# **A Phthalocyanine-cored Dendrimer for Photodynamic Therapy**

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## The problem

Phthalocyanines are good photosensitizers, but are large flat aromatic molecules that are prone to  $\pi$ -stacking.



phthalocyanine

## The solution?

Silicon Phthalocyanines with hydrophilic dendrons attached to the core.



### Which dendrons?



D. R. Swanson, B. H. Huang, H. G. Abdelhady, D. A. Tomalia, *New J. Chem.* 31, 1368-1378 (2007)

## The synthesis



(Excess)



SiCl<sub>2</sub>Phthalocyanine

NaH/Toluen



**2** (40 %)

#### Materials & Methods

- RAW cells (mouse macrophages) split on 96-well plates and cultured in DMEM +10%FBS
- Cells treated next day with various concentrations of dendrimer (0,1-0,001 µg/µl)
- Cell culture volume is 100 µl
- One day after addition of substances, LED illumination was performed (10 minutes, 3.5 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>)
- Cell viability was measured one day after illumination with MTS –assay (Promega)

# Viability assay in RAW cells



- High dendrimer concentrations (0,1-0,01  $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ l) toxic to cells

- Dendrimer concentrations below 0,005  $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ l not toxic cells, but all cells killed with 0,001-0,005  $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ l after LED exposure

#### Conclusions

- A new water soluble Silicon-phthalocyanine cored dendrimer has been synthesized.
- The dendrimer has excellent PDT-properties *in vitro*.
- Next step?

