



CARBOHYDE
REVOLUTION OF
CYCLODEXTRINS

Cyclodextrins as Gene Delivery Systems



OUTLINES

- General concepts
- Cationic Polymers
- CDs as Pure Vectors
- Conclusions



Gene Delivery Systems

Viral Vectors

Adenovirus



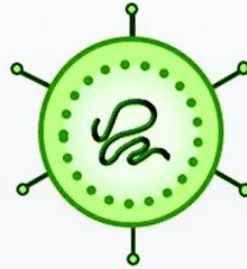
AAVV



Herpes Virus



Lentivirus

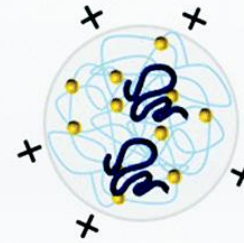


Non-viral Vectors

Cationic
Lipid-based Particles



Cationic
Polymers



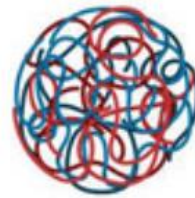
Inorganic
Nanomaterials



Non-viral Vectors



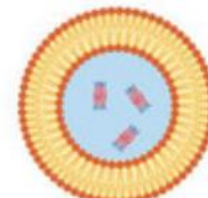
Natural Materials
(Sugars)



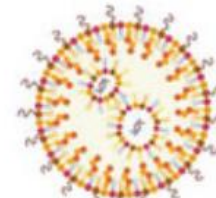
Polymeric
nanoparticle



Dendrimers



Liposome



Lipid
nanoparticle
(LPN)



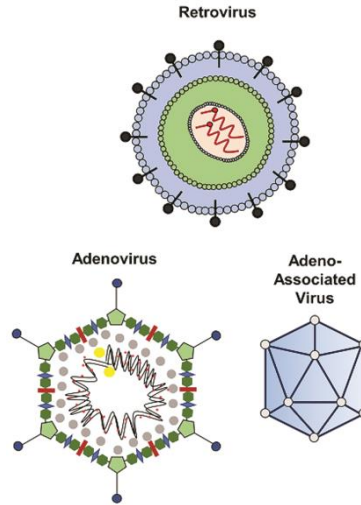
Silica
nanoparticle



Overcoming Limitations

Viral vectors

- High immunogenicity
- Pre-existing immunity
- Limited cargo Capacity
- Safety concerns
(viral replication, insertional mutagenesis)
- High cost
- Inhibited by some drugs
(anti-coagulants)



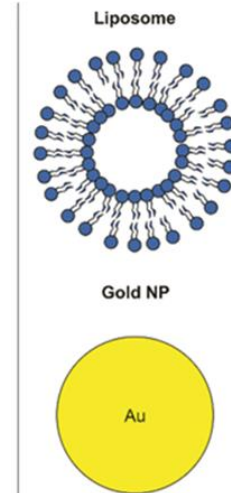
Non-viral vectors (*Pro*)

- Better biocompatibility
- Lower immunogenicity
- Lower risk of pre-existing immunity
- Large payload capacity
- Safer (no viral replication, no insertional mutagenesis)
- Greater versatility

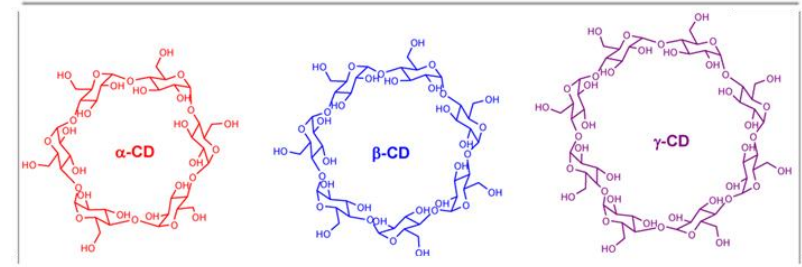
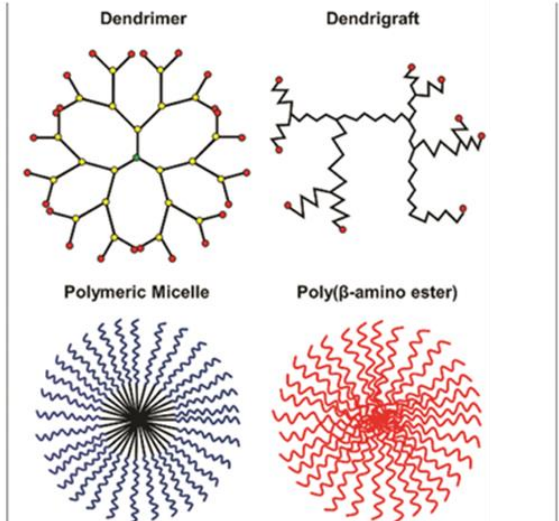
Non-viral vectors (*Contra*)

- Low transfection efficiency
- Still exhibit toxicity or immunogenicity
- Issues with reproducibility
- Shorter duration of gene expression
- Poor in-vivo stability

Non-Polymeric Vectors



Polymeric Vectors



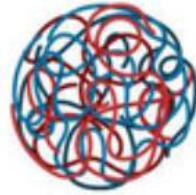


Why CDs?

Non-viral Vectors



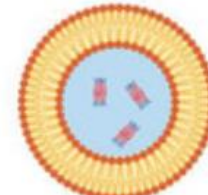
Natural Materials
(Sugars)



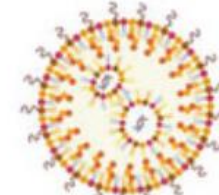
Polymeric
nanoparticle



Dendrimers



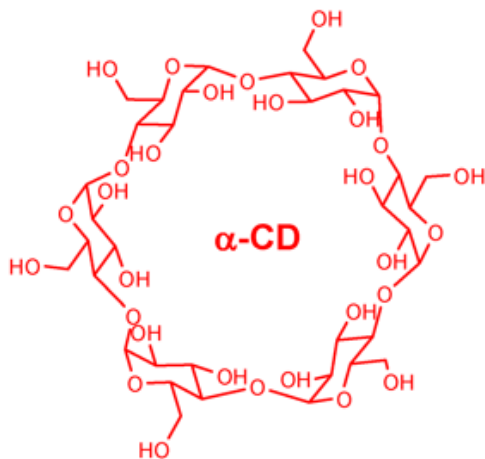
Liposome



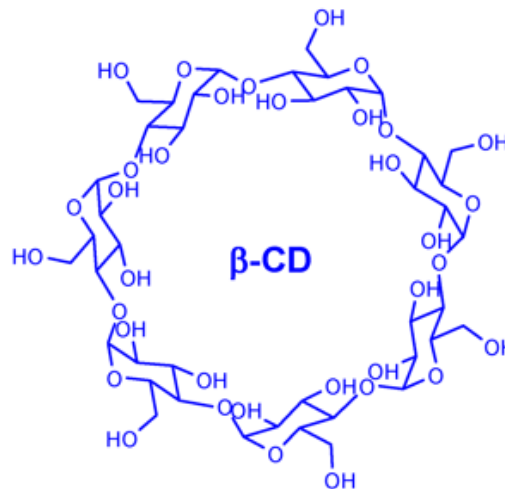
Lipid
nanoparticle
(LPN)



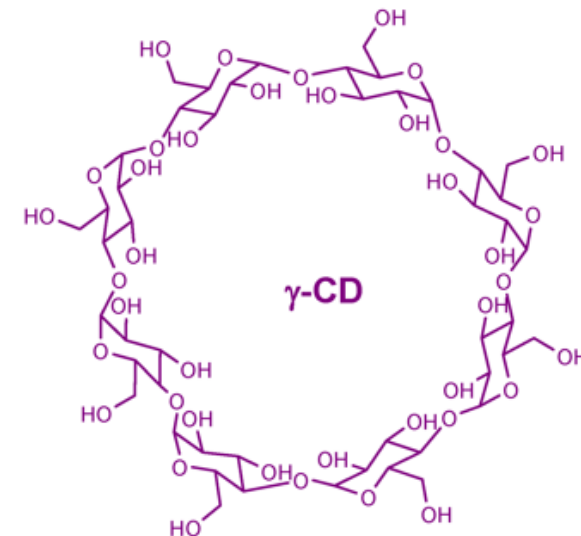
Silica
nanoparticle



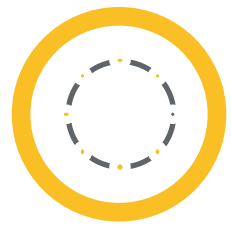
α -CD



β -CD

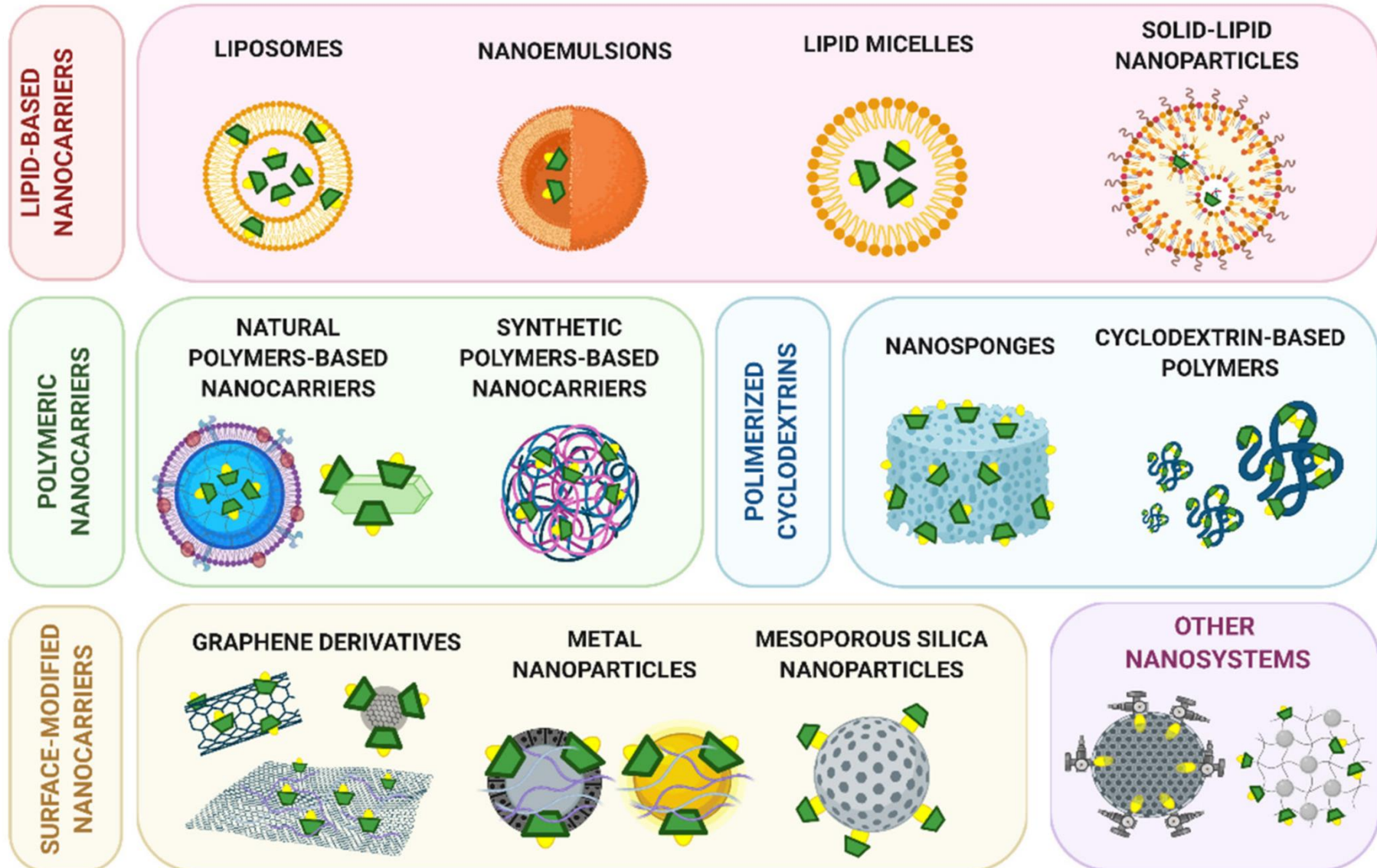


γ -CD



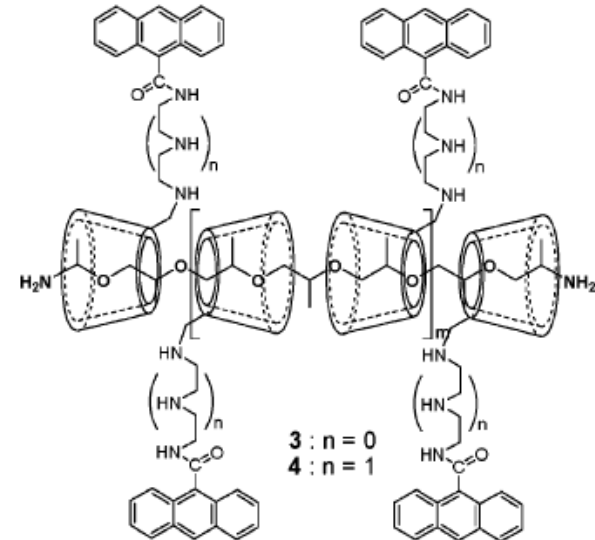
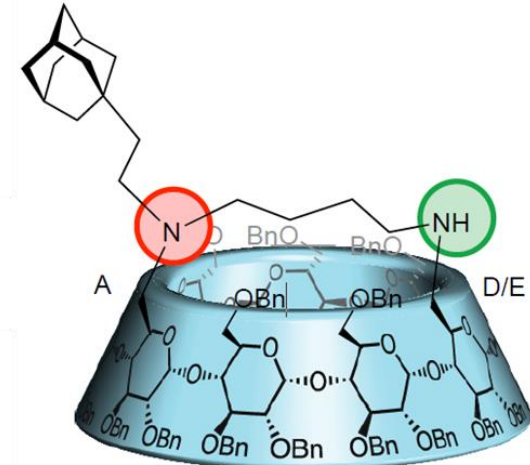
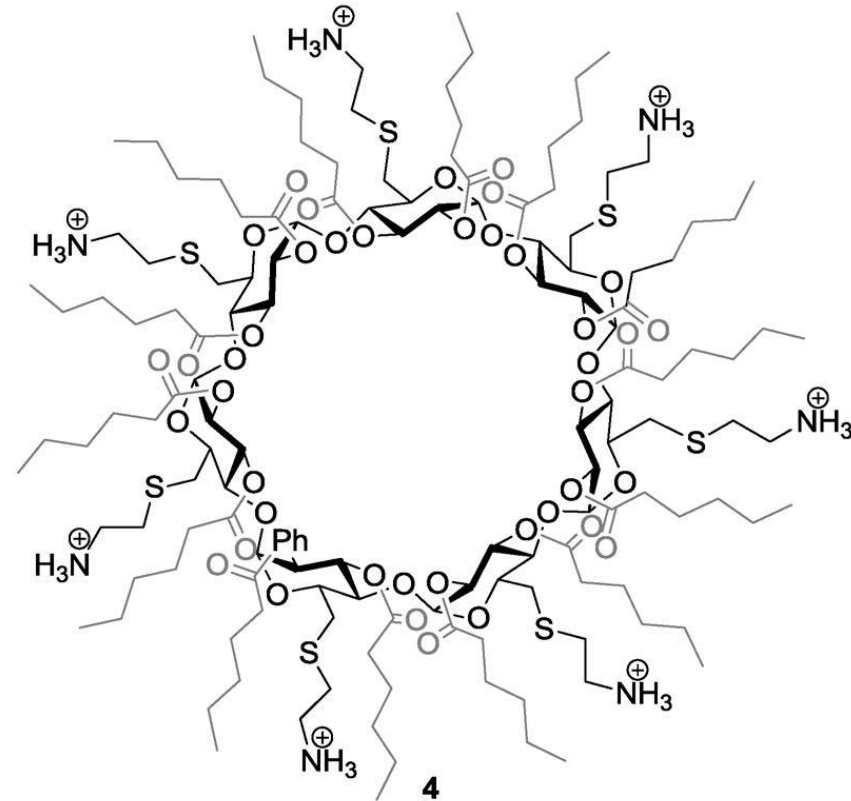
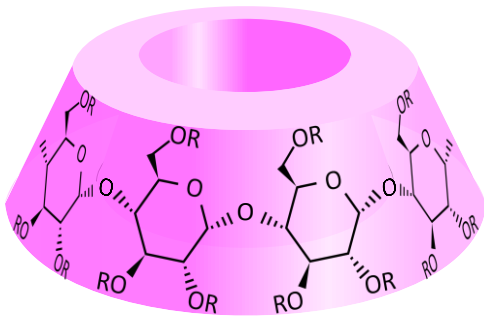
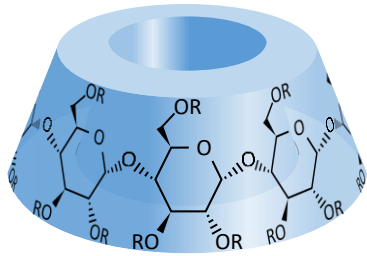
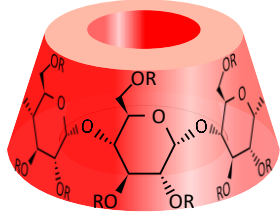
CD-modified Nanomaterials for Drug Delivery

