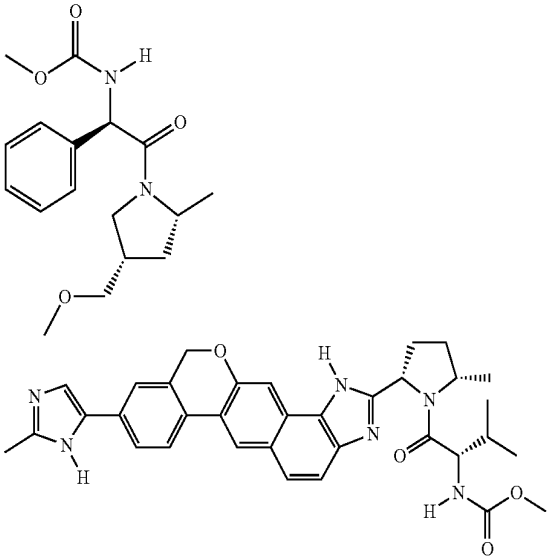
-continued

#	Example No.	1b (nM)	1a	1a Q30R	2a JFH	2a J6	2b	3a	4a	1a (nM)	1a Q30R (nM)	2a JFH (nM)	2a Jb (t) (nM)	2a J6 (s) (nM)	2b (t) (nM)	2b (s) (nM)	3a (nM)	4a (t) (nM)	4a (s) (nM)	Rat % F
627	PI	0.039	C	C	C	C	C	C		0.031	0.094	0.020	0.129		0.090		0.065			8.7
628	OG	0.009	C		C	C	C			0.009		0.008	0.601		0.437					
631	PS	0.006	C		C	C	C	A		0.005		0.004	0.077		0.113		44.444			
632	PT	0.008	C		C	C	C			0.007		0.007	0.383		0.182					
633	PR	0.020	C	C	C	C	C	C		0.013	0.045	0.007	0.022		0.028		0.018			
634	PU	0.015	C		C	C	C			0.012		0.006	0.068		0.442					
635	OU	0.041	C		C	C	C			0.047		0.016	0.040		0.035					
636	OV	0.011	C	C	C	C	C	C		0.010	0.031	0.007	0.113		0.046		0.013			
637	OW	0.009	C	C	C	C	C	C		0.009	0.019	0.006	0.009		0.008		0.013			13.3
638	OX	0.009	C		C	C	C			0.007		0.006	0.113		0.107					
639	QB	0.011	C	C	C	C	C	C		0.011	0.029	0.008	0.021		0.022		0.028			9.56
640	QE	0.015	C		C	C	C			0.013		0.011	0.291		0.563					
641	QD	0.030	C		C	C	C			0.025		0.013	0.103		0.193					
642	QC	0.014	C		C	C	C			0.012		0.008	0.157		0.317					
643	643	0.015	C		C	C	C			0.015		0.013	0.206		0.607					
644	MW	0.026	C		C	C	C		C	0.012		0.012	0.020		0.043	0.123			0.011	
645	MX	0.076	C		C	C	C		C	0.036		0.024	0.035		0.070	0.139			0.033	
646	646	0.109	C		C	C	C		C	0.058		0.030	0.042		0.112	0.262			0.034	
648	PJ	0.088	C		C	C	C		C	0.068		0.058	0.136		0.335	0.854			0.056	

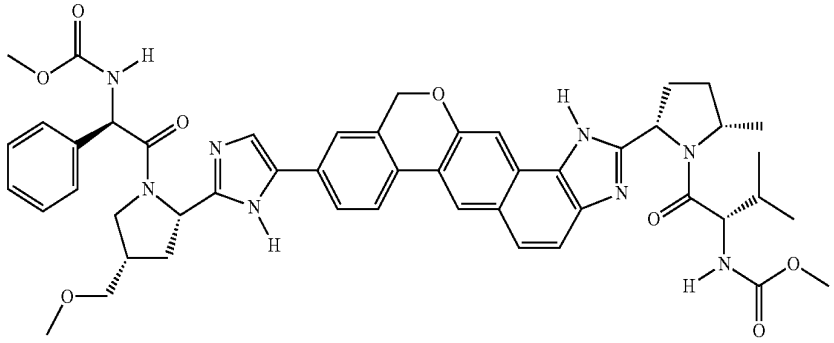
The invention claimed is:

1. A compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

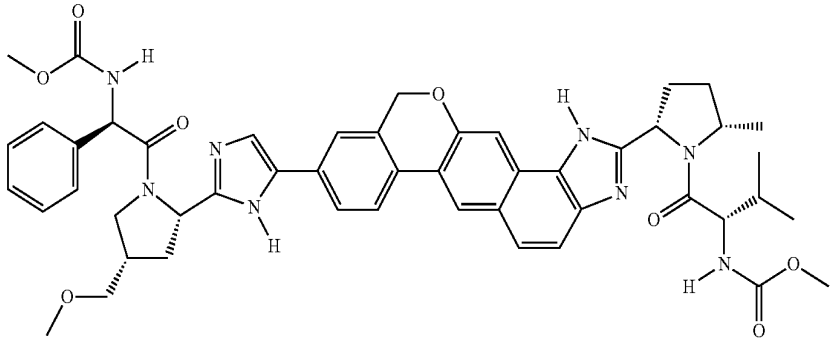
2. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim **2**, further comprising nucleoside or nucleotide inhibitors of hepatitis C virus NS5B polymerase.

4. A method of treating hepatitis C in a human patient in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the human patient in need thereof a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. The method of claim **4**, further comprising administering a nucleoside or nucleotide inhibitor of hepatitis C virus NS5B polymerase to the patient.

6. The method of claim **5**, further comprising administering an interferon or pegylated interferon to the patient.

7. The method of claim **5**, further comprising administering ribavirin to the patient.

* * * * *