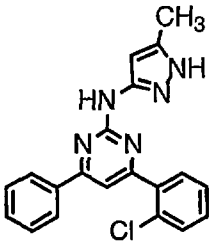
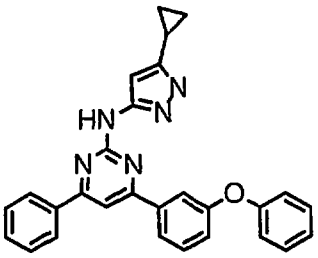


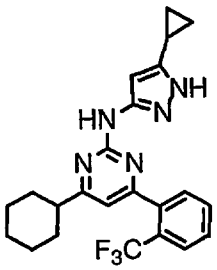
VII-28



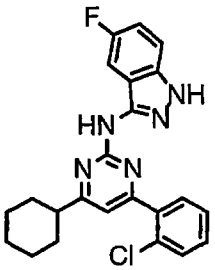
VII-29



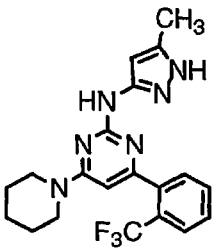
VII-30



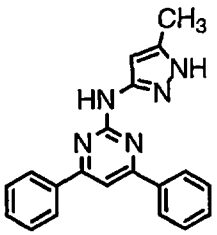
VII-31



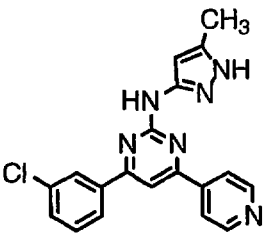
VII-32



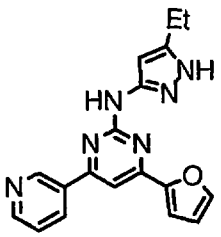
VII-33



VII-34



VII-35



VII-36

In another embodiment, this invention provides a composition comprising a compound of formula **VII** and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

One aspect of this invention relates to a method of inhibiting GSK-3 activity in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VII**.

Another aspect relates to a method of treating a disease that is alleviated by treatment with a GSK-3 inhibitor, said method comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of such a treatment a

therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VII**.

Another aspect relates to a method of enhancing glycogen synthesis and/or lowering blood levels of glucose in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VII**. This method is especially useful for diabetic patients.

Another aspect relates to a method of inhibiting the production of hyperphosphorylated Tau protein in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VII**. This method is especially useful in halting or slowing the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

Another aspect relates to a method of inhibiting the phosphorylation of β-catenin in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VII**. This method is especially useful for treating schizophrenia.

One aspect of this invention relates to a method of inhibiting Aurora activity in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VII**.

Another aspect relates to a method of treating a disease that is alleviated by treatment with an Aurora inhibitor, said method comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VII**. This method is

especially useful for treating cancer, such as colon, ovarian, and breast cancer.

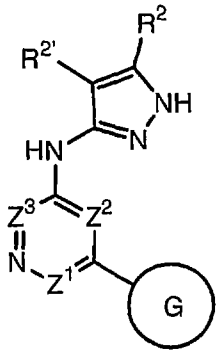
One aspect of this invention relates to a method of inhibiting CDK-2 activity in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VII**.

Another aspect relates to a method of treating a disease that is alleviated by treatment with a CDK-2 inhibitor, said method comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VII**. This method is especially useful for treating cancer, Alzheimer's disease, restenosis, angiogenesis, glomerulonephritis, cytomegalovirus, HIV, herpes, psoriasis, atherosclerosis, alopecia, and autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis.

Another method relates to inhibiting GSK-3, Aurora, or CDK-2 activity in a biological sample, which method comprises contacting the biological sample with the GSK-3 or Aurora inhibitor of formula **VII**, or a pharmaceutical composition thereof, in an amount effective to inhibit GSK-3, Aurora or CDK-2.

Each of the aforementioned methods directed to the inhibition of GSK-3, Aurora or CDK-2, or the treatment of a disease alleviated thereby, is preferably carried out with a preferred compound of formula **VII**, as described above.

Another embodiment of this invention relates to compounds of formula **VIII**:



VIII

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or prodrug thereof, wherein:

Z^1 is N or CR^9, Z^2 is N or CH, and Z^3 is N or CR^x, provided that one of Z^1 and Z^3 is nitrogen;

G is Ring C or Ring D;

Ring C is selected from a phenyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, or 1,2,4-triazinyl ring, wherein said Ring C has one or two ortho substituents independently selected from $-R^1$, any substitutable non-ortho carbon position on Ring C is independently substituted by $-R^5$, and two adjacent substituents on Ring C are optionally taken together with their intervening atoms to form a fused, unsaturated or partially unsaturated, 5-6 membered ring having 0-3 heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen, said fused ring being optionally substituted by halo, oxo, or $-R^8$;

Ring D is a 5-7 membered monocyclic ring or 8-10 membered bicyclic ring selected from aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl or carbocyclyl, said heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring having 1-4 ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, wherein Ring D is substituted at any substitutable ring carbon by halo, oxo, or $-R^5$, and at any substitutable ring nitrogen by $-R^4$, provided that when Ring D is a six-membered aryl

or heteroaryl ring, $-R^5$ is hydrogen at each ortho carbon position of Ring D;

R^1 is selected from -halo, -CN, $-NO_2$, T-V-R^6, phenyl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl ring, 5-6 membered heterocyclyl ring, or C_{1-6} aliphatic group, said phenyl, heteroaryl, and heterocyclyl rings each optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from halo, oxo, or $-R^8$, said C_{1-6} aliphatic group optionally substituted with halo, cyano, nitro, or oxygen, or R^1 and an adjacent substituent taken together with their intervening atoms form said ring fused to Ring C;

R^x is T-R^3;

T is a valence bond or a C_{1-4} alkylidene chain;

R^2 and $R^{2'}$ are independently selected from -R, -T-W-R^6, or R^2 and $R^{2'}$ are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a fused, 5-8 membered, unsaturated or partially unsaturated, ring having 0-3 ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur, wherein each substitutable carbon on said fused ring formed by R^2 and $R^{2'}$ is substituted by halo, oxo, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-R^7$, or -V-R^6, and any substitutable nitrogen on said ring formed by R^2 and $R^{2'}$ is substituted by R^4;

R^3 is selected from -R, -halo, -OR, -C(=O)R, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-COCH_2COR$, $-NO_2$, -CN, -S(O)R, $-S(O)_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^7)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^7)_2$, -OC(=O)R, $-N(R^7)COR$, $-N(R^7)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, -C=N-OR, $-N(R^7)CON(R^7)_2$, $-N(R^7)SO_2N(R^7)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^7)_2$;

each R is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted group selected from C_{1-6} aliphatic, C_{6-10} aryl, a heteroaryl ring having 5-10 ring atoms, or a heterocyclyl ring having 5-10 ring atoms;

each R^4 is independently selected from $-R^7$, $-COR^7$, $-CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-CON(R^7)_2$, or $-SO_2R^7$, or two R^4 on the same nitrogen are taken together to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

each R^5 is independently selected from -R, halo, -OR, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-S(O)R$, $-SO_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, -C=N-OR, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$, or R^5 and an adjacent substituent taken together with their intervening atoms form said ring fused to Ring C;

V is -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-N(R^6)SO_2-$, $-SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)-$, -CO-, $-CO_2-$, $-N(R^6)CO-$, $-N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(O)N(R^6)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2S-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-C(R^6)=NN(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)=N-O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, or $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$;

W is $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2S-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, -CO-, $-CO_2-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CO-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-C(R^6)=NN(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)=N-O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$, or $-CON(R^6)-$;

each R^6 is independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted C_{1-4} aliphatic group, or two R^6 groups on the same nitrogen atom are taken together with the nitrogen atom to form a 5-6 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

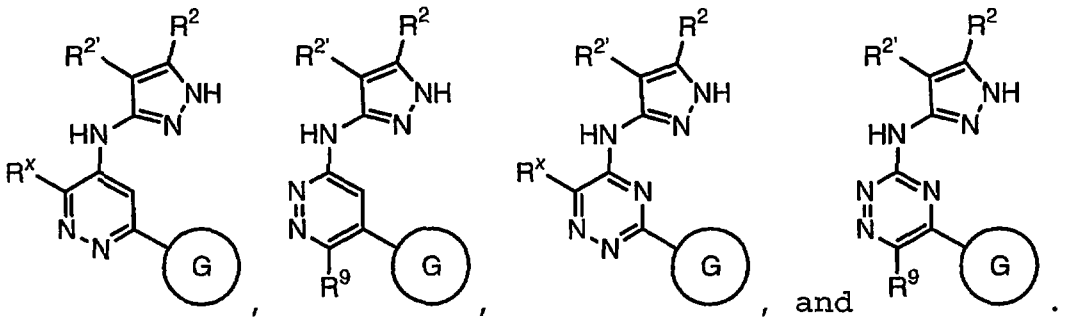
each R^7 is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, or two R^7

on the same nitrogen are taken together with the nitrogen to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

each R^8 is independently selected from an optionally substituted C_{1-4} aliphatic group, $-OR^6$, $-SR^6$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2R^6$, $-N(R^6)_2$, $-N(R^6)N(R^6)_2$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-CON(R^6)_2$, or $-CO_2R^6$; and

R^9 is selected from -R, halo, -OR, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-S(O)R$, $-SO_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, $-C=N-OR$, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$.

Accordingly, the present invention relates to compounds of formula **VIIIa**, **VIIIb**, **VIIIc** and **VIIId** as shown below:



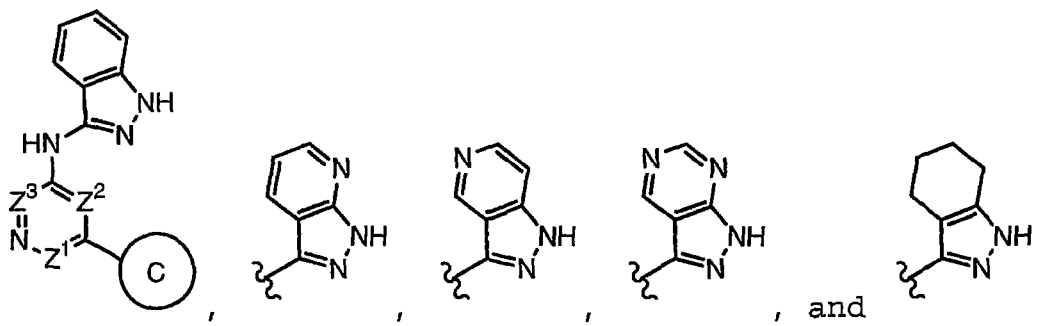
VIIIa **VIIIb** **VIIIc** **VIIId**

Preferred R^x groups of formula **VIII** include $T-R^3$ wherein T is a valence bond or a methylene and R^3 is CN, -R, or -OR. When R^3 is -R, preferred R^3 groups include an optionally substituted group selected from C_{1-6} aliphatic, phenyl, or a 5-6 membered heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring. When R^3 is -OR, preferred R groups include an optionally substituted group C_{1-6} aliphatic group such as alkyl- or dialkylaminoalkyl and aminoalkyl. Examples of

preferred R^x include acetamido, CN, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, phenyl, pyridinyl, imidazol-1-yl, imidazol-2-yl, cyclohexyl, cyclopropyl, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, t-butyl, $NH_2CH_2CH_2NH$, and $NH_2CH_2CH_2O$.

Preferred R^9 groups of formula **VIII**, when present, include R, OR, and $N(R^4)_2$. Examples of preferred R^9 include methyl, ethyl, NH_2, $NH_2CH_2CH_2NH$, $N(CH_3)_2CH_2CH_2NH$, $N(CH_3)_2CH_2CH_2O$, (piperidin-1-yl)CH_2CH_2O, and $NH_2CH_2CH_2O$.

The R^2 and $R^{2'}$ groups of formula **VIII** may be taken together to form a fused ring, thus providing a bicyclic ring system containing a pyrazole ring. Preferred fused rings include benzo, pyrido, pyrimido, and a partially unsaturated 6-membered carbocyclo ring. These are exemplified in the following formula **VIII** compounds having a pyrazole-containing bicyclic ring system:



Preferred substituents on the formula **VIII** $R^2/R^{2'}$ fused ring include one or more of the following: -halo, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-C_{1-4}$ haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-O(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), -CN, $-SO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-SO_2NH_2$, $-OC(O)NH_2$, $-NH_2SO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-NHC(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-C(O)NH_2$, and $-CO(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), wherein the (C_{1-4} alkyl) is a straight, branched, or cyclic alkyl group. Preferably, the (C_{1-4} alkyl) group is methyl.

When the pyrazole ring system of formula **VIII** is monocyclic, preferred R^2 groups include hydrogen, C_{1-4}

aliphatic, alkoxycarbonyl, (un)substituted phenyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, phenylaminocarbonyl, and (N-heterocyclyl)carbonyl. Examples of such preferred R^2 substituents include methyl, cyclopropyl, ethyl, isopropyl, propyl, t-butyl, cyclopentyl, phenyl, CO_2H, CO_2CH_3, CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3, $CH_2CH_2CH_2OH$, $CH_2CH_2CH_2OCH_3$, $CH_2CH_2CH_2OCH_2Ph$, $CH_2CH_2CH_2NH_2$, $CH_2CH_2CH_2NHCOOC(CH_3)_3$, $CONHCH(CH_3)_2$, $CONHCH_2CH=CH_2$, $CONHCH_2CH_2OCH_3$, $CONHCH_2Ph$, CONH(cyclohexyl), $CON(Et)_2$, $CON(CH_3)CH_2Ph$, $CONH(n\text{-}C_3H_7)$, $CON(Et)CH_2CH_2CH_3$, $CONHCH_2CH(CH_3)_2$, $CON(n\text{-}C_3H_7)_2$, CO(3-methoxymethylpyrrolidin-1-yl), CONH(3-tolyl), CONH(4-tolyl), $CONHCH_3$, CO(morpholin-1-yl), CO(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl), $CONHCH_2CH_2OH$, $CONH_2$, and CO(piperidin-1-yl). A preferred $R^{2'}$ group is hydrogen.

When G is Ring C, preferred formula **VIII** Ring C groups are phenyl and pyridinyl. When two adjacent substituents on Ring C are taken together to form a fused ring, Ring C is contained in a bicyclic ring system. Preferred fused rings include a benzo or pyrido ring. Such rings preferably are fused at ortho and meta positions of Ring C. Examples of preferred bicyclic Ring C systems include naphthyl and isoquinolinyl. Preferred R^1 groups include -halo, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, phenyl, $-COR^6$, $-OR^6$, -CN, $-SO_2R^6$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-N(R^6)_2$, $-CO_2R^6$, $-CONH_2$, $-NHCOR^6$, $-OC(O)NH_2$, or $-NHSO_2R^6$. When R^1 is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, the most preferred optional substituents are halogen. Examples of preferred R^1 groups include $-CF_3$, -Cl, -F, -CN, $-COCH_3$, $-OCH_3$, -OH, $-CH_2CH_3$, $-OCH_2CH_3$, $-CH_3$, $-CF_2CH_3$, cyclohexyl, t-butyl, isopropyl, cyclopropyl, $-C\equiv CH$, $-C\equiv C-CH_3$, $-SO_2CH_3$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-N(CH_3)_2$, $-CO_2CH_3$, $-CONH_2$, $-NHCOCH_3$, $-OC(O)NH_2$, $-NHSO_2CH_3$, and $-OCF_3$.

On Ring C preferred R^5 substituents, when present, include -halo, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-N(R^4)_2$, optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, -OR, -C(O)R, $-CO_2R$, $-CONH(R^4)$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, and $-N(R^4)SO_2R$. More preferred R^5 substituents include -Cl, -F, -CN, $-CF_3$, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic), $-N(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic$)_2$, $-O(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic), C_{1-4} aliphatic, and $-CO_2(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic). Examples of such preferred R^5 substituents include -Cl, -F, -CN, $-CF_3$, $-NH_2$, -NHMe, $-NMe_2$, -OEt, methyl, ethyl, cyclopropyl, isopropyl, t-butyl, and $-CO_2Et$.

When G is Ring D, preferred formula **VIII** Ring D monocyclic rings include substituted and unsubstituted phenyl, pyridinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, thienyl, azepanyl, and morpholinyl rings. When two adjacent substituents on Ring D are taken together to form a fused ring, the Ring D system is bicyclic. Preferred formula **VIII** Ring D bicyclic rings include 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, and naphthyl. Examples of more preferred bicyclic Ring D systems include naphthyl and isoquinolinyl.

Preferred R^5 substituents on Ring D of formula **VIII** include halo, oxo, CN, $-NO_2$, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CO_2R$, $-CONH(R^4)$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, -SR, -OR, -C(O)R, or substituted or unsubstituted group selected from 5-6 membered heterocyclyl, C_{6-10} aryl, or C_{1-6} aliphatic. More preferred R^5 substituents include -halo, -CN, -oxo, -SR, -OR, $-N(R^4)_2$, -C(O)R, or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from 5-6 membered heterocyclyl, C_{6-10} aryl, or C_{1-6} aliphatic. Examples of Ring D substituents include -OH, phenyl, methyl, CH_2OH, CH_2CH_2OH, pyrrolidinyl, OPh, CF_3, C≡CH, Cl, Br, F, I, NH_2,

$C(O)CH_3$, *i*-propyl, *tert*-butyl, SEt, OMe, $N(Me)_2$, methylene dioxy, and ethylene dioxy.

Preferred formula **VIII** compounds have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Ring C is a phenyl or pyridinyl ring, optionally substituted by $-R^5$, wherein when Ring C and two adjacent substituents thereon form a bicyclic ring system, the bicyclic ring system is selected from a naphthyl, quinolinyl or isoquinolinyl ring, and R^1 is -halo, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, phenyl, $-COR^6$, $-OR^6$, -CN, $-SO_2R^6$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-N(R^6)_2$, $-CO_2R^6$, $-CONH_2$, $-NHCOR^6$, $-OC(O)NH_2$, or $-NHSO_2R^6$; or Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from a phenyl, pyridinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, thienyl, azepanyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl ring;

(b) R^x is $T-R^3$ wherein T is a valence bond or a methylene; and

(c) $R^{2'}$ is hydrogen and R^2 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from aryl, heteroaryl, or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group, or R^2 and $R^{2'}$ are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a substituted or unsubstituted benzo, pyrido, pyrimido or partially unsaturated 6-membered carbocyclo ring.

More preferred compounds of formula **VIII** have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Ring C is a phenyl or pyridinyl ring, optionally substituted by $-R^5$, wherein when Ring C and two adjacent substituents thereon form a bicyclic ring system, the bicyclic ring system is a naphthyl ring, and

R^1 is -halo, a C_{1-6} haloaliphatic group, a C_{1-6} aliphatic group, phenyl, or -CN; or Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from phenyl, pyridinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl;

(b) R^x is T-R^3 wherein T is a valence bond or a methylene and R^3 is CN, -R or -OR;

(c) $R^{2'}$ is hydrogen and R^2 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from aryl, or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group, or R^2 and $R^{2'}$ are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a substituted or unsubstituted benzo, pyrido, pyrimido or partially unsaturated 6-membered carbocyclo ring; and

(d) each R^5 is independently selected from -halo, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-N(R^4)_2$, optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, -OR, -C(O)R, $-CO_2R$, $-CONH(R^4)$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, or $-N(R^4)SO_2R$.

