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Maltoheptaose-Presenting Nanoscale Glycoliposomes for the Delivery of Rifampicin to E. coli

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Abstract

Liposomes, a nanoscale drug delivery system, are well known for their ability to improve pharmacokinetics and reduce drug toxicity. In this work, maltoheptaose (G7)-presenting glycoliposomes were synthesized and evaluated in the delivery of the antibiotic rifampicin. Two types of liposomes were prepared: nonfluid liposomes from L-α-phosphatidylcholine (PC) and cholesterol, and fluid liposomes from 1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine and 1,2dimyristoyl-sn-glycero-3-phospho-(1'-rac-glycerol). G7-derivatized glycolipid, G7-DPPE (DPPE: 1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine), was incorporated into the liposomes at 21 and 14 μ mol/mg to form nanoparticles of 75 \pm 12 and 146 \pm 14 nm for the nonfluid and fluid G7-glycoliposomes, respectively. The multivalent G7-glycoliposomes were characterized by lectin binding with concanavalin A (Con A). The dissociation constant K_d between Con A and the nonfluid or fluid G7-glycoliposomes was 0.93 or 0.51 μ M, which represented ~900- or 1600-fold stronger affinity than the binding between Con A and G7. The G7-glycoliposomes were loaded with rifampicin at 6.6 and 16 wt % encapsulation for the nonfluid and fluid G7-glycoliposomes, respectively. Introducing a carbohydrate in the liposomes slowed down

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ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at [https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsanm.1c01320.](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsanm.1c01320)

Synthesis of compounds 16 and 17; standard calibration curves of rifampicin, Man-DPPE, and G7-DPPE; calculation of $k_{\rm obs}$ and ^Papp; and bacterium–liposome interactions by FRET and confocal fluorescence microscopy (PDF)

the release of rifampicin, with the G7-glycoliposomes having the slowest release rate and the lowest permeability coefficient among the liposome formulations. The fluid G7-glycoliposomes lowered the minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) of rifampicin against E. coli ORN208 by about 3 times, whereas liposomes without G7 or Man (p-mannose)-glycoliposomes showed no improvement in MIC. The rifampicin-loaded fluid G7-glycoliposomes demonstrated the best sustained antibacterial activity against $E.$ coli, with up to 2 log reduction in the colony forming units at $4 \times$ MIC after 24 h. Fluorescence resonance energy transfer and confocal fluorescence microscopy revealed stronger interactions of the bacterium with the fluid G7-glycoliposomes than other liposome formulations.

Graphical Abstract

Keywords

maltoheptaose; glycoliposomes; E. coli; rifampicin; drug delivery

INTRODUCTION

Nanoparticle-based drug delivery has witnessed impressive progress in the past several decades owing to the unique physicochemical properties of nanoparticles.¹ Nanoparticles can increase the uptake of drugs into target cells, leading to higher intracellular drug concentrations, higher therapeutic efficacy, and lower off-target toxicity than their smallmolecule counterparts by altering the biodistribution of the drugs. Nanoparticle-based delivery platforms such as liposomes, polymeric nanoparticles, dendrimers, and inorganic nanoparticles have been used in formulating antimicrobial therapies, showing improved pharmacokinetic and therapeutic performance compared to the free drugs.^{2,3} Liposome drug delivery vehicles have been widely studied and are well known for their ability to improve pharmacokinetics and biodistribution and to reduce drug toxicity. Of the various nanoparticle-based drug delivery systems, liposomes and polymer nanoparticles constitute the vast majority of Food and Drug Administration (FDA)- and European Medicine Agency-approved formulations.^{4,5} For example, a liposomal formulation of amphotericin

B, trademarked as AmBisome by Gilead Sciences, was approved by FDA in 1997 to treat a variety of serious fungal infections with reduced nephrotoxicity.⁶

Some liposomal formulations are also shown to fuse with the outer membranes (OMs) of Gram-negative bacteria and improve the penetration of the antimicrobial payloads into the bacterial cells. For example, tobramycin-encapsulated fluid liposomes prepared from 1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (DPPC) and 1,2-dimyristoyl sn -glycero-3-phospho-(1'-rac-glycerol) (DMPG) were shown to fuse with the OM of P . aeruginosa.^{7,8} The fusion process increased the antibiotic penetration to the bacterium, leading to increased intracellular drug concentration by overcoming the OM barrier. The fusion process was also observed in other liposome formulations.^{9,10} For example, Chen and co-workers showed that the efficiency of the fusion process played a key role in the antibacterial activity of tobramycin encapsulated in fluid liposomes, possibly involving cationic bridging between the bacterium and the DMPG phospholipid on the fluid liposome.^{11,12}

The ability to target bacteria is another feature of the liposome-based antibiotic delivery systems. Targeting can be achieved by conjugating a specific targeting moiety to the liposome carrier that can bind to the receptor on the bacterium. Thus, antibioticsloaded liposomes decorated with the targeting ligand could be directed to a particular bacterium or infected tissues, resulting in the local release of antibiotics on or into the bacterium.13–15 Carbohydrates are found on the surface of all cells. Through interactions with carbohydrate-binding proteins, cell surface carbohydrates mediate many cellular processes including bacterial and viral infections.^{16–18} As such, carbohydrates have also been used as targeting moieties in liposome-based antibiotic delivery.19,20 In this regard, bacterium-specific carbohydrates that can selectively target the bacterium in the presence of mammalian cells are especially useful in drug delivery.²¹ We have shown that trehalosefunctionalized nanoparticles selectively targeted mycobacteria and had minimal interactions with macrophage or mammalian cells.^{22,23} Additionally, the antibiotic isoniazid, when encapsulated in mesoporous silica nanoparticles functionalized with trehalose, inhibited mycobacterial growth at over 8-folds better than the free antibiotic.24,25 Maltodextrin is another bacterium-specific carbohydrate. For example, Murthy and co-workers developed a maltohexaose-based fluorescence imaging probe to detect E . coli with high in vivo specificity.²⁶ We have also shown that silica nanoparticles functionalized with G7 resulted in significantly increased surface binding with $E.$ coli.²⁷

In this work, we employed liposomes as the delivery system to test the hypothesis that G7 as the targeting ligand would increase the surface binding of G7-liposomes with E. coli and antibiotic-loaded G7-liposomes would have improved bacterial killing properties. Toward this end, a G7-conjugated glycolipid was synthesized and subsequently formulated into fluid and nonfluid liposomes by lipid film hydration or ethanol injection. Lectin interaction assays demonstrated the successful incorporation of G7-glycolipid into the liposomes, showing 2–3 orders of magnitude stronger binding affinity between lectin concanavalin A (Con A) and G7-glycoliposomes than the free G7. Rifampicin, an antibiotic that acts by inhibiting the DNA-dependent bacterial RNA polymerase and preventing RNA transcription, was chosen as a model antibiotic in this study.^{28,29} Rifampicin is a broad-spectrum semisynthetic

antibiotic and is active against both Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria including several forms of mycobacteria. It is, however, less active against Gram-negative than the Gram-positive bacteria, attributed to the lower OM permeability coupled with active efflux pumps from Gram-negative bacteria like E. coli.^{30,31} Rifampicin is used at a relatively high oral dose (10 mg/kg daily), which causes side effects such as hepatotoxicity.^{32,33} Additionally, rifampicin is an amphiphilic molecule and is unstable in aqueous solution.³⁴ As such, various formulations have been explored, including liposomes, to improve its storage stability, reduce systemic exposure, and minimize adverse effects.^{35,36} In this work, we found that rifampicin-loaded fluid liposomes exhibited higher antimicrobial activities than nonfluid liposomes against E. coli. The bacterial killing was also more efficient for fluid liposomes, for which the fluid G7-glycoliposomes showed the best sustained killing of E. coli over time. Fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) and confocal fluorescence

microscopy revealed enhanced interactions of fluid G7-glycoliposomes with the bacterium.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthesis of Glycolipids and Glycoliposomes.

For comparison, another glycoliposome, Man-decorated glycoliposome, was also prepared. Man-conjugated glycolipid, Man-DPPE, was synthesized following the reaction sequence in Scheme 1. N-Hydroxysuccinimide (NHS)-activated mannoside **5** is the key intermediate in the synthesis of Man-DPPE and was prepared from the starting material methyl a -smannopyranoside in five steps.^{37,38} Briefly, methyl α -D-mannopyranoside was treated with benzyl bromide to give perbenzyl-protected mannoside **1**. Subsequent selective deprotection of the anomeric OH under acidic conditions afforded compound **2**, which then reacted with t -butyl bromoacetate in the presence of KOH and tetra- n -butylammonium bromide (TBAB) in toluene to give the α-anomer **3** in an 85% yield. Deprotection of t-butyloxycarbonyl (Boc) group in **3** by trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) gave compound **4**, which reacted with NHS to afford mannoside **5**. The product Man-DPPE was obtained by coupling **5** with DPPE-NH² under mild basic conditions followed by deprotection of the benzyl ether (Bn) groups via palladium-catalyzed hydrogenation.

