In one aspect, the present disclosure is directed to a compound of Formula I:

T–L–P

I

wherein:

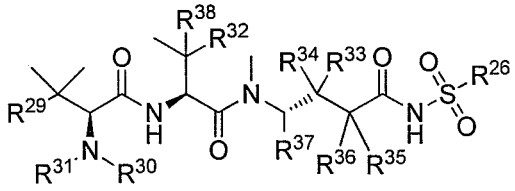
T is a targeting moiety comprising a VAR2CSA polypeptide, the VAR2CSA polypeptide comprising a sequential amino acid sequence of ID1 and DBL2Xb, and

L–P is L^1–P^1 or L^2–P^2;

wherein:

L^1 is a linker, or L^1 is absent;

P^1 is a monovalent radical of a compound of Formula XV:



XV

wherein:

R^{26} is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkylamino, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl and optionally substituted heteroaryl;

R^{29} is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkylamino, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl and optionally substituted heteroaryl;

R^{30} is selected from the group consisting of H and $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl;

R^{31} is selected from the group consisting of H and $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl;

R^{32} and R^{38} are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl and –SH, with the proviso that R^{32} and R^{38} cannot both be H;

R^{33}, R^{34}, R^{35} and R^{36} are each independently H or $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, wherein at least one of R^{33} and R^{34} is H; or R^{34} and R^{35} form a double bond, R^{33} is H, and R^{36} is H or $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl; an

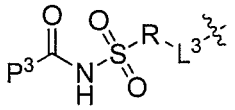
R^{37} is selected from the group consisting of H and C_{1-6} alkyl; or

wherein:

L^2 is a linker;

P^2 is a cytotoxic compound selected from a hemiasterlin, a hemiasterlin analog, a tubulysin, a tubulysin analog, an auristatin and an auristatin analog; and

L^2–P^2 has the following structure (III):



III

wherein:

R is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkylamino, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl and optionally substituted heteroaryl, or

R is absent;

P^3 is the remaining portion of compound P^2; and

L^3 is the remaining portion of linker L^2 or is absent.

In one aspect, the present disclosure is directed to a pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound as disclosed herein, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

In one aspect, the present disclosure is directed to a compound as disclosed herein or the pharmaceutical composition as disclosed herein for use in therapy.

In one aspect, the present disclosure is directed to the use of a compound as disclosed herein or the pharmaceutical composition as disclosed herein in the manufacture of a medicament for treating cancer in a mammal or inhibiting tumor growth in a mammal.

In one aspect, the present disclosure is directed to the use of a compound as disclosed herein or the pharmaceutical composition as disclosed herein in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an indication selected from: cancer, arthritis, arthrosis, multiple sclerosis, neural damage, cartilage damage, and psoriasis.

39. A compound of any one of claims 1 to 37 or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 38 for use in therapy.

40. Use of a compound of any one of claims 1 to 37 or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 38 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating cancer in a mammal or inhibiting tumor growth in a mammal.

41. The use according to claim 40, wherein said cancer is a carcinoma, a sarcoma, a hematopoietic cancer, or a tumor of neuroepithelial tissue.

42. Use of a compound of any one of claims 1 to 37 or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 38 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an indication selected from: cancer, arthritis, arthrosis, multiple sclerosis, neural damage, cartilage damage, and psoriasis.