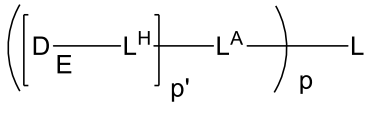
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hydrophilic Drug-Ligand Conjugate Compound having the formula:



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,

wherein:

L is a Ligand unit that specifically binds to a target;

L^A is a Ligand attachment component;

L^H is an optionally branched hydrophilic linker, each branch of L^H having the formula:

$$- AA_1 - R^{L1} - R^{L2} - R^{L3} -$$

wherein:

AA_1 is a hydrophilic amino acid that forms a cleavable bond with the D_E to which it is attached;

R^{L1} is optional and is a hydrophilic amino acid or an optionally substituted alkylene, which may share an atom with L^A when R^{L1} is present and R^{L2} and R^{L3} are absent;

R^{L2} is optional and is selected from a hydrophilic amino acid and an optionally substituted alkylene, which may share an atom with L^A when R^{L2} is present and R^{L3} is absent; and

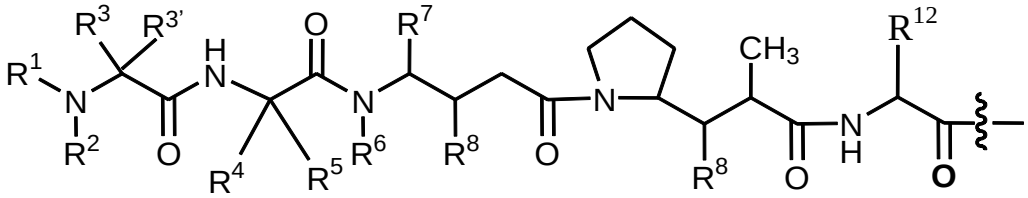
R^{L3} is optional and is selected from a hydrophilic amino acid and an optionally substituted alkylene, which may share an atom with L^A when R^{L3} is present;

the subscript p is an integer of from about 4 to about 20;

the subscript p' is an integer of from 1 to 4;

and

each D_E is an auristatin having the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,

wherein:

R^1 and R^2 each are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen (H) and optionally substituted -C_1-C_8 alkyl; with the proviso that both R^1 and R^2 are not H, unless both of $R^3$and $R^{3'}$ are not H;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of H and optionally substituted -C_1-C_8 alkyl;
$R^{3'}$ is selected from the group consisting of H and optionally substituted -C_1-C_8 alkyl, and
at least one of R^3 and $R^{3'}$ is not H;
R^4 is selected from the group consisting of H and optionally substituted -C_1-C_8 alkyl;
R^5 is selected from the group consisting of H and optionally substituted -C_1-C_8 alkyl;
or R^4 and R^5 jointly form a carbocyclic ring and have the formula -$(CR^aR^b)_n$-, wherein R^a and R^b are independently selected from the group consisting of H and optionally substituted -C_1-C_8 alkyl and n is selected from the group consisting of 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6;
R^6 is selected from the group consisting of H and optionally substituted -C_1-C_8 alkyl;
R^7 is selected from the group consisting of H and optionally substituted -C_1-C_8 alkyl;
each R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, -OH, optionally substituted -C_1-C_8 alkyl, and optionally substituted -O-(C_1-C_8 alkyl);
R^{12} is selected from the side chains of the group consisting of threonine, serine, asparagine, aspartic acid, glutamine, glutamic acid, homoserine, hydroxyvaline, furyl alanine, threonine(PO_3H_2), pyrazolyl alanine, triazolyl alanine and thiazolyl alanine; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof;
wherein the left and right lines of L^H indicate covalent attachments to the D_E unit and L^A, respectively; and
wherein the Compound has a hydrophilicity index of less than two.

2. The Compound of claim 1 , wherein L^H comprises a modified peptide, wherein at least one R^{L1}, R^{L2} and R^{L3} is an amino acid that is covalently linked by a reactive group on its side chain to an adjacent group; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

3. The Compound of claim 1, wherein R^{12} is the side chain of L-theronine; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

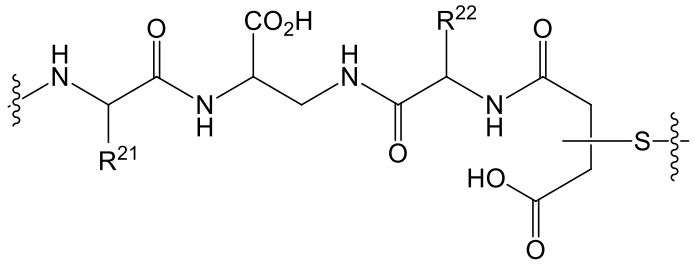
4. The Compound of claim 1 wherein p of the Drug-Ligand Conjugate is at least 8; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

5. The Compound of claim 4, wherein p of the Compound is at least 10; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

6. The Compound of claim 4, wherein p of the Compound is at least 16; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

7. The Compound of claim 1, wherein L^A is a succinimide or a hydrolized succinimide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