An S-linked G7-DPPE was designed as the synthetic protocol was more efficient than that of the O-linked analogue (Scheme 2).^{39,40} G7-DPPE was synthesized by coupling carboxyl-derivatized DPPE (**17**) with an amine-derivatized G7 (**12**), which was prepared from β-cyclodextrin (β-CD) in six steps following established protocols.^{23,41} Briefly, β-CD was acetylated with acetic anhydride catalyzed by FeCl₃. Subsequent ring opening gave peracetylated G7 (**7**) in a combined 33% yield.42 Bromination of compound **7** at the anomeric position afforded glycosyl bromide **8**, which yielded thioglycoside **9** after reaction with potassium thioacetate (KSAc) in acetone. Deacetylation of **9** gave maltoheptaose thiolate **10**, which was further alkylated with an iodo azide **16** (Scheme S1; see SI for detailed synthesis)43 to afford compound **11**. Catalytic hydrogenation of azide **11** gave the corresponding amine **12**, which was coupled with compound **17** (Scheme S2; see SI for detailed synthesis) using EDAC to yield the final glycolipid G7-DPPE.

Carbohydrate-presenting liposomes were prepared by mixing the glycolipid G7-DPPE or Man-DPPE with the following lipids: PC and cholesterol (Chol) for nonfluid liposomes or DPPC and DMPG for fluid liposomes. Nonfluid liposomes made from PC and Chol are known to have high stability as well as good release profiles for drug molecules of different physicochemical characteristics.44 Fluid liposomes prepared from DPPC and DMPG are less rigid, as these lipids have low gel to liquid crystalline phase transition temperatures.⁴⁴ Liposomes are generally prepared using two main methods: (1) thin-film hydration followed by extrusion through a porous membrane, which gives larger unilamellar vesicles (LUVs) or (2) ethanol injection, which gives smaller unilamellar vesicles (SUVs).45,46 We employed both methods to make liposomes with and without the antibiotic rifampicin (Rif; Scheme 3). To make liposomes by thin-film hydration, PC, Chol (or DMPG and DPPC; Scheme 3), together with G7-DPPE or Man-DPPE were mixed with 5:1 v/v chloroform/methanol, which was then rotary-evaporated to give a thin lipid film. The film was hydrated by water or the aqueous solution of rifampicin to give the crude liposomes, which were then extruded through a polycarbonate membrane of 100 nm pore size to afford relatively uniform liposomes. To make liposomes by ethanol injection, glycolipid G7-DPPE or Man-DPPE, rifampicin, PC, and Chol (or DMPG and DPPC) were dissolved in 10:1 v/v ethanol/DMSO, which was then diluted by injecting into water. The mixture was dialyzed at 4 °C to yield the purified liposomes.

The prepared liposomes were characterized by dynamic light scattering (DLS) to determine the hydrodynamic diameters and the size uniformity (i.e., polydispersity index (); Table 1). The amount of rifampicin encapsulated in the liposomes was obtained by lysing the liposomes with dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), and the concentration was determined using UV–vis spectroscopy by comparing the absorbance at 475 nm with a standard calibration curve (Figure S1). The thin-film hydration technique produced liposomes of similar particle sizes after membrane extrusion, regardless of the nature of the lipids or the mole ratio (e.g., entry 1 vs 6). In all cases, liposomes prepared by thin-film hydration were more uniform in size (\therefore 0.15–0.20, entries 1 and 6–9) than those prepared by ethanol injection (\therefore 0.25– 0.28, entries 2–5).

Entries 1–5 were nonfluid liposomes prepared from PC/Chol. To load rifampicin, a lower amount of cholesterol was used (8:1 PC/Chol) to formulate the liposomes, which has been shown to increase rifampicin encapsulation.⁴⁷ As expected, liposomes prepared by thin-film hydration were larger (122 ± 10 nm, entry 1) than those prepared by ethanol injection (62) \pm 11 nm, entry 2). Encapsulation of rifampicin increased the size of the liposomes slightly $(67 \pm 9 \text{ nm}, \text{entry } 3)$. Incorporation of Man-DPPE did not cause much change in particle size (64 ± 8 nm, entry 4). For the nonfluid G7-glycoliposomes, the particle size increased to 75 ± 12 nm (entry 5). This is probably due to the hydration of the large G7 ligands in the liposomes, which led to an increase in the hydrodynamic volume. For nonfluid liposomes without the glycolipid, 3.2% of the initially added rifampicin was encapsulated (entry 3). The drug encapsulation decreased to 2.2% (entry 4) and 2.7% (entry 5) for the nonfluid Man- and G7-glycoliposomes. When considering the percent of rifampicin encapsulated versus the total weight of the liposomes, the drug loading decreased from 8.7 to 6.6 and 7.1 wt % for the nonfluid Man- and G7-glycoliposomes, respectively. For the fluid liposome formulations, on the other hand, the drug loading increased with the addition of Man-DPPE

or G7-DPPE. The percent weights of rifampicin encapsulated were 14 wt % (entry 8) and 16 wt % (entry 9) for the fluid Man- and G7-glycoliposomes, respectively, which were more than twice higher than the corresponding nonfluid glycoliposomes (entries 4 and 5).

G7 Slows Down the Release of Rifampicin from Glycoliposomes.

The kinetics of rifampicin release from the liposomes was assessed by dialyzing the rifampicin-loaded liposomes in Milli-Q water at 37 °C and measuring the amount of rifampicin released at different time periods by UV–vis spectroscopy (Figure 1).48,49 For rifampicin loaded in the nonfluid liposome (PC/Chol), ~70% of rifampicin was released from the liposomes after 2 h, and the release was plateaued at $\sim 80\%$ after 4 h (Figure 1a). The addition of the glycolipid slowed down the release of rifampicin to 59 and 51% after 2 h for the nonfluid Man- and G7-glycoliposomes, respectively. In the case of the fluid liposome formulation (DPPC/DMPG), the rate of rifampicin release accelerated to 79% in the first 30 min and plateaued at \sim 90% after about 2 h (Figure 1b). The faster drug release from the fluid liposomes is consistent with their less ordered and lower-density lipid bilayer structures compared to that of the more rigid nonfluid liposomes. The rifampicin release decreased significantly with the addition of the glycolipid to the fluid liposomes. Only 52 and 43% of rifampicin were released in the first 30 min for the fluid Man- and G7-glycoliposomes, respectively. The duration of release was also longer. For example, the release of rifampicin from G7-glycoliposomes continued to 24 h.

To evaluate the kinetics of rifampicin release from the liposomes, a model by Anderson and co-workers was used.⁵⁰ The model assumed that (1) the drug release from liposomes through the dialysis membrane follows a first-order kinetics governed by a simple diffusion process, (2) the liposome remains intact during the dialysis, and (3) there is no interaction between the drug and the dialysis membrane. C_i^t and C_o^t are the drug concentrations inside and outside the liposomes at time t, respectively. By plotting $[(C_0^{\infty} - C_0^0)/(C_0^{\infty} - C_0^t)]$ vs time (Figure 1c,d; see SI calculations), the apparent first-order rate constant k_{obs} was obtained (Table 2). For both nonfluid and fluid liposomes, introducing Man-DPPE resulted in a decrease in k_{obs} (entry 2 vs 1, entry 5 vs 4), and G7-DPPE further lowered k_{obs} (entries 3 and 6). The apparent permeability coefficient P_{app} calculated from the hydrodynamic diameter (eq S5) showed the same trend that the glycolipid slowed down the release of rifampicin from the liposomes (Table 2). The decrease was the largest for the fluid G7-glycoliposomes, where P_{app} was reduced to less than half of that of the fluid liposomes without G7. One possible explanation for these results is that the hydrophilic carbohydrates presented on the liposomes served as an extra barrier to the diffusion of the nonpolar rifampicin in and out of the liposomes, with G7 having higher impact due to its large size. The P_{app} was 3.5 nm/h for PC/Chol liposomes, which is on the same order of magnitude as the permeability coefficient of 1.0 nm/h reported for glucose encapsulated in egg-lecithin LUV liposomes, and is 2–3 orders of magnitude larger than the more rigid LUV liposomes prepared from 50:50 DPPC/Chol.⁵⁰

Ligand Density and Binding Affinity of G7-Glycoliposomes with Lectin Con A.

