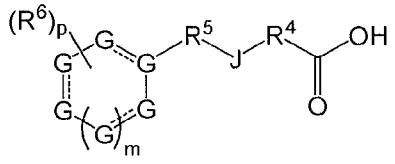
The NSAID of formula (III) may have a structure of formula (IIIa):



(IIIa)

where:

G at each occurrence is independently selected from the group consisting of a carbon atom and a heteroatom;

---------- represents an optional bond;

R^6 is a substituent group;

p represents the number of substituent groups and is an integer in the range of from 0 to 5;

m is 0 or 1; and

R^4, R^5 and J are as defined in formula (III).

In formula (IIIa), R^4 may be an optionally substituted C_1-C_2 hydrocarbyl, and J and ~~R^3~~ may each represent a bond.

In some specific embodiments of a polymer-NSAID conjugate of the invention, D is the acid residue of an alkanoic acid NSAID selected from the group consisting of aceclofenac, alminoprofen, amfenac, carprofen, diclofenac, enfenamic acid, etodolac, flufenamic acid, meclofenamic acid, mefenamic acid, niflumic acid, tolfenamic acid, bendazac, benoxaprofen, bermoprofen, bucloxic acid, butibufen, cinmetacin, clidanac, clopirac, dexibuprofen, dexketoprofen, felbinac, fenbufen, fenclozic acid, fenoprofen, fentiazac, flunoxaprofen, flunixin, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, indomethacin, isofezolac, isoxepac, ketoprofen, licofelone, lonazolac, loxoprofen, lumiracoxib, metiazinic acid, mofezolac, naproxen, oxaprozin, pirazolac, pirprofen, pranoprofen, protizinic acid, sulindac, suprofen, tiaprofenic acid, tolmetin, bermoprofen, bucloxic acid, isoxepac,

X is a bond or a linking group;

Ar is optionally substituted aryl;

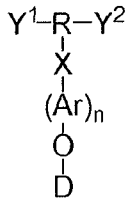
D is the carboxylic acid residue of the ester formed with a substituted alkanoic acid NSAID; and

n is an integer selected from 0 and 1,

with the *proviso* then when R comprises optionally substituted ~~aryl~~ then n is 1, and when R comprises optionally substituted aryl then n is 0 or 1,

with at least one monomer comprising compatible chemical functionality.

In accordance with another aspect the present invention also provides a method for preparing a polymer-NSAID conjugate comprising the step of polymerising a NSAID-monomer conjugate of formula (IV)



(IV)

where:

Y^1 and Y^2 each independently represent a terminal reactive functional group, or Y^1 and Y^2 together with R form part of a cyclic functional group capable of ring-opening;

R comprises an optionally substituted aliphatic or an optionally substituted aryl;

X is a bond or a linking group;

Ar is optionally substituted aryl;

D is the carboxylic acid residue of the ester formed with a substituted alkanoic acid NSAID; and

n is an integer selected from 0 and 1,

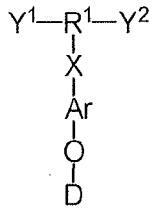
with the *proviso* then when R comprises optionally substituted ~~aryl~~ then n is 1, and when R comprises optionally substituted aryl then n is 0 or 1,

with at least one monomer comprising compatible chemical functionality.

In the NSAID-monomer conjugate of formula (IV), the groups R, X, Ar and D may be selected from any one of the groups described herein, subject to the *provisos* defined herein.

The acid residue of the drug is conjugated to a monomer *via* an aryl ester linking group. Examples of aryl ester groups (i.e. R^2-O-D or Ar-O-D groups) are discussed herein.

