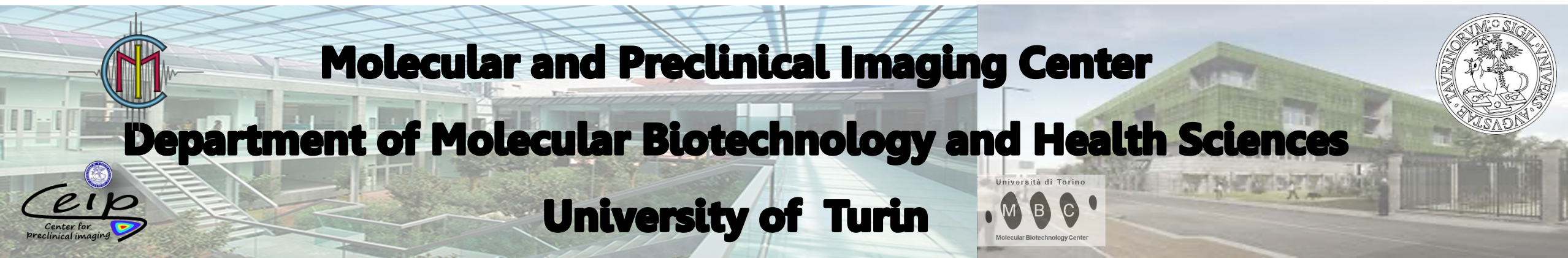




Consortium Meeting 3  
Public event 15/6/22

# Chelators for rare earths

**Enzo Terreno**



# The European research infrastructure for biological and biomedical imaging



**50+**  
TECHNOLOGIES






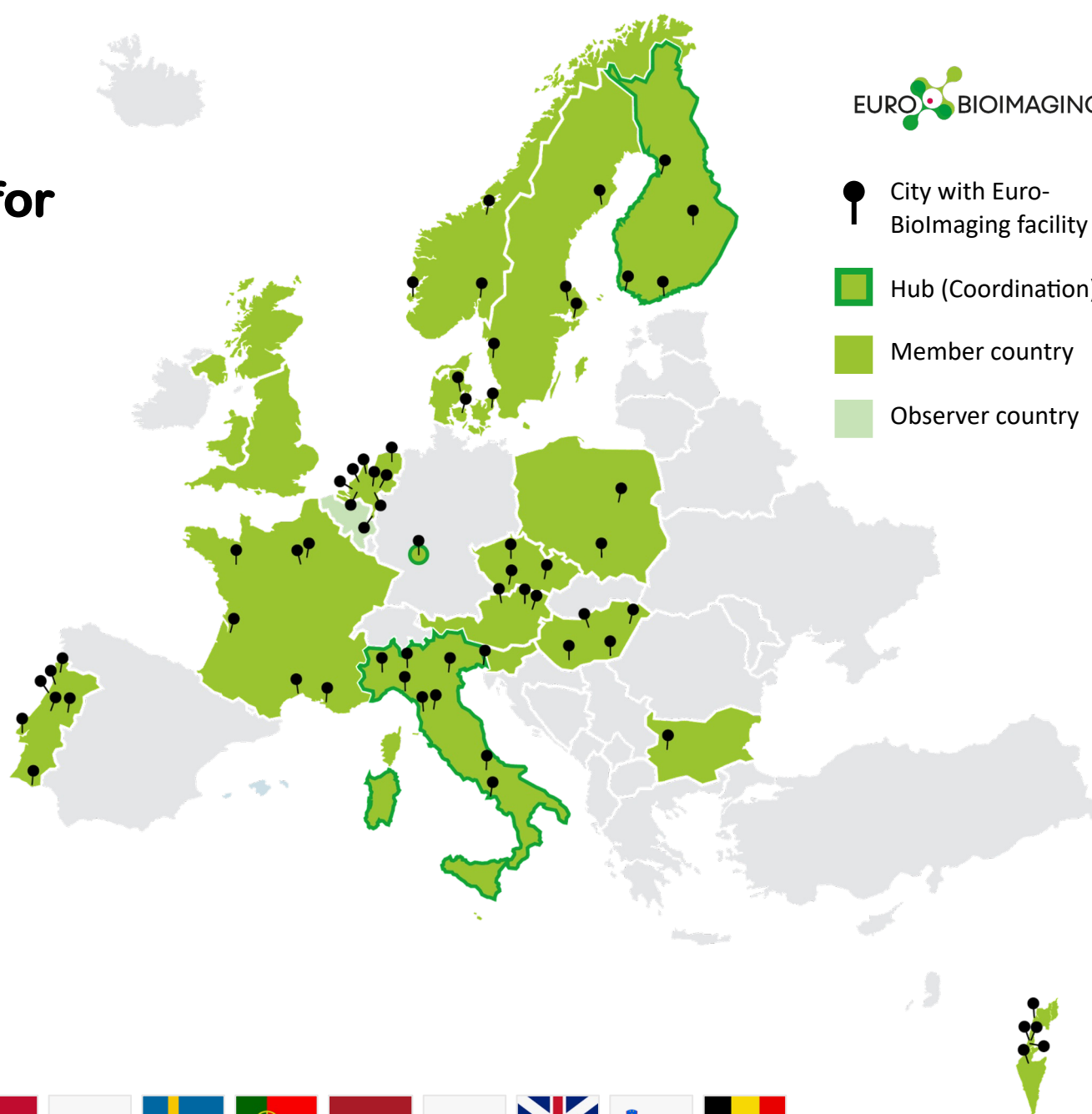
**149**  
FACILITIES



**17**  
ERIC MEMBERS  
(16 COUNTRIES & EMBL)

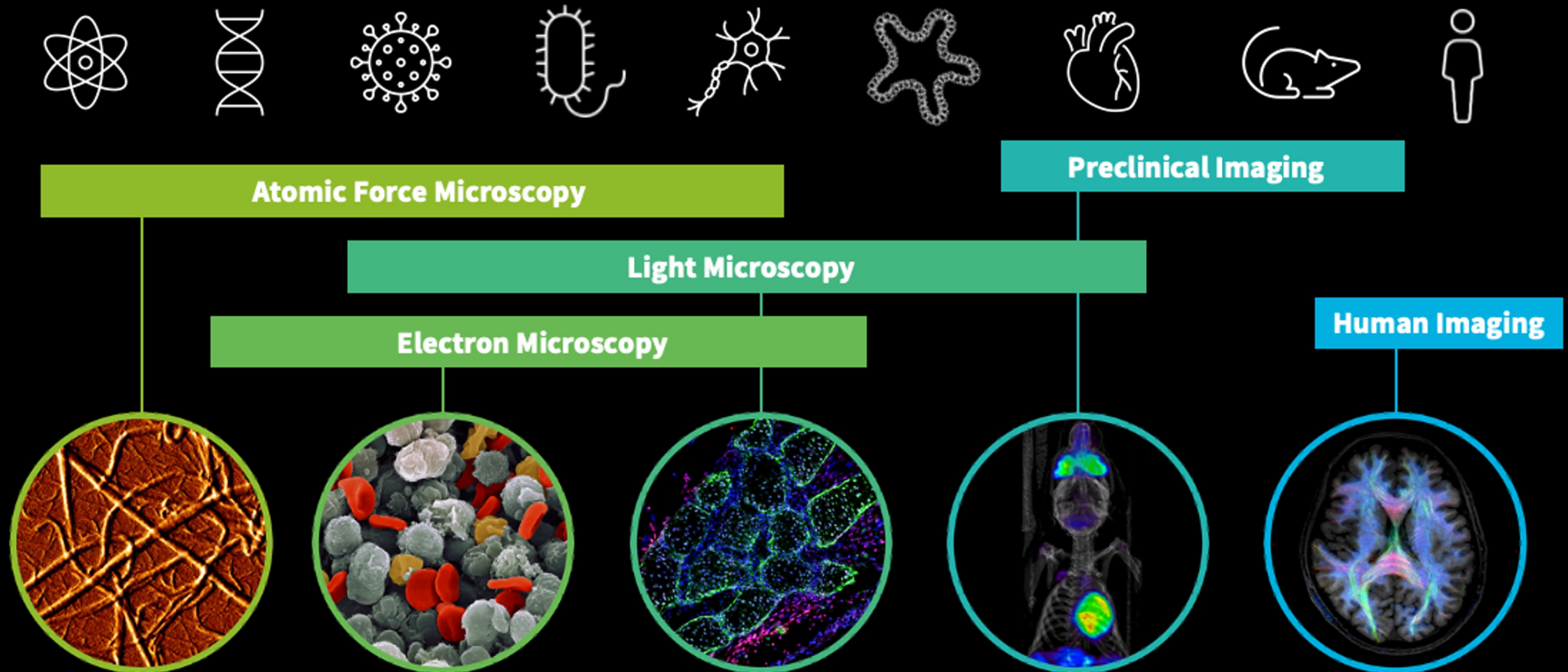


-  City with Euro-BioImaging facility
-  Hub (Coordination)
-  Member country
-  Observer country



# The Euro-Biolmaging technology portfolio

Imaging across scales, from molecule to man





# MMMI: a multi-site Node

MMMI Node is distributed over four cities (Torino, Milano, Napoli, and Pisa), with 8 facilities involved structured in a JRU:

➤ **Turin:**

University of Torino (Coordinator)

➤ **Milan:**

San Raffaele Hospital

CNR Institute of Bioimages and Molecular Physiology

➤ **Pisa:**

University of Pisa

CNR Institute of Clinical Physiology

Gabriele Monasterio Foundation

➤ **Naples:**

CNR Institute of Biostructures and Bioimages

IRCCS SYNLAB SDN





# MMMI Italian Node: facility@Torino



University of Torino

Department of Molecular Biotechnology and Health Sciences