To confirm that the carbohydrate ligands were presented on the glycoliposomes, Manand G7-glycoliposomes were treated with Con A, a lectin that binds both mannosides and glucosides. To quantify the binding affinity, the amount of Man-DPPE or G7-DPPE incorporated into the liposomes was determined by the anthrone–sulfuric acid colorimetry assay that has been widely used to quantify carbohydrate concentrations including carbohydrate-presenting nanoparticles.^{51,52} In this assay, the carbohydrate is first dehydrated by concentrated sulfuric acid to furfural, which then reacts with anthrone to give a bluegreen hydroxyfurfural anthrone complex.^{53,54} The glycoliposomes were treated with a solution of 0.5 wt % anthrone in 98% sulfuric acid, and the absorbance at 620 nm was compared with the corresponding calibration curves obtained from Man-DPPE or G7-DPPE (Figure S2). The amount of Man-DPPE or G7-DPPE incorporated into the glycoliposomes was subsequently calculated (Table 3). Since the glycolipid can be incorporated at both the exterior and interior of the liposomes, the results from the anthrone–sulfuric acid assay would reflect the total amount of glycolipids in the liposomes. Results showed that at the same amount of glycolipid in the feed, 3–4 times more Man-DPPE than G7-DPPE was incorporated in the nonfluid (66 vs 21 μ mol/mg, entries 1 and 2) and fluid liposomes (59 vs 14 μmol/mg, entries 3 and 4). This is likely due to the much larger and more sterically hindered G7 structure, giving lower incorporation of G7-DPPE into the glycoliposomes compared to that of the smaller Man-DPPE.

Con A has four binding sites for mannosides and glucosides.^{55,56} When Con A is treated with nanoparticles having mannosides or glucosides on the surface, interactions between the multivalent Con A and glyconanoparticles can form large agglomerates, leading to a concentration-dependent increase in the particle size.^{57–59} By monitoring the particle size versus the lectin concentration and fitting the data to a suitable binding isotherm, the binding affinity can be obtained.^{60,61} In this study, glycoliposomes were treated with varying concentrations of Con A at 20 °C for 2 h, and the hydrodynamic diameters of the resulting samples were measured by DLS. The increase in the particle size (D) , which is the difference between the hydrodynamic diameters of the glycoliposomes before and after treating with Con A, was plotted against the concentration of Con A (Figure 2). The data were then fitted with the Hill equation, eq 1

$$
Y = \frac{(B_{\text{max}} * X^h)}{(K_D^h + X^h)}
$$

where B_{max} is the maximum specific binding, h is the Hill coefficient, and K_d is the apparent dissociation constant of glycoliposomes with Con A. For liposomes that do not contain Man or G7, no change in the hydrodynamic diameters was observed after treating with Con A.

The nonfluid G7-glycoliposomes exhibited a slightly stronger binding with Con A (K_d = 0.93 μ M, entry 2) than Man-glycoliposomes ($K_d = 1.1 \mu$ M, entry 1; Table 3). Compared to the monovalent binding ($K_D = 0.34$ and 0.83 mM between Con A and Man or G7, respectively, determined by thermostatic disc electrophoresis), 62 the results showed 309- (entry 1) and 892-fold (entry 2) affinity enhancement for the nonfluid Man- and

 $G7$ -glycoliposomes, respectively. Considering that the density of $G7$ -DPPE, 21 μ mol/mg, was \sim 3 times lower than that of Man-DPPE (66 μ mol/mg) on the glycoliposomes, this represents ~9 times higher relative binding affinity of nonfluid G7-glycoliposomes than that of Man-glycoliposomes with Con A.

For the fluid liposomes, the binding affinity of Con A with the fluid G7-glycoliposomes $(K_d = 0.51 \mu M,$ entry 4) was ~6 times higher than that of Man-glycoliposomes ($K_d = 2.9$) μ M, entry 3). This represents 117- (entry 3) and 1627-fold (entry 4) affinity enhancement for Man- and G7-glycoliposomes compared to the monovalent binding with Man or G7. Considering the density of G7-DPPE and Man-DPPE on the glycoliposomes, 59 and 14 μmol/mg, respectively (entries 3 and 4), this represents 59 times higher relative binding affinity of the fluid G7-glycoliposomes than that of Man-glycoliposomes. The Hill coefficient h was greater than 1 in all cases, indicating positive cooperativity of the glycoliposomes in the interactions with Con A.

Antibacterial Activity of Rifampicin-Loaded Liposomes.

The minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) of rifampicin-loaded liposomes against E. coli ORN208, a mutant strain of E. coli that lacks Man-binding fimbria I expression, ⁶³ was determined by the standard broth microdilution method. Neither the fluid nor the nonfluid liposomes alone showed any activity (entries 1 and 5; Table 4). The MIC of rifampicin loaded in the nonfluid liposomes was $6-12 \mu g/mL$ (entry 2), slightly worse than the free rifampicin (6 μg/mL, entry 9). Incorporation of the glycolipid lowered the MIC slightly to 4–8 and 7 μ g/mL for the nonfluid Man- and G7-glycoliposomes, respectively (entries 3 and 4). For rifampicin loaded in fluid liposomes (6:1 DPPE/DMPG), the MIC was $3-6 \mu g/mL$ (entry 6), whereas rifampicin loaded in fluid Man-glycoliposomes showed a slightly higher MIC (9 μ g/mL, entry 7) than the free rifampicin. The MIC of rifampicin loaded in fluid G7-glycoliposomes was $2 \mu g/mL$ (entry 8), lower than the liposomes without G7-DPPE (entry 6) or the free rifampicin. The drug loading alone is not the reason behind the increase in activity, as the amount of rifampicin encapsulated in the fluid G7-glycoliposomes (16 wt %) was only slightly higher than the fluid Man-glycoliposomes (14 wt %; Table 1).

Time-Dependent Antimicrobial Activities of Rifampicin-Loaded Glycoliposomes.

The time-dependent antimicrobial activity of rifampicin-loaded liposomes was investigated using the time–kill assay by treating E. coli ORN208 with 1, 2, or $4 \times$ MIC of rifampicinloaded liposomes or the free rifampicin over a period of 24 h. The MICs of all samples were measured prior to the experiments. Samples were taken out at 2, 4, 8, and 24 h, and the colonies were counted after a 12 h incubation. Rifampicin is considered bacteriostatic to E. coli;⁶⁴ thus, it is not surprising that it was not bactericidal even at $4 \times$ MIC (Figure 3a). Rifampicin-loaded nonfluid liposomes (Figure 3b) and Man-glycoliposomes (Figure 3c) showed similar behavior as the free rifampicin, except that the bacterial population stayed static over the 24 h period for all concentrations tested. For rifampicin-loaded nonfluid G7-glycoliposomes, the bacterial counts were reduced by ~ 0.5 log unit at $1 \times$ MIC after 8 h and by \sim 1 log unit at 2 \times and 4 \times MICs after 2 h (Figure 3d). The effect was more pronounced in the case of fluid liposomes. The rifampicin-loaded fluid liposome was not bactericidal (Figure 3e), similar to the rifampicin-loaded nonfluid liposome (Figure 3b).

Unlike the rifampicin-loaded nonfluid Man-glycoliposomes that showed no inhibition of bacterial growth (Figure 3c), rifampicin-loaded fluid Man-glycoliposomes reduced bacterial colonies at all concentrations tested (Figure 3f). The bacterial counts were reduced by more than 1 log unit at $4 \times$ MIC after 2 h. The fluid G7-glycoliposomes were the most effective, reducing the colonies by \sim 1 log unit at 2 \times and 4 \times MICs after 1 h and by \sim 2 log units at 24 h (Figure 3g). Thus, the rifampicin-loaded fluid G7-glycoliposomes were not only more active than free rifampicin and other liposome formulations, the antimicrobial activity was also sustained over time.

Interactions of Liposomes with Bacterium by FRET and Confocal Microscopy.

FRET was employed to investigate the interaction between liposomes and the bacterium and to test whether fusion was involved in the interaction.⁶⁵ Two fluorescent lipid dyes, the FRET donor NBD-PE and the FRET acceptor Rh-PE, were incorporated into the liposomes (Figure 4). When the two lipid dyes are at a distance within the Förster radius, FRET can occur where the emission of the donor NBD-PE (at 460 nm excitation) excites the acceptor Rh-PE, leading to the fluorescence emission of the acceptor at 590 nm. The FRET between these two dyes is highly efficient even at very low density in the liposome $(\langle 1\%),$ owing to the significant overlap of the emission band of NBD-PE and the excitation band of Rh-PE.⁶⁵ Since the efficiency of the fluorescence energy transfer is mainly dependent on the distance separating the donor and the acceptor, FRET can be conveniently used to study the fusion of liposomes with the cell membrane.66 If the NBD/Rh-labeled liposome fuses with the bacterial membrane, the concentration of the dyes in the liposome would decrease. This would increase the distance between the two lipid dyes, which would decrease the FRET efficiency and lower the Rh emission intensity at 590 nm. If NBD/Rh-labeled liposomes only bind but do not fuse with the bacterium, the emission intensity at 590 nm will either remain unchanged or increase if the two dyes become closer in distance.

