



## Les Complexes Métalliques en Médecine

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#### Cancer

- 1) Cancer has caused over 8.8 million casualties or 1 out of 6 of all deaths worldwide in 2015.
- 2) Approximately 70% of deaths from cancer occur in low- and middle-income countries.
- 3) Breast cancer affects about 1 in 8 women.
- 4) 78% of the patients with breast cancer survive 10 or more years in the UK.
- 5) 99% of the patients with testicular cancer survive 10 or more years in the UK.
- 6) Several types of cancer have very poor prognoses (e.g. pancreatic or brain cancer).





#### **Cancer Treatment**









#### **Metal-Based Drugs on the Market**







#### **Advantages of Metal-Based Drugs**

- 1) Ligand Exchange
- 2) Redox Activity
- 3) Higher Structural Diversity
- 4) Catalytic Properties
- 5) Radioisotopes







1. Improved Chelators for <sup>89</sup>Zr for Applications in Immuno-PET



M. Patra, *al.*, *Chem. Commun.*, **2014**, *50*, 11523-11525.
D. Vugts, *et al.*, *Eur. J. Nucl. Med. Mol. Imag.*, **2017**, *44*, 286-295.
G. Gasser *et al.*, EP14160792.9.





#### **Immuno-PET Imaging**

- Produce a 3D image of functional processes in the body.
- System detects pairs of gamma rays emitted indirectly by a positron-emitting tracer.
- $\triangleright$  β<sup>+</sup>-emitter --> annihilation: e<sup>-</sup> + e<sup>+</sup> --> 2 γ (511 keV)
- <sup>68</sup>Ga (68 min), <sup>18</sup>F (1.1 h), <sup>64</sup>Cu (12.4 h), <sup>89</sup>Zr (78.4 h)

Treatment response with PET FDG in non-small cell lung cancer





https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/42/Scintigraphie\_osseuse.jpg/330px-Scintigraphie\_osseuse.jpg (14.07.2015) http://www.lifeextension.com/magazine/mag2012/images/jul2012\_Value-Of-PET\_03.jpg (14.07.2015) http://www.kavlifoundation.org/sites/default/files/image/resources/Spotlight-Nano-Cancer\_PET-Treatment.jpg (14.07.2015)





#### <sup>89</sup>Zr for Immuno-PET

- $^{89}\text{Zr}$  (22.7%  $\beta^{+})$  is an emerging, metallic, non-standard PET radionuclide.
- Physical half-life (t<sub>1/2</sub> = 3.3 d) matches the biological half-life of antibodies (Ab).
- Several clinical studies with <sup>89</sup>Zr-labeled Ab have demonstrated their potential for immuno-PET.
- Today radiolabeling of Ab is exclusively done with the chelator Desferrioxamine (DFO).
- Incomplete coordination of <sup>89</sup>Zr<sup>4+</sup> by DFO leads to *in vivo* instable radioconjugates and accumulation of the radiometal in sensitive bones (up to 10-15% i.d./g reported).





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#### DFO\* - A New Octadentate Chelator for <sup>89</sup>Zr<sup>4+</sup>







#### **Comparison of the <sup>89</sup>Zr Chelators**

- DFO\* and DFO were coupled to the binding sequence of bombesin BBS(7-14) as tumour-targeting model compound.
- Quantitative radiolabeling with [<sup>89</sup>Zr]Zr-oxalate was achieved at pH 7 and room temperature with clinically useful specific molar activities of 5-6 GBq/µmol within 60-90 min.

- Transmetallation experiments with 300/3000-fold molar excess of DFO revealed a **remarkable improved stability** of the DFO\* complex *in vitro*.



#### **Transchelation experiments**





#### **Comparison of the <sup>89</sup>Zr Chelators**



No significant differences between the compounds in terms of cell internalization, GRP receptor binding affinities (3-4 nM), and logP (-1.5).











Coronal PET images of N87 tumor bearing nude mice acquired 72 h after injection of either 100 µg, 2 MBq <sup>89</sup>Zr-DFO\*-trastuzumab (A-B) or <sup>89</sup>Zr-DFO-trastuzumab (C-D). A, C: plane at level of tumor; B, D: plane at level of vertebra. Tumors are indicated with a yellow arrow.





