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Sulfatase-Cleavable Linkers for Antibody-Drug Conjugates

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Supplementary Information

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General Experimental Details

All solvents and reagents were used as received unless otherwise stated. Ethyl acetate, methanol, dichloromethane, acetonitrile and toluene were distilled from calcium hydride. Diethyl ether was distilled from a mixture of lithium aluminium hydride and calcium hydride. Petroleum ether (PE) refers to the fraction between 40–60 °C upon distillation. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was dried using Na wire and distilled from a mixture of lithium aluminium hydride and calcium hydride and calcium hydride with triphenylmethane as indicator.

Non-aqueous reactions were conducted under a stream of dry nitrogen using oven-dried glassware. Temperatures of 0 °C were maintained using an ice-water bath. Room temperature (rt) refers to ambient temperature.

Yields refer to spectroscopically and chromatographically pure compounds unless otherwise stated. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) or liquid chromatography mass spectroscopy (LC-MS). TLC was performed using glass plates pre-coated with Merck silica gel 60 F254 and visualised by quenching of UV fluorescence ($\lambda_{max} = 254$ nm) or by staining with potassium permanganate. Retention factors (Rf) are quoted to 0.01.

Flash column chromatography was carried out using slurry-packed Merck 9385 Kieselgel 60 SiO₂ (230-400 mesh) or Combiflash Rf200 automated chromatography system with Redisep[®] normal-phase silica flash columns (35–70 μ m) or Redisep[®] reverse-phase C18-silica flash columns (20-40 μ m).

Analytical high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was performed on Agilent 1260 Infinity machine, using a SupelcosilTM ABZ+PLUS column (150 mm × 4.6 4 mm, 3 µm) with a linear gradient system (solvent A: 0.05% (v/v) TFA in H₂O; solvent B: 0.05% (v/v) TFA in MeCN) over 20 min at a flow rate of 1 mL/min, and UV detection ($\lambda_{max} = 220 - 254$ nm).

Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded neat on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum One spectrometer with internal referencing. Selected absorption maxima (v_{max}) are reported in wavenumbers (cm⁻¹).

Proton and carbon nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) were recorded using an internal deuterium lock on Bruker DPX-400 (400 MHz, 101 MHz), Bruker Avance 400 QNP (400 MHz, 101 MHz), Bruker Avance 500 Cryo Ultrashield (500 MHz, 126 MHz) and 600 MHz Bruker Avance 600 BBI (600 MHz). Tetramethylsilane was used as an internal standard. In proton NMR, chemical shifts (δ_H) are reported in parts per million (ppm), to the nearest 0.01 ppm and are referenced to the residual non-deuterated solvent peak (CDCl₃: 7.26, DMSO-d6: 2.50, CD₃OD: 3.31, D₂O: 4.79). Coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz (Hz) to the nearest 0.1 Hz. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet; d = doublet; t = triplet; q = quartet; qn = quintet; sep = septet; m = multiplet; br = broad or as a combination of these, e.g. dd, dt etc.), integration and coupling constant(s). In carbon NMR, chemical shifts (δ_C) are quoted in ppm, to the nearest 0.1 ppm, and are referenced to the residual non-deuterated solvent peak (CDCl₃: 77.16, DMSO-d6, 39.52, CD₃OD: 49.00).

High resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) measurements were recorded with a Micromass Q-TOF mass spectrometer or a Waters LCT Premier Time of Flight mass spectrometer. Mass values are reported within the error limits of ±5 ppm mass units. ESI refers to the electrospray ionisation technique.

Protein LC–MS was performed on a Xevo G2-S TOF mass spectrometer coupled to an Acquity UPLC system using an Acquity UPLC BEH300 C4 column (1.7 μ m, 2.1 × 50 5 mm). H₂O with 0.1% formic

acid (solvent A) and 95% MeCN and 5% water with 0.1% formic acid (solvent B), were used as the mobile phase at a flow rate of 0.2 mL/min. The gradient was programmed as follows: 95% A for 0.93 min, then a gradient to 100% B over 4.28 min, then 100% B for 1.04 minutes, then a gradient to 95% A over 1.04 min. The electrospray source was operated with a capillary voltage of 2.0 kV and a cone voltage of 40 V. Nitrogen was used as the desolvation gas at a total flow of 850 L/h. Total mass spectra were reconstructed from the ion series using the MaxEnt algorithm preinstalled on MassLynx software (v4.1 from Waters) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Trastuzumab samples were deglycosylated with PNGase F (New England Biolabs) prior to LC-MS analysis.

Fluorescence was measured with a Pherastar FS plate reader using a 350/460 optic module.

Scheme S 1: Synthesis of linker-AMC 7.^a



^{*a*}Reagents and conditions: (a) 10% Pd/C, H₂, MeOH, rt, 1 h, 94%; (b) 4-pentynoic acid, HATU, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂/DMF, 0 °C to rt, 30 min. Then LiOH H₂O, H₂O, MeOH, THF, rt, 2 h, 50%; (c) Neopentyl sulfochloridate, 4-DMAP, Et₃N, THF, 0 °C for 30 min then rt for 2 h, 81%; (d) LiAlH₄, THF, -60 °C for 16 h then -25 °C for 1 h, 80%; (e) AMC, triphosgene, toluene, reflux, 90 min then **5**, dibutyltin dilaurate, THF, rt, 15 h, 92%; (f) 5 M NH₄OAc (aq), DMF, 50 °C, 2 days, 54%.

Neopentyl sulfochloridate was synthesised and characterised in accordance with literature.¹

Methyl 3-amino-4-hydroxybenzoate (2)



To a solution of methyl 4-hydroxy-3-nitrobenzoate (5.00 g, 25.4 mmol) in MeOH (130 mL) was added 10% Pd/C (2.70 g, 2.54 mmol) before stirring vigorously under H₂ atmosphere (balloon) at rt for 1 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through Celite[®], washing with MeOH and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to yield methyl 3-amino-4-hydroxybenzoate **2** (3.99 g, 23.9 mmol, 94%) as a yellow solid. **Rf** 0.49 (100% EtOAc); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 7.39 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 7.30 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.2, 2.1 Hz), 6.72 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 3.82 (s, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 169.2, 151.3, 136.6, 122.6, 122.4, 117.8, 114.7, 52.2. Data in accordance with literature.²

Methyl 4-hydroxy-3-(pent-4-ynamido)benzoate (3)



To a stirred solution of methyl 3-amino-4-hydroxybenzoate **2** (400 mg, 2.39 mmol), 4-pentynoic acid (258 mg, 2.63 mmol) and HATU (1.00 g, 2.63 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) and CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) was added triethylamine (0.667 mL, 4.79 mmol) at 0 °C. After 5 min the solution was warmed to rt and stirred for 30 min. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, diluted with EtOAc (40 mL) and washed with 1 M HCl (aq) (20 mL). The organic fraction was dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (25-40% EtOAc in PE). The residue was dissolved in

THF (1 mL), MeOH (1 mL) and H₂O (1 mL) and lithium hydroxide monohydrate (110 mg, 2.63 mmol) was added before stirring at rt for 2 h. The mixture was diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with 1 M HCl (aq) (10 mL) and H₂O (10 mL), before being dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield methyl 4-hydroxy-3-(pent-4-ynamido)benzoate **3** (305 mg, 1.23 mmol, 51%) as a white solid. **Rf** 0.25 (50% EtOAc in PE); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3285 (br), 1709 (s), 1673 (m), 1594 (m), 1549 (s), 1447 (s); ¹H **NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.79 (s, 1H), 9.33 (s, 1H), 8.53 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 7.58 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.4, 2.2 Hz), 6.94 (d, 1H *J* = 8.4 Hz), 2.79 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 2.63 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.44 (td, 2H, *J* = 2.6, 7.2 Hz); ¹³C **NMR** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 170.0, 166.0, 152.1, 126.22, 126.17, 123.2, 120.1, 115.0, 83.7, 71.4, 51.7, 34.7, 14.1; **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺, 248.0921 C₁₃H₁₄NO₄⁺ required 248.0917.

Methyl 4-(((4-nitrophenoxy)sulfonyl)oxy)-3-(pent-4-ynamido)benzoate (4)



Neopentyl sulfurochloridate (0.386 mL, 2.43 mmol) was added to a solution of methyl 4-hydroxy-3-(pent-4-ynamido)benzoate **3** (300 mg, 1.21 mmol), 4-DMAP (148 mg, 1.21 mmol) and triethylamine (0.338 mL, 2.43 mmol) in THF (20 mL) at 0 °C. After 30 min, the reaction mixture was warmed to rt and stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, diluted with EtOAc (30 mL) and washed with 1 M HCl (aq) (30 mL). The organic fraction was dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (15-20% EtOAc in PE) to yield methyl 4-(((4-nitrophenoxy)sulfonyl)oxy)-3-(pent-4-ynamido)benzoate **4** (392 mg, 0.986 mmol, 81%) as a colourless oil. **Rf** 0.61 (50% EtOAc in PE); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 2981 (w), 1715 (s), 1651 (m), 1601 (w), 1509 (m), 1491 (w); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.98 (s, 1H), 8.49 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 7.84 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.6, 2.2, Hz), 7.62 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 4.23 (s, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.81 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 2.63 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 2.46 (td, 2H, *J* = 10.9, 2.5 Hz), 0.92 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 170.0, 165.1, 144.3, 130.4, 128.6, 126.3, 126.0, 121.4, 84.1, 83.4, 71.5, 52.5, 34.7, 31.6, 25.4, 13.9; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 398.1276, C₁₈H₂₄NO₇S⁺ required 398.1268.

