aryl), —S(O)-(optionally substituted heteroaryl), —S(O)-(optionally substituted heterocyclyl), and —S(O)-(optionally substituted amino).

[0086] Sulfonyl refers to the groups: —$S(O_2)$—H, —$S(O_2)$-(optionally substituted alkyl), —$S(O_2)$-optionally substituted aryl), —$S(O_2)$-(optionally substituted heteroaryl), —$S(O_2)$-(optionally substituted heterocyclyl), —$S(O_2)$-(optionally substituted alkoxy), —$S(O_2)$-optionally substituted aryloxy), —$S(O_2)$-(optionally substituted heteroaryloxy), —$S(O_2)$-(optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy); and —$S(O_2)$-(optionally substituted amino).

[0087] Pharmaceutically acceptable salts refers to those salts that retain the biological effectiveness of the free compound and that are not biologically or otherwise undesirable, formed with a suitable acid or base, and includes pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts and base addition salts. Pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts include those derived from inorganic acids such as hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid and the like, and those derived from organic acids such as acetic acid, propionic acid, glycolic acid, pyruvic acid, oxalic acid, maleic acid, malonic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, benzoic acid, cinnamic acid, mandelic acid, methanesulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, salicylic acid and the like.

[0088] Pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salts include those derived from inorganic bases such as sodium, potassium, lithium, ammonium, calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc, copper, manganese, aluminum salts and the like. Particularly preferred are the ammonium, potassium, sodium, calcium, and magnesium salts. Base addition salts also include those derived from pharmaceutically acceptable organic non-toxic bases, including salts of primary, secondary, and tertiary amines, substituted amines including naturally occurring substituted amines, cyclic amines and basic ion exchange resins, such as isopropylamine, trimethylamine, diethylamine, triethylamine, tripropylamine, and ethanolamine.

[0089] Protecting group has the meaning conventionally associated with it in organic synthesis, i.e. a group that selectively blocks one or more reactive sites in a multifunctional compound such that a chemical reaction can be carried out selectively on another unprotected reactive site and such that the group can readily be removed after the selective reaction is complete. A variety of protecting groups are disclosed, for example, in T. H. Greene and P. G. M. Wuts. Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis, Third Edition, John Wiley & Sons, New York (1999), which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. For example, a hydroxy protected form is where at least one of the hydroxyl groups present in a compound is protected with a hydroxy protecting group. Likewise, amines and other reactive groups may similarly be protected.

[0090] Solvate refers to the compound formed by the interaction of a solvent and a compound of Formula I or salt thereof. Suitable solvates of the compounds of the Formula I are pharmaceutically acceptable solvates, such as hydrates, including monohydrates and hemi-hydrates.

[0091] Many of the compounds described herein contain one or more asymmetric centers (e.g. the carbon to which R_2 and $R_{2'}$ are attached where R_2 differs from $R_{2'}$) and may thus give rise to enantiomers, diastereomers, and other stereoisomeric forms that may be defined, in terms of absolute stereochemistry, as (R)— or (S)—. The present invention is meant to include all such possible isomers, including racemic mixtures, optically pure forms and intermediate mixtures. Optically active (R)— and (S)— isomers may be prepared using chiral synthons or chiral reagents, or resolved using conventional techniques. When the compounds described herein contain olefinic double bonds or other centers of geometric asymmetry, and unless specified otherwise, it is intended that the compounds include both E and Z geometric isomers. Likewise, all tautomeric forms and rotational isomers are also intended to be included.

[0092] When desired, the R- and S-isomers may be resolved by methods known to those skilled in the art, for example by formation of diastereoisomeric salts or complexes which may be separated, for example, by crystallization; via formation of diastereoisomeric derivatives which may be separated, for example, by crystallization, gas-liquid or liquid chromatography; selective reaction of one enantiomer with an enantiomer-specific reagent, for example enzymatic oxidation or reduction, followed by separation of the modified and unmodified enantiomers; or gas-liquid or liquid chromatography in a chiral environment, for example on a chiral support, such as silica with a bound chiral ligand or in the presence of a chiral solvent. It will be appreciated that where the desired enantiomer is converted into another chemical entity by one of the separation procedures described above, a further step may be required to liberate the desired enantiomeric form. Alternatively, specific enantiomer may be synthesized by asymmetric synthesis using optically active reagents, substrates, catalysts or solvents, or by converting one enantiomer to the other by asymmetric transformation.

Compounds of the Present Invention

[0093] The present invention is directed to a class of novel compounds, which can be described as benzopyran-4-ones or chromen-4-ones, that are inhibitors of one or more mitotic kinesins. By inhibiting mitotic kinesins, but not other kinesins (e.g., transport kinesins), specific inhibition of cellular proliferation is accomplished. While not intending to be bound by any theory, the present invention capitalizes on the finding that perturbation of mitotic kinesin function causes malformation or dysfunction of mitotic spindles, frequently resulting in cell cycle arrest and cell death. According to one embodiment of the invention, the compounds described herein inhibit the mitotic kinesin, KSP. In another embodiment, the compounds inhibit the mitotic kinesin, KSP, as well as modulating one or more of the human mitotic kinesins selected from the group consisting of HSET (see, U.S. Pat. No. 6,361,993, which is incorporated herein by reference); MCAK (see, U.S. Pat. No. 6,331,424, which is incorporated herein by reference); CENP-E (see, PCT Publication No. WO 99/13061, which is incorporated herein by reference); Kif4 (see, U.S. Pat. No. 6,440,684, which is incorporated herein by reference); MKLP1 (see, U.S. Pat. No. 6,448,025, which is incorporated herein by reference); Kif15 (see, U.S. Pat. No. 6,355,466, which is incorporated herein by reference); Kid (see, U.S. Pat. No. 6,387,644, which is incorporated herein by reference); Mpp1, CMKrp, KinI-3 (see, U.S. Pat. No. 6,461,855, which is incorporated herein by reference); Kip3a (see, PCT Publication No. WO 01/96593, which is incorporated herein by reference); Kip3d (see, U.S. Pat. No. 6,492,151, which is incorporated herein by reference); and RabK6.

[0094] The methods of inhibiting a human KSP kinesin comprise contacting an inhibitor of the invention with a kinesin, particularly a human kinesin, preferably human KSP or