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Fortsættes ...

Description**PRIORITY CLAIM**

5 **[0001]** This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/368,156, filed July 28, 2016, and to U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/260,104, filed November 25, 2015.

FIELD

10 **[0002]** The present disclosure relates to pharmaceuticals. More specifically, this disclosure relates to formulations for antibody-drug conjugates and antibody-drug conjugate compositions for use in methods.

BACKGROUND

15 **[0003]** In recent years, the treatment of cancer has become more targeted through the development of antibody-drug conjugates (herein referred to as "ADCs," "conjugates," or "immunoconjugates"). Researchers have identified and taken advantage of cell-surface receptors and antigens selectively expressed by cancer cells to develop drugs based on antibodies that bind tumor-specific or tumor-associated antigens. This specific binding allows for the delivery to the cancer cells of cytotoxic compounds linked to the antibody. The selectivity afforded by ADCs minimizes toxicity to normal cells, thereby enhancing tolerability of the drug in the patient.

20 **[0004]** By way of example, WO2015/075201A1 describes surfactant free lyophilized formulations of antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs), such as anti-tissue factor ADCs, and reconstituted formulations, processes and uses thereof. The formulations are particularly suitable for an anti-TF ADC based on an auristatin derivative or other similarly hydrophobic drug. Typically, the excipients of the formulations comprise or consist of histidine, sucrose, trehalose, mannitol and glycine. WO2015/104385A2 relates to duocarmycin-containing antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) for use in the treatment of human solid tumours and haematological malignancies expressing HER2. In particular, this document describes duocarmycin-containing ADCs for use in the treatment of human solid tumours with HER2 IHC 2+ or 1+ and HER2 FISH negative tissue status.

25 Despite the tumor selectivity afforded by ADCs, the use of ADCs in a clinical context is limited by a number of factors. Among those factors is the ability of the ADCs to aggregate and reversibly self-associate. ADCs are able to aggregate to each other through various mechanisms, including covalent bonding and hydrophobic interactions. ADCs are also able to reversibly self-associate through weak interactions that create equilibrium between monomers and higher ordered species. In either case, aggregation and reversible self-association inhibit the ability of the ADC to bind to the target, thereby reducing the clinical efficacy of the ADC. Accordingly, researchers continue to work to discover ways to limit aggregation and reversible self-association of the ADCs and increase the efficacy of ADCs.

SUMMARY

30 **[0005]** This disclosure is directed to ADC compositions with reduced reversible self-association, such compositions for use in methods of treating cancer, methods of formulating such compositions, and methods of reducing reversible self-association.

According to a first aspect of the disclosure, there is provided an aqueous formulation as defined in claim 1. Further embodiments of the invention claimed herein are set out in claims 2 to 10.

35 The composition has a pH between about 4.0 and about 4.5. The formulation comprises a benzodiazepine, which is an indolinobenzodiazepine. The benzodiazepine is selected from the group consisting of D5 and D5(a), which are described below in Table 1. In particular, the ADC is selected from the group consisting of Ab-Cys-D5 and Ab-Cys-D5(a), which are described below in Table 2. The composition is an aqueous solution. The antibody is a humanized CD123 antibody. In certain examples, the antibody is a humanized CD123 antibody described in PCT Application Publication No. WO2017004026A1. As used herein, "AbX" refers to humanized CD123 antibodies described in PCT Application Publication No. WO2017004026A1. The AbX antibody present in the claimed formulation comprises the CDR sequences defined in claim 1. In some embodiments, the AbX antibody comprises the heavy chain variable region domain sequences and light chain variable region domain sequences disclosed herein. In further embodiments, the composition is a reconstituted lyophilized composition.

40 **[0006]** The number of benzodiazepines per antibody in an ADC can vary. In some embodiments, the ADC comprises at least one benzodiazepine. In certain embodiments, the ADC comprises at least two benzodiazepines. In further embodiments, the ADC comprises at least three benzodiazepines. In still further embodiments, the ADC comprises at least four benzodiazepines. In other embodiments, the ADC comprises at least five benzodiazepines. In certain embodiments, the ADC comprises at least six benzodiazepines. In some embodiments, the ADC comprises about seven

benzodiazepines. In compositions comprising more than one ADC, the average number of benzodiazepines per antibody can be measured. This number is referred to as the drug-to-antibody ratio, or "DAR." In some embodiments, a composition comprising more than one ADC has a DAR between about 1 and about 4. In some embodiments, a composition comprising more than one ADC has a DAR between 0 and about 1. In other embodiments, a composition comprising more than one ADC has a DAR between about 1 and about 2. In still other embodiments, a composition comprising more than one ADC has a DAR between about 2 and about 3. In further embodiments, a composition comprising more than one ADC has a DAR of between about 3 and about 4. In still further embodiments, a composition comprising more than one ADC has a DAR between about 4 and about 5. In yet further embodiments, a composition comprising more than one ADC has a DAR between about 5 and about 6. In some embodiments the benzodiazepine is conjugated to the antibody in a site-specific manner, for example, through conjugation to an engineered cysteine or serine residue.

[0007] It has been discovered that compositions comprising an ADC exhibit reduced reversible self-association when formulated with a buffer (e.g., succinate buffer) at a pH ranging from about 4.0 to about 4.5. Accordingly, the first aspect of this disclosure is directed to compositions comprising an ADC comprising a benzodiazepine, wherein the ADC exhibits reversible self-association, and a buffer, wherein the composition has a pH ranging from about 4.0 to about 4.5. The benzodiazepine is selected from the group consisting of D5 and D5(a). In particular, the ADC is selected from the group consisting of Ab-Cys-D5 and Ab-Cys-D5(a). The antibody is a humanized CD123 antibody. In certain examples, the antibody is AbX and refers to humanized CD123 antibodies described in PCT Application Publication no. WO2017004026A1. The AbX antibody comprises the CDR sequences defined in claim 1. In some embodiments, the AbX antibody comprises the heavy chain variable region domain sequences and light chain variable region domain sequences disclosed herein.

[0008] The composition further comprises a sugar. The sugar is trehalose. In particular, the trehalose is trehalose dihydrate. The buffer is succinate. The composition is an aqueous formulation. In some embodiments, the composition further comprises a bulking agent. In certain embodiments, the bulking agent is glycine. In other embodiments, the bulking agent is mannitol.

[0009] In particular, the aqueous formulation comprises (a) water; (b) AbX-D5 or AbX-D5(a); (c) 10 mM sodium succinate; and (d) 8% trehalose, wherein the formulation has a pH ranging from about 4.0 to about 4.5 and optionally includes 2 - 200 μ M sodium bisulfite. In some embodiments, the aqueous formulation comprises (a) water; (b) 2 mg/mL AbX-D5 or AbX-D5(a); (c) 10 mM sodium succinate; (d) 8% trehalose dihydrate; (e) 50 μ M sodium bisulfite; and 0.01% (w/v) polysorbate 20, wherein the formulation has a pH of about 4.2. In some embodiments, the composition is a lyophilized composition of any of the aqueous compositions described herein. In some embodiments, the pH of any of the compositions described above is 4.2. The AbX antibody comprises the CDR sequences defined in claim 1. In some embodiments, the AbX antibody comprises the heavy chain variable region domain sequences and light chain variable region domain sequences disclosed herein.

[0010] In some embodiments, the composition further comprises a surfactant. In some embodiments, the surfactant is 0.01% polysorbate 20. In some embodiments, the composition further comprises sodium bisulfite. In some embodiments, the composition comprises 2 - 200 μ M sodium bisulfite. In other embodiments, the composition further comprises 5 - 100 μ M sodium bisulfite. In certain embodiments, the composition further comprises about 50 μ M sodium bisulfite.

[0011] In some embodiments, the pH of the composition is about 4.2. In some embodiments, the aqueous formulation comprises (a) water; (b) 2 mg/mL AbX-D5 or AbX-D5(a); (c) 10 mM sodium succinate; (d) 8% trehalose dihydrate; (e) 50 μ M sodium bisulfite; and 0.01% (w/v) polysorbate 20, wherein the formulation has a pH of about 4.2.

[0012] Another example of this disclosure is directed to a method of reducing reversible self association, comprising (a) providing an ADC comprising a benzodiazepine in an aqueous solution at a first pH, wherein the ADC exhibits reversible self association; and (b) adjusting the pH of the aqueous solution to a second pH ranging from about 4.0 to about 4.5, wherein the adjustment of the pH from the first pH to the second pH reduces reversible self association. In some examples, the second pH is about 4.2.

[0013] In some examples of the disclosed methods, the benzodiazepine is selected from the group consisting of D5 and D5(a). In some examples, the ADC is selected from the group consisting of Ab-Cys-D5 and Ab-Cys-D5(a).

[0014] In some examples, the reversible self association is reduced by about 70% to about 80%. In further examples, the reversible self association is reduced by about 80% to about 90%. In yet further examples, the reversible self association is reduced by about 90% to 100%.

[0015] In some examples, the method further comprises lyophilizing the aqueous solution, thereby creating a lyophilized composition. In still further examples, the method also comprises reconstituting the lyophilized composition.

[0016] The ADC comprises a humanized CD123 antibody. In some examples, the humanized CD123 antibody is AbX. In some examples, the AbX antibody comprises the CDR sequences disclosed herein. In some examples, the AbX antibody comprises the heavy chain variable region domain sequences and light chain variable region domain sequences disclosed herein.

This disclosure is further directed to a composition comprising (a) an ADC comprising a benzodiazepine and (b) trehalose, wherein the composition has a pH range from about 4.0 to about 4.5. The composition further comprises sodium succinate.

In some embodiments, the composition further comprises sodium bisulfite. In further embodiments, the composition further comprises a surfactant. The benzodiazepine is selected from the group consisting of D5 and D5(a). In particular, the ADC is selected from the group consisting of Ab-Cys-D5 and Ab-Cys-DS(a).

5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0017]

10 FIG. 1 shows the dynamic light scattering plot of a reversible self-associating system using huM9-6-sSPDB-DGN462 as an example.

FIGS. 2A and 2B show the SV-AUC distribution of a reversibly self-associating system using huM9-6-sSPDB-DGN462 as an example.

15 FIG. 3 shows the changes in hydrodynamic diameter in relation to drug-to-antibody ratio as measured by dynamic light scattering.

FIG. 4 shows the dynamic light scattering plot of different ADC compositions.

20 FIG. 5 shows the SV-AUC distribution of different ADC compositions.

FIG. 6 shows the mass spectrometry data for deglycosylated huMOV19-90 conjugate.

25 FIG. 7 shows the mass spectrometry data for deglycosylated huMov19-sSPDB-107 conjugate.

FIG. 8 shows the dynamic light scattering plot of different ADC compositions.

FIG. 9 shows the dynamic light scattering plot of different ADC compositions.

30 FIG. 10 shows data obtained from an assessment of RSA for a succinate-trehalose formulation over a range of pH.

FIG. 11 shows RSA of ADC in 10 mM Sodium succinate, 8% trehalose, 0.01% Polysorbate-20, pH 4.0

35 DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0018] Unless otherwise defined, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this disclosure pertains. Although methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the present invention, exemplary suitable methods and materials are described below. In case of conflict, the present specification, including definitions, will control.
40 In addition, the materials, methods, and examples are illustrative only and not intended to be limiting.

Definitions

[0019] As used herein, the terms "a" or "an" mean one or more unless these terms are otherwise limited in their use.

45 [0020] As used herein, the term "about" means $\pm 10\%$ of a stated value.

[0021] As used herein, the term "subject" means a human or an animal. Exemplary animals include, but are not limited to, mammals such as mouse, rat, guinea pig, dog, cat, horse, cow, pig, monkey, chimpanzee, baboon, or rhesus monkey.

[0022] As used herein, the term "pharmaceutical formulation" refers to a preparation in a form that may be administered to a subject while allowing the biological activity of the active ingredient to be effective.

50 [0023] As used herein, the term "therapeutically effective amount" refers to an amount of a drug that is effective to treat a disease or disorder.

[0024] As used herein, "treat", "treating" or "treatment" refers to the reduction, amelioration, or improvement of a disease or disorder, or the reduction, amelioration, or improvement of at least one symptom of a disease or disorder.

55 [0025] As used herein, the term "irreversible aggregate" refers to non-covalent aggregation typically resulting from a hydrophobic interaction due to partial unfolding.

[0026] As used herein, the term "chimeric antibody" refers to an antibody wherein the amino acid sequence of the immunoglobulin molecule is derived from two or more species. Typically, the variable region of both light and heavy chains corresponds to the variable region of antibodies derived from one species of mammals (e.g., mouse, rat, rabbit,

etc.) with the desired specificity, affinity, and capability while the constant regions are homologous to the sequences in antibodies derived from another (usually human) to avoid or reduce the chance of eliciting an immune response in that species (e.g., human). In certain examples, a chimeric antibody may include an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprising at least one human heavy and/or light chain polypeptide, such as, for example, an antibody comprising murine light chain and human heavy chain polypeptides.

[0027] As used herein, the term "antigen-binding fragment" of an antibody refers to one or more fragments of an antibody that retain the ability to specifically bind to an antigen.

[0028] As used herein, "polyclonal" antibodies refer to heterogeneous populations of antibody, typically contained in the sera of immunized animals.

[0029] As used herein, "monoclonal" antibodies refer to homogenous populations of antibody molecules that are specific to a particular antigen.

[0030] As used herein, the terms "linker," "linking group," or "linking moiety" refer to a moiety that connects two groups, such as an antibody and a cytotoxic compound, together.

[0031] As used herein, the terms "cancer" and "cancerous" refer to or describe the physiological condition in mammals in which a population of cells are characterized by unregulated cell growth. Cancer can include a hematological cancer or a solid tumor.

Aggregates and Reversible Self-Association

[0032] Development of commercially viable and clinically useful ADC compositions is complicated by the unpredictable behaviors of different antibodies and ADCs during formulation. The ability of antibodies and ADCs to aggregate and reversibly self-associate can lead to many undesirable effects commercially and clinically. Aggregation and reversible self-association can lead to reduced potency, decreased stability, increased toxicity, increased viscosity, discoloration of solution, and other undesirable effects. In some circumstances, aggregates can trigger an immune system response, a potential safety concern in patients.

[0033] Covalent aggregates occur through the formation of a chemical bond between at least two monomers. For example, covalent aggregates can result from disulfide bonds formed between unpaired cysteines on a monomer, or as a result of intermolecular disulfide scrambling, or through thioether linking.

[0034] In certain instances, aggregation is irreversible. The irreversible aggregation of immunoglobulins leads to decreased activity or functionality of the immunoglobulins in formulations. Irreversible aggregates can be inhibited by agents such as urea, guanidine, or sodium dodecyl sulfate ("SDS"), but not through reducing the concentration of the antibody.

[0035] Reversible self-association ("RSA") occurs as a result of an ADC's ability to form oligomeric species through weak, non-covalent intermolecular interactions. The amount of these interactions for any given ADC in solution depends on a variety of factors, including the antibody itself (e.g., primary and secondary structures) and solution characteristics such as pH, as well as ADC concentration. Furthermore, it has been discovered that the amount and extent of the self-association varies by ADC depending on the characteristics of the cytotoxic compound and the antibody. Cytotoxic compounds that are hydrophobic, insoluble, and/or comprise multiple aromatic rings can increase RSA. Therefore, more hydrophobic ADCs have an increased tendency to reversibly self-associate in solution. The ADCs self-associate and attain equilibrium in solution between monomers and in higher ordered oligomeric species.

[0036] ADC reversible self-association has numerous detrimental effects in formulations. RSA can create problems for manufacturing, stability, delivery, and safety of the ADC in a therapeutic context. From a delivery perspective, RSA can increase the viscosity of a solution, which can impede the plunger of a pre-filled syringe. From a stability and safety perspective, RSA can reduce potency (because the oligomeric species do not function therapeutically) and increase the possibility of triggering an immune response.

[0037] Researchers have several methods at their disposal to assess the amount of ADC monomer in solution. For example, the amount of ADC monomer in solution can be measured by size exclusion chromatography (both SEC and SEC-MS) and sedimentation velocity (SV). Under SEC analysis, ADC aggregates elute more quickly than ADC monomers that are smaller and able to travel deeper into the pores of the SEC packing material. SEC can provide good separation between aggregates and monomers, thereby providing a good estimation of the amount of monomer in the solution.

[0038] As explained in greater detail in the Examples below, SV analyzes the behavior of the ADC in solution by applying angular acceleration to the solution (generally through centrifugation) to cause the ADCs to sediment. Generally, larger particles, e.g., ADC aggregates or reversibly self-associated oligomers, sediment more quickly. Therefore, SV can be used to assess the amount of ADC monomer in solution because the aggregates and oligomers sediment more quickly than the monomers.

[0039] In some instances, SEC or SEC-MS and SV may give different monomer percentages for the same antibody. Such discrepancies can indicate the presence of reversibly self-associating monomers. Moreover, changes in concentration and solution characteristics typically reduce RSA, but may not affect the amount of either covalent or irreversible aggregates present.

[0040] Multiangle Light Scattering ("MALS") can be used to determine the amount of reversibly associated oligomers in a given solution based on how the monomers and the oligomers of different order scatter light. As the concentration of an antibody in solution increases, MALS typically detects the increase of a species of higher molecular weight, *e.g.*, an oligomer, than the monomer. This increase indicates an increase in RSA.

[0041] Dynamic Light Scattering ("DLS") can also be used to determine the existence and extent of RSA in a solution. DLS involves measuring the time-dependent change in intensity of light scattered by a species in solution. Typically, DLS-measuring instruments yield the hydrodynamic diameter of a particle. As the concentration of an antibody in solution increases, a DLS-measuring instrument will detect an increased presence of species having greater hydrodynamic diameters, *e.g.*, oligomers. This increase indicates an increase in RSA. DLS-measuring instruments can also be used to determine the diffusion coefficients of the species in solution. Diffusion coefficients decrease with increased antibody concentration, indicating the existence of RSA.

ADCs

[0042] This disclosure is directed to ADCs, compositions comprising ADCs, methods of treating, methods of formulating ADC compositions, and methods of reducing RSA in ADCs. ADCs comprise an antibody, or an antibody fragment, conjugated to a cytotoxic compound. In some examples, the cytotoxic compound is conjugated to an antibody via a linker. In other examples, the cytotoxic compound is linked directly to the antibody. The types of antibodies, linkers, and cytotoxic compounds encompassed by this disclosure are described below.

Antibodies

[0043] Disclosed herein are compositions that comprise antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof. Antibodies are large glycoproteins that can exist as soluble and membrane-bound forms and comprise five natural isotypes - IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG, and IgM, based on the identity of their heavy-chain constant domains referred to as alpha, delta, epsilon, gamma, and mu, respectively. The different classes of immunoglobulins have different and well-known subunit structures and three-dimensional configurations. As one of ordinary skill in the art will recognize, the disclosed compositions can comprise polyclonal antibodies and monoclonal antibodies. In particular examples, the antibodies comprise antibodies such as multispecific antibodies such as bispecific antibodies, chimeric antibodies, humanized antibodies, and human antibodies. The compositions can also comprise antibodies that have one or more conservative or non-conservative amino acid substitutions. Furthermore, the compositions can comprise modified glycosylation at one or more amino acid residues. Such modified antibodies or binding fragments fall within the scope of the compositions disclosed herein so long as the modified antibodies exhibit the desired biological activity.

[0044] As used herein, a "humanized" antibody is one in which the complementarity-determining regions (CDRs) of a mouse monoclonal antibody, which form the antigen binding loops of the antibody, are grafted onto the framework of a human antibody molecule or where the variable domains of the framework of a murine antibody have been resurfaced (*i.e.*, the exposed residues are replaced with the residues that are present in the corresponding positions of human antibodies). See, *e.g.*, Roguska et.al, Protein Engineering, Vol 9. No. 10, pp. 895-904, 1996.

[0045] Exemplary antibodies include humanized monoclonal antibodies, examples of which include, huMy9-6, huB4, huDS6, huMov19, and huCD37-3. Exemplary antibodies also include humanized CD123 antibodies, exemplary sequences of which are described in PCT publication no. WO2017004026A1 and are referred to herein as "AbX".

