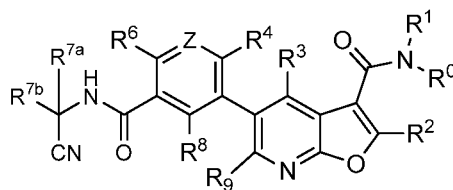


CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A compound of Formula I, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof:



I

wherein

Z is C-R⁵ or N;

R⁰ is hydrogen;

R¹ is methyl;

R² is phenyl that is independently substituted with 0-2 halo or methoxy, or is para substituted with W-Ar;

W is -O- or -NH-;

Ar is phenyl or para-halophenyl;

R³ is hydrogen, fluoro, or chloro;

R⁴, R⁵, and R⁶ are independently selected from the group of hydrogen, halo, alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, and perdeuteroalkoxy;

R^{7a} , R^{7b} are each independently selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, and Ar^1 , or together

R^{7a} and R^{7b} form a 3-7 membered carbocyclic ring;

R^8 is hydrogen,

Ar^1 is phenyl, a 5-membered heteroaromatic ring or a 6-membered heteroaromatic ring;

R^9 is hydrogen, halo, R^{201} , OR^{202} , $NR^{203}R^{204}$;

R^{201} is alkyl, alkenyl, or C_1-C_4 alkyl with between one to all of the hydrogens replaced by fluoro;

R^{202} is C_1-C_3 alkyl, or C_1-C_3 alkyl with between one to all of the hydrogens replaced by fluoro;

R^{203} is hydrogen; and

R^{204} is C_1-C_3 alkyl, or C_1-C_3 hydroxyalkyl, or is C_1-C_3 alkyl with between one to all of the hydrogens replaced by fluoro.

2. A compound of claim 1 wherein:

R^2 is para fluorophenyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^4 , R^5 , and R^6 are each independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, $-OCH_3$, and $-OCD_3$,

R^{7a} is selected from the group of hydrogen, methyl, fluoromethyl, and cyclopropyl;

R^{7b} is selected from the group of hydrogen, methyl, fluoromethyl, cyclopropyl, and Ar^1 ,

or together R^{7a} and R^{7b} form a cyclopropyl or cyclobutyl ring;

Ar¹ is phenyl or pyrimidyl;

R³ is R²⁰¹ or NR²⁰³R²⁰⁴;

R²⁰¹ is -CH₂CH₂CF₃ or vinyl; and

R²⁰⁴ is -CH₂CF₃, -CH₂CF₂CF₃ or -CH₂CH₂OH.

3. A compound of claim 2 wherein R⁴ is hydrogen, R⁵ is hydrogen or fluoro, R^{7b} is selected from the group of hydrogen, methyl, fluoromethyl, and cyclopropyl, or together R^{7a} and R^{7b} form a cyclopropyl or cyclobutyl ring; and

R²⁰¹ is -CH₂CH₂CF₃.

4. A compound of claim 2 wherein Z is N.

5. A compound of claim 2 wherein Z is CR⁵.

6. A compound of claim 4 wherein R⁴ is hydrogen and R⁶ is -OCD₃.

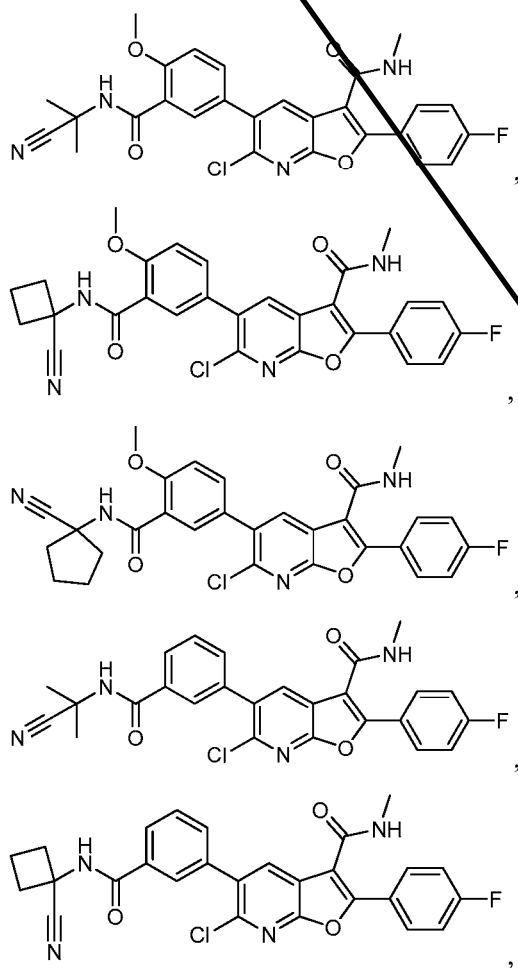
7. A compound of claim 1 wherein R⁴ is hydrogen, R⁵ is hydrogen or fluoro, R⁶ is hydrogen, fluoro, or -OCH₃, R^{7a} is selected from the group of hydrogen, methyl, fluoromethyl, and cyclopropyl, R^{7b} is selected from hydrogen, methyl, fluoromethyl, or cyclopropyl, or together R^{7a} and R^{7b} form a cyclopropyl or cyclobutyl ring; and

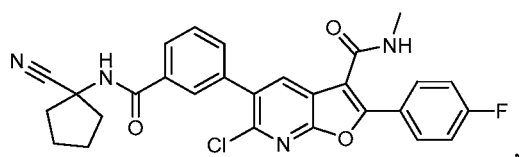
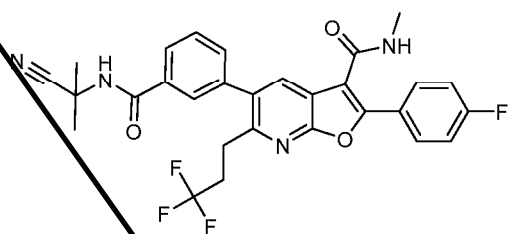
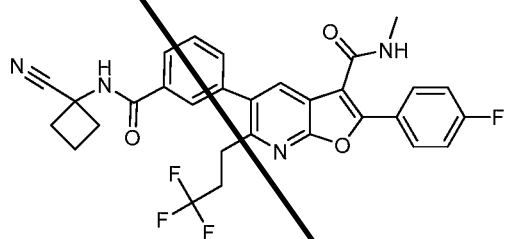
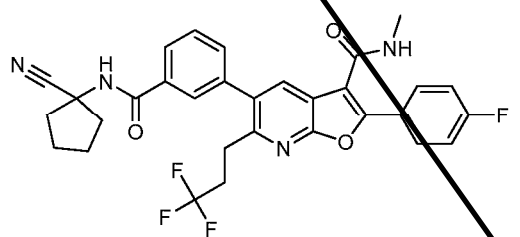
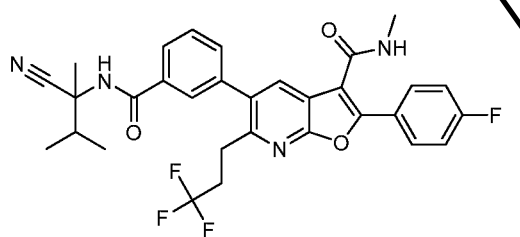
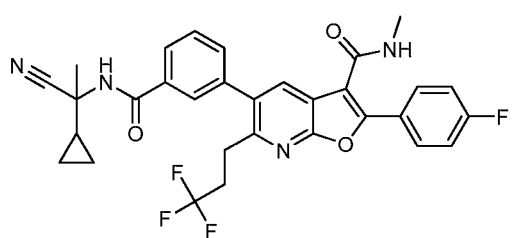
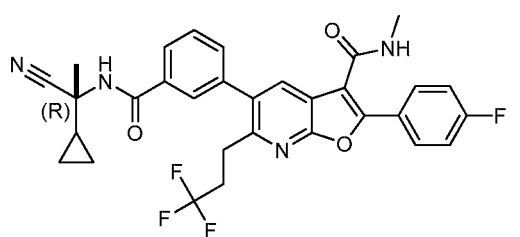
R²⁰¹ is -CH₂CH₂CF₃.

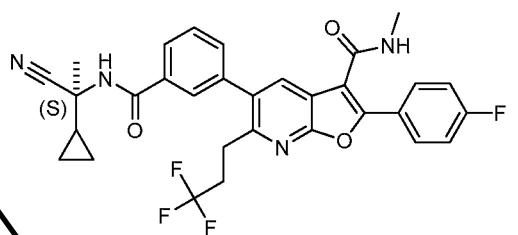
8. A compound of claim 7 wherein R⁵ is hydrogen, R⁶ is fluoro, R^{7a} is methyl, R^{7b} is cyclopropyl, and R⁹ is R²⁰¹.

9. The compound existing as a single enantiomer which is: (R)-5-(3-((1-cyano-1-cyclopropylethyl)carbamoyl)-4-fluorophenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-methyl-6-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)furo[2,3-b]pyridine-3-carboxamide.

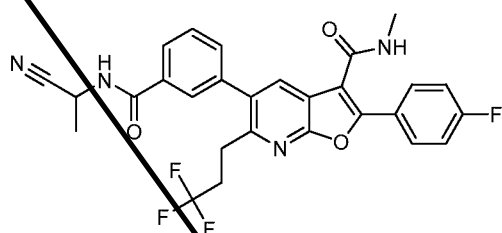
10. The compound existing as a single enantiomer which is: (S)-5-(3-((1-cyano-1-cyclopropylethyl)carbamoyl)-4-fluorophenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-methyl-6-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)furo[2,3-b]pyridine-3-carboxamide.
11. A compound of claim 9 or claim 10, wherein said compound exists as the single enantiomer that exhibits a minus rotation when optical rotation is measured via standard methods in a polarimeter.
12. A compound, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, which is selected from the group of:



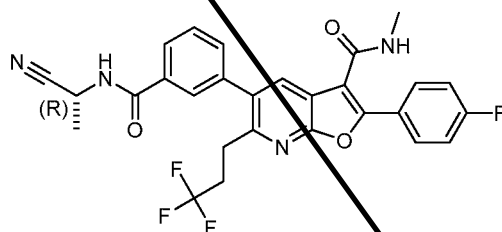




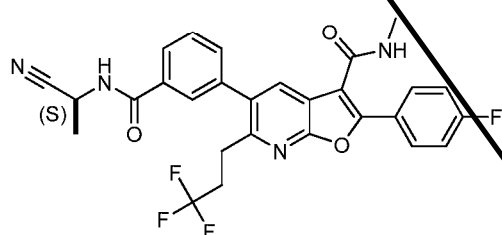
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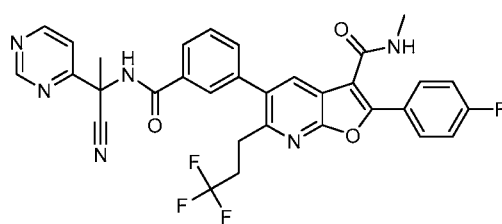
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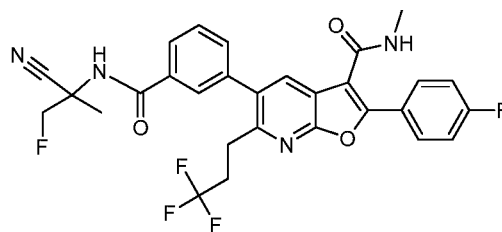
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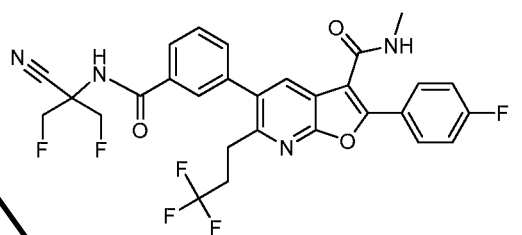
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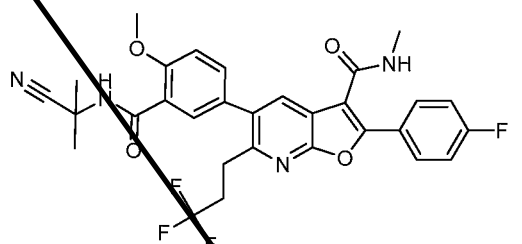
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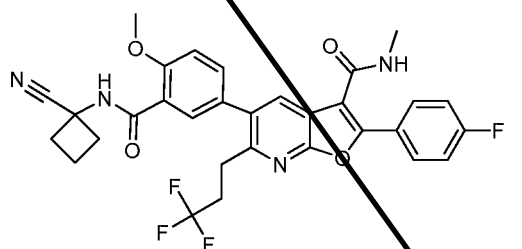
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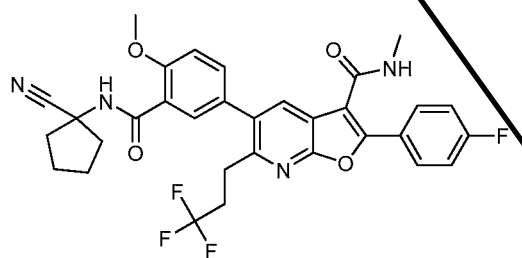
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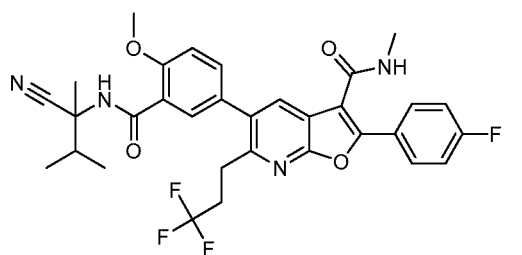
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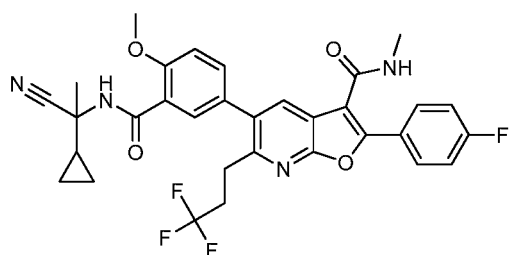
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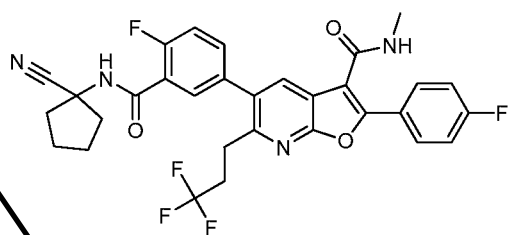
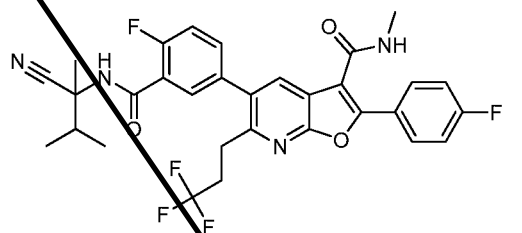
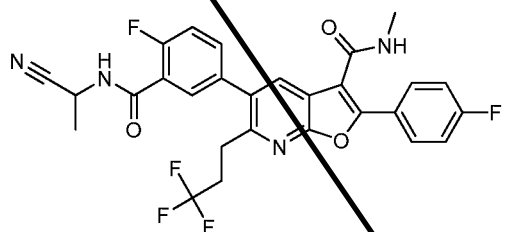
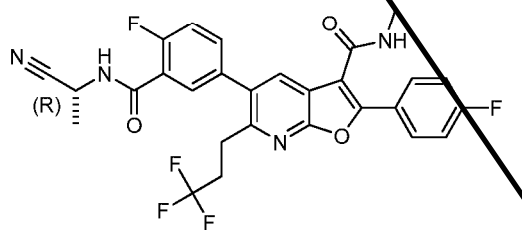
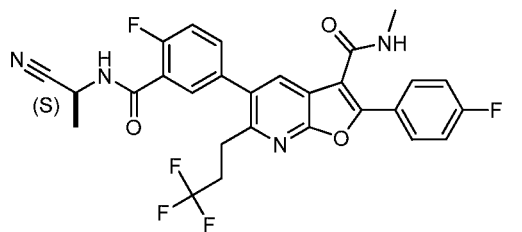
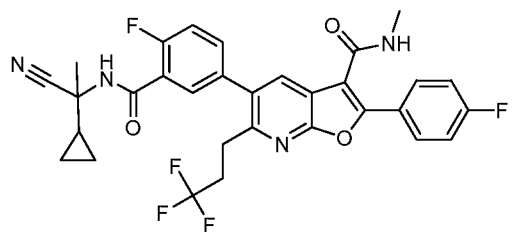
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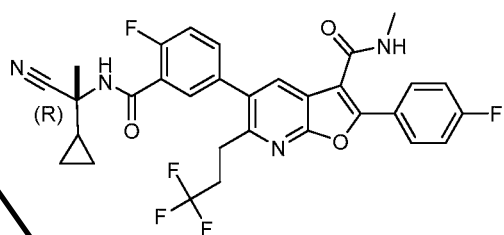
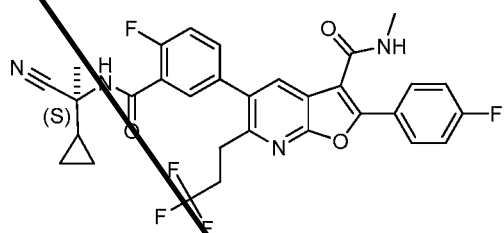
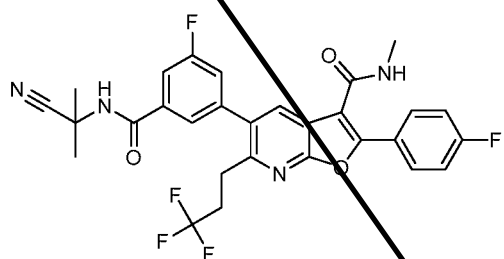
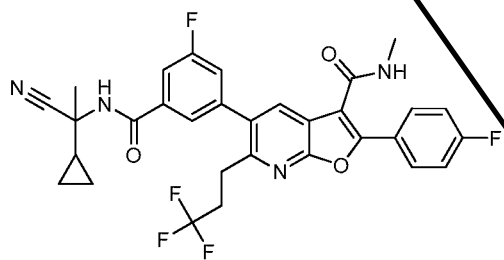
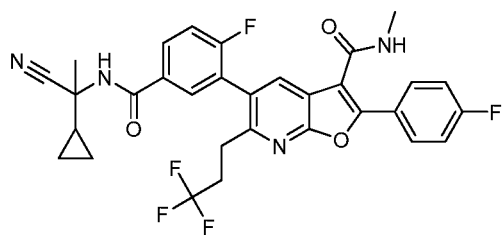
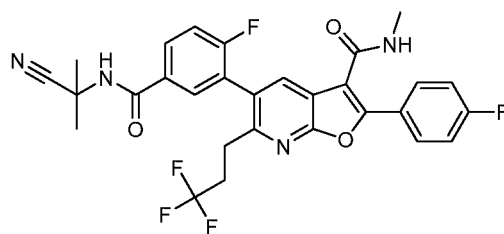


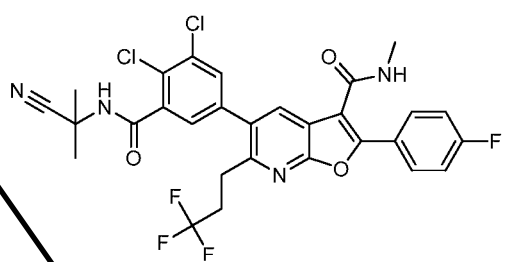
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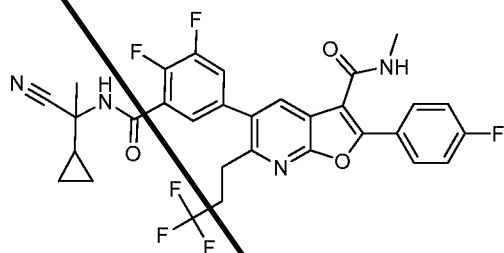
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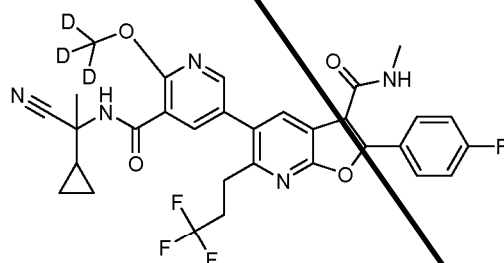




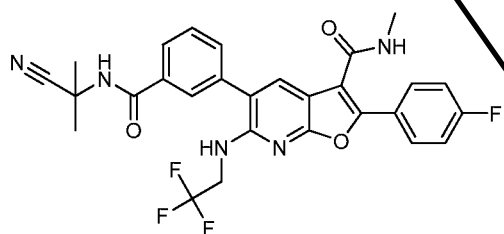
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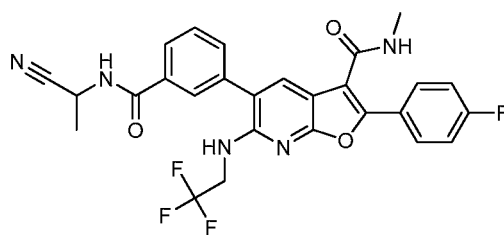
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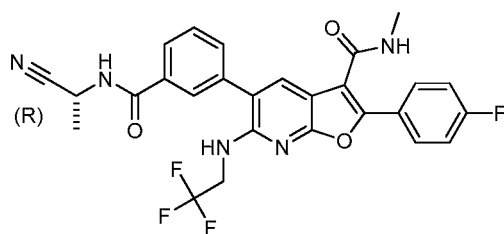
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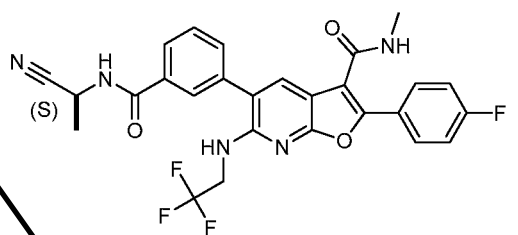
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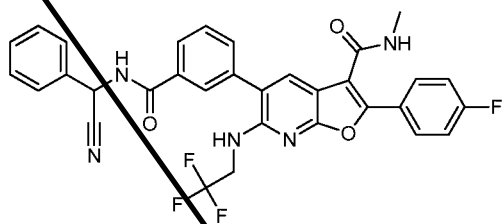
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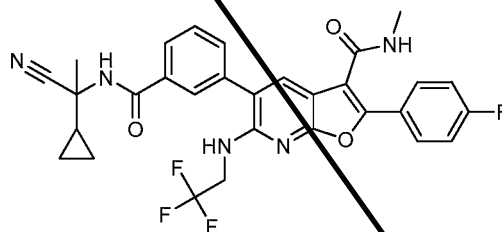
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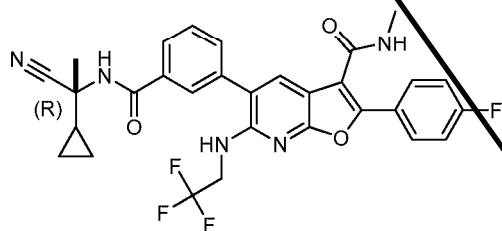
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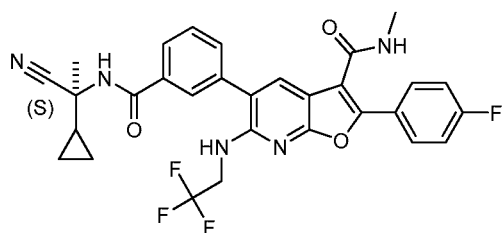
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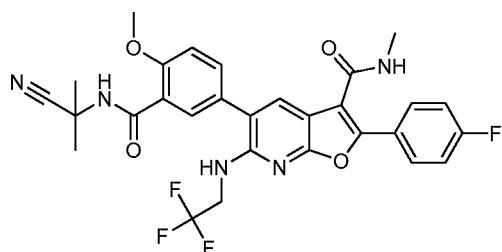
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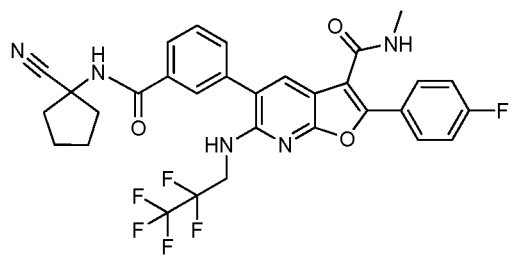


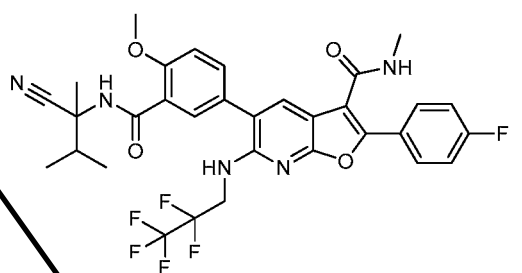
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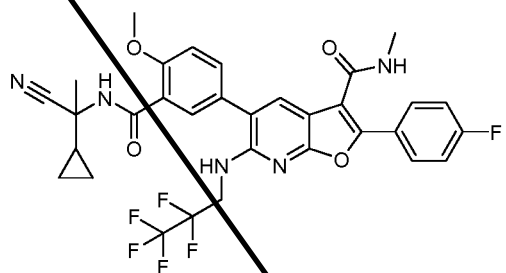
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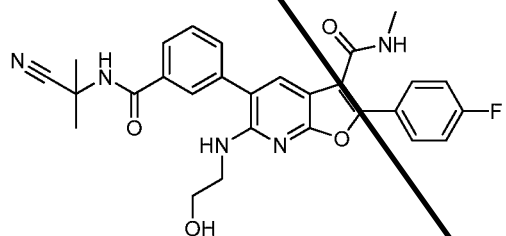




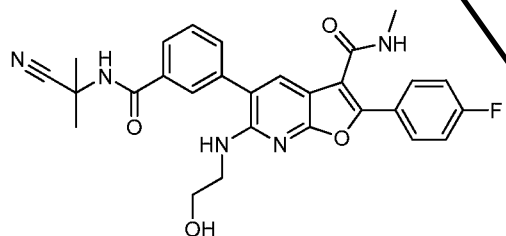
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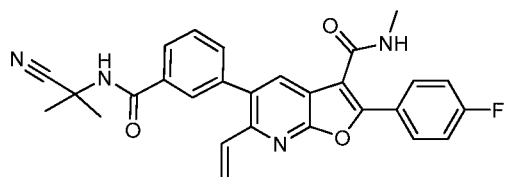
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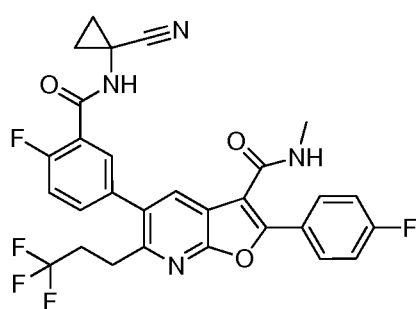
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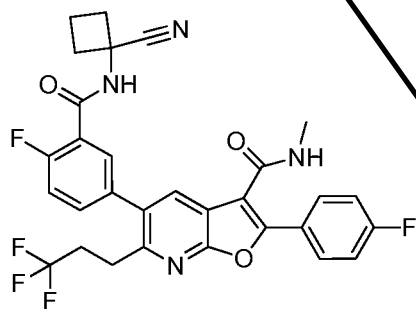
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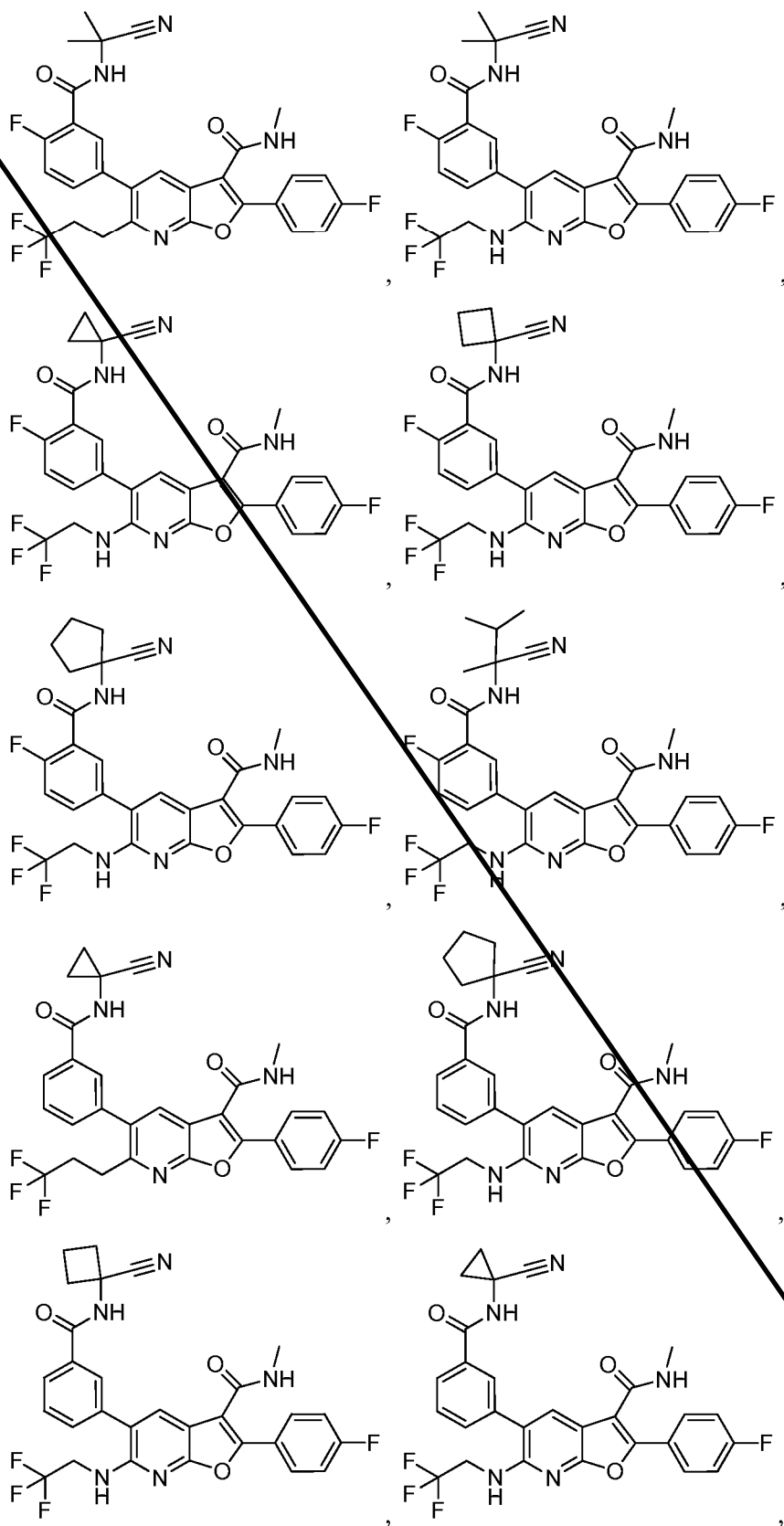
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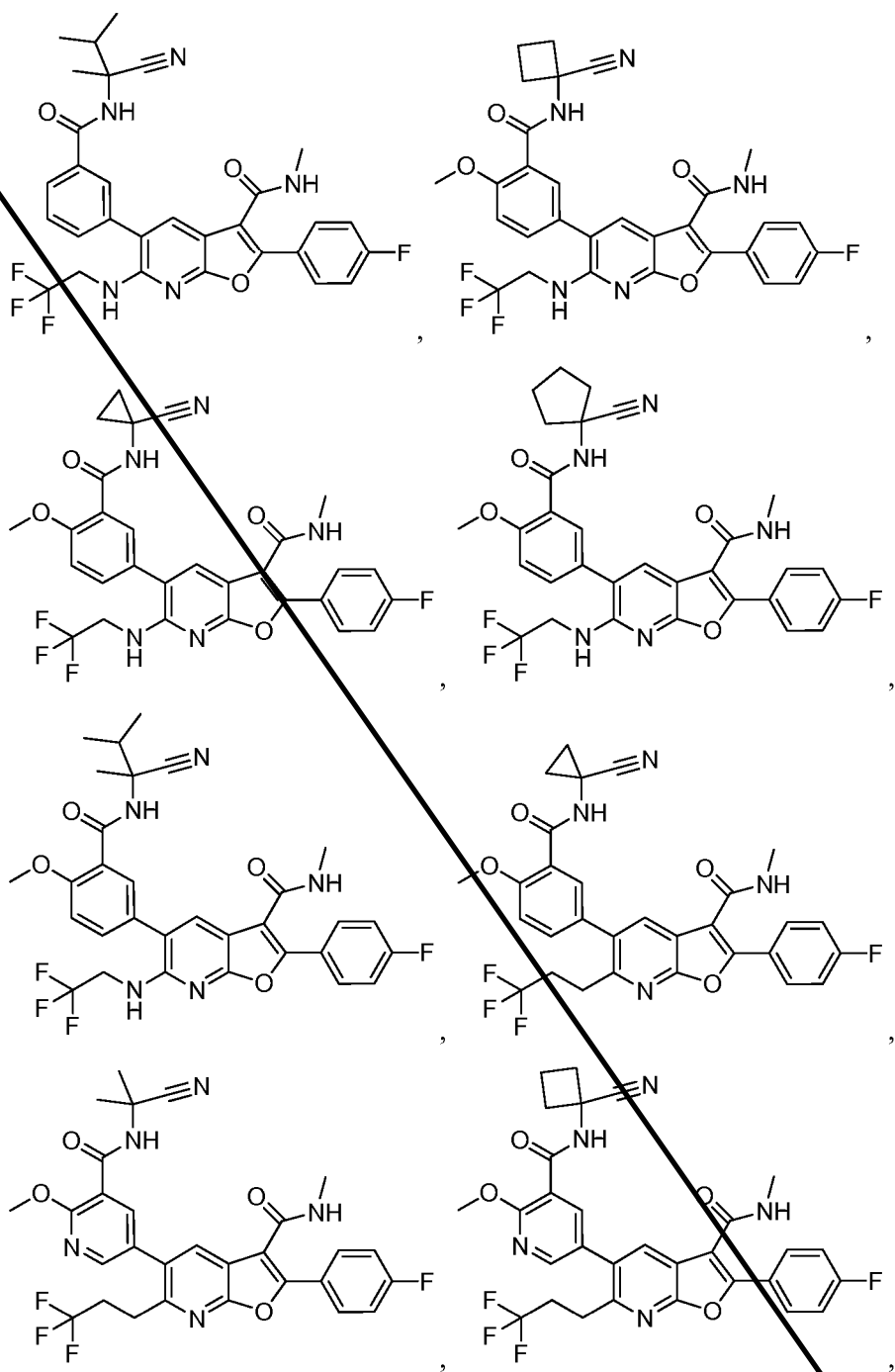


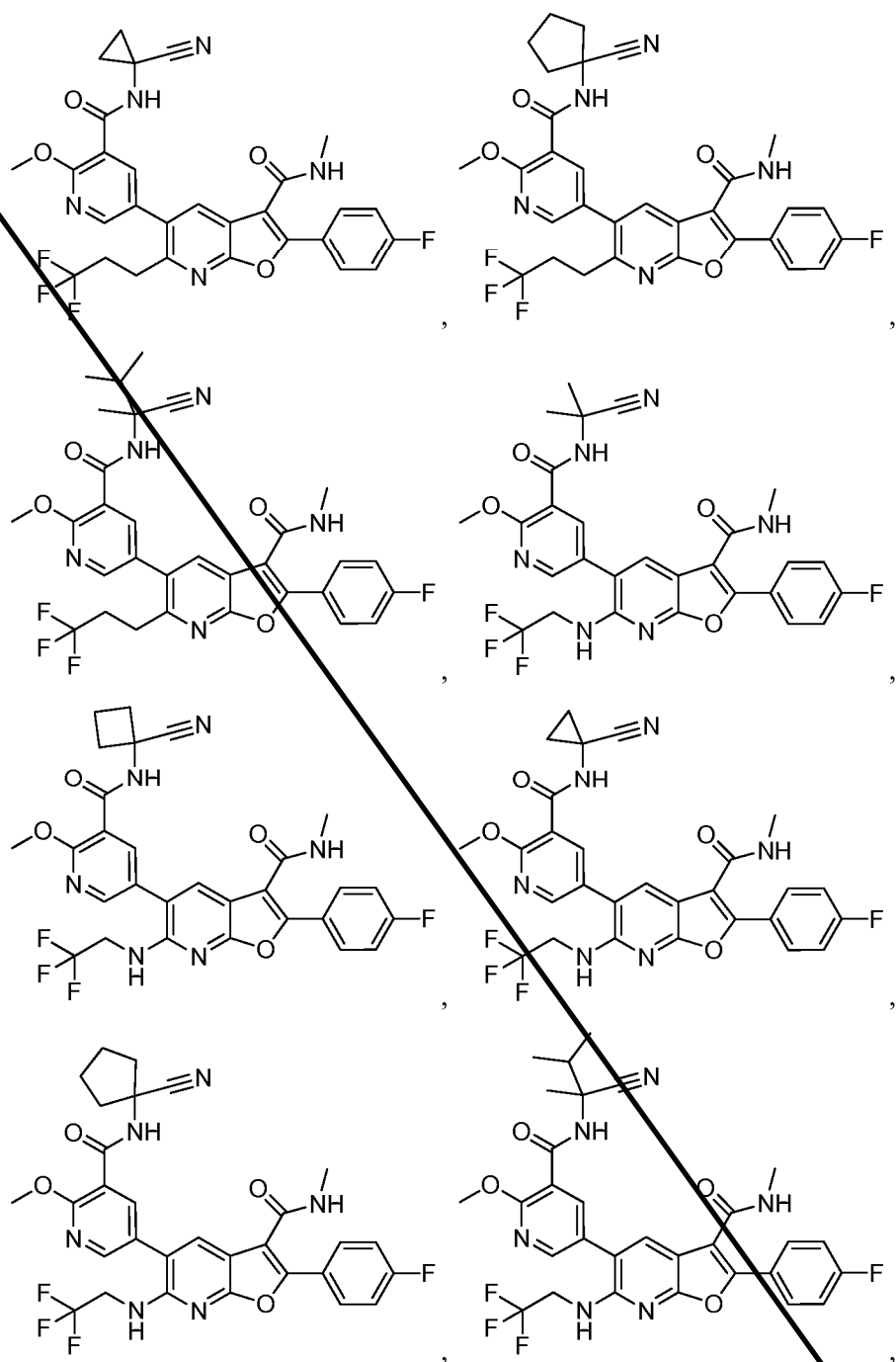
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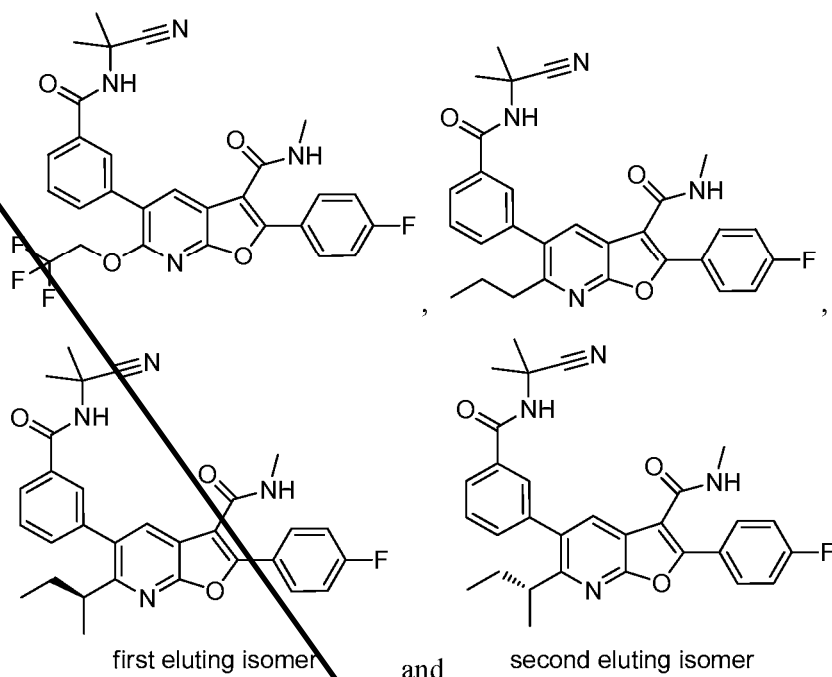


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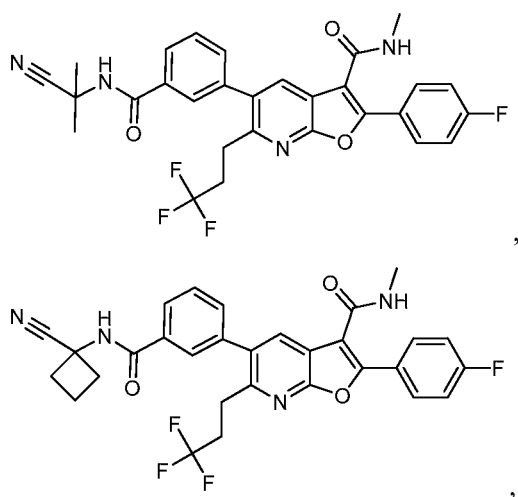


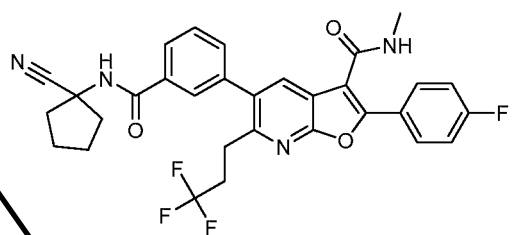




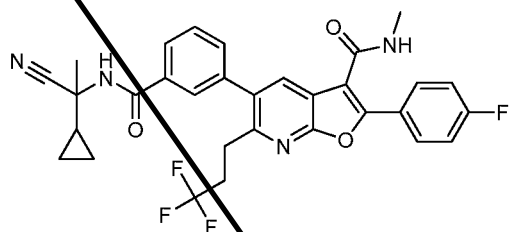


13. A compound, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, which is selected from the group of:

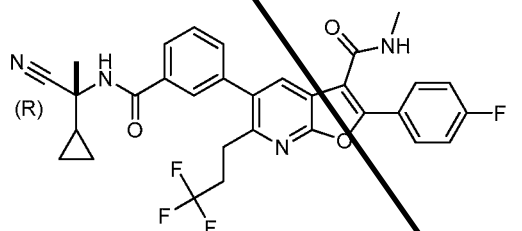




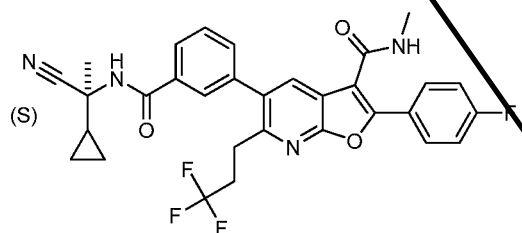
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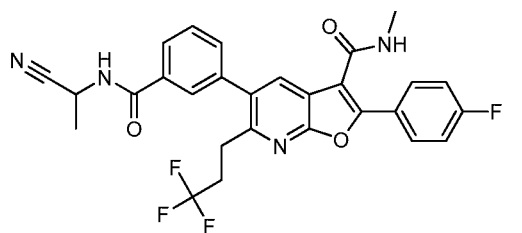
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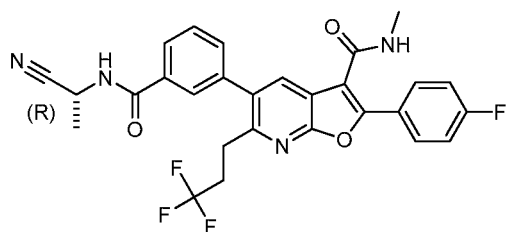
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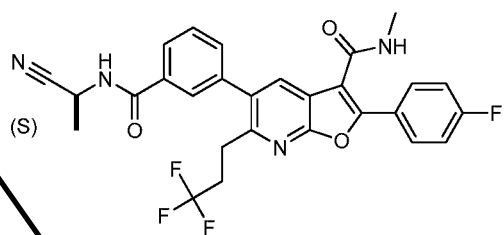
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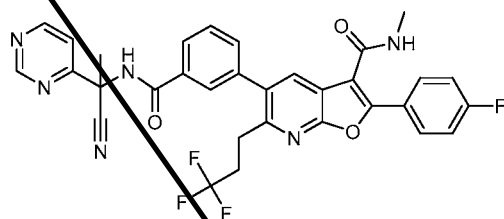
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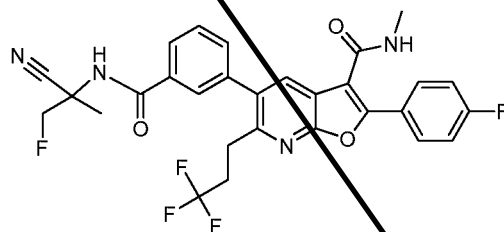
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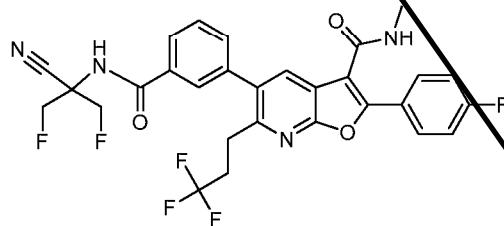
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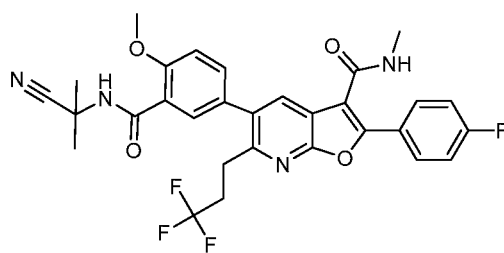
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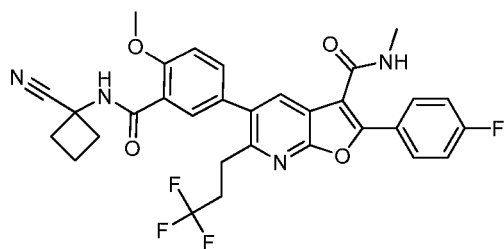
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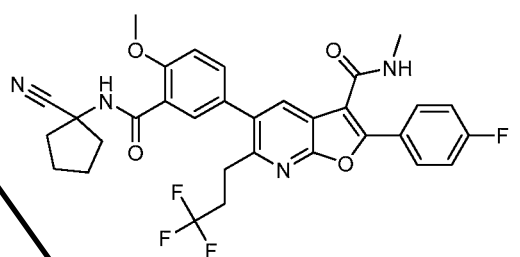
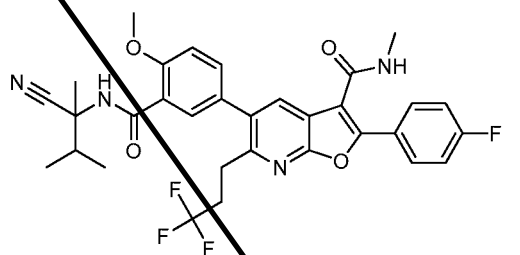
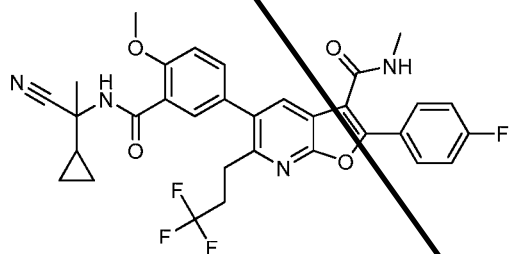
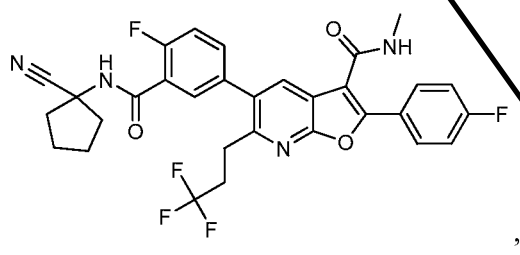
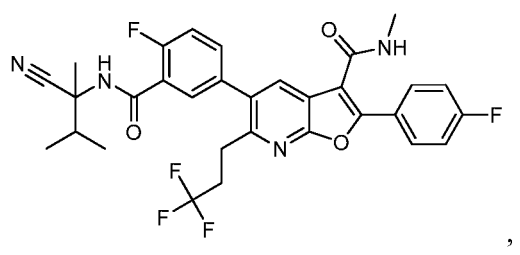
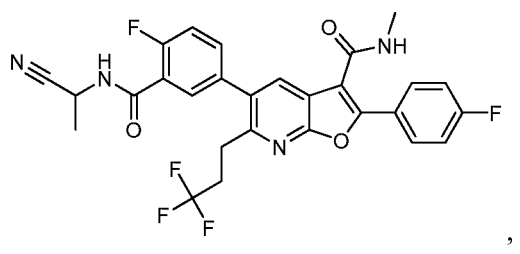
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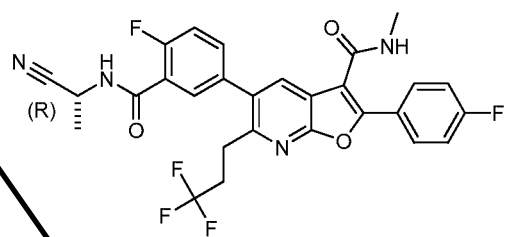
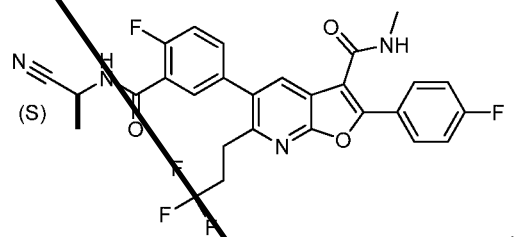
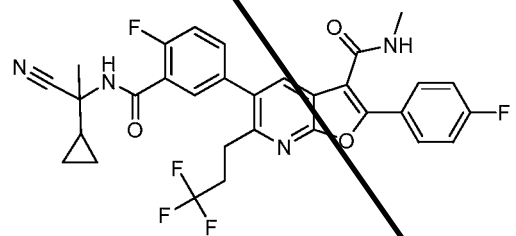
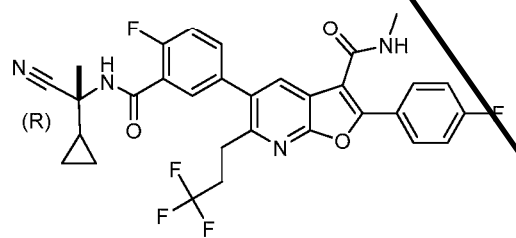
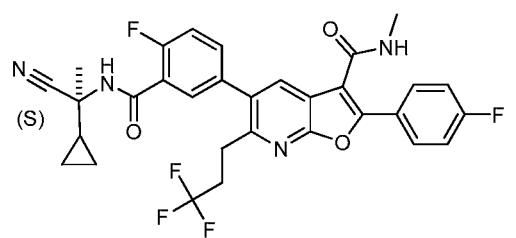
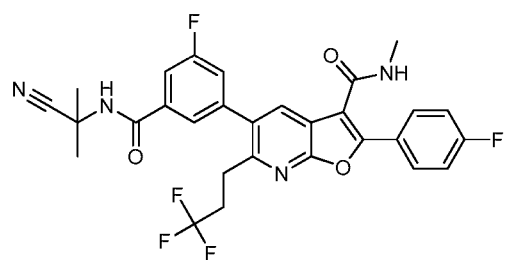


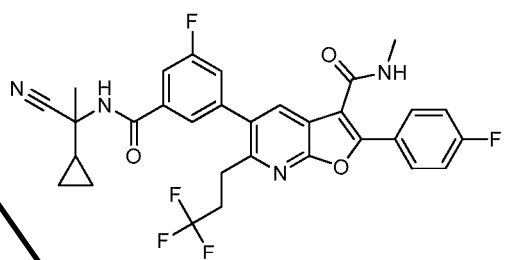
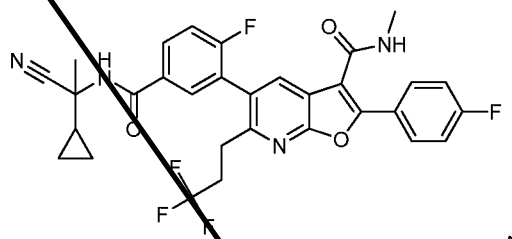
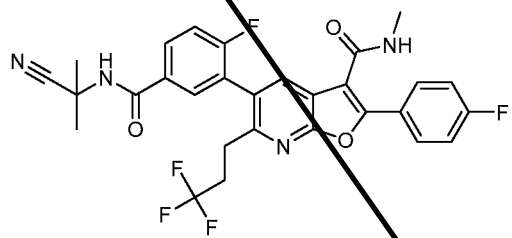
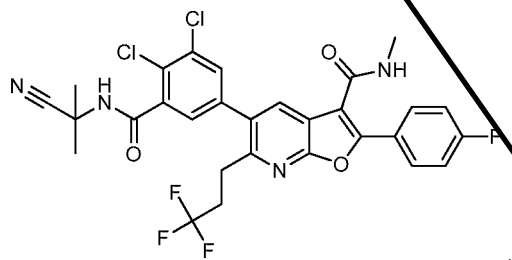
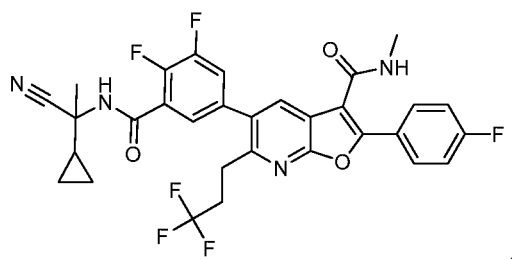
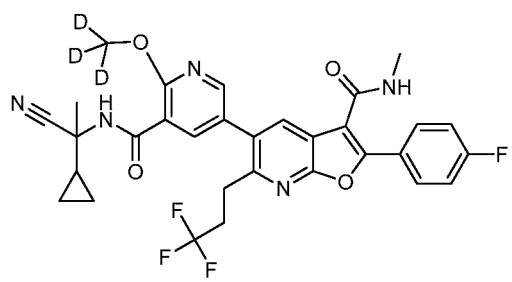
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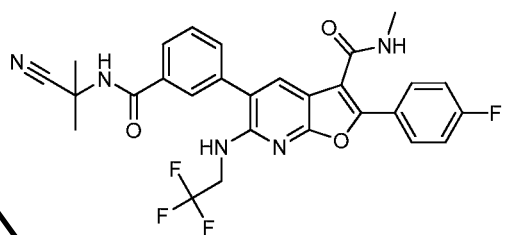


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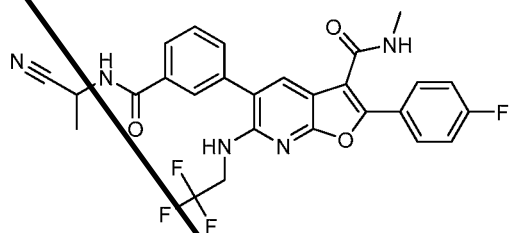




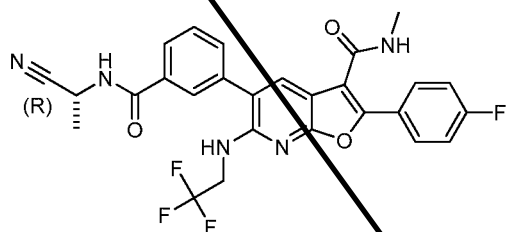




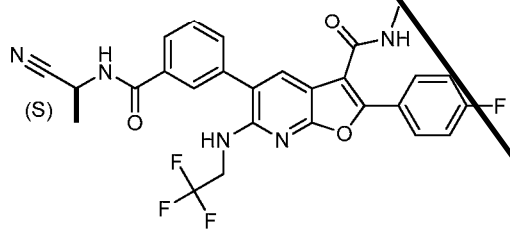
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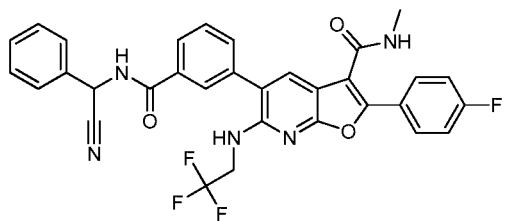
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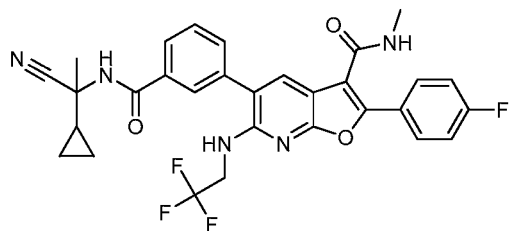
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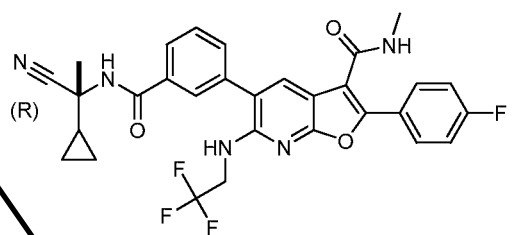
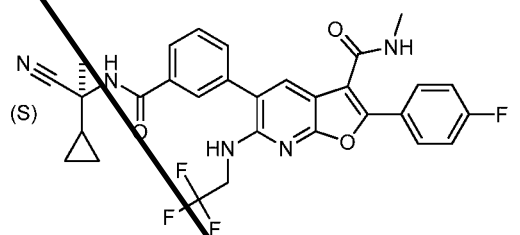
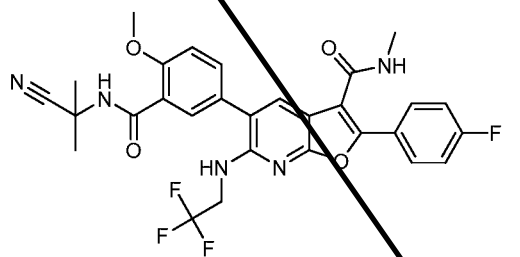
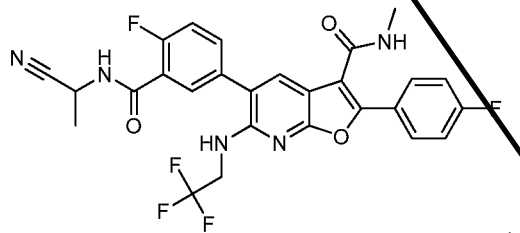
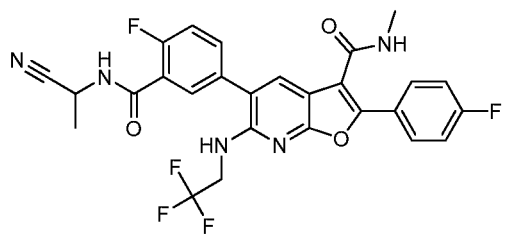
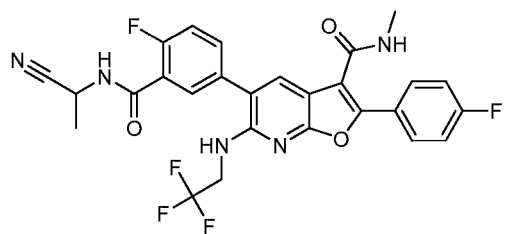
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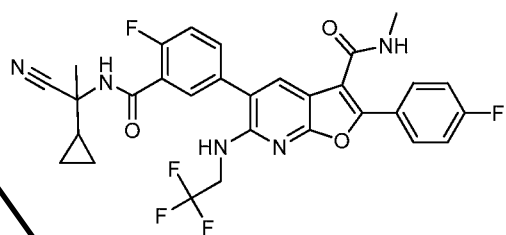


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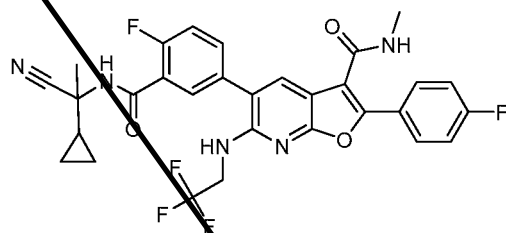


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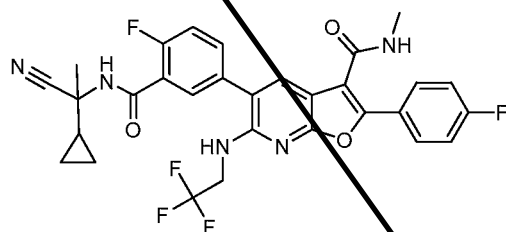




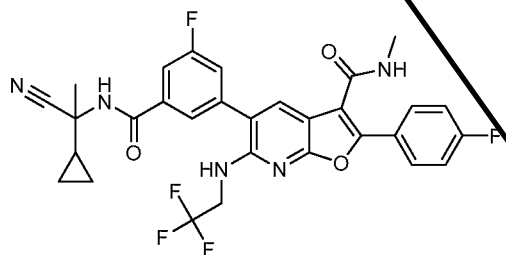
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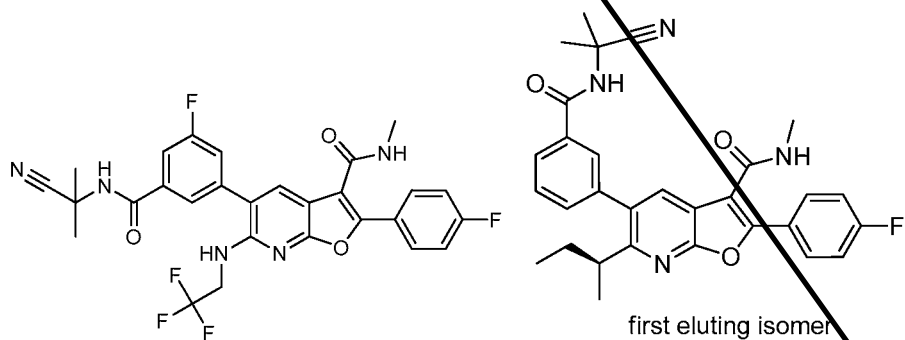
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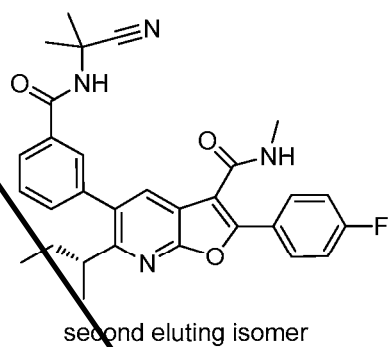
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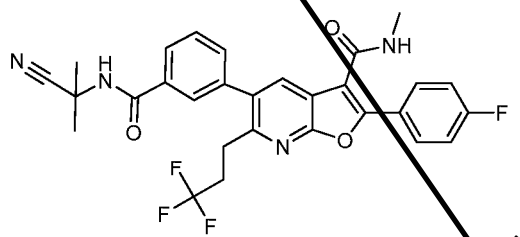
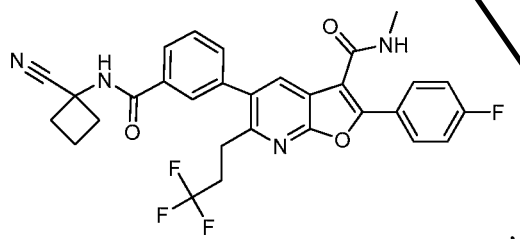
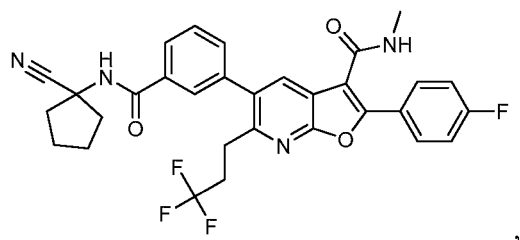
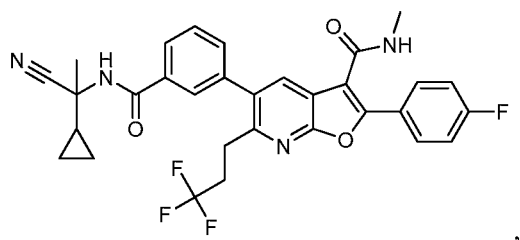
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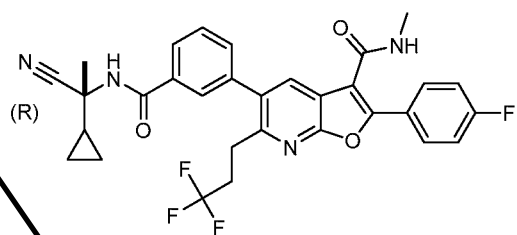
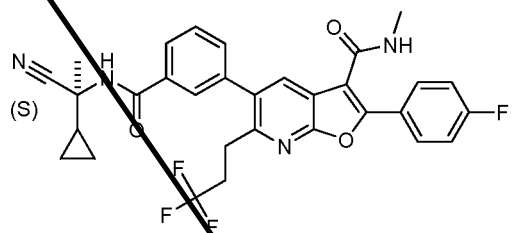
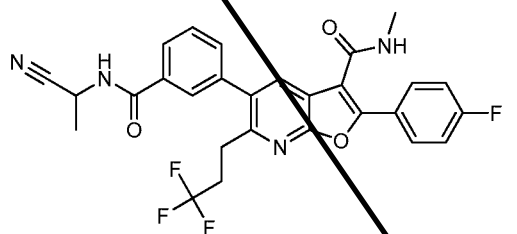
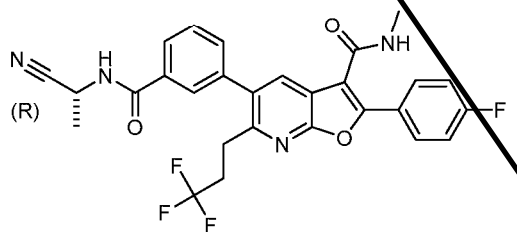
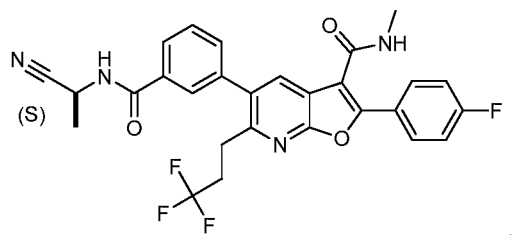
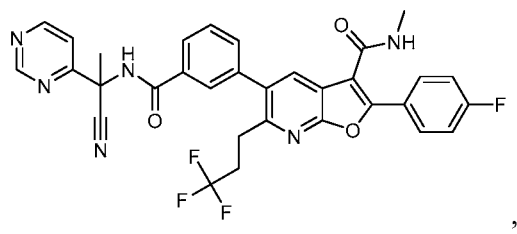
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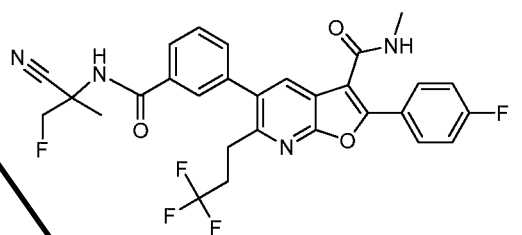
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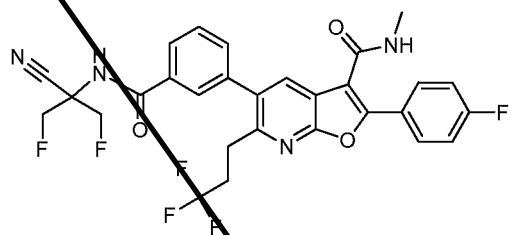
14. A compound, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, which is selected from the group of:



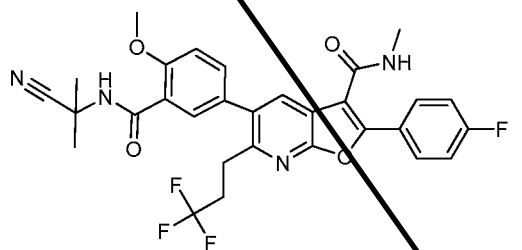




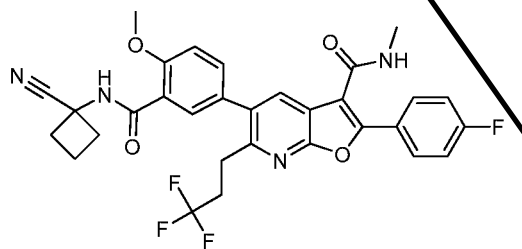
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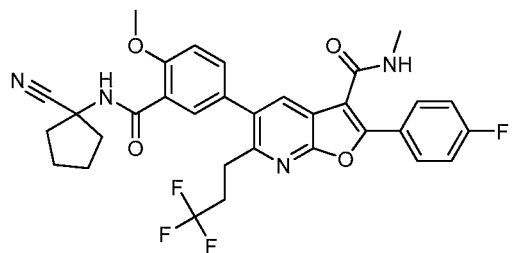
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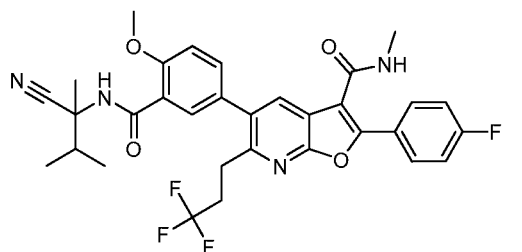
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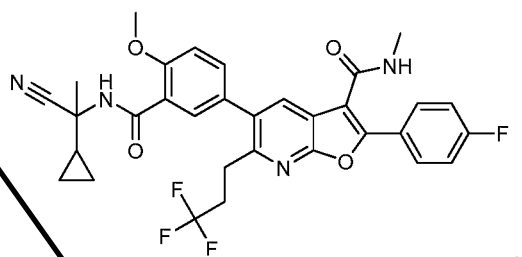
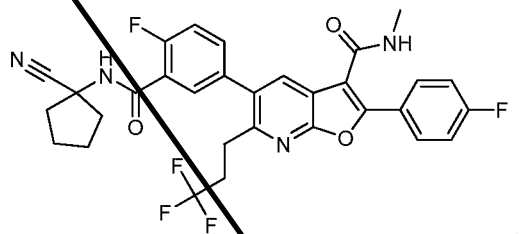
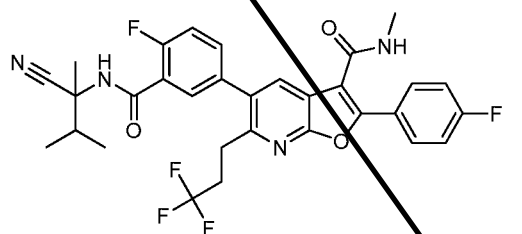
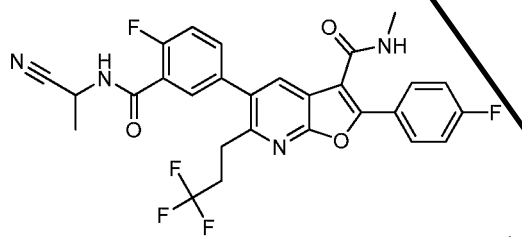
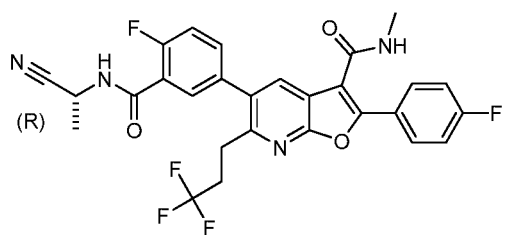
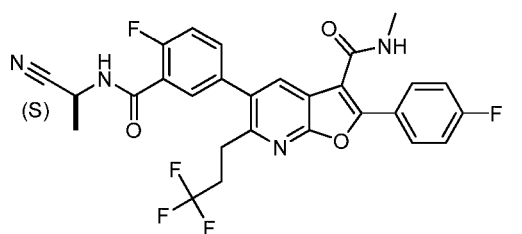
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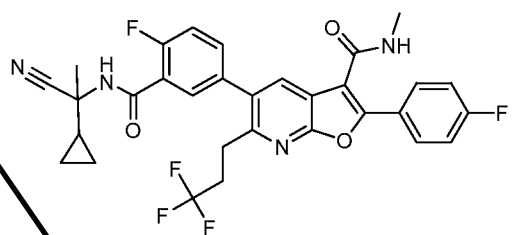
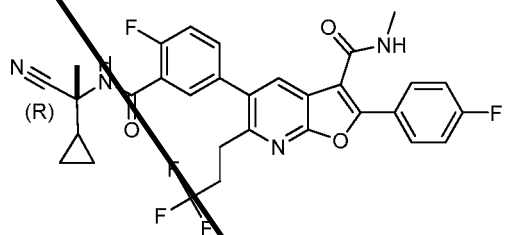
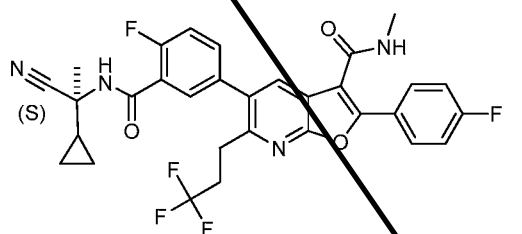
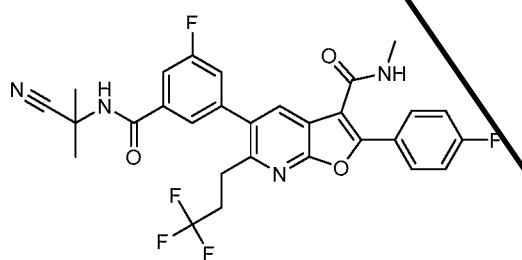
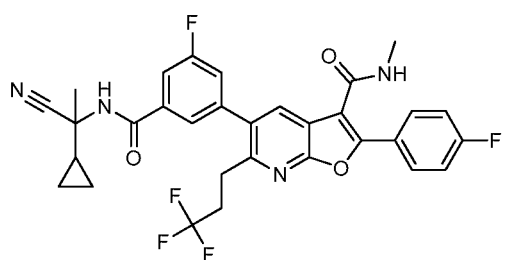
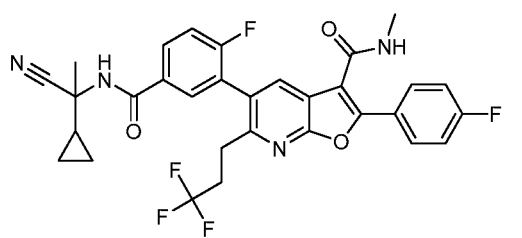


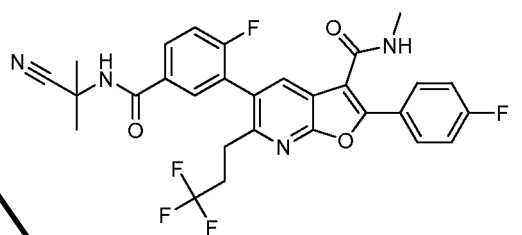
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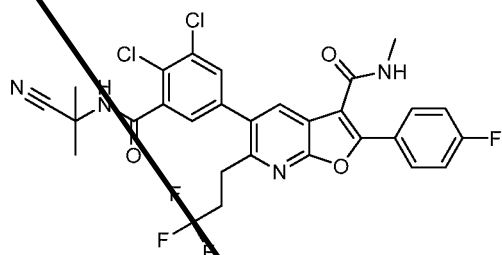
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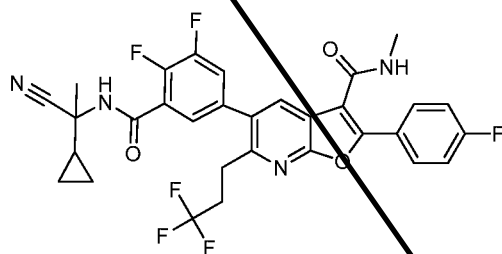




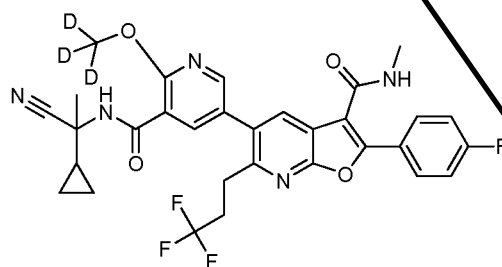
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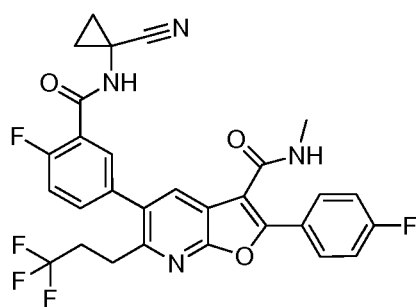
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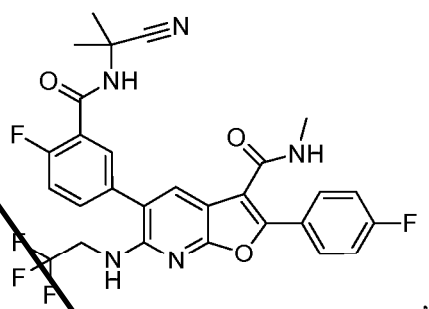
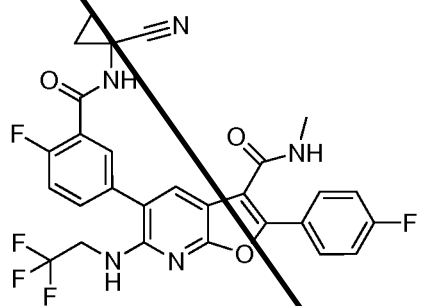
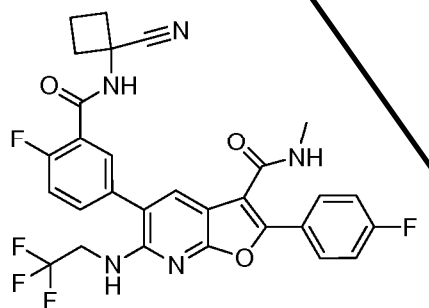
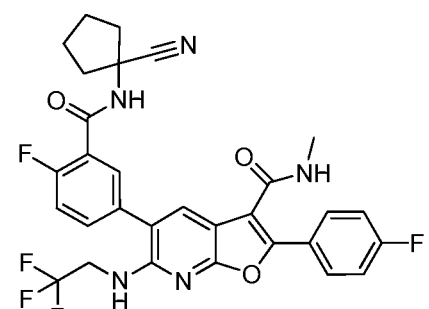
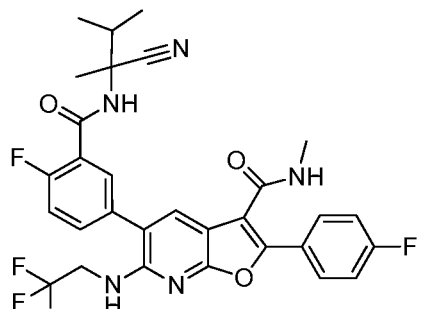
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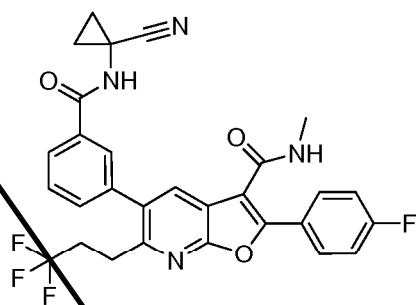
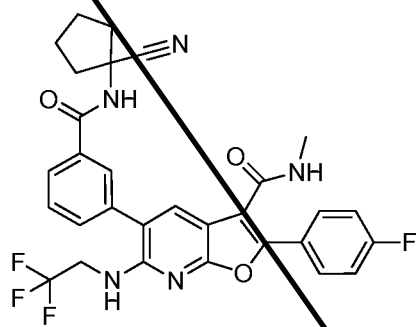
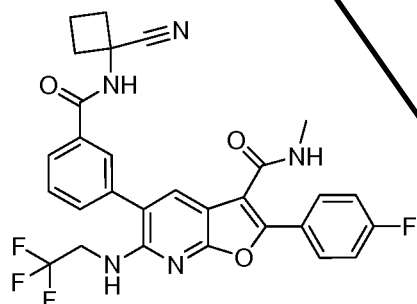
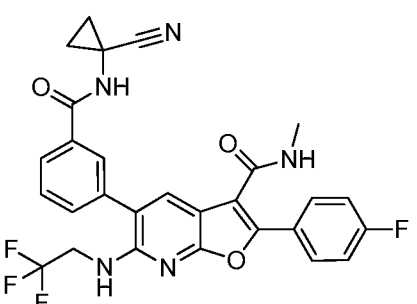
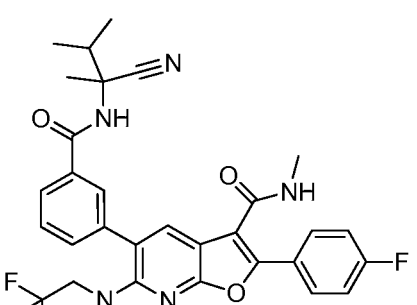


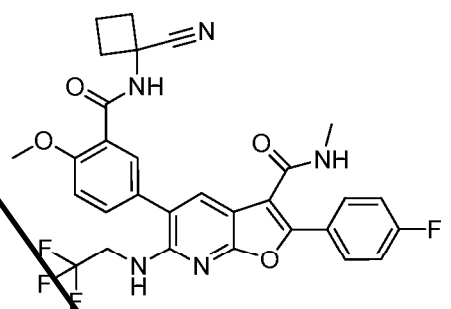
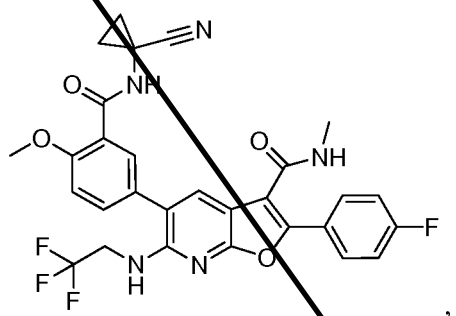
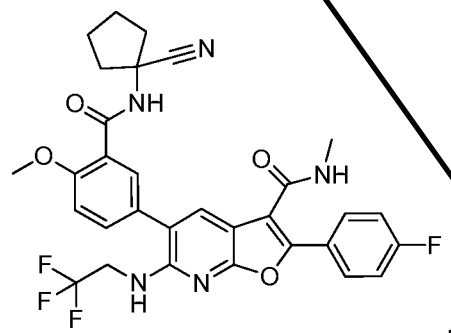
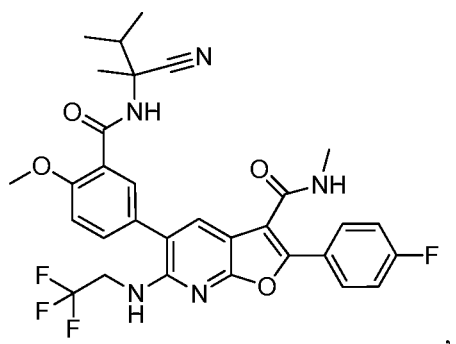
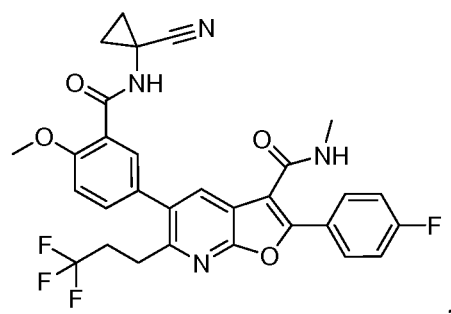
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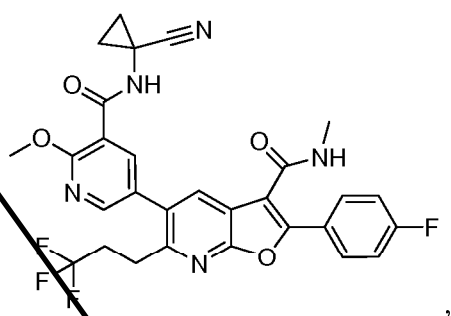
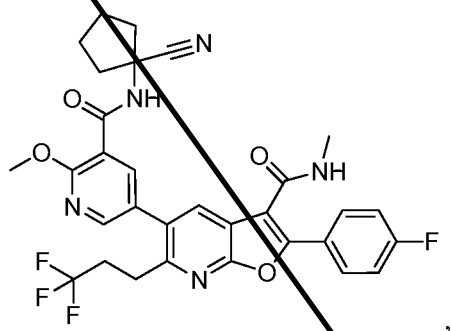
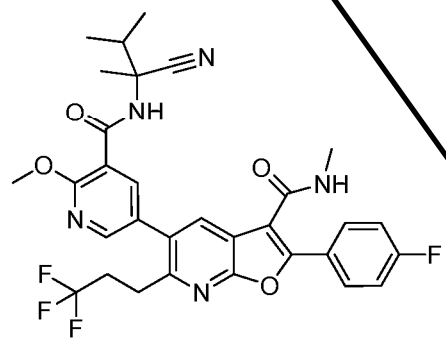
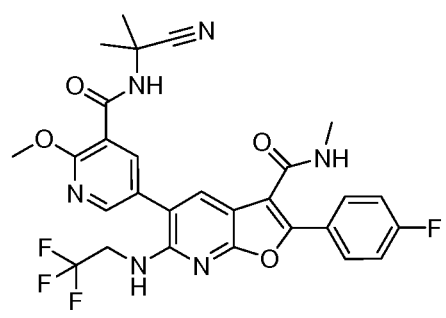
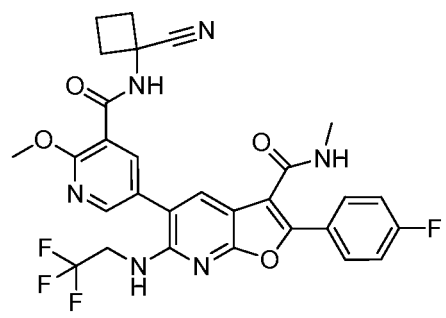


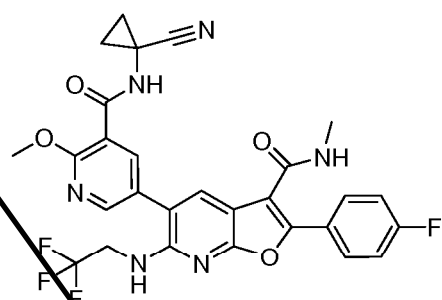
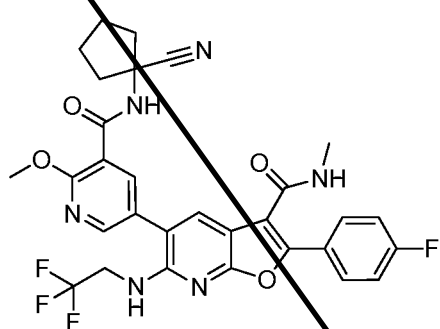
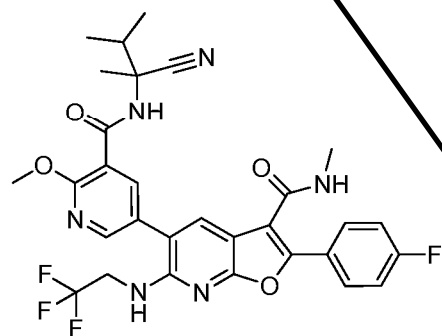
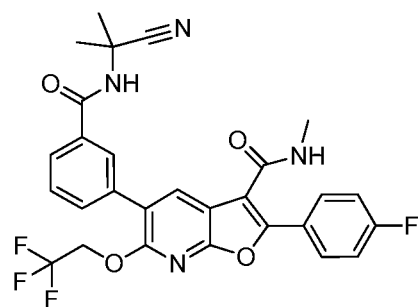
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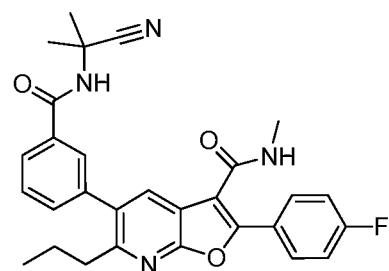




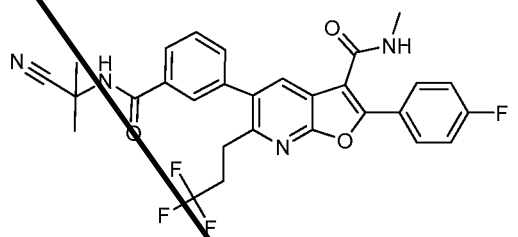




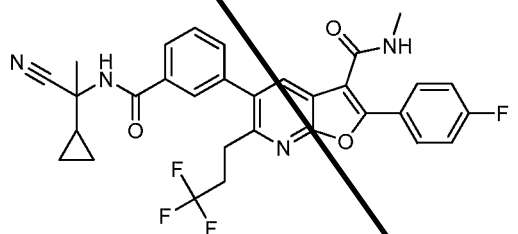
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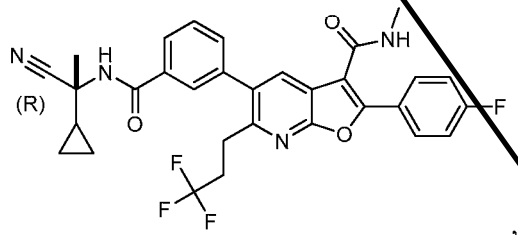
15. A compound, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, which is selected from the group of:



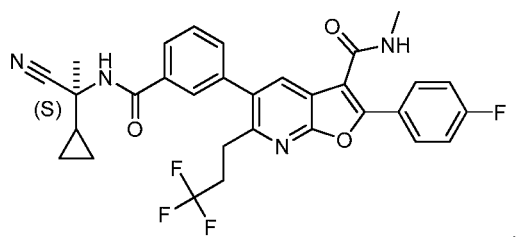
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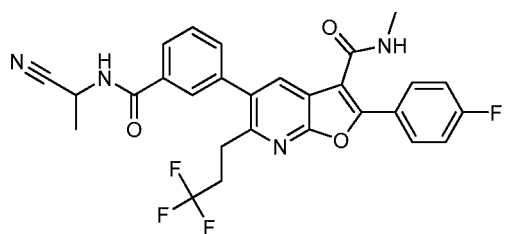
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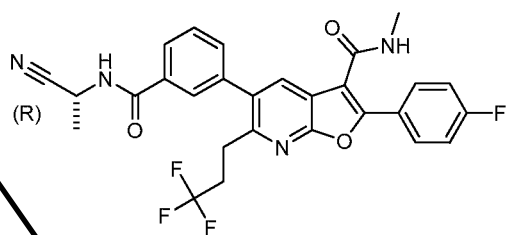
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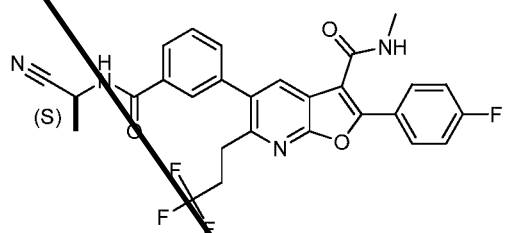
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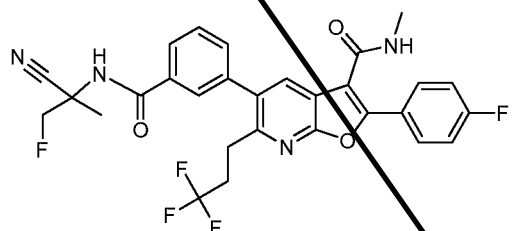
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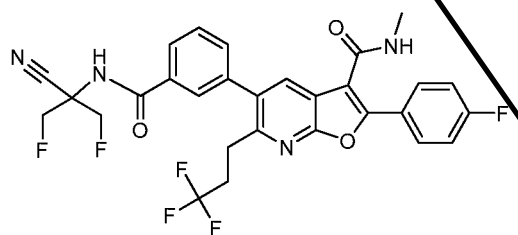
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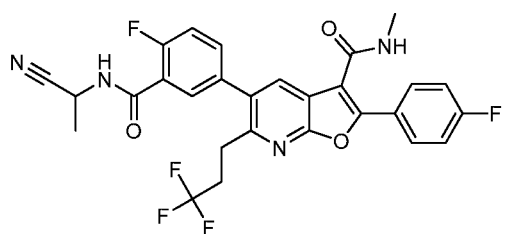
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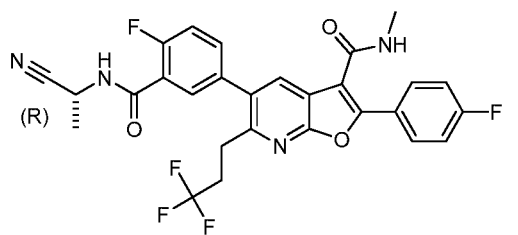
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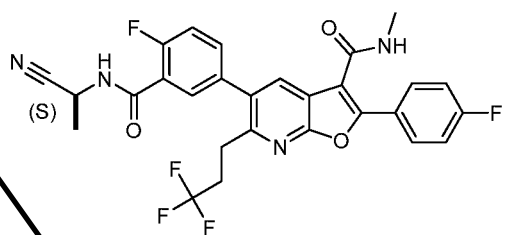
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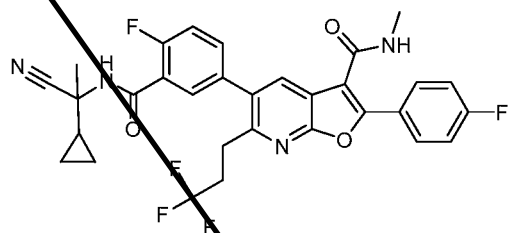
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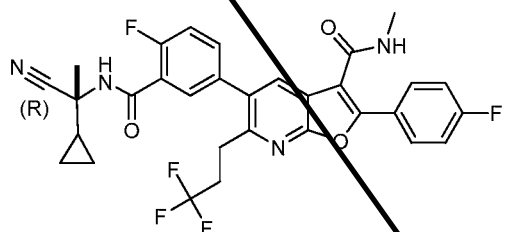
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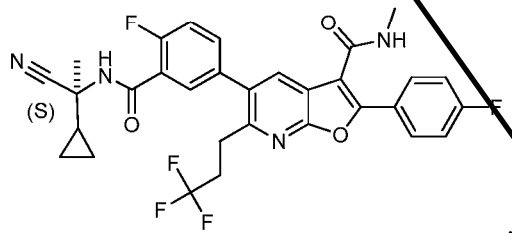
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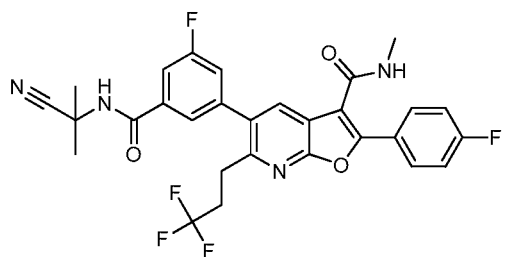
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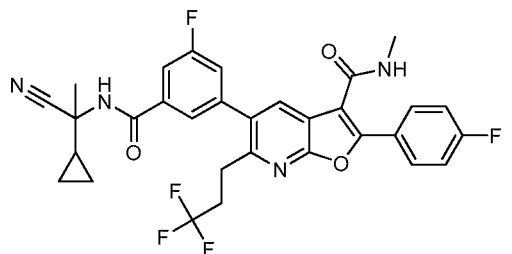
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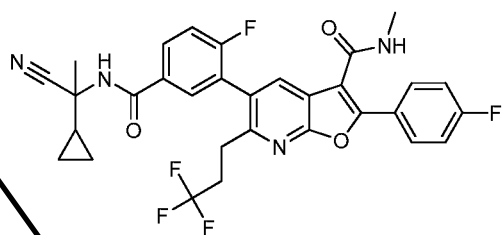
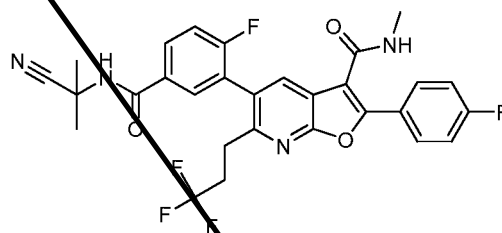
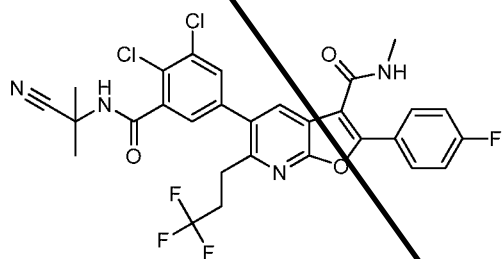
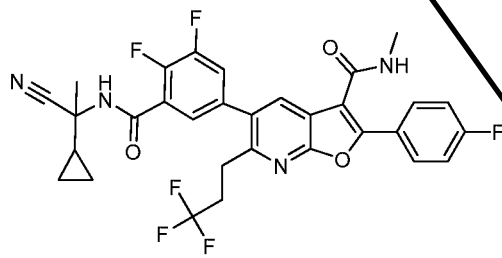
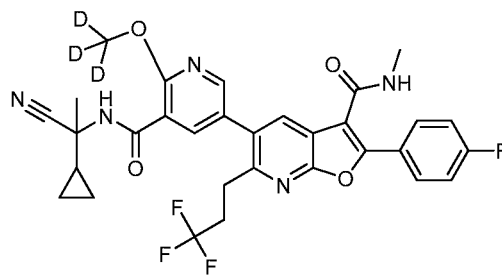
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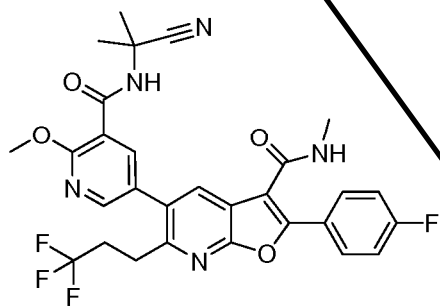


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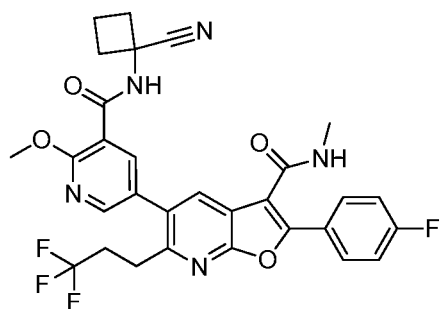


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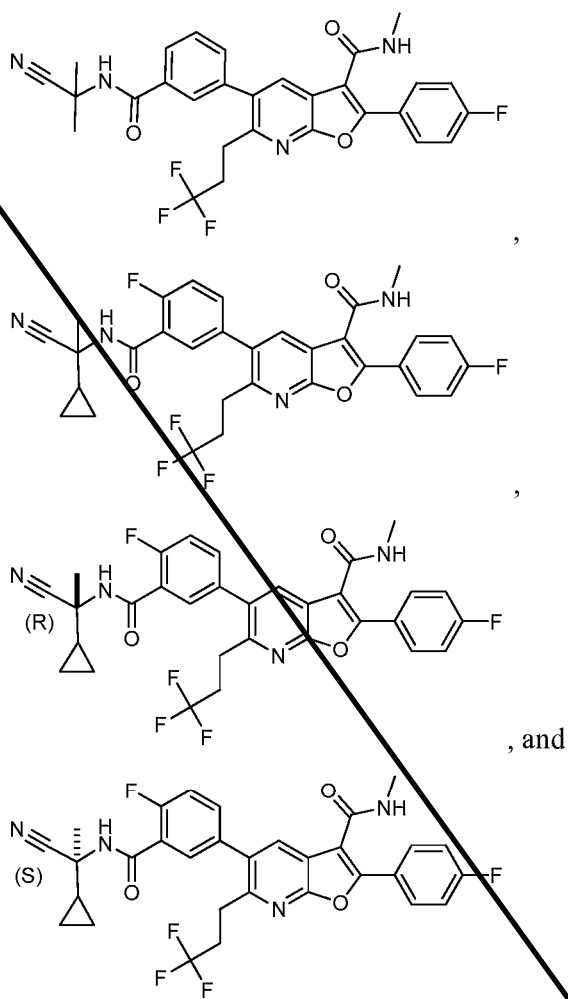




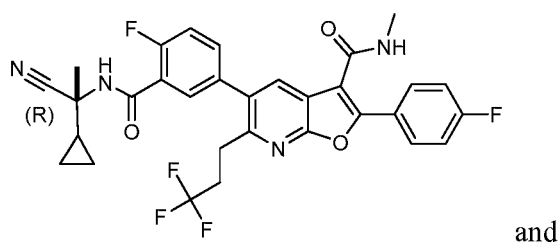
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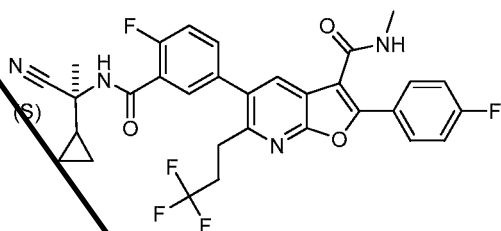


16. A compound, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, which is selected from the group of:



17. A compound, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, which is selected from the group of:



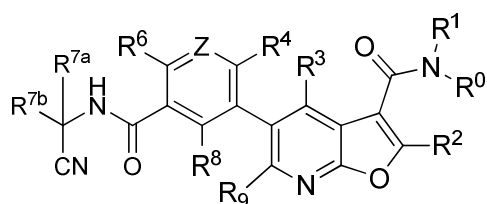


18. A composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient and/or diluent.
19. A composition comprising a compound of claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient and/or diluent.
20. A composition comprising a compound of claim 12 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient and/or diluent.
21. A composition comprising a compound of claim 16 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient and/or diluent.
22. A composition comprising a compound of claim 8 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient and/or diluent.
23. A composition comprising a compound of claim 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient and/or diluents.
24. A method of treating hepatitis C infection comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A compound of Formula I, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof:



I

wherein

Z is C-R⁵ or N;

R⁰ is hydrogen;

R¹ is methyl;

R² is parafluorophenyl;

R³ is hydrogen;

R⁴, R⁵, and R⁶ are independently selected from the group of hydrogen, fluoro, alkoxy, and perdeuteroalkoxy;

R^{7a} is selected from the group of hydrogen, methyl, fluoromethyl, and cyclopropyl;

R^{7b} is selected from the group of hydrogen, methyl, fluoromethyl, cyclopropyl, and Ar¹;

or together R^{7a} and R^{7b} form a cyclopropyl or cyclobutyl ring;

R⁸ is hydrogen,

Ar¹ is phenyl, or pyrimidyl;

R⁹ is R²⁰¹, or NR²⁰³R²⁰⁴;

R²⁰¹ is -CH₂CH₂CF₃ or vinyl;

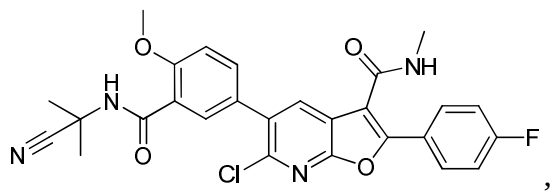
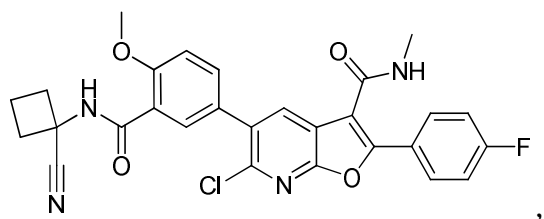
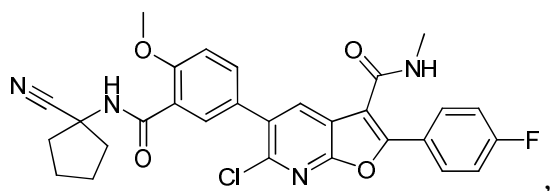
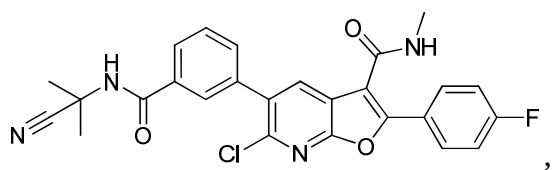
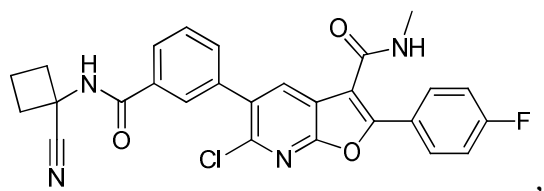
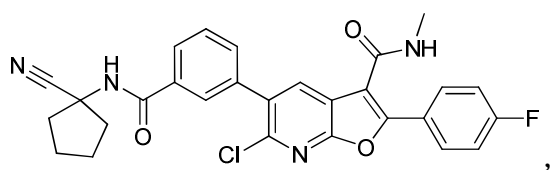
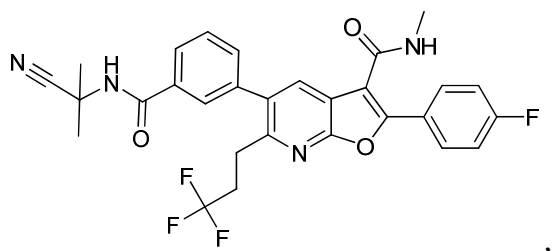
R²⁰² is C₁-C₃ alkyl, or C₁-C₃ alkyl with between one to all of the hydrogens replaced by fluoro;

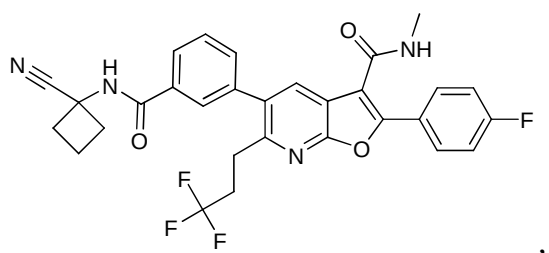
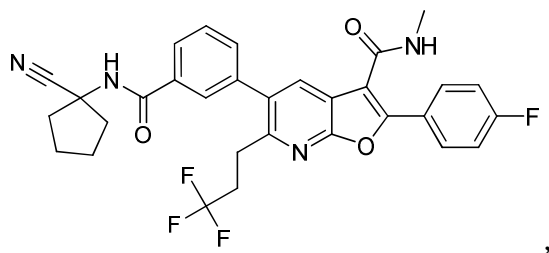
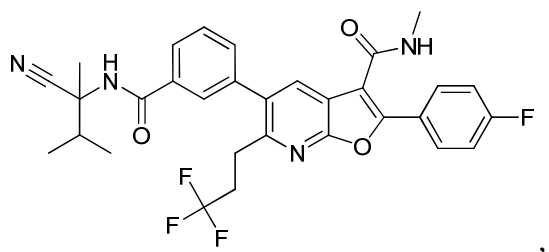
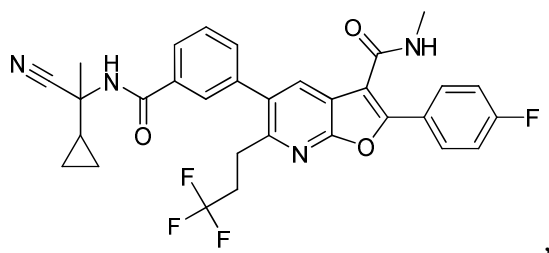
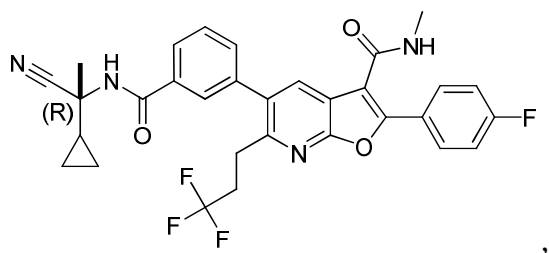
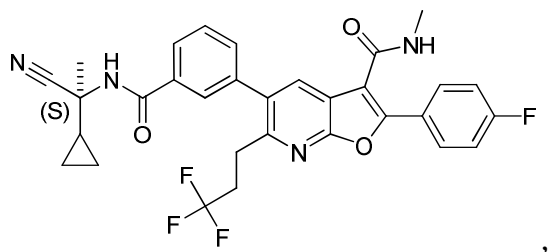
R²⁰³ is hydrogen; and

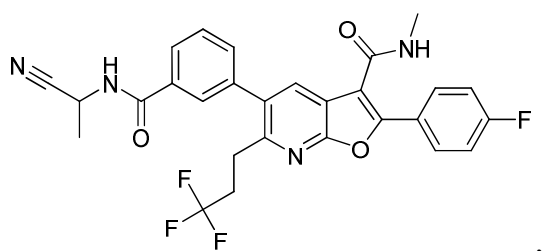
R²⁰⁴ is -CH₂CF₃, -CH₂CF₂-CF₃, or -CH₂CH₂OH.

2. A compound of claim 1 wherein R^4 is hydrogen, R^5 is hydrogen or fluoro, R^{7b} is selected from the group of hydrogen, methyl, fluoromethyl, and cyclopropyl, or together R^{7a} and R^{7b} form a cyclopropyl or cyclobutyl ring; and
- 5 R^{201} is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_3$.
3. A compound of claim 1 wherein Z is N.
4. A compound of claim 1 wherein Z is CR^5 .
- 10 5. A compound of claim 4 wherein R^4 is hydrogen and R^6 is $-\text{OCD}_3$.
6. A compound of claim 1 wherein R^4 is hydrogen, R^5 is hydrogen or fluoro R^6 is hydrogen, fluoro, or $-\text{OCH}_3$, R^{7a} is selected from the group of hydrogen, methyl, fluoromethyl, and cyclopropyl, R^{7b} is selected from hydrogen, methyl, fluoromethyl, or cyclopropyl, or together R^{7a} and R^{7b} form a cyclopropyl or cyclobutyl ring; and R^{201} is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_3$.
- 15 7. A compound of claim 6 wherein R^5 is hydrogen, R^6 is fluoro, R^{7a} is methyl, R^{7b} is cyclopropyl, and R^9 is R^{201} .
- 20 8. The compound existing as a single enantiomer which is: (R)-5-(3-((1-cyano-1-cyclopropylethyl)carbamoyl)-4-fluorophenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-methyl-6-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)furo[2,3-b]pyridine-3-carboxamide.
- 25 9. The compound existing as a single enantiomer which is: (S)-5-(3-((1-cyano-1-cyclopropylethyl)carbamoyl)-4-fluorophenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-methyl-6-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)furo[2,3-b]pyridine-3-carboxamide.
- 30 10. A compound of claim 8 or claim 9, wherein said compound exists as the single enantiomer that exhibits a minus rotation when optical rotation is measured via standard methods in a polarimeter.

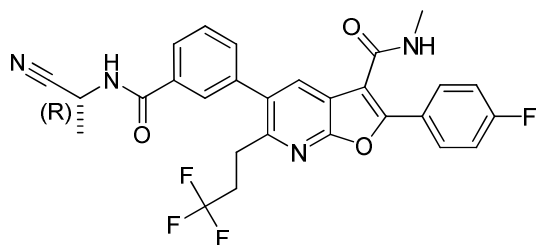
11. A compound, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, which is selected from the group of:



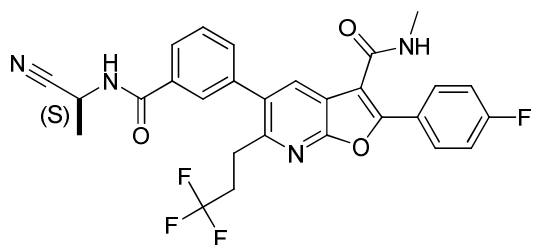




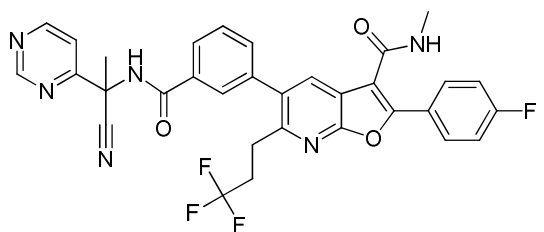
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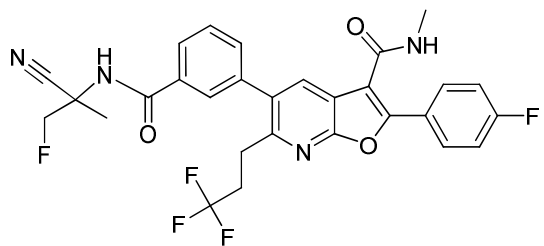
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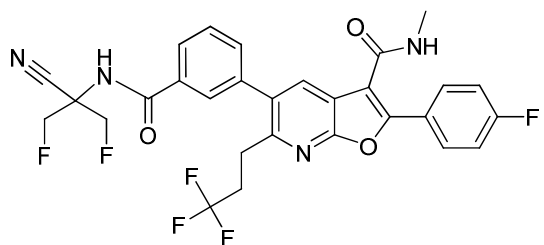
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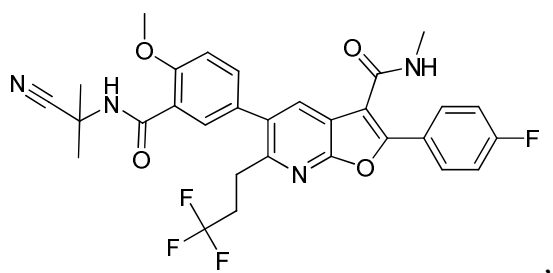
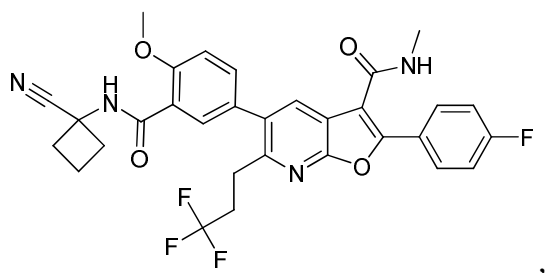
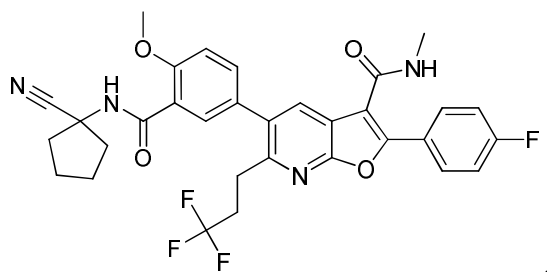
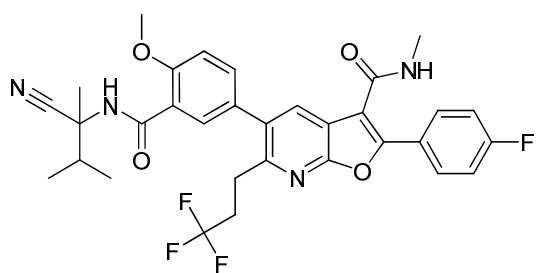
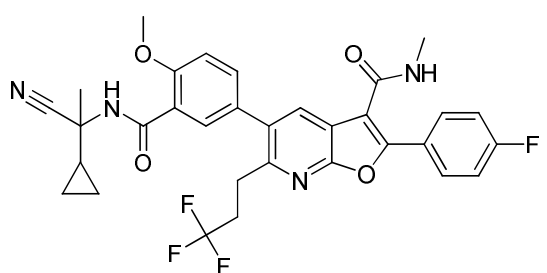
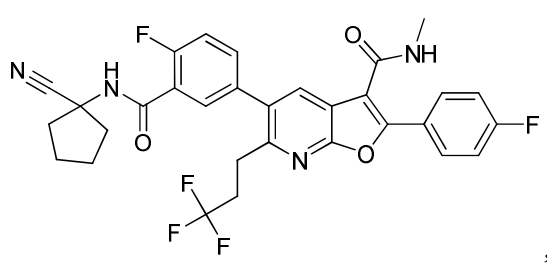
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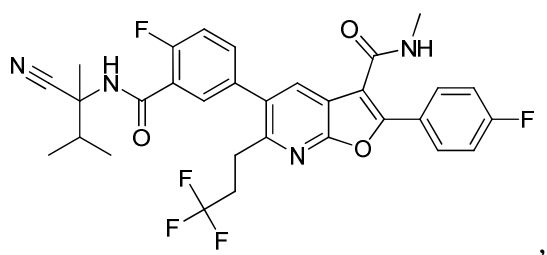
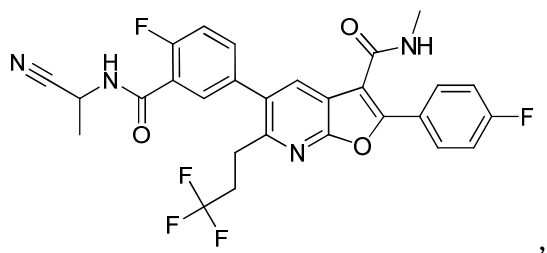
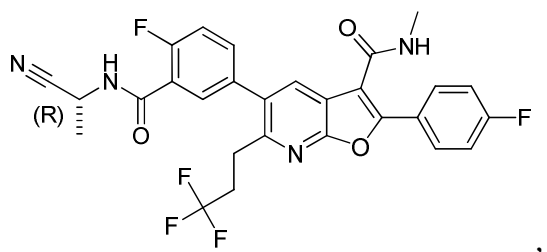
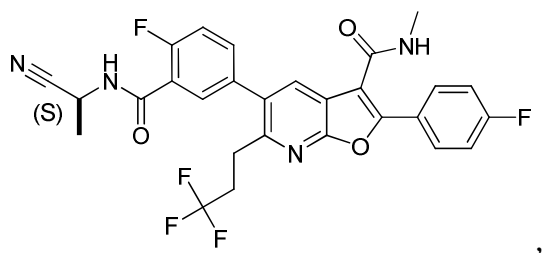
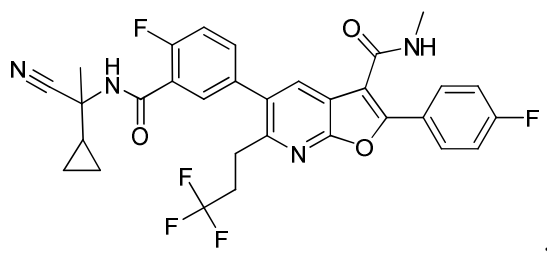
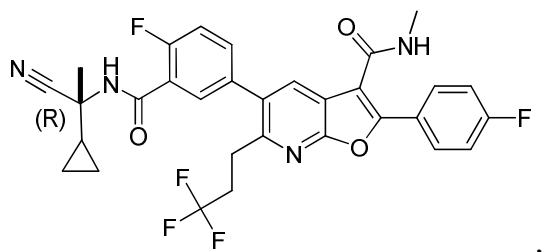


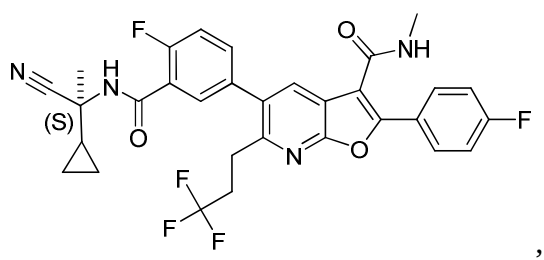
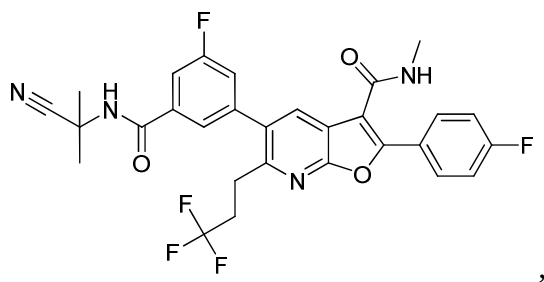
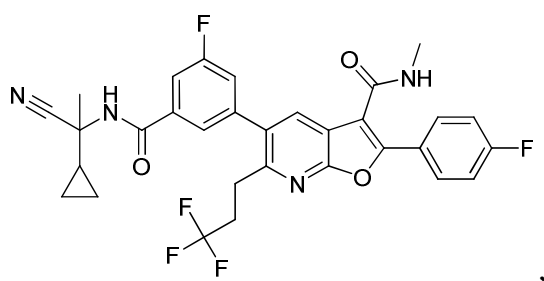
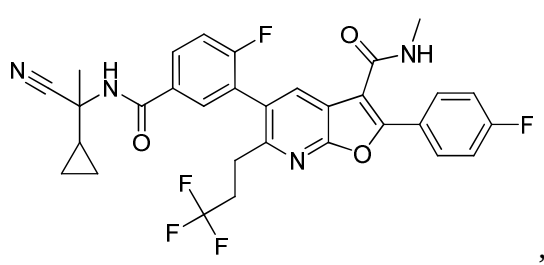
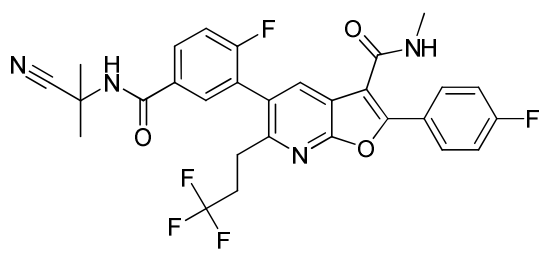
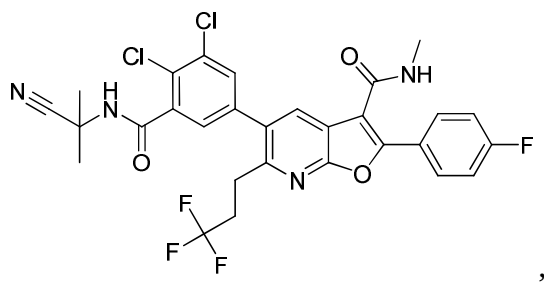
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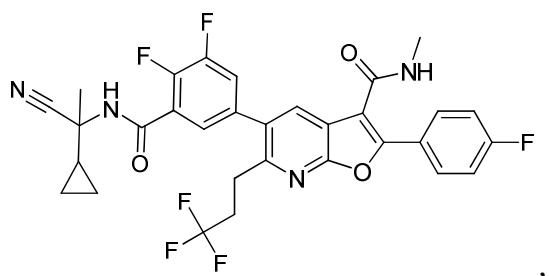


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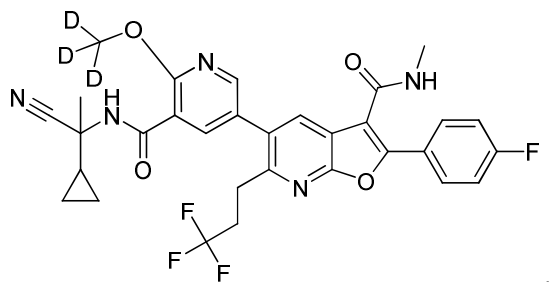




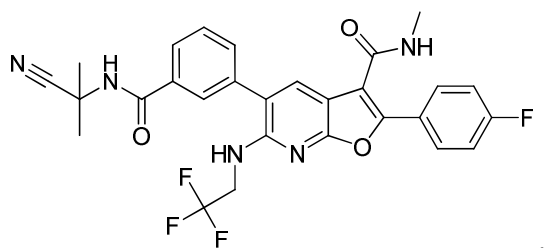




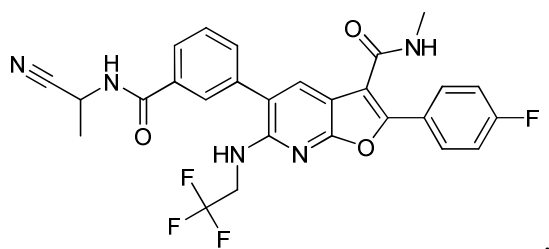
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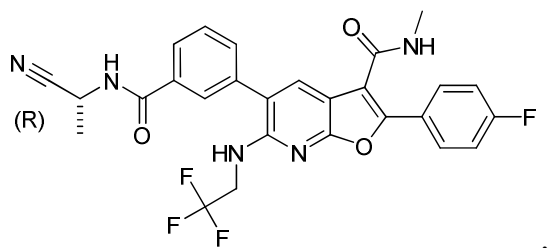
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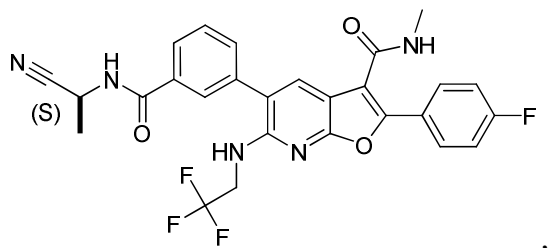
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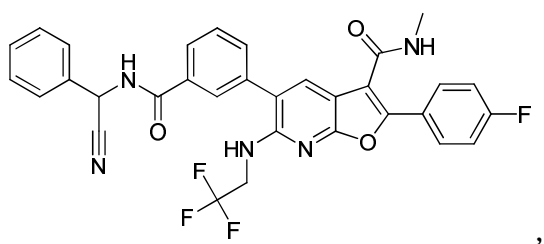
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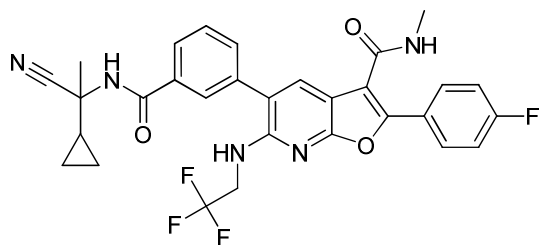
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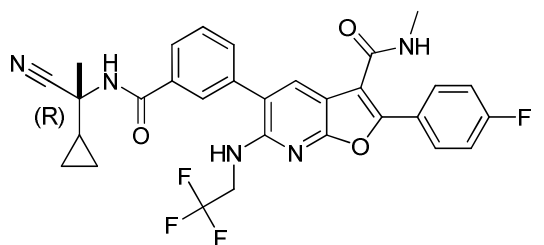
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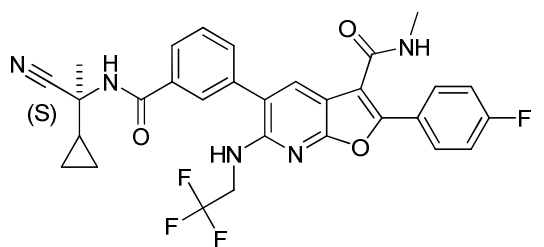
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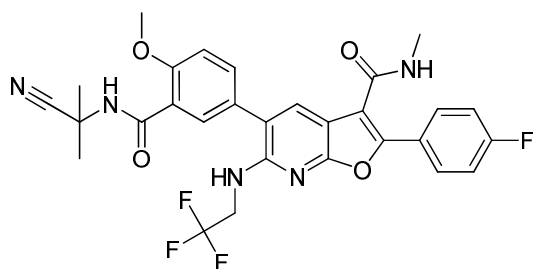
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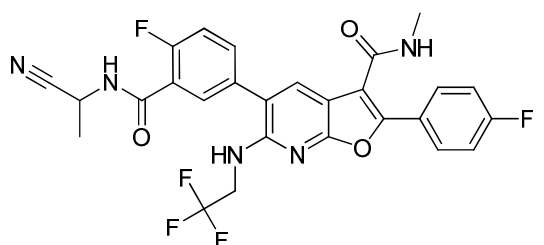
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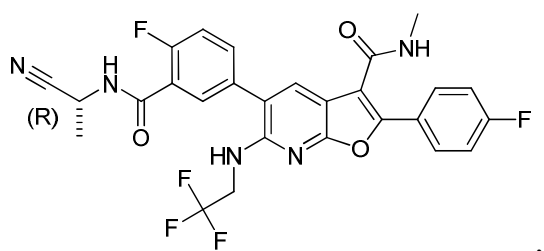
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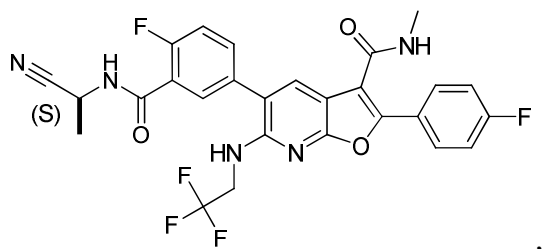
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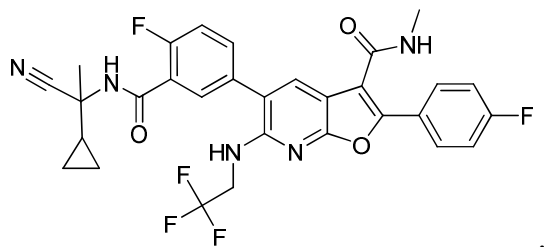
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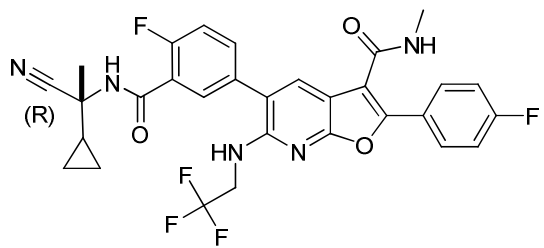
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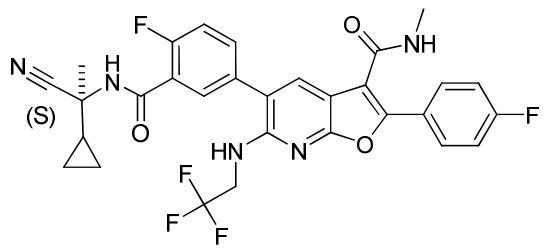
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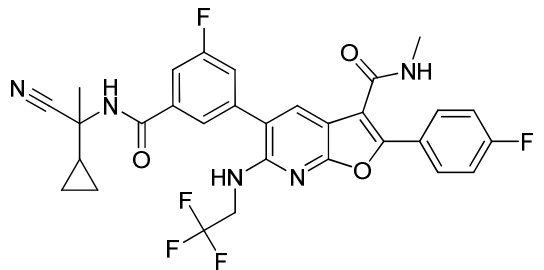
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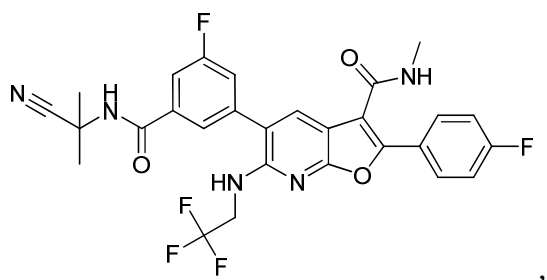
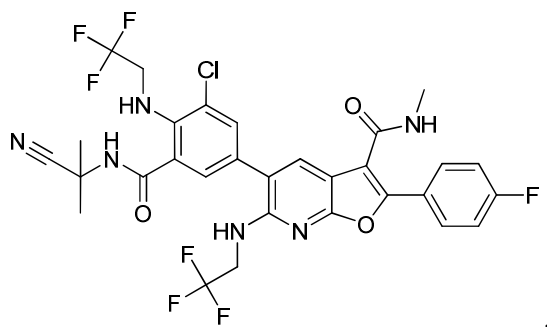
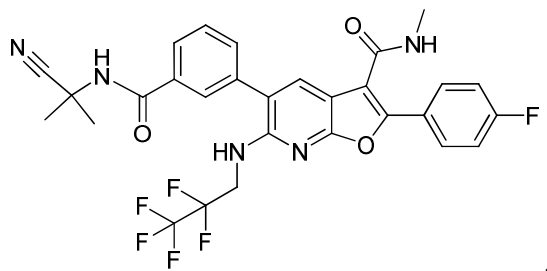
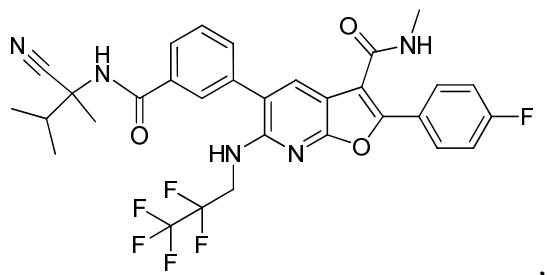
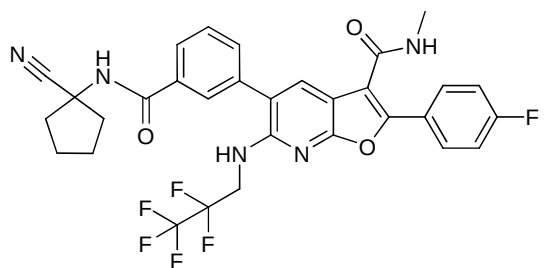
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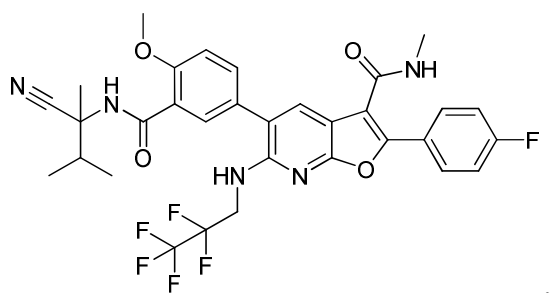


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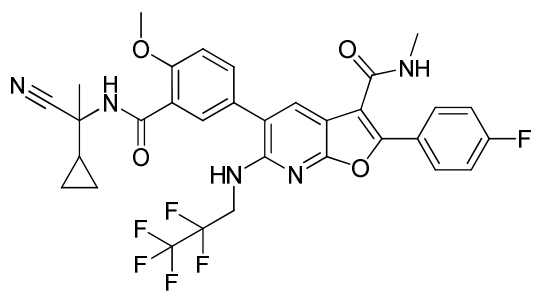


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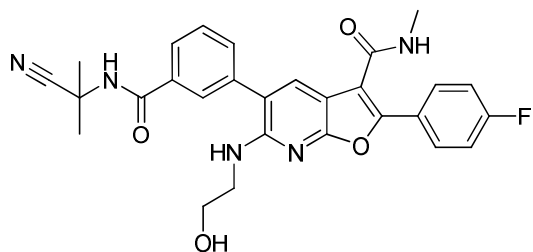




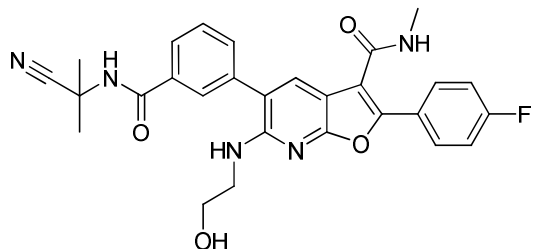
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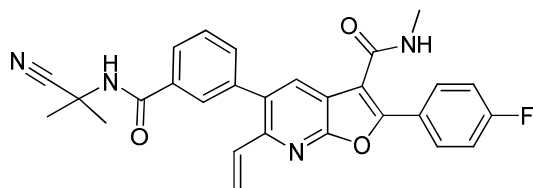
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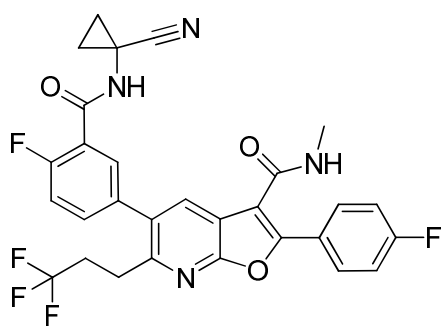
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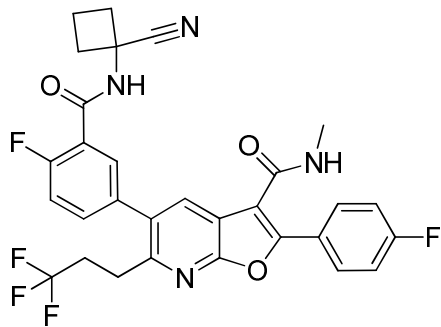
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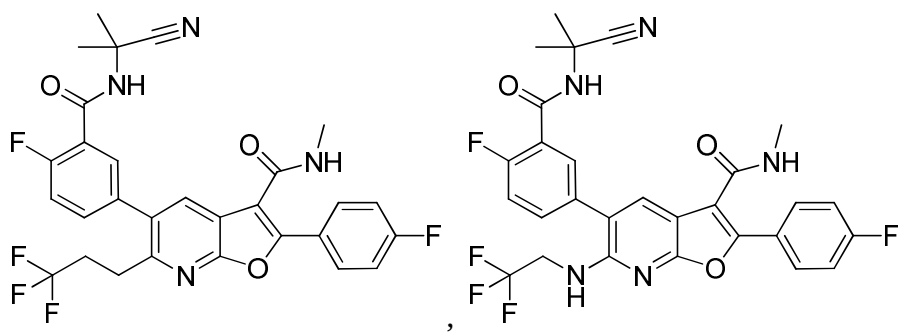
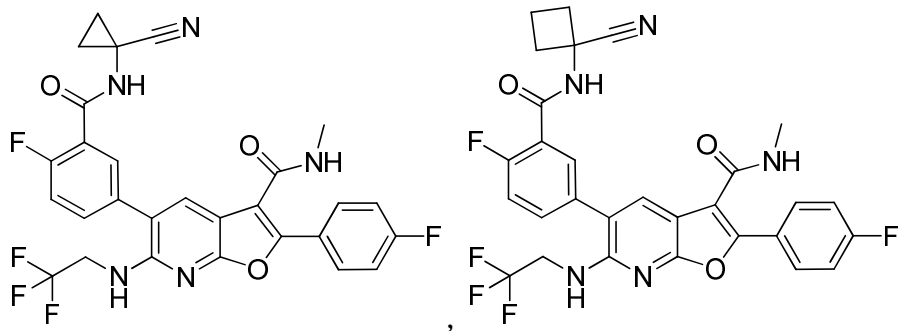
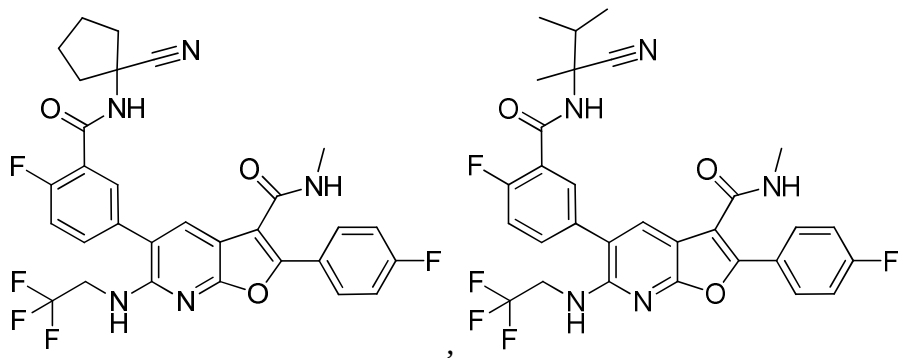
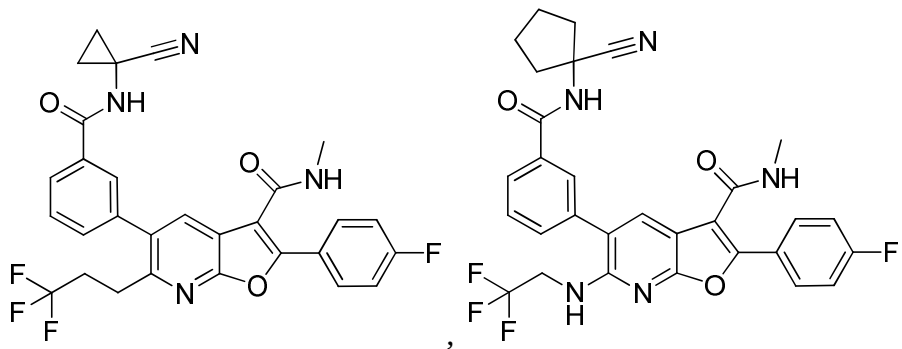
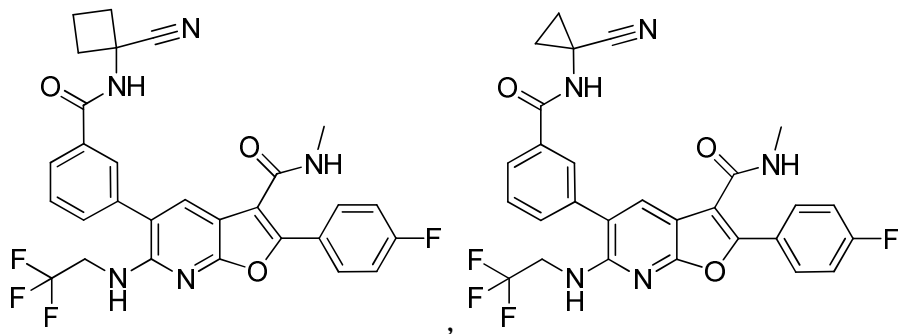
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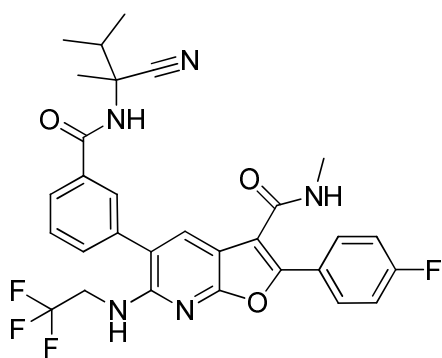
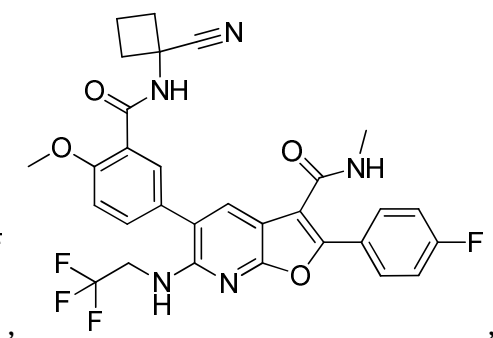
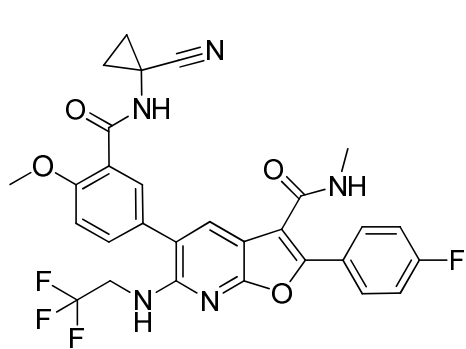
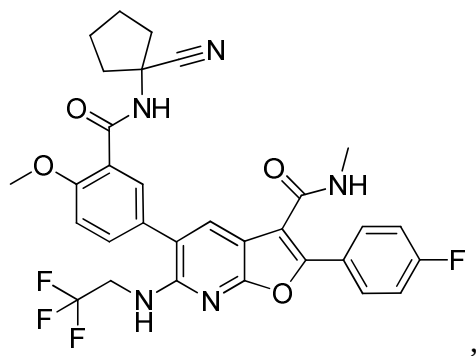
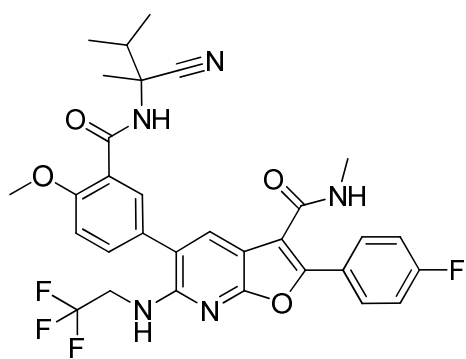
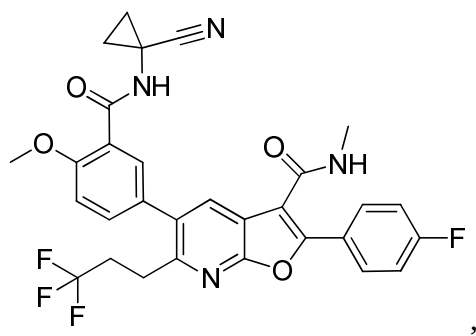
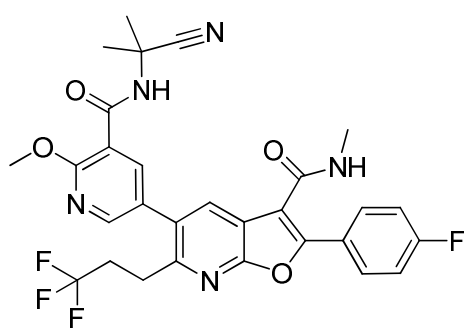
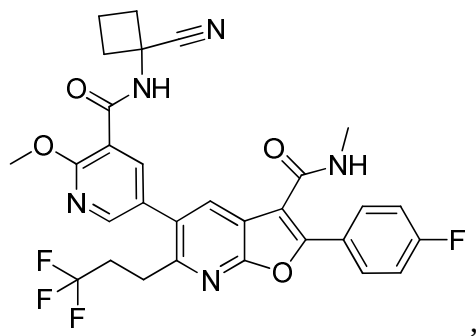


