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(54) Title: AROMATIC SULFONE HYDROXAMATES AND THEIR USE AS PROTEASE INHIBITORS

(57) Abstract: This invention is directed to aromatic sulfone hydroxamates (also known as "aromatic sulfone hydroxamic acids") and salts thereof that, *inter alia*, inhibit matrix metalloproteinase (also known as "matrix metalloprotease" or "MMP") activity and/or aggrecanase activity. This invention also is directed to a prevention or treatment method that comprises administering such a compound or salt in an MMP-inhibiting and/or aggrecanase-inhibiting effective amount to an animal, particularly a mammal having (or disposed to having) a pathological condition associated with MMP and/or aggrecanase activity.



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