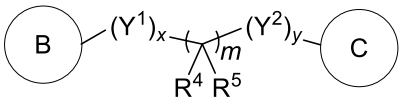
WE CLAIM:

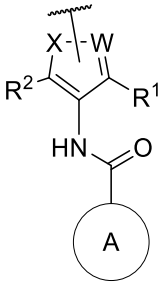
1. A compound of Formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



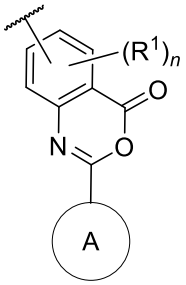
(I)

wherein

rings B and C are independently selected from Het, formula (a) and formula (b):



(a)



(b)

;

each ring A is optionally substituted by 1 to 4 R^A and is independently selected from:

a 5- or 6-membered monocyclic heteroaryl comprising 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N, and

an 8- to 10-membered bicyclic heteroaryl comprising 1 to 6 heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N;

Het is an 8- to 10-membered bicyclic heteroaryl comprising 1 to 6 heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N and that is optionally substituted by 1 to 4 R^A;

X is N, S, -N=C(R^1)-, or -C(R^3)=C(R^3)-;

W is -N= or -C(R^3)=,

Y^1 is selected from -O-, -CR_4R_5-, -$(CH_2)_{L1}$-O-, -$(CH_2)_{L1}$-$S(O)_{0-2}$- (wherein *L1* is an integer selected from 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5); and -$(CH_2)_{L1}$-N(R^L)- (wherein R^L is selected from H, C_1-C_6-alkyl, benzyl optionally substituted by 1 or 2 methoxy);

Y^2 is selected from -O-, -CR_4R_5-, -O-$(CH_2)_{L1}$-, -$S(O)_{0-2}$-$(CH_2)_{L1}$- (wherein *L1* is an integer selected from 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5); and -$N(R^L)$-$(CH_2)_{L1}$- (wherein R^L is H or C_{12}-C_6-alkyl);

m is an integer selected from 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6;

n is an integer selected from 0, 1, and 2;

x and *y* are integers independently selected from 0 and 1, wherein Y^1 and Y^2 are not simultaneously -O- when *m* is 0 and each of *x* and *y* is 1;

each R^1 and R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, C_2-C_6-alkynyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxyl, cyano, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, and 3- to 10-membered heterocyclyl (wherein 1-4 heterocycloalkyl members are independently selected from N, O, and S), wherein any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxyl, or heterocyclyl is optionally substituted by 1 to 4 R^A;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)OR, -(C_1-C_6-alkyl)C(O)OR, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, -$P(O)(OR)_2$, -C(O)NHR, halo, -CN, C_3-C_6-cycloalkenyl, 3- to 10-membered heterocyclyl (wherein 1-4 heterocycloalkyl members are independently selected from N, O, and S), and 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl (wherein 1-4 heteroaryl members are independently selected from N, O, and S), wherein any alkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocyclyl, or heteroaryl is optionally substituted by 1 to 4 R^A;

R is selected from the group consisting of H; C_1-C_6-alkyl optionally substituted with –((C_1-C_6-alkyl)OC(O)OC_1-C_6-alkyl), -$OP(O)(OH)_2$, -OC(O)(C_1-C_6-alkyl)-O-$P(O)(OH)_2$, -NH_2, -$CH(NH_2)$COOH, or 3- to 10-membered heterocyclyl (wherein 1-4 heterocycloalkyl members are independently selected from N, O, and S); and -(C_1-C_6-alkyl)(C_6-C_{10}-aryl);

each R^4 and R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, C_1-C_6-alkyl, and C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, wherein

optionally any two R^4 and R^5 bound to the same carbon atom, together with the carbon atom to which they are bound, represent a C_3-C_5-cycoalkyl optionally substituted by 1 to 3 R^A, or they represent a C_2-C_6-alkenyl; and

optionally any two of R^4 and R^5 not bound to the same carbon atom, together with the respective carbon atoms to which they are bound, represent a C_3-C_7-cycoalkyl optionally substituted by 1 to 3 R^A;

each R^A is independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, -CN, -hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, C_2-C_6-alkynyl, NH_2, -$S(O)_{0-2}$-(C_1-C_6-alkyl), -$S(O)_{0-2}$-(C_6-C_{10}-aryl), -C(O)(C_1-C_6-alkyl), -C(O)(C_1-C_6-alkyl)COOH, -C(O)(C_1-C_6-alkyl)C(O)(C_1-C_6-alkoxy), -C(O)N(H or C_1-C_6-alkyl)$_2$, -C(O)(C_3-C_{14}-cycloalkyl), -C_3-C_{14}- cycloalkyl, -(C_1-C_6-alkyl)(C_3-C_{14}-cycloalkyl), C_6-C_{10}-aryl, 3- to 14-membered heterocycloalkyl and -(C_1-C_6-alkyl)-(3- to 14-membered heterocycloalkyl) (wherein 1-4 heterocycloalkyl members are independently selected from N, O, and S), and 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl (wherein 1-4 heteroaryl members are independently selected from N, O, and S) that is optionally substituted with C_1-C_6-alkyl.

2. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein:

Y^1 and Y^2 are independently selected from -O- and -CR_4R_5-;

each R^1 and R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, C_2-C_6-alkynyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxyl, cyano, and C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, wherein any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkoxyl is optionally substituted by 1 to 4 R^A;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)OR, -C(O)NHR, C_3-C_6-cycloalkenyl, and 3- to 10-membered heterocyclyl, wherein any alkyl, cycloalkenyl, or heterocyclyl is optionally substituted by 1 to 4 R^A;

R is selected from the group consisting of H, C_1-C_6-alkyl optionally substituted with –((C_1-C_6-alkyl)OC(O)OC_1-C_6-alkyl) or 3- to 10-membered heterocyclyl, and -(C_1-C_6-alkyl)(C_6-C_{10}-aryl);

each R^4 and R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, C_1-C_6-alkyl, and C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, wherein

optionally any two R^4 and R^5 bound to the same carbon atom, together with the carbon atom to which they are bound, represent a C_3-C_5-cycoalkyl optionally substituted by 1 to 3 R^A; and

optionally any two of R^4 and R^5 not bound to the same carbon atom, together with the respective carbon atoms to which they are bound, represent a C_3-C_7-cycoalkyl optionally substituted by 1 to 3 R^A; and

each R^A is independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, -CN, -hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, C_2-C_6-alkynyl, NH_2, -$S(O)_{0-2}$-(C_1-C_6-alkyl), -$S(O)_{0-2}$-(C_6-C_{10}-aryl), -C(O)(C_1-C_6-alkyl), -C(O)(C_1-C_6-alkyl)COOH, -C(O)(C_3-C_{14}-cycloalkyl), -C_3-C_{14}- cycloalkyl, -(C_1-C_6-alkyl)(C_3-C_{14}-cycloalkyl), C_6-C_{10}-aryl, 3- to 14-membered heterocycloalkyl and -(C_1-C_6-alkyl)-(3- to 14-membered heterocycloalkyl) (wherein 1-4 heterocycloalkyl members are independently selected from N, O, and S), and 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl (wherein 1-4 heteroaryl members are independently selected from N, O, and S).

3. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein ring B is the same as ring C.

4. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein ring B is different from ring C.

5. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein each of rings B and C is of formula (a).

6. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 5, wherein:

ring B is of formula (a), wherein ring A is a 5- or 6-membered monocyclic heteroaryl comprising 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N, optionally substituted by 1 to 4 R^A; and

ring C is of formula (a), wherein ring A is an 8- to 10-membered bicyclic heteroaryl comprising 1 to 6 heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N, optionally substituted by 1 to 4 R^A.

7. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 6, wherein the monocyclic heteroaryl is one selected from the group consisting of pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, thienyl, isoxazolyl, oxathiadiazolyl, isothiazolyl, tetrazolyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, furanyl.

8. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 6 or 7, wherein monocyclic heteroaryl is one selected from the group consisting of pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, and pyrimidinyl.

9. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the monocyclic heteroaryl is substituted by R^A that is a 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl (wherein 1-4 heteroaryl members are independently selected from N, O, and S).

10. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 9, wherein the 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl is selected from tetrazolyl, imidazolyl, and triazolyl.

11. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 6, wherein the 8- to 10-membered bicyclic heteroaryl is one selected from the group consisting of indolizinyl, benzothienyl, quinazolinyl, purinyl, indolyl, quinolinyl, tetrazolo[1,5-b]pyridazinyl, [1,2,3]triazolo[1,5-b]pyridazinyl, bicyclic [1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidinyl, [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidinyl, and imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidinyl.

12. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 5, wherein ring B and ring C are the same and are of formula (a), wherein ring A is a 5- or 6-membered monocyclic heteroaryl comprising 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N, optionally substituted by 1 to 4 R^A.

13. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 12, wherein the monocyclic heteroaryl is one selected from the group consisting of pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, thienyl, isoxazolyl, oxathiadiazolyl, isothiazolyl, tetrazolyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, and furanyl.

14. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 5, wherein ring B and ring C are the same and are of formula (a), wherein ring A is an 8- to 10-membered bicyclic heteroaryl.

15. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein ring B is Het optionally substituted by 1 to 4 R^A and ring C is of formula (a).

16. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 15, wherein Het is selected from the group consisting of indolizinyl, benzothienyl, quinazolinyl, purinyl, indolyl, quinolinyl, tetrazolo[1,5-b]pyridazinyl, [1,2,3]triazolo[1,5-b]pyridazinyl, [1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidinyl, [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidinyl, and imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidinyl.

17. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 15 or 16, wherein Het is benzothienyl optionally substituted by 1 to 4 R^A selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, -C(O)(C_1-C_6-alkyl)COOH.

18. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt according to any one of claims 1 to 17, wherein X is -C(R^3)=C(R^3)- and W is -C(R^3)=.

19. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, and C_1-C_6-alkoxyl.

20. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 19, wherein R^2 is -C(O)OR and R is H or C_1-C_6-alkyl.

21. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt according to any one of claims 1 to 20, wherein each of Y^1 and Y^2 is -O-, and each of *x* and *y* is 1.

22. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 21, wherein *m* is 4.

23. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20, wherein each of Y^1 and Y^2 is -CR_4R_5-, and each of *x* and *y* is 1.

24. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 23, wherein *m* is 1.

25. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein each R^1 is independently selected from H and halo.

26. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein:

ring B is of formula (a), wherein ring A is a 6-membered monocyclic heteroaryl comprising 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N, and that is

substituted by a 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl (wherein 1-4 heteroaryl members are independently selected from N, O, and S);

ring C is of formula (a), wherein ring A is an 8- to 10-membered bicyclic heteroaryl;

X is -C(R^3)=C(R^3)- and W is -C(R^3)=, wherein each R^3 is independently selected from H, halo, and C_1-C_6-alkoxyl;

R^1 is H;

R^2 is -C(O)OR and R is H or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

each R^4 and R^5 is H;

each of *x* and *y* is 1; and

each of Y^1 and Y^2 is -O- and *m* is 4, or each of Y^1 and Y^2 is -CH_2- and *m* is 1.

27. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein:

each of rings B and C is of formula (a), wherein each ring A is a 6-membered monocyclic heteroaryl comprising 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N, and that is substituted by one R^A that is a 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl (wherein 1-4 heteroaryl members are independently selected from N, O, and S);

X is -C(R^3)=C(R^3)- and W is -C(R^3)=, wherein each R^3 is independently selected from H and halo;

R^1 is H;

R^2 is -C(O)OR and R is H;

each of *x* and *y* is 1;

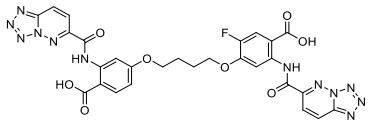
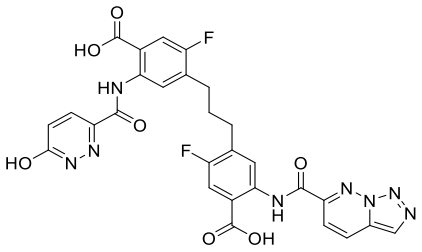
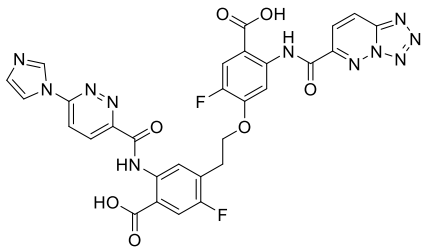
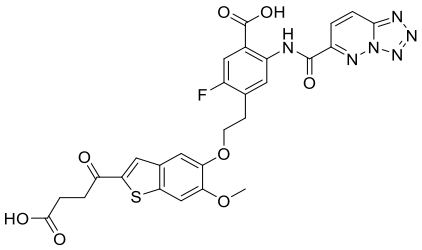
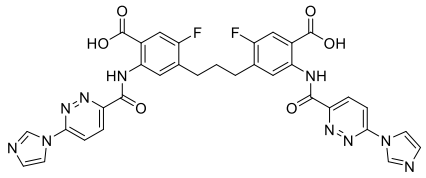
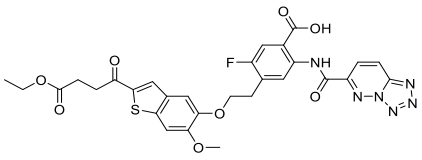
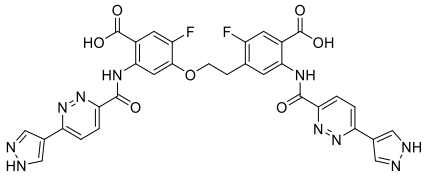
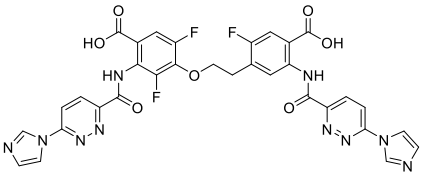
m is 0 or 1;

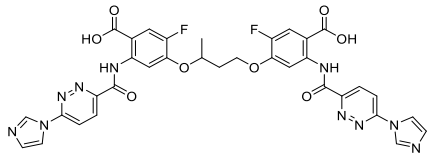
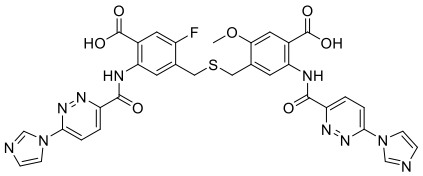
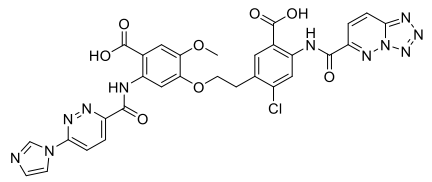
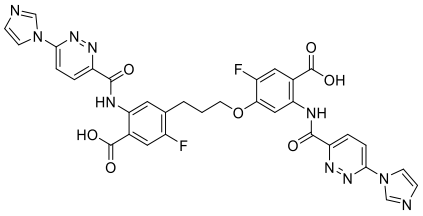
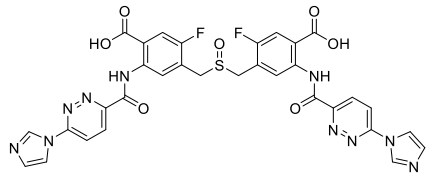
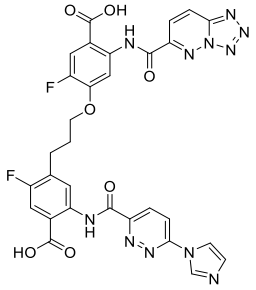
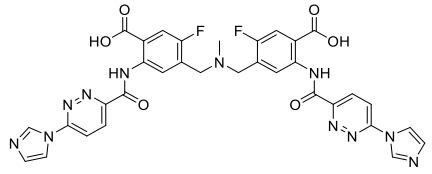
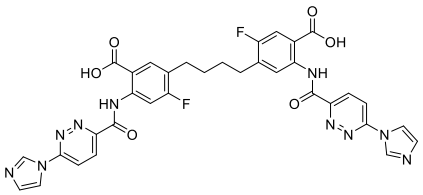
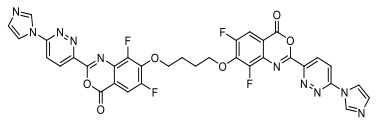
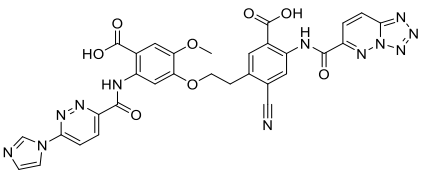
Y^1 is -CR_4R_5- or -$(CH_2)_{L1}$-N(R^L)-; and

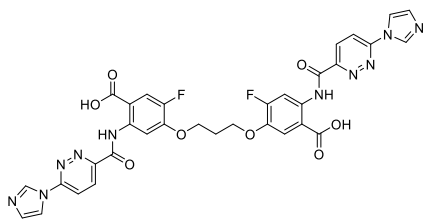
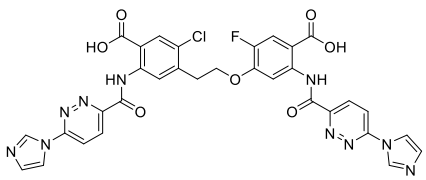
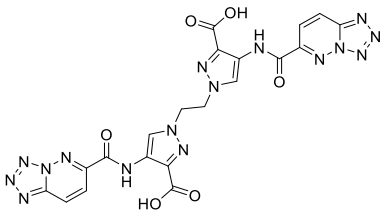
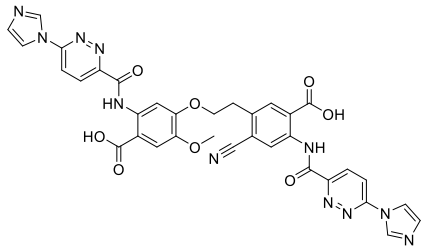
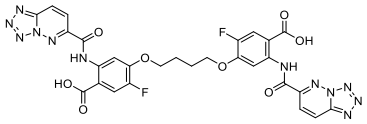
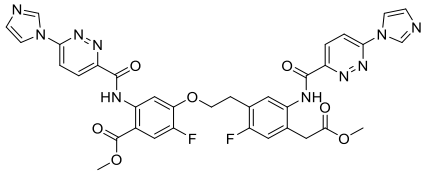
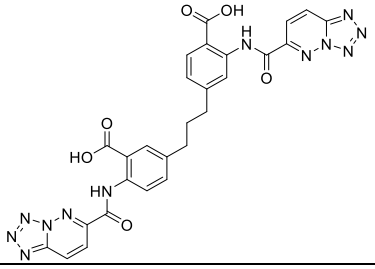
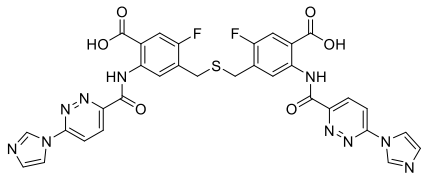
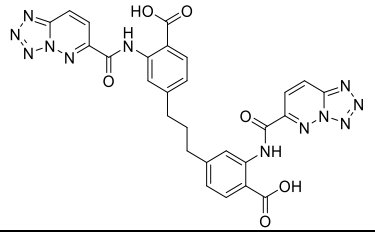
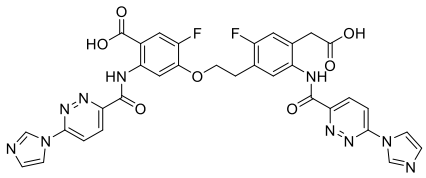
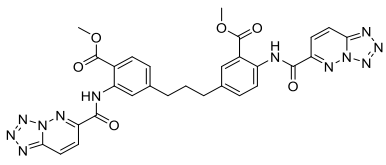
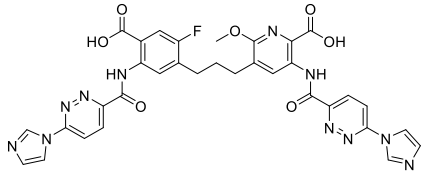
Y^2 is -O- or -CR_4R_5-.

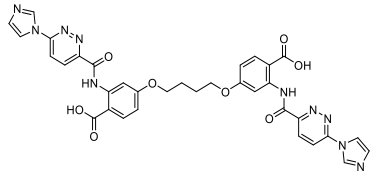
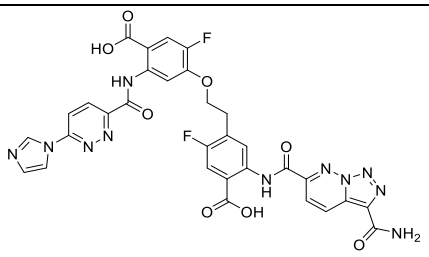
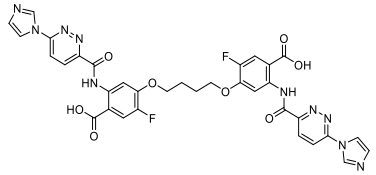
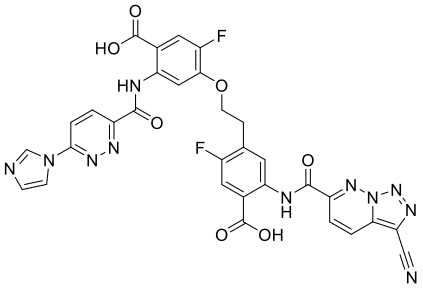
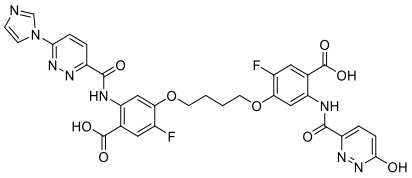
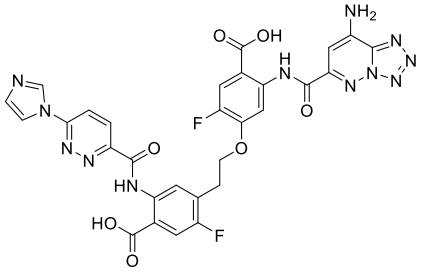
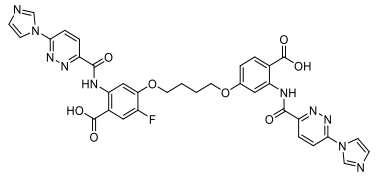
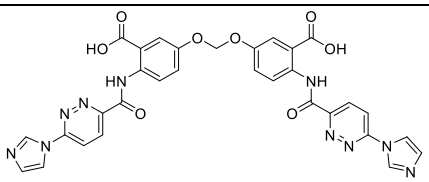
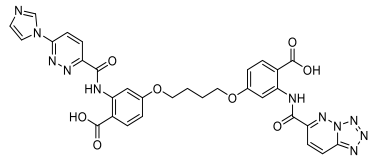
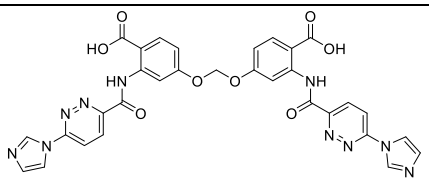
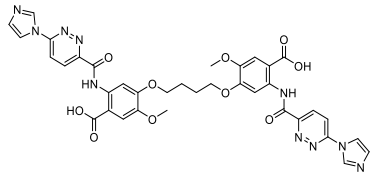
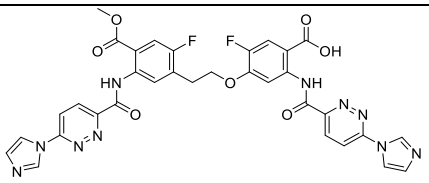
28. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 27, wherein each ring A is pyridazinyl, and each R^A is imidazolyl.

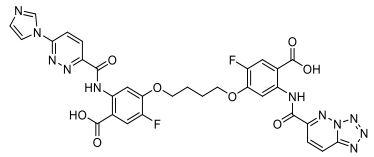
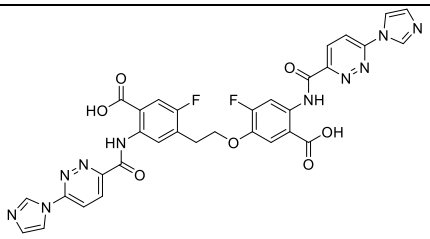
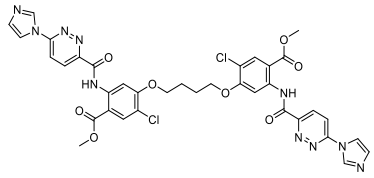
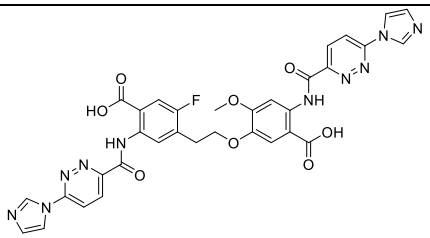
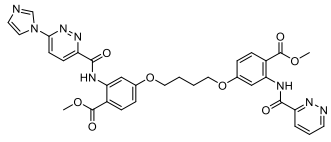
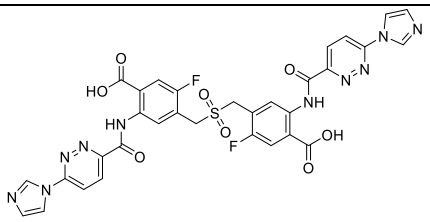
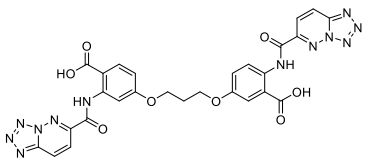
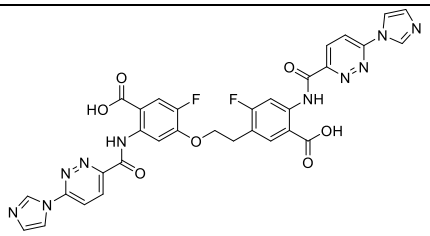
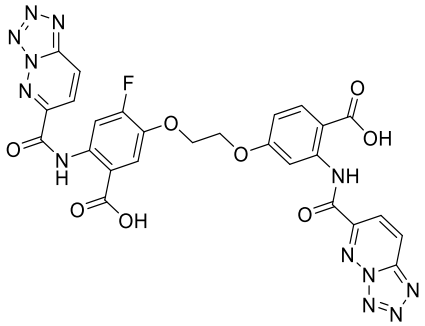
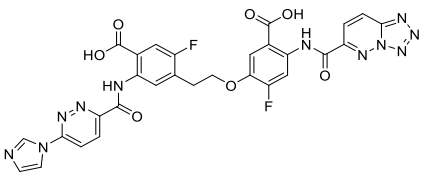
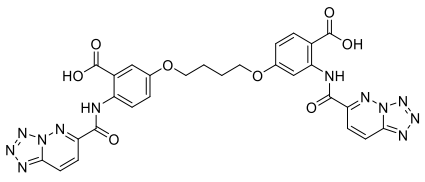
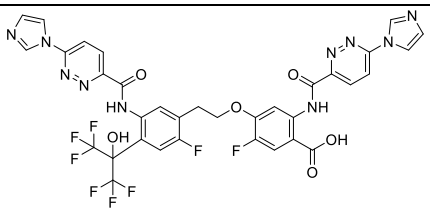
29. The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein the compound is one selected from the following table:

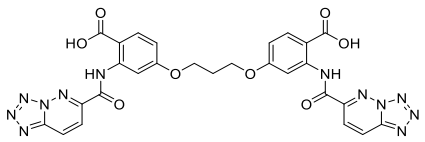
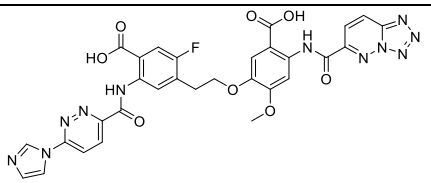
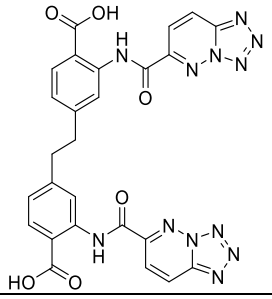
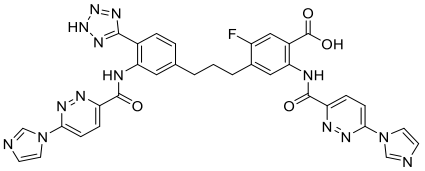
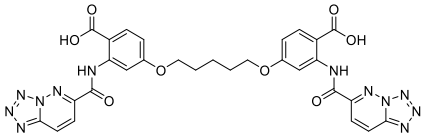
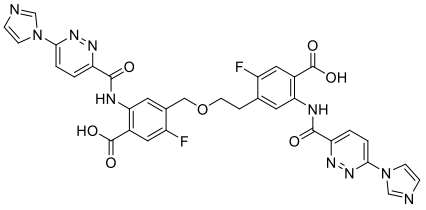
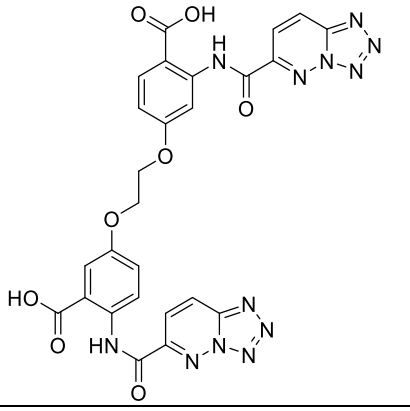
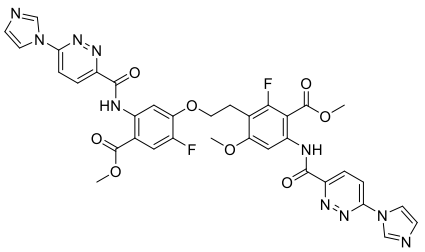
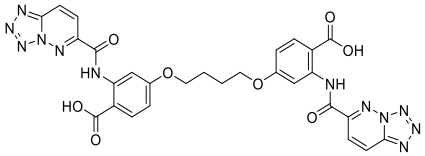
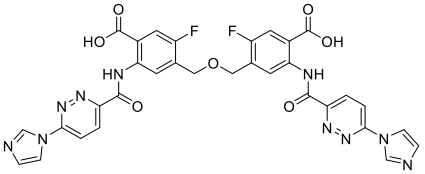
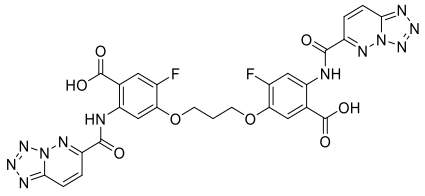
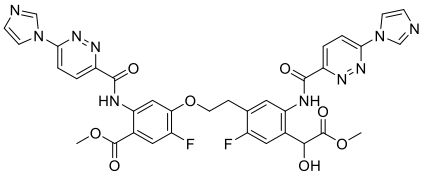
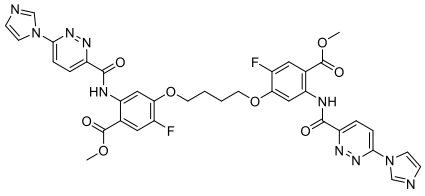
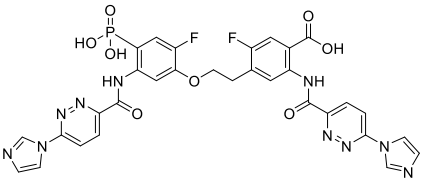
1		**120**	
2		**121**	
3		**122**	
4		**123**	

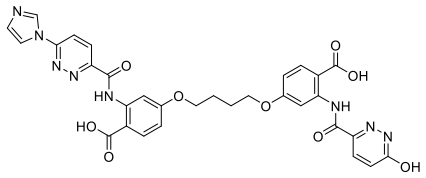
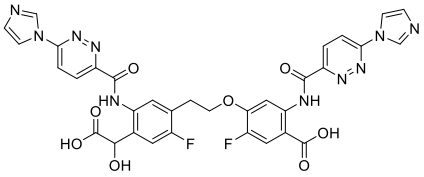
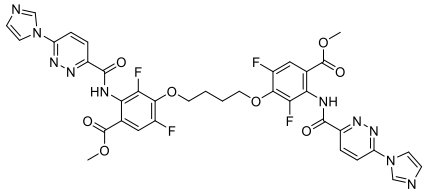
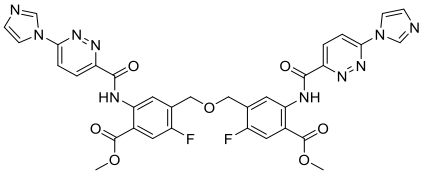
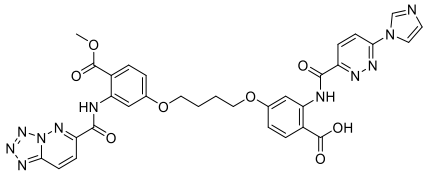
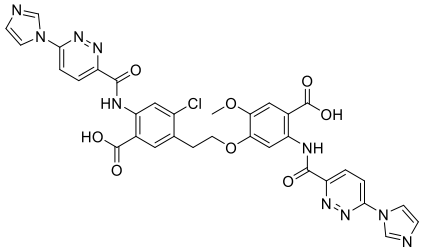
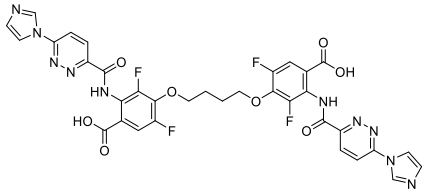
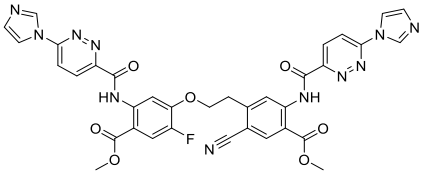
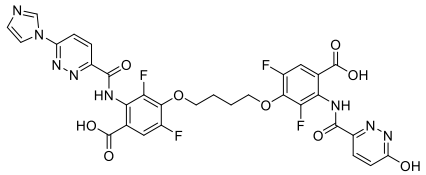
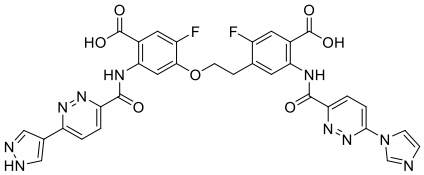
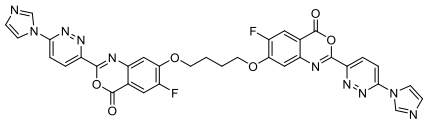
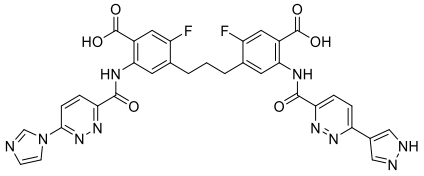
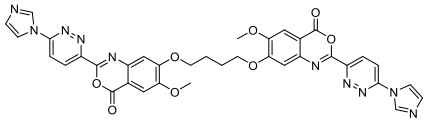
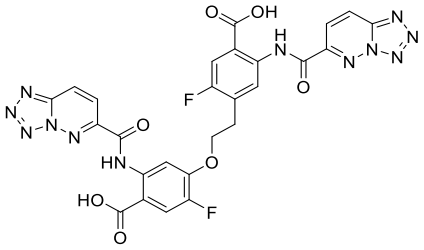
5		**124**	
6		**125**	
7		**126**	
8		**127**	
9		**128**	

