# **Electronic Supporting Information Materials**

Synthesis, crystal structure, cytotoxicity and action mechanism of Zn(II) and

Mn(II) complexes with 4-([2,2':6',2"-terpyridin]-4'-yl)-N,N-diethylaniline as a

ligand

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| Empirical formula                     | $C_{50}H_{48}Cl_2MnN_8O_8$  | $C_{25}H_{24}N_6O_6Zn$                                      |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Formula weight                        | 1014.83   | 569.90  |
| Temperature/K                         | 296.15  | 296.15  |
| Crystal system                        | monoclinic  | monoclinic  |
| Space group                           | $P2_{1}/c$  | <i>C</i> 2/c  |
| <i>a</i> / Å                          | 19.0394(4)  | 11.9747(9)  |
| b / Å                                 | 15.1400(4)  | 15.8152(6)  |
| <i>c</i> / Å                          | 17.3328(5)  | 14.1457(10)   |
| α / °                                 | 90  | 90  |
| β/°                                   | 108.185(2)  | 114.424(9)  |
| $\gamma/\circ$                        | 90  | 90  |
| $V/\text{\AA}^3$                      | 4746.7(2)   | 2439.2(3)   |
| Ζ                                     | 4   | 4   |
| $\rho_{calc} g/cm^3$                  | 1.4200  | 1.5518  |
| $\mu$ / mm <sup>-1</sup>              | 0.455   | 1.062   |
| <i>F</i> (000)                        | 2111.5  | 1177.8  |
| Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>          | $0.22\times0.2\times0.18$   | $0.22\times0.2\times0.18$                                   |
| Radiation                             | Mo K $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ = 0.71073)                                    | Mo K $\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ )                       |
| $2\Theta$ range for data collection/° | 5.84 to 52.74   | 6.32 to 52.74   |
| Index ranges                          | -25 $\leq$ h $\leq$ 23, -20 $\leq$ k $\leq$ 20, - 22 $\leq$ l $\leq$ 23 | $-15 \le h \le 14, -19 \le k \le 17,$<br>$-18 \le l \le 11$ |
| Reflections collected                 | 24898   | 3510  |
| Independent reflections               | 9698 [ $R_{int} = 0.0302$ ,<br>$R_{sigma} = 0.0407$ ]                   | 2103 [ $R_{int} = 0.0209$ ,<br>$R_{sigma} = 0.0455$ ]       |
| Data/restraints/parameters            | 9698/0/625  | 2103/0/175  |
| Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$              | 1.080   | 1.008   |
| Final R indexes $[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$  | $R_1 = 0.0672, wR_2 = 0.1939$   | $R_1 = 0.0529, wR_2 = 0.1300$                               |
| Final R indexes [all data]            | $R_1 = 0.0924, wR_2 = 0.2230$   | $R_1 = 0.0653, wR_2 = 0.1467$                               |
| Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å-3       | 1.00/-0.79  | 0.59/-0.82  |
|                                       |   |   |

 Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement details for 1 and 2.

<sup>a</sup>  $R_1 = \Sigma ||F_0| - |F_c|| / \Sigma |F_0|$ ; <sup>b</sup>  $wR_2 = [\Sigma w (F_0^2 - F_c^2)^2 / \Sigma w (F_0^2)^2]^{\frac{1}{2}}$ .

| Bond lengths (Å) for 1  |            |                         |            |            |            |             |    |            |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|----|------------|
| Mn1-N1                  | 2.252(3)   | Mn1-N2                  | 1.334(3)   | Mn1-N3     | 2.244(3)   | Mn1-N5      | 2. | 288(3)     |
| Mn1-N6                  | 2.190(3)   | Mn1-N7                  | 2.238(3)   |            |            |             |    |            |
| Bond angles (           | °) for 1   |                         |            |            |            |             |    |            |
| N2-Mn1-N1               | 71.81(10)  | N3-Mn1-N1               | 143.35(10) | N3-Mn1-N2  | 72.55(10)  | N5-Mn1-N    | 1  | 103.22(12) |
| N5-Mn1-N2               | 98.80(11)  | N5-Mn1-N3               | 90.37(11)  | N6-Mn1-N1  | 109.98(11) | N6-Mn1-N    | 2  | 170.61(11) |
| N6-Mn1-N3               | 106.59(10) | N6-Mn1-N5               | 71.82(10)  | N7-Mn1-N1  | 90.96(12)  | N7-Mn1-N    | 2  | 116.54(10) |
| N7-Mn1-N3               | 97.33(12)  | N7-Mn1-N5               | 144.56(10) | N7-Mn1-N6  | 72.83(10)  |             |    |            |
| Bond lengths (Å) for 2  |            |                         |            |            |            |             |    |            |
| Zn1-O4                  | 2.012(3)   | Zn1-O4 <sup>1</sup>     | 2.012(3)   | Zn1-N2     | 2.051(3)   | Zn1-N3      |    | 2.151(3)   |
| Zn1-N3 <sup>1</sup>     | 2.151(3)   |                         |            |            |            |             |    |            |
| Bond angles (°) for 2   |            |                         |            |            |            |             |    |            |
| O41-Zn1-O4              | 85.59(17)  | N2-Zn1-O4               | 137.20(9)  | N2-Zn1-O41 | 137.20(9)  | N31-Zn1-O41 |    | 94.42(11)  |
| N31-Zn1-O4              | 106.04(11) | N3-Zn1-O41              | 106.04(11) | N3-Zn1-O4  | 94.42(11)  | N3-Zn1-N2   |    | 76.07(7)   |
| N3 <sup>1</sup> -Zn1-N2 | 76.07(7)   | N3 <sup>1</sup> -Zn1-N3 | 152.13(15) | N5-O4-Zn1  | 112.9(2)   |             |    |            |

