺).

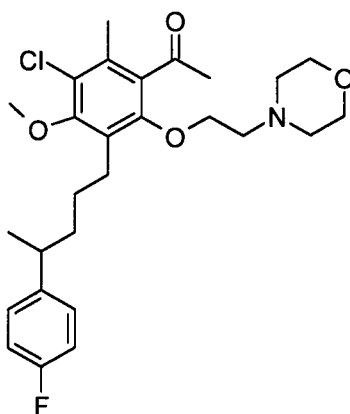
Example 31

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31a) 1-(3-Chloro-5-(4-(4-fluorophenyl)pentyl)-6-hydroxy-4-methoxy-2-methylphenyl) ethanone

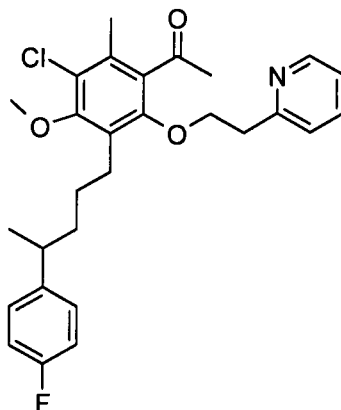
Example **29c** was reacted as described under General Procedure D to give the
 5 title compound in 47% yield. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.85 (s, 1H), 7.13-7.07 (m, 2H), 6.96-6.89 (m, 2H), 2.71 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.5-2.62 (m, 5H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 1.65-1.53 (m, 2H), 1.48 -1.35 (m, 2H), 1.19 (d, 3H).



10 **31b) 1-(3-Chloro-5-(4-(4-fluorophenyl)pentyl)-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-morpholinoethoxy)phenyl)ethanone**

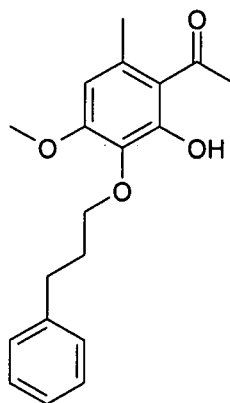
Example **31a** was reacted over two steps in the same manner as described for
 Example **1f** from **1d**. The title compound was afforded in 35% yield over 2 steps.
 15 ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.13-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.96-6.9 (m, 2H), 3.78-3.69 (m, 7H), 2.7 (q, $J = 7$ Hz, 1H), 2.6-2.53 (m, 4H), 2.5-2.45 (m, 5H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 1.6-1.19 (m, 7H).

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Example 32

1-[3-Chloro-5-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)pentyl]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-pyridin-2-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

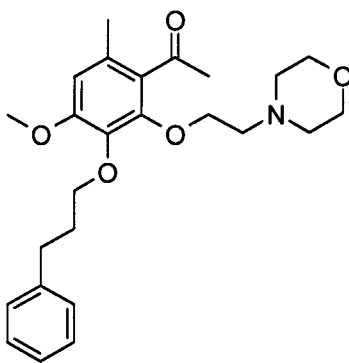
Example 31a was reacted with 2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethyltrifluoromethanesulphonate according to General Procedure F to give the title compound (40%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.53 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dt, *J* = 1.8, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.04-7.18 (m, 4H), 6.80-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.09 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.57 (m, 1H), 2.32-2.44 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.18-1.49 (m, 4H) 1.15 (d, 3H).

Example 33

33a) 1-(3-(3-(phenyl)propoxy)-2-hydroxy-4-methoxy-6-methylphenyl)-ethanone

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Prepared by a similar method used to prepare Example 1c except 1-(3-bromopropyl)benzene was used in place of 1-(3-bromopropyl)-4-fluorobenzene.

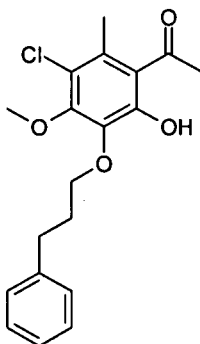


5 **33b) 1-[4-Methoxy-6-methyl-2-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-3-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone**

Example 33b was prepared in a using a similar method as used in the conversion from 1d to 1f. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30-7.15 (m, 5H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 4.12 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.69-3.66 (m, 4H), 2.81 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.62 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.47-2.44 (m, 4H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.09-2.00 (m, 2H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 428.0 (M + H⁺).

10

Example 34



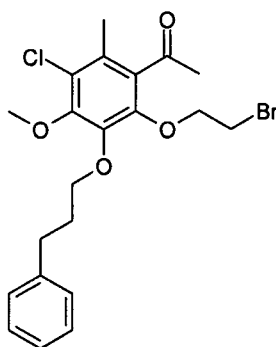
15

34a) 1-[3-Chloro-6-hydroxy-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Example 33a was reacted as described under General Procedure D to give the title compound in 33% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 (m, 5H), 4.10 (t, *J* =

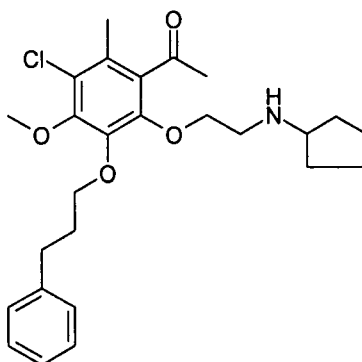
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6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.82 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.12-2.07 (m, 2H). MS (ES^+) m/z 349.2 ($M + H^+$).



