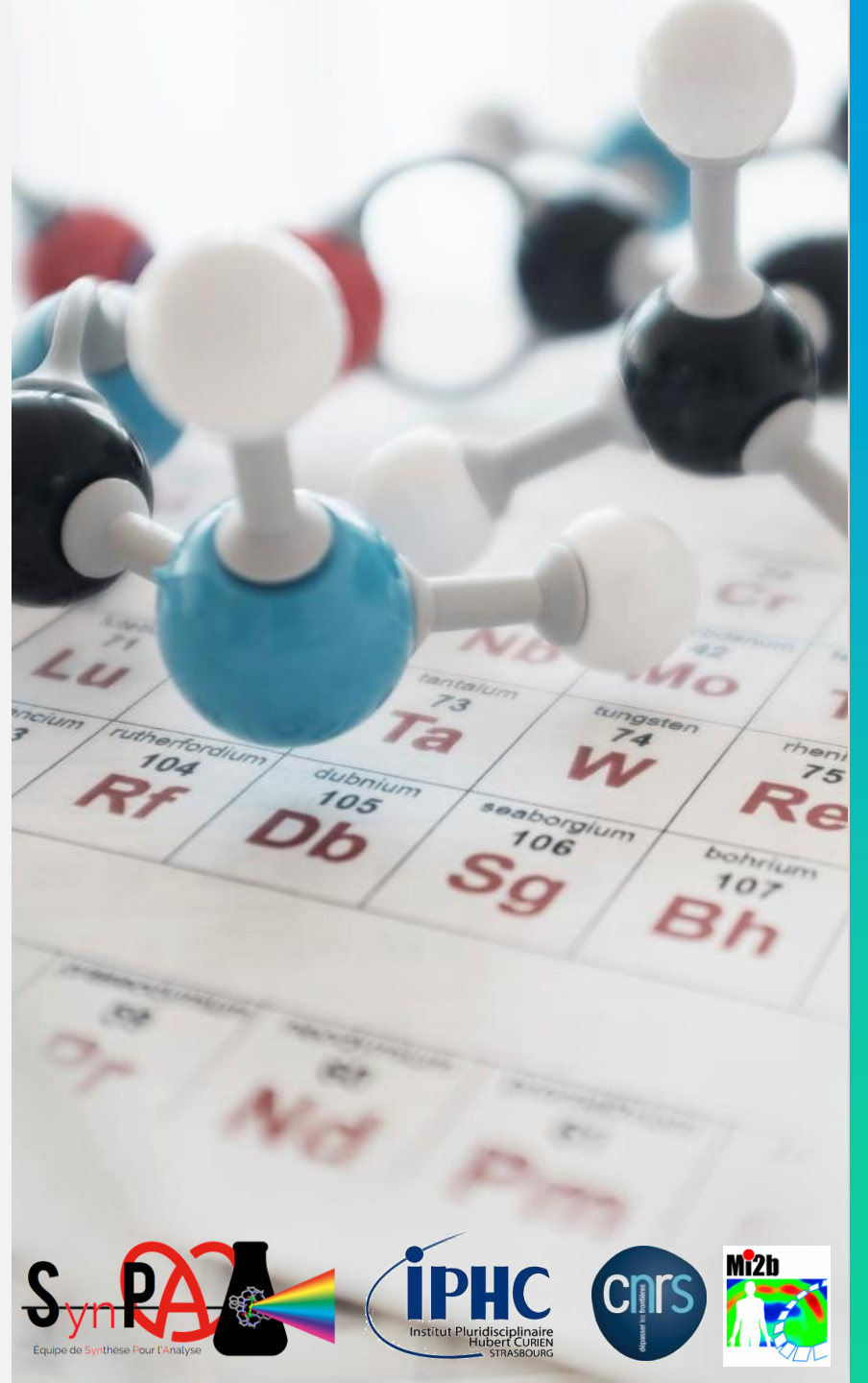


# Metal-based radiopharmaceuticals: how to choose your chelator?

Aline Nonat

*Equipe de Synthèse pour l'Analyse, IPHC  
CNRS – Université de Strasbourg*

Workshop RIV, Montpellier, 14-16/03/2022

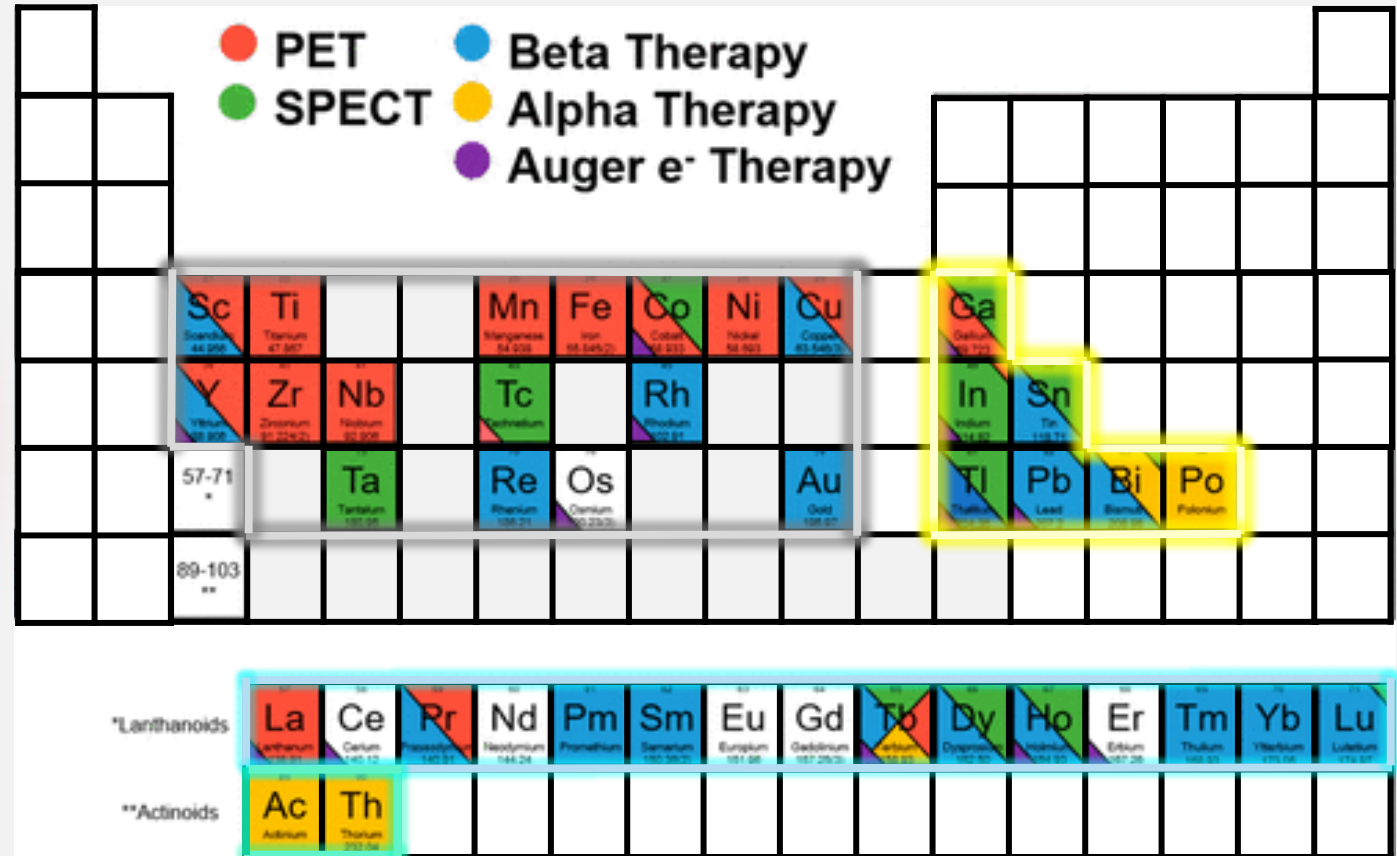




# Metallic isotopes

## Different chemistries

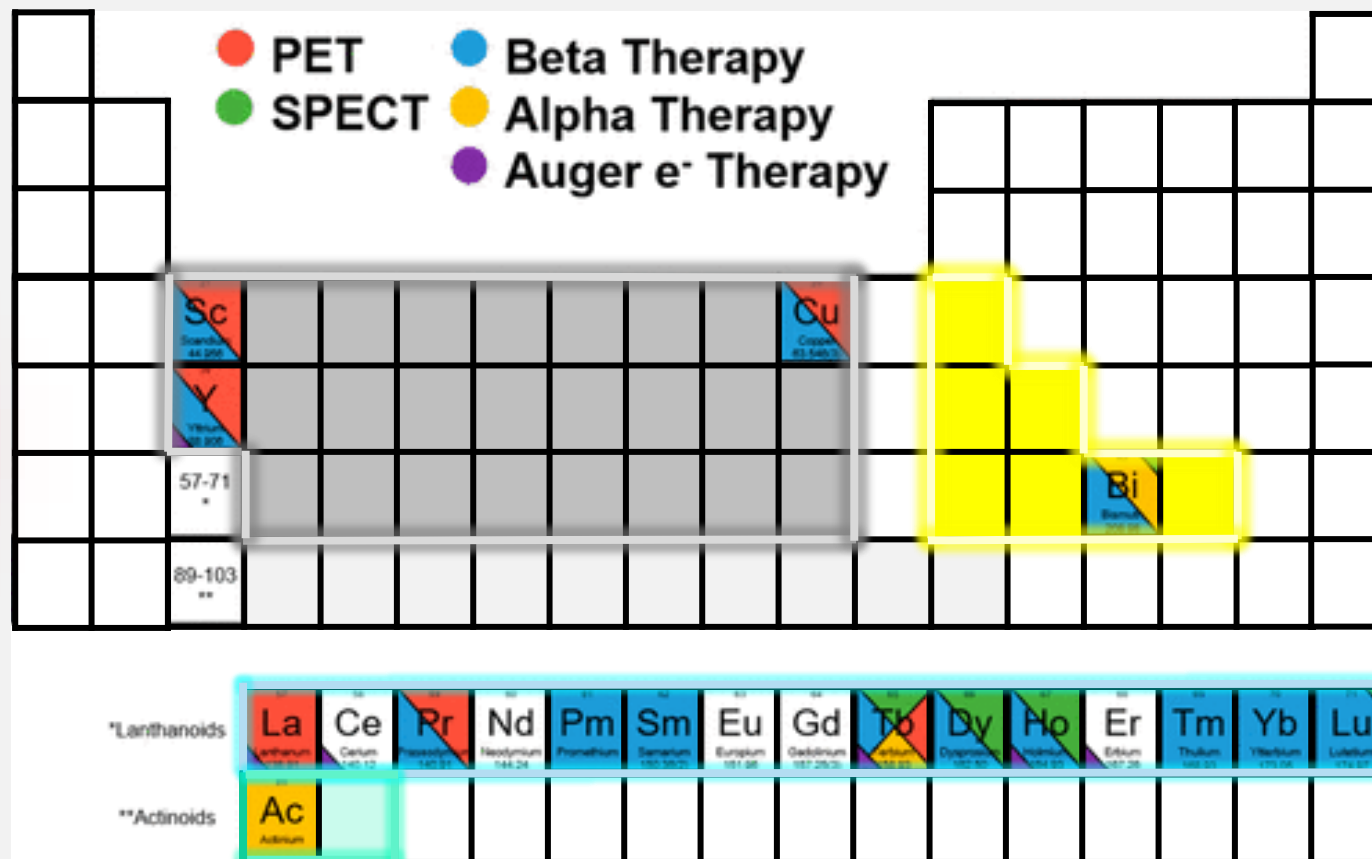
- Lanthanides ( $4f$ )
- Actinides ( $5f$ )
- Transition metals ( $d$ )
- Post-transition metals ( $p$ )



# Metallic isotopes

## Different chemistries

- Lanthanides ( $4f$ )
- Actinides ( $5f$ )
- Transition metals ( $d$ )
- Post-transition metals ( $p$ )



# Radioconjugates

## Bifunctional Chelator

Secures metal for safe biological transport



## Linker

Joins radioactive and targeting moieties

May incorporate an additional functionality (drug/imaging...)

