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(Article begins on next page)

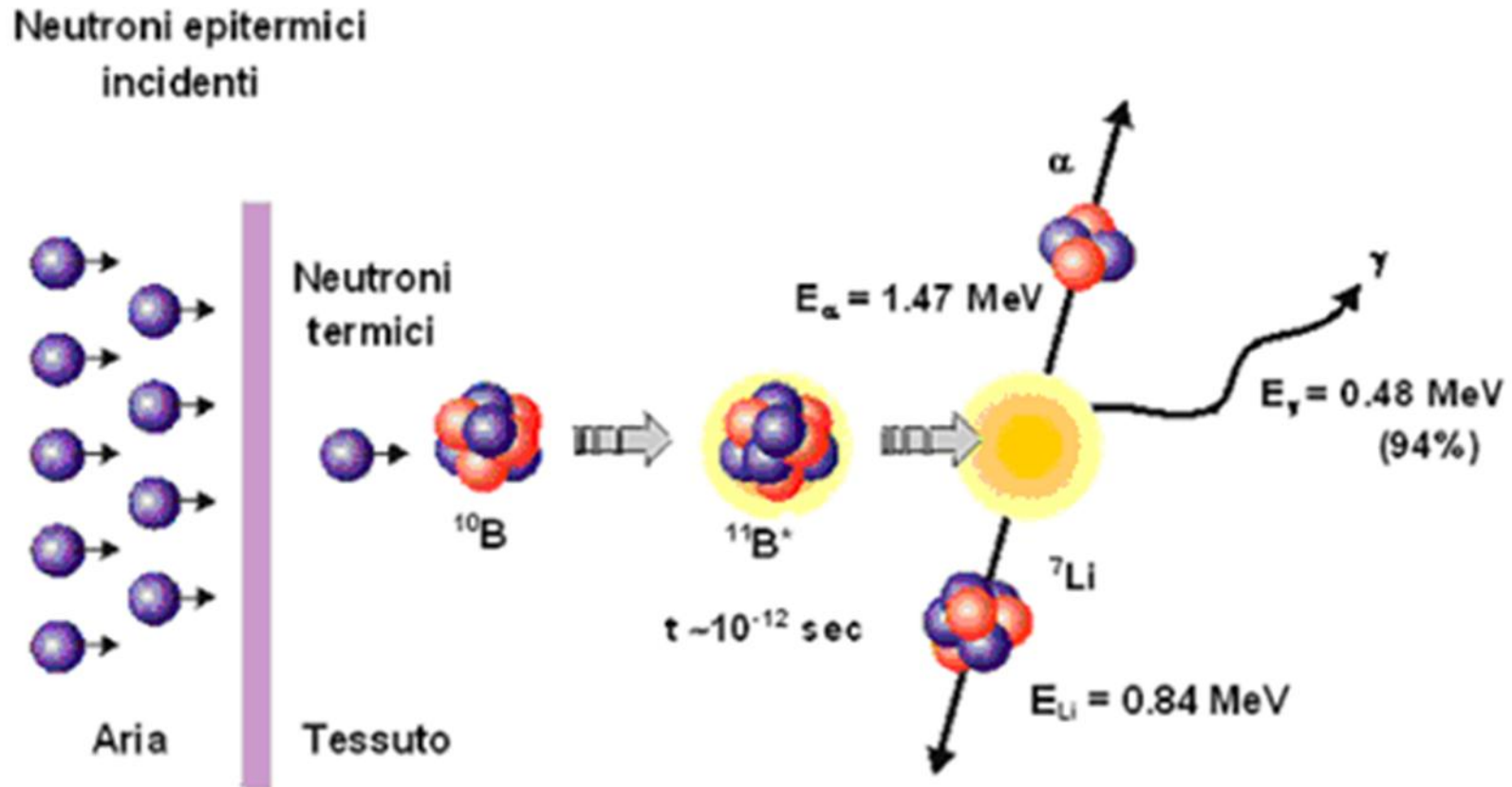
# New Synthetic Strategy of MRI/BNCT Agents Based on Hydroboration Reaction

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# Boron Neutron Capture Therapy



A. H. Soloway, W. Tjarks, B. A. Barnum, F. G. Rong, R. F. Barth, I. M. Codogni and J. G. Wilson, *Chem. Rev.* **1998**, *98*, 1515.

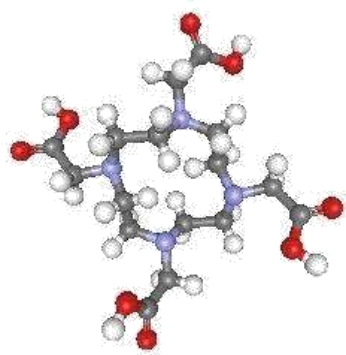
# Properties for BNCT agents

- **Low toxicity**
- **Good stability in biological environment**
- **Persistence inside target cells**
- **High boron introduction in tumor tissue:  
20 – 35  $\mu\text{g } ^{10}\text{B} / 1 \text{ gr cancer cells}$**
- **Concentration ratio cancer tissue/healthy tissue : 3 – 5 / 1**
- **Concentration ratio cancer tissue/blood : 5 / 1**
- **Efficient body scanning**

**R. F. Barth, J. A. Coderre, M. G. H. Vicente, T. E. Blue, *Clin.Cancer Res.*, 2005, 11, 3987**

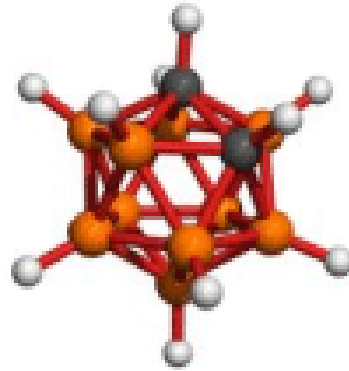
# MRI/BNCT dual agent: general structure

