



# Harnessing photochemistry in radiotracer synthesis

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Department of Chemistry

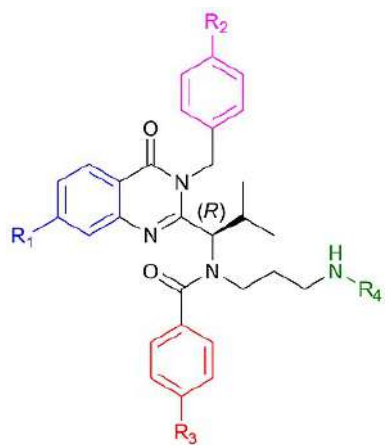
University of Zurich

E-mail: [jason.holland@chem.uzh.ch](mailto:jason.holland@chem.uzh.ch)

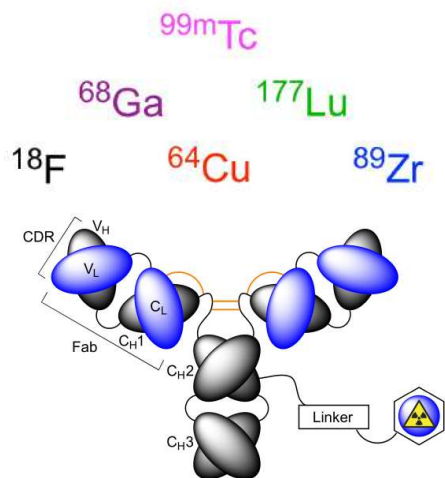
Website: [www.hollandlab.org](http://www.hollandlab.org)

Twitter: [@HollandLab\\_](https://twitter.com/HollandLab_)

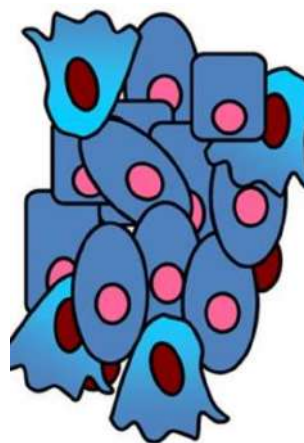
# From chemistry to imaging science...



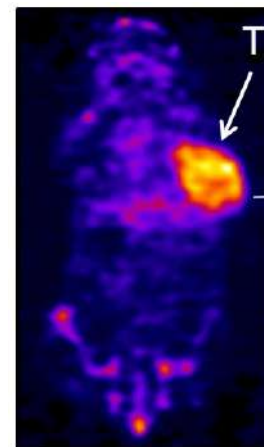
Synthetic medicinal chemistry



Radiochemistry



Cells



Animals



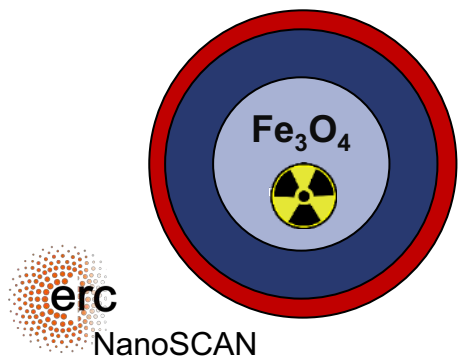
Humans



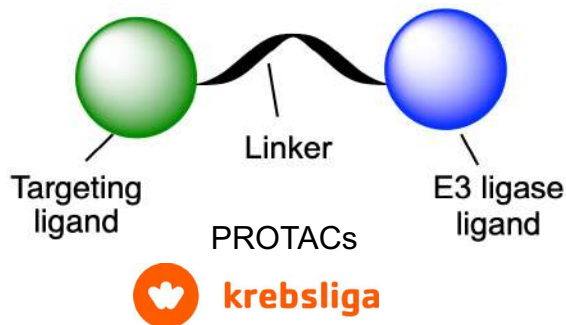
# Current research areas



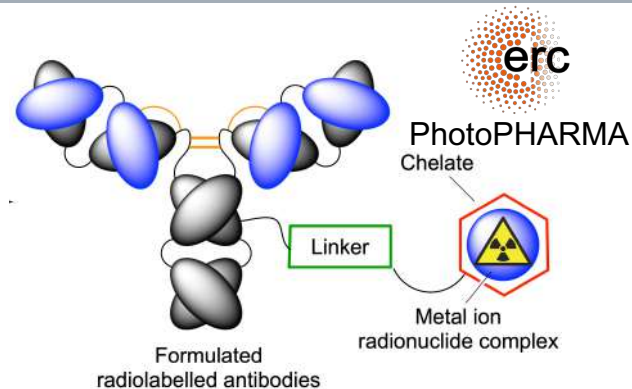
University of Zurich <sup>UZH</sup>



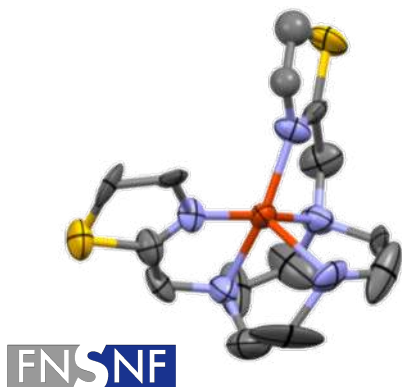
Nanoparticle radiochemistry for 'theranostics' (PET/MRI)



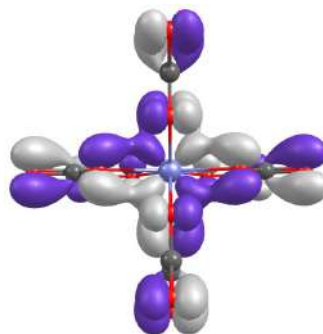
Companion diagnostics & novel therapy



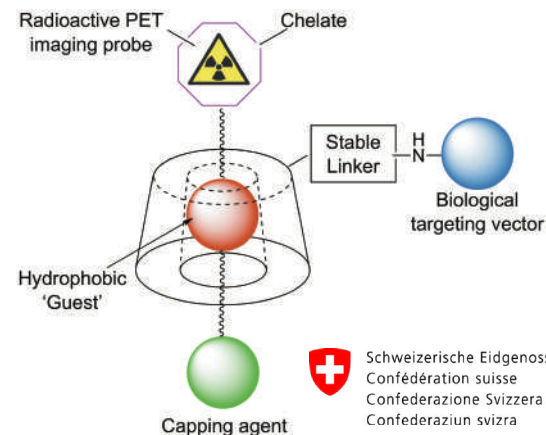
Bioconjugate chemistry  
**Photo(radio)chemistry**



Chelate design & radiosynthesis (Cu, Ga, Zr, Lu, In, As ions)



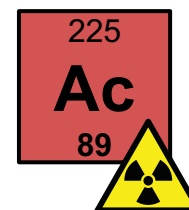
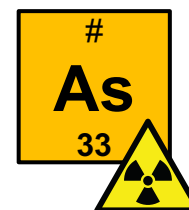
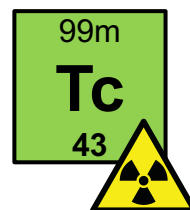
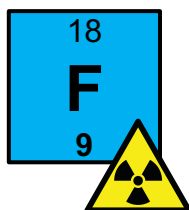
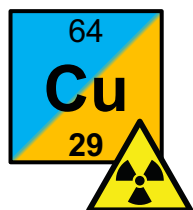
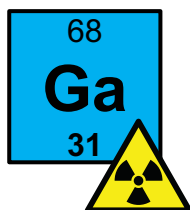
Density functional theory in radiotracer design



Supramolecular radiochemistry

# Radionuclides in Nuclear Medicine

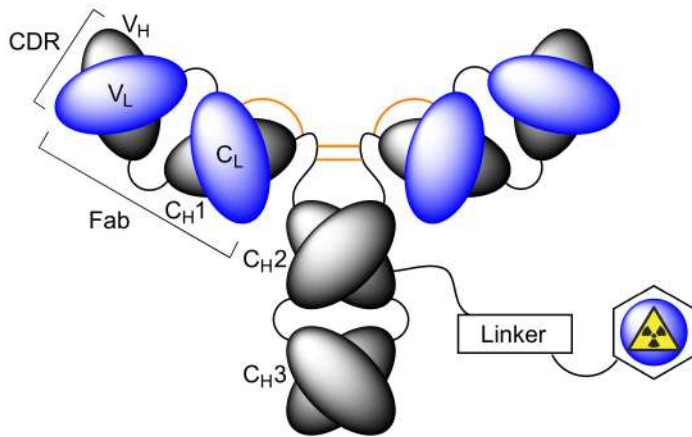
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1.01 H 1												10.81 B 5	12.01 C 6	14.00 N 7	15.99 O 8	19.00 F 9	20.18 Ne 10																														
6.97 Li 3	9.01 Be 4											26.98 Al 13	28.08 Si 14	30.97 P 15	32.07 S 16	32.45 Cl 17	39.95 Ar 18																														
22.99 Na 11	24.30 Mg 12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Al 13	Si 14	P 15	S 16	Cl 17	Ar 18																														
39.10 K 19	40.08 Ca 20	44.96 Sc 21	47.87 Ti 22	50.94 V 23	52.00 Cr 24	54.94 Mn 25	55.85 Fe 26	58.93 Co 27	58.69 Ni 28	63.55 Cu 29	65.38 Zn 30	69.72 Ga 31	72.63 Ge 32	74.92 As 33	78.97 Se 34	79.91 Br 35	83.80 Kr 36																														
85.47 Rb 37	87.62 Sr 38	88.91 Y 39	91.22 Zr 40	92.91 Nb 41	95.95 Mo 42	95.95 Tc 43	101.1 Ru 44	102.9 Rh 45	106.4 Pd 46	107.9 Ag 47	112.4 Cd 48	114.8 In 49	118.7 Sn 50	121.8 Sb 51	127.6 Te 52	126.9 I 53	131.3 Xe 54																														
132.9 Cs 55	137.3 Ba 56	57-71	176.5 Hf 72	180.9 Ta 73	183.8 W 74	186.2 Re 75	190.2 Os 76	192.2 Ir 77	195.1 Pt 78	197.0 Au 79	200.6 Hg 80	204.4 Tl 81	207.2 Pb 82	209.0 Bi 83		At 85	Rn 86																														
Fr 87	Ra 88	89-103	Rf 104	Db 105	Sg 106	Bh 107	Hs 108	Mt 109	Ds 110	Rg 111	Cn 112	Nh 113	Fl 114	Mc 115	Lv 116	Ts 117	Og 118																														
<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>138.9 La 57</td> <td>140.1 Ce 58</td> <td>140.9 Pr 59</td> <td>144.2 Nd 60</td> <td>Pm 61</td> <td>150.4 Sm 62</td> <td>162.0 Eu 63</td> <td>157.3 Gd 64</td> <td>158.9 Tb 65</td> <td>162.5 Dy 66</td> <td>164.9 Ho 67</td> <td>167.3 Er 68</td> <td>168.9 Tm 69</td> <td>173.0 Yb 70</td> <td>175.0 Lu 71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ac 89</td> <td>Th 90</td> <td>Pa 91</td> <td>U 92</td> <td>Np 93</td> <td>Pu 94</td> <td>Am 95</td> <td>Cm 96</td> <td>Bk 97</td> <td>Cf 98</td> <td>Es 99</td> <td>Fm 100</td> <td>Md 101</td> <td>No 102</td> <td>Lr 103</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>																		138.9 La 57	140.1 Ce 58	140.9 Pr 59	144.2 Nd 60	Pm 61	150.4 Sm 62	162.0 Eu 63	157.3 Gd 64	158.9 Tb 65	162.5 Dy 66	164.9 Ho 67	167.3 Er 68	168.9 Tm 69	173.0 Yb 70	175.0 Lu 71	Ac 89	Th 90	Pa 91	U 92	Np 93	Pu 94	Am 95	Cm 96	Bk 97	Cf 98	Es 99	Fm 100	Md 101	No 102	Lr 103
138.9 La 57	140.1 Ce 58	140.9 Pr 59	144.2 Nd 60	Pm 61	150.4 Sm 62	162.0 Eu 63	157.3 Gd 64	158.9 Tb 65	162.5 Dy 66	164.9 Ho 67	167.3 Er 68	168.9 Tm 69	173.0 Yb 70	175.0 Lu 71																																	
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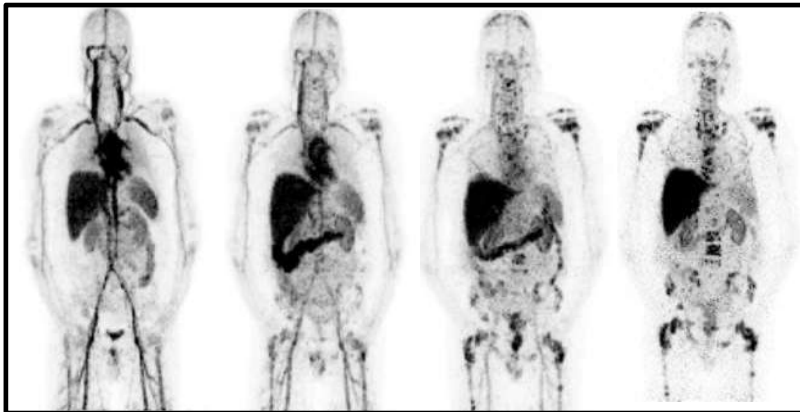
# 70, 71, 72, 74, 76, 77

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 Nickles, J. Labelled Compounds Radiopharm., **2003**, 46, 1-27  
 Blower, Dalton Trans., **2015**, 44, 4819-4844

# $^{89}\text{Zr}$ radiotracers for immunoPET in cancer



## $^{89}\text{Zr}$ ]ZrDFO-J591 imaging of PSMA



Day: 1

2

4

8

Holland *et al.* Nucl. Med. Biol., **2009**, 36, 729

*#1 Highest Cited Article in Nucl. Med. Biol. since 2008*

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Ulmert *et al.* Cancer Discovery, **2012**, 2, 320

*Highlighted as the Cover Picture, Cancer Discovery, April 2012*

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Evans *et al.*, J. Nucl. Med., **2013**, 54(1), 90-95

*Highlighted as the Cover Picture, J. Nucl. Med., January 2013*

Osbourne *et al.*, J. Urol. **2014**, 191(5), 1439

Pandit-Tasker *et al.*, Eur. J. Nucl. Med. Mol. Imaging, **2014**, 41, 2093

Pandit-Tasker *et al.*, Clin. Cancer Res. **2015**, 21(23), 5277

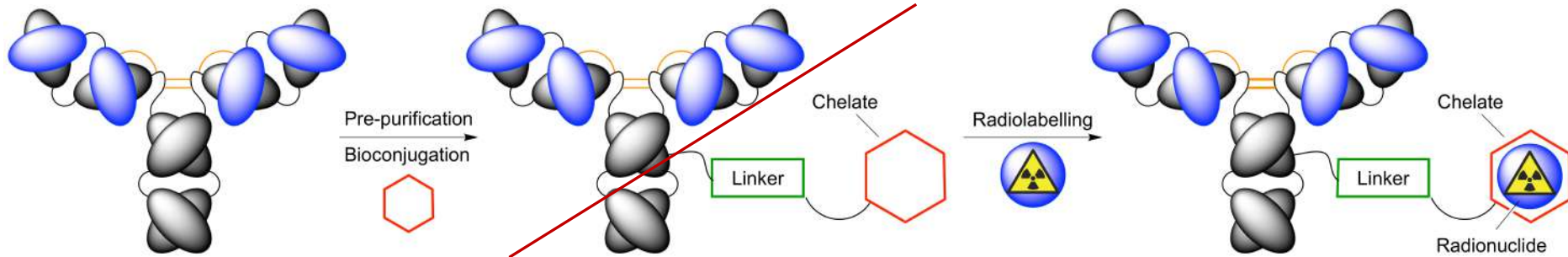
Rylova *et al.*, J. Nucl. Med., **2016**, 57, 96-102.

