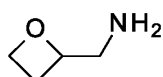


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WE CLAIM:

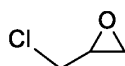
1. A process for preparing a compound of the formula:



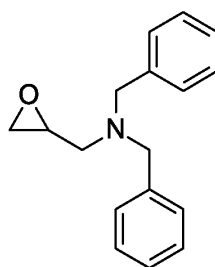
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or salt thereof, comprising the steps of:

- i. combining dibenzylamine and a compound of the formula:

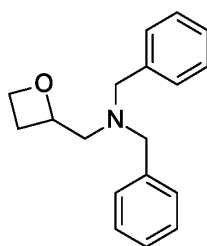


then adding a base to produce a compound of the formula:



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- ii. taking trimethylsulfonium halide in the presence of a base and combining with a solution of the compound resulting from step (i) and heating to above 40°C to produce a compound of the formula:

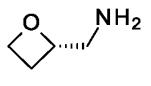


; and

- 15 iii. deprotecting the compound resulting from step (ii).

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the compound prepared is a compound of the formula:

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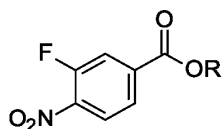


or salt thereof.

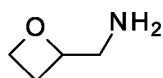
3. The process according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the trimethylsulfoxonium
5 halide is trimethylsulfoxonium iodide.
4. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the base in step (ii) is
selected from: potassium *tert*-butoxide, lithium *tert*-butoxide, sodium *tert*-butoxide,
potassium *tert*-amylate, lithium *tert*-amylate, sodium *tert*-amylate, potassium lithium
10 hydride, sodium hydride, potassium hydride, n-butyl lithium in alcohol solvent, lithium
hexamethyldisilazide, sodium hexamethyldisilazide, or potassium hexamethyldisilazide.
5. The process according to claim 4, wherein the base is potassium *tert*-butoxide.
- 15 6. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the solution in step (ii)
comprises a solvent selected from: *tert*-butanol, dimethyl sulfoxide, dimethylformamide,
dimethylacetamide, N-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone, or *tert*-amyl alcohol.
7. The process according to claim 6, wherein the solvent is *tert*-butanol.
20
8. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein step (ii) is carried out
at a temperature of greater than 70°C.
9. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein step (iii) is carried out
25 using a palladium catalyst.
10. The process according to claim 9, wherein the palladium catalyst is palladium on
carbon.

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11. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 10, further comprising the step of combining a base and a compound of the formula:

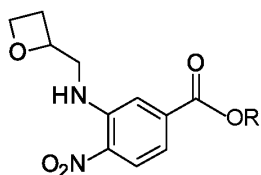


wherein R is H or an acid protecting group, with a solution of a compound of the formula:



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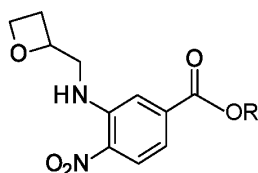
to produce a compound of the formula:



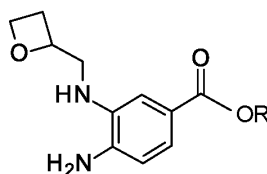
12. The process according to claim 11, wherein R is H or C₁₋₄ alkyl.

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13. The process according to claim 11 or claim 12, further comprising the step of reducing the nitro group of the compound of formula:



to produce a compound of the formula:

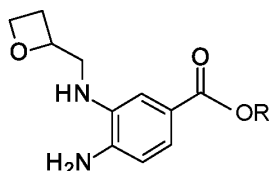


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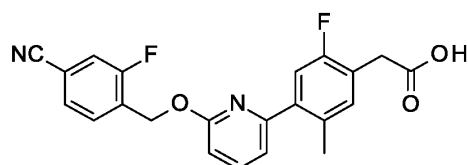
14. The process according to claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

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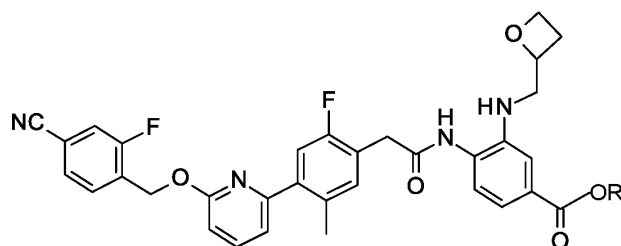
- a. carrying out an amide coupling reaction with a compound of the formula:



and a compound of the formula:

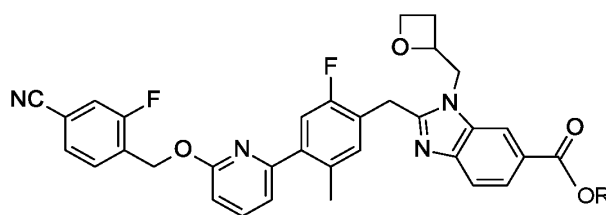


- 5 to produce a compound of the formula:



or salt thereof;

- b. performing a cyclisation reaction on the compound resulting from step (a) to produce a compound of the formula:

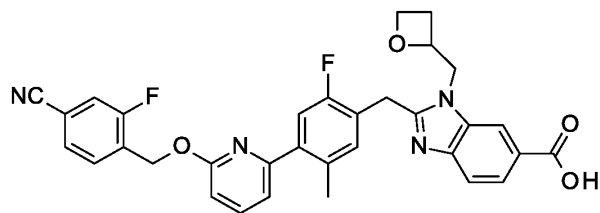


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and optionally reacting to form a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

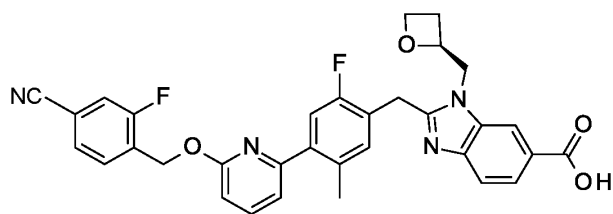
15. The process according to claim 14, wherein R is an acid protecting group and the process further comprises the step of hydrolyzing the ester compound to produce the acid compound of the formula:
- 15

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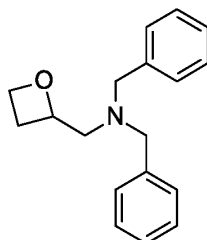


and optionally reacting to form a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. The process according to claim 14 or claim 15, wherein the compound prepared is
5 the *tert*-butylamine salt of:



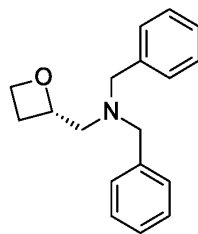
17. A compound of the formula:



or salt thereof.

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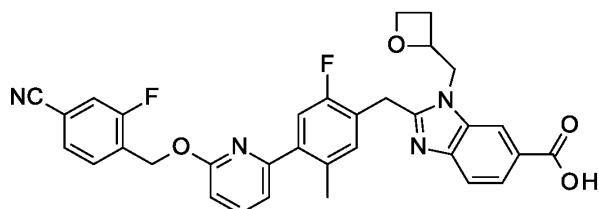
18. The compound according to claim 17, which is:



or salt thereof.

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19. The use of the compound of claim 17 or 18 in the preparation of a compound of the formula:



5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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