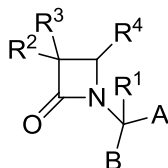


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. The use of one or more selective vasopressin V1a receptor antagonists in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of Huntington's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, or Alzheimer's Disease in a host animal, wherein at least one of the antagonists is a compound of the formula:



and a salt thereof, wherein

A is a carboxylic acid, an ester, or an amide;

B is a carboxylic acid, an ester, or an amide; or B is an alcohol or thiol, or a derivative thereof;

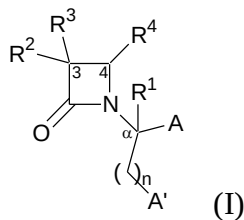
R¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

R² is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, halo, haloalkyl, cyano, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, or a substituent selected from the group consisting of -CO₂R⁸, -CONR⁸R^{8'}, and -NR⁸(COR⁹); where R⁸ and R^{8'} are each independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, or optionally substituted arylalkyl; or R⁸ and R^{8'} are taken together with the attached nitrogen atom to form a heterocyclyl group; and where R⁹ is selected from hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroarylalkyl, and R⁸R^{8'}N-(C₁-C₄ alkyl);

R³ is an amino, amido, acylamido, or ureido group, which is optionally substituted; or R³ is a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl group attached at a nitrogen atom; and

R⁴ is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkylcarbonyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, optionally substituted arylhaloalkyl, optionally substituted arylalkoxyalkyl, optionally substituted arylalkenyl, optionally substituted arylhaloalkenyl, or optionally substituted arylalkynyl.

2. The use of claim 1 wherein at least one of the antagonists is a compound of the formula:



and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

A and A' are each independently selected from $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, or an ester or amide derivative thereof;

n is an integer selected from 0 to about 3;

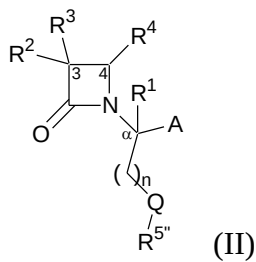
R^1 is hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl;

R^2 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, halo, haloalkyl, cyano, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, or a substituent selected from the group consisting of $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$, $-\text{CONR}^8\text{R}^{8'}$, and $-\text{NR}^8(\text{COR}^9)$; where R^8 and $\text{R}^{8'}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, or optionally substituted arylalkyl; or R^8 and $\text{R}^{8'}$ are taken together with the attached nitrogen atom to form an heterocycle; and where R^9 is selected from hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroarylalkyl, and $\text{R}^8\text{R}^{8'}\text{N}-(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4 \text{ alkyl})$;

R^3 is an amino, amido, acylamido, or ureido group, which is optionally substituted; or R^3 is a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl group attached at a nitrogen atom; and

R^4 is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkylcarbonyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, optionally substituted arylhaloalkyl, optionally substituted arylalkoxyalkyl, optionally substituted arylalkenyl, optionally substituted arylhaloalkenyl, or optionally substituted arylalkynyl.

3. The use of claim 1 wherein at least one of the antagonists is a compound of the formula:



and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

A is $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, or an ester or amide derivative thereof;

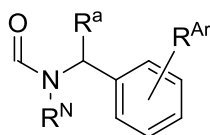
Q is oxygen; or Q is sulfur or disulfide, or an oxidized derivative thereof;

n is an integer from 1 to 3;

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are as defined in formula I; and

$\text{R}^{5''}$ is selected from hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted heterocyclalkyl, and optionally substituted aminoalkyl.

