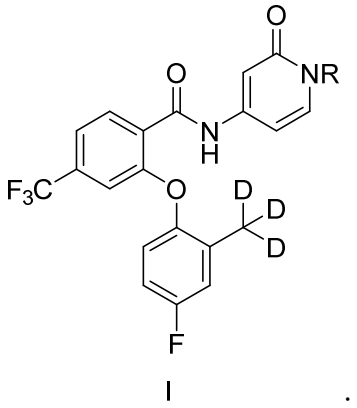
We claim:

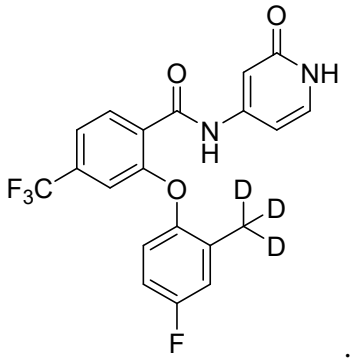
1. A compound of formula I:



I ;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R is H or $CH_2OPO(OH)_2$.

2. The compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound of formula I is



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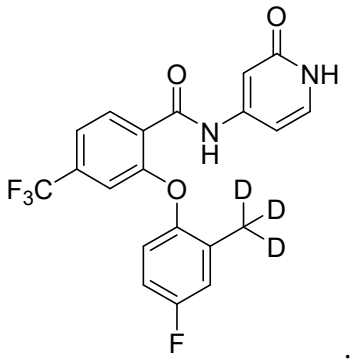
3. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula I is



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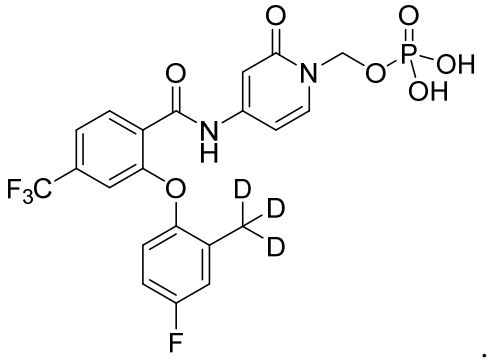
4. The compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound of formula I is



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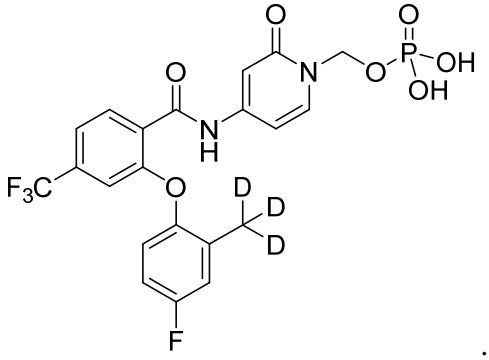
5. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula I is



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6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of claim 1, 2, or 4 or the compound of claim 3 or 5 and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or vehicles.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of claim 1, 2, or 4 or the compound of claim 3 or 5 and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or vehicles.

8. Use of the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of claim 1, 2, or 4, the compound of claim 3 or 5, or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 6 or 7 in the manufacture of a medicament to inhibit a voltage-gated sodium channel in a subject.

9. The use of claim 8, wherein the voltage-gated sodium channel is Nav1.8.

10. Use of the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of claim 1, 2, or 4, the compound of claim 3 or 5, or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 6 or 7 in the manufacture of a medicament to treat or lessen the severity in a subject of chronic pain, gut pain, neuropathic pain, musculoskeletal pain, acute pain, inflammatory pain, cancer pain, idiopathic pain, postsurgical pain, visceral pain, multiple sclerosis, Charcot-Marie-Tooth syndrome, incontinence, pathological cough, or cardiac arrhythmia comprising administering to the subject.

11. The use of claim 10, wherein the medicament is to be used to treat or lessen the severity in the subject of neuropathic pain.

12. The use of claim 11, wherein the neuropathic pain comprises post-herpetic neuralgia.

13. The use of claim 11, wherein the neuropathic pain comprises idiopathic small-fiber neuropathy.

14. The use of claim 11, wherein the neuropathic pain comprises diabetic neuropathy.

15. The use of claim 10, wherein the medicament is to be used to treat or lessen the severity in the subject of musculoskeletal pain.

16. The use of claim 15, wherein the musculoskeletal pain comprises osteoarthritis pain.

17. The use of claim 10, wherein the medicament is to be used to treat or lessen the severity in the subject of acute pain.

18. The use of claim 17, wherein the acute pain comprises acute post-operative pain.

19. The use of claim 10, wherein the medicament is to be used to treat or lessen the severity in the subject of postsurgical pain.

20. The use of claim 19, wherein the postsurgical pain comprises bunionectomy pain.

21. The use of claim 19, wherein the postsurgical pain comprises abdominoplasty pain.

22. The use of claim 10, wherein the medicament is to be used to treat or lessen the severity in the subject of visceral pain.

23. The use of any one of claims 8 to 22, wherein said subject is treated with one or more additional therapeutic agents administered concurrently with, prior to, or subsequent to treatment with the compound, pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or pharmaceutical composition.

24. A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of claim 1, 2, or 4, the compound of claim 3 or 5, or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 6 or 7 for use as a medicament.