WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A binding agent comprising:

a heavy chain variable (VH) region and a light chain variable (VL) region, the VH region comprising complementarity determining regions HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 disposed in heavy chain variable region framework regions and the VL region comprising LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 disposed in light chain variable region framework regions, the VH and VL CDRs having amino acids sequences of SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 20, KVS and SEQ ID NO: 22, respectively.

2. The binding agent of claim 1, wherein:

(a) the VH and VL regions have amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 15 and SEQ ID NO: 16, respectively, optionally wherein the heavy and light chain framework regions are optionally modified with from 1 to 8 amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions in the framework regions; and/or

(b) the framework regions are human framework regions; and/or

(c) the binding agent is an antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof; and/or

(d) the binding agent is a monoclonal antibody, a Fab, a Fab', an F(ab'), an Fv, a disulfide linked Fc, a scFv, a single domain antibody, a diabody, a bi-specific antibody, or a multi-specific antibody; and/or

(e) the heavy chain variable region further comprises a heavy chain constant region, optionally wherein:

(i) the heavy chain constant region is of the IgG isotype, further optionally wherein the heavy chain constant region is:

(A) an IgG1 constant region, further optionally wherein the IgG1 constant region has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 56; or

(B) an IgG4 constant region; and/or

(ii) the heavy chain constant region further comprises at least an amino acid modification that decreases binding affinity to human FcγRIII; and/or

(f) the light chain variable region further comprises a light chain constant region, optionally wherein the light chain constant region is of the kappa isotype, further optionally wherein the light chain constant region has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 57; and/or

(g) the binding agent is:

(i) mono-specific and/or bivalent; or

(ii) bispecific; and/or

(h) the binding agent specifically binds to protein tyrosine kinase 7 (PTK7); and/or

(i) the VH region has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 15, the VL region has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16, the heavy chain constant region has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 56, and the light chain constant region has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 56.

3. A nucleic acid encoding the binding agent of any of the preceding claims.

4. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 3.

5. A cell line comprising the vector of claim 4 or the nucleic acid of claim 3.

6. A conjugate comprising:

the binding agent of claim 1 or claim 2,

at least one linker attached to the binding agent;

at least one drug unit, wherein each drug unit is attached to a linker, wherein the linker optionally comprises at least one polar group.

7. The conjugate of claim 6, wherein the linker is derived from a linker compound, or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, and the linker compound comprises:

a linker unit;

a stretcher group connected to the linker unit,

an optional amino acid unit; and

the at least one polar group; wherein:

the stretcher group has an attachment site to the binding agent and an attachment site to the amino acid unit (when present) or the linker subunit;

the amino acid unit (when present) has an attachment site to the stretcher unit and an attachment site to the linker unit; and

the linker unit has an attachment site to the amino acid unit (when present) or to the stretcher unit and to the at least one drug unit,

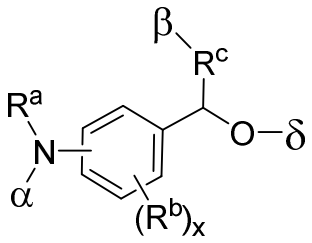
optionally wherein:

(i) the linker unit is non-cleavable; or

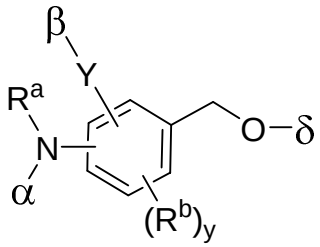
(ii) the polar group is attached to the amino acid unit or the stretcher group; or

(iii) the linker compound comprises:

(a) the linker unit, which has from 1 to 4 attachment sites for the drug units and having one of the following structures (i) or (ii):



(i)



(ii) ;

(b) the at least one polar group, each comprises a polymer unit, and

(c) the stretcher group, which has an attachment site for the binding agent;

wherein:

α— is an attachment site to an enzyme-cleavable group;

β— is an attachment site to the at least one polar group;

δ— is H, an attachment site to at least one of the drug units, or an attachment site to a linking group attached to the at least one of the drug units;

the polymer unit comprises a polyamide, a polyether, or a combination thereof, wherein the polyether comprises a hydroxyl group, a polyhydroxyl group, a sugar group, a carboxyl group, or combinations thereof;

each R^a independently is H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

each R^b independently is halo, C_{1-6} alkyl, an attachment site to at least one of the drug units, or an attachment site to at least one of the polar groups;

x is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

y is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

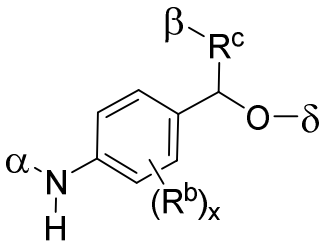
R^c is a bond, -C(O)-, -S(O)-, -SO_2-, C_{1-6} alkylene, C_{1-6} alkynylene, triazolyl or combinations thereof; and

Y is a bond, -O-, -S-, -N(R^a)-, -C(O)-, -S(O)-, -SO_2-C_1-C_6 alkylene, C_1-C_6 alkenylene, C_1-C_6 alkynylene, triazolyl or combinations thereof;

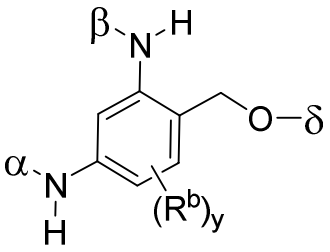
further optionally wherein:

(I) the linker unit has:

(A) one of the following structures (i-a) or (ii-a):



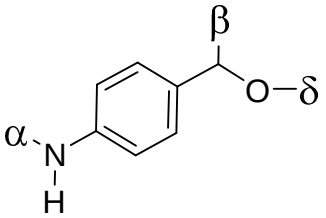
(i-a)



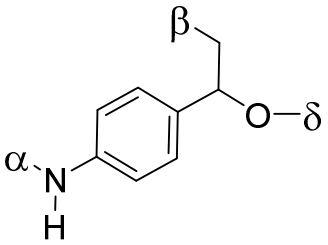
(ii-a)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof; or

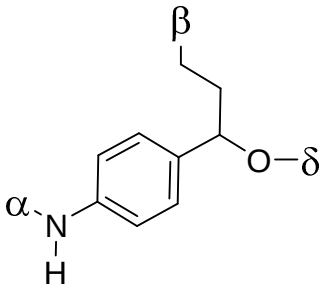
(B) one of the following structures (i-b), (i-c), (i-d), (i-e) or (i-f):



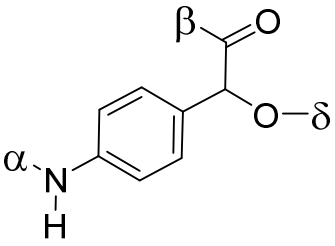
(i-b)



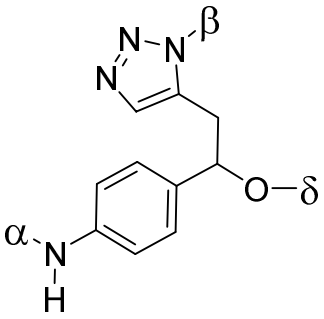
(i-c) ,



(i-d)



(i-e) ,



(i-f)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof; and/or

(II) the at least one polar group comprises:

(A) at least one sugar unit having the following formula:

$$L3–N(CH_2 – (CH(XR))_k – X_1(X_2))_2 \qquad (X)$$

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

each X is independently selected from NH and O;

each R is independently selected from hydrogen, acetyl, a monosaccharide, a disaccharide, and a polysaccharide;

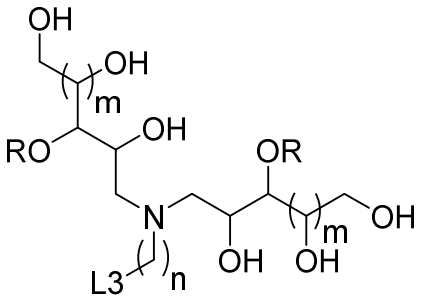
each X_1 is independently selected from CH_2 and C(O);

each X_2 is independently selected from H, OH and OR;

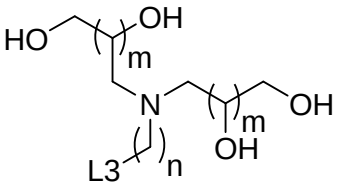
k is 1 to 10; and

L3 is a point of attachment to a remainder of the polar group; or

(B) at least one sugar unit having one of the following structures (XII) or (XIII):



(XII) or



(XIII) ,

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

each R is independently selected from hydrogen, a monosaccharide, a disaccharide and a polysaccharide;

m is 1 to 8; and

n is 0 to 4.

8. The conjugate of claim 7(iii), comprising a polar group having a formula of:

(a) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}NR^{24}R^{25}$ (XX)

or a stereoisomer a salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21} and R^{22} are each, independently, a bond or C_1-C_3 alkylene;

R^{24} and R^{25} are each independently selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted C_1-C_8 alkyl; substituted -C(O)-C_1-C_8 alkyl; a chelator; and -C(O)-R^{28},

where R^{28} is a sugar unit of formula (XII) or (XIII), provided that R^{24} and R^{25} are not both H; and

n20 is 2 to 26; or

(b) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}NR^{24}R^{25}$ (XXI)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21} and R^{22} are each, independently, a bond or C_1-C_3 alkylene;

one of R^{24} and R^{25} is selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted C_1-C_8 alkyl; substituted -C(O)-C_1-C_8 alkyl; a chelator; and -C(O)-R^{28}, where R^{28} is a sugar unit of formula (XII) or (XIII); and the other of R^{24} and R^{25} is a polyethylene glycol, optionally having 1 to 24 ethylene glycol subunits; and

n20 is 2 to 26; or

(c) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}[\text{-}R^{26}\text{-}[R^{29}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}]_{n20}R^{29}]_{n21}\text{-}R^{27}\text{-}NR^{24}R^{25}]_{n27}$ (XXII)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{26} and R^{27} are each optional and are, independently, selected from a bond, C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -NH-C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -C_1-C_{12} alkylene-NH-, -C_1-C_{12} alkylene-N(CH_3)-, -C(O)-C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -C_1-C_{12} alkylene-C(O)-, -NH-C_1-C_{12} alkylene-C(O)- and -C(O)-C_1-C_{12} alkylene-NH-;

one of R^{24} and R^{25} is selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted C_1-C_8 alkyl; substituted -C(O)-C_1-C_8 alkyl; a chelator; and -C(O)-R^{28}, where R^{28} is a sugar unit of formula (XII) or (XIII); and the other of R^{24} and R^{25} is selected from H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group, where R^{28} is a sugar unit of formula (XII) or (XIII); and polyethylene glycol, optionally having 1 to 24 ethylene glycol subunits, provided that R^{24} and R^{25} are not both H;

each R^{29} is optional and independently selected from -C(O)-, -NH-, -C(O)-C_1-C_6 alkylene-, -NH-C_1-C_6 alkylene-, -C_1-C_6 alkylene-NH-, -C_1-C_6 alkylene-C(O)-, -NH(CO)-C_1-C_6alkylene-, -N(CH_3)-(CO)-C_1-C_6alkylene-, -NH(CO)NH-, and triazole;

n20 is 2 to 26;

n21 is 1 to 4; and

n27 is 1 to 4, or

(d) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[\text{-}C(R^{\alpha})H\text{-}C(O)\text{-}N(R^{N})\text{-}]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}NR^{24}R^{25}$ (XXIII)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^{b}, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21} is a bond or C_1-C_3 alkylene,

$\text{-}C_1\text{-}C_3$alkylene-$[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}]_{n20}$, $\text{-}[CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}O]_{n20}\text{-}C_1\text{-}C_3$alkylene- or

$\text{-}C_1\text{-}C_3$alkylene-$[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}]_{n20}$-C(O)-;

R^{22} is C_1-C_3 alkylene, $\text{-}C_1\text{-}C_3$alkylene-$[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}]_{n20}$, $\text{-}[CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}O]_{n20}\text{-}C_1\text{-}C_3$alkylene- or

$\text{-}C_1\text{-}C_3$alkylene-$[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}]_{n20}$-C(O)-;

each R^{α} is independently H or $\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}NR^{24}R^{25}$;

each R^{N} is independently H, C_1-C_6 alkyl or $\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}NR^{24}R^{25}$;

R^{24} and R^{25} are each independently selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted C_1-C_8 alkyl;substituted -C(O)-C_1-C_8 alkyl; a chelator; and -C(O)-R^{28}, where R^{28} is a sugar unit of formula (XII) or (XIII), provided that R^{24} and R^{25} are not both H; and

each n20 is independently 2 to 26, or

(e) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[\text{-}C(R^{\alpha})H\text{-}C(O)\text{-}N(R^{N})\text{-}]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}CO_2R^{26}$ (XXIV)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^{b}, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21} and R^{22} are each, independently, a bond, C_1-C_3 alkylene, or

$\text{-}C_1\text{-}C_3$alkylene$[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}]_{n20}$;

each R^{α} is independently H or $\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}NR^{24}R^{25}$;

each R^{N} is independently H, C_1-C_6 alkyl or $\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}NR^{24}R^{25}$;

R^{24} and R^{25} are each independently selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted C_1-C_8 alkyl; substituted -C(O)-C_1-C_8 alkyl; a chelator; and -C(O)-R^{28}, where R^{28} is a sugar unit of formula (XII) or (XIII), provided that R^{24} and R^{25} are not both H;

R^{26} is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; and

each n20 is independently 2 to 26,

with the proviso that at least one R^{α} or R^{N} is $\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}NR^{24}R^{25}$; or

(f) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[C(R^{\alpha})H\text{-}C(O)\text{-}N(R^{N})\text{-}]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}N\text{-}(R^{23}\text{-}NR^{24}R^{25})_2$ (XXV)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^{b}, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21} and R^{22} are each, independently, a bond, C_1-C_3 alkylene, or $-C_1$-C_3alkylene-$[O-CH_2-CH_2-]_{n20}$;

each R^{α} is independently H or $-R^{22}-NR^{24}R^{25}$;

each R^N is independently H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

each R^{23} is independently C_1-C_6 alkylene;

R^{24} and R^{25} are each independently selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted C_1-C_8 alkyl; substituted -C(O)-C_1-C_8 alkyl; a chelator; and -C(O)-R^{28}, where R^{28} is a sugar unit of formula (XII) or (XIII), provided that R^{24} and R^{25} are not both H; and

each n20 is independently 2 to 26,

optionally wherein:

(i) R^{24} and R^{25} are each independently selected from H and a polyhydroxyl group, provided that R^{24} and R^{25} are not both H; and/or

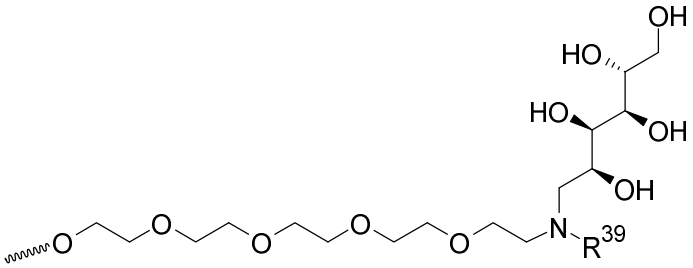
(ii) the polyhydroxyl group is a linear monosaccharide, optionally selected from a C6 or C5 sugar, a sugar acid and an amino sugar, further optionally wherein:

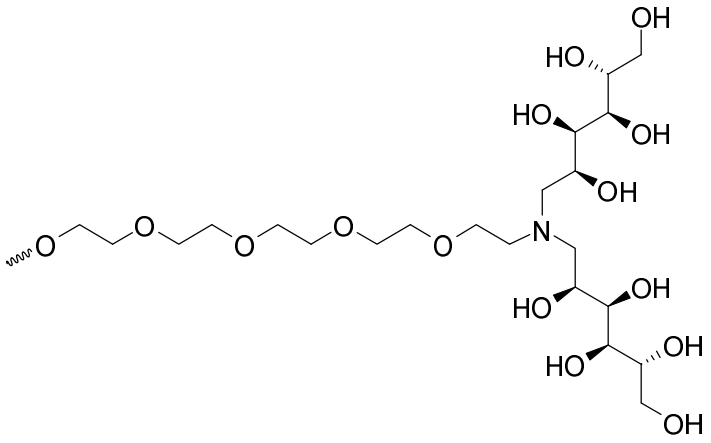
the C6 or C5 sugar is selected from glucose, ribose, galactose, mannose, arabinose, 2-deoxyglucose, glyceraldehyde, erythrose, threose, xylose, lyxose, allose, altrose, gulose, idose, talose, aldose, and ketose;

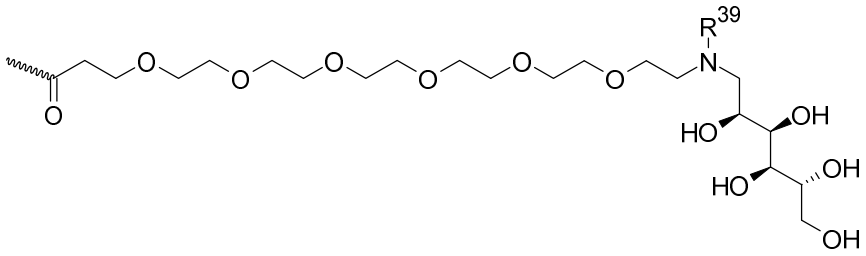
the sugar acid is selected from gluconic acid, aldonic acid, uronic acid and ulosonic acid; or

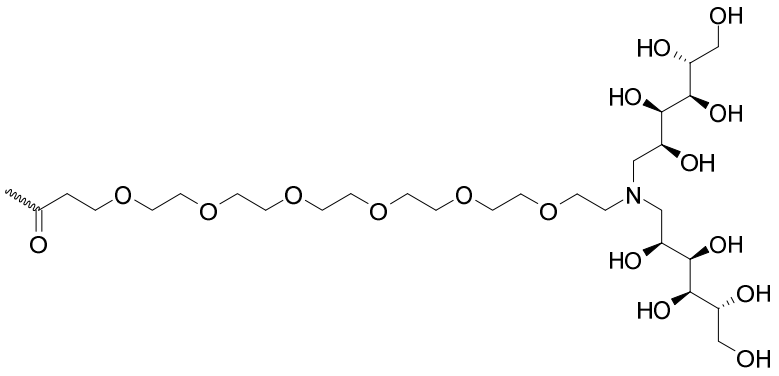
the amino sugar is selected from glucosamine, N-acetyl glucosamine, galactosamine, and N-acetyl galactosamine; and/or

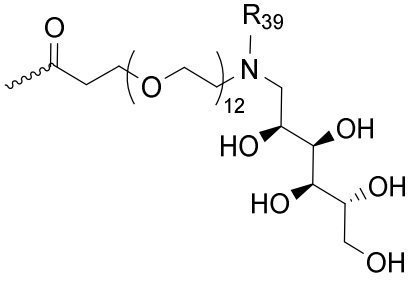
(iii) the conjugate comprises a polar group selected from the following, or a stereoisomer or salt thereof:

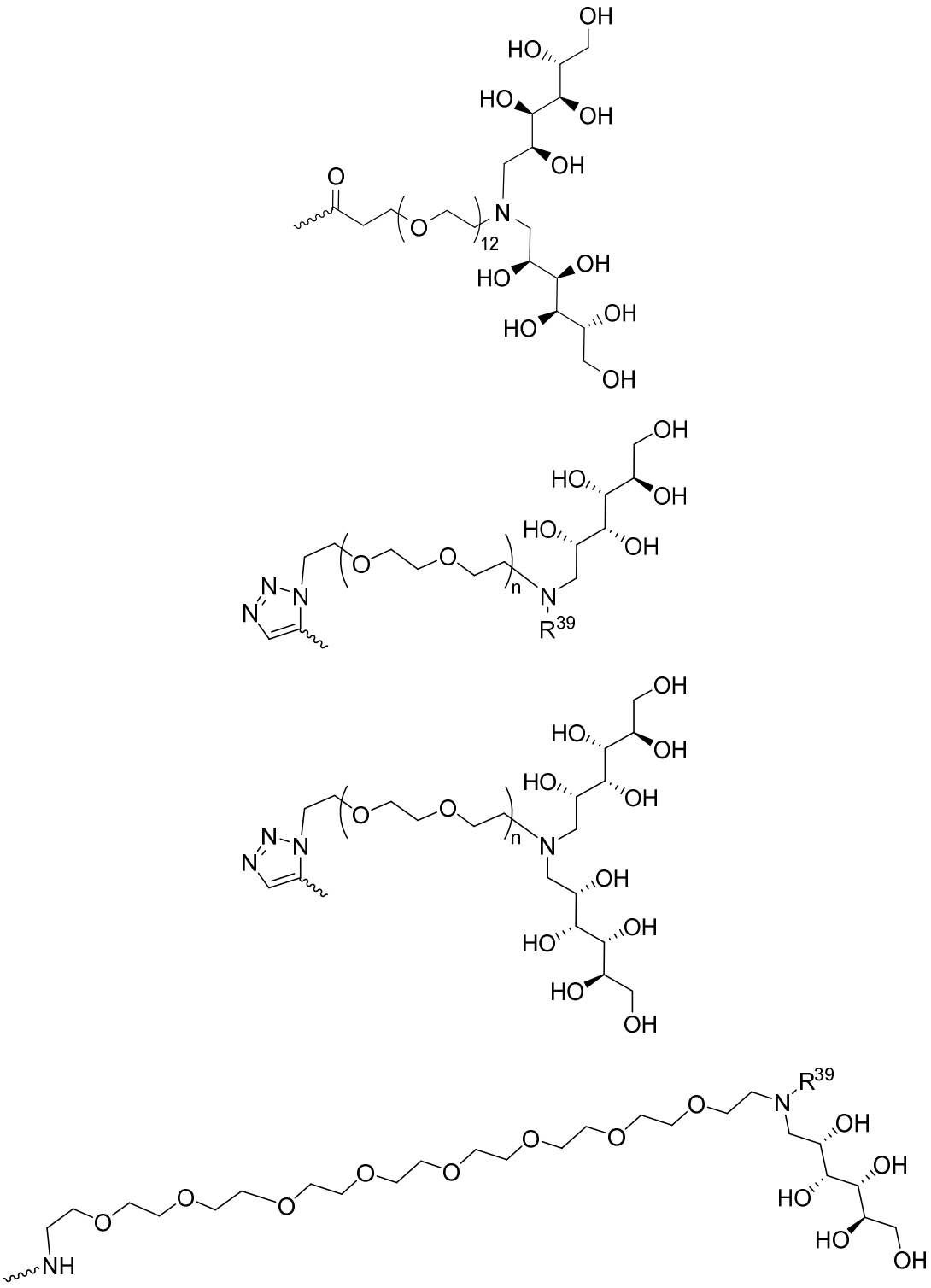


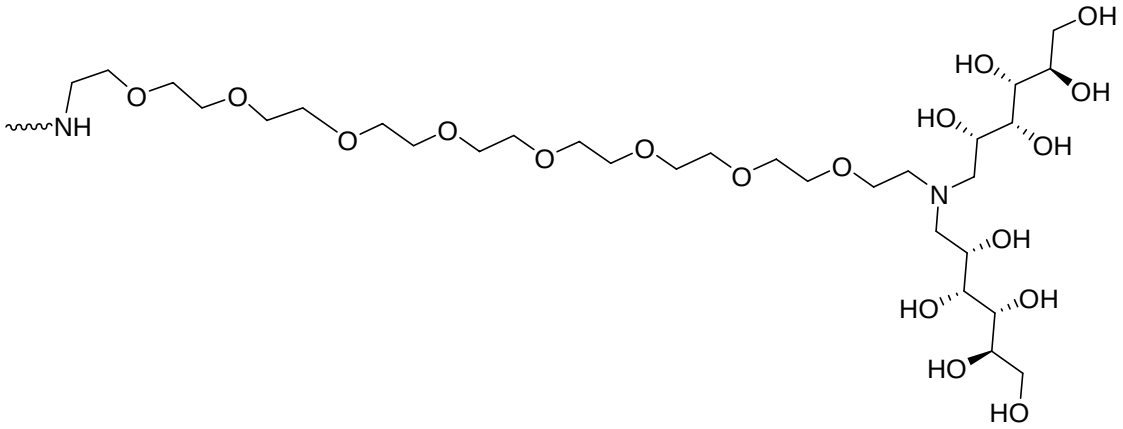


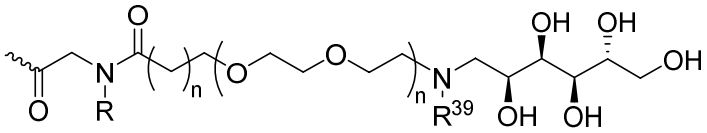


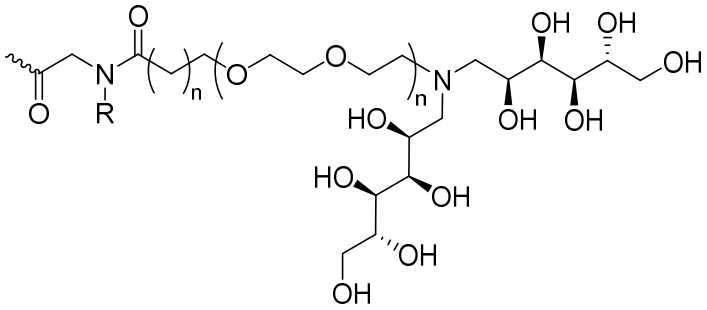


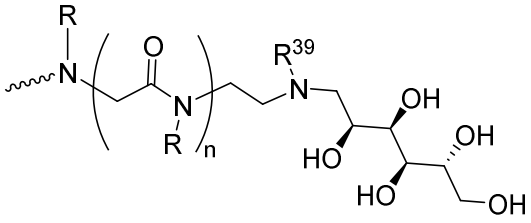


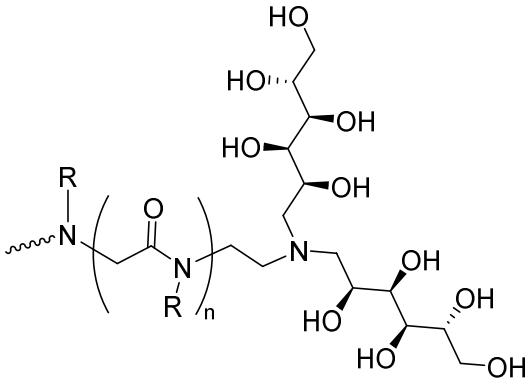


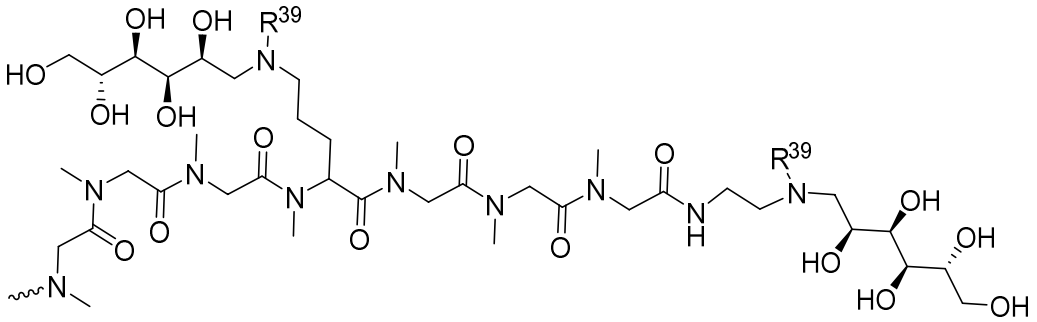


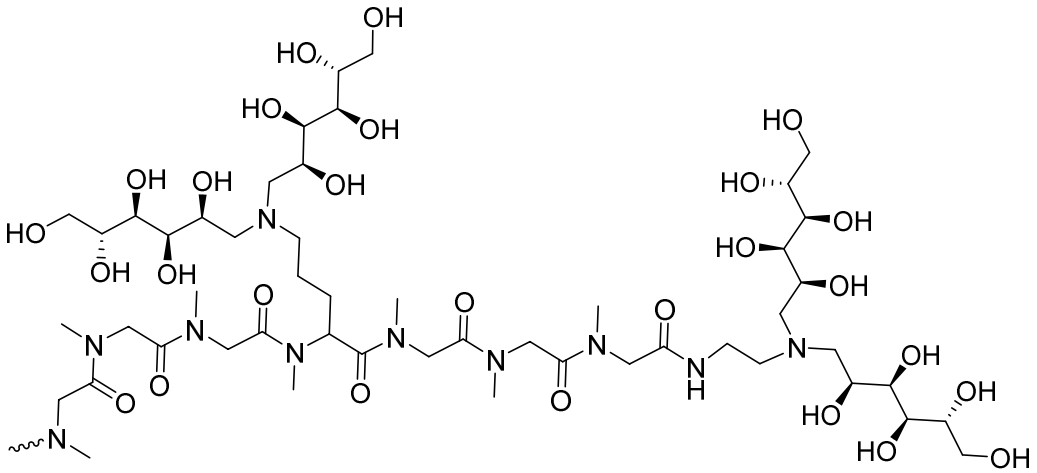


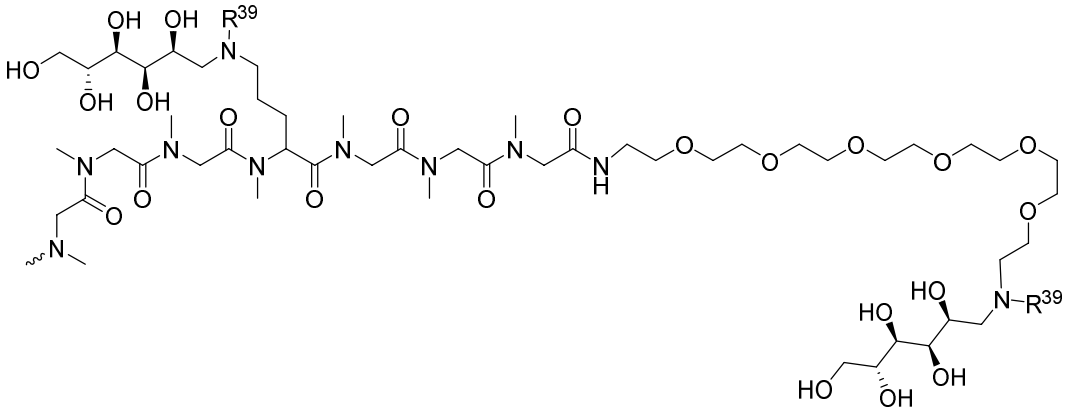


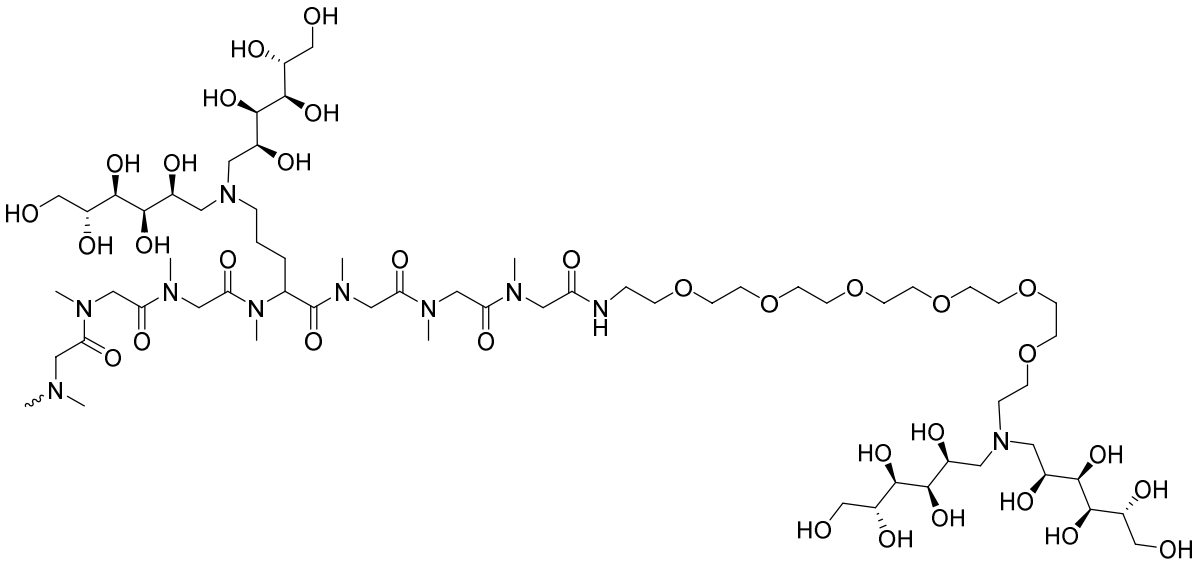


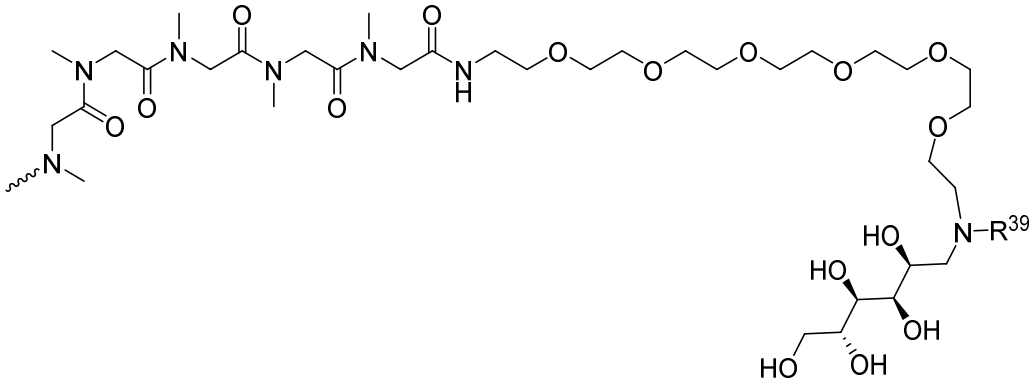


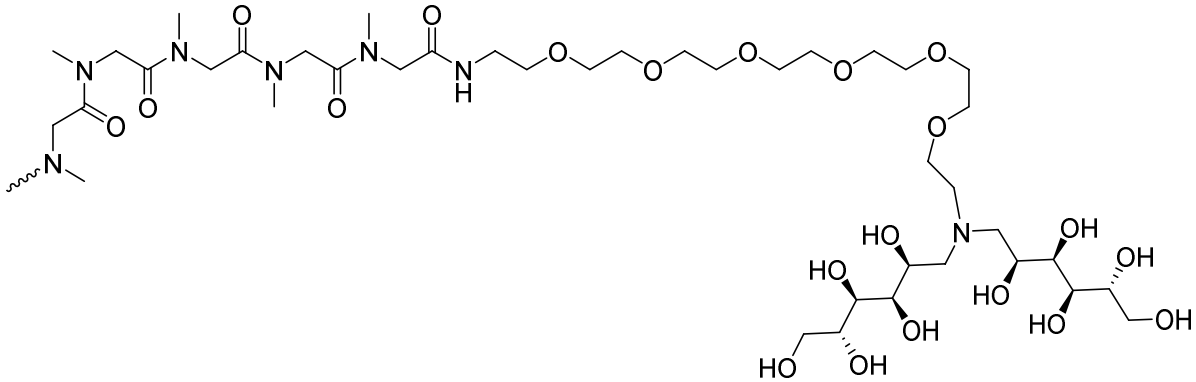


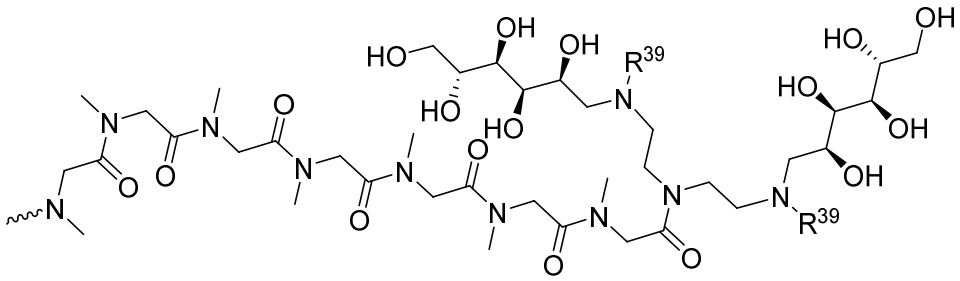


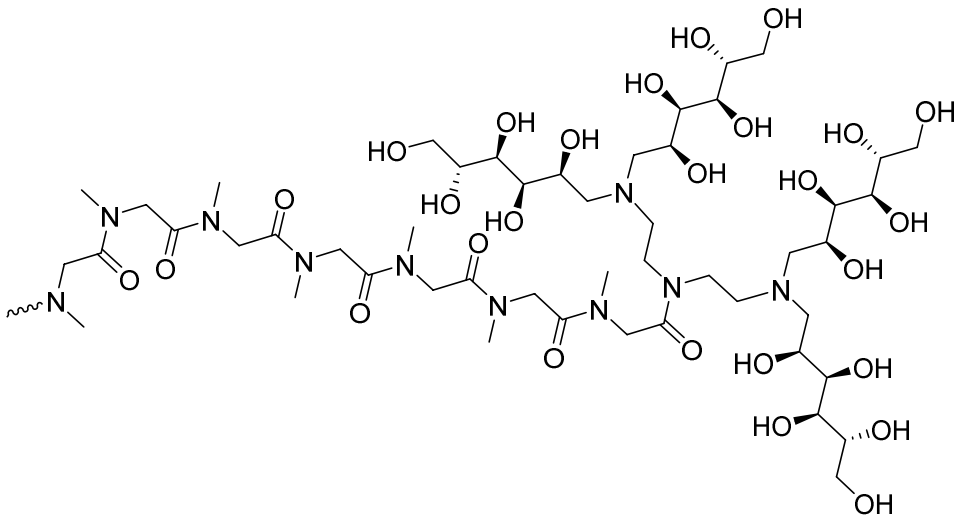


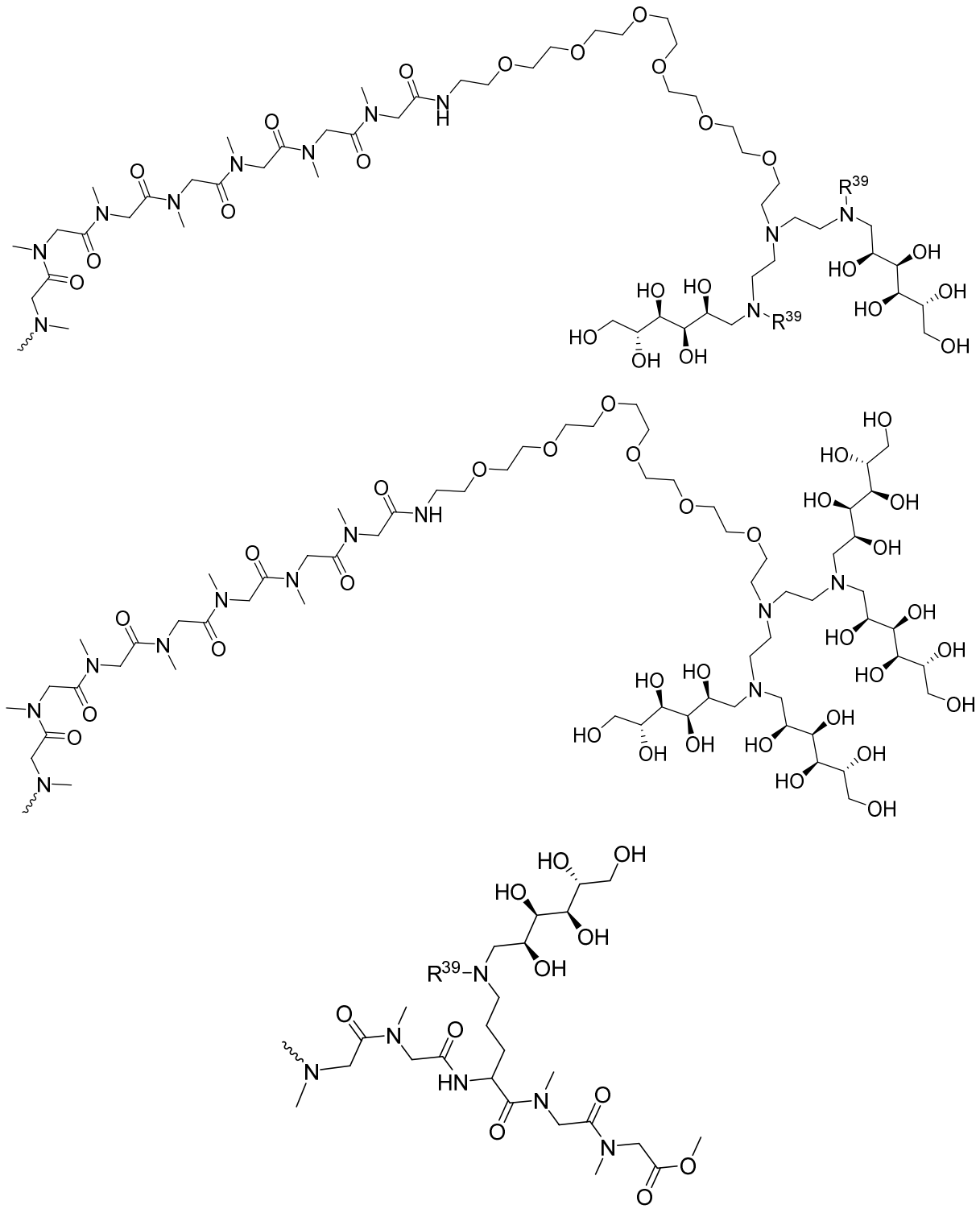


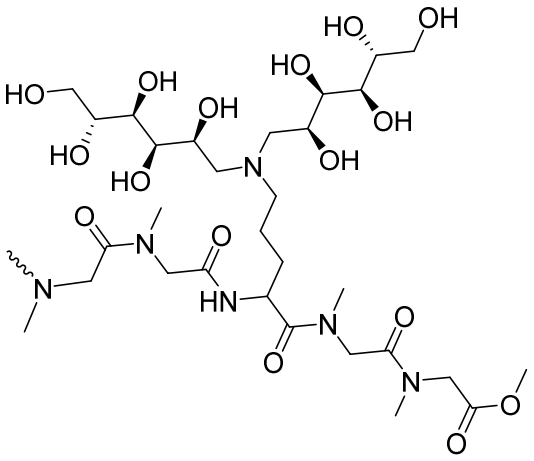


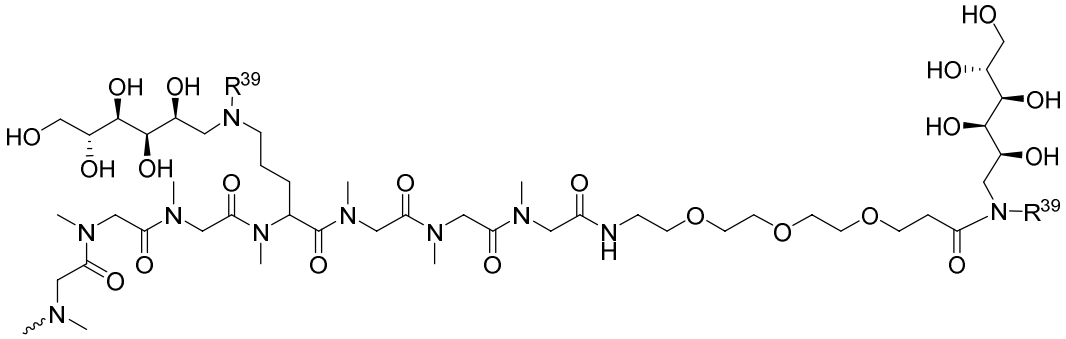


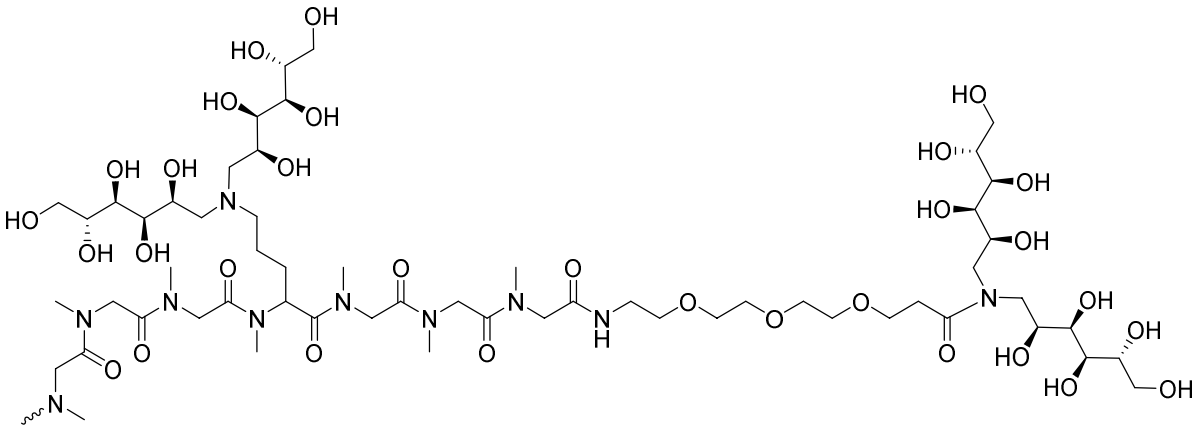


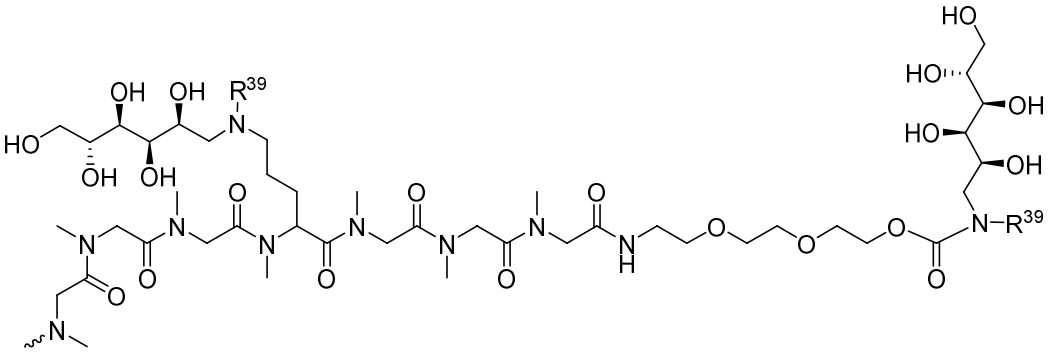


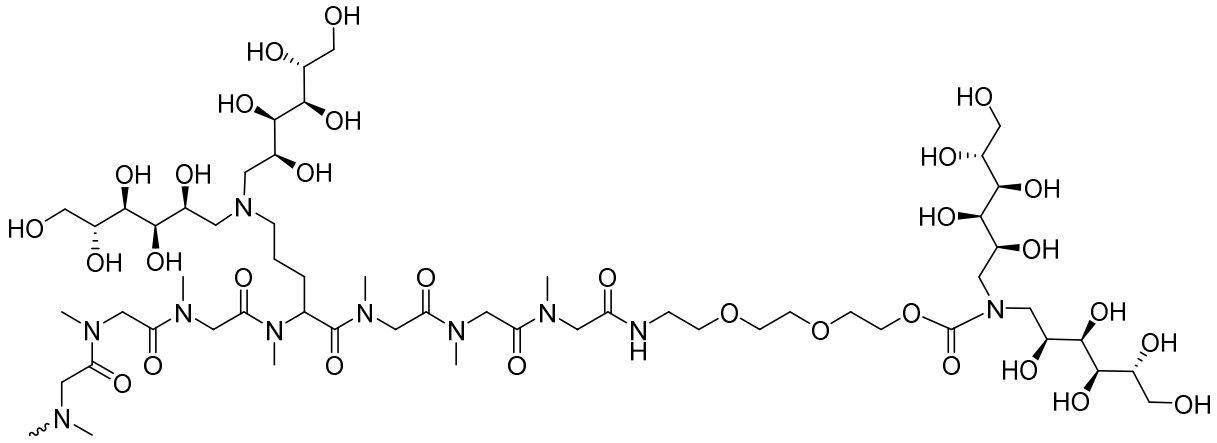


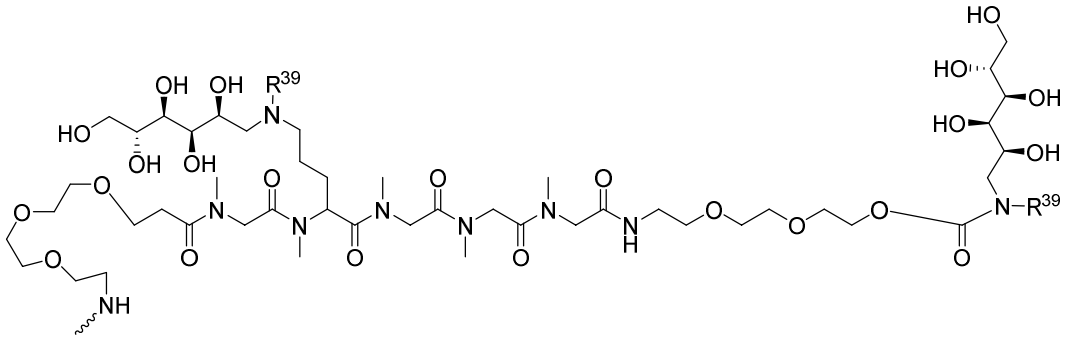


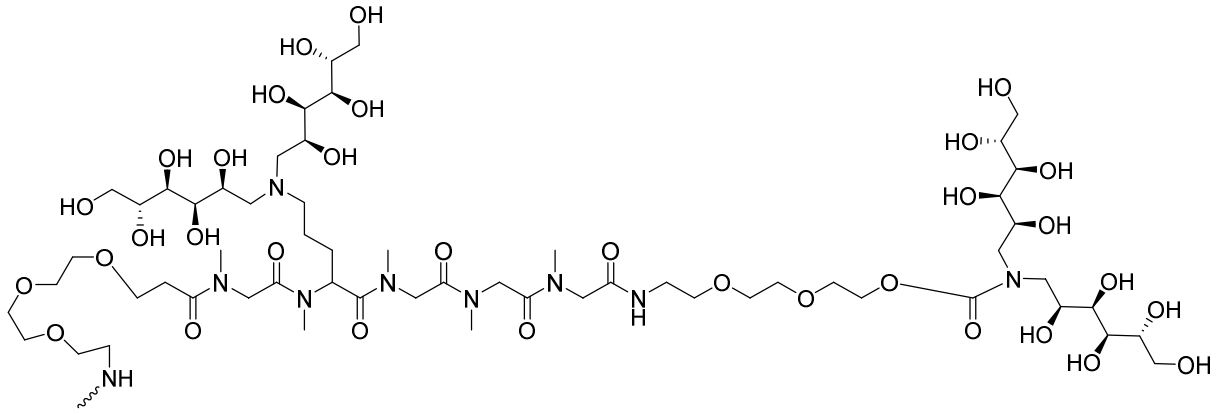


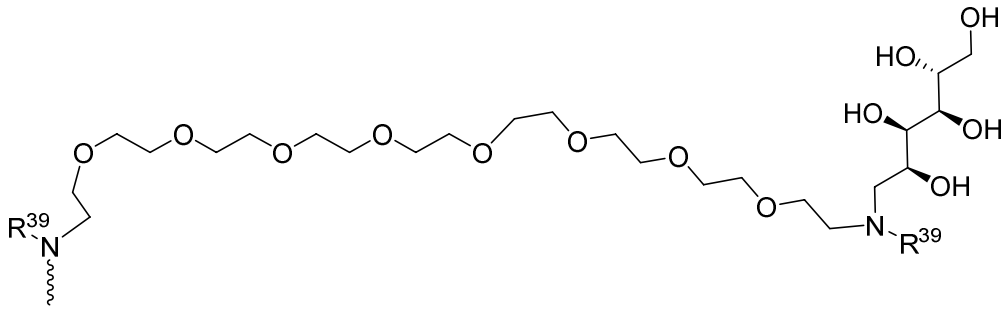


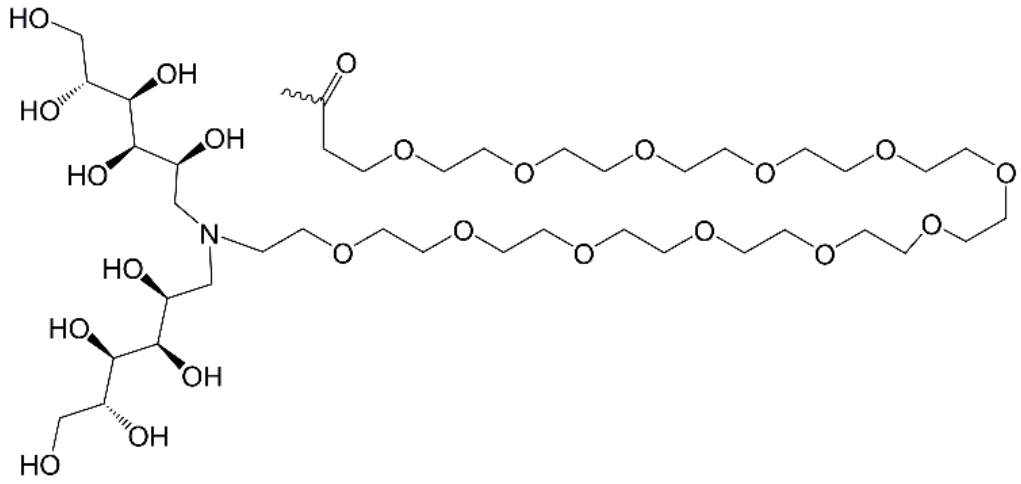


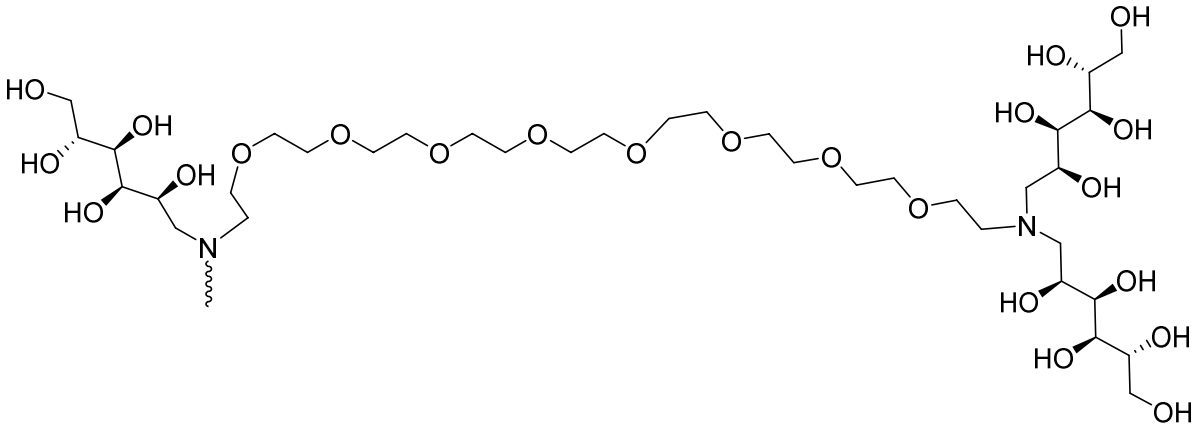


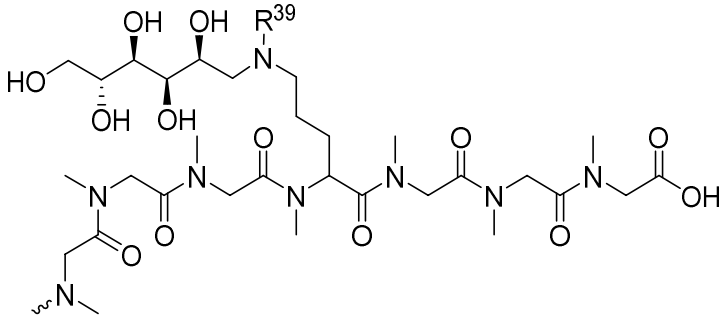


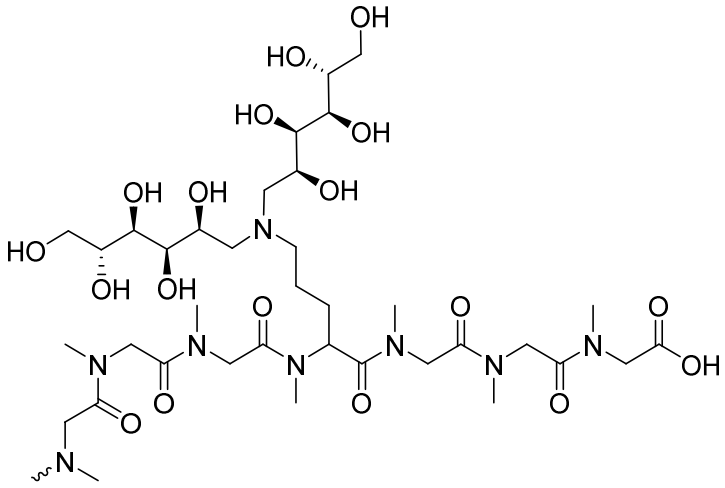












wherein each R is independently H or alkyl; each R^{39} is independently selected from H, a linear monosaccharide and polyethylene glycol, optionally having from 1 to 24 ethylene

glycol subunits; each n independently is 1-12; and the wavy line is an attachment to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group; and/or

(iv) the attachment site β is formed from a functional group of a precursor compound of the polar group, said functional group selected from halo, aldehyde, carboxyl, amino, alkynyl, azido, hydroxyl, carbonyl, carbamate, thiol, urea, thiocarbamate, thiourea, sulfonamide, acyl sulfonamide, alkyl sulfonate, triazole, azadibenzocyclooctyne, hydrazine, carbonylalkylheteroaryl, and protected forms thereof.

9. The conjugate of claim 7(iii), comprising a polar group having:

(i) a formula selected from the following:

(a) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}R^{30}$ (XXX)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21} and R^{22} are each independently, a bond or C_1-C_3 alkylene groups;

R^{30} is selected from an optionally substituted C_3-C_{10} carbocycle; thiourea; optionally substituted thiourea; urea; optionally substituted urea; sulfamide; alkyl sulfamide; acyl sulfamide, optionally substituted alkyl sulfamide; optionally substituted acyl sulfamide; sulfonamide; optionally substituted sulfonamide; guanidine, including alkyl and aryl guanidine; phosphoramide; or optionally substituted phosphoramide; or R^{30} is selected from azido, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, -NH-C(O)-alkynyl, -NH-C(O)-alkynyl-R^{65}; cyclooctyne; -NH-cyclooctyne, -NH-C(O)-cyclooctyne, or -NH-$(cyclooctyne)_2$; wherein R^{65} is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted carbocycle, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heterocarbocycle or optionally substituted heteroaryl; and

n20 is 2 to 26;

(b) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}NH\text{-}C(O)\text{-}R^{31}$ (XXXI)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21} and R^{22} are each, independently, a bond or C_1-C_3 alkylene groups;

R^{31} is a branched polyethylene glycol chain, each branch having 1 to 26 ethylene glycol subunits and each branch having an R^{35} at its terminus;

R^{35} is azido, alkynyl, alkynyl-R^{65}, cyclooctyne or cyclooctyne-R^{65}, wherein R^{65} is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted

alkynyl, optionally substituted carbocycle, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heterocarbocycle or optionally substituted heteroaryl; and

n20 is 2 to 26;

(c) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}C(O)NH\text{-}R^{31}$ (XXXII)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21} and R^{22} are each , independently, a bond or C_1-C_3 alkylene groups;

R^{31} is a branched polyethylene glycol chain, each branch, independently, having 1 to 26 ethylene glycol subunits and each branch having an R^{35} at its terminus;

R^{35} is azido, alkynyl, alkynyl-R^{65}, cyclooctyne or cyclooctyne-R^{65}, wherein R^{65} is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted carbocycle, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heterocarbocycle and optionally substituted heteroaryl; and

n20 is 2 to 26;

(d) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}C(O)NR^{31}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}NR^{24}R^{25}$ (XXXIII)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{31} is H or R^{22}-$NR^{24}R^{25}$;

R^{21} and R^{22} are each, independently, a bond or C_1-C_3 alkylene groups;

R^{24} and R^{25} are each independently selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group, provided that R^{24} and R^{25} are not both H; and

n20 is 2 to 26;

(e) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}N(R^{33}\text{-}R^{31})_2$ (XXXIV)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21} and R^{22} are each, independently, a bond or C_1-C_3 alkylene groups;

R^{31} is a branched polyethylene glycol chain, each branch having 1 to 26 ethylene glycol subunits and each branch having an R^{35} at its terminus;

R^{33} is C_1-C_3 alkylene, C_1-C_3 alkylene-C(O), -C(O)-C_1-C_3 alkylene, or -C(O)-C_1-C_3 alkylene-C(O);

R^{35} is azido, alkynyl, alkynyl-R^{65}, cyclooctyne or cyclooctyne-R^{65}, wherein R^{65} is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted

alkynyl, optionally substituted carbocycle, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heterocarbocycle or optionally substituted heteroaryl; and

n20 is 2 to 26;

(f) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}(R^{21}\text{-}[CH_2\text{-}CH(OR^{34})\text{-}CH_2\text{-}O]_{n20}\text{-}R^{36})_{n25}$ (XXXV)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

each R^{21} is independently a bond, -O- or C_1-C_3 alkylene group;

each R^{34} is independently H, $-[CH_2\text{-}CH(OH)\text{-}CH_2\text{-}O]_{n20}\text{-}R^{36}$, $-C(O)\text{-}NR^{24}R^{25}$ or $-C(O)N(R^N)\text{-}C_1\text{-}C_6$alkylene-$NR^{24}R^{25}$;

R^N is H or C_1-C_4alkyl;

R^{24} and R^{25} are each independently selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; or substituted polyhydroxyl group, provided that both R^{24} and R^{25} are not H;

each R^{36} is independently H, C_1-C_6alkylene-$C(OH)H\text{-}NR^{44}R^{45}$, C_1-C_6alkylene-$C(OH)H\text{-}C_1$-C_6alkylene-$NR^{44}R^{45}$, $-C(O)\text{-}NR^{24}R^{25}$, $-C(O)N(R^N)\text{-}C_1\text{-}C_6$alkylene-$NR^{24}R^{25}$, C_1-C_6alkylene-$C(O)NR^{24}R^{25}$ or C_1-C_6alkylene-CO_2R^{37};

each R^{37} is independently H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^{44} and R^{45} are each independently selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; and substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group, provided that both R^{44} and R^{45} are not H;

each n20 is independently 1 to 26; and

n25 is 1 or 2;

(g) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[[CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}O]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}[CH_2\text{-}[CH(OH)]_{n23}\text{-}CH_2\text{-}O]_{n21}]_{n22}\text{-}R^{23}\text{-}NR^{24}\text{-}R^{25}$ (XXXVI)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21}, R^{22} and R^{23} are each independently a bond or C_1-C_3 alkylene group;

R^{24} and R^{25} are each independently selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; and substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group, provided that R^{24} and R^{25} are not both H;

each n20 is independently 0 to 26, and each n21 is independently 0 to 26, with the proviso that at least one of n20 or n21 is 2 to 26;

n22 is 1 to 5;

each n23 is independently 1 or 2;

(h) $\sim R^{20}\text{-}(R^{21}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}N(R^N)\text{-}CO_2\text{-}[CH_2\text{-}CH(OR^{34})\text{-}CH_2\text{-}O]_{n21}\text{-}R^{36})_{n25}$

(XXXVII)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21} and R^{22} are each independently a bond or C_1-C_3 alkylene groups;

R^N is H or C_1-C_4alkyl;

R^{24} and R^{25} are each independently selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; and substituted polyhydroxyl group, provided that both R^{24} and R^{25} are not H;

each R^{34} is independently H, -$[CH_2$-$CH(OH)$-CH_2-$O]_{n20}$-R^{36} or -$C(O)N(R^N)$-C_1-C_6alkylene-$NR^{24}R^{25}$;

each R^{36} is independently H, C_1-C_6alkylene-$C(OH)H$-$NR^{44}R^{45}$, C_1-C_6alkylene-$C(OH)H$-C_1-C_6alkylene-$NR^{44}R^{45}$, -$C(O)N(R^N)$-C_1-C_6alkylene-$NR^{24}R^{25}$, C_1-C_6alkylene-$C(O)NR^{24}R^{25}$ or C_1-C_6alkylene-CO_2R^{37};

each R^{37} is independently H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^{44} and R^{45} are each independently selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; and substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; provided that both R^{44} and R^{45} are not H;

n20 is 2 to 26;

n21 is 1 to 26; and

n25 is 1 or 2;

(i) ~R^{20}-(R^{21}-$[N(R^N)$-$C(O)$-$[O$-CH_2-$CH(OH)$-$CH_2]_{n20}]_{n21}$-R^{22}-$NR^{24}R^{25})_{n25}$

(XXXVIII)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21} and R^{22} are each independently a bond or C_1-C_3 alkylene groups;

R^N is H or C_1-C_4alkyl;

R^{24} and R^{25} are each independently selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; and substituted polyhydroxyl group, provided that R^{24} and R^{25} are not both H;

n20 is 2 to 26;

n21 is 1 to 4; and

n25 is 1, 2 or 3;

(j) ~R^{20}-(R^{21}-$[C(R^\alpha)H$-$C(O)$-$N(R^N)]_{n20}$-R^{22}-$[CH_2$-CH_2-$O]_{n20}$-$NR^{24}R^{25})_{n25}$

(XXXIX)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21} and R^{22} are each, independently, a bond, C_1-C_3 alkylene,-C_1-C_3alkylene-[O-CH_2-CH_2-]$_{n20}$, -[CH_2-CH_2-O]$_{n20}$-C_1-C_3alkylene- or -C_1-C_3alkylene-[O-CH_2-CH_2-]$_{n20}$-C(O)-;

each R^{α} is independently H or -R^{22}-$NR^{24}R^{25}$;

each R^N is independently H, C_1-C_6 alkyl or -R^{22}-$NR^{24}R^{25}$;

R^{24} and R^{25} are each independently selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-C_1-C_8 alkyl; a chelator; -C(O)-R^{28}, wherein R^{28} is a sugar unit of formula (XII) or (XIII), provided that R^{24} and R^{25} are not both H;

each n20 is independently 0 to 26, with the proviso that at least one n20 is 2 to 26; and

n25 is 1 or 2; or

(k) ~R^{20}-R^{21}-[C(R^{α})H-C(O)-N(R^N)]$_{n20}$-R^{22}-[CH_2-CH_2-O]$_{n20}$-$NR^{24}R^{25}$

R^{21}-[C(R^{α})H-C(O)-N(R^N)]$_{n21}$-R^{22}-[CH_2-CH_2-O]$_{n21}$-R^{23}-CO_2-R^{26}

(XXXVX)

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21}, R^{22} and R^{23} are each, independently, a bond, C_1-C_3 alkylene, -C_1-C_3alkylene-[O-CH_2-CH_2-]$_{n20}$, -[CH_2-CH_2-O]$_{n20}$-C_1-C_3alkylene- or -C_1-C_3alkylene-[O-CH_2-CH_2-]$_{n20}$-C(O)-;

each R^{α} is independently H or -R^{22}-$NR^{24}R^{25}$;

each R^N is independently H, C_1-C_6 alkyl or -R^{22}-$NR^{24}R^{25}$;

R^{24} and R^{25} are each independently selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-C_1-C_8 alkyl; a chelator; and -C(O)-R^{28}, where R^{28} is a sugar unit of formula (XII) or (XIII), provided that R^{24} and R^{25} are not both H;

R^{26} is H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

each n20 is independently 0 to 26, with the proviso that at least one n20 is 2 to 26; and

each n21 is independently 0 to 26, with the proviso that at least one n21 is 2 to 26,

optionally wherein the attachment to site β to site Rb, or to the enzyme-cleavable group is formed from a functional group of a precursor compound of the polar group, said functional group selected from halo, aldehyde, carboxyl, amino, alkynyl, azido, hydroxyl, carbonyl, carbamate, thiol, urea, thiocarbamate, thiourea, sulfonamide, acyl sulfonamide, alkyl sulfonate, triazole, azadibenzocyclooctyne, hydrazine, carbonylalkylheteroaryl, and protected forms thereof; or

(ii) a formula selected from the following, or a stereoisomer or salt thereof:

$$\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}NH\text{-}C(O)\text{-}R^{31} \quad \text{(XXXI)},$$

$$\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}C(O)NH\text{-}R^{31} \quad \text{(XXXII), and}$$

$$\sim R^{20}\text{-}R^{21}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n20}\text{-}R^{22}\text{-}N\text{-}(R^{33}\text{-}R^{31})_2 \quad \text{(XXXIII)};$$

wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{21} and R^{22} are each, independently, a bond or C_1-C_3 alkylene groups;

R^{31} is a branched polyethylene glycol chain, each branch having 1 to 26 ethylene glycol subunits and each branch having an R^{35} at its terminus;

R^{33} is C_1-C_3 alkylene, -C_1-C_3 alkylene-C(O), -C(O)-C_1-C_3 alkylene or -C(O)-C_1-C_3 alkylene-C(O);

R^{35} is azido, alkynyl, alkynyl-R^{65}, cyclooctyne or cyclooctyne-R^{65}, wherein R^{65} is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted carbocycle, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heterocarbocycle or optionally substituted heteroaryl; the wavy (~) line indicates an attachment site to R^{20}; and n20 is 2 to 26,

optionally wherein the attachment to site β to site Rb, or to the enzyme-cleavable group is formed from a functional group of a precursor compound of the polar group, said functional group selected from halo, aldehyde, carboxyl, amino, alkynyl, azido, hydroxyl, carbonyl, carbamate, thiol, urea, thiocarbamate, thiourea, sulfonamide, acyl sulfonamide, alkyl sulfonate, triazole, azadibenzocyclooctyne, hydrazine, carbonylalkylheteroaryl, and protected forms thereof; or

(iii) a formula:

$$\sim R^{20}\text{-}(R^{43}\text{-}R^{41}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n40}\text{-}R^{42}\text{-}R^{43}\text{-}(NR^{44}R^{45})_{n41})_{n42} \quad \text{(XL)}$$

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{41} and R^{42} are each, independently, a bond or C_1-C_6 alkylene;

each R^{43} is, independently, selected from a bond, C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -OC_1-C_{12} alkylene, -C(=O)-, -NR^a-C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -C_1-C_{12} alkylene-NR^a-, -C(O)-C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -C_1-C_{12} alkylene-C(O)-, -NR^a-C_1-C_{12} alkylene-C(O)-, -C(O)-C_1-C_{12} alkylene-NR^a-, -NR^a-C(O)-

NR^a-, -NR^a-C(O)-, -NR^a-C(O)-C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -C(O)-NR^a-C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -heteroarylene, heteroaryl-C_1-C_{12} alkylene, heteroaryl-C_1-C_{12} alkylene-C(O)-, or -C(O)$NR^{46}R^{47}$, wherein each alkylene is optionally substituted with hydroxyl, SO_3H and/or oxo, R^a is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, a polyhydroxyl group, or a substituted polyhydroxyl group, and one of R^{46} and R^{47} is H or C_1-C_{12} alkylene and the other is C_1-C_{12} alkylene, wherein one of the C_1-C_2 alkylenes is bound to $NR^{44}R^{45}$ at the nitrogen atom;

R^{44} and R^{45} are each, independently, H, polyhydroxyl group, substituted polyhydroxyl group, -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group, or substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group, wherein optional substituents are selected from sulfate, phosphate, alkyl sulfate, and alkyl phosphate; n40 is 2 to 26, provided that R^{44} and R^{45} are not both H;

n40 is 2 to 26;

n41 is 1 to 6; and

n42 is 1 to 6; or

(iv) a formula:

$$\sim R^{20}\text{-}(R^{41}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n40}\text{-}R^{42}\text{-}R^{43}\text{-}(NR^{44}R^{45})_{n41})_{n42} \quad \text{(XLI)}$$

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{41} and R^{42} are each, independently, a bond or C_1-C_6 alkylene;

R^{43} is selected from a bond, C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -OC_1-C_{12} alkylene, -C(=O)-, -NR^a-C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -C_1-C_{12} alkylene-N`R^a-, -C(O)-C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -C_1-C_{12} alkylene-C(O)-, -NR^a-C_1-C_{12} alkylene-C(O)-, -C(O)-C_1-C_{12} alkylene-NR^a-, -NR^a-C(O)-NR^a-, -NR^a-C(O)-, -NR^a-C(O)-C_1-C_{12} alkylene, C(O)-NR^a-C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -heteroarylene, heteroaryl-C_1-C_{12} alkylene, heteroaryl-C_1-C_{12} alkylene-C(O)-, and -C(O)$NR^{46}R^{47}$, wherein each alkylene is optionally substituted with hydroxyl, SO_3H and/or oxo, R^a is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, a polyhydroxyl group, or a substituted polyhydroxyl group and one of R^{46} and R^{47} is H or C_1-C_{12} alkylene and the other is C_1-C_{12} alkylene, wherein one of the C_1-C_2 alkylenes is bound to $NR^{44}R^{45}$ at the nitrogen atom;

R^{44} and R^{45} are each, independently, H, polyhydroxyl group, substituted polyhydroxyl group, -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group, or substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group, wherein optional substituents are selected from sulfate, phosphate, alkyl sulfate, and alkyl phosphate, provided that R^{44} and R^{45} are not both H;

n40 is 1 to 26;

n41 is 1 to 6; and

n42 is 1 to 6; or

(v) a formula:

$$\sim R^{20}\text{-}(R^{41}\text{-}[O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2]_{n40}\text{-}R^{42}\text{-}R^{43}\text{-}(NR^{44}R^{45})_{n41})_{n42} \quad \text{(XLII)}$$

or a stereoisomer or salt thereof, wherein:

R^{20} is an attachment group to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

R^{41} and R^{42} are each, independently, a bond or C_1-C_3 alkylene;

R^{43} is selected from a bond, C_1-C_6 alkylene, -OC_1-C_{12} alkylene, -C(=O)-, -NR^a -C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -C_1-C_6 alkylene-NR^a-, -C(O)-C_1-C_6 alkylene, -C_1-C_6 alkylene-C(O)-, -NR^a-C_1-C_6 alkylene-C(O)-, -C(O)-C_1-C_6 alkylene-NR^a-, -NR^a-C(O)-NR^a-, -NR^a-C(O)-, -NR^a-C(O)-C_1-C_6 alkylene, -C(O)-NR^a-C_1-C_{12} alkylene, -heteroarylene, heteroaryl-C_1-C_6 alkylene, heteroaryl-C_1-C_6 alkylene-C(O)-, and -C(O)$NR^{46}R^{47}$, wherein each alkylene is optionally substituted with hydroxyl, SO_3H, and/or oxo, R^a is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, a polyhydroxyl group, or a substituted polyhydroxyl group and one of R^{46} and R^{47} is H or C_1-C_6 alkylene and the other is C_1-C_{12} alkylene, wherein one of the C_1-C_2 alkylenes is bound to $NR^{44}R^{45}$ at the nitrogen atom;

R^{44} and R^{45} are each, independently, H, polyhydroxyl group, substituted polyhydroxyl group, -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group, or substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group, wherein optional substituents are selected from sulfate, phosphate, alkyl sulfate, and alkyl phosphate, provided that R^{44} and R^{45} are not both H;

n40 is 1 to 16;

n41 is 1 to 4; and

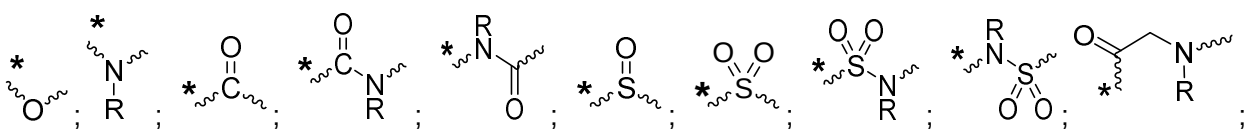
n42 is 1 to 4.

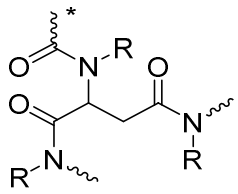
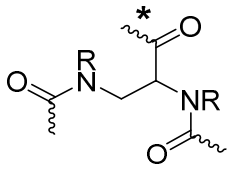
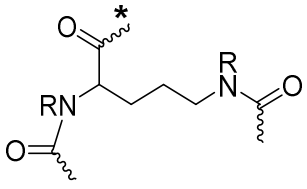
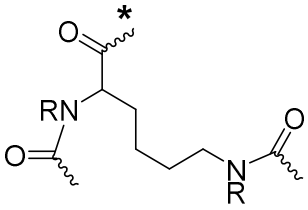
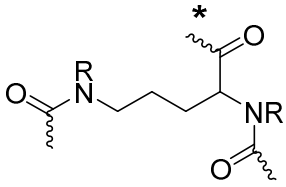
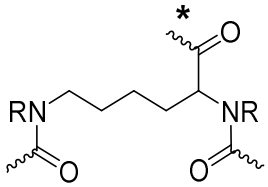
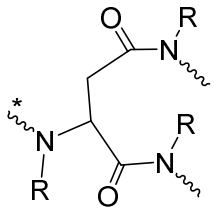
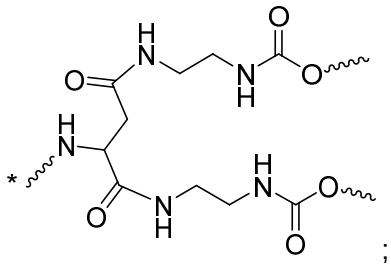
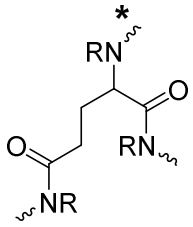
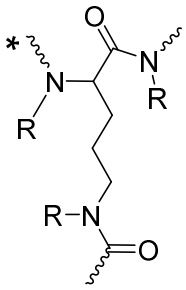
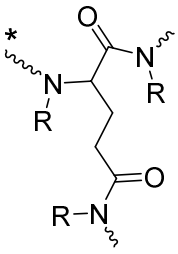
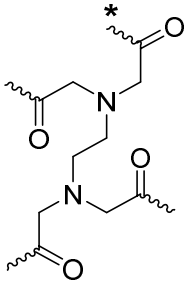
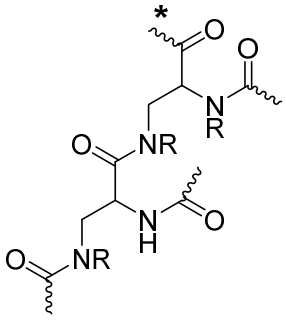
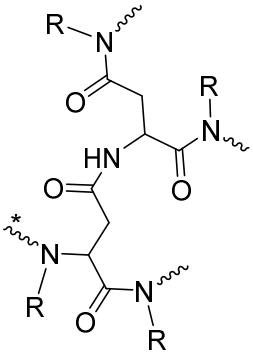
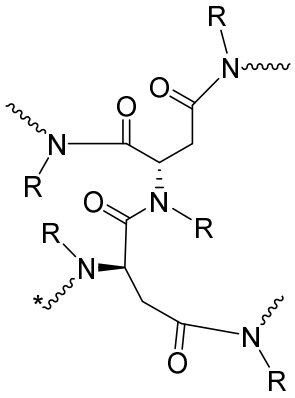
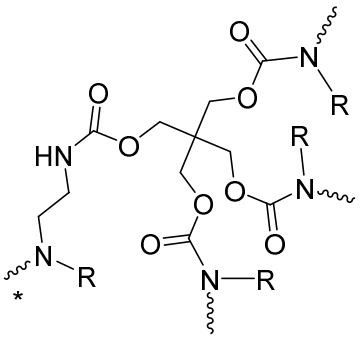
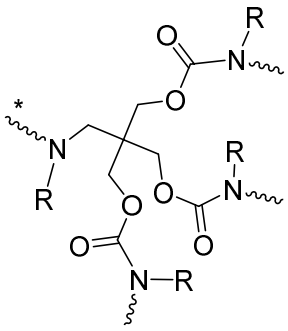
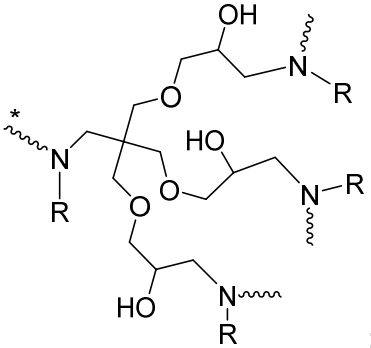
10. The conjugate of claim 8 or claim 9, wherein:

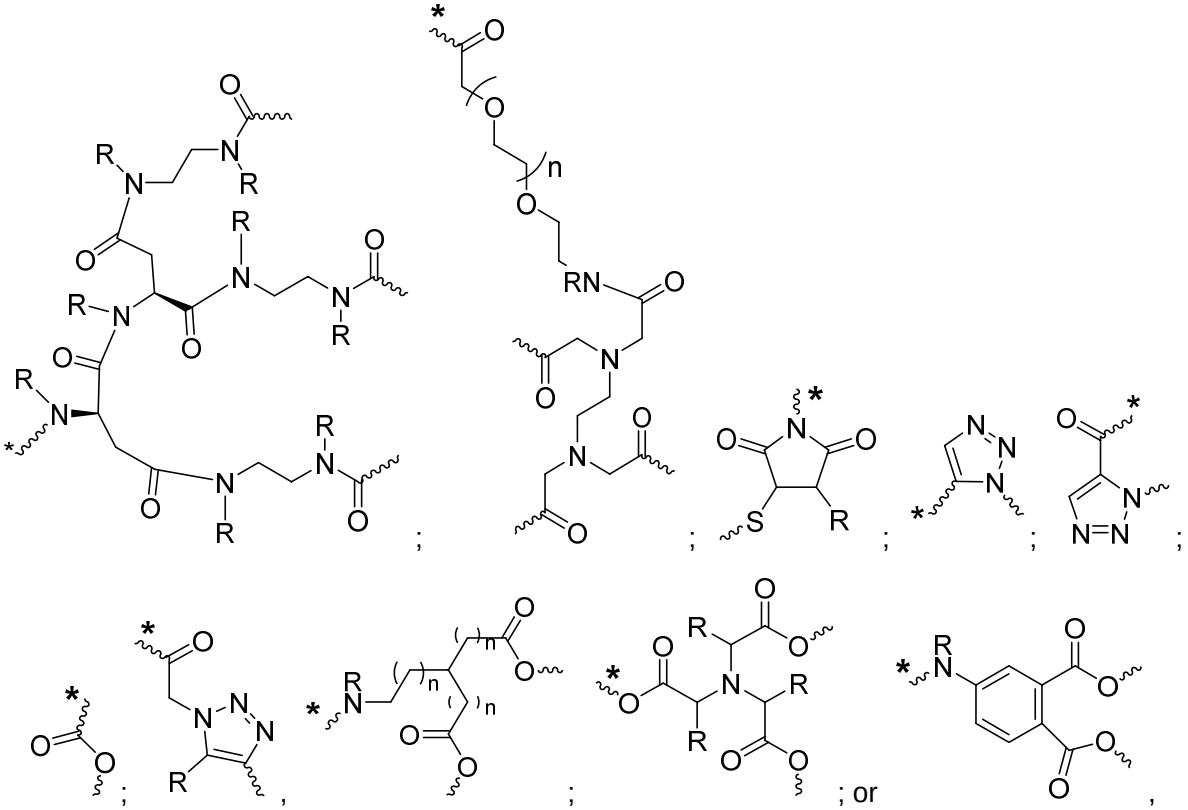
(i) R^{20}:

(a) is formed from a functional group of a precursor compound of the polar group, said functional group selected from halo, aldehyde, carboxyl, amino, alkynyl, azido, hydroxyl, carbonyl, carbamate, thiol, urea, thiocarbamate, thiourea, sulfonamide, acyl sulfonamide, alkyl sulfonate, triazole, azadibenzocyclooctyne, hydrazine, carbonylalkylheteroaryl, or protected forms thereof; or

(b) comprises one of the following structures:

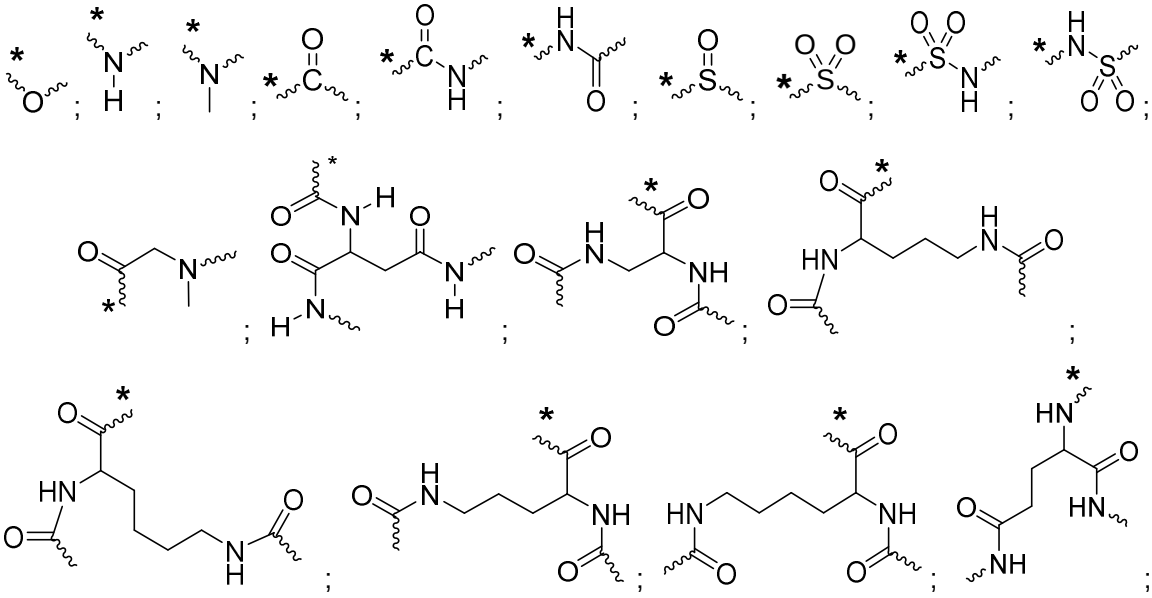


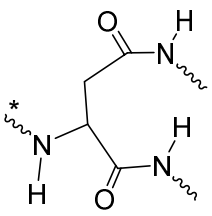
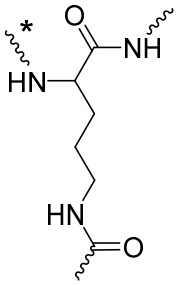
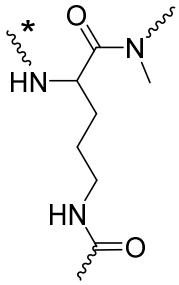
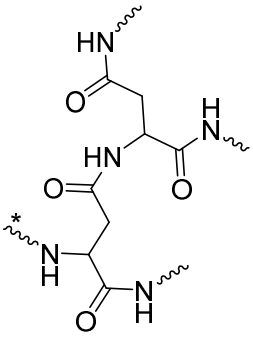
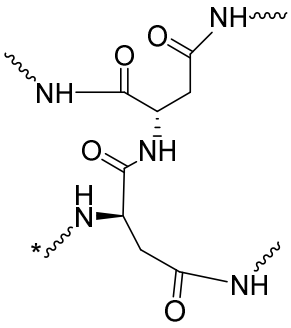
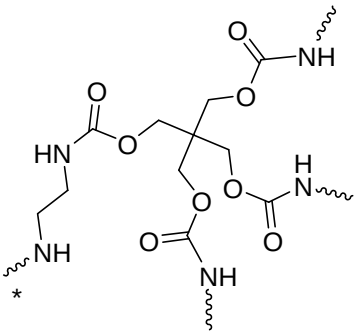
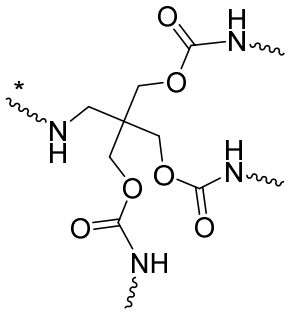
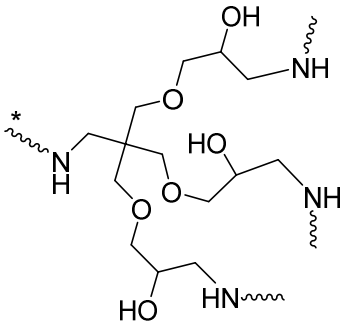
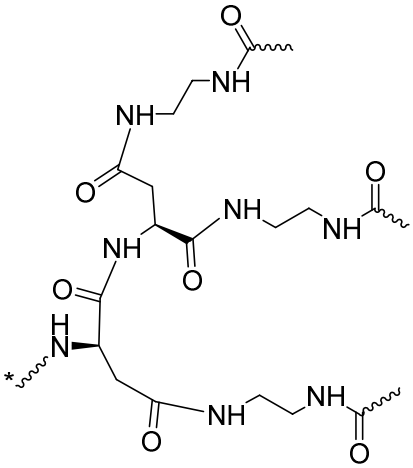
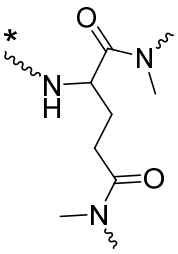
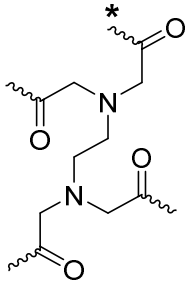
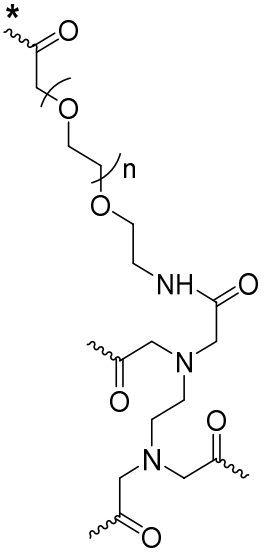
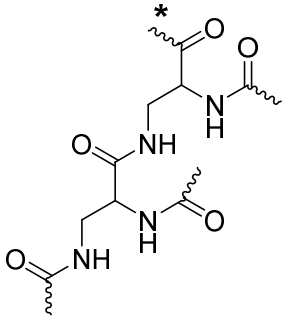
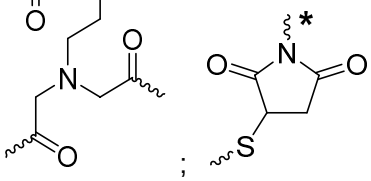

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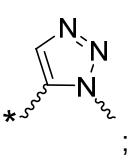
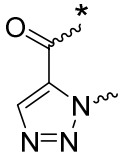
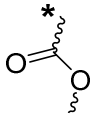


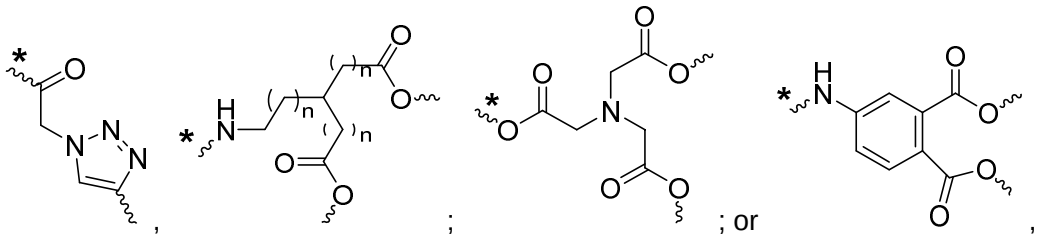
or a stereoisomer thereof, wherein R is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl or polyhydroxyl group, n is 0 to 12, the (〰 *) indicates an attachment to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group, and the (〰) indicates an attachment site to a remainder portion of the polar group; or

(c) has one of the following structures:




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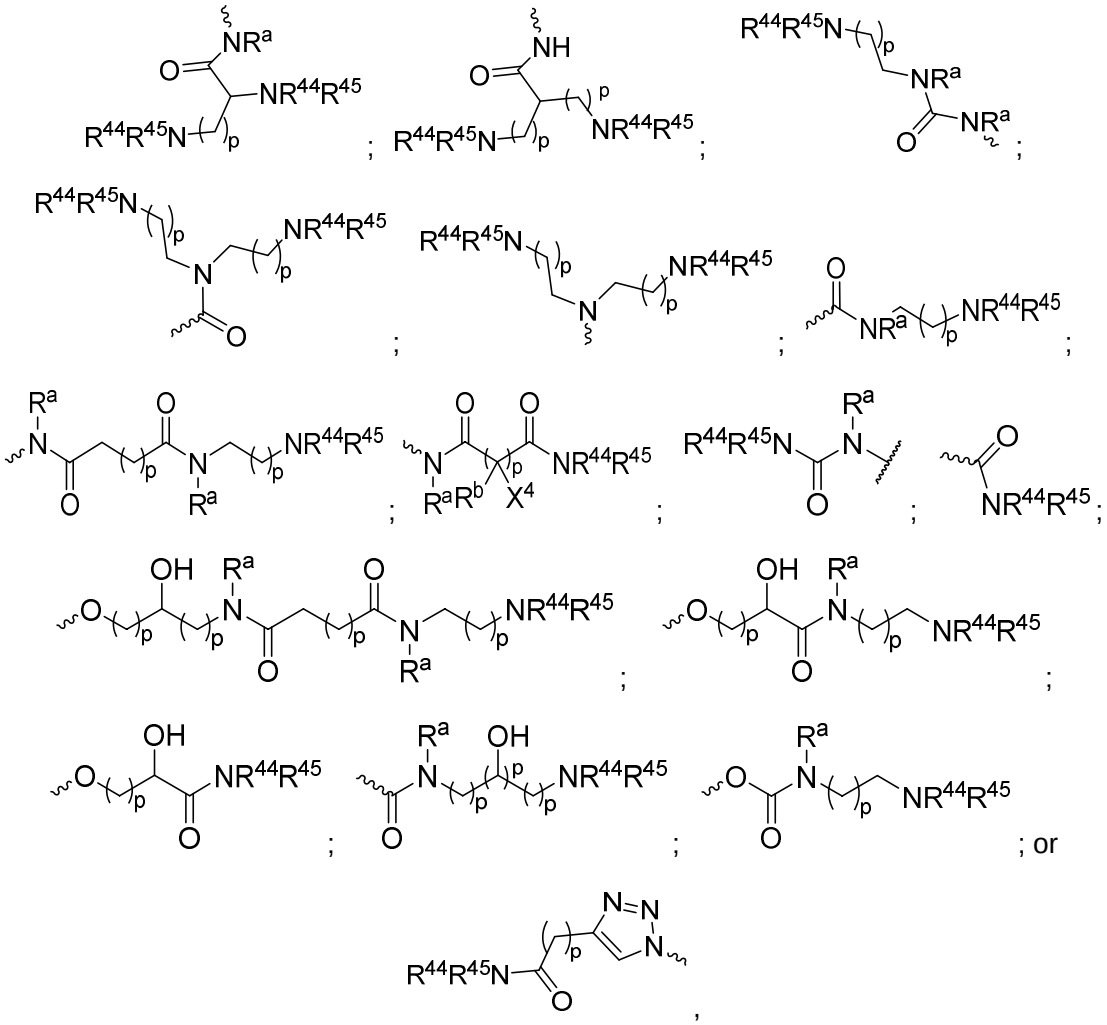
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or a stereoisomer thereof, wherein n = 0 to 12, the (〰 *) indicates an attachment to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group, and the (〰) indicates an attachment site to a remainder portion of the polar group; and/or

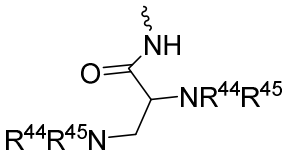
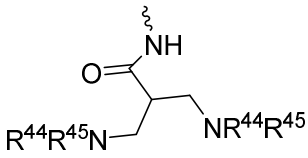
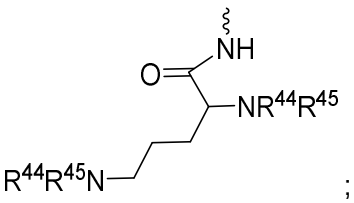
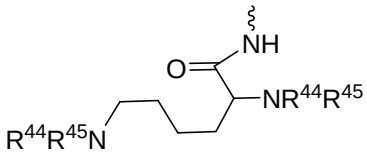
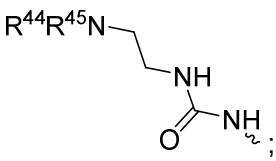
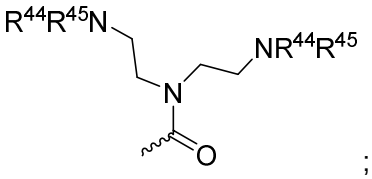
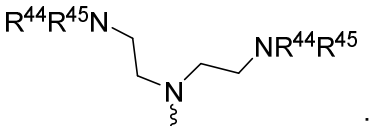
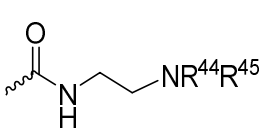
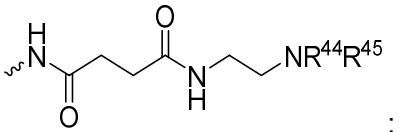
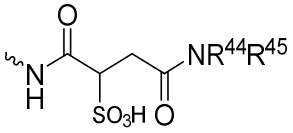
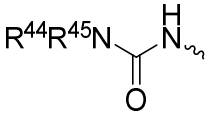
(ii) R^{43}-($NR^{44}R^{45}$)n^{41}:

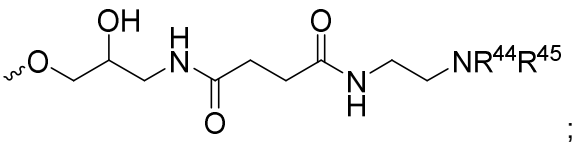
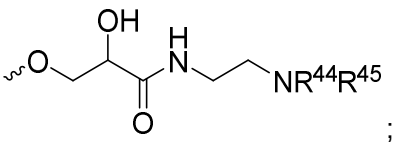
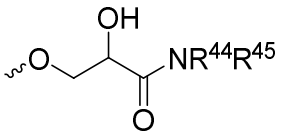
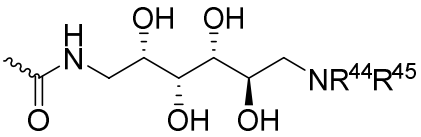
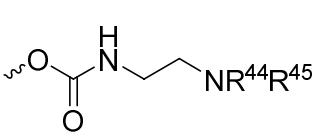
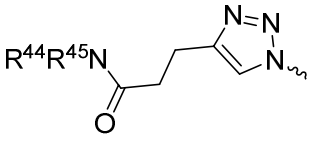
(a) has one of the following structures:



or a stereoisomer thereof, wherein R^a is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, a polyhydroxyl group, or a substituted polyhydroxyl group; p is an integer from 1 to 6, and the (〰) indicates the attachment site of R^{43} to the remainder of the polar group; or

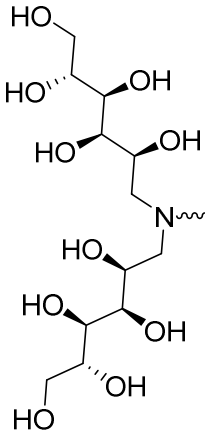
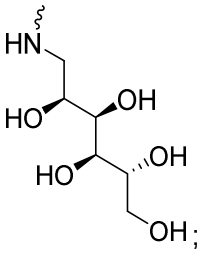
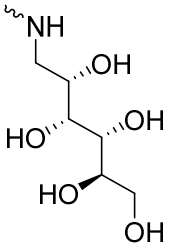
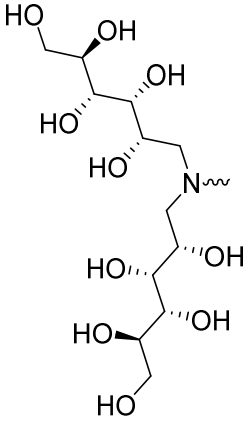
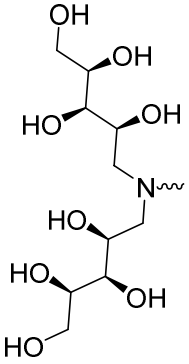
(b) has one of the following structures:

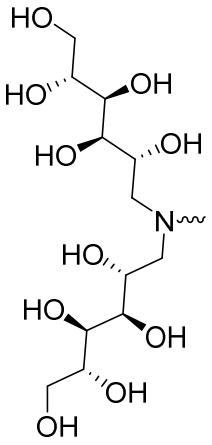
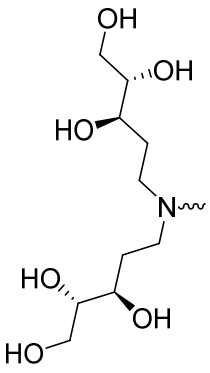
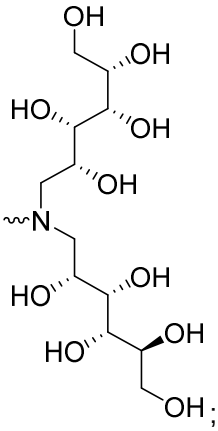
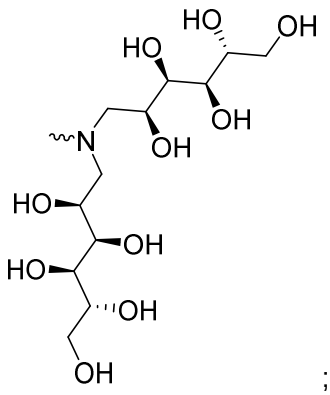
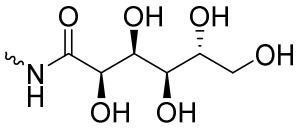
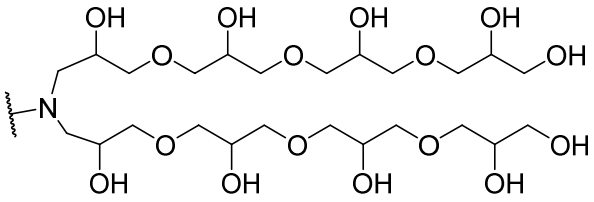
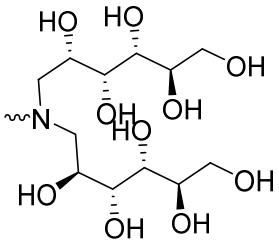
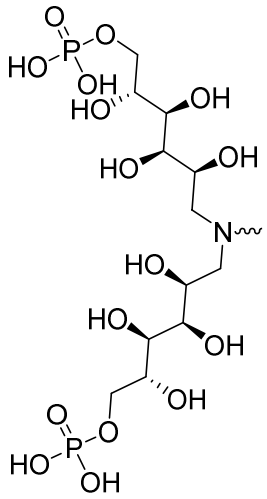
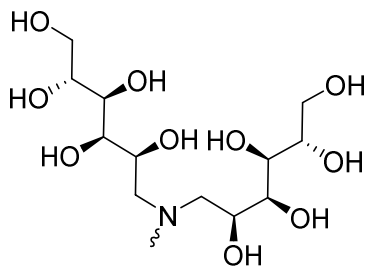
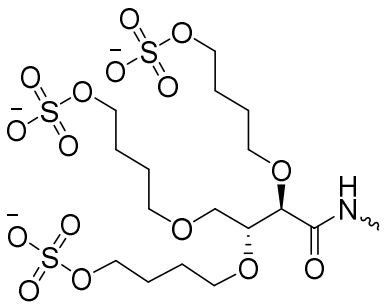
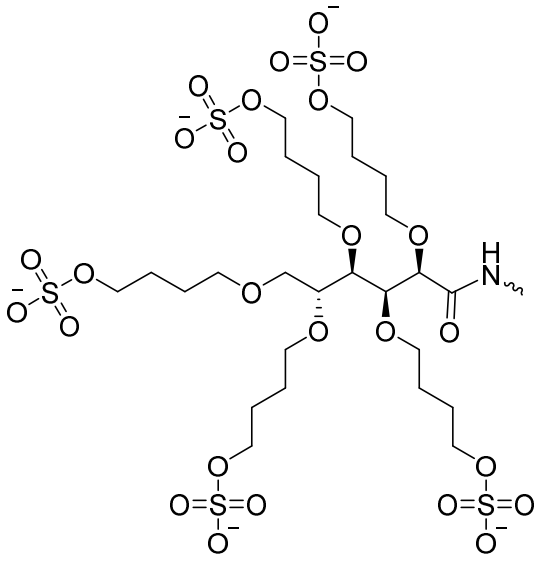

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or a stereoisomer thereof, wherein the (〰) indicates the attachment site of R^{43} to the remainder of the polar group; and/or

(iii) $-NR^{44}R^{45}$ has one of the following structures:

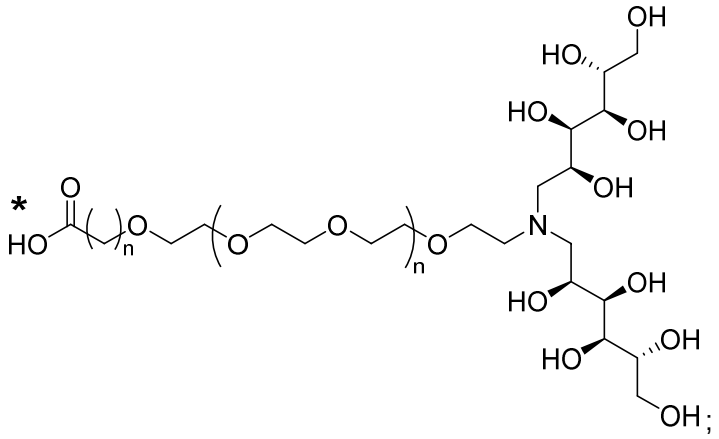

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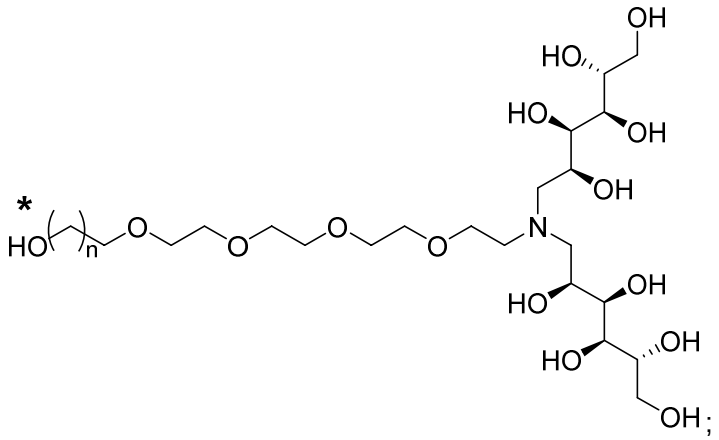

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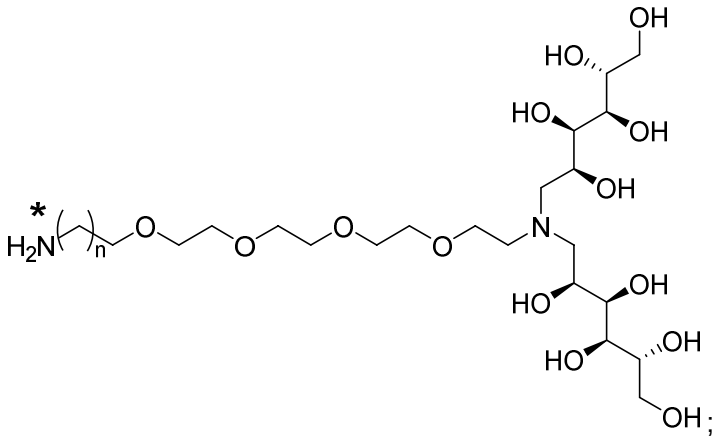
or a stereoisomer thereof, wherein the ( ) indicates the attachment site of -$NR^{44}R^{45}$ to the remainder of the polar group.

