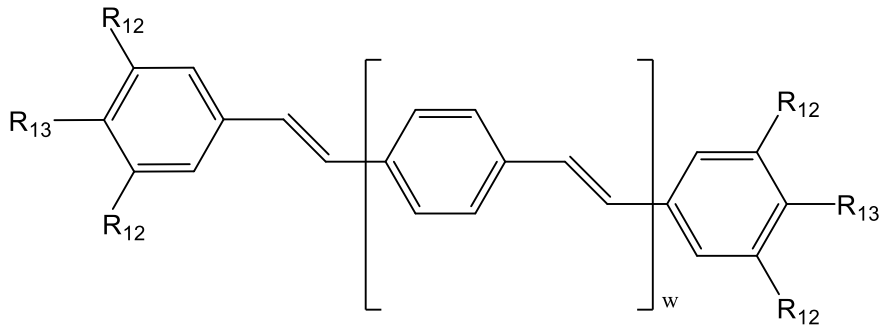
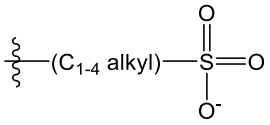
CLAIMS

1. A conjugated oligoelectrolyte (COE) having a structural Formula 5:

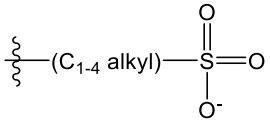


(Formula 5),

or a pharmaceutically acceptable isomer, racemate, hydrate, solvate, isotope, or salt thereof,

wherein each R_{12} is independently –O-R_{14}-N(R_{15})$_3$ or –O-R_{14}-R_{17}; each R_{13} is H; R_{14} and R_{16} are independently C_2-C_{10} alkyl; each R_{15} is independently C_1-C_{10} alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl,  or –((CH_2)$_2$–O)$_{1-4}$-CH_3, and each R_{15} cannot be methyl, or two R_{15} are taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached to form a monocyclic N-linked heterocyclyl or a bicyclic N-linked heterocyclyl, and the remaining R_{15} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl; R_{17} is -(C_2-C_3 alkyl)N(R_{18})$_3$ or –NH–(=NH)NH_2; each R_{18} is independently C_2-C_{10} alkyl; w is 0, 1 or 2; and the counter ions include I^-, Br^-, Cl^-, F^-, organic anion, BIm_4^- or $B(ArF)_4^-$.

2. The COE of Claim 1, wherein R_{12} is –O-R_{14}-N(R_{15})$_3$.

3. The COE of Claim 2, wherein a R_{15} is methyl; a R_{15} a is methyl or C_2-C_{10} alkyl; and a R_{15} is C_2-C_{10} alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl,  or –((CH_2)$_2$–O)$_{1-4}$-CH_3.

4. The COE of Claim 2, wherein two R_{15} are taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached to form a monocyclic N-linked heterocyclyl; and the remaining R_{15} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl.

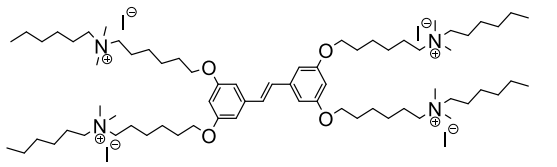
5. The COE of Claim 4, wherein the monocyclic N-linked heterocyclyl is 5-membered or a 6-membered monocyclic N-linked heterocyclyl.

6. The COE of Claim 1, wherein R_{12} is–O-R_{14}-R_{17}.

7. The COE of Claim 6, wherein R_{17} is -(C_2-C_3 alkyl)N(R_{18})$_3$.

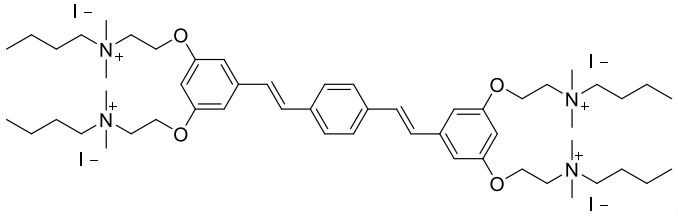
8. The COE of Claim 6, wherein R_{17} is –NH–(=NH)NH_2.