## Bioconjugate

Ensures radioactive source accumulates at target

(small molecule, peptide, Ab and derivatives)

*cf* conf. Tony LAHOUTTE (VUB)

## Radioactive metal ion

Source of desired radiation

*cf* conf. Ulli KÖSTER (ILL)

# Radioconjugates

## Bifunctional chelator

### Cage

Fast complexation  
High stability / Good selectivity  
High RCY / High specific activity

Mild conditions (mAb and derivatives)

Kinetic inertness  
no release  
efficient targeting  
↳ side-effects



### Linker

Activable function  
Easy/quantitative coupling  
No side products/easy purification

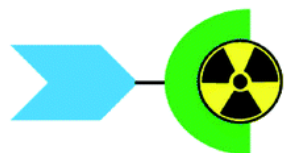
Limit the influence on the targeting  
Keep affinity for the target

Possibly introduce multimodality

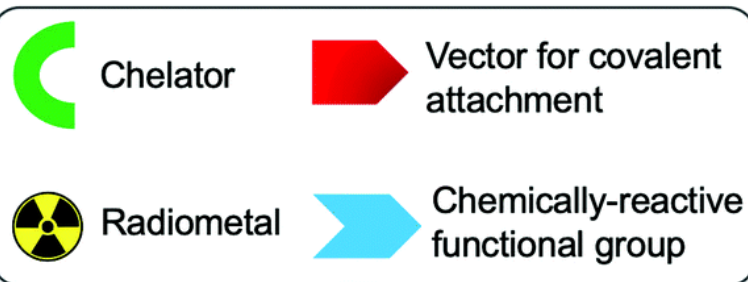
ADAPTED TO THE METAL OF INTEREST

ADAPTED TO THE VECTOR OF INTEREST

# Activable function



**Bifunctional Chelator**



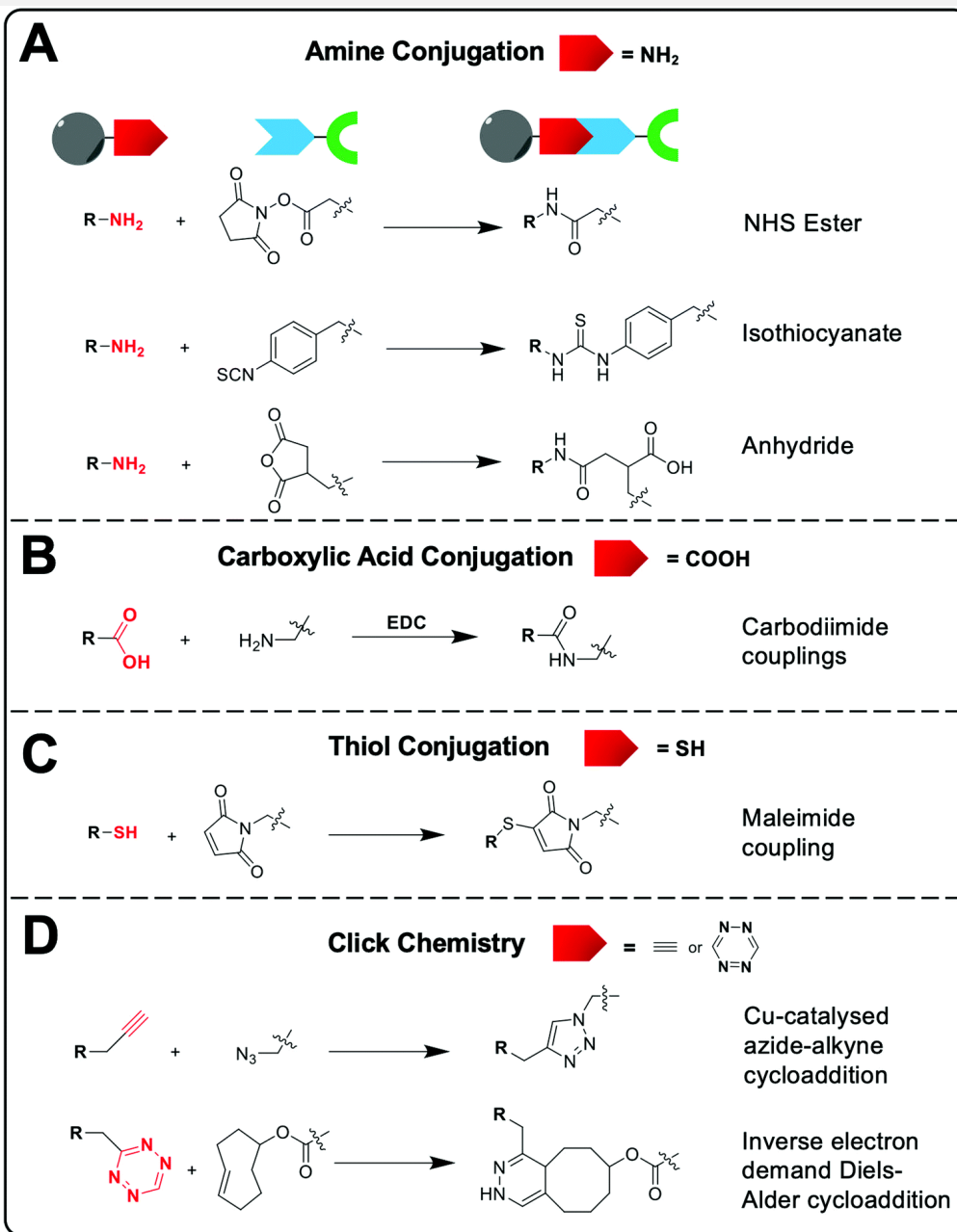
## Quantitative coupling

Mild conditions (heat sensitive biovectors)

Limit side products

## Site-specific ?

Characterization : Advanced techniques by native Mass Spectrometry, peptide mapping

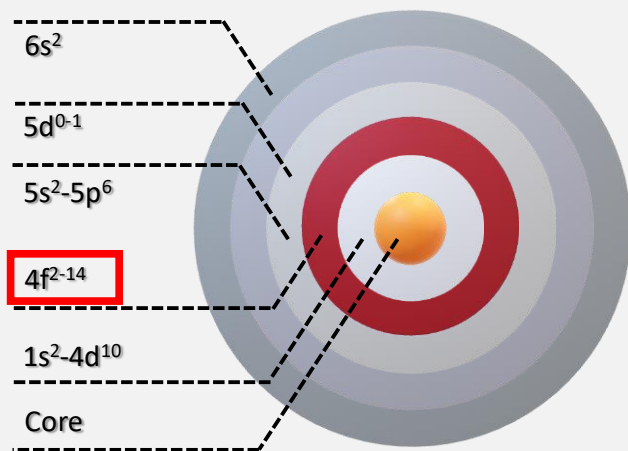




# Lanthanides (4f)

+III oxidation state

[Xe]4f<sup>n</sup>

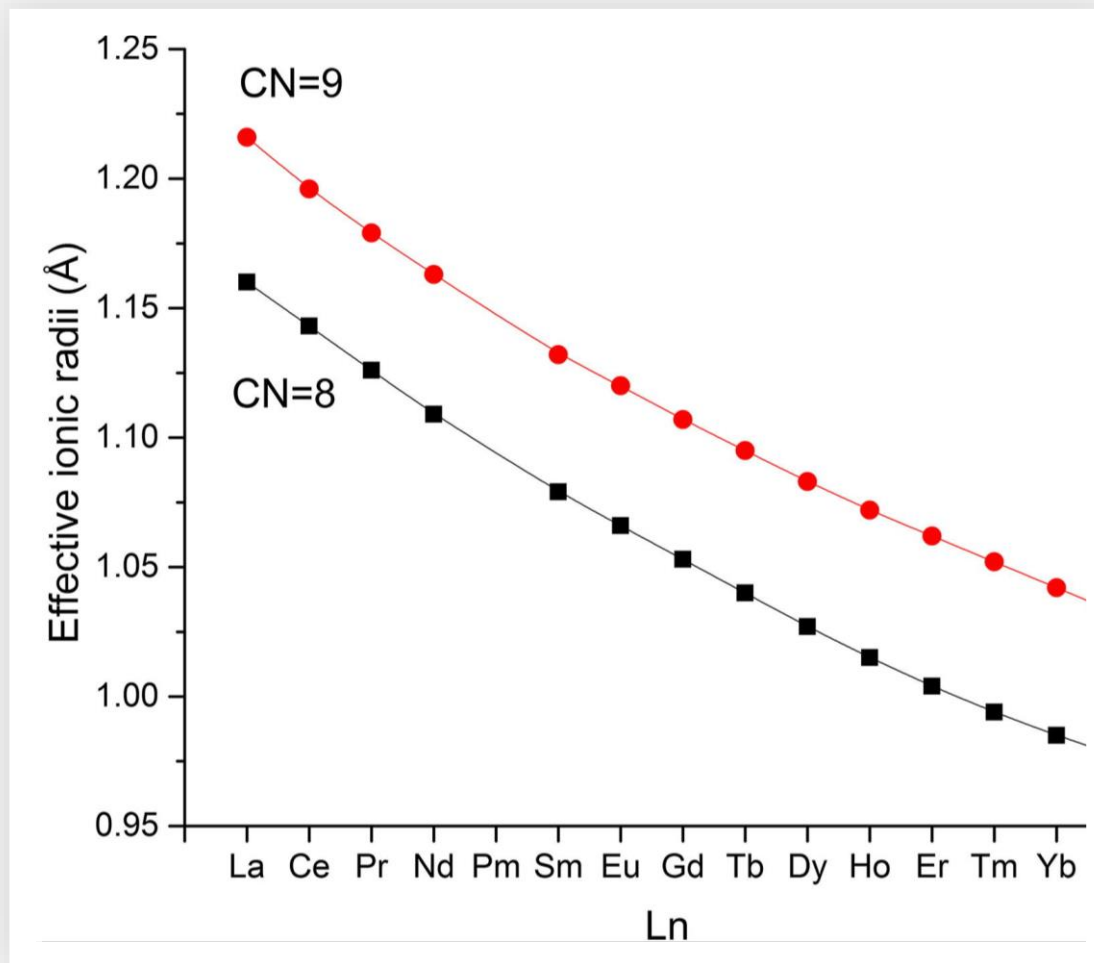


CN = 7-12, usually 9

r<sub>ion</sub>

Gd<sup>3+</sup> similar to Ca<sup>2+</sup>

lanthanide contraction



Effective ionic radii of Ln<sup>3+</sup> ions for CN = 8 and CN = 9

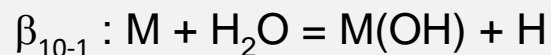


# Lanthanides (4f)

Hard ions: O > N

Hydroxo complexes

Hydrolysis constant:

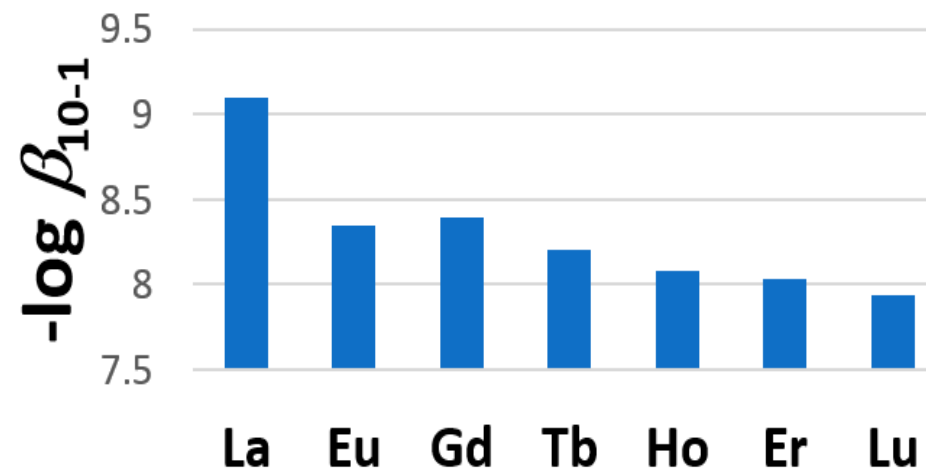


$$\beta_{10-1} = \frac{[M(OH)][H]}{[M]}$$

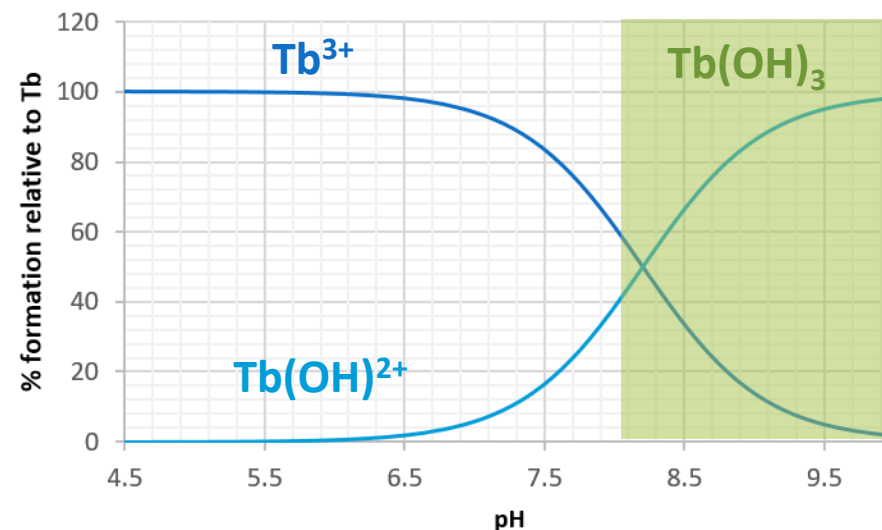
Not so problematic here

Stability governed by electrostatic interactions

Geometry governed by steric factors



Hydrolysis constants of  $Ln^{3+}$  ions in water



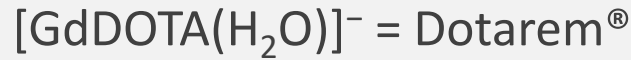
Distribution of Tb species in water ( $c_{Tb} = 1 \text{ pM}$ ,  $0.1 \text{ M KCl}$ ,  $25^\circ\text{C}$ )

# Lanthanides (4f)

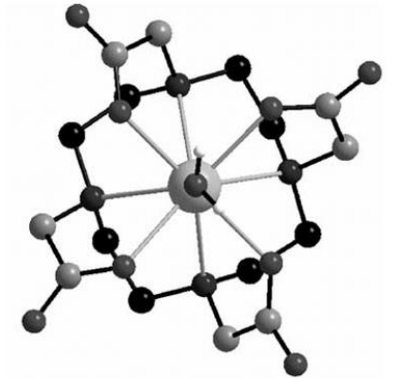
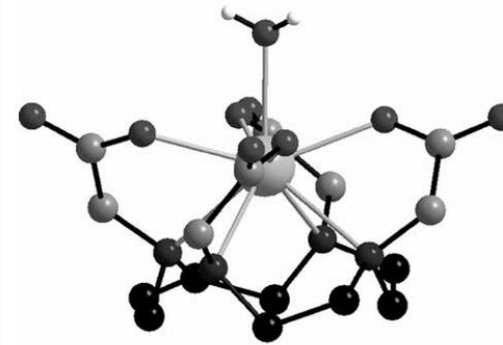
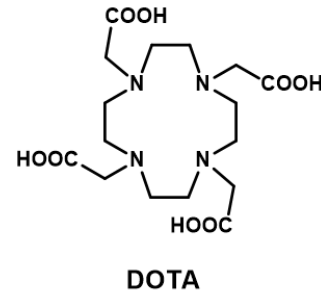
## Gold standard: DOTA



CN = 9



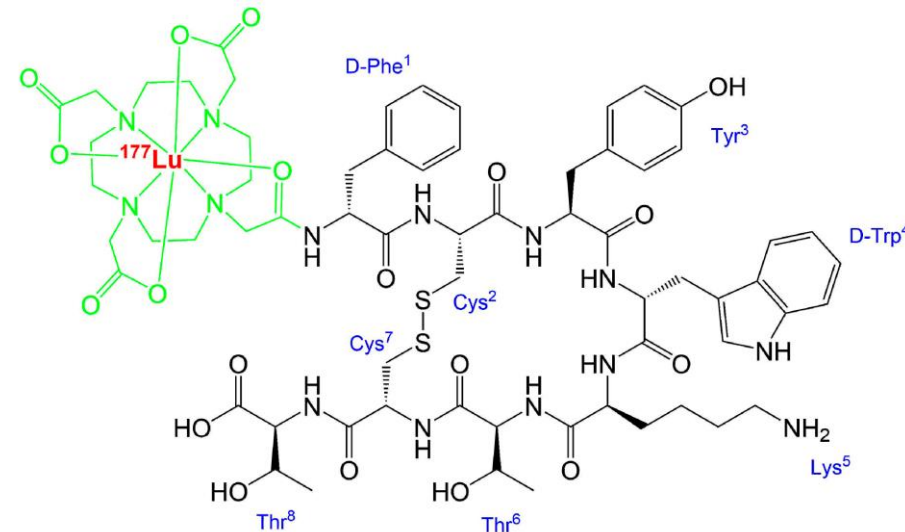
Approved MRI contrast agent since 1989 in France



X-ray structure of  $[\text{GdDOTA}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^-$  (SAP isomer)<sup>[1]</sup>



Approved since 2017 in France



[2]

radionuclide ( $^{177}\text{Lu}$ ) + chelator (DOTA) + targeting peptide (octreotate)

<sup>[1]</sup>V.S. Sastri, J.R. Perumareddi, V. Ramachandra Rao, G.V.S. Rayudu, J.-C. Bünzli, *Modern Aspects of rare Earths and their complexes*, 2003, Elsevier

<sup>[2]</sup>U. Hennrich, K. Kopka, *Pharmaceuticals* 2019, 12, 114

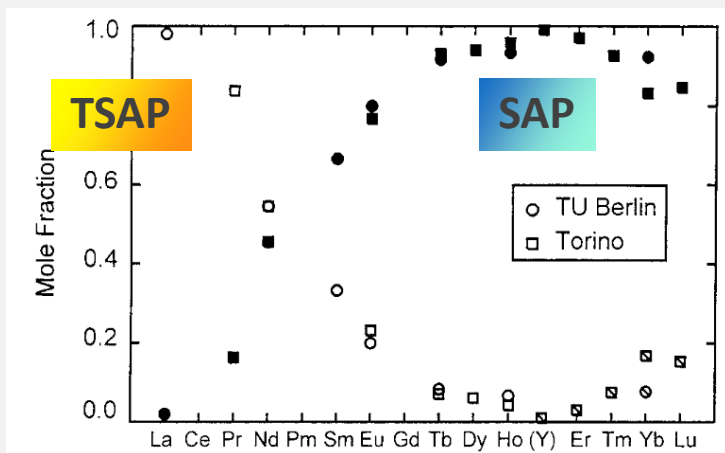
# Lanthanides (4f)



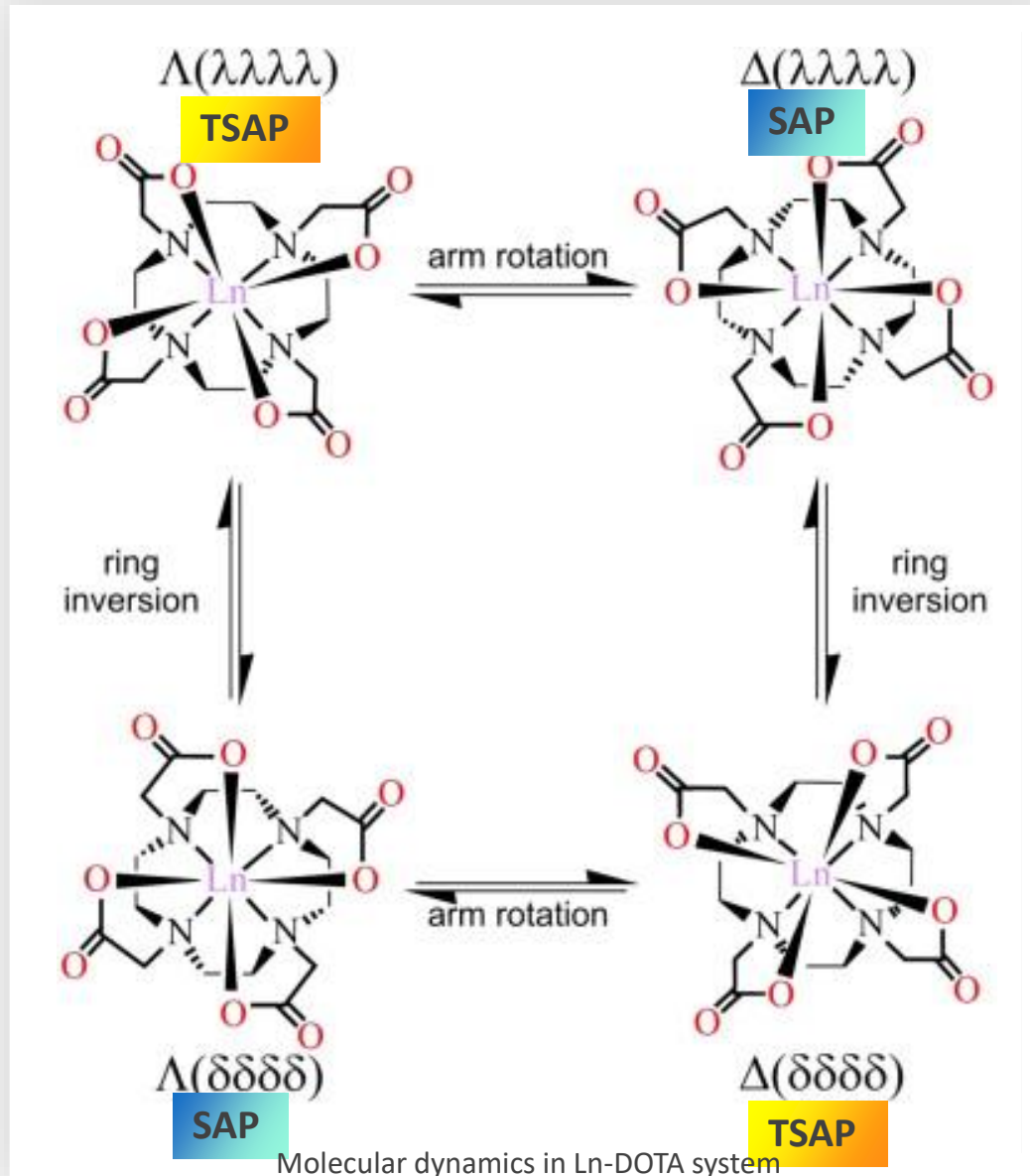
A pair of conformational isomers

Square-anti-prismatic (SAP)

Twisted-square-anti-prismatic (TSAP)



Proportion of the two SAP/TSAP isomers as a function of Ln<sup>3+</sup> (0.15 M, pH 7.0, 25°C)

