

# New Tools to Study and Perturb the Glycocalyx

**Glycobiology 2015**

**10-12 August, 2015**

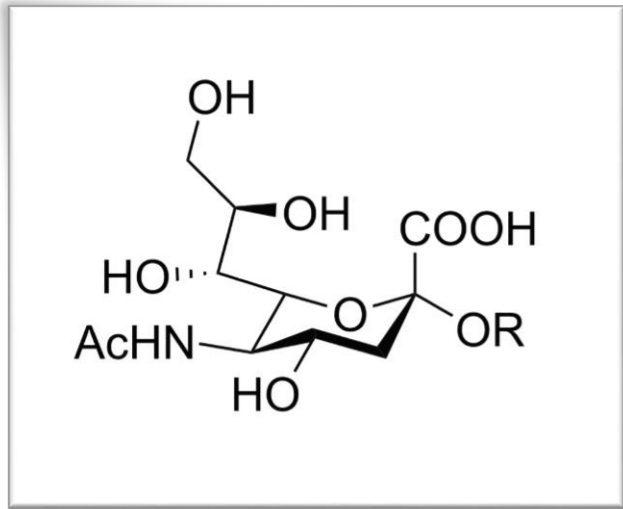
Thomas Boltje

Institute for Molecules and Materials

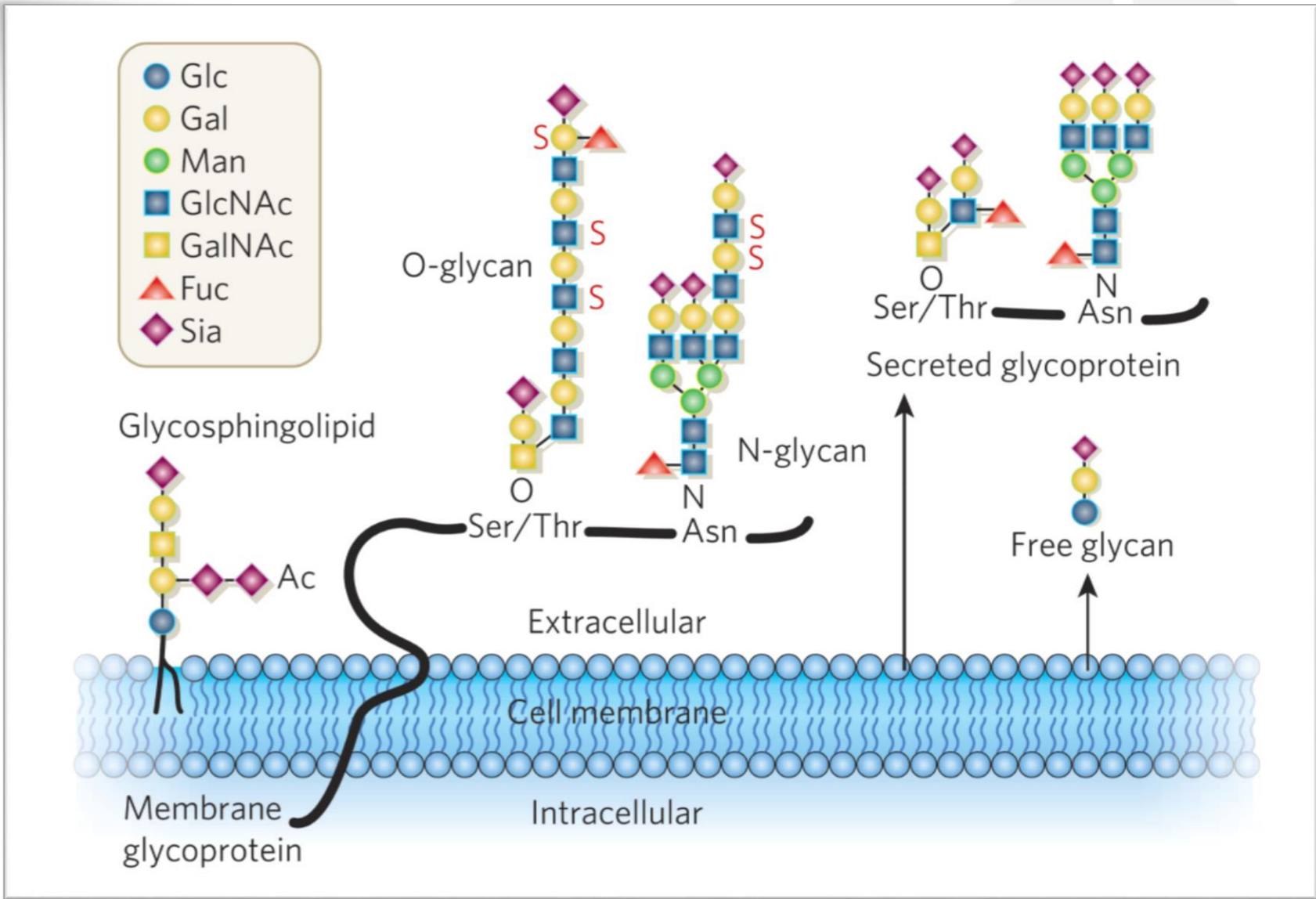
Radboud University

The Netherlands

# Sialic Acid Structure and Function



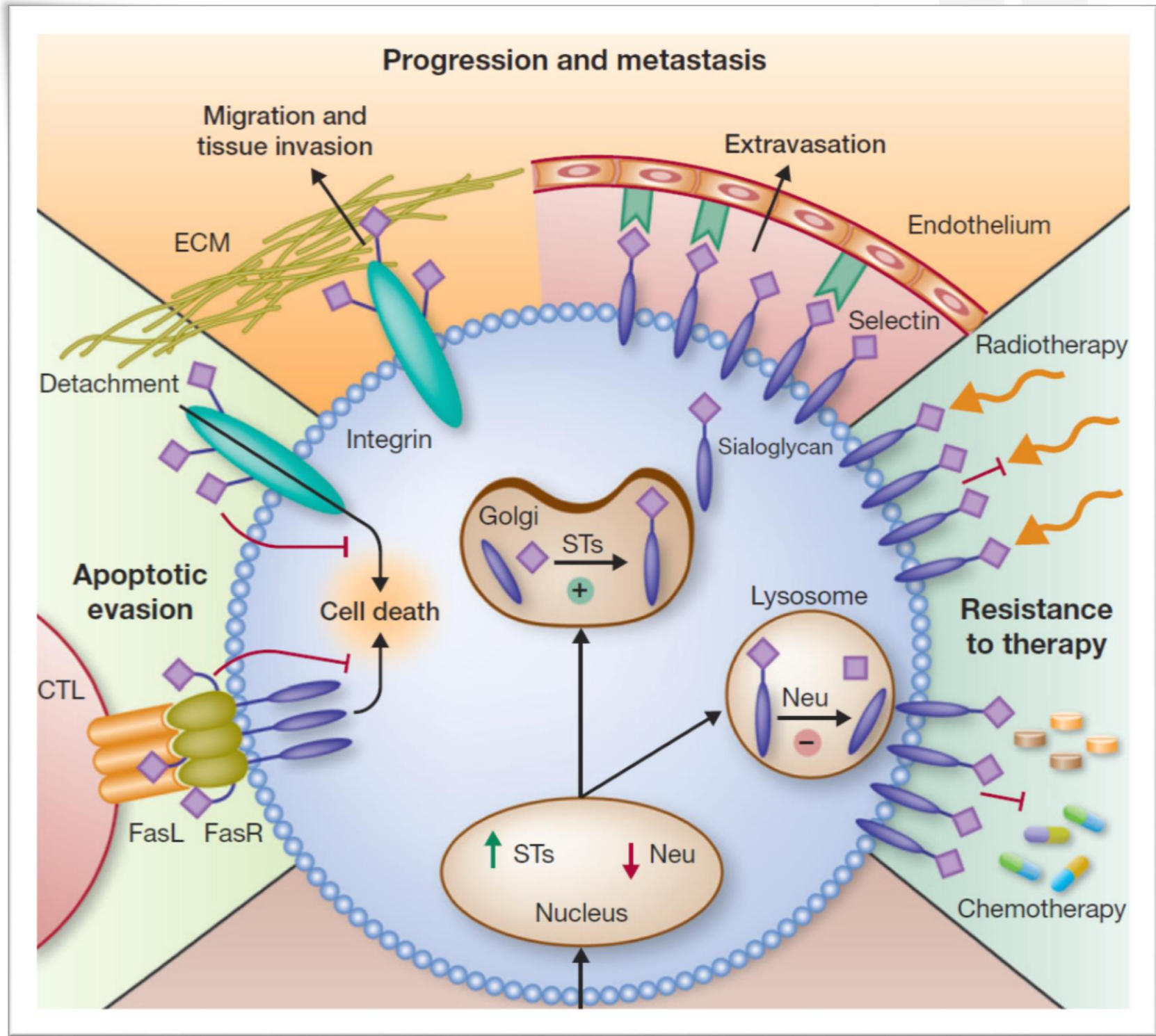
- Sialic acids: a family of over of >50 2-keto-3-deoxynononic acids
- Found on the termini of glycan chains
- Play an important role in the immune response



# Sialic acid sweetens a tumors life

Cancer cells are oversialylated

- Immune Evasion
- Resistance to Apoptosis
- Migration and Metastasis
- Resistance to Therapy
- Poor Prognosis



Büll C, Stoel M.A., den Brok M.H, Adema G.J., *Cancer. Res*, **2014**, 74, 3199-3204.  
 Büll C, den Brok MH, Adema G.J., *Biochim. Biophys. Act. Rev. Cancer*. **2014**, 1846, 238-246.

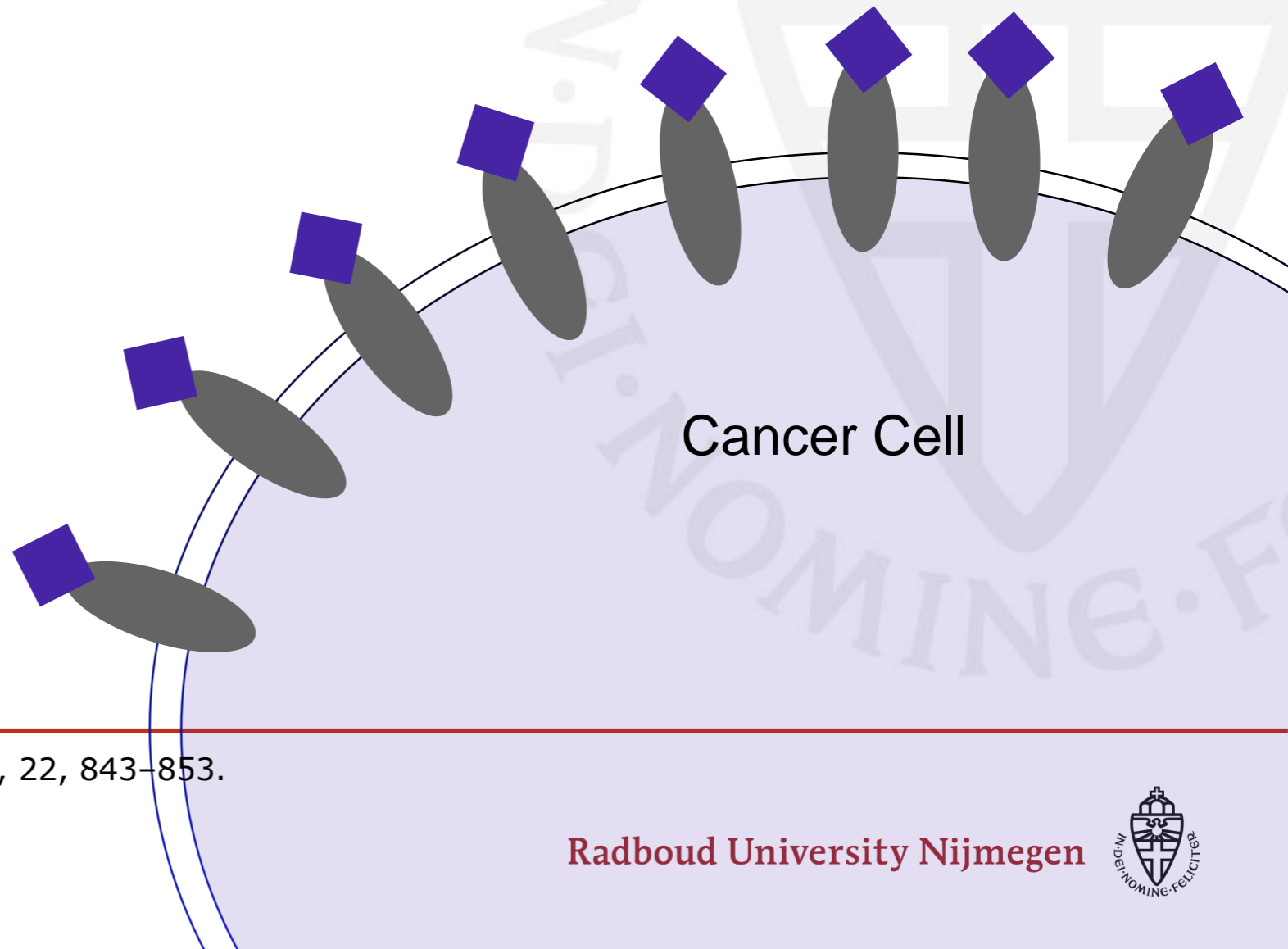


# Reducing Oversialylation in Cancer

Sialidase treatment:

- Promising results
- Often contaminated
- Short lived effect
- Difficult to study effect on immune response

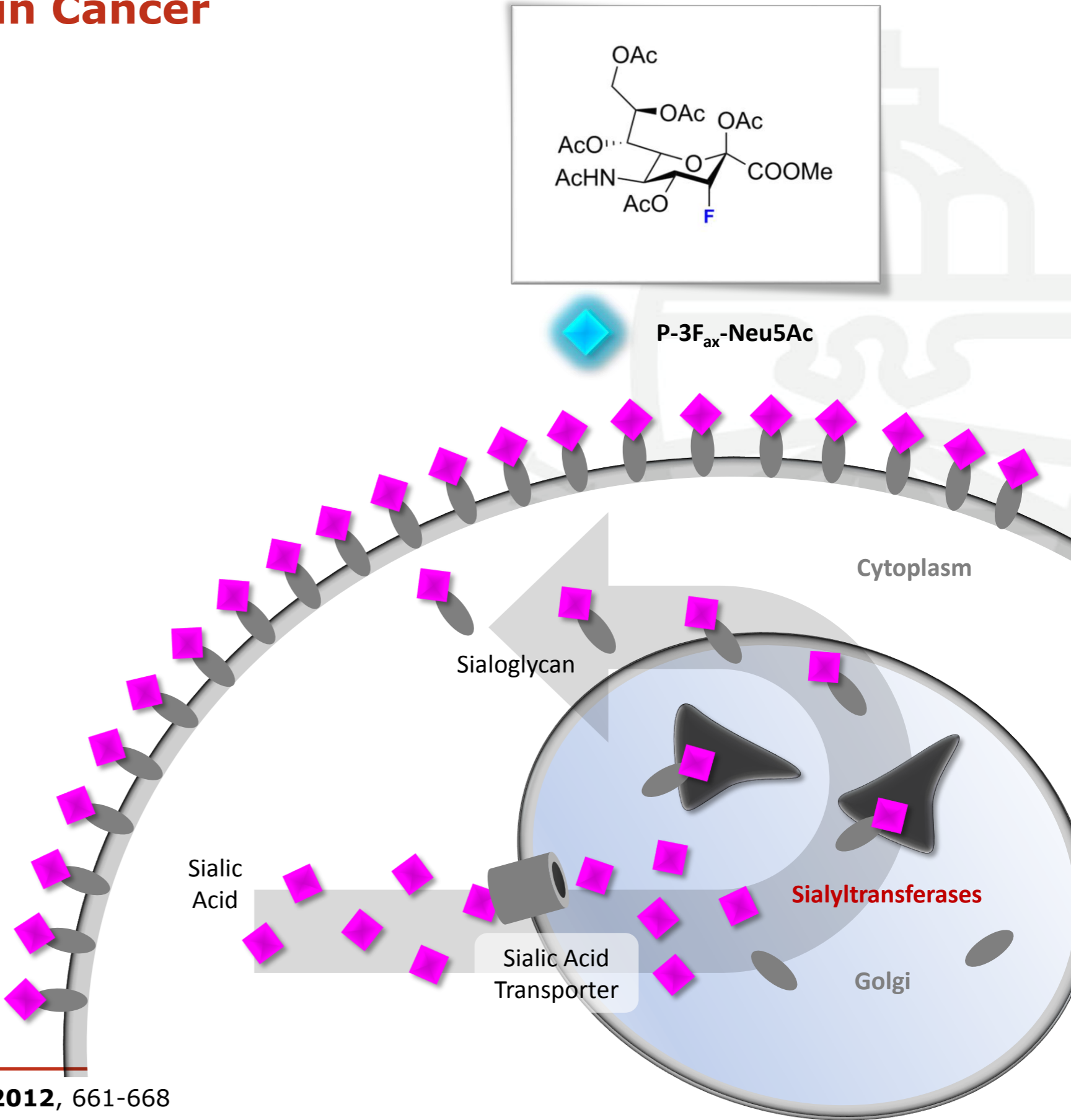
Removal



Currie G.A., Bagshawe K.D., *British Journal of Cancer* **1968**, 22, 843–853.  
Sanford, B.H. *Transplantation*, **1967**.

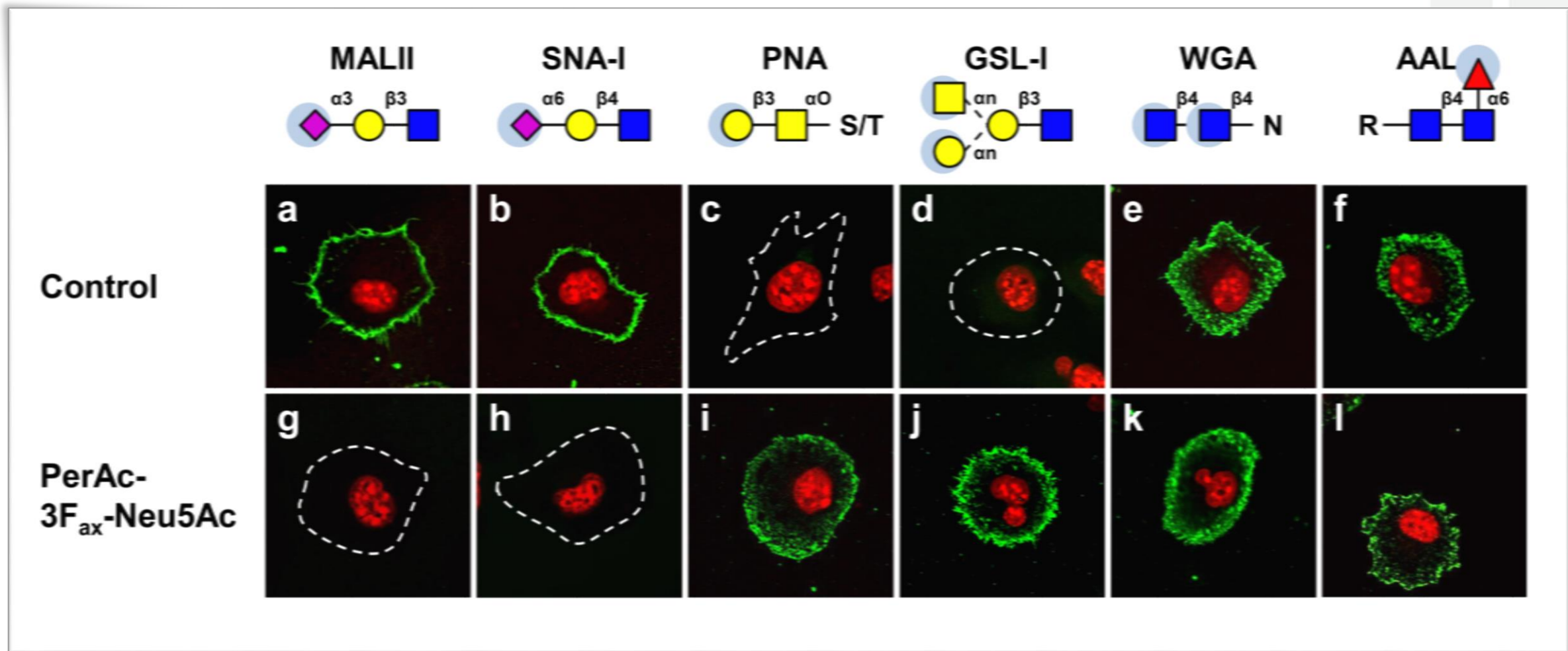


# Reducing Oversialylation in Cancer



Rillahan C.D., Paulson J.C., et.al., *Nat. Chem.Biol.* **2012**, 661-668

# Inhibition of sialylation slows tumor growth and metastasis

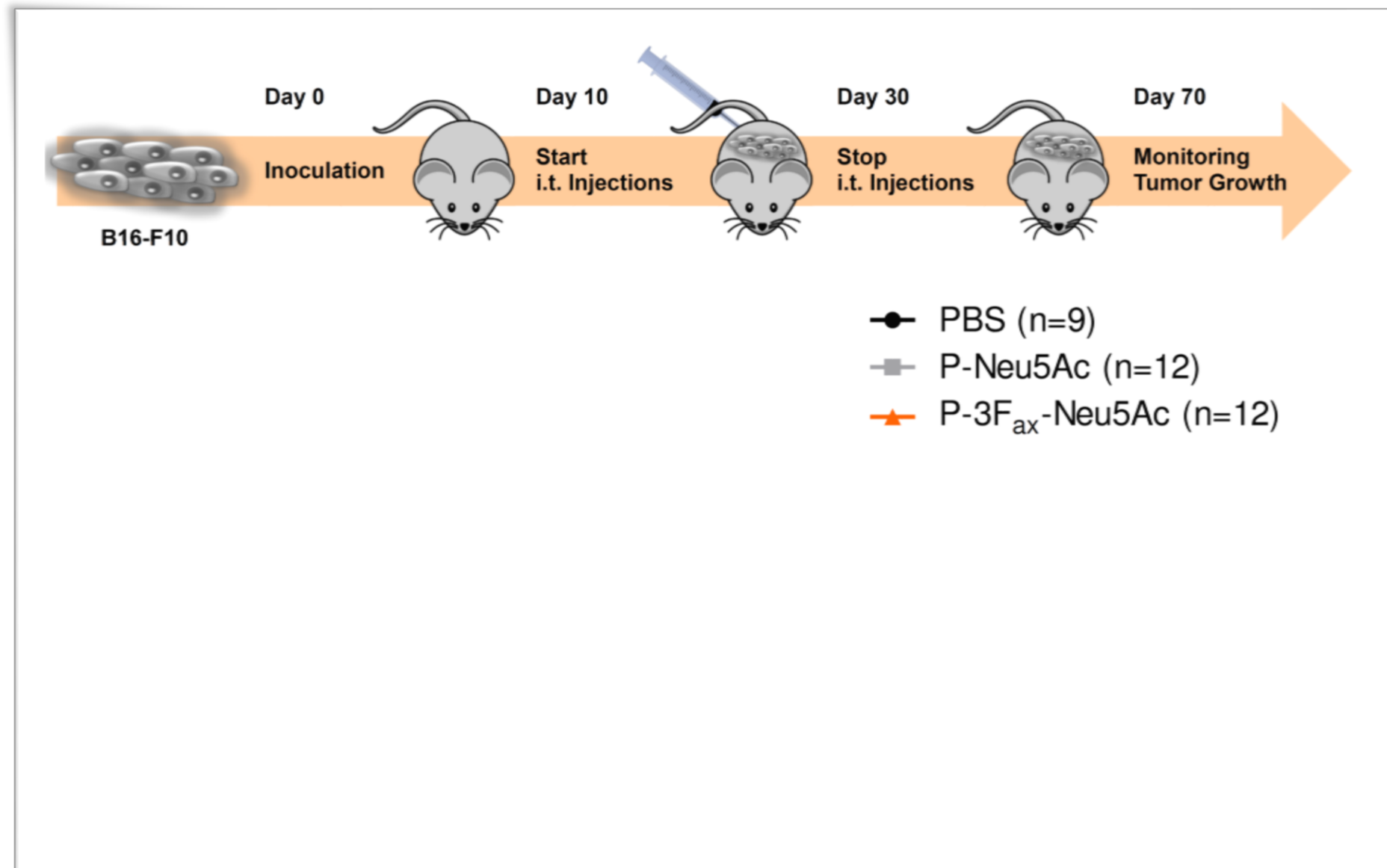


- Cell culture with 64 $\mu$ M concentration of inhibitor leads to almost complete desialylation
- Cell viability is not affected

Büll C, Boltje T.J., Adema G.J. *et.al.*, *ACS Nano*. **2015**, 9, 733-745.

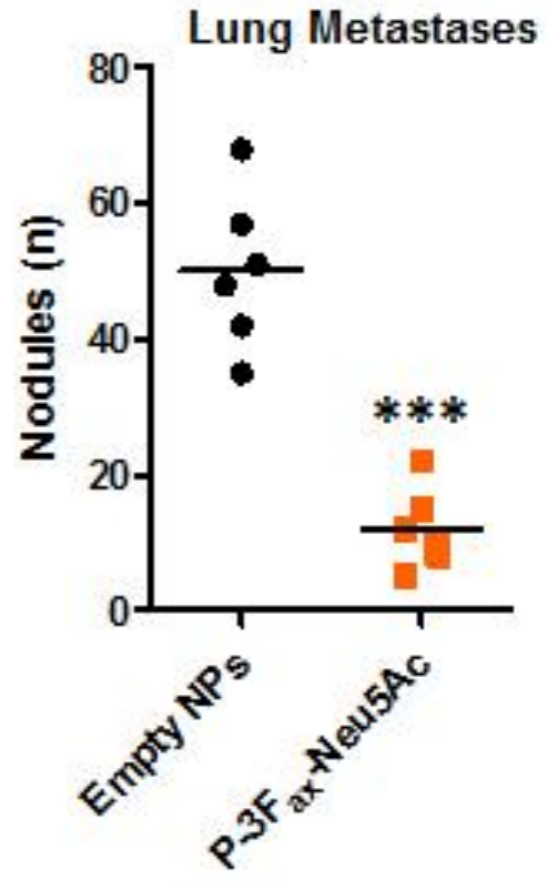
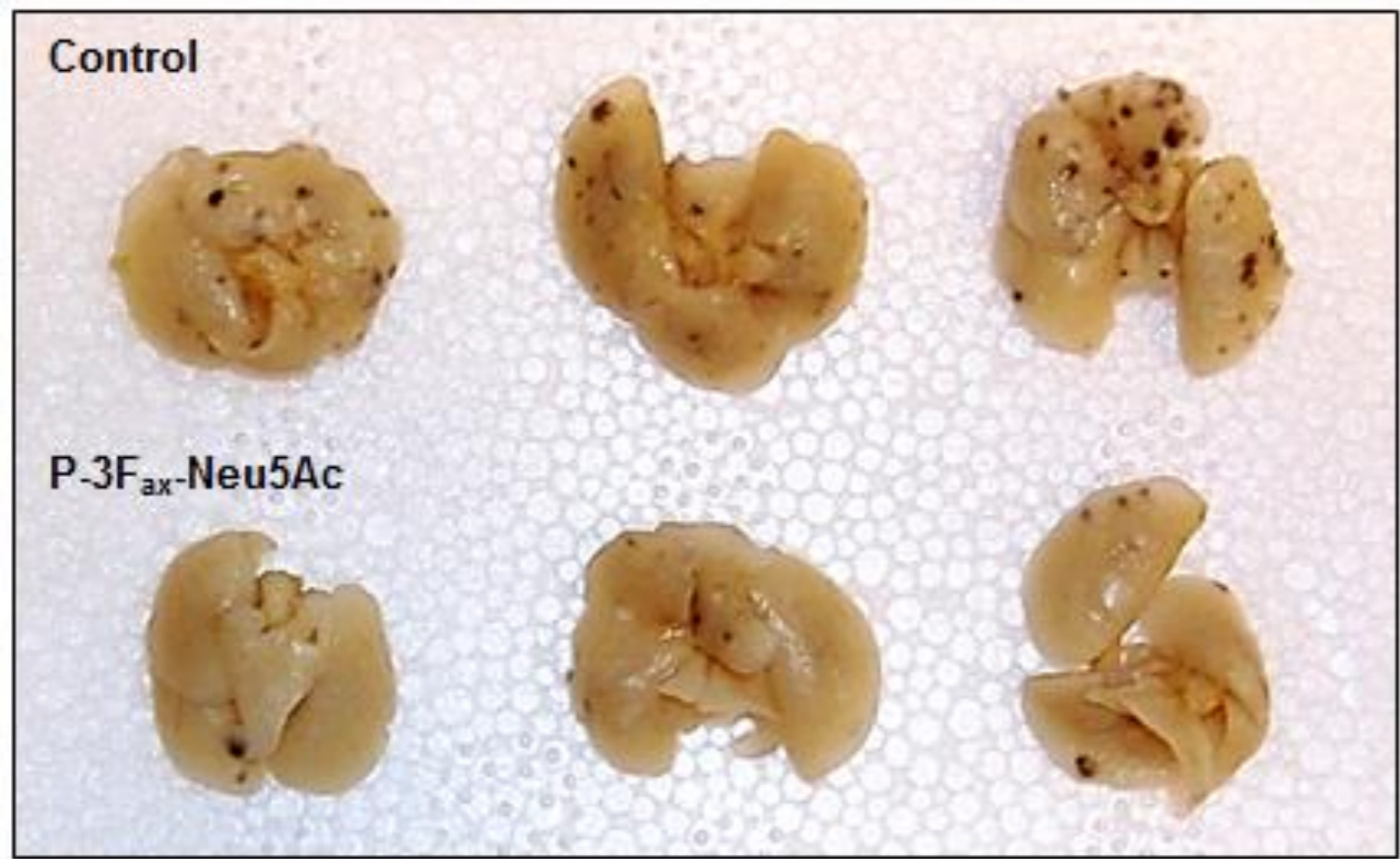
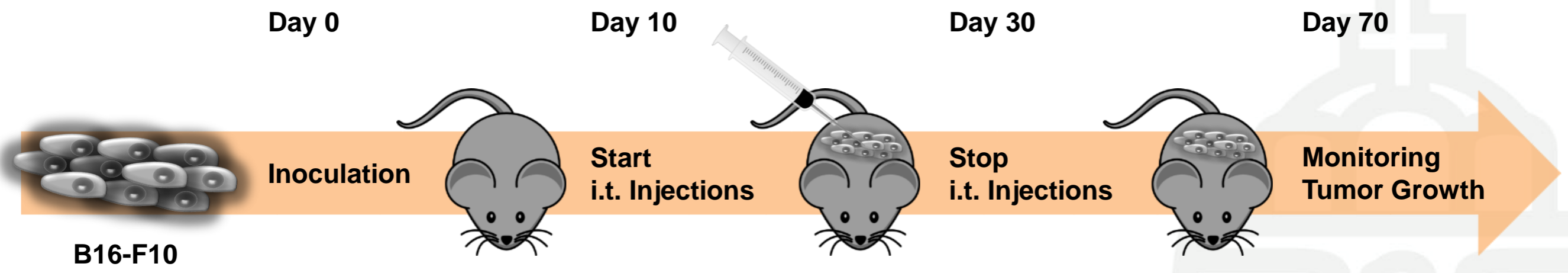
Büll C, Boltje T.J., Adema G.J. *et.al.*, *Mol. Cancer Ther.* **2013**, 12, 1935-1946.

# Inhibition of sialylation slows tumor growth and metastasis



- Control groups treated with PBS, or sialic acid died after 40 days
- 60% of the treated group survived

# Inhibition of sialylation slows tumor growth and metastasis



Mechanism?

Büll C, Boltje T.J., Adema G.J. *et.al.*, *ACS Nano*. **2015**, 9, 733-745.  
 Büll C, Boltje T.J., Adema G.J. *et.al.*, *Mol. Cancer Ther*. **2013**, 12, 1935-1946.

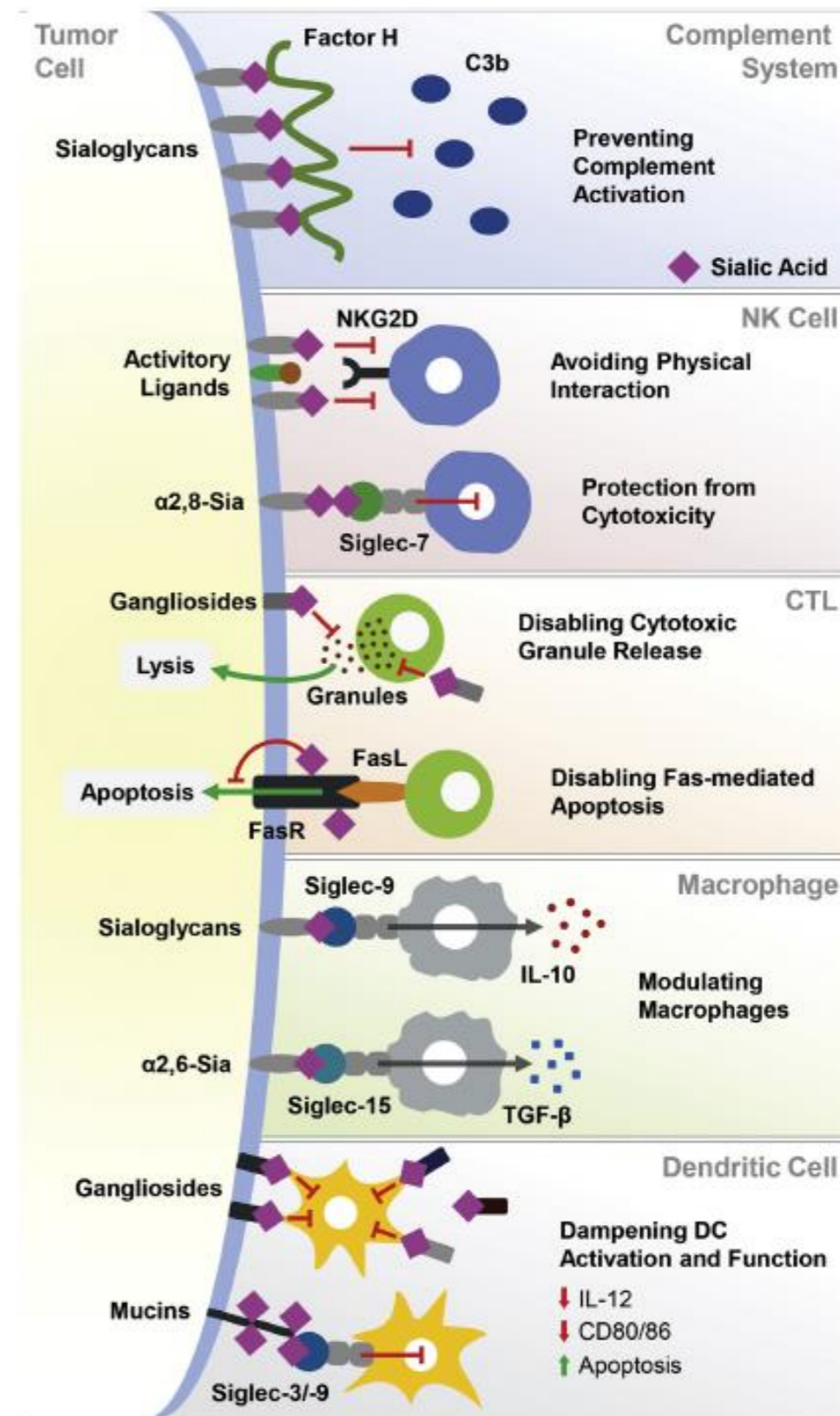
p<0.05 \*, p<0.01 \*\*, p<0.001 \*\*\*





# Sialic acid: an important immune response regulator

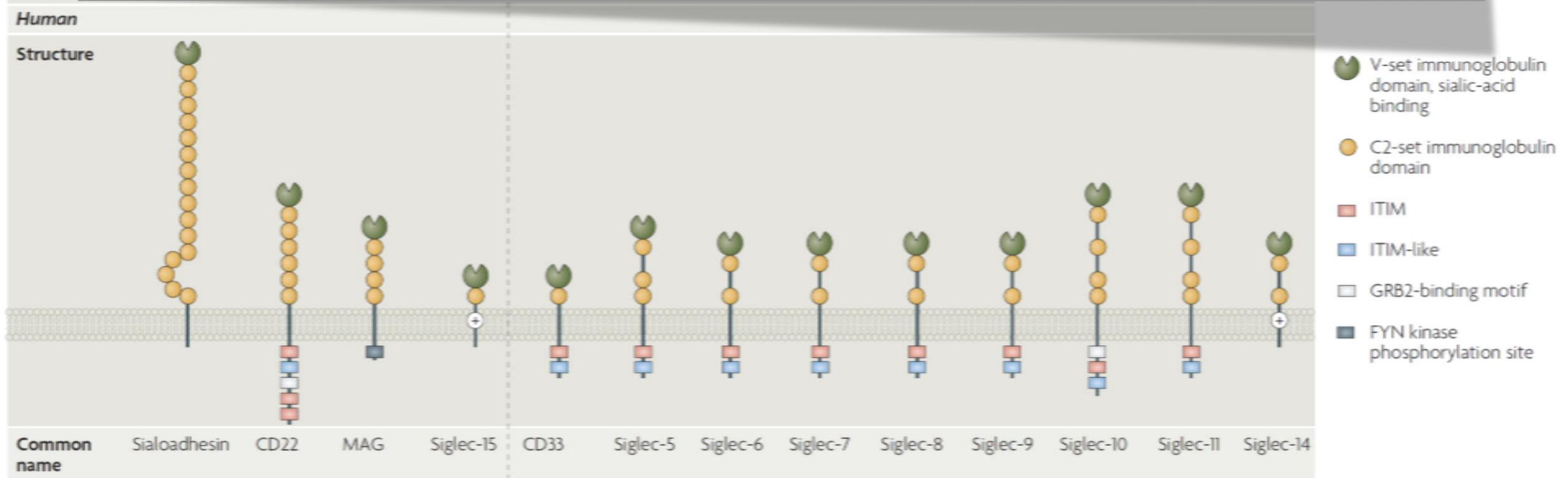
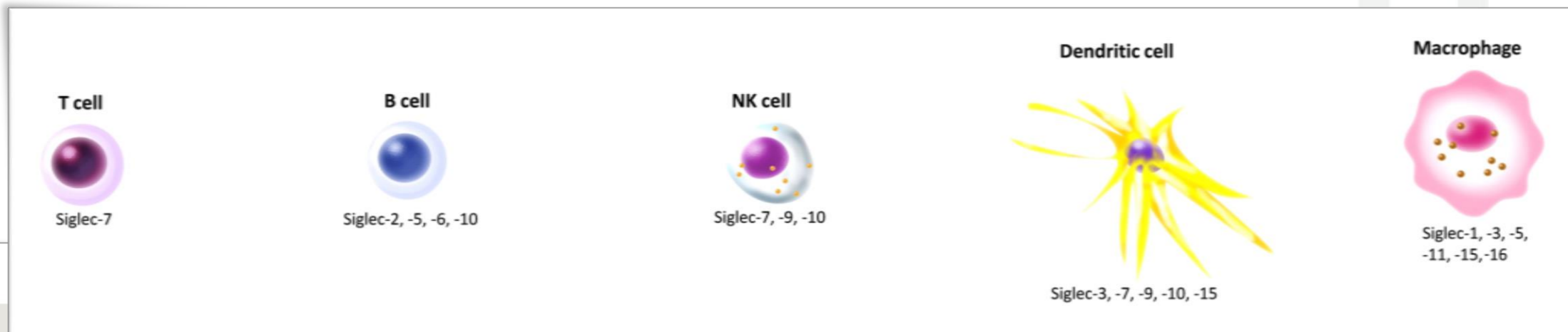
- Biophysical properties: high negative charge, dense highly hydrated layer
- Attracts complement inhibiting Factor-H
- Actively bound by immunosuppressive SIGLEC receptors on immune cells



Büll C, den Brok MH, Adema G.J., *Biochim. Biophys. Act. Rev. Cancer.* **2014**, 1846, 238-246.

# SIGLEC structure and expression

- Sialic acids inhibit complement activation
- Protective biophysical properties, hydration, negative charge etc.
- Bind a dedicated set of immuno suppressive SIGLEC receptors on immune cells

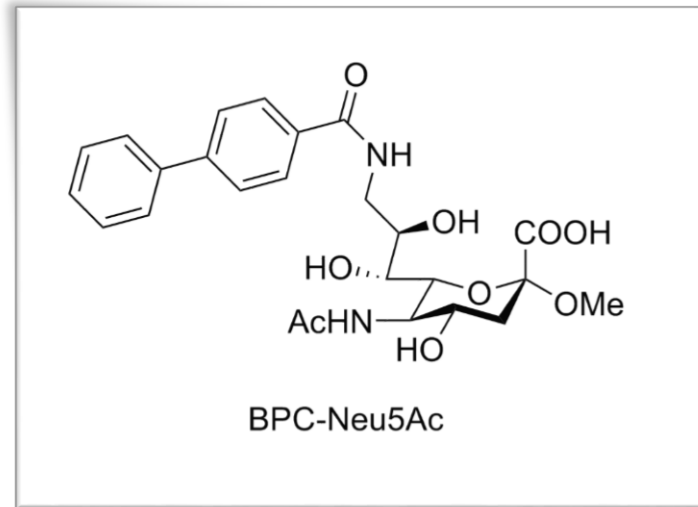


Jandus C., Simon H-U., von Gunten S., *Biochem. Pharmacol.* **2011**, 82, 323-332

Büll C, den Brok MH, Adema G.J., *Biochim. Biophys. Act. Rev. Cancer.* **2014**, 1846, 238-246.

Macauley M.S., Crocker P.R., Paulson J.C., *Nat. Rev. Immunol.* **2014**, 14, 653-666

# Targeting specific SIGLECs

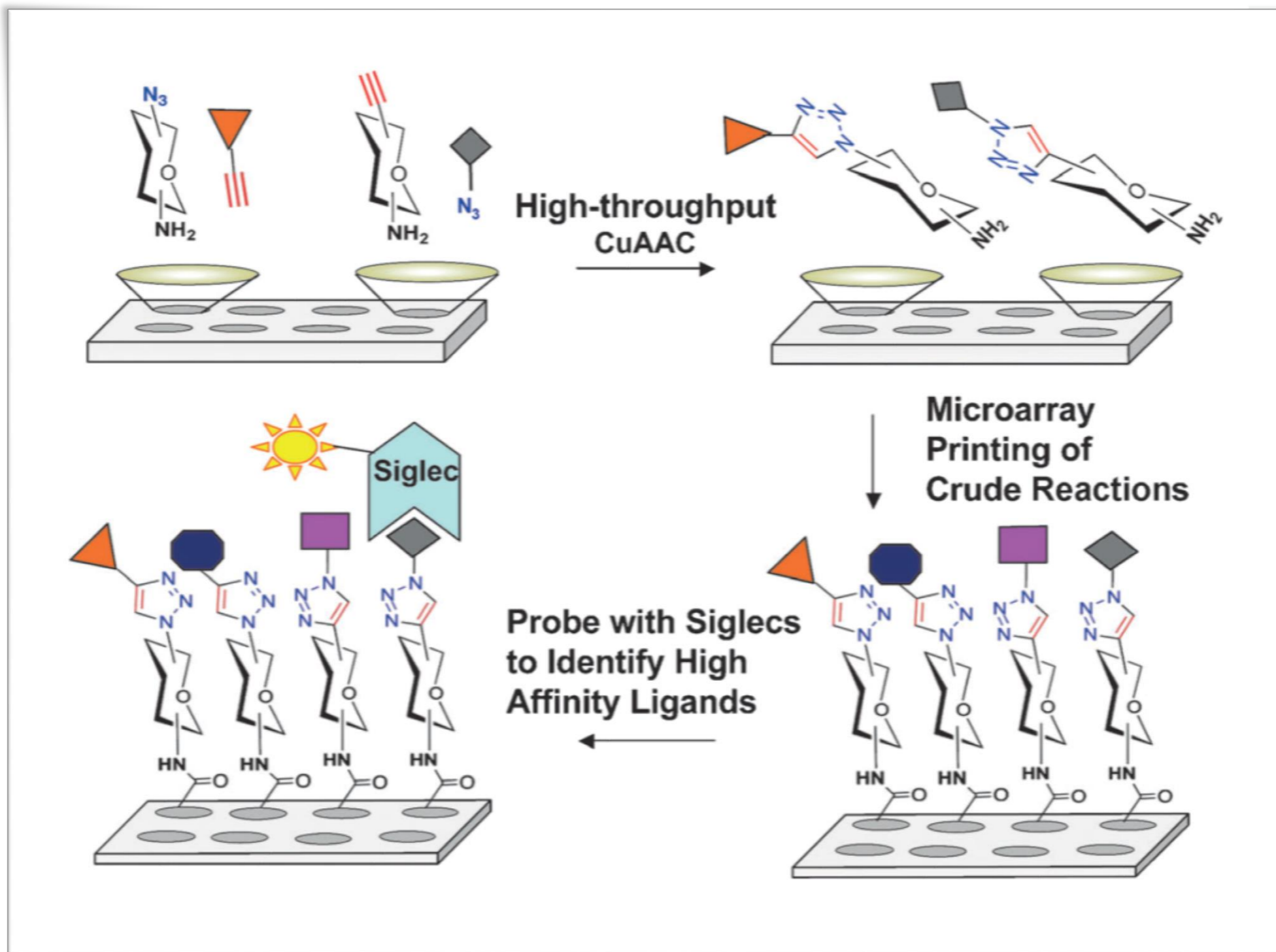


Kelm, Nitschke and co-workers

- Modified sialic acids can bind SIGLECs with high affinity
- Modifications can be used to achieve selective binding
- Modifications can be attached at various positions (C-5, C-9 etc).

	hCD22	mCD22
	IC <sub>50</sub> μM	IC <sub>50</sub> μM
Me-Neu5Ac	1,400	4,689
BPC-Neu5Ac	4	1,220

# Targeting specific SIGLECs

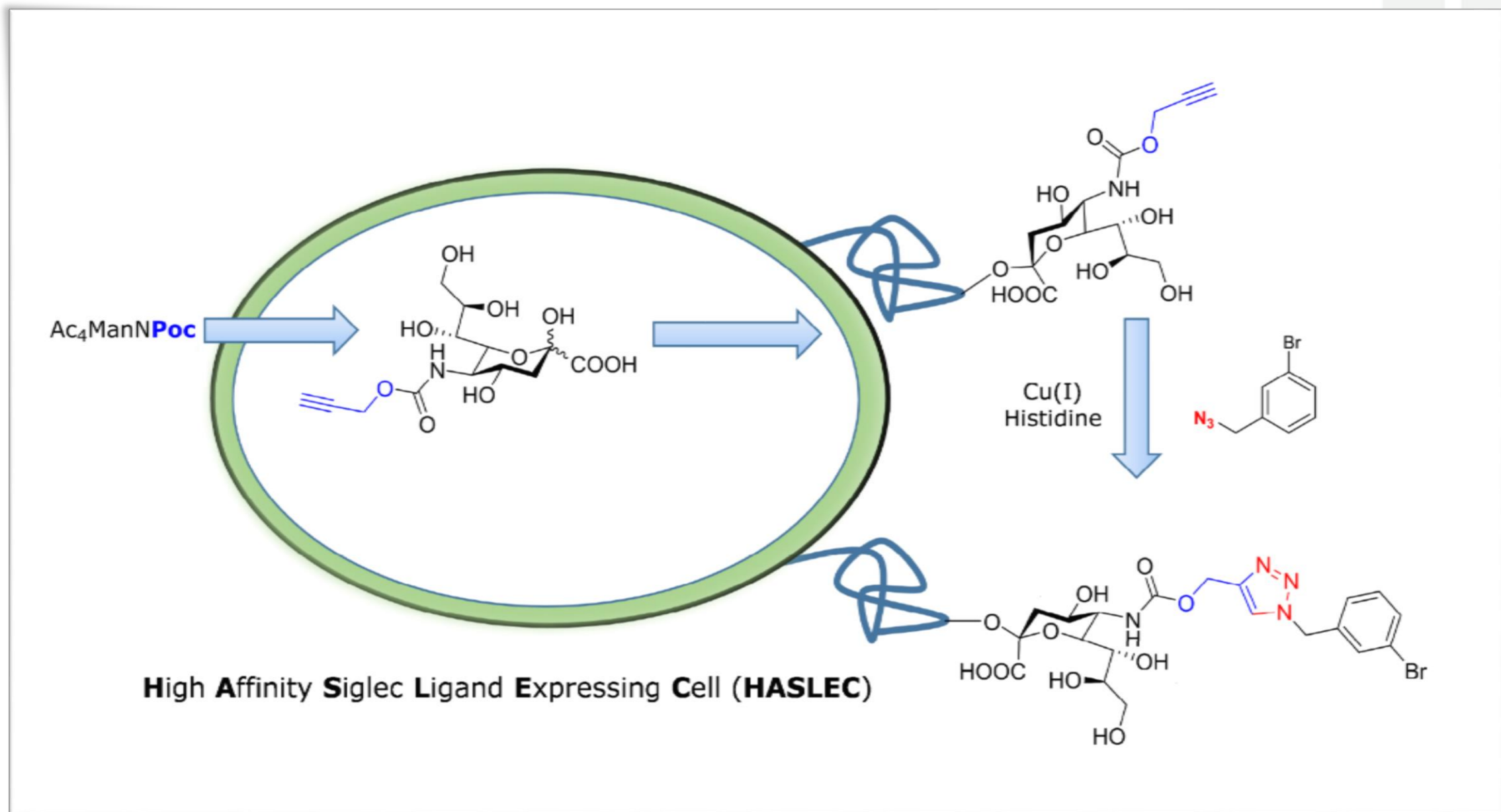


High throughput modification and screening *via* click chemistry

Rillahan C.D., Schwartz E., McBride R., Fokin V.V., Paulson J.C., *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, **2012**, 51, 11014-11018.

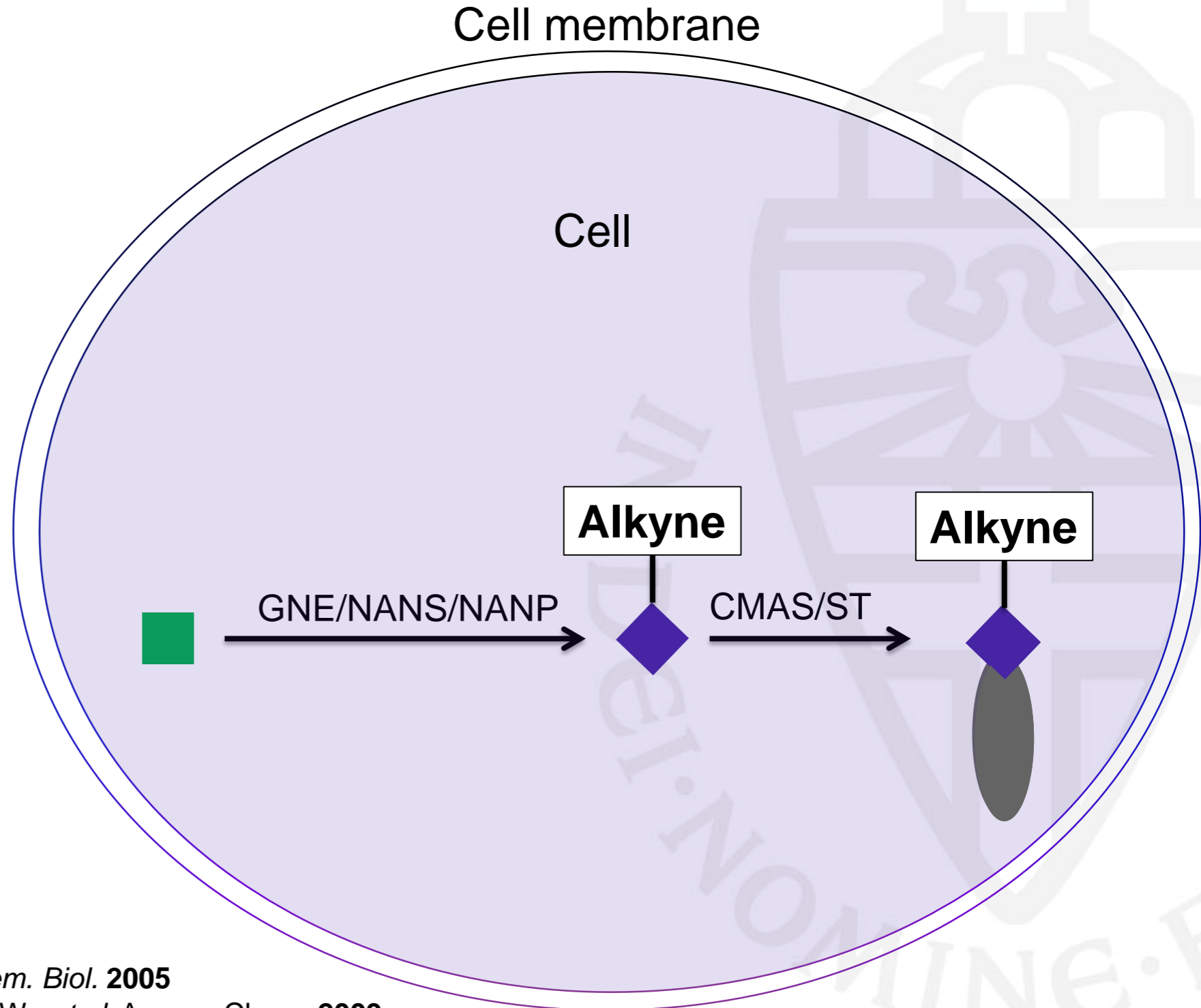
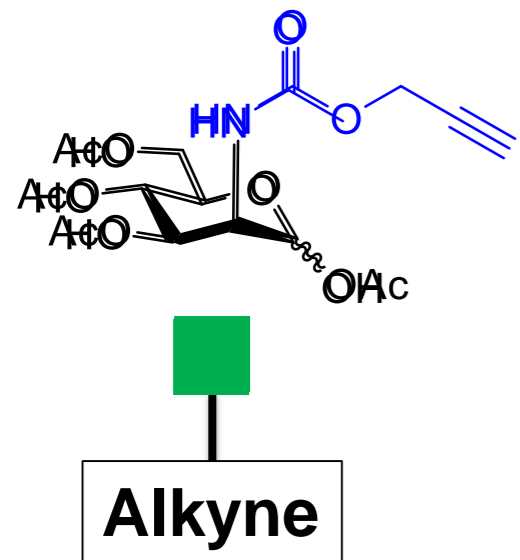


# High Affinity SIGLEC Ligand Expressing Cells HASLECs






- On cell synthesis to create High Affinity SIGLEC Ligand Expressing Cells HASLECs
- Natural context of sialic acid expression
- Enables to study the effect of binding on signaling

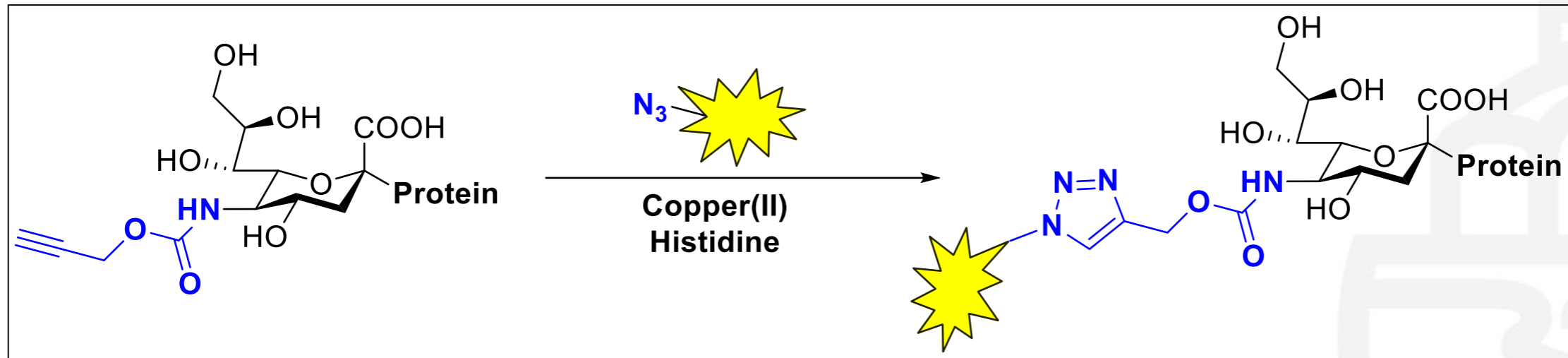
# Metabolic labeling of sialic acids and sialoglycans



- 1) J.A. Prescher & Carolyn R Bertozzi, *Nat. Chem. Biol.* **2005**
- 2) Pamela V. Chang, Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Peng Wu *et al.* *Angew. Chem.* **2009**
- 3) Wong C.H. *et al.*, *PNAS*, **2007**

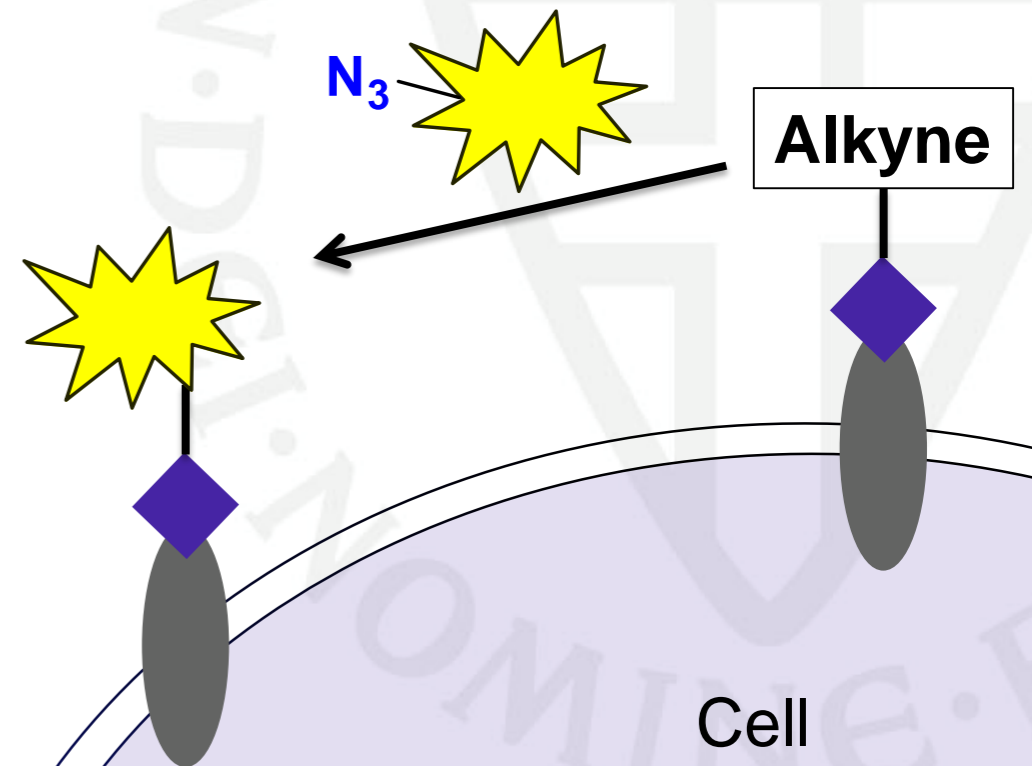
 = ManNac     = Sialic acid     = Protein

# Making the chemical reporter visible



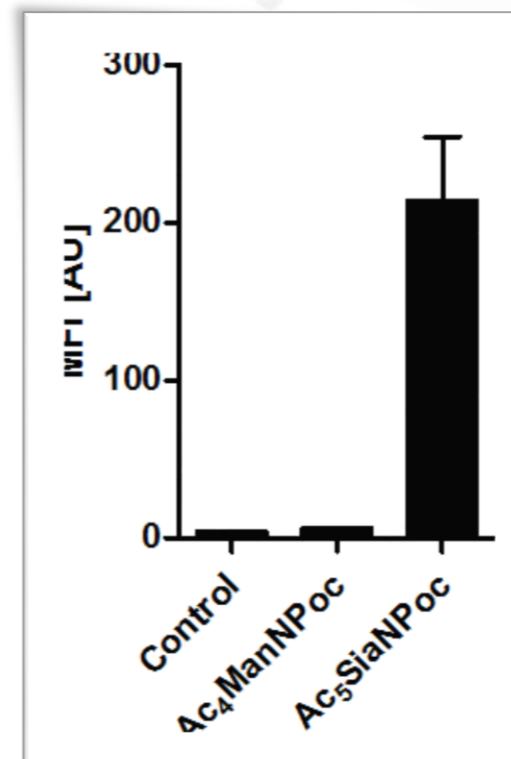
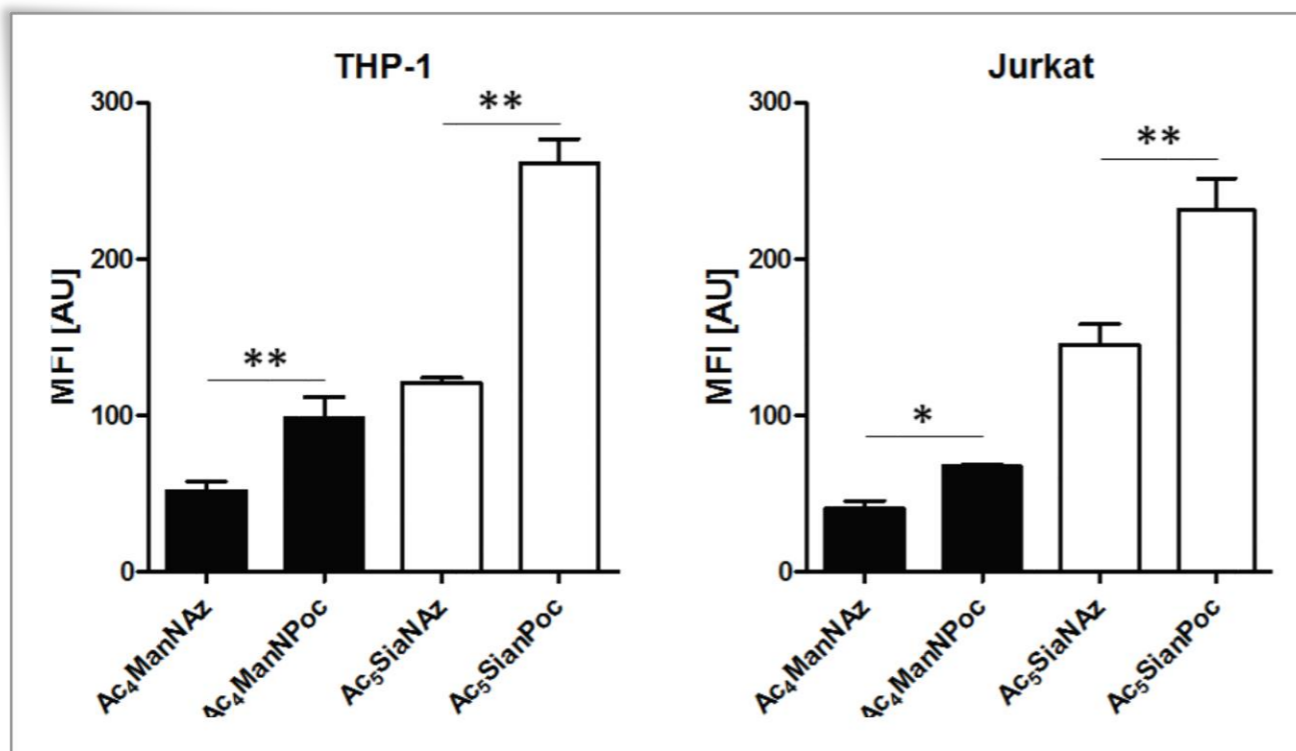
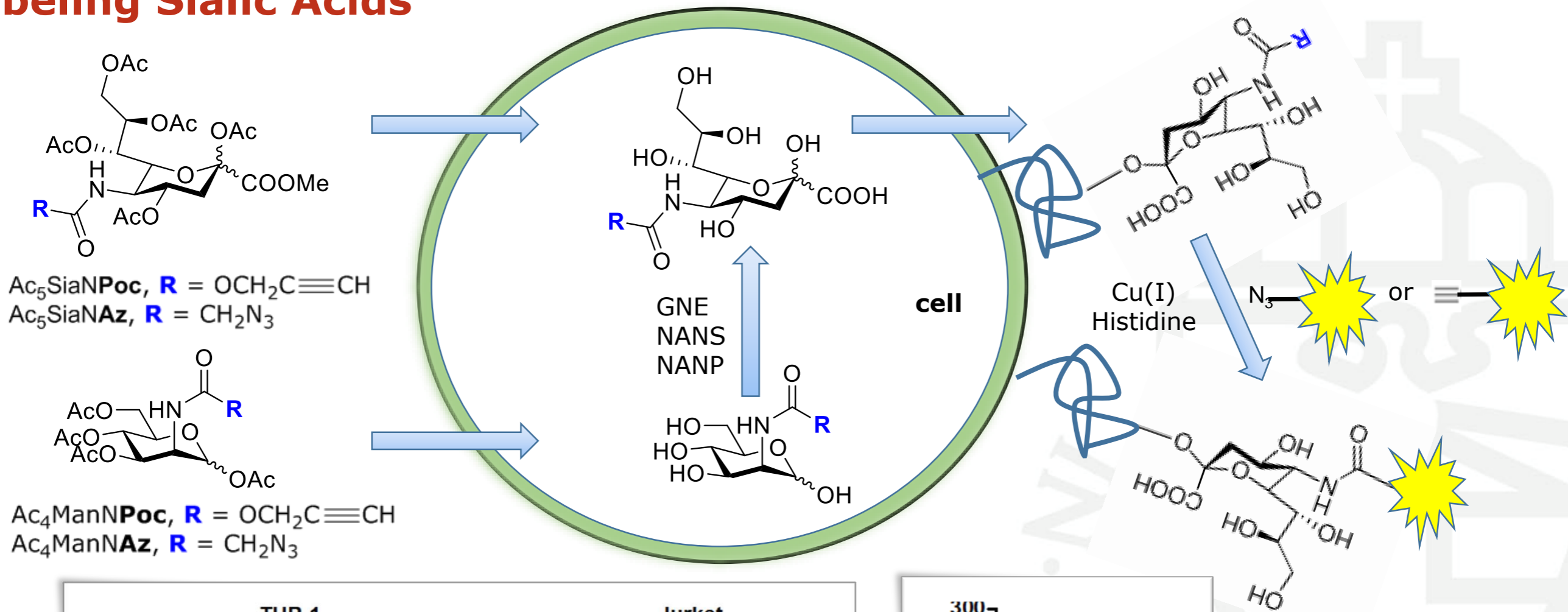
- The two reactants are unique in nature
- They only react with each other
- The rest of the cell remains the same

Cell membrane



- 1) Wong C.H. *et al*, PNAS, 2007
- 2) Kennedy *et al* 2011 *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*

# Labeling Sialic Acids



T.-L. Hsu, S. R. Hanson, K. Kishikawa, S.-K. Wang, M. Sawa, C.-H. Wong, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **2007**, *104*, 2614-2619

P. V. Chang, X. Chen, C. Smyrniotis, A. Xenakis, T. S. Hu, C. R. Bertozzi, P. Wu, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 4030-4033.

Luchansky, S.J., Goon, S. & Bertozzi, C.R., *ChemBiochem*, **2004**, *5*, 371-4.

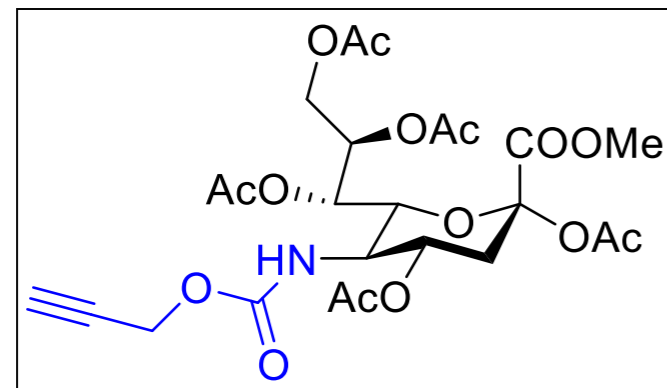
Heise T., Büll C., Adema G.J., Boltje T.J. *et.al. ACS. Chem. Biol. ASAP*

Radboud University Nijmegen

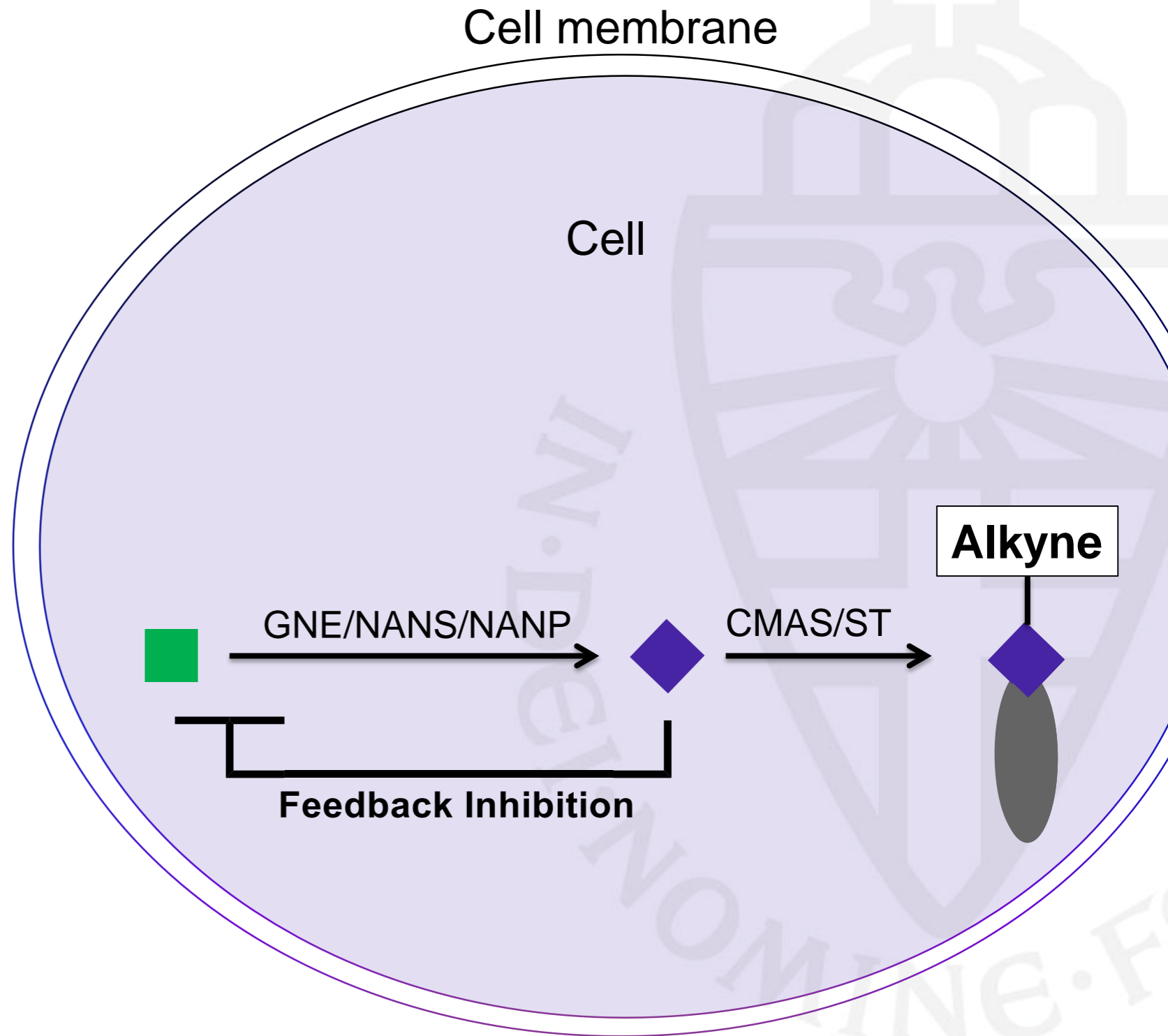




# Metabolic labeling of sialic acids and sialoglycans



Alkyne



Alkyne


GNE/NANS/NANP

CMAS/ST

Feedback Inhibition

 = ManNac

 = Sialic acid

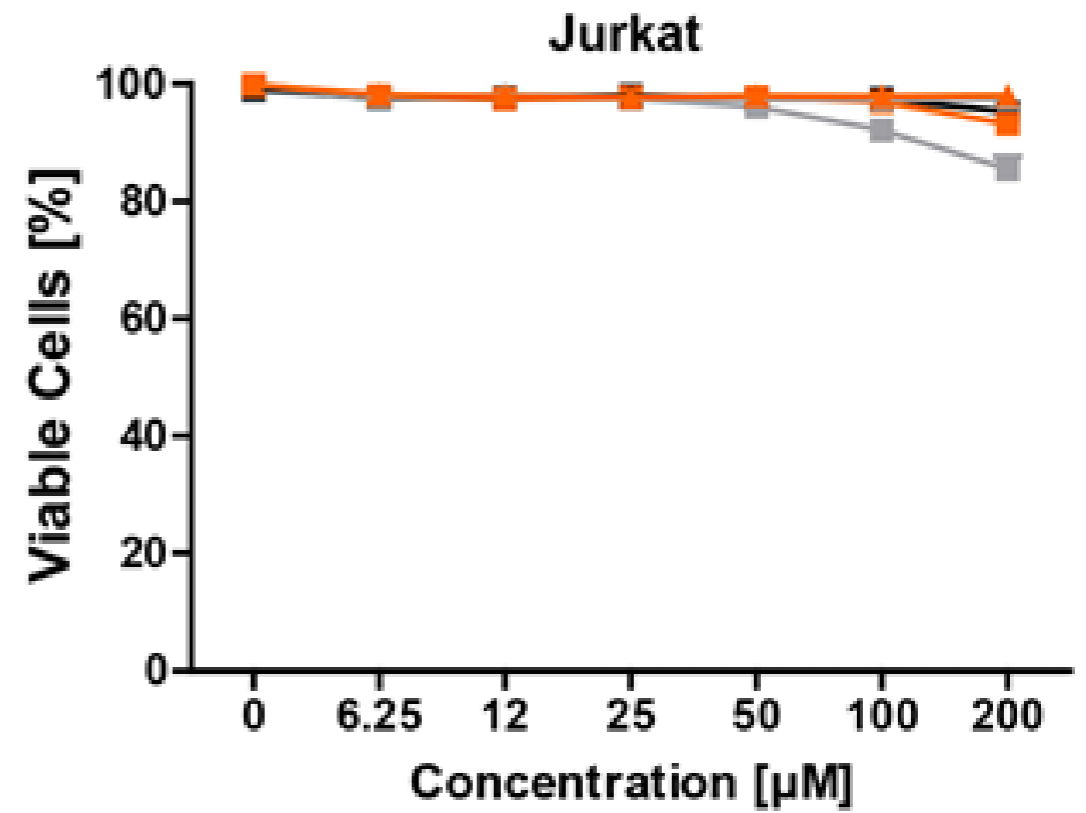
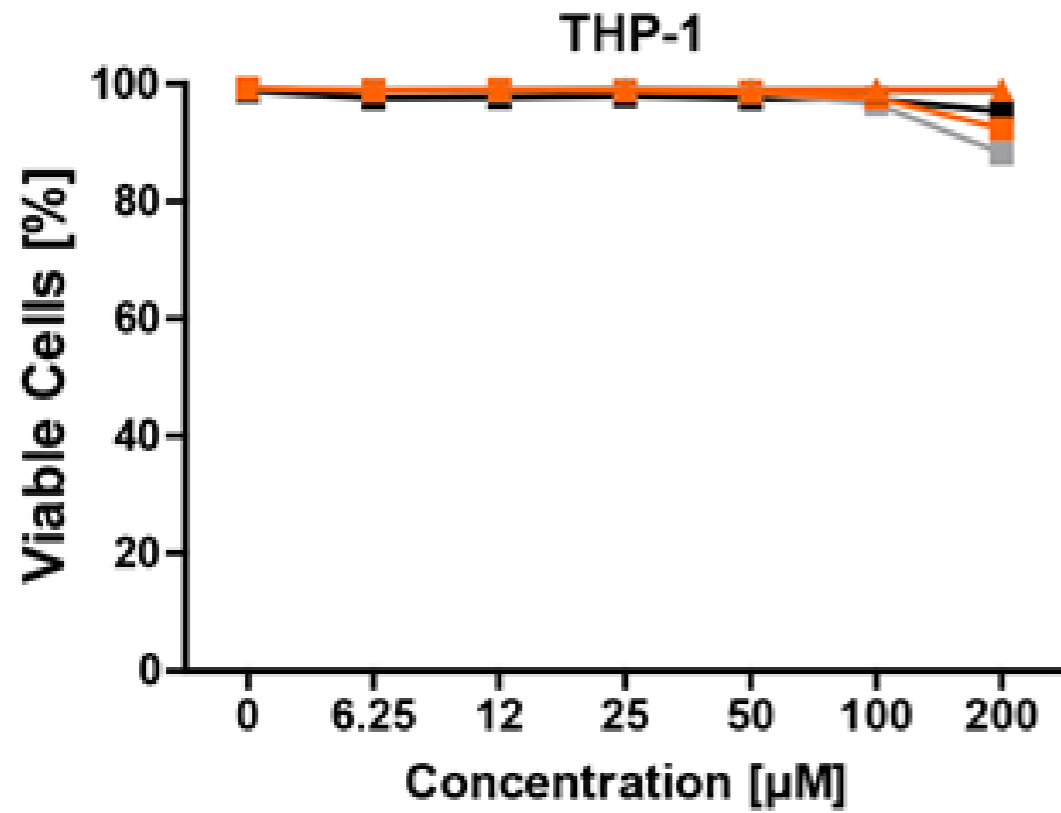
 = Protein

Heise T., Büll C., Adema G.J., Boltje T.J. *et.al.* ACS. Chem. Biol. ASAP

Radboud University Nijmegen



# Sialic acid analogues are less toxic



■ Ac<sub>4</sub>ManNAc

■ Ac<sub>4</sub>ManNAz

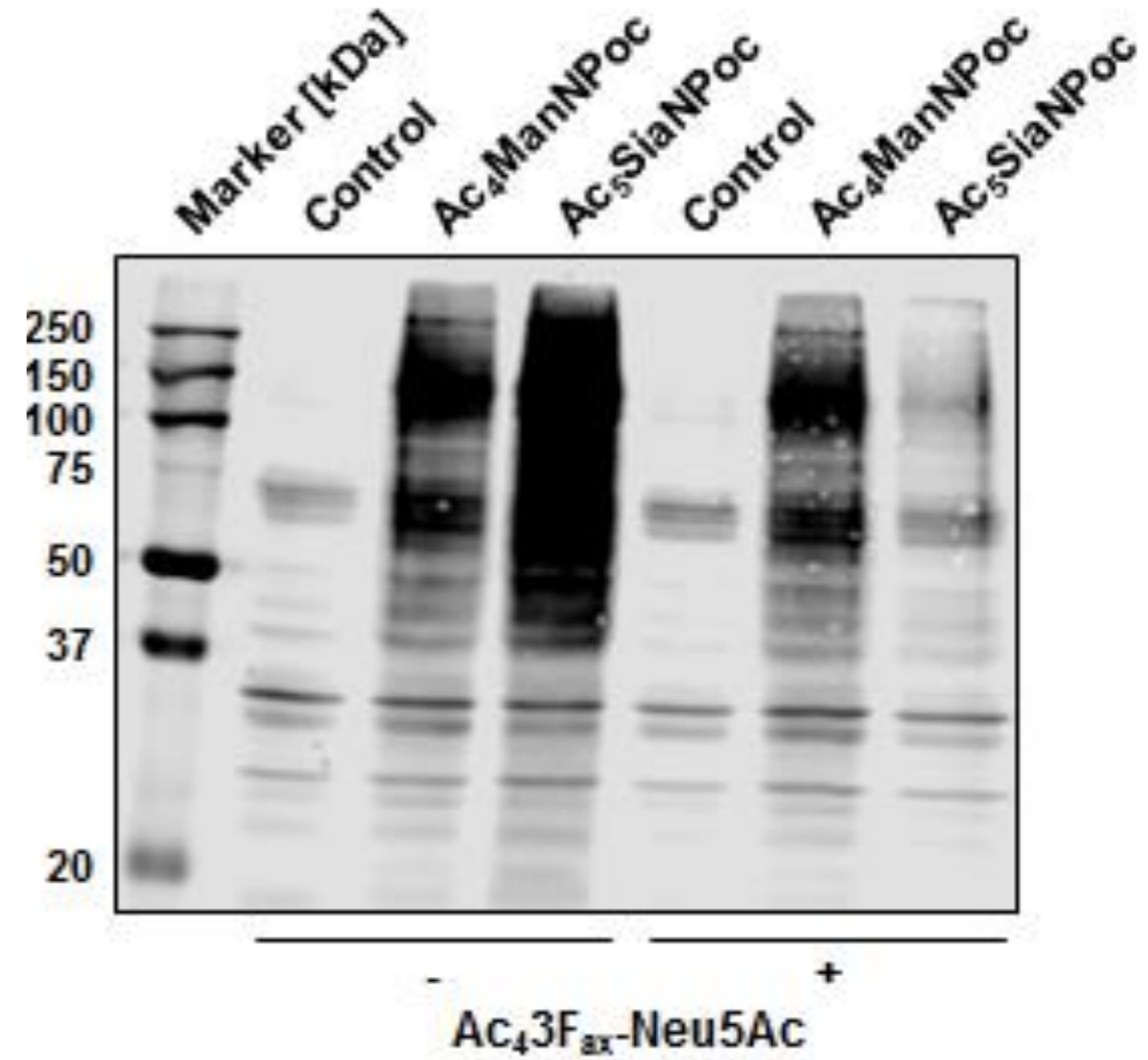
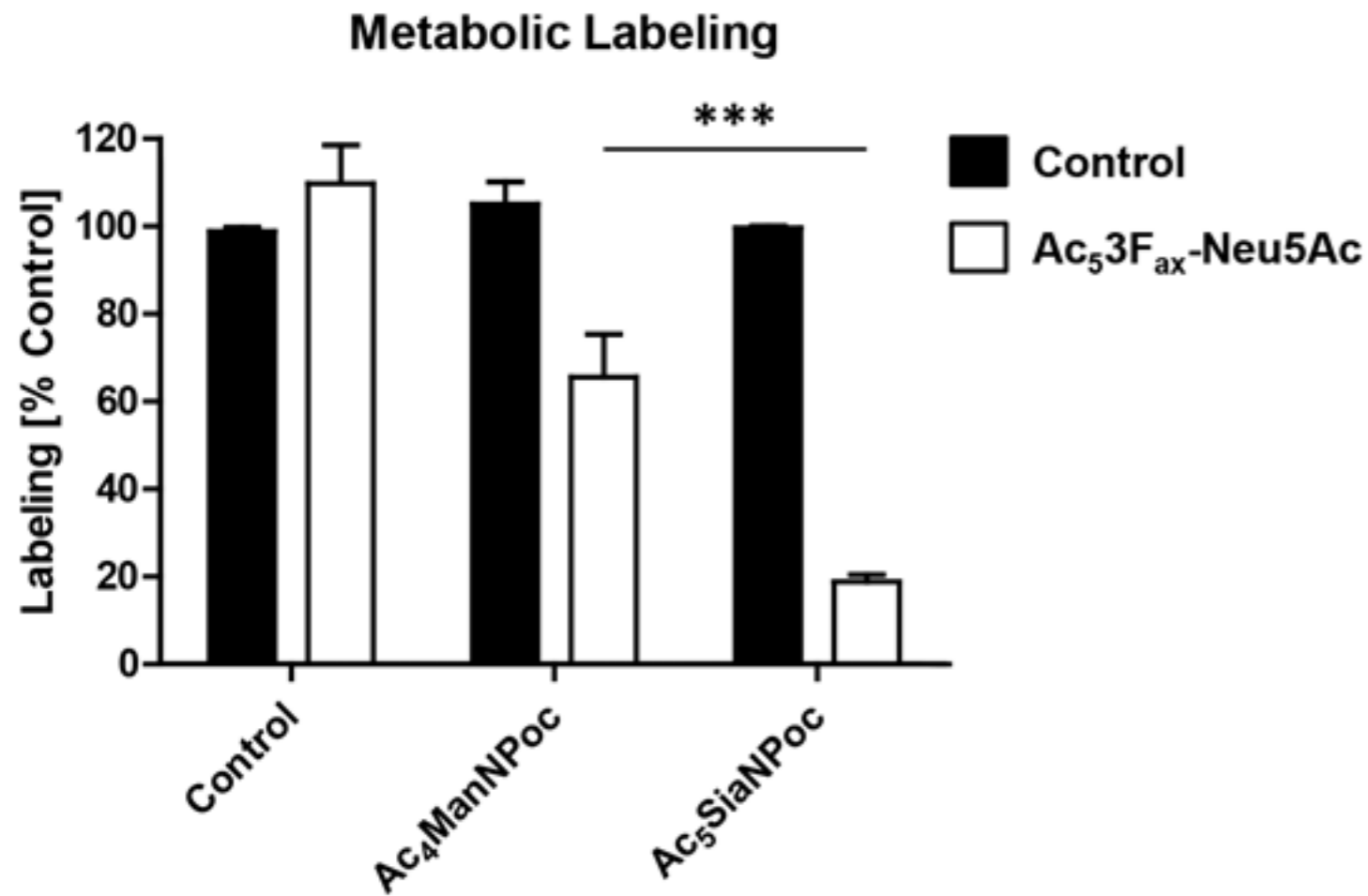
■ Ac<sub>4</sub>ManNPoc

▲ Ac<sub>5</sub>SiaNAc

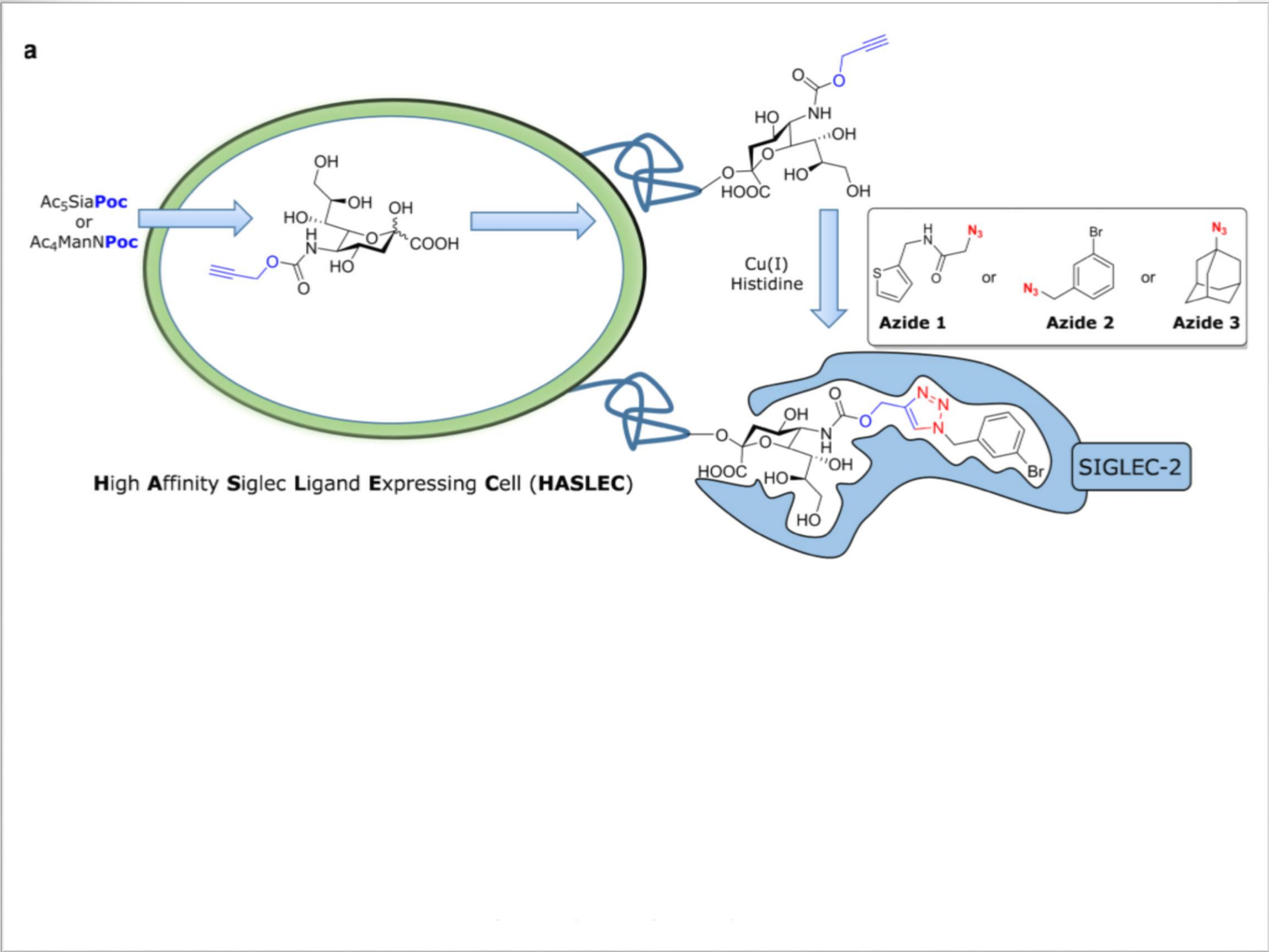
▲ Ac<sub>5</sub>SiaNAz

▲ Ac<sub>5</sub>SiaNPoc

# Sialic analogues are more specific



# High Affinity Siglec Ligand Expressing Cells (HASLECs)



Heise T., Büll C., Adema G.J., Boltje T.J. et.al. ACS. Chem. Biol. ASAP

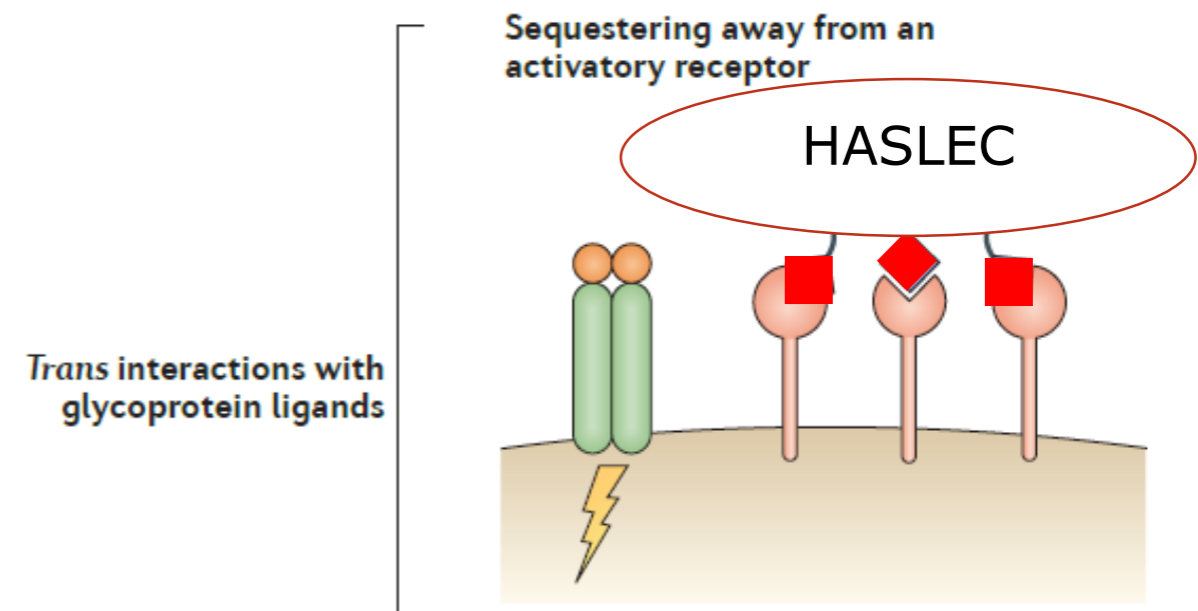
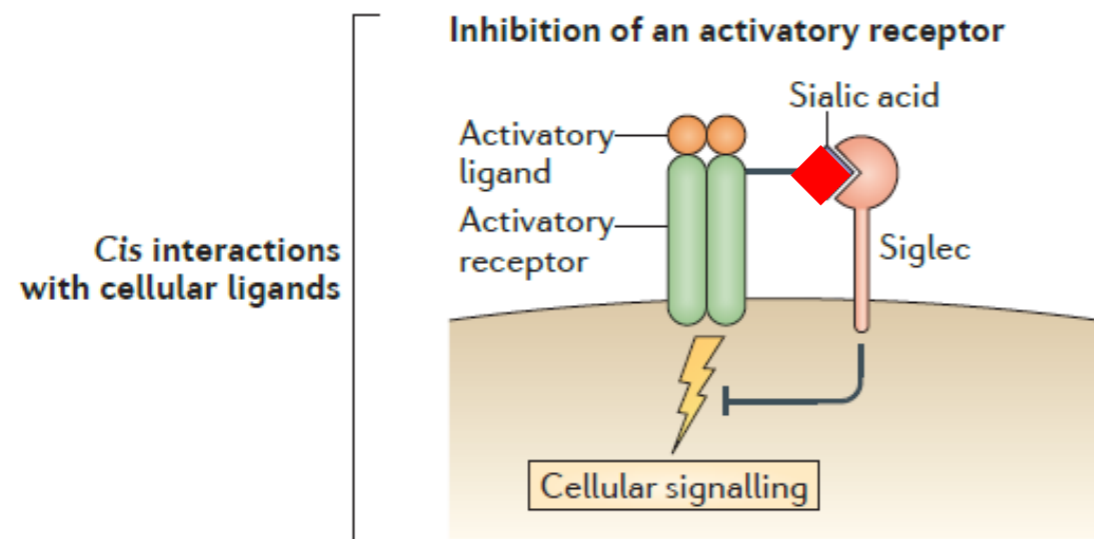




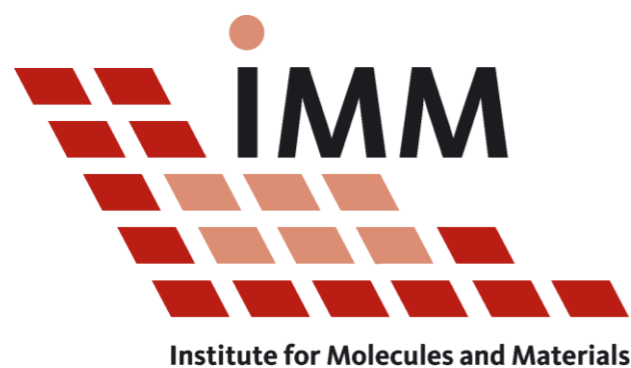
# Future work, more design and screening

- **More screening**
- More ligands
- Different positions on the sialic acid
- **Functional experiments**
- HASLEC/SIGLEC containing cell binding
- Functional consequences of HASLEC binding: Immune activation/suppression

◆ = Sialic acid ◆ = High Affinity SIGLEC Ligand



# Acknowledgements



## Synthetic organic chemistry

- Torben Heise
- Victor Bloemendal

## Funding



## Tumor Immunology

- Prof. Gosse Adema
- Christian Büll
- Danielle Beurskens

Netherlands Research School  
of Chemical Biology