

Article

New Ionic Carbosilane Dendrons Possessing Fluorinated Tails at Different Locations on the Skeleton

Gabriel Mencia ^{1,2,3,†}, Tania Lozano-Cruz ^{1,2,3,†}, Mercedes Valiente ⁴, Javier de la Mata ^{1,2,3}, Jesús Cano ^{1,3}, and Rafael Gómez ^{1,2,3,*}

- ¹ Departamento de Química Orgánica y Química Inorgánica, IQAR, Universidad de Alcalá, Campus Universitario, Alcalá de Henares, 28805 Madrid, Spain; gabi.men.ber@gmail.com (G.M.); tania.lozano@uah.es (T.L.-C.); javier.delamata@uah.es (J.d.l.M.); jesus.cano@uah.es (J.C.)
- ² Networking Research Center on Bioengineering, Biomaterials and Nanomedicine (CIBER-BBN), 28029 Madrid, Spain
- ³ Ramón y Cajal Health Research Institute (IRYCIS), IRYCIS, 28034 Madrid, Spain
- ⁴ Departamento de Química Analítica, Química Física e Ingeniería Química, IQAR, Universidad de Alcalá Campus Universitario, Alcalá de Henares, 28805 Madrid, Spain; mercedes.valiente@uah.es
- * Correspondence: rafael.gomez@uah.es; Tel.: +34-91-885-4685
- + These authors contributed equally to this work.

Received: 14 January 2020; Accepted: 10 February 2020; Published: 13 February 2020



Abstract: The fluorination of dendritic structures has attracted special attention in terms of self-assembly processes and biological applications. The presence of fluorine increases the hydrophobicity of the molecule, resulting in a better interaction with biological membranes and viability. In addition, the development of ¹⁹F magnetic resonance imaging (¹⁹F-MRI) has greatly increased interest in the design of new fluorinated structures with specific properties. Here, we present the synthesis of new water-soluble fluorinated carbosilane dendrons containing fluorinated chains in different positions on the skeleton, focal point or surface, and their preliminary supramolecular aggregation studies. These new dendritic systems could be considered as potential systems to be employed in drug delivery or gene therapy and monitored by ¹⁹F-MRI.

Keywords: carbosilane; dendrimer; fluorine; micelle

1. Introduction

Since their discovery, the well-defined architecture of dendrimers has promoted their use thanks to their highly multifunctional skeleton, which not only allows for the concentration of a high number of units of interest in the same structure but also permits fragments of a different nature to be introduced, combining both properties. Therefore, the introduction of different types of fragment enables change in the physicochemical properties of the dendritic structure, yielding molecules with relevance in diverse fields such as catalysis [1], material science [2] or biomedicine [3].

Taking advantage of these structural features of dendrimers, fluorination has attracted the attention of researchers to explore catalytic [4] or electronic properties [5], although special interest has been shown in supramolecular chemistry [6] or biology [7] in recent years. Moreover, the presence of fluorine increases lipophilicity, changing the amphiphilic character. Fluorinated dendritic systems of different topologies have been shown to form micelles with encapsulation ability [8,9] or dendrimersomes with thicknesses similar to biological membranes [10,11]. In addition, the presence of fluorine stimulates the interaction between biomembranes, imparting a favorable impact on biocompatibility. In this sense, fluorinated naked dendrimers or supramolecular dendritic aggregates with improved



drug or gene delivery activity and viability have been designed, producing better results than their perhydrogenated counterparts [12,13]. Extensive research on fluorine-containing PAMAM dendritic systems in biomedical applications has been described elsewhere. However, carbosilane dendrimers remain scarcely explored in this field, with few examples of high generation fluorine-doped carbosilane dendrimers [14–16] or dendrons [17] reported for other applications.

Fluorine is largely absent in biological systems (with just small traces found in bones or teeth); however, with its 100% natural abundance, high receptivity (83% with respect to 1 H), equivalent magnetic resonance to 1 H (94%) and a broad-spectrum range, these nuclei are promising for use in singular magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) techniques [18]. Fluorinated dendrimers could be monitored by ¹⁹F-MRI to create personalized therapy, although aqueous solubility with a high stability would be required for this purpose. Consequently, the design of dendritic systems for this application remains a difficult task and the synthesis of adequate fluorine-containing dendrimers with specific MRI properties remains a challenge.

Herein, we present the synthesis of new water-soluble dendrons functionalized with fluorinated chains at the periphery or focal point, employing a simple synthetic route that makes use of perfluorocarbon compounds. Ammonium or sulfonate groups are used to provide aqueous solubility. In addition, differences in the presence of an ester or amide bond as a linker are discussed and self-assembly properties are evaluated.

2. Results and Discussion

Dendron topology was selected to control the homogeneity of the structure and particularly taking into account the possible dendronization processes over other platforms, such as nanoparticles, polymers or drugs. In addition, perfluorinated derivatives were chosen based on their well-known chain length-bioaccumulation relationship-the limit was established in six perfluorinated carbons to be considered as non-bioaccumulative compounds [19–21]. All employed fluorinated precursors for the dendron functionalization used in this work and are shown in Figure 1.



Perfluorhexanoic acid

Figure 1. Fluorinated reagents employed in the fluorine-containing dendrons synthesis.

2.1. Dendrons with Perfluorinated Fatty Acids at the Focal Point

The first synthetic strategy was directed toward the functionalization of the dendron focal point. Considering the fluorinated precursors, the ester and the amide functional groups were selected to act as linkers between the dendritic system and the perfluorinated chain. Furthermore, ammonium groups were used in the periphery based on their previously reported capacity to bind nucleic material of analogous perhydrogenated dendrons [22].

The initial approach to synthetize dendrons containing an ester bond as the anchor point involved an esterification reaction between perfluorhexanoic acid and dendrons with a bromine atom at the focal point and vinyl peripheral groups (BrG_1V_2) [23] in general basic pH conditions (K_2CO_3) (Scheme 1a). Monitoring by ¹H-NMR confirmed the formation of the expected product, although some hydrolysis side products (ester bond disruption) were always observed; increasing the reaction time gave the perfluorinated carboxylate compound and a dendron containing a hydroxylic group at the focal point (Scheme 1b). The signals in ¹H-NMR of different methylene groups identified in the spectrum are detected at 3.44 ppm for the initial BrCH₂- unit, 4.51 ppm for the ester group R^FCOOCH₂- and 3.52 ppm for the alcohol derivative HOCH₂– (Figure S1). ¹⁹F-NMR experiments also confirmed the presence of three fluorinated species showing resonances for the $-CF_2CO_2$ - fragment at -119.9 ppm of

the starting precursor perfluorohexanoic acid, -118.2 ppm for carboxylate derivative, and -116.3 ppm for the compound containing the ester bond (Figure S2). The quick saponification process is attributed to the presence of fluorine atoms in the substituents of the carbonyl group, which exert a strong electron withdrawing effect. Consequently, the carboxylate derivative formed is quite stable and stimulates the complete hydrolysis of the ester bond.

a)



b)

$$F_{3}C \xrightarrow{F_{2}}{C} \xrightarrow{F_{2}}{C} \xrightarrow{F_{2}}{C} \xrightarrow{O}{F_{2}} \xrightarrow{O}{F_{2}} \xrightarrow{O}{F_{2}} \xrightarrow{O}{F_{2}} \xrightarrow{F_{2}} \xrightarrow{O}{F_{2}} \xrightarrow{O}{F_{2}}$$

Scheme 1. (a) Perfluorinated chain introduction at the focal point of the dendron; (b) basic hydrolysis reaction of the ester bond (see Table 1).

Aiming to reduce the rate of the basic hydrolysis reaction or to fully prevent it, several modifications of the synthetic protocol were studied, including the nature of basic agent, the number of equivalents of the base employed and the temperature. The conditions tested are shown in Table 1. Unfortunately, it was not possible to obtain the pure esterification product, but some conclusions can be drawn: (i) high temperature and basic conditions are necessary for both esterification and hydrolysis reactions and (ii) the nature of the base and stoichiometry affect the process.

Base	Equivalents	Temperature	Esterification (%)	Hydrolysis (%)
K ₂ CO ₃	1	90	50	50
K ₂ CO ₃	1	r.t.	0	0
K ₂ CO ₃	0.5	90	65	35
K ₂ CO ₃	0.5	r.t.	0	0
NaHCO ₃	1	90	70	30
NaHCO ₃	1	r.t.	0	0
NaHCO ₃	0.5	90	30^{1}	25^{1}
NaHCO ₃	0.5	r.t.	0	0
NEt ₃	1	90	15	85
NEt ₃	1	r.t.	0	0

Table 1. Evaluated reaction conditions in the esterification process.

¹ Precursors were also observed.

Keeping in mind that the basic conditions are responsible for the disruption of the ester bond, a new strategy was designed to obtain the desired dendrons with an ester group as the anchor point. Here, new dendrons with a hydroxyl unit at the focal point, HOGnVm, which can react with acyl halides, were necessary for the synthesis. These dendritic wedges were synthetized in two steps from BrGnVm (n = 1, m = 2 (i); n = 2, m = 4 (ii); n = 3, m = 8 (iii)) dendrons, as illustrated in Scheme 2.

The first step entailed coupling the sodium acetate to the dendrons **i–iii** to give the dendritic systems CH_3CO_2GnVm (n = 1, m = 2 (1); n = 2, m = 4 (2); n = 3, m = 8 (3)). The reaction was monitored by ¹H-NMR experiments until complete, when the resonance at 4.00 ppm was attributed to the methylene unit attached to oxygen atom $-CO_2CH_2$ -. In the ¹³C-NMR spectrum, the signal assigned to the same fragment $-CO_2CH_2$ - was detected at 64.1 ppm while the carbonyl group resonance was distinguished at 171.0 ppm. The next step was the saponification reaction of the ester bond in basic media (NaOH) to obtain the hydroxyl dendritic derivatives HOGnVm (n = 1, m = 2 (4); n = 2, m = 4)

(5); n = 3, m = 8 (6)). Again, the reaction was monitored by NMR experiments, with resonances for the HOCH₂- fragment at 3.59 ppm in ¹H-NMR and 62.5 ppm in ¹³C-NMR.



Scheme 2. Synthetic route employed to prepare dendrons containing a hydroxyl group at the focal point illustrated for the first generation.

The preparation of cationic fluorinated dendrons with an ester bond through this synthetic route was initially studied for the first generation dendron 4 and perfluorobutyryl chloride (Scheme 3). After 2 hours, the reaction was monitored by ¹H-NMR, confirming the formation of the desired product $C_3F_7CO_2G_1V_2$ (7). Characteristic signals of this compound were observed at 4.37 ppm for $-CO_2CH_2$ - in the ¹H-NMR spectrum (Figure S3), 68.2 ppm and 158.2 ppm for the methylene unit and the carbonyl group in the same fragment in the ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ -NMR spectrum (Figure S4), and -127.2 ppm (CF₃CF₂CF₂CO₂-), -119.5 ppm (CF₃CF₂CF₂CO₂-) and -81.0 ppm (CF₃CF₂CF₂CO₂-) in ¹⁹F-NMR experiments (Figure S5). Chemical shift assignments for the carbon atoms in the fluorinated chain were determined by ¹³C{¹⁹F}-NMR (Figure S6), with the coupling constants; ¹J(¹³C-¹⁹F) around 280 Hz and ³J(¹³C-¹⁹F) around 30 Hz were also obtained. In this case, no side products from hydrolysis were observed and ¹H-NMR stability experiments revealed that dendritic wedge 7 was stable for months under an inert atmosphere. A thiol-ene reaction was then employed to introduce cationic groups at the periphery using 2-(dimethyl)ethanethiol hydrochloride. Unfortunately, side products from the hydrolysis reaction were observed again, probably due to a combination of several factors such as an amino group-containing reagent acting as base and ultraviolet radiation, which results in the overheating of the solution.



Scheme 3. Alternative route to the preparation of fluorinated dendrons with an ester bond.

Considering the low stability of the ester bond in the presence of fluorine atoms with respect to the analogous hydrocarbon compounds, efforts to obtain fluorinated amphiphilic dendritic wedges were centred on the amide linker strategy. In this case, the selected precursors were ammonium-functionalized dendrons with an amine group at the focal point $NH_2G_2(SNMe_3I)_4$ (iv) [24] because it was not possible to prepare the amine derivative analogous to compound 4 in good yields through the Gabriel synthesis for primary amines. The formation of the amide bond was carried out by employing perfluorobutyryl chloride and dry DMF as the solvent at 0 °C (Scheme 4). The colorimetric Kaiser test confirmed the absence of free amine groups in the reaction medium. Allylamine was then added to the solution to consume all of the perfluorinated compound. The presence of a new amide derivative was also confirmed in situ by ¹H-NMR experiments showing a resonance at 3.30 ppm for –CONHCH₂– (Figure 2).



Scheme 4. Synthetic route for cationic amide bond-containing dendrons with a perfluorinated chain at the focal point.

