

# Electronic Supporting Information

## Synthesis of water-soluble polyester-based dendrimer prodrugs for exploiting therapeutic properties of two triterpenoid acids

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**Section S1 (in round parenthesis the peripheral composition in amino acids and free OH is reported)**

***Dendrimer G4[Arg(36)OH(12)] (1)<sup>II</sup>***

Very hygroscopic fluffy solid, 68% isolated yield. FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3364 ( $\text{NH}_3^+$ ), 1741 (C=O ester), 1653 (NH).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  0.79-1.40 (m, 138H,  $\text{CH}_3$  of dendrimer), 1.40-2.02 (m, 144H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  Arg), 3.21 (m, 72H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}$  Arg), 3.34-3.62 (m, 24H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ), 3.62-4.71 [m, 210H ( $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$  of dendrimer +  $\text{CHNH}_3^+$  Arg + 12OH)], 8.07 and 8.75 [br, 288H ( $^{\delta}\text{NH}$  +  $^{\omega}\text{NH}_2^+$  +  $^{\omega}\text{NH}_2$  +  $^{\alpha}\text{NH}_3^+$  Arg)].

***Dendrimer G4[ArgGly(29)OH(19)] (2)<sup>II</sup>***

Very hygroscopic fluffy solid, 74% isolated yield. FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3412 ( $\text{NH}_3^+$ ), 1739 (C=O ester), 1638 (NH).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  0.74-1.38 (m, 138H,  $\text{CH}_3$  of dendrimer), 1.42-1.98 (m, 116H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  Arg), 3.21 (m, 58H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}$  Arg), 3.30-3.59 (m, 38H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ), 3.77-4.45 [m, 235H ( $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$  of dendrimer +  $\text{CHNH}_3^+$  Arg +  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}$  Gly)], 4.70 and 5.06 (br, 19H, OH), 7.56-9.51 [m, 261H (NH Gly +  $^{\delta}\text{NH}$  +  $^{\omega}\text{NH}_2^+$  +  $^{\omega}\text{NH}_2$  +  $^{\alpha}\text{NH}_3^+$  Arg)].

***Dendrimer G4[Arg(16)Lys(19)OH(13)] (3)<sup>II</sup>***

Very hygroscopic fluffy solid, 69% isolated yield. FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3431 ( $\text{NH}_3^+$ ), 1744 (C=O ester), 1628 (NH).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  0.90-2.07 [m, 316H ( $\text{CH}_3$  of dendrimer +  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  Arg +  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  Lys)], 2.76 (m, 38H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_3^+$  Lys), 3.21 (m, 32H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}$  Arg), 3.54-3.82 (m, 26H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ), 3.80-4.80 [m, 208H ( $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$  of dendrimer +  $\text{CHNH}_3^+$  Lys +  $\text{CHNH}_3^+$  Arg + 13OH)], 7.60-9.20 [m, 242H ( $^{\delta}\text{NH}$  +  $^{\omega}\text{NH}_2^+$  +  $^{\omega}\text{NH}_2$  +  $^{\alpha}\text{NH}_3^+$  Arg and  $^{\alpha}\text{NH}_3^+$  +  $^{\alpha}\text{NH}_3^+$  Lys)].

***Dendrimer G5[Arg(66)OH(30)] (4)<sup>II</sup>***

Very hygroscopic fluffy solid, 46% isolated yield. FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3402 ( $\text{NH}_3^+$ ), 1750 (C=O ester), 1652 (NH).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  0.79-1.39 (m, 282H,  $\text{CH}_3$  of dendrimer), 1.47-2.00 (m, 264H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  Arg), 3.21 (m, 132H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}$  Arg), 3.47 (br, 60H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ), 3.80-4.71 [m, 414H ( $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$  of dendrimer +  $\text{CHNH}_3^+$  Arg + 30 OH)], 7.81 and 9.55 [m, 528H ( $^{\delta}\text{NH}$  +  $^{\omega}\text{NH}_2^+$  +  $^{\omega}\text{NH}_2$  +  $^{\alpha}\text{NH}_3^+$  Arg)].

***Dendrimer G5[ArgGly(52)OH(44)] (5)<sup>II</sup>***

Very hygroscopic off white fluffy solid, 71% isolated yield. FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3412 ( $\text{NH}_3^+$ ), 1740 (C=O ester), 1638 (NH).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  0.76-1.40 (m, 282H,  $\text{CH}_3$  of dendrimer), 1.40-1.98 (m, 208H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  Arg), 3.20 (m, 104H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}$  Arg), 3.33-3.61 (m, 88H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ), 3.70-4.49 [m, 490H ( $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$  of dendrimer +  $\text{CHNH}_3^+$  Arg +  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}$  Gly + 29 OH)], 4.91 (br, 15H, OH), 7.22-9.93 [m, 468H (NH Gly +  $^{\alpha}\text{NH}_3^+$  +  $^{\delta}\text{NH}$  +  $^{\omega}\text{NH}_2^+$  +  $^{\omega}\text{NH}_2$  Arg)].

***Dendrimer G5[Arg(38)Lys(30)OH(28)] (6)<sup>II</sup>***

Very hygroscopic pale yellow fluffy solid, 51% isolated yield. FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3411 ( $\text{NH}_3^+$ ), 1743 (C=O ester), 1631 (NH).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  0.90-2.05 [m, 614H ( $\text{CH}_3$  of dendrimer +  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  Arg +  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  Lys)], 2.75 (m, 60H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_3^+$  Lys), 3.18 (m, 76H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}$  Arg), 3.39-3.55 (m, 56H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ), 3.80-4.70 [m, 418 H ( $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$  of dendrimer +  $\text{CHNH}_3^+$  Lys +  $\text{CHNH}_3^+$  Arg + 28 OH)], 7.60-9.20 [m, 484H ( $^{\delta}\text{NH}$  +  $^{\omega}\text{NH}_2^+$  +  $^{\omega}\text{NH}_2$  +  $^{\alpha}\text{NH}_3^+$  Arg and  $^{\alpha}\text{NH}_3^+$  +  $^{\alpha}\text{NH}_3^+$  Lys)].

