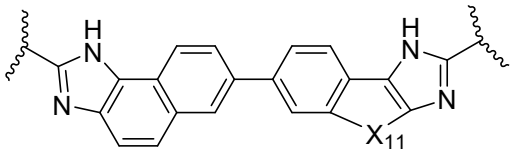
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):

$$E^{1a}\text{-}V^{1a}\text{–}C(=O)\text{-}P^{1a}\text{-}W^{1a}\text{-}P^{1b}\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}V^{1b}\text{-}E^{1b} \quad (I)$$

wherein:

W^{1a} is



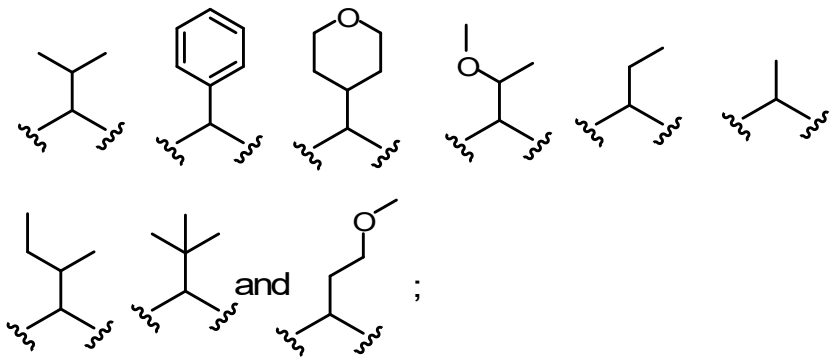
optionally substituted with one or more groups independently selected from halo, alkyl, haloalkyl, and cyano;

X^{11} is $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-O-CH_2-$, or -CH=CH-;

E^{1a} is -N(H)(alkoxycarbonyl), -N(H)(cycloalkylcarbonyl) or -N(H)(cycloalkyloxycarbonyl); or E^{1a}-V^{1a} taken together are R^{9a};

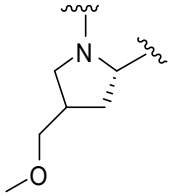
E^{1b} is -N(H)(alkoxycarbonyl), -N(H)(cycloalkylcarbonyl) or -N(H)(cycloalkyloxycarbonyl); or E^{1b}-V^{1b} taken together are R^{9b};

V^{1a} and V^{1b} are each independently selected from:



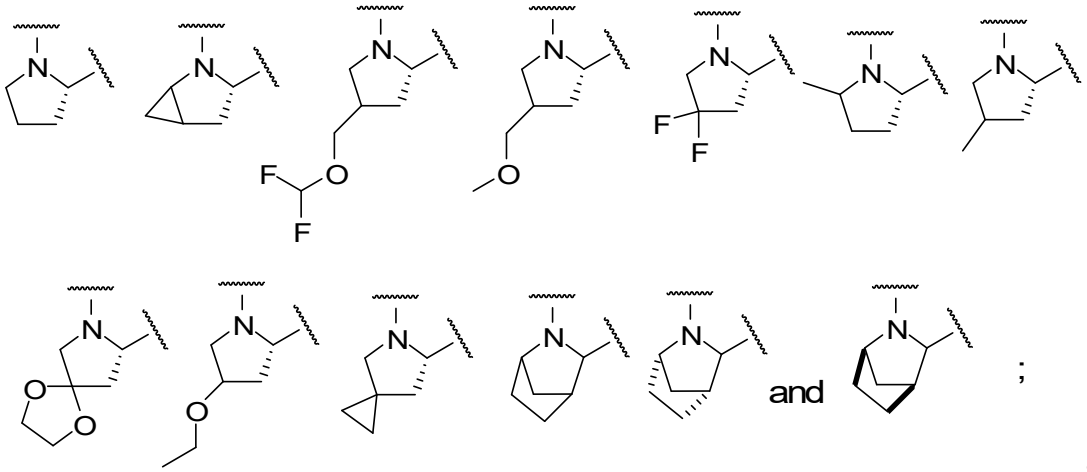
;

one of P^{1a} and P^{1b} is



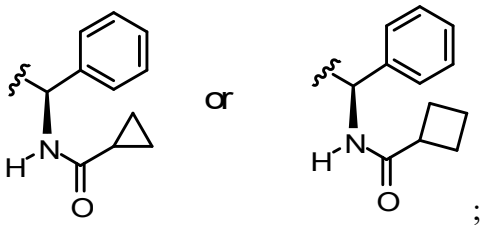
;

and the other of P^{1a} and P^{1b} is selected from:



and

R^{9a} and R^{9b} are each independently:



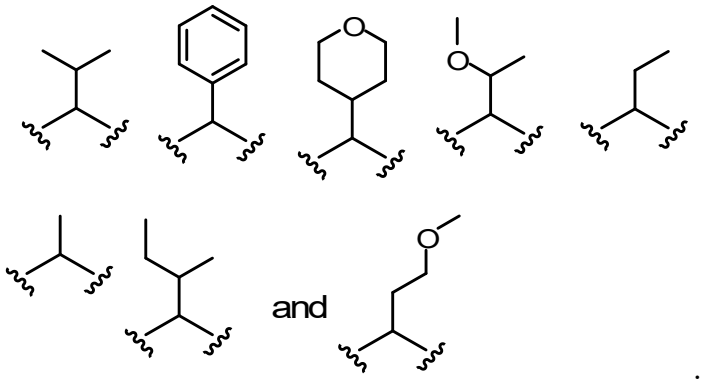
;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.

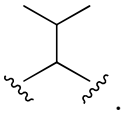
2. The compound of claim 1 wherein at least one of E^{1a} and E^{1b} is -N(H)C(=O)OCH_3.

3. The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein both of E^{1a} and E^{1b} are -N(H)C(=O)OCH_3.

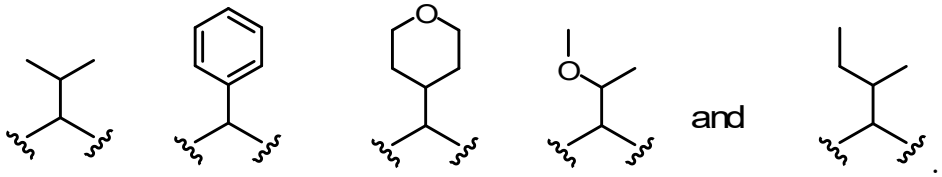
4. The compound of any one of claims 1-3 wherein at least one of V^{1a} and V^{1b} is selected from:



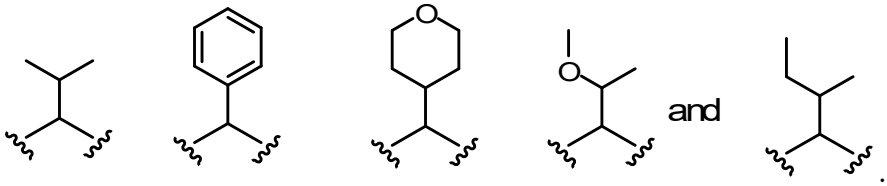
5. The compound of any one of claims 1-4 wherein at least one of V^{1a} and V^{1b} is:



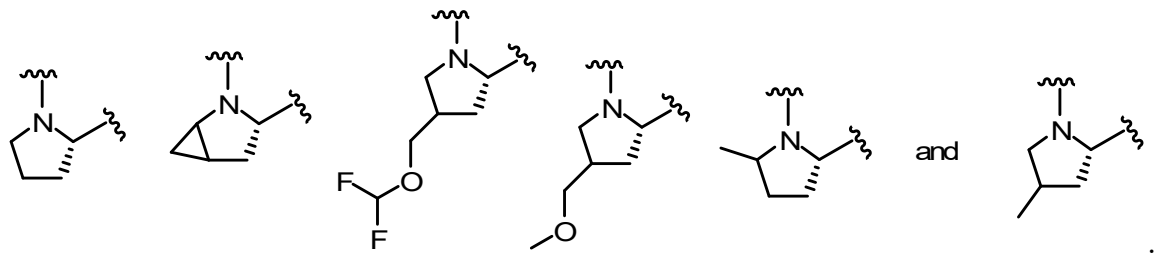
6. The compound of any one of claims 1-4 wherein at least one of V^{1a} and V^{1b} is selected from:



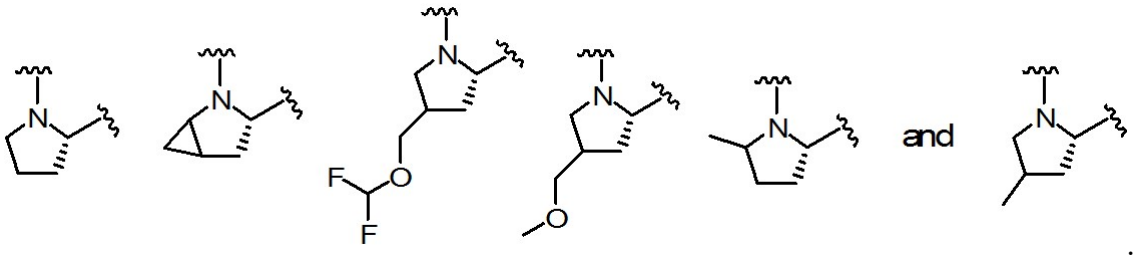
7. The compound of any one of claims 1-3 wherein V^{1a} and V^{1b} are each independently selected from:



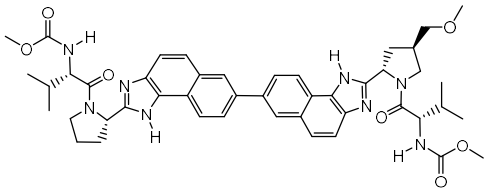
8. The compound of any one of claims 1-7 wherein at least one of P^{1a} and P^{1b} is selected from:

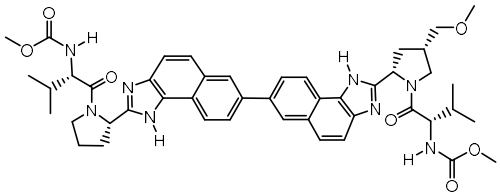


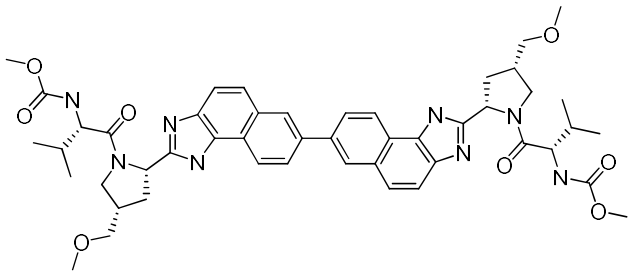
9. The compound of any one of claims 1-7 wherein P^{1a} and P^{1b} are each independently selected from:

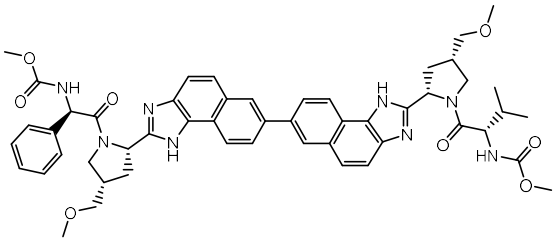


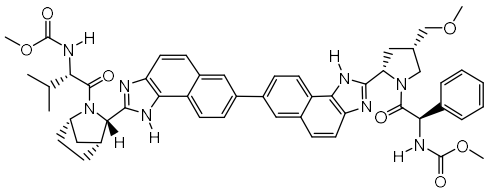
10. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

