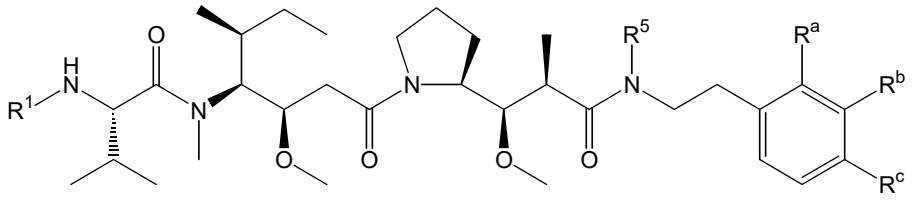
CLAIMS

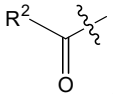
1. A compound having the structural formula (I):



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein



R^1 is , wherein R^2 is a unsubstituted or substituted C_1-C_6 alkyl, heteroalkyl, cycloalkyl or cycloheteroalkyl;

each of R^a, R^b and R^c is selected from H and NR^xR^y, provided that only one of R^a, R^b and R^c is NR^xR^y and each of the others is H;

each of R^x and R^y is independently selected from R, R^r and L-R^z, provided that when one of R^x and R^y is L-R^z or R^r, the other is R;

R^5 is CR'_3, wherein each R' is independently H or F;

L is a linker selected from: a chemically cleavable linker, an enzyme cleavable linker and a noncleavable linker;

R^r is (C=O)-O-$(CH_2)_p$-R^v or (C=O)-$(CH_2)_q$-R^v;

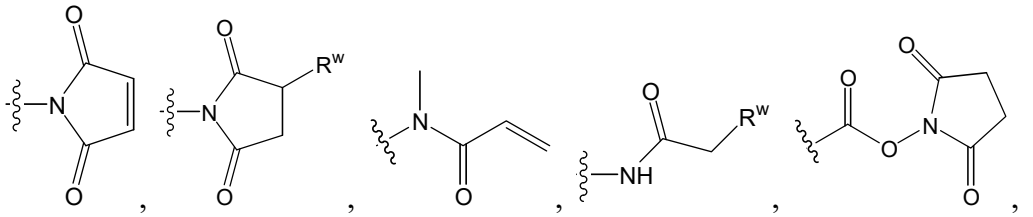
R^v is R, OR, NHR, NR_2, an aryl group or an amino acid;

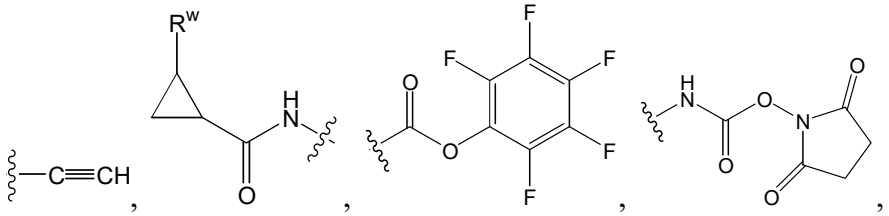
p is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

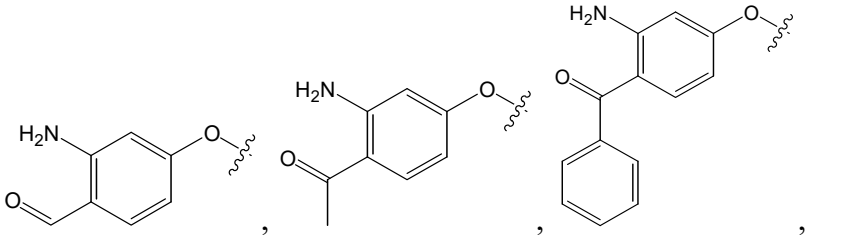
q is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

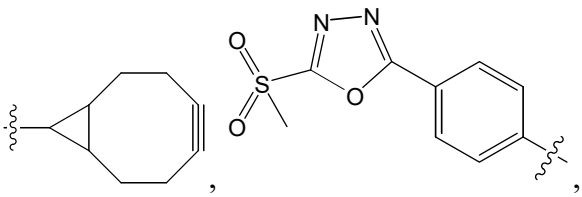
R^z comprises a functional or reactive group selected from:

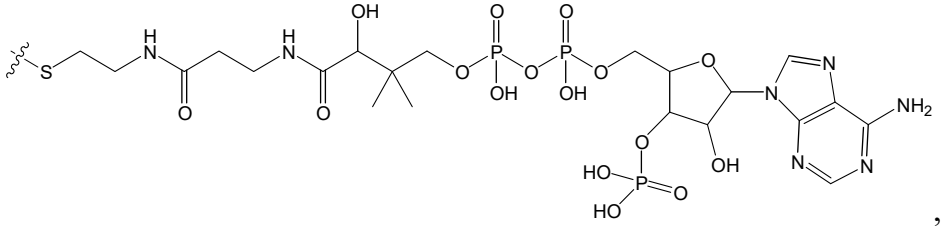
$-N_3$, $-NR^uC(=O)CH=CH_2$, -SH, $-SSR^t$, $-S(=O)_2(CH=CH_2)$, $-(CH_2)_2S(=O)_2(CH=CH_2)$, $-NR^uS(=O_2)(CH=CH_2)$, $-NR^uC(=O)CH_2R^w$, $-NR^uC(=O)CH_2Br$, $-NR^uC(=O)CH_2I$, $-NHC(=O)CH_2Br$, $NHC(=O)CH_2I$, $-ONH_2$, $-C(=O)NHNH_2$, $-CO_2H$, $-NH_2$, -NCO, -NCS,

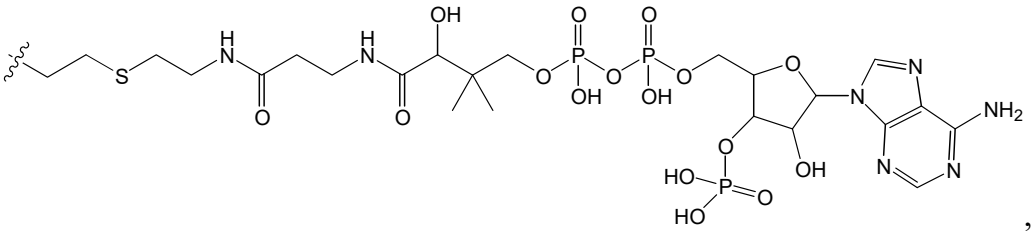


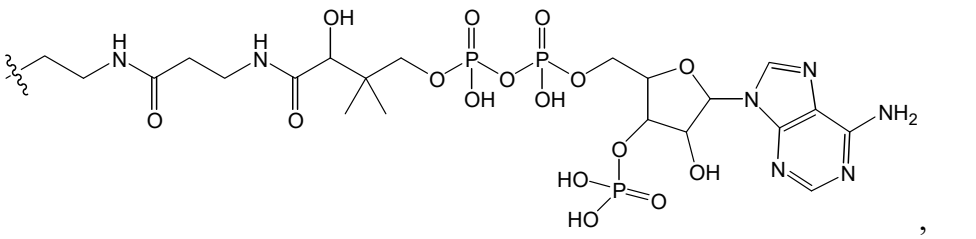


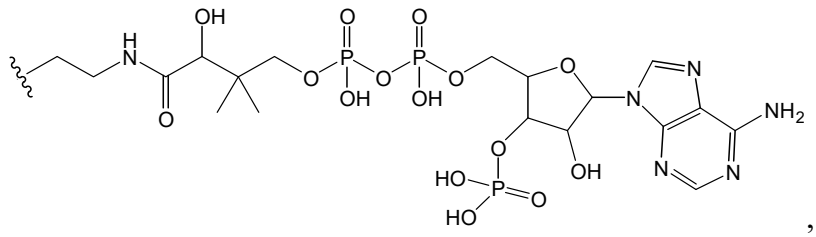












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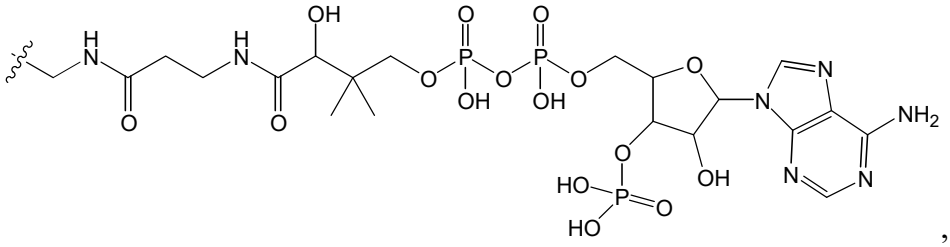