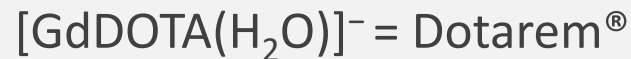


# Lanthanides (4f)

## Gold standard: DOTA



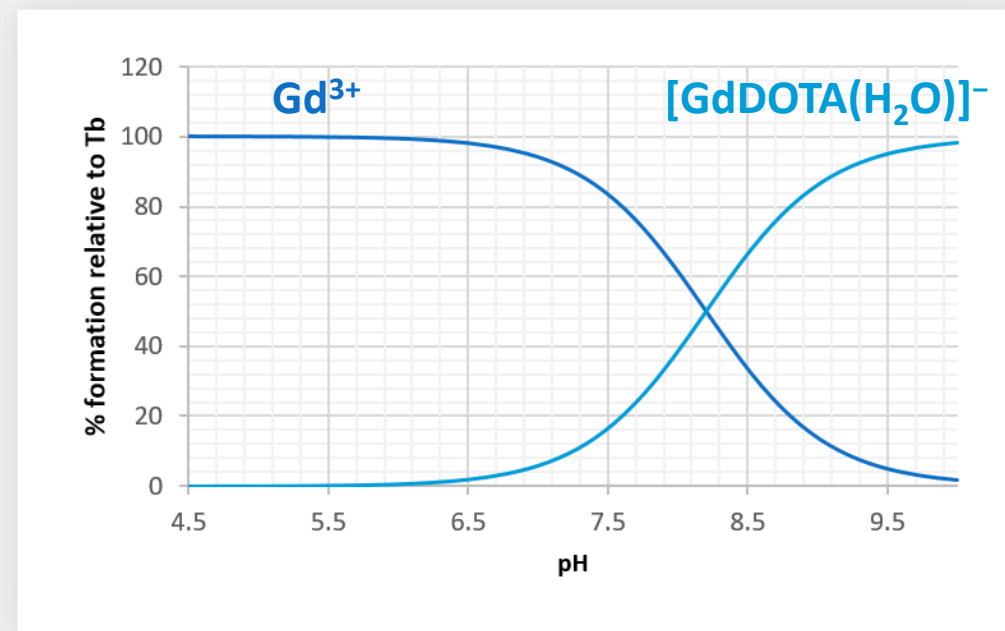
CN = 9



Approved MRI contrast agent since 1989 in France



Approved since 2017 in France



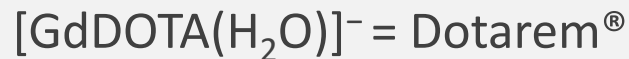
Distribution of the species of a Gd : DOTA 1 : 1 in water  
(c = 1 pM, 0.1M KCl, 25°C)

# Lanthanides (4f)

## Gold standard: DOTA



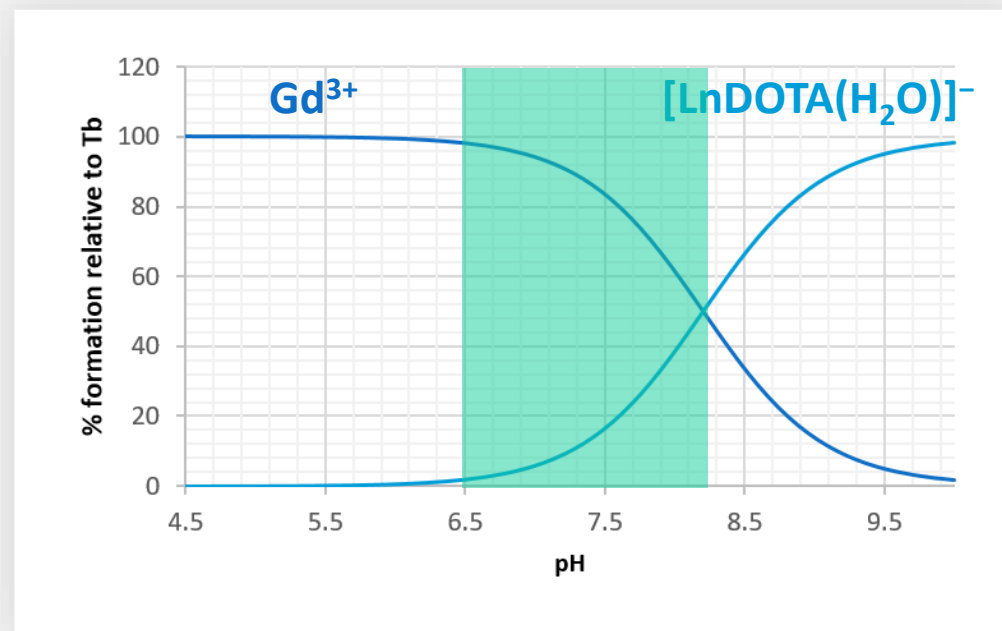
CN = 9



Approved MRI contrast agent since 1989 in France



Approved since 2017 in France



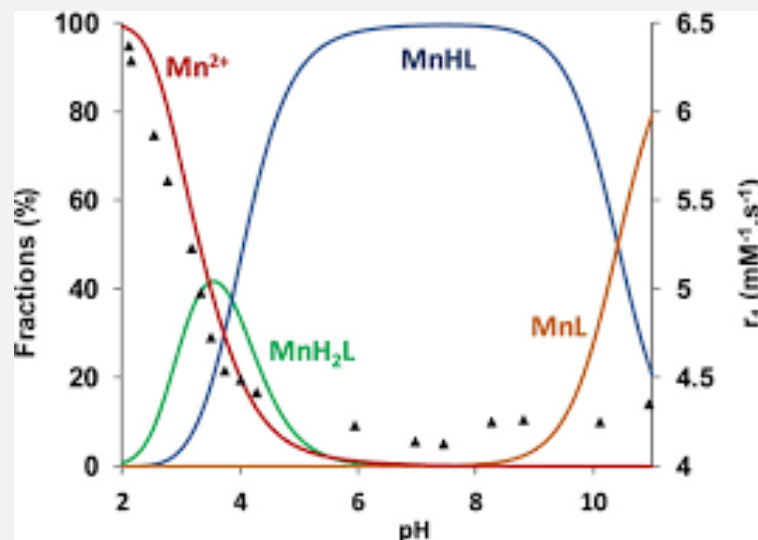
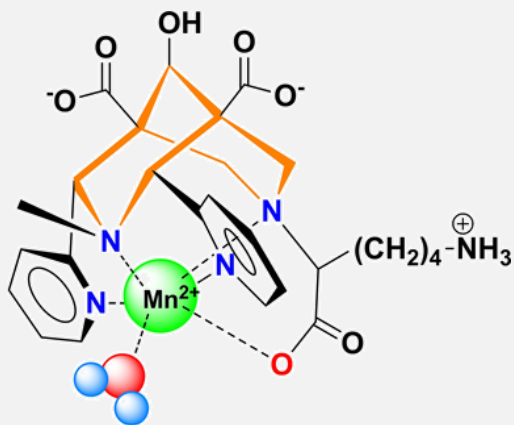
Distribution of the species of a Gd : DOTA 1 : 1 in water  
(c = 1 pM, 0.1M KCl, 25°C)

**Excess of ligand**

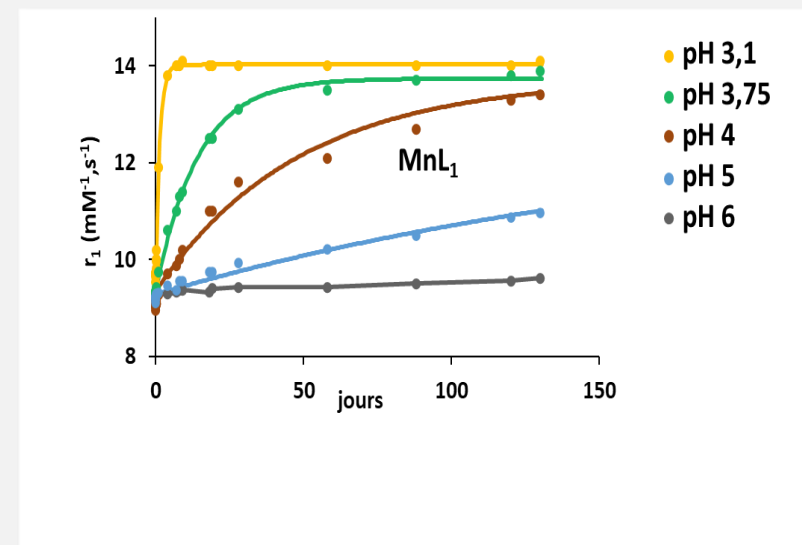
**Important role of kinetic parameters**

# Parenthesis on kinetic inertness

Example of a extremely inert bispidine-Mn<sup>2+</sup> complex



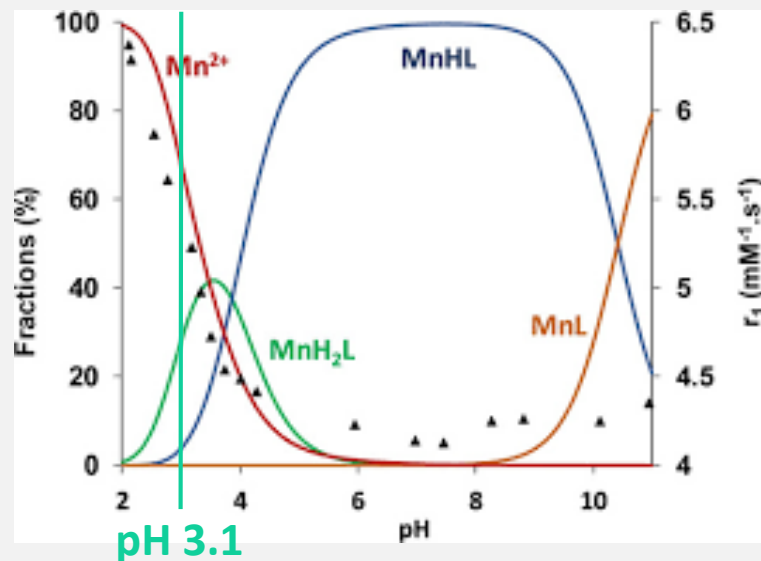
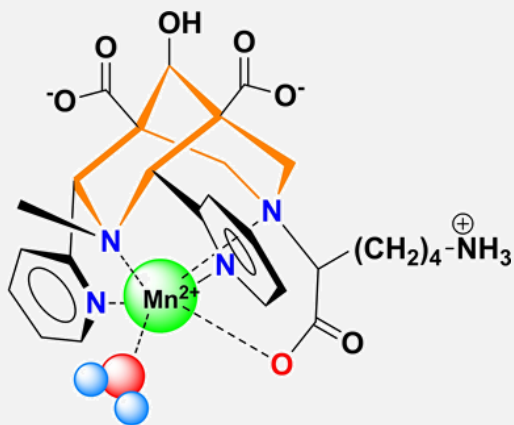
Species distribution curves calculated for MnL1 (1 mM) and pH-dependent relaxivity values (▲) measured at 25°C, 60 MHz



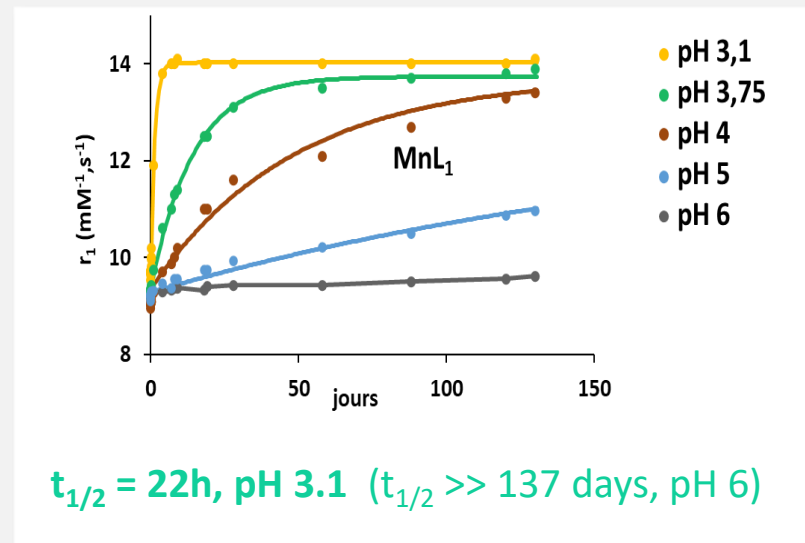
Transmetalation experiment in presence of Zn<sup>2+</sup> (50 eq) at various pH values

# Parenthesis on kinetic inertness

Example of a extremely inert bispidine-Mn<sup>2+</sup> complex



Species distribution curves calculated for MnL1 (1 mM) and pH-dependent relaxivity values ( $\blacktriangle$ ) measured at 258C, 60 MHz



$t_{1/2} = 22\text{h}$ , pH 3.1 ( $t_{1/2} \gg 137$  days, pH 6)

Transmetalation experiment in presence of Zn<sup>2+</sup> (50 eq) at various pH values