9. A COE a structure selected from the group consisting of:



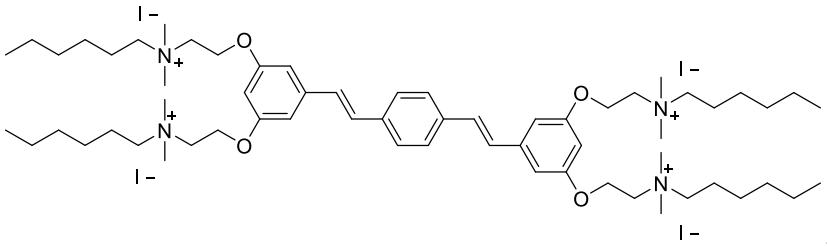
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Formula E (“COE2-2hexyl”)



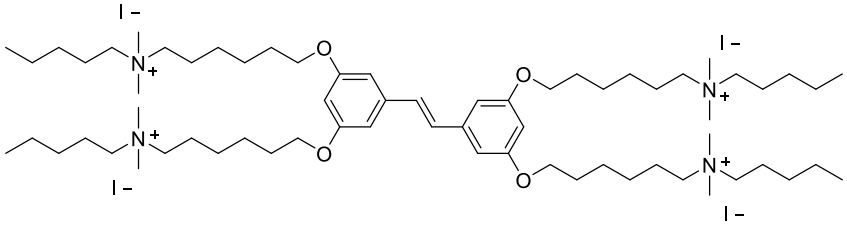
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Formula G (“COE2-3C-C2butyl”)



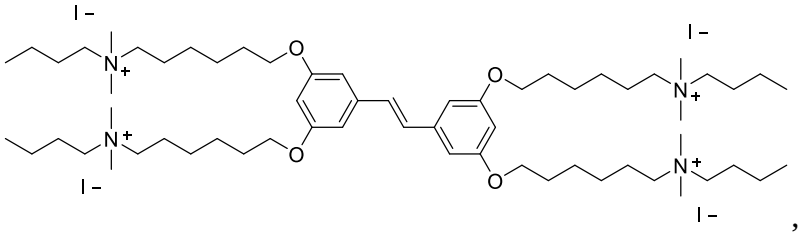
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Formula H (“COE2-3C-C2hexyl”)

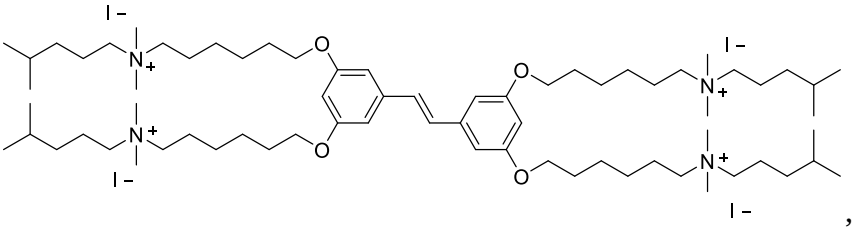


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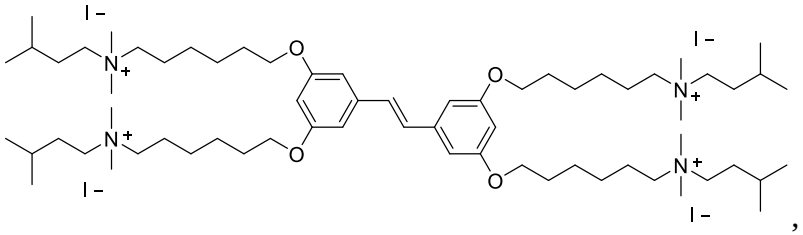
Formula J (“COE2-2pentyl”)



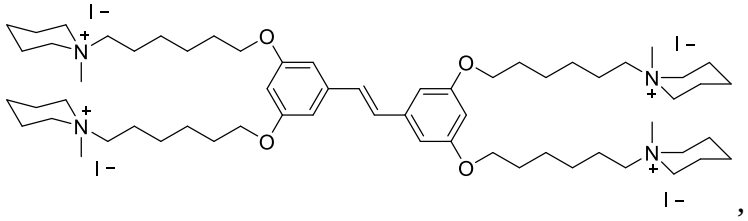
Formula K (“COE2-2butyl”)