The dye-incorporated fluid G7-glycoliposomes were prepared by adding NBD-PE and Rh-PE (0.5 mol % of G7-DPPE each) to the fluid liposome formulation (DPPC/DMPG/G7 DPPE) using the thin-film hydration method. The fluorescence spectrum of NBD/Rh-labeled fluid G7-glycoliposomes contained two peaks at 536 nm and 590 nm, corresponding to the emissions of NBD-PE and Rh-PE, respectively (black curve, Figure 4). To confirm the presence of FRET, the liposomes were disintegrated by a detergent Triton X-100. This resulted in a large decrease in the emission intensity at 590 nm (Rh-PE) and an increase in the intensity at 536 nm (NBD-PE) (green curve, Figure 4). The intensity ratio of the two peaks at 590 and 536 nm, I_{590}/I_{536} , decreased from 2.5 for the liposome (entry 1) to 0.6 after the addition of Triton X-100 (entry 2, Table 5). This demonstrates that FRET indeed occurred in the NBD/Rh-labeled fluid G7-liposomes.

When NBD/Rh-labeled fluid G7-glycoliposomes were mixed with E. coli ORN208, the intensities at both 590 and 536 nm decreased (red curve, Figure 4) and the intensity ratio I_{590}/I_{536} increased 32% from 2.5 to 3.3 (entry 3). After incubation for 1 h, the intensity at 590 nm increased, and at the same time, the intensity at 536 nm decreased (blue curve, Figure 4), resulting in an overall increase of I_{590}/I_{536} to 4.3, a 72% increase from the G7-glycoliposomes prior to incubation with the bacteria (entry 4, Table 5). The result

also excluded the possibility of fusion. If fusion occurred between the liposomes and the bacterium, the distance between Rh and NBD would increase due to fusion-induced dilution. This would lead to a decrease in the emission intensity at 590 nm and thus lower FRET efficiency.

The results in Table 5 showed that the FRET efficiency increased after mixing G7 glycoliposomes with the bacterium and increased further after incubation for 1 h. The higher-energy transfer implies that Rh-PE and NBD-PE became closer in distance when G7-glycoliposomes were mixed with the bacterium. Two possibilities can contribute to this: the liposomes interacted among themselves to form aggregates or with the bacterium. To investigate the possibility that liposomes form aggregates among themselves, NBD/Rhlabeled fluid G7-glycoliposomes incubated with the bacteria were imaged by confocal fluorescence microscopy. A series of snapshots were taken from a movie recorded (Figure S4). The images showed liposome nanoparticles on some bacterial cells, and the liposomes adhered to the cell surface despite the rapid movement of the bacteria. No large aggregates of the liposome particles were observed. These observations support the hypothesis that the increase in the FRET efficiency is due to the interaction of liposomes with the bacteria.

For NBD/Rh-labeled Man-glycoliposomes and NBD/Rh-labeled liposomes without glycolipid, I_{590}/I_{536} also increased after incubation with the bacterium but the extent of increase in FRET efficiency was lower than that of G7-glycoliposomes (Figure S3 and Table S1). These results suggest stronger binding of G7-glycoliposomes to E. coli than that of Man-glycoliposomes and those without glycolipids.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we have successfully prepared nonfluid and fluid G7- and Manglycoliposomes with uniform nanoparticle sizes. The multivalent display of G7 and Man on the nanoparticles was demonstrated by significantly enhanced binding of these glyconanoparticles toward Con A than that of the free ligands G7 and Man. The fluid G7-glycoliposomes exhibited the strongest binding with Con A, with more than 3 orders of magnitude higher affinity than free G7, despite having a lower amount of G7-DPPE incorporated into the glycoliposomes. The fluid liposome formulation also gave higher rifampicin encapsulation than the nonfluid liposomes, with the fluid glycoliposomes yielding the highest rifampicin loading, 16 wt % for the fluid G7-glycoliposomes. The presence of G7 on the liposomes also reduced the kinetics of rifampicin release, with G7-glycoliposomes having the slowest rate of release and lowest permeability coefficient. The rifampicin-loaded fluid G7-glycoliposomes showed 3 times lower MIC against E. coli ORN208 compared to all other liposome formulations and free rifampicin. The rifampicinloaded fluid G7-glycoliposomes exhibited sustained bacterial killing, resulted in \sim 2 log unit reduction in bacterial colonies over 24 h at $4 \times$ MIC. FRET experiments and confocal imaging suggested that a stronger binding of fluid G7-glycoliposomes to the bacterium may contribute to the sustained bacterial killing. The use of a bacterium-specific carbohydrate as the targeting agent in liposome formulations can be a promising strategy in antibiotic delivery.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Materials and Instrumentation.

Rifampicin was purchased from MilliporeSigma (St. Louis, MO). Except for the glycolipids Man-DPPE and G7-DPPE, which were synthesized as shown below, all other lipids used in this study were purchased from Avanti Polar Lipids (Alabaster, Alabama). Con A was purchased from Vector Laboratories. Other reagents were purchased from either MilliporeSigma or Fisher Scientific (Hampton, NH) and were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. The experimental details for the syntheses of compounds **14**–**17** can be found in the Supporting Information. Polycarbonate membranes (0.1 μ m, 19 mm) were purchased from Avanti Polar Lipid. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance Spectrospin-500 spectrometer or a Bruker Avance DPX 200 NMR spectrometer. 31P NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance DPX 200 NMR spectrometer using 85% H₃PO₄ (0.00 ppm) as the external reference. HRMS spectra were collected in the electrospray ionization (ESI) mode on a Bruker MicrOTOF II mass spectrometer at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. UV–vis spectra were collected on a Perkin Elmer LAMBDA 35 UV–vis spectrophotometer. Dynamic light scattering (DLS) measurements were carried out on a Nano Series Zen 40 03 Zetasizer (Malvern Instruments Ltd, Malvern, UK).

Synthesis of Glycolipid Man-DPPE (Scheme 1).

Methyl 2,3,4,6-Tetra-O-benzyl-α**-D-mannopyranoside (1).—**To a solution of methyl α -D-mannopyranoside (1.94 g, 10.0 mmol) in dry *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (DMF, 60 mL), sodium hydride (NaH, 3.52 g, 88.1 mmol) and tetra-n-butylammonium iodide (TBAI, 0.37 g, 1.0 mmol) were added portion-wise at 0 °C. After 30 min, benzyl bromide (8.3 mL, 70.8 mmol) was added dropwise under Ar. After stirring at room temperature (RT) overnight, water (200 mL) was poured into the reaction and the mixture was extracted with 200 mL of ethyl acetate 3 times. The combined organic phase was washed with brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. After evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was vacuum-dried overnight and subsequently purified by column chromatography (hexanes/ethyl acetate, 9:1–5:1) to give compound 1 as a viscous solid $(4.99 \text{ g}, 90\%)$. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃; Figure S5) δ 7.49–7.21 (m, 8H, aromatic), 7.17 (s, 2H, aromatic), 4.88 (d, $J = 0.4$ Hz, 1H, H-1), 4.85–4.48 (m, 8H, PhCH₂O), 3.97 (t, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H, H-4), 3.88 (dd, $J = 9.2$, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-3), 3.85–3.69 (m, 4H, H-2, H-5, H-6a, H-6b), 3.33 (s, 3H, OMe).