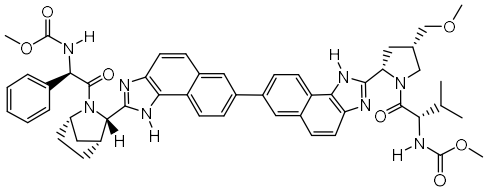


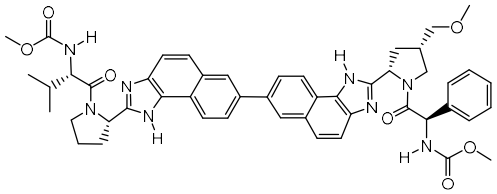


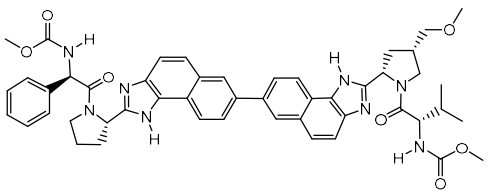


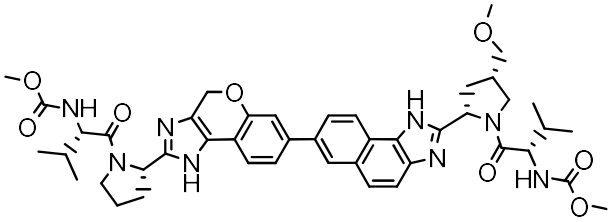


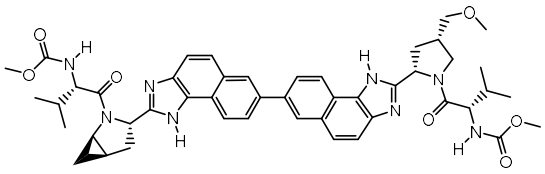


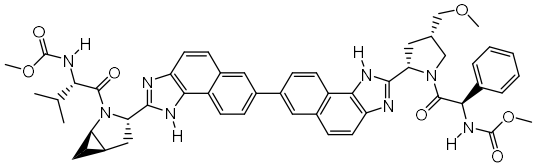


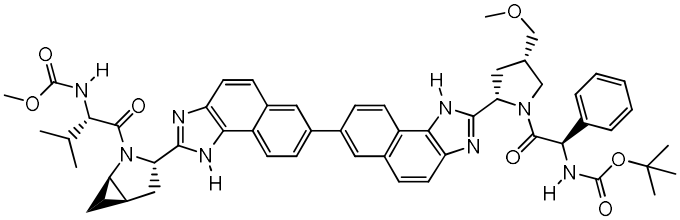


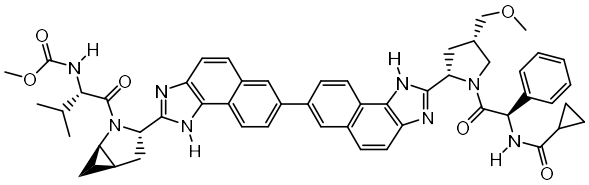


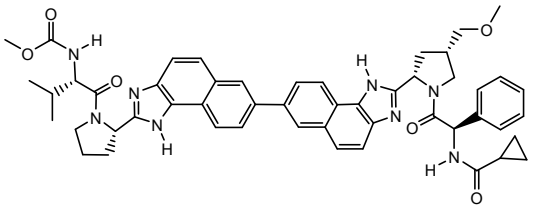


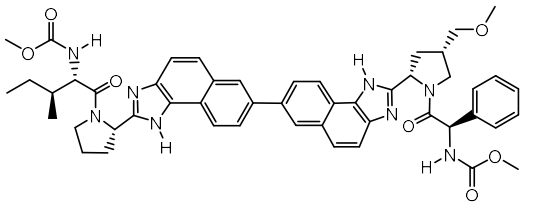


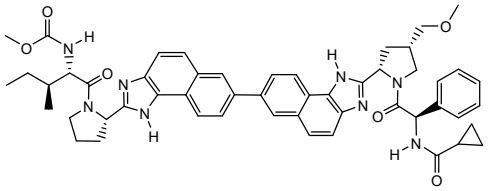


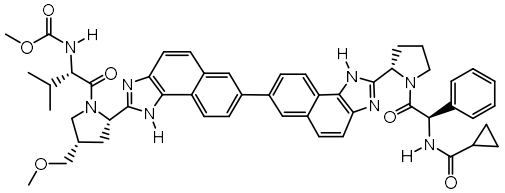


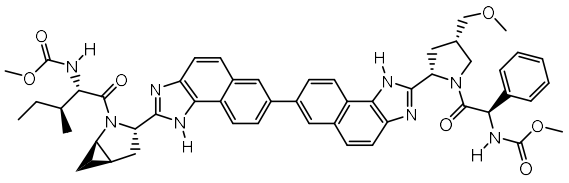


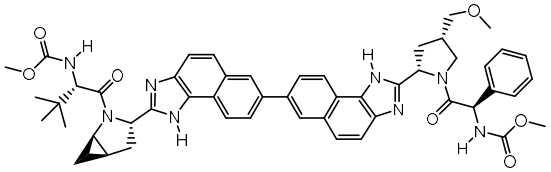


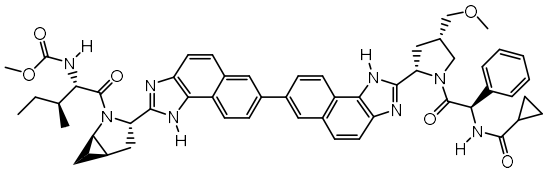


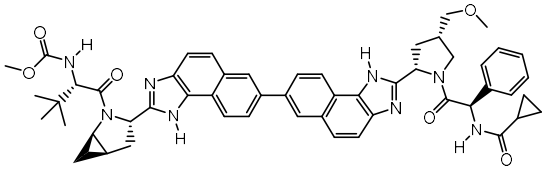


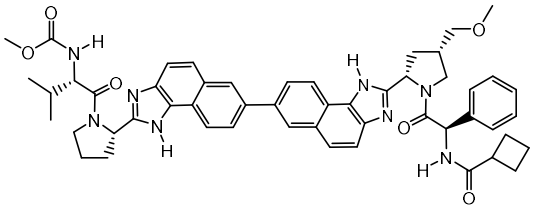


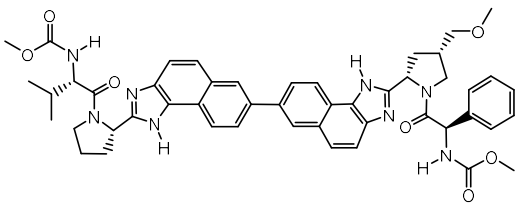


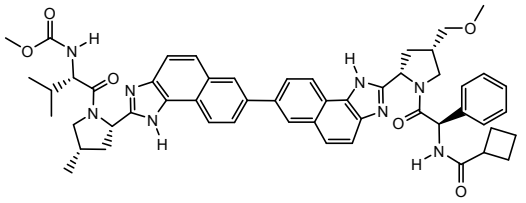


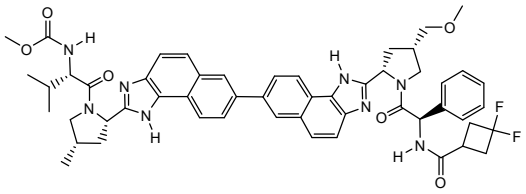


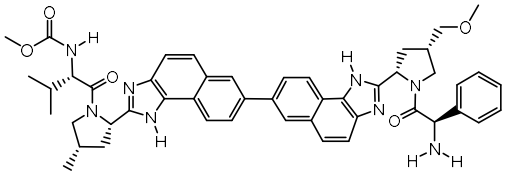


