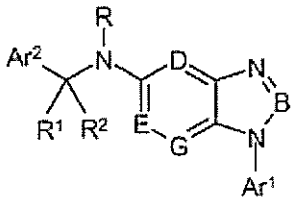
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound having the following general formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



Formula I

wherein B, D, E and G are independently N or C-R' with the proviso that at least one of them is N;

R' is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, alkyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, acyloxy, arylacyloxy, heteroarylacyloxy, alkylsulfonyloxy, arylsulfonyloxy, thio, alkylthio, arylthio, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, arylamino, heteroarylamino, acylamino, arylacylamino, heteroarylacylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, acyl, arylacyl, heteroarylacyl, alkylsulfinyl, arylsulfinyl, heteroarylsulfinyl, hydroxysulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, heteroarylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, substituted aminosulfonyl, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl,

cycloalkyloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, substituted carbamoyl, halogen, cyano, isocyano and nitro;

R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, arylacyl, heteroarylacyl, alkylsulfinyl, arylsulfinyl, heteroarylsulfinyl, hydroxysulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, heteroarylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, substituted aminosulfonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkyloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl and substituted carbamoyl;

R^1 and R^2 are selected from the group consisting of:

(a) independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, arylacyl, heteroarylacyl, alkylsulfinyl, arylsulfinyl, heteroarylsulfinyl, hydroxysulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, heteroarylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, substituted aminosulfonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkyloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl and substituted carbamoyl;

(b) R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom they are attached to form a substituted or unsubstituted ring, which optionally include one or more heteroatoms in the ring;

(c) R^1 or R^2 together with the carbon atom it is attached to, the nitrogen next to this carbon, the carbon between this nitrogen and E or D, and the R' of E or D when E or D is C-R' , form a substituted or unsubstituted ring, which optionally include one or more heteroatoms in the ring; and

(d) R^1 or R^2 together with the carbon atom it is attached to, and at least some of the carbons of Ar^2, form a substituted or unsubstituted ring, which optionally include one or more heteroatoms in the ring; and

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently substituted aryl or heteroaryl.

2. The compound or salt of claim 1, wherein R^1 is hydrogen

3. The compound or salt of claim 1 or 2, wherein R^2 is hydrogen,

4. The compound or salt according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein Ar^1 is mono-substituted phenyl.

5. The compound or salt according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein Ar^2 is mono-substituted phenyl.

6. The compound or salt of claim 4 or 5, wherein said mono-substituted phenyl is ethoxy-phenyl.

7. The compound or salt of claim 1, selected from the group consisting of [3- (4-Ethoxy-phenyl) -3H-imidazo [4, 5-b] pyridin-6-yl] - (4-ethyl-benzyl) -amine; [3- (6-Ethoxy-pyridin-3-yl) -3H-imidazo [4, 5-b] pyridin-6-yl] - (4-ethyl-benzyl) -amine; [3- (4-Ethoxy-phenyl) -3H-imidazo [4, 5-b] pyridin-6-yl] - (5-methyl-pyridin-2-ylmethyl) -amine; [1- (4-Ethoxy-phenyl) -lH-imidazo [4, 5-b] pyridin-5-yl] - (4-ethyl-benzyl) -amine; [1- (4-Ethoxy-phenyl) -lH-benzotriazol-5-yl] - (4-ethyl-benzyl) -amine; N-[3- (4-Ethoxy-phenyl) -3H-imidazo [4, 5-b] pyridin-6-yl] -N- (4-ethyl-benzyl) -acetamide; N- [3- (4-Ethoxy-phenyl) -3H-imidazo [4, 5-b] pyridin-6-yl] -N- (4-ethyl-benzyl) -benzamide; 2-Dimethylamino-N- [3- (4-ethoxy-phenyl) -3H-imidazo [4,5-b] pyridin-6-yl] -N- (4-ethyl-benzyl) -acetamide hydrochloride; N- [3- (4-Ethoxy-phenyl) -3H-imidazo [4,5-b] pyridin-6-yl] -N- (4-ethyl-benzyl) -succinamic acid; N- [3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl) -3H-imidazo [4, 5-b] pyridin-6-yl] -N- (4-ethyl-benzyl) -methanesulfonamide; N- [3- (4-Ethoxy-

phenyl) -3H-imidazo [4, 5-b] pyridin-6-yl] -N- (4-ethyl-benzyl) -benzenesulfonamide; and [3- (4-Ethoxy-phenyl) -3H-[1,2,3] triazolo [4, 5-b] pyridin-6-yl] - (4-ethyl-benzyl) -amine.

8. The compound or salt of claim 1, is [3- (4-Ethoxy-phenyl) -3H-imidazo [4, 5-b] pyridin-6-yl] - (4-ethyl-benzyl) -amine.

9. The compound or salt of claim 1, is [1- (4-Ethoxy-phenyl) -lH-benzotriazol-5-yl] - (4-ethyl-benzyl) -amine.

10. The compound or salt of claim 1, is [3- (4-Ethoxy-phenyl) -3H- [1, 2, 3] triazolo [4, 5-b] pyridin-6-yl] - (4-ethyl-benzyl) -amine.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the compound or salt according to anyone of the preceding claims.

12. The compound or salt according to anyone of claims 1-10 for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of a viral infection or disease associated therewith.

13. The compound or salt of claim 12 for use in the treatment or prophylaxis an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith.