In some embodiments of a NSAID-monomer conjugate of formula (IV), R comprises an optionally substituted aliphatic and n is 1 such that the NSAID-monomer conjugate of formula (IV) has a structure of formula (IVa):



(IVa)

where:

Y^1 and Y^2 each independently represent a terminal reactive functional group, or Y^1 and Y^2 together with R form part of a cyclic functional group capable of ring-opening;

R^1 comprises an optionally substituted aliphatic;

X is a bond or a linking group;

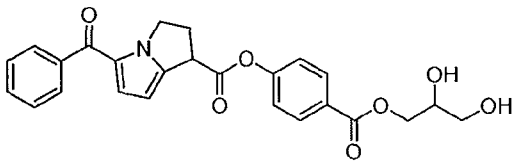
b) The general procedure for benzylidene acetal/acetonide deprotection (Procedure 5a) was followed, using 4-(((2-phenyl-1,3-dioxan-5-yl)oxy)carbonyl)phenyl 5-benzoyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolizine-1-carboxylate (357 mg, 0.642mmol) in 80% acetic acid (15 mL). The mixture was heated at 70°C for 25 hrs. The crude mixture was passed through a thin layer of silica gel (30% EtOAc / pet.spirit, followed by 10% MeOH / DCM as eluents). The MeOH/DCM washings were concentrated and dried *in vacuo*. The residue was purified on the automated flash chromatography system using 0-10% MeOH in DCM gradient elution to give the title compound, 4-(((1,3-dihydroxypropan-2-yl)oxy)carbonyl)phenyl 5-benzoyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolizine-1-carboxylate (KTC-PHB-2-MG) in 35% yield (105 mg, 0.234 mmol) as a yellow solid. ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz): δ (ppm) 2.12 (m, 2H), 2.89-2.98 (m, 1H), 3.04-3.12 (m, 1H), 3.98 (t, J = 4.7 Hz, 4H), 4.35 (dd, J = 8.9, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (ddd, J = 12.2, 8.4, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (ddd, J = 12.3, 8.5, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (p, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (dd, J = 4.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.57 (tt, J = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81-7.86 (m, 2H), 8.10-8.13 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz): δ 30.9, 42.9, 47.7, 62.7, 76.1, 103.5, 121.7, 125.2, 127.7, 127.8, 128.4, 129.1, 131.6, 131.7, 139.2, 141.2, 154.6, 165.8, 169.3, 185.3. IR ν_{max} (cm^{-1}): 3391, 2934, 1713, 1660, 1607, 1571, 1509, 1493, 1431, 1398, 1272, 1165, 1116, 1048, 892, 769, 725.

~~c) The general procedure for benzylidene acetal/acetonide deprotection (Procedure 5a) was followed, using 4-(((2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)methoxy)carbonyl)phenyl-5-benzoyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrollizine-1-carboxylate (0.3 g, 0.61 mmol) in 80% acetic acid. The mixture was heated at 42°C for 3h. The crude mixture was purified on the automated flash chromatography system using 0% – 10% MeOH in DCM gradient elution to give the title compound, 4-((2,3-Dihydroxypropoxy)carbonyl)phenyl 5-benzoyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolizine-1-carboxylate (KTC-PHB-1-MG) in 68% yield as clear pale yellow oil. ESI-MS: M+H^{+}=450.1; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 8.15 – 8.05 (m, 2H), 7.88 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.46 (tt, J = 6.7, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (dd, J = 4.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.73 – 4.60 (m, 1H), 4.59 – 4.29 (m, 4H), 4.13 – 4.01 (m, 1H), 3.72 (ddd, J = 17.2, 11.5, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 3.18 – 2.84 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 185.32, 169.31, 166.18, 154.6, 141.28, 139.18, 131.71, 131.58,~~

~~129.05, 128.36, 127.68, 127.66, 125.22, 121.66, 103.48, 70.42, 66.05, 63.50, 47.68, 42.85, 30.89.~~

Example 8:

4-((2,3-Dihydroxypropoxy)carbonyl)phenyl 5-benzoyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolizine-1-carboxylate (KTC-PHB-1-MG)



a) The general procedure for BOP-Cl coupling (Procedure 4) was followed, using ketorolac (0.399 g, 1.57mmol), BOP-Cl (0.398 g, 1.57 mmol), (2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4yl)methyl-4-hydroxybenzoate (Intermediate B) (0.395 g, 1.57 mmol) and triethylamine (0.317 g, 0.436 mL, 3.13 mmol) in anhydrous DCM (10 mL). The crude mixture was purified by on the automated flash chromatography system using 0% - 5% MeOH in DCM gradient elution to give 4-(((2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)methoxy)carbonyl)phenyl-5-benzoyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrollizine-1-carboxylate in 69% yield as a clear oil. LC-MS: $M+H^+$=490.2; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.34 – 7.94 (m, 2H), 7.94 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (ddd, *J* = 12.3, 8.5, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.59 – 4.28 (m, 5H), 4.14 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (ddt, *J* = 14.1, 8.5, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.00 – 2.86 (m, 1H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 185.25, 169.31, 165.58, 154.48, 141.26, 139.23, 131.68, 131.57, 129.05, 128.42, 128.35, 127.86, 127.69, 125.12, 122.00, 121.58, 110.06, 103.44, 73.78, 66.48, 65.38, 47.68, 42.86, 32.42, 30.90, 26.88, 26.32, 25.50.

p represents the number of substituent groups and is an integer in the range of from 0 to 5;

m is 0 or 1; and

R^4, R^5 and J are as defined in claim 18.

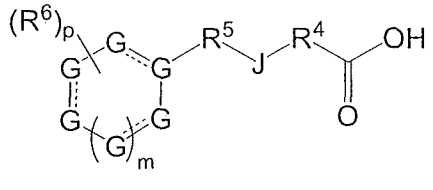
25. A polymer-NSAID conjugate according to claim 24, wherein R^4 is an optionally substituted C_1-C_2 hydrocarbyl, and J and ~~R^3~~ each represent a bond.

26. A polymer-NSAID conjugate according to any one of claims 2 to 20, wherein D is the acid residue of an alkanoic acid NSAID selected from the group consisting of aceclofenac, alminoprofen, amfenac, carprofen, diclofenac, enfenamic acid, etodolac, flufenamic acid, meclofenamic acid, mefenamic acid, niflumic acid, tolfenamic acid, , bendazac, benoxaprofen, bermoprofen, bucloxic acid, butibufen, cinmetacin, clidanac, clopirac, dexibuprofen, dexketoprofen, felbinac, fenbufen, fenclozic acid, fenoprofen, fentiazac, flunoxaprofen, flunixin, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, indomethacin, isofezolac, isoxepac, ketoprofen, licofelone, lonazolac, loxoprofen, lumiracoxib, metiazinic acid, mofezolac, naproxen, oxaprozin, pirazolac, pirprofen, pranoprofen, protizinic acid, sulindac, suprofen, , tiaprofenic acid, tolmetin, bermoprofen, bucloxic acid, isoxepac, ketoprofen, loxoprofen, zaltoprofen, balsalazide, fendosal, olsalazine, ximoprofen, mesalamine, sulfasalazine, acetylsalicylsalicylic acid, alclofenac, aspirin, benoxaprofen, 5-bromosalicylic acid acetate, cinchophen, diacerein, dipyrocetyl, fosfosal, ibufenac, indoprofen, clometacin, ketorolac, zomepirac, actarit, clonixin, salicylamide O-acetic acid, diflunisal, gentisic acid, and salsalate.

27. A polymer-NSAID conjugate according to any one of claims 2 to 26, wherein D is the acid residue of an alkanoic acid NSAID selected from the group consisting of diclofenac, ketorolac and indomethacin.

28. A polymer-NSAID conjugate comprising a biodegradable polymer backbone and a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) conjugated to the polymer backbone, wherein the polymer-NSAID conjugate is obtained by polymerising a NSAID-monomer conjugate of formula (IV):

The NSAID of formula (III) may have a structure of formula (IIIa):



(IIIa)

where:

G at each occurrence is independently selected from the group consisting of a carbon atom and a heteroatom;

..... represents an optional bond;

R^6 is a substituent group;

p represents the number of substituent groups and is an integer in the range of from 0 to 5;

m is 0 or 1; and

R^4, R^5 and J are as defined in formula (III).