Even more preferred compounds of formula **VIII** have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) R^x is T-R^3 wherein T is a valence bond or a methylene and R^3 is -R or -OR wherein R is an optionally substituted group selected from C_{1-6} aliphatic, phenyl, or a 5-6 membered heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring;

(b) Ring C is a phenyl or pyridinyl ring, optionally substituted by $-R^5$, wherein when Ring C and two adjacent substituents thereon form a bicyclic ring system, the bicyclic ring system is a naphthyl ring, and R^1 is -halo, a C_{1-4} aliphatic group optionally substituted with halogen, or -CN; or Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from phenyl, pyridinyl,

piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl;

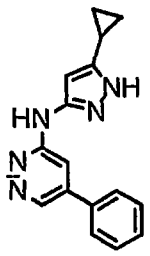
(c) R^2 and $R^{2'}$ are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a benzo, pyrido, pyrimido or partially unsaturated 6-membered carbocyclo ring optionally substituted with -halo, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-C_{1-4}$ haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-O(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), -CN, $-SO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-SO_2NH_2$, $-OC(O)NH_2$, $-NH_2SO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-NHC(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-C(O)NH_2$, or $-CO(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), wherein the (C_{1-4} alkyl) is a straight, branched, or cyclic alkyl group;

(d) each R^5 is independently selected from -Cl, -F, -CN, $-CF_3$, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic), $-N(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic)$_2$, $-O(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic), C_{1-4} aliphatic, and $-CO_2(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic); and

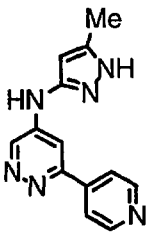
(e) R^9 is R, OR, or $N(R^4)_2$.

Representative compounds of formula **VIII** are set forth in Table 7 below.

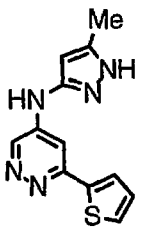
Table 7.



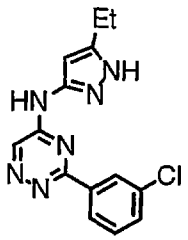
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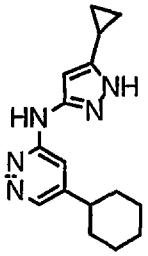
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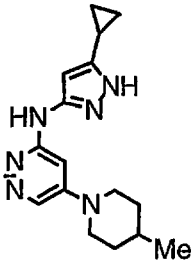
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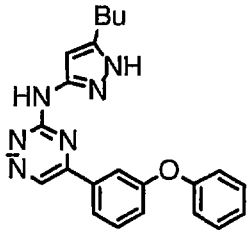
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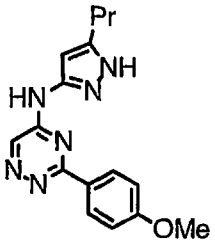
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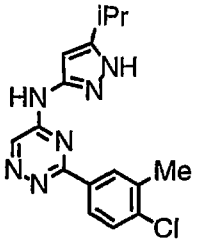
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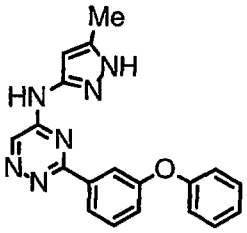
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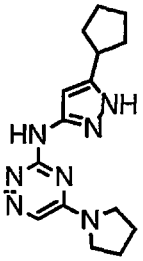
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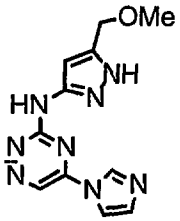
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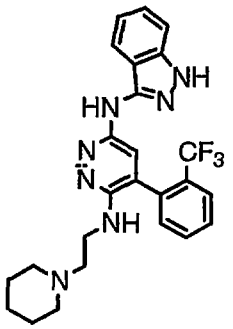
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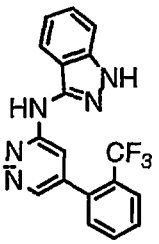
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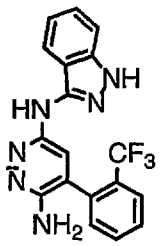
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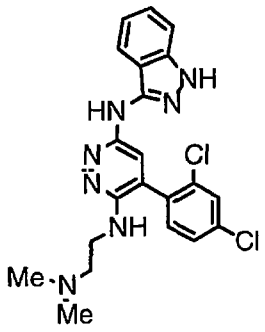
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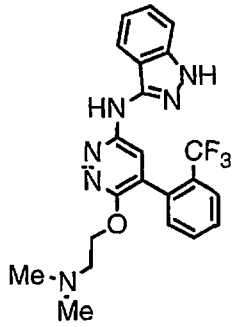
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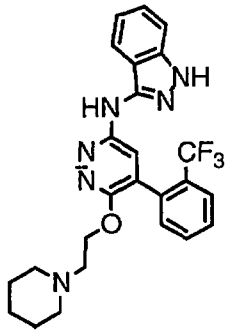
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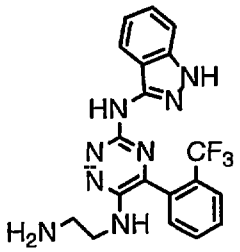
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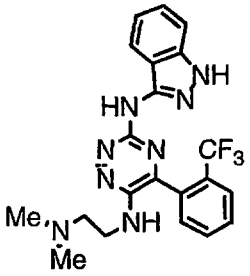
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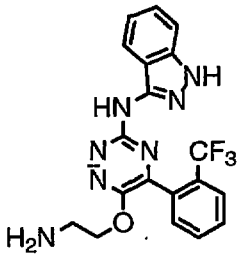
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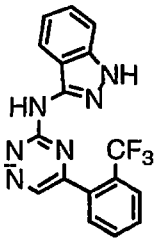
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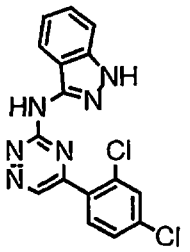
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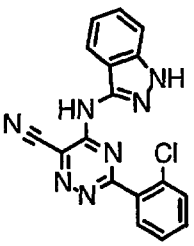
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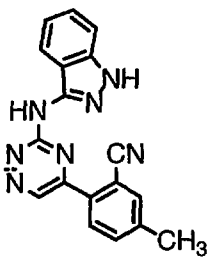
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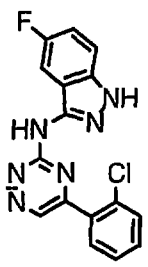
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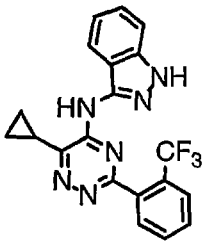
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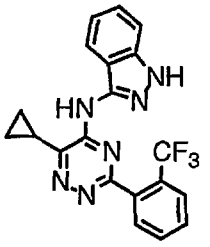
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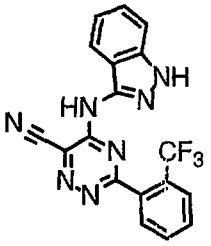
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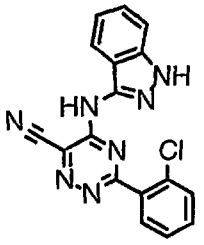
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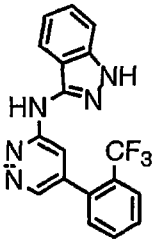
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VIII-30



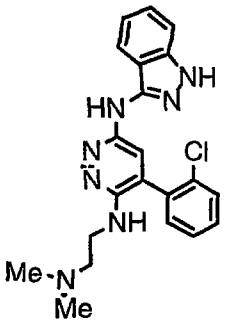
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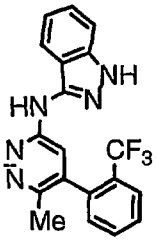
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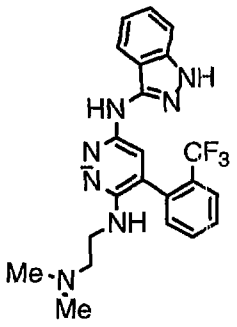
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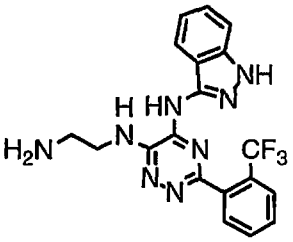
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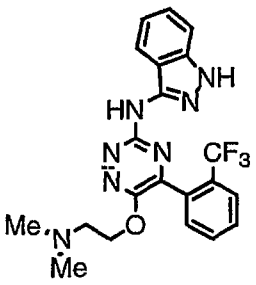
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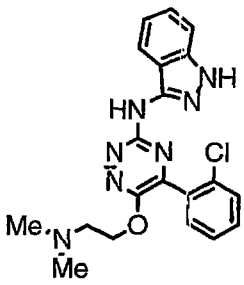
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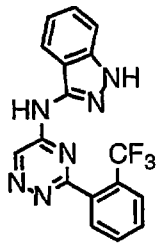
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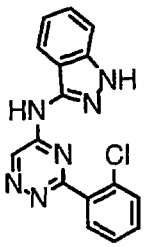
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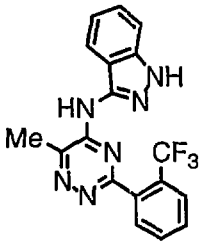
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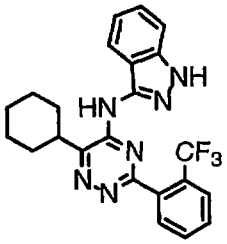
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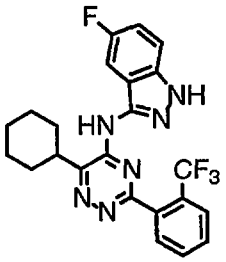
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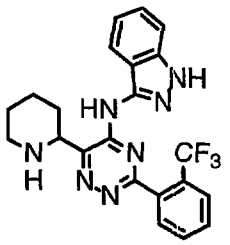
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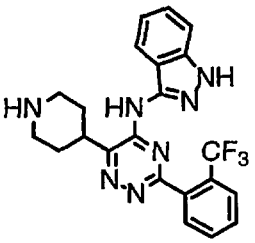
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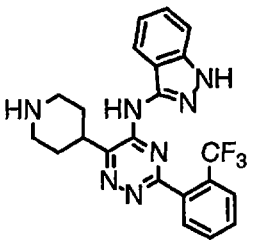
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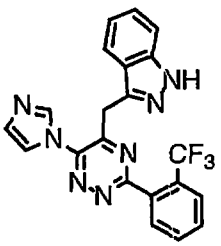
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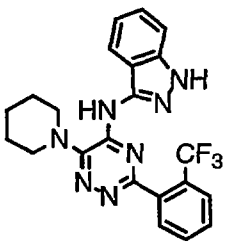
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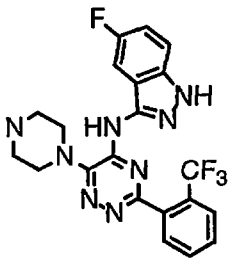
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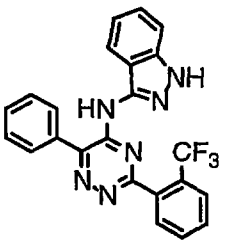
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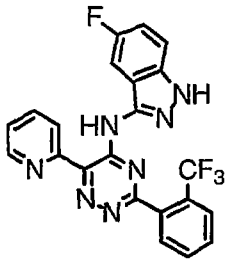
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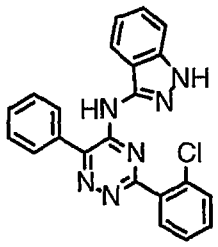
VIII-50



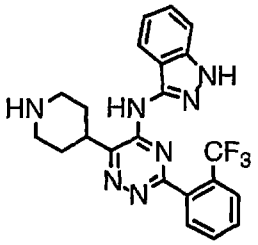
VIII-51



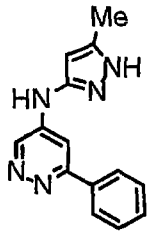
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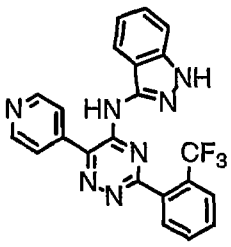
VIII-53



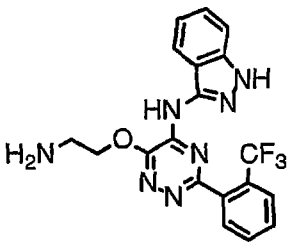
VIII-54



VIII-55



VIII-56



VIII-57

In another embodiment, this invention provides a composition comprising a compound of formula **VIII** and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

One aspect of this invention relates to a method of inhibiting GSK-3 activity in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VIII**.

Another aspect relates to a method of treating a disease that is alleviated by treatment with a GSK-3 inhibitor, said method comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VIII**.

Another aspect relates to a method of enhancing glycogen synthesis and/or lowering blood levels of glucose in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula

VIII. This method is especially useful for diabetic patients.

Another aspect relates to a method of inhibiting the production of hyperphosphorylated Tau protein in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VIII**. This method is especially useful in halting or slowing the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

Another aspect relates to a method of inhibiting the phosphorylation of β-catenin in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VIII**. This method is especially useful for treating schizophrenia.

One aspect of this invention relates to a method of inhibiting Aurora activity in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VIII**.

Another aspect relates to a method of treating a disease that is alleviated by treatment with an Aurora inhibitor, said method comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VIII**. This method is especially useful for treating cancer, such as colon, ovarian, and breast cancer.

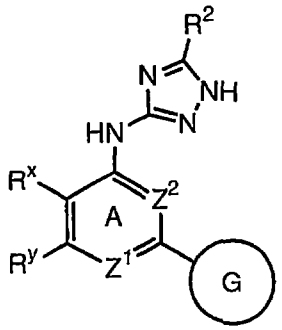
One aspect of this invention relates to a method of inhibiting CDK-2 activity in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VIII**.

Another aspect relates to a method of treating a disease that is alleviated by treatment with a CDK-2 inhibitor, said method comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **VIII**. This method is especially useful for treating cancer, Alzheimer's disease, restenosis, angiogenesis, glomerulonephritis, cytomegalovirus, HIV, herpes, psoriasis, atherosclerosis, alopecia, and autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis.

Another method relates to inhibiting GSK-3, Aurora, or CDK-2 activity in a biological sample, which method comprises contacting the biological sample with the GSK-3 or Aurora inhibitor of formula **VIII**, or a pharmaceutical composition thereof, in an amount effective to inhibit GSK-3, Aurora or CDK-2.

Each of the aforementioned methods directed to the inhibition of GSK-3, Aurora or CDK-2, or the treatment of a disease alleviated thereby, is preferably carried out with a preferred compound of formula **VIII**, as described above.

The above formula **I** compounds contain a pyrazole ring bearing the R^2 and $R^{2'}$ substituents. In their search for further inhibitors of the protein kinases GSK and Aurora, applicants sought to replace the pyrazole moiety of formula **I** with other heteroaromatic rings. One of the more effective pyrazole ring replacements was found to be a triazole ring. Inhibitors having this triazole ring are otherwise structurally similar to the formula **I** compounds and are represented by the general formula **IX**:



IX

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or prodrug thereof, wherein:

Z^1 is nitrogen or CR^9 and Z^2 is nitrogen or CH, provided that at least one of Z^1 and Z^2 is nitrogen;

G is Ring C or Ring D;

Ring C is selected from a phenyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, or 1,2,4-triazinyl ring, wherein said Ring C has one or two ortho substituents independently selected from $-R^1$, any substitutable non-ortho carbon position on Ring C is independently substituted by $-R^5$, and two adjacent substituents on Ring C are optionally taken together with their intervening atoms to form a fused, unsaturated or partially unsaturated, 5-6 membered ring having 0-3 heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen, said fused ring being optionally substituted by halo, oxo, or $-R^8$;

Ring D is a 5-7 membered monocyclic ring or 8-10 membered bicyclic ring selected from aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl or carbocyclyl, said heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring having 1-4 ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, wherein Ring D is substituted at any substitutable ring carbon by oxo or $-R^5$, and at any substitutable ring nitrogen by $-R^4$, provided that when Ring D is a six-membered aryl or

heteroaryl ring, $-R^5$ is hydrogen at each ortho carbon position of Ring D;

R^1 is selected from -halo, -CN, $-NO_2$, T-V-R^6, phenyl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl ring, 5-6 membered heterocyclyl ring, or C_{1-6} aliphatic group, said phenyl, heteroaryl, and heterocyclyl rings each optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from halo, oxo, or $-R^8$, said C_{1-6} aliphatic group optionally substituted with halo, cyano, nitro, or oxygen, or R^1 and an adjacent substituent taken together with their intervening atoms form said ring fused to Ring C;

R^x and R^y are independently selected from T-R^3, or R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a fused, unsaturated or partially unsaturated, 5-8 membered ring having 0-3 ring heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur, or nitrogen, wherein any substitutable carbon on said fused ring formed by R^x and R^y is substituted by oxo or T-R^3, and any substitutable nitrogen on said ring formed by R^x and R^y is substituted by R^4;

T is a valence bond or a C_{1-4} alkylidene chain;

R^2 is -R or -T-W-R^6;

R^3 is selected from -R, -halo, -OR, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-COCH_2COR$, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-S(O)R$, $-S(O)_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^7)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^7)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^7)COR$, $-N(R^7)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, -C=N-OR, $-N(R^7)CON(R^7)_2$, $-N(R^7)SO_2N(R^7)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^7)_2$;

each R is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted group selected from C_{1-6} aliphatic, C_{6-10} aryl, a heteroaryl ring having 5-10 ring atoms, or a heterocyclyl ring having 5-10 ring atoms;

each R^4 is independently selected from $-R^7$, $-COR^7$, $-CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-CON(R^7)_2$, or $-SO_2R^7$, or two R^4 on the same nitrogen are taken together to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

each R^5 is independently selected from -R, halo, -OR, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-S(O)R$, $-SO_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, -C=N-OR, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$, or R^5 and an adjacent substituent taken together with their intervening atoms form said ring fused to Ring C;

V is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-N(R^6)SO_2-$, $-SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)-$, $-CO-$, $-CO_2-$, $-N(R^6)CO-$, $-N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(O)N(R^6)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2S-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-C(R^6)=NN(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)=N-O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, or $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$;

W is $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2S-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, $-CO-$, $-CO_2-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CO-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-C(R^6)=NN(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)=N-O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$, or $-CON(R^6)-$;

each R^6 is independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted C_{1-4} aliphatic group, or two R^6 groups on the same nitrogen atom are taken together with the nitrogen atom to form a 5-6 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

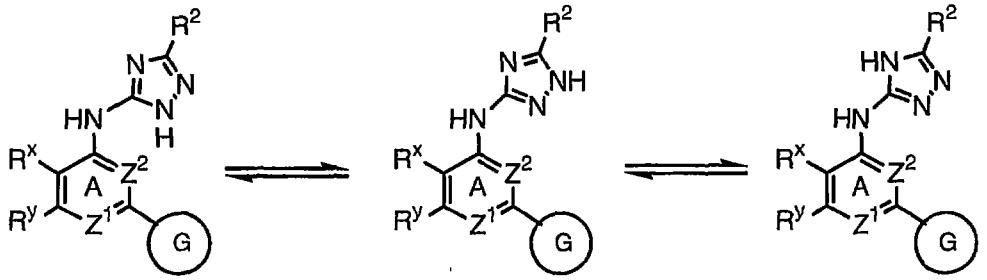
each R^7 is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, or two R^7

on the same nitrogen are taken together with the nitrogen to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

each R^8 is independently selected from an optionally substituted C_{1-4} aliphatic group, $-OR^6$, $-SR^6$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2R^6$, $-N(R^6)_2$, $-N(R^6)N(R^6)_2$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-CON(R^6)_2$, or $-CO_2R^6$; and

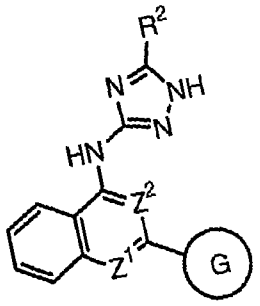
R^9 is selected from -R, halo, -OR, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-S(O)R$, $-SO_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, -C=N-OR, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$.

Compounds of formula **IX** may exist in alternative tautomeric forms, as in tautomers **1-3** shown below. Unless otherwise indicated, the representation of any of these tautomers is meant to include the other two.