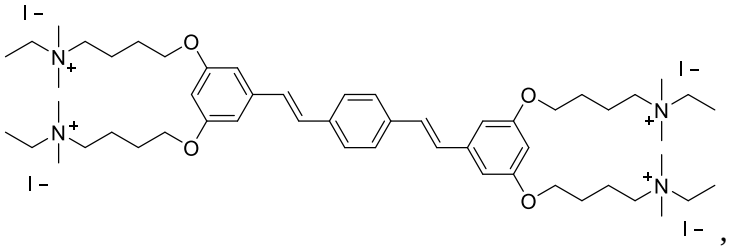
Formula L (“COE2-2isohexyl”)



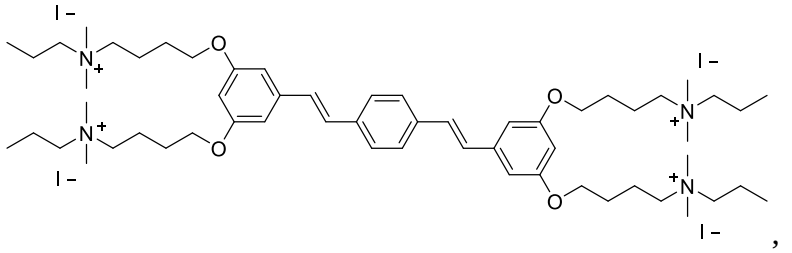
Formula M (“COE2-2isopentyl”)



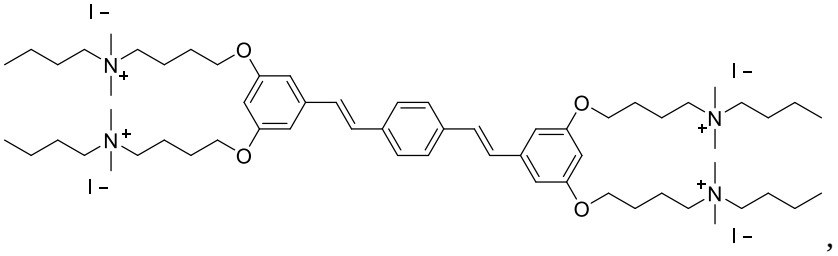
Formula N (“COE2-2pip”)



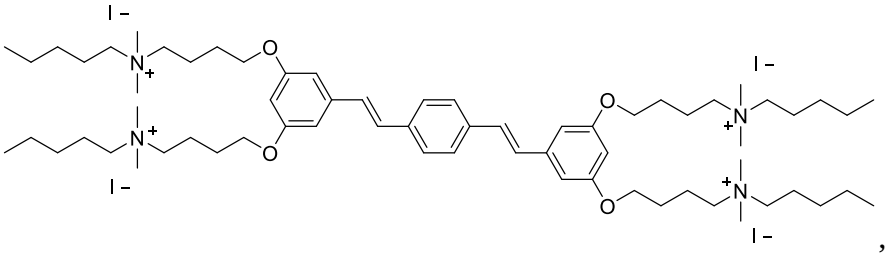
Formula P (“COE2-3C-C4ethyl”)



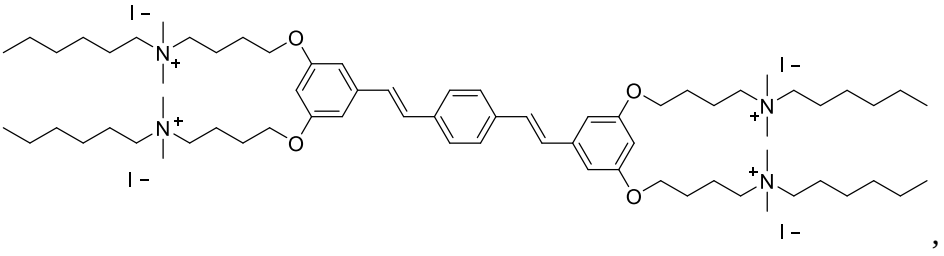
Formula Q (“COE2-3C-C4propyl”)



