# **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# A sandwich-type zinc complex from rhodamine dye based ligand: a potential fluorescent chemosensor for acetate in human blood plasma and a molecular logic gate with INHIBIT function

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IR spectrum of Zn-R1



Figure S1 IR spectrum of Zn-R1.



**Figure S2(a)** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **Zn-R1**.



Figure S2(b) Expanded region of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of Zn-R1.

# <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of Zn-R1



Figure S3 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of Zn-R1.

Mass spectrum of Zn-R1



Figure S4 Mass spectrum of Zn-R1.



**Figure S5(a)** Theoretical isotopic pattern of m/z 1391.43 peak representing **Zn-R1** ( $C_{32}H_{40}N_3O_5$ )<sub>2</sub>Zn(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O-H) calculated using compass isotope pattern.



Figure S5(b) Experimental isotopic pattern of m/z 1391.56 peak representing Zn-R1 (C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>40</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Zn(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O-H).

#### Determination of the stoichiometry of R and $Zn^{2+}$



**Figure S6** Job's plot for the determination of the stoichiometry of interaction of **R** with Zn<sup>2+</sup>.  $\lambda_{ex} = 530$  nm. 10 µm solutions of **R** and Zn<sup>2+</sup> were used for this study.

# Determination of the detection limit of R towards $Zn^{2+}$



**Figure S7** Fluorescence intensity at 585 nm of **R** in CH<sub>3</sub>CN with different amounts of Zn<sup>2+</sup>.  $\lambda_{ex} = 530$  nm.

#### Absorption spectra of R on addition of Zn<sup>2+</sup>



**Figure S8** Absorption spectra of **R** (5×10<sup>-6</sup> M) upon addition of  $Zn^{2+}$ (4.29 equivalents). Inset shows change in color & absorbance with the addition of increasing amounts of  $Zn^{2+}$ .



**Figure S9(a)** Fluorescence spectra of **Zn-R1** (5×10<sup>-6</sup> M) upon addition of 6.0 equiv. of various anions (F<sup>-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>-</sup>, CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, ClO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, CN<sup>-</sup>, SCN<sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, HSO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, OH<sup>-</sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> and HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN:H<sub>2</sub>O (9.5:0.5 %, v/v);  $\lambda_{ex} = 530$  nm.



**Figure S9(b)** UV-vis spectra of **Zn-R1** ( $5 \times 10^{-6}$  M) upon addition of 6.0 equiv. of CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup> in CH<sub>3</sub>CN:H<sub>2</sub>O (9.5:0.5 %,  $\nu/\nu$ ). Inset shows the colour change as well as the changes in absorbance values on addition of various equivalents of acetate ions.

#### **Stern-Volmer constant**



**Figure S10** Stern-Volmer plot of the fluorescence response of  $\mathbf{Zn}$ -R1 to [CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup>].

I/Io=Ae<sup>Kx</sup>+B

Quenching Constant =  $A \times K$ , where K = 1/t

Determination of the stoichiometry of interaction between Zn-R1 and  $CH_3COO^-$ 



**Figure S11** Job's plot for the determination of the stoichiometry of interaction between **Zn-R1** and CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup>.  $\lambda_{ex} = 530$  nm. 10 µm solutions of **Zn-R1** and CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup> were used for this study.

Determination of the detection limit of Zn-R1 towards CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup>



**Figure S12** Fluorescence intensity at 585 nm of **Zn-R1** in CH<sub>3</sub>CN:H<sub>2</sub>O (9.5:0.5 %,  $\nu/\nu$ ) with different amounts of CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup>.  $\lambda_{ex} = 530$  nm.





**Figure S13(a)** Fluorescence spectra of **Zn-R1** ( $5 \times 10^{-6}$  M) upon addition of 6.0 equiv. of CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup> in DMSO:H<sub>2</sub>O (9.5:0.5 %,  $\nu/\nu$ ). Inset shows the colour change as well as the changes in absorbance values on addition of various equivalents of acetate ions.



**Figure S13(b)** Fluorescence spectra of **Zn-R1** ( $5 \times 10^{-6}$  M) upon addition of 6.0 equiv. of CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup> in DMSO:H<sub>2</sub>O (7:3 %, v/v). Inset shows the colour change as well as the changes in absorbance values on addition of various equivalents of acetate ions.



Figure S14 IR spectrum of Zn-R1 after addition of CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup>.



Figure S15(a) Mass spectrum of Zn-R1 after addition of CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup> (m/z range 200-1100 is shown).



Figure S15(b) Mass spectrum of Zn-R1 after addition of CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup> (m/z range 300-1700 is shown).



