CLAIMS

1. A dendrimer comprising:

i) a core unit (C); and

ii) building units (BU), each building unit being a lysine residue or an analogue thereof;

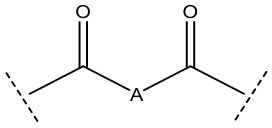
wherein the core unit is covalently attached to two building units *via* amide linkages, each amide linkage being formed between a nitrogen atom present in the core unit and the carbon atom of an acyl group present in a building unit;

the dendrimer being a five generation building unit dendrimer;

wherein building units of different generations are covalently attached to one another *via* amide linkages formed between a nitrogen atom present in one building unit and the carbon atom of an acyl group present in another building unit;

the dendrimer further comprising:

iii) a plurality of first terminal groups (T1) each comprising a residue of a nucleoside analogue, which nucleoside analogue has a hydroxyl group, covalently attached to a diacyl linker group of formula:



, wherein A is a C_2-C_{10} alkylene group which is interrupted by at least one O, S, NH, or N(Me), or in which A is a heterocycle selected from the group consisting of tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydrothiophene, pyrrolidine, and N-methylpyrrolidine; and

iv) a plurality of second terminal groups (T2) each comprising a hydrophilic polymeric group;

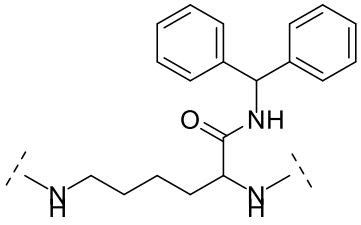
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A dendrimer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nucleoside analogue is selected from the group consisting of gemcitabine, cytarabine, and azacitadine.

3. A dendrimer as claimed in claim 2, wherein the nucleoside analogue is gemcitabine.

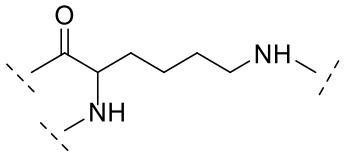
4. A dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the core unit is formed from a core unit precursor comprising two amino groups.

5. A dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the core unit is:



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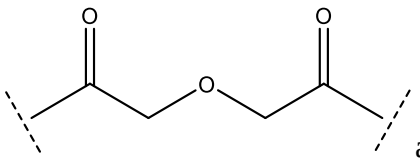
6. A dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the building units are each:



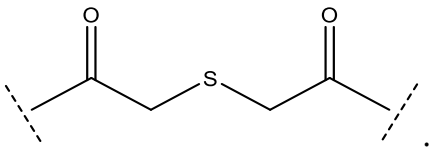
;

wherein the acyl group of each building unit provides a covalent attachment point for attachment to the core or to a previous generation building unit; and wherein each nitrogen atom provides a covalent attachment point for covalent attachment to a subsequent generation building unit, a first terminal group or a second terminal group.

7. A dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the diacyl linker is selected from the group consisting of:

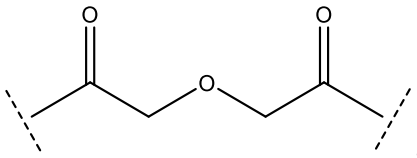


and



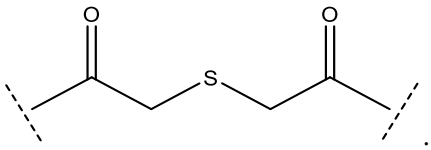
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8. A dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the diacyl linker is



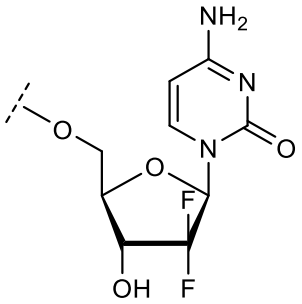
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9. A dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the diacyl linker is



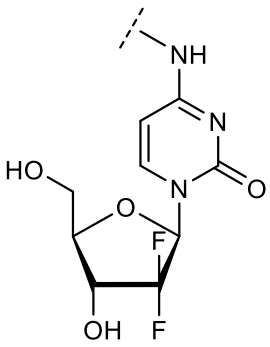
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10. A dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the nucleoside analogue is gemcitabine and is covalently attached to the diacyl linker group as shown below:



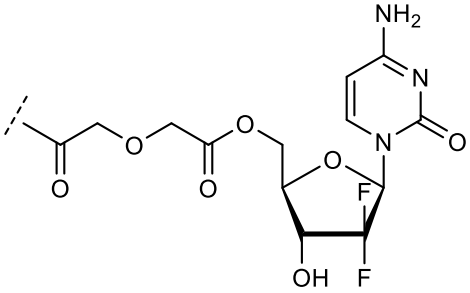
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11. A dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the nucleoside analogue is gemcitabine and is covalently attached to the diacyl linker group as shown below:



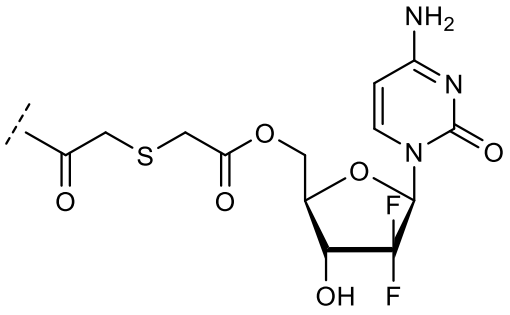
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12. A dendrimer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the first terminal group is:



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13. A dendrimer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the first terminal group is:

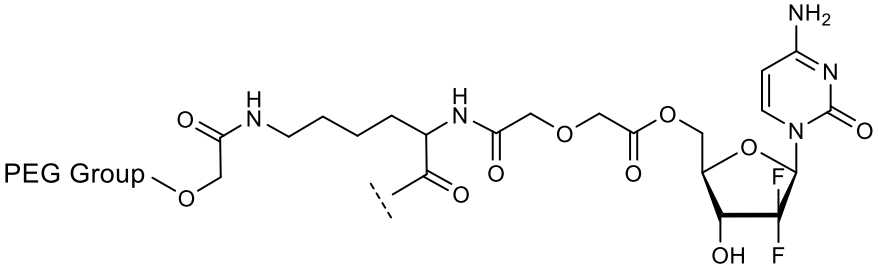


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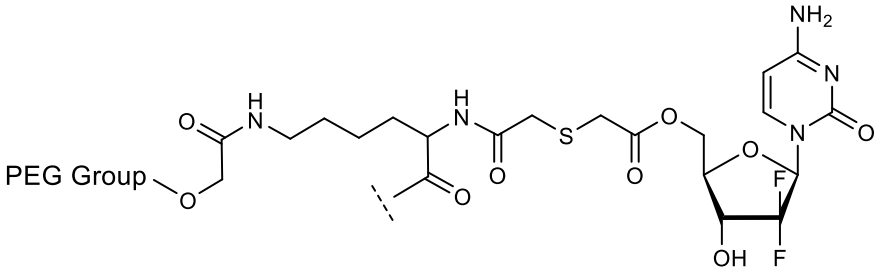
14. A dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the hydrophilic polymeric group is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol (PEG), polyethyloxazoline (PEOX), and polysarcosine.

15. A dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein the second terminal groups comprise PEG groups having a mean molecular weight of at least 500 Daltons.

16. A dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the dendrimer comprises surface units comprising an outer building unit attached to a first terminal group and a second terminal group, the surface units having the structure:



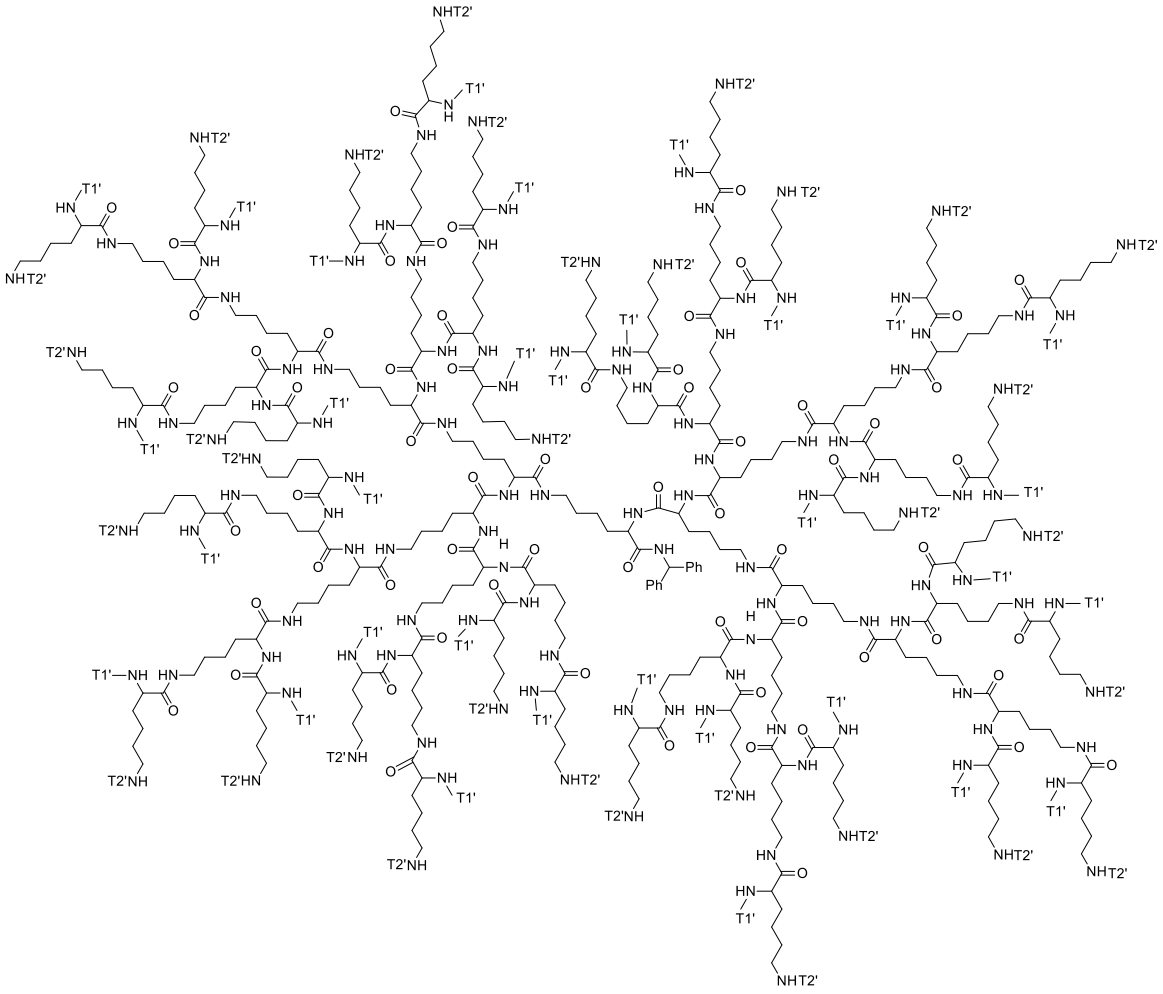
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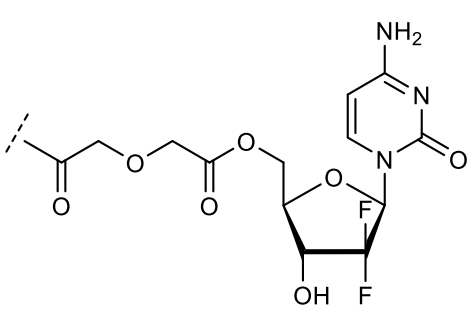
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and wherein the PEG group is a methoxy-terminated PEG having an average molecular weight in the range of from 500 to 2500 Daltons.

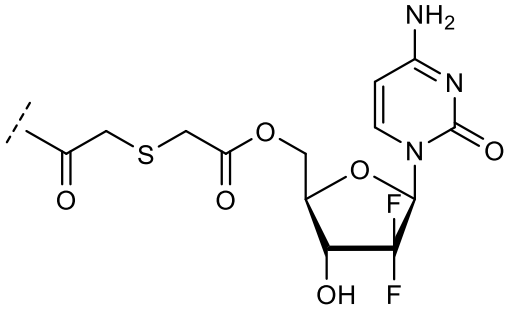
17. A dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the dendrimer is:



in which T1′ represents a first terminal group which is

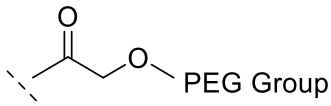


or



; and

T2′ represents a second terminal group which is



wherein the PEG group is a methoxy-terminated PEG having an average molecular weight in the range of from 500 to 2500 Daltons, or T2′ represents H, and wherein less than 5 of T2′ are H.

18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
i) a dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

19. Use of a dendrimer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17, or of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 18, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.

20. The use as claimed in claim 19, wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, ovarian cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, an upper gastrointestinal cancer (e.g. pancreatic cancer), and bladder cancer.

21. The use as claimed in claim 19 or 20, wherein the amount of dendrimer administered is sufficient to deliver an amount of active agent in the range of from 5 mg to 200 mg of nucleoside analogue/m^2.

22. The use as claimed in any one of claims 19 to 21, wherein the dendrimer is to be administered in combination with a further anticancer agent.

23. The use as claimed in claim 22, wherein the further anticancer agent is selected from the group consisting of platinum-containing pharmaceutical agents, taxanes, immunooncology agents, PARP inhibitors, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antibodies, antifolates, tyrosine kinase inhibitors, anthracyclines, and vinca alkaloids.

24. The use as claimed in claim 23, wherein the dendrimer is to be administered in combination with a further anticancer agent selected from the group consisting of capecitabine, Nab-paclitaxel (e.g. Abraxane®), docetaxel, cabazitaxel, doxorubicin, vindesine, irinotecan, folinic acid, 5-fluorouracil, methotrexate, pemetrexed, lapatinib, nintedanib, sunitinib, olaparib, niraparib, carboplatin, paclitaxel, SN38, cisplatin, oxaliplatin, paclitaxel, erlotinib, and irinotecan.