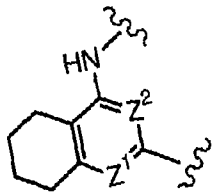


1 **2** **3**

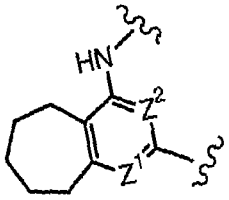
The R^x and R^Y groups of formula **IX** may be taken together to form a fused ring, providing a bicyclic ring system containing Ring A. Preferred R^x/R^Y rings include a 5-, 6-, 7-, or 8-membered unsaturated or partially unsaturated ring having 0-2 heteroatoms, wherein said R^x/R^Y ring is optionally substituted. Examples of Ring A systems are shown below by compounds **IX-A** through **IX-DD**, wherein Z^1 is nitrogen or $C(R^9)$ and Z^2 is nitrogen or C(H).



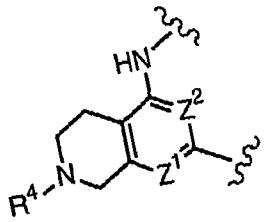
IX-A



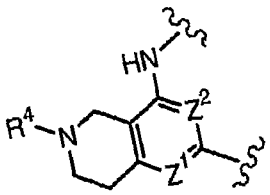
IX-B



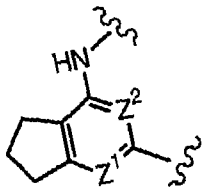
IX-C



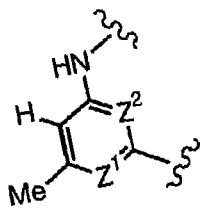
IX-D



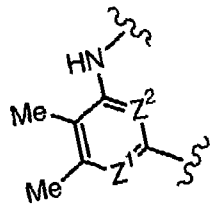
IX-E



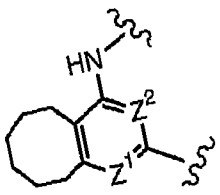
IX-F



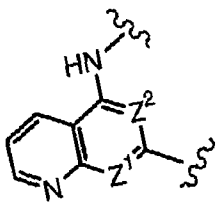
IX-G



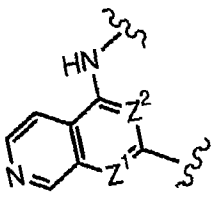
IX-H



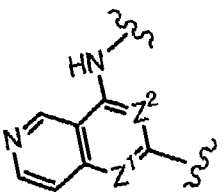
IX-I



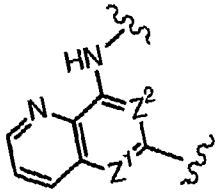
IX-J



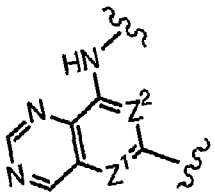
IX-K



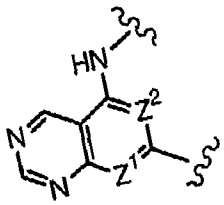
IX-L



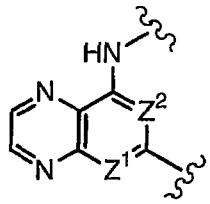
IX-M



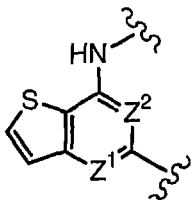
IX-N



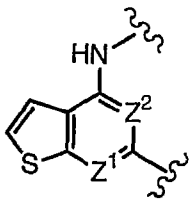
IX-O



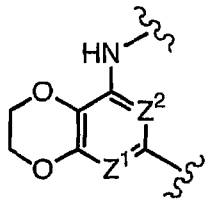
IX-P



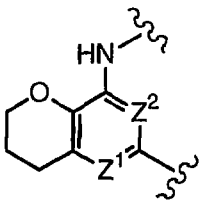
IX-Q



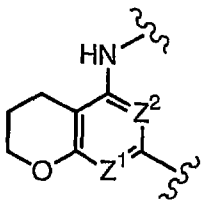
IX-R



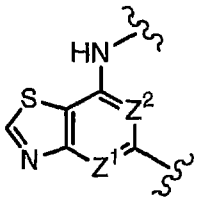
IX-S



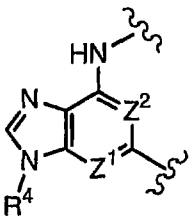
IX-T



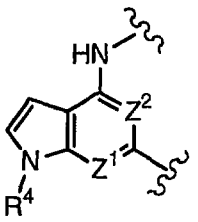
IX-U



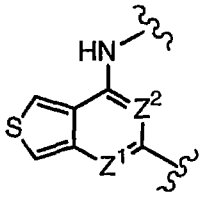
IX-V



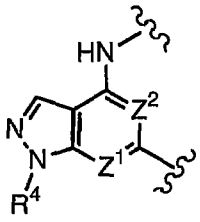
IX-W



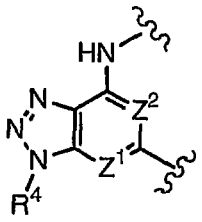
IX-X



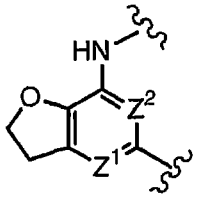
IX-Y



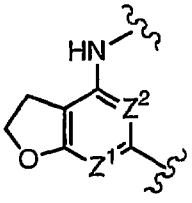
IX-Z



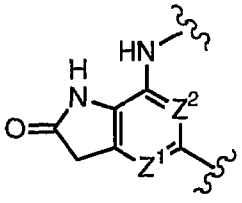
IX-AA



IX-BB



IX-CC



IX-DD

Preferred bicyclic Ring A systems of formula **IX** include **IX-A**, **IX-B**, **IX-C**, **IX-D**, **IX-E**, **IX-F**, **IX-G**, **IX-H**, **IX-I**, **IX-J**, **IX-K**, **IX-L**, and **IX-M**, more preferably **IX-A**,

IX-B, **IX-C**, **IX-F**, and **IX-H**, and most preferably **IX-A**, **IX-B**, and **IX-H**.

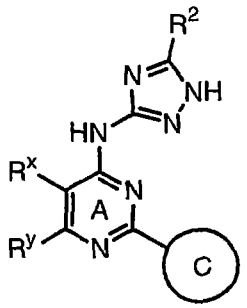
In the monocyclic Ring A system of formula **IX**, preferred R^x groups include hydrogen, alkyl- or dialkylamino, acetamido, or a C_{1-4} aliphatic group such as methyl, ethyl, cyclopropyl, isopropyl or t-butyl. Preferred R^y groups, when present, include $T\text{-}R^3$ wherein T is a valence bond or a methylene, and R^3 is -R, $-N(R^4)_2$, or -OR. Examples of preferred R^y include 2-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, piperidinyl, methyl, ethyl, cyclopropyl, isopropyl, t-butyl, alkyl- or dialkylamino, acetamido, optionally substituted phenyl such as phenyl or halo-substituted phenyl, and methoxymethyl.

In the bicyclic Ring A system of formula **IX**, the ring formed by R^x and R^y taken together may be substituted or unsubstituted. Suitable substituents include -R, halo, -OR, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-S(O)R$, $-SO_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, -C=N-OR, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$, wherein R and R^4 are as defined above. Preferred R^x/R^y ring substituents include -halo, -R, -OR, -COR, $-CO_2R$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, -CN, or $-N(R^4)_2$ wherein R is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group.

Preferred R^2 groups of formula **IX** include hydrogen, C_{1-4} aliphatic, alkoxycarbonyl, (un)substituted phenyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, phenylaminocarbonyl, and (N-heterocyclyl)carbonyl. Examples of such preferred R^2 substituents include methyl, cyclopropyl, ethyl, isopropyl, propyl, t-butyl, cyclopentyl, phenyl, CO_2H, CO_2CH_3, CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3, $CH_2CH_2CH_2OH$, $CH_2CH_2CH_2OCH_3$,

$CH_2CH_2CH_2OCH_2Ph$, $CH_2CH_2CH_2NH_2$, $CH_2CH_2CH_2NHCOOC(CH_3)_3$, $CONHCH(CH_3)_2$, $CONHCH_2CH=CH_2$, $CONHCH_2CH_2OCH_3$, $CONHCH_2Ph$, CONH(cyclohexyl), $CON(Et)_2$, $CON(CH_3)CH_2Ph$, $CONH(n\text{-}C_3H_7)$, $CON(Et)CH_2CH_2CH_3$, $CONHCH_2CH(CH_3)_2$, $CON(n\text{-}C_3H_7)_2$, CO(3-methoxymethylpyrrolidin-1-yl), CONH(3-tolyl), CONH(4-tolyl), $CONHCH_3$, CO(morpholin-1-yl), CO(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl), $CONHCH_2CH_2OH$, $CONH_2$, and CO(piperidin-1-yl). A more preferred R^2 group for formula **IX** compounds is hydrogen.

An embodiment that is particularly useful for treating GSK3-mediated diseases relates to compounds of formula **X** wherein ring A is a pyrimidine ring:



X

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or prodrug thereof, wherein;

Ring C is selected from a phenyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, or 1,2,4-triazinyl ring, wherein said Ring C has one or two ortho substituents independently selected from $-R^1$, any substitutable non-ortho carbon position on Ring C is independently substituted by $-R^5$, and two adjacent substituents on Ring C are optionally taken together with their intervening atoms to form a fused, unsaturated or partially unsaturated, 5-6 membered ring having 0-3 heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen,

said fused ring being optionally substituted by halo, oxo, or $-R^8$;

R^1 is selected from -halo, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $T-V-R^6$, phenyl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl ring, 5-6 membered heterocyclyl ring, or C_{1-6} aliphatic group, said phenyl, heteroaryl, and heterocyclyl rings each optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from halo, oxo, or $-R^8$, said C_{1-6} aliphatic group optionally substituted with halo, cyano, nitro, or oxygen, or R^1 and an adjacent substituent taken together with their intervening atoms form said ring fused to Ring C;

R^x and R^y are independently selected from $T-R^3$, or R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a fused, unsaturated or partially unsaturated, 5-8 membered ring having 0-3 ring heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur, or nitrogen, wherein any substitutable carbon on said fused ring formed by R^x and R^y is substituted by oxo or $T-R^3$, and any substitutable nitrogen on said ring formed by R^x and R^y is substituted by R^4;

T is a valence bond or a C_{1-4} alkylidene chain;

R^2 is -R or $-T-W-R^6$;

R^3 is selected from -R, -halo, -OR, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, $-COCOR$, $-COCH_2COR$, $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-S(O)R$, $-S(O)_2R$, $-SR$, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^7)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^7)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^7)COR$, $-N(R^7)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, $-C=N-OR$, $-N(R^7)CON(R^7)_2$, $-N(R^7)SO_2N(R^7)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^7)_2$;

each R is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted group selected from C_{1-6} aliphatic, C_{6-10} aryl, a heteroaryl ring having 5-10 ring atoms, or a heterocyclyl ring having 5-10 ring atoms;

each R^4 is independently selected from $-R^7$, $-COR^7$, $-CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-CON(R^7)_2$, or $-SO_2R^7$, or two R^4 on the same nitrogen are taken together to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

each R^5 is independently selected from -R, halo, -OR, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-S(O)R$, $-SO_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, -C=N-OR, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$, or R^5 and an adjacent substituent taken together with their intervening atoms form said ring fused to Ring C;

V is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-N(R^6)SO_2-$, $-SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)-$, $-CO-$, $-CO_2-$, $-N(R^6)CO-$, $-N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(O)N(R^6)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2S-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-C(R^6)=NN(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)=N-O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, or $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$;

W is $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2S-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, $-CO-$, $-CO_2-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CO-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-C(R^6)=NN(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)=N-O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$, or $-CON(R^6)-$;

each R^6 is independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted C_{1-4} aliphatic group, or two R^6 groups on the same nitrogen atom are taken together with the nitrogen atom to form a 5-6 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

each R^7 is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, or two R^7

on the same nitrogen are taken together with the nitrogen to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring; and

each R^8 is independently selected from an optionally substituted C_{1-4} aliphatic group, $-OR^6$, $-SR^6$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2R^6$, $-N(R^6)_2$, $-N(R^6)N(R^6)_2$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-CON(R^6)_2$, or $-CO_2R^6$.

Compounds of formula **X** are structurally similar to *compounds of formula* **II** *except for the replacement of* the pyrazole ring moiety by the triazole ring moiety. Preferred R^2, R^x, R^Y and Ring C groups of formula **X** are as described above for the formula **II** compounds. Preferred formula **X** compounds have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Ring C is a phenyl or pyridinyl ring, optionally substituted by $-R^5$, wherein when Ring C and two adjacent substituents thereon form a bicyclic ring system, the bicyclic ring system is selected from a naphthyl, quinolinyl or isoquinolinyl ring;

(b) R^x is hydrogen or C_{1-4} aliphatic and R^Y is T-R^3, or R^x and R^Y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form an optionally substituted 5-7 membered unsaturated or partially unsaturated ring having 0-2 ring nitrogens;

(c) R^1 is -halo, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, phenyl, $-COR^6$, $-OR^6$, $-CN$, $-SO_2R^6$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-N(R^6)_2$, $-CO_2R^6$, $-CONH_2$, $-NHCOR^6$, $-OC(O)NH_2$, or $-NHSO_2R^6$; and

(d) R^2 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from aryl, heteroaryl, or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group.

More preferred compounds of formula **X** have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Ring C is a phenyl or pyridinyl ring, optionally substituted by $-R^5$, wherein when Ring C and two adjacent substituents thereon form a bicyclic ring system, the bicyclic ring system is a naphthyl ring;

(b) R^x is hydrogen or methyl and R^y is -R, $N(R^4)_2$, or -OR, or R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a benzo ring or a 5-7 membered carbocyclo ring, wherein said ring formed by R^x and R^y is optionally substituted with -R, halo, -OR, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-S(O)R$, $-SO_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, -C=N-OR, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$;

(c) R^1 is -halo, a C_{1-6} haloaliphatic group, a C_{1-6} aliphatic group, phenyl, or -CN;

(d) R^2 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from aryl or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group; and

(e) each R^5 is independently selected from -halo, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-N(R^4)_2$, optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, -OR, $-C(O)R$, $-CO_2R$, $-CONH(R^4)$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, or $-N(R^4)SO_2R$.

Even more preferred compounds of formula **X** have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Ring C is a phenyl or pyridinyl ring, optionally substituted by $-R^5$, wherein when Ring C and two adjacent substituents thereon form a bicyclic ring system, the bicyclic ring system is a naphthyl ring;

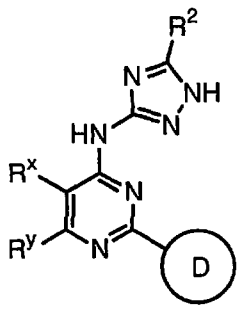
(b) R^x is hydrogen or methyl and R^y is methyl, methoxymethyl, ethyl, cyclopropyl, isopropyl, t-butyl, alkyl- or an optionally substituted group selected from 2-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, piperidinyl, or phenyl, or R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form an optionally substituted benzo ring or a 6-membered carbocyclo ring;

(c) R^1 is -halo, a C_{1-4} aliphatic group optionally substituted with halogen, or -CN;

(d) R^2 is hydrogen or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group; and

(e) each R^5 is independently selected from -Cl, -F, -CN, $-CF_3$, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic), $-N(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic$)_2$, $-O(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic), C_{1-4} aliphatic, and $-CO_2(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic).

Another embodiment of this invention relates to compounds of formula **XI**:



XI

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or prodrug thereof, wherein:

Ring D is a 5-7 membered monocyclic ring or 8-10 membered bicyclic ring selected from aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl or carbocyclyl, said heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring having 1-4 ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, wherein Ring D is substituted at any substitutable ring carbon by oxo or $-R^5$, and at any substitutable ring nitrogen by $-R^4$,

provided that when Ring D is a six-membered aryl or heteroaryl ring, $-R^5$ is hydrogen at each ortho carbon position of Ring D;

R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a fused benzo ring or 5-8 membered carbocyclo ring, wherein any substitutable carbon on said fused ring formed by R^x and R^y is substituted by oxo or $T-R^3$;

T is a valence bond or a C_{1-4} alkylidene chain;

R^2 is $-R$ or $-T-W-R^6$;

R^3 is selected from $-R$, -halo, $=O$, $-OR$, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, $-COCOR$, $-COCH_2COR$, $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-S(O)R$, $-S(O)_2R$, $-SR$, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, $-C=N-OR$, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$;

each R is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted group selected from C_{1-6} aliphatic, C_{6-10} aryl, a heteroaryl ring having 5-10 ring atoms, or a heterocyclyl ring having 5-10 ring atoms;

each R^4 is independently selected from $-R^7$, $-COR^7$, $-CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-CON(R^7)_2$, or $-SO_2R^7$, or two R^4 on the same nitrogen are taken together to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

each R^5 is independently selected from -R, halo, $-OR$, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, $-COCOR$, $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-S(O)R$, $-SO_2R$, $-SR$, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, $-C=N-OR$, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$;

V is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-N(R^6)SO_2-$, $-SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)-$, $-CO-$, $-CO_2-$, $-N(R^6)CO-$, $-N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)N(R^6)-$,

$-C(O)N(R^6)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2S-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-C(R^6)=NN(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)=N-O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, or $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$;

W is $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2S-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, $-CO-$, $-CO_2-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CO-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-C(R^6)=NN(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)=N-O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$, or $-CON(R^6)-$;

each R^6 is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-4} aliphatic group, or two R^6 groups on the same nitrogen atom are taken together with the nitrogen atom to form a 5-6 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring; and

each R^7 is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, or two R^7 on the same nitrogen are taken together with the nitrogen to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring.

Compounds of formula **XI** are structurally similar to compounds of formula **III** except for the replacement of the pyrazole ring moiety by the triazole ring moiety. Preferred R^2, R^x, R^y, and Ring D groups of formula **XI** are as described above for the formula **III** compounds. Preferred formula **XI** compounds have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from a phenyl, pyridinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, thienyl, azepanyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindolyl, 2,3-

dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl ring;

(b) R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form an optionally substituted benzo ring or 5-7 membered carbocyclo ring; and

(c) R^2 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from aryl, heteroaryl, or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group.

More preferred compounds of formula **XI** have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from phenyl, pyridinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl;

(b) R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a benzo ring or 5-7 membered carbocyclo ring, wherein said ring formed by R^x and R^y is optionally substituted with -R, oxo, halo, -OR, -C(=O)R, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-NO_2$, -CN, -S(O)R, $-SO_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, -OC(=O)R, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C{=}NN(R^4)_2$, -C=N-OR, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$;

(c) R^2 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from aryl or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group; and

(d) each R^5 is independently selected from halo, oxo, CN, NO_2, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CO_2R$, $-CONH(R^4)$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, -SR, -OR, -C(O)R, or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from 5-6 membered heterocyclyl, C_{6-10} aryl, or C_{1-6} aliphatic.

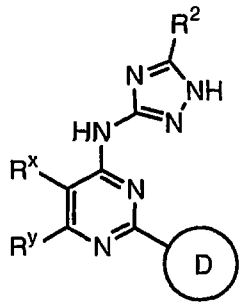
Even more preferred compounds of formula **XI** have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a benzo ring or 6-membered carbocyclo ring, wherein said ring formed by R^x and R^y is optionally substituted with halo, CN, oxo, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, (C_{1-6} alkyl)carbonyl, (C_{1-6} alkyl)sulfonyl, mono- or dialkylamino, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyl, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, or 5-6 membered heteroaryl;

(b) each R^5 is independently selected from -halo, -CN, -oxo, -SR, -OR, $-N(R^4)_2$, -C(O)R, or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from 5-6 membered heterocyclyl, C_{6-10} aryl, or C_{1-6} aliphatic; and

(c) R^2 is hydrogen or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group.

