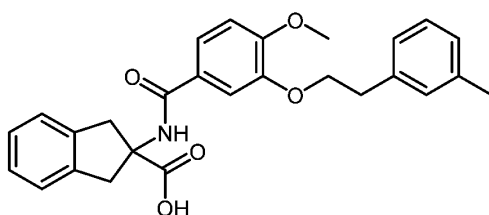


CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating systemic sclerosis in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of 2-(4-methoxy-3-(3-methylphenethoxy)benzamido)-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene-2-carboxylic acid (Compound 1)



(Compound 1)

- or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for a dosing period of at least about 24 consecutive weeks.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the systemic sclerosis is chosen from limited cutaneous systemic sclerosis, diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis, and systemic sclerosis sine scleroderma.
 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the systemic sclerosis is diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis.
 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the systemic sclerosis is early diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis.
 5. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the dosing period is at least 36 weeks.
 6. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the dosing period is at least 52 weeks.
 7. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein Compound 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered orally.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein 300 mg (on a free acid equivalent weight basis) of Compound 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered at least once daily.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein 300 mg (on a free acid equivalent weight basis) of Compound 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered twice daily.
10. The method of any one of the preceding claims, further comprising administering one or more additional therapies.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the one or more additional therapies are chosen from an immunosuppressant, T-cell-directed, B-cell directed therapy, autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, a chemokine ligand receptor antagonist, a DNA methylation inhibitor, a histone deacetylase inhibitor, a statin, an endothelin receptor antagonist, a phosphodiesterase type V inhibitor, a prostacyclin analog, an inhibitor of cytokine synthesis and/or signaling, corticosteroids, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, light therapy, and blood pressure medications.
12. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said treatment with Compound 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, results in a CRISS score of greater or equal to 0.60.
13. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said treatment with Compound 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, results in a reduction in skin fibrosis as measured by mRSS change of ≥ 5 .
14. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein treatment with Compound 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, results in an improvement in HAQ-DI of ≥ 0.14 .