Table S2 Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°) for 1 and 2.

**Table S3.** Inhibitory rates (%) of L, 1, 2, the corresponding salts and cisplatin toward four tumor cell lines and normal liver HL-7702 for 48 h.

| Compounds  | BEL-7404         | SK-OV-3          | T-24             | MGC80-3    | HL-7702    |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| La   | $37.08 \pm 0.87$ | $40.14 \pm 0.49$ | 50.24±1.49       | 58.16±0.52 | 44.05±1.82 |
| <b>1</b> a   | 55.09±1.23       | 56.97±0.64       | 62.03±1.05       | 60.33±2.15 | 34.18±1.39 |
| <b>2</b> <sup>a</sup>  | $72.07 \pm 0.80$ | 64.11±1.01       | 78.01±0.68       | 64.01±0.94 | 31.52±0.77 |
| Mn(ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O <sup>b</sup> | 20.11±1.36       | 12.17±0.63       | 22.08±0.64       | 12.73±1.75 | 19.11±0.93 |
| $Zn(NO_3)_2 \cdot 6H_2O^{b}$                                       | $16.02 \pm 0.57$ | 16.15±1.98       | $10.89 \pm 0.37$ | 20.37±2.49 | 15.88±1.56 |
| cisplatin <sup>a</sup>   | 58.12±1.13       | 52.09±2.71       | 50.01±1.17       | 57.18±1.35 | 54.61±1.42 |

Results represent mean  $\pm$  SD of at least five independent experiments. SD represents the standard deviation. <sup>a</sup>The concentration is 20  $\mu$ M. <sup>b</sup>The concentration is 100  $\mu$ M.

|                        | BEL-7404         | SK-OV-3          | T-24             | MGC80-3          | HL-7702          |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| L                      | $33.19 \pm 1.22$ | $20.13\pm0.43$   | $12.53 \pm 1.36$ | $15.22\pm0.59$   | $30.82 \pm 1.75$ |
| 1                      | $14.86 \pm 1.29$ | $11.53\pm0.55$   | $10.26 \pm 1.02$ | $12.84\pm2.07$   | $45.02 \pm 1.33$ |
| 2                      | $5.29\pm0.76$    | $9.05 \pm 1.09$  | $1.28\pm0.61$    | $8.59\pm0.82$    | $51.17\pm0.74$   |
| Cisplatin <sup>b</sup> | $15.02 \pm 1.08$ | $15.17 \pm 1.82$ | $20.18 \pm 1.07$ | $13.02 \pm 1.13$ | $17.68 \pm 1.39$ |

Table S4.  $IC_{50}^{a}$  ( $\mu$ M) values of complexes 1 and 2 on the selected cell lines.

<sup>a</sup> The IC<sub>50</sub> values are presented as mean  $\pm$  SD (standard error of the mean) from five independent experiments. <sup>b</sup> The cisplatin stock solution was prepared at a concentration of 1 mM with 0.154 M NaCl.<sup>1</sup>



Scheme S1. Synthetic routes for complexes 1 and 2. Reagents: (a) Mn(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, methanol/CHCl<sub>3</sub> (10:1), 80 °C; (b) Zn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, methanol/CHCl<sub>3</sub> (10:1), 80 °C.



Figure S1. IR (KBr) spectra of complex 1.



Figure S2. IR (KBr) spectra of complex 2.



Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) for complex 2.



**Figure S4.** UV-Vis absorption spectra of complexes **1** and **2** ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in Tris-HCl solution in the time course 0, and 24 h, respectively.



**Figure S5.** The mass spectra of complex **1** in Tris-HCl buffer solution (containing 5% DMSO) for 0 h (top) and 24 h (down), respectively.



**Figure S6.** The mass spectra of complex **2** in Tris-HCl buffer solution (containing 5% DMSO) for 0 h (top) and 24 h (down), respectively.

## **Experimental procedures**

### 1. Organic synthesis

*1.1. Synthesis and characterization of 4-([2,2':6',2"-terpyridin]-4'-yl)-N,Ndiethylaniline (L)* 

Synthesis of 4-([2,2':6',2"-terpyridin]-4'-yl)-N,N-diethylaniline (**L**) was performed as previously reported.<sup>2,3</sup> The yellow product of 4-([2,2':6',2"-terpyridin]-4'-yl)-N,Ndiethylaniline was prepared in methanol/CHCl<sub>3</sub> (v/v=50:1) for spectroscopic characterizations and synthesis of the metallo-complexes. The chemical and physical properties of the newly synthesized product of **L** were consistent with those reported in our previous work.<sup>2</sup>

# 1.2. Synthesis of $[Mn(L)_2] \cdot 2ClO_4(1)$

 $Mn(ClO_4)_2$  (0.1 mmol, 0.042 g), L (0.2 mmol), 1.0 mL methanol, 0.1 mL CHCl<sub>3</sub> were mixed a thick Pyrex tube (*ca.* 25 cm long). The tube was then placed in a liquid

 $N_2$  bath to make the sample frozen. The solvent in the frozen sample was removed under vacuum while the tube was kept in the liquid  $N_2$  bath. Afterwards, the tube was sealed and heated at 80 °C for three days. The resulting red brown crystals were used for spectroscopic characterizations. Yield: 0.0810 g, 80.0%. ESI-MS m/z: 914.28,  $[M-ClO_4]^+$ . IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3748, 3429, 3191, 3069, 2966, 2932, 2895, 2007, 1595, 1529, 1473, 1414, 1357, 1271, 1249, 1202, 1155, 1090, 1012, 878, 791, 746, 727, 681, 658, 620, 560, 524, 450, 411. Elemental analysis: theoretical mass-percentage chemical composition for C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>48</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>MnN<sub>8</sub>O<sub>8</sub>, C 59.18, H 4.77, N 11.04; experimental mass-percentage chemical composition, C 59.10, H 4.82, N 11.01.

## 1.3. Synthesis of $[Zn(L)(NO_3)_2]$ (2)

Zn(L)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (**2**) was prepared by mixing Zn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (0.1 mmol), L (0.1 mmol), methanol (1.0 mL) and CHCl<sub>3</sub> (0.1 mL) in a thick Pyrex tube (*ca.* 25 cm long), followed by the same procedures as those described for the synthesis of [Mn(L)<sub>2</sub>]·2ClO<sub>4</sub> (**1**). Yield: 0.0528 g, 93.0%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d<sub>6</sub>*)  $\delta$ : 9.19 (s, 1H), 9.10 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 9.03 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.97 (s, 1H), 8.86 (s, 1H), 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.33 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (s, 4H), 1.20 (s, 6H). ESI-MS *m/z*: 842.34, [2L+Zn]<sup>2+</sup>; 506.11, [L+Zn+NO<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3854, 3746, 3674, 3433, 3071, 2955, 2923, 2866, 1590, 1536, 1472, 1422, 1382, 1360, 1295, 1252, 1207, 1157, 1070, 1017, 899, 818, 791, 733, 681, 639, 523, 413. Elemental analysis: theoretical mass-percentage chemical composition for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Zn, C 52.69, H 4.24, N 14.75; experimental mass-percentage chemical composition, C 52.60, H 4.30, N 14.67.

### 2. X-Ray crystallography

The X-ray diffraction data collection of single crystals of complexes 1 and 2 were

performed on a SuperNova CCD area detector with graphite monochromated Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) at room temperature. The structures were determined using direct methods and refined using the SHELX-97 program.<sup>4,5</sup> The non-hydrogen atoms were located via successive difference Fourier synthesis. The final refinement was performed using the full-matrix least-squares method with anisotropic thermal parameters for non-hydrogen atoms on  $F^2$ . The hydrogen atoms were added theoretically on the concerned atoms. The parameters used in data collection and refinements are summarized in Tables S1–S2 together with the crystallographic data.

# 3. Materials, instruments, and other experimental methods

The materials, instruments, and experimental methods for the cytotoxicity assay, apoptosis analysis, cell cycle analysis, RNA extraction, reverse transcriptase–polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), western blot, and the transfection assay of complexes **1** and **2** were performed as reported previously.<sup>6-8</sup> The telomerase extract was prepared from the T-24 cells: a total of  $5 \times 10^6$  T-24 tumor cells untreated or treated with complexes **1** and **2** were pelleted, and the cells were washed with 5 mL of PBS, scraped and lysed for 30 min on ice. Finally, the lysate was centrifuged at 13 000 rpm for 30 min at 4 °C; the supernatant was collected and stored at -80 °C before use.<sup>6,9</sup>. The TRAP assay was performed by following previously published procedures,<sup>10</sup> and the TRAP-silver staining assay of complexes **1** and **2** were performed as reported by Reed and co-workers.<sup>9,11</sup> Commonly, the IOD (integrated optical density) data of TRAP-silver staining assay were captured using Gel pro4.0, and the inhibitory rates of complexes **1** and **2** on telomerase could be described by the following:

Inhibitory rates (%) = 
$$\frac{\text{IOD}_{\text{control group}} - \text{IOD}_{\text{treatment group}}}{\text{IOD}_{\text{control group}}} \times 100\%$$

4. Statistics

The statistical analysis including the Student's *t*-test was performed using SPSS

13.0.  $P \le 0.05$  was treated as statistically significant.

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