14. The compound or salt for use in the treatment or prophylaxis an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith of claim 13, wherein the Arenavirus is selected from the group consisting of Lassa, Junin, Machupo, Guanarito, Sabia, Whitewater Arroyo, Chapare, LCMV, LCMV-like viruses.

15. The compound or salt for use in the treatment or prophylaxis an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith of claim 14 wherein said LCMV-like viruses are selected from the group consisting of Dandenong, Tacaribe, and Pichinde.

16. The compound or salt for use in the treatment or prophylaxis an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith of claim 13, wherein said Arenavirus infection is associated with a condition selected from the group consisting of Lassa fever, Argentine hemorrhagic fever, Bolivian hemorrhagic fever, and Venezuelan hemorrhagic fever.

17. The compound or salt for use in the treatment or prophylaxis an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith of claim 13 which further comprises coadministration of at least one agent selected from the group consisting of antiviral agent, vaccine, and interferon.

18. The compound or salt for use in the treatment or prophylaxis an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith of claim 17, wherein said antiviral agent is Ribavirin.

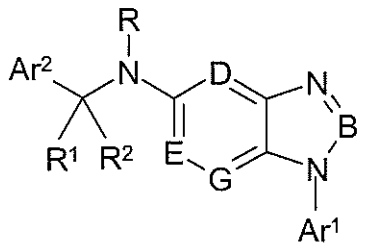
19. The compound or salt for use in the treatment or prophylaxis an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith of claim 17, wherein said antiviral agent is cidofovir.

20. The compound or salt for use in the treatment or prophylaxis an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith of claim 17 wherein said interferon is pegylated.

21. Use of the compound or salt of anyone of claims 1-10 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of a viral infection or disease associated therewith as defined in any one of claims 12-16.

CLAIMS:

1. A compound having the following general formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



Formula I

wherein B, D, E and G are independently N or C-R' with the proviso that at least one of them is N;

R' is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, alkyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, acyloxy, arylacyloxy, heteroarylacyloxy, alkylsulfonyloxy, arylsulfonyloxy, thio, alkylthio, arylthio, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, arylamino, heteroarylamino, acylamino, arylacylamino, heteroarylacylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, acyl, arylacyl, heteroarylacyl, alkylsulfinyl, arylsulfinyl, heteroarylsulfinyl, hydroxysulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, heteroarylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, substituted aminosulfonyl, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkyloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, substituted carbamoyl, halogen, cyano, isocyano and nitro;

R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, arylacyl,

heteroarylacyl, alkylsulfinyl, arylsulfinyl, heteroarylsulfinyl, hydroxysulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, heteroarylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, substituted aminosulfonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkyloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl and substituted carbamoyl;

each of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen; and

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently substituted aryl or heteroaryl.

2. The compound or salt of claim 1, wherein Ar^1 and/or Ar^2 is mono-substituted phenyl.

3. The compound or salt of claim 2, wherein Ar^1 is ethoxy-phenyl.

4. The compound or salt of claim 1, selected from the group consisting of [3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-6-yl]-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-amine; [3-(6-Ethoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-6-yl]-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-amine; [3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-6-yl]-(5-methyl-pyridin-2-ylmethyl)-amine; [1-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-5-yl]-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-amine; [1-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-1H-benzotriazol-5-yl]-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-amine; N-[3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-6-yl]-N-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-acetamide; N-[3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-6-yl]-N-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-benzamide; 2-Dimethylamino-N-[3-(4-ethoxy-phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-6-yl]-N-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-acetamide hydrochloride; N-[3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-6-yl]-N-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-succinamic acid; N-[3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-

b]pyridin-6-yl]-N-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-methanesulfonamide; N-[3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-6-yl]-N-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-benzenesulfonamide; and [3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-6-yl]-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-amine, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

5. The compound or salt of claim 1, selected from [3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-6-yl]-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-amine, [1-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-1H-benzotriazol-5-yl]-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-amine, or [3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-6-yl]-(4-ethyl-benzyl)-amine, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the compound or salt of any one of claims 1 to 5.

7. The compound or salt of anyone of claims 1 to 5 for use in therapy.

8. The compound or salt of claim 7 for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith.

9. The compound or salt for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith of claim 8, wherein the Arenavirus is selected from the group consisting of Lassa, Junín, Machupo, Guanarito, Sabia, Whitewater Arroyo, Chapare, LCMV, LCMV-like viruses.

10. The compound or salt for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of an Arenavirus infection or disease

associated therewith of claim 9, wherein said LCMV-like viruses are selected from the group consisting of Dandenong, Tacaribe, and Pichinde.

11. The compound or salt for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith of claim 8, wherein said Arenavirus infection is associated with a condition selected from the group consisting of Lassa fever, Argentine hemorrhagic fever, Bolivian hemorrhagic fever, and Venezuelan hemorrhagic fever.

12. The compound or salt for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith of claim 8, which further comprises co-administration of at least one agent selected from the group consisting of antiviral agent, vaccine, and interferon.

13. The compound or salt for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith of claim 12, wherein said antiviral agent is Ribavirin or cidofovir.

14. The compound or salt for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith of claim 12, wherein said interferon is pegylated.

15. Use of the compound or salt of any one of claims 1 to 5 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of an Arenavirus infection or disease associated therewith as defined in any one of claims 8 to 11.