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**ARTICLE TYPE**

**Supplementary information**

**Ru-based CO releasing molecules with azole ligands: interaction with proteins and CO release mechanism disclosed by X-ray crystallography**

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<b>Table S1.</b> Data collection and refinement statistics for HEWL-Ru <sup>III</sup> IM, HEWL-Ru <sup>III</sup> MIM, RNase A-Ru <sup>III</sup> IM, RNase A-Ru <sup>III</sup> MIM and RNase A-Ru <sup>III</sup> MBI structures							
	HEWL-Ru <sup>III</sup> IM	HEWL-Ru <sup>III</sup> IM	HEWL-Ru <sup>III</sup> MIM	HEWL-Ru <sup>III</sup> MIM	RNase A-Ru <sup>III</sup> IM	RNase A-Ru <sup>III</sup> MIM	RNase A-Ru <sup>III</sup> MBI
	First structure	Second structure	Crystals grown using NaCl	Crystals grown using ethylene glycol			
PDB code							
Crystallization conditions	1.1M NaCl, 0.1 M sodium acetate pH 4.4	1.1M NaCl, 0.1 M sodium acetate pH 4.0	1.1M NaCl, 0.1 M sodium acetate pH 4.0	20% Ethylene glycol, 0.1 M sodium acetate pH 4.0, 0.6 M sodium nitrate	18% PEG4K, 10 mM sodium citrate pH 5.1 Soaking: 4 days Ligand concentration: 5 mM	22% PEG4K, 10 mM sodium citrate pH 5.1 Soaking: 14 days Ligand concentration: 5 mM	22% PEG4K, 10 mM sodium citrate pH 5.1 Soaking: 3 days Ligand concentration: 5 mM
Space group	P4 <sub>3</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 2	C2	C2	C2			
Unit cell parameters							
a,b,c (Å)	79.78, 79.78, 36.64	78.97, 78.97, 36.60	78.57, 78.57, 36.66	77.74, 77.74, 37.17	100.55, 32.67, 74.69	99.63, 32.77, 72.25	100.65, 32.98, 73.05
β (°)	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.5	90.0	90.2
Molecules per asymmetric unit	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Observed reflections	51100	20497	46898	18791	46153	36034	50056
Unique reflections	9931	6694	9488	4846	14981	15576	21285
Resolution	56.41-1.88	55.84-2.10	55.56-1.85	54.97-2.38	74.68-2.07	72.25-1.98	73.05-1.82

(Å)	(1.91-1.88)	(2.14-2.10)	(1.88-1.85)	(2.42-2.38)	(2.11-2.07)	(2.01-1.98)	(1.85-1.82)
Completeness (%)	98.2 (100)	93.3 (93.3)	92.3 (86.3)	98.1 (97.9)	99.0 (94.2)	92.2 (81.9)	97.6 (95.4)
Rmerge†	0.091 (0.597)	0.057 (0.296)	0.048 (0.603)	0.099 (0.691)	0.085 (0.548)	0.103 (0.448)	0.072 (0.384)
I/σ(I)	13.3 (2.7)	11.4 (4.2)	36.8 (2.3)	15.6 (2.3)	9.5 (2.0)	8.2 (2.2)	6.3 (1.7)
Multiplicity	5.1 (3.2)	3.1 (2.8)	4.9 (3.0)	3.9 (3.6)	3.1 (2.5)	2.3 (1.7)	2.4 (1.4)
Refinement							
Resolution (Å)	56.41-1.88	55.84-2.10	55.56-1.85	54.97-2.38	74.68-2.07	72.251.98	73.051.82
number of reflections in working set	9428	6307	8981	4597	14224	14790	20184
number of reflections in test set	477	310	457	228	755	785	1091
R factor/Rfree (%)	17.5/24.2	15.3/23.4	16.0/23.2	18.8/30.8	18.1/27.2	17.6/27.9	16.5/23.6
Number of non-H atoms	1256	1234	1201	1147	2139	2385	2423
Number of Ru containing fragments	5	3	2	2	3	2	2
Occupancy of Ru atoms	0.8/0.5/0.3-0.3/0.3/0.5/0.3	0.8/0.5/0.3	0.8/0.4	0.4/0.6	0.4/0.4/0.6	0.7/0.7	0.6/0.5
B-factor of Ru atoms	38.6/54.8/52.1-52.5/58.5/50.0	44.2/51.0/46.4	43.4/56.7	55.1/49.1	54.4/52.7/52.8	51.5/61.8	44.0/58.8
Overall B-factor	32.20	33.79	33.26	40.28	42.10	30.53	30.82
Ramachandran values (%)							
Preferred/Allowed/Outl	97.2/2.8/0.0	97.2/2.8/0.0	97.5/2.5/0.0	96.1/3.9/0.0	95.8/3.4/0.8	92.3/5.0/2.7	95.1/2.2/2.7

iers							
R.m.s.d. bonds(Å)	0.021	0.016	0.023	0.013	0.014	0.015	0.016
R.m.s.d. angles(°)	1.87	1.674	1.913	1.626	1.726	1.626	1.771



							rmsd, e <sup>-</sup> /Å <sup>3</sup> 10.8; 0.24	rmsd, e <sup>-</sup> /Å <sup>3</sup> 5.4; 0.27	rmsd, e <sup>-</sup> /Å <sup>3</sup> 4.2; 0.20	rmsd, e <sup>-</sup> /Å <sup>3</sup> 3.1; 0.13		
Asp18	Ru (0.5; 25.7) <b>CO</b> CO Cl Cl  Ru (0.5; 27.9) <b>CO</b> CO Wat Cl	Ru (0.5; 29.5)   Ru (0.5; 28.1) Cl	Ru (0.65; 32.6) <b>Wat</b> CO Wat Wat	Ru (0.50; 23.1) <b>Wat</b> Wat Ru (0.50; 25.4) <b>Wat</b> Wat Wat	Ru (0.50; 41.7) <b>Wat</b> CO CO Wat Wat	Ru (0.5; 54.8) <b>Wat</b> CO Wat Wat Wat	Ru (0.5; 51.0) <b>Wat</b> CO CO Wat Wat Wat	Ru (0.4; 56.7) <b>Wat</b> CO CO Wat Wat Wat				
							Anomal ous peak: rmsd, e <sup>-</sup> /Å <sup>3</sup> 3.7; 0.08	Anomal ous peak: rmsd, e <sup>-</sup> /Å <sup>3</sup> 2.9; 0.14	Anomal ous peak: rmsd, e <sup>-</sup> /Å <sup>3</sup> 2.6; 0.13			
Asp52	Ru (0.35; 29.4) <b>Wat</b> Wat Wat	Ru (0.3; 22.5)  x Wat Wat Wat	Ru (0.5; 32.2) <b>Wat</b> Wat Wat	Ru (0.40; 42.1)  x CO Wat Wat	Ru (0.40; 32.7) <b>Wat</b> CO CO Wat Wat Wat	Ru (0.40; 32.7) <b>Wat</b> CO CO Wat Wat	Ru A/B (0.3/0.3; 52.1/52. 5) <b>Wat</b>					
							Anomal ous peak: rmsd, e <sup>-</sup> /Å <sup>3</sup> 3.1; 0.07					
Asp101	Ru (0.10; 33.7)  Ru (0.10; 26.9)	Ru (0.1; 25.5)  Ru (0.1; 45.5)		Ru (0.70; 22.5)  x Wat Wat	Ru (0.65; 56.9) <b>Wat</b> Wat Wat							

				Wat  Ru (0.70; 21.8) <b>Wat</b> Wat Wat Wat	Wat  Ru (0.65; 81.0)  Wat						
Asp119	Ru (0.5; 42.4)	Ru (0.3; 31.8) Cl	Ru (0.5; 51.3) <b>Wat</b> Wat Wat	Ru (0.70; 23.1) <b>Wat</b> CO Wat Wat Wat			Ru (0.5; 58.5) <b>CO</b> CO	Ru (0.3; 42.3)  Wat		Ru (0.6;49. 1) <b>CO</b> CO CO Wat OE1 Gln121	
							Anomal ous peak: rmsd, e <sup>-</sup> /Å <sup>3</sup> 3.5; 0.08	Anomal ous peak: rmsd, e <sup>-</sup> /Å <sup>3</sup> -		Anomal ous peak: rmsd, e <sup>-</sup> /Å <sup>3</sup> 4.8; 0.20	
Leu129	Ru (0.5; 43.7)	Ru (0.3; 27.4)  Ru (0.5; 29.9)					Ru  (0.3; 58.5)  Wat  Wat  Wat				
							Anomal ous peak:  rmsd, e <sup>-</sup> /Å <sup>3</sup>  4.0; 0.09				

