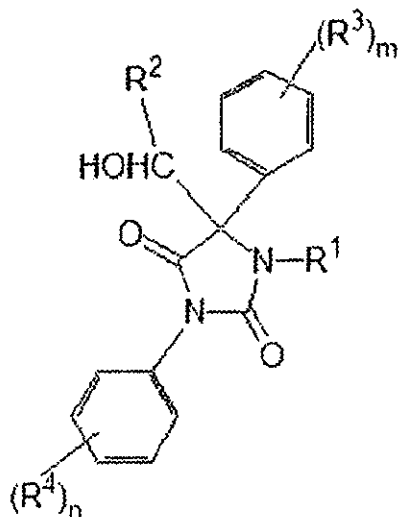


**Claims:**

1. A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

$R^1$  is H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkenyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkynyl, or C alkyl substituted with a cyano group or one or more halo groups,

$R^2$  is H or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,

$R^3$  is halo, cyano,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, or  $C_{1-4}$  perfluoroalkyl,

$R^4$  is halo, cyano, nitro,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, or  $C_{1-4}$  perfluoroalkyl,

m is 0, 1, or 2,

n is 1, 2, or 3,

when m is 2 then each  $R^3$  is the same or different,

when n is 2 or 3 then each  $R^4$  is the same or different, and

pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R^2$  is H.
3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2, wherein  $R^1$  is methyl or ethyl.
4. A compound according to claim 1 or 2, wherein  $R^1$  is propynyl.
5. A compound according to any preceding claim, wherein m is 1.
6. A compound according to claim 5, wherein  $R^3$  is Cl or F.

7. A compound according to claim 5 or 6, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is in the *p* position.
8. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein *m* is 0.
9. A compound according to any preceding claim, wherein any perfluoroalkyl group is a trifluoromethyl group.
10. A compound according to any preceding claim, wherein *n* is 2.
11. A compound according to claim 10, wherein each R<sup>4</sup> is selected from F, Cl, cyano, trifluoromethyl, and methyl.
12. A compound according to claim 10 or 11, wherein one R<sup>4</sup> substituent is in the *p* position and the other is *m*.
13. A compound according to any of claims 10 to 12, wherein each R<sup>4</sup> is Cl.
14. A compound according to any of claims 10 to 12, wherein each R<sup>4</sup> is selected from cyano and trifluoromethyl.
15. A compound according to claim 14, wherein a first R<sup>4</sup> is *p*-cyano and a second R<sup>4</sup> is *m*-trifluoromethyl.
16. A compound according to any preceding claim, which is a phosphate ester.
17. A compound according to any one of claims 1-15, which is a hemi-succinate ester.
18. A compound according to any one of claims 1-15, which is a valinate ester.
19. A compound selected from:
  - ~~4-[2,5-Dioxo-4-(hydroxymethyl)-3-methyl-4-phenylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~
  - ~~4-[2,5-Dioxo-4-(1-hydroxypropyl)-3-methyl-4-phenylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~
  - ~~4-[2,5-Dioxo-4-(1-hydroxyethyl)-3-methyl-4-phenylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~

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~~4-[2,5-Dioxo-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(hydroxymethyl)-3-methylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~4-[4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2,5-dioxo-4-hydroxymethyl-3-methylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~4-[2,5-Dioxo-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-hydroxymethyl-3-(2-propynyl)imidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~4-[4-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2,5-dioxo-4-hydroxymethyl-3-methylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~(S)-4-[2,5-Dioxo-4-(hydroxymethyl)-3-methyl-4-phenylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~(R)-4-[2,5-Dioxo-4-(hydroxymethyl)-3-methyl-4-phenylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~4-[2,5-Dioxo-3-ethyl-4-(hydroxymethyl)-4-phenylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~4-[4-(4-Cyanophenyl)-2,5-dioxo-4-hydroxymethyl-3-methylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~4-[4-(3-Cyanophenyl)-2,5-dioxo-4-hydroxymethyl-3-methylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~4-[2,5-Dioxo-4-hydroxymethyl-3-methyl-4-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)imidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile; and~~  
~~1-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-4-hydroxymethyl-3-methyl-4-phenylimidazolidin-2,5-dione;~~  
~~4-[2,5-Dioxo-4-(hydroxymethyl)-3-(1-methylethyl)-4-phenylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~4-[3-Cyanomethyl-2,5-dioxo-4-(hydroxymethyl)-4-phenylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~4-[2,5-Dioxo-4-(hydroxymethyl)-4-phenyl-3-(1-propynyl)imidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~4-[2,5-Dioxo-4-hydroxymethyl-4-phenylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~4-[2,5-Dioxo-4-hydroxymethyl-3-methyl-4-(3-methylphenyl)imidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~4-[4-(2-Chlorophenyl)-2,5-dioxo-4-hydroxymethyl-3-methylimidazolidin-1-yl]-2-trifluoromethylbenzonitrile;~~  
~~[1-(4-Cyano-3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2,5-dioxo-3-methyl-4-phenylimidazolidin-4-yl]methyl dihydrogen phosphate;~~  
~~4-[1-(4-Cyano-3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2,5-dioxo-3-methyl-4-phenylimidazolidin-4-yl]methoxy-4-oxobutanoic acid; and~~

~~(2S)-1-[1-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2,5-dioxo-3-methyl-4-phenylimidazolidin-4-yl]methoxy-3-methyl-1-oxobutan-2-aminium chloride.~~

20. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to any preceding claim.

21. Use of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 20 in the prophylaxis or treatment of cachexia.

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