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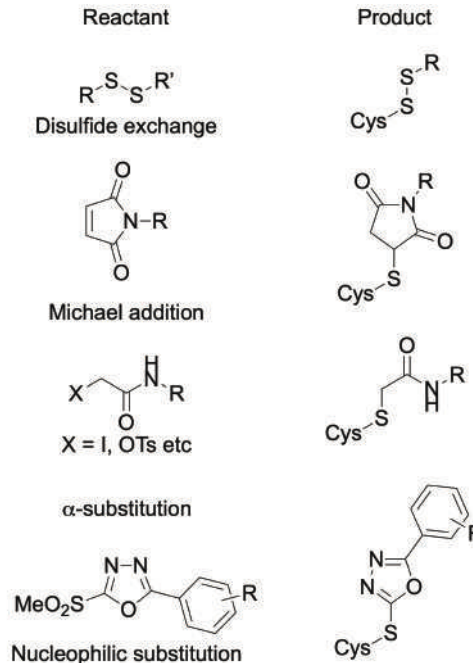
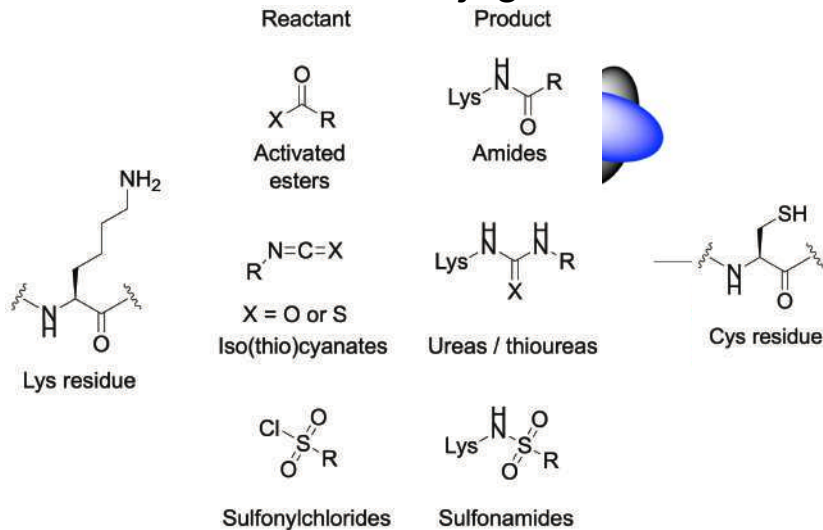


# Technological advances in radiolabelled proteins

Traditional methods require pre-purification and two-step chemistry



## Simultaneous conjugation, radiolabelling



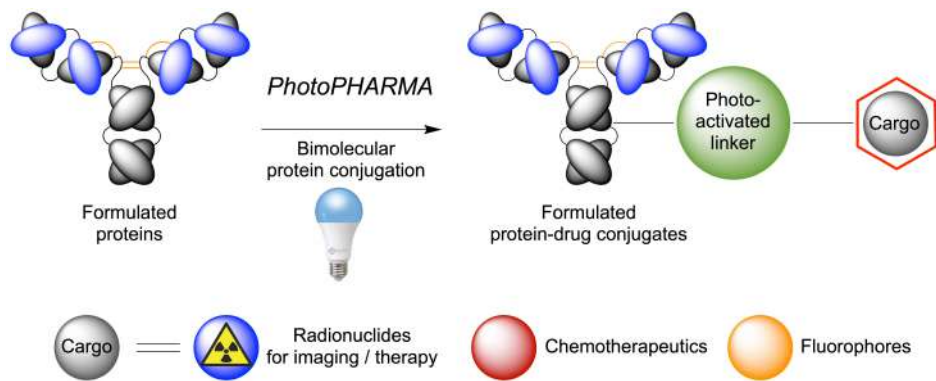
**Limitations**

- Slow reactions
- Harsh conditions
- Low yields
- Non-specific

# Light-induced protein conjugation for imaging and therapy



PhotoPHARMA



Holland and Patra, *EP and WP patents pending*, **2018/19**

Patra *et al.* *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, **2019**, 58, 1928-1933

Eichenberger *et al.* *Chem. Comm.*, **2019**, 55, 2257-2260

Patra *et al.* *iScience*, **2019**, 13, 416-431

Fay and Holland, *J. Nucl. Med.*, **2019**, 60, 587-591

Fay *et al.*, *Bioconjugate Chem.*, **2019**, 30, 1814-1820

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Holland *et al.*, *Chem. Eur. J.*, **2020**, 26, 33-48

Klingler *et al.*, *J. Nucl. Med.*, **2020**, 61, 1072-1078

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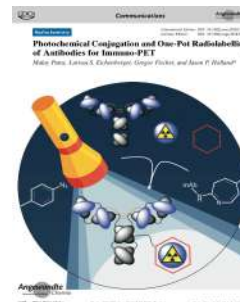
Guillou *et al.*, *Nat. Protocol*, **2020**, 15, 3579-3594

Fay and Holland, *Chem Eur. J.*, **2021**, 27, 4893-4897

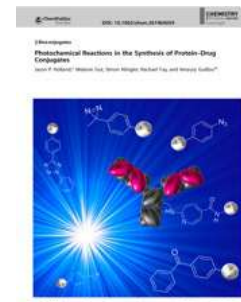
Guillou *et al.*, *Bioconjugate Chem.*, **2021**, in press

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Guillou *et al.*, **2021**, submitted



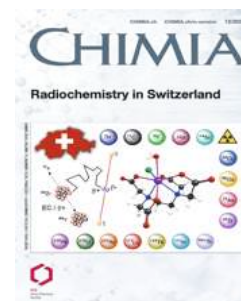
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Chem Eur J



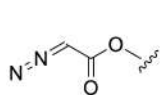
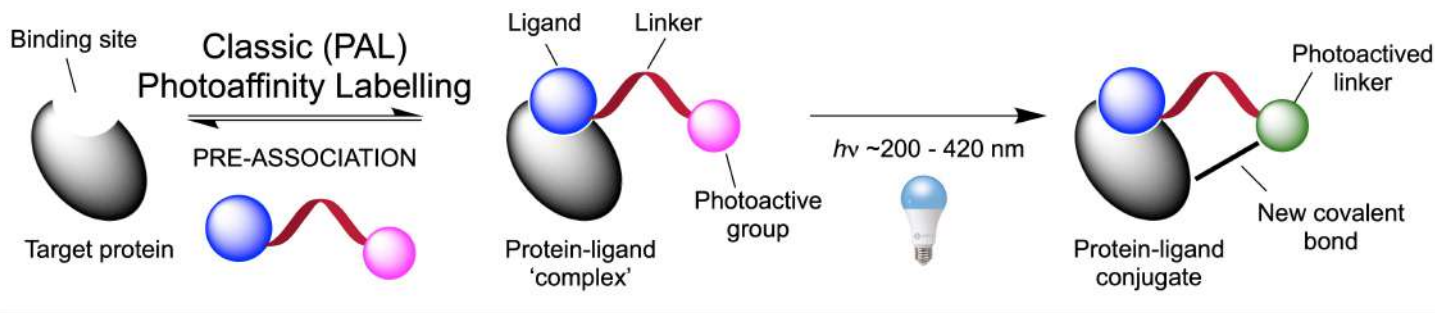
iScience



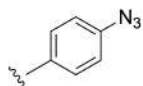
Chem Eur J



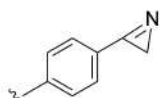
# Photoactivated chemistry



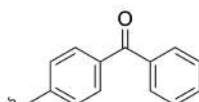
Diazo acetyls  
Singh *et al.* 1962



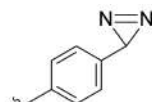
Aryl azides ( $\text{ArN}_3$ )  
Fleet *et al.* 1969



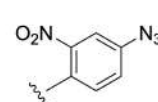
Aryl azirines  
Padwa *et al.* 1971



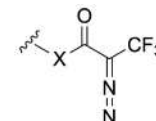
Benzophenones  
Galardy *et al.* 1973



Aryl diazirines  
Smith *et al.* 1973



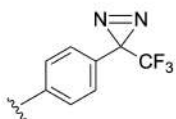
*m*-nitroaryl azides  
Staros *et al.* 1974



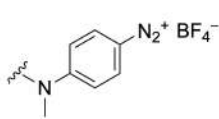
2-diazo-3-trifluoropropionyl  
Chowdhry *et al.* 1976



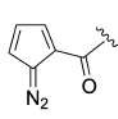
Aliphatic azides  
Stoffel *et al.* 1978



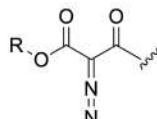
Trifluoromethyl  
phenyldiazirines  
Brunner *et al.* 1980



Benzyl diazonium salts  
Goeldner *et al.* 1980



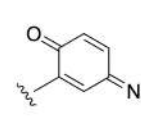
Diazocyclopentadienyls  
Nielsen *et al.* 1983



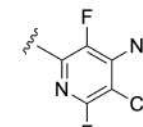
Alkyldiazomalonyls  
Nielsen *et al.* 1983



Tetrafluoroaryl azides  
Young *et al.* 1989



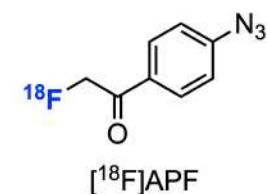
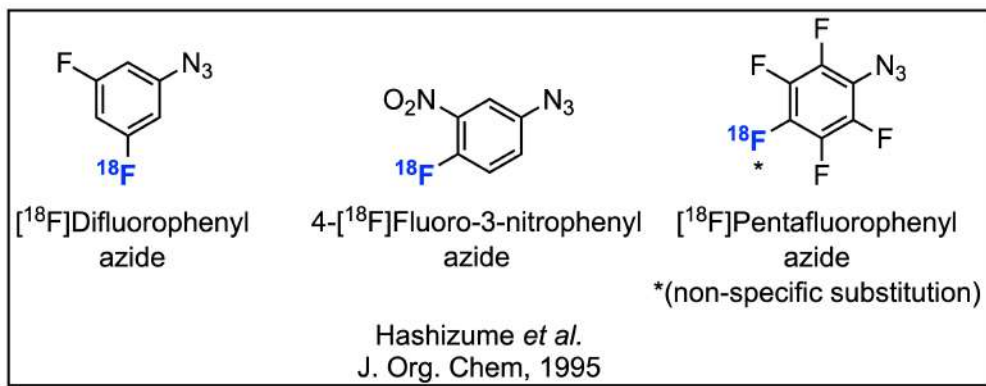
Diazocyclohexadienones  
Goeldner *et al.* 1989



*p*-Azidopyridines  
Kolpashchikov *et al.* 1999



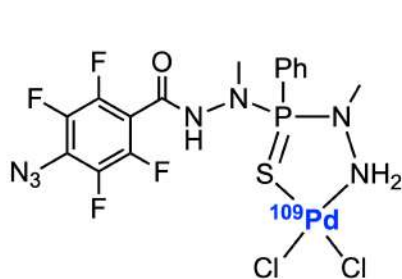
# Photochemistry & Radiochemistry: State of Play



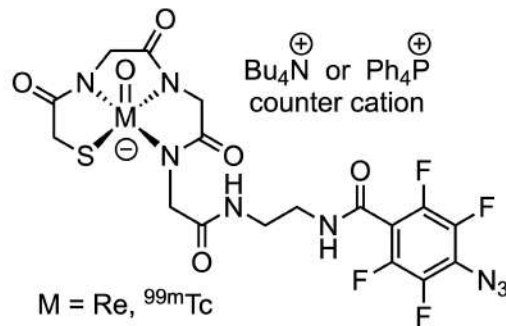
Wester *et al.*  
 Nucl. Med. Biol. 1996



