CLAIMS:

1. A biodegradable fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate which is a polymer of a monomer of formula (II):



(II)

where:

X' and Y' are each terminal reactive functional groups capable of reacting with functional groups of one or more monomers;

R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

Z is a spacer moiety; and

D is selected from fluoroquinolone antibiotics;

with at least one monomer comprising compatible chemical functionality.

2. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 1, wherein the bioactive moiety (D) is selected from alatrofloxacin, balofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, clinafloxacin, danofoxacin, delafloxacin, dextrofloxacin, difloxacin, enoxacin, enrofloxacin, garenoxacin, gatifloxacin, gemifloxacin, grepafloxacin, levofloxacin, lomefloxacin, marbofloxacin, moxifloxacin, nadifloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, orbifloxacin, pefloxacin, sitafloxacin, sparfloxacin, temafloxacin, tosufloxacin, tosulfloxacin and trovafloxacin.

3. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein X' and Y' are each hydroxyl and the fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate is a copolymer formed with at least one comonomer.

4. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 3, wherein the fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate comprises a polyurethane polymer which is a copolymer of the bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) formed with at least one polyisocyanate, optionally in the presence of one or more polyol co-monomers.

5. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 4, wherein the polyisocyanate is selected from m-phenylene diisocyanate, p-phenylene diisocyanate, 2,4-toluene diisocyanate, 2,6-toluene diisocyanate, 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,4-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,3-cyclohexane diisocyanate, 1,4-cyclohexane diisocyanate, hexahydro-toluene diisocyanate and its isomers, isophorone diisocyanate, dicyclo-hexylmethane diisocyanates, 1,5-napthylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate, 2,4' diphenylmethane diisocyanate, 4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethyl-diphenylpropane-4,4'-diisocyanate, 2,4,6-toluene triisocyanate, 4,4'-dimethyl-diphenylmethane-2,2',5,5'-tetraisocyanate, and alkyl esters of lysine diisocyanate.

6. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 5 wherein the polyisocyanate is an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate.

7. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the copolymer is a copolymer of the monomer of formula (II) with a polyisocyanate and one or more polyol co-monomers.

8. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 7, wherein the polyol co-monomer is a polyester polyol.

9. A fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate according to claim 8 wherein the polyester polyol is selected from the group consisting of polycaprolactone diol, poly(DL lactide), poly(lactic acid-co-glycolic acid) and combinations thereof.

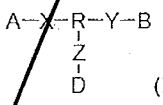
10. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein D is coupled through Z to R by a functional group selected from the group consisting of an ester, amide, thiol, anhydride, imide, carbonate, peroxide, peroxyester, phosphate ester, thioester, sulphate ester, carbamate, azo and boronate ester moiety.

11. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of -O-; -C(O)-; and optionally substituted: -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -NR^aC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; and -C(O)NR^a-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a- where R^a is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-18}alkyl, C_{1-18}alkenyl, C_{1-18}alkynyl, C_{6-18}aryl, C_{3-18}carbocyclyl, C_{3-18}heteroaryl, C_{3-18}heterocyclyl, and C_{7-18}arylalkyl.

12. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein R is a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

13. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 12 wherein R is a linear or branched hydrocarbon of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

14. The biodegradable fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate according to claim 1 comprising as part of its polymer backbone a plurality of moieties of general formula (I):



(I)

where:

A and B, which are the same or different, represent the remainder of the polymer backbone and (i) comprise one or more -X-R(ZD)-Y- as shown in formula (I), and (ii) are each formed from monomeric units that are coupled via a biodegradable moiety, wherein each X, Y, R, Z and D in a given -X-R(ZD)-Y- moiety of the biodegradable polymer is the same or different;

X and Y are each independently selected from an ester and a carbamate moiety;

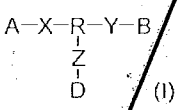
R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

Z is a spacer moiety; and

D is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic.

15. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 14 wherein Z is selected from -O-; -C(O)-; and optionally substituted: -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -NR^aC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; and -C(O)NR^a-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a- where R^a is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-18}alkyl, C_{1-18}alkenyl, C_{1-18}alkynyl, C_{6-18}aryl, C_{3-18}carbocyclyl, C_{3-18}heteroaryl, C_{3-18}heterocyclyl, and C_{7-18}arylalkyl.

