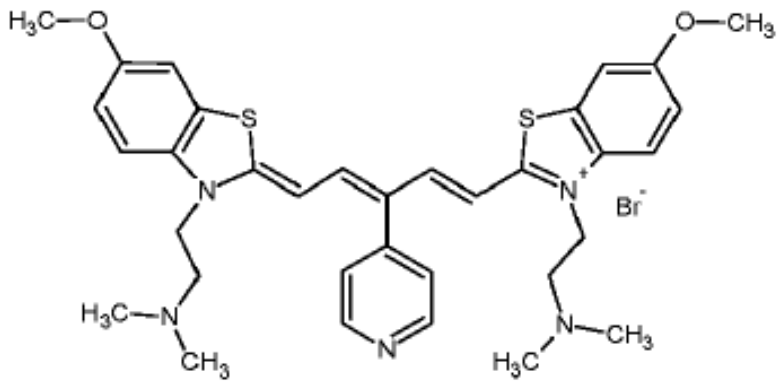
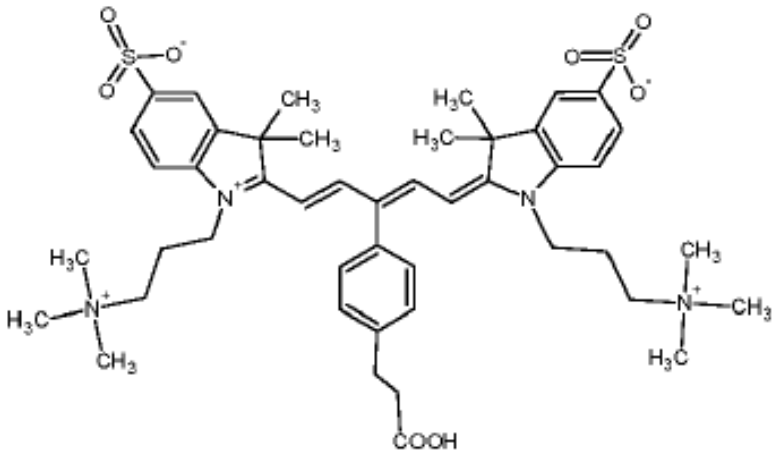
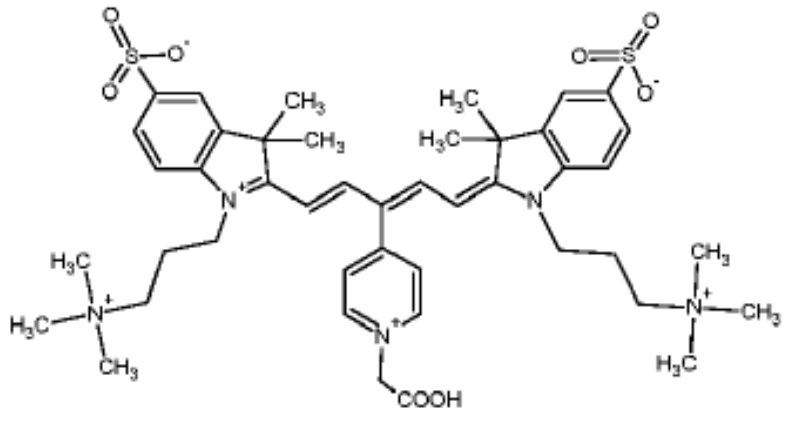
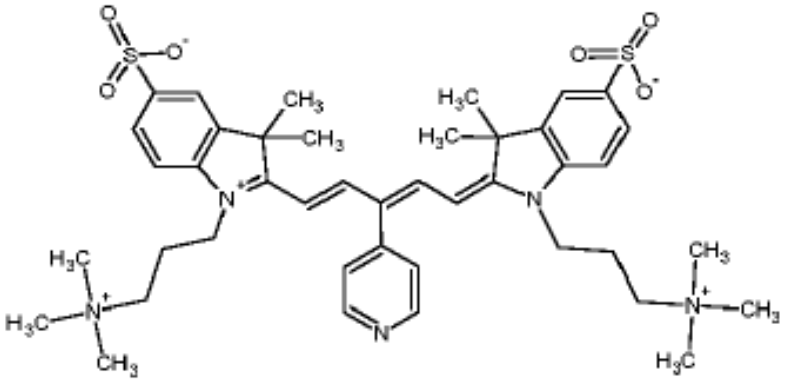
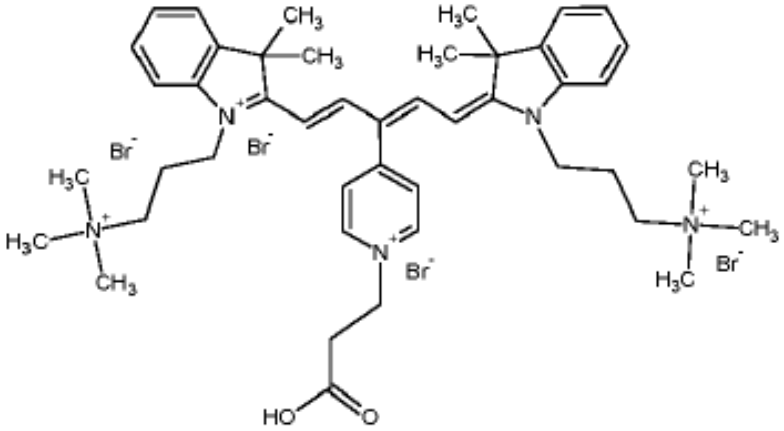
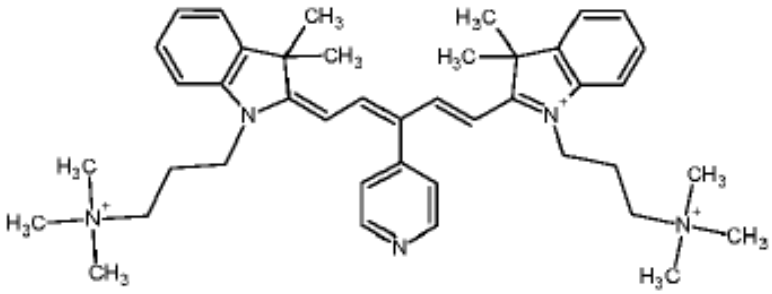
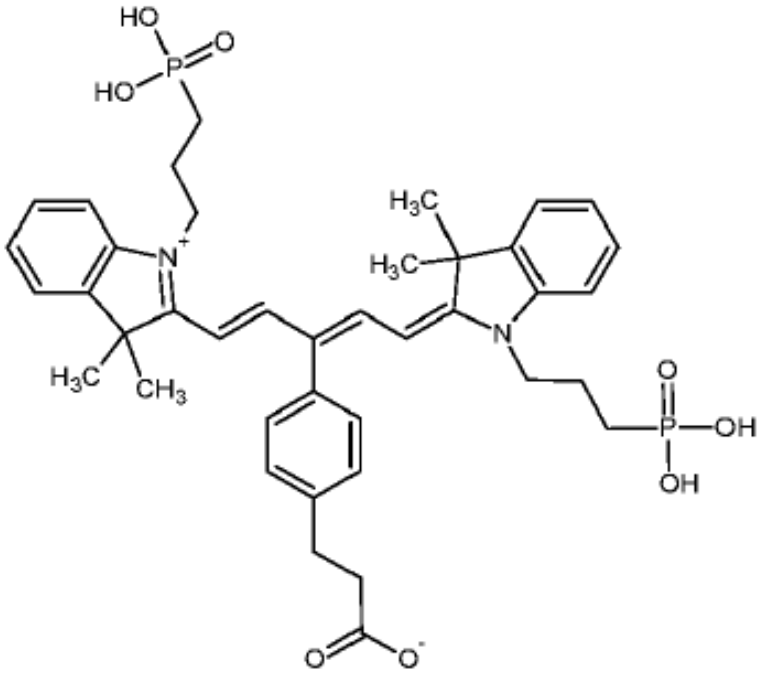
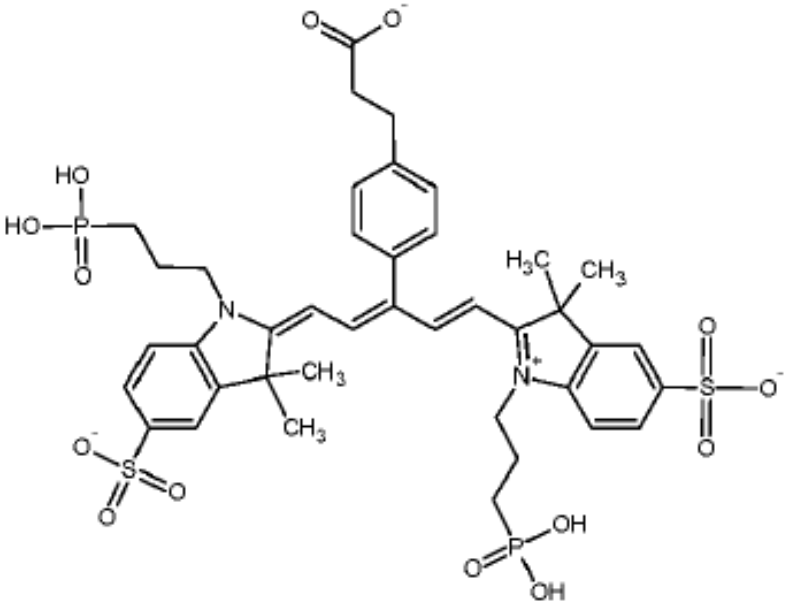
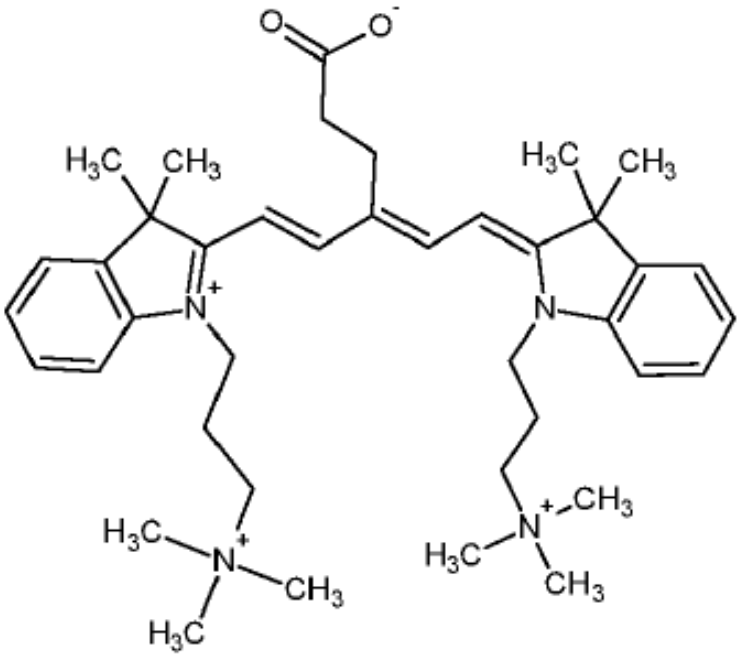
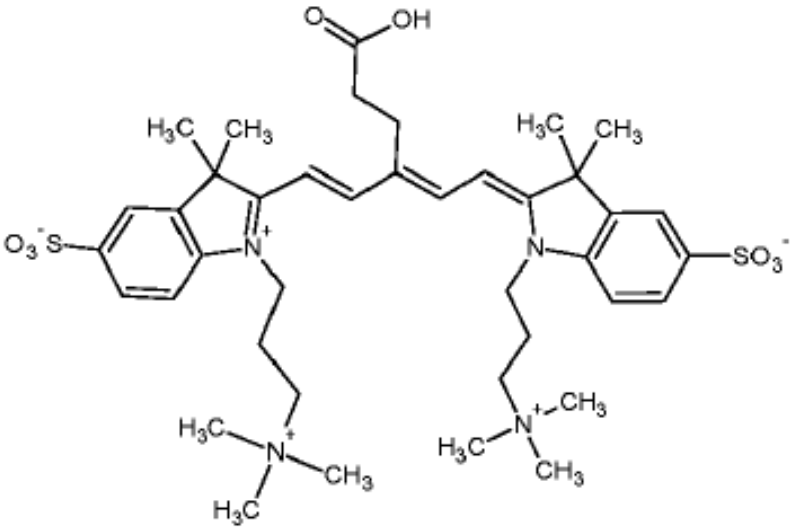
Claims

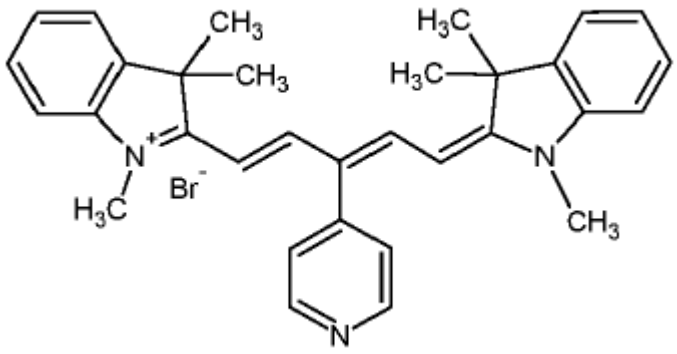
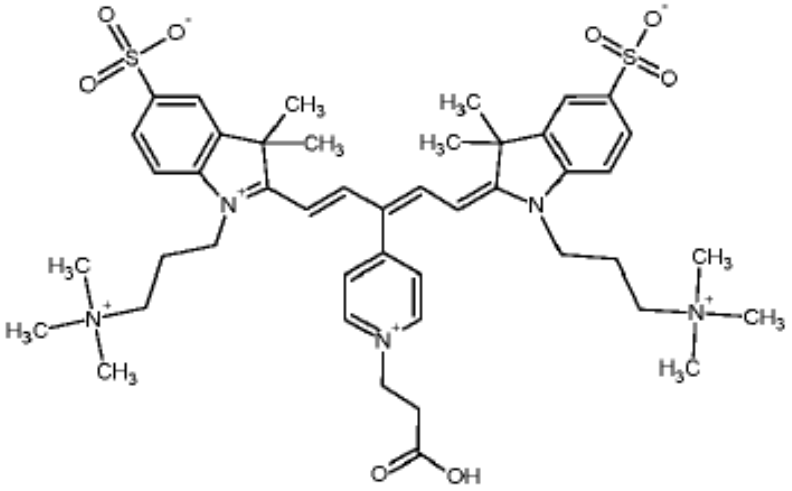
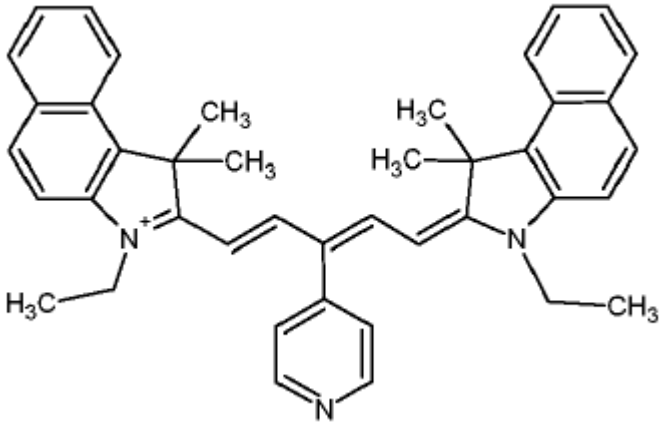
1. A near-infrared fluorescent contrast agent represented by the formula:

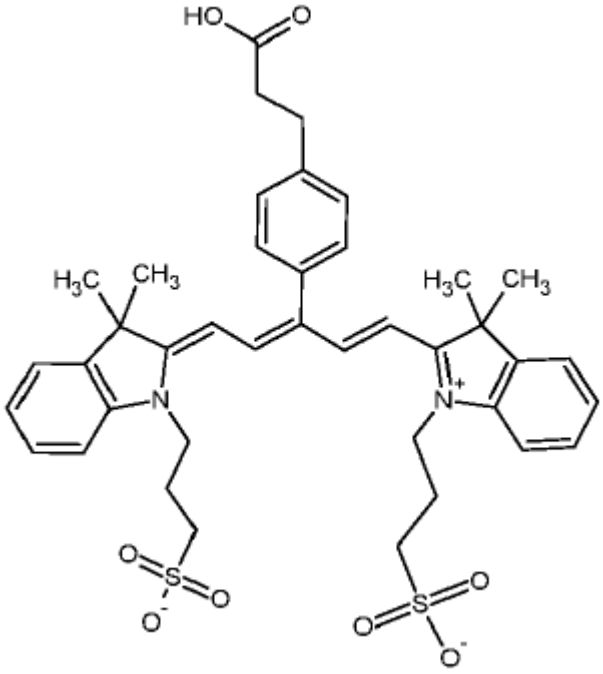
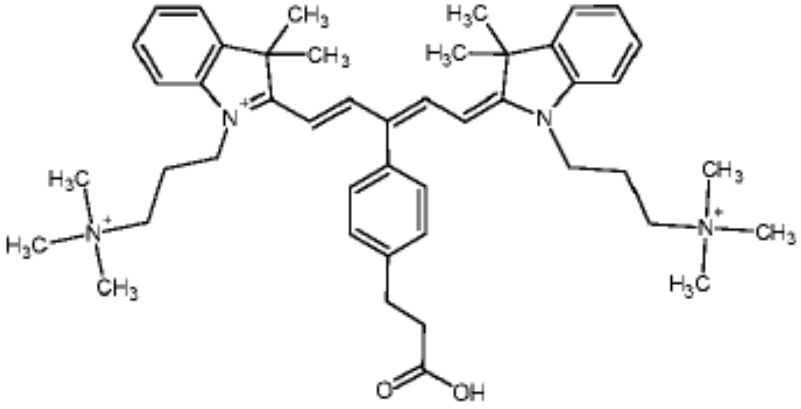
Name	Structure	
YY187		,
TG42		,
TG53		,