[0046] Specific examples of humanized CD123 antibodies (AbX) described in PCT application no. WO2017004026A1 and included in the AbX embodiments described herein are:

[0047] Humanized CD123 antibodies that include the following heavy chain variable region CDR amino acid sequences:

V_H CDR1: SSIMH (Reference Sequence 1 - SEQ ID NO: 1)

V_H CDR2: YIKPYNDGTYNEKFKG (Reference Sequence 2 - SEQ ID NO: 2)

V_H CDR3: EGGNDYYDTMDY (Reference Sequence 3 - SEQ ID NO: 3)

[0048] Humanized CD123 antibodies that include the following light chain variable region CDR amino acid sequences:

V_L CDR1: RASQDINSYLS (Reference Sequence 4 - SEQ ID NO: 4)

V_L CDR2: RVNRLVD (Reference Sequence 5 - SEQ ID NO: 5)

V_L CDR3: LQYDAFPYT (Reference Sequence 6 - SEQ ID NO: 6)

[0049] Humanized anti-CD123 antibodies that include the following heavy chain variable region amino acid sequences:

AbX₁:

5 Q(F/V)QLVQSGAEVKKPGASVKV SCKASGYIFTSSIMHWVRQAPGQGLEWIGYIKPYND
GTKYNEKFKGRATLTSDRSTSTAYMELSSLRSED TAVYYCAREGGNDYYDTMDYWG
10 QGTLVTVSS (Reference Sequence 7 – SEQ ID NO: 7)

AbX₂:

15 QVQLVQSGAEVKKPGASVKV SCKASGYGFTSSIMHWVRQAPGQGLEWMGYIKPYND
GTKYNEKFKGRVTMTRDTSTSTVYMELSSLRSED TAVYYCAREGGNDYYDTMDYWG
QGTLVTVSS (Reference Sequence 8 – SEQ ID NO: 8)

[0050] Humanized anti-CD123 antibodies that include the following light chain variable region amino acid sequences:

AbX₁:

20 DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASQDINSYLSWFQQKPGKAPKTLIYRVNRLVDGVPS
25 RFSGSGSGNDYTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCLQYDAFPYTFGQGTKVEIKR (Reference
Sequence 9 – SEQ ID NO: 9)

AbX₂:

30 DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASQDINSYLA W FQQKPGKAPKSLIYRVNRLVSGVPS
RFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCLQYDAFPYTFGQGTKVEIKR (Reference
35 Sequence 10 – SEQ ID NO: 10)

[0051] In other specific embodiments, the anti-CD 123 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises an engineered Cys residue (e.g., C442); an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain at least about 90%, 95%, 99% or 100% identical to QXQLVQSGAEVKKPGASVKV SCKASGYIFTSSIMHWVRQAPGQGLEWIGYIKPYNDGT
40 KYNEKFKGRATLTSDRSTSTAYMELSSLRSED TAVYYCAREGGNDYYDTMDYWGQG TLVTVSS (Reference Sequence 7 - SEQ ID NO:7); and an immunoglobulin light chain variable region having the amino acid sequence at least about 90%, 95%, 99% or 100% identical to DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASQDINSYLSWFQQKPGKAPKTLI-
YRVNRLVDGVPS RF SGSGSGNDYTLTIS SLQPEDFATYYCLQ YD AFP YTFGQGTKVEIKR (Reference Sequence 9 - SEQ ID NO: 9). In certain embodiments, Xaa, the second residue from the N-terminus of Reference Sequence 7 (SEQ ID NO: 7), is Phe. In other embodiments, Xaa is Val.

[0052] In other specific embodiments, the anti-CD 123 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises an engineered Cys residue (e.g., C442); an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain at least about 90%, 95%, 99% or 100% identical to QVQLVQ SGAEVKKPGAS VKV SCKASGYGFTS SIMHW VRQAPGQGLEWMGYIKPYND
50 GTKYNEKFKGRVTMTRDTSTSTVYMELSSLRSED TAVYYCAREGGNDYYDTMDYWG QGTLVTVSS (Reference Sequence 8 - SEQ ID NO: 8); and an immunoglobulin light chain variable region having the amino acid sequence at least about 90%, 95%, 99% or 100% identical to

DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASQDINSYLA W FQQKPGKAPKSLIYRVNRLVSGVPS
55 RFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCLQYDAFPYTFGQGTKVEIKR (Reference
Sequence 10 – SEQ ID NO: 10).

[0053] Humanized anti-CD123 antibodies that include the following heavy chain amino acid sequences:

AbX₁:

5 Q(F/V)QLVQSGAEVKKPGASVKVSCKASGYIFTSSIMHWVRQAPGQGLEWIGYIKPYND
 GTKYNEKFKGRATLTSDRSTSTAYMELSSLRSEDNAVYYCAREGGNDYYDTMDYWG
 10 QGTLVTVSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALTSGV
 HTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKVDKKVEPKSCDKTHTC
 PPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVTCVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVH
 15 NAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQP
 REPQVYTLPPSRDELTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTTPVLDSGD
 SFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVDFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPG (Reference Sequence
 20 11 – SEQ ID NO: 11)

AbX_{ic}:

25 Q(F/V)QLVQSGAEVKKPGASVKVSCKASGYIFTSSIMHWVRQAPGQGLEWIGYIKPYND
 GTKYNEKFKGRATLTSDRSTSTAYMELSSLRSEDNAVYYCAREGGNDYYDTMDYWG
 QGTLVTVSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALTSGV
 30 HTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKVDKKVEPKSCDKTHTC
 PPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVTCVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVH
 NAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQP
 35 REPQVYTLPPSRDELTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTTPVLDSGD
 SFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVDFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPG (Reference Sequence
 40 12 – SEQ ID NO: 12)

AbX₂:

45 QVQLVQSGAEVKKPGASVKVSCKASGYGFTSSIMHWVRQAPGQGLEWMGYIKPYND
 GTKYNEKFKGRVTMTRDTSTSTVYMELSSLRSEDNAVYYCAREGGNDYYDTMDYWG
 QGTLVTVSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALTSGV
 HTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKVDKKVEPKSCDKTHTC
 50 PPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVTCVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVH
 NAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQP
 REPQVYTLPPSRDELTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTTPVLDSGD
 55 SFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVDFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPG (Reference Sequence
 13 – SEQ ID NO: 13)

[0054] Humanized anti-CD123 antibodies that include the following light chain amino acid sequences:

AbX₁:

5 DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASQDINSYLSWFQQKPGKAPKTLIYRVNRLVDGVPS
 RFSGSGSGNDYTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCLQYDAFPYTFGQGTKVEIKRTVAAPSVFIFPPS
 10 DEQLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYPREAKVQWKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDSTYLSSTL
 TLSKADYEKHKVYACEVTHQGLSSPVTKSFNRGEC (Reference Sequence 14 – SEQ ID
 NO: 14)

15 AbX₂:

DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASQDINSYLAWFQQKPGKAPKSLIYRVNRLVSGVPS
 20 RFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCLQYDAFPYTFGQGTKVEIKRTVAAPSVFIFPPS
 DEQLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYPREAKVQWKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDSTYLSSTL
 TLSKADYEKHKVYACEVTHQGLSSPVTKSFNRGEC (Reference Sequence 15 – SEQ ID
 25 NO: 15)

[0055] In other specific embodiments, the anti-CD 123 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises an engineered Lys residue; an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain at least about 90%, 95%, 99% or 100% identical to

30 Q(F/V)QLVQSGAEVKKPGASVKVSCKASGYIFTSSIMHWVRQAPGQGLEWIGYIKPYNDGTYNEKFKGRATLTSDRS
 TSTAYMELSSLRSEDTAVYYCAREGGNDYYDTMDYWGQGLTVTVSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVK
 DYFPEPVTVSWNSGALTSGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKVDKKEPKSCDKTH
 TCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVTCVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVH-
 NAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQP
 35 REPQVYTLPPSRDELTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTPPVLDSDGSFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQG
 NVFSCSVMEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPG (Reference Sequence 11 - SEQ ID NO: 11); and an immunoglobulin light chain
 variable region having the amino acid sequence at least about 90%, 95%, 99% or 100% identical to
 DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASQDINSYLSWFQQKPGKAPKTLIYRVNRLVDGVPS
 RFSGSGSGNDYTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCLQYDAFPYTFGQGTKVEIKRTVAAPSVFIFPPS
 40 DEQLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYPREAKVQWKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDSTYLSSTL TLSKADYEKHKVY-
 ACEVTHQGLSSPVTKSFNRGEC (Reference Sequence 14 - SEQ ID NO: 14). In certain embodiments, Xaa, the second
 residue from the N-terminus of Reference Sequence 11 - SEQ ID NO: 11, is Phe. In other embodiments, Xaa is Val.

[0056] In other specific embodiments, the anti-CD 123 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises an

45 immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain at least about 90%, 95%, 99% or 100% identical to
 Q(F/V)QLVQSGAEVKKPGASVKVSCKASGYIFTSSIMHWVRQAPGQGLEWIGYIKPYNDGTYNEKFKGRATLTSDRS
 TSTAYMELSSLRSEDTAVYYCAREGGNDYYDTMDYWGQGLTVTVSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVK
 DYFPEPVTVSWNSGALTSGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKVDKKEPKSCDKTH
 TCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVTCVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYR
 VVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPSRDELTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVE
 50 WESNGQPENNYKTPPVLDSDGSFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFCSCVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPG (Reference
 Sequence 12 - SEQ ID NO: 12); and an immunoglobulin light chain variable region having the amino acid sequence at
 least about 90%, 95%, 99% or 100% identical to
 DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASQDINSYLSWFQQKPGKAPKTLIYRVNRLVDGVPSRFSGSGSGNDYTLTISSL
 QPEDFATYYCLQYDAFPYTFGQGTKVEIKRTVAAPSVFIFPPSDEQLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYPREAKVQWKVDNALQS
 55 GNSQESVTEQDSKDSTYLSSTL TLSKADYEKHKVYACEVTHQGLSSPVTKSFNRGEC (Reference Sequence 14 -
 SEQ ID NO: 14). In certain embodiments, Xaa, the second residue from the N-terminus of Reference Sequence 12-
 SEQ ID NO: 12, is Phe. In other embodiments, Xaa is Val.

[0057] In other specific embodiments, the anti-CD 123 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises an

immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain at least about 90%, 95%, 99% or 100% identical to QVQLVQ SGAEVKKP-
 GAS VKV SCKASGYGFTS SIMHW VRQAPGQGLEWVMGYIKPYND
 GTKYNEKFKGRVTMTRDTSTSTVYMELSSLRSEDVAVYYCAREGGNDYYDTMDYWG
 QGTLVTVSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALTSGV
 5 HTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKVDKKVEPKSCDKTHTC
 PPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVTCVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVH
 NAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQP
 REPQVYTLPPSRDELTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTTPVLDSDG SFFLYSKLTVDKSR-
 10 WQQGNVVFSCVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPG (Reference Sequence 13 - SEQ ID NO: 13); and an immunoglobulin
 light chain variable region having the amino acid sequence at least about 90%, 95%, 99% or 100% identical to

DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGRVTITCRASQDINSYLAWFQQKPGKAPKSLIYRVNRLVSGVPS
 15 RFGSGSGTDFLTISLQPEDFATYYCLQYDAFPYTFGQGTKVEIKRTVAAPSVFIFPPS
 DEQLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYPREAKVQWKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDSSTLSSTL
 TLSKADYEKHKVYACEVTHQGLSSPVTKSFNRGEC (Reference Sequence 15 – SEQ ID
 20 NO: 15).

[0058] Exemplary sequences for huDS6 are described in U.S. Patent No. 7,834,155 and International Pat. Appl. Publication Nos.: WO2005/009369 and WO2007/024222. Detailed sequences for huMov19 are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 8,557,966 and 8,709,432 and International Pat. Appl. Publication Nos.: WO2011/106528. Exemplary sequences
 25 for the huMy9-6 heavy chain variable region portion are described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20060177455. Exemplary sequences for the huMy9-6 light chain variable region portion are known in the art and described in U.S. Patent Nos. 7,557,189, 7,342,110, 8,119,787 and 8,337,855. Exemplary sequences for huCD37-3 are described in U.S. Patent No. 8,765,917 and International Pat. Appl. Publication No. WO2011/112978. Exemplary sequences for huB4 is described in International Pat. Appl. Publication No. WO2012/156455.

[0059] Additional exemplary antibodies include antibodies that target specific antigens. Examples include antibodies that target CD33, CD19, CD37, CA6, or FOLR1. Further, antibodies that target CD123 are also included herein.

[0060] Generally, the term "humanized antibody" refers to forms of non-human (e.g., murine) antibodies that are specific immunoglobulin chains, chimeric immunoglobulins, or fragments thereof that contain minimal non-human (e.g., murine) sequences. Typically, humanized antibodies are human immunoglobulins in which residues from the comple-
 35 mentary determining region (CDR) are replaced by residues from the CDR of a non-human species (e.g., mouse, rat, rabbit, hamster) that have the desired specificity, affinity, and capability (Jones et al, Nature 321:522-525, 1986; Riechmann et al, Nature 332:323-327, 1988; Verhoeyen et al, Science 239:1534-1536, 1988).

[0061] Antibodies can be humanized using a variety of other techniques including CDR-grafting (EP 0 239 400; WO 91/09967; U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,530,101; and 5,585,089), veneering or resurfacing (EP 0 592 106; EP 0 519 596; Padlan E. A., 1991, Molecular Immunology 28(4/5):489-498; Studnicka G. M. et al., 1994, Protein Engineering 7(6):805-814; Roguska M. A. et al., 1994, PNAS 91:969-973), and chain shuffling (U.S. Pat. No. 5,565,332). Human antibodies can be made by a variety of methods known in the art including phage display methods. See also U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,444,887, 4,716,111, 5,545,806, and 5,814,318; and International Pat. Appl. Publication Nos.: WO 98/46645, WO 98/50433, WO 98/24893, WO 98/16654, WO 96/34096, WO 96/33735, and WO 91/10741.

[0062] In some instances, the F_v framework region (FR) residues of a human immunoglobulin are replaced with the corresponding residues in an antibody from a non-human species that has the desired specificity, affinity, and capability. The humanized antibody can be further modified by the substitution of additional residues either in the F_v framework region and/or within the replaced non-human residues to refine and optimize antibody specificity, affinity, and/or capability. In general, the humanized antibody will comprise substantially all of at least one, and typically two or three, variable domains containing all or substantially all of the CDR regions that correspond to the non-human immunoglobulin whereas all or substantially all of the FR regions are those of a human immunoglobulin consensus sequence. The humanized antibody can also comprise at least a portion of an immunoglobulin constant region or domain (F_c), typically that of a human immunoglobulin. Examples of methods used to generate humanized antibodies are described in U.S. Pats. 5,225,539 and 5,639,641, Roguska et al, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91(3):969-973, 1994; and Roguska et al, Protein Eng. 9(10):895-904, 1996. In some examples, a "humanized antibody" is a resurfaced antibody. In some examples, a
 55 "humanized antibody" is a CDR-grafted antibody.

[0063] In addition, the antibody can be a chimeric antibody.

[0064] The disclosed compositions can comprise antigen-binding fragments such as antibody fragments (such as

Fab, Fab', F(ab)₂, and Fv fragments) or single chain Fv (scFv) mutants. In other examples, the binding fragments are attached to a separate protein, peptide, or oligopeptide to form a fusion protein. In certain examples, the fusion protein comprises an antigen-determination portion of an antibody fused to a one or more peptides, oligopeptides, or polypeptides.

5 [0065] One of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the selection of an appropriate antibody will depend upon the cell population to be targeted. In this regard, the type and number of cell surface molecules (*i.e.*, antigens) that are selectively expressed in a particular cell population (typically a diseased cell population) will inform the selection of an appropriate antibody for use in the disclosed compositions. Cell surface expression profiles are known for a wide variety of cell types, including tumor cell types, or, if unknown, can be determined using routine molecular biology and histo-chemistry techniques.

10 [0066] As noted herein, the antibodies can be polyclonal or monoclonal. Monoclonal antibodies are typically produced by a single clone of B lymphocytes ("B cells"). Monoclonal antibodies may be obtained using a variety of techniques known to those skilled in the art, including standard hybridoma technology (see, *e.g.*, Köhler and Milstein, *Eur. J. Immunol.*, 5, 511-519 (1976), Harlow and Lane (eds.), *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, CSH Press (1988), and C.A. Janeway et al. (eds.), *Immunobiology*, 5th Ed., Garland Publishing, New York, NY (2001)). In brief, the hybridoma method of producing monoclonal antibodies typically involves injecting any suitable animal, typically a mouse, with an antigen (*i.e.*, an "immunogen"). The animal is subsequently sacrificed, and B cells isolated from its spleen are fused with human myeloma cells. A hybrid cell is produced (*i.e.*, a "hybridoma"), which proliferates indefinitely and continuously secretes high titers of an antibody with the desired specificity *in vitro*. Any appropriate method known in the art can be used to identify hybridoma cells that produce an antibody with the desired specificity. Such methods include, for example, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), Western blot analysis, and radioimmunoassay. The population of hybridomas is screened to isolate individual clones, each of which secretes a single antibody species to the antigen. Because each hybridoma is a clone derived from fusion with a single B cell, all the antibody molecules it produces are identical in structure, including their antigen binding site and isotype. Monoclonal antibodies also may be generated using other suitable techniques including EBV-hybridoma technology (see, *e.g.*, Haskard and Archer, *J. Immunol. Methods*, 74(2), 361-67 (1984), and Roder et al., *Methods Enzymol.*, 121, 140-67 (1986)), or bacteriophage vector expression systems (see, *e.g.*, Huse et al., *Science*, 246, 1275-81 (1989)). To prepare monoclonal antibody fragments, recombinant methods typically are employed.

20 [0067] The monoclonal antibody can be isolated from or produced in any suitable animal. In some examples, the antibody is produced in a mammal. In some examples, the mammal is a mouse. In some examples, the mammal is a human. Methods for producing an antibody in mice are well known to those skilled in the art and are described herein. With respect to human antibodies, one of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that polyclonal antibodies can be isolated from the sera of human subjects vaccinated or immunized with an appropriate antigen. Alternatively, human antibodies can be generated by adapting known techniques for producing human antibodies in non-human animals such as mice (see, *e.g.*, U.S. Patents 5,545,806, 5,569,825, and 5,714,352, and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0197266 A1).

30 [0068] Although effective for human therapeutic use, human antibodies, particularly human monoclonal antibodies, typically are more difficult to generate than mouse monoclonal antibodies. Mouse monoclonal antibodies, however, induce a rapid host antibody response when administered to humans, which can reduce the therapeutic or diagnostic potential of an ADC. To circumvent these complications, a monoclonal antibody preferably is not recognized as "foreign" by the human immune system. To this end, phage display can be used to generate the antibody. In this regard, phage libraries encoding antigen-binding variable (V) domains of antibodies can be generated using standard molecular biology and recombinant DNA techniques (see, *e.g.*, Sambrook et al. (eds.), *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual*, 3rd Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, New York (2001)). Phage encoding a variable region with the desired specificity are selected for specific binding to the desired antigen, and a complete human antibody is reconstituted comprising the selected variable domain. Nucleic acid sequences encoding the reconstituted antibody are introduced into a suitable cell line, such as a myeloma cell used for hybridoma production, such that human antibodies having the characteristics of monoclonal antibodies are secreted by the cell (see, *e.g.*, Janeway et al., *supra*, Huse et al., *supra*, and U.S. Patent 6,265,150). Alternatively, monoclonal antibodies can be generated from mice that are transgenic for specific human heavy and light chain immunoglobulin genes. Such methods are known in the art and described in, for example U.S. Patents 5,545,806 and 5,569,825, and Janeway et al., *supra*. In some examples, the antibody is a humanized antibody. Owing to the similarity of the frameworks of mouse and human antibodies, it is generally accepted in the art that this approach produces a monoclonal antibody that is antigenically identical to a human antibody but binds the same antigen as the mouse monoclonal antibody from which the CDR sequences were derived. Methods for generating humanized antibodies are known in the art and are described in detail in, for example, Janeway et al., *supra*, U.S. Patents 5,225,539, 5,585,089 and 5,693,761, European Patent No. 0239400 B1, and United Kingdom Patent No. 2188638. Humanized antibodies can also be generated using the antibody resurfacing technology described in U.S. Patent 5,639,641, Pedersen et al., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 235, 959-973 (1994), Roguska et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 91(3):969-973, 1994; and Roguska et al, *Protein Eng.* 9(10):895-904, 1996.

[0069] Antibody fragments that have at least one antigen-binding site, and thus recognize and bind to at least one antigen or receptor present on the surface of a target cell, also are within the scope of this disclosure. In this respect, proteolytic cleavage of an intact antibody molecule can produce a variety of antibody fragments that retain the ability to recognize and bind antigens. For example, limited digestion of an antibody molecule with the protease papain typically produces three fragments, two of which are identical and are referred to as the Fab fragments, as they retain the antigen binding activity of the parent antibody molecule. Cleavage of an antibody molecule with the enzyme pepsin normally produces two antibody fragments, one of which retains both antigen-binding arms of the antibody molecule, and is thus referred to as the F(ab')₂ fragment. A single-chain variable region fragment (sFv) antibody fragment, which consists of a truncated Fab fragment comprising the variable (V) domain of an antibody heavy chain linked to a V domain of a light antibody chain via a synthetic peptide, can be generated using routine recombinant DNA technology techniques (see, e.g., Janeway et al., supra). Similarly, disulfide-stabilized variable region fragments (dsFv) can be prepared by recombinant DNA technology (see, e.g., Reiter et al., Protein Engineering, 7, 697-704 (1994)). Antibody fragments of the present disclosure, however, are not limited to these exemplary types of antibody fragments. Any suitable antibody fragment that recognizes and binds to a desired cell surface receptor or antigen can be employed. Antibody-antigen binding can be assayed using any suitable method known in the art, such as, for example, radioimmunoassay (RIA), ELISA, Western blot, immunoprecipitation, and competitive inhibition assays (see, e.g., Janeway et al., supra, and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0197266 A1).