5 **34b) 1-[2-(2-Bromo-ethoxy)-5-chloro-4-methoxy-6-methyl-3-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone**

Example **34a** (4.3 g, 17 mmol) was reacted with 1,2-dibromoethane (40 mL) as described under General Procedure F to afford the title compound (5.5 g, 100%) as a red oil. 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.33-7.18 (m, 5H), 4.30 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 4.09 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.51 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.83 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.14-2.05 (m, 2H). MS (ES^+) m/z 457 ($M + H^+$).



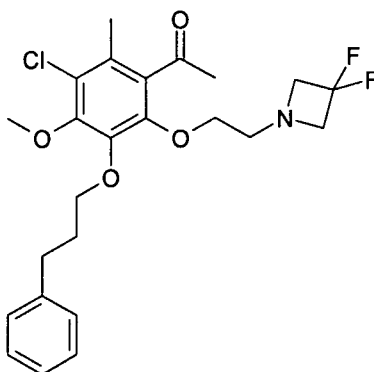
15 **34c) 1-[3-Chloro-6-(2-cyclopentylamino-ethoxy)-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone**

Example **34b** (217 mg, 0.48 mmol) was reacted with cyclopentylamine as described under General Procedure B (except heated to 65 °C) and the crude was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, MeOH/DCM 5:95) yielding the title compound (151 mg, 68%) as an oil. 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.32-7.19 (m, 5H), 4.14 (t, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.07 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.24-3.04 (m, 20

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1H), 2.87-2.79 (m, 4H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.10-2.04 (m, 2H), 1.85-1.78 (m, 3H), 1.69-1.66 (m, 2H), 1.56-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.31 (m, 2H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 460 (M + H⁺).

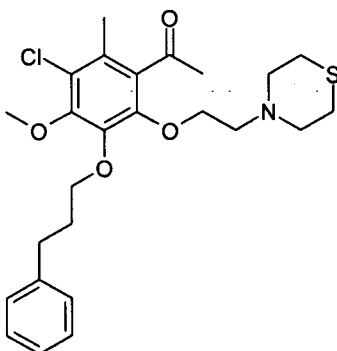
5 **Example 35**



1-[3-Chloro-6-[2-(3,3-difluoroazetidin-1-yl)ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(3-phenylpropoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Example 34b (105 mg, 0.23 mmol) was reacted with 3,3-difluoroazetidine hydrochloride (2.0 eq.) as described under General Procedure J and the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, hexane/Et₂O 70:30) to afford the title compound (21 mg, 20%) as a light orange oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33-7.20 (m, 5H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.63 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 4H), 2.85-2.80 (m, 4H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.12-2.06 (m, 2H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 468.2 (M + H⁺).

Example 36

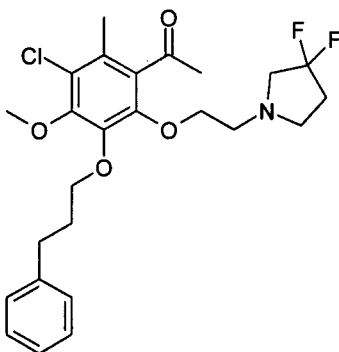


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1-[3-Chloro-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-6-(2-thiomorpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Example **34b** (201 mg, 0.44 mmol) and thiomorpholine were reacted as described under the General Procedure B (except heated to 65 °C) and the crude was purified by flash chromatography (silica-gel, EtOAc/hexane 1:4) yielding the title compound (166 mg, 79%) as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33-7.02 (m, 5H), 4.13-4.06 (m, 4H); 3.88 (s, 3H); 2.82 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 7.5 Hz, 2H); 2.76-2.73 (m, 4H); 2.68-2.64 (m, 6H); 2.52 (s, 3H); 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.13-2.03 (m, 2H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 478 (M + H⁺).

Example 37

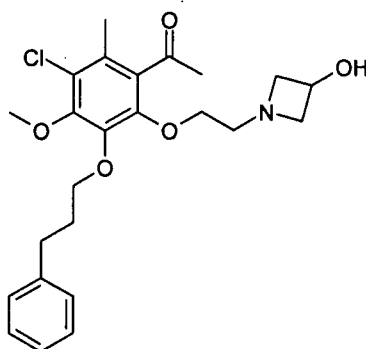


1-[3-Chloro-6-[2-(3,3-difluoropyrrolidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Example **34b** (58 mg, 0.13 mmol) and 3,3-difluoropyrrolidine hydrochloride (2.5 eq.) were reacted as described under General Procedure J and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, hexane/Et₂O 70:30) to afford the title compound as a pale yellow oil (10 mg, 16%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33-7.18 (m, 5H), 4.08 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 4H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.96 (t, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 2H), 2.85-2.73 (m, 6H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.31-2.13 (m, 2H), 2.20-2.04 (m, 2H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 482.1 (M + H⁺).