4-(hydroxymethyl)-2-(pent-4-ynamido)phenyl neopentyl sulfate (5)



A solution of methyl 4-(((4-nitrophenoxy)sulfonyl)oxy)-3-(pent-4-ynamido)benzoate **4** (200 mg, 0.503 mmol) in THF (2.5 mL) was added to a suspension of LiAlH₄ (57.3 mg, 1.51 mmol) in THF (2.5 mL) at -60 °C and stirred for 16 h. The reaction mixture was warmed to -25 °C and stirred for 1 h before diluting with wet ether (5 mL) and adding H₂O (0.1 mL) then 15 wt% NaOH (0.1 mL) at 0 °C. Additional H₂O (0.2 mL) was then added before warming to rt and stirring for 15 min. MgSO₄ was then added before stirring at rt for 15 min and filtering through Celite[®]. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (50% EtOAc in PE) to yield 4- (hydroxymethyl)-2-(pent-4-ynamido)phenyl neopentyl sulfate **5** (149 mg, 0.403 mmol, 80%) as a colourless oil. **Rf** 0.24 (50% EtOAc in PE); v_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3297 (w), 2964 (w), 1676 (m), 1605 (m), 1537 (m), 1477 (m), 1388 (s); ¹H **NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.33 (s, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.33 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.19 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.5, 1.8 Hz), 4.70 (s, 2H), 4.11 (s, 2H), 2.66 (m, 2H), 2.62 (m, 2H), 2.10 (t,

1H, J = 2.5 Hz), 1.02 (s, 9H); ¹³**C** NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.7, 141.3, 138.7, 130.4, 123.1, 121.6, 121.4, 84.7, 82.5, 70.2, 64.6, 36.6, 32.2, 26.0, 14.8; **HRMS** (ESI) m/z found $[M+H]^+$ 370.1329, C₁₇H₂₄NO₆S⁺ required 370.1319.

4-((((4-methyl-2-oxo-2*H*-chromen-7-yl)carbamoyl)oxy)methyl)-2-(pent-4-ynamido)phenyl (4nitrophenyl) sulfate (6)



7-Amino-4-methylcoumarin (23.6 mg, 0.135 mmol) and triphosgene (20.0 mg, 0.0674 mmol) were suspended in toluene (2.6 mL) and refluxed for 90 min. The reaction mixture was cooled and evaporated under a stream of nitrogen before a solution of 4-(hydroxymethyl)-2-(pent-4-ynamido)phenyl neopentyl sulfate **5** (50.0 mg, 0.135 mmol) in THF (2.6 mL) was added. Dibutyltin dilaurate (8.0 µL, 13.5 µmol) was added to the resulting suspension and stirred for 15 h before being quenched with H₂O (0.5 mL) and evaporated under a stream of nitrogen. The crude residue was washed with H₂O (3 x 10 mL) and dried *in vacuo* to yield **6** (71.0 mg, 0.124 mmol, 92%) as a beige solid. **Rf** 0.48 (50% EtOAc in PE); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3258 (w), 2955 (w), 1700 (s), 1688 (s), 1618 (m), 1585 (m), 1535 (m); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.33 (s, 1H), 9.85 (s, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.55 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 7.48 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.41 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.7, 2.0 Hz), 7.34 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.5, 1.7 Hz), 6.24 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.1 Hz), 5.20 (s, 2H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 2.81 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 2.59 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.43 (td, 2H, *J* = 7.3, 2.1 Hz), 2.39 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 9H); ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 169.7, 160.0, 153.8, 153.2, 153.0, 142.6, 141.3, 135.9, 130.4, 126.1, 125.3, 125.2, 121.5, 114.5, 114.3, 112.0, 104.5, 83.7, 83.5, 71.6, 65.4, 34.6, 31.6, 25.4, 18.0, 14.0; **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 571.1749, C₂₈H₃₁N₂O₉S⁺ required 571.1750.

Ammonium 4-((((4-methyl-2-oxo-2*H*-chromen-7-yl)carbamoyl)oxy)methyl)-2-(pent-4ynamido)phenyl sulfate (7)



Coumarin **6** (65.5 mg, 127 µmol) was dissolved in DMF (0.8 mL) and treated with 5 M NH₄OAc (aq) (0.8 mL) before stirring at 50 °C for 2 days. The cooled reaction mixture was purified by reverse phase flash column chromatography (10-20% solvent B in solvent A. Solvent A: 0.1 M NH₄OH (aq). Solvent B: MeCN) and lyophilised to yield sulfate **7** (35.5 mg, 68.6 µmol, 54%) as a white solid. **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3267 (w), 3077 (w), 1724 (m), 1672 (m), 1578 (s), 1533 (s); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.28 (s, 1H), 9.29 (s, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 7.23 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 7.11 (m, 5H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 2.79 (s, 1H), 2.53 (m, exp 2H), 2.46 (m, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 168.9, 160.1, 153.8, 153.2, 153.1, 142.84, 142.77, 131.9, 131.2, 126.1, 124.0, 123.0, 121.7, 114.4, 114.3, 111.9, 104.4, 83.4, 71.6, 66.2, 35.5, 18.0, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* found [M-H⁺]⁻ 499.0807, C₂₃H₁₉N₂O₉S⁻ required 499.0817.



^{*a*}Reagents and conditions: (a) Neopentyl sulfochloridate, 4-DMAP, Et₃N, THF, rt, 17 h, 66%; (b) Activated zinc, propargyl bromide, DMF, -10 °C to rt over 15 h, 74%; (c) AMC, triphosgene, toluene, reflux, 2 h then **10**, dibutyltin dilaurate, THF, rt, 3 h, 50%; (d) 5 M NH₄OAc (aq), DMF, 50 °C, 3 days, 81%.

4-formylphenyl neopentyl sulfate (9)



Neopentyl sulfurochloridate (1.56 mL, 9.80 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde (1.00 g, 8.19 mmol), 4-DMAP (1.00 g, 8.18 mmol) and triethylamine (2.28 mL, 16.4 mmol) in THF (16 mL) at rt. After 17 h the reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, diluted with EtOAc (30 mL) and washed with 1 M HCl (aq) (30 mL). The organic fraction was dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (10% EtOAc in PE) to yield 4-formylphenyl neopentyl sulfate **9** (1.76 g, 6.46 mmol, 66%) as a colourless oil. **Rf** 0.40 (25% EtOAc in PE); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 2964 (w), 2435 (w), 1683 (m), 1651 (m), 1602 (m), 1584 (m), 1516 (w), 1448 (w); ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.02 (s, 1H), 8.06 (s, 2H), 7.65 (s, 2H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 0.93 (s, 9H); ¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 191.9, 153.5, 135.1, 131.7, 122.0, 83.9, 31.6, 25.4; **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ C₁₂H₁₇O₅S, 273.0804⁺ required 273.0797⁺.

4-(1-hydroxybut-3-yn-1-yl)phenyl neopentyl sulfate (10)



Zinc powder was activated by stirring with 1 M HCl (aq), washing with H₂O, EtOH, and ether before rigorous drying.

To a solution of 4-formylphenyl neopentyl sulfate **9** (1.00 g, 3.67 mmol) and propargyl bromide (80 wt% in toluene) (0.614 mL, 5.51 mmol) in DMF (15 mL) was added the activated zinc powder (360 mg, 5.51 mmol) at -10 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to rt over 15 h before quenching with sat. NH₄Cl (aq) (30 mL) and extracting with EtOAc (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic fractions were dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (10-15% EtOAc in PE) to yield 4-(1-hydroxybut-3-yn-1-yl)phenyl neopentyl sulfate **10** (849 mg, 2.72 mmol), 74%) as a yellow oil. **Rf** 0.28 (15% EtOAc in PE); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3300 (br), 2967 (w), 1604 (w), 1504 (w), 1479 (w), 1389 (m), 1370 (m), 1205 (s); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ

7.45 (m, 2H), 7.30 (m, 2H), 4.90 (m, 1H), 4.08 (s, 2H), 2.63 (m, 2H), 2.42 (br d, 1H, J = 3.4 Hz), 2.09 (t, 1H, J = 2.6 Hz), 1.00 (s, 9H); ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.9, 141.7, 127.5, 121.2, 83.6, 80.2, 71.65, 71.61, 32.1, 29.7, 26.1; **HRMS** (ESI) m/z found $[M+H]^+$ 335.0933 C₁₅H₂₀O₅SNa⁺, required 335.0929.

4-(1-(((4-methyl-2-oxo-2*H*-chromen-7-yl)carbamoyl)oxy)but-3-yn-1-yl)phenyl neopentyl sulfate (11)



7-Amino-4-methylcoumarin (59.0 mg, 337 μmol) and triphosgene (50.0 mg, 168 μmol) were suspended in toluene (12 mL) and refluxed for 2 h. The reaction mixture was cooled and evaporated under a stream of nitrogen before a solution of alcohol **10** (115 mg, 368 μmol) in THF (12 mL) was added. Dibutyltin dilaurate (22 μL, 37 μmol) was added to the resulting suspension and stirred at rt for 3 h before being quenched with H₂O (1 mL) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude residue was washed with H₂O (10 mL), MeOH (4 x 10 mL) and MeCN (5 mL) to yield coumarin **11** (86.4 mg, 168 μmol, 50%) as a white solid. **Rf** 0.63 (50% EtOAc in PE); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3291 (w), 2923 (m), 1729 (s), 1687 (s), 1618 (m), 1588 (m), 1535 (w); ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.42 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.61 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.53 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 7.44 (m, 3H), 6.24 (s, 1H), 5.88 (t, 1H, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 4.23 (s, 2H), 2.92 (m, 1H), 2.88 (m, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 9H); ¹³**C** NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 160.0, 153.8, 153.2, 152.3, 149.3, 142.5, 138.8, 128.3, 126.1, 121.3, 114.6, 114.4, 112.1, 104.6, 83.5, 79.9, 73.8, 73.1, 31.6, 25.5, 18.0; **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 514.1547 C₂₆H₂₈NO₈S⁺, required 514.1530.