Linkers

[0070] The compositions disclosed herein comprise antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof attached to a linker. Any suitable linker can be used with the ADCs of the present disclosure as long as the linker does not prevent the antibody from binding to its target or eliminate a cytotoxic compound's cytotoxicity. Typically, a linker is substantially inert under conditions for linking two groups. In some embodiments, a linker moiety comprises two reactive groups, such that one reactive group can be first reacted with the cytotoxic compound to provide a compound bearing the linker moiety and a second reactive group, which can then react with an antibody. Alternatively, one reactive group of the linker moiety can be first reacted with an antibody to provide an antibody and a linker moiety and a second reactive group, which can then react with a cytotoxic compound.

[0071] Exemplary linkers include, but are not limited to, disulfide linkers, thioether linkers, amide bonded linkers, peptidase-labile linkers, acid-labile linkers, and esterase-labile linkers. In some examples, the linker is cleavable. Exemplary cleavable linkers include, but are not limited to, N-succinimidyl 3-(2-pyridyldithio) propionate (SPDP), N-succinimidyl 4-(2-pyridyldithio)butanoate (SPDB), N-succinimidyl 4-(2-pyridyldithio)2-sulfobutanoate (sulfo-SPDB), N-succinimidyl 4-(2-pyridyldithio)pentanoate (SPP), or N-succinimidyl 4-methyl-4-[2-(5-nitro-pyridyl)-dithio]pentanoate (SM-NP). In some examples, the linker is non-cleavable. Exemplary non-cleavable linkers include, but are not limited to, 2-iminothiolane, acetylsuccinic anhydride, and succinimidyl 4-(maleimidomethyl)cyclohexanecarboxylate (SMCC). Other exemplary linkers, such as CX1-1 (as described in U.S. Pat. Publication No. US20120253021) and acetylsuccinic anhydride, can be used as cleavable or non-cleavable linkers.

[0072] In some examples, the linking moiety contains a chemical bond that allows for the release of the cytotoxic compound at a particular site. Suitable chemical bonds are well known in the art and include disulfide bonds, thioether bonds, acid labile bonds, photolabile bonds, peptidase labile bonds and esterase labile bonds (see for example US Patents 5,208,020; 5,475,092; 6,441,163; 6,716,821; 6,913,748; 7,276,497; 7,276,499; 7,368,565; 7,388,026 and 7,414,073). Other suitable linkers include non-cleavable linkers, such as those described in are described in detail in U.S. publication number 20050169933, or charged linkers or hydrophilic linkers and are described in US 2009/0274713, US 2010/01293140 and WO 2009/134976.

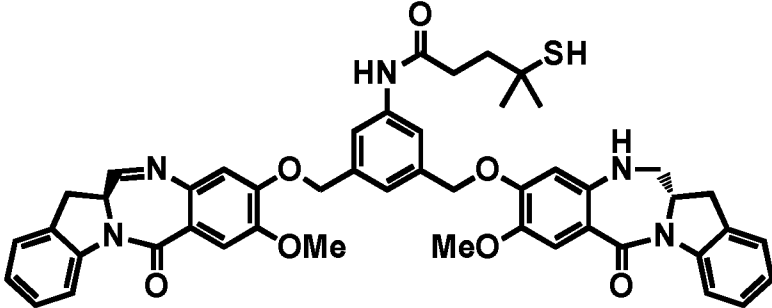
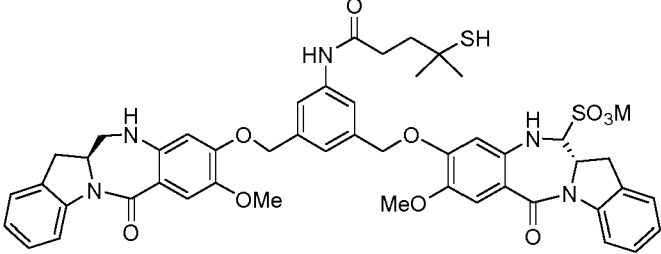
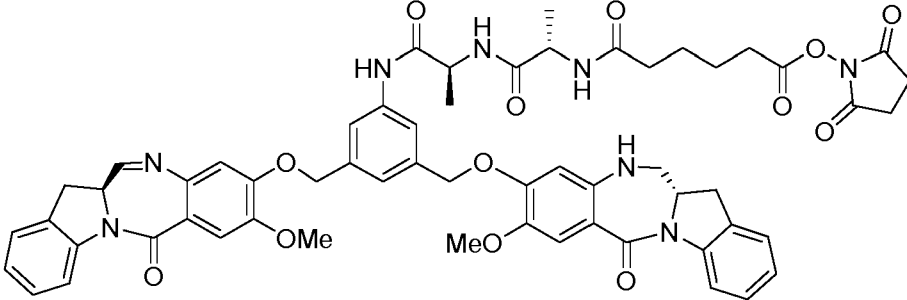
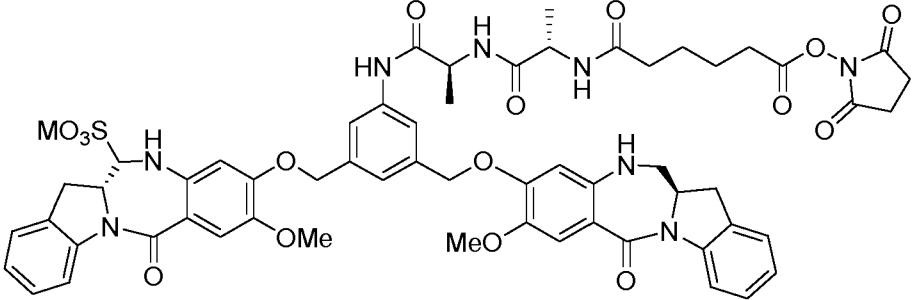
Cytotoxic compounds

[0073] Examples described in this disclosure are directed to several cytotoxic compounds. These cytotoxic compounds can induce cytotoxicity in cells. When coupled to any of the above-described antibodies to form the ADCs of this disclosure, these cytotoxic compounds can be delivered directly to targeted cells. As a result of normal pharmacologic clearance mechanisms, an antibody employed in an ADC contacts and binds to target cells only in limited amounts. Therefore, the cytotoxic agent employed in the conjugate must be highly cytotoxic such that cell killing sufficient to elicit a therapeutic effect occurs.

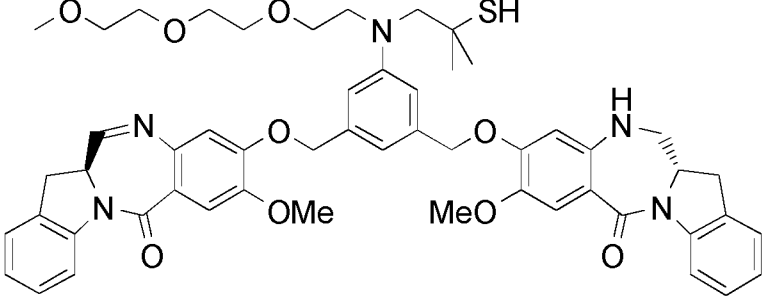
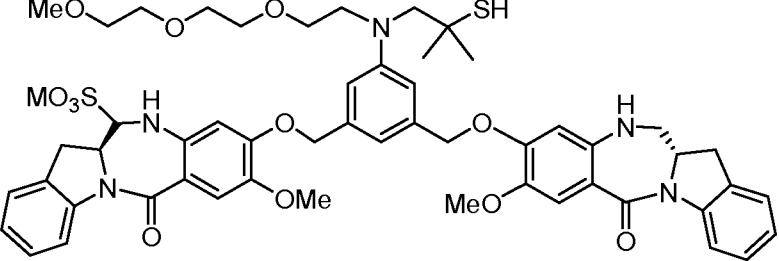
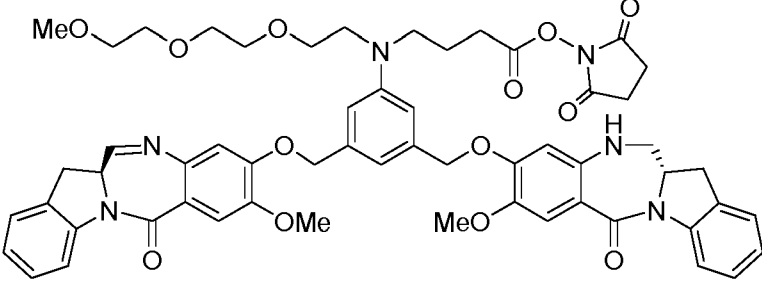
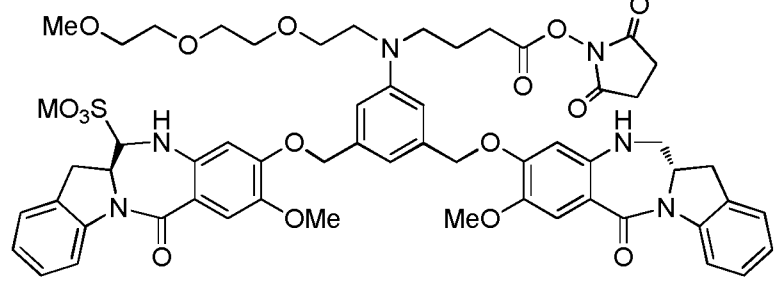
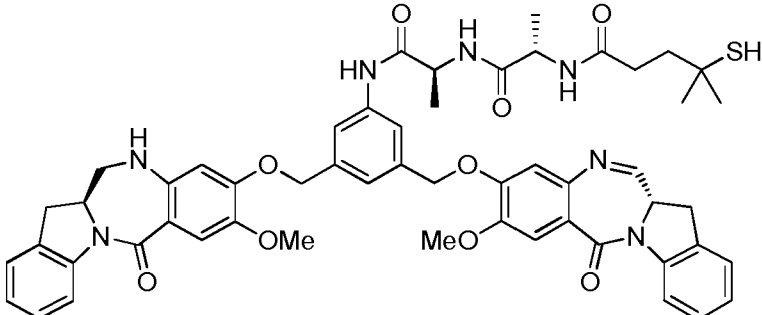
[0074] The cytotoxic compounds of this disclosure comprise benzodiazepines. In some examples, the cytotoxic compound is a pyrrolbenzodiazepine. In some examples, the cytotoxic compound is an indolinobenzodiazepine. In some examples, the cytotoxic compound is a compound in Table 1. DGN462 is described, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 8,765,740. Compound D3 is described, for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 8,426,402, 8,809,320 and 8,802,667. Compounds D1, D2, and D4 are described, for example, in U.S. Provisional Appl. Ser. Nos. 14/483,604 and 14/483,520

respectively, and "Antibody-Drug Conjugates (ADCs) of Indolino-Benzodiazepine DNA-Alkylating Agents", 2015 AACR, Abstract number 652.

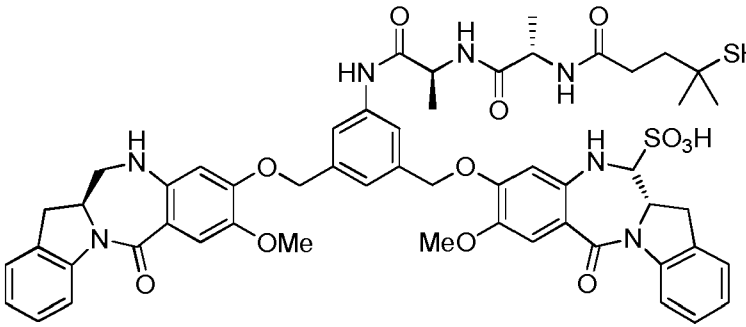
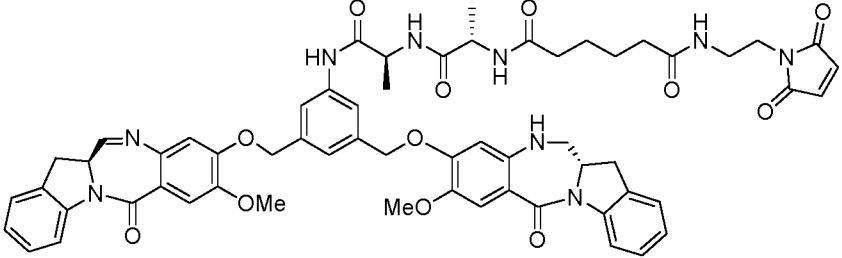
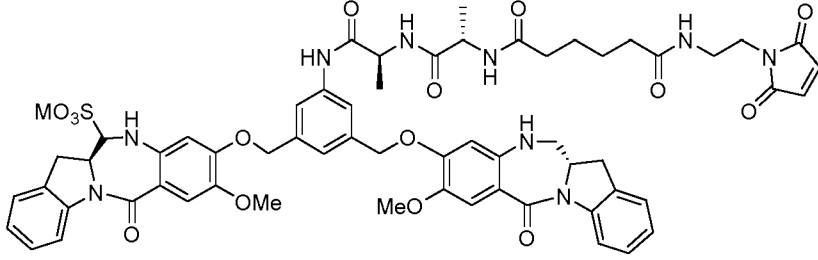
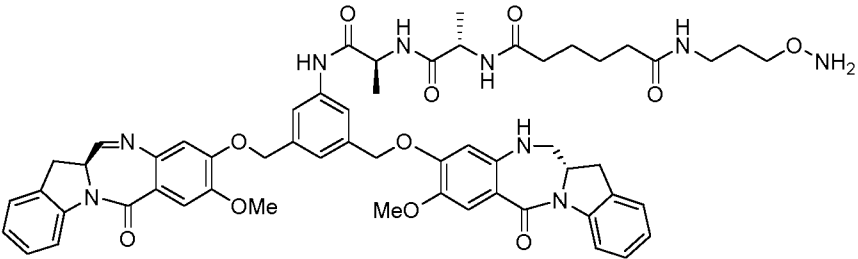
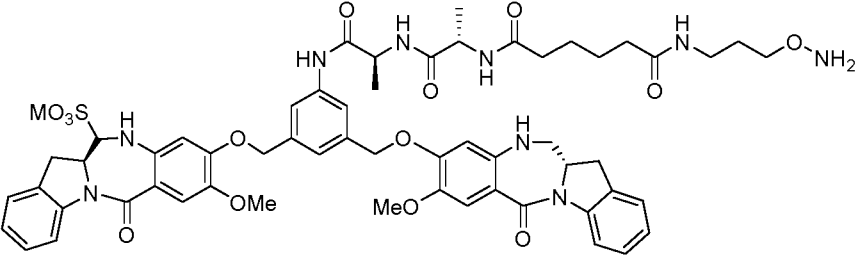
Table 1

Compound Name	Compound
D1	
D1(a)	 <p data-bbox="1129 981 1362 1010">M= Na⁺, K⁺, H or any pharmaceutically acceptable cation</p>
D2	
D2(a)	 <p data-bbox="644 1720 1417 1749">M= Na⁺, K⁺, H or any pharmaceutically acceptable cation</p>

(continued)

Compound Name	Compound
5 DGN462	
15 DGN462(a)	 <p data-bbox="1190 904 1423 936">M= Na⁺, K⁺, H or any pharmaceutically acceptable cation</p>
20 D3	
25 D3(a)	 <p data-bbox="1190 1576 1423 1608">M= Na⁺, K⁺, H or any pharmaceutically acceptable cation</p>
30 D4	

(continued)

Compound Name	Compound
D4(a)	
D5	
D5(a)	 <p data-bbox="694 1232 1420 1265">M= Na⁺, K⁺, H or any pharmaceutically acceptable cation</p>
D6	
D6(a)	 <p data-bbox="678 1836 1420 1870">M= Na⁺, K⁺, H or any pharmaceutically acceptable cation</p>

[0075] The benzodiazepines, including the compounds in Table 1, are linked to antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof with the linkers described herein. In some examples of the ADCs, the benzodiazepines may be Cys-

linked. In other examples, the benzodiazepines may be Ser-linked.

[0076] This disclosure is also directed to variations of the compounds in Table 1, such as modification of a compound in Table 1 by sulfonation. Other variations of the compounds in Table 1 are readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. Such variations are encompassed by this disclosure.

5

Increased RSA in ADCs

[0077] ADCs comprising benzodiazepines are shown herein to exhibit increased RSA. It is believed that the increased RSA results from the increased hydrophobic interactions from the benzodiazepines resulting in additional reversible intermolecular interactions. As demonstrated below in the Examples, an increase in the drug load (the "DAR" or drug-to-antibody ratio) results in increased RSA. Compositions with higher DARs have higher amounts of benzodiazepines per antibody. The benzodiazepines are hydrophobic and insoluble and comprise multiple aromatic rings. Thus, it is believed, the benzodiazepines interact with other components in an ADC. These additional reversible intermolecular interactions result in increased RSA for the ADCs disclosed herein. Therefore, the amount of RSA increases as the drug load increases. As a result, it is even more difficult to develop pharmaceutical formulations for ADCs comprising hydrophobic molecules (e.g., benzodiazepines or indolinobenzodiazepines) of this disclosure.

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Reduced RSA Compositions

[0078] It has been surprisingly discovered that certain small hydrophobic molecules inhibit or reduce RSA in compositions comprising the ADCs of this disclosure. These small molecules fall into two classes: (1) amino acids with hydrophobic side chains, including proline, alanine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, tyrosine, and valine; and (2) betaines, small neutral molecules with a positively charged cationic functional group and a negatively charged functional group. The cationic functional group and negatively charged functional group need not be adjacent. The cationic functional groups include onium ions such as quaternary ammonium and quaternary phosphonium. The negatively charged functional groups include carboxylate, sulfite, and phosphite. An exemplary betaine is trimethylglycine. Historically, the term betaine referred to trimethylglycine. Therefore, depending on the context as used herein, the term "betaine" can refer to betaines generally or to trimethylglycine specifically.

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[0079] A further example of this disclosure is directed to a composition comprising: (a) an ADC comprising a benzodiazepine; and (b) a small hydrophobic molecule selected from the group consisting of betaines and or amino acids with hydrophobic side chains. In some examples, the small hydrophobic molecule is an amino acid with a hydrophobic side chain. In some examples, the small hydrophobic molecule is a betaine. In some examples, the small hydrophobic molecule is trimethylglycine. In some examples, the antibody is selected from the group consisting of huMy9-6, huB4, huDS6, huMov19, and huCD37-3. In other examples, the antibody is a humanized CD123 antibody. In certain examples, the antibody is AbX. In some examples, the benzodiazepine is an indolinobenzodiazepine. In some examples, the benzodiazepine is a compound in Table 1. In some examples, the ADC is an ADC in Table 2.