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}/\text{DMSO}-d_6$ , 300 MHz)

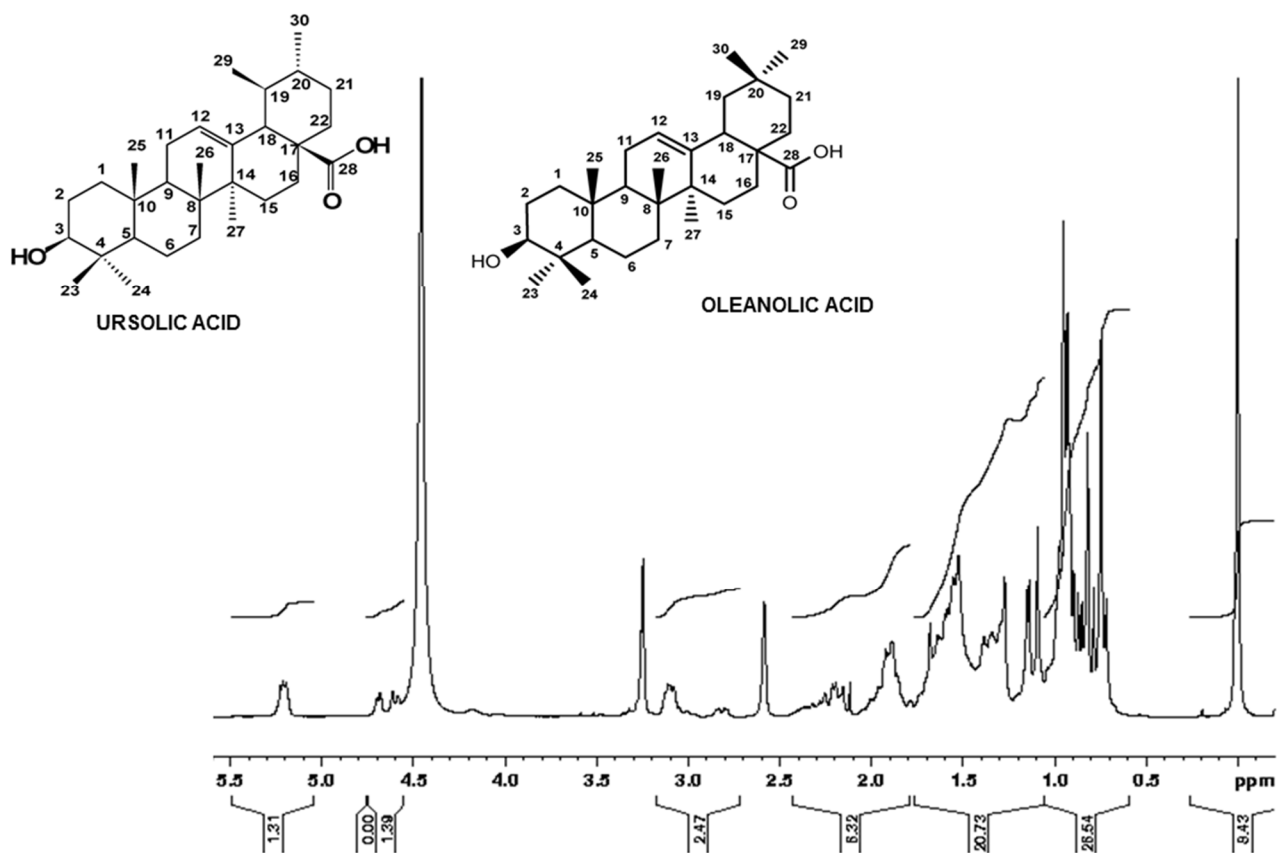


Fig. S2  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the Ursolic and Oleanolic acids mixture extracted by *Salvia Corrugata* Vahl<sup>[2]</sup>

## References

- 1 Alfei, S.; Castellaro, S. Synthesis and characterization of polyester-based dendrimers containing peripheral arginine or mixed amino acids as potential vectors for gene and drug delivery. *Macromol. Res.* 2017, DOI 10.1007/s13233-017-5160-3
- 2 Bisio, A.; Romussi, G.; Russo, E.; Cafaggi, S.; Schito, A. M.; Repetto, B.; De Tommasi, N. Antimicrobial Activity of the Ornamental Species *Salvia corrugata*, a Potential New Crop for Extractive Purposes. *J. Agric. Food Chem.* 2008, 56, 10468-10472

### $^1\text{H}$ NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 300 MHz)

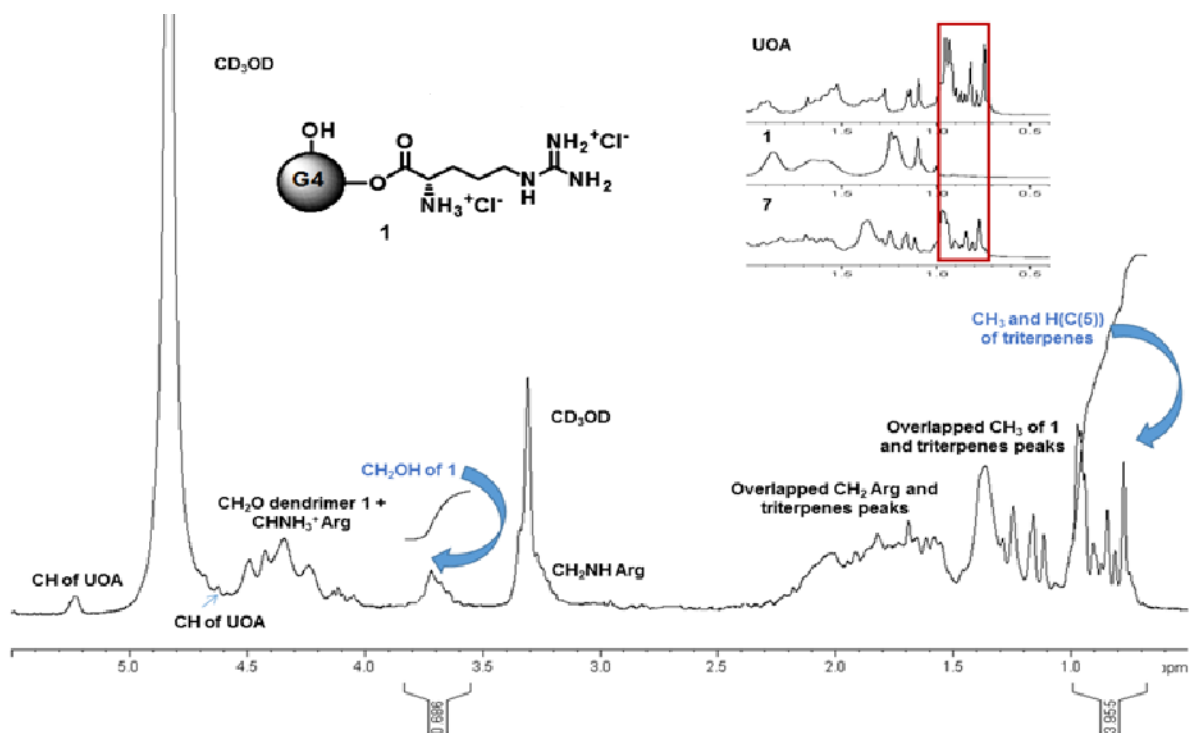


Fig. S3  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of 7 with a comparison between significant parts of spectra of UOA, 1 and 7 in expansion

### $^1\text{H}$ NMR ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ , 300 MHz)

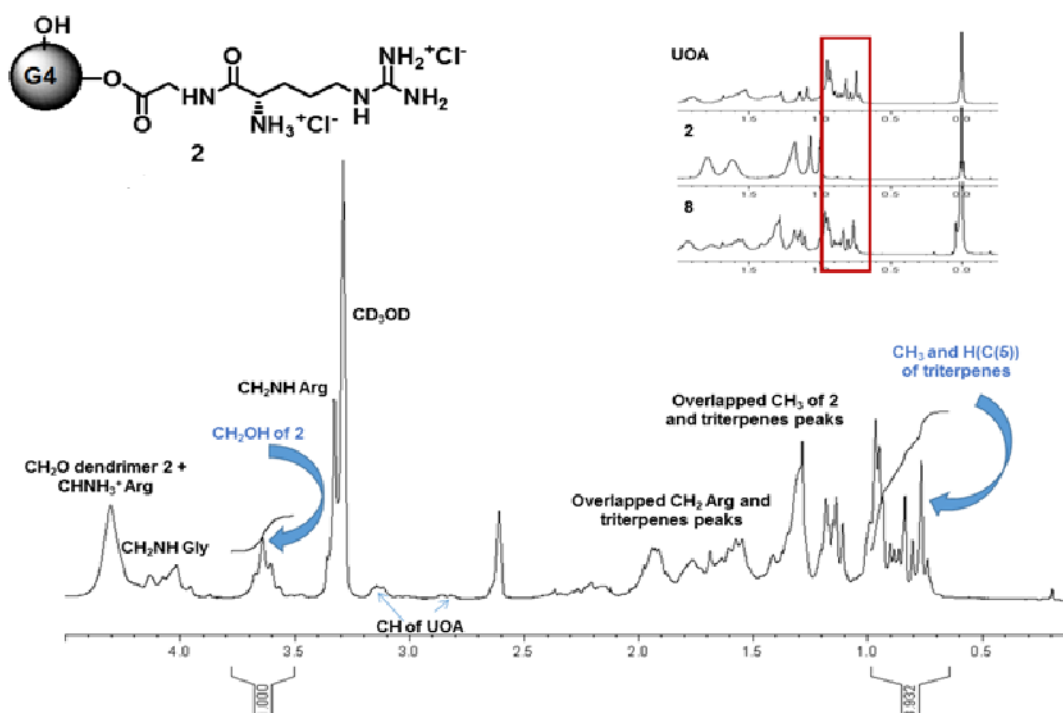


Fig. S4  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of 8 with a comparison between significant parts of spectra of UOA, 2 and 8 in expansion

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 300 MHz)

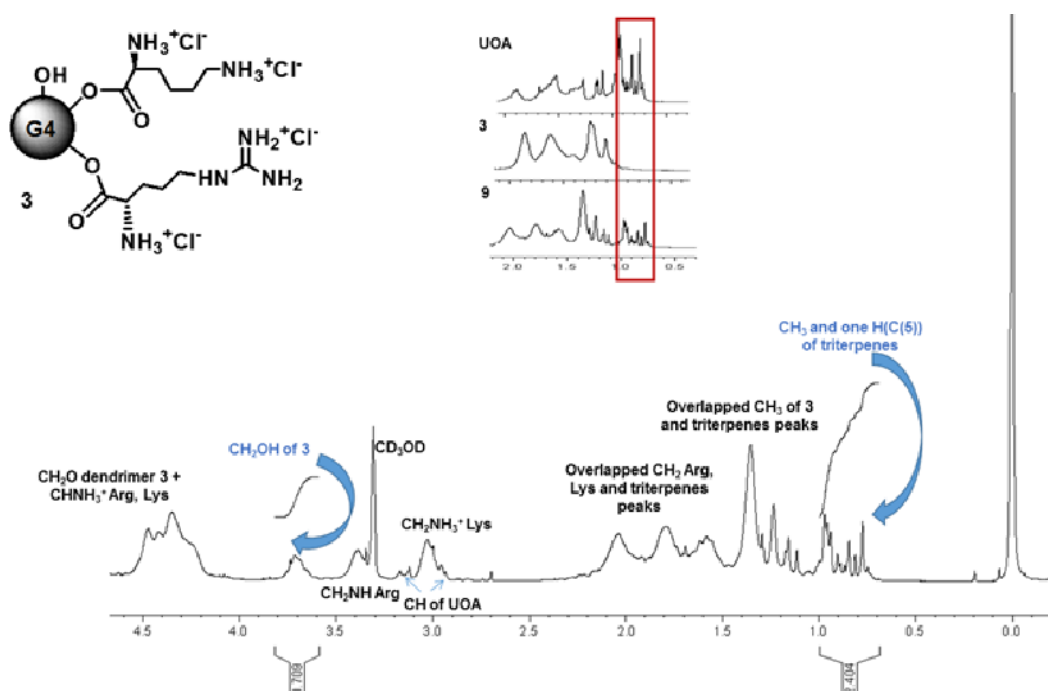


Fig. S5  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **9** with a comparison between significant parts of spectra of UOA, **3** and **9** in expansion

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 300 MHz)

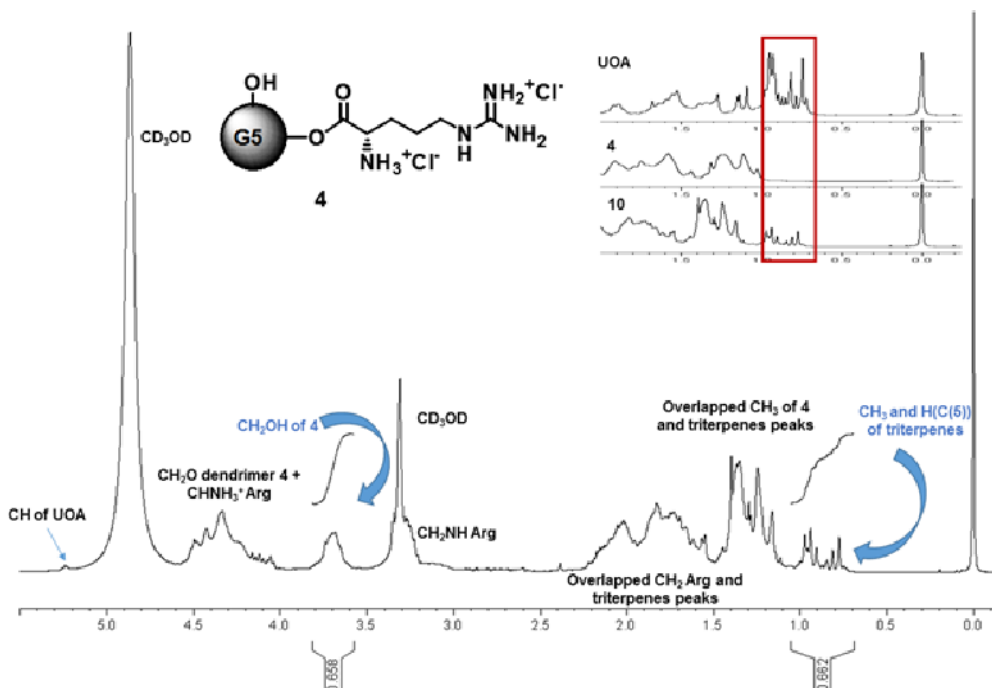


Fig. S6  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **10** with a comparison between significant parts of spectra of UOA, **4** and **10** in expansion

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}/\text{DMSO}-d_6$ , 300 MHz)

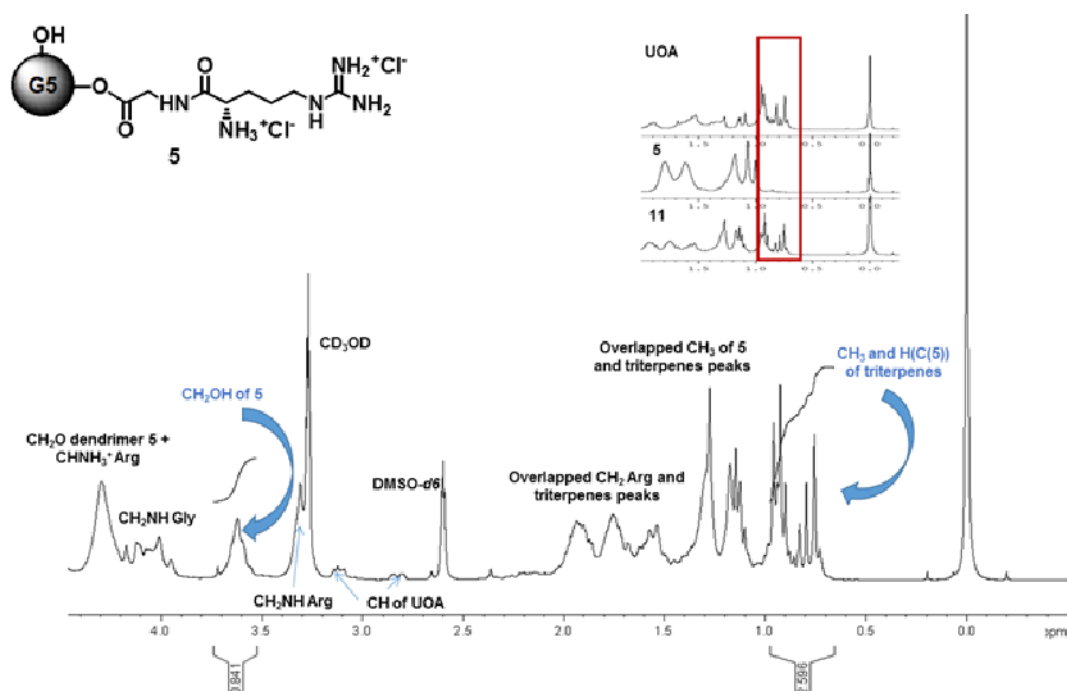


Fig. S7  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **11** with a comparison between significant parts of spectra of UOA, **5** and **11** in expansion

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 300 MHz)

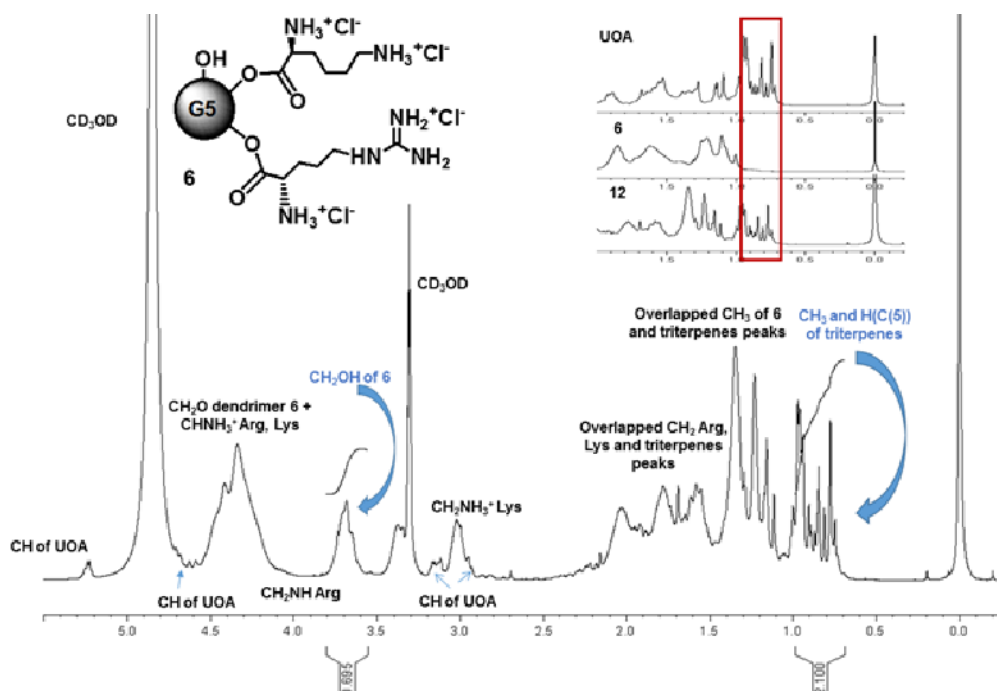


Fig. S8  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **12** with a comparison between significant parts of spectra of UOA, **6** and **12** in expansion

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 300 MHz)

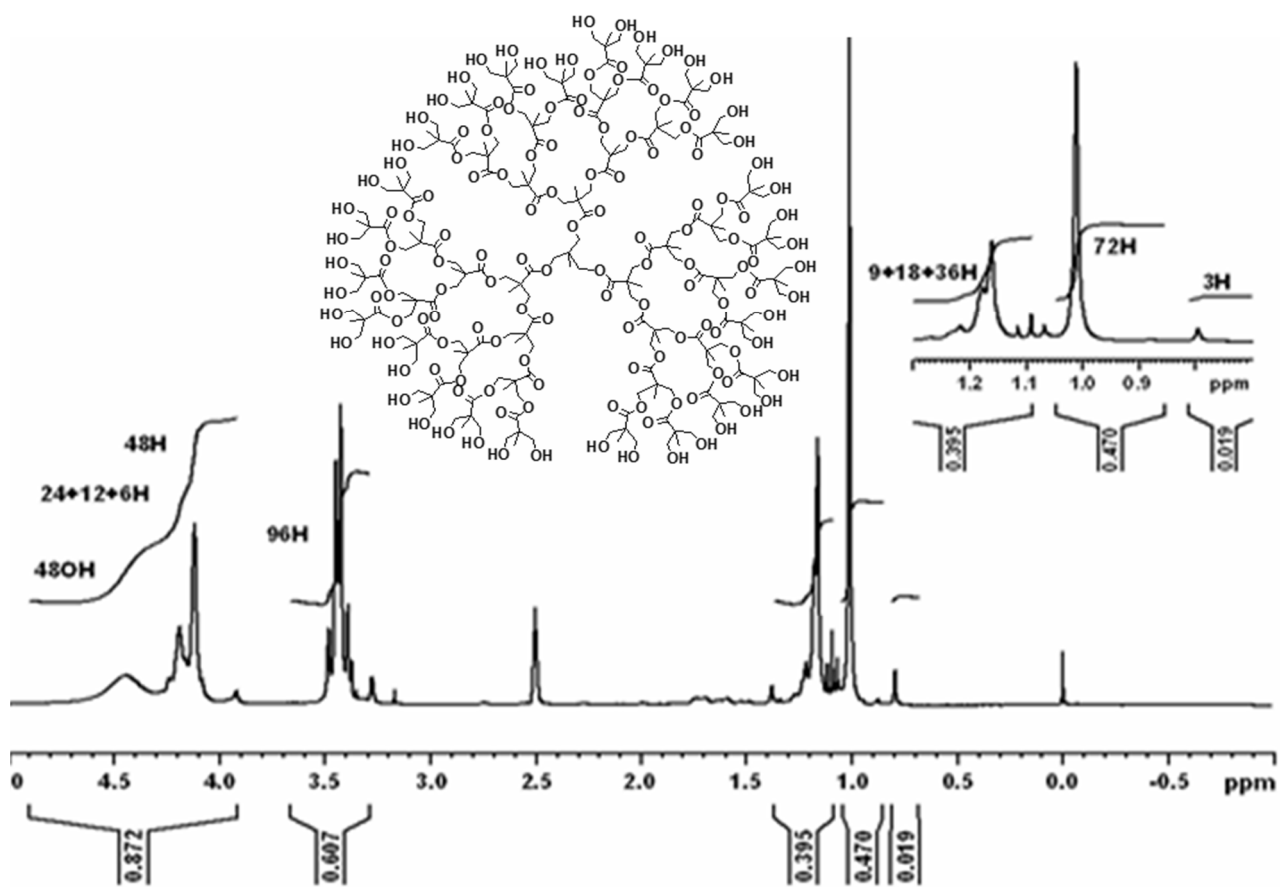


Fig. S9  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of G4OH

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 75.5 MHz)

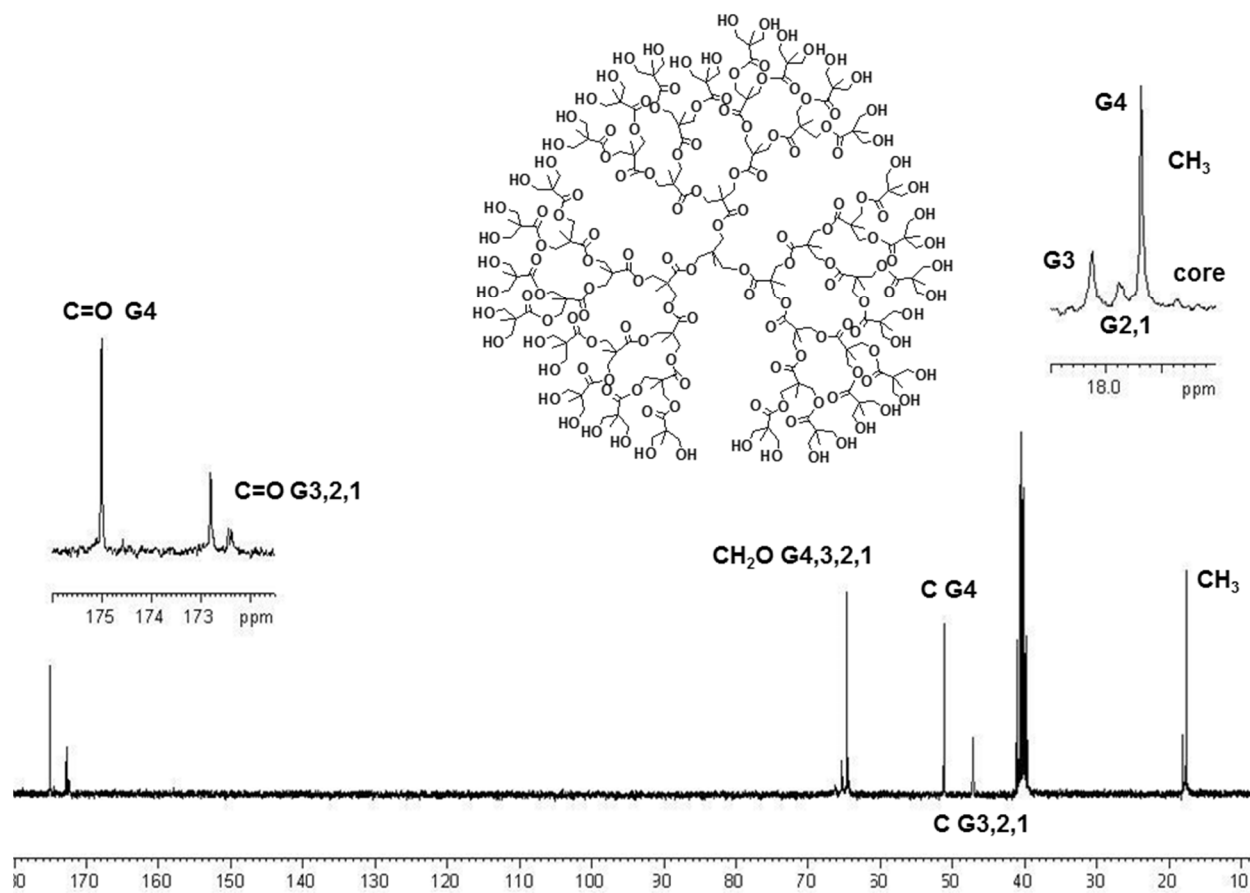


Fig. S10  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of G4OH



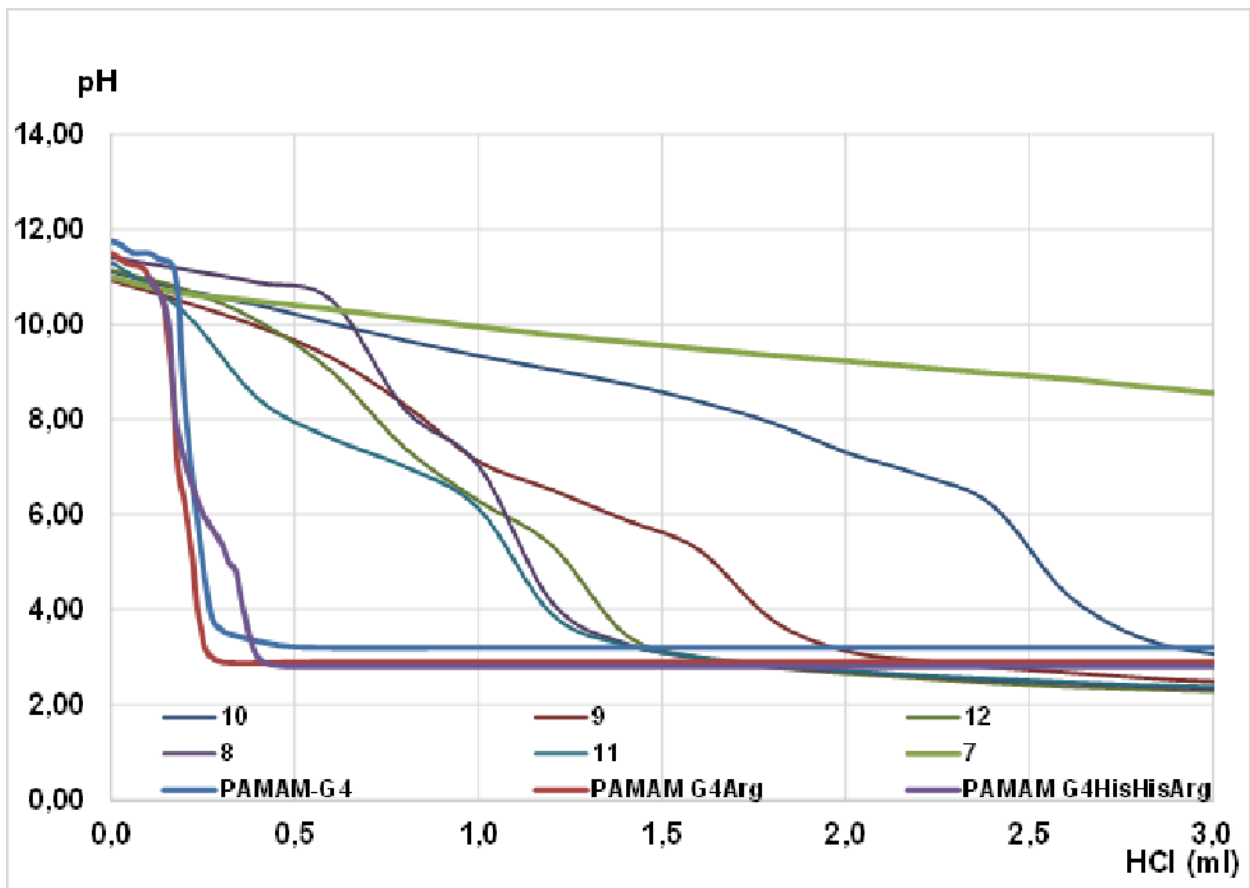


Fig. S11 Potentiometric titration curves of prepared dendriplexes and of three G4-PAMAM derivatives

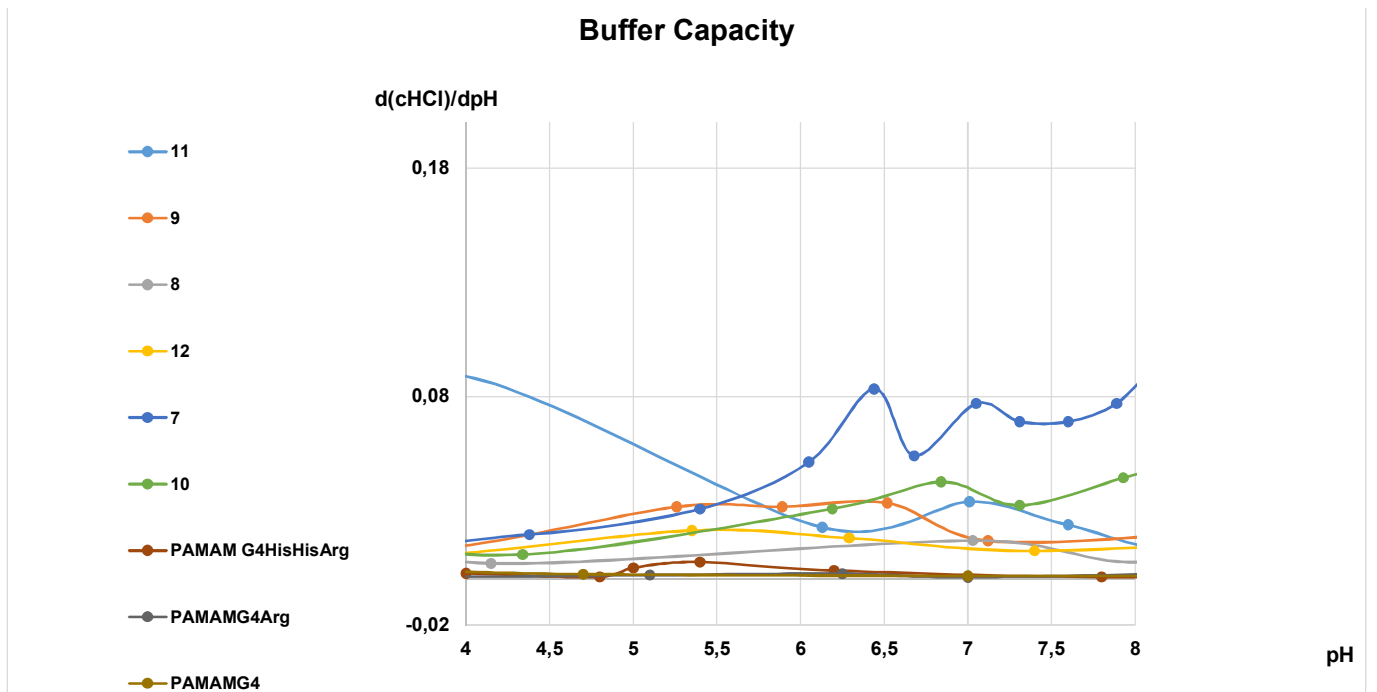
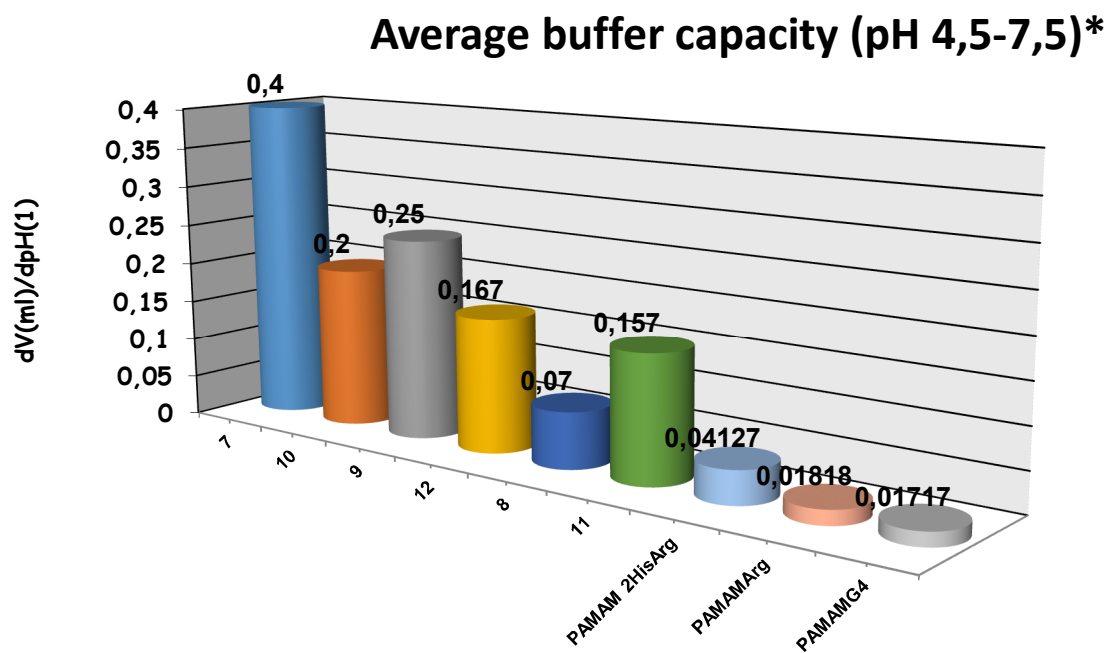
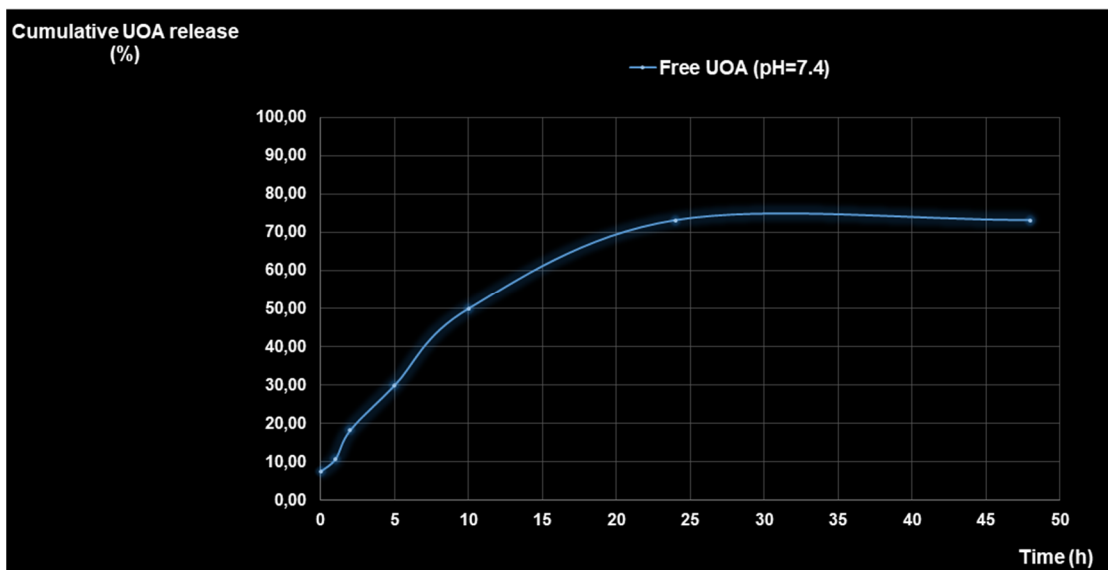
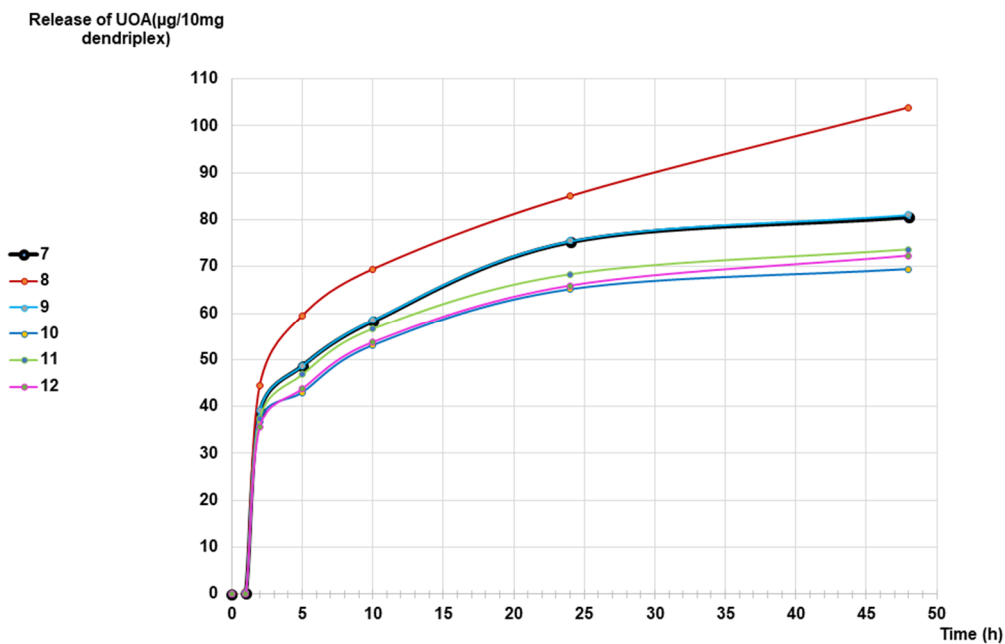


Fig. S12 Graphic of the buffer capacity ( $\beta$ ) of prepared dendriplexes and of three G4-PAMAM derivatives



\*calculated for three degrees of freedom

**Fig. S13** Histogram of average buffer capacity of prepared dendriplexes and of three G4-PAMAM derivatives (pH = 4.5-7.5)



**Figure S14** In time release of UOA mixture from dendriplexes 7-12 in 0.1M PBS (pH = 7.4) containing 20% erthanol (A) and cumulative release (%) of free UOA mixture (dissolved in 0.1M PBS containing 60% ethanol) from dialysis bag immersed in 0.1M PBS (pH = 7.4) containing 20% ethanol (B).