Lange *et al.*  
 J. Labelled Compd Radiopham. 2002

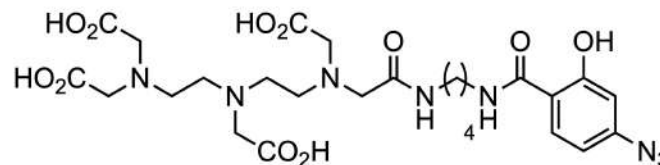


Pandurangi *et al.*  
 Photochem. Photobiol. 1997



M(=O)MAG<sub>3</sub>  
 tetrafluorophenyl azides

Pandurangi *et al.*  
 J. Org. Chem. 1997  
 J. Org. Chem. 2002

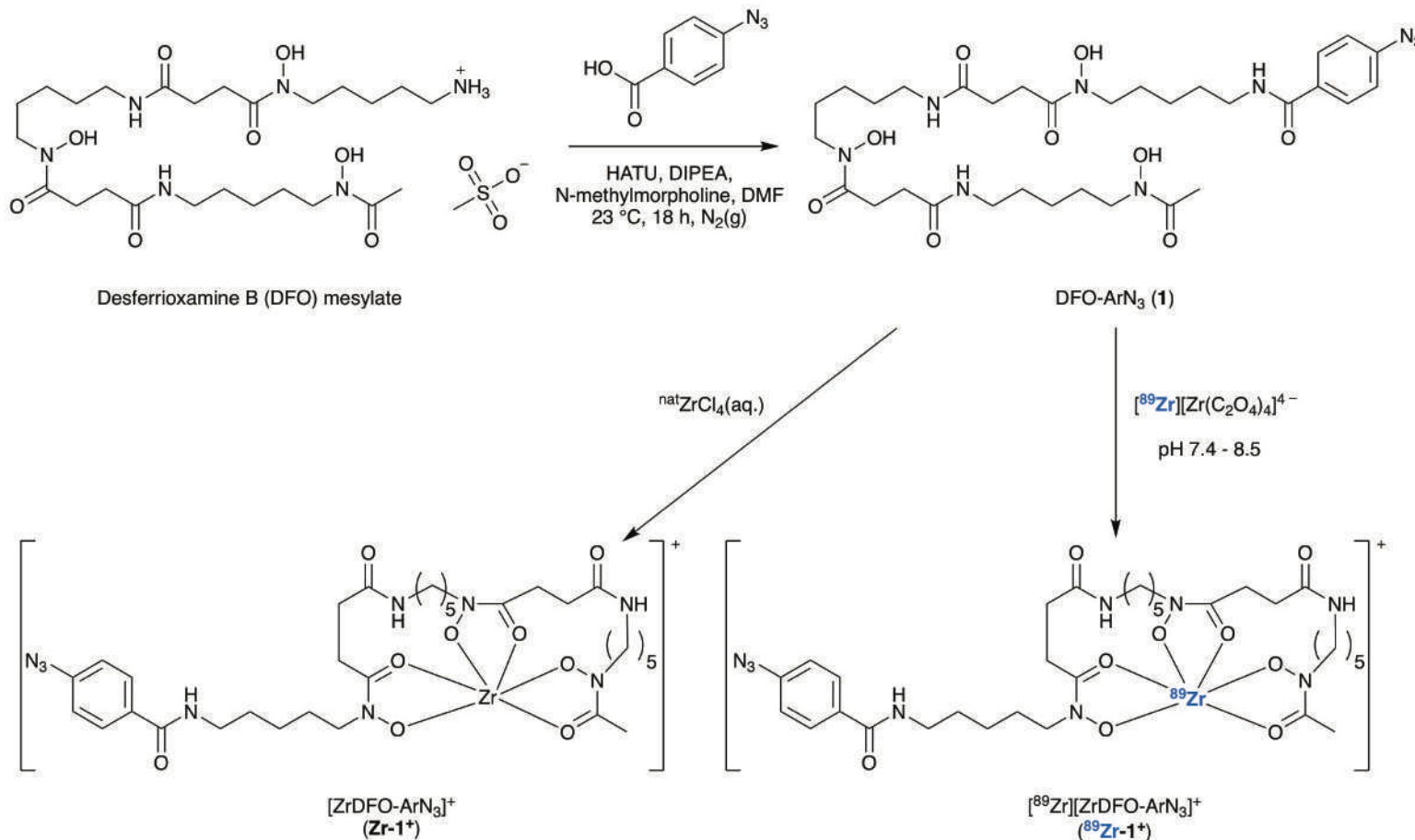


[<sup>111</sup>In]labeled DTPA-ASBA

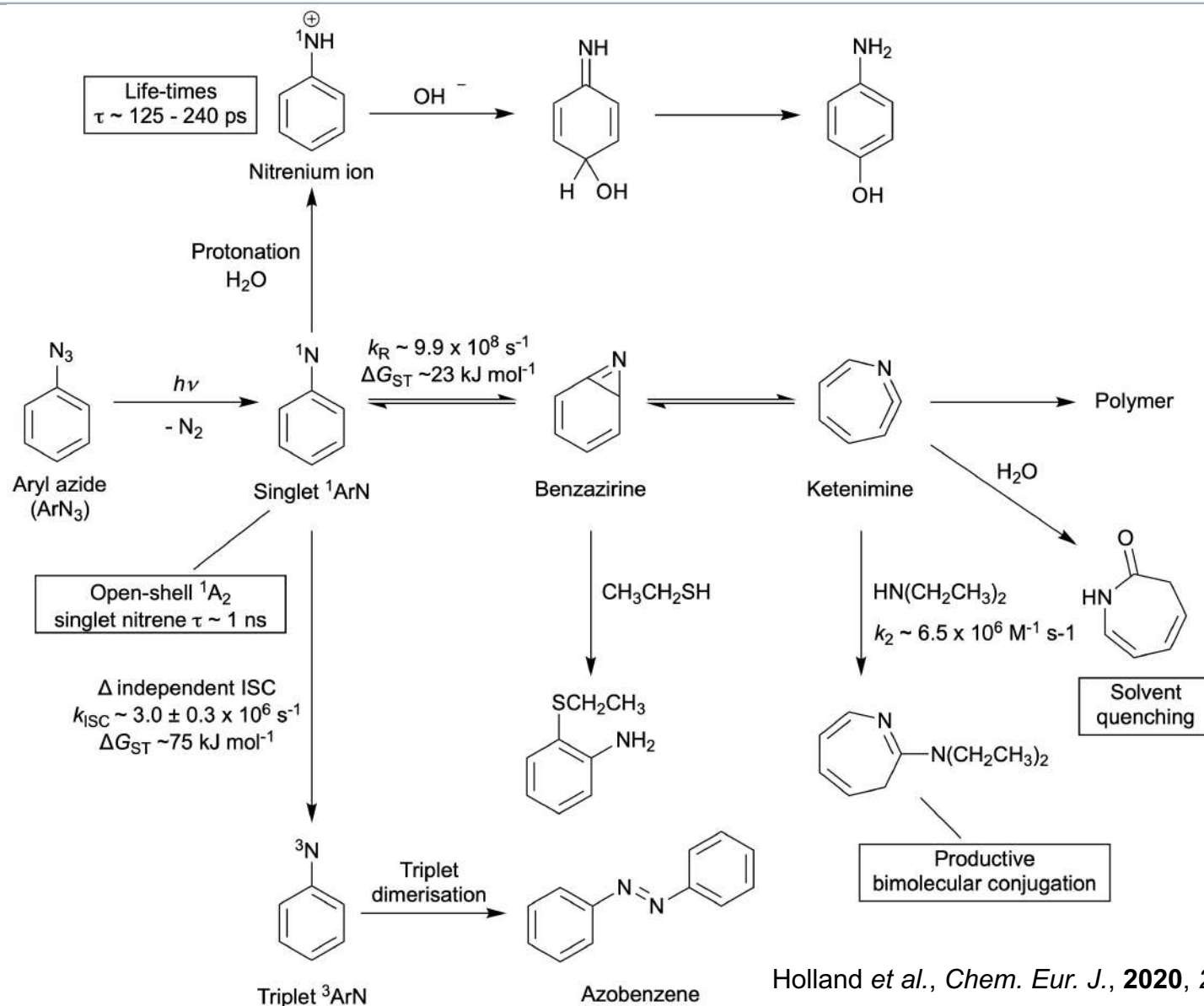
Nishikawa *et al.*  
 Bioconj. Chem. 2003

# Photoactive chelates: DFO-ArN<sub>3</sub>

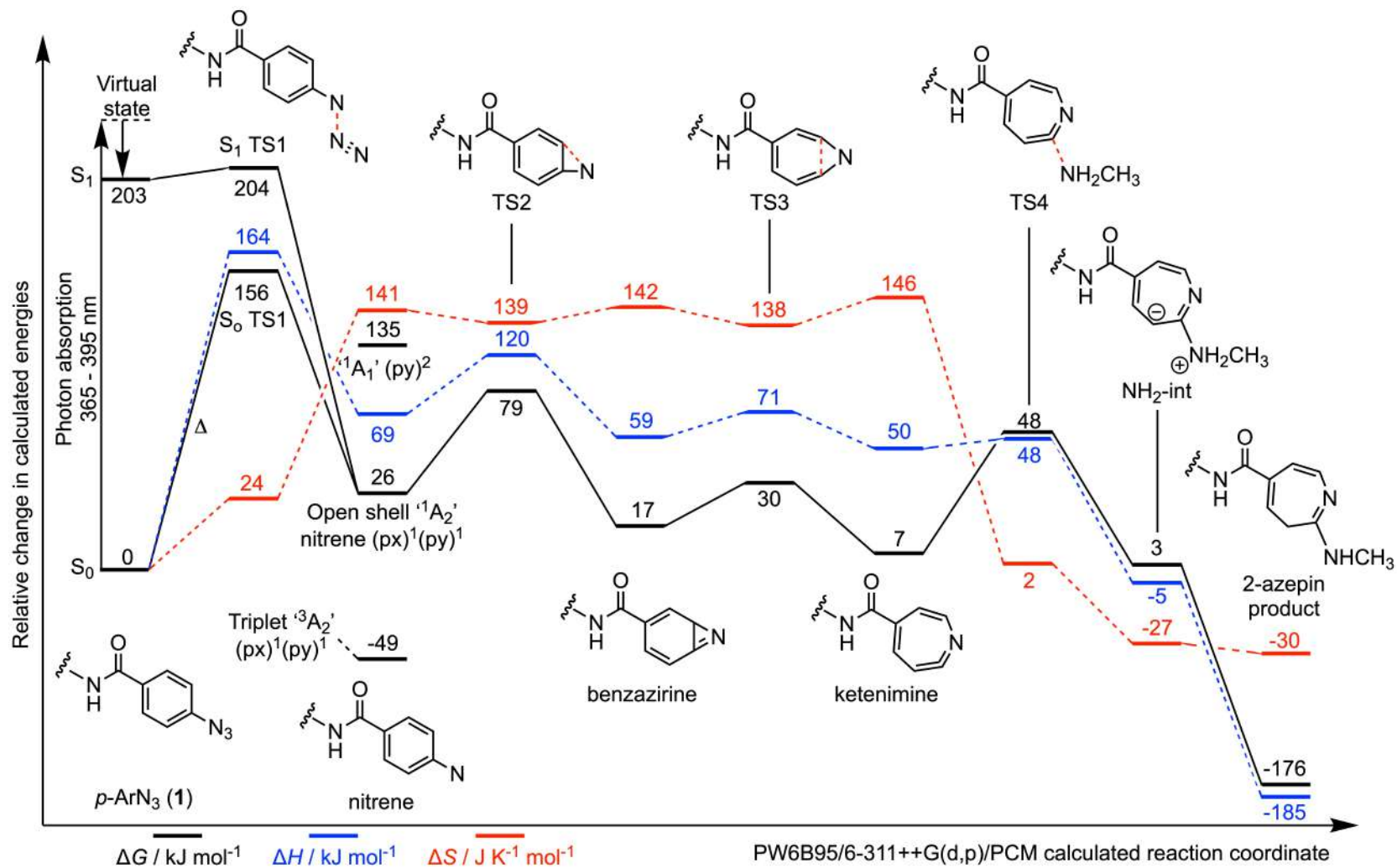
- Desferrioxamine B (DFO) is the gold standard for <sup>89</sup>Zr<sup>4+</sup> coordination



# Aryl azide ( $\text{ArN}_3$ ) photoinitiation mechanism

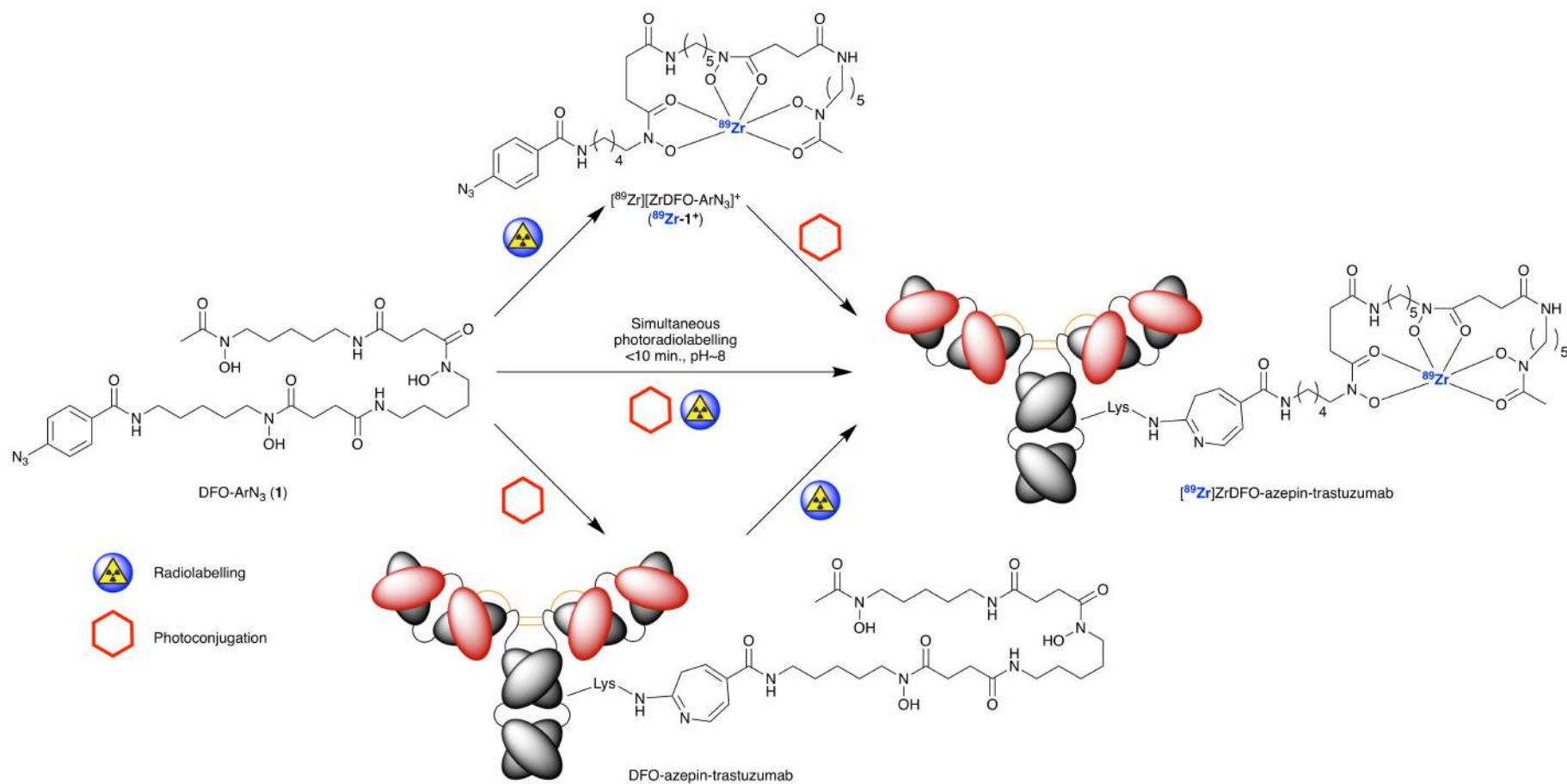


# DFT calculated reaction coordinate



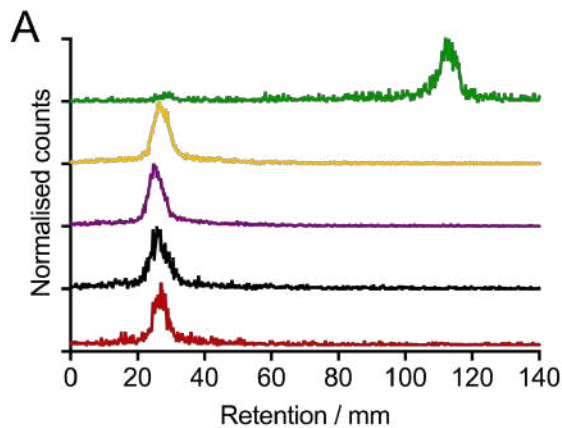


# Simultaneous photoradiolabelling with $^{89}\text{Zr}$

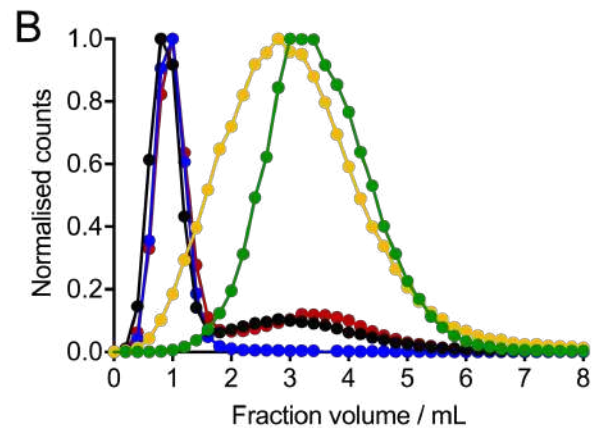


# One-pot radiosynthesis of $^{89}\text{Zr}$ DFO-azepin-trastuzumab

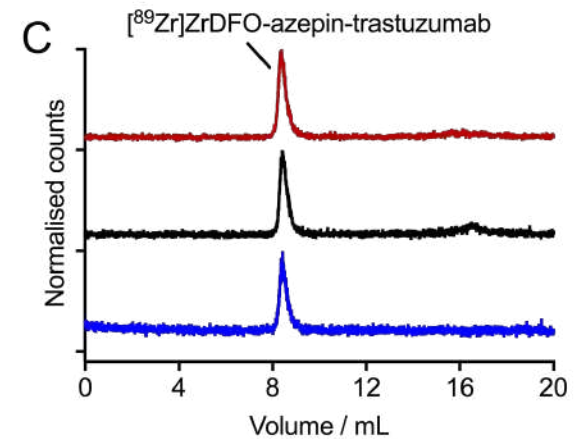
- One-pot, simultaneous photochemical conjugation and  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -radiolabelling
- $^{89}\text{Zr}$  radiolabeling of DFO works at pH 6 – 9
- Pre-purified or fully formulated mAbs
- Two-step process: photoradiochemical conversion efficiency (PCE) ~3%
- **One-pot simultaneous process: PCE ~75%**



- Control (no chelate, 365 nm, +DTPA)
- Control (no mAb, 365 nm, +DTPA)
- $^{89}\text{Zr}[\text{ZrDFO-ArN}_3]^+$  before irradiation
- Crude product (365 nm, +DTPA)
- Crude product (395 nm, +DTPA)