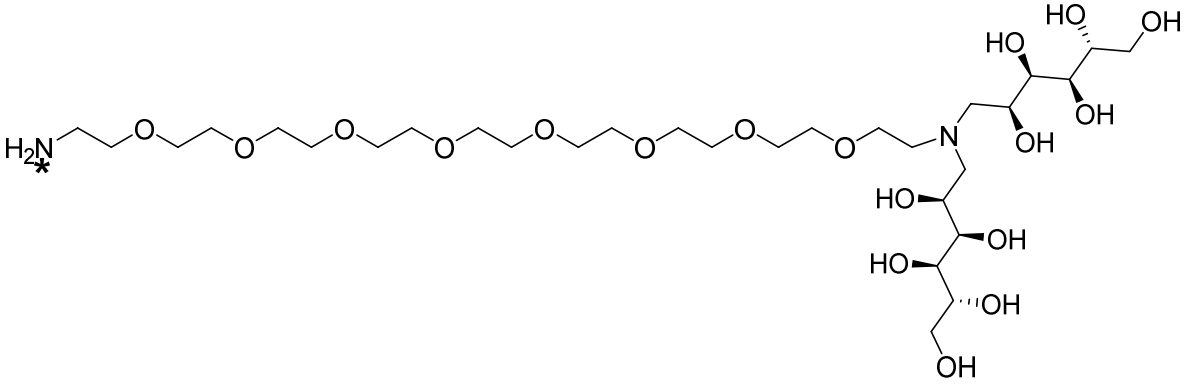
11. The conjugate of:

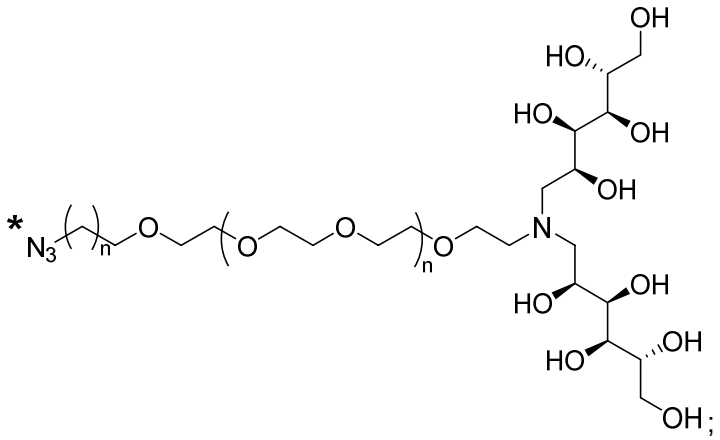
(i) any of claims 7(iii) and 8 to 10, comprising a polar group having one of the following structures prior to attachment to the linker unit:

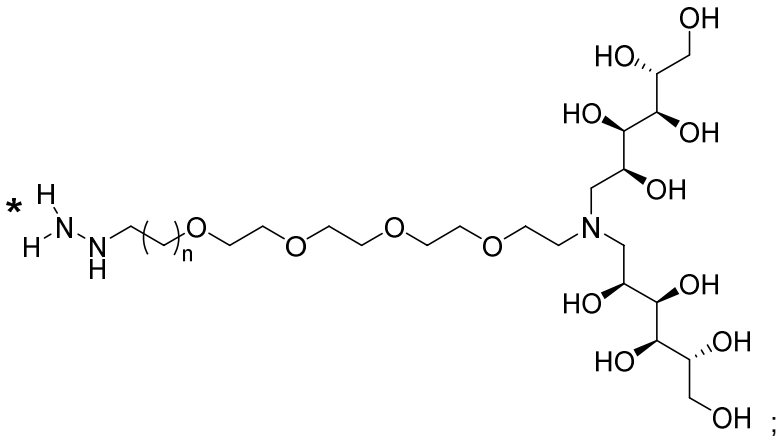


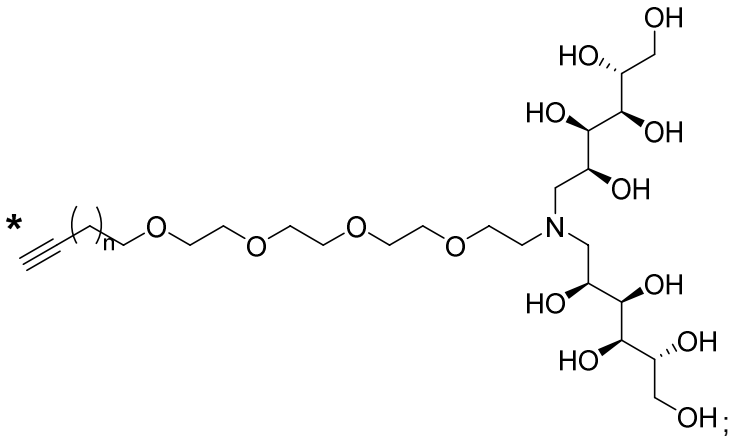


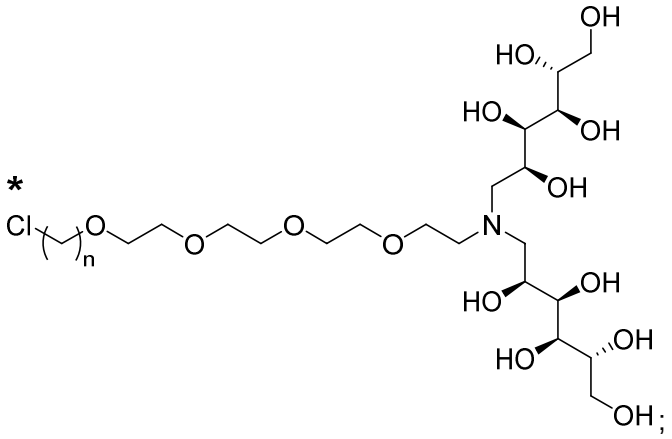


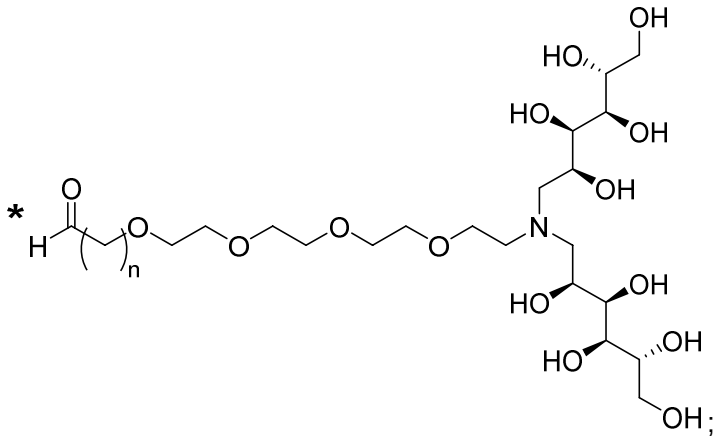


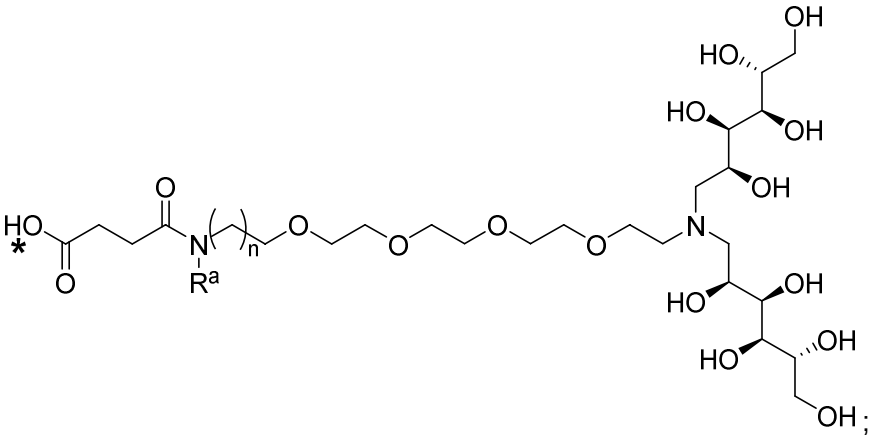


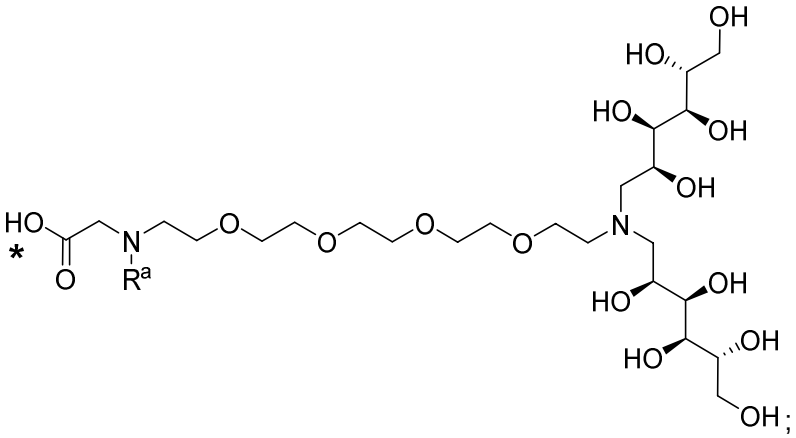


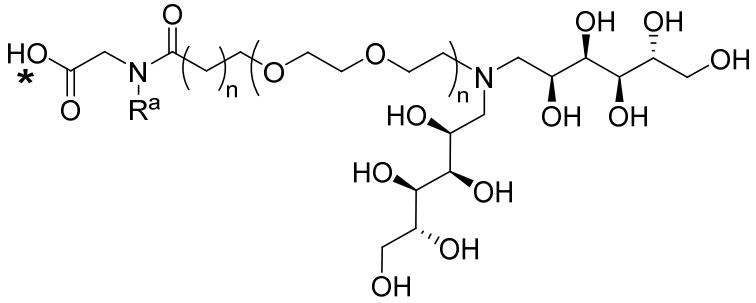




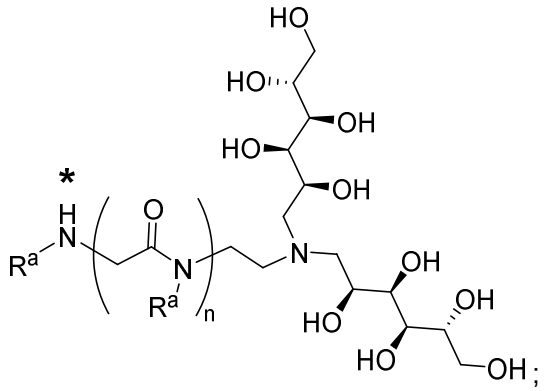




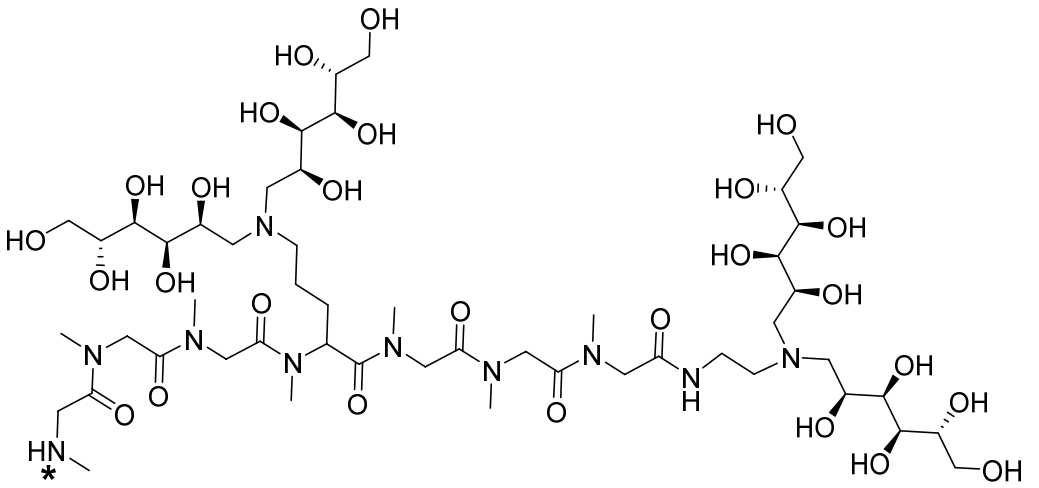




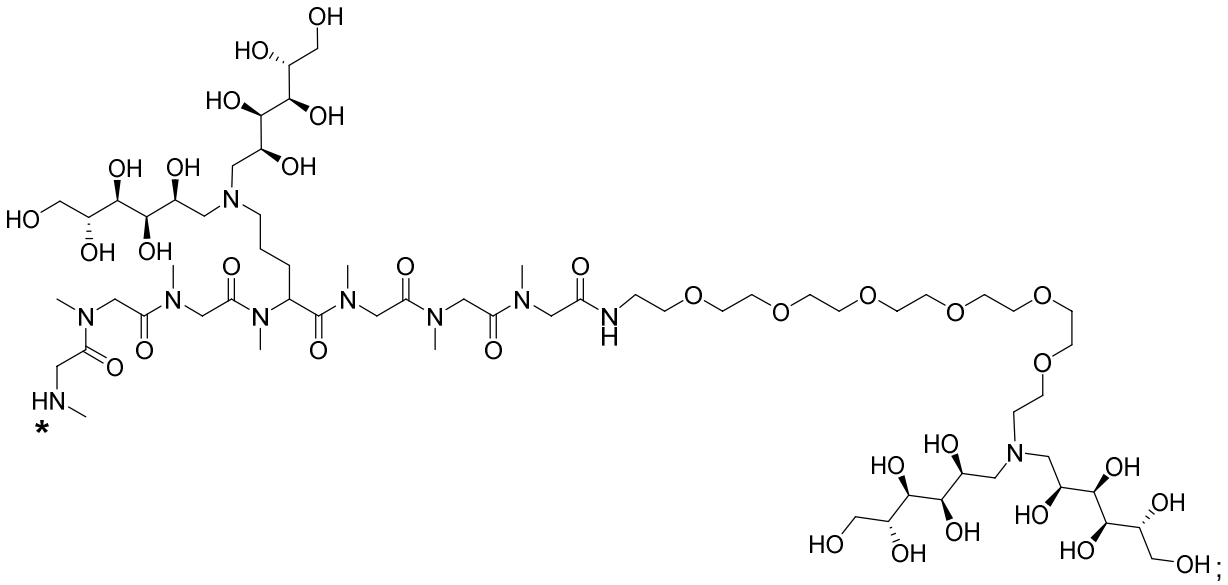
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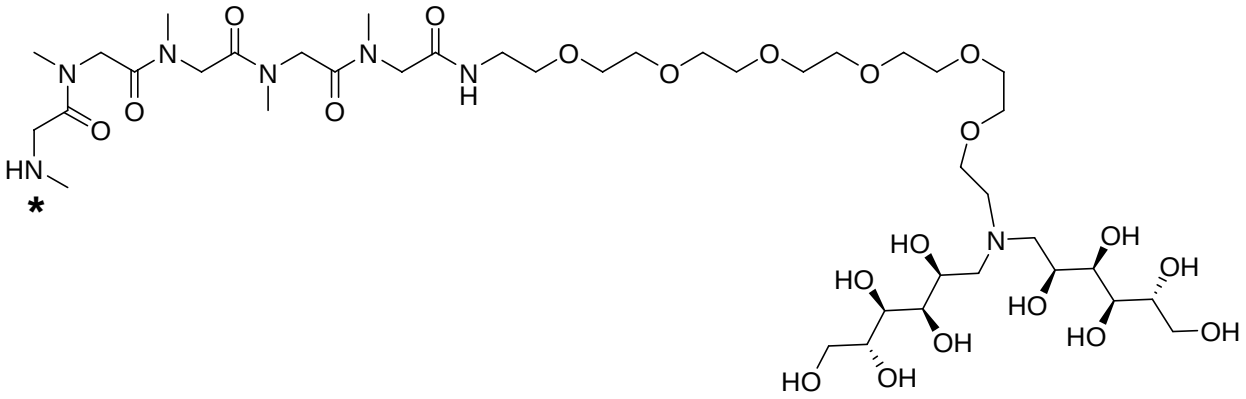
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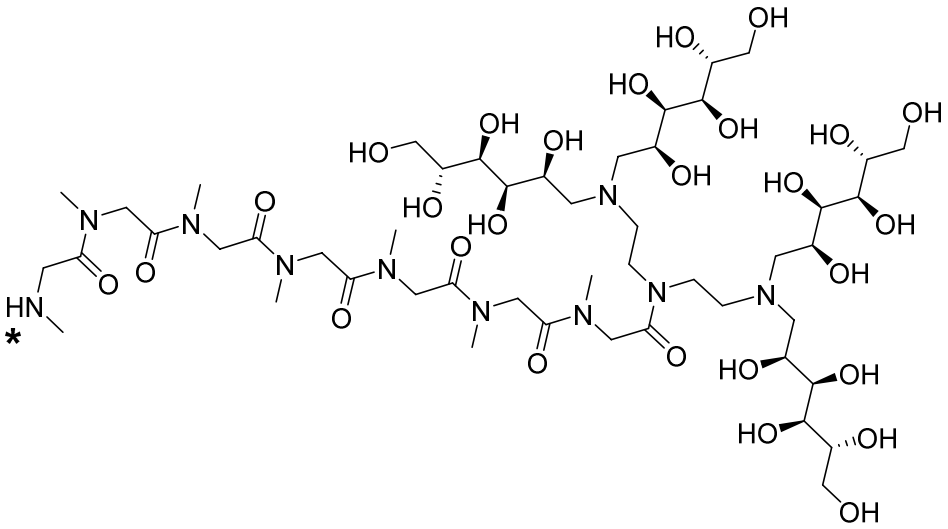
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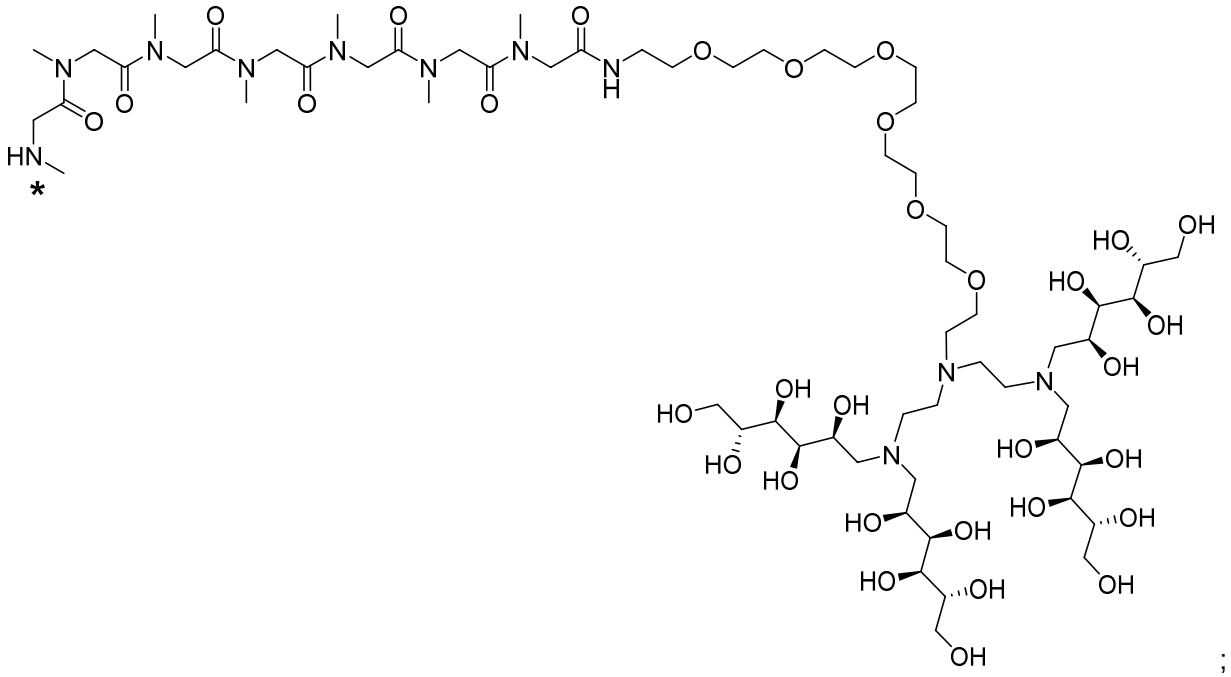
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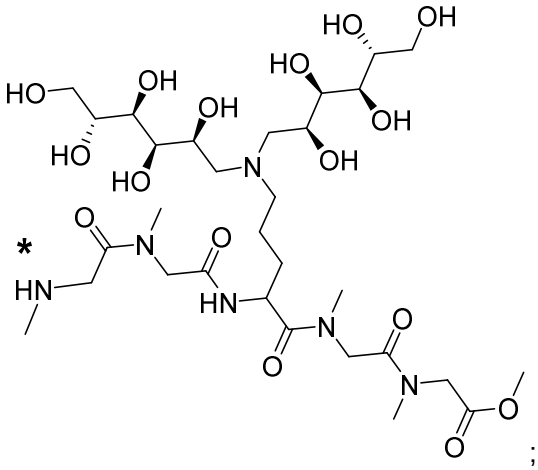
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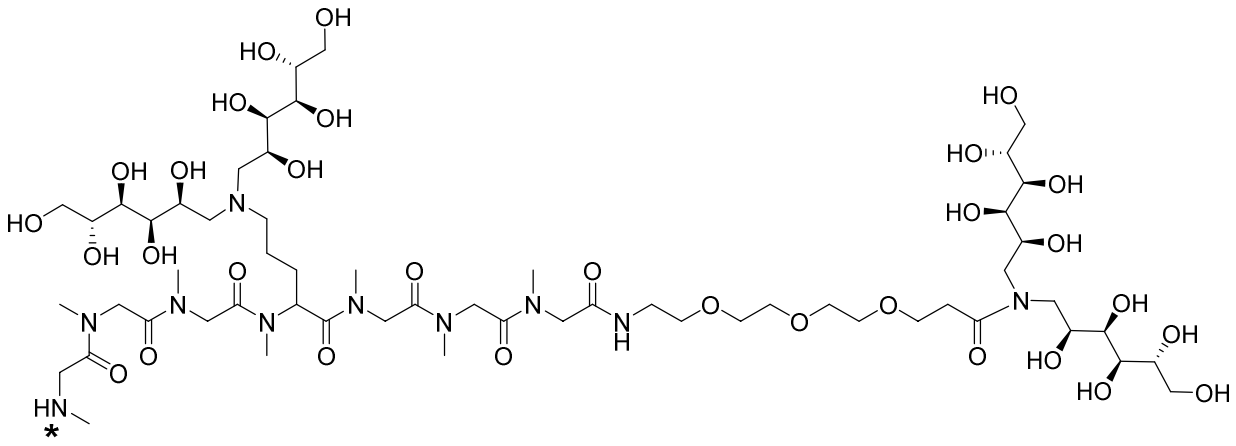
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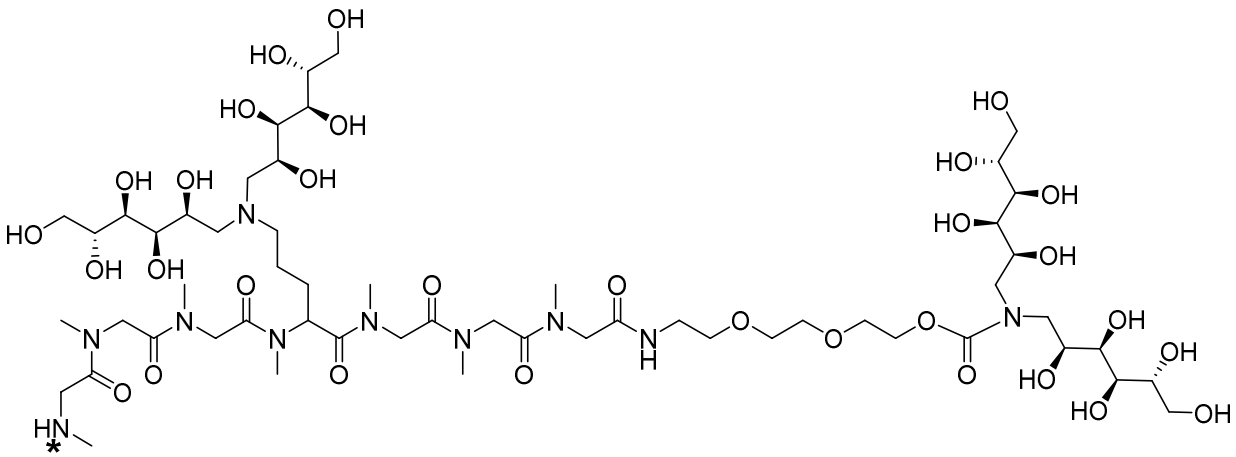
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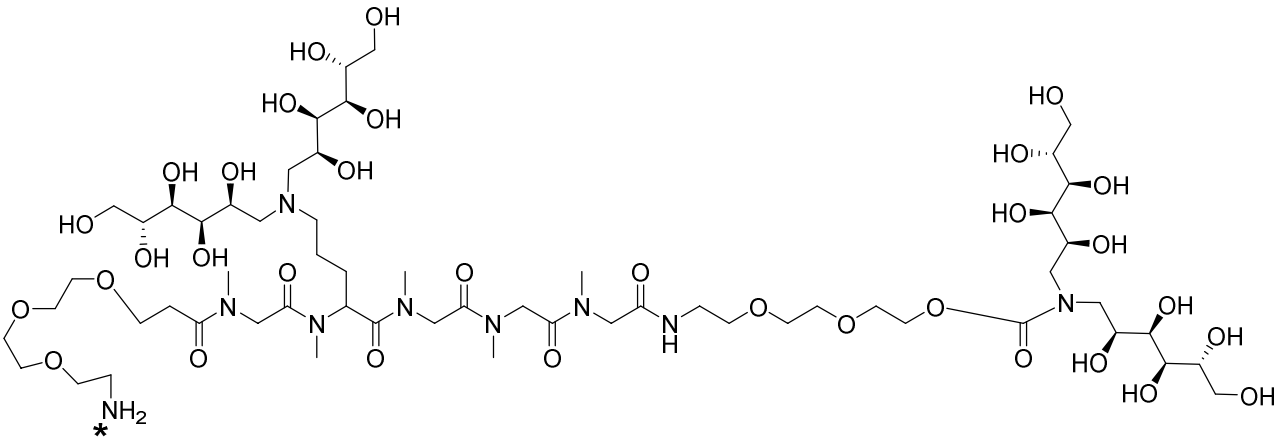
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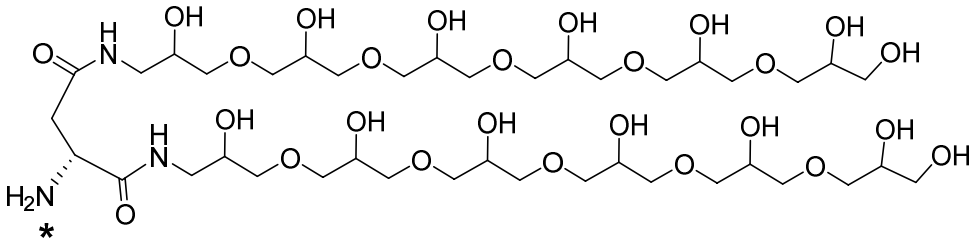
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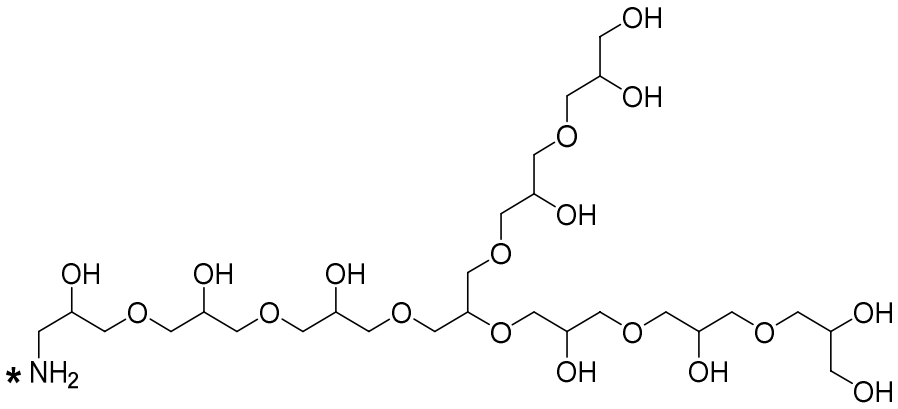


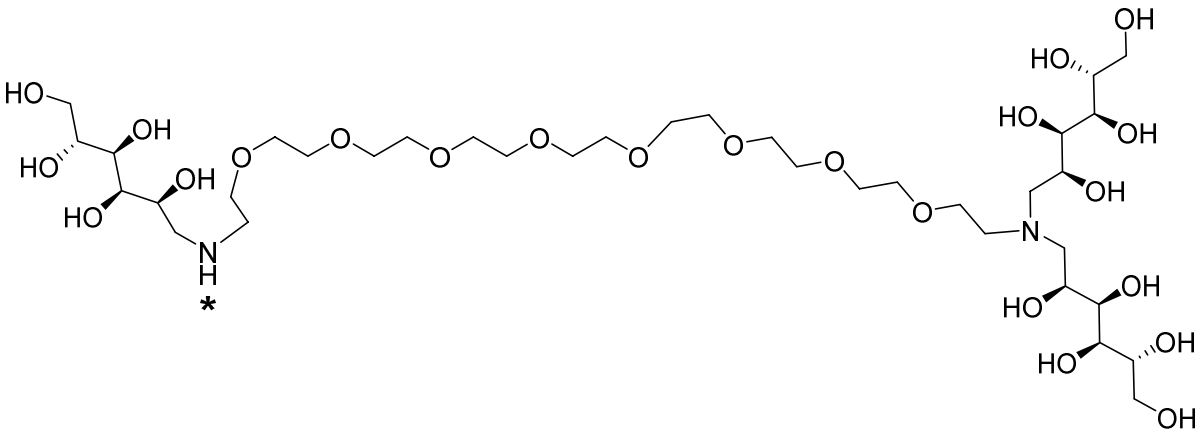
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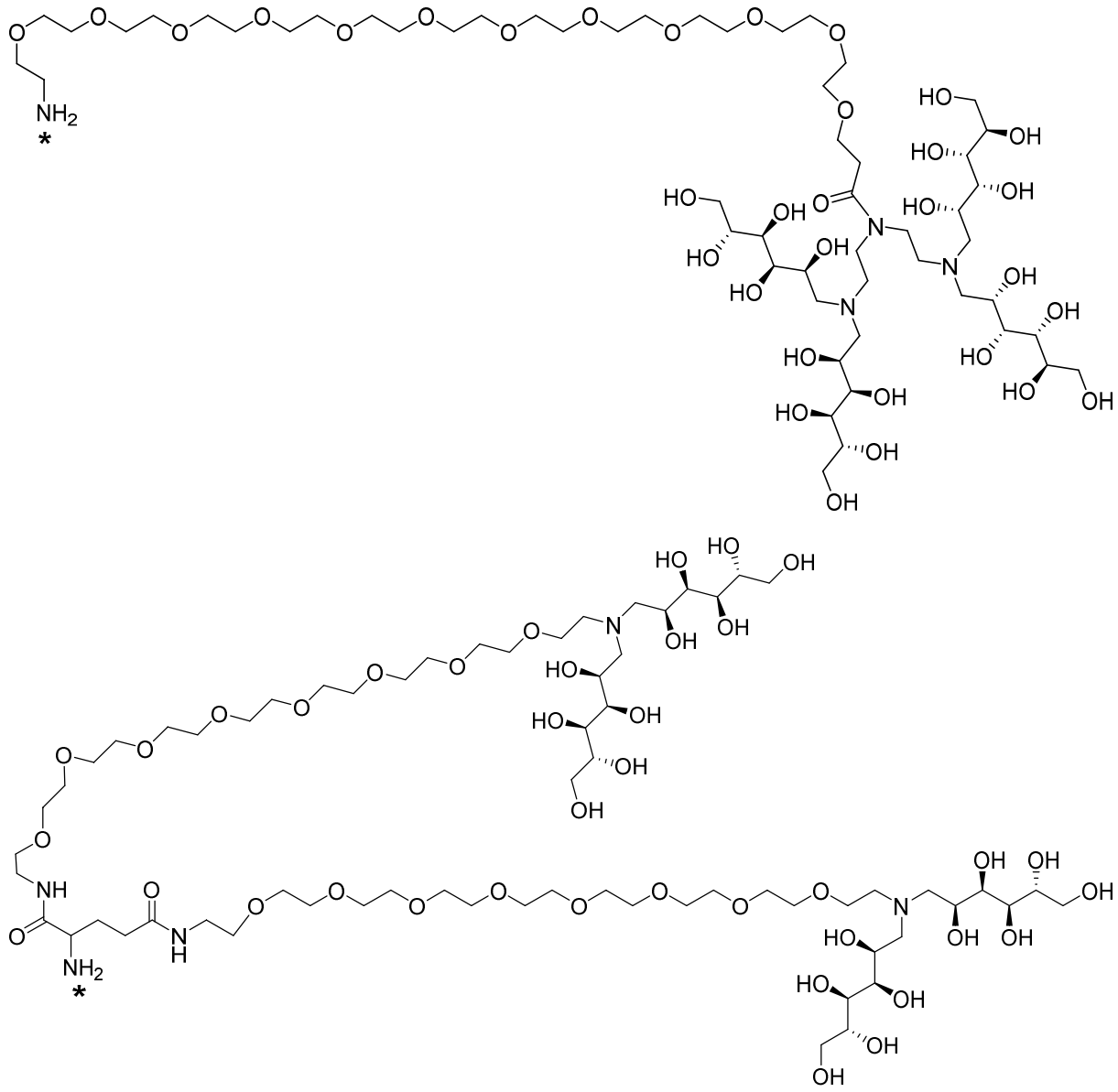


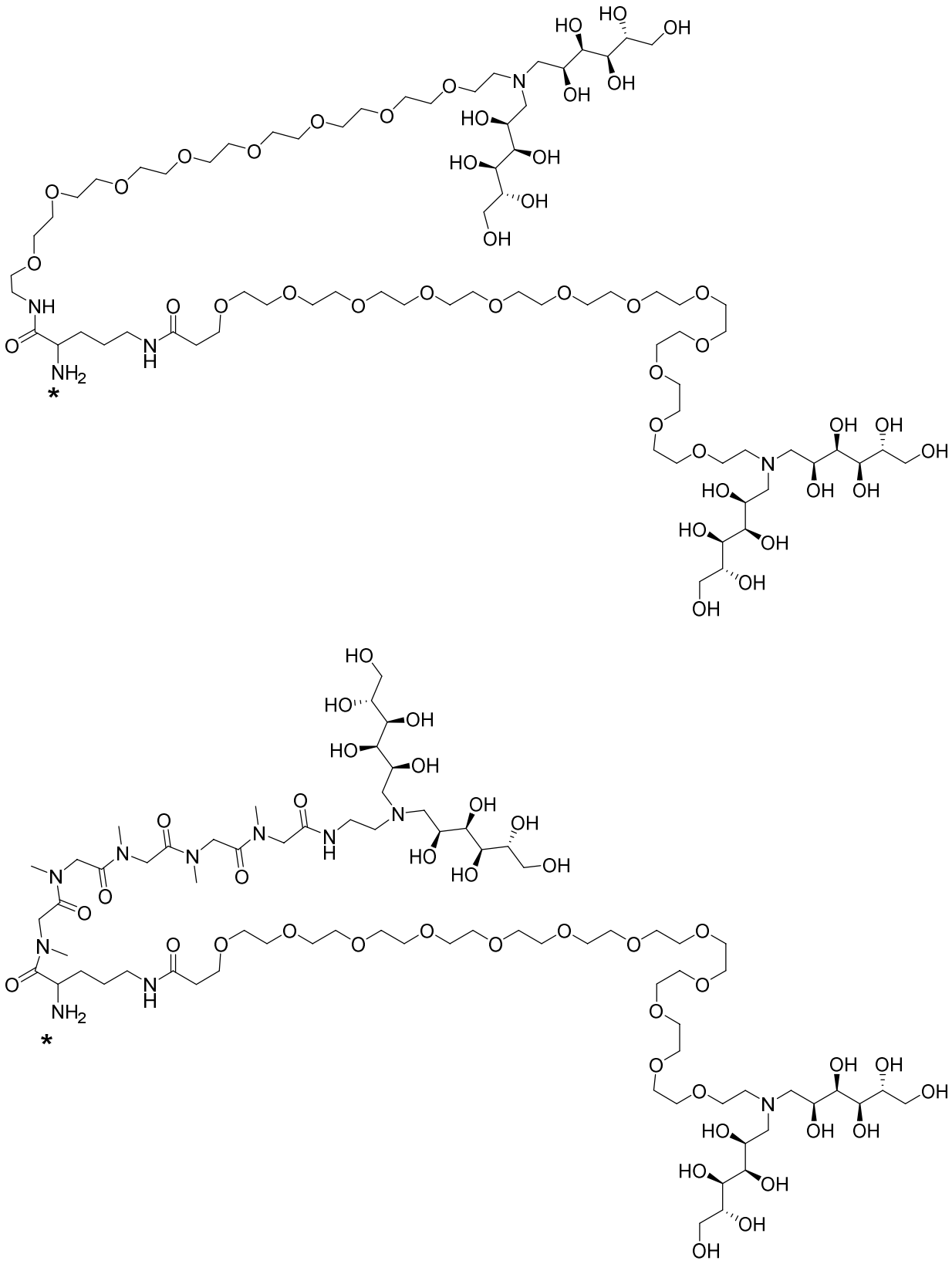
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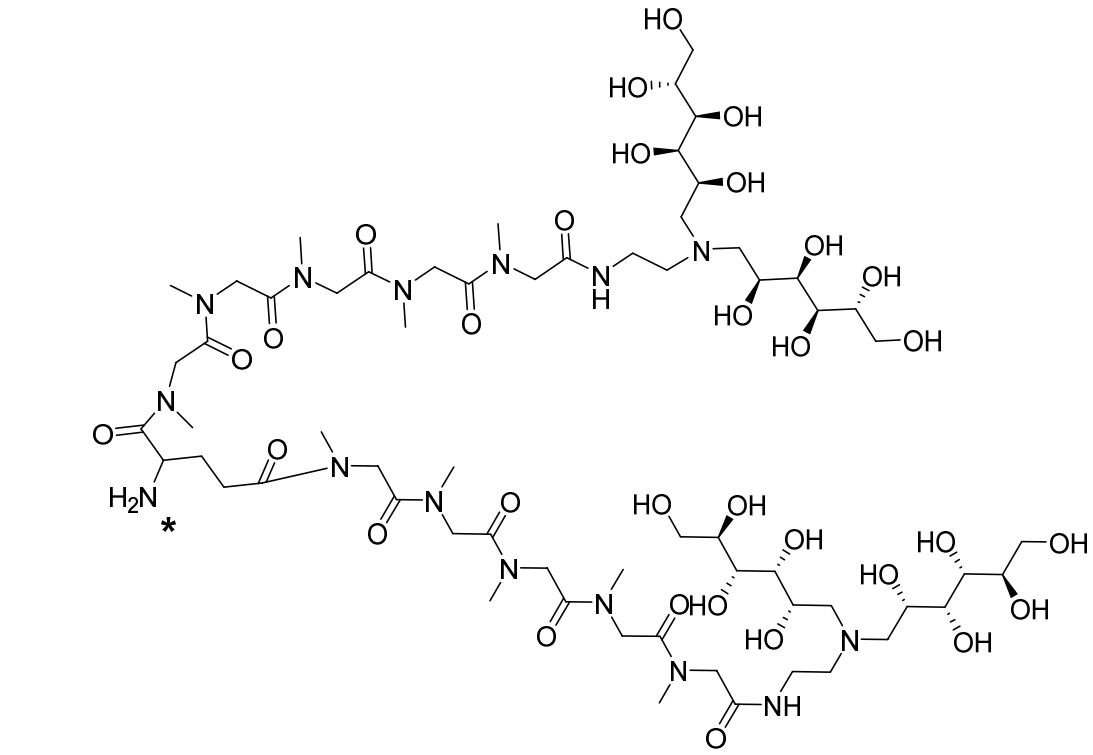


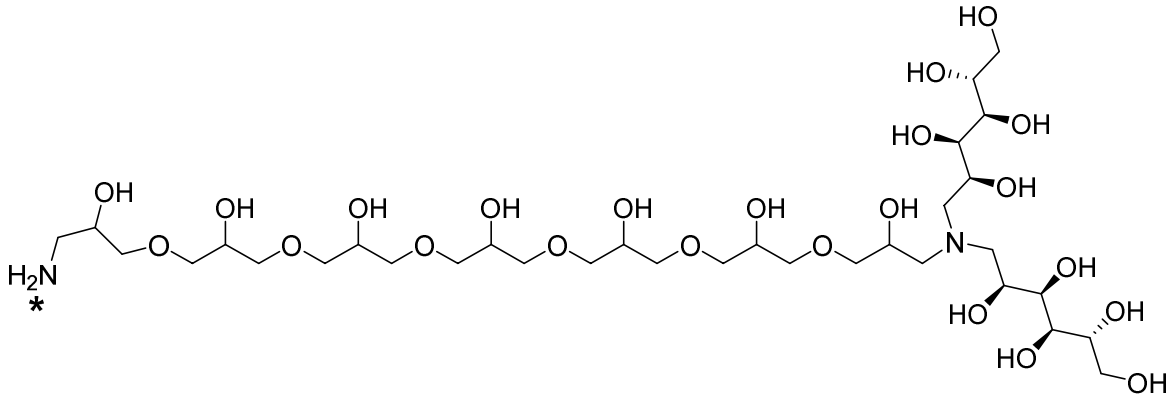


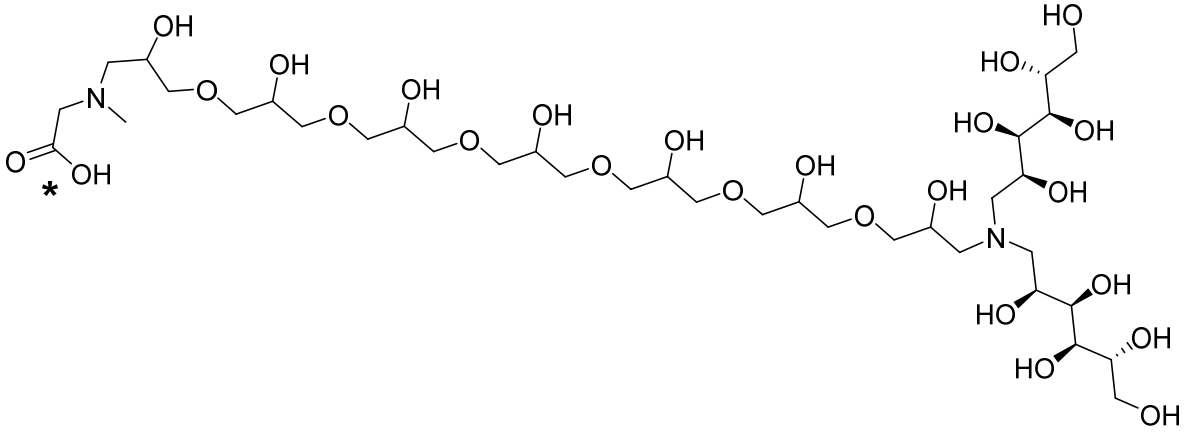


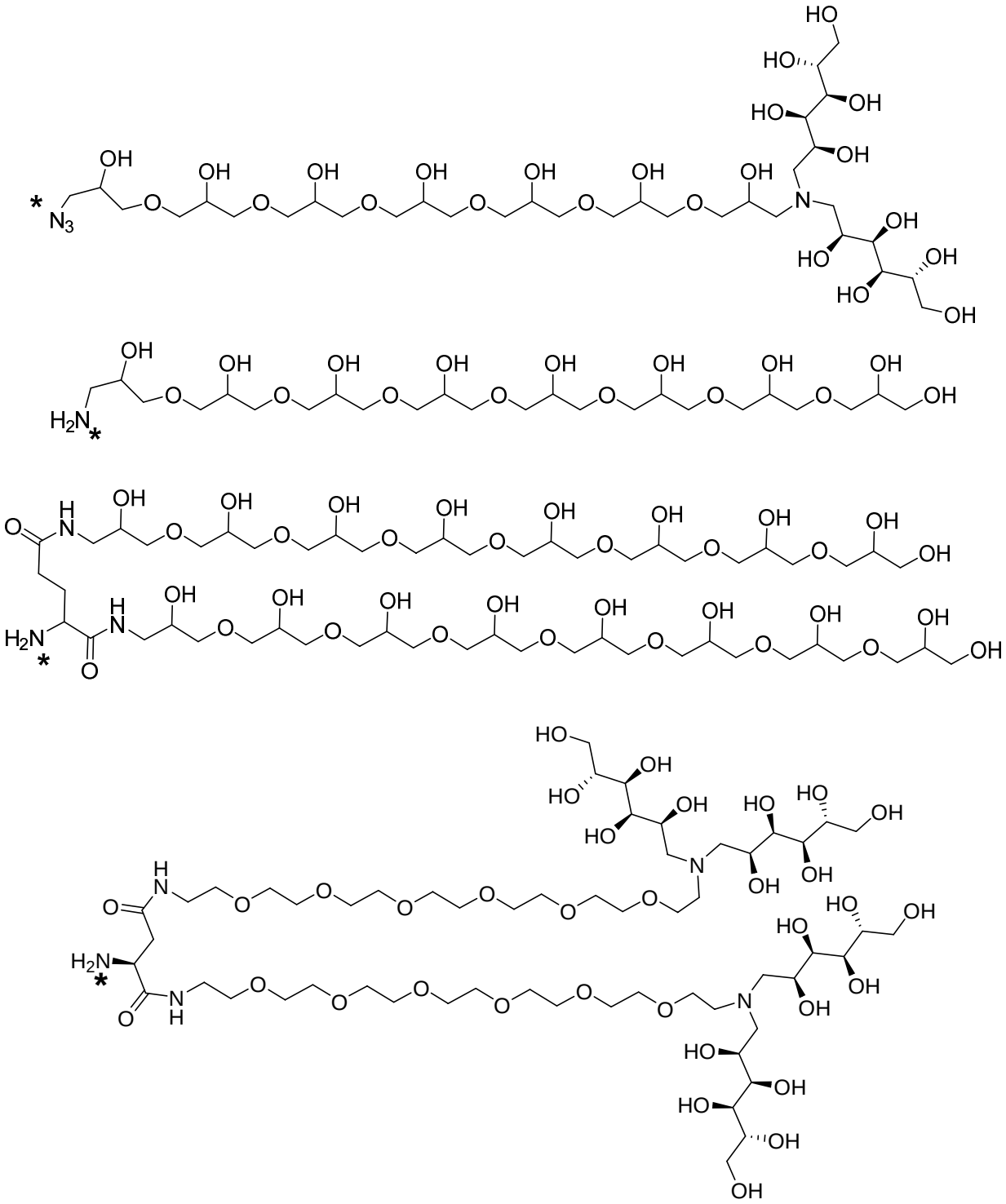


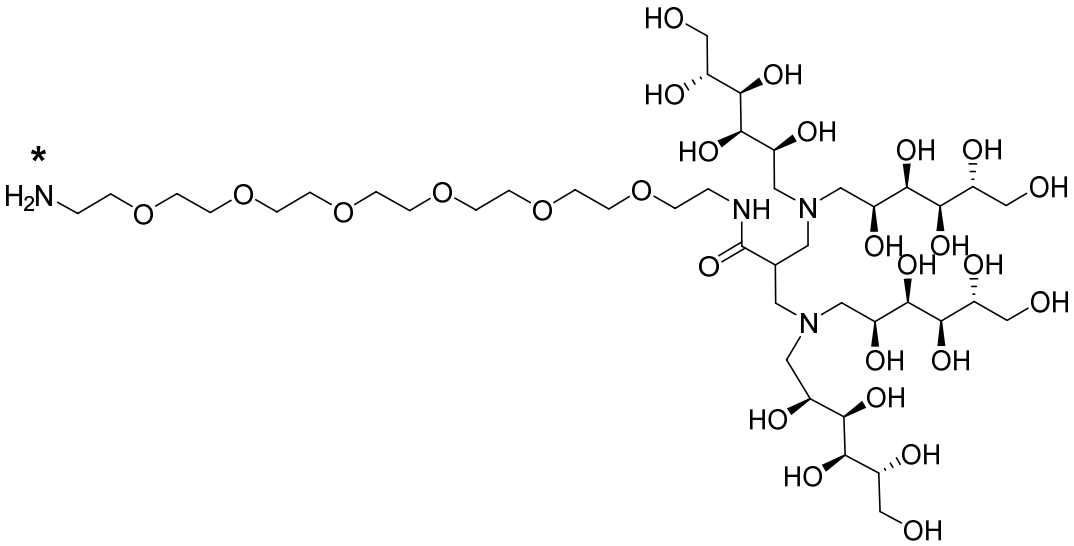


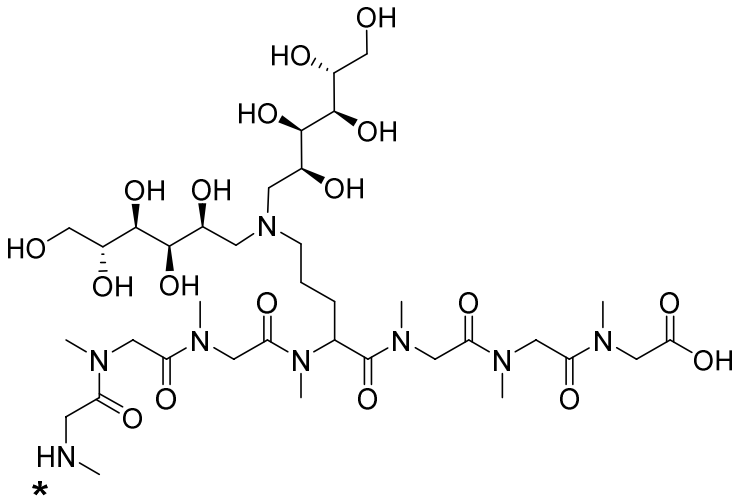


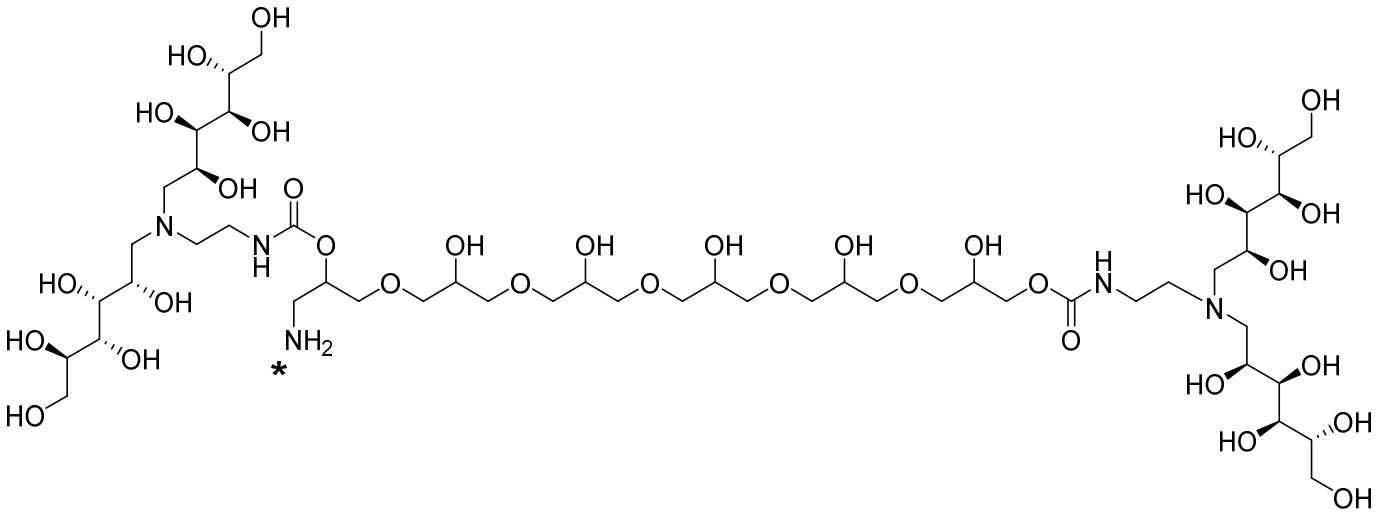


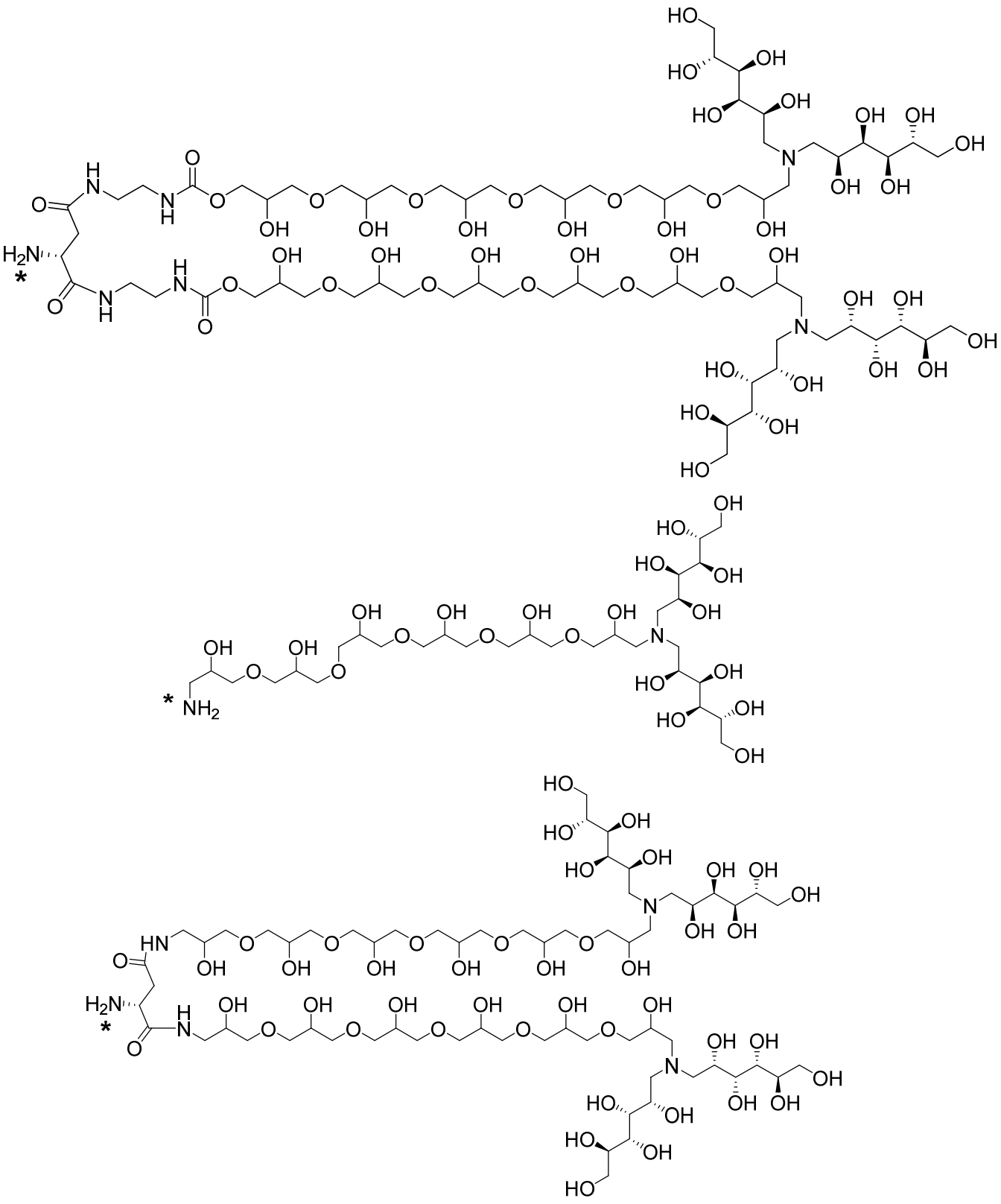


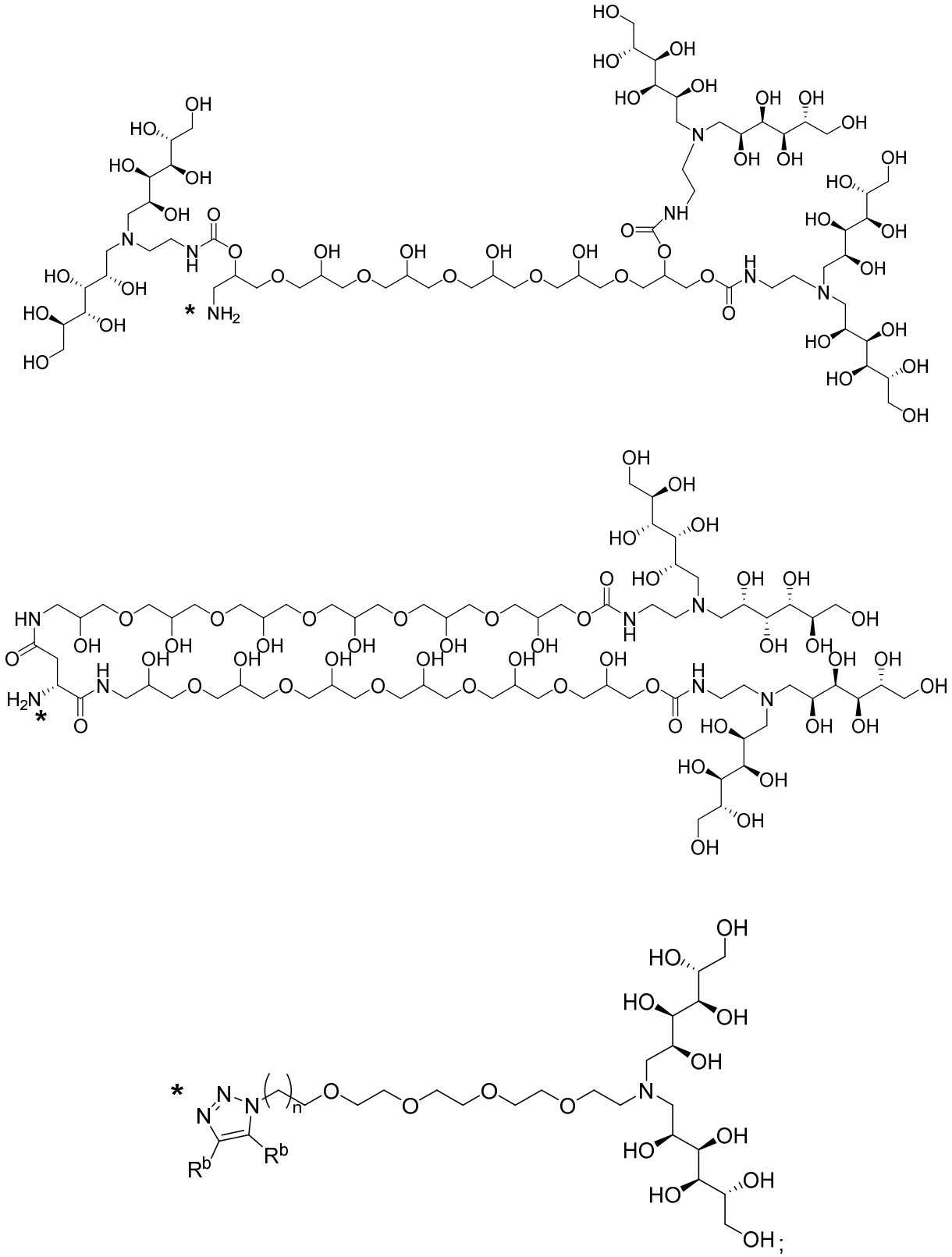


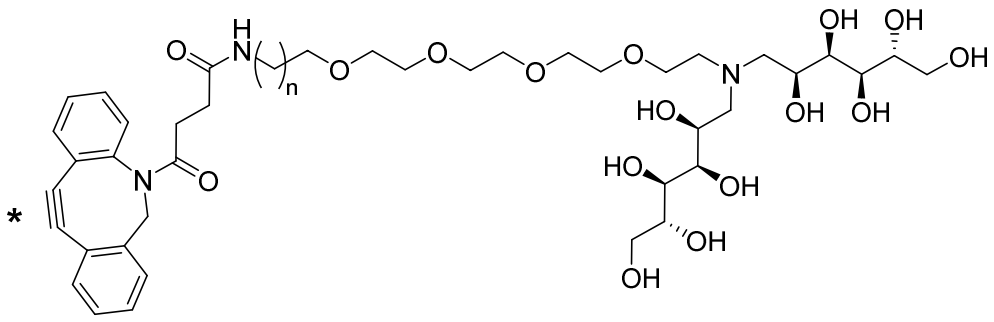




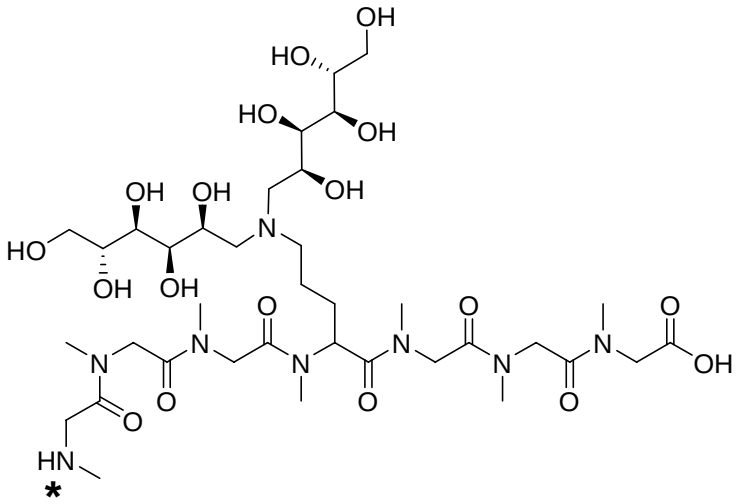




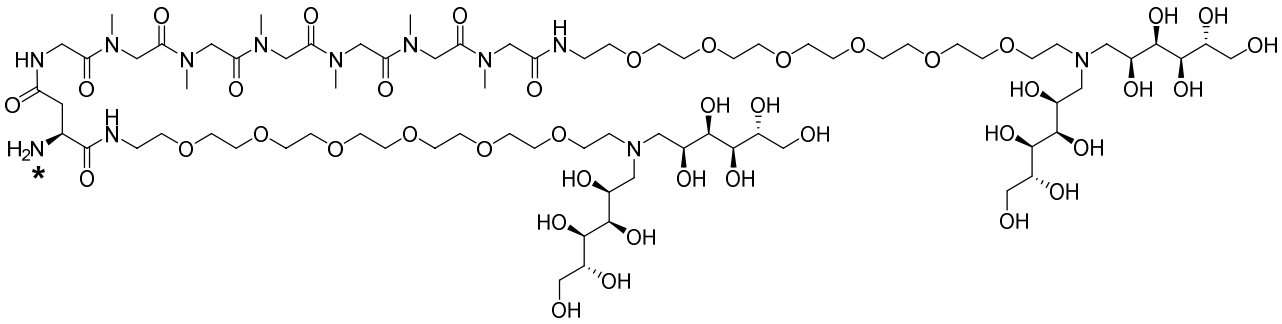




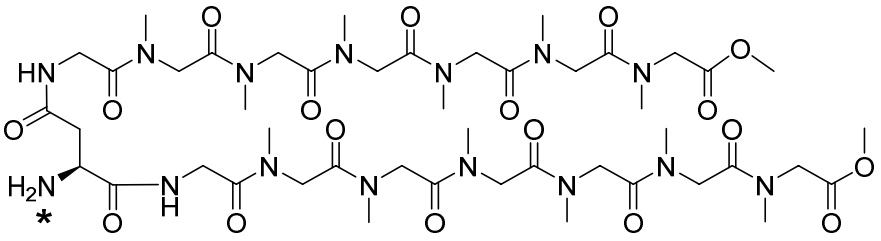
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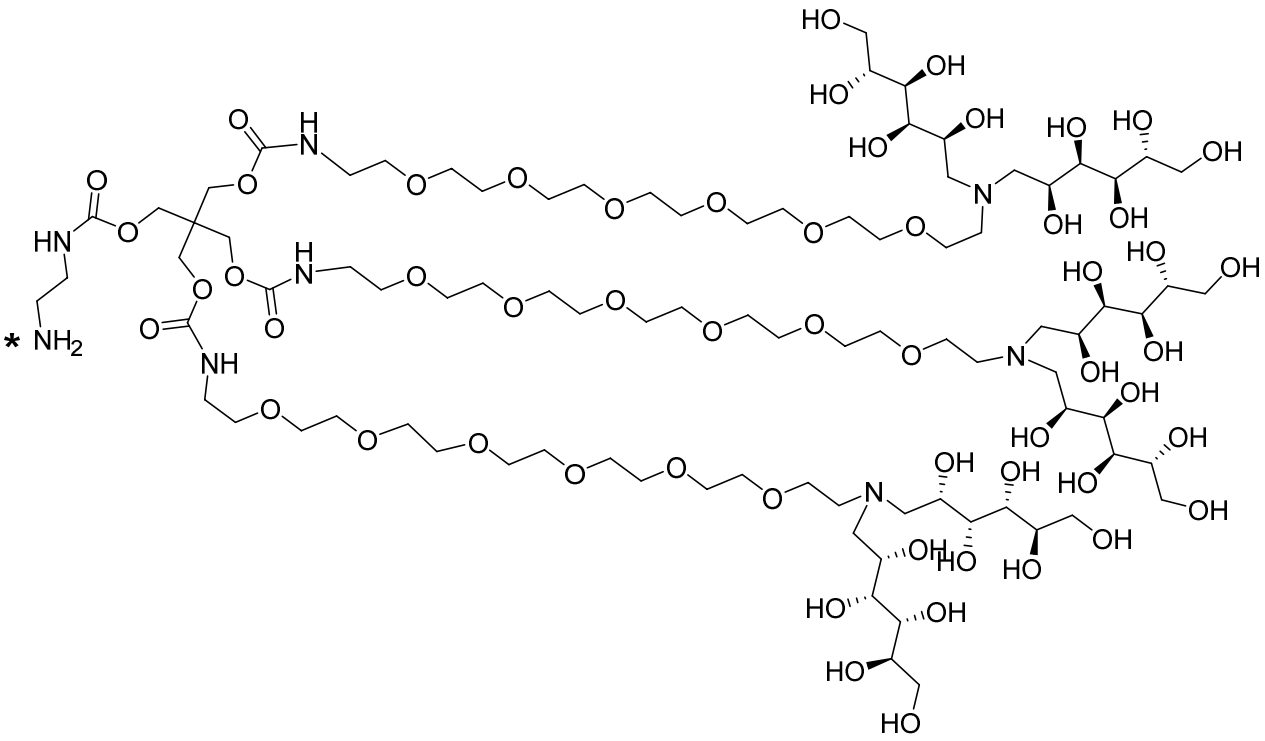
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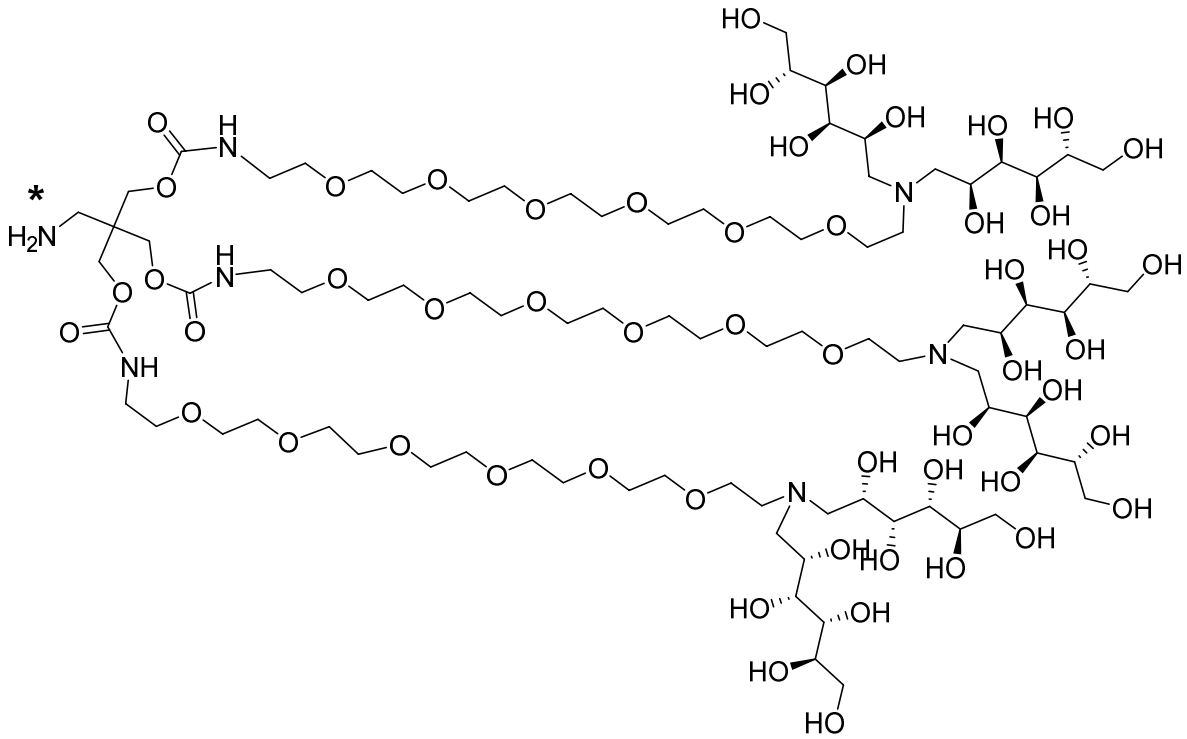
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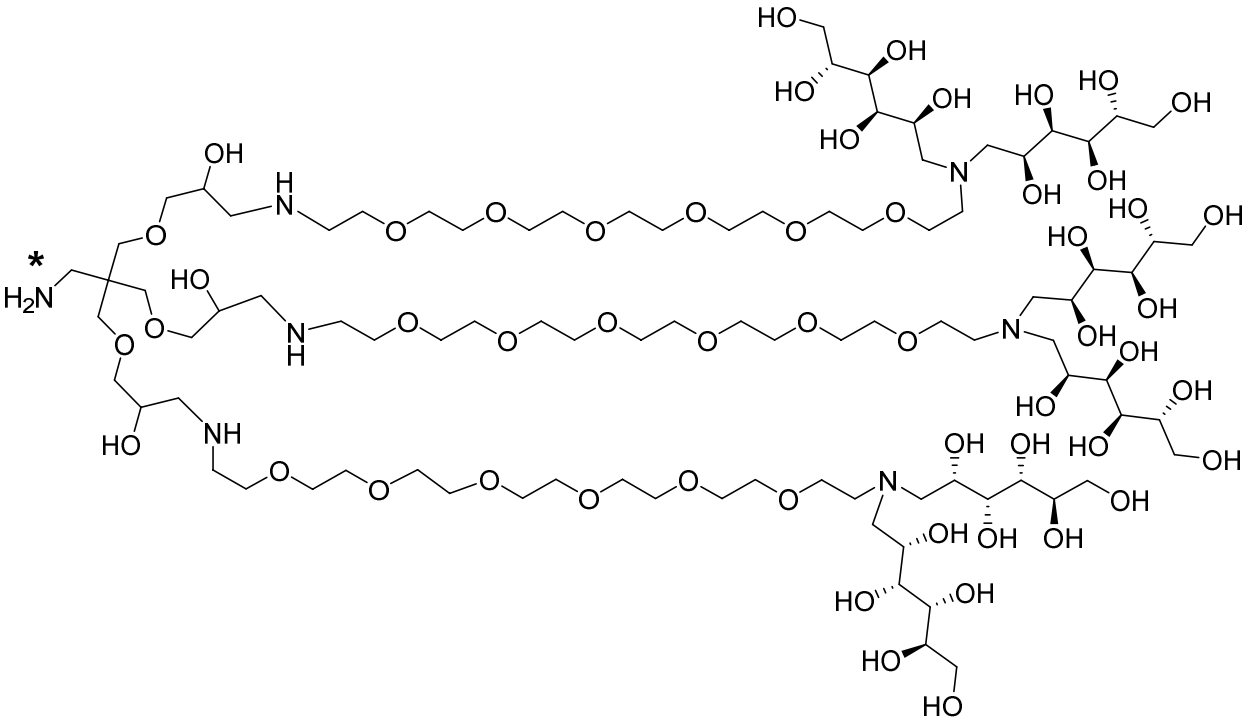
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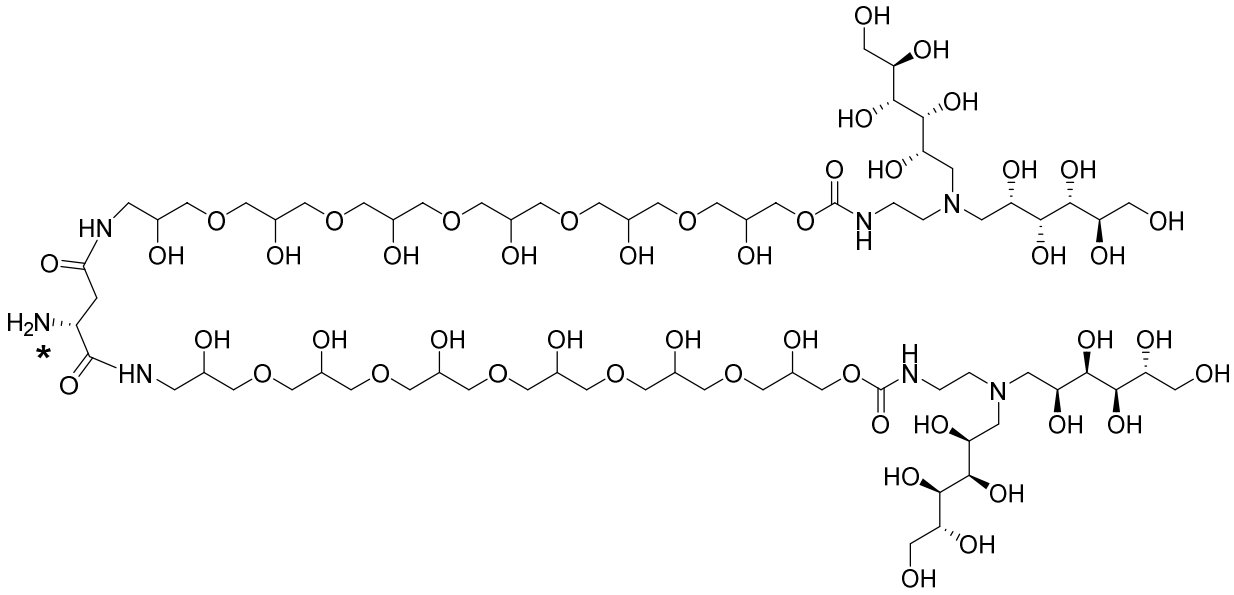
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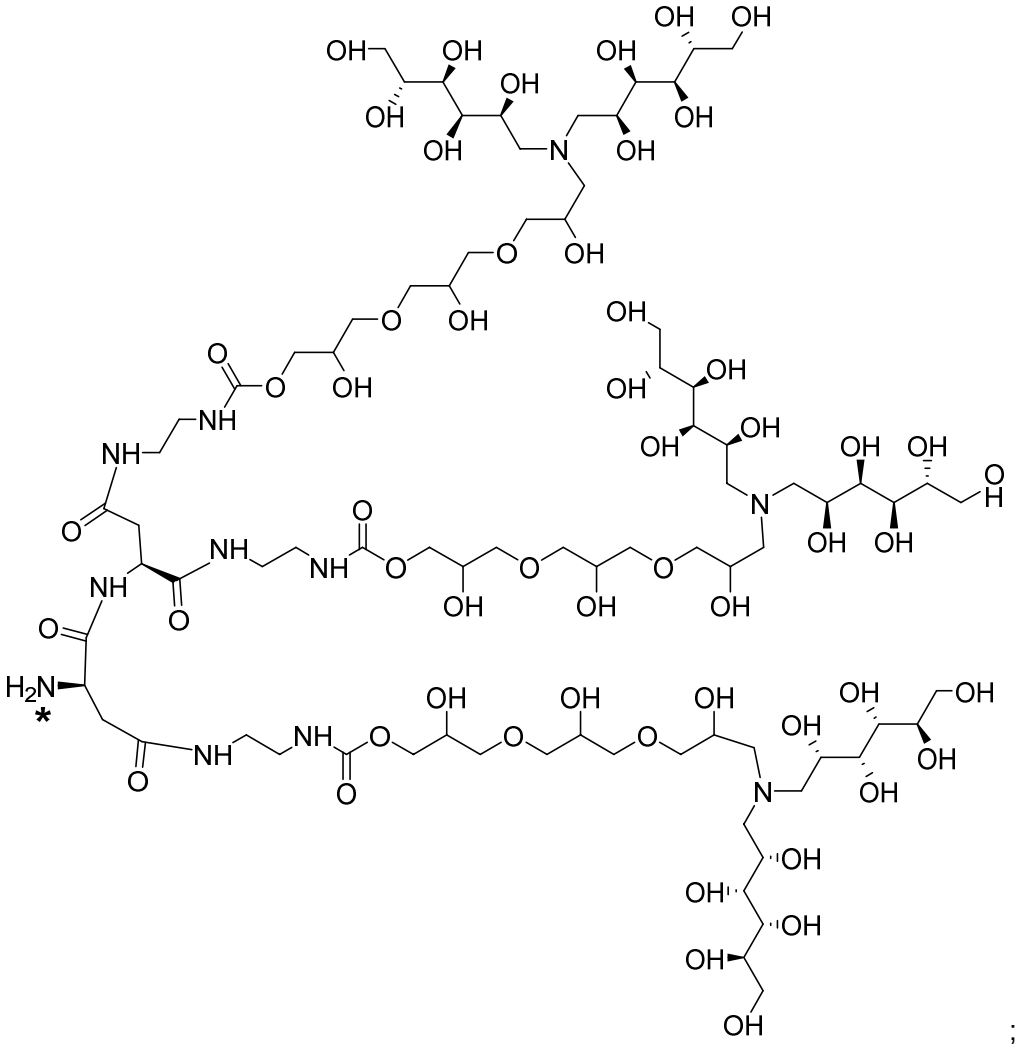
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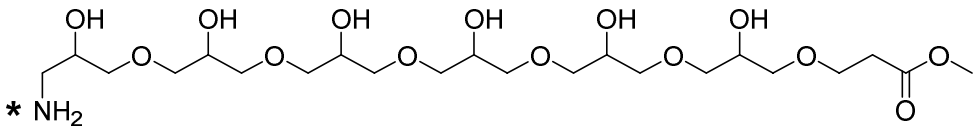
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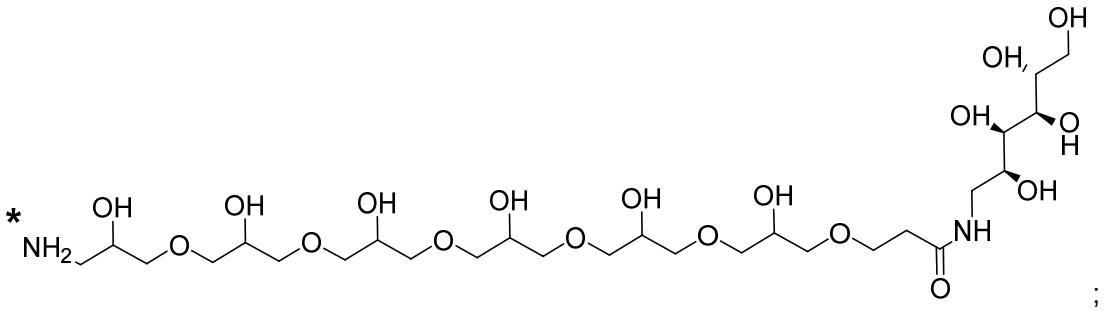
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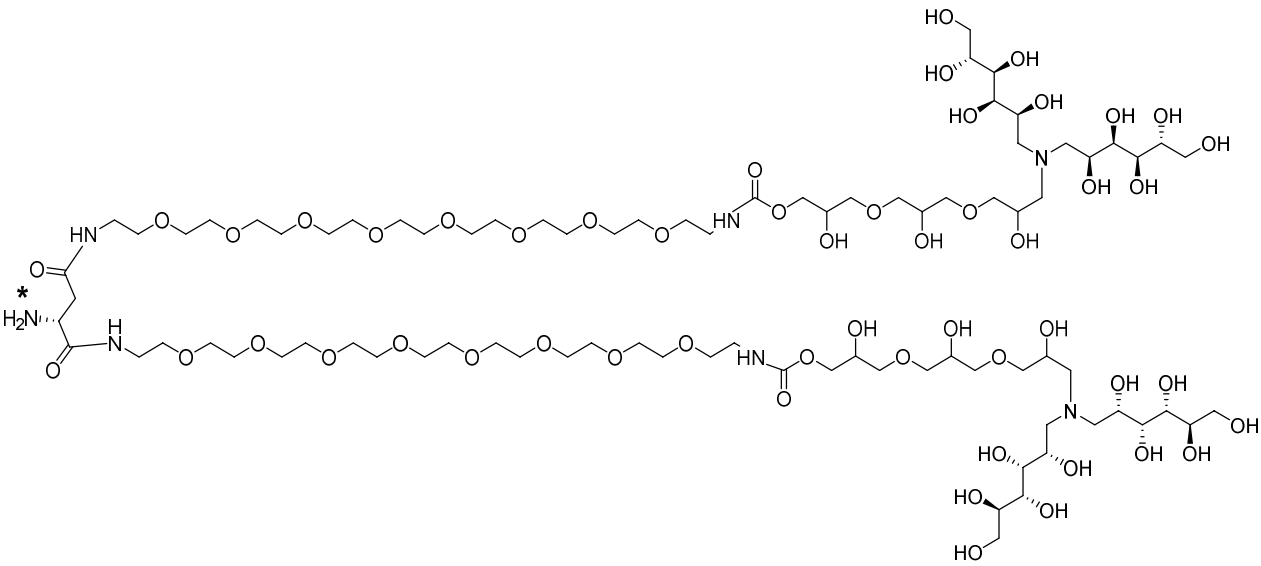
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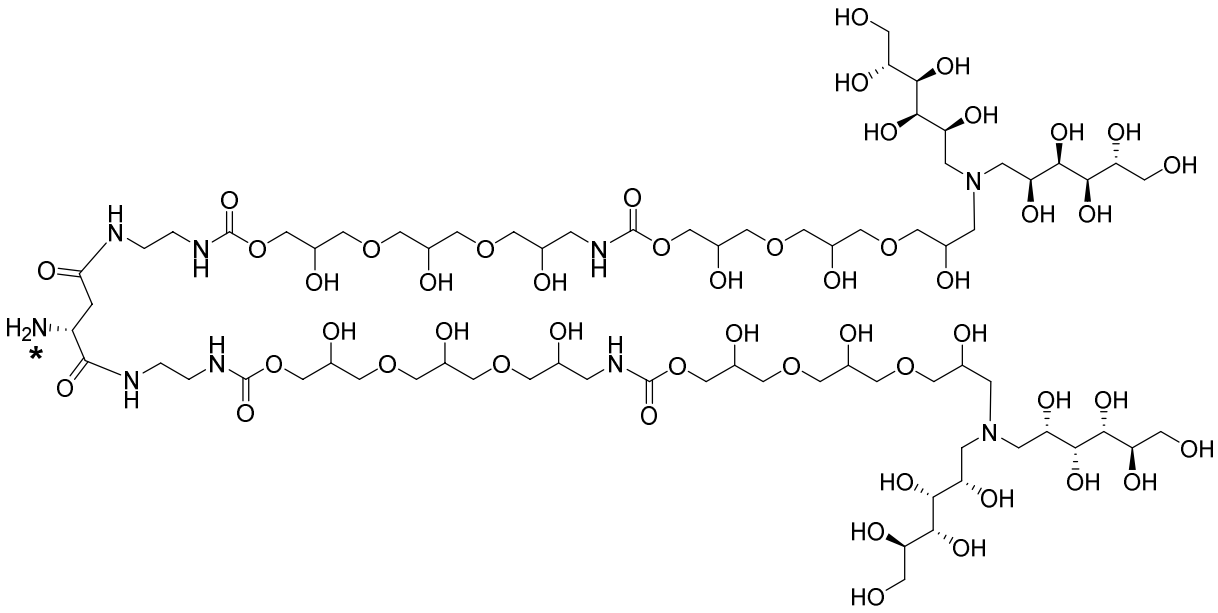
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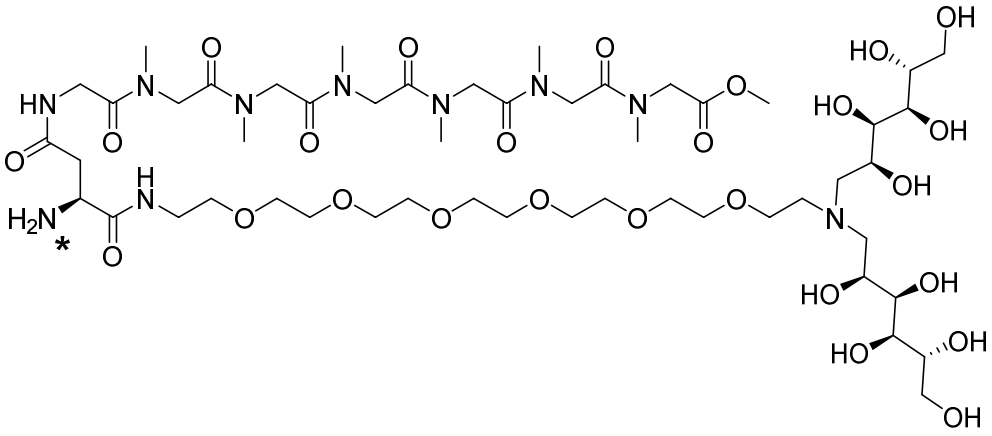


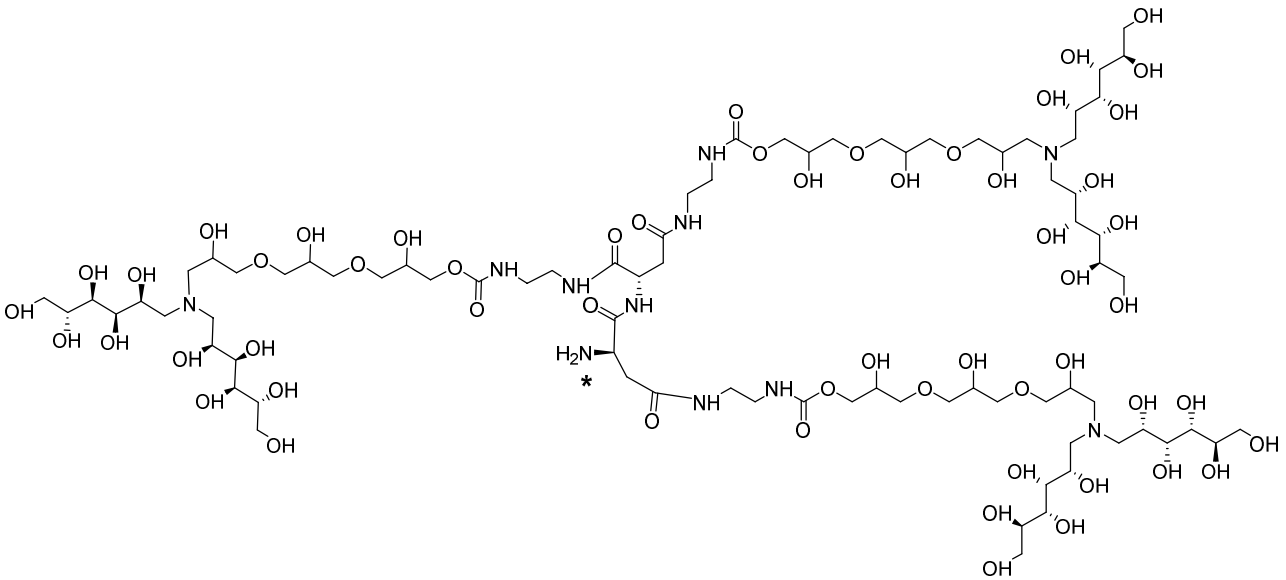
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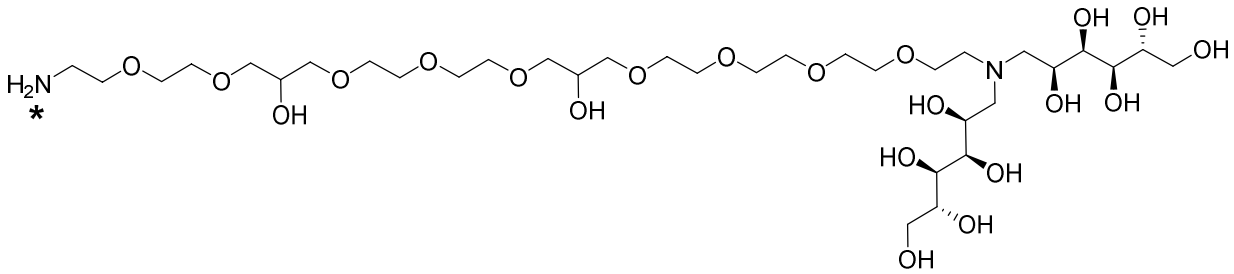


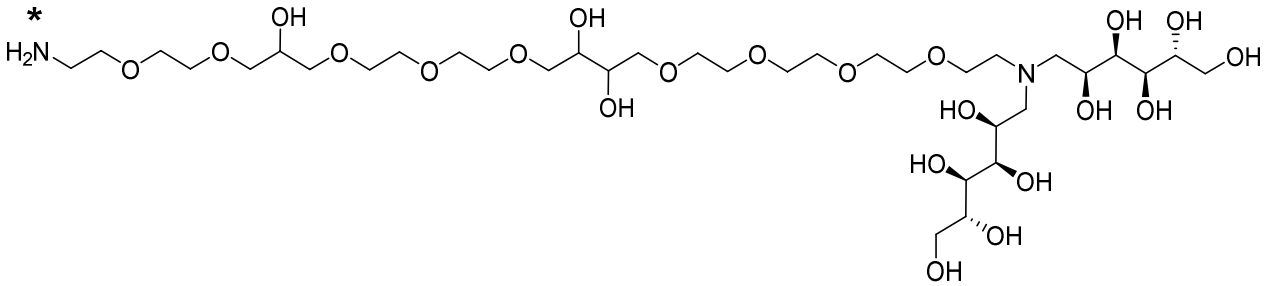
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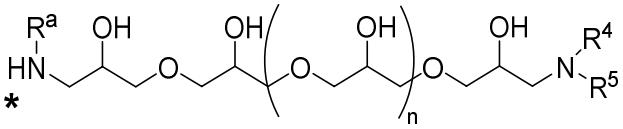


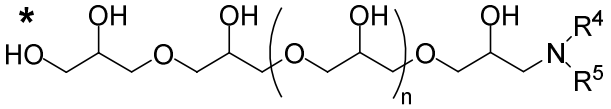


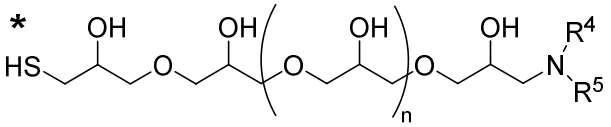


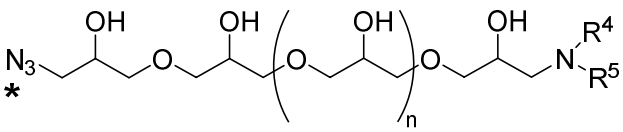


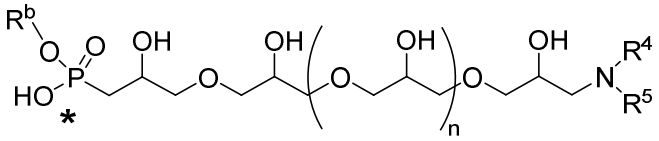


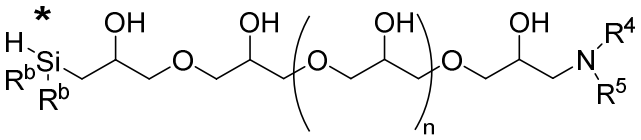


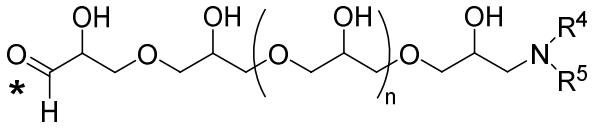


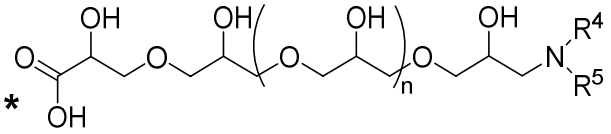


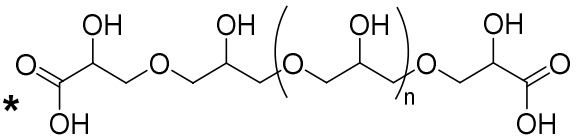


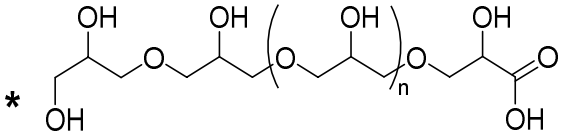


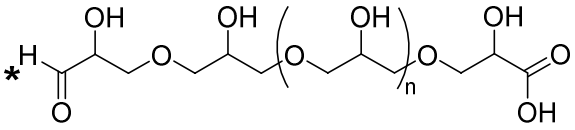


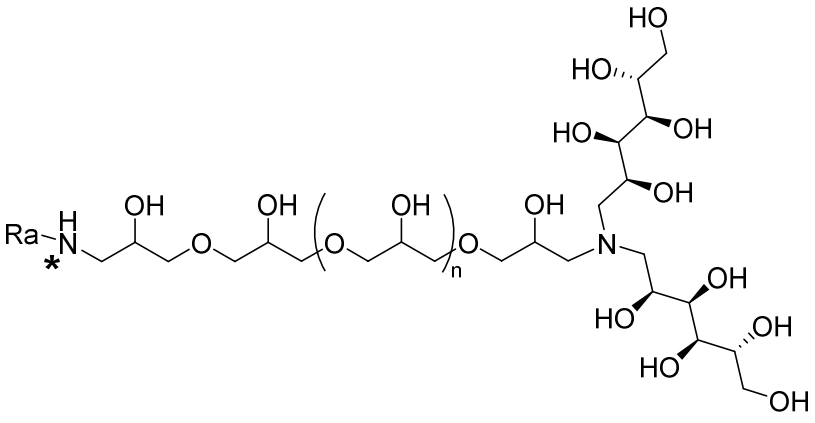


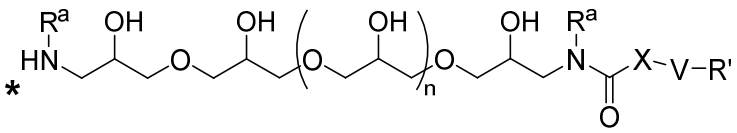


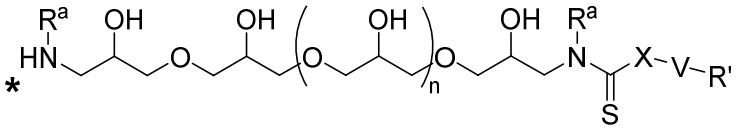


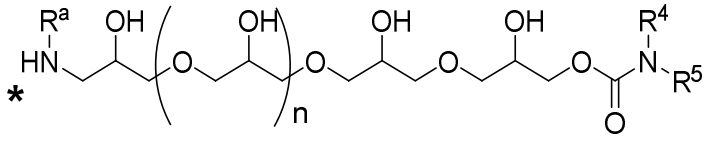


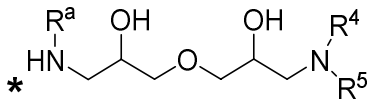


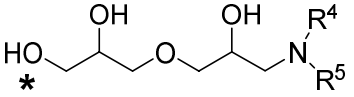


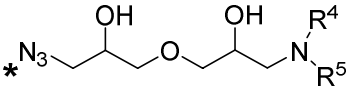


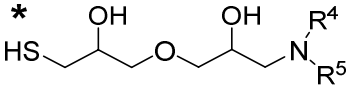


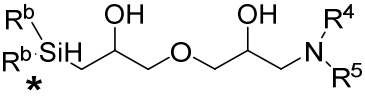


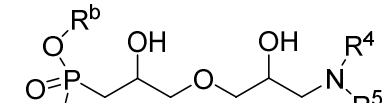


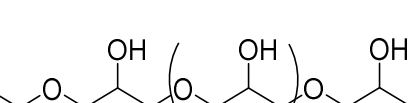


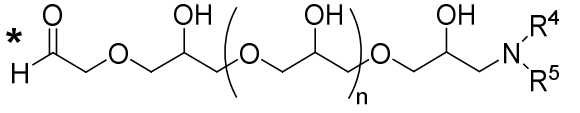


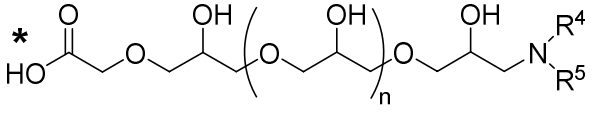


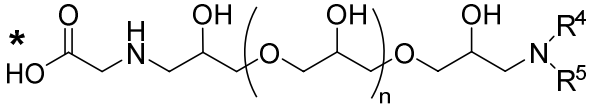


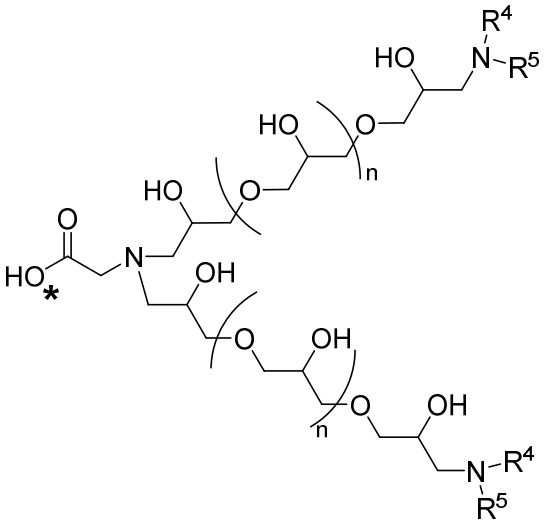


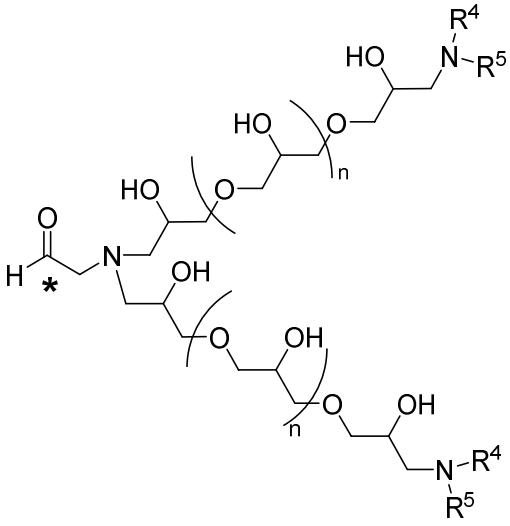


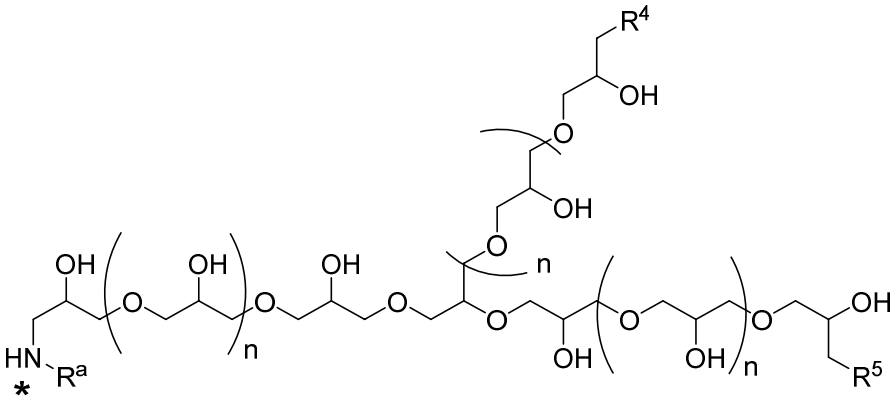


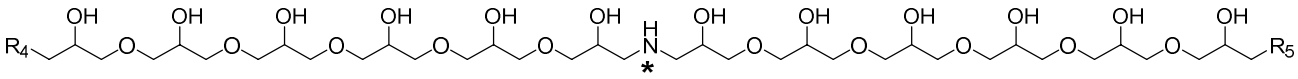


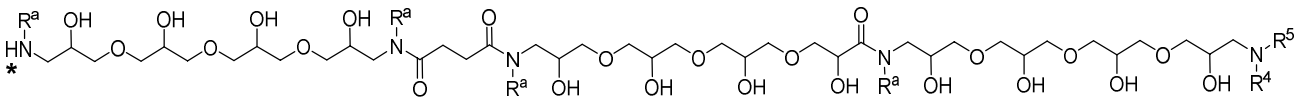


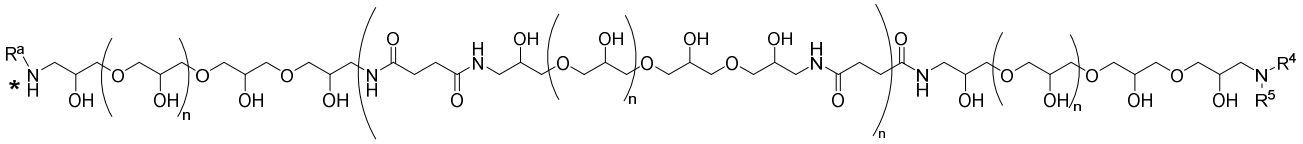


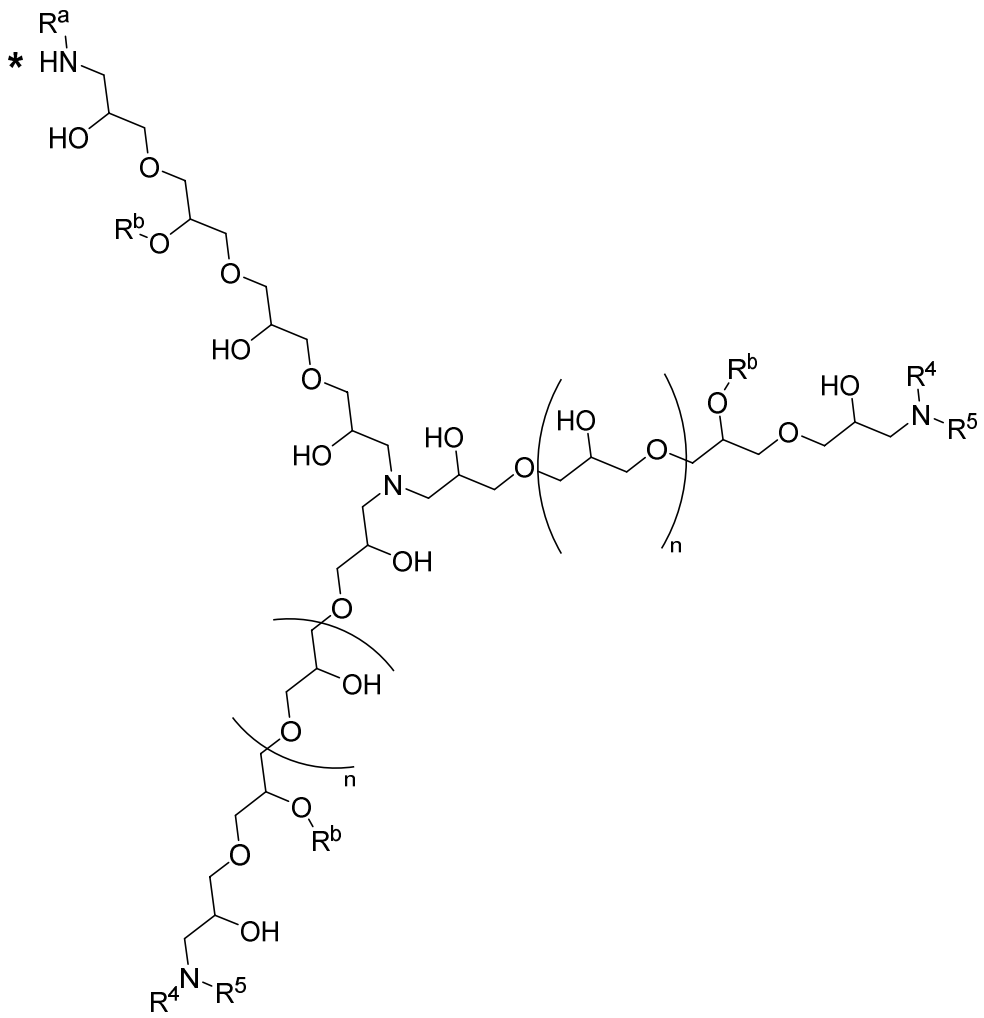


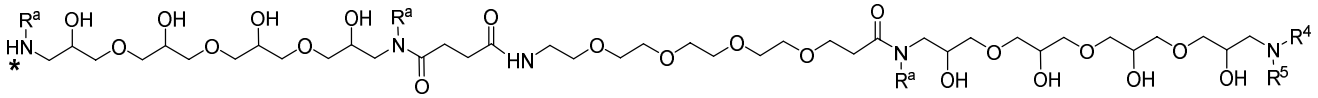


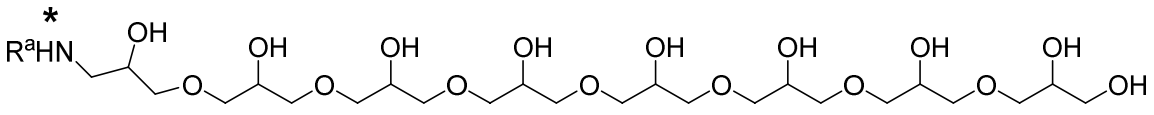


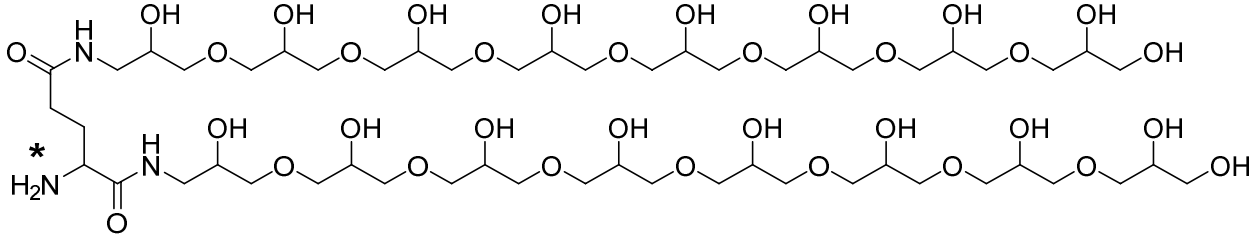


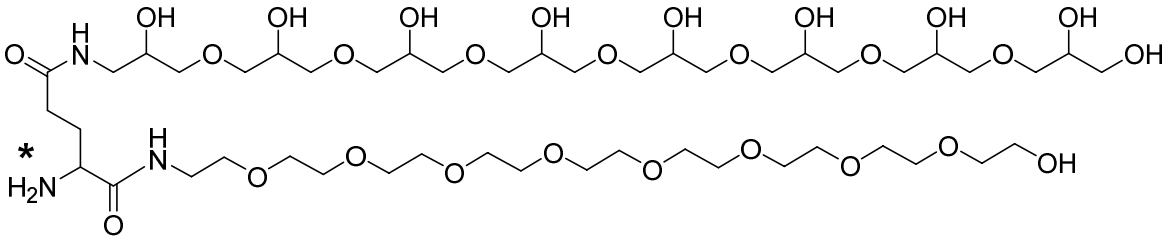




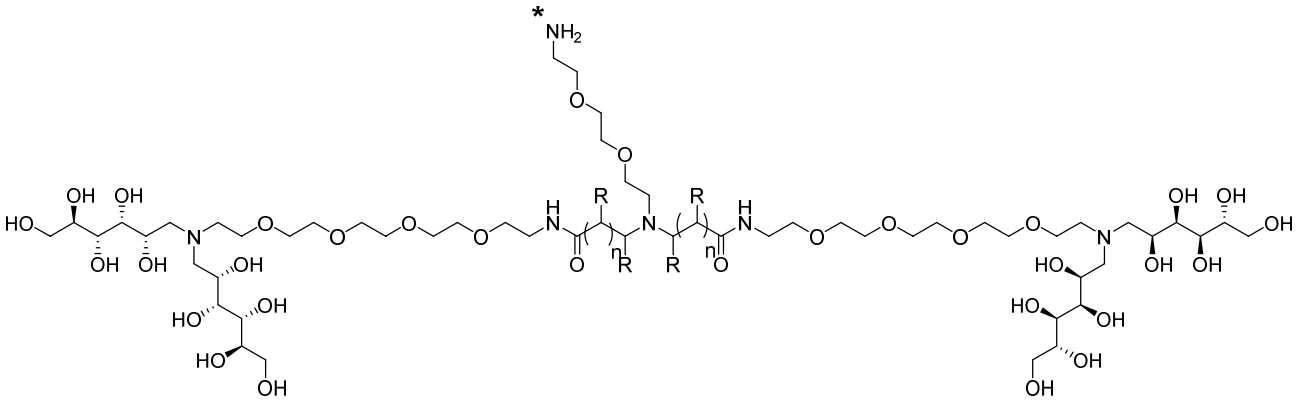




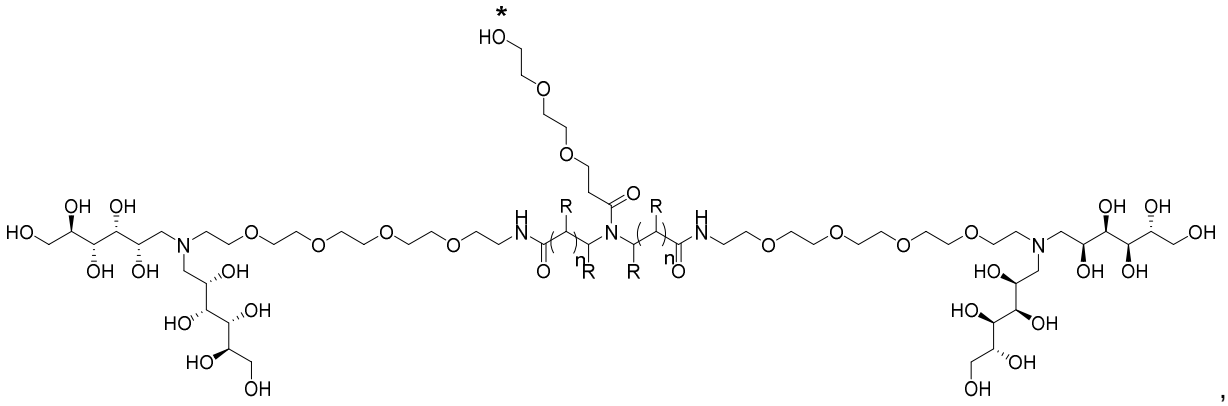




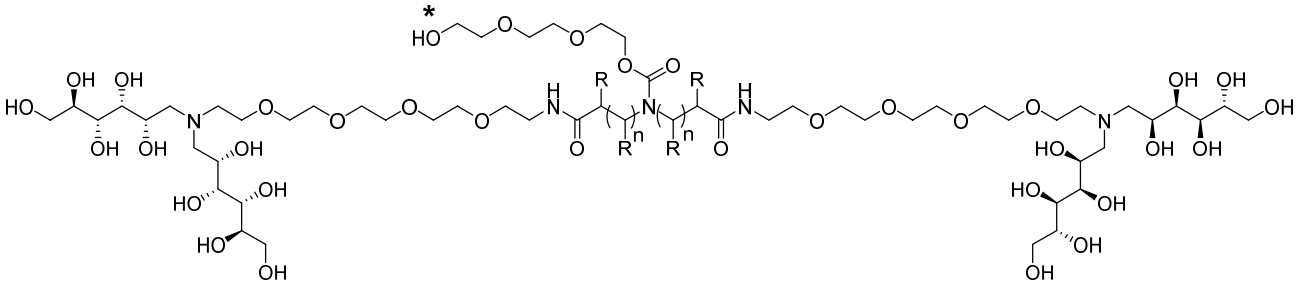
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wherein:

(*) indicates the attachment site site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group;

each R is independently H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R’ is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, -N(R^{24})(R^{25}) or -CO_2H;

each n is independently 1 to 12;

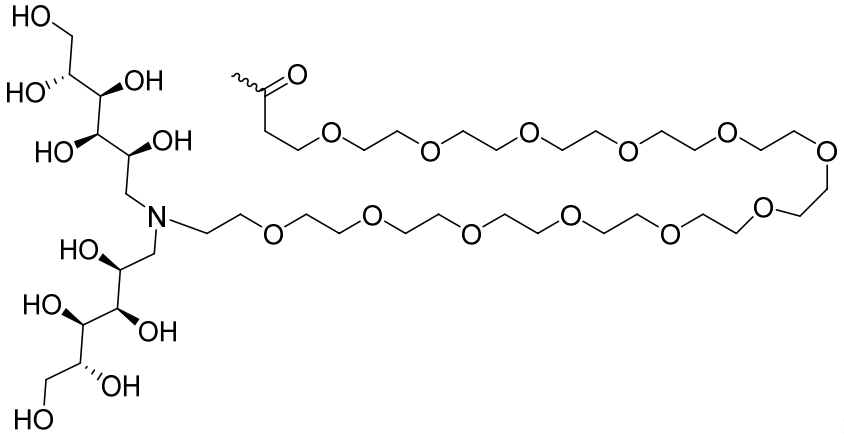
X is O, NR or -CH_2-;

V is bond or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

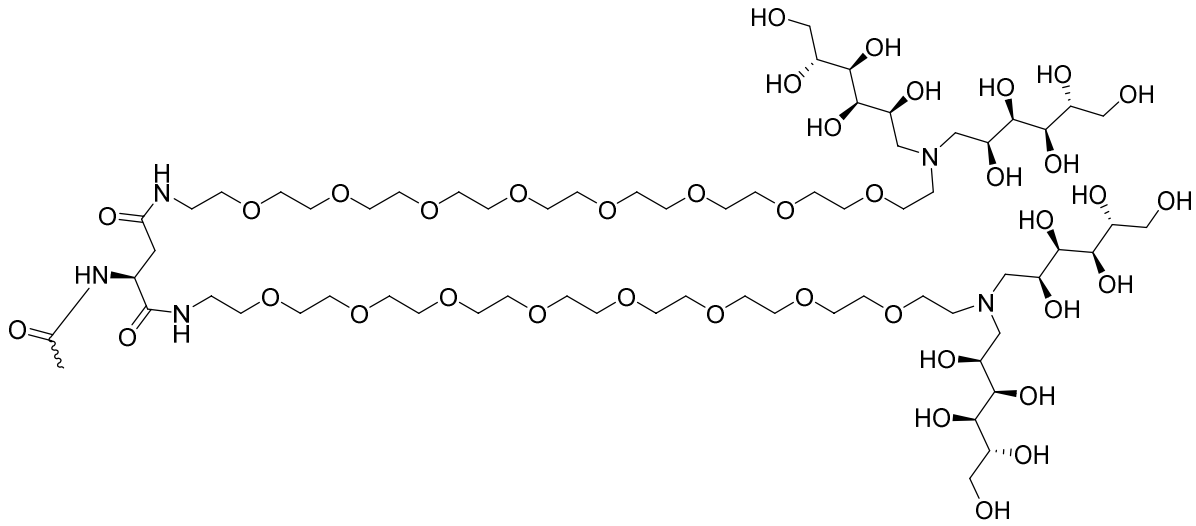
one of R^{24} and R^{25} is selected from a H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group;

-C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-C_1-C_8 alkyl; a chelator; and -C(O)-R^{28}, where R^{28} is a sugar unit of formula (XII) or (XIII); and the other of R^{24} and R^{25} is selected from H; polyhydroxyl group; substituted polyhydroxyl group; -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-polyhydroxyl group; substituted -C(O)-C_1-C_8 alkyl; a chelator; -C(O)-R^{28}, where R^{28} is a sugar unit of formula (XII) or (XIII); and polyethylene glycol, optionally having 1 to 24 ethylene glycol subunits, provided that R^{24} and R^{25} are not both H; or

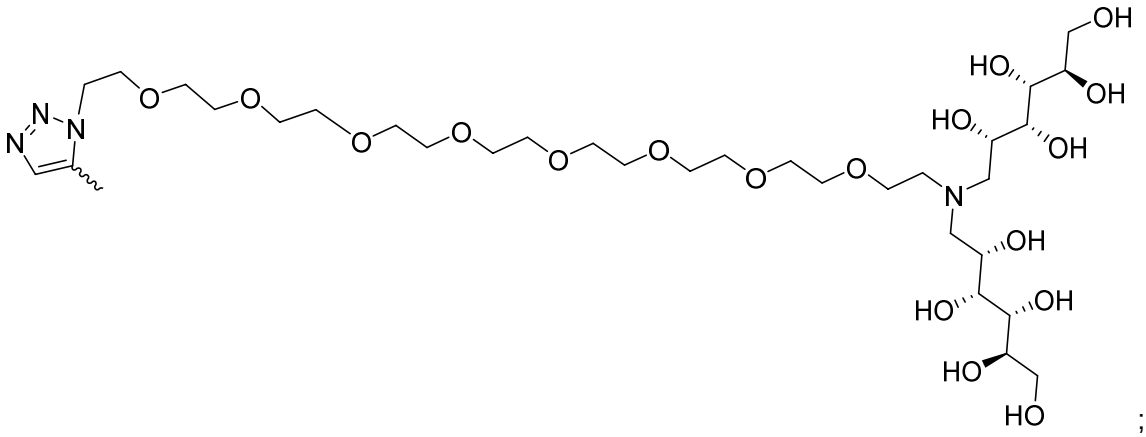
(ii) any of claims 7(iii), 9(iii), 9(iv) and 9(v), comprising a polar group selected from the following, or a stereoisomer or salt thereof:



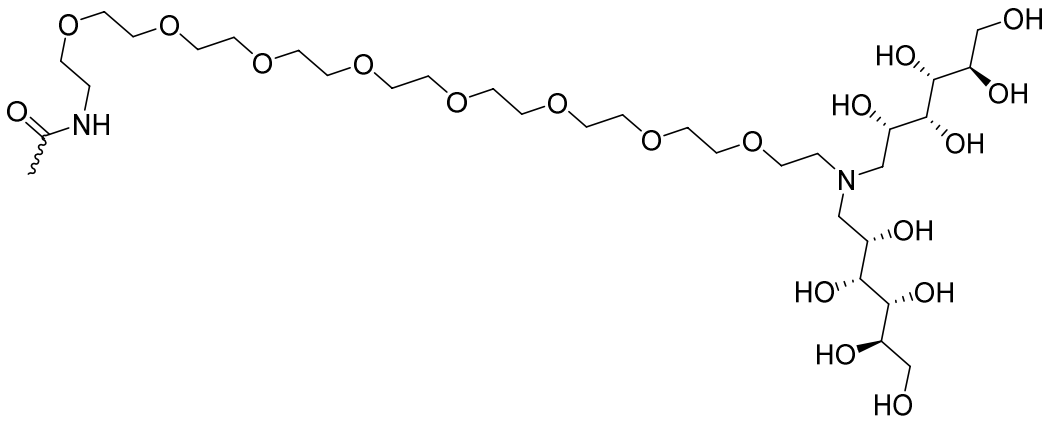
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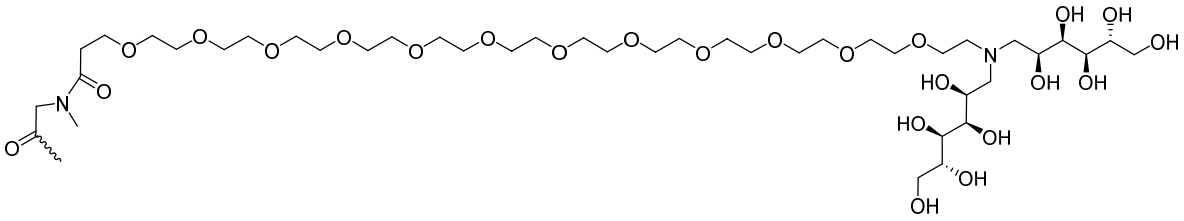
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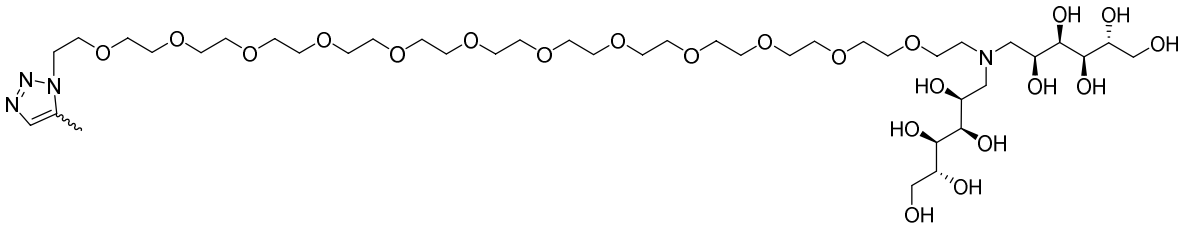
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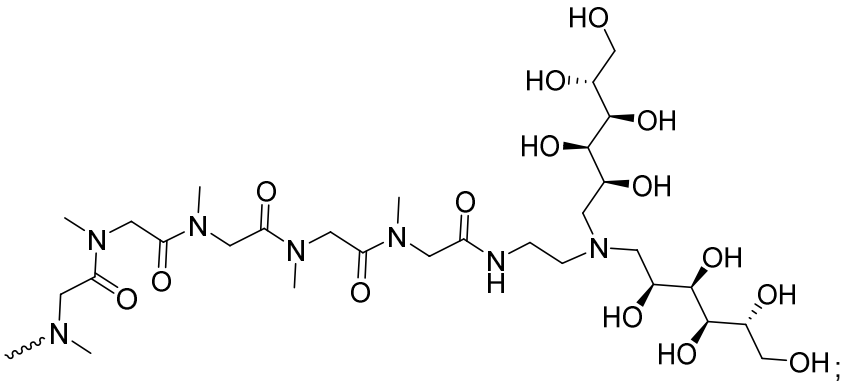
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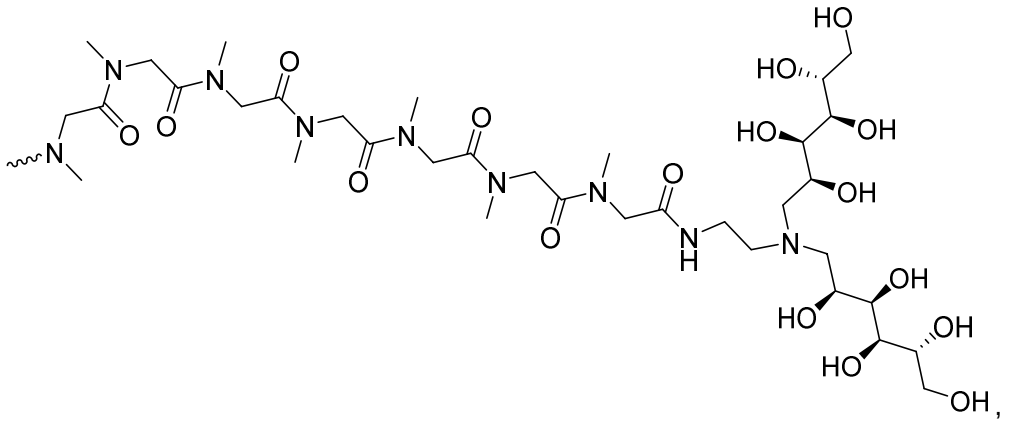
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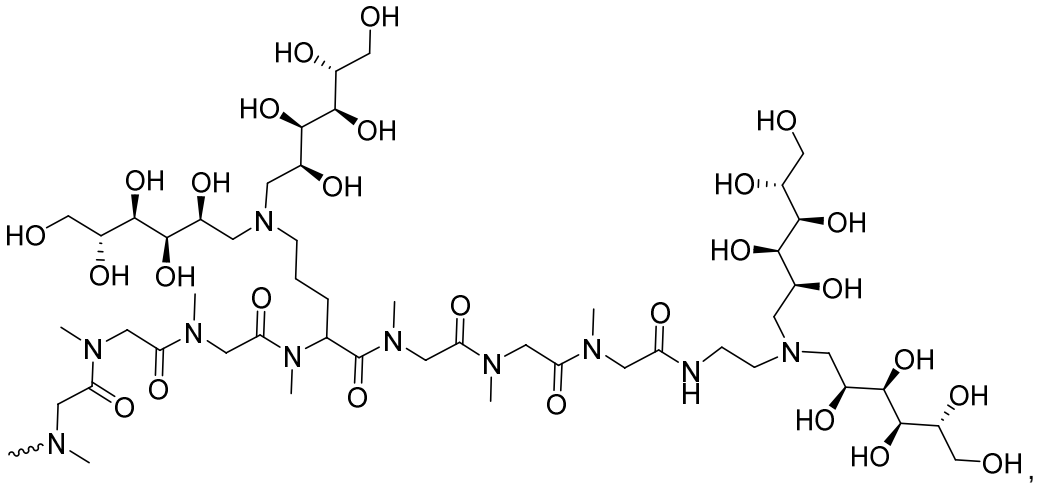


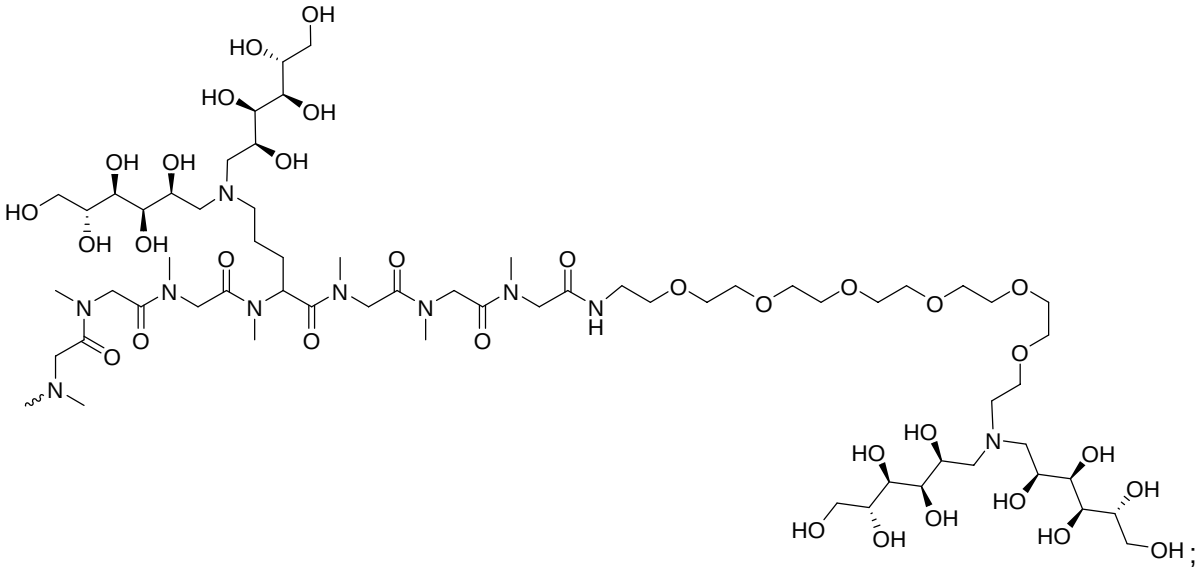
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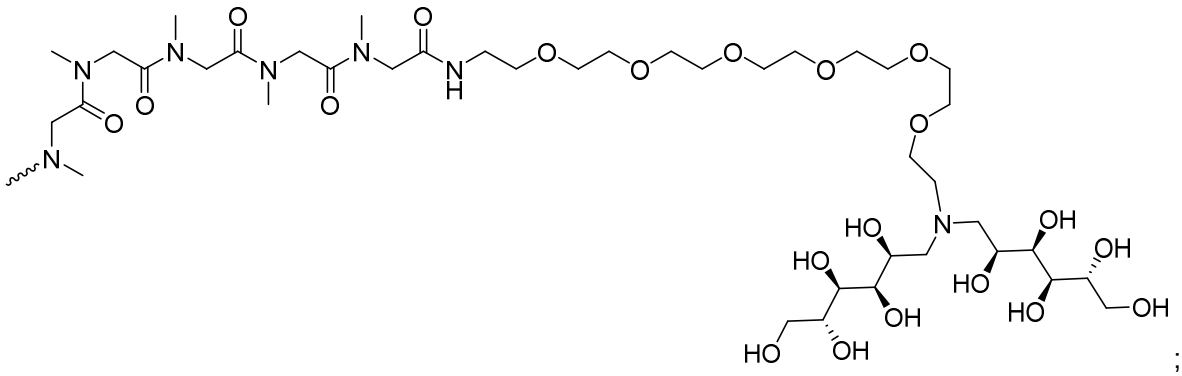


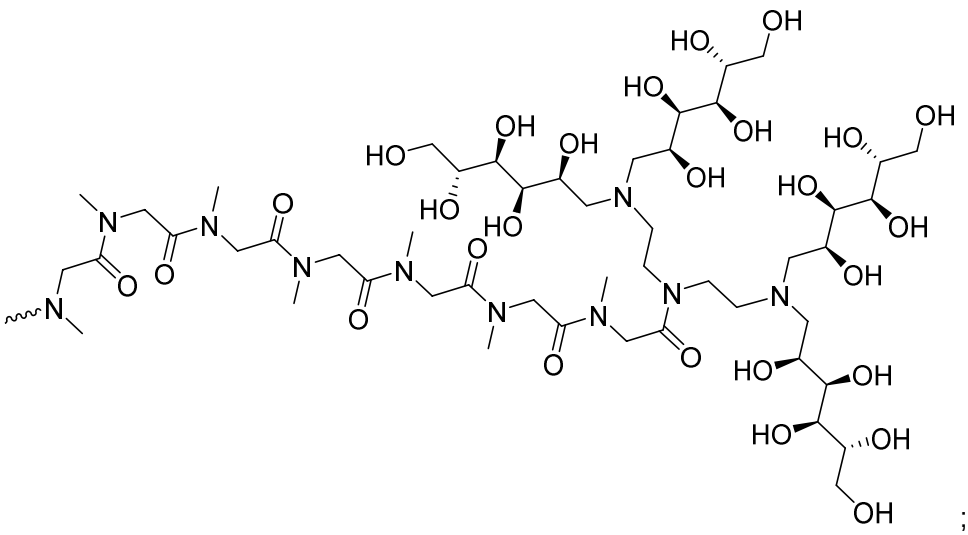
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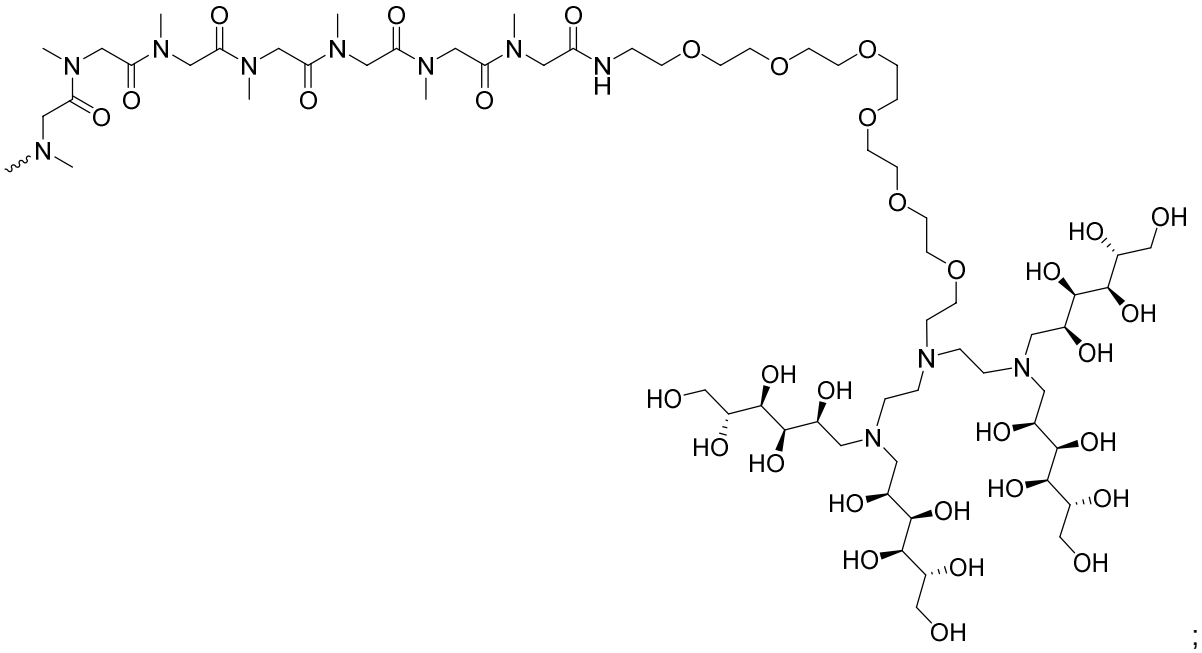




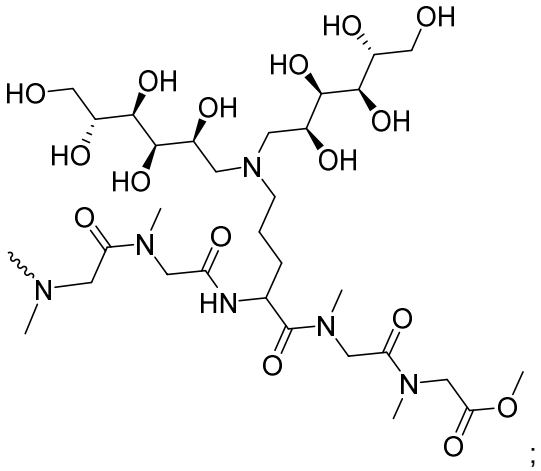




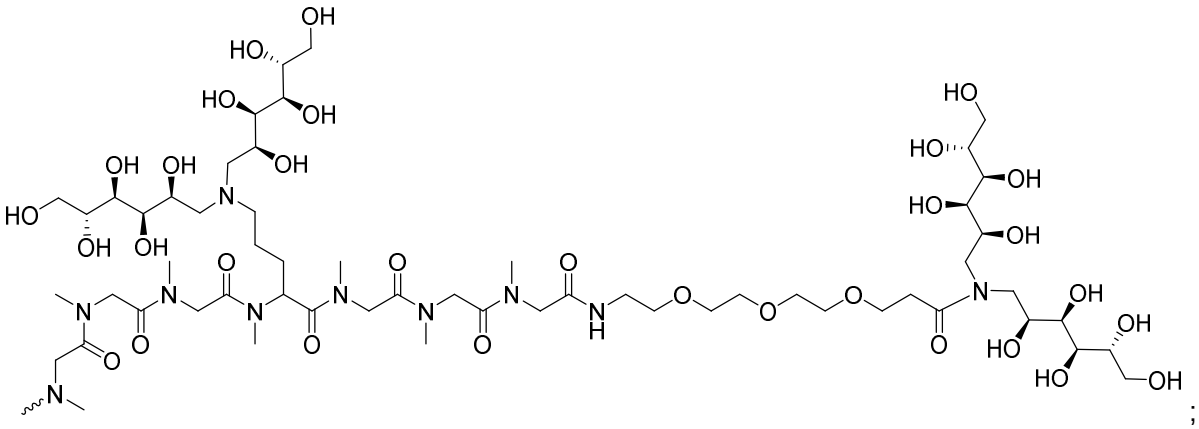
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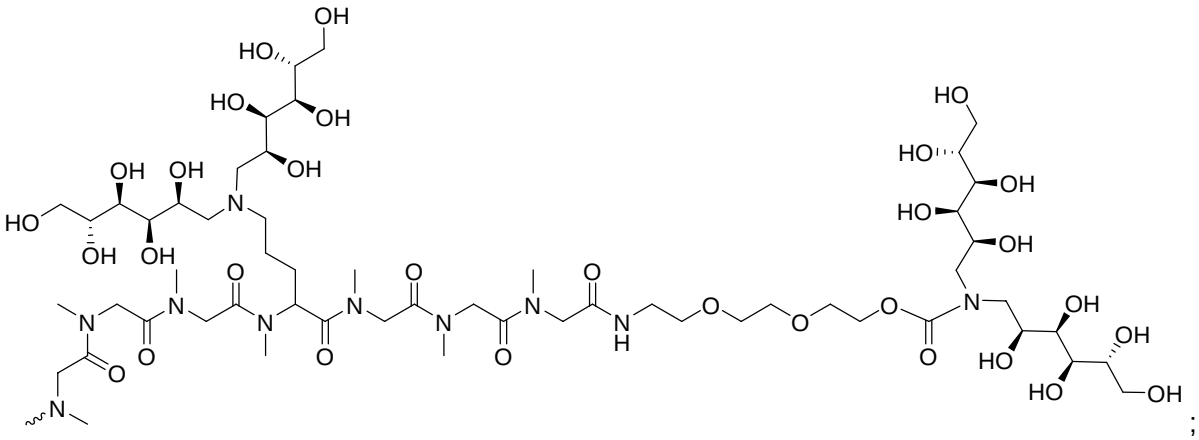