Table 2

<u>Conjugate Name</u>	<u>Conjugate Structure</u>
Ab-sSPDB-D1	

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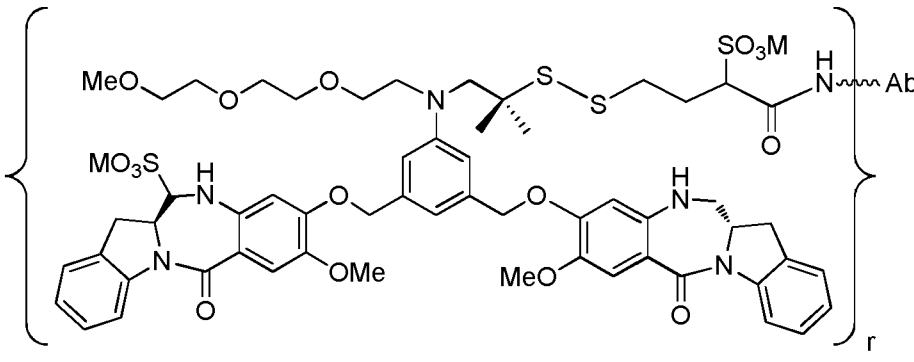
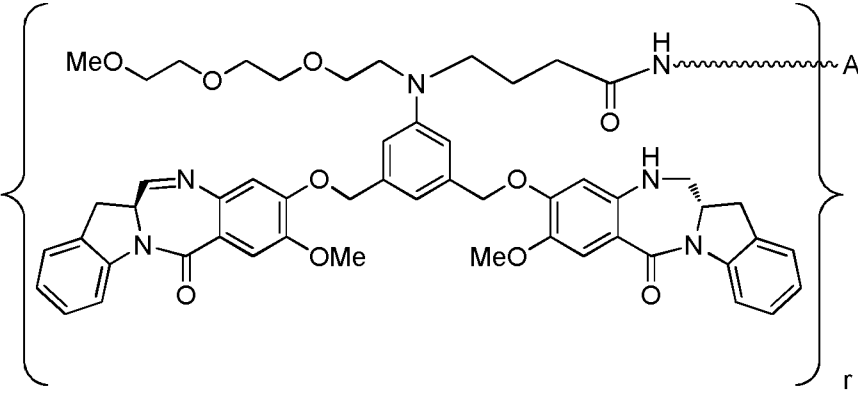
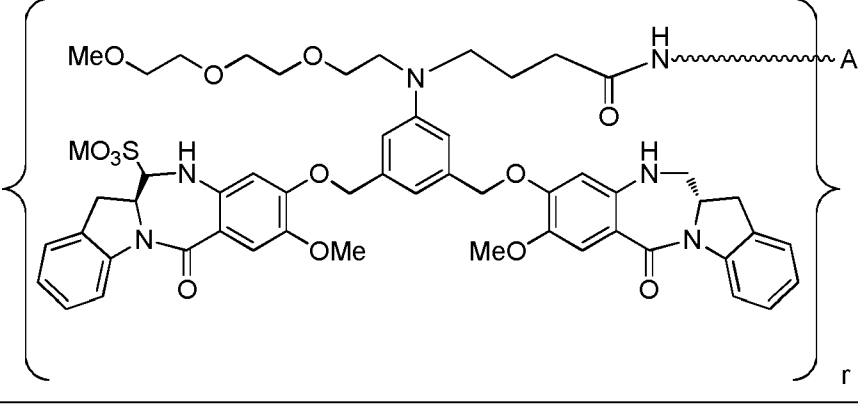
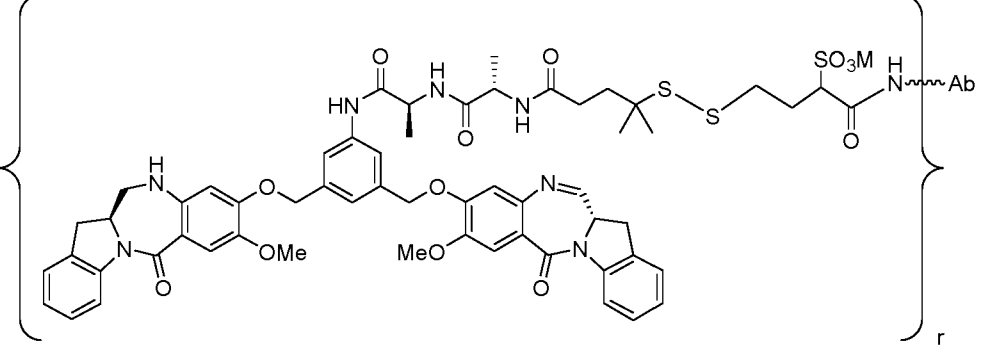
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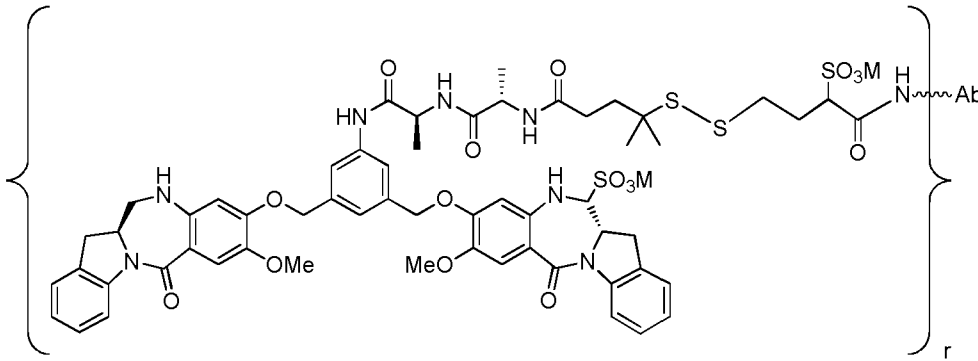
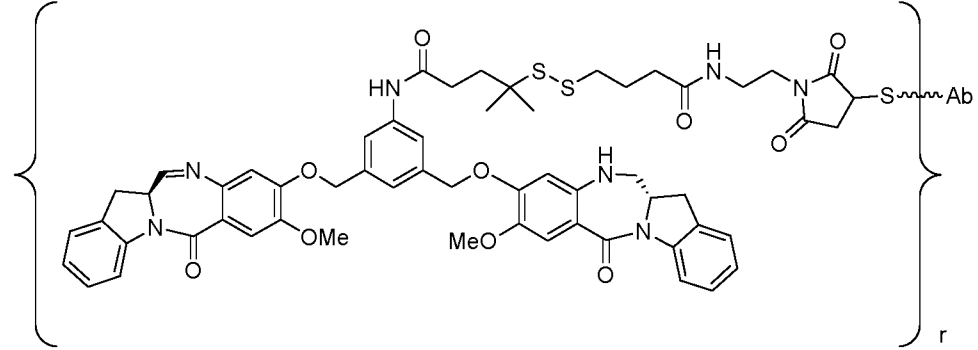
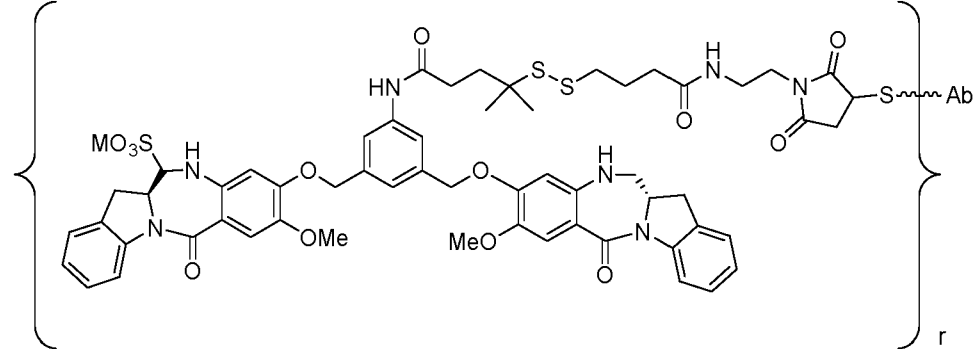
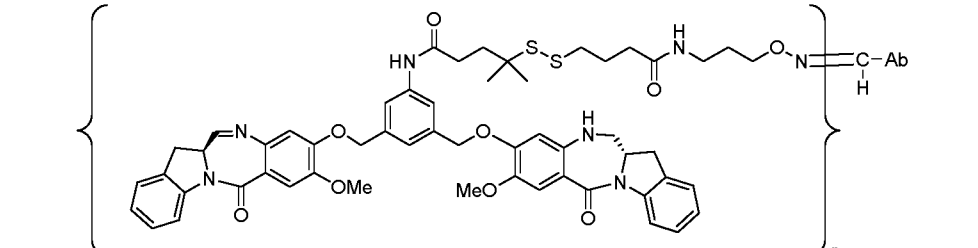
(continued)

<u>Conjugate Name</u>	<u>Conjugate Structure</u>
5 Ab-sSPDB-D1 (a)	
20 Ab-D2	
35 Ab-D2(a)	
50 Ab-sSPDB-DGN462	

(continued)

<u>Conjugate Name</u>	<u>Conjugate Structure</u>
5 Ab-sSPDB-DGN462(a)	
20 Ab-D3	
35 Ab-D3(a)	
45 Ab-sSPDB-D4	

(continued)

<u>Conjugate Name</u>	<u>Conjugate Structure</u>
5 Ab-sSPDB-D4 (a)	
20 Ab-Cys-D 1	
30 Ab-Cys-D1(a)	
45 Ab-Ser-D1	

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(continued)

<u>Conjugate Name</u>	<u>Conjugate Structure</u>
5 Ab-Ser-D1(a)	
15 Ab-Cys-DGN462	
25 Ab-Cys-DGN462(a)	
40 Ab-Ser-DGN462	
50 Ab-Ser-DGN462 (a)	

(continued)

<u>Conjugate Name</u>	<u>Conjugate Structure</u>
Ab-Cys-D5	
Ab-Cys-D5(a)	
Ab-Ser-D6	
Ab-Ser-D6(a)	

[0080] Wherein, in Table 2, r is an integer from 1 to 10; Ab-NH is an antibody covalently linked to the compound through a lysine; Ser indicates an antibody linked to the compound through an N-terminal serine; Cys indicates an antibody linked to the compound through a cysteine; and M is H^+ , Na^+ , K^+ , or any pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

[0081] This disclosure is also directed to other variations in the linker of the ADCs in Table 2, that are readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. For example, the SO_3M group shown on the linker can be substituted with 'H' to obtain an ADC wherein the antibody Ab is linked via SPDB linker to the cytotoxic compounds D1, D1(a), D2, D2(a), DGN462, DGN462(a), D3, D3(a), D4, D4(a), D5, D5(a), D6, and D6(a), respectively. Such variations and similar variations are encompassed by this disclosure.

[0082] In some examples, RSA is eliminated in the disclosed compositions. In some examples, RSA is decreased by about 90% to 100% in the disclosed compositions. In certain examples, RSA is decreased by about 80% to about 90% in the disclosed compositions. In some examples, RSA is decreased by about 70% to about 80% in the disclosed compositions. In further examples, RSA is decreased by about 60% to about 70% in the disclosed compositions. In still further examples, the RSA is decreased by about 50% to about 60% in the disclosed compositions. In yet further

examples, RSA is decreased by about 40% to about 50% in the disclosed compositions. In some examples, RSA is decreased by about 30% to about 40% in the disclosed compositions.

5 [0083] Previous formulations for antibodies or ADCs have been buffered to a pH of approximately 5-6.5 in order to maintain the structure and stability of the antibody or the ADC. Surprisingly, we have discovered that pH can affect the amount and extent of RSA in a solution and, specifically, that a lower than expected pH of approximately 4-4.5, can reduce RSA for an ADC. Another example of this disclosure is directed to compositions comprising ADCs comprising a benzodiazepine, wherein the composition has a low pH. It is believed that a lower pH allows for a higher amount of H⁺ ions that can interact non-covalently with the antibodies in solution and inhibit the antibodies' ability to form oligomeric species through intermolecular interactions, thereby reducing RSA. The composition has a pH between about 4.0 to about 4.5. Another example of this disclosure is directed to a composition having a pH between about 4.0 and about 4.5 and comprising a betaine and an ADC comprising a benzodiazepine. In some examples, the betaine is trimethylglycine. Another example of this disclosure is directed to a composition having a pH between 4.0 and 4.5 and comprising an amino acid with a hydrophobic side chain and an ADC comprising a benzodiazepine. In some examples, the benzodiazepine is a compound in Table 1. In some examples, the ADC is an ADC in Table 2.

15 [0084] The compositions of this disclosure are formulated to be acceptable for pharmaceutical use, such as, for example, administration to a human in need thereof. In some embodiments, the ADC is formulated into a composition comprising a physiologically acceptable carrier (e.g., excipient or diluent). Physiologically acceptable carriers are well known and are readily available, and include buffering agents, anti-oxidants, bacteriostats, salts, and solutes that render the composition isotonic with the blood or other bodily fluid of the human patient, and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions that can include suspending agents, solubilizers, thickening agents, stabilizers (e.g., surfactants), and preservatives. The choice of carrier will be determined, at least in part, by the location of the target tissue and/or cells, and the particular method used to administer the composition. Examples of suitable carriers and excipients for use in ADC pharmaceutical formulations are disclosed in, for example, International (PCT) Patent Application Nos. WO 00/02587, WO 02/060955, and WO 02/092127, and Ghetie et al., J. Immunol. Methods, 112, 267-277 (1988).

20 [0085] Pharmaceutically acceptable buffering agents may be used in connection with the disclosed compositions. Succinate is used as a buffering agent in connection with the compositions claimed herein. In other examples, citrate may be used as a buffering agent in connection with the disclosed compositions. In some examples, sodium bisulfite may be used in addition to succinate. Other exemplary buffering agents that may be used with the disclosed compositions include acetate and phosphate. The buffering agent may be present in exemplary compositions of this disclosure in any suitable concentration, so long as sufficient stability of the composition is achieved under the desired conditions. In the formulation claimed herein, the concentration of the buffering agent in the composition is 10 mM. The buffering agent is sodium succinate. The buffering agent typically is present in the disclosed exemplary compositions such that the pH is maintained within a desired range.

25 [0086] The compositions of this disclosure also optionally contain a surfactant. Any suitable surfactant can be used. Suitable surfactants are well known to those skilled in the art. In some embodiments, the surfactant is a polysorbate. In some embodiments, the surfactant is polysorbate 20 or polysorbate 80. The surfactant may be present in the compositions of this disclosure in any suitable concentration, so long as sufficient stability of the composition is achieved under the desired conditions. In this regard, the concentration of the surfactant in the composition is about 0.002% to about 0.1% wt./vol. (e.g., about 0.002-0.01%, about 0.005-0.02%, or about 0.01-0.1 wt./vol.) of the total volume of the composition. In some embodiments, the concentration of the surfactant in the composition is about 0.005-0.02% wt./vol. (e.g., about 0.01% wt./vol.) of the total volume of the composition.

30 [0087] The composition of this disclosure can further be stabilized by the addition of sugar. In the claimed formulation, the sugar is trehalose. The composition can also further comprise bulking agents. In some embodiments, the bulking agent is mannitol. In other embodiments, the bulking agent is glycine.

35 [0088] The compositions of this disclosure can be lyophilized. Lyophilization refers to freeze drying under a vacuum. Lyophilization typically is accomplished by freezing a particular formulation such that the solutes are separated from the solvent(s). The solvent is then removed by sublimation (i.e., primary drying) and next by desorption (i.e., secondary drying). When the compositions of this disclosure are lyophilized and then reconstituted, RSA is still reduced or inhibited. Thus, although the small hydrophobic molecule can be added to compositions prior to lyophilization, the benefits of reduced or inhibited RSA are still realized in the compositions that are reconstituted after lyophilization.

40 [0089] In order to prevent degradation of the composition during freezing and drying, the lyophilized composition optionally further comprises a cryoprotectant. In some embodiments, the cryoprotectant is an amorphous cryoprotectant. The term "cryoprotectant," as used herein, refers to an excipient that protects unstable molecules during freezing. Suitable cryoprotectants for use in the compositions of this disclosure are known to those skilled in the art, and include, for example, glycerol, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), polyethylene glycol (PEG), dextran, glucose, trehalose, and sucrose. In some embodiments, the cryoprotectant is sucrose. The cryoprotectant may be present in the lyophilized composition in any suitable amount. In some embodiments, the lyophilized composition comprises about 0.5 mg to about 5 mg (e.g., about 0.5 mg to about 2 mg) of the cryoprotectant per mg of the conjugate (e.g., about 0.8 mg cryoprotectant per mg of

the conjugate. In some embodiments, the lyophilized composition comprises about 2 mg cryoprotectant per mg of the conjugate. In some embodiments, the lyophilized composition comprises about 4 mg cryoprotectant per mg of the conjugate. In some embodiments, the cryoprotectant is sucrose and the lyophilized composition comprises about 0.5 mg to about 2 mg (e.g., about 1 mg) sucrose per mg of the conjugate

[0090] Lyophilization methods are well known in the art and are described in, for example, Wang, W., *Int. J. Pharm.*, 203, 1-60 (2000). For example, the lyophilized compositions of this disclosure can be produced using a lyophilization cycle comprising the following steps: (1) precooling at a shelf temperature of 4 °C and ambient chamber pressure for 2.5 hours, (2) freezing at a shelf temperature of -50 °C and ambient chamber pressure for 14 hours, (3) glycine recrystallization at a shelf temperature of -20 °C and ambient chamber pressure for 6 hours, (4) re-freezing at a shelf temperature of -50 °C and ambient chamber pressure for 16 hours, (5) primary drying at a shelf temperature of -13 °C and 100 mTorr of pressure for 24 hours, (6) secondary drying at a shelf temperature of 24 °C and 100 mTorr of pressure for 10 hours, and (7) stopper phase at a shelf temperature of 24 °C and ambient chamber pressure. However, lyophilized compositions of this disclosure are not limited to compositions produced by the above-described method. Indeed, any suitable lyophilization method can be used to produce the lyophilized compositions of this disclosure, and it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the chosen lyophilization parameters (e.g., drying times) will vary depending on a variety of factors, including the volume of the solution to be lyophilized.

[0091] The compositions of this disclosure are advantageous over the prior art formulations for many reasons. The increase in the amount of monomer results in compositions of increased potency. Efficacy is increased because each composition delivers greater therapeutic effect per dose. This is advantageous because it reduces the number of doses that subjects need.

[0092] In addition to the increased potency, the compositions of this disclosure also decrease toxicity, hence improving patient safety. The compositions of this disclosure deliver more of the cytotoxic compounds to the targeted sites by virtue of the reduced RSA, thereby reducing the amount of cytotoxic compounds that can interact with non-targeted sites. Furthermore, the reduced RSA decreases the viscosity of a solution, thereby improving the efficacy of some modes of administration because the disclosed compositions are less likely to clog or impede the plunger of a syringe.

Methods of Treating

[0093] The references to the methods of treatment by therapy in the following description are to be interpreted as references to compositions and formulations of the appended claims for use in such methods. This disclosure is also directed to exemplary methods of treating cancer in a subject comprising administering to the subject a composition comprising (a) an effective amount of an ADC comprising a benzodiazepine and (b) a small hydrophobic molecule selected from the group consisting of betaines and amino acids with hydrophobic side chains, wherein the ADC is cytotoxic in one or more cells, thereby treating the cancer. In the claimed formulations, the composition has a pH of about 4.0 to about 4.5. The descriptions of the ADCs comprising a benzodiazepine, the small hydrophobic molecules, excipients (e.g., buffering agents, surfactants, sugars, etc.), and other components described herein are also applicable to the compositions that are used in the methods of treating.

[0094] While any suitable means of administering the composition to a subject can be used, in some embodiments, the disclosed compositions are administered to a human via injection. In some embodiments, the disclosed compositions are administered to a human via infusion. As used herein, the term "injection" refers to the forceful introduction of the disclosed compositions into a target tissue of the human. As used herein, the term "infusion" refers to the introduction of the disclosed compositions into a tissue, e.g., a vein, of the human. The composition can be administered to the human by any suitable route. In some embodiments, the compositions are administered to the human intravenously or intraperitoneally. In some embodiments, administration is intratumoral. When the composition is administered by injecting, any suitable injection device can be used to administer the composition. For example, the common medical syringe can be used to directly inject the composition into a subcutaneous tumor. Alternatively, the composition can be topically applied to the tumor by bathing the tumor in the disclosed liquid composition. Likewise, the tumor can be perfused with the disclosed composition over a period of time using any suitable delivery device, e.g., a catheter. Other routes of administration can be used to deliver the composition to the human. Some routes can provide a more immediate and more effective reaction than other routes. In some embodiments, the composition is administered to a surface of the subject selected from the group of dermal and mucosal surfaces and combinations thereof. For example, the disclosed compositions can be applied or instilled into body cavities, absorbed through the skin, inhaled, or administered parenterally via, for instance, intramuscular or intraarterial administration. In some embodiments, the disclosed compositions parenterally administered to a human are specifically targeted to particular cells, e.g., cancer cells.

Methods of Formulating

[0095] This disclosure is also directed to methods of formulating, comprising providing an ADC comprising a benzo-

diazepine in an aqueous solution, adding to the aqueous solution comprising the ADC a small hydrophobic molecule selected from the group consisting of betaines and amino acids with hydrophobic side chains. In some examples, the method further comprises adjusting the pH of the aqueous solution to between about 4.0 and about 4.5. In some examples, the method further comprises lyophilizing the solution. In some examples, the method further comprises reconstituting the lyophilized composition.

[0096] In further examples of the method, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the aqueous solution by about 30% to about 40%. In some examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the aqueous solution by about 40% to about 50%. In certain examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the aqueous solution by about 50% to about 60%. In further examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the aqueous solution by about 60% to about 70%. In still further examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the aqueous solution by about 70% to about 80%. In yet further examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the aqueous solution by about 80% to about 90%. In some examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the aqueous solution by about 90% to 100%. In still further examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule eliminates RSA in the aqueous solution. In some examples, the amount of RSA is measured by multiangle light scattering. In some further examples, the amount of RSA is measured by dynamic light scattering.

[0097] In some examples, the method further comprises lyophilizing the aqueous solution, thereby obtaining a lyophilized composition. In certain examples, the method further comprises reconstituting the lyophilized composition, thereby creating a reconstituted lyophilized composition. In further examples of the method, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the reconstituted lyophilized composition by about 30% to about 40%. In some examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the reconstituted lyophilized composition by about 40% to about 50%. In certain examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the reconstituted lyophilized composition by about 50% to about 60%. In further examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the reconstituted lyophilized composition by about 60% to about 70%. In still further examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the reconstituted lyophilized composition by about 60% to about 70%. In yet further examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the reconstituted lyophilized composition by about 70% to about 80%. In some examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the reconstituted lyophilized composition by about 80% to about 90%. In certain examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule reduces RSA in the reconstituted lyophilized composition by about 90% to 100%. In some examples, the addition of a small hydrophobic molecule eliminates RSA in the reconstituted lyophilized composition.

[0098] The descriptions of the ADCs comprising a benzodiazepine, the small hydrophobic molecules, excipients (*e.g.*, buffering agents, surfactants, sugars, etc.), and other components described herein are also applicable to the compositions that are used in the methods of treating.

Methods of Reducing RSA

[0099] This disclosure is also directed to methods of reducing RSA in ADCs comprising benzodiazepines. One example is directed to methods of reducing RSA in an ADC comprising a benzodiazepine, the method comprising providing an ADC comprising a benzodiazepine in an aqueous solution, wherein the ADC exhibits RSA, adding to the aqueous solution a small hydrophobic molecule selected from the group consisting of betaines and amino acids with hydrophobic side chains, wherein the small hydrophobic molecule reduces or inhibits RSA. In some examples, the method further comprises detecting reversible self-association. In certain examples, the method further comprises lyophilizing the aqueous solution. In further examples, the method further comprises reconstituting a lyophilized composition.