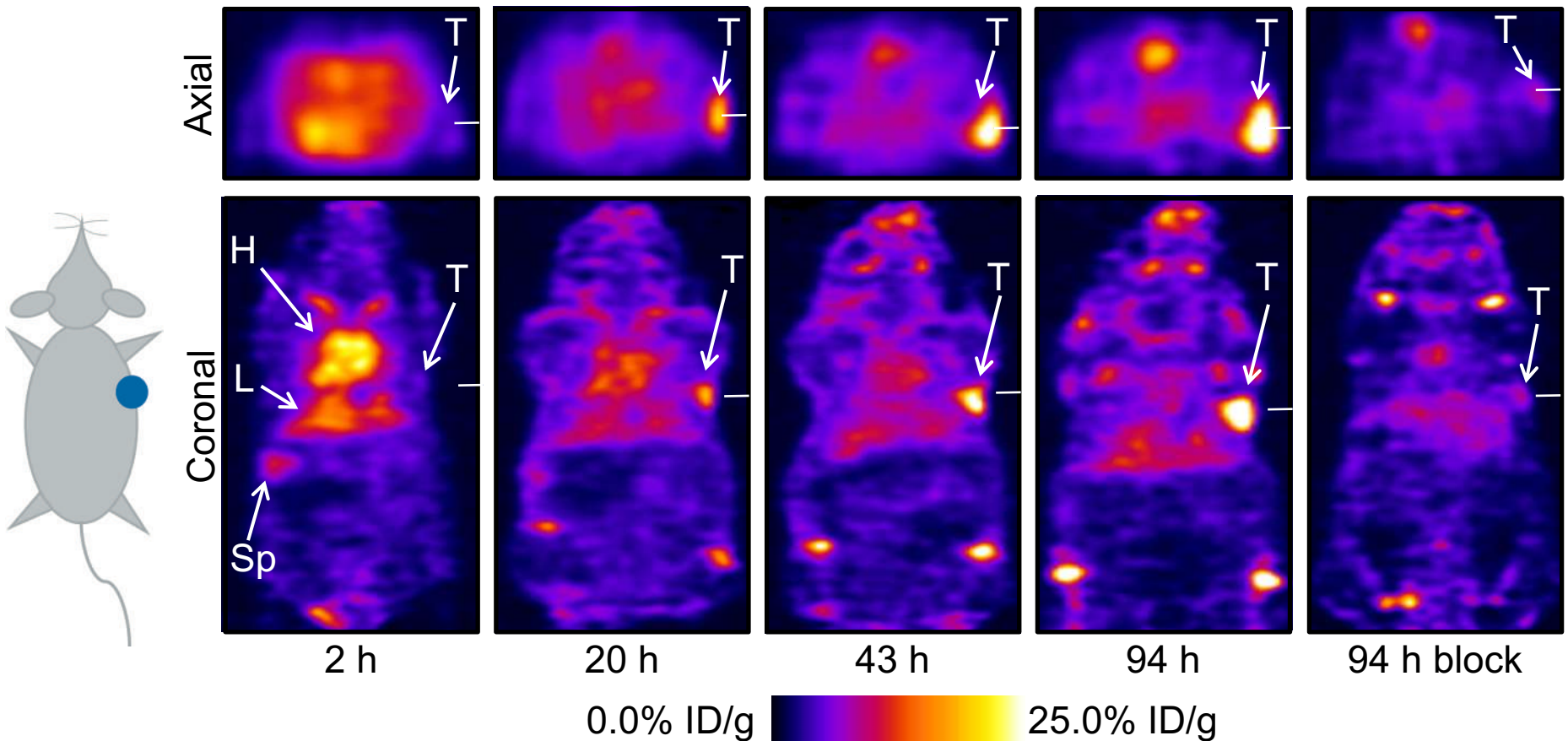
- $^{89}\text{Zr}[\text{ZrDTPA}]^-$  control
- Control (no mAb, 365 nm, +DTPA)
- Crude product (365 nm, +DTPA, RCP ~73%)
- Crude product (395 nm, +DTPA, RCP ~72%)
- Purified product (365 nm, RCP > 98%)



- Crude product (365 nm, RCP ~67%)
- Crude product (395 nm, RCP ~88%)
- Purified product (365 nm, RCP ~97%)

# $^{89}\text{Zr}$ DFO-azepin-trastuzumab: PET imaging

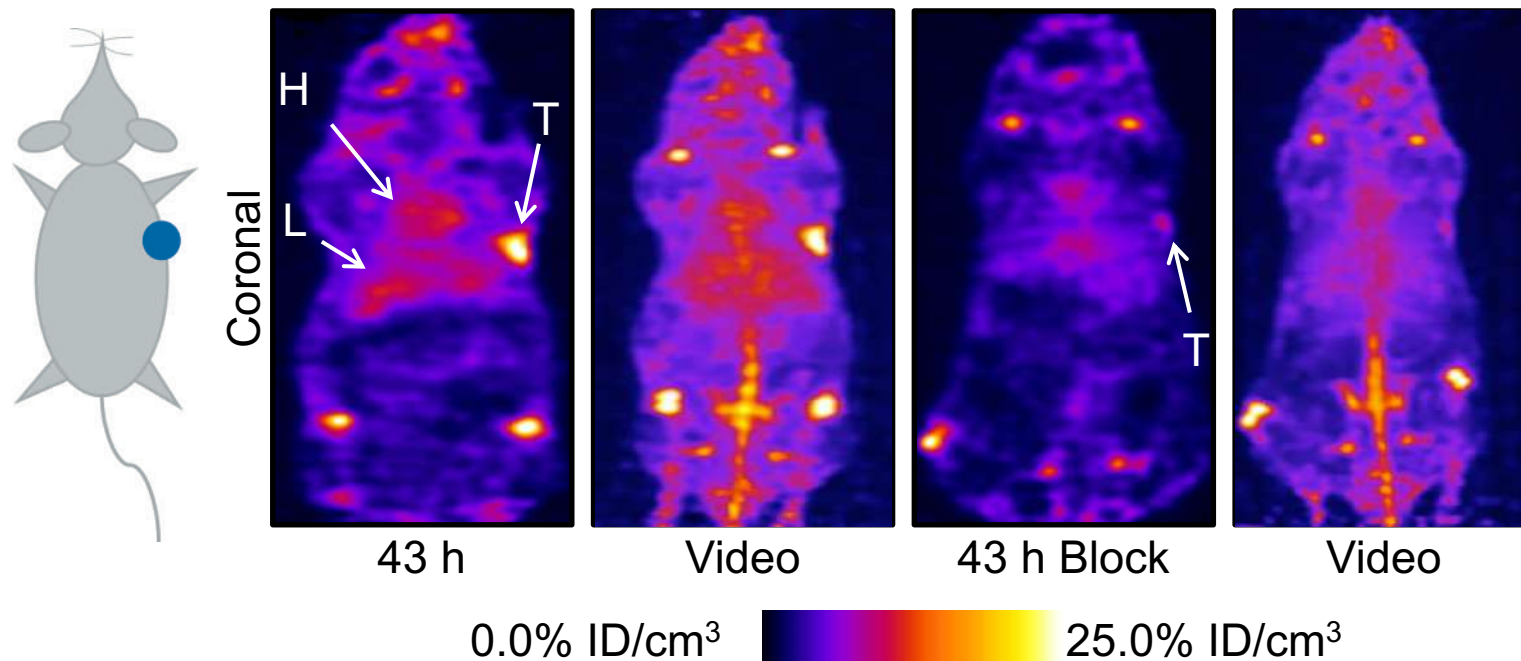
- PET imaging in SK-OV-3 tumours (**HER2/neu positive**)



# Maximum intensity projection images / videos

Maximum intensity projection (MIP) images and videos

- $^{89}\text{Zr}$ DFO-azepin-trastuzumab PET in mice bearing SK-OV-3 tumours
- Methods suitable for automation and potentially kit-based radiochemistry
- *'Instant'* radiolabelling using **formulated** antibodies in <10 min.

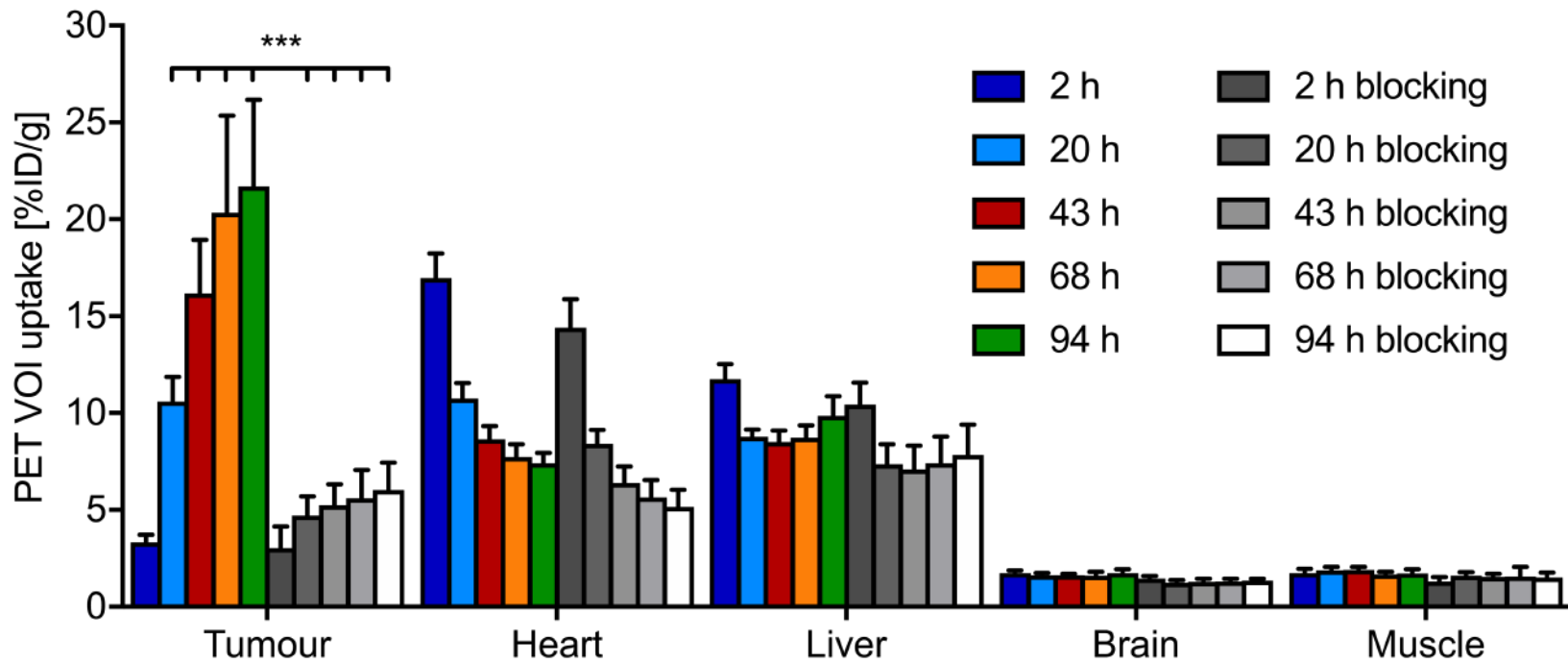




# PET quantification

$^{89}\text{ZrDFO}$ -azepin-trastuzumab

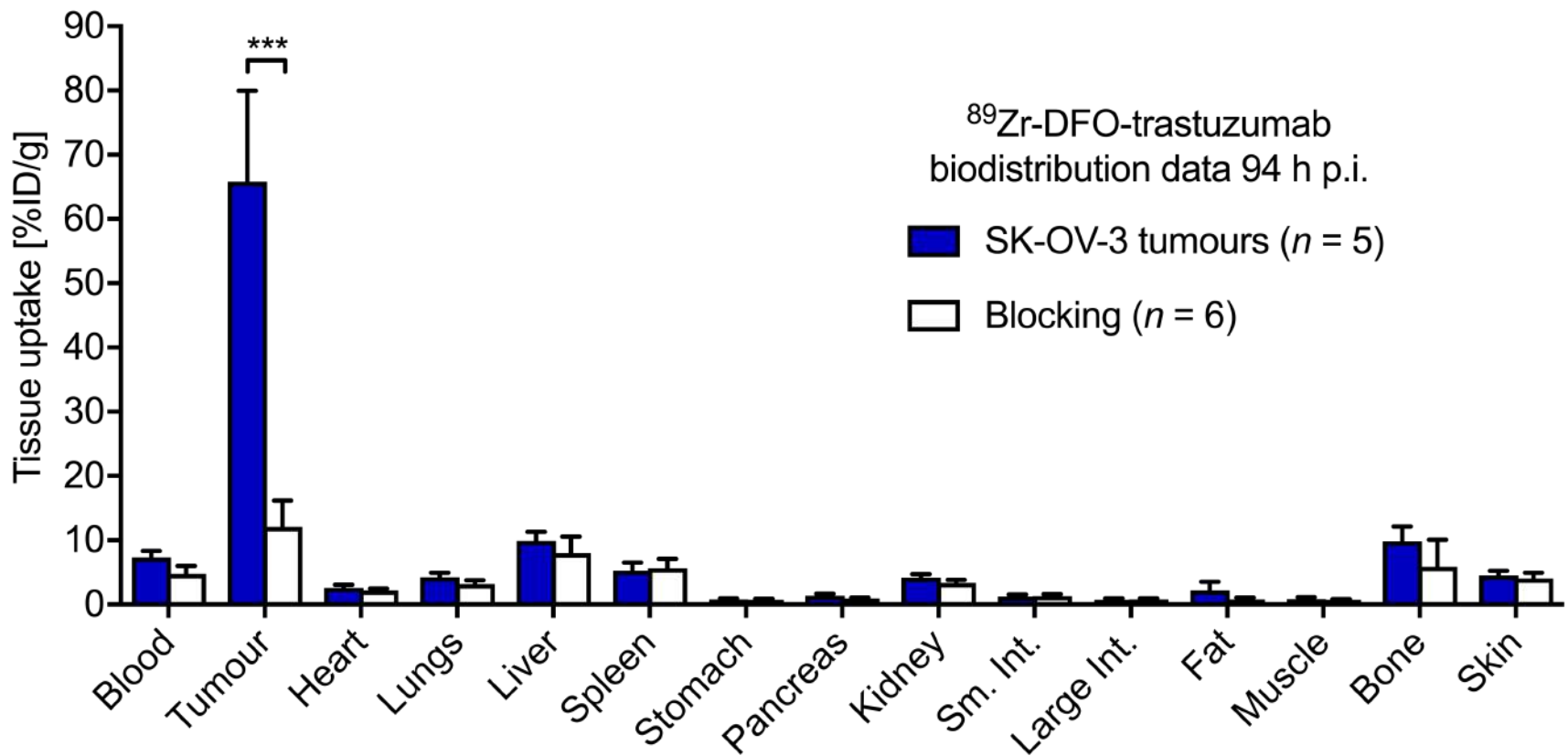
Volume of interest (VOI) analysis of PET imaging data