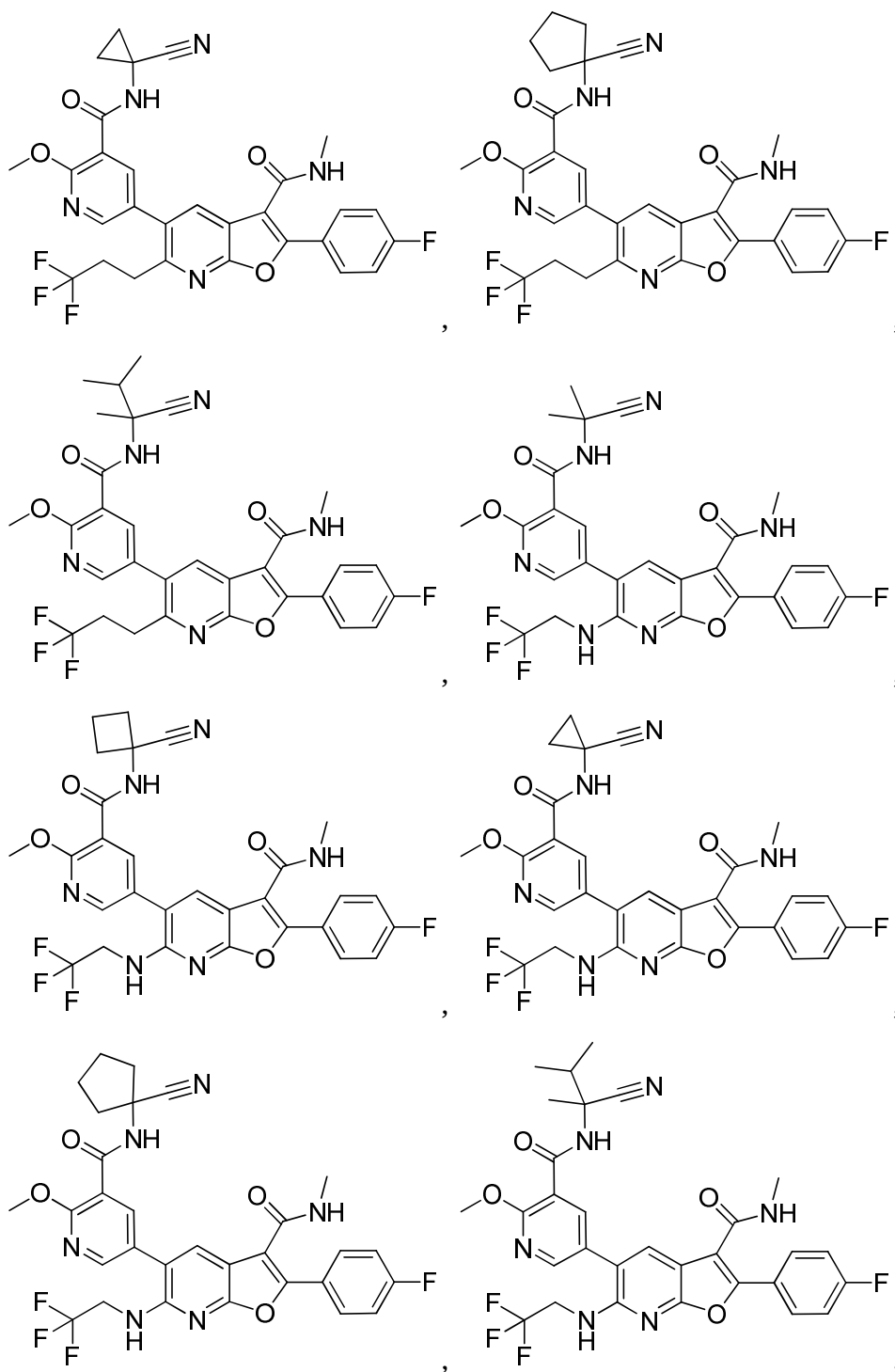
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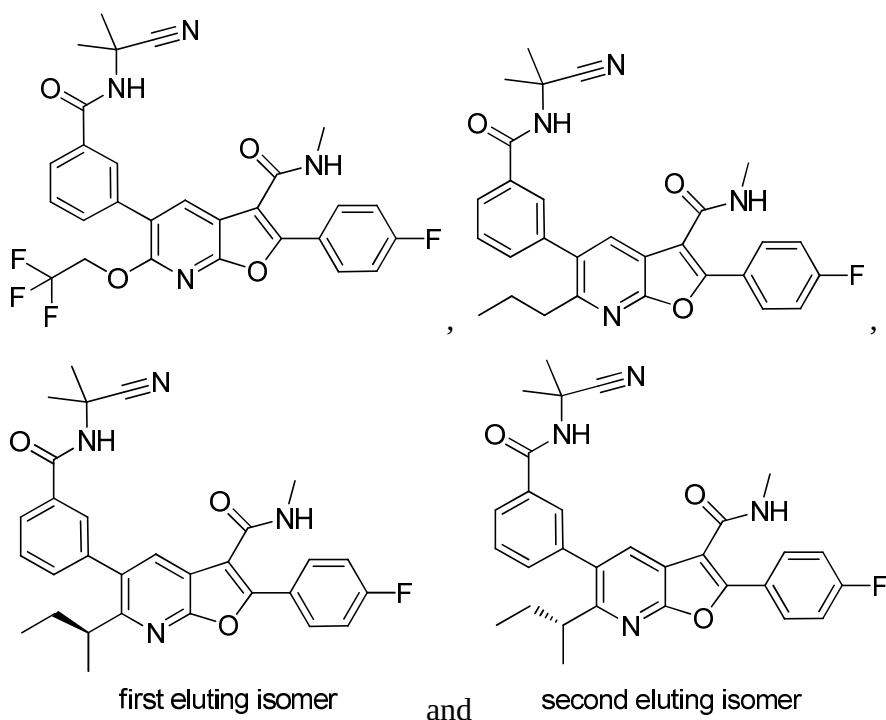


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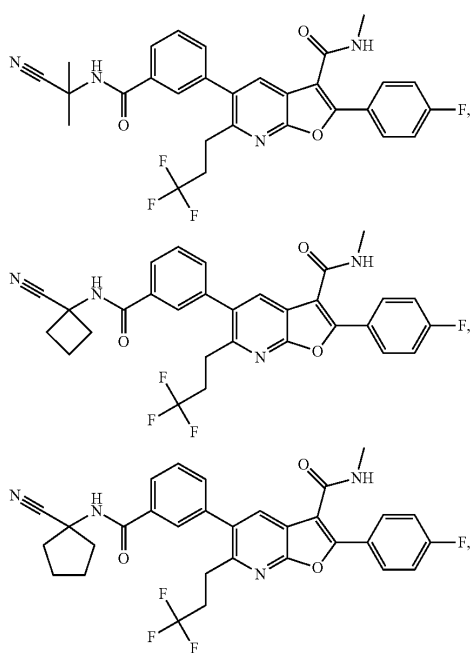


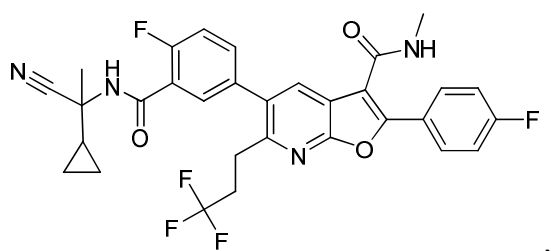




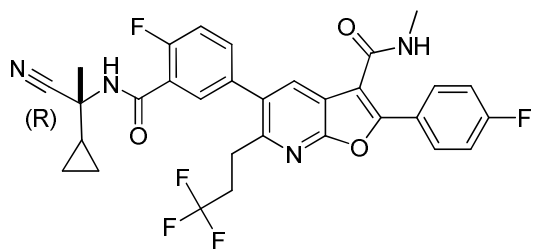


12. A compound, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, which is selected from the group of:

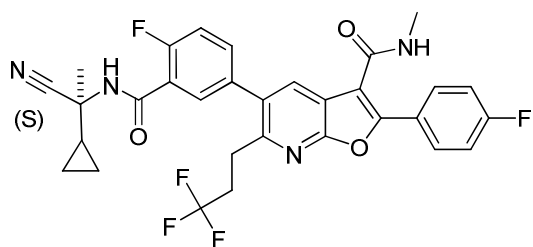




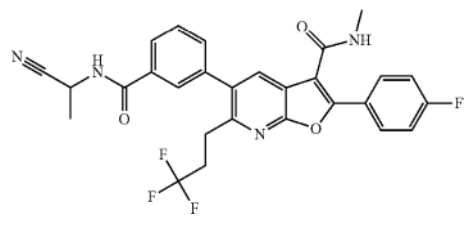
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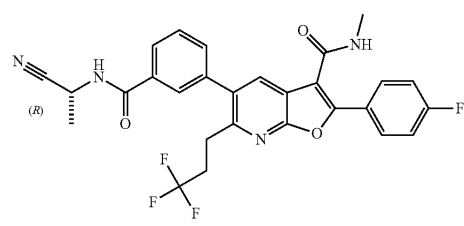
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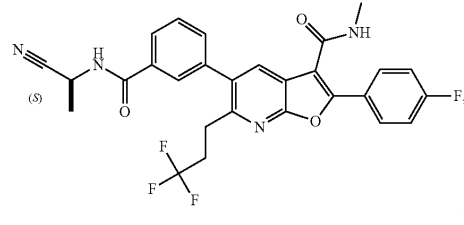
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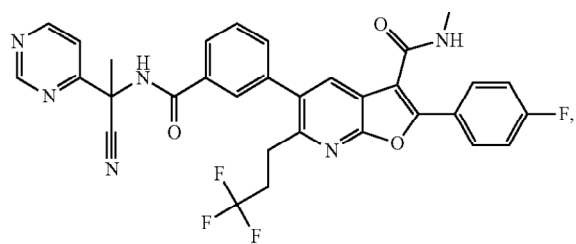
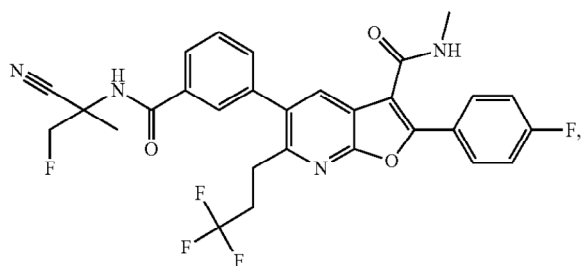
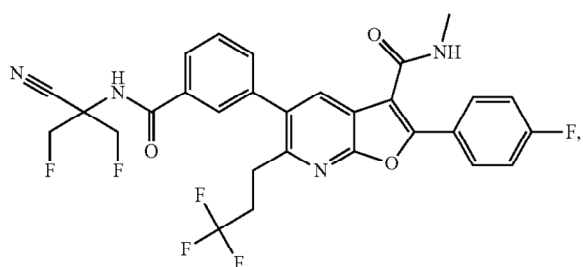
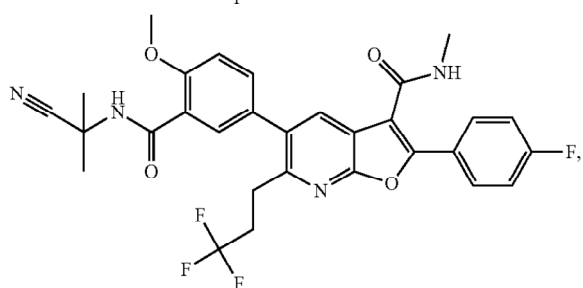
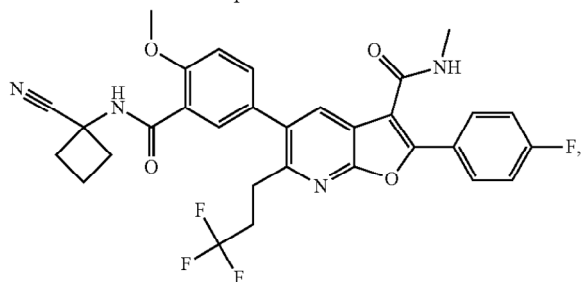
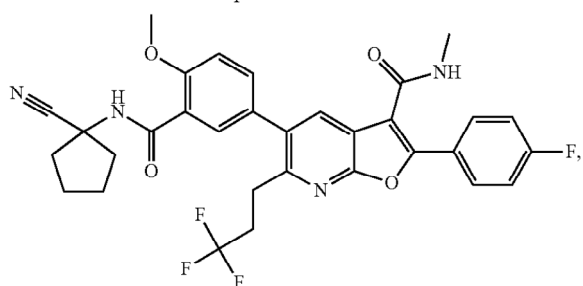
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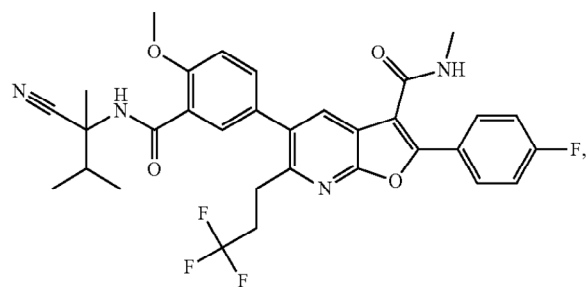
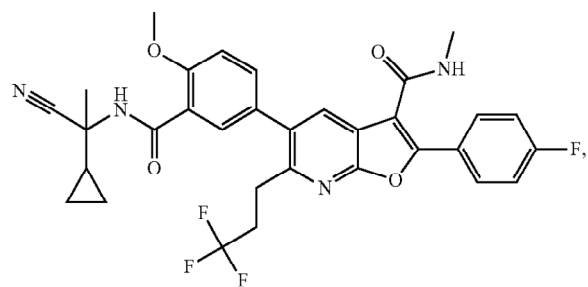
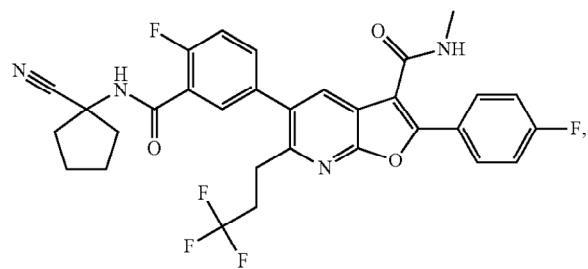
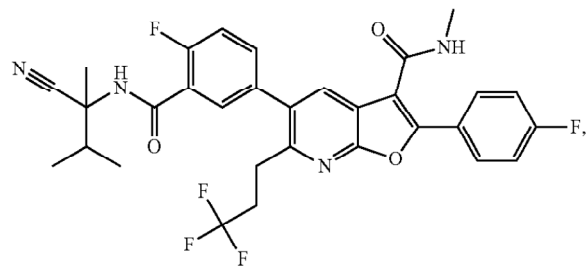
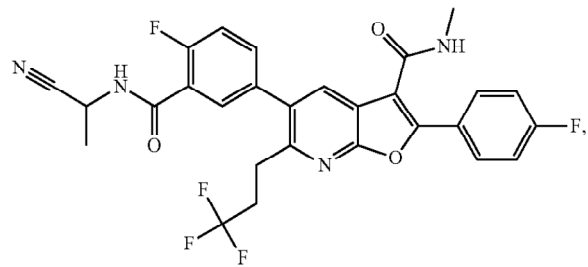
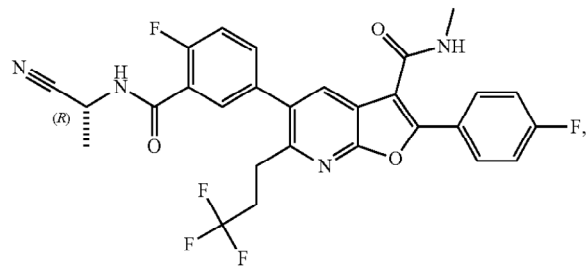


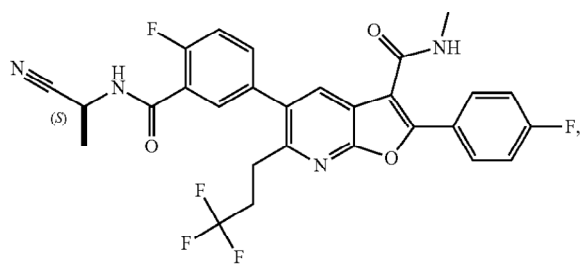
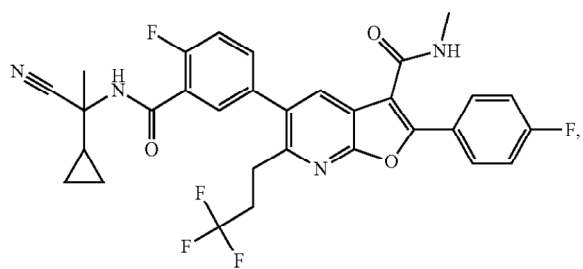
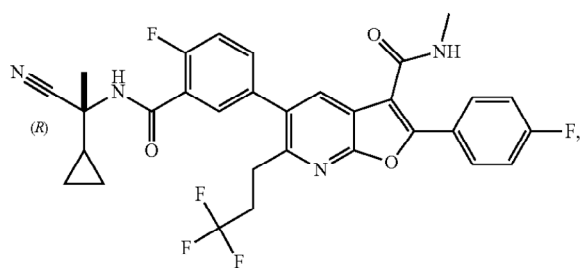
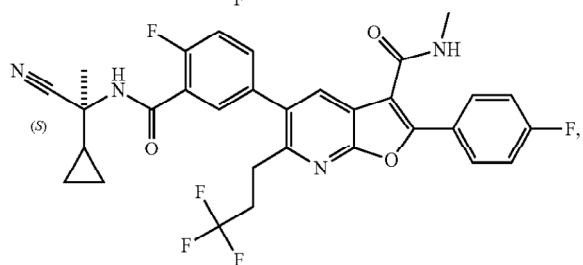
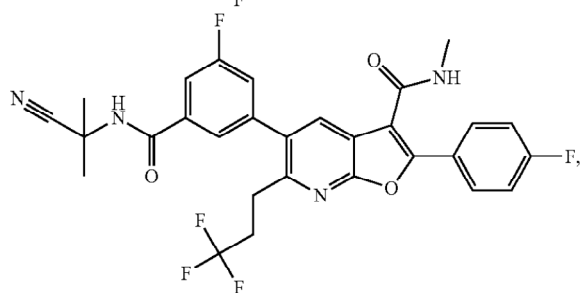
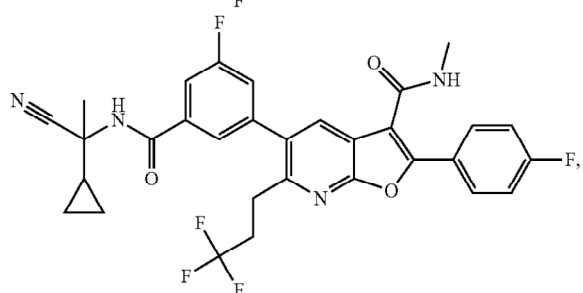
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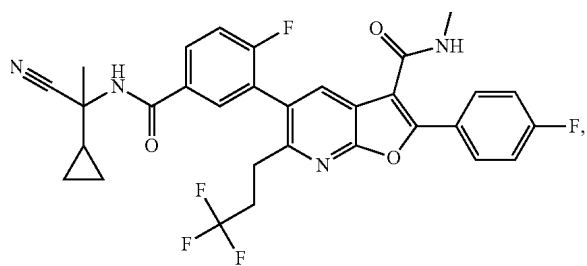
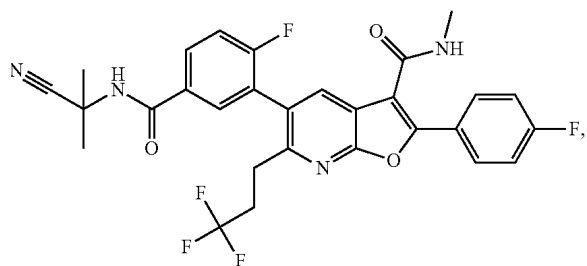
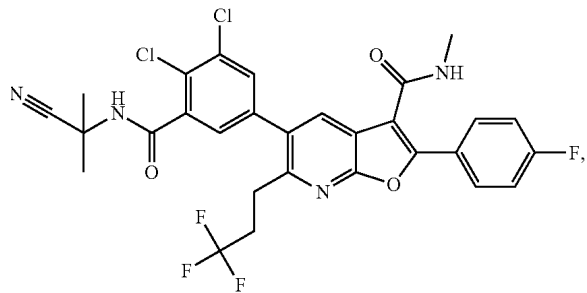
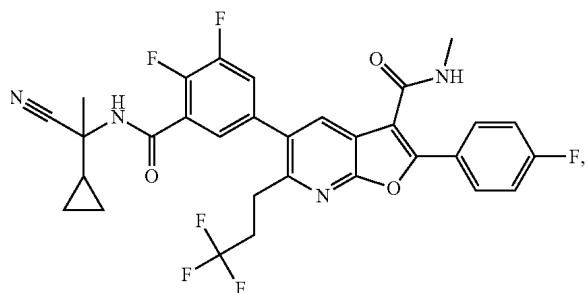
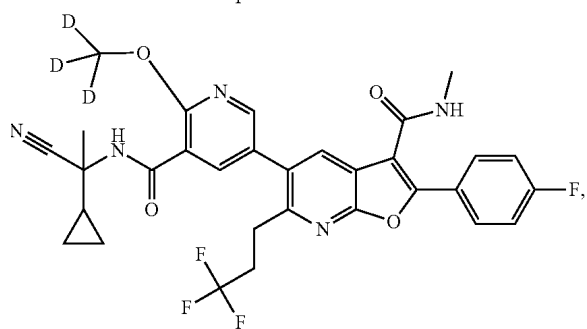
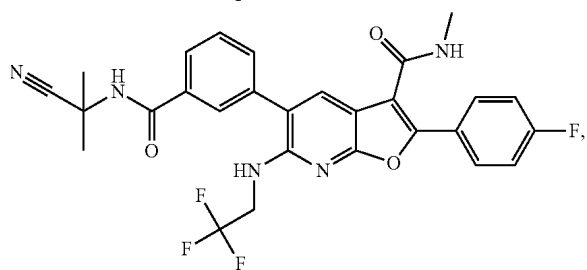