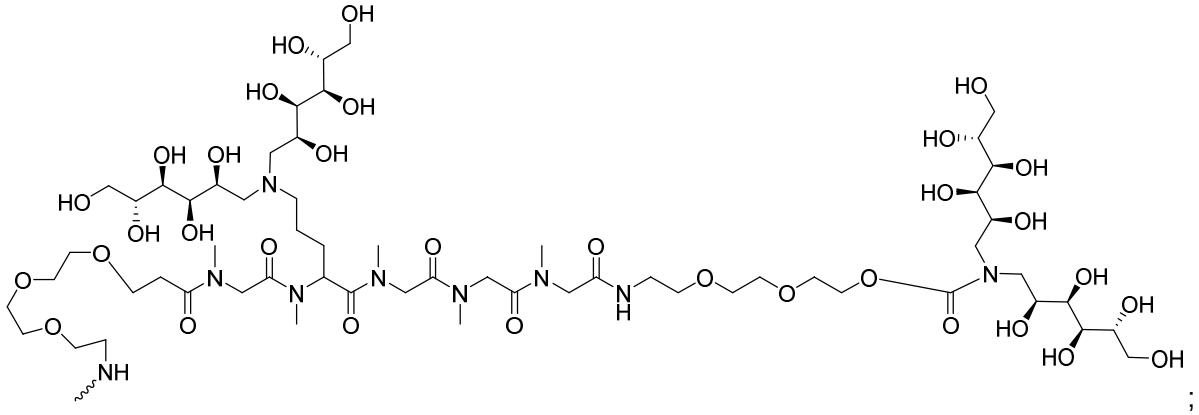
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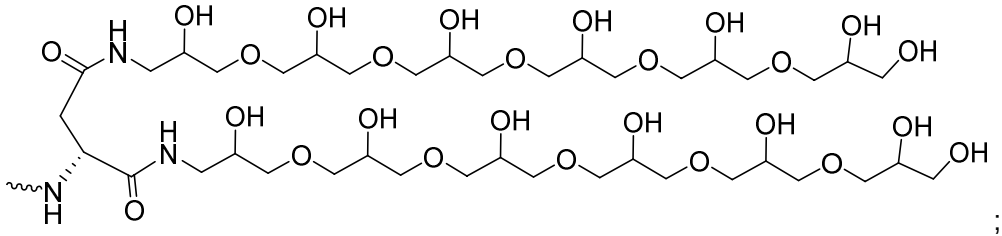


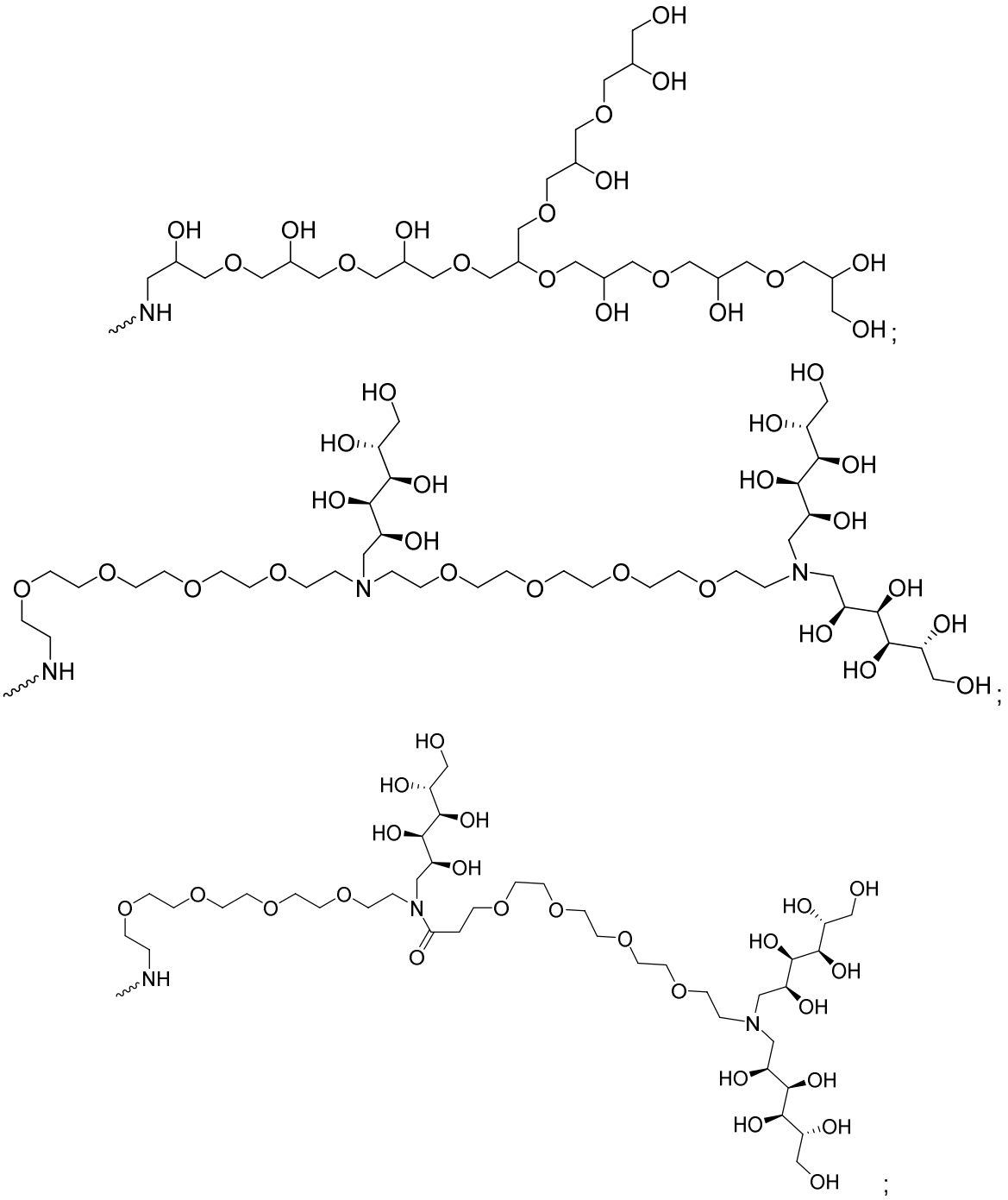
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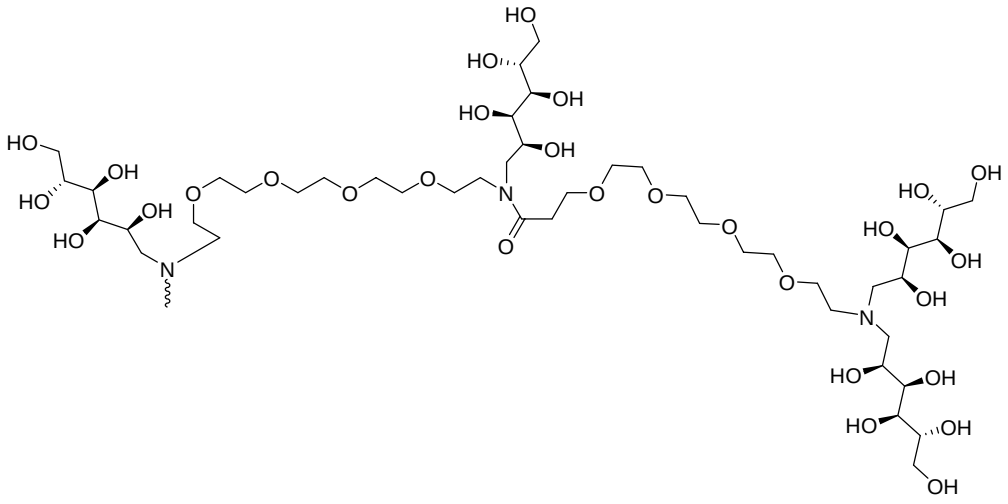

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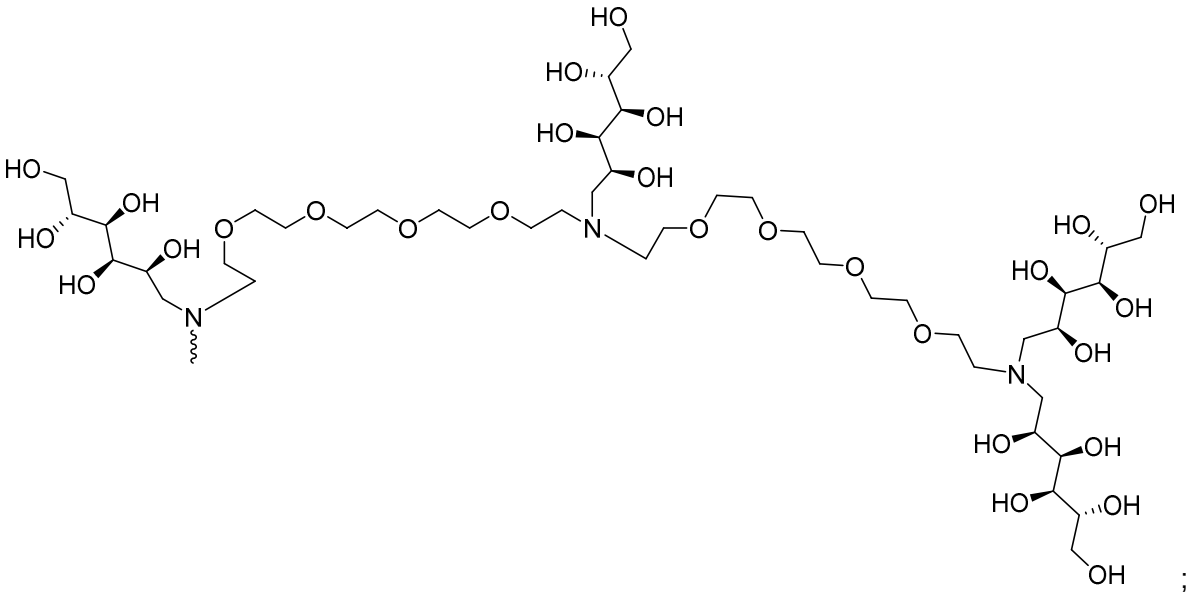

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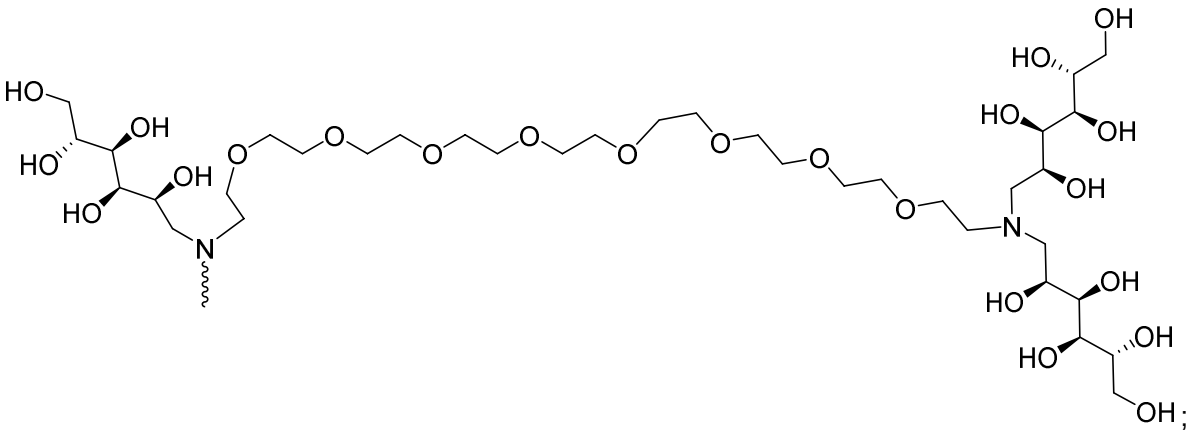

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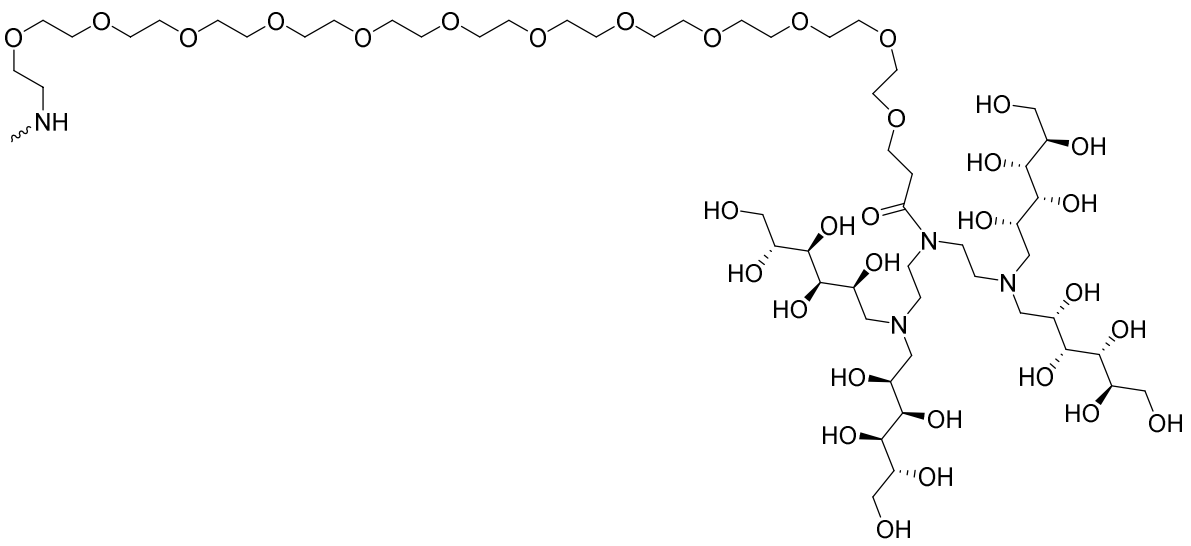

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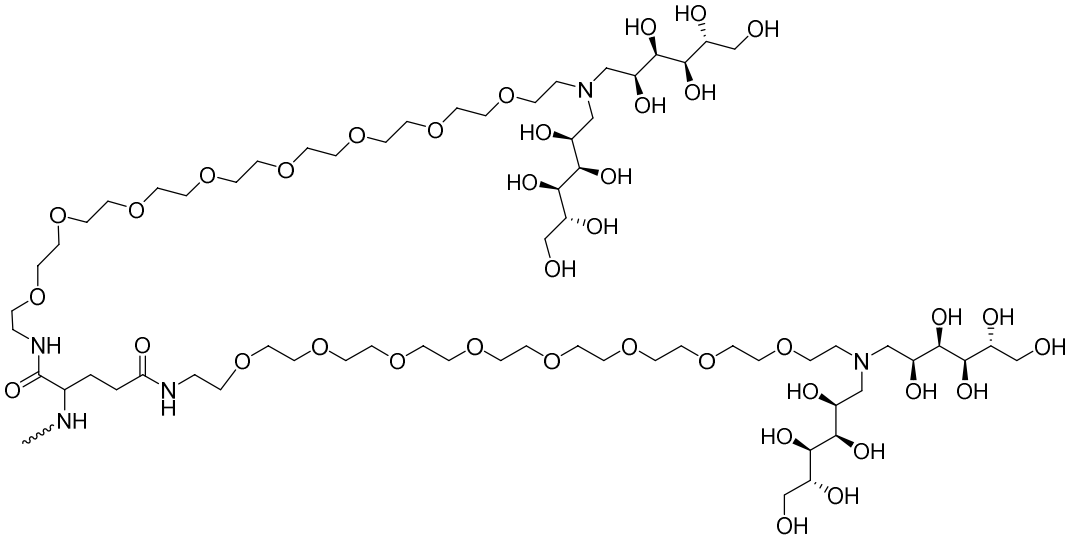

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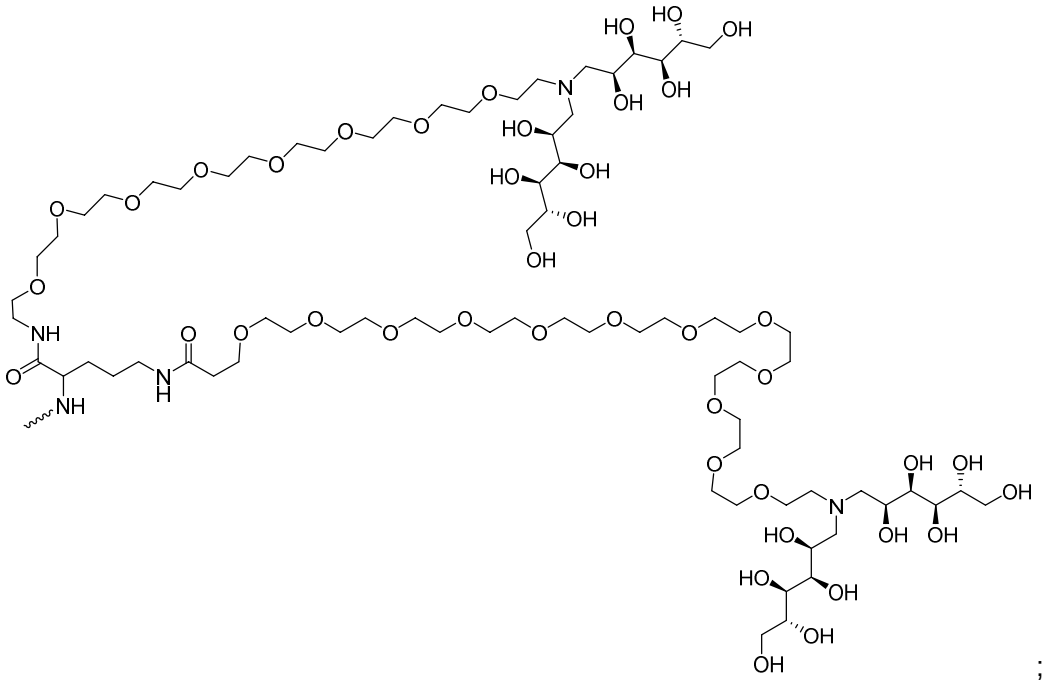

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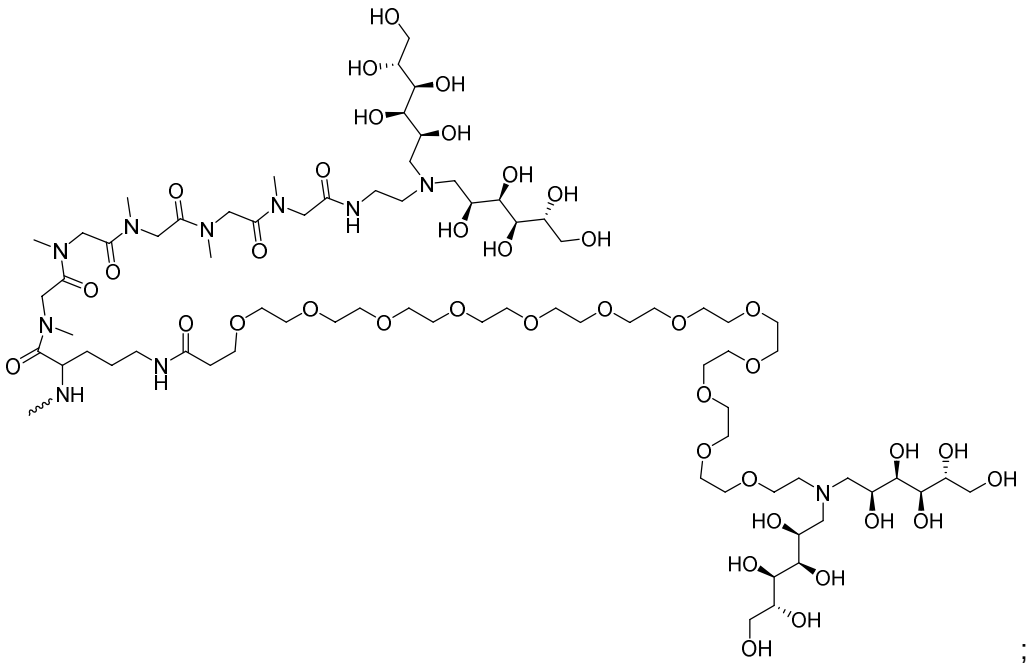
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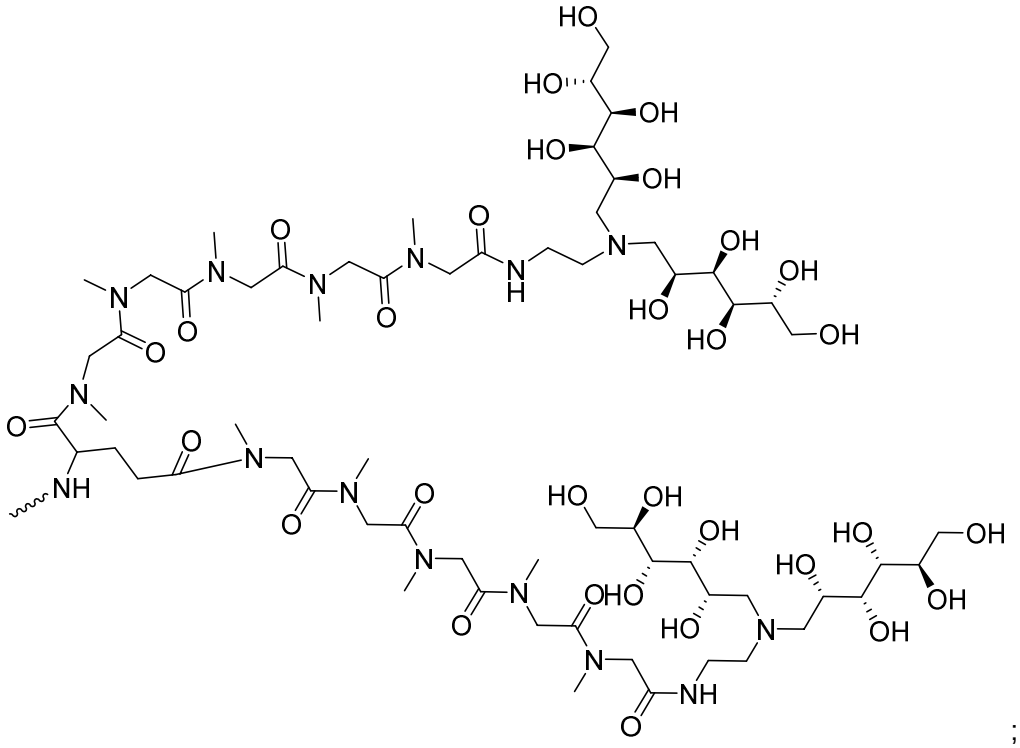
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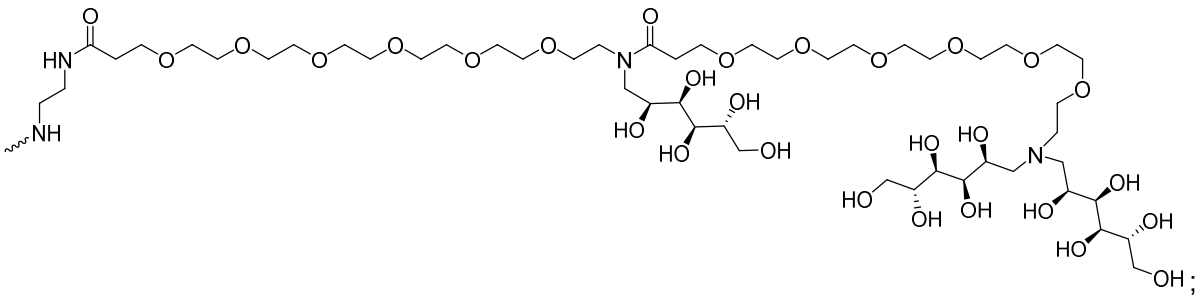
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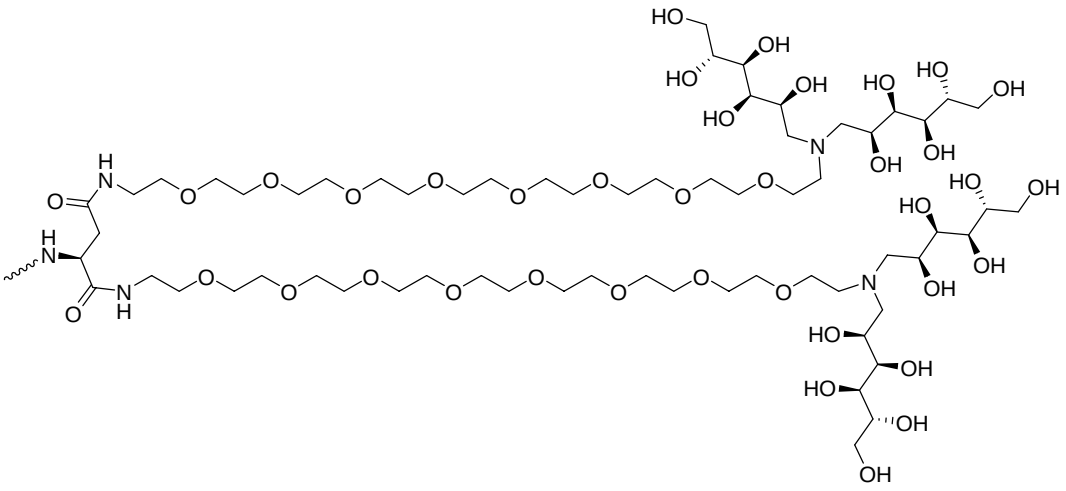
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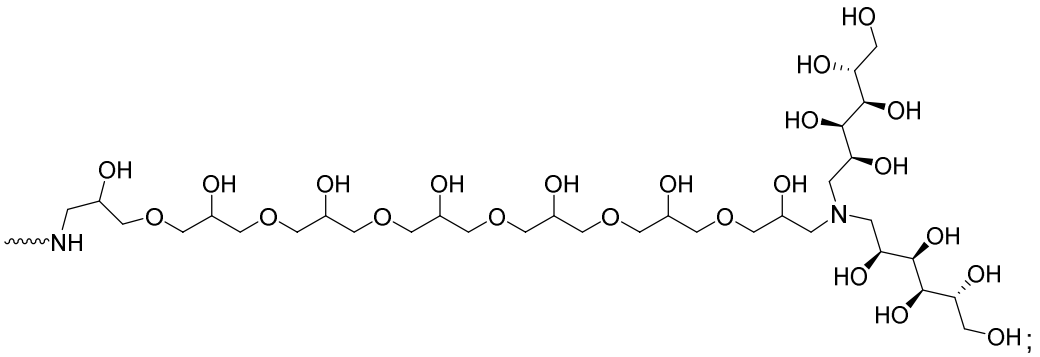


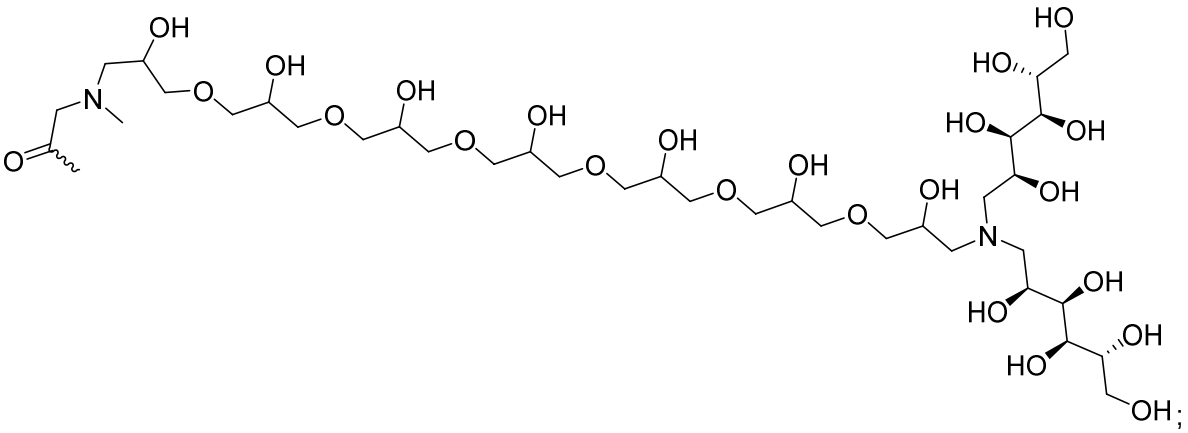
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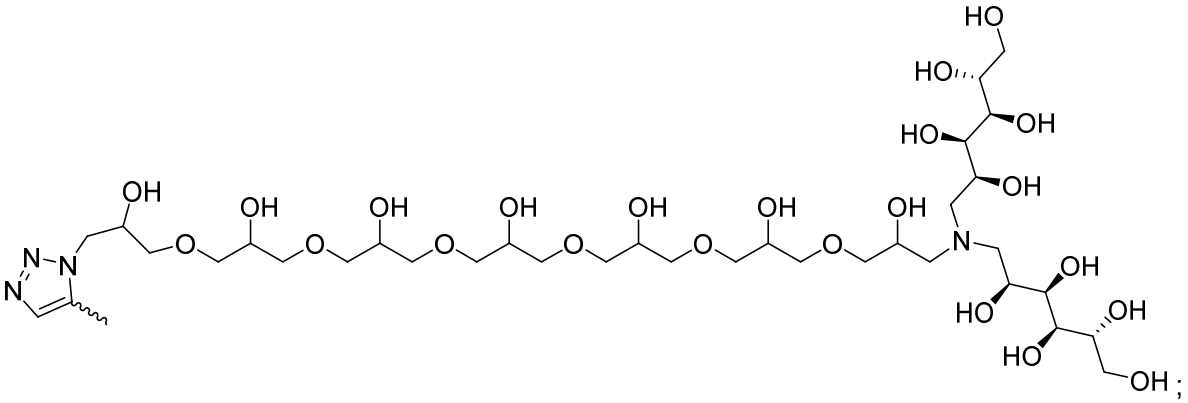


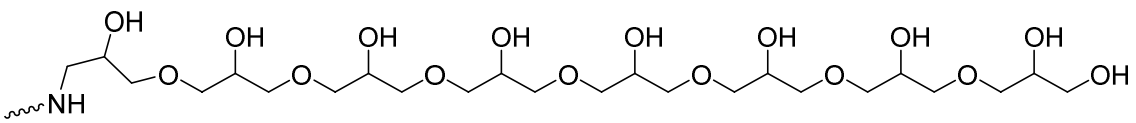
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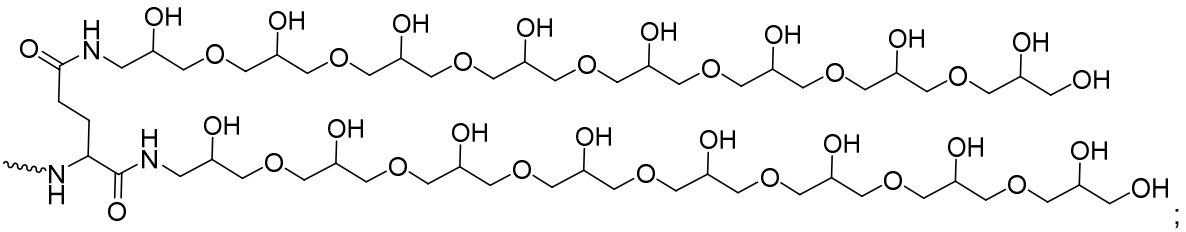

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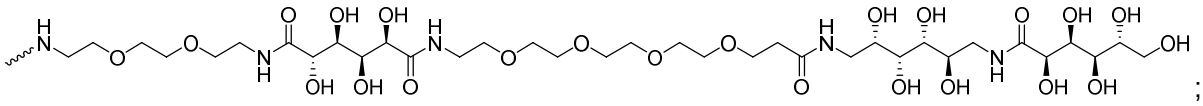

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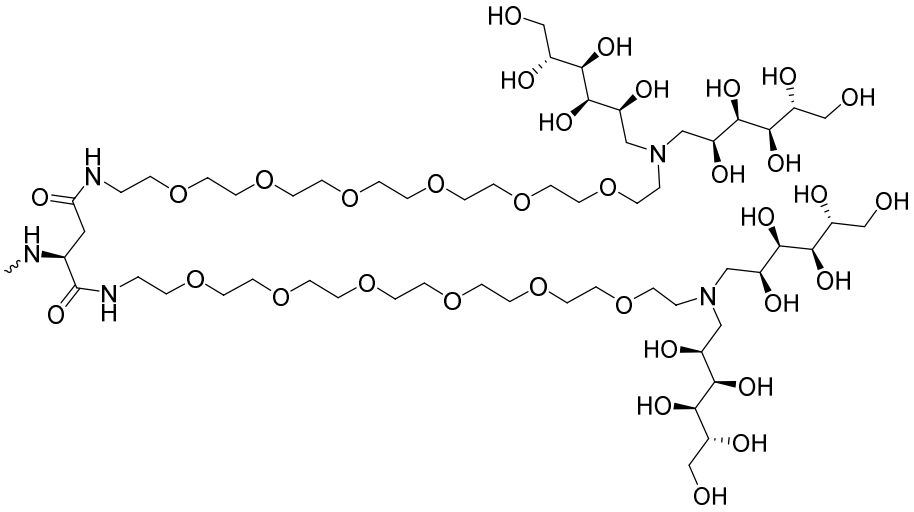

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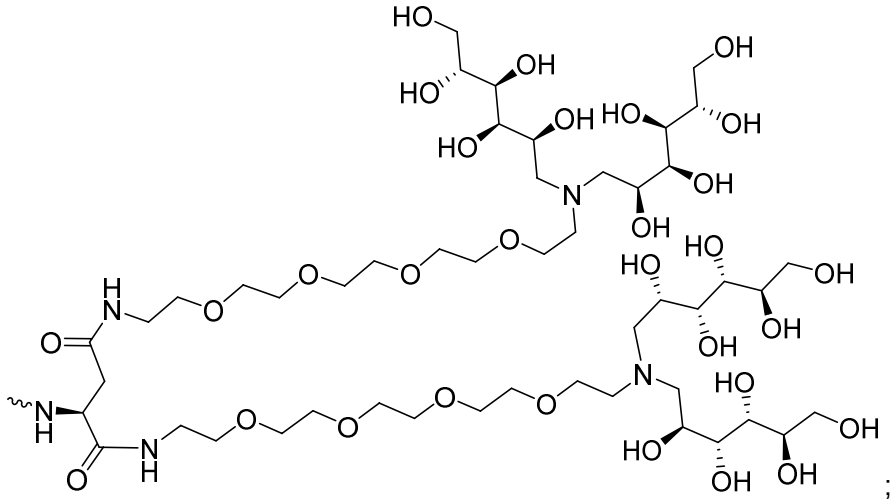
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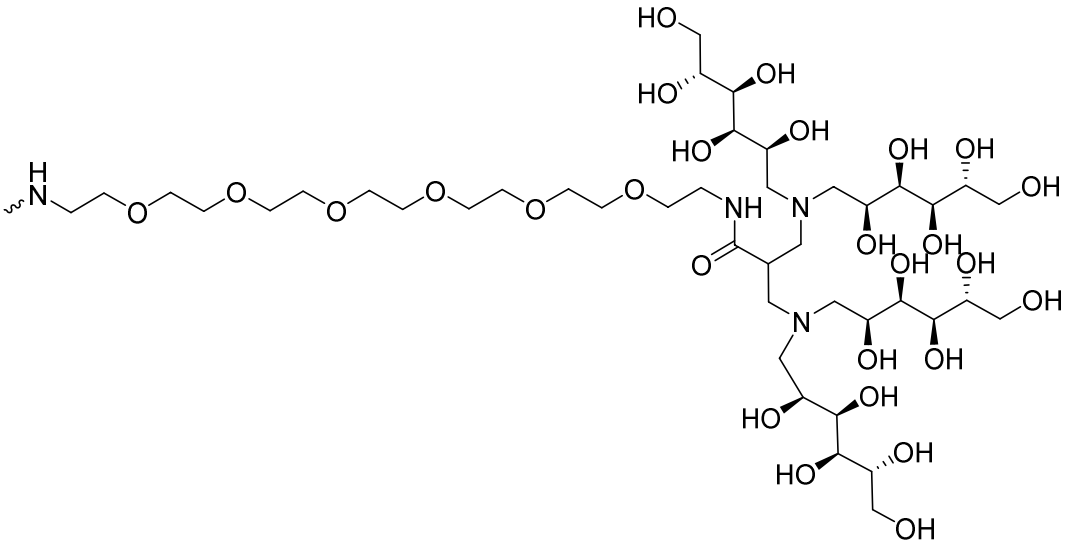
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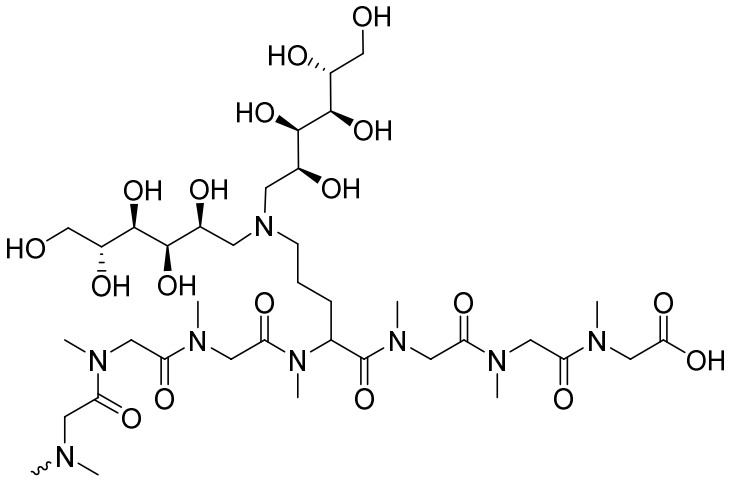
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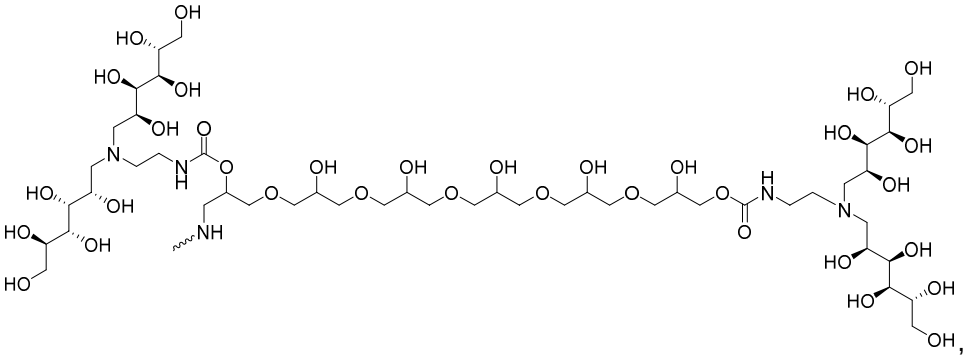
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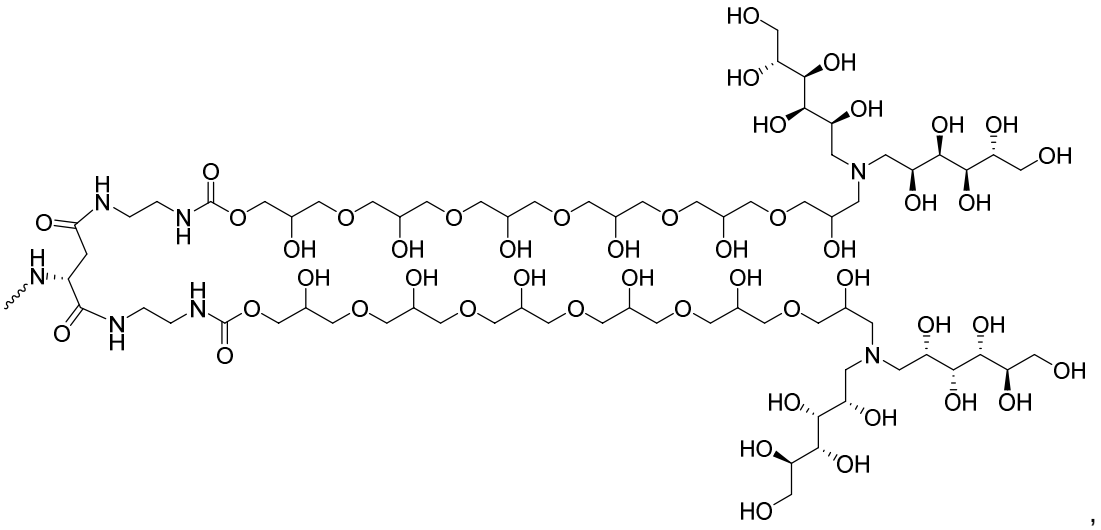
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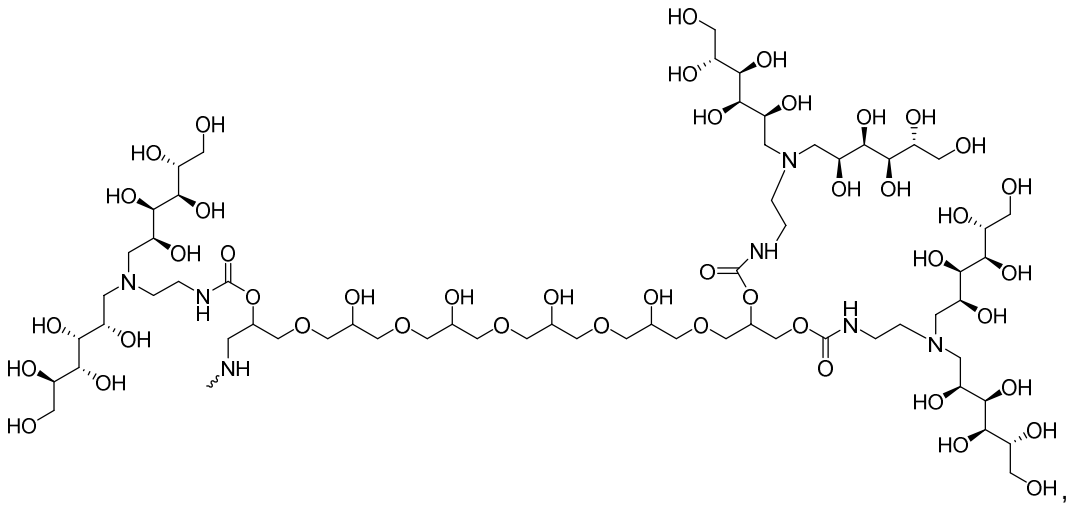
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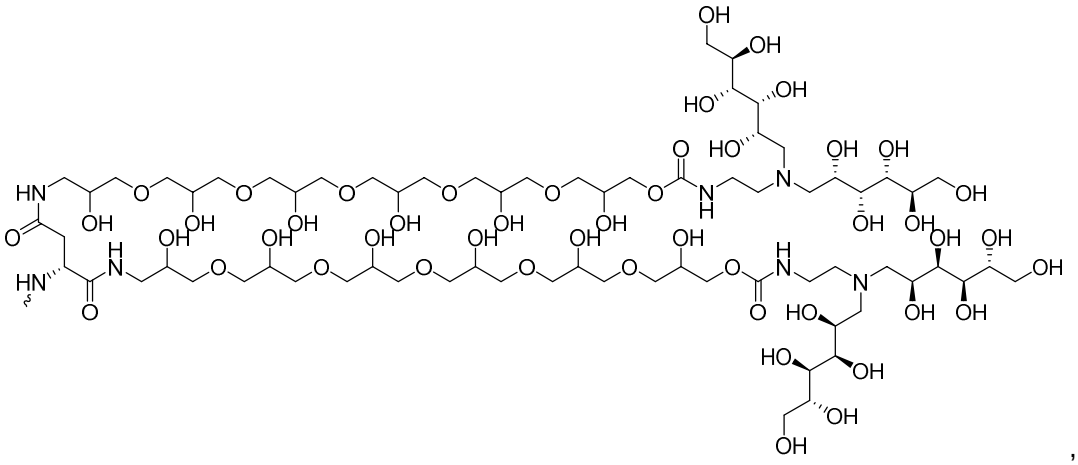
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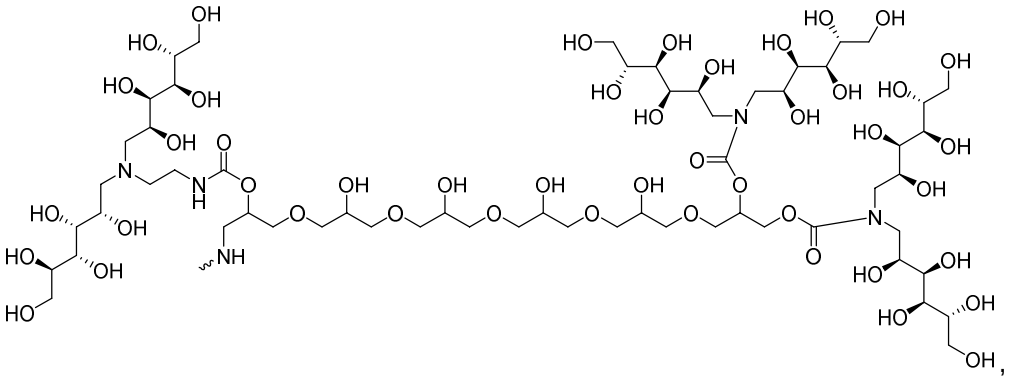
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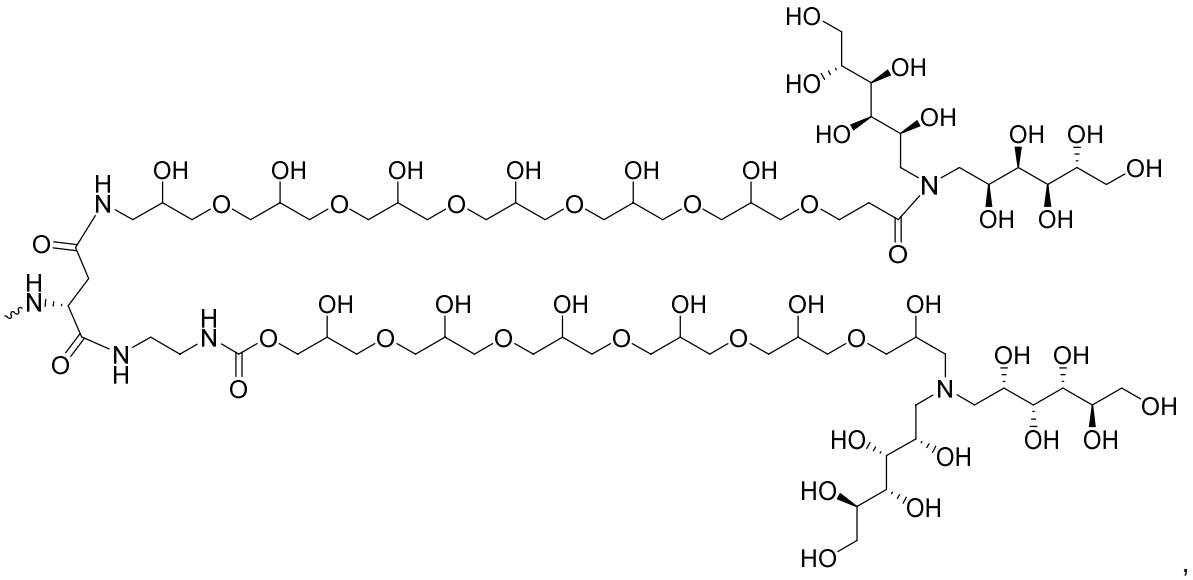
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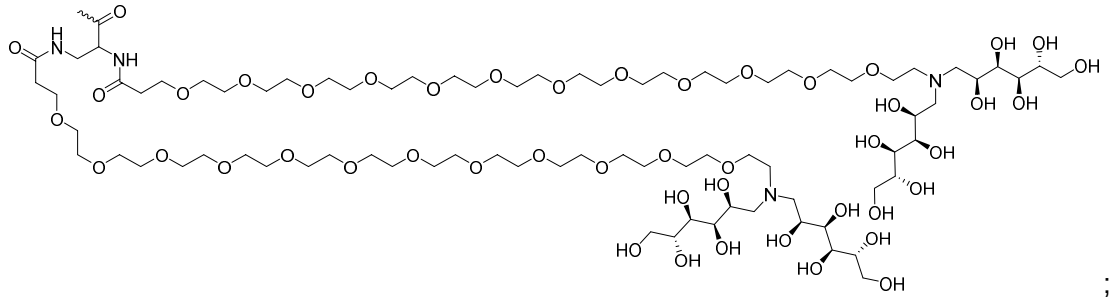
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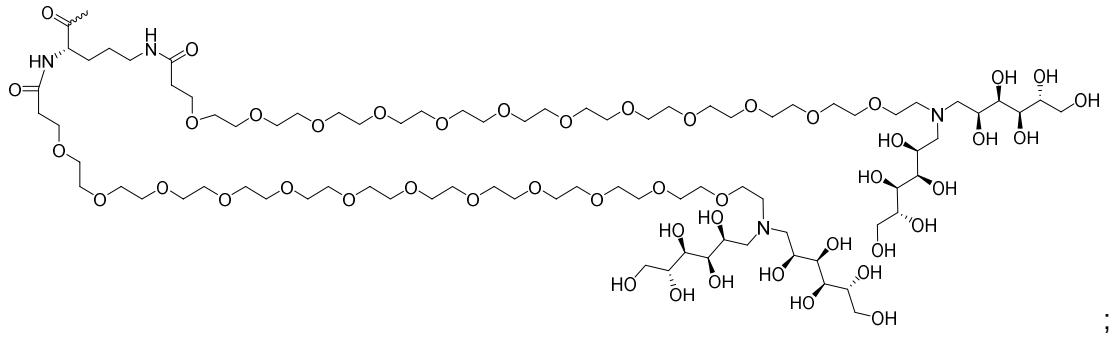
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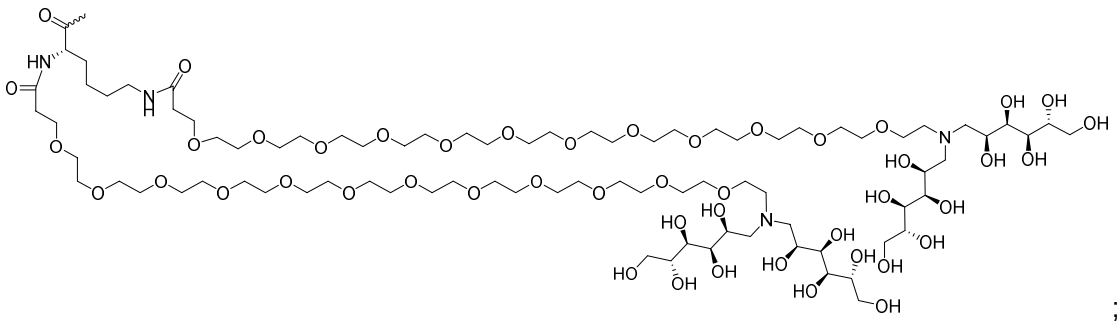
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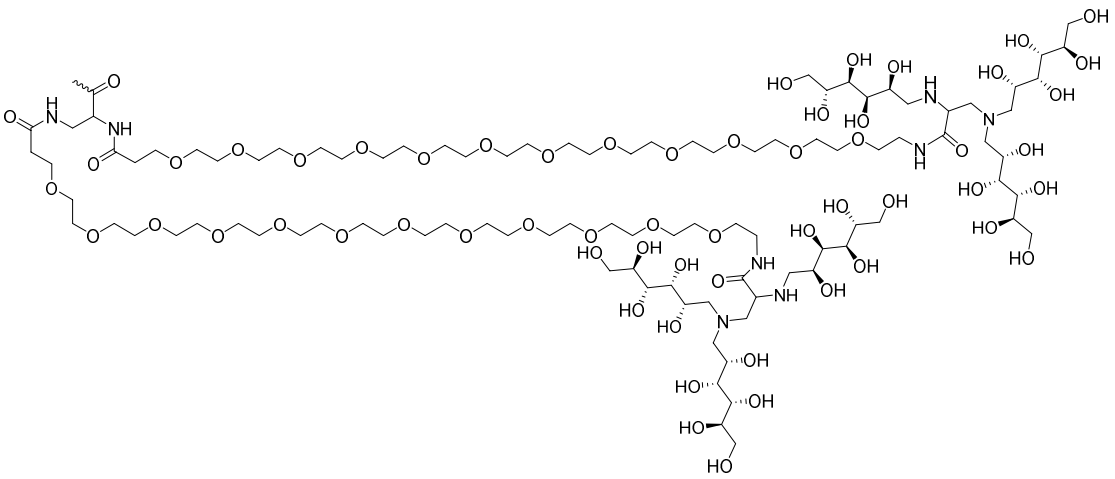
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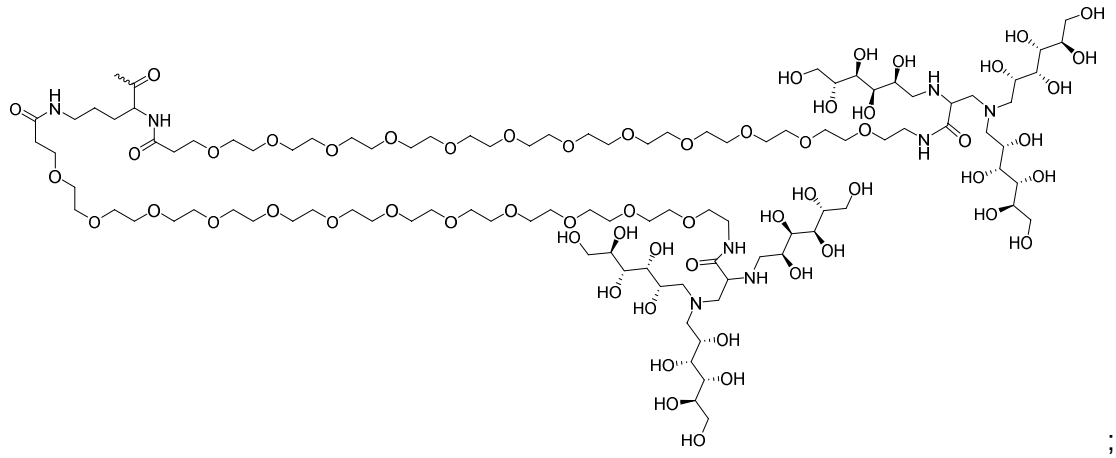
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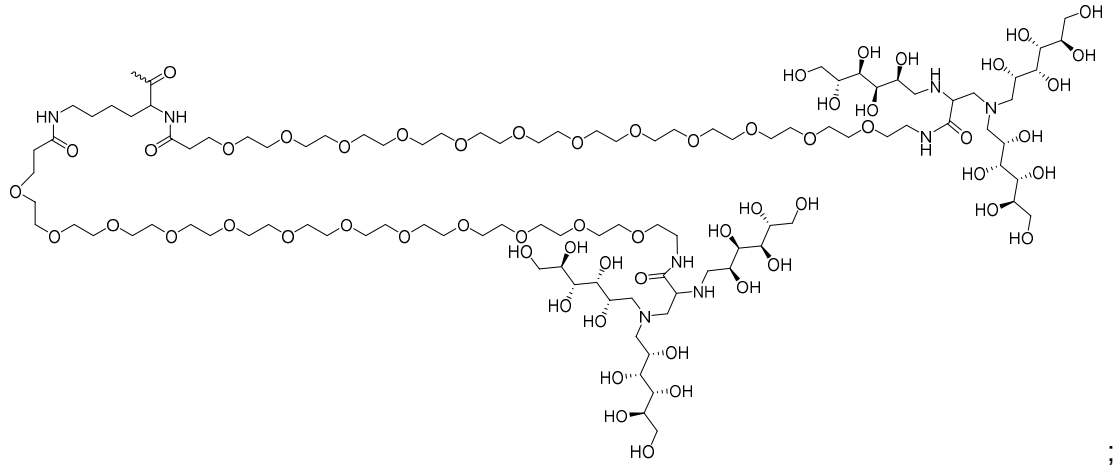
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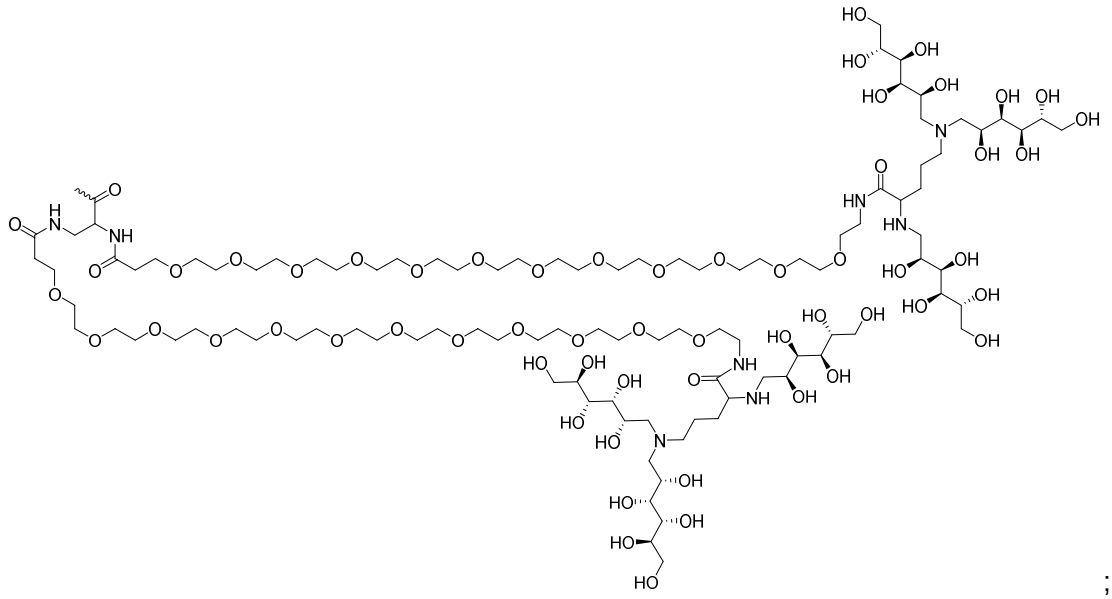
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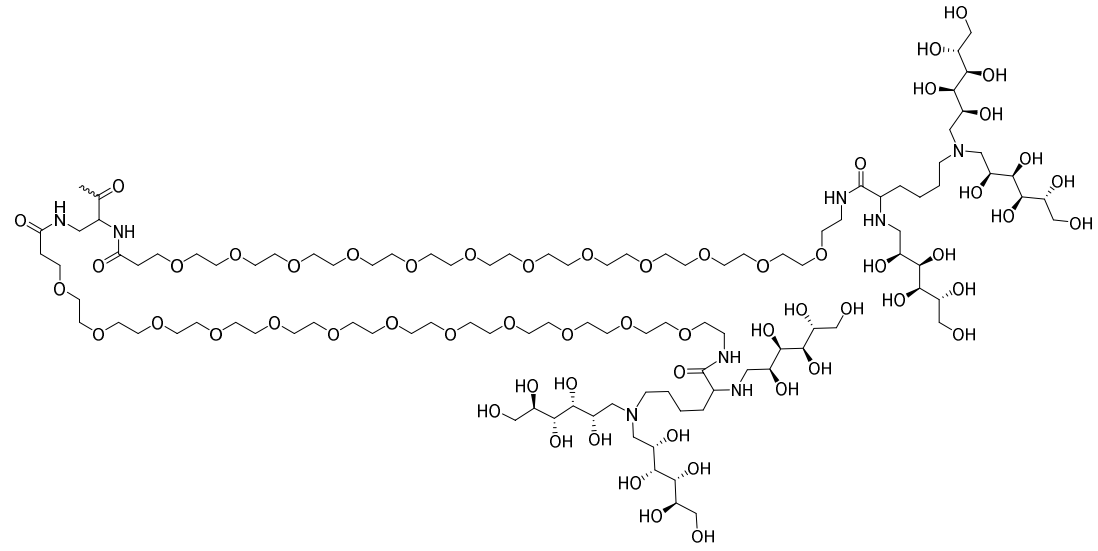
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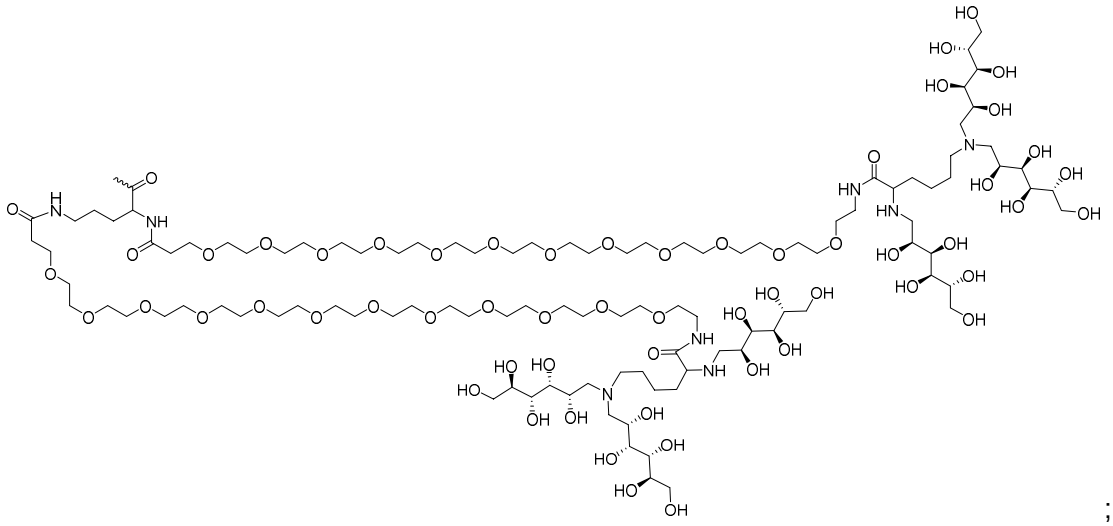
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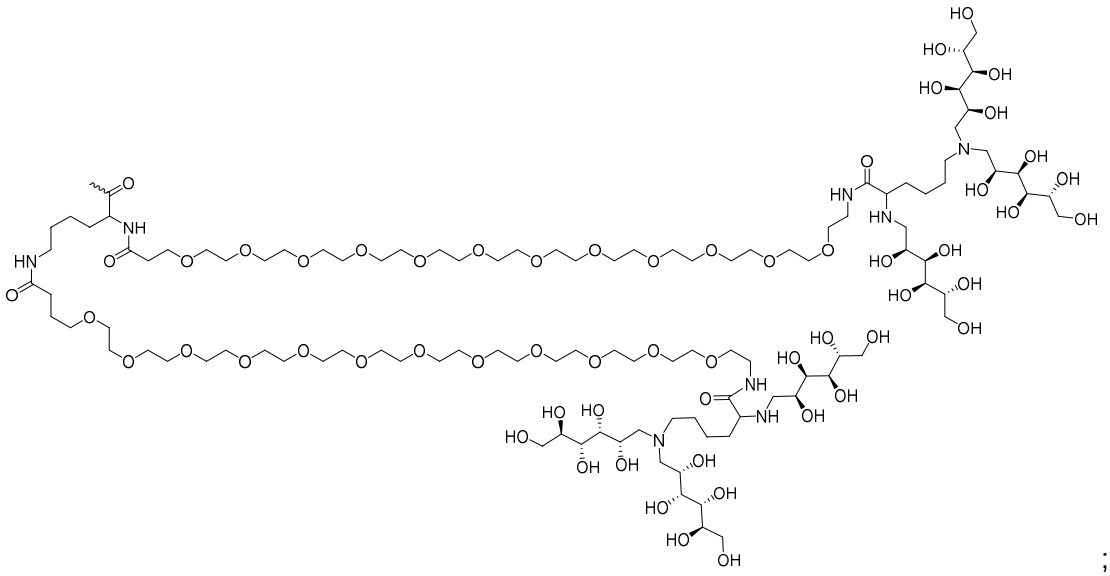
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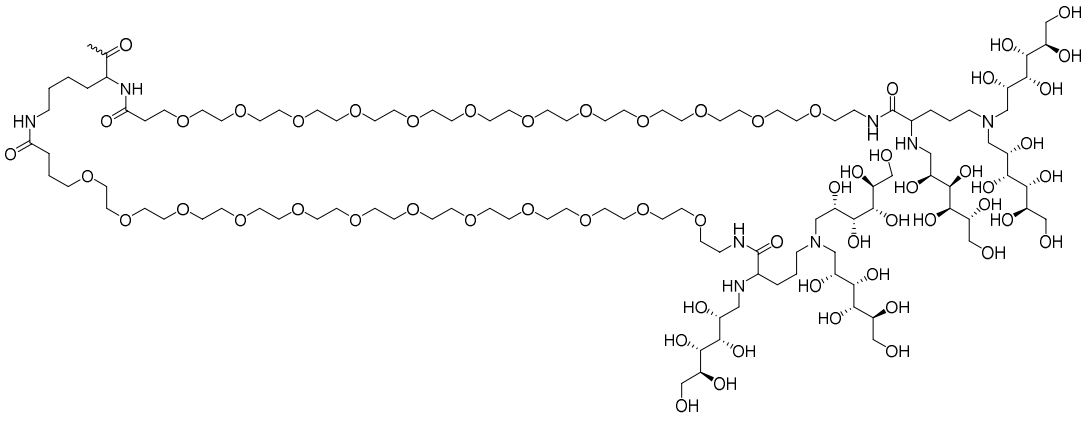
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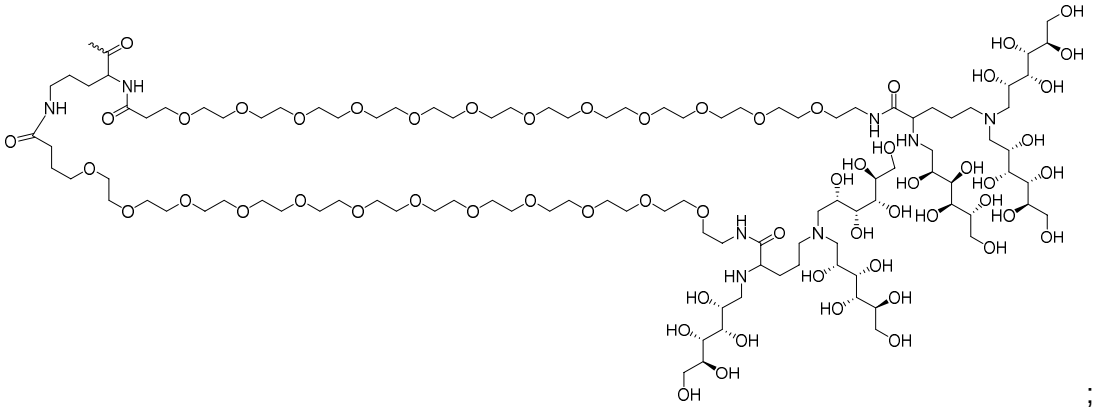
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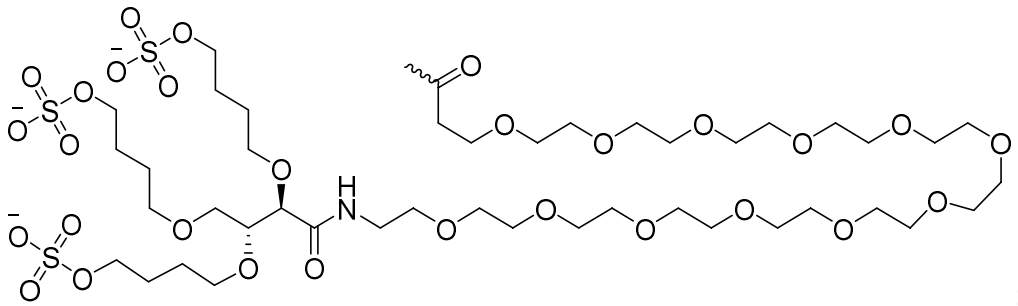
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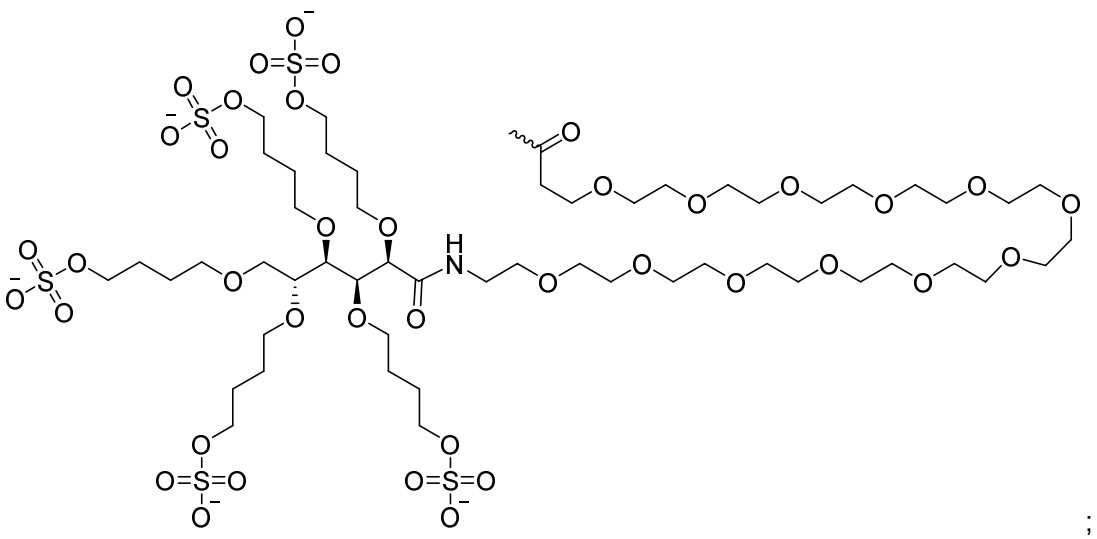
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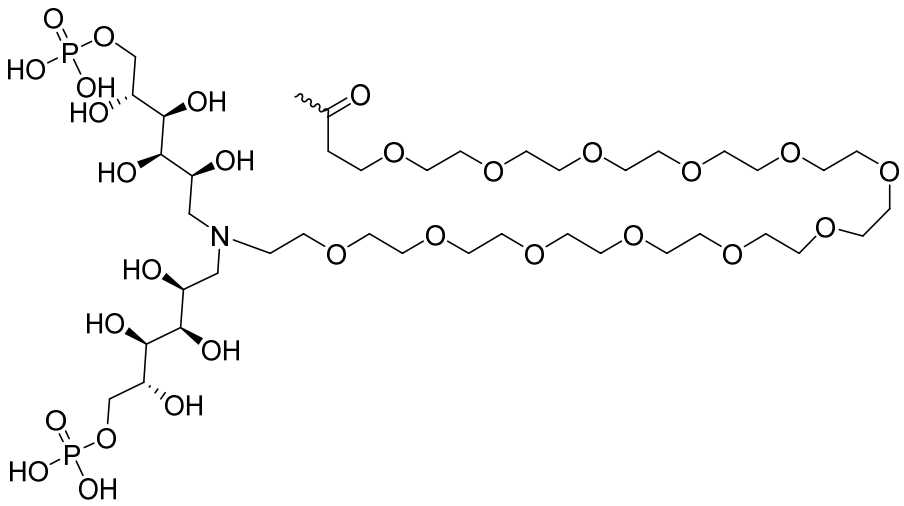
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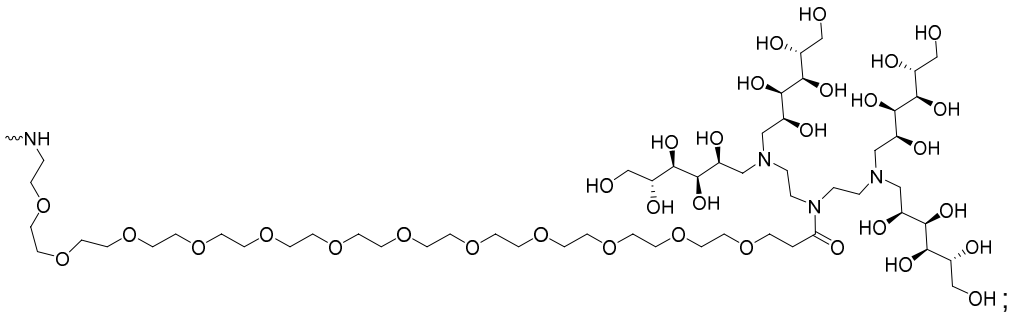
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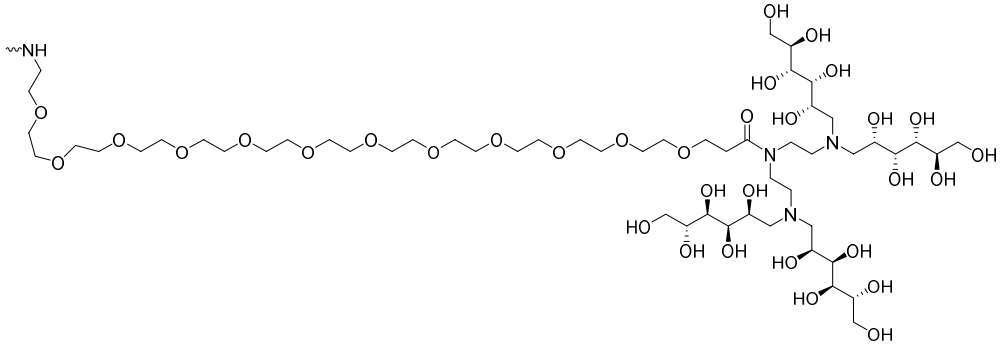
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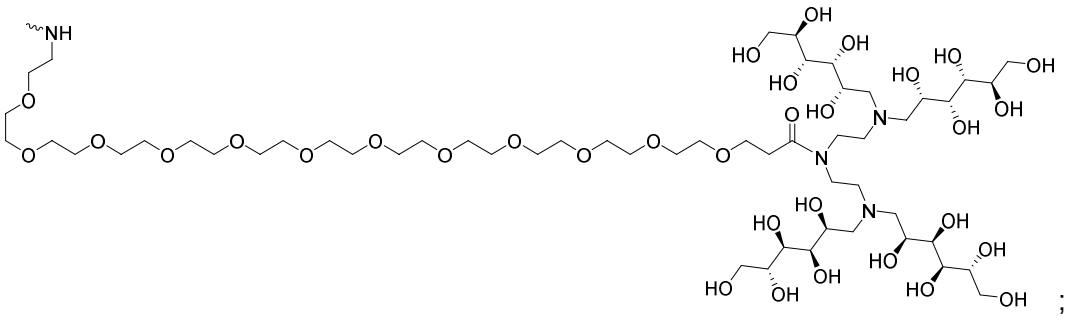
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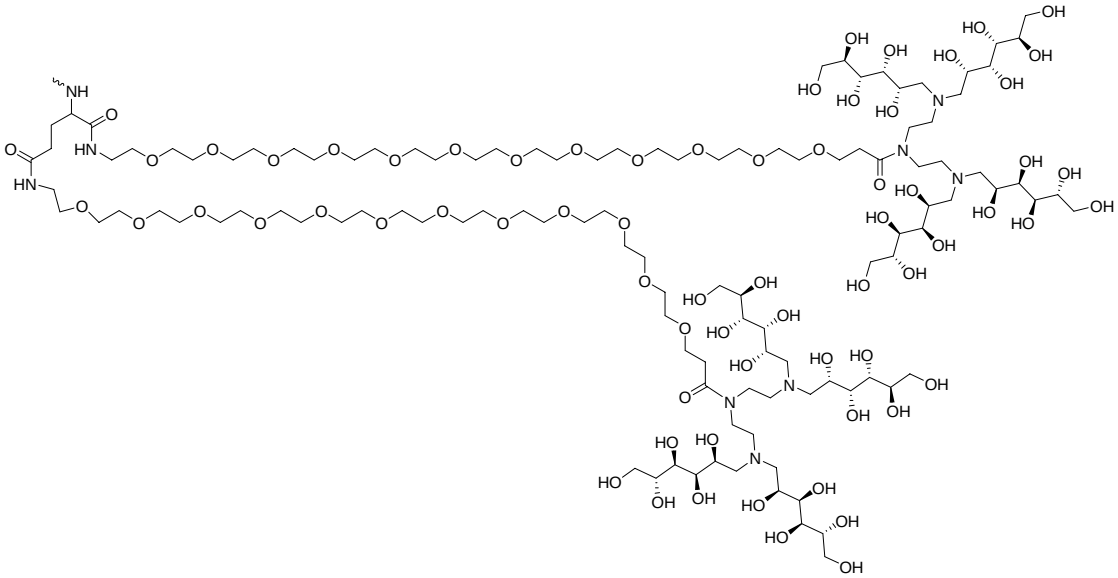
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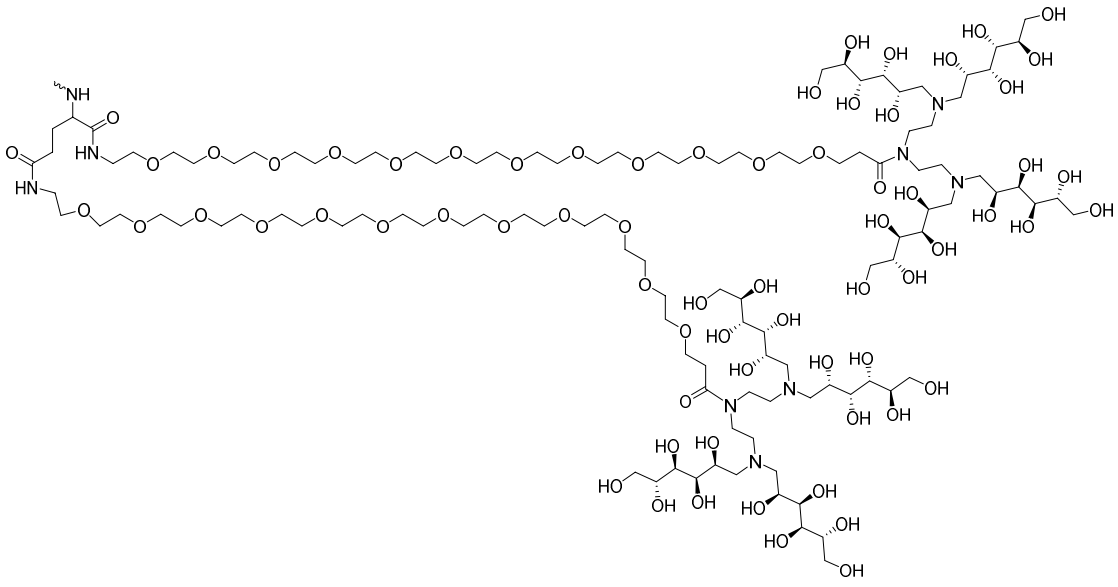
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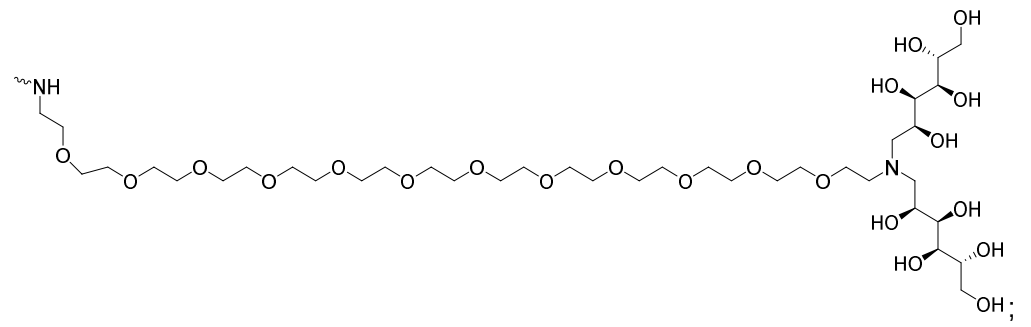
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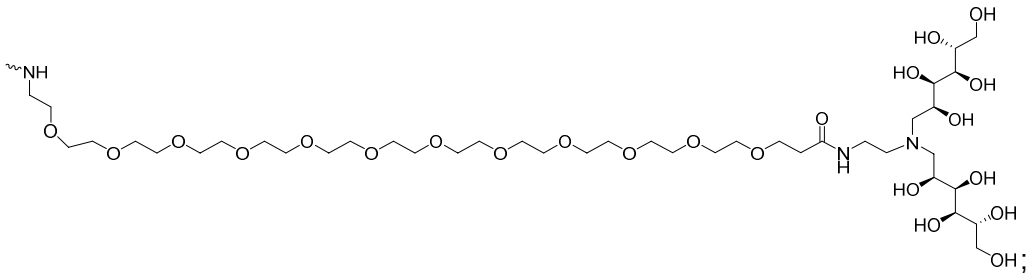
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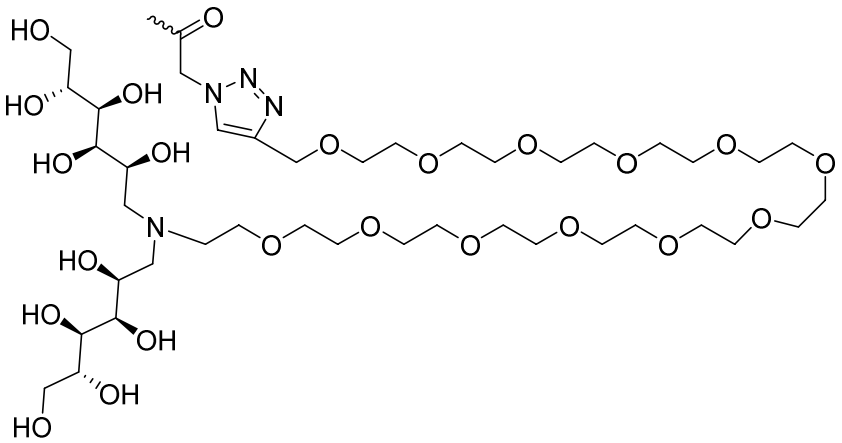
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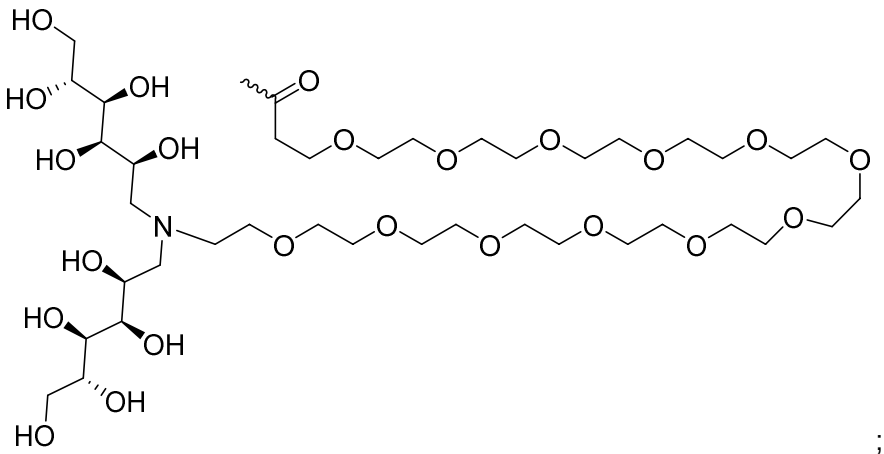
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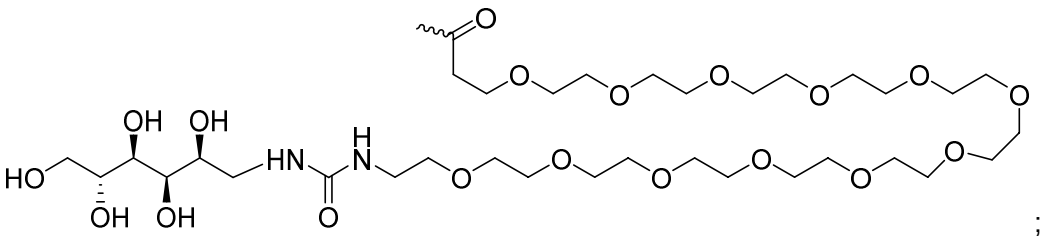
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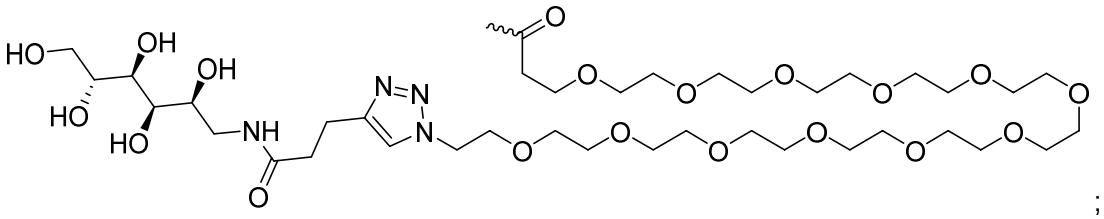
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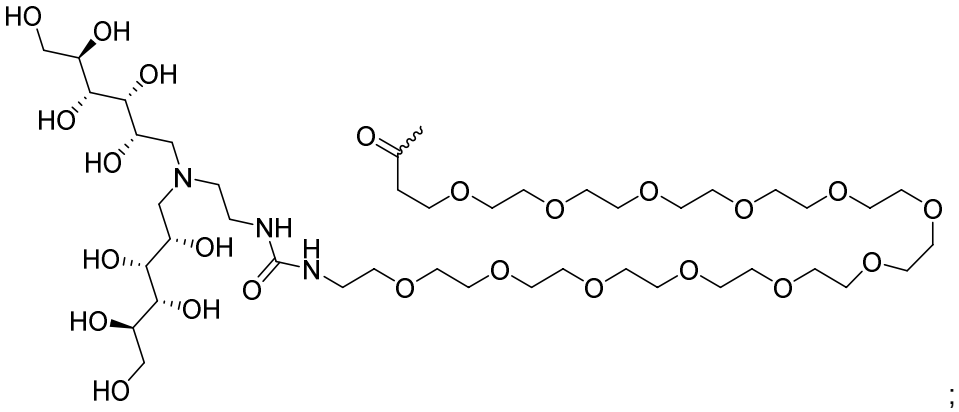
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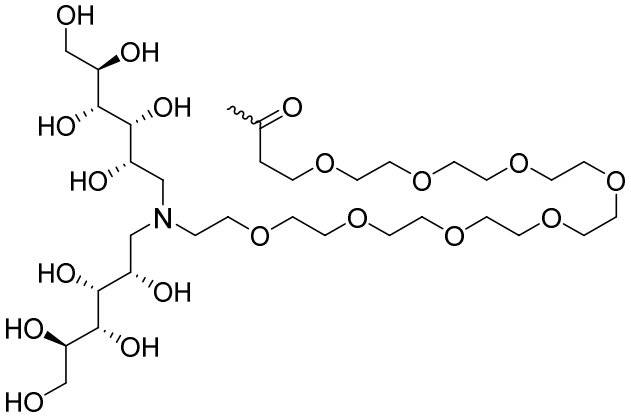
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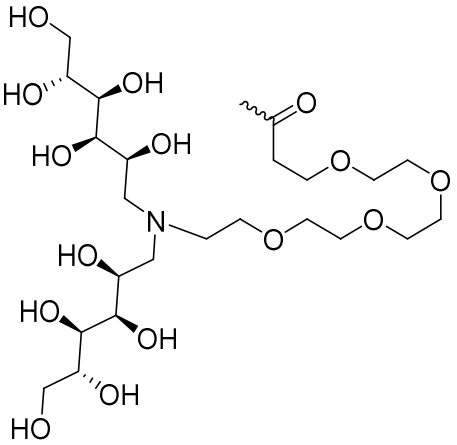
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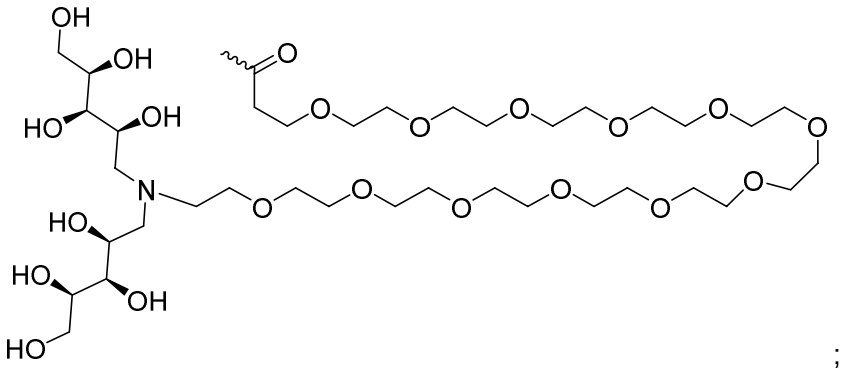
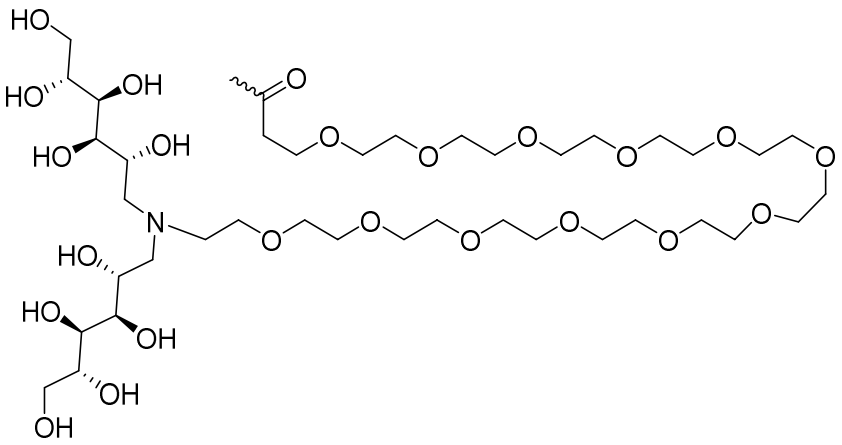
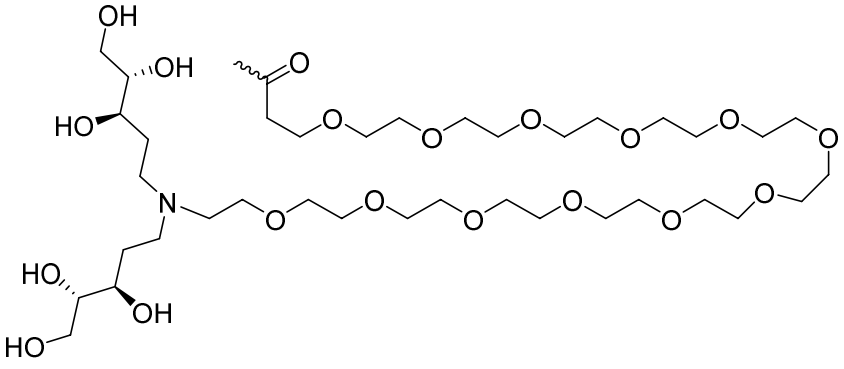
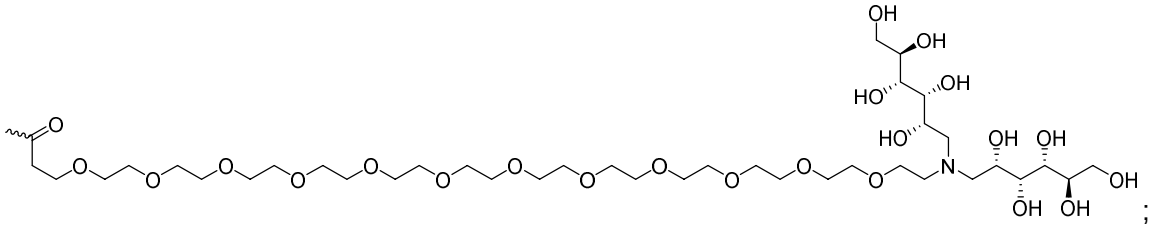
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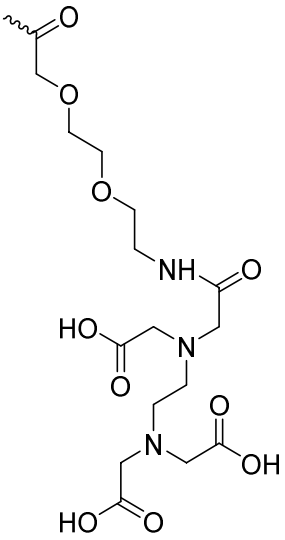


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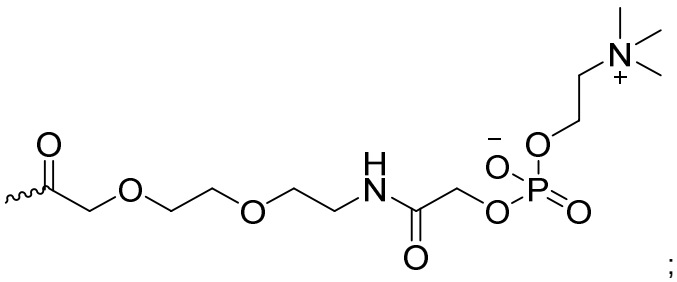


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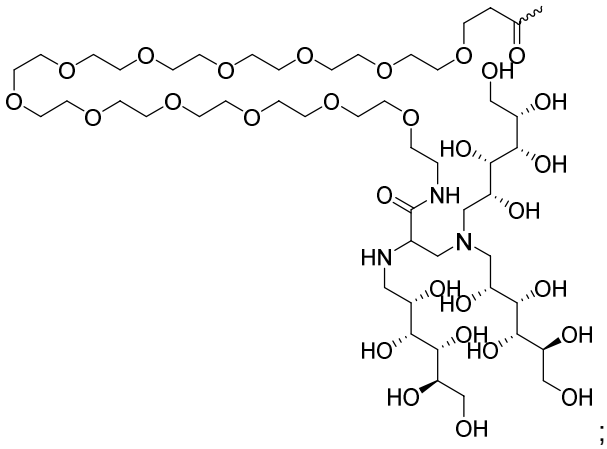

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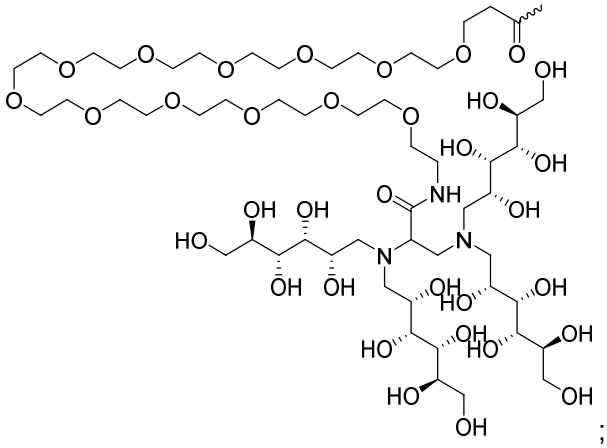
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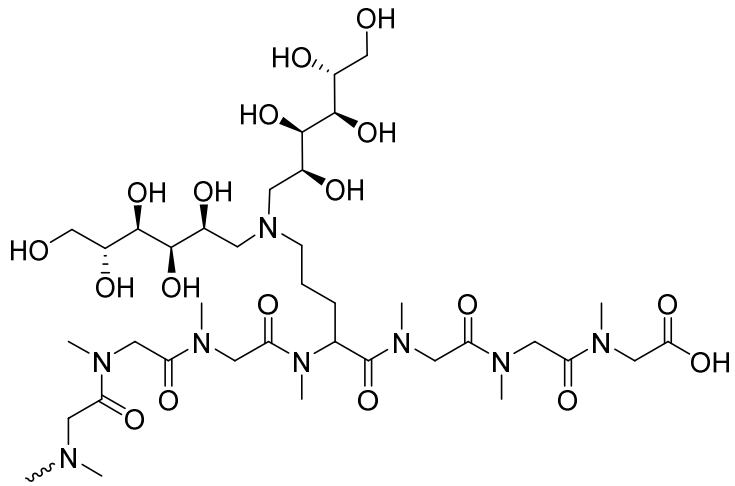
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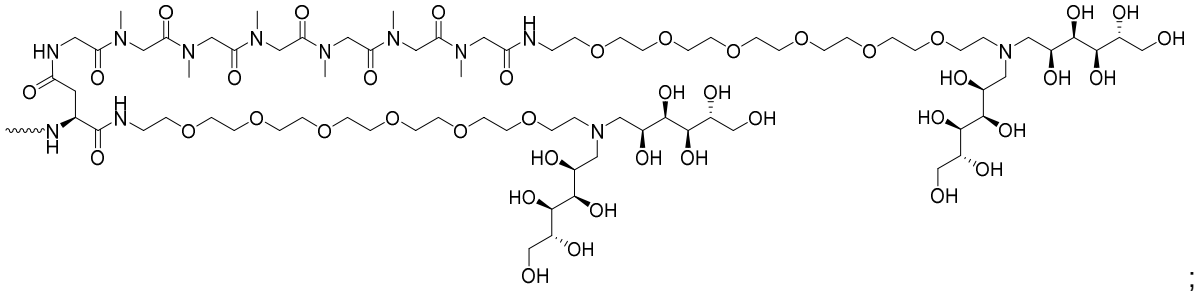
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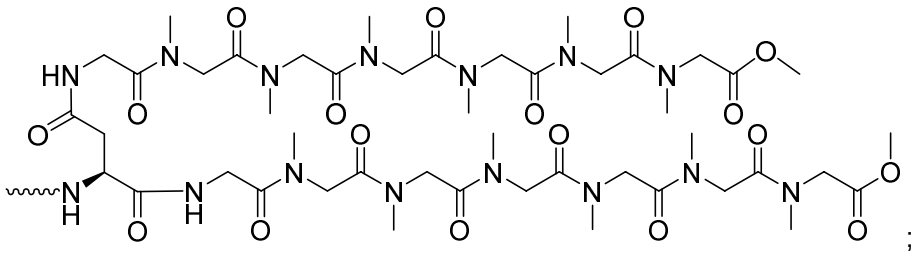
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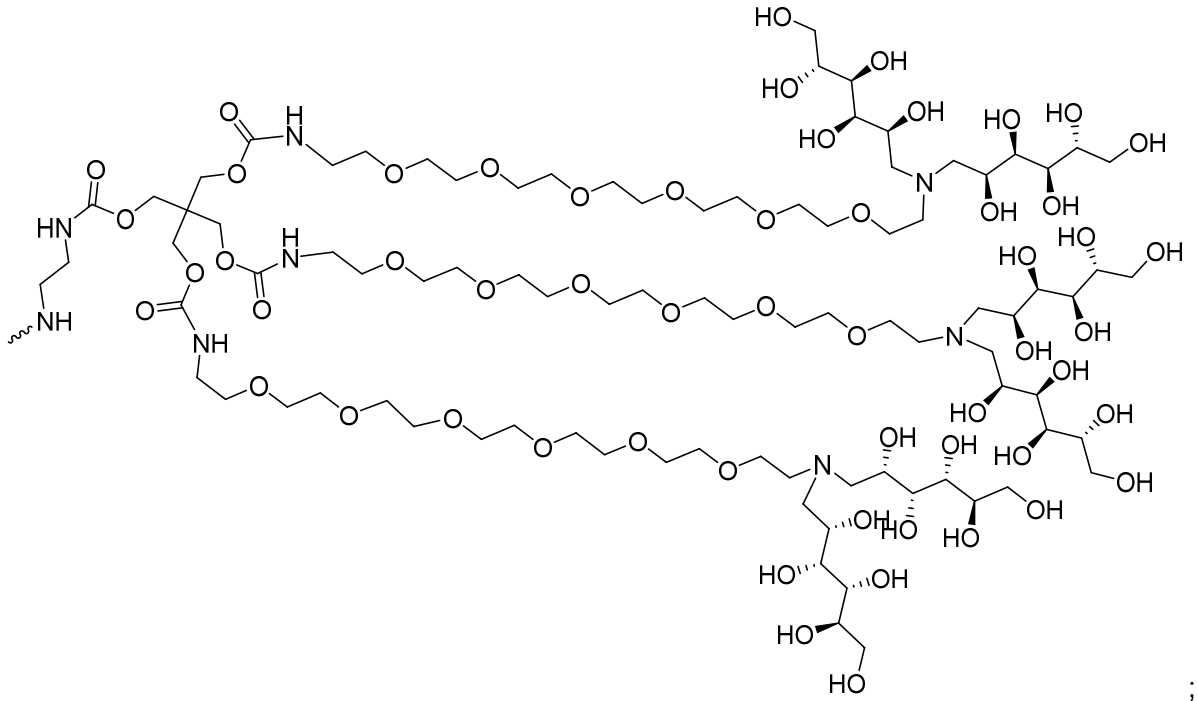
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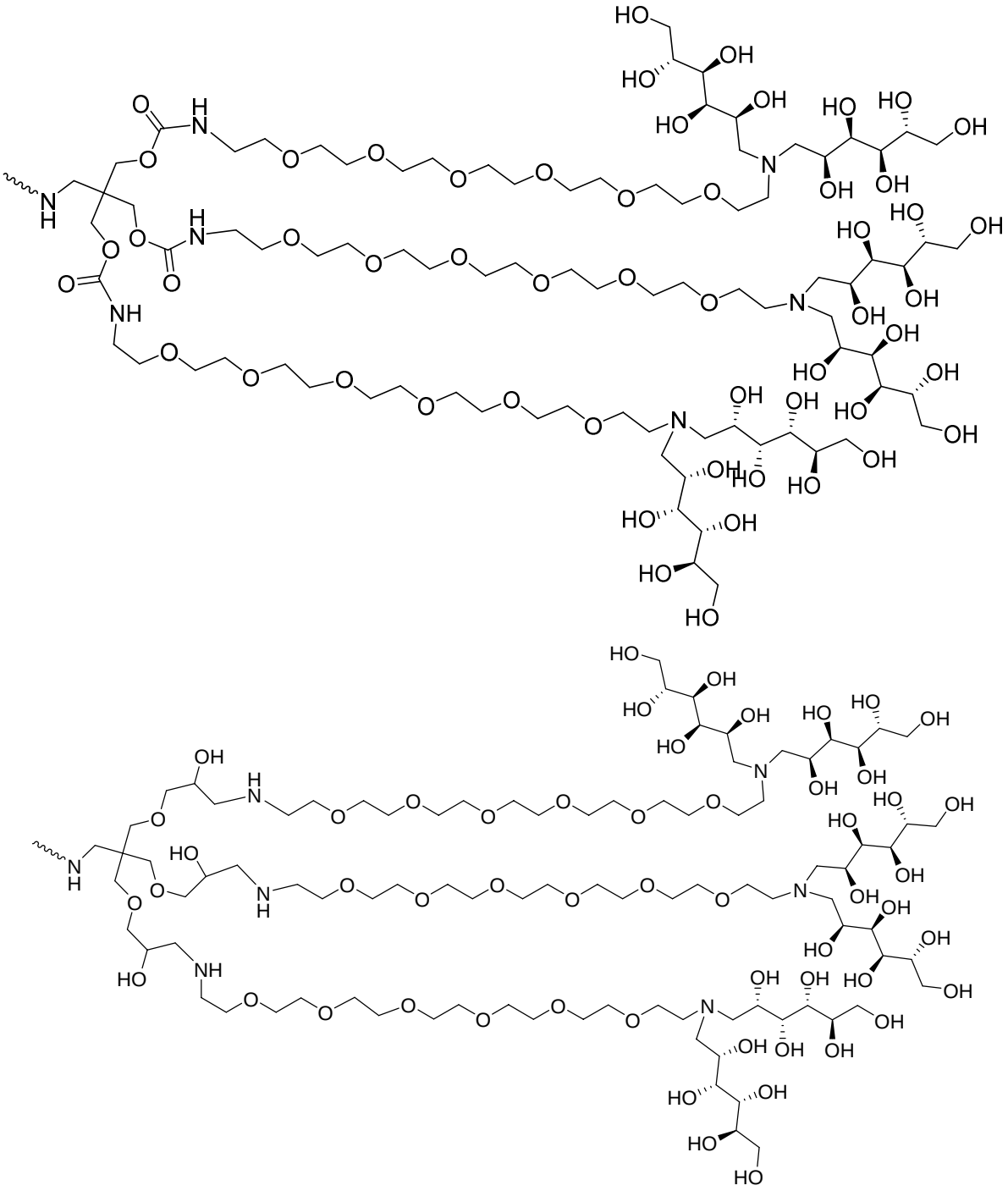
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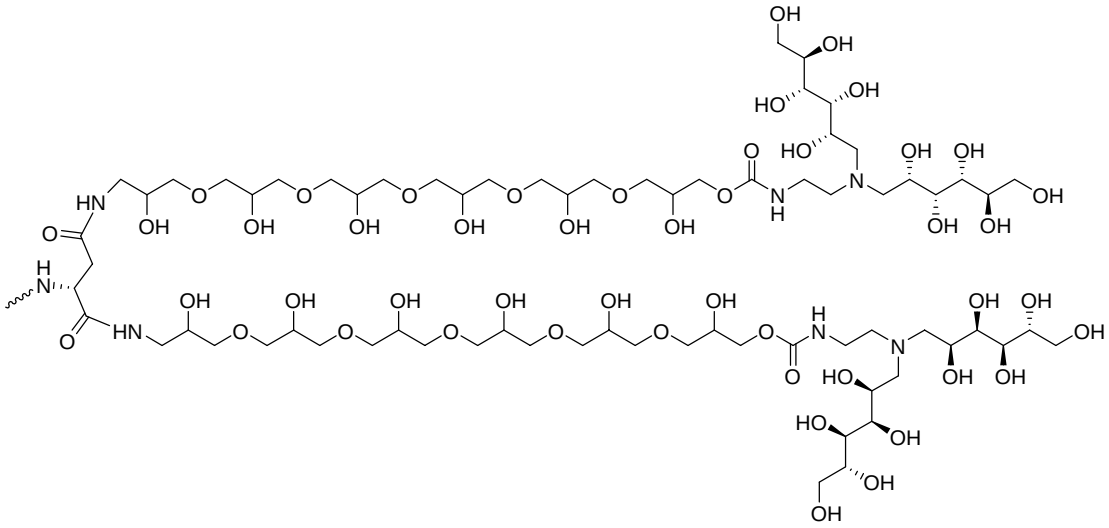


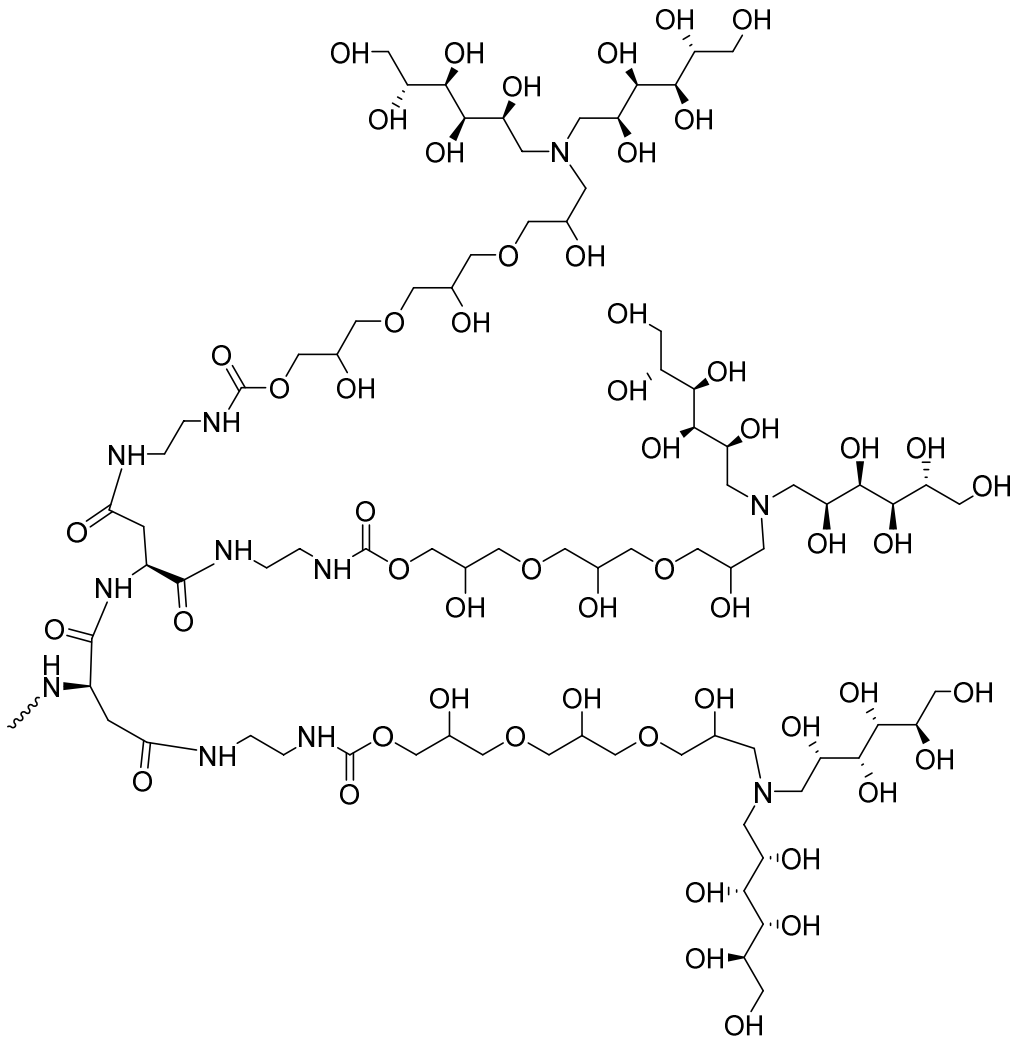
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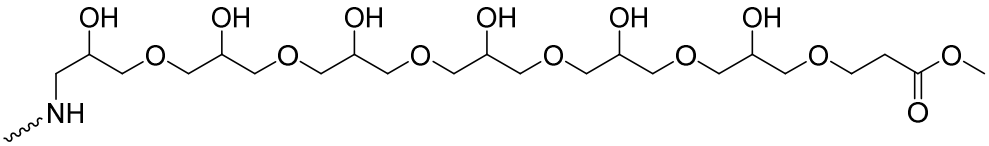
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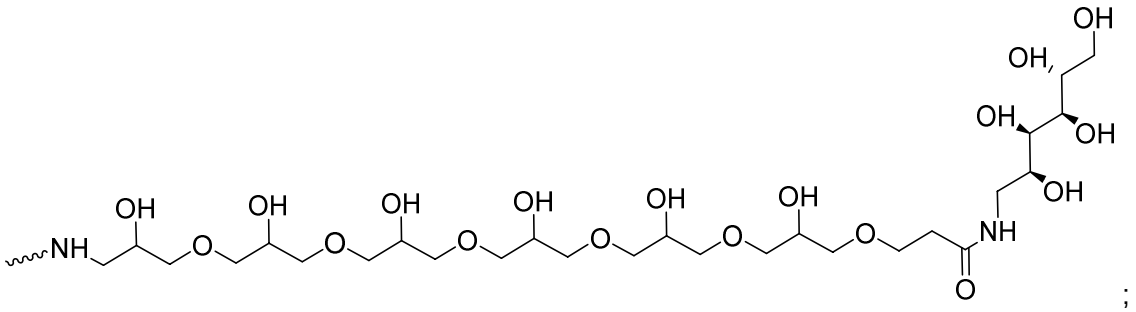




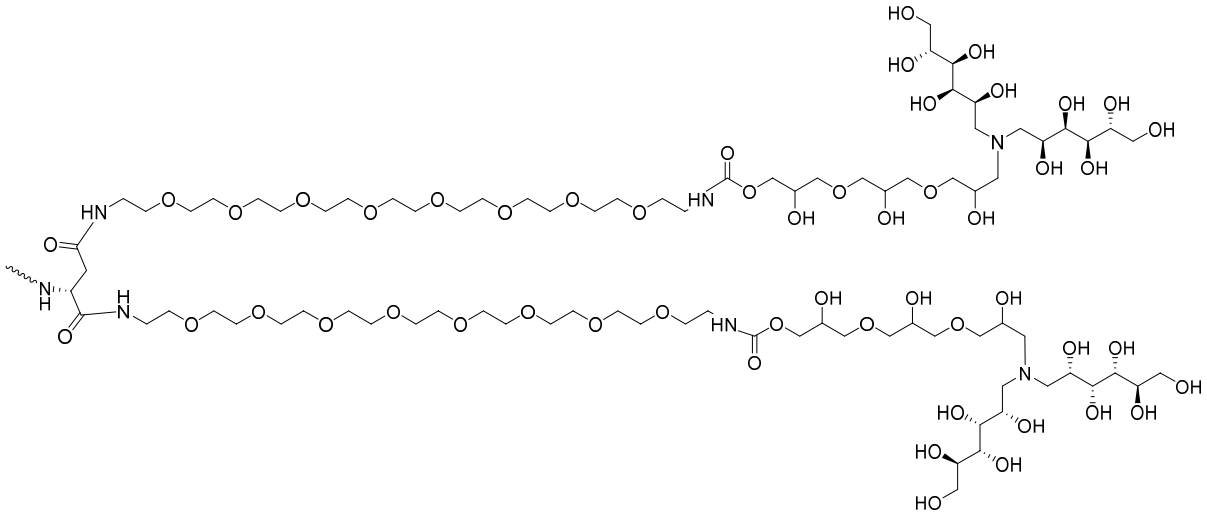
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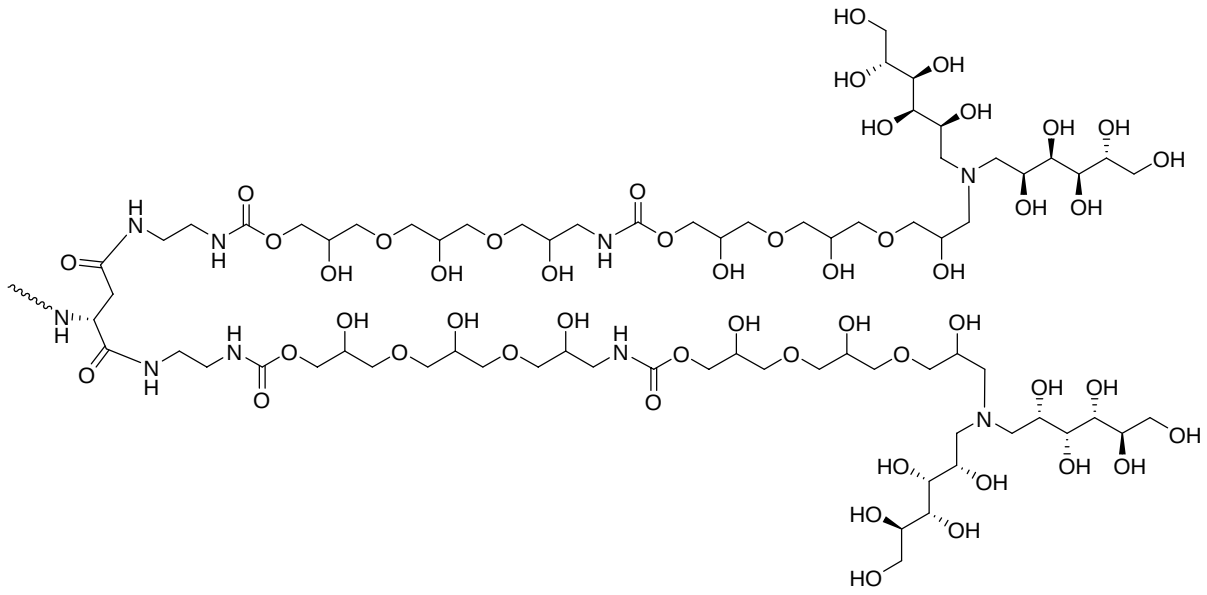


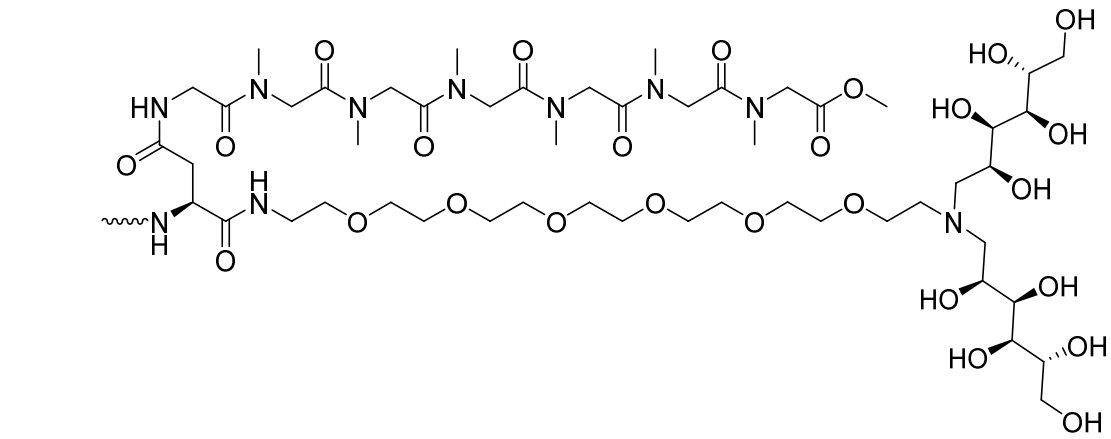
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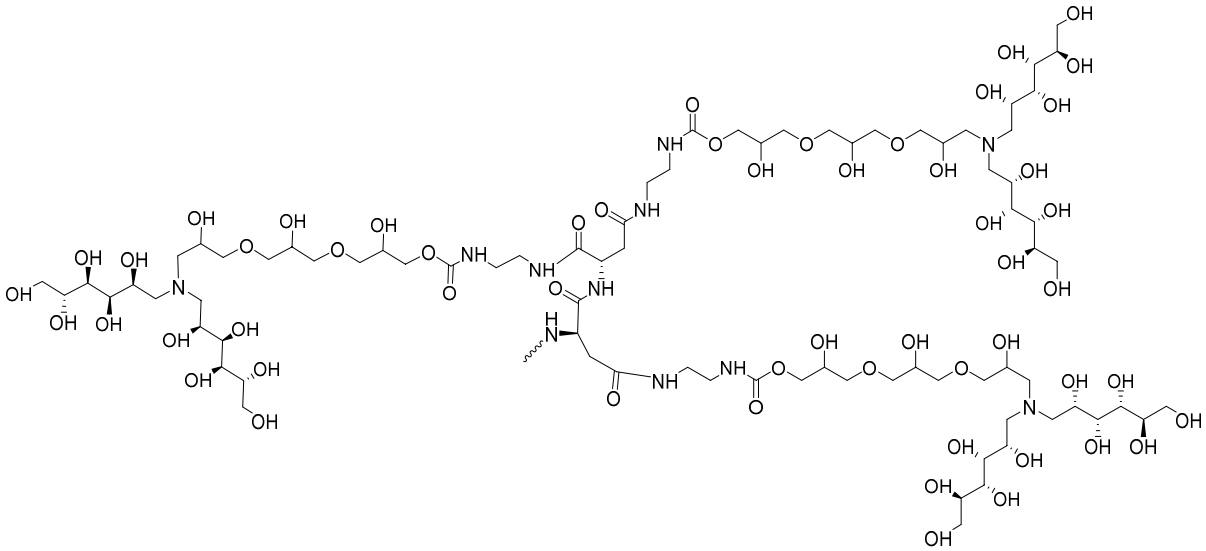


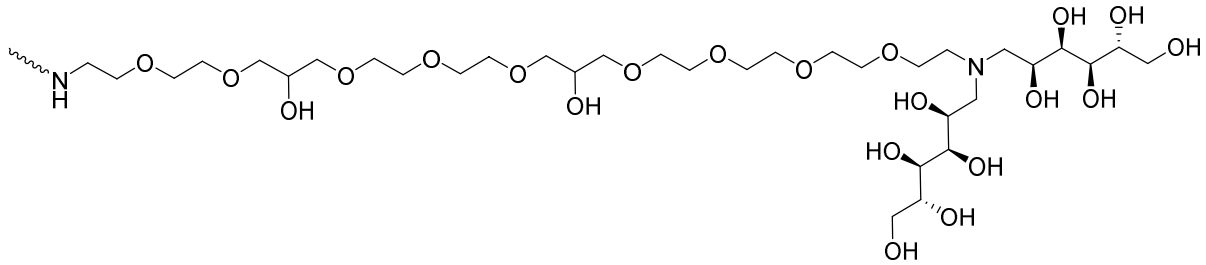
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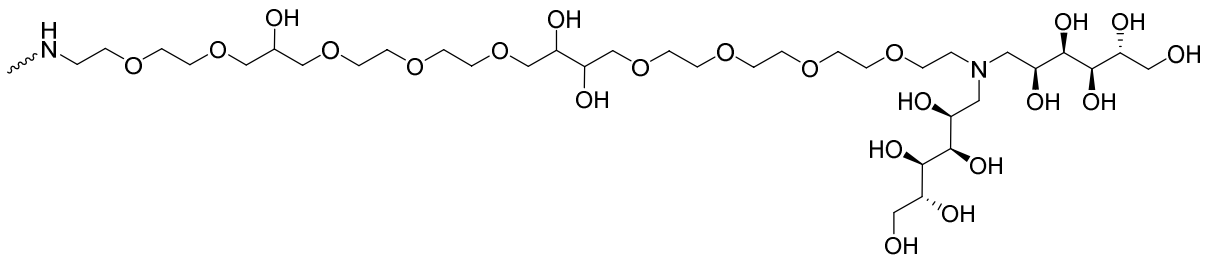


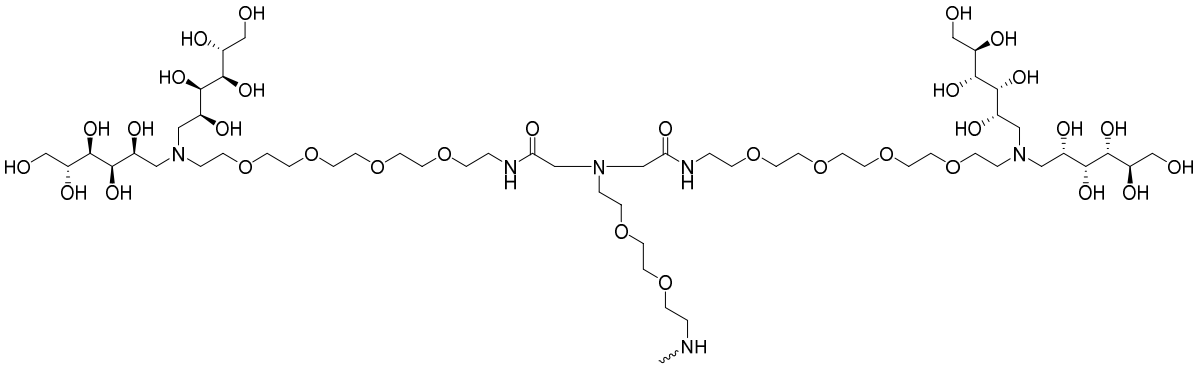


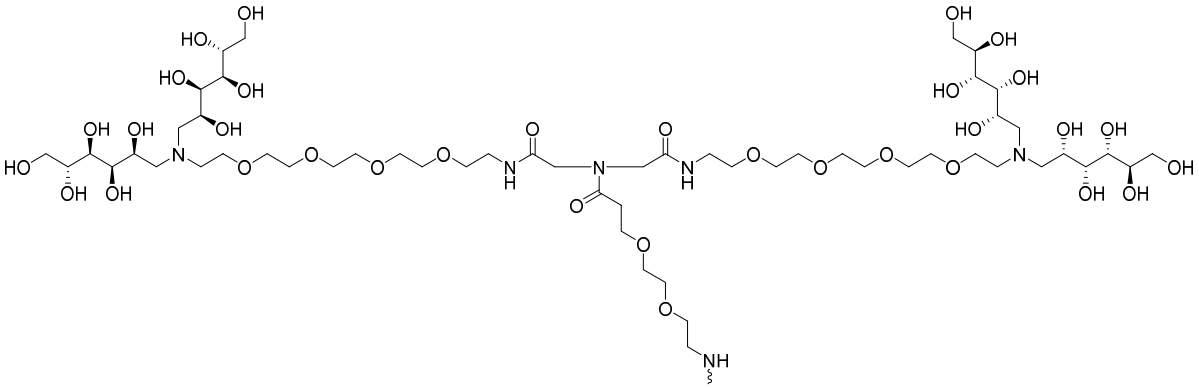


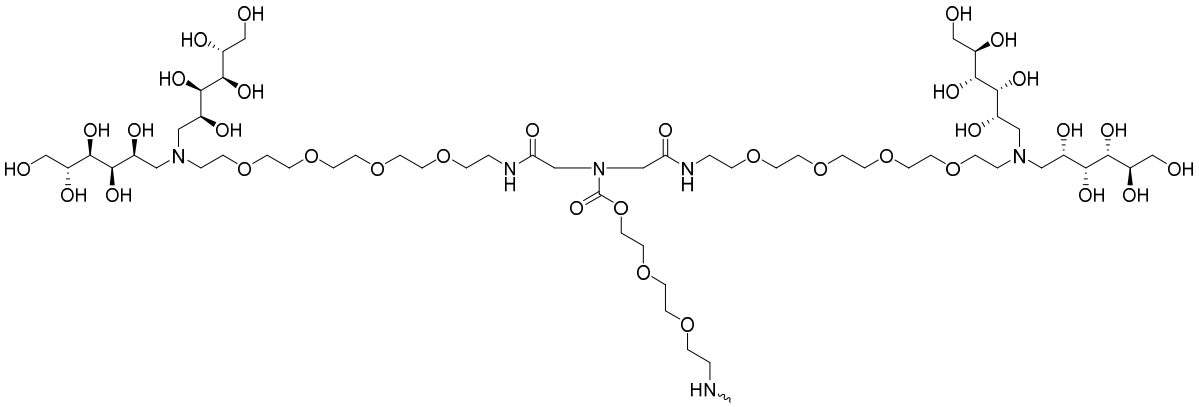


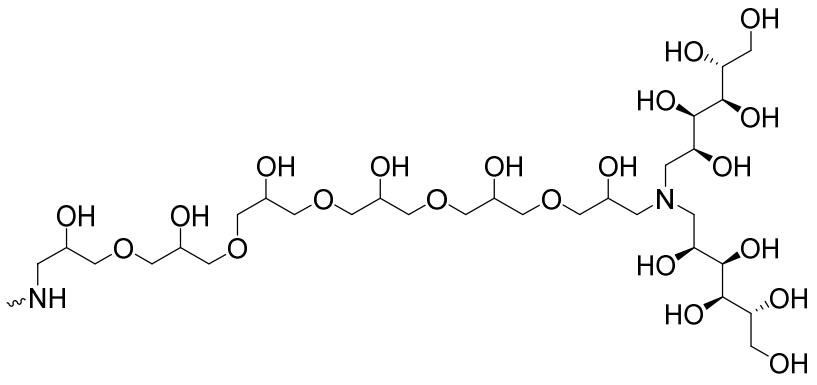


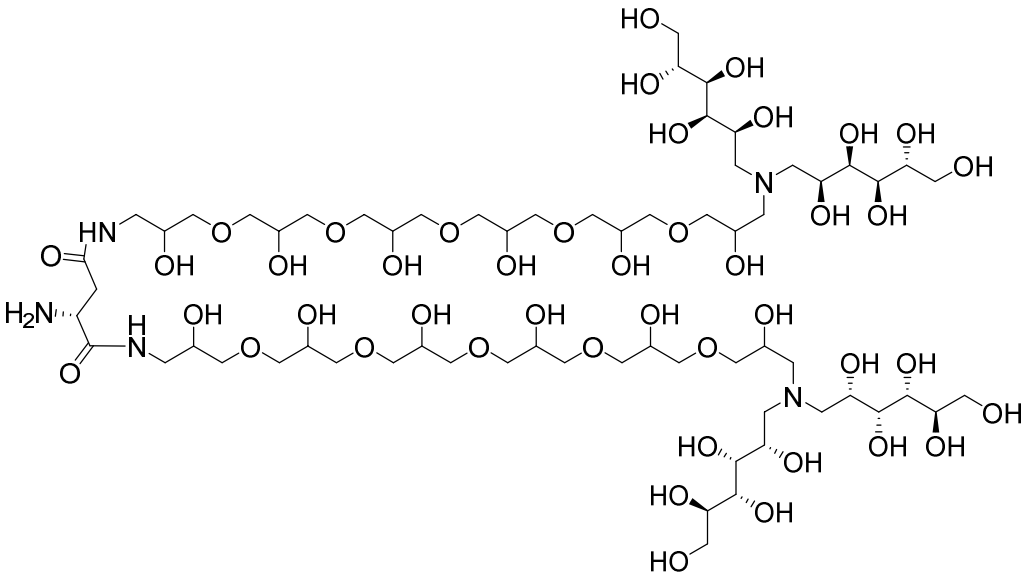




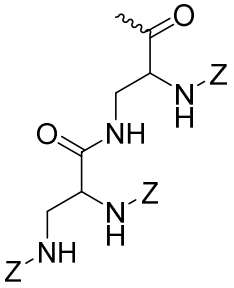




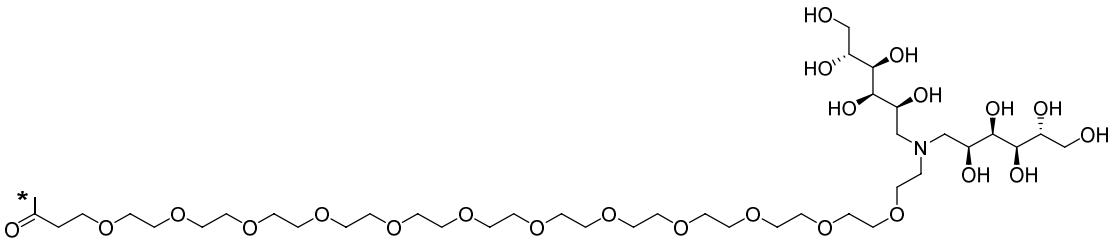




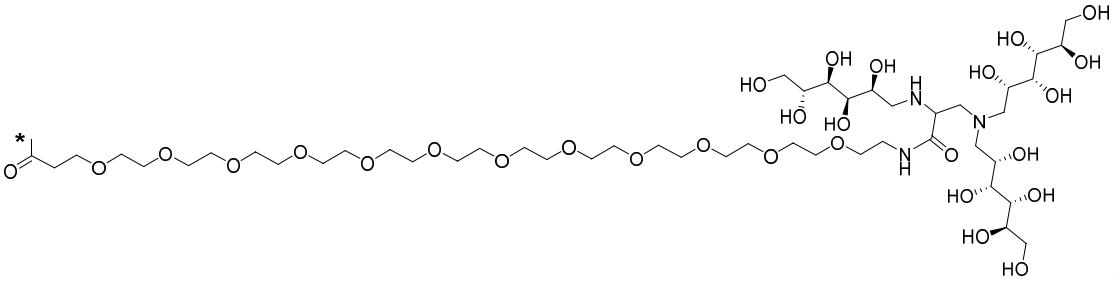
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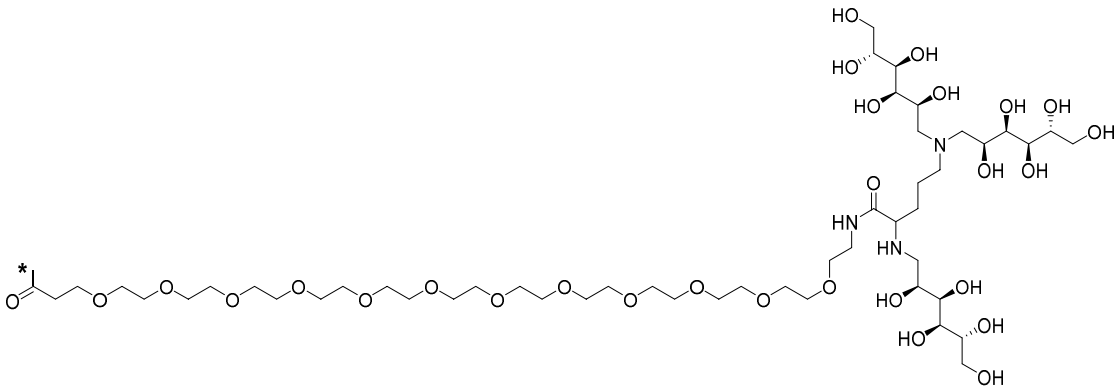
wherein each Z is attached at * and is individually selected from:



,



, and



;

wherein each ~~~ is an attachment to site β or to site R^b, or to the enzyme-cleavable group.

