

ANTICONVULSANT ENANTIOMERIC AMINO ACID DERIVATIVES

1 This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/013,522 filed March 15, 1996.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to novel enantiomeric compounds and pharmaceutical compositions useful in the treatment of epilepsy and other CNS disorders.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 The predominant application of anticonvulsant drugs is the control and prevention of seizures associated with epilepsy or related central nervous system disorders. Epilepsy refers to many types of recurrent seizures produced by paroxysmal
15 excessive neuronal discharges in the brain; the two main generalized seizures are petit mal, which is associated with myoclonic jerks, akinetic seizures, transient loss of consciousness, but without
20 convulsion; and grand mal which manifests in a continuous series of seizures and convulsions with loss of consciousness.

The mainstay of treatment for such disorders has been the long-term and consistent administration
25 of anticonvulsant drugs. Most drugs in use are weak acids that, presumably, exert their action on neurons, glial cells or both of the central nervous system. The majority of these compounds are characterized by
30 the presence of at least one amide unit and one or