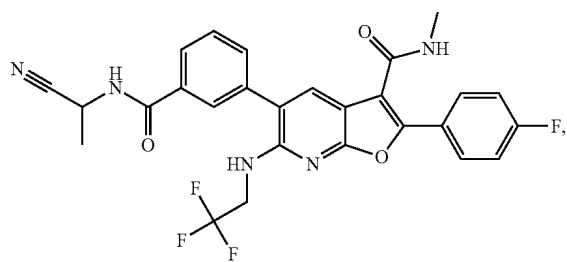
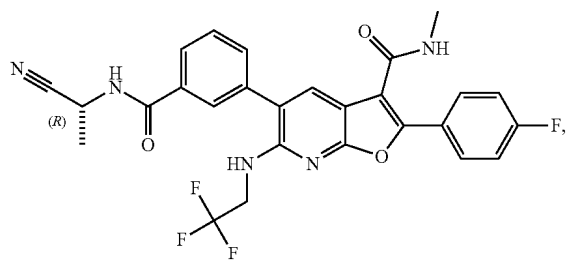
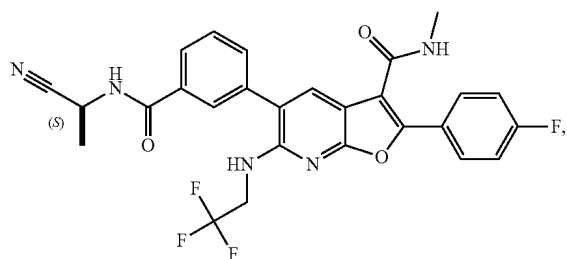
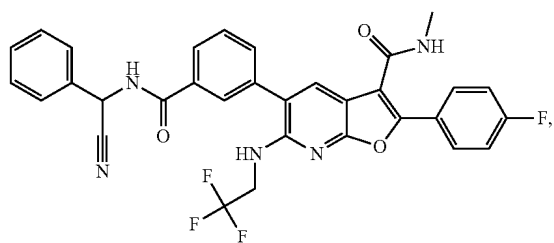
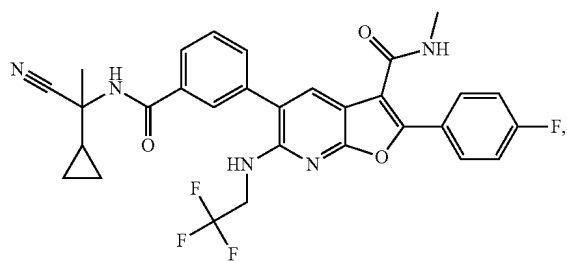
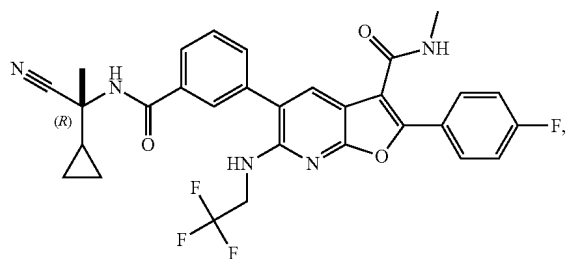
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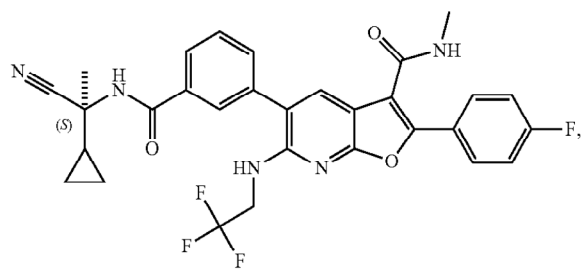
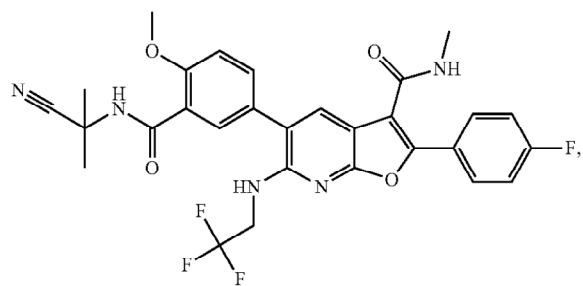
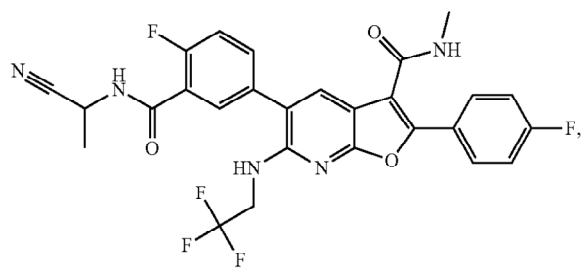
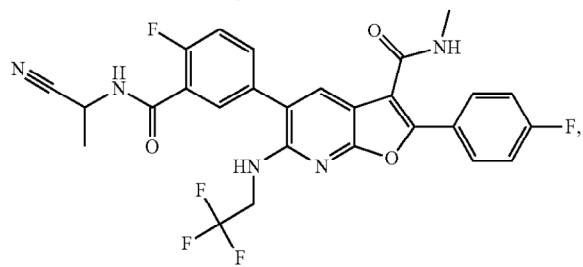
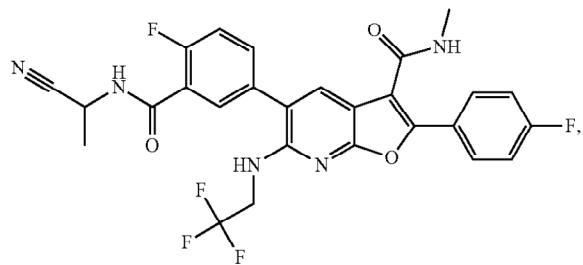
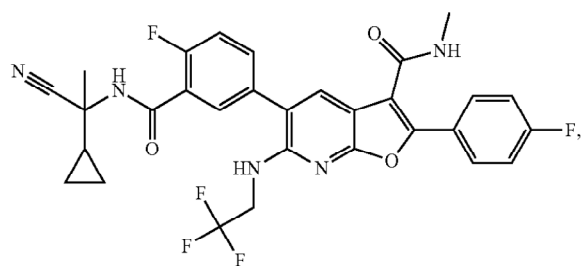


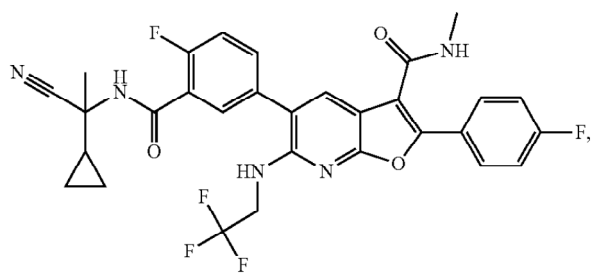
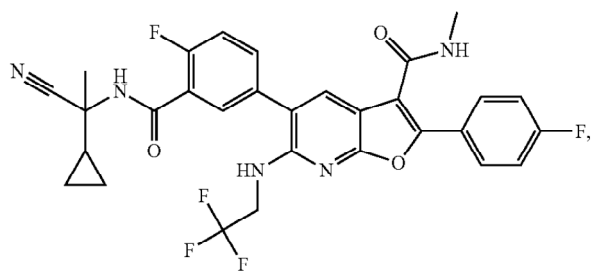
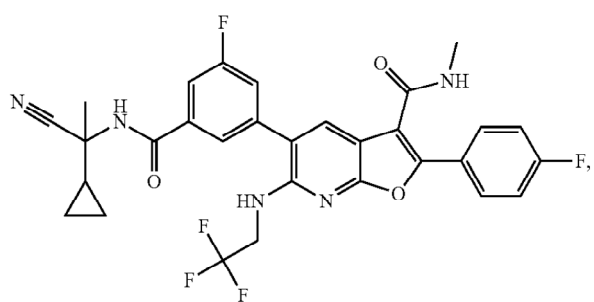
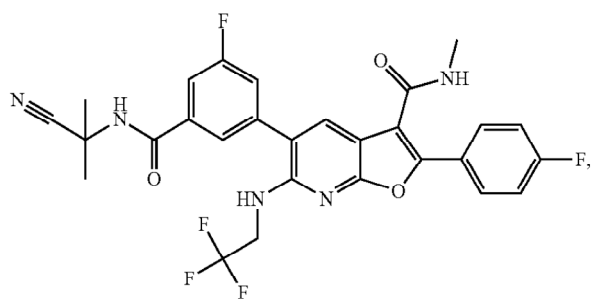
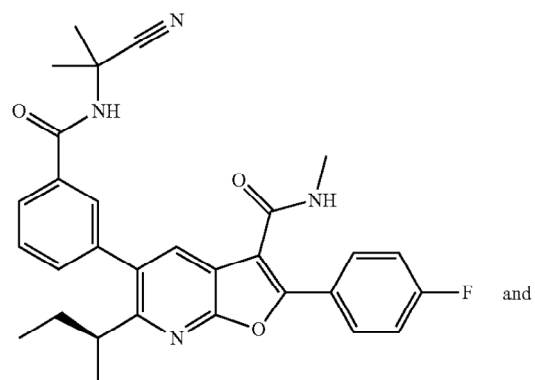






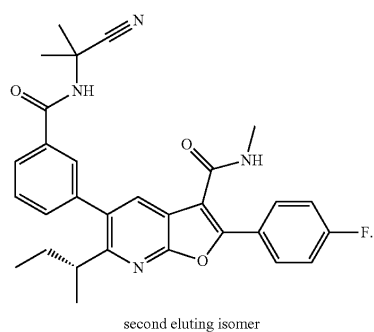




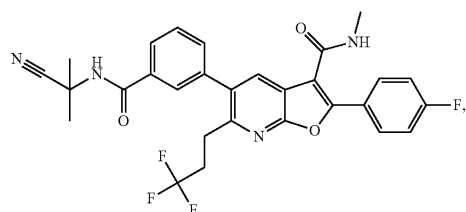
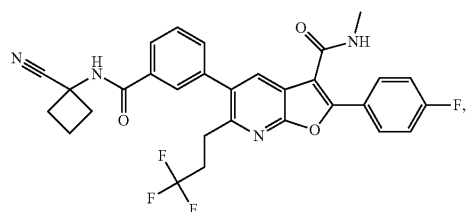
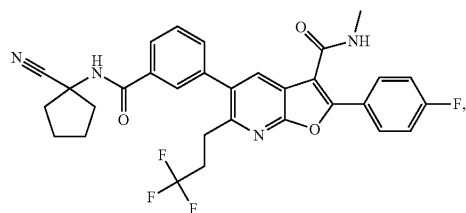
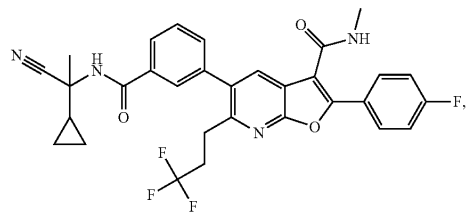


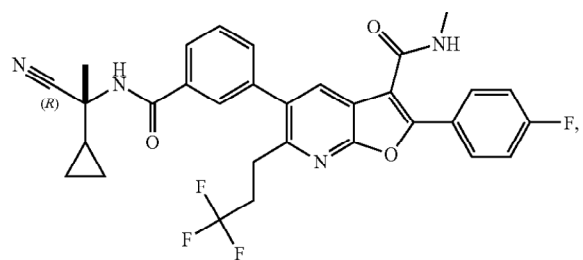
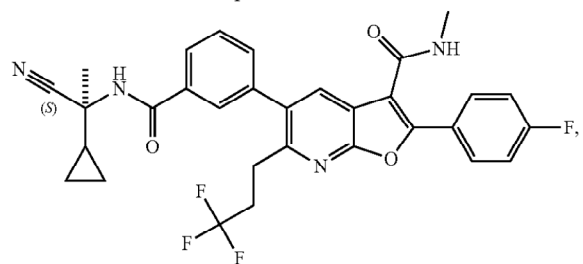
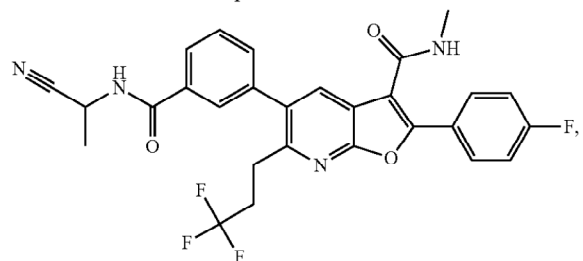
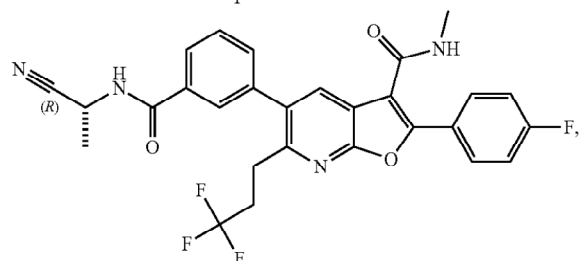
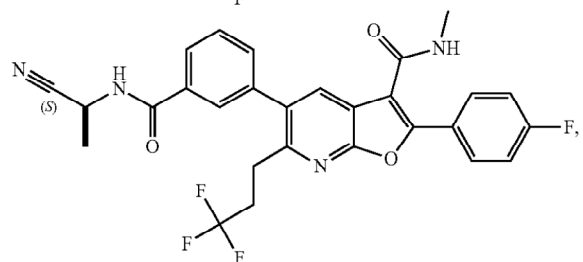
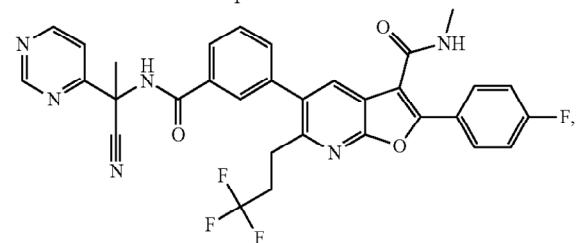
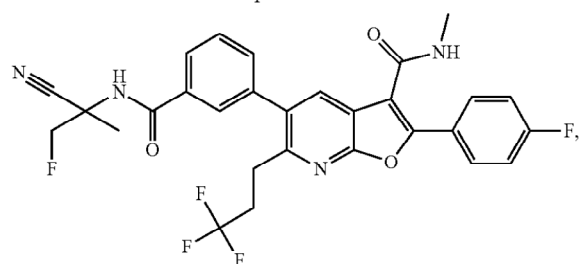
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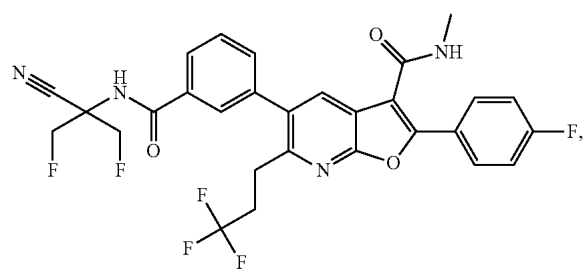
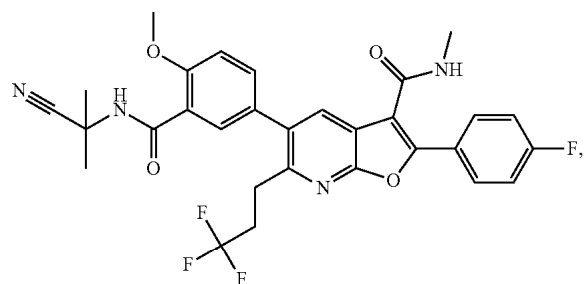
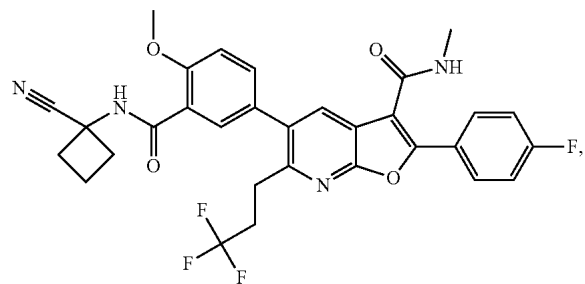
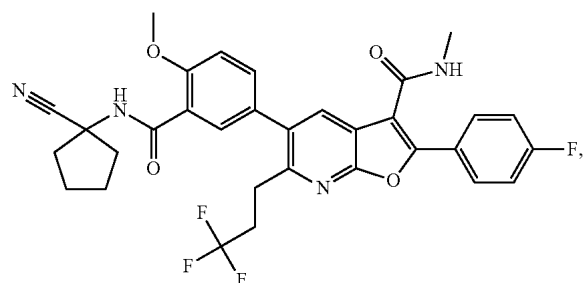
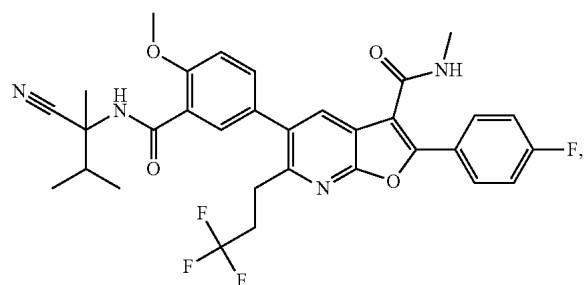
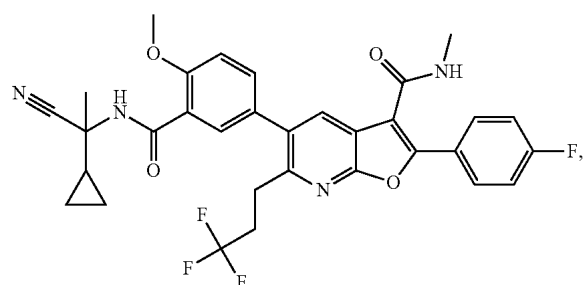
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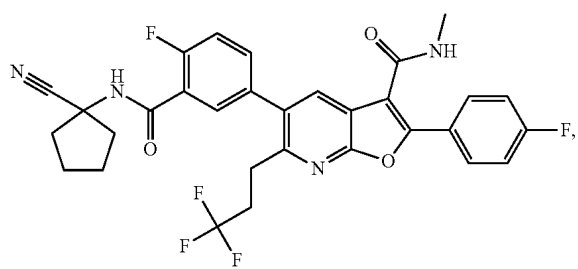
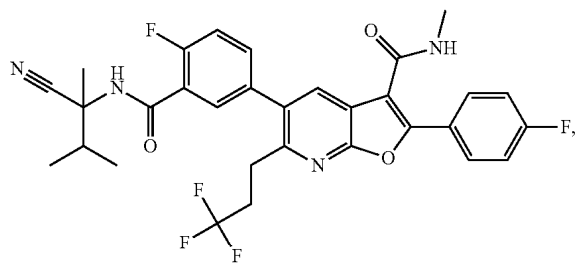
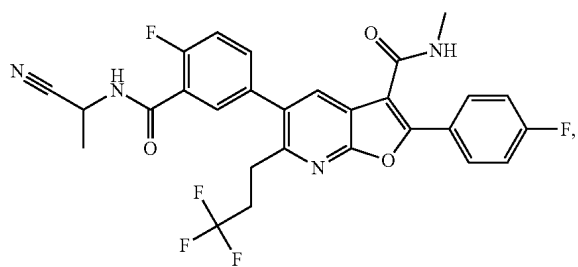
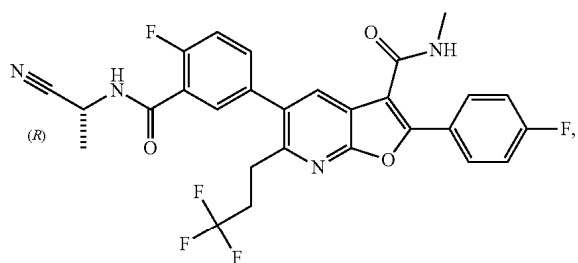
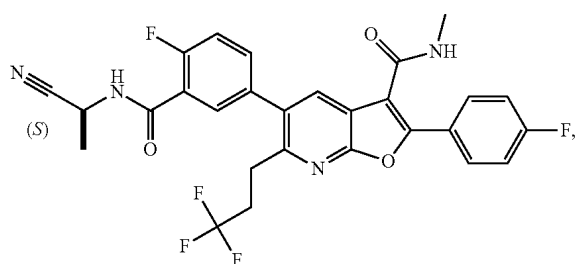
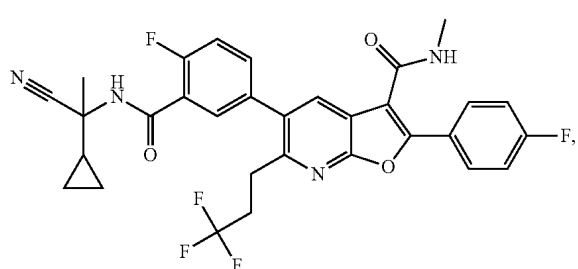


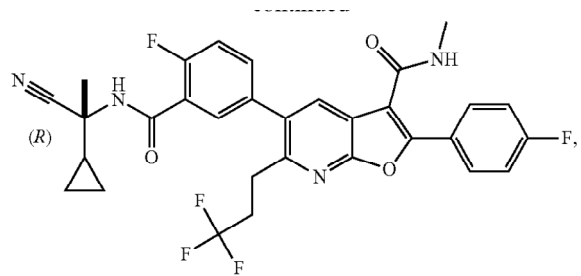
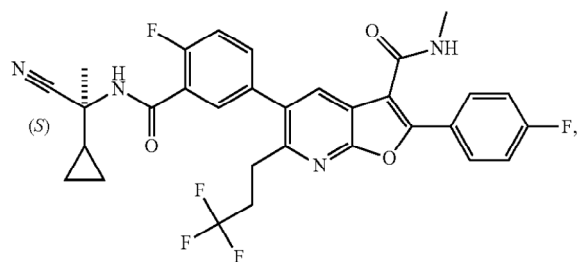
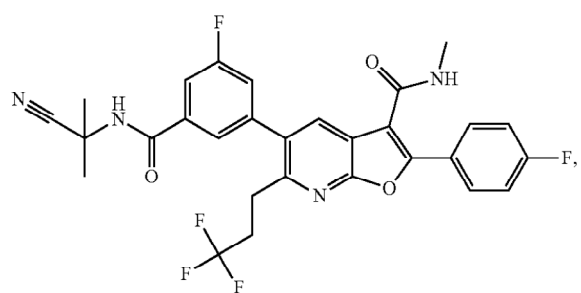
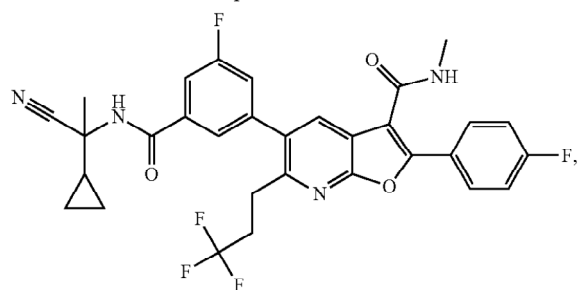
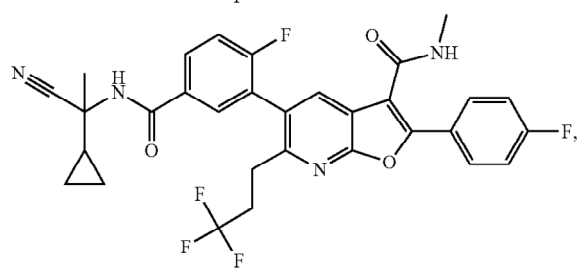
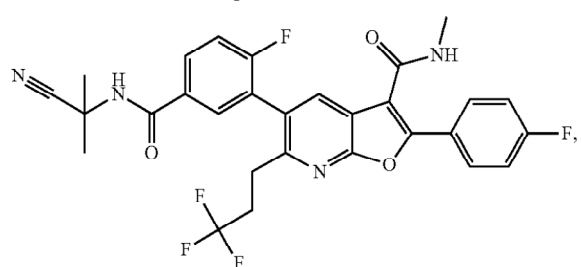
13. A compound, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, which is selected from the group of:

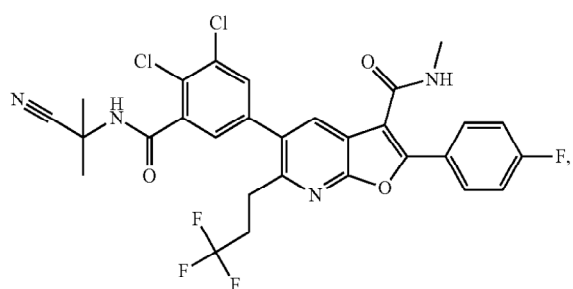
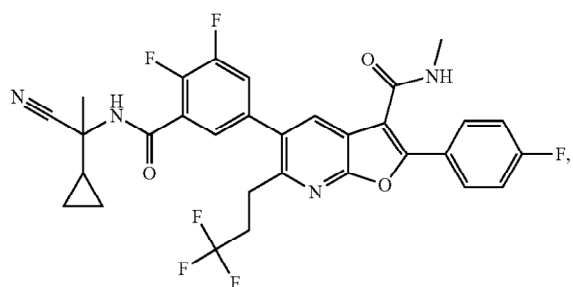
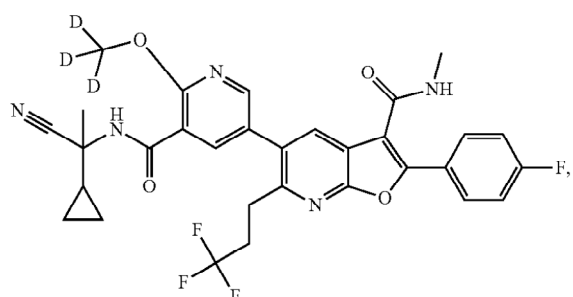
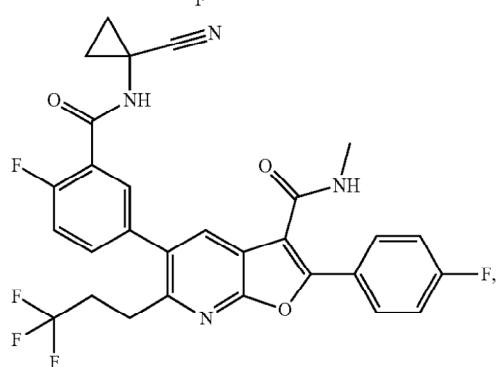
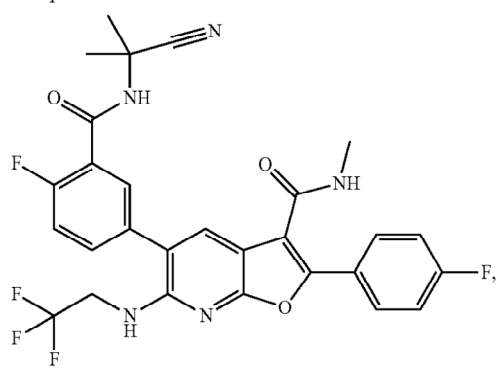


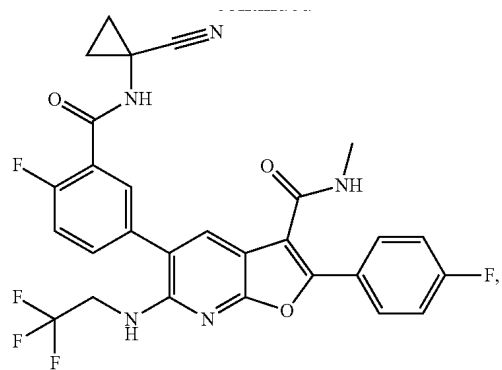
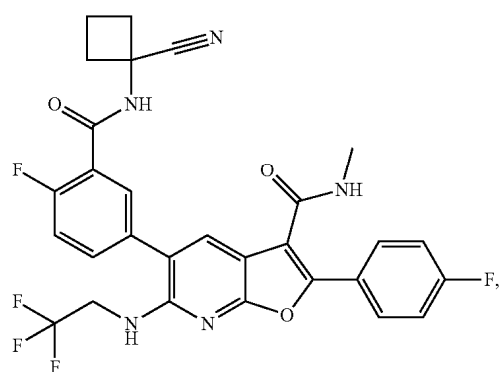
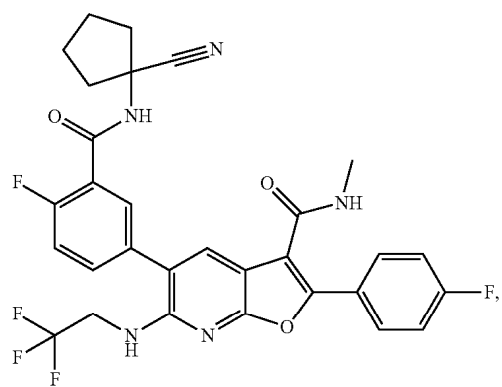
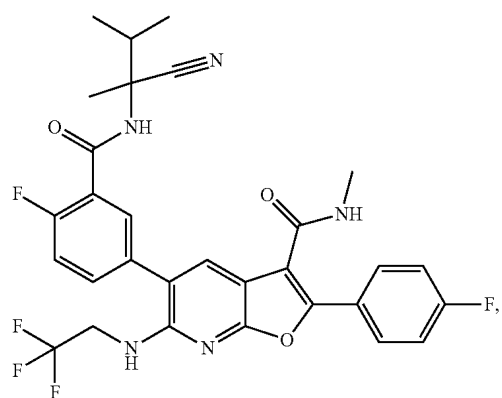


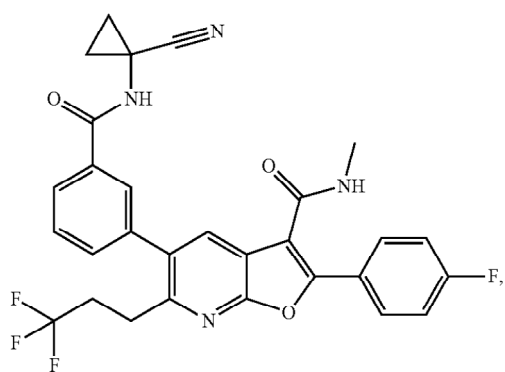
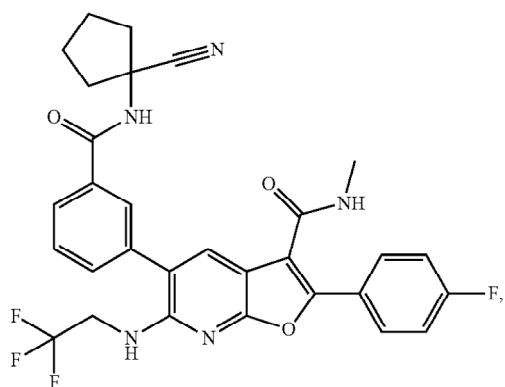
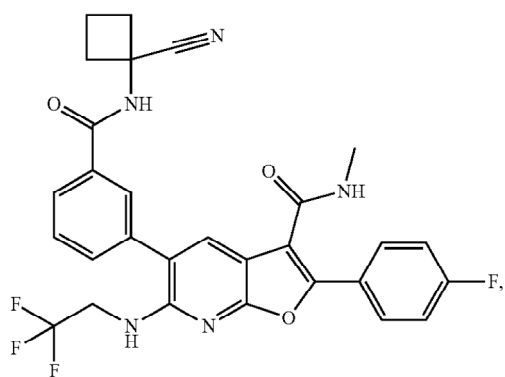
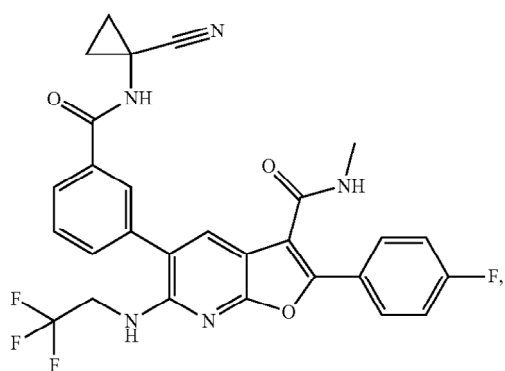


