

1 Molecular imaging of Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer by targeting Delta-like Ligand 3

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10

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17

1 **Abstract:** Treatment-induced neuroendocrine prostate cancer (NEPC) is a lethal subtype of
2 castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC). Using the zirconium-89 (⁸⁹Zr)-labeled DLL3
3 targeting antibody SC16 (⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16), we have developed a positron emission tomography
4 (PET) agent to non-invasively identify the presence of DLL3-positive NEPC lesions. **Methods:**
5 qPCR and immunohistochemistry were used to compare relative levels of androgen receptor
6 (AR)-regulated markers and NEPC marker DLL3 in a panel of prostate cancer cell lines. PET
7 imaging with ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16, ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11, and ⁶⁸Ga-DOTA-TATE was performed in H660
8 NEPC xenografted male nude mice. ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 uptake was corroborated by biodistribution
9 studies. **Results:** *In vitro* studies demonstrate H660 are positive for DLL3 and negative for AR,
10 prostate-specific antigen (PSA), and prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) both at the
11 transcriptional and translational levels. PET imaging and biodistribution studies confirm ⁸⁹Zr-
12 DFO-SC16 uptake is restricted to H660 tumor xenografts with background uptake in non-NEPC
13 lesions (both AR-dependent and AR-independent). Conversely, H660 xenografts cannot be
14 detected with imaging agents targeting PSMA (⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11) or somatostatin receptor subtype
15 2 (SSTR2) (⁶⁸Ga-DOTA-TATE). **Conclusion:** These studies demonstrate H660 NEPC cells
16 selectively express DLL3 on their cell surface and can be non-invasively identified with ⁸⁹Zr-
17 DFO-SC16.

18

1 **INTRODUCTION**

2 Androgen receptor (AR) signaling is a critical driver of prostate cancer (PC). Androgen
3 deprivation therapy (ADT) is used in the setting of high-risk, recurrent, or metastatic PC.
4 Although ADT can initially be highly effective, resistance develops in most patients leading to
5 metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) and ultimately death. Treatment
6 resistance to ADT in mCRPC arises from multiple mechanisms including (1) AR amplification,
7 (2) AR bypass, and (3) complete AR independence (1). The introduction of more potent AR
8 signaling inhibitors (ARSIs, e.g., abiraterone, enzalutamide), has led to an increasing incidence
9 of lesions in mCRPC patients that may display AR loss or adapt to low androgen levels through
10 activation of alternative pathways (2). AR-independent tumors can be aggressive and can
11 demonstrate markedly elevated proliferation, enhanced capacity for organ metastasis, and
12 phenotypic heterogeneity with variable admixture of adenocarcinoma and small cell
13 neuroendocrine phenotypes (2). Treatment-induced neuroendocrine prostate cancer (NEPC) has
14 been shown to arise from treatment-induced lineage plasticity and lead to a highly aggressive and
15 lethal subtype of PC (3). This reprogramming is linked to the reactivation of developmental
16 transcriptional programs and the transcription factor SOX2, which promotes phenotypic
17 plasticity and acquisition of a stem-like phenotype (4). NEPC displays genetic similarities to
18 small cell lung cancer (SCLC) including frequent loss of tumor suppressor genes *TP53* and *RBI*
19 (5).

20 The lineage transcription factor achaete-scute complex homologue 1 (ASCL1) is
21 overexpressed and promotes tumorigenesis in mouse models of SCLC (6). ASCL1 plays a key
22 role in suppressing Notch signaling activity through markedly upregulated expression of the
23 inhibitory Notch ligand delta-like ligand 3 (DLL3) (7). DLL3 expression in adult tissues is

1 substantially lower and restricted to intracellular compartments such as the Golgi; in contrast, in
2 SCLC tumor cells it is aberrantly expressed on the cell surface (7). In PC, DLL3 has been shown
3 to be similarly dysregulated in most NEPC samples (76.6%), with minimal to no expression in
4 mCRPC (12.5%), localized PC (0.5%) and benign prostate (0%) (8). With no detectable
5 expression of cell surface DLL3 in non-malignant cells and preferential expression in NEPC
6 lesions, DLL3 may present itself as a target for a biomarker-based method of tumor detection.

7 SC16 is a humanized monoclonal antibody (mAb) that selectively binds to both human
8 and murine DLL3 (9). Our previous work with SC16 has demonstrated the successful synthesis
9 of zirconium-89 (⁸⁹Zr)-radiolabeled SC16 and its use as a positron emission tomography (PET)
10 radiopharmaceutical for non-invasive detection of DLL3 expression in SCLC models (10). PET
11 is a powerful diagnostic tool that can non-invasively visualize and molecularly characterize
12 lesions and aid in optimizing therapy. It has proven to be a successful platform in PC detection
13 and management of AR-dependent lesions. However, the 2018 NCI Workshop on Lineage
14 Plasticity and Androgen Receptor-Independent Prostate Cancer identified a “lack of imaging
15 capabilities” as one of two major knowledge gaps in NEPC management (11). The PET probes
16 thus far developed directly target AR (12) or prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) (13)
17 and may not detect NEPC lesions if they display AR loss or PSMA suppression (14). Therefore,
18 it is imperative to have a non-PSMA based imaging agent for NEPC detection. To our
19 knowledge, ⁸⁹Zr-radiolabeled SC16 is the only imaging agent currently in development that has
20 potential to differentiate NEPC from prostate adenocarcinoma by an increase in signal above
21 background. This is advantageous over current PET imaging agents that target AR-dependent
22 PC, as reduced expression of these surface antigens is possible. This can increase susceptibility
23 to high false positives or inconclusive findings when signal approaches the noise floor. Due to

1 the molecular similarities with SCLC and encouraging results from the preclinical studies in
2 SCLC models, we evaluated the performance of our ⁸⁹Zr-radiolabeled SC16 PET imaging agent
3 in the detection of DLL3-expressing NEPC tumors in preclinical mouse models.

4

5 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

6 Please refer to the Supplementary Information for information related to cell lines, quantitative
7 real-time PCR, antibody functionalization and radiolabeling (15), *in vitro* binding assays (16),
8 immunohistochemistry, and generation of subcutaneous xenograft models.

9

10 **Animals and Tumor Models**

11 All animal experiments performed in this study were approved by the Institutional Animal Care
12 and Use Committee and Research Animal Resource Center at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer
13 Center.

14

15 **Biodistribution Studies**

16 Biodistribution studies were performed by sacrificing mice at chosen time points to evaluate
17 uptake of the radiotracers in mice bearing subcutaneous H660 or DU145 tumors. To evaluate
18 non-specific uptake in the DLL3-positive tumor, mice bearing subcutaneous xenografts of H660
19 were injected with isotype-matched IgG ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-IgG. See supplemental information for
20 further details.

21

1 **PET/CT Imaging**

2 PET imaging of subcutaneous PC cell line xenograft mouse models was performed on an Inveon
3 microPET/CT instrument (Siemens). See supplemental information for further details.

5 **Statistical Analyses**

6 All data presented are expressed as mean \pm SEM. Data for the *in vitro* cell binding assay were
7 analyzed by unpaired, two-tailed *t* test using GraphPad Prism 8 software with a threshold for
8 statistical significance set as $p < 0.05$. To evaluate the blocking study in the subcutaneous
9 xenograft, a 2-way ANOVA test using GraphPad Prism 8 software was performed with a
10 threshold for statistical significance set at $p < 0.05$. A correction for multiple comparisons was
11 performed using the Holm-Sidak method to determine statistical significance ($\alpha = 0.05$).

13 **RESULTS**

14 **Evaluation of DLL3 Expression in Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer**

15 We evaluated mRNA and protein expression of AR and SOX2 transcription factors and their
16 downstream targets that have been shown to differentiate adenocarcinoma or neuroendocrine
17 phenotype respectively, in established PC cell lines using qRT-PCR and immunohistochemistry.
18 For prostate adenocarcinoma genes, we evaluated *FOLH1* (gene encoding for PSMA) and *KLK3*
19 (gene encoding for prostate-specific antigen (PSA)); for neuroendocrine regulated genes we
20 examined *ASCL1* and *DLL3*. The panel of PC cell lines included LNCaP (hormone-sensitive
21 prostate adenocarcinoma, AR+/NE-), DU145 (androgen-independent prostate carcinoma, AR-
22 /NE-), PC3 (androgen-independent prostate carcinoma, AR-/NE-) and H660 (NEPC, AR-/NE+).
23 H660 expressed the highest of *SOX2*, which encodes a transcription factor that promotes lineage

1 plasticity, facilitates histological transformation, and has been associated with resistance to AR-
2 targeted therapies (5,17). PC3, LNCaP, and DU145 all demonstrated significantly lower levels of
3 *DLL3*. H660 cells showed *ASCL1* expression, encoding a key transcription regulator of Notch
4 signaling proteins, including *DLL3* (Fig. 1A). At protein-level, using immunohistochemistry, we
5 could detect *DLL3* expression only in the H660 line but not in the other PC lines (Fig. 1B).
6 Verification of the NEPC lineage of H660 was confirmed by the presence of the clinically
7 validated NE marker synaptophysin (SYP), which was absent in all LNCaP, PC3, and DU145
8 cell lines (Fig. 1B). When transcript levels of *AR*, *KLK3*, and *FOLH1* levels were evaluated, only
9 LNCaP cells showed expression, while H660, PC3, and DU145 had minimal detectable
10 transcripts (Fig. S1A). Immunohistochemistry provided similar results at the translational level,
11 demonstrating intense staining of AR and PSMA in LNCaP cells with no detectable expression
12 seen in H660, PC3, and DU145 (Fig. S1B).

13 We then analyzed the PC transcriptomic atlas dataset (18), an extensive transcriptome
14 databank comprised of 1,321 clinical specimens from 38 PC cohorts. We observed higher
15 expression of *DLL3* in mCRPC compared to primary PC ($p < 0.001$ mCRPC VS Primary; Fig.
16 S2A). Moreover, in the Ross Adams et al. cohort (19) (259 men with PC in Cambridge discovery
17 cohort and Stockholm validation cohort), we observed high *DLL3* expression was associated
18 with shorter biochemical recurrence-free survival (Fig. S2B). Together these data indicated that
19 *DLL3* mRNA expression may be associated with poor prognosis of PC patients. This hypothesis
20 will require further testing in a larger cohort to confirm the prognostic significance of *DLL3*
21 mRNA expression in PC.

22 We next compared the expression levels of *DLL3* in H660 and H82 tumor cells. H82 was
23 derived from the pleural fluid of a patient with SCLC and H660 derived from the lymph node of

1 a NEPC patient. Both cell lines display neuroendocrine phenotype and aberrant DLL3 trafficking
2 to the cell surface. Despite low expression of DLL3 on H82 cells, PET imaging successfully
3 delineated H82 tumor in mouse models (10). Immunohistochemistry demonstrated even lower
4 abundance of DLL3 expression in the H660 tumor cells compared to H82 tumor cells (Fig. S3).
5 However, we still envisioned that DLL3-PET imaging would be feasible due to the absence of
6 DLL3 expression on the cell surface of non-malignant cells.

8 **⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 Characterization and Its Detection of Cell Surface DLL3 Expression**

9 The DLL3-targeting SC16 antibody was functionalized through the non-site-specific conjugation
10 to the free lysine moieties available on the mAb with the siderophore-derived desferrioxamine
11 (DFO) chelator (Fig. S4). MALDI-TOF MS analysis revealed the ratio of chelator to mAb was
12 0.44, which implies that, on average, half of the antibody molecules were functionalized with
13 DFO covalently. (Fig. S5).

14 Radiolabeling the DFO-SC16 conjugate obtained ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 in high radiochemical
15 yield (> 99%) (Fig. S6A) and high specific activity (370 Mbq/mg). The radioimmunoconjugate
16 demonstrated ≥ 92% stability when incubated in human serum at 37 °C for 5 days (Fig. S6B).
17 The target-binding fraction (TBF) of the radioimmunoconjugate — the fraction of the antibody
18 that retains its binding to its target after modification — was > 90% for ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 towards
19 DLL3 (Fig. 2A). ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 binding to DLL3 could be blocked in the presence of a 5000-
20 fold excess of unlabeled SC16. *In vitro* cell binding assays revealed ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 bound to
21 DLL3 expressed on the cell surface of H660 cells with no binding observed in the DLL3-
22 negative cell lines LNCaP, DU145, and PC3 (Fig. 2B). Binding of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 to H660 cells
23 could be blocked in the presence of a 1000-fold excess unlabeled SC16. Saturation binding assay

1 with H660 cells revealed $K_d < 1$ nM and $B_{max} = 86.3$ fm/10⁶ cells for ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 (Fig. S6C).
2 These studies demonstrate that the immunoreactivity of SC16 is retained after DFO conjugation
3 and radiolabeling with zirconium-89.

5 **PET imaging and Biodistribution of DLL3 Expression With ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 in**

6 **Subcutaneous Xenograft Models**

7 PET imaging with ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 was performed in male nude mice bearing H660 (DLL3+,
8 AR-/NE+) or DU145 (DLL3-, AR-/NE-) subcutaneous xenografts. PET imaging with ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-
9 SC16 showed clear delineation of H660 tumor xenografts 120 h post-administration of the
10 radioimmunoconjugate (Fig. 3A). Increasing uptake in the H660-bearing mice could be observed
11 in the tumors from time of injection (t = 0) to 120 h post-injection. As expected, due to lack of
12 DLL3 expression, minimal uptake of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 was observed in DU145-bearing mice with
13 tumor uptake remaining constant over the 120 h imaging time course (Fig. 3B). Low and non-
14 specific uptake was observed in H660 tumor xenografts 120 h post-injection of isotype-matched
15 IgG (⁸⁹Zr-DFO-IgG) (Fig. S7A-C).

16 Biodistribution data at 24, 72, and 120 h after intravenous administration confirmed a
17 progressive increase in H660 tumor uptake over time, reaching 17.50 ± 3.19 percentage injected
18 dose per gram (%ID/g) at 120 h (Fig. 4A; Fig. S8). As expected, concurrent decrease in the
19 blood pool activity was observed (24 h, 6.60 ± 0.90 %ID/g; 72 h, 3.16 ± 1.37 %ID/g; 120 h, 3.07
20 ± 0.45 %ID/g) as the tumor activity increased over time. Due to heterogenous uptake of the
21 radioimmunoconjugate between the H660 tumors, two independent cohorts of 3 mice each were
22 evaluated at 120 h. Linear regression analysis displayed a positive correlation between time post-
23 intravenous administration and %ID/g in H660 tumors across both independent cohorts, with

1 tumor uptake increasing over time ($p = 0.00971$; Fig. S9). Uptake of the radioimmunoconjugate
2 could be blocked by the co-injection of a 50-fold excess of unlabeled SC16 antibody, confirming
3 the specificity of the radioimmunoconjugate for the H660 tumor (Fig. 4A; Fig. S10). At 120 h
4 post-injection, high tumor-to-background contrast ratios were observed (Fig. 4B), with a tumor-
5 to-muscle ratio = 33.91 ± 5.73 . In contrast, ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16 uptake in the DU145 (DLL3-)
6 tumors was low and non-specific at 5.47 ± 0.25 %ID/g 120 h post-intravenous administration,
7 consistent with an *in vivo* enhanced permeability and retention effect (Fig. 4C; Fig. S11).
8 Comparing tumor uptake at each time point in the H660 and DU145 tumors demonstrates ^{89}Zr -
9 DFO-SC16's specificity and selectivity for DLL3 (Fig. S12A). H660 tumor mean uptake
10 increased over time and was statistically significant when compared to DU145 tumor mean
11 uptake at 72 and 120 h post injection. Tumor-to-muscle ratios also increased over time in the
12 H660 tumors and were statistically significant at 72 and 120 h post injection when compared to
13 DU145 tumors, in which this ratio remained relatively constant at all time points (Fig. S12B).
14 Considering potential clinical implications, taken together these data suggest patients could be
15 effectively imaged in a wide time window (72 – 120 h). Immunohistochemistry on resected
16 H660 subcutaneous xenografts confirmed retained expression of DLL3 and SYP, which were
17 absent in resected DU145 subcutaneous xenografts (Fig. 4D; See Fig. S13 for SYP
18 immunohistochemistry and corresponding H&E).

19

20 **NEPC is Only Detectable by DLL3 Imaging, but Not by PSMA or Somatostatin Imaging**

21 To demonstrate the dichotomy between AR+ prostate adenocarcinoma and AR- NEPC, male
22 nude mice were subcutaneously xenografted with PSMA+/DLL3- LNCaP tumors and PSMA-
23 /DLL3+ H660 tumors on opposite flanks and imaged by DLL3 and PSMA based PET. The dual-

1 tumor bearing mice were imaged 1 h post-administration of gallium-68 labeled PSMA-11 (⁶⁸Ga-
2 PSMA-11), a PSMA-targeted PET agent. The radiotracer accumulated exclusively in the LNCaP
3 tumor and could be successfully imaged with high contrast (Fig. 5). The NEPC model H660 does
4 not express AR or PSMA and H660 tumors could not be detected through PSMA-based imaging.
5 Two days later, the same cohort of mice were administered ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 and imaged 5 days
6 post-administration. The radiotracer selectively bound to the H660 tumor but not LNCaP and
7 finally allowed for site-specific identification of the NEPC lesion.

8 Somatostatin receptor (SSTR) imaging has been widely used as a method to detect the
9 presence of gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasms including the FDA-approved
10 agent ⁶⁸Ga-DOTA-TATE. ⁶⁸Ga-DOTA-TATE is a peptide-based PET imaging agent that
11 demonstrates high affinity for the somatostatin receptor subtype 2 (SSTR2) and has been tested
12 in NEPC patients with inconclusive results (20). As a comparator, we sought to image tumor-
13 bearing mice by ⁶⁸Ga-DOTA-TATE. We first analyzed *SSTR2* mRNA expression in H660 and
14 LNCaP cells. We could not detect significantly upregulated *SSTR2* expression in H660 cells
15 relative to LNCaP cells (Fig. S14A). Shifting to *in vivo* analysis, we conducted an imaging study
16 with ⁶⁸Ga-DOTA-TATE in H660-bearing male nude mice. No accumulation of the radiotracer
17 was observed in the tumor 1 h post-administration, demonstrating inability to detect this NEPC
18 tumor through somatostatin receptor imaging (Fig. S14B).

19

20 **DISCUSSION**

21 NEPC is a lethal disease and detecting the presence of NEPC lesions non-invasively remains
22 challenging. One of the barriers to understanding the biology of mCRPC is the inaccessibility of
23 the tissue and consequent under-sampling of disease heterogeneity. Biopsies, the gold standard in

1 terms of phenotypic characterization with immunostaining, and genotypic characterization with
2 next-generation sequencing techniques describe only a single lesion rather than the full diversity
3 of the disease. Furthermore, bone biopsies are difficult because tumors are frequently embedded
4 deep within the densely sclerotic bone, a result of exuberant hydroxyapatite deposition from
5 tumoral stimulation of osteoblasts. Circulating tumor cells (CTCs) and cell free DNA (ctDNA)
6 can be used to characterize the biology of mCRPC, and can reflect post-treatment changes in
7 tumor burden, but cannot localize the emergence of resistant disease on a lesional level. A non-
8 invasive, whole-body method for detecting the emergence of NEPC will overcome these
9 limitations of standard methods of tumor analysis, allow for identification and characterization of
10 lesions in real-time, and facilitate earlier intervention to improve patient survival. Here, we
11 confirm that the NEPC cell line H660 is devoid of the commonly targeted prostate biomarkers
12 AR, PSMA, and PSA, but selectively expresses DLL3 on the cell surface. However, it must be
13 stated that this is an idealized preclinical model, and a varied range of prostate biomarker
14 expression may still be observed in patients with NEPC lesions. In our previous work, using the
15 SCLC tumor model H82, we successfully showed that, though expression of DLL3 is less
16 abundant than other commonly imaged tumor-associated antigens (e.g., Her2, EGFR, PSMA),
17 the highly tumor-restricted cell surface expression of DLL3 on SCLC allows for successful PET
18 imaging (10). Although the expression levels of DLL3 observed in the H660 NEPC tumor cells
19 were lower than in the H82 SCLC tumor cells, PET imaging was still feasible due to the absence
20 of detectable cell surface DLL3 in non-malignant cells. We demonstrate that ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16
21 shows high specific uptake in H660 (DLL3+) tumors through biodistribution studies and PET
22 imaging. PET imaging in a dual tumor model with H660 (DLL3+/PSMA-) and LNCaP (DLL3-
23 /PSMA+) tumor cells demonstrates the inability to detect PSMA- NEPC lesions with other

1 commonly used imaging approaches. Neuroendocrine differentiation in prostate adenocarcinoma
2 lesions due to selective treatment pressure can lead to the activation of different pathways,
3 including the possibility of low AR and low AR-pathway signaling, which may result in the
4 inability to detect such lesions with ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 (14) or other AR-targeted tracers such as ^{18}F -
5 FDHT (12,21). Therefore, using ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 only, NEPC lesions may not be detected.

6 DLL3 imaging can provide patient stratification and suggests rationale for DLL3-targeted
7 therapeutic approaches. Four DLL3-specific therapies have been tested clinically: (1) the
8 antibody-drug conjugate rovalpituzumab tesirine (Rova-T or SC16LD6.5), (2) the bispecific T
9 cell engager (BiTE) AMG757, (3) the chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell AMG119, and (4)
10 the trisppecific T cell engager (TriTAC) HPN328. RovaT therapy demonstrated minimal
11 responses in SCLC and other neuroendocrine carcinomas (9/69; 13%) (22), while AMG757
12 (NCT03319940), AMG119 (NCT03392064) and HPN328 (NCT04471727) are currently being
13 tested in SCLC patients in first-in-human studies. One avenue yet to be explored could utilize a
14 targeted radionuclide therapy with lutetium-177 (^{177}Lu) in patients with detected DLL3-positive
15 PC lesions via ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16 PET. Recent work by our lab has demonstrated the exceptional
16 efficacy of ^{177}Lu -labeled-SC16 for the treatment of SCLC in preclinical models (23).

17 Lastly, we demonstrate the inability to target SSTRs in a subcutaneous NEPC model.
18 Reports on the presence of somatostatin receptors in NEPC have been contradictory and
19 inconclusive, with some studies suggesting that SSTR2 expression is upregulated (24,25), while
20 others have shown low or absent expression (26,27). Here we show that H660 tumor cells do not
21 express somatostatin receptors and therefore cannot be imaged *in vivo* through somatostatin-
22 based receptor PET imaging.

1 Although DLL3 presents as a potential target for PET imaging in NEPC lesions, the
2 biological consequences of PC treatments on pre-existing NEPC lesions are not understood. PC
3 lesions in patients may have distinct adenocarcinoma, neuroendocrine, or mixed phenotypes.
4 Therefore, even with detection of NEPC, patients may continue ADT. ADT influences the
5 expression of PSA, PSMA, and block AR-targeting agents and therefore influences the outcomes
6 of PET imaging studies with these agents (28-30). There is no clear understanding of the
7 biological consequence of ADT on neuroendocrine cells or on the expression of DLL3.
8 Likewise, it has been shown that the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) pathway is activated
9 in ADT-resistant mCRPC and influences the expression of neuroendocrine markers (31,32). Two
10 PI3K inhibitors, everolimus (NCT00976755) and BKM-120 (NCT01385293) are currently in
11 clinical trials for mCRPC. Further studies to evaluate the potential influence of PC treatments on
12 NEPC lesions and DLL3 expression are warranted.

13 Overall, the selective expression of DLL3 in the tumor with no detectable expression in
14 non-malignant cells and the high specificity of tumor uptake of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 suggest the
15 possibility of translating this imaging method into the clinic. With a clinical trial
16 (NCT04199741) currently underway at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center — the first-in-
17 human clinical trial of DLL3 PET imaging in patients with SCLC — our data encourages the use
18 of DLL3 PET imaging in patients with NEPC lesions. Ultimately, DLL3-targeted PET imaging
19 might confirm the presence of NEPC lesions through a non-invasive whole-body PET scan, aid
20 patient selection, and may improve therapeutic outcomes in NEPC-directed clinical trials.

21

1 **CONCLUSION**

2 These findings suggest a non-invasive diagnostic PET agent that can be used as a tool to
3 detect the presence of DLL3-positive NEPC lesions at single lesion resolution. We hope these
4 findings will improve on the current approach of biopsy-based and genotypic characterization in
5 identifying these patients.

6

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10

11 **Author contributions:**

12 Conception and design: JAK, JTP, CMR, YC, KP, JSL

13 Development and methodology: JAK, JTP, CMR, YC, KP, JSL

14 Acquisition of data: JAK, TMK, SK, ZVS, GC, JG

15 Analysis and interpretation of data: JAK, TMK, GC, JTP, MJM, CMR, YC, NP, JSL

16 Writing, review and/or revision of the manuscript: All authors

17 Study supervision: JTP, CMR, YC, NP, JSL

18

1 **KEY POINTS**

2

3 **Question:** Can DLL3-targeted PET be used as a tool for the non-invasive diagnosis of NEPC?

4

5 **Pertinent Findings:** We demonstrated that DLL3 is exclusively expressed on the cell surface of

6 H660 NEPC cell line and can be detected with DLL3-targeting tracer ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16. *In vivo*

7 PET imaging studies showed that ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16 is selective for DLL3-expressing NEPC

8 lesions and cannot be imaged with ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 or ^{68}Ga -DOTA-TATE. The selective

9 expression of DLL3 in the tumor and specific tumor uptake of ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16 suggests

10 potential translation of this imaging method to the clinic.