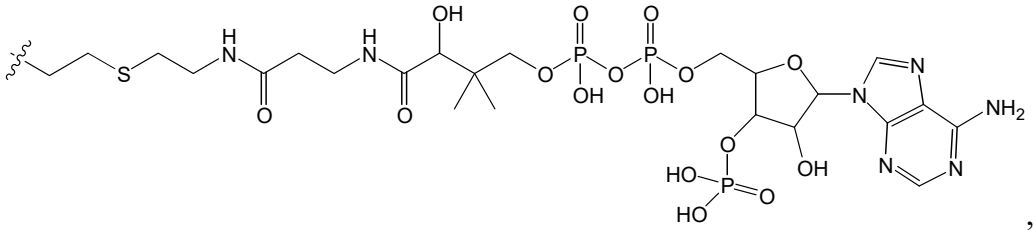
,

wherein

R^u is H or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group,

R^t is 2-pyridyl or 4-pyridyl, and

R^w is



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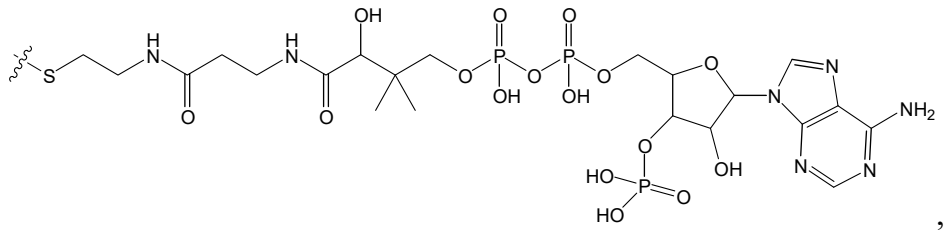

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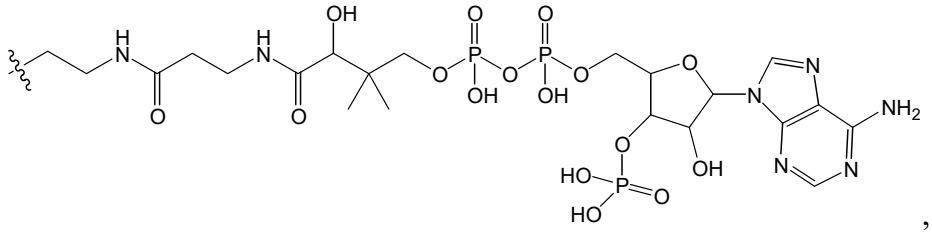

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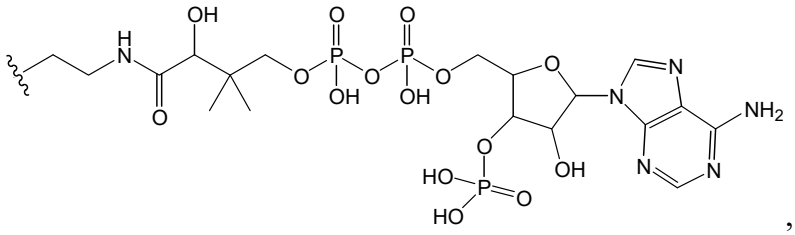