#### In vivo Studies







#### In vivo Studies









#### **Summary/Perspectives**

- *In vivo* evaluation of Zr-89 complexes of DFO\* attached to an antibody have confirmed our initial assumptions → Less bone accumulation.
- Design and synthesis of a series of bifunctional versions of DFO\* for bioconjugation chemistry (maleimde, azide, activated ester, isothiocyanate etc.).
- Design and synthesis of DFO\* derivatives with improved water solubility.

→ <sup>89</sup>Zr and DFO\* have an enormous potential!



M. Patra, *al.*, *Chem. Commun.*, **2014**, *50*, 11523-11525.
D. Vugts, *et al.*, *Eur. J. Nucl. Med. Mol. Imag.*, **2017**, *44*, 286-295.
G. Gasser *et al.*, EP14160792.9





### 2. Novel Applications for PNAs



M. Patra, et al., *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2016, 45, 6415 - 6431
P. Anstaett, *et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2013, 52, 4217-4220.
A. Leonidova, *et al., Chem. Sci.*, 2015, 6, 5601-5616.
A. Schmitz, *et al., ChemBioChem*, 2015, 16, 1302-1306.
G. Gasser, *et al., J. Inorg. Biochem.*, 2010, 104, 1133-1140.
P. Anstaett, *et al., Chimia*, 2014, 68, 264-268.



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#### **Peptide Nucleic Acids (PNAs)**



- PNA-DNA duplex more stable than DNA-DNA duplex
- Higher sensitivity to single base mismatch
- Faster hybridisation
- Stable to nucleases
- Automated synthesis
- Antisense/Antigene therapy









#### **Principle of the Pretargeting Approach**







#### **Design - Synthesis**







#### **Does it work?**



**Figure 4:** SPECT/CT maximum intensity projection images of [<sup>99m</sup>Tc](Tc-Dpa)-(Cys-PEG<sub>10kDa</sub>)-PNA in murine A431 tumor xenograft (NMRI nu/nu mice; tumor located at right thigh). (A) 1 h post injection of [<sup>99m</sup>Tc](Tc-Dpa)-(Cys-PEG<sub>10kDa</sub>)-PNA without preinjection of (NOTA)<sub>3</sub>-C225-Cys-c-PNA. (B) 1 h post injection of radiotracer; (NOTA)<sub>3</sub>-C225-Cys-c-PNA was administered 24 h before injection of radiotracer. (C) 20 h post injection of radiotracer; (NOTA)<sub>3</sub>-C225-Cys-c-PNA was administered 24 h before injection of radiotracer.





#### **Does it work?**

Blood	1.42 ± 0.75	
Kidneys	0.48±0.16	2.5
Adrenals	$0.32 \pm 0.14$	
Liver	2.18±0.11	2.0-
Spleen	$0.42 \pm 0.12$	<b>1.5</b>
Pancreas	$0.18 \pm 0.10$	
Muscles	0.08±0.03	1.0
Lung	0.55 ± 0.26	
Heart	0.36±0.24	
Femur	$0.11 \pm 0.05$	
Brain	0.05 ± 0.03	ood at with sittien we as enals what we art in we mut not
Tumor	0.63 ± 0.27	BIO BOS BIVALITE ACTOR AT AND THE ILL I FERTIN
Tumor/Muscle	8.29 ± 1.28	tio
Tumor/Blood	0.48 ± 0.09	





### Summary

- Use of PNA bioconjugates in a pretargeting approach to image tumours is very promising.
- Much more work is required since a lot of parameters play a role.
- Funding is required...

→ PNAs have an enormous potential!



P. Anstaett, et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2013, 52, 4217-4220.
A. Leonidova, et al., Chem. Sci., 2015, 6, 5601-5616.
A. Schmitz, et al., ChemBioChem, 2015, 16, 1302-1306.
G. Gasser, et al., J. Inorg. Biochem., 2010, 104, 1133-1140.
P. Anstaett, et al., Chimia, 2014, 68, 264-268.