In formula (IIIa), R^4 may be an optionally substituted C_1-C_2 hydrocarbyl, and J and R^5 may each represent a bond.

In some specific embodiments of a polymer-NSAID conjugate of the invention, D is the acid residue of an alkanoic acid NSAID selected from the group consisting of aceclofenac, alminoprofen, amfenac, carprofen, diclofenac, enfenamic acid, etodolac, flufenamic acid, meclofenamic acid, mefenamic acid, niflumic acid, tolfenamic acid, bendazac, benoxaprofen, bermoprofen, bucloxic acid, butibufen, cinmetacin, clidanac, clopirac, dexibuprofen, dexketoprofen, felbinac, fenbufen, fenclozic acid, fenoprofen, fentiazac, flunoxaprofen, flunixin, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, indomethacin, isofezolac, isoxepac, ketoprofen, licofelone, lonazolac, loxoprofen, lumiracoxib, metiazinic acid, mofezolac, naproxen, oxaprozin, pirazolac, pirprofen, pranoprofen, protizinic acid, sulindac, suprofen, tiaprofenic acid, tolmetin, bermoprofen, bucloxic acid, isoxepac,

X is a bond or a linking group;

Ar is optionally substituted aryl;

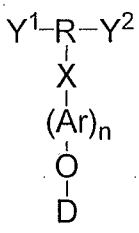
D is the carboxylic acid residue of the ester formed with a substituted alkanoic acid NSAID; and

n is an integer selected from 0 and 1,

with the *proviso* then when R comprises optionally substituted aliphatic then n is 1, and when R comprises optionally substituted aryl then n is 0 or 1,

with at least one monomer comprising compatible chemical functionality.

In accordance with another aspect the present invention also provides a method for preparing a polymer-NSAID conjugate comprising the step of polymerising a NSAID-monomer conjugate of formula (IV)



(IV)

where:

Y^1 and Y^2 each independently represent a terminal reactive functional group, or Y^1 and Y^2 together with R form part of a cyclic functional group capable of ring-opening;

R comprises an optionally substituted aliphatic or an optionally substituted aryl;

X is a bond or a linking group;

Ar is optionally substituted aryl;

D is the carboxylic acid residue of the ester formed with a substituted alkanoic acid NSAID; and

n is an integer selected from 0 and 1,

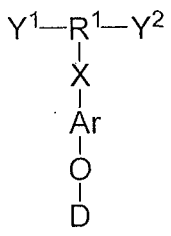
with the *proviso* then when R comprises optionally substituted aliphatic then n is 1, and when R comprises optionally substituted aryl then n is 0 or 1,

with at least one monomer comprising compatible chemical functionality.

In the NSAID-monomer conjugate of formula (IV), the groups R, X, Ar and D may be selected from any one of the groups described herein, subject to the *provisos* defined herein.

The acid residue of the drug is conjugated to a monomer *via* an aryl ester linking group. Examples of aryl ester groups (i.e. R^2-O-D or Ar-O-D groups) are discussed herein.

In some embodiments of a NSAID-monomer conjugate of formula (IV), R comprises an optionally substituted aliphatic and n is 1 such that the NSAID-monomer conjugate of formula (IV) has a structure of formula (IVa):



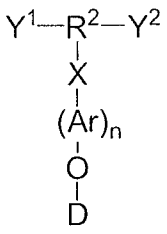
(IVa)

where:

Y^1 and Y^2 each independently represent a terminal reactive functional group, or Y^1 and Y^2 together with R^1 form part of a cyclic functional group capable of ring-opening;

R^1 comprises an optionally substituted aliphatic;

X is a bond or a linking group;



(IVd)

where:

Y^1 and Y^2 each independently represent a terminal reactive functional group, or Y^1 and Y^2 together with R^2 form part of a cyclic functional group capable of ring-opening;

R^2 comprises an optionally substituted aryl;

X is a bond or a linking group;

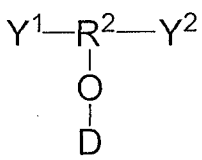
Ar is an optionally substituted aryl;

D is the carboxylic acid residue of the ester formed with a substituted alkanoic acid NSAID; and

n is an integer selected from 0 and 1,

with the *proviso* that when n is 0 then X is a bond.