Another embodiment of this invention relates to compounds of formula **XII**:



XII

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or prodrug thereof, wherein:

Ring D is a 5-7 membered monocyclic ring or 8-10 membered bicyclic ring selected from aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl or carbocyclyl, said heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring having 1-4 ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, wherein Ring D is substituted at any substitutable ring carbon by oxo or

$-R^5$, and at any substitutable ring nitrogen by $-R^4$, provided that when Ring D is a six-membered aryl or heteroaryl ring, $-R^5$ is hydrogen at each ortho carbon position of Ring D;

R^x and R^y are independently selected from $T-R^3$, or R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a fused, unsaturated or partially unsaturated, 5-8 membered ring having 1-3 ring heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur, or nitrogen, wherein any substitutable carbon on said fused ring is optionally and independently substituted by $T-R^3$, and any substitutable nitrogen on said ring is substituted by R^4;

T is a valence bond or a C_{1-4} alkylidene chain;

R^2 is -R or $-T-W-R^6$;

R^3 is selected from -R, -halo, =O, -OR, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-COCH_2COR$, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-S(O)R$, $-S(O)_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, $-C=N-OR$, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$;

each R is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted group selected from C_{1-6} aliphatic, C_{6-10} aryl, a heteroaryl ring having 5-10 ring atoms, or a heterocyclyl ring having 5-10 ring atoms;

each R^4 is independently selected from $-R^7$, $-COR^7$, $-CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-CON(R^7)_2$, or $-SO_2R^7$, or two R^4 on the same nitrogen are taken together to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

each R^5 is independently selected from -R, halo, -OR, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-S(O)R$, $-SO_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$,

$-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C{=}NN(R^4)_2$, $-C{=}N-OR$, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$;

V is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-N(R^6)SO_2-$, $-SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)-$, $-CO-$, $-CO_2-$, $-N(R^6)CO-$, $-N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(O)N(R^6)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2S-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-C(R^6){=}NN(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6){=}N-O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, or $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$;

W is $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2S-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, $-CO-$, $-CO_2-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CO-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-C(R^6){=}NN(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6){=}N-O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$, or $-CON(R^6)-$;

each R^6 is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-4} aliphatic group, or two R^6 groups on the same nitrogen atom are taken together with the nitrogen atom to form a 5-6 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring; and

each R^7 is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, or two R^7 on the same nitrogen are taken together with the nitrogen to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl ring or heteroaryl.

Compounds of formula **XII** are structurally similar to compounds of formula **IV** except for the replacement of the pyrazole ring moiety by the triazole ring moiety. Preferred R^2, R^x, R^y, and Ring D groups of formula **XII** are as described above for the formula **IV** compounds. Preferred formula **XII** compounds have one or

more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from a phenyl, pyridinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, thienyl, azepanyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl ring;

(b) R^x is hydrogen or C_{1-4} aliphatic and R^Y is T-R^3, or R^x and R^Y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form an optionally substituted 5-7 membered unsaturated or partially unsaturated ring having 1-2 ring heteroatoms; and

(c) R^2 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from aryl, heteroaryl, or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group.

More preferred compounds of formula **XII** have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from phenyl, pyridinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl;

(b) R^x is hydrogen or methyl and R^Y is -R, $N(R^4)_2$, or -OR, or R^x and R^Y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a 5-7 membered unsaturated or partially unsaturated ring having 1-2 ring nitrogens, wherein said ring is optionally substituted with -R, halo, oxo, -OR, -C(=O)R, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-NO_2$, -CN, -S(O)R, $-SO_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, -OC(=O)R, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic),

$-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C{=}NN(R^4)_2$, $-C{=}N{-}OR$, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$;

(c) R^2 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from aryl or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group; and

(d) each R^5 is independently selected from halo, oxo, CN, NO_2, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CO_2R$, $-CONH(R^4)$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, -SR, -OR, -C(O)R, or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from 5-6 membered heterocyclyl, C_{6-10} aryl, or C_{1-6} aliphatic.

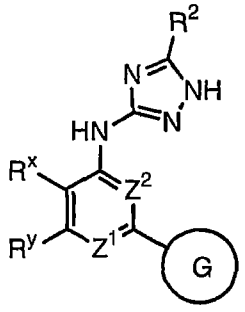
Even more preferred compounds of formula **XII** have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a 6-membered unsaturated or partially unsaturated ring having 1-2 ring nitrogens, optionally substituted with halo, CN, oxo, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, (C_{1-6} alkyl)carbonyl, (C_{1-6} alkyl)sulfonyl, mono- or dialkylamino, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyl, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, or 5-6 membered heteroaryl;

(b) each R^5 is independently selected from -halo, -CN, -oxo, -SR, -OR, $-N(R^4)_2$, -C(O)R, or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from 5-6 membered heterocyclyl, C_{6-10} aryl, or C_{1-6} aliphatic; and

(c) R^2 is hydrogen or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group.

Another embodiment of this invention relates to compounds of formula **XIII**:



XIII

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or prodrug thereof, wherein:

Z^1 is nitrogen, CR^a, or CH, and Z^2 is nitrogen or CH; provided that one of Z^1 and Z^2 is nitrogen;

G is Ring C or Ring D;

Ring C is selected from a phenyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, or 1,2,4-triazinyl ring, wherein said Ring C has one or two ortho substituents independently selected from $-R^1$, any substitutable non-ortho carbon position on Ring C is independently substituted by $-R^5$, and two adjacent substituents on Ring C are optionally taken together with their intervening atoms to form a fused, unsaturated or partially unsaturated, 5-6 membered ring having 0-3 heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen, said fused ring being optionally substituted by halo, oxo, or $-R^8$;

Ring D is a 5-7 membered monocyclic ring or 8-10 membered bicyclic ring selected from aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl or carbocyclyl, said heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring having 1-4 ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, wherein Ring D is substituted at any substitutable ring carbon by oxo or $-R^5$, and at any substitutable ring nitrogen by $-R^4$, provided that when Ring D is a six-membered aryl or

heteroaryl ring, $-R^5$ is hydrogen at each ortho carbon position of Ring D;

R^1 is selected from -halo, -CN, $-NO_2$, T-V-R^6, phenyl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl ring, 5-6 membered heterocyclyl ring, or C_{1-6} aliphatic group, said phenyl, heteroaryl, and heterocyclyl rings each optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from halo, oxo, or $-R^8$, said C_{1-6} aliphatic group optionally substituted with halo, cyano, nitro, or oxygen, or R^1 and an adjacent substituent taken together with their intervening atoms form said ring fused to Ring C;

R^x and R^y are independently selected from T-R^3, or R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a fused, unsaturated or partially unsaturated, 5-8 membered ring having 0-3 ring heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur, or nitrogen, wherein any substitutable carbon on said fused ring formed by R^x and R^y is substituted by oxo or T-R^3, and any substitutable nitrogen on said ring formed by R^x and R^y is substituted by R^4;

T is a valence bond or a C_{1-4} alkylidene chain;

R^2 is -R or -T-W-R^6;

R^3 is selected from -R, -halo, -OR, -C(=O)R, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-COCH_2COR$, $-NO_2$, -CN, -S(O)R, $-S(O)_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^7)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^7)_2$, -OC(=O)R, $-N(R^7)COR$, $-N(R^7)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, -C=N-OR, $-N(R^7)CON(R^7)_2$, $-N(R^7)SO_2N(R^7)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^7)_2$;

each R is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted group selected from C_{1-6} aliphatic, C_{6-10} aryl, a heteroaryl ring having 5-10 ring atoms, or a heterocyclyl ring having 5-10 ring atoms;

each R^4 is independently selected from $-R^7$, $-COR^7$, $-CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-CON(R^7)_2$, or $-SO_2R^7$, or two R^4 on the same nitrogen are taken together to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

each R^5 is independently selected from -R, halo, -OR, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-S(O)R$, $-SO_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, -C=N-OR, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$, or R^5 and an adjacent substituent taken together with their intervening atoms form said ring fused to Ring C;

V is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-N(R^6)SO_2-$, $-SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)-$, $-CO-$, $-CO_2-$, $-N(R^6)CO-$, $-N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(O)N(R^6)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2S-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-C(R^6)=NN(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)=N-O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^5)SO_2N(R^6)-$, or $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$;

W is $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2S-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2-$, $-C(R^6)_2SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, $-CO-$, $-CO_2-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CO-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, $-C(R^6)=NN(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)=N-O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)SO_2N(R^6)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CON(R^6)-$, or $-CON(R^6)-$;

each R^6 is independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted C_{1-4} aliphatic group, or two R^6 groups on the same nitrogen atom are taken together with the nitrogen atom to form a 5-6 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

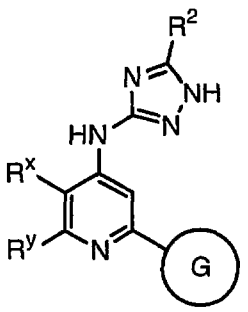
each R^7 is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, or two R^7

on the same nitrogen are taken together with the nitrogen to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

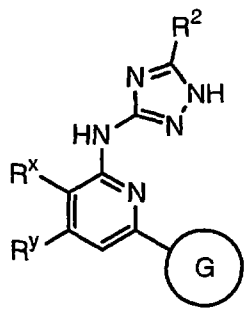
each R^8 is independently selected from an optionally substituted C_{1-4} aliphatic group, $-OR^6$, $-SR^6$, $-COR^6$, $-SO_2R^6$, $-N(R^6)_2$, $-N(R^6)N(R^6)_2$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-CON(R^6)_2$, or $-CO_2R^6$; and

R^a is selected from halo, $-OR$, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, $-COCOR$, $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-S(O)R$, $-SO_2R$, $-SR$, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, $-C=N-OR$, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$, or an optionally substituted group selected from C_{1-6} aliphatic, C_{6-10} aryl, a heteroaryl ring having 5-10 ring atoms, or a heterocyclyl ring having 5-10 ring atoms.

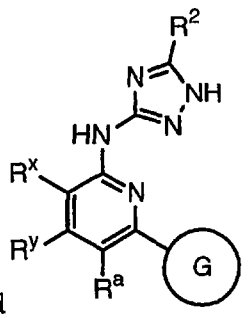
Compounds of formula **XIII** may be represented by specifying Z^1 and Z^2 as shown below:



XIIIa,



XIIIb, and



XIIIc.

Compounds of formula **XIII** are structurally similar to compounds of formula **V** except for the replacement of the pyrazole ring moiety by the triazole ring moiety. Preferred R^2, R^x, R^y, R^a, and Ring G groups of formula **XIII** are as described above for the formula **V** compounds. Preferred formula **XIII** compounds have one or

more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Ring C is a phenyl or pyridinyl ring, optionally substituted by $-R^5$, wherein when Ring C and two adjacent substituents thereon form a bicyclic ring system, the bicyclic ring system is selected from a naphthyl, quinolinyl or isoquinolinyl ring, and R^1 is -halo, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, phenyl, $-COR^6$, $-OR^6$, -CN, $-SO_2R^6$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-N(R^6)_2$, $-CO_2R^6$, $-CONH_2$, $-NHCOR^6$, $-OC(O)NH_2$, or $-NHSO_2R^6$; or Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from a phenyl, pyridinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, thienyl, azepanyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl ring;

(b) R^x is hydrogen or C_{1-4} aliphatic and R^y is T-R^3, or R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form an optionally substituted 5-7 membered unsaturated or partially unsaturated ring having 0-2 ring nitrogens; and

(c) R^2 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from aryl, heteroaryl, or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group.

More preferred compounds of formula **XIII** have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Ring C is a phenyl or pyridinyl ring, optionally substituted by $-R^5$, wherein when Ring C and two adjacent substituents thereon form a bicyclic ring system, the bicyclic ring system is a naphthyl ring, and R^1 is -halo, a C_{1-6} haloaliphatic group, a C_{1-6} aliphatic group, phenyl, or -CN; or Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from phenyl, pyridinyl,

piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl;

(b) R^x is hydrogen or methyl and R^y is -R, $N(R^4)_2$, or -OR, or R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a benzo ring or a 5-7 membered carbocyclo ring, wherein said ring formed by R^x and R^y is optionally substituted with -R, halo, -OR, -C(=O)R, $-CO_2R$, -COCOR, $-NO_2$, -CN, -S(O)R, $-SO_2R$, -SR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$(optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, -C=N-OR, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$;

(c) R^2 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from aryl, or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group; and

(d) each R^5 is independently selected from -halo, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-N(R^4)_2$, optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic group, -OR, -C(O)R, $-CO_2R$, $-CONH(R^4)$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, or $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, and, when Ring G is Ring D, Ring D is substituted by oxo or R^5.

Even more preferred compounds of formula **XIII** have one or more, and more preferably all, of the features selected from the group consisting of:

(a) R^x is hydrogen or methyl and R^y is methyl, methoxymethyl, ethyl, cyclopropyl, isopropyl, t-butyl, alkyl- or an optionally substituted group selected from 2-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, piperidinyl, or phenyl, or R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a benzo ring or a 6-membered carbocyclo ring wherein said ring formed by R^x and R^y is optionally substituted with halo, CN, oxo, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, (C_{1-6} alkyl)carbonyl,

(C_{1-6} alkyl)sulfonyl, mono- or dialkylamino, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyl, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, or 5-6 membered heteroaryl;

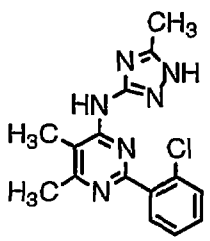
(b) Ring C is a phenyl or pyridinyl ring, optionally substituted by $-R^5$, wherein when Ring C and two adjacent substituents thereon form a bicyclic ring system, the bicyclic ring system is a naphthyl ring, and R^1 is -halo, a C_{1-4} aliphatic group optionally substituted with halogen, or -CN; or Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from phenyl, pyridinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl;

(c) R^2 is hydrogen or a C_{1-6} aliphatic group; and

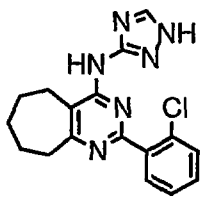
(d) each R^5 is independently selected from -Cl, -F, -CN, $-CF_3$, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic), $-N(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic)$_2$, $-O(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic), C_{1-4} aliphatic, and $-CO_2(C_{1-4}$ aliphatic), and when Ring G is Ring D, Ring D is substituted by oxo or R^5.

Representative compounds of formula **IX** are shown below in Table 8.

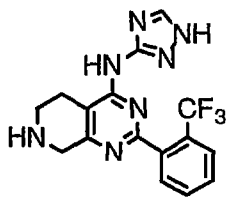
Table 8.