## Center for Molecular Imaging Turin

preclinical 1 T MRI  
preclinical 7 T micro-MRI  
NIRF/BLI/X-ray imaging system



## Center for Preclinical Imaging @BioIndustry Park (50 km north from Turin)

preclinical 3 T MRI  
preclinical 7 T MRI  
NIRF/BLI imaging system  
1 US/PAI scanner



## Center for Translational Imaging Turin

preclinical 7 T MRI  
clinical 3 T MRI (coming soon)  
preclinical PET/SPECT/CT scanner



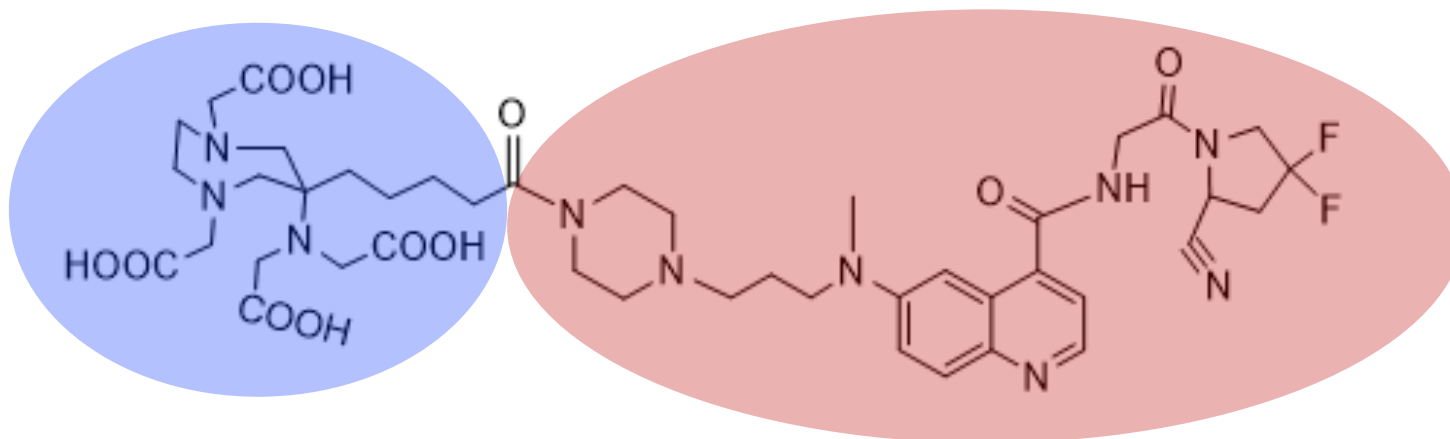
## Activities and Expertise @UniTO

- Paramagnetic (based on Gd(III), Mn(II), and Fe(III)) MRI contrast agents
- Design and preclinical validation of MRI-CEST Agents
- Development of  $^{19}\text{F}$ -MRI probes and related imaging procedures
- Metabolic Imaging & hyperpolarized MRI probes
- Imaging tumor microenvironment
- MRI at low (and variable) magnetic field and Boron Neutron Capture Therapy Agents
- Development of (nano)probes for Image-Guided Therapy procedures
- Nano- and micro-systems for *in vitro* and *in vivo* diagnostics/theranostics

## PRISMAP Call 1

Dual  $^{152}\text{Tb}/^{149}\text{Tb}$  radiolabelling and preclinical validation of an AAZTA-FAPI ligand for diagnostic and theranostic applications

