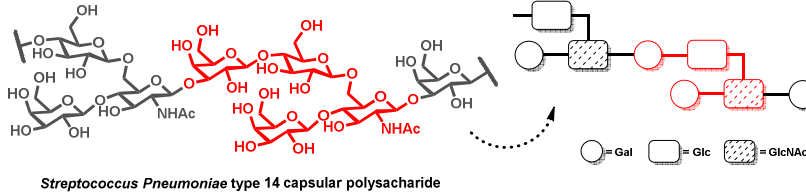




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Challenges in Carbohydrate-based Vaccine Development

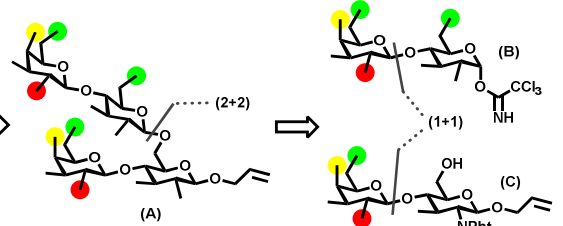
Carbohydrate-based vaccines in general suffer from an intrinsic low immunogenicity of their corresponding epitopes^[1] and rapid hydrolytic *in vivo*-degradation.^[2] As a result, a decreased bioavailability and limited immunological efficacy is often observed, leading to insufficient immune responses. In this regard, fluorination of glycans^[3] is a promising approach to overcome these drawbacks.



Schematic presentation of the (6)-[β -D-Galp-(1 \rightarrow 4)-] β -D-GlcpNAc-(1 \rightarrow 3)- β -D-Galp-(1 \rightarrow 4)- β -D-Glcp-(1 \rightarrow)_n outer cell surface polysaccharide repeating unit (left), the smallest protective epitope capable of evoking serotype-specific antibodies in murine models is indicated in red^[7]; retrosynthetic analysis of the *S. Pneumoniae* type 14 antigen mimics (right).

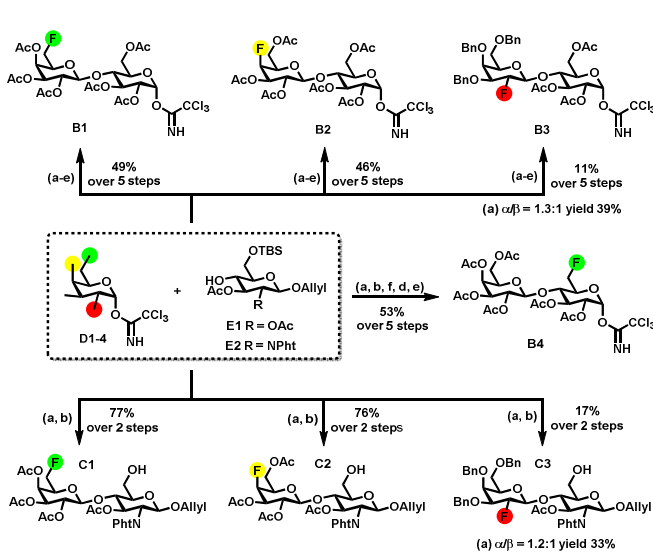
Streptococcus Pneumoniae Type 14 a well-characterized Model System

Due to its high epidemiological importance,^[4] the bacterium *S. Pneumoniae* type 14 represents a well-established model system^[5,6] to study the impact of fluorine incorporation on antigen-antibody recognition and vaccine development. The smallest protective opsonophagocytic conformational epitope capable of promoting phagocytosis has recently been reported.^[7]



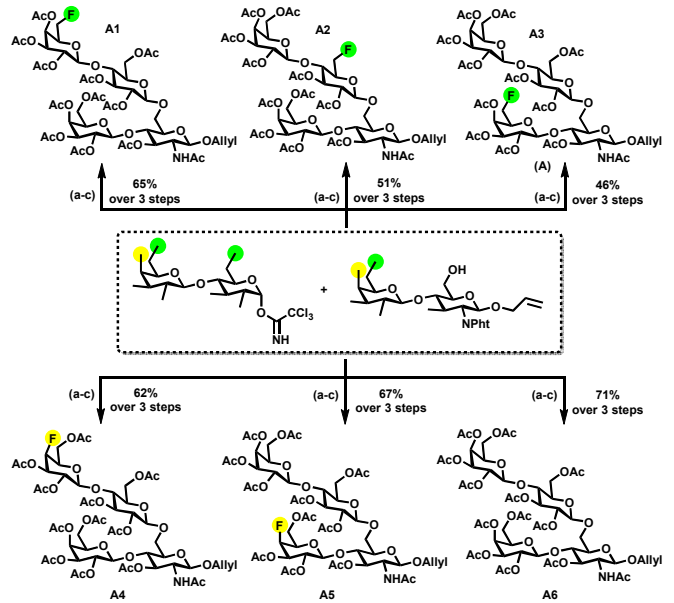
General Synthesis

In this project, we have successfully realized a modular building block approach starting with an iterative (1+1) glycosylation strategy for both the top (B) and bottom branch (C) synthons (*vide infra*). So far, (2+2) glycosylations provided six fluorinated tetrasaccharide derivatives (A), featuring different strategic fluorination sites.



Schematic depiction of SPN14 disaccharide building block synthesis:

(a) TMSOTf, MS4A, CH₂Cl₂, -78°C \rightarrow rt, 30min, b) 80% aq. AcOH, rt, 24h, c) Ac₂O, pyridine, 4-DMAP, rt, 3h, d) Pd(PPh₃)₄, abs. AcOH, 70°C, 3h; e) CCl₃CN, DBU, CH₂Cl₂, 0°C, 24h; f) DAST, CH₂Cl₂, 2,4,6-collidine, 0°C \rightarrow rt.

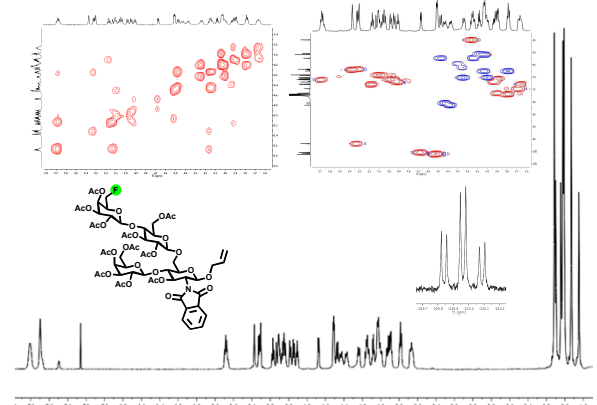


Schematic depiction of SPN14-antigen (2+2) glycosylations:

(a) TMSOTf, MS4A, CH₂Cl₂, -78°C \rightarrow rt, 30min, b) MeNH₂, EtOH, rt, 48h, c) Ac₂O, pyridine, 4-DMAP.

Conclusions & Future Directions

- ✓ Six novel glycomimetic SPN14 antigens
- ✓ Efficient fluorination & glycosylation protocols
- ✓ Versatile modular building block concept
- ✓ High-resolution 800 MHz NMR analysis
- Immobilization on gold surface
- Extensive SPR spectroscopy
- Evaluation of binding affinities
- Crystallization studies



References: [1] R. D. Astronomo, D. R. Burton, *Nat. Rev. Drug Discov.* **2010**, 9 (4), 308-324; [2] M. Reindl, A. Hoffmann-Röder, *Curr. Top. Med. Chem.* **2014**, 14 (7), 840-854; [3] F. Yang, X.-J. Zheng, C.-X. Huo, Y. Wang, Y. Zhang, X.-S. Ye, *ACS Chem. Biol.* **2010**, 5 (3), 252-259; [4] B. Henriques-Normark, E. I. Tuomanen, *Cold Spring Harb. Perspect. Med.* **2013**, 3 (7); [5] S. Deng, L. Bai, R. Reboulet, R. Matthew, D. A. Engler, L. Teyton, A. Bendelac, P. B. Savage, *Chem. Sci.* **2014**, 5 (4), 1437-1441; [6] J. Alexander, M.-F. d. Guercio, Frame, A. Maewal, A. Sette, M. H. Nahm, M. J. Newman, *Vaccine* **2004**, 22 (19), 2362-2367; [7] D. Safari, H. A. T. Dekker, J. A. F. Joosten, D. Michalik, A. Carvalho de Souza, R. Adamo, M. Lahmann, A. Sundgren, S. Oscarson, J. P. Kamerling, H. Snippe, *Infect. Immun.* **2008**, 76, 4615-4623.