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(54) Titre : SULFENATES COLORANTS UTILISES DANS LA DOUBLE PHOTOTHERAPIE
(54) Title: DYE-SULFENATES FOR DUAL PHOTOTHERAPY

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:
The present invention discloses dye-sulfenate derivatives and their bioconjugates for dual phototherapy of tumors and other lesions. The compounds of the present invention may contain either a mixture of type 1 and type 2 agents or a single entity that integrates both units in the same molecules. The compounds are designed to produce both type 1 and type 2 phototherapeutic effect at once using dual wavelength light source that will produce singlet oxygen and free radicals at the lesion of interest.

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(54) Title: DYE-SULFENATES FOR DUAL PHOTOTHERAPY

(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses dye-sulfenate derivatives and their bioconjugates for dual phototherapy of tumors and other lesions. The compounds of the present invention may contain either a mixture of type 1 and type 2 agents or a single entity that integrates both units in the same molecules. The compounds are designed to produce both type 1 and type 2 phototherapeutic effect at once using dual wavelength light source that will produce singlet oxygen and free radicals at the lesion of interest.

DYE-SULFENATES FOR DUAL PHOTOTHERAPY

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent No. 6,395,257, titled Dendrimer Precursor Dyes for Imaging, filed on January 18, 2000, having the same inventors and assignee as the present invention.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to novel dye-sulfenate compounds, and to phototherapeutic procedures using these compounds.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The use of visible and near-infrared (NIR) light in clinical practice is growing rapidly. Compounds absorbing or emitting in the visible or NIR, or long-wavelength (UV-A, > 350 nm) region of the electromagnetic spectrum

are potentially useful for optical tomographic imaging, endoscopic visualization, and phototherapy. However, a major advantage of biomedical optics lies in its therapeutic potential. Phototherapy has been demonstrated to be a safe and effective procedure for the treatment of various surface lesions, both external and internal. Its efficacy is akin to radiotherapy, but it advantageously lacks the harmful radiotoxicity to critical non-target organs.

Phototherapy has been in existence for many centuries and has been used to treat various skin surface ailments. As early as 1400 B.C. in India, plant extracts (psoralens), in combination with sunlight, were used to treat vitiligo. In 1903, Von Tappeiner and Jesionek (1903, Therapeutische Versuche mit fluorescierenden Stoffen. Munch. Med. Wochenschr., **47**, pp. 2042-2044), used eosin as a photosensitizer for treating skin cancer, lupus of the skin, and condylomata of female genitalia. Over the years, the combination of psoralens and ultraviolet A (low-energy) radiation has been used to treat a wide variety of dermatological diseases and manifestations including psoriasis, parapsoriasis, cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, eczema, vitiligo, areata, and neonatal bilirubinemia. Although the potential of cancer phototherapy has been recognized since the early 1900's, systematic studies to demonstrate safety and efficacy began only in 1967 with the treatment of breast carcinoma. In 1975, Dougherty *et al.* (Photoradiation therapy. II. Cure of animal tumors with hematoporphyrin and light. J Natl Cancer Inst 1975; **55**, pp.115–121), conclusively established that long-term cure is possible with photodynamic therapy (PDT). Currently, phototherapeutic methods are also being investigated for the treatment of some cardiovascular disorders such as atherosclerosis and vascular restenosis, for the treatment of rheumatoid

arthritis, and for the treatment of some inflammatory diseases such as Chron's disease.

Phototherapeutic procedures require photosensitizers (i.e. chromophores) having high absorptivity. These compounds should preferably be chemically inert and become activated only upon irradiation with light of an appropriate wavelength. Selective tissue injury can be induced with light when photosensitizers bind to the target tissues, either directly or through attachment to a bioactive carrier. Furthermore, if the photosensitizer is also a chemotherapeutic agent (e.g., anthracycline antitumor agents), then an enhanced therapeutic effect can be attained. The key requirements for the design of effective phototherapeutic agents are: (a) large molar extinction coefficients, (b) long triplet lifetimes, (c) high yields of singlet oxygen and/or other reactive intermediates, viz., free radicals, nitrenes, carbenes, or open-shell ionic species such as cabonium ions and the like, (d) efficient energy or electron transfer to cellular components, (e) low tendency to form aggregation in an aqueous milieu, (f) efficient and selective targeting of lesions, (g) rapid clearance from the blood and non-target tissues, (h) low systemic toxicity, and (i) lack of mutagenicity.

Photosensitizers operate via two distinct mechanisms, termed Types 1 and 2. The type 1 mechanism is shown in the following scheme:

$$\text{SENSITIZER} \xrightarrow{h\nu} (\text{SENSITIZER})^*$$

$$(\text{SENSITIZER})^* + \text{TISSUE} \rightarrow \text{TISSUE DAMAGE}$$

Type 1 mechanisms involve direct energy or electron transfer from the photosensitizer to the cellular components thereby causing cell death. Type 2 mechanisms involve two distinct steps, as shown in the following scheme:

$$\text{SENSITIZER} \xrightarrow{h\nu} (\text{SENSITIZER})^*$$

$$(\text{SENSITIZER})^* + {}^3O_2\ (\text{Triplet Oxygen}) \rightarrow {}^1O_2\ (\text{Singlet Oxygen})$$

$${}^1O_2\ (\text{Singlet Oxygen}) + \text{TISSUE} \rightarrow \text{TISSUE DAMAGE}$$

In the first step, singlet oxygen is generated by energy transfer from the triplet excited state of the photosensitizer to the oxygen molecules surrounding the tissues. In the second step, collision of singlet oxygen with the tissues promotes tissue damage. In both Type 1 and Type 2 mechanisms, the photoreaction proceeds via the lowest triplet state of the sensitizer. Hence, a relatively long triplet lifetime is required for effective phototherapy. In contrast, a relatively short triplet lifetime is required to avoid photodamage to the tissue caused by photosensitizers.