A mixture of counter anions (Cl^- and I^-) was obtained during the amide bond formation due to HCl release in this process. In order to obtain the chloride derivative as the only product, a counter-ion exchange was carried out. Firstly, iodide (I⁻) and chloride (Cl⁻) ions were replaced by a hexafluorophosphate (PF_6^-) anion by adding an aqueous solution of sodium hexafluorophosphate (NaPF₆) to produce $C_3F_7CONHG_2(SNMe_3PF_6)_4$ (8). This process modified the dendron solubility in water, a necessity to accomplish a second derivatization. Hence, tetrabutylammonium chloride was added to a solution of compound 8 in acetone to give the amphiphilic dendron C₃F₇CONHG₂(SNMe₃Cl)₄ (9). NMR experiments (¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F) show similar patterns for compounds 8 and 9 (Figure 2). The only difference was observed in the ¹⁹F-NMR spectrum where the PF_6^- counter-anion affords a resonance at -73.5 ppm along with the resonances for the perfluorinated unit, a singlet at -128.3 ppm (CF₃CF₂CF₂CO₂-), a quadruplet at -121.8 ppm (CF₃CF₂CF₂CO₂-) and a triplet at -82.2 ppm (CF₃CF₂CF₂CO₂-). In our hands, and due to the low solubility of 9 and the low relaxing times of carbon atoms, neither the carbons in the fluorinated chain nor in the carbonyl group were observed in the proton or fluorine decoupling ¹³C-NMR experiments. For a representative structure of compound 9 see below (vide infra).

Self-Assembly Assay of Dendron C₃F₇CONHG₂(SNMe₃Cl)₄ (9)

Looking for micelle formation, the amphiphilic behaviour of fluorinated compound **9** was studied by surface tension measurements using the Du Noüy ring method. The experiment was carried out in an aqueous solution with an ionic strength because the presence of salts in the medium has been shown to reduce the critical micellar concentration (CMC) of compounds [25,26]. To determine the optimum salt concentration, a solution of dendron **9** (1 mM) in deionized water was incubated with increasing concentrations of salts. The measurement at 30 °C showed stable surface tension values starting from 10 mM of NaCl (Figure 3a). For that reason, the selected salt concentration to perform the measurements with dendrons was 12 mM.



Figure 2. (a) ¹H-NMR; (b) ¹³C{¹H}-NMR and (c) ¹⁹F-NMR spectra of compound 9 in CD₃OD.



Figure 3. (a) Surface tension measurement of a 1 mM solution of dendron $C_3F_7CONHG_2(SNMe_3Cl)_4$ (9) at increasing concentration of NaCl; (b) Surface tension measurements of dendritic wedge $C_3F_7CONHG_2(SNMe_3Cl)_4$ (9) at the ionic strength of 12 mM of NaCl.

A CMC determination from an aqueous solution of dendritic wedge **9** was studied by increasing the concentration of dendrons from 10^{-7} to 10^{-3} M (Figure 3b). Regrettably, it was not possible to reach stable values of surface tension in the range studied, which indicated that the CMC value was above 1 mM. Considering the equivalency rule 1 CF₂ \approx 1.5 CH₂ [27], the lipophilicity of the perfluorinated chain in compound **9** (4–5 carbon atoms) should be near to a hydrocarbon fragment with six carbon atoms. In that sense, the result found is in agreement with that described in the literature for analogous dendrons with a hexanoate unit at the focal point—this does not generate micelles at concentrations lower than 1 mM [22]. However, it is possible to conclude that the surface activity of **9** is higher than that of the analogous hydrocarbon fatty acid-containing dendrons, as evidenced by the greater

reduction in the surface tension of water at 1 mM of compound 9 to 34.6 mN/m with respect to the analogous hydrocarbon dendron with a sixteen carbon atom chain ($PalG_2(SNMe_3I)_4$) of 45.0 mN/m [22].

2.2. Dendrons with Perfluorinated Chains at the Periphery

The second synthetic strategy was the functionalization of the dendron periphery. The introduction of fluorine-containing branches on the dendritic surface was performed through thiol-ene click reactions for second- and third-generation carbosilane dendrons. Each generation contains different proportions of the perfluorocarbon chain because water solubility could be affected by an incorrect hydrophilic–lipophilic balance in the structure. For that reason, second-generation dendrons were designed to contain just one perfluorinated chain while third-generation compounds include two. In these cases, fluorinated fragments were introduced at the periphery to keep the orthogonal and reactive group at the focal point available for dendronization processes. Sulfonate groups were selected as ionic groups for these systems rather than ammonium groups, given that anionic units contribute to higher water solubility and lower toxicity values.

As shown in Scheme 5, this synthetic route involves the initial incorporation of 1H, 1H, 2H,2H-perfluorooctanethiol over superficial allyl groups of the dendritic precursor with the phtalimide unit at the focal point PhGnAm (n = 2, m = 4 (v); n = 3, m = 8 (vi)) [28] in a ratio 1:y, yielding statistical decoration in the dendrimers due to the equal reactivity of the allyl groups [21], and the subsequent functionalization of the rest of allyl groups with sodium 3-mercapto-1-propanesulfonate. The thiol-ene functionalization of the surface was carried out in 4 h by a photocatalytic process using 2,2-dimethoxy-2-phenylacetophenone (DMPA) as photoinitiator. Final deprotection of the focal point with hydrazine hydrochloride at 90 °C affords the desired derivatives **10** and **11**.



Scheme 5. Synthetic route for the preparation of anionic dendrons with a perfluorinated chain on the surface and an amino group at the focal point.

The complete derivatization of the allyl unit was confirmed by the disappearance of resonances in the range 4.50–6.00 ppm in the ¹H-NMR spectrum. New characteristic signals are located at 2.04 and 2.72 ppm, corresponding to SCH₂CH₂(C₆F₁₃) and SCH₂CH₂(C₆F₁₃), respectively (Figure 4). Resonances of $-SCH_2CH_2CH_2SO_3Na$ appear at 1.89 ppm for the internal methylene group, 2.52 ppm for $-CH_2-$ unit attached to the thioeter group and 2.85 ppm for the $-CH_2SO_3Na$ methylene fragment, as described elsewhere [29]. In addition, the ¹⁹F-NMR spectrum shows resonances at -85.8 ppm for the $-CF_3$ unit and -115.5, -123.0, -124.2 and -127.7 ppm for $-CF_2-$ fragments. Representative structures of compounds 10 and 11 aredrawn in Figure 5. a)



Figure 4. (a) ¹H-NMR and (b) ¹⁹F-NMR spectra of compound **10** in D_2O .



Figure 5. Representative structures of fluorinated carbosilane dendrons.

