# Green Approaches to Late-stage Fluorination: Radiosyntheses of <sup>18</sup>F-Labelled Radiopharmaceuticals in Ethanol and Water

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# 1. General Considerations

 $[^{18}F]$ Fluoride (100 – 1500 mCi / 3.7 – 55.5 GBq) was produced via the  $^{18}O(p,n)^{18}F$  nuclear reaction using a GE PETTrace cyclotron and dried using a TRACERLab FX<sub>FN</sub> automated radiochemistry synthesis module (General Electric, GE). Production of fluorine-18 labeled radiotracers was carried out using the reaction vessel of the TRACERLab FX<sub>FN</sub> or in bullet vials using a sand bath. Precursor solutions were gently warmed with a heat-gun to aid dissolution as needed. Radio-TLC analyses were conducted using Merck Glass-backed TLC Silica Gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> plates and analyzed using a Bioscan AR-2000 TLC scanner. Radio-HPLC analyses were conducted on a Shimadzu LC-2010A HT system equipped with a Bioscan B-FC-1000 radiation detector using HPLC conditions outlined below. The identity of all  $^{18}F$  product peaks were confirmed by comparison to unlabeled  $^{19}F$  reference standards.

Unless otherwise stated, reagents and solvents were commercially available and used without further purification: sodium chloride, 0.9% USP and Sterile Water for Injection, USP were purchased from Hospira; ethanol was purchased from American Regent; anhydrous acetonitrile, potassium carbonate, kryptofix-2.2.2, sodium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid, sodium dihydrogenphosphate, ammonium acetate and DMSO were purchased from Sigma Aldrich; HPLC grade acetonitrile was purchased from Fisher Scientific.

Precursors and standards were commercially available as follows: FDG precursor (mannose triflate), FET precursor (ditosyl methane) and reference standard, flubatine (standard and precursor), MPPF (standard and precursor) and nifene (standard and precursor) were purchased from ABX Advanced Biochemicals. FDG reference standard was purchased from Sigma Aldrich. FAZA precursor and reference standard were purchased from Prof. Friedrich Hammerschmidt (Universität Wien, Austria) and Prof. Hans-Jürgen Machulla (Steinbeis Transfer Center Radiopharmacy, Germany). All precursors and reference standards were used as received.

Other synthesis components were obtained as follows: sterile filters were obtained from Millipore; sterile product vials were purchased from Hollister-Stier;  $[^{18}O]H_2O$  was purchased from ABX Advanced Biochemical Compounds or Rotem Inc.; Alumina, C18-light and QMA-light Sep-Paks were purchased from Waters Corporation – C18-light and alumina Sep-Paks were flushed with 10 mL of ethanol followed by 10 mL of sterile water prior to use, while QMA-light Sep-Paks were flushed with 10 mL ach of ethanol – water – 0.5 M sodium bicarbonate – water.

# 2. Synthesis Procedures

# General Procedure for Drying [<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride

[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was delivered to the synthesis module (in a 1.5 mL bolus of [<sup>18</sup>O]water) and trapped on a QMA-light Sep-Pak to remove [<sup>18</sup>O]water. [<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was then eluted into the reaction vessel using aqueous potassium carbonate (3.5 mg in 0.5 mL of water). A solution of kryptofix 2.2.2 (15 mg in 1 mL of acetonitrile or 1 mL of ethanol) was then added to the reaction vessel and the [<sup>18</sup>F]fluoride was dried by evaporating the azeotrope. Azeotropic drying was achieved by heating the reaction vessel to 80 °C and drawing full vacuum for 4 min. After this time, the reaction vessel was cooled to 60 °C and subjected to both an argon stream and vacuum draw simultaneously for an additional 4 min.



[ T]TDG-A

## Table 2, Entry 1

[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was dried using the general method described above. Following drying, a solution of mannose triflate (40 mg) in ethanol (1 mL) was added to the reaction vessel and heated at 100 °C for 30 min. After this time, the crude reaction mixture was cooled and analyzed by radio-TLC (plate: silica gel TLC plate, solvent system: MeCN :  $H_2O = 95 : 5$ ;  $R_f 0.008 = [^{18}F]$ fluoride,  $0.650 = [^{18}F]$ FDG-Ac4a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S1). Typical RCC were  $23\pm10\%$  (n = 3).



Figure S1

[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was dried using the general method described above. Following drying, a solution of mannose triflate (40 mg) in 15% water in ethanol (1 mL) was added to the reaction vessel and heated at 100 °C for 30 min. After this time, the crude reaction mixture was cooled and analyzed by radio-TLC (plate: silica gel TLC plate, solvent system: MeCN :  $H_2O = 95 : 5$ ;  $R_f$  -0.004 = [<sup>18</sup>F]fluoride, 0.779 = [<sup>18</sup>F]FDG-Ac4; a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S2). Typical RCC were 37±5% (n = 3).



