



PHARMACEUTICAL FOR TREATMENT OF NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

The present invention relates to a class of substituted amines, pharmaceutical
5 compositions and methods of treating neurological and neuropsychiatric disorders.

Synaptic transmission is a complex form of intercellular communication that involves a
considerable array of specialized structures in both the pre- and post-synaptic neuron. High-
affinity neurotransmitter transporters are one such component, located on the pre-synaptic terminal
and surrounding glial cells (Kanner and Schuldiner, CRC Critical Reviews in Biochemistry, 22,
10 1032 (1987)). Transporters sequester neurotransmitter from the synapse, thereby regulating the
concentration of neurotransmitter in the synapse, as well as its duration therein, which together
influence the magnitude of synaptic transmission. Further, by preventing the spread of
transmitter to neighboring synapses, transporters maintain the fidelity of synaptic transmission.
Last, by sequestering released transmitter into the presynaptic terminal, transporters allow for
15 transmitter reutilization.

Neurotransmitter transport is dependent on extracellular sodium and the voltage difference
across the membrane; under conditions of intense neuronal firing, as, for example, during a
seizure, transporters can function in reverse, releasing neurotransmitter in a calcium-independent
non-exocytotic manner (Attwell et al., Neuron, 11, 401-407 (1993)). Pharmacologic modulation
20 of neurotransmitter transporters thus provides a means for modifying synaptic activity, which
provides useful therapy for the treatment of neurological and psychiatric disturbances.

The amino acid glycine is a major neurotransmitter in the mammalian central nervous
system, functioning at both inhibitory and excitatory synapses. By nervous system, both the
central and peripheral portions of the nervous system are intended. These distinct functions of
25 glycine are mediated by two different types of receptor, each of which is associated with a
different class of glycine transporter. The inhibitory actions of glycine are mediated by glycine
receptors that are sensitive to the convulsant alkaloid strychnine, and are thus referred to as
"strychnine-sensitive." Such receptors contain an intrinsic chloride channel that is opened upon
binding of glycine to the receptor; by increasing chloride conductance, the threshold for firing of
30 an action potential is increased. Strychnine-sensitive glycine receptors are found predominantly in
the spinal cord and brainstem, and pharmacological agents that enhance the activation of such
receptors will thus increase inhibitory neurotransmission in these regions.

Glycine functions in excitatory transmission by modulating the actions of glutamate, the
major excitatory neurotransmitter in the central nervous system. See Johnson and Ascher, Nature,



325, 529-531 (1987); Fletcher et al., Glycine Transmission, (Otterson and Storm-Mathisen, eds., 1990), pp. 193-219. Specifically, glycine is an obligatory co-agonist at the class of glutamate receptor termed N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor. Activation of NMDA receptors increases sodium and calcium conductance, which depolarizes the neuron, thereby increasing the
5 likelihood that it will fire an action potential. NMDA receptors are widely distributed throughout the brain, with a particularly high density in the cerebral cortex and hippocampal formation.

Molecular cloning has revealed the existence in mammalian brains of two classes of glycine transporters, termed GlyT-1 and GlyT-2. GlyT-1 is found predominantly in the forebrain, and its distribution corresponds to that of glutamatergic pathways and NMDA receptors (Smith, et
10 al., Neuron, 8, 927-935 (1992)). Molecular cloning has further revealed the existence of three variants of GlyT-1, termed GlyT-1a, GlyT-1b and GlyT-1c (Kim, et al., Molecular Pharmacology, 45, 608-617 (1994)), each of which displays a unique distribution in the brain and peripheral tissues. These variants arise by differential splicing and exon usage, and differ in their N-terminal regions. GlyT-2, in contrast, is found predominantly in the brain stem and spinal cord, and its
15 distribution corresponds closely to that of strychnine-sensitive glycine receptors (Liu et al., J. Biological Chemistry, 268, 22802-22808 (1993); Jursky and Nelson, J. Neurochemistry, 64, 1026-1033 (1995)). These data are consistent with the view that, by regulating the synaptic levels of glycine, GlyT-1 and GlyT-2 selectively influence the activity of NMDA receptors and strychnine-sensitive glycine receptors, respectively.

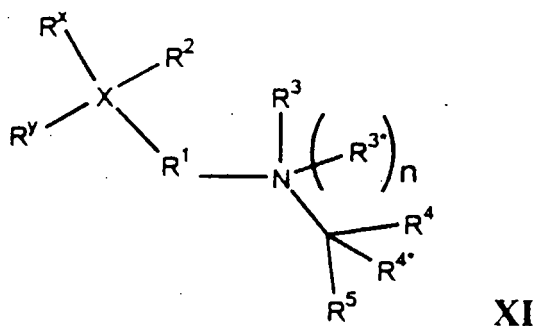
20 Compounds that inhibit or activate glycine transporters would thus be expected to alter receptor function, and provide therapeutic benefits in a variety of disease states. For example, inhibition of GlyT-2 can be used to diminish the activity of neurons having strychnine-sensitive glycine receptors via increasing synaptic levels of glycine, thus diminishing the transmission of pain-related (i.e., nociceptive) information in the spinal cord, which has been shown to be mediated
25 by these receptors. Yaksh, Pain, 37, 111-123 (1989). Additionally, enhancing inhibitory glycinergic transmission through strychnine-sensitive glycine receptors in the spinal cord can be used to decrease muscle hyperactivity, which is useful in treating diseases or conditions associated with increased muscle contraction, such as spasticity, myoclonus, and epilepsy (Truong et al., Movement Disorders, 3, 77-87 (1988); Becker, FASEB J., 4, 2767-2774 (1990)). Spasticity that
30 can be treated via modulation of glycine receptors is associated with epilepsy, stroke, head trauma, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, dystonia, and other conditions of illness and injury of the nervous system.

NMDA receptors are critically involved in memory and learning (Rison and Stanton, Neurosci. Biobehav. Rev., 19, 533-552 (1995); Danysz et al., Behavioral Pharmacol., 6, 455-474

(1995)); and, furthermore, decreased function of NMDA-mediated neurotransmission appears to underlie, or contribute to, the symptoms of schizophrenia (Olney and Farber, Archives General Psychiatry, 52, 998-1007 (1996). Thus, agents that inhibit GlyT-1 and thereby increase glycine activation of NMDA receptors can be used as novel antipsychotics and anti-dementia agents, and to treat other diseases in which cognitive processes are impaired, such as attention deficit disorders and organic brain syndromes. Conversely, over-activation of NMDA receptors has been implicated in a number of disease states, in particular the neuronal death associated with stroke and possibly neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease, multi-infarct dementia, AIDS dementia, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or other conditions in which neuronal cell death occurs, such as stroke or head trauma. Coyle & Puttfarcken, Science, 262, 689-695 (1993); Lipton and Rosenberg, New Engl. J. of Medicine, 330, 613-622 (1993); Choi, Neuron, 1, 623-634 (1988). Thus, pharmacological agents that increase the activity of GlyT-1 will result in decreased glycine-activation of NMDA receptors, which activity can be used to treat these and related disease states. Similarly, drugs that directly block the glycine site on the NMDA receptors can be used to treat these and related disease states.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

By the present invention, a class of compounds has been identified that inhibit glycine transport via the GlyT-1 or GlyT-2 transporters, or are precursors, such as pro-drugs, to compounds that inhibit such transport, or are synthetic intermediates for preparing compounds that inhibit such transport. Thus, the invention provides a class of compounds formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
wherein:

- (1) X is nitrogen or carbon, and R² is not present when X is nitrogen;
- (2) R² (a) is hydrogen, (C1-C6) alkyl, (C1-C6) alkoxy, cyano, (C2-C7) alkanoyl, aminocarbonyl, (C1-C6) alkylaminocarbonyl or dialkylaminocarbonyl wherein each alkyl is independently C1 to C6, (b) comprises (where R¹ is not aminoethylene, -O-R⁸ or -S-R^{8*})

hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo or (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy. (c) forms a double bond with an adjacent carbon or nitrogen from one of either R^1 , R^{xb} or R^{yb} , or (d) is R^{2a} linked by R^{2b} to X:

(2i) R^x is R^{xa} linked by R^{xb} to X;

(2ii) R^y is R^{ya} linked by R^{yb} to X;

- 5 (2iii) R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} , are independently aryl, heteroaryl, adamantyl or a 5 to 7-membered non-aromatic ring having from 0 to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, wherein:

(a) aryl is phenyl or naphthyl,

10 (b) heteroaryl comprises a five-membered ring, a six-membered ring, a six-membered ring fused to a five-membered ring, a five-membered ring fused to a six-membered ring, or a six-membered ring fused to a six-membered ring, wherein the heteroaryl is aromatic and contains heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, with the remaining ring atoms being carbon,

15 (c) each of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} can be independently substituted with one of R^q , R^fO - or R^sS -, wherein each of R^q , R^f and R^s are independently aryl, heteroaryl, adamantyl or a 5 to 7-membered non-aromatic ring as these ring structures are defined for R^{xa} , and

20 (d) R^{xa} , R^{ya} , R^{2a} , R^q , R^f and R^s can be additionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, trifluoromethyl, amidosulfonyl which can have up to two independent (C1-C6) N-alkyl substitutions, adamantyl, (C1-C12) alkyl, (C1-C12) alkenyl, amino, (C1-C6) alkylamino, dialkylamino wherein each alkyl is independently C1 to C6, (C1-C6) alkoxy, (C2-C7) alkanoyl, (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, (C2-C7) alkyloxycarbonyl, 25 aminocarbonyl that can be substituted for hydrogen with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (C1-C6) alkylsulfonyl, amidino that can independently substituted with up to three (C1-C6) alkyl, or methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy with the two oxygens bonded to adjacent positions on the aryl or heteroaryl ring structure, which methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy can be substituted with up to two 30 independent (C1-C6) alkyl, wherein:

(i.) the substitutions of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} can be combined to form a second bridge between two of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} comprising (1) (C1-C2) alkyl

or alkenyl, which can be independently substituted with one or more (C1-C6) alkyl, (2) sulfur, (3) oxygen, (4) amino, which can be substituted for hydrogen with one (C1-C6) alkyl, (5) carbonyl, (6) $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(=\text{O})-$, which can be substituted for hydrogen with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (7) $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{O}-$, (8) $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$, which can be substituted for hydrogen with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (9) $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^{24})$, wherein R^{24} is hydrogen or (C1-C6) alkyl, (10) $-\text{CH}_2-\text{NH}-$, which can be substituted for hydrogen with up to three (C1-C6) alkyl, or (11) $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$, which can be substituted for hydrogen with (C1-C6) alkyl, or wherein two of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and $\text{R}^{2\text{a}}$ can be directly linked by a single bond;

- (2^{iv}) R^{xb} and $\text{R}^{2\text{b}}$ are independently a single bond or (C1-C2) alkylene;
- (2^v) R^{yb} is a single bond, oxa, (C1-C2) alkylene, ethenylene or $-\text{CH}=\text{}$ (where the double bond is with X), thia, methyleneoxy or methylenethio, or either $-\text{N}(\text{R}^6)$ or $-\text{CH}_2-\text{N}(\text{R}^{6*})-$, wherein R^6 and R^{6*} are hydrogen or (C1-C6) alkyl, wherein when X is nitrogen X is not bonded to another heteroatom;
- (3) R^1 comprises: a straight-chained (C2-C3) aliphatic group; where X is carbon, $=\text{N}-\text{O}-(\text{ethylene})$, wherein the unmatched double bond is linked to X; (where X is carbon and R^{yb} does not include a heteroatom attached to X), $-\text{O}-\text{R}^8$ or $-\text{S}-\text{R}^{8*}$ wherein R^8 or R^{8*} is a ethylene or ethenylene and O or S is bonded to X; (where X is carbon and R^{yb} does not include a heteroatom attached to X), aminoethylene where the amino is bonded to X;

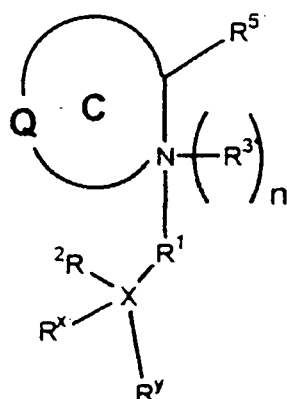
wherein R^1 can be substituted with up to one hydroxy, up to one (C1-C6) alkoxy or up to one (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, with up to one oxo, up to one (C1-C6) alkylidene, with the proviso that the hydroxy, alkoxy, alkanoyloxy or oxo substituents are not bonded to a carbon that is bonded to a nitrogen or oxygen;

wherein the alkyl or alkylidene substituents of R^1 can be linked to form a 3 to 7-membered non-aromatic ring; and

wherein if X is nitrogen, X is linked to R^1 by a single bond and the terminal carbon of R^1 that links R^1 to N is saturated;

- (4) R^3 (a) is hydrogen, (C1-C6) alkyl, or phenyl or phenylalkyl wherein the alkyl is C1 to C6 and either such phenyl can be substituted with the same substituents defined above for the aryl or

heteroaryl of R^{xa} , (b) is $-R^{12}Z(R^{xx})(R^{yy})(R^{11})$, wherein R^{12} is bonded to N, Z is independently the same as X, R^{xx} is independently the same as R^x , R^{yy} is independently the same as R^y , R^{11} is independently the same as R^2 and R^{12} is independently the same as R^1 , or (c) forms, together with R^4 , a ring C, as follows:



, wherein R^{4*} is hydrogen when ring C is present;

(5) n is 0 or 1, and where if n is 1, R^{3*} is either (C1-C6) alkyl (with the attached nitrogen having a positive charge) or oxygen (forming an N-oxide) and X is carbon;

(5') Q together with the illustrated ring nitrogen and ring carbon bearing R^5 form ring C,

wherein ring C is a 3 to 8-membered ring, a 3 to 8-membered ring substituted with a 3 to 6-membered spiro ring, or a 3 to 8-membered ring fused with a 5 to 6-membered ring, wherein the fused ring lacking the illustrated ring nitrogen can be aromatic or heteroaromatic, wherein for each component ring of ring C there are up to two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen, including the illustrated nitrogen, and the rest carbon, with the proviso that the ring atoms include no quaternary nitrogens other than the illustrated nitrogen, with the proviso that, in saturated rings, ring nitrogen atoms are separated from other ring heteroatoms by at least two intervening carbon atoms:

wherein the carbon and nitrogen ring atoms of ring C can be substituted with substituents selected from (C1-C6) alkyl, (C2-C6) alkenylene, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, (C2-C7) alkyloxycarbonyl, (C1-C6) alkylidene, hydroxyl, (C1 - C6) alkoxy, oxo, hydroxycarbonyl, aryl wherein the aryl is as defined for R^{xa} or heteroaryl wherein the heteroaryl is as defined for R^{xa} , with the proviso that ring atoms substituted with alkylidene, hydroxycarbonyl or oxo are carbon, with the further proviso that ring atoms substituted with hydroxyl or alkoxy are separated from other ring heteroatoms by at least two intervening carbon atoms;

(6) R^4 and R^{4*} are independently hydrogen or (C1-C6) alkyl, or one of R^4 and R^{4*} can be (C1-C6) hydroxyalkyl; and

(7) R^5 is (CO)NR¹³R¹⁴, (CO)OR¹⁵, (CO)SR¹⁶, (SO₂)NR¹⁷R¹⁸, (PO)(OR¹⁹)(OR²⁰), (CR²²)(OR²³)(OR²⁴), CN or tetrazol-5-yl, wherein R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are independently hydrogen, (C1-C8) alkyl which can include a (C3-C8) cycloalkyl, wherein the carbon linked to the oxygen of R¹⁵ or the sulfur of R¹⁶ has no more than secondary branching and, (C2-C6) hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl where the alkyl is C2 to C6 and the amino can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyls, arylalkyl wherein the alkyl is C1-C6, heteroarylalkyl wherein the alkyl is C1 to C6, aryl or heteroaryl, R²² is hydrogen or OR²⁵ and R²³, R²⁴ and R²⁵ are (C1-C6) alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, acetyl or, where R²² is hydrogen, the alkyls of R²³ and R²⁴ can be combined to include 1,3-dioxolane or 1,3-dioxane:

wherein the aryl is phenyl or naphthyl and the heteroaryl is a five-membered ring, a six-membered ring, a six-membered ring fused to a five-membered ring, a five-membered ring fused to a six-membered ring, or a six-membered ring fused to a six-membered ring, wherein the heteroaryl is aromatic and contains heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, with the remaining ring atoms being carbon;

wherein the aryl, heteroaryl, aryl or arylalkyl or the heteroaryl of heteroarylalkyl can be substituted with [preferably up to three] substituents selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, amidosulfonyl which can have up to two independent (C1-C6) N-alkyl substitutions, (C1-C6) alkyl, (C2-C6) alkenyl, (C1-C6) alkylamine, dialkylamine wherein each alkyl is independently C1 to C6, amino, (C1-C6) alkoxy, (C2-C7) alkanoyl, (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, (C2-C7) alkyloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl that can be N-substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (C1-C6) alkylsulfonyl, amidino that can substituted with up to three (C1-C6) alkyl, or methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy with the two oxygens bonded to adjacent positions on the aryl or heteroaryl ring structure, which methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl; and

wherein R¹³ and R¹⁴ together with the nitrogen can form a 5 to 7-membered ring that can contain one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen and sulfur.

In a preferred embodiment, the ring Q is a 4 to 8-membered ring that includes the illustrated ring nitrogen, with the remaining ring atoms being carbon.

Preferably, (A) at least one of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} is substituted with fluoro, chloro, bromo, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, cyano, (C3-C8) alkyl, R^q , R^{fO-} , R^{sS-} .

- 5 (B) R^3 is hydrogen, (C1-C6) alkyl, or phenyl or phenylalkyl wherein the alkyl is C1 to C6 and either such phenyl can be substituted with the same substituents defined for the aryl or heteroaryl of R^{xa} or (C) the ring structures of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} , including substituents thereto, otherwise include at least two aromatic ring structures that together include from 15 to 20 ring atoms.

Examples of preferred structures under clause (C) include A45, A53, A56, A57, A60-5, A73-74, 10 A78-81, A86-89, A93-96, A99, A100, A102, A105-106, A108-109, A116, A122-123 and A176.

Preferably, at least one of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} is substituted with fluoro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, cyano, or (C3-C8) alkyl. Preferably, R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} is substituted with R^q , R^{fO-} , or R^{sS-} . Preferably, an aryl or heteroaryl of at least one of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} is phenyl. Preferably, R^{yb} is oxa, methyleneoxy, thia, methylenethia. Preferably, R^{yb} is oxa or thia.

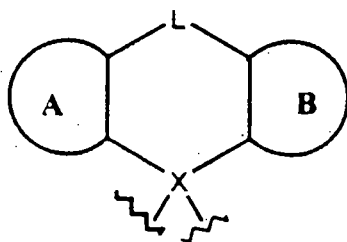
- 15 Preferably, R^5 is (CO)NR¹³R¹⁴, (CO)OR¹⁵ or (CO)SR¹⁶.

In one embodiment, R^{15} is (C2-C6) alkyl, (C2-C4) hydroxyalkyl, phenyl, phenylalkyl wherein the alkyl is C1-C3, or aminoalkyl where the alkyl is C2-C6 and the amino can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C3) alkyls, wherein the phenyl or the phenyl of phenylalkyl can be substituted as recited above. Preferably, n is zero. Preferably, R^{15} is

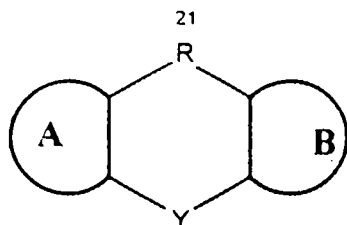
- 20 hydrogen. Preferably, R^4 is hydrogen, methyl or hydroxymethyl and R^{4*} is hydrogen.

Preferably, at least one of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} is a heteroaryl comprising diazoly, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiolyl, diazinyl, triazinyl, benzoazolyl, benzodiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzoxolyl, benzothioly, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, benzodiazinyl, benzotriazinyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, isoindoyl or pyrimidyl.

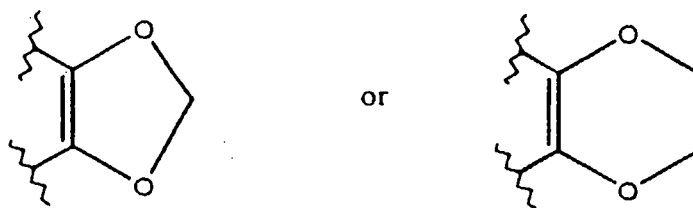
- 25 Preferably, R^1 is -O-R⁸ or -S-R^{8*}. Preferably, the second bridge between two of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} (of Section (2ⁱⁱⁱ)(d)(i.)) is L, and satisfies the following formula:



wherein A and B are aryl or heteroaryl groups of R^{xa} and R^{ya} , respectively. Preferably, R^{xa} , R^{xb} , R^{ya} , R^{yb} and X form:



wherein Y is a carbon bonded to R^1 by a single or double bond or a nitrogen that is bonded to R^1 and wherein R^{21} either (i.) completes a single bond linking two aryl or heteroaryl rings of R^x and R^y , (ii.) is (C1-C2) alkylene or alkenylene, (iii.) is sulfur or (iv.) is oxygen, and wherein R^x and R^y can be substituted as set forth above. Preferably, R^{21} is CH_2CH_2 or $CH=CH$. Preferably, the alkylenedioxy substitution of R^{xa} , R^{ya} , R^{2a} , R^q , R^r or R^s is as follows:



wherein the alkylenedioxy can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C3) alkyl.

In one preferred embodiment, R^{xa} and R^{ya} together can be substituted with up to six substituents, R^{2a} , R^q , R^r and R^s can each be substituted with up to 3 substituents, and wherein the presence of each of R^q , R^r or R^s is considered a substitution to the respective ring structure of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} . Preferably, a phenyl of R^3 is substituted with up to three substituents.

Preferably, the compound is an optically pure enantiomer (i.e., at least about 80% ee, preferably at least about 90% ee, more preferably at least about 95% ee). Preferably, the compound is part of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient. Preferably, the compound of the composition is present in an effective amount for:

- (1) treating or preventing schizophrenia,
- (2) enhancing treating or preventing dementia,
- (3) treating or preventing epilepsy,
- (4) treating or preventing spasticity,
- (5) treating or preventing muscle spasm,
- (6) treating or preventing pain,

(7) preventing neural cell death after stroke.

(8) preventing neural cell death in an animal suffering from a neurodegenerative disease

(9) treating or preventing mood disorders such as depression,

5 (10) enhancing memory or learning, or

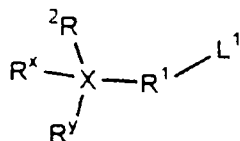
(11) treating or preventing learning disorders.

In another embodiment, the invention provides a method (1) of treating or preventing schizophrenia comprising administering a schizophrenia treating or preventing effective amount of a compound, (2) of treating or preventing dementia comprising administering a dementia treating
10 or preventing effective amount of a compound, (3) of treating or preventing epilepsy comprising administering an epilepsy treating or preventing effective amount of a compound, (4) of treating or preventing spasticity comprising administering a spasticity treating or preventing effective amount of a compound, (5) of treating or preventing muscle spasm comprising administering a muscle spasm treating or preventing effective amount of a compound, (6) of treating or preventing
15 pain comprising administering a pain treating or preventing effective amount of a compound, (7) of preventing neural cell death after stroke comprising administering a neural cell death preventing effective amount of a compound, (8) of preventing neural cell death in an animal suffering from a neurodegenerative disease, (9) treating or preventing mood disorders such as depression, (10) enhancing memory or learning, or (11) treating or preventing learning disorders, comprising
20 administering an amount effective for said treating, preventing or enhancing of a compound of formula XI or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the substituents are as defined above, except that R²⁵ differs from R¹ in that it can be a straight-chained C4 aliphatic group. Preferably, the spasticity treated or prevented is associated with epilepsy, stroke, head trauma, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury or dystonia. Preferably, the neurodegenerative disease treated
25 or prevented is Alzheimer's disease, multi-infarct dementia, AIDS dementia, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or stroke or head trauma (such as can result in neuronal cell death).

In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing a compound of the invention comprising:

30 A) reacting a compound of one of the following formulas

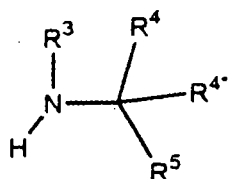
1)



, wherein L^1 is a nucleophilic substitution leaving group, with a compound of the formula

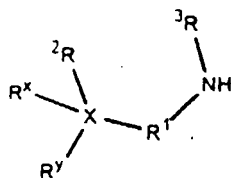
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2)



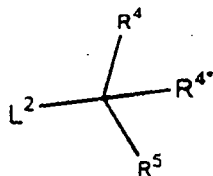
or B) reacting a compound of the formula

1)



10 , with a compound of the formula

2)



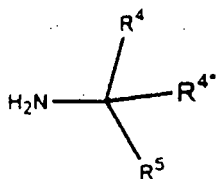
, wherein L^2 is a nucleophilic substitution leaving group.

In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing a compound of

15 the invention comprising:

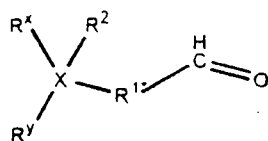
A) reductively alkylating a compound of the formula

1)



with a compound of the formula

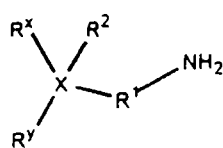
2)



where R^{1*} differs from R^1 in that it lacks the carbon that is part of the illustrated aldehyde carbonyl,

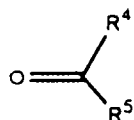
5 OR B) reductively alkylating a compound of the formula

1)



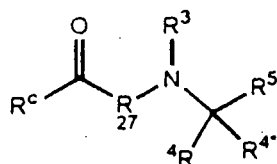
with a compound of the formula

2)



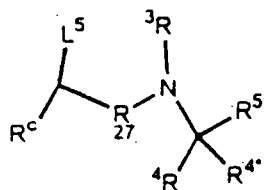
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In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing a compound of the invention comprising reductively alkylating R^dNH_2 with a compound of the formula



15 wherein R^d and R^c are independently the same as defined for R^x , and wherein R^{27} has the same definition as R^1 except that it does not include a nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and does not include any double bonds conjugated with the above-illustrated carbonyl.

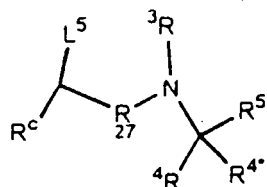
In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing a compound of the invention comprising reacting R^fOH or $R^{f*}SH$ with a compound of the formula



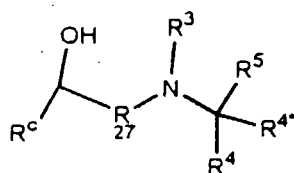
20 to form an ether or a thioether, respectively, wherein R^f and R^{f*} are independently the same as defined for R^x , wherein R^{27} has the same definition as R^1 except that it does not include a

nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and does not include any double bonds at the atom bonded to the above-illustrated L^5 -substituted carbon and wherein L^5 is a nucleophilic substitution leaving group.

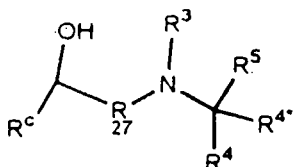
The method of claim 28, further comprising synthesizing the compound of formula



5 by replacing the hydroxyl of formula



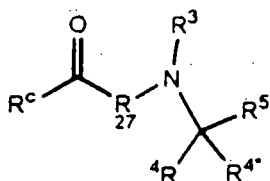
with another nucleophilic substitution leaving group. Preferably, the method comprises reacting a compound of formula



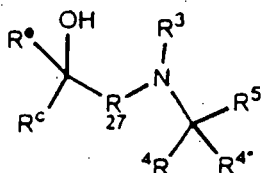
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with an azodicarboxylate in the presence of a phosphine compound.

In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing a compound of the invention comprising reacting R^eM with a compound of the formula

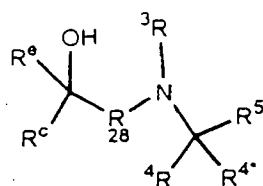


15 to form a compound of the formula

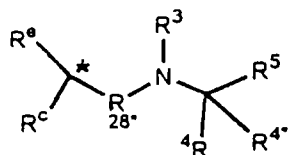


, wherein R^e is independently the same as defined for R^x , wherein M is a metal-containing substituent such that R^eM is an organometallic reagent.

In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing a compound of
20 the invention comprising dehydrating a compound of the formula

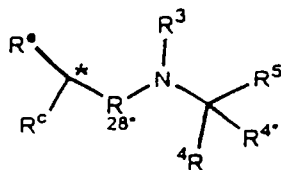


to form a compound of the formula

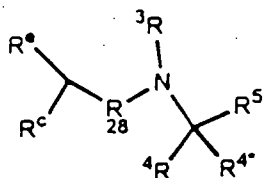


wherein C^{*} (the tertiary carbon marked with an adjacent "**") has a double bond with an adjacent carbon, R^{28*} and R²⁸ have the same definition as R¹ except that R^{28*} and R²⁸ do not include a heteroatom.

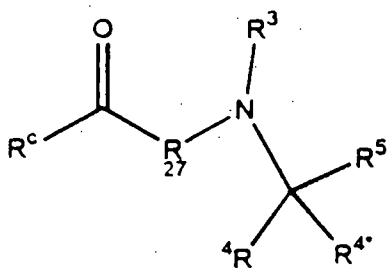
In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing a compound of the invention comprising reducing a compound of the formula



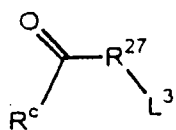
wherein C^{*} has a double bond with an adjacent carbon and R^c is independently the same as defined for R^x, to form a compound of the formula



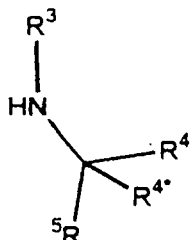
In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing a compound that can be used to synthesize the compound of the invention, the method comprising synthesizing the compound of formula:



with a compound of formula

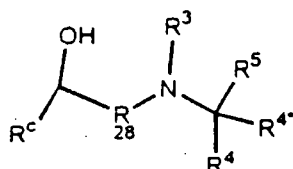


with a compound of formula



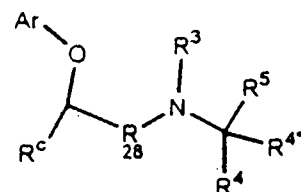
, wherein L^3 is a nucleophilic substitution leaving group.

- 5 In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing of a compound of the invention, the method comprising reacting a compound of formula

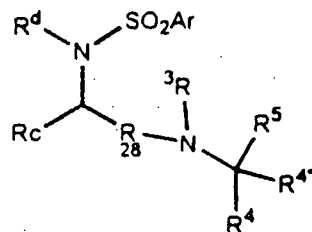


with Ar-Q wherein Ar is aryl which is substituted with an electron-withdrawing group or heteroaryl which is substituted with an electron-withdrawing group, and wherein Q is halide

- 10 (preferably fluoro or chloro), to form

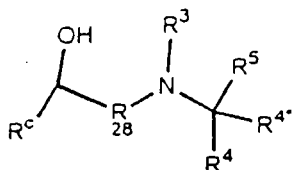


In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing a compound that can be used to synthesize the compound of the invention, the method comprising synthesizing a compound of formula X:

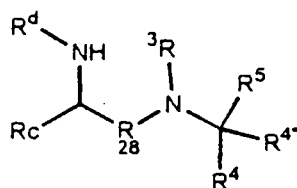


X

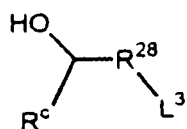
by reacting a compound of formula:



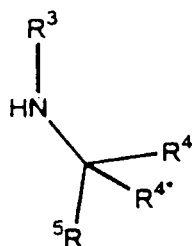
with $\text{R}^d\text{NHSO}_2\text{Ar}$. The method can further comprise converting the compound of formula X to:



- 5 In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing a compound that can be used to synthesize the compound of the invention, the method comprising reacting a compound of formula

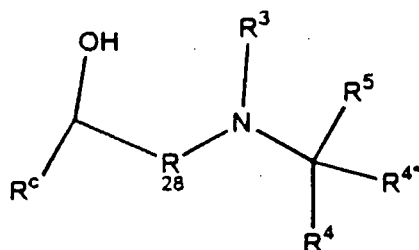


with a compound of formula



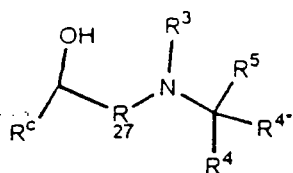
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to form a compound of formula

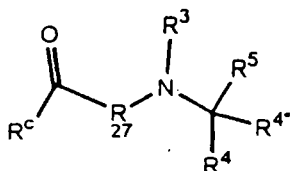


15

In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing a compound that can be used to synthesize the compound of the invention, the method comprising synthesizing the compound of formula:



said synthesis comprising reducing the ketone of a compound of formula



5 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING**

Figure 1 depicts several reactions that can be employed in the synthesis of the compounds of the invention.

