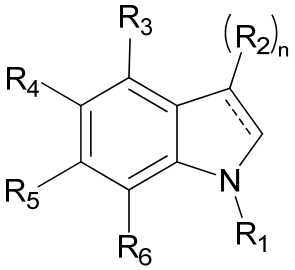
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I),

wherein

---- is a single bond or a double bond;

n is 0, 1, or 2;

R_1 is SO_2R_a, in which R_a is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, or heterocycloalkenyl;

R_2 is H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, halo, cyano, nitro, OR_b, SR_b, $S(O)R_b$, $NHC(O)$-CH=CH-$C(O)R_b$, $NHC(O)$-CH=CH-$C(O)NR_cR_d$, $SO_2NR_cR_d$, $OC(O)R_b$, $C(O)NR_cR_d$, NR_cR_d, $NHC(O)R_b$, $NHC(O)NR_cR_d$, or $NHC(S)R_c$, in which each of R_b, R_c, and R_d, independently, is H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, or heterocycloalkenyl;

each of R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6, independently is, H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, halo, cyano, nitro, OR_b, SR_b, $S(O)R_b$, CH=CH-$C(O)NR_cR_d$, $NHC(O)$-CH=CH-$C(O)R_b$, $NHC(O)$-CH=CH-$C(O)NR_cR_d$, $SO_2NR_cR_d$, $OC(O)R_b$, $C(O)NR_cR_d$, NR_cR_d, $NHC(O)R_b$, $NHC(O)NR_cR_d$, or $NHC(S)R_c$, in which each of R_b, R_c, and R_d, independently, is H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, or heterocycloalkenyl;

and when R_1 is SO_2R_a, ~~at least one of R_2, R_3, R_5, and R_6 has the following definitions:~~ R_2 is $NHC(O)$-CH=CH-$C(O)R_b$ or $NHC(O)$-CH=CH-$C(O)NR_cR_d$; ~~and~~at least one of R_3, R_5, and R_6 is CH=CH-$C(O)NR_cR_d$, $NHC(O)$-CH=CH-$C(O)R_b$, or $NHC(O)$-CH=CH-$C(O)NR_cR_d$; or R_4 is $C(O)NR_cR_d$, CH=CH-$C(O)NR_cR_d$, $NHC(O)$-CH=CH-$C(O)R_b$, or $NHC(O)$-CH=CH-$C(O)NR_cR_d$.

4. The compound of claim 3, wherein R_4 is CH=CH-C(O)NHOH.

5. The compound of claim 4, wherein R_1 is SO_2R_a and R_a is aryl or heteroaryl.

6. The compound of claim 5, wherein R_a is phenyl optionally substituted with halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, amino, cyano, or nitro.

7. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_2 is NHC(O)-CH=CH-C(O)R_b or NHC(O)-CH=CH-C(O)NR_cR_d; or at least one of R_3, R_5, and R_6 is CH=CH-C(O)NR_cR_d, NHC(O)-CH=CH-C(O)R_b, or NHC(O)-CH=CH-C(O)NR_cR_d.

~~8. The compound of claim 7, wherein at least one of R_2, R_3, R_5, and R_6 is CH=CH-C(O)NHOH, NHC(O)-CH=CH-C(O)OH, or NHC(O)-CH=CH-C(O)NHOH.~~

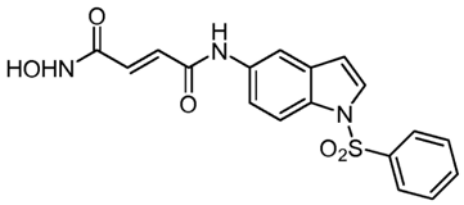
~~9~~8. The compound of claim ~~8~~7, wherein R_1 is SO_2R_a and R_a is aryl or heteroaryl.

~~10~~9. The compound of claim ~~9~~8, wherein R_a is phenyl optionally substituted with halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, amino, cyano, or nitro.

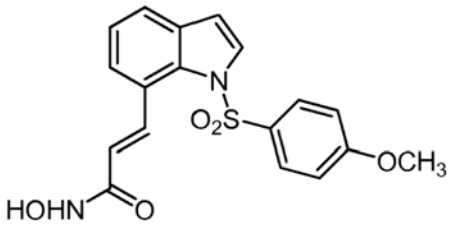
~~11~~10. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 is SO_2R_a and R_a is aryl or heteroaryl.

~~12~~11. The compound of claim ~~11~~10, wherein R_a is phenyl optionally substituted with halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, amino, cyano, or nitro.

~~13~~12. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is one of the following Compounds 1, 3-8, 12-18, 20-22, 27 and 28:



Compound 27



Compound 28

and .

~~14~~13. The compound of claim ~~13~~12, wherein the compound is 3-(1-benzenesulfonyl-1*H*-indol-5-yl)-*N*-hydroxy-acrylamide or 3-(1-benzenesulfonyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indol-5-yl)-*N*-hydroxy-acrylamide.

~~15~~14. An effective amount of a compound of claim 1 for use in the treatment of cancer.

~~16~~15. An effective amount of a compound of claim 2 for use in the treatment of cancer.

~~17~~16. An effective amount of a compound of claim ~~11~~10 for use in the treatment of cancer.

~~18~~17. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

~~19~~18. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

~~20~~19. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of claim ~~11~~10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.