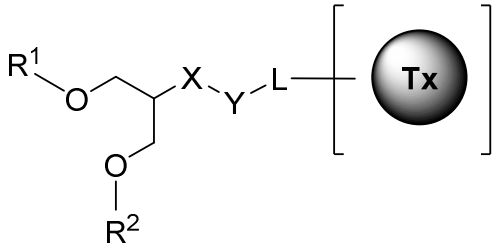
targeting. Having been transported via the lymphatic system, the prodrug is cleaved, thereby releasing the parent drug in order to be active at its target site.

[0009] Accordingly, there exists a need to develop novel lipid-pharmaceutical agent conjugates that facilitate stable transport of the pharmaceutical agent to the intestinal lymph and that readily revert to the parent agent in order to be active. The present invention addresses this need and provides other related advantages.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] In one aspect, the present invention provides a compound of Formula **I**:

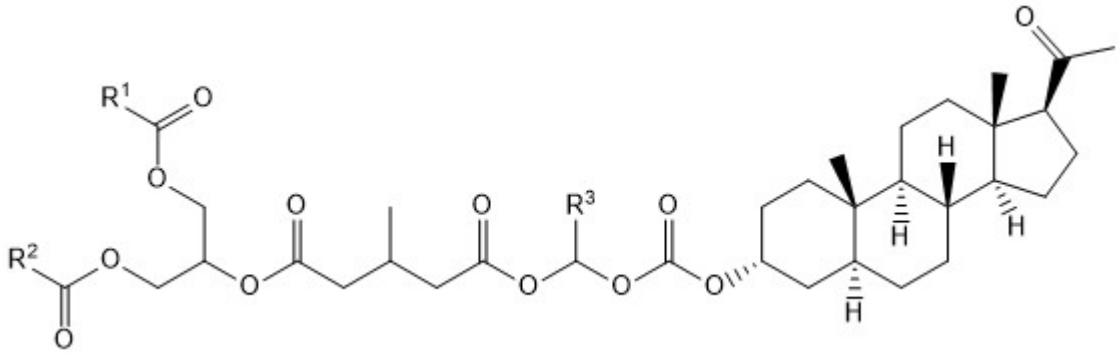


I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein each variable is as defined herein.

[0011] In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating a disease, disorder, or condition such as one of those disclosed herein, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of Formula **I**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

[0011a] In another aspect, the present invention provides a compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently C_3 to C_{17} alkyl; and R^3 is H or methyl.

[0011b] In another aspect, the present invention provides pharmaceutically acceptable composition comprising the compound as described herein, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

[0011c] In another aspect, the present invention provides an oral dosage form comprising the compound as described herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

1. General Description of Certain Aspects of the Invention

Lymphatic System-Directing Prodrugs

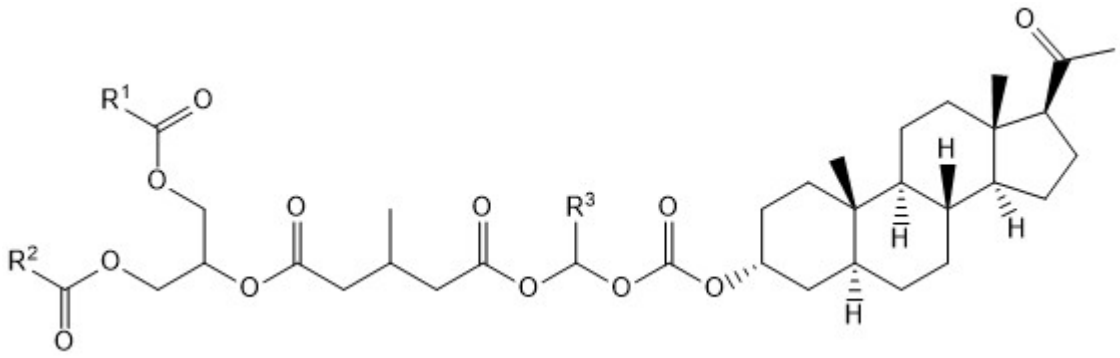
[0012] Compounds of the present invention, and compositions thereof, are useful in promoting transport of a therapeutic agent to the lymphatic system and in subsequently enhancing release of the parent drug, i.e. the therapeutic agent.

[0013] In one aspect, the present invention provides a compound of Formula **I**:

CLAIMS

We claim:

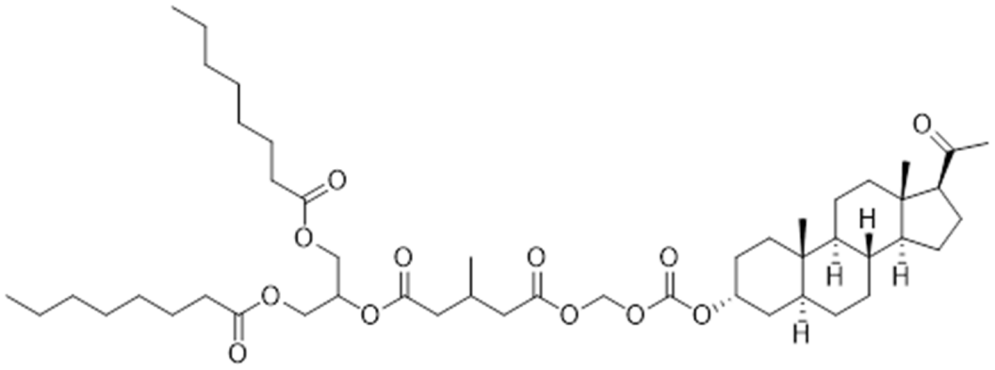
1. A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently C_3 to C_{17} alkyl; and R^3 is H or methyl.

2. The compound according to claim 1, represented by the formula (I-47):



(I-47)

3. A pharmaceutically acceptable composition comprising the compound according to claim 1 or 2, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

4. The pharmaceutically acceptable composition according to claim 3, wherein the composition is formulated for oral administration.

5. An oral dosage form comprising the compound according to claim 1 or 2.

6. The oral dosage form of claim 5, further comprising a lipid-based vehicle.

7. The oral dosage form of claim 6, wherein the lipid-based vehicle comprises sesame oil.

8. The oral dosage form of claim 7, wherein the lipid-based vehicle is a substantially non-aqueous vehicle.

9. The oral dosage form of claim 5, wherein the oral dosage form comprises a self-emulsifying drug delivery system (SEDDS).

10. The oral dosage form of claim 9, wherein the SEDDS comprises sesame oil and a water-soluble surfactant.

11. The oral dosage form of claim 10, wherein the water-soluble surfactant comprises a polyoxyethylene castor oil.

12. The oral dosage form of claim 11, wherein the polyoxyethylene castor oil comprises a polyoxyl 40 hydrogenated castor oil.

13. The oral dosage form of claim 12, wherein the SEDDS further comprises glycerol mono and diesters having fatty acid chains from 8 to 40 carbon atoms.

14. The oral dosage form of claim 13, wherein the SEDDS is substantially non-aqueous.

15. The oral dosage form of any one of claims 5 to 14, wherein the oral dosage form is a capsule.