16. A biodegradable fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate comprising as part of its polymer backbone a plurality of moieties of general formula (I):



(I)

where:

A and B, which are the same or different, represent the remainder of the polymer backbone and (i) comprise one or more -X-R(ZD)-Y- as shown in formula (I), and (ii) are each formed from monomeric units that are coupled via a biodegradable moiety, wherein each X, Y, R, Z and D in a given -X-R(ZD)-Y- moiety of the biodegradable polymer is the same or different;

X and Y are each independently selected from an ester and a carbamate moiety;

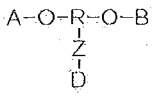
R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

Z is a spacer moiety; and

D is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic.

17. The biodegradable polymer according to claim 16, wherein A and B comprise a copolymer of polyurethane and polyester.

18. The biodegradable polymer according to claim 16 comprising as part of its polymer backbone plurality of moieties of general formula (Id):



(Id)

wherein:

A and B, which may be the same or different, represent the remainder of the polymer backbone and are selected from a copolymer of polyurethane and polyester;

R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

Z is a linking group; and

D is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic.

19. The biodegradable polymer according to claim 18 which comprises less than 25 mol% of polymerised residues that are derived from a C_2 diol, relative to the total number of moles of polymerized diol residues.

20. The biodegradable polymer according to any one of claims 16 to 19, wherein the bioactive moieties (D) is selected from alatrofloxacin, balofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, clinafloxacin, danofoxacin, delafloxacin, dextrofloxacin, difloxacin, enoxacin, enrofloxacin, garenoxacin, gatifloxacin, gemifloxacin, grepafloxacin, levofloxacin, lomefloxacin, marbofloxacin, moxifloxacin, nadifloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, orbifloxacin, pefloxacin, sitafloxacin, sparfloxacin, temafloxacin, tosufloxacin, tosulfloxacin, and trovafloxacin.

21. The biodegradable polymer according to any one of claims 16 to 20, wherein D is coupled through Z to R by an ester, amide, thiol, anhydride, imide, carbonate, peroxide, peroxyester, phosphate ester, thioester, sulphate ester, carbamate, azo or boronate ester moiety.

22. The biodegradable polymer according to any one of claims 17 to 21, wherein Z is selected from --O-; -C(O)-; and optionally substituted: -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -NR^aC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; and -C(O)NR^a-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a- where R^a is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-18}alkyl, C_{1-18}alkenyl, C_{1-18}alkynyl, C_{6-18}aryl, C_{3-18}carbocyclyl, C_{3-18}heteroaryl, C_{3-18}heterocyclyl, and C_{7-18}arylalkyl.

23. The biodegradable polymer according to any one of claims 16 to 22, wherein R a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

24. A method of delivering a bioactive moiety to a subject, the method comprising administering to the subject a biodegradable polymer according to any one of claims 1 to 23.

25. A method for preparing a biodegradable polymer according to claim 16, said method comprising the step of polymerising a monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II):



(II)

where:

X' and Y' are each independently functional groups that (a) are capable of undergoing polymerisation with monomer having compatible chemical functionality, and (b) react with the compatible chemical functionality to afford a biodegradable moiety selected from an ester and a carbamate moiety; and

R, Z and D are as defined in claim 16;

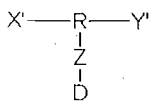
with at least one monomer comprising compatible chemical functionality.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein X' and Y' are both hydroxyl and the monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate is polymerised with a polyisocyanate and at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyacid, a polyester, and a polyester polyol.

27. The method according to claim 26, wherein the monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate is polymerised with a polyisocyanate and a polyester polyol.

28. An ocular implant comprising the biodegradable polymer according to claim 16, wherein the bioactive moiety is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic.

29. A monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate that is suitable for use in preparing a biodegradable polymer, the monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate having a structure of general formula (II):



(II)

where:

X' and Y' are each independently functional groups that (a) are capable of undergoing polymerisation with monomer having compatible chemical functionality so as to form a biodegradable polymer, and (b) react with the compatible chemical functionality to afford a biodegradable moiety;

R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

Z is a spacer moiety; and

D is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic.

30. The monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate according to claim 29, wherein X' and Y' are each hydroxyl.

