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[54] **ACTIVE CARBONATES OF POLYALKYLENE OXIDES FOR MODIFICATION OF POLYPEPTIDES**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Poly(ethylene glycol)-N-succinimide carbonate and its preparation are disclosed. Polyethylene glycol (PEG) is converted into its N-succinimide carbonate derivative. This form of the polymer reacts readily with amino groups of proteins in aqueous buffers. The modified proteins have PEG-chains grafted onto the polypeptide backbone by means of stable, hydrolysis-resistant urethane (carbamate) linkages.

15 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets