WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising an intact and nonliving bacterial vesicle that encloses at least about 500,000 molecules of a fluorescent small molecule drug, which is not doxorubicin, irinotecan, bisantrene, topotecan, epirubicin, daunorubicin, mitoxantrone, Oregon Green® 488-conjugated paclitaxel, or BODIPY® FL-conjugated vinblastine.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the small molecule drug:

(a) is biologically active; and/or

(b) is cytotoxic; and/or

(c) is activated *in vivo*.

3. The composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein the small molecule drug is a morpholinyl anthracycline derivative.

4. The compostion of claim 3, wherein the small molecule drug is PNU-159682.

5. A composition comprising an intact bacterially derived minicell that encloses at least about 500,000 molecules of a compound of formula D-L-F or a salt thereof, wherein D is the residue of a small molecule drug, L is a linker, and F is a fluorescent moiety.

6. The composition of claim 5, wherein the linker has a half-life of between about 6 hours and about 24 hours.

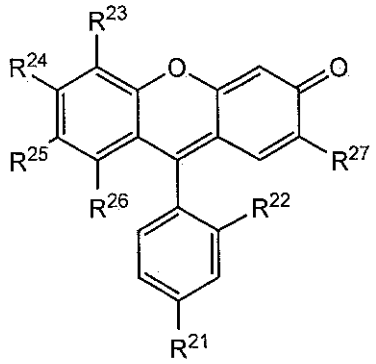
7. The composition of claim 5 or 6, wherein the linker is degraded in the endosome of a mammalian cell.

8. The composition of any one of claims 5-7, wherein:

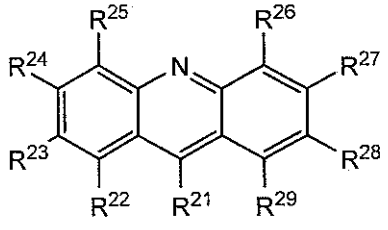
(a) the linker is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -OC(O)-$(CHR^{40})_qNR^{41}C(O)$- and -OC(O)-$(CHR^{40})_qC(O)NR^{41}$-$(CHR^{42})_u$-NH-C(S)-NH-, wherein R^{40}, R^{41} and R^{42} are independently -H or C_{1-4} alkyl, and q and u are independently 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7; or

(b) the linker is selected from the group consisting of -O-C(O)-(CH_2)NHC(O)- and -O-C(O)-$(CH_2)_3$C(O)NH-$(CH_2)_6$-NH-C(S)-NH-.

9. The composition of any one of claims 5-8, wherein the fluorescent moiety is:



or



wherein

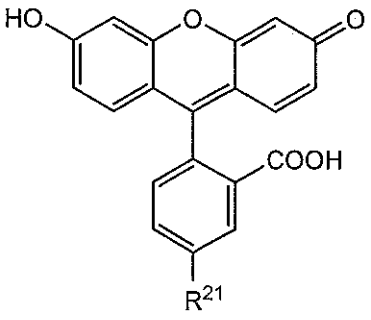
R^{21} is -H, -OH, -COOH, -O-C(O)-(C_{1-4} alkyl), -C(O)-O-(C_{1-4} alkyl), C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo, or -R^d;

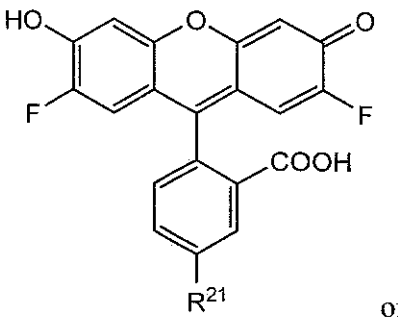
R^{22} is -H, -OH, -COOH, C_{1-4}alkyl, substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, -O-C(O)-(C_{1-4} alkyl), -O-C(O)-(substituted C_{1-4} alkyl), -C(O)-O-(C_{1-4} alkyl), -C(O)-O-(substituted C_{1-4} alkyl), -O-CH_2-O-(C_{1-4} alkyl), -S-CH_2-O-(C_{1-4} alkyl), or -R^d;

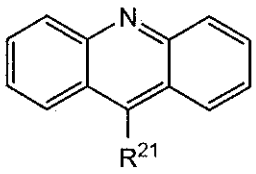
each R^{23}, R^{24}, R^{25}, R^{26}, R^{27}, R^{28} and R^{29} are independently -H, halo, -OH, -CH_3 or -R^d,

provided at least one of R^{21}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{24}, R^{25}, R^{26}, R^{27}, R^{28} and R^{29} is -R^d; wherein R^d is a point of connection to the linker.