### AAZTA-FAPI-46

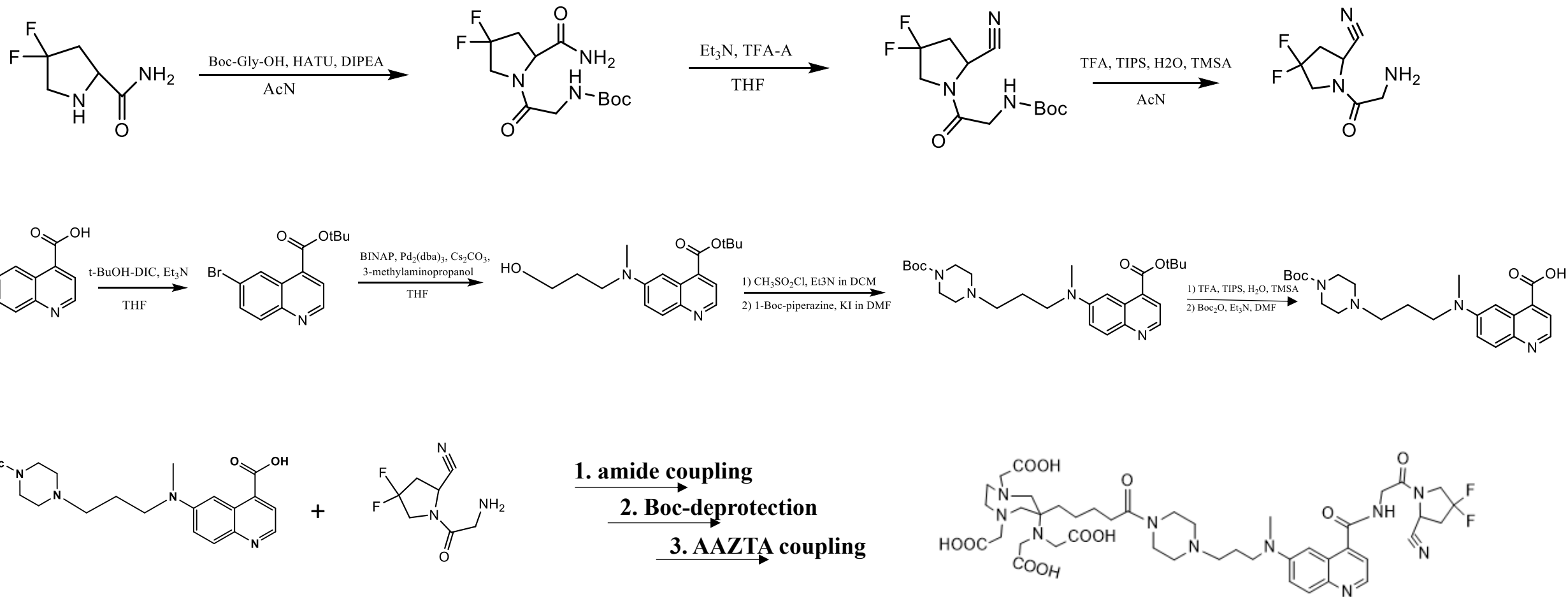


AAZTA chelator  
(excellent for both d- and f-metals)

FAP inhibitor  
(DOTA-chelator used on humans)



# AAZTA-FAPI-46: synthetic procedure



(overall yield ~ 6%)

(purity > 98 %)

# AAZTA: an excellent chelator for d- and f-metals

Inorg. Chem. 2004, 43, 7588–7590

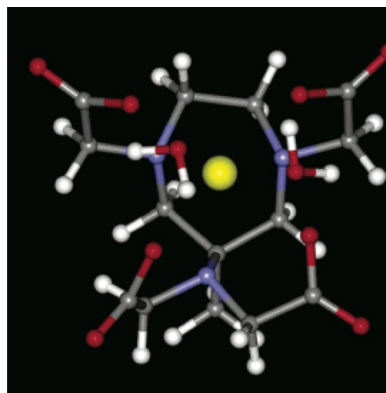
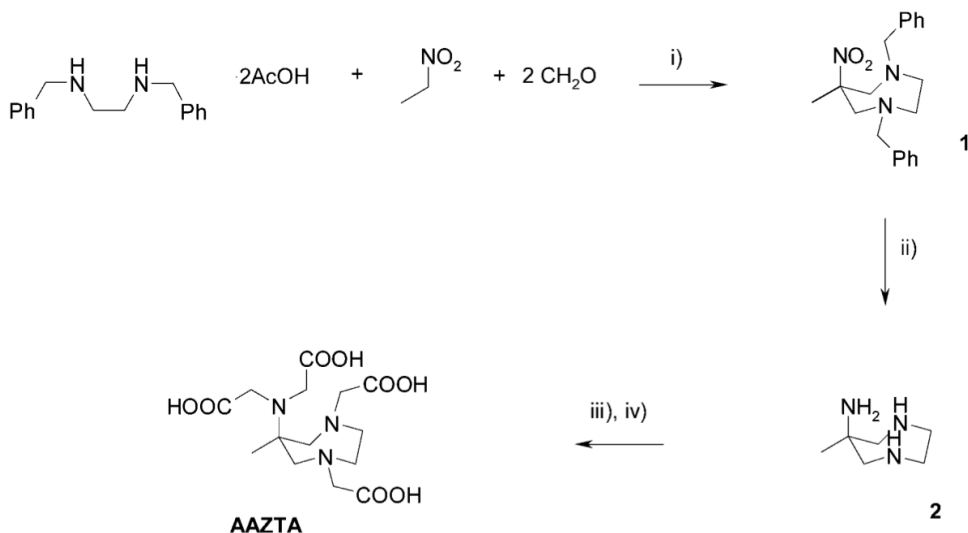
Inorganic Chemistry  
Communication

Proposed for the first time in 2004

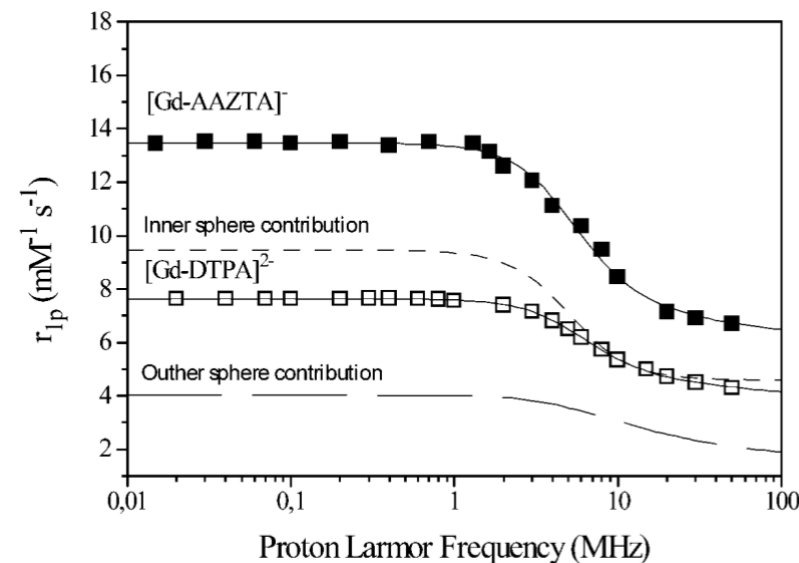
## [Gd-AAZTA]<sup>-</sup>: A New Structural Entry for an Improved Generation of MRI Contrast Agents