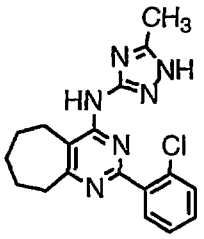
IX-1



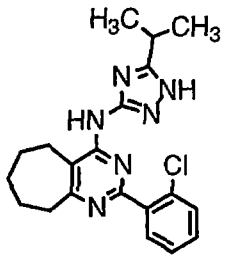
IX-2



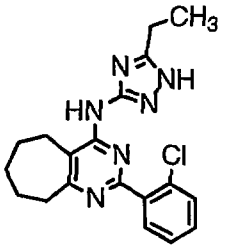
IX-3



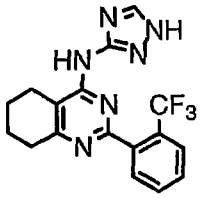
IX-4



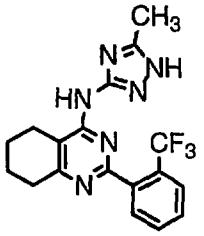
IX-5



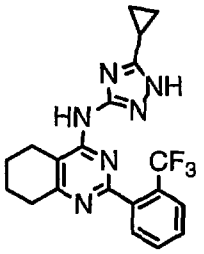
IX-6



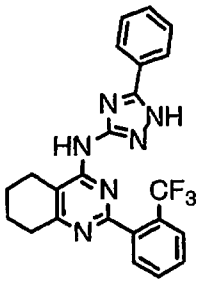
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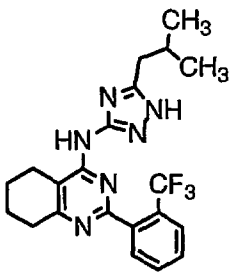
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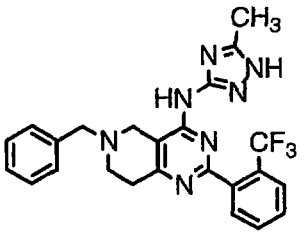
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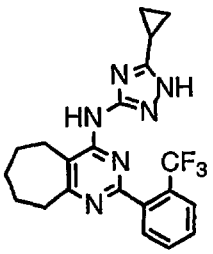
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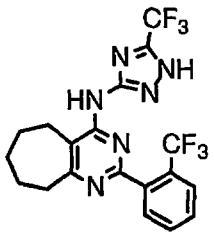
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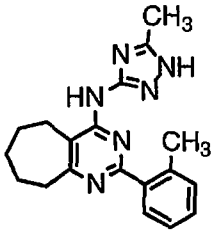
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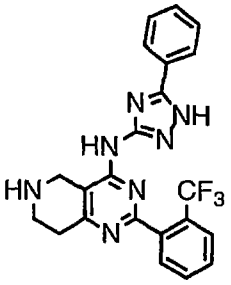
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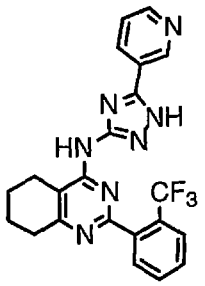
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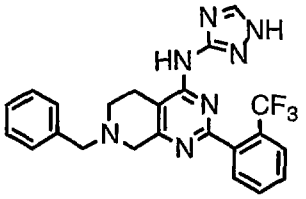
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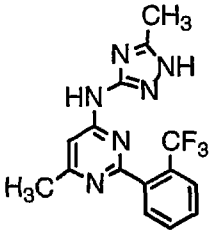
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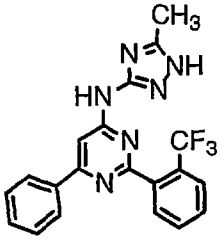
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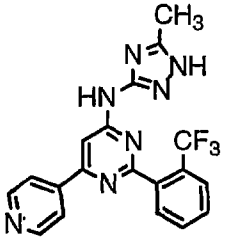
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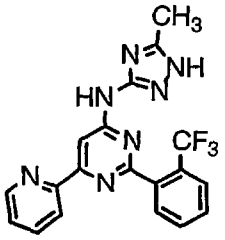
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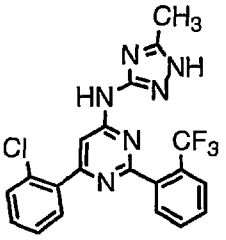
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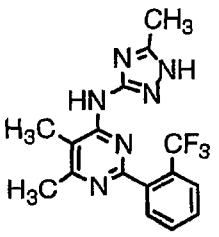
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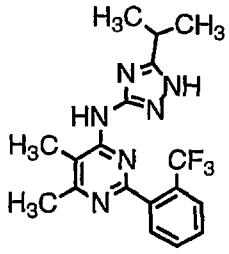
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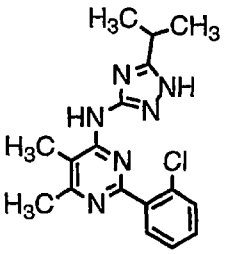
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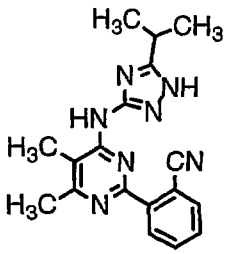
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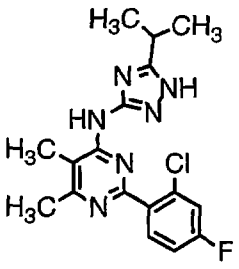
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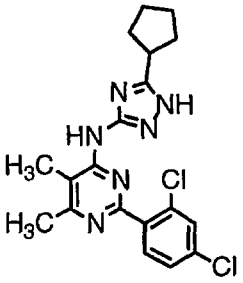
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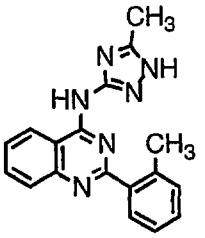
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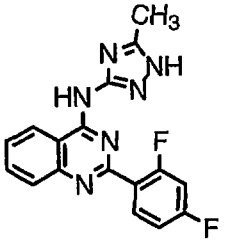
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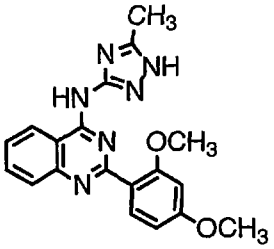
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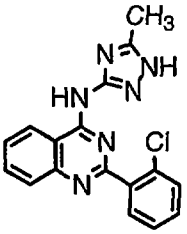
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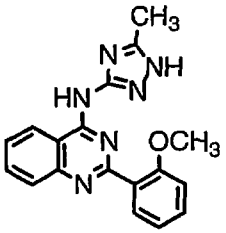
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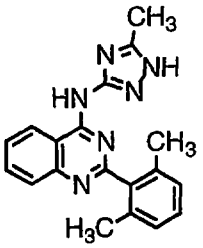
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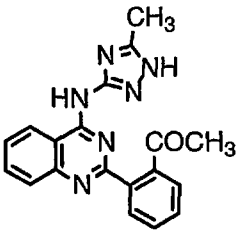
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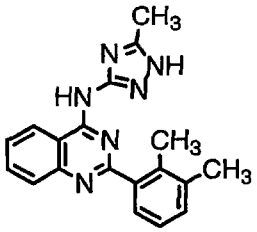
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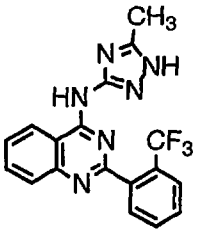
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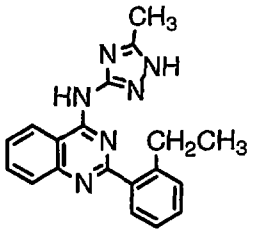
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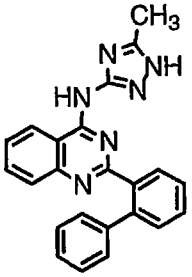
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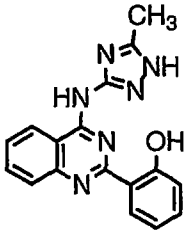
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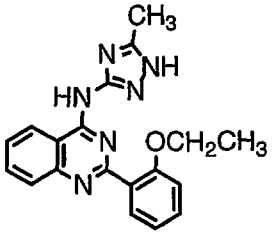
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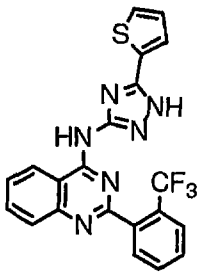
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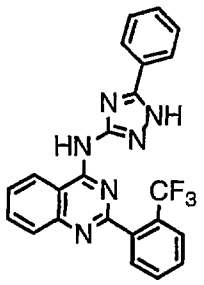
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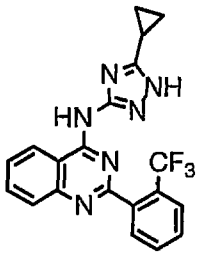
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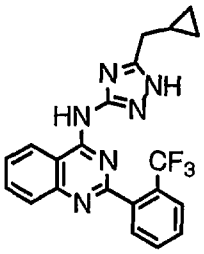
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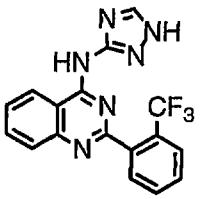
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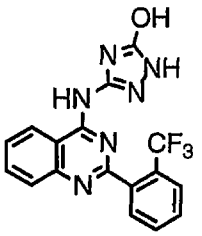
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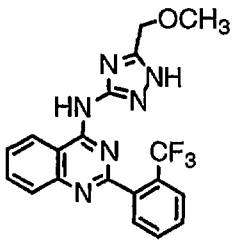
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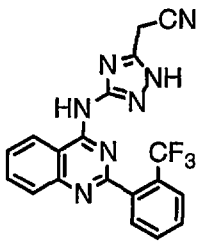
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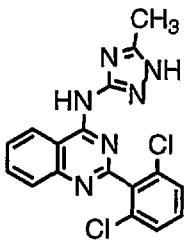
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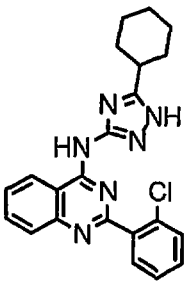
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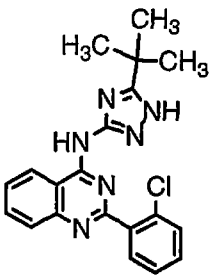
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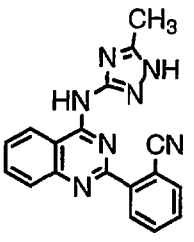
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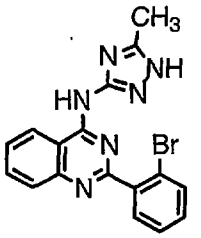
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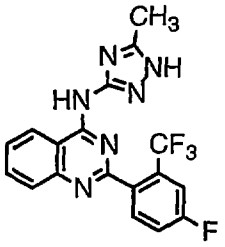
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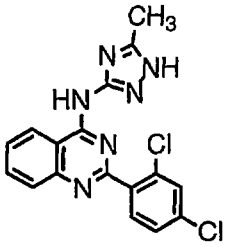
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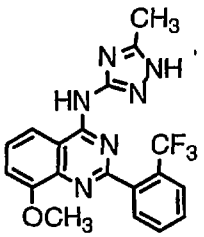
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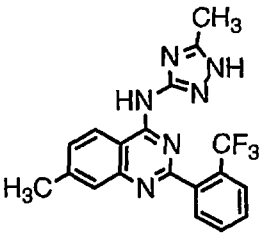
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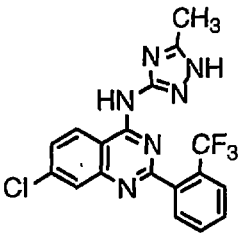
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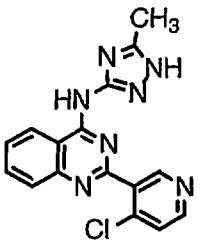
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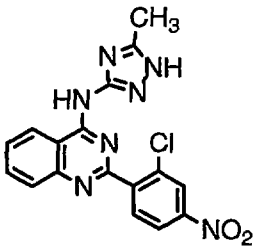
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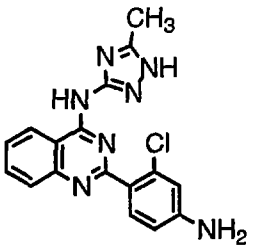
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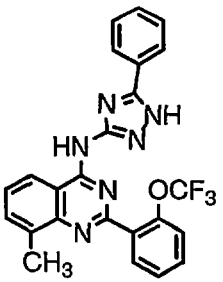
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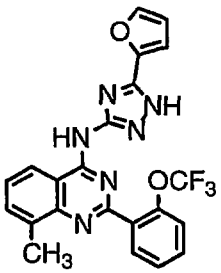
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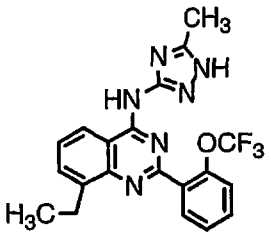
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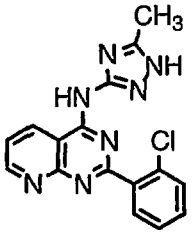
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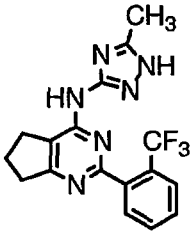
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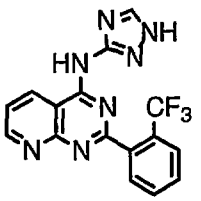
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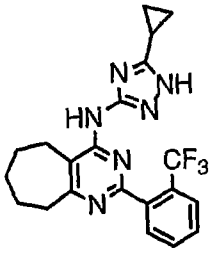
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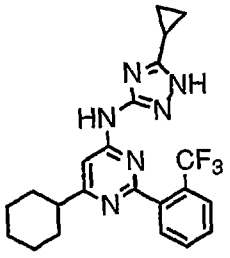
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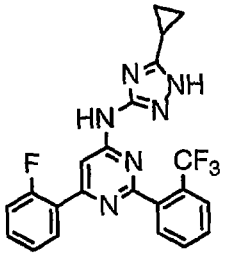
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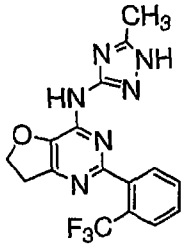
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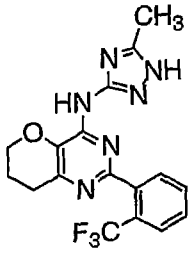
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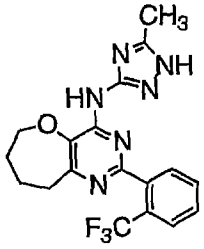
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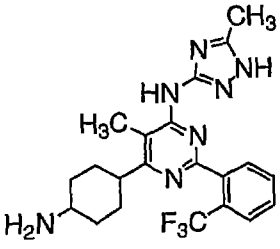
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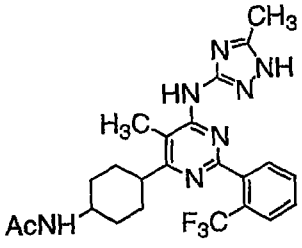
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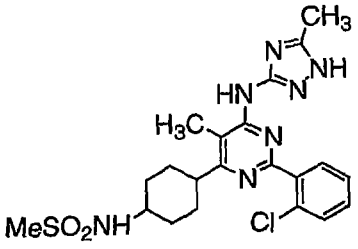
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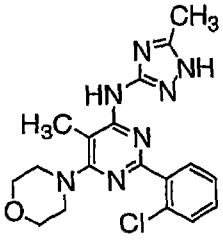
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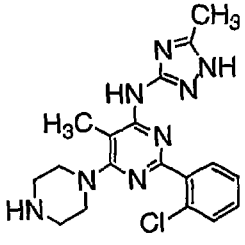
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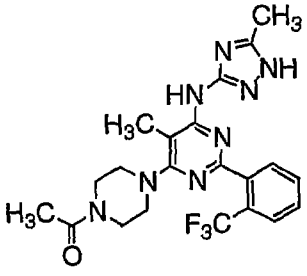
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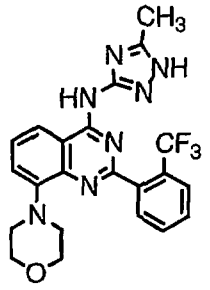
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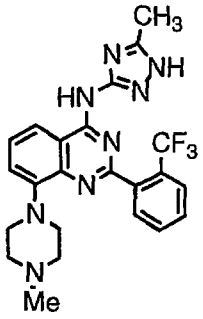
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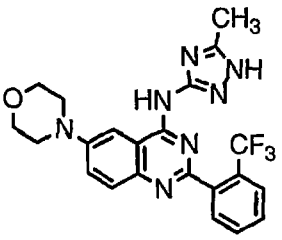
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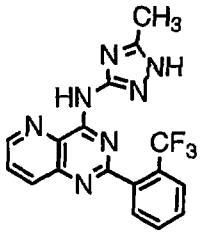
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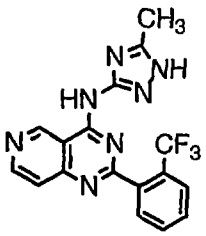
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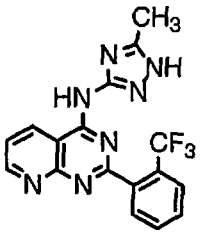
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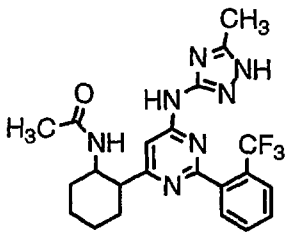
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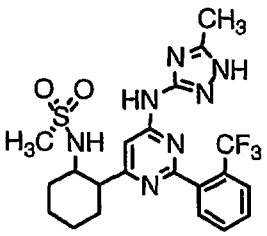
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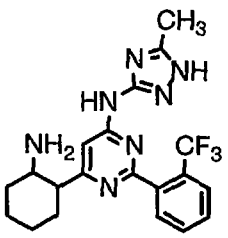
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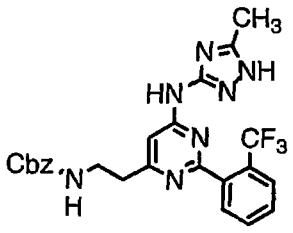
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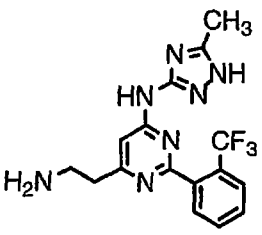
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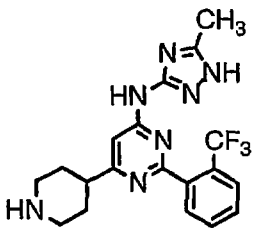
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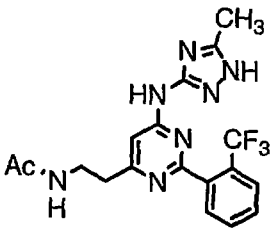
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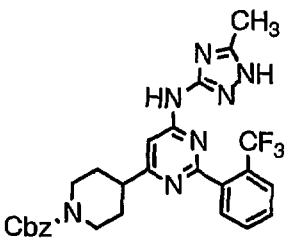
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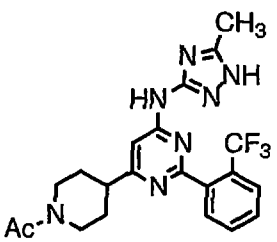
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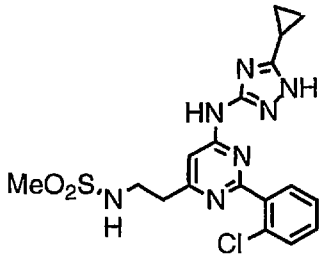
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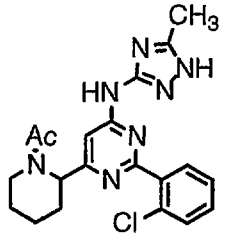
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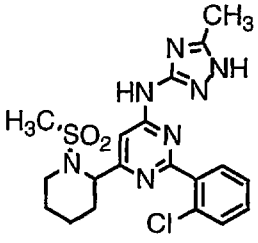
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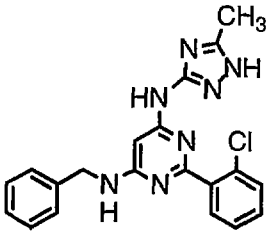
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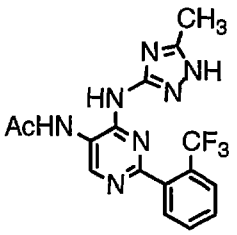
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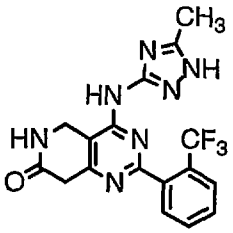
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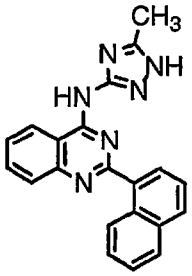
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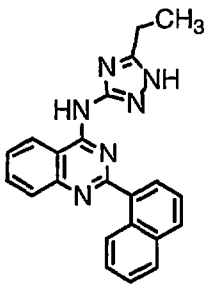
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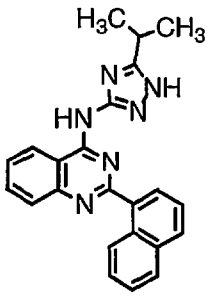
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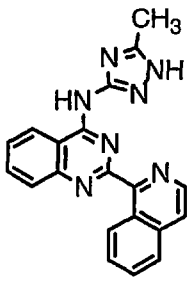
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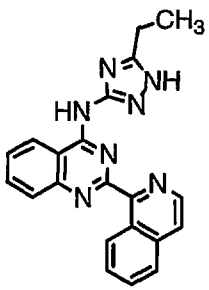
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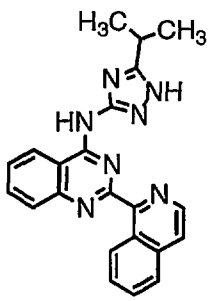
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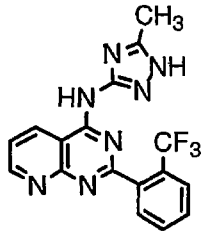
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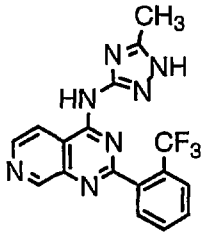
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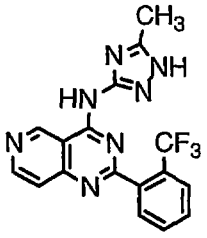
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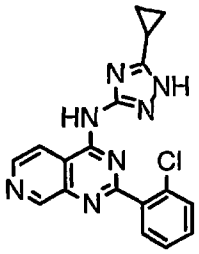
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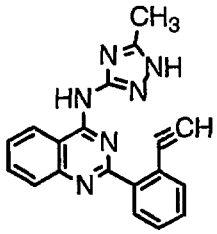
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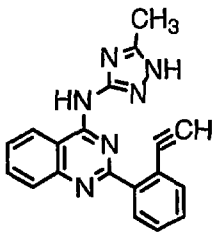
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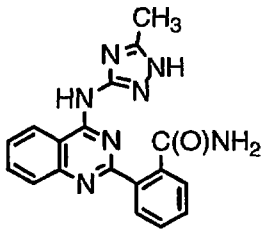
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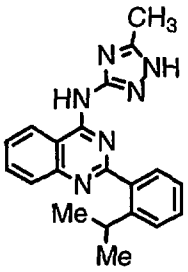
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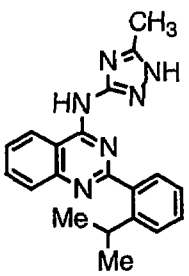
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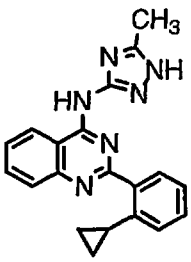
IX-115