**MOLECULAR PROBE**



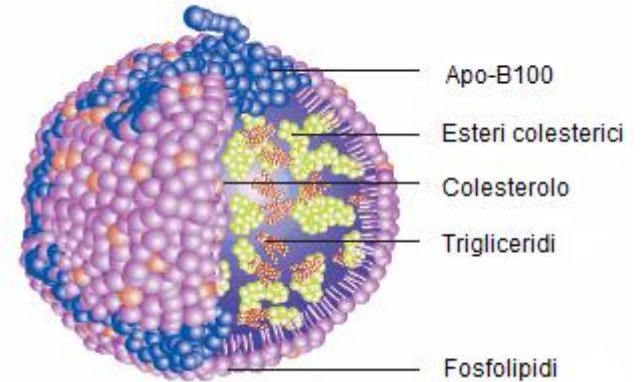
**[Gd-DOTA]<sup>-</sup>**

**CARBORANE**



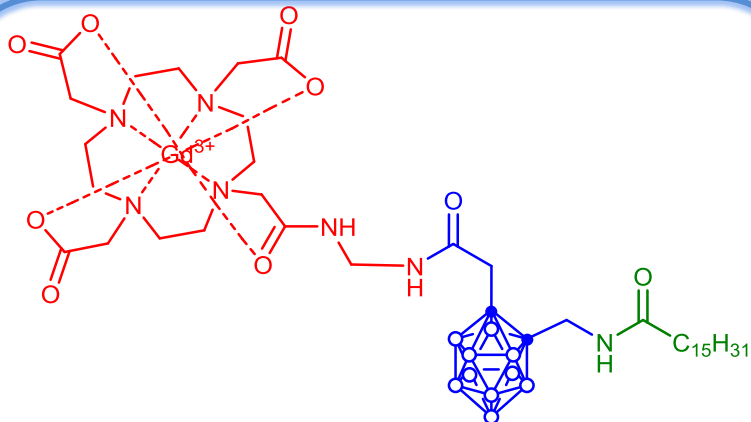
**Dicarba-*closo*-dodecaborane**

**BIOLOGICAL VECTOR**

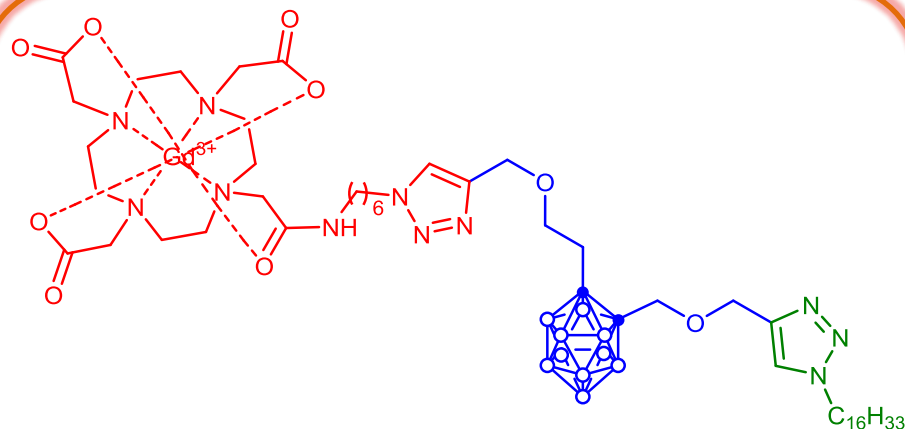


**Lipoprotein**

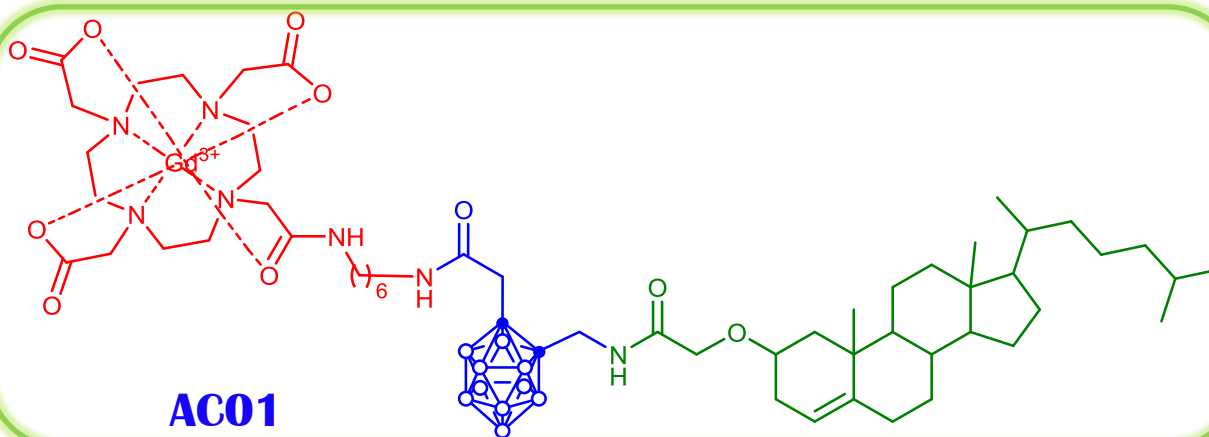
# Examples of MRI/BNCT agents



**AT101**



**MEA01**



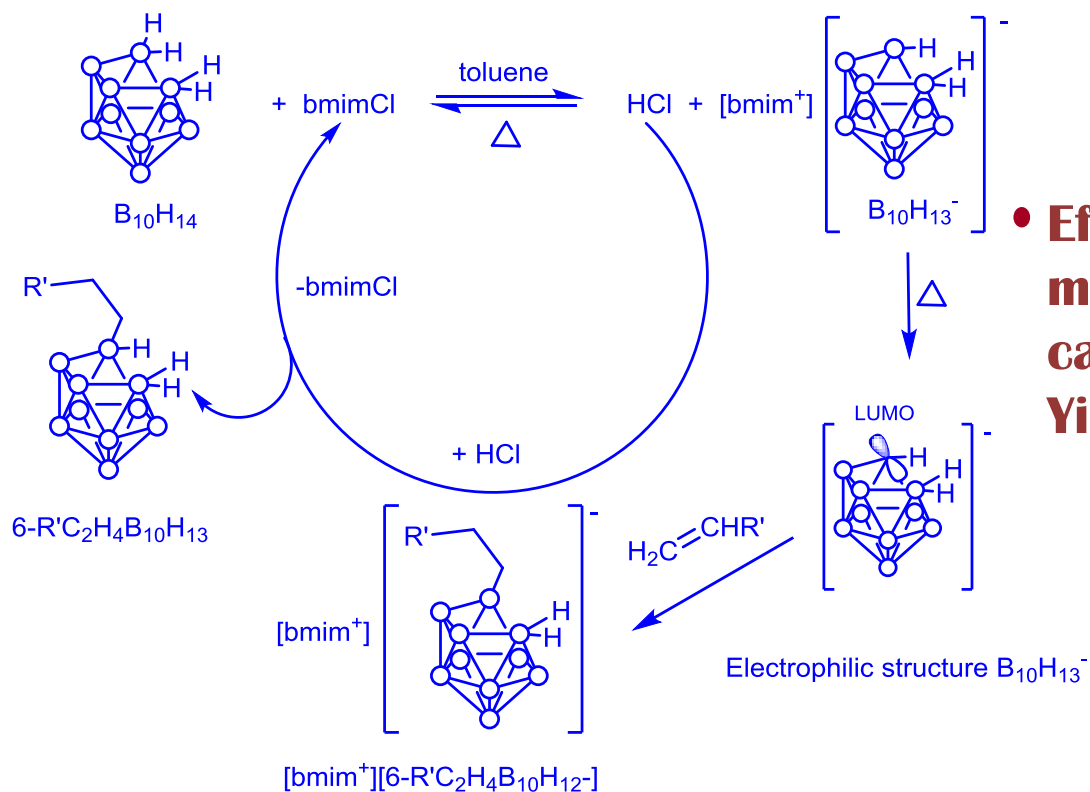
**AC01**

*Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2008, 6, 4460

*Chem. Eur. J.*, 2013, 19, 721 – 728