Silvio Aime,<sup>\*,†</sup> Luisella Calabi,<sup>‡</sup> Camilla Cavallotti,<sup>§</sup> Eliana Gianolio,<sup>†</sup> Giovanni B. Giovenzana,<sup>§</sup> Pietro Losi,<sup>‡</sup> Alessandro Maiocchi,<sup>‡</sup> Giovanni Palmisano,<sup>||</sup> and Massimo Sisti<sup>||</sup>

Dipartimento di Chimica I.F.M., Università degli Studi di Torino, Via P. Giuria 7, I-10125 Torino, Italy, Bracco Imaging S.p.A., Via Folli 50, I-20135 Milano, Italy, Dipartimento di Scienze Chimiche Alimentari Farmaceutiche e Farmacologiche, Università del Piemonte Orientale "A. Avogadro", Via Bovio 6, I-28100 Novara, Italy, and Dipartimento di Scienze Chimiche e Ambientali, Università degli Studi dell'Insubria, Via Valleggio 11, I-22100 Como, Italy



[Gd-AAZTA]<sup>-</sup>



2 fast-exchanging metal-coordinated water molecules

50 % of relaxivity enhancement compared  
with clinically approved MRI agent

# AAZTA: an excellent chelator for d- and f-metals

Nowadays, AAZTA returns 61 papers (Source: Scopus)

## Equilibrium and Kinetic Properties of the Lanthanoids(III) and Various Divalent Metal Complexes of the Heptadentate Ligand AAZTA\*\*

Zsolt Baranyai,<sup>[a, b]</sup> Fulvio Uggeri,<sup>[c]</sup> Giovanni B. Giovenzana,<sup>[d]</sup> Attila Bényei,<sup>[e]</sup>  
Ernő Brücher,<sup>[b]</sup> and Silvio Aime<sup>\*[a]</sup>

**CHEMISTRY**  
A EUROPEAN JOURNAL

*Chem. Eur. J.* **2009**, *15*, 1696–1705

Table 2. Protonation and stability constants of metal complexes of the ligands H<sub>4</sub>AAZTA and H<sub>5</sub>DTPA (25 °C).

	logK <sub>ML</sub>	H <sub>4</sub> AAZTA 0.1 M KCl			logK <sub>ML</sub>
		logK <sup>H</sup> <sub>MHL</sub>	logK <sup>H</sup> <sub>MH<sub>2</sub>L</sub>	logK <sup>H</sup> <sub>MLH<sub>-1</sub></sub>	
Mg <sup>2+</sup>	8.31 (0.01)	5.24 (0.06)	–	–	9.27
Ca <sup>2+</sup>	12.76 (0.01)	3.34 (0.01)	–	–	10.75
Sr <sup>2+</sup>	9.88 (0.01)	4.80 (0.05)	–	–	9.79
Mn <sup>2+</sup>	15.44 (0.01)	2.83 (0.03)	–	–	15.2
Cu <sup>2+</sup> <sup>[b]</sup>	20.51 (0.03)	4.00 (0.01)	2.72 (0.01)	10.81 (0.01)	21.5
Zn <sup>2+</sup>	18.01 (0.02)	3.87 (0.01)	2.36 (0.02)	11.25 (0.03)	18.6
Pb <sup>2+</sup> <sup>[c]</sup>	19.84 (0.04)	3.22 (0.04)	2.50 (0.05)	–	18.8
Cd <sup>2+</sup> <sup>[c]</sup>	17.94 (0.01)	3.25 (0.01)	2.05 (0.02)	–	19.0
La <sup>3+</sup>	17.53 (0.02)	1.97 (0.08)	–	–	19.48
Ce <sup>3+</sup>	18.62 (0.01)	1.47 (0.03)	–	–	20.5
Nd <sup>3+</sup>	19.41 (0.01)	1.73 (0.02)	–	–	21.6
Eu <sup>3+</sup>	19.93 (0.01)	1.91 (0.01)	–	–	22.39
Gd <sup>3+</sup>	20.24 (0.01)	1.89 (0.01)	–	–	22.46
Dy <sup>3+</sup>	20.39 (0.01)	1.52 (0.03)	–	–	22.82
Er <sup>3+</sup>	20.78 (0.02)	1.25 (0.06)	–	–	22.74
Yb <sup>3+</sup>	21.59 (0.03)	–	–	–	22.62
Lu <sup>3+</sup>	21.85 (0.04)	–	–	–	22.44

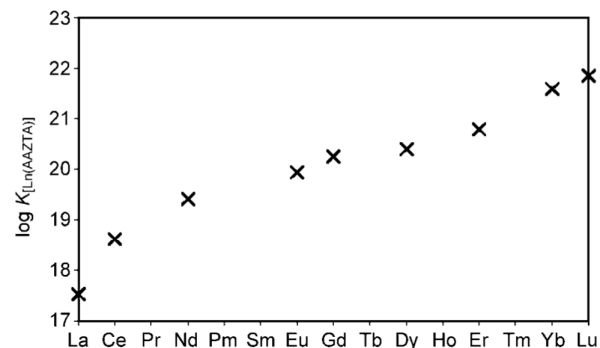


Table 4. Pseudo-first-order rate constants ( $k_{\text{obs}}^{\text{I}}$ ) and half-life ( $t_{1/2}$ ) for the dissociation of the complexes [Gd(AAZTA)]<sup>–</sup> and [Gd(DTPA)]<sup>2–</sup> at pH 7.4, [Cu<sup>2+</sup>] = 1 × 10<sup>–6</sup> M and [Zn<sup>2+</sup>] = 1 × 10<sup>–5</sup> M (25 °C, 1.0 M KCl).