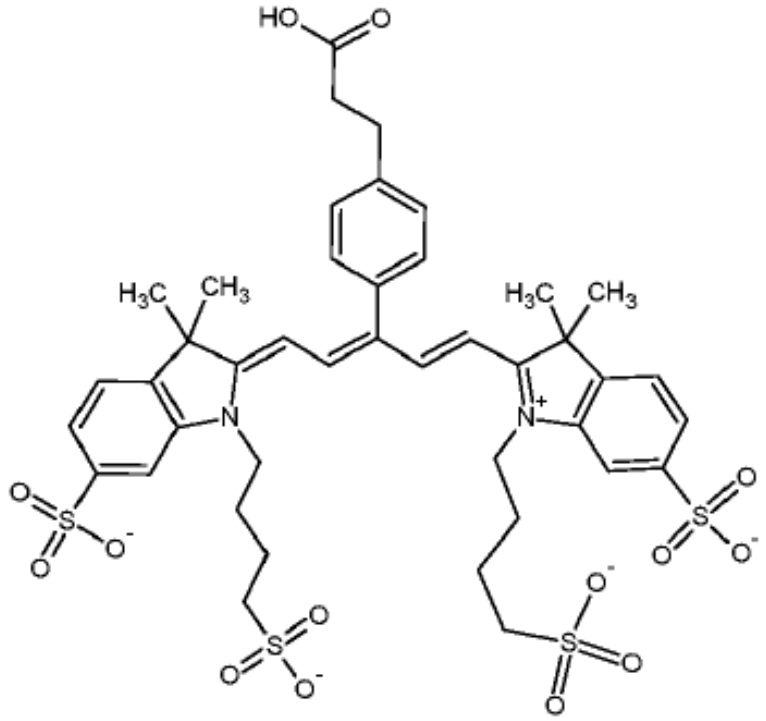
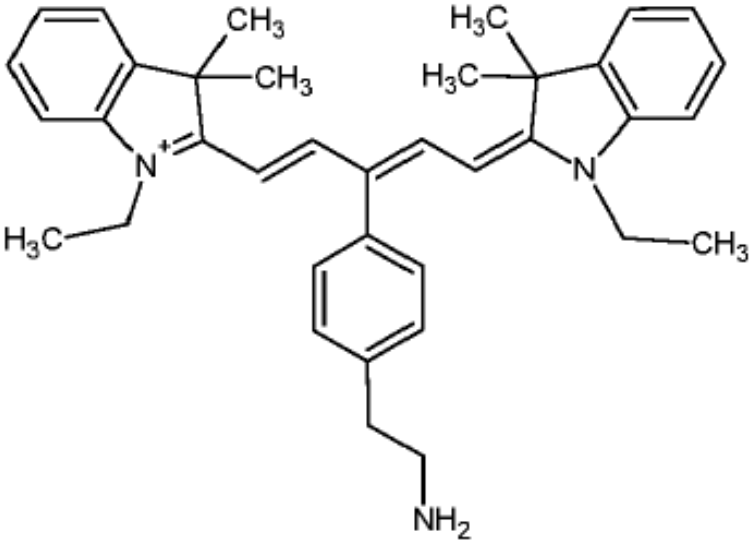
Name	Structure	
LN24		,
YY190		,
YY180		,