Ammonium 4-(1-(((4-methyl-2-oxo-2*H*-chromen-7-yl)carbamoyl)oxy)but-3-yn-1-yl)phenyl sulfate (12)



Coumarin **11** (85.0 mg, 165 µmol) was dissolved in DMF (1.5 mL) and treated with 5 M NH₄OAc (aq) (1 mL) before stirring at 50 °C for 3 days. After cooling, the reaction mixture was purified by reverse phase flash column chromatography (20% solvent B in solvent A. Solvent A: 50 mM NH₄OAc (aq). Solvent B: MeCN) and lyophilised to yield sulfate **12** (61.3 mg, 133 µmol, 81%) as a white solid. **Rf** ; **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3266 (w), 1726 (m), 1688 (s), 1616 (m), 1583 (w), 1530 (w), 1507 (w), 1207 (s); ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.34 (br, 1H), 7.68 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.52 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 7.44 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.7, 2.1 Hz), 7.37 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 7.18 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 6.23 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.1 Hz), 5.79 (t, 1H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 2.89 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 2.84 (t, 2H, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 2.38 (m, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 160.1, 153.8, 153.5, 153.2, 152.5, 142.6, 133.6, 127.1, 126.1, 120.3, 114.5, 114.4, 112.0, 104.6, 80.3, 73.7, 73.4, 25.6, 18.0; **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M-H⁺]⁻ 442.0583 C₂₁H₁₆NO₈S⁻, required 442.0602.

Scheme S 3 : Synthesis of linker-payload 15.^a



^{*a*}Reagents and conditions: (a) 4-nitrophenyl chloroformate, pyridine, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 2 h, 90%; (b) MMAE, HOBt, pyridine, DIPEA, DMF, rt, 4 h, 89%; (c) 5 M NH₄OAc (aq), DMF, 50 °C, 2 days, 85%; (d) **21**, CuSO₄·5H₂O, THPTA, sodium ascorbate, H₂O/^tBuOH, rt, 30 min, 69%.

Neopentyl (4-((((4-nitrophenoxy)carbonyl)oxy)methyl)-2-(pent-4-ynamido)phenyl) sulfate (S1)



Pyridine (21.8 μL, 271 μmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 4-(hydroxymethyl)-2-(pent-4ynamido)phenyl neopentyl sulfate **5** (20.0 mg, 54.1 μmol) and 4-nitrophenylchloroformate (32.1 mg, 108.3 μmol) in CH₂Cl₂ at rt and stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with 1 M HCl (aq) (20 mL) then H₂O (20 mL). The organic fraction was dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (10-30% EtOAc in PE) to yield neopentyl (4-((((4-nitrophenoxy)carbonyl)oxy)methyl)-2-(pent-4-ynamido)phenyl) sulfate **S1** (26.0 mg, 48.6 μmol, 90%) as a colourless oil. **Rf** 0.32 (20% EtOAc in PE); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 2963 (w), 1765 (m), 1695 (w), 1524 (m), 1559 (s), 1203 (s); ¹**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.51 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 7.92 (br s, 1H), 7.40 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 7.38 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.22 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.4, 1.9 Hz), 5.28 (s, 2H), 4.13 (s, 2H), 2.68 (m, 2H), 2.63 (m, 2H), 2.12 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 1.03 (s, 9H); ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.7, 155.6, 152.5, 150.3, 144.4, 134.5, 130.9, 125.5, 124.5, 122.9, 122.0, 121.8, 84.9, 82.4, 70.4, 70.0, 36.7, 32.2, 26.0 14.7; **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 535.1379, C₂₄H₂₇N₂O₁₀S⁺ required 535.1381.

Neopentyl arylsulfate-2-amide-MMAE (S2)



HOBt (80%) (2.76 mg, 16.3 µmol) was added to a solution of MMAE (23.5 mg, 32.7 µmol), neopentyl (4-((((4-nitrophenoxy)carbonyl)oxy)methyl)-2-(pent-4-ynamido)phenyl) sulfate **S1** (21.0

mg, 39.3 µmol), pyridine (92.3 µL, 1.15 mmol) and DIPEA (5.82 µL, 39.3 µmol) in DMF (0.3 mL) at rt and stirred for 4 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with 1 M HCl (aq) (10 mL) and 1 M Na₂CO₃ (aq) (2 x 10 mL). The organic fraction was dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (0-5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) to yield carbamate **S2** (32.5 mg, 29.2 µmol, 89%) as a pale yellow oil. **Rf** 0.30 (5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂); **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found $[M+H]^+$ 1113.6158, C₅₇H₈₉N₆O₁₄S⁺ required 1113.6152; **HPLC** (5-95% MeCN/H₂O over 20 min) retention time 13.976 min.

Ammonium arylsulfate-2-amide-MMAE (S3)



Carbamate **S2** (32.2 mg, 28.7 µmol) was dissolved in DMF (0.7 mL) and treated with 5 M NH₄OAc (aq) (0.5 mL) before stirring at 50 °C for 2 days. The cooled reaction mixture was purified by reverse phase flash column chromatography (20-50% solvent B in solvent A. Solvent A: 0.1 M NH₄OH (aq). Solvent B: MeCN) and lyophilised to yield sulfate **S3** (26.0 mg, 24.5 µmol, 85%) as a white solid. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z found [M-H⁺]⁻ 1041.5200, C₅₂H₇₇N₆O₁₄S⁻ required 1041.5218; **HPLC** (5-95% MeCN/H₂O over 20 min) retention time 11.701 min.

Ammonium DVP-PEG₃-arylsulfate-2-amide-MMAE (15)



To a degassed solution of sulfate **S3** (10.0 mg, 9.43 µmol) and DVP **S16** (113 µL of 0.1 M solution in DMSO, 11.3 µmol) in ^tBuOH (0.25 mL) was added a degassed solution of $CuSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$ (1.18 mg, 4.72 µmol), THPTA (4.10 mg, 9.43 µmol) and sodium ascorbate (3.74 mg, 18.9 µmol) in $H_2O/^tBuOH$ (0.5 mL, 1:1) and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 30 min. The reaction mixture was purified by reverse phase flash column chromatography (20-45% solvent B in solvent A. Solvent A: 0.1 M NH₄OH (aq). Solvent B: MeCN) and lyophilised to yield linker-drug **15** (9.60 mg, 6.49 µmol, 69%) as a pale yellow solid. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z found [M-H⁺] 1474.7609, C₇₂H₁₀₈N₁₃O₁₈S⁻ required 1474.7656; **HPLC** (5-95% MeCN/H₂O over 20 min) retention time 10.088 min.

Scheme S 4 : Synthesis of linker-payload 16a.^a



^{*a*}Reagents and conditions: a) 4-nitrophenyl chloroformate, Et₃N, THF, rt, 24 h, 62%; (b) MMAE, HOBt, pyridine, DIPEA, DMF, rt, 48 h, 82%; (c) 5 M NH₄OAc (aq), DMF, 50 °C, 4 days, 80%; (d) **21**, CuSO₄·5H₂O, THPTA, sodium ascorbate, H₂O/^tBuOH, rt, 45 min, 77%.

Neopentyl (4-(1-(((4-nitrophenoxy)carbonyl)oxy)but-3-yn-1-yl)phenyl) sulfate (S4)



Triethylamine (408 µL, 2.93 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of alcohol **9** (610 mg, 1.95 mmol) and 4-nitrophenylchloroformate (591 mg, 2.93 mmol) in THF (7 mL) at rt. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h before being diluted with EtOAc (30 mL) and washed with 1 M Na₂CO₃ (aq) (3 x 30 mL) and sat. NH₄Cl (aq) (30 mL). The organic fraction was dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (15-20% EtOAc in PE) to yield carbonate **S4** (573 mg, 1.20 mmol, 62%) as a colourless oil. **Rf** 0.45 (25% EtOAc in PE); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3297 (w), 2962 (w), 1766 (m), 1595 (w), 1526 (s), 1506 (w), 1347 (w); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.27 (m, 2H), 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.36 (m, 4H), 5.84 (t, 1H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 4.11 (s, 2H), 2.93 (m, 1H), 2.84 (m, 1H), 2.07 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 1.01 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.4, 151.7, 150.7, 145.6, 136.7, 128.5, 125.5, 121.8, 121.5, 83.8, 78.2, 78.1, 72.0, 32.1, 26.6, 26.1; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* found [M+Na]⁺ 500.0985 C₂₂H₂₃NO₉SNa⁺, required 500.0991.

Neopentyl arylsulfate-4-alkyl-MMAE (S5)



HOBt (80%) (3.5 mg, 21 µmol) was added to a solution of MMAE (25.0 mg, 34.8 µmol), neopentyl (4-(1-(((4-nitrophenoxy)carbonyl)oxy)but-3-yn-1-yl)phenyl) sulfate (**S4**) (30.3 mg, 63.4 µmol), pyridine (118 µL, 1.46 mmol) and DIPEA (7.3 µL, 41 µL) in DMF (0.2 mL) at rt and stirred for 48 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with 1 M HCl (aq) (5 mL) and 1 M Na₂CO₃ (aq) (2 x 5 mL). The organic fraction was dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (0-3% MeOH in CHCl₃) to yield carbamate **S5** (30.1 mg, 28.4 µmol, 82%) as a yellow oil. **Rf** 0.39 (5% MeOH in CHCl₃); **HPLC** (5-95% MeCN/H₂O over 20 min) retention time 14.471 min; **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 1056.5976 C₅₅H₈₆N₅O₁₃S⁺, required 1056.5937.