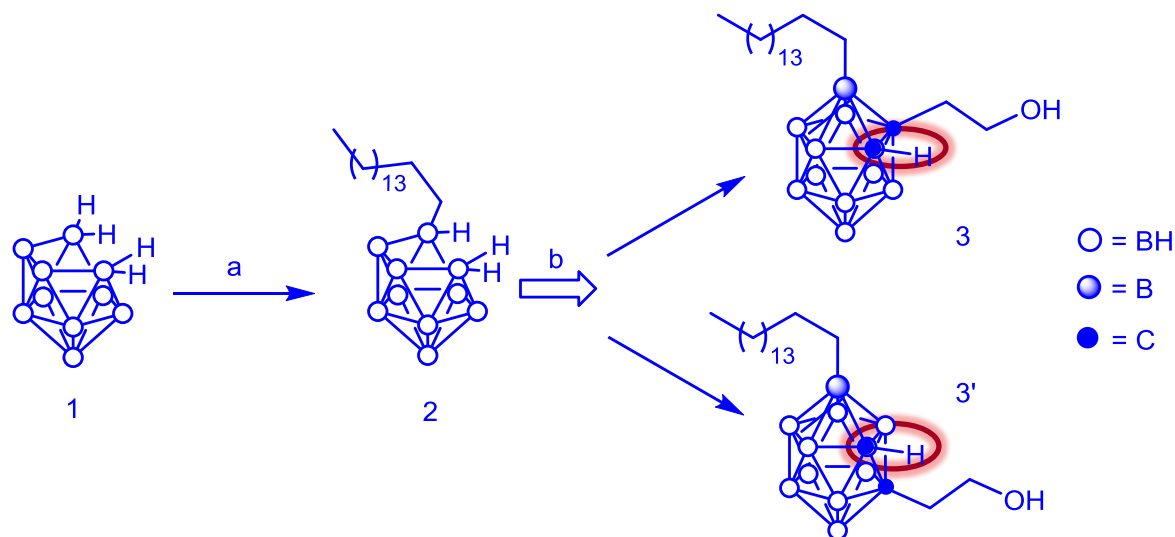
*Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2014, 12, 2457-2467

# New decaborane functionalization strategy: Hydroboration reaction



- **Efficient strategy for lipophilic moiety introduction on boron cage:**  
**Yield product: 55 – 92 %**

# New dual agent synthesis: PB01



Synthesis of *C*-(2-hydroxy)-ethyl-*C*-H-6-(hexadecil)-*o*-carborane (**3**)

a) 1-hexadecene (3.5 eq), bmimCl (0.3 eq), toluene, 125°C, yield 43%; b) 3-butyn-1-ol (4 eq), bmimCl (0.3 eq), toluene, 100°C, yield 40%