The biological basis of tissue injury brought about by tumor phototherapeutic agents has been the subject of intensive study. Various biochemical mechanisms for tissue damage have been postulated even though the type and number of photosensitizers employed in these studies are relatively small. These biochemical mechanisms are as follows: a) cancer cells upregulate the expression of low density lipoprotein (LDL) receptors, and photodynamic therapy (PDT) agents bind to LDL and albumin selectively; (b) porphyrin-like substances are selectively taken up by proliferative

neovasculature; (c) tumors often contain increased number of lipid bodies and are thus able to bind to hydrophobic photosensitizers; (d) a combination of "leaky" tumor vasculature and reduced lymphatic drainage causes porphyrin accumulation; (e) tumor cells may have increased capabilities for phagocytosis or pinocytosis of porphyrin aggregates; (f) tumor associated macrophages may be largely responsible for the concentration of photosensitizers in tumors; and (g) cancer cells may undergo apoptosis induced by photosensitizers. Among these mechanisms, (f) and (g) are the most general and, of these two alternatives, there is a general consensus that (f) is the most likely mechanism by which the phototherapeutic effect of porphyrin-like compounds is induced.

Most of the currently known photosensitizers are commonly referred to as photodynamic therapy (PDT) agents and operate via the Type 2 mechanism. For example, Photofrin II (a hematoporphyrin derivative) has been recently approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of bladder, esophageal, and late-stage lung cancers. However, Photofrin II has been shown to have several drawbacks: a low molar absorptivity (ϵ = 3000 M^{-1}), a low singlet oxygen quantum yield (Φ = 0.1), chemical heterogeneity, aggregation, and prolonged cutaneous photosensitivity. Hence, there has been considerable effort in developing safer and more effective photosensitizers for PDT which exhibit improved light absorbance properties, better clearance, and decreased skin photosensitivity compared to Photofrin II. These include monomeric porphyrin derivatives, corrins, cyanines, phthalocyanines, phenothiazines, rhodamines, hypocrellins,

and the like. However, these phototherapeutic agents mainly also operate via the Type 2 mechanism.

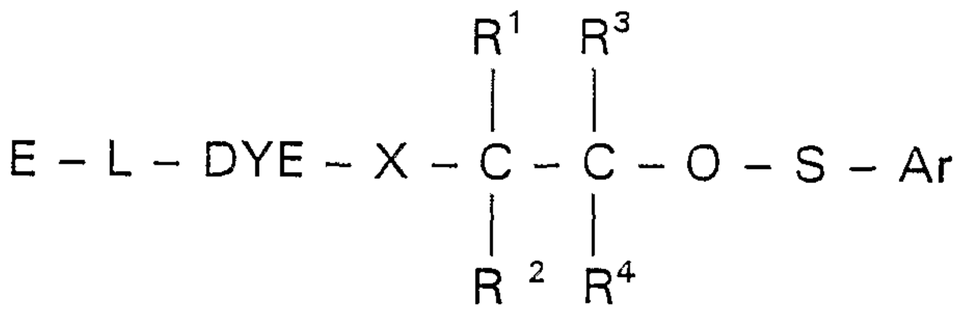
Surprisingly, there has not been much attention directed at developing Type 1 phototherapeutic agents, despite the fact that the Type 1 mechanism appears to be inherently more efficient than the Type 2 mechanism. First, unlike Type 2, Type 1 photosensitizers do not require oxygen for causing cellular injury. Second, the Type 1 mechanism involves two steps (photoexcitation and direct energy transfer), whereas the Type 2 mechanism involves three steps (photoexcitation, singlet oxygen generation, and energy transfer). Furthermore, certain tumors have hypoxic regions, which renders the Type 2 mechanism ineffective. However, in spite of the drawbacks associated with the Type 2 mechanism, only a small number of compounds have been developed that operate through the Type 1 mechanism, e.g. anthracyline antitumor agents.

Thus, there is a need to develop effective phototherapeutic agents that operate via the Type 1 mechanism. Phototherapeutic efficacy can be further enhanced if the excited state photosensitizers can generate reactive intermediates such as free radicals, nitrenes, carbenes, and the like, which have much longer lifetimes than the excited chromophore and have been shown to cause considerable cell injury. Thus, there is a need in the art to develop effective phototherapeutic agents. Phototherapeutic efficacy can be substantially improved if both Type 1 and Type 2 units are integrated into a single compound. This can be accomplished using three types of formulation:

(a) homogeneous mixtures of Type 1 or Type 2 agents alone, (b) heterogeneous mixtures of Type 1 and Type 2 agents, or (c) single molecular entity containing both Type 1 and Type 2 functionalities.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

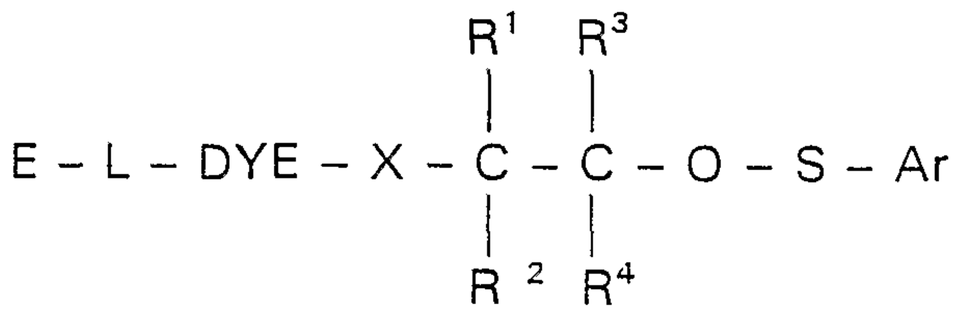
The present invention discloses novel sulfenate derivatives and their bioconjugates for phototherapy of tumors and other lesions. The compounds have the general formula



wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin, neurotensin, bombesin, cholecystekinin, steroid, and carbohydrate receptor binding molecules, and dihydoxyindolecarboxylic acid. L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, -(R^5)NOCH_2O -, -(R^5)NOCH_2CH_2O-, -OCN(R^5)-, -HNC(=S)NH-, and HNC(=O)NH-. DYE is an aromatic or a heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of cyanines, indocyanines, phthalocyanines, rhodamines, phenoxazines, phenothiazines, phenoselenazines, fluoresceins, porphyrins, benzoporphyrins, squaraines, corrins, croconiums, azo dyes, methine dyes, indolenium dyes, crellins, and hypocrellins. R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, C1-C10

polyhydroxyalkyl, and C1-C10 polyalkoxyalkyl. Ar is an aromatic or heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of benzenes, naphthalenes, naphthoquinones, diphenylmethanes, fluorenes, anthracenes, anthraquinones, phenanthrenes, tetracenes, naphthacenediones, pyridines, quinolines, isoquinolines, indoles, isoindoles, pyrroles, imidiazoles, oxazoles, thiazoles, pyrazoles, pyrazines, purines, benzimidazoles, furans, benzofurans, dibenzofurans, carbazoles, acridines, acridones, phenanthridines, thiophenes, benzothiophenes, dibenzothiophenes, xanthenes, xanthones, flavones, coumarins, and anthacylines.

The present invention also discloses a method of performing a phototherapeutic procedure using the novel sulfenate derivatives and their bioconjugates. An effective amount of sulfenate photosensitizers having the formula



is administered to a subject. In the formula, E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin, neurotensin, bombesin, cholecystekinin, steroid, and carbohydrate receptor binding molecules, and dihydroxyindolecarboxylic acid. L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of $-(R^5)NOC-$, $-(R^5)NOCCH_2O-$, $-(R^5)NOCCH_2CH_2O-$, $-OCN(R^5)-$, $-HNC(=S)NH-$, and $HNC(=O)NH-$. DYE is an aromatic or a heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of

cyanines, indocyanines, phthalocyanines, rhodamines, phenoxazines, phenothiazines, phenoselenazines, fluoresceins, porphyrins, benzoporphyrins, squaraines, corrins, croconiums, azo dyes, methine dyes, indolenium dyes, crellins, and hypocrellins. R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl, and C1-C10 polyalkoxyalkyl. Ar is an aromatic or heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of benzenes, naphthalenes, naphthoquinones, diphenylmethanes, fluorenes, anthracenes, anthraquinones, phenanthrenes, tetracenes, naphthacenediones, pyridines, quinolines, isoquinolines, indoles, isoindoles, pyrroles, imidiazoles, oxazoles, thiazoles, pyrazoles, pyrazines, purines, benzimidazoles, furans, benzofurans, dibenzofurans, carbazoles, acridines, acridones, phenanthridines, thiophenes, benzothiophenes, dibenzothiophenes, xanthenes, xanthones, flavones, coumarins, and anthacylines. Following the administration, the photosensitizer is allowed to accumulate in target tissue which is exposed to light of wavelength between 300 and 950 nm with sufficient power and fluence rate to cause necrosis or apoptosis of the said target tissue.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

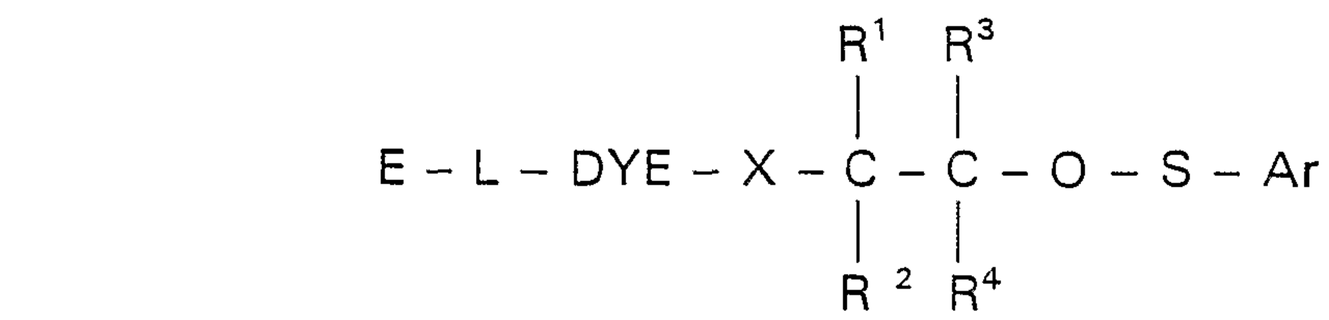
Fig. 1 is a schematic mechanism for activation of the inventive compounds;

Fig. 2 is a schematic mechanism for the synthesis of a cyanine derivative; and

Fig. 3 is a schematic mechanism for the synthesis of a phthalocyanine derivative.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention discloses novel sulfenate derivatives and their bioconjugates for phototherapy of tumors and other lesions. The compounds have the general formula:



wherein E is either a hydrogen atom or is selected from the group comprising antibodies, peptides, peptidomimetics, carbohydrates, glycomimetics, drugs, hormones, or nucleic acids; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of $-(R^5)NOC-$, $-(R^5)NOCCH_2O-$, $-(R^5)NOCCH_2CH_2O-$, $-OCN(R^5)-$, $-HNC(=S)NH-$, and $HNC(=O)NH-$; DYE is an aromatic or a heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of cyanines, indocyanines, phthalocyanines, rhodamines, phenoxazines, phenothiazines, phenoselenazines, fluoresceins, porphyrins, benzoporphyrins, squaraines, corrins, croconiums, azo dyes, methine dyes, indolenium dyes, and the like; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl, and C1-C10 polyalkoxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic or heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of benzenes, naphthalenes, naphthoquinones, diphenylmethanes, fluorenes, anthracenes,

anthraquinones, phenanthrenes, tetracenes, naphthacenediones, pyridines, quinolines, isoquinolines, indoles, isoindoles, pyrroles, imidiazoles, oxazoles, thiazoles, pyrazoles, pyrazines, purines, benzimidazoles, furans, benzofurans, dibenzofurans, carbazoles, acridines, acridones, phenanthridines, thiophenes, benzothiophenes, dibenzothiophenes, xanthenes, xanthones, flavones, coumarins, and anthacylines.

In one embodiment, sulfenates according to the present invention have the general Formula 1 above, wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin (ST), neurotensin, bombesin, cholecystekinin (CCK), steroid, and carbohydrate receptor binding molecules, and dihydroxyindolecarboxylic acid; X is selected from the group consisting of $-(R^5)NOC-$, $-(R^5)NOCCH_2O-$, $-(R^5)NOCCH_2CH_2O-$, and $-HNC(=S)NH$; DYE is an aromatic or a heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of cyanines, indocyanines, phthalocyanines, rhodamines, phenoxazines, phenothiazines, fluoresceins, porphyrins, benzoporphyrins, and indolenium dyes; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic or heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of benzenes, diphenylmethanes, fluorenes, anthraquinones, naphthacenediones, pyridines, quinolines, isoquinolines, indoles, acridines, acridones, phenanthridines, xanthenes, xanthones, and anthacylines.

In an alternative embodiment, sulfenates according to the present invention have the general formula above, wherein E is selected from the group

consisting of somatostatin, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin, neurotensin, bombesin, cholecystekinin, steroid, and carbohydrate receptor binding molecules; X is -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH_2O-; DYE is an aromatic or a heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of cyanines, phthalocyanines, rhodamines, porphyrins, benzoporphyrins, and corrins; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, and C1-C10 alkyl;. and Ar is an aromatic or heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of benzenes, diphenylmethanes, fluorenes, anthraquinones, naphthacenediones, pyridines, quinolines, indoles, acridines, acridones, phenanthridines, xanthenes, xanthones, and anthacylines.

These compounds operate mainly by Type I mechanism as shown in Fig. 1, wherein –O-SR is the sulfenate moiety that produces free radicals upon photoactivation, and Ar is an aromatic chromophore that undergoes photosensitization. Aliphatic sulfenates can also be used for phototherapy, but they are generally considered to be unstable and difficult to handle under ordinary conditions. L is a linker between the chromophore and the epitope. Epitope (E) is a particular region of the molecule that is recognized by, and binds to, the target site on the cell. An epitope is usually, but not always, associated with biomolecules which include hormones, amino acids, peptides, peptidomimetics, proteins, nucleosides, nucleotides, nucleic acids, enzymes, carbohydrates, glycomimetics, lipids, albumins, mono- and polyclonal antibodies, receptors, inclusion compounds such as cyclodextrins, and receptor binding molecules. Specific examples of biomolecules include steroid

hormones for the treatment of breast and prostate lesions, somatostatin, bombesin, and neurotensin receptor binding molecules for the treatment of neuroendocrine tumors, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules for the treatment of lung cancer, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin (ST) receptor, and carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) binding molecules for the treatment of colorectal cancer, dihyroxyindolecarboxylic acid and other melanin producing biosynthetic intermediates for melanoma, integrin receptor and atherosclerotic plaque binding molecules for the treatment of vascular diseases, and amyloid plaque binding molecules for the treatment of brain lesions. Biomolecules for use in the present invention may also include synthetic polymers. Examples of synthetic polymers include polyaminoacids, polyols, polyamines, polyacids, oligonucleotides, aborols, dendrimers, and aptamers. Coupling of diagnostic and radiotherapeutic agents to biomolecules can be accomplished by methods well known in the art, as described in Hnatowich et al., *Radioactive Labeling of Antibody: A simple and efficient method*. Science, 1983, 220, 613-615; A. Pelegrin et al., *Photoimmunodiagnosis with antibody-fluorescein conjugates: in vitro and in vivo preclinical studies*. Journal of Cellular Pharmacology, 1992, 3, 141-145; and U.S. Patent No. 5,714,342.

Successful specific targeting of fluorescent dyes to tumors using antibodies and peptides for diagnostic imaging of tumors has been demonstrated by us and others, for example, in S.A. Achilefu et al., *Novel receptor-targeted fluorescent contrast agents for in vivo tumor imaging*. Investigative Radiology, 2000, 35(8), 479-485; B. Ballou

et al., *Tumor labeling in vivo using cyanine-conjugated monoclonal antibodies*. Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy, 1995, 41, 257-263; and K. Licha et al., *New contrast agents for optical imaging: acid-cleavable conjugates of cyanine dyes with biomolecules*. In Biomedical Imaging: Reporters, Dyes, and Instrumentation, D.J. Bornhop, C. Contag, and E.M. Sevick-Muraca (Eds.), Proceedings of SPIE, 1999, 3600, 29-35.

Therefore, the inventive receptor-targeted phototherapeutic agents are expected to be effective in the treatment of various lesions.

In the present invention, dual phototherapeutic effect involving both Type 1 and Type 2 mechanisms can be accomplished by incorporating the reactive intermediate precursors into conventional PDT dyes and using a dual wavelength light source to effect the generation of reactive intermediates as well as the generation of singlet oxygen. In some cases it may be possible to activate both Type 1 and Type 2 mechanisms using same wavelength of light.