3. Conclusions

A simple and rapid procedure has been designed to prepare ionic carbosilane dendrons containing fluorinated units at two different positions in the skeleton. The first strategy incorporates fluorine-containing chains at the focal point of cationic dendrons producing amphiphilic dendrons. Although the amphiphilic compound **9** does not show supramolecular assembly formation in the range 10^{-3} – 10^{-7} M, the synthetic route opens the door to extrapolate this procedure to dendritic systems with appropriate hydrophilic–lipophilic balances that give rise to micelles. This property can be obtained by increasing both the length of the perfluorinated unit at the focal point and the generation of the dendron. The second approach affords anionic dendritic wedges with fluorinated fragments at the periphery through thiol-ene click reactions. This family of compounds contains a reactive amine group at the focal point available to be conjugated to nanostructured materials such as nanoparticles or biomolecules through so-called dendronization processes. Both strategies produce systems with fluorine units in the dendritic structure which may create delivery systems with the potential to provide imaging agents for innovative ¹⁹F-MRI.

4. Materials and Methods

4.1. Materials

Solvents and reagents were obtained from commercial sources. Et₂O and DMF were appropriately dried before use, while other reagents were employed without further purification. Dendritic precursors BrGnVm (i–iii) [23], NH₂G₂(SNMe₃I)₄ (iv) [24], PhtG_nA_m (v–vi) were prepared as described elsewhere [28]. Click reactions (thiol-ene addition) were carried out employing a HPK 125 W mercury lamp (Heraeus Nobleligth; $\lambda_{max} = 365$ nm). NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Unity VXR-300, Varian Mercury 300 or Varian 500 Plus instruments (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA). Mass spectra were recorded on an Agilent 6210 TOF LC/MS instrument (LECO Instrumentos S.L, Madrid, Spain) for ESI–TOF. Surface tension was measured on a Lauda tensiometer TE 2/3 (LAUDA Measuring Instruments, Königshofen, Germany) with Pt/Ir ring.

4.2. Surface Tension Measurements

The samples were prepared using Milli-Q water as the solvent to give solutions in a concentration range of 0.1–1000 μ M. In the case of salt solutions, NaCl was dissolved in Milli-Q water until reaching a final concentration which was previously determined for each compound (12 or 20 mM). This solution was used in the preparation of samples following the same procedure as that described above. The surface tension of dendron solutions was determined at 30.0 ± 0.1 °C as a function of the concentration using the ring method with a standard deviation lower than 0.1 mN/m. Using the least-squares method, straight lines were fitted in the graphic surface tension versus the logarithm of concentration curves, where the CMC values correspond to the sharp break point from both lines.

4.3. Experimental Data

$CH_{3}CO_{2}G_{1}V_{2}$ (1)

A solution of dendron BrG_1V_2 (i) [23] (1.000 g; 4.29 mmol) and sodium acetate (0.530 g; 6.46 mmol) in acetone (50 mL) was heated at 90 °C for 24 h in an ampoule with a high vacuum valve in the presence of K₂CO₃ (1.200 g; 8.68 mmol) and 18-crown-6 (0.088 g; 0.33 mmol). Then, volatiles were removed under vacuum and the crude product was extracted into Et₂O (3 × 20 mL) and dried over MgSO₄. During the drying period, traces of silica gel were added to eliminate 18-crown-6 and the desired dendron was obtained as an orange oil in excellent yield (92%).

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 0.08 (s, 3H, –Si(CH₃)), 0.61 (m, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.34 (m, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.60 (m, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.98 (s, CH₃COOR), 4.00 (t, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 5.66 (m, 2H, –SiCH=CH₂), 6.02 (m, 4H, –SiCH=CH₂).

¹³C-NMR: (CDCl₃): δ (ppm) -5.49 (-Si(CH₃)), 13.5 (-OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 20.0 (-OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 20.9 (CH₃COOR), 32.1 (-OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 64.1 (-OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 132.9 (-SiCH=CH₂), 136.6 (-SiCH=CH₂), 171.0 (CH₃COOR).

MS: $[M + H]^+ = 213.1341$ Da (calcd. = 213.1305 Da).

Elemental analysis: $C_{11}H_{20}O_2Si$ (212.36 g/mol): calcd. = C, 62.21; H, 9.49; O, 15.07; Si, 13.22. Found. = C, 62.46; H, 9.33.

$CH_{3}CO_{2}G_{2}V_{4}$ (2)

Compound **2** was prepared using the protocol described for **1**, starting from BrG_2V_4 (**ii**) [23] (1.0 g; 2.18 mmol), sodium acetate (0.259 g; 3.16 mmol), K_2CO_3 (0.614 g; 4.44 mmol) and 18-crown-6 (0.063 g; 0.24 mmol). Yield: 98%.

 ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): δ (ppm) –5.53 (–Si(CH₃)), –5.41 (–Si(CH₃), 13.6 (–OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 18.2-18.5 (–SiCH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 20.2 (–OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 21.0 (CH₃COOR), 32.1 (–OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 64.2 (–OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 132.7 (–SiCH=CH₂), 136.8 (–SiCH=CH₂), 170.9 (CH₃COOR).

MS: [M + H]⁺ = 437.2718 Da (calcd. = 437.2722 Da).

Elemental analysis: $C_{23}H_{44}O_2Si_3$ (436.86 g/mol): calcd. = C, 63.24; H, 10.15; O, 7.32; Si, 19.29. Found. = C, 63.11; H, 9.97.

 $CH_{3}CO_{2}G_{3}V_{8}$ (3)

Compound **3** was prepared using the protocol described for **1**, starting from BrG_3V_8 (iii) [23] (1.0 g; 1.10 mmol), sodium acetate (0.141 g; 1.72 mmol), K_2CO_3 (0.310 g; 2.24 mmol) and 18-crown-6 (0.027 g; 0.10 mmol). Yield: 98%.

¹³C-NMR: (CDCl₃): δ (ppm) -5.53 (-Si(CH₃)), -5.41 (-Si(CH₃)), 13.5 (-OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 18.3-18.7 (-SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 20.2 (-OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 20.9 (CH₃COOR), 32.3 (-OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 64.5 (-OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 132.4 (-SiCH=CH₂), 136.7 (-SiCH=CH₂), 171.0 (CH₃COOR).

MS: $[M + H]^+ = 885.5593 \text{ Da} (calcd. = 885.5555 \text{ Da}).$

Elemental analysis: $C_{47}H_{92}O_2Si_7$ (885.85 g/mol): calcd. = C, 63.73; H, 10.47; O, 3.61; Si, 22.19. Found. = C, 63.49; H, 10.14.

HOG_1V_2 (4)

A methanolic solution of compound **1** (0.80 g; 3.77 mmol) and NaOH (0.30 g; 7.50 mmol) was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Afterwards, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was extracted into Et_2O and dried over MgSO₄, and the desired product was obtained as an orange oil in excellent yield (86%).