2,3,4,6-Tetra-O-benzyl-α**/**β**-D-mannopyranose (2).—**To a mixed solvent of glacial acetic acid (11 mL) and aqueous HCl (2 M, 9 mL), compound **1** (2.0 g, 3.6 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 85 \degree C for 7 h. After diluting with cold water and dichloromethane (DCM), the organic fraction was washed with cold water once and then with aqueous $NaHCO₃$ twice and dried over $MgSO₄$. The filtrate was concentrated to give the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography (4:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) to give compound **2** as a viscous solid (1.8 g, $a/\beta = 10/1$, 45%). a -Anomer: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3; Figure S6) δ 7.25–7.38 (m, 18 H, aromatic), 7.16–7.18 (m, 2H, aromatic), 5.26 (s, 1H, H-1), 4.43-4.96 (m, 8H, PhCH₂O), 4.02-4.05 (m, 1H, H-5), 3.96 (dd,

1H, $J = 3.0$, 9.3 Hz, H-3), 3.87 (t, 1H, $J = 9.6$ Hz, H-4), 3.79–3.81 (m, 1H, H-2), 3.65–3.75 (m, 2H, H-6a, H-6b).

t-Butyloxycarbonylmethyl 2,3,4,6-Tetra-O-benzyl-α**-D-mannopyranoside (3).—** To a solution of **2** (560 mg, 1.04 mmol) and tetrabutylammonium bromide (TBAB, 17 mg, 0.053 mmol) in toluene (10 mL), fine powers of dry KOH (350 mg, 6.24 mmol) were added. The reaction was cooled in an ice bath, and *t*-butyl bromoacetate (470 μ L, 1.57 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction was stirred at RT for 30 min and was then diluted by ether and water. The organic fraction was separated, washed with water followed by brine, and dried over $Na₂SO₄$. After removing the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) to give product **3** as a viscous solid (610 mg, 85%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃; Figure S7) δ 7.42–7.20 (m, 18H, aromatic), 7.15 (d, J= 5.1 Hz, 2H, aromatic), 5.08 (s, 1H, H-1), 4.88 (d, $J = 10.7$ Hz, 1H, PhCH₂O), 4.74 (s, 2H, PhCH₂O), 4.70–4.44 (m, 5H, PhCH₂O), 4.12 (d, $J = 16.6$ Hz, 1H, OCH₂COO), 4.06–3.89 (m, 4H, OCH2COO, H-4, H-3, H-2), 3.87–3.67 (m, 3H, H-5, H-6a, H-6b), 1.45 (s, 9H, OC(CH₃)₃). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃; Figure S8) δ 169.26, 138.71, 138.67, 138.52, 138.48, 128.50, 128.13, 128.05, 127.95, 127.76, 127.68, 97.52, 82.05, 80.12, 75.29, 74.89, 74.63, 73.55, 72.81, 72.43, 72.16, 69.37, 63.64, 28.29, 28.29, 28.29.

Carboxymethyl 2,3,4,6-Tetra-O-benzyl-α**-D-mannopyranoside (4).—**To a solution of compound **3** (610 mg, 0.93 mmol) in dichloromethane (DCM, 7 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (TFA, 7 mL), and the reaction was stirred at RT for 30 min. The solvent was removed on a rotovap, and the remaining TFA was removed by coevaporation with toluene under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (1:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) to give compound **4** as a viscous solid (462 mg, 83%). ¹H NMR $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3; \text{Figure S9})$ δ 7.41–7.22 (m, 18H, aromatic), 7.15 (dd, J = 7.0, 2.2 Hz, 2H, aromatic), 5.02 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H, H-1), 4.86 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H, PhCH₂O), 4.75 (d, J $= 12.4$ Hz, 1H, PhCH₂O), 4.71 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂O), 4.66–4.58 (m, 3H, PhCH₂O), 4.54 (d, $J = 12.2$ Hz, 1H, PhCH₂O), 4.49 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H, PhCH₂O), 4.24 (d, $J = 17.1$ Hz, 1H, OCH₂COO), 4.17 (d, $J = 17.1$ Hz, 1H, OCH₂COO), 3.97 (t, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H, H-4), 3.94–3.89 (m, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 2H, H-2, H-3), 3.81–3.76 (m, 1H, H-5), 3.74 (dd, $J = 10.6$, 5.0 Hz, 1H, H-6a), 3.70 (dd, $J = 10.5$, 1.8 Hz, 1H, H-6b). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃; Figure S10) ^δ 174.55, 138.55, 138.46, 138.32, 138.24, 128.55, 128.16, 128.01, 127.82, 98.00, 79.84, 75.28, 74.86, 74.46, 73.56, 72.92, 72.63, 72.34, 69.30, 63.22.

N-Succinimidyloxycarbonylmethyl 2,3,4,6-Tetra-O-benzyl-α**-D-**

mannopyranoside (5).—Compound **4** (112 mg, 0.187 mmol), N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS, 26 mg, 0.225 mmol), and 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide (EDAC, 180 mg, 0.935 mmol) were dissolved in dry DCM, and the reaction mixture was stirred at RT for 24 h. Water was then added, and the mixture was extracted twice with DCM. The combined organic fractions were washed with water, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and the filtrate was evaporated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (2:3 hexanes/ethyl acetate) to give compound **5** as a viscous solid (117 mg, 90%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃; Figure S11) δ 7.39–7.22 (m, 18H, aromatic), 7.16 (dd, $J = 7.4$, 1.9 Hz, 2H, aromatic), 5.08 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H, H-1), 4.86 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz,

1H, PhCH₂O), 4.70 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 2H, PhCH₂O), 4.66 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂O), 4.61–4.42 (m, 6H, PhCH₂O, OCH₂COO), 4.02 (t, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H, H-4), 3.95–3.87 (m, 2H, H-3, H-2), 3.77 (m, 2H, H-5, H-6a), 3.71 (dd, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 12.7 Hz, 1H, H-6b). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3; Figure S12) δ 168.75, 165.63, 138.55, 138.53, 138.47, 138.24, 128.51, 128.10, 127.97, 127.82, 127.78, 98.29, 79.68, 75.23, 74.66, 74.33, 73.60, 72.95, 72.91, 72.80, 72.28, 69.17, 61.67, 25.70, 25.70.

Compound 6.—To a solution of compound 5 (97 mg, 0.14 mmol) and DPPE-NH₂ (97) mg, 0.14 mmol) in chloroform (CHCl₃, 20 mL) and DMF (1 mL), Et₃N (100 μ L) was added. After stirring overnight, the solvent was removed by rotovap. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (15:1 CHCl₃/MeOH) to afford compound $6 (R_f =$ 0.32, 15:1 CHCl₃/MeOH) as a viscous solid (156 mg, 88%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃; Figure S13) δ 7.53–6.97 (m, 20H, aromatic), 5.18 (s, 1H, POCH₂CHCH₂O), 4.99 (s, 1H, H-1), 4.89–4.55 (m, 6H, PhCH₂O), 4.46 (d, $J = 9.9$ Hz, 2H, PhCH₂O), 4.32 (d, $J = 10.36$ Hz, 1H, OCH₂COO), 4.27–3.80 (m, 10H, H-2, H-3, H-4, OCH₂COO, CH₂OP, POCH₂, CHC^H2OCO), 3.80–3.64 (m, 3H, H-5, H-6a, H-6b), 3.55 (s, 1H, NHC^H2), 3.43 (s, 1H, NHCH₂), 2.21 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 4H, OOCCH₂ × 2), 1.51 (s, 4H, OOCCH₂CH₂ × 2), 1.40–1.02 (m, 48H, aliphatic), 0.88 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H, CH₂CH₃ \times 2). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃; Figure S14) δ 173.66, 173.40, 173.35, 138.68, 138.59, 128.51, 128.12, 128.00, 127.91, 127.81, 98.64, 79.76, 75.17, 74.84, 74.73, 73.53, 72.84, 72.57, 72.24, 70.48, 64.12, 64.09, 62.89, 39.90, 34.40, 34.26, 32.14, 29.97, 29.90, 29.59, 29.43, 25.42, 25.13, 25.08, 22.90, 14.41, 14.36, 14.31. ³¹P NMR (81 MHz, CDCl₃; Figure S15) δ –1.77.

Man-DPPE.—Compound **6** (156 mg, 0.123 mmol) was dissolved in 2:3 v/v THF/MeOH (10 mL), and $Pd(OH)_2/C$ (10%, 33 mg, 0.032 mmol) was added. The reaction flask was purged with Ar and then with H_2 . The reaction was stirred for 24 h, after which the mixture was filtered through celite. The filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure to yield compound Man-DPPE as a white solid (114 mg, quantitative yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 7:4:0.1 v/v/v CDCl₃/CD₃OD/D₂O; Figure S16) δ 5.24 (s, 1H, POCH₂CHCH₂O), 4.86 (s, 1H, H-1), 4.42 (d, $J = 10.3$ Hz, 1H, OCH₂COO), 4.18 (d, $J = 12.06$ Hz, 2H, CHC*H*₂OCO), 4.12-3.64 (m, 10H, H-2, H-3, H-4, H-5, H-6a, OCH₂COO, CH₂OP, POCH₂), 3.54 (m, 3H, H-6b, NHCH₂), 2.34 (s, 4H, OOCCH₂ \times 2), 1.61 (s, 4H, OOCCH₂CH₂ \times 2), 1.27 (s, 48H, aliphatic), 0.89 (s, 6H, CH₂CH₃ \times 2). ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, 7:4:0.1 v/v/v CDCl₃/CD₃OD/ D2O; Figure S17) δ 173.73, 173.35, 170.01, 99.53, 77.87, 77.23, 76.59, 73.23, 70.33, 70.16, 69.95, 66.58, 65.51, 63.87, 63.49, 62.38, 60.73, 49.63, 49.20, 48.78, 48.35, 47.92, 47.50, 47.07, 39.40, 33.99, 33.84, 31.67, 29.44, 29.28, 29.10, 28.90, 24.68, 24.63, 22.39, 13.61. 31P NMR (81 MHz, 7:4:0.1 v/v/v CDCl₃/CD₃OD/D₂O; Figure S18) δ 0.40.