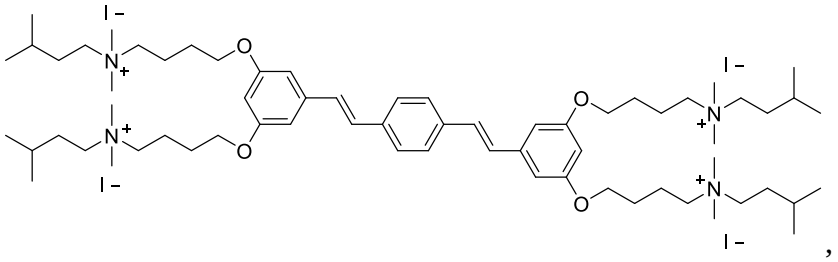
Formula R (“COE2-3C-C4butyl”)



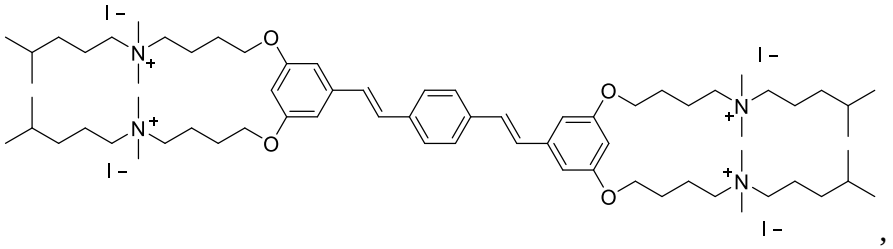
Formula S (“COE2-3C-C4pentyl”)



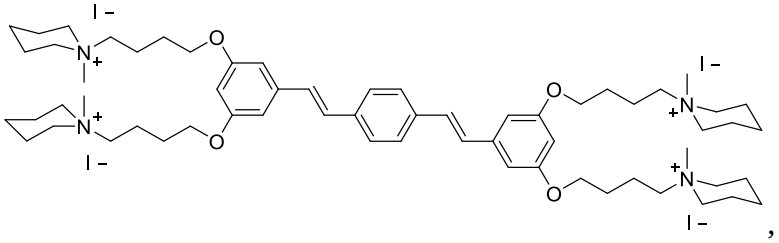
Formula T (“COE2-3C-C4hexyl”)



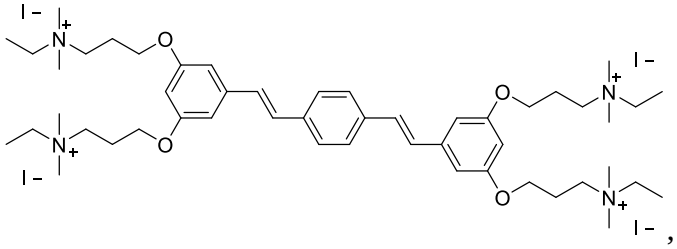
Formula U (“COE2-3C-C4isopentyl”)



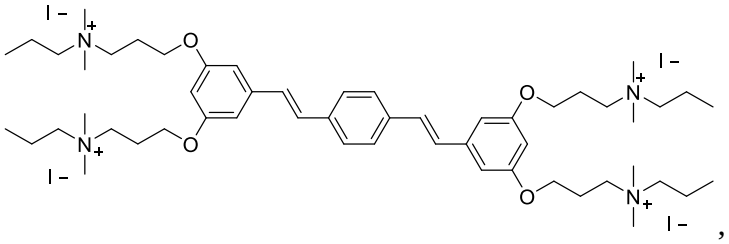
Formula V (“COE2-3C-C4isohexyl”)



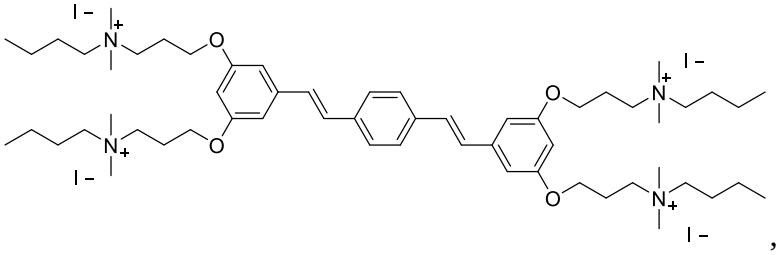
Formula W (“COE2-3C-C4pip”)