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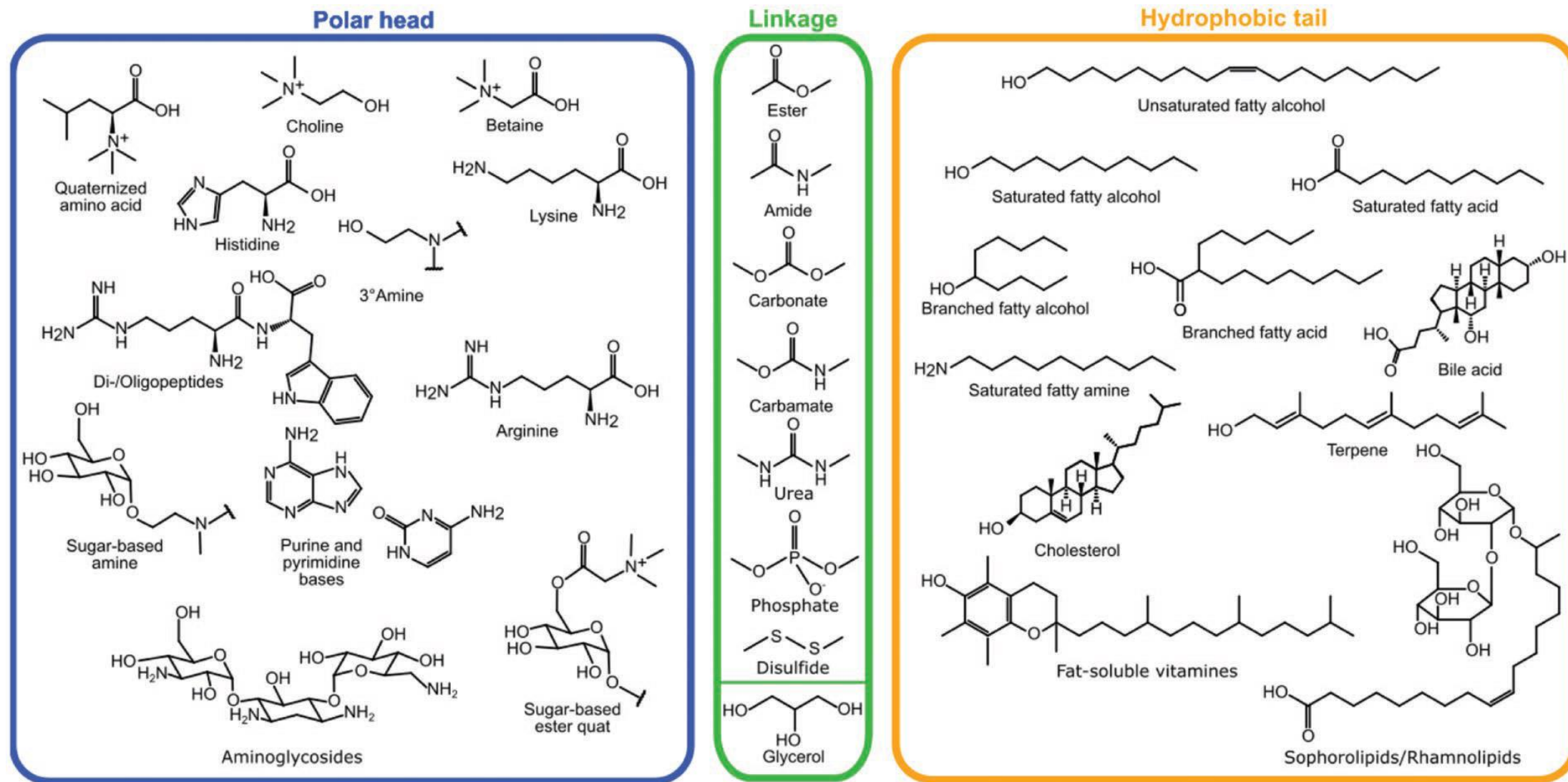
What about Safety of CDs?



Cyclodextrins are naturally occurring compounds derived from starch and are generally considered biocompatible and safe



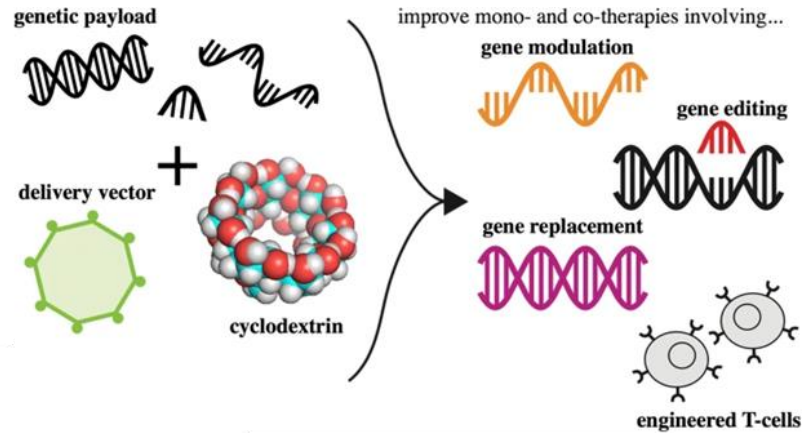
Roadmap for Safer Pharmaceutical Excipients



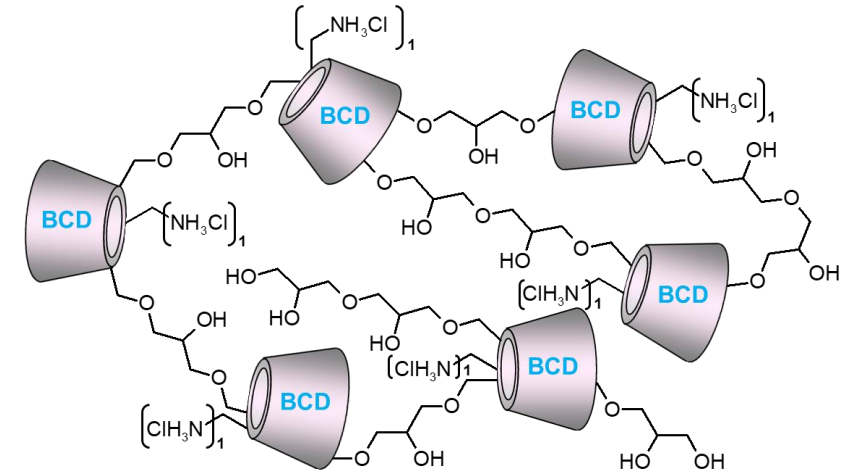


CDs in Gene Therapy Applications

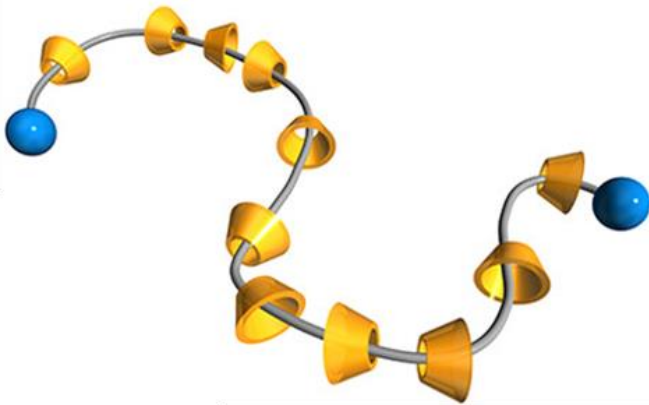
CDs as Formulation Enhancers



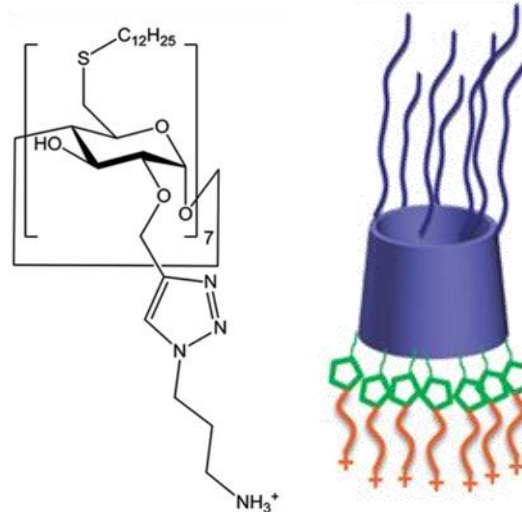
Cationic Polymers



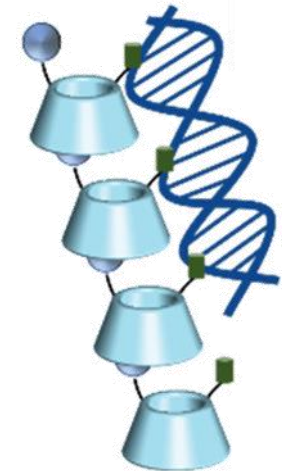
Polyrotaxanes



Pure CD vectors



CD for supramolecular assembly



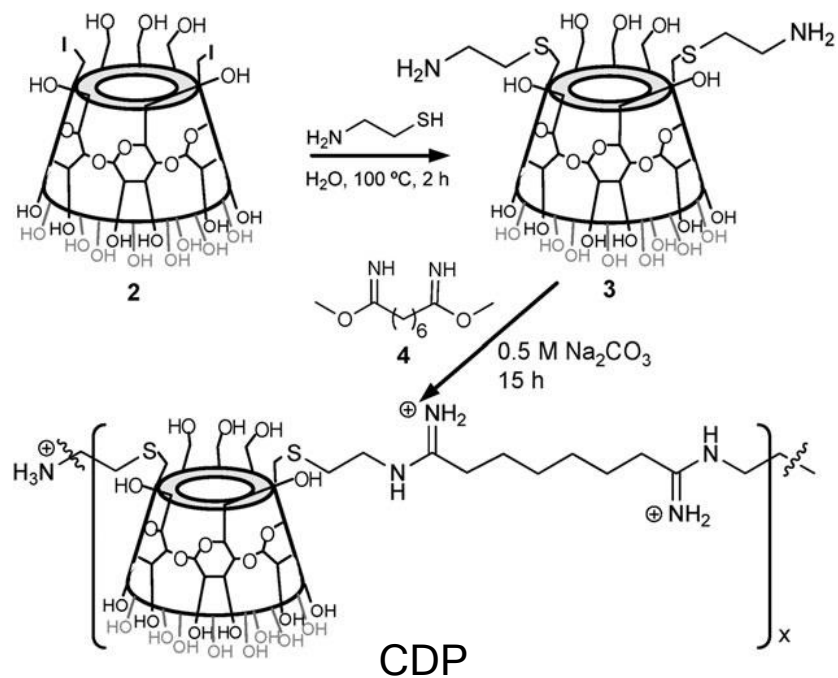


OUTLINES

- General concepts
- Cationic Polymers
- CDs as Pure Vectors
- Conclusions

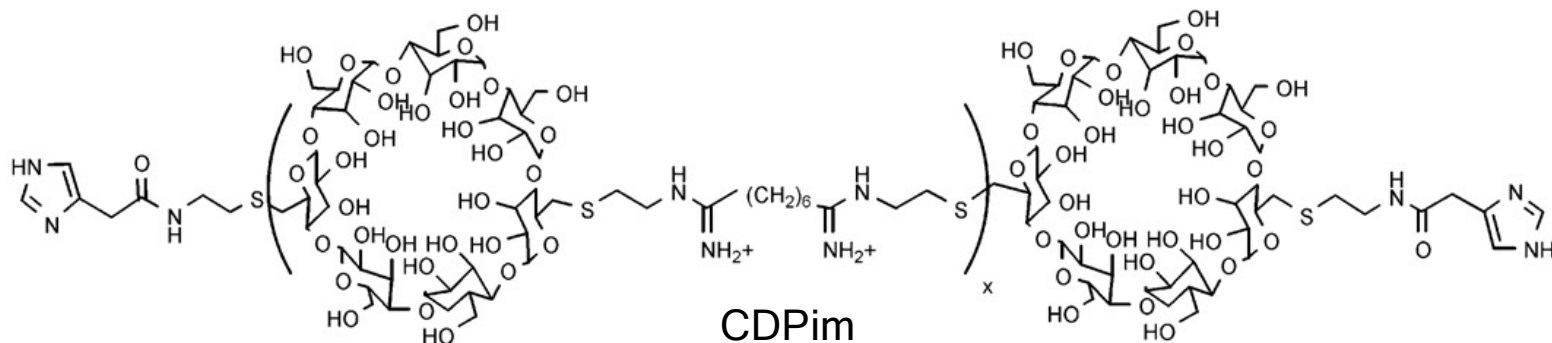


Cationic Polymers



Nanometric polyCDplexes (100-150 nm) with in vitro cell transfection efficiency comparable to polyethyleneimine (PEI) and Lipofectamine, but lower toxicity.