In the process outlined in Fig. 1, the photoexcitation of the aromatic chromophore effects rapid intramolecular energy transfer to the sulfenate group, resulting in bond rupture and production of two reactive free radicals which cause cellular injury.

For targeting purposes, external attachment of an epitope is used. If the aromatic sulfenate compounds themselves preferentially accumulate in the target tissue, however, an additional binding group may not be needed.

For example, if Ar is an anthracycline moiety, it will bind to cancer cells directly and not require an epitope for targeting purposes.

The synthesis of sulfenate derivatives is accomplished by a method which generally involves the condensation of sulfenyl chlorides with alcohols in the presence of an organic base. This method is disclosed in D.L. Pasto and F. Cottard, *Demonstration of the synthetic utility of the generation of alkoxy radicals by the photo-induced, homolytic dissociation of alkyl 4-nitrobenzenesulfenates*. Tetrahedron Letters, 1994, 35(25), 4303-4306. The dye-sulfenate derivatives of the present invention contain additional functionalities that can be used to attach various types of biomolecules, synthetic polymers, and organized aggregates for selective delivery to various organs or tissues of interest. The synthesis of typical dual phototherapeutic agents incorporating both Type 1 and Type 2 mechanisms based on cyanine and phthalocyanine derivatives are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. One of the active esters derived from either starting acid 1, 3 can be attached to a Type 1 moiety and the other active ester can be conjugated to any desired biomolecule of interest. Specifically, the biomolecule of the present invention pertains to those binding to colorectal, cervical, ovarian, lung, and neuroendocrine tumors. These include somatostatin, cholecystekinin, bombesin, neuroendrocrine, and heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding compounds.

The novel compounds of the present invention may vary widely depending on the contemplated application. For tumors, the biomolecule is

selected from the class of tumor markers including, but not limited to, somatostatin, bombesin, neurotensin, cholesytekinin, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin, estrogen, and progesterone receptor binding compounds. For vascular lesions, the biomolecule may be selected from the class of integrins, selectins, vascular endothelial growth factor, fibrins, tissue plasminogen activator, thrombin, LDL, HDL, Sialyl Lewis^{X} and its mimics, and atherosclerotic plaque binding compounds.

Methods of performing therapeutic procedures with the inventive compounds are also disclosed. An effective amount of the inventive compound in a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation is administered to a patient. For example, parenteral administration advantageously contains a sterile aqueous solution or suspension of the photosensitizer in a concentration ranging from about 1 nM to about 0.5 M. Preferred parenteral formulations have a concentration of 1 μM to 10 mM photosensitizer. Such solutions also may contain pharmaceutically acceptable buffers, emulsifiers, surfactants, and, optionally, electrolytes such as sodium chloride. Formulations for enteral administration may vary widely, as is well known in the art. In general, such formulations are liquids, which include an effective amount of the complexes in aqueous solution or suspension. Such enteral compound may optionally include buffers, surfactants, emulsifiers, thixotropic agents, and the like. Compounds for oral administration may also contain flavoring agents and other ingredients for enhancing their organoleptic qualities. Formulations for topical delivery may also contain liquid or semisolid excipients to assist in the

penetration of the photosensitizer. The compounds may also be delivered in an aerosol spray. The dose of the photosensitizer may vary from 0.1 to 500 mg/kg body weight, preferably from 0.5 to 2 mg/kg body weight. The photosensitizer is allowed to accumulate in the region of interest, followed by illumination with the light of wavelength 300 to 1200 nm, preferably 350 to 850 nm, at the site of the lesion. If the lesion is on the skin surface, the photosensitizer can be directly illuminated; otherwise, endoscopic catheters equipped with a light source may be employed to achieve phototherapeutic effect. The intensity, power, duration of illumination, and the wavelength of the light may vary widely depending on the location and site of the lesions. The wavelength of light may vary from 300 to 1200 nm. The fluence rate is preferably, but not always, kept below 200 mW/cm^2 to minimize thermal effects. Appropriate power depends on the size, depth, and the pathology of the lesion. The inventive compounds have broad clinical utility which includes, but is not limited to, phototherapy of tumors, inflammatory processes, and impaired vasculature.

The inventive compounds can be formulated into diagnostic or therapeutic compounds for enteral, parenteral, topical, or cutaneous administration. Topical or cutaneous delivery of the photosensitizer may also include aerosol formulation, creams, gels, solutions, etc. The compounds are administered in doses effective to achieve the desired diagnostic or therapeutic effect. Such doses may vary widely depending upon the particular complex employed, the organs or tissues to be examined, the equipment employed in

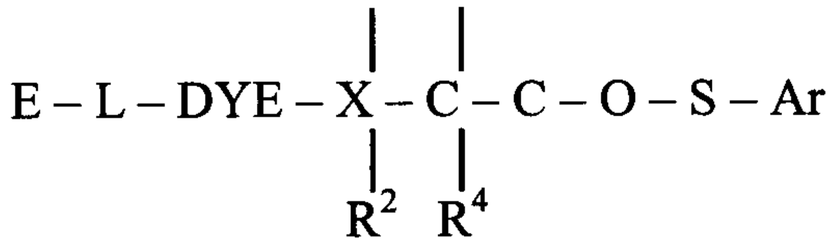
the clinical procedure, the efficacy of treatment achieved, and the like. These compounds contain an effective amount of the phototherapeutic agent, along with conventional pharmaceutical carriers and excipients appropriate for the type of administration contemplated. These compounds may also include stabilizing agents and skin penetration enhancing agents.