Synthesis of Glycolipid G7-DPPE (Scheme 2).

D-Maltoheptaose Tricosaacetate (7).—To a stirred suspension of FeCl₃ (200 mg, 1.23) mmol) in acetic anhydride (Ac₂O, 12.5 mL, 132 mmol) in an ice bath, β -cyclodextrin (4.00 g, 3.52 mmol) was added slowly. The mixture was stirred at RT for 2.5 h followed by 70 °C for 3.5 h. After cooling to RT, the solution was poured into 500 mL of water. The precipitation was collected and washed with water followed by cold ethanol. The crude

product was purified by column chromatography (4:1 ethyl acetate/hexanes) to give **7** as a white solid (2.24 g, 33%).

1-Bromo-docosa-O-acetyl-α**-D-maltoheptaopyranose (8).—**To a solution of compound **7** (4.7 g, 2.2 mmol) in dry DCM (40 mL) cooled to 0 \degree C, 9 mL of 33% HBr/ AcOH solution was added dropwise. The reaction was slowly warmed to RT and stirred at RT for 2 h. It was then poured into 100 mL of ice water, and the aqueous layer was extracted with 100 mL of DCM 3 times. The combined organic fraction was washed sequentially with 1 M NaHCO₃ (100 mL \times 3), water, and brine. After drying over MgSO₄ and removing the solvent from the filtrate, the crude compound **8** was obtained (4.5 g), which was used immediately in the next step without purification.

Docosa-O-acetyl-1-S-acetyl-1-thio-α**-D-maltoheptaopyranose (9).—**To a solution of crude compound **8** (4.5 g) in 50 mL of acetone, KSAc (900 mg, 7.89 mmol) was added. After stirring at RT for 5 h, the solvent was slowly removed under vacuum. Water (100 mL) was added, and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (100 mL \times 3). The combined organic fraction was washed with brine and dried over $Na₂SO₄$. After removing the solvent from the filtrate, the residue was purified by column chromatography (3:1 ethyl acetate/ hexanes) to afford compound **9** as a colorless viscous solid (3.1 g, 66% combined yield for 2 steps from **7**). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃; Figure S19) δ 5.47–5.24 (m, 14H), 5.06 (t, J $= 9.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.97 (t, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.85 (dd, $J = 10.5$, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.78–4.69 (m, 5H), 4.56–4.44 (m, 6H), 4.37–4.14 (m, 7H), 4.09–3.84 (m, 14H), 2.38 (s, 3H, SAc), 2.26–1.88 (m, 66H, OAc). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃; Figure S20) δ 191.79, 170.74, 170.68, 170.54, 170.46, 170.44, 170.41, 170.37, 170.36, 169.91, 169.75, 169.64, 169.54, 169.51, 169.47, 169.46, 169.45, 95.79, 95.76, 95.73, 95.64, 82.77, 79.78, 78.99, 76.57, 76.25, 73.53, 73.32, 73.27, 72.41, 71.73, 71.71, 71.61, 71.58, 70.54, 70.49, 70.44, 70.39, 70.06, 69.95, 69.38, 69.12, 69.00, 68.97, 68.95, 68.47, 67.98, 62.86, 62.50, 62.42, 62.23, 61.41, 30.83, 20.88, 20.87, 20.81, 20.68, 20.61, 20.59, 20.57.

1-Thio-β**-D-maltoheptaopyranose Sodium Salt (10).—**To a solution of compound **9** (2.0 g, 0.94 mmol) in MeOH (200 mL), a solution of NaOMe (81 mg, 1.5 mmol) in methanol (5 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction was stirred at RT for 3 h, after which a white precipitate was obtained. The solvent was slowly removed, and fresh MeOH (200 mL) was added. The mixture was further stirred at RT for 2 h. The precipitate was collected by filtration and washed with cold methanol to give product **10** as a white solid (1.1 g, 94%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O; Figure S21) δ 5.42–5.35 (m, 6H), 4.55 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H, H-1), 4.00–3.92 (m, 5H), 3.93–3.55 (m, 35H), 3.51 (ddd, $J = 9.5$, 5.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (t, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.05 (t, $J = 9.1$ Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, D₂O; Figure S22) δ 99.76, 99.69, 99.59, 84.11, 78.50, 78.23, 78.10, 77.32, 76.99, 76.95, 76.75, 73.33, 73.31, 72.88, 72.70, 71.73, 71.59, 71.20, 71.18, 71.11, 69.31, 61.25, 60.48, 60.41.

Compound 11.—Compounds **10** (470 mg, 0.395 mmol) and **16** (170 mg, 0.596 mmol) were dissolved in DMF (10 mL). After stirring at 50 \degree C for 4 h, the solvent was removed by low-pressure distillation. The residue was purified by column chromatography (1-butanol/ ethanol/H₂O, 3:5:0.1 to 3:5:1) to afford compound 11 as a pale yellow solid (239 mg, 58%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O; Figure S23) δ 5.51–5.43 (m, 6H), 4.69 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H, H-1), 4.08–3.64 (m, 48H), 3.61–3.56 (m, 2H, CH₂N₃), 3.49 (t, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.45–3.40 (m, 1H), 3.08 (dt, $J = 12.8$, 6.4 Hz, 1H, SH₂), 2.99 (dt, $J = 13.9$, 6.4 Hz, 1H, SH₂). ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, D₂O; Figure S24) δ 100.23, 100.10, 85.68, 78.89, 78.01, 77.43, 73.77, 73.35, 73.17, 72.62, 72.21, 72.00, 71.66, 70.72, 69.99, 69.86, 69.80, 69.69, 61.29, 60.91, 29.51.

Compound 12.—Compound **11** (85 mg, 0.066 mmol) was dissolved in 2:1 v/v MeOH/H₂O (4 mL), and Pd(OH) $_2$ /C (10%, 11 mg, 0.011 mmol) was added. The reaction flask was purged with Ar and then with H_2 . The reaction mixture was stirred at RT for 2 h and then filtered through celite. The filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure to yield compound 12 as a white solid (83 mg, quantitative yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O) δ 5.39 $(d, J = 4.1 \text{ Hz}, 6\text{H})$, 4.60 $(d, J = 9.9 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H})$, 4.02–3.55 (m, 48H), 3.42 (t, $J = 9.4 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}$), 3.36 (t, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.12 (t, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 2H, CH₂NH₂), 3.01 (dt, $J = 12.4$, 6.2 Hz, 1H, $SH₂$), 2.93 (dt, $J = 13.5$, 6.3 Hz, 1H, SH₂).

G7-DPPE.—Compound **12** (147 mg, 0.113), compound **17** (121 mg, 0.136 mmol), and EDAC (65 mg, 0.339 mmol) were added to 5 mL of dry DMF, and the reaction was stirred at RT for 8 h. The solvent was removed by low-pressure distillation at 40 °C to give the crude product, which was then purified by column chromatography (CHCl₃/MeOH/H₂O, 7:4:0 to 7:4:0.8 to 7:4:1.2) to afford G7-DPPE as a white solid (108 mg, 46%). TLC of the purified product showed a single spot ($R_f = 0.22$, 7:4:0.5 CHCl₃/MeOH/H₂O) after staining with 5% sulfuric acid in ethanol. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 7:4 CDCl₃/CD₃OD; Figure S26) δ 5.32-4.97 $(m, 7H)$, 4.43 (dd, $J = 11.9$, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (dd, $J = 12.0$, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.09–3.26 (m, 60H), $3.02-2.84$ (m, $2H$), 2.55 (s, $4H$), 2.33 (dd, $J = 15.6$, 8.1 Hz, $4H$), 1.61 (dd, $J = 13.8$, 6.9 Hz, 4H), 1.46–1.12 (m, 48H), 0.89 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃/ $CD_3OD = 7:4$; Figure S27) δ 173.69, 173.32, 101.47, 77.42, 77.16, 76.90, 73.29, 71.96, 69.73, 63.29, 57.19, 48.80, 48.63, 48.46, 48.29, 48.12, 47.95, 47.78, 33.98, 33.83, 31.61, 29.40, 29.34, 29.28, 29.26, 29.10, 29.04, 28.89, 28.86, 24.68, 24.61, 22.33, 13.56. 13P NMR (81 MHz, CDCl₃/CD₃OD = 7:4; Figure S28) δ 2.29. High-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) calcd. for C₈₉H₁₆₁N₂O₄₇PS [M – H]⁻, m/z: 2071.9655, 2072.9688, 2073.9722; [M $-2H$ ²[−], m/z. 1035.4791, 1035.9808, 1036.4825. Found: 2071.9679, 2072.9680, 2073.9733, 1035.4800, 1035.9821, 1036.4822 (Figure S29).

