# Supplementary Materials: Fluorescent BAPAD Dendrimeric Antigens Are Efficiently Internalized by Human Dendritic Cells

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## <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra







Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of 2 in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S4. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (151 MHz) of 2 in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S5. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of 3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.







Figure S9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of 5 in D<sub>2</sub>O.













Figure S12. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz) of 6 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



















MALDI-TOF-MS and ESI-MS of Compounds 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 13

4700 Reflector Spec #1[BP = 854.5, 7384]



Figure S21. MALDI-TOF-MS of compound 1.





4700 Reflector Spec #1 MC[BP = 1024.4, 17817]

Figure S22. MALDI-TOF-MS of compound 2.



Figure S23. HRMS of compound 4.



Figure S24. HRMS of compound 5.





Figure S25. ESI-MS of compound 6.









m/z



Figure S28. ESI-MS of compound 11.

#### 4700 Reflector Spec #1 MC[BP = 919.2, 3339]



Figure S29. MALDI-TOF-MS of compound 13.

# Absorption and Fluorescence Emission Spectra



Figure S30. Absorption and fluorescence emission spectra of 1 at different concentration in PBS.



Figure S31. Absorption maximum depending on concentration of 1 in PBS ( $R^2 = 0.9946$ ).



Figure S32. Fluorescence emission maximum depending on concentration of 1 in PBS ( $R^2 = 0.996$ ).



Figure S33. Absorption and fluorescence emission spectra of 2 at different concentration in PBS.



Figure S34. Absorption maximum depending on concentration of 2 in PBS ( $R^2 = 0.9985$ ).



Figure S35. Fluorescence emission maximum depending on concentration of 2 in PBS ( $R^2 = 0.9948$ ).

#### **Molecular Dynamics Simulations Details**

*Dendron Building.* Dendrons are composed of three different residues: the naphthalimide core with the linker to the BAPAD unit (COR), the repetitive 3,3'-diaminopivaloyl units (REP), and the terminal end 3,3'-diamoniumpivaloyl unit (TAM). For the penicilloyl dendrons the terminal residue was an amoxicilloyl unit (AXM/AXH) (Figure S36). The pK<sub>a</sub> values of the amoxicillin are (2.4, 7.4 and 9.6) [1]. Thus, at physiological pH (7.4) the relation between [amoxi-NH<sub>2</sub>]/[amoxi-NH<sub>3</sub>+] = 1. Consequently, for the dendrons with amoxicilloyl groups we built them with two different terminal units: a terminal amoxicilloyl group (AXM) and a terminal amino protonated amoxicilloyl group (AXH). Then, equal numbers of terminal AXM and AXH were randomly inserted into the dendrons.

For all of these residues a cap region was defined and for missing bonds, angle, torsions or van der Waals parameters not included in the parm99 force field, the values were transferred from the general AMBER force field (GAFF) [2]. These moiety types were optimized and subjected to conformational analysis using TINKER-Software Tools for Molecular Design [3]. The minimum energy conformation was submitted to PCM(water)/MP2/HF/6-31G(d) basis set calculation using G09 [4]. The restrained potential (RESP) method was used for charge fitting [5]. During charge calculation, total cap atom charge was constrained to zero, and the overall full residue charge was also set to zero

except for the protonated residue (TAM), which was kept at +2. Decapped residues were created using the Antechamber module of Amber 12 [6], and used to build the desired dendrimer generation employing the Dendrimer Building Tool (DBT) [7].



Figure S36. Residue selection for dendrons. Cap atoms are shown in red.

Simulation Details. Full atomistic simulations were performed in water as explicit solvent at neutral pH. We used the AMBER 12 MD software package for all calculations [6]. To preserve overall charge neutrality and represent more realistic conditions for an appropriate number of Cl<sup>-</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup> counterions were added, and the molecules solvated, using the TIP3P water model [8], in truncated octahedral cells. In all cases the dimensions of these cells were chosen to provide a minimum 10 Å solvation shell around the dendron structure. The initial properties of dendrons **1** and **2** are collected in Table S1.

**Table S1.** Initial properties of dendrons and simulation details.  $N_{den}$ ,  $N_{CI}$ ,  $N_{Na^+}$ ,  $N_{water}$  and  $N_{total}$  are, respectively, the number of dendron atoms, chloride ions, sodium ions, atoms in solvent molecules and the total number of atoms. V is the initial octahedral box volume.

Dendron	Nden	Nc⊢	$N_{ m Na^+}$	$N_{ m water}$	$N_{ m total}$	V (Å3)
1	123	4	_	6111	6238	74,540
2	293	2	4	5916	6215	75,513

Solvated structures were minimized as described previously [7], using six cycles of conjugated gradient minimization. During the initial cycle, dendrimers were kept in their starting conformation using a harmonic constraint with a force constant of 500 kcal/mol-Å<sup>2</sup>. This was followed by another five periods of minimization while decreasing the harmonic restraint force constant from 20 kcal/mol-Å<sup>2</sup> to zero in steps of 5 kcal/mol-Å<sup>2</sup>.