\*\*\*  $P$ -value < 0.001

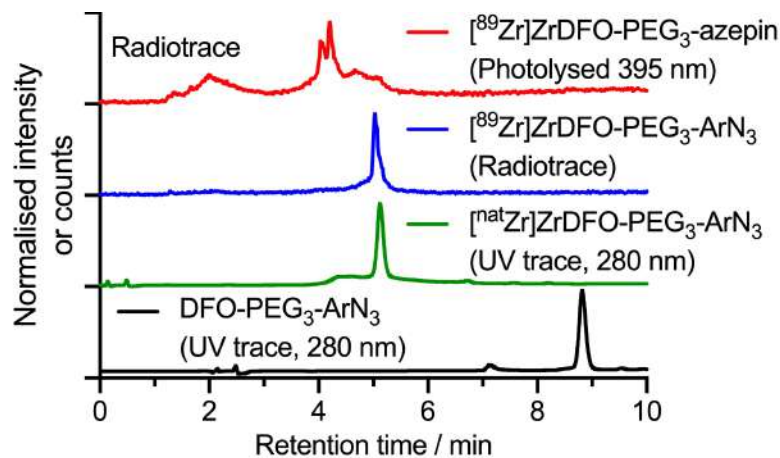
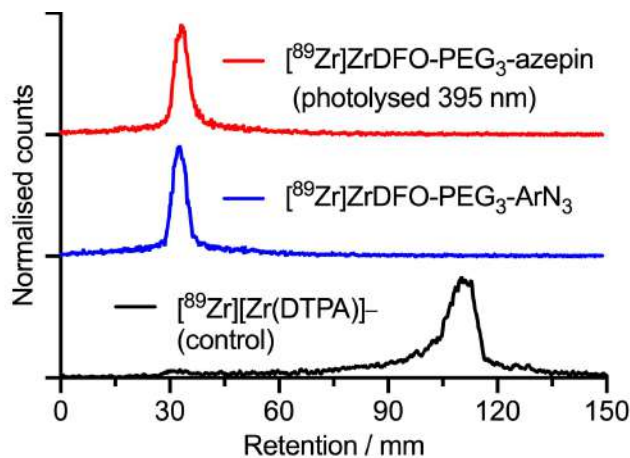
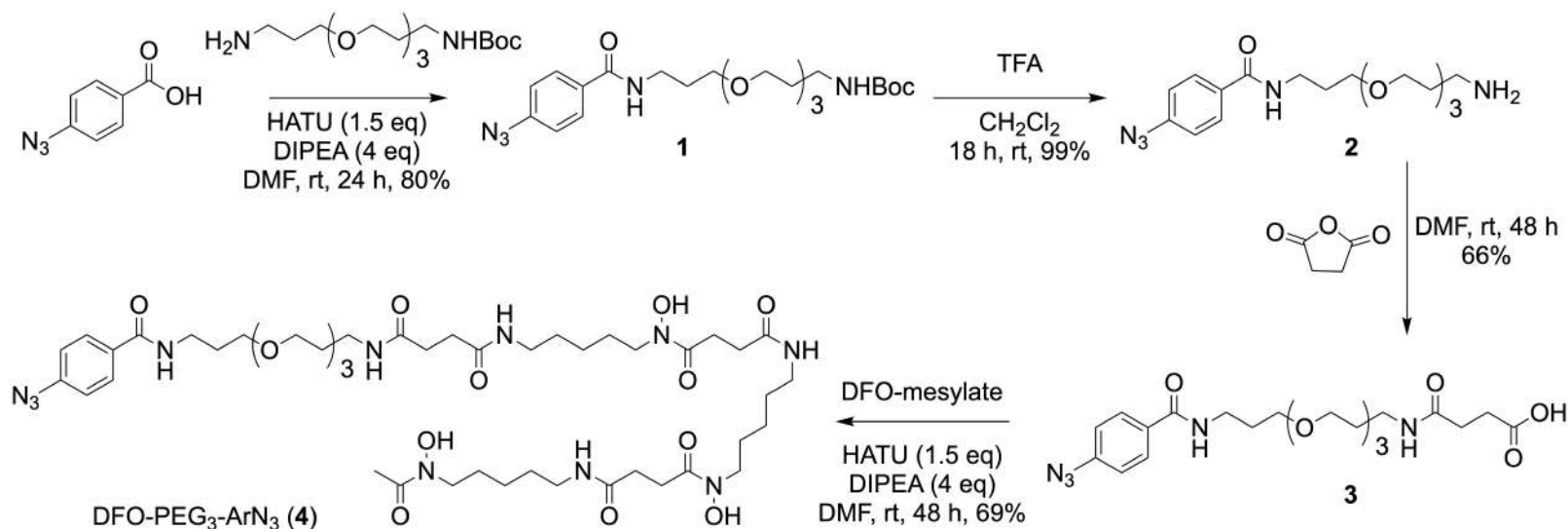
# Biodistribution data

Ex vivo analysis of  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ DFO-azepin-trastuzumab distribution

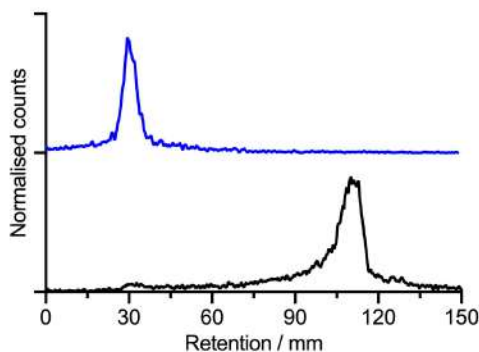


# Water-soluble DFO-PEG<sub>3</sub>-ArN<sub>3</sub>

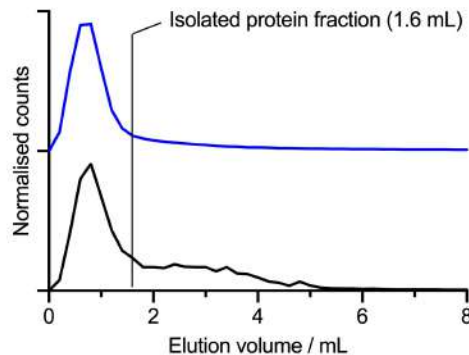
- Functionalisation of the free NH<sub>2</sub> of DFO (usually) compromises water solubility



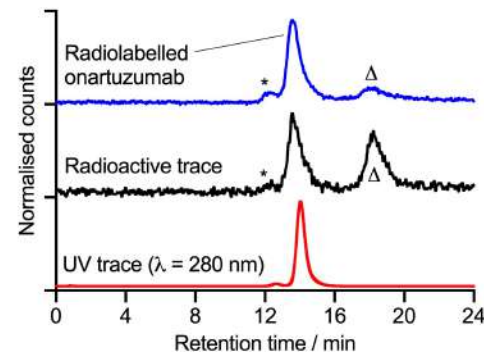
# Photoradiochemistry with $[^{89}\text{Zr}]Zr\text{DFO-PEG}_3\text{-ArN}_3$



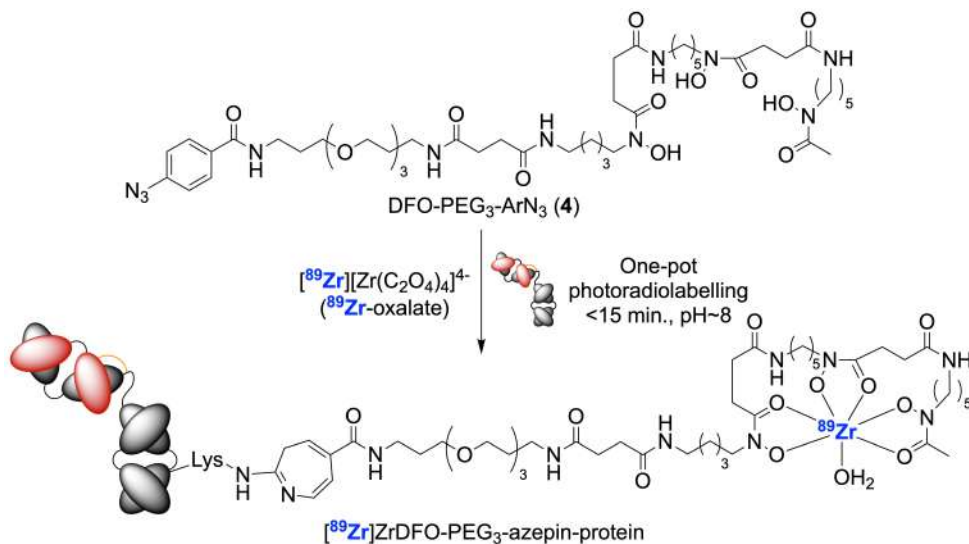
—  $[^{89}\text{Zr}]Zr\text{DFO-PEG}_3\text{-azepin-onartuzumab}$   
(Purified, RCP > 95%)  
—  $[^{89}\text{Zr}]Zr\text{DTPA}$  (control)



—  $[^{89}\text{Zr}]Zr\text{DFO-PEG}_3\text{-azepin-onartuzumab}$   
(Purified, RCP = 94%)  
—  $[^{89}\text{Zr}]Zr\text{DFO-PEG}_3\text{-azepin-onartuzumab}$   
(Crude, RCP = 67%)



—  $[^{89}\text{Zr}]Zr\text{DFO-PEG}_3\text{-azepin-onartuzumab}$   
(Purified, radioactive trace, RCP > 90%)  
—  $[^{89}\text{Zr}]Zr\text{DFO-PEG}_3\text{-azepin-onartuzumab}$   
(Crude, radioactive trace)  
—  $[^{89}\text{Zr}]Zr\text{DFO-PEG}_3\text{-azepin-onartuzumab}$   
(Purified, UV trace  $\lambda = 280\text{ nm}$ )



Protein = HSA, onartuzumab (MetMAb<sup>TM</sup>), trastuzumab (Herceptin<sup>TM</sup>)

Decay-corrected RCYs ( $n = 3$  / each)

$72.9 \pm 1.9\%$  (HSA, 395 nm)

$70.7 \pm 2.3\%$  (HSA, 365 nm)

$64.5 \pm 6.7\%$  (MetMAb<sup>TM</sup>, 395 nm)

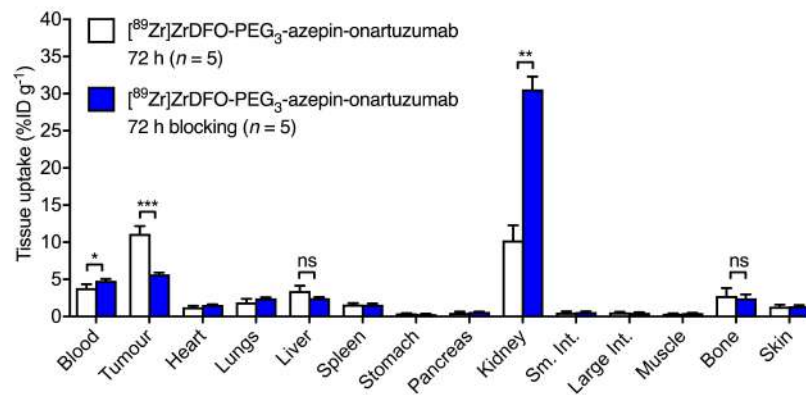
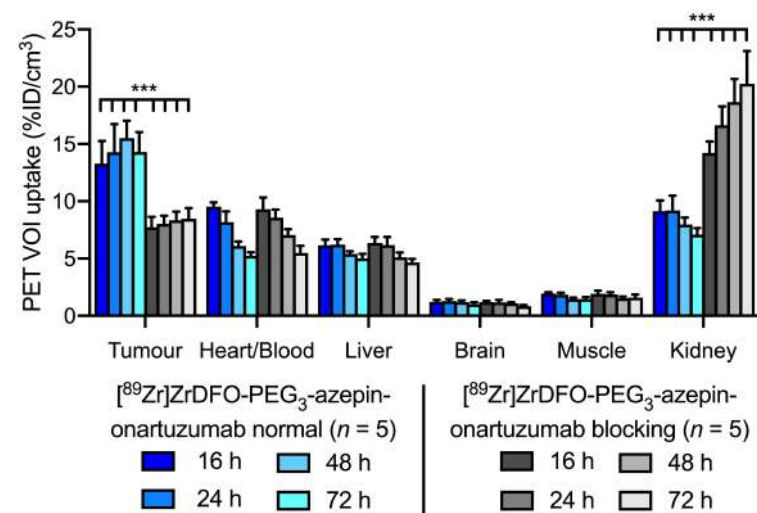
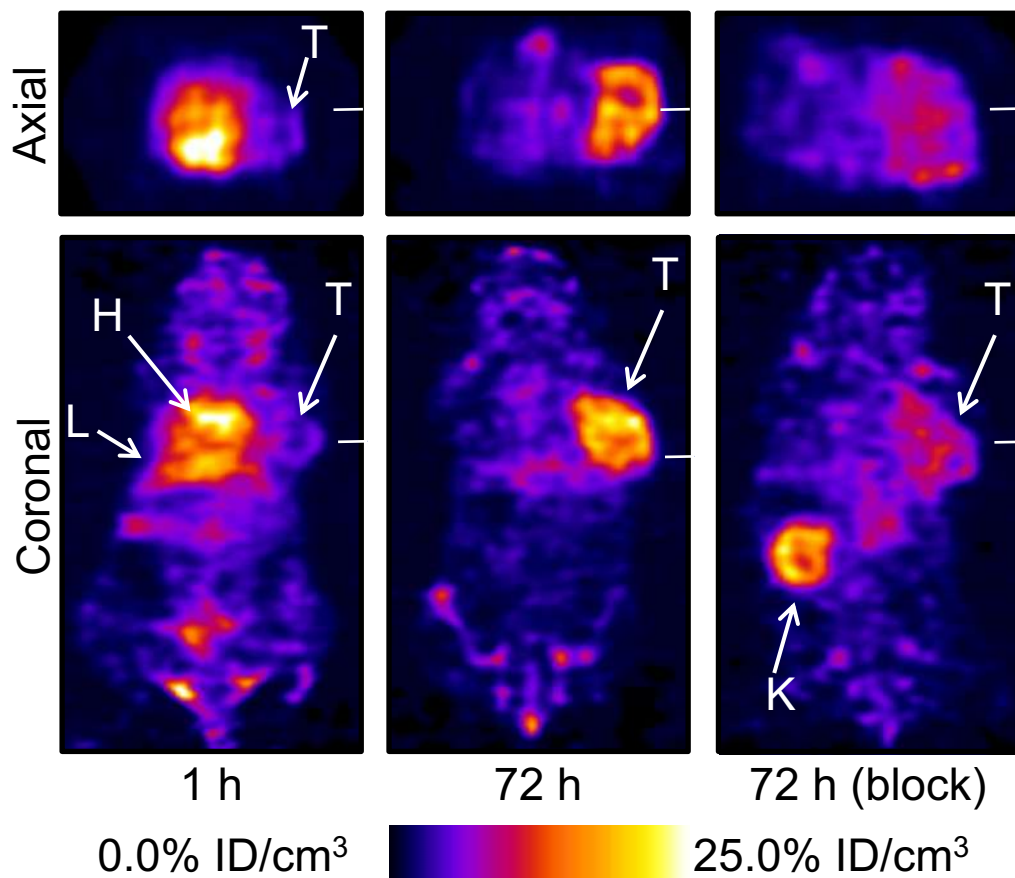
$58.3 \pm 3.4\%$  (Herceptin<sup>TM</sup>, 395 nm)



# [<sup>89</sup>Zr]ZrDFO-PEG<sub>3</sub>-azepin-onartuzumab

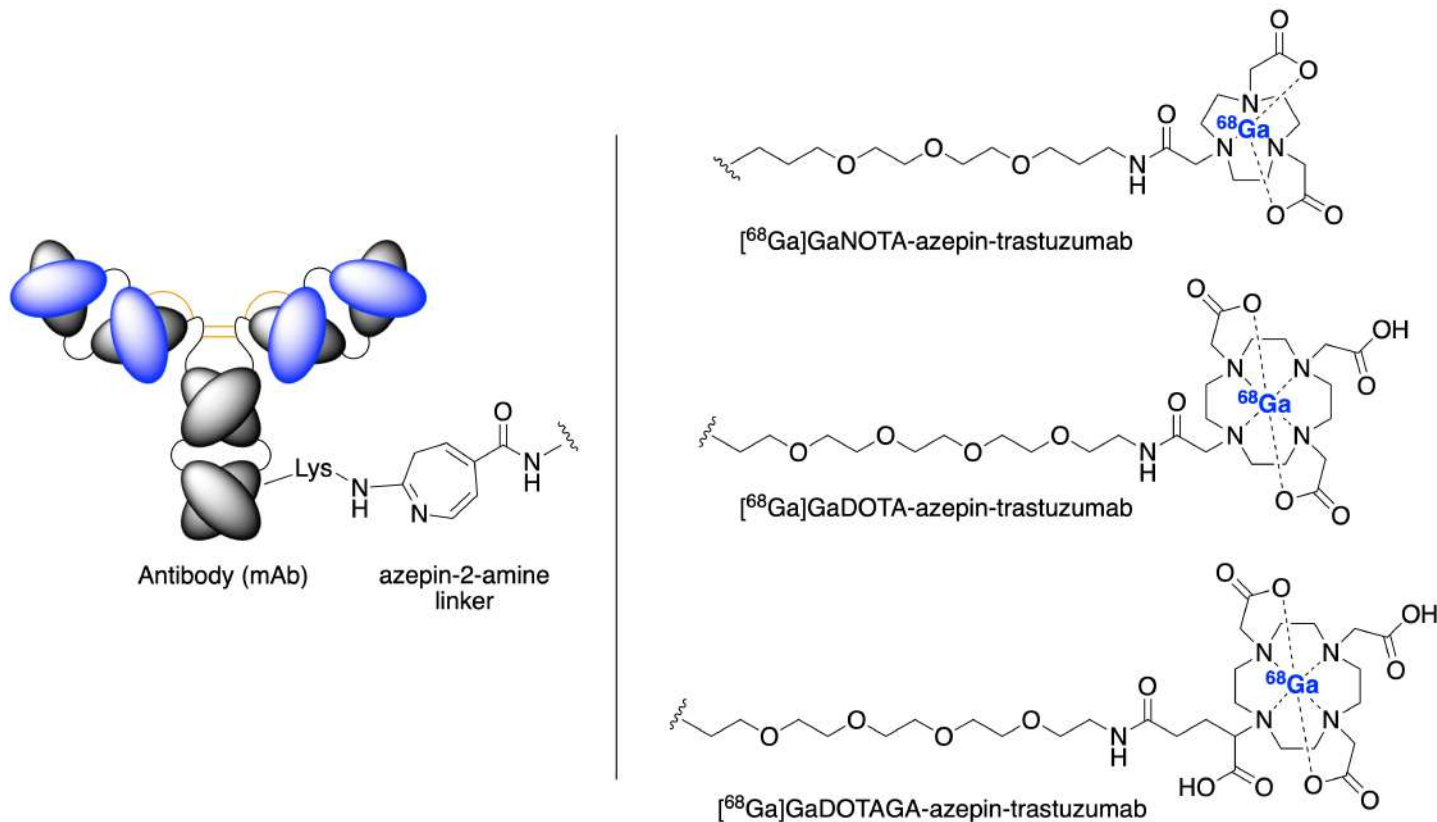
- PET imaging and biodistribution analysis