### **3. Photoactivation of Metal Complexes**











#### $IC_{50}$ scale

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### **Photodynamic Therapy (PDT)**





Used to treat skin, prostate, brain, head & neck and gastro-intestinal cancers

**Enormous potential to treat infections (e.g. sinusitis)** 

D.E.J.G.J. Dolmans, D. Fukumura and R.K. Jain, Nat. Rev. Cancer, 2003, 3, 380-387.





#### **PDT Photosensitizers**













#### **Drawbacks of the current PDT Photosensitizers**

- 1) Poor water solubility.
- 2) Tedious synthesis.
- 3) Low excretion metabolism leading to photosensitivity.
- 4) Low cancer cell selectivity.

# Is it possible to prepare novel PDT photosensitizers without relying on porphyrin-based agents?







### Why Ruthenium Polypyridyl Complexes?

- 1) Can produce  ${}^{1}O_{2}$ .
- 2) No photobleaching.
- 3) Easy synthesis.
- 4) High water solubility.
- 5) Inert compounds.
- 6) No toxicity.
- 7) Relatively cheap.







#### **Importantly!**



#### TLD-1433





#### **Ru-dppz Complexes as PS**







#### **Cyto- and Phototoxicity Evaluation**

IC <sub>5</sub>	<sub>io</sub> μ <b>Μ</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	cisplatin
MF	RC-5 <sup>a</sup>	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	16.8 ± <sup>1.8</sup>
HeLa	Dark <sup>a</sup>	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	8.9 ±2.6

<sup>a)</sup> 48 h incubation. <sup>b)</sup> 4 h incubation, light dose 2.58 J·cm<sup>-2</sup>. <sup>c)</sup> 4 h incubation, light dose 9.27 J·cm<sup>-2</sup>.

**Photofrin**<sup>®</sup> IC<sub>50</sub>light = 4.3 μM, PI >10, @400-650nm, 5 J/cm<sup>2</sup>.

E. Delaey et al., J. Photochem. Photobiol. B, 2000, 55, 27-36.





#### **Cellular Localization and Uptake**

Cellular localization of complex **2** from luminescence microscopy on HeLa cells.



HeLa cells treated with **2** (100  $\mu$ M), 2 h incubation.

Weak luminescence for **1**.

Cellular uptake from HR-CS AAS analysis on HeLa cells treated with the ruthenium complexes. In the inset: nuclear uptake for complexes **1** and **2**.



HeLa cells treated with the complexes (20  $\mu$ M), 4 h incubation.





#### **DNA Photocleavage at 420 nm**



pcDNA3 plasmid untreated and irradiated for 20 minutes at 420 nm (lanes 1); plasmid treated with **1** (left) and **2** (right) at different concentrations and irradiated (lanes 2-5); plasmid untreated in the dark (lanes 6); plasmid treated with **1** (left) and **2** (right) at 50  $\mu$ M in the dark (lanes 7).





#### **In-Depth Biology**







#### **In-Depth Biology**







#### **Main Conclusion**

UV-A irradiation of Ru65 in cells synchronized by G2/M block-release with a selective CDK1 inhibitor led to blocking mitotic entry and rapid cell death through classic apoptotic pathways. Importantly, targeting mitotic cells with Ru65 allowed increasing its photo-toxicity by a factor of 3.6. Overall, our findings show that the use of a combination of a cell cycle inhibitor and a PS targeting the nucleus could open new avenues in PDT.





#### **Can we do better?**







#### **Two-Photon PDT**



Two Photon Absorption

One Photon Absorption



 $R_3 = N(CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3)_3$ 















#### **Cellular Relocalization**







#### **Biology on Spheroids**







#### **Conclusions & Perspectives**

- Killing of cancer cells and bacteria could be achieved using low irradiation doses.
- High PI.
- Two-photon irradiation can be envisaged as an irradiation technique.