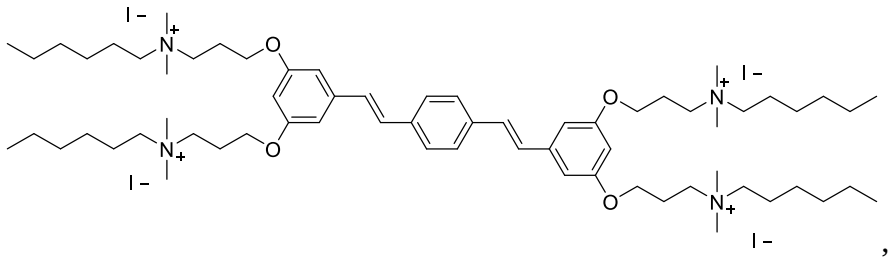
Formula Y (“COE2-3C-C3ethyl”)



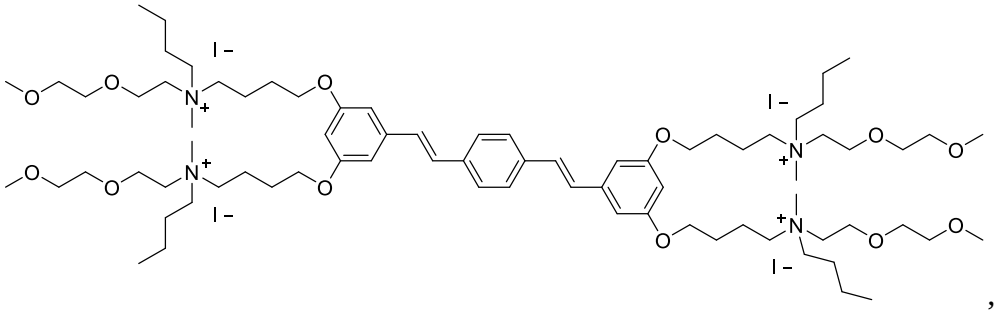
Formula Z (“COE2-3C-C3propyl”)



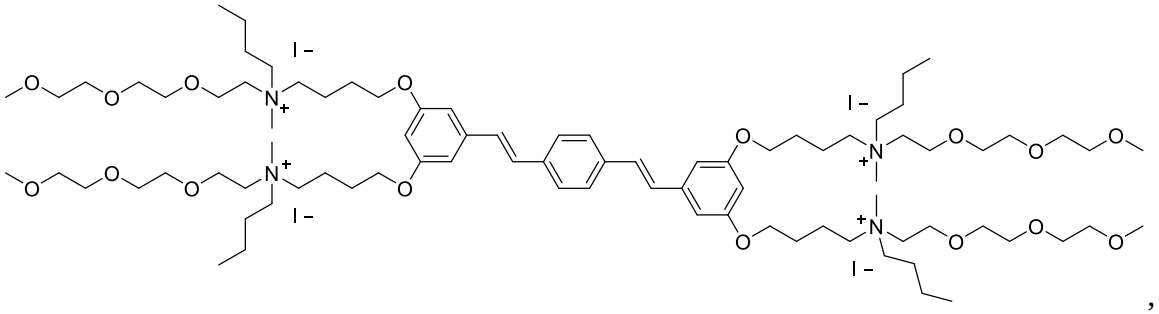
Formula AA (“COE2-3C-C3butyl”)



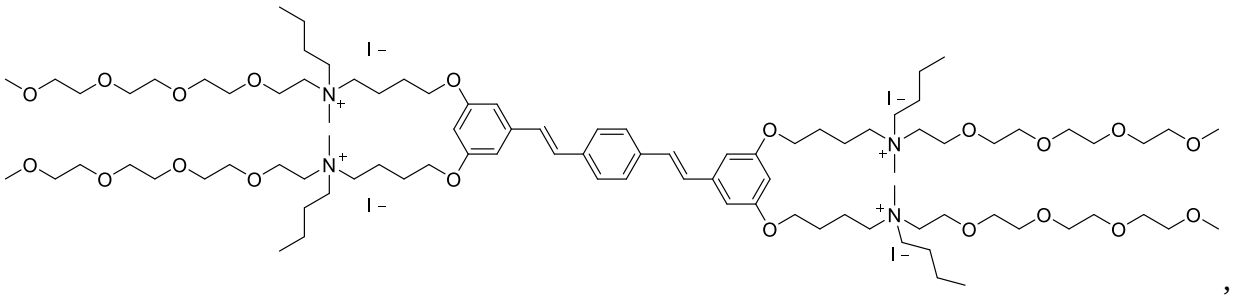
Formula BB (“COE2-3C-C3hexyl”)