<b>Table S3.</b> Root Mean Square Deviations values (Å) computed on CA atoms among HEWL adducts formed with Ru <sup>II</sup> IM, Ru <sup>II</sup> MIM and Ru <sup>II</sup> MBI.				
	HEWL- Ru <sup>II</sup> IM	HEWL- Ru <sup>II</sup> IM	HEWL- Ru <sup>II</sup> MIM	HEWL- Ru <sup>II</sup> MIM
	First structure	Second structure	Crystals grown using NaCl	Crystals grown using ethylene glycol
HEWL- Ru <sup>II</sup> IM  First structure	-	0.12	0.18	0.30
HEWL- Ru <sup>II</sup> IM  Second structure		-	0.14	0.28
HEWL- Ru <sup>II</sup> MIM  Crystals grown using NaCl			-	0.28
HEWL- Ru <sup>II</sup> MIM  Crystals grown using ethylene glycol				-

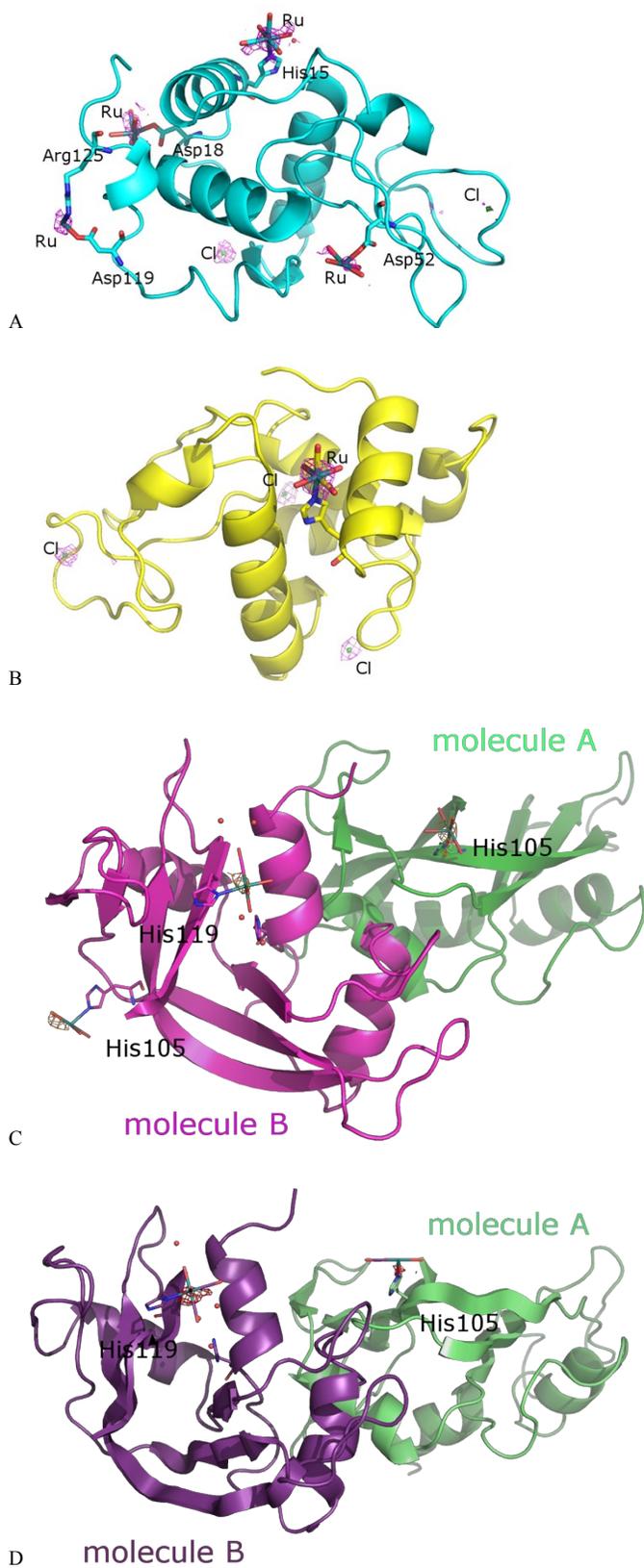
**Table S4.** Root Mean Square Deviations values ( $\text{\AA}$ ) computed on CA atoms among RNase A adducts formed with Ru<sup>II</sup>IM Ru<sup>II</sup>MIM and Ru<sup>II</sup>MBI. data were compared also with the two RNase A molecules in the structure of the ligand-free RNase A solved from isomorphous crystals.

