Syntheses of bifunctional 2,3-diamino propionic acid based chelators as small and strong tripod ligands for the labelling of biomolecules with ^{99m}Tc

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Introduction

Molecular imaging has become a major diagnostic tool in medicine and it relies on labelled compounds which target specific biological events on a molecular level. Gene expression, receptors up-regulation, messenger molecules or enzymes such as tyrosine kinase are prominent molecular examples in current research. {Weissleder, 2006 #11474} It is the incentive for chemists and biologists to find and explore labelled molecules for imaging with highest specificity and sensitivity. Among other examples of imaging modalities are Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Single Photon Emission Computer Tomography (SPECT) or Positron Emission Tomography (PET) and combined methods. Probably the most developed example is the molecular targeting of hexokinase with ¹⁸FDG visualizing increased cell proliferation related to oncology. {Hoh, 2007 #11475} Active transport of ¹⁸FDG into cells with high glucose (energy) demand and intracellular trapping results in substantial signal amplification for imaging. All molecular imaging modalities finally rely on affinity ligands which confer molecular or cellular specificity for the target of interest.

A basic chemical challenge to targeting vectors for imaging is the combination of the signaling compound with the affinity ligand since the latter should not interfere with

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the former. The combination of a signaling PET or SPECT metal with a targeting vector is particularly challenging since metals must be stably bound to chelators. Numerous examples of successful compounds have been described but few entered clinical application so far. The radionuclide ^{99m}Tc would be a very favorable radionuclide but combination with targeting molecules is not routine. Labelling approaches are based only on a few fragments, namely $[Tc=O]^{3+}$, $[Tc=N]^{2+}$ and $fac-[Tc(CO)_3]^+$. Our ongoing attempts to optimize ligands for the $fac-[Tc(CO)_3]^+$ core with respect to size, hydrophilicity and labelling efficiency brought 2,3-diamino propionic acid 1 (dap) in our interest. Compound 1 is ubiquitous in the natural world and has been found in the *Bombyx* larva{J. J. Corrigan, 1966 #1} on earth as well as on the *Murchison* meteorite from the sky.{U. J. Meierhenrich, 2004 #2} Consequently, 1 and its derivatives have stimulated both chemists and biochemists through the years to find the biological significance of its unique structural roles from chemistry to peptide synthesis{F. Liu, 2002 #11} and the origin of life{J. H. Bredehoeft, 2007 #17}. From an inorganic point of view, 1 is a classical tripod ligand of very low molecular weight; still, its coordination chemistry has not been explored in great detail. In the context of radiolabelling, our group has demonstrated that 1 is an efficient tripod ligand for the fac-[Tc(CO)₃]⁺ moiety. {Liu, 2006 #11355; Alberto, 2004 #18} The resulting complex fac-[Tc(dap)(CO)₃] is small, formed at low concentration and was highly hydrophilic. We have also shown that **dap** conjugated by the α -C to a spacer and an α -amino acid group was recognized and transported by the L-type amino acid transporter LAT1 (Scheme 1). {Liu, 2006 #11355}

Due to the very favorable properties of the **dap** ligand, it would be desirable to derivatize it at the α -carbon for coupling to different targeting biomolecules with specific receptor binding properties for going beyond perfusion agents. {S. S. Jurisson, 1999 #19; Jain, 1999 #20} We present in this synthetic and labelling study the preparation of **1** derivatised at the α -carbon, carrying pendant amino acid groups for integration as artificial amino acids into a peptide chains, and with a simple carboxylate or amine group for coupling to the corresponding functionalities in other biomolecules (**Scheme 1**). To the best of our knowledge, feasible synthetic methods for the requirement of our ligand synthesis are scarce, if ever. The unique tripod structure of **dap** and the properties of its

^{99m}Tc complexes renders it a basic building block in future development of vectors for molecular imaging.



Scheme 1: Basic building blocks for bifunctional chelators containing the dap ligand

Results and Discussion

The syntheses of the building blocks shown in Scheme 1 requires α -carbon derivatization and, if intended to be used not only as artificial amino acids but as bifunctional ligand, orthogonal protecting groups between the conjugating and the coordinating function. To be general, the synthetic approach should be flexible with respect to the spacer between the two functions. A retro-synthetic analysis revealed that derivatization at the α -carbon of the later **dap** ligand is best achieved by starting from commercially available ethyl acetamidocyanoacetate (2), a useful starting material for α amino acids (Scheme 2). Alkylation of 2 with e.g. diethyl 2-acetamido-2-(4bromobutyl)malonate (4), prepared by alkylation of diethyl malonate with 1,4-dibromo butane{V. V. Ragulin, 1989 #9}, will ultimately lead to **dap**-based compounds (Scheme 3). The key step in the retro-synthetic analysis is the functional group interconversion step, involving the reduction of the nitrile (-CN) to the amine (-CH₂NH₂). While there are many catalysts for -CN to -CH₂NH₂ conversion, it was decisive to find a selective one for this transfer in the presence of other functional groups. It should be emphasized at this point, that the retro-synthetic analysis as presented in Scheme 2 will not be stereospecific at the α -carbon. After labelling two enantiomeric complexes will be received. However, since the label is distant and does not interact with the target, enantiopure metal complexes are not crucial at this point.



Scheme 2: Retrosynthetic analysis of the target compound with (CH₂)₄ spacer (protection groups are omitted for clarity during analysis)

Syntheses: The crucial step in the preparation of the bifunctional chelators is the conjugation of the later tripod building block **2** to the second function, the conjugation group to the targeting molecule or an amino acid. The mild reducing agent Na[BH₄] does not reduce -CN groups alone at ambient temperature {Walker, 1976 #14}. However, it has been reported that a combination of Na[BH₄] and NiCl₂{S. Caddick, 2003 #3}, CoCl₂{S. W. Heinzman, 1982 #10} or I₂{A. S. B. Prasad, 1992 #7} does reduce -CN to -CH₂NH₂ efficiently. The respective metal-cations coordinate to nitriles, thereby activating them for reduction. This method was applied to **2** alone to test if simple **dap** can be received. The combination of Na[BH₄] and NiCl₂ catalytically reduced the –CN group in **2** and *in situ* protection with Boc₂O gave the protected **dap** derivative **3** in 80% yield (**Scheme 3**). It is interesting to note that both, the -NHAc and -COOEt respectively did not interfere with the reduction and no trans-esterification or reduction was observed.



Scheme 3: (a) 1) MeOH, NaBH₄, NiCl₂, Boc₂O, r.t. 2) diethylenetriamine, r.t., 80.0 %; (b) EtOH, NaOEt, diethyl 2-acetamido-2-(4-bromobutyl)malonate (4), reflux, 79.0 %; (c) 1) MeOH, NaBH₄, NiCl₂, Boc₂O, r.t. 2) diethylenetriamine, r.t., 73.0 %; Please complete the caption.....these data are not in the experimental part

Thus, the reductive conversion of 2 to 3 provides a straightforward and convenient method for the synthesis of protected dap. Some syntheses of dap as reported are multistep or use rather expensive reagents/catalyst. {A. Viso, 2005 #6} The Hoffman rearrangement of asparagines for example is probably the most convenient approach to dap reported so far, requires costly and not routine trivalent iodine from bis-(trifluoroacetoxy)-iodo benzene. {E. A. Englund, 2004 #12} The conjugation of an α -amino acid via an alkyl spacer to 2 was performed as shown in Scheme 3. Compound 2 was deprotonated with NaOEt and then alkylated with 4, a typical precursor in *Sorensen* method of amino acid synthesis, to give 5 in 79 % yield. The same -CN to CH₂NH₂ reduction as before was employed to compound 5 and 6 was isolated in 73% yield. Despite some steric crowd around the -CN group, the smooth conversion of 5 \rightarrow 6 demonstrated that the alkylation of 2 had little effect on its reduction. This implied that the procedures illustrated in Scheme 3 provide a general and efficient way for the syntheses of dap derivatives functionalized at the α -carbon position. The same syntheses in comparable yields were applied for pentyl and hexyl spacers respectively,

underscoring the general synthetic principle. The X-ray structures of **5** and **6** could be elucidated and ORTEP presentations are given in **Figure 1**.



Figure 1: ORTEP drawing of compounds **5** and **6** (H atoms were omitted for clarity) in 50 % probability. Pay attention to ortep drawings (numbers are not in the right order).

Both **5** and **6** crystallized in racemic form in crystal lattice with the space groups ... and ... respectively. Data about data collection and structure solution can be found in **Table 1** and in the supplementary information. The bond length 1.141(..) Å of C(1)-N(1) in **5** is typical for a triple bond. The two AcNH- groups in compound **5** are not equal. The bond length of C(2)-N(8) (1.355(..) Å) is significantly longer than N(3)-C(13) (1.342(..) Å). This bond length difference of 0.013 Å was also indirectly reflected by the difference of ¹H-NMR shift of AcNH- (δ 6.80 and 6.26).

Hydrolysis of the ethylester groups in 6 gave the tri-carboxylic acid 7 and subsequent decarboxylation gave compound 8 which, after deprotection, afforded the final α -amino acid 9 conjugated to the **dap** ligand in *D*- and *L*-forms.

With respect to later incorporation of artificial amino acids in peptide syntheses or to use them as labelled amino acids, it is important to have the *L*-form only. This could be achieved by starting directly from amino acids such as lysine (**Scheme 4**). The ε -NH₂ group was oxidized to the -OH group (10) as reported[Ref] and activated with mesylchloride to give compound 11. Proceeding as described above finally gave compound 14 bearing an enantiomerically pure *L*-form amino acid.



Scheme 4: (a) MesCl, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, -78°C, 96 %; (b) EtOH, NaOEt, **2**, reflux, **?????** %; (c) 1) MeOH, NaBH₄, NiCl₂, Boc₂O, r.t. 2) diethylenetriamine, r.t., **?????** %; (d) Please complete the caption.....these data are not in the experimental part

Besides the direct conjugation of bioactive fragments such as amino acids to **dap** as described above, the bifunctional chelator (BFC) concept is very important in radiopharmaceutical chemistry. To prepare bifunctional chelators comprising the **dap** coordination motif together with a single functionality for conjugation to biomolecules of interest, we proceeded to **dap**-based compounds derivatised with a primary amine or a carboxylic acid. With the scope of subjecting these compounds to derivatization of biomolecules, the conjugating functions should be unprotected but the **dap** unit be protected. The synthetic strategy is similar to the described before and the reaction sequences are displayed in **Scheme 5**.



Scheme 5: *Reagents and conditions*: A: (a) EtOH, NaOEt, benzyl *N*-(3-bromopropyl)carbamate (15), reflux, 41.2 %; (b) 1) MeOH, NaBH₄, NiCl₂, Boc₂O, r.t. 2) diethylenetriamine, r.t., 40.3 %; (c) EtOH, H₂, Pd/c, r.t., 89.9 %; (d) HCl 4M, reflux, 92.6 %. B: (e) DMF, NaH, ethyl 4-bromobutyrate, reflux, 51.1 %; (f) 1) MeOH, NaBH₄, NiCl₂, Boc₂O, r.t. 2) diethylenetriamine, r.t., 97.0 %; (g) MeOH/NaOH 2M, r.t., 67.9 %; (h) HCl 4M, reflux, 52.0 %. (*identification system for NMR assignments is displayed for* 25 as an example).

The dap derivatives 20 and 25 have been prepared starting from 2 or *tert*-butyl acetamidocyanoacetate 21, respectively. The precursor 21 was synthesized following a similar procedure as described for 2 but starting from *tert*-butyl cvanoacetate. **Ref 1** Deprotonation of the α -C-H in 2 with NaOEt and subsequent reaction with benzyl N-(3bromopropyl)carbamate (15), prepared by bromination of benzvl *N*-(3hydroxypropyl)carbamate with CBr₄ and PPh₃, gave **16** in moderate yield. The reduction of the -CN group in 16 and *in situ* protection with Boc₂O led to 17. Deprotection of the Cbz group in 17 to give 18 was accomplished almost quantitatively by catalytic hydrogenation, using an optimized amount of catalyst (Pd/C, Pd content 10 %). When a large excess of Pd/C catalyst was used, compound 18 was always obtained in a lower yield (51.4 %) due to the formation of a side product, which was formulated as 19 (18.7 % yield) based on multinuclear NMR spectroscopy, ESI-MS and X-ray diffraction analysis (see experimental section and Figure 3). The formation of 19 was due to in situ cyclisation from the terminal amine with the ethyl ester. The goal compound 20 finally

was obtained in good yield by full deprotection of 18 under acidic conditions (path A in Scheme 5). The preparation of 22 by alkylation of 21 with ethyl 4-bromobutyrate in the presence of NaOEt/EtOH was unsuccessful due to a trans-esterification reaction. Compound 22 could be only obtained in the presence of NaH as a base and in DMF. Compound 23 was obtained in almost quantitative yield starting with 22 and using the same conditions as described also for 17. Sequential removal of the ethyl ester and protecting groups of the dap unit in 23 gave 24 and then the desired product 25, respectively. As for 18, the product of this reaction was always a mixture of the goal compound 25 and a second species formulated as a lactam (26) (path B in Scheme 5). Compounds 25 and 26 were obtained in 60 % and 40 % yield, respectively, based on ¹H-NMR data. All the attempts to minimize the formation of the undesired lactam 26 remained unsuccessful. At higher pH, 25 even converted almost quantitatively to 26. The identification of 25 and 26 in the reaction mixture was based on NMR. In fact, 1D and 2D ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR experiments at different pH values allowed a complete assignment of the resonances for each species (see experimental section). For illustration, Figure 2 shows the ¹H-NMR spectra of a mixture of 25 and 26 immediately after BOC deprotection, at pH 1.4 (Fgure 2, A). The same mixture at pH 4.3 (Figure 2, B) exhibits almost complete lactamization of $25 \rightarrow 26$.



Figure 2: ¹H-NMR spectra (D_2O) of the mixture 25 + 26 at pH 1.4 (A) and 4.3 (B).

The main differences in the ¹H-NMR spectra of **25** and **26** are related to the splitting and/or chemical shifts of H^a and H^d protons. In **25**, the 2H^a protons appear as a sharp singlet at δ 3.17, while in the lactam **26** these protons appear as a quartet centered at δ 3.03. The two CH₂^d protons in **26** become diastereotopic due to the rigidity imposed by cyclization. Accordingly, two resonances at δ 2.00 and δ 1.60 appeared, each integrating for one proton. The assumed structure of **26** could be confirmed by recrystallization of a CH₂Cl₂/EtOH solution containing mainly **26**. Single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis were obtained. **Figure 3** (right) shows an ORTEP diagram of **26**, confirming its lactam authenticity. The ESI-MS of the mixture **25** + **26**

presented two main peaks at m/z values which agree with the expected values for 25 $([M+H]^+, 191.0)$ and 26 $([M+H]^+, 172.9)$.



Figure 3: ORTEP drawing of compounds **19** (**A**) and **26** (**B**) in 50% probability (H atoms were omitted for clarity). Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): **A** - C(5)-C(1), 1.528(4) Å; C(5)-C(4), 1.545(4) Å; C(5)-C(8), 1.550(5) Å; C(5)-N(3), 1.453(4) Å; C(1)-C(5)-C(4), 112.9(3) deg; N(3)-C(5)-C(8), 107.5(3) deg. **B** - C(5)-N(1), 1.4656(19) Å; C(5)-C(4), 1.536(2) Å; C(5)-C(7), 1.544(2) Å; C(5)-C(6), 1.553(2) Å; N(1)-C(5)-C(4), 110.10(12) deg; C(7)-C(5)-C(6), 107.83(12) deg.

Synthesis and characterization of the Re(I) complexes fac-[Re(k^3 -L)(CO)₃] 27 and 28.

In order to characterize the ^{99m}Tc complexes at very high dilution, it is common to prepare and fully characterize the macroscopic rhenium homologues and to compare their HPLC retention time with those of the corresponding ^{99m}Tc complex. It is accepted that this is sufficient for concluding identity of the two complexes if they are comparable. Reaction of **20** with the precursor *fac*-[Re(H₂O)₃(CO)₃]⁺ in refluxing water afforded the rhenium complex *fac*-[Re(**20**)(CO)₃] (**27**) in 79 % yield (**Scheme 6**). The analogue reaction of *fac*-[ReBr₃(CO)₃]²⁻ with a mixture of **25** + **26** overnight at pH ~ 4 gave a white precipitate. After washing with water and warm CH₂Cl₂, the solid obtained was dried under vacuum. Based on multinuclear NMR and IR spectroscopy and ESI-MS the complex was formulated as *fac*-[Re(**25**)(CO)₃] (**28**). X-ray structure analysis confirmed this composition.



Scheme 6: Reaction pathways to Re(I) complexes with the tripod ligands 20 and 25. X = Br, n = -2; $X = H_2O$, n = +1.

After precipitation of 28 from the reaction mixture, HPLC analysis of the solution still revealed small amounts of dissolved 28 ($R_t = 9.9 \text{ min}$), unreacted fac-[ReBr₃(CO)₃]²⁻ precursor ($R_t = 6.5 \text{ min}$) and the lactam 26 (Rt = 5.5 min). To force the reaction to completion, the pH of the solution was increased to 8 and the mixture refluxed overnight. HPLC analysis of the solution then indicated no residual fac-[ReBr₃(CO)₃]²⁻, the presence of a small amount of **28** (Rt = 9.9 min) and the formation of a defined new species (R_t = 13.2 min). This complex could be isolated by chromatography. Based on multinuclear NMR, IR and ESI-MS we tentatively formulated this complex as "fac-[Re(26)(CO)₃]". The infrared spectra of 27 and 28 showed strong CO stretching bands in the 2028 – 1906 cm⁻¹ range which is in coincidence with a *fac*- $[Re(CO)_3]^+$ motif for both complexes. The ESI-MS spectra showed dominant single peaks with the expected isotopic pattern and correct m/z values (27, $[M+H]^+ = 431.8 m/z$; 28, $[M+Na]^+ = 482.9 m/z$). The ¹H-NMR spectra of 27 and 28 (D_2O) were very similar. The most interesting features are four broad multiplets in the range δ 5.32 – 4.31, integrating for 1 H each (assigned to the diastereotopic protons of the coordinated NH₂ groups). Two other resonances, integrating for 1 H each due to the CH₂^a protons, which became diastereotopic upon coordination of the dap derivatives to the metal (27, δ 2.79 and 2.51; 28, δ 2.76 and 2.59). Together with

the ¹³C-NMR spectra, these data are consistent with a tridentate coordination of the chelators in **27** and **28**. The structure was confirmed by an X-ray structure analysis of **28** (Figure 4).



Figure 4: ORTEP view of complex **28**; thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 40 % probability level. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): Re1-C1, 1.915(3) Å; Re1-C2, 1.906(3) Å; Re1-C3, 1.914(3) Å; Re1-N1, 2.218(2) Å; Re1-N2, 2.206(2) Å; Re1-O4: 2.154(2) Å; C1-Re1-N1, 168.48(10) deg; C3-Re1-N2, 172.90(11) deg; C2-Re1-N1, 100.11(12) deg; C1-Re1-O4, 96.25(11) deg; C3-Re1-C1, 89.67(14) deg; C3-Re1-C2, 87.28(14) deg; O4-Re1-N1, 74.32(8) deg; N2-Re1-N1, 76.49(9) deg; O4-Re1-N2, 77.96(8) deg;

Labelling studies: syntheses of $fac - [^{99m}Tc(20)(CO)_3]$ and $fac - [^{99m}Tc(25)(CO)_3]$

For the labelling of targeting biomolecules, quantitative labelling at the lowest possible concentrations is crucial. A too high amount of unlabelled vectors withdraws purification, which is not feasible in clinical routine, or unacceptable low target / non-target ratio in imaging. High hydrophilicity is desirable since it prevents accumulation of the radiosensor in non-targeted organs, such as the liver or the lungs. Our labelling studies focused on these two aspects to reveal the advantages of the **dap** ligand and its derivatives. The ^{99m}Tc(I)-complexes *fac*-[^{99m}Tc(**20**)(CO)₃] and *fac*-[^{99m}Tc(**25**)(CO)₃] were prepared in high radiochemical yield (> 95 %) by reaction of *fac*-[^{99m}Tc(H₂O)₃(CO)₃]⁺ with **20** or a mixture of **25** + **26**, respectively. The reaction with **20** at 8×10⁻⁵ M and with

25 + **26** at 1×10^{-4} M was completed after 30 min at 100 °C and pH = 7.4. The radiochemical purity of the complexes has been determined by RP-HPLC analysis, and the chemical identity ascertained by comparing their HPLC traces with the corresponding HPLC traces of the Re congeners **27** and **28**. All complexes could be kept in solution for at least 18 h at 37 °C without any noticeable decomposition (RP-HPLC analysis).

It is worth mentioning that the reaction of a mixture of 25 + 26 with *fac*- $[^{99m}Tc(H_2O)_3(CO)_3]^+$ gave only *fac*- $[^{99m}Tc(25)(CO)_3]$, most probably for kinetic reasons. Incubation of *fac*- $[^{99m}Tc(25)(CO)_3]$ with a large excess (100 x) of 26 (2 h at 100 °C) revealed its high stability since no trans-chelation could be observed. Interestingly, if the pure complex "*fac*- $[^{99m}Tc(26)(CO)_3]$ " was incubated (2 h at 100 °C) with a large excess (100 x) of pure unsubstituted **dap** amino acid, trans-chelation occurred with formation of "*fac*- $[^{99m}Tc(dap)(CO)_3]$ " in ca. 70 % radiochemical yield.

The complex fac-[^{99m}Tc(**20**)(CO)₃] is very hydrophilic and eluted in the standard gradient 0.1% CF₃COOH/MeOH with the same retention time as the precursor fac-[^{99m}Tc(H₂O)₃(CO)₃]⁺. A different gradient was, thus, required in order to differentiate between the two complexes. This was achieved by replacing the 0.1% CF₃COOH aqueous solution with Et₃N/CH₃COOH [2.1:2.8 (v/v)] which might be of useful help in characterizing such hydrophilic radiocomplexes (**Figure 5**).



Figure 5: RP-HPLC radioactive traces of fac-[^{99m}Tc(**20**)(CO)₃] and fac-[^{99m}Tc(H₂O)₃(CO)₃]⁺ obtained using a gradient with Et₃N/CH₃COOH [2.1:2.8 (v/v)] and MeOH.

Conclusions

It has been shown that NaBH₄/NiCl₂ reagent system can be adopted as a good catalyst for the facile synthesis of **dap**-containing compounds starting from ethyl or *tert*-butyl acetamidocyanoacetate. The innovative synthetic strategy reported herein provides an efficient method for the preparation of α -positioned **dap** derivatives, which involves carbon-carbon formation. Therefore, it has been possible to prepare in a straightforward way an artificial amino acid (9) combining a pendant amino acid group and a **dap** chelating unit, which can be incorporated into peptide chains for (radio)metallation and design of innovative vectors for molecular imaging. It has also been possible to prepare new versatile bifunctional chelators for radiopharmaceutical applications comprising a **dap** coordinating unit and a pendant amine (20) or carboxylate (25) group for conjugation to relevant biomolecules. Such chelators react efficiently with the organometallic moiety "M(CO)₃" (M = Re, ^{99m}Tc), yielding well-defined complexes of the type *fac*-[M(k^3 -L)(CO)₃] (L = 20 and 25). In these complexes the **dap** unit act as tridentate chelator through the *N*,*N*,*O* donor atom set, without any interference of the amine or carboxylate functional groups..

Experimental Section

General

Chemicals and solvents of reagent grade were purchased from Aldrich and used without further purification. Ethyl N-acetyl-3-nitriloalaninate (2), $(Et_4N)_2[ReBr_3(CO)_3]$ and $[Re(H_2O)_3(CO)_3]Br$ were prepared according to published methods. [1-3]All reactions were carried out under N₂. NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury 200 MHz, Varian Gemini 300MHz or Bruker 500 MHz instrument. ¹H and ¹³C chemical shifts were referenced with the residual solvent resonances relatively to TMS. The spectra were fully assigned with the help of 2D experiments $({}^{1}H-{}^{1}H$ correlation spectroscopy, gCOSY and ¹H–¹³C heteronuclear single quantum coherence, HSQC). Assignments of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR resonances are given in accordance with the identification system displayed for compounds 25 and 28. Electron impact mass spectra were taken using Merck Hitachi M-8000 LCMS. HPLC analyses were performed on a Perkin Elmer LC pump 200 coupled to a Shimadzu SPD 10AV UV/Vis and to a Berthold-LB 509 radiometric detector, using an analytic Macherey-Nagel C18 reversed-phase column (Nucleosil 100-10, 250 x 4 mm) with a flow rate of 1 mL/min. Purification of the rhenium compounds were achieved on a semi-preparative Macherey-Nagel C18 reversed-phase column (Nucleosil 100-7, 250 x 8) mm) or on a preparative Waters µ Bondapak C18 (150 x 19 mm) with a flow rate of 2.0 mL/min and 5.5 mL/min, respectively. UV detection: 254 or 220 nm. Method 1 - Eluent A was aqueous 0.1% CF₃COOH and eluent B was MeOH. For complex fac- $[^{99m}$ Tc(20)(CO)₃] an alternative method was used: Method 2 – Eluent A was aqueous Et₃N/CH₃COOH [2.1:2.8 (v/v)] solution and eluent B was MeOH. The HPLC gradient was the same for both methods: t = 0.3 min, 0 % B; 3-3.1 min, $0 \rightarrow 25 \% \text{ B}$; 3.1-9 min, 25 % B; 9-9.1 min, 25→34 % B; 9.1-20 min, 34→100 % B; 20-25 min, 100% B; 25-25.1 min, 100→0 % B; 25.1-30 min, 0 % B.

 $Na[^{99m}TcO_4]$ was eluted from a $^{99}Mo/^{99m}Tc$ generator, using 0.9% saline. The radioactive precursor *fac*-[$^{99m}Tc(H_2O)_3(CO)_3$]⁺ was prepared using a IsoLink[®] kit (Malinckrodt, Med B.V.).

Ethyl 2-acetamido 3-(tert-butoxycarbonylamin) propanoate 3. To a MeOH (10 mL) solution of 2 (0.170 g, 1 mmol) cooled with ice bath, was added (Boc)₂O (0.440 g, 2 mmol) and NiCl₂·6H₂O (25 mg, 0.1 mmol) to afford a green solution. To this solution was added NaBH₄ (0.230 g, 6 mmol) in small portions with stirring. The purple mixture

was allowed to be warmed to 20°C slowly and stirred overnight and then diethylenetriamine (0.2 mL) was added. The reaction was stirred for 1 hr before the volatile part of the mixture was removed by vacuum. The residue was partitioned between EtOAc and saturated NaHCO₃ solution. The organic phase was dried with MgSO₄. Removal of organic solvent gave a colorless residue, which was purified by silica chromatography (Hexane/ EtOAc) to give a colorless oil of **3** (0.220 g, 80%). ¹H-NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_H 6.71 (1H, s, AcN*H*-), 4.96 (1H, s, BocN*H*-), 4.58 (1H, m, C*H*), 4.20 (2H, q, -OC*H*₂CH₃), 3.69 (1H, br m, BocNHC*H*₂-), 3.31 (1H, br m, BocNHC*H*₂-), 2.02 (3H, s, -COC*H*₃), 1.44 (9H, s, -C(C*H*₃)₃), 1.21 (3H, t, -OCH₂C*H*₃). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_C 170.6 (*C*O), 170.5 (*C*O), 156.7 (*C*O), 79.8 (*C*(CH₃)₃), 62.0 (*C*H₂CH₃), 53.9, 42.4, 28.4, 23.5, 14.3. *Anal.* Calcd. for C₁₂H₂₂N₂O₅: C, 52.54; H, 8.08; N, 10.21. Found: C, 52.83; H, 8.02; N, 10.27 %.

Triethyl 1,6-diacetamido 6-cyanohexane 1,1,6-tricarboxylate 5. To a flask containing absolute ethanol (20 mL) was added sodium (0.023 g, 1 mmol) with stirring. After complete dissolution of sodium, **2** (0.170 mg, 1 mmol) was added and warmed up to 60°C for 30 min. After cooling down to room temperature, **4** (0.352 mg, 1 mmol) was added to the solution in one portion. The reaction mixture was refluxed overnight and then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was treated with H₂O (20 mL) and was extracted with EtOAc (2×50 mL). The organic phase was washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. After filtration, the organic phase was evaporated to give a colorless gel, which was recrystallised from EtOAc/hexane to yield colorless crystals (0.350 g, 79%). ¹H-NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_H 6.80 (1H, br s, N*H*), 6.26 (1H, br s, N*H*), 4.31 (6H, m, -OC*H*₂CH₃), 2.09 (3H, s, -COC*H*₃), 2.06 (3H, s, -COC*H*₃), 2.02 - 2.39 (4H, m), 1.20 - 1.51 (13H, m). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_C 169.6 (*C*O), 169.4 (*C*O), 168.3 (*C*O), 66.7, 62.9, 62.8, 33.6, 32.2, 23.5, 23.4, 23.3, 14.2, 14.1. *Anal.* Calcd. for C₂₀H₃₁N₃O₈: C, 54.41; H, 7.08; N, 9.52. Found: C, 54.57; H, 7.02; N, 9.44 %.

Triethyl 1,6-diacetamido 7-(tert-butoxycarbonylamino)heptane 1,1,6-tricarboxylate 6. To the MeOH (10 mL) solution of **5** (0.220 g, 0.5 mmol) cooled with ice bath, was added (Boc)₂O (0.218 g, 1 mmol) and NiCl₂·6H₂O (0.012 g, 0.05 mmol) to give a green solution. To this solution was added NaBH₄ (0.152 g, 4 mmol) in portions with stirring. The purple mixture was stirred overnight at 20°C and then diethylenetriamine (0.06 mL) was added. The reaction was stirred for 1 hr before the volatile part of the mixture was removed by vacuum. The residue was partitioned between EtOAc and saturated NaHCO₃ solution. The organic phase was dried with MgSO₄. Removal of organic solvent gave a colorless residue, which was re-crystallized with EtOAc/hexane to yield colorless crystals of **6** (0.200 g, 73 %). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_H 6.74 (1H, s, N*H*), 6.48 (1H, s, N*H*), 4.83 (1H, s, BocN*H*-), 4.24 (m, 6H, -OC*H*₂CH₃), 3.85 (1H, br m, BocNHC*H*₂-), 2.05 (3H, s, -COC*H*₃), 2.03 (3H, s, -COC*H*₃), 1.75 - 2.29 (4H, m), 1.42 (9H, s, -C(C*H*₃)₃), 1.03 - 1.32 (13H, m). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_C 172.7 (*C*O), 169.9 (*C*O), 169.2 (*C*O), 168.3 (*C*O), 156.0 (*C*O), 79.7 (-*C*(CH₃)₃), 66.7, 65.2, 62.8, 62.7, 62.6, 45.1, 32.5, 32.3, 28.5 (-C(*C*H₃)₃), 24.3, 24.0, 23.9, 23.3, 14.3(-OCH₂*C*H₃), 14.2 (-OCH₂*C*H₃). *Anal*. Calcd. for C₂₅H₄₃N₃O₁₀: C, 55.03; H, 7.70; N, 7.94. Found: C, 55.21; H, 7.76; N, 7.99 %.

1,6-diacetamido-7-(tert-butoxycarbonylamino)heptane-1,1,6-tricarboxylic acid 7. Please insert synthesis and characterization

2,7-diacetamido-2-((tert-butoxycarbonylamino)methyl)octanedioic acid 8. Please insert synthesis and characterization

2,7-diamino-2-(aminomethyl)octanedioic acid 9. Please insert synthesis and characterization

(S)-2-Benzyloxycarbonylamino 6-methanesulfonyloxy-hexanoic acid ethyl ester 11. Compound 10 (0.804 g, 2.6 mmol) and methanesulfonylchloride (0.22 mL, 2.86 mmol) were dissolved in 5 mL CH₂Cl₂ and cooled to -78° C under nitrogen. Triethylamine (0.38 mL, 2.86 mmol) was added dropwise to the stirred solution at -78° C. The solution was then allowed to warm up to room temperature and stirred during 2 h. The reaction mixture was then diluted by 5 mL CH₂Cl₂ and washed with water and brine. The organic phase was dried with Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure. The product was obtained as a yellow oil (0.962 g, 96 %) and was used without further purification. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ_H 7.36 (5H, m, Cbz), 5.45 (1H, br m, CbzN*H*), 5.11 (2H, s, Cbz), 4.37 (1H, m), 4.20 (4H, m), 2.99 (3H, s, C*H*₃), 2.10 - 1.40 (6H, m), 1.29 (3H, t, -OCH₂C*H*₃). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ_C 172.3 (*C*O), 156.1 (*C*O), 136.4 (Cbz), 128.7 (Cbz), 128.4(cbz), 128.3(Cbz), 69.6, 67.2, 61.8, 53.7, 37.5, 32.3, 28.8, 21.4, 14.4.

Diethyl 2-acetamido-7-(benzyloxycarbonylamino)-2-cyanooctanedioate 12. Compound 12 was obtained by the same coupling condition as described for 5 but with different purification. After evaporation of the solvent, the reaction mixture was loaded on a silica silica gel column and eluted with an hexane/EtOAc gradient. The product 12 was obtained as a very pale yellow oil. Yield 22221 ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ_H 7.38 (5H, m, Cbz), 6.30 (1H, m, AcN*H*-), 5.40 (1H, CbzN*H*) 5.14 (s, 2H, Cbz), 4.20 - 4.37 (5H, m), 2.10 (3H, s, -COC*H*₃), 2.30 - 1.40 (8H, m), 1.30 (6H, m, -OCH₂C*H*₃). *Anal.* Calcd. for C₂₃H₃₁N₃O₇: C, 59.86; H, 6.77; N, 9.10. Found: C, 60.03; H, 6.84; N, 9.16 %.

Diethyl 2-acetamido 7-(benzyloxycarbonylamino) 2-((tertbutoxycarbonylamino)methyl) octanedioate 13. Compound 13 was obtained by the same reduction condition as described for 6. Instead of recrystallization, the residue was loaded on silica gel and purified with hexane/EtOAc gradient. The product of 13 was obtained as a colorless oil. Yield ????? ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ_H 7.38 (5H, m, Cbz), 6.30 (1H, br s, AcN*H*-), 5.40 (1H, CbzN*H*-) 5.14 (2H, s, Cbz), 4.87 (1H, m, BocN*H*-), 4.20 - 4.37 (5H, m), 3.86 (1H, m, BocNHC*H*₂-), 3.62 (1H, m, BocNHC*H*₂-), 2.07 (3H, s, -COC*H*₃), 1.42 (9H, s, -C(C*H*₃)₃), 1.50 - 1.03 (14H, m). *Anal.* Calcd. for C₂₈H₄₃N₃O₉: C, 59.45; H, 7.66; N, 7.43. Found: C, 59.63; H, 7.72; N, 7.50 %.

2-amino-2-(aminomethyl)-7-(benzyloxycarbonylamino)octanedioic acid 14.

Please insert synthesis and characterization

Benzyl *N*-(3-bromopropyl)carbamate 15. A solution of triphenylphosphine (9.4 g, 28.60 mmol) and carbon tetrabromide (7.5 g, 28.60 mmol) in dry THF was added dropwise (30 mL) to a solution of benzyl *N*-(3-hydroxypropyl)carbamate (3.0 g, 14.30 mmol) in the same solvent (30 mL). After 48 h of stirring at room temperature, the solution was filtrated to remove an insoluble solid. After evaporation of filtrate, the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and the solution washed with H₂O. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄. Removal of the solvent yielded an oily residue, which was purified by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂ to MeOH). After evaporation of the solvents benzyl *N*-(3-bromopropyl)carbamate was obtained as an orange oil (3.2 g, 86.4 %). *R*_f (silica-gel, CHCl₃) = 0.5. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_H 7.32 (5H, m, Cbz), 5.15 (1H, br s, CBzN*H*-), 5.06 (2H, s, Cbz), 3.39 (2H, t), 3.30 (2H, q), 2.06 – 1.96 (2H, m). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_c 156.4, 136.3, 128.4, 128.0, 127.9, 66.6, 39.2, 32.3, 30.6.

Ethyl 2-acetamido-5-(benzyloxycarbonylamino)-2-cyanopentanoate 16. Metallic sodium (0.141 g, 5.88 mmol) was added to dry EtOH under stirring. After complete dissolution of sodium, ethyl acetamidocyanoacetate (2) (1.0 g, 5.88 mmol) was added and the solution warmed up to 60 °C for 30 min. After cooling down to room temperature, 15 (1.6 g, 5.88 mmol) was added to the solution in one portion. The reaction mixture was refluxed overnight and, after this time, turned deep brown from the initially orange colour. Evaporation of the solvent gave a dark residue which was treated with H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (3x). The organic phases were collected and washed with brine, and dried over MgSO₄. After filtration, the organic phase was evaporated to give an orange oil (0.841 g, 41.2 %), which was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc to MeOH). $R_{\rm f}$ (silica-gel, Hexane/EtOAc 80 %) = 0.45. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_H 7.98 (1H, s, AcNH-), 7.34 (5H, m, Cbz), 5.42 (1H, t, CbzNH-), 5.09 (2H, s, Cbz), 4.28 (2H, q, -OCH₂CH₃), 3.26 (2H, m, -CH^f-), 2.09 (2H, m, -CH^d-), 2.04 (3H, s, -COCH₃), 1.81 (1H, m, -CH^e-), 1.68 (1H, m, -CH^{e'}-), 1.28 (3H, t, -OCH₂CH₃). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_c 171.2 (CO), 166.8 (CO), 157.5 (CO), 136.5 (Cbz), 128.8 (Cbz), 128.5 (Cbz), 128.3 (Cbz), 116.9 (N≡C-), 67.2 (Cbz), 64.1 (-OCH₂CH₃), 57.5 (-C^b-), 40.0 (-C^f-), 32.8 (-C^d-), 25.6 (-C^e-), 22.3 (-COCH₃), 14.2 (-OCH₂CH₃). Anal. Calcd. for

C₁₈H₂₃N₃O₅: C, 59.82; H, 6.41; N, 11.63. Found: C, 59.60; H, 6.40; N, 11.63 %. Retention time (analytic RP-HPLC, 220 nm): 23.4 min.

2-acetamido-5-(benzyloxycarbonylamino)-2-((tert-butoxycarbonylamino)-Ethyl methyl)pentanoate 17. Compound 17 was prepared by using the same reduction conditions described above for 6. An excess of (Boc)₂O (1.015 g, 4.65 mmol), NiCl₂·6H₂O (0.055 g, 0.23 mmol), NaBH₄ (0.700 g, 18.61 mmol) and diethylenetriamine (0.239 g, 2.32 mmol) was added to 16 (0.841 g, 2.32 mmol). Compound 17 was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc to MeOH) and obtained as a vellow pale oil (0.437 g. 40.3 %). $R_{\rm f}$ (silica-gel, Hexane/EtOAc 80 %) = 0.50. Isomer a: ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_H 7.35 (5H, m, Cbz), 6.53 (1H, s, AcNH-), 5.09 (2H, s, Cbz), 4.88 (2H, m, $CbzNH - + BocNH - + 3.24 (2H, q, -OCH_2CH_3), 3.85 (1H, m, BocNHCH^a - + 3.61 (1H,$ BocNHCH^{a'}-), 3.17 (2H, m, -CH^f-), 2.23 (2H, m, -CH^d-), 2.01 (3H, s, -COCH₃), 1.82 (1H, m, -CH^e-), 1.72 (1H, m, -CH^{e'}-), 1.41 (9H, s), 1.27 (3H, t, -OCH₂CH₃). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_c 172.6 (CO), 170.1 (CO), 156.6 (CO), 156.2 (CO), 136.8 (Cbz), 128.8 (Cbz), 128.4 (Cbz), 128.3 (Cbz), 79.9 (-C(CH₃)₃), 66.9, 64.7, 62.6 (-OCH₂CH₃), 44.6, 41.0, 28.5 (-C(CH₃)₃), 24.5, 24.1, 14.3 (-OCH₂CH₃). Isomer b: ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_H 7.58 (1H, s, AcNH-), 7.37 (5H, m, Cbz), 5.12 (2H, s, Cbz), 4.88 (2H, m, CbzNH- + BocNH-), 4.36 (2H, q, -OCH₂CH₃), 3.85 (1H, m, BocNHCH^a-), 3.61 (1H, m, BocNHCH^{a'}-), 3.30 (2H, m, -CH^f-), 2.23 (2H, m, -CH^d-), 2.08 (3H, s, -COCH₃), 1.82 (1H, m, -CH^e-), 1.72 (1H, m, -CH^{e'}-), 1.41 (9H, s), 1.31 (3H, t, -OCH₂C H_3). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 172.8 (CO), 170.4 (CO), 156.9 (CO), 156.2 (CO), 136.4 (Cbz), 128.8 (Cbz), 128.4 (Cbz), 128.3 (Cbz), 79.9 (-C(CH₃)₃), 67.4, 63.9, 62.6 (-OCH₂CH₃), 40.0, 32.6, 29.8 (-C(CH₃)₃), 25.9, 22.5, 14.3 (-OCH₂CH₃). ESI-MS (+) (m/z): 488.1 [M+Na]⁺; calcd for C₂₃H₃₅N₃O₇Na = 488.2. Anal. Calcd. for C₂₃H₃₅N₃O₇: C, 59.34; H, 7.58; N, 9.03. Found: C, 59.00; H, 7.64; N, 8.99 %. Retention time (analytic RP-HPLC, 220 nm): 27.1 min.

Ethyl 2-acetamido-5-amino-2-((tert-butoxycarbonylamino)methyl)pentanoate 18. Compound 17 (0.437 g, 0.94 mmol) was dissolved in dry EtOH (15 mL) and Pd/C (Pd content 10 %, 0.215 g) was added. The solution was bubbled with H_2 at room temperature for 8 h and left overnight under H₂ atmosphere. The catalyst was filtered through celite, the filtrate was evaporated and the obtained residue purified by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂ to EtOH/NH₄OH 5%). Compound **18** was obtained as yellow viscous oil (0.280 g, 89.9 %). R_f (silica-gel, CH₂Cl₂/EtOH 20%) = 0.20. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD, ppm) δ_H 4.15 (2H, q, -OC H_2 CH₃), 3.57 (2H, s, BocNHC H_2^a), 2.87 (2H, t, -CH^f-), 1.94 (3H, s, -COC H_3), 1.82 (2H, m, -CH^d-), 1.63 (2H, m, -CH^e-), 1.42 (9H, s), 1.24 (3H, t, -OCH₂C H_3). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, CD₃OD, ppm) δ_c 171.9 (*C*O), 171.8 (*C*O), 157.5 (*C*O), 79.1 (-*C*(CH₃)₃), 62.5, 61.4, 42.0, 39.5, 29.3, 27.5 (-C(*C*H₃)₃), 21.9, 21.5, 13.2 (-OCH₂CH₃). ESI-MS (+) (*m*/*z*): 331.4 [M+H]⁺; calcd for C₁₅H₂₉N₃O₅ = 331.2. Retention time (analytic RP-HPLC, 220 nm): 15.2 min.

When the reaction is performed using a large excess of Pd/C catalyst (1:1 ratio of Pd/C), two compounds, formulated as **18** and **19**, were obtained in 51.4 and 18.7 % yield, after column chromatography. **19**: R_f (silica-gel, CH₂Cl₂/EtOH 20 %) = 0.70. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_H 7.16 (1H, s, AcN*H*-), 6.32 (1H, br s, N*H*-amide), 5.64 (1H, br m, BocN*H*-), 3.64 (1H, m, BocNHC*H*^a-), 3.50 (2H, m, -CH₂^f-), 3.31 (1H, m, BocNHC*H*^a'-), 2.38 (1H, m, -CH^d-), 2.09 (1H, m, -CH^d'-), 2.01 (3H, s, -COC*H*₃), 1.89 (2H, m, -CH^e-), 1.50 (9H, s). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_c 172.4 (*C*O), 170.5 (*C*O), 157.6 (*C*O), 80.4 (-*C*(CH₃)₃), 59.1, 46.6, 42.5, 30.0, 28.5 (-C(*C*H₃)₃), 23.6, 20.5. ESI-MS (+) (*m/z*): 308.1 [M+Na]⁺; calcd for C₁₃H₂₃N₃O₄Na = 308.1. Single crystals suitable for X-Ray diffraction analysis were grown by slow evaporation of a EtOH/CH₂Cl₂ solution at room temperature.

2,5-diamino-2-(aminomethyl)pentanoic acid 20. Compound **20** was obtained directly by hydrolysis of the protecting groups of **18** (0.047 g, 0.14 mmol) with a 4 M HCl solution (5 mL). The reaction mixture was refluxed overnight, cooled down to room temperature and washed with CH₂Cl₂. Compound **20** was recovered as a colorless oil, after drying the aqueous phase under vacuum (0.035 g, 92.6 %, calcd. for C₆H₁₅N₃O₂Cl₃). IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1787m, 1619s and 1606s. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, D₂O, ppm) δ_H 3.32 (2H, s, NH₂CH₂^a-), 2.88 (2H, t, -CH^f-), 2.00 – 1.84 (1H, m, -CH^d-), 1.82 – 1.78 (1H, m, -CH^{d'}-), 1.78 – 1.66 (1H, m, -CH^e-), 1.66 – 1.47 (1H, m, -CH^{e'}-). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, D₂O, ppm) δ_c 171.2 (**C**O), 60.2, 42.5, 39.8, 30.5, 21.3. ESI-MS (+) (*m/z*): 162.0 [M+H]⁺; calcd

for $C_6H_{15}N_3O_2 = 161.2$. *Anal.* Calcd. for $C_6H_{15}N_3O_2.3Cl$: C, 26.90; H, 5.65; N, 15.70. Found: C, 27.20; H, 6.00; N, 16.00 %. Retention time (analytic RP-HPLC, 220 nm): 2.4 min.

tert-butyl acetamidocyanoacetate 21. To a stirred solution of *tert*-butyl cyanoacetate (5.6 g, 40.0 mmol) and 45 % aq HOAc (50 mL) at 0 °C was added portion wise NaNO₂ (8.3 g, 120.0 mmol) over 1.5 h. After the addition was completed, the stirring was continued at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction mixture was extracted with Et₂O (3x). The ethereal solution containning *tert*-butyl isonitrosocyanoacetate was immediately mixed with Ac₂O (10 mL, 105.0 mmol) and HOAc (28 mL, 500.0 mmol). With vigorous stirring, zinc powder (8.0 g, 125.0 mmol) was added in small portions and the stirring was then continued for 6 h. After filtration, the solvent was evaporated at reduced pressure to give a pale yellow oil, which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 25 - 100%). Compound **21** was recovered as yellowish oil (0.761 g, 35.0 %). *R*_f (silica-gel, hexane/EtOAc 50%) = 0.30. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_H 6.39 (1H, s, AcN*H*-), 5.40 (1H, d, -C*H*-), 2.11 (3H, s, -COC*H*₃), 1.55 (9H, s); ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_c 169.5 (*C*O), 162.1 (*C*O), 114.3 (N=*C*-), 86.4 (-*C*(C(H₃)₃), 43.3 (-*C*H-), 27.3 (-C(*C*H₃)₃), 22.6 (-*C*H₃).

1-tert-butyl 6-ethyl 2-acetamido-2-cyanohexanedioate 22. Compound **22** was obtained by reaction of **21** (0.740 g, 3.73 mmol) with NaH (0.150 g, 3.73 mmol) in DMF, followed by adition of ethyl 4-bromobutyrate (539 µL, 3.73 mmol), using a procedure similar to that described for **5**. Purification by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 25 - 100%) gave **22** as a colorless oil (0.630 g, 54.1 %). $R_{\rm f}$ (silica-gel, hexane/EtOAc 50%) = 0.40. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_H 6.94 (1H, s, AcN*H*-), 4.15 (2H, q, -OC*H*₂CH₃), 2.37 (2H, m), 2.26 (1H, m), 2.08 (3H, s, -COC*H*₃), 2.01 (1H, m), 1.82 (2H, m), 1.54 (9H, s), 1.27 (3H, t, -OCH₂C*H*₃); ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_c 173.4 (*C*O), 169.7 (*C*O), 164.9 (*C*O), 116.6 (N = *C*-), 86.4 (-*C*(CH₃)₃), 61.8, 57.1, 34.9, 32.9, 27.8 (-C(*C*H₃)₃), 22.7, 18.9, 14.3. ESI-MS (+) (*m*/*z*): 335.2 [M+Na]⁺; calcd for C₁₅H₂₄N₂O₅Na = 335.2. *Anal.* Calcd. for C₁₅H₂₄N₂O₅: C, 57.68; H, 7.74; N, 8.97. Found: C, 57.50; H, 7.80; N, 8.81 %. Retention time (analytic RP-HPLC, 220 nm): 20.9 min. **1-tert-butyl 6-ethyl 2-acetamido-2-((tert-butoxycarbonylamino)methyl)hexanedioate 23.** Compound **23** was prepared by using the same reduction conditions described above for **6**. An excess of (Boc)₂O (1.762 g, 8.08 mmol), NiCl₂·6H₂O (0.040 g, 0.40 mmol), NaBH₄ (1.216 g, 32.32 mmol) and diethylenetriamine (0.416 g, 4.04 mmol) was added to **22** (0.630 g, 2.02 mmol) to force reaction to completion. Compound **23** was purified by column chromatography (hexane to EtOAc) and obtained as a yellow pale oil (0.817 g, 97.0 %). $R_{\rm f}$ (silica-gel, hexane/EtOAc 50%) = 0.45. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_H 6.60 (1H, s, AcN*H*-), 4.85 (1H, m, BocN*H*-), 4.13 (2H, q, -OC*H*₂CH₃), 3.85 (1H, br m, BocNHC*H*^a-), 3.70 (1H, br m, BocNHC*H*^{a'}-), 2.29 (m, 2H), 2.08 (3H, s, -COC*H*₃), 1.74 (1H, m), 1.60 (1H, m), 1.49 (9H, s), 1.44 (2H, m), 1.41 (9H, s), 1.22 (3H, t, -OCH₂C*H*₃); ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_c 173.1 (*C*O), 171.4 (*C*O), 169.7 (*C*O), 155.6 (*C*O), 85.3 (-*C*(CH₃)₃), 83.2 (-*C*(CH₃)₃), 65.0, 60.4, 44.7, 33.8, 31.8, 28.3 (-C(*C*H₃)₃), 27.6 (-C(*C*H₃)₃, 24.1, 19.1, 14.2. *Anal.* Calcd. for C₂₀H₃₆N₂O₇: C, 57.67; H, 8.71; N, 6.73. Found: C, 57.50; H, 8.60; N, 7.00 %.

5-acetamido-6-tert-butoxy-5-((tert-butoxycarbonylamino)methyl)-6-oxohexanoic

acid 24. The protected intermediate 23 (0,600 g, 1.440 mmol) was dissolved in H₂O/MeOH, and an excess of NaOH (0,144 g, 3.6 mmol) was added. The obtained solution was refluxed overnight. The solution was neutralized with 1M HCl at 0 °C and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic phases were collected, dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvent evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/EtOH 0 – 30 %). Compound 24 was obtained as a colorless oil (0.380 g, 67.9 %), which crystallizes upon standing. R_f (silica-gel, CH₂Cl₂/EtOH 10%) = 0.40. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_H 6.79 (1H, s, AcN*H*-), 4.94 (1H, m, BocN*H*-), 3.83 – 3.65 (2H, m, BocNHC*H*^a- and BocNHC*H*^{a'}-), 2.33 (2H, m), 2.06 (3H, s, COC*H*₃), 1.74 (1H, m), 1.55 (3H, m), 1.48 (9H, s), 1.41 (9H, s). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ_c 177.9 (CO), 171.3 (CO), 170.6 (CO), 155.7 (CO), 85.7 (-C(CH₃)₃), 79.4 (-C(CH₃)₃), 65.1, 44.7, 33.8, 31.8, 28.3 (-C(*C*H₃)₃), 27.7 (-C(*C*H₃)₃, 23.9, 19.1. ESI-MS (-) (*m*/*z*): 387.1 [M-H]⁻, 423.1 [M+Cl⁻]⁻; calcd for C₁₈H₃₂N₂O₇= 388.2. *Anal.* Calcd. for C₁₈H₃₂N₂O₇: C, 55.66; H,

8.30; N, 7.21. Found: C, 55.03; H, 8.10; N, 6.96 %. Retention time (analytic RP-HPLC, 220 nm): 18.9 min.

2-amino-2-(aminomethyl)hexanedioic acid 25. Compound 25 was obtained directly by hydrolysis of the protecting groups of the dap unit of 24 (0.230 g, 0.592 mmol) with a 4 M HCl solution (5 mL). After refluxing for 18 h, the solvent was evaporated to dryness. The oily residue was thoroughly washed with CH₂Cl₂ and dried. The deprotection reaction afforded compound **25** (60% by ¹H-NMR) together with a side product which was formulated as the lactam **26** (40 % by ¹H-NMR). After appropriate work-up, 0.080 g of the mixture (25 + 26) was obtained. Mixture of 25 + 26: IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1746vs, 1605vs, 1211m, 1179m and 1144m. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, D₂O, ppm) δ_H 3.18 (2H, s, NH₂CH₂^a-, 25), 3.03 (2H, q, NH₂CH₂^a-, 26), 2.09 (2H, t, -CH₂^f-, 25), 1.98 (2H, t, -CH₂^f-, **26**), 1.89 – 1.20 (8H, m, -CH^d + -CH^e -, **25** + **26**). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, D₂O, ppm) δ_c 177.0 (CO), 176.6 (CO), 173.9 (CO), 169.9 (CO), 60.7 (-C^b-, 26), 60.2 (-C^b-, 25), 44.2 (-C^a-, 26), 42.0 (-C^a-, 25), 32.6 (-C^f-, 25), 32.3 (-C^d-, 25), 29.6 (-C^f-, 26), 27.3 (-C^d-, 26), 17.8 (-C^e-, **25**), 16.4 (-C^e-, **26**). ESI-MS (+) (m/z): 172.9 [M+H]⁺ and 191.0 [M+H]⁺; calcd for $C_7H_{12}N_2O_3 = 172.0$ (*m/z* for 26) and for $C_7H_{14}N_2O_4 = 190.0$ (*m/z* for 25). Retention time (analytic RP-HPLC, 220 nm): 3.9 min. At pH > 4, 25 converted almost quantitatively to 26: ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, D₂O, ppm) δ_H 3.17 (2H, q, NH₂CH^a-), 2.24 (2H, m, -CH₂^f-), 2.00 (1H, m, -CH^d-), 1.71 (2H, m, -CH^e-), 1.60 (1H, m, -CH^{d'}-). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, D₂O, ppm) δ_c 174.6 (C^c), 172.7 (C^g), 59.0 (CH^b), 42.5 (- C^a -), 27.9 (- C^f -), 25.6 (- C^{d} -), 14.7 (- C^{e} -). ESI-MS (+) (m/z): 172.9 [M+H]⁺; calcd for C₇H₁₂N₂O₃ = 172.0. Anal. Calcd. for C7H13N2O3.HCl: C, 40.30; H, 6.28; N, 13.43. Found: C, 39.60; H, 6.68; N, 12.85 %. Single crystals suitable for X-Ray diffraction analysis were grown by slow evaporation of a EtOH/CH₂Cl₂ solution at room temperature.

Syntheses of the Re complexes 27 and 28

Synthesis of $fac-[Re(k^3-20)(CO)_3]^+$ (27): Precursor $fac-[Re(H_2O)_3(CO)_3]Br$ (0.026 g, 0.065 mmol) reacted with 20 (0.017 g, 0.065 mmol) in refluxing water for 18 h (pH 7). After evaporation of the solvent the resulting residue was purified by preparative RP-

HPLC. Compound **27** was obtained as a colorless oil (0.028 g, 79.2 %, calcd for $C_9H_{14}N_3O_5Re.TFA$). IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2028s, ~1911s (C=O), ~1682m, 1207m and 1135m. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, D₂O, ppm) δ_H 5.08 (1H, m, NH₂C^b-), 4.74 (2H, m, NH₂C^b- + NH₂C^a-, overlapped with H₂O peak; assigned from gCOSY spectrum), 4.31 (1H, m, NH₂CH₂^a-), 2.88 (2H, m, -CH₂^f-), 2.79 (1H, m, -CH₂^a-), 2.51 (1H, m, -CH₂^{a'}-), 1.69 (2H, m, -CH₂^d-), 1.51 (2H, m, CH^e). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, CD₃OD, ppm) δ_c 197.3 (*C*=O), 195.9 (*C*=O), 181.0 (C^c), 163.3 (q, CF₃COO⁻), 116.4 (q, *C*F₃COO⁻), 67.3 (-C^b-), 45.1 (-C^a-), 39.4 (-C^f-), 30.4 (-C^d-), 21.4 (-C^e-). ESI-MS (+) (*m/z*): 431.8 [M+H]⁺; calcd for C₉H₁₅N₃O₅Re = 432.0. *Anal.* Calcd. for C₉H₁₄N₃O₅Re.3TFA: C, 23.32; H, 2.21; N, 5.44. Found: C, 23.00; H, 2.39; N, 5.80 %. Retention time (analytic RP-HPLC, 220 nm): 5.5 min.

Synthesis of $fac-[Re(k^3-25)(CO)_3]$ (28): Precursor $(Et_4N)_2[ReBr_3(CO)_3]$ (0.050 g, 0.194 mmol) reacted with a mixture of 25 + 26 (0.146 g, 0.194 mmol) in refluxing water for 18 h (pH 4). After cooling to room temperature and concentration of the solvent a white insoluble solid was obtained. This precipitate was isolated by centrifugation and washed several times with water and warm CH₂Cl₂ to remove excess [NEt₄]Br. The spectral data of this complex was in accordance with the formulation proposed for 28. Analytic RP-HPLC analysis of the supernatant obtained after precipitation of 28 revealed still the presence of 26, Re precursor and a small amount of 28. By refluxing overnight at pH 8 the rhenium precursor was consumed and a mixture of 28 and a second new species, formulated as "*fac*-[Re(26)(CO)₃]", was obtained. Complexes 28 and "*fac*-[Re(26)(CO)₃]" were isolated by RP-HPLC purification. *fac*-[Re(k³-25)(CO)₃] (28): Yield: 0.049

g, 54.9 % (calcd for $C_{10}H_{13}N_2O_7Re$). IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2021s, 1907s, 1884s, 1693m (C=O) and 1647m (C=O). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD, ppm) δ_H 5.32 (1H, m, NH₂C^b-), 4.95 (1H, m, NH_2C^a -), 4.75 (1H, m, $NH_2CH_2^b$ -), 4.64 (1H, m, $NH_2CH_2^a$ -), 2.76 (1H, m, -CH2^a-), 2.59 (1H, m, -CH2^{a'}-), 2.33 (2H, m, -CH2^f-), 1.78 (2H, m, -CH2^d-) 1.67 (2H, m, CH^e). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, CD₃OD, ppm) δ_c 198.3 (**C**=O), 197.1 (**C**=O), 181.2 (C^e), 177.2 (C^{g}), 67.0 (- C^{b} -), 46.6 (- C^{a} -), 35.0 (- C^{f} -), 34.8 (- C^{d} -), 19.9 (- C^{e} -). ESI-MS (+) (m/z): 482.9 $[M+Na]^+$; calcd for C₁₀H₁₃N₂O₇ReNa = 483.0. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₀H₁₃N₂O₇Re: C, 26.14; H, 2.85; N, 6.10. Found: C, 26.07; H, 2.93; N, 6.25 %. Retention time (analytic RP-HPLC, 220 nm): 9.9 min. Single crystals suitable for X-Ray diffraction analysis were grown by slow evaporation of a EtOH/CH₂Cl₂ solution at room temperature. fac- $[Re(26)(CO)_3]$: Yield: 0.025 g, 29.1 % (calcd for C₁₀H₁₁N₂O₆Re). IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2022s, ~1918s (C=O), 1678m, 1630, 1585, and 1416m. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD, ppm) δ_H 4.78 (1H, m, NH₂CH₂^a-, overlapped with H₂O peak; assigned from gCOSY spectrum), 4.63 (1H, m, NH2CH2^a-), 2.86 (1H, m, -CH2^a-), 2.55 (1H, m, -CH2^{a'}-), 2.45 (2H, m, -CH₂^f-), 2.20 (1H, m, -CH₂^d-), 1.76 (2H, m, -CH₂^e-) 1.58 (1H, m, CH^{d'}). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz, CD₃OD, ppm) δ_c 199.2 (C=O), 199.0 (C=O), 197.8 (C=O), 181.6 (C^c), 172.6 (C^g), 70.5 (-C^b-), 49.0 (-C^a-; overlapped with CD₃OD peak, assigned from HSQC spectrum), 28.9 (-C^f-), 26.7 (-C^d-), 18.3 (-C^e-). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO, ppm) δ_H 4.93 (1H, m, NH₂CH₂^a-), 4.80 (1H, m, NH₂CH₂^a-), 2.87 (1H, br s, -CH₂^a-), 2.71 (1H, br s, -CH₂^{a'}-), 2.36 (2H, br m, $-CH_2^{f}$ -), 1.98 (1H, m, $-CH_2^{d}$ -), 1.70 – 1.40 (3H, m, $-CH_2^{e}$ -+ $-CH^{d'}$ -). ESI-MS (+) (m/z): 464.9 $[M+Na]^+$; calcd for $C_{10}H_{11}N_2O_6ReNa = 465.0$. ESI-MS (-) (m/z): 440.9 $[M-H]^-$; calcd for C₁₀H₁₁N₂O₆Re = 442.0. Retention time (analytic RP-HPLC, 220 nm): 13.2 min.

Synthesis of the $^{99m}Tc(I)$ complexes (fac-[$^{99m}Tc(20)(CO)_3$] and fac-[$^{99m}Tc(25)(CO)_3$])

General method. In a nitrogen-purged glass vial, 100 mL of a aqueous solution of the compounds (**20** and **25**; [] = $10^{-3} - 10^{-4}$) were added to 900 mL of a solution of the organometallic precursor *fac*-[^{99m}Tc(H₂O)₃(CO)₃]⁺ (1 – 2 mCi) in saline (pH 7.4). The reaction mixture was then heated to 100 °C for 30 – 60 min, cooled on an H₂O bath and the final solution analyzed by RP-HPLC, yielding the complexes *fac*-[^{99m}Tc(**20**)(CO)₃] and *fac*-[^{99m}Tc(**25**)(CO)₃]). Retention times: 4.29 min (*fac*-[^{99m}Tc(**20**)(CO)₃], **method 2**) and 10.0 min (*fac*-[^{99m}Tc(**25**)(CO)₃], **method 1**). Reaction of the pure lactam **26** with *fac*-[^{99m}Tc(H₂O)₃(CO)₃]⁺ under the same conditions (30 min, 100°C, 1x10⁻⁴, pH 7.4) gave the complex "*fac*-[^{99m}Tc(CO)₃(**26**)])". Retention time: 13.7 min.

X-ray Crystallography

Single crystals were grown by slow evaporation of n-hexane/EtOAc (**5** and **6**) and EtOH/CH₂Cl₂ (**19**, **26** and **28**) solutions of the compounds at room temperature. Crystallographic data of **5**, **6** and **28** were collected at 183 K on an Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur system with a Ruby detector. The program suite CrysAlis^{Pro} was used for data collection, semiempirical absorption correction, and data reduction.⁴ Crystallographic data of **19** and **26** were collected at 150 K on a Bruker-AXS APEX-CCD area-detector diffractometer. Empirical absorption correction was carried out using SADABS.⁵ Data collection and data reduction were done with the SMART and SAINT programs.⁶ The structures were solved by direct methods with SIR97 and refined by fullmatrix least-squares analysis with SHELXL97 using the WINGX suite of programs. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. The hydrogen atoms were placed in

calculated positions. Molecular graphics were prepared using ORTEP3.¹⁰ Significant crystal data collection and refinement parameters are listed in **Table 1**.

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Compound	5	6	19	26	28		
Empirical formula	C ₂₀ H ₃₁ N ₃ O ₈	C ₂₅ H ₄₃ N ₃ O ₁₀	C ₁₃ H ₂₅ N ₃ O ₅	C ₇ H ₁₃ ClN ₂ O ₃	C ₁₀ H ₁₃ N ₂ O ₇ Re		
Formula weight	441.48	545.62	303.36	208.64	459.42		
Wavelength	0.7107 Å	1.5418 Å	0.7107 Å	0.7106 Å	0.7107 Å		
Crystal system	Orthorhombic	Monoclinic	Orthorhombic	Triclinic	Triclinic		
Space group	P _{bca}	P2 _{1/n}	Pca2(1)	P-1	P-1		
Unit cell dimensions	a = 17.2196(7) Å	a = 8.8810(11) Å	a = 10.1904(8) Å	a = 6.4348(2) Å	a = 6.7581(10) Å		
	b = 27.2811(13) Å	b = 20.9682(19) Å	b = 17.6150(12) Å	b = 8.0509(2) Å	b = 8.7934(2) Å		
	c = 10.2859(4) Å	c = 16.241(2) Å	c = 9.4373(5) Å	c = 9.6331(3) Å	c = 11.4890(2) Å		
	$\alpha = 74.2580(10)^{\circ}$						
		$\beta = 101.327(10)^{\circ}$		$\beta = 101.327(10)^{\circ}$	$\beta = 79.7708(16)^{\circ}$		
	$\gamma = 78.232(2)^{\circ}$ $\gamma = 83.8$						
Volume	4832.0(4) Å ³	2965.5(6) Å ³	1694.0(2) Å ³	469.81(2) Å ³	667.28(2) Å ³		
Z	8	4	4	2	2		
Density (calculated)	1.214 Mg/m ³	1.222 Mg/m ³	1.189 Mg/m ³	1.475 Mg/m ³	2.287 Mg/m ³		
Absorption coefficient	0.094 mm ⁻¹	0.787 mm ⁻¹	0.091 mm ⁻¹	0.385 mm ⁻¹	0.913 mm ⁻¹		
F(000)	1888	1176	656.0	220	436		
Crystal size	0.57 x 0.21 x 0.20	0.2 x 0.18 x 0.08	0.25 x 0.10 x 0.06	0.50 x 0.10 x 0.04	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
	mm ³	mm ³	mm ³	mm ³	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
θ range	2.42 to 23.00°	3.49 to 55.00°	3.16 to 25.02°	2.99 to 25.68°	2.88 to 27.99°		
Index ranges	-18<=h<=18,	-9<=h<=9,	-12<=h<=8,	-7<=h<=7,	-8<=h<=8,		
	-29<=k<=29,	-21<=k<=22,	-15<=k<=19,	-9<=k<=9,	-11<=k<=11,		
	-11<=1<=11	-16<=l<=16	-11<=1<=11	-11<=1<=11	-15<=l<=15		
Reflections collected	27899	28293	4537	3354	16418		
Independent reflections	3346	3656	2321	1781	3211		
	[R(int) = 0.0482]	[R(int) = 0.0927]	[R(int) = 0.0545]	[R(int) = 0.0171]	[R(int) = 0.0385]		
Completeness to θ	99.5 % (23.00°)	98.2 % (55.00°)	96.1 % (25.02°)	99.7 % (25.68°)	99.9 % (27.99°)		
Max. and min.	0.9843 and 0.9618	0.9372 and 0.8557	0.9945 and 0.9775	0.9848 and 0.8310	2.8718 and 32.5592		
transmission							
Data / restraints /	3346 / 0 / 285	3656 / 0 / 352	2321 / 1 / 215	1781 / 0 / 134	3211 / 0 / 182		
parameters							
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.067	1.050	0.985	1.057	1.064		
Final R indices	$R_1 = 0.0462,$	$R_1 = 0.0721,$	$R_1 = 0.0552,$	$R_1 = 0.0282,$	$R_1 = 0.0177,$		
[I>2sigma(I)]	$wR_2 = 0.1279$	$wR_2 = 0.1955$	$wR_2 = 0.0931$	$wR_2 = 0.0708$	$wR_2 = 0.0469$		
l	1	1	1	1			

Table 1: Crystallographic data for 5, 6, 19, 26 and 28.

R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0523,$	$R_1 = 0.0940, wR_2 =$	R1 = 0.0870,	$R_1 = 0.0324$,	$R_1 = 0.0192,$
	$wR_2 = 0.1325$	0.2228	wR2 = 0.1011	$wR_2 = 0.0729$	$wR_2 = 0.0474$
Extinction coefficient		0.0027(8)			
Largest diff. peak and	0.558 and -0.236	1.165 and -0.404	0.206 and -0.208	0.305 and -0.177	0.899 and -0.623
hole	e.Å ⁻³	e.Å ⁻³	e.Å ⁻³	e. Å ⁻³	e. Å ⁻³

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