4. The use of claim 2 wherein A is of the formula

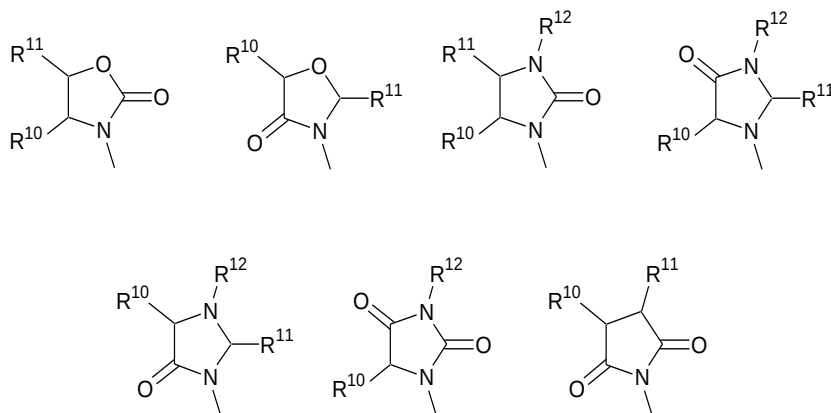


where R^{N} is hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl, or an amide prodrug forming group; R^{a} is hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl; and R^{Ar} is hydrogen or one or more aryl substituents.

5. The use of claim 2 wherein n is 1 or 2.

6. The use of claim 2 or 3 wherein R^1 is hydrogen; and R^2 is hydrogen or alkyl.

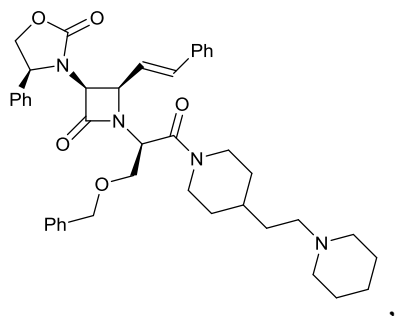
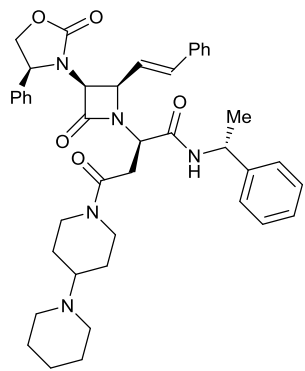
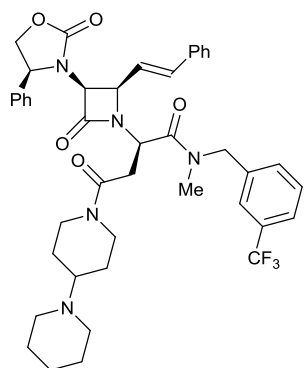
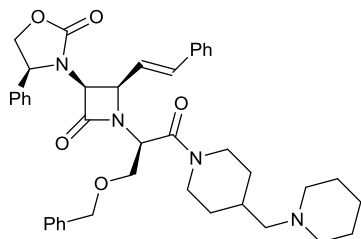
7. The use of claim 2 or 3 wherein R^3 is of the formulae:



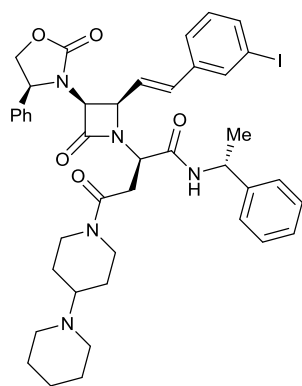
wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, optionally substituted arylalkyloxy, optionally substituted arylalkylcarbonyloxy, diphenylmethoxy, and triphenylmethoxy; and R^{12} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, optionally substituted aryloxyalkyl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, and optionally substituted aryloxy.

8. The use of claim 1 for treating one or more neuropsychiatric symptoms of Huntington's Disease.

9. The use of claim 8 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of



, and



, and salts thereof, and combinations thereof.

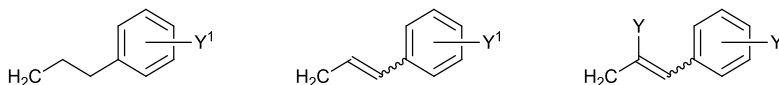
10. The use of claim 2 wherein one or both of A and A' is an independently selected amido of the formula $C(O)NHX$ or $C(O)NR^{14}X$, where R^{14} is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy carbonyl, and benzyl; X is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyl-(C_1 - C_4 alkyl), R^6R^7N -, and R^6R^7N -(C_2 - C_4 alkyl), where each heterocyclyl is independently selected.