Ammonium arylsulfate-4-alkyl-MMAE (S6)



Carbamate **S5** (15.7 mg, 14.9 μ mol) was dissolved in DMF (0.3 mL) and treated with 5 M NH₄OAc (aq) (0.6 mL) before stirring at 50 °C for 4 days. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was purified by reverse phase flash column chromatography (20-40% solvent B in solvent A. Solvent A: 0.1 M NH₄OH (aq). Solvent B: MeCN) and lyophilised to yield sulfate **S6** (11.9 mg, 11.9 μ mol, 80%) as a white solid. **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M-H⁺]⁻ 984.4988 C₅₀H₇₄N₅O₁₃S⁻, required 984.5009; **HPLC** (5-95% MeCN/H₂O over 20 min) retention time 11.457 min.

Ammonium DVP-PEG₃-arylsulfate-4-alkyl-MMAE (16a)



To a degassed solution of sulfate **S6** (3.00 mg, 3.00 µmol) and DVP **S16** (36.8 µL of 0.1 M solution in DMSO, 3.68 µmol) in ^tBuOH (0.1 mL) was added a degassed solution of $CuSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$ (0.38 mg, 1.50 µmol), THPTA (1.30 mg, 3.00 µmol) and sodium ascorbate (1.30 mg, 6.10 µmol) in $H_2O/^tBuOH$ (0.3 mL, 1:1) and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 45 min. The reaction mixture was purified by reverse phase flash column chromatography (20-40% solvent B in solvent A. Solvent A: 0.1 M NH₄OH (aq). Solvent B: MeCN) and lyophilised to yield linker-drug **16a** (3.30 mg, 2.30 µmol, 77%) as a pale yellow solid. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z found $[M-H^+]^-$ 1417.7427 $C_{70}H_{105}N_{12}O_{17}S^-$, required 1417.7447; **HPLC** (5-95% MeCN/H₂O over 20 min) retention time 10.091 min.

Scheme S 5: Synthesis of linker-payload 16b.^a



^{*a*}Reagents and conditions: (a) propargyl bromide, magnesium, ZnBr₂, ether/THF, -78 °C for 15 h then 0 °C for 2 h, 75%; (b) Neopentyl sulfochloridate, 4-DMAP, Et₃N, THF, rt, 20 h, 64%; (c) 4-nitrophenyl chloroformate, pyridine, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 3 h, 89%; (d) MMAE, HOBt, pyridine, DIPEA, DMF, rt, 48 h, 68%; (e) 5 M NH₄OAc (aq), DMF, 50 °C, 2 days, 63%; (f) **S16**, CuSO₄ 5H₂O, THPTA, sodium ascorbate, H₂O/^tBuOH, rt, 2 h, 76%.

4-(1-hydroxybut-3-yn-1-yl)-2-nitrophenol (S7)



Propargyl bromide (2.00 mL, 26.4 mmol) in ether (16 mL) was added dropwise to a suspension of Mg (1.30 g, 53.5 mmol) and ZnBr₂ (240 mg, 1.07 mmol) in ether (20 mL). Upon exothermic reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C for the remainder of the addition. The supernatant was calculated to be 0.15 M by titration using 1,10 phenanthroline as indicator. The Grignard supernatant was added to a solution of 4-hydroxy-3-nitrobenzaldehyde (398 mg, 2.38 mmol) in THF (20 mL) at -78 °C and stirred for 15 h. The reaction mixture was then warmed to 0 °C for 2 h before being diluted with wet ether (20 mL) and 1 M HCl (aq) (20 mL). Upon warming to rt, the layers were separated, and the aqueous fraction was further extracted with EtOAc (2 x 30 mL). The combined organic fractions were dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (15-25% EtOAc in PE) to yield 4-(1-hydroxybut-3-yn-1-yl)-2-nitrophenol **S6** (368 mg, 1.78 mmol, 75%) as a yellow oil. **Rf** 0.49 (50% EtOAc in PE); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.57 (s, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.17 (d, 1H *J* = 8.7 Hz), 4.89 (app q, 1H, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 2.65 (m, 2H), 2.46 (d, 1H, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 2.10 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz); ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.8, 135.3, 135.0, 133.4, 122.4, 120.3, 79.7, 72.1, 70.9, 29.5. Data in accordance with literature.³

4-(1-hydroxybut-3-yn-1-yl)-2-nitrophenyl neopentyl sulfate (S8)



Neopentyl sulfurochloridate (0.558 mL, 3.51 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 4-(1-hydroxybut-3-yn-1-yl)-2-nitrophenol **S7** (364 mg, 1.76 mmol), 4-DMAP (215 mg, 1.76 mmol) and

triethylamine (0.493 mL, 3.51 mmol) in THF (18 mL) at rt. After 20 h the reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, diluted with EtOAc (40 mL) and washed with 1 M HCl (aq) (3 x 20 mL) and sat. NaHCO₃ (aq) (20 mL). The organic fraction was dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (10-25% EtOAc in PE + 0.5% AcOH) to yield 4-(1-hydroxybut-3-yn-1-yl)-2-nitrophenyl neopentyl sulfate **S8** (403 mg, 1.13 mmol, 64%) as a yellow oil. **Rf** 0.20 (25% EtOAc in PE + 0.5% AcOH); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3152 (br), 2901 (w), 1625 (w), 1510 (w), 1354 (m), 1300 (m); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 7.72 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.6, 2.1 Hz), 7.62 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 4.97 (t, 1H, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 4.22 (s, 2H), 2.67 (m, 2H), 2.13 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 1.03 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.9, 142.0, 141.5, 131.9, 124.0, 123.7, 85.2, 79.1, 72.5, 70.7, 32.1, 29.6, 26.0; HRMS (ESI) *m*/z found [M-H⁺]⁻ 356.0811 C₁₅H₁₈NO₇S⁻, required 356.0809.

Neopentyl (2-nitro-4-(1-(((4-nitrophenoxy)carbonyl)oxy)but-3-yn-1-yl)phenyl) sulfate (S9)



Pyridine (15.5 μL, 192 μmol) was added to a solution of alcohol **S8** (30.0 mg, 96.0 μmol) and 4nitrophenylchloroformate (23.2 mg, 115 μmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) at rt. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h before being diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with 1 M Na₂CO₃ (aq) (20 mL) and 1 M HCl (aq) (20 mL). The organic fraction was dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (15-20% EtOAc in PE) to yield carbonate **S9** (40.8 mg, 85.4 μmol, 89%) as a pale yellow oil. **Rf** 0.65 (50% EtOAc in PE); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 2906 (w), 1771 (s), 1555 (w), 1501 (m), 1488 (m); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.29 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 8.15 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 7.78 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.6, 2.2 Hz), 7.70 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 7.39 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 5.88 (t, 1H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 4.25 (s, 2H), 2.93 (m, 2H), 2.12 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 1.04 (s, 9H); ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.2, 151.6, 145.8, 142.5, 137.7, 132.8, 132.7, 125.5, 124.5, 124.4, 121.8, 85.5, 77.4, 76.8, 73.0, 32.1, 26.4, 26.0; **HRMS** (ESI) *m*/*z* found [M+Na]⁺ 545.0865 C₂₂H₂₂N₂O₁₁SNa⁺, required 545.0842.

Neopentyl-nitroarylsulfate-MMAE (S10)



Carbonate **S9** (10.0 mg, 19.1 µmol), pyridine (54.0 µL, 670 µmol) and MMAE (20.6 mg, 28.7 µmol) were dissolved in DMF (0.2 mL) before the addition of DIPEA (3.30 µL, 19.0 µL) and HOBt (80%) (3.40 mg, 20.0 µmol) at rt. After 48 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with 1 M HCl (aq) (5 mL) and 1 M Na₂CO₃ (aq) (3 x 5 mL). The organic fraction was dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (0-5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) to yield carbamate **S10** (14.4 mg, 13.1 µmol, 68%) as a yellow solid. **Rf** 0.26 (3% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂); **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 1101.5776 C₅₅H₈₅N₆O₁₅S⁺, required 1101.5794; **HPLC** (5-95% MeCN/H₂O over 20 min) retention time 14.695 min.

Ammonium nitroarylsulfate-MMAE (S11)



Carbamate **\$10** (5.90 mg, 5.40 µmol) was dissolved in DMF (0.2 mL) and treated with 5 M NH₄OAc (aq) (0.2 mL) before stirring at 50 °C for 2 days. The cooled reaction mixture was purified by reverse phase flash column chromatography (30-70% solvent B in solvent A. Solvent A: 0.1 M NH₄OH (aq). Solvent B: MeCN) and lyophilised to yield sulfate **\$11** (3.70 mg, 3.40 µmol, 63%) as a white solid. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z found [M-H⁺]⁻ 1029.4824 C₅₀H₇₃N₆O₁₅S⁻, required 1029.4860; **HPLC** (5-95% MeCN/H₂O over 20 min) retention time 12.925 min.

Ammonium DVP-PEG₃-nitroarylsulfate-MMAE (16b)



To a degassed solution of sulfate **S11** (3.00 mg, 2.90 µmol) and DVP **S16** (38.2 µL of 0.1 M solution in DMSO, 3.82 µmol) in ^tBuOH (0.1 mL) was added a degassed solution of $CuSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$ (0.600 mg, 2.30 µmol), THPTA (1.70 mg, 3.80 µmol) and sodium ascorbate (1.90 mg, 9.50 µmol) in H₂O/^tBuOH (0.3 mL, 1:1) and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 2 h. The reaction mixture was purified by reverse phase flash column chromatography (30-50% solvent B in solvent A. Solvent A: 0.1 M NH₄OH (aq). Solvent B: MeCN) and lyophilised to yield linker-drug **16b** (3.30 mg, 2.20 µmol, 76%) as a yellow solid. **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M-H⁺] 1462.7298 C₇₀H₁₀₄N₁₃O₁₉S⁻, required 1462.7263; **HPLC** (5-95% MeCN/H₂O over 20 min) retention time 10.932 min.