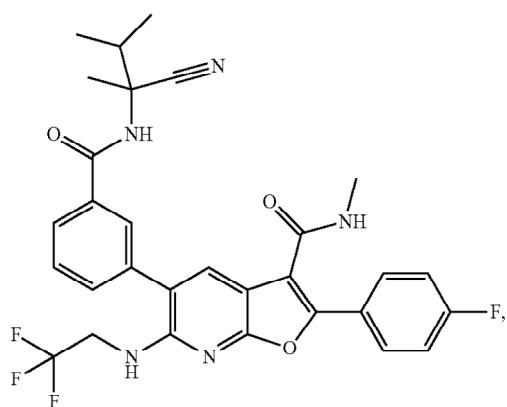
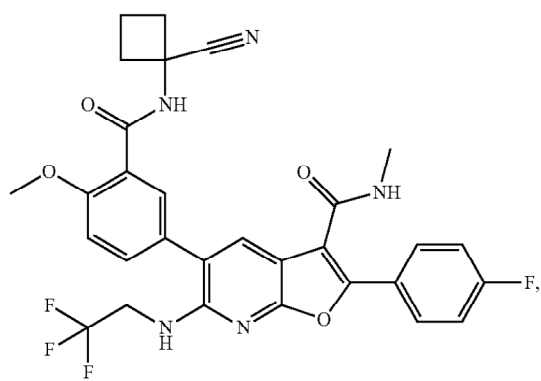
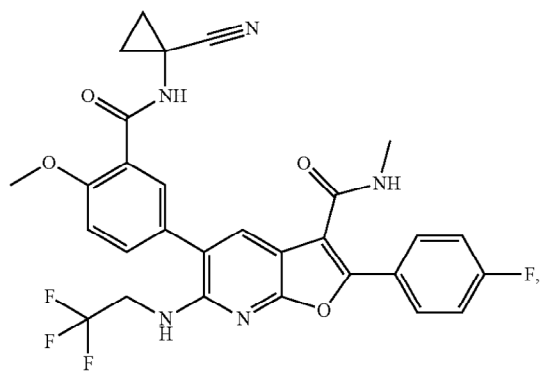
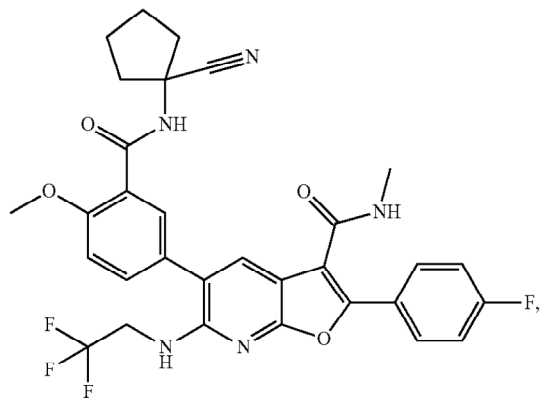




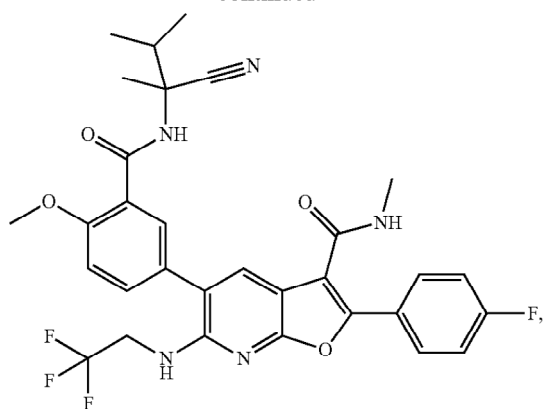
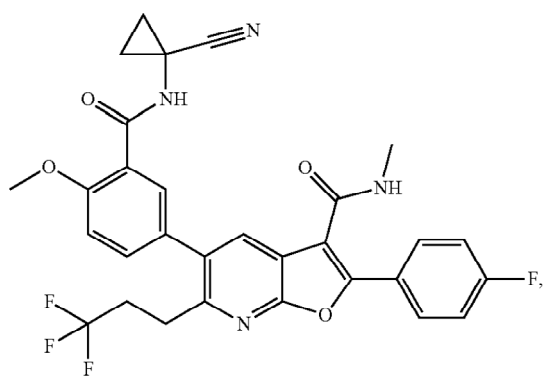
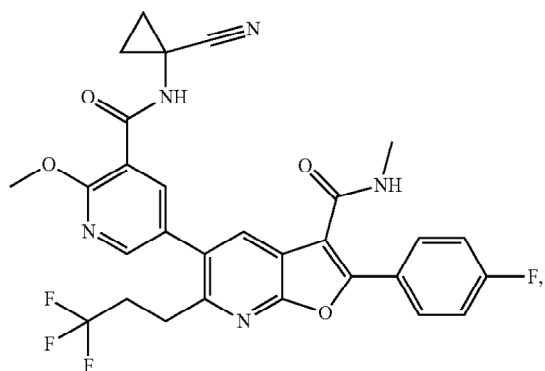
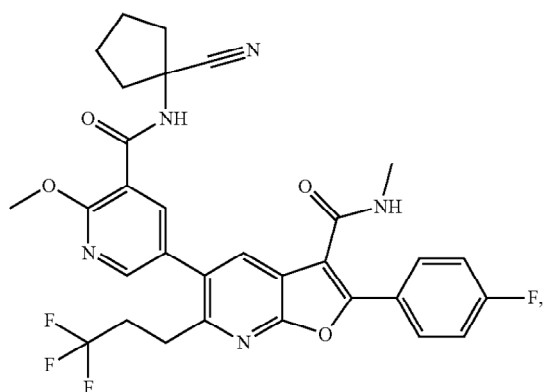


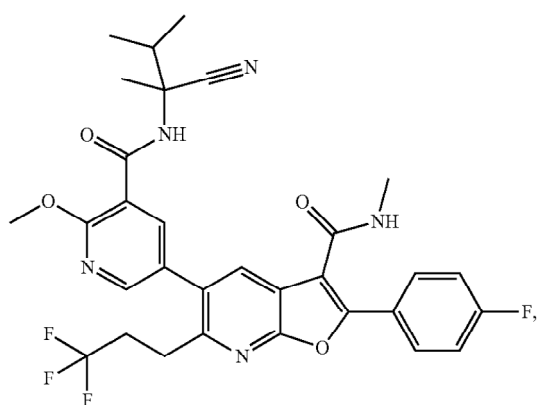
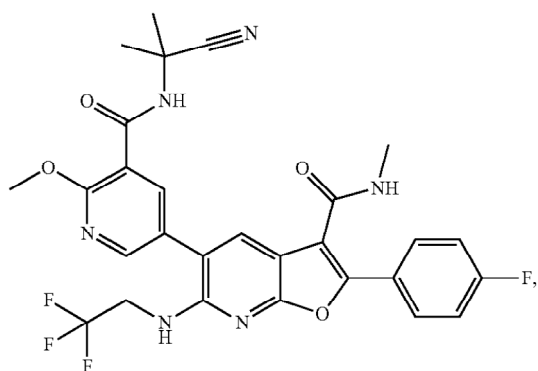
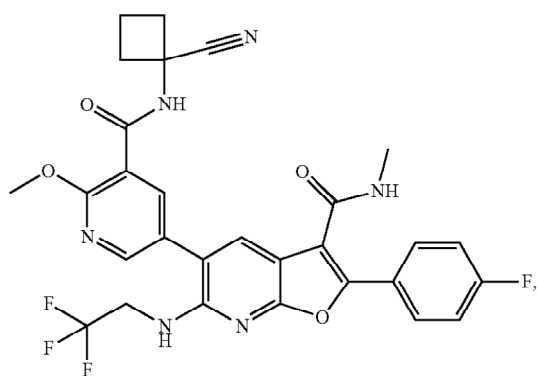
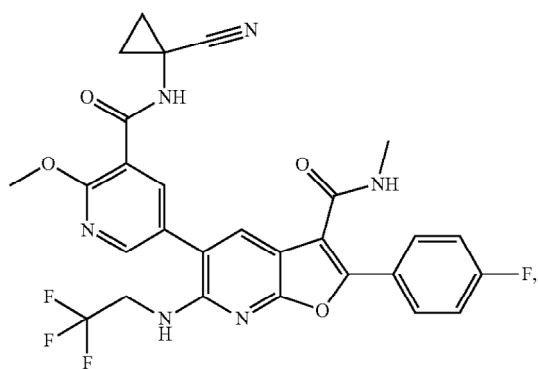


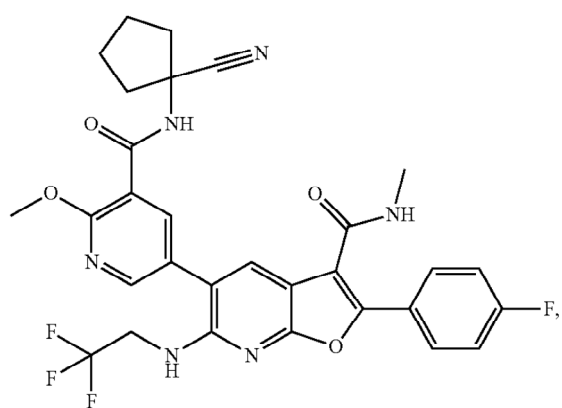
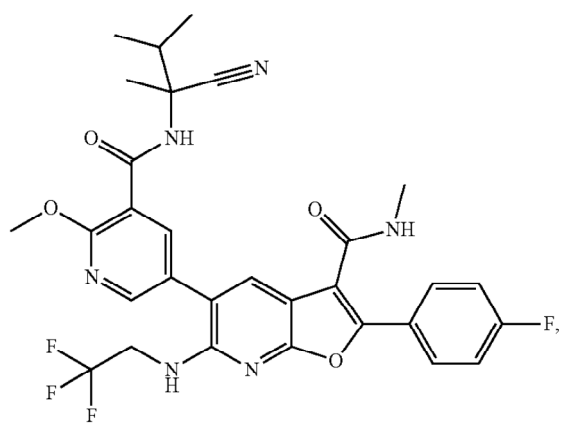
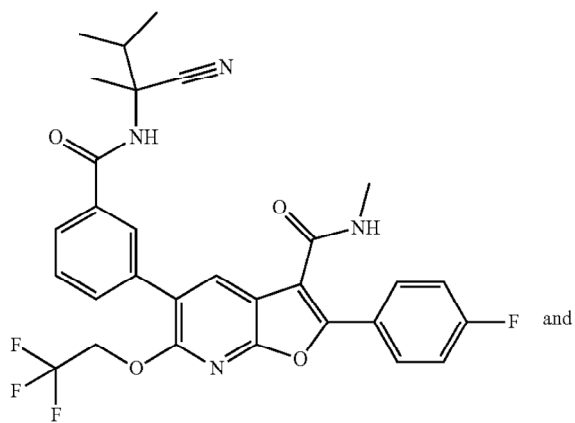
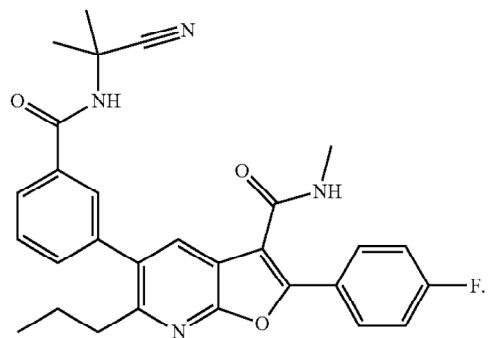




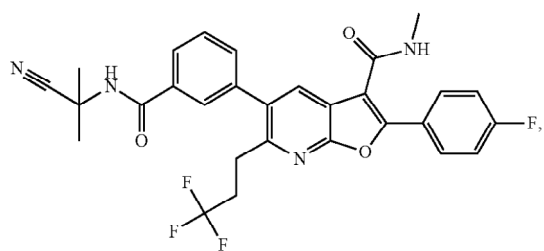
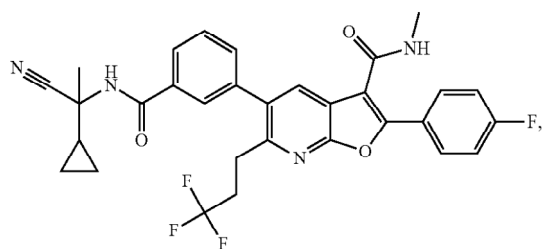
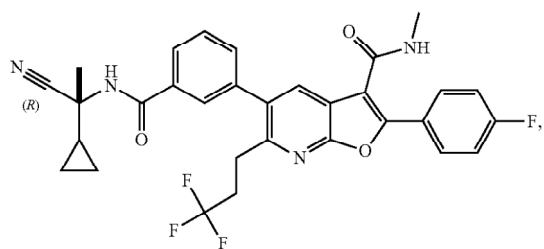
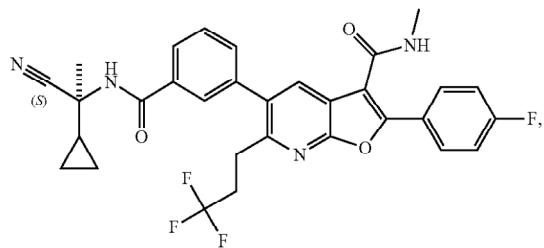
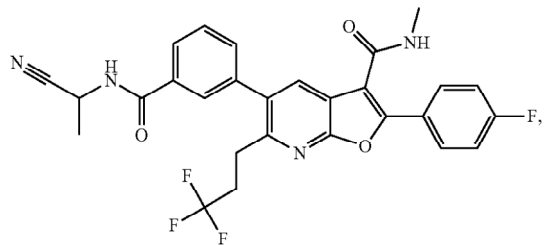
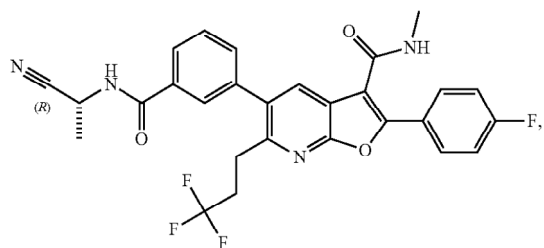
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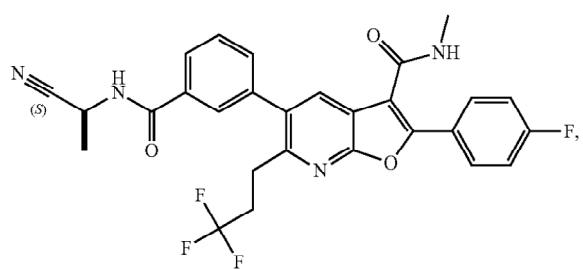
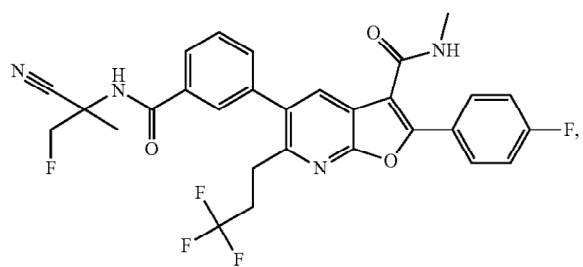
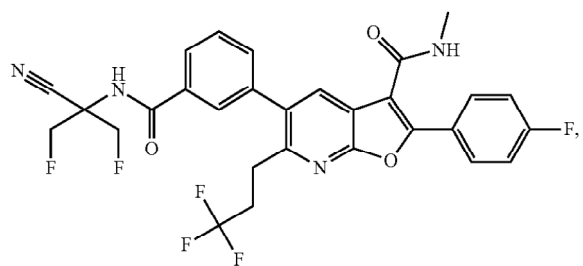
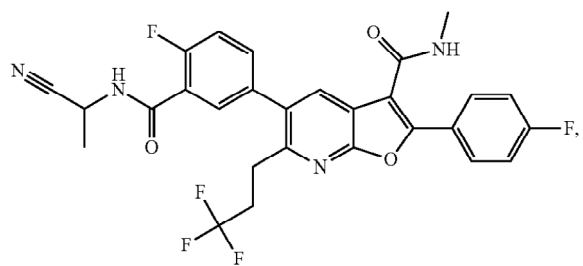
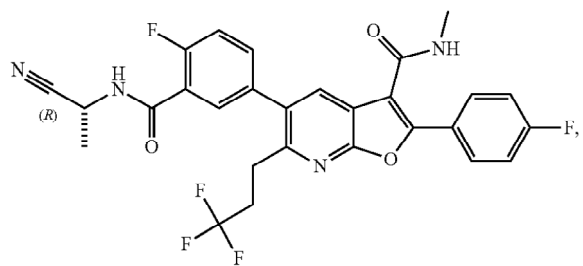
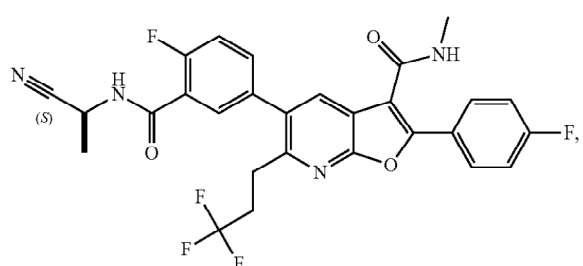


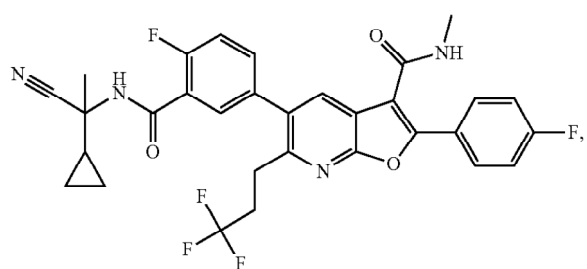
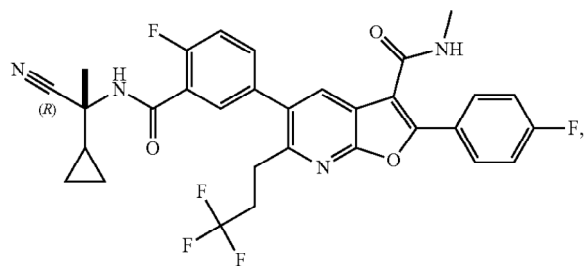
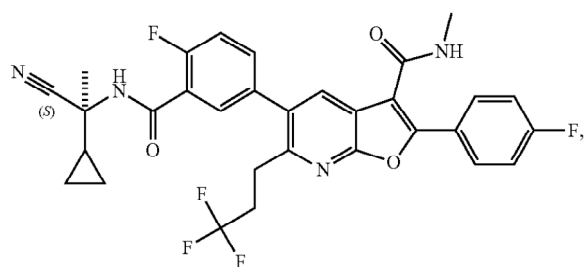
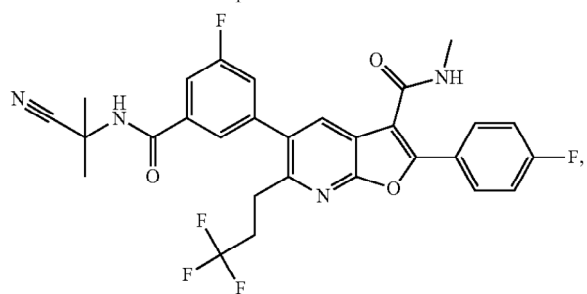
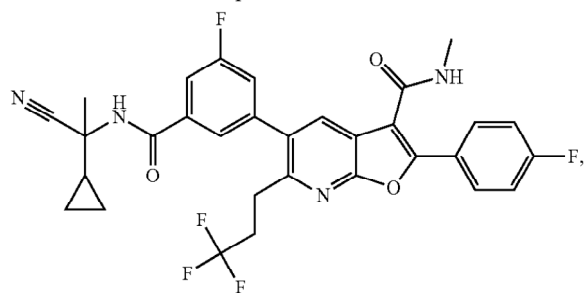
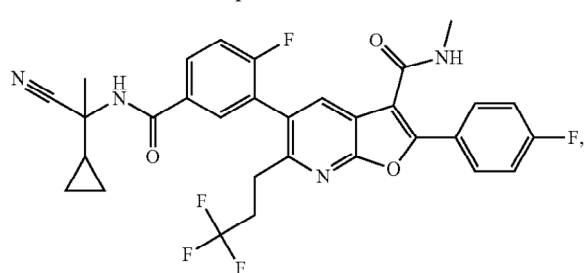


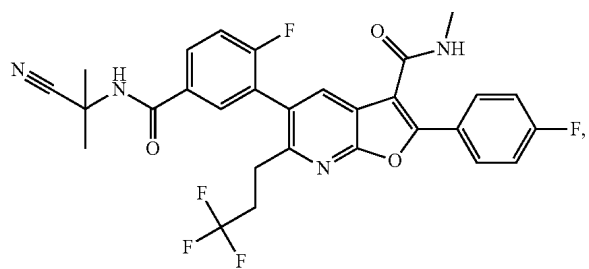
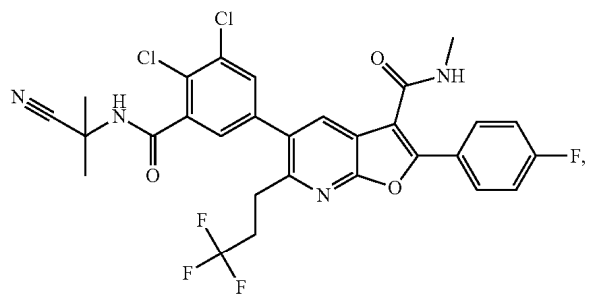
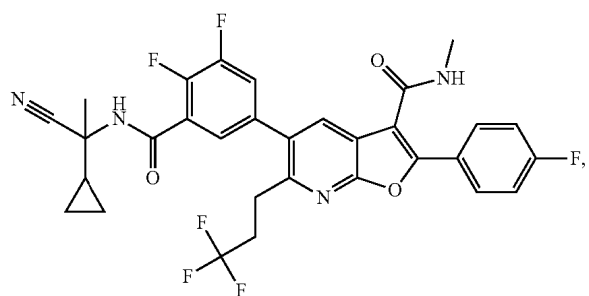
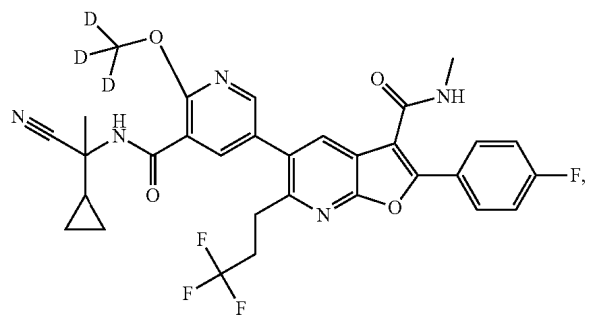
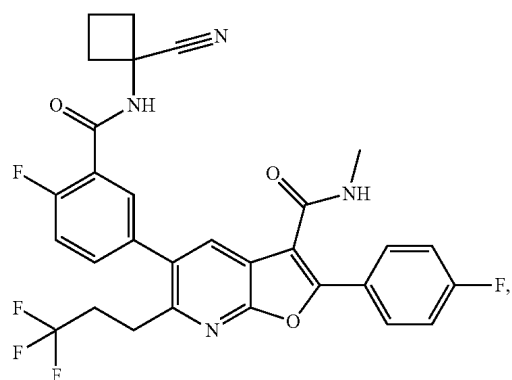


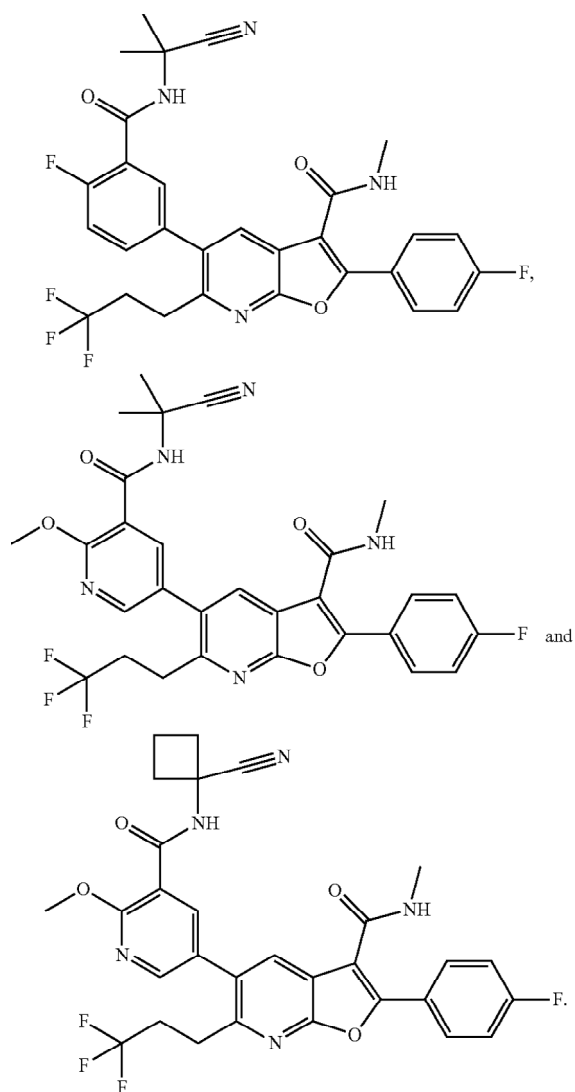
14. A compound, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, which is selected from the group of:



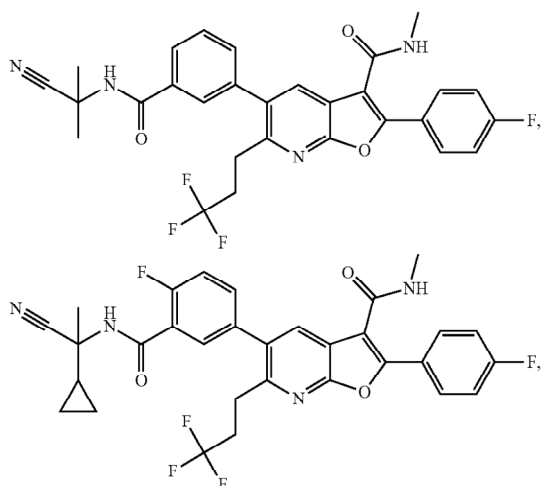


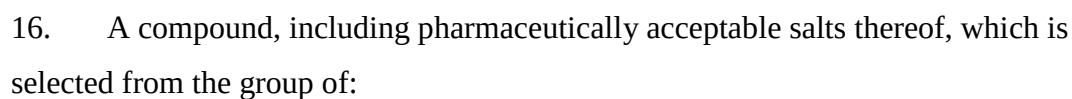
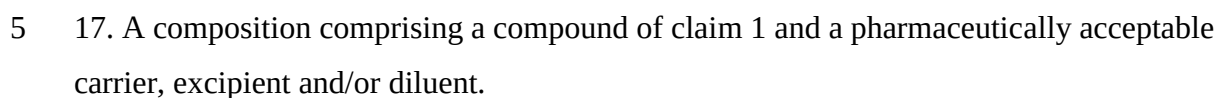






15. A compound, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, which is selected from the group of:





18. A composition comprising a compound of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient and/or diluent.

19. A composition comprising a compound of claim 11 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient and/or diluent.

20. A composition comprising a compound of claim 15 and a pharmaceutically
15 acceptable carrier, excipient and/or diluent.

21. A composition comprising a compound of claim 7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient and/or diluent.

- 5 22. A composition comprising a compound of claim 16 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient and/or diluents.