

CURRENT PATENTS GAZETTE



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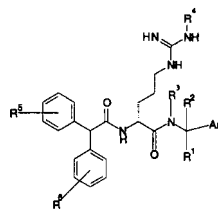
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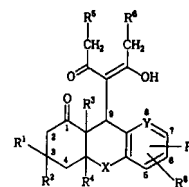
DRUG PATENTING IN CONTEXT

Current Patents *Gazette* is the most rapid competitive intelligence service covering innovation in the pharmaceutical industry. Patent applications published during the past week have been classified and analysed, in order to place the inventions in context. For the most crucial innovations, those involving new chemical compounds, additional information is given in the form of front page images. These can be enlarged to show details of chemical structures and inventor teams, for example. Applications filed jointly, representing collaborative research, are highlighted, as are sequences of inter-related documents.

NEW THIS WEEK



Astra and Banyu both have claims to new Neuropeptide Y antagonists.



HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Revised procedures are now being used in producing *Current Patents Gazette*. Initial analysis is carried out on the day of publication of US, UK, European and PCT applications, based on **front page data only**. Reference is made to **complete** specifications when necessary, and for EP and GB documents this is never a problem. However, US and WO documents can sometimes be delayed. This week (and in future) we are issuing a few entries in provisional form, with the comment "Further details next week". This will allow us to insert details such as specimen structures, product names and precise mechanisms in the following *Gazette* issue, without further delaying the completed items. The reissued items will be marked accordingly. We are sure that our subscribers will benefit from this streamlining.

Neuropeptide Y antagonists feature in new compound cases from both **Astra** and **Banyu**. The latter, with a series of recent applications on this subject, targets the usual group of metabolic disorders, including obesity. Astra however, relatively new to the NPY field, places emphasis on **cardiovascular disease**. Despite a considerable accumulation of patenting in this important field, and the reporting of several compounds in preclinical studies, **Neurogen's NGD-95-1** seems still to be the only candidate to have entered clinical trials. Despite **Pfizer's** interest in this leading NPY modulator, dating back four years, trials now seem to have stalled at the phase I stage.

A rather unusual case from **Merck's** Rahway site addresses the problem of removing contaminant metals, especially **mercury**, from soil; this Section C item appears under IPC classes not normally associated with drug discovery science, namely B03c, B07b and C22b. Also oddly classified (G01n and B25j) is an **Affymax robot**, designed to manipulate multi-well plates; one of the inventors was apparently involved in designing valves for aircraft fuel lines, an indication of the multidisciplinary nature of combinatorial technology. Other ancillary combinatorial innovation this week comes from a Swedish team, and from **Aventis** (formerly Hoechst) Research & Technology, **Macquarie**, **Diatech** and **Aclara Biosciences**.

Correction: A minor production hitch last week (9912) resulted in an intermediate version of Section C of the *Gazette* being published. The version which should have been issued included several corrections and annotations: The **BI Chemicals** application, WO9914198, was found to relate to **morphinans**, such as **dextromethorphan**, **levallorphan** or **butorphanol**; the case is territorially narrow. The **cyclopropylethyne** (sic) in **Great Lakes' GB2329384** are of the type seen in the side-chain of NNRTIs such as **DuPont Merck's efavirenz**, launched as **Sustiva** in December 1998. **Warner-Lambert's dihydropyranones** (WO9914210) are **intermediates** for the **HIV protease inhibitors** of WO9819997; the specific target is a close analogue of **PD-173606**, with a 4-hydroxy moiety in place of 4-amino, and may well be the new lead compound.