

enhanced disease during subsequent infection. Live attenuated vaccines have been tried with limited success. Clearly there is a need for an efficacious non-toxic and easy to administer drug against RSV replication. It would be particularly preferred to provide drugs against RSV replication that could be administered perorally.

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A reference entitles "imidazopyridine and imidazopyrimidine antiviral agents" is WO 01/95910 which, in fact, relates to benzimidazole antiviral agents. Herein compounds are presented to have antiviral activity, yet with EC₅₀ values over a wide range of from 0.001 μ M to as high as 50 μ M (which does not normally represent the
10 desired biological activity). Another reference, relating to substituted 2-methyl-benzimidazole RSV antiviral agents, in the same range of activities is WO 03/053344. Another related background reference ~~on~~on compounds in the same range of activities, is WO 02/26228 regarding benzimidazolone antiviral agents. A reference on structure-activity relations, in respect of RSV inhibition, of 5-substituted
15 benzimidazole compounds is X.A. Wang et al., Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry Letters 17 (2007) 4592-4598.

It is desired to provide new drugs that have antiviral activity. Particularly, it would be desired to provide new drugs that have RSV replication inhibitory activity. Further, it
20 would be desired to retrieve compound structures that allow obtaining antiviral biological activities of the order of magnitude in the stronger regions of the prior art (i.e. at the bottom of the above-mentioned range of up to 50 μ M), and preferably at a level of about the most active, more preferably of even stronger activity, than the compounds disclosed in the art. A further desire is to find compounds having oral
25 antiviral activity.

Summary of the Invention

In order to better address one or more of the foregoing desires, the invention, in one aspect, presents antiviral indole compounds represented by **formula I**, a prodrug, *N*-
30 oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex, or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof;