## **Supporting Information**

## "Novel Metal Chelators Thiosemicarbazones with Activity at the $\sigma_2$ Receptors and P-

## glycoprotein: an Innovative Strategy for Resistant Tumors Treatment".

Authors: Maria Laura Pati,<sup>‡,§,†</sup> Mauro Niso,<sup>‡,†</sup> Savina Ferorelli,<sup>‡</sup> Carmen Abate,<sup>‡,\*</sup> Francesco

Berardi<sup>‡</sup>

<sup>‡</sup>Dipartimento di Farmacia-Scienze del Farmaco, Università degli Studi di Bari ALDO MORO, Via Orabona 4, I-70125 Bari, Italy <sup>§</sup>Division of Hepatobiliary, Pancreatic, and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Department of Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, USA <sup>†</sup>Equally contributing authors

Table of contents

Synthesis of intermediate compounds **3**; Ferrozine assay with compound **7a** and **7b** (Figure S1); Description of Detection of ROS by DCF assay and corresponding figure (Figure S2).

**1-(4-chlorobutyl)indoline-2,3-dione (3)** To a solution of Isatin (2.0 g, 13.59 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (20 mL), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3.76 g, 27.18 mmol) and 1-bromo-4-chlorobutane (1.72 mL, 14.95 mmol) were added and the mixture was refluxed for 4h. After the removal of the solvent under reduced pressure the residue was taken up with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with AcOEt (3 × 15 mL). The collected organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting crude residue was obtained as an oil which was purified by column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/AcOEt 95:5) to give the title compound as thick red oil (2.95 g, 90% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.25-1.86 (m, 4H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.59 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.0 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl), 3.76 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.6 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, aromatic), 7.12 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz, aromatic), 7.56-7.61 (m, 2H, aromatic); GC-MS *m/z* 239 (M<sup>+</sup> + 2, 10), 237 (M<sup>+</sup>, 30), 132 (100).



**Supplemental Figure 1.** FeSO<sub>4</sub> curve (0.5  $\mu$ M – 25  $\mu$ M) in the presence of ferrozine (100  $\mu$ M) alone or with tested compound (100  $\mu$ M) at UV/Vis spectrophotometer. Absorbance at  $\lambda = 562$  nm is reported for representative compounds **7a** and **7b**.

**Detection of ROS by DCF assay**.<sup>1</sup> On day 1, 25,000 cells/well were seeded into 96-well plates in a volume of 100 μL. On day 2, 10 μM of compounds, alone or in combination with 100 μM of α-tocopherol, was added. In all the experiments, the various drug-solvents (EtOH, DMSO) were added in each control to evaluate a possible solvent cytotoxicity. After the established incubation time with drugs (24 h), 5-(and-6)-carboxy-2',7'-dichlorodihydro-fluorescein diacetate (carboxy-H<sub>2</sub>DCFDA) (25 μM) was added to each well, and after 30 min incubation at 37 °C, the supernatant was removed and wells were washed once with PBS. The oxidative product of carboxy-H<sub>2</sub>DCFDA to 2',7'-dichloro-fluorescein (DCF) was determined on the microplate reader Victor 3 from PerkinElmer Life Sciences (485 nm excitation and 530 nm emission).



Supplemental Figure 2. Increase of DCF signal upon treatment of A549 cells with compounds 7a and 7b (10  $\mu$ M) alone or in the presence of  $\alpha$ -tocopherol (100  $\mu$ M).

1) J. R. Hornick, J. Xu, S. Vangveravong, Z. Tu, J. B. Mitchem, D. Spitzer, P. Goedegebuure, R. H. Mach, W. G. Hawkins, *Mol. Cancer*, 2010, **9**, 298.