Example 38

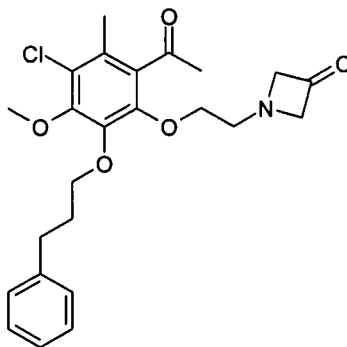
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1-[3-Chloro-6-[2-(3-hydroxy-azetidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Example **34b** (207 mg, 0.46 mmol), CsCO₃ (2.48 eq.) and 3-hydroxyazetidine hydrochloride (1.4 eq.) were reacted as described under General Procedure L and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, hexane/Et₂O 1:1) to afford the title compound as a pale yellow oil (34 mg, 16%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33-7.20 (m, 5H), 4.40 (quintet, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.67-3.62 (m, 2H), 2.96-2.91 (m, 2H), 2.85-2.80 (m, 2H), 2.73 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.13-2.03 (m, 2H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 448.2 (M + H⁺).

Example 39



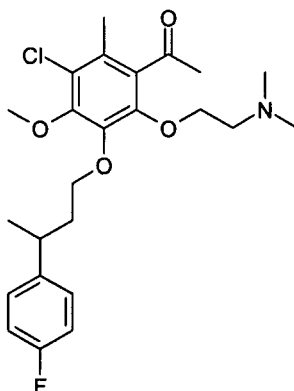
1-[3-Chloro-6-[2-(3-oxo-azetidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone

Oxalyl chloride (14 μL, 0.17 mmol) was added to a solution of DMSO (22 μL, 0.31 mmol) in anhydrous DCM (0.5 mL) at -78 °C was added and the reaction mixture

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was stirred at -78 °C for 0.5 h. Example **38** (25 mg, 0.05 mmol) in DCM (3 x 200 μ L) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 0.75 h. Triethylamine (84 μ L, 0.60 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture stirred for a further 0.5 h at -78 °C before warming to 0 °C and stirring for a further 0.5 h. The solvent was concentrated under vacuum and the crude was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, Et₂O) to afford the title compound (13 mg, 59%) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30-7.20 (m, 5H), 4.13 (s, 4H), 4.10 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.98 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 2.85-2.80 (m, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.12-2.07 (m, 2H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 446.3 (M + H⁺).

10

Example 40**1-{3-Chloro-6-(2-dimethylamino-ethoxy)-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone**

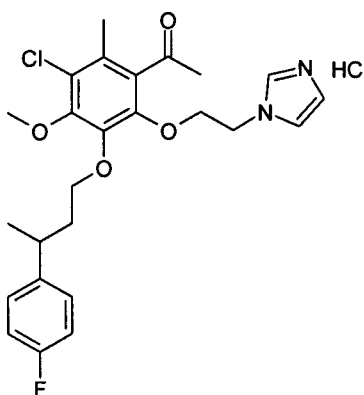
Example **8a** (50 mg, 0.10 mmol) was reacted with 1.0 M solution of dimethylamine in THF (1 mL, 1 mmol) at 55 °C for 24h. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the crude mixture was suspended in Et₂O (910 mL) and 2N HCl (10 mL). The ethereal layer was separated, dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to dryness. The isolated white solid was again suspended in mixture of Et₂O and hexane (1/9) sonicated for 1 minute and solid was filtered and dried. The isolated solid was suspended in DCM and washed with NaHCO₃ (aq) solution. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to dryness to afford the title compound as a pale yellow oil (26 mg, 56%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-

20

- 89 -

7.15 (m, 2H), 7.00-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.05 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.96 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.03-2.96 (m, 1H), 2.57 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 6H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.03-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.29 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H). MS (ES^+) m/z 452.2 (M + H^+).

5

Example 41

1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)butoxy]-6-(2-imidazol-1-yl-ethoxy)-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl]-ethanone

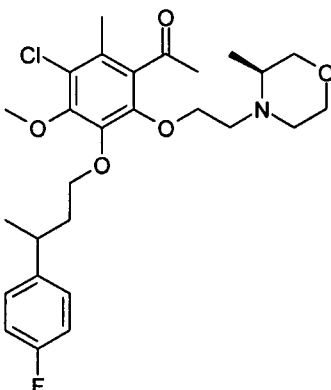
10

Example 8a (50 mg, 0.10 mmol) was reacted with imidazole (8.0 eq.) as described under General Procedure G and the crude mixture was dissolved in DCM and HCl gas was bubbled through it for 3 minutes. Then, solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was suspended in dry ether and triturated to afford the title compound as a off-white solid (22 mg, 45%). 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 9.57 (bs, 1H), 7.33 (bs, 1H) 7.19-7.14 (m, 3H), 7.02-6.96 (m, 2H), 4.60 (bs, 2H), 4.37 (bs, 2H), 3.89-3.76 (m, 5H), 2.88-2.93 (m, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.94-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.27 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H). MS (ES^+) m/z 475.2 (M + H^+).

15

20 **Example 42**

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1-{3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-[2-((S)-3-methylmorpholin-4-yl)ethoxy]phenyl}ethanone

Example 8a (74 mg, 0.16 mmol) was reacted with (S)-3-methylmorpholine (3.0 eq.) as described under General Procedure G and the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, hexane/Et₂O 1:4) to afford the title compound as a pale yellow oil (51 mg, 65%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.79-3.57 (m, 4H), 3.22 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.12-2.88 (m, 2H), 2.74 (m, 1H), 2.55-2.35 (m, 6H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.07-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.29 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H). MS (ES⁺) *m/z* 508.2 (M + H⁺).

