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(71) Applicant: BRACCO IMAGING SPA [IT/IT]; Via Egidio Folli, 50, 20134 Milano (IT).

(72) Inventors: **BLASI, Francesco**; Bracco Imaging SpA - CRB, Via Ribes No. 5, 10010 Colletterto Giacosa (IT). **BRIOSCHI, Chiara**; Bracco Imaging SpA - CRB, Via Ribes No. 5, 10010 Colletterto Giacosa (IT). **BUONSANTI, Federica**; Bracco Imaging SpA - CRB, Via Ribes No. 5, 10010 Colletterto Giacosa (IT). **MIRAGOLI, Luigi**; Bracco Imaging SpA - CRB, Via Ribes No. 5, 10010 Colletterto Giacosa (IT). **NAPOLITANO, Roberta**; Bracco Imaging SpA - CRB, Via Ribes No. 5, 10010 Colletterto Giacosa (IT). **ORIO, Laura**; Bracco Imaging SpA - CRB, Via Ribes No. 5, 10010 Colletterto Giacosa (IT). **PIZZUTO, Lorena**; Bracco Imaging SpA - CRB, Via Ribes No. 5, 10010 Colletterto Giacosa (IT). **VALBUSA, Giovanni**; Via Preia Morasca, 10, 28838 Stresa (IT).

(74) Agent: RAVIZZA, Claudio; Via Caduti di Marcinelle 13, 20134 Milan (IT).

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(54) Title: MODIFIED CYANINE DYES AND CONJUGATES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the field of optical imaging. More particularly, it relates to compounds of the cyanine family characterized by improved physico-chemical and biological properties and to their conjugates with biological ligands thereof. The invention also relates to the use of these compounds as optical diagnostic agents in imaging or therapy of solid tumors, to the methods for their preparation and to the compositions comprising them.