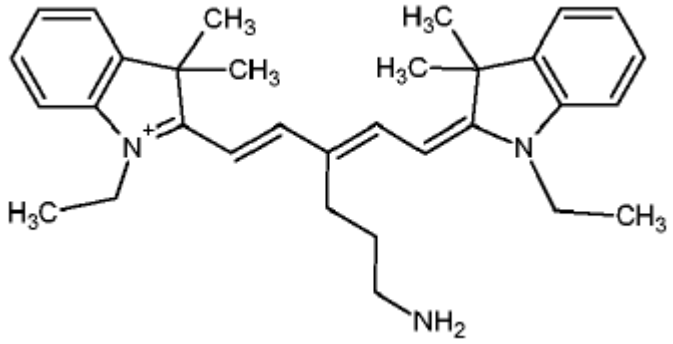
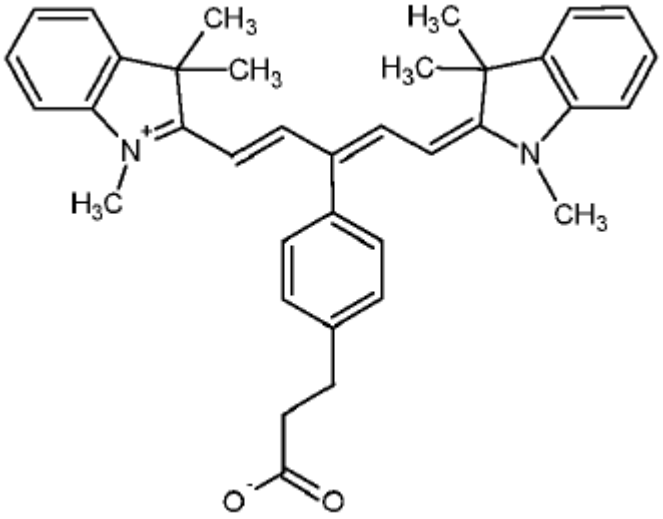
Name	Structure	
P700H		,
P700SO3		,