The aforementioned examples illustrate specific embodiments of the invention. As would be apparent to skilled artisans, various changes and modifications are possible and are contemplated within the scope of the invention described. It should be understood that the embodiments of the present invention shown and described in the specification are only specific embodiments of the inventors, who are skilled in the art, and are not limiting in any way. Therefore, various changes, modifications or alterations to those embodiments may be made or resorted to without departing from the spirit of the inventions and the scope of the following claims. For example, although the compounds of the present invention are primarily directed at therapy, most of the compounds containing polycyclic aromatic chromophores can also be used for optical diagnostic imaging purposes.

What is claimed is:

The embodiments of the present invention for which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A phototherapeutic agent having the formula,



wherein E is selected from the group consisting of a biomolecule, somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, steroid receptor binding molecules, carbohydrate receptor binding molecules, and dihydoxyindolecarboxylic acid; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of $-(R^5)NOC-$, $-(R^5)NOCCH_2O-$, $-(R^5)NOCCH_2CH_2O-$, $-OCN(R^5)-$, $-HNC(=S)NH-$, and $HNC(=O)NH-$; DYE is an aromatic or a heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of cyanines, indocyanines, phthalocyanines, rhodamines, phenoxazines, phenothiazines, phenoselenazines, fluoresceins, porphyrins, benzoporphyrins, squaraines, corrins, croconiums, azo dyes, methine dyes, indolenium dyes, crellins, and hypocrellins; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl, and C3-C10 polyalkoxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic or heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of benzenes, naphthalenes, naphthoquinones, diphenylmethanes, fluorenes, anthracenes, anthraquinones, phenanthrenes, tetracenes, naphthacenediones, pyridines, quinolines, isoquinolines, indoles, isoindoles, pyrroles, imidiazoles, oxazoles, thiazoles, pyrazoles, pyrazines, purines, benzimidazoles, furans, benzofurans, dibenzofurans, carbazoles, acridines, acridones, phenanthridines, thiophenes, benzothiophenes, dibenzothiophenes, xanthenes, xanthones, flavones, coumarins, and anthacylines.

2. The phototherapeutic agent of claim 1 wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH_2O -; DYE is derived from cyanines; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

3. The phototherapeutic agent of claim 1 wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; X is selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH_2O-; DYE is derived from phthalocyanines; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

4. The phototherapeutic agent of claim 1 wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH_2O-; DYE is derived from rhodamines; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

5. The phototherapeutic agent of claim 1 wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin

receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCH_2O -; DYE is derived from porphyrins; R1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

6. The phototherapeutic agent of claim 1 wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCH_2O -; DYE is derived from benzoporphyrins; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

7. The phototherapeutic agent of claim 1 wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCH_2O-; DYE is derived from corrins; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

8. The phototherapeutic agent of claim 1 wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding

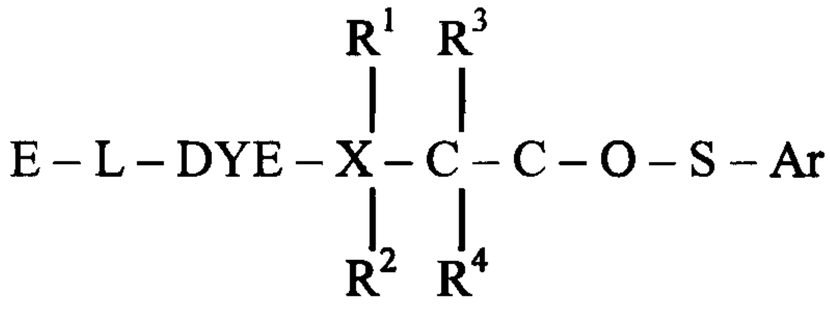
molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH$_2$O-; DYE is derived from phenothiazines; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

9. The phototherapeutic agent of claim 1 wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH$_2$O-; DYE is derived from hypocrellins; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

10. The phototherapeutic agent of claim 1 wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH$_2$O -; DYE is derived from fluoresceins; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

11. The phototherapeutic agent of claim 1 wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of hormones, amino acids, peptides, peptidomimetics, proteins, nucleosides, nucleotides, nucleic acids, enzymes, carbohydrates, glycomimetics, lipids, albumins, monoclonal antibodies, polyclonal antibodies, receptors, inclusion compounds, receptor binding molecules, polyaminoacids, polyols, polyamines, polyacids, oligonucleotides, aborols, dendrimers, and aptamers.

12. Use of a phototherapeutic agent having the formula



wherein E is selected from the group consisting of a biomolecule, somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, steroid receptor binding molecules, carbohydrate receptor binding molecules, and dihydoxyindolecarboxylic acid; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, -(R^5)NOCCH$_2$O-, -(R^5)NOCCH2CH$_2$O-, -OCN(R^5)-, -HNC(=S)NH-, and HNC(=O)NH-; DYE is an aromatic or a heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of cyanines, indocyanines, phthalocyanines, rhodamines, phenoxazines, phenothiazines, phenoselenazines, fluoresceins, porphyrins, benzoporphyrins, squaraines, corrins, croconiums, azo dyes, methine dyes, indolenium dyes, crellins, and hypocrellins; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl, and C3-C10 polyalkoxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic or heteroaromatic radical derived from the group consisting of benzenes, naphthalenes, naphthoquinones, diphenylmethanes, fluorenes, anthracenes, anthraquinones, phenanthrenes, tetracenes, naphthacenediones, pyridines, quinolines, isoquinolines, indoles, isoindoles, pyrroles, imidiazoles, oxazoles, thiazoles, pyrazoles, pyrazines, purines, benzimidazoles, furans, benzofurans, dibenzofurans, carbazoles, acridines, acridones, phenanthridines, thiophenes, benzothiophenes, dibenzothiophenes, xanthenes, xanthones, flavones, coumarins, and anthacylines;

in conjunction with light of wavelength between 300 and 950 nm with sufficient power and fluence rate to cause necrosis or apoptosis in a target tissue in an animal in need thereof.