Biological data

Potency of compounds to inhibit the human Kv1.3 ion channel was determined as follows:

EC₅₀ values for inhibition of Kv1.3 currents were determined by the method according to Schmitz *et al* (2005) Molecular Pharmacology 68, 1254-1270 with the following differences:

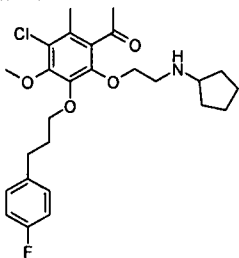
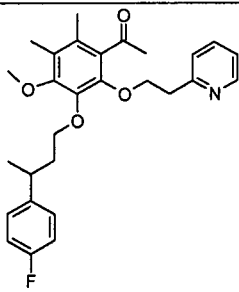
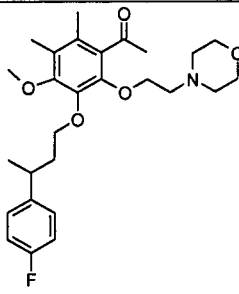
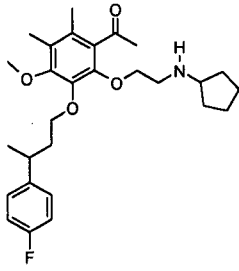
1. Human Jurkat cells (which endogenously express hKv1.3) or Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cells stably transfected with hKv1.3 were used in place of transfected rat L929 cells.

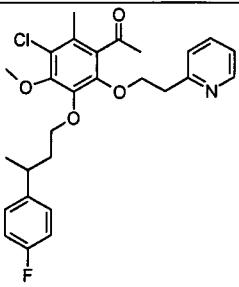
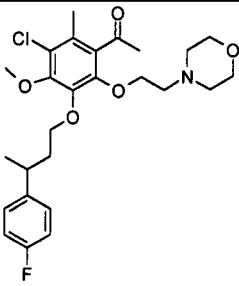
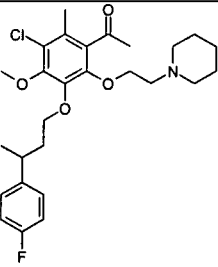
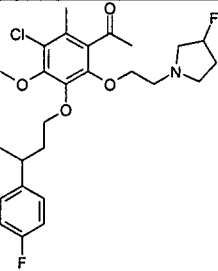
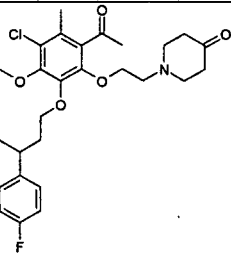
- 91 -

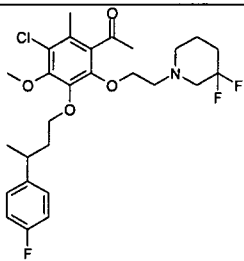
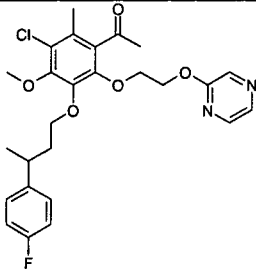
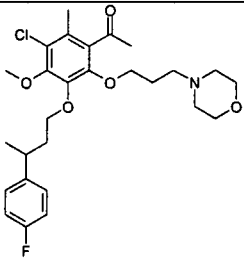
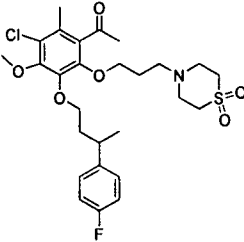
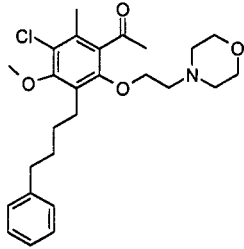
2. All electrophysiology was performed using planar patch clamp (Port-A-Patch, Nanion Technologies GmbH, Munich) in contrast to conventional patch clamp.
3. EC₅₀ values shown were determined from averaged dose response data obtained from 3 or more cells.

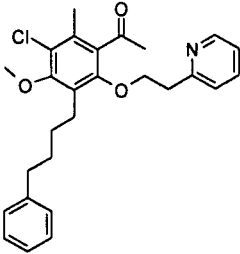
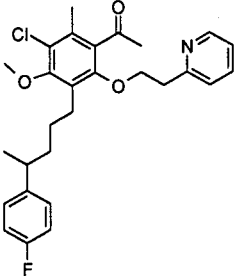
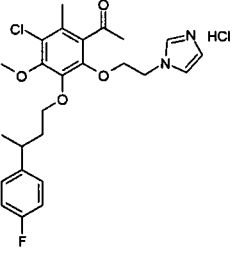
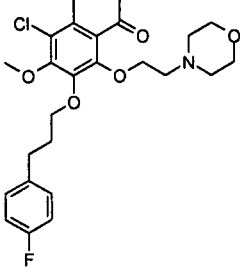
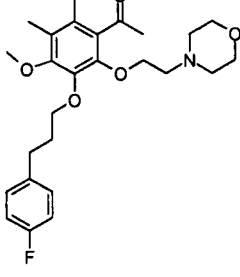
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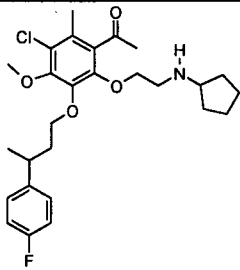
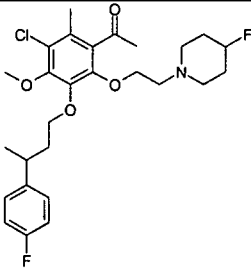
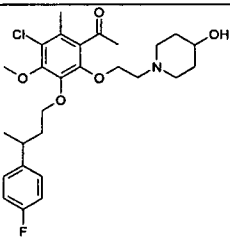
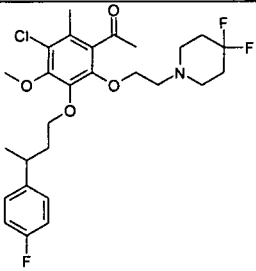
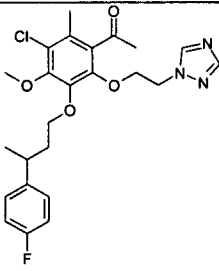
Table 1