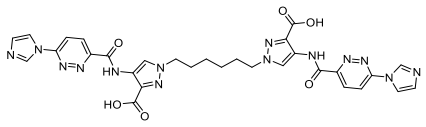
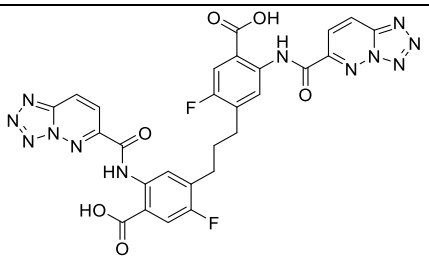
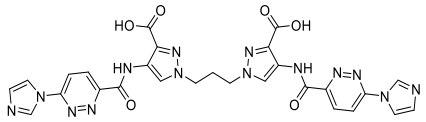
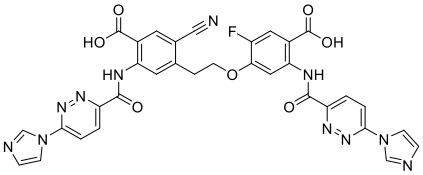
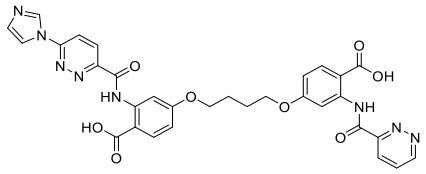
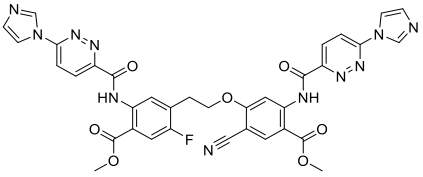
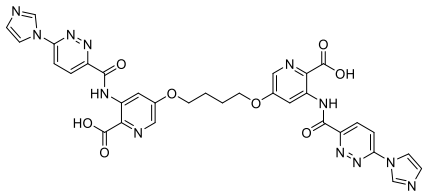
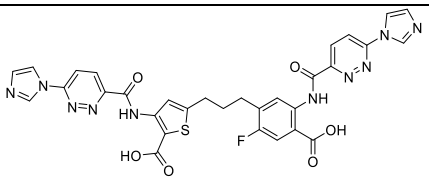
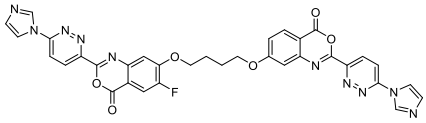
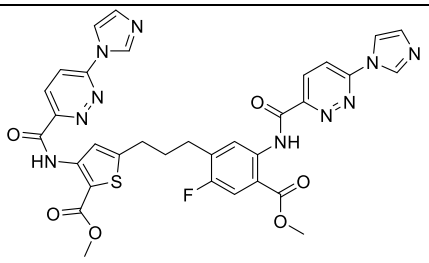
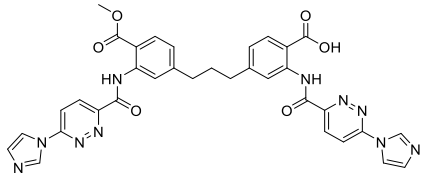
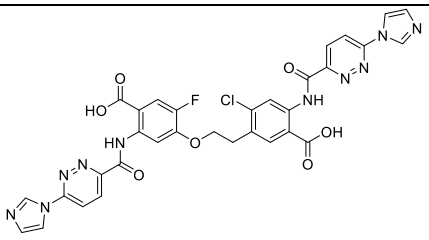
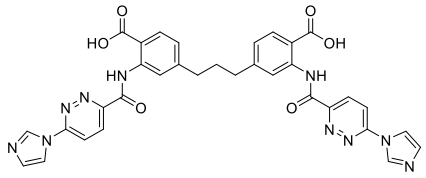
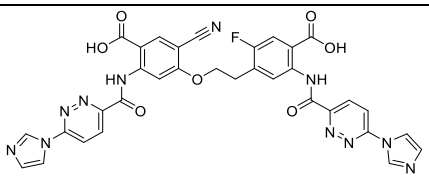
10		**129**	
11		**130**	
12		**131**	
13		**132**	
14		**133**	
15		**134**	

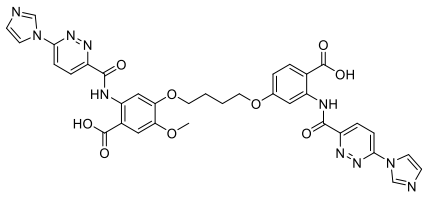
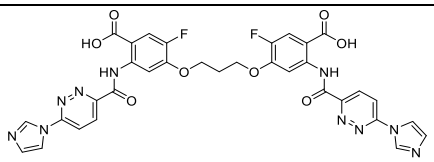
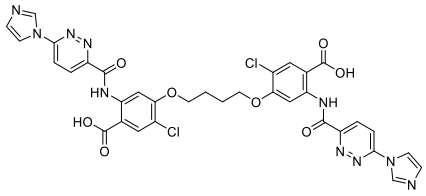
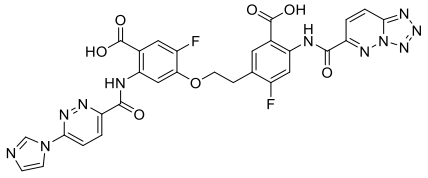
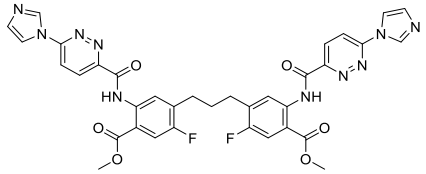
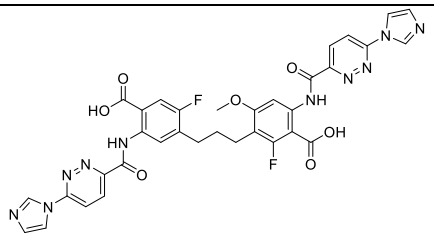
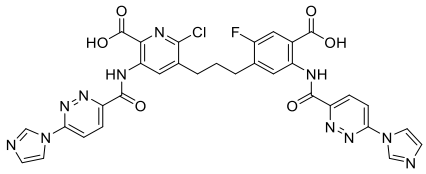
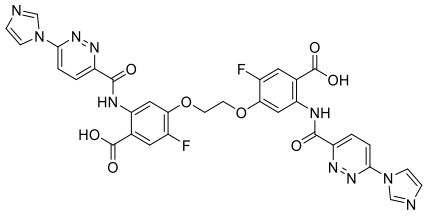
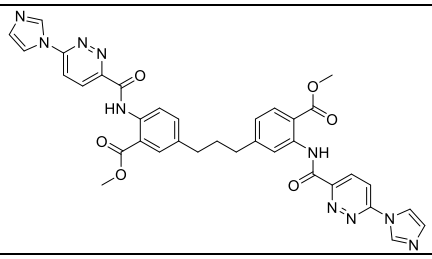
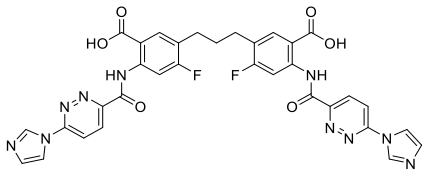
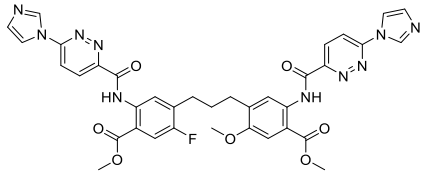
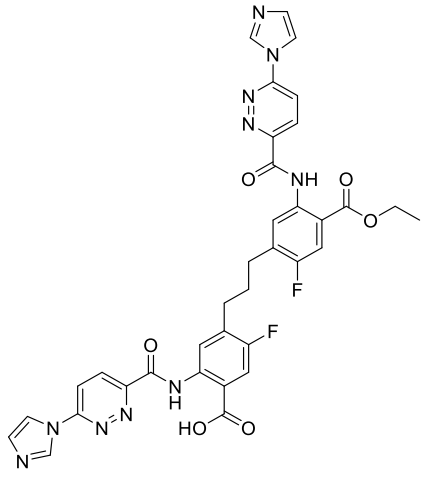
16		**135**	
17		**136**	
18		**137**	
19		**138**	
20		**139**	
21		**140**	