12. The conjugate of any of claims 7(iii) and 8 to 11, wherein:

(i) (a) the conjugate comprises a polar group including the polymer unit and a sugar unit; or

(b) the conjugate comprises a polar group including at least two polymer units; or

(c) the conjugate comprises a polar group including the polymer unit and a carboxyl unit; or

(d) the conjugate comprises at least two polar groups; or

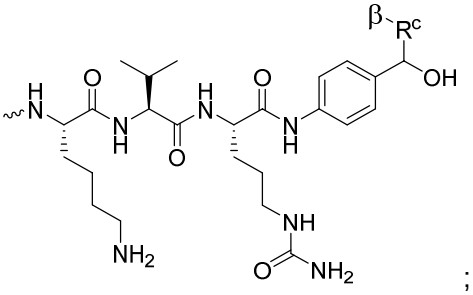
(e) the conjugate comprises a polar group including the polymer unit, the sugar unit and the carboxyl unit; or

(f) the conjugate comprises a polar group including at least two polymer units, at least one sugar unit and at least one carboxyl unit; or

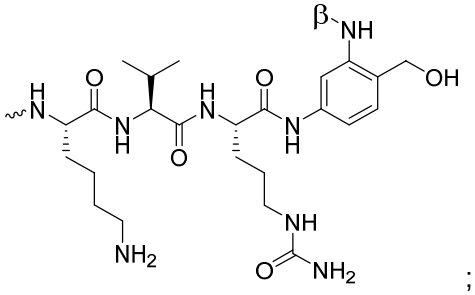
(g) the enzyme-cleavable group comprises at least two of the amino acid units; and/or

(ii) the conjugate comprises at least one polar group being attached to the enzyme-cleavable group; and/or

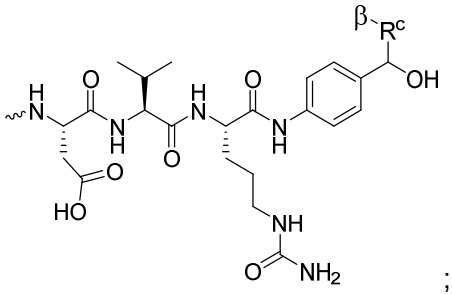
(iii) the conjugate has one of the following structures:



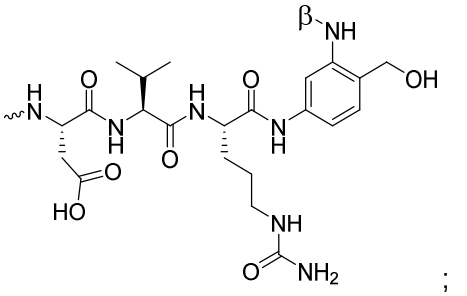
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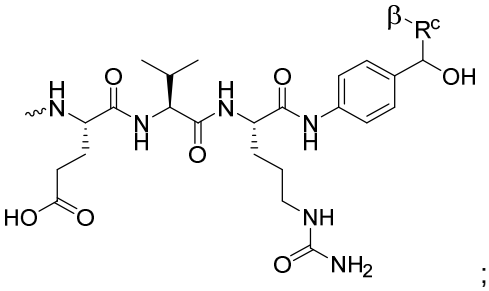
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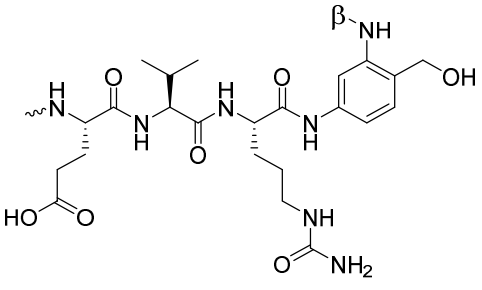
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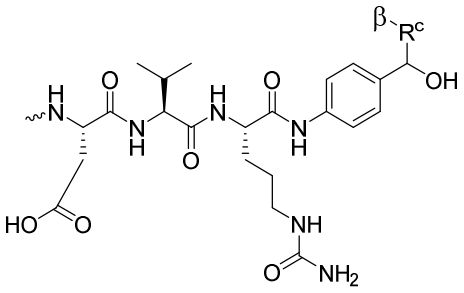
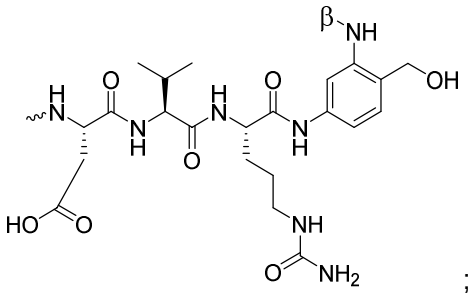
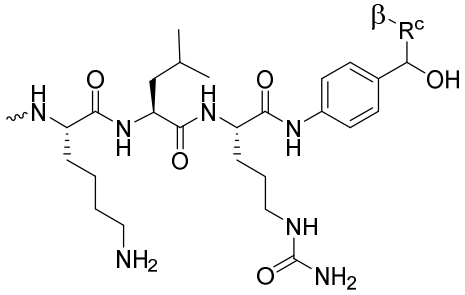
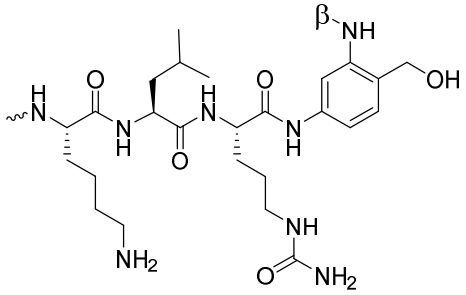
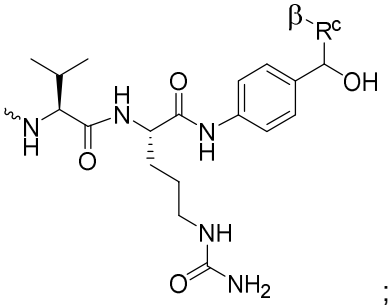
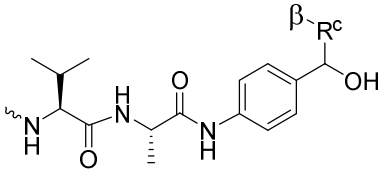
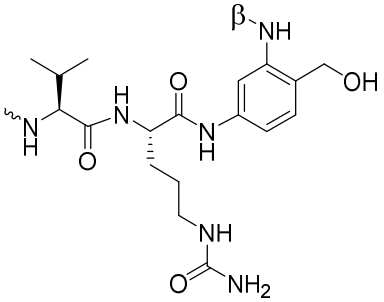
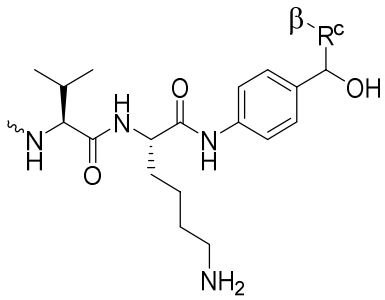
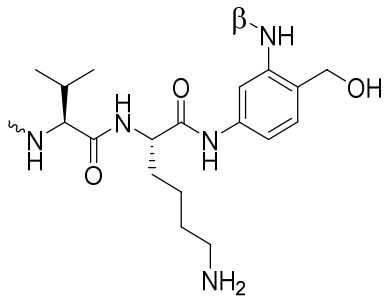
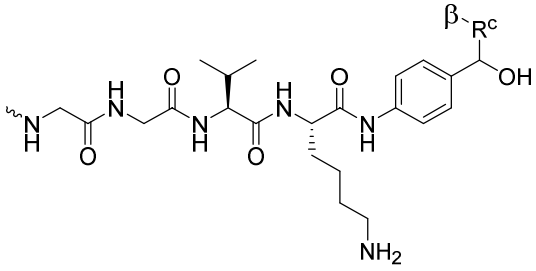
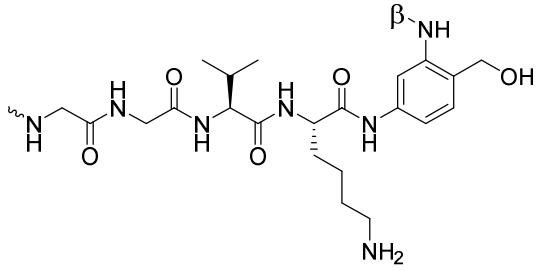
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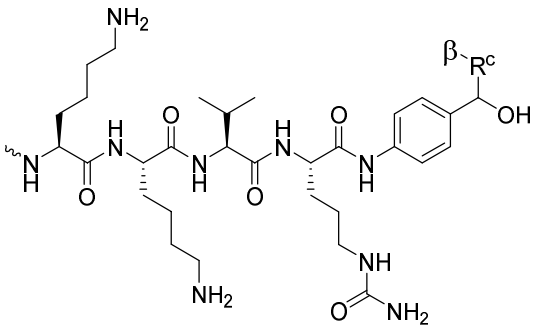
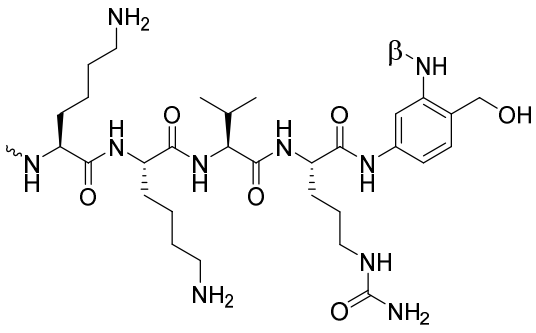
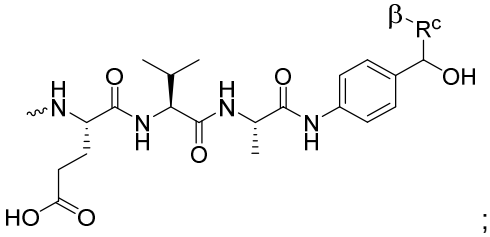
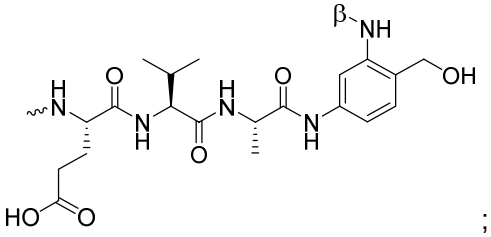
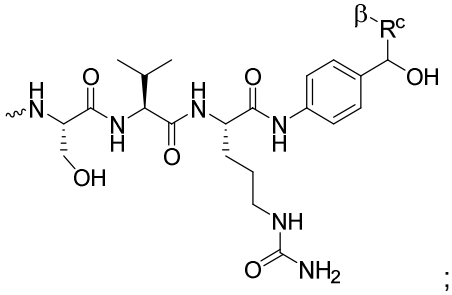
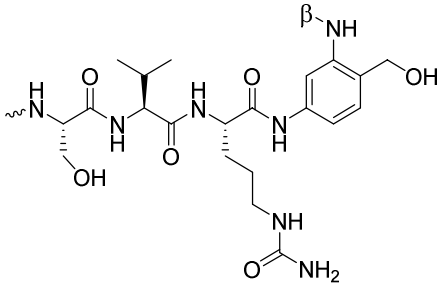
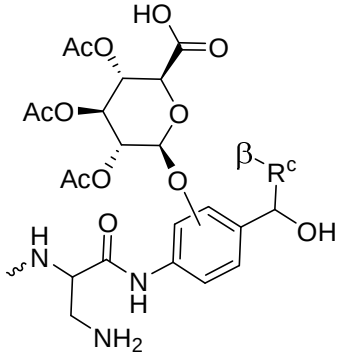
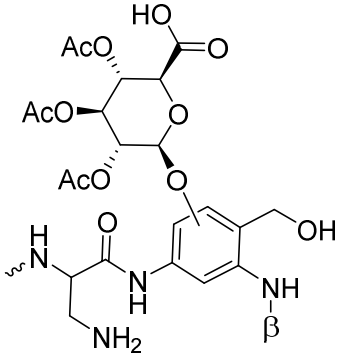


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wherein

Rc is a bond or C1-6 alkylene;

the wavy line on the amino group indicates an attachment site for a stretcher group or, prior to attachment to the stretcher group, indicates H;

β— is the attachment site to the at least one polar group; and

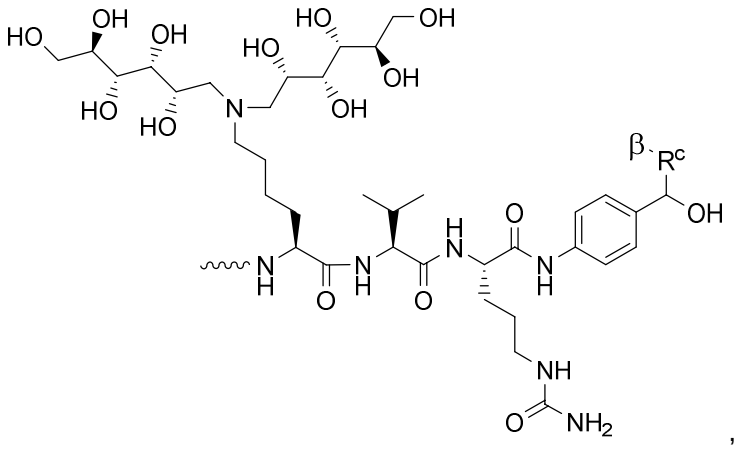
the benzylic H on the benzylic OH is optionally replaced with a bond to one of the drug units or to the linking group attached to at least one of the drug units; and/or

(iv) the enzyme-cleavable group comprises a peptide that is cleavable by an intracellular protease, optionally wherein:

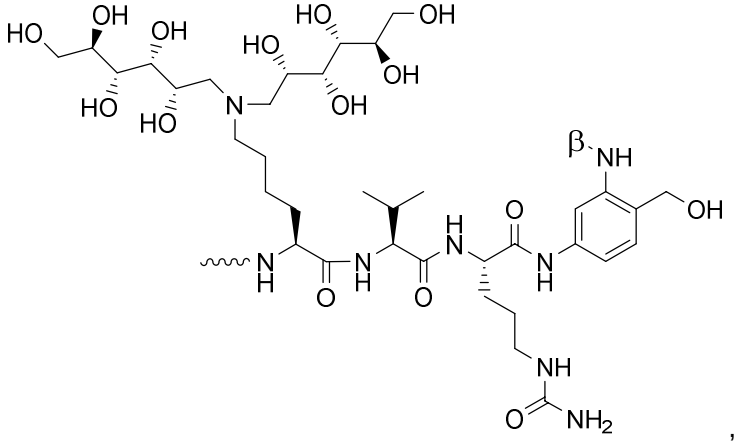
(a) the intracellular protease is Cathepsin B, further optionally wherein the enzyme-

cleavable group comprises a cleavable peptide including a valine-citrulline peptide, a valine-alanine peptide, a valine-lysine peptide, a phenylalanine-lysine peptide, or a glycine-glycine-phenylalanine-glycine peptide; and/or

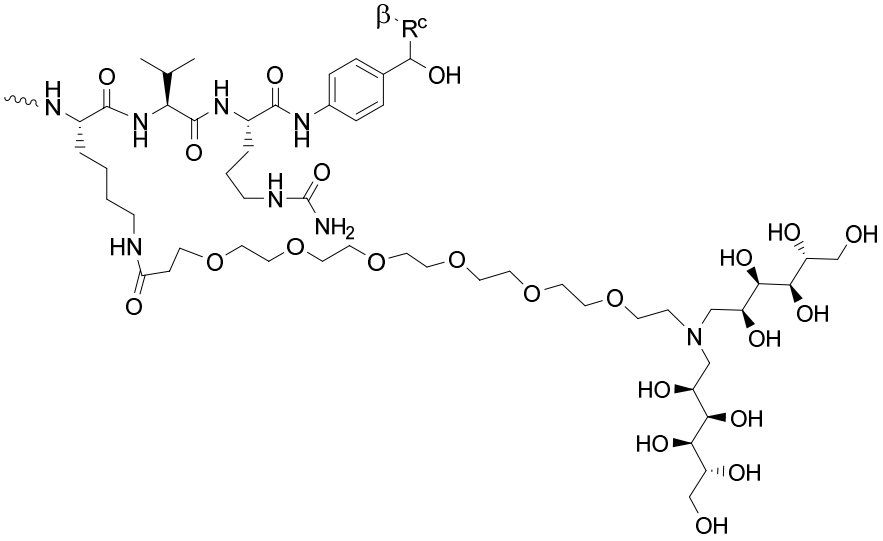
(b) the conjugate comprises one of the following structures:



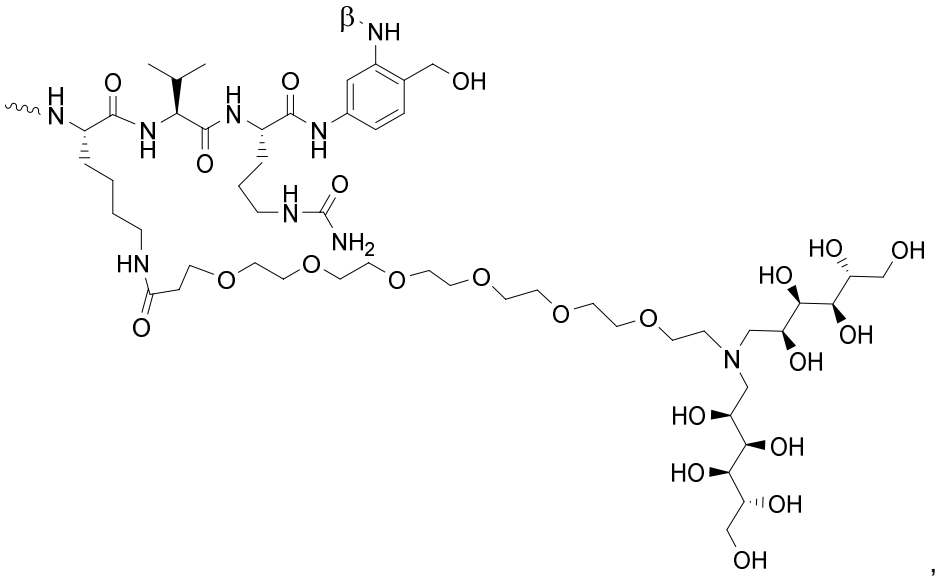
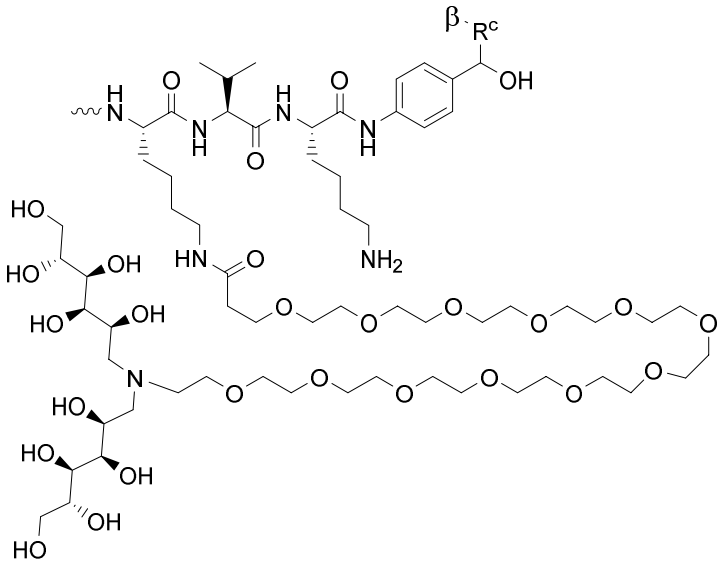
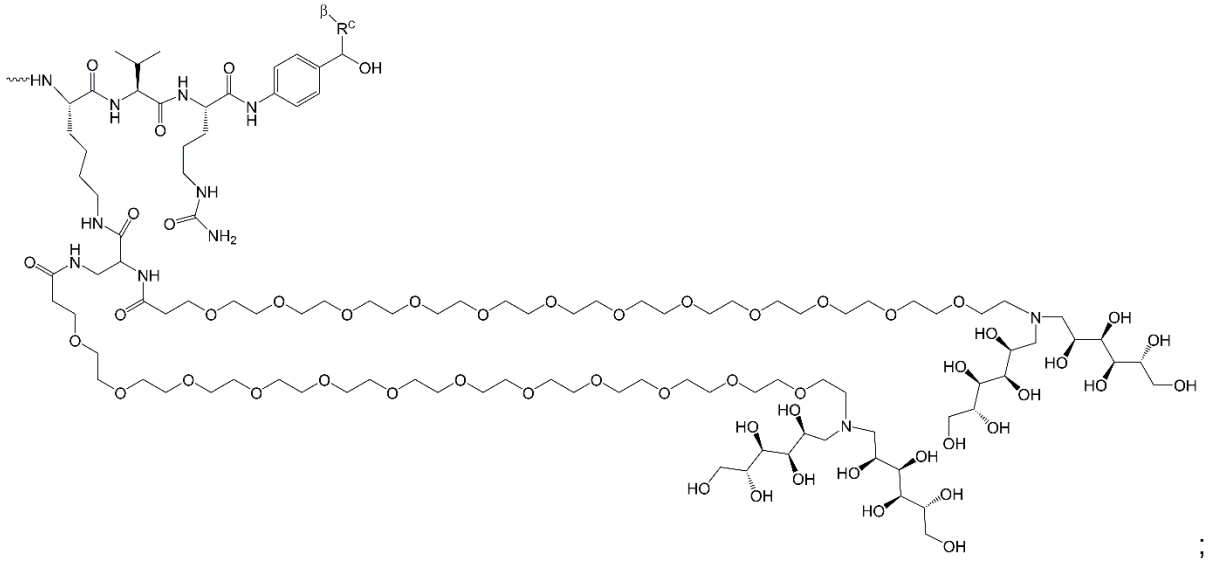
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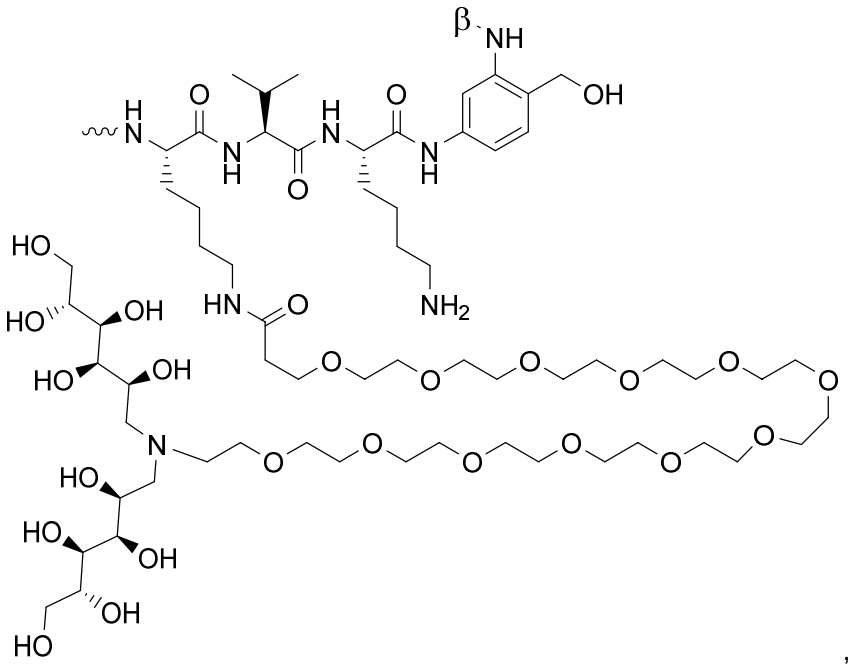


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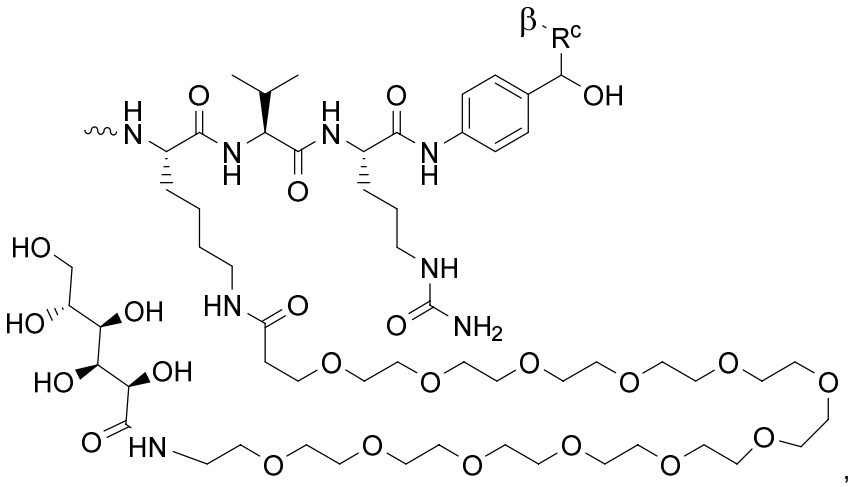


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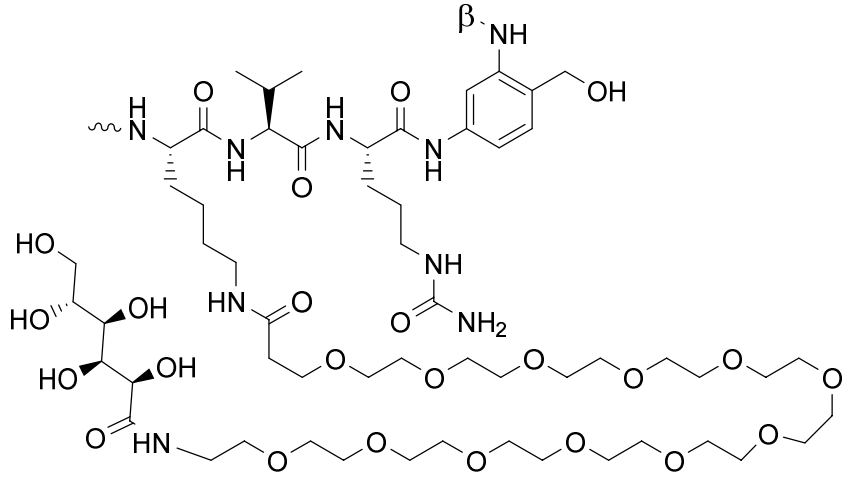

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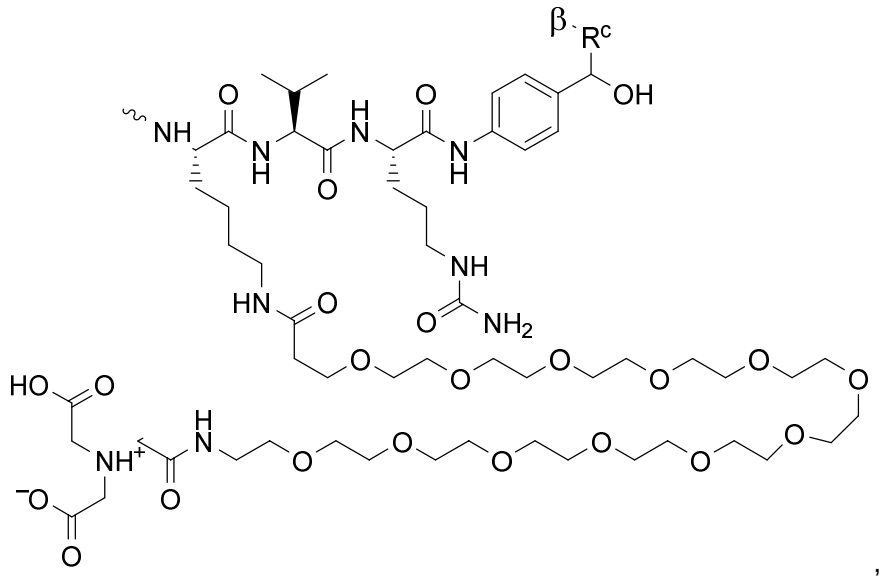


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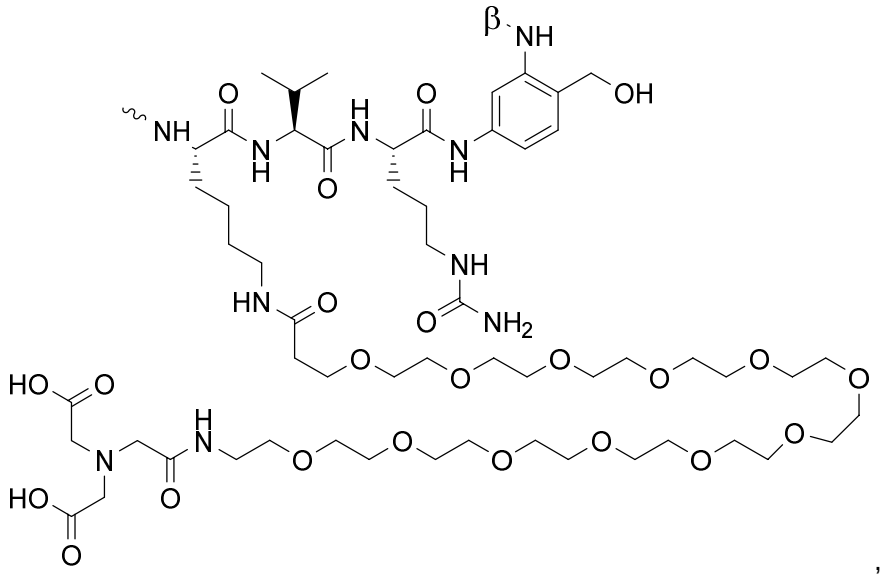


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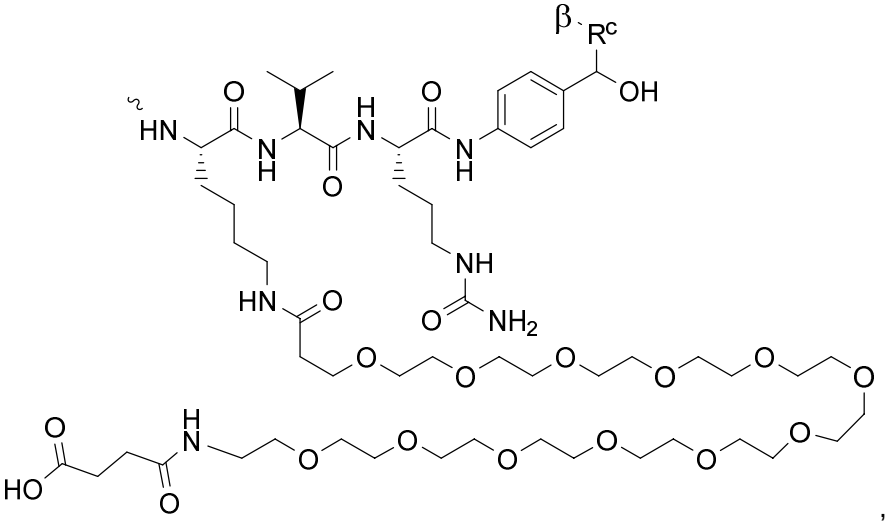




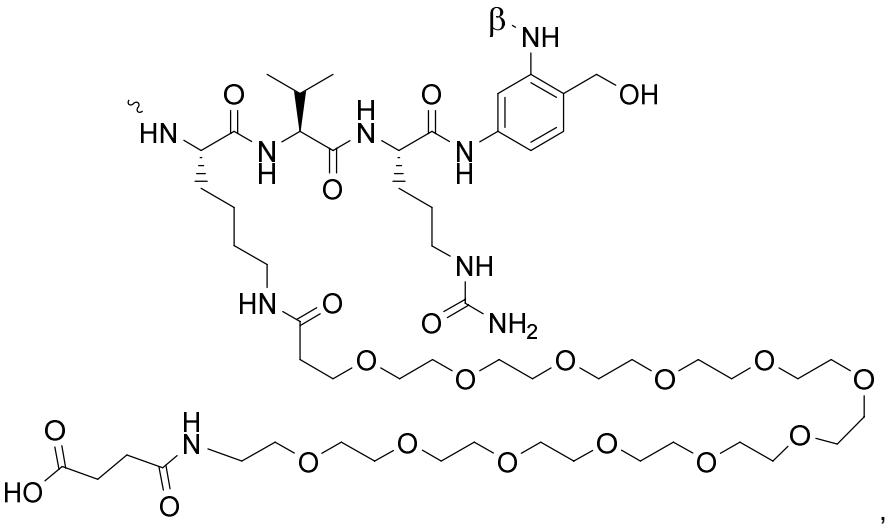
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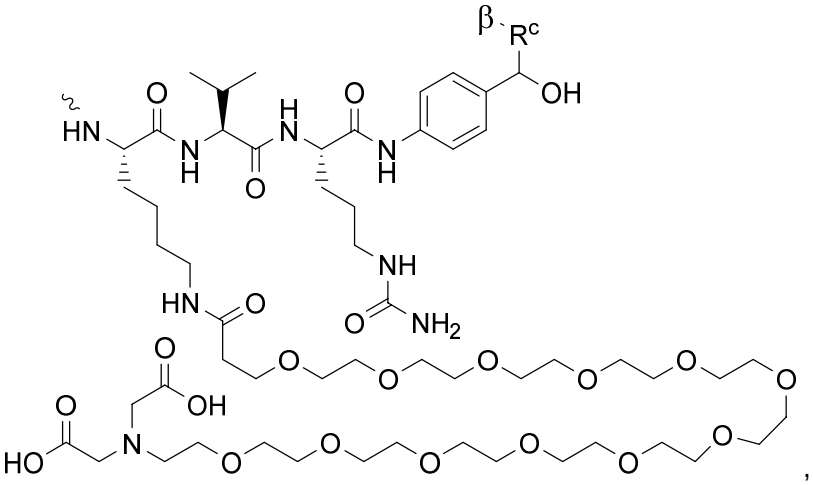
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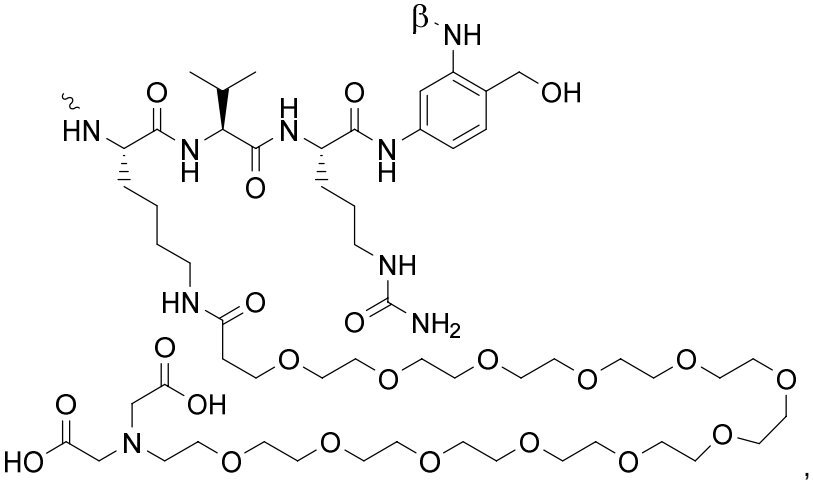
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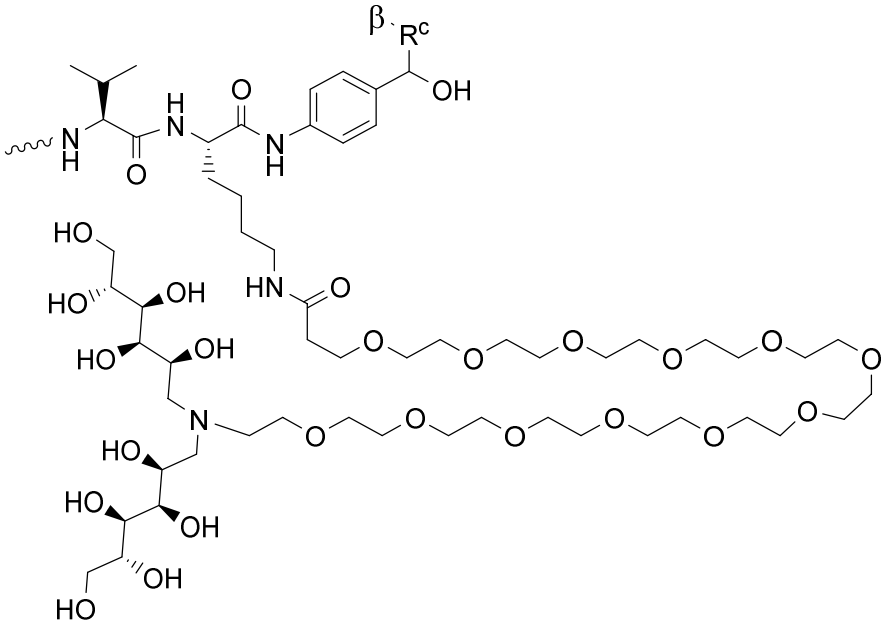
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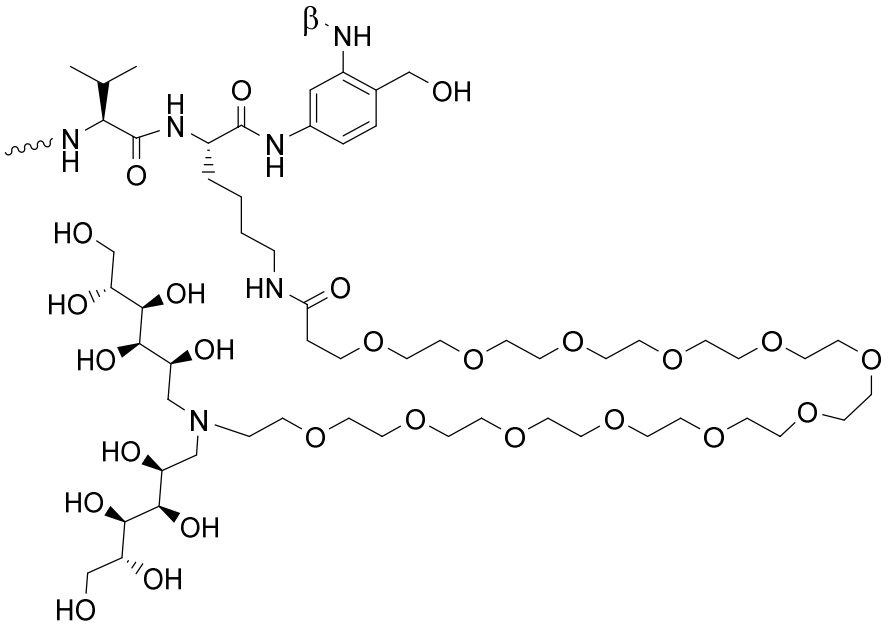
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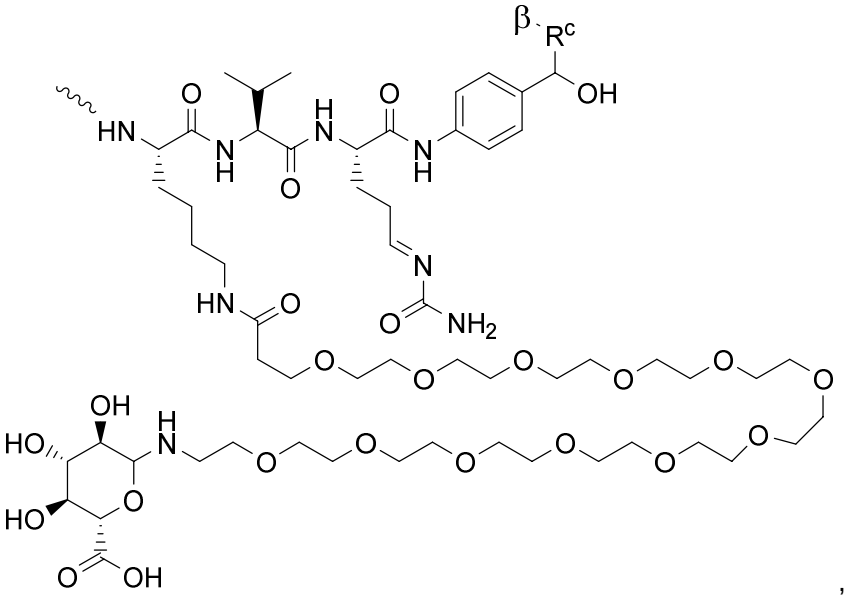
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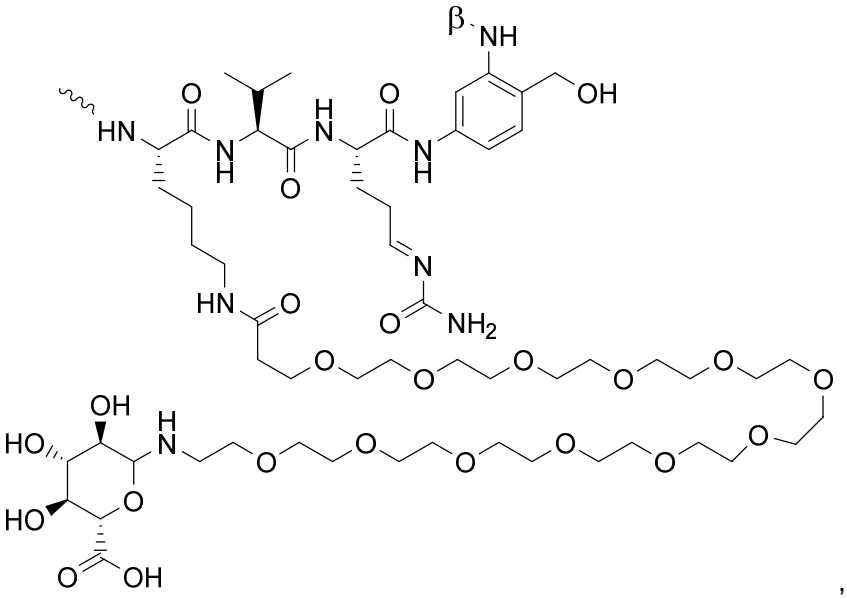
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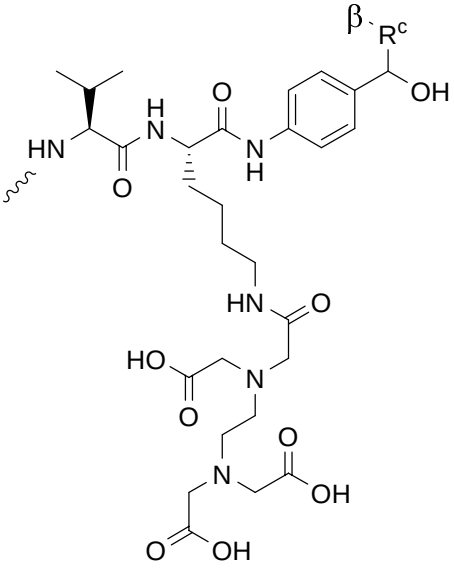
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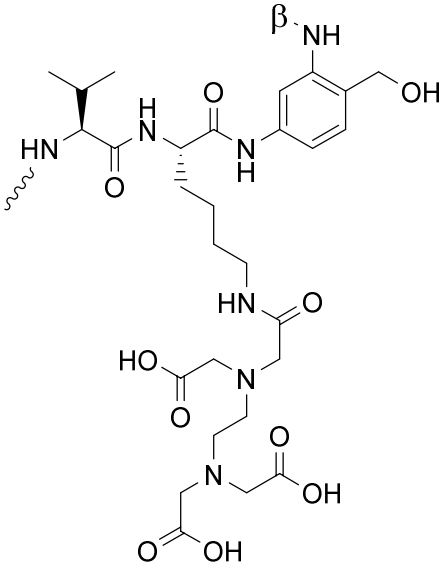
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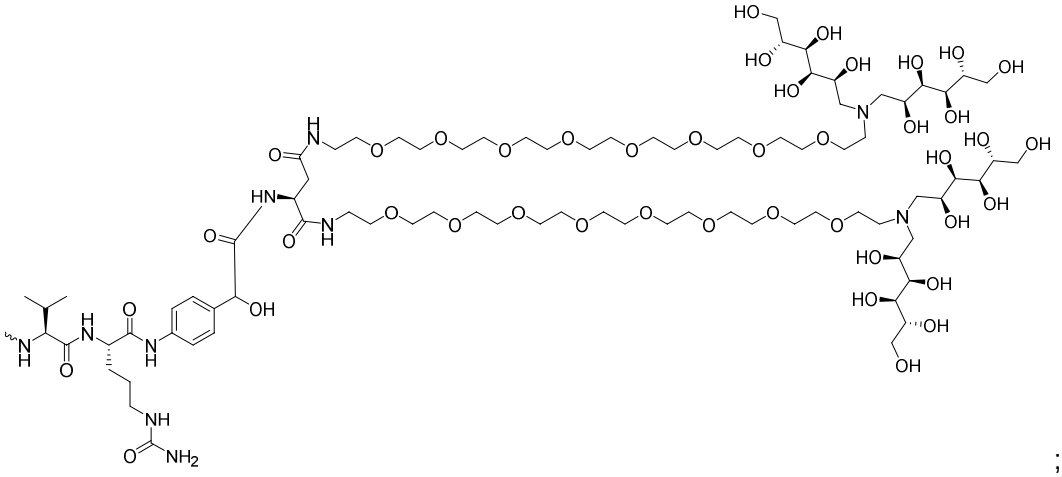
R^c is a bond or C_{1-6} alkylene;

the wavy line on the amino group indicates an attachment site for the stretcher group; or, prior to attachment to the stretcher group, indicates H;

β— is the attachment site to the at least one polar group; and

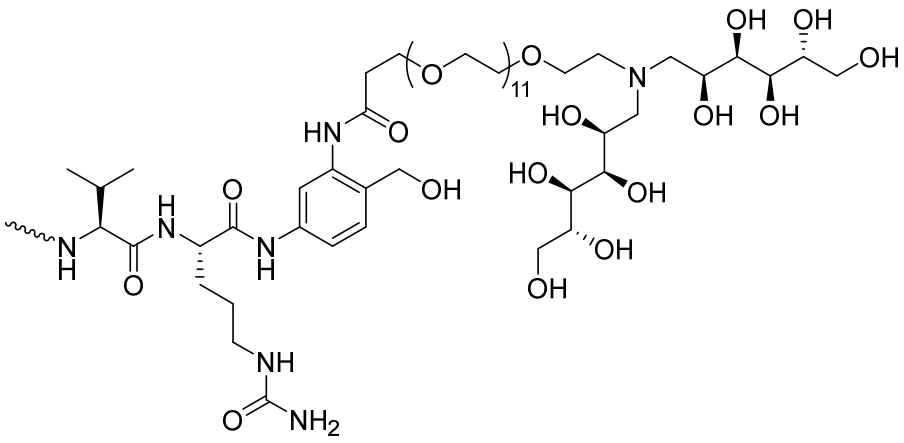
the H on the benzylic OH is optionally replaced with a bond to one of the drug units or to the attachment site to at least one of the drug units.

13. The conjugate of claim 7(iii), having one of the following structures:

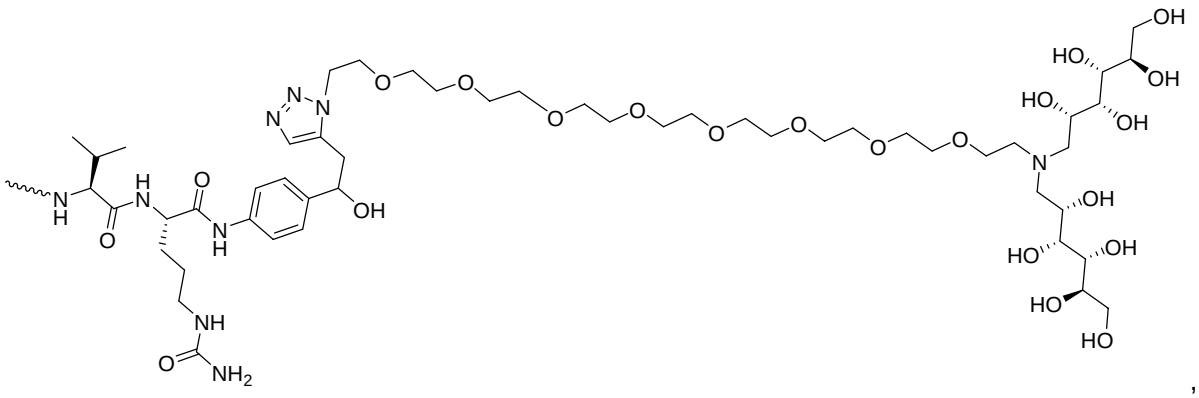


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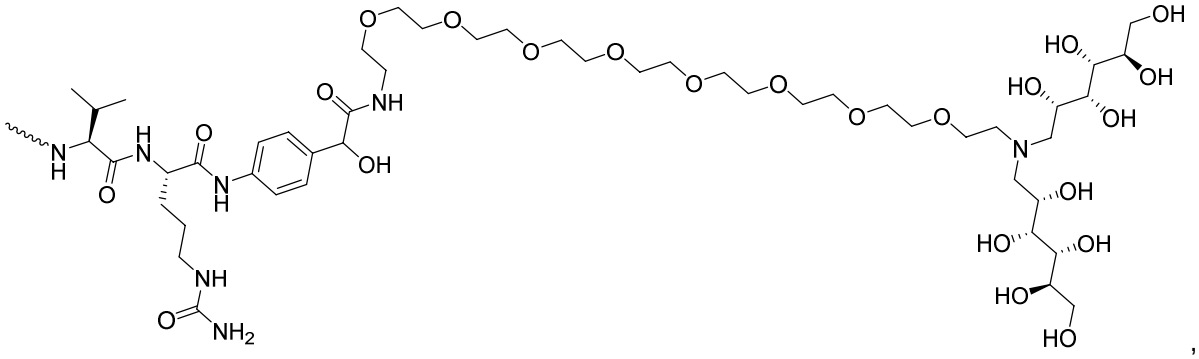
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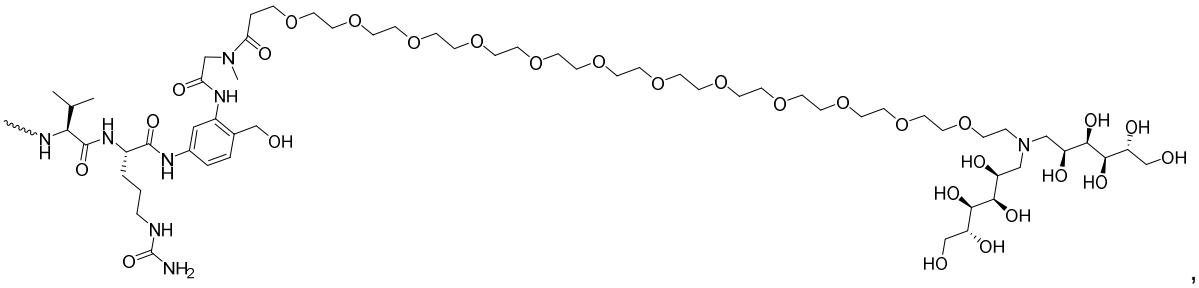
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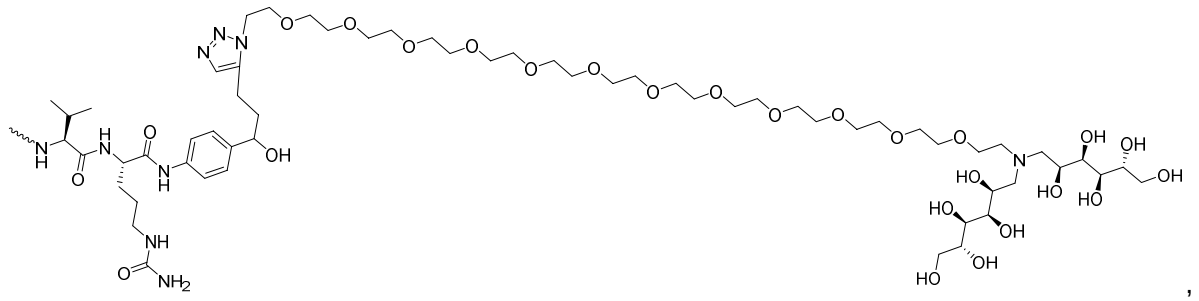
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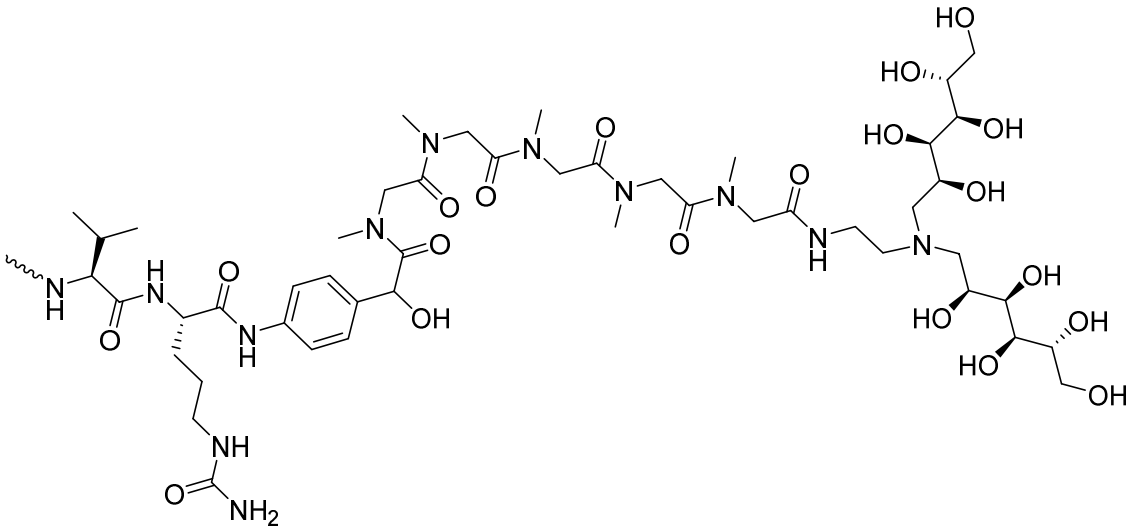
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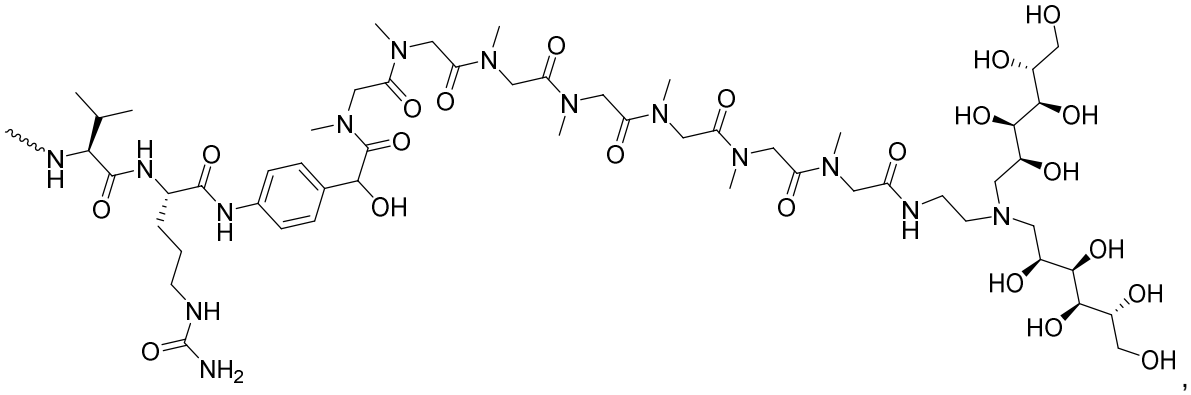
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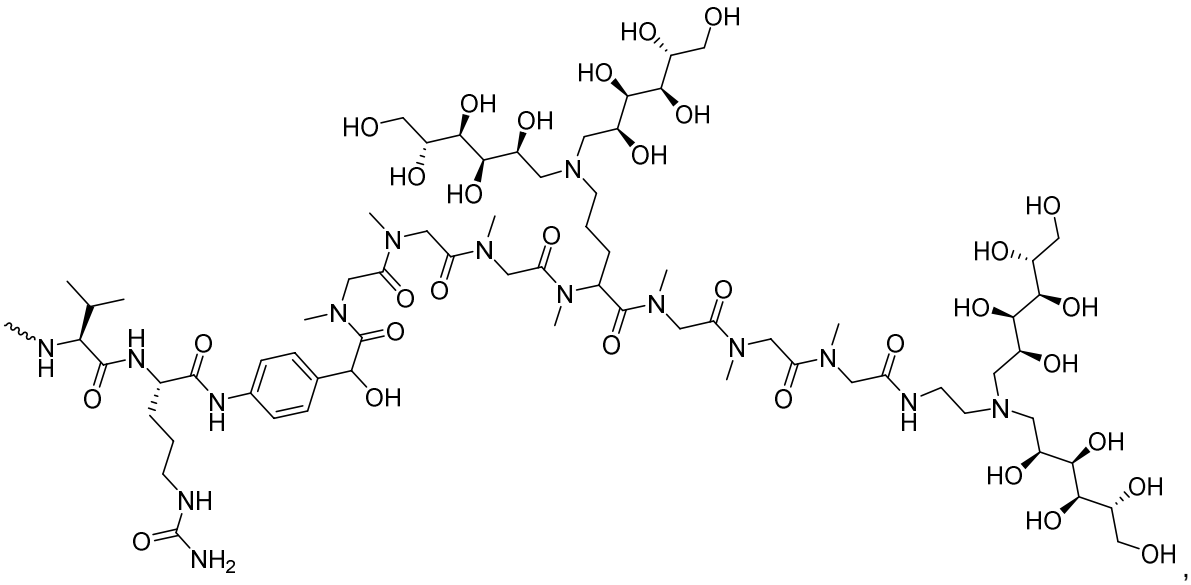
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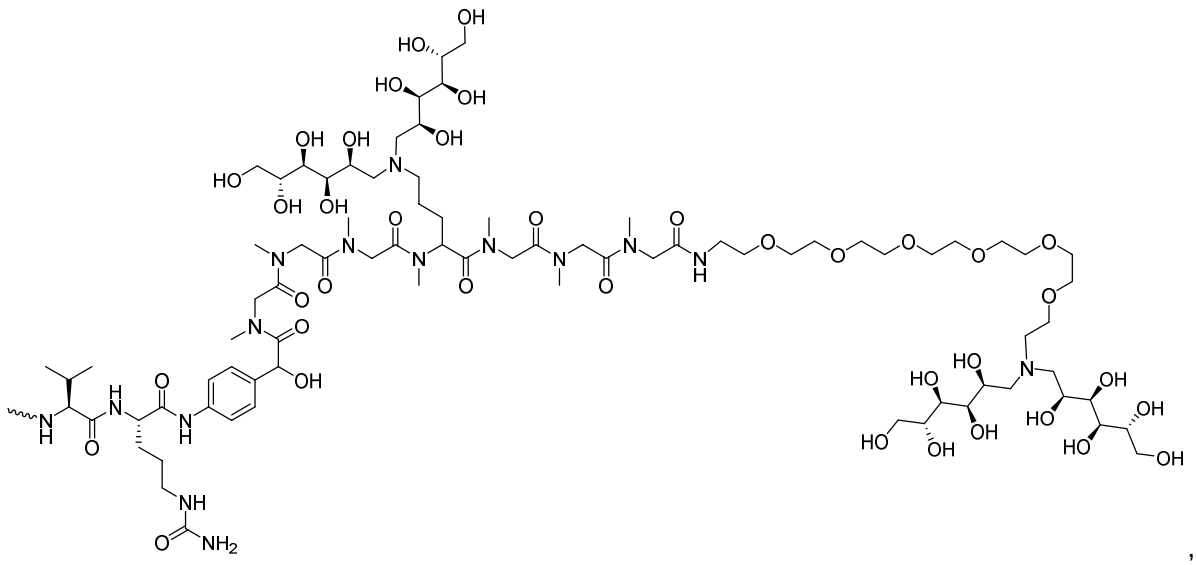
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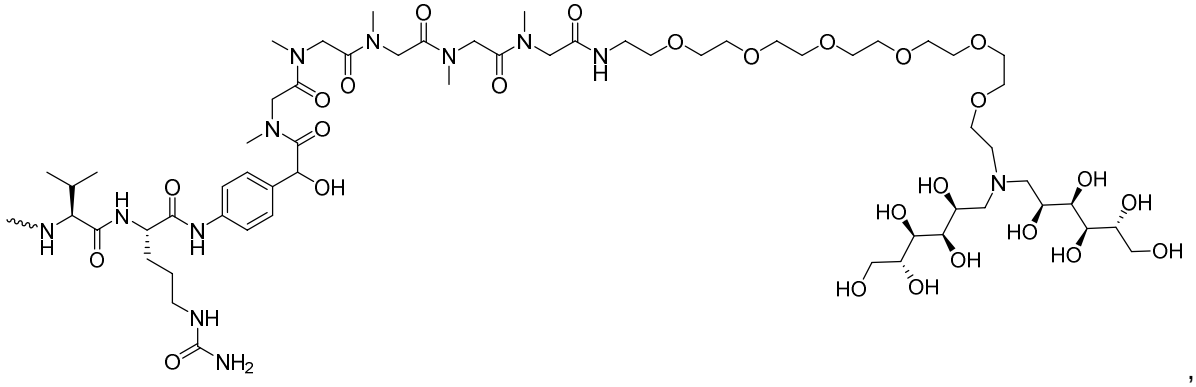
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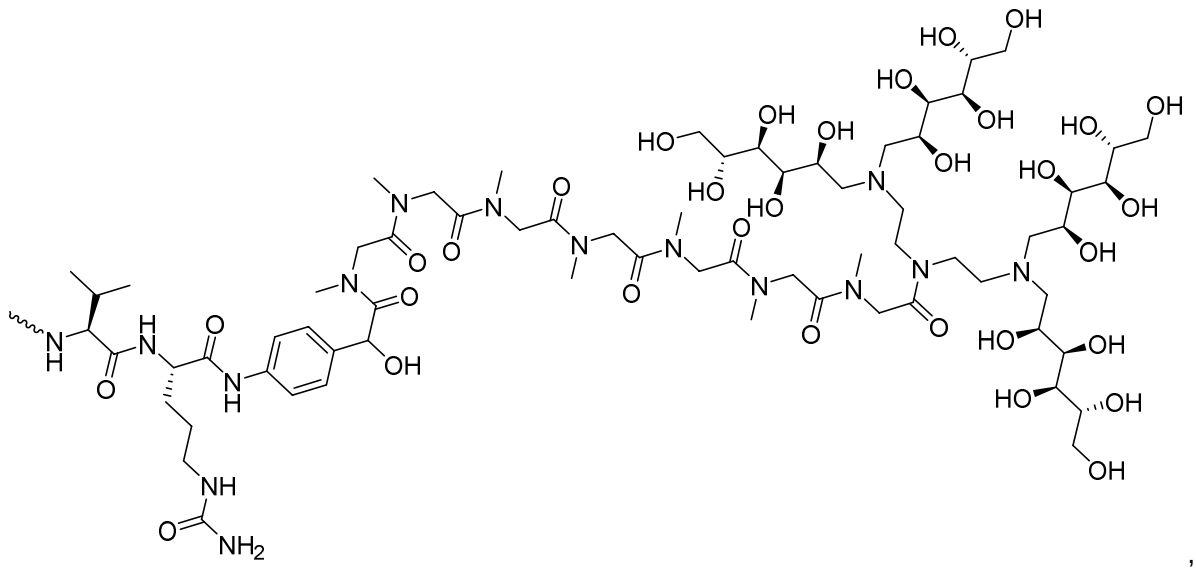
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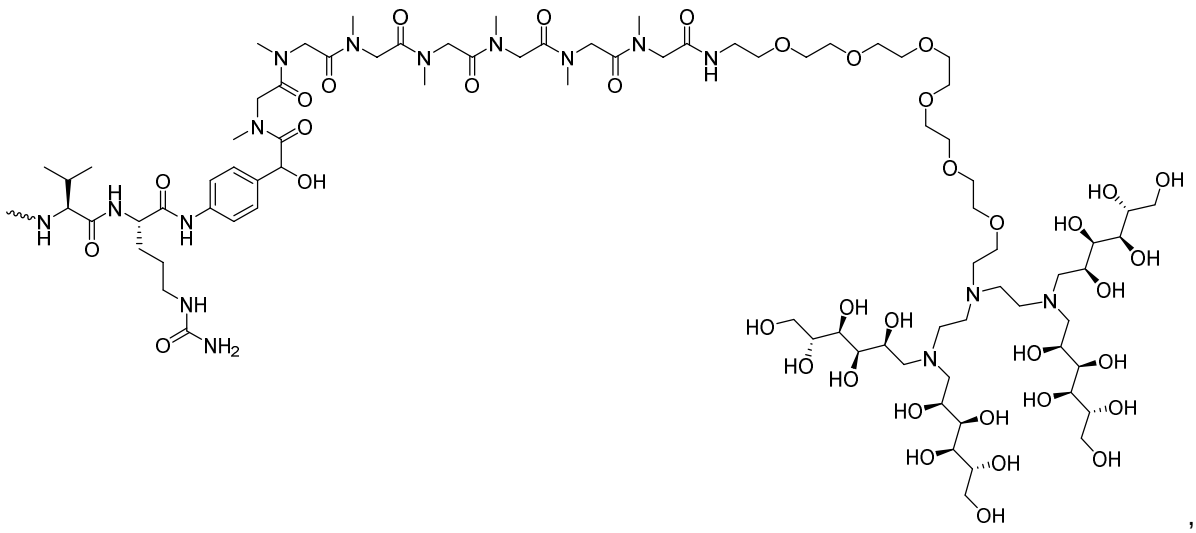
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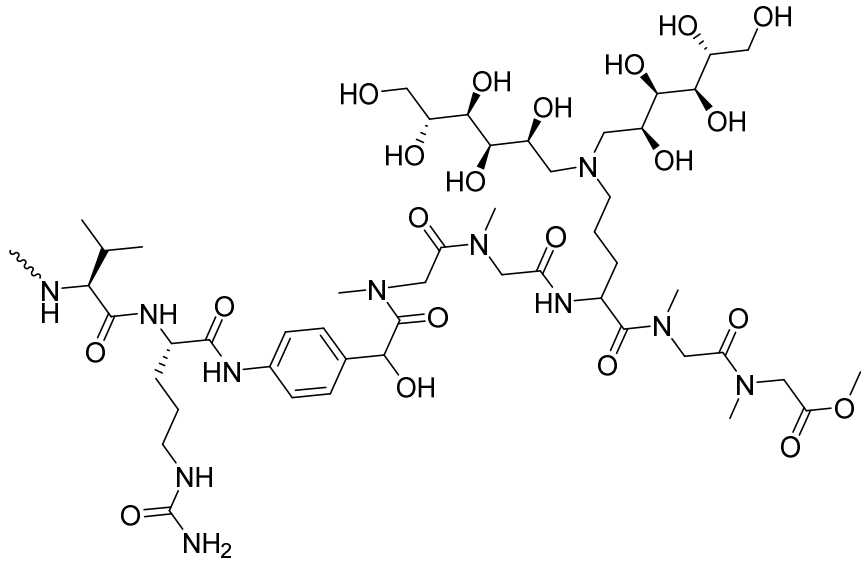
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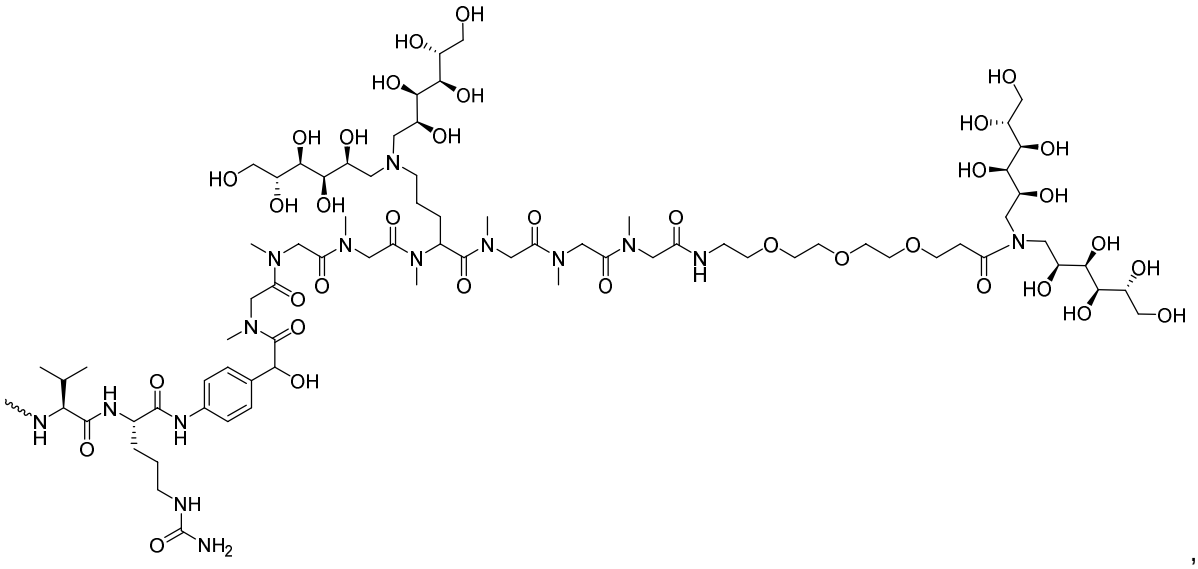
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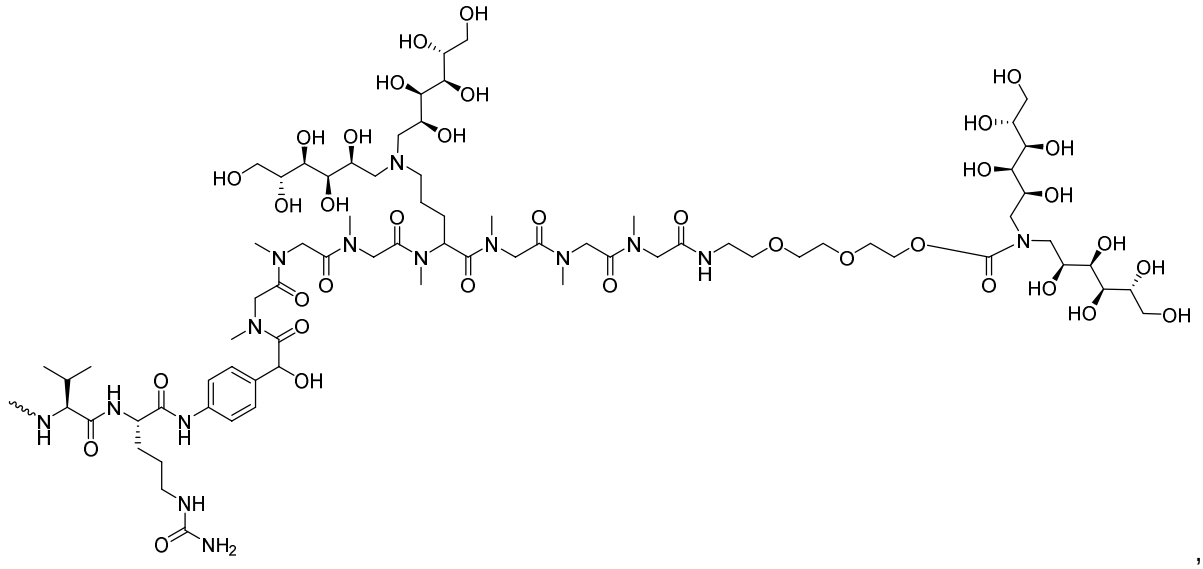
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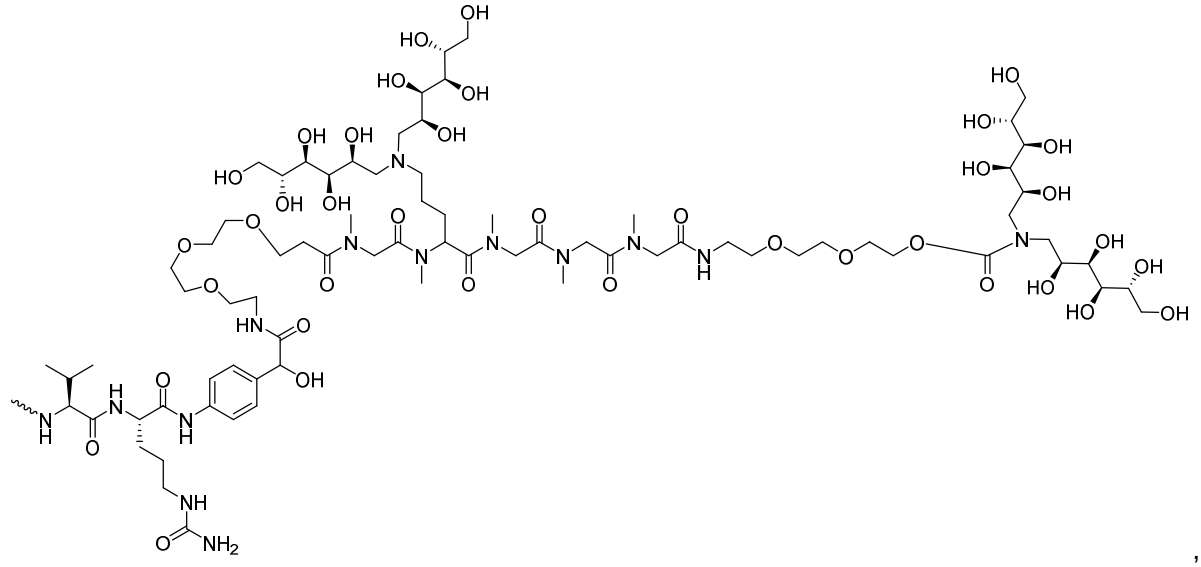
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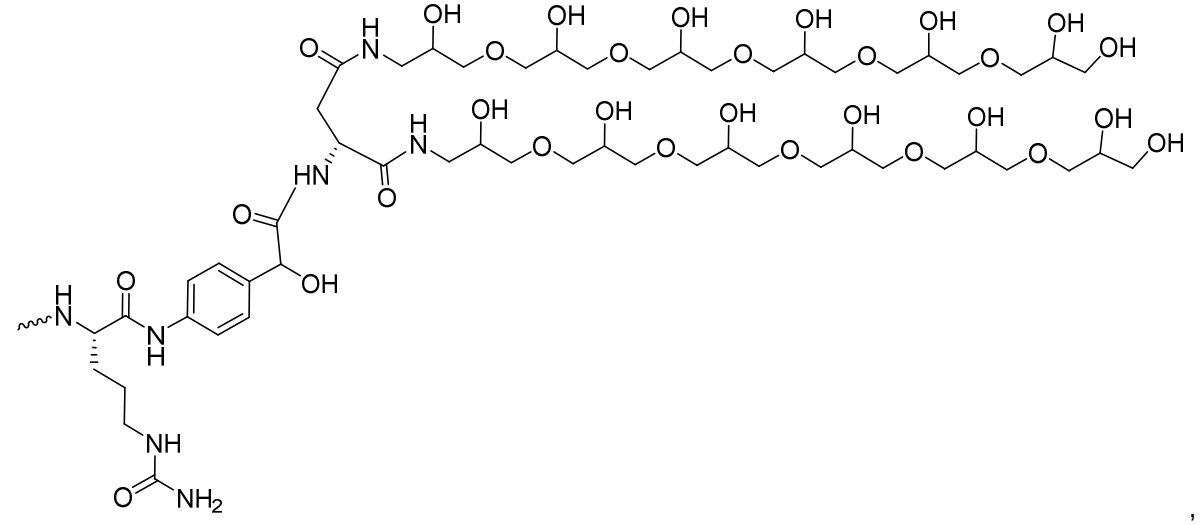
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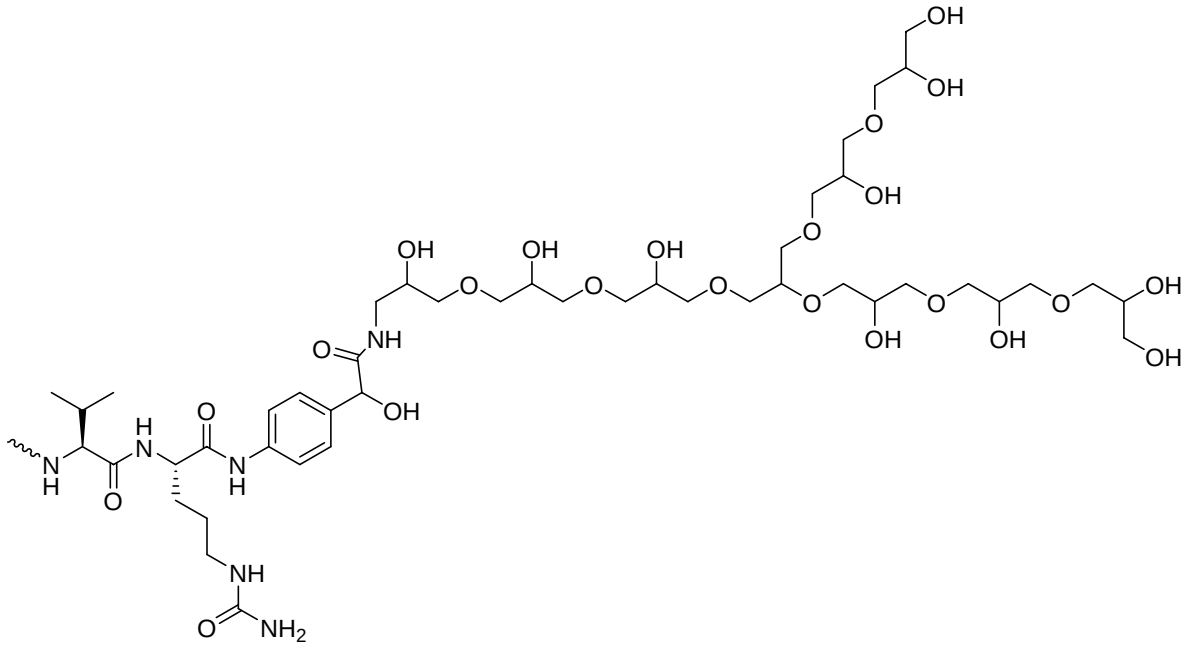
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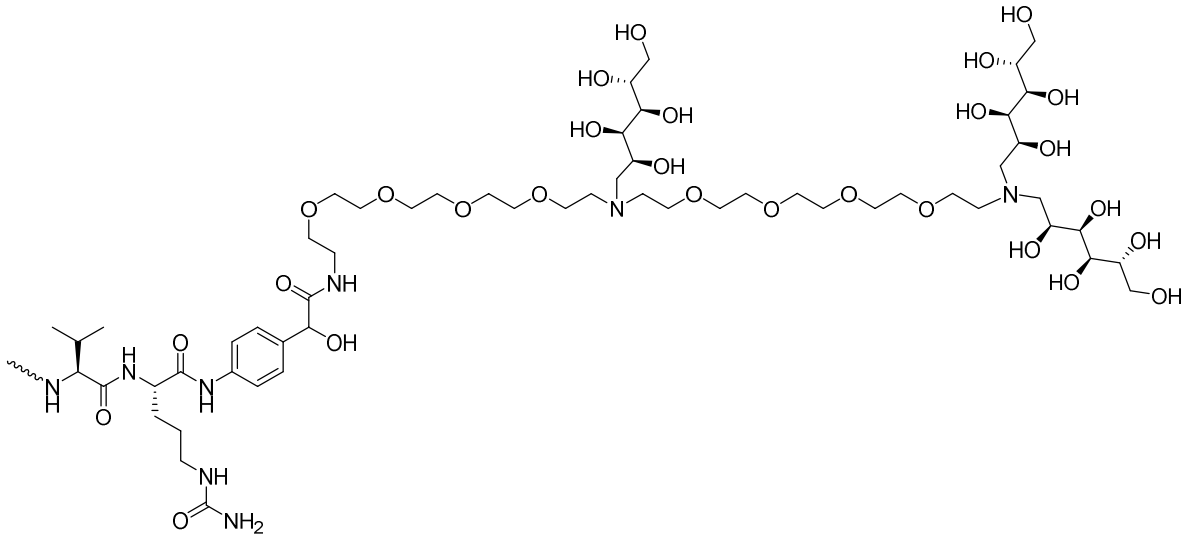
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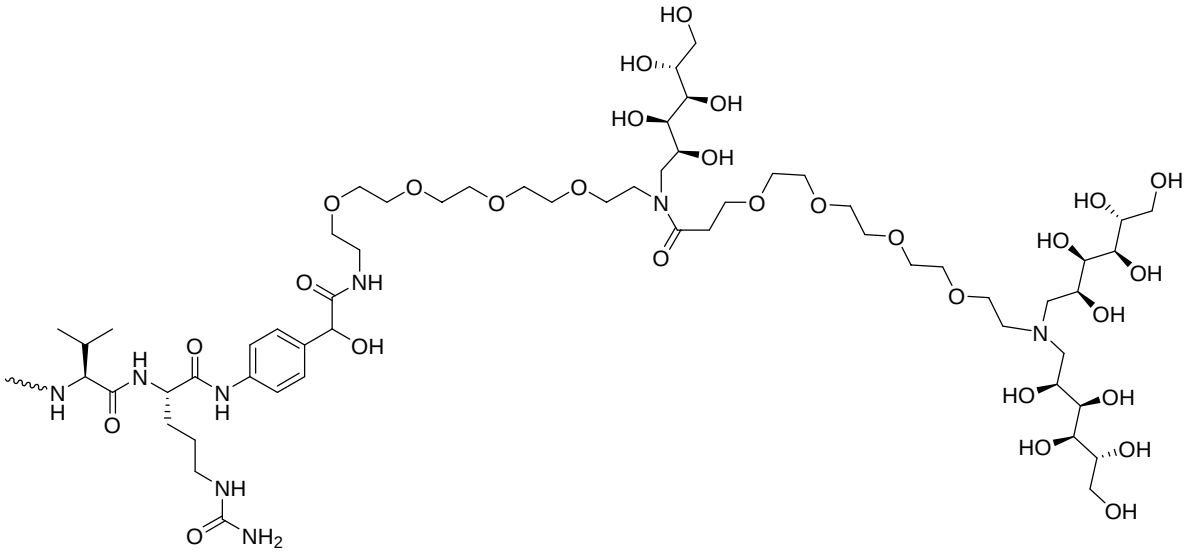
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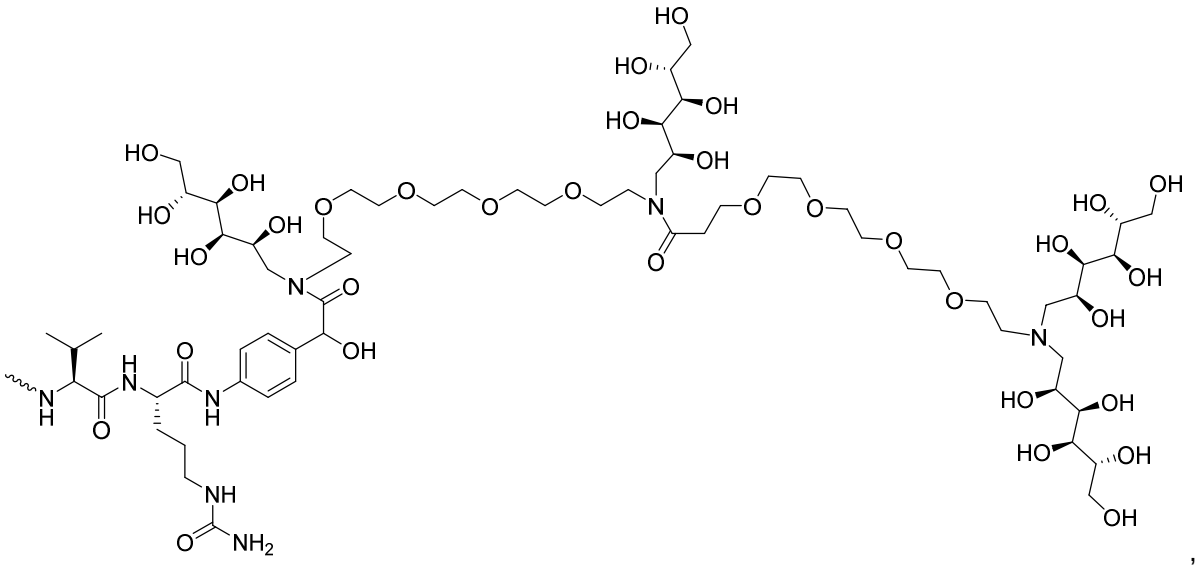
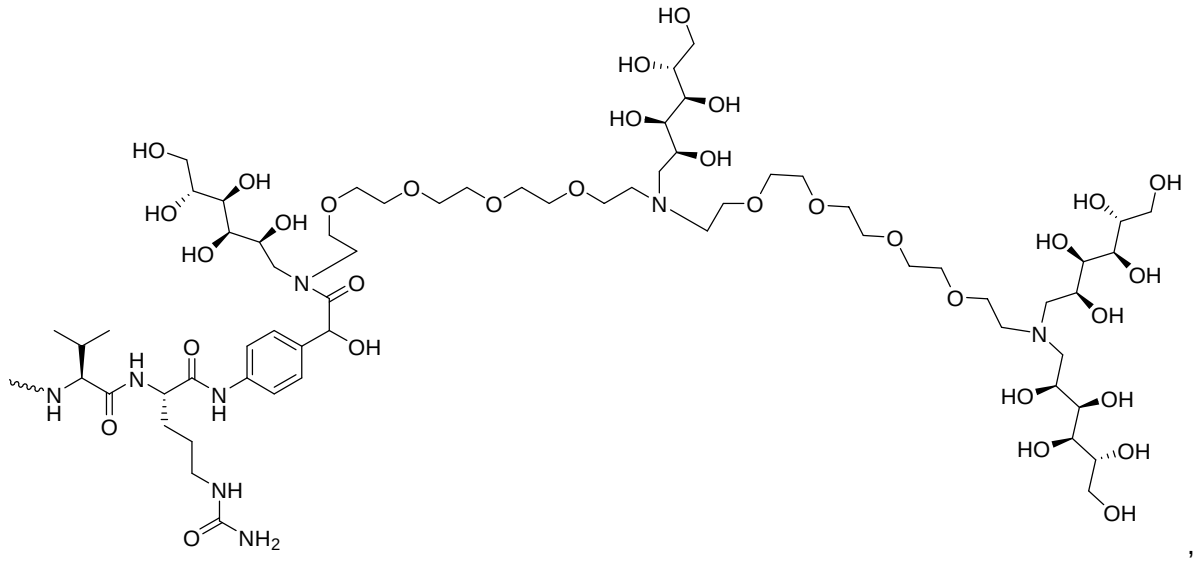
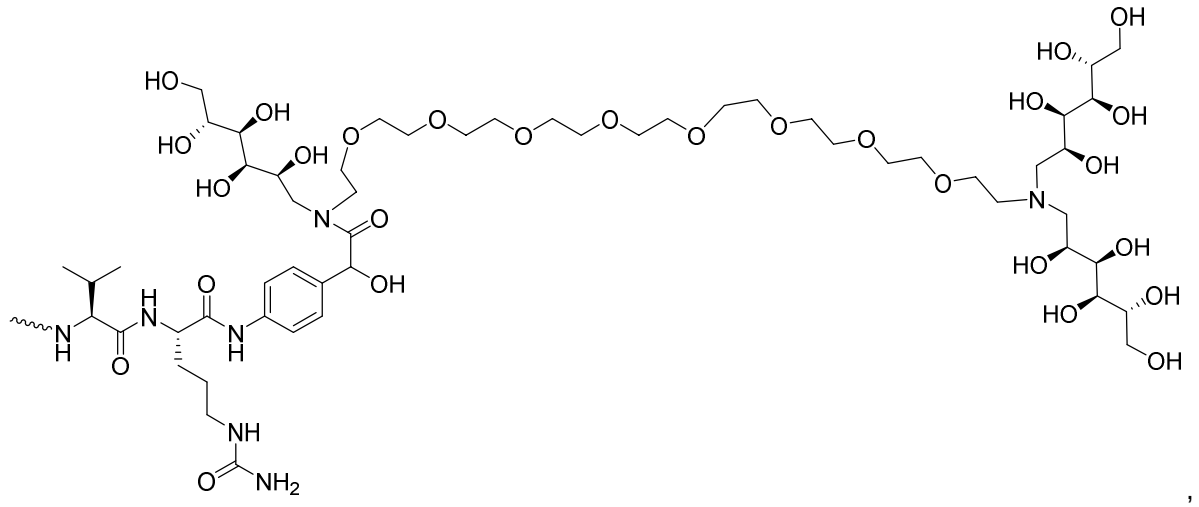
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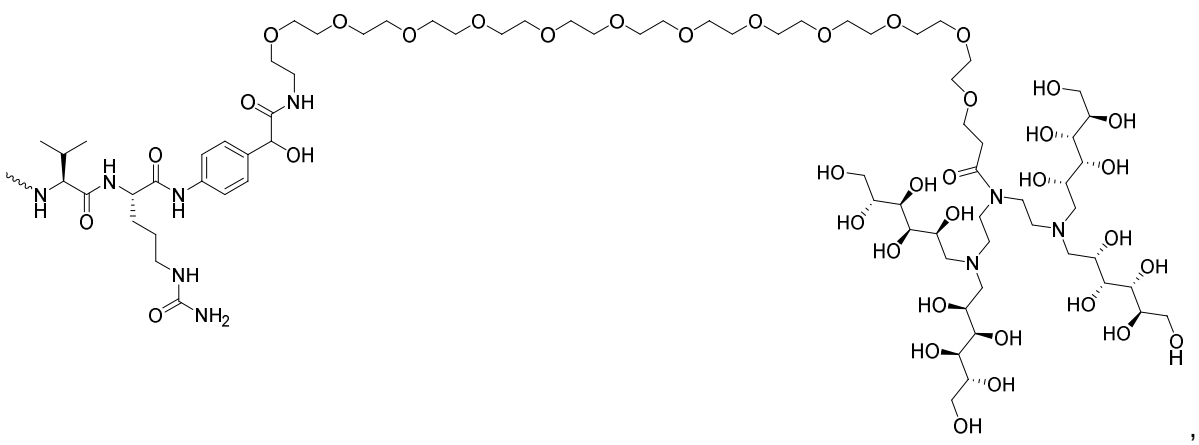


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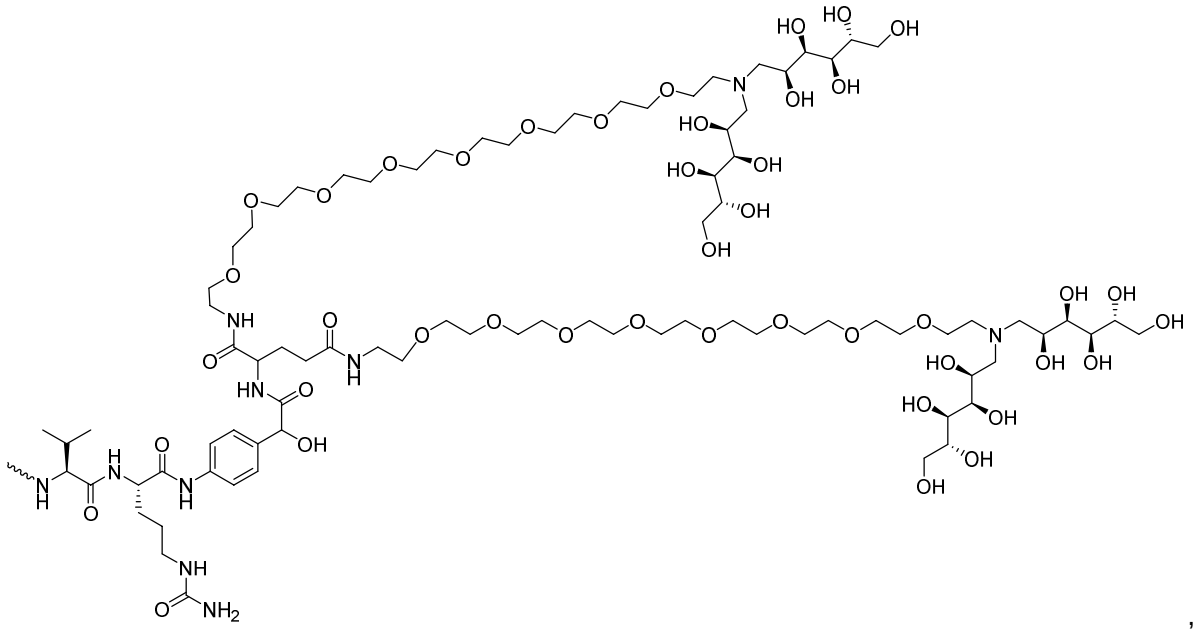


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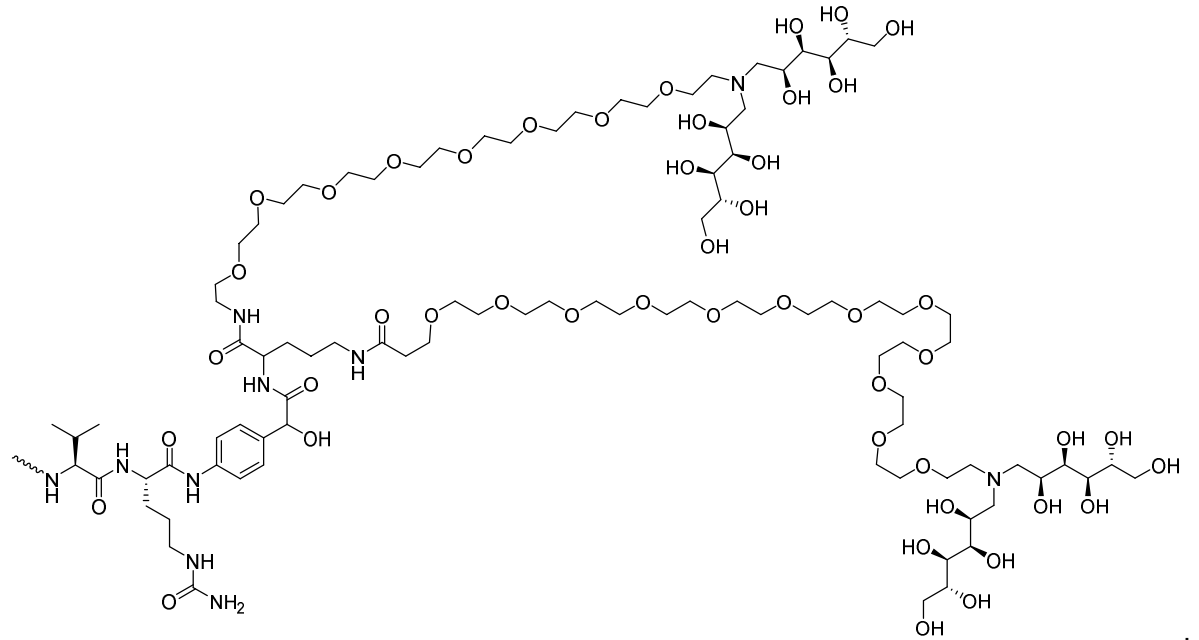

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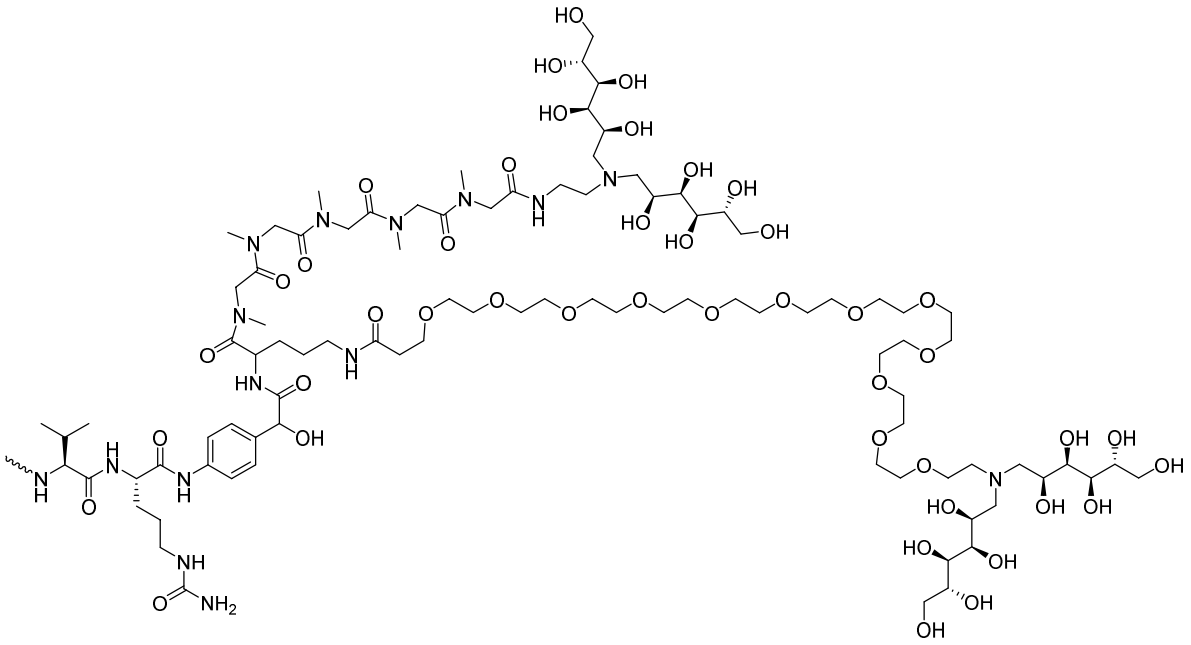
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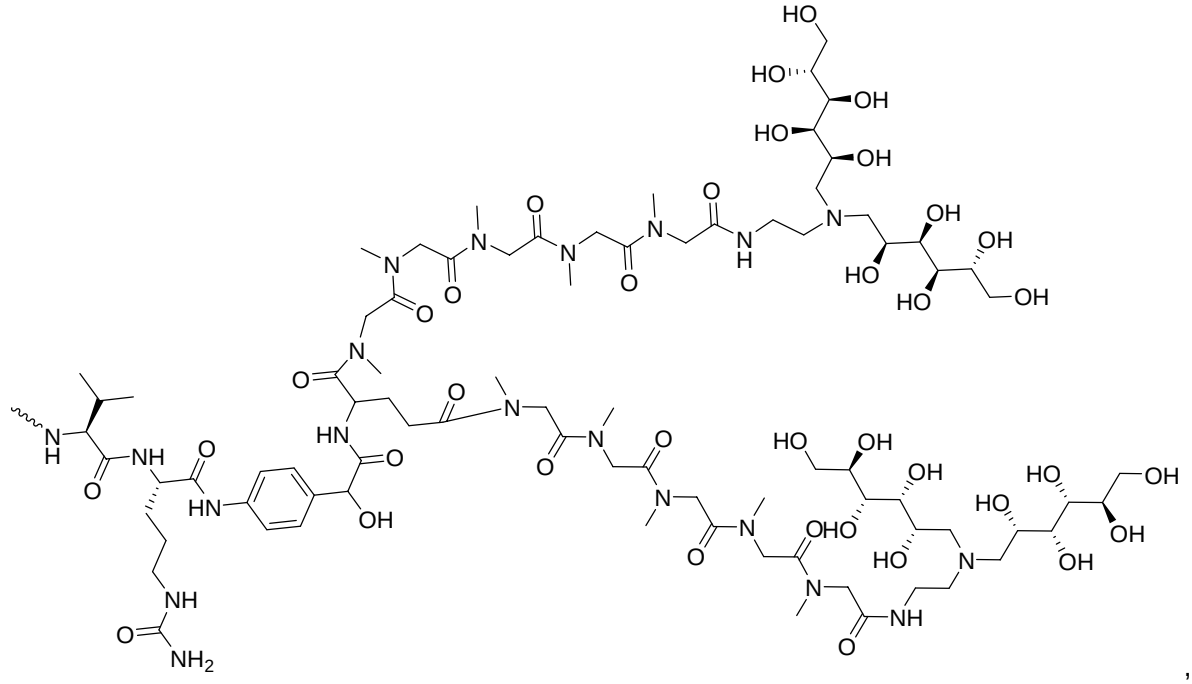
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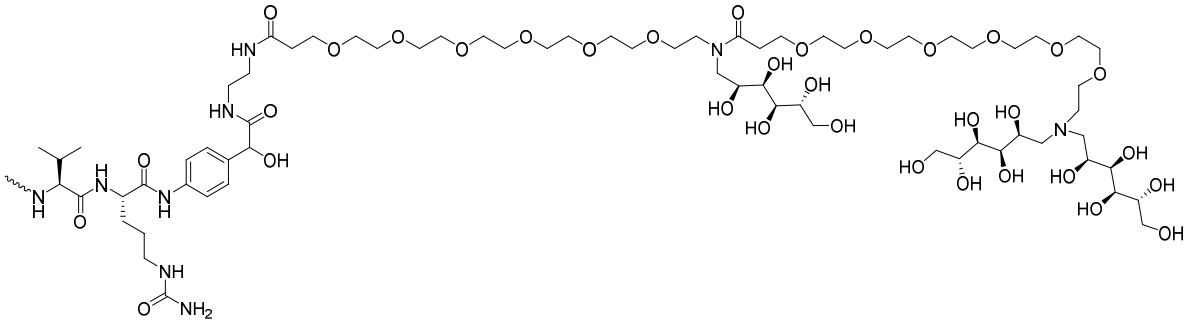
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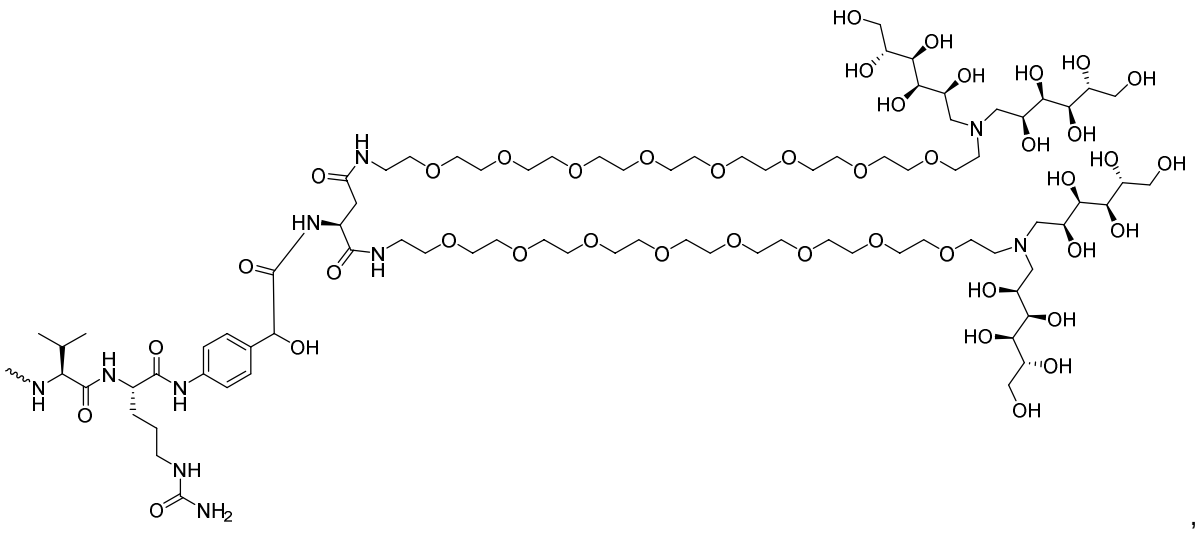
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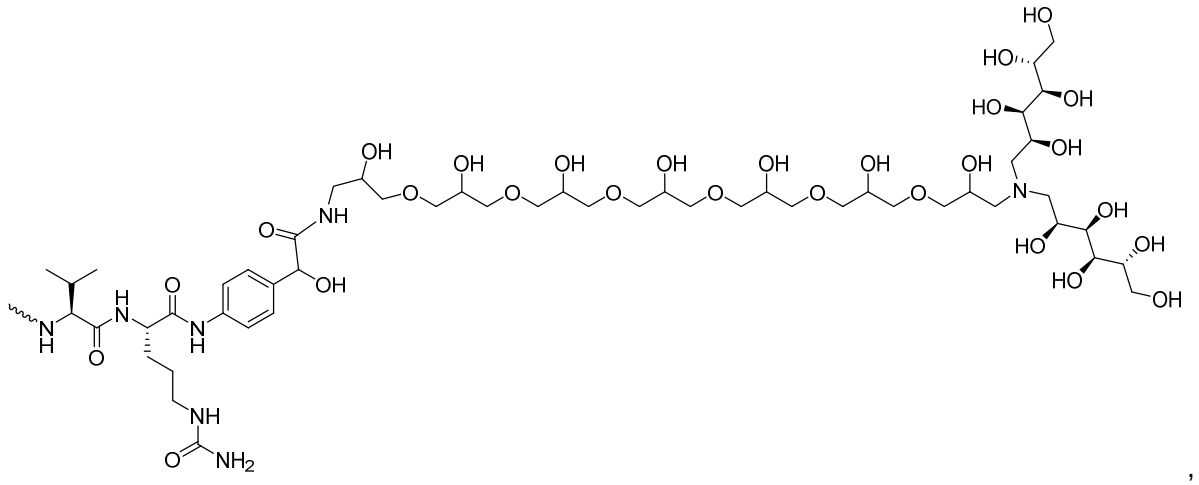
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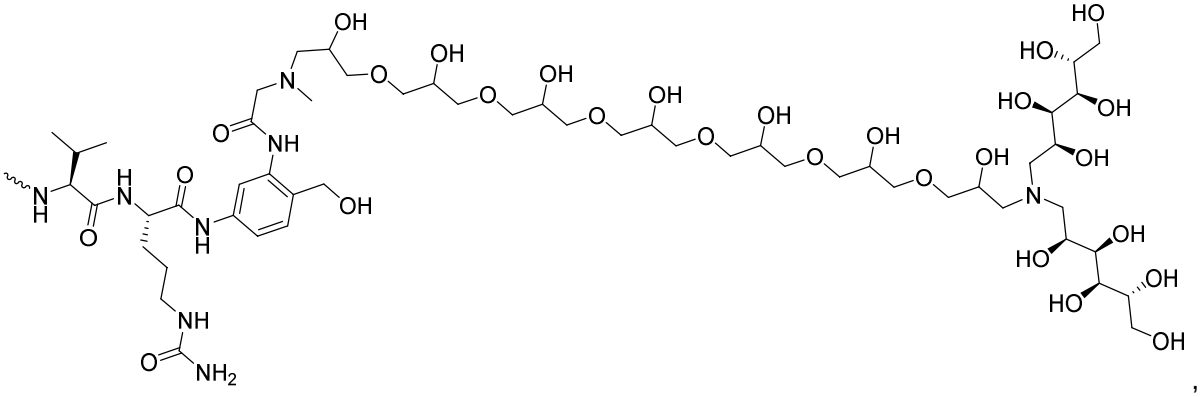
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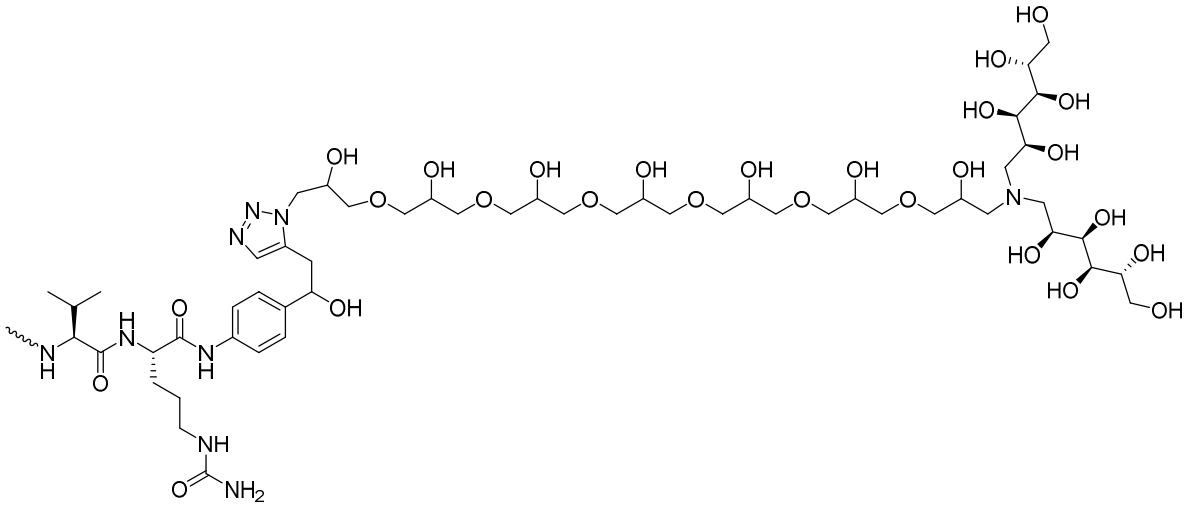
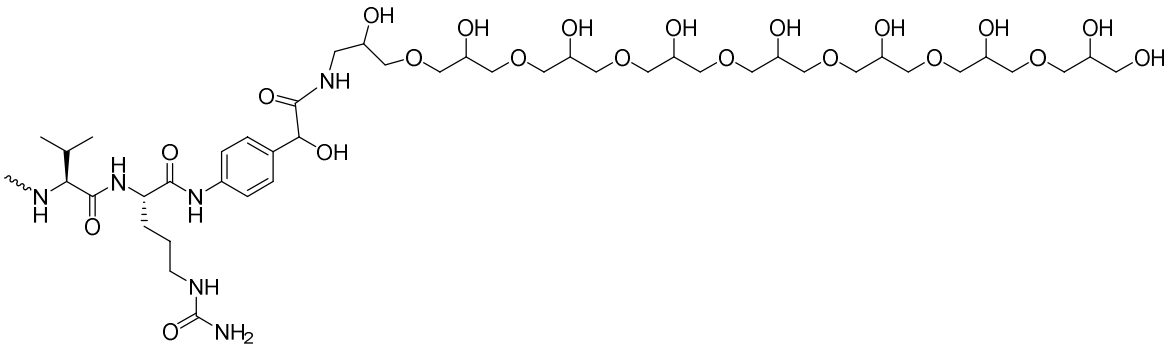
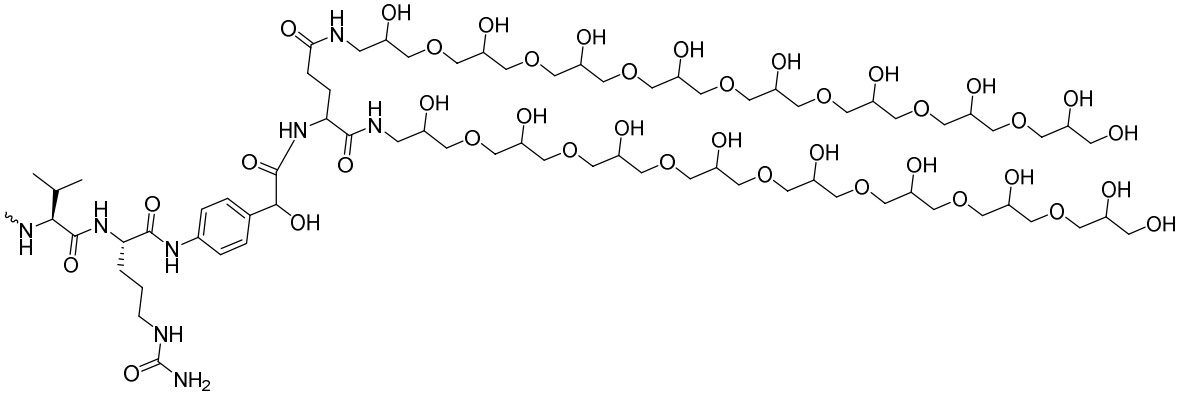
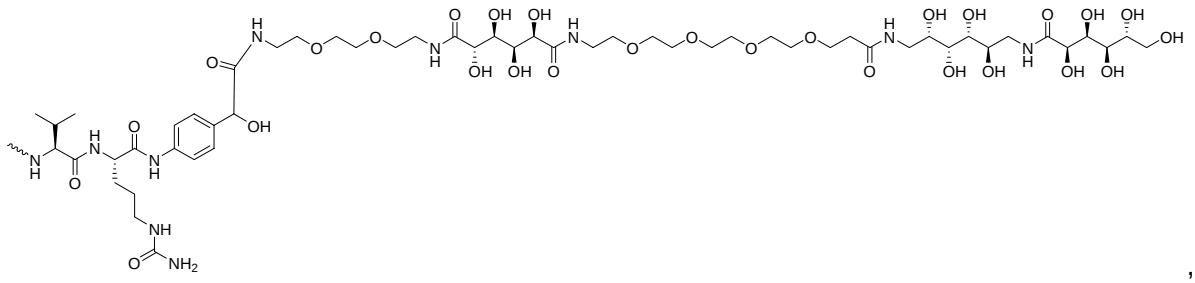
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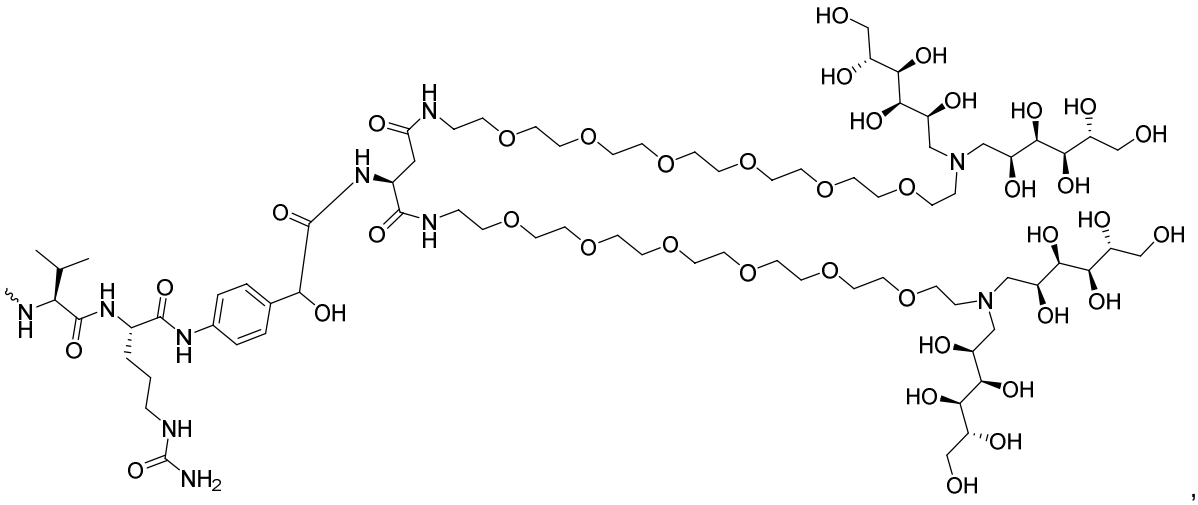