^aReagents and conditions: (a) 4-nitrophenylchloroformate, pyridine, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 2 h then MMAE, HOBt, DIPEA, DMF, rt, 24 h, 40%; (b) **S16**, CuSO₄·5H₂O, THPTA, sodium ascorbate, H₂O/^tBuOH, rt, 18 h, 22%.

Alkyne-MMAE (S12)



Pyridine (7.50 µL, 93.0 µmol) was added to a solution of 3-butyn-1-ol (3.70 µL, 48.0 µmol) and 4nitrophenylchloroformate (3.70 mg, 19.0 µmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (0.2 mL) and stirred at rt for 2 h. MMAE (20.0 mg, 27.9 µmol), HOBt (70%) (1.8 mg, 9.5 µmol), DIPEA (2.4 µL, 19 µmol) and DMF (0.2 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and stirred at rt for 24 h before being diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with 1 M HCl (aq) (15 mL) and 1 M Na₂CO₃ (aq) (2 x 10 mL). The organic fraction was dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (0-3% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) to yield alkyne **S12** (6.00 mg, 7.40 µmol, 40%) as a pale yellow oil. **Rf** 0.43 (5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂); **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 814.5308 C₄₄H₇₂N₅O₉⁺, required 814.5330; **HPLC** (5-95% MeCN/H₂O over 20 min) retention time 13.320 min.

DVP-PEG₃-MMAE (17)



To a degassed solution of alkyne **S12** (5.00 mg, 6.10 µmol) and DVP **S16** (73.7 µL of 0.1 M solution in DMSO, 7.37 µmol) in ^tBuOH (0.1 mL) was added a degassed solution of CuSO₄·5H₂O (0.800 mg, 3.10 µmol), THPTA (2.70 mg, 6.10 µmol) and sodium ascorbate (2.40 mg, 12.0 µmol) in H₂O/^tBuOH (0.3 mL, 1:1) and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 18 h. The reaction mixture was purified by reverse phase flash column chromatography (50-70% solvent B in solvent A. Solvent A: 0.1 M NH₄OH (aq). Solvent B: MeCN) and lyophilised to yield linker-drug **17** (1.70 mg, 1.40 µmol, 22%) as a pale yellow solid. **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found $[M+H]^+$ 1247.7722 C₆₄H₁₀₃N₁₂O₁₃⁺, required 1247.7762; **HPLC** (5-95% MeCN/H₂O over 20 min) retention time 9.405 min.

Scheme S 7: Synthesis of DVP-azide (S15).^a



^aReagents and conditions: (a) ethyl 4-aminobutyrate hydrochloride, Et₃N, acetone, 0 °C for 5 min then rt for 90 min, 28%; (b) potassium vinyltrifluoroborate, Pd(dppf)Cl₂·CH₂Cl₂, potassium carbonate, THF/H₂O, 90 °C, 4 h, 100%; (c) Lithium hydroxide monohydrate, THF/MeOH/H₂O, rt, 2 days, 80%; (d) HATU, 11-azido-3,6,9-trioxaundecan-1-amine, HOBt, DIPEA, rt, 2 h, 70%.

Ethyl 4-((4,6-dichloropyrimidin-2-yl)amino)butanoate (S13)



Triethylamine (4.57 mL, 32.8 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 2,4,6-trichloropyrimidine (2.00 g, 10.9 mmol) and ethyl 4-aminobutyrate hydrochloride (2.19 g, 13.1 mmol) in acetone (12 mL) at 0 °C. After 5 min, the reaction mixture was warmed to rt and stirred for 90 min. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* then diluted with EtOAc (30 mL) and washed with H₂O (2 x 30 mL) and brine (30 mL). The organic fraction was dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (10% EtOAc in PE) to yield ester **S13** (840 mg, 3.02 mmol, 28%) as a clear oil. **Rf** 0.22 (10% EtOAc in PE); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3371 (m), 2981 (w), 2937 (w), 1735 (s), 1583 (s), 1563 (s), 1518 (s), 1450 (m), 1375 (m); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.59 (s, 1H), 5.56 (br s, 1H), 4.14 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 3.48 (q, 2H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 2.39 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.93 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.25 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.3, 161.8, 109.2, 60.8, 41.1, 31.7, 24.7, 14.4; **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 278.0450, C₁₀H₁₄N₃O₂Cl₂⁺ required 278.0458.

Ethyl 4-((4,6-divinylpyrimidin-2-yl)amino)butanoate (S14)



Ethyl 4-((4,6-dichloropyrimidin-2-yl)amino)butanoate **\$13** (401 mg, 1.44 mmol), potassium vinyltrifluoroborate (580 mg, 4.33 mmol), Pd(dppf)Cl₂·CH₂Cl₂ (118 mg, 0.144 mmol) and potassium carbonate (1.20 g, 8.66 mmol) were suspended in THF/H₂O (10:1, 4.8 mL) and heated to 90 °C for 4 h in a sealed tube. The reaction mixture was filtered through Celite[®] and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (25% EtOAc in PE) to yield DVP **\$14** (377 mg, 1.44 mmol, 100%) as a pale yellow oil. **Rf** 0.35 (25% EtOAc in PE); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3394 (w), 2980 (w), 1729 (s), 1635 (w), 1539 (s), 1324 (m); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.57 (m, 2H),

6.52 (s, 1H), 6.35 (d, 2H, J = 17.2 Hz), 5.55 (dd, 2H J = 10.6, 1.5 Hz), 5.10 (t, 1H, J = 5.5 Hz), 4.13 (q, 2H, J = 7.1 Hz), 3.53 (q, 2H, J = 6.6 Hz), 2.41 (t, 2H, J = 7.4 Hz), 1.96 (quint, 2H J = 7.1 Hz), 1.24 (t, 3H, J = 7.1 Hz); ¹³**C** NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.6, 163.9, 162.8, 136.1, 121.5, 105.9, 60.5, 40.9, 31.9, 25.3, 14.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z found [M+H]⁺ 262.1556, C₁₄H₂₀N₃O₂⁺ required 262.1556.

4-((4,6-divinylpyrimidin-2-yl)amino)butanoic acid (S15)



Lithium hydroxide monohydrate (119 mg, 2.85 mmol) was added to a solution of ethyl 4-((4,6-divinylpyrimidin-2-yl)amino)butanoate **S14** (620 mg, 2.37 mmol) in THF (5 mL), MeOH (2 mL) and H₂O (5 mL) and stirred at rt for 2 days. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* before being diluted with sat. NH₄Cl (aq) (40 mL), and extracted with 10% ⁱPrOH/EtOAc (4 x 120 mL), with 1 M HCl (aq) adjusting to pH 4 between extractions. The combined organic fractions were dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield carboxylic acid **S15** (445 mg, 1.91 mmol, 80%) as a yellow solid. **Rf** 0.39 (5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ + 0.5% AcOH); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3311 (br), 2919 (w), 2150 (w), 1703 (m), 1559 (s), 1413 (m); ¹H **NMR** (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.60 (dd, 2H, *J* = 17.4, 10.7 Hz), 6.36 (d, 2H, *J* = 17.0 Hz), 5.57 (dd, 2H, *J* = 10.7, 1.5 Hz), 3.47 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 2.37 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 1.91 (m, 2H); ¹³C **NMR** (101 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 177.4, 165.3, 164.0, 137.0, 122.2, 105.7, 41.5, 32.3, 26.1; **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 234.1254, C₁₂H₁₆N₃O₂⁺ required 234.1243.

N-(2-(2-(2-(2-azidoethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy)ethyl)-4-((4,6-divinylpyrimidin-2-yl)amino)butanamide (S16)



DIPEA (149 µL, 0.429 mmol) was added to a solution of 4-((4,6-divinylpyrimidin-2-yl)amino)butanoic acid **S15** (100 mg, 0.429 mmol), 11-azido-3,6,9-trioxaundecan-1-amine (90%) (113 µL, 0.515 mmol), HATU (195 mg, 0.515 mmol), HOBt (80%) (72.2 mg, 0.858 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) and stirred at rt. After 2 h, sat. NaHCO₃ (aq) (20 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and extracted with EtOAc (5 x 20 mL). The combined organic fractions were dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (10% acetone in EtOAc) to yield azide **S16** (131 mg, 0.302 mmol, 70%) as a yellow oil; **Rf** 0.17 (10% acetone in EtOAc); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3341 (w), 2868 (w), 2108 (m), 1650 (w), 1544 (s) ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.57 (m, 2H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 6.34 (d, 2H, *J* = 17.3 Hz), 6.16 (br s, 1H), 5.56 (dd, 2H, *J* = 10.6, 1.4 Hz), 5.21 (t, 1H, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 3.65 (m, 8H), 3.60 (m, 2H), 3.53 (m, 4H), 3.45 (m, 2H), 3.37 (t, 2H, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 2.29 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 1.97 (quint, 2H, *J* = 9.3 Hz); **NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.8, 163.9, 162.9, 136.1, 121.5, 105.7, 70.9, 70.8, 70.7, 70.4, 70.2, 70.0, 50.8, 40.9, 39.4, 34.0, 25.9; **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 434.2513, C₂₀H₃₂N₇O₄⁺ required 434.2516.



^aReagents and conditions: (a) AMC, triphosgene, toluene, reflux, 1 h, then dibutyltin dilaurate, THF, DMF, rt, 3 h, then 45 °C for 2 h, 56%; (b) Pd(PPh₃)₄, AcOH, tributyltin hydride, 0 °C, 1 h, 73%; (c) methoxyacetic acid, HATU, DIPEA, DMF, rt, 1 h, 85%.