Name	Structure	
A100		,
A104		,

Name	Structure	
TP1		,
LN79		,
TP4		,

Name	Structure	
WuA108		,
TG44		,

Name	Structure	
WuA110		,
PS131		,

Name	Structure	
PS133		,
L700-1C		.

2. The near-infrared imaging agent of claim 1, represented by the formula: P700SO3, or L700-1C.

3. The near-infrared imaging agent of claim 1 or 2, represented by the formula: P700SO3.

4. The near-infrared imaging agent of claim 1, represented by the formula: TG42.

5. A method of imaging tissue, lumens, or cells, the method comprising:

(a) contacting the tissue, lumen, or cells with an imaging agent according to any one of Claims 1-4;

(b) irradiating the tissue, lumen, or cells at a wavelength absorbed by the compound;

(c) and detecting a signal from the compound, thereby imaging the tissue, lumen, or cells.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the tissue or cells are blood vessels, lumens, ureters, cartilage, bone, thyroid, parathyroids, adrenal gland, salivary gland, white adipose tissue, brown adipose tissue, ovarian cells, testicular cells, seminal vesicles, prostate, pancreas, spleen, gallbladder, bile ducts, Peyer's patches, brain grey matter, brain white matter, brain vasculature, choroid plexus, cerebrospinal fluid, nerves, thoracic duct, pan lymph nodes, sentinel lymph nodes, vulnerable plaque, stem cells, or neuroendocrine tumors.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the imaging agent is to be administered to an organism comprising the tissue, lumen, or cells, wherein the organism preferably is human.

8. The method of any one of claims 5-7, wherein the imaging agent has peak absorbance at about 600 nm to 850 nm.

9. The method of any one of claims 5-8, wherein the tissue or cells is imaged *ex vivo*.