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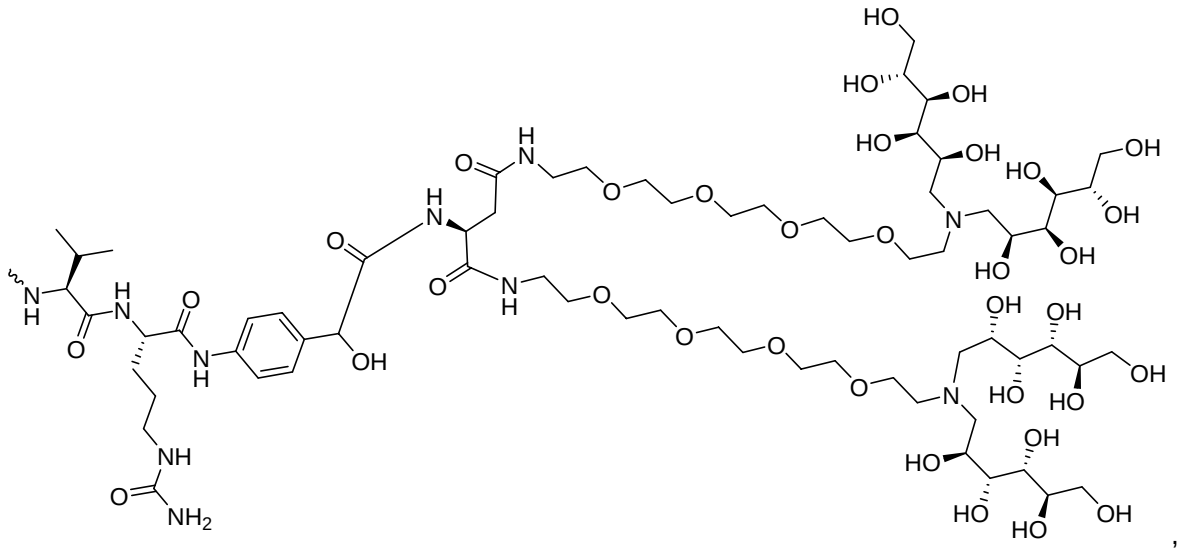


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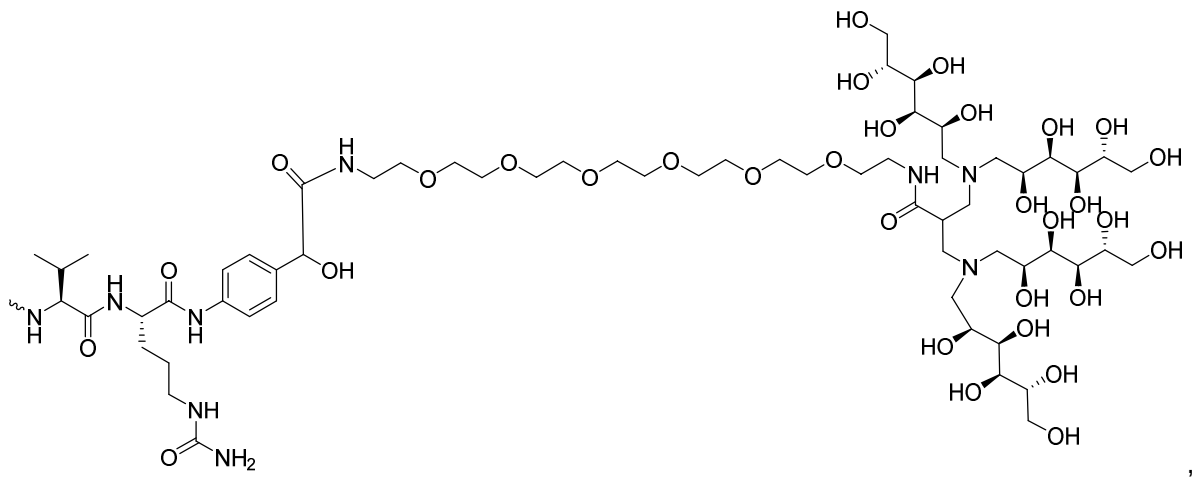

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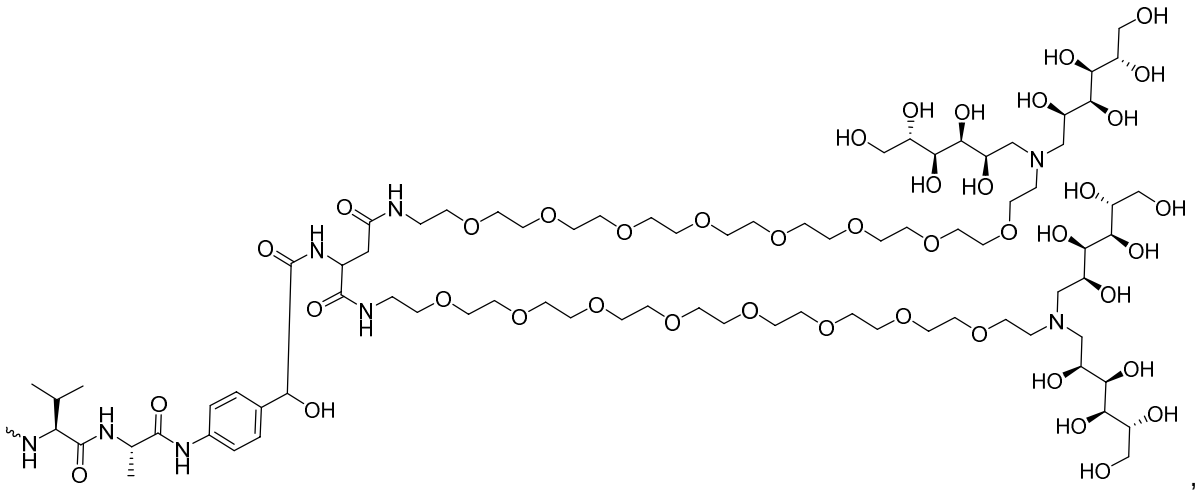
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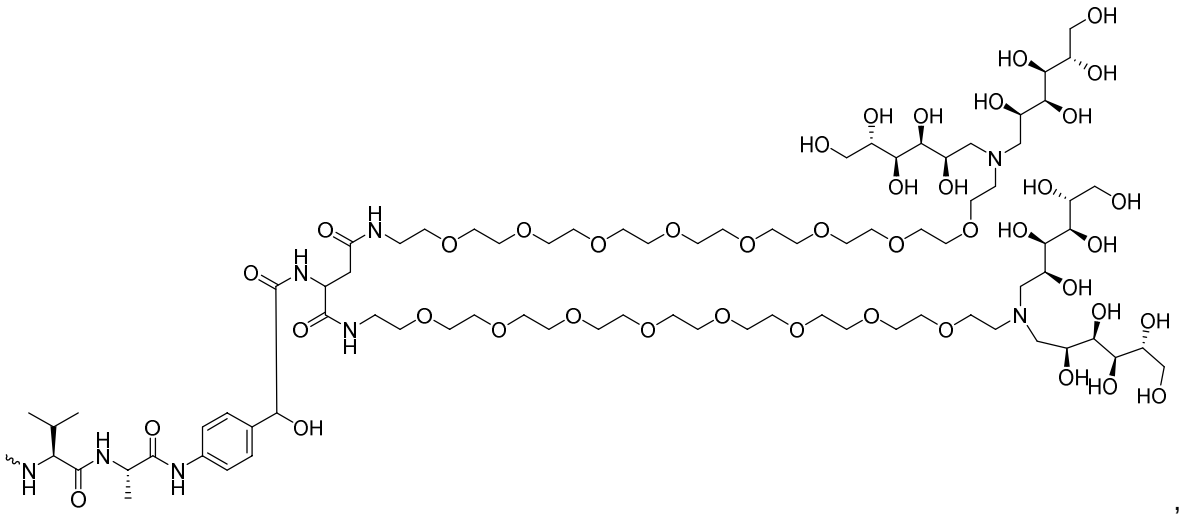
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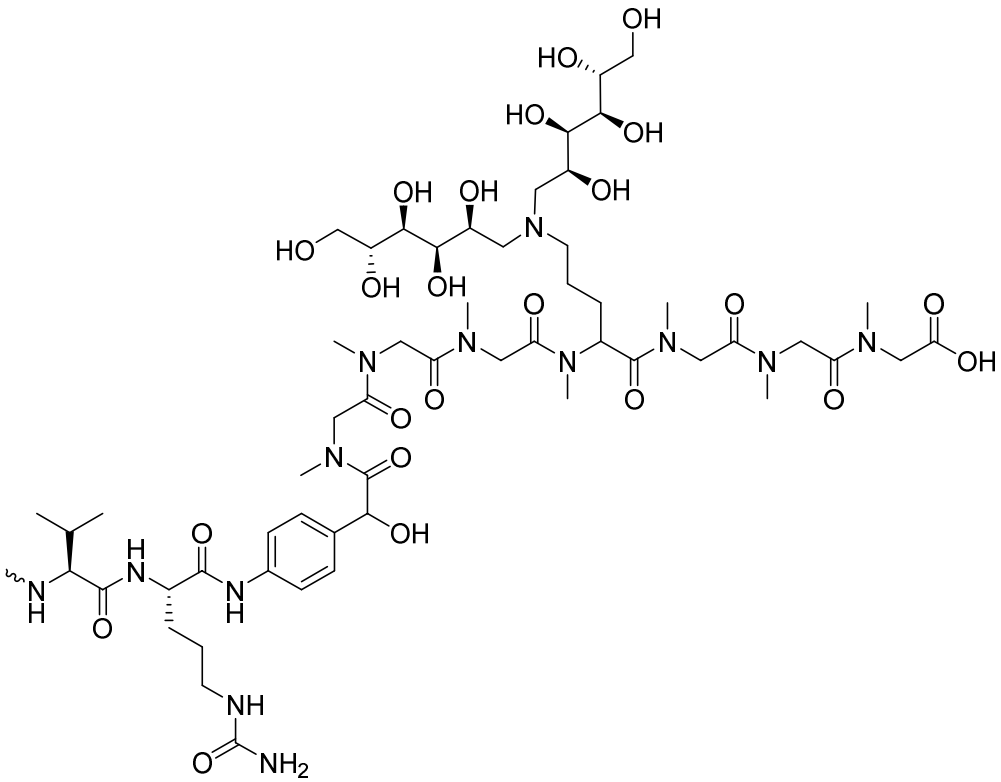
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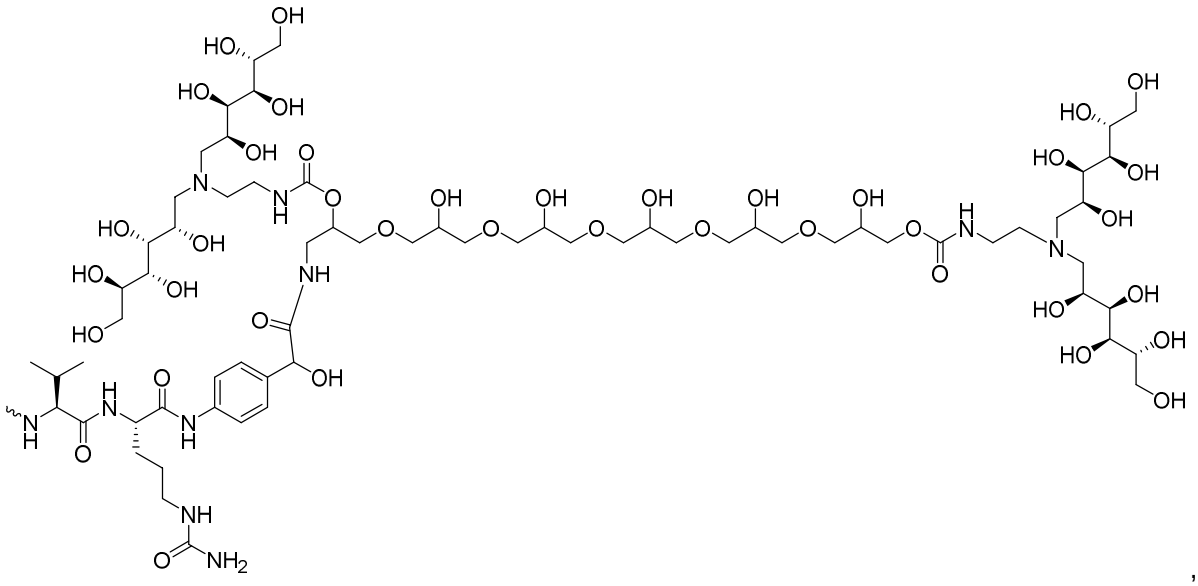
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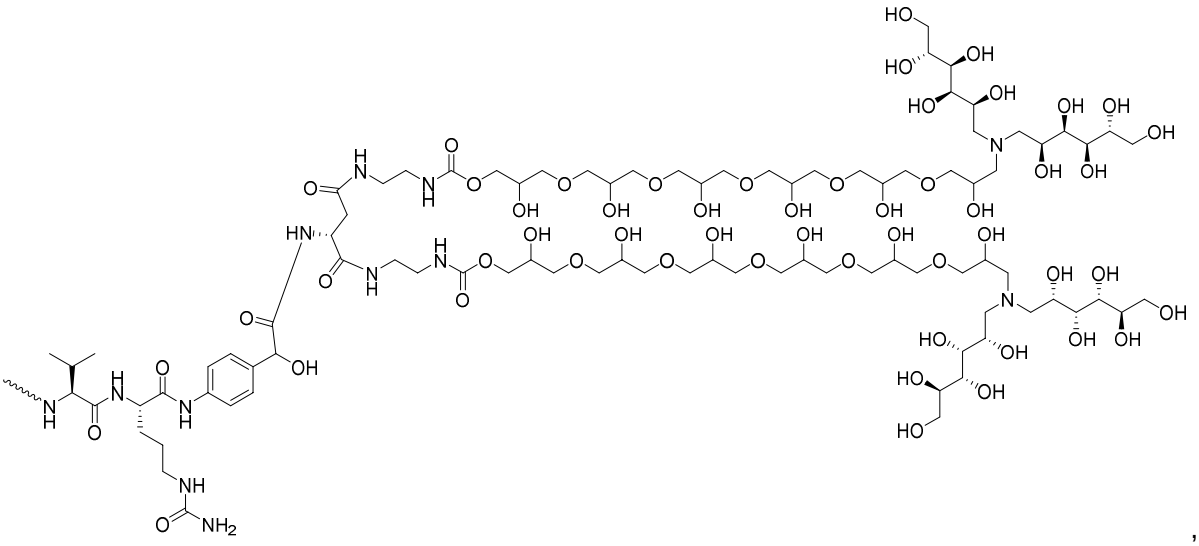
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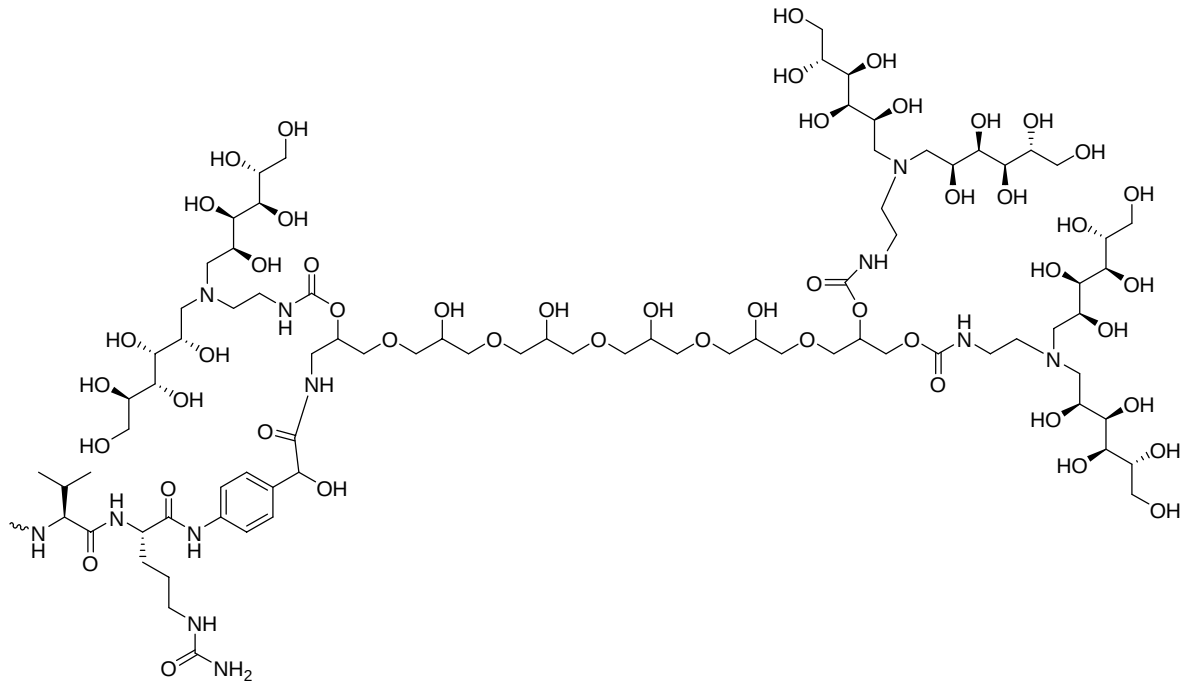
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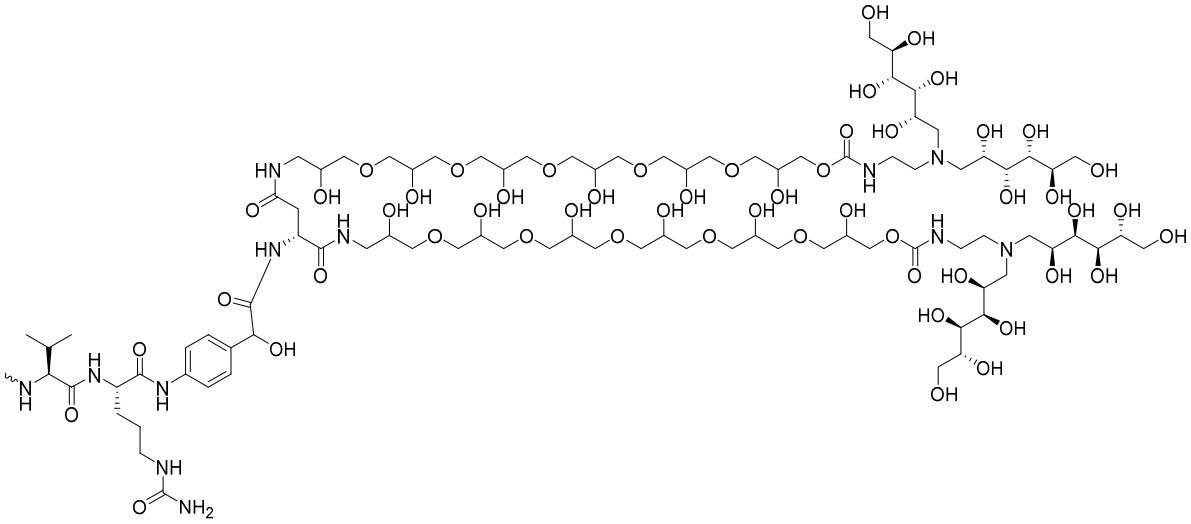
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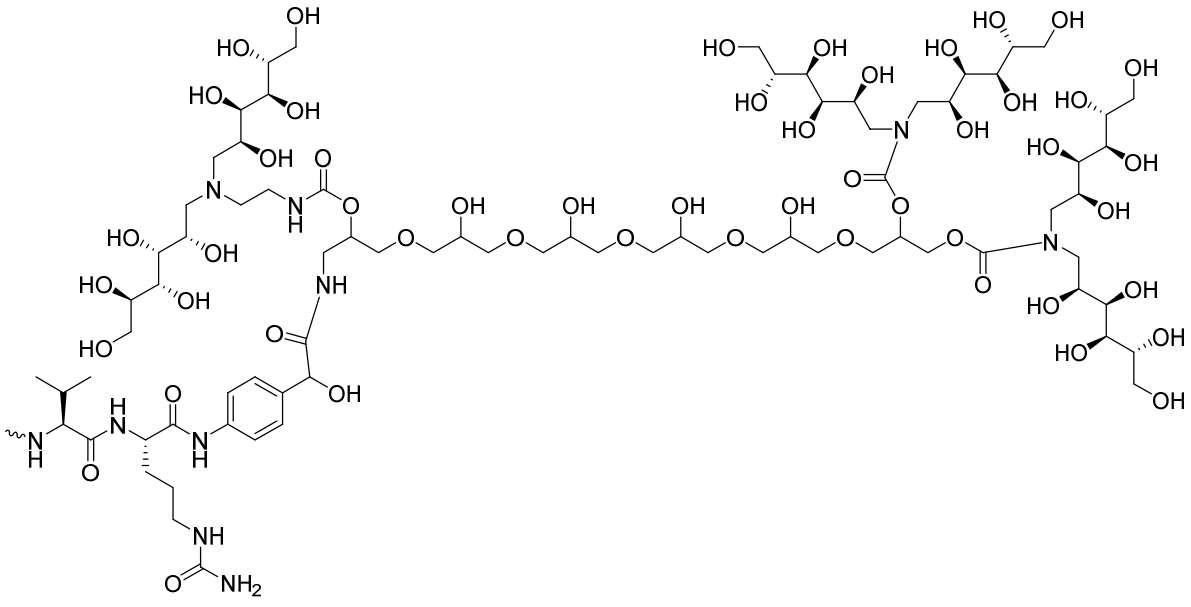
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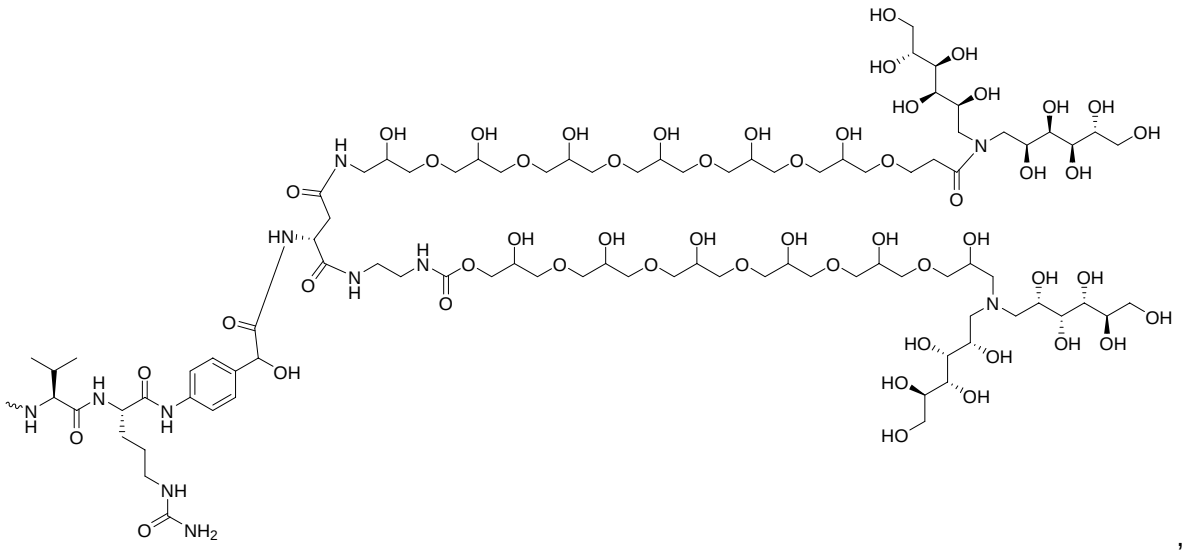
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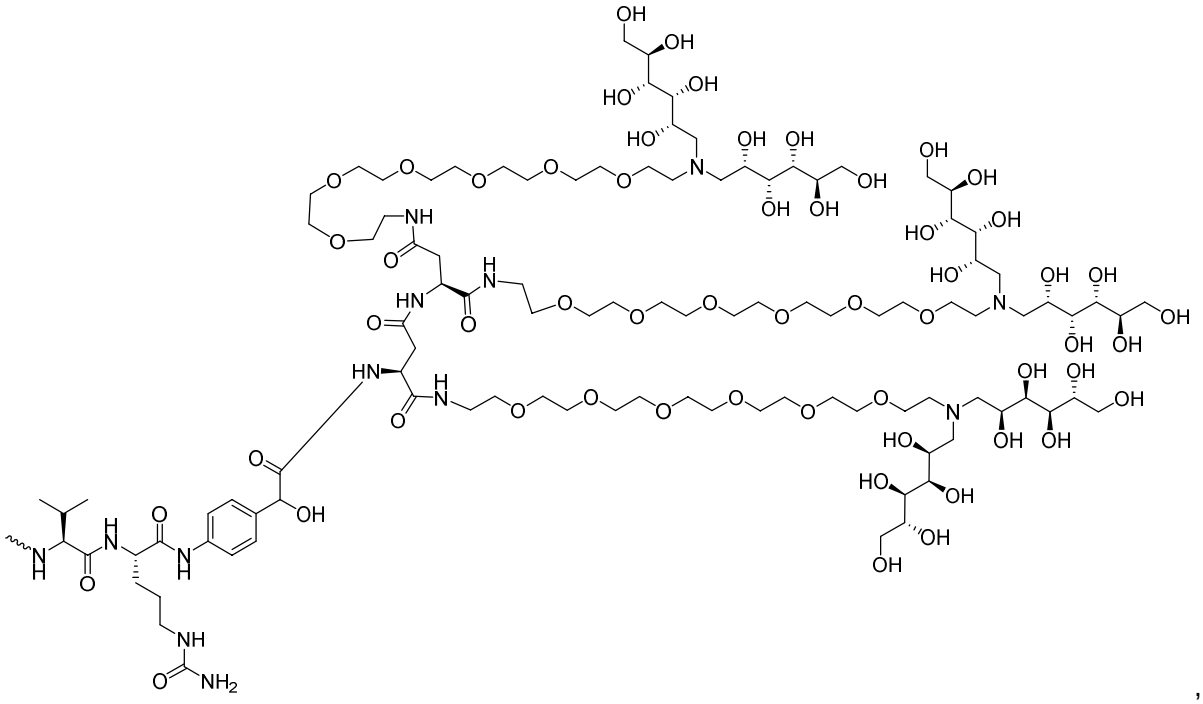
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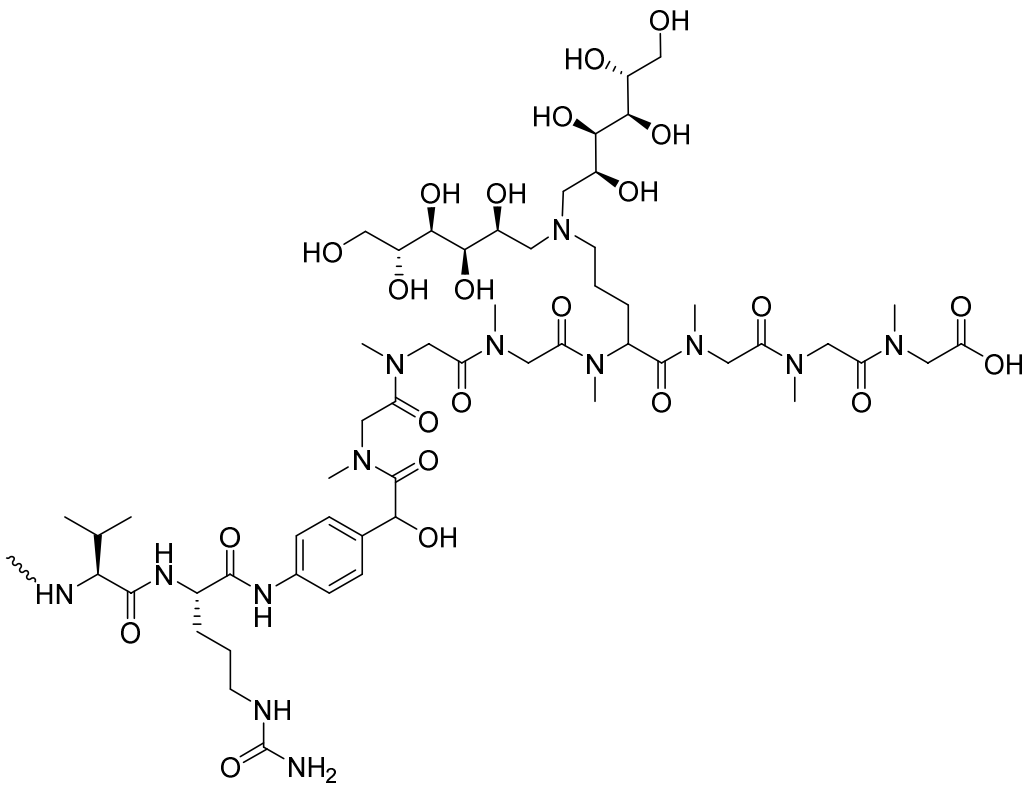
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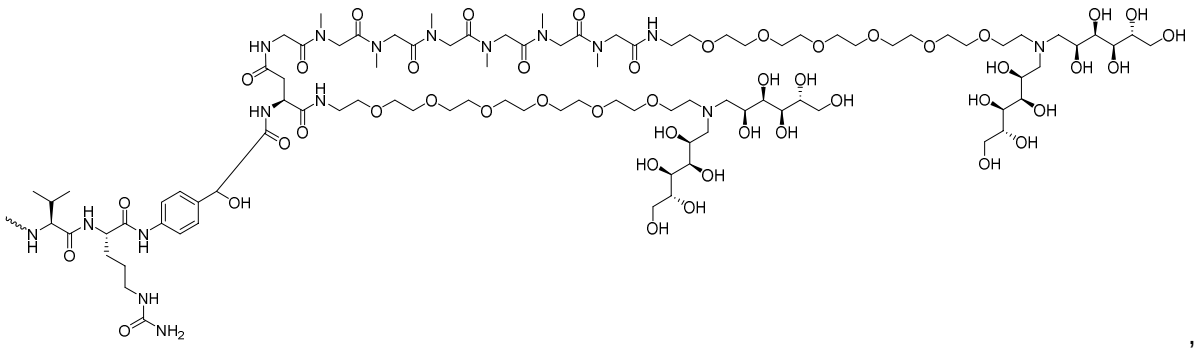
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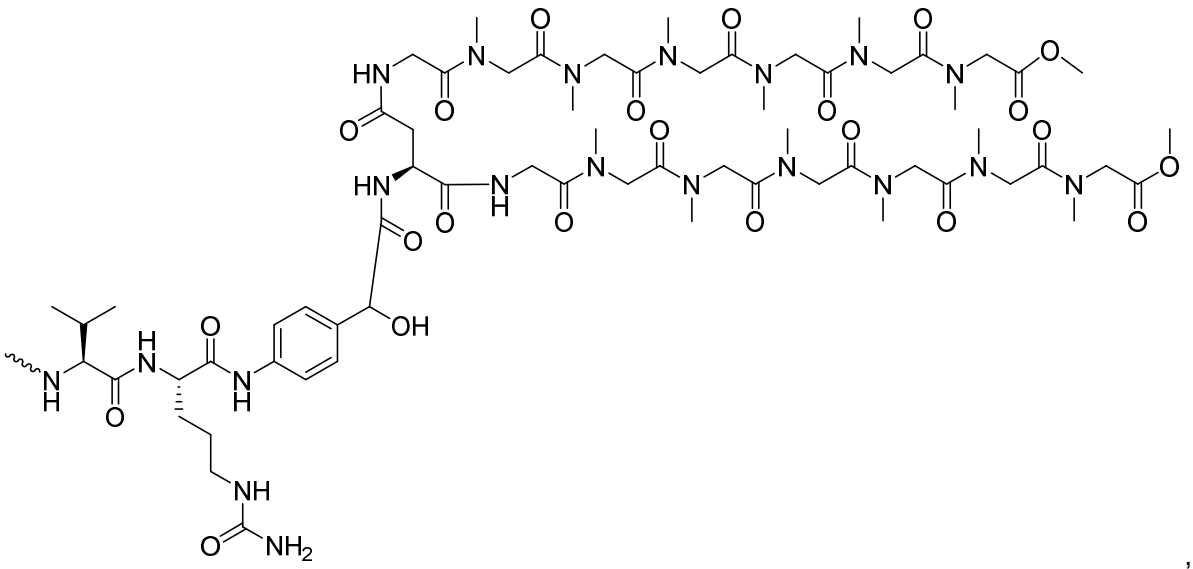
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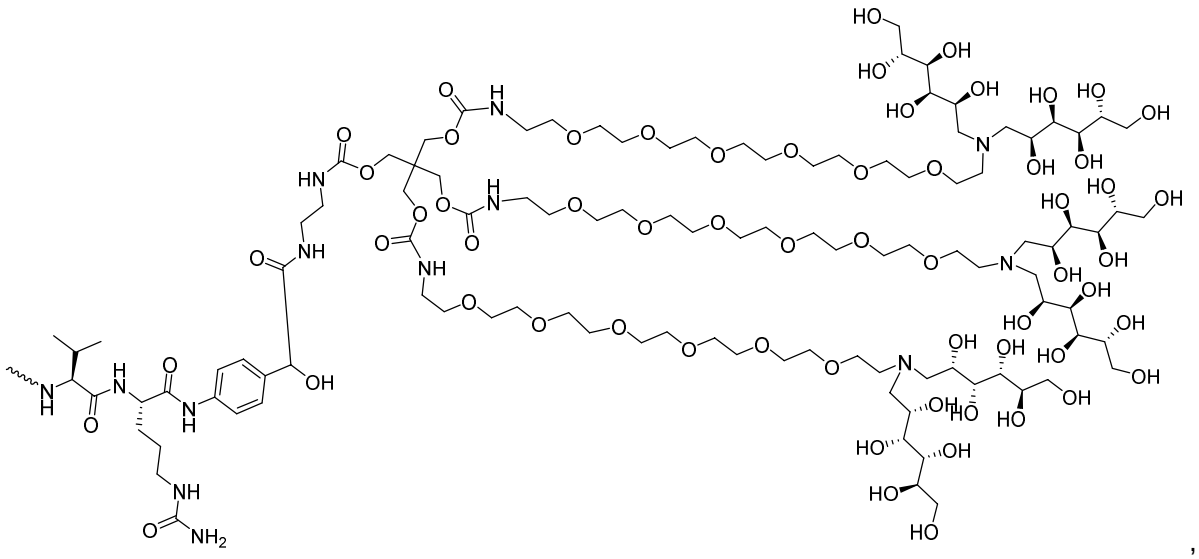
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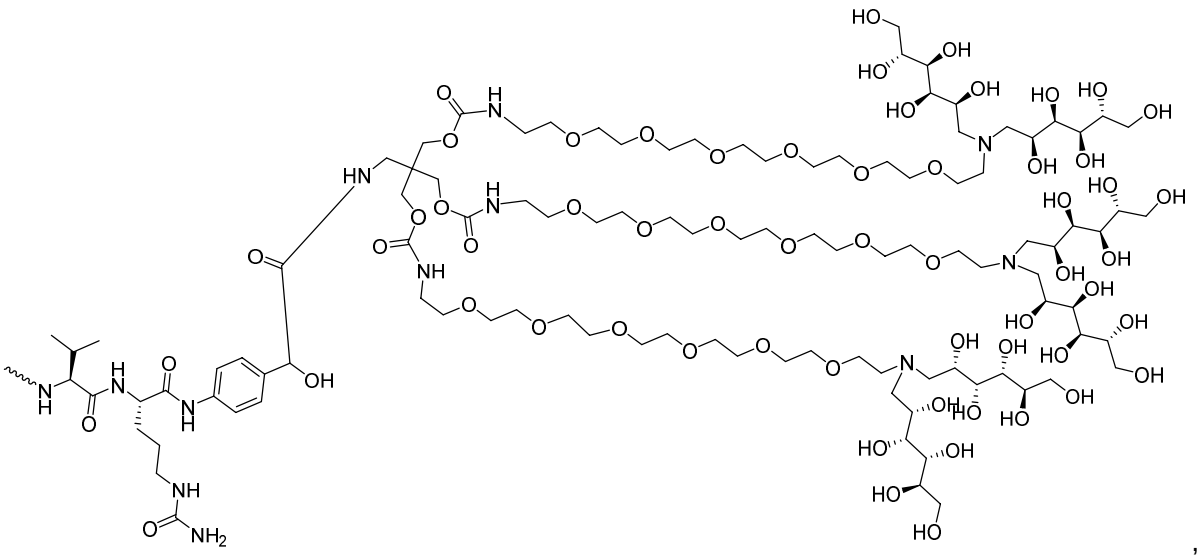
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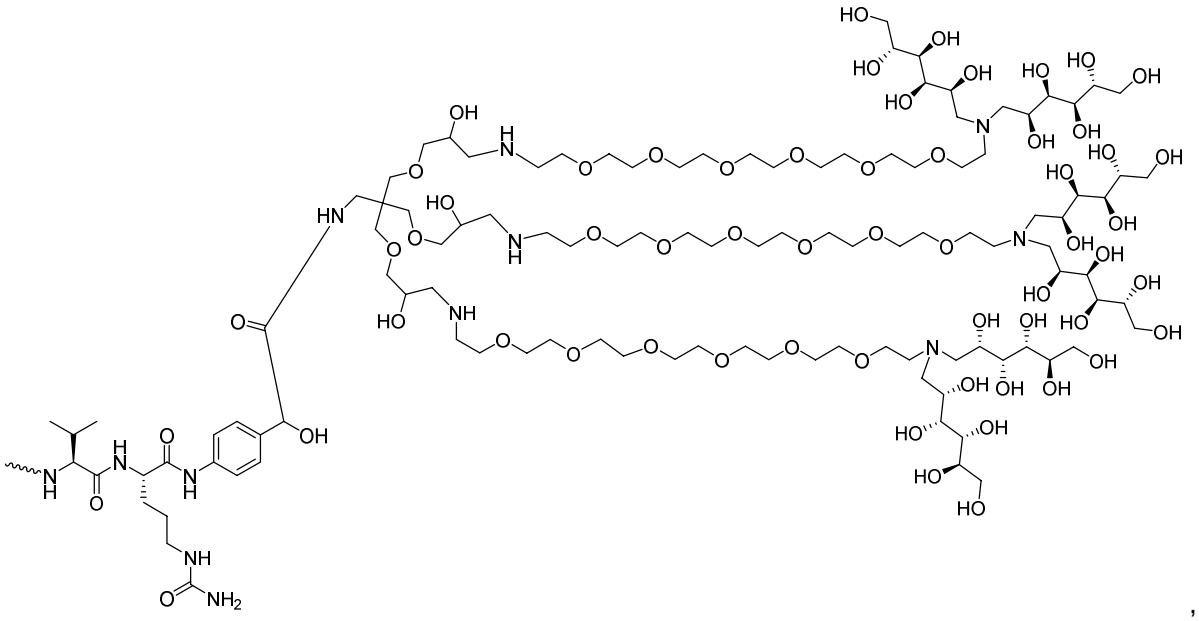
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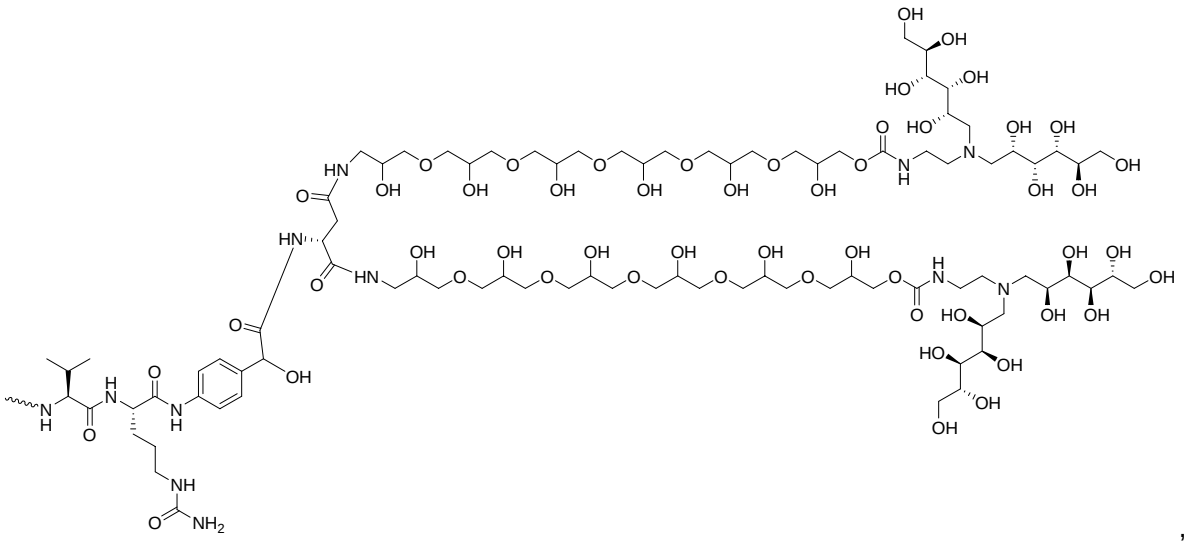
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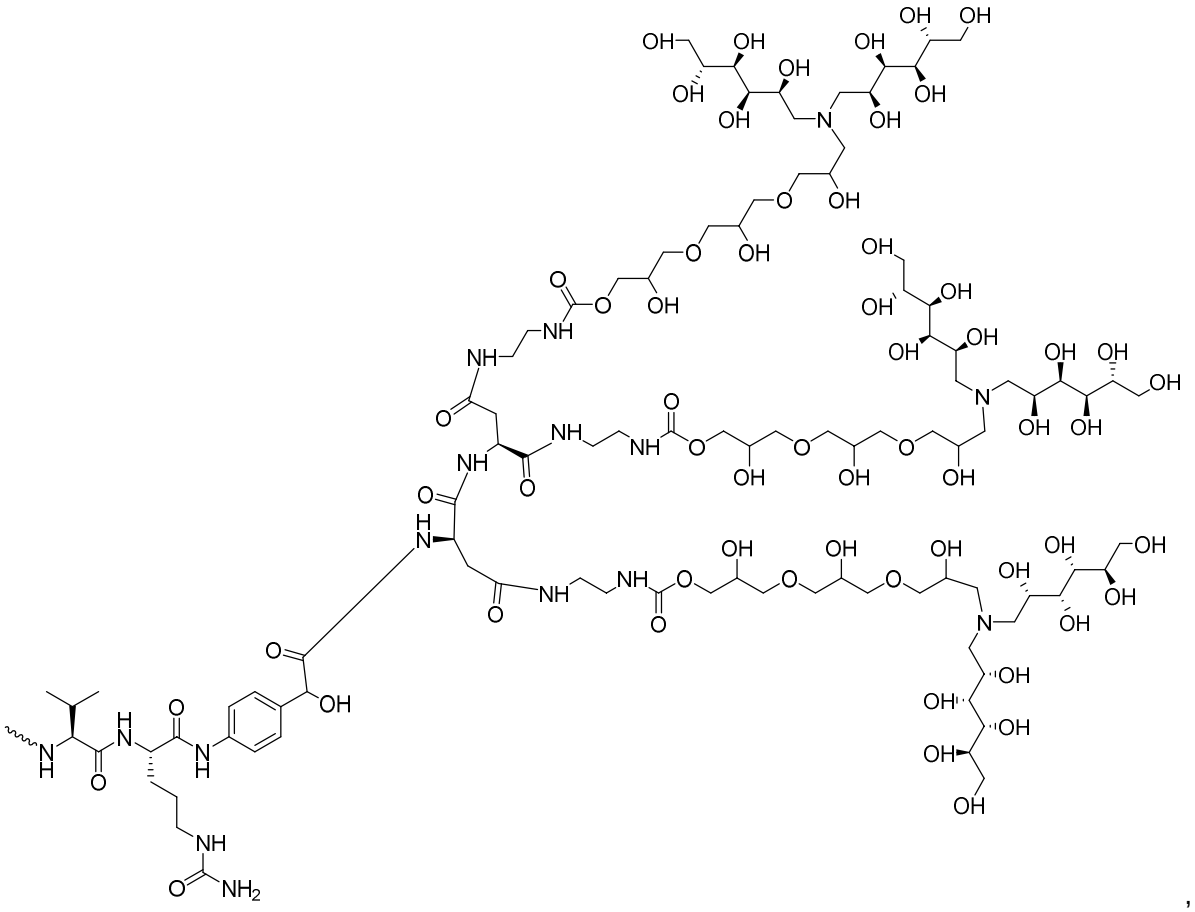
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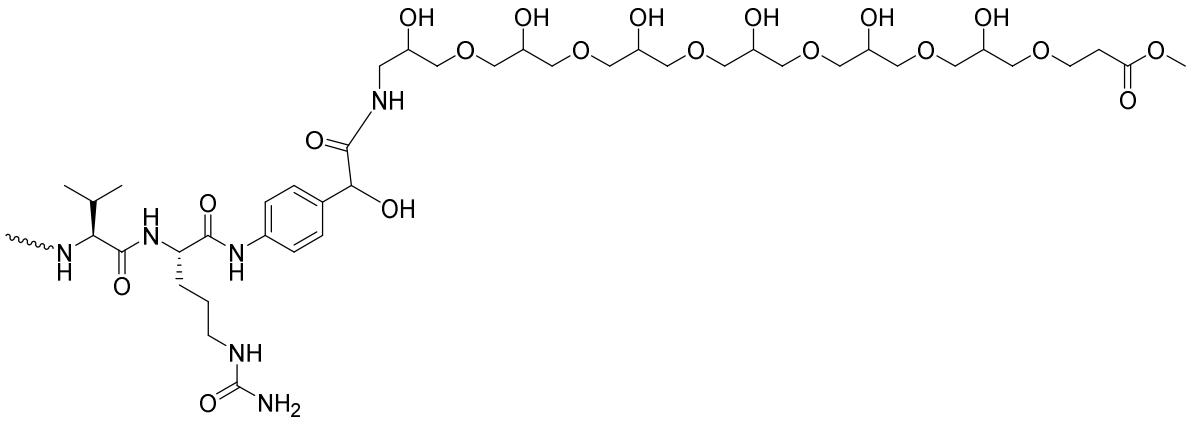
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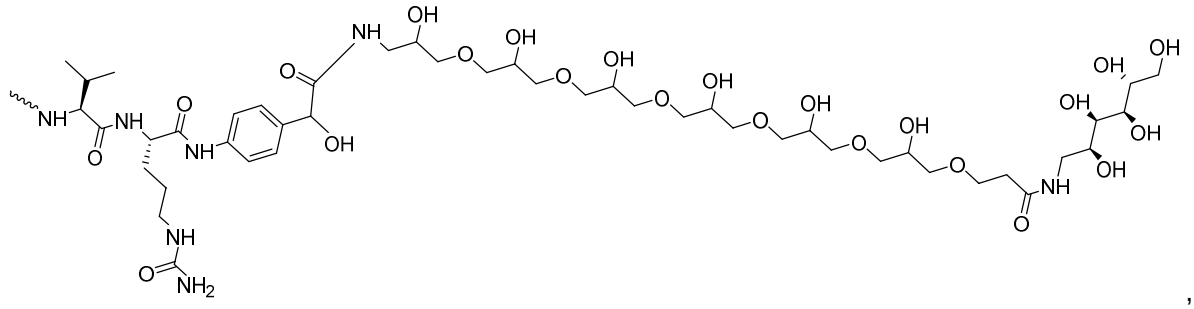
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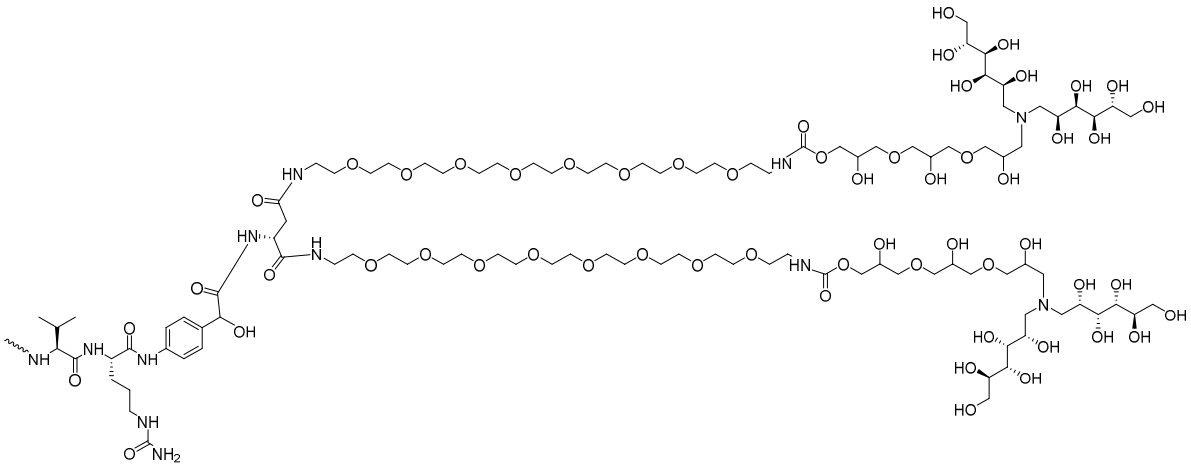
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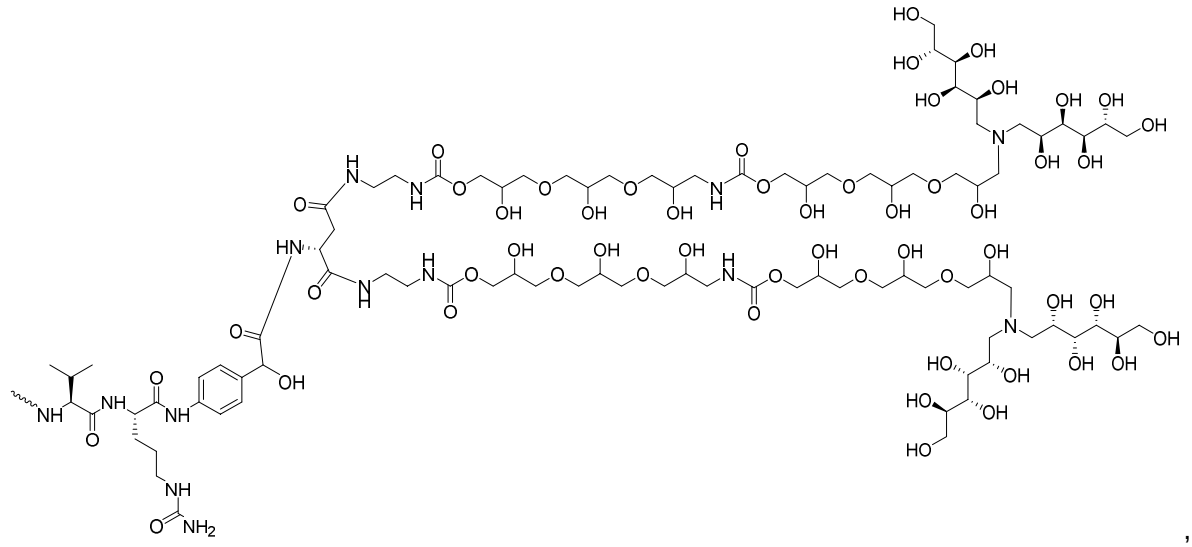
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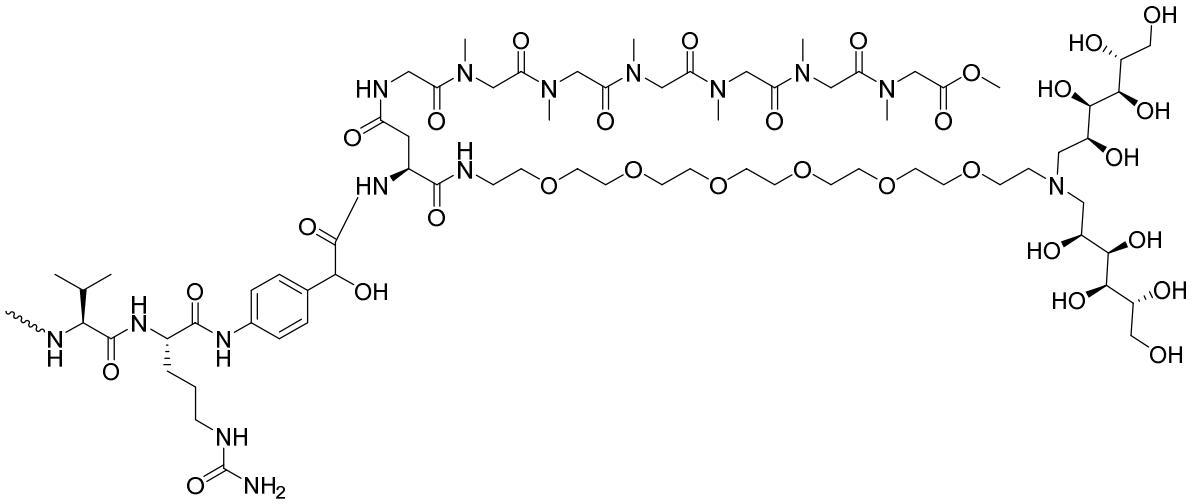
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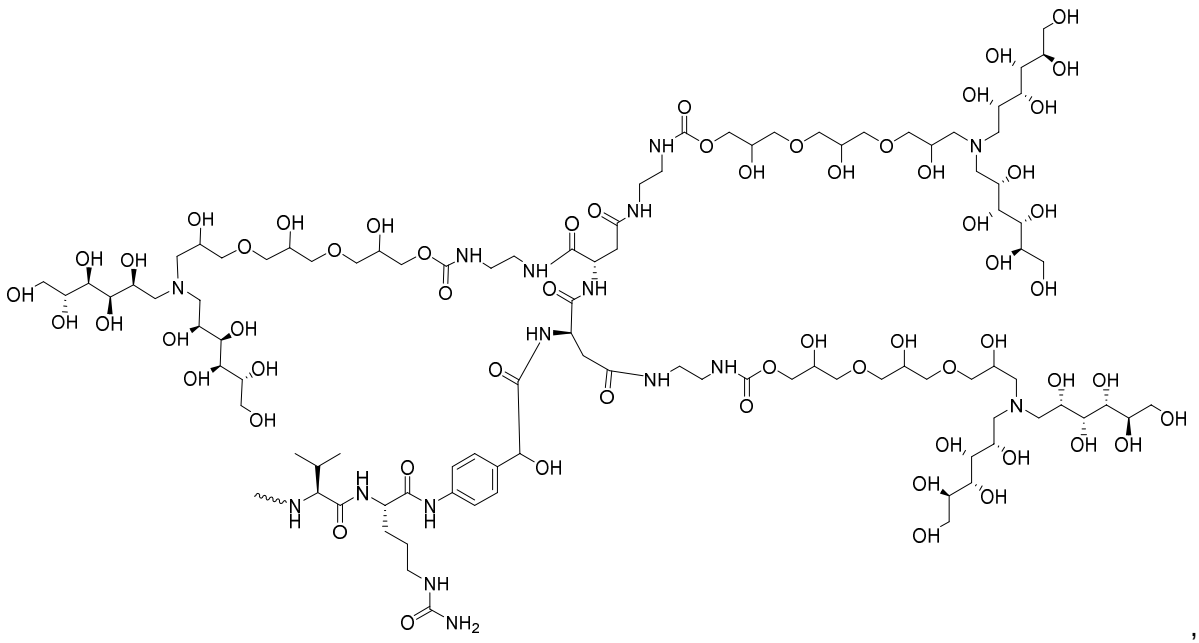
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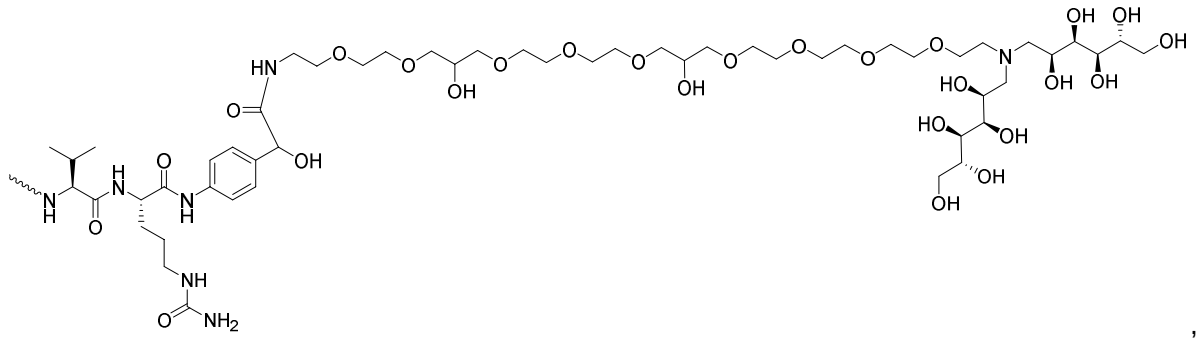
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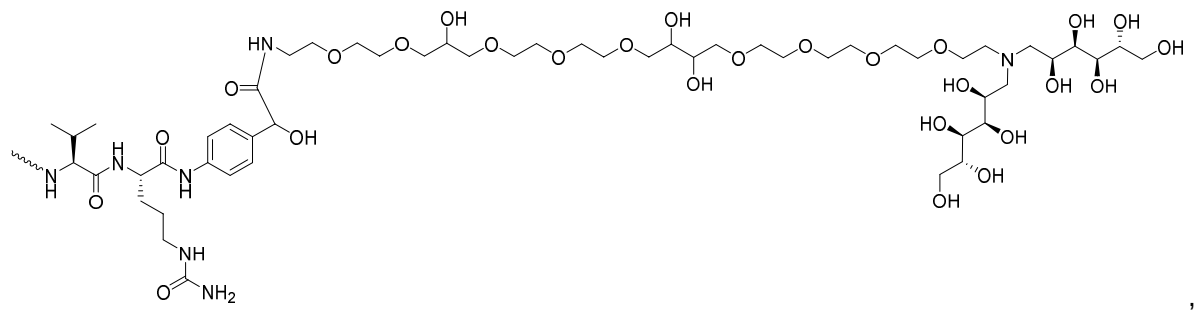
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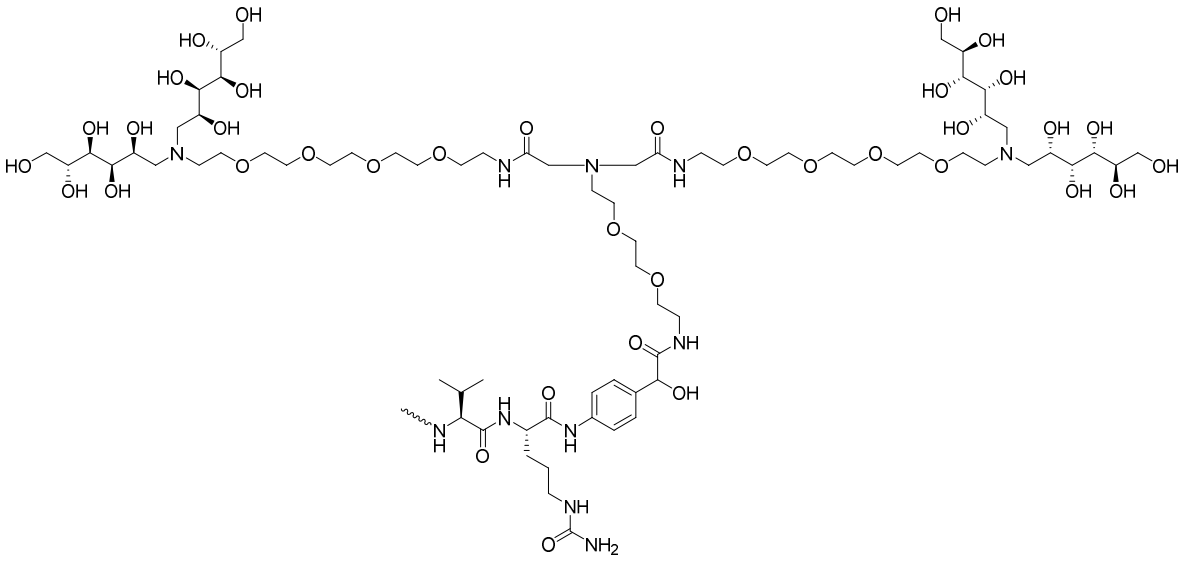
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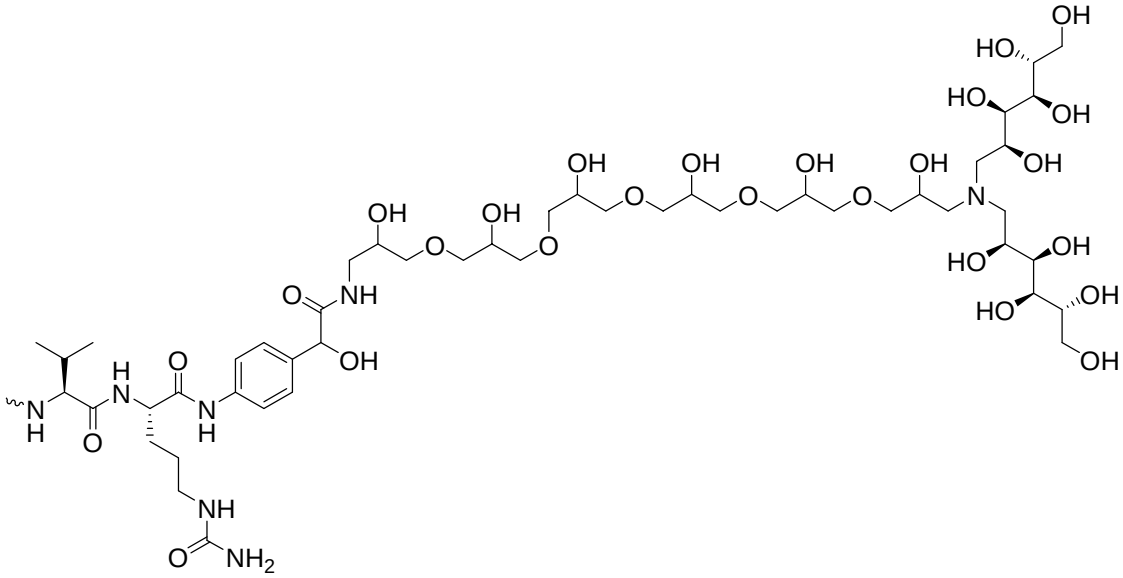
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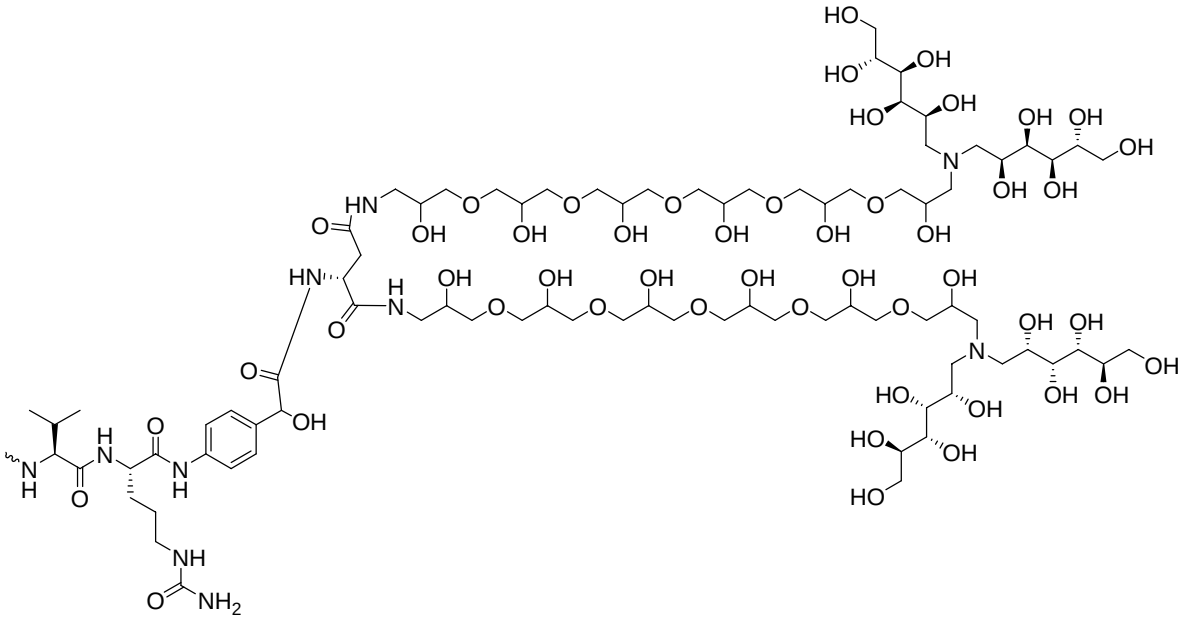
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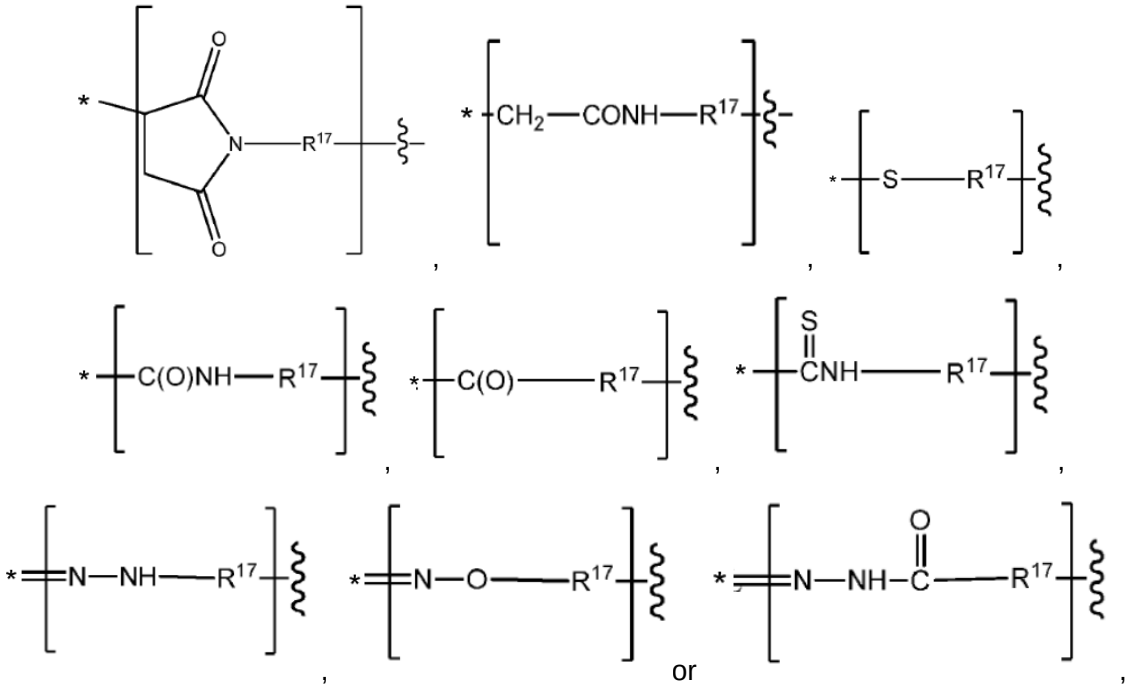
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wherein the wavy line on the amino group indicates an attachment site to the stretcher group; or, prior to attachment to the stretcher group, indicates H; and the H on the benzylic OH is optionally replaced with a bond to one of the drug units or a linking group attached to the at least one of the drug units.

14. The conjugate of any of claims 7(iii) and 8 to 13, wherein:

(i) the enzyme-cleavable group is joined to the stretcher group by a non-peptidic linking group, optionally wherein the non-peptidic linking group is selected from optionally-substituted C_1-C_{10} alkylene, optionally-substituted C_2-C_{10} alkenylene, optionally-substituted C_2-C_{10} alkynylene, or optionally-substituted polyethylene glycol; and/or

(ii) the conjugate comprises the stretcher group attached to the enzyme-cleavable group, optionally wherein the stretcher group is selected from the following:



or

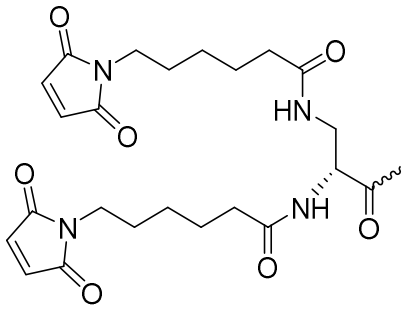
wherein R^{17} is -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-, -C_1-C_{10} heteroalkylene-, -C_3-C_8 carbocyclo-, -O-(C_1-C_8 alkylene)-, -$(CH_2$-O-$CH_2)_b$-C_1-C_8 alkylene- (where b is 1 to 26), -C_1-C_8 alkylene-$(CH_2$-O-$CH_2)_b$- (where b is 1 to 26), -C_1-C_8 alkylene-$(CH_2$-O-$CH_2)_b$-C_1-C_8 alkylene- (where b is 1 to 26), -arylene-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-arylene-, -arylene-C_1-C_{10} alkylene-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-(C_3-C_8 carbocyclo)-, -(C_3-C_8 carbocyclo)-C_1-C_{10} alkylene-, -C_3-C_8 heterocyclo-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-(C_3-C_8 heterocyclo)-, -(C_3-C_8 heterocyclo)-C_1-C_{10} alkylene-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-C(=O)-, -C_1-C_{10}alkylene-C(O)NH-C_1-C_8alkylene-$[O$-CH_2-$CH_2]_n$-C(O)- (where n is 1 to 26), C_1-C_{10} heteroalkylene-C(=O)-, -C_1-C_8 alkylene-$(CH_2$-O-$CH_2)_b$-C(=O)- (where b is 1 to 26), -$(CH_2$-O-$CH_2)_b$-C_1-C_8 alkylene-C(=O)- (where b is 1 to 26), -C_1-C_8 alkylene-(CH_2-O-

$CH_2)_b$-C_1-C_8 alkylene-C(=O)- (where b is 1 to 26), -C_3-C_8 carbocyclo-C(=O)-, -O-(C_1-C_8 alkyl)-C(=O)-, -arylene-C(=O)-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-arylene-C(=O)-, -arylene-C_1-C_{10} alkylene-C(=O)-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-(C_3-C_8 carbocyclo)-C(=O)-, -(C_3-C_8 carbocyclo)-C_1-C_{10} alkylene-C(=O)-, -C_3-C_8 heterocyclo-C(=O)-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-(C_3-C_8 heterocyclo)-C(=O)-, -(C_3-C_8 heterocyclo)-C_1-C_{10} alkylene-C(=O)-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-NH-, -C_1-C_{10} heteroalkylene-NH-, -C_1-C_8 alkylene-(CH_2-O-$CH_2)_b$-NH- (where b is 1 to 26), -(CH_2-O-$CH_2)_b$-C_1-C_8 alkylene-NH- (where b is 1 to 26), -C_1-C_8 alkylene-(CH_2-O-$CH_2)_b$-C_1-C_8 alkylene-NH- (where b is 1 to 26), -C_1-C_8 alkylene-(C(=O))-NH-(CH_2-O-$CH_2)_b$-C(=O)- (where b is 1 to 26), -C_1-C_8 alkylene-(C(=O))-NH-(CH_2-O-$CH_2)_b$-C_1-C_8 alkylene-C(=O)- (where b is 1 to 26), -C_1-C_8 alkylene-NH-(C(=O))-(CH_2-O-$CH_2)_b$-NH- (where b is 1 to 26), -C_1-C_8 alkylene-NH-(C(=O))-(CH_2-O-$CH_2)_b$-C_1-C_8 alkylene-NH- (where b is 1 to 26), -C_3-C_8 carbocyclo-NH-, -O-(C_1-C_8 alkyl)-NH-, -arylene-NH-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-arylene-NH-, -arylene-C_1-C_{10} alkylene-NH-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-(C_3-C_8 carbocyclo)-NH-, -(C_3-C_8 carbocyclo)-C_1-C_{10} alkylene-NH-, -C_3-C_8 heterocyclo-NH-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-(C_3-C_8 heterocyclo)-NH-, -(C_3-C_8 heterocyclo)-C_1-C_{10} alkylene-NH-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-S-, C_1-C_{10} heteroalkylene-S-, -C_3-C_8 carbocyclo-S-, -O-(C_1-C_8 alkyl)-S-, -arylene-S-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-arylene-S-, -arylene-C_1-C_{10} alkylene-S-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-(C_3-C_8 carbocyclo)-S-, -(C_3-C_8 carbocyclo)-C_1-C_{10} alkylene-S-, -C_3-C_8 heterocyclo-S-, -C_1-C_{10} alkylene-(C_3-C_8 heterocyclo)-S-, or -(C_3-C_8 heterocyclo)-C_1-C_{10} alkylene-S-; or

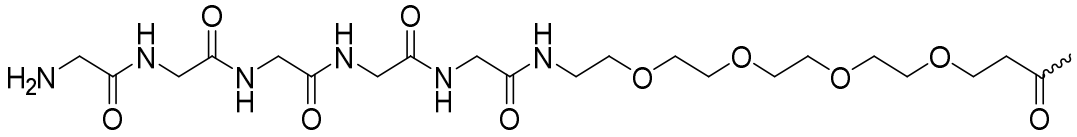
wherein the stretcher group comprises maleimido(C_1-C_{10}alkylene-C(O)-, maleimido($CH_2OCH_2)_{p2}$(C_1-C_{10}alkyene)C(O)-, maleimido(C_1-C_{10}alkyene)($CH_2OCH_2)_{p2}$C(O)-, or a ring open form thereof, wherein p2 is from 1 to 26;

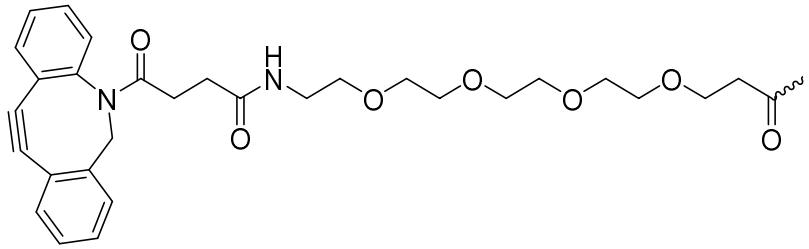
and wherein * is an attachment to the binding agent, and the wavy line is an attachment to the enzyme-cleavable group,

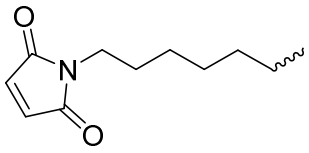
further optionally wherein the stretcher group is derived from a structure selected from the following:

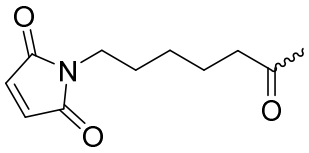


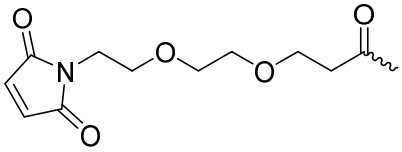
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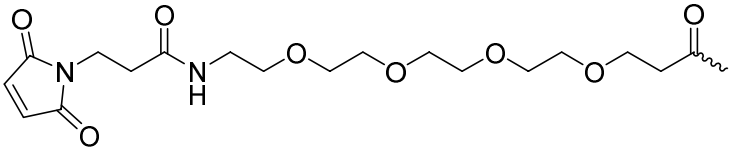

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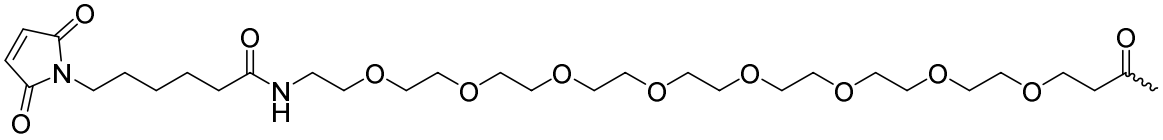

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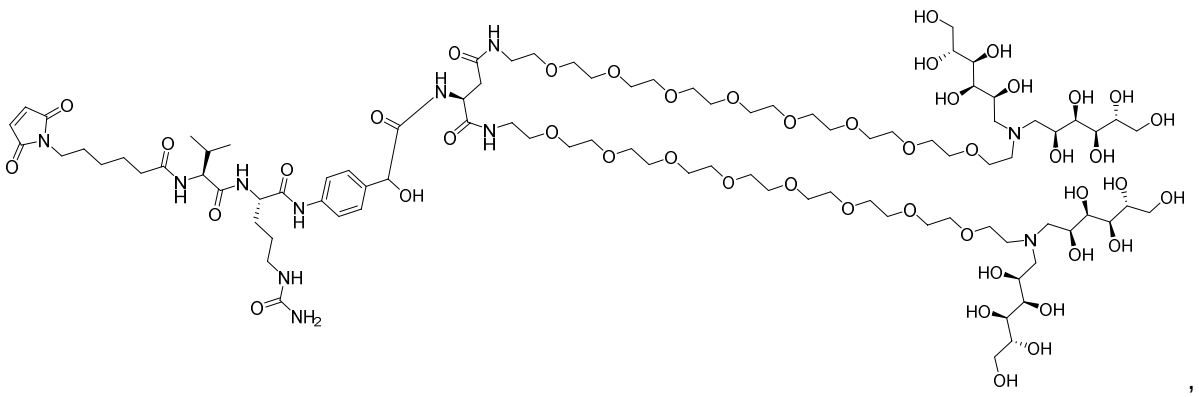
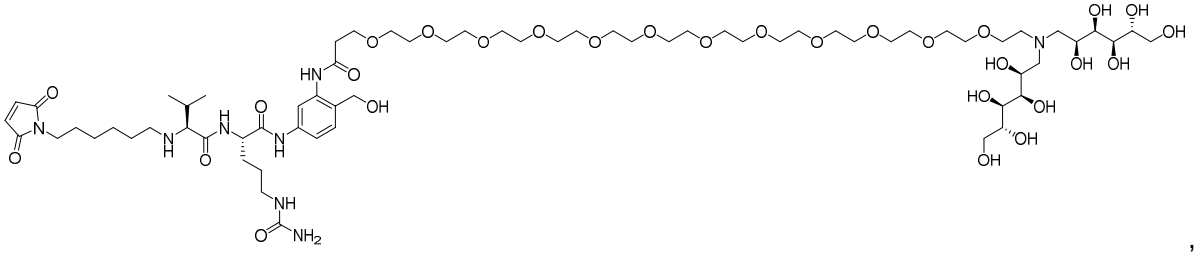
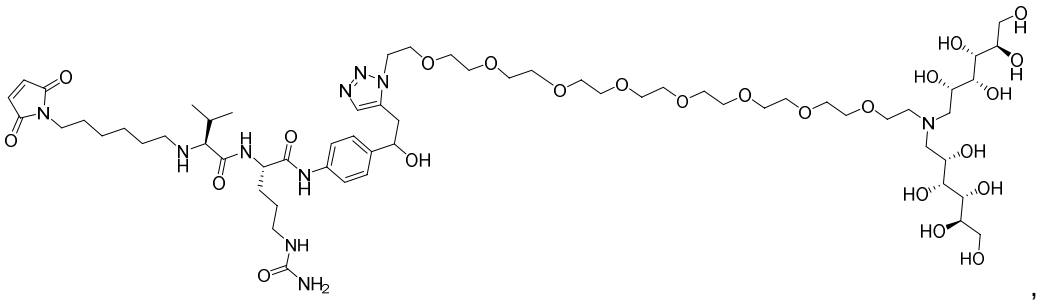
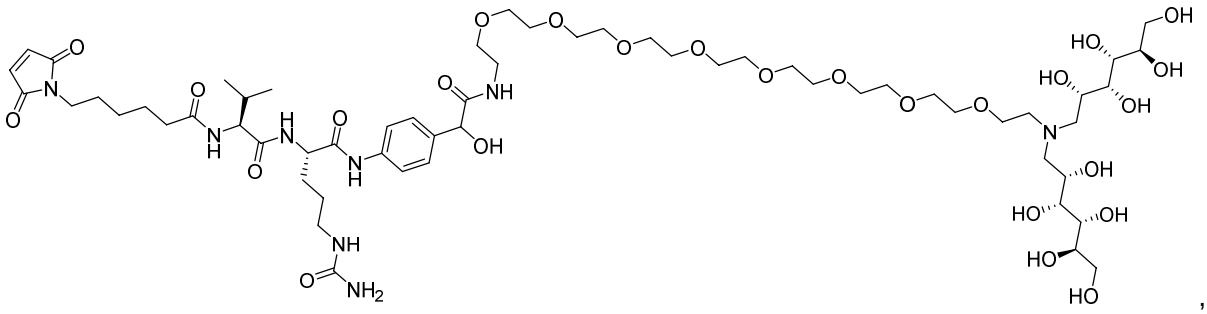
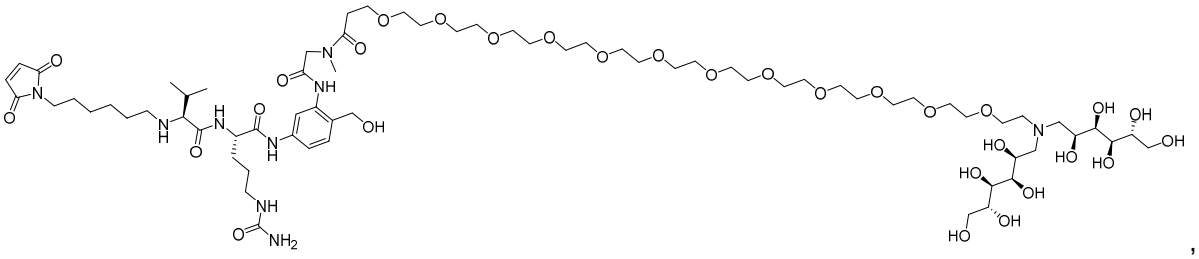

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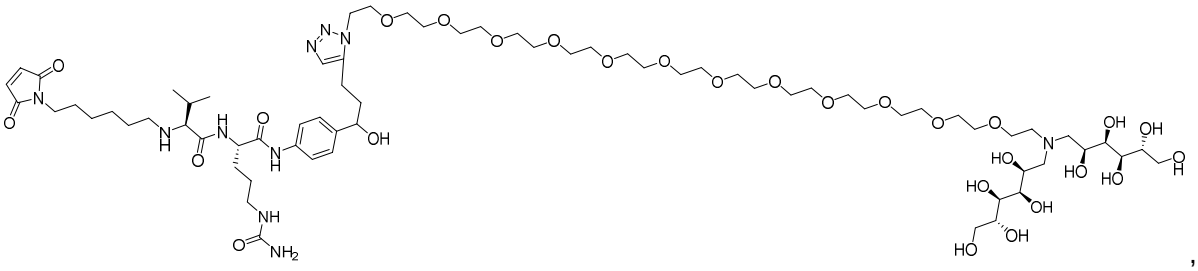

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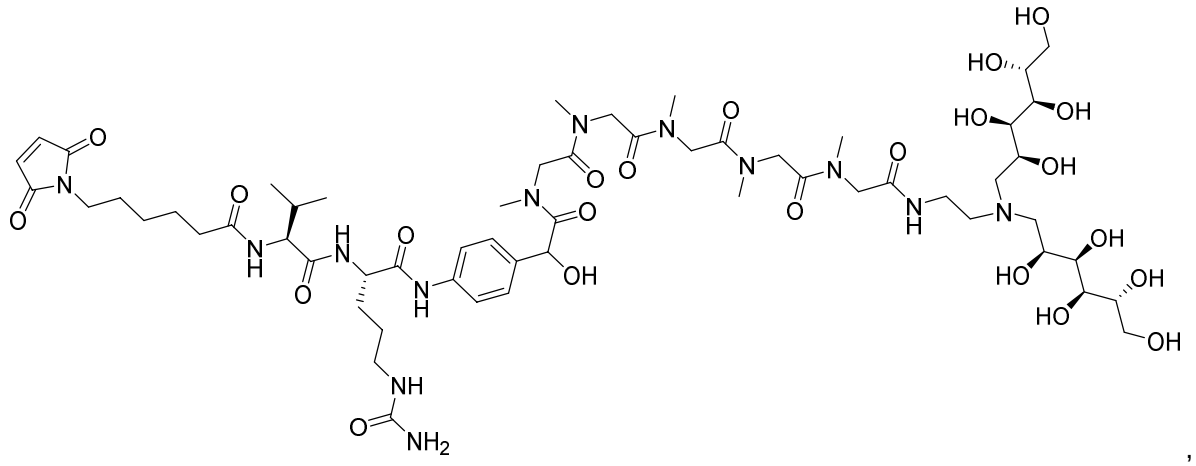
wherein the wavy line 〰 indicates an attachment site of the stretcher group to the enzyme-cleavable group, and the attachment site to the binding agent is on the maleimide, primary amine or alkyne functional group.

15. The conjugate of claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the linker compound has one of the following structures:

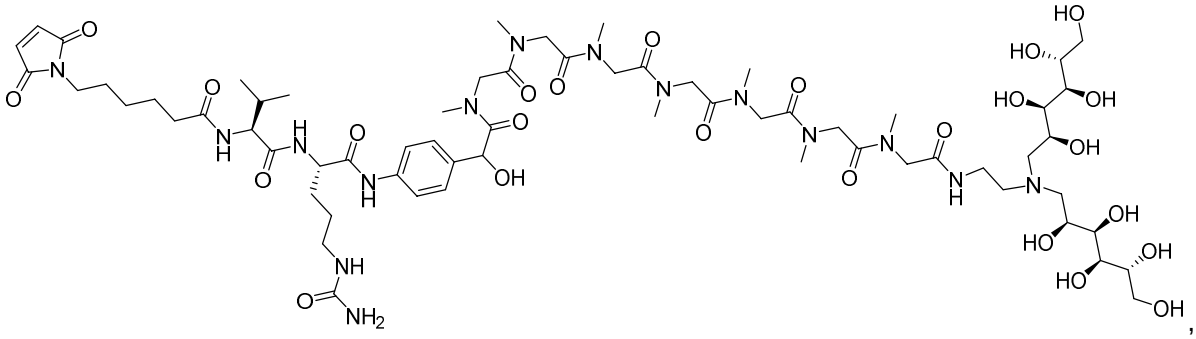

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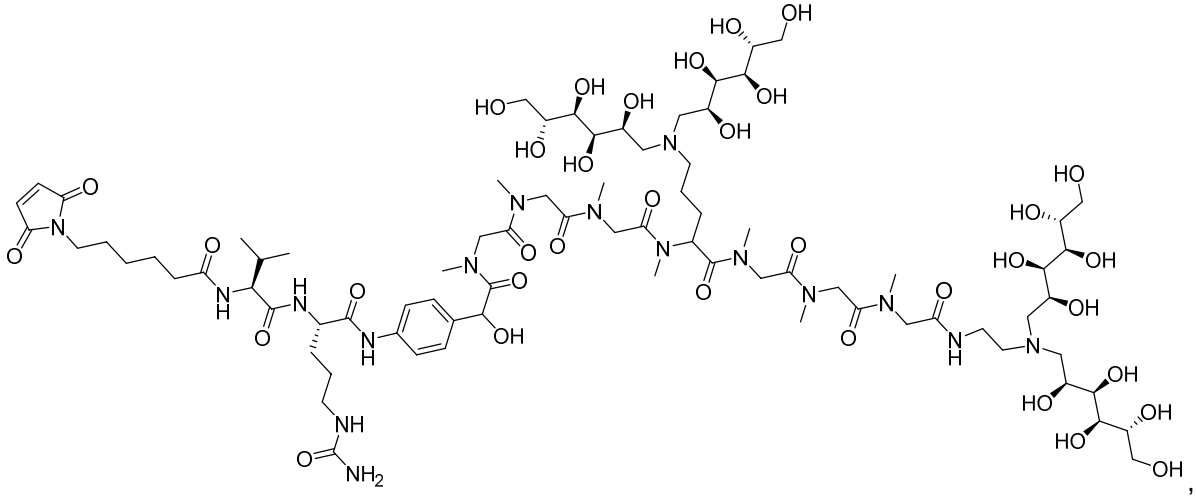
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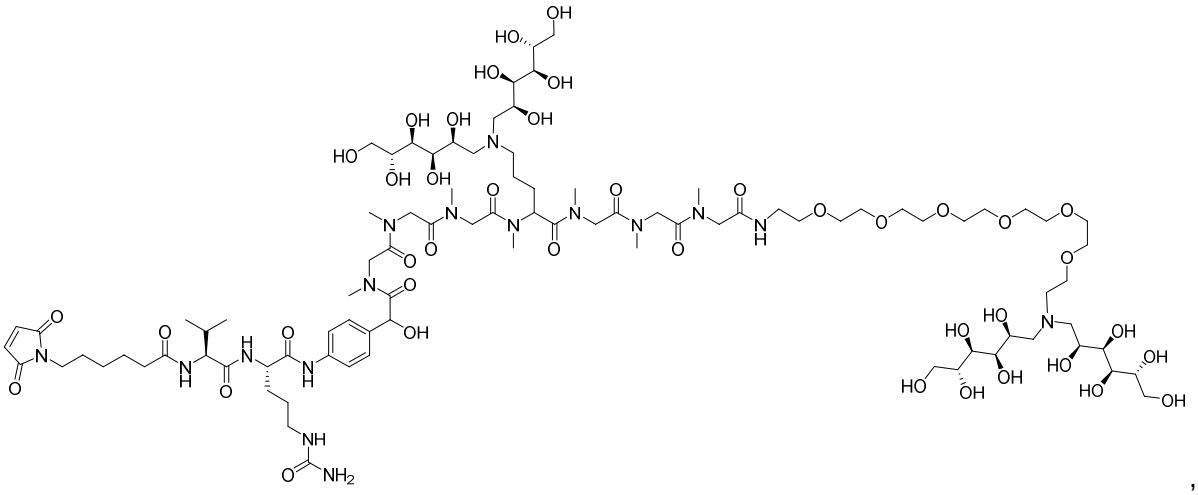
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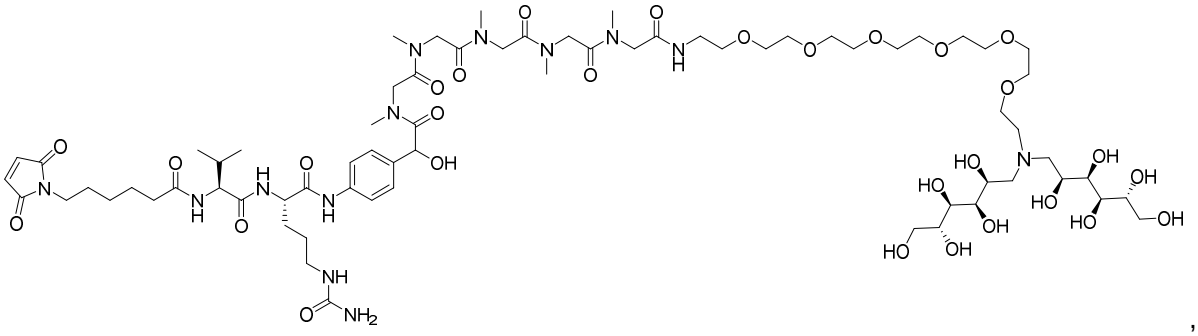
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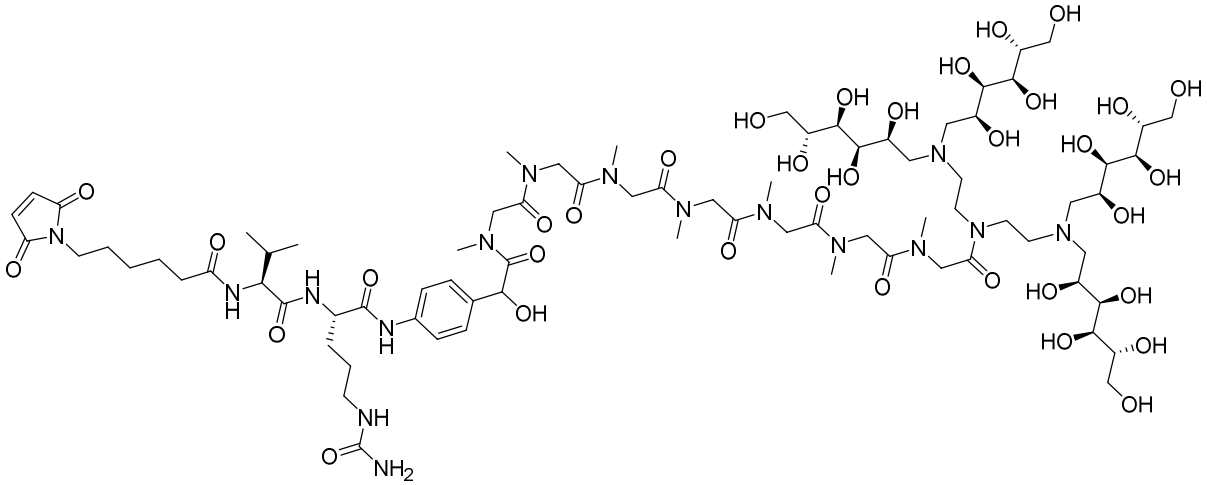
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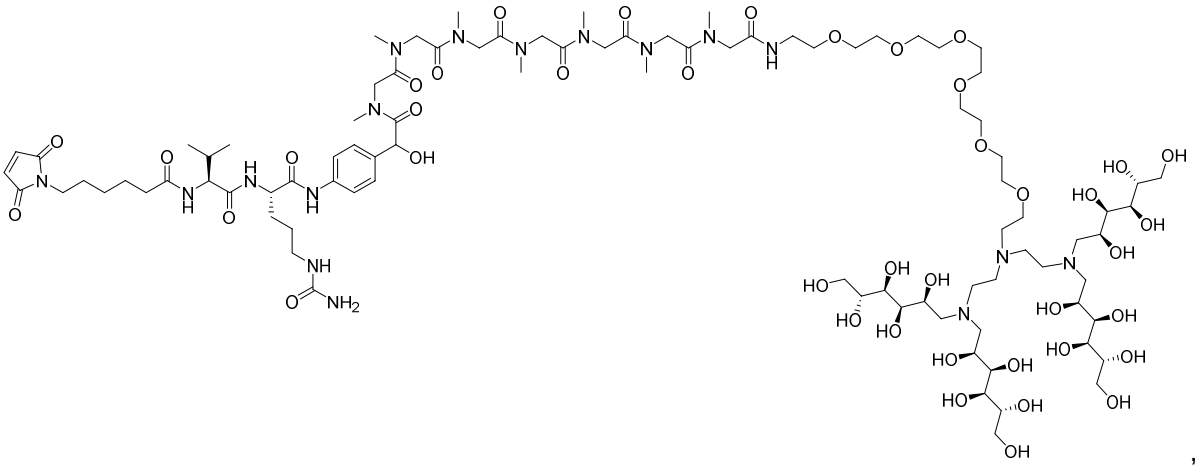


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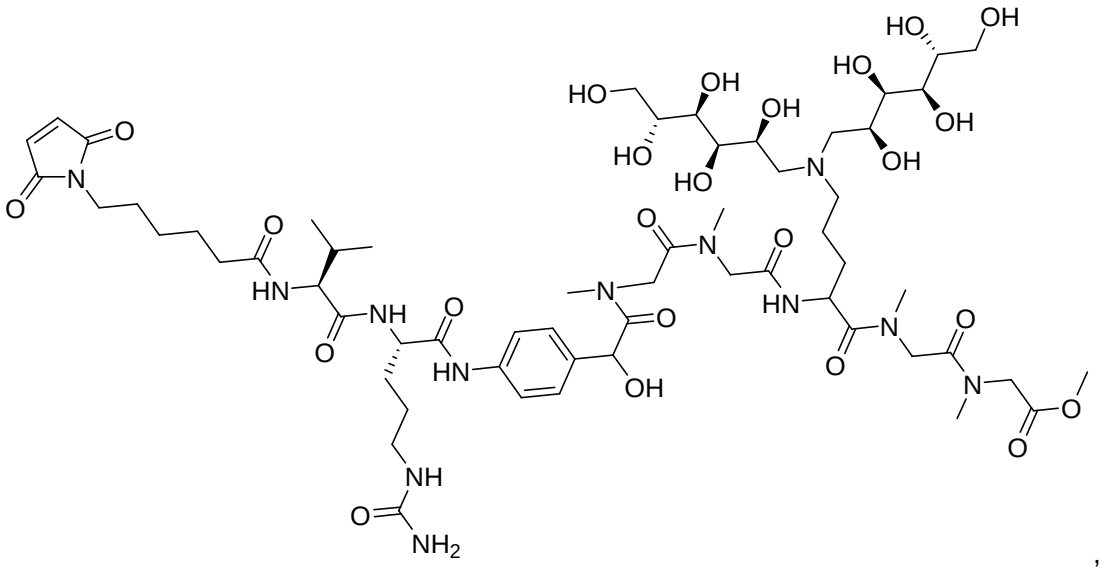


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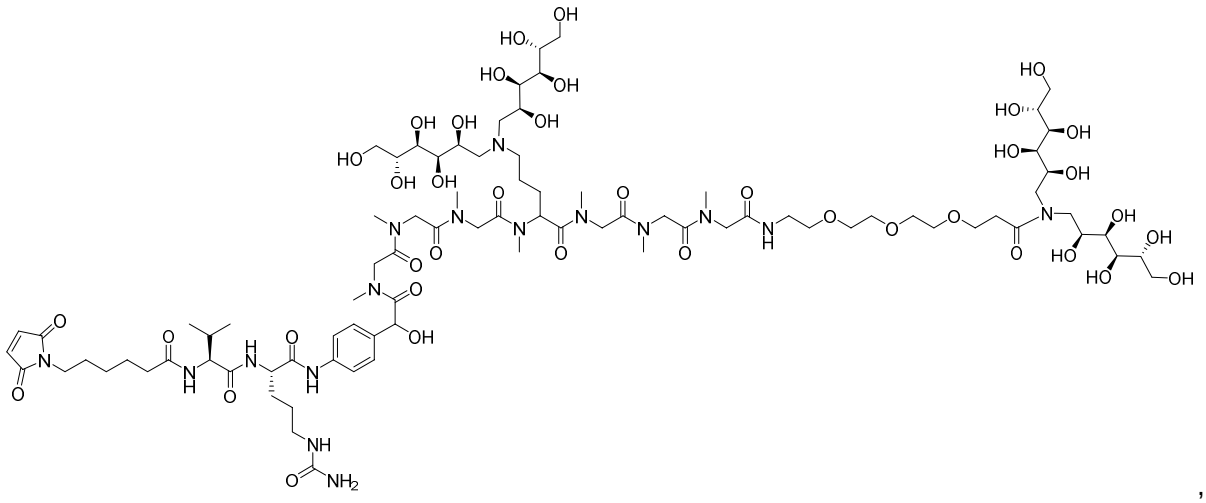




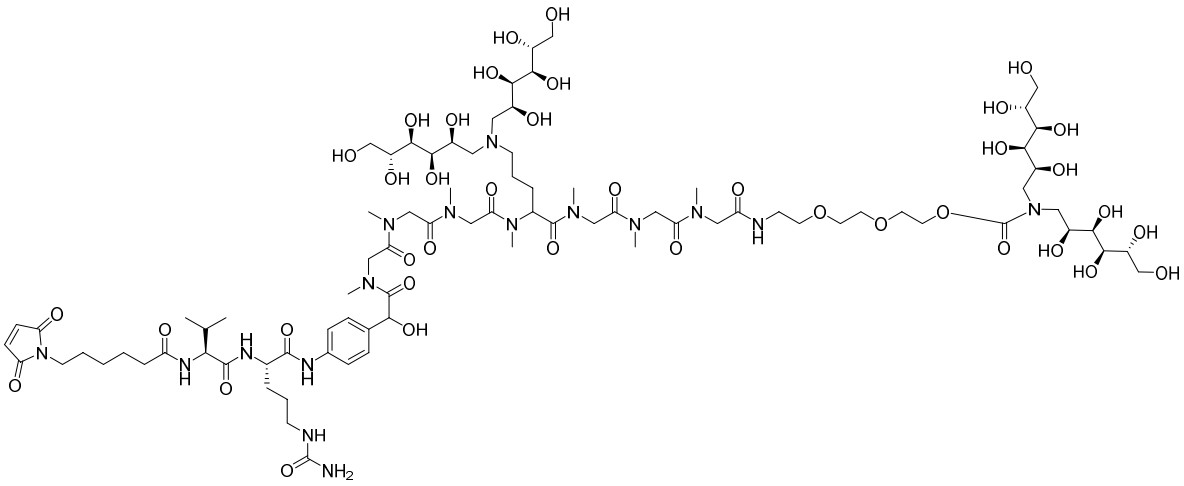
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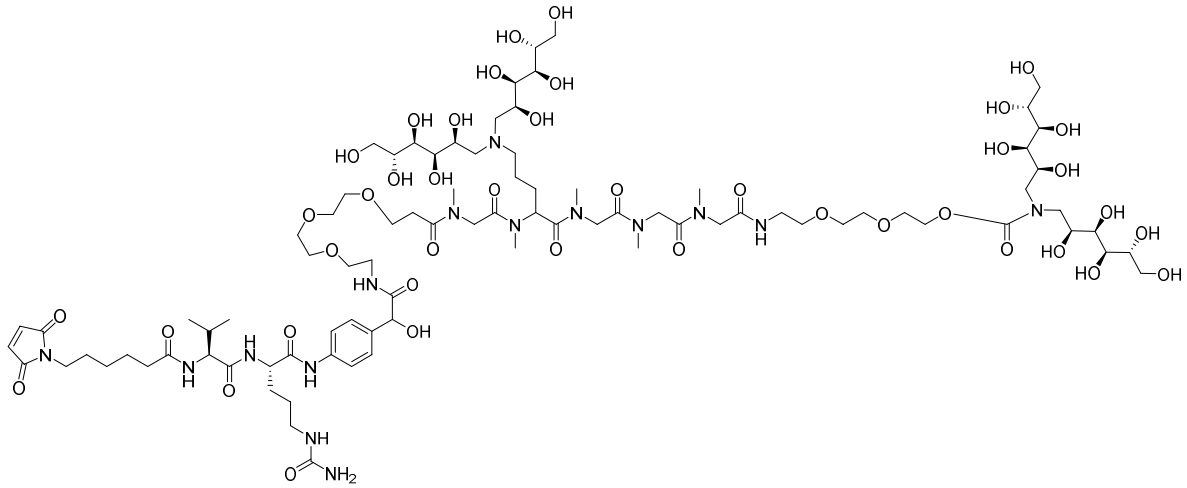
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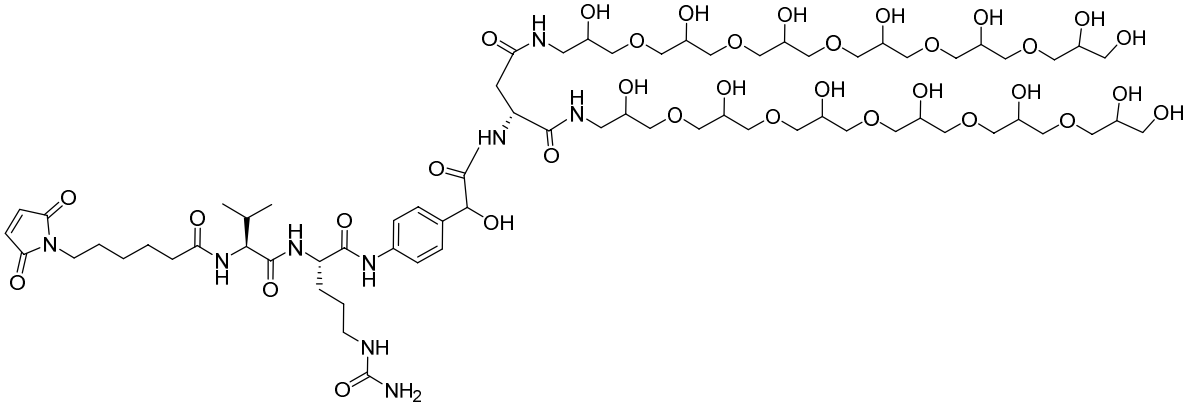
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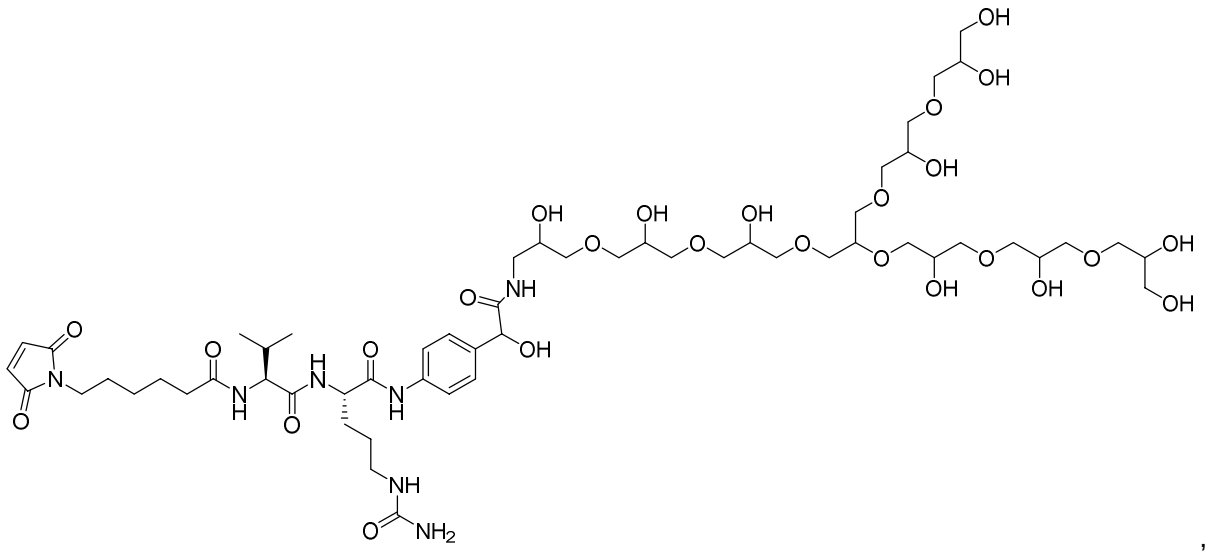
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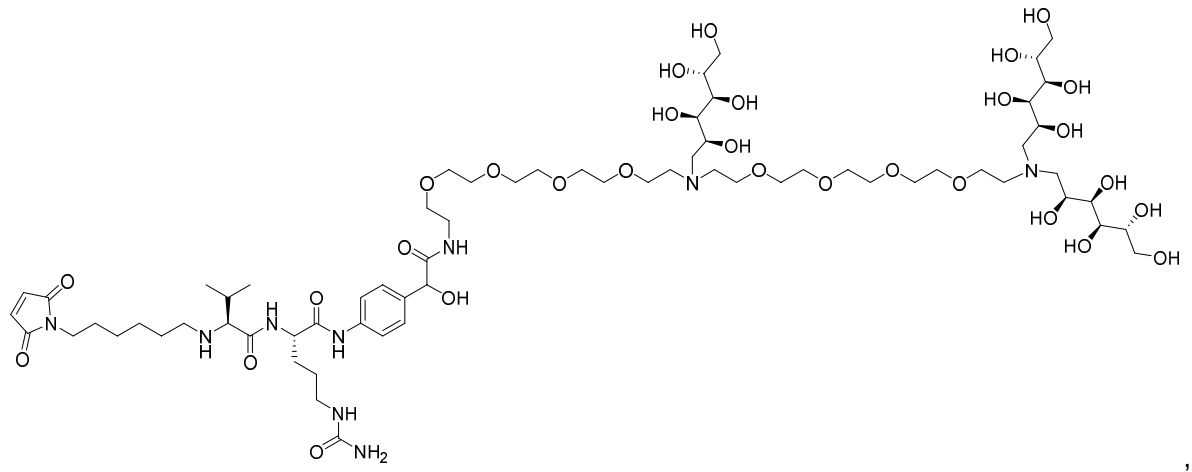
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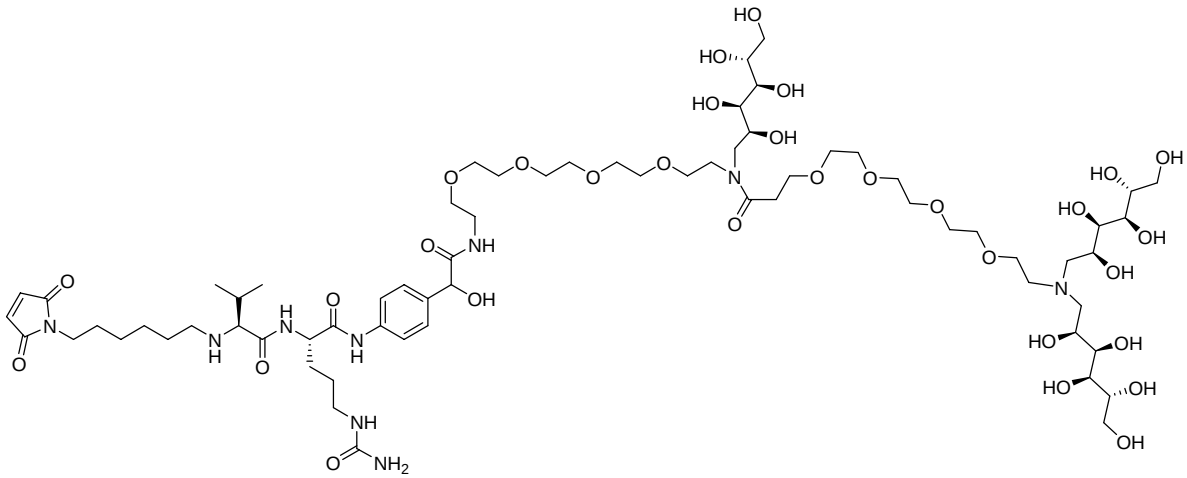
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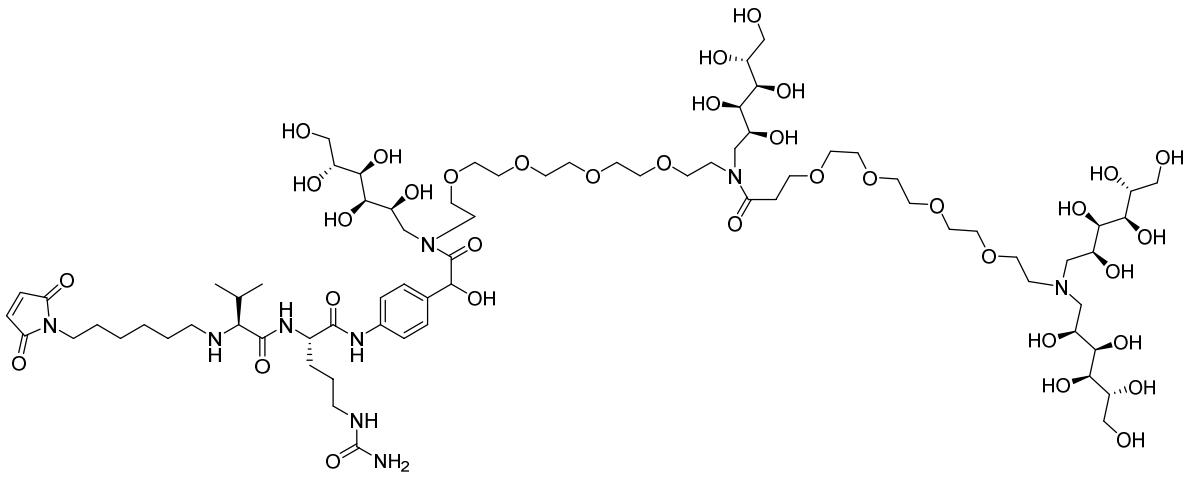
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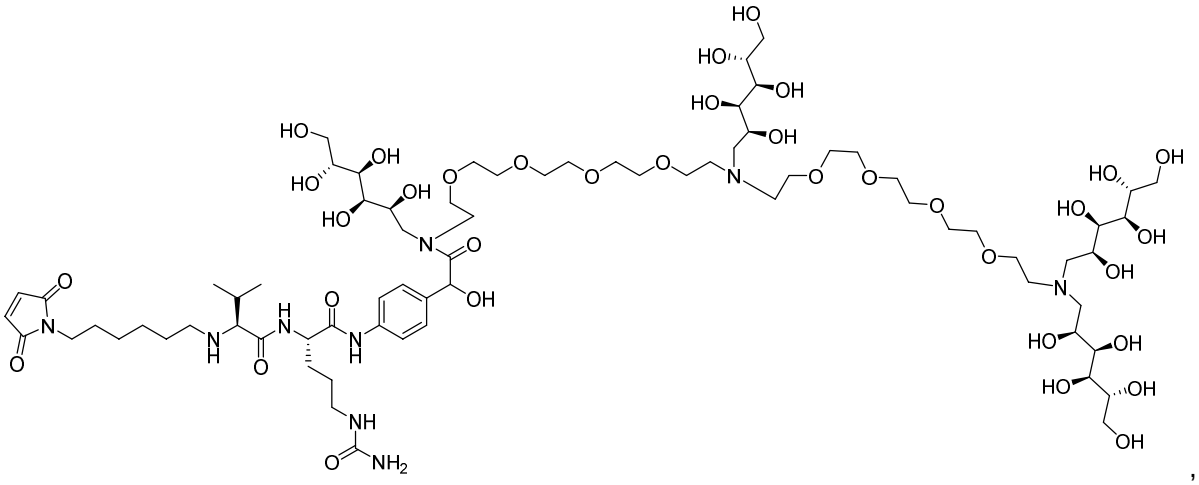
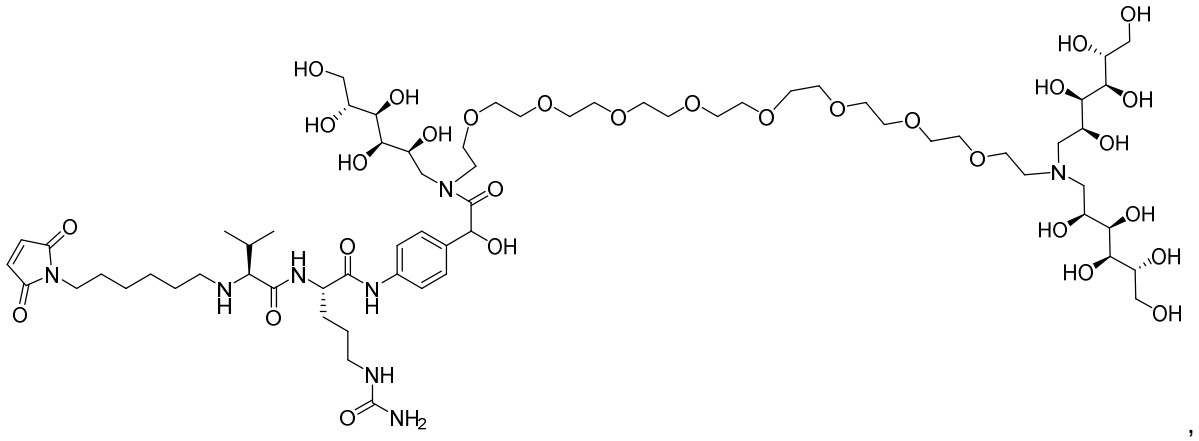
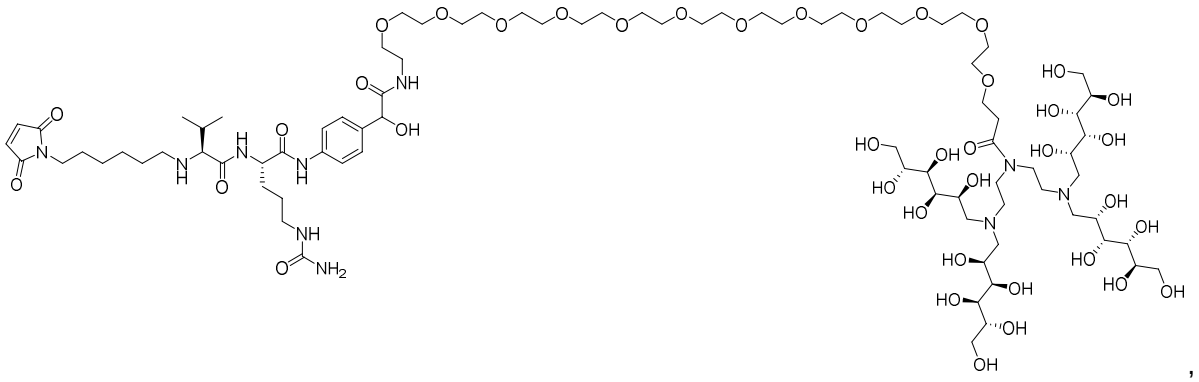
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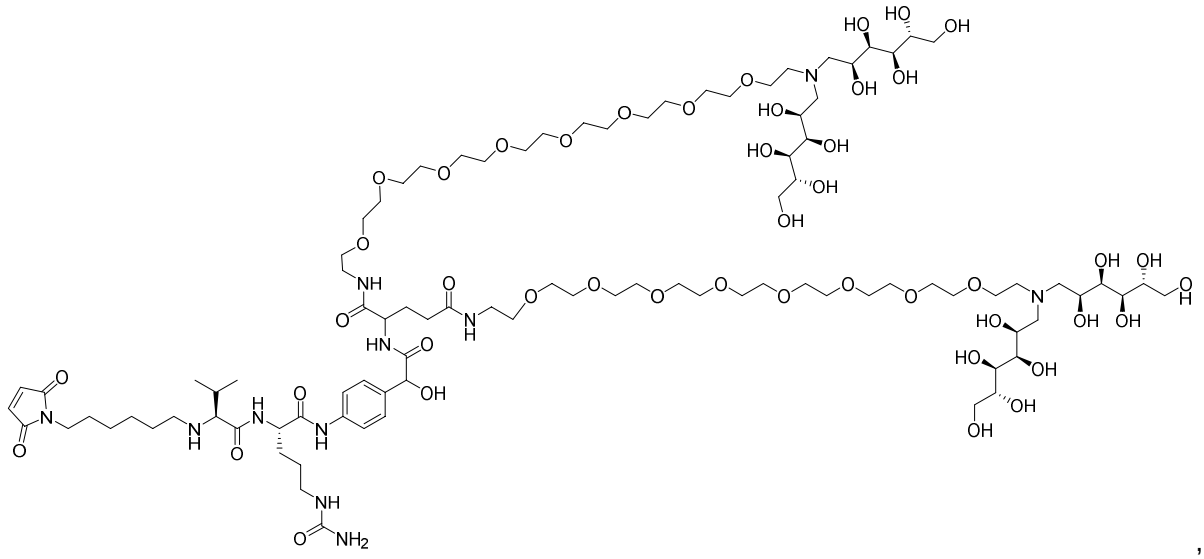


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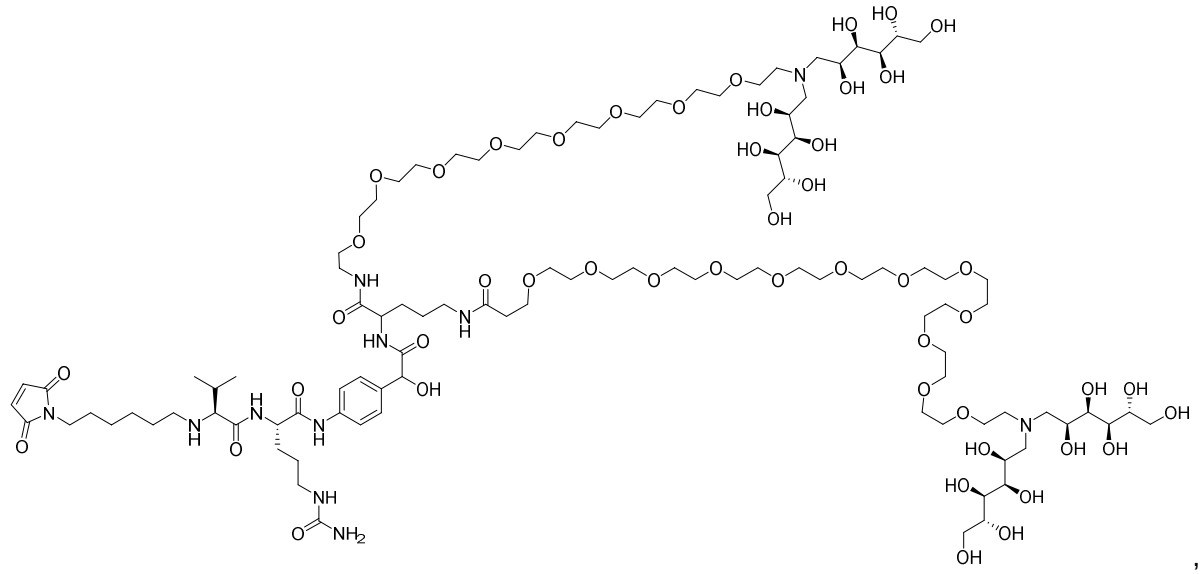


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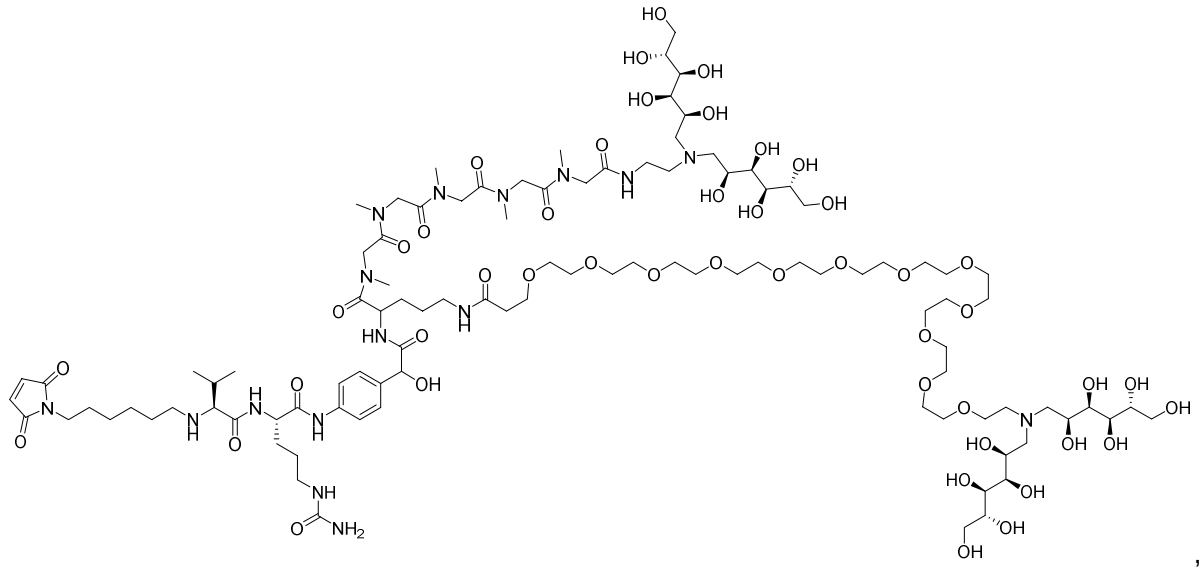