11. The use of claim 2 wherein one or both of A and A' is an amide of an independently selected optionally substituted nitrogen-containing heterocycle attached at a nitrogen, and selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, homopiperazinyl, triazolidinyl, triazinyl, oxazolidinyl, isoxazolidinyl, thiazolidinyl, isothiazolidinyl, 1,2-oxazinyl, 1,3-oxazinyl, morpholinyl, oxadiazolidinyl, and thiadiazolidinyl.

12. The use of claim 2 wherein one or both of A and A' is an amide of an optionally substituted 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl.

13. The use of claim 2 wherein one or both of A and A' is an independently selected amide of a substituted piperidine or piperazine.

14. The use of claim 2 or 3 wherein R^4 is of the formulae:



wherein Y an electron withdrawing group, and Y^1 is hydrogen or one or more aryl substituents.

15. The use of claim 3 wherein Q is oxygen or sulfur.

16. The use of claim 3 wherein $R^{5''}$ is optionally substituted aryl(C_2 - C_4 alkyl).

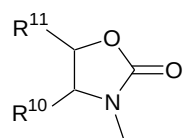
17. The use of claim 3 wherein n is 1 or 2.

18. The use of claim 3 wherein A is of the formula $C(O)NHX$ or $C(O)NR^{14}X$, where R^{14} is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy carbonyl, and benzyl;

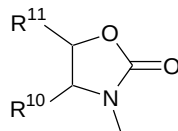
and X is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyl-(C₁-C₄ alkyl), R⁶R⁷N-, and R⁶R⁷N-(C₂-C₄ alkyl).

19. The use of claim 3 wherein A is an amide of an optionally substituted nitrogen-containing heterocycle attached at a nitrogen, and selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, homopiperazinyl, triazolidinyl, triazinyl, oxazolidinyl, isoxazolidinyl, thiazolidinyl, isothiazolidinyl, 1,2-oxazinyl, 1,3-oxazinyl, morpholinyl, oxadiazolidinyl, and thiadiazolidinyl.

20. The use of claim 7 wherein R³ is



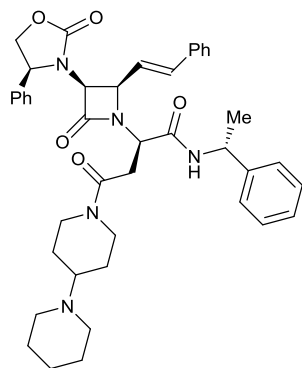
21. The use of claim 3 wherein R³ is



where R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, optionally substituted arylalkyloxy, optionally substituted arylalkylcarbonyloxy, diphenylmethoxy, and triphenylmethoxy.

22. The use of claim 9 wherein the neuropsychiatric symptoms comprise aggression, irritability, and anger, or a combination thereof.

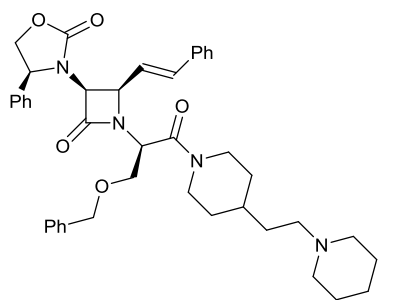
23. The use of claim 22 wherein the compound is



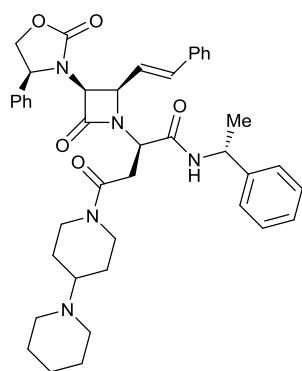
, or a salt thereof.