Figure 2 depicts representative syntheses utilized in making compounds of the invention.

Figure 3 shows additional representative syntheses utilized in making compounds of the invention.

Figure 4 shows additional representative syntheses utilized in making compounds of the invention.

DEFINITIONS

The following terms shall have the meaning set forth below:

15 • **excipient**

Excipients are pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic carrier substances suitable for parenteral, enteral (e.g., oral or inhalation) or topical application that do not deleteriously react with the active compositions. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include but are not limited to water, salt solutions, alcohols, gum arabic, benzyl alcohols, gelatine, carbohydrates such as lactose, amylose or starch, magnesium stearate, talc, silicic acid, hydroxymethylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and the like.

20 • **effective amount**

The meaning of "effective amount" will be recognized by clinicians but includes amount effective to (1) reduce, ameliorate or eliminate one or more symptoms of the disease sought to be treated, (2) induce a pharmacological change relevant to treating the disease sought to be treated, or (3) prevent or lessen the frequency of occurrence of a disease.

• neuronal cell death prevention

Neuronal cell death is "prevented" if there is a reduction in the amount of cell death that would have been expected to have occurred but for the administration of a compound of the invention.

5

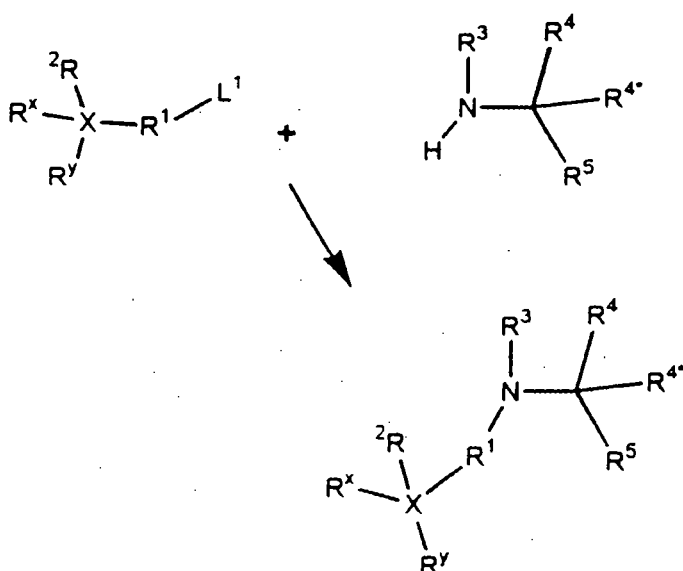
• oxo substitution

References to oxo as a "substituent" refer to "=O" substitutions.

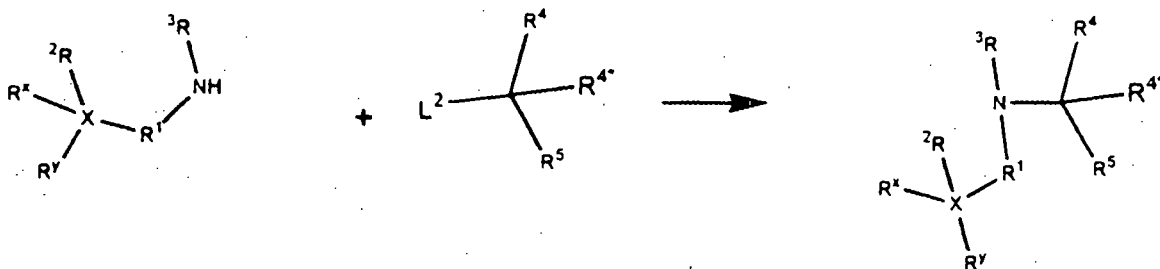
DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The compounds of the invention are generally prepared according to one of the following synthetic schemes, although alternative schemes will be recognized by those of ordinary skill.

10 **Reaction 1**



Reaction 2



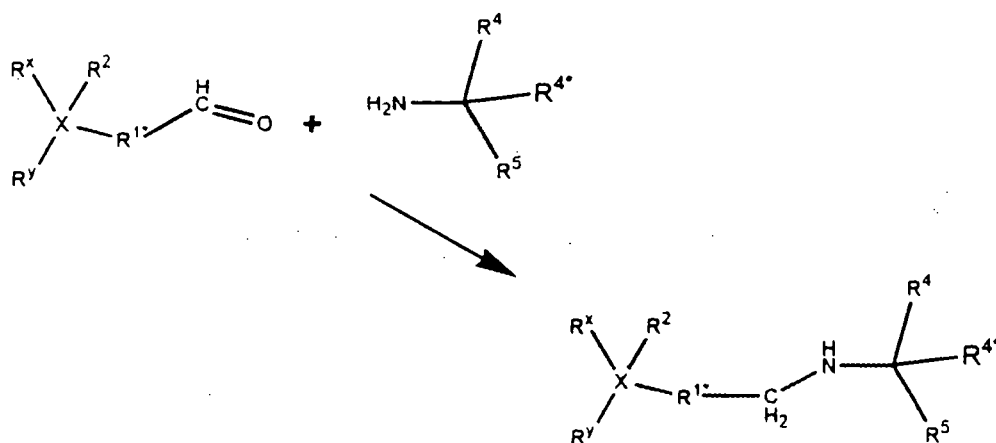
In Reaction 1 or Reaction 2, L^1 and L^2 are good nucleophilic substitution leaving groups such as a halide, especially a bromide, a tosylate, a brosylate (p-bromobenzenesulfonate), and the like.

15

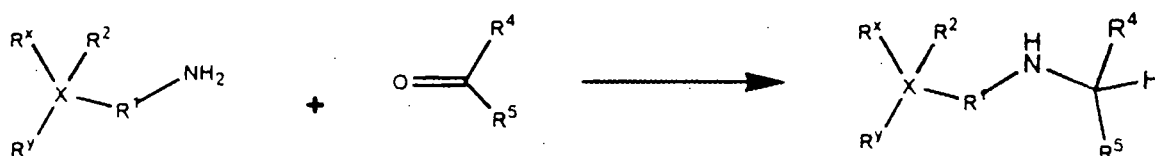
The reaction is preferably conducted in the presence of a base such as potassium carbonate or a tertiary amine such as diisopropylethylamine. Where the leaving group is a halide, the reaction is preferably conducted in the presence of an iodide salt such as potassium iodide. Suitable organic solvents include, for example, methanol, dioxane, acetonitrile or dimethylformamide. Reaction 1 is

favorably conducted at a temperature range of about 50°C to about 100°C. Reaction 2 is favorably conducted at a temperature range of about 15°C to about 40°C. Avoiding more elevated temperatures helps decrease the formation of additional alkylation products. Those of ordinary skill will recognize that reaction 2 should be conducted with compounds that lack ring C.

5 **Reaction 3**



Reaction 4

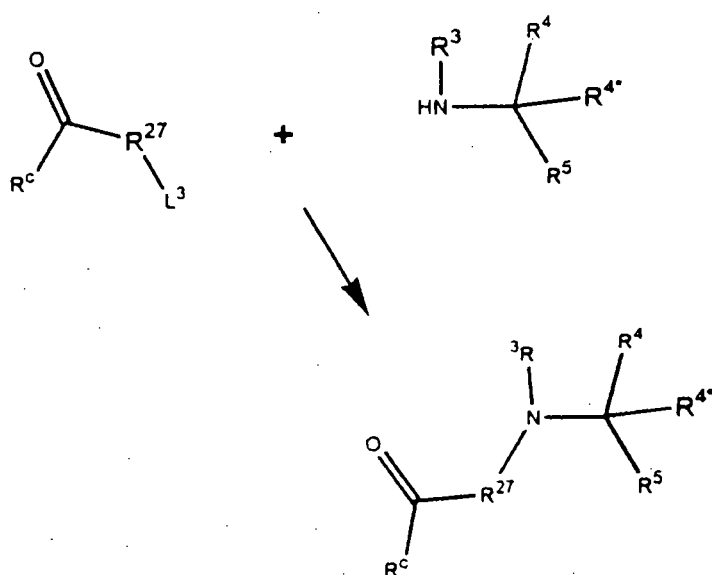


- 10 In Reaction 3, R^{1*} satisfies the definition of R^1 except for the absence of the carbon that is part of an aldehyde group in the starting material. The reductive alkylation of Reaction 3 or Reaction 4 can be effected by several known methods (see, for example, "Reductive Alkylation," W.S. Emerson in Organic Reactions, Vol. 4, John Wiley & Sons, 1948, p. 174 *et seq.*) including reaction with hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst such as palladium on carbon, reaction with sodium cyanoborohydride or reaction with sodium triacetoxyborohydride when groups labile to catalytic hydrogenation are present. It will be recognized that an intermediate Schiff's base is formed in the reaction, which Schiff's base is reduced to form the linkage. The intermediate Schiff's base can be isolated and then reduced in a separate reaction. Solvent selection will vary with such factors as the solubility of the starting materials, the degree to which the solvent favors the dehydration reaction forming the Schiff's base, and the suitability of the solvent in the reduction process. Suitable solvents using catalytic hydrogenation to reduce the Schiff's base include ethanol. Suitable solvents using a borohydride to reduce the Schiff's base include alcoholic solvents such as methanol or ethanol. In some cases, a drying process can be employed during the
- 15
- 20

reaction to promote the dehydration reaction that forms the Schiff's base that is reduced. Such drying processes include refluxing under conditions selected to remove water as an azeotrope or the use of molecular sieves or other drying reagents. Suitable reaction temperatures include the range from about 20°C to the reflux temperature of the solvent employed.

- 5 In Reaction 5, shown in Figure 1, R^c is independently the same as defined for R^x . The starting material I can be synthesized, for instance, using the chemistry of Reaction 13 (similar to Reaction 1), as follows:

Reaction 13:



- 10 wherein R^{27} has the same definition as R^1 except that it does not include a nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and does not include any double bonds conjugated with the above-illustrated carbonyl, and wherein L^3 is a good nucleophilic substitution leaving group such as a halide, especially a bromide, a tosylate, a brosylate (p-bromobenzenesulfonate), and the like. In Reaction 5 shown in Figure 1, R^d-NH_2 is reacted with I to give II under conditions that effect a reductive alkylation, as
- 15 described for Reaction 3 and Reaction 4. R^d is independently the same as defined for R^x . Alternatively, II can be synthesized via Reaction 18 by reacting R^d-NH_2 with VIII under the conditions described for Reaction 1.

- In Reaction 6, shown in Figure 1, R^e is independently the same as defined for R^x . In Reaction 6, I is reacted with a organometallic reagent such as an aryllithium or an aryl or arylalkyl Grignard reagent to form III, as described, for instance, in Section 5.1.2 of Cary and Sundberg,
- 20 Advanced Organic Chemistry, Part 2, Plenum, New York, 1977, pp. 170 -180, and references cited therein. This reaction is described below in more detail for the synthesis of compound A32

(step 2 of Example 5A). Those of ordinary skill will be aware that in some cases where R^5 includes an ester, the organometallic reagent may react with the ester group; in those such cases where the yield of the desired product is too low, the solvent, the organometallic reagent or the ester substitution can be varied.

5 In Reaction 7, shown in Figure 1, **III** is subjected to conditions suitable for dehydration to form the double bond of **IV**. Such conditions are, for instance, those described in H. Weiland, Ber. 45: 484 *et seq.* (1912), wherein **III** is refluxed with acetic anhydride. In the illustration, the double bond forms with the adjacent carbon atom of R^{27} . The double bond will typically form with this orientation where R^c and R^e are aryl or heteroaryl and the adjacent carbon of R^{27} is
10 saturated and not fully substituted, but other orientations are possible depending on the composition of R^c , R^e and R^{27} .

In Reaction 8, shown in Figure 1, **IV** is reduced to form **V**, for instance using any of a number of known methods for reducing carbon-carbon double bonds, such as catalytic hydrogenation in the presence of an appropriate hydrogenation catalyst. An example of this
15 process is described below for compound A4 (Example 10).

In Reaction 9, shown in Figure 1, **III** is acylated, for instance, with acetic anhydride in the presence of an acylation catalyst such as 4-dimethylaminopyridine. In this context, R^3 should not be hydrogen, though a hydrogen substituent can be restored to this position after Reaction 9 by using a suitable protecting group to mask the nitrogen.

20 In Reaction 10, shown in Figure 1, the ketone moiety of **I** is reduced, for instance by any of a number of known methods for selectively reducing ketones, such as reaction with lithium tri-*tert*-butoxyaluminumhydride. An example of this process is described below for the preparation of compound A31 (step 1 of Example 8A).

For Reaction 11, shown in Figure 1, the hydroxyl of **VII** is replaced by a leaving group
25 L^5 , wherein the leaving group is, for instance, chloro or bromo, by reacting **VII** with, for instance, thionyl chloride or thionyl bromide. An example of this process is described below for the preparation of compound A31 (step 2 of Example 8A).

For Reaction 12, shown in Figure 1, R^f is independently the same as defined for R^x . **VIII** is reacted with R^fOH in the presence of a base such as potassium carbonate or sodium hydride.
30 Alternatively, the thio-containing analog of **IX** can be synthesized by reacting **VIII** with R^fSH . An example of this process is described below for the synthesis of compound A31 (step 3 of Example 8A). The transformations of Reactions 11 and 12 can be conducted in a single pot, for

instance by a Mitsunobu reaction such as described in Examples 8C, Step 1 and 8D, Step 2. Alternatively, VII can be directly reacted with an aryl halide or chloride, preferably an aryl fluoride or chloride, to form IX, such as is described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,166,437 and 5,362,886. It will be recognized that typically the aryl halide used in this reaction will typically have an electron-withdrawing group that facilitates the reaction, such as a trifluoromethyl or nitro group in the para position. 1-fluoronaphthalene is also suitable for this reaction, since the ring fused to the fluoro-substituted ring is the electron withdrawing group.

In reaction 19, VII is reacted with R^dNHSO_2Ar to yield X, as described for example in Example 8C, Step 1. In reaction 20, X is converted to II as described, for example, in Example 8C, Step 2.

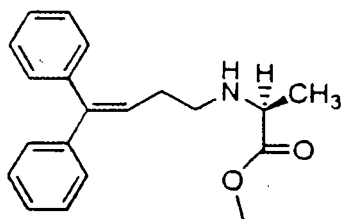
A number of other well-known synthetic approaches can be applied. For instance, acids can be formed by the hydrolysis of the corresponding esters. Amine derivatives can be formed by the alkylation of primary, secondary or tertiary amines. A number of double bond containing compounds can be hydrogenated to form the corresponding single bond. The N-oxide compounds of the invention are typically formed from the corresponding tertiary nitrogen by known methods.

In some cases, the chemistries outlined above may have to be modified, for instance by use of protective groups, to prevent side reactions due to reactive groups, such as reactive groups incorporated into heterocyclic rings or attached as substituents.

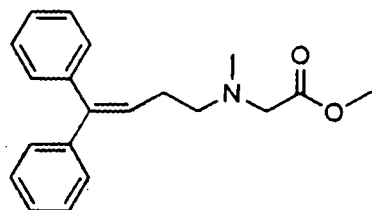
Compounds of the invention may also be prepared by adapting the classical solution chemistries outlined above into solid-phase synthetic techniques. For example, R^{13} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} and R^{20} can be residues other than hydrogen representing functionalized resin or suitably selected linker attached to functionalized resin. The linker and the functional group represented by R^5 should be stable under the conditions employed for the above-described reactions. The compounds of the invention where R^{13} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} is R^{20} is hydrogen, are then cleaved from the resin or the linker leaving the remainder of the molecule intact. For example, solid-phase synthesis of peptoids [oligo(N-substituted glycines)] using robotic synthesizer was described by Zuckermann et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **114**, 10646-10647, (1992) and Spellmeyer et al., WO 95/04072. Under analogous conditions, acylation reaction of Rink amide polystyrene resin with bromoacetic acid in the presence of N,N'-diisopropylcarbodiimide followed by displacement of the bromine with N-substituted amine (Reaction 2) and cleavage can provide N-substituted glycinamides (R^{13} and R^{14} are hydrogen).

Using the reactions described herein, including hydrolysis of esters, alkylation of amines, or hydrogenation reactions, the following compounds of the invention have been synthesized:

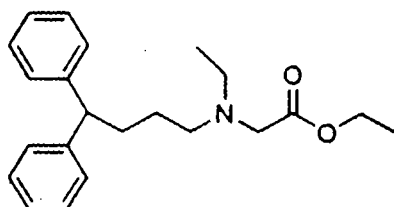
A1



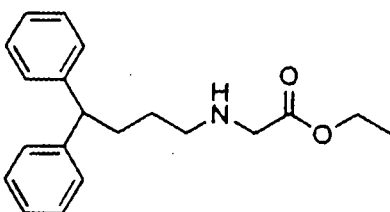
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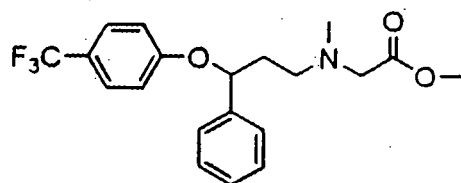
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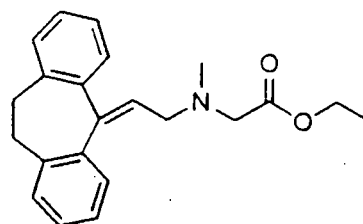
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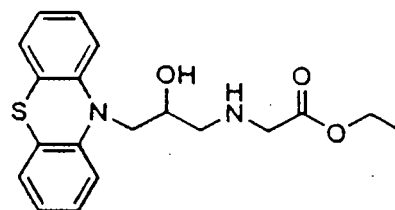
A5



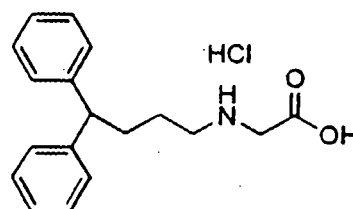
A6



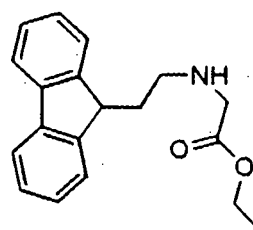
A7



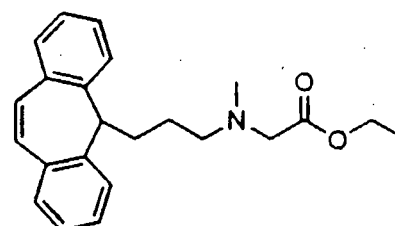
A8

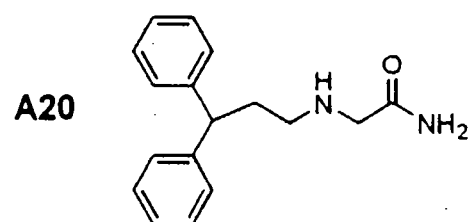
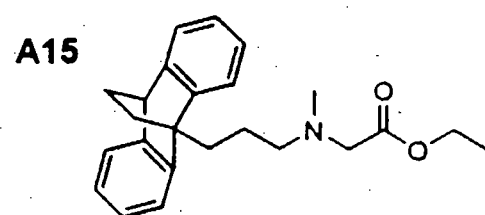
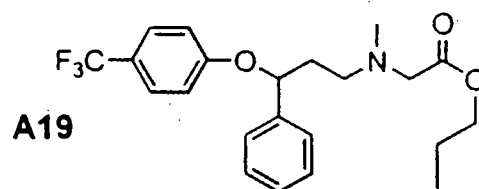
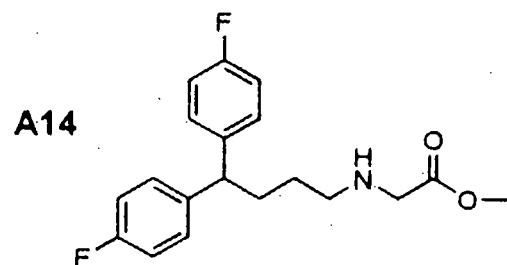
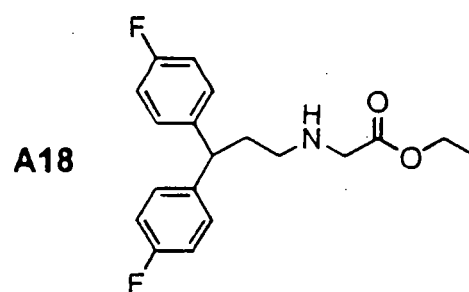
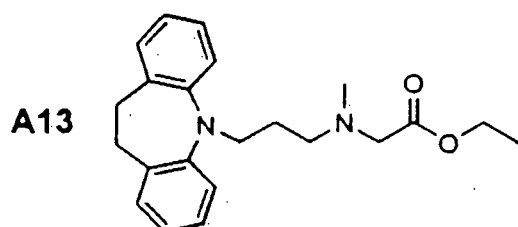
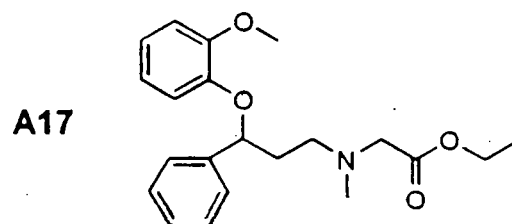
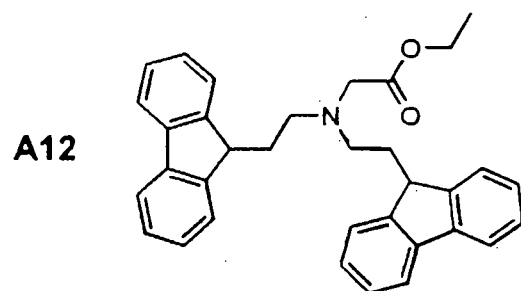
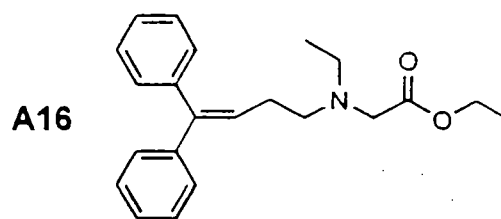
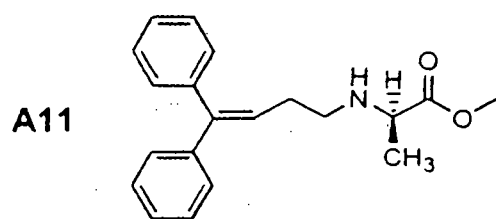


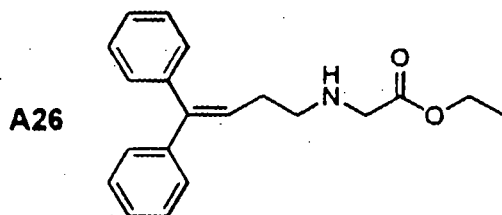
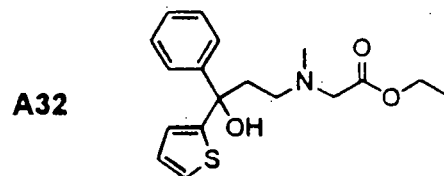
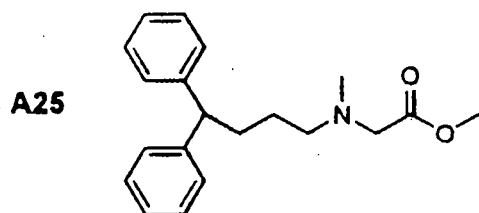
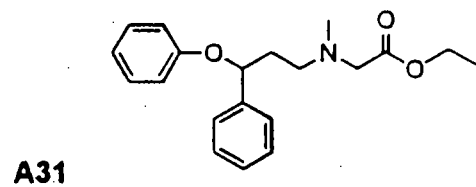
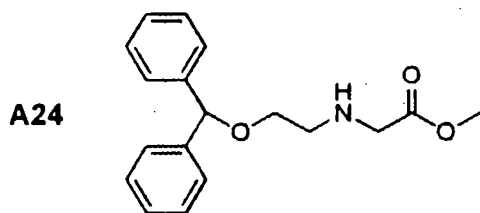
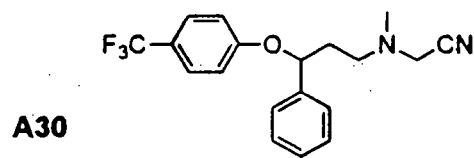
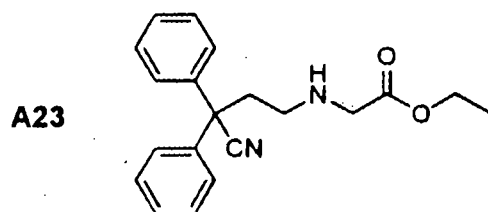
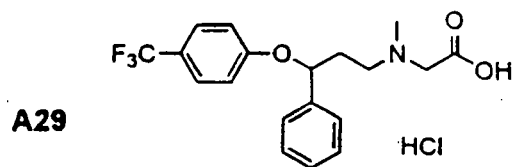
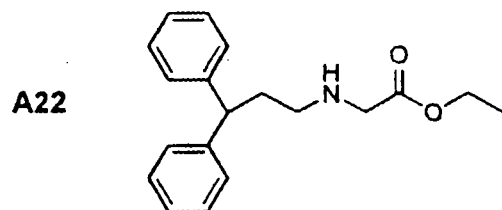
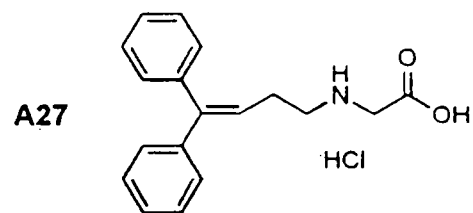
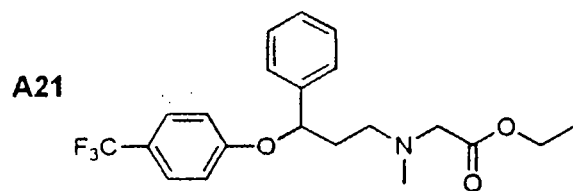
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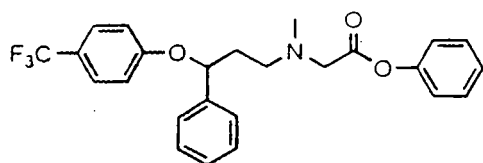
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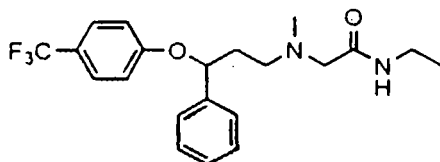




