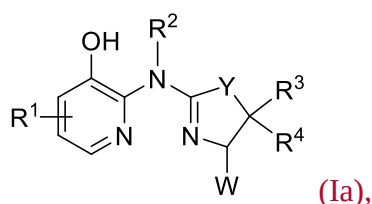
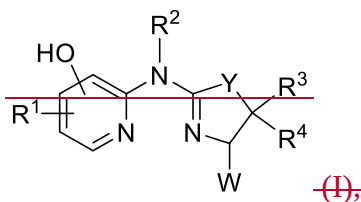


CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula (~~IIa~~), or a salt, ~~solvate~~, enantiomer, diastereoisomer, or tautomer thereof:



wherein:

~~Y is selected from the group consisting of S, O, NH, NR, and CH₂;~~

Y is S;

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₁-C₆ alkenyl, C₁-C₆ alkynyl, aryl, and arylalkyl, ~~heteroarylalkyl, and heteroaryl~~, wherein the ~~alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, or~~ arylalkyl, ~~heteroarylalkyl, or heteroaryl~~ group is independently optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl, -OH, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, amino, acetamido, and nitro;

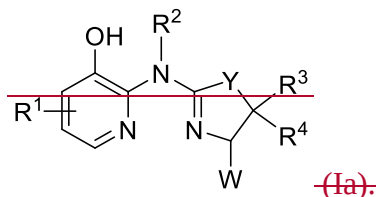
R² is selected from the group consisting of H, -C(=O)H, -C(=O)-R, and -CH₂-OR;

R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of H and ~~optionally substituted~~ C₁-C₆ alkyl, or R³ and R⁴ can combine to form a C₁-C₆ alkylene;

W is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₁-C₆ hydroxyalkyl, -CHO, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NRR, cyano, hydroxy, and aryl, ~~and heteroaryl~~, wherein the ~~alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl~~ group is independently optionally substituted, and wherein each occurrence with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of R is independently H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₆ alkyl, -OH, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, amino, acetamido, and nitro; and C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl; and

each occurrence of R is independently ~~selected from the group consisting of H,~~ C₁-C₆ alkyl ~~and, or~~ C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl.

~~2.~~ The compound of claim 1, ~~which is a compound of formula (Ia):~~



~~3.2.~~ ~~The compound of claim 2,~~ wherein R² is H.

~~4.~~ The compound of claim ~~3,~~ wherein Y is S.

~~5.3.~~ ~~The compound of claim 4,~~ wherein W is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₆ hydroxyalkyl, -CHO, -C(=O)OR, and -C(=O)NRR, ~~wherein the alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl group is independently optionally substituted and wherein each occurrence of R is independently H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, and C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl.~~

~~6.4.~~ The compound of claim ~~5,~~ wherein R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of H and C₁-C₆ alkyl.

~~7.5.~~ ~~The~~ compound ~~of any one of claims 1-6, which is~~ selected from the group consisting of:
(R)-2-(3-Hydroxy-pyridin-2-ylamino)-5,5-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid;
(S)-2-(3-Hydroxy-pyridin-2-ylamino)-5,5-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid;
(R)-2-((3-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)amino)-4,5-dihydrothiazole-4-carboxylic acid; and
(S)-2-((3-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)amino)-4,5-dihydrothiazole-4-carboxylic acid.

~~8.6.~~ A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ claim 1
and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

~~9.~~ A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim ~~7.~~

~~10. — A method of preventing, reducing, or alleviating pain in a mammal, the method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of any 5 and at least one of claims 1-7 to the mammal.~~

~~11. — The method of claim 10, wherein the administration is oral, parenteral, nasal, inhalational, intravenous, subcutaneous, transdermal, or enteral.~~

~~12. — The method of claim 10, wherein the mammal is a human.~~

~~13. — The method of any one of claims 10-12, wherein the pain is spontaneous pain.~~

~~14. — The method of any one of claims 10-12, wherein the pain is hyperalgesia.~~

~~15. — The method of any one of claims 10-12, wherein the pain is allodynia.~~

~~16. — The method of any one of claims 10-12, wherein the pain arises from a surgical procedure.~~

~~17. — The method of claim 16, wherein the surgical procedure comprises third molar extraction, dental implants, lingual hernia repair, cholecystectomy, breast augmentation, abdominoplasty, vasectomy, hysterectomy, pacemaker implantation, and/or laparoscopic techniques.~~

~~18. — The method of any one of claims 10-12, wherein the pain arises from trauma, sprains, broken bones, bruises, cuts, and/or burns.~~

~~19. — The method of any one of claims 10-12, wherein the pain is neuropathic pain.~~

~~20. — The method of any one of claims 10-12, wherein the pain is painful diabetic neuropathy.~~

~~21. — The method of any one of claims 10-12, wherein the pain is chronic pain.~~

~~22. The method of any one of claims 10-12, wherein the pain arises from cancers, diabetes, Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's Disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Multiple Sclerosis, and/or peripheral and/or central neuropathies.~~

~~23. The method of any one of claims 10-12, wherein the pain is caused by an inflammatory disease.~~

~~24. The method of claim 23, wherein the inflammatory disease comprises rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, lupus, inflammatory bowel syndrome, vulvodynia, and/or Sjorgen's disease.~~

~~25.7. The method of any one of claims 10-12, wherein the pain is caused by cancer chemotherapy, cancer radiation treatment, stroke, and/or myocardial infaretp^harmacaceutically acceptable carrier.~~