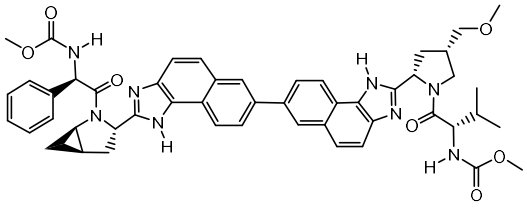


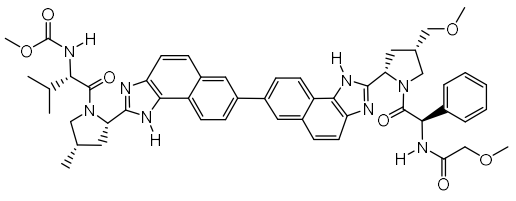


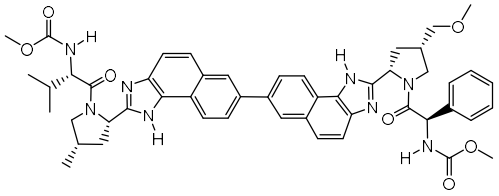


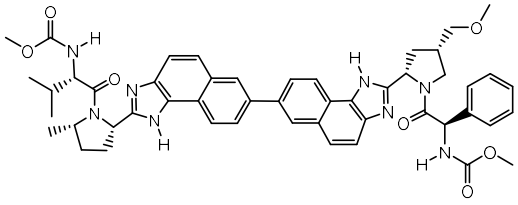


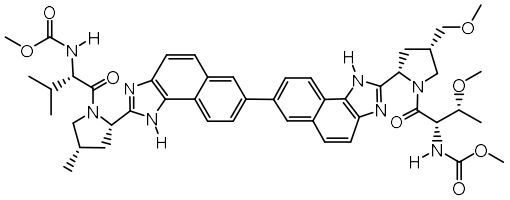


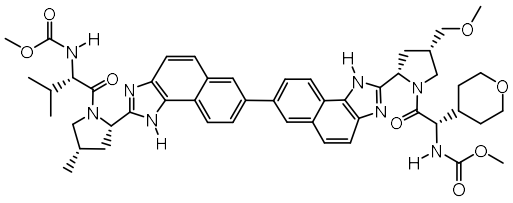


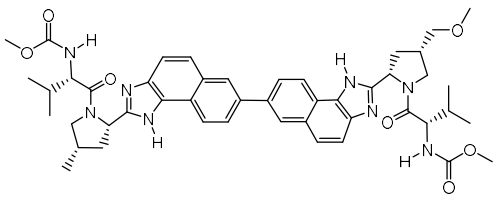


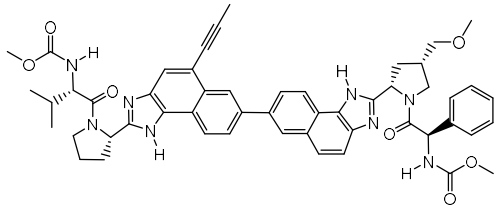


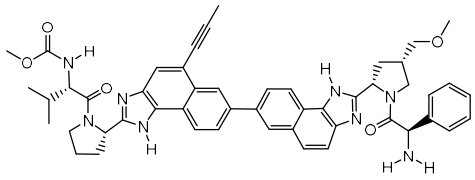




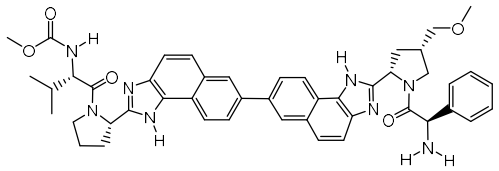








and



11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound as described in any of claims 1-10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, further comprising at least one additional therapeutic agent.

13. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12, wherein said additional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of a ribavirin analog, a NS3 protease inhibitor, a NS5b polymerase inhibitor, an alpha-glucosidase 1 inhibitor, a hepatoprotectant, a non-nucleoside inhibitor of HCV, and another drug for treating HCV.

14. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, further comprising a nucleoside analogue.

15. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14, wherein said nucleoside analogue is selected from ribavirin, viramidine, levovirin, a L-nucleoside, and isatoribine.

16. A compound as described in any of claims 1-10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof for use in medical therapy.

17. Use of a compound as described in any one of claims 1-10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of hepatitis C or a hepatitis C associated disorder in an animal.

18. A compound as described in any of claims 1-10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof for use in the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of hepatitis C or a hepatitis C associated disorder.