Example Numbers	Structure	EC ₅₀ Kv1.3
2		<50 nM
4f		<50 nM
5		<50 nM
6		<50 nM

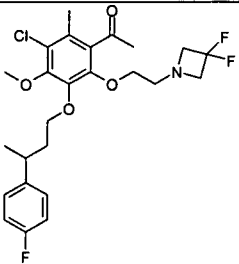
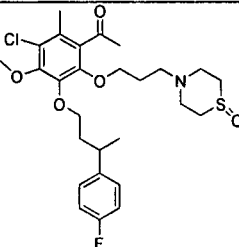
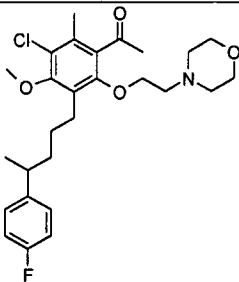
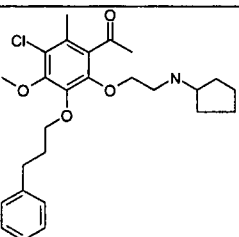
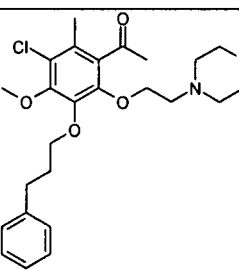
Example Numbers	Structure	EC ₅₀ Kv1.3
7d		<50 nM
8b		<50 nM
10		<50 nM
12		<50 nM
15		<50 nM

Example Numbers	Structure	EC ₅₀ Kv1.3
17		<50 nM
18b		<50 nM
22b		<50 nM
23		<50 nM
26b		<50 nM

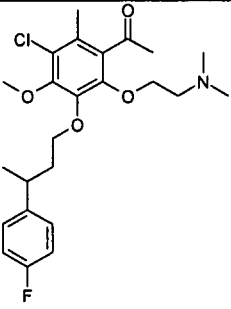
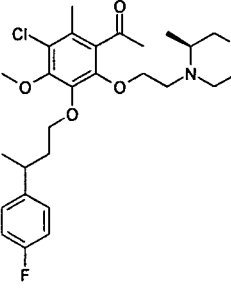
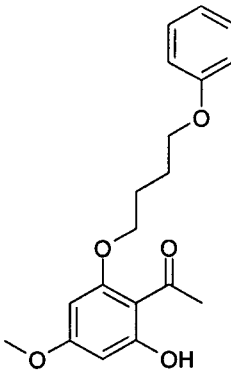
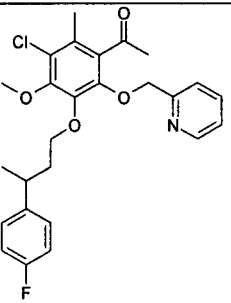
Example Numbers	Structure	EC ₅₀ Kv1.3
27		<50 nM
32		<50 nM
41		<50 nM
1f		50-150 nM
3c		50-150 nM

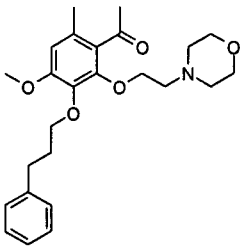
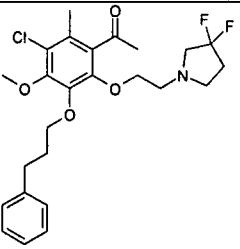
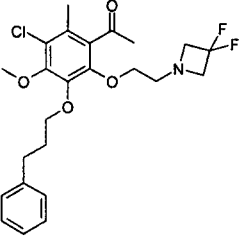
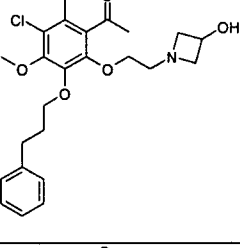
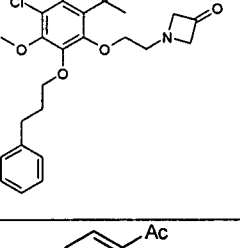
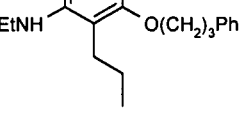
Example Numbers	Structure	EC ₅₀ Kv1.3
9		50-150 nM
11		50-150 nM
14		50-150 nM
16		50-150 nM
19		50-150 nM