MKN-45 tumours (right flank)



# Photoactivatable chelates: aza-macrocycles

- Complexes with variable overall charge ( $M^{3+}$  complexes: +1, 0, -1 at pH7.4)
- Suitable for use with  $^{64}\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $^{68}\text{Ga}^{3+}$ ,  $^{90}\text{Y}^{3+}$ ,  $^{111}\text{In}^{3+}$ ,  $^{177}\text{Lu}^{3+}$ ,  $^{225}\text{Ac}^{3+}$  etc



Eichenberger *et al.* *Chem. Commun.*, **2019**, 55, 2257-2260

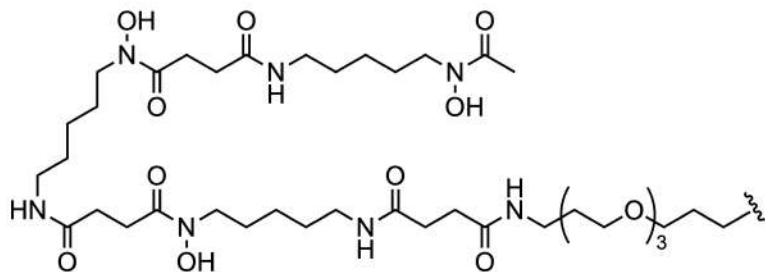
Gut and Holland, *Inorg. Chem.*, **2019**, 58(18), 12302-12310

Fay *et al.*, *Bioconjugate Chem.*, **2019**, 30, 1814-1820

Gribi and Holland, **2021**, *in preparation* –  $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$  /  $\text{Re}$

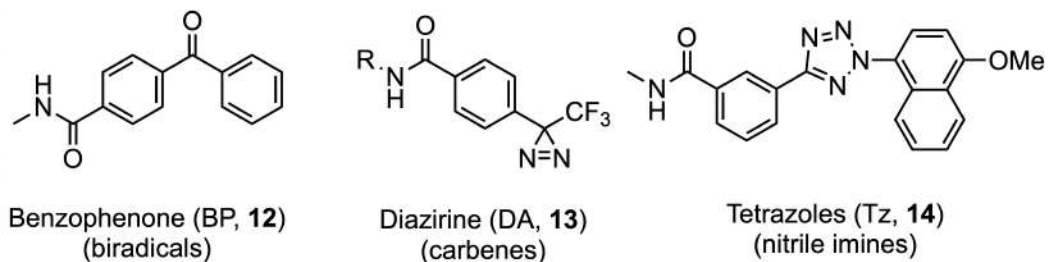
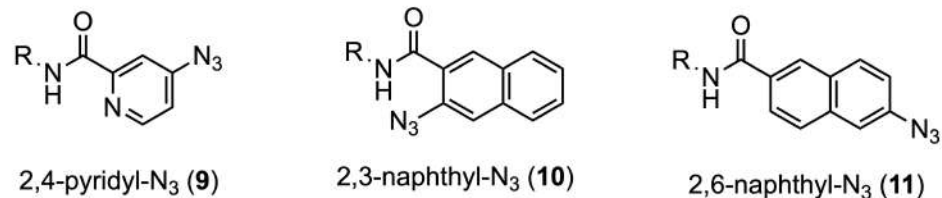
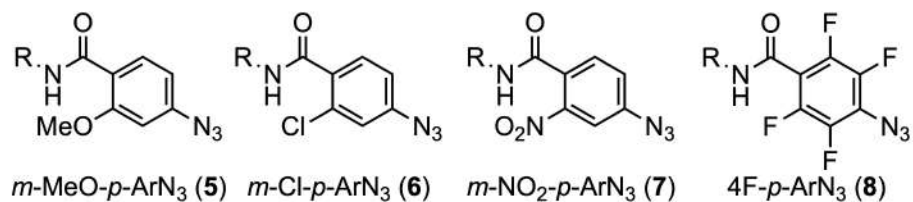
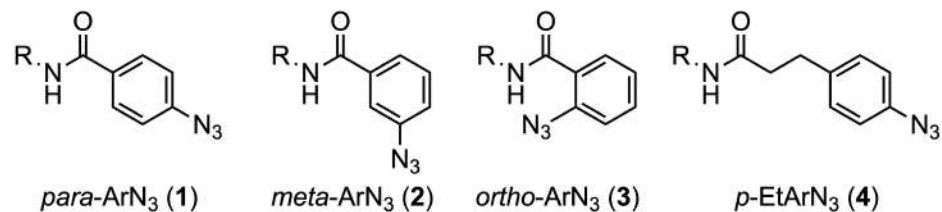
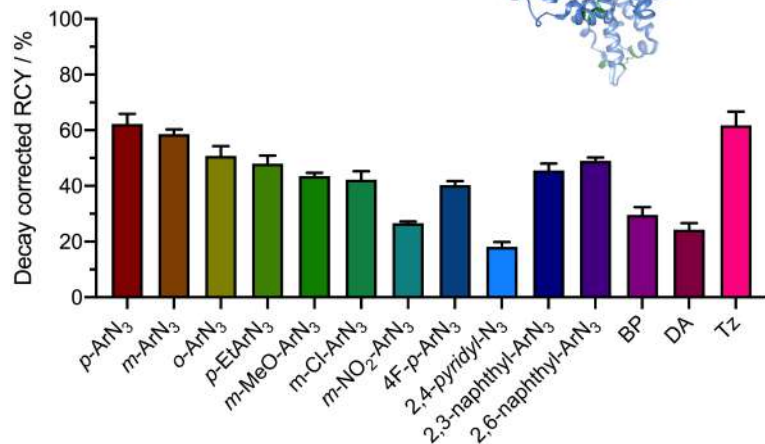
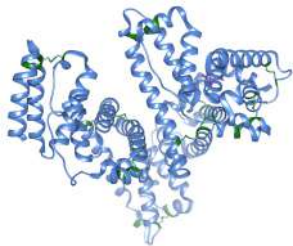
Esteban Flores *et al.*, **2021**, *in preparation* –  $^{64}\text{Cu}$

# The chemical scope of light-induced protein ligation

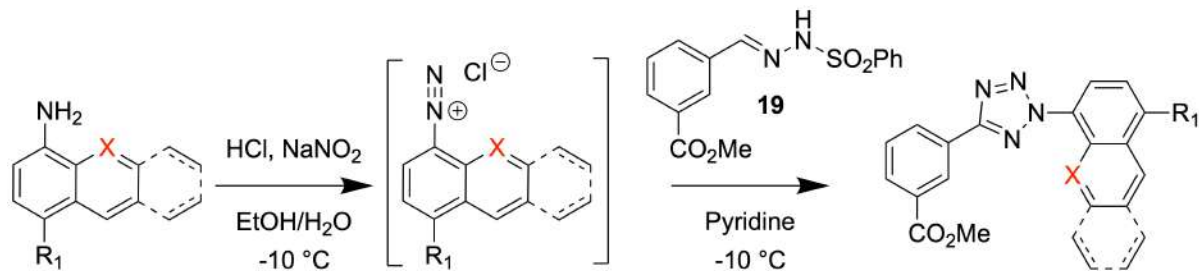


Photoactivatable  
Desferrioxamine B (DFO)-PEG<sub>3</sub> derivatives

One-pot photoradiolabelling of  
human serum albumin (HSA)

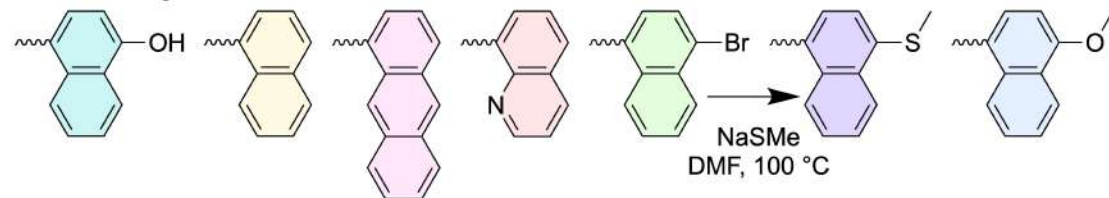


# Auxochromic tuning DFO-tetrazole photoreactivity



$\text{X} = \text{C}$  or  $\text{N}$      $\text{R}_1 = \text{H}, \text{OMe}, \text{Br}, \text{OBn}$

Tetrazole analogues



**13**  
(27%, 2 steps)

**12**  
(42%)

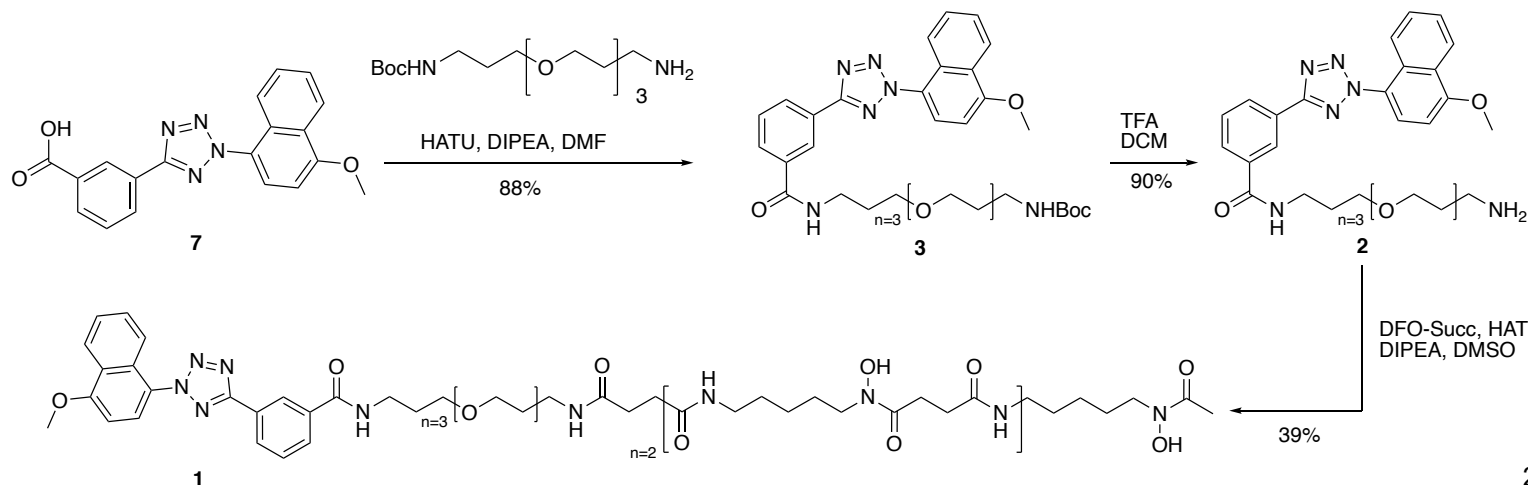
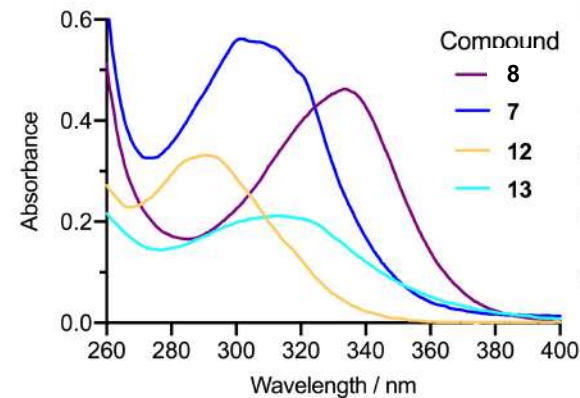
**11**  
(0%)

**10**  
(25%)

**9**  
(35%)

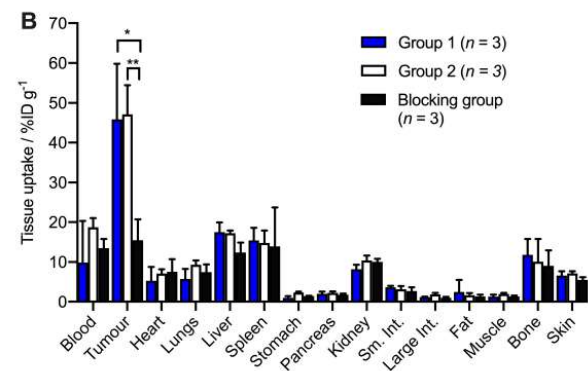
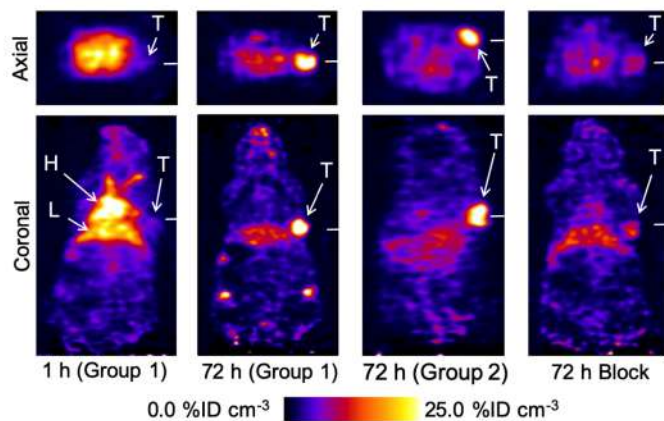
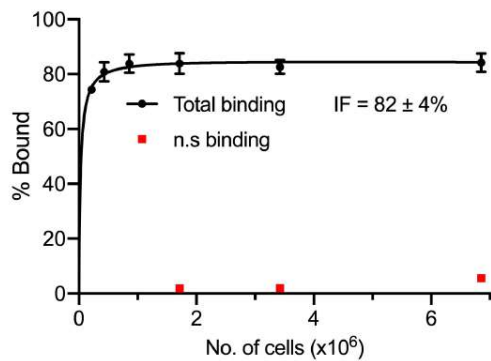
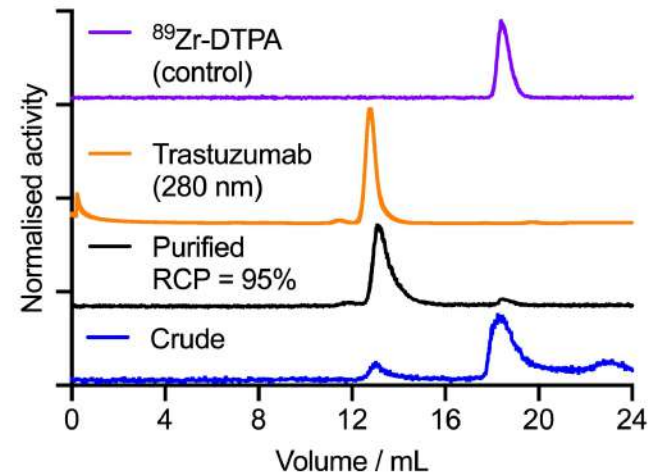
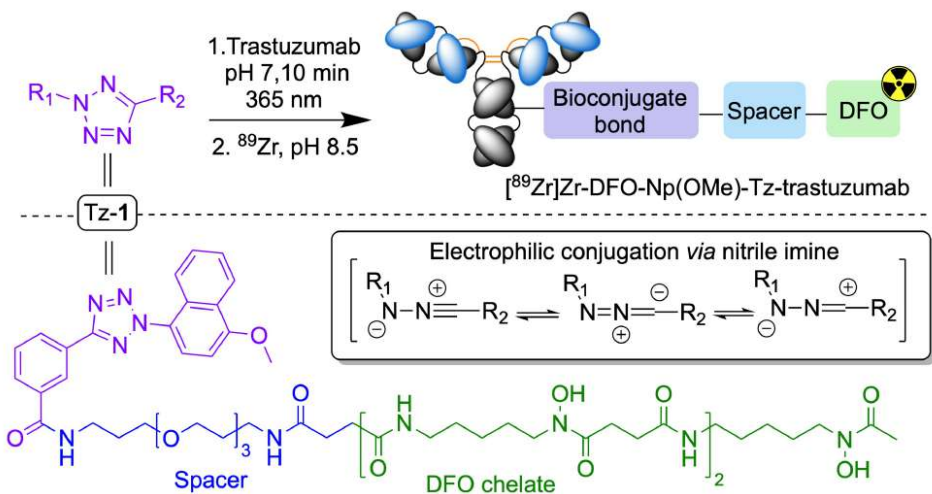
**8**  
(29%)

