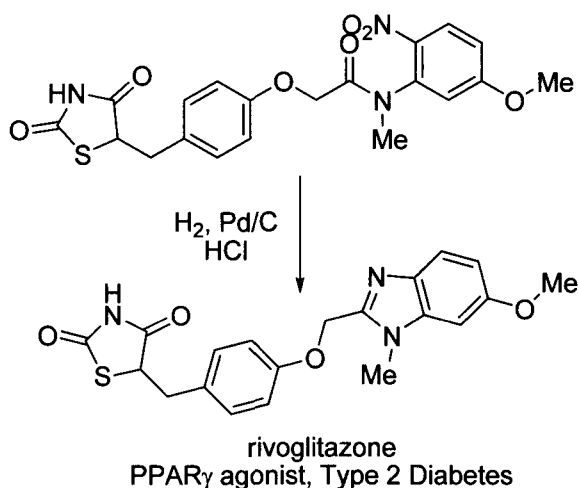


A similar approach has been used in the preparation of rivoglitazone, a PPAR $\gamma$  agonist which proceeded to Phase III clinical trials for the treatment of diabetes.<sup>46</sup> One of the reported protocols for preparation of rivoglitazone involves reductive cyclization by catalytic hydrogenation in the presence of acid to induce benzimidazole formation.



A recent patent for candesartan cilexetil describes the formation of the benzimidazole at a relatively late stage of the synthesis by cyclization of the highly functionalized diaminobenzene core under modified Phillips conditions with tetraethyl orthocarbonate at 90 °C.<sup>47</sup> Alternative syntheses of candesartan cilexetil use similar condensation conditions on variously elaborated benzimidazole precursors.<sup>48,49</sup>