	10 <sup>6</sup> × $k_{\text{obs}}^{\text{S}}$ [s <sup>–1</sup> ]	$t_{1/2}$ [h]
[Gd(DTPA)] <sup>2–</sup> <sup>[a]</sup>	1.51	127
[Gd(AAZTA)] <sup>–</sup>	0.045	4337



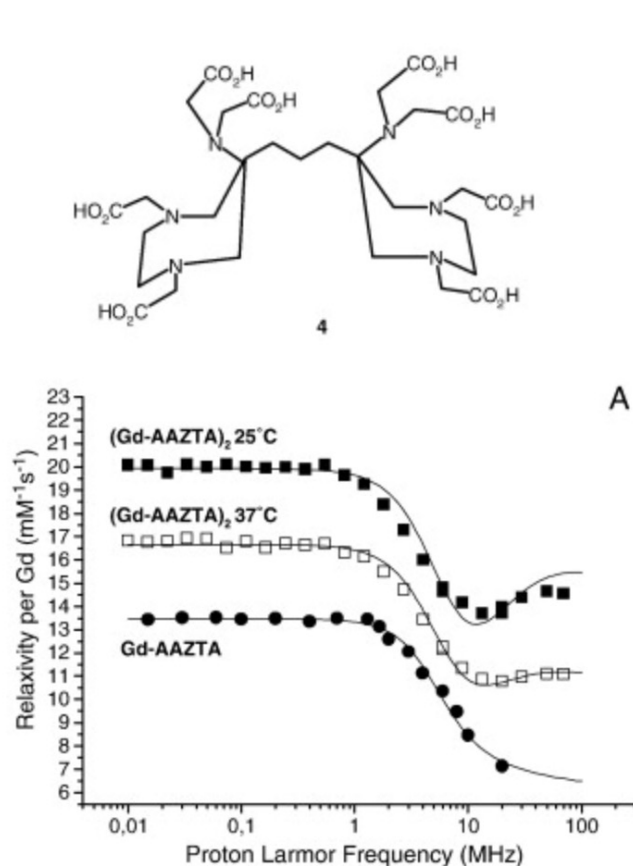
# AAZTA: an excellent chelator for d- and f-metals

Improving the relaxivity by dimerizing Gd-AAZTA: Insights for enhancing the sensitivity of MRI contrast agents

Eliana Gianolio <sup>a</sup>, Kondareddi Ramalingam <sup>b</sup>, Bo Song <sup>b</sup>, Ferenc Kalman <sup>a</sup>, Silvio Aime <sup>a</sup>, Rolf Swenson <sup>b</sup> ✉

Inorganic Chemistry Communications

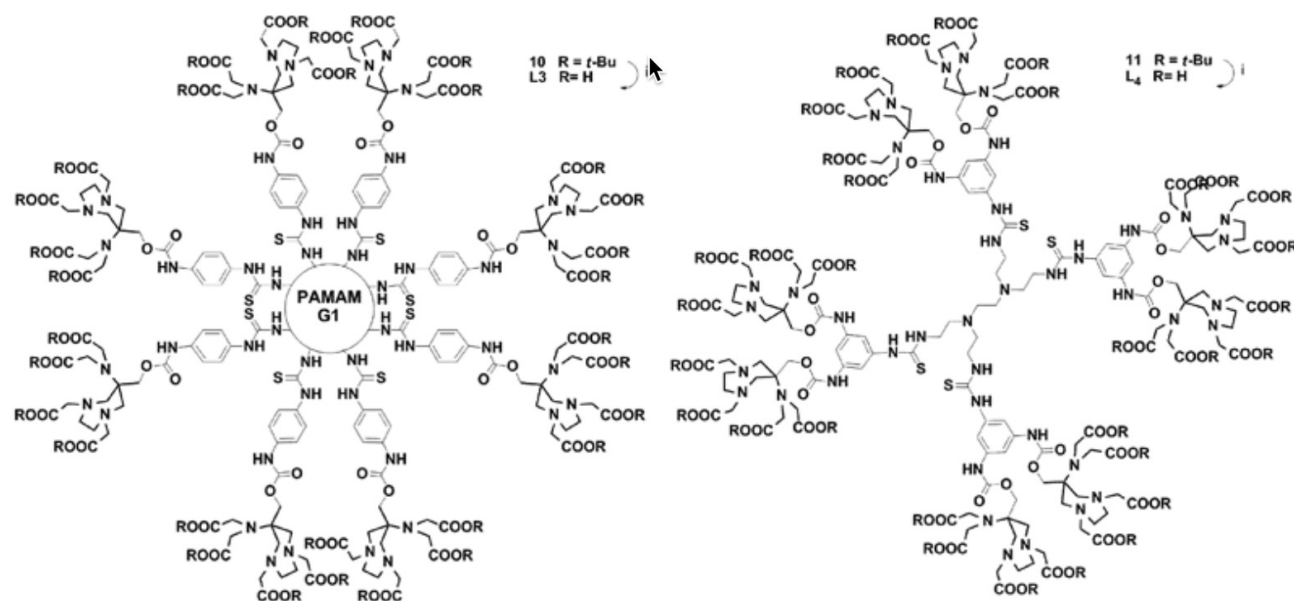
Volume 13, Issue 5, May 2010, Pages 663-665



AAZTA-based bifunctional chelating agents for the synthesis of multimeric/dendrimeric MRI contrast agents†

Giuseppe Gugliotta, <sup>a</sup> Mauro Botta <sup>a</sup> and Lorenzo Tei <sup>\*a</sup>

Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry 2010, 8, 4569-4574



Relaxivity (per Gd) *ca.* 22-24 mM<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>

Molecular relaxivity *ca.* 180-190 mM<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>

# AAZTA: an excellent chelator for d- and f-metals

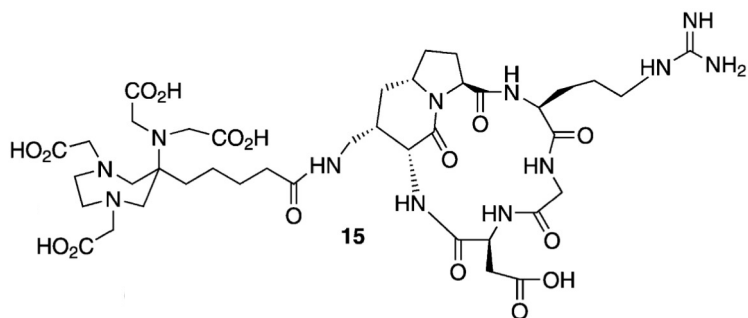
## Synthesis of Gd and $^{68}\text{Ga}$ Complexes in Conjugation with a Conformationally Optimized RGD Sequence as Potential MRI and PET Tumor-Imaging Probes