→ Metal complexes have an enormous potential in PDT







#### 4. Towards Novel Organometallic Antischistosomal Drug Candidates

















#### **Schistosomiasis**

- Parasitic disease caused by trematodes of the genus *Schistosoma*.
- Major health problem worldwide, particularly in tropical regions where up to 280,000 deaths are reported annually.
- More than 207 million people, mostly in Africa, are infected and nearly 800 million are at risk of being infected.







### **Praziquantel I**

- THE anthelmintic!
- Widely used, as a racemic mixture, to control this infection in human as well as in animals.
- Treats infections caused by worms belonging to all species of Schistosoma (e.g. *S. mekongi*, *S. japonicum*, *S. mansoni*, and *S. hematobium*).







## Praziquantel II

#### BUT

- Not active against the juvenile stage of the parasite.
- Low metabolic stability.
- Over-consumption of PZQ could lead to an emergence of PZQ resistant parasites in the near future.



➔ Discovery of novel drug candidates desired.





#### **Organometallic Derivatization**



**Ferrocifens** (n=2,3,4,5,8)

Ferroquine





### Let's go Chromium



G. Jaouen *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1985**, *107*, 4778. N. Metzler-Nolte *et al.*, *ChemMedChem*, **2009**, *4*, 1930. H.-G. Schmalz *et al.*, *ChemMedChem*, **2010**, *5*, 2065.





#### **Synthesis**







#### In vitro Anthelmintic Activity on S. mansoni







#### In vivo Results

**Table.** In vivo activity of two Cr-PQZ derivatives administered at single oral doses of400 mg/kg to mice harboring adult S. mansoni.

Group	No. of mice investigated	No. of mice cured	Mean number of worms (SD)	TWR [%]	p- value
Control	9	-	36.7 (8.2)	-	-
1	5	0	28 (5.9)	24	>0.05
2	5	0	26.3 (19.9)	29	>0.05
PZQ	N/A	N/A	N/A	96	N/A





#### **Towards the Mechanism of Action of PZQ?**







#### **Towards the Mechanism of Action of PZQ?**







### Oxamniquine

- Has activity against *S. mansoni*, but not against other *Schistosoma* spp.
- Was the drug of choice in Brazil until the 1990s.
- Resistance was then observed.







## **Organometallic Derivatives of Oxamniquine**







#### In vitro Antischistosomal Activity









#### In vivo Antischistosomal Activity

			Worm Burden		Worm Burden Reduction (%)	
Compound	Dose (mg/kg)	No. of mice	Female	Total	Female	Total
Control Batch 1	Untreated	8	13.4	23.0	-	-
Control Batch 2*	Untreated	8			-	-
Oxamniquine	200	4	0.0	0.0	100	100
1*	200	4	0.0	0.0	100	100
2	200	3	14.7	22.0	-9.7	4.3
3	200	4	11.0	17.3	17.8	25.0
<b>4</b> *	200	2	13.5	20.0	25.9	31.6

\*WBR for this treatment arm calculated based on worm burden of Control Batch 1.





#### At 100 mg/kg with two Controls...

				Worm Burden			
		Worm	Burden	Reduction (%)			
Compound	No. of mice	Female	Total	Female	Total		
Control Batch 1	8	14.2	30.2	-	-		
Control Batch 2	8	11.13	19.9	-	-		
OXA <sup>[a]</sup>	4	0.3	0.3	98.2 <sup>[c]</sup>	99.2 <sup>[c]</sup>		
<b>1</b> <sup>[a]</sup>	4	4.5	5.8	68.4	81.0 <sup>[c]</sup>		
<b>5</b> <sup>[b]</sup>	4	1.00	1.3	91.0 <sup>[c]</sup>	93.7 <sup>[c]</sup>		
<b>6</b> <sup>[b]</sup>	4	3.50	4.8	68.5	76.1 <sup>[c]</sup>		
		HC					
		6					





#### Activity against S. haematobium!!!



Time of drug exposure (h)





#### **Summary**

Medicinal Organometallic Chemistry has a bright future!



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#### **Dream Team in Paris**

#### **Post-Doc**





#### **Msc Students**





#### **PhD Students**

























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10.1



















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