Figure S16(a) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of Zn-R1 in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> after addition of CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup>.



**Figure S16(b)** Expansion of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **Zn-R1** in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> after addition of CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup> in the region of 4.55 to 3.2 ppm.

| Table S1: | Fluorescence life time | measurement data of R, Zn-R1 | 1 and Zn-R1 in | presence of CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup> . |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--|
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--|

| Components    | R        | Zn-R1    | Zn-R1 +CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup> |
|---------------|----------|----------|---|
| $\tau_1$ [ns] | 0.211    | 0.581    | 0.156                                   |
| $f_1$         | 80%      | 15%      | 89%                                     |
| $\tau_2 [ns]$ | 1.311    | 1.184    | 1.381                                   |
| $f_2$         | 20%      | 85%      | 11%                                     |
| $\chi^2$      | 1.175885 | 1.048132 | 1.171815                                |

### Absorption spectra of Zn-R1 on addition of CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup> present in artificial blood plasma



**Figure S17** Absorption spectra of **Zn-R1** ( $5 \times 10^{-6}$  M) upon addition of PLAS (B) (2.66 equivalents). Inset shows change in colour & absorbance with the addition of increasing amounts of PLAS (B).

Determination of the detection limit of Zn-R1 towards CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup> present in artificial blood plasma



**Figure S18** Fluorescence intensity at 585 nm of **Zn-R1** in CH<sub>3</sub>CN:H<sub>2</sub>O (9.5:0.5  $\nu/\nu$ ) with different amounts of PLAS (B).  $\lambda_{ex} = 530$  nm.





**Figure S19** Stern-Volmer plot of the fluorescence response of **Zn-R1** to  $[CH_3COO^-]$  present in PLAS (B).

 $I/Io = Ae^{Kx} + B$ 

Quenching constant =  $A \times K$ , where K = 1/t

# X-ray crystallography and structure analysis

| C64 H88 Cl4 N6 O30 Zn  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1628.57  |   |  |
| 293(2) K   |   |  |
| 0.71073 Å  |   |  |
| Triclinic  |   |  |
| P -1   |   |  |
| a = 12.3279(12)  Å   | $\alpha = 104.215(6)^\circ$   |  |
| b = 12.8597(9) Å   | $\beta = 100.333(7)^{\circ}$  |  |
| c = 13.1221(9) Å   | $\gamma=105.122(7)^\circ$   |  |
| 1879.7(3) Å <sup>3</sup>   |   |  |
| 1  |   |  |
| 1.439 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>  |   |  |
| 0.556 mm <sup>-1</sup>   |   |  |
| 852  |   |  |
| 0.2907 	imes 0.26 	imes 0.1383                                       |   |  |
| 1.724 to 28.337°.  |   |  |
| -16<=h<=10, -12<=k<=16, -14<=l<=16                                   |   |  |
| Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>                          |   |  |
| 10473  |   |  |
| 7861 / 4 / 489   |   |  |
| 1.053  |   |  |
| R1 = 0.0827, wR2 = 0.2386  |   |  |
| R1 = 0.1081, $wR2 = 0.2735$  |   |  |
| f. peak and hole $0.803 \text{ and } -0.518 \text{ e.}\text{Å}^{-3}$ |   |  |
|  | C64 H88 Cl4 N6 O30<br>1628.57<br>293(2) K<br>0.71073 Å<br>Triclinic<br>P -1<br>a = 12.3279(12) Å<br>b = 12.8597(9) Å<br>c = 13.1221(9) Å<br>1879.7(3) Å <sup>3</sup><br>1<br>1.439 Mg/m <sup>3</sup><br>0.556 mm <sup>-1</sup><br>852<br>0.2907 × 0.26 × 0.138<br>1.724 to 28.337°.<br>-16<=h<=10, -12<=k<br>Full-matrix least-squa<br>10473<br>7861 / 4 / 489<br>1.053<br>R1 = 0.0827, wR2 = 0.<br>R1 = 0.1081, wR2 = 0.<br>0.803 and -0.518 e.Å <sup>-3</sup> |  |