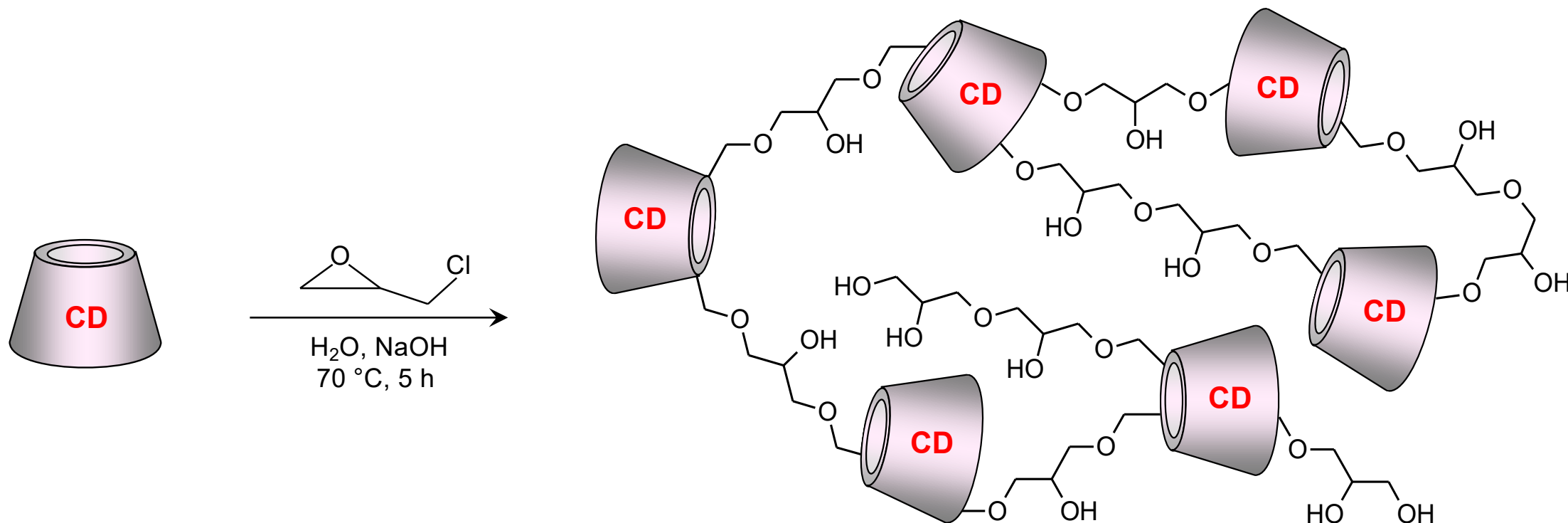
Structure-activity relationship: low molecular weight polymers (ca. 10 kDa, degree of polymerization, DP 5-8), CD units sufficiently spaced from amidine cationic centers.



Significant improvement in delivery efficiency by modifying the polymer endings with imidazole groups. Imidazole moieties should impart buffering capacity to CDP-gene polyCDplexes that would prove instrumental for efficient endosomal release by virtue of the “proton sponge” effect.



Epichlorohydrin Cross-linked CD Polymers

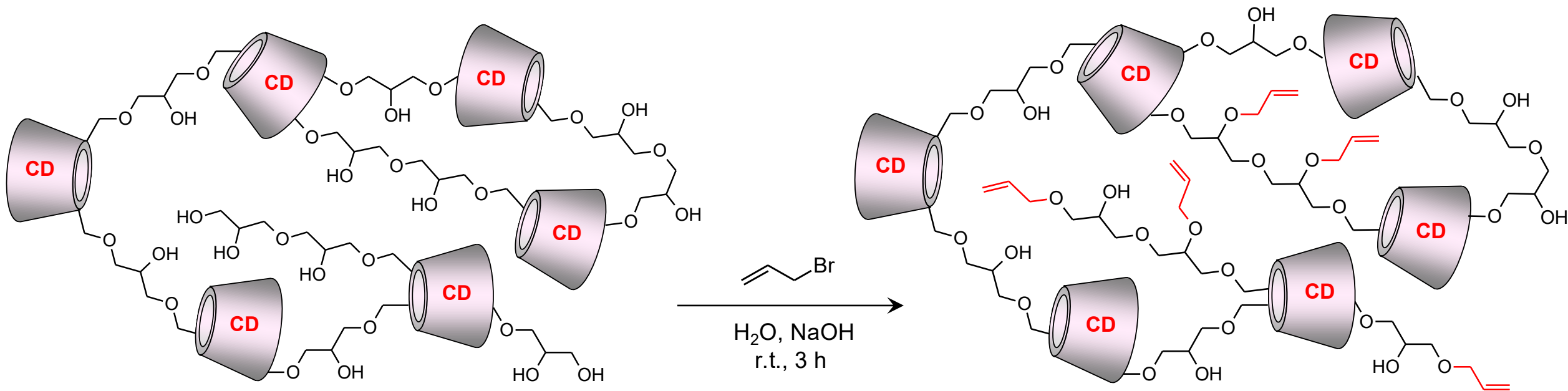


- ❖ Controlled molecular weight
- ❖ Established degree of crosslinking
- ❖ Highly biocompatible material
- ❖ Low toxicity
- ❖ Useful for combination therapy

- Immunogenicity to be assessed
- Reduced cyclodextrin functionality
- Characterization is challenging
- Environmental impact



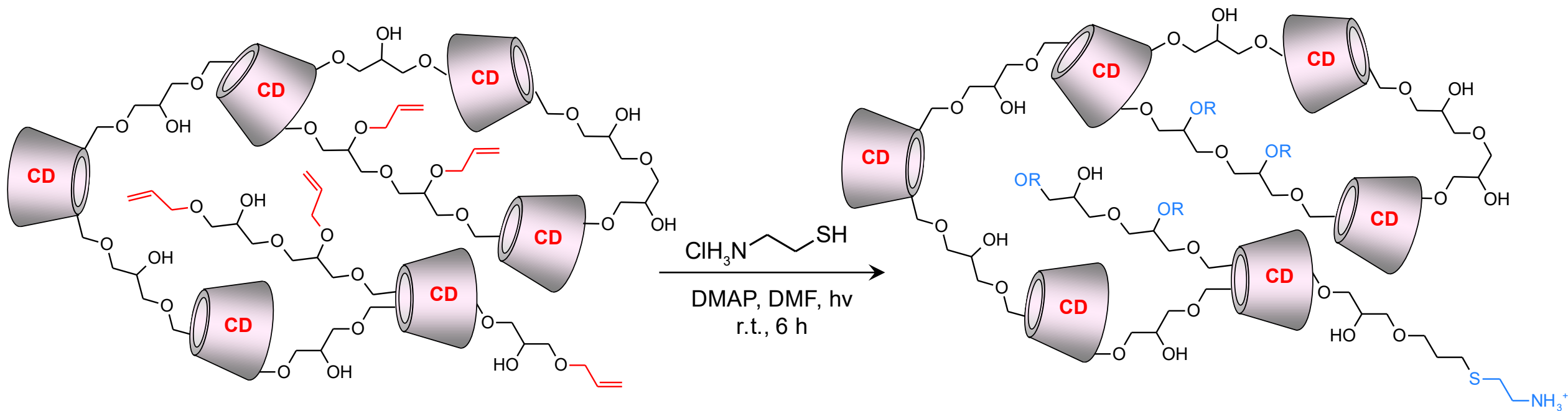
Partially Allylated CD-based Polymers



- ❖ Random derivatization
- ❖ Controlled degree of substitution
- ❖ Versatile intermediate



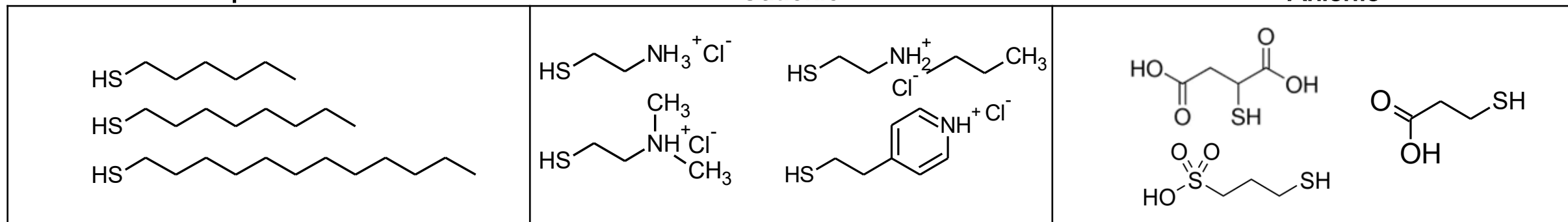
Ionic / amphiphilic CD-based Polymers



Apolar

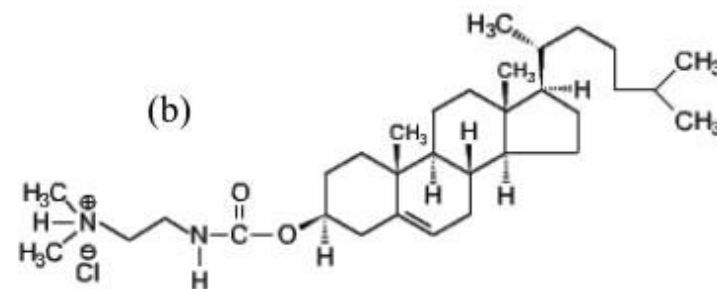
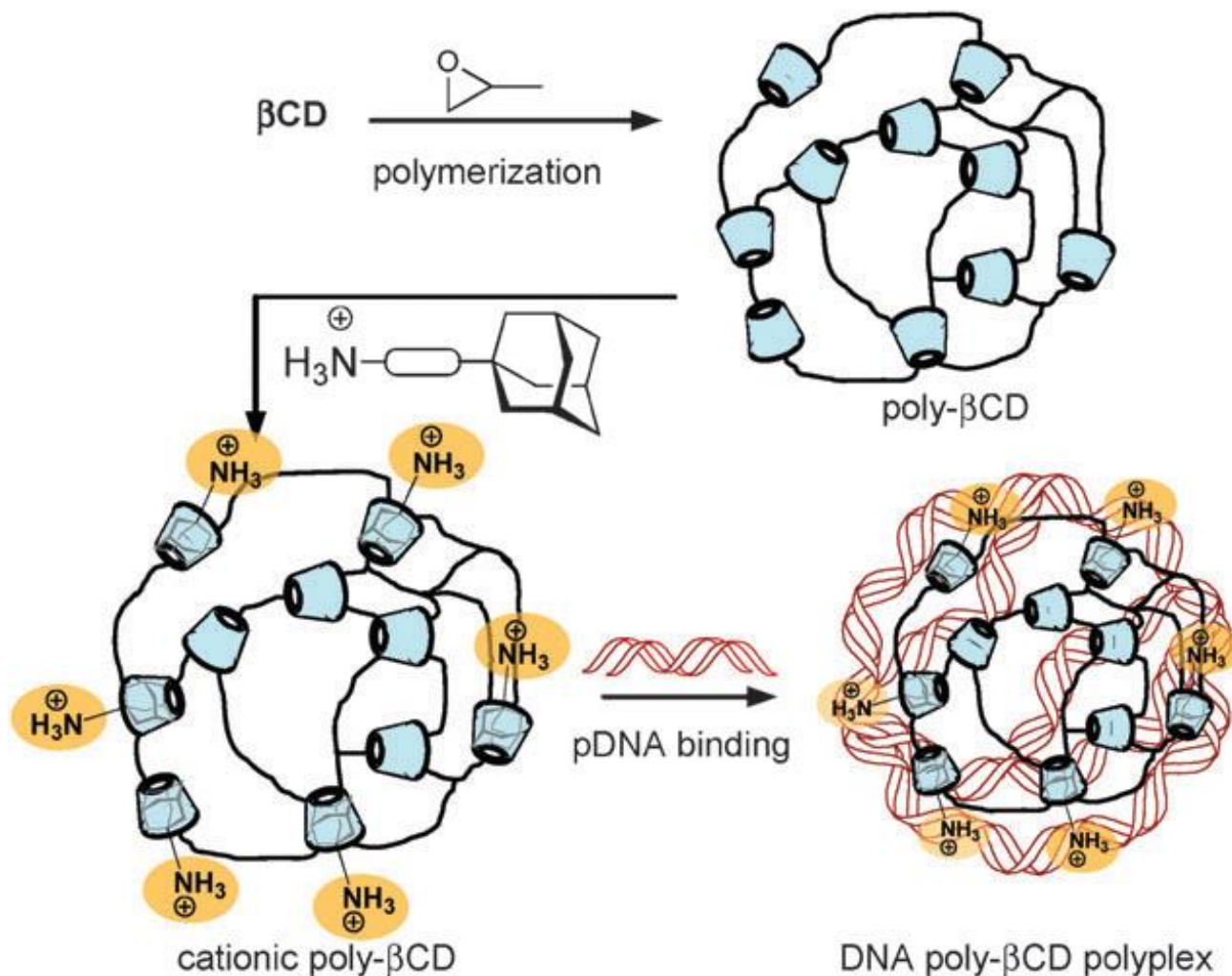
Cationic

Anionic





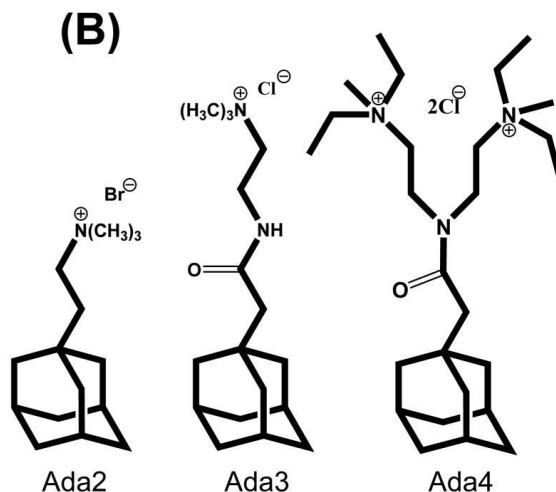
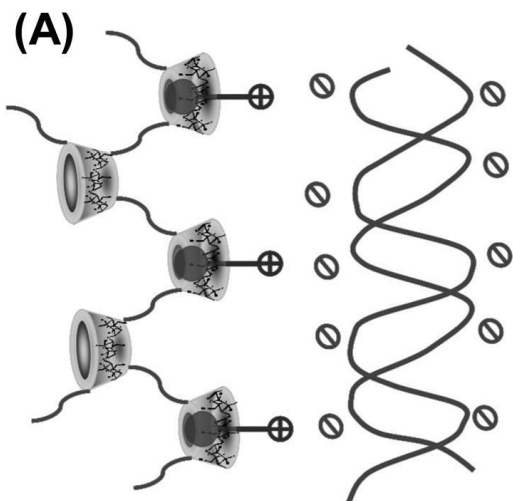
Cationic Polymers