**Structure 3 : Isomer 1<sup>a</sup>**

**Chemical shift for **C-H****

**<sup>1</sup>H: 4.1 ppm**

**<sup>13</sup>C: 60.35 ppm**

**Structure 3' : Isomer 2**

**Chemical shift for **C-H****

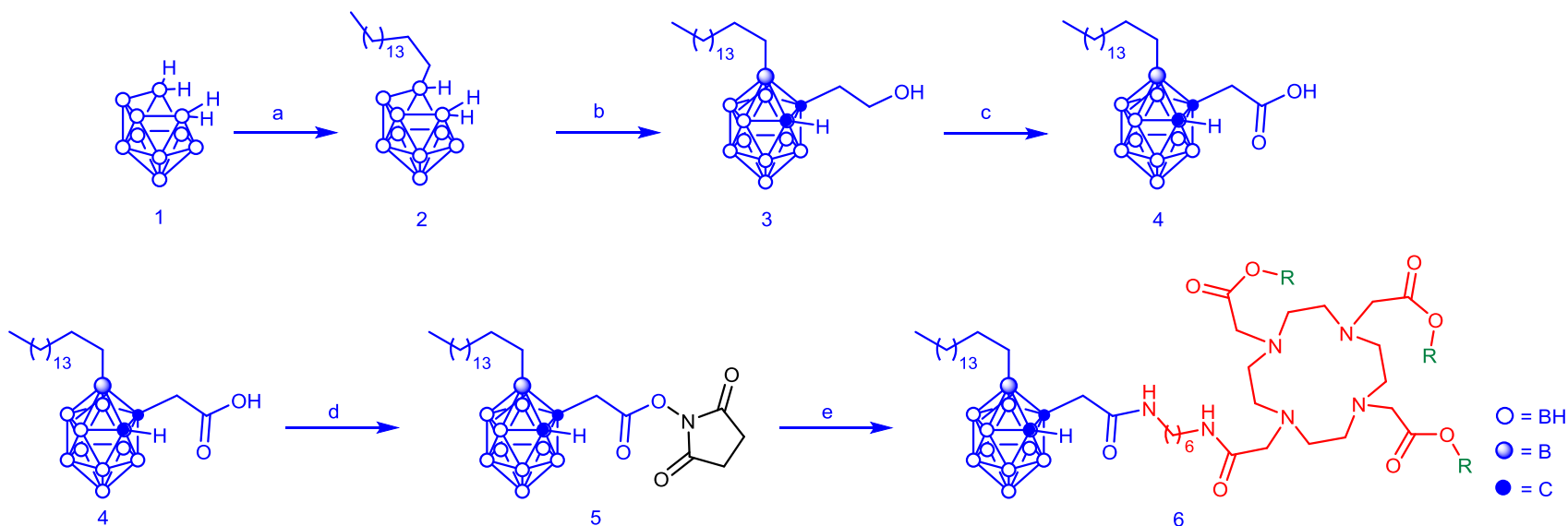
**<sup>1</sup>H: 3.8 ppm**

**<sup>13</sup>C: 61.47 ppm**

**<sup>a</sup> Molecular structure defined by X-ray diffrattometric study  
Structure acquired by Dott.ssa Domenica Marabello**



# New dual agent synthesis: PB01



## General procedure:

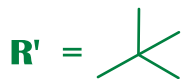
### Synthesis of *C*-[R<sub>3</sub>-DOTAMA-C<sub>6</sub>]-acetamide-*C'*-H-6-(hexadecyl)-*o*-carborane (**6**)

a) 1-hexadecene (3.5 eq), bmimCl (0.3 eq), toluene, 125°C, yield 43%; b) 3-butyn-1-ol (4 eq), bmimCl (0.3 eq), toluene, 100°C, yield 40%; c) CrO<sub>3</sub> (4 eq), H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (3M), acetone, room temperature, yield 77%

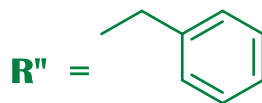
d) *N*-hydroxysuccinimide [NHS] (1.15 eq), dicyclohexylcarbodiimide [DCC] (1.2 eq), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, room temperature;

e) R<sub>3</sub>-DOTAMA-C<sub>6</sub> (0.95 eq), diisopropylethylamine [DIEA] (0.95 eq), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, room temperature, yield: 13 – 42%