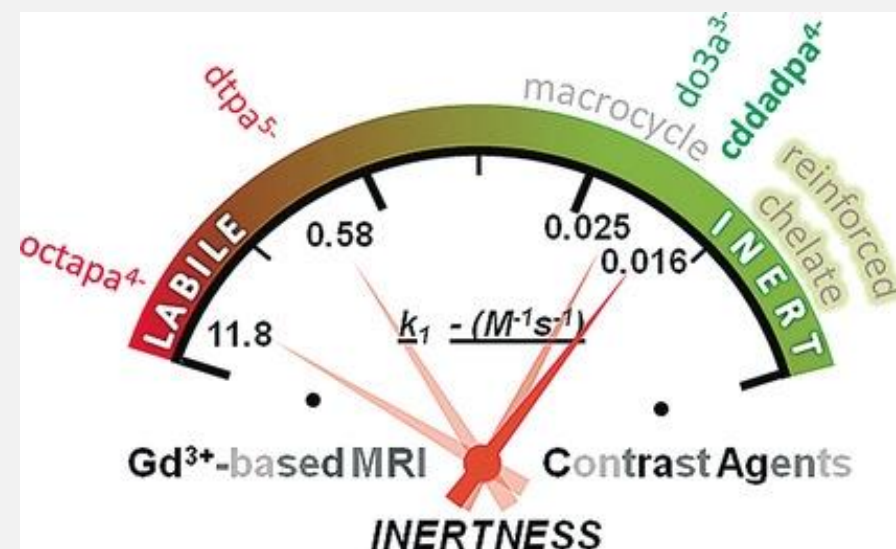
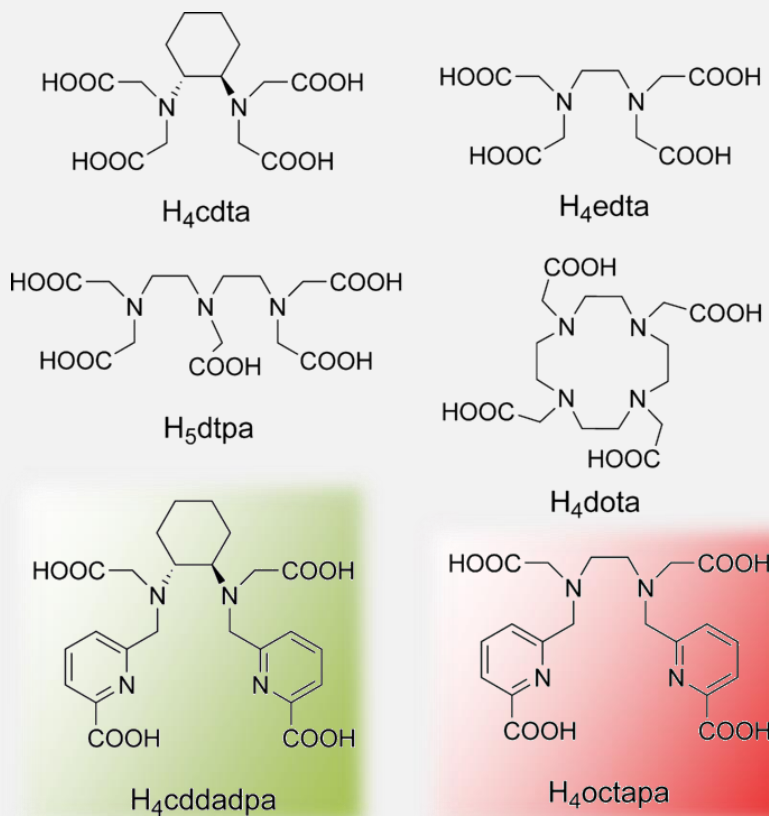
**Kinetic = Determining factor**

↙ Rigidity  
↘ Pre-organisation



# Lanthanides (4f)

## Ligand development: effect of rigidity



Pseudo-first-order rate in transmetallation assays with of Cu<sup>2+</sup> (50 mM, 25 °C, 0.15 M NaCl, at pH 3.4 -4.9)

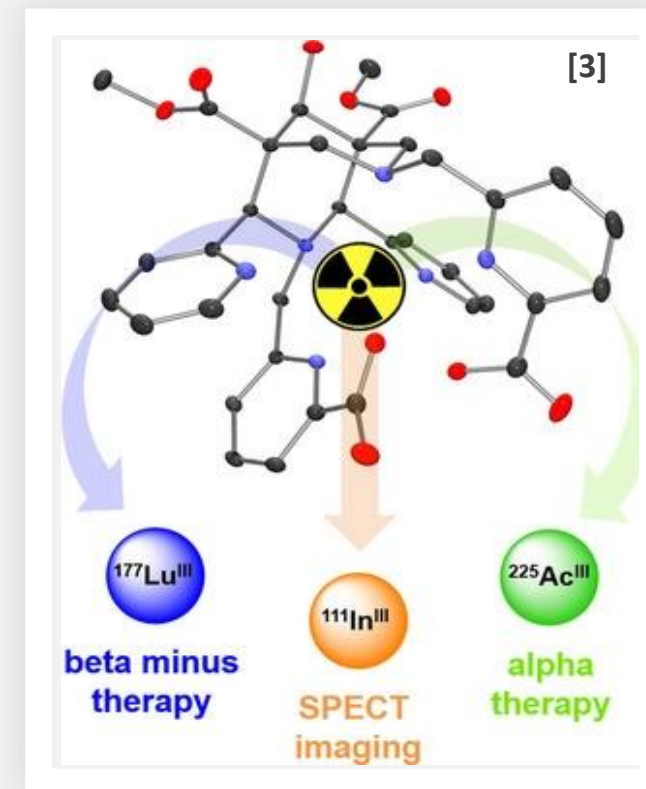
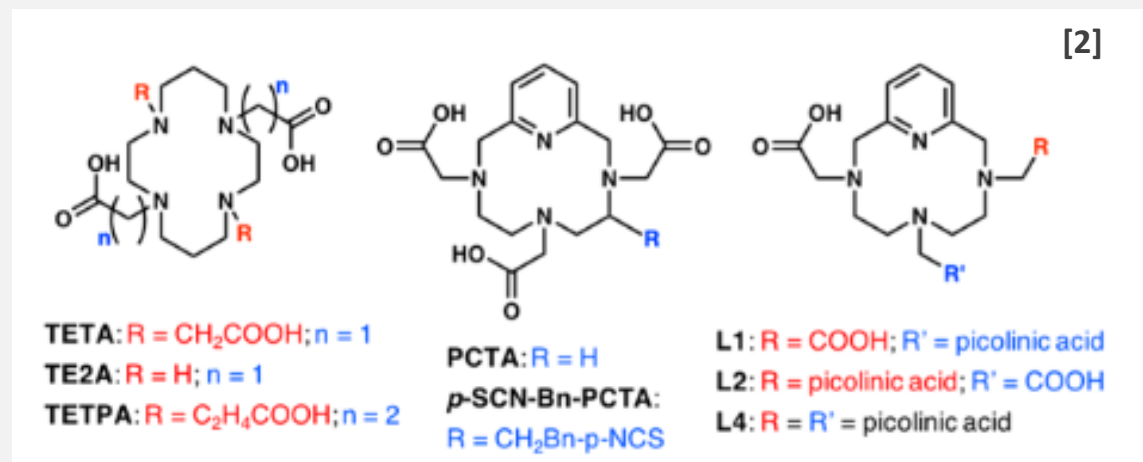
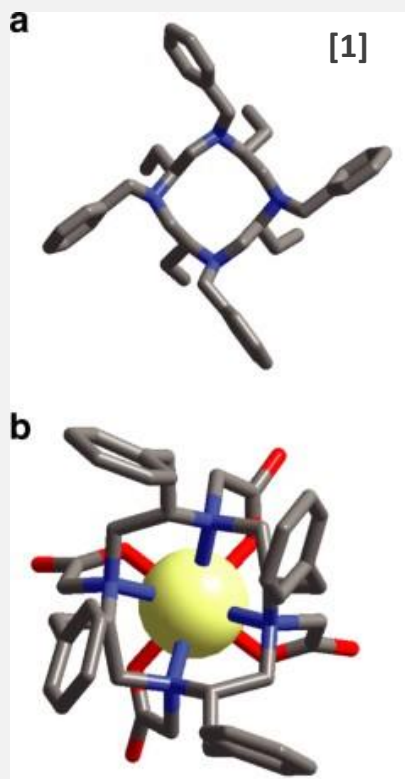
# Lanthanides (4f)

Ligand development: increased rigidity

Chiral complexes<sup>[1]</sup>

Reinforced structures<sup>[2]</sup>

Macrobicycles<sup>[3]</sup>



[1] L. Dai, C. M. Jones, W. T. K. Chan, T. A. Pham, X. Ling, E. M. Gale, N. J. Rotile, W. C.-S. Tai, C. J. Anderson, P. Caravan, G.-L. Law, *Nature Commun.*, **2018**, 9, 857

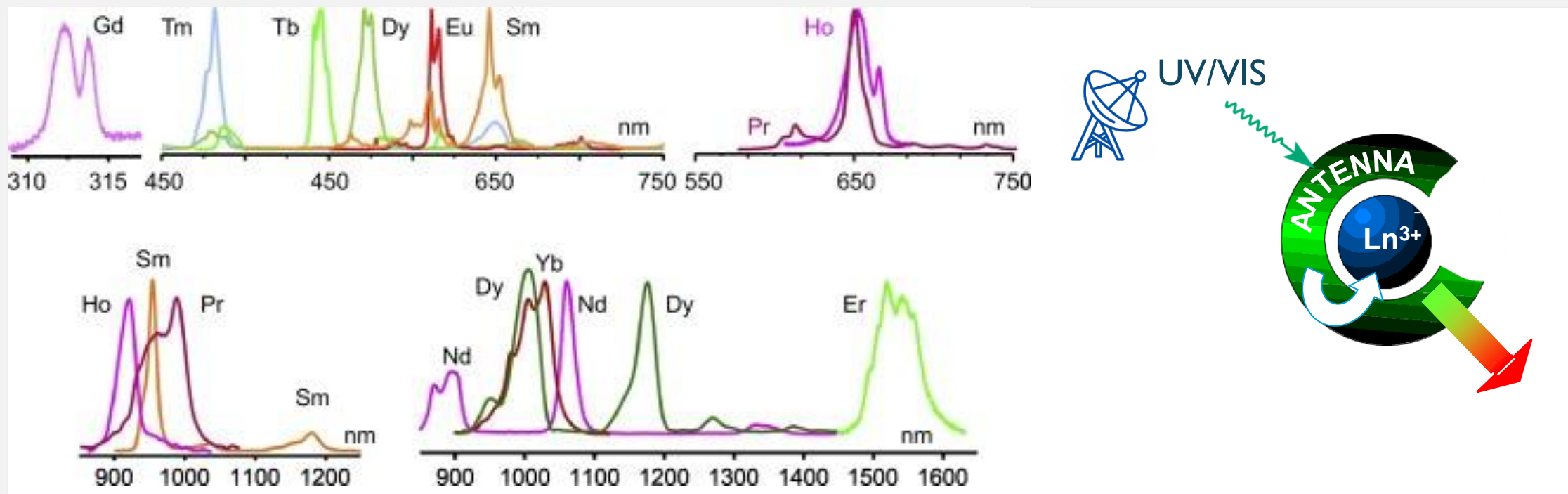
[2] M. Le Fur, M. Beyler, N. Lepareur, O. Fougère, C. Platas-Iglesias, O. Rousseaux, R. Tripier, *Inorg. Chem.*, **2016**, 55, 8003

[3] P. Comba, U. Jermilova, C. Orvig, B. O. Patrick, C. F. Ramogida, K. Rück, C. Schneider, M. Starke, *Chem. - Eur. J.*, **2017**, 23, 15945

# Lanthanides (4f)

## Ligand development: luminescent complexes

Optical imaging, cell microscopy/ *in vitro* assays



Emission spectra of luminescent Ln<sup>3+</sup> complexes in the UV, visible or NIR and antenna effect