Neutral epichlorohydrin-cross-linked BCD polymer and cationic compounds having high affinity for the BCD cavity (e.g. positively charged adamantane or cholesterol derivatives)



Cationic Polymers

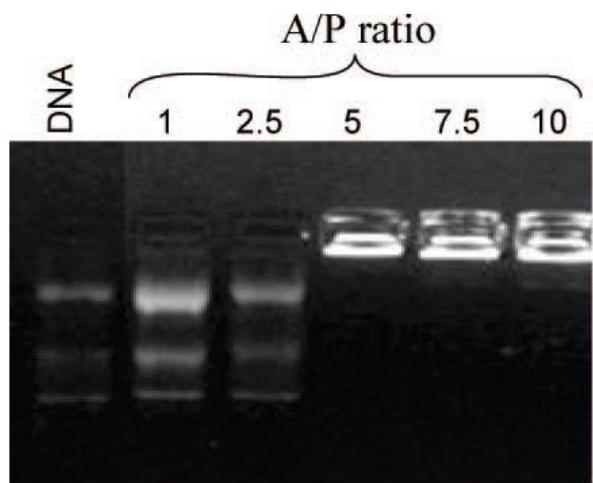


Fluorescence measurements

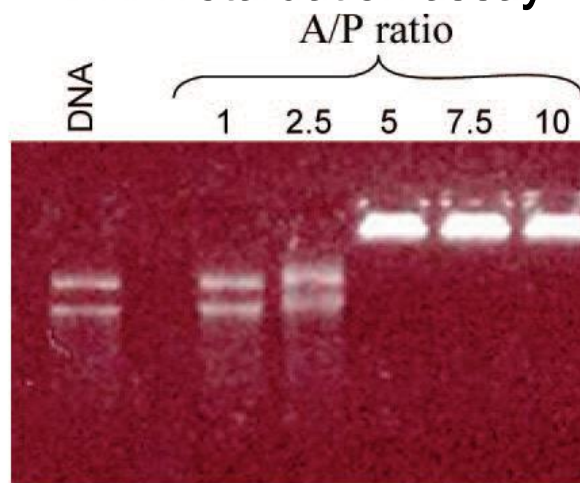
Table 1. Logarithm of the Binding Constants (Determined with a SD of 10%) for Different Cyclodextrin Derivatives (β CD, HP β CD, and poly β CD) to the Adamantyl Connectors (Ada2, Ada3, and Ada4) and Their Variation with the Addition of NaCl

	Ada2	Ada3	Ada4
$\log(K_{\beta\text{CD}})$	4.95	5.56	4.89
$\log(K_{\text{HP}\beta\text{CD}})$	3.95	3.98	3.18
+ NaCl 150 mM	4.04		3.11
$\log(K^{\text{app}}_{\text{poly}\beta\text{CD}})$	3.04	2.85	2.18
+ NaCl 150 mM	3.72		

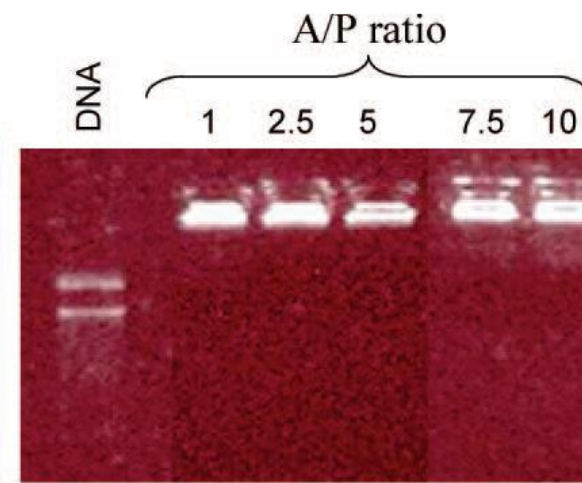
DNA retardation assay



(A) Poly β CD/Ada2/DNA



(B) Poly β CD/Ada3/DNA

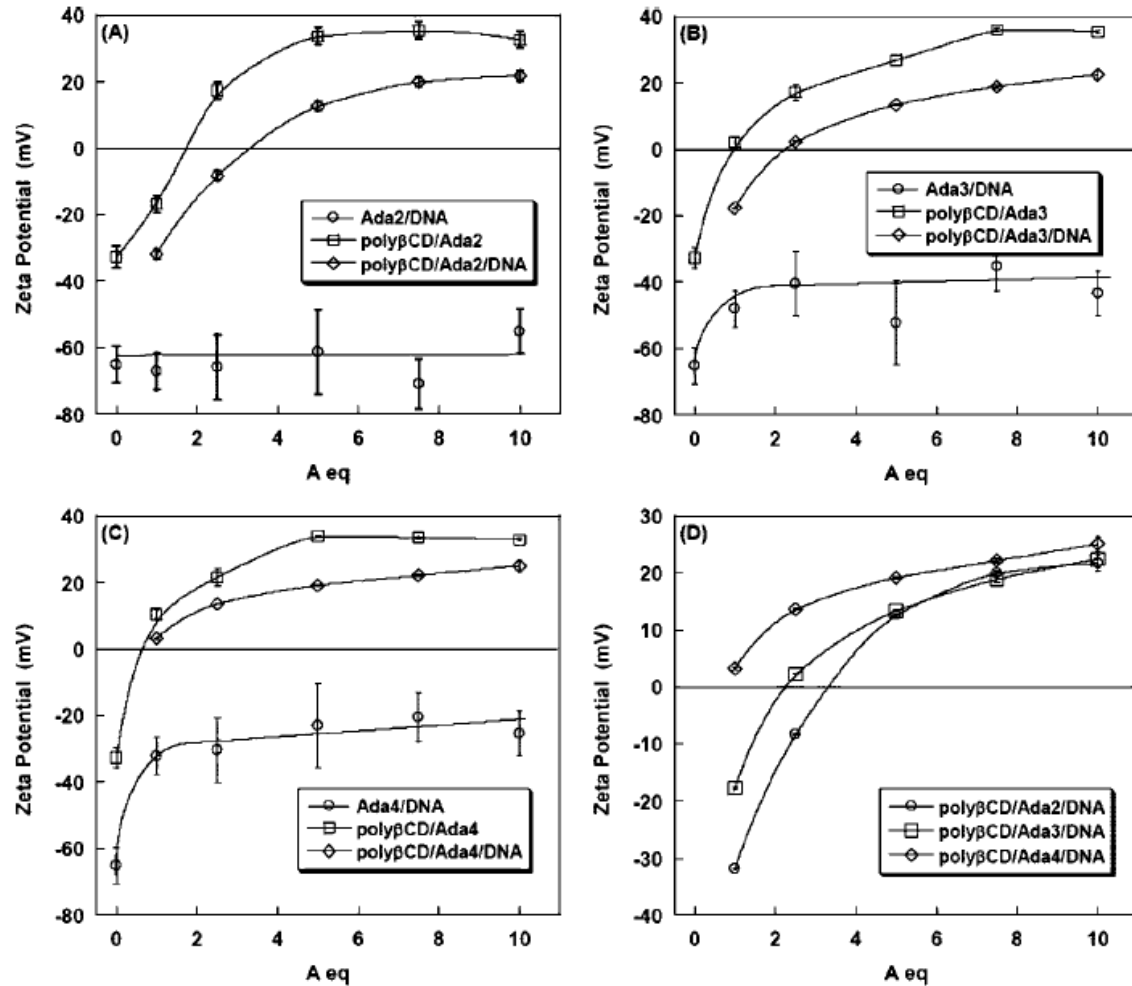


(C) Poly β CD/Ada4/DNA

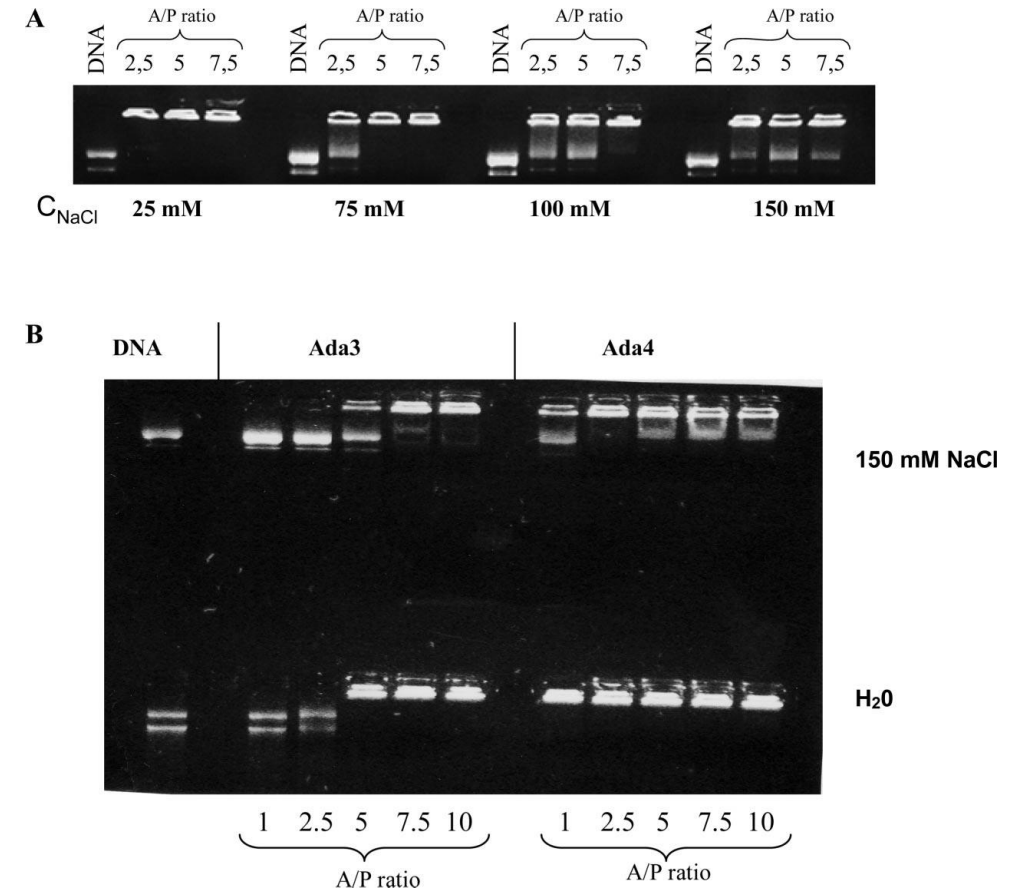


Cationic Polymers

Zeta Potential



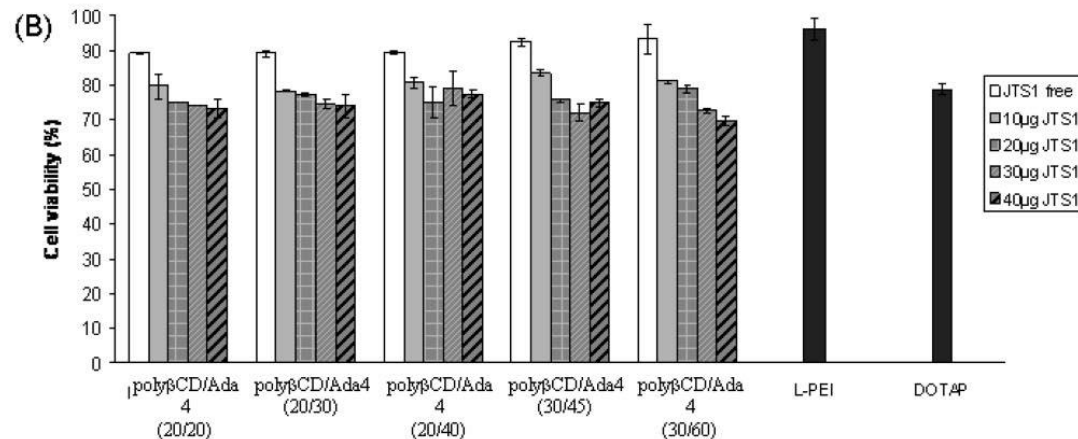
Salt Effect of Polyplexes stability



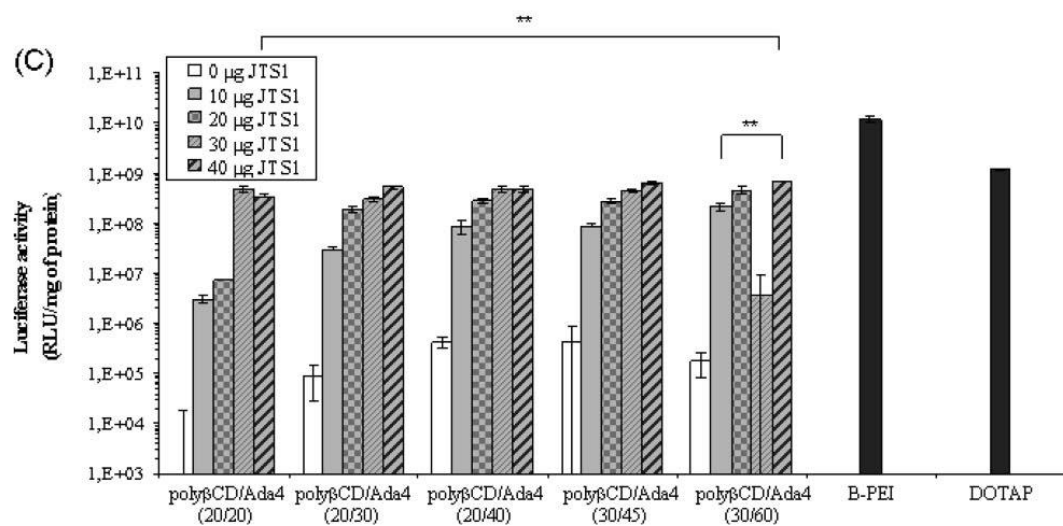


Cationic Polymers

In-vitro Transfection and Cytotoxicity



- Synthesis minimized
- Very versatile approach
- Easier DNA-complexation tunability
- Further properties can be included (apolar chains, targeting moieties, etc.)



- Cavities accessibility
- Low endosomal escape
- Immunogenicity and toxicity concerns



Cationic Polymers – Conclusions

- ❖ Highly customizable, both in size and the type of genetic material
- ❖ Polyplexes hold and protect the genetic material during delivery
- ❖ They can also be engineered to have long shelf lives
- ❖ By proton sponge effect, polyplex escapes endosome and deliver its genetic cargo within the cell
- ❖ Useful for combination therapy

- Low uptake and efficiency
- Toxicity and immunogenicity



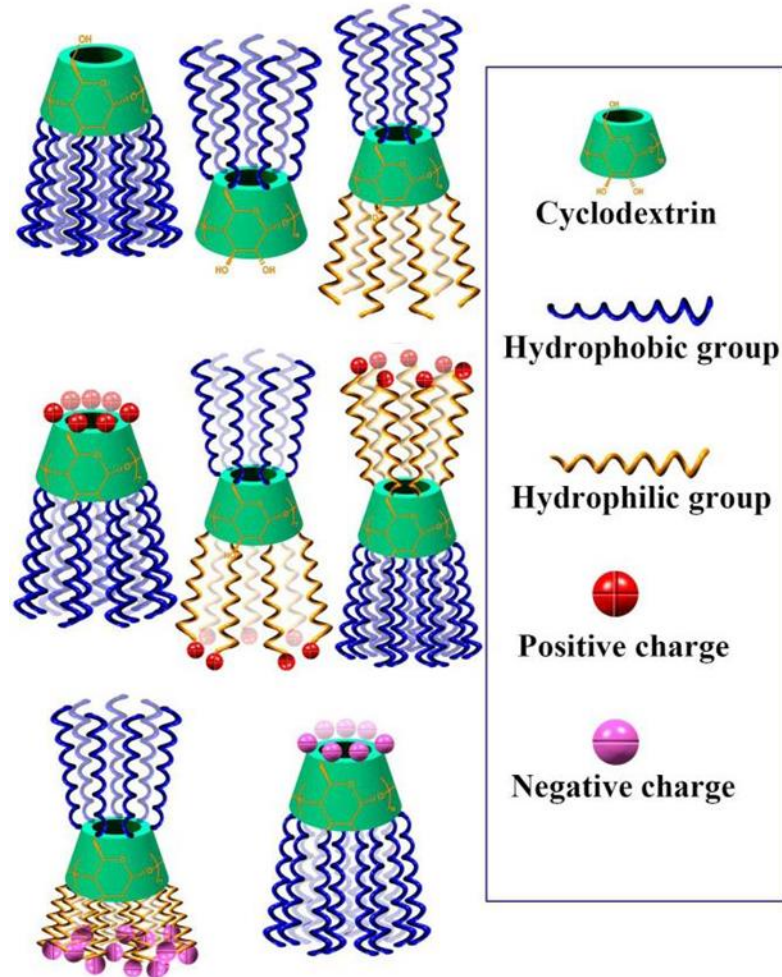
OUTLINES

- General concepts
- Cationic Polymers
- CDs as Pure Vectors
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CDs as Pure Vectors

Amphiphilic Cyclodextrins



Applications

Solubilizers
Stabilizers and Emulsifiers
Detergent Additives.
Analytical Chemistry

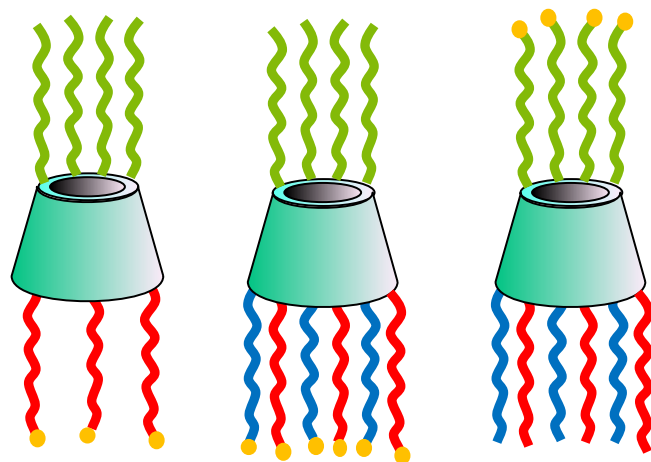


Drug Delivery
Gene Delivery
Tissue Engineering
Wound Healing
Diagnostic Imaging

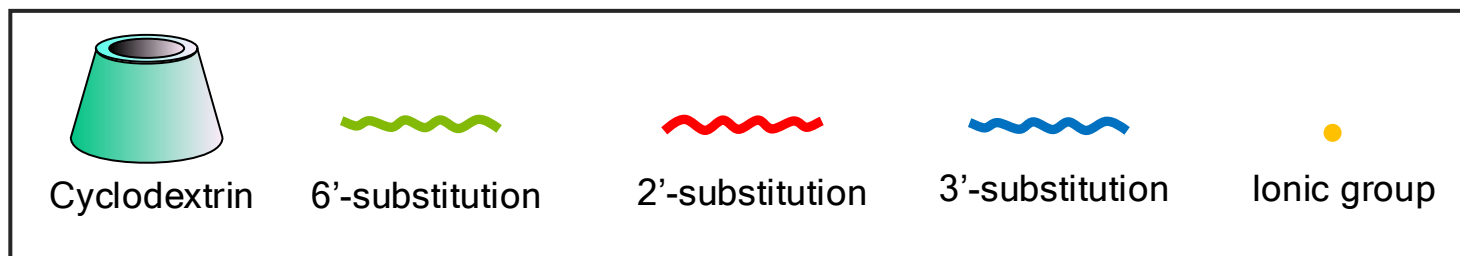


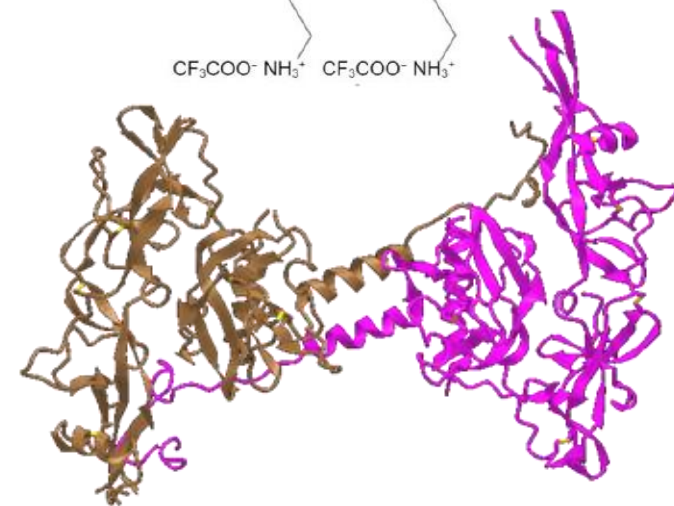
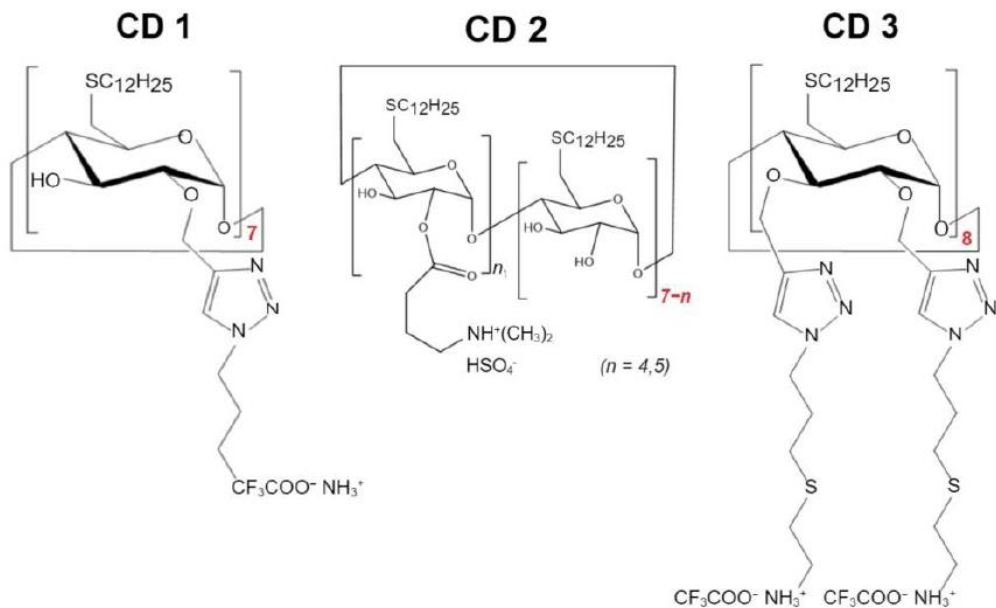


Cationic Amphiphilic CDs as Pure Vector



- ❖ Primary and secondary side can be easily modified
- ❖ Different type of hydrophobic chain
- ❖ High variability in the linker
- ❖ High variety of cationic groups
- ❖ Scale-up assessed

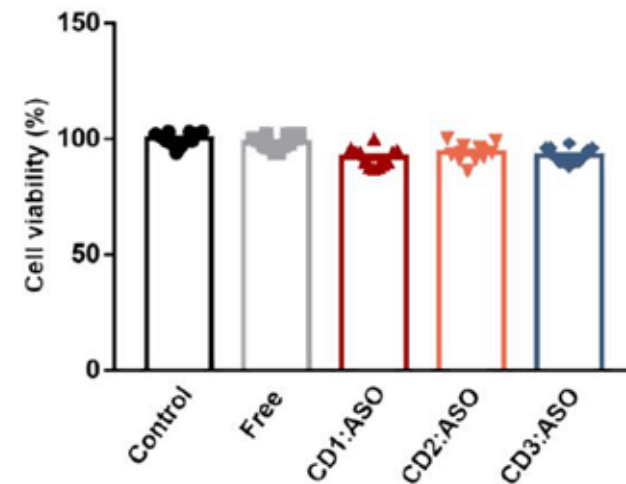
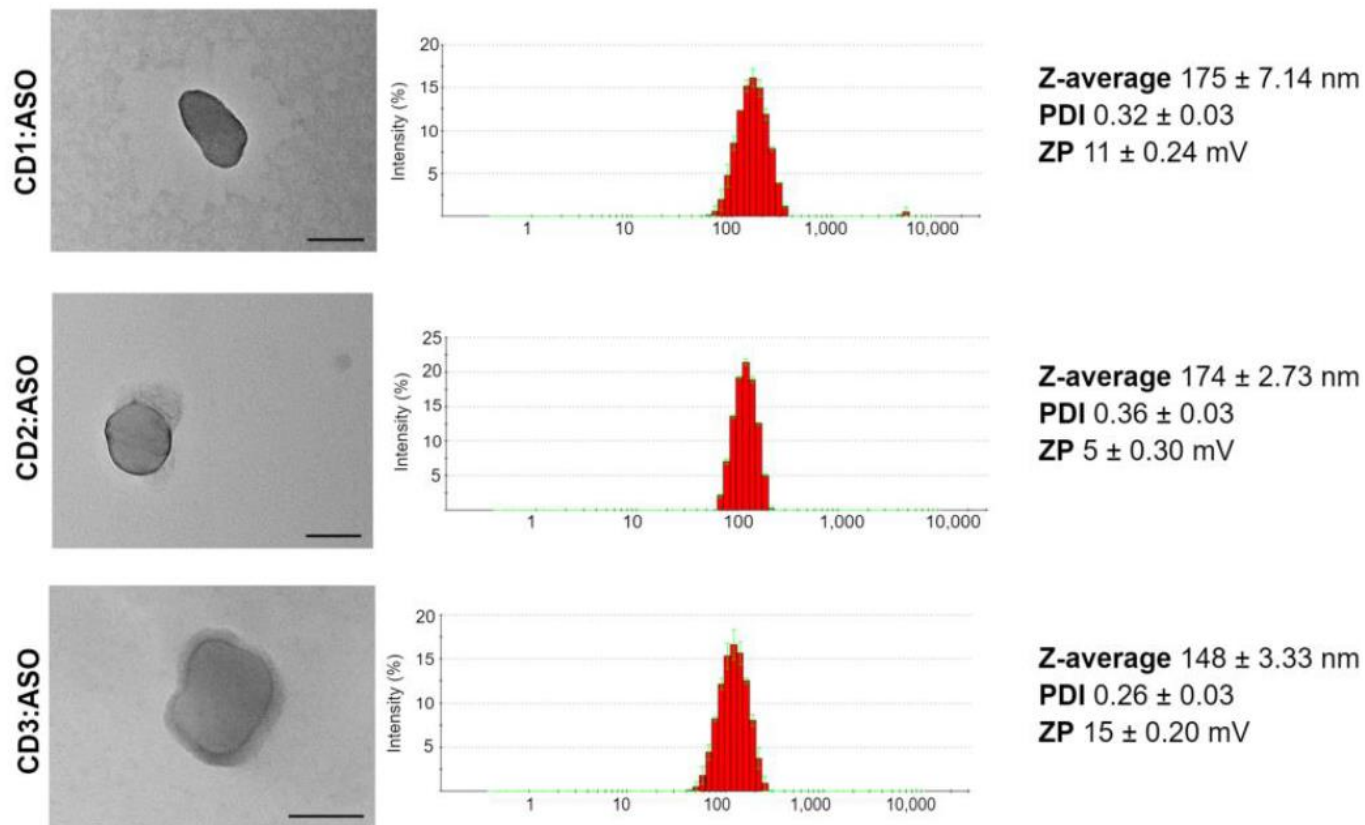




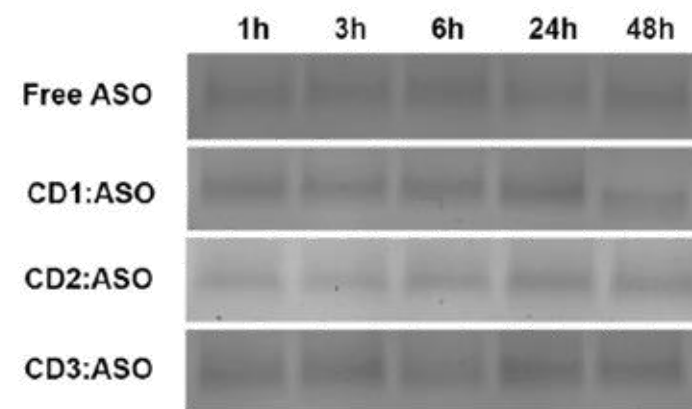
Rabies Virus Glycoprotein (RVG)



Selecting the best CDs:ASO Nanocomplexes



Cytotoxicity of CDs:ASO nanocomplexes on Striatum cells
Serum (+)



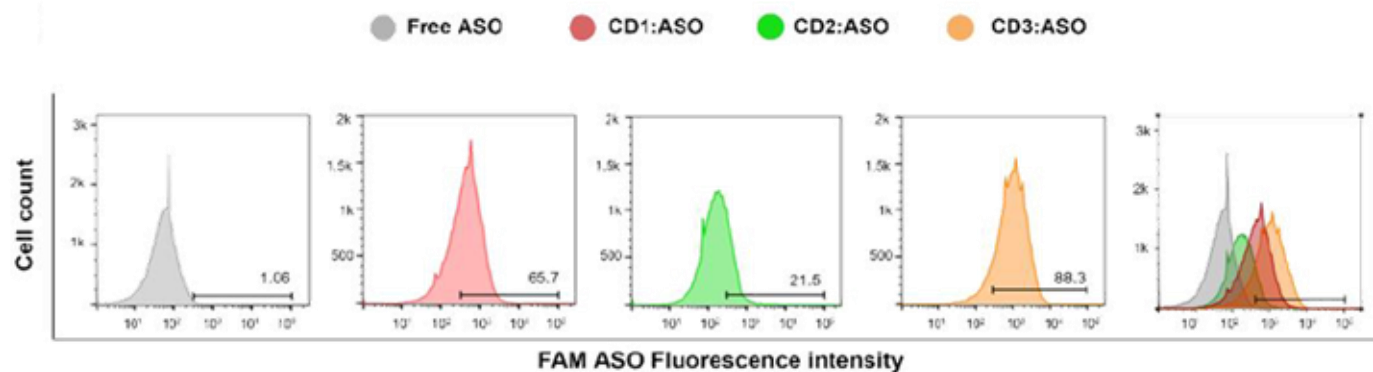
Stability of (CDs):ASO nanocomplexes in presence of Serum

Physicochemical characterization of cyclodextrins (CDs):ASO nanocomplexes.
(A) TEM of CDs:ASO nanocomplexes. (B) Dynamic Light Scattering histogram of the particle size distribution and physicochemical properties.