**7**  
(23%)



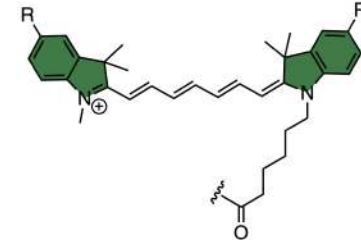
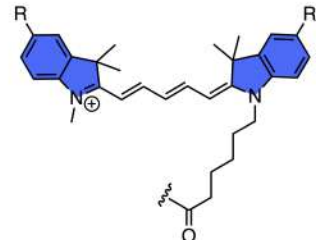
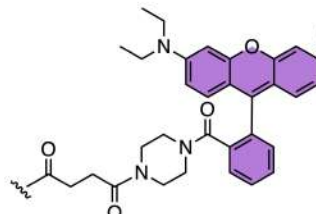
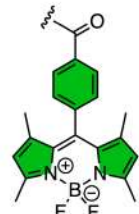
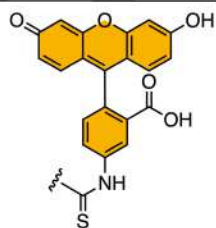
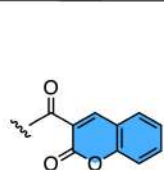
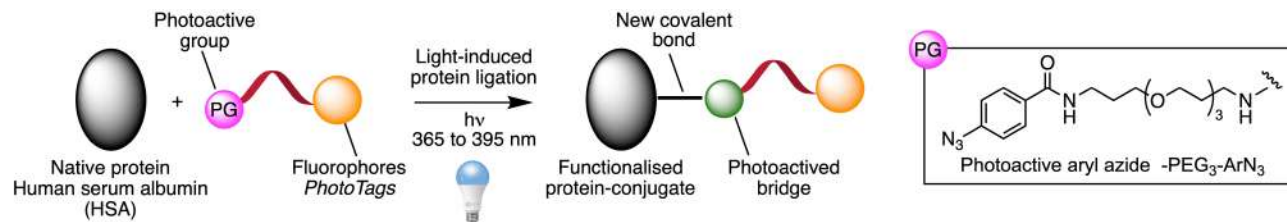


# Tetrazole photoradiochemistry: $^{89}\text{Zr}$ DFO-Tz-trastuzumab





# Photoactivatable fluorophores: *PhotoTags*



Coumarin-PEG<sub>3</sub>-ArN<sub>3</sub> (1) Fluorescein-PEG<sub>3</sub>-ArN<sub>3</sub> (2) BODIPY-PEG<sub>3</sub>-ArN<sub>3</sub> (3)

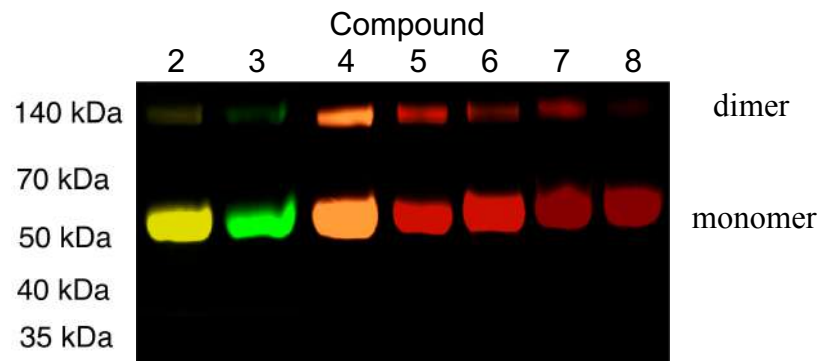
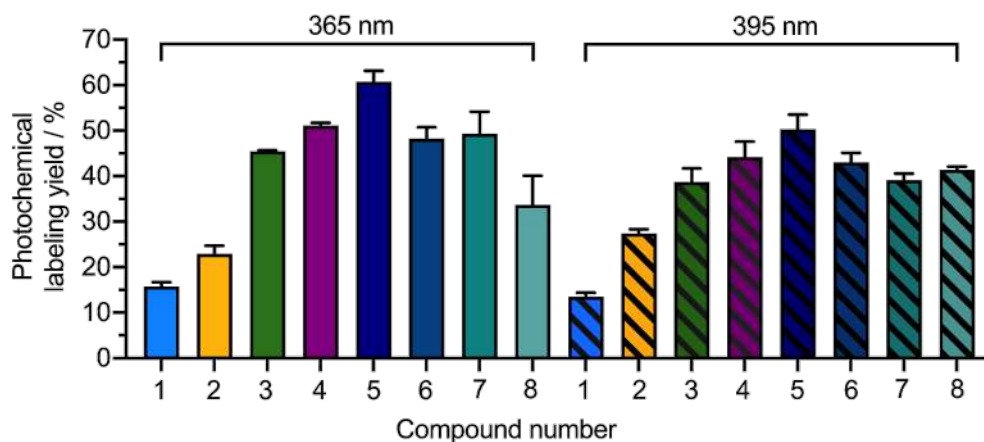
RhodamineB-PEG<sub>3</sub>-ArN<sub>3</sub> (4)

R = H, Cy5-PEG<sub>3</sub>-ArN<sub>3</sub> (5)

R = H, Cy7-PEG<sub>3</sub>-ArN<sub>3</sub> (7)

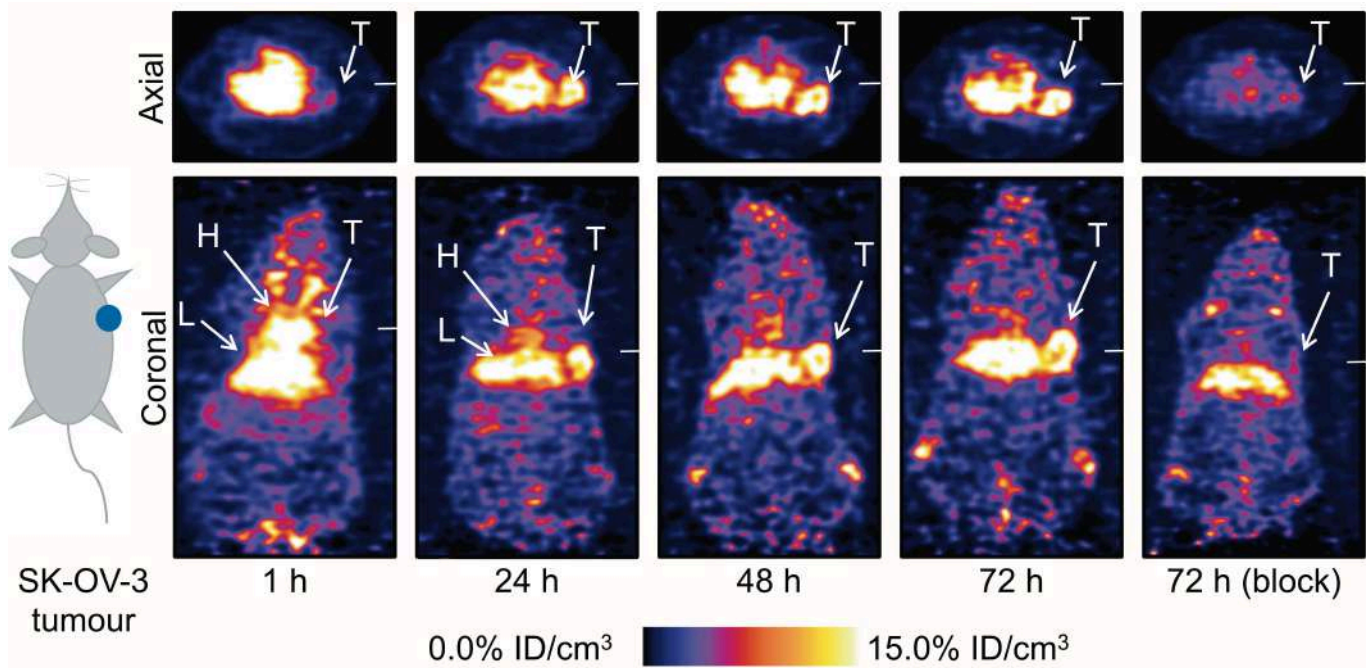
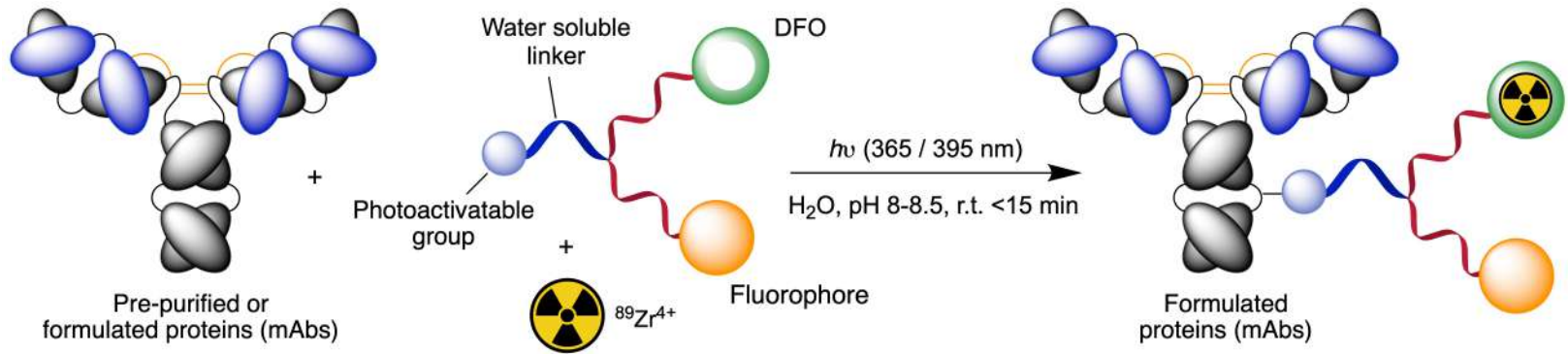
R = SO<sub>3</sub>H, sulfo-Cy5-PEG<sub>3</sub>-ArN<sub>3</sub> (6)

R = SO<sub>3</sub>H, sulfo-Cy7-PEG<sub>3</sub>-ArN<sub>3</sub> (8)

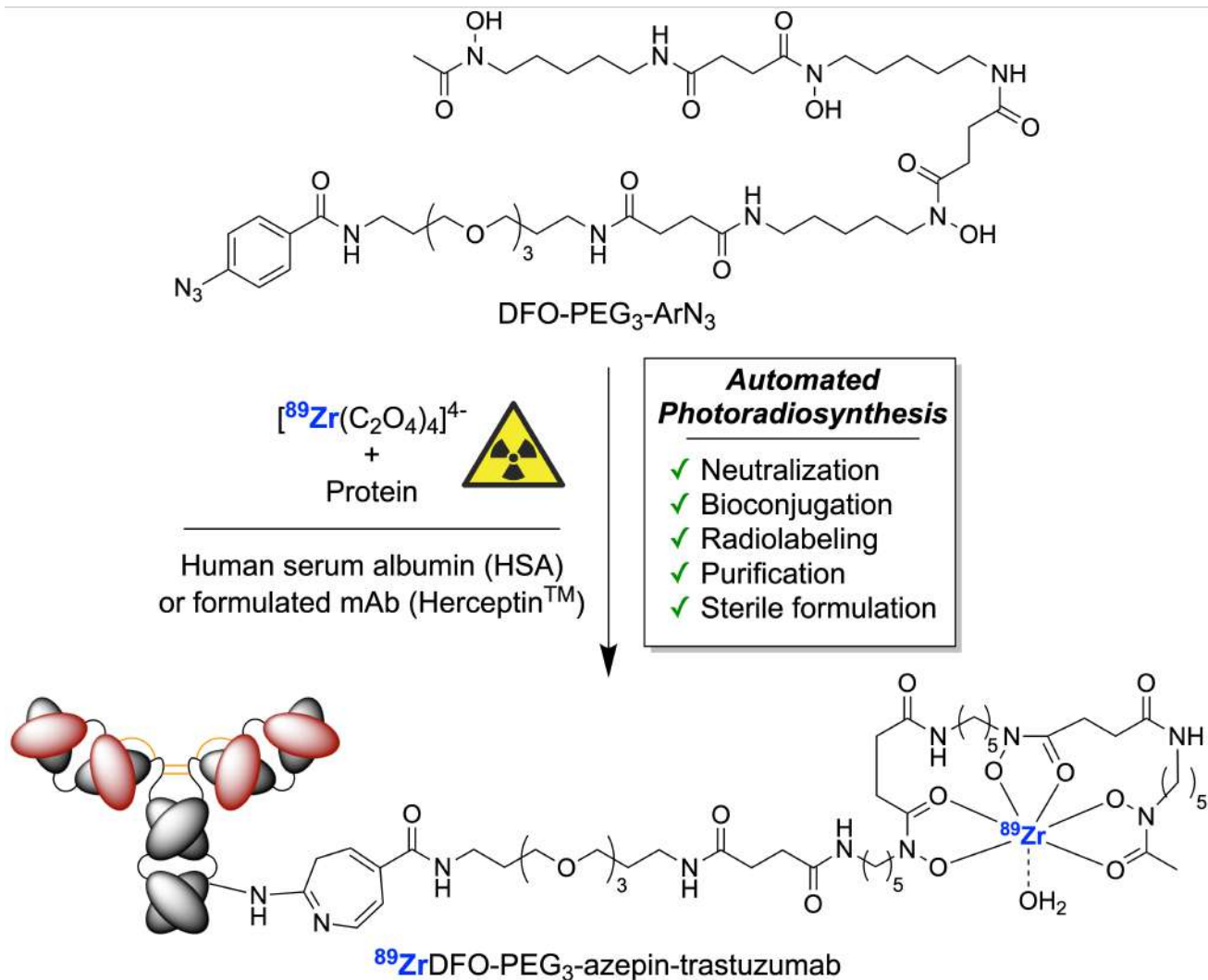


SDS-PAGE analysis visualised by fluorescence imaging

# Dual-modality probe design: PET/optical



# Automated radiochemistry & translation



# Radiosynthesiser design: ALISI 0.0

Open-source microcontrollers  
(Arduino & breakout boards)

Liquid pathways (cassette)

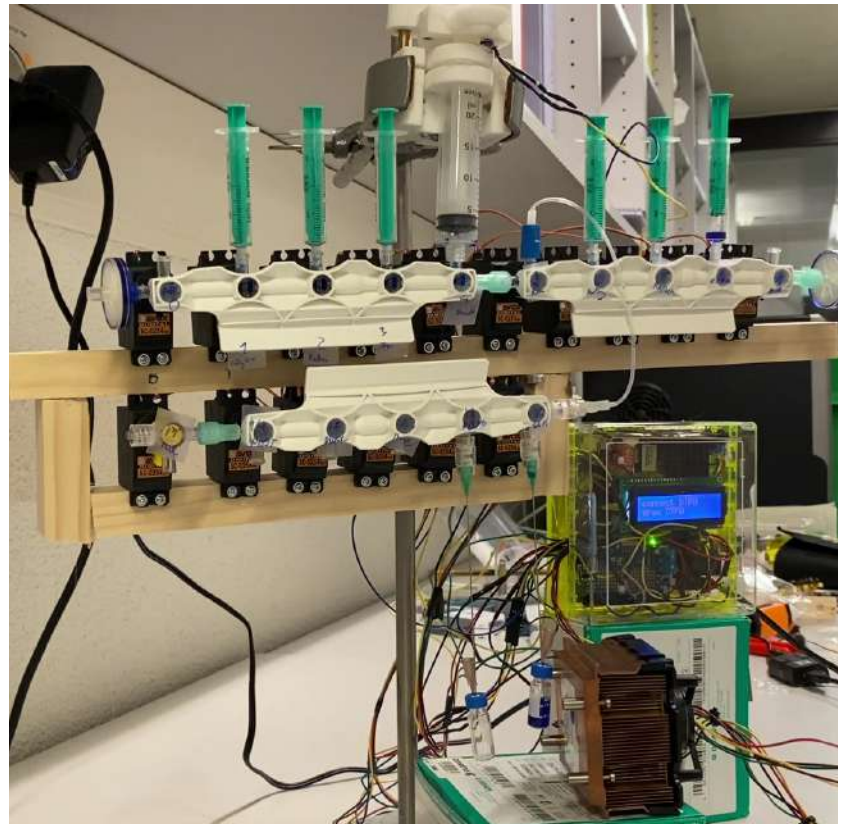
- 3-way switching valves
- Digital servo motors
- Single-use sterile materials

Liquid transfer

- Pneumatically-driven
- Syringe pump

Photoreactor

- ~3 W output LED,  $\lambda = 365$  nm
- Cooled with an old CPU fan



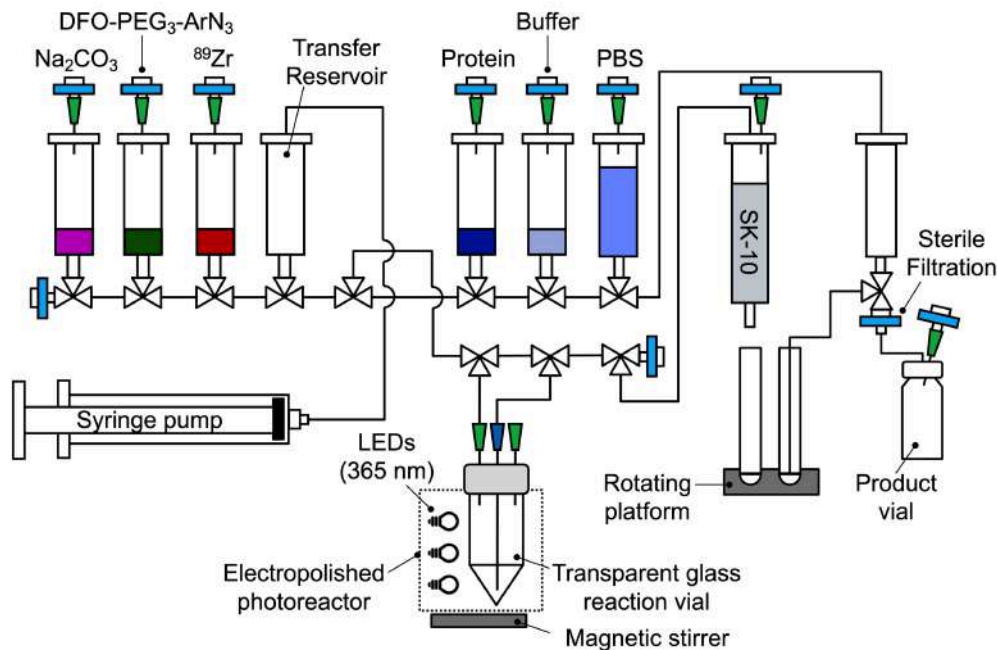
Wood frame, fastened together  
with screws and hot glue



# Radiosynthesis design: ALISI 1.0

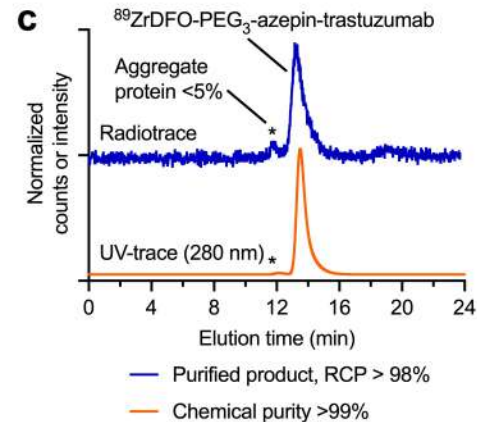
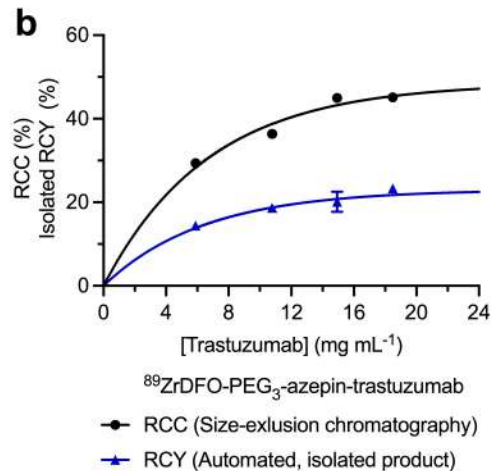
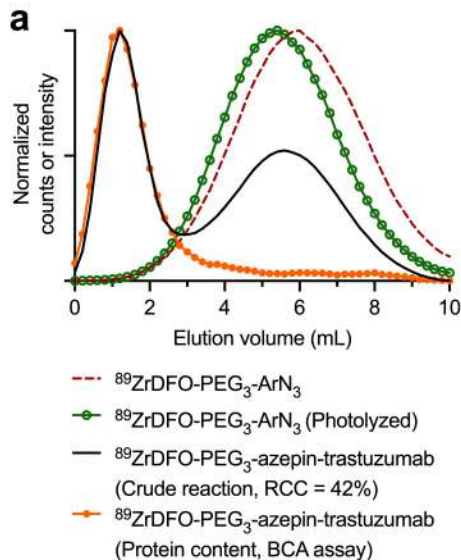
Custom design and construction with additive manufacturing (**3D-printing**)

- LASER-cut encasing
- Custom servo-motor plates & valve holders
- Syringe pump
- Sterile, single-use cassettes
- Electropolished stainless steel photoreactor
- Custom LED cooling
- LCD display and control button
- Sarcastic comments included!

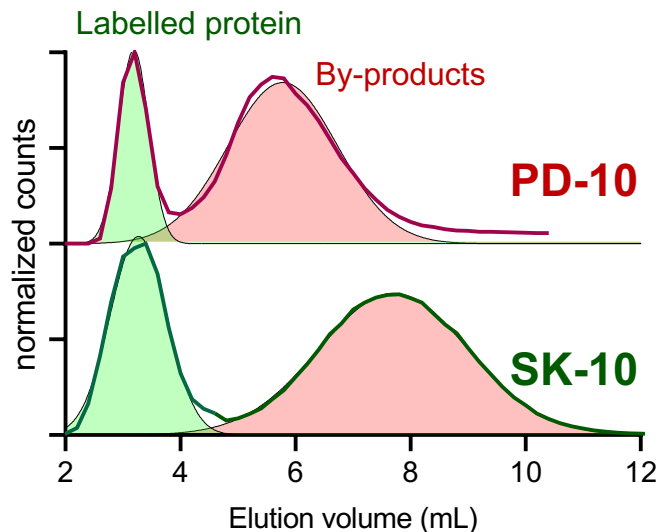




# ALISI – automated photoradiosynthesis



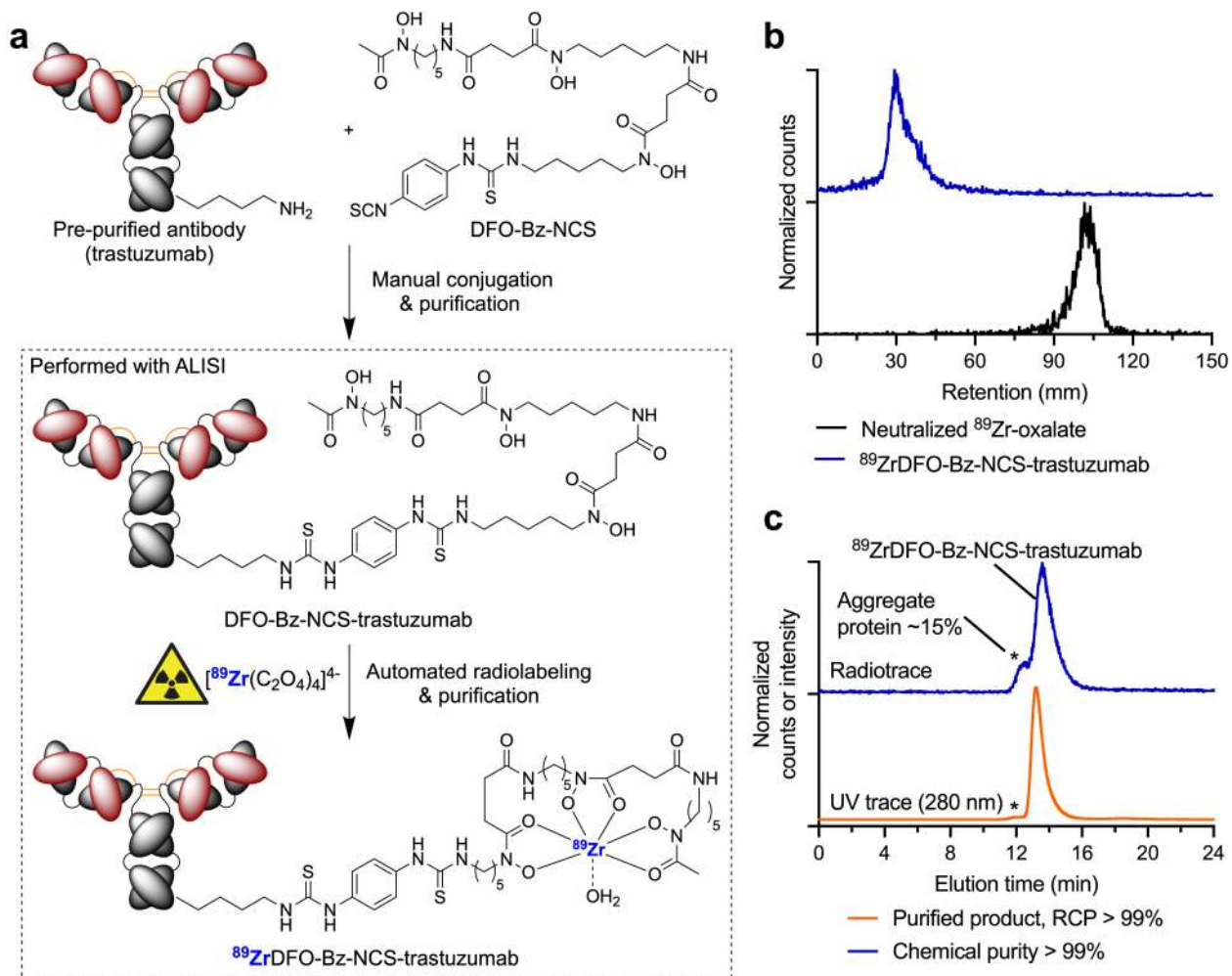
**Isolated, formulated, d.c.**  
**RCCY (mAb) =  $20.1 \pm 2.4\%$  ( $n = 3$ )**



Optimising the mAb purification step:

- **PD-10** columns use Sephadex G-25
- **SK-10** columns use Sephadex G-100
- Improved purification of large proteins
- Strive for RCP >99% (vs. >90%)

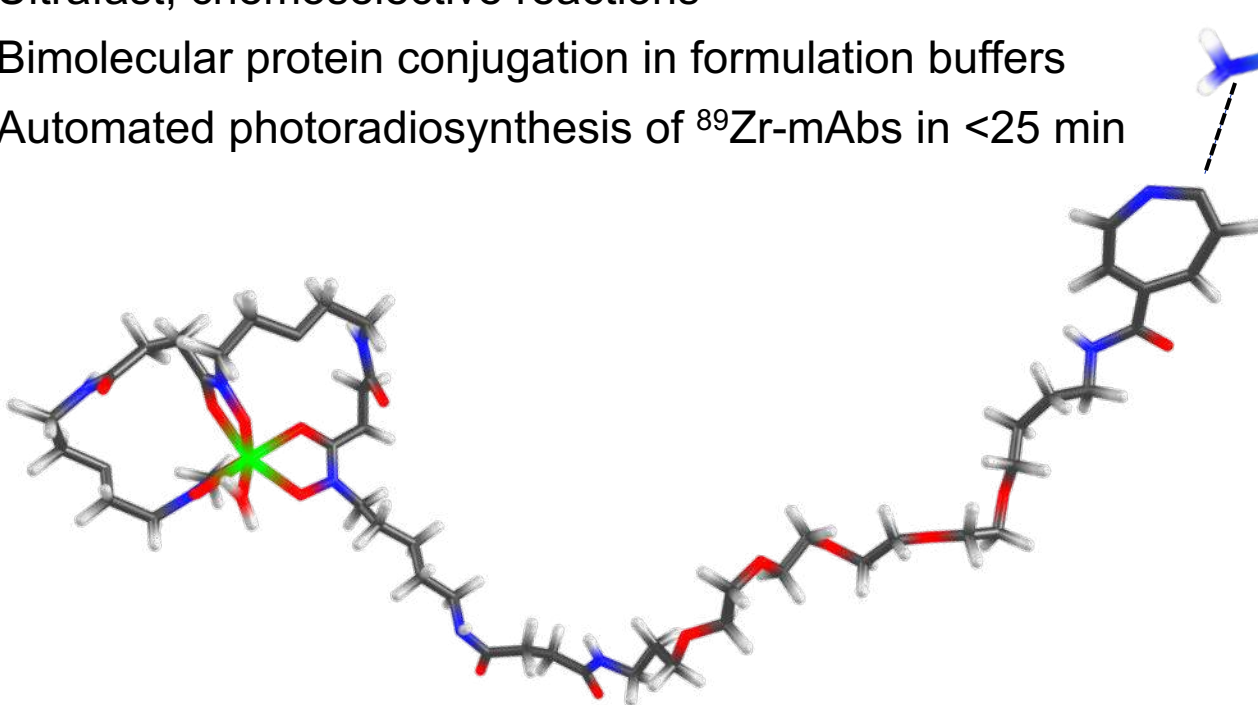
# ALISI – automated conventional radiolabelling



# The future is bright ...

## Photochemistry offers new routes for the synthesis of radiotracers and functionalised protein conjugates

- Chemical and mechanistic diversity
- Access new covalent bioconjugate bonds
- Ultrafast, chemoselective reactions
- Bimolecular protein conjugation in formulation buffers
- Automated photoradiosynthesis of  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -mAbs in <25 min



# Acknowledgements



University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>



Follow us on Twitter  
@HollandLab\_

[www.hollandlab.org](http://www.hollandlab.org)

Thank you  
Any questions, comments or suggestions?

[jason.holland@chem.uzh.ch](mailto:jason.holland@chem.uzh.ch)



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