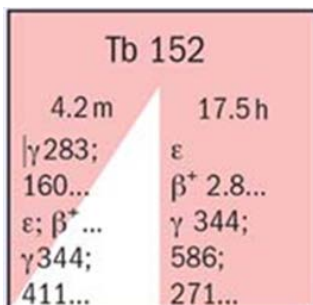


Maarten Ooms – 20/01/2022

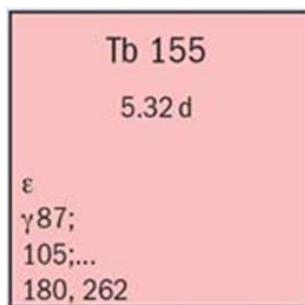
**sck cen**  
Belgian Nuclear Research Centre

# **Terbium-161, a high potential emerging isotope in targeted radionuclide therapy**

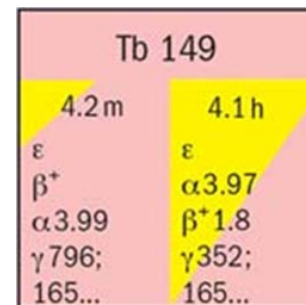
# Terbium: the ultimate theranostic element



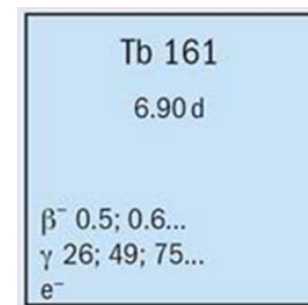
$\beta^+$   
 $T_{1/2} = 17.5\text{h}$



$\gamma$   
 $T_{1/2} = 5.3\text{d}$



$\alpha/\beta^+$   
 $T_{1/2} = 4.1\text{h}$



$\beta^- + \gamma$   
 $T_{1/2} = 6.9\text{d}$

Fluorescent luminescence

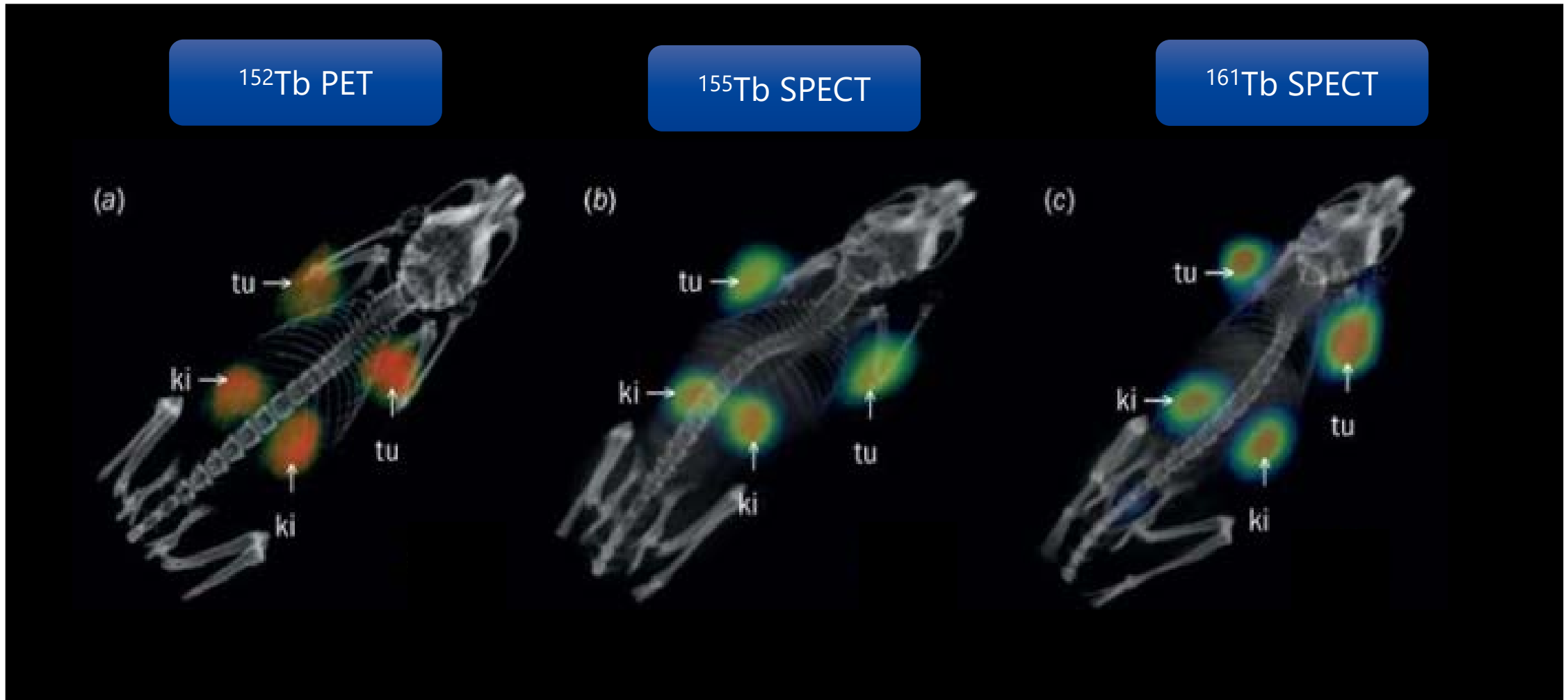
PET imaging

SPECT imaging

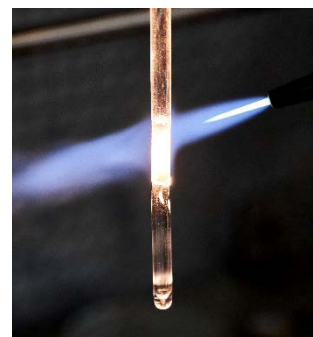
α Therapy

β Therapy

# Imaging potential of Terbium isotopes



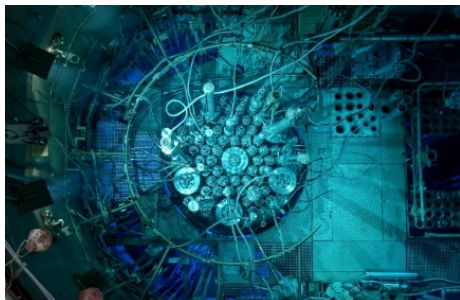
# Production of Tb-161



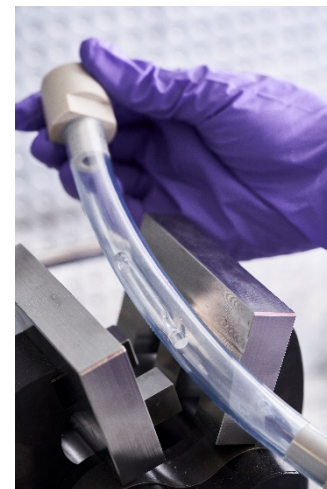
$^{160}\text{Gd}$  target material



Neutron irradiation



$^{160}\text{Gd} + ^{161}\text{Tb}$



Radiochemical Tb/Gd separation



Purified Tb-161

$^{160}\text{Gd}$  Recycling

# Therapeutic potential of Tb-161

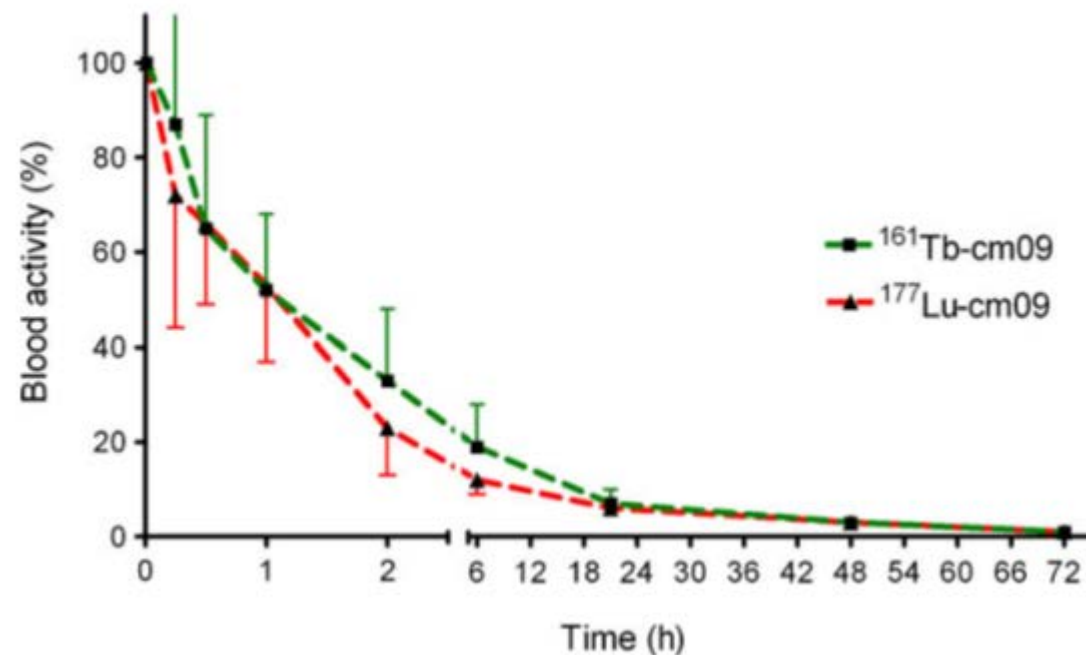
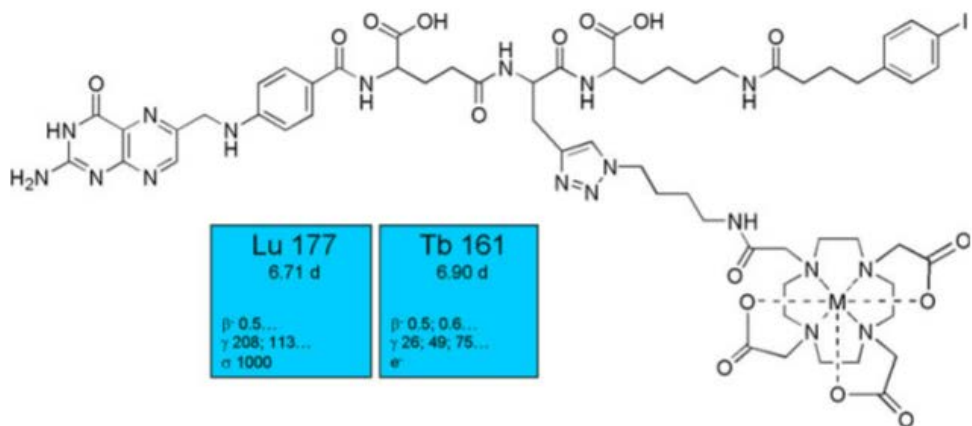
- **Chemically comparable to Lu-177**
- **Similar physical properties (half life, beta energy,...)**
- **High emission of Auger electrons → higher potential?**

**Table 1** Comparison of the decay properties of  $^{177}\text{Lu}$  and  $^{161}\text{Tb}$

Isotope	$^{177}\text{Lu}$	$^{161}\text{Tb}$
Nuclide availability	Good	Limited
$\beta^-$ -energy av/decay (intensity)	134 keV (100 %)	154 keV (100 %)
Conversion and Auger electrons (intensity)	3–50 keV (14 %)	3–50 keV (224 %)
$E_\gamma/E_X$ (intensity)	208 keV (10 %)	75 keV (10 %)
Half life	113 keV (6 %)	45–53 keV (39 %)
	6.7 days	6.9 days

Data from: National Nuclear Data  
Centre Brookhaven National  
Laboratories

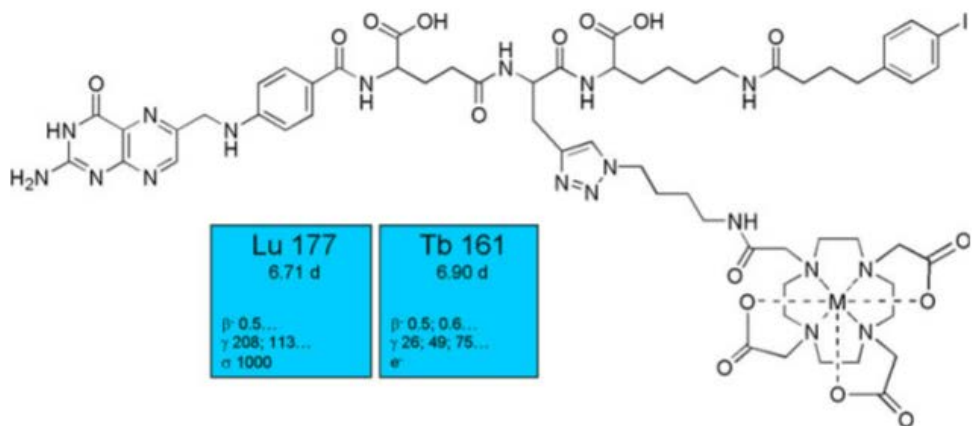
# Tb-161: a high potential alternative for Lu-177



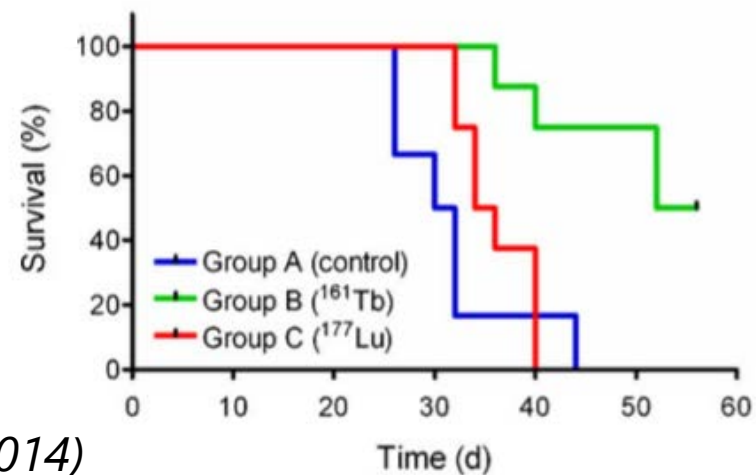
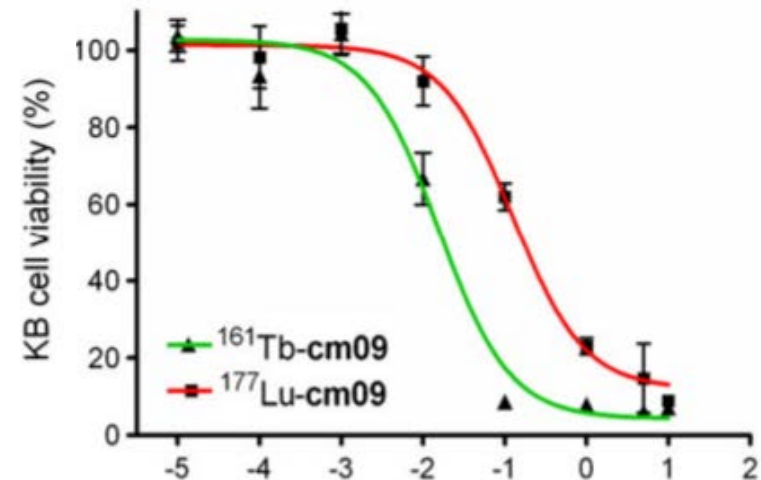
**<sup>177</sup>Lu & <sup>161</sup>Tb radiolabeled folate derivative**

**Comparable pharmacokinetics**

# Tb-161: a high potential alternative for Lu-177



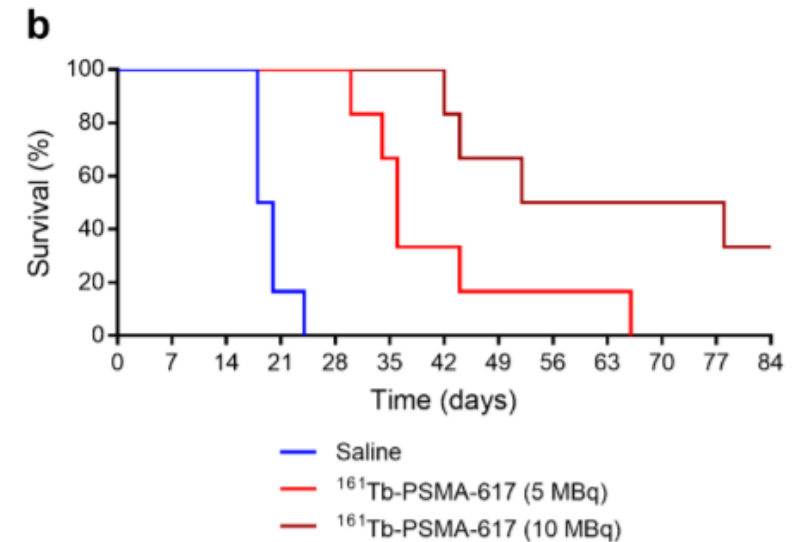
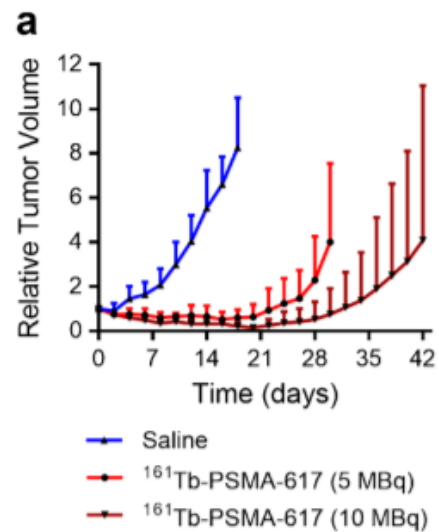
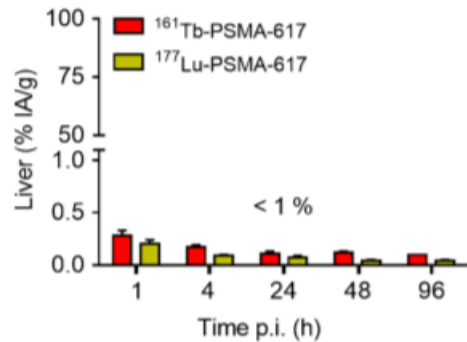
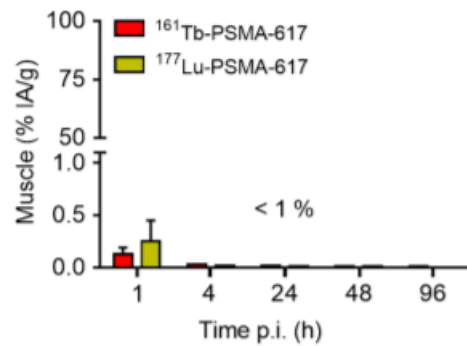
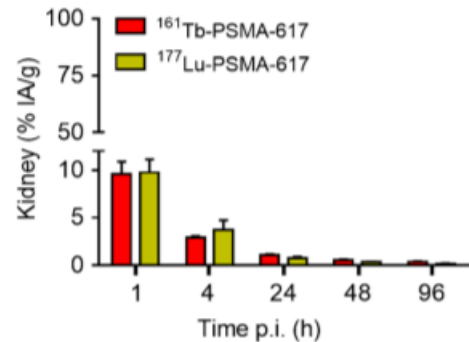
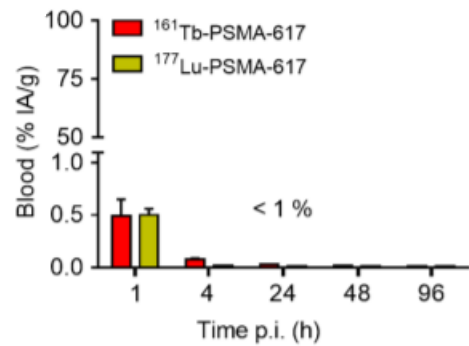
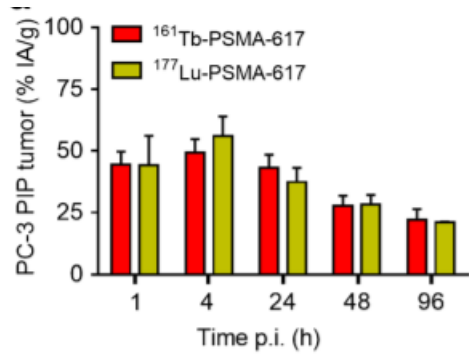
**$^{177}\text{Lu}$  &  $^{161}\text{Tb}$  radiolabeled folate derivative**





## Terbium-161 for PSMA-targeted radionuclide therapy of prostate cancer

Cristina Müller<sup>1</sup> · Christoph A. Umbricht<sup>1</sup> · Nadezda Gracheva<sup>1</sup> · Viviane J. Tschan<sup>1</sup> · Giovanni Pellegrini<sup>2</sup> · Peter Bernhardt<sup>3</sup> · Jan Rijn Zeevaart<sup>4</sup> · Ulli Köster<sup>5</sup> · Roger Schibli<sup>1,6</sup> · Nicholas P. van der Meulen<sup>1,7</sup>





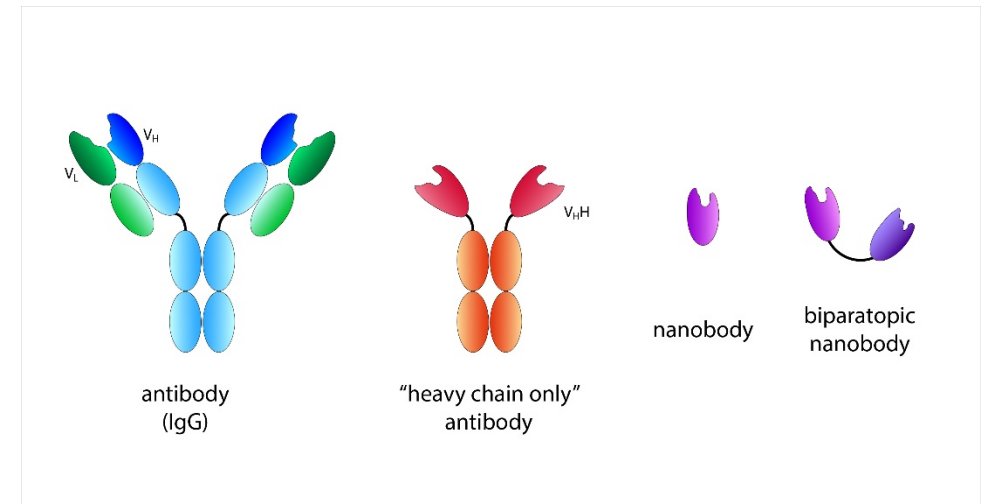
# Extending the potential of Tb-161

- Current research limited to well known carriers using established reaction conditions

*(DOTATATE, PSMA 617, folate, ...)*

**90°C**  
**15 min**

- Increasing interest in more innovative carriers



# Extending the potential of Tb-161

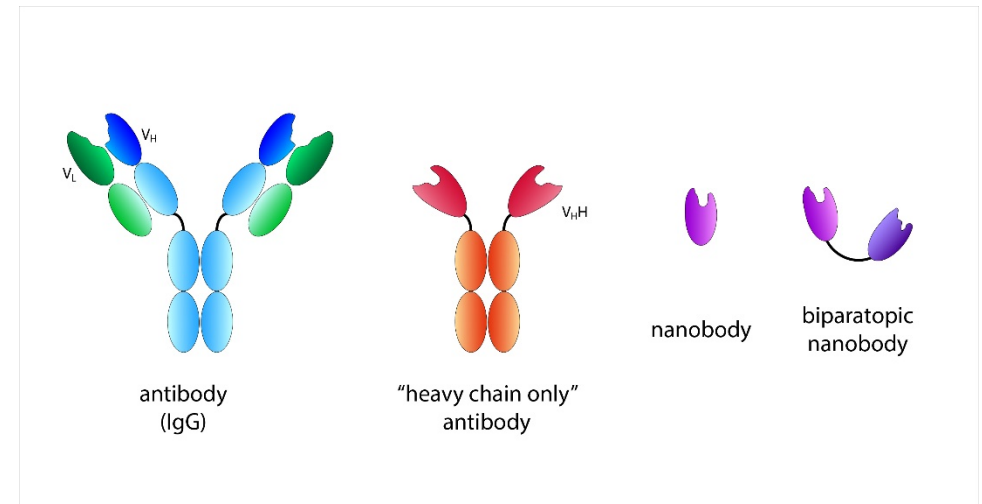
- Current research limited to well known carriers using established reaction conditions

*(DOTATATE, PSMA 617, folate, ...)*



- Increasing interest in more innovative carriers

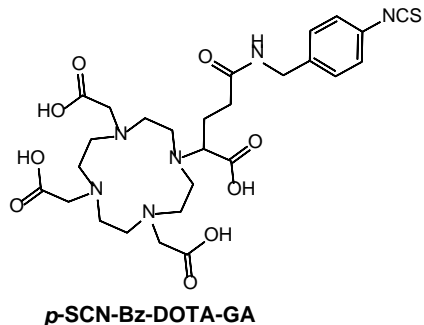
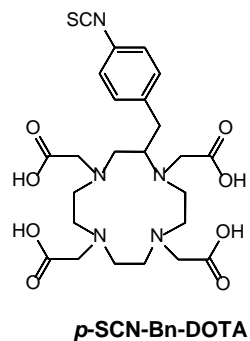
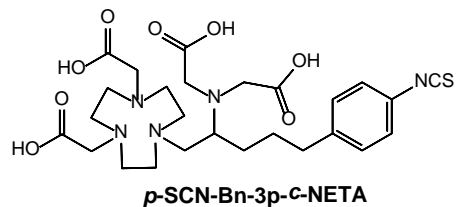
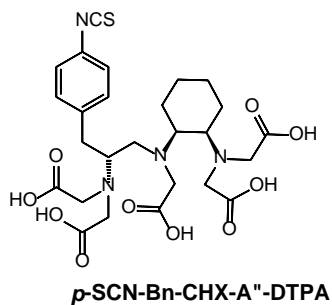
**Harsh radiolabeling conditions incompatible with heat sensitive molecules**



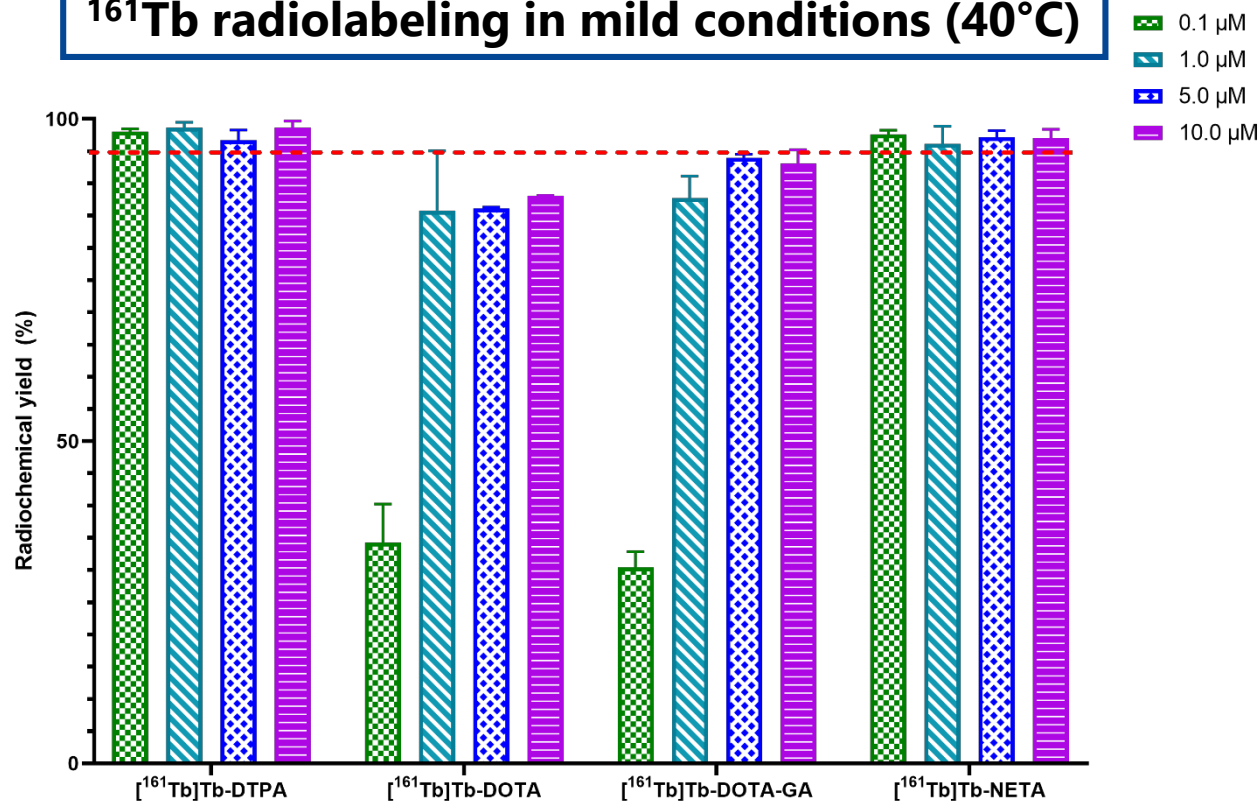
# The quest for innovative radiolabeling methods



Irwin Cassells



**<sup>161</sup>Tb radiolabeling in mild conditions (40°C)**

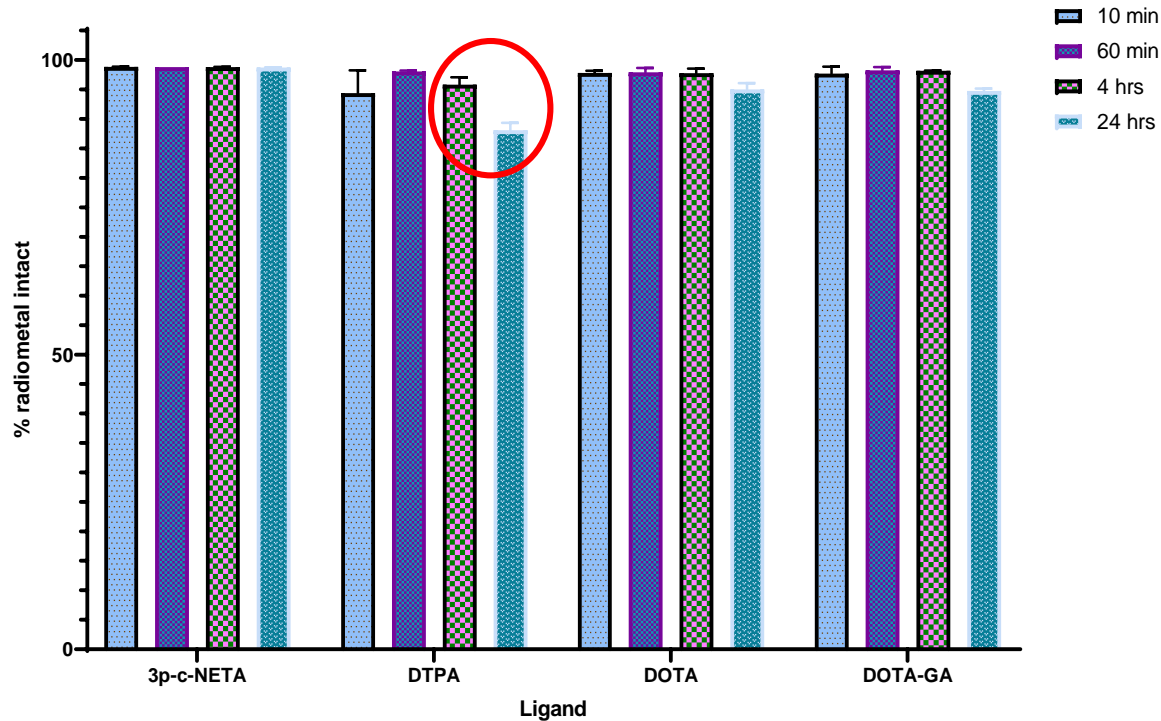


# The quest for innovative radiolabeling methods

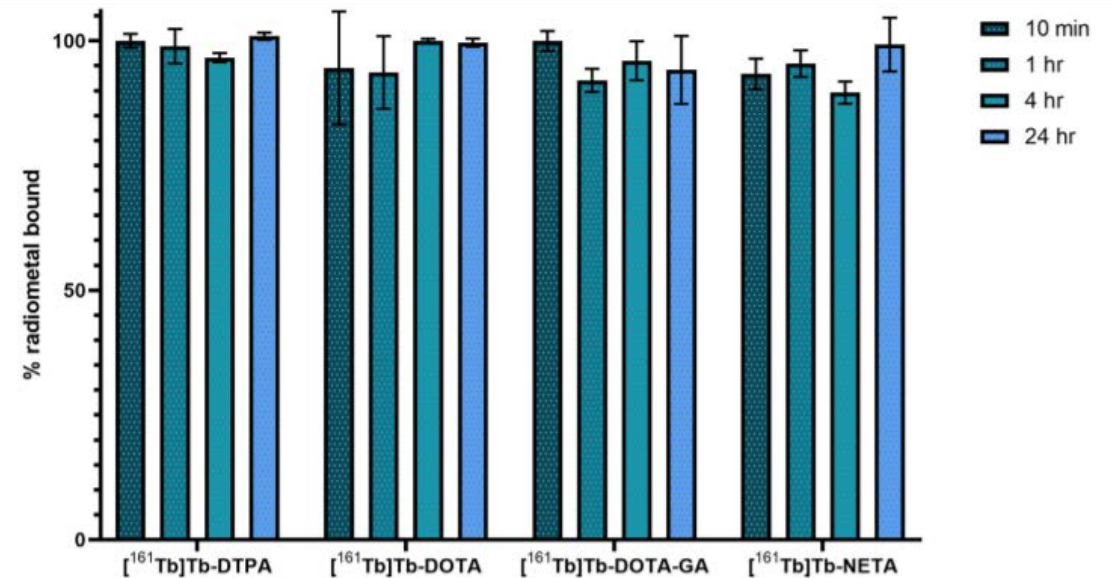


Irwin Cassells

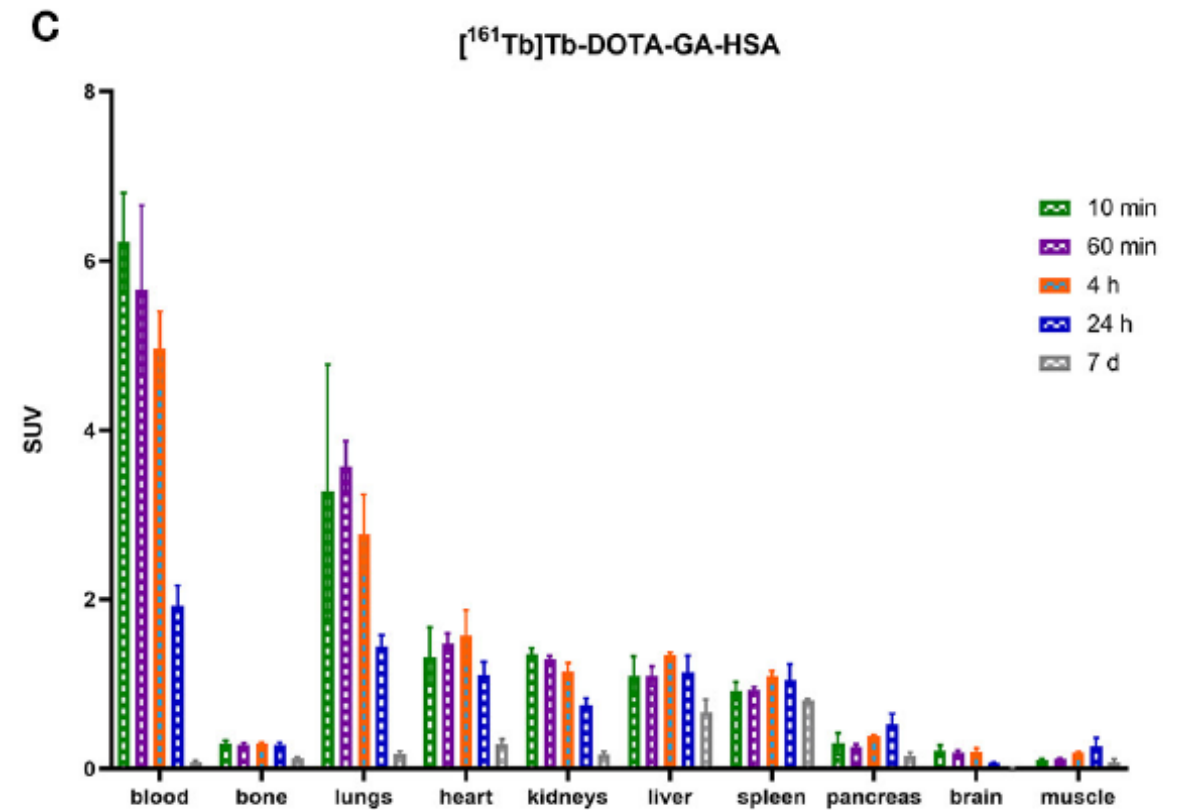
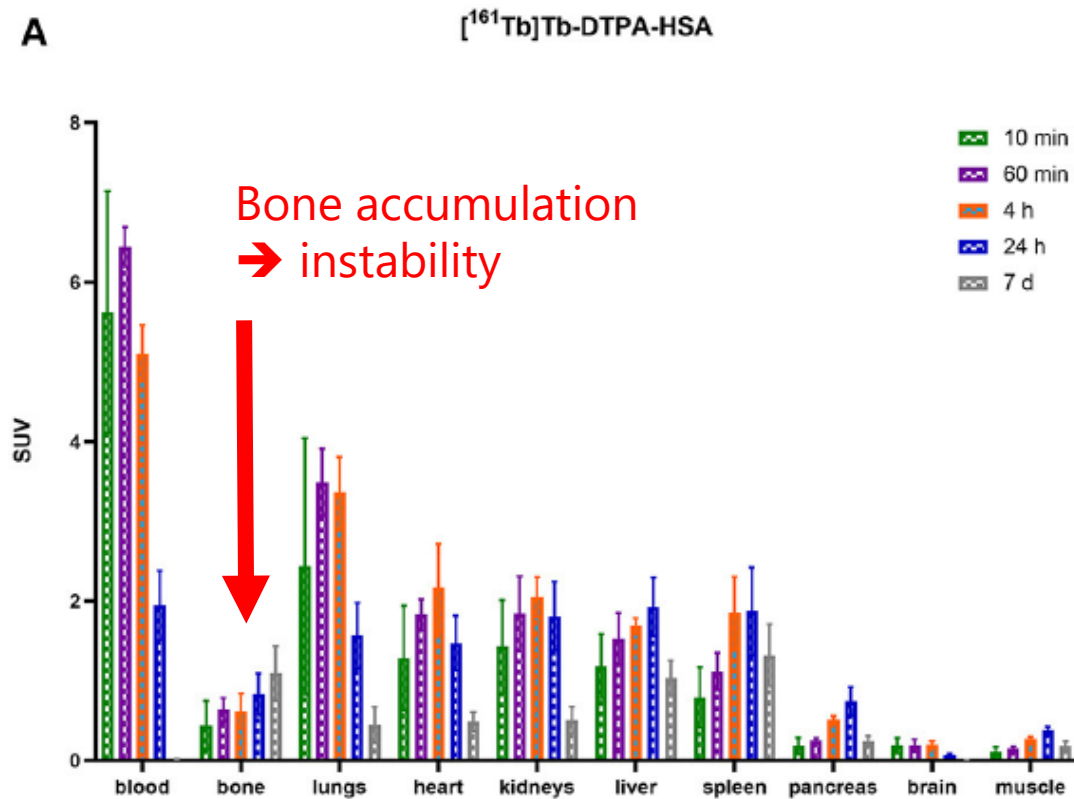
### In vitro stability (human serum)



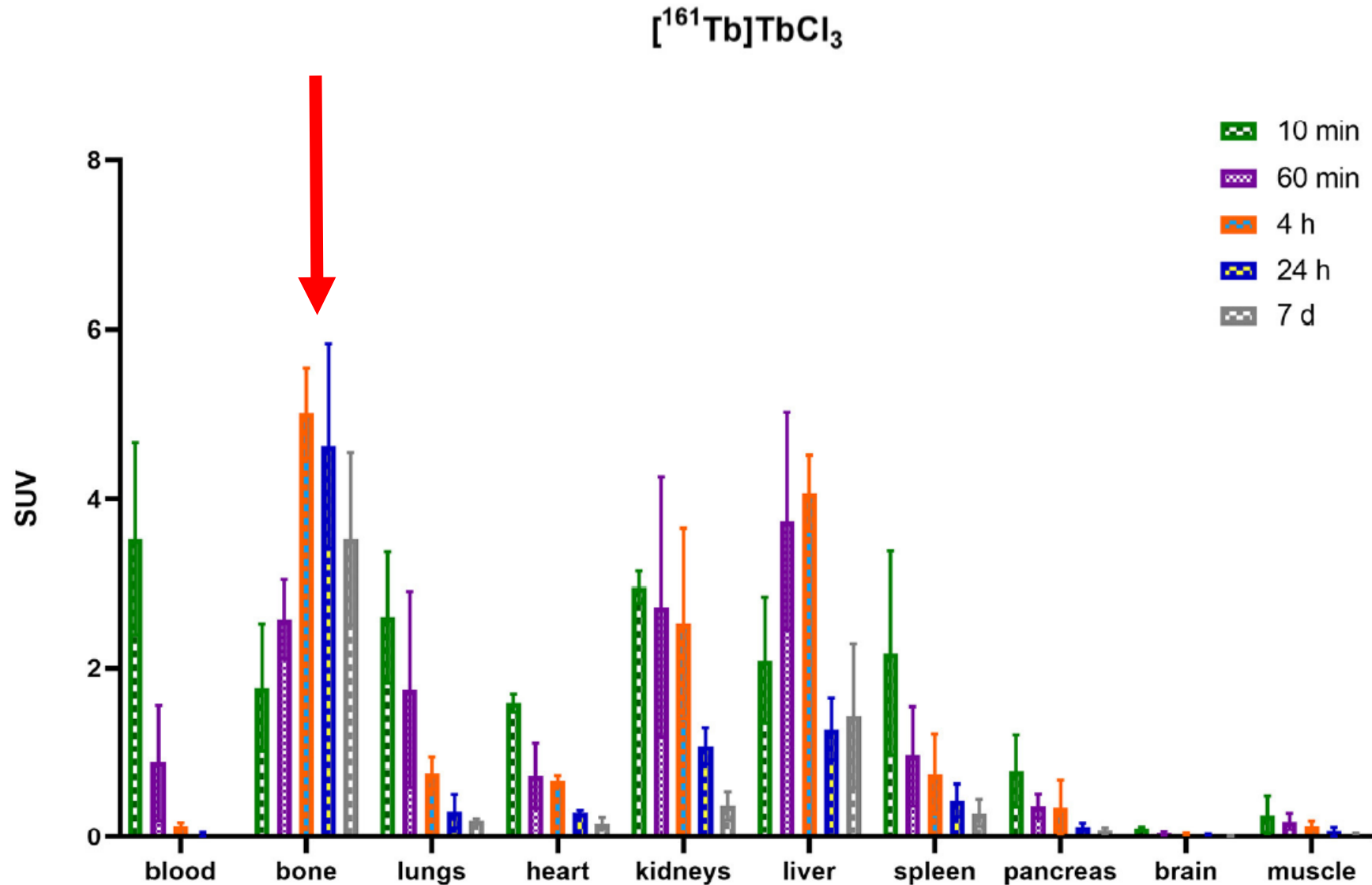
### In vitro stability (PBS)



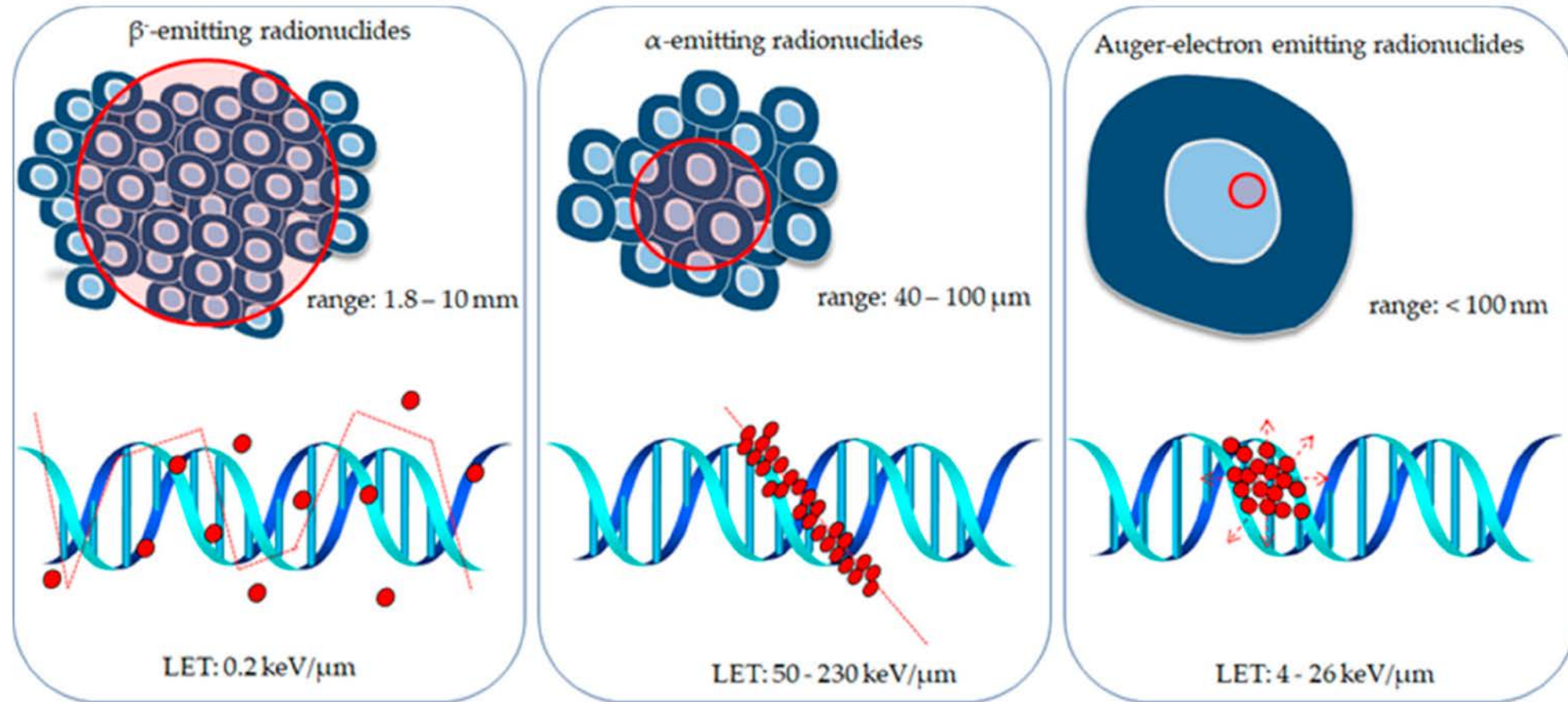
# The quest for innovative radiolabeling methods



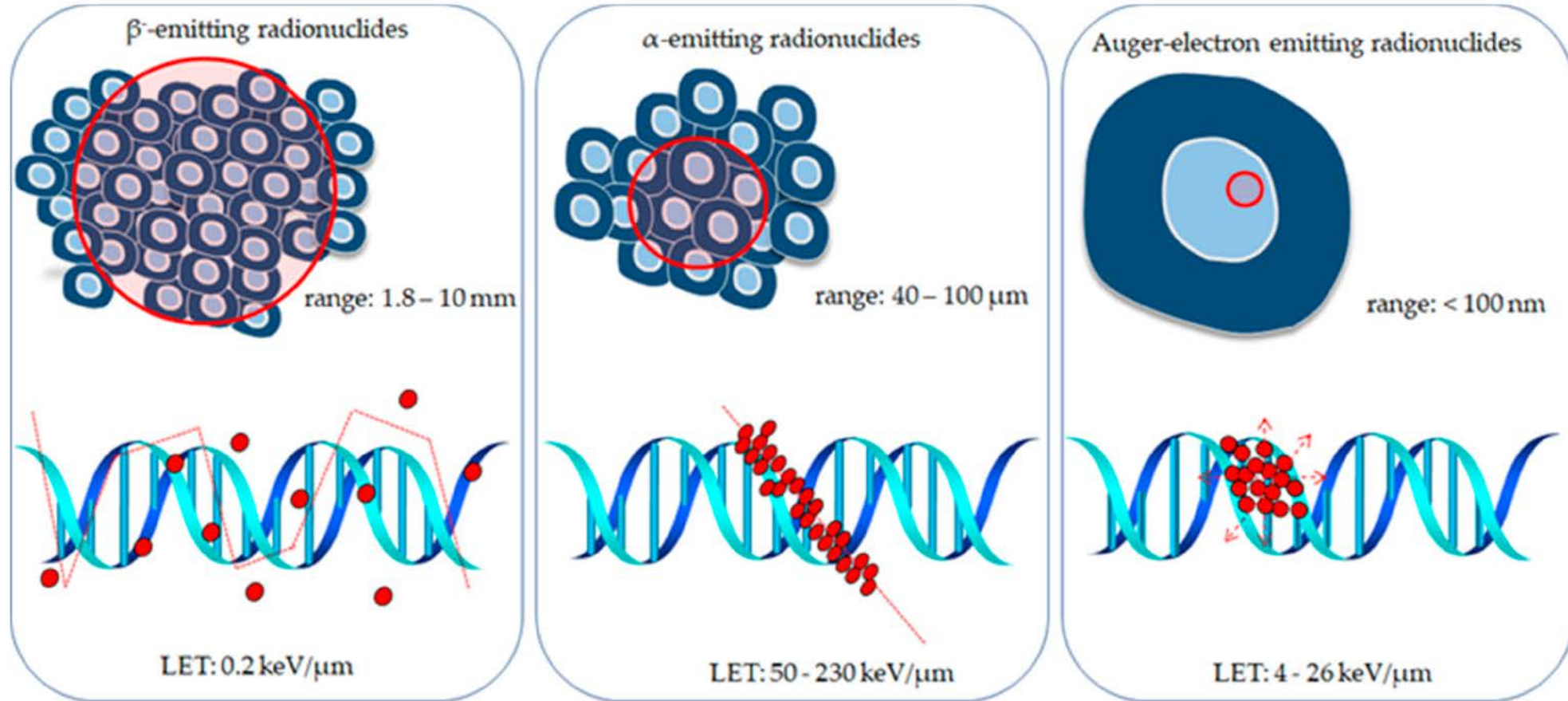
# The quest for innovative radiolabeling methods



# Maximizing the Auger Potential



# Internalization and intracellular targeting is crucial

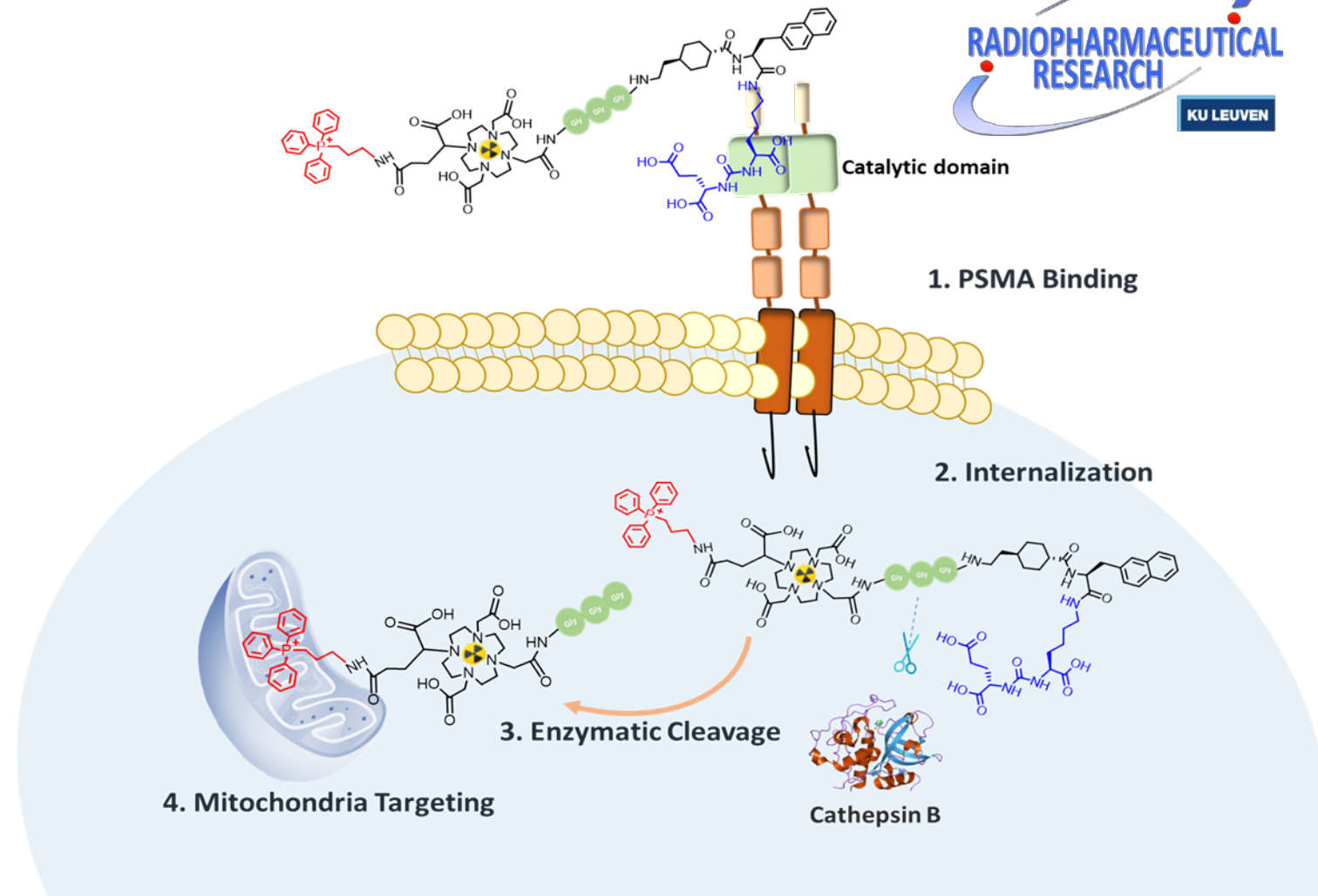




# Maximizing the Auger Potential

sck cen

- Specific delivery of therapeutic radionuclides to radiosensitive organelles (nucleus or mitochondria )
- Enhancement of radiotherapeutic effects at lower doses.
- Maximizing the potential of Auger electrons



# Conclusions

- Tb-161 is a high potential therapeutic alternative for Lu-177
- High abundance of Auger emitters = high therapeutic effect
- Internalization = crucial to capitalize on this effect
- Supply of Tb-161 is still problematic

**Limited supply**

**Limited research opportunities**

**Vicious cycle  
of the supply  
chain**

**Low commercial  
interest**

**Slow clinical  
translation**

Limited supply

Limited research opportunities

**Vicious cycle  
of the supply  
chain**

**sck: cen**

Low commercial  
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**sck: cen**

**Thank you for your attention**

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