8. The Compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein the $-L^A-L^H$ of the Compound has the formula:



wherein

R^{21} is selected from the group consisting

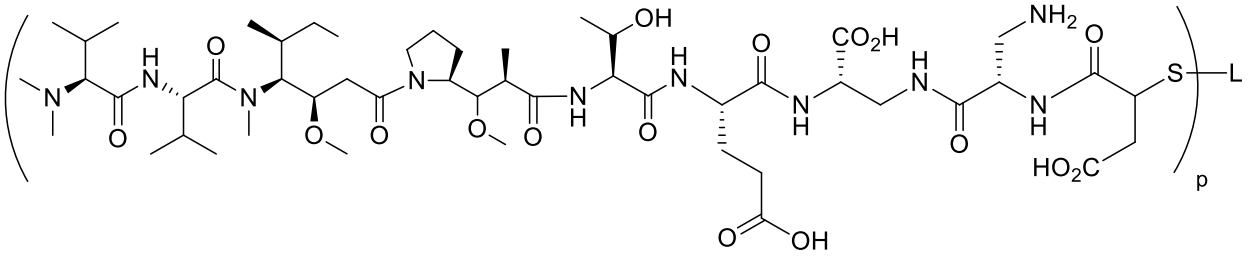
of $-CH_2NH_2$, $-CH_2CH_2NH_2$, $-CH_2OH$, $-CH_2CH_2OH$, $-CH_2CO_2H$, $-CH_2CH_2CO_2H$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CO_2H$, and $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2CO_2H$; and

R^{22} is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2NH_2$, $-CH_2CH_2NH_2$, $-CH_2OH$; and the left and right wavy lines indicate attachment to the D_E and the Ligand unit (L), respectively; and the sulfur atom is from the Ligand unit.

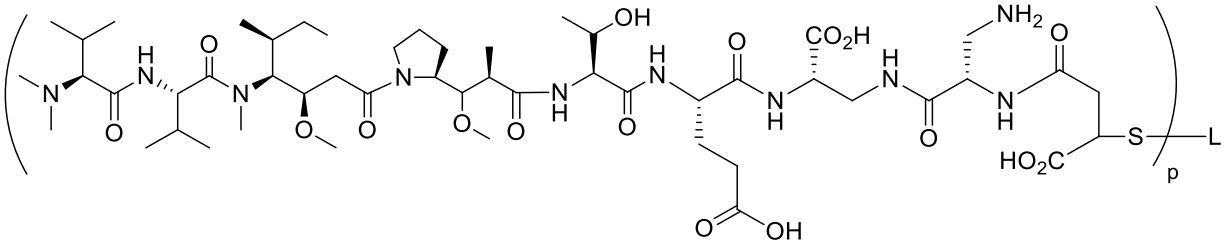
9. The Compound of claim 1, wherein the Ligand unit (L) of the Drug-Ligand Conjugate is a protein, polypeptide or peptide.

10. The Compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein the Ligand unit (L) of the Drug-Ligand Conjugate is an antibody.

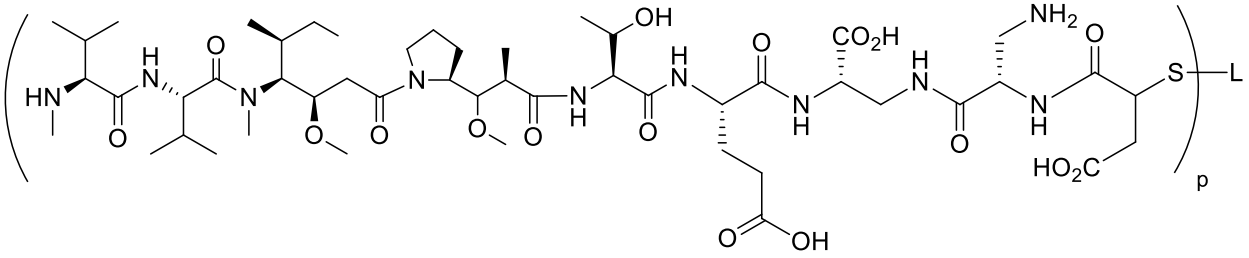
11. The Compound of claim 1 having a formula selected from the group consisting of:



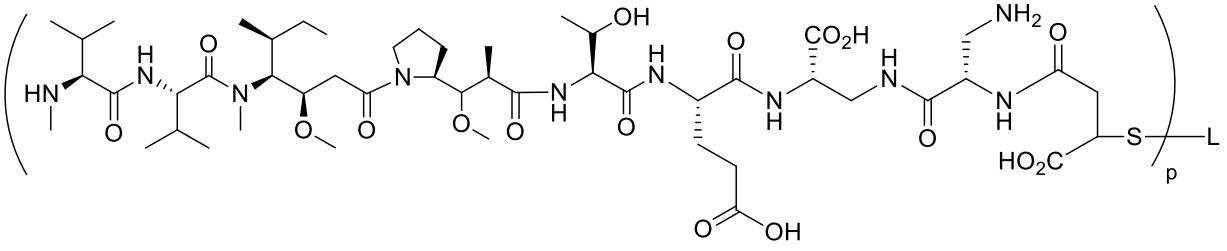
,



,



, and



;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, wherein S is a sulfur atom of the Ligand unit.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of the Compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent carrier or excipient.