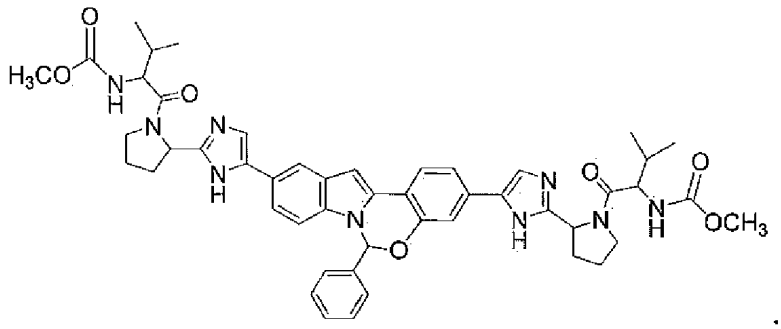
further includes methods of treating or reducing the likelihood or severity of HCV infection, methods for inhibiting the function of the NS5A protein, and methods for inhibiting HCV viral replication and/or viral production.

In another aspect, there is provided use of the compound as defined herein in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HCV infection. In another aspect, there is provided use of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound as defined herein in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HCV infection.

Other embodiments, aspects and features of the present disclosure are either further described in or will be apparent from the ensuing description, examples and appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound having the structure:



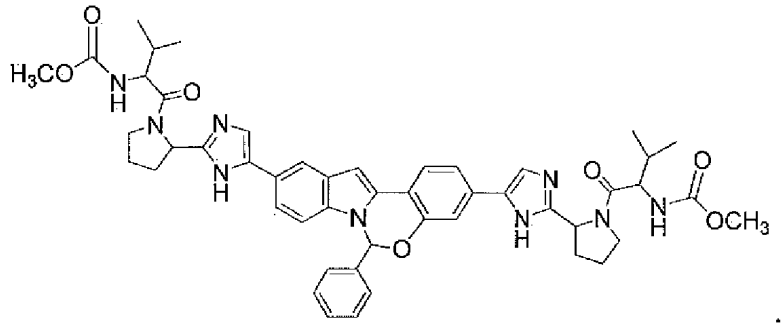
2. A pharmaceutical composition comprising (i) an amount of the compound of claim 1 effective for inhibition of HCV viral replication, and (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 2, further comprising one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of HCV antiviral agents, immunomodulators and anti-infective agents.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, wherein said one or more additional therapeutic agents is selected from the group consisting of HCV protease inhibitors and HCV NS5B polymerase inhibitors.

5. Use of the compound of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HCV infection.

6. A pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound having the structure:



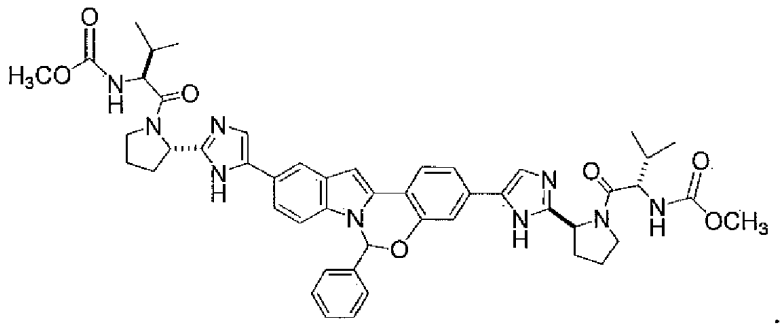
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising (i) an amount of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 6 effective for inhibition of HCV viral replication, and (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 7, further comprising one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of HCV antiviral agents, immunomodulators and anti-infective agents.

9. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, wherein said one or more additional therapeutic agents is selected from the group consisting of HCV protease inhibitors and HCV NS5B polymerase inhibitors.

10. Use of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 6 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HCV infection.

11. A compound having the structure:



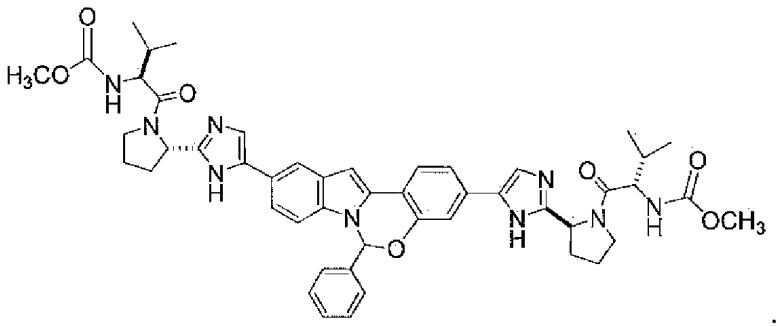
12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising (i) an amount of the compound of claim 11 effective for inhibition of HCV viral replication, and (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12, further comprising one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of HCV antiviral agents, immunomodulators and anti-infective agents.

14. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein said one or more additional therapeutic agents is selected from the group consisting of HCV protease inhibitors and HCV NS5B polymerase inhibitors.

15. Use of the compound of claim 11 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HCV infection.

16. A pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound having the structure:



17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising (i) an amount of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 16 effective for inhibition of HCV viral replication, and (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 17, further comprising one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of HCV antiviral agents, immunomodulators and anti-infective agents.

19. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 18, wherein said one or more additional therapeutic agents is selected from the group consisting of HCV protease inhibitors and HCV NS5B polymerase inhibitors.

20. Use of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 16 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HCV infection.