Alloc-Val-Ala-PABC-AMC (S17)



7-Amino-4-methylcoumarin (23.2 mg, 133 µmol) and triphosgene (19.7 mg, 66.3 µmol) were suspended in toluene (1.5 mL) and refluxed for 1 h. The reaction mixture was cooled and evaporated under a stream of nitrogen before a solution of Alloc-Val-Ala-PABOH (50.0 mg, 133 μ mol) in THF (1.5 mL) was added. Dibutyltin dilaurate (7.90 μ L, 13.3 μ mol) was added to the resulting suspension and stirred at rt for 3 h before DMF (4 mL) was added. After stirring for 15 h, additional DMF (2 mL) was added and the resulting solution was stirred at 45 °C for 2 h. The cooled reaction mixture was then quenched and precipitated with H₂O (20 mL) and filtered, washing with additional H₂O (10 mL), MeOH (3 x 10 mL) and hot MeCN (20 mL). The resulting solid was dried in *vacuo* to yield coumarin **S17** (42.8 mg, 74.0 μ mol, 56%) as a light beige solid. v_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3286 (w), 2957 (w), 1729 (m), 1695 (m), 1618 (m), 1578 (s), 1532 (s); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.24 (s, 1H), 10.02 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz), 7.68 (d, 1H, J = 8.7 Hz), 7.61 (d, 2H, J = 8.3 Hz), 7.55 (d, 1H, J = 1.4 Hz), 7.40 (m, 3H, J = 5.5 Hz), 7.24 (d, 1H, J = 8.7 Hz), 6.23 (s, 1H), 5.91 (m, 1H), 5.29 (d, 1H, J = 17.0 Hz), 5.15 (m, 3H), 4.44 (m, 3H), 3.89 (t, 1H, J = 7.7 Hz), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.31 (d, 3H, J = 7.0 Hz), 0.88 (d, 3H, J = 6.7 Hz), 0.84 (d, 3H, J = 6.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 171.2, 171.0, 160.1, 160.0, 156.0, 153.9, 153.8, 153.2, 142.7, 139.0, 133.6, 130.8, 129.2, 126.0, 119.0, 116.9, 114.4, 114.2, 111.9, 104.4, 66.0, 64.4, 59.9, 49.0, 30.3, 19.2, 18.1, 18.04, 17.98; **HRMS** (ESI) m/z found $[M+H]^+$ 579.2459 $C_{30}H_{35}N_4O_8^+$, required 579.2450.

H₂N-Val-Ala-PABC-AMC (S18)



To a solution of coumarin **S17** (29.0 mg, 50.1 μ mol) in THF (0.5 mL) and DMF (0.5 mL) at 0 °C was added Pd(PPh₃)₄ (5.80 mg, 5.00 μ mol), AcOH (5.70 μ L, 100 μ mol) and tributyltin hydride (26.9 μ L,

100 µmol). After 1 h, the reaction mixture was warmed to rt and purified by flash column chromatography (10% MeOH in $CH_2Cl_2 + 0.5\%$ triethylamine) to yield amine **S18** (18.1 mg, 36.6 µmol, 73%) as a beige solid. **Rf** 0.11 (10% MeOH in $CH_2Cl_2 + 0.5\%$ triethylamine); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.4 (s, 1H), 10.3 (s, 1H), 8.80 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 8.24 (d, 3H, *J* = 4.2 Hz), 7.67 (m, 3H), 7.56 (d, 1H), 7.40 (m, 3H), 6.23 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.2 Hz), 5.13 (s, 2H), 4.51 (quint, 1H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 3.65 (t, 1H, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 2.38 (d, 3H, *J* = 1.1 Hz), 2.11 (m, 1H), 1.36 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 0.96 (d, 3H, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 0.95 (d, 3H, *J* = 1.8 Hz); ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 170.8, 167.5, 160.0, 153.8, 153.2, 142.8, 139.0, 130.9, 129.1, 126.0, 119.1, 114.4, 114.3, 111.9, 104.4, 66.0, 57.1, 49.3, 48.6, 29.8, 18.3, 18.1, 18.0, 17.9. **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 495.2249 C₂₆H₃₁N₄O₆⁺, required 495.2238.

4-((*S*)-2-((*S*)-2-(2-methoxyacetamido)-3-methylbutanamido)propanamido)benzyl (4-methyl-2oxo-2*H*-chromen-7-yl)carbamate (13)



DIPEA (7.90 µL, 46.0 µmol) was added to a solution of amine **S18** (9.40 mg, 19.0 µmol), 2-methoxyacetic acid (5.20 µL, 68.0 µmol), HATU (13.0 mg, 34.1 µmol) and HOBt (80%) (2.40 mg, 23.0 µmol) in DMF (0.2 mL) at rt. After 1 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with 1 M HCl (aq) (10 mL) and sat. NaHCO₃ (aq) (10 mL). The organic fraction was dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (2-5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) to yield dipeptide **13** (9.05 mg, 16.0 µmol, 85%) as a white solid. **Rf** 0.34 (5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3282 (w), 2938 (w), 1699 (s), 1640 (s), 1532 (s); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.25 (s, 1H), 10.05 (s, 1H), 8.40 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 7.69 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.62 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.55 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 7.46 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 7.40 (m, 3H), 6.23 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.1 Hz), 5.13 (s, 2H), 4.41 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 4.28 (dd, 1H, *J* = 9.0, 6.6 Hz), 3.86 (d, 2H, *J* = 1.9 Hz), 2.38 (d, 3H, *J* = 1.0 Hz), 2.00 (m, 1H), 1.31 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 0.88 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.82 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 171.1, 170.5, 168.7, 160.0, 153.8, 153.2, 142.7, 139.0, 130.8, 129.2, 126.0, 120.1, 119.0, 114.4, 114.2, 111.9, 104.4, 71.2, 69.8, 66.0, 58.5, 56.6, 49.1, 31.0, 19.1, 18.00, 17.98, 17.9; **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 567.2444 C₂₉H₃₅N₄O₈⁺, required 567.2449.



^{*a*}Reagents and conditions: (a) citrulline, NaHCO₃, DME, THF, H₂O, 0 °C for 5 min then rt for 28 h, 87%; (b) 4-aminobenzyl alcohol, EEDQ, MeOH/CH₂Cl₂, 40 °C, 18 h, 63%; (c) Et₃N, DMF, rt, 18 h then methoxyacetyl chloride, 0 °C for 30 min then rt for 2 h, 66%; (d) AMC, triphosgene, toluene, reflux, 1 h, then dibutyltin dilaurate, DMF, rt, 48 h, 20%.





A solution of Fmoc-Val-OSu (2.00 g, 4.58 mmol) in DME (15 mL) was added to a suspension of citrulline (842 mg, 4.81 mmol) and NaHCO₃ (423 mg, 5.04 mmol) in H₂O (30 mL) and THF (8 mL) at 0 °C. After 5 min, the reaction mixture was warmed to rt and stirred for 28 h. The reaction mixture was then adjusted to pH 10 with sat. K₂CO₃ (aq) before being diluted with H₂O (50 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (4 x 100 mL). The organic fractions were combined and added to 30 wt% citric acid (aq) (30 mL) before the mixture was filtered. The resulting filter cake was dried *in vacuo* to yield Fmoc-Val-Cit-OH **S18** (1.96 g, 3.96 mmol, 87%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.16 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 7.89 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.75 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.32 (m, 2H), 5.94 (t, 1H, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 5.37 (s, 2H), 4.21 (m, 4H), 3.92 (m, 1H), 3.60 (m, 2H), 2.95 (q, 2H, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.57 (m, 1H), 1.41 (m, 2H), 0.89 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 0.86 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.7 Hz); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 173.6, 171.5, 158.8, 156.1, 144.0, 140.7, 127.7, 127.1, 125.4, 120.1, 71.1, 65.7, 60.1, 52.4, 46.7, 30.5, 28.8, 26.6, 19.2, 18.2. Data in accordance with literature.⁴

Fmoc-Val-Cit-PABOH (S20)



Fmoc-Val-Cit-OH **S18** (1.00 g, 2.02 mmol), 4-aminobenzyl alcohol (496 mg, 4.02 mmol) and *N*-Ethoxycarbonyl-2-ethoxy-1,2-dihydroquinoline (996 mg, 4.02 mmol) were dissolved in MeOH (3.8 mL) and CH₂Cl₂ (9.6 mL) and stirred at 40 °C. After 18 h, the cooled reaction mixture was filtered, washing with ether (2 x 20 mL) to yield Fmoc-Val-Cit-PABOH **S19** (770 mg, 1.28 mmol, 63%) as a white solid. ¹H **NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 9.98 (s, 1H), 8.11 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.89 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.54 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 5.98 (t, 1H, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 5.41 (s, 2H), 5.10 (t, 1H, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 4.43 (d, 3H, *J* = 4.2 Hz), 4.27 (m, 3H), 3.93 (m, 1H), 2.98 (m, 2H), 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.59 (m, 1H), 1.41 (m, 1H), 0.88 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.85 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C **NMR** (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 171.3, 170.4, 158.9, 156.1, 143.9, 143.8, 140.7, 137.4, 127.7, 127.1, 126.9, 125.4, 120.1, 118.9, 65.7, 62.6, 60.1, 53.1, 46.7, 30.5, 29.5, 26.8, 19.2, 18.3.