# Ac (5f)

+III oxydation state

High CN = 9-10

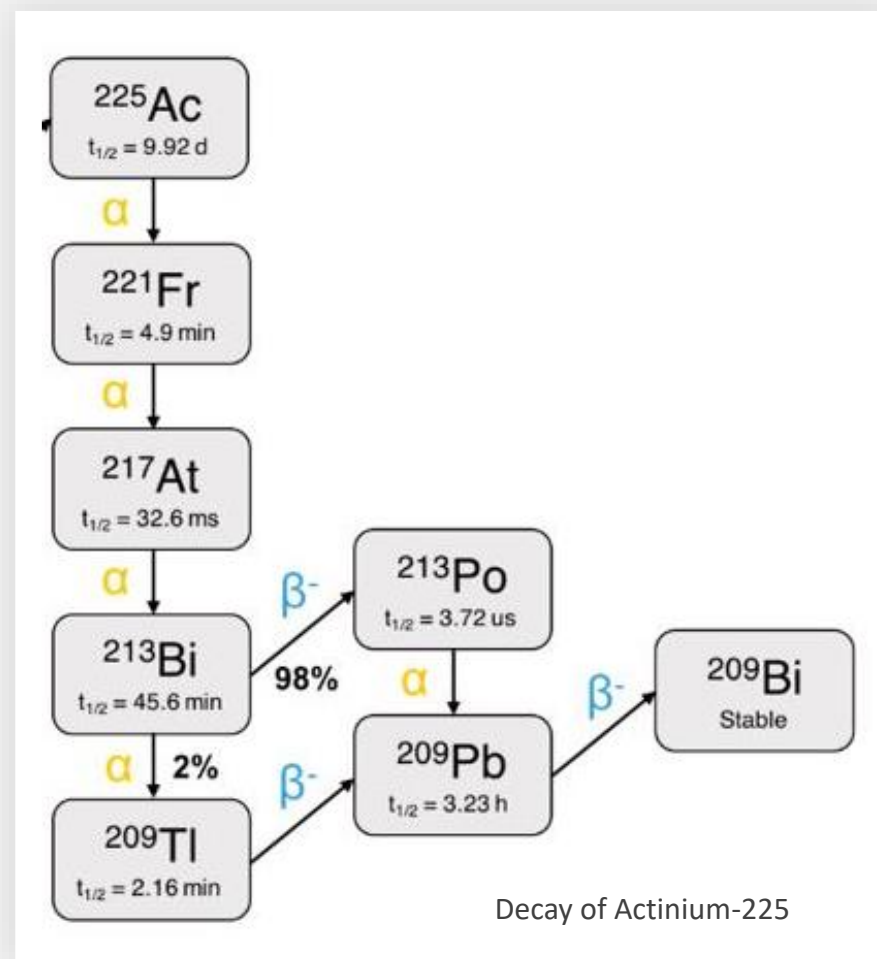
Large  $r_{\text{ion}} = 1.12 \text{ \AA}$

borderline hard: N > O

Not easily hydrolysed

La(III) used as a cold surrogate

**BUT Multiple isotopes with different chemistries: e.g.  $^{221}\text{Fr}$ ,  $^{217}\text{At}$**



# Ac (5f)

**Good candidate: DOTA**

Quantitative radiolabelling

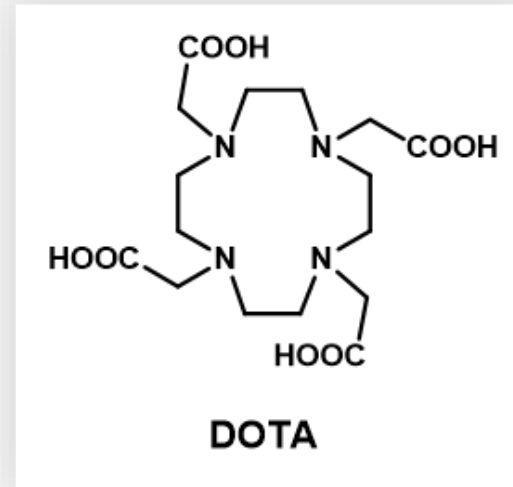
pH 5, 70°C, 60 min

Serum stability

>75% over 50 days

Bifunctional p-SCN-Bn-DOTA

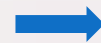
mAb, protein labeling



**Interest of ligands with larger denticities**

**Radiolabelling in milder conditions (r.t.)**

**Improved stability / kinetic inertness**



Other polyaza derivatives

# Ac (5f)

Strong candidates

**H<sub>2</sub>macropa** [1]

Quantitative RCY: pH 5, **r.t.**, 5 min

Serum stability > 7 days

PSMA/albumin targeting conjugate with high tumor/organ uptake + renal excretion

**Bispidine H<sub>2</sub>bispa<sup>2</sup>** [2]

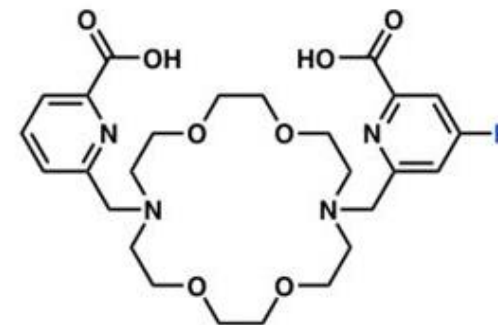
98% RCY : pH 7, **r.t.**, 30 min

Serum stability: >89%, 7 days

[1] N. A. Thiele, V. Brown, J. M. Kelly, A. Amor-Coarasa, U. Jermilova, S. N. MacMillan, A. Nikolopoulou, S. Ponnala, C. F. Ramogida, A. K. H. Robertson et al. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, **2017**,56, 14712

[2] P. Comba, U. Jermilova, C. Orvig, B. O. Patrick, C. F. Ramogida, K. Rück, C. Schneider, M. Starke, *Chem. - Eur. J.*, **2017**, 23, 15945

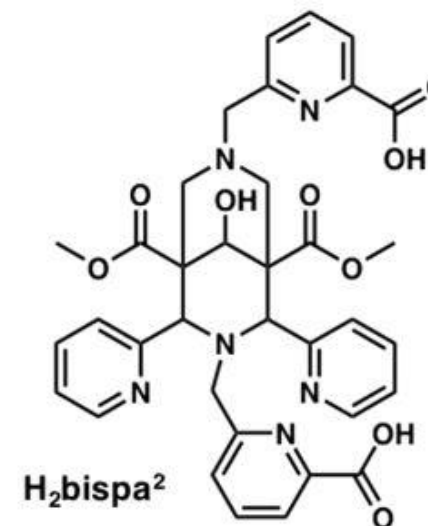
[1]



**H<sub>2</sub>macropa**: R = H

**p-SCN-Bn-macropa**: R = CH<sub>2</sub>Bn-p-NCS

[2]



**H<sub>2</sub>bispa<sup>2</sup>**

# Transition metals (*d*)

## Yttrium

+III oxidation state

CN = 8-9

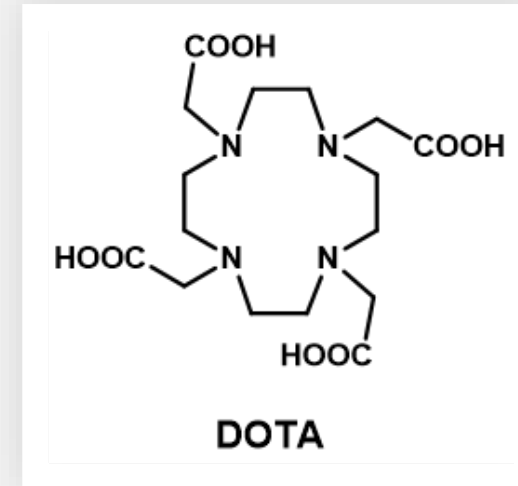
Hard

$r_{\text{ion}} = 1.02 \text{ \AA} \sim \text{Gd(III)}$

Hydrolysis constant  $\sim \text{Lu(III)}$

Similar coordination chemistry to Ln(III)

DOTA: quantitative RCY, pH 4.5, **100°C**, 10-30 min



Radiolabelling in milder conditions (r.t.)

→ Other polyaza derivatives



# Transition metals (*d*)

## Scandium

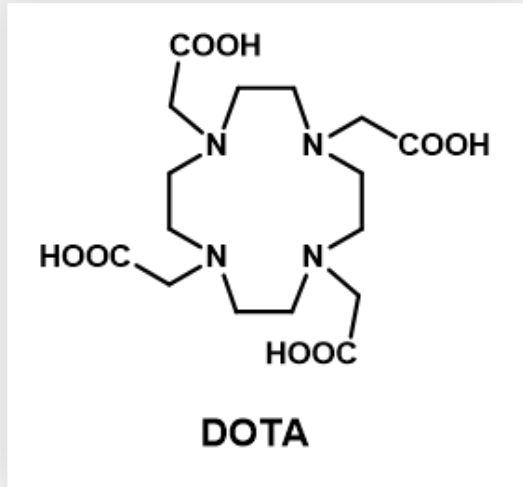
+III oxidation state

CN = 6-8

$r_{\text{ion}} = 0.87 \text{ \AA}$

Hard

**Easily hydrolysed:**  $\text{Sc}(\text{OH})^{2+}$  from pH = 2.5 then insoluble  $\text{Sc}(\text{OH})_3$



**Similar coordination chemistry to Ln(III)**

DOTA: quantitative RCY, pH 4, **95°C**, 10-30 min

**Radiolabelling in milder conditions (r.t.)**

**Improved stability / kinetic inertness**

→ Other polyaza derivatives

# Transition metals (*d*)

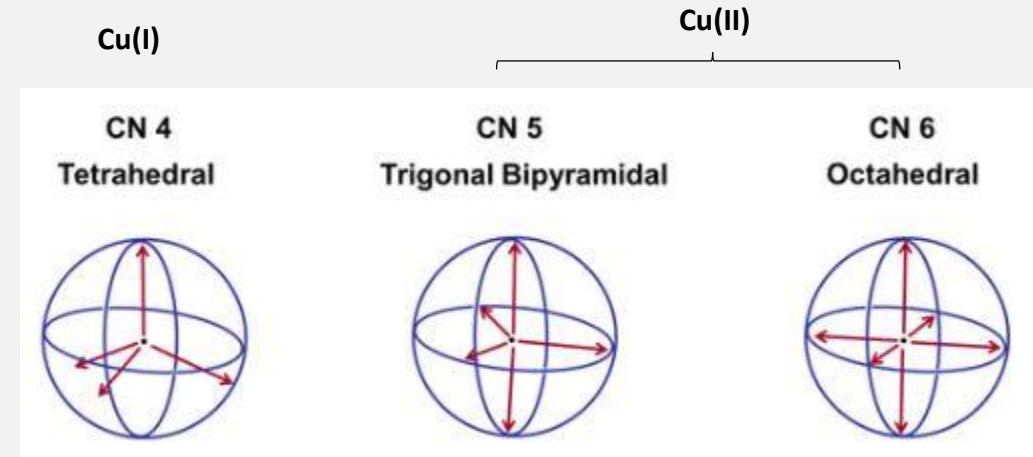
## Copper

+I/+II (+III) oxydation states

CN = 5-6

Borderline : N, O, S

$r_{\text{ion}} = 0.73 \text{ \AA}$



Coordination geometry depending on CN and ligand field

# Transition metals (*d*)

## Copper

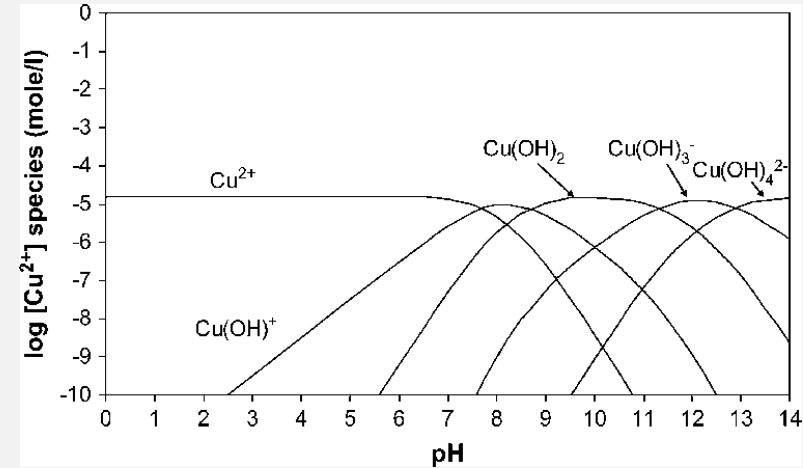
+I/+II (+III) oxydation states

CN = 5-6

Borderline : N, O, S

$r_{\text{ion}} = 0.73 \text{ \AA}$

Hydroxo complexes



Theoretical copper speciation for hydroxo complexes in pure water for a total copper concentration of 1 mg/L