31. A biodegradable polymer comprising a polyester component, the biodegradable polymer prepared by polymerising a monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II):



(II)

where:

X' and Y' are each hydroxyl;

R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

Z is a spacer moiety; and

D is a releasable bioactive moiety;

with at least one selected from the group consisting of:

(i) an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate; and

(ii) a polyisocyanate in the presence of one or more polyester polyol co-monomers.

32. The biodegradable polymer of claim 31, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate.

33. The biodegradable polymer of claim 32, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with an ethyl ester of lysine diisocyanate.

34. The biodegradable polymer of claim 31, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with a polyisocyanate in the presence of one or more polyester polyol co-monomers.

35. The biodegradable polymer of claim 34, wherein the polyisocyanate is selected from m-phenylene diisocyanate, p-phenylene diisocyanate, 2,4-toluene diisocyanate, 2,6-toluene diisocyanate, 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,4-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,3-cyclohexane diisocyanate, 1,4-cyclohexane diisocyanate, hexahydro-toluene diisocyanate and its isomers, isophorone diisocyanate, dicyclo-hexylmethane diisocyanates, 1,5-napthylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate, 2,4' diphenylmethane diisocyanate, 4,4'-biphenylene

diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethyl-diphenylpropane-4,4'-diisocyanate, 2,4,6-toluene triisocyanate, 4,4'-dimethyl-diphenylmethane-2,2',5,5'-tetraisocyanate, and alkyl esters of lysine diisocyanate.

36. The biodegradable polymer of claim 31, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate, a polyisocyanate and a polyester polyol co-monomer.

37. The biodegradable polymer of any one of claims 31 to 36, wherein the bioactive moiety (D) is selected from 5-alpha-reductase inhibitors, amebicides, aminosalicylates, anaesthetics (general and local), analgesics, angiotensin inhibitors, anorexiants, antacid agents, anti-angiogenic agents, antianginal agents, antiarrythmic agents, antiarthritic agents, antibiotics, antibacterial agents, antibodies, anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, antidepressants, antiepileptic agents, antifungals, anthelmintics, antihistamines, antihypertensives, antihyperlipidemic agents, antiinfectives, antiinflammatories, , antiemetics, antimalarial, antimetabolites, antimigraine, antimitotics, antiparasitic agents, antiparkinson agents, antipsychotics, antiprotozoals, antitussives, antiulcer agents, antivirals, anxiolytics, bronchodilators, decongestants and expectorants, cancer therapy and related pharmaceuticals, cardiovascular pharmaceuticals, central nervous system pharmaceuticals, benzopidazepines, beta-adrenergic blocking agents, bisphosphonates, calcium channel blockers, carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, chemokine receptor antagonist, coumarins and indadiones, cox-2 inhibitors, contraceptives, cytotoxics, diuretics, diabetes therapies, growth hormones, fertility pharmaceuticals, hematinics, glucose modifying agents, growth promoters, H2 antagonists, heparin and heparin antagonists, hormone replacement therapies, hemostatics, immunosuppressants, immunostimulants, inotropic agents, interferons, hormones and analogs, impotence agents, kinase inhibitors, laxatives, leukotriene modifiers, macrolides, mast cell stabilizers, muscle relaxants/stimulants, mydiratics, neuromuscular blocking agents, obesity therapeutics, ophthalmic pharmaceuticals, osteoporosis drugs, pain therapeutics, peptides and polypeptides, peripheral vasodilators, platelet

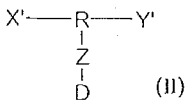
inhibitors/stimulating agents, prolactin inhibitors, protease inhibitors, protein therapeutics, proton pump inhibtors, radiopharmaceuticals, respiratory pharmaceuticals, sedatives, spermicides, steroids, smoking cessation agents, statins, stimulants and tranquilizers, sulphonamides, thyroid drugs, urinary acidifiers/alkalinisers, and vasodilators.

38. The biodegradable polymer of any one of claims 31 to 37, wherein D is coupled through Z to R by an ester, amide, thiol, anhydride, imide, carbonate, peroxide, peroxyester, phosphate ester, thioester, sulphate ester, carbamate, azo or boronate ester moiety.

39. The biodegradable polymer of any one of claims 31 to 38, wherein Z is selected from -O-; -C(O)-; and optionally substituted: -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -NR^aC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; and -C(O)NR^a-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a- where R^a is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-18}alkyl, C_{1-18}alkenyl, C_{1-18}alkynyl, C_{6-18}aryl, C_{3-18}carbocyclyl, C_{3-18}heteroaryl, C_{3-18}heterocyclyl, and C_{7-18}arylalkyl.