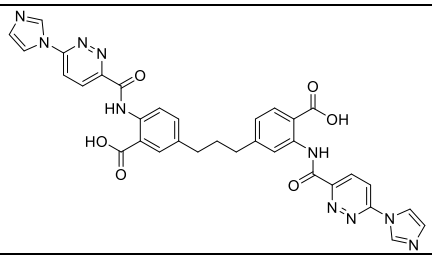
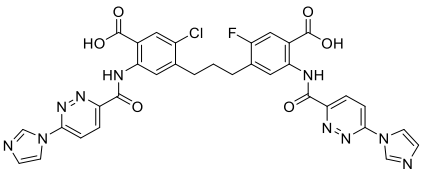
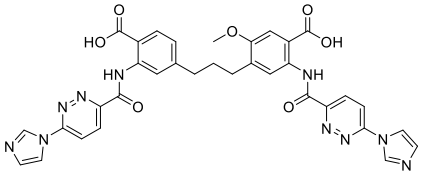
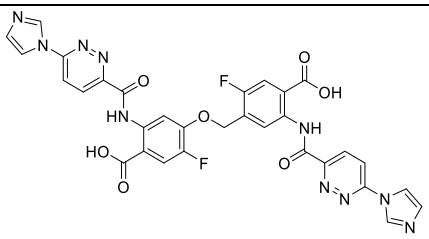
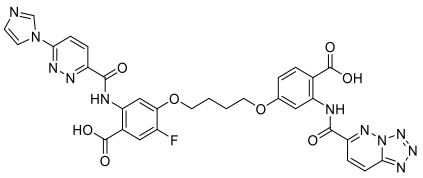
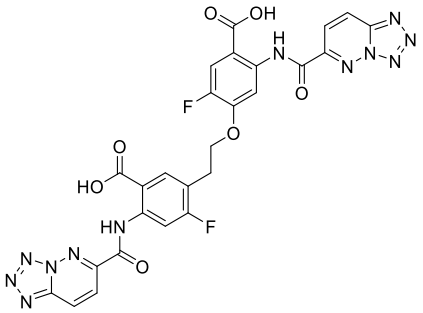
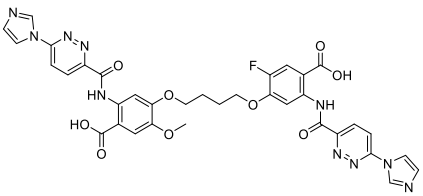
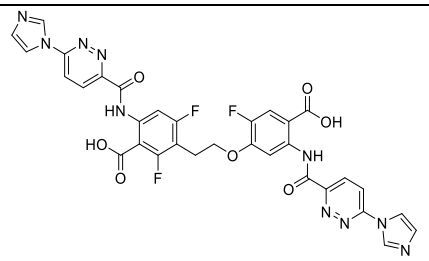
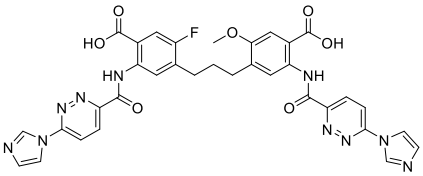
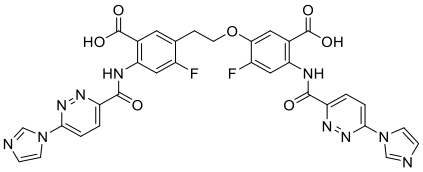
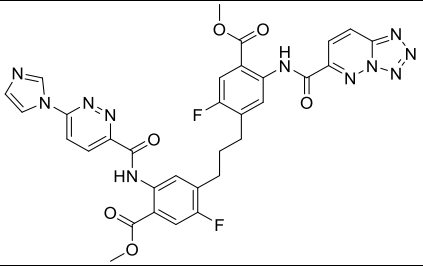
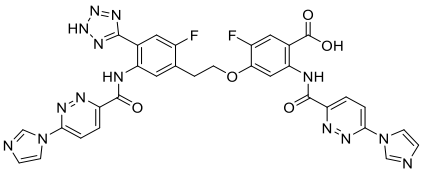
22		**141**	
23		**142**	
24		**143**	
25		**144**	
26		**145**	
27		**146**	

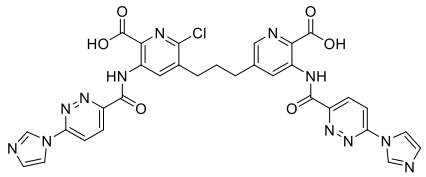
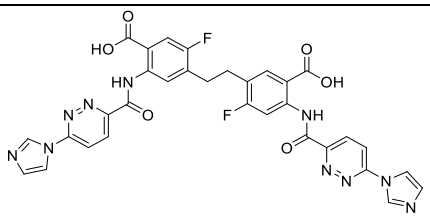
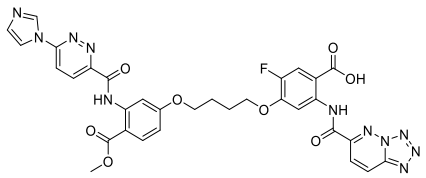
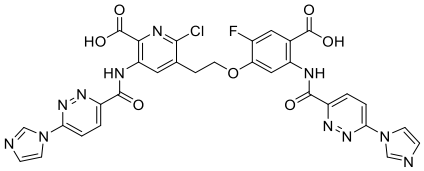
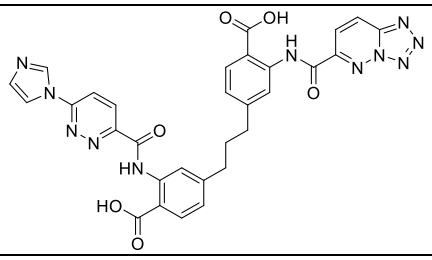
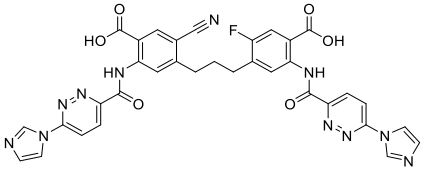
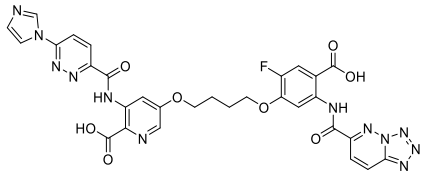
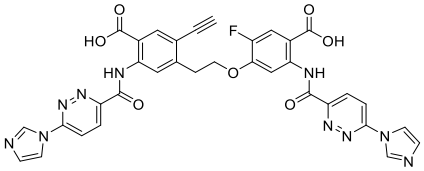
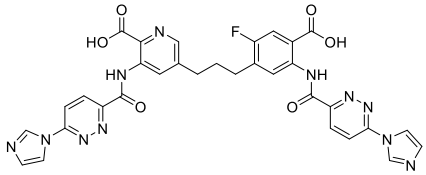
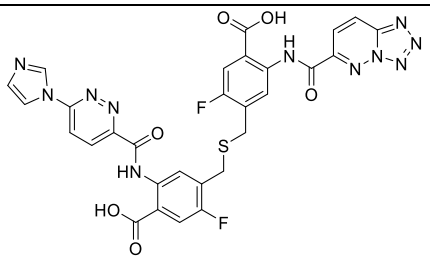
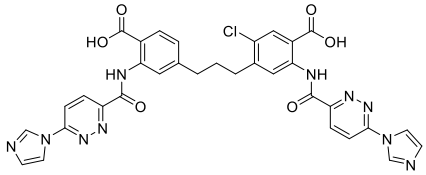
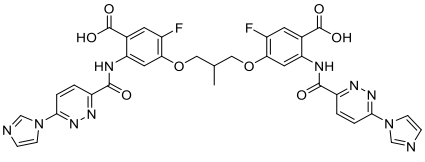
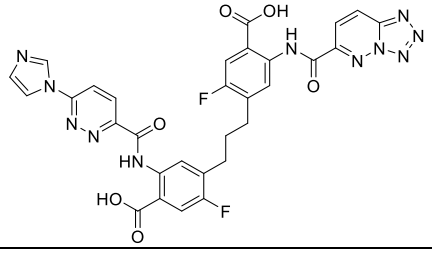
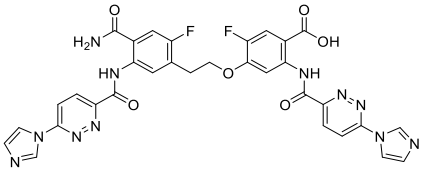
28		**147**	
29		**148**	
30		**149**	
31		**150**	
32		**151**	
33		**152**	
34		**153**	

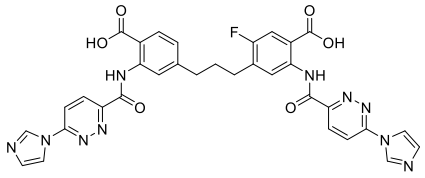
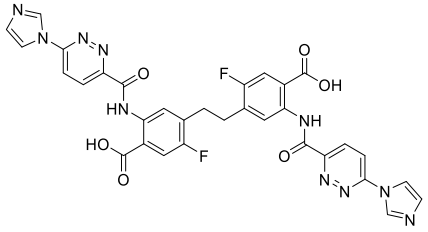
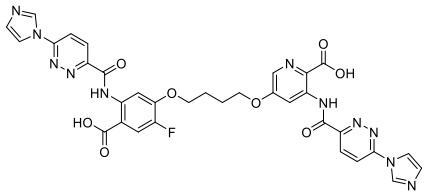
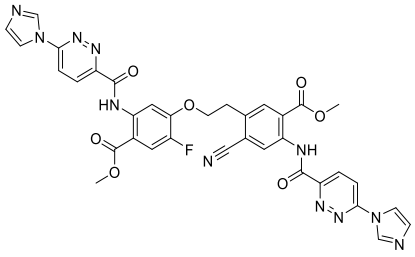
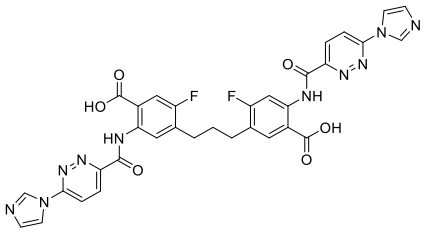
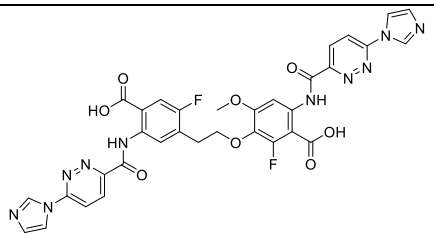
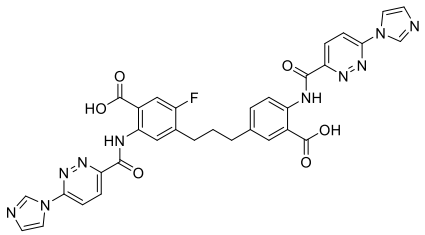
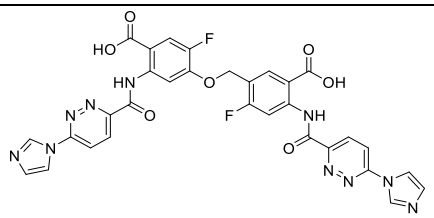
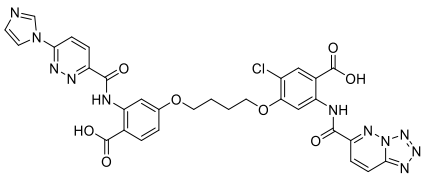
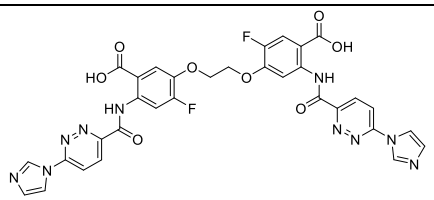
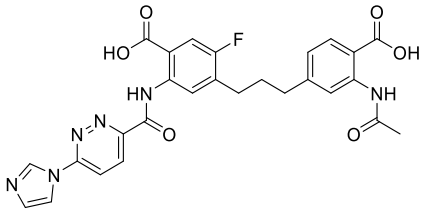
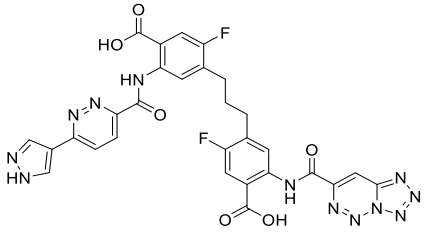
35		**154**	
36		**155**	
37		**156**	
38		**157**	
39		**158**	
40		**159**	
41		**160**	