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 0.13 (s, 3H, –Si(CH₃)), 0.65 (m, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.38 (m, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.57 (m, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1,99 (s, 1H, –OH), 3.59 (t, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 5.68 (m, 2H, –SiCH=CH₂), 6.05 (m, 4H, –SiCH=CH₂).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR} \ (\text{CDCl}_3): \quad \delta \ (\text{ppm}) \ -5.29 \ (-\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)), \ 13.9 \ (-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Si}-), \ 20.0 \ (-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Si}-), \ 36.5 \ (-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Si}-), \ 62.5 \ (-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Si}-), \ 132.7 \ (-\text{SiCH}=\text{CH}_2), \ 136.7 \ (-\text{SiCH}=\text{CH}_2).$

MS: [M + H]⁺ = 171.1214 Da (calcd. = 171.1200 Da).

Elemental analysis: C₉H₁₈OSi (170.33 g/mol): calcd. = C, 63.47; H, 10.65; O, 9.39; Si, 16.49. Exp. = C, 63.34; H, 10.55.

 $HOG_{2}V_{4}$ (5)

Compound **5** was prepared using the protocol described for **4**, starting from $CH_3CO_2G_2(V)_4$ (**2**) (0.800 g; 1.83 mmol) and NaOH (0.153 mg; 3.83 mmol). Yield: 89%.

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ (ppm) –0.08 (s, 3H, –Si(CH₃)), 0.13 (s, 6H, –Si(CH₃)), 0.49 (m, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 0.56 (m, 4H, –SiCH₂CH₂CH₂SiVinyl), 0.70 (m, 4H, –SiCH₂CH₂CH₂SiVinyl), 1.35 (m, 6H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–, –SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.58 (m, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.99 (s, 1H, –OH), 3.62 (t, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 5.68 (m, 4H, –SiCH=CH₂), 6.07 (m, 8H, –SiCH=CH₂).

¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): δ (ppm) –5.42 (–Si(CH₃)), –5.28 (–Si(CH₃)), 13.9 (–OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 18.2–18.4 (–SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 20.2 (–OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 36.2 (–OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 62.6 (–OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 132.8 (–SiCH=CH₂), 136.7 (–SiCH=CH₂).

MS: $[M + H]^+ = 395.2586$ uma (calcd. = 395.2616 uma).

Elemental analysis: $C_{21}H_{42}OSi_3$ (394.82 g/mol): calcd. = C, 63.88; H, 10.72; O, 4.05; Si, 21.34. Exp. = C, 63.67; H, 10.58.

$HOG_{3}V_{8}$ (6)

Compound **6** was prepared using the protocol described for **4**, starting from $CH_3CO_2G_3(V)_8$ (**3**) (0.800 mg; 0.90 mmol), NaOH (0.790 mg; 1.98 mmol). Yield: 88%.

¹H-NMR: (CDCl₃): δ (ppm) –0.07 (s, 6H, –Si(CH₃)), –0.05 (s, 3H, –Si(CH₃)), 0.15 (s, 12H, –Si(CH₃)–), 0.57 (m, 18H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–, –SiCH₂CH₂CH₂Si–, –SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂SiVinyl), 0.72 (m, 8H, –SiCH₂CH₂CH₂SiVinyl), 1.37 (m, 14H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–, –SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.60 (m, 2H, -OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.99 (s, 1H, -OH), 3,65 (t, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 5.70 (m, 8H, –SiCH=CH₂), 6.08 (m, 16H, –SiCH=CH₂).

MS: $[M + H]^+ = 843.5416$ Da (calcd. = 843.5449 Da).

Elemental analysis: $C_{45}H_{90}OSi_7$ (843.81 g/mol): calcd. = C, 64.05; H, 10.75; O, 1.90; Si, 23.30. Exp. = C, 63.81; H, 10.93.

$C_{3}F_{7}CO_{2}G_{1}V_{2}$ (7)

Under an inert atmosphere, perfluorobutyryl chloride (0.088 mL; 0.59 mmol) was slowly added to a solution of HOG_1V_2 (4) (0.100 mg; 0.59 mmol) in dry Et_2O (50 mL) at 0 °C and was subjected to maintained stirring for 2 h. During this period, the HCl generated in situ as a side product was eliminated from the reaction medium by vacuum cycles every 30 min. After the completion time, the volatiles were removed, obtaining the fluorinated dendron as a colourless oil with an excellent yield (87%).

¹H-NMR: (CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 0.15 (s, 3H, –Si(CH₃)), 0.67 (m, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.43 (m, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.77 (m, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 4.37 (t, 2H, –OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 5.70 (m, 2H, –SiCH=CH₂), 6.06 (m, 4H, –SiCH=CH₂).

¹⁹F-NMR (CDCl₃): δ (ppm) –127.2 (s, 2F, CF₃CF₂CC₂R), –119.5 (c, 2F, CF₃CF₂CF₂CO₂R), –81.0 (t, 3F, CF₃CF₂CF₂CO₂R).

¹³C{¹⁹F}-NMR: (CDCl₃): δ (ppm) -5.57 (c, $-Si(CH_3)$), 13.4 (t, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2Si-$), 19.7 (t, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2Si-$), 31.5 (t, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2Si-$), 68.2 (t, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2Si-$), 107.6 (CF₃CF₂CF₂CO₂R), 108.0 (CF₃CF₂CF₂CO₂R), 117.4 (CF₃CF₂CF₂CO₂R), 133.2 (t, $-SiCH=CH_2$), 136.4 (d, $-SiCH=CH_2$), 158.2 ($-CF_2CO_2R$).

MS: [Perfluorobutyric acid]⁺ = 213.9942 Da (calcd. = 213.9865 Da); [M + H-Perfluorobutanoyl]⁺ = 171.1187 Da (calcd. = 171.1200 Da).

Elemental analysis: C₁₃H₁₇F₇O₂Si (366.35 g/mol): calcd. = C, 42.62; H, 4.68; F, 36.30; O, 8.73; Si, 7.67. Exp. = C, 42.58; H, 4.69.

$C_3F_7CONHG_2(SNMe_3PF_6)_4$ (8)

Under an inert atmosphere, perfluorobutyryl chloride (0.022 mL; 0.15 mmol) was slowly added to a solution of $NH_2G_2(SNMe_3I)_4$ (**iv**) (0.200 g; 0.14 mmol) in dry DMF (20 mL) at 0 °C with stirring being maintained for 2 h. During this time, HCl generated in situ as a side product was eliminated from the medium by vacuum cycles every 30 min. The completion of the reaction was determined by a colorimetric Kaiser test. Allylamine (0.015 mL; 0.20 mmol) was then added at 0 °C and the reaction continued for 2 h. After this, the volatiles were removed, and the crude compound was redissolved in the minimum volume of hot acetonitrile and precipitated with Et₂O and washed twice with the same solvent (2 × 10 mL). The product was then dissolved in water and an aqueous solution of NaPF₆ was added (0.200 g; 1.19 mmol). The reaction was kept stirring for 2 h., filtered, washed twice with water and precipitated again with acetonitrile/Et₂O. The amide-bond fluorinated dendron was obtained as a yellowish solid with a good yield (65%).

