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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.** [US/US]; 130 Waverly Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **PITLIK, Janos** [HU/US]; 1 Robin Circle, Westborough, MA 01581 (US). **COTTRELL, Kevin, M.** [US/US]; 54 Pearl Street, #3, Cambridge, MA 02139 (US). **FARMER, Luc, J.** [US/US]; 19 Howe Lane, Foxboro, MA 02035 (US). **PERNI, Robert, B.** [US/US]; 130 Robert Road, Marlborough, MA 01752 (US). **COURTNEY, Lawrence, F.** [US/US]; 5-5 Kingson Way, Medway, MA 02053 (US). **VAN DRIE, John, H.** [US/US]; 34 Stinson Road, Andover, MA 01810 (US). **MURCKO, Mark, A.** [US/US]; 520 Marshall Street, Holliston, MA 01746 (US).

(74) Agent: **BADIA, Michael, C.**; Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 130 Waverly Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 (US).

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(54) Title: INHIBITORS OF SERINE PROTEASES, PARTICULARLY HCV NS3-NS4A PROTEASE

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to compounds that inhibit serine protease activity, particularly the activity of hepatitis C virus NS3-NS4A protease. As such, they act by interfering with the life cycle of the hepatitis C virus and are also useful as antiviral agents. The invention further relates to compositions comprising these compounds either for *ex vivo* use or for administration to a patient suffering from HCV infection. The invention also relates to methods of treating an HCV infection in a patient by administering a composition comprising a compound of this invention. The invention further relates to processes for preparing these compounds.