In some embodiments of a NSAID-monomer conjugate of formula (IVd), n is 0. In such embodiments X is preferably a bond such that the group –O-D is directly attached to R^2 as illustrated in formula (IVe):



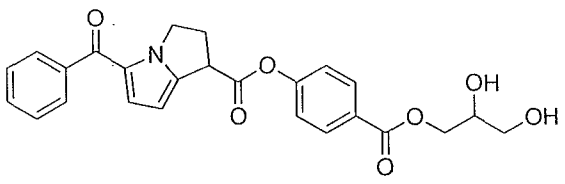
(IVe)

where Y^1, Y^2, R^2 and D are as defined in formula (IVd).

b) The general procedure for benzylidene acetal/acetonide deprotection (Procedure 5a) was followed, using 4-(((2-phenyl-1,3-dioxan-5-yl)oxy)carbonyl)phenyl 5-benzoyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolizine-1-carboxylate (357 mg, 0.642mmol) in 80% acetic acid (15 mL). The mixture was heated at 70°C for 25 hrs. The crude mixture was passed through a thin layer of silica gel (30% EtOAc / pet.spirit, followed by 10% MeOH / DCM as eluents). The MeOH/DCM washings were concentrated and dried *in vacuo.* The residue was purified on the automated flash chromatography system using 0-10% MeOH in DCM gradient elution to give the title compound, 4-(((1,3-dihydroxypropan-2-yl)oxy)carbonyl)phenyl 5-benzoyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolizine-1-carboxylate (KTC-PHB-2-MG) in 35% yield (105 mg, 0.234 mmol) as a yellow solid. ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz): δ (ppm) 2.12 (m, 2H), 2.89-2.98 (m, 1H), 3.04-3.12 (m, 1H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 4H), 4.35 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (ddd, *J* = 12.2, 8.4, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (ddd, *J* = 12.3, 8.5, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (p, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.57 (tt, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81-7.86 (m, 2H), 8.10-8.13 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz): δ 30.9, 42.9, 47.7, 62.7, 76.1, 103.5, 121.7, 125.2, 127.7, 127.8, 128.4, 129.1, 131.6, 131.7, 139.2, 141.2, 154.6, 165.8, 169.3, 185.3. IR ν_{max} (cm^{-1}): 3391, 2934, 1713, 1660, 1607, 1571, 1509, 1493, 1431, 1398, 1272, 1165, 1116, 1048, 892, 769, 725.

Example 8:

4-((2,3-Dihydroxypropoxy)carbonyl)phenyl 5-benzoyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolizine-1-carboxylate (KTC-PHB-1-MG)



a) The general procedure for BOP-Cl coupling (Procedure 4) was followed, using ketorolac (0.399 g, 1.57mmol), BOP-Cl (0.398 g, 1.57 mmol), (2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4yl)methyl-4-hydroxybenzoate (Intermediate B) (0.395 g, 1.57 mmol) and triethylamine (0.317 g, 0.436 mL, 3.13 mmol) in anhydrous DCM (10 mL). The crude mixture was purified by on the automated flash chromatography system using 0% -

5% MeOH in DCM gradient elution to give 4-(((2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)methoxy)carbonyl)phenyl-5-benzoyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrollizine-1-carboxylate in 69% yield as a clear oil. LC-MS: $M+H^+$=490.2; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.34 – 7.94 (m, 2H), 7.94 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (ddd, *J* = 12.3, 8.5, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.59 – 4.28 (m, 5H), 4.14 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (ddt, *J* = 14.1, 8.5, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.00 – 2.86 (m, 1H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 185.25, 169.31, 165.58, 154.48, 141.26, 139.23, 131.68, 131.57, 129.05, 128.42, 128.35, 127.86, 127.69, 125.12, 122.00, 121.58, 110.06, 103.44, 73.78, 66.48, 65.38, 47.68, 42.86, 32.42, 30.90, 26.88, 26.32, 25.50.