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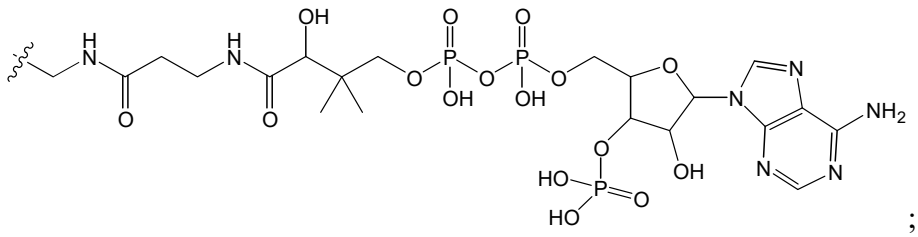
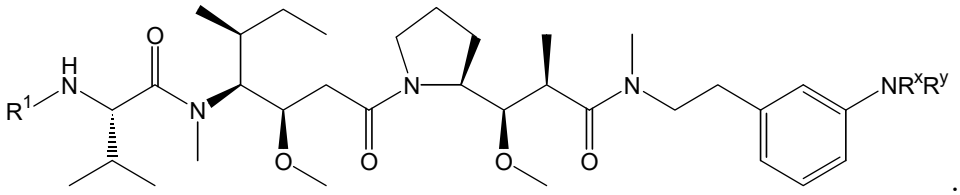


; and

R is H or a C_1-C_3 alkyl.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^5 is CH_3 or CF_3.

3. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein R^5 is CH_3, R^a is H, R^c is H and R^b is NR^xR^y, having the structural formula (III):



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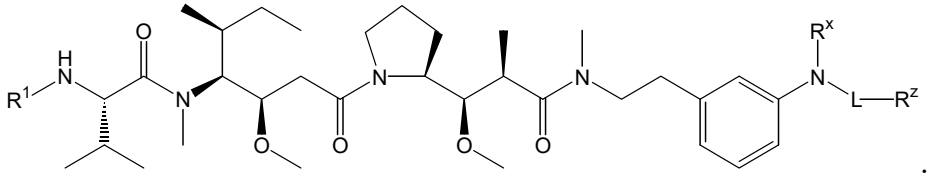
(III)

4. The compound of claim 3, wherein R^x is H or CH_3 and R^y is

$(C=O)$-O-$(CH_2)_p$-R^v, wherein R^v is R, OR, NHR, NR_2, an aryl group or an amino acid, and *p* is 0, 1, 2 or 3; or

$(C=O)$-$(CH_2)_q$-R^v, wherein R^v is R, OR, NHR, NR_2, an aryl group or an amino acid and *q* is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

5. The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein R^y is L-R^z, having the structural formula (III^2):



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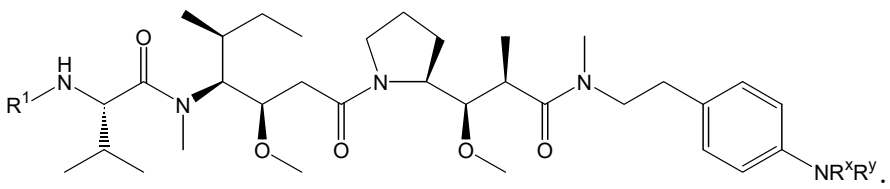
(III^2)

6. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^5 is CH_3, R^a is H, R^b is H, and R^c is NR^xR^y, having the structural formula (V):



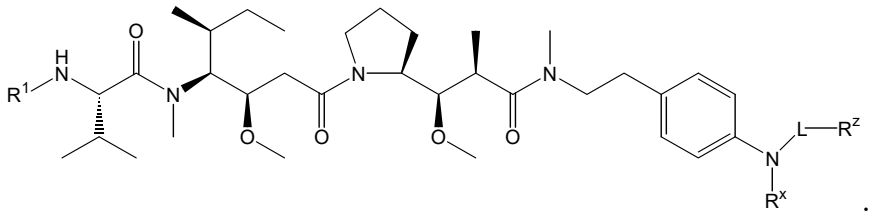
(V)

7. The compound of claim 6, wherein R^x is H or CH_3 and R^y is

$(C=O)\text{-}O\text{-}(CH_2)_p\text{-}R^v$, wherein R^v is R, OR, NHR, NR_2, an aryl group or an amino acid, and *p* is 0, 1, 2 or 3; or