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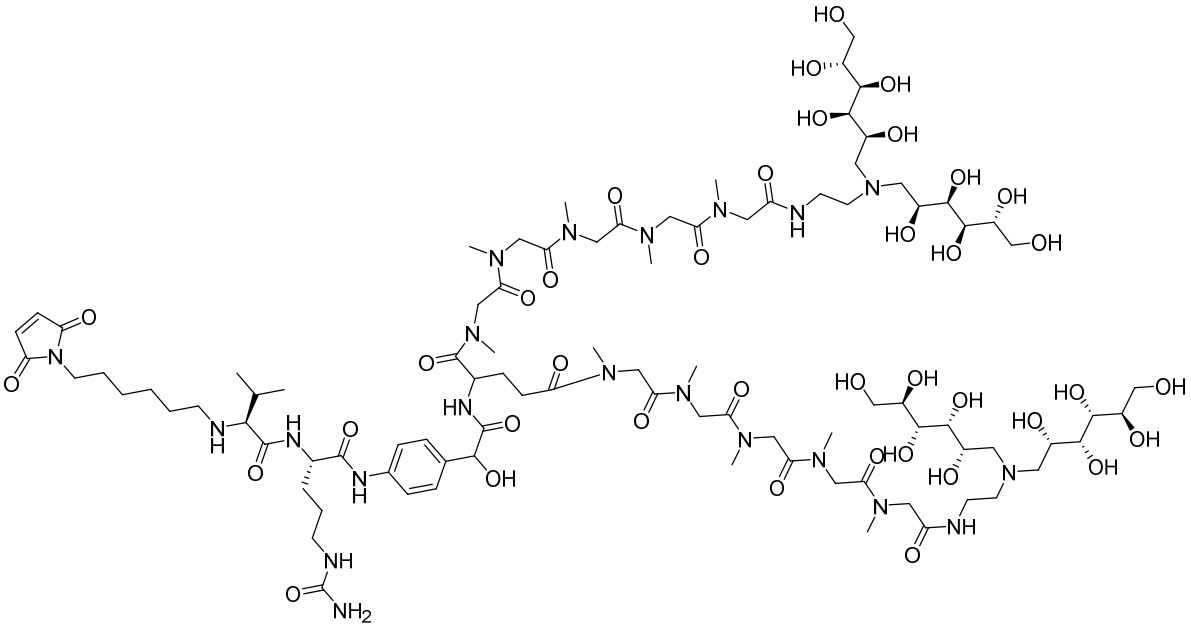
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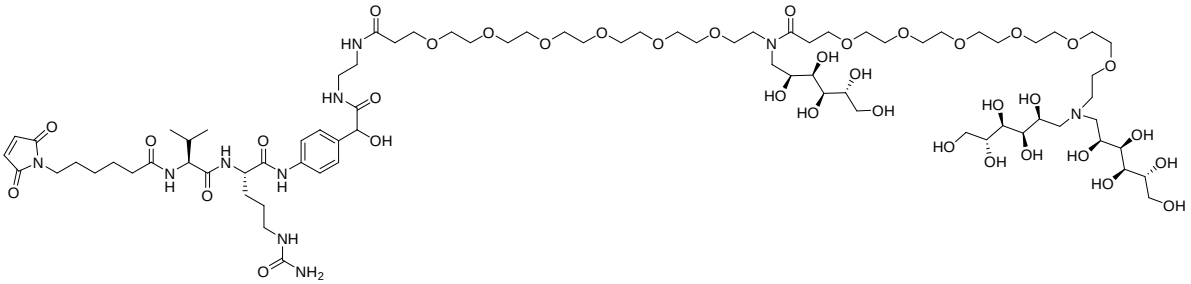
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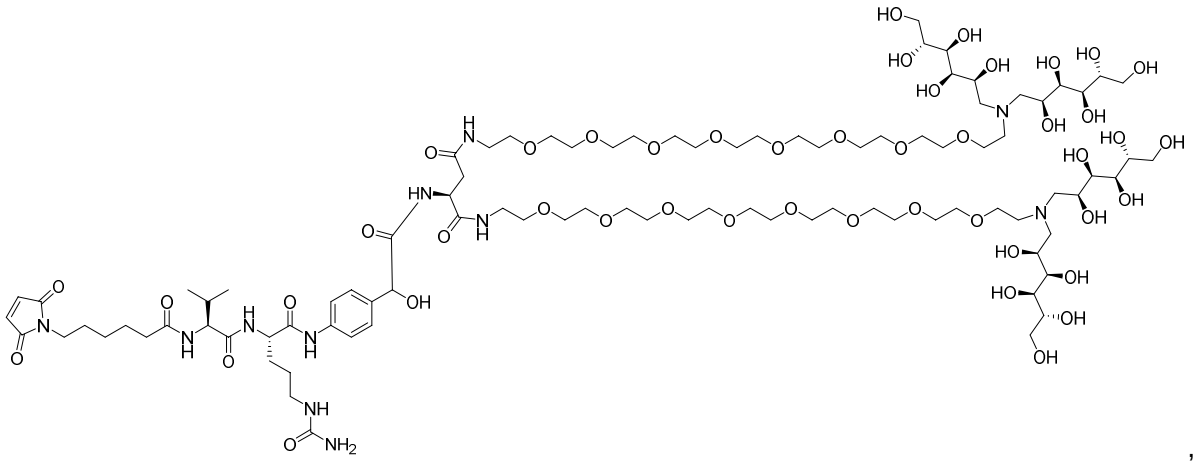
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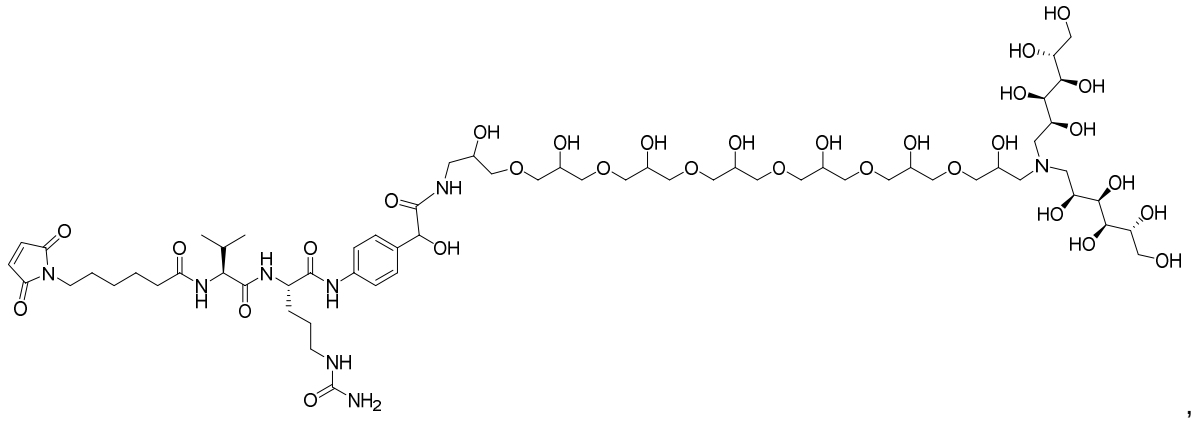
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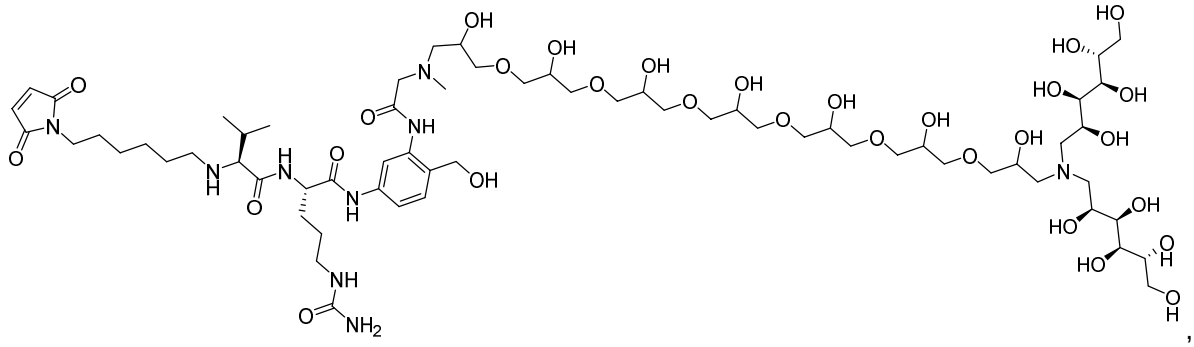
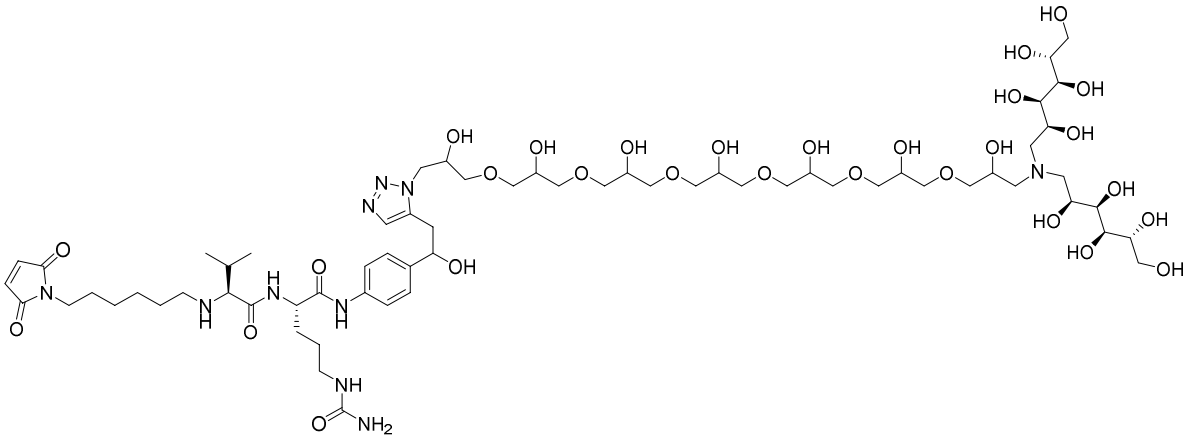
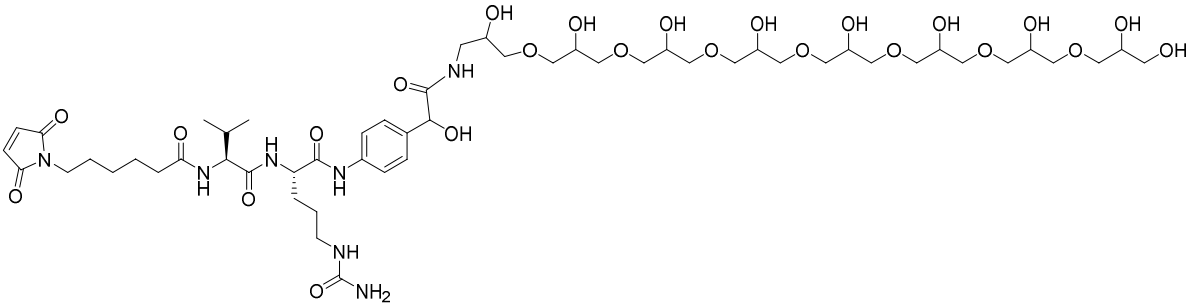
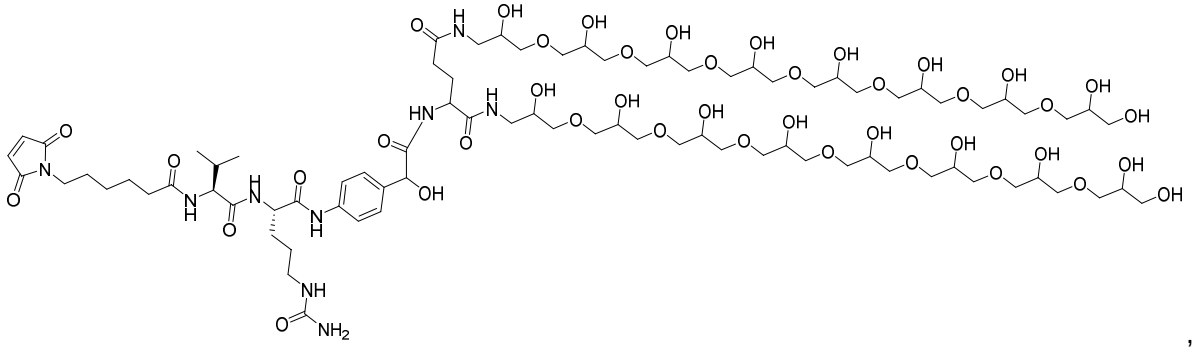
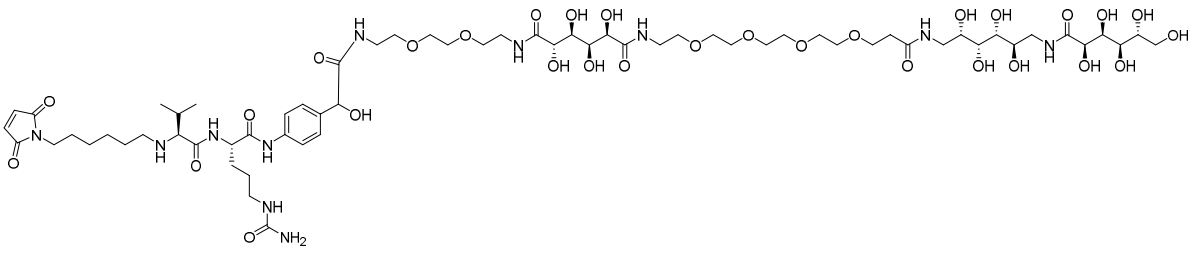
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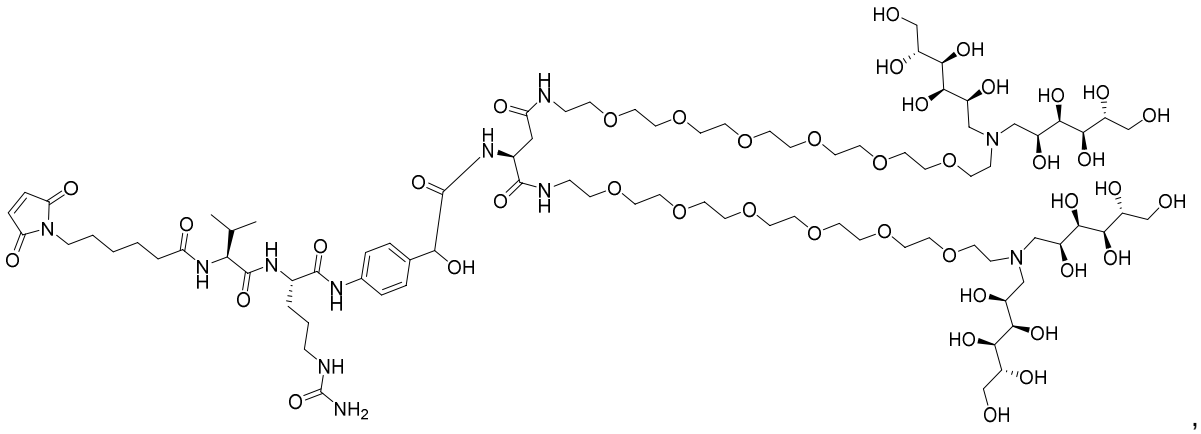


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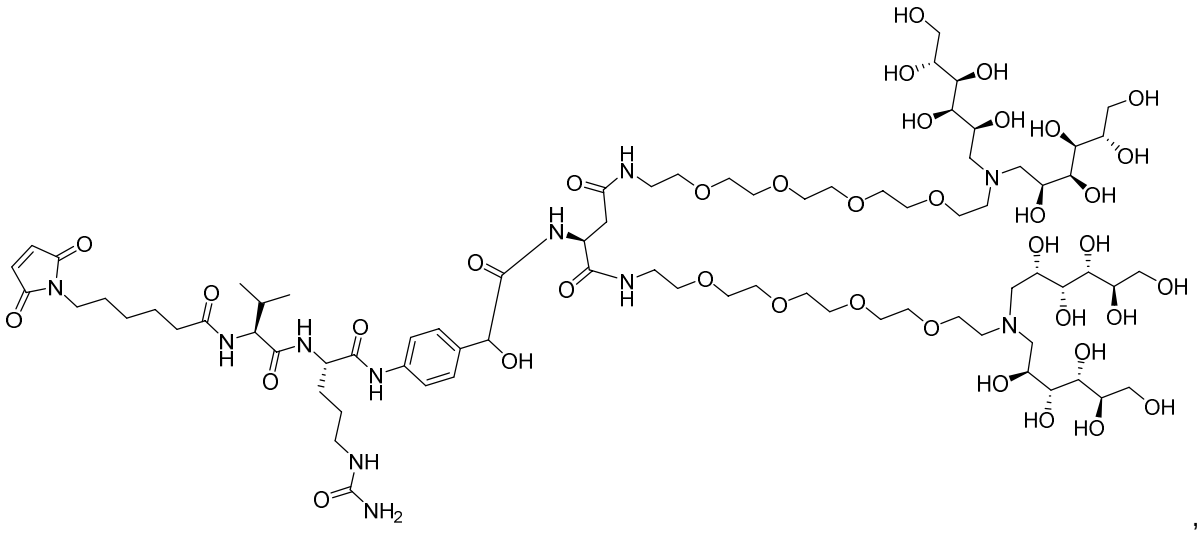


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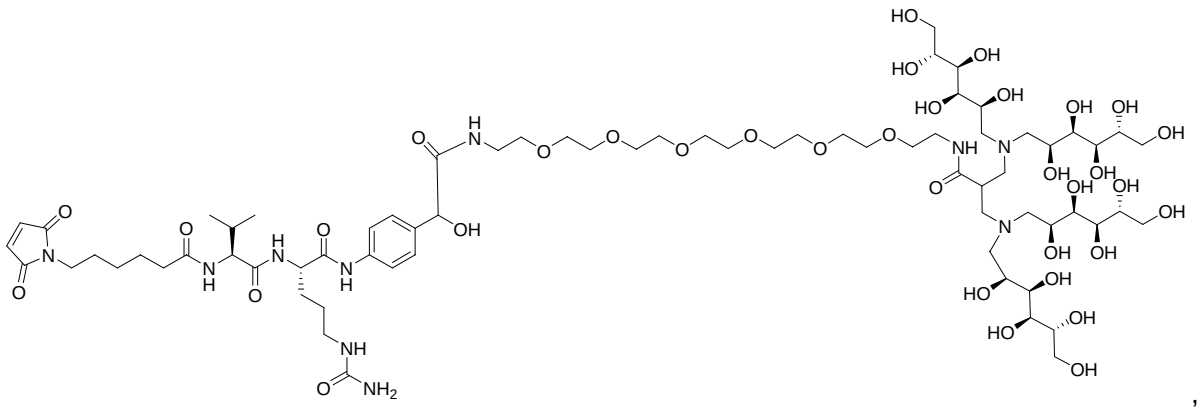

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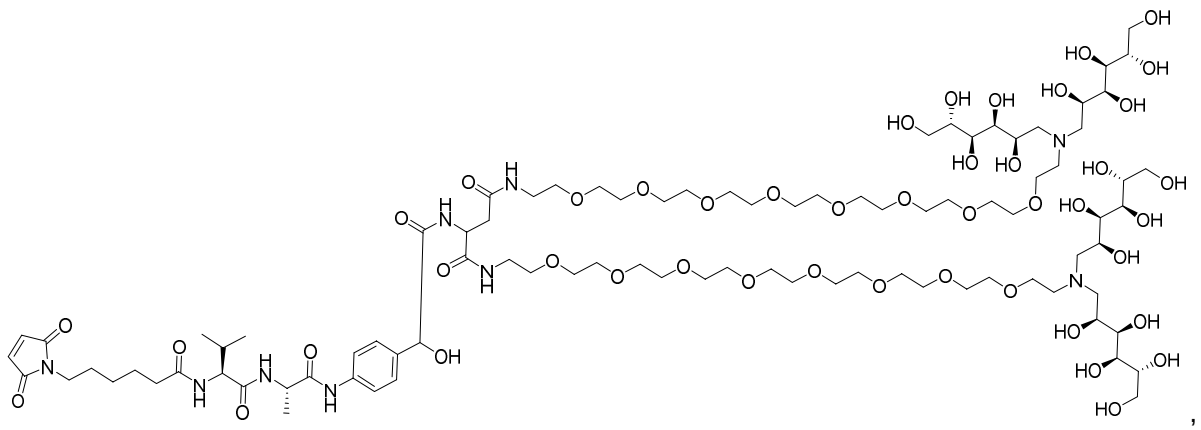
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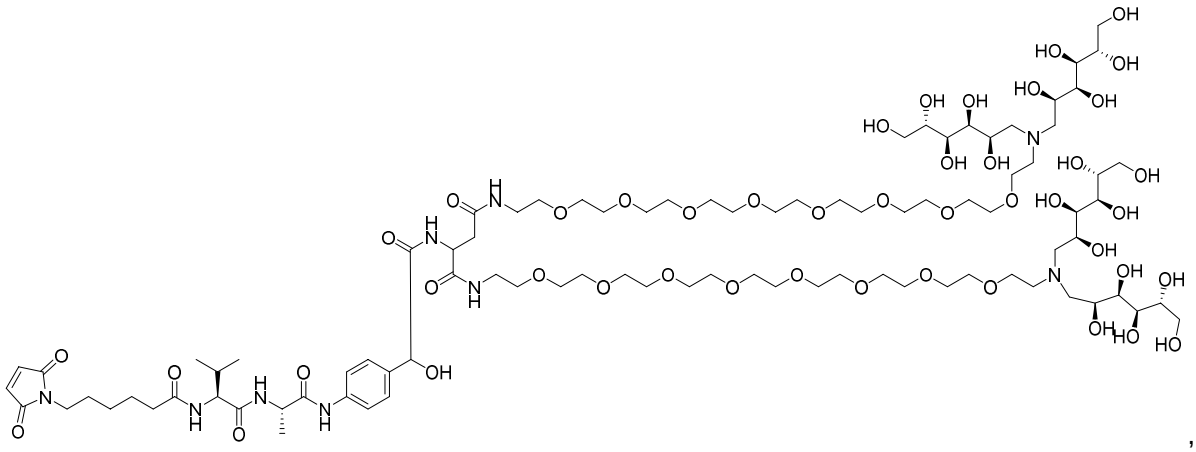
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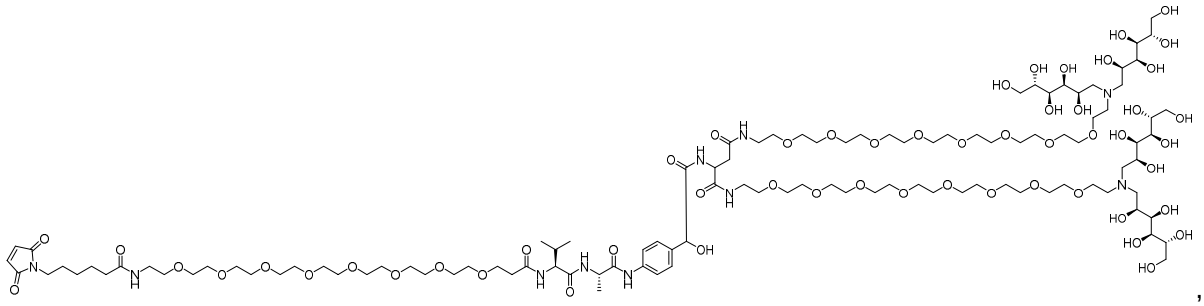
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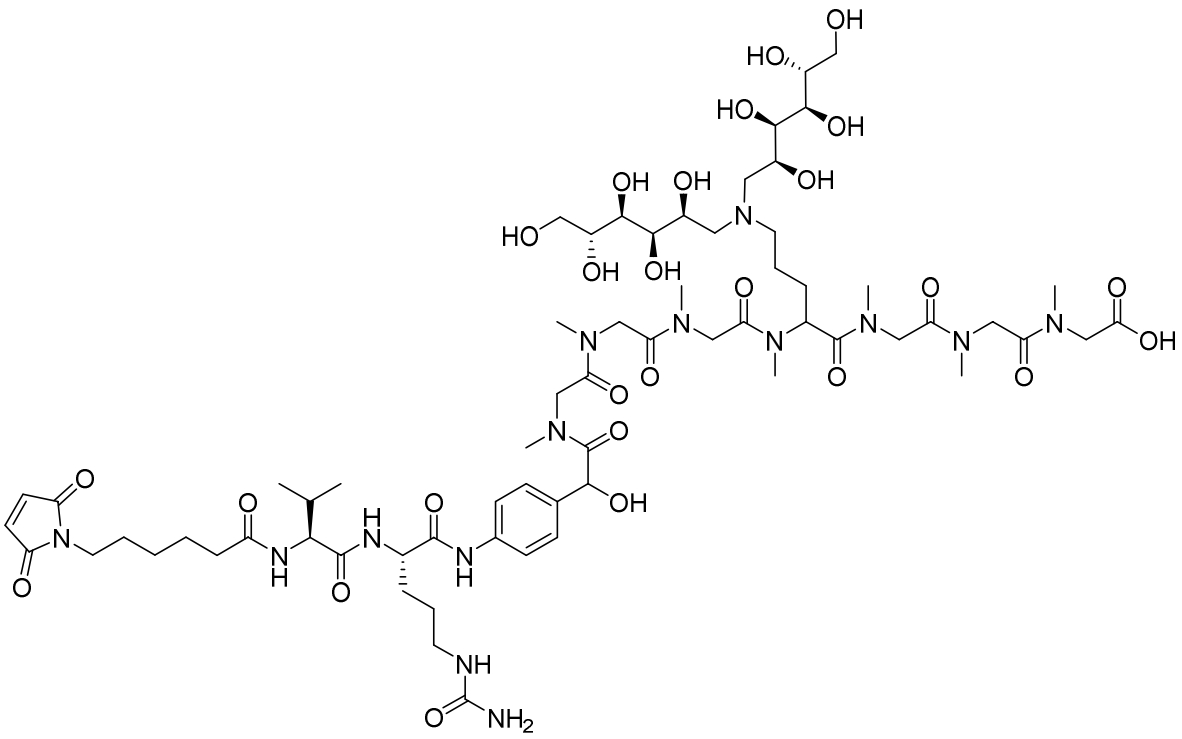
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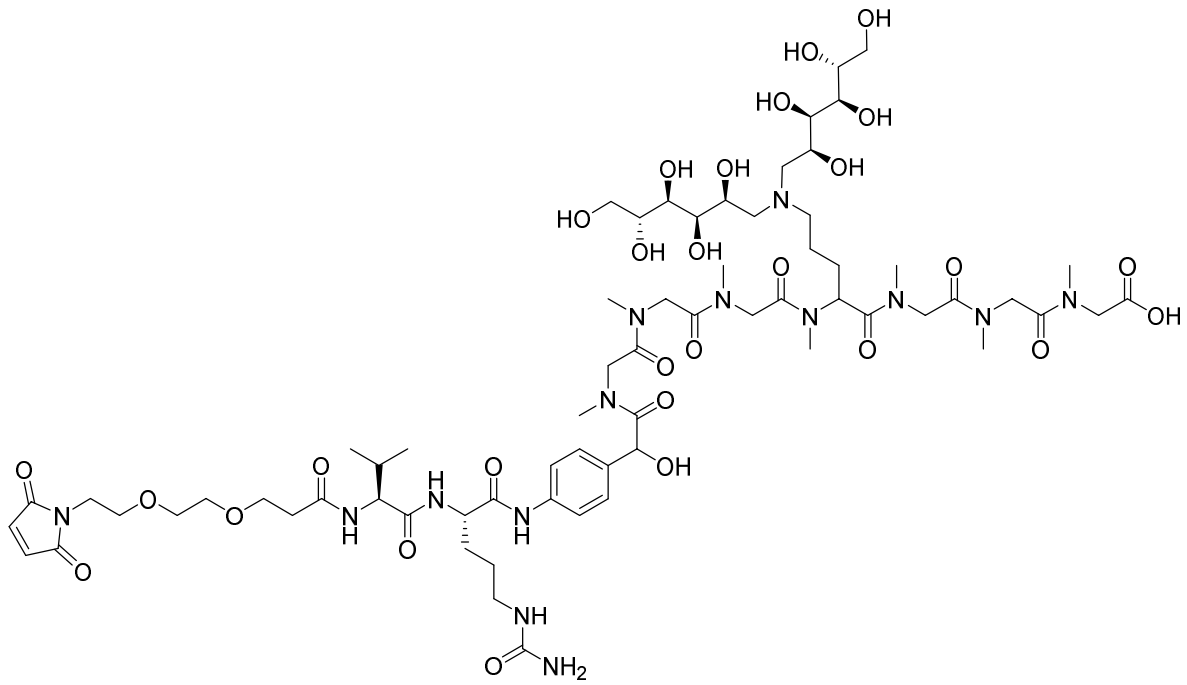
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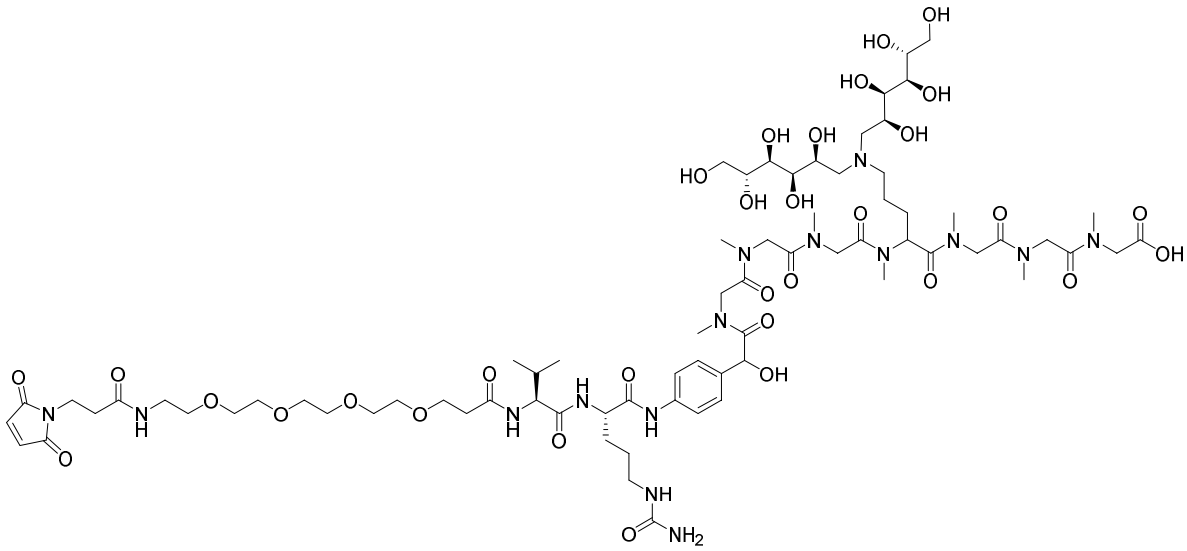
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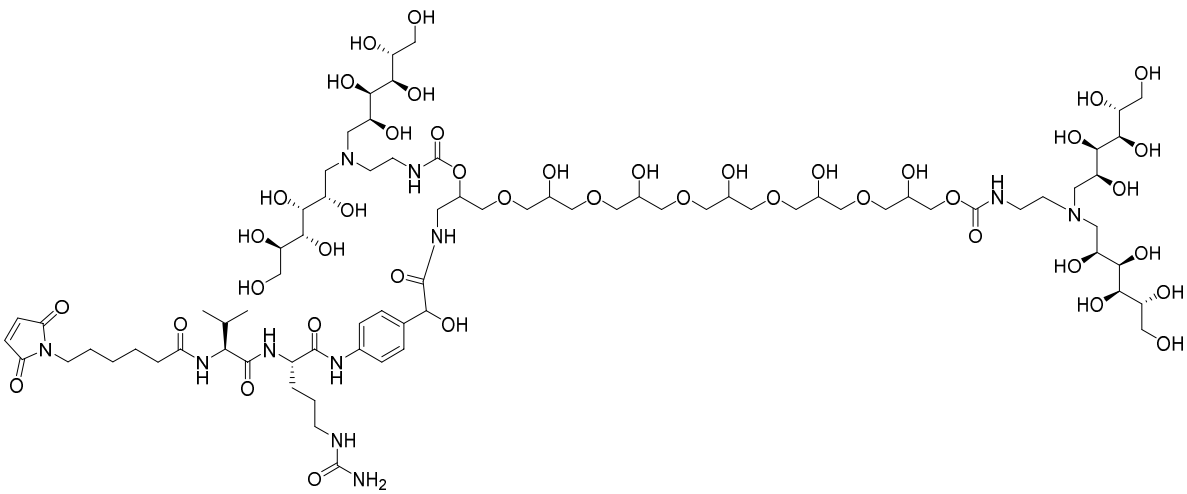
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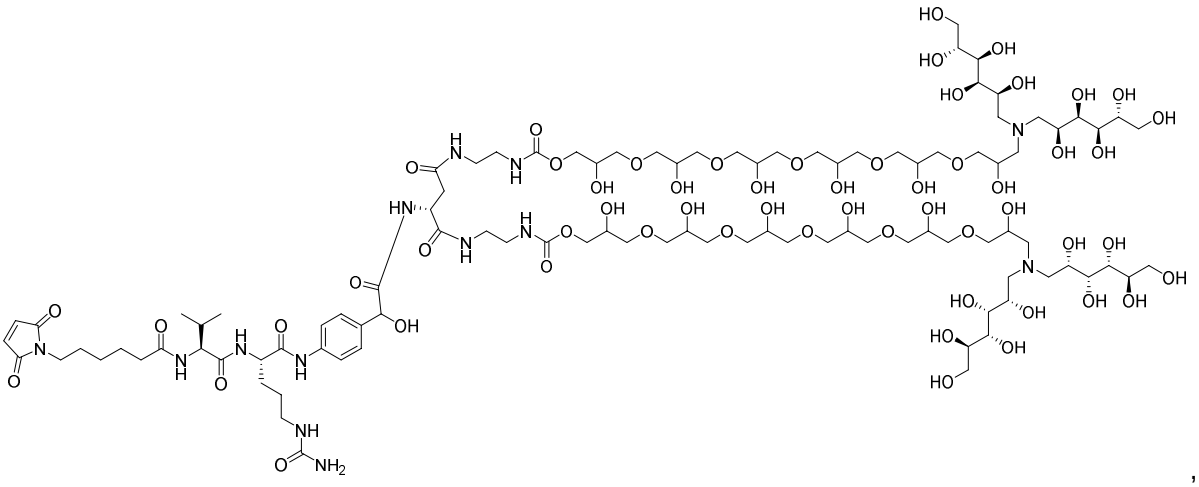
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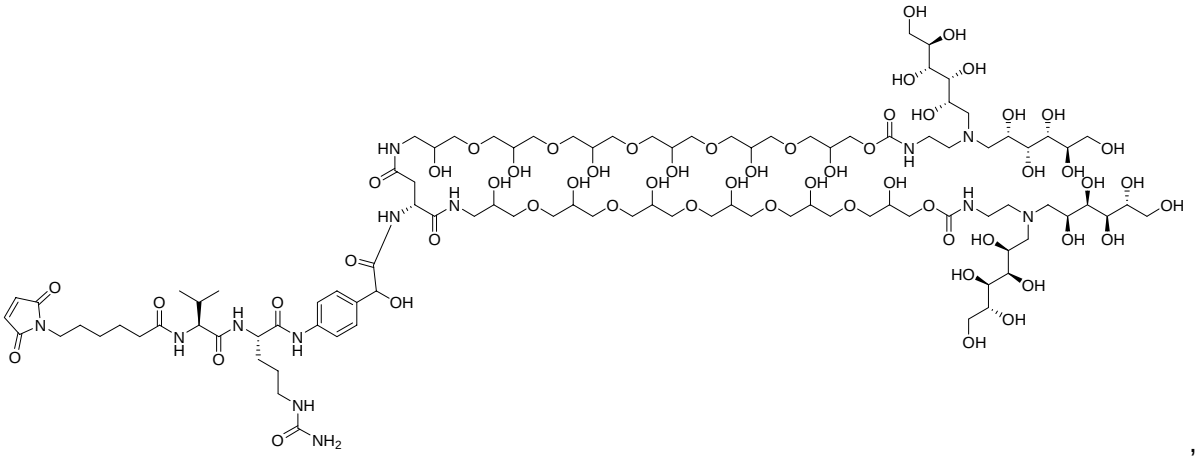
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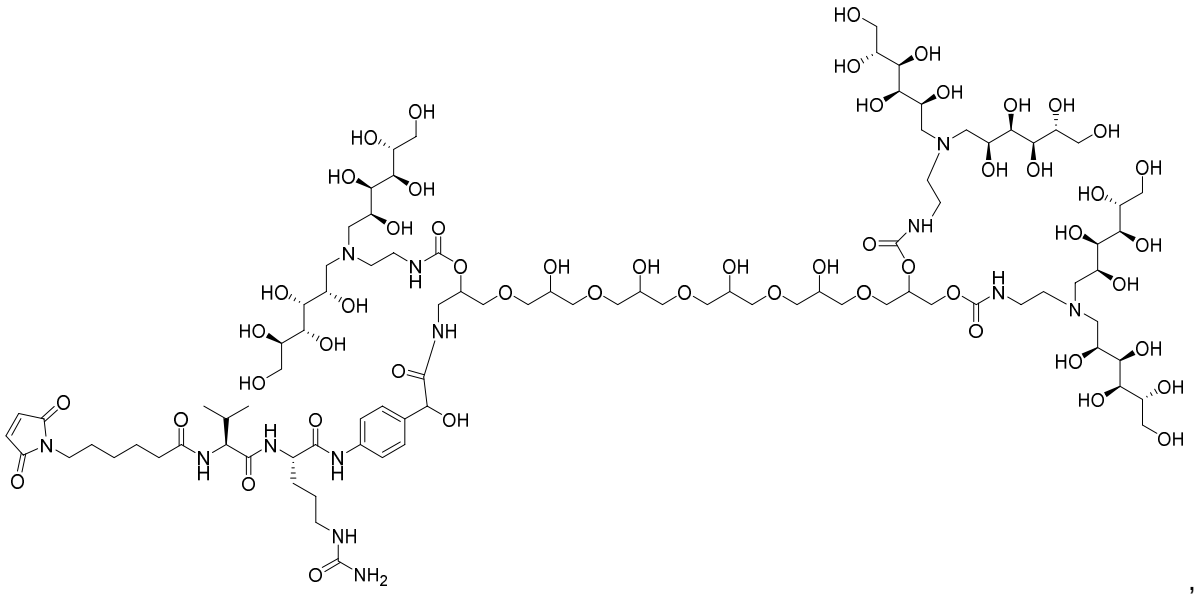
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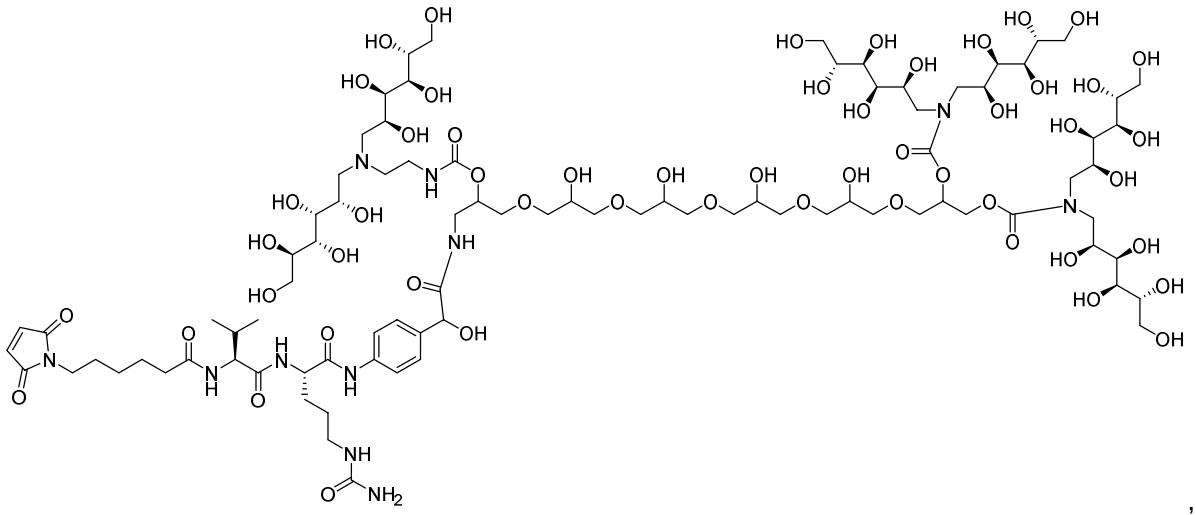
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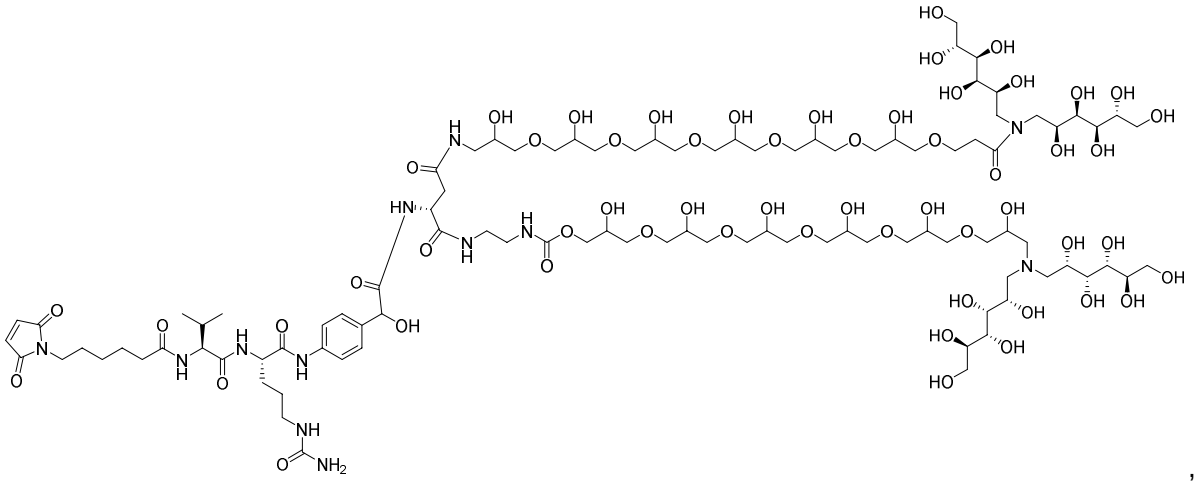
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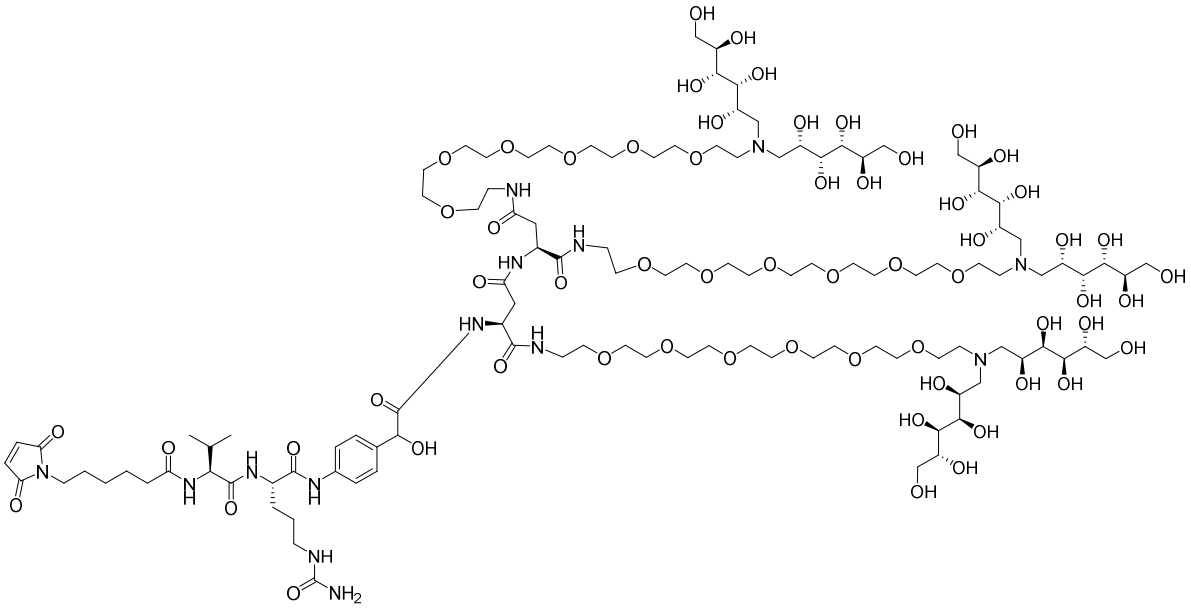
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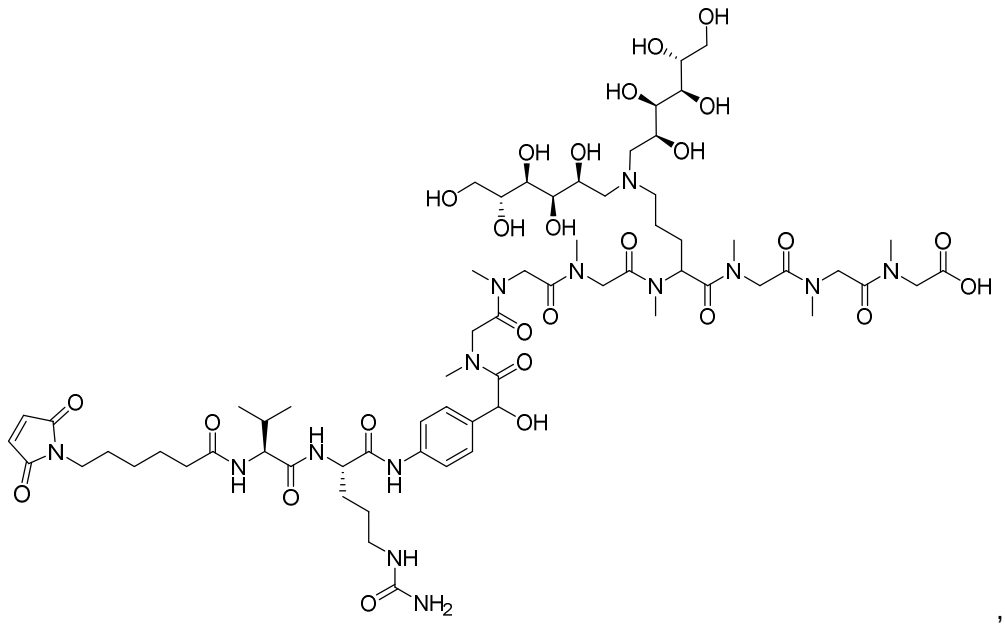
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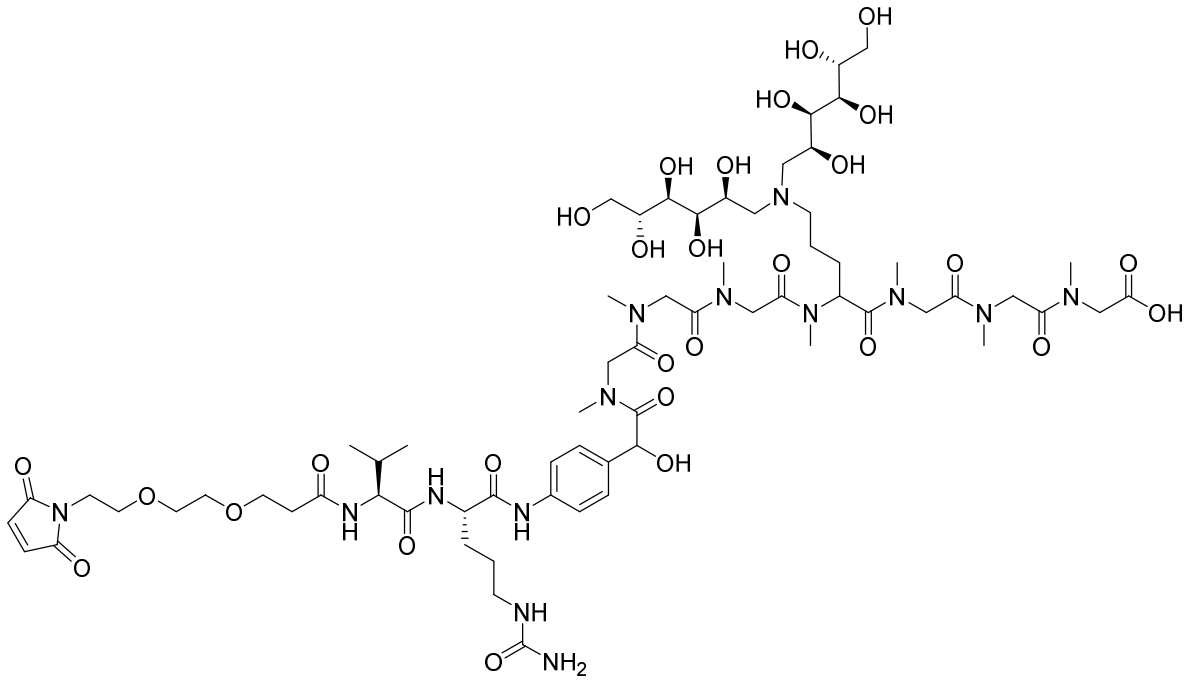
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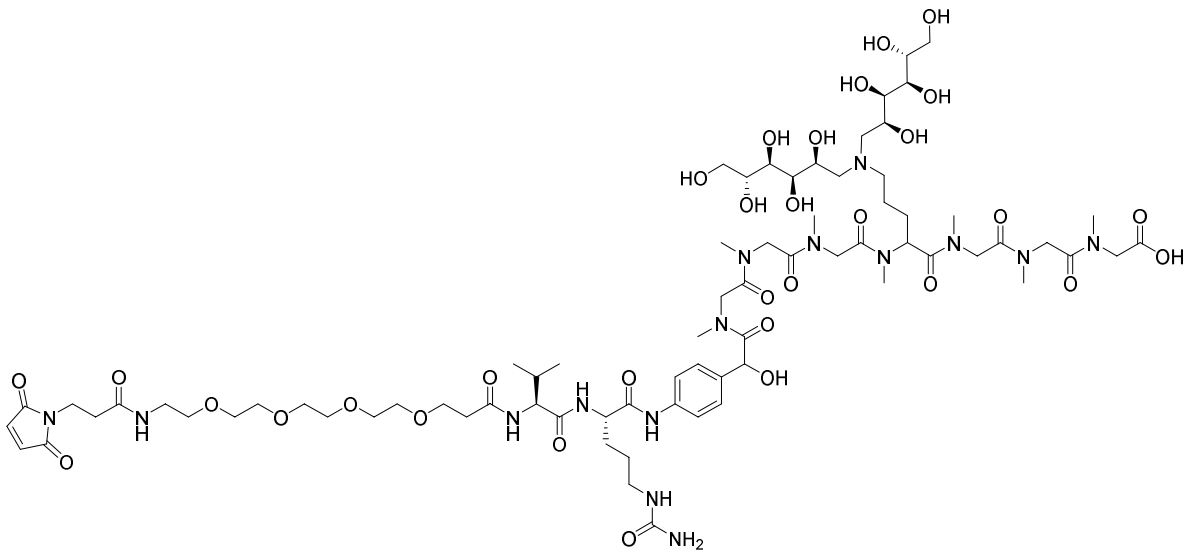
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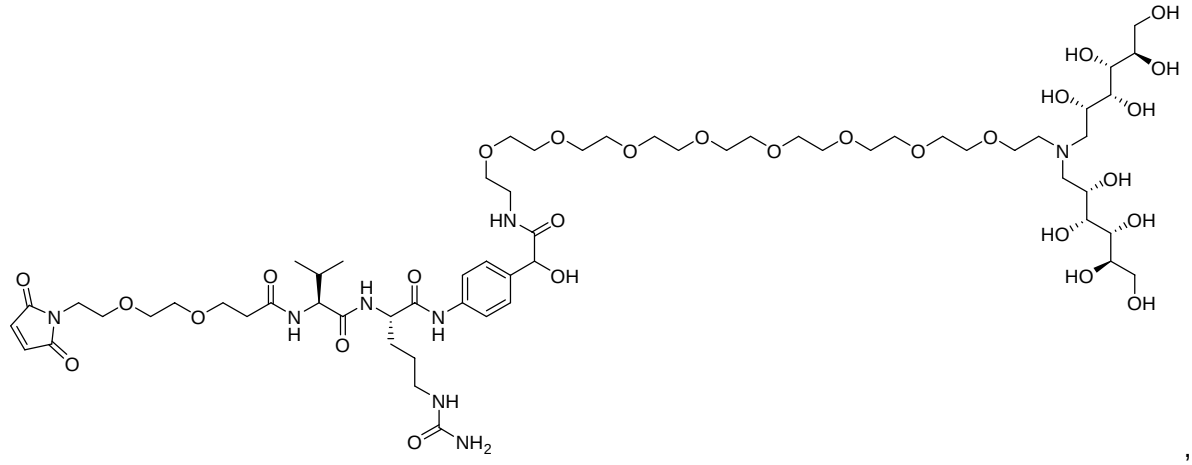
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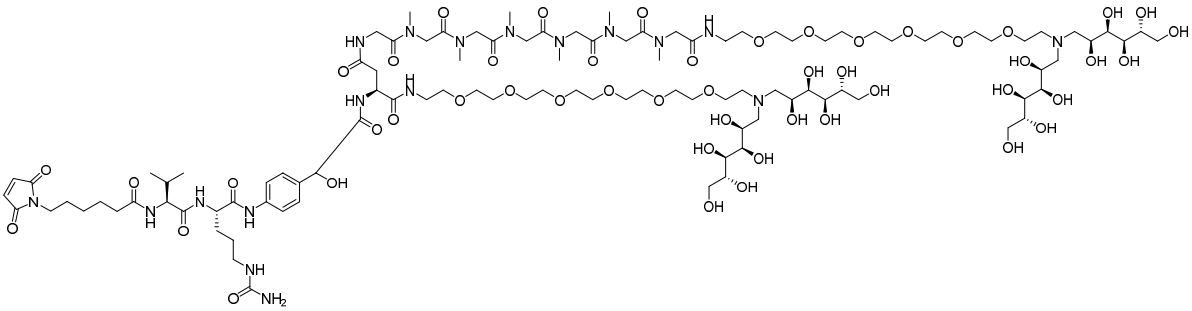
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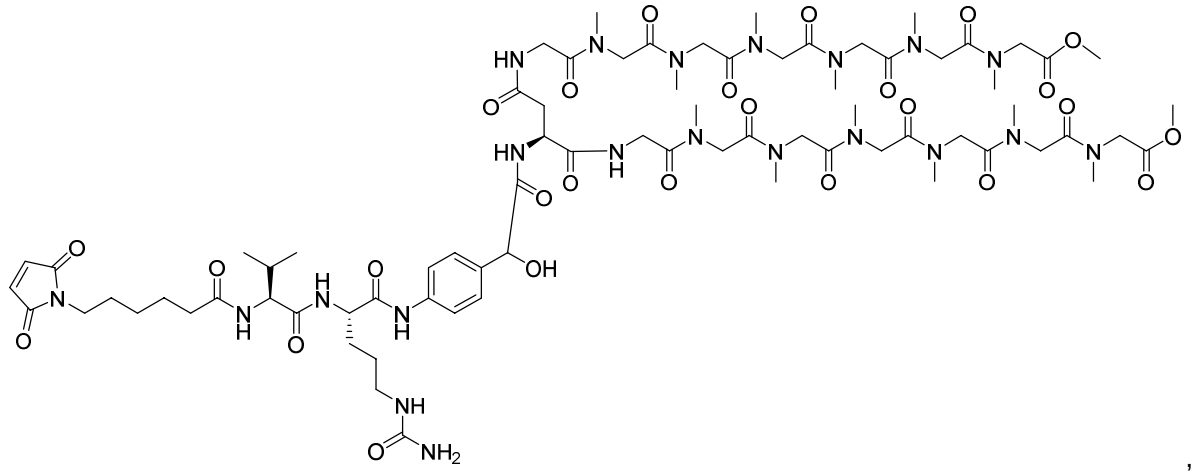
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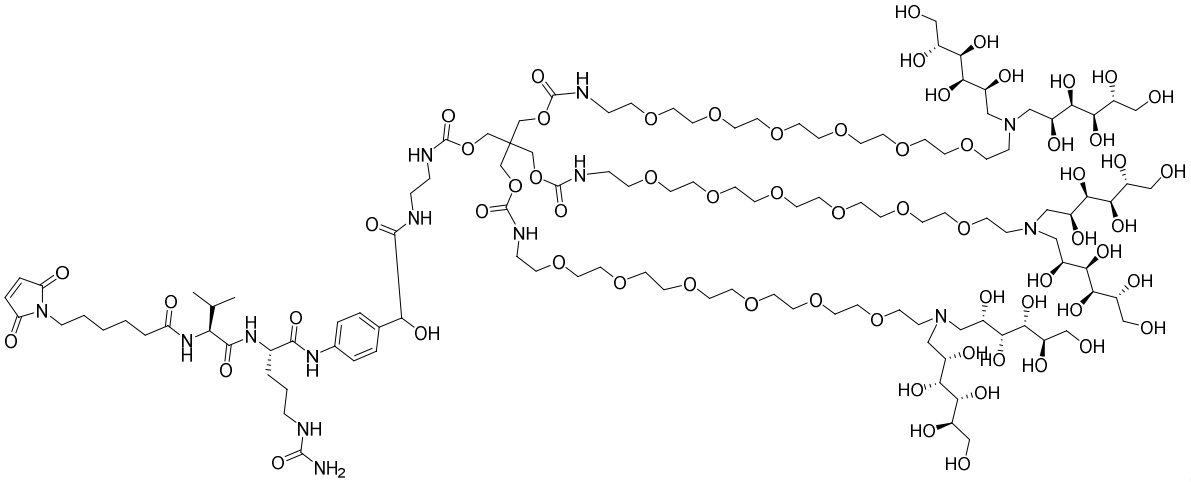
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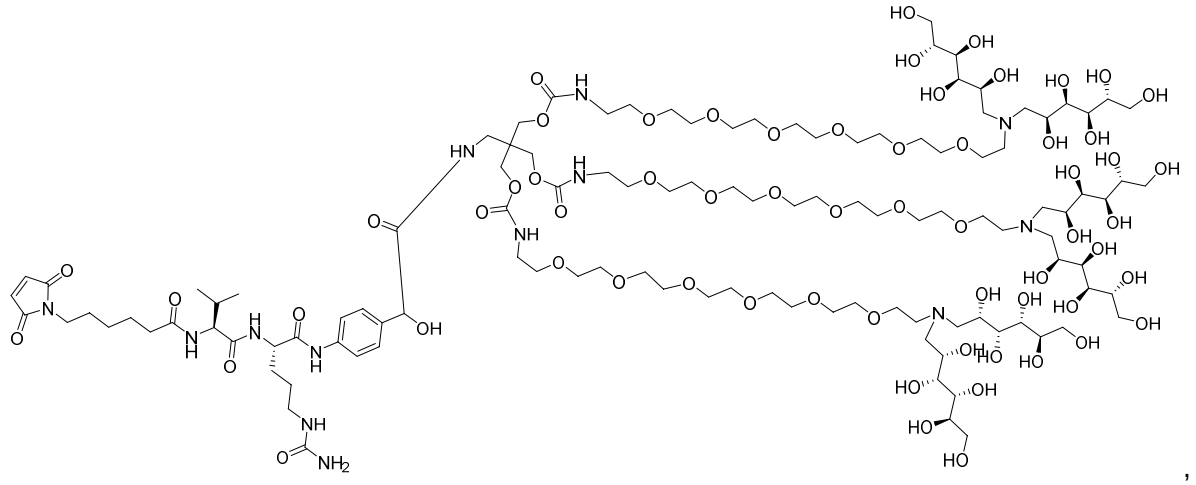
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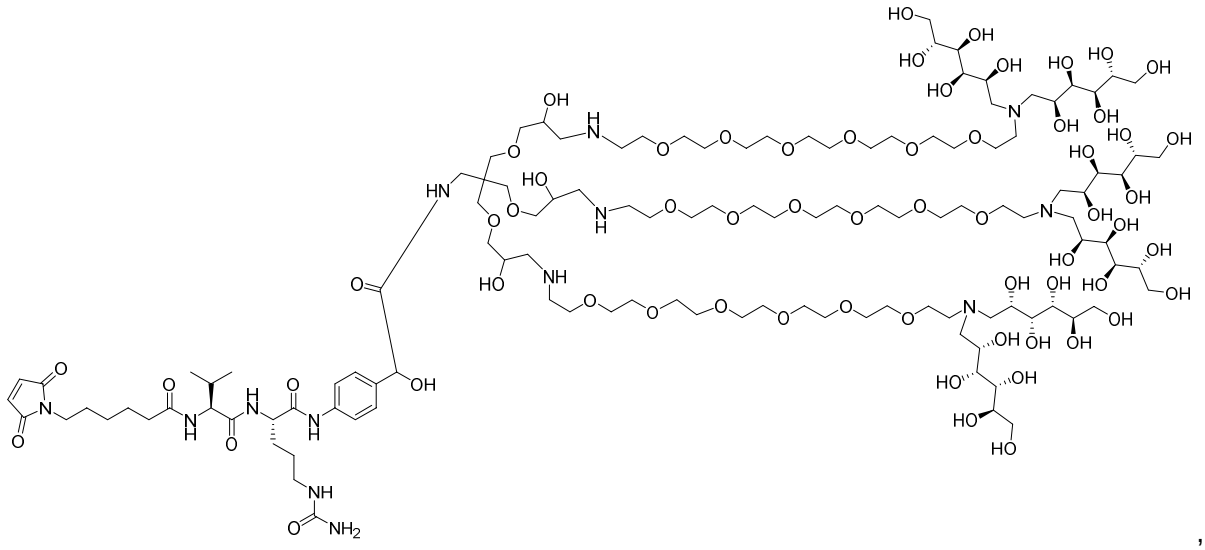
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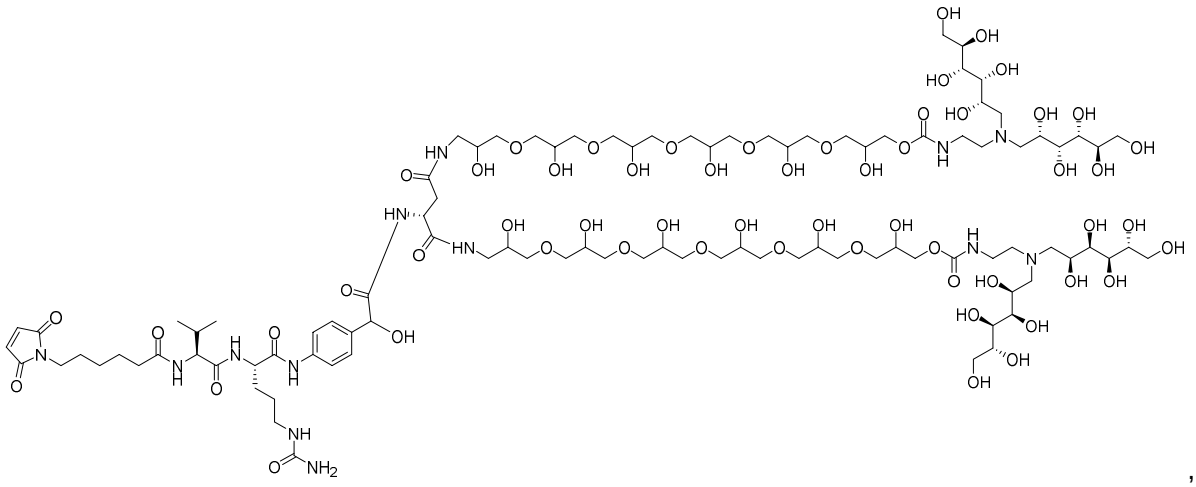
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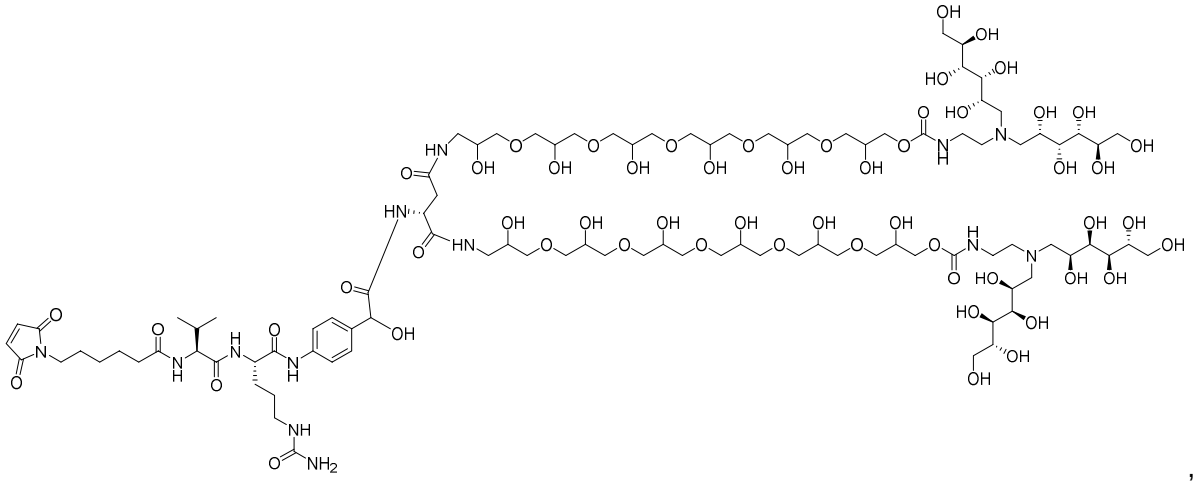
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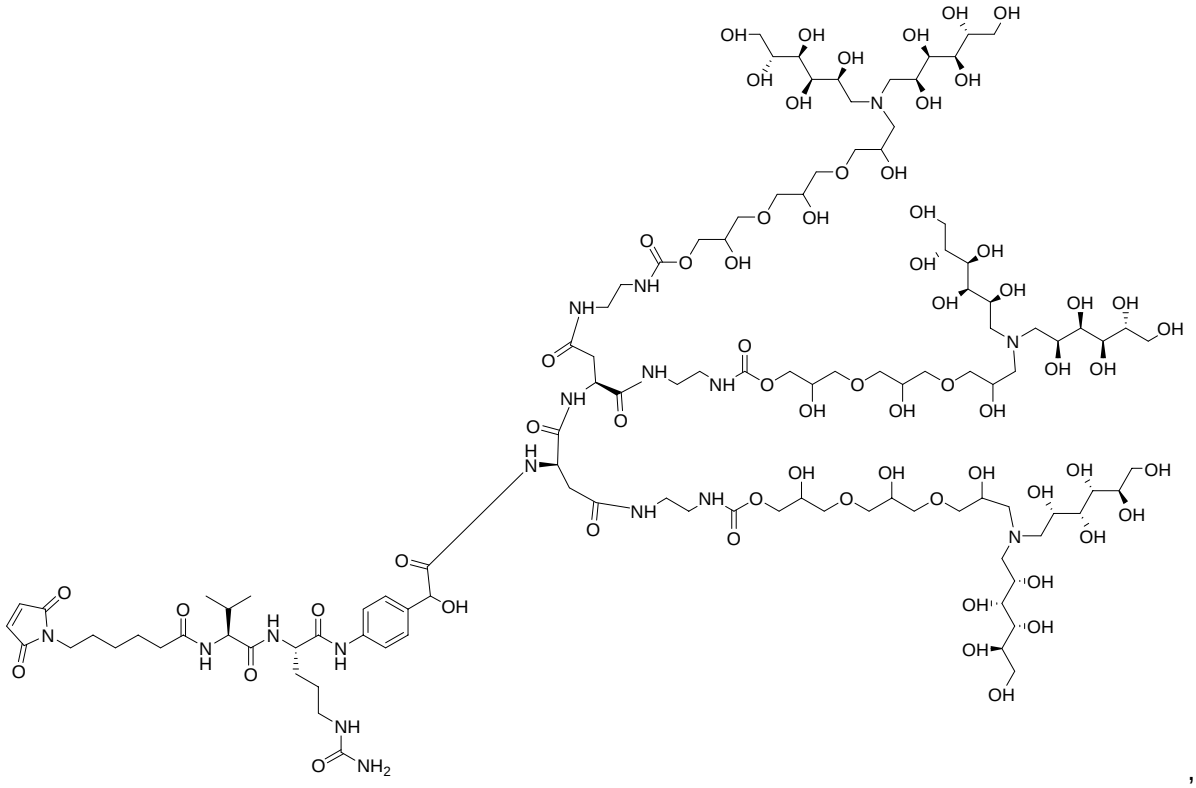
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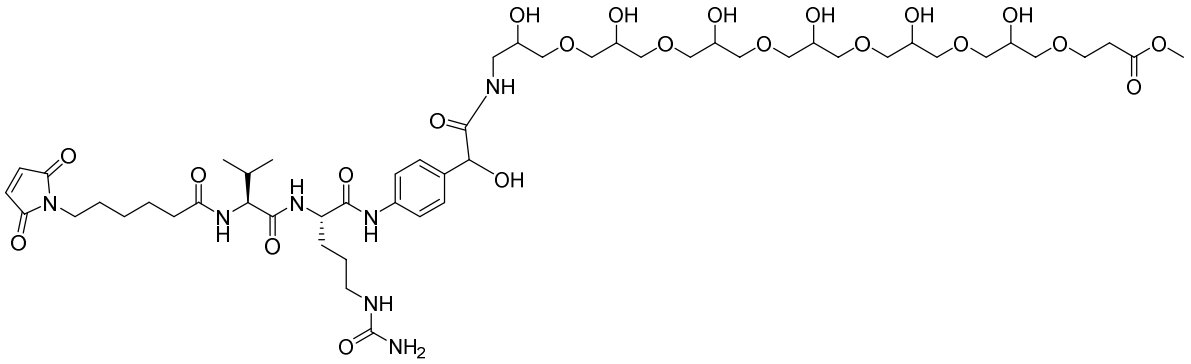
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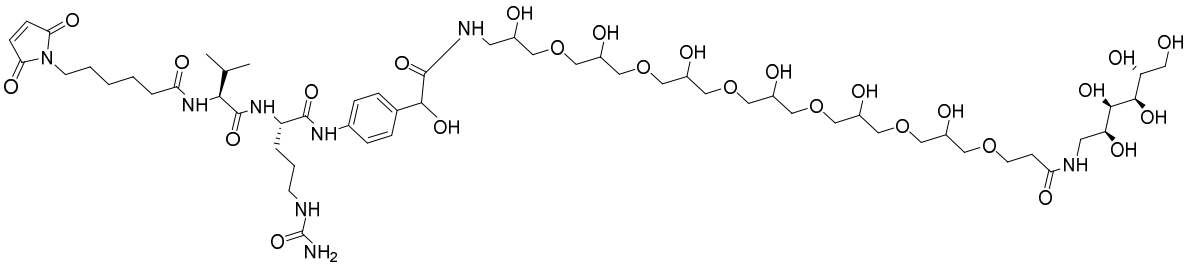
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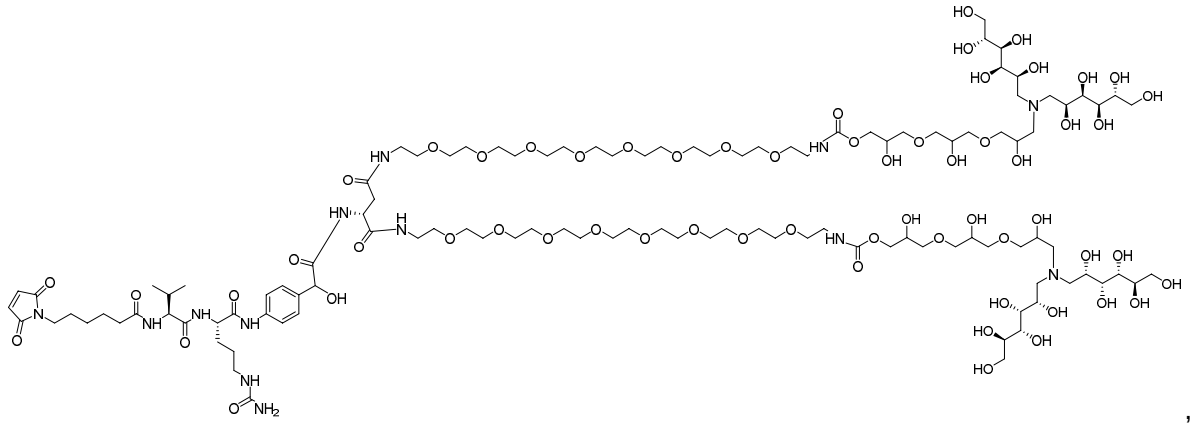
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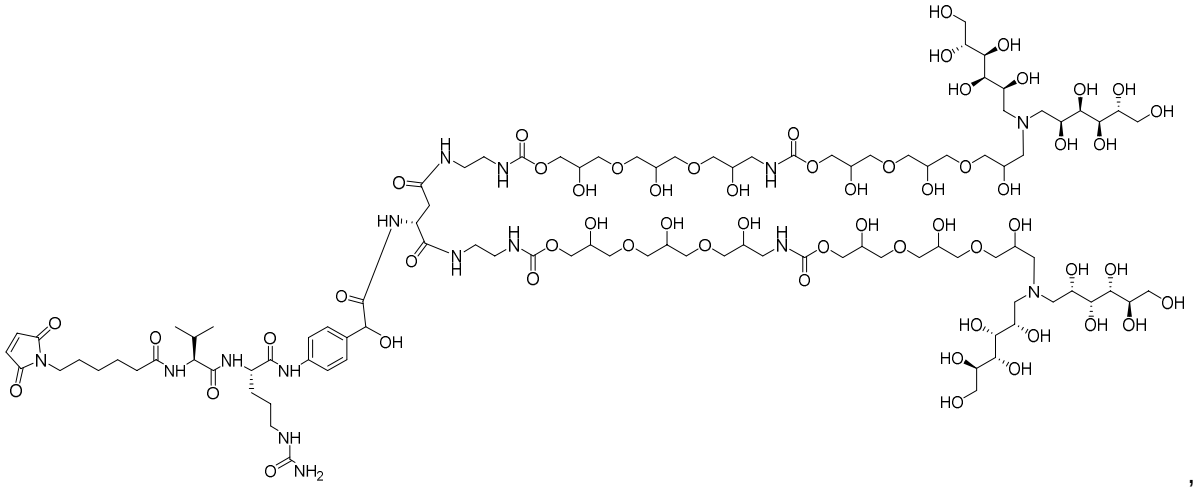
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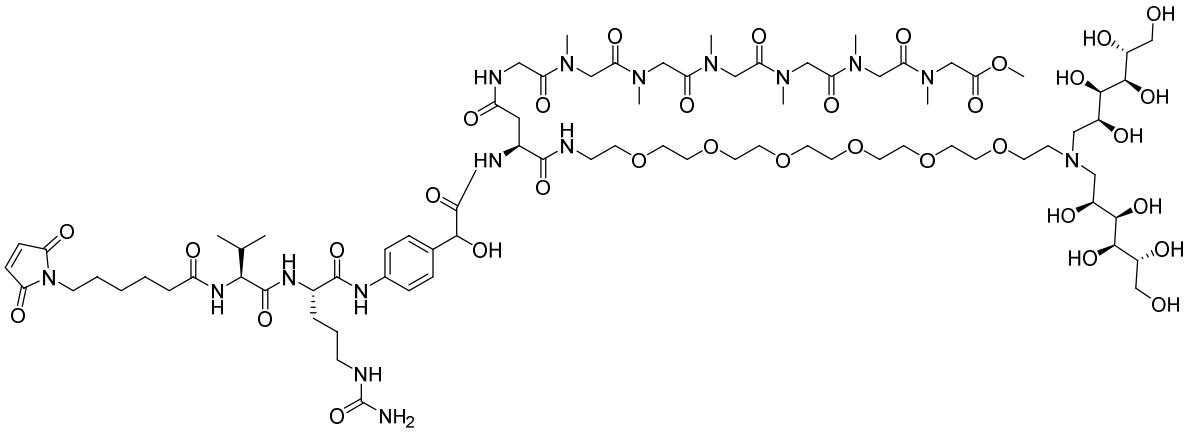
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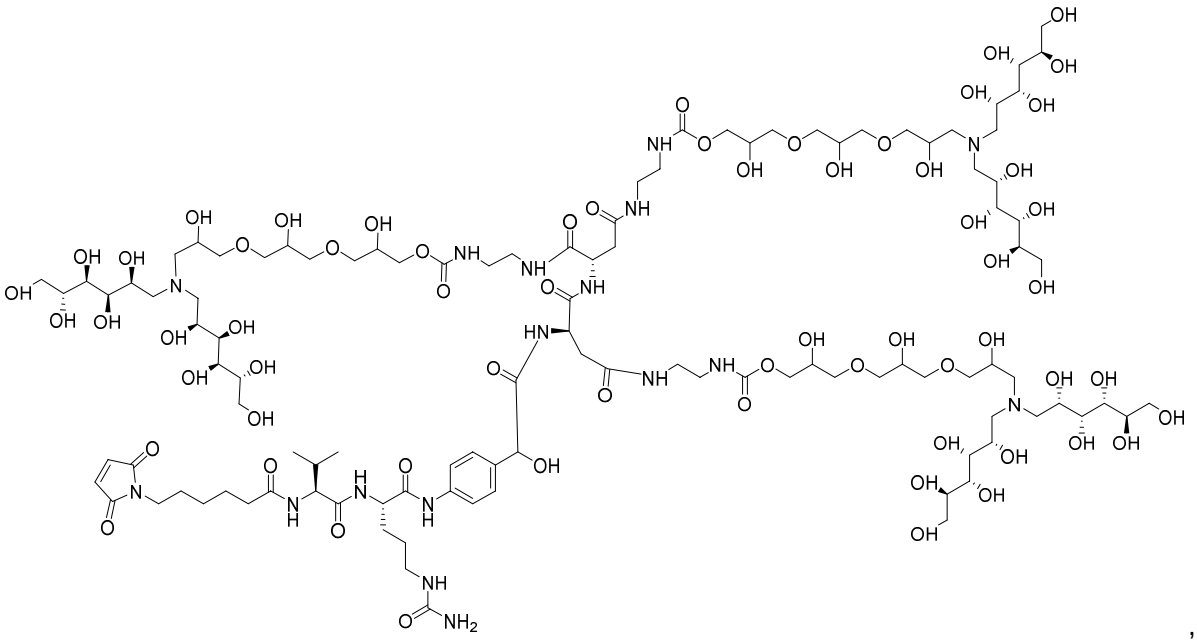
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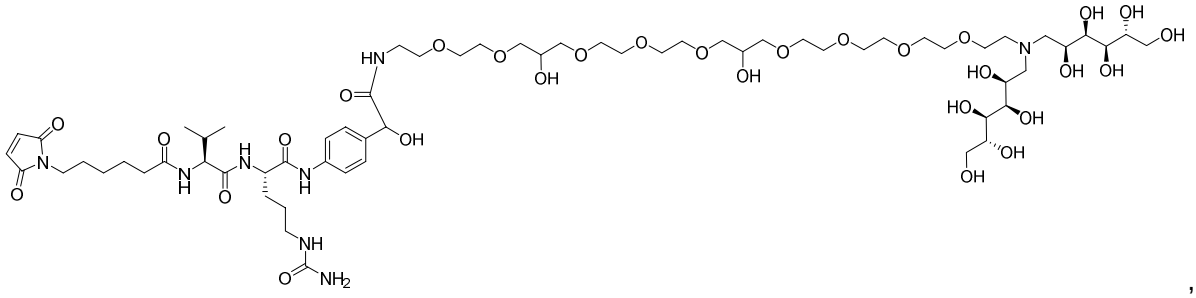
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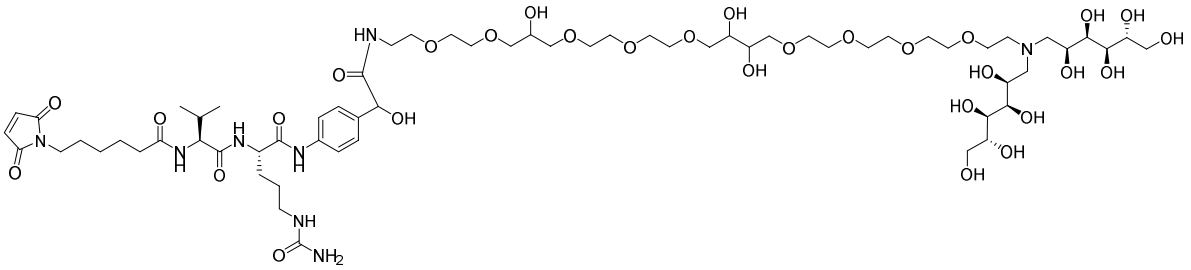
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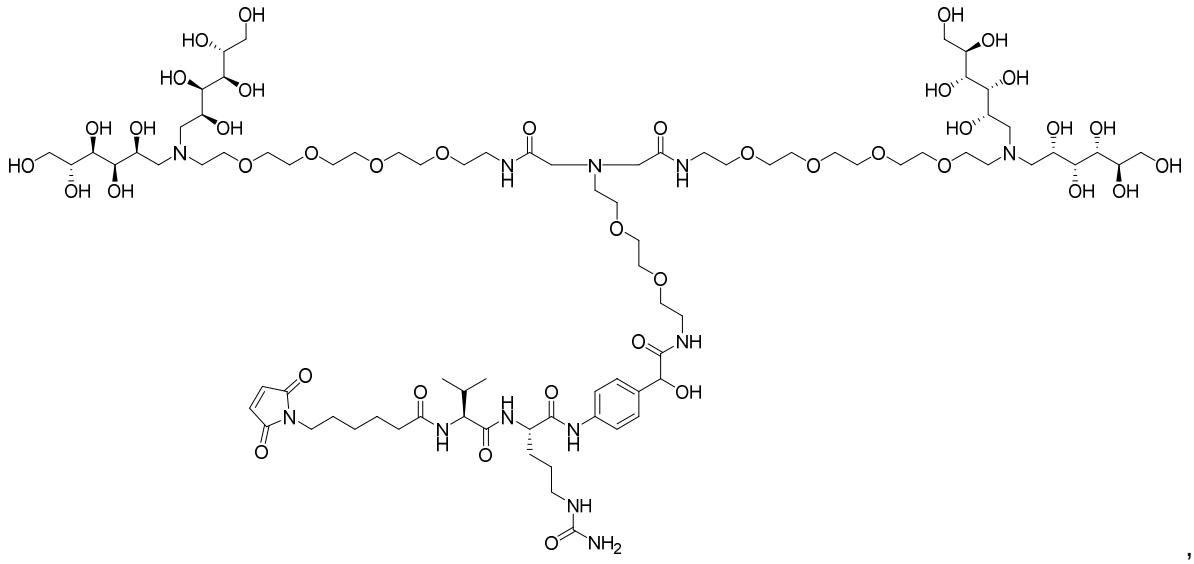
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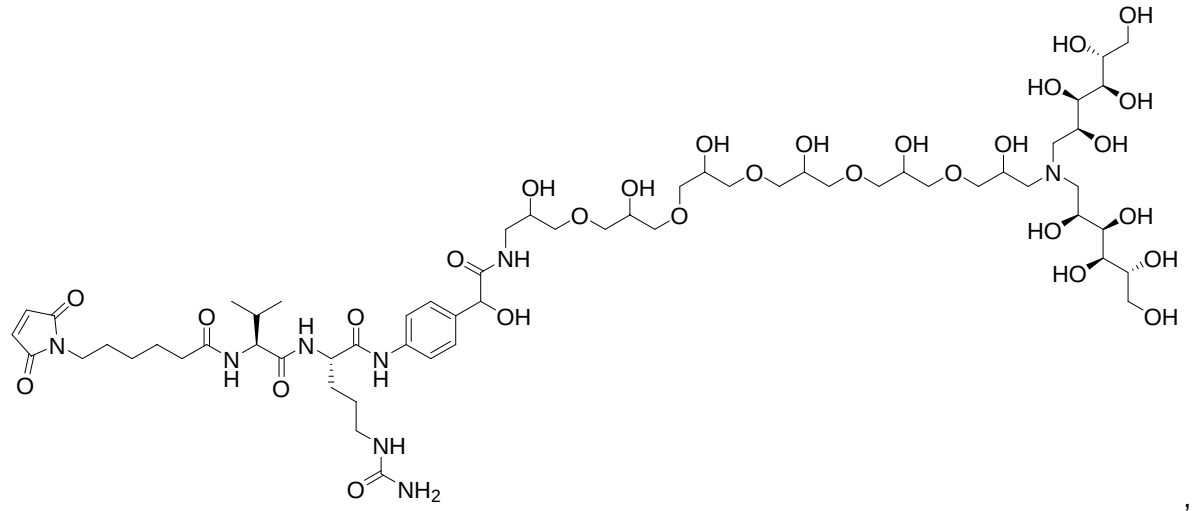
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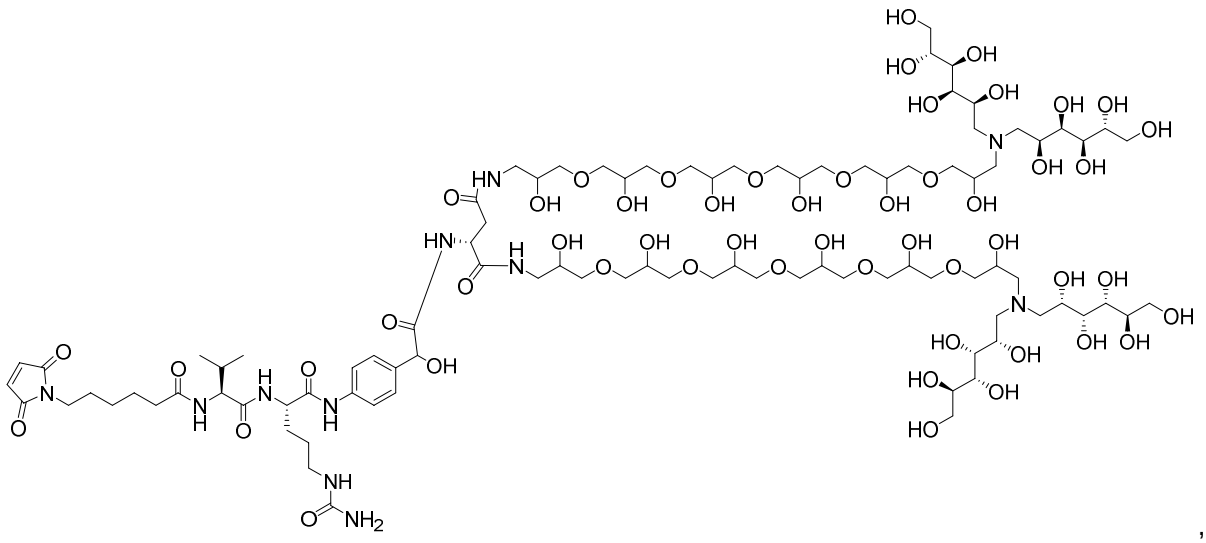
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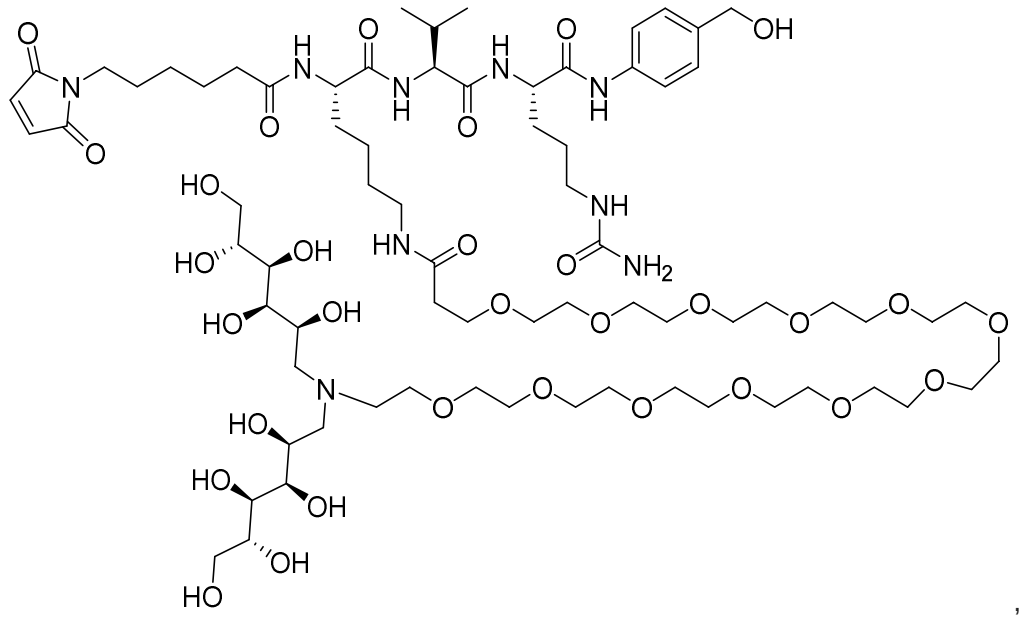
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wherein the H on the benzylic OH is optionally replaced with a bond to one of the drug units or to the linking group attached to at least one of the drug units.

16. The conjugate of any of claims 7(iii) and 8 to 15, wherein at least one of the drug units is attached to the linker compound, at the attachment site δ, to form a drug-linker compound, which can be attached to the binding agent to form the conjugate, optionally wherein:

(i) the drug unit is selected from a cytotoxic agent, an immune modulatory agent, a nucleic acid, a growth inhibitory agent, a PROTAC, a toxin, a radioactive isotope and a chelating ligand, further optionally wherein:

(a) the drug unit is a cytotoxic agent, optionally wherein the cytotoxic agent is selected from the group consisting of an auristatin, a maytansinoid, a camptothecin, a duocarmycin, and a calicheamicin, further optionally wherein:

(I) the cytotoxic agent is MMAE, MMAF, exatecan, RS-exatecan, SS-exatecan, SN-38, DxD, maytansine, maytansinol or ansamatocin-2; or

(II) the cytotoxic agent is MMAE or exatecan; or

(b) the drug unit is an immune modulatory agent, optionally wherein the immune modulatory agent is selected from a TRL7 agonist, a TLR8 agonist, a STING agonist, or a RIG-I agonist, further optionally wherein the immune modulatory agent is:

(I) a TLR7 agonist, optionally wherein the TLR7 agonist is an imidazoquinoline, an imidazoquinoline amine, a thiazoquinoline, an aminoquinoline, an aminoquinazoline, a pyrido [3,2-d]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine, pyrimidine-2,4-diamine, 2-aminoimidazole, 1-alkyl-1H-benzimidazol-2-amine, tetrahydropyridopyrimidine, heteroarothiadiazide-2,2-dioxide, a benzonaphthyridine, a guanosine analog, an adenosine analog, a thymidine homopolymer, ssRNA, CpG-A, PolyG10, or PolyG3; or

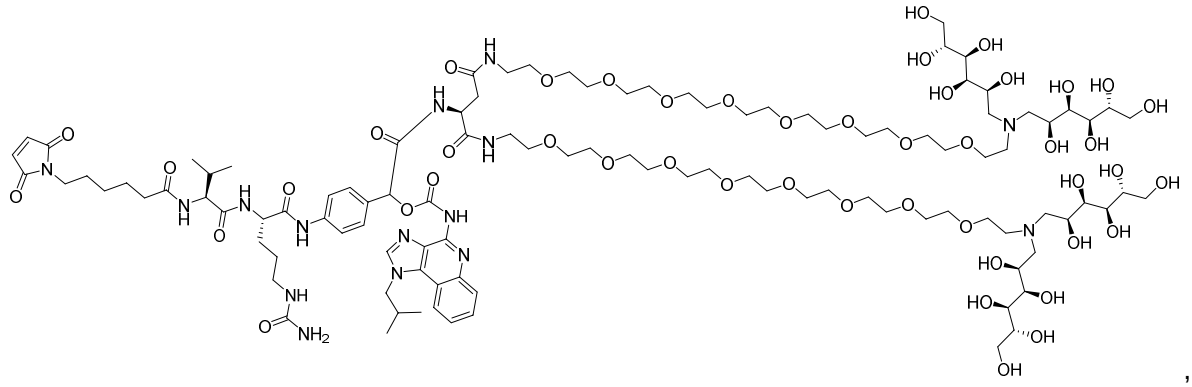
(II) a TLR8 agonist, optionally wherein the TLR8 agonist is selected from an imidazoquinoline, a thiazoloquinoline, an aminoquinoline, an aminoquinazoline, a pyrido [3,2-d]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine, pyrimidine-2,4-diamine, 2-aminoimidazole, 1-alkyl-1H-benzimidazol-2-amine, tetrahydropyridopyrimidine or a ssRNA; or

(III) a STING agonist; or

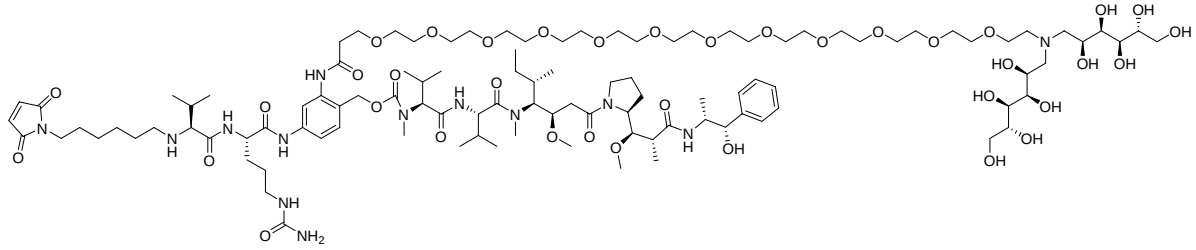
(IV) a RIG-I agonist, optionally wherein the RIG-I agonist is selected from KIN1148, SB-9200, KIN700, KIN600, KIN500, KIN100, KIN101, KIN400 and KIN2000; or

(c) the drug unit is a chelating ligand, optionally wherein the chelating ligand is selected from platinum (Pt), ruthenium (Ru), rhodium (Rh), gold (Au), silver (Ag), copper (Cu), molybdenum (Mo), titanium (Ti), or iridum (Ir); a radioisotope such as yittrium-88, yittrium-90, technetium-99, copper-67, rhenium-188, rhenium-186, galium-66, galium-67, indium-111, indium-114, indium-115, lutetium-177, strontium-89, sararium-153, and lead-212; or

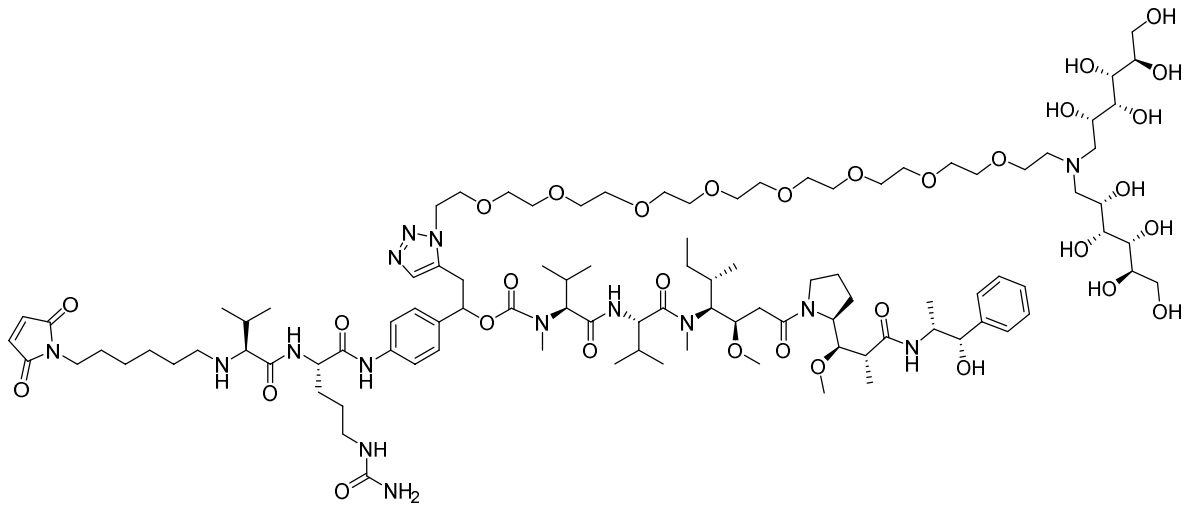
(ii) the drug-linker has one of the following structures:



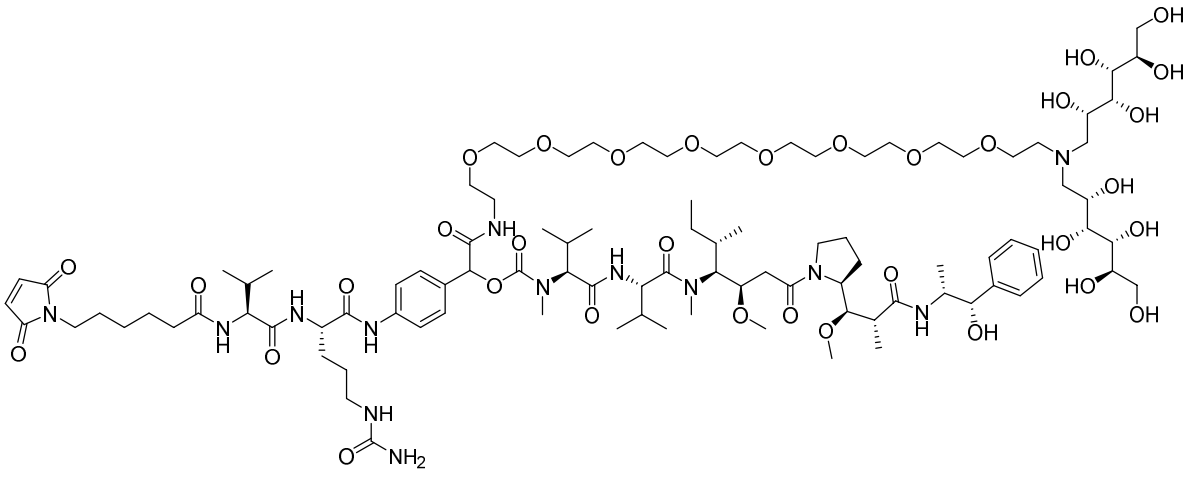
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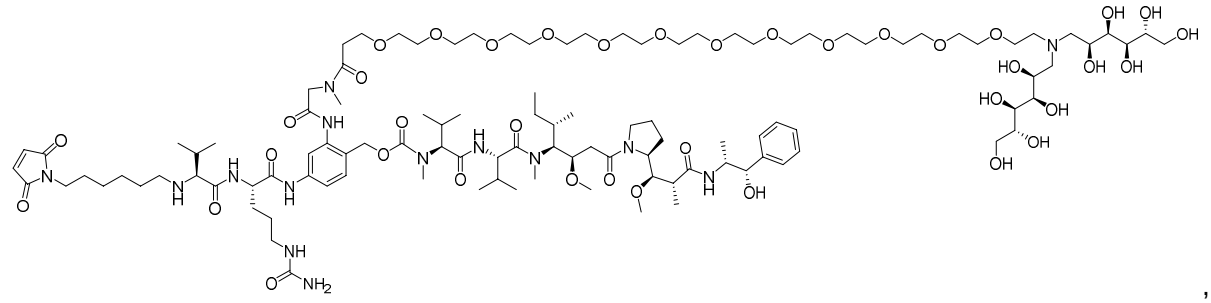
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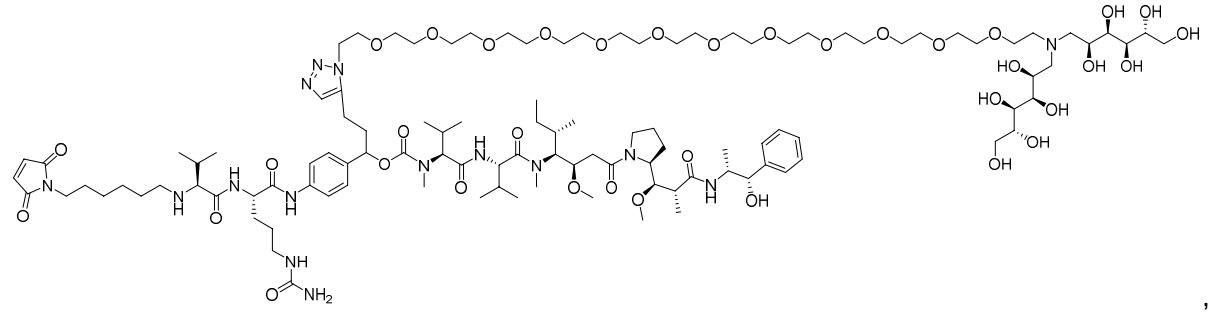
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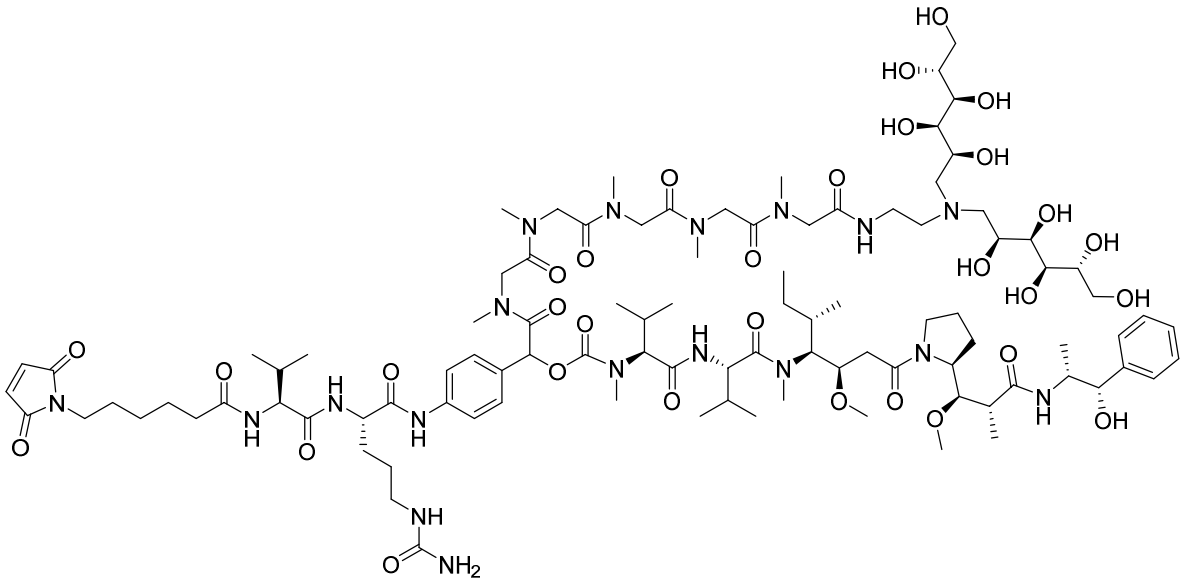
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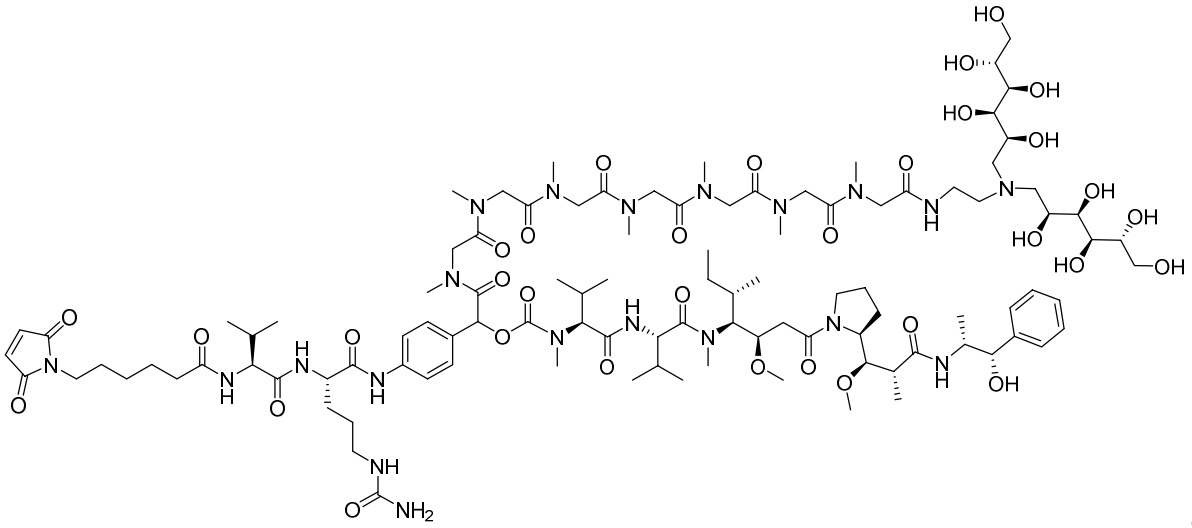
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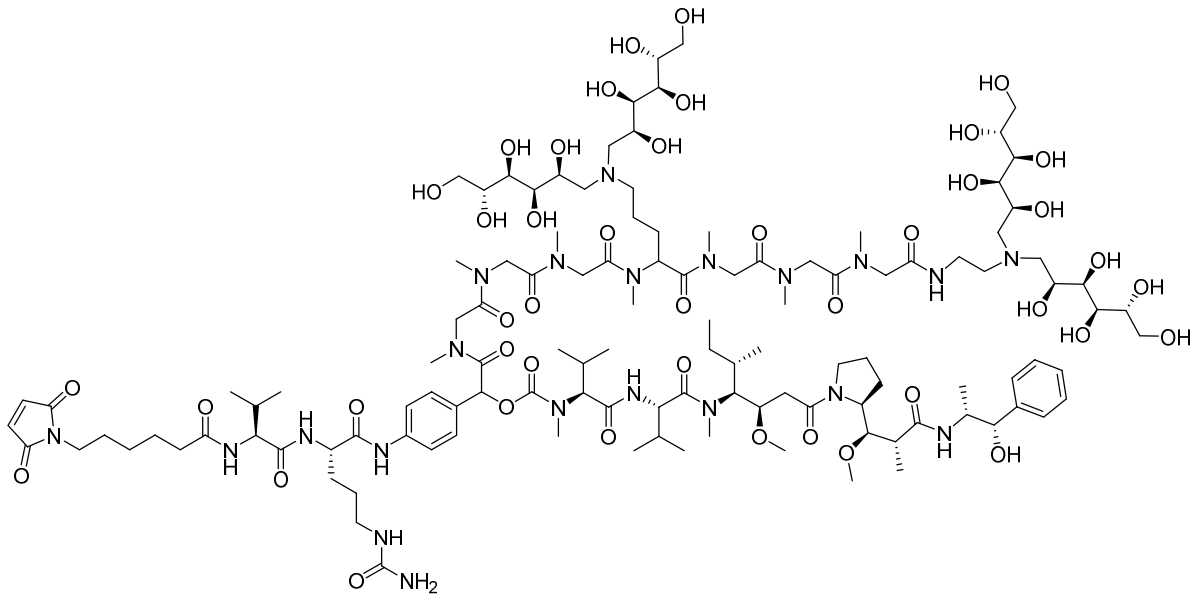
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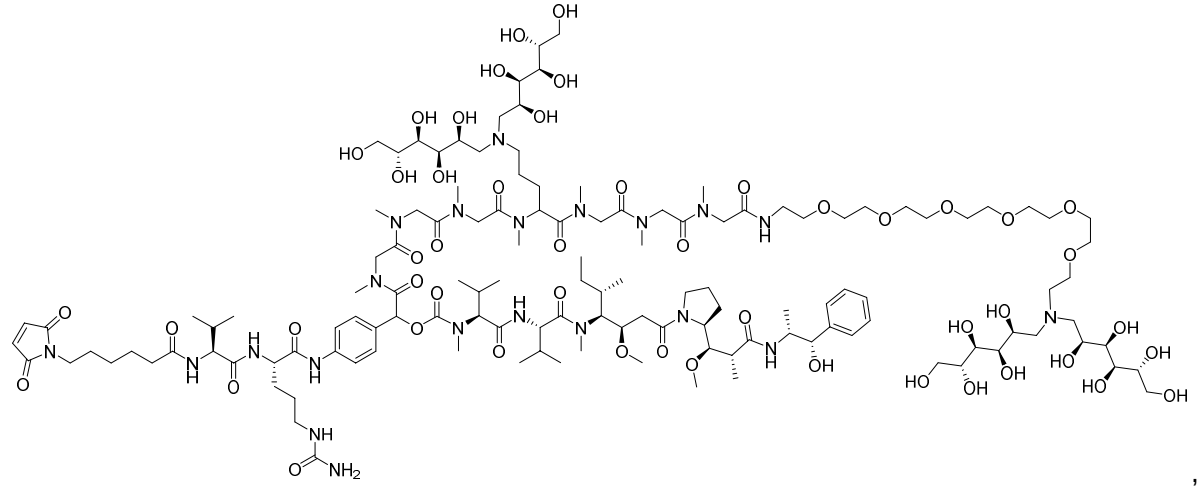
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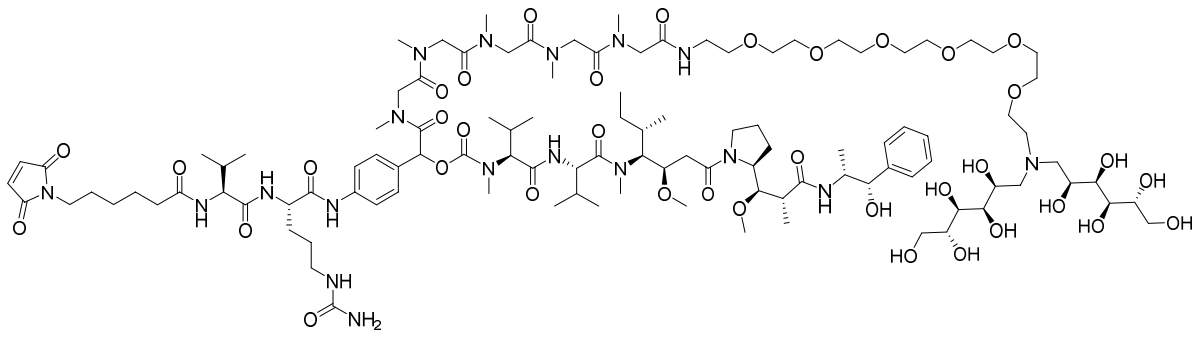
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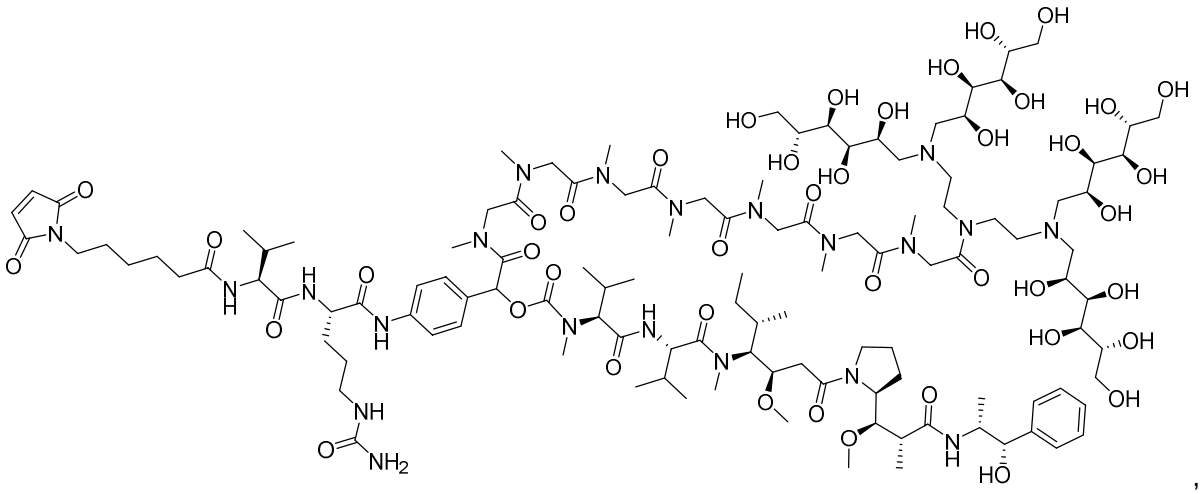
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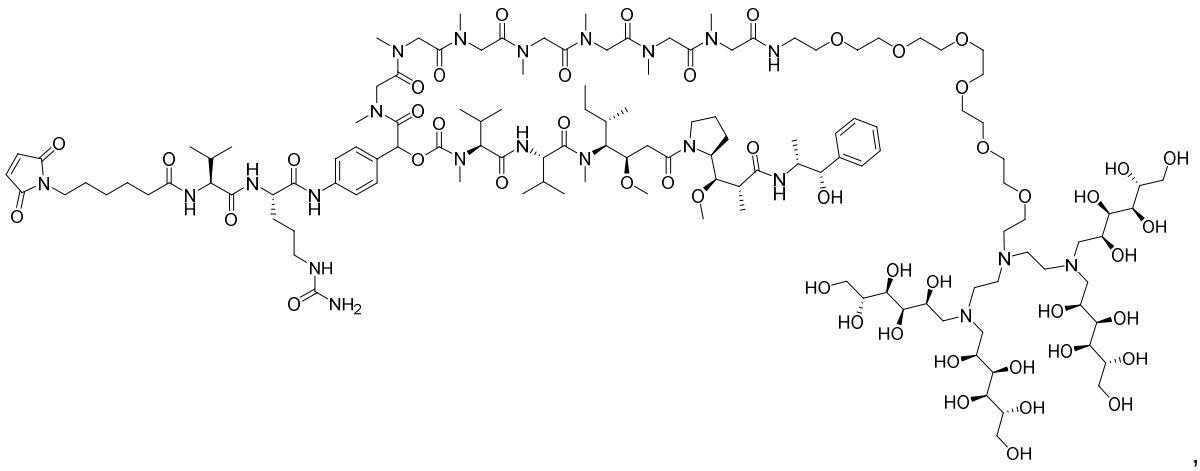
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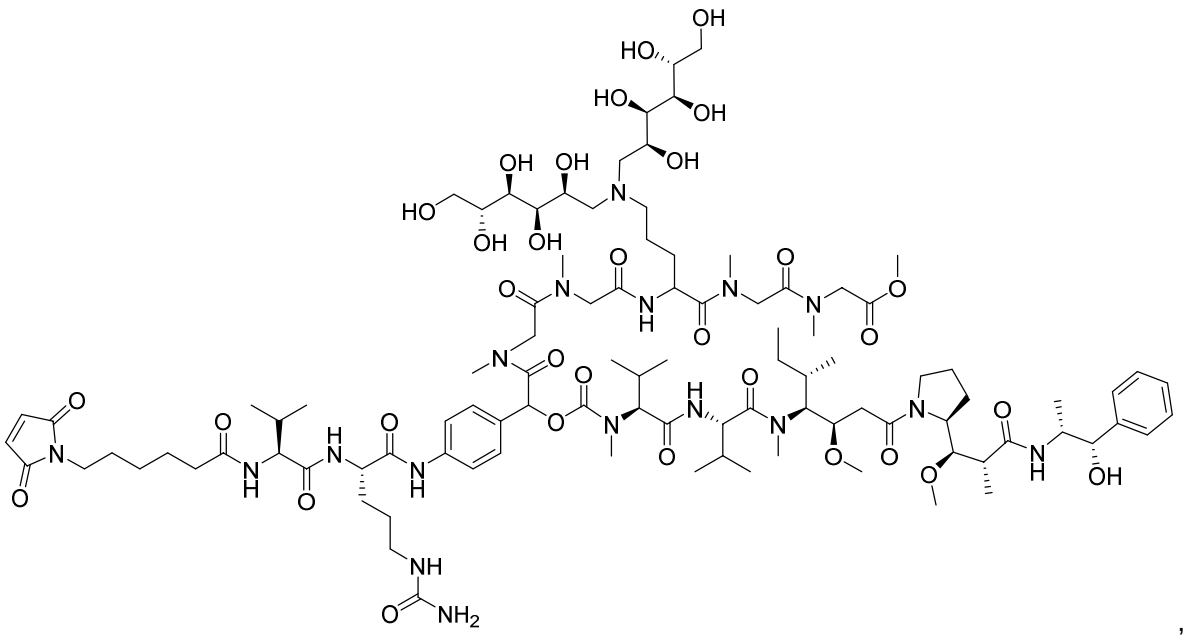
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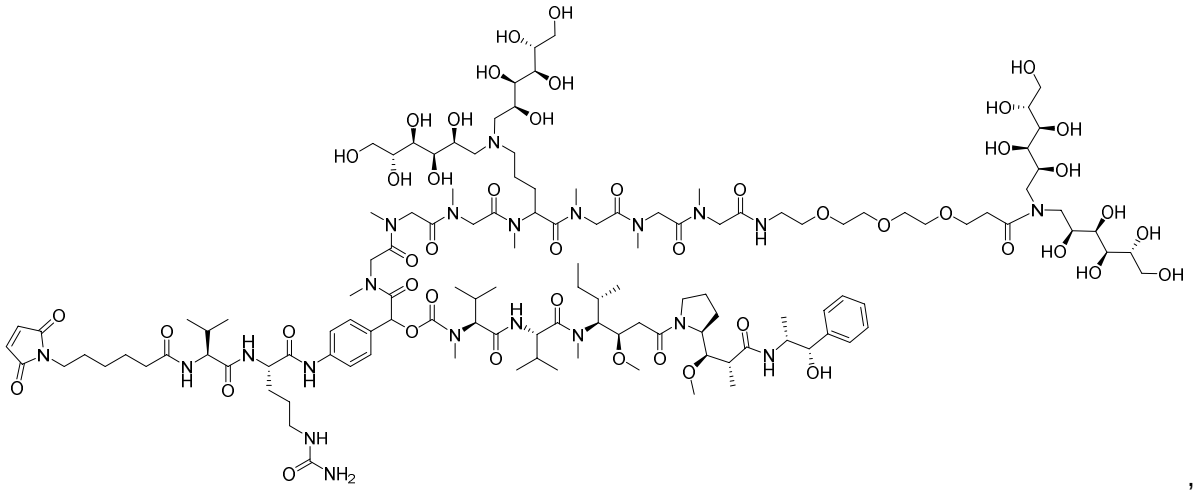
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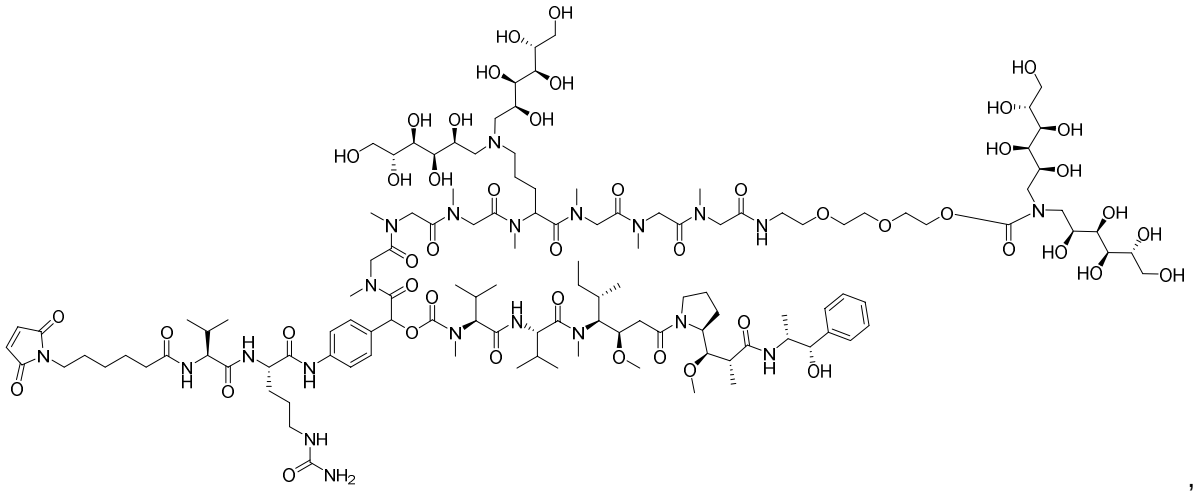
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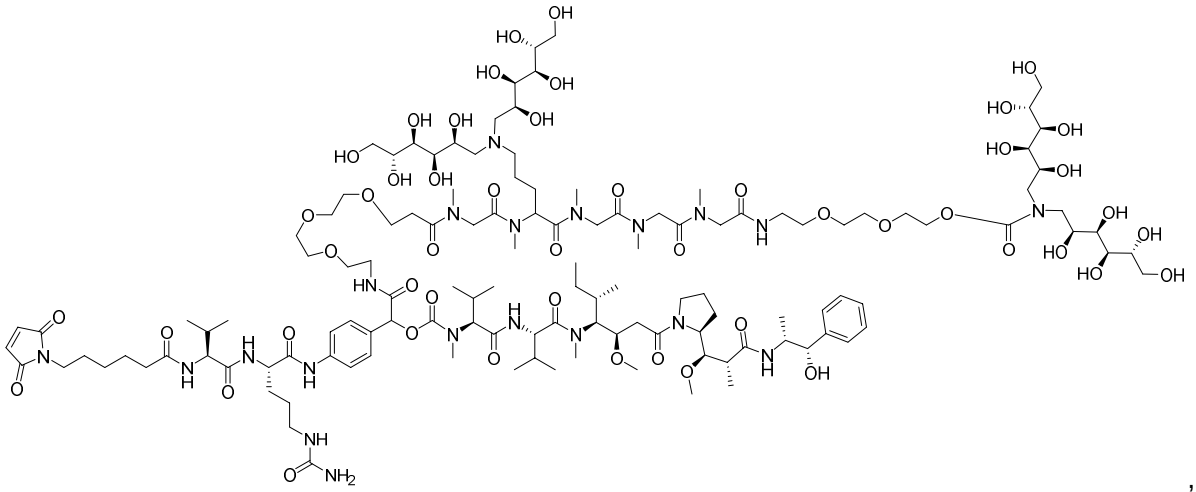
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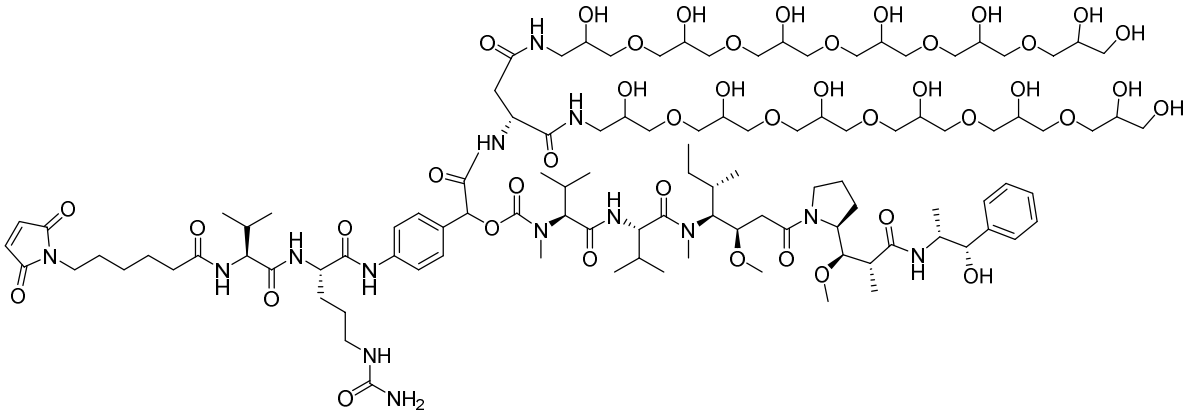
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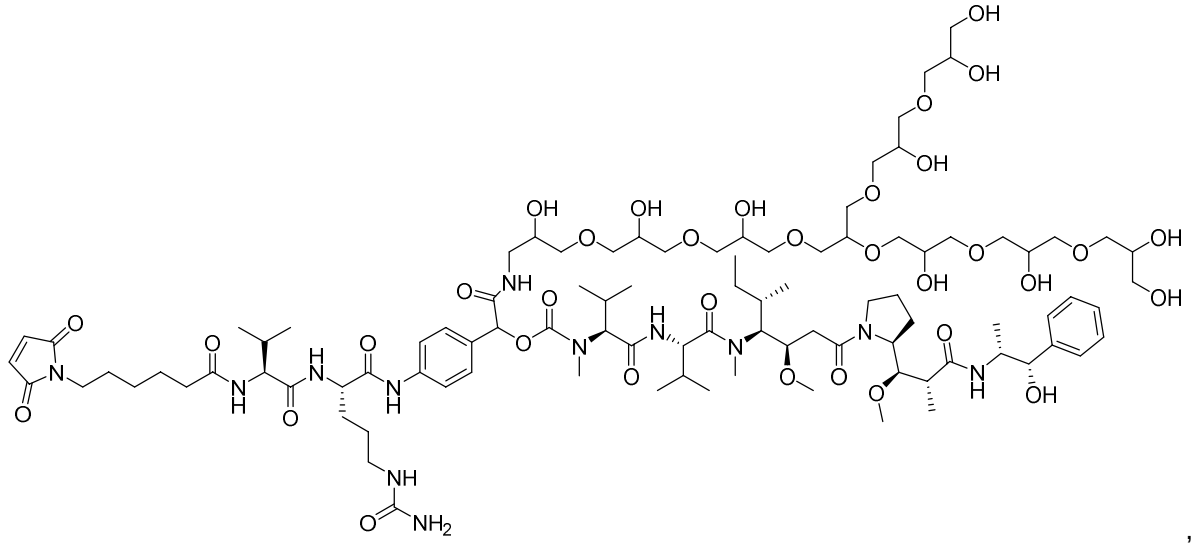
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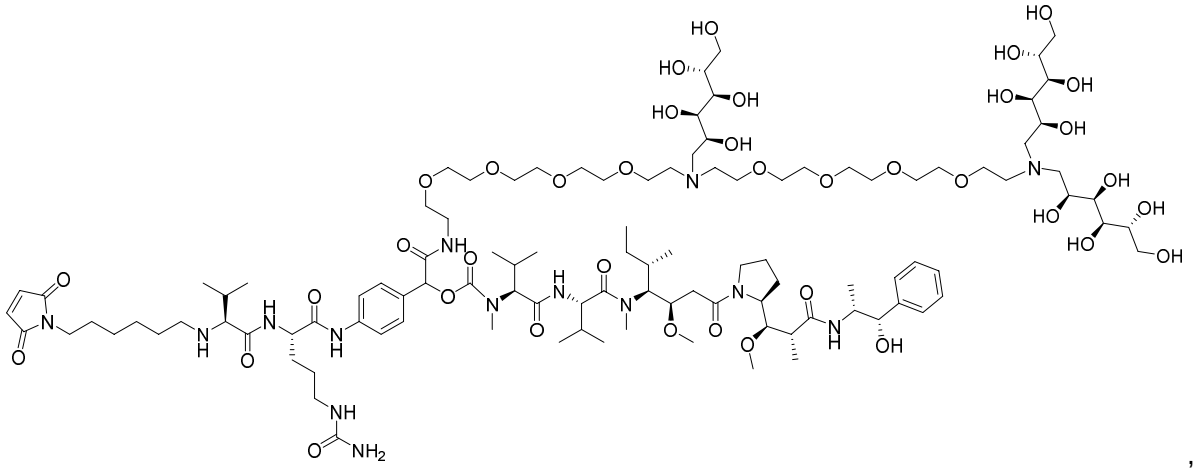
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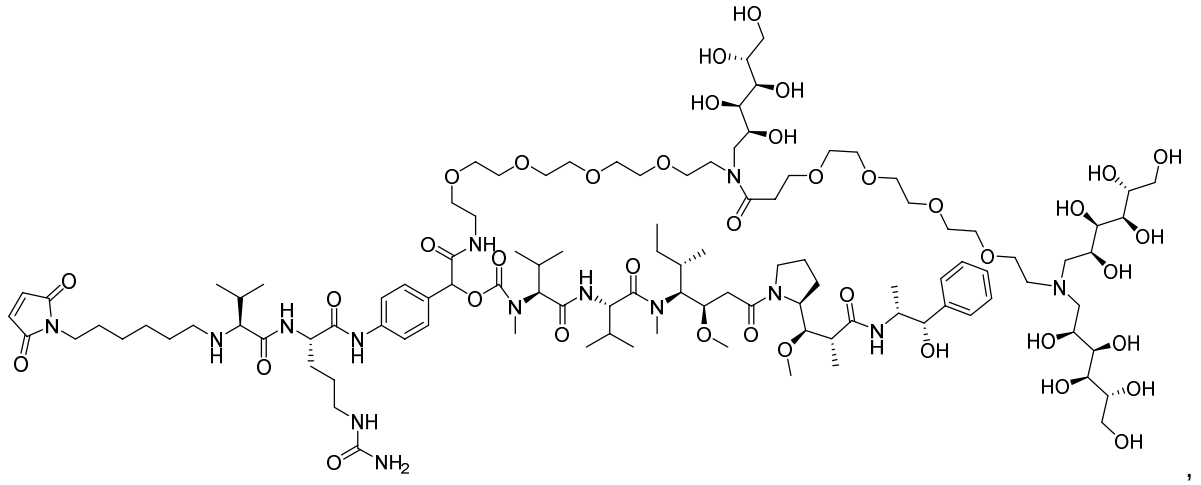
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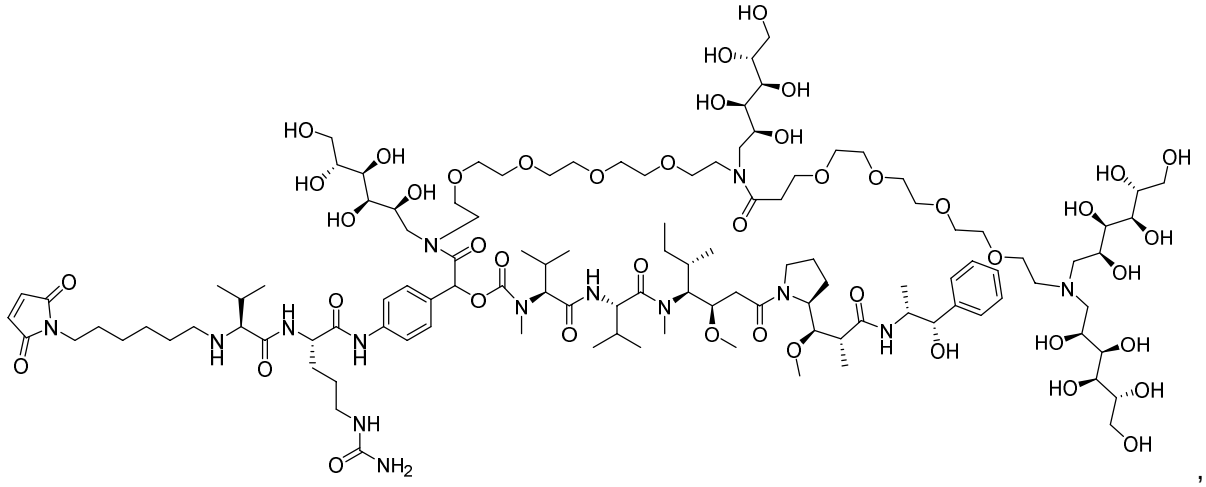
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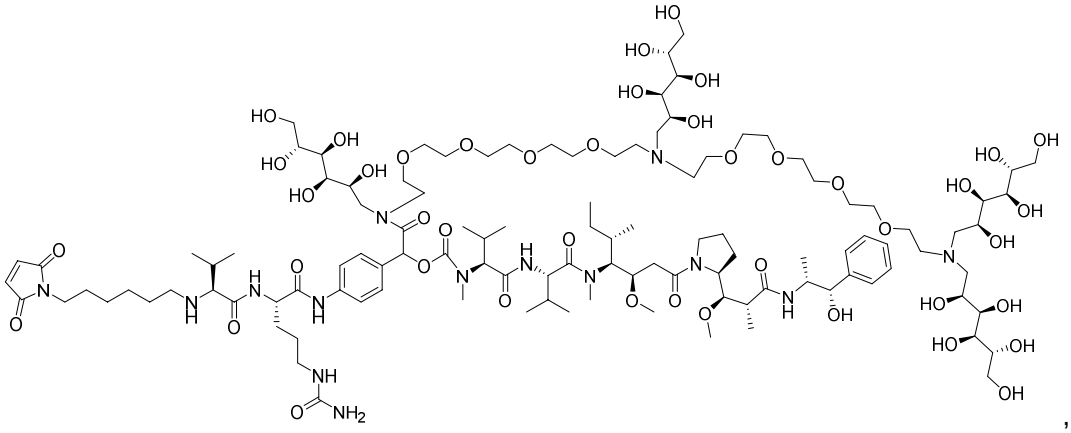
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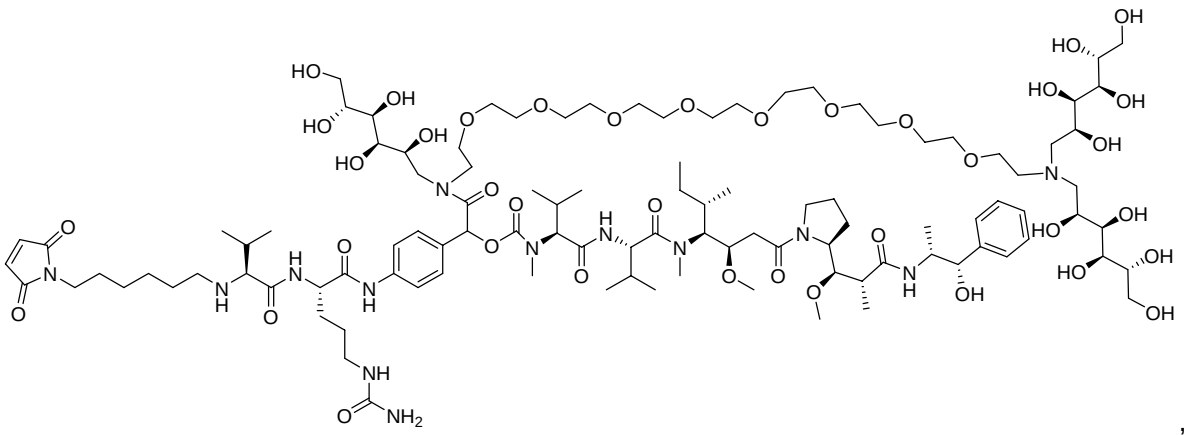
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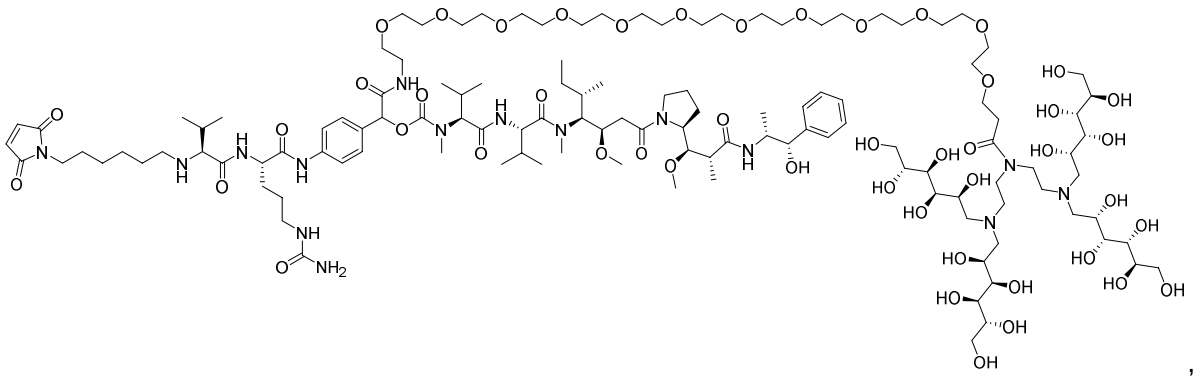
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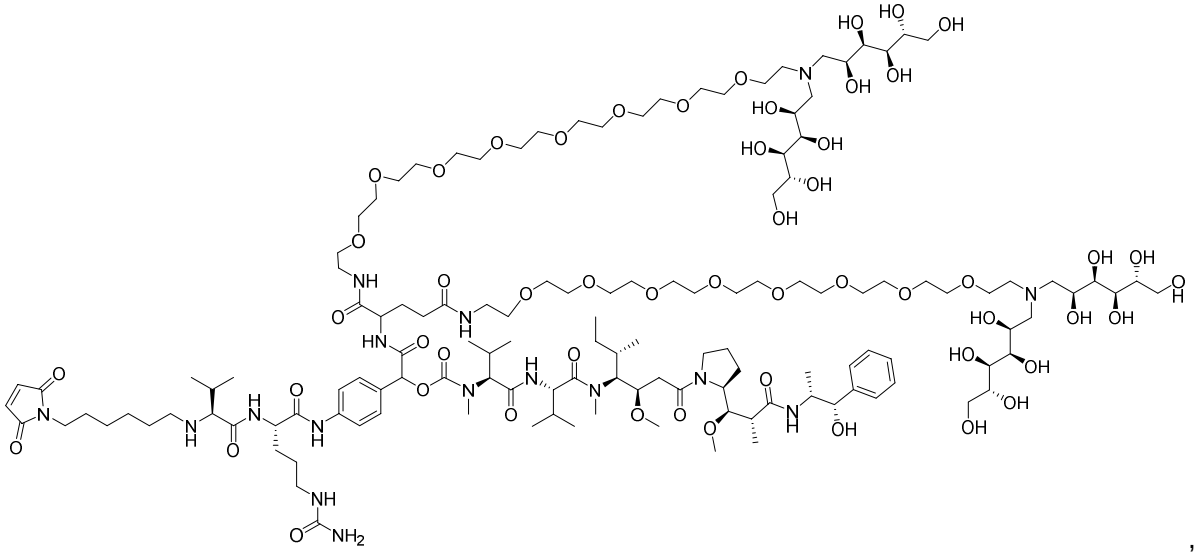
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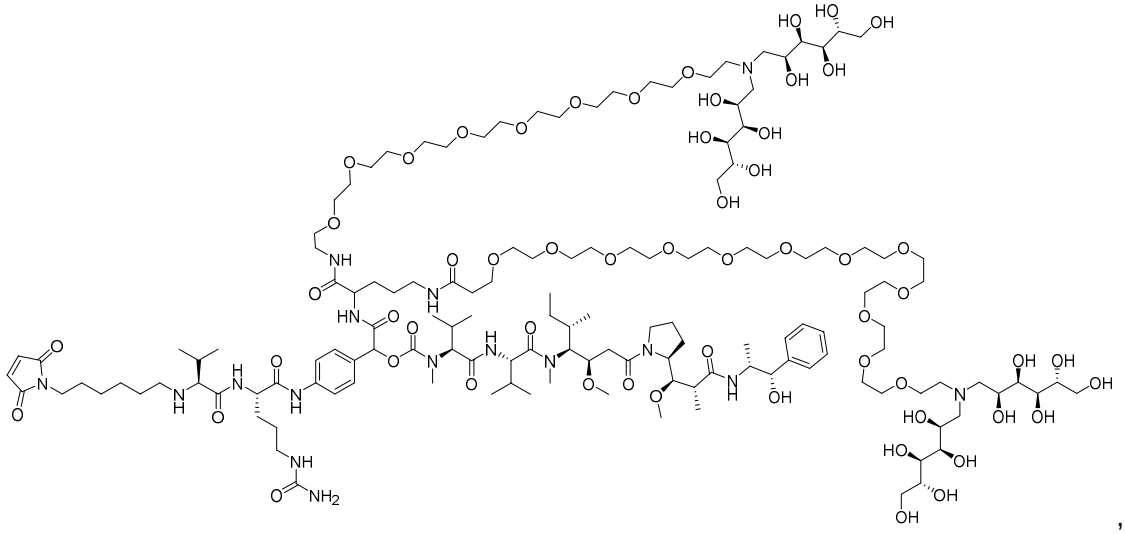
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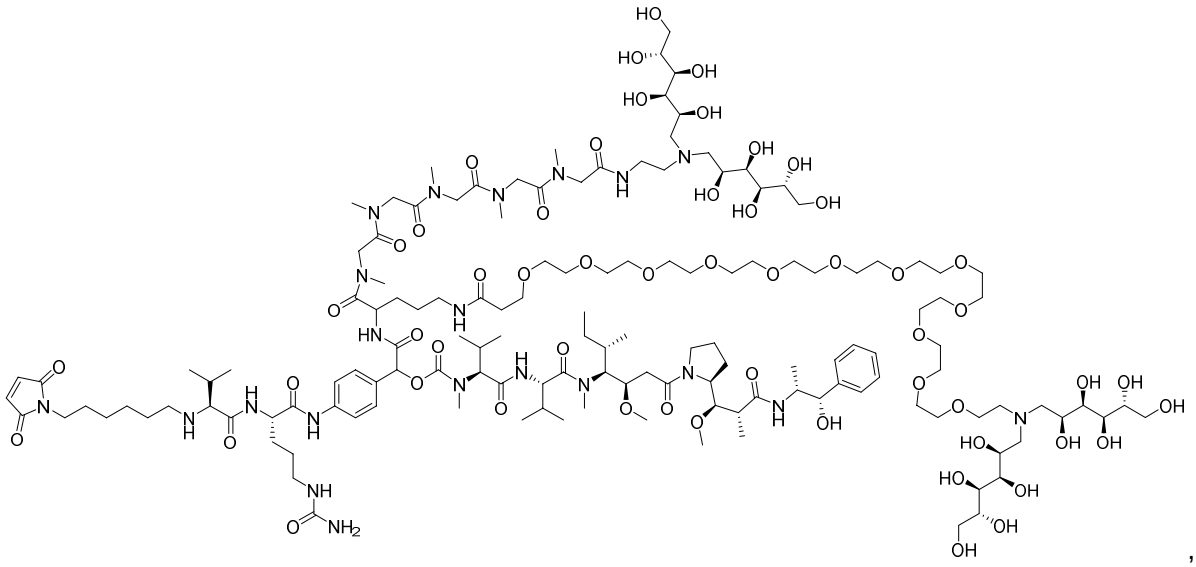
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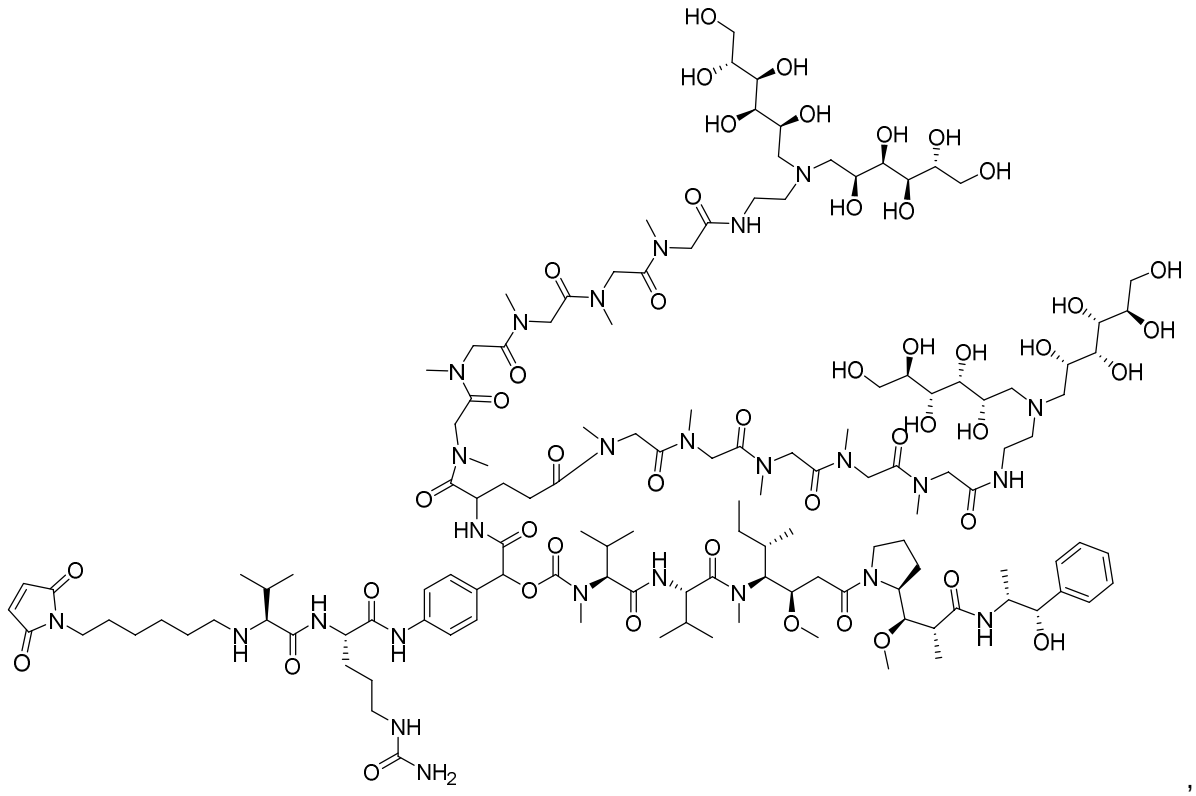
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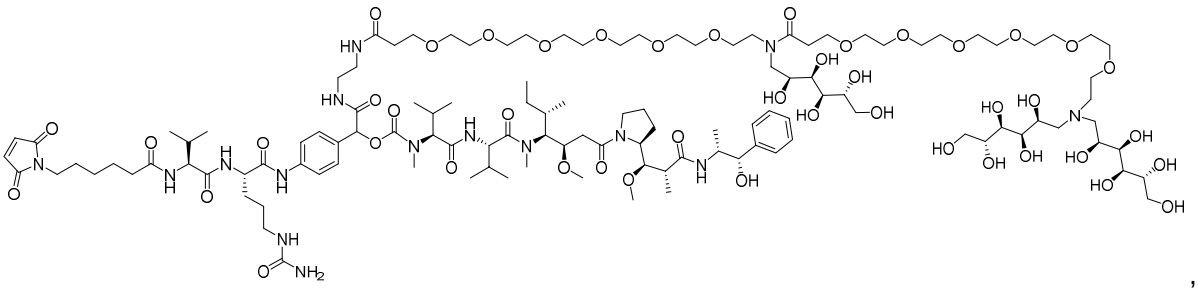
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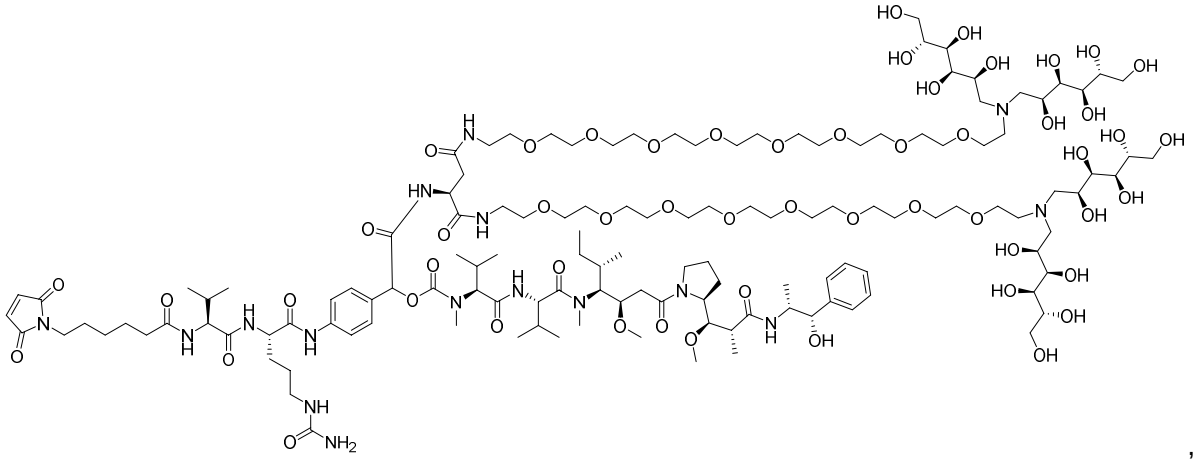
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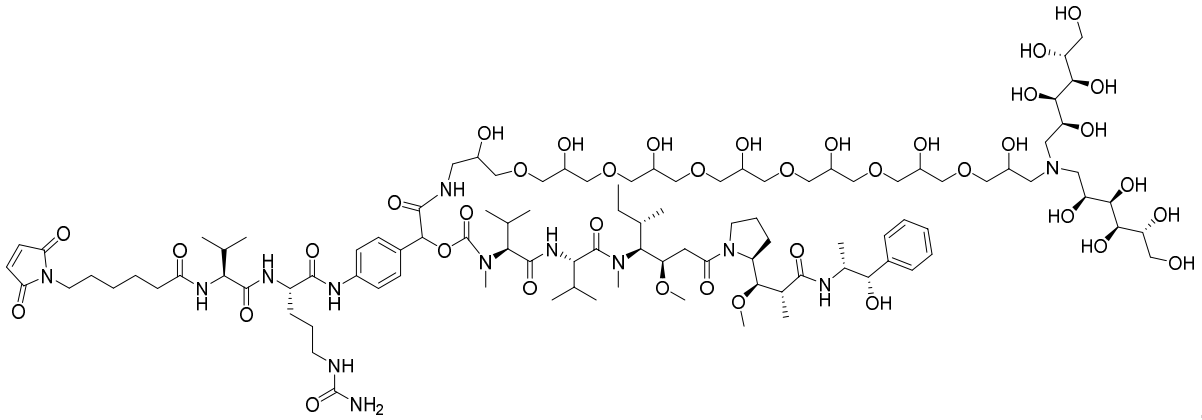
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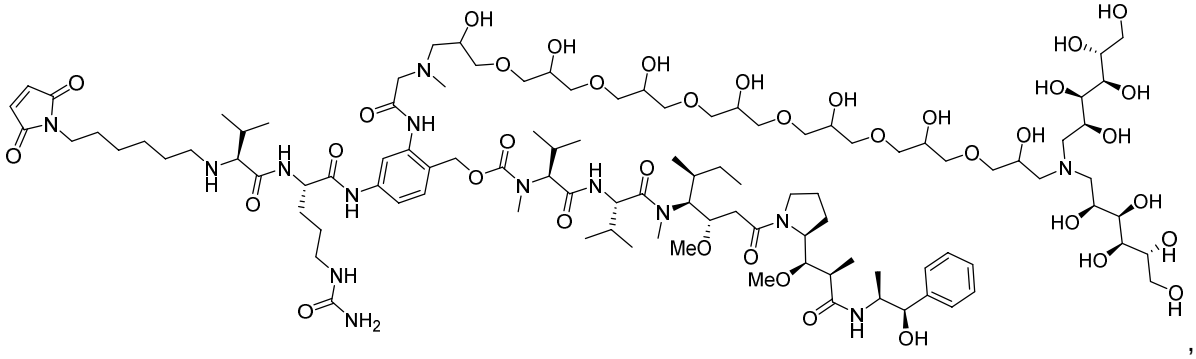
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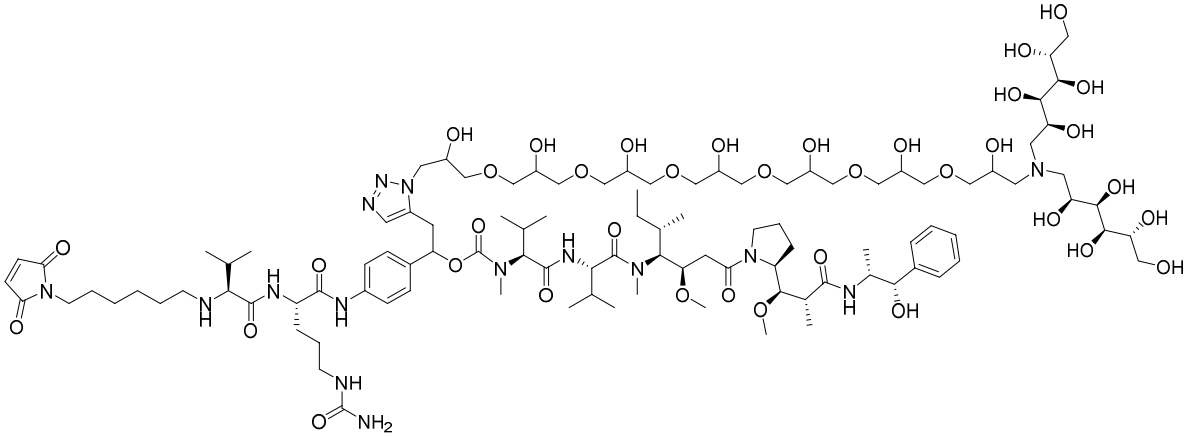
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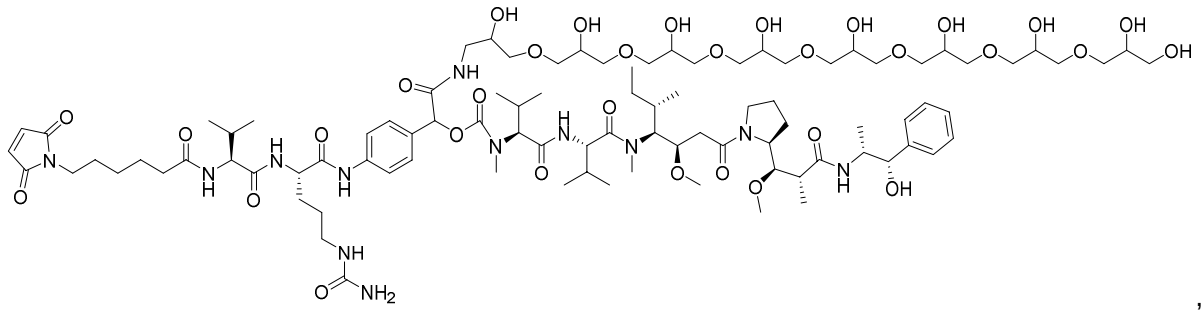
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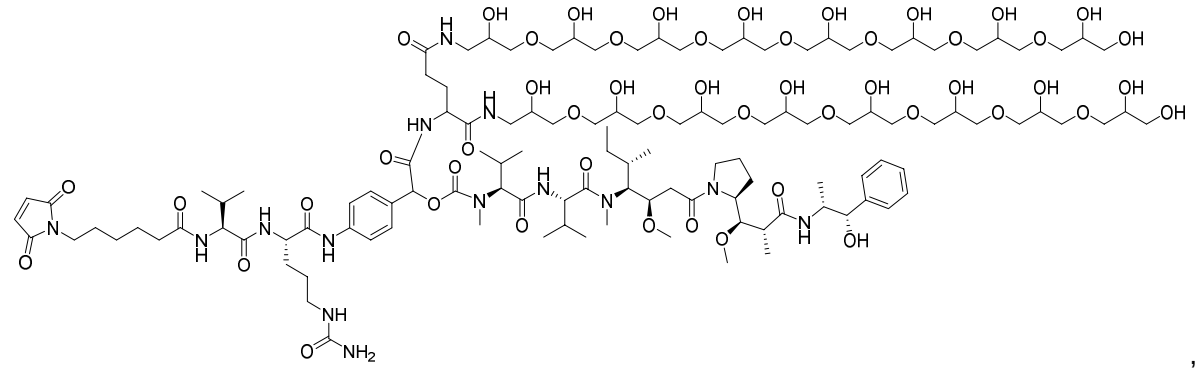
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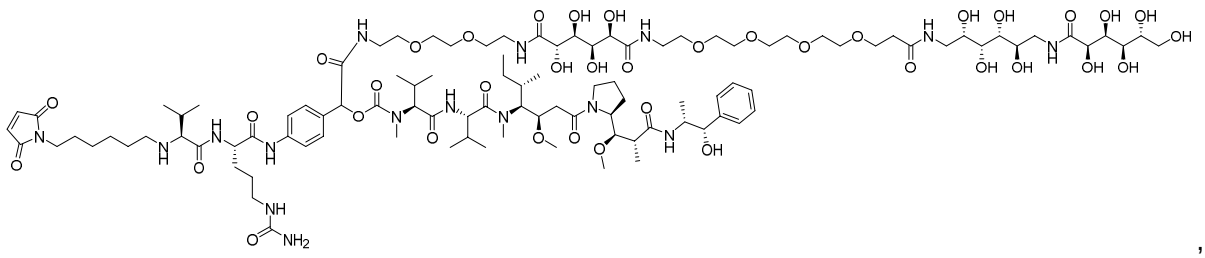
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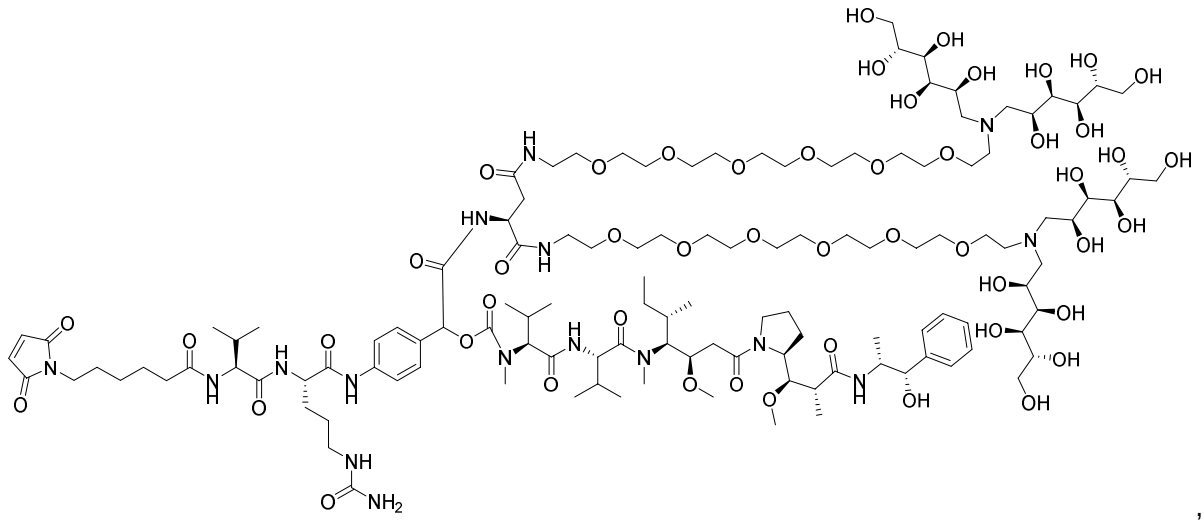
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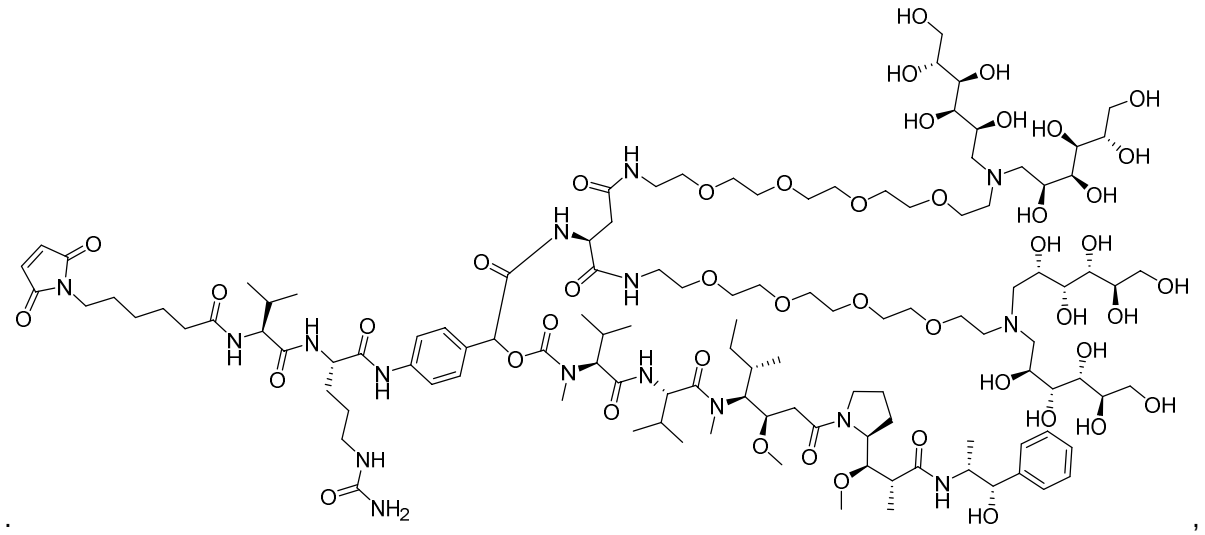
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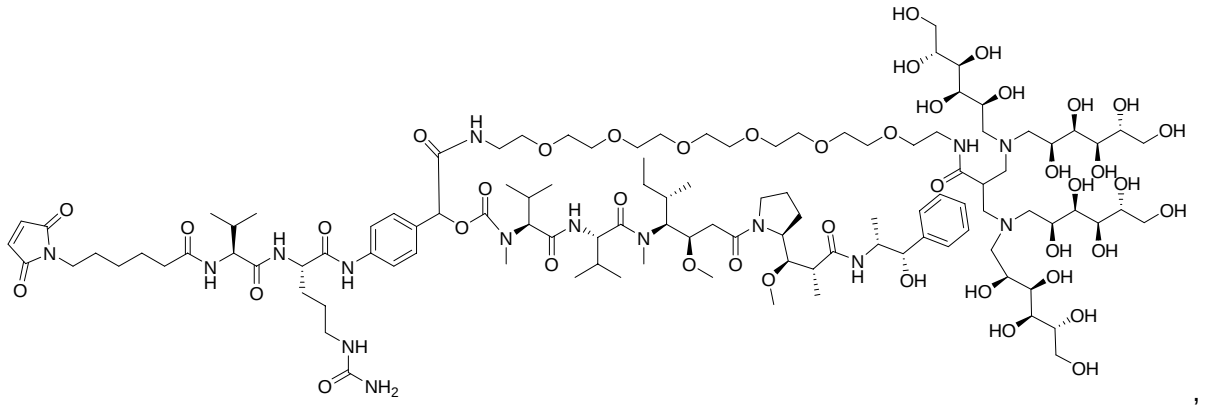
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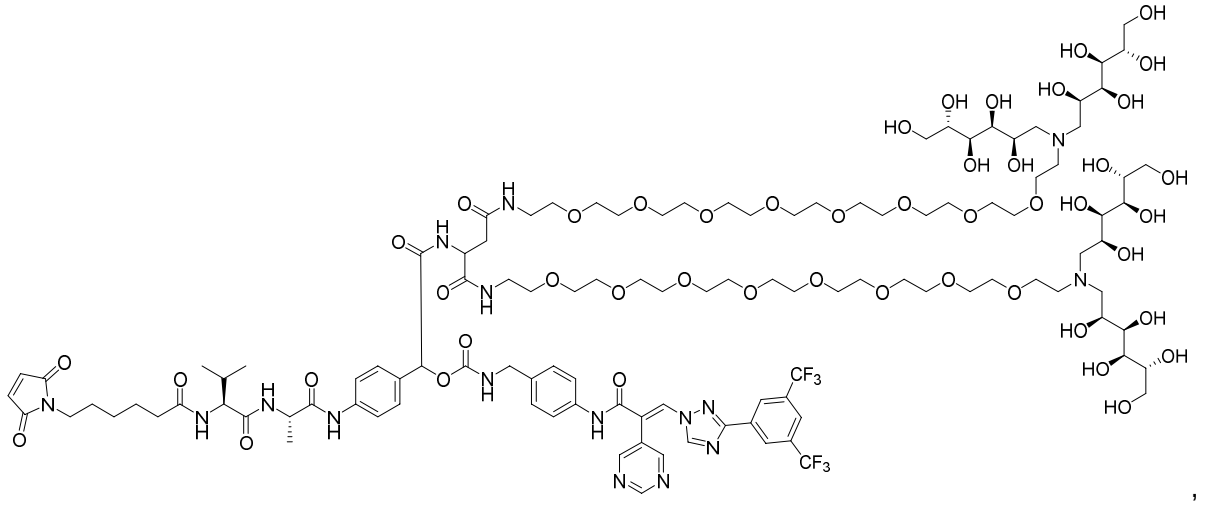
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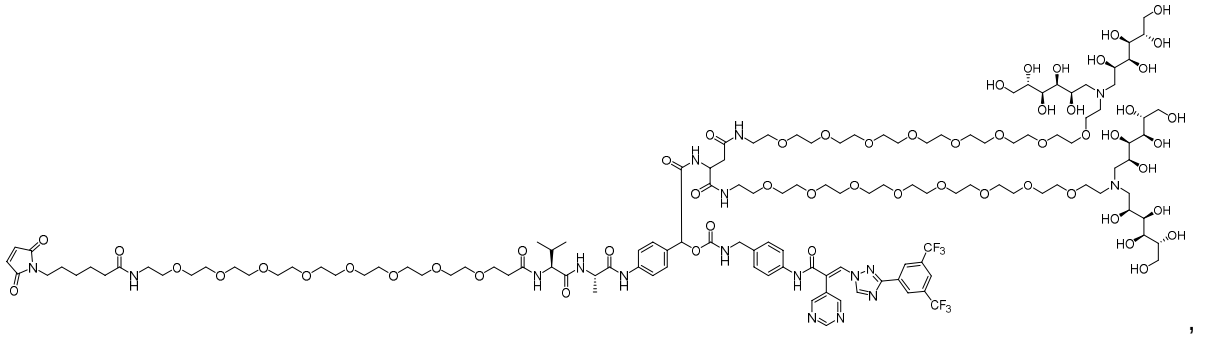
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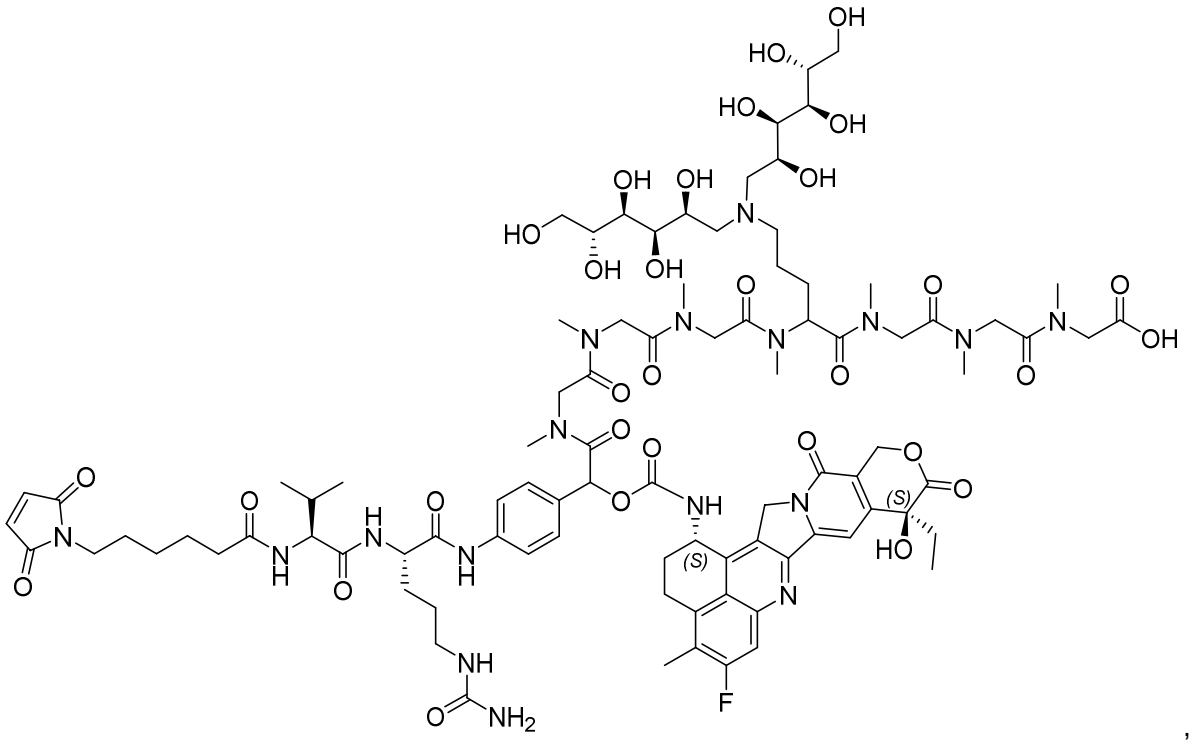
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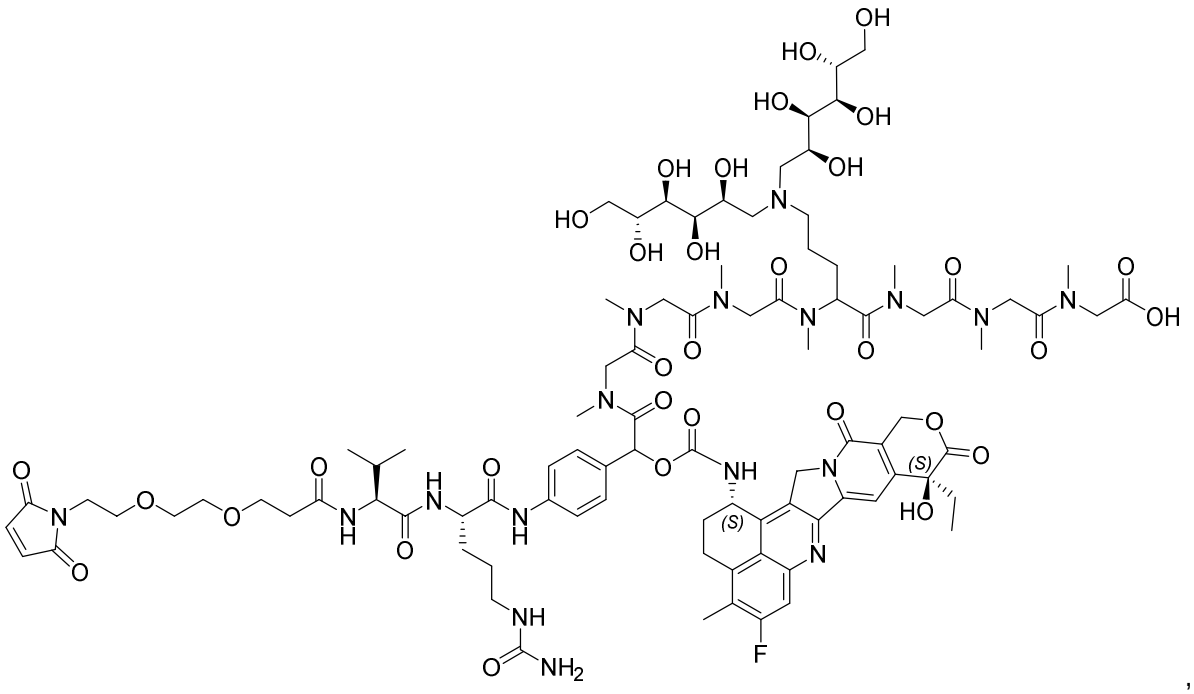
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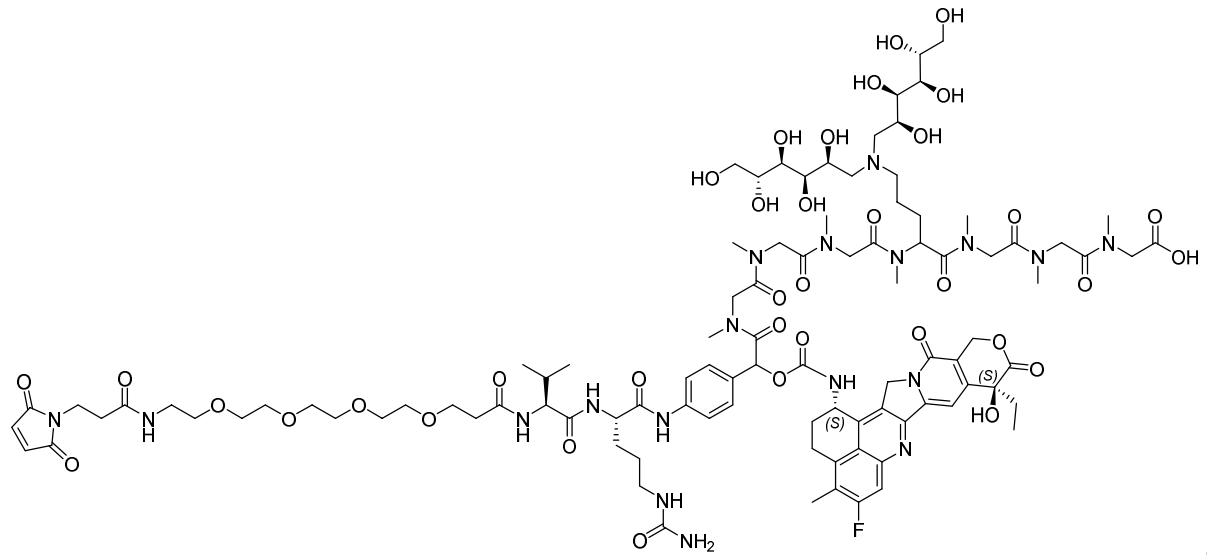
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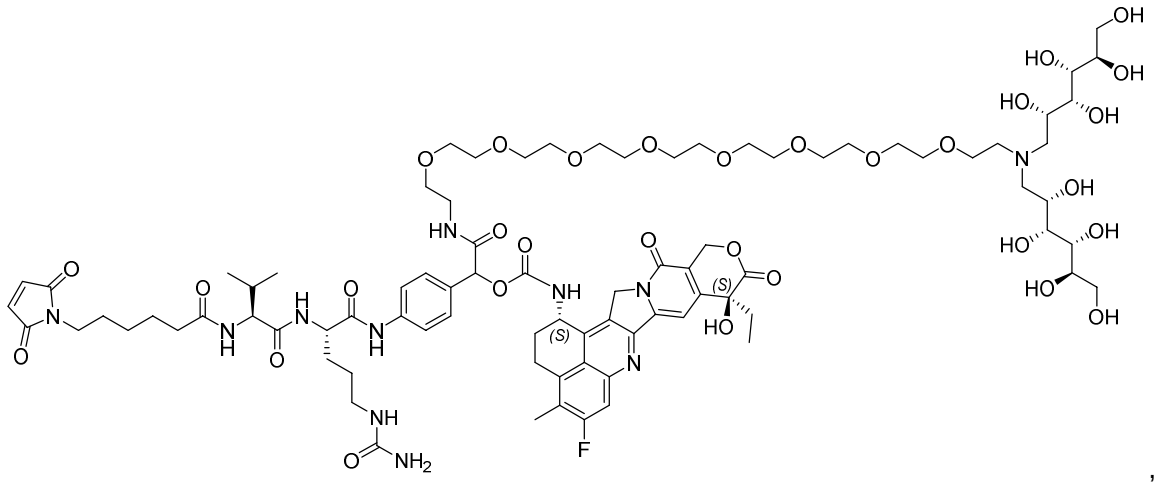
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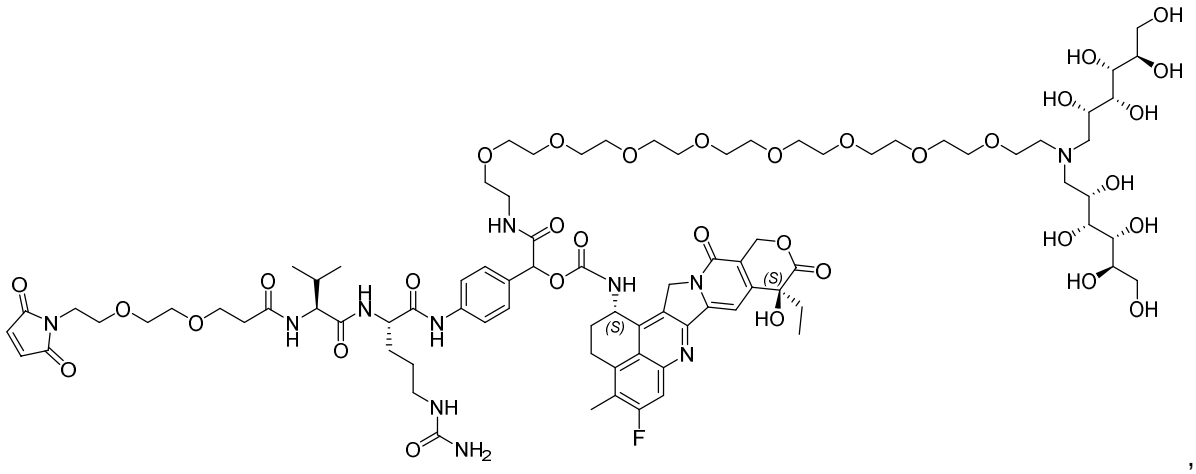
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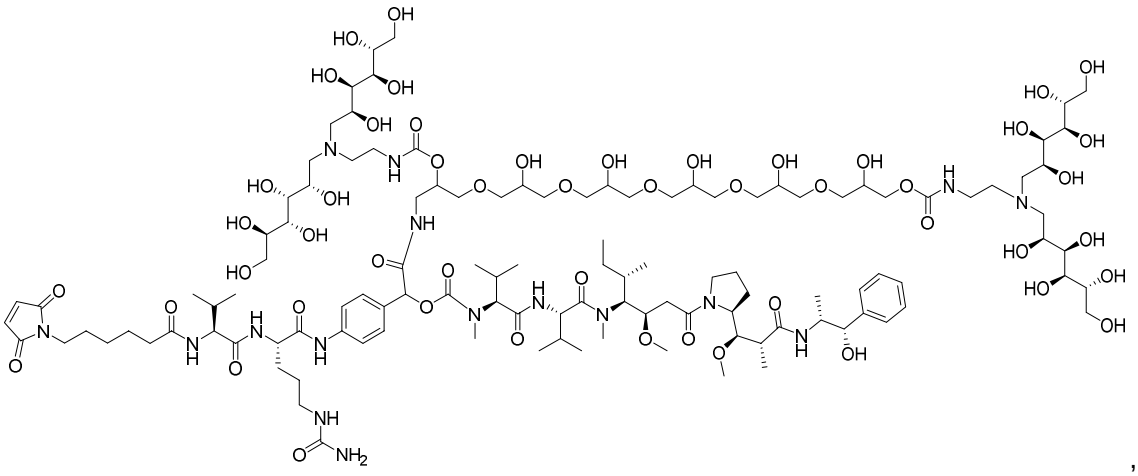
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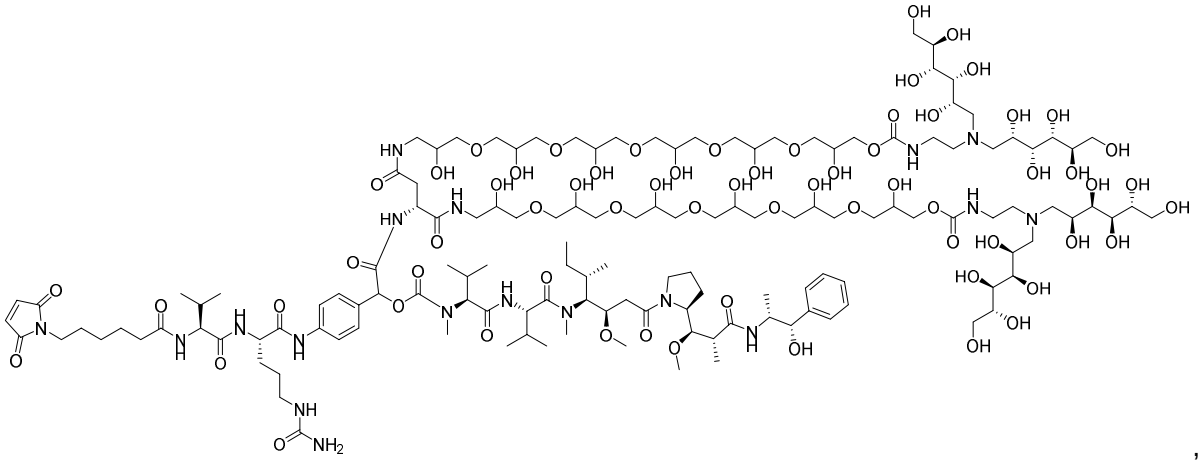
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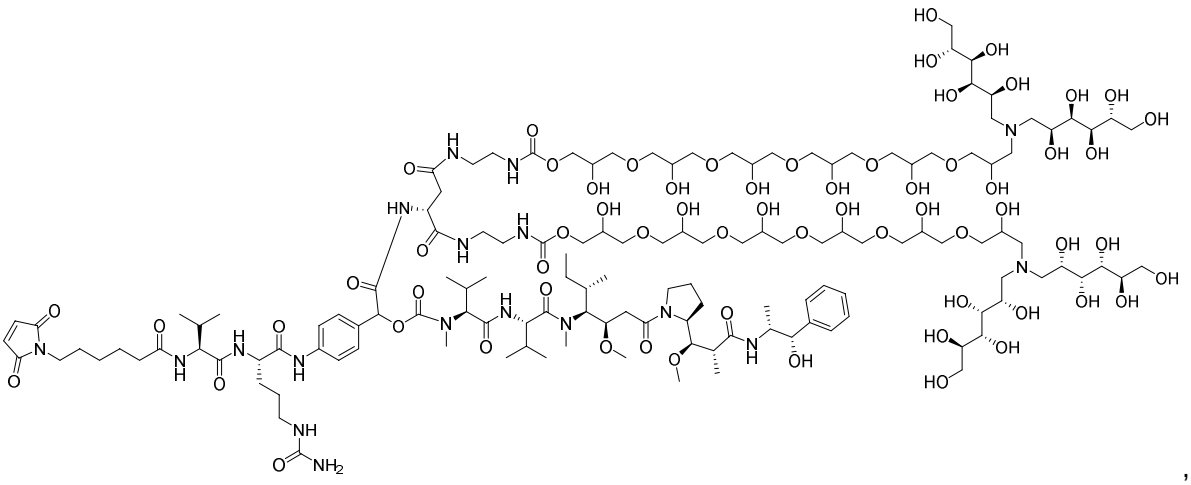
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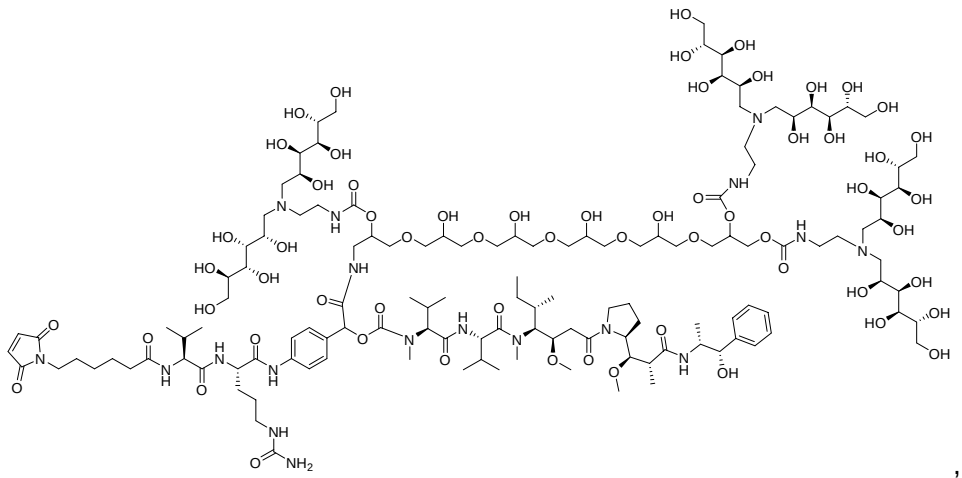
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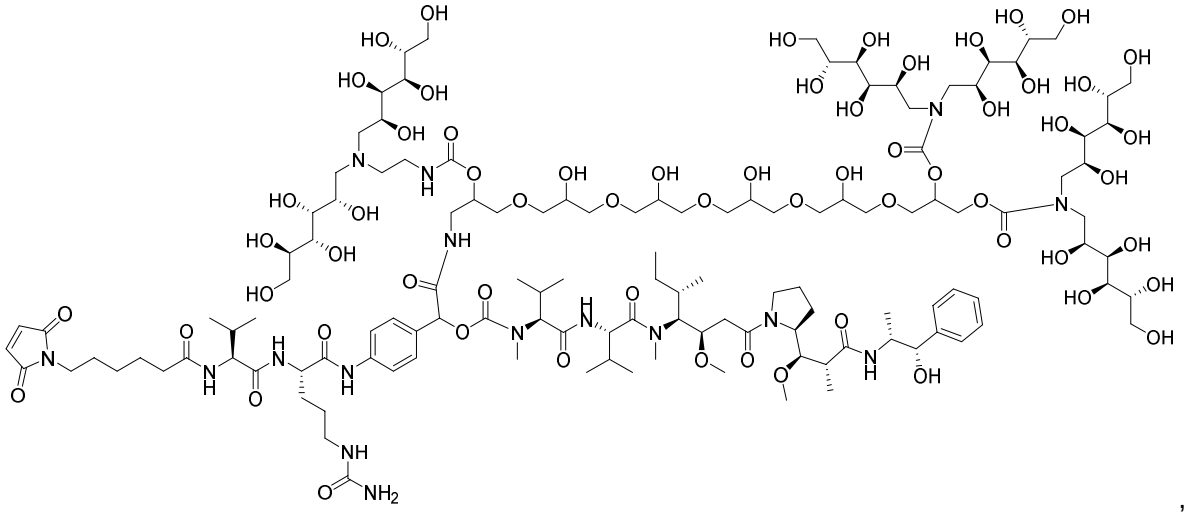
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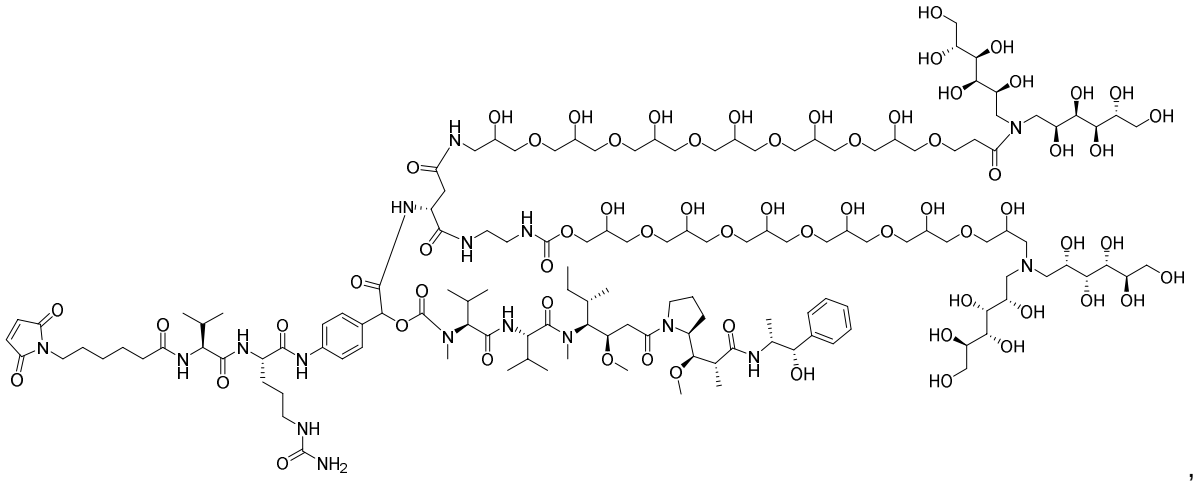
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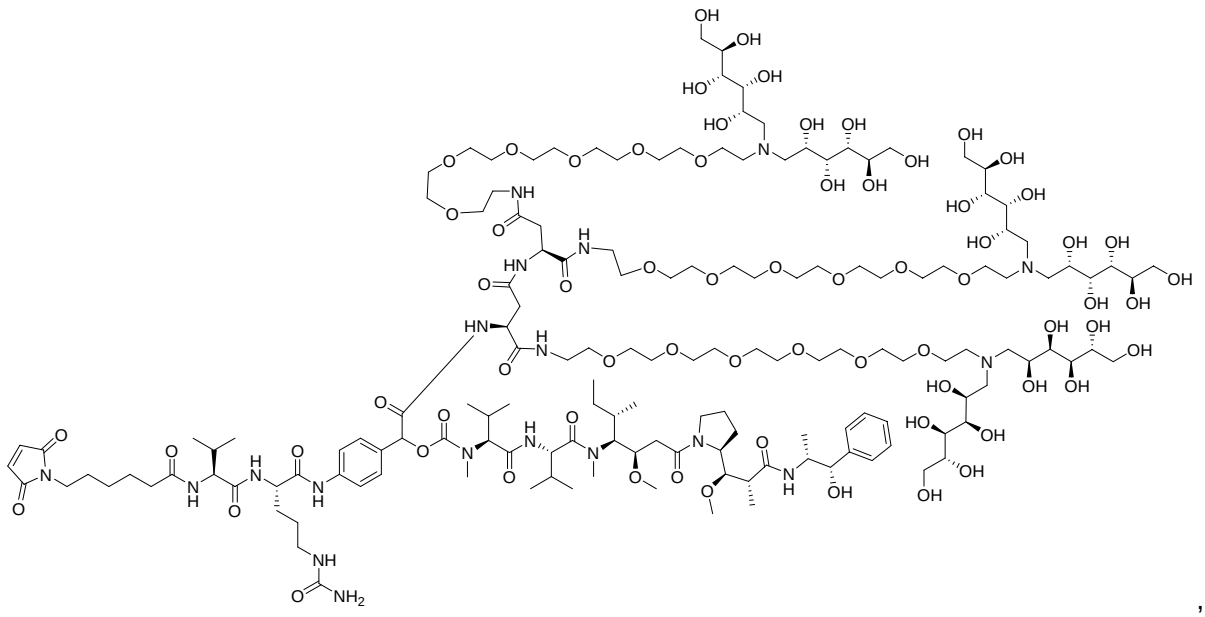
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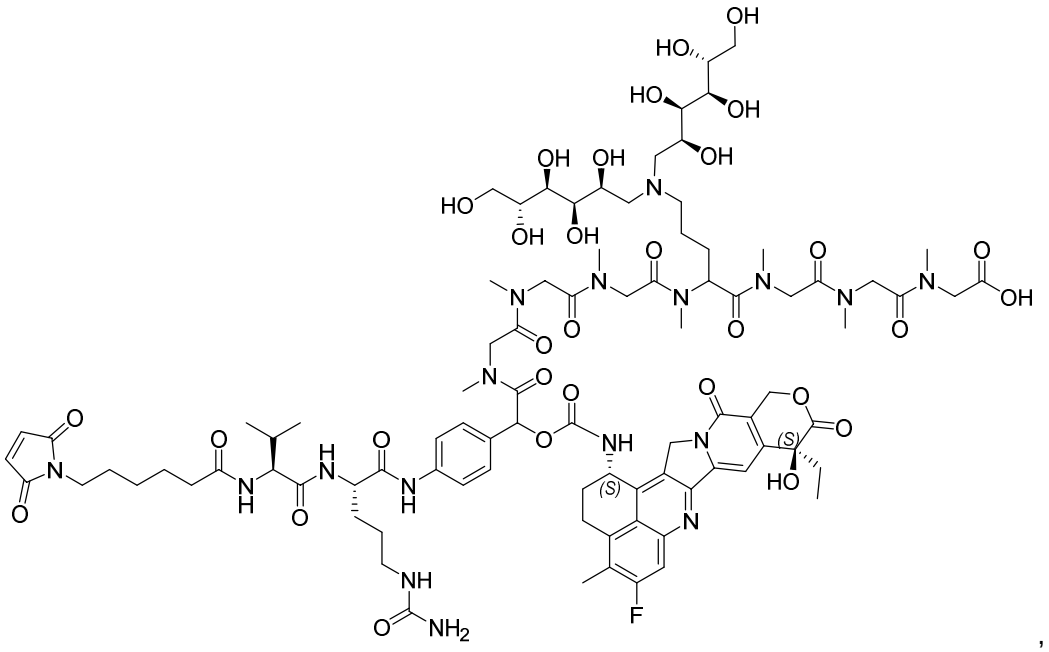
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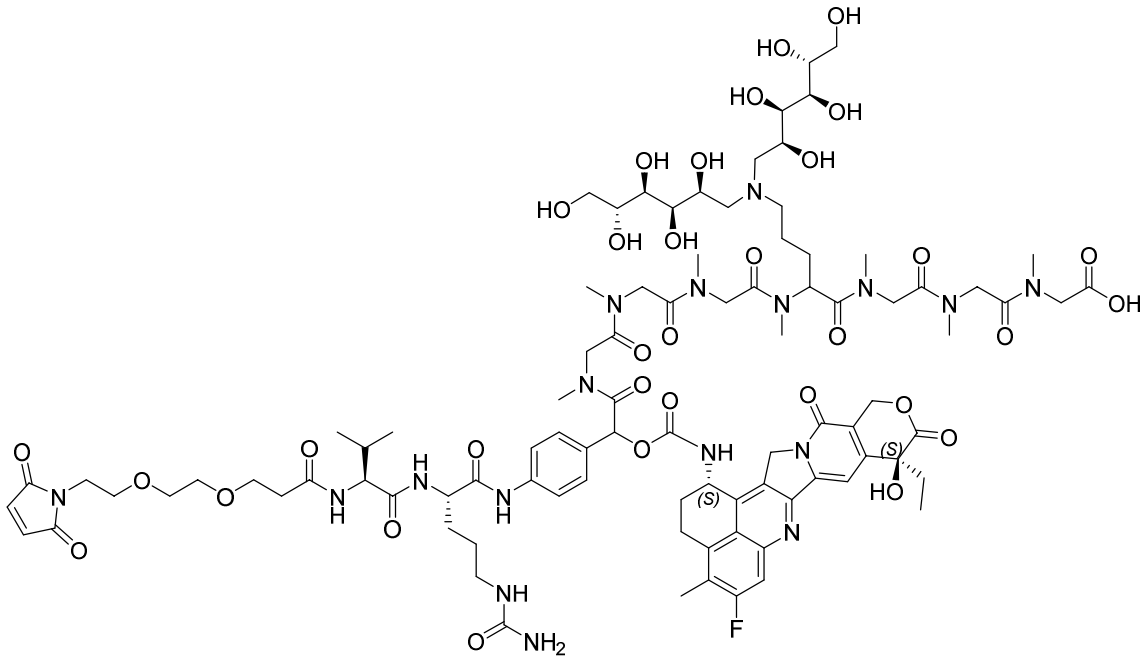
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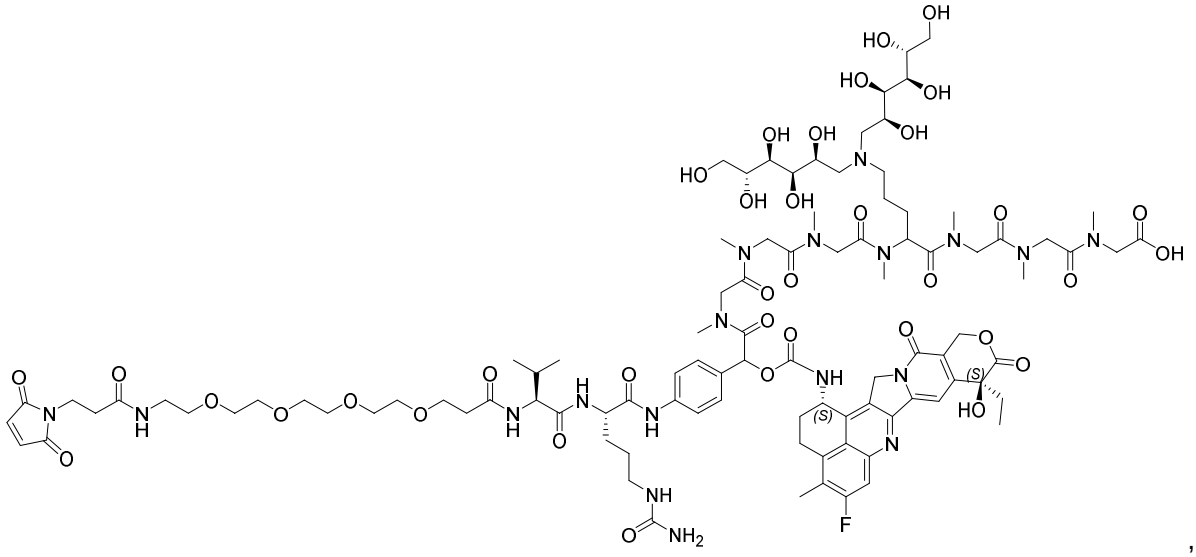


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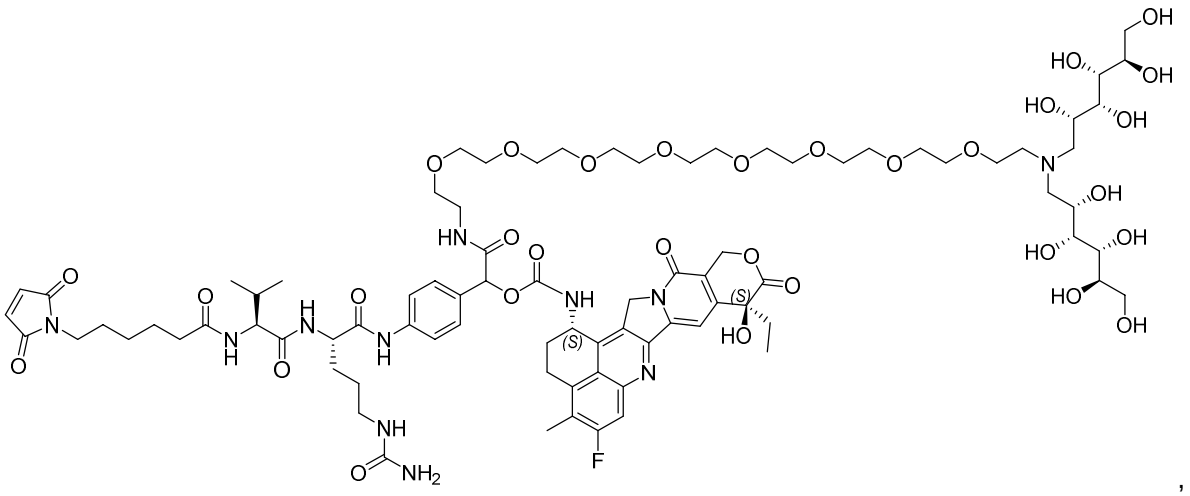


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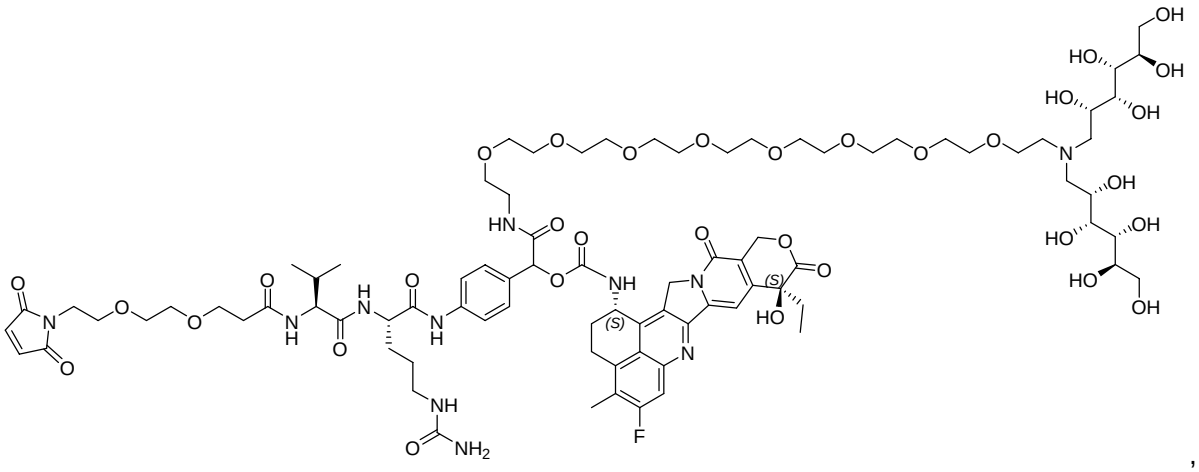




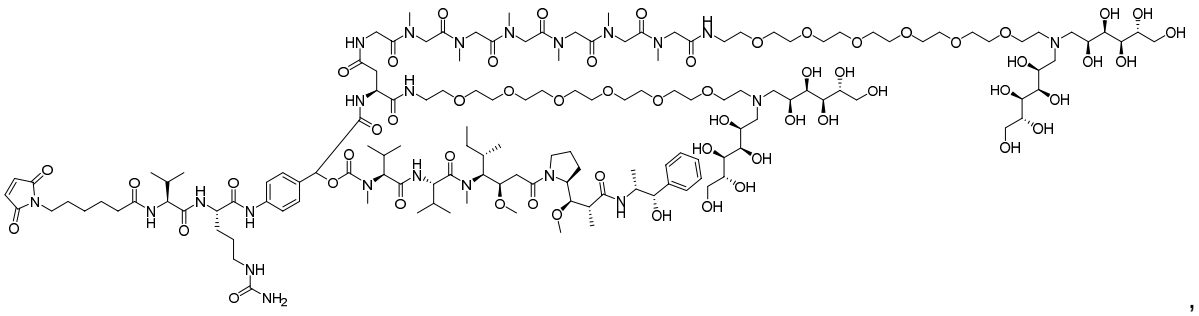
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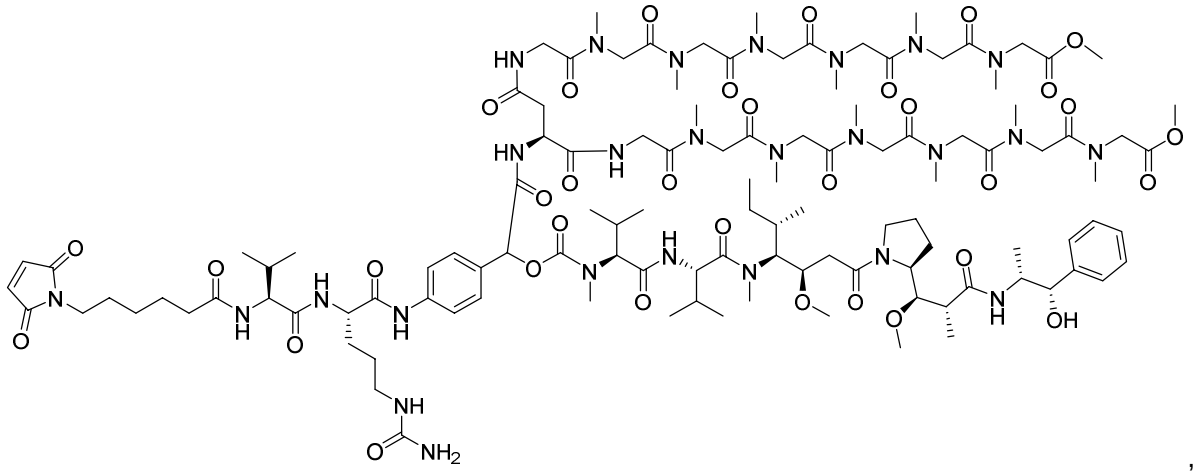
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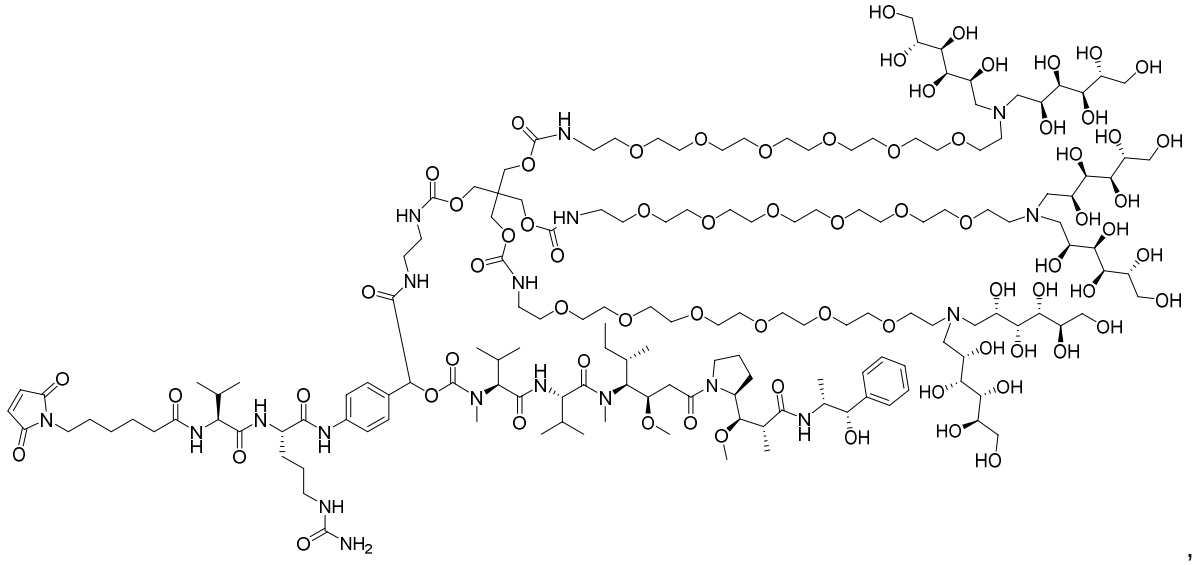
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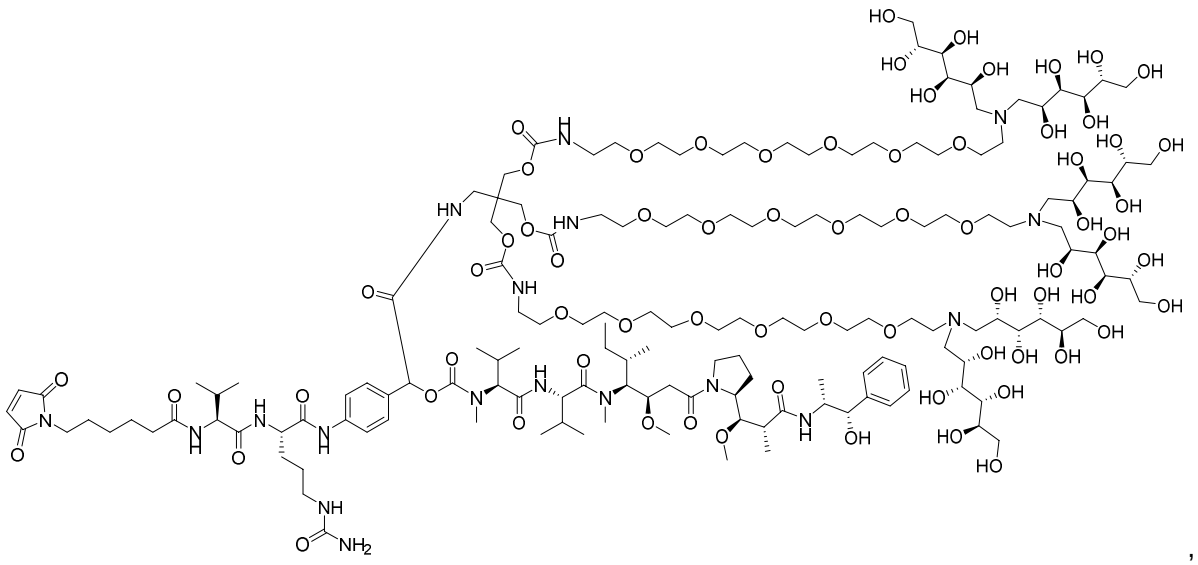
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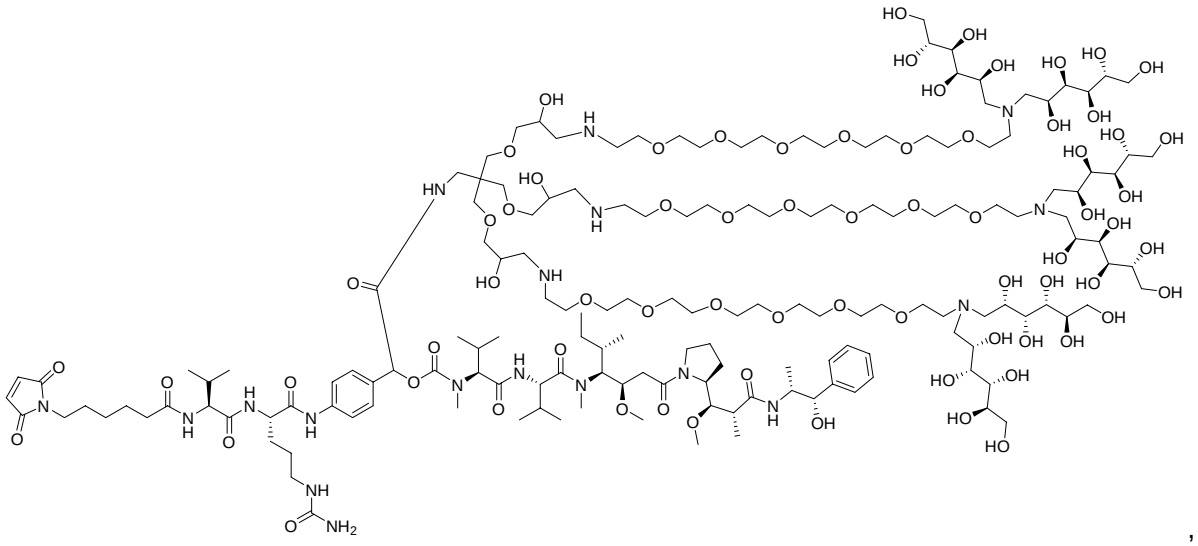
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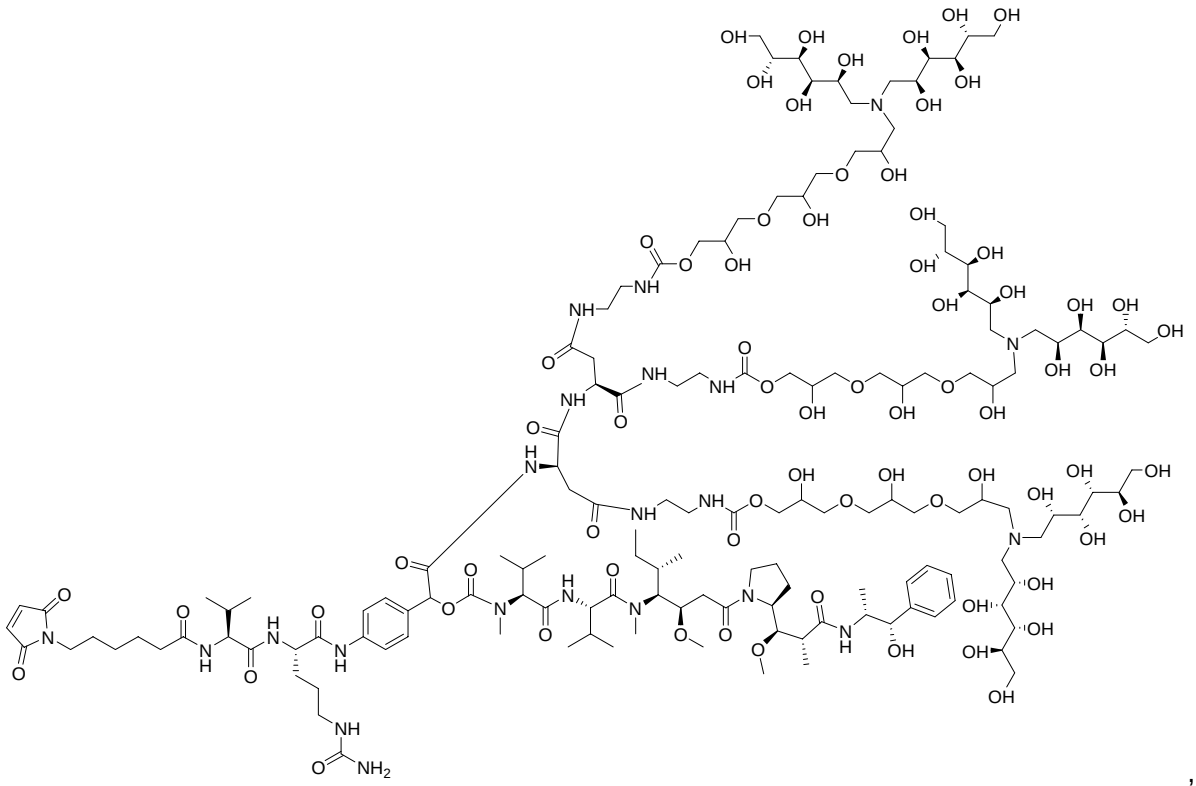
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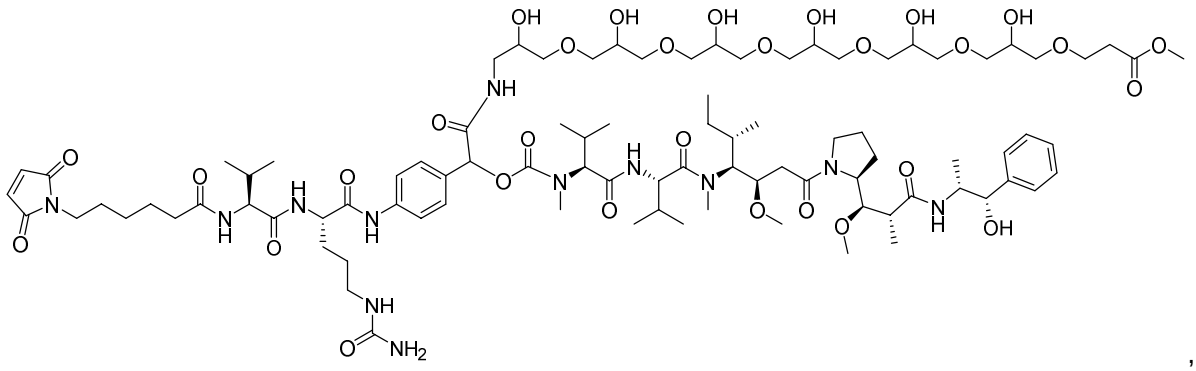
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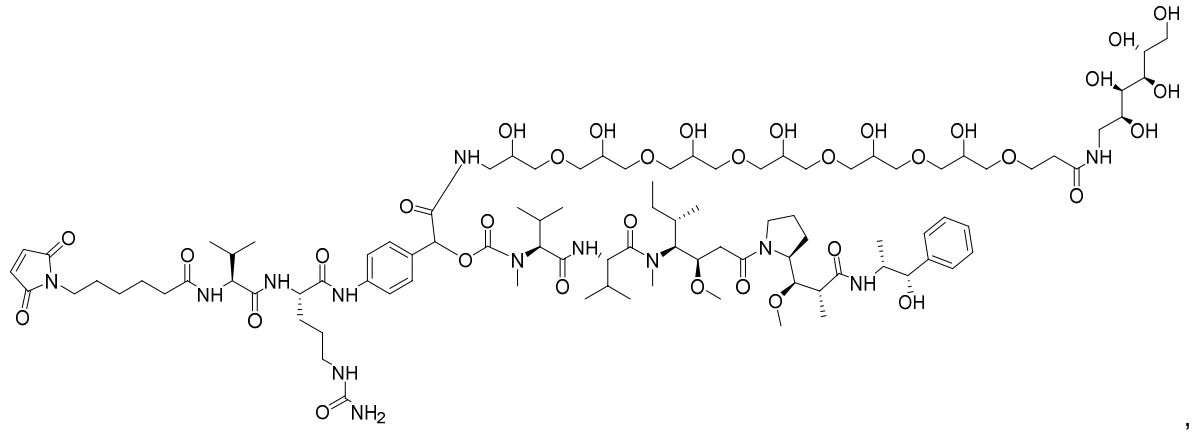
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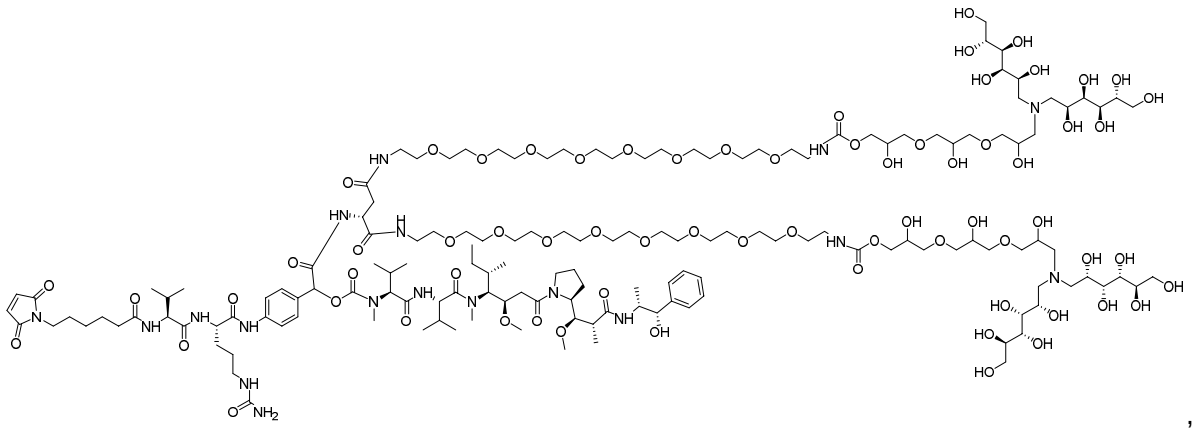
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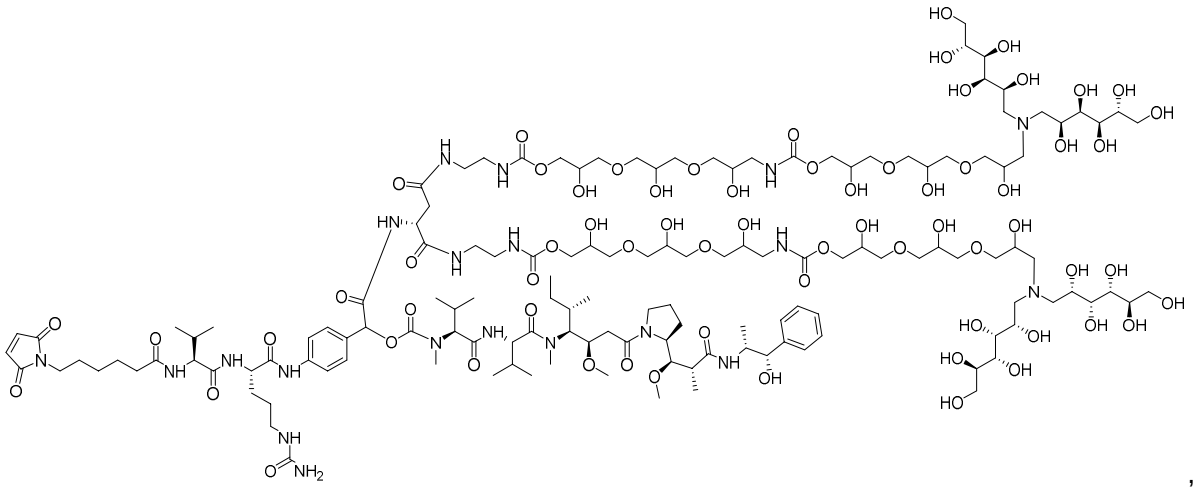
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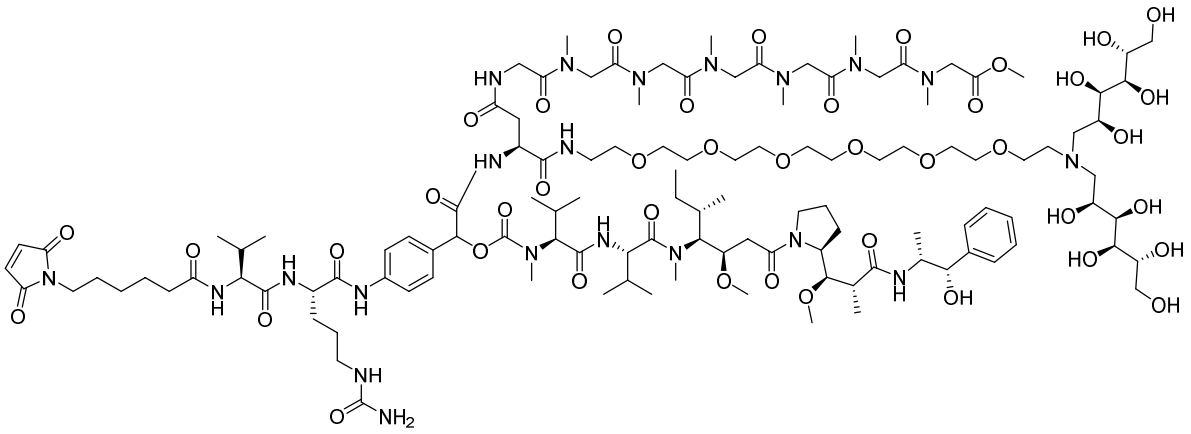
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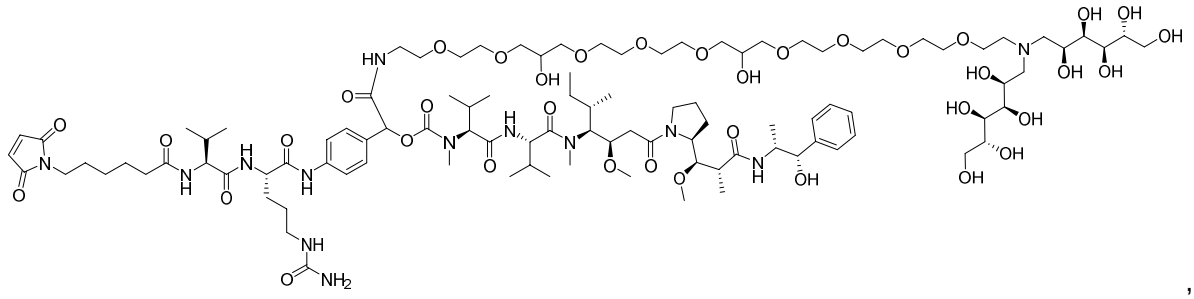
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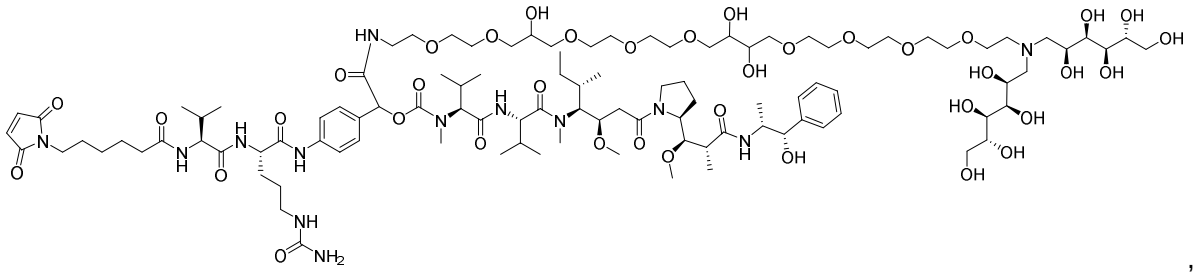
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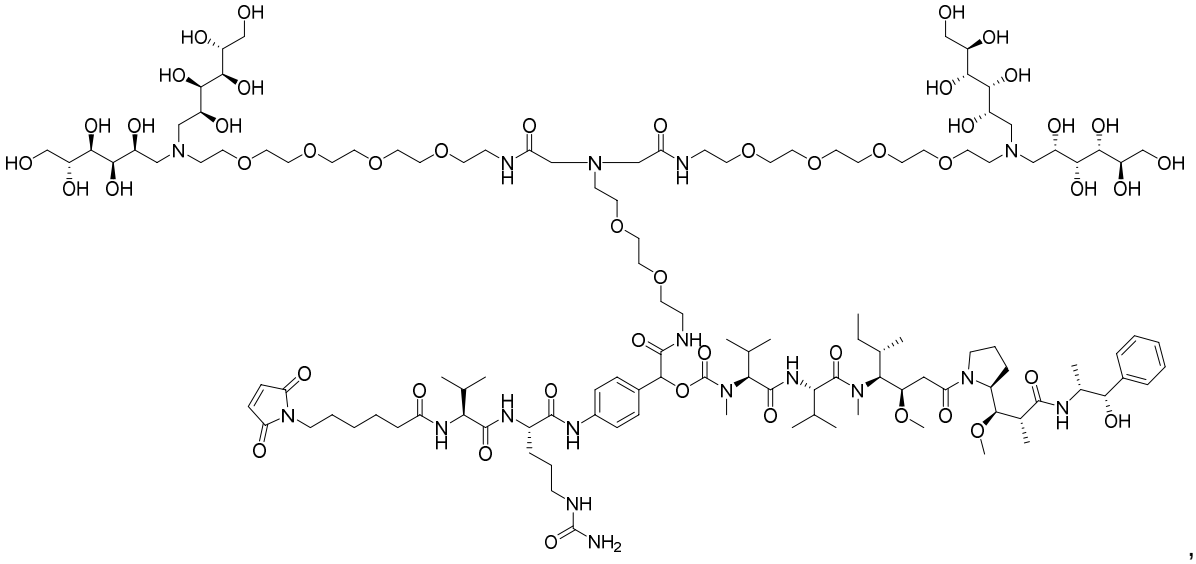
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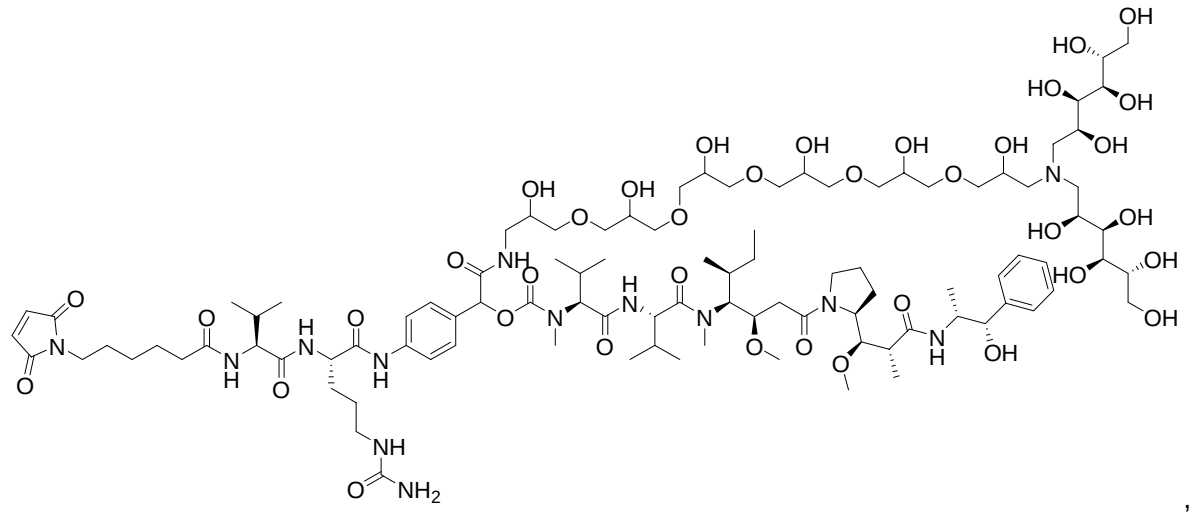
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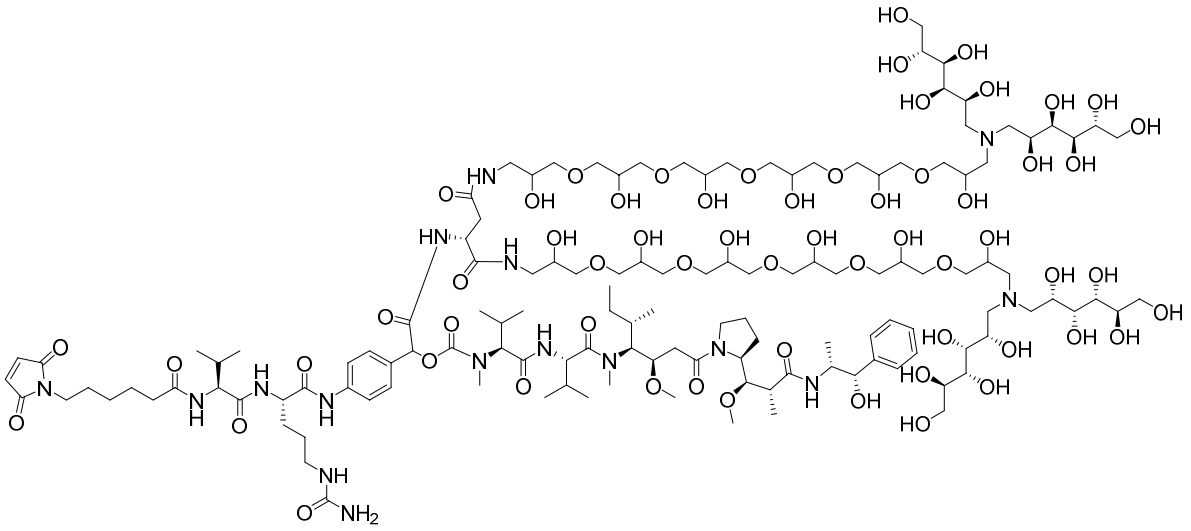
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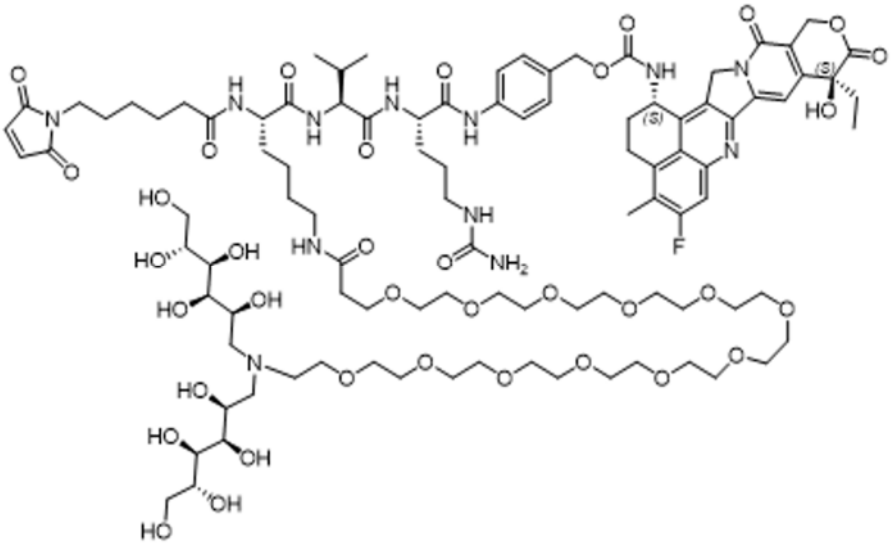
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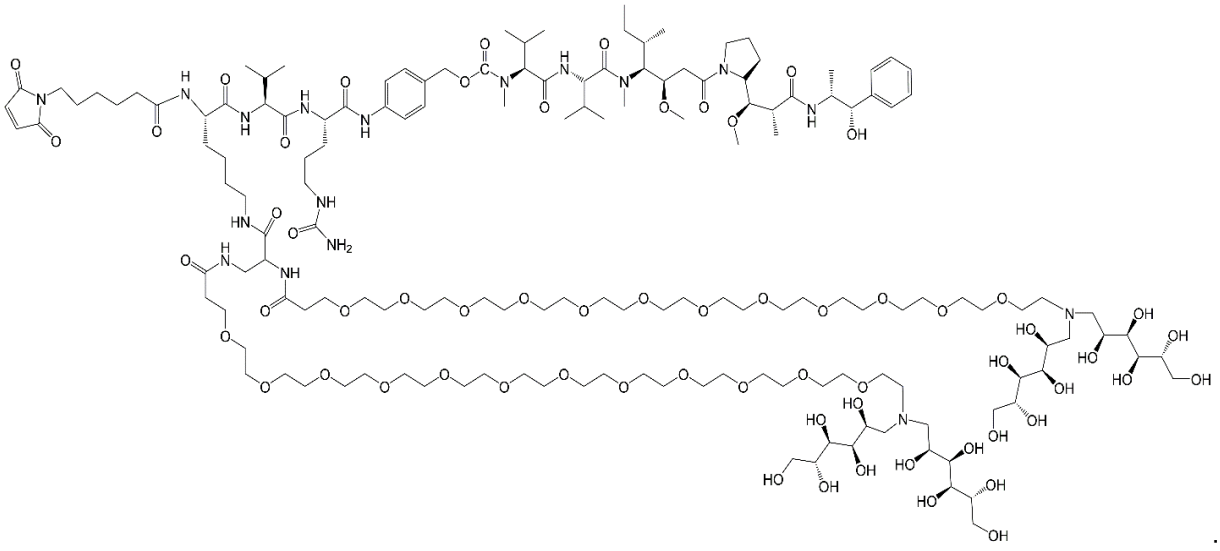
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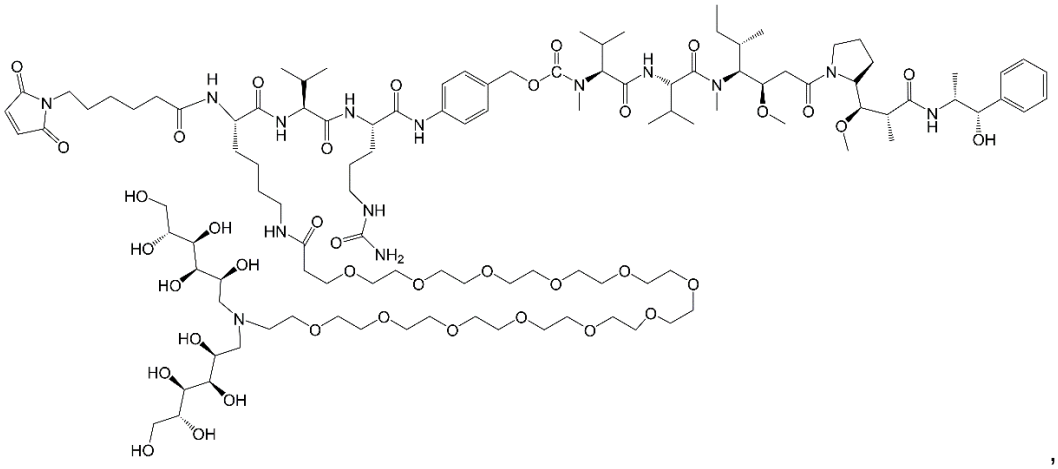


;



;

and



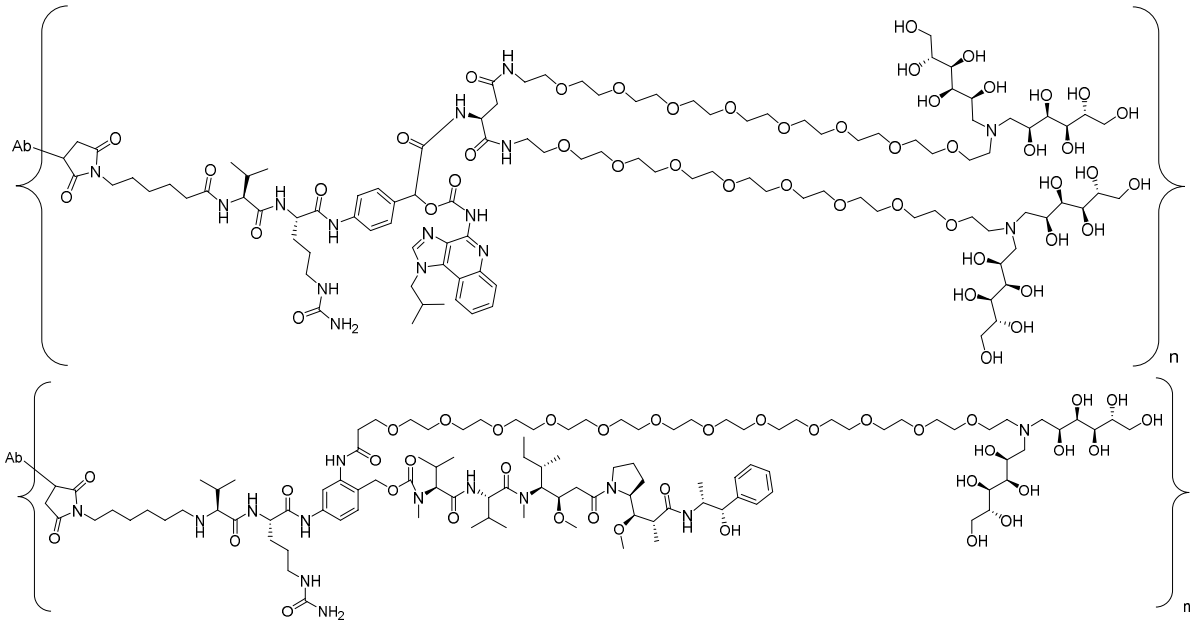
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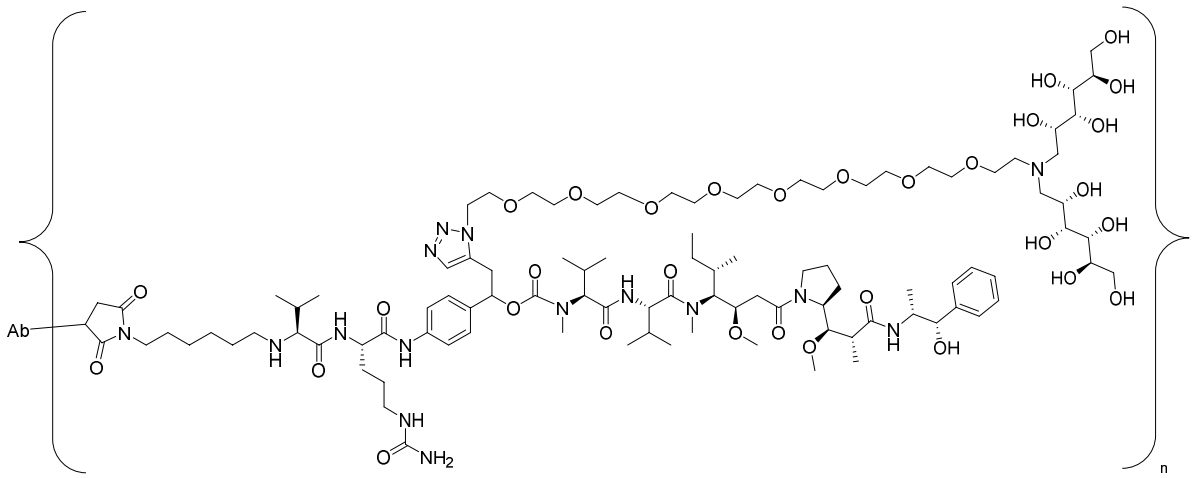
optionally wherein the average p^{load} of the conjugate is about 8.