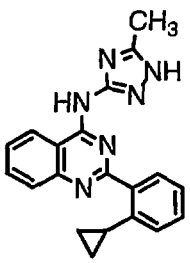
IX-116



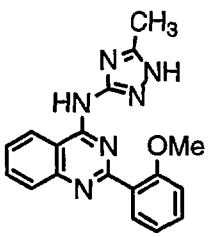
IX-117



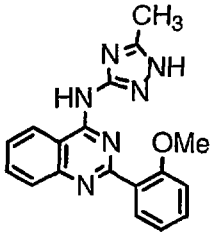
IX-118



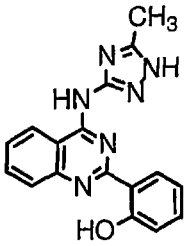
IX-119



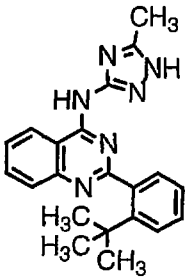
IX-120



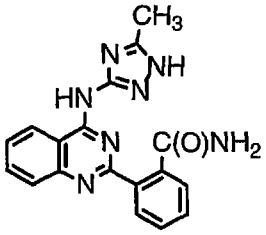
IX-121



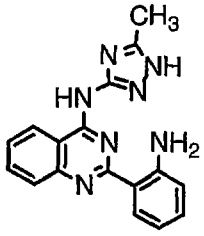
IX-122



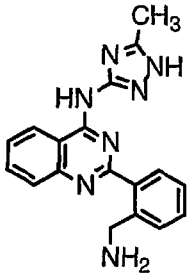
IX-123



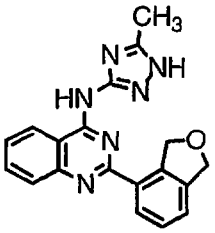
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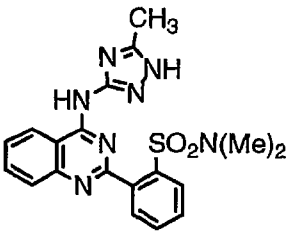
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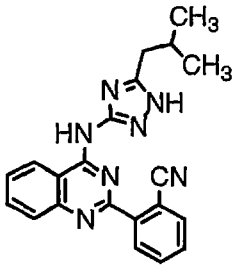
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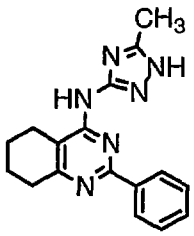
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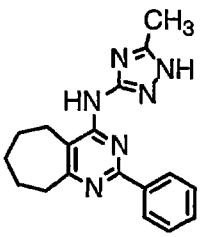
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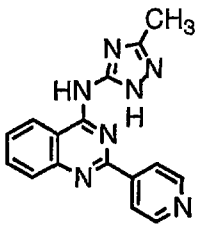
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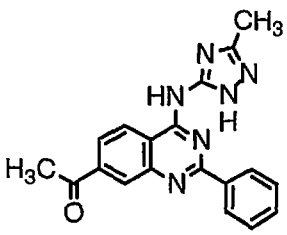
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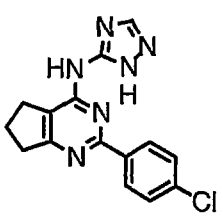
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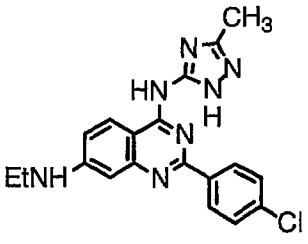
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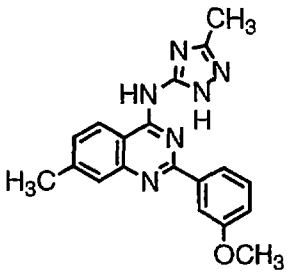
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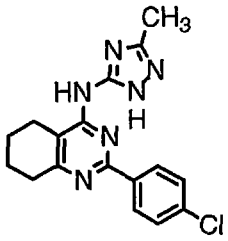
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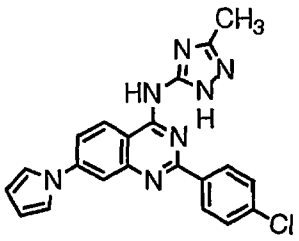
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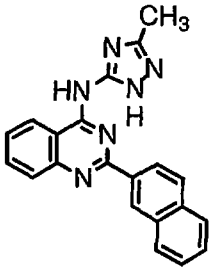
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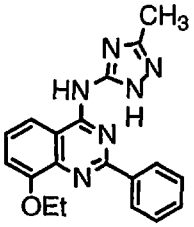
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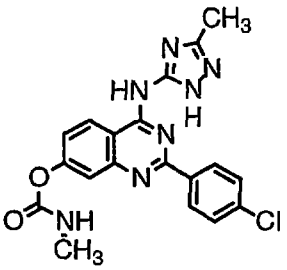
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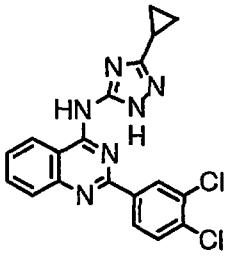
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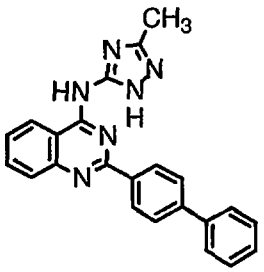
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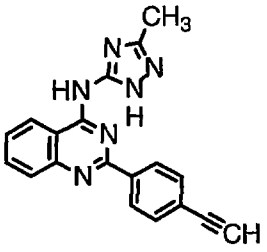
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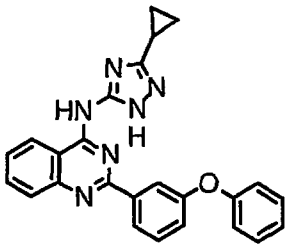
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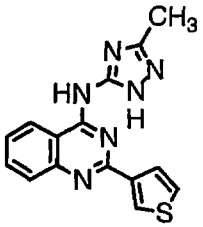
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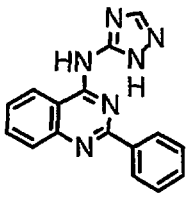
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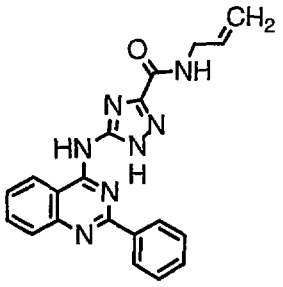
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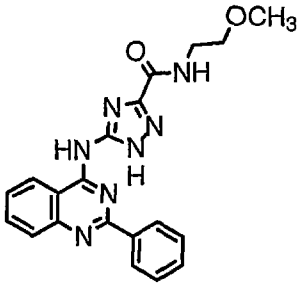
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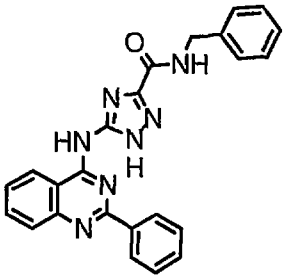
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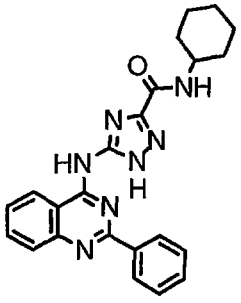
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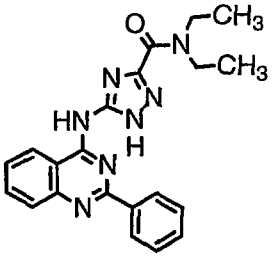
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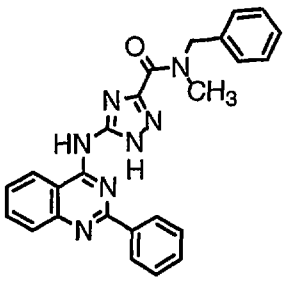
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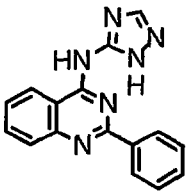
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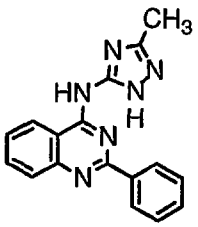
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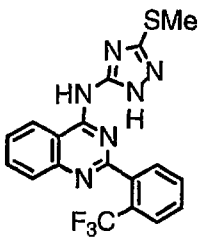
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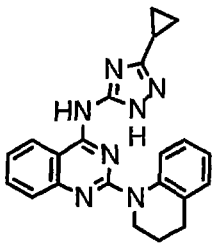
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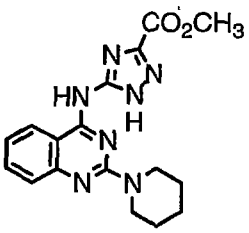
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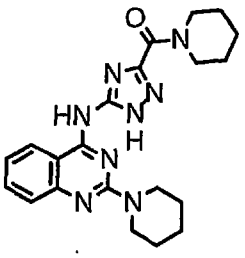
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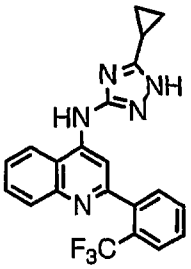
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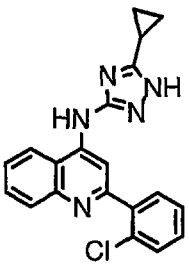
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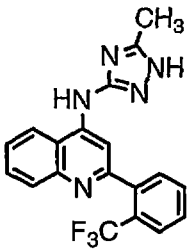
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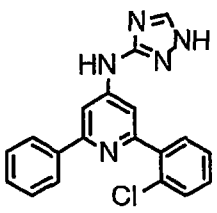
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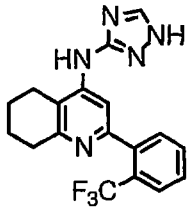
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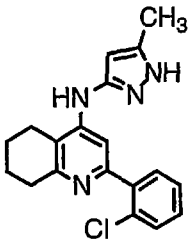
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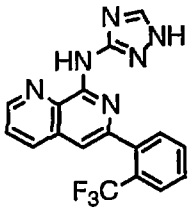
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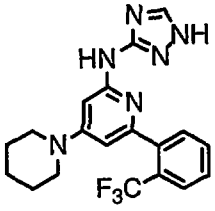
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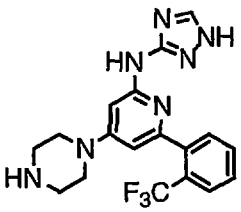
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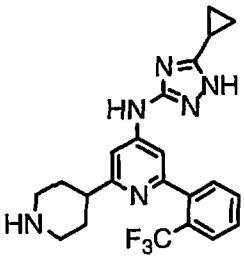
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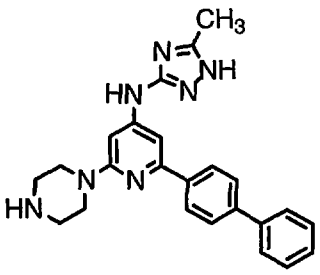
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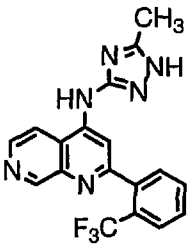
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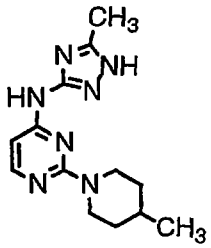
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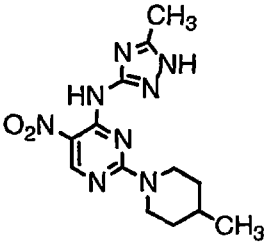
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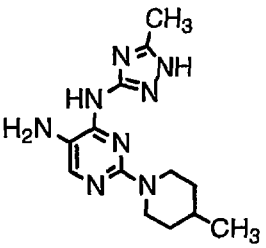
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IX-172



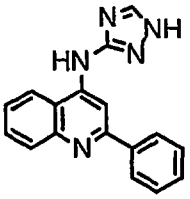
IX-173



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IX-177

In another embodiment, this invention provides a composition comprising a compound of formula **IX** and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

One aspect of this invention relates to a method of inhibiting GSK-3 activity in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **IX**.

Another aspect relates to a method of treating a disease that is alleviated by treatment with a GSK-3 inhibitor, said method comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **IX**.

Another aspect relates to a method of enhancing glycogen synthesis and/or lowering blood levels of glucose in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **IX**. This method is especially useful for diabetic patients.

Another aspect relates to a method of inhibiting the production of hyperphosphorylated Tau protein in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **IX**. This method is especially useful in halting or slowing the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

Another aspect relates to a method of inhibiting the phosphorylation of β-catenin in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition

comprising a compound of formula **IX**. This method is especially useful for treating schizophrenia.

One aspect of this invention relates to a method of inhibiting Aurora activity in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **IX**.

Another aspect relates to a method of treating a disease that is alleviated by treatment with an Aurora inhibitor, said method comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula **IX**. This method is especially useful for treating cancer, such as colon, ovarian, and breast cancer.

Another method relates to inhibiting GSK-3 or Aurora activity in a biological sample, which method comprises contacting the biological sample with the GSK-3 or Aurora inhibitor of formula **IX**, or a pharmaceutical composition thereof, in an amount effective to inhibit GSK-3 or Aurora.

Each of the aforementioned compositions and methods directed to the inhibition of GSK-3 or Aurora, or the treatment of a disease alleviated thereby, is preferably carried out with a preferred compound of formula **IX**, as described above.

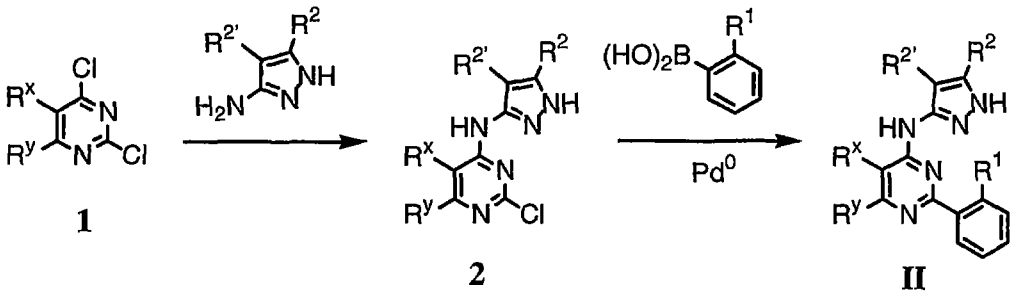
The compounds of this invention may be prepared as illustrated by the Synthetic Methods below, by the Synthetic Examples described herein and by general methods known to those skilled in the art.

General Synthetic Methods

The general synthetic methods below provide a series of general reaction routes that were used to

prepare compounds of this invention. Methods A-F below are particularly useful for preparing formula **II** compounds. In most cases, Ring C is drawn as a phenyl ring bearing an ortho R^1 substituent. However, it will be apparent to one skilled in the art that compounds having other Ring C groups may be obtained in a similar manner. Methods analogous to methods A-F are also useful for preparing other compounds of this invention. Methods F-I below are particulary useful for preparing compounds of formula **III** or **IV**.

Method A



Method A is a general route for the preparation of compounds wherein ring C is an aryl or heteroaryl ring. Preparation of the starting dichloropyrimidine **1** may be achieved in a manner similar to that described in *Chem. Pharm. Bull.*, 30, 9, **1982**, 3121-3124. The chlorine in position 4 of intermediate **1** may be replaced by an aminopyrazole or aminoindazole to provide intermediate **2** in a manner similar to that described in *J. Med. Chem.*, **38**, 3547-3557 (1995). Ring C is then introduced using a boronic ester under palladium catalysis (see *Tetrahedron*, 48, 37, **1992**, 8117-8126). This method is illustrated by the following procedure.

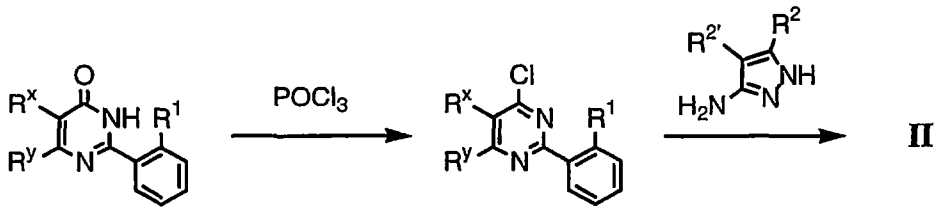
A suspension of 1*H*-quinazoline-2,4-dione (10.0 g, 61.7 mmol) in $POCl_3$ (60 mL, 644 mmol) and N,N-dimethylaniline (8mL, 63.1 mmol) is heated under reflux

for 2 h. Excess $POCl_3$ is evaporated under vacuum, the residue is poured into ice, and the precipitate is collected by filtration. The crude solid 2,4-dichloroquinazoline product may be used without further purification.

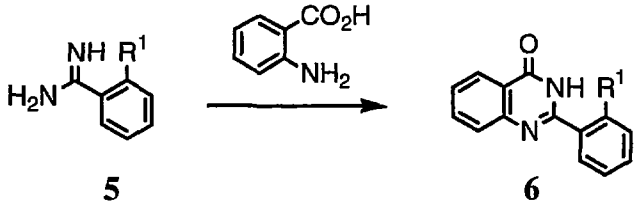
To a solution of 2,4-dichloro-quinazoline (3.3 g, 16.6 mmol) in anhydrous ethanol (150 mL) is added 5-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl amine (3.2 g, 32.9 mmol). The mixture is stirred at room temperature for 4 h, and the resulting precipitate is collected by filtration, washed with ethanol, and dried under vacuum to afford (2-chloro-quinazolin-4-yl)-(5-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-amine.

To a solution of (2-chloro-quinazolin-4-yl)-(5-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-amine (50 mg, 0.19 mmol) in DMF (1.0 mL) is added the desired arylboronic acid (0.38 mmol), 2M Na2CO3 (0.96 mmol), and tri-t-butylphosphine (0.19 mmol). Under nitrogen, $PdCl_2$(dppf) (0.011 mmol) is added in one portion. The reaction mixture is then heated at 80°C for 5 to 10 hours, cooled to room temperature, and poured into water (2 mL). The resulting precipitate is collected by filtration, washed with water, and purified by HPLC.

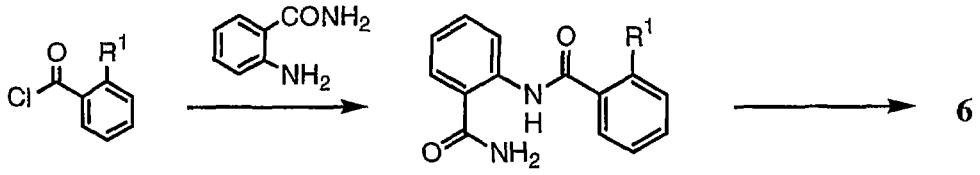
Method B



(i) **3** **4**



(ii) **5** **6**



(iii) 7

Methods B through F describe routes where the pyrazole ring system is introduced after Ring C and the pyrimidine ring portion are first constructed. A versatile intermediate is the 4-chloropyrimidine **4**, which is readily obtained from pyrimidinone **3** as shown in Method B(i). This reaction sequence is generally applicable for a variety of Ring C groups including aliphatic, aryl, heteroaryl, or heterocyclyl. See *J. Med. Chem.*, **38**, 3547-3557 (1995).

For quinazoline ring systems (where R^x and R^y are taken together to form a benzo ring), the useful intermediate **6** may be obtained by condensing an anthranilic acid or its derivative with a benzamidine as shown in Method B(ii) or by condensing a benzoylchloride with an anthranilamide as shown in Method B(iii). Many substituted anthranilic acid, anthranilamide, benzamidine and benzoylchloride starting materials may be obtained by known methods. See *Aust. J. Chem.*, **38**, 467-474 and *J. Med. Chem.*, **38**, 3547-3557 (1995). Method B(iii) is illustrated by the following procedure.

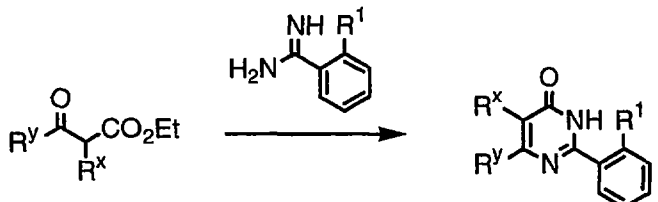
To a solution of anthranilamide (33 mmol) in THF and CH_2Cl_2 (1:1, 70 mL) is added the desired benzoylchloride (33 mmol), and triethylamine (99 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture is stirred for about 14 hours. The resulting precipitate is collected by filtration, washed with CH_2Cl_2 and water, and dried under vacuum. The crude 2-benzoylaminobenzamide may be used directly for the next step without further purification.

To a solution of the above crude product (13 mmol) in ethanol (50 mL) is added NaOEt (26 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture is heated under reflux for 48 to 96 h. The solvent is evaporated and the residue is neutralized using concentrated HCl to pH 7. The product is then collected by filtration and dried under vacuum to provide 2-phenyl-3H-quinazolin-4-one that may be used without further purification.

To a suspension of the above product (12 mmol) in $POCl_3$ (120 mmol) is added tri-*n*-propylamine (24 mmol). The mixture is heated under reflux for 1h. After removal of the excess $POCl_3$ by evaporation, the residue is dissolved in ethyl acetate, and washed with 1N NaOH (twice) and water (twice). The organic layer is dried over $MgSO_4$, the solvent is evaporated under vacuum, and the crude product is purified by flash chromatography (eluting with 10% of ethyl actetate in hexanes) to give 4-chloro-2-aryl quinazoline.

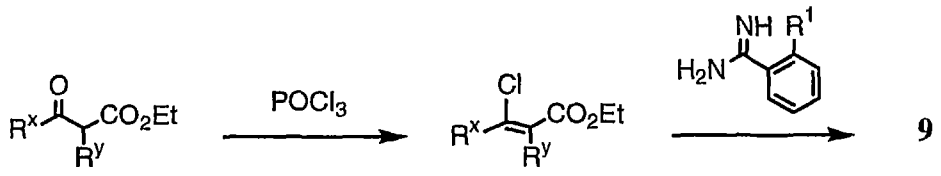
To a solution of 4-chloro-2-aryl quinazoline (0.16 mmol) in DMF (or THF, ethanol) (1 mL) is added the desired aminopyrazole or aminoindazole (0.32 mmol). The mixture is heated in DMF (or THF under reflux) at 100 to 110°C for 16 h (or in ethanol at 130-160°C for 16 hours) and then poured into water (2 mL). The precipitate is collected by filtration and purified by HPLC.

Method C



8 9

Method D(i)

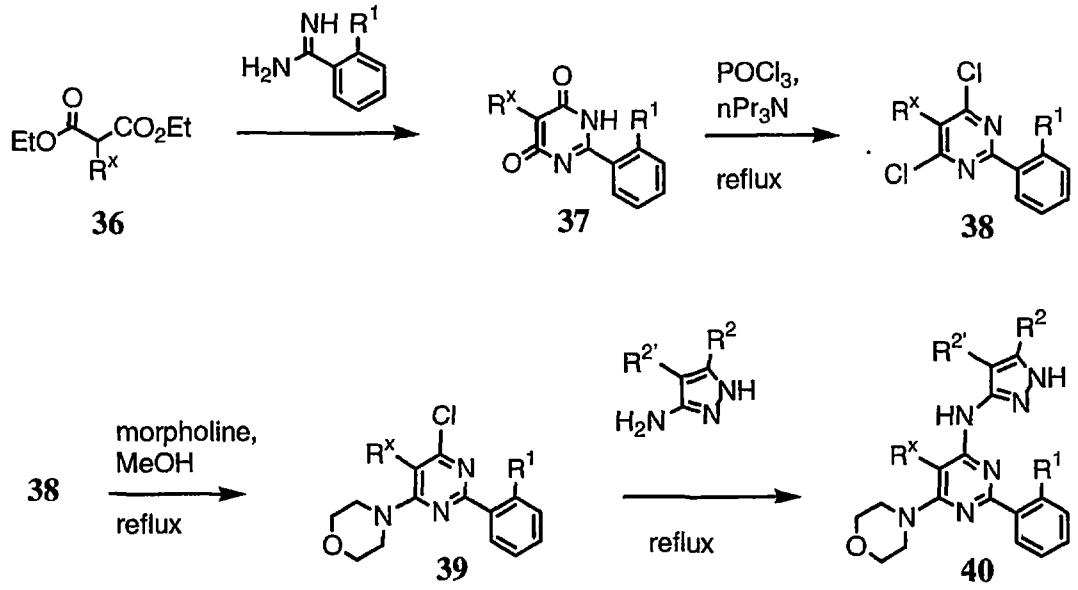


10 **11** **9**

Methods C and D(i) above employ β-ketoesters **8** and **10**, respectively, as pyrimidinone precursors. The substitution pattern of the R^x and R^y groups on the pyrimidinone ring will be reversed if a chlorocrotonate **11** (Synth. Comm, (1986), 997-1002), instead of the corresponding β-ketoester **10**, is condensed with the desired benzamidine. These methods are illustrated by the following general procedure.

To a solution of a β-ketoester (5.2 mmol) and amidinium chloride (5.7 mmol) in ethanol (5 mL) is added sodium ethoxide (7.8 mmol). The mixture is heated under reflux for 7-14 hours. After evaporation the resulting residue is dissolved in water, acidified with concentrated HCl to pH 6, and then filtered to obtain a solid product 2-aryl-3*H*-pyrimidin-4-one (yield 75-87%), which may be purified by flash column chromatography if needed. To this pyrimidinone (3.7 mmol) is added $POCl_3$ (4 mL) and *n*-Pr_3N (1.4 mL). The mixture is heated under reflux for 1 hour. After evaporation of the excess $POCl_3$, the residue is dissolved in ethyl acetate, washed with 1N NaOH solution (three times) and $NaHCO_3$ (once), and dried over $MgSO_4$. The solvent is removed under vacuum and the residue is purified by flash column chromatography eluting with 10% of ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 2-aryl-4-chloro-pyrimidine as a pale yellow syrup. This crude product may be treated with a 3-aminopyrazole or 3-aminoindazole as described above.

Method D(ii)



Method D(ii) above shows a general route for the preparation of the present compounds, such as compound **40**, wherein R^y is $N(R^4)_2$. See *Il Farmaco*, **52**(1) 61-65 (1997). Displacement of the 6-chloro group is exemplified here using morpholine. This method is illustrated by the following procedure.

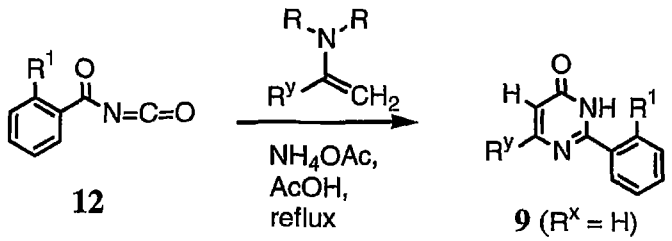
To a solution of 2-methylmalonic acid diethyl ester (5 mmol) and sodium ethoxide (15 mmol) is added the appropriate amidine salt (5 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) and the reaction heated at reflux for 2-24 hours. The residue is dissolved in water and acidified with 2N HCl. The resulting precipitate is filtered off and further purified by flash chromatography (yield 5-35%) to afford the pyrimidinedione **37**. To **37** (1.6 mmol) is added $POCl_3$ (32 mmol) and tri-n-propylamine (6.4 mmol) and the reaction refluxed is for 1h. After evaporation of excess $POCl_3$, the residue is dissolved in ethyl acetate, basified with 1N NaOH, separated and the aqueous phase twice more extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organics are dried (sodium sulfate) and evaporated. Purification by

flash chromatography provides the dichloropyrimidine (**38**) as a yellow oil in 23% yield.

A solution of **38** (0.33 mmol) in methanol (5 mL) is treated with an amine, exemplified here using morpholine (0.64 mmol) and refluxed 1 hour. After evaporation of solvent, the residue is purified by flash chromatography to provide the mono-chloropyrimidine **39** as a colorless oil in 75% yield.

The mono-chloropyrimidine, **39**, (0.19 mmol) may be treated with a 3-aminopyrazole or 3-aminoindazole compound in a manner substantially similar those described above in Methods A and B.

Method E

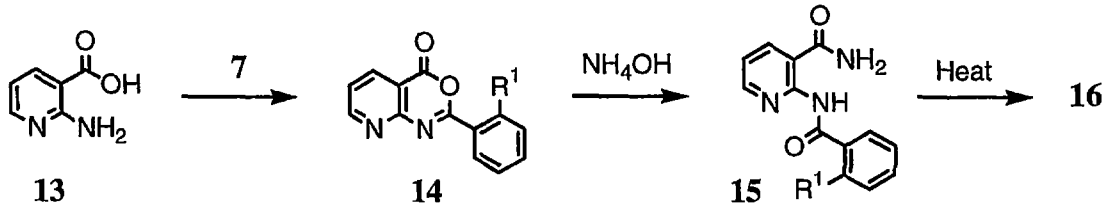


As shown by Method E, an acyl isocyanate **12** may be condensed with an enamine to provide pyrimidinone **9** (J. Org. Chem (1993), **58**, 414-418; J.Med.Chem., (1992), **35**, 1515-1520; J.Org.Chem., 91967, **32**, 313-214). This method is illustrated by the following general procedure.

The enamine is prepared according to W. White, et al, J. Org Chem. (1967), 32, 213-214. The acyl isocyanate is prepared according to G Bradley, et al, J Med. Chem. (1992), 35, 1515-1520. The coupling reaction then follows the procedure of S Kawamura, et al, J. Org. Chem, (1993), 58, 414-418. To the enamine (10 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (30 mL) at 0°C under nitrogen is added dropwise over 5 min a solution of acyl isocyanate (10 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (5 mL). After stirring for 0.5 h, acetic acid (30 mL) is added, followed by ammonium

acetate (50 mmol). The mixture is refluxed for 2 h with continuous removal of tetrahydrofuran. The reaction is cooled to room temperature and is poured into water (100 mL). The precipitate is filtered, washed with water and ether and dried to provide the 2-aryl-3H-pyrimidin-4-one.

Method F



Method F shows a general route for the preparation of the present compounds wherein R^X and R^Y are taken together to form a 5-8 membered partially unsaturated saturated or unsaturated ring having 1-3 heteroatoms. The condensation of a 2-amino-carboxylic acid, such as 2-amino-nicotinic acid **13**, and an acid chloride **7** provides an oxazinone **14**. Treatment of **14** with ammonium hydroxide will furnish the benzamide **15** which may be cyclized to a 2-(substituted)-pyrido[2,3-d][1,3]pyrimidin-4-one **16**. This method is illustrated by the following procedure.

2-(Trifluoromethyl)benzoyl chloride (4.2 ml, 29.2 mmol) is added dropwise to a solution of 2-aminonicotinic acid (2.04g, 14.76 mmol) in 20 ml of pyridine. The reaction mixture is heated at 158 C for 30 min then cooled to room temperature. The reaction is poured into 200 ml of water and an oil forms which solidifies upon stirring. The solid is collected by vacuum filtration and washed with water and diethyl ether. The product is dried to give 2-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-pyrido[2,3-*d*][1,3]oxazin-4-one

(2.56 g, 60% yield) which may be used in the next step without further purification.

2-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-pyrido[2,3-*d*][1,3]oxazin-4-one (2.51g) is stirred in 30% ammonium hydroxide (25 ml) at room temperature overnight. The resulting precipitate is filtered and rinsed with water and diethyl ether. The precipitate is dried under vacuum at 50 C overnight to give 2-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoylamino)-nicotinamide (850 mg, 33% yield)

2-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoylamino)-nicotinamide (800mg, 2.6mmol) is dissolved in 10ml of ethanol. Potassium ethoxide (435mg, 5.2mmol) is added to the solution which is heated to reflux for 16 h. The reaction mixture is evaporated *in vacuo* to afford a gummy residue that is dissolved in water and acidified with 10% sodium hydrogen sulfate to pH 7. The resulting precipitate is filtered and dried under vacuum at 50 C to give 2-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3*H*-pyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-4-one.

Method G

Method G is analogous to Method B(i) above. This method is illustrated by the following general procedure.

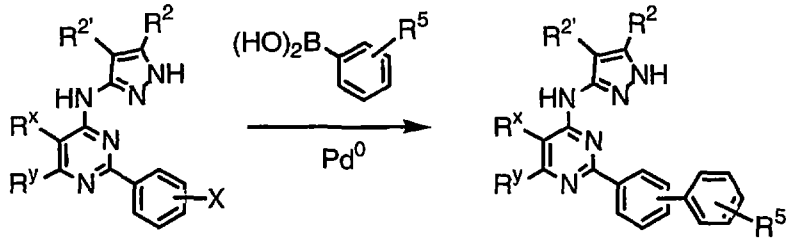
2-(3,4-Dichloro-phenyl)-3*H*-quinazolin-4-one (1g, 3.43 mmol) is suspended in phosphorus oxychloride (4 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 110°C for 3 hours. The solvents are then evaporated and the residue is treated carefully with an ice cold aqueous saturated solution of $NaHCO_3$. The solid is collected by filtration and washed with ether to give 4-chloro-2-(3,5-dichloro-phenyl)-quinazoline as a white solid (993 mg, 93%).

To 4-chloro-2-(3,5-dichloro-phenyl)-quinazoline (400mg, 1.29 mmol) in THF (30 mL) is added 3-amino-5-

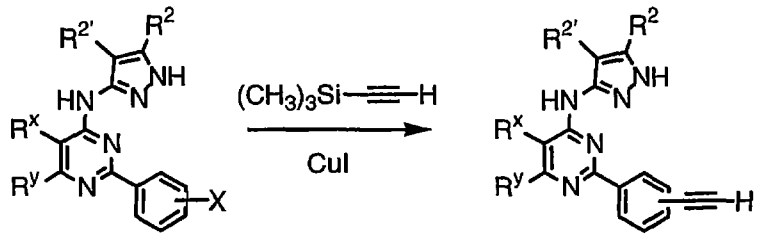
methyl pyrazole (396 mg, 2.58 mmol) and the reaction mixture is heated at 65°C overnight. The solvents are then evaporated and the residue triturated with ethyl acetate, filtered and washed with a minimum amount of ethanol to give [2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-quinazolin-4-yl]-(5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-amine as a white solid (311 mg 65%): mp 274°C; ^{1}H NMR (DMSO) δ 2.34 (3H, s), 6.69 (1H, s), 7.60 (1H, m), 7.84 (1H, d), 7.96 (2H, d), 8.39 (1H, dd), 8.60 (1H, d), 8.65 (1H, d), 10.51 (1H, s), 12.30 (1H, s); IR (solid) 1619, 1600, 1559, 1528, 1476, 1449, 1376, 1352, 797, 764, 738; MS 370.5 $(M+H)^+$.

The THF solvent used in the previous step may be replaced by other organic solvents such as ethanol, N,N-dimethylformamide, or dioxane.

Method H



(i) **17** **18**



(ii) **17** **19**

Method H shows routes in which a Ring D aryl group bearing a halogen (X is Br or I) may be converted to other formula **III** compounds. Method H(i) shows a phenylboronic acid coupling to Ring D to provide compound **18** and Method H(ii) shows an acetylene coupling to provide compound **19**. Substituent X in compound 17 may be

bromine or iodine. These methods are illustrated by the following procedures.

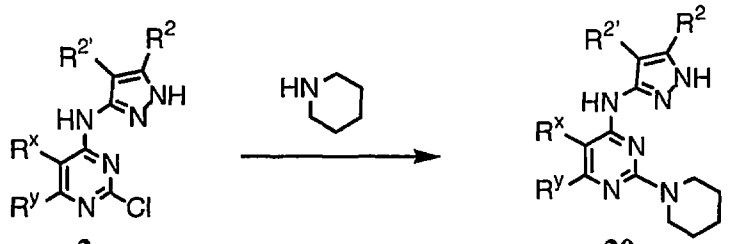
Method H(i). To a mixture of [2-(4-bromo-phenyl)-quinazolin-4-yl]-(5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-amine (196 mg, 0.51 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (75 mg, 0.62 mmol) in THF/water (1/1, 4 mL) is added Na_2CO_3 (219 mg, 2.06 mmol), triphenylphosphine (9mg, 1/15 mol%) and palladium acetate (1 mg, 1/135 mol%). The mixture is heated at 80°C overnight, the solvents are evaporated and the residue is purified by flash chromatography (gradient of CH_2Cl_2/MeOH) to give (2-biphenyl-4-yl-quinazolin-4-yl)-(5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-amine as a yellow solid (99 mg, 51%): ^{1}H NMR (DMSO) δ 2.37 (3H, s), 6.82 (1H, s), 7.39-7.57 (4H, m), 7.73-7.87 (6H, m), 8.57 (2H, d), 8.67 (1H, d), 10.42 (1H, s), 12.27 (1H, s); MS 378.2 $(M+H)^+$

Method H(ii). To a mixture of [2-(4-bromo-phenyl)-quinazolin-4-yl]-(5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-amine (114 mg, 0.3 mmol), and trimethylsilylacetylene (147 mg, 1.5 mmol)in DMF (2 mL) is added CuI (1.1 mg, 1/50 mol%), $Pd(PPh_3)_2Cl_2$ (4.2 mg, 1/50 mol%) and triethylamine (121 mg, 0.36 mmol). The mixture is heated at 120°C overnight and the solvent is evaporated. The residue is triturated in ethyl acetate and the precipitate is collected by filtration.

To the above precipitate suspended in THF (3 mL) is added tetrabutylammonium fluoride (1M in THF, 1.1eq). The reaction mixture is stirred at room temperature for two hours and the solvent is evaporated. The residue is purified by flash chromatography (gradient of CH_2Cl_2/MeOH) to give [2-(4-ethynylphenyl)-quinazolin-4-yl]-(5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-amine as a white solid (68 mg, 70%): ^{1}H NMR (DMSO) δ 2.34 (3H, s), 4.36 (1H, s), 6.74 (1H, s), 7.55 (1H, m), 7.65 (2H, d), 7.84 (2H, m), 8.47

(2H, d), 8.65 (1H, d), 10.43 (1H, s), 12.24 (1H, s); MS 326.1 $(M+H)^+$

Method I

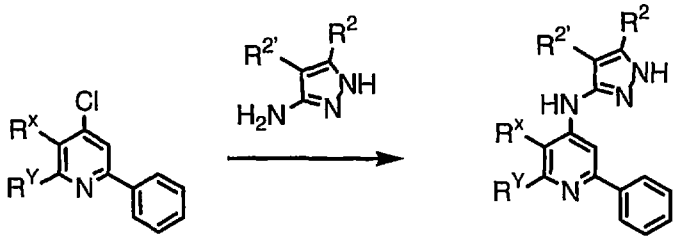


2 20

Method I above shows a general route for the preparation of the present compounds wherein ring D is a heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring directly attached to the pyrimidine 2-position via a nitrogen atom. Displacement of the 2-chloro group, exemplified here using piperidine, may be carried out in a manner similar to that described in *J. Med. Chem.*, **38**, 2763-2773 (1995) and *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1766-1771 (1948). This method is illustrated by the following procedure.

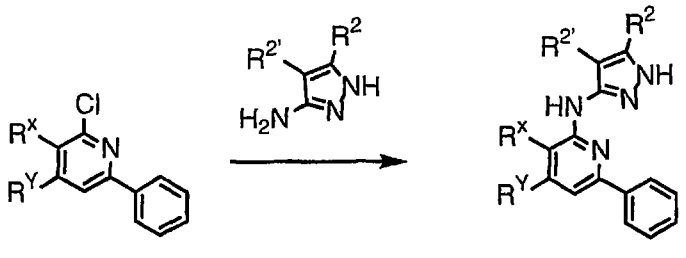
To a solution of (2-chloro-quinazolin-4-yl)-(1*H*-indazol-3-yl)-amine (1 equivalent, 0.1-0.2 mmol) in N, N-dimethylacetamide (1 ml) is added the desired amine (3 equivalents). The resulting mixture is maintained at 100°C for 6 h and then purified by reverse-phase HPLC.

Method J



(i)

21 22



(ii)

23 24

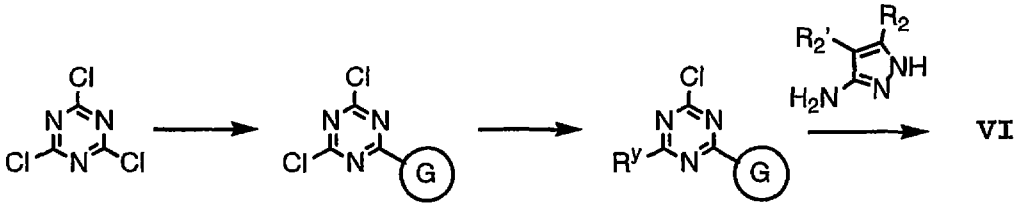
Method J above shows the preparation of compounds of formula **V** via the displacement of a chloro group from an appropriately substituted pyridyl ring. Method J(i) is a route for preparing compounds of formula **Va** (see *Indian J. Chem. Sect.B*, 35, 8, **1996**, 871-873). Method J(ii) is a route for preparing compounds of formula **Vb** (see *Bioorg. Med. Chem.*,6, 12, **1998**, 2449-2458). For convenience, the chloropyridines **21** and **23** are shown with a phenyl substituent corresponding to Ring D of formula **V**. It would be apparent to one skilled in the art that Method J is also useful for preparing compounds of formula **V** wherein Ring D is heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyl or other aryl rings. Method J is illustrated by the following procedures.

