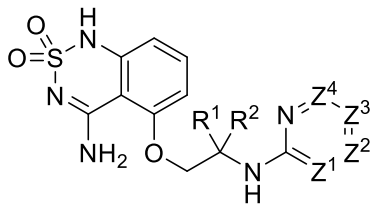
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

or a salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 and R^2 are each independently hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, or R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon to which they are attached is a C_{3-7} carbocyclyl;

Z^1 is -CH-, -CR^3-, or N (nitrogen);

Z^2 is -CH- or -CR^3-;

Z^3 is -CH-, -CR^3-, or N (nitrogen);

Z^4 is -CH- or -CR^3-;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, oxo, $-C(=O)OR^{3A}$, $-NR^{3A}(CH_2)_pOR^{3B}$, $-NR^{3A}(CH_2)_pR^{3B}$, $-(CH_2)_qOR^{3B}$, $-(CH_2)_qR^{3B}$, $-C(=O)R^{3A}$, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkylC(=O)−, (C_1-C_6)alkylOC(=O)−, (C_1-C_6)alkylC(=O)O−, $-C(=O)NR^{3A}R^{3B}$, $-NR^{3A}C(=O)R^{3B}$, and R^{3C};

each R^{3A} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, cyano, $-(CH_2)_qR^{3AA}$, $-(CH_2)_qN(R^{3AA})_2$, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, C_{3-7} carbocyclyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkylC(=O)−, (C_1-C_6)alkylOC(=O)−, (C_1-C_6)alkylC(=O)O−, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and heteroaryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

each R^{3B} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, cyano, $-(CH_2)_qR^{3BB}$, $-(CH_2)_qN(R^{3BB})_2$, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, C_{3-7} carbocyclyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkylC(=O)−, (C_1-C_6)alkylOC(=O)−, (C_1-C_6)alkylC(=O)O−, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and heteroaryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

each R^{3C} is independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle(C_1-C_6)alkyl,

aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, heteroaryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and C_{3-7} carbocyclyl, each optionally substituted with one or more R^{3CC};

each R^{3AA} is independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and C_{3-7} carbocyclyl, each optionally substituted with one or more R^{3CC};

each R^{3BB} is independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and C_{3-7} carbocyclyl, each optionally substituted with one or more R^{3CC};

each R^{3CC} is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and C_{3-7} carbocyclyl;

each p is independently an integer selected from 1, 2, and 3; and

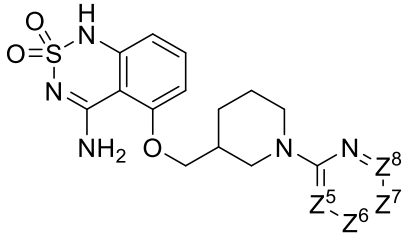
each q is independently an integer selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein Z^1 is N (nitrogen), and Z^3 is -CH- or -CR^3-.

3. The compound of claim 1, wherein Z^1 and Z^3 are independently -CH- or -CR^3-.

4. The compound of claim 1, wherein Z^3 is N (nitrogen), and Z^1 is -CH- or -CR^3-.

5. A compound of formula (IIa):



(IIa)

or a salt thereof, wherein:

Z^5 is -CH-, -CR^4-, or N (nitrogen);

Z^6 is -CH- or -CR^4-;

Z^7 is -CH-, -CR^4-, or N (nitrogen);

Z^8 is -CH- or -CR^4-;

each R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, oxo, $-C(=O)OR^{4A}$, $-NR^{4A}(CH_2)_mOR^{4B}$, $-NR^{3A}(CH_2)_mR^{4B}$, $-(CH_2)_nOR^{4B}$, $-(CH_2)_nR^{4B}$, $-C(=O)R^{4A}$, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkylC(=O)−, (C_1-C_6)alkylOC(=O)−, (C_1-C_6)alkylC(=O)O−, $-C(=O)NR^{4A}R^{4B}$, $-NR^{4A}C(=O)R^{4B}$, and R^{4C};

each R^{4A} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, cyano, $-(CH_2)_nOH$, $-(CH_2)_nR^{4AA}$, $-(CH_2)_nOR^{4AA}$, $-(CH_2)_nN(R^{4AA})_2$, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, C_{3-7} carbocyclyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkylC(=O)−, (C_1-C_6)alkylOC(=O)−, (C_1-C_6)alkylC(=O)O−, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and heteroaryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, said heterocycle, aryl and heteroaryl in R^{4A}, each optionally substituted with one or more (C_1-C_6)alkyl or C_{3-7} carbocyclyl;

each R^{4B} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, cyano, $-(CH_2)_nOH$, $-(CH_2)_nR^{4BB}$, $-(CH_2)_nOR^{4BB}$, $-(CH_2)_nN(R^{4BB})_2$, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, C_{3-7} carbocyclyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkylC(=O)−, (C_1-C_6)alkylOC(=O)−, (C_1-C_6)alkylC(=O)O−, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and heteroaryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

each R^{4C} is independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, heteroaryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and C_{3-7} carbocyclyl, each optionally substituted with one or more R^{4CC};

each R^{4AA} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and C_{3-7} carbocyclyl, each optionally substituted with one or more R^{4CC};

each R^{4BB} is independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and C_{3-7} carbocyclyl, each optionally substituted with one or more R^{4CC};

each R^{4CC} is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and C_{3-7} carbocyclyl;

each m is independently an integer selected from 0, 1, 2, and 3;

each n is independently an integer selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;

each p is independently an integer selected from 1, 2, and 3; and

each q is independently an integer selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3.

6. The compound of claim 5, wherein Z^5 is N, and Z^6, Z^7, and Z^8 are independently -CH- or -CR^4-.

7. The compound of claim 5, wherein at least one of (or in some cases, one of) Z^6, Z^7 and Z^8 is -CR^4-.

8. The compound of claim 5, wherein Z^5, Z^6, and Z^7 are -CH-, and Z^8 is -CR^4-.

9. The compound of claim 5, wherein Z^5, Z^6, and Z^8 are -CH-, and Z^7 is -CR^4-.

10. The compound of claim 5, wherein Z^5, Z^7, and Z^8 are -CH-, and Z^6 is -CR^4-.