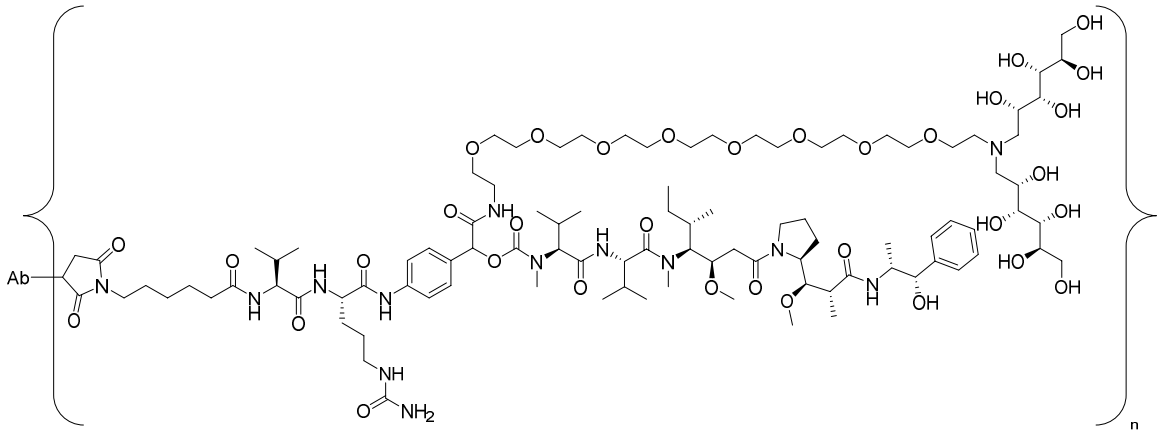
17. The conjugate of any of claims 6-16, wherein:

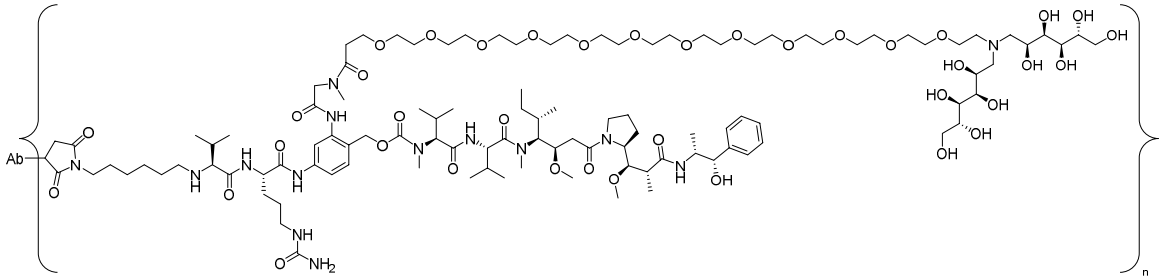
(i) the average drug loading (p^{load}) of the conjugate is from 1 to 8, about 2, about 4, about 6, about 8, about 10, about 12, about 14, about 16, 3 to 5, 6 to 8, or 8 to 16; and/or

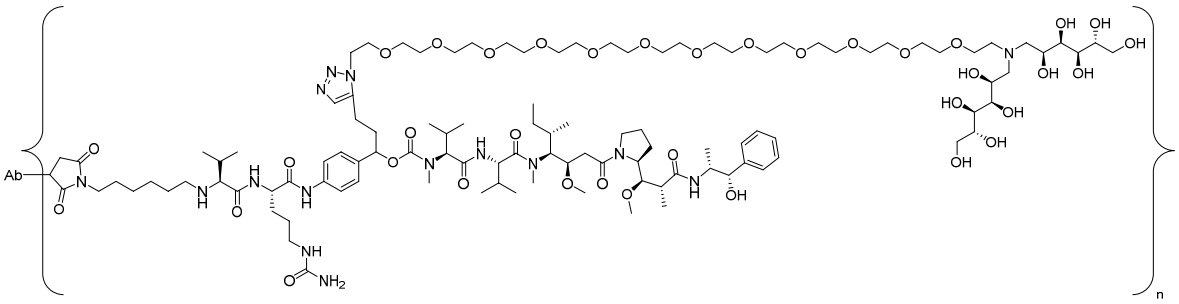
(ii) the conjugate is selected from the following:

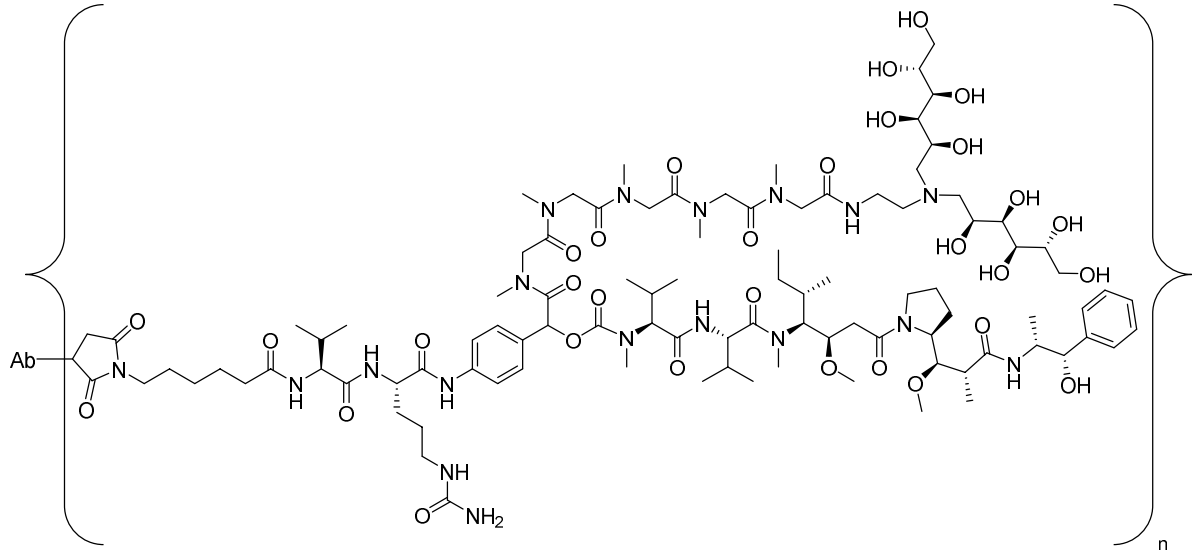


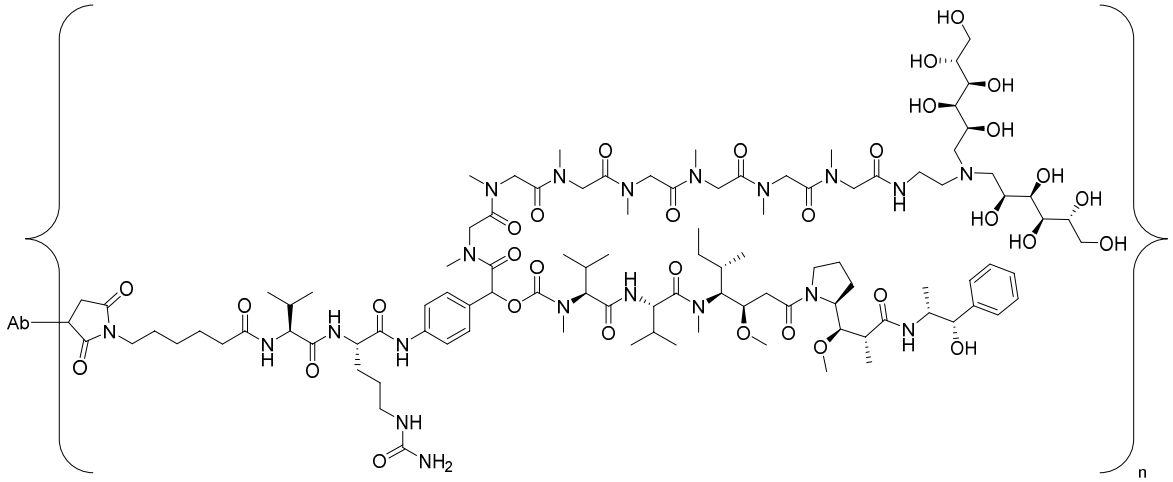


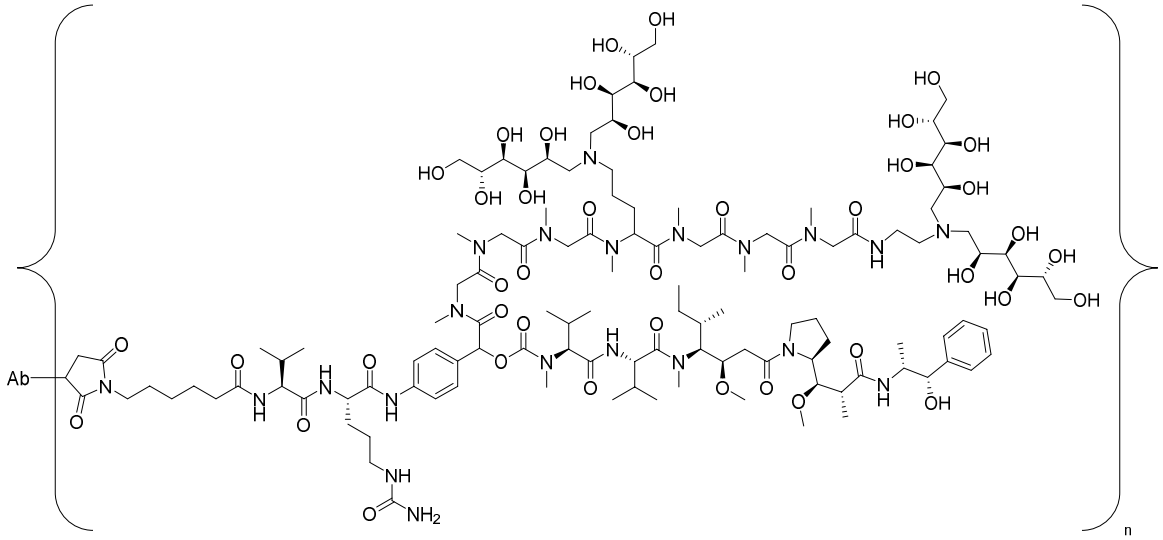


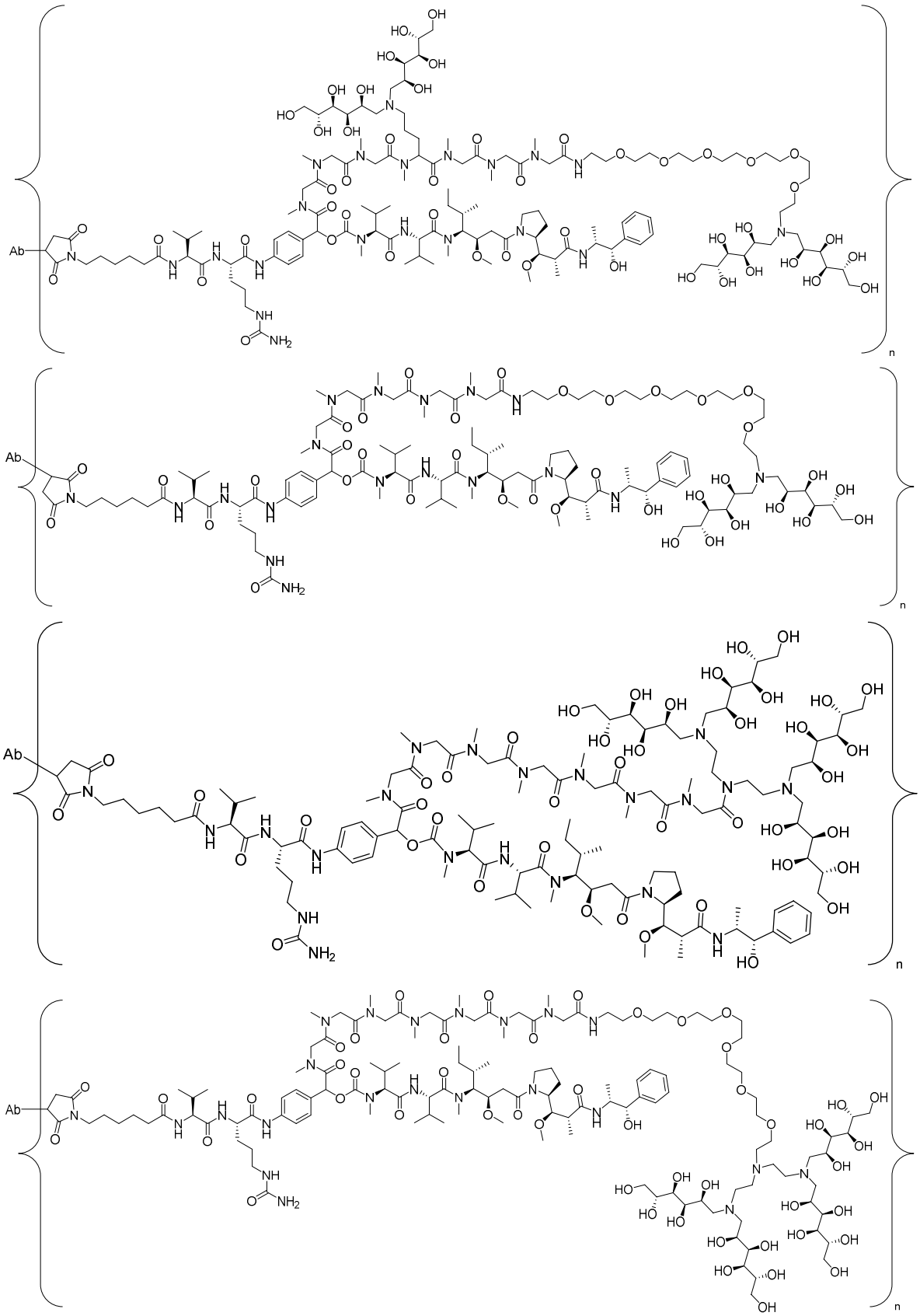


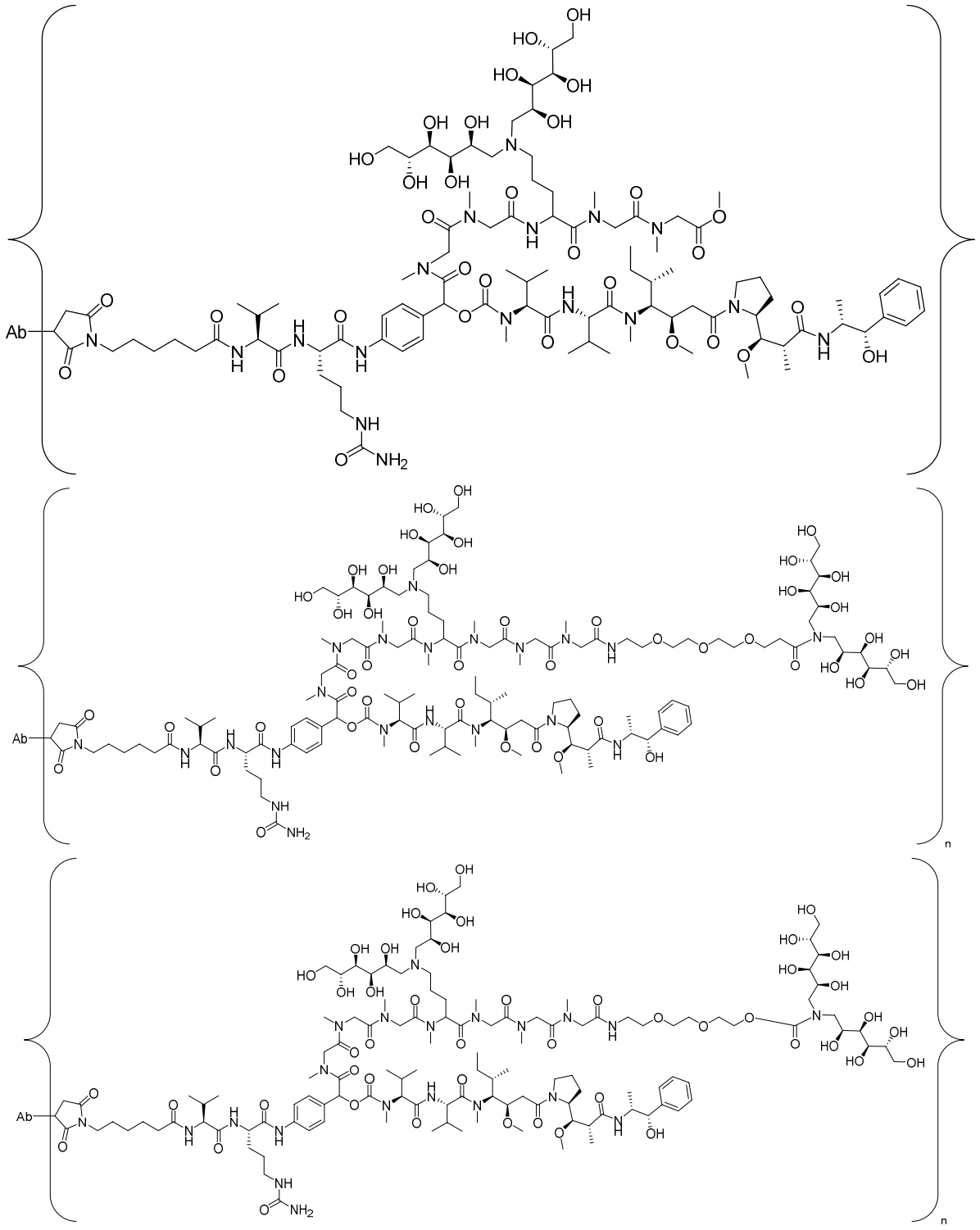


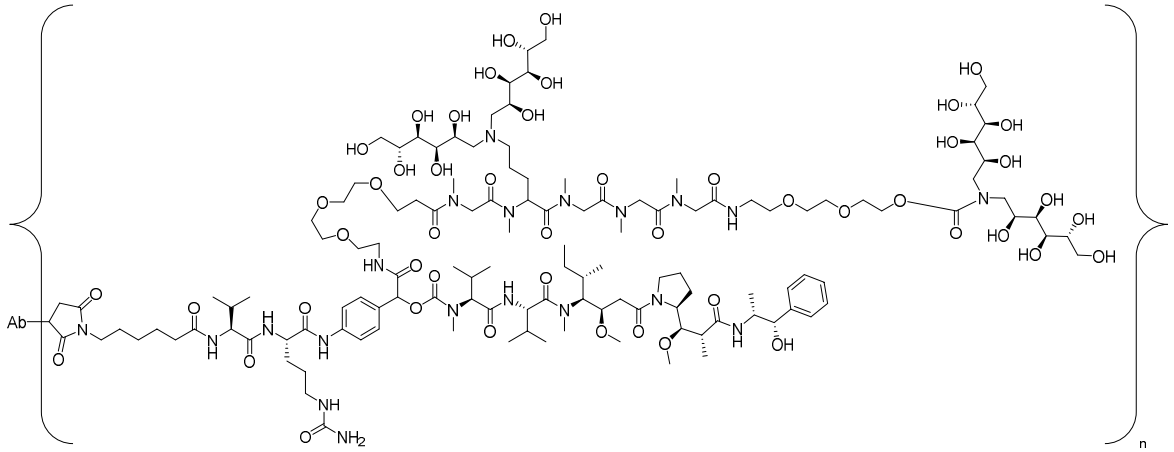


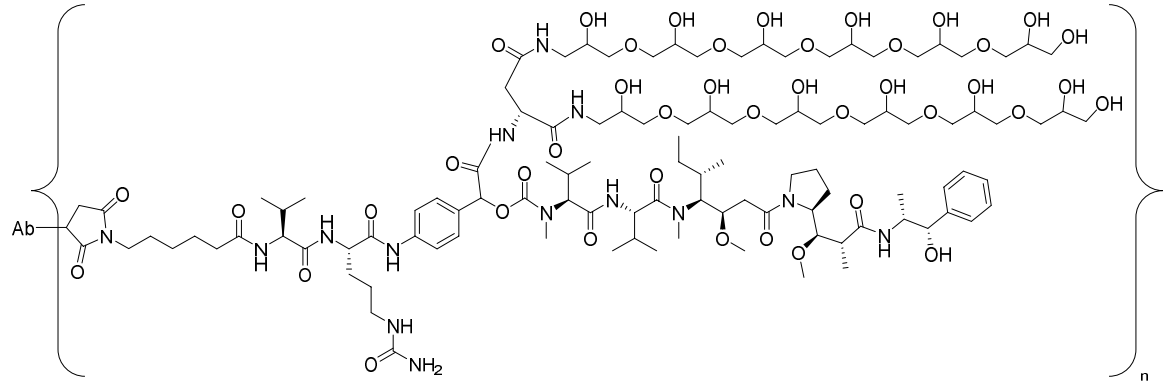


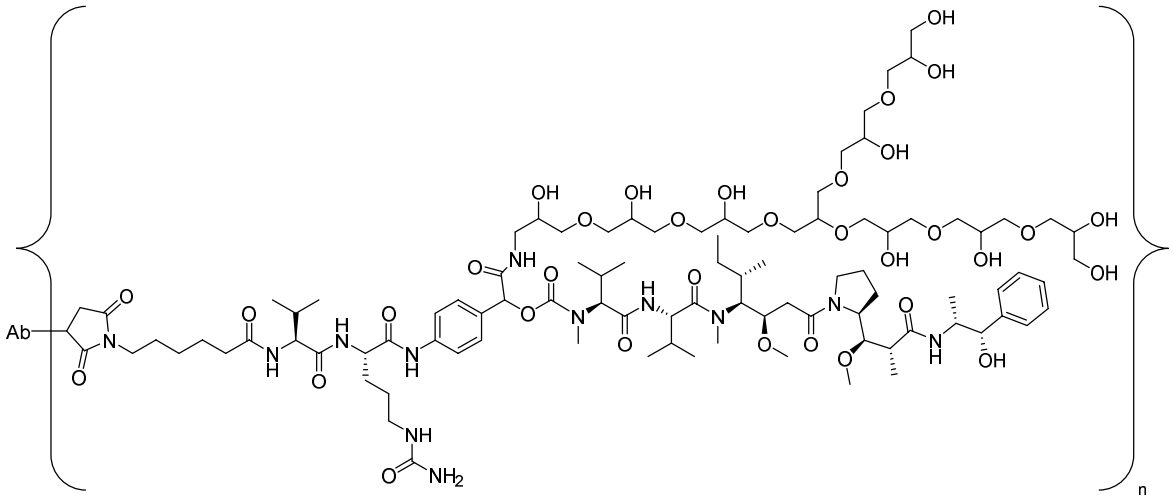


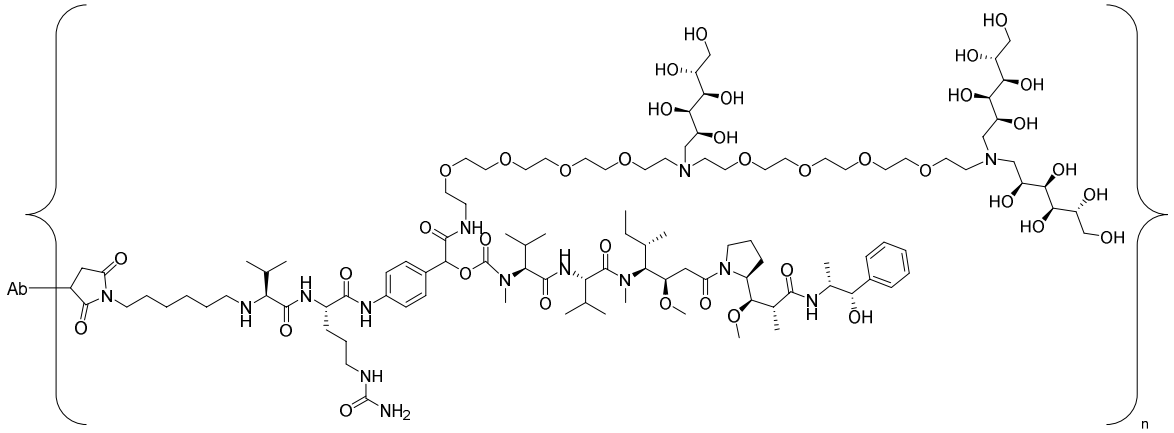


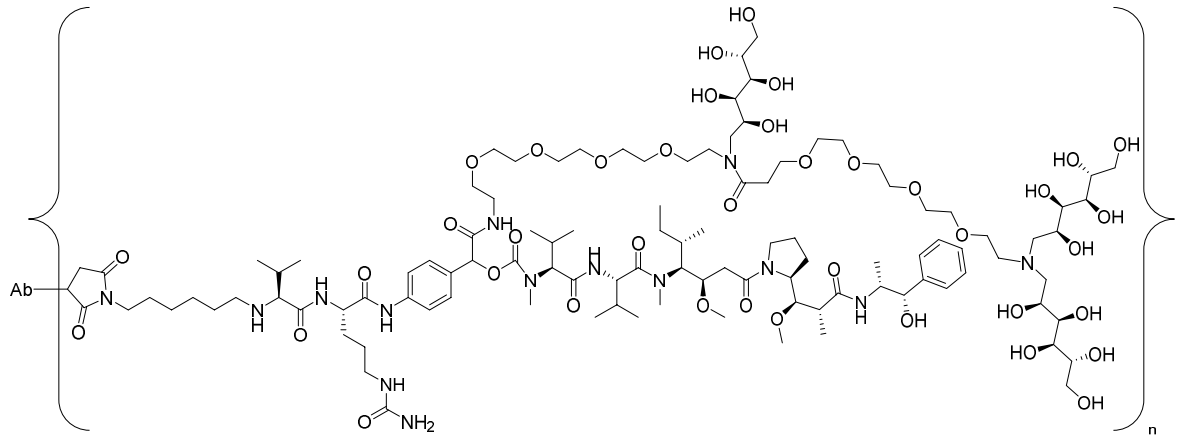


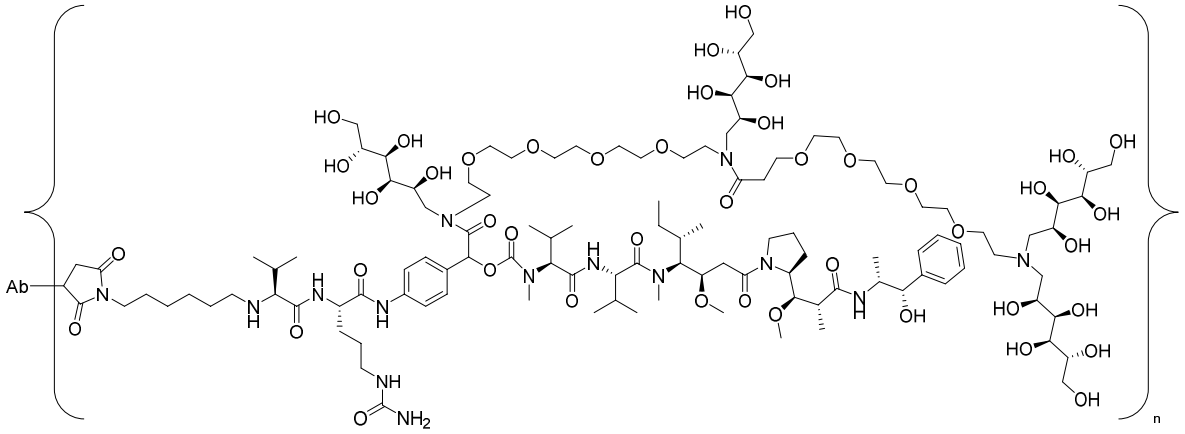


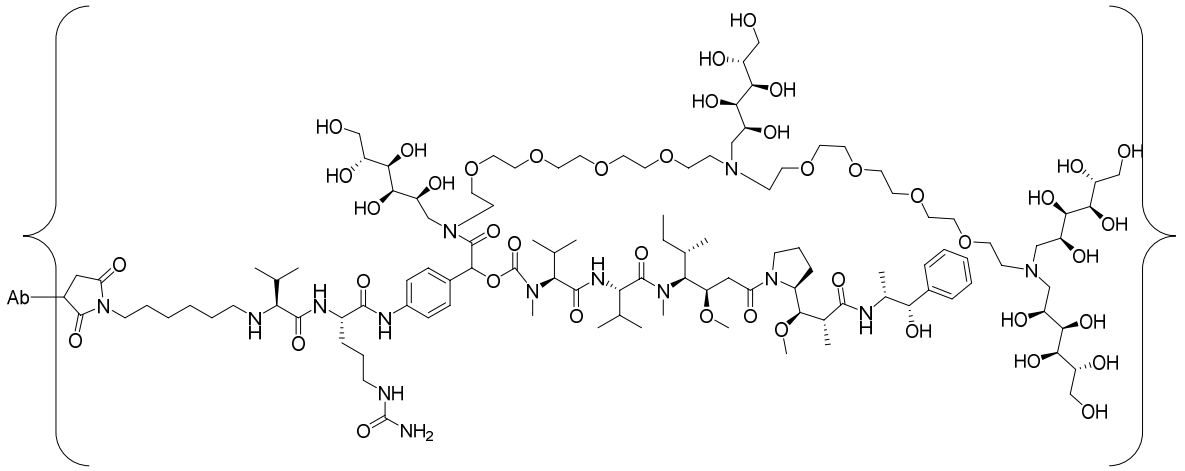


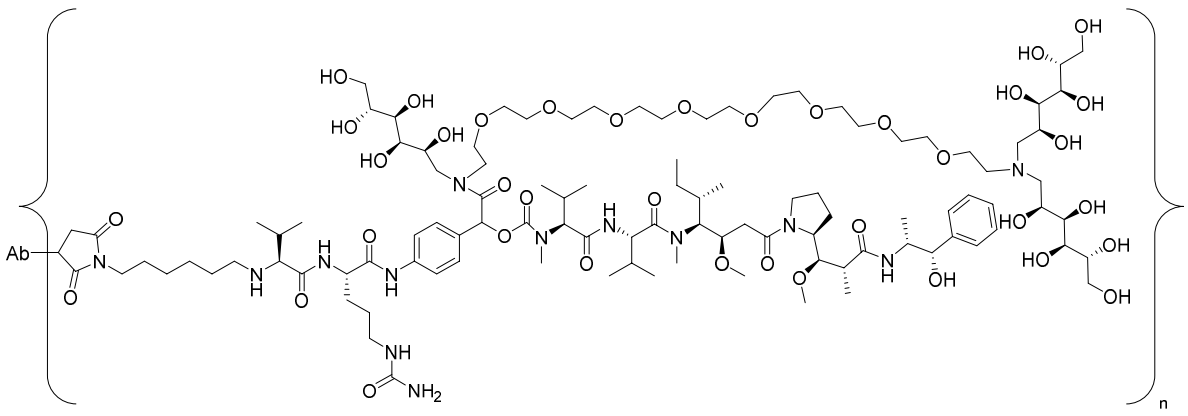


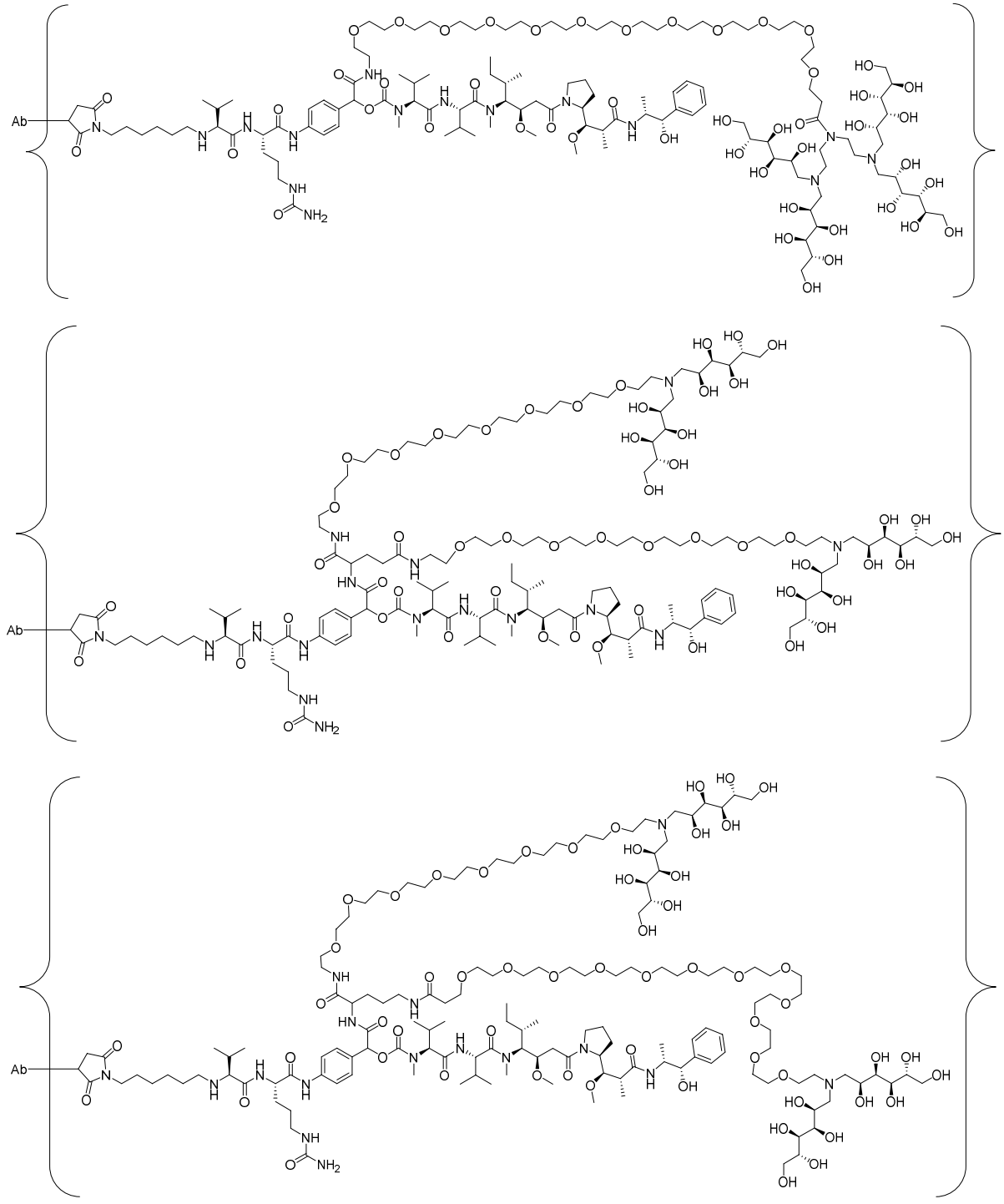


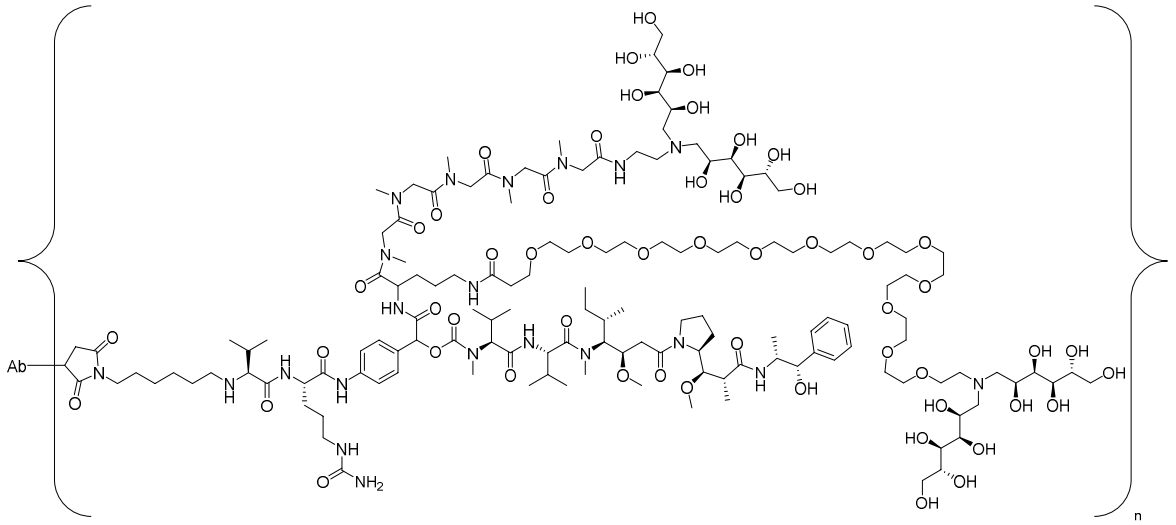


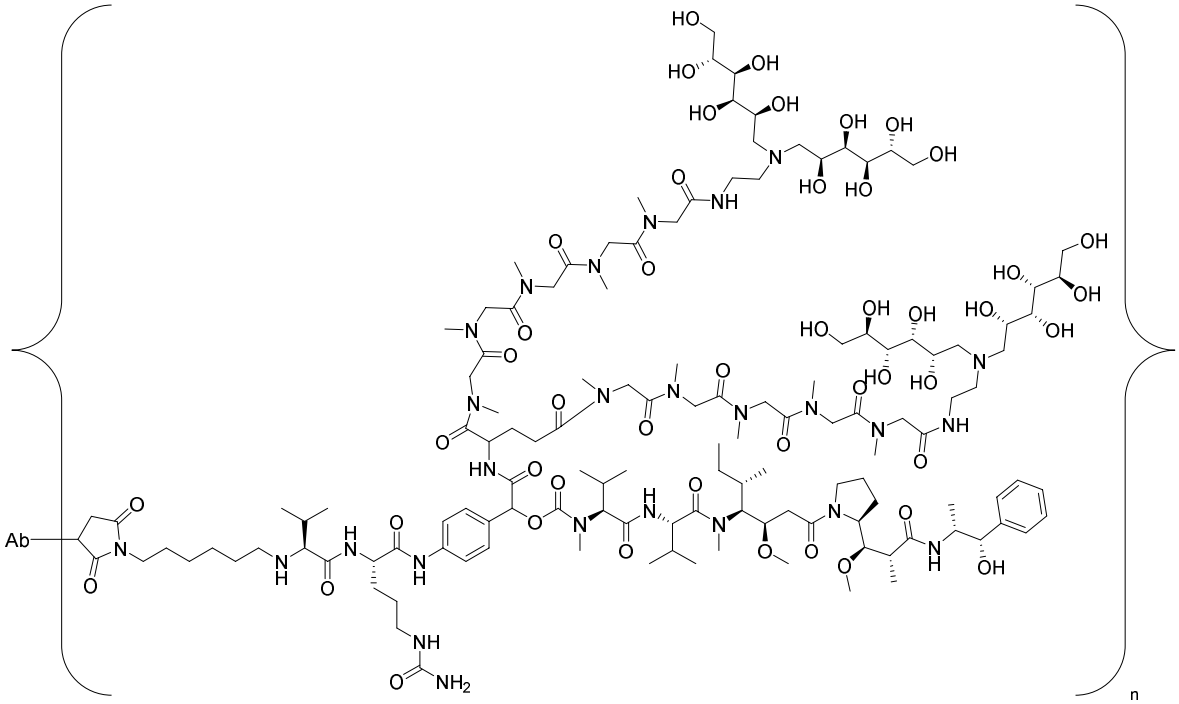


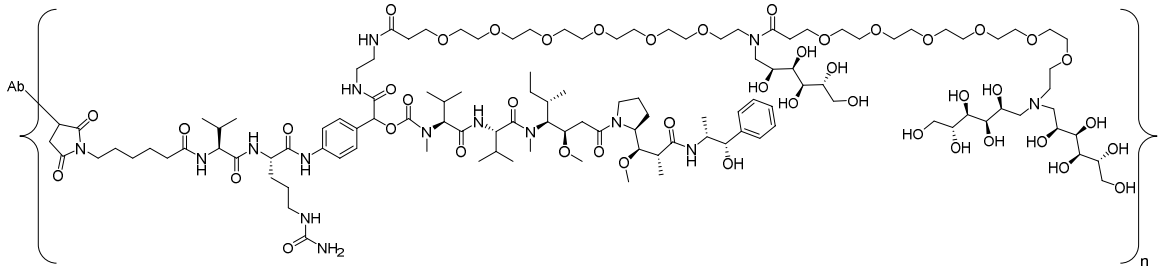


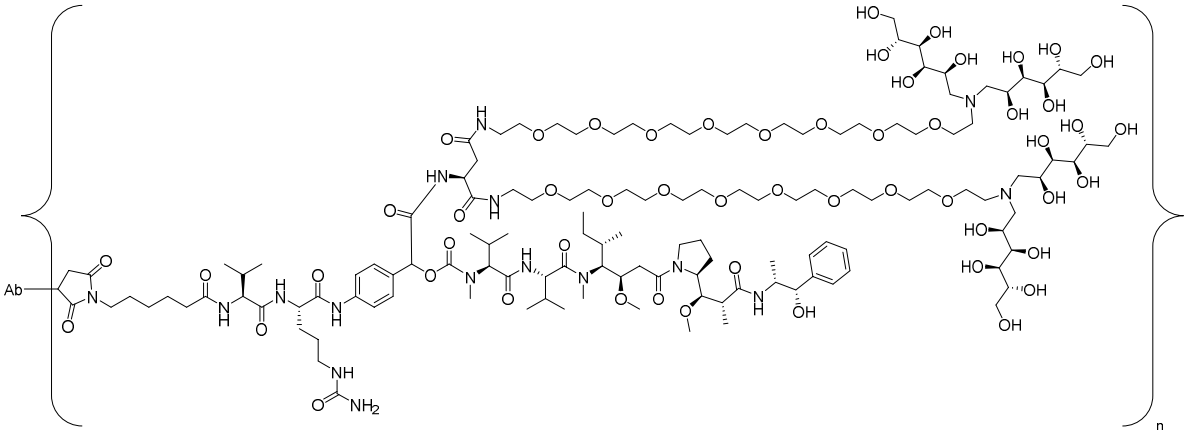


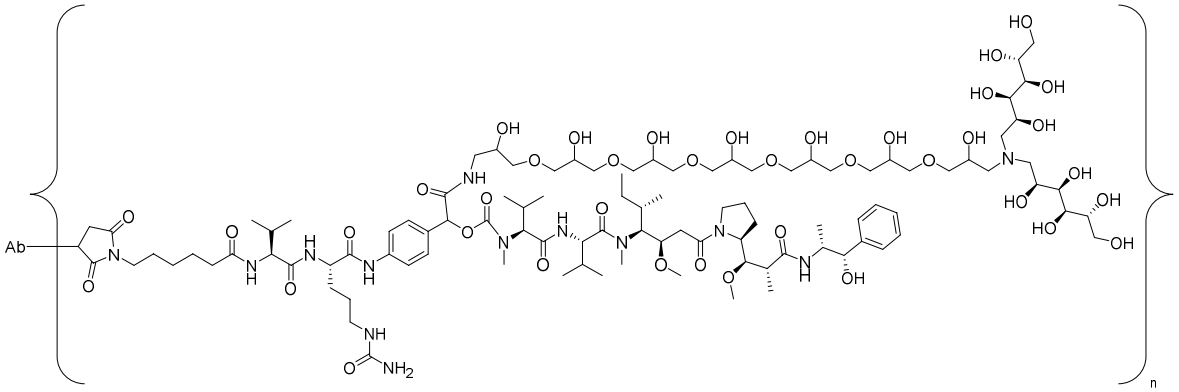


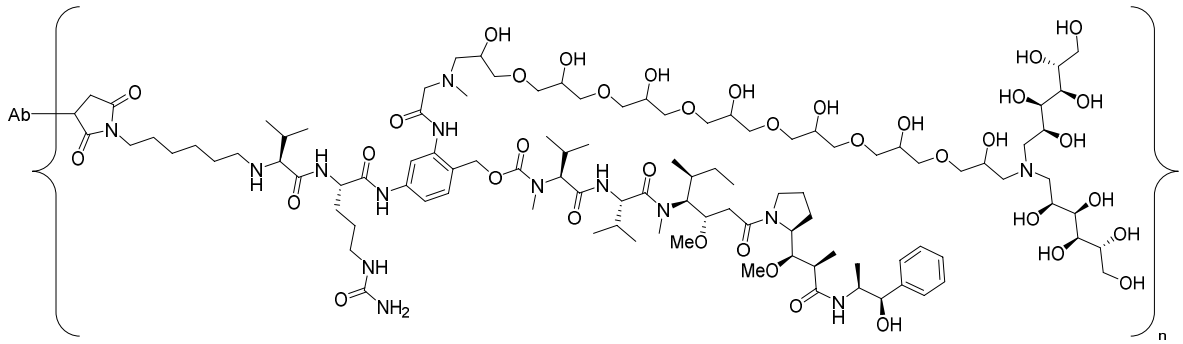


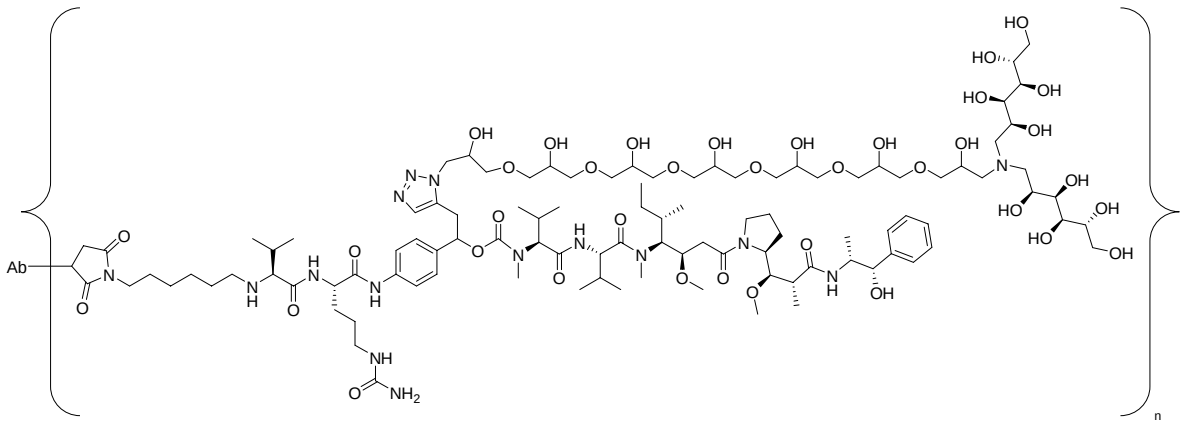


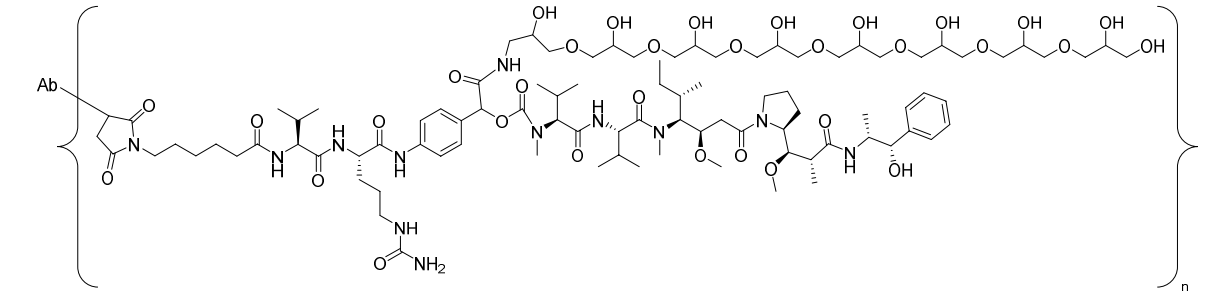


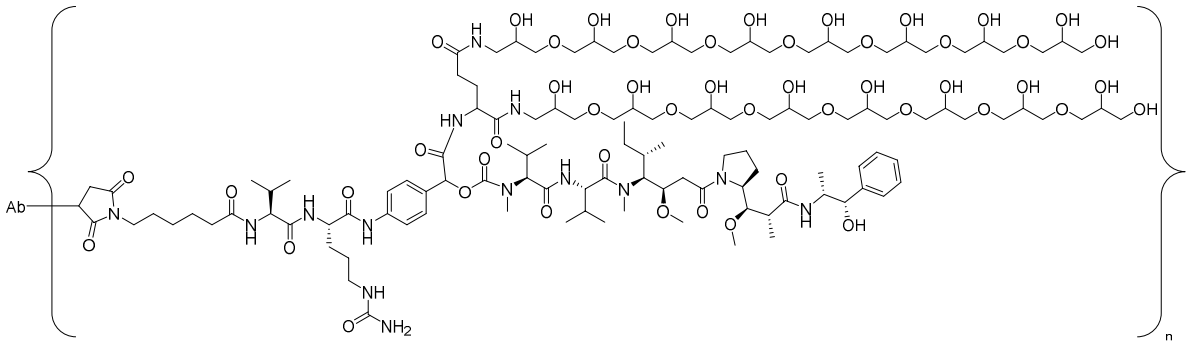


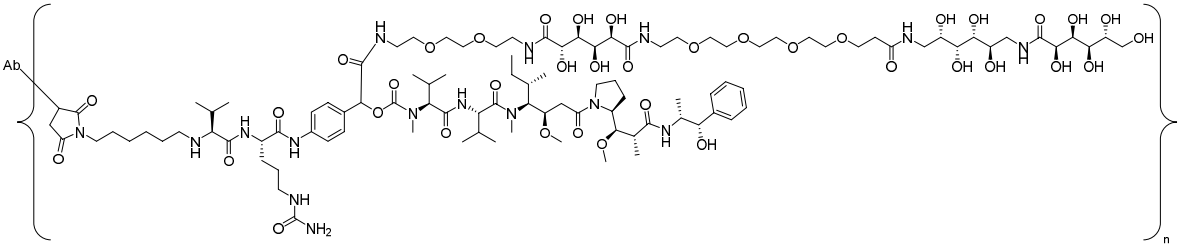


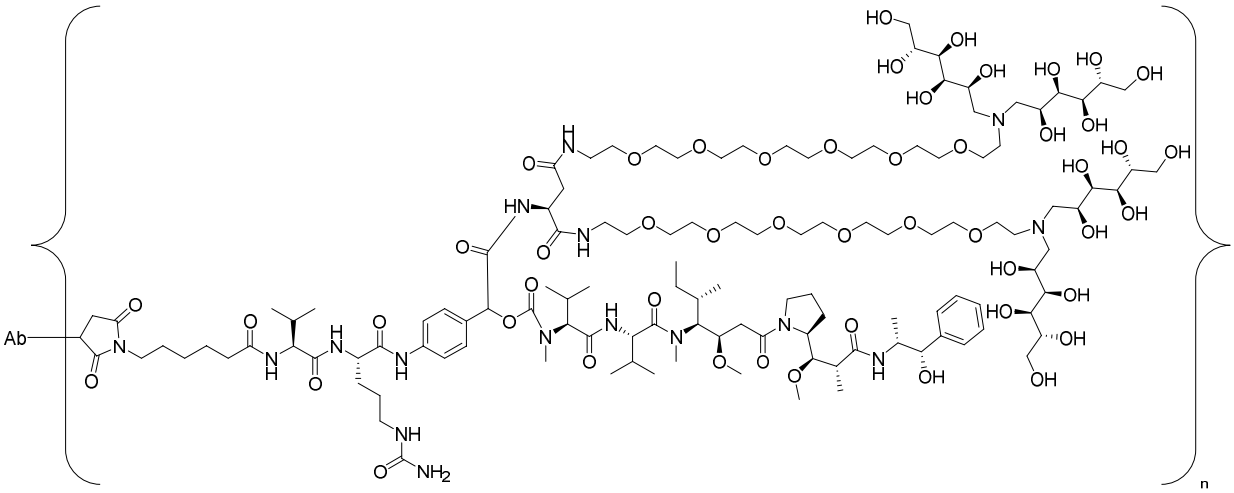


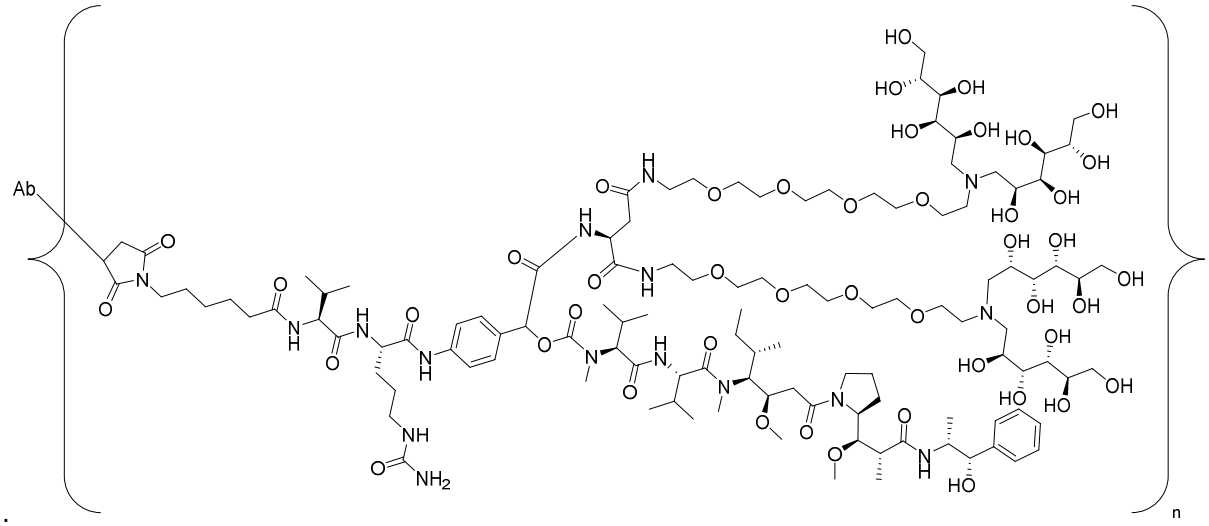


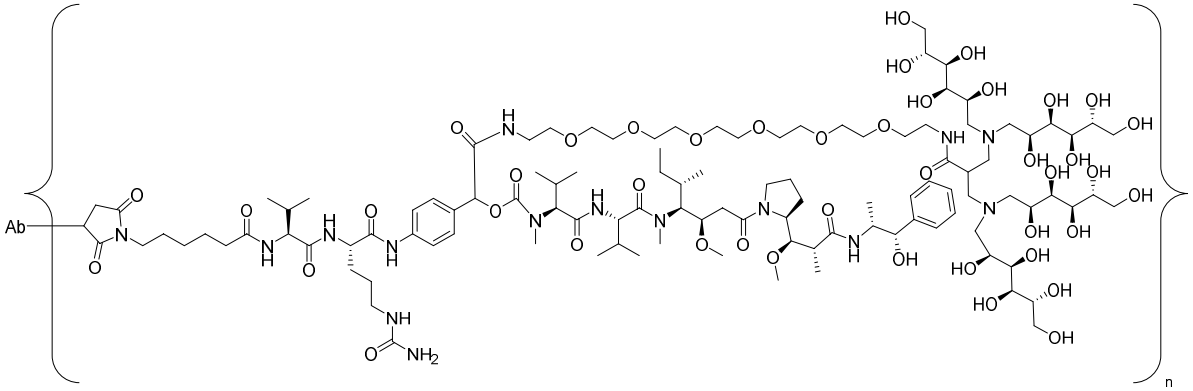


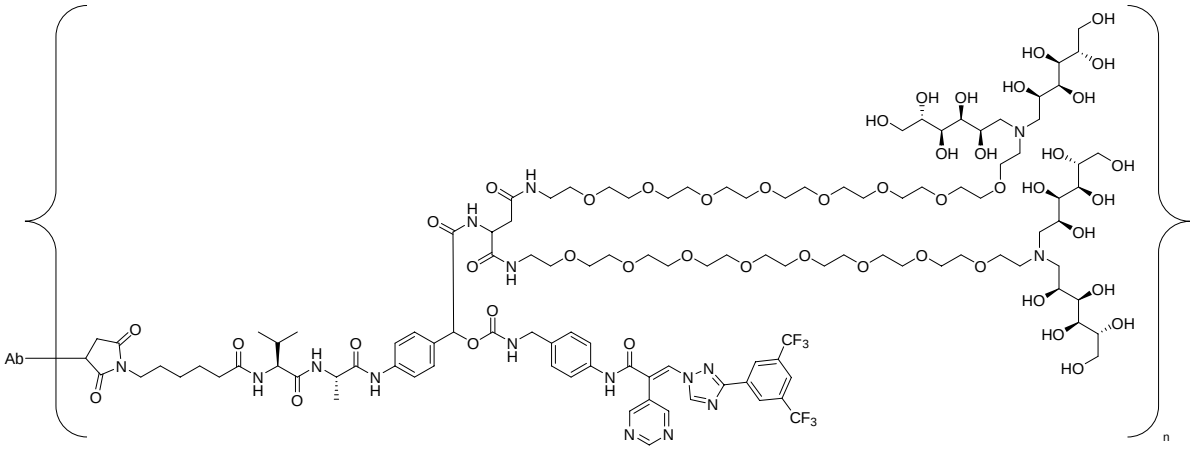


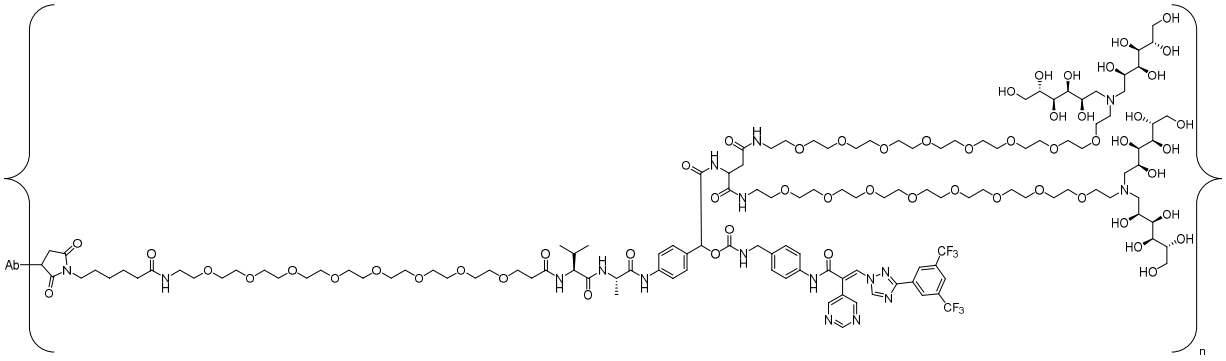


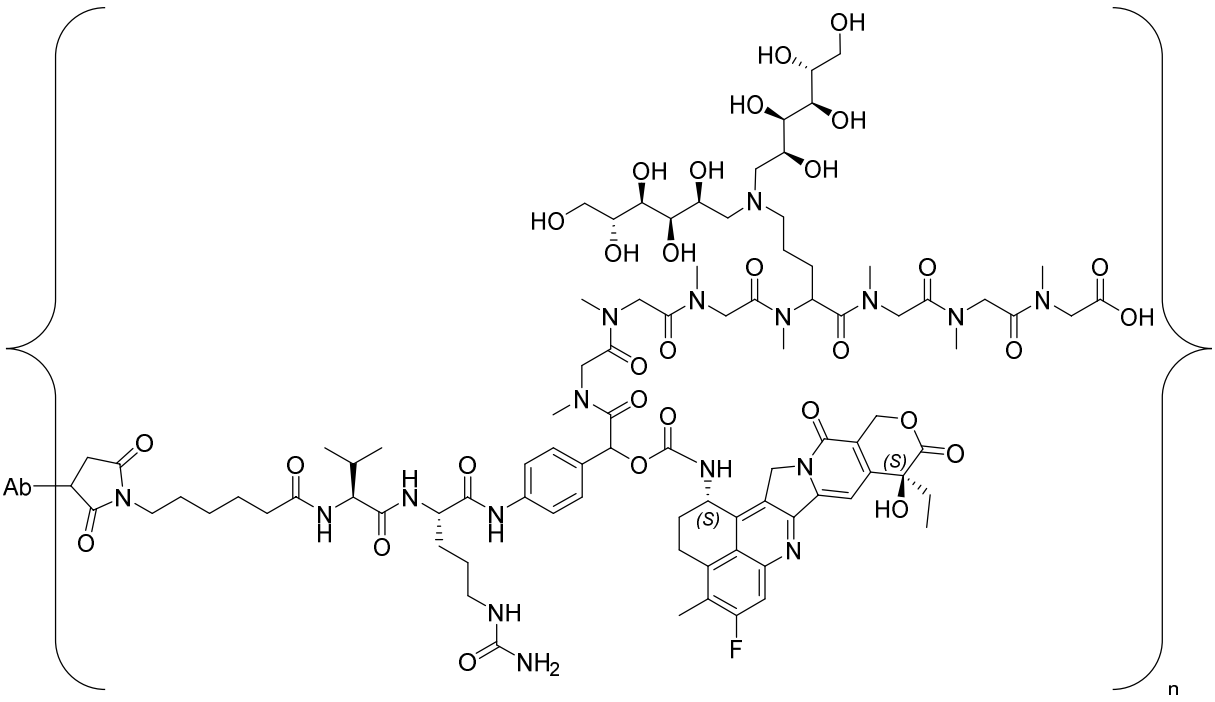


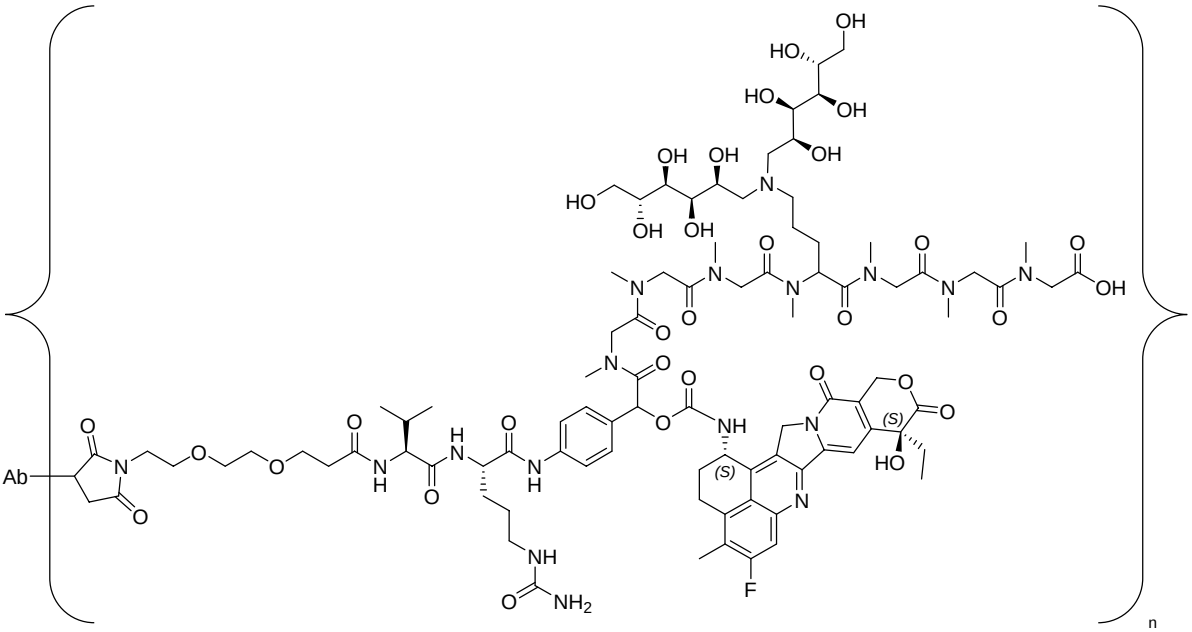


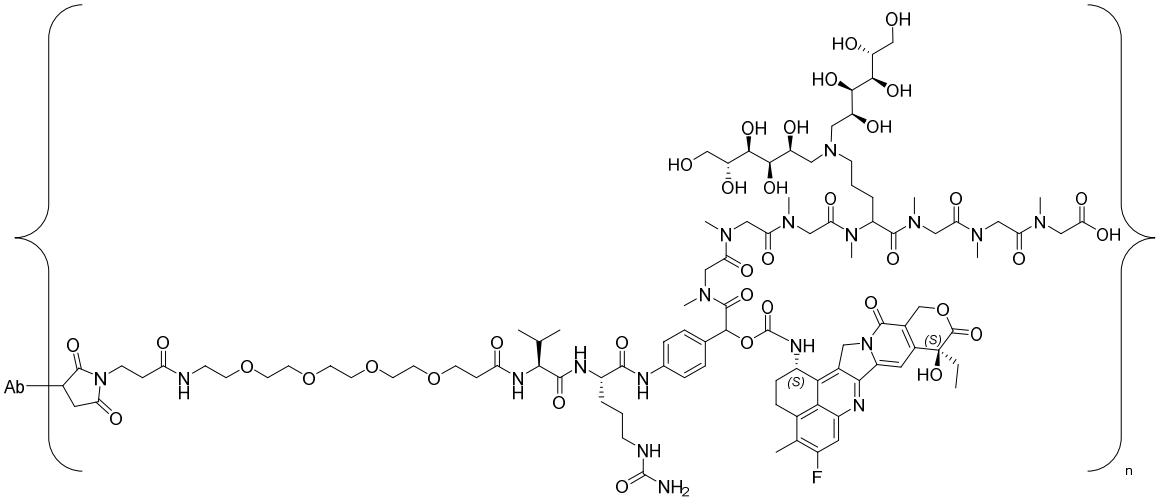


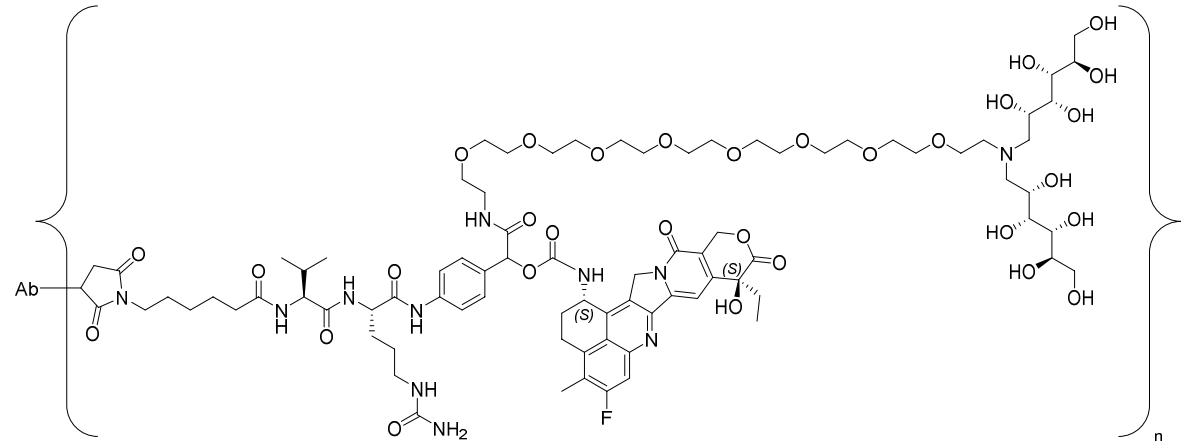


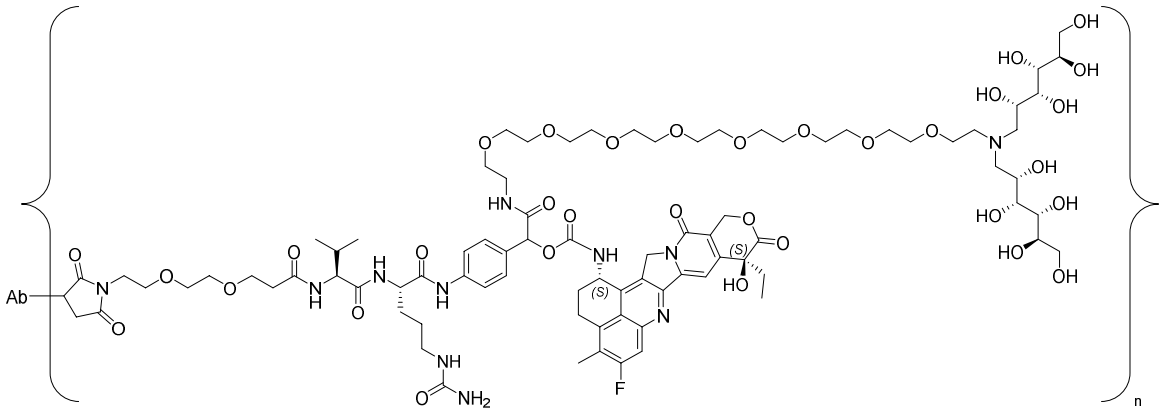


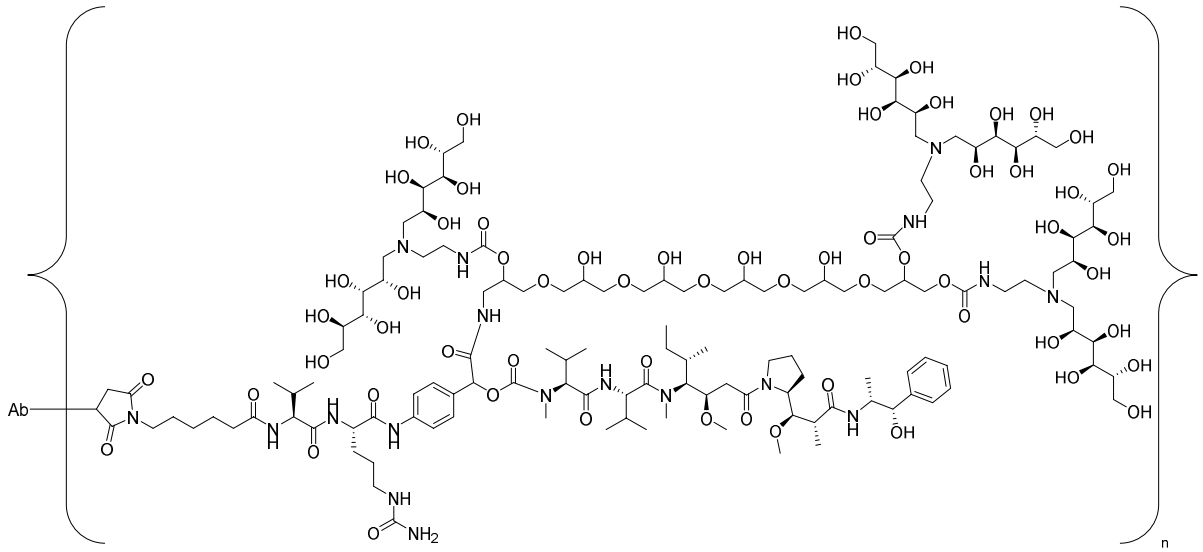


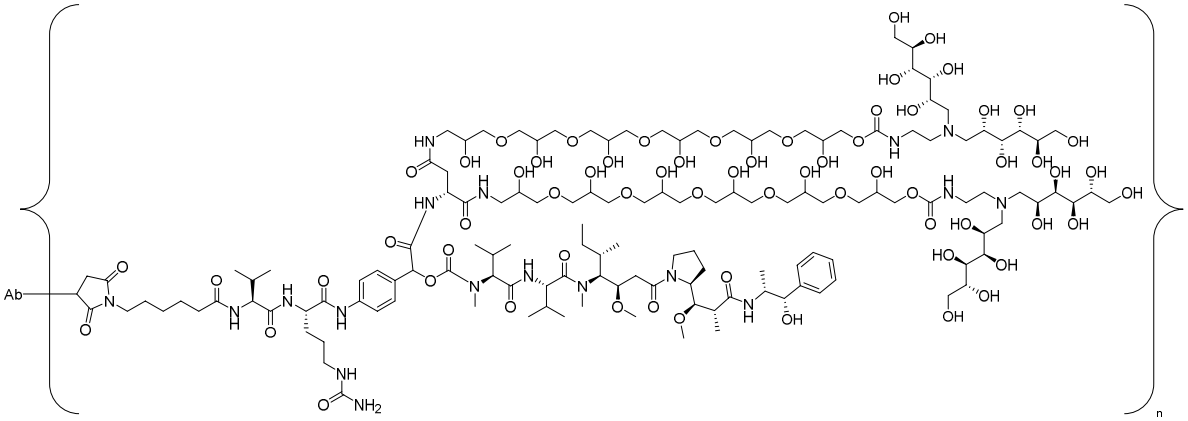


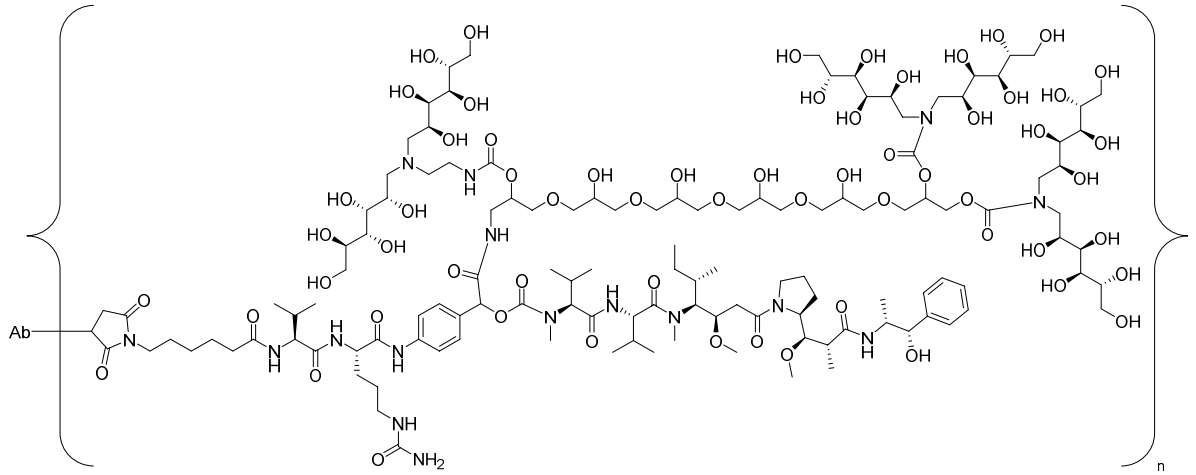


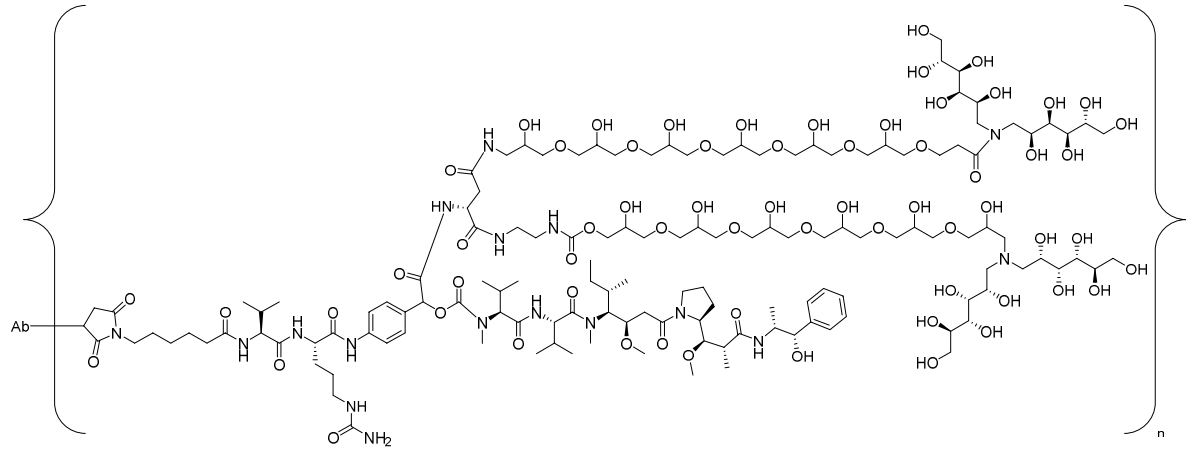


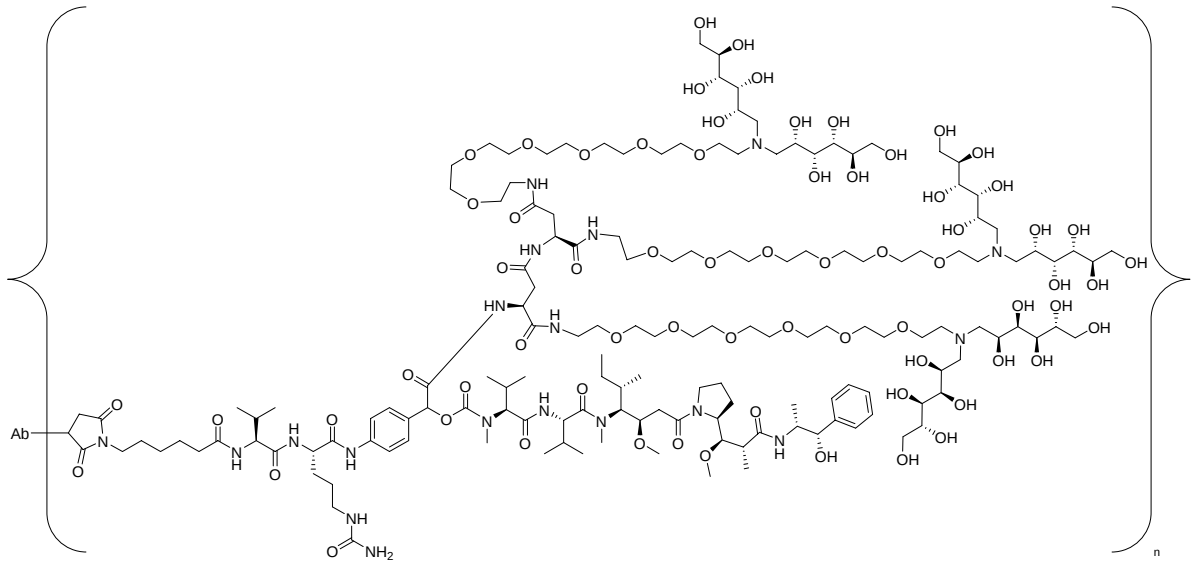


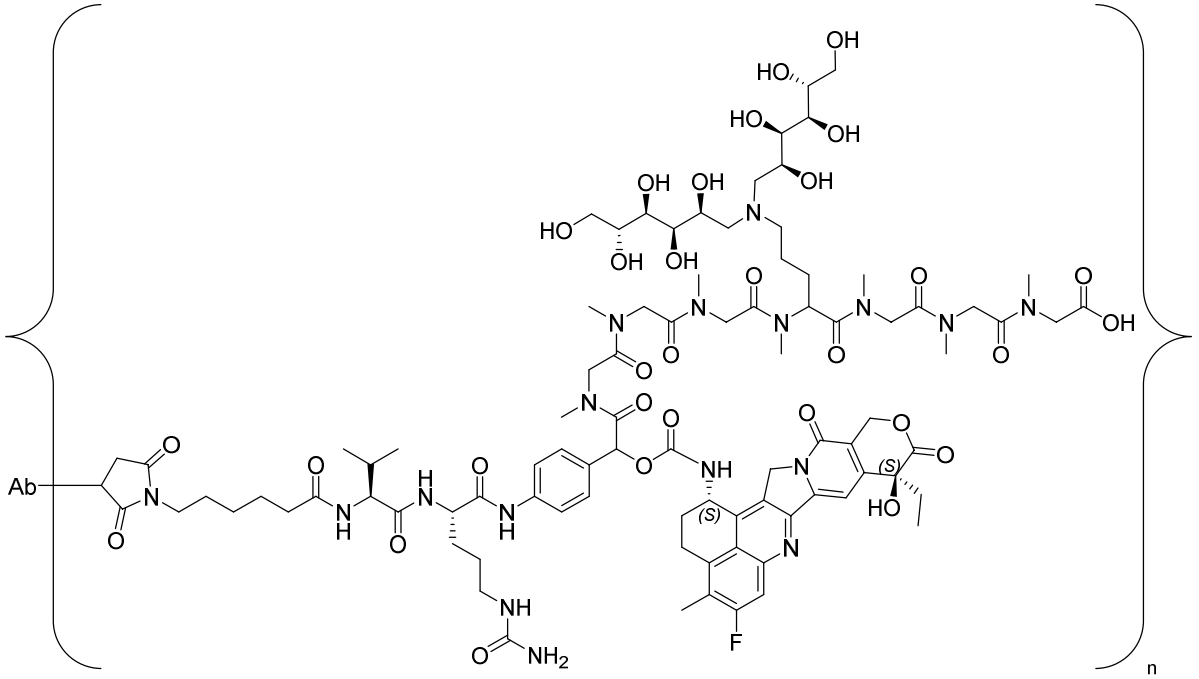


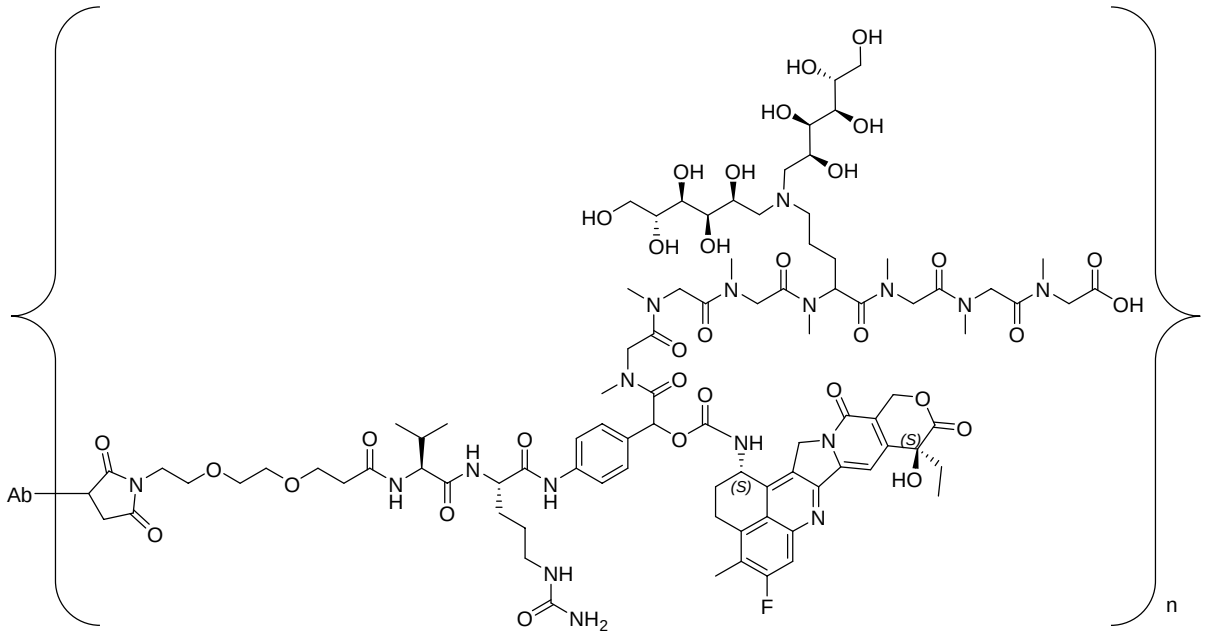


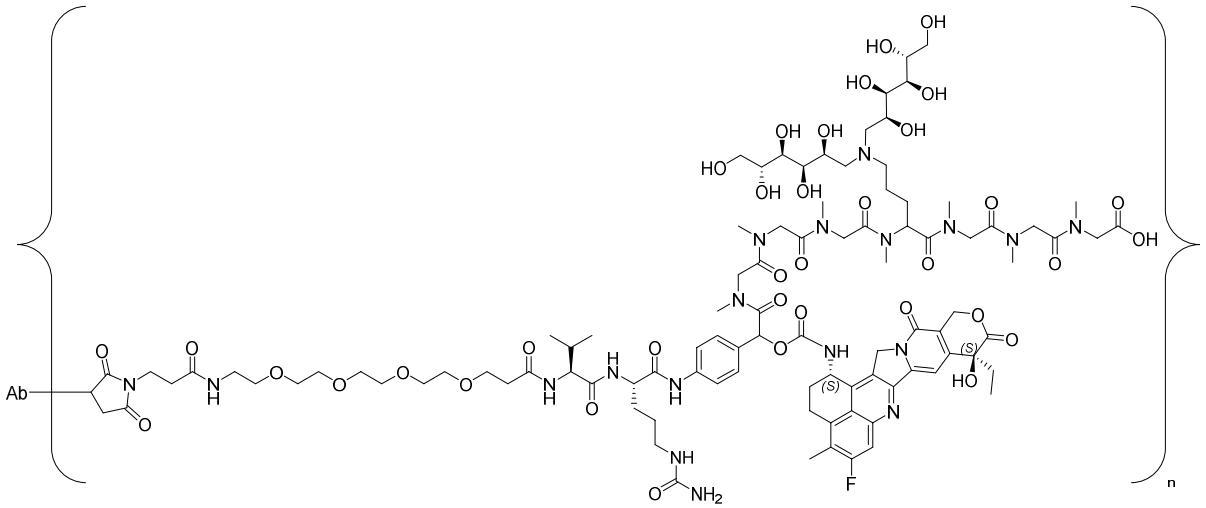


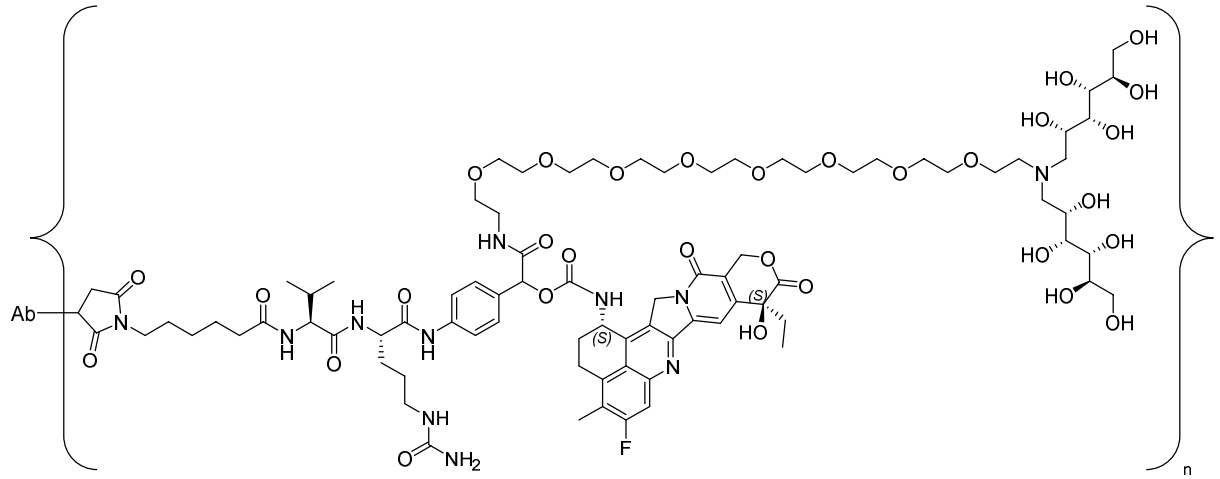


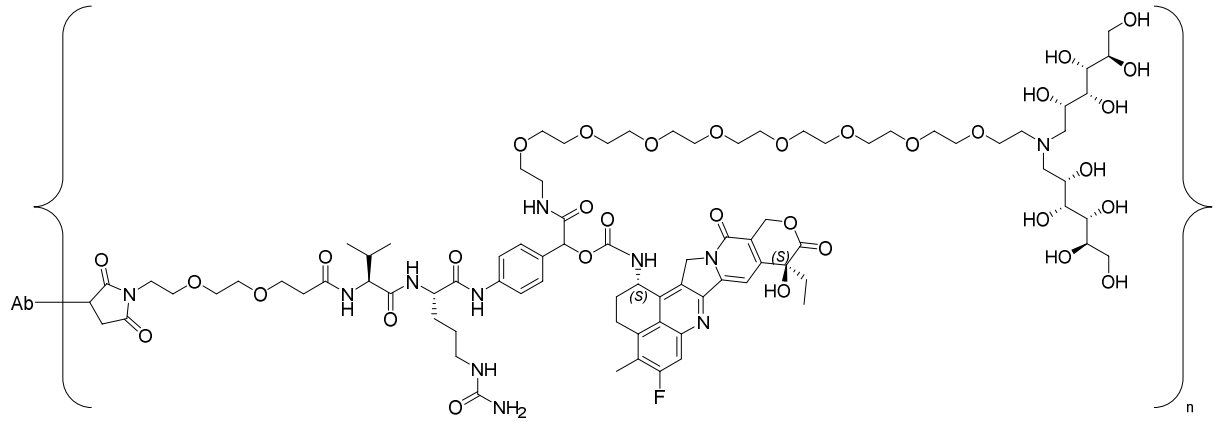


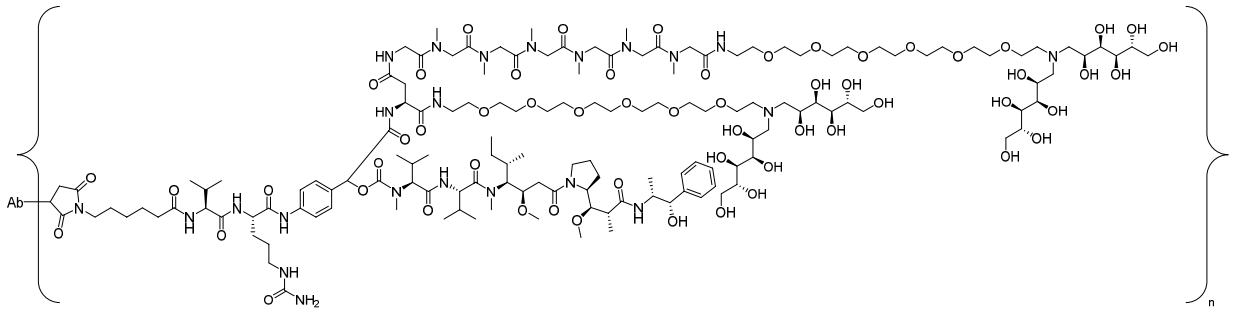


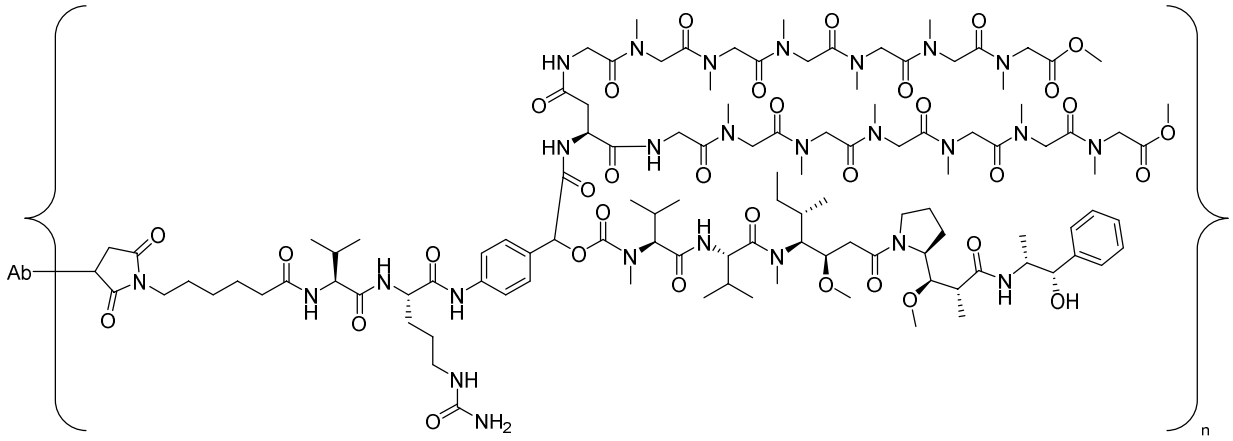


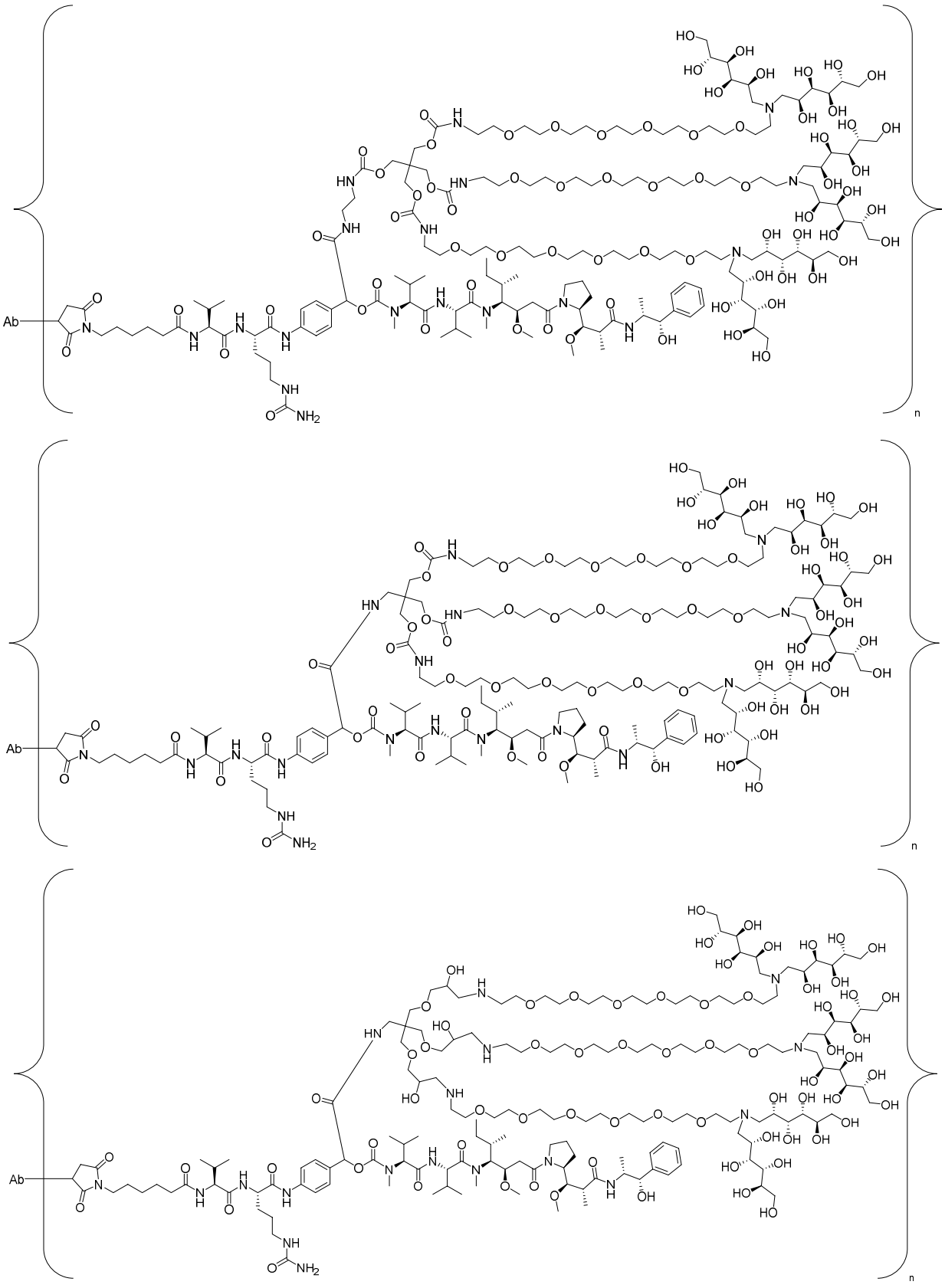


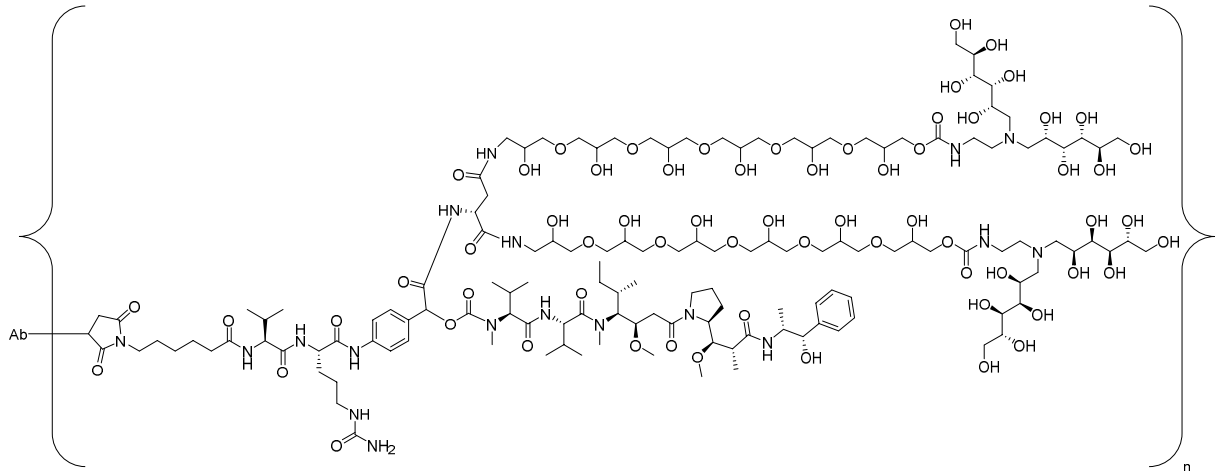


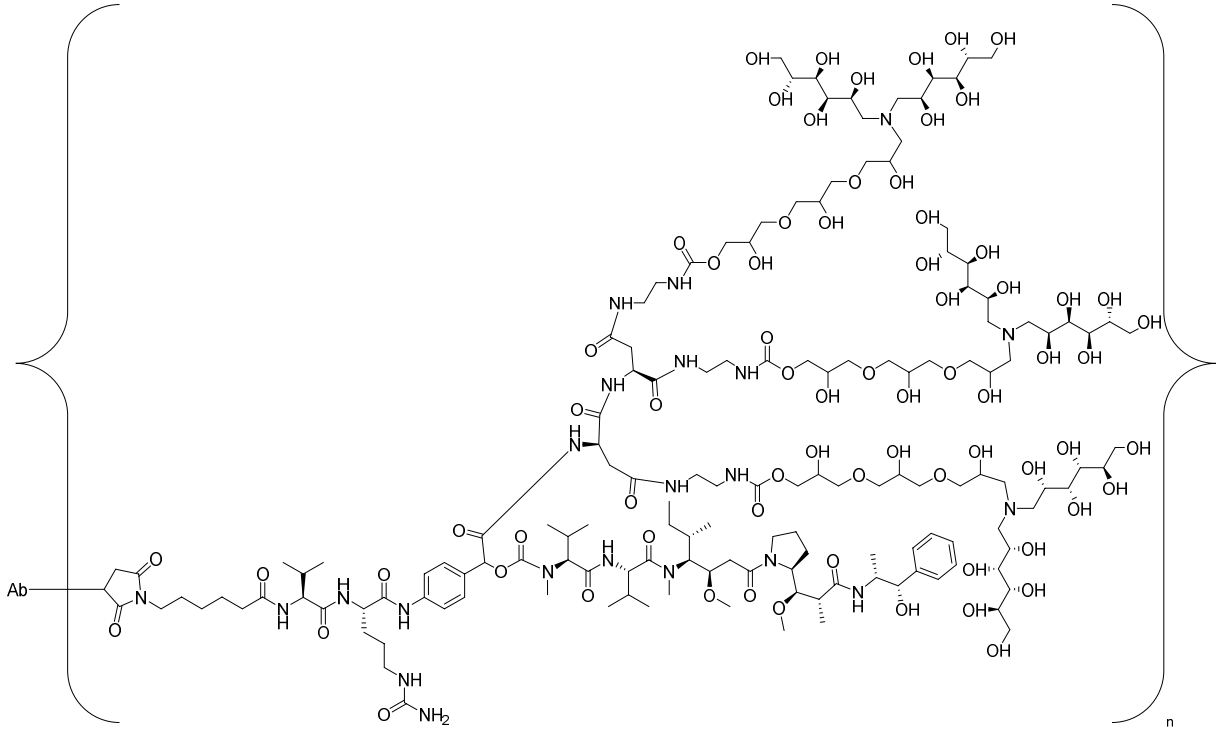


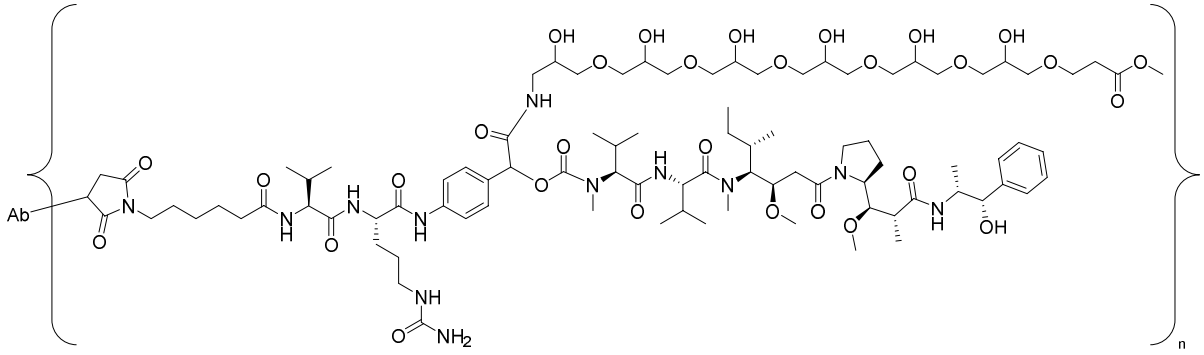


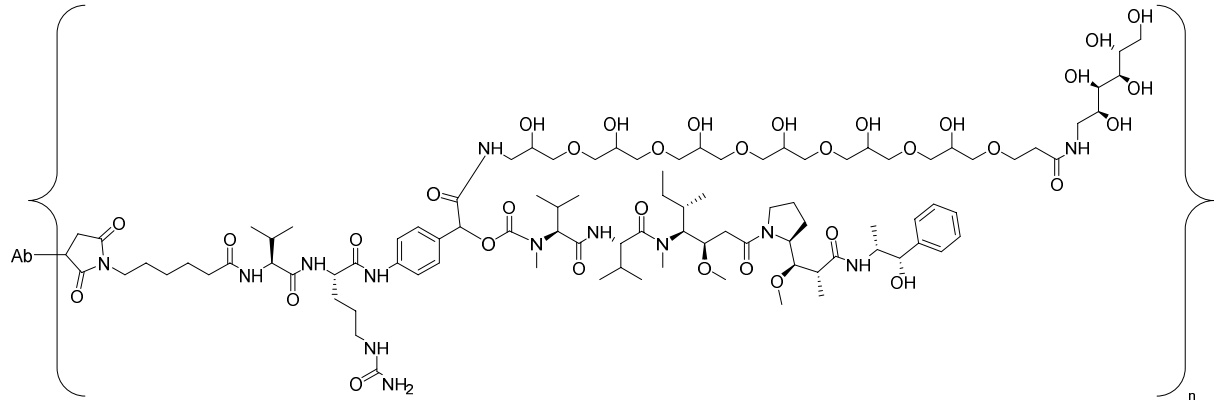


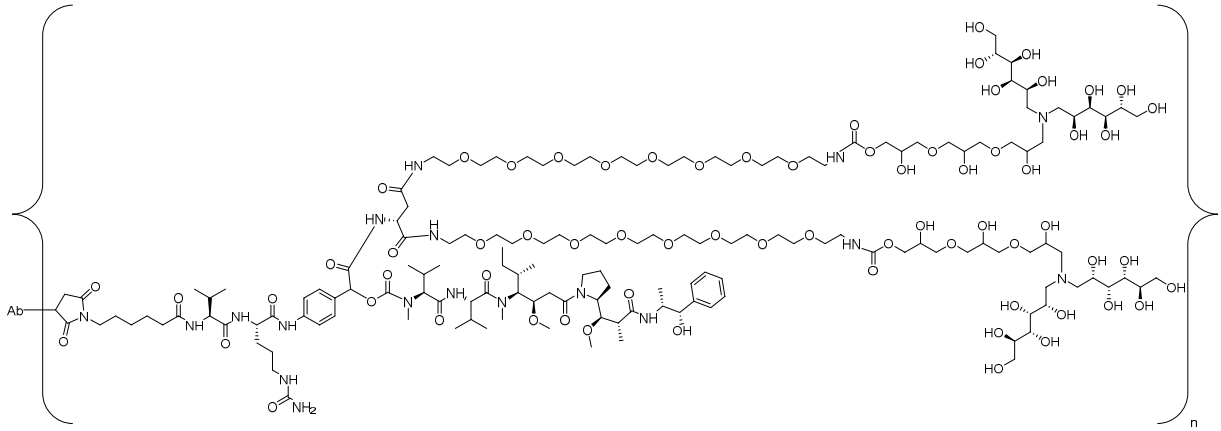


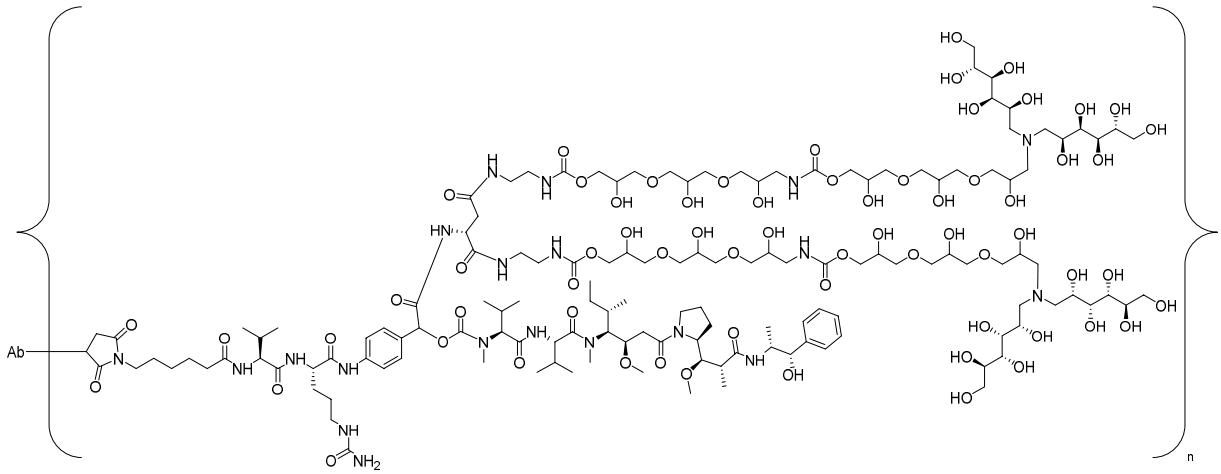


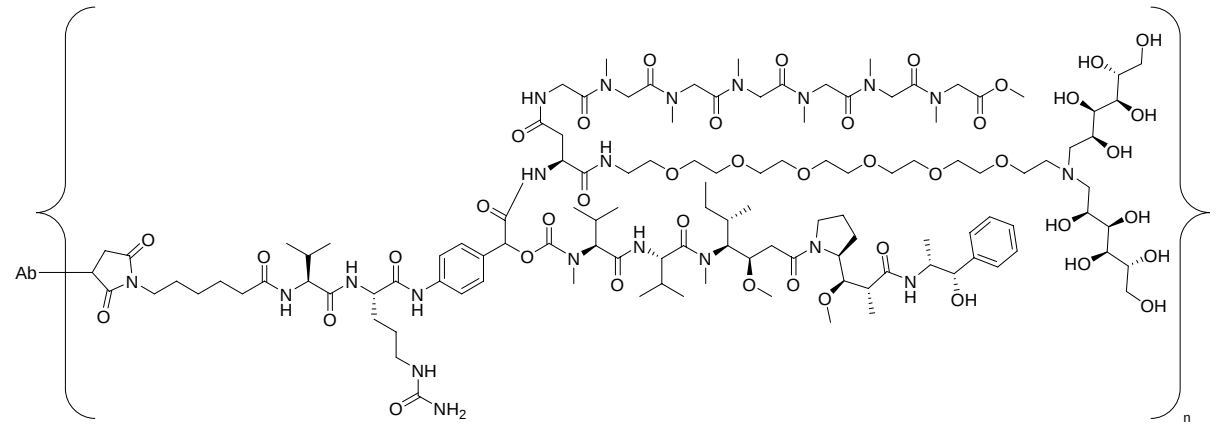


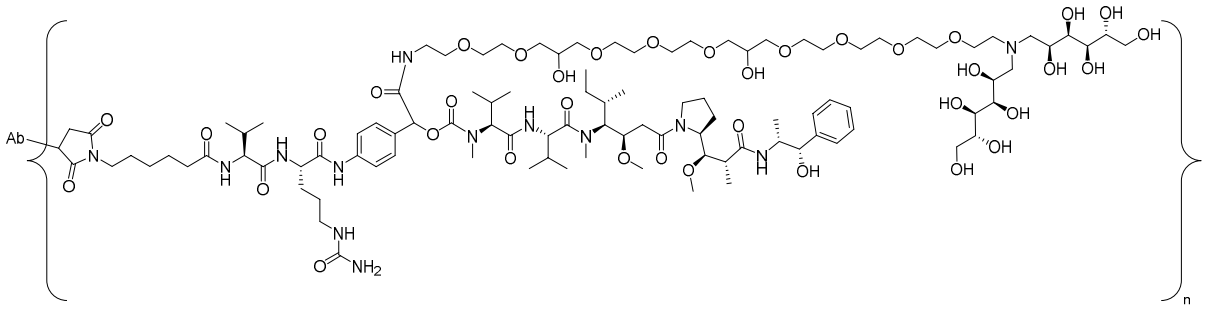


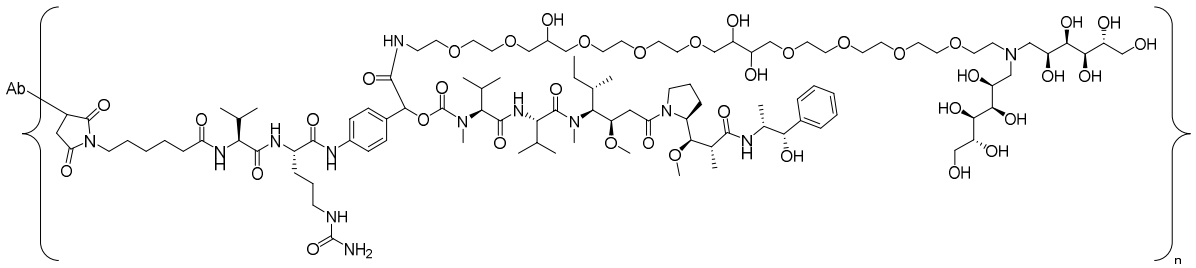


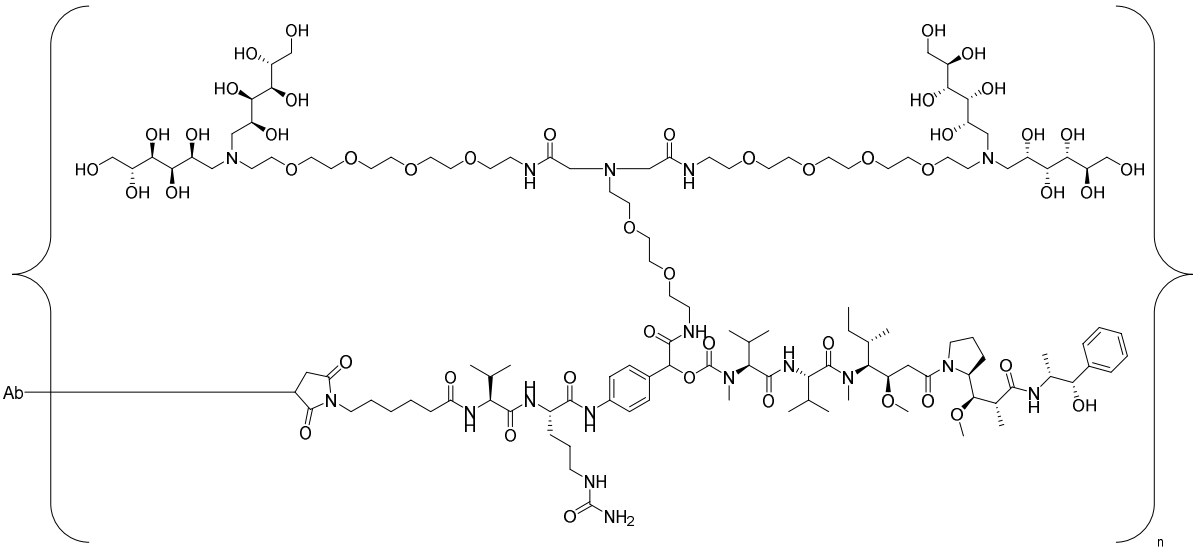


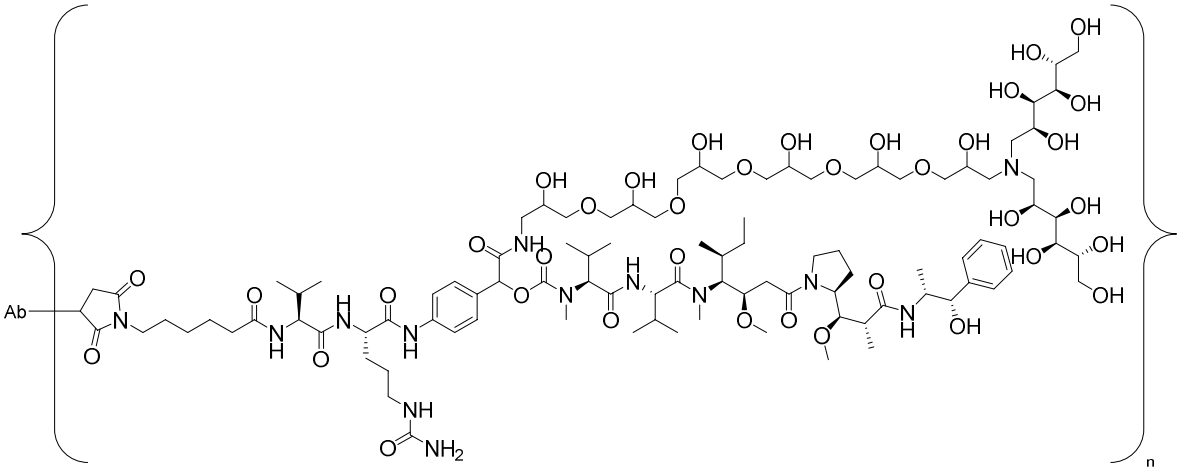


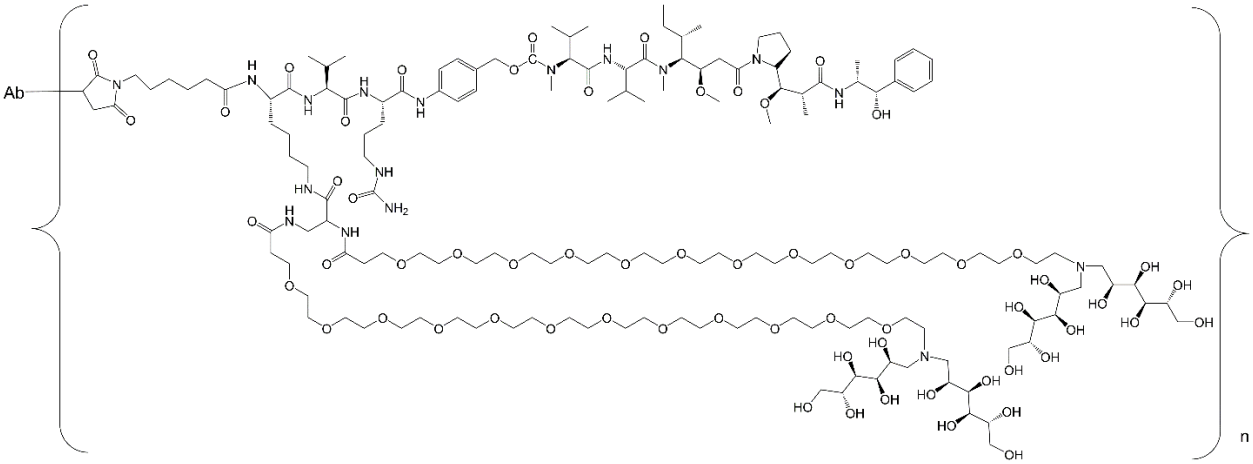


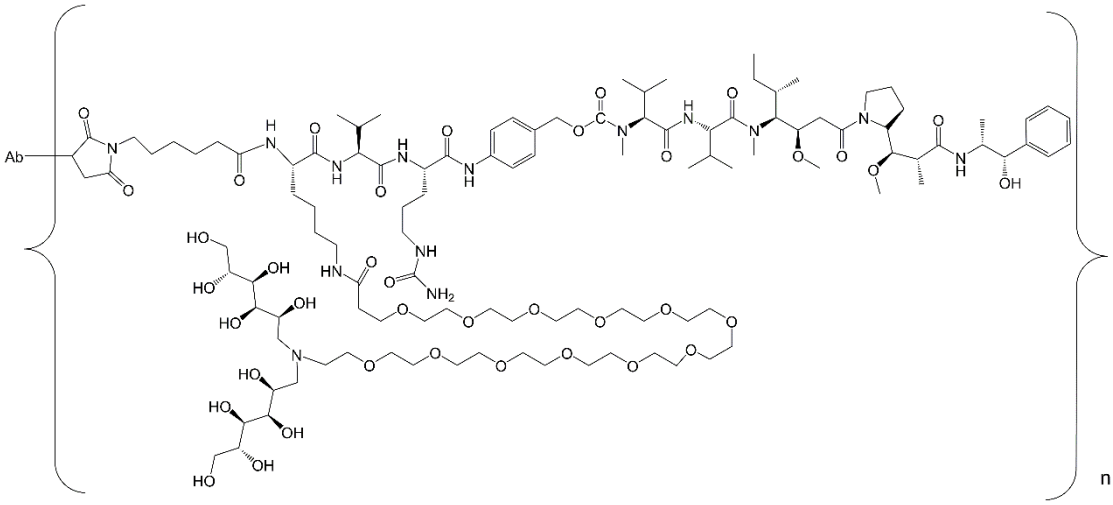


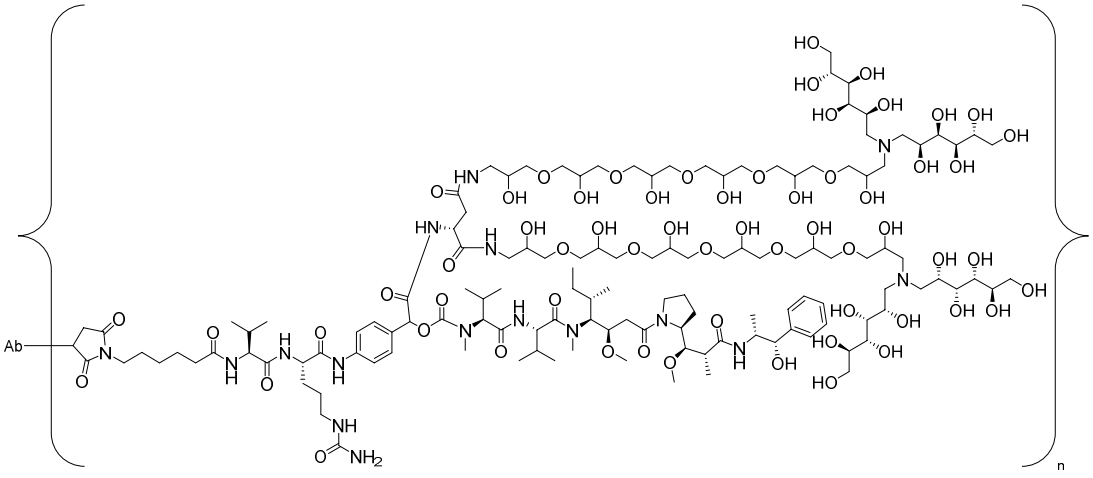








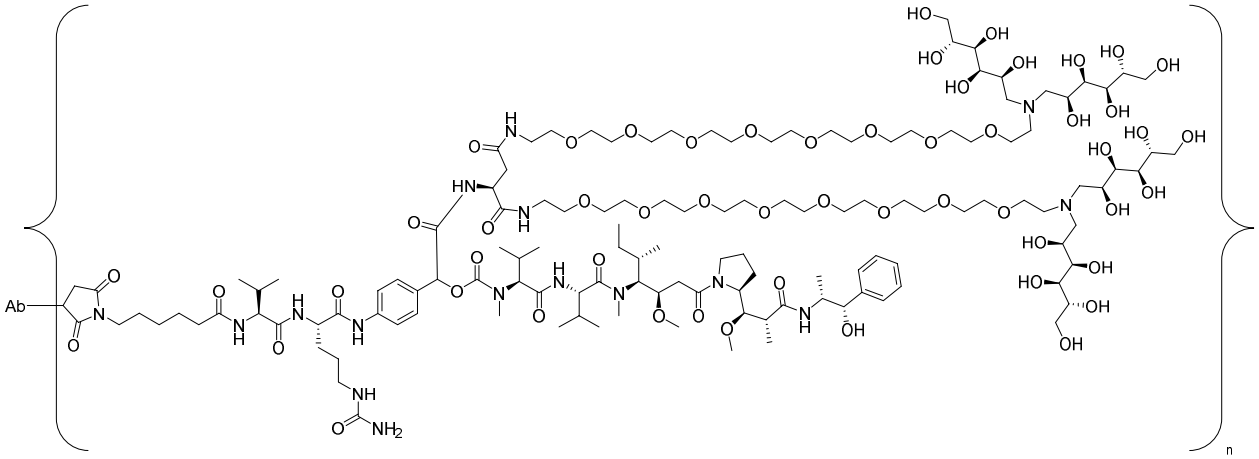




wherein Ab is the binding agent and n is p^{load}.

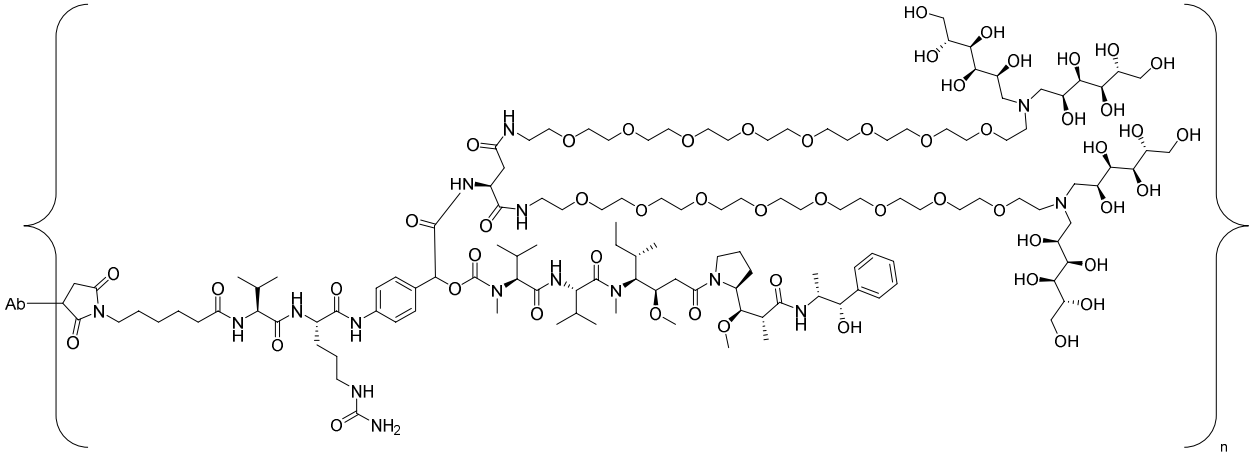
18. The conjugate of claim 6, wherein the conjugate:

(i) has the following structure:



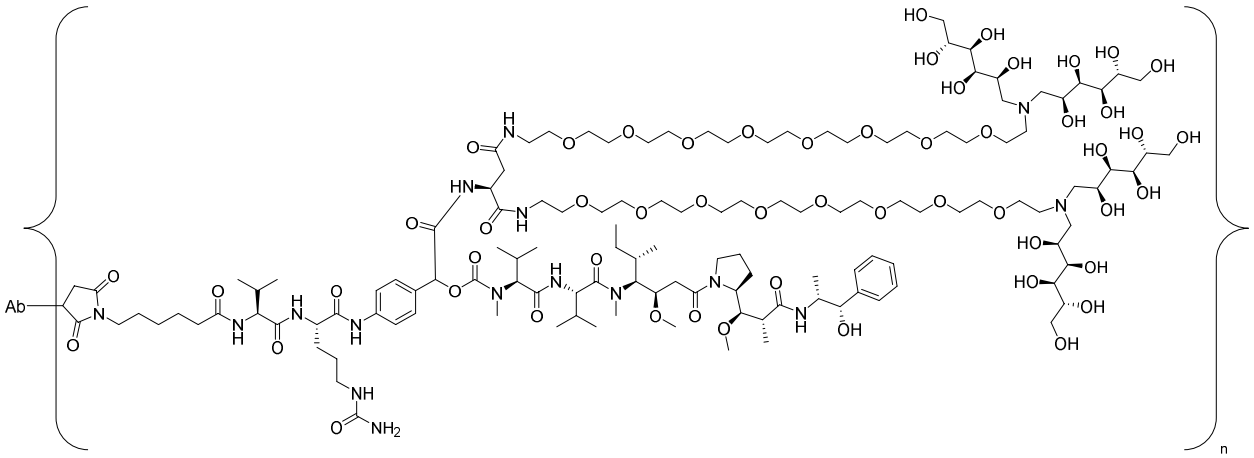
and wherein Ab is the binding agent and n is p^{load}, wherein p^{load} is from 1 to 8, about 2, about 4, about 6, about 8, about 10, about 12, about 14, about 16, 3 to 5, 6 to 8, or 8 to 16; or

(ii) has the following structure:



and wherein Ab is the binding agent of claim 1 or claim 2(a) and n is p^{load}, wherein p^{load} is from 1 to 8, about 2, about 4, about 6, about 8, about 10, about 12, about 14, about 16, 3 to 5, 6 to 8, or 8 to 16; or

(iii) has the following structure:



and wherein Ab is the binding agent of claim 2(i) and n is p^{load}, wherein p^{load} is 8.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(i) the binding agent of claim 1 or claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier; or

(ii) the conjugate of any one of claims 6-18 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. Use of the binding agent of claim 1 or claim 2, the conjugate of any one of claims 6-18, or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 in the manufacture of a medicament for (i) treating a PTK7+ cancer; or

(ii) use of the conjugate of any one of claims 6-18 or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating an autoimmune disease.

21. The use according to claim 20(i), wherein:

(i) the PTK7+ cancer is a solid tumor or a hematologic malignancy, optionally wherein:

(a) the PTK7+ cancer is selected from breast cancer (BC), lung cancer (LC), ovarian cancer (OVCA), esophageal cancer (EsC), gastric cancer (GC), bladder cancer (BLC), endometrial cancer (EC), head and neck cancer (HNC), cervical cancer, pharynx cancer, stomach cancer, myeloma, uterine cancer, colon cancer, hepatocellular cancer, and colorectal cancer; or

(b) the PTK7+ cancer is:

(I) a hematologic malignancy; or

(II) a solid tumor; or

(III) triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC); or

(IV) lung cancer; or

(V) head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC); or

(VI) non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC); or

(VII) ovarian cancer; or

(VIII) pharynx cancer; or

(IX) gastric cancer; or

(X) endometrial cancer; or

(XI) endometrial adenocarcinoma; or

(XII) bladder cancer; or

(XIII) bladder transitional cell papilloma; or

(XIV) esophageal cancer, optionally wherein the esophageal cancer is esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC); or

(XV) gastroesophageal cancer; or

(XVI) urothelial cancer; or

(XVII) uterine cancer; and/or

(ii) the use further comprises that an immunotherapy is to be administered to the subject, optionally wherein the immunotherapy comprises a checkpoint inhibitor, further optionally wherein the checkpoint inhibitor is:

(a) selected from an antibody that specifically binds to human PD-1, human PD-L1, or human CTLA4; or

(b) pembrolizumab, nivolumab, cemiplimab or ipilimumab; and/or

(iii) the use further comprises that a chemotherapy is to be administered to the subject; and/or

(iv) the conjugate or pharmaceutical composition is to be administered intravenously, optionally wherein the conjugate or pharmaceutical composition is to be administered in a dose of 0.1 mg/kg to 12 mg/kg; and/or

(v) a treatment outcome of the subject is improved, optionally wherein the improved treatment outcome is an objective response selected from stable disease, a partial response or a complete response, further optionally wherein the improved treatment outcome is:

(a) reduced tumor burden; or

(b) progression-free survival or disease-free survival.

22. The use according to claim 20(ii), wherein:

(i) the autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, or systemic lupus erythematosus; and/or

(ii) the use further comprises that an immunosuppressive therapy is to be administered to the subject; and/or

(iii) the conjugate or pharmaceutical composition is to be administered intravenously, optionally wherein the conjugate or pharmaceutical composition is to be administered in a dose of 0.1 mg/kg to 12 mg/kg; and/or

(iv) a treatment outcome of the subject is improved, optionally wherein the improved treatment outcome is a reduction in disease progression or alleviation of disease severity.