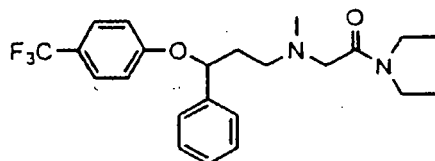
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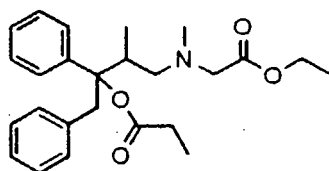
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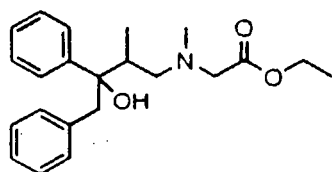
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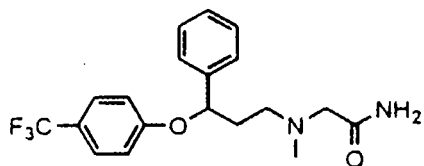
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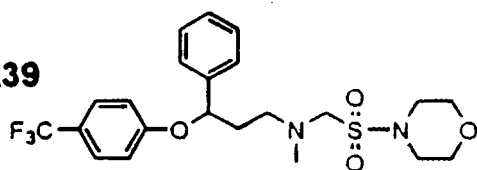
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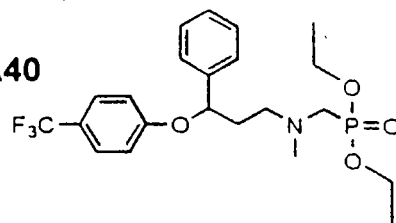
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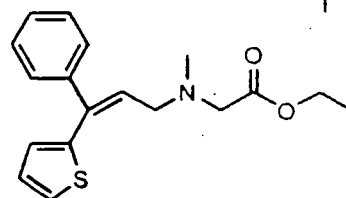
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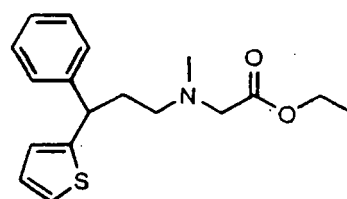
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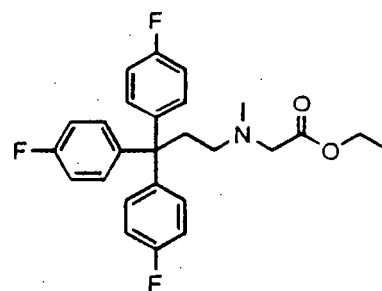
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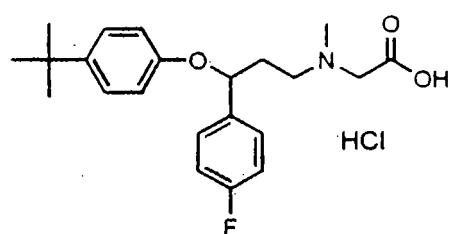
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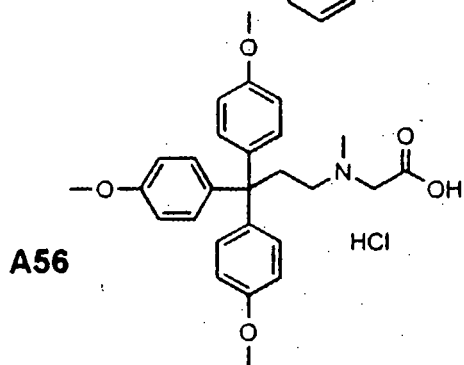
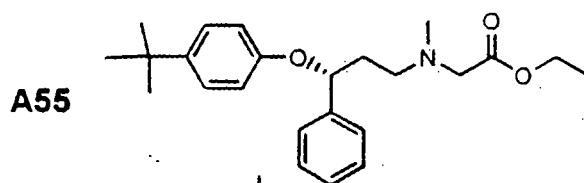
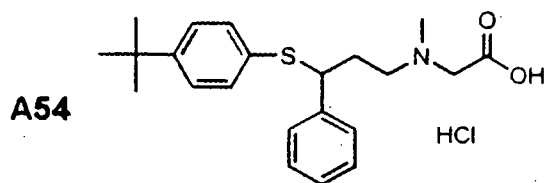
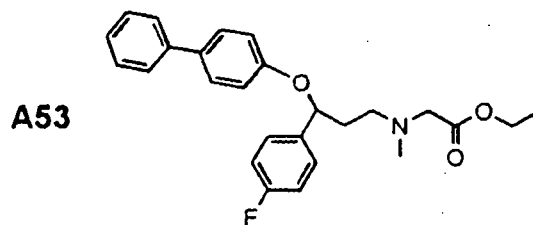
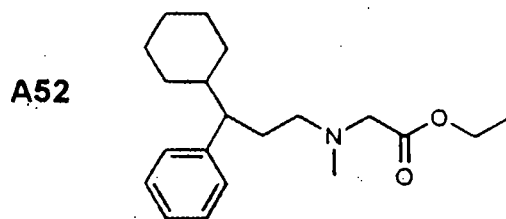
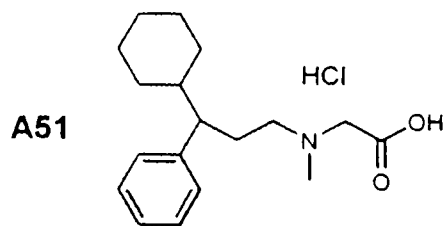
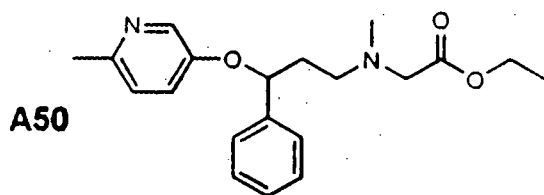
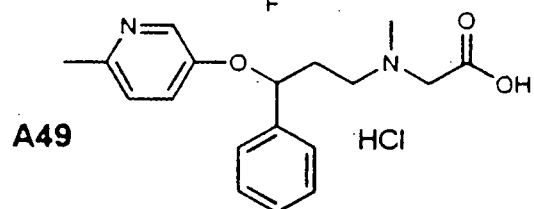
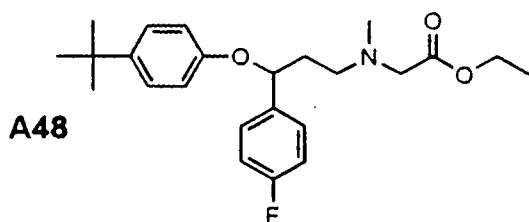
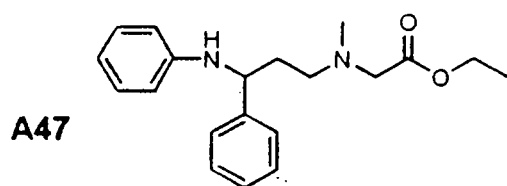
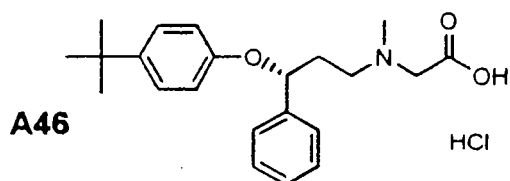
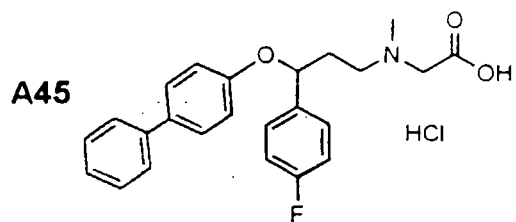
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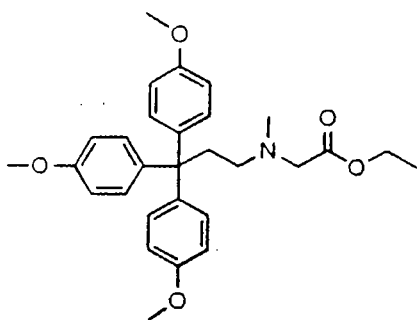
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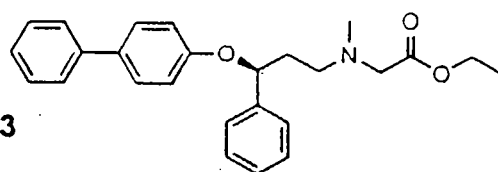
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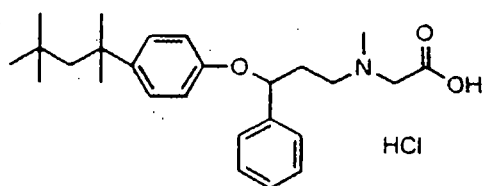
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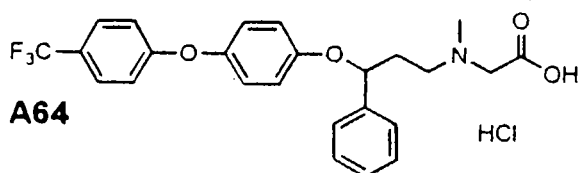
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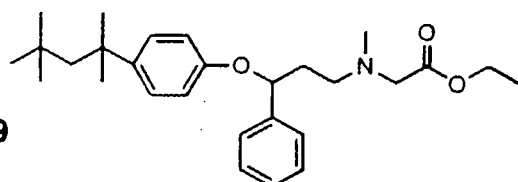
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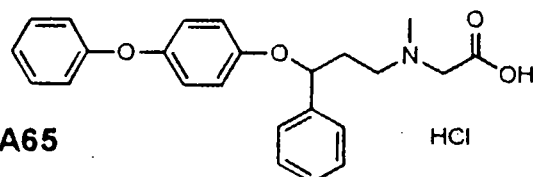
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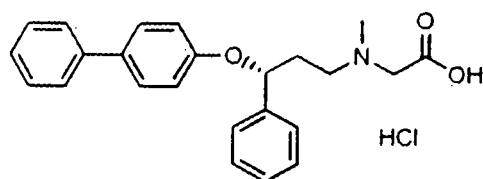
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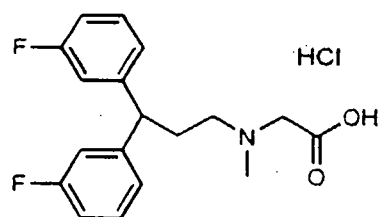
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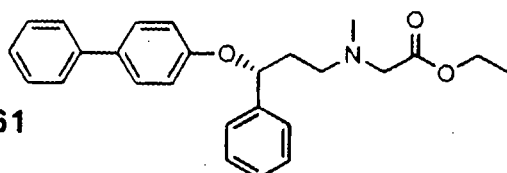
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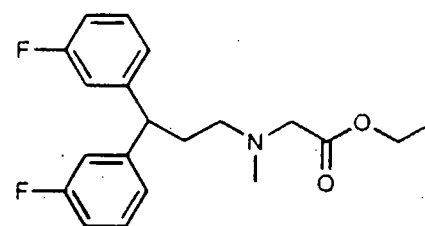
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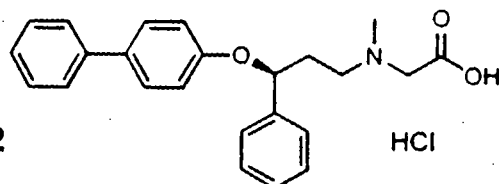
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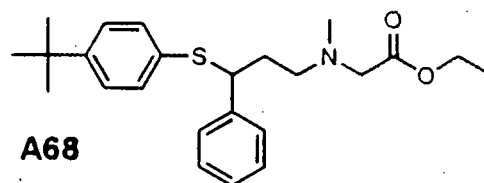
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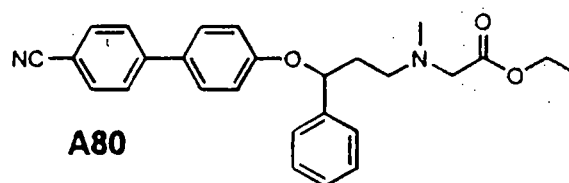
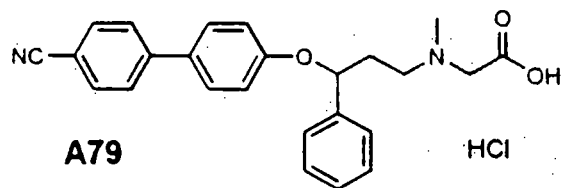
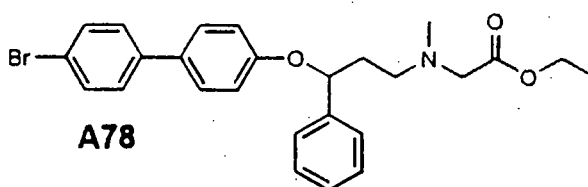
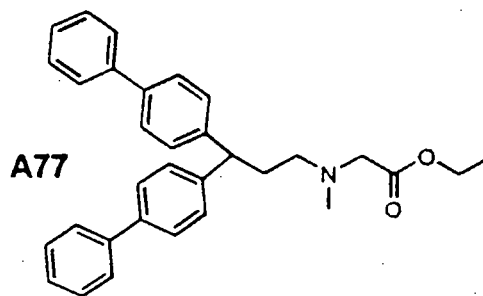
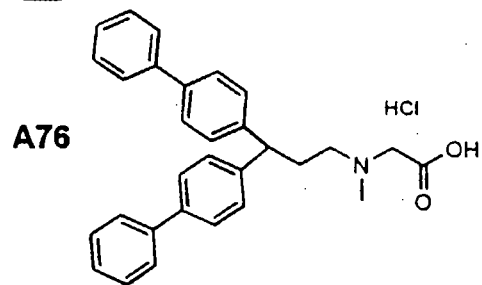
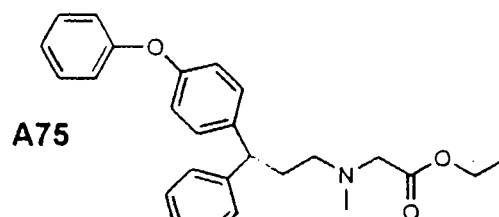
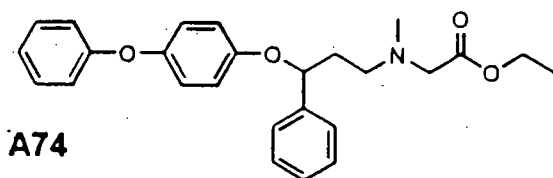
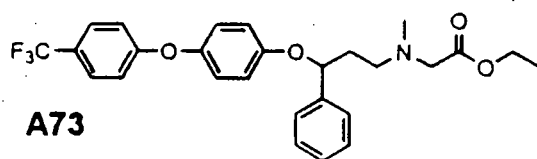
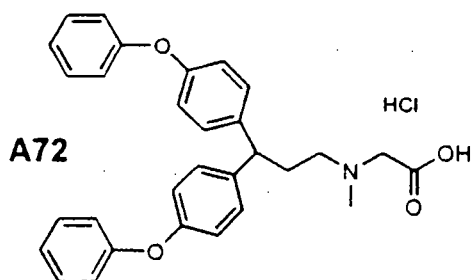
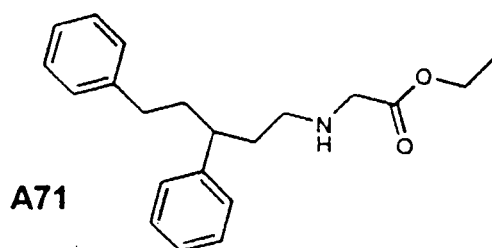
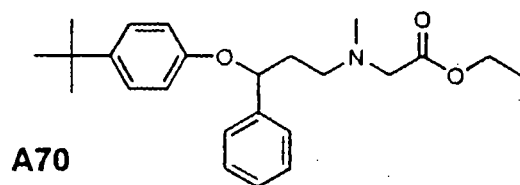
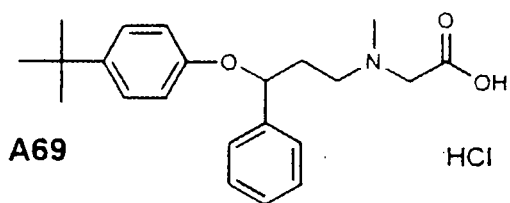


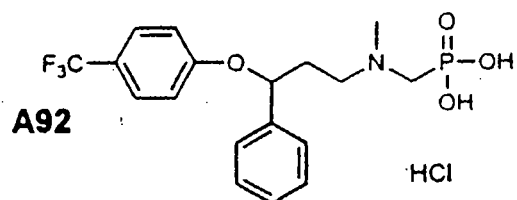
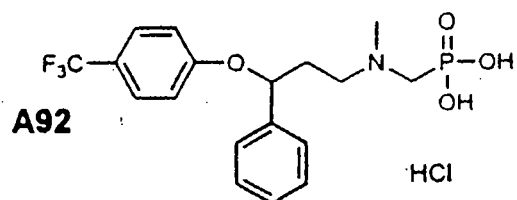
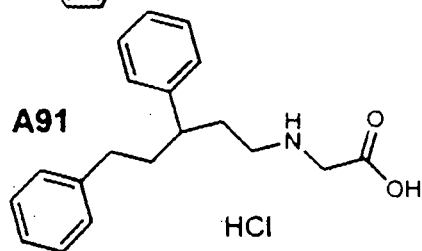
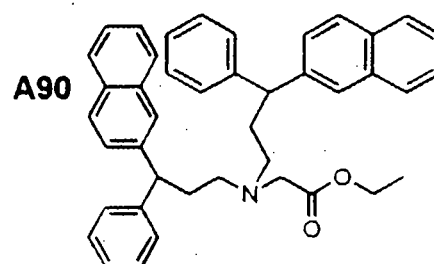
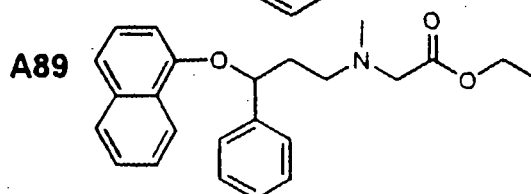
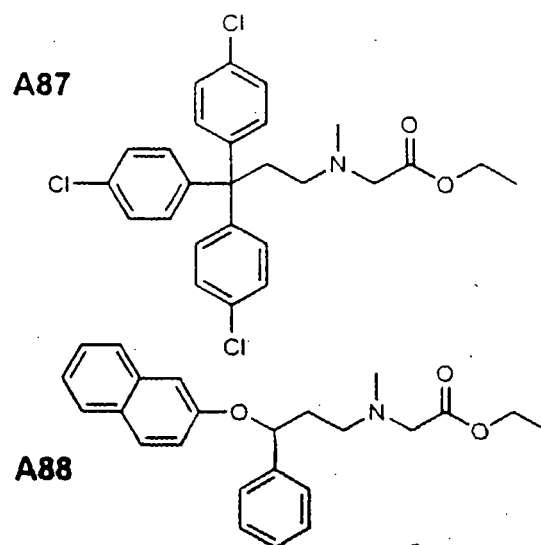
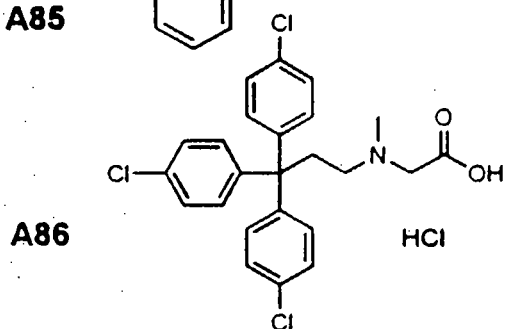
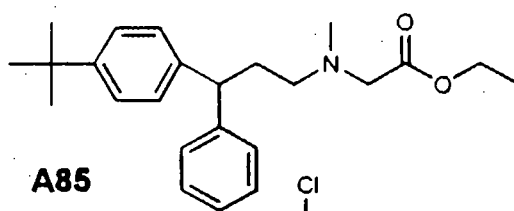
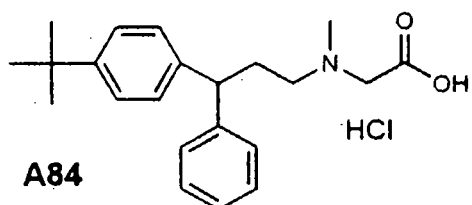
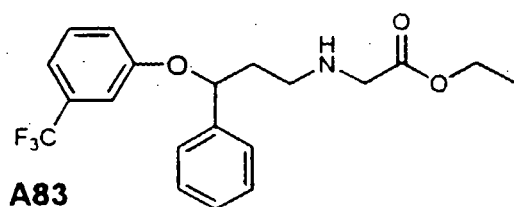
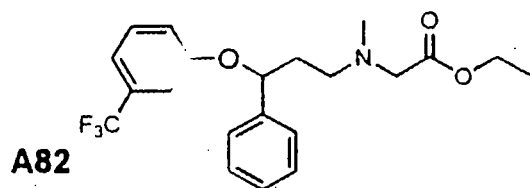
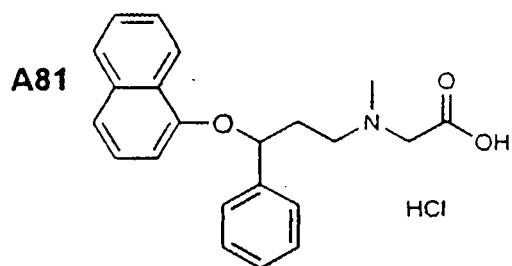
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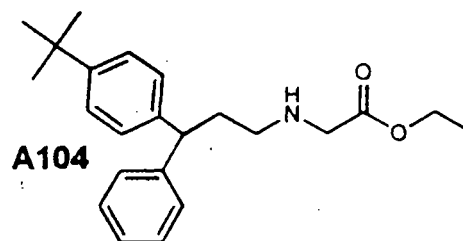
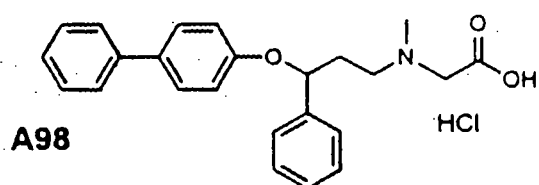
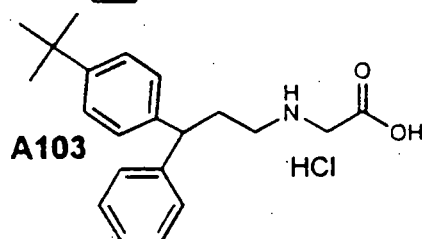
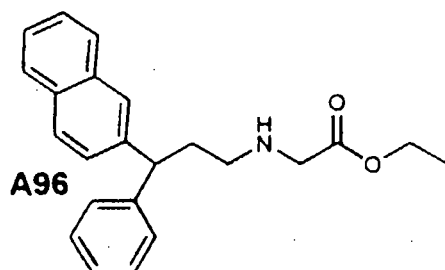
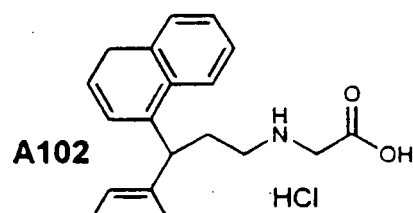
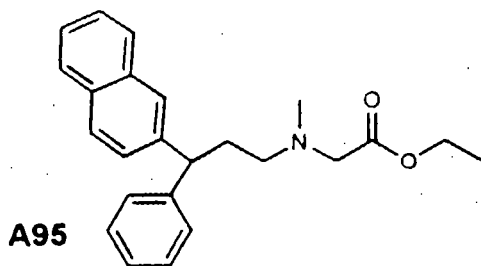
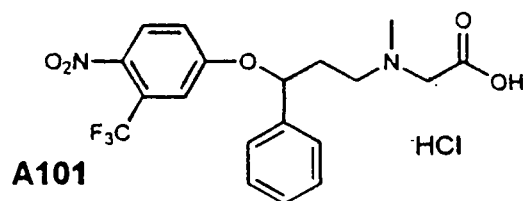
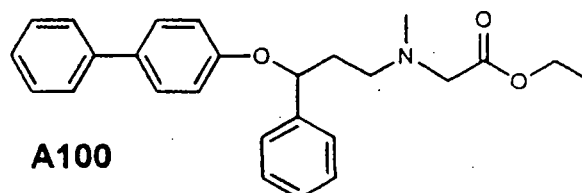
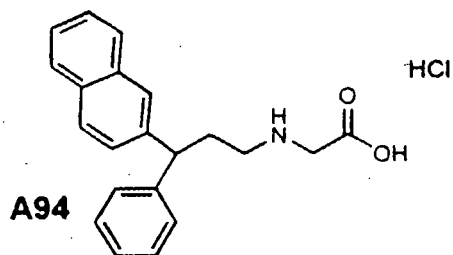
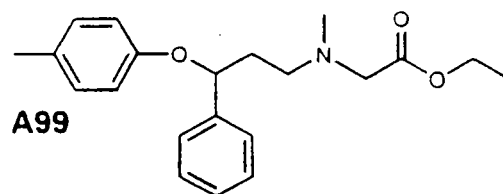
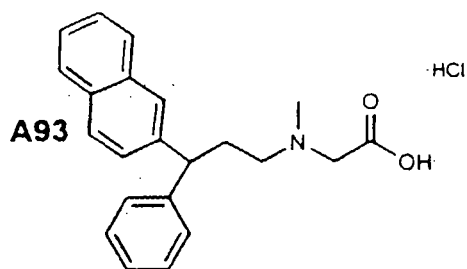


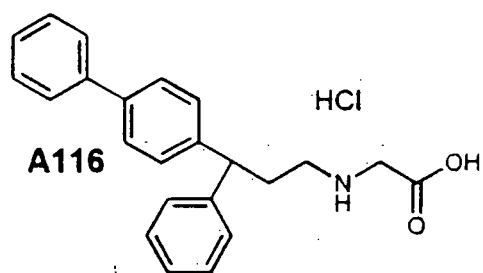
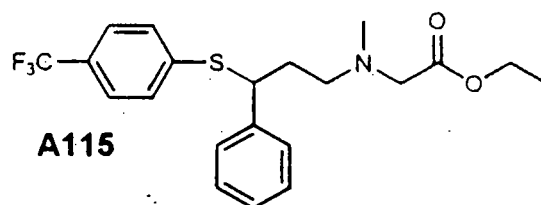
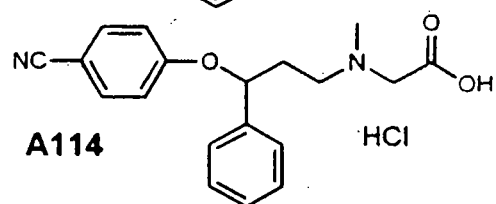
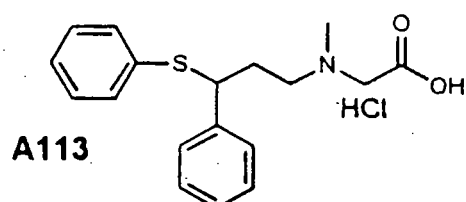
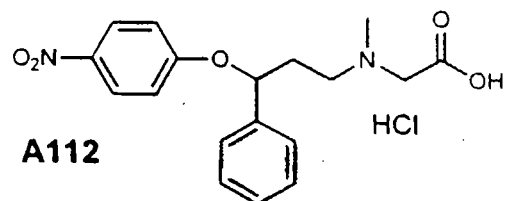
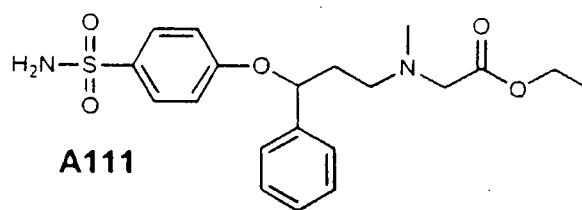
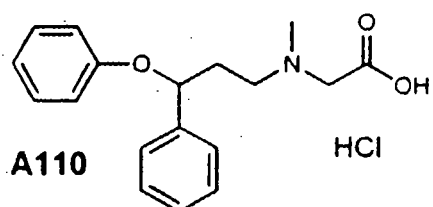
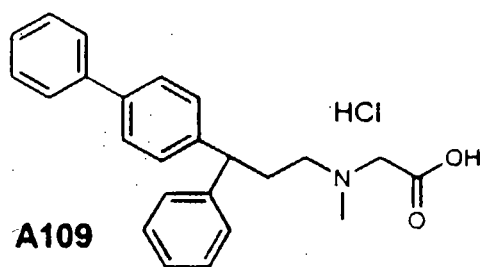
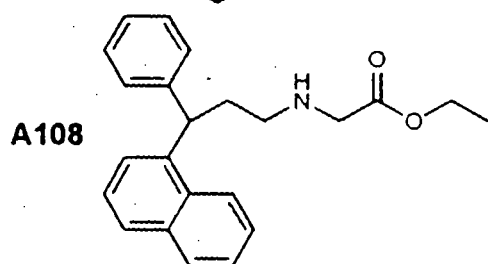
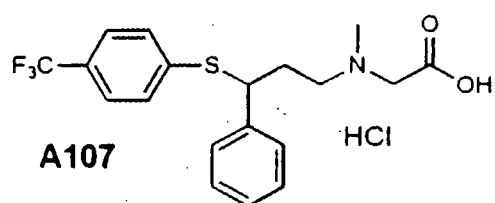
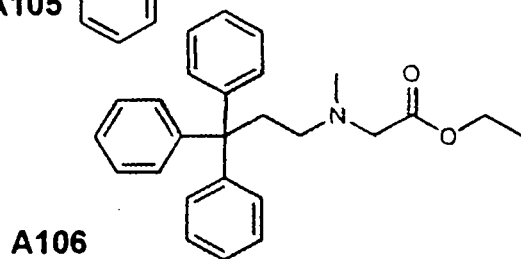
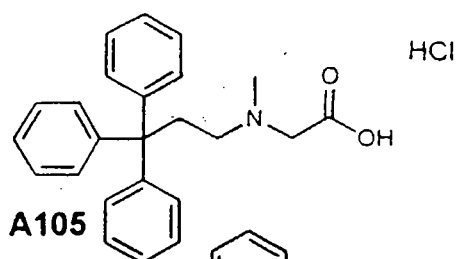
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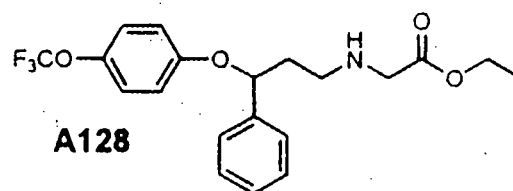
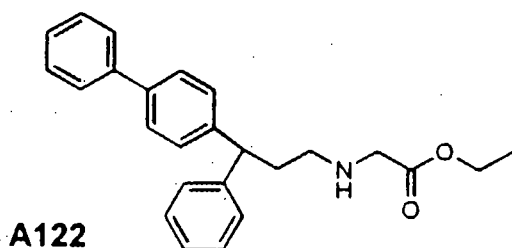
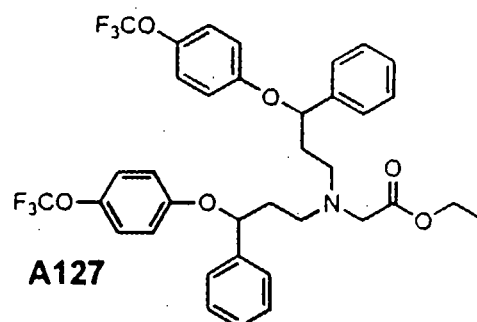
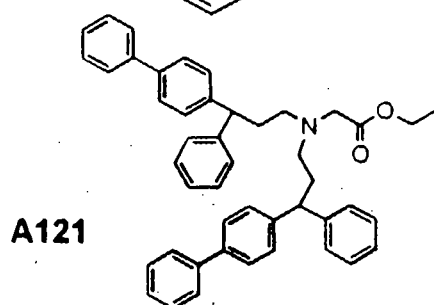
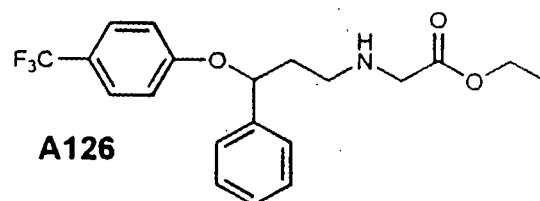
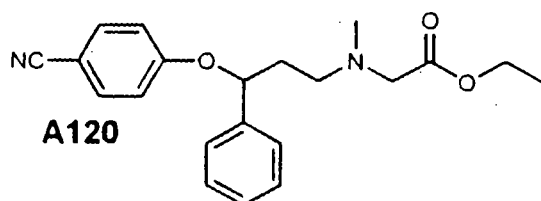
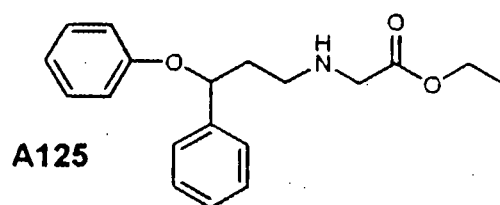
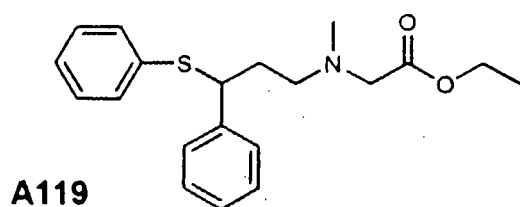
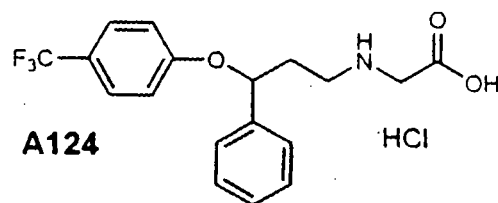
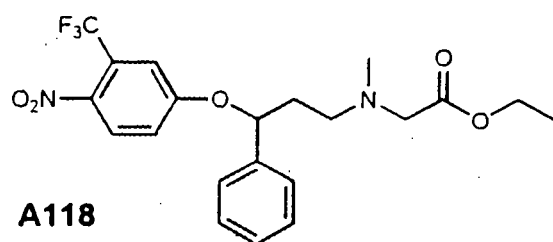
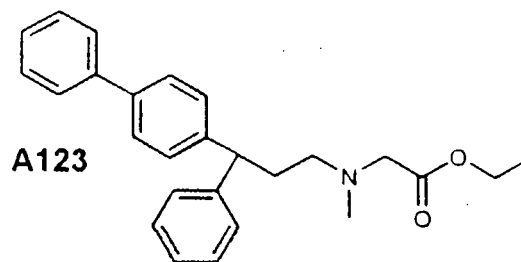
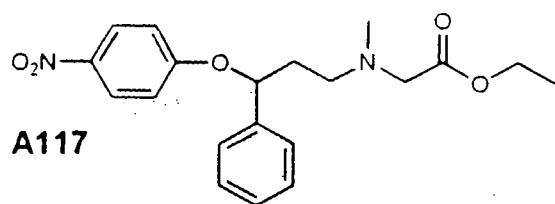