[0100] In some examples, RSA is eliminated in the disclosed compositions. In some examples, RSA is decreased by about 90% to 100% in the disclosed compositions. In certain examples, RSA is decreased by about 80% to about 90% in the disclosed compositions. In some examples, RSA is decreased by about 70% to about 80% in the disclosed compositions. In further examples, RSA is decreased by about 60% to about 70% in the disclosed compositions. In still further examples, the RSA is decreased by about 50% to about 60% in the disclosed compositions. In yet further examples, RSA is decreased by about 40% to about 50% in the disclosed compositions. In some examples, RSA is decreased by about 30% to about 40% in the disclosed compositions. In some examples, the method further comprises adjusting the pH of the solution to between about 4.0 to about 4.5.

[0101] The descriptions of the ADCs comprising benzodiazepine, the small hydrophobic molecules, excipients (*e.g.*, buffering agents, surfactants, sugars, etc.), and other components described herein are also applicable to the compositions that are used in the methods of reducing RSA.

EXAMPLES**Example 1: Examination of RSA**

5 **[0102]** This example demonstrates the use of dynamic light scattering and sedimentation velocity analytical ultracentrifugation as techniques for evaluating the extent of reversible self-association in an indolinobenzodiazepine ADC, huMy9-6-DGN462.

10 **[0103]** Dynamic Light Scattering measures the time-dependent fluctuation in the intensity of light scattered from the proteins or antibodies in solution at a fixed scattering angle. As the protein or antibody or ADC molecules undergo Brownian motion, their relative positions change with time. Small molecules, which diffuse quickly, generate signals that fluctuate rapidly, while larger proteins and antibodies generate slower signal fluctuations. The translational diffusion coefficient, D_t , is related to the intensity autocorrelation function of the time-dependent fluctuation in intensity. The hydrodynamic diameter can be determined using the Stokes-Einstein relation [$d_h = K_T/3\pi\eta D_t$, where d_h is the hydrodynamic diameter, K_T is the Boltzmann constant, η is viscosity, and D_t is the translational diffusion coefficient]. Scattering intensity data are processed using DLS instrument software to determine the value for the translational diffusion coefficient and the size distribution of the scattering molecules, *i.e.*, the protein or antibody specimen.

15 **[0104]** All proteins will aggregate to some extent during quiescent storage as the result of exposure of hydrophobic patches for partial unfolding that occurs with fluctuations between the native and non-native states. These aggregates do not dissociate with changes in pH or dilution, but require the introduction of chaotropes such as guanidine or urea to dissociate. When examined by dynamic light scattering techniques solutions that contain small amounts of aggregated protein, do not look substantially different than a solution of pure monomeric protein, *i.e.*, the hydrodynamic diameter and diffusion coefficients remain relatively constant regardless of solution characteristics such as concentration.

20 **[0105]** However, in the case of reversible self-association, where a change in the solution properties, such as dilution, can effect a change in the association state (*i.e.*, disrupt the self-association), DLS can be used to measure a unique diffusion coefficient for a given concentration. A plot of translational diffusion coefficient against protein or antibody concentration yields a best fit line with slope m and a y-intercept, b . A line where the slope m , is positive indicates a net repulsive interaction of the proteins or antibodies, while a negative slope is indicative of a net attractive interaction. This can be seen in Figure 1.

25 **[0106]** Sedimentation velocity analytical ultracentrifugation (SV-AUC) measures the rate at which molecules in solution move in response to centrifugal force generated in a centrifuge. In SV-AUC the sample is spun at a very high speed (42-60k rpm) and the evolution of the concentration gradient is monitored by UV absorbance optics. The high centrifugal force rapidly depletes the protein or antibody from the center of the rotor and forms a boundary that moves towards the outside of the rotor over time. The rate that this boundary moves is a measure of the sedimentation coefficient and is related to the molecular weight and molecular shape, generally represented by the equation $s = m/6\pi\eta r_0$ where m is molecular weight, η is viscosity, and r_0 is the radius of the particle. From these data a distribution of the variously sized components in the sample can be measured.

30 **[0107]** The rate at which the boundary moves is also dependent on the diffusion and frictional forces that act in the opposite direction of sedimentation of the molecule. The minimum width of the sedimentation boundary is related to the diffusion coefficient. The presence of several species with similar sedimentation coefficients will cause the boundary to be broader than expected.

35 **[0108]** In the case of reversibly self-associating molecules, the sedimentation boundary is broader than expected due to the presence of higher ordered oligomers that are stable over the time scale of sedimentation. This manifests as diffusion that is much faster than would be expected for molecules of the measured sedimentation coefficients. To account for this, the shape of the molecule, which is inferred from the frictional ratio f/f_0 , where f is the frictional coefficient for the protein or antibody and f_0 is the frictional coefficient for a hard solid sphere of radius r , is calculated to be more spherical. For reversibly self-associating antibodies which are more elongated than globular, the frictional ratio is considerably smaller (~ 1) than for non-associating antibodies (~ 1.5).

40 **[0109]** In the case of reversibly self-associating molecules, there is also a concentration dependent measure of the distribution of the components in the sample. In SV-AUC, when a set of serially diluted samples is run, the relative proportions of the components change as well as the measured sedimentation coefficient. As the solution becomes more dilute, the sedimentation coefficient begins to approach the expected value. In the case of antibodies this is ~ 6.5 s. This can be seen in Figures 2A & 2B.

Example 2a: Influence of drug load on RSA

55 **[0110]** This example demonstrates the impact of drug load (DAR) on the extent of reversible self-association in an indolinobenzodiazepine ADC. DAR represents an average of indolinobenzodiazepine molecules attached to the antibodies.

[0111] Conjugates comprising the huMy-9-6 monoclonal antibody chemically coupled to the indolinobenzodiazepine DGN462 via a 4-(2-pyridinyldithio)-2-sulfo-,1-(2,5-dioxo-1-pyrrolidinyl) butanoic acid ester (sSPDB) linker (the ADC is referred to as "huMy9-6-sSPDB-DGN462") were prepared using methods described herein and known in the art (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 8,889,669) to yield drug to antibody ratios (DAR) of 1.8, 2.4, and 2.8. huMy9-6-sSPDB-DGN462 conjugates with differing drug loads, but the same antibody concentration (about 2mg/mL), were formulated in 20 mM histidine, 8% trehalose, 0.02% polysorbate 20, pH 6.1.

[0112] As can be seen in Figure 3, compositions with a lower drug load had smaller hydrodynamic diameters than those with higher drug loads suggesting that the intermolecular interactions are between the indolinobenzodiazepine moieties attached to each antibody.

Example 2b: Reduced RSA Compositions

[0113] This example demonstrates the production of a composition that reduces or inhibits reversible self-association comprising an ADC comprising an antibody chemically coupled to an indolinobenzodiazepine (DGN462), buffering agent, surfactant, hydrophobic amino acid, sugar, and water.

[0114] A conjugate comprising the huMy-9-6 monoclonal antibody chemically coupled to the indolinobenzodiazepine DGN462 via a 4-(2-pyridinyldithio)-2-sulfo-,1-(2,5-dioxo-1-pyrrolidinyl) butanoic acid ester (sSPDB) linker (the ADC is referred to as "huMy9-6-sSPDB-DGN462") was prepared using methods described herein and known in the art (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 8,889,669). huMy9-6-sSPDB-DGN462 conjugates were formulated as follows: (a) 0.2 mg/mL ADC, 20 mM histidine, 8% trehalose, 0.02% polysorbate 20, pH 6.1; (b) 0.2 mg/mL ADC, 10 mM succinate, 8% trehalose, pH 4.2; (c) 0.5 mg/mL ADC, 10 mM sodium succinate, 280 mM betaine, pH 4.2; and (d) 0.5 mg/mL ADC, 10 mM sodium succinate, 280 mM proline, pH 4.2. The results of analysis of dynamic light scattering demonstrating the effects of the formulation pH and excipients on reversible self-association are set forth in FIG. 4. As can be seen in FIG. 4, the formulations with proline and betaine have the least negative slope, indicating a lower amount of net attractive interaction when compared to the other formulations. The results of SV-AUC for the 10 mM succinate, 280 mM proline formulation and the 10 mM succinate, 280 mM betaine formulation are set forth in FIG. 5. The results show that succinate/proline or succinate/betaine formulations are superior to trehalose/histidine pH 6.1 formulations for reducing RSA.

[0115] These experiments demonstrate the surprisingly reduced RSA in the compositions of this disclosure.

Example 3a: Reduced RSA Formulation: AbX-D2 conjugate with Proline

[0116] This example demonstrates the production of a composition for reducing or inhibiting reversible self-association comprising a conjugate comprising an antibody chemically coupled to an indolinobenzodiazepine D2, buffering agent, surfactant, hydrophobic amino acid, sugar, and water.

[0117] A conjugate comprising a monoclonal antibody AbX chemically coupled to the indolinobenzodiazepine D2 (herein referred to as "AbX-D2") is prepared using methods described herein and in U.S. Application No. 14/843,520. Compositions comprising the AbX-D2 conjugate are formulated as follows: (a) 20 mM histidine, 8% trehalose, 0.02% polysorbate 20, pH 6.1; (b) 10 mM acetate, 8% trehalose, pH 4.2; (c) 10 mM sodium succinate, 280 mM proline or 280mM Betaine, pH 4.2; and (d) 10 mM sodium succinate, 8% trehalose, and optionally 0.02% polysorbate, pH4.2. For each of the compositions, 2 - 200 μ M bisulfite may also be included.

Example 3b: Reduced RSA Formulation: huMov19-sSPDB-D1 conjugate with Leucine

[0118] This example demonstrates the production of a composition for reducing or inhibiting reversible self-association comprising a conjugate comprising an antibody chemically coupled to an indolinobenzodiazepine D3, buffering agent, surfactant, hydrophobic amino acid, sugar, and water.

[0119] A conjugate comprising the huMov19 monoclonal antibody chemically coupled to the indolinobenzodiazepine D1 (herein referred to as "huMov19-sSPDB-D1") is prepared using methods described herein (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 9,381,256). Compositions comprising the huMov19-sSPDB-D1 conjugate are formulated as follows: (a) 20 mM histidine, 8% trehalose, 0.02% polysorbate 20, pH 6.1; (b) 10 mM acetate, 8% trehalose, pH 4.2; (c) 10 mM sodium succinate, 125 mM leucine, pH 4.2; and (d) 10 mM sodium succinate, 8% trehalose, and optionally 0.02% polysorbate, pH4.2.

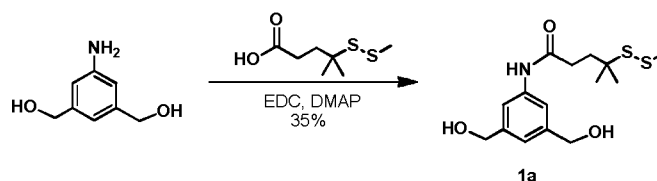
Example 3c: Reduced RSA Formulation: huMov19-sSPDB-D4 conjugate with isoleucine

[0120] This example demonstrates the production of a composition for reducing or eliminating reversible self-association comprising a conjugate comprising an antibody chemically coupled to an indolinobenzodiazepine D4, buffering agent, surfactant, hydrophobic amino acid, sugar, and water.

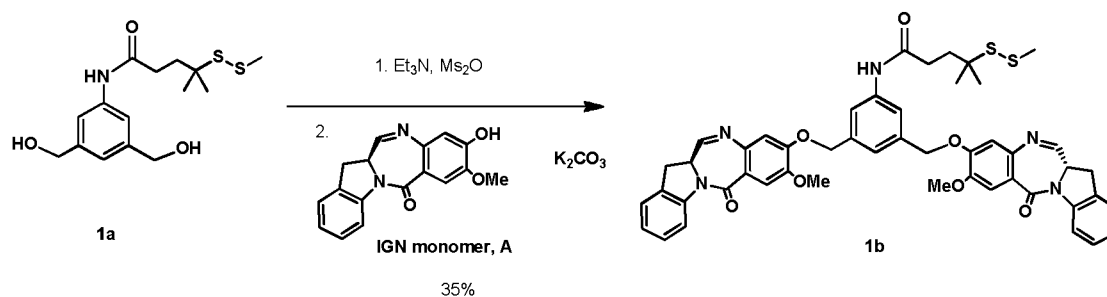
[0121] A conjugate comprising the huMov19 monoclonal antibody chemically coupled to the indolinobenzodiazepine D4 (herein referred to as "huMov19-sSPDB-D4") is prepared using methods described herein (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 9,669,102). Compositions comprising the huMov19-sSPDB -D4 conjugate are formulated as follows: (a) 20 mM histidine, 8% trehalose, 0.02% polysorbate 20, pH 6.1; (b) 10 mM acetate, 8% trehalose, pH 4.2; (c) 10 mM sodium succinate, 125 mM isoleucine, pH 4.2; and (d) 10 mM sodium succinate, 8% trehalose, and optionally 0.02% polysorbate, pH 4.2.

Example 4: Methods of Making D1

[0122]

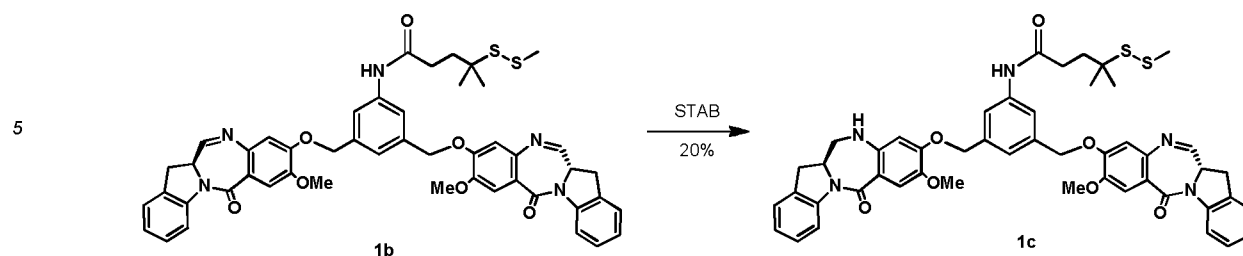


[0123] **Compound 1a:** To a stirred solution of (5-amino-1,3-phenylene)dimethanol (1.01 g, 6.59 mmol) in anhydrous dimethylformamide (16.48 mL) and anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (16.48 mL) was added 4-methyl-4-(methylsulfanyl)pentanoic acid (1.281 g, 6.59 mmol), N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-N'-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (2.53 g, 13.19 mmol), and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (0.081 g, 0.659 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred for 18 hours at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with saturated ammonium chloride solution and extracted with ethyl acetate (3x 50 mL). The organic extracts were washed with water and brine, then dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solution was filtered and concentrated in vacuo and the resulting residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (Ethyl acetate/Hexanes) to obtain compound **1a** as a white solid (0.70 g, 32% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.90 (s, 1H), 7.43 (s, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 5.16 (t, 2H, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 4.44 (d, 4H, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.41-2.38 (m, 2H), 1.92-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.29 (s, 6H). MS (*m/z*), found 330.0 (*M* + 1)⁺.



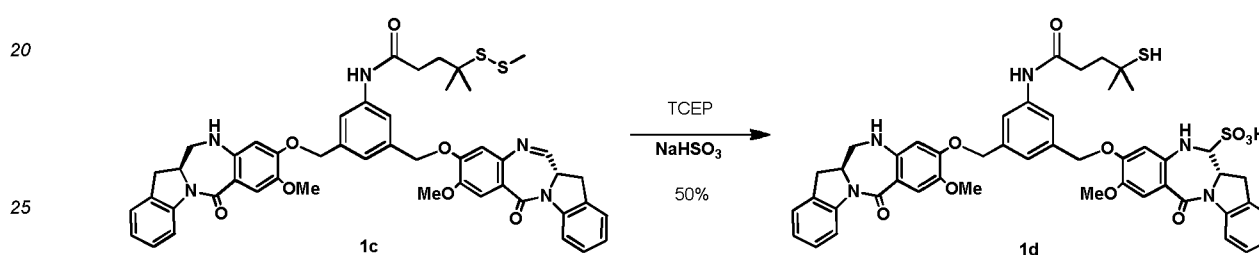
[0124] **Compound 1b:** To a cooled (-10°C) solution of compound **1a** (219 mg, 0.665 mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (6.65 mL) was added triethylamine (463 μL, 3.32 mmol) followed by dropwise addition of methanesulfonyl anhydride (298 mg, 1.662 mmol). The mixture stirred at -10 °C for 2 hours, then the mixture was quenched with ice water and extracted with cold ethyl acetate (2 x 30 mL). The organic extracts were washed with ice water, dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain the crude dimesylate.

[0125] The crude dimesylate (227 mg, 0.467 mmol) and IGN monomer **A** (303 mg, 1.028 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous DMF (3.11 mL). Potassium carbonate (161 mg, 1.169 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred for 18 hours at room temperature. Deionized water was added and the resulting precipitate was filtered and rinsed with water. The solid was redissolved in dichloromethane and washed with water. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (Methanol/Dichloromethane) to give compound **1b** (227 mg, 36% yield). MS (*m/z*), found 882.5 (*M* + 1)⁺.



[0126] **Compound 1c**: To a suspension of compound **1b** (227 mg, 0.167 mmol) in anhydrous 1,2-dichloroethane (3.346 mL) was added sodium triacetoxyborohydride (STAB) (37.3 mg, 0.167 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temp for one hour upon which it was quenched with saturated ammonium chloride solution. The mixture was extracted with dichloromethane and washed with brine. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by RP-HPLC (C18, Water/Acetonitrile). Fractions containing desired product were extracted with dichloromethane, dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated to give compound **1c** (35 mg, 19% yield). MS (m/z), found 884.3 (M + 1)⁺.

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[0127] **Compound 1d**: To a solution of compound **1c** (18 mg, 0.017 mmol) in acetonitrile (921 μ L) and methanol (658 μ L) was added tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine hydrochloride (TCEP) (17.51 mg, 0.060 mmol) (neutralized with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (0.2 mL) in sodium phosphate buffer (132 μ L, 0.75 M, pH 6.5). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3.5 hours, then diluted with dichloromethane and deionized water. The organic layer was separated, washed with brine, dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain the crude thiol. MS (m/z), found 838.3 (M + 1)⁺.

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[0128] The crude thiol from step 5 (15.5 mg, 0.018 mmol) was dissolved in 2-propanol (1.23 mL). Deionized water (617 μ L) and sodium bisulfite (5.77 mg, 0.055 mmol) were added and the mixture stirred for five hours at room temperature. The reaction was frozen in an acetone/dry ice bath, lyophilized, and purified by RP-HPLC (C18, deionized water/acetonitrile). Fractions containing desired product were frozen and lyophilized to give compound (12S,12aS)-9-((3-(4-mercapto-4-methylpentanamido)-5-(((R)-8-methoxy-6-oxo-11,12,12a,13-tetrahydro-6H-benzo[5,6][1,4]diazepino[1,2-a]indol-9-yl)oxy)methyl)benzyl)oxy)-8-methoxy-6-oxo-11,12,12a,13-tetrahydro-6H-benzo[5,6][1,4]diazepino[1,2-a]indole-12-sulfonic acid (compound **1d**, also referred to herein as **D1**) (6.6 mg, 39% yield). MS (m/z), found 918.2 (M - 1)⁻.

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Example 5: Preparation of huMOV19-sulfo-SPDB-1d

[0129] A reaction containing 2.0 mg/mL huMOV19 antibody and 6 molar equivalents of sulfo-SPDB-1d in situ mixture by linker in 50 mM HEPES (4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazine ethanesulfonic acid) pH 8.5 buffer and 15% v/v DMA (N,N-Dimethylacetamide) cosolvent was allowed to conjugate for 6 hours at 25 °C. The in situ mixture was prepared by reacting 1.5 mM sulfo-SPDB linker with 1.95 mM of compound **1d** in 100% DMA for 4 hours in the presence of 10 mM N,N-Diisopropylethyl amine (DIPEA). Free thiol was then capped by adding a 3-fold excess of maleimido-propionic acid.

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[0130] Post-reaction, the conjugate was purified and buffer exchanged into 100 mM Arginine, 20 mM Histidine, 2% sucrose, 0.01% Tween-20, 50 μ M sodium bisulfite formulation buffer pH 6.1 using NAP desalting columns (Illustra Sephadex G-25 DNA Grade, GE Healthcare). Dialysis was performed in the same buffer for 20 hours at 4 °C utilizing Slide-a-Lyzer dialysis cassettes (ThermoScientific 20,000 MWCO).

