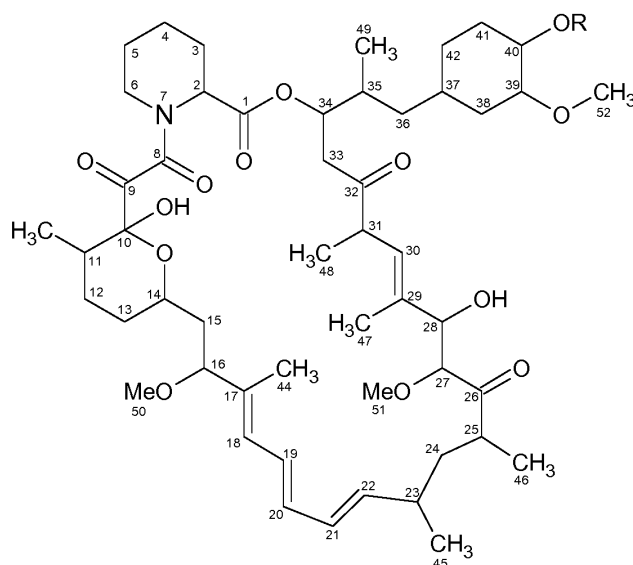


CLAIMS

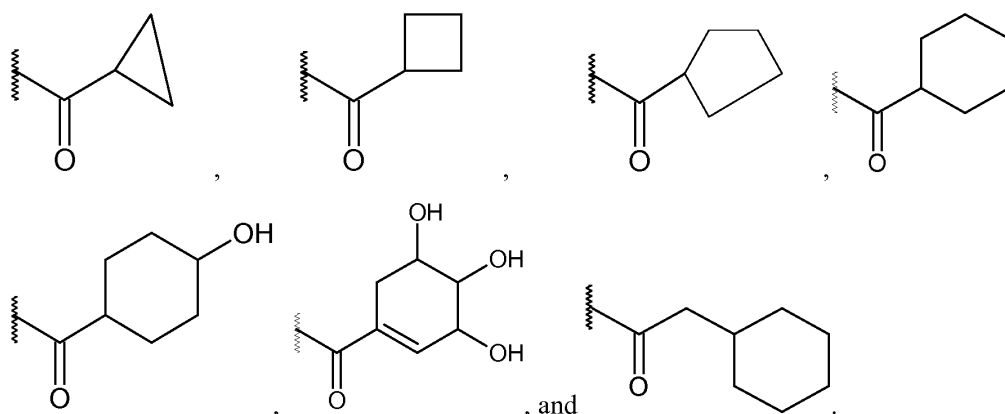
What is claimed is:

1. An implant for use in delivering at least one therapeutic agent to a target, comprising:
 - (a) an implant, preferably capable of radial expansion; and
 - (b) a coating layer, wherein the coating layer is formulated with at least one polymer-free excipient and at least one therapeutic agent, wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is an antiproliferative agent, wherein the coating layer is applied to the implant surface.
2. The implant of claim 1, wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is a macrocyclic triene immunosuppressive compound.
3. The implant of claim 1 or 2, wherein the implant is a drug eluting stent.
4. The implant of any of the preceding claims, wherein the implant body has a surface that is topographically smooth and/or wherein the surface has no reservoirs and contains a smooth surface free of any texturing or pores.
5. The implant of any of the preceding claims, wherein the implant is devoid of any surface modification that would result in a drug reservoir at more than one point on the implant body surface.
6. The implant of any of the preceding claims, wherein the coating layer is comprised of rapamycin, everolimus, zotarolimus, Biolimus, temsirolimus, tacrolimus or analogs thereof.
7. The implant of any of the preceding claims, wherein the coating layer is comprised of paclitaxel, docetaxel or analogs thereof.
8. The implant of any of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one polymer-free excipient is selected from the group consisting of a saturated or unsaturated fatty alcohol, saturated or unsaturated fatty aldehyde or saturated or unsaturated fatty acid.

9. The implant of any of the preceding claims, further wherein the at least one polymer free excipient binds to the implant body.
10. The implant of any of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one therapeutic agent has the following structure:



- 10 where R is $C(O)-(CH_2)_n-X$, n is 0, 1 or 2, X is a cyclic hydrocarbon having 3-8 carbons and optionally contains one or more unsaturated bonds.
11. The implant of claim 10, further wherein $C(O)-(CH_2)_n-X$ has one of the following structures:

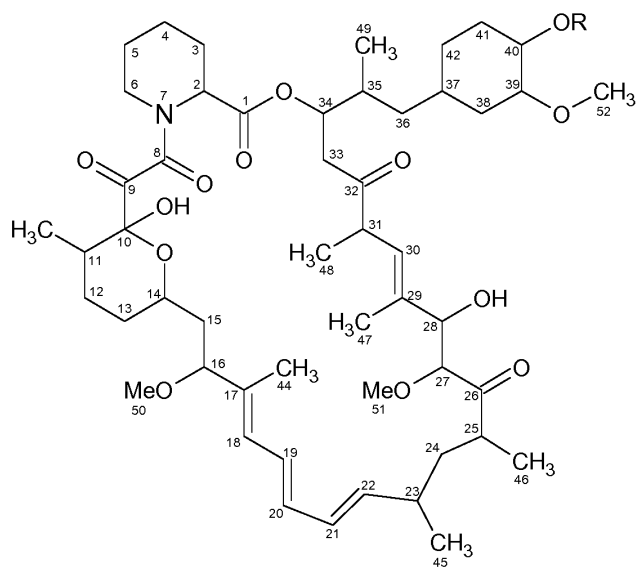


12. The implant of any of the preceding claims, wherein the implant is a stent and the surface
 5 of the stent is made microscopically smooth by electropolishing and treated with a layer of amorphous hydrogen rich silicon carbide in a plasma-enhanced, vapor deposition process.

13. Use of a non-polymer, saturated fatty alcohol having at least 16 carbon atoms, and preferably having the formula C_xH_yO , wherein x is at least 18 and at the most 35, and y is at least
 10 43 and at the most 72 as a coating material for medical implants .

14. Use of a mixture of a non-polymer, saturated fatty alcohol having at least 18 carbon atoms and an antiproliferative agent as a coating material for medical implants.

15. Use according to claim 14, wherein the antiproliferative agent is a macrocyclic triene immunosuppressive compound having the following structure:



where R is C(O)-(CH₂)_n-X, n is 0, 1 or 2, X is a cyclic hydrocarbon having 3-8 carbons and optionally contains one or more unsaturated bonds.