b) The general procedure for benzylidene acetal/acetonide deprotection (Procedure 5a) was followed, using 4-(((2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)methoxy)carbonyl)phenyl-5-benzoyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrollizine-1-carboxylate (0.3 g, 0.61 mmol) in 80% acetic acid. The mixture was heated at 42°C for 3h. The crude mixture was purified on the automated flash chromatography system using 0% - 10% MeOH in DCM gradient elution to give the title compound, 4-((2,3-Dihydroxypropoxy)carbonyl)phenyl 5-benzoyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolizine-1-carboxylate (KTC-PHB-1-MG) in 68% yield as clear pale yellow oil. ESI-MS: $M+H^+$=450.1; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 8.15 – 8.05 (m, 2H), 7.88 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.46 (tt, *J* = 6.7, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.73 – 4.60 (m, 1H), 4.59 – 4.29 (m, 4H), 4.13 – 4.01 (m, 1H), 3.72 (ddd, *J* = 17.2, 11.5, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 3.18 – 2.84 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 185.32, 169.31, 166.18, 154.6, 141.28, 139.18, 131.71, 131.58, 129.05, 128.36, 127.68, 127.66, 125.22, 121.66, 103.48, 70.42, 66.05, 63.50, 47.68, 42.85, 30.89.

p represents the number of substituent groups and is an integer in the range of from 0 to 5;

m is 0 or 1; and

R^4, R^5 and J are as defined in claim 18.

25. A polymer-NSAID conjugate according to claim 24, wherein R^4 is an optionally substituted C_1-C_2 hydrocarbyl, and J and R^5 each represent a bond.

26. A polymer-NSAID conjugate according to any one of claims 2 to 20, wherein D is the acid residue of an alkanoic acid NSAID selected from the group consisting of aceclofenac, alminoprofen, amfenac, carprofen, diclofenac, enfenamic acid, etodolac, flufenamic acid, meclofenamic acid, mefenamic acid, niflumic acid, tolfenamic acid, , bendazac, benoxaprofen, bermoprofen, bucloxic acid, butibufen, cinmetacin, clidanac, clopirac, dexibuprofen, dexketoprofen, felbinac, fenbufen, fenclozic acid, fenoprofen, fentiazac, flunoxaprofen, flunixin, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, indomethacin, isofezolac, isoxepac, ketoprofen, licofelone, lonazolac, loxoprofen, lumiracoxib, metiazinic acid, mofezolac, naproxen, oxaprozin, pirazolac, pirprofen, pranoprofen, protizinic acid, sulindac, suprofen, , tiaprofenic acid, tolmetin, bermoprofen, bucloxic acid, isoxepac, ketoprofen, loxoprofen, zaltoprofen, balsalazide, fendosal, olsalazine, ximoprofen, mesalamine, sulfasalazine, acetylsalicylsalicylic acid, alclofenac, aspirin, benoxaprofen, 5-bromosalicylic acid acetate, cinchophen, diacerein, dipyrocetyl, fosfosal, ibufenac, indoprofen, clometacin, ketorolac, zomepirac, actarit, clonixin, salicylamide O-acetic acid, diflunisal, gentisic acid, and salsalate.

27. A polymer-NSAID conjugate according to any one of claims 2 to 26, wherein D is the acid residue of an alkanoic acid NSAID selected from the group consisting of diclofenac, ketorolac and indomethacin.

28. A polymer-NSAID conjugate comprising a biodegradable polymer backbone and a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) conjugated to the polymer backbone, wherein the polymer-NSAID conjugate is obtained by polymerising a NSAID-monomer conjugate of formula (IV):