Data in accordance with literature.⁴

(S)-N-(4-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-2-((S)-2-(2-methoxyacetamido)-3-methylbutanamido)-5ureidopentanamide (S21)



Triethylamine (463 µL, 3.32 mmol) was added to a suspension of Fmoc-Val-Cit-PABOH **S19** (100 mg, 0.166 mmol) in DMF (0.9 mL) and stirred at rt. After 18 h, excess triethylamine was removed *in vacuo* and methoxyacetyl chloride (20.4 µL, 0.216 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture, followed by triethylamine (30.1 µL, 0.216 mmol) at 0 °C. After 30 min, the reaction mixture was warmed to rt and stirred for 2 h before being quenched with H₂O (1 mL) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography (10-15% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) to yield amide **S20** (49.5 mg, 0.110 mmol, 66%) as a white solid. **Rf** 0.19 (10% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂); **v**_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3323 (br), 2930 (w), 1653 (s), 1607 (m), 1537 (m), 1515 (m); ¹**H NMR** (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.1 (s, 1H), 8.36 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.57 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.51 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 7.22 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.20 (br s, 1H), 5.46 (s, 2H), 5.13 (t, 1H, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 4.41 (m, 3H), 4.30 (m, 1H), 3.87 (d, 2H, *J* = 1.2 Hz), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.96 (m, 2H), 2.01 (m, 1H), 1.71 (m, 1H), 1.60 (m, 1H), 1.43 (m, 1H), 1.36 (m, 1H), 0.87 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 0.81 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 170.7, 170.4, 168.7, 159.0, 137.6, 137.4, 126.9, 118.8, 71.2, 62.6, 58.5, 56.8, 53.1, 38.4, 31.0, 29.3, 26.7, 19.2, 18.0; **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 452.2504 C₂₁H₃₄N₅O₆⁺, required 452.2504.

4-((*S*)-2-((*S*)-2-(2-methoxyacetamido)-3-methylbutanamido)-5-ureidopentanamido)benzyl (4methyl-2-oxo-2*H*-chromen-7-yl)carbamate (14)



7-Amino-4-methylcoumarin (9.30 mg, 53.0 µmol) and triphosgene (7.90 mg, 27.0 µmol) were suspended in toluene (0.5 mL) and refluxed for 1 h. The reaction mixture was cooled and evaporated under a stream of nitrogen before a solution of dipeptide S20 (20.0 mg, 44.3 µmol) in DMF (1 mL) was added. Dibutyltin dilaurate (2.60 µL, 4.40 µmol) was added to the resulting suspension and stirred at rt for 48 h before being quenched with H₂O (0.5 mL) and evaporated under a stream of nitrogen. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography to yield coumarin 14 (5.70 mg, 8.70 μmol, 20%) as a white solid. Rf 0.11 (5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂); v_{max} (neat/cm¹) 3271 (w), 2919 (w), 1701 (m), 1635 (s), 1533 (m); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.24 (br s, 1H), 10.10 (s, 1H), 8.34 (d, 1H, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.68 (d, 1H, J = 8.7 Hz), 7.61 (d, 2H, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.54 (d, 1H, J = 2.2 Hz), 7.47 (d, 1H, J = 9.0 Hz), 7.38 (m, 3H), 6.22 (d, 1H, J = 1.1 Hz), 6.00 (t, 1H, J = 5.6 Hz), 5.41 (s, 2H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 4.38 (q, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 4.29 (dd, 1H, J = 9.0, 6.6 Hz), 3.85 (d, 2H, J = 1.1 Hz), 3.00 (m, 1H), 2.93 (m, 1H), 2.37 (d, 3H, J = 1.0 Hz), 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.68 (m, 1H), 1.58 (m, 1H), 1.43 (m, 1H), 1.34 (m, 1H), 0.85 (d, 3H, J = 6.9 Hz), 0.80 (d, 3H, J = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 170.8, 170.6, 168.7, 160.0, 158.9, 153.8, 153.2, 142.7, 139.0, 130.8, 129.2, 126.1, 119.0, 114.4, 114.3, 111.9, 104.4, 71.2, 66.0, 58.5, 56.7, 53.2, 38.5, 31.0, 29.0, 22.1, 19.2, 18.0, 18.0; **HRMS** (ESI) m/z found $[M+H]^+$ 653.2916 $C_{32}H_{41}N_6O_9^+$, required 653.2930.

Scheme S 10: Synthesis of DVP-Val-Ala-MMAE 18^a



^{*a*}Reagents and conditions: (a) N₃-PEG₄-COOH, HBTU, DIPEA, DMF, rt, 2 h, 70%; (b) alkyne **S23**, CuSO₄·5H₂O, THPTA, sodium ascorbate, $CH_2Cl_2/{}^{t}BuOH/CH_2Cl_2$, rt, 13 h, 59%. Known amine **S21** was synthesised and characterised in accordance with previous literature.⁵ Alkyne **S23** was synthesised and characterised in accordance with previous literature.⁶

N₃-PEG₄-Val-Ala-PABC-MMAE (S22)



A solution of amine **S21**⁵ (10.5 mg, 10.1 μ mol), N₃-PEG₄-COOH (40.4 μ L, 20.2 μ mol, 0.5 M in TBME, 90%), HBTU (7.70 mg, 20.2 μ mol) and DIPEA (3.50 μ L, 20.2 μ mol) in DMF (0.5 mL) was stirred at rt. After 2 h the solvent was removed under a stream of N₂ and the crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (0-8% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) to yield azide **S22** (9.10 mg, 7.02 μ mol, 70%) as a white solid. **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 1296.7771, C₆₅H₁₀₆N₁₁O₁₆⁺ required 1296.7814; **HPLC** (5-95% MeCN/H₂O over 20 min) retention time 11.921 min.

DVP-PEG₄-Val-Ala-PABC-MMAE (18)



To a degassed solution of azide **S22** (8.00 mg, 6.20 µmol) and alkyne **S23**⁶ (2.80 mg, 12.4 µmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (0.5 mL) was added a degassed solution of CuSO₄·5H₂O (1.90 mg, 7.40 µmol), THPTA (5.40 mg, 12.4 µmol) and sodium ascorbate (6.10 mg, 31.0 µmol) in H₂O/^tBuOH (1 mL, 1:1) and the reaction mixture stirred at rt. After 13 h, the reaction was diluted with H₂O (15 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (5 × 15 mL). The combined organic fractions were dried (MgSO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and the crude residue purified by flash column chromatography (0-8% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) to yield linker-drug **18** (5.60 mg, 3.67 µmol, 59%) as a clear oil. **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* found [M+H]⁺ 1523.9174, C₇₉H₁₂₃N₁₄O₁₆⁺ required 1523.9236; **HPLC** (5-95% MeCN/H₂O over 20 min) retention time 10.966 min.

Scheme S 11: Synthesis of phenyl sulfamate S24^a



^aReagents and conditions: (a) NaH (60%), DMF, 0 °C, 10 min then sulfamoyl chloride, 0 °C, 2 h, 58%.

Phenyl sulfamate (S24)



Sodium hydride (60% dispersion in mineral oil) (59.9 mg, 1.50 mmol) was added to a solution of phenol (46.8 μ L, 0.500 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C and stirred. After 10 min, the suspension was added to a solution of sulfamoyl chloride (288 mg, 2.50 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C. After 2 h, the reaction was quenched with methanol, diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with H₂O (20 mL) then brine (20 mL). The organic fraction was dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (10-30% EtOAc in PE) to yield phenyl sulfamate **S24** (50.5 mg, 0.292 mmol, 58%) as a white solid. **Rf** 0.30 (30% EtOAc in PE); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.33 (m, 3H), 5.00 (br s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.2, 130.1, 127.5, 122.2. Data in accordance with literature.⁷



To a solution of trastuzumab (40 μ L, 16.9 μ M, 2.5 mg/mL) in TBS (25 mM Tris HCl pH 8, 25 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM EDTA) was added TCEP (10 eq.). The mixture was vortexed and incubated at 37 °C for 1 h with shaking at 1000 rpm. A solution of linker-payload **13-16** (20 mM in DMSO) was added with additional DMSO (final concentration of 0.637 mM, 40 eq., 10% DMSO (v/v)) and the reaction mixture incubated at 37 °C for 3 h with shaking at 1000 rpm. The excess reagents were removed by size-exclusion chromatography with a Zeba Spin desalting column (40K MWCO, 0.5 mL) and exchanged into PBS with an Amicon-Ultra centrifugal filter (10K MWCO, Merck Millipore). LC-MS and SDS-PAGE analysis demonstrated >95% conversion to the desired conjugate.





Fig. S 1: LC-MS analysis of ADCs 1-5.

(a) non-deconvoluted MS of ADC 1; (b) deconvoluted MS of ADC 1, expected 75,538 Da, observed 75,544 Da; (c) non-deconvoluted MS of ADC 2; (d) deconvoluted MS of ADC 2, expected 75,423 Da, observed 75,429 Da; (e) non-deconvoluted MS of ADC 3; (f) deconvoluted MS of ADC 3, expected 75,513 Da, observed 75,519 Da; (g) non-deconvoluted MS of ADC 4; (h) deconvoluted MS of ADC 4, expected 75,083 Da, observed 75,084 Da; (i) non-deconvoluted MS of ADC 5; (j) deconvoluted MS of ADC 5, expected 75,634 Da, observed 75,639 Da. Note: A minor peak \approx 80 Da less than the major peak appears for ADC 1-3. This peak does not appear prior to deglycosylation and is an artefact of the deglycosylation process.

SDS-PAGE Analysis

SDS-PAGE analysis with 12% acrylamide gel under reducing conditions reveals the major product of bioconjugation to be half-antibody, with a molecular weight between that of the full trastuzumab antibody and the heavy chain.



Fig. S 2: SDS-PAGE analysis of ADC 1-5 in 12% acrylamide gel.

Lane markings: Tras (NR) = trastuzumab, non-reduced, Tras (R) = trastuzumab, reduced with β -mercaptoethanol at 70 °C for 2 min. a) Analysis of ADC **1**, reduced with β -mercaptoethanol at 70 °C for 2 min, b) analysis of ADC **2**, **3**, and **4** all reduced with β -mercaptoethanol at 70 °C for 2 min and c) analysis of ADC **5** reduced with β -mercaptoethanol at 70 °C for 2 min.