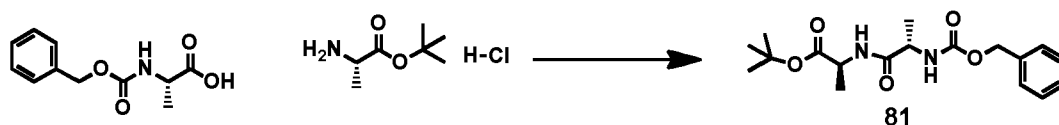
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[0131] The purified conjugate was found to have an average of 2.5 molecules of compound **1d** linked per antibody (by UV-Vis using molar extinction coefficients $\epsilon_{330\text{ nm}} = 15,280\text{ cm}^{-1}\text{M}^{-1}$ and $\epsilon_{280\text{ nm}} = 30,115\text{ cm}^{-1}\text{M}^{-1}$ for compound **1d**, and $\epsilon_{280\text{ nm}} = 201,400\text{ cm}^{-1}\text{M}^{-1}$ for huMOV19 antibody), 95% monomer (by size exclusion chromatography), <0.1% unconjugated compound **1d** (by acetone precipitation, reverse-phase HPLC analysis) and a final protein concentration of 1.8 mg/ml. The conjugated antibody was found to be >80% intact by gel chip analysis.

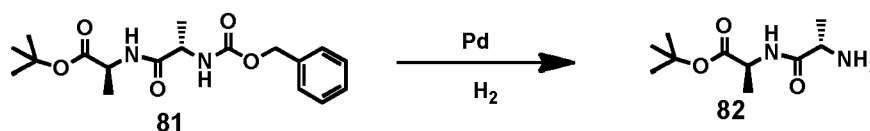
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Example 6: Methods of Making D2

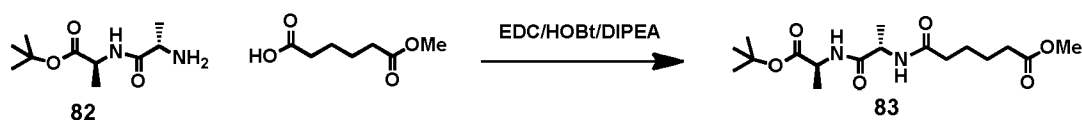
[0132] Synthesis of 2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl 6-(((S)-1-(((S)-1-((3-(((S)-8-methoxy-6-oxo-11,12,12a,13-tetrahydro-6H-benzo[5,6][1,4]diazepino[1,2-a]indol-9-yl)oxy)methyl)-5-(((R)-8-methoxy-6-oxo-12a,13-dihydro-6H-benzo[5,6][1,4]diazepino[1,2-a]indol-9-yl)oxy)methyl) phenyl)amino)-1-oxopropan-2-yl)amino)-1-oxopropan-2-yl)amino)-6-oxohexanoate, compound **90**, also referred to herein as D2.



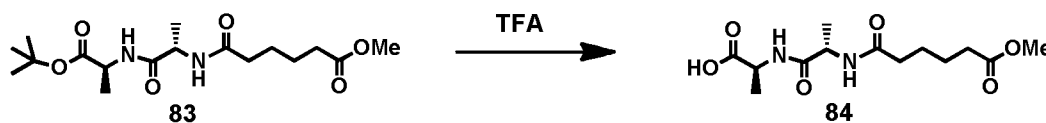
[0133] Step 1: (S)-2-(((benzyloxy)carbonyl)amino)propanoic acid (5 g, 22.40 mmol) and (S)-tert-butyl 2-aminopropanoate hydrochloride (4.48 g, 24.64 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous DMF (44.8 mL). EDC·HCl (4.72 g, 24.64 mmol), HOBt (3.43 g, 22.40 mmol), and DIPEA (9.75 mL, 56.0 mmol) were added. The reaction stirred under argon, at room temperature, overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane and then washed with saturated ammonium chloride, saturated sodium bicarbonate, water, and brine. The organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated. The crude oil was purified via silica gel chromatography (Hexanes/Ethyl Acetate) to yield compound **81** (6.7 g, 85% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38-7.31 (m, 5H), 6.53-6.42 (m, 1H), 5.42-5.33 (m, 1H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 4.48-4.41 (m, 1H), 4.32-4.20 (m, 1H), 1.49 (s, 9H), 1.42 (d, 3H, J = 6.8 Hz), 1.38 (d, 3H, J = 7.2 Hz).



[0134] Step 2: Compound **81** (6.7 g, 19.12 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (60.7 mL) and water (3.03 mL). The solution was purged with argon for five minutes. Palladium on carbon (wet, 10%) (1.017 g, 0.956 mmol) was added slowly. The reaction was stirred overnight under an atmosphere of hydrogen. The solution was filtered through Celite, rinsed with methanol and concentrated. It was azeotroped with methanol and acetonitrile and the resulting oil was placed directly on the high vacuum to give compound **82** (4.02 g, 97% yield) which was used directly in the next step. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.78-7.63 (m, 1H), 4.49-4.42 (m, 1H), 3.55-3.50 (m, 1H), 1.73 (s, 2H), 1.48 (s, 9H), 1.39 (d, 3H, J = 7.2 Hz), 1.36 (d, 3H, J = 6.8 Hz).



[0135] Step 3: Compound **82** (4.02 g, 18.59 mmol) and mono methyladipate (3.03 mL, 20.45 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous DMF (62.0 mL). EDC·HCl (3.92 g, 20.45 mmol), HOBt (2.85 g, 18.59 mmol) and DIPEA (6.49 mL, 37.2 mmol) were added. The mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction was diluted with dichloromethane/methanol (150 mL, 5:1) and washed with saturated ammonium chloride, saturated sodium bicarbonate, and brine. It was dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and stripped. The compound was azeotroped with acetonitrile (5x), then pumped on the high vacuum at 35 °C to give compound **83** (6.66 g, 100% yield). The crude material was taken onto next step without purification. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.75 (d, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz), 6.44 (d, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz), 4.52-4.44 (m, 1H), 4.43-4.36 (m, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.35-2.29 (m, 2H), 2.25-2.18 (m, 2H), 1.71-1.60 (m, 4H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.36 (t, 6H, J = 6.0 Hz).

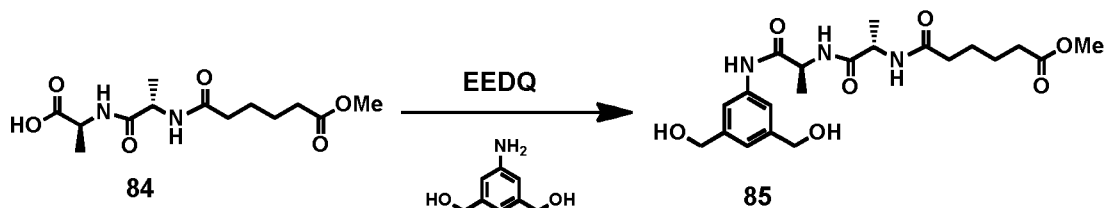


[0136] Step 4: Compound **83** (5.91 g, 16.5 mmol) was stirred in TFA (28.6 mL, 372 mmol) and deionized water (1.5 mL) at room temperature for three hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated with acetonitrile and placed on high

vacuum to give crude compound **84** as a sticky solid (5.88 g, 100% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.21 (d, 1H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 6.81 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 4.69-4.60 (m, 1H), 4.59-4.51 (m, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.40-2.33 (m, 2H), 2.31-2.24 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.63 (m, 4H), 1.51-1.45 (m, 3H), 1.42-1.37 (m, 3H).

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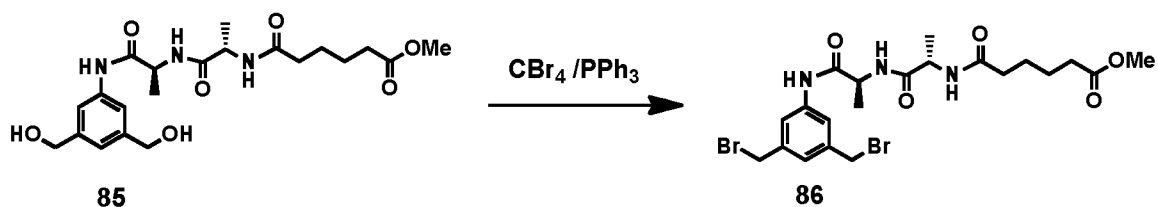


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[0137] Step 5: Compound **84** (5.6 g, 18.52 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous dichloromethane (118 mL) and anhydrous methanol (58.8 mL). (5-amino-1,3-phenylene)dimethanol (2.70 g, 17.64 mmol) and EEDQ (8.72 g, 35.3 mmol) were added and the reaction was stirred at room temperature, overnight. The solvent was stripped and ethyl acetate was added. The resulting slurry was filtered, washed with ethyl acetate and dried under vacuum/ N_2 to give compound **85** (2.79 g, 36% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 9.82 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, 1H, $J = 9.2$ Hz), 8.01 (d, 1H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 7.46 (s, 2H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 5.21-5.12 (m, 2H), 4.47-4.42 (m, 4H), 4.40-4.33 (m, 1H), 4.33-4.24 (m, 1H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 2.33-2.26 (m, 2H), 2.16-2.09 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.46 (m, 4H), 1.30 (d, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.22 (d, 3H, $J = 4.4$ Hz).

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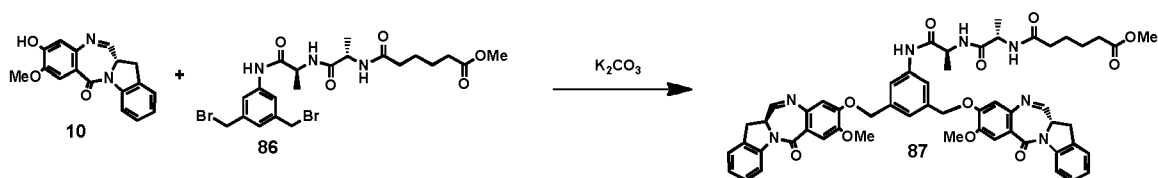


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[0138] Step 6: Compound **85** (0.52 g, 1.189 mmol) and carbon tetrabromide (1.183 g, 3.57 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous DMF (11.89 mL). Triphenylphosphine (PPh_3) (0.935 g, 3.57 mmol) was added and the reaction stirred under argon for four hours. The reaction mixture was diluted with DCM/MeOH (10:1) and washed with water and brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The crude material was purified by silica gel chromatography (DCM/MeOH) to give compound **86** (262 mg, 39% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 10.01 (s, 1H), 8.11 (d, 1H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 8.03 (d, 1H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 7.67 (s, 2H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 4.70-4.64 (m, 4H), 4.40-4.32 (m, 1H), 4.31-4.23 (m, 1H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 2.34-2.26 (m, 2H), 2.18-2.10 (m, 2H), 1.55-1.45 (m, 4H), 1.31 (d, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.21 (d, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz).

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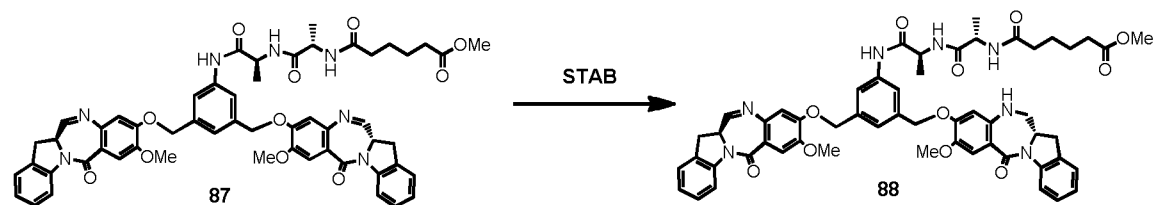


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[0139] Step 7: Dibromide compound **86** and IGN monomer compound **10** were dissolved in DMF (1.84 mL). Potassium carbonate was added and was stirred at room temperature overnight. Water was added to the reaction mixture to precipitate the product. The slurry was stirred at room temperature and was then filtered and dried under vacuum/ N_2 . The crude material was purified by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol) to give compound **87** (336 mg, 74% yield). LCMS = 5.91 min (15 min method). MS (m/z): 990.6 ($M + 1$) $^+$.

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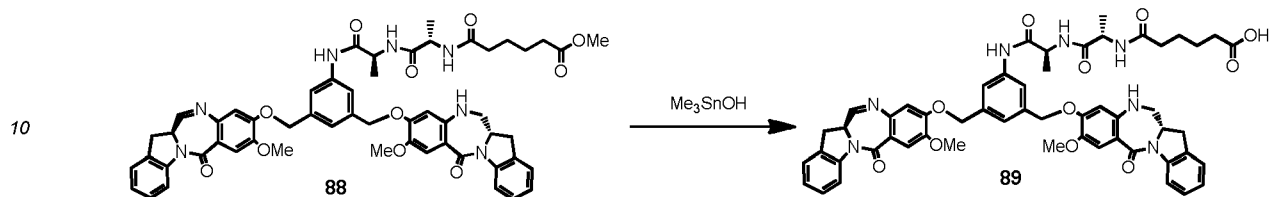
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[0140] Step 8: Diimine compound **87** was dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane. $\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$ (STAB) was added to the

reaction mixture and was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and was quenched with sat'd aq NH_4Cl solution. The layers were separated and was washed with brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated.. The crude material was purified via RPHPLC (C18 column, Acetonitrile/Water) to give compound **88** (85.5 mg, 25% yield). LCMS =6.64 min (15 min method). MS (m/z): 992.6 ($\text{M} + 1$)⁺.

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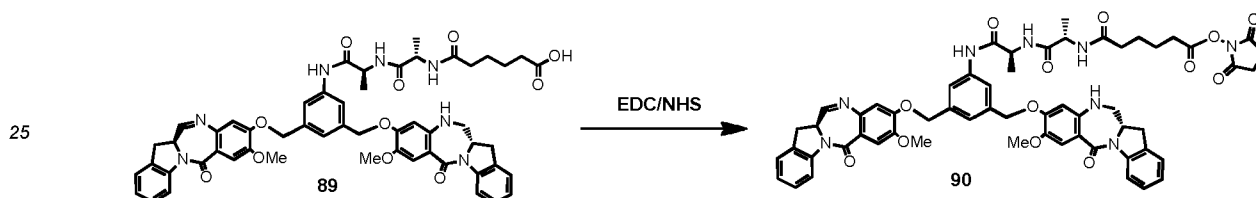


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[0141] Step 9: Methyl ester compound **88** was dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane. Trimethylstannanol was added to the reaction mixture and was heated at 80 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and was diluted with water. The aqueous layer was acidified to pH ~ 4 with 1 M HCl. The mixture was extracted with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ (10:1, 3 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine and was dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated.. The crude material was passed through a silica plug to give compound **89** (48.8 mg, 80% yield). LCMS = 5.89 min (15 min method). MS (m/z): 978.6 ($\text{M} + 1$)⁺.

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[0142] Step 10: EDC·HCl was added to a stirred solution of acid compound **89** and N-hydroxysuccinamide in CH_2Cl_2 at rt. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and was washed with water and brine. The organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated. The crude material was purified via RPHPLC (C18 column, Acetonitrile/Water) to give 2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl 6-(((S)-1-(((S)-1-((3-(((S)-8-methoxy-6-oxo-11,12,12a,13-tetrahydro-6H-benzo[5,6][1,4]diazepino[1,2-a]indol-9-yl)oxy)methyl)-5-(((R)-8-methoxy-6-oxo-12a,13-dihydro-6H-benzo[5,6][1,4]diazepino[1,2-a]indol-9-yl)oxy)methyl) phenyl)amino)-1-oxopropan-2-yl)amino) -1-oxopropan-2-yl)amino)-6-oxohexanoate, compound **90** (8.2 mg, 30% yield). LCMS = 6.64 min (15 min method). MS (m/z): 1075.4 ($\text{M} + 1$)⁺.

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Example 7: Preparation of huMOV19-90

[0143] A reaction containing 2.0 mg/mL huMOV19 antibody and 3.9 molar equivalents of compound **90** (pretreated with 5-fold excess of sodium bisulfite in 95:5 DMA:50 mM succinate pH 5.5 for 4 hours at 25 °C) in 15 mM HEPES (4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazine ethanesulfonic acid) pH 8.5 buffer and 15% v/v DMA (*N,N*-Dimethylacetamide) cosolvent was incubated for 4 hours at 25 °C. Post-reaction, the conjugate was purified and buffer exchanged into 10 mM succinate, 50 mM sodium chloride, 8.5% w/v sucrose, 0.01% Tween-20, 50 μM sodium bisulfite pH 6.2 formulation buffer using NAP desalting columns (Illustra Sephadex G-25 DNA Grade, GE Healthcare). Dialysis was performed in the same buffer for 4 hours at room temperature and then overnight at 4 °C utilizing Slide-a-Lyzer dialysis cassettes (ThermoScientific 30,000 MWCO).

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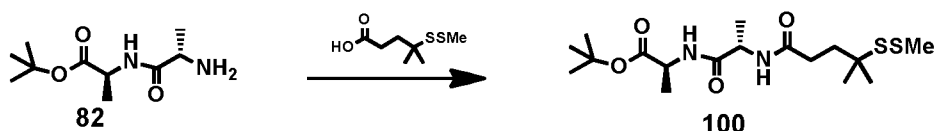
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[0144] The purified conjugate was found to have a final protein concentration of 1.8 mg/ml and an average of 2.7 molecules of compound **90** linked per antibody (by UV-Vis using molar extinction coefficients $\epsilon_{330\text{ nm}} = 15,280\text{ cm}^{-1}\text{M}^{-1}$ and $\epsilon_{280\text{ nm}} = 30,115\text{ cm}^{-1}\text{M}^{-1}$ for compound **90**, and $\epsilon_{280\text{ nm}} = 201,400\text{ cm}^{-1}\text{M}^{-1}$ for huMOV19 antibody); 98.3% monomer (by size exclusion chromatography); and <1.1% unconjugated compound **90** (by acetone precipitation, reverse-phase HPLC analysis). The MS spectrometry data is shown in FIG. 6. DAR0 represents an unconjugated antibody, *i.e.*, an antibody that has no benzodiazepines conjugated to it. DAR6 represents an antibody with six benzodiazepines linked to it. The peaks in the middle correspond, from left to right, DAR1, DAR2, DAR3, DAR4, and DAR5.

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Example 8. Synthesis of Compound 107, also referred to herein as D4.

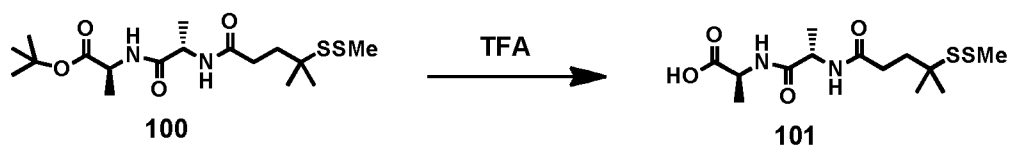
[0145]



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[0146] Step 1: Compound **82** (500 mg, 2.31 mmol), 4-methyl-4-(methylsulfanyl)pentanoic acid (449mg, 2.31mmol), EDC·HCl (465 mg, 2.43 mmol), HOBt (354 mg, 2.31 mmol), and DIPEA (0.81 mL, 4.62 mmol) were dissolved in DMF (7.7 mL) and stirred overnight until the reaction was complete. The reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate, saturated ammonium chloride, and twice with water. The organic was dried and concentrated in vacuo to give compound **100** (875 mg, 96% yield) which was used directly in the next step. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): δ 8.15 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 8.02 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 4.26-4.33 (m, 1H), 4.03-4.12 (m, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.18-2.22 (m, 2H), 1.76-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.39 (s, 9H), 1.24 (s, 6H), 1.24 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.19 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz).

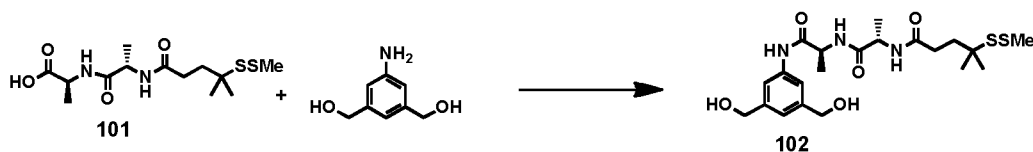
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[0147] Step 2: TFA (2.6ml) and water (0.17ml) were added to neat Compound **100** (875 mg, 2.23 mmol) and were stirred at room temperature until the reaction was complete. The reaction was diluted and azeotroped with acetonitrile to obtain a sticky oil. It was then diluted with acetonitrile and water, frozen and lyophilized to give compound **101** (1g, 100% yield) as an off white solid that was used without further purification. LCMS = 3.99 min (8 min method). MS (*m/z*): 337.0 (*M* + 1)⁺.

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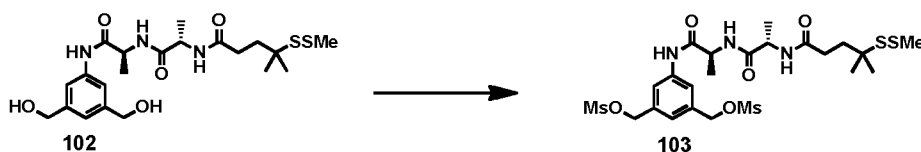


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[0148] Step 3: Compound **101** (923 mg, 1.65mmol) and (5-amino-1,3-phenylene)dimethanol (240mg, 1.57mmol) were dissolved in DMF (5.2ml). EDC·HCl (601 mg, 3.13 mmol), and DMAP (96 mg, 0.78 mmol) were added at room temperature and the reaction was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with water three times. The organic layer was dried, concentrated in vacuo and purified by silica gel chromatography (DCM/MeOH) to give Compound **102** (150 mg, 20% yield). LCMS = 3.91 min (8 min method). MS (*m/z*): 472.2 (*M* + 1)⁺. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD): δ 9.69 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 8.18 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 7.52 (s, 2H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 4.58 (s, 4H), 4.44-4.48 (m, 1H), 4.29-4.32 (m, 1H), 3.34 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.34-2.40 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.43 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.36 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.30 (s, 6H).

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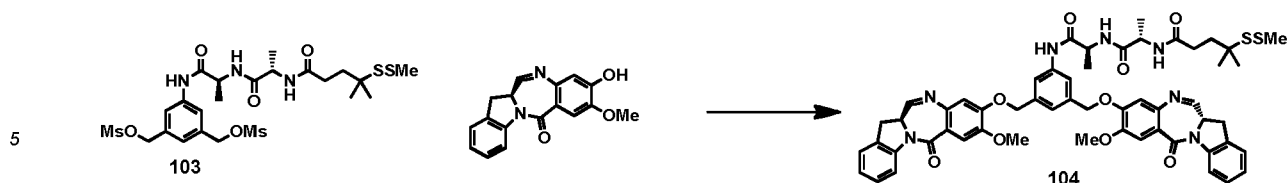
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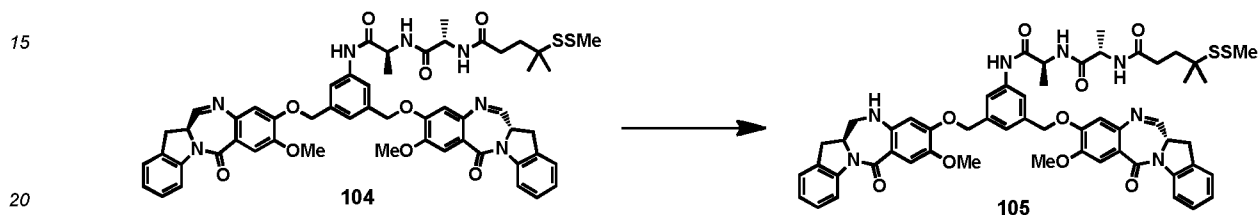
[0149] Step 4: Compound **102** was suspended in anhydrous DCM. Anhydrous DMF was added until the solution became homogeneous. The solution was cooled to -10°C in an acetone/dry ice bath. Triethylamine was added, followed by methanesulfonyl anhydride. The mixture stirred at -10°C for 1 hour. The reaction was quenched with ice water and extracted with cold ethyl acetate/methanol (20:1). The organic layer was washed with ice water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The crude material was dried under high vacuum to give Compound **103** (174 mgs, 101% yield) that was used directly in the next step without further purification. LCMS = 4.95 min (8 min method).

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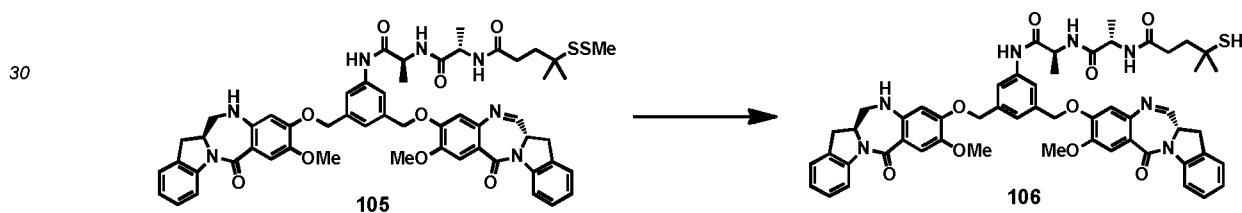
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[0150] Step 5: Dimesylate compound **103** (435 mg, 1.11 mmol) was dissolved in DMF. IGN monomer compound **10** was added, followed by K_2CO_3 and was stirred at room temperature under Ar overnight. Water was added to precipitate out the product. The slurry was stirred for 5 min, filtered and dried under vacuum/ N_2 . The crude solid contained compound **104** (203 mg, 44% yield, 60% purity) which was used without further purification. LCMS = 5.68 min (8 min method). MS (m/z): 1024.3(M + 1)⁺.



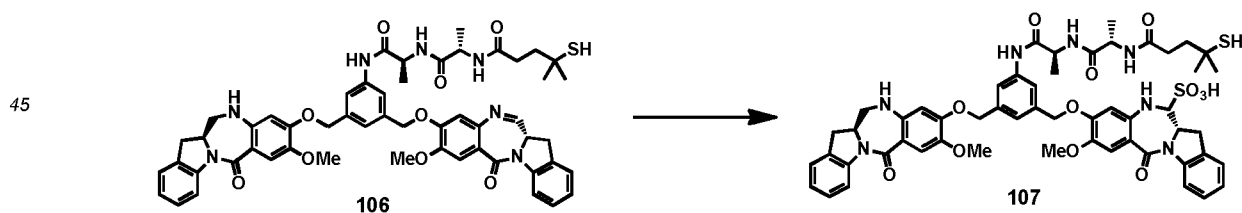
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[0151] Step 6: Diimine compound **104** was dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane. $NaBH(OAc)_3$ was added to the reaction mixture and was stirred at rt. The reaction was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and was quenched with sat'd aq NH_4Cl solution (15 mL). The layers were separated and was washed with brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by RPHPLC (C18 column, CH_3CN/H_2O , gradient, 50% to 65%) to yield mono imine compound **105** as a solid (22 mg, 16% yield, 90% pure). LCMS = 6.00 min (8 min method). MS (m/z): 1027.3(M + 1)⁺.



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[0152] Step 7: Compound **106** was dissolved in THF (0.5 mL) and ACN (0.23 mL) at room temperature. It was then prepared similarly to compound **98** in Example 9. The mixture was stirred until completion and then diluted with DCM and DI water. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated to give the crude thiol, compound **106** (21 mg, 100% yield) which was used directly in the next reaction. LCMS = 5.67 min (8 min method). MS (m/z): 980.4 (M + 1)⁺.



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[0153] Step 8: Compound **106** (21 mg, 0.021 mmol) was suspended in 2-propanol (1428 μ l) and water (714 μ l). Sodium metabisulfite (22.30 mg, 0.214 mmol) was added and the reaction stirred at room temperature until completion. The reaction mixture was diluted with acetonitrile/water, frozen and lyophilized. The resulting white powder was purified by RPHPLC (C18 column, CH_3CN/H_2O , gradient, 20% to 40%) and the desired fractions were collected and lyophilized to give compound **107** (5.3 mg, 23% yield). LCMS = 5.67 min (8 min method). MS (m/z): 1060.2 (M - 1)⁻.

Example 9. Preparation of huMOV19-sulfo-SPDB-107 (or huMOV19-107) conjugate

[0154] An in situ mix containing final concentrations of 1.95 mM Compound **107** and 1.5 mM sulfo-SPDB Linker in

succinate buffer (pH 5) : DMA (30 : 70) was incubated for 6 h before adding a 7-fold excess of **107**-sulfo-SPDB-NHS to a reaction containing 4 mg/ml huMOV19 antibody in 15 mM HEPES pH 8.5 (87:13, water: DMA). The solution was allowed to conjugate over night at 25 °C.

[0155] Post-reaction, the conjugate was purified and buffer exchanged into 10 mM Tris, 80 mM NaCl, 50 uM Bisulfite, 3.5 % Sucrose, 0.01% Tween-20 formulation buffer pH 7.6 using NAP desalting columns (Illustra Sephadex G-25 DNA Grade, GE Healthcare). Dialysis was performed in the same buffer over night at 4 °C utilizing Slide-a-Lyzer dialysis cassettes (Thermo Scientific 10,000 MWCO).

[0156] The purified conjugate was found to have an average of 2.7 molecules of compound 107 linked per antibody (by UV/Vis and SEC using molar extinction coefficients $\epsilon_{330\text{ nm}} = 15,484\text{ cm}^{-1}\text{M}^{-1}$ and $\epsilon_{280\text{ nm}} = 30,115\text{ cm}^{-1}\text{M}^{-1}$ for compound **107**, and $\epsilon_{280\text{ nm}} = 201,400\text{ cm}^{-1}\text{M}^{-1}$ for huMOV19 antibody), 95% monomer (by size exclusion chromatography), and a final protein concentration of 1.1 mg/ml. The MS spectrometry data is shown in FIG. 7. DAR0 represents an unconjugated antibody, i.e., an antibody that has no benzodiazepines conjugated to it. DAR5 represents an antibody with five benzodiazepines linked to it. The peaks in the middle correspond, from left to right, DAR1, DAR2, DAR3, and DAR4.

Example 10. Reduced RSA with Low pH Succinate Buffers

[0157] This example demonstrates the production of compositions that reduce, inhibit, or eliminate reversible self-association where the compositions include a conjugate comprising an antibody with an engineered cysteine (e.g., a non-naturally occurring cysteine introduced into the antibody heavy chain or light chain in place of another non-cysteine amino acid) chemically coupled to an indolinobenzodiazepine, buffering agent, surfactant, sugar, and water.

[0158] Conjugates comprising the AbX monoclonal antibody chemically coupled to the indolinobenzodiazepine D2(a) through engineered cysteines were produced. The conjugates were formulated as (a) 10 mM histidine, 8% trehalose, 0.01% polysorbate 20, pH 5.5; or (b) 10 mM sodium succinate, 8% trehalose, 0.01% polysorbate 20, pH 4.2.

[0159] As shown in Figure 8, the succinate and trehalose combination at pH 4.2 (formula (b)) showed a greater reduction in reversible self-association as measured by DLS when compared to the histidine trehalose combination (formula (a)).

[0160] These results demonstrate the ability of compositions disclosed herein to reduce, inhibit, or eliminate reversible self-association at lower pH ranges such as pH 4.2.

Example 11. Reduced RSA with Succinate Buffer

[0161] This example demonstrates the production of compositions that reduce, inhibit, or eliminate reversible self-association comprising a conjugate comprising an antibody chemically coupled to an indolinobenzodiazepine, succinate-based buffering agent, surfactant, sugar, and water.

[0162] Conjugates comprising the huMy-9-6 monoclonal antibody chemically coupled to the indolinobenzodiazepine DGN462 via a 4-(2-pyridinyldithio)-2-sulfo-, 1-(2,5-dioxo-1-pyrrolidinyl) butanoic acid ester (sSPDB) linker ("huMy-9-6-sSPDB-DGN462") were prepared using methods described herein and known in the art (see, e.g., U.S. Patent 6,441,163). The huMy-9-6-sSPDB-DGN462 conjugate was formulated as follows: (a) 20 mM histidine, 8% trehalose, 0.02% polysorbate 20, pH 6.1; (b) 10 mM acetate, 8% trehalose, pH 4.2; and (c) 10 mM sodium succinate, 8% trehalose, pH 4.2.

[0163] The results of analysis by dynamic light scattering demonstrating the effects of the formulation pH and buffering agent on reversible self-association are set forth in Figure 9. These results indicate that succinate (formula (c)) as a buffering agent is more effective at reducing reversible self-association than acetate (formula (b)) in the pH range of 4.0 to 4.5, and both are more effective than histidine (formula (a)) at pH 6.1.

[0164] As also shown in Figure 9, the succinate trehalose combination (formula (c)) is more effective than the acetate trehalose combination (formula (b)) at reducing reversible self-association at pH 4.2.

[0165] In addition, the data shown in Figure 10 result from the assessment of reversible self-association for the succinate-trehalose combination over the range of pH4.2 to pH5.7. The results show that reduction in reversible self-association increases as the pH decreases, as shown herein with the use of a succinate buffer.

Example 12. Reduced RSA with Low pH Succinate Buffers

[0166] This example demonstrates the production of compositions that reduce, inhibit, or eliminate reversible self-association where the compositions include a conjugate comprising an antibody with an engineered cysteine (e.g., a non-naturally occurring cysteine introduced into the antibody heavy chain or light chain in place of another non-cysteine amino acid) chemically coupled to an indolinobenzodiazepine, buffering agent, surfactant, sugar, and water.

[0167] Conjugates comprising the AbX monoclonal antibody chemically coupled to the indolinobenzodiazepine D2(a) through engineered cysteines were produced. The conjugate was formulated as 10 mM sodium succinate, 8% trehalose,

0.01% polysorbate 20, pH 4.0.

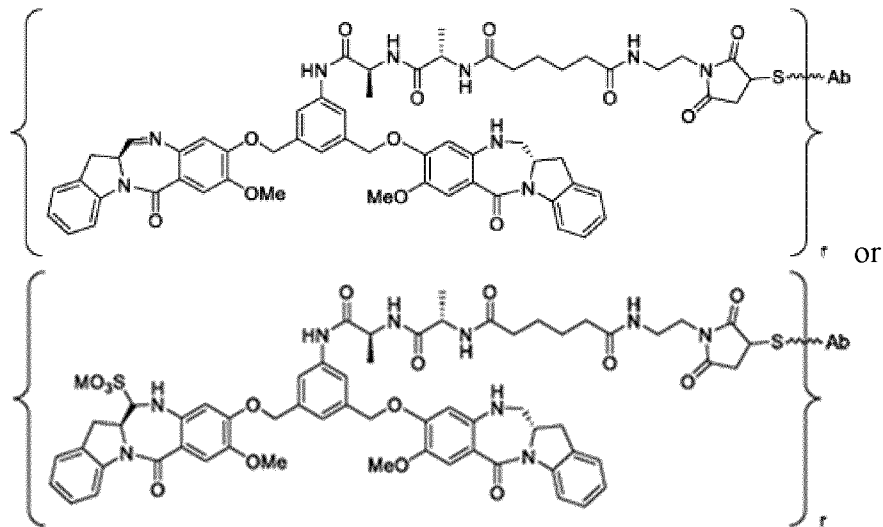
[0168] As shown in Figure 11, the succinate and trehalose combination at pH 4.0 showed an equivalent or greater reduction in reversible self-association as measured by DLS when compared to the succinate/trehalose formulation at pH 4.2.

[0169] Using a site-specific conjugate, this example shows the reduction of RSA even in a conjugate with a lower DAR. These results further demonstrate the ability of compositions disclosed herein to reduce, inhibit, or eliminate reversible self-association particularly at lower pH ranges such as pH 4.0-4.5, even for site specific conjugates with a DAR of, for example, 2.0.

Claims

1. An aqueous formulation comprising:

- (a) water;
 (b) 2 mg/mL of a conjugate of the following formula:



- (c) 10 mM sodium succinate; and
 (d) 8% trehalose dihydrate;
 wherein Ab is an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprising a heavy chain variable region (VH) complementary determining region (CDR1) sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, a VH CDR2 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, and a VH CDR3 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 and a light chain variable region (VL) CDR1 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, a VL CDR2 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, and a VL CDR3 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6;
 wherein r is an integer from 1 to 10;
 M is Na⁺, K⁺, H⁺, or any pharmaceutically acceptable cation; and
 wherein the formulation has a pH ranging from 4.0 to 4.5.

2. The aqueous formulation of claim 1, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable region domain at least about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 7 and a light chain variable region at least about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 9.

3. The aqueous formulation of claim 1, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable region domain at least about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 11 and a light chain variable region at least about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 14.

4. The aqueous formulation of claim 1, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable region domain at least about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 12 and a light chain variable region at least about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 14.

5. The formulation of any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising between about 0.005% and about 0.1% wt./vol.

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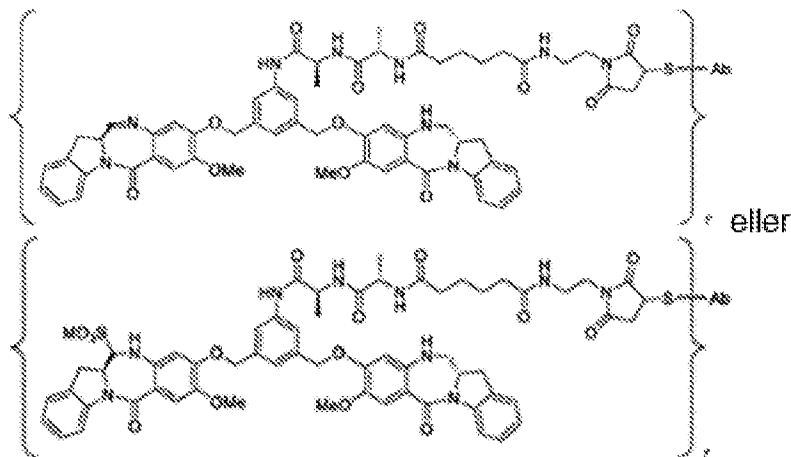
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FARMACEUTISKE FORMULERINGER OG FREMGANGSMÅDER TIL ANVENDELSE DERAF

Patentkrav

1. Vandig formulering, der omfatter:

- (a) vand;
- (b) 2 mg/ml af et konjugat med følgende formel:



- (c) 10 mM natriumsuccinat; og
- (d) 8 % trehalosedihydrat;

hvor Ab er et antistof eller et antigenbindende fragment deraf, der omfatter en sekvens for den komplementaritetsbestemmende region (CDR1) i den variable tungkædereion (VH) ifølge SEQ ID NO: 1, en VH-CDR2-sekvens ifølge SEQ ID NO: 2 og en VH-CDR3-sekvens ifølge SEQ ID NO: 3 og en CDR1-sekvens i den variable letkædereion (VL) ifølge SEQ ID NO: 4, en VL-CDR2-sekvens ifølge SEQ ID NO: 5 og en VL-CDR3 sekvens ifølge SEQ ID NO: 6;

hvor r er et heltal fra 1 til 10;

M er Na⁺, K⁺, H⁺ eller en hvilken som helst farmaceutisk acceptabel kation; og

hvor formuleringen har en pH-værdi i intervallet fra 4,0 til 4,5.

2. Vandig formulering ifølge krav 1, hvor antistoffet eller det antigenbindende fragment deraf omfatter et domæne i den variable tungkædereion, der er mindst ca. 90 % identisk

med SEQ ID NO: 7, og en variabel letkæderegion, der er mindst ca. 90 % identisk med SEQ ID NO: 9.

3. Vandig formulering ifølge krav 1, hvor antistoffet eller det antigenbindende fragment deraf omfatter et domæne i den variable tungkæderegion, der er mindst ca. 90 % identisk med SEQ ID NO: 11, og en variabel letkæderegion, der er mindst ca. 90% identisk med SEQ ID NO: 14.

4. Vandig formulering ifølge krav 1, hvor antistoffet eller det antigenbindende fragment deraf omfatter et domæne i den variable tungkæderegion, der er mindst ca. 90 % identisk med SEQ ID NO: 12, og en variabel letkæderegion, der er mindst ca. 90% identisk med SEQ ID NO: 14.

5. Formulering ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1 til 4, der endvidere omfatter mellem ca. 0,005 % og ca. 0,1 % (vægt/vol) polysorbat 20 eller 0,01 % (vægt/vol) polysorbat 20.

6. Formulering ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1 til 5, hvor pH-værdien er ca. 4,2.

7. Vandig formulering ifølge krav 1, hvor antistoffet eller det antigenbindende fragment deraf omfatter:

(i) en variabel tungkæderegion, der er mindst ca. 95 % identisk med SEQ ID NO: 7, og en variabel letkæderegion, der er mindst ca. 95 % identisk med SEQ ID NO: 9; eller

(ii) en variabel tungkæderegion, der omfatter sekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 7, og en variabel letkæderegion, der omfatter sekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 9.

8. Vandig formulering ifølge krav 1, hvor antistoffet eller det antigenbindende fragment deraf omfatter:

(i) en tungkædeaminosyresekvens, der er mindst ca. 95 % identisk med SEQ ID NO: 11, og en letkædeaminosyresekvens, der er mindst ca. 95 % identisk med SEQ ID NO: 14; eller

(ii) en tungkædeaminosyresekvens, der omfatter sekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 11, og en letkædeaminosyresekvens, der omfatter sekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 14.