10. The composition of any one of claims 5-9, wherein the fluorescent moiety is:

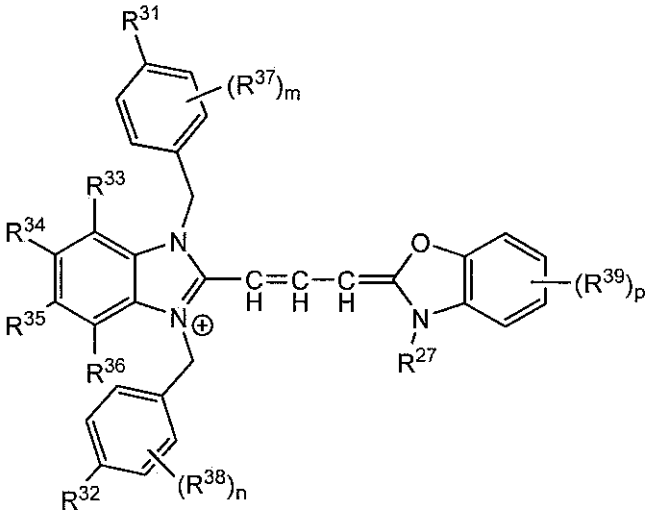


,


or


wherein R^{21} is the point of connection to the linker.

11. The composition of any one of claims 5-10, wherein the fluorescent moiety is:



wherein

R^{31} and R^{32} are independently -H, -OH, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, -O-C(O)-(C_{1-4} alkyl), -C(O)-O-(C_{1-4} alkyl), C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo, or -R^d;

R^{34} and R^{35} are independently -H, halo, -OH, -COOH, C_{1-4}alkyl, substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, -O-C(O)-(C_{1-4} alkyl), -C(O)-O-(C_{1-4} alkyl), -O-CH_2-O-(C_{1-4} alkyl), -S-CH_2-O-(C_{1-4} alkyl), or -R^d;

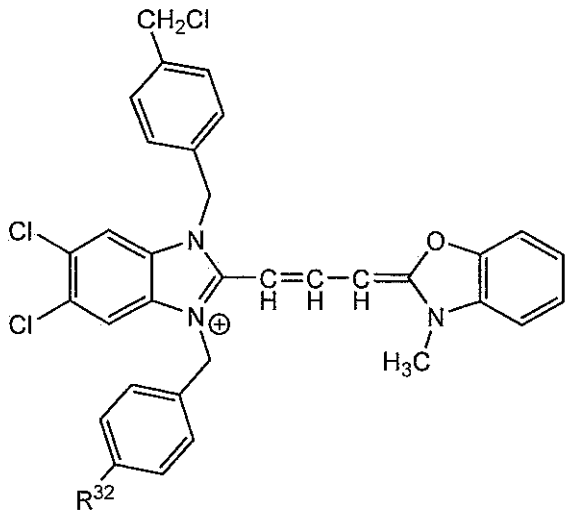
each R^{33} and R^{36} is independently -H, halo, -OH, -CH_3 or -R^d;

each R^{37}, R^{38} and R^{39} is independently halo, -OH, -CH_3 or -R^d;

each m, n, and p is independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

provided at least one of R^{31}, R^{32}, R^{34}, R^{34}, R^{35}, R^{36}, R^{37}, R^{38} and R^{39} is $-R^d$; wherein R^d is a point of connection to the linker.

12. The composition of claim 11, wherein the fluorescent moiety is:



wherein R^{32} is the point of connection to the linker.

13. A composition comprising an intact, bacterially derived minicell enclosing at least about 500,000 molecules of a compound that comprises an active agent bound through a linker to an energy transfer moiety, wherein the active agent is other than Oregon Green® 488-conjugated paclitaxel and BODIPY® FL-conjugated vinblastine.

14. The composition of claim 13, wherein the energy transfer moiety:

(a) is a light emitting moiety;

(b) comprises a conjugated pi system; and/or

(c) comprises an acridinyl moiety, a xanthenyl moiety, or a benzimidazolyl moiety.

15. Use of an effective amount of a composition according to any one of claims 1-14, wherein the compound is cytotoxic, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating cancer in a patient in need thereof.