## Protecting groups

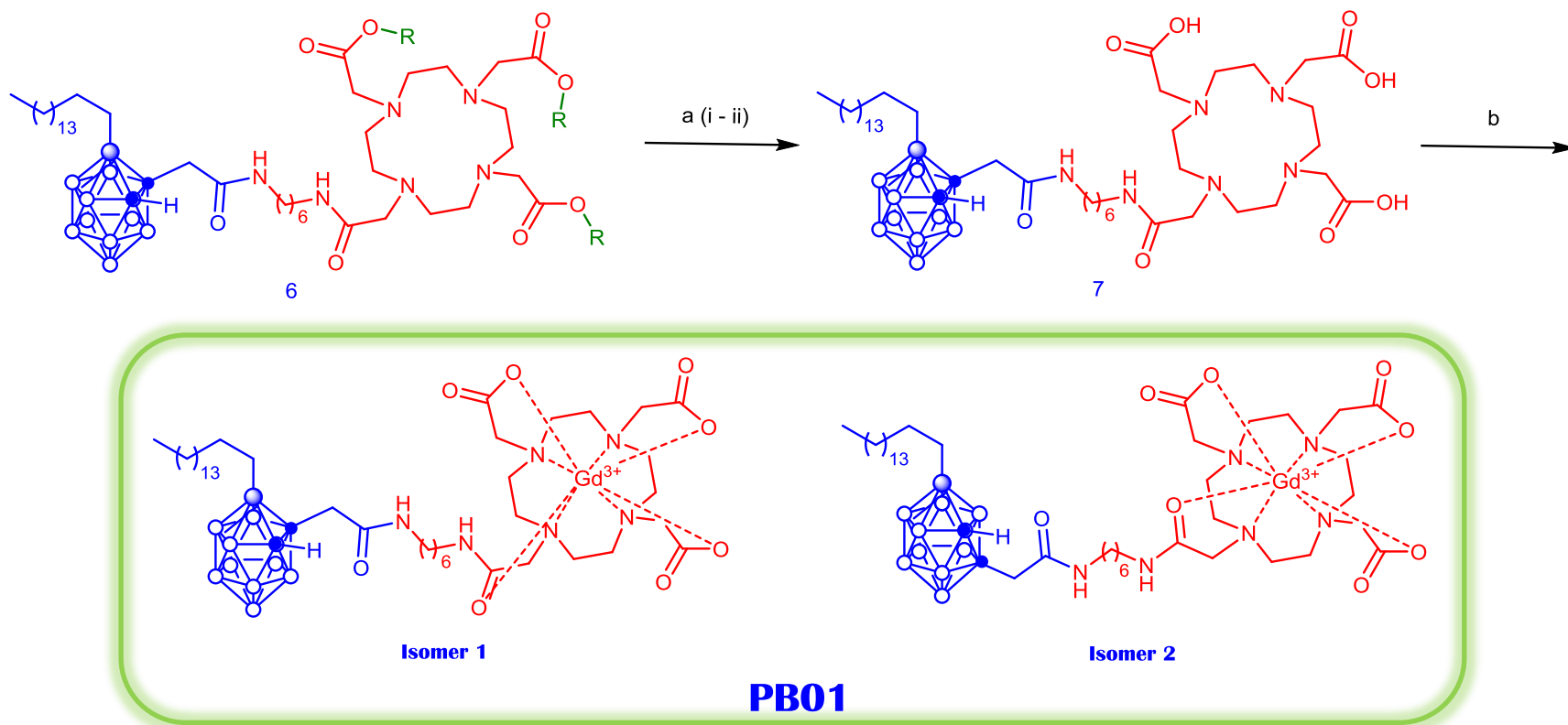


*ter*-Butyl



Benzyl

# New dual agent synthesis: PB01



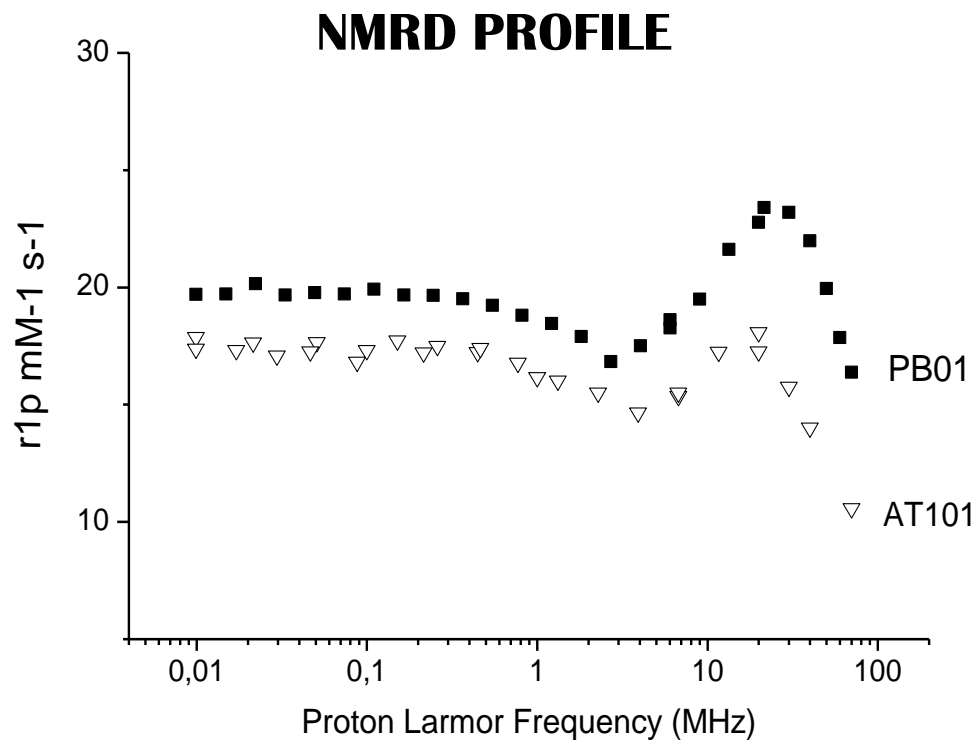
## Synthesis of PB01:

a) i R = *ter*-(Butyl)  $CF_3COOH$  (2 ml),  $CH_2Cl_2$ , room temperature, yield: > 99%

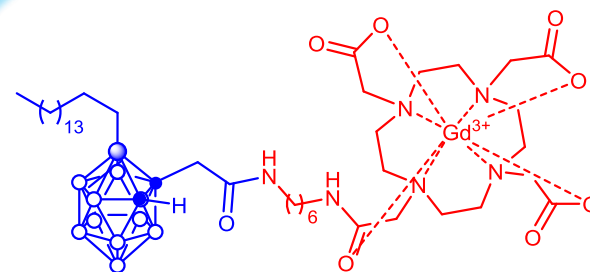
ii R = Benzyl  $H_2$ , Pd on carbon (20% w/w),  $CH_2Cl_2/CH_3OH$  (1/1), room temperature, yield: > 99%

b)  $GdCl_3$ ,  $H_2O$ , t. amb., pH. 7

# Comparison PB01-AT101

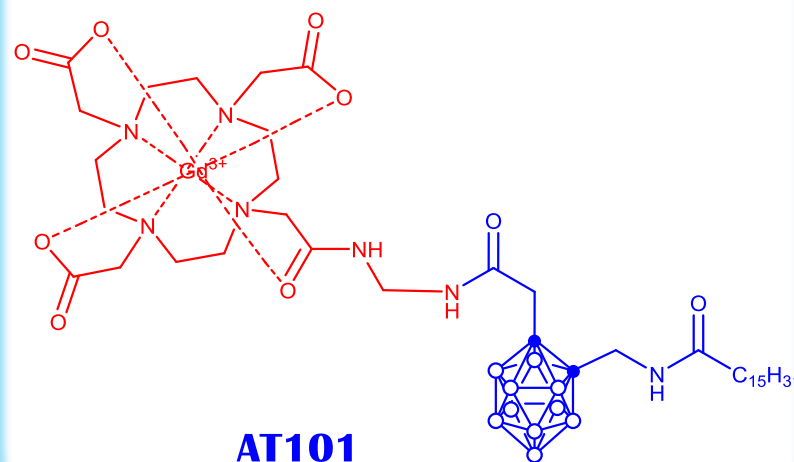


**Dott.ssa Simonetta Geninatti Crich**  
**Dott. Diego Alberti**



**PB01**

**Synthetic steps required: 6**



**AT101**

**Synthetic steps required: 14**

# Conclusions

**Synthesis of MRI/BNCT dual agent based on hydroboration reaction:**

- **efficient strategy for lipophilic moiety introduction on boron cage**
- **reduction of synthetic steps required**

**Experimental evidence for molecular structure of precursor (3):**

**X-ray diffractometric study**

**Preliminary relaxometric tests on PB01 interaction with LDLs show a Nuclear Magnetic Relaxation Dispersion (NMRP) profile superior in comparison with AT101**

# Aknowledgments

**Dott.ssa Domenica Marabello**

**X-ray diffractometric study**

**Prof. Claudio Medana**

**Mass spectra**