13. The use of claim 12, wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH_2O-; DYE is derived from cyanines; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

14. The use of claim 12, wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; X is selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH_2O -; DYE is derived from phthalocyanines; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

15. The use of claim 12, wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH_2O-; DYE is derived from rhodamines; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

16. The use of claim 12, wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding

molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH$_2$O-; DYE is derived from porphyrins; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

17. The use of claim 12, wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH$_2$O-; DYE is derived from benzoporphyrins; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

18. The use of claim 12, wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH$_2$O-; DYE is derived from corrins; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

19. The use of claim 12, wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X

are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH$_2$O-; DYE is derived from phenothiazines; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

20. The use of claim 12, wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH$_2$O-; DYE is derived from hypocrellins; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

21. The use of claim 12, wherein E is selected from the group consisting of somatostatin receptor binding molecules, heat sensitive bacterioendotoxin receptor binding molecules, neurotensin receptor binding molecules, bombesin receptor binding molecules, cholecystekinin receptor binding molecules, and steroid receptor binding molecules; L and X are independently selected from the group consisting of -(R^5)NOC-, and -(R^5)NOCCH$_2$O-; DYE is derived from fluoresceins; R^1 to R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and Ar is an aromatic radical derived from benzene.

22. The use of claim 12 wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of hormones, amino acids, peptides, peptidomimetics, proteins, nucleosides, nucleotides, nucleic acids, enzymes, carbohydrates, glycomimetics, lipids, albumins, monoclonal antibodies, polyclonal antibodies, receptors, inclusion compounds, receptor binding molecules, polyaminoacids, polyols, polyamines, polyacids, oligonucleotides, aborols, dendrimers, and aptamers.

23. The use of claim 22 wherein the effective amount of the phototherapeutic agent is in a range of about 0.1 mg/kg body weight to about 500 mg/kg body weight.

24. The use of claim 23 wherein the effective amount of the phototherapeutic agent is in a range of about 0.5 mg/kg body weight to about 2 mg/kg body weight.

25. The use of claim 12 wherein the phototherapeutic agent is for parenteral administration to the target tissue in a formulation including the sulfenate photosensitizer and materials selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutically acceptable buffers, emulsifiers, surfactants, and electrolytes.

26. The use of claim 25 wherein the formulation is for parenteral administration to the target tissue in a concentration in a range of about 1 nM to about 0.5 M.

27. The use of claim 12 wherein the phototherapeutic agent is for enteral administration to the target tissue in a formulation including the sulfenate photosensitizer and materials selected from the group consisting of buffers, surfactants, emulsifiers, and thixotropic agents.

28. The use of claim 12 wherein the phototherapeutic agent is for topical administration to the target tissue in a formulation including the sulfenate photosensitizer and materials selected from the group consisting of liquid excipients and semisolid excipients.

29. The use of claim 12 wherein the phototherapeutic agent is for formulation as an aerosol spray, a cream, a gel, or a solution.