# Transition metals (*d*)

## Copper ( $^{67}\text{Cu}$ / $^{64}\text{Cu}$ )

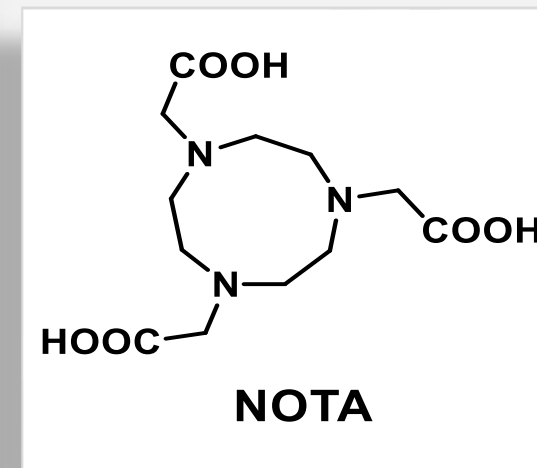
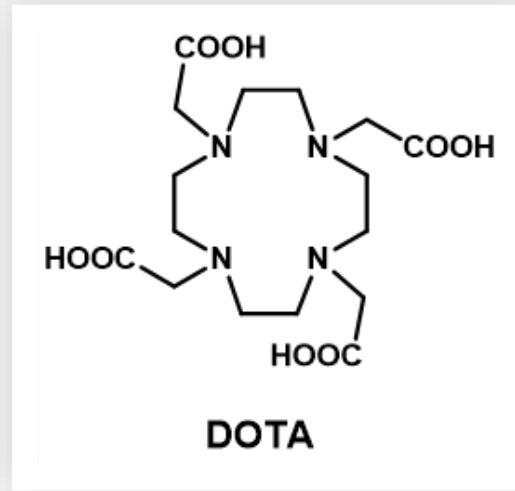
### Potential ligands ( $^{64}\text{Cu}$ )

DOTA: quantitative RCY

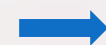
pH 5.5-6.5, **25-90°C**, 30-60 min

NOTA: quantitative RCY

pH 5.5-6.5, **25°C**, 30-60 min



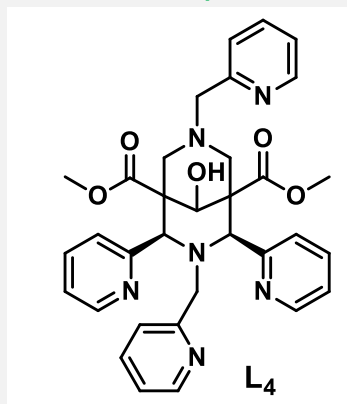
**Improved stability / kinetic inertness**  
**Stabilise both Cu(I) and Cu(II)**



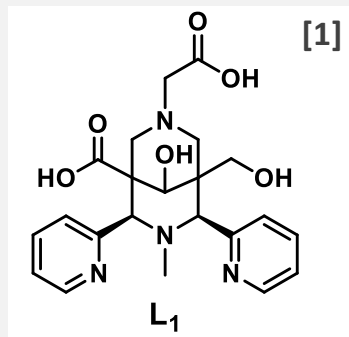
Other polyaza derivatives

# Copper (64-Cu) ligands

t.a., 1 min, pH 6.5



16.28 17

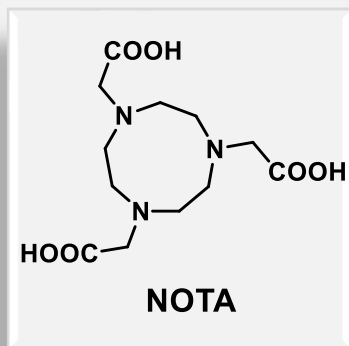


t.a., 15 min, pH 2-6

$t_{1/2} = 110$  days (5M HClO<sub>4</sub>, 25°C)

25°C 30-60 min  
pH 5.5-6.5

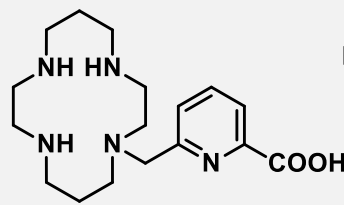
$t_{1/2} < 3$  min  
(5M HCl, 30°C)



18.4

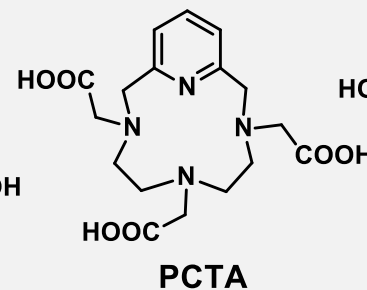
t.a., 15 min, pH 5

$t_{1/2} = 32$  min  
(1M HCl, 25°C)



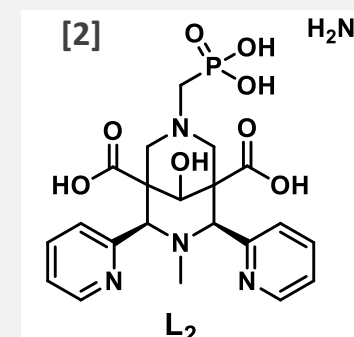
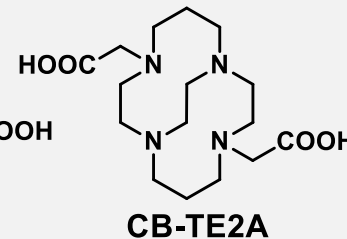
18.64

25°C, 5 min,  
pH 5.5



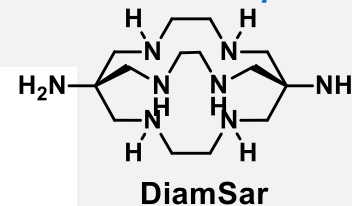
19.1

95°C, 60 min,  
pH 6-7



t.a., 5-15 min, pH 3-6.6

$t_{1/2} > 20$  months (5M HClO<sub>4</sub>, 25°C)



25°C, 5-30 min,  
pH 5.5

pCu

Radiolabeling

Kinetic

Thermodynamic

[1] A. Roux, A. M. Nonat, J. Brandel, V. Hubscher, L. J. Charbonnière, *Inorg. Chem.*, **2015**, *54*, 4431

[2] R. Gillet, A. Roux, J. brandel, S. Huclier, F. Camerel, O. Jeannin, A. M. Nonat, L. J. Charbonnière, *Inorg. Chem.*, **2017**, *56*, 11738

for other ref see D. Brasse, A. Nonat, *Dalton Trans.*, **2015**, *44*, 4845

# Post-transition metals (*p*)

## Bismuth

+III oxidation state (Bi(V))

CN = 8

Borderline hard: N > O

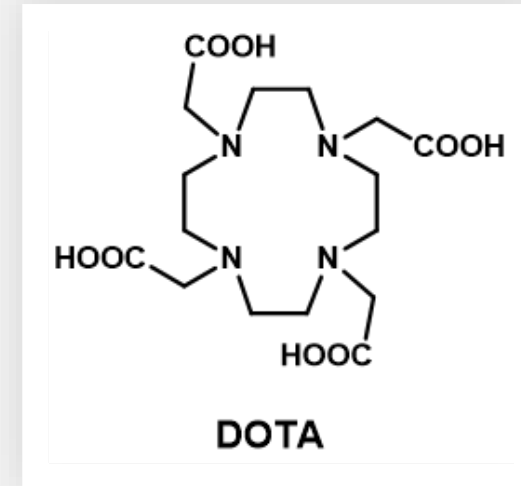
$r_{\text{ion}} = 1.17 \text{ \AA} \sim \text{Ac(III)}$

Very strong hydrolysis (from pH = 0)

-> Use of weakly coordinating buffers (citrate, acetate)

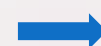
**High covalent bonding contribution to the M-L bond**

DOTA: pH 8.5, 95°C, 5 min



**Radiolabelling in milder conditions (r.t.)**

**Improved stability / kinetic inertness**



Other polyaza-macrocyclic ligands

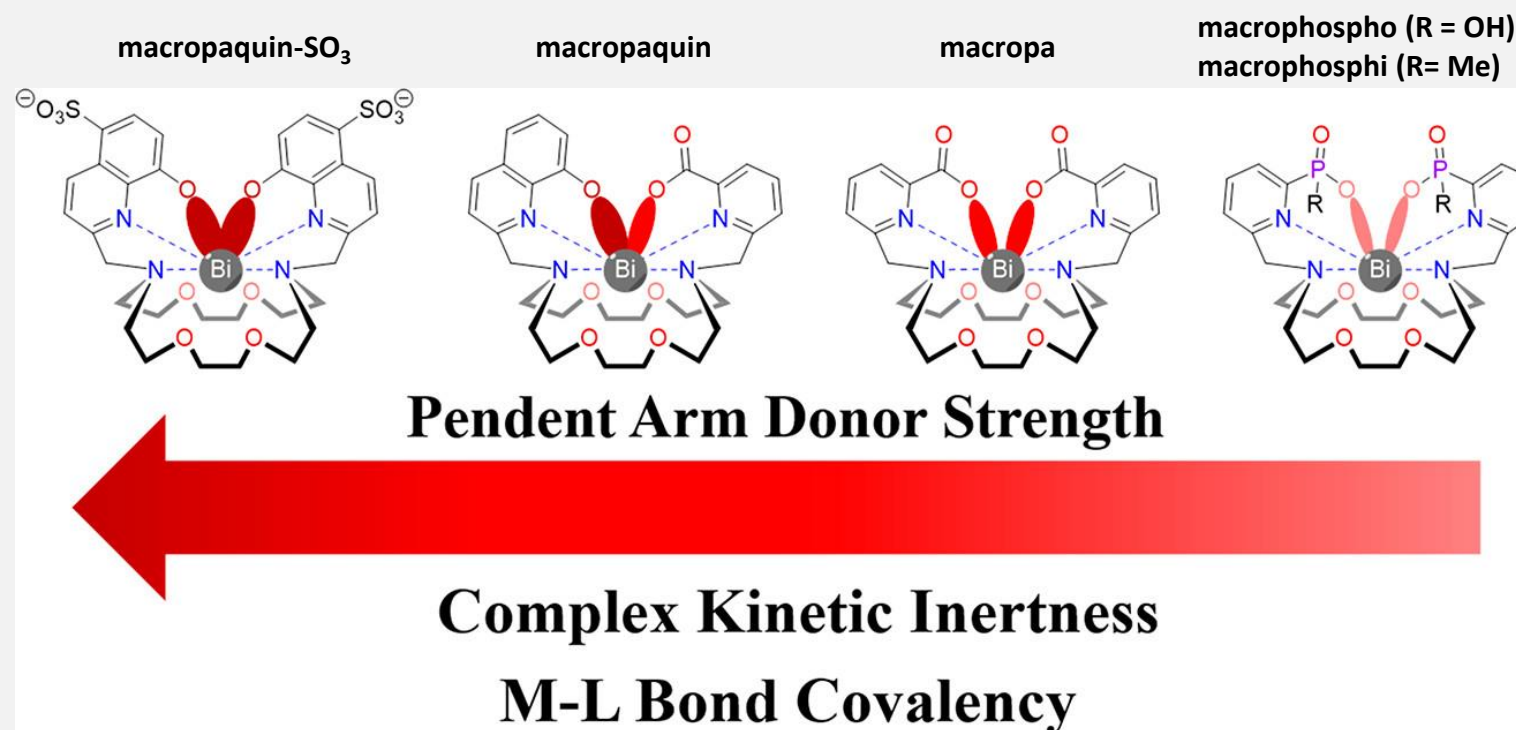
# Post-transition metals ( $p$ )

