CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. ~~A method of treating a cancer, comprising administering to a patient afflicted therewith an effective amount of~~ Use of an immunoconjugate comprising a monoclonal antibody moiety and a first pro-apoptotic drug moiety linked thereto in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a cancer in a patient; wherein the immunoconjugate is to be administered to the patient; and ~~administering to the patient an effective amount of~~ wherein a second pro-apoptotic drug is to be administered to the patient.

2. The use~~method~~ of claim 1 wherein the first pro-apoptotic drug moiety is covalently linked to the monoclonal antibody moiety.

3. The use~~method~~ of claim 1 wherein the cancer is breast cancer.

4. The use~~method~~ of claim 3 wherein the breast cancer is aromatase-resistant breast cancer.

5. The use~~method~~ of claim 3 wherein the breast cancer is tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer.

6. The use~~method~~ of claim 3 wherein the breast cancer is ER+ hormone refractory breast cancer.

7. The use~~method~~ of claim 3 wherein the breast cancer is HER2 positive breast cancer.

8. The use~~method~~ of claim 5 wherein the breast cancer is HER2 positive breast cancer.

9. The use~~method~~ of claim 7 wherein the monoclonal antibody moiety binds to HER2.

10. The use~~method~~ of claim 9 wherein the monoclonal antibody moiety is trastuzumab.

11. The use~~method~~ of claim 1 wherein the first pro-apoptotic drug moiety is a microtubule depolymerization agent.

12. The use~~method~~ of claim 11 wherein the first pro-apoptotic drug moiety is a maytansinoid or an auristatin.

13. The use~~method~~ of claim 11, wherein the monoclonal antibody moiety binds to HER-2.

14. The use~~method~~ of claim 12 wherein the immunoconjugate is T-DM1.

15. The use~~method~~ of claim 1, wherein the second pro-apoptotic drug exerts cytotoxicity by a molecular mechanism other than the molecular mechanism of cytotoxicity exerted by the first pro-apoptotic drug moiety.

16. The use~~method~~ of claim 1 wherein the administration of ~~administering~~ the immunoconjugate and the second pro-apoptotic drug has a synergistic effect.

17. The use~~method~~ of claim 15, wherein the second pro-apoptotic drug is a drug that induces apoptosis via an extrinsic pathway.

18. The use~~method~~ of claim 17, wherein the second pro-apoptotic drug induces apoptosis via a Fas pathway.

19. The use~~method~~ of claim 17, wherein the second pro-apoptotic drug induces apoptosis via a c-FLIP pathway.

20. The use~~method~~ of claim 17 wherein the second pro-apoptotic drug is CMH, E2, or δ-tocotrienol.

21. The use~~method~~ of claim 15, wherein the second pro-apoptotic drug is a drug that induces apoptosis via an intrinsic pathway.

22. The usemethod of claim 21, wherein the second pro-apoptotic drug induces apoptosis via a caspase-independent pathway.

23. The usemethod of claim 21, wherein the second pro-apoptotic drug induces apoptosis via a caspase-dependent pathway.

24. The usemethod of claim 21 wherein the second pro-apoptotic drug is E2, FTS, δ-tocotrienol, salinomycin, or curcumin.

25. The usemethod of claim 1, wherein the second pro-apoptotic anticancer drug is FTS, CMH, E2, TMS, δ-tocotrienol, salinomycin, or curcumin.

26. The usemethod of claim 13, wherein the second pro-apoptotic drug induces apoptosis via an extrinsic pathway.

27. The usemethod of claim 26, wherein the administration of ~~administering~~ the immunoconjugate and the second pro-apoptotic drug has a synergistic effect.

28. The usemethod of claim 26, wherein the second pro-apoptotic drug is CMH, E2, or δ-tocotrienol.

29. The usemethod of claim 26 wherein the immunoconjugate is T-DM1.

30. The usemethod of claim 13, wherein the second pro-apoptotic induces apoptosis via an intrinsic pathway.

31. The usemethod of claim 30 wherein the administration of ~~administering~~ the immunoconjugate and the second pro-apoptotic drug has a synergistic effect.

32. The usemethod of claim 30, wherein the second pro-apoptotic drug is FTS.

33. The usemethod of claim 30, wherein the immunoconjugate is T-DM1.

34. The use~~method~~ of claim 1, wherein the cancer is ~~comprising treatment of~~ an aromatase-resistant, tamoxifen-resistant, or ER+ hormone refractory breast cancer ~~in a patient afflicted therewith~~, and wherein the patient is to be further administered with ~~comprising administering to the patent~~ an effective amount of T-DM1 and an effective amount of FTS, CMH, E2, TMS, δ-tocotrienol, or curcumin, or any combination thereof.

35. The use~~method~~ of any one of claims 1-34 wherein the ~~method~~ treatment is an adjuvant therapy.

36. The use~~method~~ of any one of claims 1-34 wherein the ~~method~~ treatment is a first-line therapy.

37. The use~~method~~ of any one of claims 1-34 wherein the ~~method~~ treatment is a second-line therapy.

38. The use~~method~~ of any one of claims 1-34 wherein the immunoconjugate and the second pro-apoptotic drug are to be administered as a combined formulation or by alternation.

39. The use~~method~~ of any one of claims 1-34, wherein the patient is to be further administered with ~~further comprising administering to the patient~~ an additional anticancer drug, wherein optionally the additional anticancer drug exerts an effect via a molecular mechanism different from the molecular mechanism of the first pro-apoptotic anticancer drug moiety and different from the molecular mechanism of the second pro-apoptotic anticancer drug; or ~~administration to~~ the patient is to be administered with~~of~~ ionizing radiation comprising X-rays, gamma-rays, emissions of radionuclides, or subatomic particles; or any combination thereof.

40. A therapeutic composition comprising (a) an immunoconjugate comprising a monoclonal antibody moiety linked to a first pro-apoptotic drug moiety, and (b) a second pro-apoptotic drug.

41. The composition of claim 40 wherein the covalent immunoconjugate is T-DM1.