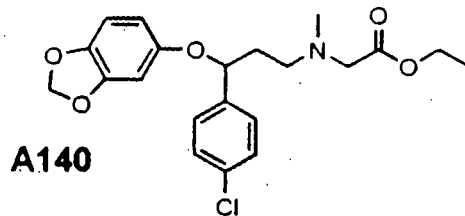
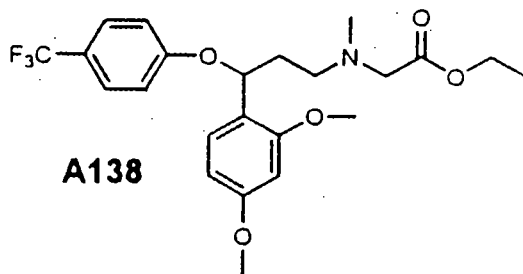
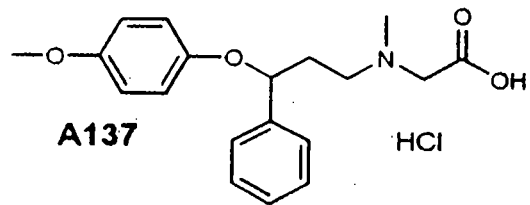
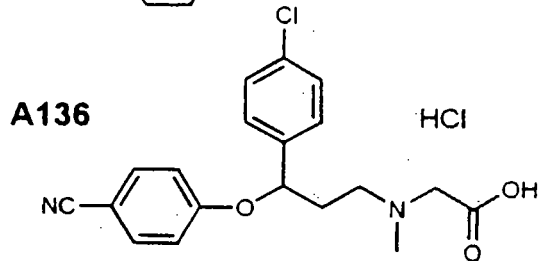
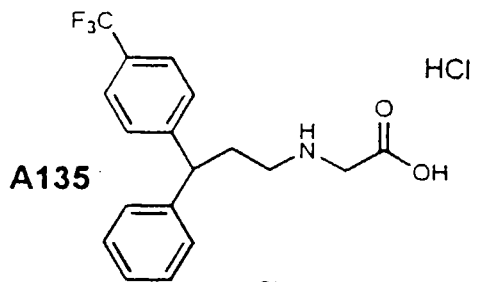
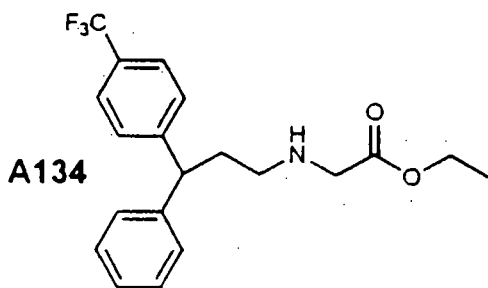
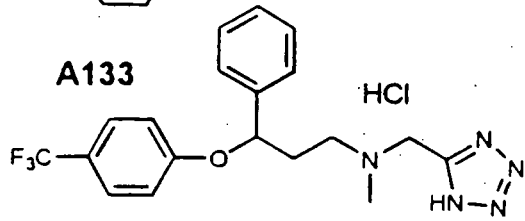
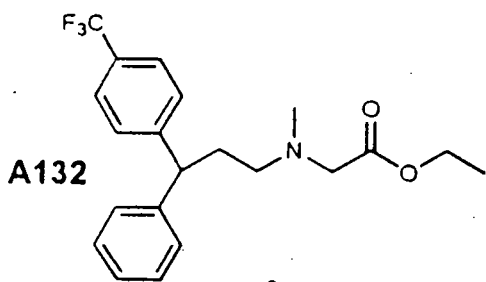
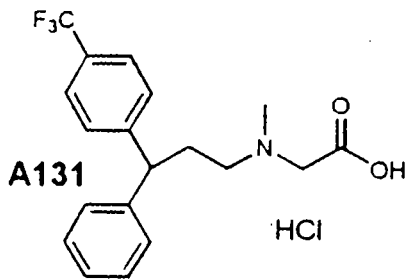
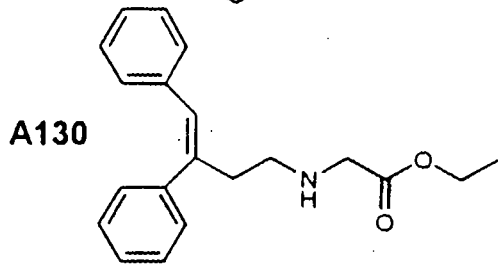
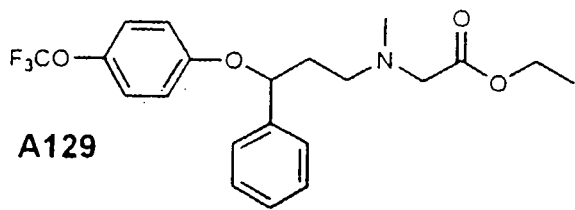




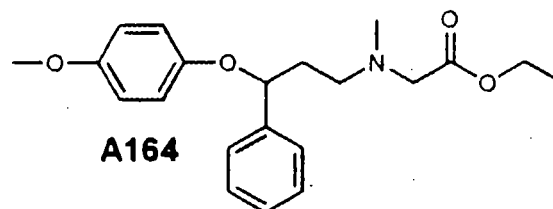
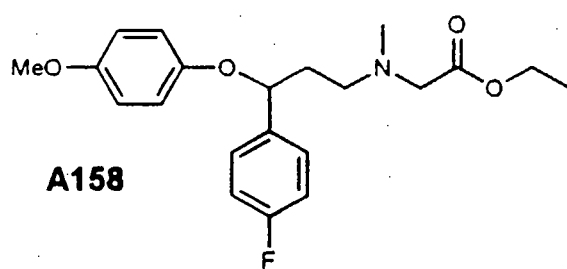
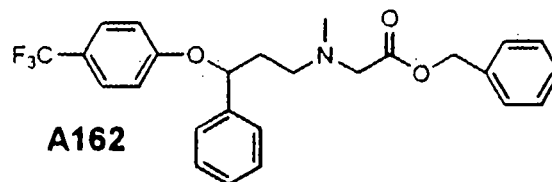
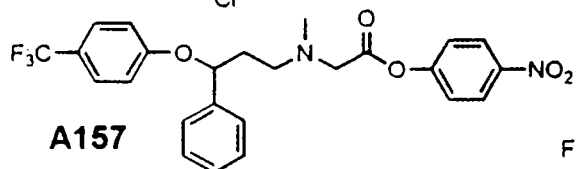
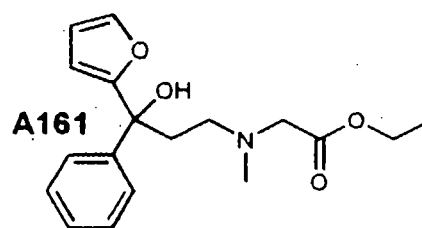
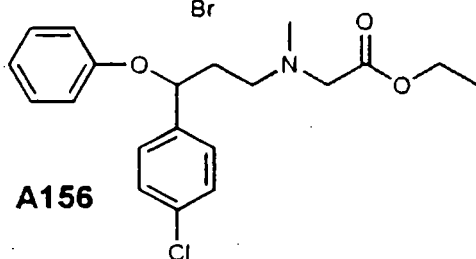
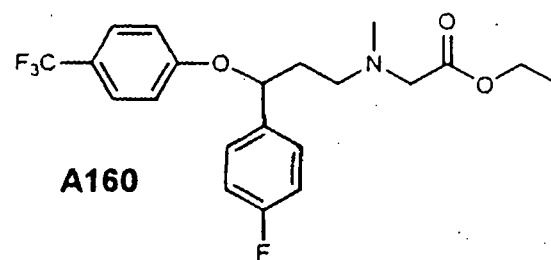
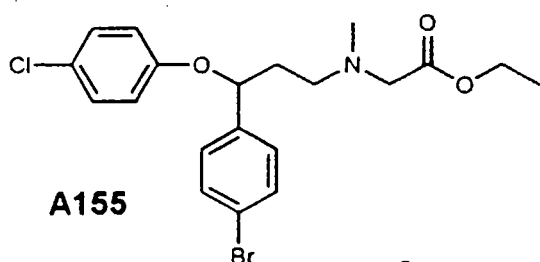
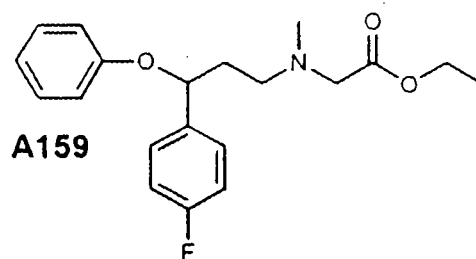
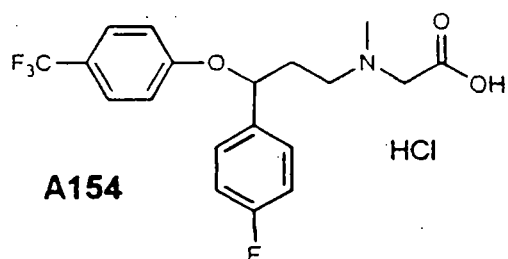


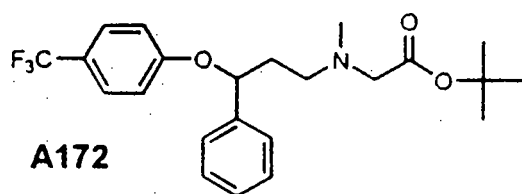
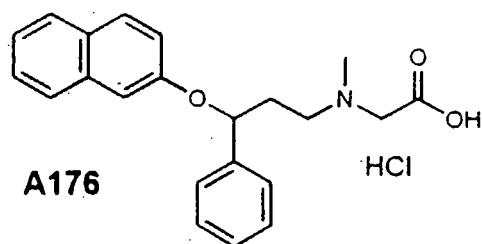
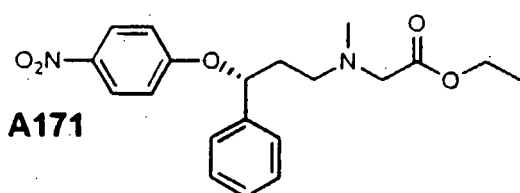
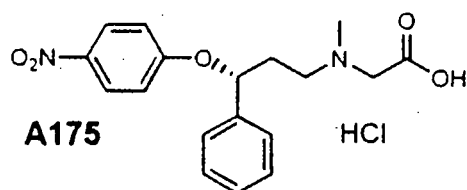
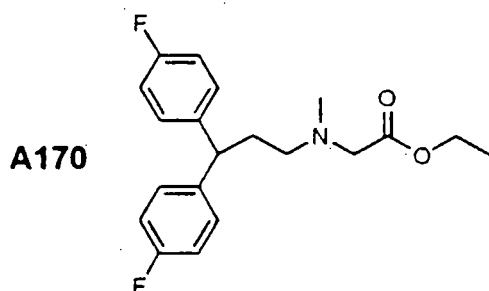
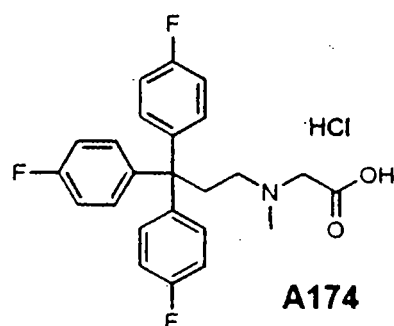
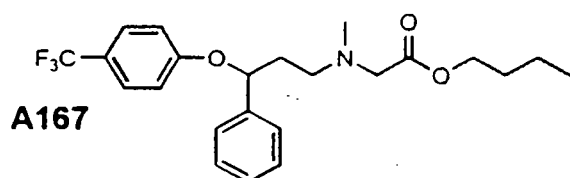
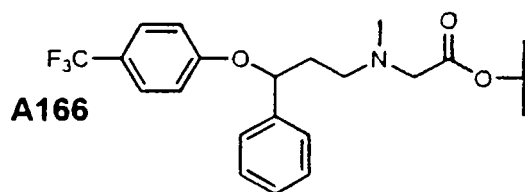
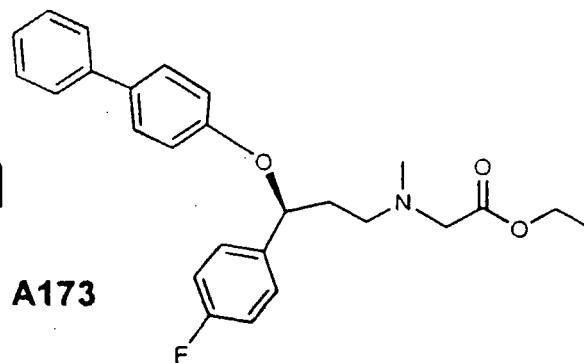
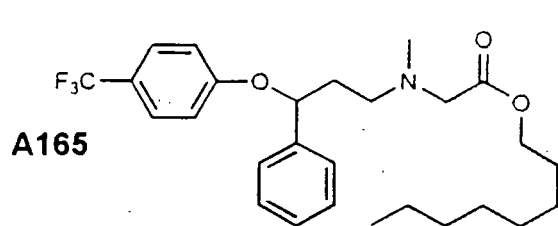


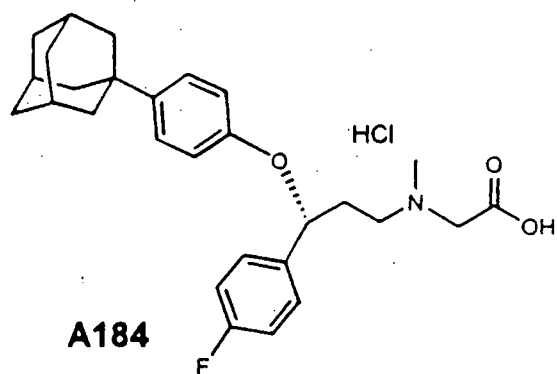
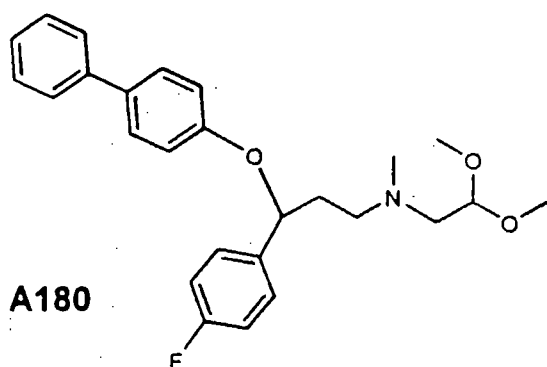
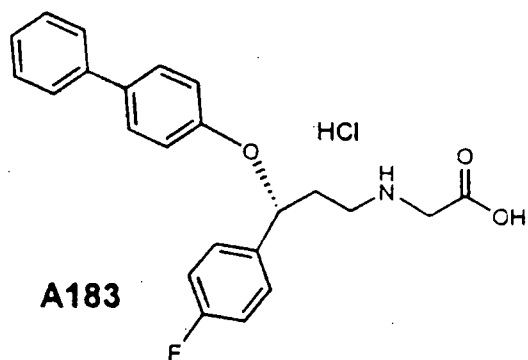
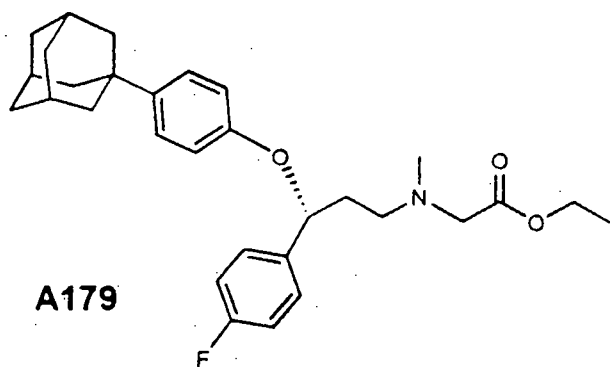
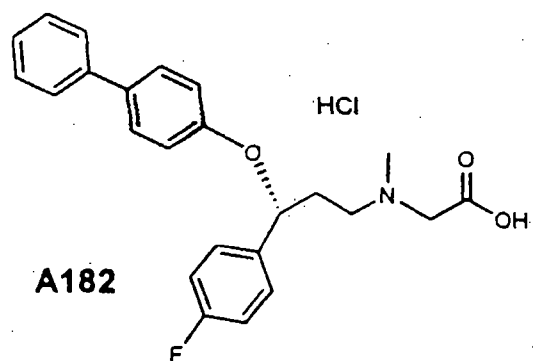
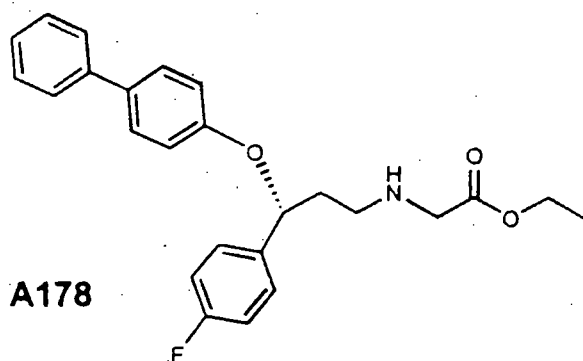
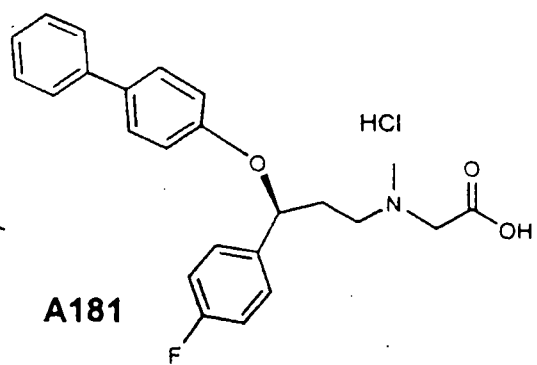
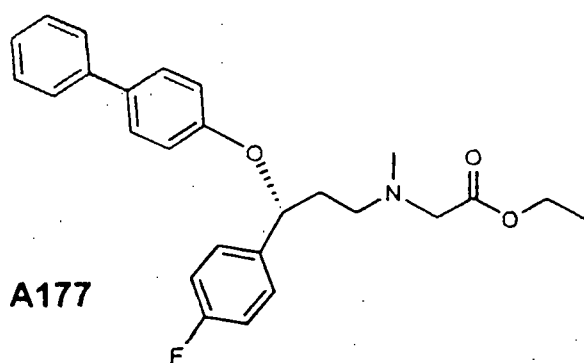




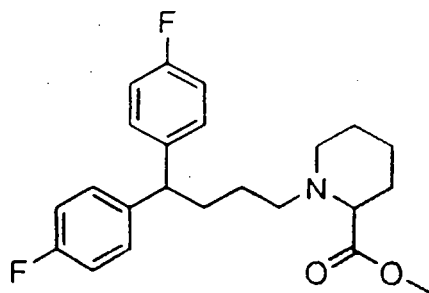




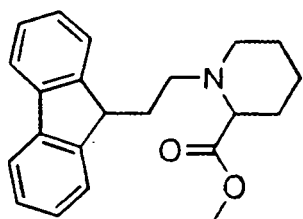




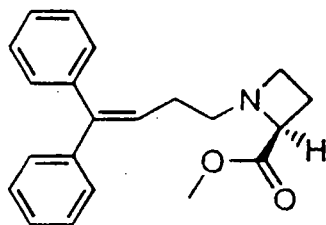
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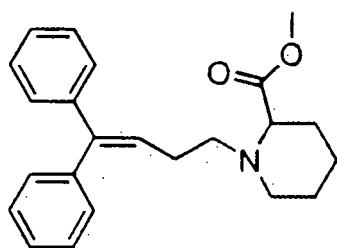
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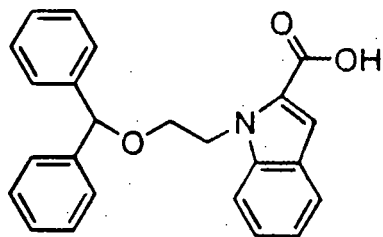
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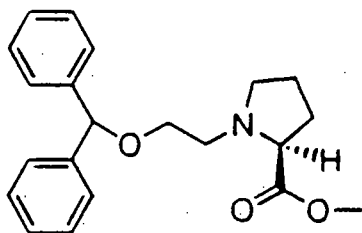
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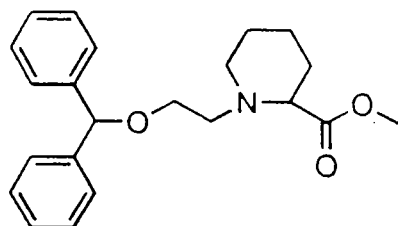
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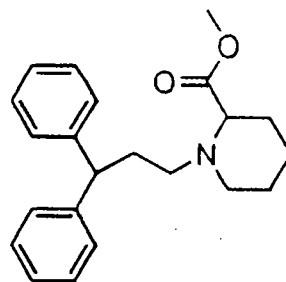
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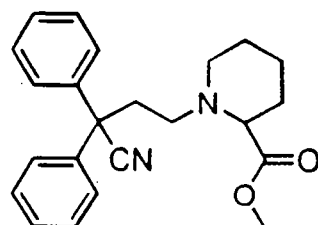
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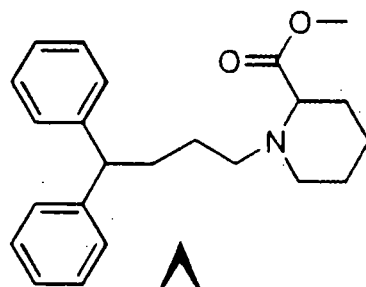
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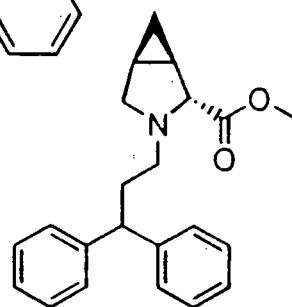
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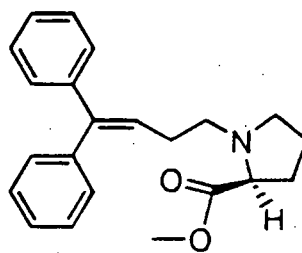
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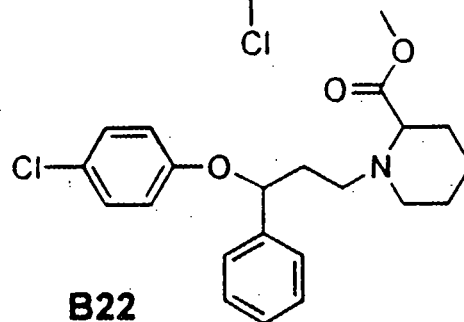
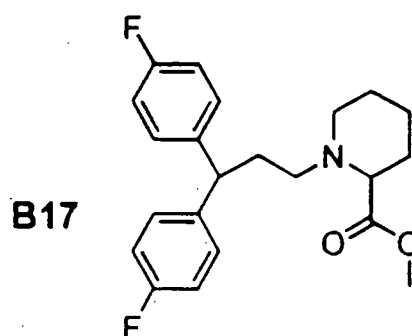
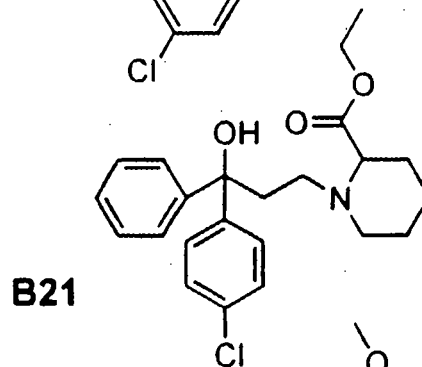
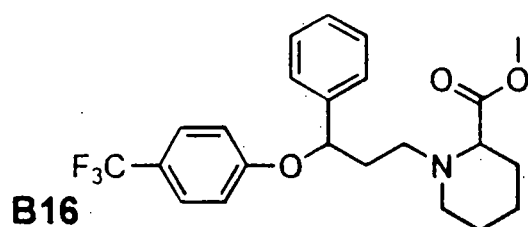
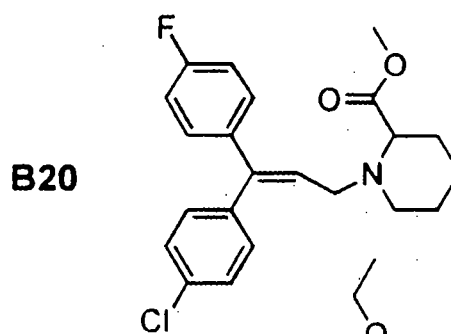
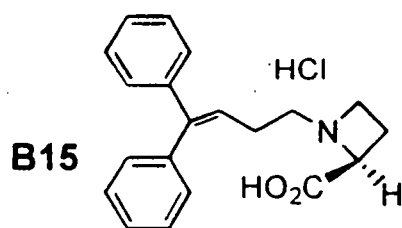
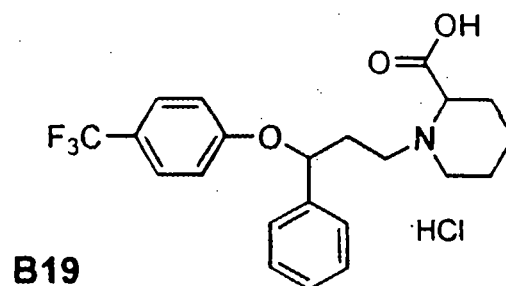
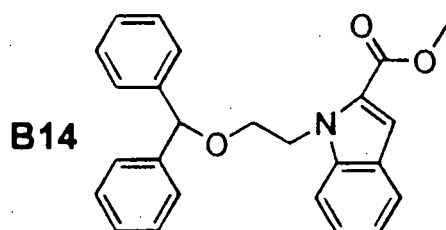
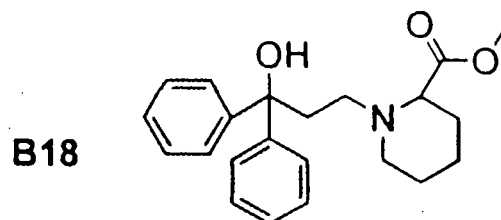
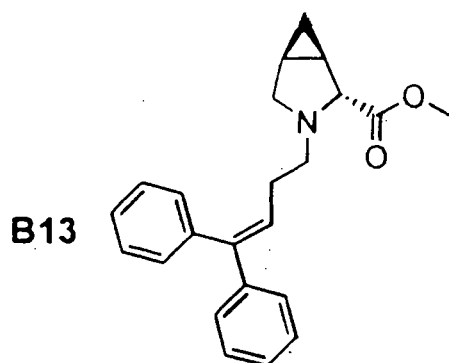


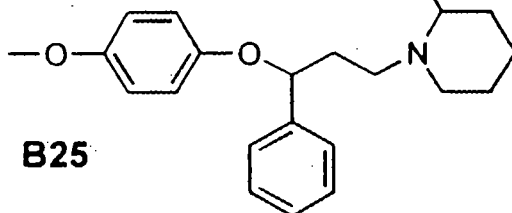
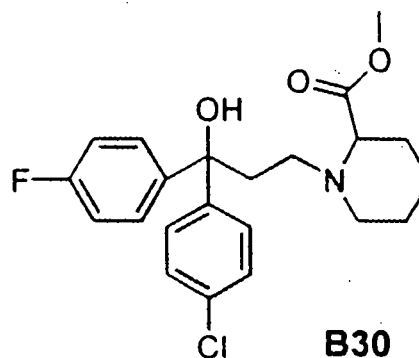
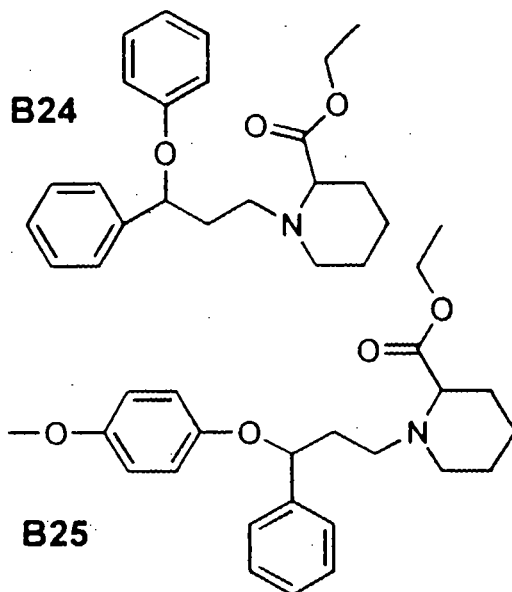
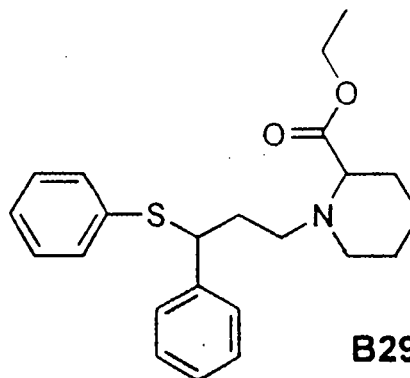
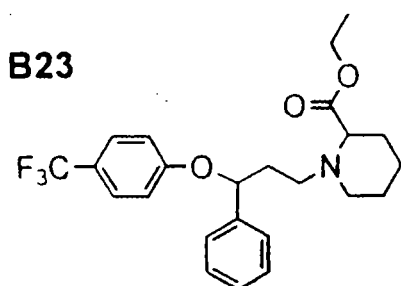
B11



B12







Compound A12 is a bis-alkylation byproduct of the synthesis of A9 using reaction I.

The compounds of the invention that incorporate =N-O- can be prepared, for example, by alkylating an amine (such as sarcosine or glycine) with O-(2-halogenethyl)alkanone oximes, which can be prepared by condensing alkanones with hydroxylamine, followed by O-alkylation (such as with 1,2-dihaloethane).

It will be recognized that numerous salt forms of the compounds herein described are available and suitable for use in the invention or during the synthesis of compounds of the invention. The invention contemplates that in certain instances where stereoisomers are available that one such isomer can be more active than another; in such a case, it will be desirable to isolate the particular isomeric form. The invention, of course, encompasses both the particular stereoisomers and racemic mixtures. As described herein, chemical approaches, starting with for example commercially available, optically pure starting materials (or made using enantioselective reactions), can also be used to synthesize optically pure versions of the compounds of the invention.

It will be recognized that such optically pure compounds are within the invention. Enantiomeric excess ("ee") can be enhanced by purification techniques such as crystallization or chromatography on chiral supports. Enantiomeric excess can be quantitated by a number of

analytic techniques including NMR, optical rotation measurements and appropriate chromatography.

Additional, related compounds are described in two U.S. Patent Applications were filed concurrently with a parent hereof as U.S. Serial No. 08/655,912 (Docket No. 317743-106, Ognyanov et al.), U.S. Serial No. 08/655,847 (Docket No. 317743-107, Ognyanov et al.), U.S. Serial No. 08/807,682 (PHARMACEUTICAL FOR TREATMENT OF NEUROPSYCHIATRIC AND NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS, Docket No. 317743-106A, Ognyanov et al.) and U.S. Serial No. 08/807,681 (PHARMACEUTICAL FOR TREATING OF NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS, Docket No. 317743-107A, Ognyanov et al.

10 In a preferred embodiment, at least one of the following applies:

if R^{15} is hydrogen and R^1 is propylene, then at least one [preferably at least two, more preferably at least three] of the following applies (1) both R^X and R^Y are not *p*-fluorophenyl, (2) one of R^X and R^Y includes a heteroaryl, (3) R^Y is arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, arylmethoxy, heteroarylmethoxy, arylthio, heteroarylthio, arylmethylthio, heteroarylmethylthio, $Ar-N(R^6)-$ or $Ar-CH_2-N(R^6)-$, (4) R^2 is $R^{xa} R^{xb}$, (5) R^{2*} is not hydrogen, (6) R^3 is not hydrogen, (7) n is one, or (8) R^3 and R^4 form ring Q;

15 if R^{15} is hydrogen and R^1 is ethylene or $X-R^1$ is prop-1-enylene, then at least one [preferably at least two, more preferably at least three] of the following applies (1) an aryl of at least one of R^X and R^Y is substituted with a radical different from hydrogen, (2) one of R^X and R^Y comprises a heteroaryl, (3) R^Y is arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, arylmethoxy, heteroarylmethoxy, arylthio, heteroarylthio, arylmethylthio, heteroarylmethylthio, $Ar-N(R^6)-$ or $Ar-CH_2-N(R^6)-$, (4) R^2 is $R^{xa} R^{xb}$, (5) R^{2*} is not hydrogen, (6) R^3 is not hydrogen, (7) n is one, or (8) R^3 and R^4 form ring Q;

25 if R^5 is $C(O)NH_2$, then at least one [preferably at least two, more preferably at least three] of the following applies (1) an aryl of at least one of R^X and R^Y is substituted with a radical different from hydrogen, (2) one of R^X and R^Y comprises a heteroaryl, (3) R^Y is arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, aryloxy, 30

heteroaryloxy, arylmethoxy, heteroarylmethoxy, arylthio, heteroarylthio, arylmethylthio, heteroarylmethylthio, Ar-N(R⁶)- or Ar-CH₂-N(R^{6*})-, (4) R² is R^{xa} R^{xb}-, (5) R^{2*} is not hydrogen, (6) R³ is not hydrogen, (7) n is one, (8) R¹ is not ethylene, or (9) R³ and R⁴ form ring Q;

5 if R¹³ is hydrogen and R¹⁴ is (3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzopyran-4-yl)methylene, then at least one [preferably at least two, more preferably at least three] of the following applies (1) an aryl of at least one of R^x and R^y is substituted with a radical different from hydrogen, (2) one of R^x and R^y comprises a heteroaryl, (3) R^y is arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, arylmethoxy, heteroarylmethoxy, arylthio, heteroarylthio, arylmethylthio, heteroarylmethylthio, Ar-N(R⁶)- or Ar-CH₂-N(R^{6*})-, (4) R² is R^{xa} R^{xb}-, (5) R^{2*} is not hydrogen, (6) R³ is not ethyl, (7) n is one, or (8) R³ and R⁴ form ring Q; and

10 if R² is phenyl, *p*-methylphenyl or *p*-methoxyphenyl, then at least one [preferably at least two, more preferably at least three] of the following applies (1) the aryls of R^x and R^y are not substituted with *p*-methylphenyl or *p*-methoxyphenyl, (2) an aryl of at least one of R^x and R^y is substituted with a radical different from hydrogen, (3) one of R^x and R^y comprises a heteroaryl, (4) R^y is arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, arylmethoxy, heteroarylmethoxy, arylthio, heteroarylthio, arylmethylthio, heteroarylmethylthio, Ar-N(R⁶)- or Ar-CH₂-N(R^{6*})-, (5) R¹ is not aminoethylene, OR⁸ or SR^{8*}, (6) n is one, or (7) R³ and R⁴ form ring Q.

In one preferred embodiment of the the methods, particularly treating or preventing epilepsy or spasticity or enhancing memory, the compound conforms with paragraph (f), above.

25 The glycine transporter genes and their respective gene products are responsible for the reuptake of glycine from the synaptic cleft into presynaptic nerve endings or glial cells, thus terminating the action of glycine. Neurological disorders or conditions associated with improperly controlled glycine receptor activity, or which could be treated with therapeutic agents that modulate glycine receptor activity, include spasticity (Becker, FASEB Journal, 4, 2767-2774 (1990)) and pain realization (Yaksh, Pain, 37, 111-123 (1989)). Additionally, glycine interacts at N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptors, which have been implicated in learning and memory

disorders and certain clinical conditions such as epilepsy, Alzheimer's and other cognition-related diseases, and schizophrenia. See Rison and Stanton, Neurosci. Biobehav. Rev., 19, 533-552 (1995); Danysz et al., Behavioral Pharmacol., 6, 455-474 (1995).

Compounds that inhibit GlyT-1 mediated glycine transport will increase glycine concentrations at NMDA receptors, which receptors are located in the forebrain, among other locations. This concentration increase elevates the activity of NMDA receptors, thereby alleviating schizophrenia and enhancing cognitive function. Alternatively, compounds that interact directly with the glycine receptor component of the NMDA receptor can have the same or similar effects as increasing or decreasing the availability of extracellular glycine caused by inhibiting or enhancing GlyT-1 activity, respectively. See, for example, Pitkänen et al., Eur. J. Pharmacol., 253, 125-129 (1994); Thiels et al., Neuroscience, 46, 501-509 (1992); and Kretschmer and Schmidt, J. Neurosci., 16, 1561-1569 (1996). Compounds that inhibit GlyT-2 mediated glycine transport will increase glycine concentrations at receptors located primarily in the brain stem and spinal cord, where glycine acts as an inhibitor of synaptic transmission. These compounds are effective against epilepsy, pain and spasticity, myospasm and other such conditions. See, for example, Becker, FASEB J., 4, 2767-2774 (1990) and Yaksh, Pain, 37, 111-123 (1989).

The compounds of the invention are, for instance, administered orally, sublingually, rectally, nasally, vaginally, topically (including the use of a patch or other transdermal delivery device), by pulmonary route by use of an aerosol, or parenterally, including, for example, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, intraperitoneally, intraarterially, intravenously or intrathecally. Administration can be by means of a pump for periodic or continuous delivery. The compounds of the invention are administered alone, or are combined with a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier or excipient according to standard pharmaceutical practice. For the oral mode of administration, the compounds of the invention are used in the form of tablets, capsules, lozenges, chewing gum, troches, powders, syrups, elixirs, aqueous solutions and suspensions, and the like. In the case of tablets, carriers that are used include lactose, sodium citrate and salts of phosphoric acid. Various disintegrants such as starch, and lubricating agents such as magnesium stearate and talc, are commonly used in tablets. For oral administration in capsule form, useful diluents are lactose and high molecular weight polyethylene glycols. If desired, certain sweetening and/or flavoring agents are added. For parenteral administration, sterile solutions of the compounds of the invention are usually prepared, and the pHs of the solutions are suitably adjusted and buffered. For intravenous use, the total concentration of solutes should be controlled to render the preparation isotonic. For ocular administration, ointments or droppable liquids may be delivered by ocular delivery systems known to the art such as applicators or eye droppers. Such compositions can include

mucomimetics such as hyaluronic acid, chondroitin sulfate, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose or polyvinyl alcohol, preservatives such as sorbic acid, EDTA or benzylchromium chloride, and the usual quantities of diluents and/or carriers. For pulmonary administration, diluents and/or carriers will be selected to be appropriate to allow the formation of an aerosol.

5 Suppository forms of the compounds of the invention are useful for vaginal, urethral and rectal administrations. Such suppositories will generally be constructed of a mixture of substances that is solid at room temperature but melts at body temperature. The substances commonly used to create such vehicles include theobroma oil, glycerinated gelatin, hydrogenated vegetable oils, mixtures of polyethylene glycols of various molecular weight and fatty acid esters of polyethylene glycol. See, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 16th Ed., Mack Publishing, Easton, PA, 1980, 10 pp. 1530-1533 for further discussion of suppository dosage forms. Analogous gels or cremes can be used for vaginal, urethral and rectal administrations.

 Numerous administration vehicles will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art, including without limitation slow release formulations, liposomal formulations and polymeric 15 matrices.

 Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts for use in the present invention include those derived from mineral acids, such as hydrochloric, hydrobromic, phosphoric, metaphosphoric, nitric and sulfuric acids, and organic acids, such as tartaric, acetic, citric, malic, lactic, fumaric, benzoic, glycolic, gluconic, succinic, p-toluenesulphonic and 20 arylsulphonic acids, for example. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salts for use in the present invention include those derived from non-toxic metals such as sodium or potassium, ammonium salts and organoamino salts such as triethylamine salts. Numerous appropriate such salts will be known to those of ordinary skill.

 The physician or other health care professional can select the appropriate dose and 25 treatment regimen based on the subject's weight, age, and physical condition. Dosages will generally be selected to maintain a serum level of compounds of the invention between about 0.01 µg/cc and about 1000 µg/cc, preferably between about 0.1 µg/cc and about 100 µg/cc. For parenteral administration, an alternative measure of preferred amount is from about 0.001 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg (alternatively, from about 0.01 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg), more preferably 30 from about 0.01 mg/kg to about 1 mg/kg (from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 1 mg/kg), will be administered. For oral administrations, an alternative measure of preferred administration amount is from about 0.001 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg (from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg), more preferably from about 0.01 mg/kg to about 1 mg/kg (from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 1 mg/kg). For administrations in suppository form, an alternative measure of preferred administration

amount is from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg, more preferably from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 1 mg/kg.

For use in assaying for activity in inhibiting glycine transport, eukaryotic cells, preferably QT-6 cells derived from quail fibroblasts, have been transfected to express one of the three known variants of human GlyT-1, namely GlyT-1a, GlyT-1b or GlyT-1c, or human GlyT-2. The sequences of these GlyT-1 transporters are described in Kim et al., *Molec. Pharm.* 45: 608-617, 1994, excepting that the sequence encoding the extreme N-terminal of GlyT-1a was merely inferred from the corresponding rat-derived sequence. This N-terminal protein-encoding sequence has now been confirmed to correspond to that inferred by Kim et al. The sequence of the human GlyT-2 is described by Albert et al., U.S. Application No. 08/700,013, filed August 20, 1996, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. Suitable expression vectors include pRc/CMV (Invitrogen), Zap Express Vector (Stratagene Cloning Systems, LaJolla, CA; hereinafter "Stratagene"), pBk/CMV or pBk-RSV vectors (Stratagene), Bluescript II SK +/- Phagemid Vectors (Stratagene), LacSwitch (Stratagene), pMAM and pMAM neo (Clontech), among others. A suitable expression vector is capable of fostering expression of the included GlyT DNA in a suitable host cell, preferably a non-mammalian host cell, which can be eukaryotic, fungal, or prokaryotic. Such preferred host cells include amphibian, avian, fungal, insect, and reptilian cells.

As discussed above, the compounds of the invention have a number of pharmacological actions. The relative effectiveness of the compounds can be assessed in a number of ways, including the following:

- ♦ **comparing the activity mediated through GlyT-1 and GlyT-2 transporters.** This testing identifies compounds (a) that are more active against GlyT-1 transporters and thus more useful in treating or preventing schizophrenia, increasing cognition and enhancing memory or (b) that are more active against GlyT-2 transporters and thus more useful in treating or preventing epilepsy, pain, spasticity or myospasm.
- ♦ **testing for NMDA receptor binding.** This test establishes whether there is sufficient binding at this site, whether antagonist or agonist activity, to warrant further examination of the pharmacological effect of such binding.
- ♦ **testing the activity of the compounds in enhancing or diminishing calcium fluxes in primary neuronal tissue culture.** A test compound that increases calcium flux either (a) has little or no antagonist activity at the NMDA receptor and should not affect the potentiation of glycine activity

through GlyT-1 transporter inhibition or (b). if marked increases are observed over GlyT-1 inhibitors used for comparison and that have little direct interaction with NMDA receptors, then the compound is a receptor agonist. In either of the above-described cases, the test confirms activity in treating or preventing schizophrenia, increasing cognition, or enhancing memory. In contrast, a test compound that decreases calcium flux has a net effect wherein receptor antagonist activity predominates over any activity the compound has in increasing glycine activity through inhibiting glycine transport. In this case, the test confirms activity in limiting or preventing the cell damage and cell death arising after stroke or other ischemia-inducing conditions, or in limiting or preventing the cell damage associated with neurodegenerative diseases.

All animal methods of treatment or prevention described herein are preferably applied to mammals, most preferably humans.

The following examples further illustrate the present invention, but of course, should not be construed as in any way limiting its scope.

Example 1 - Synthesis of N-[(4,4-Diphenyl)but-3-enyl]glycine ethyl ester (Compound A26)

A mixture of 5.95 g (20.7 mmol) 4-bromo-1,1-diphenyl-1-butene (prepared as described in F.A. Ali et al., *J. Med. Chem.*, 28: 653-660, 1985), 4.71 g (33.7 mmol) glycine ethyl ester hydrochloride (Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI), 11.62 g (84 mmol) potassium carbonate and 1.06 g (6.38 mmol) potassium iodide in 50 ml acetonitrile was refluxed with stirring under argon for seven hours. The reaction mixture was filtered, the solvent evaporated and the residue chromatographed on silica gel column with 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 3.70 g (yield 58%) of N-[(4,4-diphenyl)but-3-enyl]glycine ethyl ester (compound A26) as an oil. NMR spectra of the product showed: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) 7.60-7.00 (m, 10 H), 6.09 (t, 1 H), 4.16 (q, 2 H), 3.35 (s, 2 H), 2.71 (t, 2 H), 2.32 (dt, 2 H), 1.25 (t, 3 H), ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) 172.29, 143.25, 142.37, 139.82, 129.72, 128.13, 128.04, 127.97, 127.13, 126.92, 126.88, 126.68, 60.56, 50.73, 49.32, 30.33, 14.14.

Example 2 - Additional Syntheses According to Reaction 1

Additional compounds were synthesized using Reaction 1, as follows:

Compound	Reagent	Amino acid or precursor	Solvent	Yield
A1	1	B	X	27%
A2	1	C	X	35%
A7	7	E	X	9%
A9	4	E	X	47%
A11	1	A	X	70%
A12	4	E	X	7%
A14	2	D	X	15%
A18	6	E	X	50%
A23	5	E	X	26%
A24	3	D	Y	20%
A43	8	F	X	12%
A52	9	F	X	28%
A57	10	F	X	31%
A67	11	F	X	10%
A71	12	E	X	28%
A75	13	F	X	73%
A77	14	F	X	36%
A85	15	F	X	86%
A87	16	F	X	59%
A90	17	E	X	16%
A95	17	F	X	65%
A96	17	E	X	50%
A104	15	E	X	62%
A106	18	F	X	65%
A121	19	E	X	3%
A122	19	E	X	40%
A123	19	F	X	72%
A130	20	E	X	6%
A132	21	F	X	90%
A134	21	E	X	67%
A170	6	F	X	72%
A48	22	F	x	87%
A50	23	F	X	81%
A53	24	F	X	76%
A59	25	F	X	77%
A61	26	F	X	91%
A63	27	F	X	91%
A70	28	F	X	89%
A73	29	F	X	86%
A74	30	F	X	76%
A78	31	F	X	49%
A80	32	F	X	66%
A82	33	F	X	38%
A83	33	E	X	25%

A88	34	F	X	55%
A89	35	F	X	75%
A99	36	F	X	56%
A100	37	F	X	67%
A111	38	F	X	34%
A117	39	F	X	58%
A118	40	F	X	89%
A120	41	F	X	62%
A125	42	F	X	46%
A126	43	E	X	57%
A127	44	E	X	5%
A128	44	E	X	53%
A129	44	F	X	66%
A138	45	F	X	48%
A140	46	F	X	69%
A141	47	F	X	51%
A142	48	F	X	67%
A143	49	F	X	61%
A145	50	F	X	98%
A155	51	F	X	70%
A156	52	F	X	65%
A158	53	F	X	59%
A159	54	F	X	85%
A160	55	F	X	87%
A171	56	F	X	88%
A173	57	F	X	81%
A177	58	F	X	84%
A178	58	F	X	60%
A179	59	F	X	68%
A180	24	G	X	85%

Reagent:

- 1) 4-bromo-1,1-diphenyl-1-butene, (prepared as described in F.A. Ali et al., J. Med. Chem., 28: 653-660, 1985); 2) 1,1'-(4-chlorobutylidene)bis(4-fluorobenzene), (Acros Organics, Pittsburgh, PA); 3) benzhydryl 2-bromoethyl ether, (prepared as described in M.R. Pavia et al., J. Med. Chem. 35: 4238-4248, 1992); 4) 9-fluorenylethanol *p*-toluenesulfate, [prepared by LiAlH₄ reduction of 9-fluoreneacetic acid methyl ester (Aldrich) to 2-(9-fluorenyl)ethanol, followed by tosylation]; 5) 4-bromo-2,2-diphenyl butyronitrile (Aldrich); 6) 3-bis(4-fluorophenyl)propanol *p*-toluenesulfate [prepared by alkylation of diethyl malonate (Aldrich) with chlorobis(4-fluorophenyl)methane (Aldrich) followed by hydrolysis and decarboxylation, LiAlH₄ reduction of the monocarboxylic acid, and tosylation of the formed alcohol]; 7) 10-(3-bromo-2-hydroxypropyl)phenothiazine [prepared essentially as described in British Patent 800,635]; 8) 3-tris(4-fluorophenyl)propanol *p*-toluenesulfonate [prepared by alkylation of diethyl malonate

- (Aldrich) with 4,4',4''-trifluorotriptyl bromide (TCI America, Portland, OR) followed by hydrolysis and decarboxylation, LiAlH_4 reduction of the monocarboxylic acid, and tosylation of the formed alcohol]; 9) 3-cyclohexyl-3-phenylpropanol *p*-toluenesulfonate [prepared by Horner-Emmons reaction of the sodium ylide of triethyl phosphonoacetate (Aldrich) with cyclohexyl phenyl ketone (Aldrich) followed by catalytic hydrogenation of the intermediate α,β -unsaturated ester, LiAlH_4 reduction and tosylation of the formed alcohol]; 10) 3-tris(4-methoxyphenyl)propanol *p*-toluenesulfonate [prepared by alkylation of diethyl malonate (Aldrich) with 4,4',4''-trimethoxytriptyl chloride (Aldrich) followed by hydrolysis and decarboxylation, LiAlH_4 reduction of the monocarboxylic acid, and tosylation of the formed alcohol]; 11) 3-bis(3-fluorophenyl)propanol *p*-toluenesulfonate [prepared by Horner-Emmons reaction of the sodium ylide of triethyl phosphonoacetate (Aldrich) with 3,3'-difluorobenzophenone (Aldrich) followed by catalytic hydrogenation of the intermediate α,β -unsaturated ester, LiAlH_4 reduction and tosylation of the formed alcohol]; 12) 3,5-diphenylpentanol *p*-toluenesulfonate [prepared by Horner-Emmons reaction of the sodium ylide of triethyl phosphonoacetate (Aldrich) with 3-phenylpropiophenone (Pfaltz & Bauer Chemicals Catalog, Waterbury, CT) followed by catalytic hydrogenation of the intermediate α,β -unsaturated ester, LiAlH_4 reduction and tosylation of the formed alcohol]; 13) 3-bis(4-phenoxyphenyl)propanol *p*-toluenesulfonate prepared by Horner-Emmons reaction of the sodium ylide of triethyl phosphonoacetate (Aldrich) with 4,4'-diphenoxybenzophenone (Lancaster, Windham, NH) followed by catalytic hydrogenation of the intermediate α,β -unsaturated ester, LiAlH_4 reduction and tosylation of the formed alcohol]; 14) 3-bis(4-biphenyl)propanol *p*-toluenesulfonate [prepared by Horner-Emmons reaction of the sodium ylide of triethyl phosphonoacetate (Aldrich) with 4-benzoylbiphenyl (Aldrich) followed by catalytic hydrogenation of the intermediate α,β -unsaturated ester, LiAlH_4 reduction and tosylation of the formed alcohol]; 15) 3-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)-3-phenylpropanol *p*-toluenesulfonate [prepared by Horner-Emmons reaction of the sodium ylide of triethyl phosphonoacetate with 4-*tert*-butylbenzophenone (Aldrich) followed by catalytic hydrogenation of the intermediate α,β -unsaturated ester, LiAlH_4 reduction and tosylation of the formed alcohol]; 16) 3,3,3-tris(4-chlorophenyl)propanol *p*-toluenesulfonate [prepared by LiAlH_4 reduction of 3,3,3-tris(4-chloropropionic acid) (Aldrich) followed by tosylation of the formed alcohol]; 17) 3-(2-naphthyl)-3-phenylpropanol *p*-toluenesulfonate [prepared by Horner-Emmons reaction of the sodium ylide of triethyl phosphonoacetate with 2-benzoylnaphthalene (Aldrich) followed by catalytic hydrogenation of the intermediate α,β -unsaturated ester, LiAlH_4 reduction and tosylation

- of the formed alcohol]; 18) 3,3,3-triphenylpropanol *p*-toluenesulfonate [prepared by LiAlH_4 reduction of 3,3,3-triphenylpropionic acid (Aldrich) followed by tosylation of the formed alcohol]; 19) 3-(4-phenylphenyl)-3-phenylpropanol *p*-toluenesulfonate [prepared by Horner-Emmons reaction of the sodium ylide of triethyl phosphonoacetate with 4-benzoylbiphenyl (Aldrich) followed by catalytic hydrogenation of the intermediate α,β -unsaturated ester, LiAlH_4 reduction and tosylation of the formed alcohol]; 20) 1,2-diphenylbutan-1,4-diol *p*-toluenesulfonate [prepared by C-alkylation of deoxybenzoin (Aldrich) with ethyl bromoacetate (Aldrich) followed by LiAlH_4 reduction of the intermediate β -ketoester and tosylation of the formed diol]; 21) 3-phenyl-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)propanol *p*-toluenesulfonate prepared by Horner-Emmons reaction of the sodium ylide of triethyl phosphonoacetate with 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzophenone (Aldrich) followed by catalytic hydrogenation of the intermediate α,β -unsaturated ester, LiAlH_4 reduction and tosylation of the formed alcohol]; 22) 3-chloro-1-(4-*tert*-butylphenoxy)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)propane [prepared analogously to the method of U.S. Pat. 5,281,624 by reduction of 3-chloro-4'-fluoropropiophenone (Aldrich) with 1.0 M borane-tetrahydrofuran complex ("BTC", Aldrich) followed by Mitsunobu reaction (diethyl azodicarboxylate ("DEAD"), Ph_3P , see Example 8C, Step 1) of the resulting alcohol with 4-*tert*-butylphenol (Aldrich)]; 23) 3-chloro-1-(2-methyl-5-pyridyloxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone (Aldrich) with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph_3P) of the resulting alcohol with 5-hydroxy-2-methylpyridine (Aldrich)]; 24) 3-chloro-1-(4-phenylphenoxy)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)propane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloro-4'-fluoropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph_3P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-phenylphenol (Aldrich)]; 25) 3-chloro-1-(4-*tert*-octylphenoxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph_3P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-*tert*-butylphenol]; 26) (*R*)-(+)-3-chloro-1-(4-phenylphenoxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph_3P) of (*R*)-(+)-3-chloro-1-phenyl-1-propanol (Aldrich) with 4-phenylphenol (Aldrich)(see, e.g., U.S. Pat. 5,068,432) (Reaction illustrated in Fig. 3, Reaction 27)]; Compound A61 was prepared with $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} +54.9^\circ$ (c 5.28, CHCl_3); 27) (*S*)-(-)-3-chloro-1-(4-phenylphenoxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph_3P) of (*S*)-(-)-3-chloro-1-phenyl-1-propanol (Aldrich) with 4-phenylphenol (see U.S. Patent No. 5,068,432); Compound A63 was prepared with $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} -54.6$ (c 7.13, CHCl_3); 28) 3-chloro-1-(4-*tert*-butylphenoxy)-1-phenylpropane

- [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-*tert*-butylphenol]; 29)
- 3-chloro-1-{4-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenoxy]phenoxy}-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the
- 5 resulting alcohol with 4-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenoxy]phenol (Aldrich)]; 30) 3-chloro-1-[4-(phenoxy)phenoxy]-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-phenoxyphenol (Aldrich)]; 31) 3-chloro-1-[4-(4-bromophenyl)phenoxy]-1-(4-fluorophenyl)propane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC
- 10 followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-(4-bromophenyl)phenol (Aldrich)]; 32) 3-chloro-1-[4-(4-cyanophenyl)phenoxy]-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 4'-hydroxy-4-biphenylcarbonitrile (Aldrich)]; 33) 3-chloro-1-(3-trifluoromethylphenoxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of
- 15 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 3-trifluoromethylphenol (Aldrich)]; 34) 3-chloro-1-(2-naphthyloxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 2-naphthol (Aldrich)]; 35)
- 3-chloro-1-1-naphthyloxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone
- 20 with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 1-naphthol (Aldrich)]; 36) 3-chloro-1-(4-methylphenoxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with *p*-cresol (Aldrich)]; 37) 3-chloro-1-(4-phenylphenoxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu
- 25 reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-phenylphenol]; 38) 3-chloro-1-(4-amidosulfonylphenoxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-hydroxybenzenesulfonamide, (TCI America, Portland, OR)]; 39) 3-chloro-1-(4-nitrophenoxy)-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by
- 30 Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-nitrophenol (Aldrich)]; 40) 3-chloro-1-(4-nitro-3-trifluoromethylphenoxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the

- resulting alcohol with 4-nitro-3-trifluoromethylphenol (Aldrich)]; 41) 3-chloro-1-(4-cyanophenoxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-cyanophenol (Aldrich)]; 42) 3-chloro-1-phenoxy-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of
- 5 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with phenol (Aldrich)]; 43) 3-chloro-1-(4-trifluoromethylphenoxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-trifluoromethylphenol]; 44) 3-chloro-1-[(4-trifluoromethoxy)phenoxy]-1-phenylpropane [prepared by reducing
- 10 3-chloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC, and Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of resulting alcohol with 4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenol (Aldrich)]; 45) 3-chloro-1-(4-trifluoromethylphenoxy)-1-(2,4-dimethoxy)phenylpropane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloro-2',4'-dimethoxypropiphenone (Maybridge Chemical Co. Ltd., Cornwall, UK) with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with
- 15 4-trifluoromethylphenol]; 46) 3-chloro-1-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenoxy)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)propane [prepared by reduction of 3,4'-dichloropropiophenone (Aldrich) with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with sesamol (Aldrich)]; 47) 3-chloro-1-phenoxy-1-(4-bromophenyl)propane [prepared by reduction of 4-bromo-β-chloropropiophenone (Lancaster) with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction
- 20 (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with phenol]; 48) 3-chloro-1-(4-trifluoromethylphenoxy)-1-(4-bromophenyl)propane [prepared by reduction of 4-bromo-β-chloropropiophenone, with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-trifluoromethylphenol]; 49) 3-chloro-1-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)propane [prepared by reduction of 3,4'-dichloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu
- 25 reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-methoxyphenol (Aldrich)]; 50) 3-chloro-1-(4-cyanophenoxy)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)propane [prepared by reducing 3,4'-dichloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-cyanophenol]; 51) 3-chloro-1-(4-chlorophenoxy)-1-(4-bromophenyl)propane [prepared by reduction of 4-bromo-β-chloropropiophenone with 1.0
- 30 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph₃P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-chlorophenol (Aldrich)]; 52) 3-chloro-1-phenoxy-1-(4-chlorophenyl)propane [prepared by reduction of 3,4'-dichloropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction

(DEAD, Ph_3P) of the resulting alcohol with phenol]; **53**) 3-chloro-1-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)propane [prepared by reducing 3-chloro-4'-fluoropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC, and Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph_3P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-methoxyphenol]; **54**) 3-chloro-1-phenoxy-1-(4-fluorophenyl)propane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloro-4'-fluoropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph_3P) of the resulting alcohol with phenol]; **55**) 3-chloro-1-(4-trifluoromethylphenoxy)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)propane [prepared by reduction of 3-chloro-4'-fluoropropiophenone with 1.0 M BTC followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph_3P) of the resulting alcohol with 4-trifluoromethylphenol]; **56**) (*R*)-(+)-3-chloro-1-(4-nitrophenoxy)-1-phenylpropane [prepared (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 5,068,432) by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph_3P) of (*R*)-(+)-3-chloro-1-phenyl-1-propanol (Aldrich) with 4-nitrophenol]; Compound A171 was prepared with $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} + 19.7^\circ$ (c 5.18, CHCl_3); **57**) (*S*)-(-)-3-chloro-1-(4-phenylphenoxy)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)propane [prepared with $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} - 46.3^\circ$ (c 2.49, CHCl_3) analogously to U.S. pat. 5,068,432 by reduction of 3-chloro-4'-fluoropropiophenone with (+) diisopinocampheylboron chloride (Aldrich) followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph_3P) of the resulting (*R*)-(+)-3-chloro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-propanol $\{[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} + 22.1^\circ$ (c 8.07, $\text{CHCl}_3\}$ with 4-phenylphenol, (Aldrich)]; Compound A173 was prepared with $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} - 25.8^\circ$ (c 3.03, CHCl_3); **58**) (*R*)-(+)-3-chloro-1-(4-phenylphenoxy)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)propane [prepared with $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} + 46.6^\circ$ (c 2.73, CHCl_3) analogously to U.S. pat. 5,068,432 by reduction of 3-chloro-4'-fluoropropiophenone with (-) diisopinocampheylboron chloride (Aldrich) followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph_3P) of the resulting (*S*)-(-)-3-chloro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-propanol $\{[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} - 22.2^\circ$ (c 2.37, $\text{CHCl}_3\}$ with 4-phenylphenol, (Aldrich)]; Compound A177 was prepared with $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} + 26.8^\circ$ (c 3.10, CHCl_3); Compound A178 was prepared with $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} + 20.0^\circ$ (c 3.13, CHCl_3); **59**) (*R*)-(+)-3-chloro-1-[4-(1-adamantyl)phenoxy]-1-(4-fluorophenyl)propane [prepared with $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} + 24.3^\circ$ (c 2.19, CHCl_3) analogously to U.S. pat. 5,068,432 by reduction of 3-chloro-4'-fluoropropiophenone with (-) diisopinocampheylboron chloride (Aldrich) followed by Mitsunobu reaction (DEAD, Ph_3P) of the resulting (*S*)-(-)-3-chloro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-propanol $\{[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} - 22.2^\circ$ (c 2.37, $\text{CHCl}_3\}$ with 4-(1-adamantyl)phenol, (Aldrich)]; Compound A179 was prepared with $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} + 17.8^\circ$ (c 2.98, CHCl_3).

Amino acid or amino acid precursor:

- A) L-alanine methyl ester hydrochloride, (Fluka, Ronkonkoma, NY); B) D-alanine methyl ester hydrochloride (Aldrich); C) sarcosine methyl ester hydrochloride, (Lancaster, Windham, NH); D) glycine methyl ester hydrochloride (Aldrich); E) glycine ethyl ester hydrochloride (Aldrich);
 5 F) sarcosine ethyl ester hydrochloride (Aldrich); and G) methylaminoacetaldehyde dimethyl acetal (Aldrich).

Solvent: X) acetonitrile; Y) methanol.

For the synthesis of A61, the reaction is illustrated in Figure 3 (Reaction 28).

10 Example 3 - Synthesis of N-[(3,3-Diphenyl)propyl]glycine ethyl ester (Compound A22)

2.132 g (10.1 mmol) 3,3-diphenylpropylamine (Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI) was added to a mixture of 0.853 g (5.11 mmol) ethyl bromoacetate (Aldrich) and 2.7 g (19.57 mmol) potassium carbonate in 14 ml acetonitrile at room temperature. The mixture was stirred under argon for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was filtered, the solvent evaporated and the residue chromatographed
 15 on a silica gel column with 40% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 1.05 g (yield 69%) N-[(3,3-diphenyl)propyl]glycine ethyl ester (Compound A22) as an oil. NMR spectra of the product showed: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) 7.40 - 7.10 (m, 10 H), 4.14 (q, 2 H), 4.03 (t, 1 H), 3.33 (s, 2 H), 2.56 (t, 2 H), 2.24 (dt, 2 H), 1.22 (t, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) 172.44, 144.66, 128.43, 127.75, 126.15, 60.63, 50.93, 48.80, 47.92, 35.85, 14.17. 0.019 g of A28 was
 20 also isolated from the silica gel column.

Example 4 - Additional Syntheses Using Reaction 2

Additional compounds were synthesized using Reaction 2, as follows:

Compound	Starting amine	Reagent	Solvent	Yield
A5	1	A	X	27%
A6	7	B	Y	89%
A10	9	B	Y	77%
A13	8	B	Y	95%
A15	6	B	Y	96%
A17	3	B	X	14%
A19	1	C	X	69%
A20	2	E	X	57%
A21	1	B	X	55%
A30	1	H	X	42%
A33	1	D	X	20%
A34	1	G	X	7%
A35	1	F	X	18%
A36	5	B	X	80%
A37	4	B	X	77%

A38	1	E	X	70%
A39	1	I	X	10%
A40	1	J	X	3%
A108	10	B	X	9%
A150	2	K	X	56%
A157	1	L	X	30%
A162	1	K	X	36%
A165	1	M	X	59%
A166	1	N	X	51%
A167	1	O	X	50%
A172	1	P	X	46%

- Starting amine: 1) Fluoxetine [N-methyl-3-(*p*-trifluoromethylphenoxy)-3-phenylpropylamine hydrochloride], (Sigma, St. Louis); 2) 3,3-diphenylpropylamine (Aldrich); 3) Nisoxetine hydrochloride [(±)-γ-(2-methoxyphenoxy)-N-methyl-benzenepropanamine hydrochloride], (RBI, Natick, MA); 4) 1,2-diphenyl-3-methyl-4-(methylamino)-2-butanol hydrochloride, (Sigma-Aldrich Library of Rare Chemicals); 5) d-Norpropoxyphene (1,2-diphenyl-3-methyl-4-methylamino-2-butyl propionate maleate salt), (Sigma); 6) Maprotyline hydrochloride [N-Methyl-9,10-ethanoanthracene-9(10H)-propanamine hydrochloride], (Sigma); 7) Nortriptyline hydrochloride {3-(10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-N-methyl-1-propanamine hydrochloride}, (Sigma); 8) Desipramine hydrochloride {10,11-dihydro-N-methyl-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-propanamine hydrochloride}, (Sigma); 9) Protriptyline hydrochloride {N-Methyl-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cycloheptene-5-propanamine hydrochloride}, (Sigma); 10) 3-(1-naphthyl)-3-phenylpropylamine [prepared by Horner-Emmons reaction of the sodium ylide of diethyl cyanomethylphosphonate (Aldrich) with α-benzoylnaphthalene, (Pfaltz & Bauer, Waterbury, CT) followed by catalytic hydrogenation of the intermediate α,β-unsaturated nitrile].