40. The biodegradable polymer of any one of claims 31 to 39, wherein R is a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

41. A method for preparing a biodegradable polymer according comprising a polyester component, said method comprising the step of polymerising a monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II):



(II)

where:

X' and Y' are each hydroxyl; and

R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

Z is a spacer moiety; and

D is a releaseable bioactive moiety;

with at least one selected from the group consisting of:

(i) an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate; and

(ii) a polyisocyanate in the presence of one or more polyester polyol co-monomers.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with an ethyl ester of lysine diisocyanate.

44. The method of claim 41, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with a polyisocyanate in the presence of one or more polyester polyol co-monomers.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein the polyisocyanate is selected from m-phenylene diisocyanate, p-phenylene diisocyanate, 2,4-toluene diisocyanate, 2,6-toluene diisocyanate, 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,4-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,3-cyclohexane diisocyanate, 1,4-cyclohexane diisocyanate, hexahydro-toluene diisocyanate and its isomers, isophorone diisocyanate, dicyclo-hexylmethane diisocyanates, 1,5-napthylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate, 2,4' diphenylmethane diisocyanate, 4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethyl-diphenylpropane-4,4'-diisocyanate, 2,4,6-toluene triisocyanate, 4,4'-dimethyl-diphenylmethane-2,2',5,5'-tetraisocyanate, and alkyl esters of lysine diisocyanate.

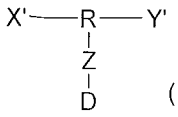
46. The method of claim 41, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate, a polyisocyanate and a polyester polyol co-monomer.

47. An implantable device comprising the biodegradable polymer of any one of claims 31 to 40.

48. An ocular implant comprising the biodegradable polymer of any one of claims 31 to 40.

CLAIMS:

1. A biodegradable fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate which is a polymer of a monomer of formula (II):



(II)

where:

X' and Y' are each independently selected from hydroxyl, carboxylic acid, isocyanate, and carboxylic acid halide;

R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

Z is a spacer moiety; and

D is selected from fluoroquinolone antibiotics;

with at least one monomer comprising compatible chemical functionality.

2. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 1, wherein the bioactive moiety (D) is selected from alatrofloxacin, balofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, clinafloxacin, danofoxacin, delafloxacin, dextrofloxacin, difloxacin, enoxacin, enrofloxacin, garenoxacin, gatifloxacin, gemifloxacin, grepafloxacin, levofloxacin, lomefloxacin, marbofloxacin, moxifloxacin, nadifloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, orbifloxacin, pefloxacin, sitafloxacin, sparfloxacin, temafloxacin, tosufloxacin, tosulfloxacin and trovafloxacin.

3. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein X' and Y' are each hydroxyl and the fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate is a copolymer formed with at least one comonomer.

4. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 3, wherein the fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate comprises a polyurethane polymer which is a copolymer of the bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) formed with at least one polyisocyanate, optionally in the presence of one or more polyol co-monomers.

5. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 4, wherein the polyisocyanate is selected from m-phenylene diisocyanate, p-phenylene diisocyanate, 2,4-toluene

diisocyanate, 2,6-toluene diisocyanate, 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,4-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,3-cyclohexane diisocyanate, 1,4-cyclohexane diisocyanate, hexahydro-toluene diisocyanate and its isomers, isophorone diisocyanate, dicyclo-hexylmethane diisocyanates, 1,5-napthylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate, 2,4' diphenylmethane diisocyanate, 4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethyl-diphenylpropane-4,4'-diisocyanate, 2,4,6-toluene triisocyanate, 4,4'-dimethyl-diphenylmethane-2,2',5,5'-tetraisocyanate, and alkyl esters of lysine diisocyanate.

6. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 5 wherein the polyisocyanate is an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate.

7. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the copolymer is a copolymer of the monomer of formula (II) with a polyisocyanate and one or more polyol co-monomers.

8. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 7, wherein the polyol co-monomer is a polyester polyol.

9. A fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate according to claim 8 wherein the polyester polyol is selected from the group consisting of polycaprolactone diol, poly(DL lactide), poly(lactic acid-co-glycolic acid) and combinations thereof.

10. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein D is coupled through Z to R by a functional group selected from the group consisting of an ester, amide, thiol, anhydride, imide, carbonate, peroxide, peroxyester, phosphate ester, thioester, sulphate ester, carbamate, azo and boronate ester moiety.

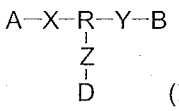
11. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of -O-; -C(O)-; and optionally substituted: -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -NR^aC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-

; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; and -C(O)NR^a-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a- where R^a is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-18}alkyl, C_{2-18}alkenyl, C_{2-18}alkynyl, C_{6-18}aryl, C_{3-18}carbocyclyl, C_{3-18}heteroaryl, C_{3-18}heterocyclyl, and C_{7-18}arylalkyl.

12. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein R is a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

13. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 12 wherein R is a linear or branched hydrocarbon of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

14. The biodegradable fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate according to claim 1 comprising as part of its polymer backbone a plurality of moieties of general formula (I):



(I)

where:

A and B, which are the same or different, represent the remainder of the polymer backbone and (i) comprise one or more -X-R(ZD)-Y- as shown in formula (I), and (ii) are each formed from monomeric units that are coupled via a biodegradable moiety, wherein each X, Y, R, Z and D in a given -X-R(ZD)-Y- moiety of the biodegradable polymer is the same or different;

X and Y are each independently selected from an ester and a carbamate moiety;

R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

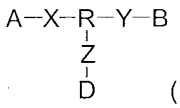
Z is a spacer moiety; and

D is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic.

15. The fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate of claim 14 wherein Z is selected from -O-; -C(O)-; and optionally substituted: -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -NR^aC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; and -C(O)NR^a-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a- where R^a is

selected from hydrogen, C_{1-18}alkyl, C_{2-18}alkenyl, C_{2-18}alkynyl, C_{6-18}aryl, C_{3-18}carbocyclyl, C_{3-18}heteroaryl, C_{3-18}heterocyclyl, and C_{7-18}arylalkyl.

16. A biodegradable fluoroquinolone-polymer conjugate comprising as part of its polymer backbone a plurality of moieties of general formula (I):



(I)

where:

A and B, which are the same or different, represent the remainder of the polymer backbone and (i) comprise one or more -X-R(ZD)-Y- as shown in formula (I), and (ii) are each formed from monomeric units that are coupled via a biodegradable moiety, wherein each X, Y, R, Z and D in a given -X-R(ZD)-Y- moiety of the biodegradable polymer is the same or different;

X and Y are each independently selected from an ester and a carbamate moiety;

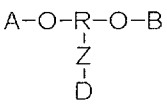
R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

Z is a spacer moiety; and

D is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic.

17. The biodegradable polymer according to claim 16, wherein A and B comprise a copolymer of polyurethane and polyester.

18. The biodegradable polymer according to claim 16 comprising as part of its polymer backbone plurality of moieties of general formula (Id):



(Id)

wherein:

A and B, which may be the same or different, represent the remainder of the polymer backbone and are selected from a copolymer of polyurethane and polyester;

R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

Z is a linking group; and

D is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic.

19. The biodegradable polymer according to claim 18 which comprises less than 25 mol% of polymerised residues that are derived from a C_2 diol, relative to the total number of moles of polymerized diol residues.

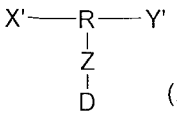
20. The biodegradable polymer according to any one of claims 16 to 19, wherein the bioactive moieties (D) is selected from alatrofloxacin, balofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, clinafloxacin, danofoxacin, delafloxacin, dextrofloxacin, difloxacin, enoxacin, enrofloxacin, garenoxacin, gatifloxacin, gemifloxacin, grepafloxacin, levofloxacin, lomefloxacin, marbofloxacin, moxifloxacin, nadifloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, orbifloxacin, pefloxacin, sitafloxacin, sparfloxacin, temafloxacin, tosufloxacin, tosulfloxacin, and trovafloxacin.

21. The biodegradable polymer according to any one of claims 16 to 20, wherein D is coupled through Z to R by an ester, amide, thiol, anhydride, imide, carbonate, peroxide, peroxyester, phosphate ester, thioester, sulphate ester, carbamate, azo or boronate ester moiety.