Preparation of Nonfluid Liposomes by Thin-Film Hydration and Extrusion (Entry 1, Table 1).

To a mixture of egg PC (15.8 mg, 21 μ mol), cholesterol (3.8 mg, 10 μ mol) in a 100 mL round-bottom flask was added 5:1 v/v chloroform/methanol (5 mL). After the solids were fully dissolved, the solvent was rotary-evaporated to yield a thin film around the flask, and the lipid film was further dried under vacuum overnight. Water (15 mL) was added to the dry film. The resulting mixture was sonicated for 2 min and then extruded 10 times through a 100 nm polycarbonate filter. The liposomes were then dialyzed at 4 °C for 24 h. The resulting liposomes were kept at 4 °C for further use.

Preparation of Nonfluid Liposomes by Ethanol Injection (Entries 2–5, Table 1).

To prepare the nonfluid liposomes alone (entry 2), 1 mL of 10:1 v/v methanol/DMSO was added to a 10 mL round-bottom flask containing egg PC (7.7 mg, 10 μmol) and cholesterol (0.5 mg, 1.3 μmol). After the solids were completely dissolved, the solution was added dropwise to a scintillation vial containing 10 mL of water under vigorously shaking. The liposomes were dialyzed at 4 \degree C for 24 h, and the purified liposomes were kept at 4 \degree C for further use.

Rifampicin-loaded nonfluid liposomes (entry 3) were prepared following the same procedure as entry 2 above, except rifampicin (3.4 mg, 4.1 μmol) was added.

For rifampicin-loaded nonfluid Man-glycoliposomes (entry 4) and G7-glycoliposomes (entry 5), Man-DPPE (1.0 mg, 1.1 μ mol) or G7-DPPE (2 mg, 1.1 μ mol) at a mole ratio of 8:1:0.8 PC/Chol/glycolipid was included in the liposome formulation in addition to rifampicin. The liposomes were purified by dialysis at 4 °C for 24 h and stored at 4 °C.

Preparation of Fluid Liposomes by Thin-Film Hydration and Extrusion (Entries 6–9).

To prepare the fluid liposomes alone (entry 6), 10 mL of 5:1 v/v chloroform/methanol was added to a mixture of DPPC (12 mg, 16 μ mol) and DMPG (2.0 mg, 2.9 μ mol) in a 50 mL round-bottom flask. After the solids were fully dissolved, the solvent was rotary-evaporated to yield a thin film around the flask, which was further dried under vacuum overnight. Water (10 mL) was added to the dried film, and the resulting mixture was sonicated for 2 min. It was then frozen at −80 °C and thawed at 55 °C, and this process was repeated 3 times. The resulting mixture was extruded through a 100 nm polycarbonate filter at 55 °C for 10 times. The liposomes were dialyzed at 4 °C for 24 h, and the purified liposomes were kept at 4 °C until further use.

To prepare the rifampicin-loaded fluid liposomes (entry 7), after DPPC (12 mg, 16 μmol) and DMPG (2.0 mg, 2.9 μ mol) were fully dissolved, a solution of rifampicin (10 mg, 12) μ mol) in chloroform (10 mL) was added. The solvent was then evaporated on a rotavap, and the thin lipid film around the inside of the flask was further dried under vacuum overnight. Hydration and purification followed the same procedure as entry 6 above.

To prepare the rifampicin-loaded fluid Man-glycoliposomes (entry 8) and G7 glycoliposomes (entry 9), Man-DPPE $(1.8 \text{ mg}, 2.0 \mu \text{mol})$ or G7-DPPE $(4 \text{ mg}, 2.0 \mu \text{mol})$ was added to DPPC (12 mg, 16 μ mol) and DMPG (2.0 mg, 2.9 μ mol) at a mole ratio of 6:1:0.6 DPPC/DMPG/glycolipid. The rest of the procedure followed the same as entry 7 above.

Determining the Amount of Rifampicin Encapsulated in Liposomes.

To determine the amount of rifampicin encapsulated in the rifampicin-loaded liposomes, the liposomes were lysed by adding 10 times the volume of DMSO to the purified liposomes. The absorbance of the resulting solution at 475 nm was measured on a UV–vis spectrometer. The concentration of rifampicin was determined by comparing the absorbance to the standard calibration curve of rifampicin, constructed by measuring the absorbances of varying concentrations of rifampicin solutions in DMSO at 475 nm (Figure S1).

Drug Release.

To determine the kinetics of the rifampicin release from the liposomes, rifampicin-loaded liposomes were dialyzed, and the amount of rifampicin released was monitored by measuring the concentration of rifampicin in the solution. A dialysis bag (MW cutoff 10 000) containing 2 mL of the purified rifampicin-loaded liposomes was placed in a beaker containing 100 mL of Milli-Q water. It was then placed in an incubator at 37 °C while shaking. An aliquot (1 mL) of the aqueous solution was taken out at 0.5, 1, 2, 4, 9, and 24 h. The concentration of rifampicin was determined by UV–vis spectroscopy by comparing it to

Determining the Amount of Man-DPPE or G7-DPPE Incorporated into Liposomes.

the standard calibration curve of rifampicin (Figure S1).

A colorimetry assay based on anthrone/sulfuric acid was used to determine the amount of Man-DPPE or G7-DPPE incorporated into the liposomes.^{52,57,67} Dehydration of a hexoselike glucose or Man by the concentrated sulfuric acid gives a furfuraldehyde, which is then condensed with anthrone to form a yellowish-green furanylmethylene–anthrone product with a λ_{max} of 620 nm. Standard calibration curves were first constructed using Man-DPPE and G7-DPPE. Stock solutions of Man-DPPE and G7-DPPE were prepared at 10 mg/mL in 7:4:0.1 v/v/v chloroform/MeOH/H₂O. Aliquots of the stock solutions were added to scintillation vials, and the organic solvents were removed by an Ar flow. Ten milliliters of Milli-Q water was added to each vial, and the solutions were sonicated for 10 min to make the concentration series for Man-DPPE (50, 75, 100, 150, 200, 300, and 600 μ g/mL) and G7-DPPE (20, 30, 50, 75, 100, 150, and 200 μg/mL). A freshly prepared solution of anthrone in concentrated H_2SO_4 (0.8 mL, 0.5 wt %) was slowly added to the solutions of Man-DPPE or G7-DPPE (0.4 mL) in an ice bath, and the solutions were heated to 100 °C for 10 min. After cooling to room temperature, the absorbances at 620 nm were recorded on a microplate reader (Infinite 200 PRO, TECAN). The data were plotted against the concentrations of Man-DPPE or G7-DPPE as the calibration curves (Figure S2). To determine the amount of Man-DPPE or G7-DPPE incorporated into the liposomes, the liposomes were treated with freshly prepared anthrone/sulfuric acid reagent following the same procedure described above. The absorbances at 620 nm were measured, and the data were compared to the calibration curves in Figure S2, from which the amounts of Man-DPPE or G7-DPPE were calculated.

Determination of Dissociation Constant Kd between Glycoliposomes and Con A by DLS.

G7- or Man-glycoliposomes (without rifampicin) were treated with a solution of various concentrations of Con A in 10 mM pH 7.2 HEPES buffer containing 1.0 mM of MnCl₂ and CaCl₂ for 2 h while shaking on a vortex mixer. For DLS measurements, the suspension was diluted to 2 mL using the HEPES buffer. Each DLS measurement was performed at 20 scans and repeated 3 times. The change in the hydrodynamic diameter (D) of the liposomes vs Con A concentration was plotted, and the dissociation constant was calculated by fitting the curve to the Hill equation using GraphPad Prism.

Determination of MIC by Broth Microdilution.

E. coli ORN208 was grown in Mueller Hinton broth (MHB) at 37 °C overnight. The culture was diluted 5 times by MHB and incubated at 37 °C for an additional 3 h until the OD_{600} reached 0.3. The bacterial suspension was then diluted 100-folds by MHB, and 100 μL was added to a 96-well plate containing $2\times$ serially diluted liposomes or rifampicin solutions (100 μ L in each well, each in triplicates). Plates were incubated at 37 °C for 16 h with shaking at 180 rpm, AlamarBlue (20 μ L) was added to each well, and the mixture was incubated for 2 more hours. The fluorescence intensity at 590 nm (excitation: 560 nm) was recorded using a microplate reader (Infinite 200 PRO, TECAN). The MIC was the lowest drug concentration that led to a 20% reduction in fluorescence relative to the untreated cells.