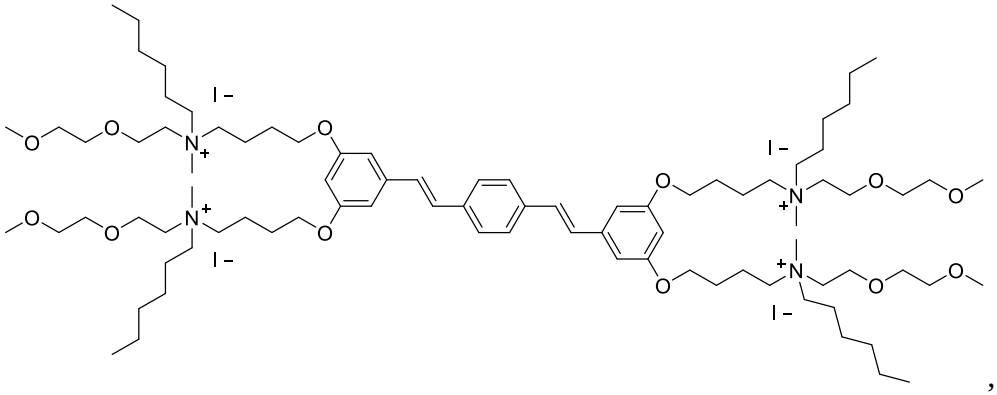
Formula GG (“COE2-3C-C4MeC4P2”)



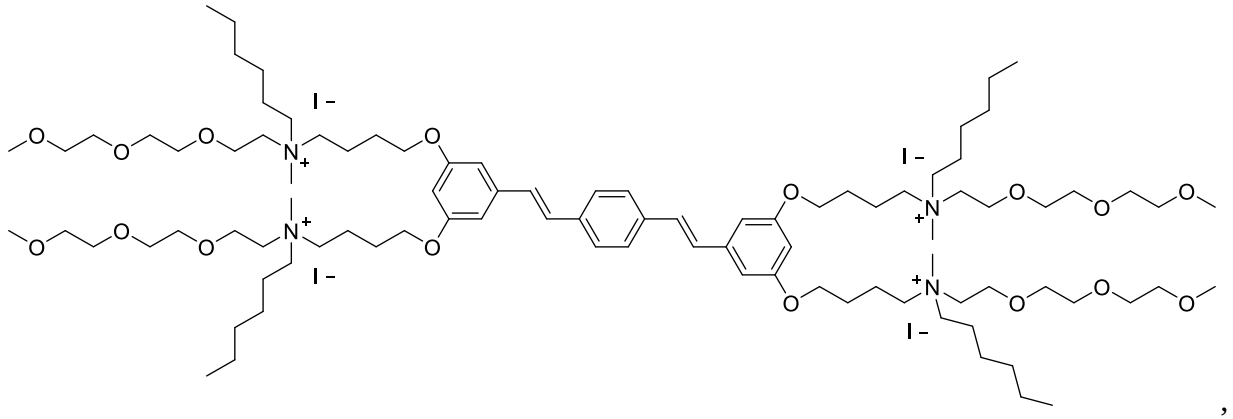
Formula HH (“COE2-3C-C4MeC4P3”)