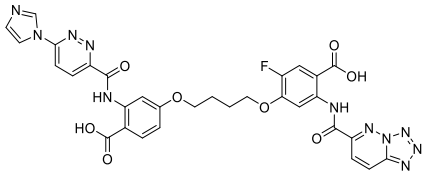
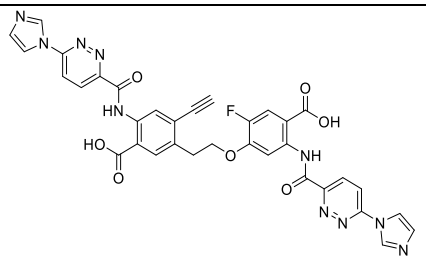
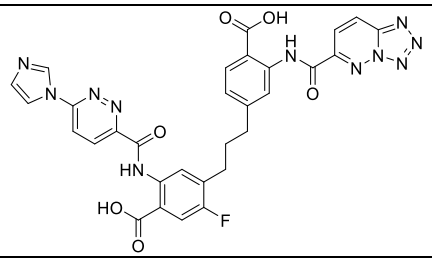
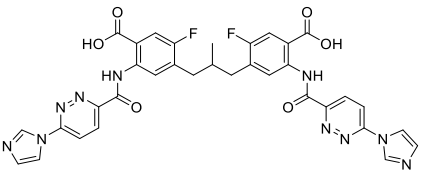
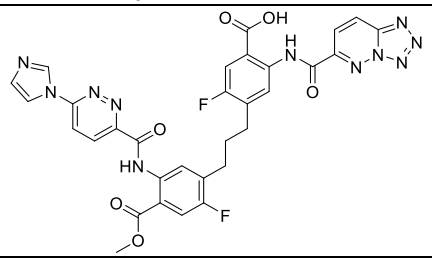
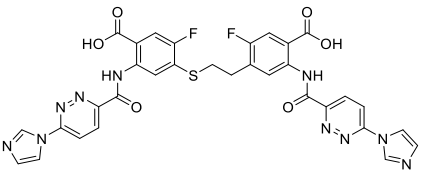
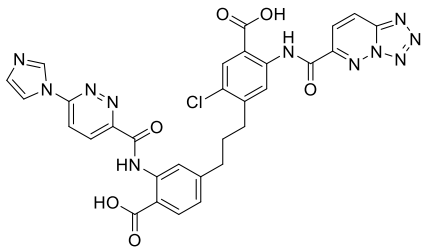
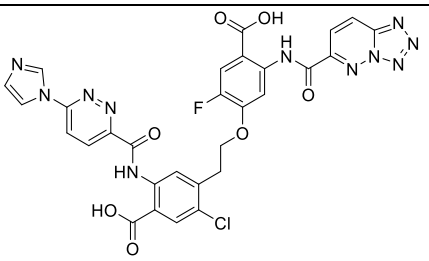
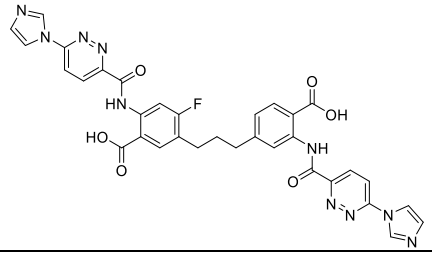
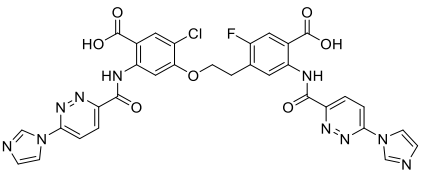
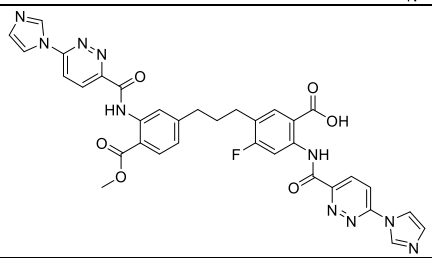
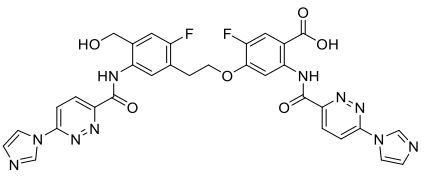
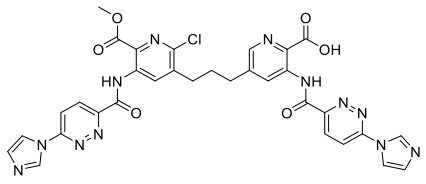
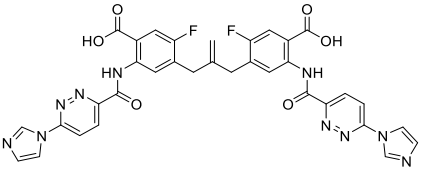
42		**161**	
43		**162**	
44		**163**	
45		**164**	
46		**165**	
47		**166**	
48		**167**	

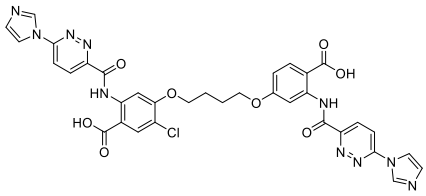
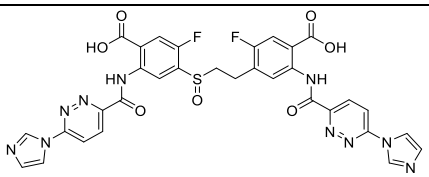
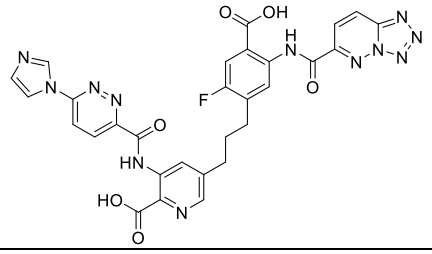
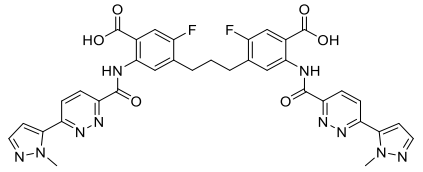
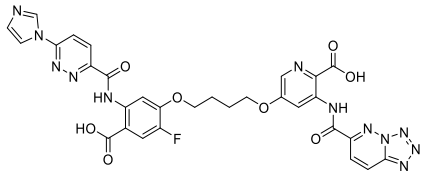
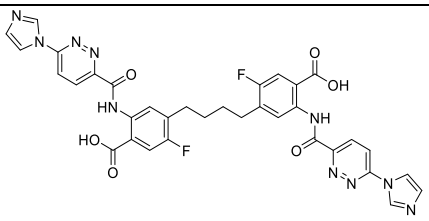
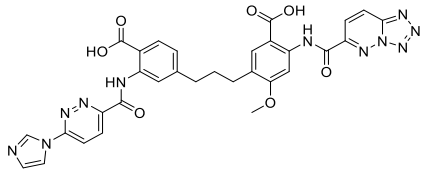
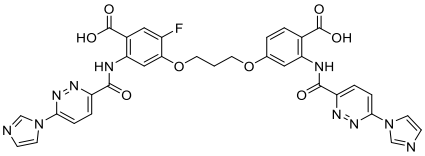
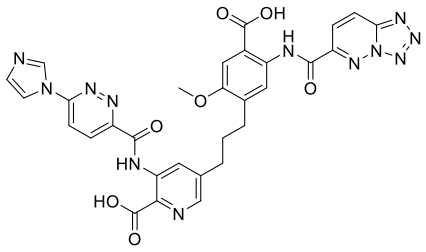
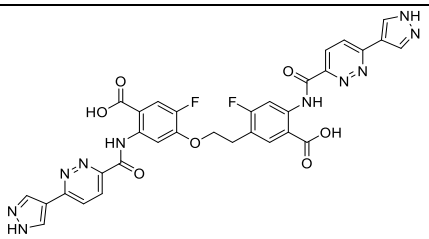
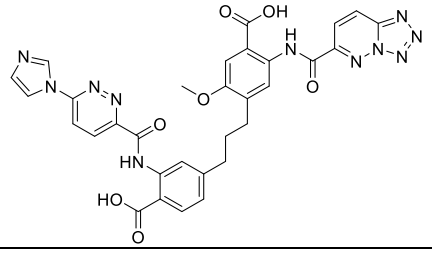
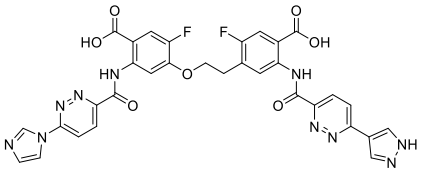
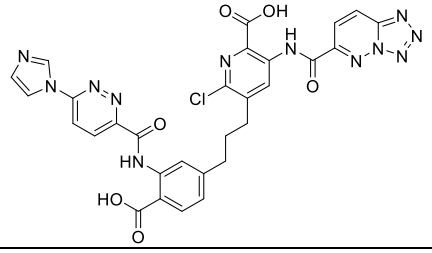
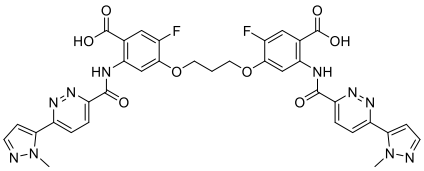
49		**168**	
50		**169**	
51		**170**	
52		**171**	
53		**172**	
54		**173**	

