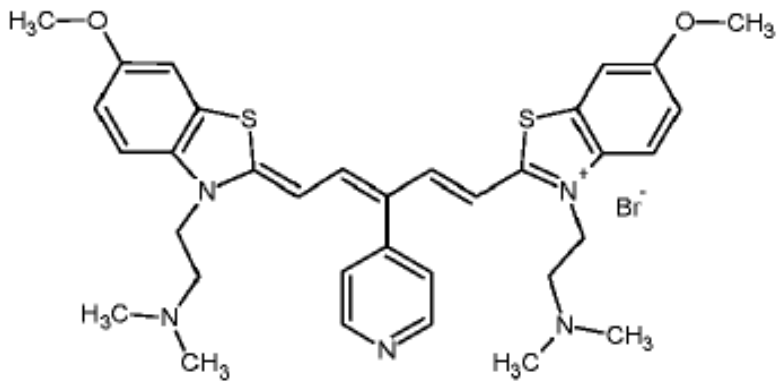
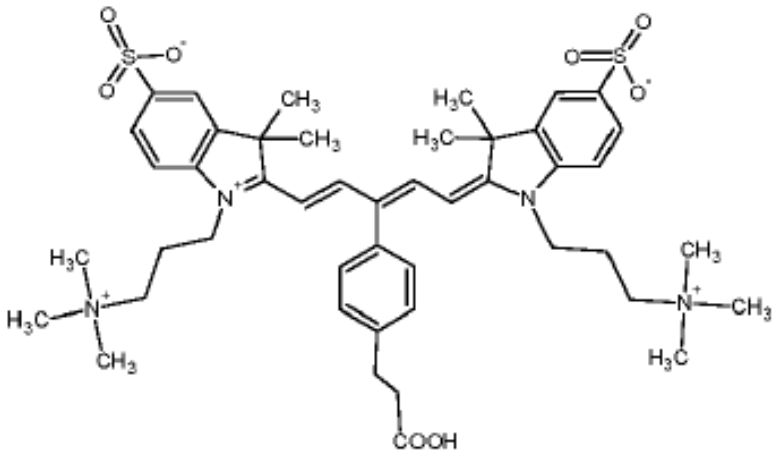
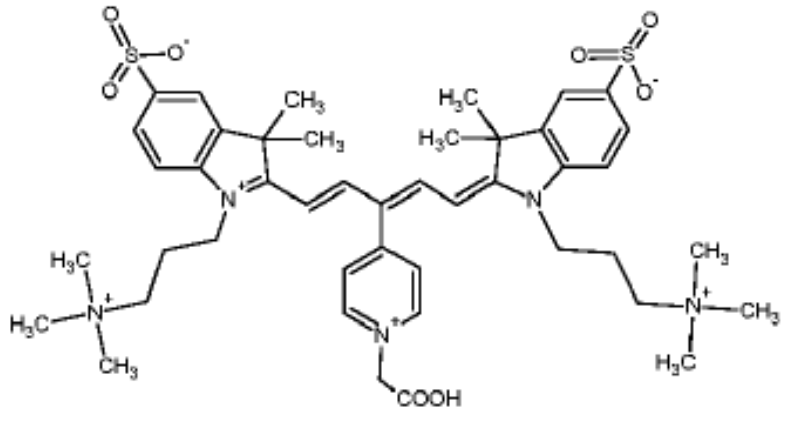
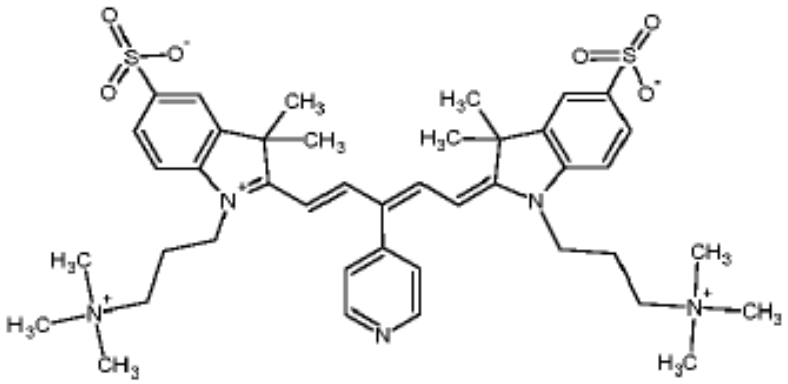
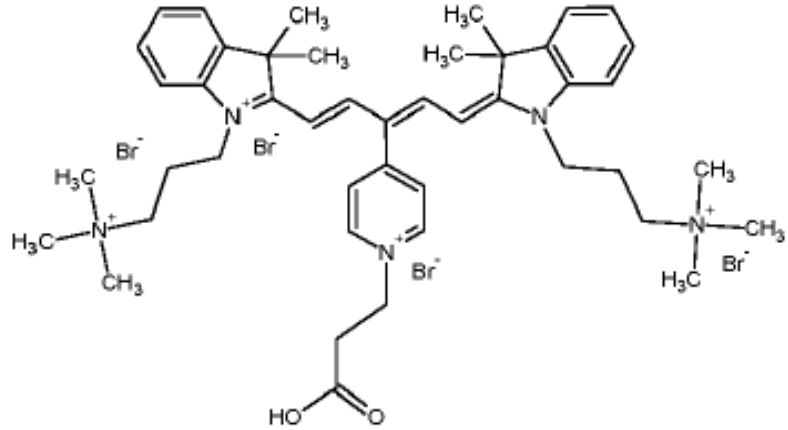
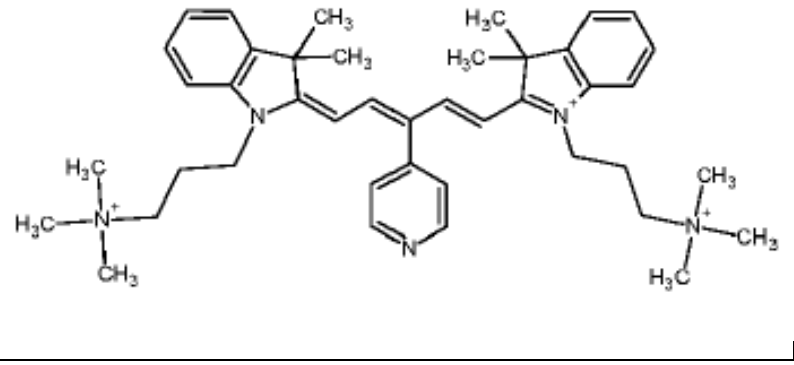
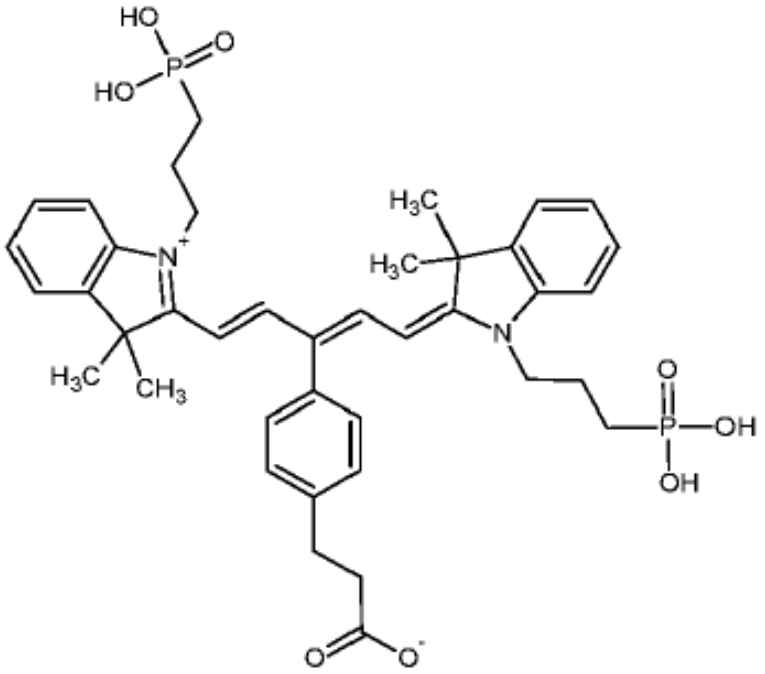
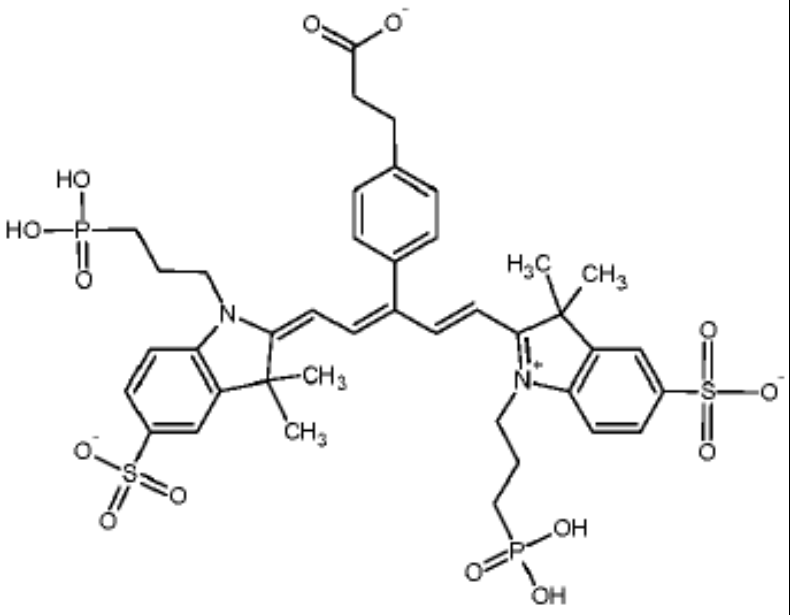
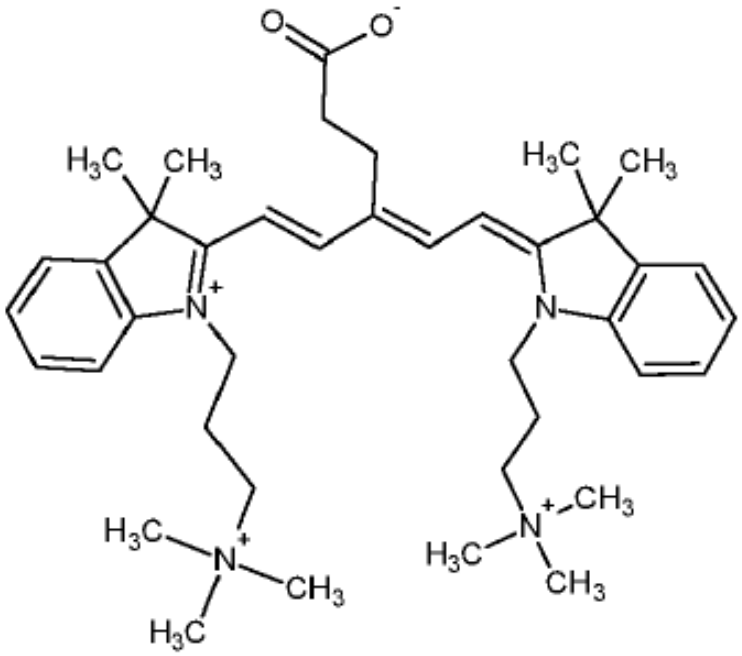
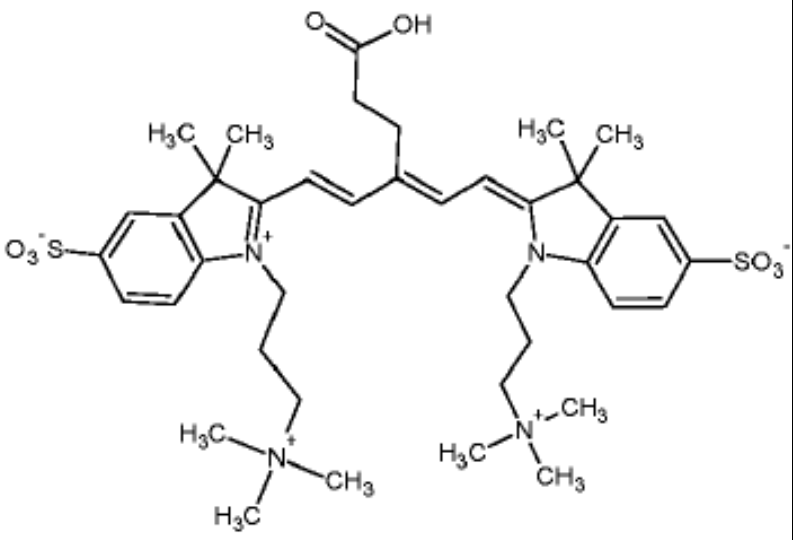
Claims

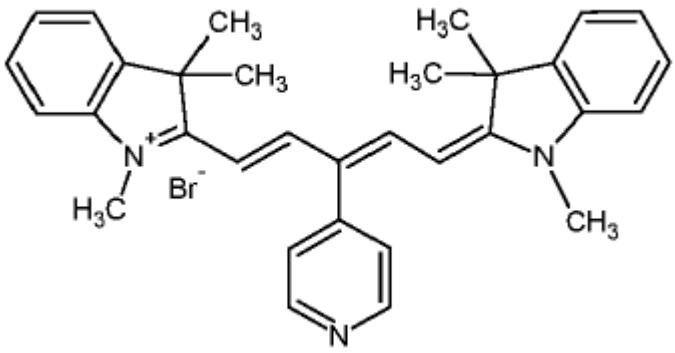
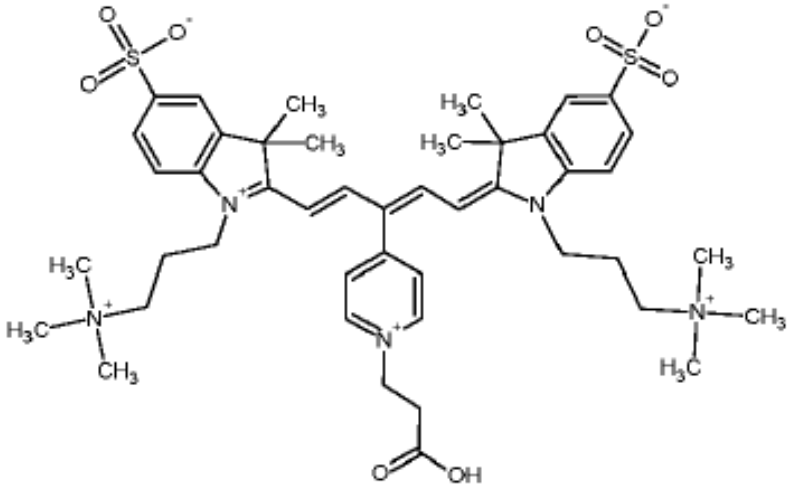
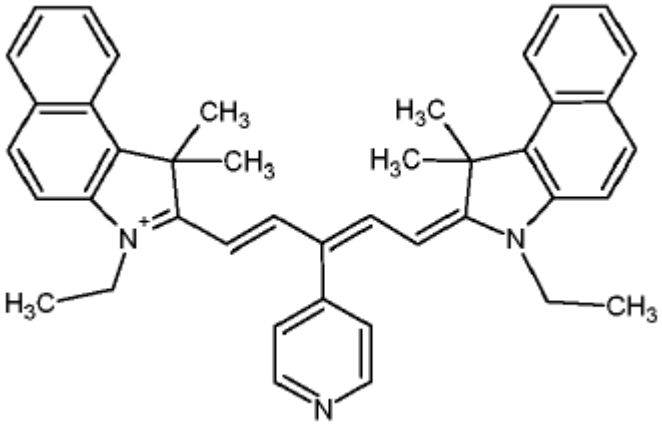
1. A near-infrared fluorescent imaging agent represented by the formula:

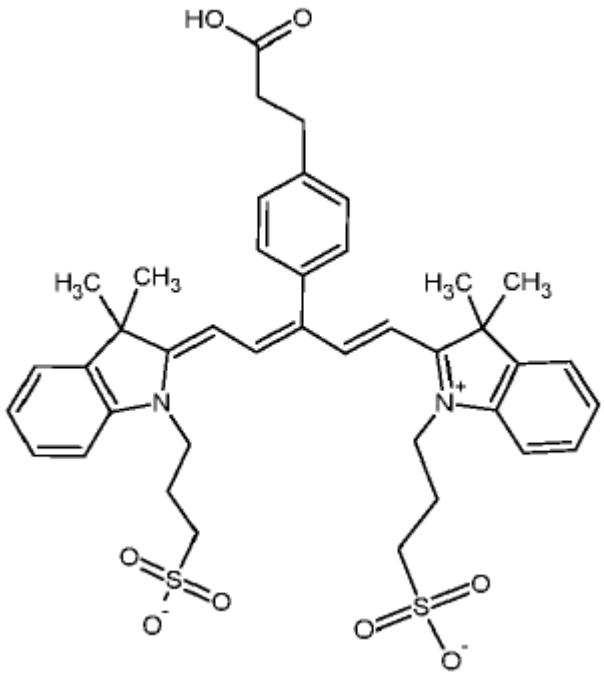
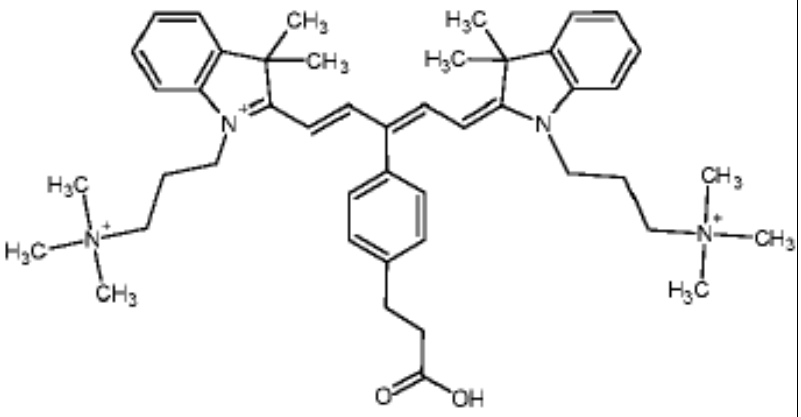
Name	Structure	
YY187		,
TG42		,
TG53		,