- Reagent: A) methyl bromoacetate (Aldrich); B) ethyl bromoacetate (Aldrich); C) propyl bromoacetate (Aldrich); D) phenyl bromoacetate (Aldrich); E) 2-bromoacetamide (Aldrich); F) 2-chloro-N,N-diethylacetamide (Aldrich); G) N-ethylchloroacetamide (Lancaster); H) bromoacetonitrile (Aldrich); I) 4-(bromomethylsulfonyl)morpholine, (Sigma - Aldrich Library of Rare Chemicals); J) diethyl chloromethylphosphonate (Aldrich); K) benzyl 2-bromoacetate, (Aldrich); L) *p*-nitrophenyl bromoacetate, (Lancaster); M) octyl chloroacetate, (Sigma-Aldrich Library of Rare Chemicals); N) isopropyl bromoacetate, (Aldrich); O) *n*-butyl bromoacetate, (Pfaltz & Bauer, Waterbury, CT); P) *tert*-butyl bromoacetate, (Aldrich).

Solvent: X) acetonitrile; Y) ethanol.

Example 5A - Synthesis of N-[[3-Hydroxy-3-phenyl-3-(thien-2-yl)]propyl] sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound A32)

Step 1: N-[(3-Oxo-3-phenyl)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester: A mixture of 3.37 g (20 mmol) 3-chloropropiophenone (Aldrich), (3.07 g, (20 mmol) sarcosine ethyl ester hydrochloride, 3.32 g (20 mmol) potassium iodide and 2.5 g potassium carbonate in 140 ml acetonitrile was heated under reflux with stirring for 2 hours (see Reaction 13, Figure 2). The reaction mixture was filtered and the solvent evaporated. The residue was dissolved in dichloromethane, washed with water and dried over sodium sulphate. Evaporation of the solvent gave N-[(3-oxo-3-phenyl)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester as a yellow oil which was used in step 2 without purification.

Step 2: 2-Thienyllithium [generated by adding 1 ml of butyllithium (2.5 M in tetrahydrofuran) to 0.21 g (2.5 mmol) thiophene in 10 ml tetrahydrofuran at -78°C] was added dropwise into a solution of 0.623 g (2.5 mmol) of N-[(3-oxo-3-phenyl)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (from step 1) in 30 ml of tetrahydrofuran at -78°C (see Reaction 14, Figure 2). After stirring at -78°C for 1 h and at 20°C for 1 h, the reaction was quenched by adding 20 ml 10% ammonium hydroxide solution at 0°C. The mixture was extracted with methylene chloride, the solvent evaporated and the residue chromatographed on silica gel column with 16% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 0.43 g (yield 52%) N-[[3-hydroxy-3-phenyl-3-(thien-2-yl)]propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (compound A32) as a beige solid.

Example 5B - Synthesis of N-[[3-Hydroxy-3-phenyl-3-(furan-2-yl)]propyl] sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound A161)

N-[[3-Hydroxy-3-phenyl-3-(furan-2-yl)]propyl] sarcosine ethyl ester was synthesized essentially as described in Example 5A (replacing 2-thienyllithium with 2-furanyllithium) (yield 14%).

Example 6 - Synthesis of N-[3-Phenyl-3-(thien-2-yl)-2-propenyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound A41)

N-[[3-Hydroxy-3-phenyl-3-(thien-2-yl)]propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound 32 from Example 5), 0.118g (0.354 mmol) was dissolved in 2 ml of formic acid. The solution was heated at 110°C for 0.5 hour (see Reaction 19, Figure 2). The deep red reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was partitioned between water and CH₂Cl₂. The aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ and the CH₂Cl₂ solution was dried over Na₂SO₄. After evaporating the solvent, the residue was purified by preparative TLC with 1:3 ethyl acetate:hexanes to give 0.091 g (82 %) N-[3-phenyl-3-(thien-2-yl)-2-propenyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound A41) as a deep red oil.

Example 7 - Synthesis of N-[3-Phenyl-3-(thien-2-yl)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound A42)

0.055 g (0.174 mmol) N-[3-Phenyl-3-(thien-2-yl)-2-propenyl] sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound 41 from Example 6) was hydrogenated over 0.055 g 10% Pd/C in 2 ml of EtOH.

- 5 The hydrogenation was conducted at 40 psi for 16 hours at room temperature (see Reaction 20, Figure 2). After filtering off the catalyst the solution was concentrated and the residue was purified by preparative TLC with 1:2 ethyl acetate:hexanes to give 0.012 g (22 %) N-[3-phenyl-3-(thien-2-yl)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound A42) as a yellow oil.

10 **Example 8A - Synthesis of N-[(3-Phenyl-3-phenoxy)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (compound A31)**

- Step 1: N-[(3-Hydroxy-3-phenyl)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester: 2.40 ml of LiAl(t-BuO)₃ [lithium tri-*tert*-butoxyaluminumhydride (Aldrich) (1 M in THF)] was added into a solution of 0.593 g (2.38 mmol) N-[(3-oxo-3-phenyl)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (step 1 of Example 5A) in 10 ml of tetrahydrofuran at -78°C (see Reaction 15 in Figure 2). After stirring at -78°C for 1 h and 1 h at
15 room temperature, the reaction was quenched by adding 10 ml 10% ammonium chloride solution at 0°C and filtered through celite. The mixture was extracted with methylene chloride and dried over sodium sulphate. Evaporation of the solvent gave N-[(3-hydroxy-3-phenyl)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester as a yellow oil which was used in the next step without further purification.

- Step 2: N-[(3-Chloro-3-phenyl)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester: The yellow oil of step 1 was
20 dissolved in 20 ml of chloroform, 1 ml of SOCl₂ was added and the mixture heated under reflux for 2 h (see Reaction 16 in Figure 2). After addition of crushed ice, the reaction mixture was neutralized with a saturated solution of potassium carbonate and extracted with methylene chloride. The combined extracts were evaporated and the residue purified by preparative silica gel TLC with 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 0.165 g N-[(3-chloro-3-phenyl)propyl]sarcosine
25 ethyl ester (yield 26% in two steps).

- Step 3: N-[(3-Phenyl-3-phenoxy)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (compound A31): A solution of 0.075 g (0.278 mmol) N-[(3-chloro-3-phenyl)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (from step 2) in 3 ml of anhydrous dimethylformamide was added into a solution of sodium phenoxide (generated by adding 0.022 g of 60% NaH in mineral oil to 0.054 g phenol in 2 ml
30 dimethylformamide) at room temperature (see Reaction 17 in Figure 2). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 hours, the solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the residue purified by preparative silica gel TLC with 35% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 0.014 g (yield 15%) N-[(3-phenyl-3-phenoxy)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (compound A31) as a yellow oil.

Example 8B - Additional Syntheses Using the Procedure of Example 8A

Compound A164 was prepared by alkylation of 4-methoxyphenol (Aldrich) with N-(3-chloro-3-phenylpropyl)sarcosine ethyl ester as described above in Example 8A (Step 3) - yield 5%.

5 Compound A119 was prepared by alkylation of thiophenol (Aldrich) with N-(3-chloro-3-phenylpropyl)sarcosine ethyl ester as described above in Example 8A (Step 3) - yield 62%.

Compound A115 was prepared by alkylation of 4-(trifluoromethyl)thiophenol (Lancaster) with N-(3-chloro-3-phenylpropyl)sarcosine ethyl ester as described above in Example 8A (Step 3) - yield 93%.

Compound A68 was prepared by alkylation of 4-*tert*-butylthiophenol (Lancaster) with N-(3-chloro-3-phenylpropyl)sarcosine ethyl ester as described above in Example 8A (Step 3) - yield 5%.

15 **Example 8C Synthesis of N-[3-Phenyl-3-(phenylaminopropyl)sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound A47)]**

Step 1: N-[3-Phenyl-3-(*p*-toluenesulfonanilido)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester: 0.465 g (2.67 mmol) diethyl azodicarboxylate ("DEAD", Aldrich) was added dropwise to a solution of 0.511 g (2.03 mmol) N-(3-hydroxy-3-phenylpropyl)sarcosine ethyl ester (from Example 8A, Step 1), 0.571 g (2.31 mmol) *p*-toluenesulfonanilide, (TCI America, Portland, OR) and 0.712 g (2.71 mmol) triphenylphosphine in 2 ml anhydrous tetrahydrofuran with stirring under nitrogen and cooling with an ice bath. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours, the solvent evaporated and the residue chromatographed on silica gel with 25% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 0.730 g (yield 74%) N-[3-phenyl-3-(*p*-toluenesulfonanilido)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) 7.58 (d, 2 H), 7.40-6.90 (m, 10 H), 6.62 (d, 2 H), 5.55 (t, 1 H), 4.14 (q, 2 H), 3.20 (s, 2 H), 2.60-2.20 (m, 2 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H), 2.33 (s, 3 H), 2.20-1.80 (m, 2 H), 1.12 (t, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) 170.74, 142.90, 138.33, 138.08, 134.88, 132.78, 129.14, 128.60, 128.36, 128.28, 127.93, 127.79, 127.46, 60.51, 60.26, 58.57, 53.93, 42.16, 30.60, 21.36, 14.12.

Step 2: N-[3-Phenyl-3-(phenylamino)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound A47): A solution of 0.284 g (0.6 mmol) N-[3-phenyl-3-(*p*-toluenesulfonanilido)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (from Step 1) in 3 ml anhydrous ethylene glycol dimethyl ether was added dropwise within 1 hour into solution of sodium naphthalenide [prepared from 0.545 g (5.04 mmol) naphthalene and 0.110 g (5.16 mmol) sodium] in 8 ml anhydrous ethylene glycol dimethyl ether with stirring under nitrogen and cooling with an ice bath. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour,

quenched with ice and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, the solvent evaporated and the residue chromatographed on silica gel with 25% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 0.092 g (yield 47%) N-[3-phenyl-3-(phenylamino)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound A47). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) 7.50-7.00 (m, 7 H), 6.70-6.40 (m, 3 H), 5.75 (br. s, 1 H), 4.47 (t, 1 H), 4.18 (q, 2 H), 3.24 (s, 2 H), 2.57 (t, 2 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 2.10-1.70 (m, 2 H), 1.18 (t, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) 170.73, 147.82, 143.89, 128.87, 128.43, 126.69, 126.26, 116.57, 113.17, 60.47, 58.53, 57.92, 54.47, 42.32, 35.19, 14.18.

Example 8D Synthesis of [R]-(+)-N-[3-Phenyl-3-(4-*tert*-butylphenoxy)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound A55)

10 **{[α]_D²⁵+18.6° (c 7.84, CHCl₃)}**

Step 1: [S]-(-)-N-(3-Hydroxy-3-phenylpropyl)sarcosine ethyl ester {[α]_D²⁵-35° (c 4.88, CHCl₃)}; prepared by alkylation of sarcosine ethyl ester with (R)-(+)-3-chloro-1-phenyl-1-propanol (Aldrich) under the conditions described in Example 1 - yield 72 %. See Reaction 23, Figure 3.

15 Step 2: [R]-(+)-N-[3-Phenyl-3-(4-*tert*-butylphenoxy)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester: prepared by Mitsunobu reaction (analogously to Example 8C, Step 1) of [S]-(-)-N-(3-hydroxy-3-phenylpropyl)sarcosine ethyl ester (from step 1) with 4-*tert*-butylphenol (Aldrich) - yield 41%: [α]_D²⁵ +18.6° (c 7.84, CHCl₃). See Reaction 24, Figure 3.

Example 8E - Synthesis of

20 **[R]-(+)-N-[3-Phenyl-3-(4-phenylphenoxy)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound A61) {[α]_D²⁵ + 22.3° (c 8.1, CHCl₃)}**

Another synthesis of compound A61 with [α]_D²⁵ +54.9° (c 5.28, CHCl₃) was already described in Example 2.

25 Step 1: [S]-(-)-N-(3-Hydroxy-3-phenylpropyl)sarcosine ethyl ester: prepared analogously to the method of U.S. Pat. 5,068,432 by reduction of N-[(3-oxo-3-phenyl)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (from step 1 of Example 5A) with (-) diisopinocampheylboron chloride (Aldrich) - yield 12%: [α]_D²⁵ -24.6° (c 3.63, CHCl₃) (see Reaction 25, Figure 3). Another synthesis of [S]-(-)-N-(3-hydroxy-3-phenylpropyl)sarcosine ethyl ester with [α]_D²⁵-35° (c 4.88, CHCl₃) was already described in Example 8D (Step 1). See Reaction 23, Figure 3.

30 Step 2: [R]-(+)-N-[3-Phenyl-3-(4-phenylphenoxy)propyl]sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound A61): prepared by Mitsunobu reaction (analogously to Example 8C, Step 1) of

[S]-(-)-N-(3-hydroxy-3-phenylpropyl)sarcosine ethyl ester (from step 1) with 4-phenylphenol (Aldrich) - yield 22%; $[\alpha]_D^{25} +22.3^\circ$ (c 8.1, CHCl_3). See Reaction 26, Figure 3.

Example 9A - Synthesis of N-[(4,4-Diphenyl)but-3-enyl]-N-ethylglycine ethyl ester (Compound A16)

5 A mixture of 0.158 g (0.5 mmol) of N-[(4,4-diphenyl)but-3-enyl]glycine ethyl ester (Compound A26), 0.234 g (2.1 mmol) bromoethane, 0.281 g (2 mmol) potassium carbonate and 0.068 g (0.4 mmol) potassium iodide was stirred under argon for 20 hours at room temperature. The reaction mixture was filtered, the solvent evaporated, and the residue chromatographed on a silica gel column with 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield 0.112 g (66%) N-[(4,4-diphenyl)but-
10 3-enyl]-N-ethylglycine ethyl ester (Compound A16) as an oil. NMR spectra showed: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) 7.60-7.00 (m, 10 H), 6.09 (t, 1 H), 4.13 (q, 2 H), 3.27 (s, 2 H), 2.72 (t, 2 H), 2.61 (q, 2 H), 2.28 (dt, 2 H), 1.23 (t, 3 H), 1.01 (t, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 171.77, 142.96, 142.86, 140.33, 130.09, 128.49, 128.35, 127.48, 127.27, 127.19, 60.58, 54.90, 53.98, 48.20, 28.19, 14.57, 12.70.

15 **Example 9B Additional Syntheses Using the Procedure of Example 9A**

Compound A147 was prepared by treatment of compound A150 with iodomethane under the conditions described in Example 9A - yield 30%.

Example 10 - Synthesis of N-[(4,4-Diphenyl)butyl]glycine ethyl ester (Compound A4)

20 0.072 g (0.23 mmol) of N-[(4,4-diphenyl)but-3-enyl]glycine ethyl ester (compound A26) was hydrogenated over 0.072 g 10% Pd/C in 5 ml ethanol under 40 psi for 3 hours at room temperature. The mixture was filtered from the catalyst through celite and the solvent evaporated to give 0.065 g (yield 90%) N-[(4,4-diphenyl)butyl]glycine ethyl ester (compound A4) as an oil. NMR spectra of the product showed: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) 7.40-7.10 (m, 10 H), 4.17
25 (q, 2 H), 3.89 (t, 1 H), 3.34 (s, 2 H), 2.61 (t, 2 H), 2.08 (dt, 2 H), 1.50-1.40 (m, 2 H), 1.25 (t, 3 H), ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 172.47, 144.89, 148.36, 127.77, 126.05, 60.63, 51.17, 50.90, 49.44, 33.19, 28.50, 14.17.

Example 11 - Additional Syntheses Using the Procedure of Example 10

30 Compound A25 was prepared by catalytic hydrogenation, using 10% palladium on carbon, of compound A2 - yield 90%.

Compound A3 was prepared by catalytic hydrogenation, using 10% palladium on carbon, of compound A16 - yield 90%.

Example 12 - Synthesis of N-[(4,4-Diphenyl)but-3-enyl]glycine hydrochloride (compound A27)

To a solution of 0.093 g (0.3 mmol) of N-[(4,4-diphenyl)but-3-enyl]glycine ethyl ester (compound A26) in 2 ml methanol was added 3.4 ml 1N sodium hydroxide and the mixture was heated under reflux for four hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated to half volume, acidified with 4 N hydrochloric acid, and extracted 4 times with methylene chloride. The combined extracts were dried and evaporated to give 0.100 g (yield 86%) of N-[(4,4-diphenyl)but-3-enyl]glycine hydrochloride (compound A27). NMR spectra of the product showed: ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 300 MHz) 7.40-7.00 (m, 10 H), 5.96 (t, 1 H), 3.81 (s, 1 H), 3.69 (s, 2 H), 3.04 (br.s, 2 H), 2.42 (br.s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, 75 MHz) 166.78, 145.86, 145.82, 141.73, 139.34, 129.42, 128.42, 127.96, 127.41, 127.35, 127.02, 121.97, 121.87, 52.28, 26.43.

Example 13A - Additional Syntheses Using the Procedure of Example 12

The following N-modified amino acids were prepared by hydrolysis of the corresponding esters with 1N sodium hydroxide in methanol, or with 1N lithium hydroxide in ethanol at room temperature, followed by acidification with hydrochloric acid as described above in Example 12, where the parenthetical lists the starting ester, yield, and - where applicable, [α]_D²⁵:

A8 (A4, 86%)	A29 (A5, 70%)	A44 (A48, 98%)
A45 (A53, 98%)	A46 (A55, 98%, +2.38° (c 2.4, CHCl ₃))	A49 (A50, 95%)
A51 (A52, 82%)	A54 (A68, 52%)	A56 (A57, 71%)
A58 (A59, 98%)	A60 (A61, 80%, +25.3° (c 2.13, MeOH))	A62 (A63, 69%, -25.6 (c 2.4, MeOH))
A64 (A73, 90%)	A65 (A74, 90%)	A66 (A67, 60%)
69 (A70, 99%)	A72 (A75, 98%)	A76 (A77, 75%)
A79 (A80, 62%)	A81 (A89, 64%)	A84 (A85, 93%)
A86 (A87, 98%)	A91 (A71, 54%)	A92 (A40, 90%)
A93 (A95, 95%)	A94 (A96, 95%)	
A98 (A100, 95%)	A101 (A118, 53%)	A102 (A108, 61%)
A103 (A104, 83%)	A105 (A106, 86%)	A107 (A115, 76%)
A109 (A123, 98%)	A110 (A169, 68%)	A112 (A117, 62%)
A113 (A119, 56%)	A114 (A120, 98%)	A116 (A122, 35%)
A124 (A126, 62%)	A131 (A132, 82%)	A135 (A134, 92%)
A136 (A145, 98%)	A137 (A164, 85%)	A144 (A158, 43%)
A152 (A156, 58%)	A154 (A160, 98%)	A174 (A43, 91%)
A175 (A171, 38%, +10 (c 2.9, MeOH))	A176 (A88, 61%)	A181 (A173, 82%, -16.6° (c 3.11, MeOH))

A182 (A177, 78%, +19.0° (c 2.93, MeOH))	A183 (A178, 72%, +13.7° (c 2.68, MeOH))	A184 (A179, 98%, +13.5° (c 2.5, MeOH))
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Example 13B Synthesis of N-Methyl-N-[(1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)methyl]-3,3-diphenylpropylamine hydrochloride (Compound A146)

Step 1: A mixture of 2.11 g (10 mmol) 3,3-diphenylpropylamine (Aldrich), (0.54 g, 4.54 mmol) bromoacetonitrile (Aldrich), and 2.5 g potassium carbonate in 5 ml acetonitrile was stirred at room temperature for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane, washed with water, the solvent evaporated, and the residue chromatographed on silica gel column with 30% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 1.24 g (yield 50%) N-cyanomethyl-3,3-diphenylpropylamine as an oil which solidified on standing. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) 7.45-7.10 (m, 10 H), 4.05 (t, 1 H), 3.50 (s, 2 H), 2.67 (t, 2 H), 2.23 (dt, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) 144.25, 128.53, 127.68, 126.33, 117.72, 48.58, 47.13, 37.19, 35.14.

Step 2: A mixture of 0.72 g (2.9 mmol) N-cyanomethyl-3,3-diphenylpropylamine (from step 1), 0.49g (3.4 mmol) iodomethane and 1.6 g potassium carbonate in 5 ml acetonitrile was stirred at room temperature for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane, washed with water, the solvent evaporated, and the residue chromatographed on silica gel column with 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 0.33 g (yield 43%) N-methyl-N-cyanomethyl-3,3-diphenylpropylamine as an oil which solidified on standing. ¹H NMR ((CDCl₃, 300 MHz) 7.30-7.10 (m, 10 H), 4.02 (t, 1 H), 3.47 (s, 3 H), 2.38 (t, 2 H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.19 (dt, 2H);

Step 3: A mixture of 0.132 g (0.5 mmol) N-methyl-N-cyanomethyl-3,3-diphenylpropylamine (from step 2) and 0.183 g (0.55 mmol) azidotributyltin (Aldrich) was stirred at 80°C under argon for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was suspended with 1 M solution of hydrogen chloride in diethyl ether (Aldrich) and the precipitated yellow wax was purified by preparative TLC with 10% methanol in ethyl acetate to give 0.06 g (yield 35%) N-methyl-N-[(1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)methyl]-3,3-diphenylpropylamine hydrochloride (Compound A146) as a white powder. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 300 MHz) 7.30-7.16 (m, 10 H), 4.11 (s, 2 H), 3.97 (t, 1 H), 2.60 (br. s, 2 H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.36 (br. s, 2H).

Example 13C Additional Syntheses Using the Procedure of Example 13B:

Compound A133 was prepared by treatment of compound A30 with azidotributyltin as described above in Example 13B (Step 3) - yield 11%.

Example 13D Synthesis of Dimethyl(ethoxycarbonylmethyl)[3-phenyl-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenoxy)propyl]ammonium iodide (Compound A148)

A solution of 0.152 g (0.38 mmol) N-[3-phenyl-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenoxy)propyl] sarcosine ethyl ester (Compound A21) and 0.273 g (1.93 mmol) iodomethane in 2 ml benzene was heated under reflux for 2 hours and the solvent evaporated. The residue was washed three times with anhydrous diethyl ether and dried under vacuum to give 0.175g (yield 85%) dimethyl(ethoxycarbonylmethyl)[3-phenyl-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenoxy)propyl]ammonium iodide (Compound A148) as a pale yellow hygroscopic powder.

Example 14 - Preparation of Cells Expressing GlyT-1 and GlyT-2

10 This example sets forth methods and materials used for growing and transfecting QT-6 cells.

QT-6 cells were obtained from American Type Culture Collection (Accession No. ATCC CRL-1708). Complete QT-6 medium for growing QT-6 is Medium 199 (Sigma Chemical Company, St. Louis, MO; hereinafter "Sigma") supplemented to be 10% tryptose phosphate; 5% fetal bovine serum (Sigma); 1% penicillin-streptomycin (Sigma); and 1% sterile dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO; Sigma). Other solutions required for growing or transfecting QT-6 cells included:

DNA/DEAE Mix: 450 μ l TBS, 450 μ l DEAE Dextran (Sigma), and 100 μ l of DNA (4 μ g) in TE, where the DNA includes GlyT-1a, GlyT-1b, GlyT-1c, or GlyT-2, in a suitable expression vector. The DNA used was as defined below.

20 PBS: Standard phosphate buffered saline, pH 7.4 including 1 mM CaCl_2 and 1 mM MgCl_2 sterilized through 0.2 μ filter.

TBS: One ml of Solution B, 10 ml of Solution A; brought to 100 ml with distilled H_2O ; filter-sterilized and stored at 4°C.

TE: 0.01 M Tris, 0.001 M EDTA, pH 8.0.

25 DEAE dextran: Sigma, #D-9885. A stock solution was prepared consisting of 0.1% (1 mg/ml) of the DEAE dextran in TBS. The stock solution was filter sterilized and frozen in 1 ml aliquots.

Chloroquine: Sigma, #C-6628. A stock solution was prepared consisting of 100 mM chloroquine in H_2O . The stock solution was filter-sterilized and stored in 0.5 ml aliquots, frozen.

30 Solution A (10X):

NaCl	8.00 g
KCl	0.38 g
Na_2HPO_4	0.20 g

Tris base 3.00 g

The solution was adjusted to pH 7.5 with HCl, brought to 100.0 ml with distilled H₂O, and filter-sterilized and stored at room temperature.

Solution B (100X):

5 CaCl₂·2H₂O 1.5 g
 MgCl₂·6H₂O 1.0 g

The solution was brought to 100 ml with distilled H₂O, and filter-sterilized; the solution was then stored at room temperature.

HBSS: 150 mM NaCl, 20 mM HEPES, 1 mM CaCl₂, 10 mM glucose, 5 mM KCl, 1
10 mM MgCl₂ H₂O; adjusted with NaOH to pH 7.4.

Standard growth and passaging procedures used were as follows: Cells were grown in 225 ml flasks. For passaging, cells were washed twice with warm HBSS (5 ml each wash). Two ml of a 0.05% trypsin/EDTA solution was added, the culture was swirled, then the trypsin/EDTA solution was aspirated quickly. The culture was then incubated about 2 minutes (until cells lift
15 off), then 10 ml of QT-6 media was added and the cells were further dislodged by swirling the flask and tapping its bottom. The cells were removed and transferred to a 15 ml conical tube, centrifuged at 1000 x g for 10 minutes, and resuspended in 10 ml of QT-6 medium. A sample was removed for counting, the cells were then diluted further to a concentration of 1 x 10⁵ cells/ml using QT-6 medium, and 65 ml of the culture was added per 225 ml flask of passaged cells.

20 Transfection was accomplished using cDNA's prepared as follows:

The rat GlyT-2 (rGlyT-2) clone used contains the entire sequence of rGlyT-2 cloned into pBluescript SK+(Stratagene) as an Eco RI - Hind III fragment, as described in Liu et al., J. Biol. Chem. **268**, 22802-22808 (1993). GlyT-2 was then subcloned into the pRc/RSV vector as follows: A PCR fragment corresponding to nucleotides 208 to 702 of the rGlyT-2 sequence was
25 amplified by PCR using the oligonucleotide: 5'GGGGGAAGCTTATGGATTGCAGTGCTCC 3' as the 5' primer and the oligonucleotide:
5' GGGGGGGTACCCAACACCACTGTGCTCTG 3' as the 3' primer. This created a Hind III site immediately upstream of the translation start site. This fragment, which contained a Kpn I site at the 3' end, along with a Kpn I - Pvu II fragment containing the remainder of the coding
30 sequence of rGlyT-2, were cloned into pBluescript SK+ previously digested with Hind III and Sma I, in a three part ligation. A Hind III - Xba I fragment from this clone was then subcloned into the pRc/RSV vector. The resulting construct contains nucleotides 208 to 2720 of the rGlyT-2 nucleic acid in the pRc/RSV expression vector.

The human GlyT-1a (hGlyT-1a) clone used contains the sequence of hGlyT-1a from nucleotide position 183 to 2108 cloned into the pRc/CMV vector (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA) as a Hind III-Xba I fragment as described in Kim et al., Mol. Pharmacol., 45, 608-617, 1994. This cDNA encoding GlyT-1a actually contained the first 17 nucleotides (corresponding to the first 6 amino acids) of the GlyT-1a sequence from rat. To determine whether the sequence of human GlyT-1a was different in this region, the 5' region of hGlyT-1a from nucleotide 1 to 212 was obtained by rapid amplification of cDNA end using the 5' RACE system supplied by Gibco BRL (Gaithersburg, MD). The gene specific primer: 5' CCACATTGTAGTAGATGCCG 3' corresponding to nucleotides 558 to 539 of the hGlyT-1a sequence, was used to prime cDNA synthesis from human brain mRNA, and the gene specific primer: 5' GCAAACCTGGCCGAAGGAGAGCTCC 3', corresponding to nucleotides 454 to 431 of the hGlyT-1a sequence, was used for PCR amplification. Sequencing of this 5' region of GlyT-1a confirmed that the first 17 nucleotides of coding sequence are identical in human and rat GlyT-1a.

The human GlyT-1b (hGlyT-1b) clone used contains the sequence of hGlyT-1b from nucleotide position 213 to 2274 cloned into the pRc/CMV vector as a Hind III - Xba I fragment as described in Kim et al., Mol. Pharmacol., 45, 608-617, 1994.

The human GlyT-1c (hGlyT-1c) clone used contains the sequence of hGlyT-1c from nucleotide position 213 to 2336 cloned into the pRc/CMV vector (Invitrogen) as a Hind III - Xba I fragment as described in Kim et al., Mol. Pharmacol., 45, 608-617, 1994. The Hind III - Xba I fragment of hGlyT-1c from this clone was then subcloned into the pRc/RSV vector. Transfection experiments were performed with GlyT-1c in both the pRc/RSV and pRc/CMV expression vectors.

The following four day procedure for the transfections was used:

On day 1, QT-6 cells were plated at a density of 1×10^6 cells in 10 ml of complete QT-6 medium in 100 mm dishes.

On day 2, the media was aspirated and the cells were washed with 10 ml of PBS followed by 10 ml of TBS. The TBS was aspirated, and then 1 ml of the DEAE/DNA mix was added to the plate. The plate was swirled in the hood every 5 minutes. After 30 minutes, 8 ml of 80 μ M chloroquine, in QT-6 medium was added and the culture was incubated for 2.5 hours at 37°C and 5% CO₂. The medium was then aspirated and the cells were washed two times with complete QT-6 media, then 100 ml complete QT-6 media was added and the cells were returned to the incubator.

On day 3, the cells were removed with trypsin/EDTA as described above, and plated into the wells of 96-well assay plates at approximately 2×10^5 cells/well.

On day 4, glycine transport was assayed (see Example 15).

Example 15 - Assay of Transport Via GlyT-1 or GlyT-2 transporters

5 This example illustrates a method for the measurement of glycine uptake by transfected cultured cells.

Transient GlyT-transfected cells grown in accordance with Example 14 were washed three times with HEPES buffered saline (HBS). The cells were then incubated 10 minutes at 37°C, after which a solution was added containing 50 nM [^3H]glycine (17.5 Ci/mmol) and either (a) no potential competitor, (b) 10 mM nonradioactive glycine or (c) a concentration of a candidate drug. 10 A range of concentrations of the candidate drug was used to generate data for calculating the concentration resulting in 50% of the effect (e.g., the IC₅₀s, which are the concentrations of drug inhibiting glycine uptake by 50%). The cells were then incubated another 10 minutes at 37°C, after which the cells were aspirated and washed three times with ice-cold HBS. The cells were 15 harvested, scintillant was added to the cells, the cells were shaken for 30 minutes, and the radioactivity in the cells was counted using a scintillation counter. Data were compared between the same cells contacted or not contacted by a candidate agent, and between cells having GlyT-1 activity versus cells having GlyT-2 activity, depending on the assay being conducted.