Leonardo Manzoni,<sup>\*,[a]</sup> Laura Belvisi,<sup>\*,[b, c]</sup> Daniela Arosio,<sup>[a]</sup> Maria Paola Bartolomeo,<sup>[d]</sup> Aldo Bianchi,<sup>[c]</sup> Chiara Brioschi,<sup>[d]</sup> Federica Buonsanti,<sup>[d]</sup> Claudia Cabella,<sup>[d]</sup> Cesare Casagrande,<sup>[c]</sup> Monica Civera,<sup>[c]</sup> Marilena De Matteo,<sup>[c]</sup> Lorenza Fugazza,<sup>[e]</sup> Luciano Lattuada,<sup>[d]</sup> Federico Maisano,<sup>[d]</sup> Luigi Miragoli,<sup>[d]</sup> Cristina Neira,<sup>[d]</sup> Michael Pilkington-Miksa,<sup>[c]</sup> and Carlo Scolastico<sup>[b, c]</sup>

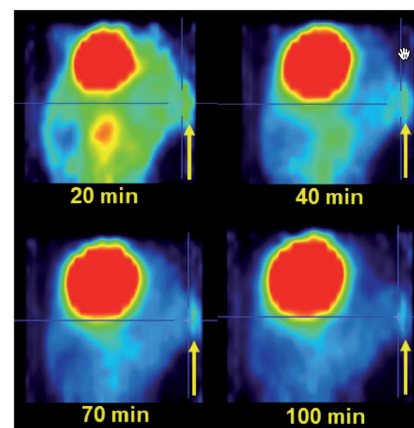
CHEMMEDCHEM

*ChemMedChem* 2012, 7, 1084 – 1093

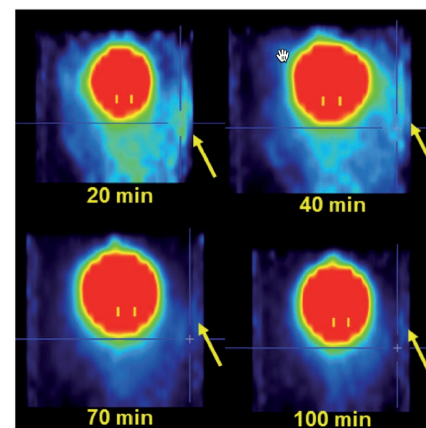
### Preclinical validation U87MG xenograft on mice



AAZTA-cRGDopt



Ga68-AAZTA-cRGDopt



Ga68-AAZTA

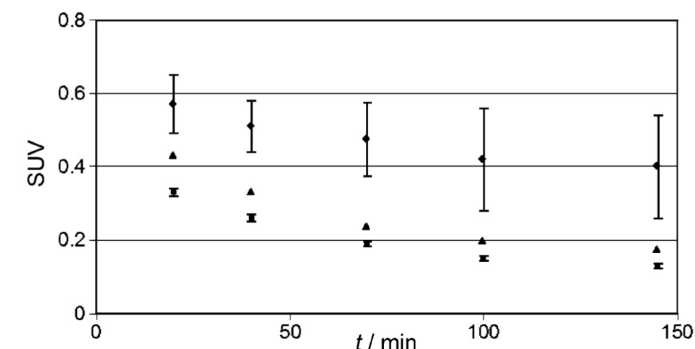


Figure 7. Time course uptake of  $^{68}\text{Ga}$  alone (◆), in co-administration with c(RGDfV) (▲), and  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ (AAZTA) (■) in U-87 MG xenograft mice.

# AAZTA: an excellent chelator for d- and f-metals

> [Chem Commun \(Camb\)](#). 2013 Jan 21;49(6):579-81. doi: 10.1039/c2cc37544c. Epub 2012 Dec 4.

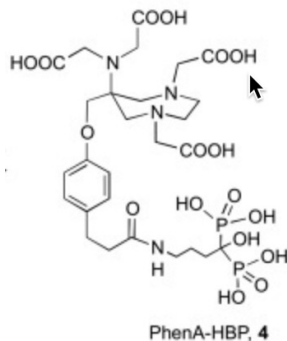
## Structure and stability of hexadentate complexes of ligands based on AAZTA for efficient PET labelling with gallium-68

Bradley P Waldron <sup>1</sup>, David Parker, Carsten Burchardt, Dmitry S Yufit, Melanie Zimny, Frank Roesch

> [Nucl Med Biol](#). 2016 Jun;43(6):360-71. doi: 10.1016/j.nucmedbio.2016.03.002. Epub 2016 Mar 10.

## New (68)Ga-PhenA bisphosphonates as potential bone imaging agents

Zehui Wu <sup>1</sup>, Zhihao Zha <sup>1</sup>, Seok Rye Choi <sup>1</sup>, Karl Plössl <sup>1</sup>, Lin Zhu <sup>1</sup>, Hank F Kung <sup>2</sup>



> [Org Biomol Chem](#). 2013 Feb 13;11(10):1683-90. doi: 10.1039/c2ob27200h.

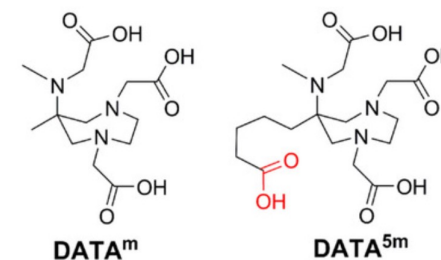
## Orthogonal synthesis of a heterodimeric ligand for the development of the Gd(III)-Ga(III) ditopic complex as a potential pH-sensitive MRI/PET probe

Nikolay Vologdin <sup>1</sup>, Gabriele A Rolla, Mauro Botta, Lorenzo Tei

> [Chemistry](#). 2017 Aug 1;23(43):10358-10371. doi: 10.1002/chem.201701508. Epub 2017 Jul 12.

## Equilibrium, Kinetic and Structural Properties of Gallium(III) and Some Divalent Metal Complexes Formed with the New DATA<sup>m</sup> and DATA<sup>5m</sup> Ligands

Edit Farkas <sup>1</sup>, Johannes Nagel <sup>2</sup>, Bradley P Waldron <sup>3</sup>, David Parker <sup>3</sup>, Imre Tóth <sup>1</sup>, Ernő Brücher <sup>1</sup>, Frank Rösch <sup>2</sup>, Zsolt Baranyai <sup>1 4</sup>





# AAZTA: an excellent chelator for d- and f-metals

> [Angew Chem Int Ed Engl.](#) 2017 Feb 13;56(8):2118-2122. doi: 10.1002/anie.201611207.

Epub 2017 Jan 18.