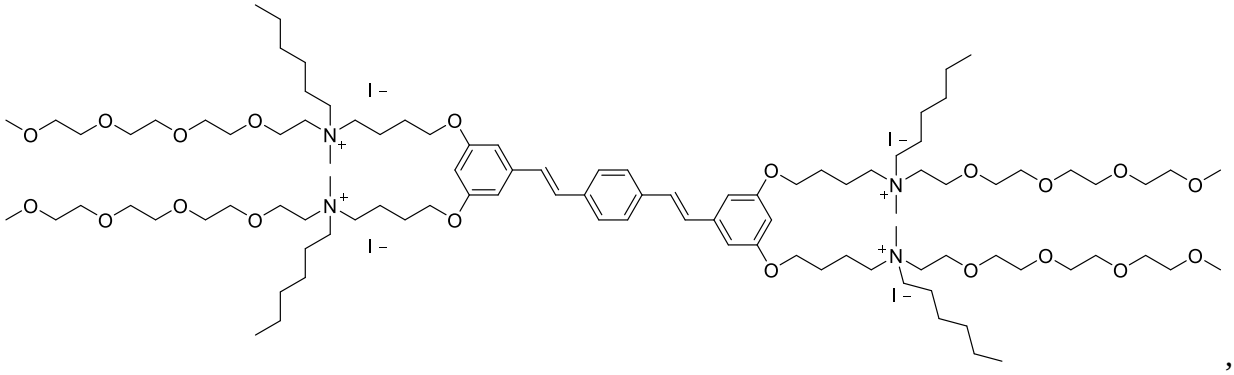
Formula II (“COE2-3C-C4MeC4P4”)



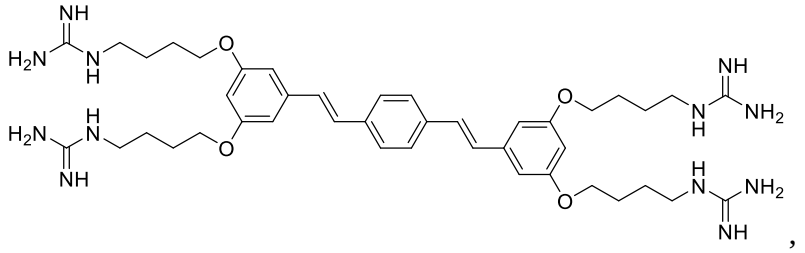
Formula JJ (“COE2-3C-C4MeC6P2”)



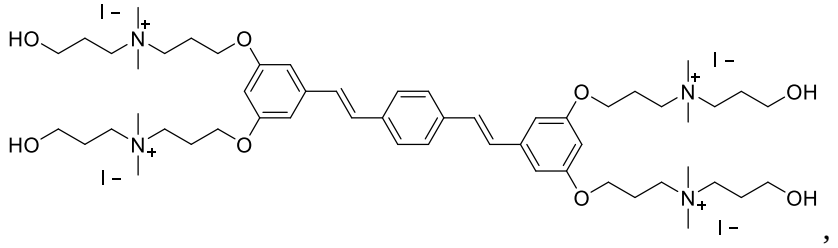
Formula KK (“COE2-3C-C4MeC6P3”)



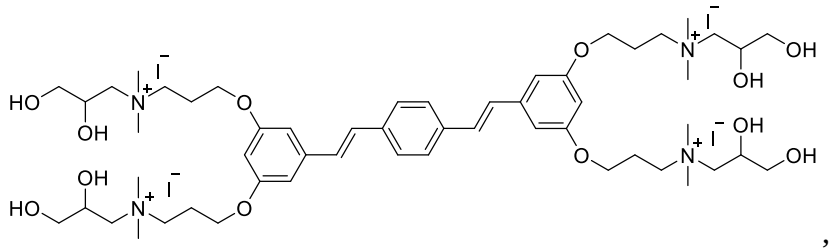
Formula LL (“COE2-3C-C4MeC6P4”)



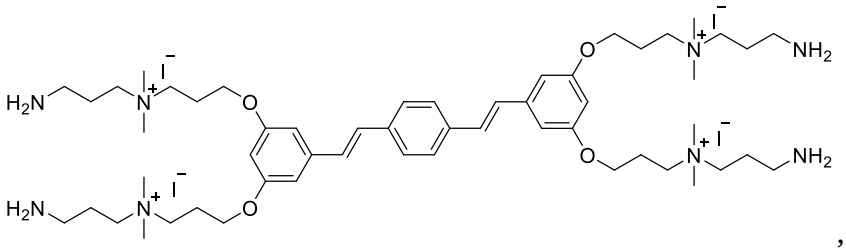
Formula MM (“COE 2-3C-C4guanidine”)