Figure S2

A solution of [<sup>18</sup>F]fluoride in [<sup>18</sup>O]H<sub>2</sub>O (0.15 mL) was added to the reaction vessel of the synthesis module. To this was added a mixture of potassium carbonate (3.5 mg), kryptofix (15 mg) and mannose triflate (40 mg) in ethanol (0.85 mL), and the reaction vessel was heated at 100 °C for 30 min. After this time, the crude reaction mixture was cooled and analyzed by radio-TLC (plate: silica gel TLC plate, solvent system: MeCN :  $H_2O = 95 : 5$ ;  $R_f 0.009 = [^{18}F]$ fluoride,  $0.864 = [^{18}F]$ FDG-Ac4; a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S3). Typical RCC were  $3\pm1\%$  (n = 3).



Figure S3

The [<sup>18</sup>F]fluoride was delivered to the synthesis module (in a 1.5 mL bolus of [<sup>18</sup>O]water) and trapped on a QMA-light Sep-Pak to remove [<sup>18</sup>O]water. [<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was then eluted into the reaction vessel using a solution of potassium carbonate (3.5 mg) and kryptofix (15 mg) in 15% water in ethanol (0.5 mL). A solution of mannose triflate (40 mg) in 15% water in ethanol (0.5 mL) was then added to the reaction vessel and the reaction was heated at 100 °C for 30 min. After this time, the crude reaction mixture was cooled and analyzed by radio-TLC (plate: silica gel TLC plate, solvent system: MeCN :  $H_2O = 95 : 5$ ;  $R_f$  -0.011 = [<sup>18</sup>F]fluoride, 0.824 = [<sup>18</sup>F]FDG-Ac4; a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S4). Typical RCC were 58±5% (n = 3).



**Figure S4** 

The [<sup>18</sup>F]fluoride was delivered to the synthesis module (in a 1.5 mL bolus of [<sup>18</sup>O]water) and trapped on a QMA-light Sep-Pak to remove [<sup>18</sup>O]water. [<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was then eluted into the reaction vessel using a solution of potassium carbonate (3.5 mg) and kryptofix (15 mg) in 15% water in ethanol (1.0 mL). A solution of mannose triflate (40 mg) in 15% water in ethanol (1.0 mL) was then added to the reaction vessel and the reaction was heated at 100 °C for 30 min. After this time, the crude reaction mixture was cooled and analyzed by radio-TLC (plate: silica gel TLC plate, solvent system: MeCN :  $H_2O = 95 : 5$ ;  $R_f$  -0.001 = [<sup>18</sup>F]fluoride, 0.817 = [<sup>18</sup>F]FDG-Ac4; a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S5). Typical RCC were 16±4% (n = 3).



Figure S5

The [<sup>18</sup>F]fluoride was delivered to the synthesis module (in a 1.5 mL bolus of [<sup>18</sup>O]water) and trapped on a QMA-light Sep-Pak to remove [<sup>18</sup>O]water. [<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was then eluted into the reaction vessel using a solution of potassium carbonate (3.5 mg) in 15% water in ethanol (0.5 mL). A solution of mannose triflate (40 mg) in 15% water in ethanol (0.5 mL) was then added to the reaction vessel and the reaction was heated at 100 °C for 30 min. After this time, the crude reaction mixture was cooled and analyzed by radio-TLC (plate: silica gel TLC plate, solvent system: MeCN : H<sub>2</sub>O = 95 : 5; R<sub>f</sub> 0.014 = [<sup>18</sup>F]fluoride, 0.841 = [<sup>18</sup>F]FDG-Ac4; a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S6). Typical RCC were 4±1% (n = 3).



**Figure S6** 



#### Table 1, Entries 1 and 2

[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was dried using the general method described above. Following drying, a solution of mannose triflate (40 mg) in acetonitrile (1 mL) was added to the reaction vessel and heated at 100 °C for 30 min to yield [<sup>18</sup>F]FDG-Ac4 (**2**). After this time, 1N NaOH was added and the reaction was stirred at room temperature (rt) for 5 min. Following neutralization (HCl/citrate buffer), the crude reaction mixture was analyzed by radio-TLC to determine RCC (plate: silica gel TLC plate, solvent system: MeCN :  $H_2O = 95 : 5$ ,  $R_f - 0.018 = [^{18}F]$ fluoride,  $0.390 = [^{18}F]$ FDG; a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S7). Typical RCC were  $74\pm12\%$  (H<sub>2</sub>O-MeCN azeotrope, n = 3) or  $70\pm10\%$  (H<sub>2</sub>O-EtOH azeotrope, n = 3).



Reg	Jian	Stop	Centrolu	INI	Counts	OFIN	Total	ROI
Rgn 1 Rgn 2	51.9 74.5	65.8 97.1	58.9 85.3	-0.018 0.390	5838.0 27473.0	5838.0 27473.0	16.98 79.93	17.53 82.47
2 Peaks					33311.0	33311.0	96.91	100.00

Figure S7

#### Fully-automated Synthesis of [<sup>18</sup>F]FDG

The [<sup>18</sup>F]fluoride was delivered to the synthesis module (in a 1.5 mL bolus of [<sup>18</sup>O]water) and trapped on a QMA-light Sep-Pak to remove [<sup>18</sup>O]water. [<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was then eluted into the reaction vessel using a solution of potassium carbonate (3.5 mg) and kryptofix (15 mg) in 15% water in ethanol (0.5 mL). A solution of mannose triflate (40 mg) in 15% water in ethanol (0.5 mL) was then added to the reaction vessel and the reaction was heated at 100 °C for 30 min. After this time, 1N NaOH was added and the reaction was stirred at room temperature (rt) for 5 min. Following neutralization (HCl/citrate buffer), the crude reaction mixture was diluted and purified using alumina and C18 Sep-Paks, as previously described,<sup>1</sup> to yield [<sup>18</sup>F]FDG in 33±2% radiochemical yield (decay-corrected, n = 3). Analysis of the final product by radio-TLC confirmed product purity (plate: silica gel TLC plate, solvent system: MeCN : H<sub>2</sub>O = 95 : 5, R<sub>f</sub> 0.417 = [<sup>18</sup>F]FDG; a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S8).



Figure S8



# [<sup>18</sup>F]FAZA

#### Table 1, Entries 3 and 4

[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was dried using the general method described above. [<sup>18</sup>F]FAZA was then synthesized as previously described,<sup>2</sup> and typical non-corrected radiochemical yields were 6% (H<sub>2</sub>O-MeCN azeotrope, n = 3) or 5% (H<sub>2</sub>O-EtOH azeotrope, n = 3). Radiochemical purity and identity were confirmed by radio-HPLC (column: Phenomonex Luna C8(2) 5 $\mu$ , 100 x 2.0 mm; mobile phase: 5% acetonitrile: 95% 20mM aqueous ammonium acetate, pH 4.5; flow rate: 0.5 mL/min; UV wavelength = 254 nm; t<sub>R</sub> [<sup>18</sup>F]FAZA = 6.2 min; a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S9).



Figure S9

[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was dried using the general method described above. Following drying, a solution of precursor 4 (8 mg) in 15% water in ethanol (2 mL) was added to the reaction vessel and heated at 100 °C for 10 min. After this time, the reaction was cooled to 40 °C and 0.1 M aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 mL) was added. The reaction was stirred for 5 min at 40 °C to hydrolyze the acetate protecting groups. The crude reaction mixture was then cooled and analyzed by radio-HPLC (column: Phenomonex Luna C8(2) 5 $\mu$ , 100 x 2.0 mm; mobile phase: 15% acetonitrile: 85% 50mM aqueous ammonium acetate, pH 4.5; flow rate: 0.5 mL/min, UV = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> [<sup>18</sup>F]FAZA = 4.561 min; a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S10). RCC was 3% (n = 1).



Figure S10



#### Table 1, Entries 5 and 6

[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was dried using the general method described above. Following drying, a solution of ditosyl methane (5 mg) in acetonitrile (1 mL) was added to the reaction vessel and heated at 110 °C for 10 min. After this time, the crude reaction mixture was cooled and analyzed by radio-HPLC (column: Phenomenex Luna C18 150 x 4.6 mm, mobile phase: MeCN :  $H_2O = 60 : 40$ ; flow rate: 1.0 mL/min; UV wavelength = 254 nm;  $t_R$  [<sup>18</sup>F]FET = 2.608 min; a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S11). Typical RCC were 70±10% (H<sub>2</sub>O-MeCN azeotrope, n = 3) or 68±4% (H<sub>2</sub>O-EtOH azeotrope, n = 2).



[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was dried using the general method described above. Following drying, a solution of ditosyl methane (5 mg) in ethanol (1 mL) + 1 drop DMSO (to improve precursor solubility) was added to the reaction vessel and heated at 110 °C for 10 min. After this time, the crude reaction mixture was cooled and analyzed by radio-HPLC (column: Luna C18 150 x 4.6 mm, mobile phase: MeCN :  $H_2O = 50 : 50$ ;  $t_R$  [<sup>18</sup>F]FET = 4.87 min; chromatogram is shown in Figure S12). RCC was 52% (n = 1).



Figure S12



## Table 1, Entries 7 and 8

[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was dried using the general method described above. [<sup>18</sup>F]Flubatine was then synthesized as previously described,<sup>3</sup> and typical non-corrected radiochemical yields were  $25\pm10\%$  (H<sub>2</sub>O-MeCN azeotrope, n = 3) or  $15\pm10\%$  (H<sub>2</sub>O-EtOH azeotrope, n = 20). Radiochemical purity and identity were confirmed by radio-HPLC (column: Phenomonex Synergi Polar-RP 4  $\mu$ ,  $150 \times 4.6$  mm; mobile phase: 50% acetonitrile : 50% 0.1 M acetic acid; pH, 4.5; flow rate: 1.0 mL/min; oven temp: 40°C; UV wavelength: 254 nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 5.0 min; a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S13).



**Figure S13** 

[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was dried using the general method described above. It was then attempted to synthesize [<sup>18</sup>F]flubatine as previously described,<sup>3</sup> but using ethanol or 15% H<sub>2</sub>O : 85% EtOH as the reaction solvent (n = 3). In each case however, no product was formed as determined by radio-HPLC analysis (a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S14, expected  $t_R$  of [<sup>18</sup>F]flubatine = ~5 min).



Figure S14



#### **Boc-protected** [<sup>18</sup>F]Nifene

#### Table 1, Entries 9 and 10

[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was dried using the general method described above. Following drying, a solution of nifene precursor **12** (2 mg) in DMSO (1 mL) was added to the reaction vessel and heated at 125 °C for 30 min. After this time, the crude reaction mixture was cooled and analyzed by radio-HPLC (column: Phenomenex Synergi Polar RP 150 x 4.6 mm, mobile phase: MeCN :  $H_2O = 50 : 50 + 0.05\%$  AcOH; flow rate: 1.0 mL/min; UV wavelength = 254 nm;  $t_R$  Bob-protected [<sup>18</sup>F]nifene = 6.415 min; a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S15). Typical RCC were 50% (H<sub>2</sub>O-MeCN azeotrope, n = 1) or 83% (H<sub>2</sub>O-EtOH azeotrope, n = 1).



RAD Results			
Retention Time	Area	Area %	Width
1.373	71187	3	0.37
1.765	8801	0	0.40
2.285	171173	6	0.45
2.796	22772	1	0.42
4.553	118687	4	0.81
4.690	86963	3	0.41
6.415	2274486	83	0.91

Figure S15

[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was dried using the general method described above. It was then attempted to synthesize Bob-protected [<sup>18</sup>F]nifene as described above, but using ethanol as the reaction solvent (n = 3). However, no product was formed as determined by radio-HPLC analysis (Figure S16, expected t<sub>R</sub> of Boc-protected [<sup>18</sup>F]nifene = ~6.4 min).



Figure S16



## Table 1, Entries 11 and 12

[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was dried using the general method described above. MPPF precursor **15** (10 mg) in DMSO (0.5 mL) was added to the reactor, and the reaction was heated at 140 °C for 20 min. After this time, the crude reaction mixture was cooled and analyzed by radio-HPLC (column: Phenomenex Prodigy C8 5µ 150 x 4.6 mm; mobile phase: MeCN : 20 mM ammonium acetate = 35 : 50, pH 4.5; flow rate: 0.8 mL/min; oven temp: 40°C; UV wavelength: 254 nm;  $t_R$  [<sup>18</sup>F]MPPF = 8.78 min; a typical chromatogram is shown in Figure S17). Typical RCC were 70±10% (H<sub>2</sub>O-MeCN azeotrope, n = 3) or 78±18% (H<sub>2</sub>O-EtOH azeotrope, n = 3).





Figure S17

[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoride was dried using the general method described above. It was then attempted to synthesize [<sup>18</sup>F]MPPF as described above, but using ethanol (n = 3) or ethanol/DMSO [50:50] (n = 3) as the reaction solvent. However, no product was formed in either case as determined by radio-HPLC analysis (Figure S18, expected  $t_R$  of [<sup>18</sup>F]MPPF = ~8.78 min).



Figure S18

# 3. References

- [1] M. L. Richards and P. J. H. Scott. Synthesis of [<sup>18</sup>F]Fluorodeoxyglucose ([<sup>18</sup>F]FDG) in Radiochemical Syntheses Volume 1: Radiopharmaceuticals for Positron Emission Tomography by Peter J. H. Scott and Brian G. Hockley (Eds.), John Wiley and Sons Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey, 2012.
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- [3] B. G. Hockley, M. N. Stewart, P. Sherman, C. Quesada, M. R. Kilbourn, R. L. Albin, P. J. H. Scott, *J. Label. Compd. Radiopharm.* 2013, **56**, 595.