## Bismuth

### macropa

>99% RCY, MES buffer (0.5 M, pH 5.5–6), 8 min, **rt**

vs **95 °C** for 5.5 min for DOTA





# Post-transition metals (*p*)

## Bismuth

### Me-DO2PA [1]

Quantitative RCY: pH 5, **r.t.**, 5 min

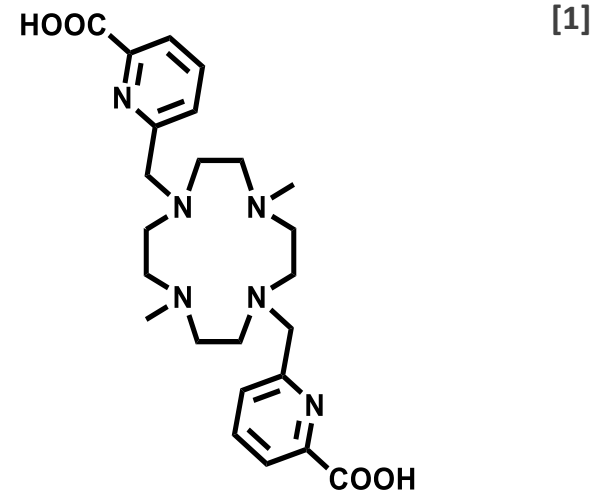
Serum stability > 7 days

PSMA/albumin targeting conjugate with high tumor/organ uptake + renal excretion

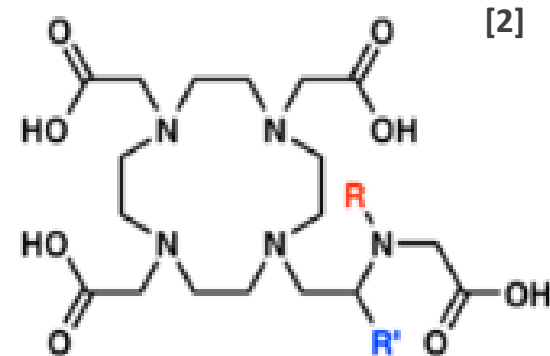
### DEPA [2]

98% RCY : pH 7, **r.t.**, 30 min

Serum stability: >89%, 7 days



Me-DO2PA: R = picolinic acid; R' = CH<sub>3</sub>



DEPA: R = CH<sub>2</sub>COOH; R' = H

[1] L. M. P. Lima, M. Beyler, R. Delgado, C. Platas-Iglesias, R. Tripier, *Inorg. Chem.*, **2015**, *54*, 7045

[2] H. A. Song, C. S. Kang, K. E. Baidoo, D. E. Milenic, Y. Chen, A. Dai, M. W. Brechbiel, H. S. Chong, *Bioconj. Chem.*, **2011**, *22*, 1128

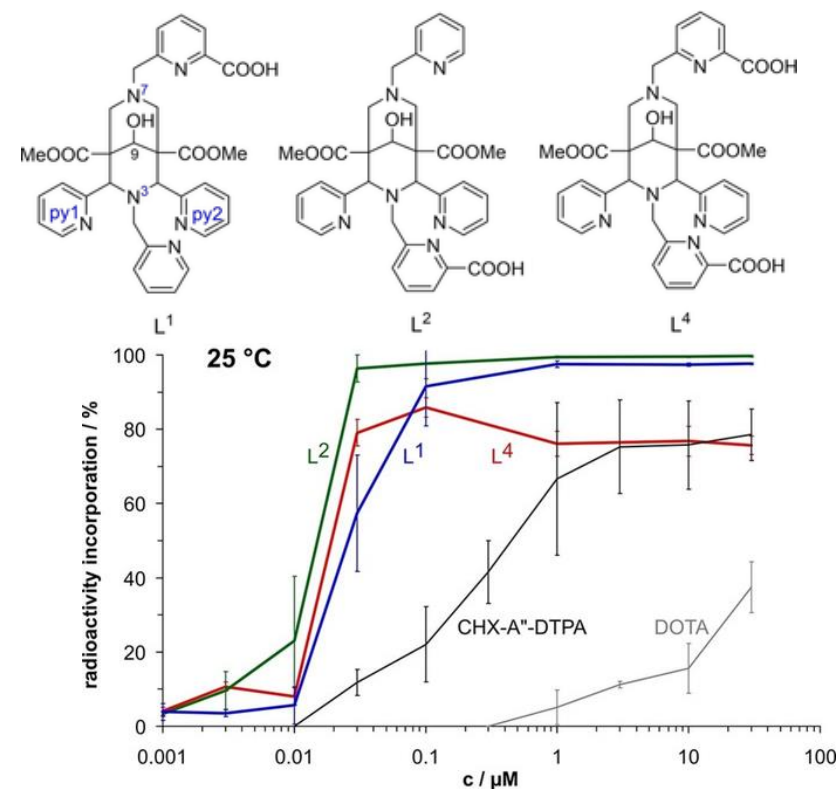
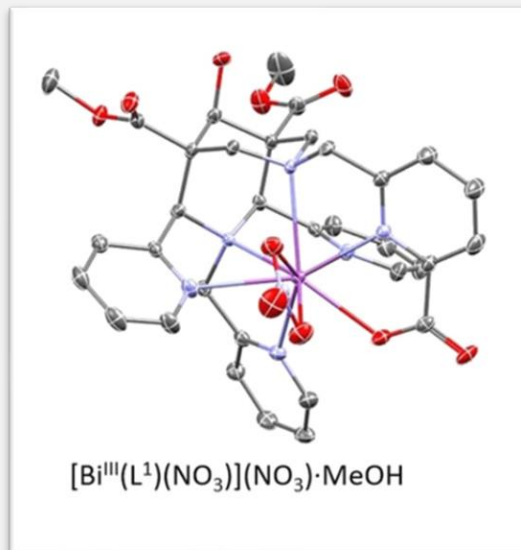
# Post-transition metals ( $p$ )

## Bismuth

### Bispidines

Efficient radiolabeling  
MES buffer (0.5 M, pH 5), **5 min**, 25°C

Kinetically stable in ligand-challenge  
displacement assays (EDTA)



Radiolabelling of bispidine  $\text{L}^1$ ,  $\text{L}^2$ ,  $\text{L}^4$  and DOTA with  $^{213}\text{Bi}^{\text{III}}$  at 25°C by as a function of ligand concentration

# Take home message

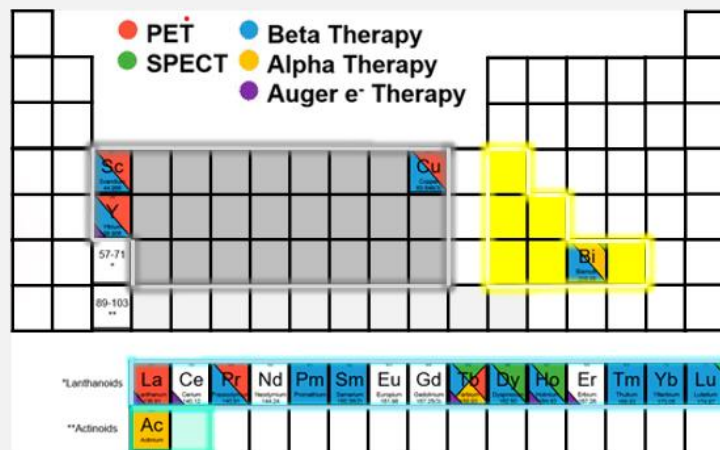
AIM : Radiolabelling + *in vivo* stability

Thermodynamic

**KINETIC**

Rigidity

Preorganisation



Chemical particularities



# Take home message

AIM : Radiolabelling + *in vivo* stability

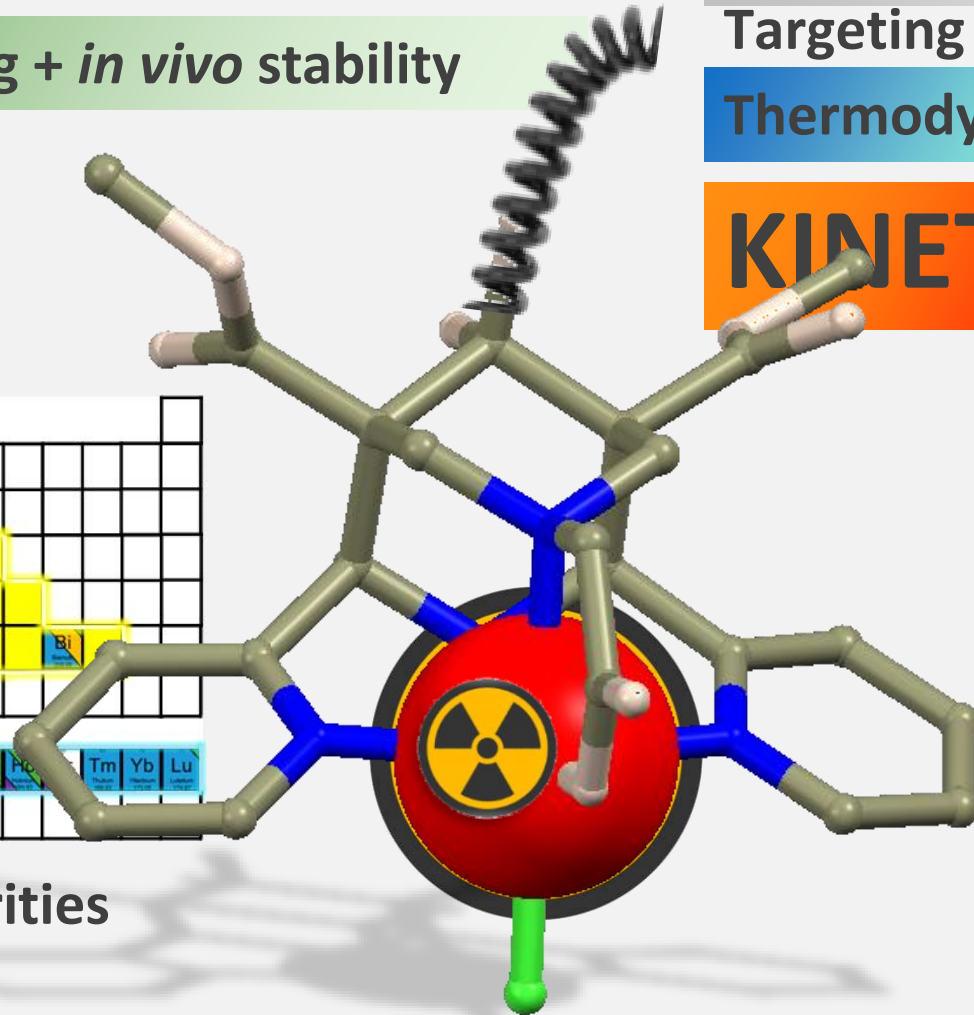
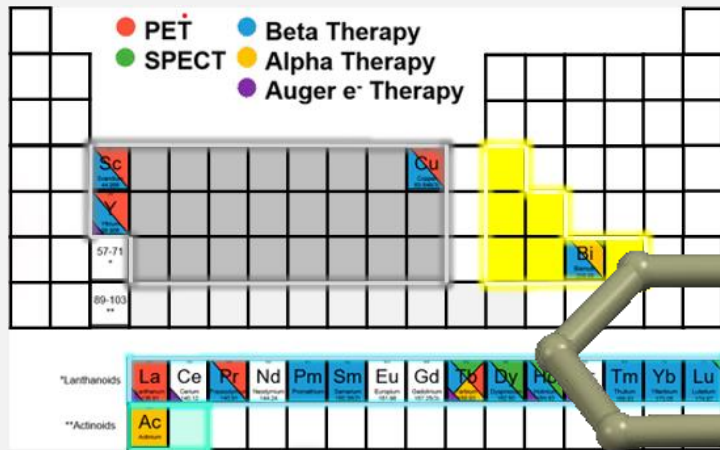
Functionalization ->

Targeting

Thermodynamic

**KINETIC**

→ Rigidity  
→ Preorganisation



$^{225}\text{Ac}$



$^{64}\text{Cu}$  ( $^{67}\text{Cu}$ )



$^{213}\text{Bi}$



$^{52}\text{Mn}$ ,  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ ,  $^{111}\text{In}$ ,  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ ...

Chemical particularities



# Bispidine for medical imaging

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Tarik LEGDALI

+ *all the team !!!*



# Bispidine for medical imaging

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Merci





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## Strasbourg, France

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