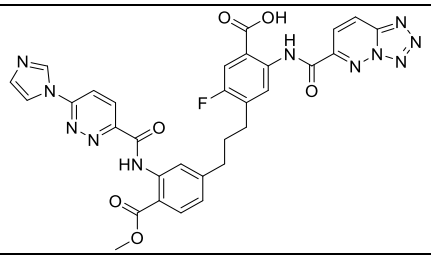
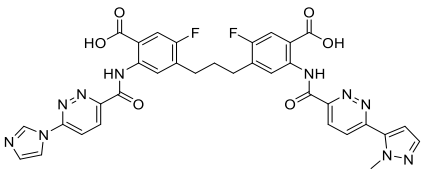
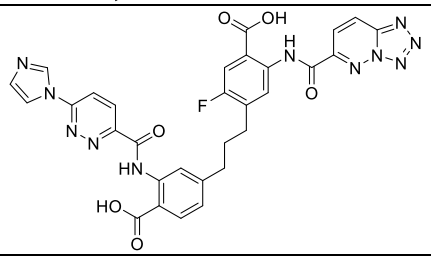
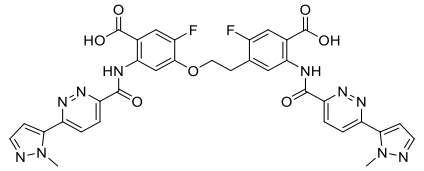
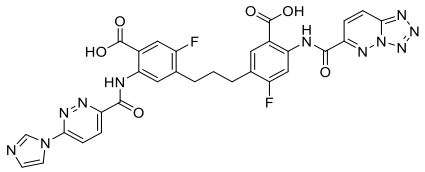
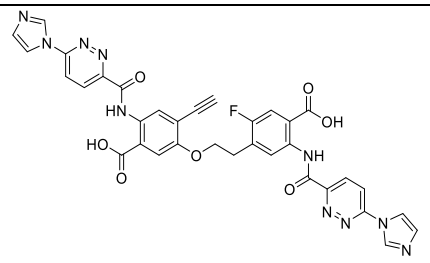
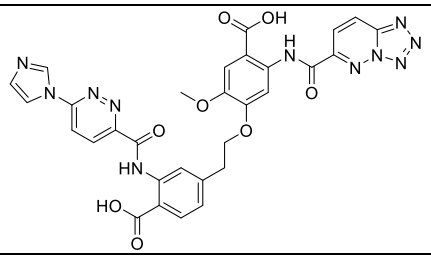
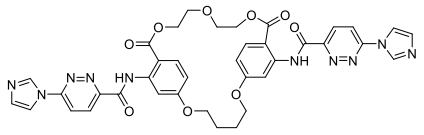
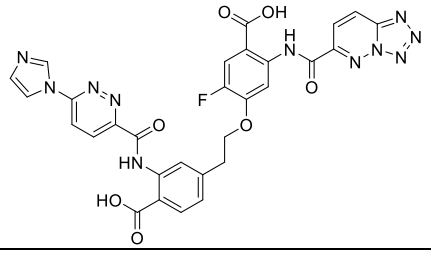
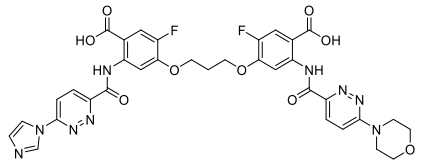
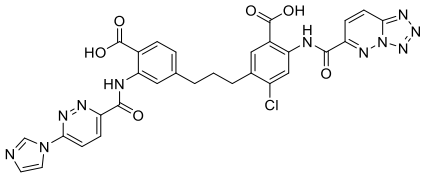
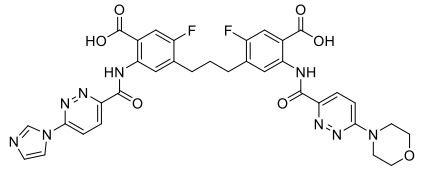
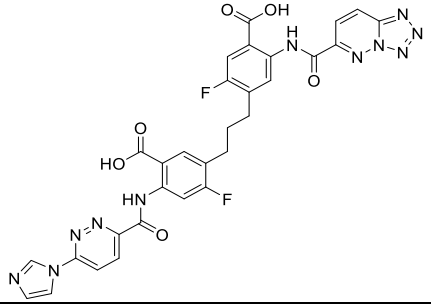
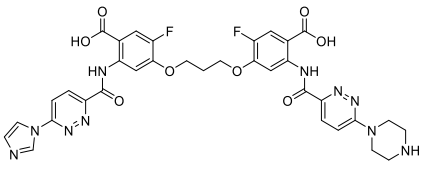
55		**174**	
56		**175**	
57		**176**	
58		**177**	
59		**178**	
60		**179**	

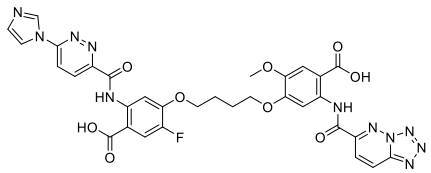
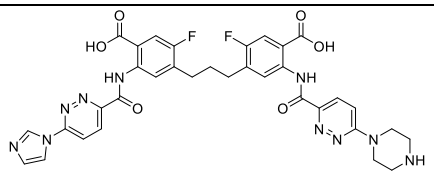
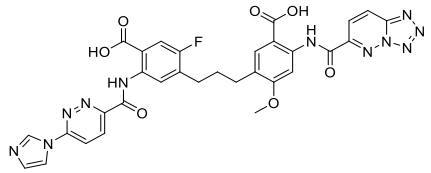
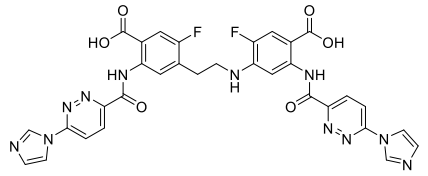
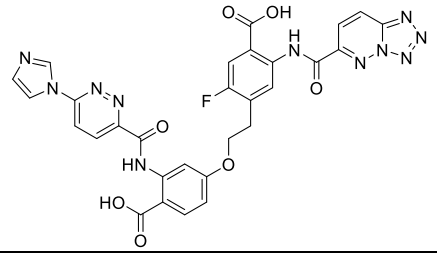
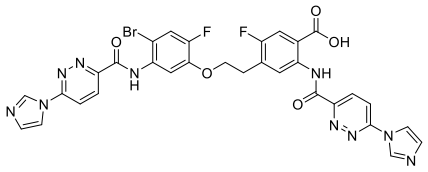
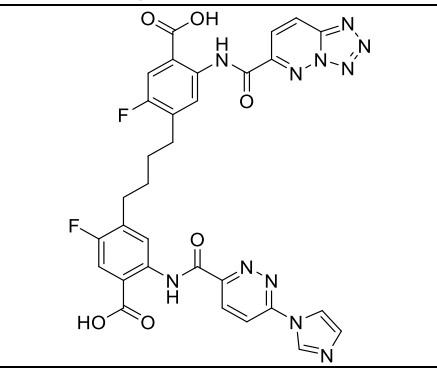
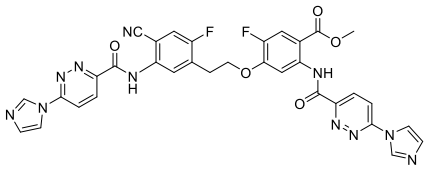
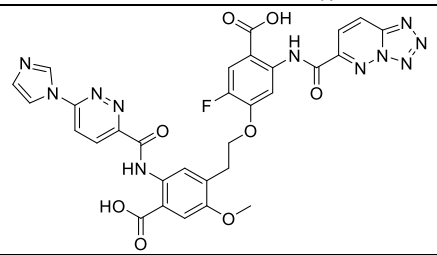
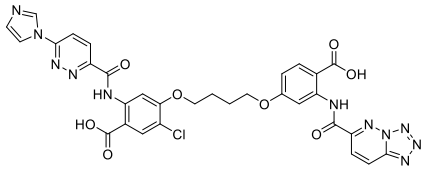
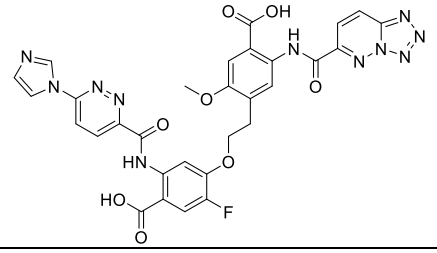
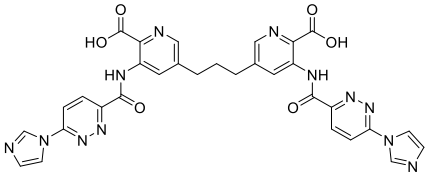
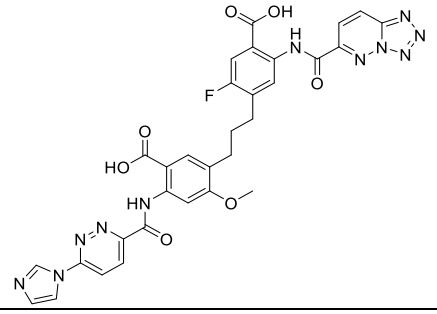
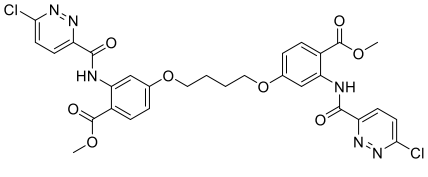
61		**180**	
62		**181**	
63		**182**	
64		**183**	
65		**184**	
66		**185**	
67		**186**	

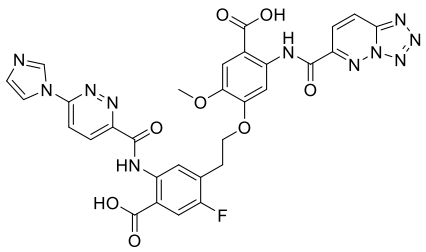
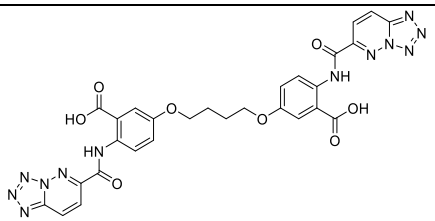
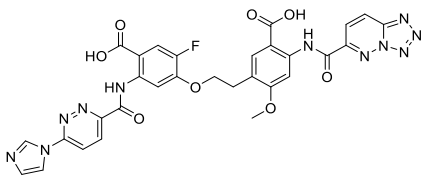
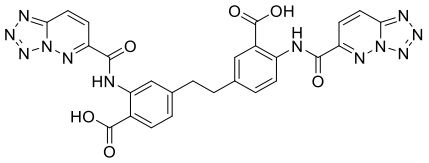
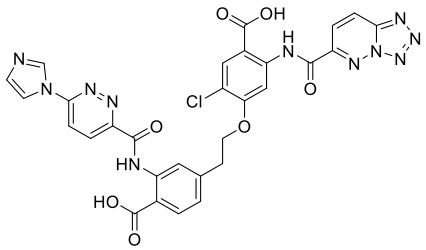
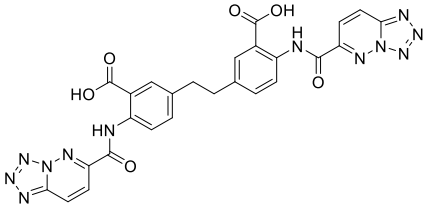
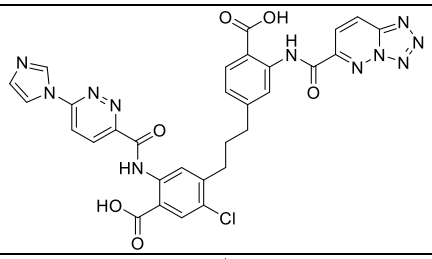
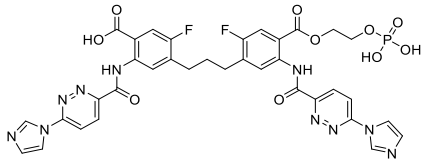
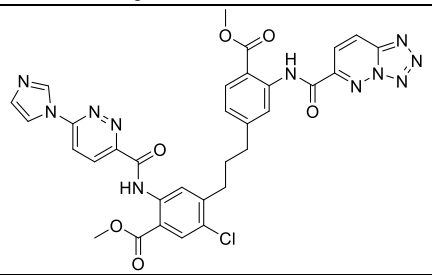
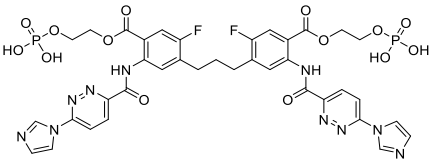
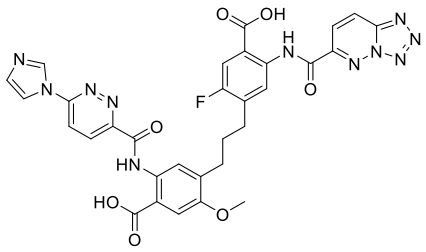
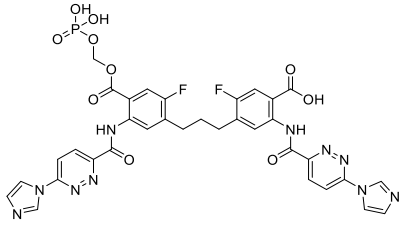
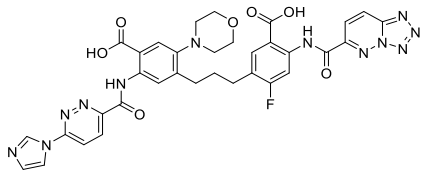
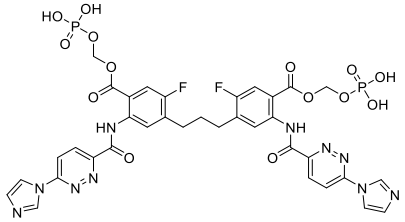
68		**187**	
69		**188**	
70		**189**	
71		**190**	
72		**191**	
73		**192**	