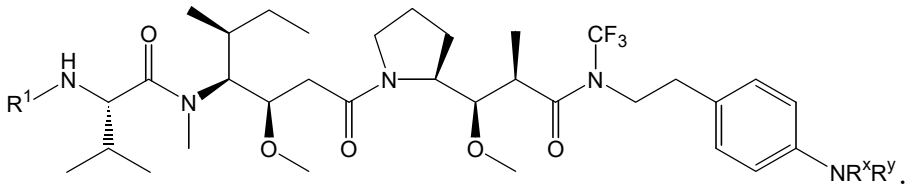
$(C=O)\text{-}(CH_2)_q\text{-}R^v$, wherein R^v is R, OR, NHR, NR_2, an aryl group or an amino acid, and *q* is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

8. The compound of claim 1 or 6, wherein R^y is L-R^z, having the structural formula (V^2):



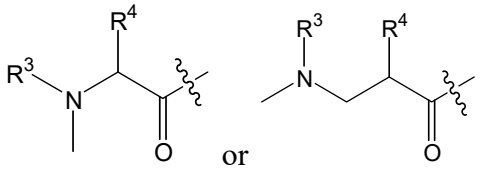
(V^2)

9. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^5 is CF_3, R^a is H, R^b is H, and R^c is NR^xR^y, having the structural formula (V^4):



(V^4)

10. The compound of any one of claims 1-9, wherein R^1 is

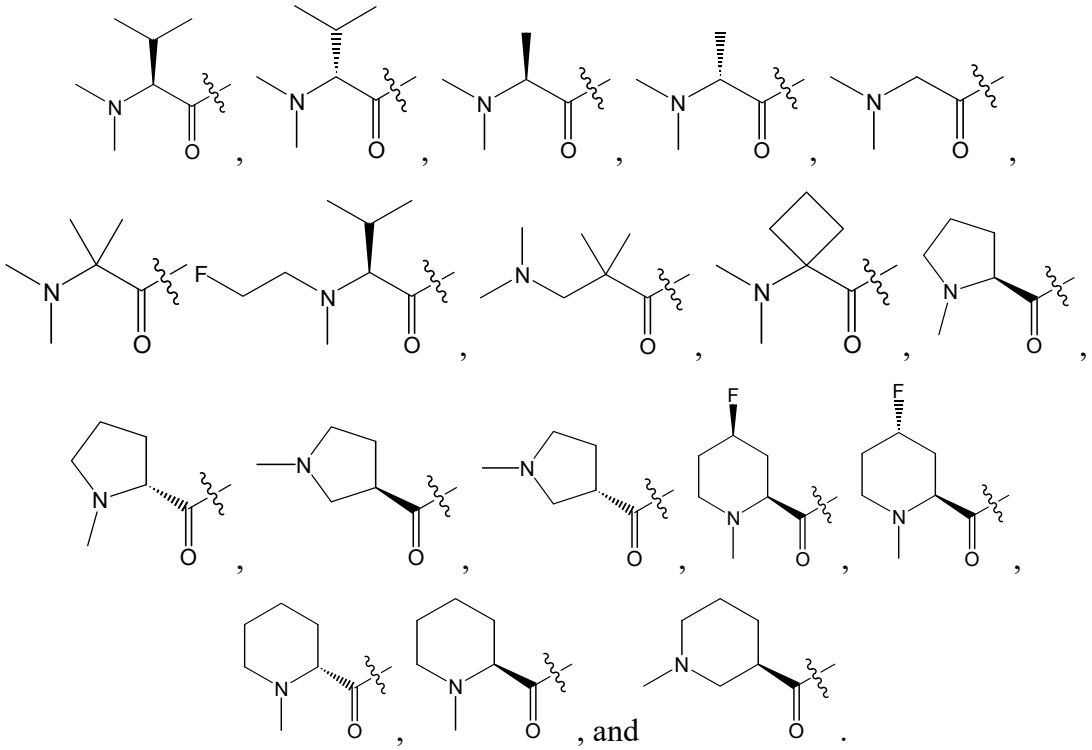


wherein each of R^3 and R^4 is independently H or an unsubstituted or substituted C_1-C_5 alkyl, or together with the N and C atoms they are boned to form a 5- to 7-membered heterocycloalkyl comprising one or more of O, N and S, optionally substituted with one or more of halogen atoms or C_1-C_3 alkyl.