Table S2: The crystallographic data and structure refinement parameters of Zn-R1

| Bond         | Bond length[Å] | Bond        | Bond length[Å] |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Zn(1)-O(4)   | 2.031(4)       | C(1)-C(2)   | 1.364(5)       |
| Zn(1)-O(4)#1 | 2.031(4)       | C(20)-C(19) | 1.501(5)       |
| Zn(1)-O(2)#1 | 2.055(3)       | C(19)-C(18) | 1.393(5)       |
| Zn(1)-O(2)   | 2.055(3)       | C(19)-C(14) | 1.399(5)       |
| Zn(1)-O(3)   | 2.115(3)       | C(14)-C(15) | 1.381(5)       |
| Zn(1)-O(3)#1 | 2.115(3)       | C(14)-C(7)  | 1.488(5)       |
| Cl(3)-O(11)  | 1.372(7)       | C(12)-C(11) | 1.419(6)       |
| Cl(3)-O(10)  | 1.377(6)       | C(7)-C(8)   | 1.398(5)       |
| Cl(3)-O(9)   | 1.398(6)       | C(11)-C(10) | 1.431(6)       |
| Cl(3)-O(7)   | 1.404(6)       | C(8)-C(9)   | 1.418(5)       |
| Cl(7)-O(14)  | 1.211(10)      | N(2)-C(3)   | 1.338(5)       |
| Cl(7)-O(13)  | 1.307(9)       | N(2)-C(31)  | 1.478(6)       |
| Cl(7)-O(12)  | 1.357(11)      | N(2)-C(29)  | 1.486(7)       |
| Cl(7)-O(8)   | 1.389(8)       | C(5)-C(4)   | 1.356(6)       |
| O(2)-C(20)   | 1.232(4)       | C(3)-C(2)   | 1.410(6)       |
| O(1)-C(1)    | 1.369(4)       | C(3)-C(4)   | 1.430(6)       |
| O(1)-C(13)   | 1.371(4)       | C(18)-C(17) | 1.376(6)       |
| O(3)-C(23)   | 1.414(6)       | C(10)-C(9)  | 1.351(5)       |
| N(3)-C(20)   | 1.330(5)       | C(15)-C(16) | 1.378(6)       |
| N(3)-C(21)   | 1.475(5)       | C(17)-C(16) | 1.377(6)       |
| O(4)-C(22)   | 1.434(6)       | O(5)-C(24)  | 1.359(8)       |
| C(13)-C(12)  | 1.360(5)       | C(27)-C(28) | 1.515(9)       |
| C(13)-C(8)   | 1.414(5)       | C(21)-C(23) | 1.520(7)       |
| N(1)-C(11)   | 1.346(5)       | C(21)-C(22) | 1.521(7)       |
| N(1)-C(27)   | 1.461(6)       | C(21)-C(24) | 1.553(7)       |
| N(1)-C(25)   | 1.480(6)       | C(31)-C(32) | 1.495(10)      |
| C(6)-C(7)    | 1.403(5)       | C(26)-C(25) | 1.501(8)       |
| C(6)-C(5)    | 1.413(5)       | C(30)-C(29) | 1.512(12)      |
| C(6)-C(1)    | 1.415(5)       |             |                |

 Table S3: Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for Zn-R1.