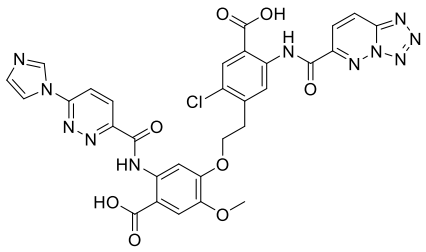
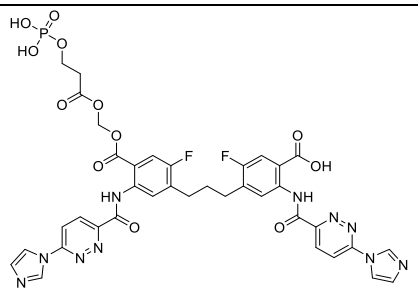
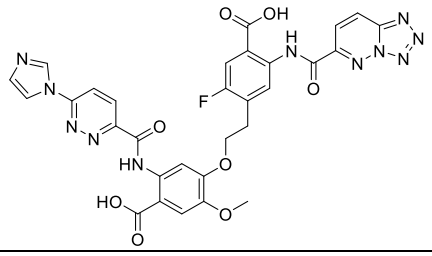
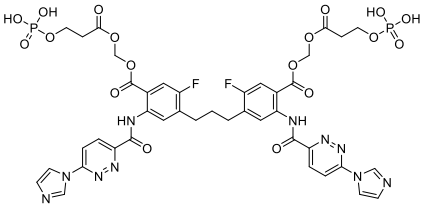
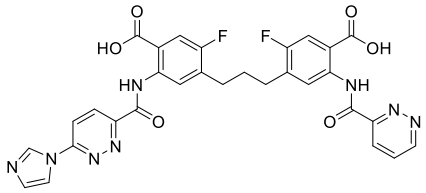
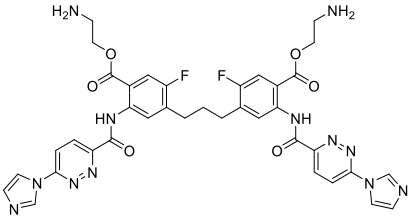
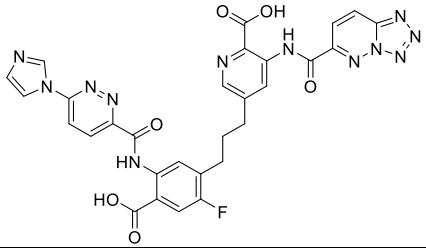
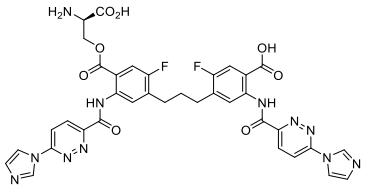
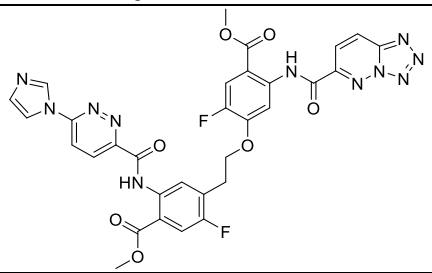
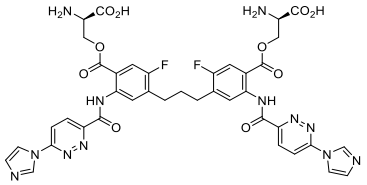
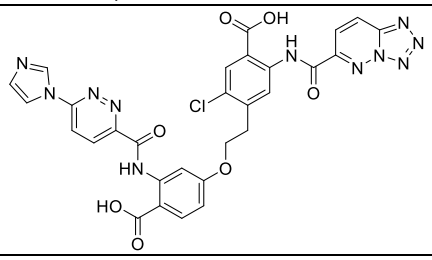
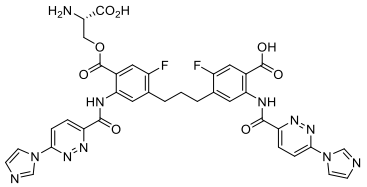
74		**193**	
75		**194**	
76		**195**	
77		**196**	
78		**197**	
79		**198**	
80		**199**	

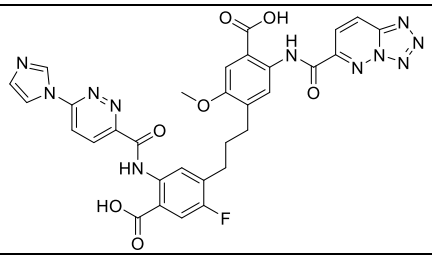
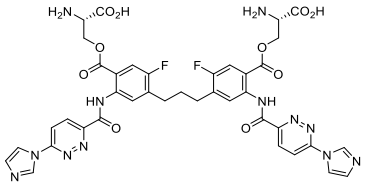
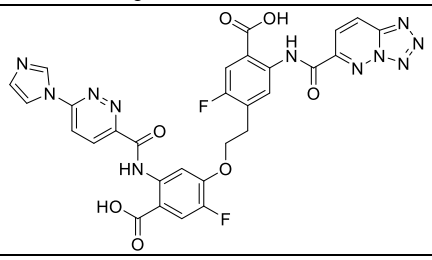
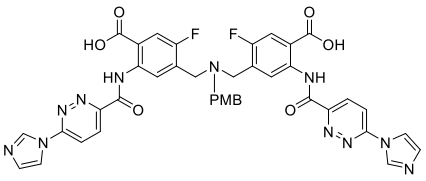
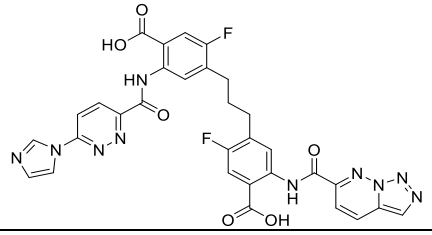
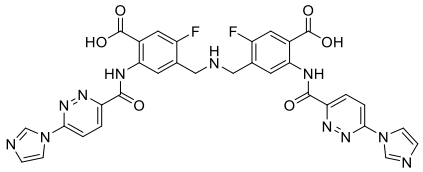
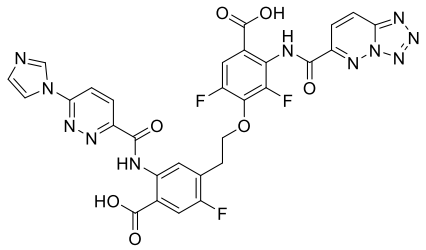
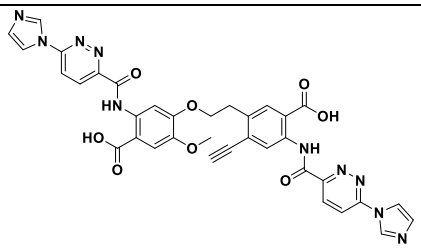
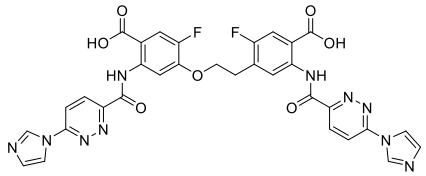
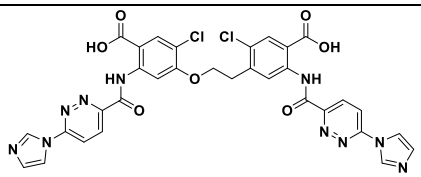
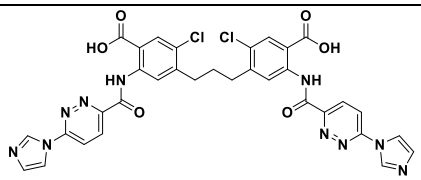
81		**200**	
82		**201**	
83		**202**	
84		**203**	
85		**204**	
86		**205**	
87		**206**	

88		**207**	
89		**208**	
90		**209**	
91		**210**	
92		**211**	
93		**212**	
94		**213**	

95		**214**	
96		**215**	
97		**216**	
98		**217**	
99		**218**	
100		**219**	
101		**220**	

102		**221**	
103		**222**	
104		**223**	
105		**224**	
106		**225**	
107		**226**	
108		**227**	

109		**228**	
110		**229**	
111		**230**	
112		**231**	
113		**232**	
114		**233**	

115		**234**	
116		**235**	
117		**236**	
118		**237**	
119		**238**	
		239	

30. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 29 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

31. Use of a compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 29 in the manufacture of a medicament for the stimulation of ~~A method~~

~~of stimulating~~ expression of interferon genes in a human patient, wherein an effective dose of the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is to be administered to the patient. ~~comprising administering to the patient an effective dose of a compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 29.~~

32. Use of a compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 29 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of ~~A method of treating~~ a tumor in a patient, wherein an effective dose of the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is to be administered to the patient~~comprising administering to the patient an effective dose of a compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 29~~.
33. The ~~method~~ use according to claim 31 or 32, wherein the effective dose of the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is to be administered to the patient ~~administering comprises~~ orally or intratumorally~~ administration~~, or both.
34. The ~~method~~ use according to claim 31 or 32, wherein the effective dose of the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is to be administered ~~administering comprises administering the compound~~ to the patient as an antibody-drug conjugate or in a liposomal formulation.
35. The ~~method~~ use according to claim 31 or 32, further comprising ~~administering~~ an effective amount of an immune-checkpoint targeting drug to be administered.
36. The ~~method~~ use according to claim 35, wherein the immune-checkpoint targeting drug comprises an anti-PD-L1 antibody, anti-PD-1 antibody, anti-CTLA-4 antibody, or an anti-4-1BB antibody.
37. The ~~method~~ use according to claim 31 or 32, further comprising ~~administering~~ ionizing radiation or anticancer drugs to be administered.

~~38. A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 29 for use in a method of stimulating expression of interferon genes in a human patient.~~

~~39. A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 29 for use in a method of treating a tumor in a patient.~~

~~40.~~38. ~~The compound for use according to claim 38 or 39, wherein the compound is administered to the patient by oral or intratumoral administration, or both.~~A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 29 for use in therapy.