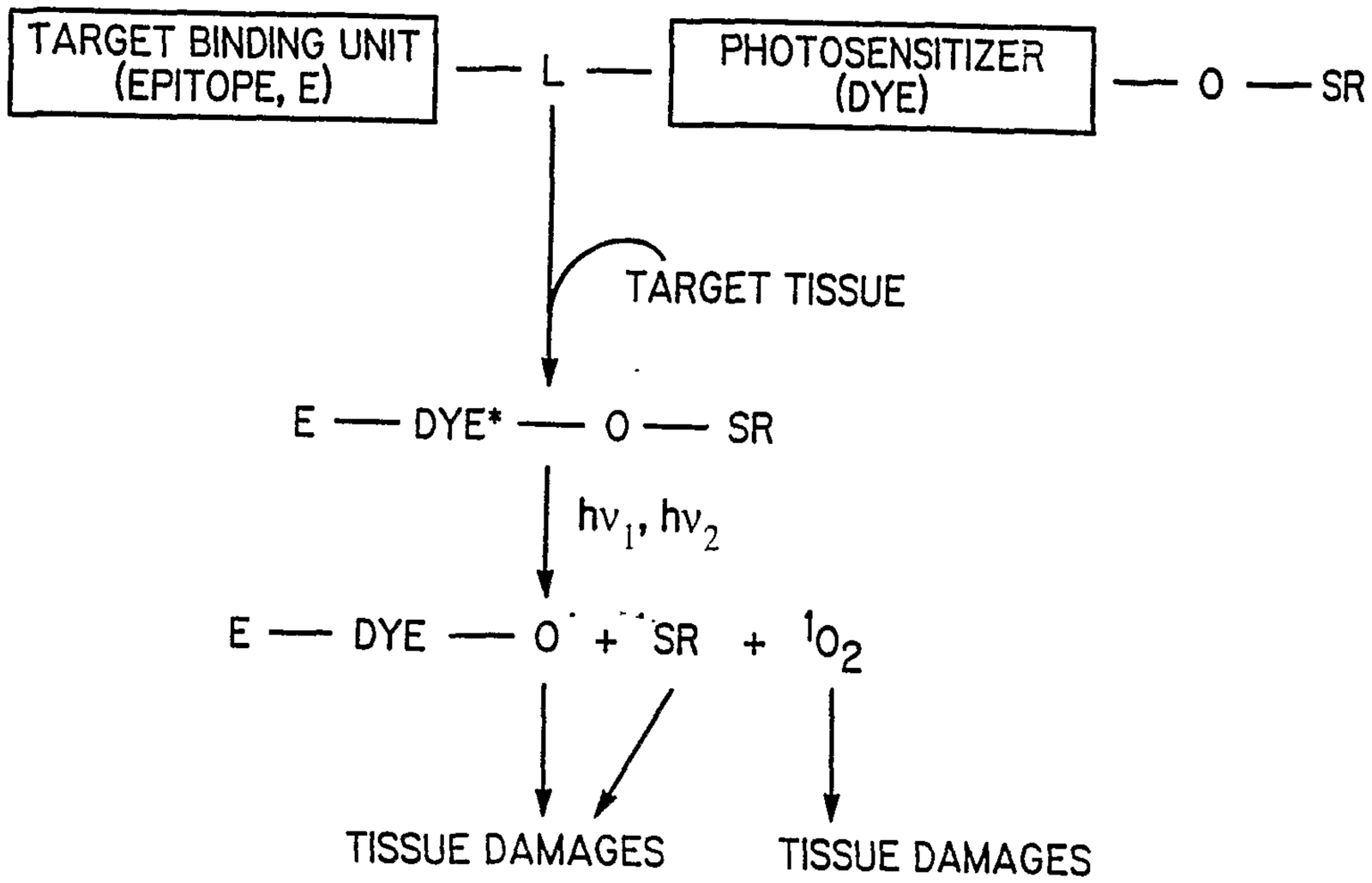

TARGET BINDING UNIT (EPITOPE, E)
L
PHOTOSENSITIZER (DYE)
O
SR
TARGET TISSUE
E — DYE* — O — SR
hν1, hν2
E — DYE — O· + ·SR + 1O2
TISSUE DAMAGES
TISSUE DAMAGES

FIG. 1

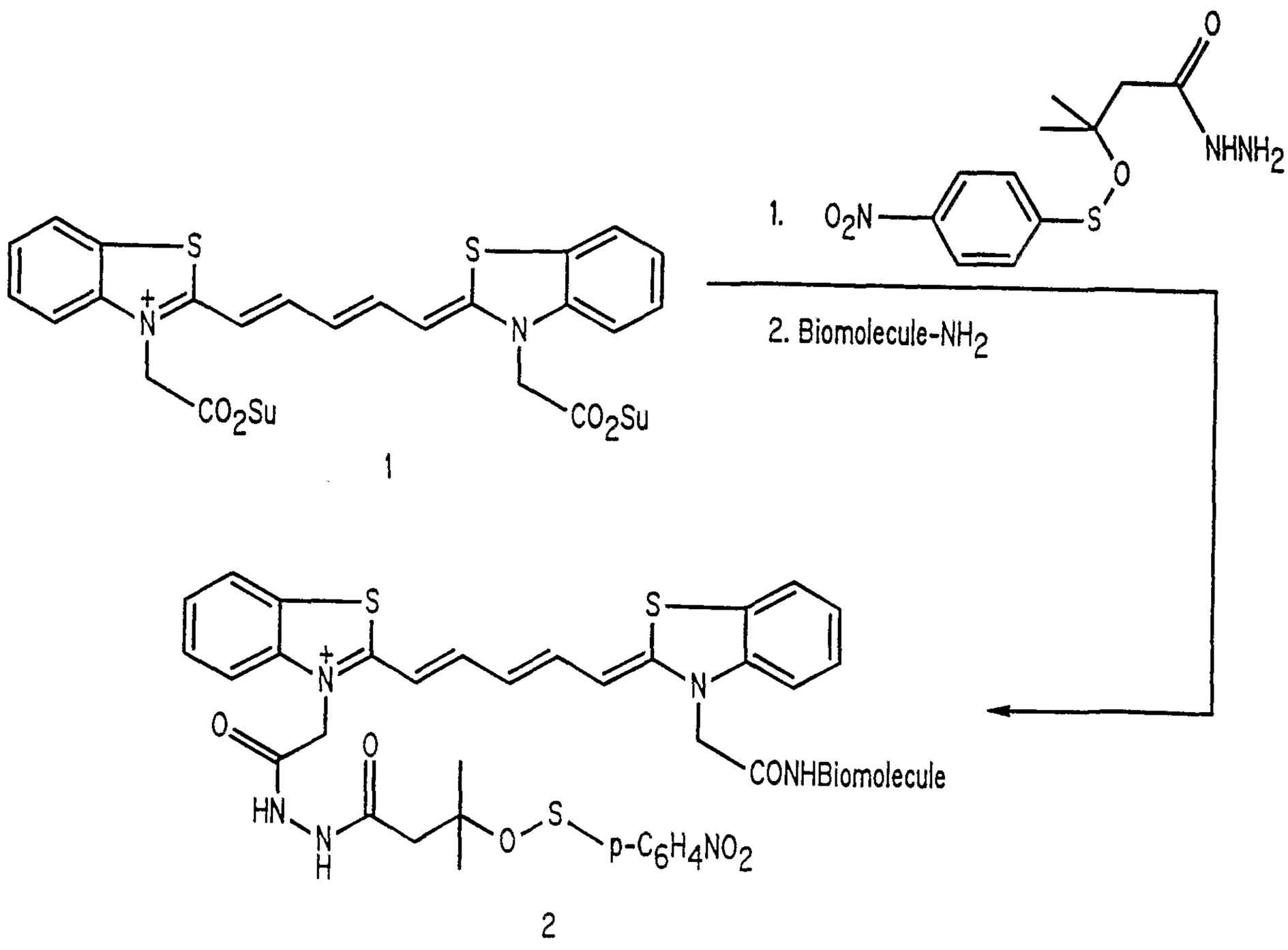

1
2. Biomolecule-NH2
CONHBiomolecule
2

FIG. 2

1. N-Hydroxysuccinimide/DCC
2.
3. Biomolecule-NH2
3
4
CONHBiomolecule
F

FIG. 3