To allow a slow relaxation of the assembled dendrimer-solvent system, the minimized structure was heated slowly from 0 to 300 K with three steps of 40 ps of MD, the first of them under conditions of constant volume-constant temperature (NVT) and the rest under constant pressure-constant temperature (NPT) conditions. Initially, we applied a weak 20 kcal/mol-Å<sup>2</sup> harmonic constraint to the solute starting structure and slowly decreased it to zero in 5 kcal/mol-Å<sup>2</sup> steps. Finally, we carried out 2 ns of unconstrained MD simulation in NPT ensemble to equilibrate the system at 300 K. To solve the motion equation we used the Verlet leapfrog algorithm [9], with an integration step of 2 fs. Bond lengths involving bonds to hydrogen atoms were constrained using the SHAKE algorithm [10], using a geometrical tolerance of  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  Å.

Finally, starting from the configurations generated by the above procedure, production runs of 40 ns trajectories were performed under an NPT ensemble. Temperature regulation was achieved

using the Berendsen weak coupling method (1 ps time constant for heat bath coupling and 0.5 ps for pressure relaxation time) [11]. The particle-mesh Ewald (PME) algorithm was employed to treat long-range electrostatic interactions [12], with a real space cut off of 9 Å. The same cutoff was used for van der Waals interactions. For the structural analyses ( $R_g$ , RDF, *etc.*) the last 1 ns equilibrated trajectory was used. Amber modules *ptraj* and *cpptraj* were used to accomplish these analyses.

#### Autocorrelation Function

Dendrimer relaxation was determined from the autocorrelation function of the squared radiusof-gyration,  $C_{R_{\alpha}^{2}}(t)$  which is evaluated from the expression [13]:

$$C_{R_g^2}(t) = \frac{\langle R_g^2(0) R_g^2(t) \rangle - \langle R_g^2 \rangle^2}{\langle R_q^4 \rangle - \langle R_g^2 \rangle^2}$$

The resulting graph is presented in Figure S2. In all cases  $C_{R_g^2}(t)$  decays to 0 at time scales shorter than 1 ns, implying that the simulation times are sufficient to sample enough independent configurations in order to average static properties.



Figure S37. Correlation functions of the squared radius of gyration for dendrons 1 and 2.

### Radius of Gyration

Dendrimer size can be quantified by considering the radius of gyration  $R_g$  of the molecular structure, computed as follows:

$$R_g = \left(\frac{\sum_i \|r_i\|^2 m_i}{\sum_i m_i}\right)^{1/2}$$

where  $m_i$  is the mass of atom *i* and  $r_i$  the position of atom *i* with respect to the molecule's center of mass.



Figure S38. Time evolution of the Radius of Gyration against the last nanosecond for dendrons 1 and 2.

#### Radius of the Solvent Accessible Surface Area (SASA)

Assuming a perfect sphere, the Solvent Accessible Surface Area (SASA) is:

$$SASA = 4\pi (R_{SASA} + p)^2$$

where  $R_{SASA}$  is the radius of the *SASA* and *p* is the radius of the probe. Plotting (SASA)<sup>1/2</sup> *vs. p* show that for larger probe radius, (for these molecules for p > 4), (SASA)<sup>1/2</sup> is linear in *p* with a slope  $(4\pi)^{1/2} = 3.54$ . The intercept at zero probe radius leads to estimate the area of the molecule as they were spheres.



**Figure S39.** Square root of Solvent Accessible Surface Areas (SASA) as a function of probe radius *p* for dendrons **1** and **2**. A theoretical slope  $(4\pi)^{1/2} = 3.54$  was used.

### Dendrons Shape

A structure characteristic of dendrons **1** and **2** can be obtained by considering average values of the three principal moments of inertia  $I_x$ ,  $I_y$ ,  $I_z$  (in descending order). Molecular asphericity was calculated as defined [14]:

$$\delta = 1 - 3 \frac{\langle I_2 \rangle}{\langle I_1^2 \rangle}$$

where  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  are the first and second invariants of the radius of gyration tensor:  $I_1 = I_x + I_y + I_z$ ,  $I_2 = I_xI_y + I_yI_z + I_xI_z$ . This quantity assumes values between 1 (for a linear array of atoms) and 0 (for shapes of high 3D similarity).

#### Monomer Radial Distribution Functions

Dendrimer conformation can be conveniently expressed through the average radial distribution function  $\rho(r)$ , which can be defined by counting the number N(r) of atoms whose centers of mass are located within the spherical shell of radius r and thickness  $\Delta r$ . Hence, integration over r yields the total number of atoms as:  $N(r) = 4\pi \int_0^\infty r^2 \rho(r) dr$ , where r is the distance from the dendrimer center of mass.



**Figure S40.** Radial distribution function of dendrons **1** and **2**, with its monomers using dendrimer center of mass as reference. The unit value for  $\rho(r)$  is expressed in atoms/Å<sup>3</sup>.

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