Sulfatase Hydrolysis

The enzyme units refer to the enzyme's ability to hydrolyse *p*-nitrocatechol sulfate.

Sulfatase from Helix pomatia with 7 and 12

Sulfatase (*Helix pomatia*, EC 3.1.6.1, 12 μ L, 20 U/mL in 34 mM NaCl (aq)) was added to a vortexed solution of linker-AMC (2.4 μ L, 250 μ M in DMSO) in NaOAc buffer (24 μ L, 0.5 M, pH 5) and H₂O (81.6 μ L). 110 μ L of the resulting solution was added to a 384 well plate (Greiner, black, clear bottomed) and the fluorescence intensity was measured over 12 h at 37 °C, with readings taken at 2 minute intervals. An adhesive film (Bio-Rad) was used to prevent solvent evaporation. The reactions were performed in triplicate and the plotted values are the normalised mean values. Data were processed using GraphPad Prism Version 7.

Sulfatase from Helix pomatia and phenyl sulfamate with 7 and 12

Phenyl sulfamate (0.3 µmol), sulfatase (*Helix pomatia*, EC 3.1.6.1, 12 µL, 20 U/mL in 34 mM NaCl (aq)) and NaOAc buffer (24 µL, 0.5 M, pH 5) were added to H₂O (81.6 µL) and incubated at 37 °C for 3 h. Linker-AMC (2.4 µL, 250 µM in DMSO) was then added and 110 µL of the thoroughly mixed resulting solution was added to a 384 well plate (Greiner, black, clear bottomed) and the fluorescence intensity was measured over 12 h at 37 °C, with readings taken at 2 minute intervals. An adhesive film (Bio-Rad) was used to prevent solvent evaporation. The reactions were performed in triplicate and the plotted values are the normalised mean values. Data were processed using GraphPad Prism Version 7. The same reaction was also performed in tandem in the absence of phenyl sulfamate as a control.



Fig. S 3: Incubation of 7 and 12 with sulfatase and 2.5 mM phenyl sulfamate inhibitor. 12 with sulfatase in the absence of phenyl sulfamate (blue line) is also included.

Sulfatase from Helix pomatia with 12 at pH 5, 7.4 and 9

Sulfatase (*Helix pomatia*, EC 3.1.6.1, 12 μ L, 20 U/mL in 34 mM NaCl (aq)) was added to a vortexed solution of linker-AMC (2.4 μ L, 250 μ M in DMSO) in buffer (24 μ L, 0.5 M) and H₂O (81.6 μ L). The concentrated buffer solutions were NaOAc at pH 5, NaP_i at pH 7.4 and Tris at pH 9. 110 μ L of the resulting solutions were added to a 384 well plate (Greiner, black, clear bottomed) and the fluorescence intensity was measured over 12 h at 37 °C, with readings taken at 2 minute intervals.

An adhesive film (Bio-Rad) was used to prevent solvent evaporation. The reactions were performed in triplicate and the plotted values are the normalised mean values. Data were processed using GraphPad Prism Version 7.



Fig. S 4: Incubation of 12 with sulfatase at pH 5, 7.4 and 9.

Arylsulfatase A (ARSA) and arylsulfatase B (ARSB) with 12

Arylsulfatase A: Sulfatase (Human recombinant arylsulfatase A, EC 3.1.6.8, 14.2 μ L, 8.43 μ M in 34 mM NaCl (aq)) was added to a vortexed solution of linker-AMC (2.4 μ L, 250 μ M in DMSO) in NaOAc buffer (24 μ L, 0.5 M, pH 5) and H₂O (79.4 μ L).

Arylsulfatase B: Sulfatase (Human recombinant arylsulfatase B, EC 3.1.6.12, 18.0 μ L, 6.67 μ M in 34 mM NaCl (aq)) was added to a vortexed solution of linker-AMC (2.4 μ L, 250 μ M in DMSO) in NaOAc buffer (24 μ L, 0.5 M, pH 5) and H₂O (79.4 μ L).

110 μ L of the resulting solutions were added to a 384 well plate (Greiner, black, clear bottomed) and the fluorescence intensity was measured over 12 h at 37 °C, with readings taken at 2 minute intervals. An adhesive film (Bio-Rad) was used to prevent solvent evaporation. The plotted values are the normalised values. Data were processed using GraphPad Prism Version 7.



Fig. S 5: Incubation of 12 with ARSA and ARSB.

Stability studies

Plasma stability studies were conducted with a concentration of 55% plasma, to replicate its proportion in whole blood.

Mouse plasma stability over 8 hours

Mouse plasma (110 μ L) was added to a vortexed solution of linker-AMC (4.0 μ L, 250 μ M in DMSO) in PBS (96 μ L). 190 μ L of the resulting solution was added to a 96 well plate (Greiner, black, clear bottomed). The fluorescence intensity was measured over 8 h at 37 °C, with readings taken at 1 minute intervals. An adhesive film (Bio-Rad) was used to prevent solvent evaporation. The reactions were performed in triplicate and the plotted values are the normalised mean values. Data were processed using GraphPad Prism Version 7.

Human/mouse plasma stability over 7 days

Human/mouse plasma (154 μ L) was added to a vortexed solution of linker-AMC (5.6 μ L, 250 μ M in DMSO) in PBS (120.4 μ L). The solution was incubated at 37 °C and 40 μ L aliquots were taken at t = 0, 1, 3, 5 and 7 days. The aliquots were added to a 384 well plate (Corning, black, low volume) and the fluorescence intensity was measured. The reactions were performed in duplicate and the plotted values are the normalised mean values. Data were processed using GraphPad Prism Version 7.

Glutathione stability

Linker-AMC (2.4 μ L, 250 μ M in DMSO) was added to a solution of reduced glutathione (0.5 mM) in NaP_i buffer (117.6 μ L, 100 mM, pH 7.4). 110 μ L of the resulting solution was added to a 384 well plate (Greiner, black, clear bottomed) and the fluorescence intensity was measured over 12 h at 37 °C, with readings taken at 2 minute intervals. An adhesive film (Bio-Rad) was used to prevent solvent evaporation. The reactions were performed in triplicate and the plotted values are the normalised mean values. Data were processed using GraphPad Prism Version 7.



Fig. S 6: Incubation of 7 and 12 with glutathione (GSH). 12 in the presence of sulfatase (blue line) is included as a comparison.



Fig. S 7: Cytotoxicity of ADCs 1-5 in SKBR3 and T47D cells

IC₅₀ Values of ADCs 1-5 in HER2+ Cells

Compound	IC ₅₀ (pM)	
	BT474	SKBR3
ADC 1	N/A	N/A
ADC 2	111	200
ADC 3	61	40
ADC 4	609	171
ADC 5	92	41

Table S 1: The calculated IC_{50} values for ADCs 2-5 in BT474 and SKBR3 cell lines.

Cells Lines

HER2-positive SKBR3 and BT474 cells were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) and HER2-negative MCF7 and T47D cells were obtained from the European Collection of Authenticated Cell Cultures (ECACC) and ATCC, respectively. SKBR3 cells were maintained in high glucose McCoy's 5A medium, supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated foetal-bovine serum (FBS), 50 U/mL penicillin and 50 µg/mL streptomycin. MCF7 cells were maintained in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated fetal-bovine serum (FBS), 2 mM L-glutamine, 50 U/mL penicillin and 50 µg/mL streptomycin. BT474 and T47D cell lines were maintained in RPMI1640 medium supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated fetal-bovine serum (FBS), 2 mM L-glutamine, 50 U/mL penicillin and 50 µg/mL streptomycin. BT474 and T47D cell lines were maintained in RPMI1640 medium supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated fetal-bovine serum (FBS), 2 mM L-glutamine, 50 U/mL penicillin and 50 µg/mL streptomycin. All cell lines were maintained at 37 °C with 5% CO₂.

Cell Viability

Cells were seeded in 96-well plates for 24 h at 37 °C with 5% CO_2 . SKBR3 cells were seeded at 15,000 cells/well, BT474 cells were seeded at 20,000 cells/well, MCF7 cells were seeded at 7,500 cells/well and T47D cells were seeded at 10,000 cells/well. Serial dilutions of ADCs **1-5** and trastuzumab were added to the cells in complete growth medium and incubated at 37 °C with 5%

CO₂ for 96 h. Cell viability was measured using CellTiter-Glo viability assay (Promega) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Cell viability was plotted as a percentage of untreated cells. Each measurement was taken in triplicate and three independent repeats were performed.

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NMR Spectra and HPLC Traces











190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 ppm





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T T V



Ammonium 4-(1-(((4-methyl-2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-yl)carbamoyl)oxy)but-3-yn-1-yl)phenyl sulfate

Neopentyl (4-((((4-nitrophenoxy)carbonyl)oxy)methyl)-2-(pent-4-ynamido)phenyl) sulfate (S1)



Neopentyl arylsulfate-2-amide-MMAE (S2)



Ammonium arylsulfate-2-amide-MMAE (S3)



Ammonium DVP-PEG₃-arylsulfate-2-amide-MMAE (15)





Neopentyl arylsulfate-4-alkyl-MMAE (S5)



Ammonium arylsulfate-4-alkyl-MMAE (S6)









200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 ppm



Neopentyl (2-nitro-4-(1-(((4-nitrophenoxy)carbonyl)oxy)but-3-yn-1-yl)phenyl) sulfate (S9)



Neopentyl-nitroarylsulfate-MMAE (S10)



Ammonium nitroarylsulfate-MMAE (S11)





Alkyne-MMAE (S12)













10 ppm 170 160 140 130

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(S)-N-(4-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-2-((S)-2-(2-methoxyacetamido)-3-methylbutanamido)-5ureidopentanamide (S21)














190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 ppm