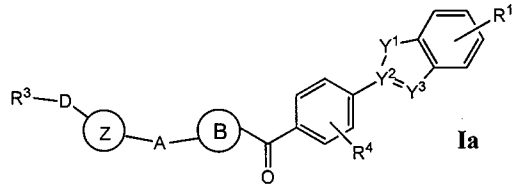
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula **Ia**



Ia

or a salt thereof, wherein:

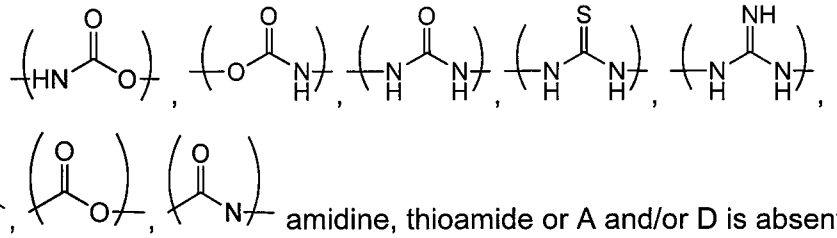
R^1 is H, -F, -Br or -I;

R^3 is $-[(CH_2)_2E]_n(CH_2)_2NR'R''$ and n is any integer from 0 through 12, wherein R' and R" are each independently H, $-CH_3$, $-CH_2CH_3$, $-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$, $-(CH)_mCH_3$ wherein m is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, or $-C(CH_3)_3$;

R^4 is H, -Cl, -F, -Br, -I, -OH, -CN, $-NO_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6 alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6 alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl or aryl;

Y^1 and Y^3 are independently O, N, NR^2 or S, wherein R^2 is H, $-CH_3$, $-CH_2CH_3$, $-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$, $-(CH)_pCH_3$ wherein p is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, or $-C(CH_3)_3$;

Y^2 is C or N;

A and D are independently  amidine, thioamide or A and/or D is absent;

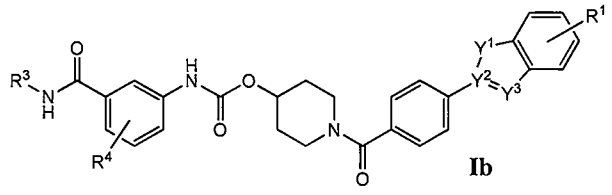
B is substituted or unsubstituted C_4-C_9-cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_4-C_9-heterocycloalkyl comprising N, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl comprising N, S or O or B is absent;

E is CH_2, O, NH or S, or E is absent; and

Z is substituted or unsubstituted aryl comprising N, O or S, or Z is absent;

or a salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 of formula Ib as shown below,



Ib

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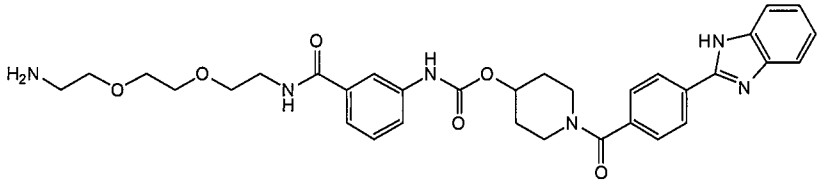
3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2

wherein:

R^4 is H, -Cl, -F, -Br, -I, -OH, -CN, $-NO_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6 alkyl.

4. A compound according to claim 1 as shown below,



or a salt thereof.

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 for use in therapy.

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutic agent and a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4.

7. An affinity chromatography solid phase comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4.

8. A method of purifying serum albumin using a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4.