Purified liposome solutions in water were used directly for serial dilution. For rifampicin, a stock solution was prepared in DMSO (10 mg/mL) and then diluted with Milli-Q water to the final concentration series. The maximal DMSO concentration in the highest concentration rifampicin (256 μ g/mL) was 2.5%, at which the bacterial cells were still viable. DMSO did not affect bacterial growth until reaching the concentration of 20%.

Time–Kill Study.

E. coli ORN208 was cultured according to the procedure above. The 100-fold diluted bacterial suspension (1.5 mL) was added to a 24-well plate containing 1.5 mL each of the rifampicin solutions or rifampicin-loaded liposomes at the concentrations of $1 \times$ MIC or $2 \times$ MIC or $4 \times$ MIC, and the plate was then placed in an incubator at 37 °C while shaking at 180 rpm. Bacteria in MHB alone were the control. Bacterial colony forming unit (CFU) was estimated by the single plate-serial dilution spotting (SP-SDS) technique.⁶⁸ An aliquot of 50 μ L of bacterial suspension was taken out from each well at the time points of 0, 2, 4, 8, and 24 h, from which six dilutions were prepared $(10^{1} - 10^{6})$ from each suspension. An aliquot of 20 μ L of these six dilutions was applied as 10–15 microdrops over an MH agar plate that was divided into six sections. After overnight incubation at 37 °C, the sections that yielded 6–60 colonies were used to calculate the bacterial CFU.

FRET Experiment.

The liposomes containing NBD-PE and Rh-PE were prepared by thin-film hydration and extrusion, following the same procedure as described earlier. To a mixture of DPPC (6 mg, 8 μmol), DMPG (1 mg, 1.4 μmol), and Man-DPPE (0.9 mg, 1 μmol) or G7-DPPE (2 mg, 1 μmol) in a 50 mL round-bottom flask was added 10 mL of 2:1 v/v chloroform-methanol. After the solids were fully dissolved, NBD-PE (51 μ g, 0.053 μ mol) and Rh-PE (72 μ g, 0.054 ^μmol) were added. The solvent was then evaporated, and the thin lipid film was further dried under vacuum overnight. Water (11 mL) was added to the dried film. The mixture was sonicated briefly, subjected to three freeze (−80 °C) and thaw (in 65 °C water bath) cycles, and then extruded through two stacked 100 nm polycarbonate membranes at 60 °C for 10 times. The purified liposomes were stored at 4° C in the dark. For the FRET experiment, 1.8 mL of PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 10 mM), E. coli ORN208 (OD₆₀₀ = 0.6 in PBS buffer), or the detergent (0.2 vol % Triton X-100) was mixed with 0.2 mL of the liposome solution in a cuvette. Initial mixing was done by repeatedly pipetting up and down or under shaking at

180 rpm at 37 °C for 1 h in the case of bacteria. Fluorescence spectra were recorded on an Agilent Cary Eclipse fluorescence spectrophotometer by scanning in the range of 500–700 nm at an excitation of 460 nm, the λ_{max} of NBD-PE.

Confocal Fluorescence Microscopy Imaging.

E. coli ORN208 was grown in MHB to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.3. The bacterial pellet was collected by centrifuging the broth culture at 5000 rpm for 10 min and resuspended in pH 7.4 PBS buffer to reach the same concentration. NBD/Rh-labeled liposomes (1 mL) were added to 1 mL of the bacterial suspension. The mixture was further incubated for 1 h. A drop (20 μ L) of the suspension was mixed with 20 μ L of glycerol, pipetted onto a glass coverslip, sealed with nail polish, and examined under a confocal fluorescence microscope (Olympus FV300).

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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Figure 1.

 (a, b) Time course of rifampicin release from nonfluid (a) and fluid liposomes (b) . (c, d) Kinetics of drug release for rifampicin encapsulated in nonfluid (c) and fluid liposomes (d). Liposomes were dialyzed in Milli-Q water at 37 °C while shaking. Concentrations of rifampicin were measured by UV–vis spectroscopy against a standard calibration curve (Figure S1).

Figure 2.

Changes in the hydrodynamic diameter $($ $)$ of glycoliposomes vs the concentrations of Con A: experimental data (circles) and the corresponding Hill fitting curves (lines) for (a) nonfluid Man-glycoliposomes, (b) nonfluid G7-glycoliposomes, (c) fluid Manglycoliposomes, and (d) fluid G7-glycoliposomes. Each data point was the average of two independent trials.

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Figure 3.

Time–kill kinetics of (a) rifampicin, (b) rifampicin-loaded nonfluid liposomes, (c) rifampicin-loaded nonfluid Man-glycoliposomes, (d) rifampicin-loaded nonfluid G7 glycoliposomes, (e) rifampicin-loaded fluid liposomes, (f) rifampicin-loaded fluid Manglycoliposomes, and (g) rifampicin-loaded fluid G7-glycoliposomes. The control was E. coli ORN208 alone in the Mueller Hinton broth (MHB). Lines were drawn by connecting the data points to aid visualization.

Figure 4.

(a) Structures of FRET donor NBD-PE and acceptor Rh-PE. (b) Fluorescence spectra of NBD/Rh-labeled fluid G7-glycoliposomes alone (black), after the addition of Triton X-100 (green), or E. coli ORN208 immediately (red) and after 1 h incubation (blue). Excitation: 460 nm.

Scheme 1. Synthesis of Man-DPPE*^a*

 a (a) Benzyl bromide, NaH, tetra-n-butylammonium iodide, N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF), 0 °C, RT, 12 h (90%); (b) glacial acetic acid, HCl, 85 °C, 7 h (45%); (c) t-butyl 2-bromoacetate, KOH, TBAB, toluene, 0 °C, RT, 1 h (85%); (d) TFA, dichloromethane (DCM), RT, 45 min (83%); (e) NHS, $N-$ (3-dimethylaminopropyl)- N' -ethylcarbodiimide (EDAC), DCM, 24 h (90%); (f) DPPE-NH2, triethylamine, DMF, 16 h (88%); and (g) Pd/C, H2, THF/MeOH, 24 h (quantitative yield).

Scheme 2. Synthesis of G7-DPPE*^b*

 b (a) Acetic anhydride, FeCl₃, RT, 70 °C, 4 h (33%); (b) acetic acid/HBr, 0 °C, RT, 2 h; (c) KSAc, acetone, RT, 5 h (66% from **7**); (d) NaOMe, MeOH, RT, 3 h (94%); (e) 16, DMF, 2 h, 58%; (f) Pd/C, H₂, MeOH/H₂O, RT, 2 h (quantitative yield); and (g) 17, EDAC, DMF, 8 h (46%).

Scheme 3. Structures of Lipids (PC, Cholesterol, DPPC, and DMPG) and Rifampicin

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Table 1.

Characterization of Liposomes: Particle Diameter, Size Distribution, and Drug Loading Characterization of Liposomes: Particle Diameter, Size Distribution, and Drug Loading

Ð: polydispersity index, measured by DLS.

Rif encapsulation yield (%) is the percent of rifampicin encapsulated in the liposomes versus the amount of Rif initially added. Rif encapsulation yield (%) is the percent of rifampicin encapsulated in the liposomes versus the amount of Rif initially added.

 $d_{\rm{Rif\,wt}}$ % is the percent of rifampic
in encapsulated versus the total weight of the liposomes. Rif wt % is the percent of rifampicin encapsulated versus the total weight of the liposomes.

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 Determined from the slope in Figure 1c,d according to the following equation: ∣
දිි C 0 0 ।
∜ु $\left[\begin{matrix} C_0' \\ C_1' \end{matrix}\right] = k_C^{\rm t}$ obs In (see SI for details).

b Calculated from the following equation: $P_{\rm app}$ = k_{obs} V/A, where $V/A =$ d/6, and d is the hydrodynamic diameter of the liposome (see SI for details).

 $\stackrel{\circ}{\textrm{Measured by DLS}}$. Measured by DLS.

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Table 3.

Ligand Density and Binding Affinity of Man- and G7-Glycoliposomes with Con A Ligand Density and Binding Affinity of Man- and G7-Glycoliposomes with Con A

Obtained from fitting the data in Figure 2 to eq 1.

Affinity enhancement =

KD/Kd, where

 d Affinity enhancement = Kfy/K_d, where Kfy is 0.34 mM for Con A–Man and 0.83 mM for Con A–G7.⁶²

 K_D is 0.34 mM for Con A–Man and 0.83 mM for Con A–G7.⁶²

Table 4.

MIC (μg/mL Based on Rifampicin) against E. coli ORN208 a

 d Assays were repeated twice, and both results are presented. Assays were repeated twice, and both results are presented.

Table 5.

Fluorescence Intensity at 590 nm (Rh) and 536 nm (NBD) of NBD/Rh-Labeled Fluid G7-Glycoliposomes before and after Incubations with E. coli ORN208