11. The compound of claim 10, wherein R^4 is isopropyl or methyl.

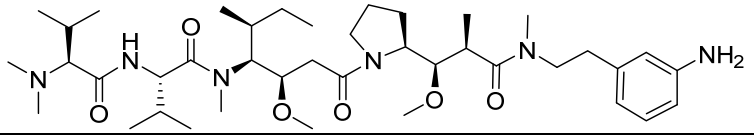
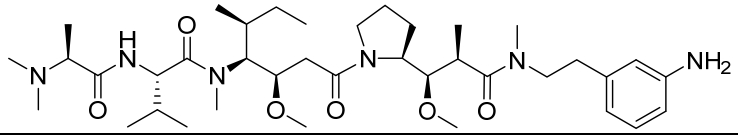
12. The compound of claim 10, wherein R^3 and R^4, together with the N and C atoms they are boned to form a 5-membered or 6-membered heterocycloalkyl comprising N, optionally substituted with one or more of halogen atoms or C_1-C_3 alkyl.

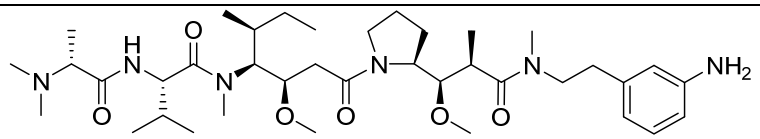
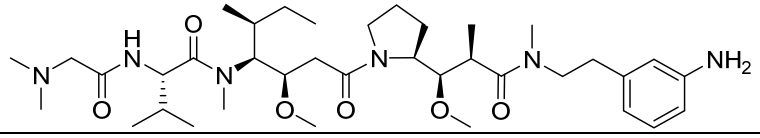
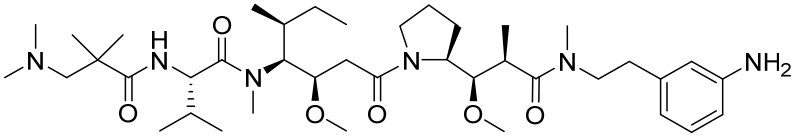
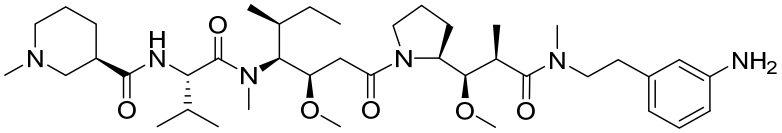
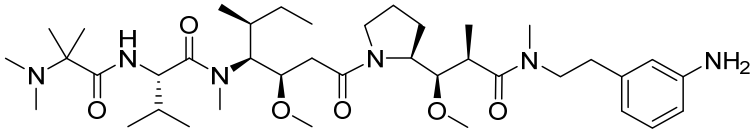
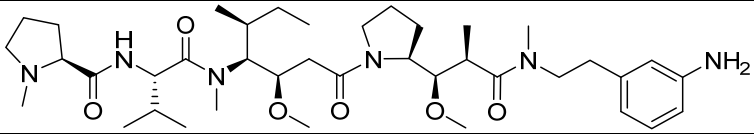
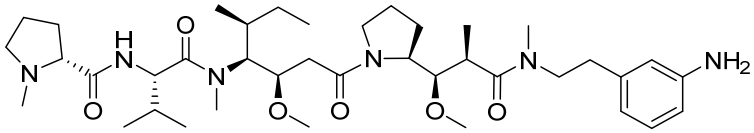
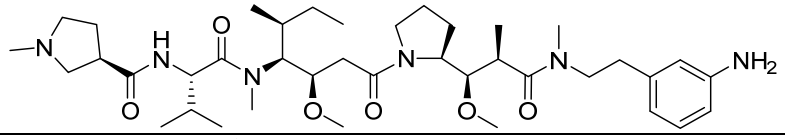
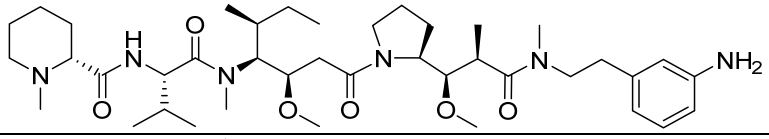
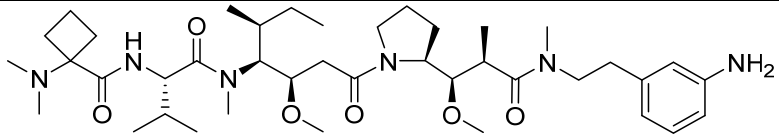
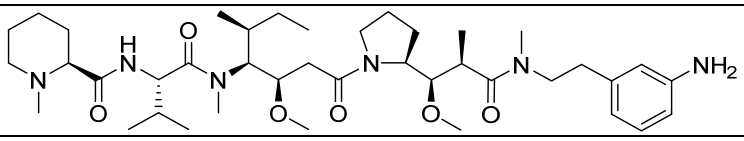
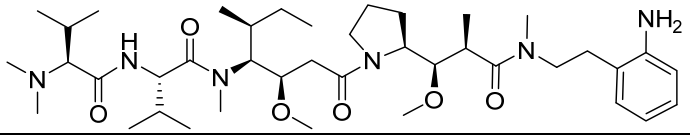
13. The compound of any one of claims 1-12, wherein R^1 is selected from:

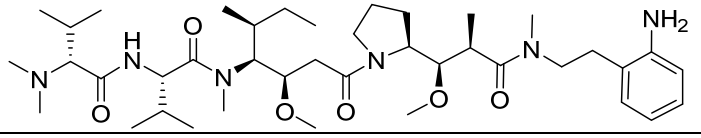
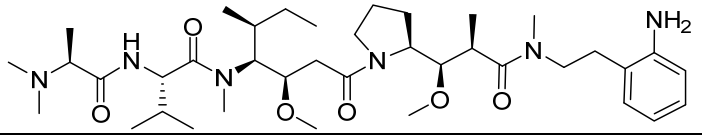
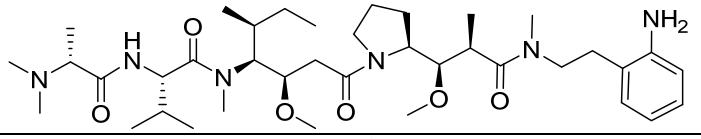
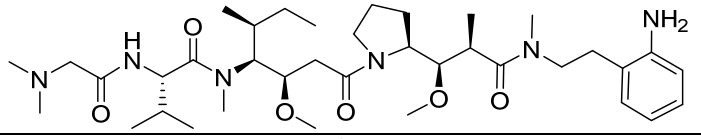
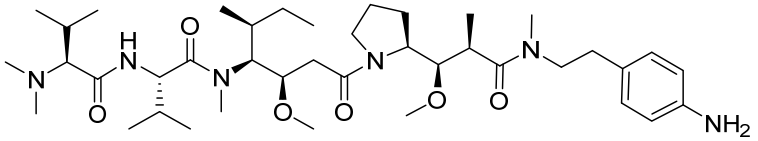
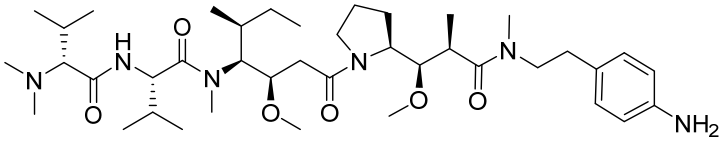
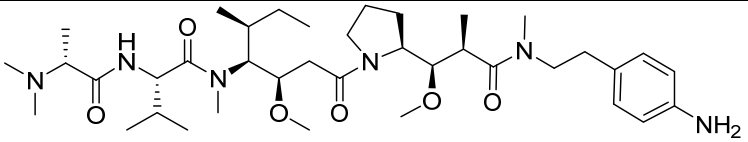
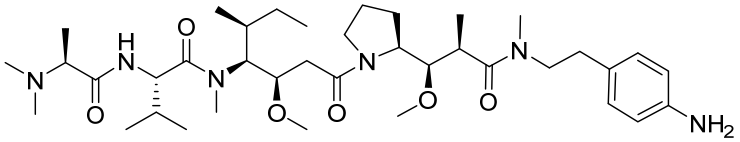
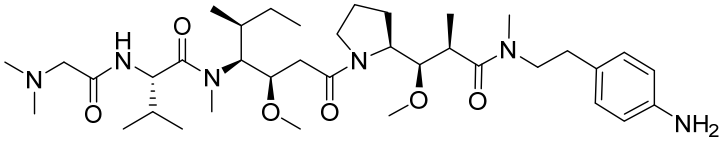


14. The compound of any one of claims 1-13, wherein L is selected from acid-cleavable linkers, reducible disulfide linkers, dipeptide Val-Cit-containing linkers, glycosidase-cleavable linkers, and phosphatase-cleavable linkers.

15. A compound selected from:

Compound No.	Structure
1	
2	

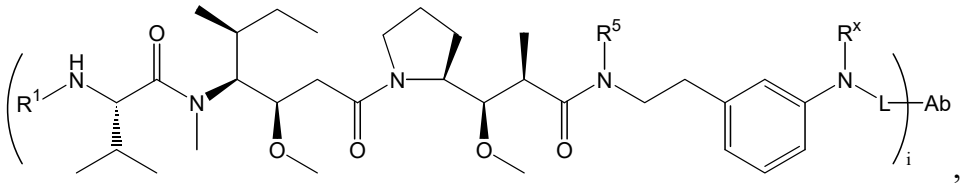
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	

15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
23	
24	
26	
27	

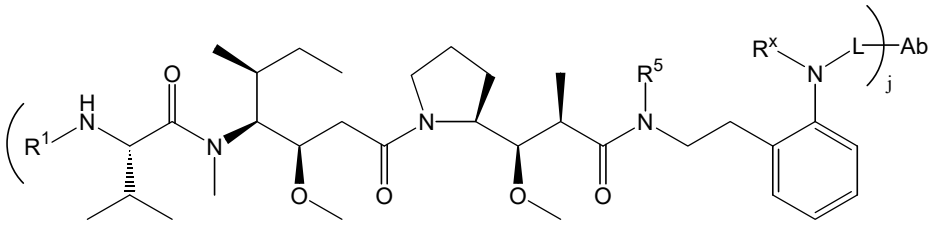
16. A drug-linker conjugate comprising a moiety derived from a compound of any one of claims 1-15.

17. An immunoconjugate comprising a moiety derived from a compound of any one of claims 1-15 and an antigen binding moiety.

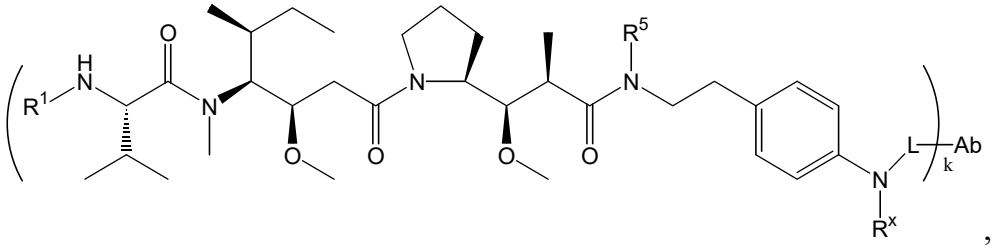
18. An immunoconjugate having the structural formula:



(VI)



(VII)

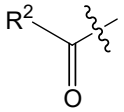


(VIII)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

Ab represents an antigen binding moiety;

R^1 is  , wherein R^2 is a unsubstituted or substituted C_1-C_6 alkyl, heteroalkyl, cycloalkyl or cycloheteroalkyl;

each of R^x and R^y is independently selected from R and L-R^z, provided that when one of R^x and R^y is NR^z, the other is R;

R^5 is CR'_3, wherein each R' is independently H or F;

L is a linker; and

R is H or a C_1-C_3 alkyl;

i is an integer in the range of 1 to about 20.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an immunoconjugate of claim 17 or 18, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, carrier or diluent, for use in treating a disease or condition.

20. Use of an immunoconjugate of claim 17 or 18 for the manufacture of a medicament for treating cancer.