Example 16 - Assay of Binding to NMDA Receptors

20 This example illustrates binding assays to measure interaction of compounds with the glycine site on the NMDA receptor.

Direct binding of [^3H]glycine to the NMDA-glycine site was performed according to the method of Grimwood et al., Molecular Pharmacology, 41, 923-930 (1992); Yoneda et al., J. Neurochem. 62, 102-112 (1994).

25 Preparation of membranes for the binding test required application of a series of standard methods. Unless otherwise specified, tissues and homogenates were kept on ice and centrifugations were conducted at 4°C. Homogenizations were conducted with an effort to minimize resulting rise in tissue/homogenate temperature. The membrane preparation included the following steps:

- 30 A. Sacrifice and decapitate four rats; remove cortices and hippocampi.
B. Homogenize tissue in twenty volumes of 0.32 M sucrose/5 mM Tris-Acetate (pH 7.4) with 20 strokes of a glass/teflon homogenizer.

- C. Centrifuge tissue at 1000 x g, 10 minutes. Save supernatant. Resuspend pellet in small volume of buffer and homogenize again. Centrifuge the homogenized pellet and combine the supernatant with the previous supernatant.
- D. Centrifuge the combined supernatants at 40,000 x g, for 30 minutes. Discard the supernatant.
- 5 E. Resuspend the pellet in 20 volumes of 5 mM Tris-Acetate (pH 7.4). Stir the suspension on ice for one hour. Centrifuge the suspension at 40,000 x g for 30 minutes. Discard the supernatant and freeze the pellet for at least 24 hours.
- F. Resuspend the pellet from step 5 in Tris Acetate buffer (5 mM, pH 7.4) containing 0.1% saponin (w/v; Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis) to a protein concentration of 1 mg/ml. Leave on ice for 20 minutes. Centrifuge the suspension at 40,000 x g for 30 minutes. Resuspend the pellet in saponin-free buffer and centrifuge again. Resuspend the pellet in Tris-Acetate buffer at a concentration of 10 mg/ml and freeze in aliquots.
- 10 G. On day three, remove an aliquot of membranes and thaw on ice. Dilute the suspension into 10 ml Tris-Acetate buffer and centrifuge at 40,000 x g for 30 minutes. Repeat the wash step twice more for a total of 3 washes. Resuspend the final pellet at a concentration of 1 mg/ml in glycine-free Tris-Acetate buffer.
- 15

The binding test was performed in eppendorf tubes containing 150 µg of membrane protein and 50 nM [³H]glycine in a volume of 0.5 ml. Non-specific binding was determined with 1 mM glycine. Drugs were dissolved in assay buffer (50 mM Tris-acetate, pH 7.4) or DMSO (final concentration of 0.1%). Membranes were incubated on ice for 30 minutes and bound radioligand was separated from free radioligand by filtration on Whatman GF/B glass fiber filters or by centrifugation (18,000 x g, 20 min). Filters or pellet was washed three times quickly with ice-cold 5 mM Tris-acetate buffer. Filters were dried and placed in scintillation tubes and counted. Pellets were dissolved in deoxycholate/NaOH (0.1 N) solution overnight, neutralized and radioactivity was determined by scintillation counting.

20

25

A second binding test for the NMDA-glycine site used [³H]dichlorokynurenic acid (DCKA) and membranes prepared as above. See, Yoneda et al., *J. Neurochem.*, 60,634-645 (1993). The binding assay was performed as described for [³H]glycine above except that [³H]DCKA was used to label the glycine site. The final concentration of [³H]DCKA was 10 nM, and the assay was performed for 10 minutes on ice.

30

A third binding test used for the NMDA-glycine site used indirect assessment of affinity of ligands for the site by measuring the binding of [³H]MK-801 (dizocilpine). See, Palmer and Burns, *J. Neurochem.*, **62**, 187-196 (1994). Preparation of membranes for the test was the same as above. The binding assay allowed separate detection of antagonists and agonists.

5 The third binding test was operated to identify antagonists as follows: 100 µg of membranes were added to wells of a 96-well plate, along with glutamate (10 µM) and glycine (200 nM) and various concentrations of the ligand to be tested. The assay was started by the addition of 5 nM [³H]MK-801 (23.9 Ci/mmol), which binds to the ion channel associated with NMDA receptors. The final volume of the assay was 200 µl. The assay was performed for 1 hour at
10 room temperature. Bound radioactivity was separated from free by filtration, using a TOMTEC harvester. Antagonist activity was indicated by decreasing radioactivity associated with the NMDA receptor with increasing concentration of the tested ligand.

The third binding test was operated to identify agonists by performing the test as above, except that the concentration of glycine was 200 nM. Agonist activity was indicated by increasing
15 radioactivity associated with the NMDA receptor with increasing concentration of the tested ligand.

Example 17 - Assay of Calcium Flux

This example illustrates a protocol for measuring calcium flux in primary neuronal calls.

The calcium flux measurement is performed in primary neuronal cell cultures, which are
20 prepared from rat fetal cortices dissected from pregnant rats using standard procedures and techniques that require sterile dissecting equipment, a microscope and defined medium. The protocol used was adapted from Lu et al., *Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA*, **88**, 6289-6292 (1991).

Defined medium is prepared in advance in accordance with the following recipe:

<u>Components</u>	<u>Source (catalogue #)</u>	<u>Final Concentration</u>
D-glucose	Sigma (G-7021)	0.6%
transferrin	Sigma (T-2252)	100 µg/ml
insulin	Sigma (I-5500)	25 µg/ml
progesterone	Sigma (P-6149)	20 nM
putrescine	Sigma (P-7505)	60 µM
selenium	Sigma (S-5261)	30 nM
pen-strep ^	GIBCO (15070-014)	0.5 U-0.5 µg/ml
L-glutamine ★	GIBCO (25030-016)	146 mg/l
MEM°	GIBCO (11095 or 11090)	500 ml/l

F-12

GIBCO (11765)

500 ml/l

^ pen-strep: 5,000 U/ml penicillin and 5,000 µg/ml streptomycin

★ add only when MEM without L-glutamine is used

° with L-glutamine or without L-glutamine, respectively

5

Before starting the dissection, tissue culture plates were treated with polylysine (100 µg/ml for at least 30 minutes at 37°C) and washed with distilled water. Also, a metal tray containing two sets of sterile crude dissecting equipment (scissors and tweezers) and several sets of finer dissecting tools was autoclaved. A pair of scissors and tweezers were placed into a sterile beaker with 70% alcohol and brought to the dissecting table. A petri dish with cold phosphate buffered saline (PBS) was placed on ice next to the place of dissection.

10

A pregnant rat (E15 or 16 on arrival from Hilltop Lab Animals (Scottsdale, PA), E17 or 18 at dissection) was placed in a CO₂/dry ice chamber until it was unconscious. The rat was removed, pinned to a backing, the area of dissection was swabbed with 70% alcohol, and skin was cut and removed from the area of interest. A second pair of scissors was used to cut through and remove the prenatal pups in their sacs. The string of sacs was placed into the cold PBS and transported to a sterile hood.

15

The prenatal pups were removed from the sacs and decapitated. The skulls were then removed and the brains were carefully dislodged and placed into a clean petri dish with cold PBS. At this point, it was necessary to proceed with a dissecting microscope. The brain was turned so that the cortices were contacting the plate and the tissue between the dissector and the cortex (striatum and other brain parts) was scooped out. The hippocampus and olfactory bulb were cut away from the cortex. Then the tissue was turned over and the meninges were removed with tweezers. The remaining tissue (cortex) was placed in a small petri dish with defined media.

20

The tissue was chopped with a scalpel and then triturated with a glass pipet that had been fire polished. The chopped, triturated tissue was then transferred to a sterile plastic tube and continued to be triturated with a glass pipet with a finer opening. Cells were counted in a suitable counting chamber. Cells were plated at roughly 40,000 cells/well in 100 µl of defined medium for 96-well plates, 200,000 cells/well in 500 µl in 24-well plates, 400,000 cells/well in 1 ml in 12-well plates, 1.5×10^8 cells/35 mm dish in 1.5 ml and 10×10^8 cells/100 mm dish in 10 ml. To inhibit glia growth, cultures were treated with 100 µM 5-fluoro-2-deoxyuridine (FDUR, Sigma (F-0503)) or 50 µM uridine (Sigma (U-3003)) and 50 µM FDUR.

25

30

The cortical cultures for the standard calcium flux assay were grown in 24-well plates in the defined medium described above for 7 days and fed once with serum containing media (10% heat inactivated fetal calf serum, 0.6% glucose in MEM) by exchanging half of the medium. Cultures were used after 12 days of incubation *in vitro*. The cultures were rinsed three times with
 5 HCSS (i.e. HEPES-buffered control salt solution, containing 120 mM NaCl, 5.4 mM KCl, 1.8 mM CaCl₂ 25 mM HEPES, and 15 mM glucose, in HPLC water and adjusted to pH 7.4 by NaOH, which was also made in HPLC water). In the third wash, the culture was incubated at 37°C for 20 to 30 minutes.

Solutions containing ⁴⁵Ca⁺⁺ (5000 dpm/ml) and drugs for testing or controls were
 10 prepared in HCSS. Immediately before the above ⁴⁵Ca⁺⁺ solutions were added, cultures were washed twice with HCSS, and 250 µl of ⁴⁵Ca⁺⁺ solution per well was added, one plate at a time. The cultures were incubated for 10 minutes at room temperature, rinsed three times with HCSS, and 1 ml scintillation liquid per well was added, followed by shaking for at least 15 minutes. Retained radioactivity was counted in a scintillation counter.

15 **Example 18 - Synthesis of N-(3-Cyano-3,3-diphenyl)propyl-2-piperidinecarboxylic acid methyl ester (Compound B9)**

A mixture of 0.3 g (1 mmol) of 4-bromo-2,2-diphenyl butyronitrile (Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI), 0.359 g (2 mmol) methyl pipercolinate hydrochloride (Aldrich), 0.553 g (4 mmol) potassium carbonate and 0.166 g (1 mmol) potassium iodide in 5 ml acetonitrile was refluxed under argon for
 20 hours. The reaction mixture was filtered, the solvent evaporated and the residue chromatographed on silica gel column with 30% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 0.173 g (yield 48%) of N-(3-cyano-3,3-diphenyl)propyl-2-piperidinecarboxylic acid methyl ester (compound B9) as an oil. NMR spectra of the product showed: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) 7.50 - 7.20 (m, 10 H), 3.58 (s, 3 H), 3.10 - 3.00 (m, 2 H), 2.70 - 2.50 (m, 3 H), 2.50 - 2.35 (m, 1 H), 2.25 - 2.10
 25 (m, 1 H), 1.90 - 1.50 (m, 4 H), 1.40 - 1.20 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) 173.59, 140.00, 139.00, 128.71, 127.72, 126.58, 126.46, 121.73, 103.85, 65.09, 52.88, 51.47, 50.92, 49.70, 36.35, 29.27, 24.82, 22.27.

Example 19 - Additional Syntheses Using Reaction 1

Additional compounds were synthesized using Reaction 1 as follows:

Compound	Reagent	Aminoacid	Solvent	Yield
B1	A	I	X	70%
B2	E	I	X	28%

B3	B	2	Y	13%
B4	B	1	X	57%
B6	C	3	Z	24%
B7	C	1	Z	48%
B8	D	1	X	77%
B11	D	4	X	61%
B12	B	3	X	43%
B13	B	4	X	39%
B14	C	5	Z	63%
B17	F	1	X	65%

Reagent: A) 1,1'-(4-chlorobutylidene)bis(4-fluorobenzene) (Acros Organics, Pittsburgh, PA); B) 4-bromo-1,1-diphenyl-1-butene [prepared as described in F.A. Ali et al., *J. Med. Chem.*, 28: 653-660, 1985]; C) benzhydryl 2-bromoethyl ether, [prepared as described in M.R. Pavia et al., *J. Med. Chem.*, 35: 4238-4248, 1992]; D) 3,3-diphenylpropyl tosylate [prepared by LiAlH₄

- 5 reduction of 3,3-diphenylpropionic acid (Aldrich) to 3,3-diphenylpropanol, followed by tosylation]; E) 9-fluorenylethyl tosylate [prepared by LiAlH₄ reduction of 9-fluoreneacetic acid methyl ester (Aldrich) to 2-(9-fluorenyl)ethanol, followed by tosylation]; and
F) 3,3-bis(4-fluorophenyl)propyl tosylate [prepared by alkylation of diethyl malonate (Aldrich) with chlorobis(4-fluorophenyl)methane (Aldrich), followed by hydrolysis and decarboxylation,
10 LiAlH₄ reduction of the monocarboxylic acid, and tosylation of the formed alcohol].

- Amino acid: 1) methyl pipecolate hydrochloride (Aldrich); 2) methyl (S-(-)-2-azetidinecarboxylate hydrochloride [prepared by methylation of S-(-)-2-azetidinecarboxylic acid (Aldrich) with chlorotrimethylsilane (Aldrich) in methanol according to the general procedure described in M.A. Brook et al., *Synthesis*, p. 201, 1983]; 3) L-proline
15 methyl ester hydrochloride (Aldrich); 4) methyl (±)-*trans*-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexane-2-carboxylate hydrochloride [prepared by methylation of (±)-*trans*-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexane-2-carboxylic acid (Aldrich) with chlorotrimethylsilane (Aldrich) in methanol according to the general procedure described in M.A. Brook et al., *Synthesis*, 201, 1983]; 5) indole-2-carboxylic acid
20 methyl ester hydrochloride [prepared by methylation of indole-2-carboxylic acid (Aldrich) with chlorotrimethylsilane (Aldrich) in methanol according to the general procedure described in M.A. Brook et al., *Synthesis*, 201, 1983].

Solvent: X) acetonitrile; Y) dioxane; Z) methanol

Example 20A - Synthesis of N-[(3,3-Diphenyl-3-hydroxy)propyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (compound B18)

Step 1: N-[(3-Oxo-3-phenyl)propyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester: A mixture of 3.37 g (20 mmol) 3-chloropropiophenone (Aldrich), 3.59 g (20 mmol) methyl pipecolate hydrochloride (Aldrich), 3.32 g (20 mmol) potassium iodide and 2.5 g potassium carbonate in 140 ml of acetonitrile was heated under reflux with stirring for 2h (Reaction 29, Fig. 4). The reaction mixture was filtered, the solvent evaporated and the residue dissolved in dichloromethane, washed with water and dried over sodium sulphate. Evaporation of the solvent gave N-[(3-oxo-3-phenyl)propyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester as a yellow oil which was used in the next step without further purification.

Step 2: 0.21 ml of phenyllithium (1.8 M in cyclohexane-ether, Aldrich) was added dropwise into a solution of 0.101 g (0.367 mmol) of N-[(3-oxo-3-phenyl)propyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (from step 1) in 5 ml of tetrahydrofuran at -78°C (Reaction 30, Fig. 4). After stirring at -78°C for 0.5 h and at 20°C for 0.5 h, the reaction was quenched by adding 5 ml 10% ammonium chloride solution at 0°C. The mixture was extracted with methylene chloride, the solvent evaporated and the residue purified by preparative TLC with 40% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 0.072 g (yield 56%) N-[(3,3-diphenyl-3-hydroxy)propyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (compound B18) as a pale yellow oil.

Example 20B - N-[3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (Compound B30)

Step 1: N-[3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3-oxopropyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester was prepared in 92% yield by alkylation of methyl pipecolate with 3-chloro-4'-fluoropropiophenone (Aldrich) as described in Example 20A (Step 1).

Step 2: N-[3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (Compound B30): 7ml (2 mmol) of 0.28 M solution of 4-chlorophenylmagnesium iodide in diethyl ether [prepared from 1-chloro-4-iodobenzene (Aldrich) and magnesium] was added dropwise to an ice-cooled solution of 0.605 g (2 mmol) N-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-oxopropyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (from Step 1) in 12 ml anhydrous diethyl ether with stirring under nitrogen. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 hours, poured onto crushed ice and extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, concentrated and the residue purified by preparative silica gel TLC with 25% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 0.037 g (yield 4.5%) N-[3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (Compound B30).

Compound B21 was prepared in 4% yield analogously to Step 2 by reaction of N-(3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)pipecolic acid methyl ester [synthesized analogously to Step 1 of Example 20A from ethyl pipecolate (Aldrich)] with 4-chlorophenylmagnesium iodide.

5 **Example 20C - N-[3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)prop-2-enyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (Compound B20)**

A solution of 0.035 g (0.086 mmol) N-[3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(4 fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (Compound B30) in 1 ml 99% formic acid was heated under reflux for 0.5 hours. The mixture was concentrated under vacuum, the residue dissolved in ethyl acetate, washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and brine, and the solvent
10 evaporated. The residue was purified by preparative silica gel TLC with 5% diethyl ether in dichlorometane to give 0.018 g (yield 54%) N-[3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)prop-2-enyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (Compound B20)

Example 21A - Synthesis of N-[3-Phenyl-3-(p-trifluoromethylphenoxy)propyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (Compound B16)

15 Step 1: 0.70 ml of lithium tri-tert-butoxyaluminumhydride (Aldrich) (1 M in THF) was added into a solution of 0.190 g, (0.69 mmol) N-[(3-oxo-3-phenyl)propyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (prepared in step 1 of Example 20A) in 10 ml of THF at -78°C (Reaction 31, Fig. 4). After stirring at -78°C for 0.5 h and at room temperature for 20 h, the reaction was quenched by adding 10 ml 10% ammonium chloride solution at 0°C, filtered, and extracted with methylene chloride.
20 After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was chromatographed on silica gel column with 30% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 0.171 g (yield 89%) N-[(3-hydroxy-3-phenyl)propyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester as a pale yellow oil.

Step 2: To an ice cooled solution of 2.27 g (8.2 mmol) of N-[(3-hydroxy-3-phenyl)propyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (from step 1) in 10 ml anhydrous methylene chloride.
25 was added dropwise 4 ml (51 mmol) thionyl chloride and the mixture heated under reflux for one hour (Reaction 32, Fig. 4). After addition of crushed ice, the reaction mixture was neutralized with saturated solution of potassium carbonate and extracted with methylene chloride. The combined extracts were evaporated and the residue chromatographed on silica gel column with 20% diethyl ether in hexanes to give 1.45 g (yield 60%) N-[(3-chloro-3-phenyl)propyl]pipecolic
30 acid methyl ester as an oil.

Step 3: A solution of 0.082 g (0.28 mmol) of N-[(3-chloro-3-phenyl)propyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (from step 2) in 1 ml of anhydrous dimethylformamide was added into a solution of sodium 4-trifluoromethylphenoxide in 2ml anhydrous dimethylformamide at room temperature (Reaction 33, Fig. 4). The sodium 4-trifluoromethylphenoxide was generated by adding 0.040 g

of 60% sodium hydride in mineral oil to a solution of 0.165 g (1 mmol) of α,α,α -trifluoro-*p*-cresol (Aldrich) in 2 ml of dimethylformamide. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 h, the solvent evaporated under vacuo and the residue purified by preparative TLC with 30% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 0.079 g (yield 68%) N-[3-phenyl-3-(*p*-trifluoromethylphenoxy)propyl]pipecolic acid methyl ester (Compound B16) as a pale yellow oil.

Example 21B - additional Syntheses Using the Procedure of Example 21A

Compound B23 was prepared by alkylation of 4-trifluoromethylphenol (Aldrich) with N-(3-chloro-3-phenylpropyl)pipecolic acid ethyl ester as described above in Example 21A (Step 3) - yield 6.5%.

10 Compound B24 was prepared by alkylation of phenol (Aldrich) with N-(3-chloro-3-phenylpropyl)pipecolic acid ethyl ester as described above in Example 21A (Step 3) - yield 4%.

Compound B25 was prepared by alkylation of 4-methoxyphenol (Aldrich) with N-(3-chloro-3-phenylpropyl)pipecolic acid ethyl ester as described above in Example 21A (Step 3) - yield 8%.

15 Compound B29 was prepared by alkylation of thiophenol (Aldrich) with N-(3-chloro-3-phenylpropyl)pipecolic acid ethyl ester as described above in Example 21A (Step 3) - yield 12%.

Example 21C - Synthesis of N-[3-(4-chlorophenoxy)-3-phenylpropyl]pipecolic acid ethyl ester (Compound B22)

0.133g (0.76 mmol) diethyl azodicarboxylate (Aldrich) was added dropwise to a solution of 0.142 g (0.51 mmol) N-(3-hydroxy-3-phenylpropyl)pipecolic acid methyl ester (from Example 21A, Step 1), 0.083 g (0.64 mmol) *p*-chlorophenol (Aldrich) and 0.197 g (0.75 mmol) triphenylphosphine in 5 ml anhydrous tetrahydrofuran with stirring under nitrogen and cooling with an ice bath. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours, the solvent evaporated and the residue purified by preparative silica gel TLC with 30% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give 0.09 g (yield 46%) N-[3-(4-chlorophenoxy)-3-phenylpropyl]pipecolic acid ethyl ester (Compound B22). (See Reaction 34, Figure 4.)

Example 22 - Synthesis of N-(4,4-Diphenyl)butyl-2-piperidine carboxylic acid methyl ester (compound B10)

0.040 g (0.11 mmol) of N-[4,4-diphenyl]but-3-enyl]-2-piperidine carboxylic acid methyl ester (compound B4) was hydrogenated over 0.030 g 10%Pd/C in 5 ml ethanol under 40 psi for 4 hours at room temperature. The mixture was separated from the catalyst by filtration through celite and the solvent evaporated to give 0.028 g (yield 70%) N-(4,4-diphenyl)butyl-2-piperidine carboxylic acid methyl ester (compound B10) as an oil. NMR spectra of the product showed: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) 7.40 - 7.10 (m, 10 H), 3.88 (t, 1 H), 3.65 (s, 3 H), 3.10 - 2.90 (m, 2

H). 2.60 - 2.45 (m, 1 H), 2.35 - 2.20 (m, 1 H), 2.10 - 1.90 (m, 3 H), 1.85 - 1.10 (m, 8 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) 174.57, 145.36, 145.23, 128.66, 128.12, 128.10, 126.34, 126.33, 65.66, 56.81, 51.78, 51.44, 50.78, 33.81, 29.88, 25.53, 25.39, 22.92.

5 **Example 23 - Synthesis of N-[(4,4-Diphenyl)but-3-enyl]-L-2-azetidine carboxylic acid hydrochloride (compound B15)**

To a solution of 0.050 g (0.3 mmol) of N-[(4,4-diphenyl)but-3-enyl]-L-2-azetidine carboxylic acid methyl ester (compound B3) in 2.4 ml ethanol was added 1.2 ml 1N lithium hydroxide and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated to half volume, acidified with 4 N hydrochloric acid, and extracted 4 times with
10 methylene chloride. The combined extracts were dried and evaporated to give 0.041 g (yield 80%) of N-[(4,4-diphenyl)but-3-enyl]-L-2-azetidine carboxylic acid hydrochloride (compound B15). ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 300 MHz) 7.50 - 7.00 (m, 10 H), 6.08 (t, 1 H), 4.62 (t, 1 H), 4.00 - 3.75 (m, 3 H), 3.30 - 3.20 (m, 1 H), 2.75 - 2.55 (m, 1 H), 2.50 - 2.30 (m, 3 H).

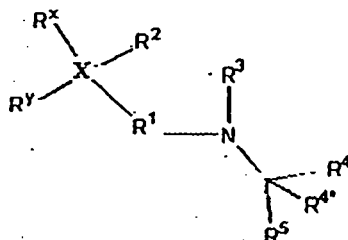
Compound B5 was prepared by hydrolysis of the corresponding ester, compound B14.

15 Compound B19 was prepared by hydrolysis of the corresponding ester, compound B23.

While this invention has been described with an emphasis upon preferred embodiments, it will be obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art that variations in the preferred devices and methods may be used and that it is intended that the invention may be practiced otherwise than as
20 specifically described herein. Accordingly, this invention includes all modifications encompassed within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the claims that follow.

Claims

1. A compound of the following formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
 wherein:

- (1) X is nitrogen or carbon, and R² is not present when X is nitrogen;
- (2) R² (a) is hydrogen, (C1-C6) alkyl, (C1-C6) alkoxy, cyano, (C2-C7) alkanoyl, aminocarbonyl, (C1-C6) alkylaminocarbonyl or dialkylaminocarbonyl wherein each alkyl is independently C1 to C6, (b) comprises (where R¹ is not aminoethylene, -O-R⁸ or -S-R^{8*}) hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo or (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, (c) forms a double bond with an adjacent carbon or nitrogen from one of either R¹, R^{xb} or R^{yb}, or (d) is R^{2a} linked by R^{2b} to X;
- (2ⁱ) R^x is R^{xa} linked by R^{xb} to X;
- (2ⁱⁱ) R^y is R^{ya} linked by R^{yb} to X;
- (2ⁱⁱⁱ) R^{xa}, R^{ya} and R^{2a}, are independently Ar which is aryl or heteroaryl, adamantyl or a 5 to 7-membered non-aromatic ring having from 0 to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, wherein at least one of R^{xa}, R^{ya} and R^{2a} is phenyl, and wherein:
 - (a) aryl is phenyl or naphthyl,
 - (b) heteroaryl comprises a five-membered ring, a six-membered ring, a six-membered ring fused to a five-membered ring, a five-membered ring fused to a six-membered ring, or a six-membered ring fused to a six-membered ring, wherein the heteroaryl is aromatic and contains heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, with the remaining ring atoms being carbon,

- (c) each of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} can be substituted or independently substituted with one of R^q , R^rO - or R^sS -, wherein each of R^q , R^r and R^s are independently Ar, adamantyl or a 5 to 7-membered non-aromatic ring as these ring structures are defined for R^{xa} , and
- (d) R^{xa} , R^{ya} , R^{2a} , R^q , R^r and R^s can be additionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, trifluoromethyl, amidosulfonyl which can have up to two independent (C1-C6) N-alkyl substitutions, adamantyl, (C1-C12) alkyl, (C2-C12) alkenyl, amino, (C1-C6) alkylamino, dialkylamino wherein each alkyl is independently C1 to C6, (C1-C6) alkoxy, (C2-C7) alkanoyl, (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, (C2-C7) alkyloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl that can be substituted for hydrogen with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (C1-C6) alkylsulfonyl, amidino that can be independently substituted with up to three (C1-C6) alkyl group, or methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy with the two oxygens bonded to adjacent positions on the aryl or heteroaryl ring structure, which methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, wherein:
- (i.) the substitutions of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} can be combined to form a second bridge between two of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} comprising (1) (C1-C2) alkyl or (C2) alkenyl, which can be independently substituted with one or more (C1-C6) alkyl, (2) sulfur, (3) oxygen, (4) amino, which can be substituted for hydrogen with one (C1-C6) alkyl, (5) carbonyl, (6) $-CH_2C(=O)-$, which can be substituted for hydrogen with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (7) $-C(=O)O-$, (8) $-CH_2O-$, which can be substituted for hydrogen with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (9) $-C(=O)N(R^{24})$, wherein R^{24} is hydrogen or (C1-C6) alkyl, (10) $-CH_2NH-$, which can be substituted for hydrogen with up to three (C1-C6) alkyl, or (11) $-CH=N-$, which can be substituted for hydrogen with (C1-C6) alkyl, or wherein two of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} can be directly linked by a single bond;

(2^{iv}) R^{xb} and R^{2b} are independently a single bond or (C1-C2) alkylene;

(2^y) R^{y_b} is a single bond, oxy, (C1-C2) alkylene, ethenylene or -CH= (where the double bond is with X), thio, methyleneoxy or methylenethio, or either -N(R⁶) or -CH₂-N(R^{6*})-, wherein R⁶ and R^{6*} are hydrogen or (C1-C6) alkyl, wherein when X is nitrogen X is not bonded to another heteroatom;

(3) R¹ comprises: a straight-chained (C2-C3) aliphatic group; where X is carbon, =N-O-(ethylene), wherein the unmatched double bond is linked to X, in which X is carbon and R^{y_b} does not include a heteroatom attached to X, -O-R⁸ or -S-R^{8*} wherein R⁸ or R^{8*} is a ethylene or ethenylene and O or S is bonded to X, in which X is carbon and R^{y_b} does not include a heteroatom attached to X; aminoethylene where the amino is bonded to X:

wherein R¹ can be substituted with up to one hydroxy, up to one (C1-C6) alkoxy or up to one (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, with up to one oxo, up to one (C1-C6) alkylidene, with the proviso that the hydroxy, alkoxy, alkanoyloxy or oxy substituents are not bonded to a carbon that is bonded to a nitrogen or oxygen;

wherein the alkyl or alkylidene substituents of R¹ can be linked to form a 3 to 7-membered non-aromatic ring; and

wherein if X is nitrogen, X is linked to R¹ by a single bond and the terminal carbon of R¹ that links R¹ to N is saturated;

(4) R³ is hydrogen, (C1-C6) alkyl, or phenyl or phenylalkyl wherein the alkyl is C1 to C6 and either such phenyl can be substituted with the same substituents defined above for the aryl or heteroaryl of R^{3a}; and

(5) R⁴ and R^{4*} are hydrogen; and

(6) R⁵ is (CO)NR¹³R¹⁴, (CO)OR¹⁵, (CO)SR¹⁶, (SO₂)NR¹⁷R¹⁸, (PO)(OR¹⁹)(OR²⁰), (CR²²)(OR²³)(OR²⁴), CN or tetrazol-5-yl, wherein (a) R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are independently hydrogen, (C1-C8) alkyl which can include a (C3-C8) cycloalkyl, wherein the carbon linked to the oxygen of R¹⁵ or the sulfur of R¹⁶ has no more than secondary branching and, (C2-C6) hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl where the alkyl is C2 to C6 and the amino can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyls, Ar-alkyl wherein the alkyl is C1-C6 or Ar, (b) R²² is hydrogen or OR²⁵ and (c) R²³, R²⁴ and R²⁵ are (C1-C6) alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, acetyl or, where R²² is hydrogen, the alkyls of R²³ and R²⁴ can be combined to include 1,3-dioxolane or 1,3-dioxane:

wherein the Ar groups of R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{20} , R^{22} , R^{23} or R^{24} can be substituted with substituents selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, amidosulfonyl which can have up to two independent (C1-C6) N-alkyl substitutions, (C1-C6) alkyl, (C2-C6) alkenyl, (C1-C6) alkylamine, dialkylamine wherein each alkyl is independently C1 to C6, amino, (C1-C6) alkoxy, (C2-C7) alkanoyl, (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, (C2-C7) alkyloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl that can be N-substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (C1-C6) alkylsulfonyl, amidino that can be substituted with up to three (C1-C6) alkyl, or methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy with the two oxygens bonded to adjacent positions on the aryl or heteroaryl ring structure, which methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl;

wherein R^{13} and R^{14} together with the nitrogen can form a 5 to 7-membered ring that can contain one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen and sulfur,

and wherein the following provisos apply:

if R^{15} is hydrogen and R^1 is propylene, then at least one of the following applies (1) both R^x and R^y are not p-fluorophenyl, (2) one of R^x and R^y includes a heteroaryl, (3) R^y is Ar-(C1-C2)alkyl, Ar-oxy, Ar-methoxy, Ar-thio, Ar-methylthio, Ar-N(R^6)- or Ar-CH₂-N(R^{6*})-, (4) R^2 is $R^{2a}R^{2b}$ -, (5) R^2 is not hydrogen, or (6) R^3 is not hydrogen

if R^{15} is hydrogen and R^1 is ethylene or X- R^1 is prop-1-enylene, then at least one of the following applies (1) an aryl of at least one of R^x and R^y is substituted with a radical different from hydrogen, (2) one of R^x and R^y comprises a heteroaryl, (3) R^y is Ar-(C1-C2)alkyl, Ar-oxy, Ar-methoxy, Ar-thio, Ar-methylthio, Ar-N(R^6)- or Ar-CH₂-N(R^{6*})-, (4) R^2 is $R^{2a}R^{2b}$ -, (5) R^{2*} is not hydrogen, or (6) R^3 is not hydrogen;

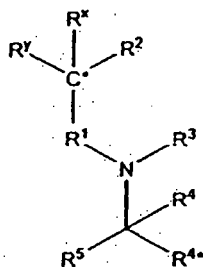
if R^5 is C(O)NR¹³R¹⁴, wherein R^{13} and R^{14} are hydrogen, (C1-C8)alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl, then at least one of the following applies (1) an aryl of at least one of R^x and R^y is substituted with a radical different from hydrogen, (2) one of R^x and R^y comprises a heteroaryl, (3) R^y is Ar-(C1-C2) alkyl, Ar-oxy, Ar-methoxy, Ar-thio,

Ar-methylthio, Ar-N(R⁶)- or Ar-CH₂-N(R^{6*})-, (4) R² is R^{2a} R^{2b}-, (5) R^{2*} is not hydrogen, (6) R³ is not hydrogen, or (7) R¹ is not ethylene;

wherein if R² is phenyl or *p*-methylphenyl, then at least one of the following applies (1) the aryls of R^x and R^y are not substituted with *p*-methylphenyl or *p*-methoxyphenyl, (2) an aryl of at least one of R^x and R^y is substituted with a radical different from hydrogen, (3) one of R^x and R^y comprises a heteroaryl, (4) R^y is Ar-(C1-C2)alkyl, Ar-oxy, Ar-methoxy, Ar-thio, Ar-methylthio, Ar-N(R⁶)- or Ar-CH₂N(R^{6*})-, or (5) R¹ is not aminoethylene, OR⁸ or SR^{8*};

wherein if R^{2a} is *p*-methoxyphenyl, then at least one of the following applies (1) an Ar of at least one of R^x and R^y is substituted with a radical different from hydrogen, (2) R^y is Ar-(C1-C2)alkyl, Ar-oxy, Ar-methoxy, Ar-thio, Ar-methylthio, Ar-N(R⁶)- or Ar-CH₂-N(R^{6*})-, or (3) R¹ is not OR⁸ or SR^{8*}.