## AAZTA: An Ideal Chelating Agent for the Development of $^{44}\text{Sc}$ PET Imaging Agents

Gábor Nagy <sup>1 2</sup>, Dezső Szikra <sup>1 2</sup>, György Trencsényi <sup>1 2</sup>, Anikó Fekete <sup>2</sup>, Ildikó Garai <sup>1</sup>, Arianna M Giani <sup>3</sup>, Roberto Negri <sup>3</sup>, Norberto Masciocchi <sup>4</sup>, Alessandro Maiocchi <sup>5</sup>, Fulvio Uggeri <sup>5</sup>, Imre Tóth <sup>6</sup>, Silvio Aime <sup>7</sup>, Giovanni B Giovenzana <sup>3 8</sup>, Zsolt Baranyai <sup>5 6</sup>

> [J Inorg Biochem.](#) 2020 Mar;204:110954. doi: 10.1016/j.jinorgbio.2019.110954. Epub 2019 Dec 5.

## Gallium-68 and scandium-44 labelled radiotracers based on curcumin structure linked to bifunctional chelators: Synthesis and characterization of potential PET radiotracers

Giulia Orteca <sup>1</sup>, Jean-Philippe Sinnes <sup>2</sup>, Sara Rubagotti <sup>3</sup>, Michele Iori <sup>3</sup>, Pier Cesare Capponi <sup>3</sup>, Markus Piel <sup>2</sup>, Frank Rösch <sup>2</sup>, Erika Ferrari <sup>4</sup>, Mattia Asti <sup>3</sup>

> [Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging.](#) 2021 Jul;48(8):2351-2362. doi: 10.1007/s00259-020-05130-0.

Epub 2021 Jan 9.

## Synthesis, radiolabeling, and pre-clinical evaluation of [ $^{44}\text{Sc}$ ]Sc-AAZTA conjugate PSMA inhibitor, a new tracer for high-efficiency imaging of prostate cancer

S Ghiani <sup>1</sup>, I Hawala <sup>2</sup>, D Szikra <sup>3 4</sup>, G Trencsényi <sup>3 4</sup>, Z Baranyai <sup>5</sup>, G Nagy <sup>3</sup>, A Vágner <sup>3</sup>, R Stefania <sup>2</sup>, S Pandey <sup>6</sup>, A Maiocchi <sup>7</sup>

> [EJNMMI Radiopharm Chem.](#) 2019 Aug 1;4(1):18. doi: 10.1186/s41181-019-0068-1.

## AAZTA $^5$ /AAZTA $^5$ -TOC: synthesis and radiochemical evaluation with $^{68}\text{Ga}$ , $^{44}\text{Sc}$ and $^{177}\text{Lu}$

Jean-Philippe Sinnes <sup>1</sup>, Johannes Nagel <sup>1</sup>, Frank Rösch <sup>2</sup>

> [EJNMMI Radiopharm Chem.](#) 2020 Nov 26;5(1):28. doi: 10.1186/s41181-020-00107-8.

## $^{68}\text{Ga}$ , $^{44}\text{Sc}$ and $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -labeled AAZTA $^5$ -PSMA-617: synthesis, radiolabeling, stability and cell binding compared to DOTA-PSMA-617 analogues

Jean-Philippe Sinnes <sup>1</sup>, Ulrike Bauder-Wüst <sup>2</sup>, Martin Schäfer <sup>2</sup>, Euy Sung Moon <sup>1</sup>, Klaus Kopka <sup>2 3 4</sup>, Frank Rösch <sup>5</sup>

> [Nucl Med Biol.](#) May-Jun 2021;96-97:80-93. doi: 10.1016/j.nucmedbio.2021.03.007.

Epub 2021 Mar 26.

## AAZTA $^5$ -squaramide ester competing with DOTA-, DTPA- and CHX-A"-DTPA-analogues: Promising tool for $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -labeling of monoclonal antibodies under mild conditions

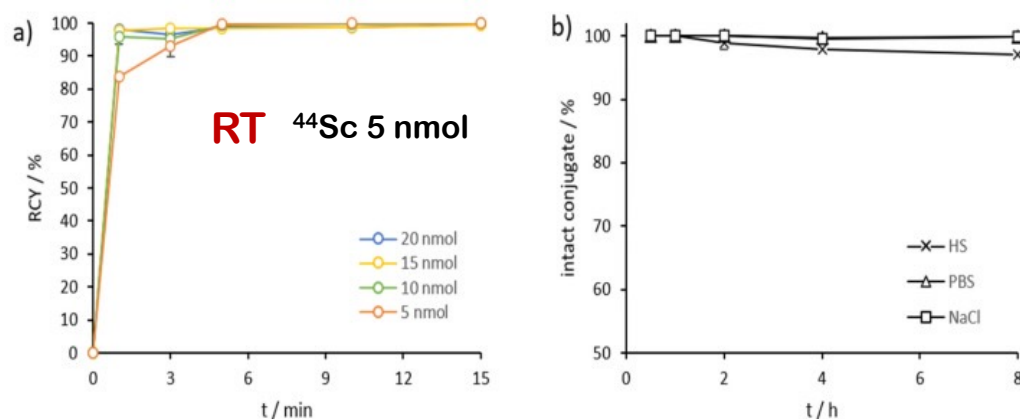
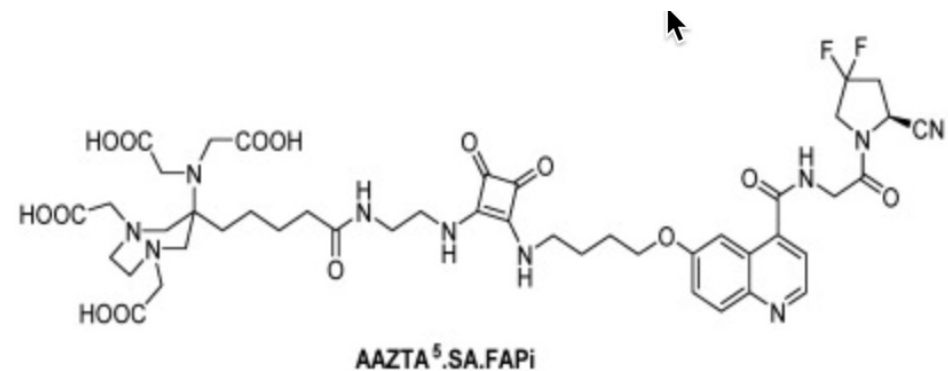
Benedikt Klasen <sup>1</sup>, Euy Sung Moon <sup>2</sup>, Frank Rösch <sup>3</sup>