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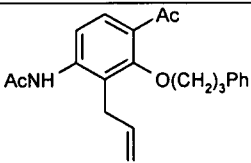
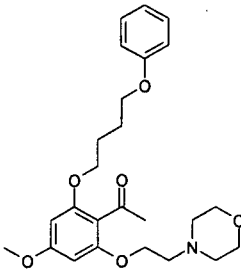
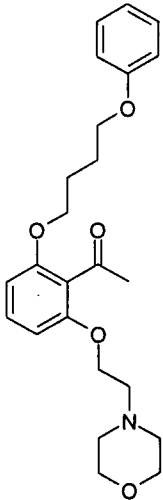
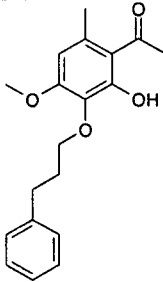
Example Numbers	Structure	EC ₅₀ Kv1.3
20		50-150 nM
24		50-150 nM
31b		50-150 nM
34c		50-150 nM
36		50-150 nM

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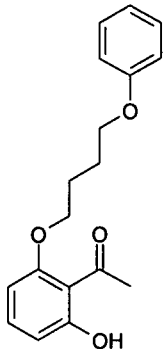
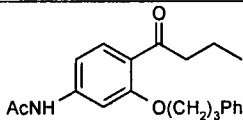
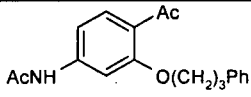
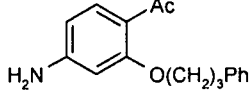
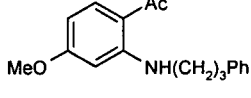
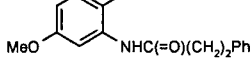
Example Numbers	Structure	EC ₅₀ Kv1.3
40		50-150 nM
42		50-150 nM
comparator		150-300 nM
13		150-300 nM

Example Numbers	Structure	EC ₅₀ Kv1.3
33b		150-300 nM
37		150-300 nM
35		>300 nM
38		>300 nM
39		>300 nM
comparator		>300 nM

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Example Numbers	Structure	EC ₅₀ Kv1.3
comparator		>300 nM
comparator		>300 nM
comparator		>300 nM
33a comparator		>300 nM

- 100 -

Example Numbers	Structure	EC ₅₀ Kv1.3
comparator		>300 nM
comparator		>300 nM
comparator		>300 nM
comparator		>300 nM
comparator		>300 nM
comparator		>300 nM

Selectivity Data

EC₅₀ values for inhibition of Kv1.1 and Kv1.5 currents were determined by the method according to Schmitz *et al* (2005) Molecular Pharmacology 68, 1254-1270

5 with the following differences:

1. Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cells stably transfected with hKv1.1 and hKv1.5 were used in place of transfected rat L929 cells.
2. All electrophysiology was performed using planar patch clamp (Port-A-Patch, Nanion Technologies GmbH, Munich) in contrast to conventional patch clamp.

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3. EC50 values shown were determined from averaged dose response data obtained from 3 or more cells.

Example 7d Selectivity for Kv1.3 over Kv1.1: 45-fold, selectivity for Kv1.3 over
5 Kv1.5: 37-fold.

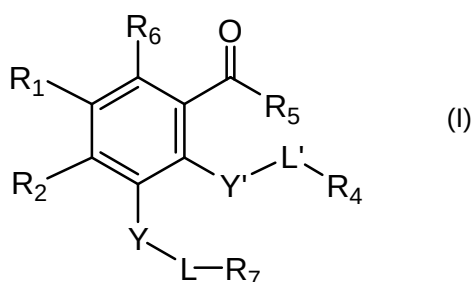
Example 8b Selectivity for Kv1.3 over Kv1.1: 33-fold, selectivity for Kv1.3 over
Kv1.5: 35-fold.

10 The reference in this specification to any prior publication (or information derived from it), or to any matter which is known, is not, and should not be taken as an acknowledgment or admission or any form of suggestion that that prior publication (or information derived from it) or known matter forms part of the common general knowledge in the field of endeavour to which this specification relates.

15 Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", and variations such as "comprises" and "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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



5

wherein

- R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from hydrogen, cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, -OR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl), and
- 10
- 15

wherein at least one of R₁ and R₂ is other than hydrogen;

- R₆ is selected from cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₄₋₇ cycloalkenyl, -OR, -SR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);
- 20
- 25

L is a divalent linker group of 2-6 atoms in length selected from optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkylene, optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkenylene, or optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkynylene;

- 5 L' is (i) a divalent linker group of 2-6 atoms in length selected from optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkylene, optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkenylene, or optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkynylene; or
(ii) -CH₂-;

- 10 Y is selected from a single bond, -O-, -S-, -NR^{'''}-, -C(O)NR^{'''}-, or -NR^{'''}C(O)- (where R^{'''} is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl);

15

- Y' is selected from a single bond, -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -NR^{'''}-, -C(O)NR^{'''}-, or -NR^{'''}C(O)- (where R^{'''} is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl);
- 20

- R₅ is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, -OR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, SR, (where R is selected from optionally substituted C₂₋₇ alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);
- 25

- R₄ is selected from substituted aryl, substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy or -NR^{'''}R^{'''} (where R^{'''} is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally
- 30

substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl, and where R^{'''} is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl); and

R₇ is selected from optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy or -NHR^{'''} (where R^{'''} is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl).

15

2. A compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, -OR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl), preferably R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from hydrogen, cyano, halo, optionally substituted lower alkyl, -O-optionally substituted lower alkyl, -C(O)-optionally substituted lower alkyl, and -C(O)NR'R'' (wherein R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl).

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 or a salt thereof wherein R₆ is selected from cyano, halo, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, -O-optionally substituted lower alkyl, -O-optionally

30

substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, or -O-optionally substituted heteroaryl, preferably R₆ is selected from halo, optionally substituted alkyl, or –O-optionally substituted lower alkyl.