¹H-NMR: (CD₃OD): δ (ppm) 0.00 (s, 3H, -Si(CH₃)), 0.12 (s, 6H, -Si(CH₃)), 0.51–0.83 (m, 10H, -NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–, -SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.00 (m, 8H, -SiCH₂CH₂S-) 1.28-1.55 (m, 6H, -NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–, -SiCH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.62 (m, 2H, -NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 2.75 (m, 8H, -SiCH₂CH₂S–), 3.00 (m, 8H, -SCH₂CH₂N–), 3.20 (s, 36H, -N(CH₃)₃), 3.26 (t, 2H, -NCH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 3.59 (m, 8H, -SCH₂CH₂N–).

¹⁹F-NMR: (CD₃OD): δ (ppm) –128.4 (s, 2F, CF₃CF₂CC₂CO₂R), –121.8 (c, 2F, CF₃CF₂CF₂CO₂R), –82.5 (t, 3F, CF₃CF₂CC₂CO₂R), –73.5 (d, 24F, PF₆⁻).

¹³C{¹H}-NMR: (CD₃OD): δ (ppm) -5.12 (-Si(CH₃)), -4.91 (-Si(CH₃)), 14.3 (-NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 15.4 (-SiCH₂CH₂S-), 19.2-19.4 (-SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 22.2 (-NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 25.6 (-SiCH₂CH₂S-), 29.1 (-SCH₂CH₂N-), 33.7 (-NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 40.6 (-NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 53.4 (-N(CH₃)₃), 66.7 (-SCH₂CH₂N-).

MS: $[M + H]^+ = 1650.4057 \text{ Da} (\text{calcd.} = 1650.4490 \text{ Da}).$

Elemental analysis: $C_{45}H_{98}F_{31}N_5OP_4S_4Si_3$ (1650.65 g/mol): calcd. = C, 32.74; H, 5.98; F, 35.68; N, 4.24; O, 0.97; P, 7.51; S, 7.77; Si, 5.10. Exp. = C, 33.58; H, 6.03; N, 4.75; S, 7.38.

$C_3F_7CONHG_2(SNMe_3Cl)_4$ (9)

A solution of tetrabutylammonium chloride (0.214 g; 0.15 mmol) in acetone was added to a solution of compound **8** (0.155 g; 93.9 μ mol) in the same solvent (5 mL). The reaction was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The solvent was then eliminated by filtration and the product washed twice with acetone to give compound **9** as a yellowish solid with an excellent yield (85%).

¹H-NMR: (CD₃OD): δ (ppm) 0.00 (s, 3H, -Si(CH₃)), 0.13 (s, 6H, -Si(CH₃)), 0.51–0.70 (m, 6H, -NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–, -SiCH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 0.75 (m, 4H, -CH₂SiCH₂CH₂S–), 1.00 (m, 8H, -SiCH₂CH₂S-) 1.27–1.53 (m, 6H, -NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 1.62 (m, 2H, -NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si–), 2.77 (m, 8H, -SiCH₂CH₂S–), 3.02 (m, 8H, -SCH₂CH₂N–), 3.23 (s, 36H, -N(CH₃)₃), 3.30 (t, 2H, -NCH₂CH₂CH₂Ci–), 3.65 (m, 8H, -SCH₂CH₂N–).

¹⁹F-NMR: (CD₃OD): δ (ppm) –128.3 (s, 2F, CF₃CF₂CG₂R), –121.8 (c, 2F, CF₃CF₂CG₂R), –82.2 (t, 3F, CF₃CF₂CG₂CO₂R).

MS: [M – Cl]⁺ = 1174.4908 Da (calcd. = 1174.4916 Da).

Elemental analysis: $C_{45}H_{98}Cl_4F_7N_5OS_4Si_3$ (1212.60 g/mol): calcd. = C, 44.57; H, 8.15; Cl, 11.69; F, 10.97; N, 5.78; O, 1.32; S, 10.58; Si, 6.95. Exp. = C, 43.67; H, 8.06; N, 5.45; S, 9.37.

$NH_2G_2(SC_8H_4F_{13})_1(SO_3Na)_3$ (10)

A solution of PhtG₂A₄ (**v**) (0.169 g; 0.292 mmol), 1H, 1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorooctanethiol (0.099 g; 0.263 mmol), DMPA (0.006 g; 0.026 mmol) in THF/MeOH (2:1) was deoxygenated and irradiated at 365 nm for 1h. DMPA (0.026 g; 0.11 mmol) and an aqueous solution of sodium 3-mercapto-1-propanesulfonate (0.187 g; 1.051 mmol) were then added sequentially, with 2 h of irradiation after each addition. After monitoring by ¹H-NMR, the volatiles were removed under vacuum, and the residue was redissolved in MeOH/H₂O (6:1) and transfered to an ampoule. Hydrazine hydrochloride (0.145 mL; 4.670 mmol) was added to the solution and heated to 90 °C for 16 h. Finally, the solvents were eliminated and the aqueous solution of the crude product was purified by dialysis (MWCO 100-500 Da). Yield: 82%

¹H-NMR: (D₂O): δ (ppm) -0.12 (s, 9H, -Si(CH₃)), 0.52 (s, 18H, NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-, -SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-, -SiCH₂CH₂CH₂S-), 1.28 (m, 6H, -NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Ci-, -SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 1.48

 $(m, 6H, -SiCH_2CH_2CH_2S-), 1.59 (m, 2H, -NCH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2Si-), 1.89 (m, 6H, SCH_2CH_2CH_2SO_3Na), 2.04 (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2C_6F_{13}), 2.47 (m, 8 H, NCH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2Si, -SiCH_2CH_2CH_2S-) 2.52 (m, 6H, SCH_2CH_2CH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2C_6F_{13}), 2.85 (m, 6H, SCH_2CH_2CH_2SO_3Na). \\ (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2C_6F_{13}), 2.85 (m, 6H, SCH_2CH_2CH_2SO_3Na). \\ (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2C_6F_{13}), 2.85 (m, 6H, SCH_2CH_2CH_2SO_3Na). \\ (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2C_6F_{13}), 2.85 (m, 6H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na). \\ (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2C_6F_{13}), 2.85 (m, 6H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na). \\ (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2C_6F_{13}), 2.85 (m, 6H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na). \\ (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2C_6F_{13}), 2.85 (m, 6H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na). \\ (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2C_6F_{13}), 2.85 (m, 6H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na). \\ (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2C_6F_{13}), 2.85 (m, 6H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na). \\ (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2C_6F_{13}), 2.85 (m, 6H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na). \\ (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na), \\ (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2CH_2SO_3Na), \\ (m, 2H, SCH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2SO_3Na), \\ (m, 2H, SCH_2SO_3Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH_2SO_3Na), \\ (m,$

¹⁹F-NMR: (CDCl₃): δ (ppm): -85.8 (m, 3F, CF₃), -115.5 (m, 2F, -CF_{2ε}), -123.0 (m, 2F, -CF_{2δ}), -124.2 (m, 4F, -CF_{2β} and -CF_{2γ}), -127.7 (m, 2F, -CF_{2α}).