11

12 **Implications for Patient Care:** PET imaging of DLL3 may allow for the identification of NEPC

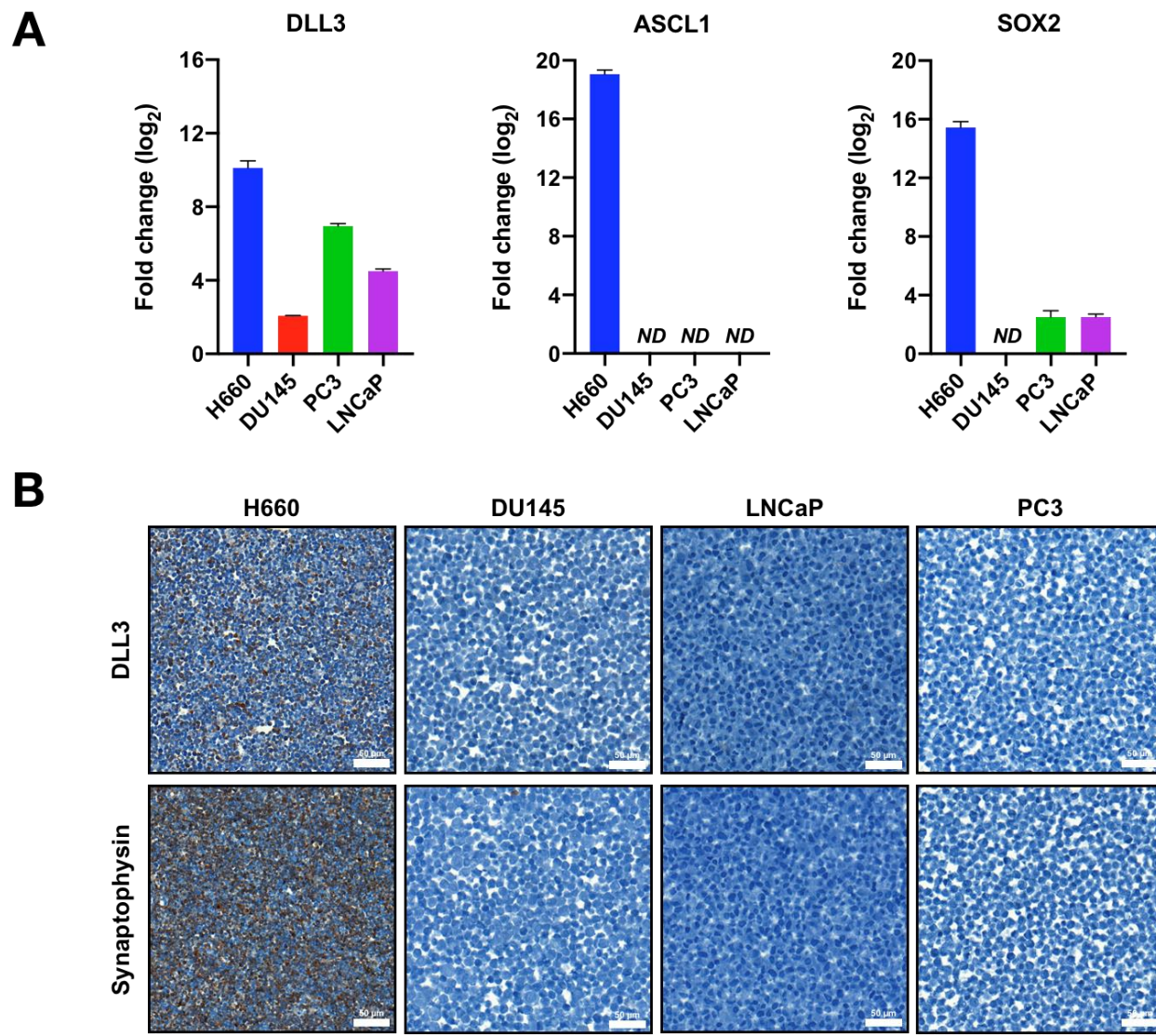
13 in patients in a benign, non-invasive way early enough to better inform clinical decision making.

14

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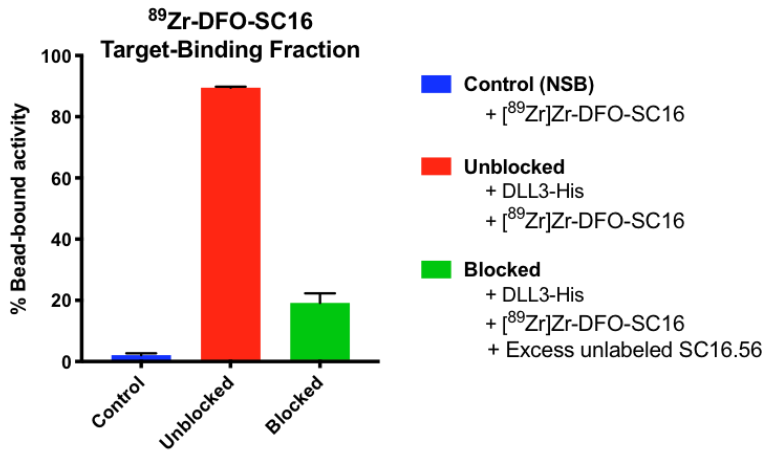
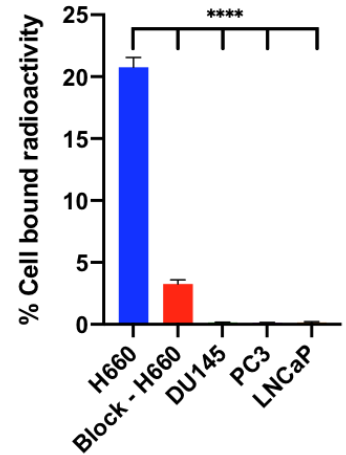
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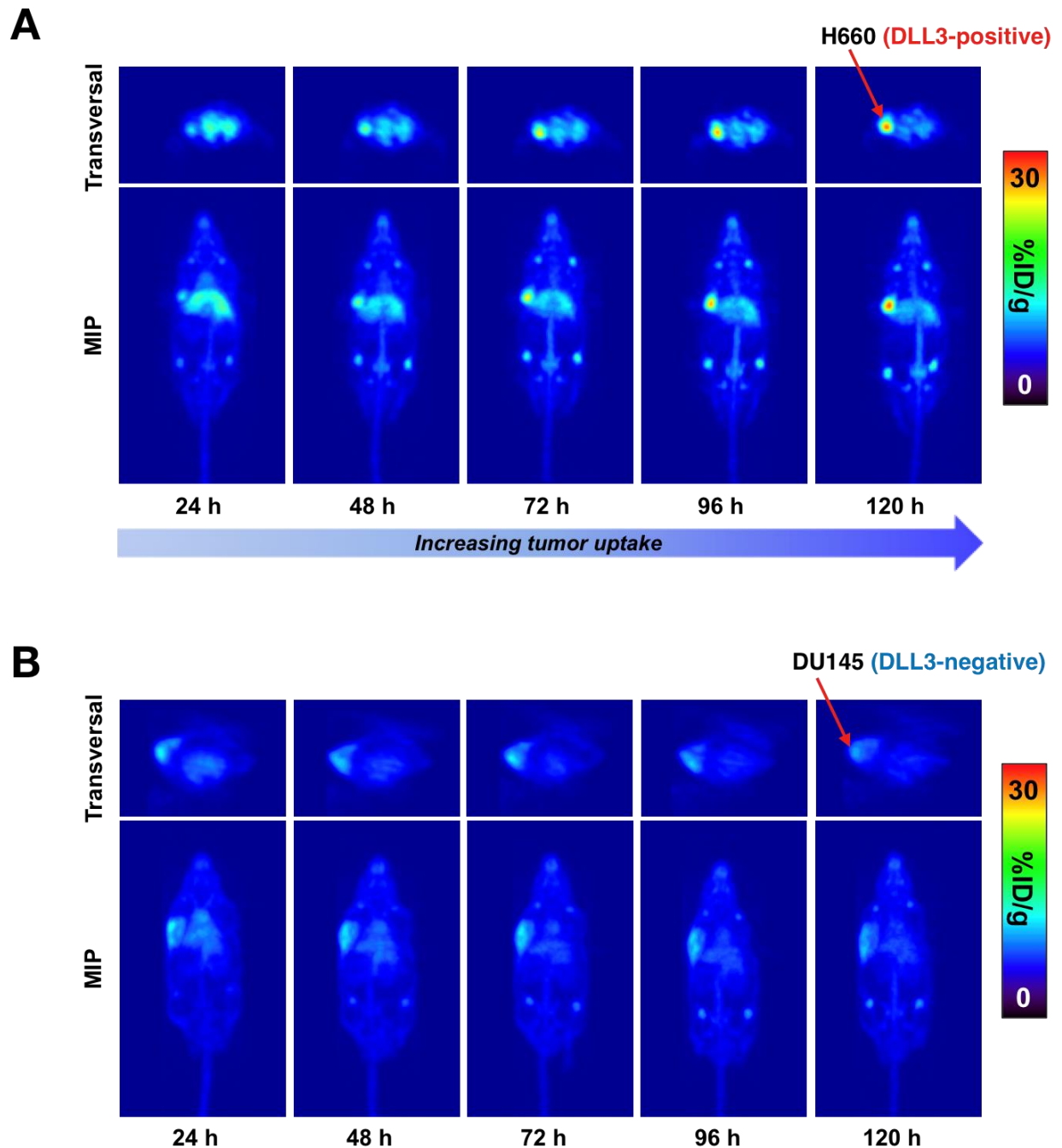


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Figure 1. DLL3 is uniquely expressed in H660 cells at the transcriptional and translational level. **A.** RT-PCR shows the expression patterns of the *DLL3*, *ASCL1*, and *SOX2* genes in H660, DU145, PC3, and LNCaP cells compared to A549 negative control (not shown). *ND*, not detected. **B.** Representative immunohistochemistry images of H660 (DLL3+, SYP+) DU145 (DLL3-/SYP-), LNCaP (DLL3-/SYP-), and PC3 (DLL3-/SYP-) tumor cell sections for DLL3 and SYP. Scale bars, 50 μ m.

A**B**1
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3 **Figure 2. DLL3 is expressed on the cell surface of H660 tumor cells that can be targeted by**
4 **⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16. A.** ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 shows high and specific binding to Ni-NTA beads coated
5 with His-tagged DLL3. Minimum non-specific binding (NSB) is observed (control). Specificity
6 of binding to His-tagged DLL3 was shown in the presence of 5000-fold excess of unlabeled
7 SC16. **B.** *In vitro* cell binding data of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 binding to H660 cells confirms DLL3
8 expression on the cell surface that can be targeted using our anti-DLL3 mAb SC16. Minimal
9 binding of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 is observed to DLL3-negative DU145, PC3, and LNCaP cells.
10 Specificity of binding to H660 cells was shown in the presence of 1000-fold excess of unlabeled
11 SC16. *****p* < 0.0001.

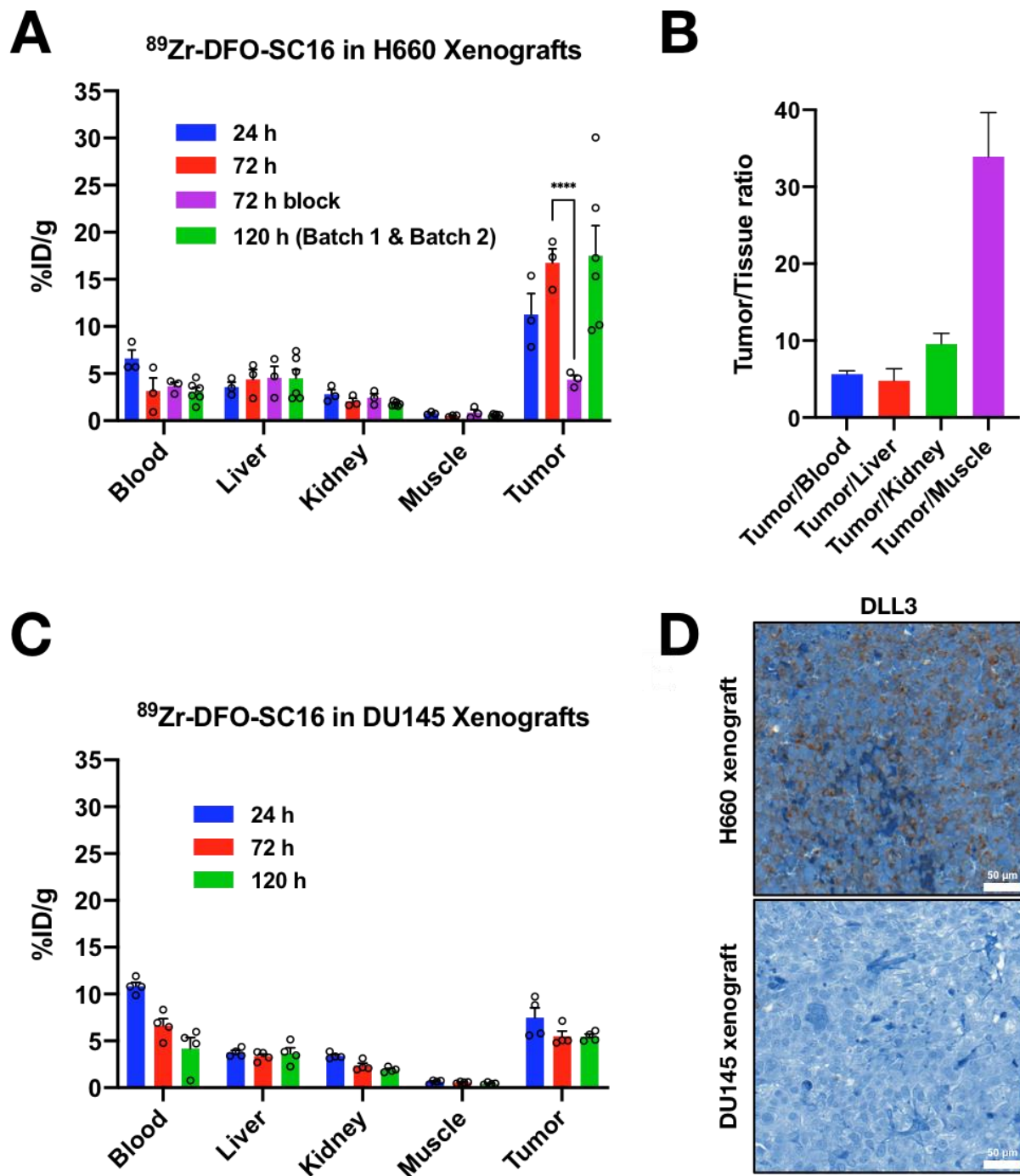


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3 **Figure 3. DLL3-expressing subcutaneous H660 tumors could be imaged with ^{89}Zr -DFO-**
4 **SC16 *in vivo*.** **A.** PET images of ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16 in an athymic nude male mouse bearing
5 subcutaneous H660 tumor xenografted on the left shoulder. PET imaging was performed at 24 h
6 intervals up to 120 h post-injection of ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16. **B.** PET images of ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16 in an
7 athymic nude male mouse bearing subcutaneous DU145 tumor xenografted on the left shoulder.

1 PET imaging was performed at 24 h intervals up to 120 h post-injection of ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16. The
2 images represent maximum intensity projection (MIP) and transverse planar images at
3 designated time points after injection of the radiotracer.

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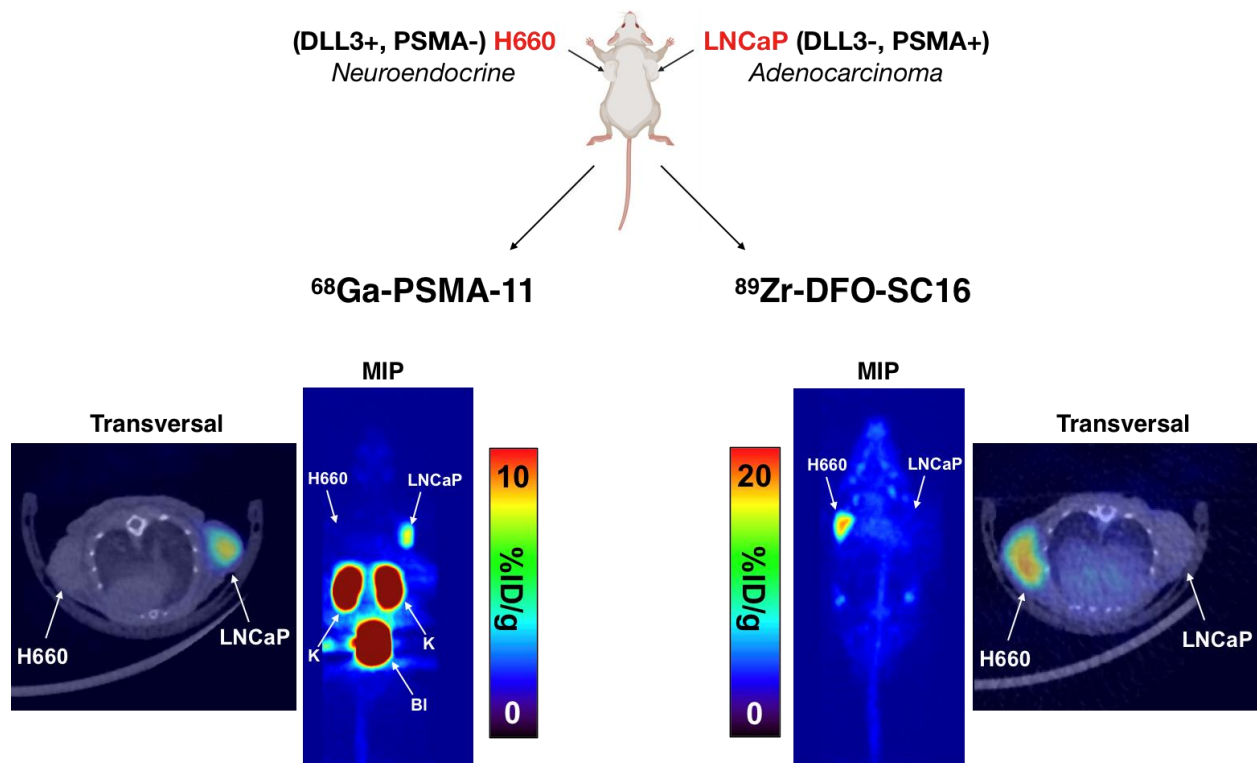
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3 **Figure 4. Biodistribution of ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16 in subcutaneous xenograft model of NEPC**
4 **A.** Select organ biodistribution data at 24, 72, and 120 h post-intravenous injection of ^{89}Zr -DFO-
5 SC16 in athymic nude mice bearing subcutaneous H660 tumors. Bars at 24 and 72 h represent
6 data obtained from batch #1, n = 3. Bars at 120 h represent data obtained from batch #1 and

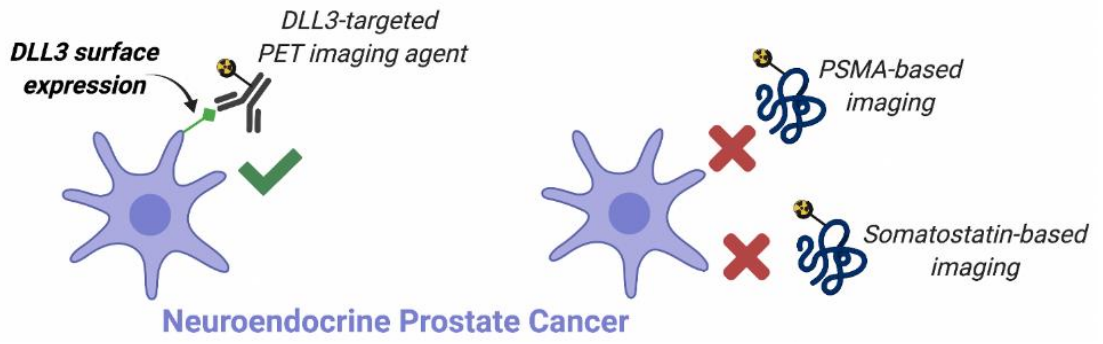
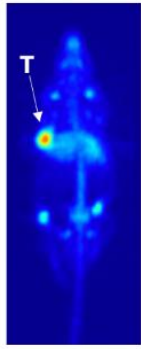
1 batch #2, n = 6. See *Supplementary Information* for details on the two different cohorts used in
2 the *biodistribution study*. %ID g⁻¹, percentage of injected dose per gram. H660 tumor uptake
3 could be blocked at 72 h post-injection of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 with a 50-fold excess of unlabeled
4 SC16 antibody. *****p* < 0.0001. **B.** Tumor-to-background contrast ratios from the uptake of
5 ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 in H660 xenograft bearing mice. **C.** Select organ biodistribution at 24, 72, and
6 120 h post-injection of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 in athymic nude mice bearing subcutaneous DU145
7 tumors. **D.** Representative immunohistochemistry images of H660 and DU145 subcutaneous
8 tumor xenografts for DLL3. Scale bars, 50 μm.

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Figure 5. ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 cannot image NEPC lesions *in vivo*. PET images of ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 (1 h post-injection) or ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16 (120 h post-injection) in an athymic nude male mouse bearing H660 and LNCaP tumors xenografted on the left and right shoulder, respectively.



1

2 **Graphical Abstract**

1 **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS**

2 **Cell lines**

3 All cell lines were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection. Cultures were grown in
4 aseptic conditions at 37 °C and 5% CO₂ in a humidified atmosphere. NCI-H660 cells were grown
5 in DMEM/F12 medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 10 nM beta-estradiol, 10
6 nM hydrocortisone, 30 nM sodium selenite, 0.005 mg/mL insulin, 0.01 mg/mL transferrin, 4 mM
7 L-glutamine, 100 units/mL penicillin, and 100 µg/mL streptomycin. DU145 cells were grown in
8 DMEM medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 units/mL penicillin, and 100
9 µg/mL streptomycin. LNCaP cells were grown in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10%
10 fetal bovine serum, 100 units/mL penicillin, and 100 µg/mL streptomycin. H82 cells were
11 cultured in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 2 mM L-glutamine,
12 10 mM HEPES, 1 mM sodium pyruvate, 4.5 g/L glucose, 1.5 g/L sodium bicarbonate, 100
13 units/mL penicillin, and 100 µg/mL streptomycin. PC3 cells were grown in F-12 Kaighn's
14 medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 units/mL penicillin, and 100 µg/mL
15 streptomycin.

16

17 **RNA isolation and quantitative real-time PCR**

18 Approximately 5 million cells were pelleted and washed with PBS before proceeding to RNA
19 extraction. RNA extraction from cell pellets was done using RNeasy mini kit (QIAGEN). On
20 column DNA digestion was done using RNase-Free DNase set (QIAGEN). RNA quality and
21 quantity were determined using a spectrophotometer at 260 and 280 nm (Nanodrop-2000,
22 Thermo Scientific). cDNA was generated using the High Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription
23 Kit (Applied Biosystems; Life Technologies). Quantitative-PCR was performed using RT²

1 SYBR Green Fluor qPCR Mastermix and RT² qPCR primers (Qiagen) on a CFX96 Touch Real-
2 Time PCR Detection System (Bio Rad). *DLL3*, *ASCL1*, *SOX2*, *AR*, *FOLH1 (PSMA)*, and *KLK3*
3 (*PSA*) expression were quantified relative to beta actin using the comparative CT method. Log₂
4 fold changes were calculated by comparing expression levels to negative control H82 and A549
5 human lung cancer cell lines.

6

7 **Synthesis of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16**

8 The DFO-SC16 (or DFO-IgG control) was produced by the incubation of SC16 with a 6-molar
9 excess of the chelator *p*-isothiocyanatobenzoyl desferrioxamine (*p*-SCN-DFO, Macrocyclics,
10 Inc.) at a pH of 9 and 25 °C for 90 min on a thermomixer. The immunoconjugates were purified
11 by size exclusion chromatography on a PD-10 desalting column (GE Healthcare) and
12 concentrated with a 50,000 MWCO Amicon centrifugal filter. Zirconium-89 (⁸⁹Zr) was produced
13 by the proton bombardment of ⁸⁹Y foil on a cyclotron and supplied by the Radiochemistry &
14 Molecular Imaging Probes core at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The ⁸⁹Zr-oxalate
15 solution (5.55 MBq) was adjusted to pH 6.5–7.0 by addition of 1 M sodium carbonate (Na₂CO₃)
16 and incubated at room temperature with the DFO-mAbs (15 μg) for 1 hour on a thermomixer.
17 The ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-mAbs were purified on a PD-10 desalting column and radiochemical purity was
18 assessed by radio-instant thin layer chromatography (radio-iTLC) using 50 mM
19 ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) as the eluent. The radioimmunoconjugate stability and
20 demetallation of ⁸⁹Zr was evaluated in an *in vitro* serum stability assay by incubating ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-
21 SC16 in human serum at 37 °C for 5 days. Radiochemical purity and demetallation of ⁸⁹Zr were
22 determined via radio-iTLC.

23

1 **In vitro bead-based binding assay**

2 To determine the DLL3 target-binding fraction of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16, a bead-based radioligand
3 binding assay was performed using magnetic beads functionalized with His-tagged DLL3 protein
4 (R&D Systems). For the control, the procedure was the same except no His-tagged DLL3 was
5 added to assess non-specific binding of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 to the magnetic beads alone. For the
6 block, the procedure was the same except 5 µg of DFO-SC16 was also added to determine
7 specificity of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 binding to His-tagged DLL3.

8

9 **In vitro saturation binding assay**

10 A 0.15 µg/mL solution of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 was prepared in PBS with 1% BSA. 3 ng (20 µL) of
11 the radiolabeled construct was added to an Eppendorf tube containing 10x10⁶ cells in 0.2 mL of
12 culture media. The mixture was allowed to incubate for 1 hour with intermittent pipetting
13 up/down every 15 minutes to resuspend the cells. Next, the cells were centrifuged (600 x g for 5
14 min) followed by pipetting out the media supernatant to another centrifuge tube. Then, the cells
15 were washed with 1 mL of ice-cold PBS, centrifuged (600 x g for 5 min), and the PBS
16 supernatant was pipetted out into a separate Eppendorf tube. The washing procedure was
17 repeated two more times. Lastly, the cell pellet, the media supernatant, and the three wash
18 fractions were placed on a gamma counter to determine the percent of cell bound radioactivity of
19 the radiolabeled construct. The above procedure was repeated for a 0.15 µg/mL solution of ⁸⁹Zr-
20 DFO-IgG in PBS with 1% BSA.

21

1 **Immunohistochemistry**

2 The immunohistochemistry detection of AR, DLL3, Synaptophysin, and PSMA were performed
3 at Molecular Cytology Core Facility of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, using
4 Discovery XT processor (Ventana Medical Systems, Roche - AZ). After 32 min of heat and CC1
5 (Cell Conditioning 1, Ventana catalog#: 950-500) retrieval, the tissue sections were blocked first
6 for 30 min in Background Blocking reagent (Innovex, catalog#: NB306).

7 A rabbit monoclonal anti-AR antibody (Epitomics, catalog#: 3184-1) was used in 0.66
8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ concentration. The incubation with the primary antibody was done for 5 h, followed by
9 60 min incubation with biotinylated goat anti-rabbit IgG (Vector labs, catalog#: PK6101) in 5.75
10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. Blocker D, Streptavidin- HRP and DAB detection kit (Ventana Medical Systems) were
11 used according to the manufacturer instructions. The slides were counterstained with
12 hematoxylin and coverslipped with Permount (Fisher Scientific).

13 A rabbit monoclonal anti-DLL3 antibody (Ventana Ref#: 790-7016) was used in
14 prediluted ready to use concentration. The incubation with the primary antibody was done for 4
15 h, followed by 60 min incubation with biotinylated goat anti-rabbit IgG (Vector labs, catalog#:
16 PK6101) in 5.75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, followed by application of Blocker D, Streptavidin- HRP and DAB
17 detection kit (Ventana Medical Systems), according to the manufacturer instructions. The slides
18 were counterstained with hematoxylin and coverslipped with Permount (Fisher Scientific).

19 A rabbit monoclonal anti-Synaptophysin antibody (Epitomics, catalog#: 1485) was used
20 in 0.05 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ concentration. The incubation with the primary antibody was done for 6 h,
21 followed by 60 min with biotinylated goat anti-rabbit IgG (Vector labs, catalog#: PK6101) in
22 5.75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. Blocker D, Streptavidin- HRP and DAB detection kit (Ventana Medical Systems)

1 were used according to the manufacturer instructions. The slides were counterstained with
2 hematoxylin and coverslipped with Permount (Fisher Scientific).

3 A rabbit polyclonal anti-PSMA antibody (Proteintech, catalog#: 13163-1-AP) was used
4 in 1 µg/mL concentration. The incubation with the primary antibody was done for 5 h, followed
5 by 60 min incubation with biotinylated goat anti-rabbit IgG (Vector labs, catalog#: PK6101) in
6 5.75 µg/mL. Blocker D, Streptavidin- HRP and DAB detection kit (Ventana Medical Systems)
7 were used according to the manufacturer instructions. The slides were counterstained with
8 hematoxylin and coverslipped with Permount (Fisher Scientific).

9

10 **Subcutaneous xenograft model**

11 To develop the subcutaneous xenograft models, 6–8-week-old male athymic nude mice were
12 injected subcutaneously on the left shoulder with 5 million H660 cells or DU145 cells in 1:1
13 media/matrigel basement membrane matrix (BD Biosciences). To generate the dual
14 subcutaneous xenograft model, 6-8 week old male athymic nude mice were injected with 5
15 million H660 cells subcutaneously on the left shoulder and with 5 million LNCaP cells on the
16 right shoulder in 1:1 media/matrigel basement membrane matrix. The tumors were allowed to
17 grow for 3–5 weeks, and then the mice were used for PET imaging and biodistribution studies.

18

19 **Biodistribution Studies**

20 For biodistribution studies, mice were warmed under a heat lamp prior to administration of the
21 radioimmunoconjugates (1.00–3.80 MBq; 2.7–10.3 µg in 200 µL chelexed PBS for H660
22 tumors) (0.32–0.98 MBq; 0.87–2.7 µg in 200 µL chelexed PBS for DU145 tumors) via
23 intravenous tail vein injection (t = 0). Mice were euthanized by CO₂ asphyxiation at 24, 72, and

1 120 h post tracer administration. For the blocking study, a co-injection of ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16 (0.94–
2 0.97 MBq; 2.55–2.63 μg in 200 μL chelexed PBS) and 50-fold excess of cold, unlabeled SC16
3 was injected into the mice and then euthanized at 72 h post-injection. Non-specific uptake in
4 DLL3-positive H660 subcutaneous xenografts was determined by injection with ^{89}Zr -DFO-IgG
5 (3.60–3.70 MBq; 9.7–10.0 μg in 150 μL chelexed PBS) and then euthanized at 120 h post-
6 injection. After asphyxiation, organs of interest and the tumor were harvested, weighed, and
7 counted on a gamma-counter to determine accumulation of radioactivity. The mass of the
8 injected radioimmunoconjugates were measured and compared to a standard syringe of known
9 activity and mass to determine the total number of counts injected per mouse. The percent
10 injected dose per gram (%ID/g) was determined for each sample by normalizing the counts per
11 sample to the total amount of activity injected.

12

13 **PET/CT Imaging**

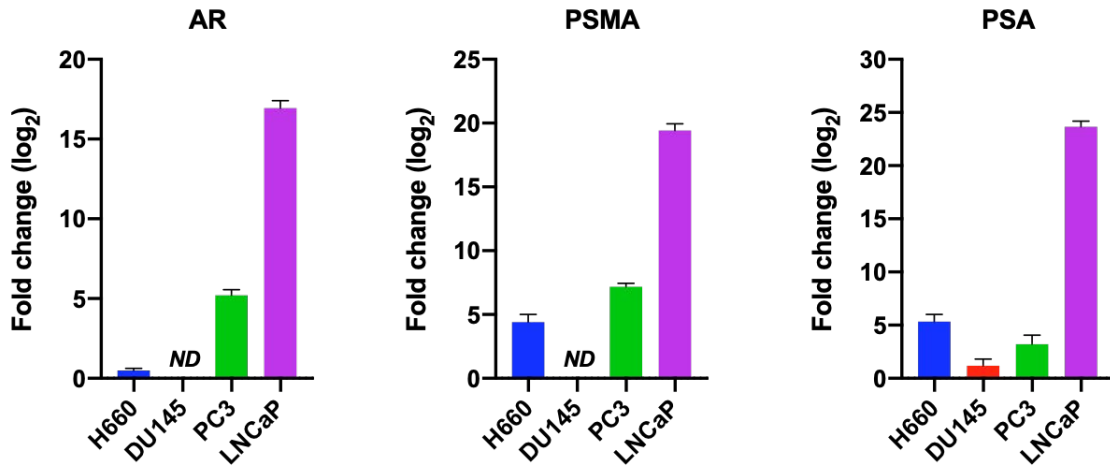
14 Mice bearing H660 subcutaneous tumors were intravenously injected with ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16
15 (3.60–3.80 Mbq; 9.7–10.3 μg in 150 μL chelexed PBS) or ^{89}Zr -DFO-IgG (3.60–3.70 MBq; 9.7–
16 10.0 μg in 150 μL chelexed PBS) or ^{68}Ga -DOTA-TATE (7.66–8.33 Mbq in 150 μL formic acid,
17 sodium hydroxide, and sterile water solution). Mice bearing DU145 subcutaneous tumors were
18 intravenously injected with ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16 (5.85–6.22 MBq; 15.8–16.8 μg in 150 μL chelexed
19 PBS). Mice bearing dual LNCaP and H660 tumors were intravenously injected with ^{89}Zr -DFO-
20 SC16 (4.42–4.62 Mbq; 11.9–12.5 μg in 150 μL chelexed PBS) and ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 (8.66–8.92
21 Mbq in 150 μL sterile acetate buffer). Mice were anesthetized with 1–2% isoflurane and images
22 were acquired from an Inveon microPET/CT instrument (Siemens).

23

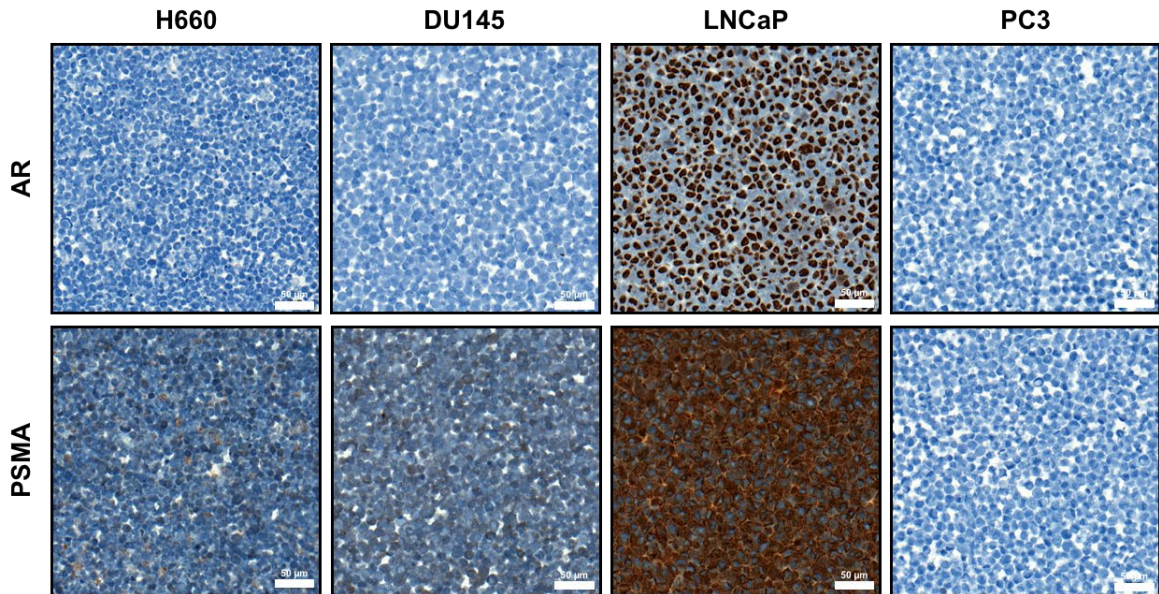
1 Supplementary Figures:

A

AR-regulated genes

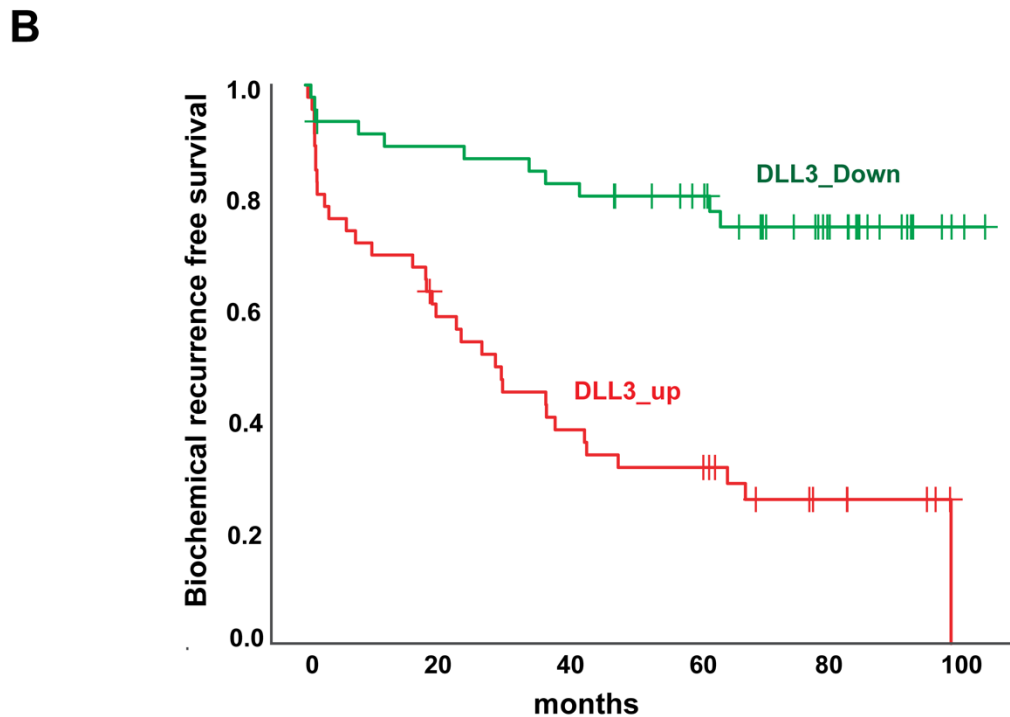
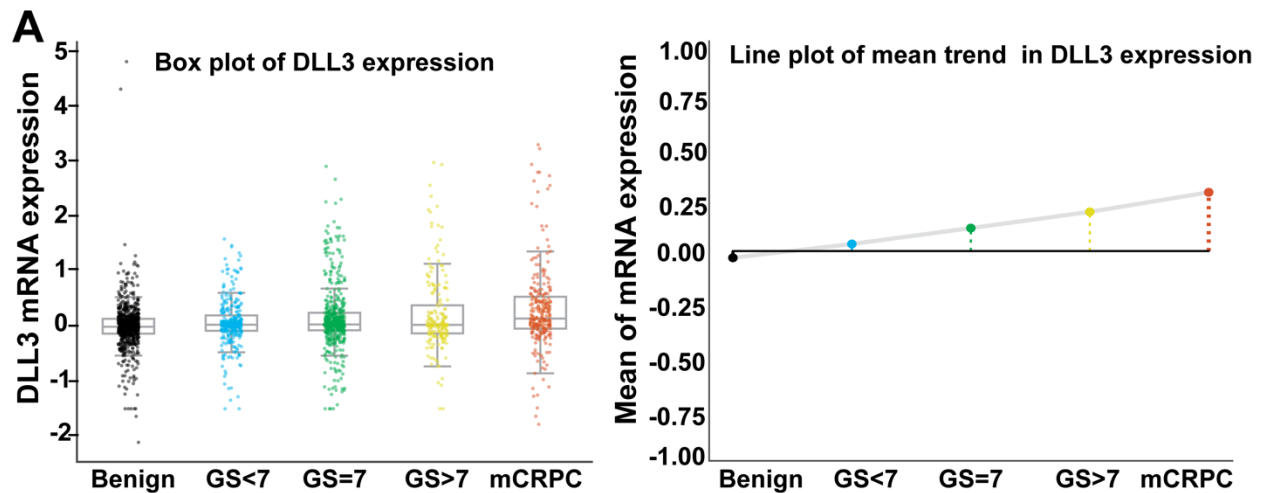


B



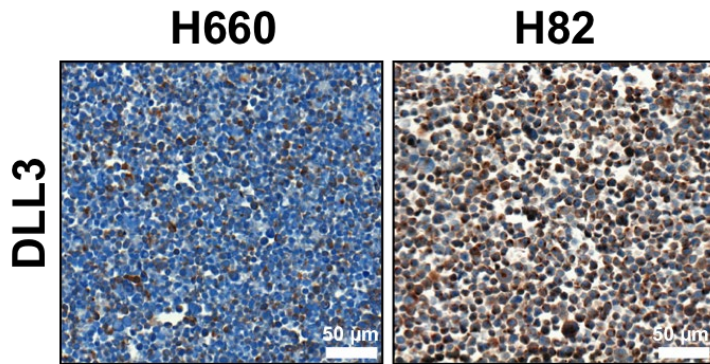
3 **Figure 1. AR, PSMA, and PSA are absent in H660 cells at the transcriptional and**
4 **translational level. A.** RT-PCR shows the expression patterns of the *AR* gene (*AR*), *PSMA* gene
5 (*FOLH1*), and *PSA* gene (*KLK3*) in DU145, PC3, H660, and LNCaP cells compared to A549
6 (*PSMA* and *PSA*) and H82 (*AR*) negative controls (not shown). *ND*, not detected **B.**

- 1 Representative immunohistochemistry images of H660 (AR-/PSMA-), DU145 (AR-/PSMA-),
- 2 LNCaP (AR+/PSMA+), and PC3 (AR-/PSMA-) tumor cell sections for AR and PSMA. Scale
- 3 bars, 50 μm .
- 4

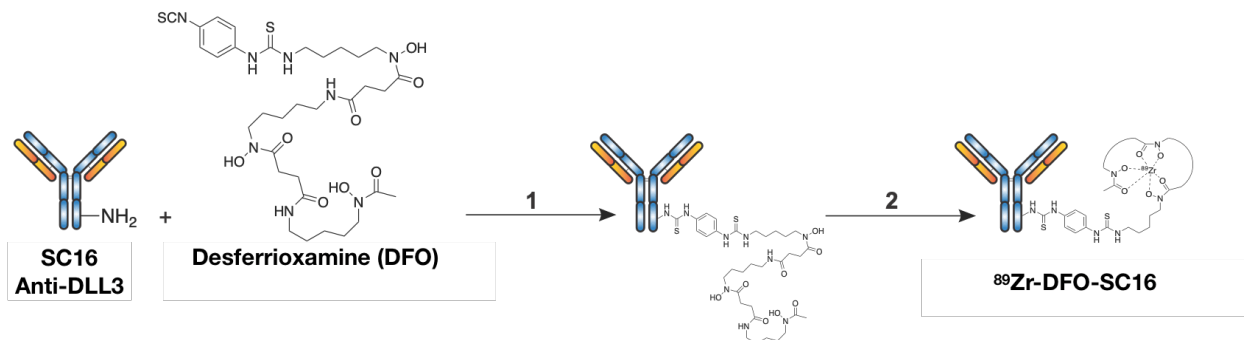


2 **Supplementary Figure 2. Overexpression of *DLL3* associated with prostate cancer**
 3 **progression.** A. The box plot showing the upregulation of *DLL3* mRNA expression in advanced
 4 prostate cancer (Left). The line plot showing the mean trend of *DLL3* mRNA expression in
 5 various grades and stages of prostate cancer (Right). The graphs were generated using Prostate
 6 Cancer Transcriptome Atlas and p-value between groups was determined by one way ANOVA.
 7 One-way ANOVA test between subsets: F-value = 14.030, P-value = <0.001; Ranksums-test

1 between subsets (mCRPC VS Primary): Fold change = 0.179, P-value = <0.001; Ranksums-test
2 between subsets (Primary VS Benign): Fold change = 0.133, P-value = <0.001 **B.**
3 Disease/progression-free survival (probability of freedom from biochemical recurrence)
4 according to *DLL3* mRNA expression status among patients in the Ross-Adams *et al.* prostate
5 cancer cohort (GSE70769). Log-rank test was used to compare groups. Survival curve and cox
6 potential hazard regression analysis were performed using Prostate Cancer Transcriptome Atlas.
7



9
10 **Supplementary Figure 3.** Representative immunohistochemistry images of H660 and H82
11 tumor cell sections for DLL3. Scale bars, 50 μm.
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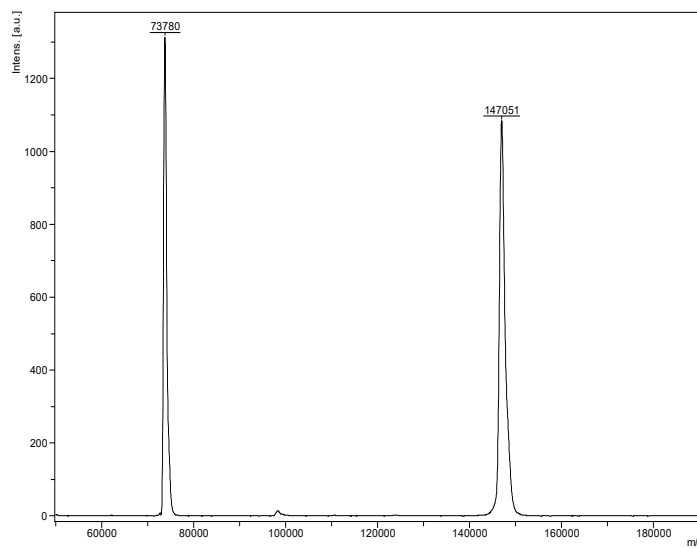
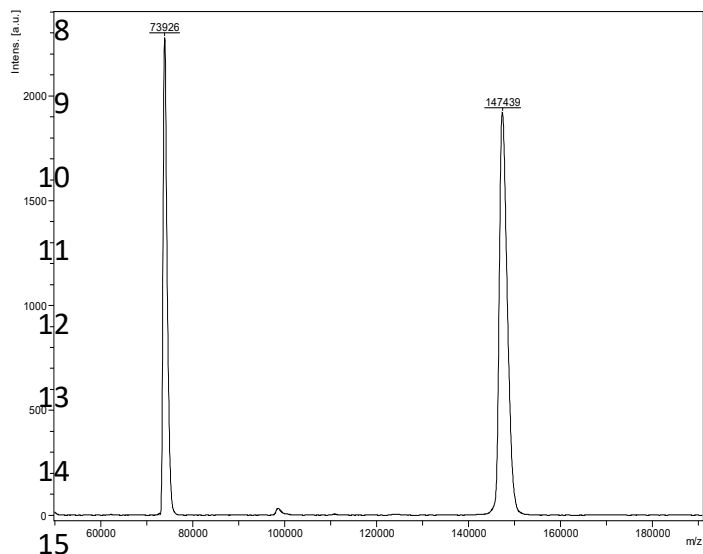


2 **Supplemental Figure 4. Overview of the synthesis of ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16.** Schematic
 3 representation of ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16 preparation showing DFO conjugation to SC16 and then
 4 radiolabeling of the DFO-SC16 construct. (1) PBS/ Na_2CO_3 , pH 9.0, 37 °C, 90 min; (2) ^{89}Zr -
 5 oxalate, pH 6.8; PBS, RT, 1h.

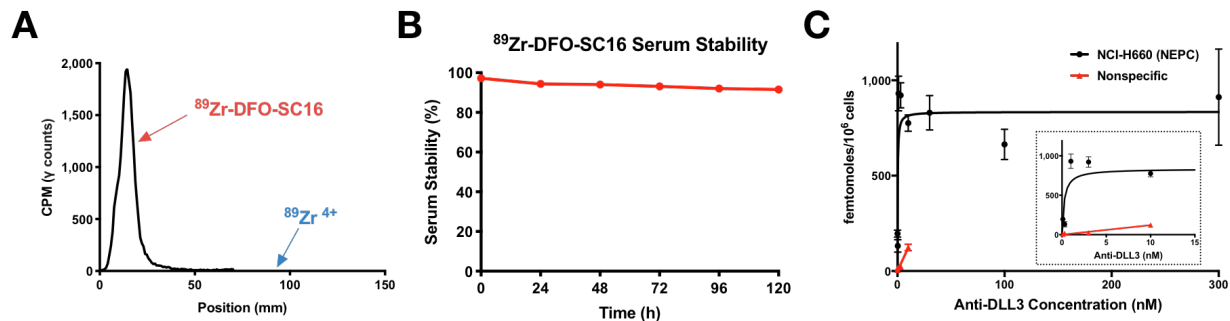
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7 **DFO-conjugated SC16**

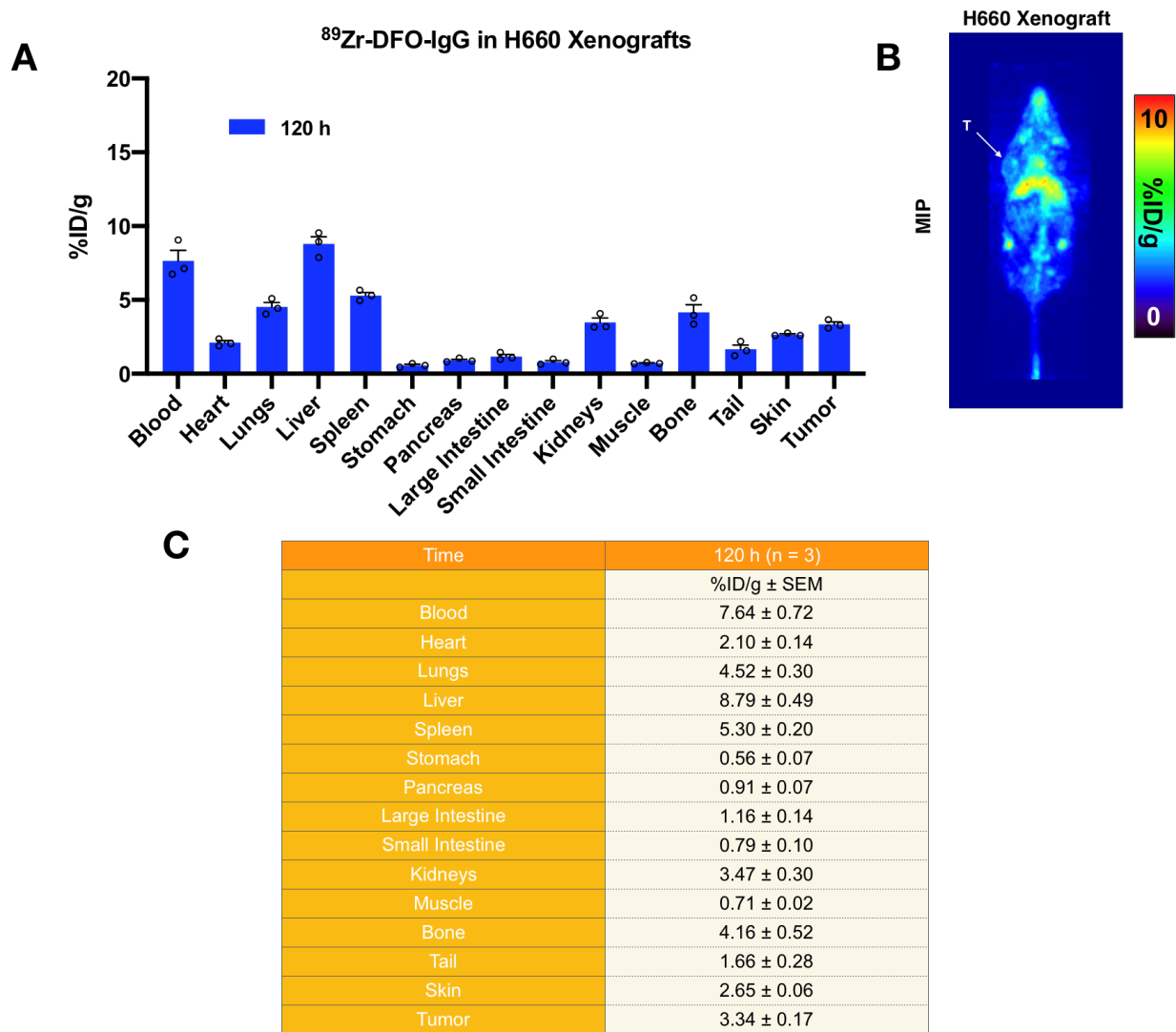
Unmodified SC16



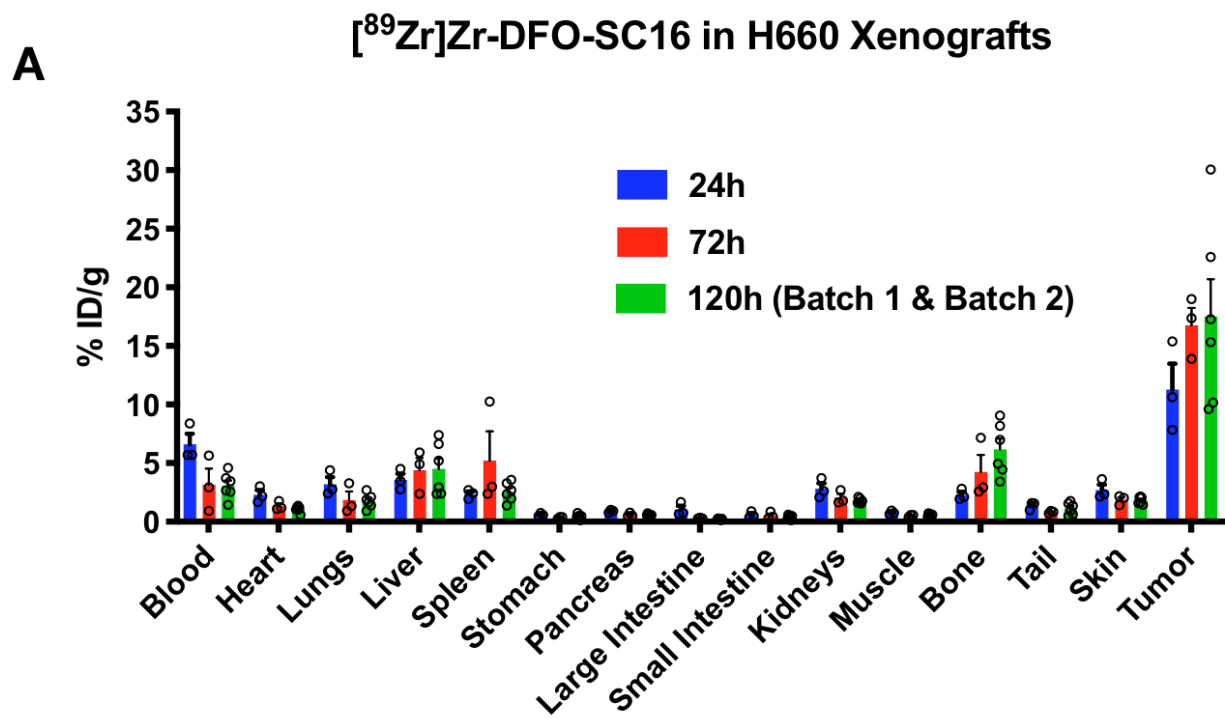
16 **Supplemental Figure 5. MALDI-TOF spectra of the unmodified SC16 and the DFO-**
 17 **conjugated SC16.** Representative spectra show a peak corresponding to the mass of the
 18 unmodified SC16 antibody (MW ~ 147051) and peak corresponding to the DFO-conjugated
 19 SC16 antibody (MW ~147439). Analysis revealed an average of 0.44 DFOs conjugated to SC16.



2 **Supplemental Figure 6. A.** Radio-iTLC of $^{89}\text{Zr-DFO-SC16}$ after purification by PD-10 column.
 3 High radiochemical purity (> 99%) was achieved. **B.** The purified $^{89}\text{Zr-DFO-SC16}$ was
 4 incubated in human serum at 37 °C. Stability of the construct, as determined by radio-iTLC, was
 5 shown to be > 92% stable over a 5-day period. **C.** A plot of the saturation binding curve of $^{89}\text{Zr-}$
 6 DFO-SC16 to H660 cells. Data analysis performed using PRISM revealed values for $B_{\text{max}} =$
 7 862.6 ± 55.5 femtomoles/ 10^6 cells and $K_d < 1$ nM.
 8



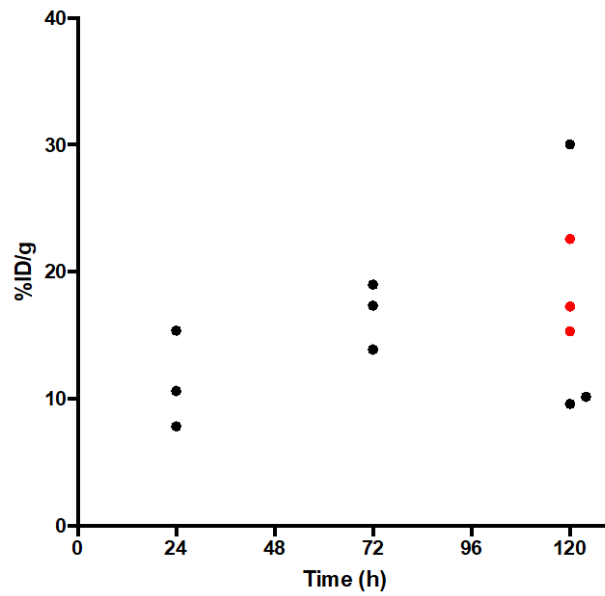
2 **Supplemental Figure 7.** Full biodistribution data and imaging of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-IgG after lateral tail
 3 vein injection in H660 subcutaneous xenograft bearing mice. **A.** Percent injected dose per gram
 4 of tissue after five days. **B.** Maximum intensity projection (MIP) of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-IgG in male nude
 5 mouse xenografted with H660 tumor on the left shoulder. **C.** Tabulated biodistribution data
 6 expressed as mean %ID/g ± SEM.



B

Time	24 h (n = 3)	72 h (n = 3)	120 h (n = 6)
	%ID/g ± SEM	%ID/g ± SEM	%ID/g ± SEM
Blood	6.60 ± 0.90	3.16 ± 1.37	3.07 ± 0.45
Heart	2.30 ± 0.39	1.35 ± 0.21	1.08 ± 0.11
Lungs	3.19 ± 0.61	1.84 ± 0.73	1.78 ± 0.25
Liver	3.58 ± 0.50	4.40 ± 1.05	4.50 ± 0.91
Spleen	2.36 ± 0.22	5.20 ± 2.53	2.55 ± 0.33
Stomach	0.60 ± 0.08	0.35 ± 0.04	0.45 ± 0.08
Pancreas	0.90 ± 0.07	0.59 ± 0.09	0.55 ± 0.05
Large Intestine	1.03 ± 0.33	0.30 ± 0.02	0.23 ± 0.02
Small Intestine	0.58 ± 0.16	0.53 ± 0.17	0.39 ± 0.07
Kidneys	2.81 ± 0.48	2.05 ± 0.32	1.78 ± 0.09
Muscle	0.78 ± 0.08	0.51 ± 0.06	0.54 ± 0.06
Bone	2.29 ± 0.26	4.23 ± 1.47	6.17 ± 0.91
Tail	1.37 ± 0.20	0.82 ± 0.06	1.12 ± 0.21
Skin	2.70 ± 0.46	1.87 ± 0.22	1.83 ± 0.13
Tumor	11.28 ± 2.21	16.75 ± 1.51	17.50 ± 3.19

2 **Supplemental Figure 8.** Full biodistribution data of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 after lateral tail vein
 3 injection in H660 subcutaneous xenograft bearing mice. **A.** Percent injected dose per gram of
 4 tissue over five days. **B.** Tabulated biodistribution data expressed as mean %ID/g ± SEM.



2

3 **Supplemental Figure 9.** ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16 accumulation at the tumor site increases overtime.

4 Antibody-tumor accumulation at 24, 72, and 120 h post-intravenous injection of ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16

5 in athymic nude mice bearing subcutaneous H660 tumors. Data points in black color represent

6 data obtained from batch #1 containing $n = 3$ mice per group. Because the data obtained at 120 h

7 was slightly different among the 3 mice, we repeated the study for this time-point using batch #2

8 containing another $n = 3$ mice per group. Mice from batch #2 were also used for imaging studies

9 shown in Figures 4A and supplemental figure 3. Statistical analyses were performed using Rstudio

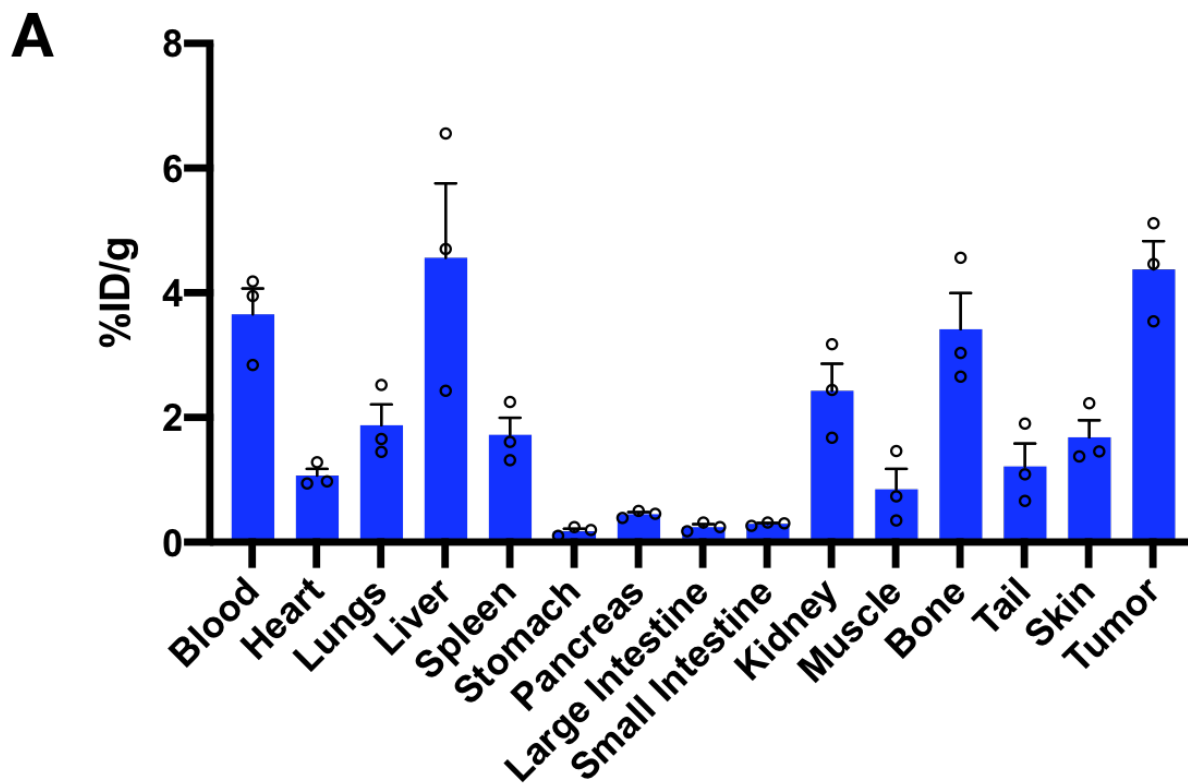
10 to account for batch effects determining a correlation between X (time after antibody

11 administration) and Y (%ID/g) and accounting for the extraneous variable Z (mice cohort).

12 Regardless of having data obtained from 2 different mice cohorts, we observed a positive

13 correlation (as determined by linear regression analyses) between X and Y ($P = 0.00971$).

14



B

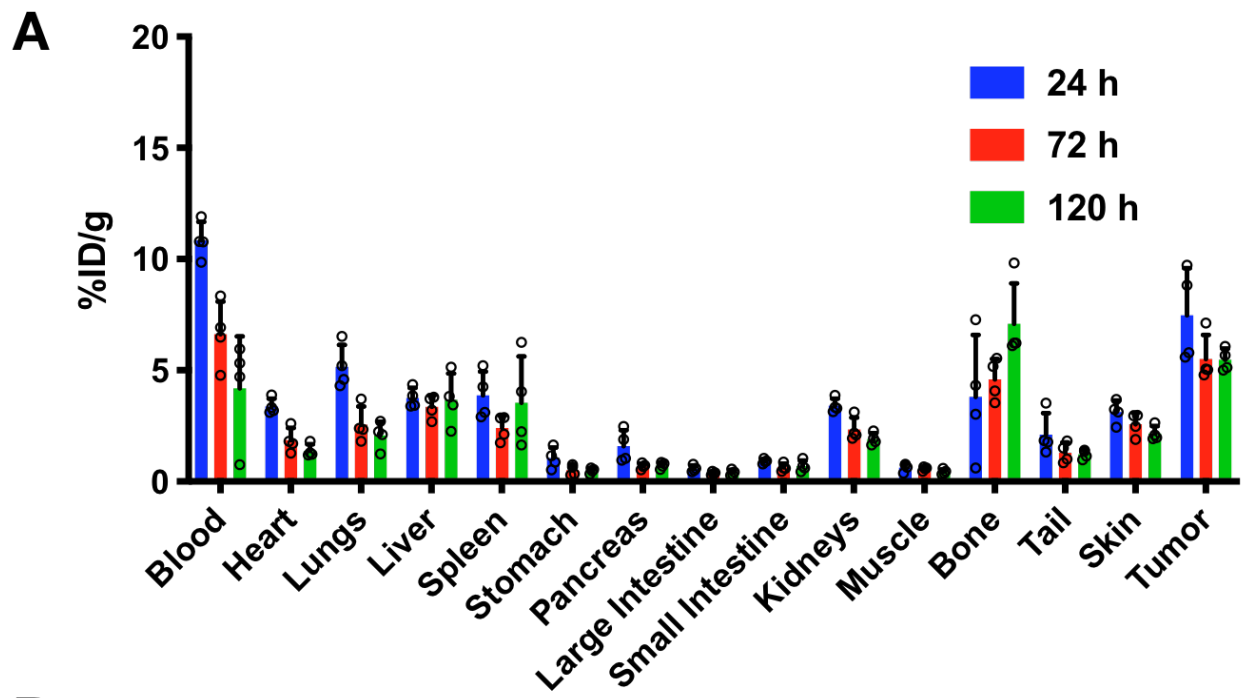
Time	72 h Block (n = 3)
	%ID/g ± SEM
Blood	2.63 ± 0.71
Heart	0.79 ± 0.14
Lungs	1.31 ± 0.26
Liver	2.85 ± 0.33
Spleen	1.23 ± 0.14
Stomach	0.14 ± 0.05
Pancreas	0.36 ± 0.02
Large Intestine	0.16 ± 0.02
Small Intestine	0.18 ± 0.03
Kidneys	1.62 ± 0.15
Muscle	0.58 ± 0.16
Bone	2.55 ± 0.46
Tail	0.78 ± 0.15
Skin	1.20 ± 0.17
Tumor	3.01 ± 0.36

1

2 **Supplemental Figure 10.** Full biodistribution data of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 with a 50-fold excess of

1 cold, unlabeled SC16 antibody after lateral tail vein injection in H660 subcutaneous xenograft
2 bearing mice. **A.** Percent injected dose per gram of tissue 72 h post-injection. **B.** Tabulated
3 biodistribution data expressed as mean %ID/g \pm SEM.
4

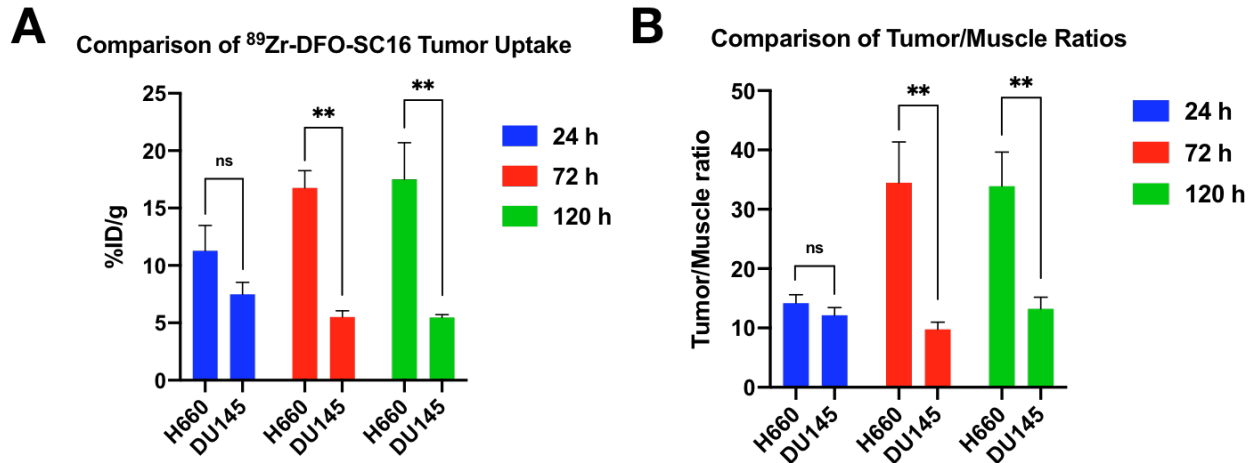
⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 in DU145 Xenografts



B

Time	24 h (n = 4)	72 h (n = 4)	120 h (n = 4)
	%ID/g ± SEM	%ID/g ± SEM	%ID/g ± SEM
Blood	10.84 ± 0.42	6.63 ± 0.73	4.19 ± 1.17
Heart	3.38 ± 0.18	1.85 ± 0.28	1.38 ± 0.14
Lungs	5.16 ± 0.49	2.56 ± 0.40	2.08 ± 0.31
Liver	3.76 ± 0.23	3.36 ± 0.26	3.67 ± 0.59
Spleen	3.87 ± 0.54	2.40 ± 0.28	3.55 ± 1.04
Stomach	1.05 ± 0.24	0.51 ± 0.11	0.49 ± 0.06
Pancreas	1.59 ± 0.36	0.69 ± 0.06	0.72 ± 0.07
Large Intestine	0.58 ± 0.07	0.37 ± 0.04	0.39 ± 0.06
Small Intestine	0.91 ± 0.05	0.63 ± 0.09	0.69 ± 0.13
Kidneys	3.41 ± 0.16	2.33 ± 0.27	1.92 ± 0.13
Muscle	0.63 ± 0.09	0.57 ± 0.04	0.44 ± 0.06
Bone	3.81 ± 1.39	4.58 ± 0.47	7.10 ± 0.91
Tail	2.12 ± 0.48	1.30 ± 0.23	1.22 ± 0.10
Skin	3.12 ± 0.26	2.58 ± 0.25	2.16 ± 0.16
Tumor	7.48 ± 1.05	5.50 ± 0.54	5.47 ± 0.25

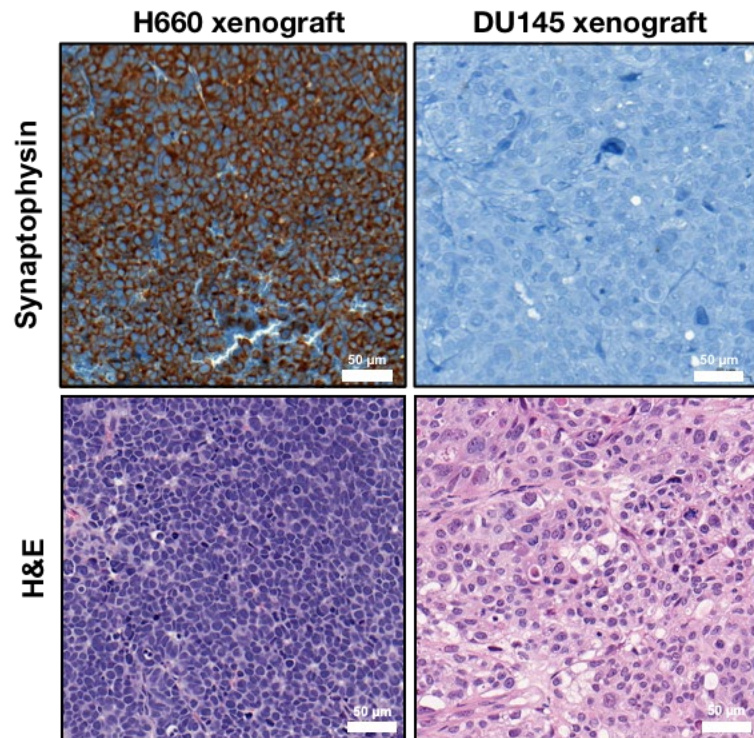
1
 2 **Supplemental Figure 11.** Full biodistribution data of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-SC16 after lateral tail vein
 3 injection in DU145 subcutaneous xenograft bearing mice. **A.** Percent injected dose per gram of
 4 tissue over five days. **B.** Tabulated biodistribution data expressed as mean %ID/g ± SEM.



2 **Supplemental Figure 12. DLL3 is specific and selective for DLL3-expressing H660 tumors.**

3 **A.** Biodistribution of ^{89}Zr -DFO-SC16 after lateral tail vein injection in H660 xenograft bearing
 4 mice and DU145 xenograft bearing mice. The tumoral uptake increases over time in the H660
 5 xenograft. Contrarily, tumor uptake remains relatively constant over the same time frame in the
 6 DU145 xenograft. %ID g^{-1} , percentage of injected dose per gram. ** $p < 0.01$. **B.** Tumor-to-
 7 muscle ratio comparisons over time from the uptake of ^{89}Zr -DFO-S16 in H660 and DU145
 8 xenograft bearing mice. ** $p < 0.01$.

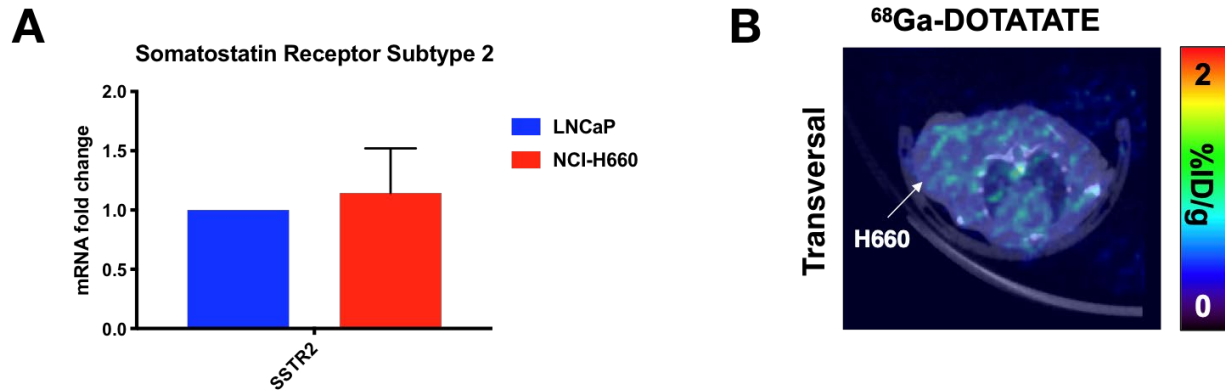
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2

3 **Supplemental Figure 13.** Representative immunohistochemistry of H660 and DU145
4 subcutaneous tumor xenografts for SYP. Additionally, representative H&E images are shown.
5 Scale bars, 50 µm.

6



2 **Supplemental Figure 14. ⁶⁸Ga-DOTATATE cannot image NEPC lesions *in vivo*.** A. RT-PCR
 3 shows the expression pattern of the SSTR2 gene in H660 as compared to LNCaP cells. No
 4 expression of the SSTR2 gene is observed in H660 cells. B. PET image of ⁶⁸Ga-DOTATATE
 5 (1h post-injection) in an athymic nude male mouse bearing subcutaneous H660 tumor.
 6 Representative transverse planar image is shown.