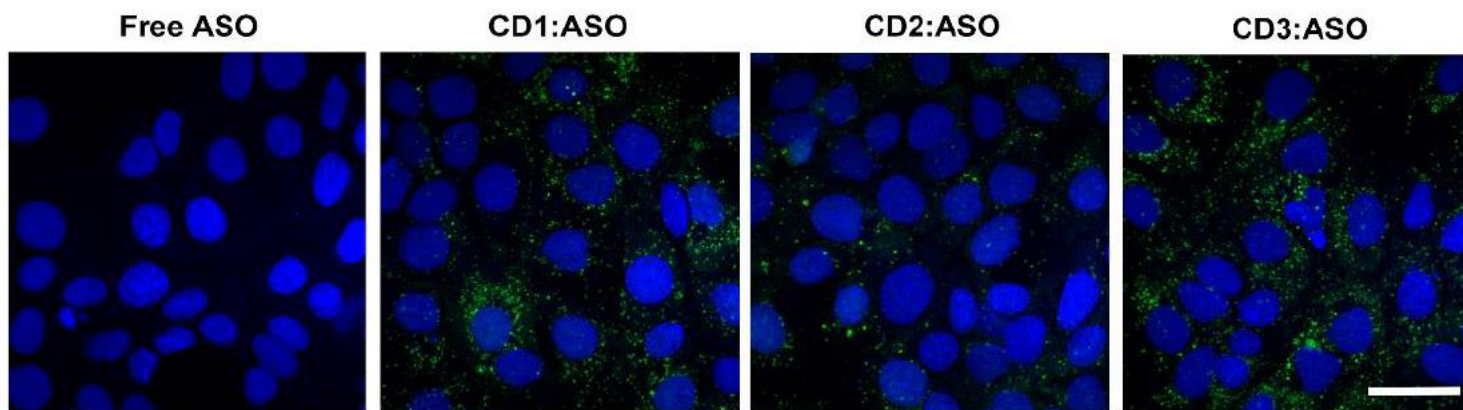


Selecting the best CDs:ASO Nanocomplexes

Cellular uptake of CDs:ASO nanocomplexes

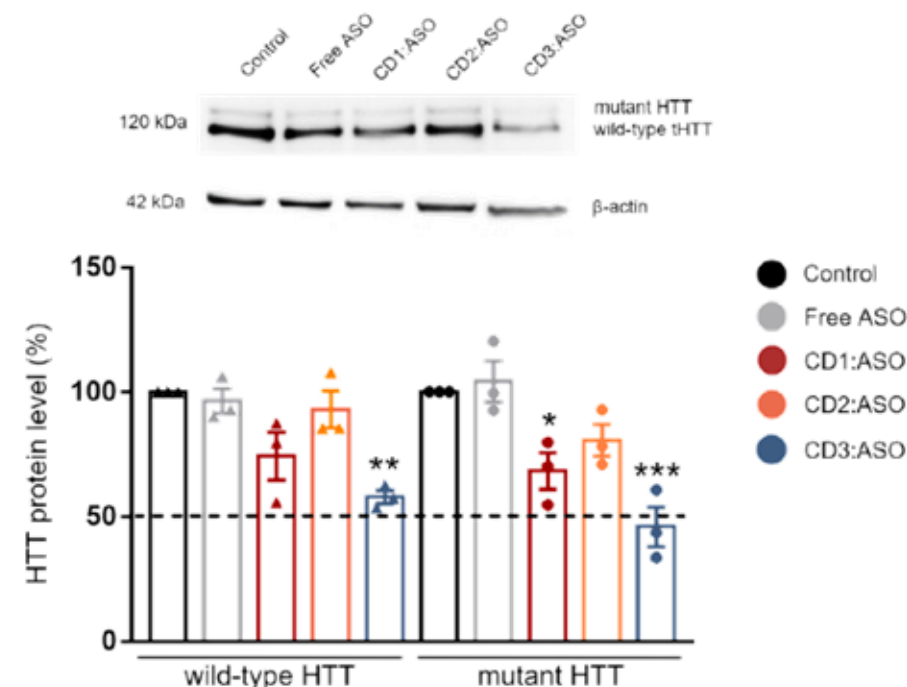


Representative flow cytometry histogram of CDs:ASO nanocomplexes internalization



Intracellular fluorescence of FAM-labelled ASO (green) and nuclei (blue)

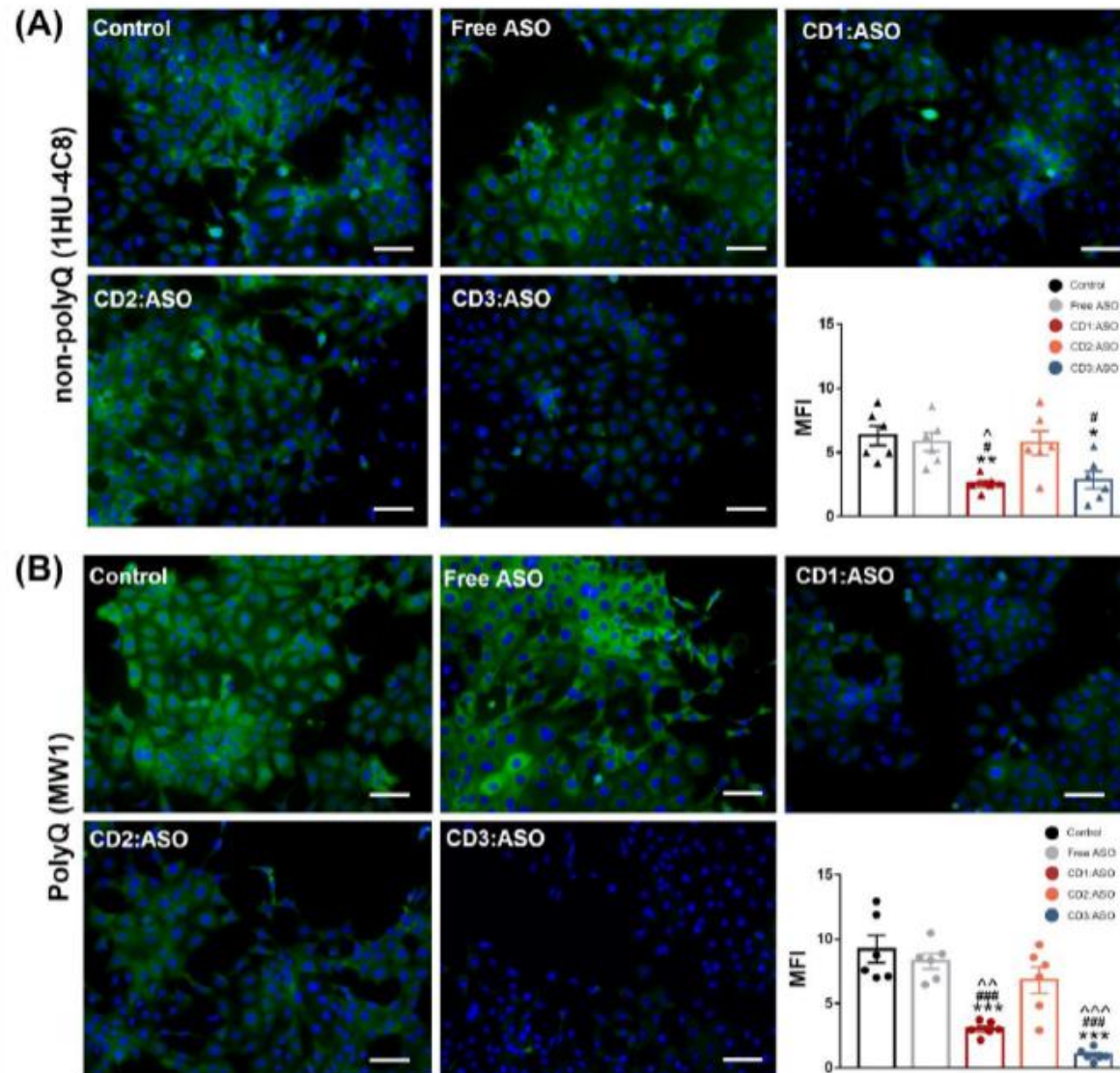
Efficacy in a Neuronal In Vitro Model of HD



Evaluation of ASO efficacy after transfection with ASO alone or complexed with cyclodextrins.



Selecting the best CDs:ASO Nanocomplexes



The expression levels of mutant and total HTT after transfection with ASO alone or complexed with CDs. Cells were treated with ASO for 72 h.

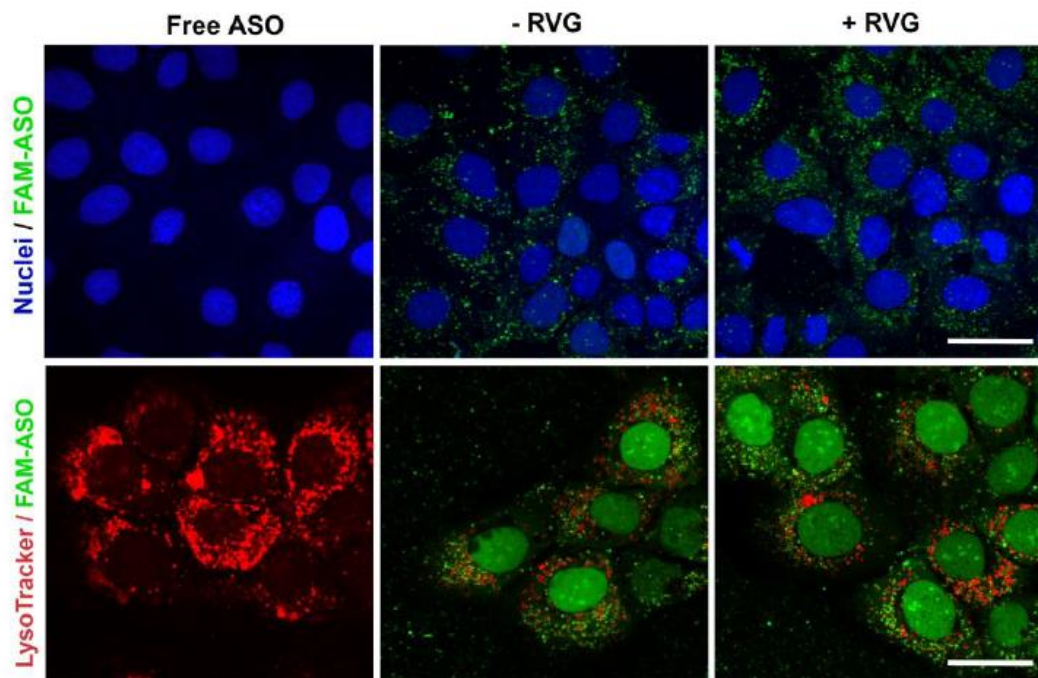
After this period, the cells were fixed and stained with polyQ (mutant) antibody and non-polyQ antibody.

Representative confocal images of (A) non-polyQ antibody and (B) polyQ antibody after treatment with ASO alone or complexed with CDs. Both antibodies were stained with Alexa 488 (green), while the nucleus was stained with DAPI (blue).



Improving the Delivery of CD3:ASO with RVG

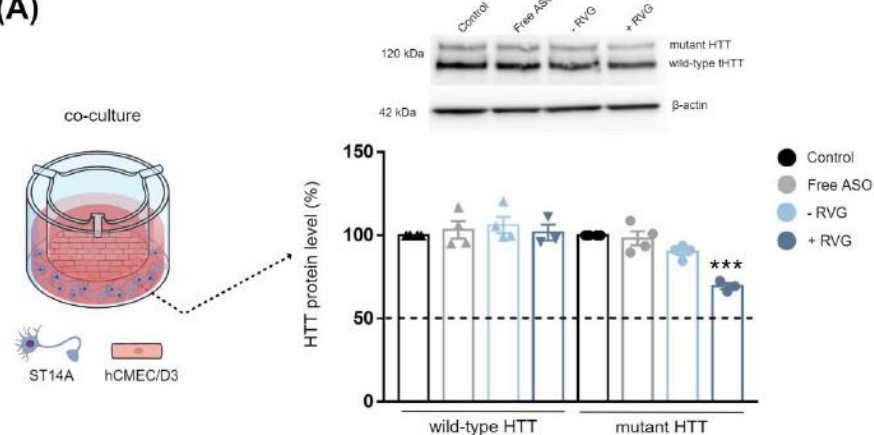
Cellular uptake and late endosome/lysosome escape of RVG-targeted CDs:ASO nanocomplexes



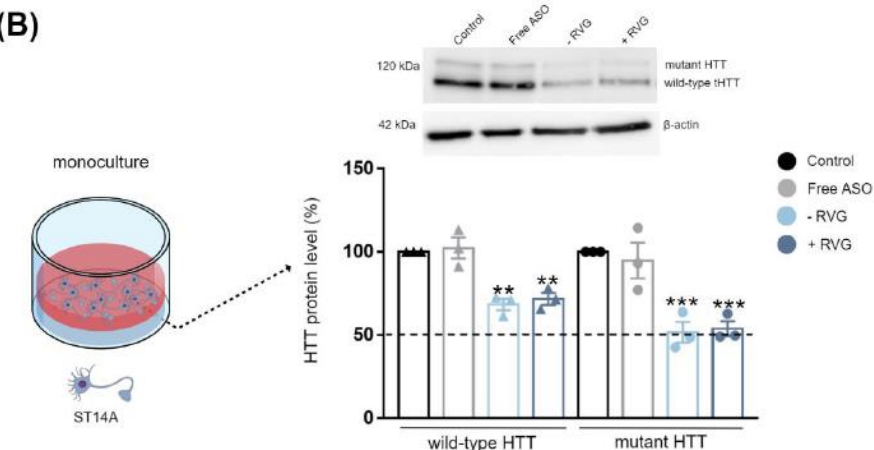
Representative confocal fluorescence images of ST14A cells treated with ASO alone or complexed with CDs for 6 h. Intracellular fluorescence of FAM-labelled ASO (green), nuclei (blue), and LysoTracker Red DND-99 (red). The yellow color indicates co-localization.

ASO efficacy after transfection with RVG-targeted and untargeted CDs in a co-culture and monoculture models

(A)



(B)

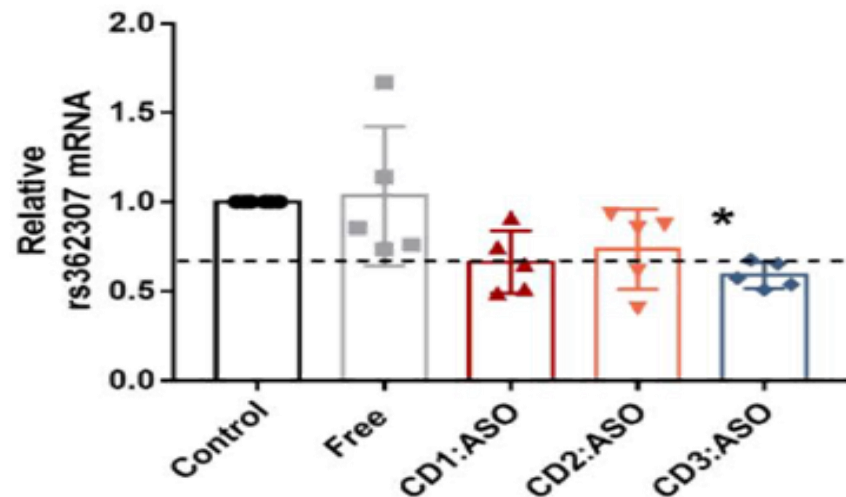
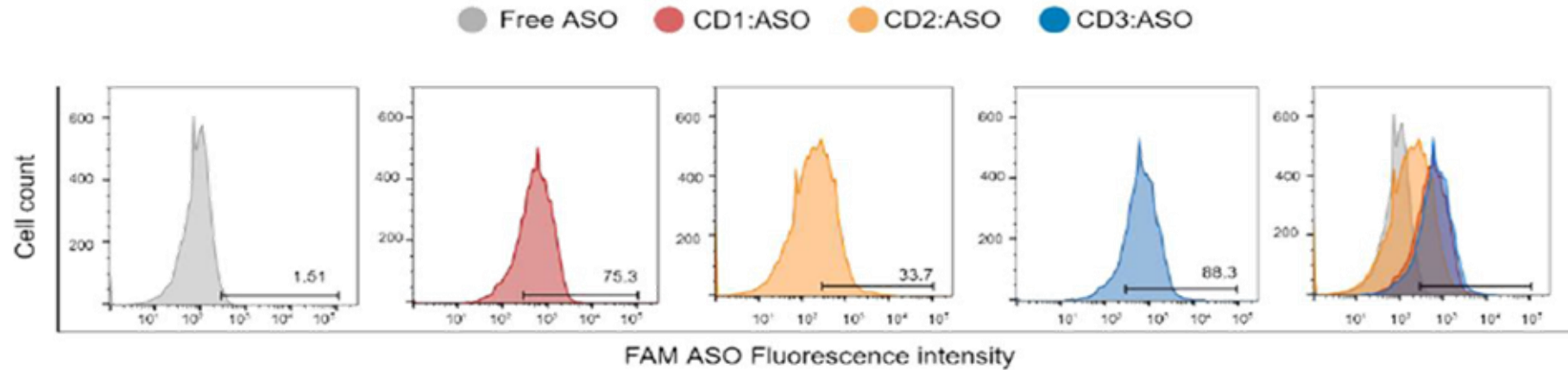


(A) the BBB co-culture model containing hCMEC/D3 cells in the apical compartment and ST14A cells in the basal compartment and (B) monoculture of ST14A cells.

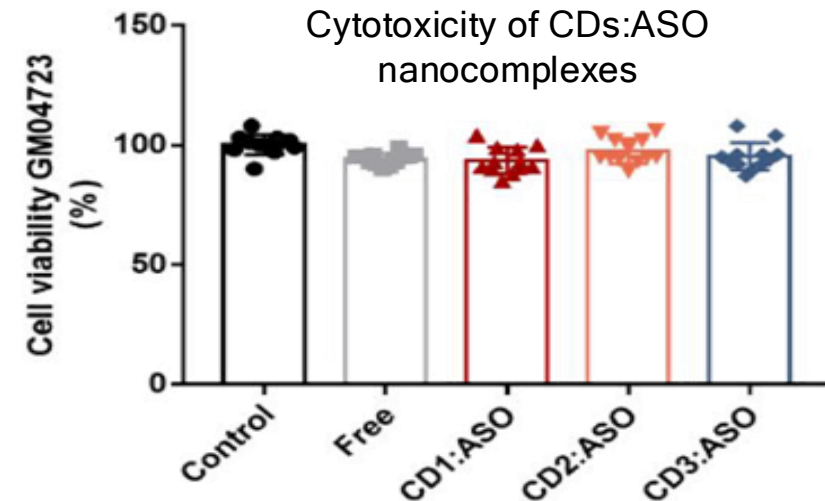


HD Patient-Derived Fibroblasts

Cellular uptake of CDs:ASO nanocomplexes



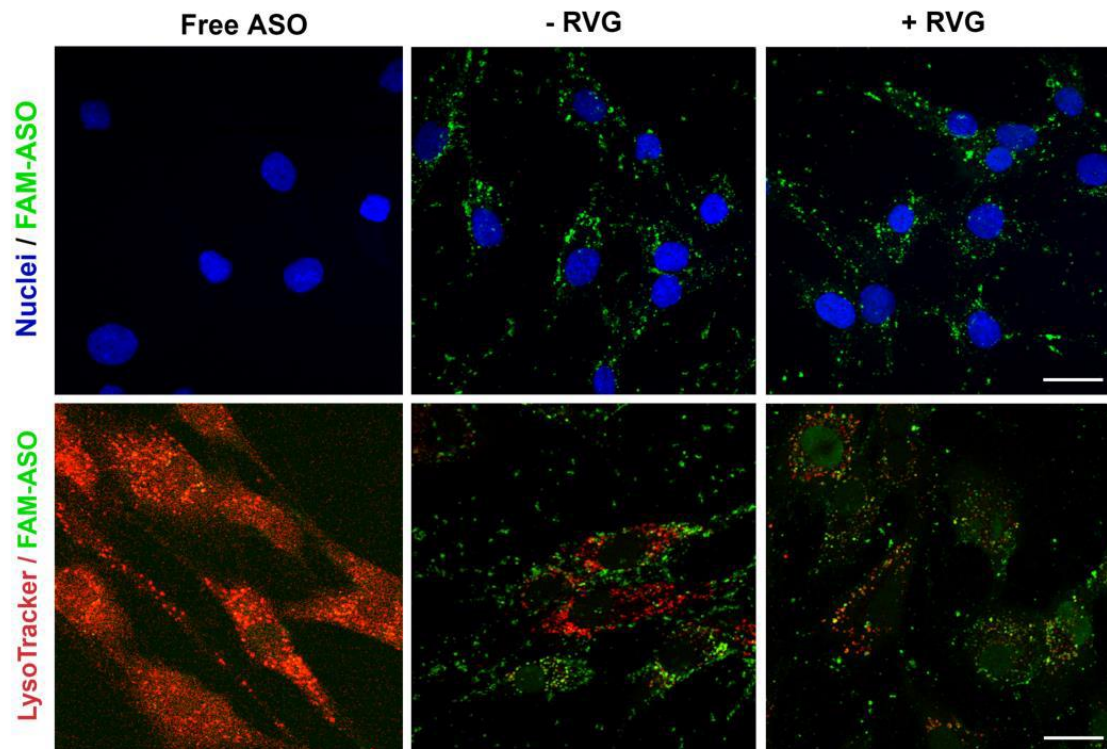
Evaluation of ASO efficacy after transfection with ASO alone or CDs:ASO nanocomplexes





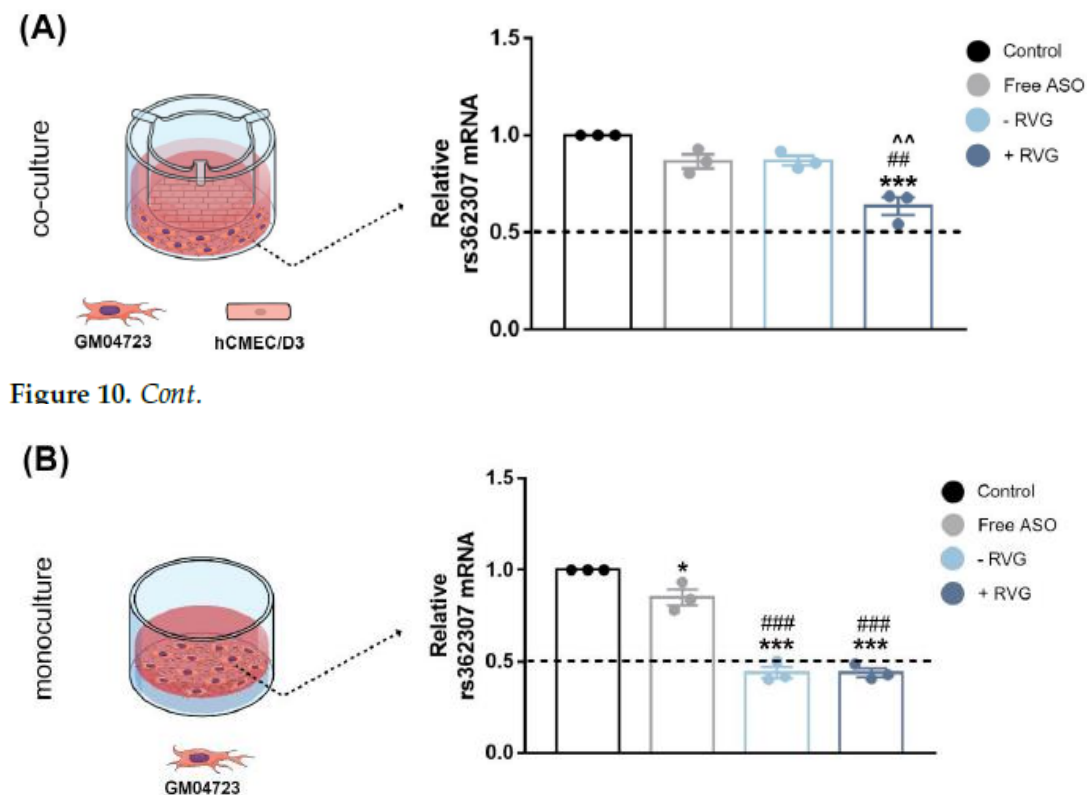
HD Patient-Derived Fibroblasts

Cellular uptake and late endosome/lysosome escape of RVG-targeted cyclodextrins CDs:ASO nanocomplexes.



Representative confocal fluorescence images of fibroblasts from an HD patient (CAG15/67) treated with ASO alone or complexed with CDs for 6 h. Intracellular fluorescence of FAM-labelled ASO (green), nuclei (blue), and LysoTracker Red DND-99 (red). The yellow color indicates co-localization.

ASO efficacy after transfection with RVG-targeted and untargeted CDs in a co-culture and monoculture models

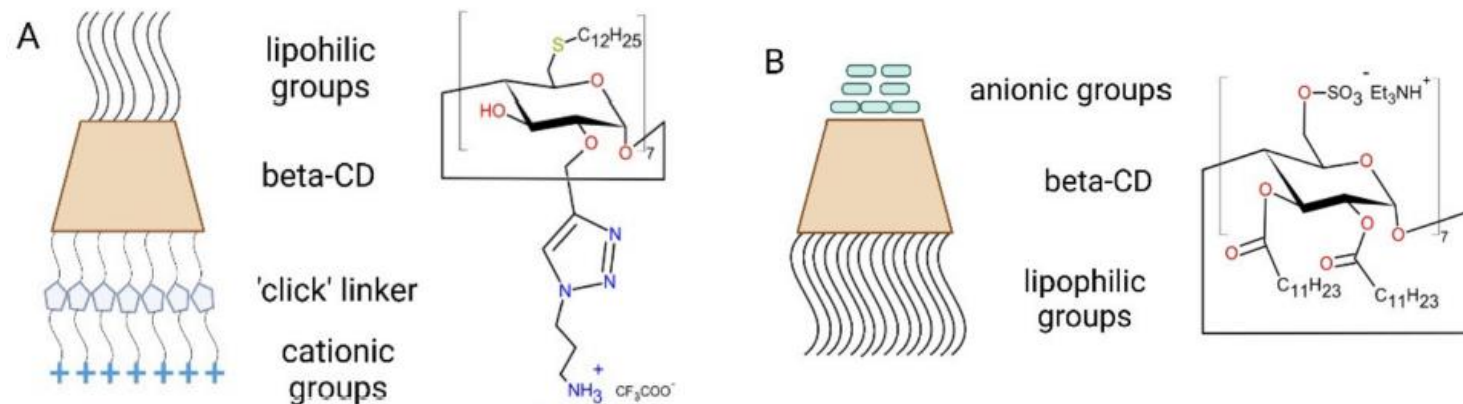
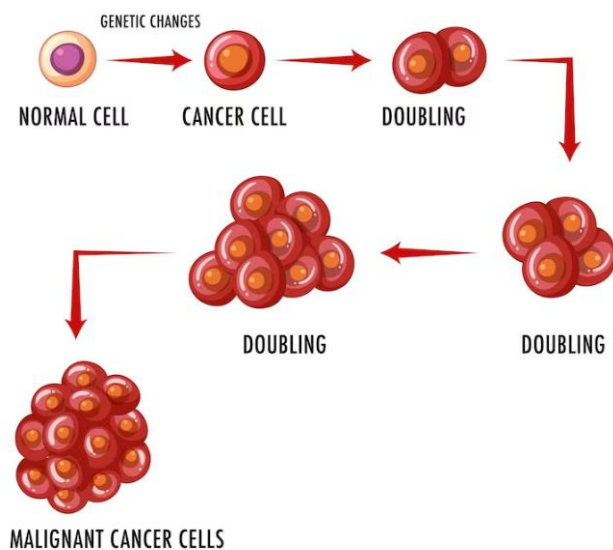


(A) the BBB co-culture model containing hCMEC/D3 cells in the apical compartment and HD-patient derived fibroblasts (CAG15/67) in the basal compartment and (B) monoculture of fibroblasts.

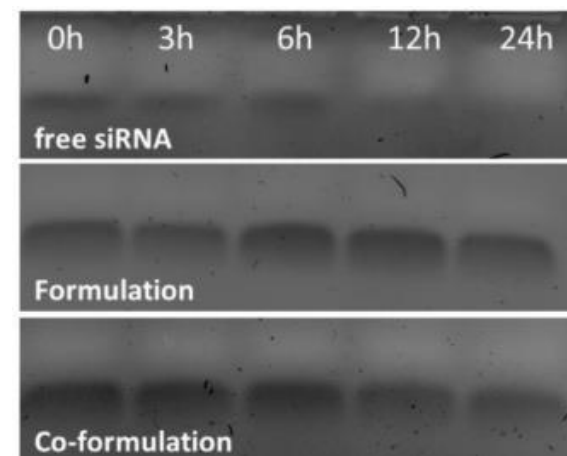
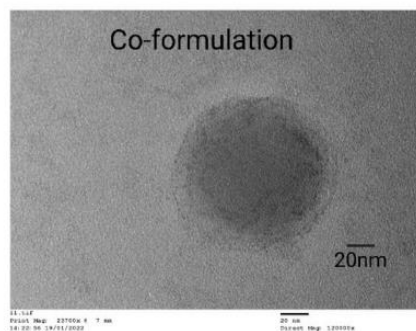
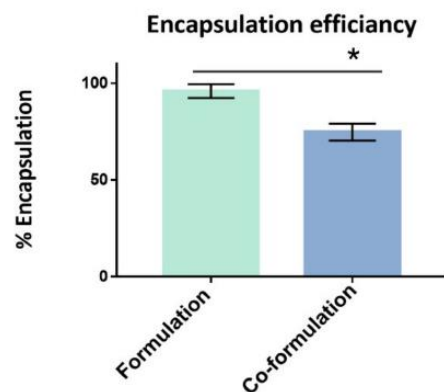


Co-Formulated-CDs for Treatment of AML

Cancer development process

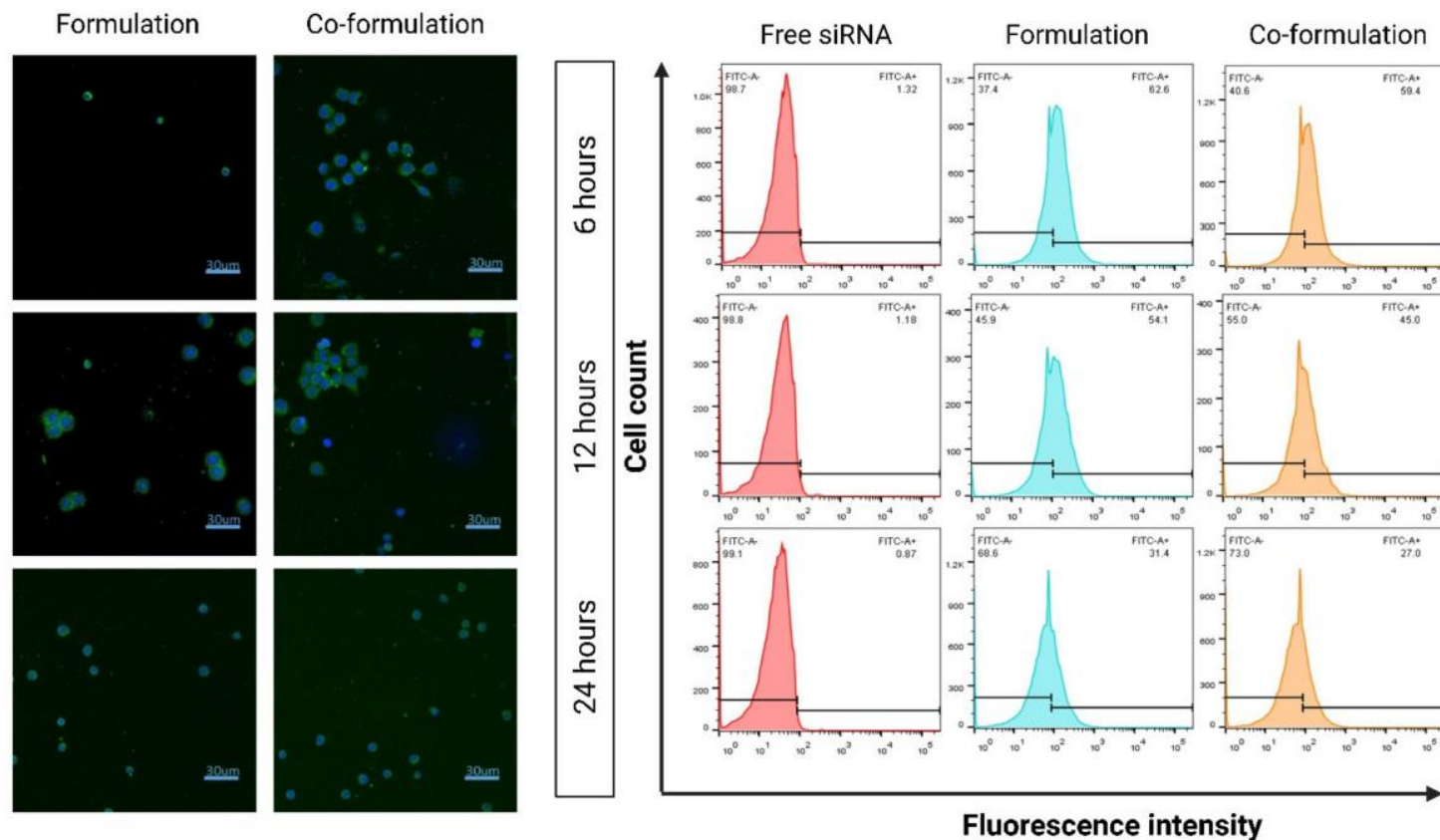


Reduction in the cationic charge density is likely to extend the in-vivo circulation time and minimize potential aggregation and toxicity.





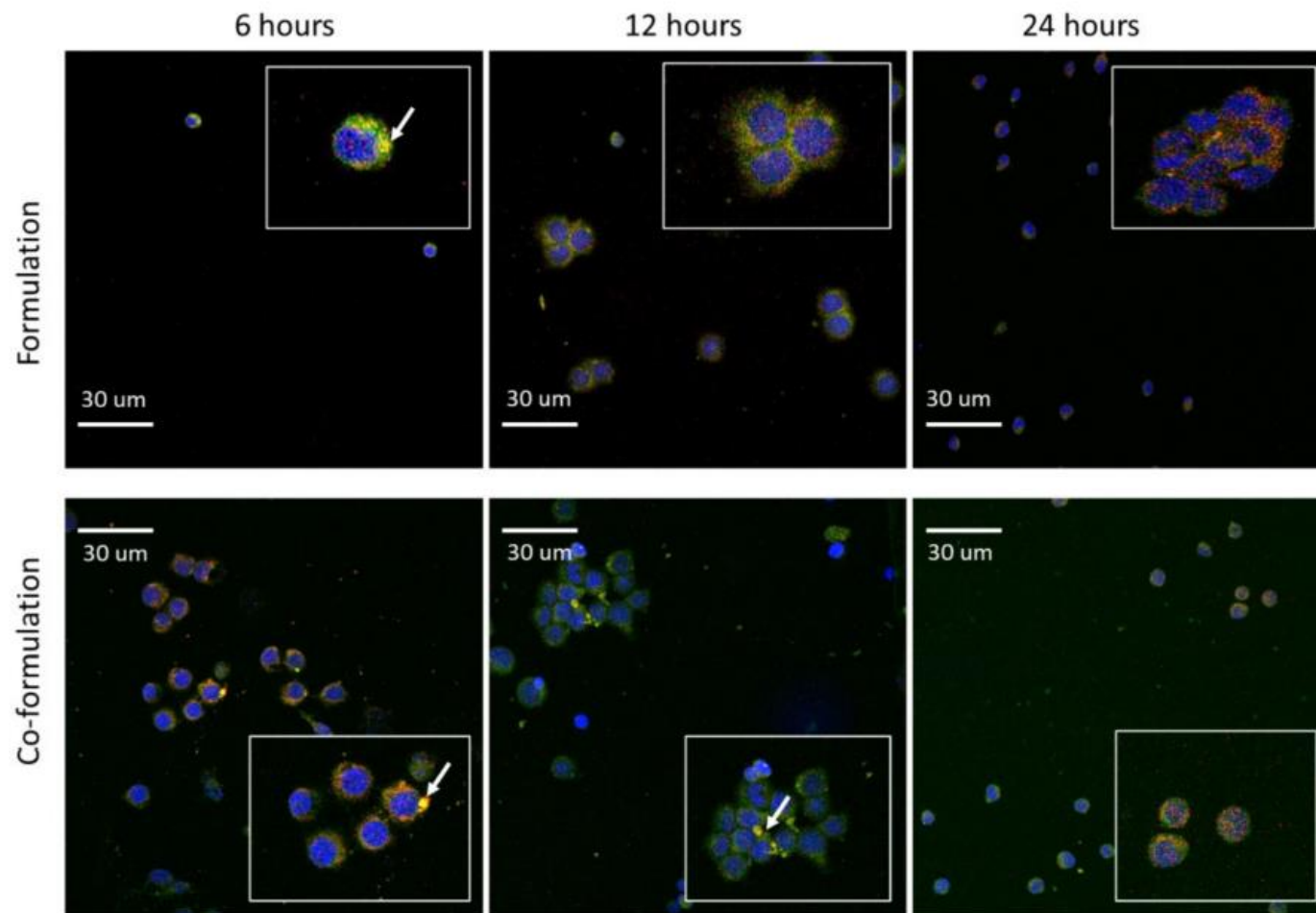
Cellular Uptake of the Co-Formulated CDs



The relatively lower surface charge of the co-formulation did not alter the cellular uptake indicating that charge alone is not the sole driver for internalization. In contrast, the amphiphilicity of the CDs promoting a lipophilic interaction at cellular level may also be a significant factor.



Endosomal Release of the Co-Formulated CDs

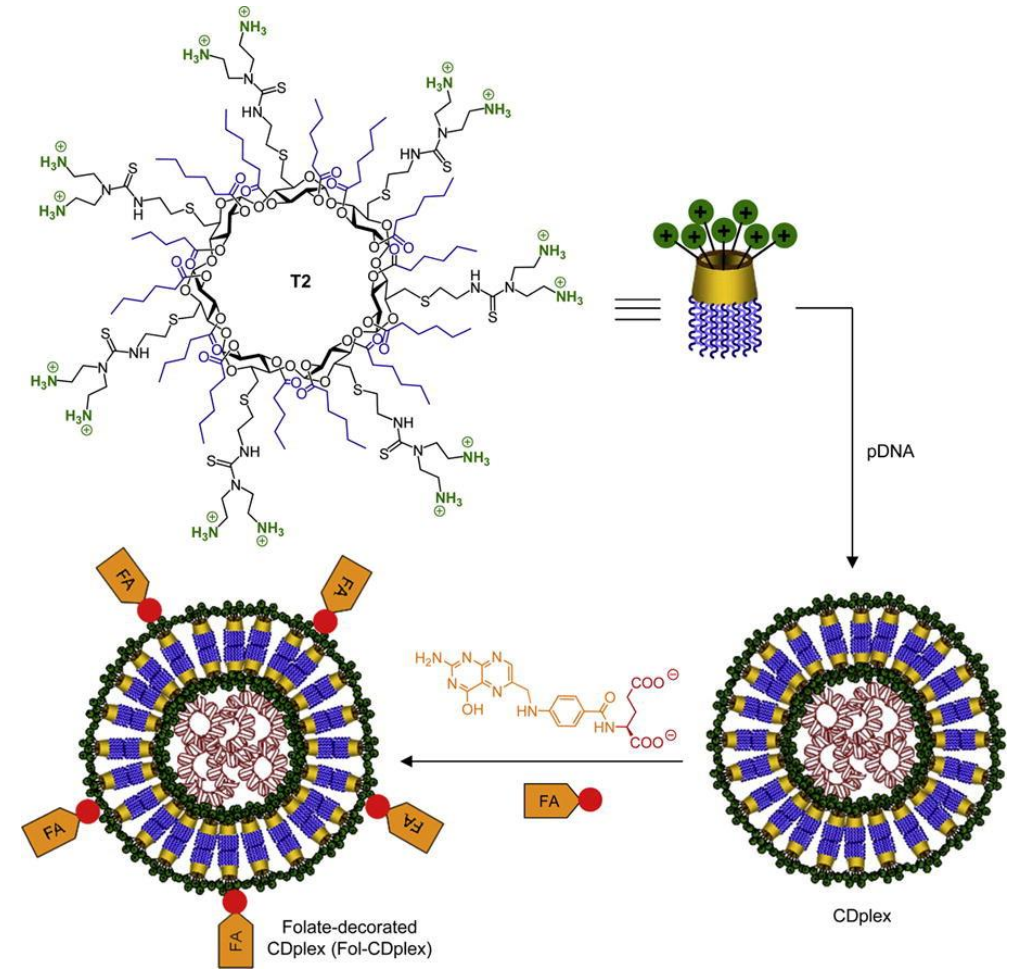


After 12 h, late-endosomal/lysosomal release was seen with the formulation, but not with the co-formulation which still showed co-localization. Endo-lysosomal escape for the co-formulation appeared mainly to occur at the later time of 24 h.



CDs as pure Vectors

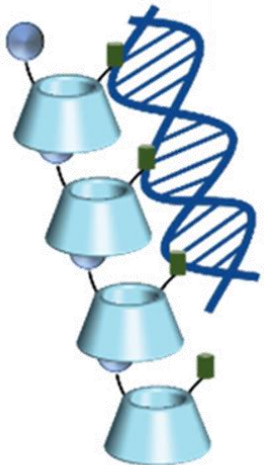
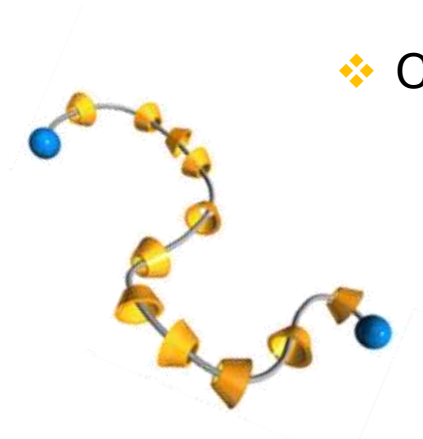
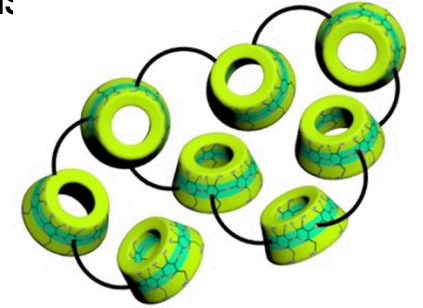
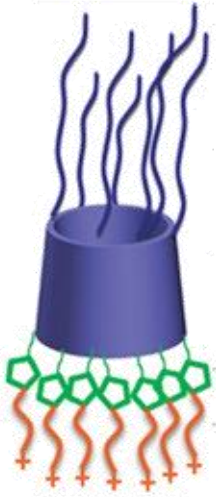
- ❖ Enhanced cellular uptake
 - ❖ Targeted gene delivery
 - ❖ Potential for controlled release
 - ❖ Good stability and protection of genetic material
 - ❖ High structural versatility
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- Complexity of synthesis
 - Batch-to-batch variability
 - High cost
 - Immunogenicity and toxicity concerns
 - Limited clinical translation





Conclusions

- ❖ CDs are the most versatile substrate for the design of gene delivery systems
- ❖ CDs-based systems are promising in terms of toxicity and immunogenicity
- ❖ CDs-based systems are ideal for combination therapy
- ❖ CDs-based constructs hold and protect the genetic material effectively
- ❖ CDs-based systems are suitable for prolonged/sustained release
- ❖ CDs-based architectures can be engineered to have long shelf lives
- ❖ CDs-based architectures are amenable for tropism-modification strategies





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