Elemental analysis: C₄₂H₇₇F₁₃NNa₃O₉S₇Si₃ (1364.70 g/mol): calcd. = C, 36.97; H, 5.69; N, 1.03; S, 16.44. Exp. = C, 37.09; H, 5.65; N, 1.01; S, 16.47.

NH₂G₃(SC₈H₄F₁₃)₂(SO₃Na)₆ (11)

Compound **11** was prepared using the protocol described for **10**, starting from PhtG₃A₈ (**vi**) (0.110 g; 0.098 mmol), 1H, 1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorooctanethiol (0.067 g; 0.176 mmol), DMPA (0.005 g; 0.018 mmol), sodium 3-mercapto-1-propanesulfonate (0.125 g; 0.703 mmol), DMPA (0.018 g; 0.070 mmol), hydrazine hydrochloride (0.048 mL; 1.568 mmol). Yield: 87 %

¹H-NMR: (D₂O): δ (ppm) -0.12 (s, 21H, -Si(CH₃)), 0.52 (s, 34H, NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-, -SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂S-), 1.28 (m, 14H, -NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-, -SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂S-), 1.48 (m, 16H, -SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂S-), 1.59 (m, 2H, -NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si-), 1.89 (m, 14H, SCH₂CH₂CH₂SO₃Na), 2.04 (m, 2H, SCH₂CH₂C₆F₁₃), 2.47 (m, 16 H, NCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂Si, -SiCH₂CH₂CH₂S-) 2.52 (m, 14H SCH₂CH₂CH₂SO₃Na), 2.72 (m, 2H, SCH₂CH₂C₆F₁₃), 2.85 (m, 14H, SCH₂CH₂CH₂SO₃Na).

¹⁹F-NMR: (CDCl₃): δ (ppm): -85.8 (m, 3F, CF₃); -115.4 (m, 2F, -CF_{2ε}), -123.0 (m, 2F, -CF_{2δ}), -124.2 (m, 4F, -CF_{2β} and -CF_{2γ}), -127.6 (m, 2F, -CF_{2α})

Elemental analysis: $C_{87}H_{159}F_{26}NNa_6O_{18}S_{14}Si_7$ (2784.55 g/mol): calcd. = C, 37.53; H, 5.76; N, 0.50; S, 16.12. Exp. = C, 37.61; H, 5.74; N, 0.55; S, 16.09.

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online, Figure S1. ¹H-NMR spectrum of the incomplete esterification reaction between perfluorhexanoic acid and dendrons with a bromide atom at the focal point. Figure S2. ¹⁹F-NMR spectrum of the saponification reaction. Figure S3. ¹H-NMR spectrum of dendron 7. Figure S4. ¹³C{¹H}-NMR spectrum of dendron 7. Figure S5. ¹⁹F-NMR spectrum of dendron 7. Figure S6. ¹³C{¹⁹F}-NMR spectrum of dendron 7. Figure S7. ESI-TOF of compound 9.

Author Contributions: Investigation G.M., T.L.-C., M.V.; methodology, M.V.; supervision: J.C., R.G.; funding acquisition, J.d.I.M., R.G. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This work was supported by PIE14/00061 (CIBER), CTQ2017-86224-P (MINECO), Consortium IMMUNOTHERCAN-CM B2017/BMD-3733 (CAM), NANODENDMED II-CM ref B2017/BMD-3703 and project SBPLY/17/180501/000358 JCCM. CIBER-BBN is an initiative funded by the VI National R&D&i Plan 2008–2011, Iniciativa Ingenio 2010, Consolider Program, CIBER Actions and financed by the Instituto de Salud Carlos III with assistance from the European Regional Development Fund.

Acknowledgments: We would like to acknowledge the UAH, IQAR and IRYCIS Institutes.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

- Caminade, A.M. CHAPTER 7 The Role of Noncovalent Interactions in the Efficiency of Dendrimers in Catalysis. In *Noncovalent Interactions in Catalysis*; The Royal Society of Chemistry: London, UK, 2019; pp. 153–167.
- 2. Yin, R.; Niu, Y.; Zhang, B.; Chen, H.; Yang, Z.; Yang, L.; Cu, Y. Removal of Cr(III) from aqueous solution by silica-gel/PAMAM dendrimer hybrid materials. *Environ. Sci. Pollut. Res.* **2019**, *26*, 18098–18112. [CrossRef]
- 3. Pedziwiatr-Werbicka, E.; Milowska, K.; Dzmitruk, V.; Ionov, M.; Shcharbin, D.; Bryszewska, M. Dendrimers and hyperbranched structures for biomedical applications. *Eur. Polym. J.* **2019**, *119*, 61–73. [CrossRef]
- 4. Wang, W.W.; Li, Z.M.; Su, L.; Wang, Q.R.; Wu, Y.L. Insight into the role of fluorinated dendrimers in ruthenium(II) catalyst for asymmetric transfer hydrogenation: The stabilizing effects from experimental and DFT approach. *J. Mol. Catal. A Chem.* **2014**, *387*, 92–102. [CrossRef]

- Sakamoto, Y.; Suzuki, T.; Miura, A.; Fujikawa, H.; Tokito, S.; Taga, Y. Synthesis, Characterization, and Electron-Transport Property of Perfluorinated Phenylene Dendrimers. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2000, 122, 1832–1833. [CrossRef]
- Bo, S.; Song, C.; Li, Y.; Yu, W.; Chen, S.; Zhou, X.; Yang, Z.; Zheng, X.; Jiang, Z.X. Design and Synthesis of Fluorinated Amphiphile as 19F MRI/Fluorescence Dual-Imaging Agent by Tuning the Self-Assembly. *J. Org. Chem.* 2015, *80*, 6360–6366. [CrossRef]
- Wang, M.; Cheng, Y. The effect of fluorination on the transfection efficacy of surface-engineered dendrimers. *Biomaterials* 2014, 35, 6603–6613. [CrossRef]
- 8. Ma, S.; Zhou, J.; Wali, A.R.M.; He, Y.; Xu, X.; Tang, J.Z.; Gu, Z. Self-assembly of pH-sensitive fluorinated peptide dendron functionalized dextran nanoparticles for on-demand intracellular drug delivery. *J. Mater. Sci. Mater. Med.* **2015**, *26*, 219. [CrossRef]
- Zieringer, M.; Wyszogrodzka, M.; Biskup, K.; Haag, R. Supramolecular behavior of fluorous polyglycerol dendrons and polyglycerol dendrimers with perfluorinated shells in water. *New J. Chem.* 2012, *36*, 402–406. [CrossRef]
- Xiao, Q.; Rubien, J.D.; Wang, Z.; Reed, E.H.; Hammer, D.A.; Sahoo, D.; Heiney, P.A.; Yadavalli, S.S.; Goulian, M.; Wilner, S.E.; et al. Self-Sorting and Coassembly of Fluorinated, Hydrogenated, and Hybrid Janus Dendrimers into Dendrimersomes. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2016, *138*, 12655–12663. [CrossRef]
- 11. Yang, Y.L.; Sheng, Y.J.; Tsao, H.K. Bilayered membranes of Janus dendrimers with hybrid hydrogenated and fluorinated dendrons: Microstructures and coassembly with lipids. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2019**, *21*, 15400–15407. [CrossRef]
- 12. Oztuna, A.; Nazir, H. Pentafluoropropionic Anhydride Functionalized PAMAM Dendrimer as miRNA Delivery Reagent. J. Turk. Chem. Soc. Sect. A Chem. 2018, 5, 1295–1302. [CrossRef]
- 13. Öztuna, A.; Nazır, H. In vitro transfection potential of fluorinated G5 PAMAM dendrimers for miRNA delivery to MRC-5 cells. *Eur. Res. J.* 2017, *4*, 92–100. [CrossRef]
- 14. Shumilkina, N.; Myakushev, V.; Tatarinova, E.; Buzin, M.; Voronina, N.; Laptinskaya, T.; Gallyamov, M.; Khokhlov, A.; Muzafarov, A. Synthesis and properties of fluorinated derivatives of carbosilane dendrimers of high generations. *Polym. Sci. Ser. A* **2006**, *48*, 1240–1247. [CrossRef]
- 15. Sheremetyeva, N.; Serenko, O.; Tatarinova, E.; Buzin, M.; Drozdov, F.; Elmanovich, I.; Gallyamov, M.; Muzafarov, A. Synthesis and properties of carbosilane dendrimers with perfluorohexyl groups in the outer layer of the molecular structure. *Russ. Chem. Bull.* **2018**, *67*, 1440–1444. [CrossRef]
- Sologubov, S.S.; Markin, A.V.; Smirnova, N.N.; Rybakova, Y.A.; Novozhilova, N.A.; Tatarinova, E.A.; Muzafarov, A.M. Calorimetric study of carbosilane dendrimers of the third and sixth generations with phenylethyl terminal groups. *J. Therm. Anal. Calorim.* 2016, 125, 595–606. [CrossRef]
- 17. Casado, M.A.; Roovers, J.; Stobart, S.R. Introduction of per (fluoroorganosilyl) peripheries into carbosilane dendrimers and related core-functionalized monodendrons gives rise to anomalous hydrodynamic and viscosimetric behavior. *Chem. Commun.* **2001**, 313–314. [CrossRef]
- 18. Peterson, K.L.; Srivastava, K.; Pierre, V.C. Fluorinated Paramagnetic Complexes: Sensitive and Responsive Probes for Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy and Imaging. *Front. Chem.* **2018**, *6*. [CrossRef]
- 19. Gomis, M.I.; Vestergren, R.; Borg, D.; Cousins, I.T. Comparing the toxic potency in vivo of long-chain perfluoroalkyl acids and fluorinated alternatives. *Environ. Int.* **2018**, *113*, 1–9. [CrossRef]
- 20. Mahapatra, C.T.; Damayanti, N.P.; Guffey, S.C.; Serafin, J.S.; Irudayaraj, J.; Sepúlveda, M.S. Comparative in vitro toxicity assessment of perfluorinated carboxylic acids. *J. Appl. Toxicol.* **2017**, *37*, 699–708. [CrossRef]
- 21. Wen, W.; Xia, X.; Zhou, D.; Wang, H.; Zhai, Y.; Lin, H.; Chen, J.; Hu, D. Bioconcentration and tissue distribution of shorter and longer chain perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAAs) in zebrafish (Danio rerio): Effects of perfluorinated carbon chain length and zebrafish protein content. *Environ. Pollut.* **2019**, *249*, 277–285. [CrossRef]
- 22. Gutierrez-Ulloa, C.E.; Buyanova, M.Y.; Apartsin, E.K.; Venyaminova, A.G.; de la Mata, F.J.; Valiente, M.; Gómez, R. Amphiphilic carbosilane dendrons as a novel synthetic platform toward micelle formation. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2017**, *15*, 7352–7364. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
- 23. Fuentes-Paniagua, E.; Peña-González, C.E.; Galán, M.; Gómez, R.; de la Mata, F.J.; Sánchez-Nieves, J. Thiol-Ene Synthesis of Cationic Carbosilane Dendrons: A New Family of Synthons. *Organometallics* **2013**, *32*, 1789–1796. [CrossRef]

- Martínez, Á.; Fuentes-Paniagua, E.; Baeza, A.; Sánchez-Nieves, J.; Cicuéndez, M.; Gómez, R.; de la Mata, F.J.; González, B.; Vallet-Regí, M. Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticles Decorated with Carbosilane Dendrons as New Non-viral Oligonucleotide Delivery Carriers. *Chem. A Eur. J.* 2015, *21*, 15651–15666. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
- 25. Rub, M.A.; Azum, N.; Asiri, A.M. Self-association behavior of an amphiphilic drug nortriptyline hydrochloride under the influence of inorganic salts. *Russ. J. Phys. Chem. B* **2016**, *10*, 1007–1013. [CrossRef]
- 26. Palladino, P.; Ragone, R. Ionic strength effects on the critical micellar concentration of ionic and nonionic surfactants: The binding model. *Langmuir* **2011**, 27, 14065–14070. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
- 27. Shinoda, K.; Hato, M.; Hayashi, T. Physicochemical properties of aqueous solutions of fluorinated surfactants. *J. Phys. Chem.* **1972**, *76*, 909–914. [CrossRef]
- 28. Sánchez-Nieves, J.; Ortega, P.; Muñoz-Fernández, M.Á.; Gómez, R.; de la Mata, F.J. Synthesis of carbosilane dendrons and dendrimers derived from 1, 3, 5-trihydroxybenzene. *Tetrahedron* **2010**, *66*, 9203–9213. [CrossRef]
- Galán, M.; Fuentes-Paniagua, E.; de la Mata, F.J.; Gómez, R. Heterofunctionalized Carbosilane Dendritic Systems: Bifunctionalized Dendrons as Building Blocks versus Statistically Decorated Dendrimers. *Organometallics* 2014, 33, 3977–3989. [CrossRef]

Sample Availability: Samples of the compounds are available from the authors.



© 2020 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).