24. The use of claim 1 for treating one or more neuropsychiatric symptoms of Parkinson's Disease.

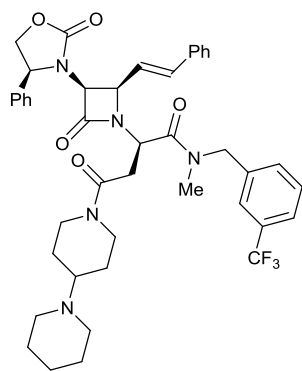
25. The use of claim 24 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of



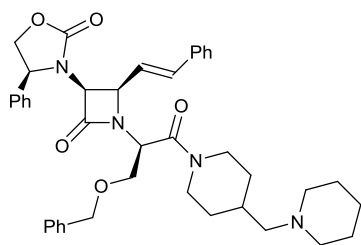
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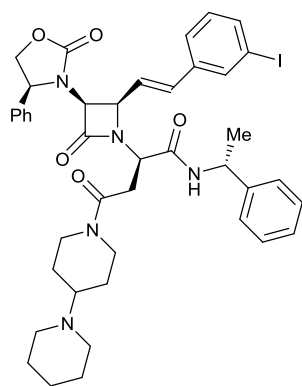
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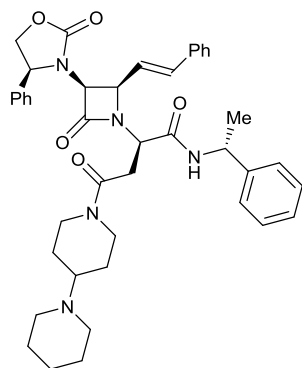
, and



, and salts thereof, and combinations thereof.

26. The use of claim 25 wherein the neuropsychiatric symptoms comprise aggression, irritability, or anger, or a combination thereof.

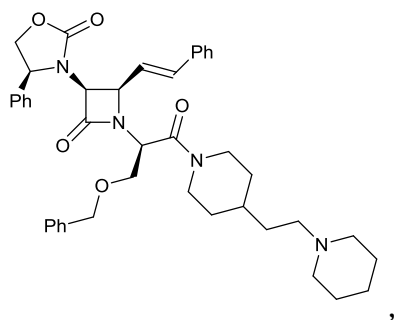
27. The use of claim 26 wherein the compound is

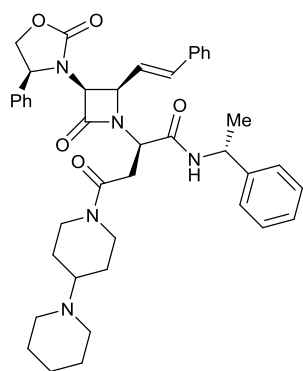


, or a salt thereof.

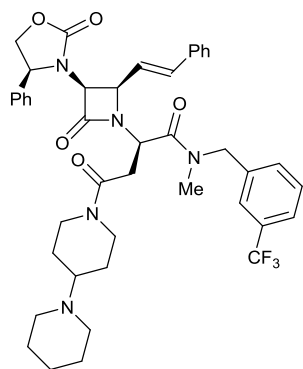
28. The use of claim 1 for treating one or more neuropsychiatric symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease.

29. The use of claim 28 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of

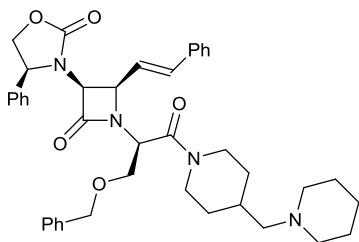




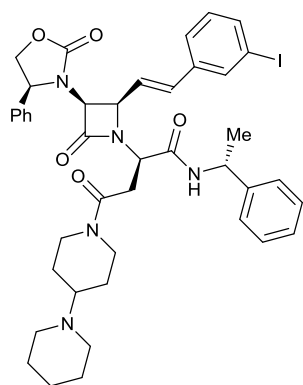
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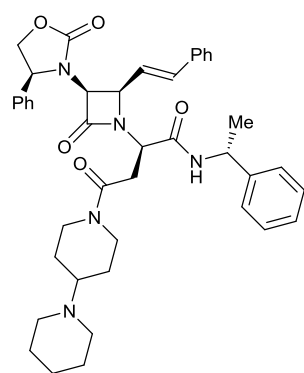
, and



, and salts thereof, and combinations thereof.

30. The use of claim 29 wherein the neuropsychiatric symptoms comprise aggression, irritability, or anger, or a combination thereof.

31. The use of claim 30 wherein the compound is



, or a salt thereof.