Method J(i). (5-Methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-(2-phenyl-quinolin-4-yl)-amine. To 4-chloro-2-phenylquinoline (J. Het. Chem., 20, 1983, 121-128)(0.53g, 2.21 mmol) in diphenylether (5 mL) was added 3-amino-5-methylpyrazole (0.43g, 4.42 mmol) and the mixture was heated at 200°C overnight with stirring. To the cooled mixture was added petroleum ether (20 mL) and the resulting crude precipitate was filtered and further washed with petroleum ether. The crude solid was purified by flash chromatography (SiO_2, gradient DCM-MeOH) to give the title compound as a white solid: mp 242-244°C; ^{1}H NMR (DMSO) δ 2.27(3H, s), 6.02(1H, s), 7.47(2H, d), 7.53-7.40(2H, br m), 7.67(1H, m), 7.92(1H, m), 8.09(2H, d),

8.48(2H, m), 9.20(1H, s), 12.17(1H, br s); IR (solid) 1584, 1559, 1554, 1483, 1447, 1430, 1389; MS 301.2 $(M+H)^+$

Method J(ii). (5-Methyl-2*H*-pyrazol–3-yl)-(3-phenyl-isoquinolin-1-yl)-amine. To 1-chloro-3-phenylisoquinoline (J. Het. Chem., 20, 1983, 121-128)(0.33g, 1.37 mmol) in dry DMF (5 mL) was added 3-amino-5-methylpyrazole (0.27g, 2.74 mmol) and potassium carbonate (0.57g, 4.13 mmol)and the mixture was heated under reflux for 6 hours. The mixture was cooled and the bulk of DMF was evaporated. The residue was extracted twice with ethyl acetate and the combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated. The crude was purified by flash chromatography (SiO_2, gradient DCM-MeOH) to give the title compound as a colourless oil; ^1H NMR (MeOD) δ 2.23 (3H, s), 5.61 (1H, s), 7.41 (1H, m), 7.52(2H, m), 7.62(1H, m), 7.81(1H, m), 8.07(1H, d), 8.19(2H, m), 8.29(1H, s), 8.54 (1H, d); MS 301.2 $(M+H)^+$

Method K

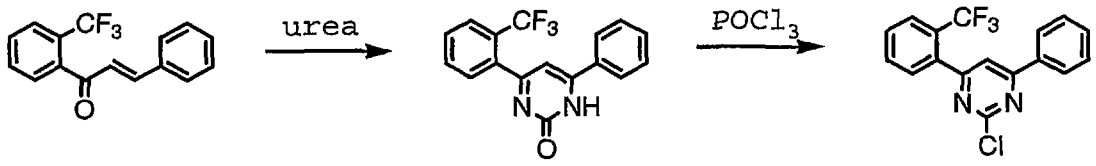


25 **26** **27**

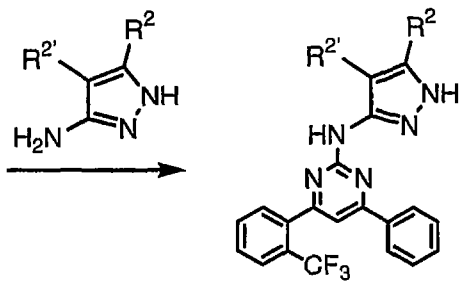
Method K shows a route for the preparation of compounds of formula **VI**. A versatile starting material is 2,4,6-trichloro-[1,3,5]triazine **25** in which the chlorine substituents may be sequentially displaced. The displacement of one of the chlorines by an aryl Grignard reagent or an aryl boronic acid is described in PCT patent application WO 01/25220 and *Helv. Chim. Acta*, **33**, 1365 (1950). The displacement of one of the chlorines by a heteroaryl ring is described in WO 01/25220; *J. Het.*

Chem., **11**, 417 (1974); and *Tetrahedron* **31**, 1879 (1975). These reactions provide a 2,4-dichloro-(6-substituted)[1,3,5]triazine **26** that is a useful intermediate for the preparation of compounds of formula **VI**. Alternatively, intermediate **26** may be obtained by constructing the triazine ring by known methods. See US patent 2,832,779; and US patent 2,691020 together with *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **60**, 1656 (1938). In turn, one of the chlorines of **26** may be displaced as described above to provide 2-chloro-(4,6-disubstituted)[1,3,5]triazine **27**. The treatment of **27** with an appropriate aminopyrazole provides the desired compound of formula **VI**.

Method L



28 **29** **30**



31

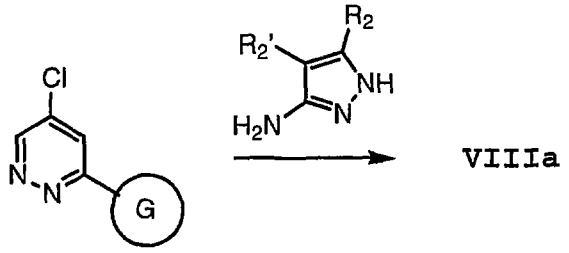
Method L shows a route for preparing compounds of formula **VII**. For illustration purposes the trifluoromethylchalcone **28** is used as a starting material; however, it would be apparent to one skilled in the art that other rings may be used in place of the

trifluoromethylphenyl and phenyl rings of compound **28**. Substituted chalcones may be prepared by known methods, for example as described in the *Indian J. Chemistry*, **32B**, 449 (1993). Condensation of a chalcone with urea provides the pyrimidinone **29**, which may be treated with $POCl_3$ to give the chloropyrimidine **30**. See *J. Chem. Eng. Data*, **30**(4) 512 (1985) and *Egypt. J. Chem.*, **37**(3), 283 (1994). In an alternative approach to compound **30**, one of the aryl rings attached to the pyrimidine is introduced by displacement of of the 4-chloro group of 2,4-dichloro-(6-aryl)-pyrimidine by an aryl boronic acid using a palladium catalyst such as $(Ph_3P)_4Pd$ in the presence of a base such as sodium carbonate as described in *Bioorg. Med. Lett.*, **9**(7), 1057 (1999). Displacement of the chlorine of compound **30** by an appropriate aminopyrazole provides compounds of this invention, such as **31**. The last step of this method is illustrated by the following procedure.

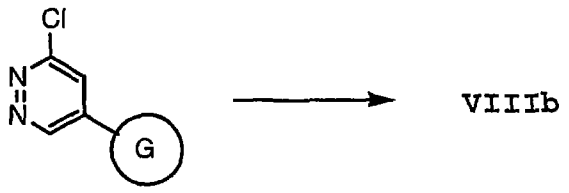
[4-(4-Methylpiperidin-1-yl)-pyrimidin-2-yl]-(5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-amine. To a solution of 2-chloro-4-(4-methylpiperidin-1-yl)-pyrimidine (prepared using a procedure similar to the one reported in *Eur. J. Med. Chem.*, **26**(7) 729(1991))(222 mg, 1.05 mmol) in BuOH (5 mL) was added 3-amino-5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazole (305mg, 3.15 mmol) and the reaction mixture was then heated under reflux overnight. The solvent was evaporated and the residue dissolved in a mixture ethanol/water (1/3, 4 mL). Potassium carbonate (57mg, 0.41 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The resulting suspension was filtered, washed with water twice and rinsed with ether twice to give the title compound as a white solid (143mg, 50%): mp 193-195°C; ^1H NMR (DMSO) δ 0.91 (3H, d), 1.04 (2H, m), 1.67 (3H, m), 2.16 (3H, s), 2.83 (2H, t), 4.31 (2H, m), 6.19 (2H, m),

7.87 (1H, d), 8.80 (1H, br s), 11.71 (1H, s); IR (solid) 1627, 1579, 1541, 1498, 1417, 1388, 1322, 1246; MS 273.3 $(M+H)^+$.

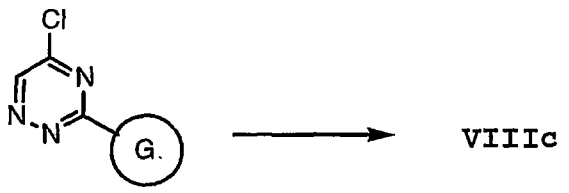
Method M



32 VIIIa



33 VIIIb



34 VIIIc



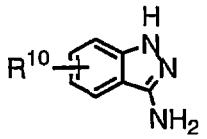
35 VIIId

Method M provides routes for obtaining compounds of formula **VIII**. A general procedure for displacing the chlorine of a 4-chloro-6-substituted-pyridazine, **32**, with an appropriately substituted

pyrazole to provide **VIIIa** is described in *J. Het. Chem.*, 20, 1473 (1983). Analogous reactions may be carried out as follows: (a) with 3-chloro-5-substituted-pyridazine, **33**, to provide **VIIIb** is described in *J. Med. Chem.*, 41(3), 311 (1998); (b) with 5-chloro-3-substituted-[1,2,4]triazine, **34**, to provide **VIIIc** is described in *Heterocycles*, 26(12), 3259 (1987); and (c) with 3-chloro-5-substituted-[1,2,4]triazine, **35**, to provide **VIIId** is described in *Pol. J. Chem.*, 57, 7, (1983); *Indian J. Chem. Sect. B*, 26, 496 (1987); and *Agric. Biol. Chem.*, 54(12), 3367 (1990). An alternative procedure to compounds of formula **VIIIc** is described in *Indian J. Chem. Sect. B*, **29**(5), 435 (1990).

Compounds of formula **IX** are prepared by methods substantially similar to those described above for the pyrazole-containing compounds of formula **I**. Methods A-J may be used to prepare the triazole-containing compounds of formula **IX** by replacing the amino-pyrazole compound with an amino-triazole compound. Such methods are specifically exemplified by Synthetic Examples 415-422 set forth below. The amino-triazole intermediate may be obtained by methods described in *J. Org. Chem.* USSR, **27**, 952-957 (1991).

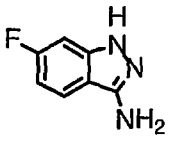
Certain synthetic intermediates that are useful for preparing the protein kinase inhibitors of this invention are new. Accordingly, another aspect of this invention relates to a 3-aminoindazole compound of formula A:



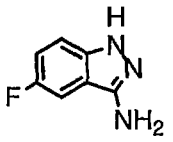
A

where R^{10} is one to three substituents that are each independently selected from fluoro, bromo, C_{1-6} haloalkyl,

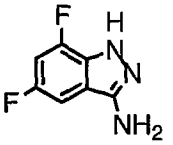
nitro, or 1-pyrrolyl. Examples of such compounds include the following:



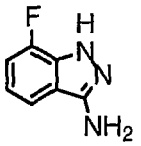
A1



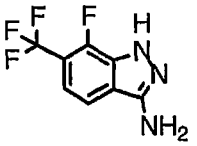
A2



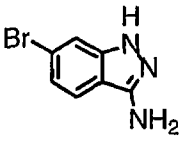
A3



A4



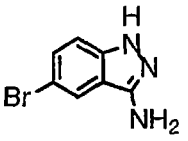
A5



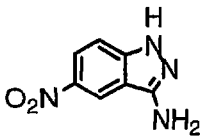
A6



A7



A8

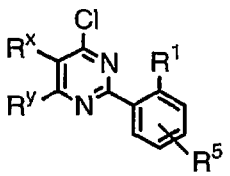


A9



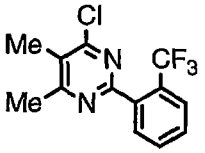
A10

Another aspect of this invention relates to a 4-chloropyrimidine compound of formula **B**:

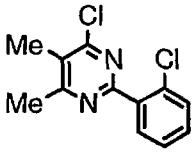


B

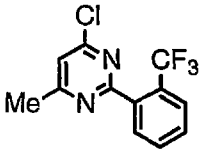
wherein R^x and R^y are as defined above; R^1 is selected from Cl, F, CF_3, CN, or NO_2; and is one to three substituents that are each independently selected from H, Cl, F, CF_3, NO_2, or CN; provided that R^1 and R^5 are not simultaneously Cl. Examples of compounds of formula **B** are shown below:



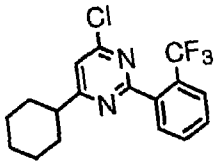
B1



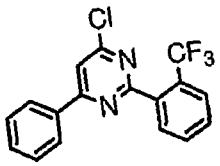
B2



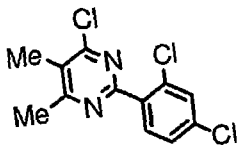
B3



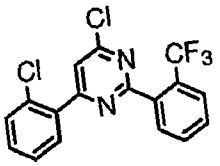
B4



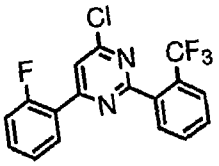
B5



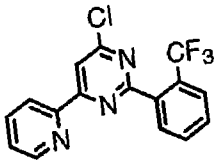
B6



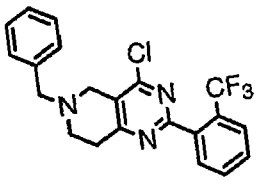
B7



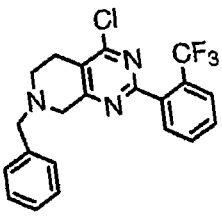
B8



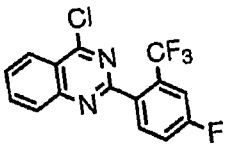
B9



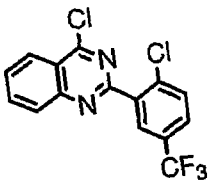
B10



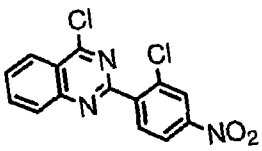
B11



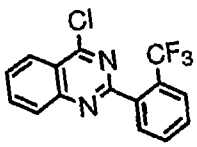
B12



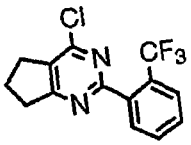
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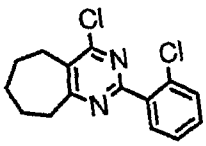
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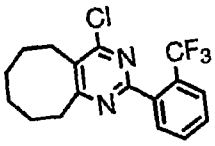
B15



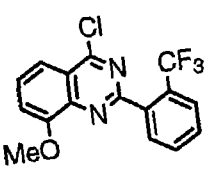
B16



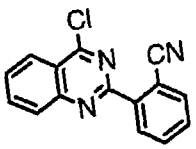
B17



B18

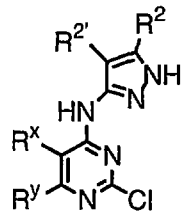


B19



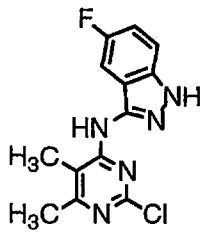
B20

Another aspect of this invention relates to compounds of formula C:

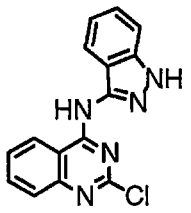


C

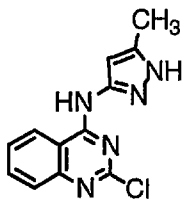
wherein R^x, R^Y, R^2, and $R^{2'}$ are as defined above. Examples of compounds of formula C are shown below:



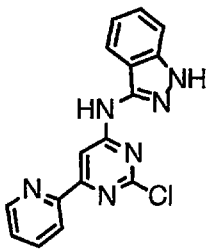
C1



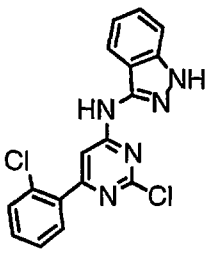
C2



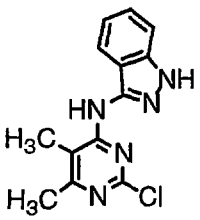
C3



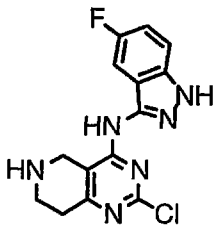
C4



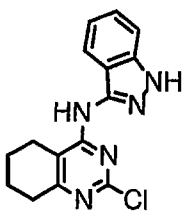
C5



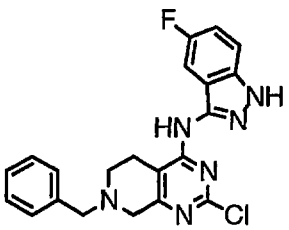
C6



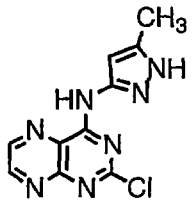
C7



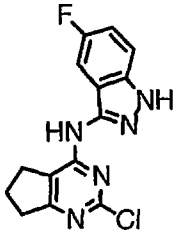
C8



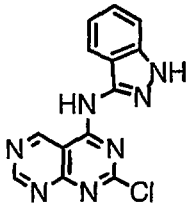
C9



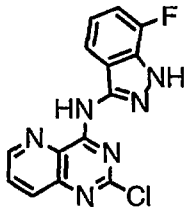
C10



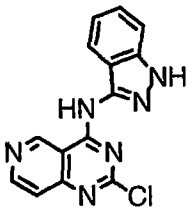
C11



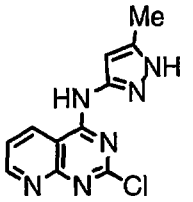
C12



C13

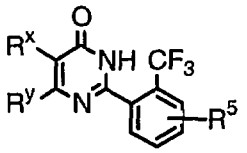


C14



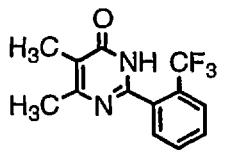
C15

Yet another aspect of this invention relates to compounds of formula **D**:

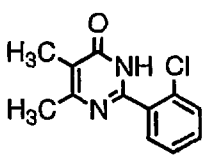


D

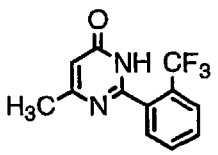
where R^5, R^x and R^y are as defined above. Examples of formula **D** compounds and other useful pyrimidinone intermediates are shown below:



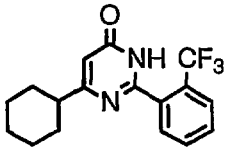
D1



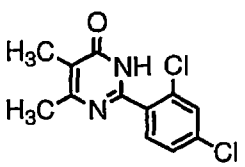
D2



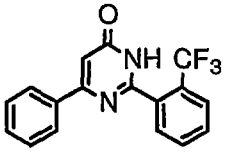
D3



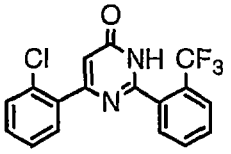
D4



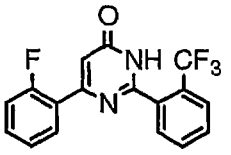
D5



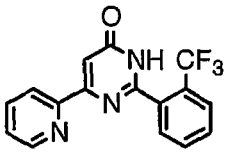
D6



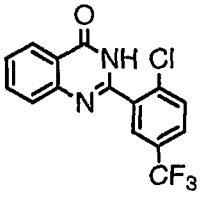
D7



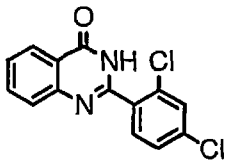
D8



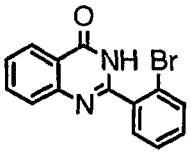
D9



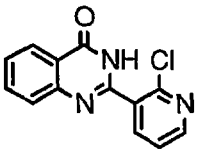
D10



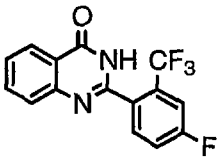
D11



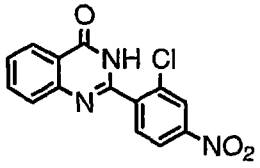
D12



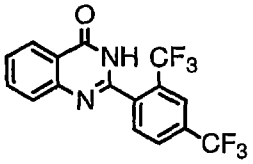
D13



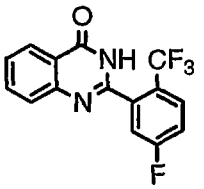
D14



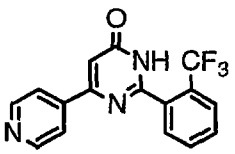
D15



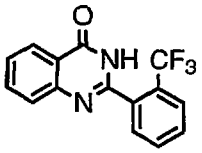
D16



D17



D18



D20

In order that the invention described herein may be more fully understood, the following examples are set forth. It should be understood that these examples are for illustrative purposes only and are not to be construed as limiting this invention in any manner.