5 4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 or a salt thereof wherein L is a divalent linker group of 2-6 atoms in length selected from C₂₋₆ alkylene, C₂₋₆ alkenylene, or C₂₋₆ alkynylene, each of which may be optionally substituted by a lower alkyl group.

10 5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 or a salt thereof wherein L' is a divalent linker group of 1-6 atoms in length selected from C₁₋₆ alkylene, C₂₋₆ alkenylene, or C₂₋₆ alkynylene.

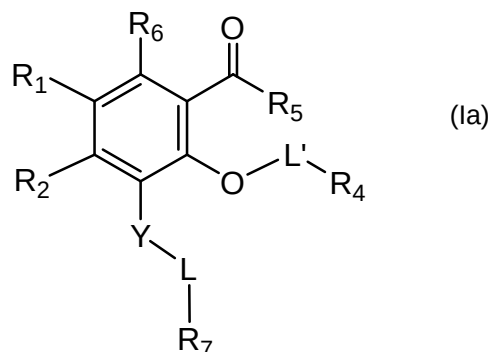
15 6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a salt thereof wherein R₇ is selected from optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, or optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy, preferably R₇ is optionally substituted aryl.

20 7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a salt thereof wherein Y' is O.

8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a salt thereof wherein Y' is O and Y is a single bond or O.

25

9. A compound of formula (Ia) or a salt thereof:



wherein

- 5 R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from hydrogen, cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, -OR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted
- 10 heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl), and

wherein at least one of R_1 and R_2 is other than hydrogen;

- 15 R_6 is selected from cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{4-7} cycloalkenyl, -OR, -SR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, optionally
- 20 substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);

L is a divalent linker group of 2-6 atoms in length selected from optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkylene, optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkenylene, or optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkynylene;

- 5 L' is a divalent linker group of 1-6 atoms in length selected from C₁₋₆ alkylene, C₂₋₆ alkenylene, or C₂₋₆ alkynylene;

- Y is selected from single bond, -O-, -S-, -NR^{'''}-, -C(O)NR^{'''}-, or -NR^{'''}C(O)- (where R^{'''} is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl);
- 10

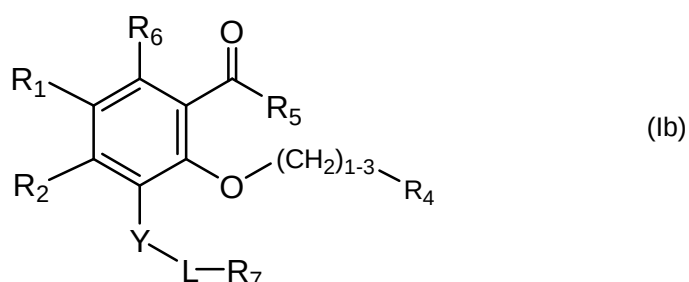
- R₅ is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, -OR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, SR, (where R is selected from optionally substituted C₂₋₇ alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);
- 15

20

- R₄ is selected from substituted aryl, substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy or -NR^{'''}R^{'''} (where R^{'''} is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl, and where R^{'''} is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl); and
- 25
- 30

R₇ is selected from optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy.

5 10. A compound of formula (Ib) or salts thereof:



10 wherein

R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from hydrogen, cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, -OR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl), and

20 wherein at least one of R₁ and R₂ is other than hydrogen;

R₆ is selected from cyano, halo, nitro, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₄₋₇ cycloalkenyl, -OR, -SR, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -OC(O)R (where R is selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'', -NR'C(O)R''

and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);

L is a divalent linker group of 2-6 atoms in length selected from optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkylene, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenylene, or optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynylene;

Y is selected from a single bond, -O- , -S- , $\text{-NR'''}-$, $\text{-C(O)NR'''}-$, or $\text{-NR'''}\text{C(O)-}$ (where $\text{R'''} is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C}_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl);

R_5 is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, -OR , -C(O)R , -C(O)OR , SR , (where R is selected from optionally substituted C_{2-7} alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, and optionally substituted aryl), -C(O)NR'R'' , -NR'C(O)R'' and -NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl);

20

R_4 is selected from substituted aryl, substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyoxy or $\text{-NR'''}\text{R''''}$ (where $\text{R'''} is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C}_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl, and where R'''' is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted C}_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and optionally substituted aryl); and

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R₇ is selected from optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy.

5 11. A compound according to claim 10 or a salt thereof wherein R₆ is selected from halo, optionally substituted alkyl, or –O-optionally substituted lower alkyl.

12. A compound according to claim 10 or 11 or a salt thereof wherein L is a divalent linker group of 2-6 atoms in length selected from C₂₋₆ alkylene, C₂₋₆
10 alkenylene, or C₂₋₆ alkynylene, each of which may be optionally substituted by a lower alkyl group.

13. A compound according to any one of claims 10 to 12 or a salt thereof wherein R₇ is selected from optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted
15 aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, or optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy, preferably R₇ is optionally substituted aryl.

14. A compound according to any one of claims 10 to 13 or a salt thereof
20 wherein Y is a single bond or O.

15. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 14 or a salt thereof wherein R₄ is selected from optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted
25 heterocyclyloxy, or –NHC₃₋₇ cycloalkyl; or R₄ is selected from optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, or –NHC₃₋₇ cycloalkyl; or preferably R₄ is selected from azetidiny, pyrrolidiny, pyrazolinyl, pyrazolidinyl, imidazolinyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrrolinyl (including 2 and 3 pyrrolinyls), dioxolane, furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, H-pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, oxadiazolyl,
30 (including 1,2,3 and 1,2,4 oxadiazolyls) thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, furazanyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl (including 1,2,3 and 1,3, 4 triazolyls), tetrazolyl, and thiadiazolyl (including 1,2,3 and 1,3,4 thiadiazolyls), pyridyl, pyrimidinyl,

pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, pyranyl (including 2H and 4H pyranys), piperidinyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, 1,3,5-trithianyl, thiomorpholinyl, 1-oxo-thiomorpholinyl, 1,1-dioxothiomorpholinyl, 1,4-dithianyl, and 1,4-dioxanyl;

- all of which may be optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from
- 5 halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl (in particular -CF₃), C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy (such as -OCF₃), -OH, phenyl, benzyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, benzoyl, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄ alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂, -CN, -NO₂, mercapto, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl and CO₂H.

- 10 16. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 15 or a salt thereof wherein L is an optionally substituted propylene or butylene, preferably L is -CH₂-CH₂-CH(CH₃)-, -CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-, or -CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-.

- 15 17. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 16 or a salt thereof wherein R₅ is methyl.

18. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 17 or a salt thereof wherein R₆ is C₁₋₃ alkyl, preferably R₆ is methyl.

- 20 19. A compound selected from:

1-(3-Chloro-5-(3-(4-fluorophenyl)propoxy)-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-morpholinoethoxy)phenyl) ethanone;

1-(3-Chloro-6-(cyclopentylamino)ethoxy)-5-(3-(4-fluorophenyl)propoxy-4-methoxy-2-methylphenyl)ethanone;

- 25 1-[3-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-propoxy]-4-methoxy-5,6-dimethyl-2-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;

1-[3-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-5,6-dimethyl-2-(2-pyridin-2-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;

- 30 1-[3-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-5,6-dimethyl-2-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;

1-{2-(2-Cyclopentylamino-ethoxy)-3-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-5,6-dimethyl-phenyl}-ethanone;

- 1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-pyridin-2-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 5 1-[3-Chloro-6-(2-cyclopentylamino-ethoxy)-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 1-{3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-6-[2-(4-fluoro-piperidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone;
- 10 1-{3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-6-[2-(R-3-fluoro-pyrrolidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone;
- 1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 15 1-{3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-6-[2-(4-hydroxy-piperidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone;
- 1-{3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-6-[2-(4-oxo-piperidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone;
- 1-{3-Chloro-6-[2-(4,4-difluoro-piperidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone;
- 20 1-{3-Chloro-6-[2-(3,3-difluoro-piperidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone;
- 1-{3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-[2-(pyrazin-2-yloxy)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-ethanone;
- 25 1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-[1,2,4]triazol-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 1-{3-Chloro-6-[2-(3,3-difluoro-azetidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone;
- 1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(3-morpholin-4-yl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 30 1-{3-Chloro-6-[3-(1,1-dioxo-thiomorpholin-4-yl)-propoxy]-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone;

- 1-{3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-[3-(1-oxo-thiomorpholin-4-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-ethanone;
- 1-(3-Chloro-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-morpholinoethoxy)-5-5(4-phenyl butyl)phenyl)ethanone;
- 5 1-(3-Chloro-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(4-phenylbutyl)-6-(2-(pyridine-2-yl) ethoxy)phenyl)ethanone;
- 1-(3-Chloro-5-(4-(4-fluorophenyl)pentyl)-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-morpholino ethoxy)phenyl)ethanone;
- 1-[3-Chloro-5-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-pentyl]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(2-pyridin-2-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 10 1-[4-Methoxy-6-methyl-2-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-3-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 1-[3-Chloro-6-(2-cyclopentylamino-ethoxy)-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 15 1-[3-Chloro-6-[2-(3,3-difluoro-azetidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 1-[3-Chloro-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-6-(2-thiomorpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 1-[3-Chloro-6-[2-(3,3-difluoro-pyrrolidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 20 1-[3-Chloro-6-[2-(3-hydroxy-azetidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 1-[3-Chloro-6-[2-(3-oxo-azetidin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-5-(3-phenyl-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethanone;
- 25 1-{3-Chloro-6-(2-dimethylamino-ethoxy)-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl}-ethanone;
- 1-[3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-6-(2-imidazol-1-yl-ethoxy)-4-methoxy-2-methyl-phenyl]-ethanone; and
- 1-{3-Chloro-5-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butoxy]-4-methoxy-2-methyl-6-[2-((S)-3-methyl-morpholin-4-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-ethanone,
- 30 or a salt thereof.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 19 or a salt thereof and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

5 21. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20 further comprising an additional immunosuppressive compound or other multiple sclerosis therapeutic, preferably the additional immunosuppressive compound or other multiple sclerosis therapeutic is selected from interferon beta-1b, interferon beta-1a, glatiramer acetate, natalizumab or mitoxantrone.

10

22. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 19 or a salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of autoimmune or chronic inflammatory diseases, or the prevention of rejection of foreign organ transplants and/or related afflictions.

15

23. A use according to claim 22 wherein the disease is multiple sclerosis or diabetes.