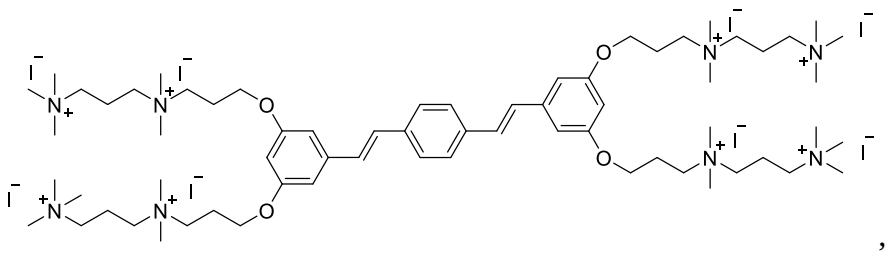
Formula NN (“COE2-3C-C3propyl-OH”)



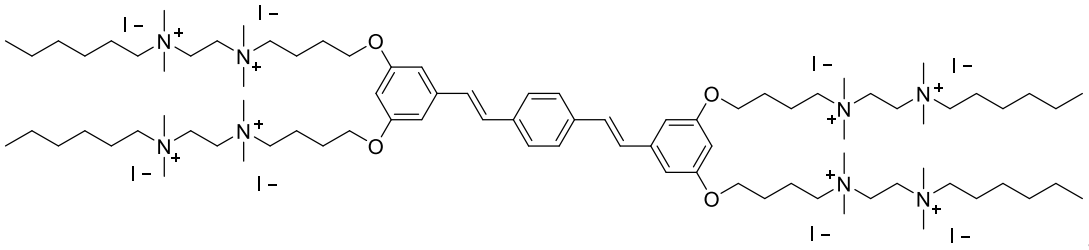
Formula OO (“COE2-3C-C3glycerol”)



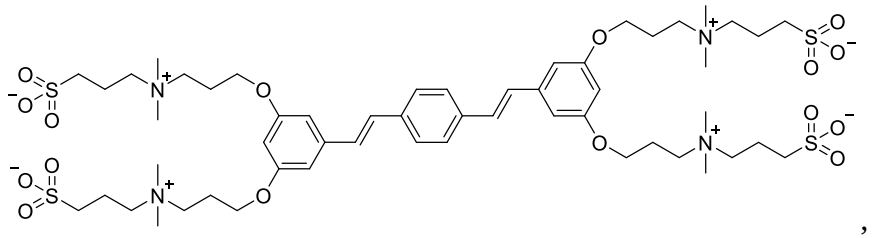
Formula PP (“COE2-3C-C3propyl-NH2”)



Formula QQ (“COE2-3C-C3propyl-NMe3”)


, and

Formula RR (“COE2-3C-C4-en-hexyl”)


,

Formula SS (“COE2-3C-C3propyl-SO3”).

10. The COE of any one of Claims 1-9, having a minimum inhibition concentration (MIC) of no greater than 1 µg/mL, between 1-5 µg/mL, or between 5-15 µg/mL against one or more bacteria selected from the group consisting of ST ATCC 14028, EC ATCC 25922, PA ATCC 10145, KPN ATCC13883, MRSA USA300, MSSA Newman, MRSA MT3302, MRSA MT3315, and MSSA MT3305.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of the COE of any one of Claims 1-9; and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

12. Use of an effective amount of a conjugated oligoelectrolyte (COE) of any one of Claims 1-9 in the preparation of a medicament for treating, reducing the severity of and/or slowing the progression of a bacterial infection.

13. The use of Claim 12, wherein the bacterial infection is due to a bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Salmonella enterica* Typhimurium, *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, methicillin-resistant *S. aureus*, methicillin-sensitive *S. aureus*, *E. faecium*, *A. baumannil*, *E. cloacae*, *S. epidermidis*, *K. aerogenes*, *S. flexneri*, *Y. pseudotuberculosis*, *N. gonorrhoeae*, and *S. pneumoniae*.