2. A compound according to claim 1 of the following formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein:

- (1) C* is a substituted carbon;
- (2) R² (a) is hydrogen, (C1-C6) alkyl, (C1-C6) alkoxy, cyano, (C2-C7) alkanoyl, aminocarbonyl, (C1-C6) alkylaminocarbonyl, or dialkylaminocarbonyl wherein each alkyl is independently C1 to C6, (b) comprises (where R¹ is not aminoethylene, -O-R⁸ or -S-R^{8*}) hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo or (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, (c) forms a double

bond with an adjacent carbon or nitrogen from one of either R^1 , R^{xb} , R^{yb} , or (d) is R^{2a} linked by R^{2b} to C^* ;

(2ⁱ) R^x is R^{xa} linked by R^{xb} to C^* ;

(2ⁱⁱ) R^y is R^{ya} linked by R^{yb} to C^* ;

(2ⁱⁱⁱ) R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} , are independently Ar, which is phenyl or naphthyl, or a 5 to 7-membered non-aromatic ring having 0 heteroatoms wherein:

(a) each of R^{xa} and R^{ya} can be independently substituted with one of R^q , R^fO - or R^fS -, wherein each of R^q , R^f and R^s are independently Ar or adamantly, and

(b) R^{xa} , R^{ya} , R^{2a} , R^q , R^f and R^s can be substituted or additionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, trifluoromethyl, amidosulfonyl which can have up to two independent (C1-C6) N-alkyl substitutions, (C1-C12) alkyl, (C2-C12) alkenyl, amino, (C1-C6) alkylamino, dialkylamino wherein each alkyl of dialkylamino is independently C1 to C6, (C1-C6) alkoxy, (C2-C7) alkanoyl, (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, (C2-C7) alkyloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl that can be substituted for hydrogen with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (C1-C6) alkylsulfonyl, or amidino, that can independently substituted with up to three (C1-C6) alkyl, wherein:

(i.) the substitutions of R^{xa} and R^{ya} can be combined to form a second bridge between R^{xa} and R^{ya} comprising (1) methylene or ethylene, or, (2) $-CH=CH-$ or wherein R^{xa} and R^{ya} can be directly linked by a single bond;

(2^{iv}) R^{xb} and R^{2b} are independently a single bond or (C1-C2) alkylene;

(2^v) R^{yb} is a single bond, oxy, (C1-C2) alkylene, ethenylene or $-CH=$ (where the double bond is with C^*), thio, methyleneoxy or methylenethio, or either $-N(R^6)$ or $-CH_2-N(R^{6*})-$, wherein R^6 and R^{6*} are hydrogen or (C1-C6) alkyl;

(3) R^1 comprises: a straight-chained (C2-C3) aliphatic group; $=N-O$ -(ethylene), wherein the unmatched double bond is linked to C^* ; $-O-R^8$ or $-S-R^{8*}$ wherein R^8 or R^{8*} is a ethylene or ethenylene and O or S is bonded to C^* ; aminoethylene where the amino is bonded to C^* ;

wherein R^1 can be substituted with up to one hydroxy, up to one (C1-C6) alkoxy or up to one (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, with up to two independent (C1-C6)

alkyl, with up to one oxo, up to one (C1-C6) alkylidene, with the proviso that the hydroxyl, alkoxy, alkanoyloxy or oxy substituents are not bonded to a carbon that is bonded to a nitrogen or oxygen; and

wherein the alkyl or alkylidene substituents of R¹ can be linked to form a 3 to 7-membered non aromatic ring;

(4) R³ (a) is hydrogen, (C1-C6) alkyl, or phenyl or phenylalkyl wherein the alkyl is C1 to C6 and the phenyl or phenyl of phenylalkyl can be substituted with the same substituents defined above for the phenyl of R^{3a}, (b) is -R¹²C(R^{xx})(R^{yy})(R¹¹), wherein R¹² is bonded to N, R^{xx} is independently the same as R^x, R^{yy} is independently the same as R^y, R¹¹ is independently the same as R² and R¹² is independently the same as R¹;

(5) R⁴ and R^{4*} are independently hydrogen and

(6) R⁵ is (CO)NR¹³R¹⁴, (CO)OR¹⁵, (CO)SR¹⁶, (SO₂)NR¹⁷R¹⁸, (PO)(OR¹⁹)(OR²⁰), (CR²²)(OR²³)(OR²⁴), CN or tetrazol-5-yl, wherein (a) R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are independently hydrogen, (C1-C8) alkyl which can include a (C3-C8) cycloalkyl, wherein the carbon linked to the oxygen of R¹⁵ or the sulfur of R¹⁶ has no more than secondary branching and, (C2-C6) hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl where the alkyl is C2 to C6 and the amino can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyls, Ar-alkyl wherein the alkyl is C1-C6 or Ar, and (b) R²² is hydrogen or OR²⁵ and R²³, R²⁴ and R²⁵ are (C1-C6) independently alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or acetyl or, the alkyls of R²³ and R²⁴ can be combined to include 1,3-dioxolane or 1,3-dioxane:

wherein the phenyl or naphthyl groups of R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹, R²⁰, R²², R²³ or R²⁴ can be substituted with substituents selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, amidosulfonyl which can have up to two independent (C1-C6) N-alkyl substitutions, (C1-C6) alkyl, (C2-C6) alkenyl, (C1-C6) alkylamine, dialkylamine wherein each alkyl is independently C1 to C6, amino, (C1-C6) alkoxy, (C2-C7) alkanoyl, (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, (C2-C7) alkyloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl that can be N-substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (C1-C6) alkylsulfonyl, or amidino that can substituted with up to three (C1-C6) alkyl; wherein R¹³ and R¹⁴ together with the attached nitrogen can form a 5 to 7-membered ring; and wherein further the following provisos apply:

if R^{15} is hydrogen and R^1 is propylene, then at least one of the following applies (1) both R^{xa} and R^{ya} are not *p*-fluorophenyl, (2) R^y is Ar-alkyl, Ar-oxy, Ar-methoxy, Ar-thio, Ar-methylthio, Ar-N(R^6)- or Ar-CH₂-N(R^{6*})-, (3) R^2 is R^{2a} R^{2b} -, (4) R^2 is not hydrogen, or (5) R^3 is not hydrogen;

if R^{15} is hydrogen and R^1 is ethylene or C^{*} R^1 is prop-1-enylene, then at least one of the following applies (1) an aryl of at least one of R^{xa} and R^{ya} is, substituted with a radical different from hydrogen, (2) R^y is Ar-alkyl, Ar-oxy, Ar-methoxy, Ar-thio, Ar-methylthio, Ar-N(R^6)- or Ar-CH₂-N(R^{6*})-, (3) R^2 is R^{2a} R^{2b} -, (4) R^2 is not hydrogen, or (5) R^3 is not hydrogen;

if R^5 is C(O)NR¹³R¹⁴, wherein R^{13} and R^{14} are hydrogen, (C1-C8)alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl, then at least one of the following applies (1) an aryl of at least one of R^x and R^y is substituted with a radical different from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, or bromo (2) R^y is Ar-alkyl, Ar-oxy, Ar-methoxy, Ar-thio, Ar-methylthio, Ar-N(R^6)- or Ar-CH₂-N(R^{6*})-, (3) R^2 is R^{xa} R^{2a} R^{2b} -, (4) R^2 is not hydrogen, (5) R^3 is not hydrogen, or (6) R^1 is not ethylene;

if R^{2a} is phenyl or *p*-methylphenyl, then at least one of the following applies (1) the aryls of R^x and R^y are not substituted with *p*-methylphenyl or *p*-methoxyphenyl, (2) an aryl of at least one of R^x and R^y is substituted with a radical different from hydrogen, (3) R^y is Ar-alkyl, Ar-oxy, Ar-methoxy, Ar-thio, Ar-methylthio, Ar-N(R^6)- or Ar-CH₂-N(R^{6*})-, or (5) R^1 is not aminoethylene, OR⁸ or SR^{8*};

if R^{2a} is *p*-methoxyphenyl, then at least one of the following applies (1) an Ar of at least one of R^x and R^y is substituted with a radical different from hydrogen, (2) R^y is Ar-(C1-C2)alkyl, Ar-oxy, Ar-methoxy, Ar-thio, Ar-methylthio, Ar-N(R^6)-, or Ar-CH₂-N(R^{6*})-, or (3) R^1 is not -OR⁸ or -SR^{8*}.

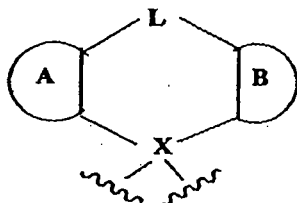
3. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein (A) at least one of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} is substituted with fluoro, chloro, bromo, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, cyano, (C3-C8) alkyl, R^9 , R⁹O-, R⁹S-, (B) R^3 is hydrogen, (C1-C6) alkyl, or phenyl or phenylalkyl wherein the alkyl is C1 to C6 and either such phenyl can be substituted

with the same substituents defined above for the aryl or heteroaryl of R^{xa} or (C) the ring structures of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} , including substituents thereto, otherwise include at least two aromatic ring structures that together include from 15 to 20 ring atoms.

4. The compound of claim 4, wherein at least one of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} is substituted with fluoro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, cyano, or (C3-C8) alkyl.
5. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein at least one of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} is substituted with R^q , $R'O-$, or R^sS- .
6. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein R^{yb} is oxy, methyleneoxy, thio or methylenethio.
7. The compound of claim 6, wherein R^{yb} is oxy or thio.
8. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein R^5 is $(CO)NR^{13}R^{14}$, $(CO)OR^{15}$ or $(CO)SR^{16}$.
9. The compound of claim 8, wherein R^{15} is (C2-C6) alkyl, (C2-C4) hydroxyalkyl, phenyl, phenylalkyl wherein the alkyl is C1-C3, or aminoalkyl where the alkyl is C2-C6 and the amino can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C3) alkyls, wherein the phenyl or the phenyl of phenylalkyl can be substituted.
10. The compound of claim 8, wherein R^{15} is hydrogen.
11. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein R^4 is hydrogen, methyl or hydroxymethyl and R^{4*} is hydrogen.
12. The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} is a heteroaryl comprising diazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiolyl, diazinyl, triazinyl, benzoazolyl, benzodiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzoxolyl, benzothioly, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, benzodiazinyl, benzotriazinyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl or pyrimidyl.

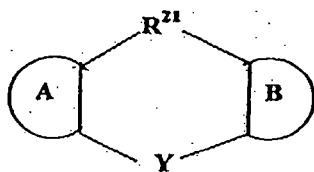
13. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein R^1 is $-O-R^8$ or $-S-R^{8*}$.

14. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein said second bridge between two of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} is L, and satisfies the following formula:



, wherein A and B are aryl or heteroaryl groups of R^{xa} and R^{ya} , respectively.

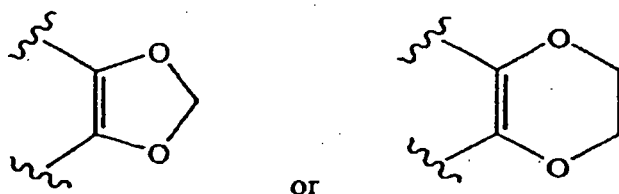
15. The compound of claim 12, wherein $R^{xa}-R^{xb}$ -, $R^{ya}-R^{yb}$ - and X form:



wherein Y is a carbon bonded to R^1 by a single or double bond or a nitrogen that is bonded to R^1 and wherein R^{21} either (i.) completes a single bond linking two aryl or heteroaryl rings of R^x and R^y , (ii.) is (C1-C2) alkylene or alkenylene, (iii.) is sulfur or (iv.) is oxygen, and wherein R^x and R^y can be substituted as set forth above.

16. The compound of claim 15, wherein R^{21} is CH_2CH_2 or $CH=CH$.

17. The compound of claim 1, wherein the alkylenedioxy substitution of R^{xa} , R^{ya} or R^{2a} is as follows:



wherein the alkylenedioxy can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C3) alkyl.

18. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein R^{xa} and R^{ya} together can be substituted with up to six substituents, R^{2a} , R^q , R^r and R^s can each be substituted with up to 3 substituents, and wherein the presence of each of R^q , R^r or R^s is considered a substitution to the respective ring structure of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} .

19. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein a phenyl of R^3 is substituted with up to three substituents.

20. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein the aryl, heteroaryl, aryl of arylalkyl or the heteroaryl of heteroarylalkyl of R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} or R^{20} is substituted with up to three substituents.

21. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein the compound is an optically pure enantiomer.

22. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein:

- (1) R^2 is hydrogen,
- (2) R^{xa} and R^{ya} are both phenyl and at least one of R^{xa} and R^{ya} is substituted with one of phenyl, phenoxy, or phenylthio,
- (3) R^{xb} is a single bond and R^{yb} is a single bond or oxy, and
- (4) R^5 is $(CO)NR^{13}R^{14}$ or $(CO)OR^{15}$, wherein R^{13} , R^{14} , and R^{15} are independently hydrogen, (C1-C8) alkyl which can include a (C3-C8) cycloalkyl, wherein the carbon linked to the oxygen of OR^{15} has no more than secondary branching; (C2-C6) hydroxyalkyl or aminoalkyl where the alkyl is C2 to C6 and the amino can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyls or phenylalkyls, wherein the alkyl is C1-C6 and the phenyl can be substituted with substituents selected from the group consisting of

fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, amidosulfonyl which can have up to two independent (C1-C6) N-alkyl substitutions, (C1-C6) alkyl, (C2-C6) alkenyl, (C1-C6) alkylamine, dialkylamine

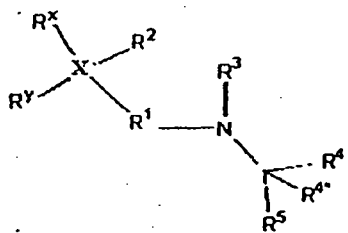
wherein each alkyl is independently C1 to C6, amino, (C1-C6) alkoxy, (C2-C7) alkanoyl, (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, (C2-C7) alkyloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl that can be N-substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (C1-C6) alkylsulfonyl, amidino that can be substituted with up to three (C1-C6) alkyl.

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 1 or 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

24. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein the compound of claim 1 or 2 is present in an effective amount for:

- (1) treating or preventing schizophrenia,
- (2) enhancing treating or preventing dementia,
- (3) treating or preventing epilepsy,
- (4) treating or preventing spasticity,
- (5) treating or preventing muscle spasm,
- (6) treating or preventing pain,
- (7) preventing neural cell death after stroke,
- (8) preventing neural cell death in an animal suffering from a neurodegenerative disease,
- (9) treating or preventing mood disorders,
- (10) enhancing memory or learning, or
- (11) treating or preventing learning disorders.

25. Use of a compound of formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,___

wherein:___

- (1) X is nitrogen or carbon, and R^2 is not present when X is nitrogen;
- (2) R^2 (a) is hydrogen, (C1-C6) alkyl, (C1-C6) alkoxy, cyano, (C2-C7) alkanoyl, aminocarbonyl, (C1-C6) alkylaminocarbonyl or dialkylaminocarbonyl wherein each alkyl is independently C1 to C6, (b) comprises (where R^1 is not aminoethylene, $-O-R^8$ or $-S-R^{8a}$)_hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo or (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, (c) forms a double bond with an adjacent carbon or nitrogen from one of either R^1 , R^{xb} or R^{yb} , or (d) is R^{2a} linked by R^{2b} to X ;
- (2ⁱ) R^x is R^{xa} linked by R^{xb} to X ;
- (2ⁱⁱ) R^y is R^{ya} linked by R^{yb} to X ;
- (2ⁱⁱⁱ) R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} , are independently Ar which is aryl or heteroaryl, adamantyl or a 5 to 7-membered nonaromatic ring having from 0 to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, wherein at least one of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} is phenyl, and wherein:
 - (a) aryl is phenyl or naphthyl,
 - (b) heteroaryl comprises a five-membered ring, a six-membered ring, a six-membered ring fused to a five-membered ring, a five-membered ring fused to a six-membered ring, or a six-membered ring fused to a six-membered ring, wherein the heteroaryl is aromatic and contains heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, with the remaining ring atoms being carbon,
 - (c) each of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} can be substituted or independently substituted with one of R^9 , R^9O- or R^9S- , wherein each of R^9 , R^9 and R^9 are independently Ar, adamantyl or a 5 to 7-membered non-aromatic ring as these ring structures are defined for R^{xa} , and

(d) R^{xa} , R^{ya} , R^{2a} , R^q , K' and R^s can be additionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, trifluoromethyl, amidosulfonyl which can have up to two independent (C1-C6) N-alkyl substitutions, adamantyl, (C1-C12) alkyl, (C2-C12) alkenyl, amino, (C1-C6) alkylamino, dialkylamino wherein each alkyl is independently C1 to C6, (C1-C6) alkoxy, (C2-C7) alkanoyl, (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, (C2-C7) alkylloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl that can be substituted for hydrogen with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (C1-C6) alkylsulfonyl, amidino that can be independently substituted with up to three (C1-C6) alkyl group, or methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy with the two oxygens bonded to adjacent positions on the aryl or heteroaryl ring structure, which methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, wherein:

- (i.) the substitutions of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} can be combined to form a second bridge between two of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} comprising (1) (C1-C2) alkyl or (C2) alkenyl, which can be independently substituted with one or more (C1-C6) alkyl, (2) sulfur, (3) oxygen, (4) amino, which can be substituted for hydrogen with one (C1-C6) alkyl, (5) carbonyl, (6) $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(=\text{O})-$, which can be substituted for hydrogen with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (7) $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{O}-$, (8) $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$, which can be substituted for hydrogen with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (9) $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^{24})$, wherein R^{24} is hydrogen or (C1-C6) alkyl, (10) $-\text{CH}_2-\text{NH}-$, which can be substituted for hydrogen with up to three (C1-C6) alkyl, or (11) $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$, which can be substituted for hydrogen with (C1-C6) alkyl, or wherein two of R^{xa} , R^{ya} and R^{2a} can be directly linked by a single bond;

(2^{va}) R^{xb} and R^{2b} are independently a single bond or (C1-C2) alkylene;

(2^v) R^{yb} is a single bond, oxy, (C1-C2) alkylene, ethylene or $-\text{CH}=\text{}$ (where the double bond is with X), thio, methyleneoxy or methylenethio, or either $-\text{N}(\text{R}^6)$ or $-\text{CH}_2-\text{N}(\text{R}^{6*})-$, wherein R^6 and R^{6*} are hydrogen or (C1-C6) alkyl, wherein when X is nitrogen X is not bonded to another heteroatom;

(3) R^1 comprises: a straight-chained (C2-C3) aliphatic group; where X is carbon, =NO-(ethylene), wherein the unmatched double bond is linked to X; (where X is carbon and R^{yb} does not include a heteroatom attached to X), -O- R^8 or -S- R^{8*} wherein R^8 or R^{8*} is a ethylene or ethenylene and O or S is bonded to X; (where X is carbon and R^{yb} does not include a heteroatom attached to X), aminoethylene where the amino is bonded to X; wherein R^1 can be substituted with up to one hydroxy, up to one (C1-C6) alkoxy or up to one (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, with up to one oxo, up to one (C1-C6) alkylidene, with the proviso that the hydroxy, alkoxy, alkanoyloxy or oxy substituents are not bonded to a carbon that is bonded to a nitrogen or oxygen; wherein the alkyl or alkylidene substituents of R^1 can be linked to form a 3 to 7-membered non-aromatic ring; and wherein if X is nitrogen, X is linked to R^1 by a single bond and the terminal carbon of R^1 that links R^1 to N is saturated;

(4) R^3 is hydrogen, (C1-C6) alkyl, or phenyl or phenylalkyl wherein the alkyl is C1 to C6 and either such phenyl can be substituted with the same substituents defined above for the aryl or heteroaryl of R^{xa} ,

(5) R^4 and R^{4*} are independently hydrogen;

(6) R^5 is (CO)NR¹³R¹⁴, (CO)OR¹⁵, (CO)SR¹⁶, (SO₂)NR¹⁷R¹⁸, (PO)(OR¹⁹)(OR²⁰), (CR²²)(OR²³)(OR²⁴), CN or tetrazol-5-yl, wherein (a) R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} and R^{20} are independently hydrogen, (C1-C8) alkyl which can include a (C3-C8) cycloalkyl, wherein the carbon linked to the oxygen of R^{15} or the sulfur of R^{16} has no more than secondary branching and, (C2-C6) hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl where the alkyl is C2 to C6 and the amino can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyls, Ar-alkyl wherein the alkyl is C1-C6 or Ar, (b) R^{22} is hydrogen or OR²⁵ and (c) R^{23} , R^{24} and R^{25} are (C1-C6) alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, acetyl or, where R^{22} is hydrogen, the alkyls of R^{23} and R^{24} can be combined to include 1,3-dioxolane or 1,3-dioxane:

wherein the Ar groups of R^3 , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{20} , R^{22} , R^{23} or R^{24} can be substituted with substituents selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, amidosulfonyl which can have up to two independent (C1-C6) N-alkyl substitutions, (C1-C6) alkyl, (C2-C6) alkenyl, (C1-C6) alkylamine, dialkylamine wherein each alkyl is independently C1 to C6, amino, (C1-C6) alkoxy, (C2-C7) alkanoyl, (C2-C7) alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, (C2-C7) alkyloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl that can be N-substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl, (C1-C6) alkylsulfonyl, amidino that can

substituted with up to three (C1-C6) alkyl, or methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy with the two oxygens bonded to adjacent positions on the aryl or heteroaryl ring structure, which methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy can be substituted with up to two independent (C1-C6) alkyl; wherein R¹³ and R¹⁴ together with the nitrogen can form a 5 to 7-membered ring that can contain one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen and sulfur;

for the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing schizophrenia, (2) for treating or preventing dementia, (3) for treating or preventing epilepsy, (4) for treating or preventing spasticity, (5) for treating or preventing muscle spasm, (6) for treating or preventing pain, (7) for preventing neural cell death after stroke, (8) for preventing neural cell death in an animal suffering from a neurodegenerative disease, (9) for treating or preventing mood disorders, (10) for enhancing memory or learning, or (11) for treating or preventing learning disorders.

26. Use according to claim 25, wherein spasticity is treated or prevented and the spasticity is associated with epilepsy.

27. Use according to claim 25, wherein spasticity is treated or prevented and the spasticity is associated with stroke, head trauma, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury or dystonia.

28. Use according to claim 25, (1) for treating or preventing schizophrenia, (2) for treating or preventing dementia or (3) for treating or preventing pain.

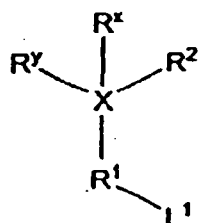
29. Use according to claim 25, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is Parkinson's disease.

30. Use according to claim 25, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is Alzheimer's disease, multi-infarct dementia, AIDS dementia, Huntington's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or stroke or head trauma.

31. A method of synthesizing a compound of claim 1 or 2 comprising:

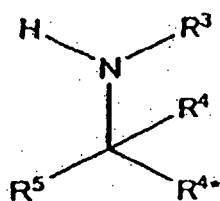
A) reacting a compound of one of the following formulas

1)



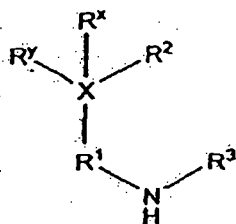
, wherein L^1 is a nucleophilic substitution leaving group, with a compound of the formula

2)



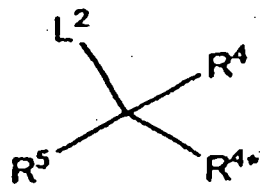
or B) reacting a compound of the formula

1)



, with a compound of the formula

2)

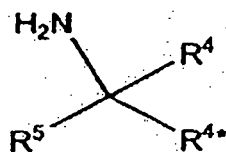


, wherein L^2 is a nucleophilic substitution leaving group.

32. A method of synthesizing a compound of claim 1 or 2 comprising:

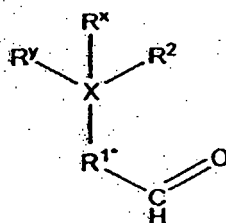
A) reductively alkylating a compound of the formula

1)



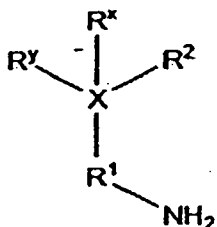
with a compound of the formula

2)



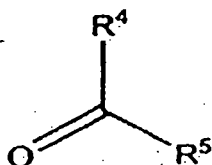
, where R^{1*} differs from R^1 in that it lacks the carbon that is part of the illustrated aldehyde carbonyl, OR B) reductively alkylating a compound of the formula

1)

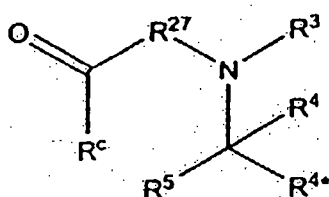


with a compound of the formula

2)

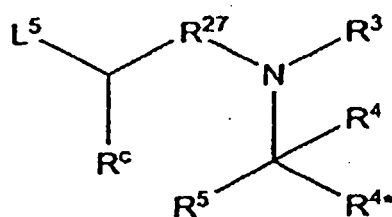


33. A method of synthesizing a compound of claim 1 or 2 comprising reductively alkylating R^dNH_2 with a compound of the formula



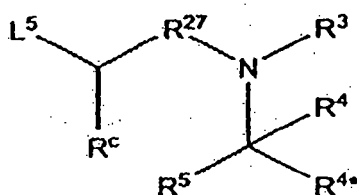
, wherein R^d and R^c are independently the same as defined for R^x , and wherein R^{27} has the same definition as R^1 except that it does not include a nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and does not include any double bonds conjugated with the above-illustrated carbonyl.

34. A method of synthesizing a compound of claim 1 or 2 comprising reacting R^fOH or R^fSH with a compound of the formula

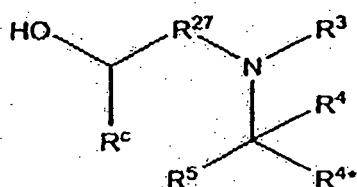


to form an ether or a thioether, respectively, wherein R^c , R^f and R^{f*} are independently the same as defined for R^x , wherein R^{27} has the same definition as R^1 except that it does not include a nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and does not include any double bonds at the atom bonded to the above-illustrated L^5 -substituted carbon and wherein L^5 is a nucleophilic substitution leaving group.

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising synthesizing the compound of formula

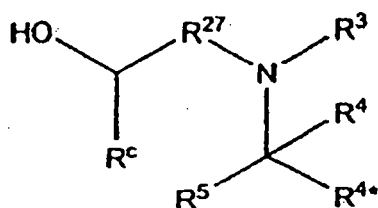


by replacing the hydroxyl of formula



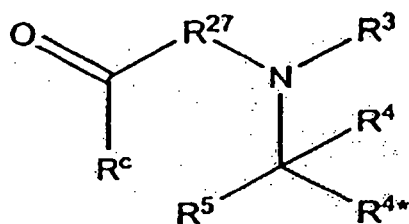
with another nucleophilic substitution leaving group.

36. The method of claim 35, comprising reacting a compound of formula

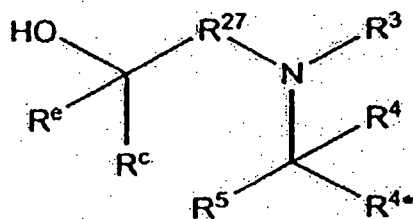


with a azodicarboxylate in the presence of a phosphine compound.

37. A method of synthesizing a compound of claim 1 or 2 comprising reacting R^eM with a compound of the formula

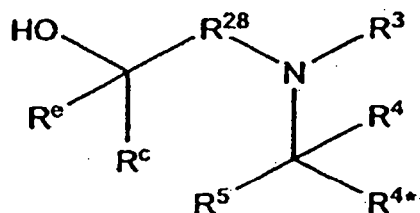


to form a compound of the formula

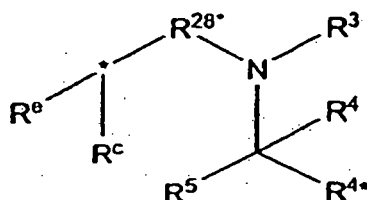


, wherein R^e and R^c are independently the same as defined for R^x , wherein M is a metal-containing substituent such that R^eM is a organometallic reagent, and wherein R^{27} has the same definition as R^1 except that it does not include a nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and does not include any double bonds conjugated with the above-illustrated carbonyl.

38. A method of synthesizing a compound of claim 1 or 2 comprising dehydrating a compound of the formula

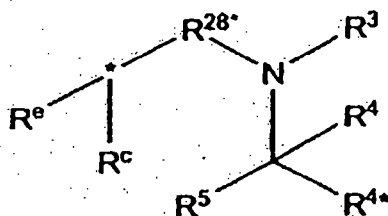


to form a compound of the formula

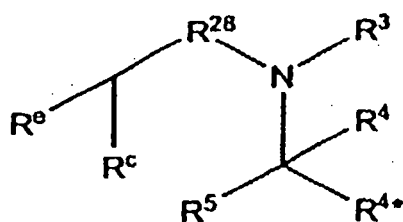


wherein C* has a double bond with an adjacent carbon, and wherein R^e and R^c are independently the same as defined for R^x, and wherein R²⁸ and R^{28*} have the same definition as R¹ except R²⁸ and R^{28*} do not include a nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur.

39. A method of synthesizing a compound of claim 1 or 2 comprising reducing a compound of the formula



wherein C* has a double bond with an adjacent carbon and R^c is independently the same as defined for R^x, to form a compound of the formula



wherein R^e is independently the same as defined for R^x , and wherein R^{28} and R^{28*} have the same definition as R^1 except that R^{28} and R^{28*} do not include a nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur.