

Parallel G-quadruplexes, small nanostructures with enhanced cellular uptake properties

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Manoharan³, R. Eritja^{1,2*}.**

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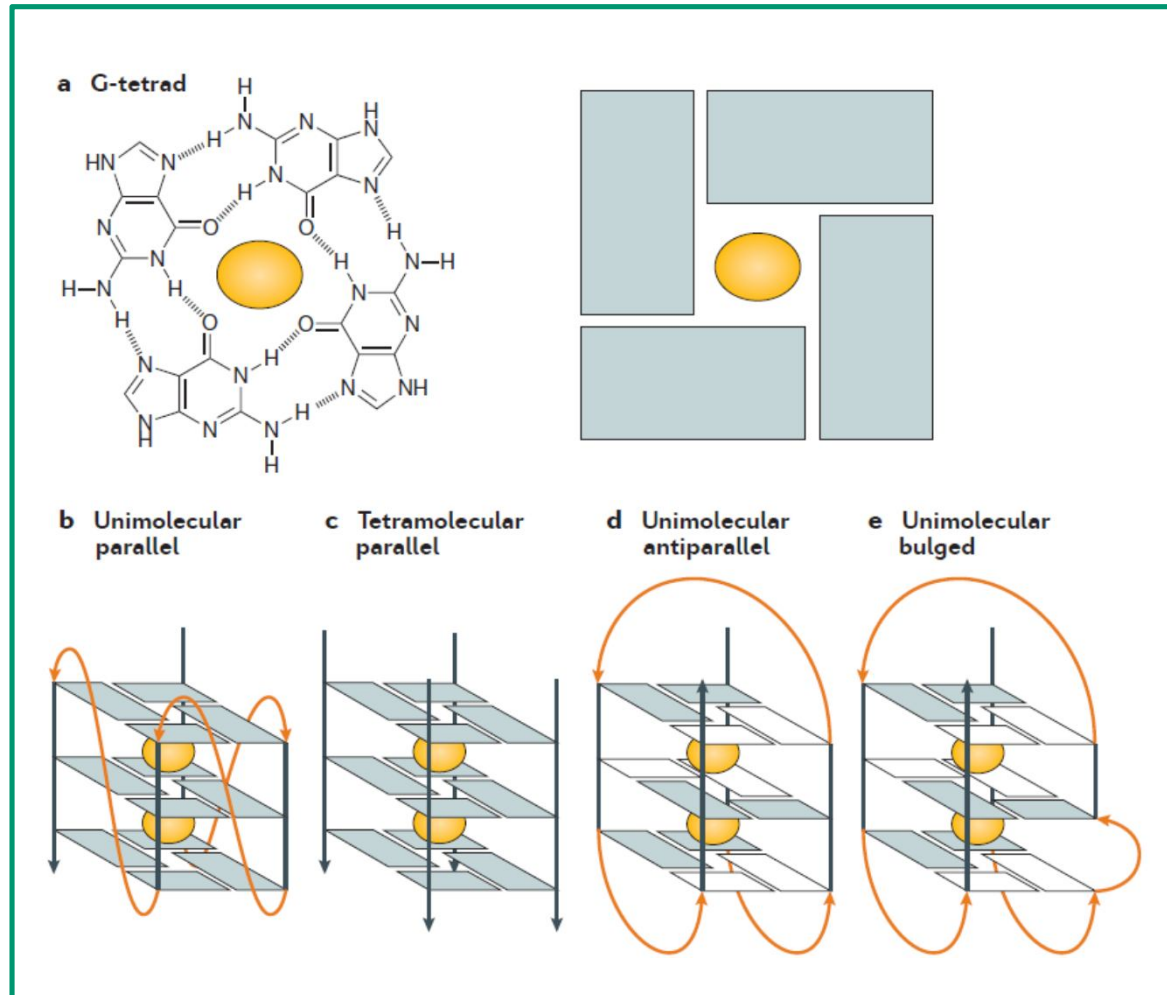
ciber-bbn isciüü



Nucleic acid Therapies(CSHL, virtual)

March 24-26, 2021

G-quadruplex



Balasubramanian *et al.* *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell. Biol.* **2017**, 18, 279

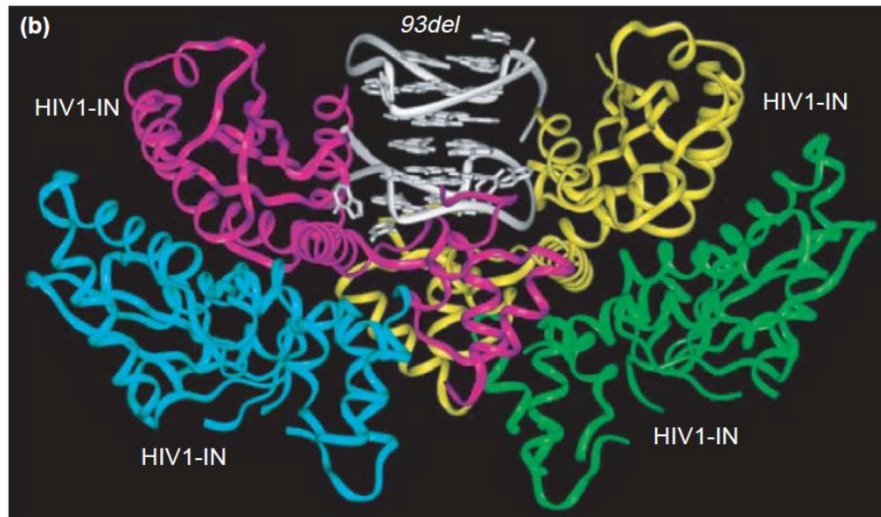
Single-stranded guanine rich DNA can fold into stable intra- and intermolecular four-stranded structures. G4s arise from Hoogsteen hydrogen bonding of four guanines that are arranged within a planar quartet (G-quartet)

Self-stacking of two or more G-quartets affords a G4 structure which is further stabilized by monovalent cations ($K^+ > Na^+ > NH_4^+ > Li^+$)

G4 formation has been observed in synthetic ODNs derived from the human genome (gene promoters and telomers)

Applications may range from supramolecular chemistry to medicinal chemistry

Antiviral G-quadruplexes

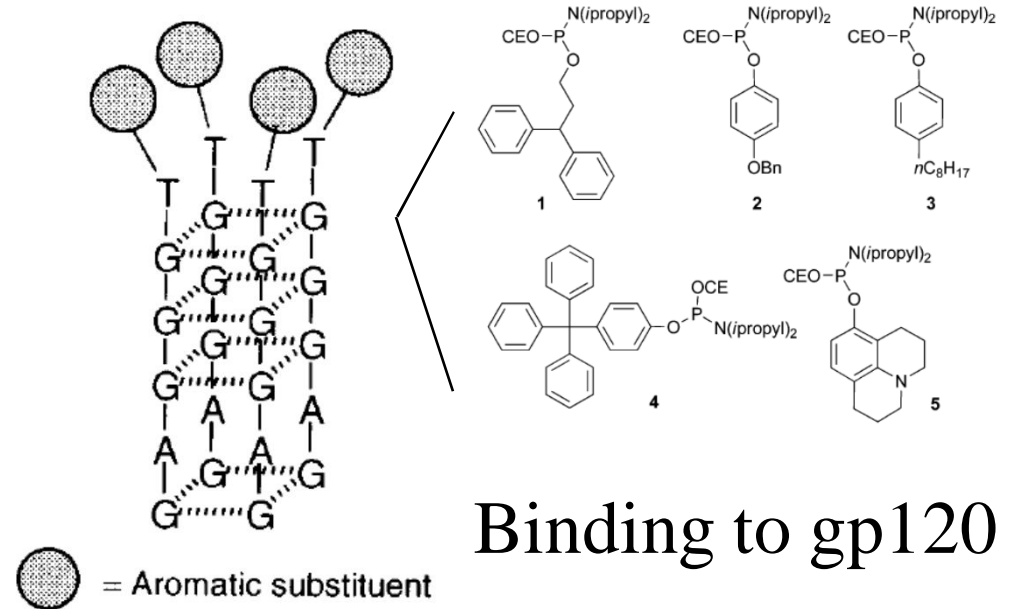


Aptamer 93del is positioned into the channel formed by the HIV-IN tetramer to block the HIV1-IN catalytic site

Chou; S-H. *et al. TRENDS in Biochem. Sci.* **2005**, *30*, 231-234

Binding to gp120

Koutsoudakis et al, *Antimicrob. Agents Chemother.*, **2017**, *61*, e02354-16-



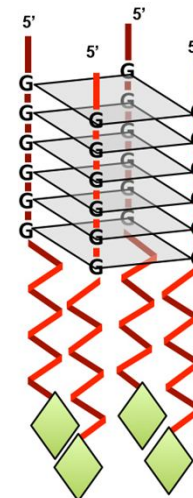
Binding to gp120

Hotoda, H. *et al. J. Med. Chem.* **1998**, *41*, 3655-3663

Di Fabio, G. *et al. Chem. Commun.* **2011**, *47*, 2363-2365

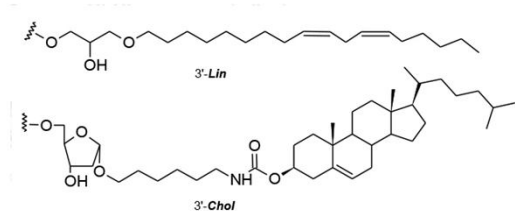
D'Onofrio, J. *et al. Bioconjug. Chem.* **2008**, *19*, 607-616

Lipoquads



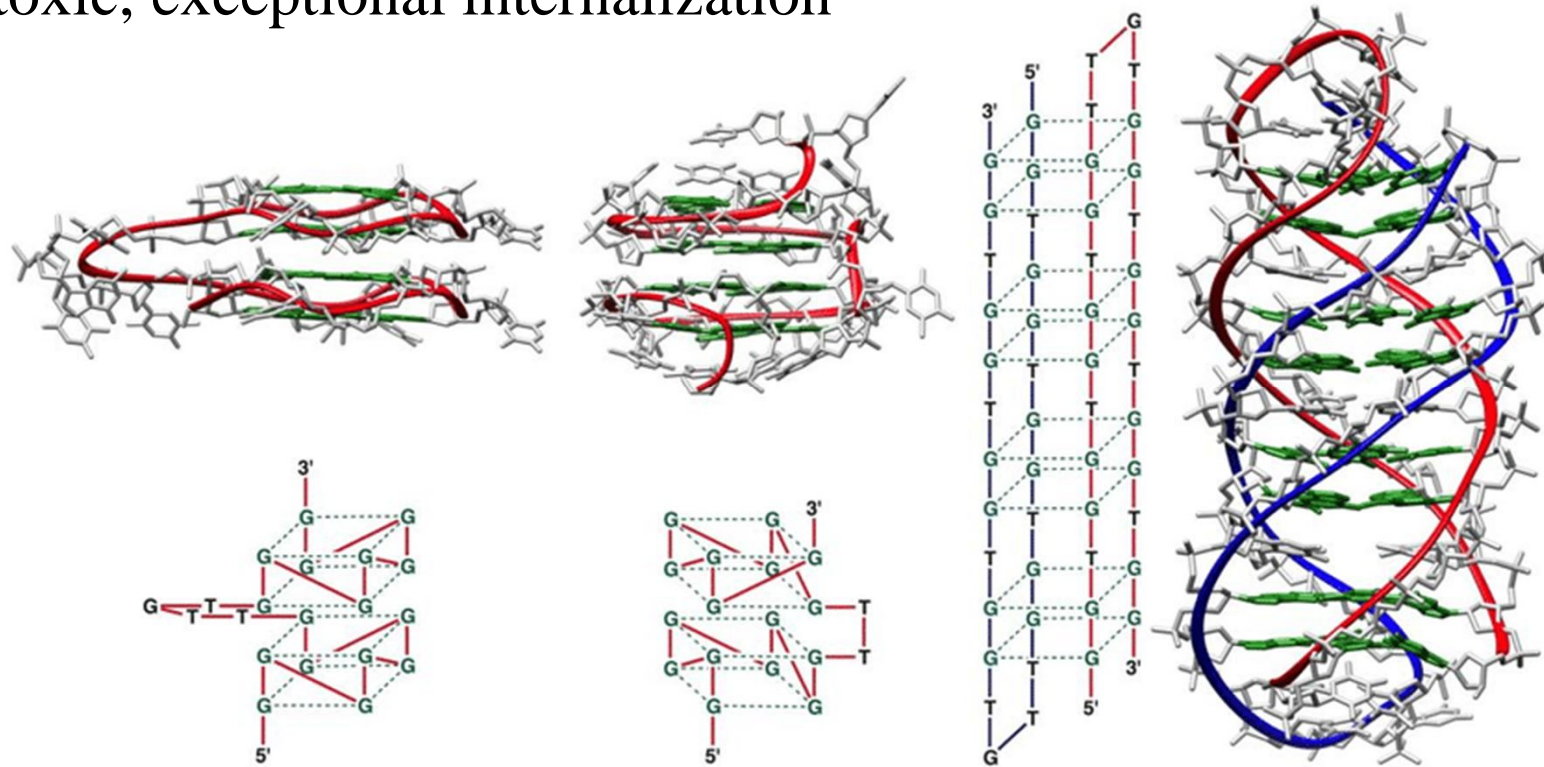
GQVir17 : 5'-TTGGGGGGTACAGTGCA-3'

◆ Lipid



Antiproliferative G-quadruplexes

AS1411 (AGRO100) aptamer (binding to nucleolin),
cytotoxic, exceptional internalization



Mechanism of action unclear. Anti-HIV. Potential toxicity by GMP formation

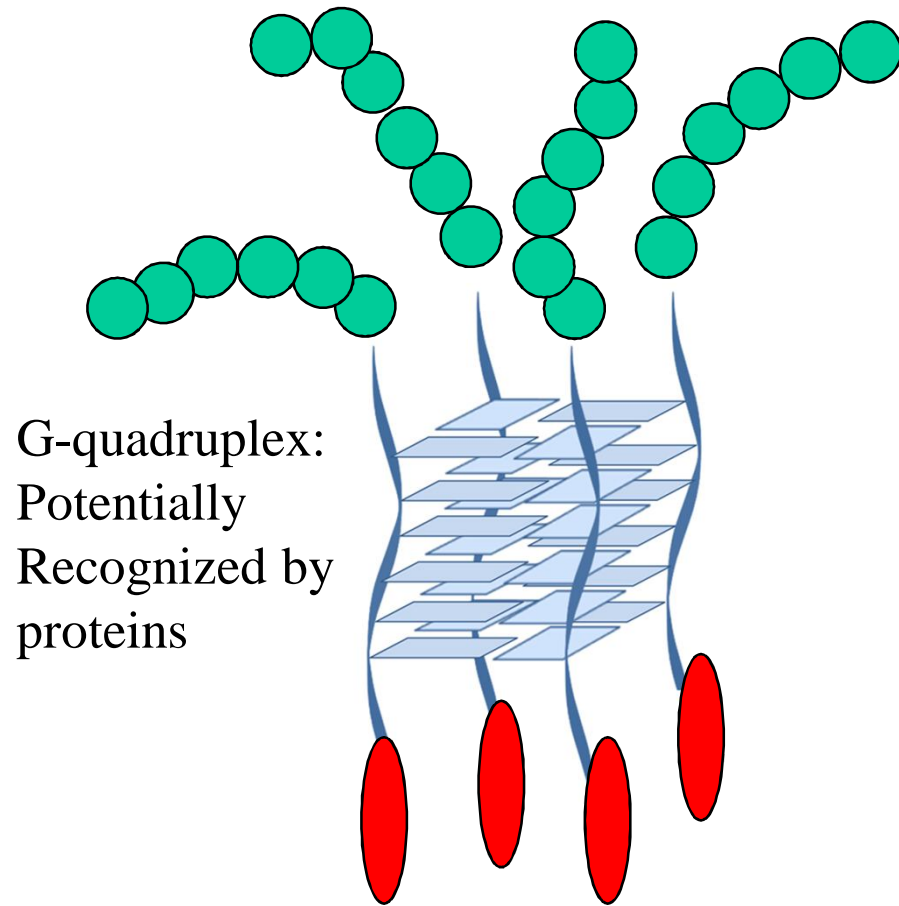
Bates P.B. et al. *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta*, **2017**, 1861, 1414-1428.

Perone et al. *Int. J Antimicrob Agents*, **2016**, 47, 311-316.

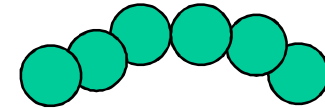
Métifiot M. et al. *Biochimie*, **2015**, 118, 173-175.

Zhang et al. *Chem Sci*, **2015**, 6, 3831-3838

Aim: Parallel G-quadruplexes to enhance cellular uptake



Cargo: Therapeutic Oligonucleotides:
Antisense, FdU oligomers



Delivery Enhancer: Lipid, peptide, GalNAc



Simple self-assembly process:
Tetramerization of single stranded oligonucleotides

Potential advantages /disadvantages

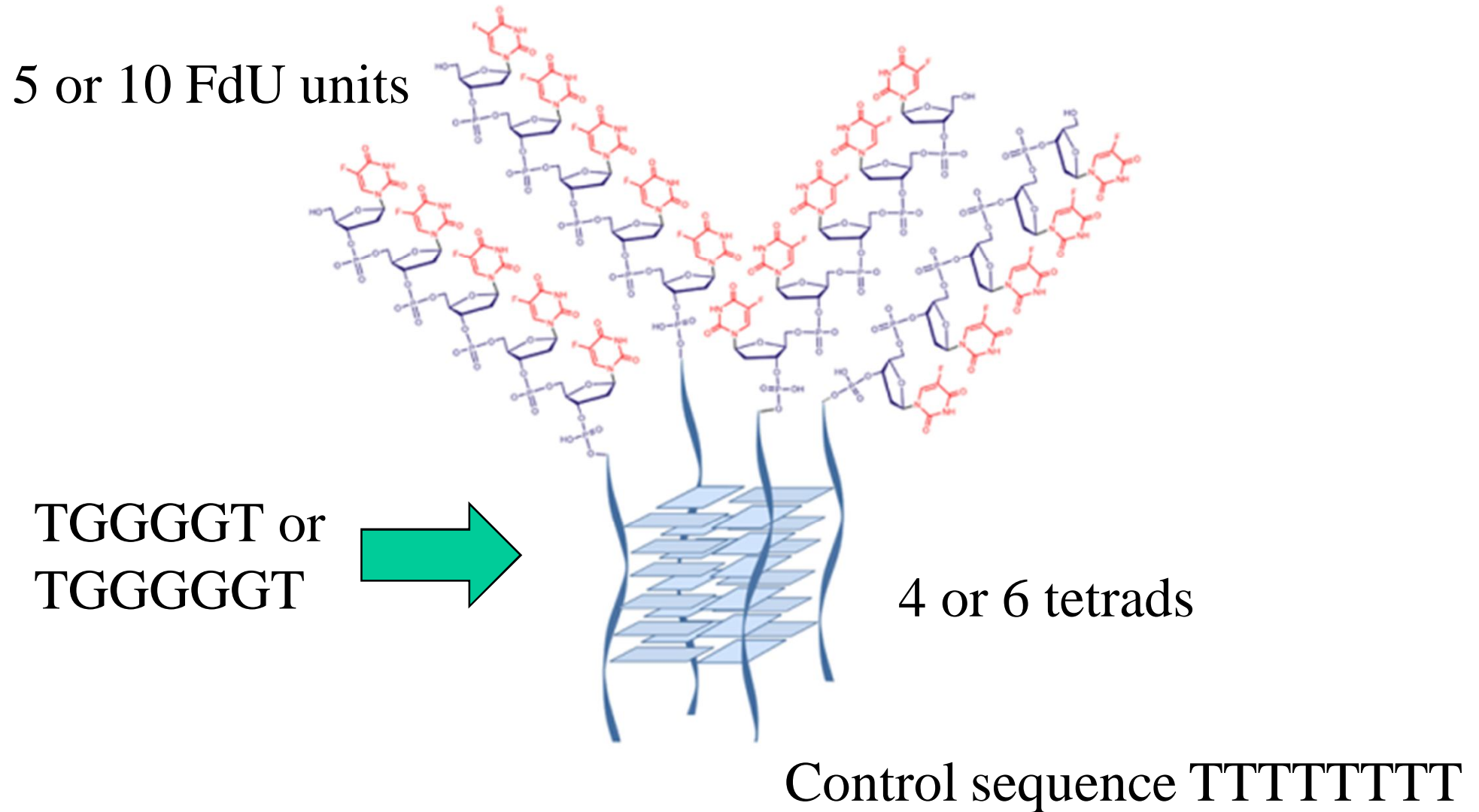
Pro's

- Simplicity. The smaller nanostructure accessible by tetramerization of a single oligonucleotide
- Easy to make although tetramerization is a slow process
- Two ends for functionalization
- Tetramerization allows 4 ligands in one end without branching
- Existence of proteins with affinity to G-quadruplex specially in tumor cells

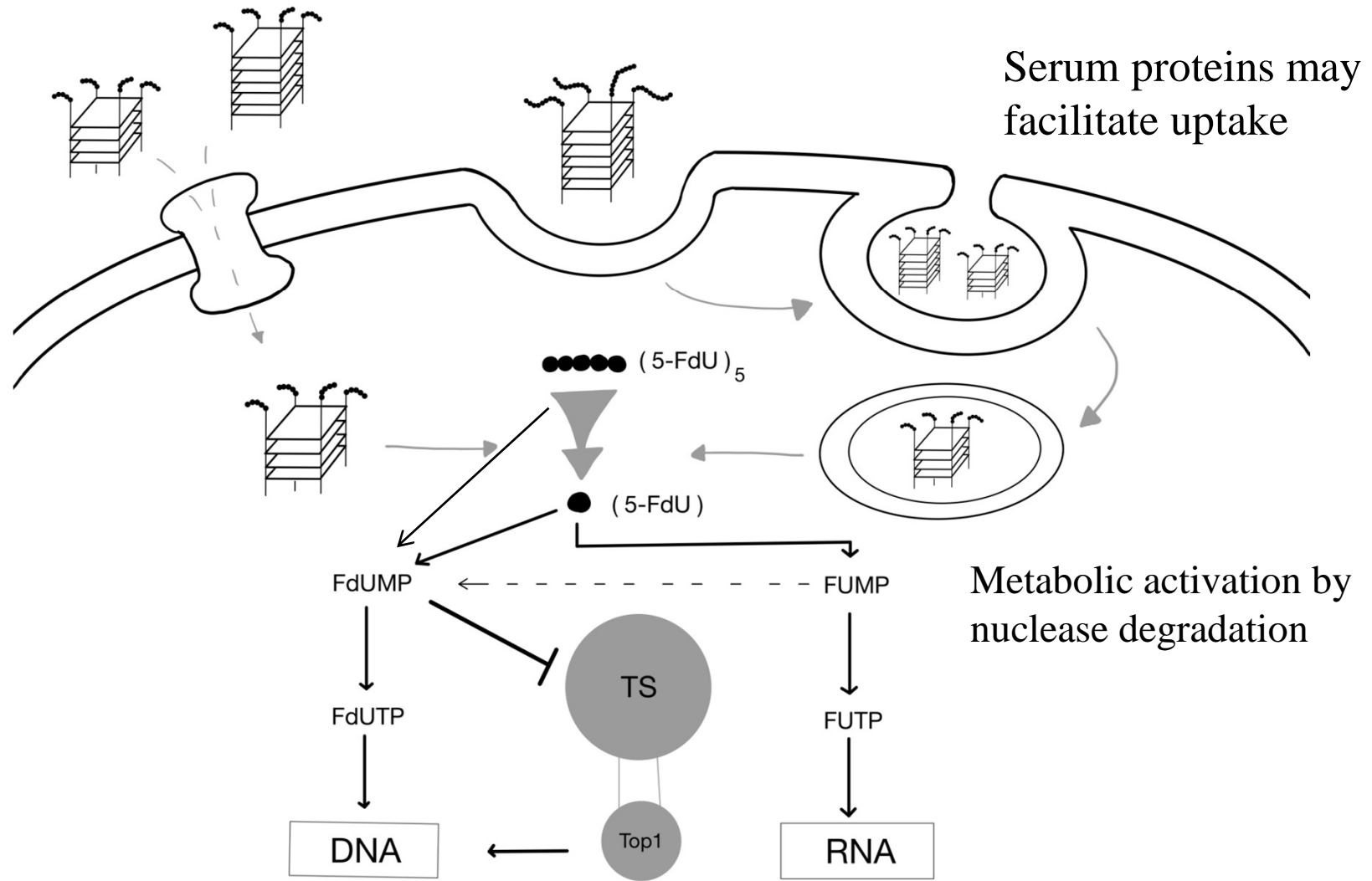
Contra's

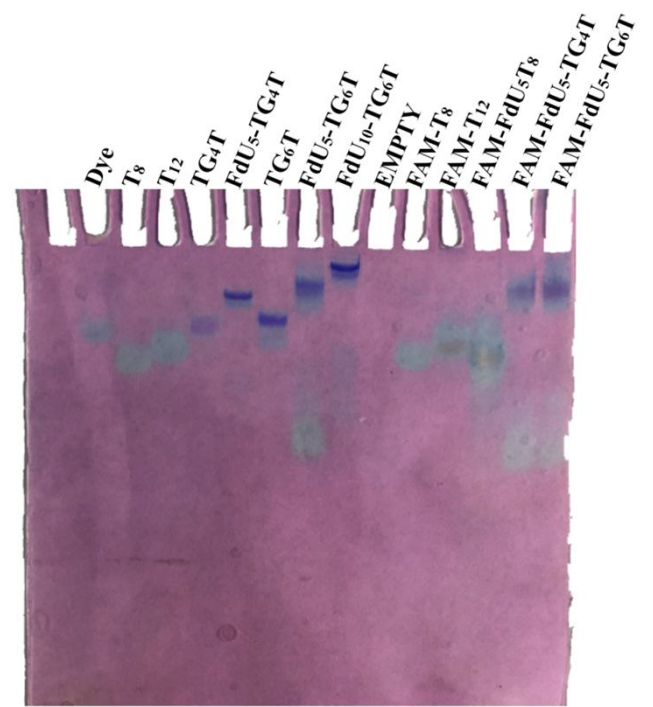
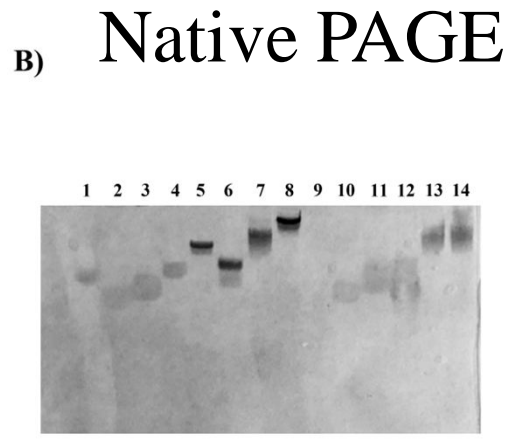
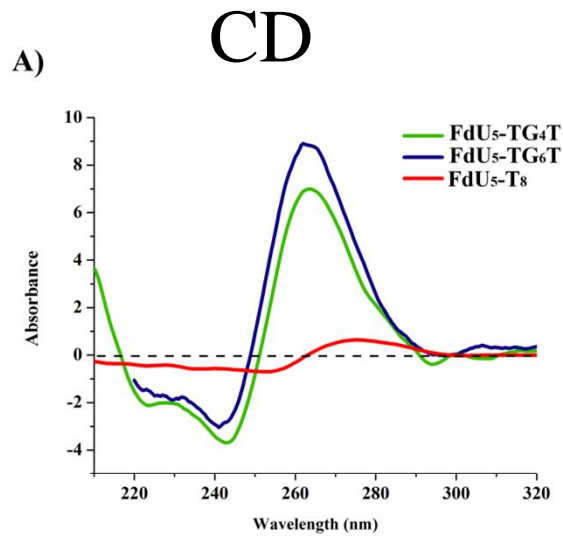
- Dissociation is slow but can happen by dilution
- Potential toxicity to cells by production dGMP
- Not compatible with the presence of C's as duplexes are more stable

Parallel G-quadruplex structures increase cellular uptake and cytotoxicity of 5-fluoro-2'-deoxyuridine

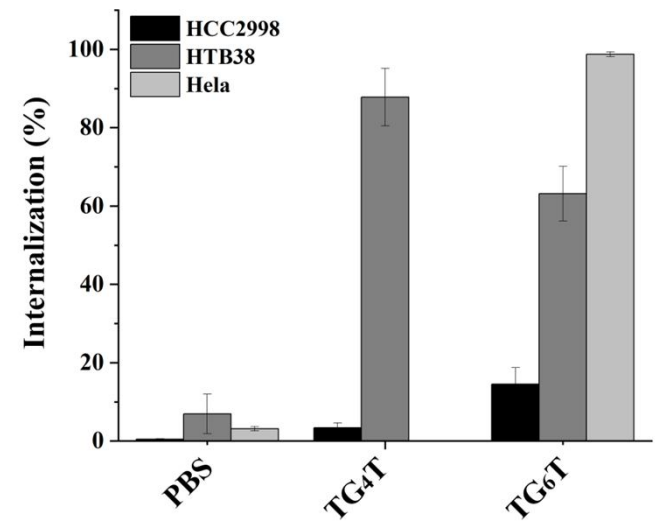
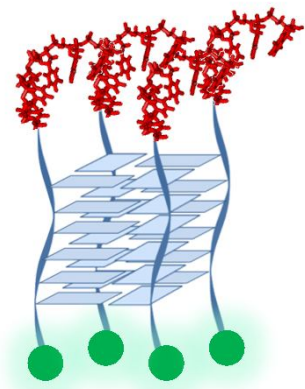
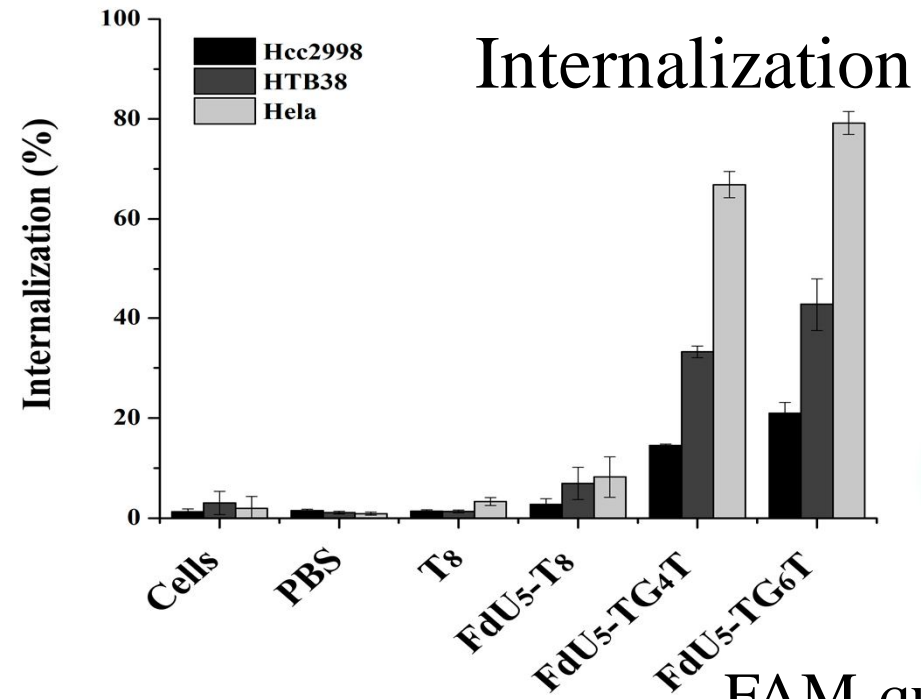


Parallel G-quadruplex structures increase cellular uptake and cytotoxicity of 5-fluoro-2'-deoxyuridine



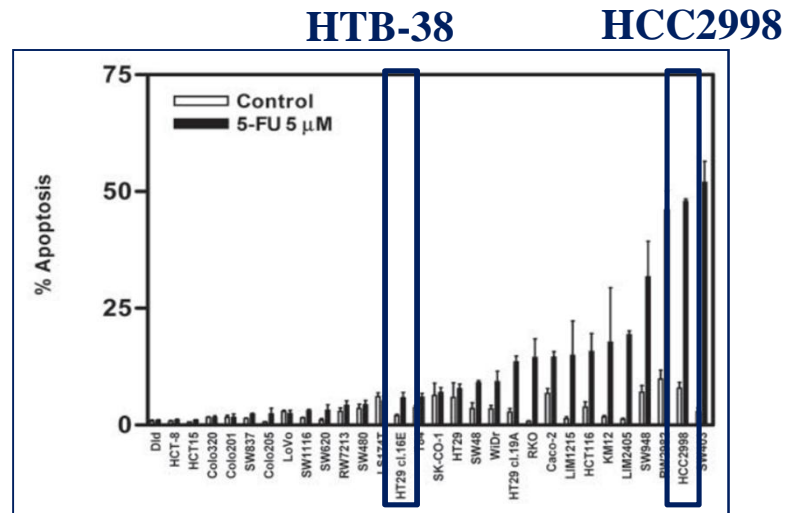


Stains-all

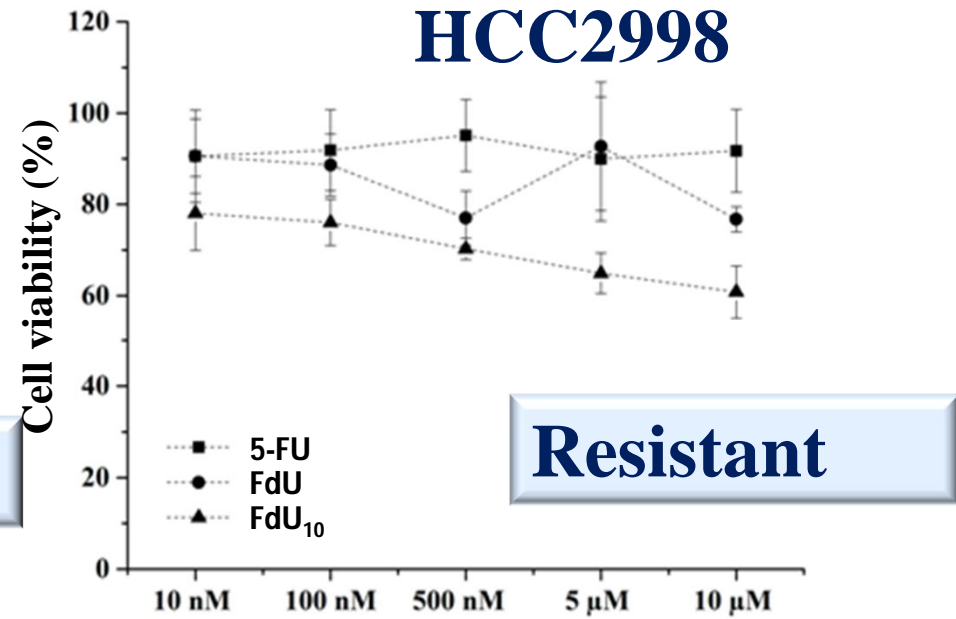
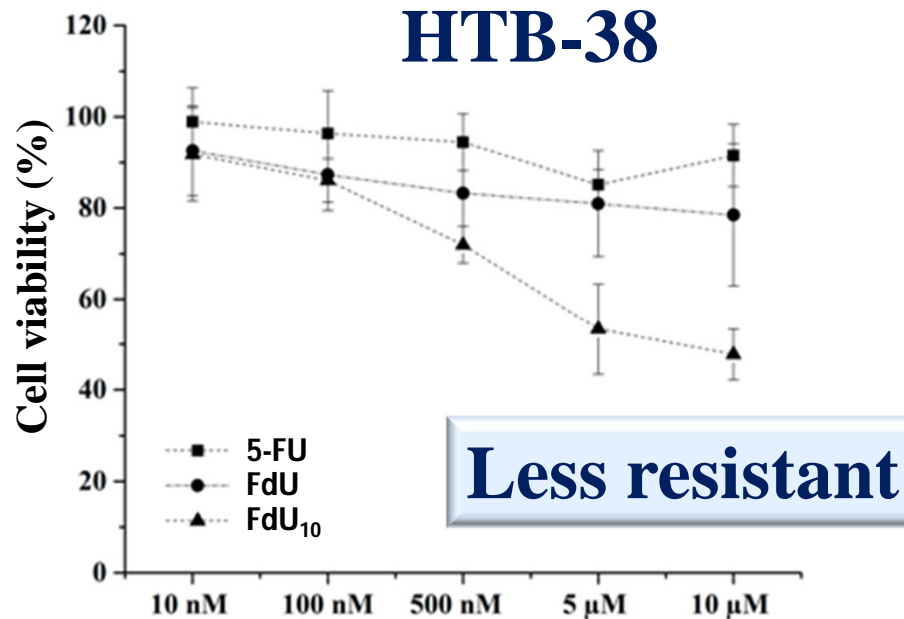


FAM-quadruplexes up to 80% of cells, after 24 hr

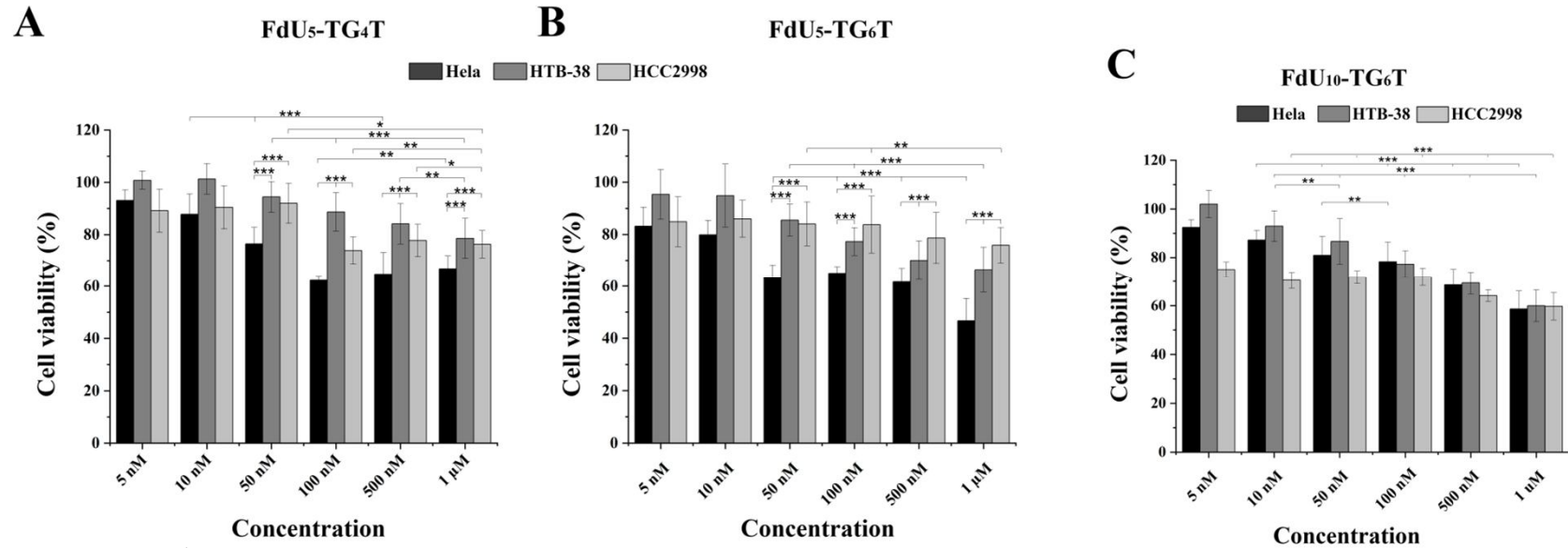
FU resistant colorectal cancer cell lines



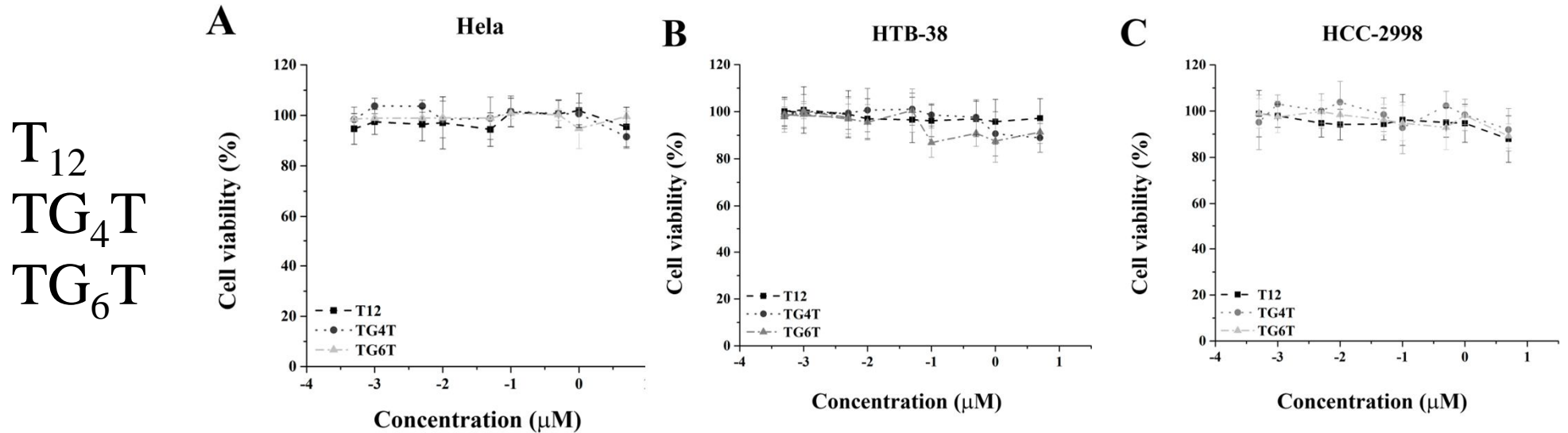
J. Mariadason et al. cancer research, 63, 8791-8812, 2003



MTT results



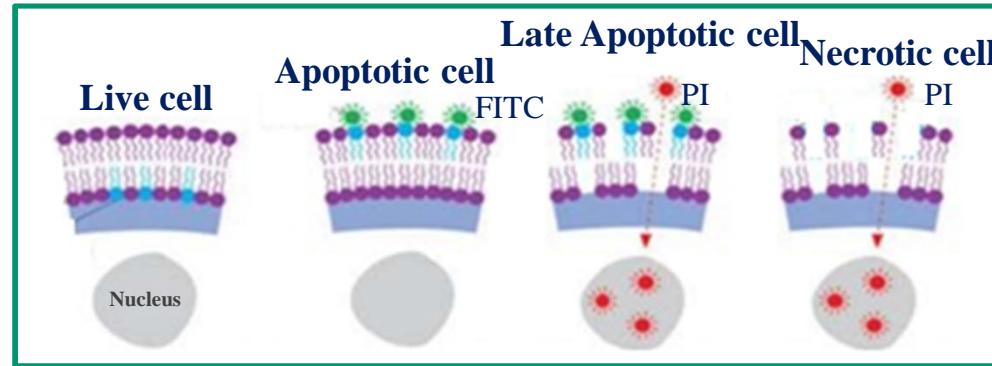
After 48 hrs



T₁₂
TG₄T
TG₆T

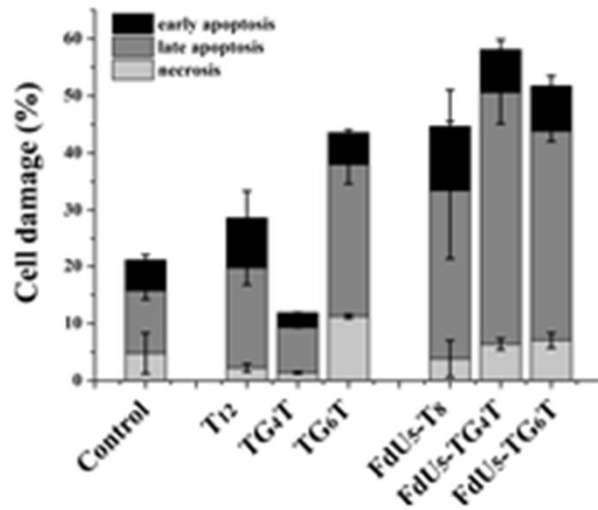
In absence of FdU there is no toxicity to cells (> 85% viability)

Cell death induction



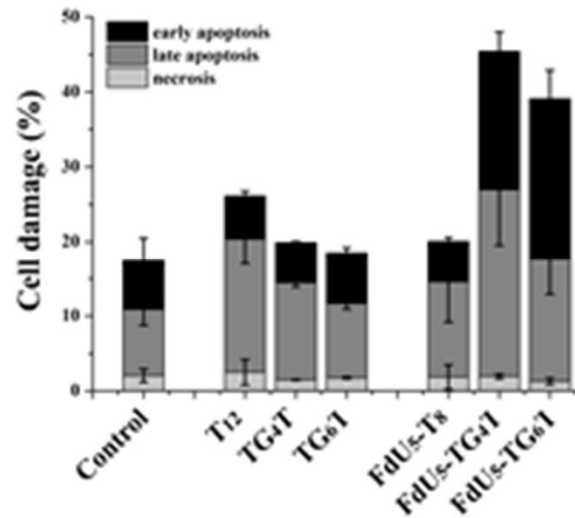
A

HTB-38



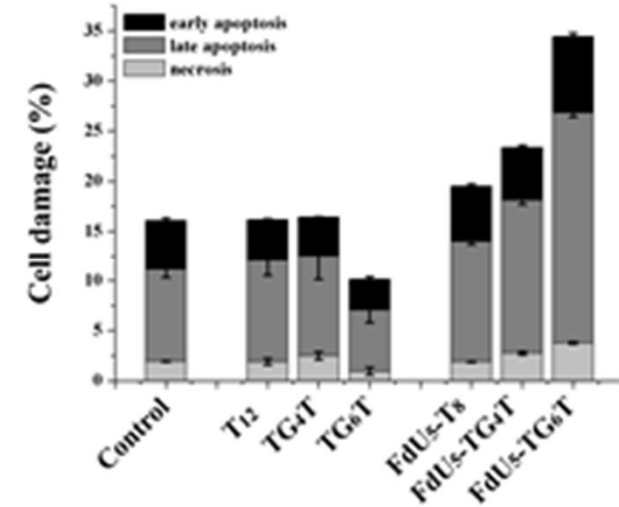
B

HCC2998



C

Hela



After 48 hrs

Conclusions

- Internalization studies confirmed the ability of such G-quadruplex nanostructures to facilitate the transport of the FdU pentamer and increase its cytotoxic effect relative to conventional FU drug in FU-resistant colorectal cancer cells.
- These results suggest that FdU oligomers linked to G-quadruplex parallel sequences may be a promising strategy to deliver fluoropyrimidines to cancer cells.