	RNase A- Ru <sup>II</sup> IM Chain A	RNase A- Ru <sup>II</sup> IM Chain B	RNase A- Ru <sup>II</sup> MIM Chain A	RNase A- Ru <sup>II</sup> MIM Chain B	RNase A- Ru <sup>II</sup> MBI Chain A	RNase A- Ru <sup>II</sup> MBI Chain B	Ligand-free RNase A Chain A (1JVT)	Ligand-free RNase A Chain B (1JVT)*
RNase A- Ru <sup>II</sup> IM Chain A	-	0.47	0.37	1.18	0.38	0.59	0.48	0.49
RNase A- Ru <sup>II</sup> IM Chain B		-	0.60	1.04	0.52	0.36	0.53	0.29
RNase A- Ru <sup>II</sup> MIM Chain A			-	1.22	0.22	0.66	0.42	0.54
RNase A- Ru <sup>II</sup> MIM Chain B				-	1.18	1.00	1.19	1.12
RNase A- Ru <sup>II</sup> MBI Chain A					-	0.58	0.34	0.44
RNase A- Ru <sup>II</sup> MBI Chain B						-	0.61	0.44
Ligand-free RNase A Chain A							-	0.48
Ligand-free RNase A Chain B								-

\*from reference 36 of the main text.

**Table S5.** Details of the structures of RuCORMs-RNase A adducts.

	RNase A-Ru <sup>II</sup> IM	RNase A-Ru <sup>II</sup> MIM	RNase A-Ru <sup>II</sup> MBI
Resolution (Å)	2.07	1.98	1.82
Rfactor/Rfree(%)	18.1/27.2	17.6/27.9	16.5/23.6
	Ru (Occupancy; B-factor (Å <sup>2</sup> ))  Ru ligands Equat. <b>Axial</b>	Ru (Occupancy; B-factor (Å <sup>2</sup> ))  Ru ligands Equat. <b>Axial</b>	Ru (Occupancy; B-factor (Å <sup>2</sup> ))  Ru ligands Equat. <b>Axial</b>
His105 mol A	Ru (0.7, 61.8) <b>x</b>  CO CO Wat  x	Ru (0.7, 61.8) <b>x</b>  CO CO Wat  x	Ru (0.5, 58.8) <b>x</b>  CO Wat Wat  x
	Anomalous peak: rmsd, e/Å <sup>3</sup> 4.8; 0.20	Anomalous peak: rmsd, e/Å <sup>3</sup> .	Anomalous peak: rmsd, e/Å <sup>3</sup> 2.4; 0.28
His119 mol B	Ru (0.6, 52.8) <b>wat</b>  CO Wat Wat  x	Ru (0.7, 51.5) <b>CO</b>  CO CO Wat  x	Ru (0.6, 44.0) <b>CO</b>  CO CO Wat  x
	Anomalous peak: rmsd, e/Å <sup>3</sup> 3.5; 0.14	Anomalous peak: rmsd, e/Å <sup>3</sup> -	Anomalous peak: rmsd, e/Å <sup>3</sup> 5.8; 0.68
His105 mol B	Ru (0.4, 52.7) <b>x</b>  Wat Wat Wat  x		
	Anomalous peak: rmsd, e/Å <sup>3</sup> 3.2; 0.13		



**Figure S1.** Anomalous maps for HEWL-Ru<sup>III</sup>IM (A, 3.0 $\sigma$  level), HEWL Ru<sup>II</sup>IM (B, 3.0 $\sigma$  level), RNase A-Ru<sup>III</sup>IM (C, 2.5 $\sigma$  level), RNase A-Ru<sup>II</sup>IMBI (D, 2.5 $\sigma$  level),