| Bond Angle          | Bond Angle [°] | Bond Angle        | Bond Angle [°] |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| O(4)-Zn(1)-O(4)#1   | 180            | C(18)-C(19)-C(14) | 119.6(3)       |
| O(4)-Zn(1)-O(2)#1   | 91.52(14)      | C(18)-C(19)-C(20) | 121.2(3)       |
| O(4)#1-Zn(1)-O(2)#1 | 88.48(14)      | C(14)-C(19)-C(20) | 119.2(3)       |
| O(4)-Zn(1)-O(2)     | 88.48(14)      | C(15)-C(14)-C(19) | 118.8(3)       |
| O(4)#1-Zn(1)-O(2)   | 91.52(14)      | C(15)-C(14)-C(7)  | 119.7(3)       |
| O(2)#1-Zn(1)-O(2)   | 180.00(10)     | C(19)-C(14)-C(7)  | 121.4(3)       |
| O(4)-Zn(1)-O(3)     | 84.39(15)      | C(13)-C(12)-C(11) | 119.8(3)       |
| O(4)#1-Zn(1)-O(3)   | 95.61(15)      | C(8)-C(7)-C(6)    | 119.4(3)       |
| O(2)#1-Zn(1)-O(3)   | 93.28(12)      | C(8)-C(7)-C(14)   | 120.9(3)       |
| O(2)-Zn(1)-O(3)     | 86.72(12)      | C(6)-C(7)-C(14)   | 119.7(3)       |
| O(4)-Zn(1)-O(3)#1   | 95.61(15)      | N(1)-C(11)-C(12)  | 122.1(4)       |
| O(4)#1-Zn(1)-O(3)#1 | 84.39(15)      | N(1)-C(11)-C(10)  | 120.5(4)       |
| O(2)#1-Zn(1)-O(3)#1 | 86.72(12)      | C(12)-C(11)-C(10) | 117.4(3)       |
| O(2)-Zn(1)-O(3)#1   | 93.28(12)      | C(7)-C(8)-C(13)   | 119.6(3)       |
| O(3)-Zn(1)-O(3)#1   | 180            | C(7)-C(8)-C(9)    | 124.6(3)       |
| O(11)-Cl(3)-O(10)   | 107.4(5)       | C(13)-C(8)-C(9)   | 115.7(3)       |
| O(11)-Cl(3)-O(9)    | 116.9(7)       | C(3)-N(2)-C(31)   | 122.2(4)       |
| O(10)-Cl(3)-O(9)    | 106.6(5)       | C(3)-N(2)-C(29)   | 120.2(4)       |
| O(11)-Cl(3)-O(7)    | 108.1(5)       | C(31)-N(2)-C(29)  | 117.3(4)       |
| O(10)-Cl(3)-O(7)    | 112.0(6)       | C(4)-C(5)-C(6)    | 122.0(4)       |
| O(9)-Cl(3)-O(7)     | 105.9(4)       | N(2)-C(3)-C(2)    | 122.2(4)       |
| O(14)-Cl(7)-O(13)   | 103.3(8)       | N(2)-C(3)-C(4)    | 120.5(4)       |
| O(14)-Cl(7)-O(12)   | 119.2(14)      | C(2)-C(3)-C(4)    | 117.3(4)       |
| O(13)-Cl(7)-O(12)   | 102.1(11)      | C(17)-C(18)-C(19) | 120.3(4)       |
| O(14)-Cl(7)-O(8)    | 109.8(10)      | C(9)-C(10)-C(11)  | 121.2(4)       |
| O(13)-Cl(7)-O(8)    | 123.4(10)      | C(16)-C(15)-C(14) | 121.3(4)       |
| O(12)-Cl(7)-O(8)    | 100.0(6)       | C(5)-C(4)-C(3)    | 121.2(4)       |
| C(20)-O(2)-Zn(1)    | 134.8(2)       | C(18)-C(17)-C(16) | 120.2(4)       |
| C(1)-O(1)-C(13)     | 120.5(3)       | C(10)-C(9)-C(8)   | 122.2(4)       |
| C(23)-O(3)-Zn(1)    | 120.3(3)       | C(1)-C(2)-C(3)    | 120.3(4)       |
| C(20)-N(3)-C(21)    | 127.6(3)       | C(17)-C(16)-C(15) | 119.8(4)       |
| C(22)-O(4)-Zn(1)    | 122.9(3)       | N(1)-C(27)-C(28)  | 111.8(5)       |
| C(12)-C(13)-O(1)    | 115.9(3)       | N(3)-C(21)-C(23)  | 111.1(4)       |
| C(12)-C(13)-C(8)    | 123.6(3)       | N(3)-C(21)-C(22)  | 111.6(4)       |
| O(1)-C(13)-C(8)     | 120.5(3)       | C(23)-C(21)-C(22) | 113.6(4)       |

| C(11)-N(1)-C(27) | 122.3(4) | N(3)-C(21)-C(24)  | 105.8(4) |
|------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| C(11)-N(1)-C(25) | 121.9(4) | C(23)-C(21)-C(24) | 105.7(4) |
| C(27)-N(1)-C(25) | 115.8(4) | C(22)-C(21)-C(24) | 108.5(4) |
| C(7)-C(6)-C(5)   | 124.5(3) | N(2)-C(31)-C(32)  | 112.1(5) |
| C(7)-C(6)-C(1)   | 119.4(3) | N(1)-C(25)-C(26)  | 112.8(5) |
| C(5)-C(6)-C(1)   | 116.0(3) | O(3)-C(23)-C(21)  | 113.7(4) |
| C(2)-C(1)-O(1)   | 116.6(3) | O(5)-C(24)-C(21)  | 114.9(5) |
| C(2)-C(1)-C(6)   | 123.0(3) | O(4)-C(22)-C(21)  | 112.5(4) |
| O(1)-C(1)-C(6)   | 120.4(3) | N(2)-C(29)-C(30)  | 113.3(6) |
| O(2)-C(20)-N(3)  | 124.4(4) |                   |          |
| O(2)-C(20)-C(19) | 119.1(3) |                   |          |
| N(3)-C(20)-C(19) | 116.5(3) |                   |          |
|                  |          |                   |          |

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

#1 -x+1,-y+1,-z+1