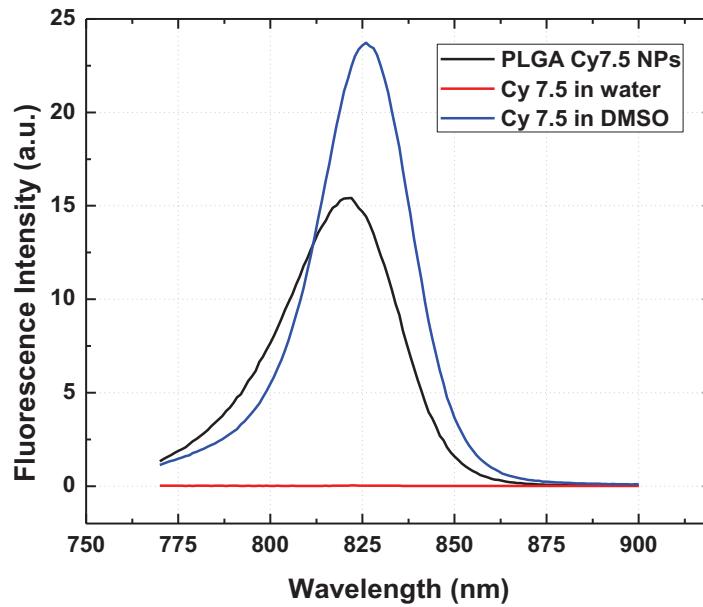


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32 Supporting Figure 1: Fluorescence spectra of hydrophobic fluorophore Cy7.5 in different solvent environments.  
33 There is no fluorescence observed for free Cy7.5 in water (Red curve), free Cy7.5 in DMSO showed typical  
34 fluorescence spectra of Cy7.5 with maxima at 825 nm (Blue curve). The encapsulation of Cy7.5 in PEGylated  
35 PLGA nanoparticles maintained the fluorescent properties of the fluorophore with maximum fluorescence at  
36 821 nm.  
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