# AAZTA: an excellent chelator for d- and f-metals

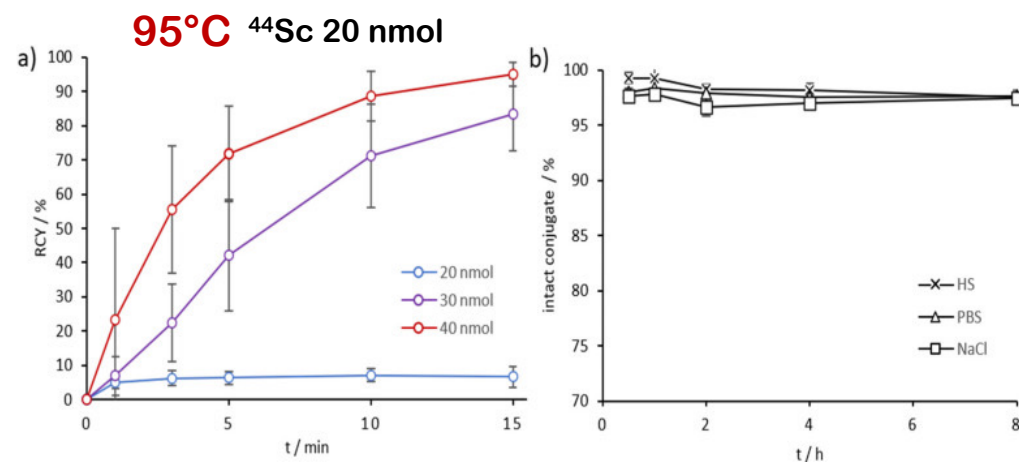
> [Molecules](#). 2021 Jun 8;26(12):3482. doi: 10.3390/molecules26123482.

## In Vitro Evaluation of the Squaramide-Conjugated Fibroblast Activation Protein Inhibitor-Based Agents AAZTA<sup>5</sup>.SA.FAPi and DOTA.SA.FAPi

Euy Sung Moon<sup>1</sup>, Yentl Van Rymentant<sup>2</sup>, Sandeep Battan<sup>1</sup>, Joni De Loose<sup>2</sup>, An Bracke<sup>2</sup>,  
Pieter Van der Veken<sup>3</sup>, Ingrid De Meester<sup>2</sup>, Frank Rösch<sup>1</sup>



Sc44-AAZTA<sup>5</sup>-SA-FAPi



Sc44-DOTA-SA-FAPi



## PRISMAP Call 1

### Dual $^{152}\text{Tb}/^{149}\text{Tb}$ radiolabelling and preclinical validation of an AAZTA-FAPI ligand for diagnostic and theranostic applications

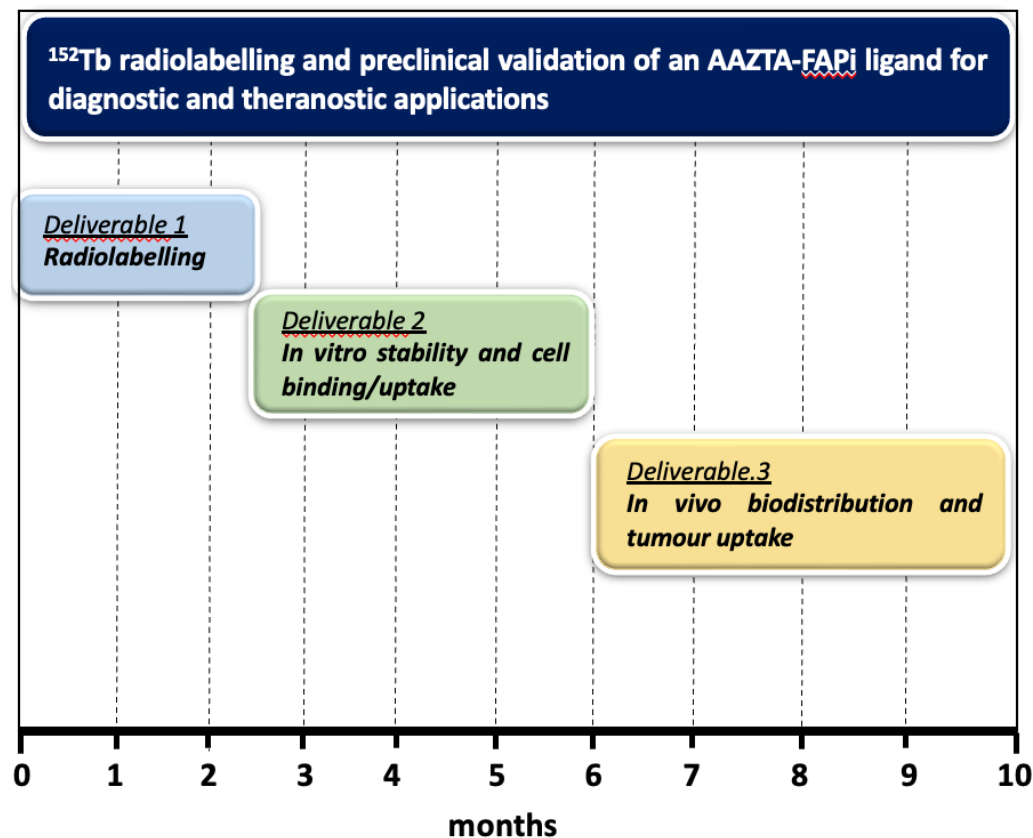
The User Selection Panel decided to adapt the requested services following the hearings and matching the capacity of the consortium. The indication was to focus on  $^{152}\text{Tb}$  imaging studies to gain practice in radiolabeling and submit a new project at a future call for studies with  $^{149}\text{Tb}$ .

Radionuclide production  
MEDICIS- CERN

Desired partners for biomedical applications

Nuklearmedizinische Klinik und Poliklinik  
Klinikum rechts der Isar der Technischen  
Universität München

Contact: PD Dr. Calogero D'Alessandria





Molecular & Preclinical Imaging Center  
Department of Molecular Biotechnology and Health Sciences  
University of Turin



# MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN BIOTECHNOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL SCIENCES IN DIAGNOSTICS

120 ECTS – 2 ACADEMIC YEARS – LANGUAGE: ENGLISH - BLENDED MODALITY

## Why attending the course?

Diagnostics is one of the basement pillars of biomedicine that is experiencing a continuous and breakless evolution from basic research to clinical applications.

This MSc programme will give you a cutting-edge competence on the chemical and biotechnological aspects of this field, providing the state-of-the-art of concepts, tools, and technologies for *in vitro* diagnostics and *in vivo* medical imaging.

This educational path will open the way to a brilliant professional career in academic or industrial research, core facility management, scientific administration.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

### Main topics applied to diagnostic field

- Advanced concepts of chemistry and biotechnology
- Bioanalytical methodologies
- Advanced cellular and molecular biology
- Setup of *in vitro* diagnostic kits
- Chemistry in medical imaging
- *In vivo* Medical Imaging
- Nanotechnology
- 'Omics'
- AI tools



For more information:  
<https://bcsd.campusnet.unito.it>

Lessons and Practical Activities

Language skills

Specialized courses

Stages and Experimental thesis