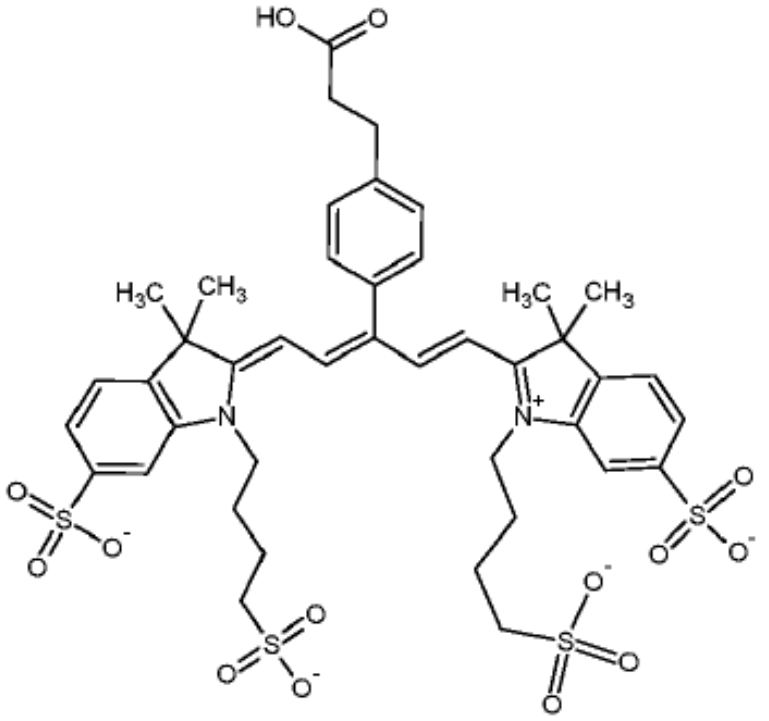
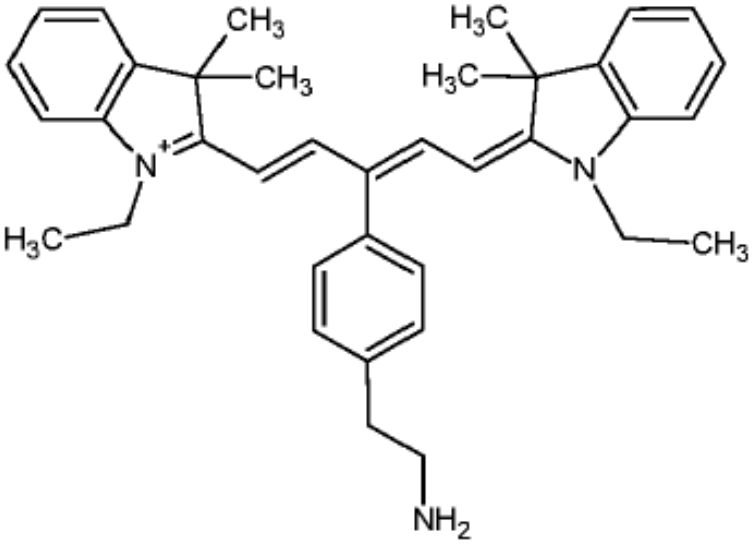
Name	Structure	
LN24		,
YY190		,
YY180		,

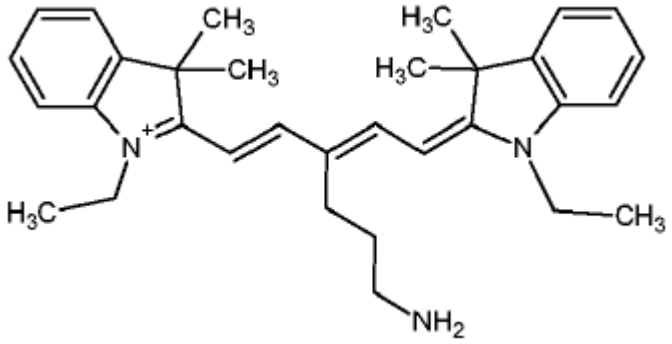
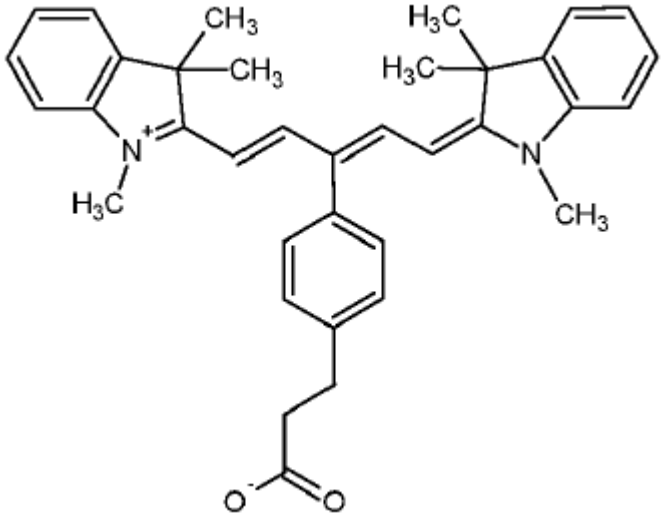
Name	Structure	
P700H		,
P700SO3		,

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) irradiating tissue, lumen, or cells obtained from a subject at a wavelength absorbed by the imaging agent of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the subject is to be administered with the imaging agent prior to obtainment of said tissue, lumen or cells;

(b) and detecting a signal from the imaging agent, 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 subject 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*.