9. Vandig formulering ifølge krav 1, hvor antistoffet eller det antigenbindende fragment deraf omfatter:

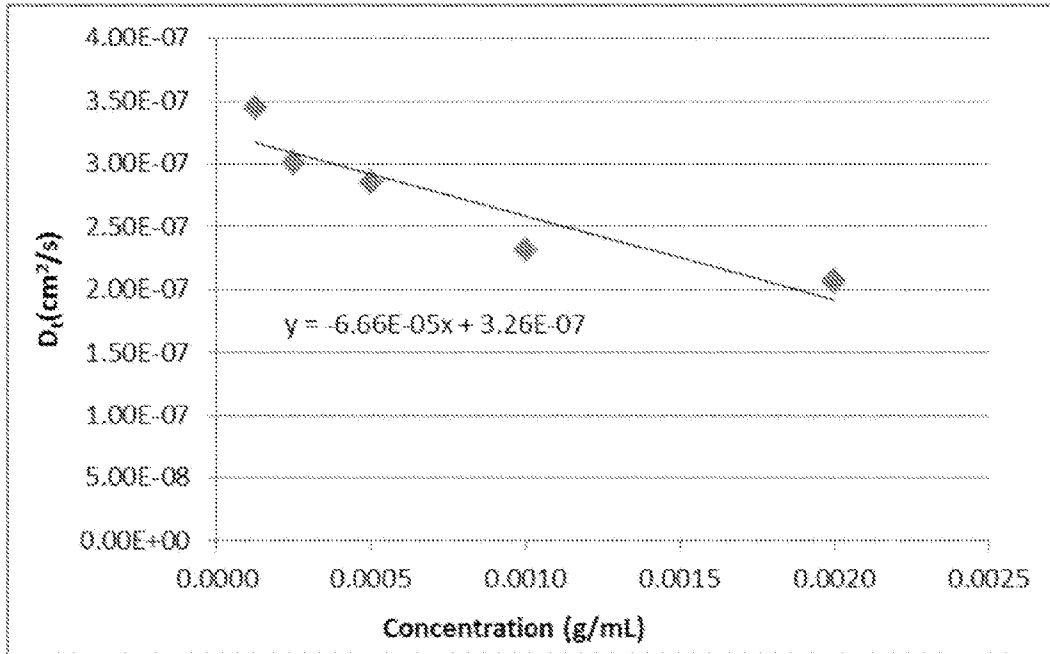
(i) en tungkædeaminosyresekvens, der er mindst ca. 95 % identisk med SEQ ID NO: 12, og en letkædeaminosyresekvens, der er mindst ca. 95 % identisk med SEQ ID NO: 14; eller

(ii) en tungkædeaminosyresekvens, der omfatter sekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 12, og en letkædeaminosyresekvens, der omfatter sekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 14.

10. Vandig formulering ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1 til 6, der endvidere omfatter 2-200 μM natriumbisulfit eller 50 μM natriumbisulfit.

DRAWINGS

FIG. 1



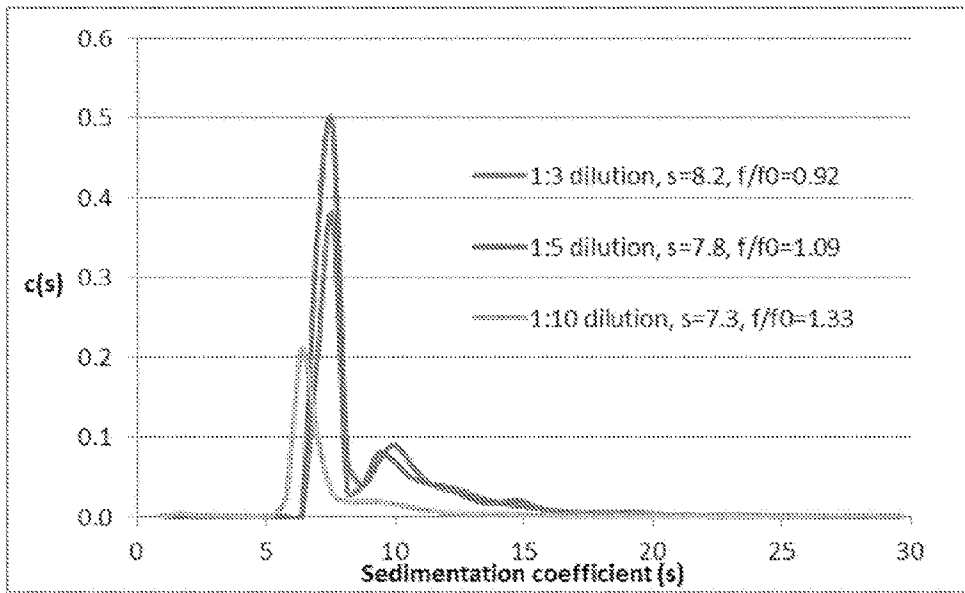
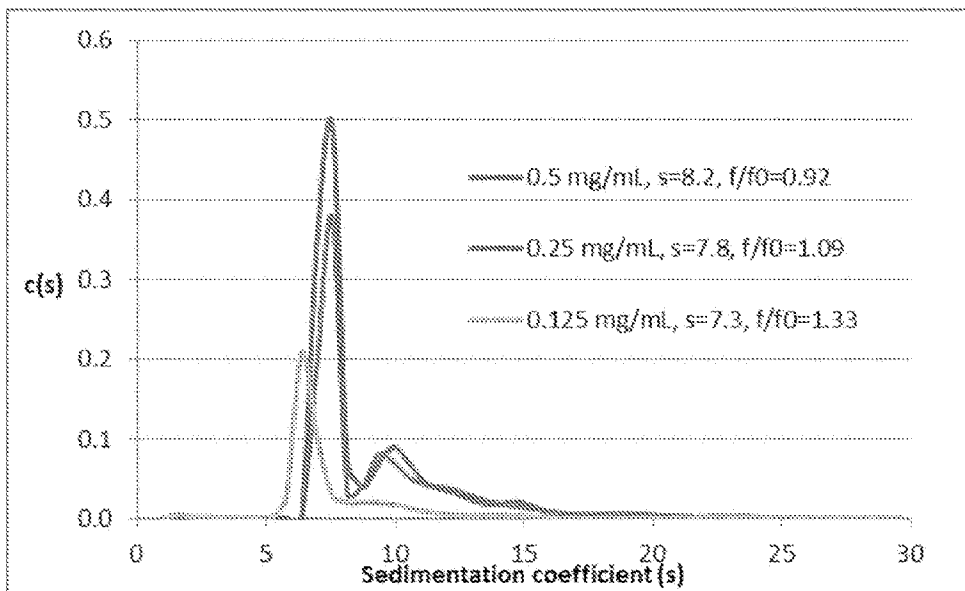
**FIG. 2A****FIG. 2B**

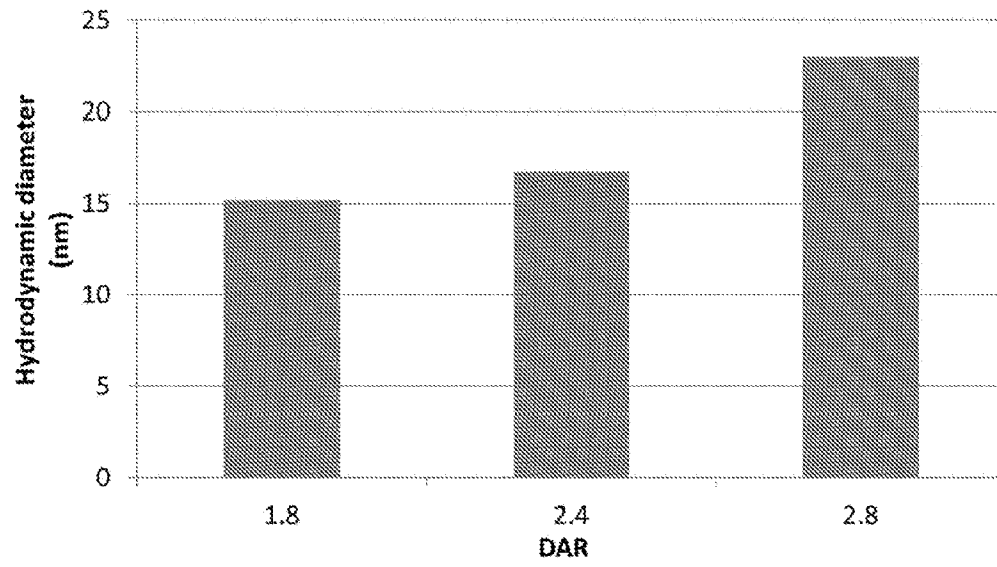
FIG. 3

FIG. 4

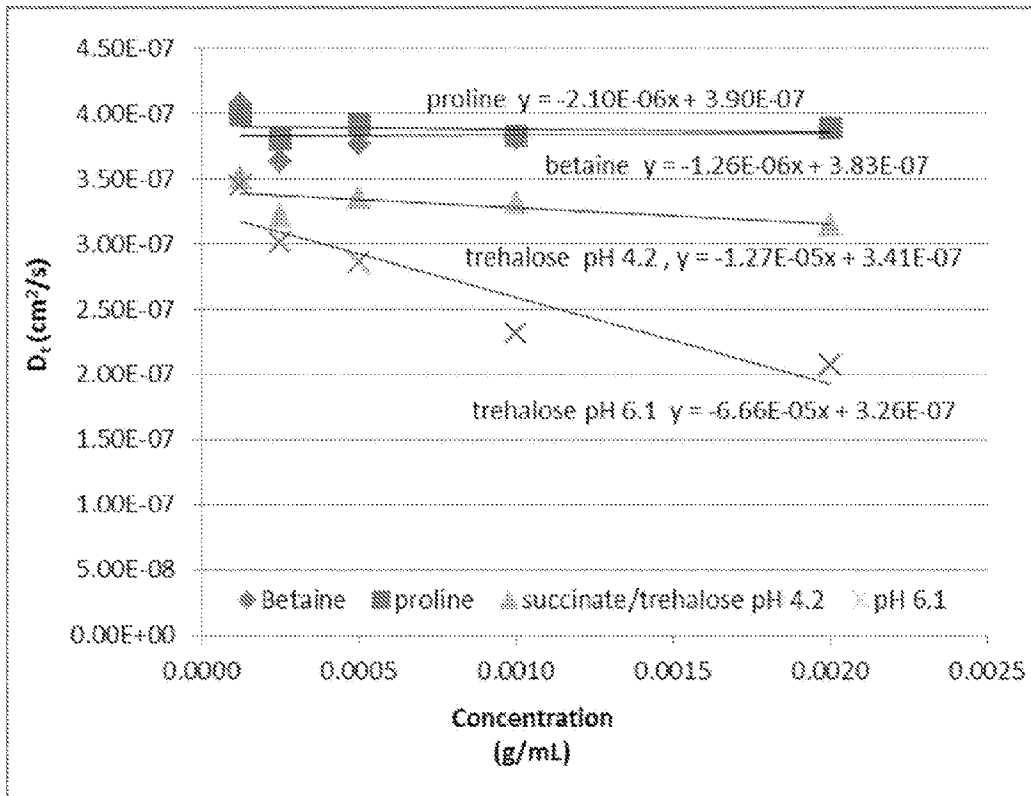


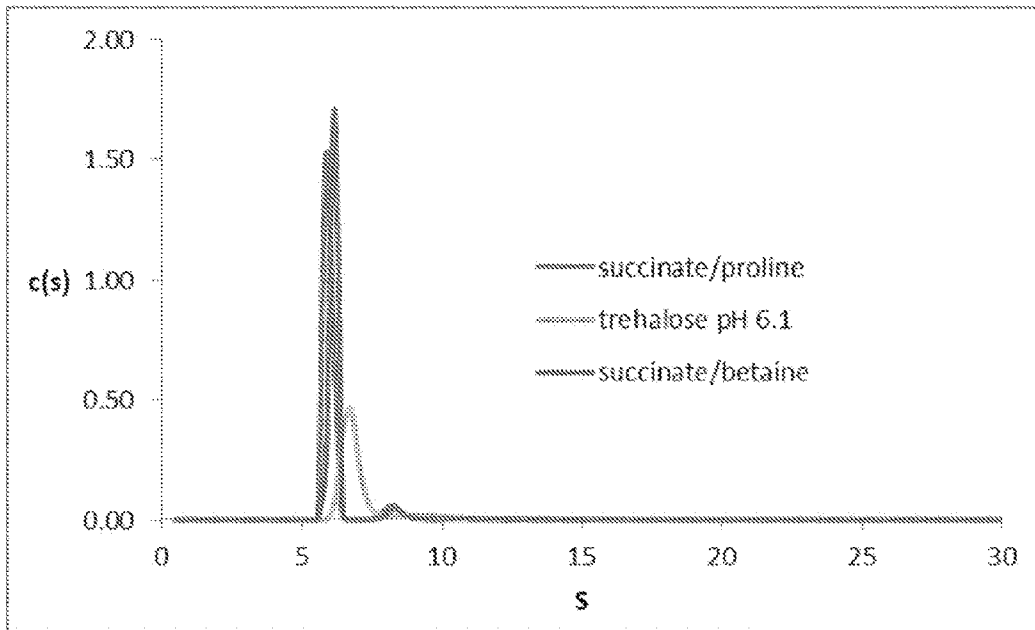
FIG. 5

FIG. 6

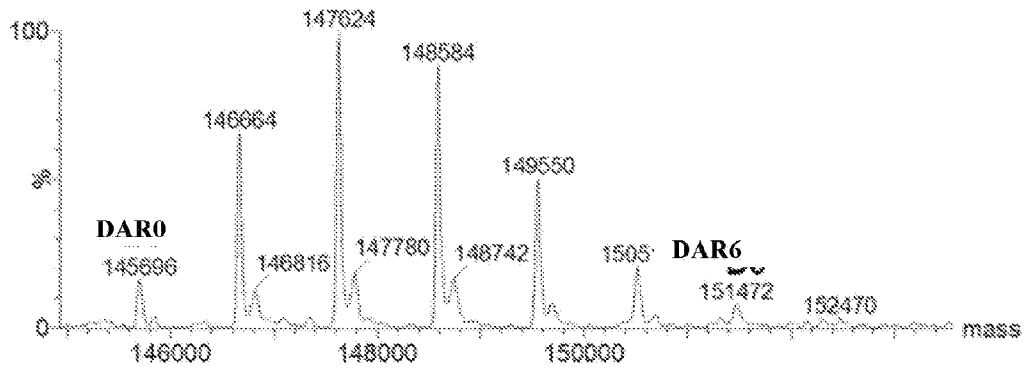


FIG. 7

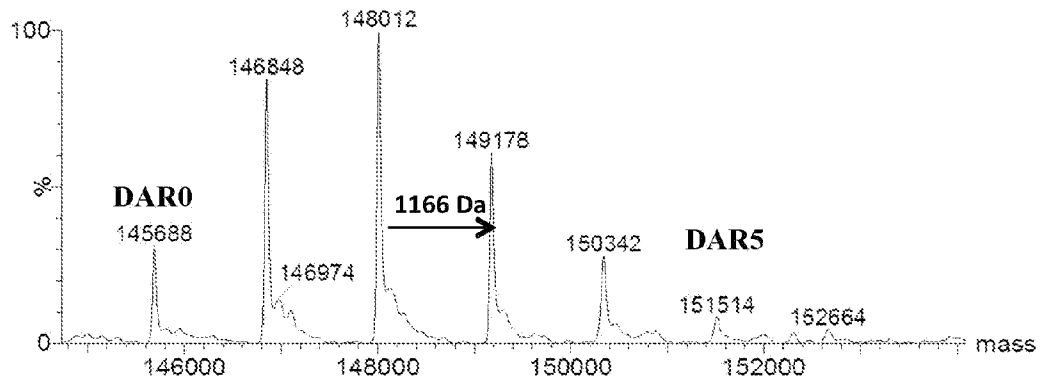


FIG. 8

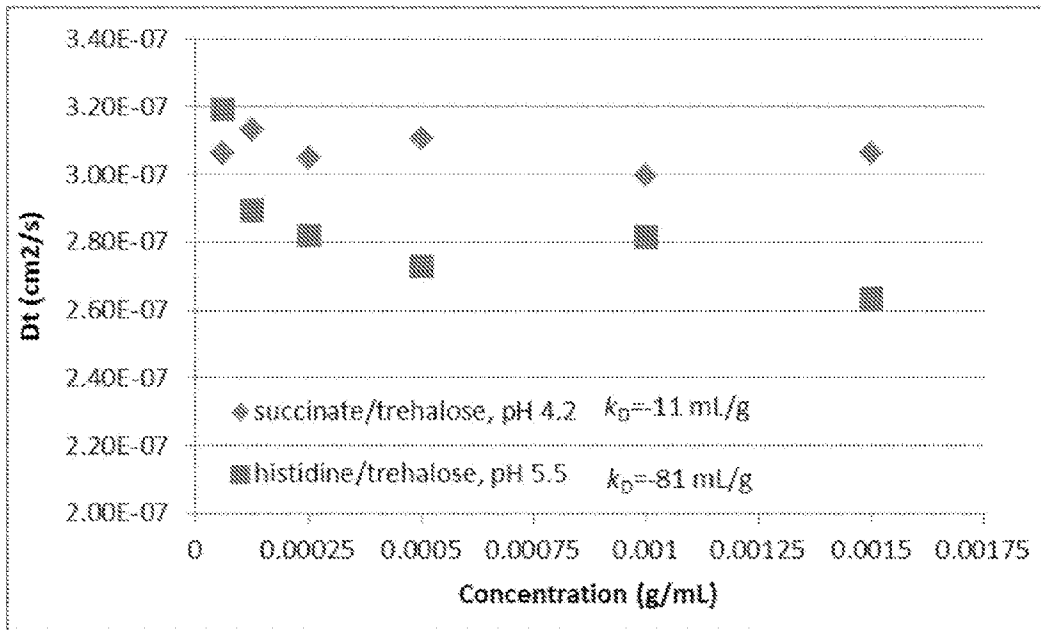


FIG. 9

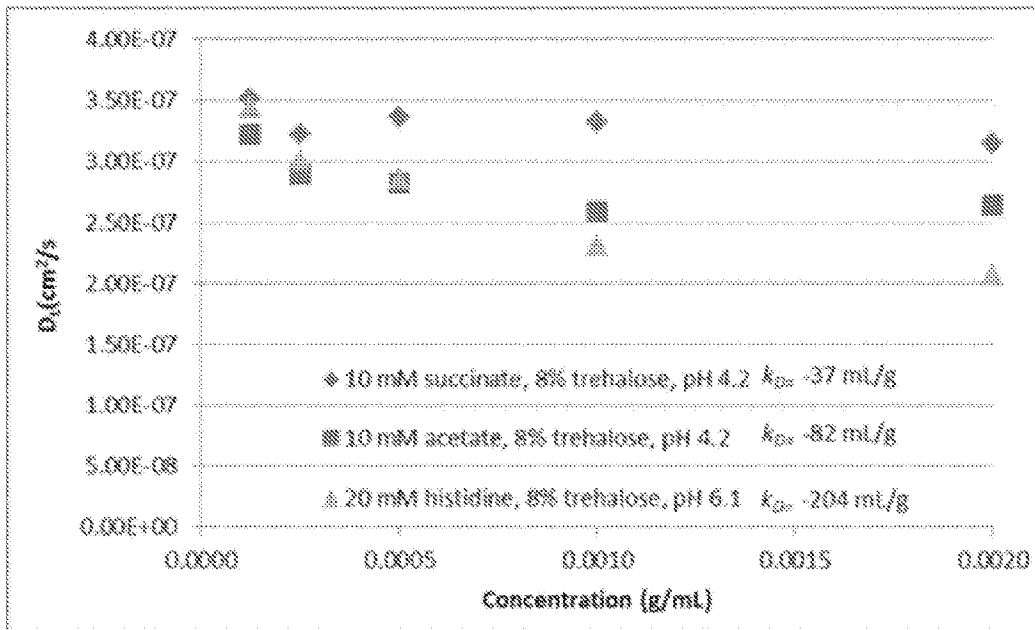


FIG. 10

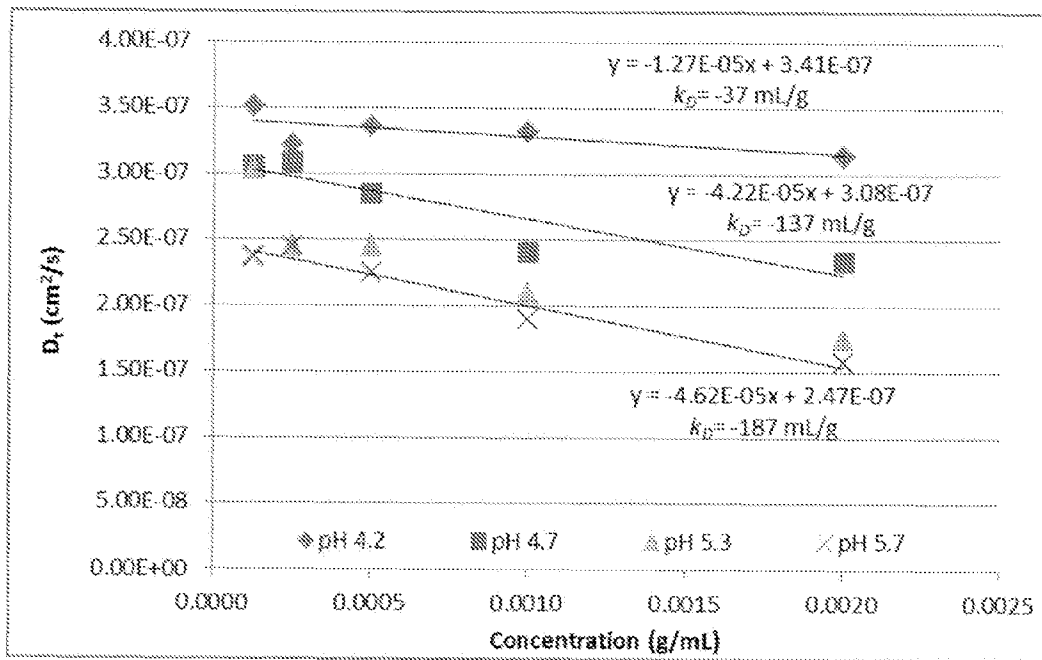


FIG. 11