22. The biodegradable polymer according to any one of claims 17 to 21, wherein Z is selected from --O-; -C(O)-; and optionally substituted: -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -NR^aC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; and -C(O)NR^a-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a- where R^a is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-18}alkyl, C_{2-18}alkenyl, C_{2-18}alkynyl, C_{6-18}aryl, C_{3-18}carbocyclyl, C_{3-18}heteroaryl, C_{3-18}heterocyclyl, and C_{7-18}arylalkyl.

23. The biodegradable polymer according to any one of claims 16 to 22, wherein R a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

24. A method for preparing a biodegradable polymer according to claim 16, said method comprising the step of polymerising a monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II):



(II)

where:

X' and Y' are each independently functional groups that (a) are capable of undergoing polymerisation with monomer having compatible chemical functionality, and (b) react with the compatible chemical functionality to afford a biodegradable moiety selected from an ester and a carbamate moiety; and

R, Z and D are as defined in claim 16;

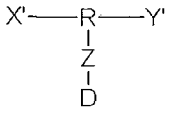
with at least one monomer comprising compatible chemical functionality.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein X' and Y' are both hydroxyl and the monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate is polymerised with a polyisocyanate and at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyacid, a polyester, and a polyester polyol.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein the monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate is polymerised with a polyisocyanate and a polyester polyol.

27. An ocular implant comprising the biodegradable polymer according to claim 16, wherein the bioactive moiety is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic.

28. A monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate that is suitable for use in preparing a biodegradable polymer, the monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate having a structure of general formula (II):



(II)

where:

X' and Y' are each independently functional groups that (a) are capable of undergoing polymerisation with monomer having compatible chemical functionality so as to form a biodegradable polymer, and (b) react with the compatible chemical functionality to afford a biodegradable moiety;

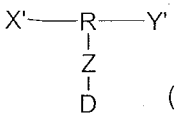
R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

Z is a spacer moiety; and

D is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic.

29. The monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate according to claim 28, wherein X' and Y' are each hydroxyl.

30. A biodegradable polymer comprising a polyester component, the biodegradable polymer prepared by polymerising a monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II):



(II)

where:

X' and Y' are each hydroxyl;

R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

Z is a spacer moiety; and

D is a releasable bioactive moiety;

with at least one selected from the group consisting of:

(i) an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate; and

(ii) a polyisocyanate in the presence of one or more polyester polyol co-monomers.

31. The biodegradable polymer of claim 30, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate.

32. The biodegradable polymer of claim 31, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with an ethyl ester of lysine diisocyanate.

33. The biodegradable polymer of claim 30, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with a polyisocyanate in the presence of one or more polyester polyol co-monomers.

34. The biodegradable polymer of claim 33, wherein the polyisocyanate is selected from m-phenylene diisocyanate, p-phenylene diisocyanate, 2,4-toluene diisocyanate, 2,6-toluene diisocyanate, 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,4-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,3-cyclohexane diisocyanate, 1,4-cyclohexane diisocyanate, hexahydro-toluene diisocyanate and its isomers, isophorone diisocyanate, dicyclo-hexylmethane diisocyanates, 1,5-napthylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate, 2,4' diphenylmethane diisocyanate, 4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethyl-diphenylpropane-4,4'-diisocyanate, 2,4,6-toluene triisocyanate, 4,4'-dimethyl-diphenylmethane-2,2',5,5'-tetraisocyanate, and alkyl esters of lysine diisocyanate.

35. The biodegradable polymer of claim 34, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate, a polyisocyanate and a polyester polyol co-monomer.

36. The biodegradable polymer of any one of claims 30 to 35, wherein the bioactive moiety (D) is selected from 5-alpha-reductase inhibitors, amebicides, aminosalicylates, anaesthetics (general and local), analgesics, angiotensin inhibitors, anorexiants, antacid agents, anti-angiogenic agents, antianginal agents, antiarrythmic agents, antiarthritic agents, antibiotics, antibacterial agents, antibodies, anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, antidepressants, antiepileptic agents, antifungals, anthelmintics, antihistamines, antihypertensives, antihyperlipidemic agents, antiinfectives, antiinflammatories, , antiemetics, antimalarial, antimetabolites, antimigraine, antimitotics, antiparasitic agents, antiparkinson agents, antipsychotics, antiprotozoals, antitussives, antiulcer agents, antivirals, anxiolytics, bronchodilators, decongestants and expectorants, cancer therapy and related pharmaceuticals, cardiovascular pharmaceuticals, central nervous system pharmaceuticals, benzopidazepines, beta-adrenergic blocking agents, bisphosphonates, calcium channel blockers, carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, chemokine receptor antagonist, coumarins and indadiones, cox-2 inhibitors, contraceptives, cytotoxics, diuretics, diabetes

