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(54) Title: VDCC GAMMA-8 ION CHANNEL

(57) Abstract: VDCC γ-8 polypeptides comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO. 3, SEQ ID NO. 5 or SEQ ID NO: 7, and homologues, variants and derivatives thereof are provided. Nucleic acids capable of encoding VDCC γ-8 polypeptide are also disclosed, in particular, those comprising the nucleic acid sequences shown in SEQ ID No. 1, SEQ ID No.2, SEQ ID NO. 4 or SEQ ID NO: 6. These polypeptides and polynucleotides are implicated in mental illness and are useful in screening for therapeutic agents useful in treating mental illness.

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