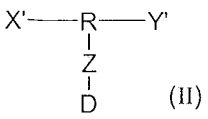
therapies, growth hormones, fertility pharmaceuticals, hematinics, glucose modifying agents, growth promoters, H2 antagonists, heparin and heparin antagonists, hormone replacement therapies, hemostatics, immunosuppressants, immunostimulants, inotropic agents, interferons, hormones and analogs, impotence agents, kinase inhibitors, laxatives, leukotriene modifiers, macrolides, mast cell stabilizers, muscle relaxants/stimulants, mydiratics, neuromuscular blocking agents, obesity therapeutics, ophthalmic pharmaceuticals, osteoporosis drugs, pain therapeutics, peptides and polypeptides, peripheral vasodilators, platelet inhibitors/stimulating agents, prolactin inhibitors, protease inhibitors, protein therapeutics, proton pump inhibtors, radiopharmaceuticals, respiratory pharmaceuticals, sedatives, spermicides, steroids, smoking cessation agents, statins, stimulants and tranquilizers, sulphonamides, thyroid drugs, urinary acidifiers/alkalinisers, and vasodilators.

37. The biodegradable polymer of any one of claims 30 to 36, wherein D is coupled through Z to R by an ester, amide, thiol, anhydride, imide, carbonate, peroxide, peroxyester, phosphate ester, thioester, sulphate ester, carbamate, azo or boronate ester moiety.

38. The biodegradable polymer of any one of claims 30 to 37, wherein Z is selected from -O-; -C(O)-; and optionally substituted: -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -$NR^aC(O)$-C_{1-18}alkylene-C(O)-; -C(O)O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -O-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a-; -OC(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; -C(O)-C_{1-18}alkylene-O-; and -C(O)NR^a-C_{1-18}alkylene-NR^a- where R^a is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-18}alkyl, C_{2-18}alkenyl, C_{2-18}alkynyl, C_{6-18}aryl, C_{3-18}carbocyclyl, C_{3-18}heteroaryl, C_{3-18}heterocyclyl, and C_{7-18}arylalkyl.

39. The biodegradable polymer of any one of claims 30 to 38, wherein R is a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

40. A method for preparing a biodegradable polymer according comprising a polyester component, said method comprising the step of polymerising a monomer – bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II):



(II)

where:

X' and Y' are each hydroxyl; and

R represents a linear or branched optionally substituted hydrocarbon;

Z is a spacer moiety; and

D is a releaseable bioactive moiety;

with at least one selected from the group consisting of:

(i) an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate; and

(ii) a polyisocyanate in the presence of one or more polyester polyol co-monomers.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with an ethyl ester of lysine diisocyanate.

43. The method of claim 40, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with a polyisocyanate in the presence of one or more polyester polyol co-monomers.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein the polyisocyanate is selected from m-phenylene diisocyanate, p-phenylene diisocyanate, 2,4-toluene diisocyanate, 2,6-toluene diisocyanate, 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,4-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,3-cyclohexane diisocyanate, 1,4-cyclohexane diisocyanate, hexahydro-toluene diisocyanate and its isomers, isophorone diisocyanate, dicyclo-hexylmethane diisocyanates, 1,5-napthylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate, 2,4' diphenylmethane diisocyanate, 4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethyl-diphenylpropane-4,4'-diisocyanate, 2,4,6-toluene triisocyanate, 4,4'-dimethyl-diphenylmethane-2,2',5,5'-tetraisocyanate, and alkyl esters of lysine diisocyanate.

45. The method of claim 40, wherein the monomer-bioactive moiety conjugate of formula (II) is polymerised with an alkyl ester of lysine diisocyanate, a polyisocyanate and a polyester polyol co-monomer.

46. An implantable device comprising the biodegradable polymer of any one of claims 30 to 39.

47. An ocular implant comprising the biodegradable polymer of any one of claims 30 to 39.