## Electronic Supporting Information Materials

Synthesis, crystal structure, cytotoxicity and action mechanism of Zn (II) and
$\mathbf{M n}($ II $)$ complexes with 4 -([2,2': $\mathbf{6}^{\prime}, \mathbf{2}^{\prime \prime}$-terpyridin]-4'-yl)-N,N-diethylaniline as a ligand

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Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement details for $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{2}$.

| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{50} \mathrm{H}_{48} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{MnN}_{8} \mathrm{O}_{8}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{25} \mathrm{H}_{24} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{6} \mathrm{Zn}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Formula weight | 1014.83 | 569.90 |
| Temperature/K | 296.15 | 296.15 |
| Crystal system | monoclinic | monoclinic |
| Space group | $P 2_{1} / \mathrm{c}$ | C2/c |
| $a / \AA$ | 19.0394(4) | 11.9747(9) |
| $b / \AA$ | 15.1400(4) | 15.8152(6) |
| $c / \AA$ | $17.3328(5)$ | 14.1457(10) |
| $\alpha /{ }^{\circ}$ | 90 | 90 |
| $\beta /{ }^{\circ}$ | 108.185(2) | 114.424(9) |
| $\gamma /{ }^{\circ}$ | 90 | 90 |
| $V / \AA^{3}$ | 4746.7(2) | 2439.2(3) |
| Z | 4 | 4 |
| $\rho_{\text {calc }} \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{cm}^{3}$ | 1.4200 | 1.5518 |
| $\mu / \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$ | 0.455 | 1.062 |
| $F(000)$ | 2111.5 | 1177.8 |
| Crystal size/mm ${ }^{3}$ | $0.22 \times 0.2 \times 0.18$ | $0.22 \times 0.2 \times 0.18$ |
| Radiation | Mo K $\alpha(\lambda=0.71073)$ | Mo K $\alpha(\lambda=0.71073)$ |
| $2 \Theta$ range for data collection/ ${ }^{\circ}$ | 5.84 to 52.74 | 6.32 to 52.74 |
| Index ranges | $\begin{aligned} & -25 \leq h \leq 23,-20 \leq \mathrm{k} \leq 20 \\ & 22 \leq 1 \leq 23 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -15 \leq h \leq 14,-19 \leq k \leq 17, \\ & -18 \leq 1 \leq 11 \end{aligned}$ |
| Reflections collected | 24898 | 3510 |
| Independent reflections | $\begin{aligned} & 9698\left[\mathrm{R}_{\text {int }}=0.0302,\right. \\ & \left.\mathrm{R}_{\text {sigma }}=0.0407\right] \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2103\left[\mathrm{R}_{\text {int }}=0.0209\right. \\ & \left.\mathrm{R}_{\text {sigma }}=0.0455\right] \end{aligned}$ |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 9698/0/625 | 2103/0/175 |
| Goodness-of-fit on $F^{2}$ | 1.080 | 1.008 |
| Final R indexes [ $1>=2 \sigma(I)$ ] | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0672, \mathrm{wR}_{2}=0.1939$ | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0529, \mathrm{wR}_{2}=0.1300$ |
| Final R indexes [all data] | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0924, \mathrm{wR}_{2}=0.2230$ | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0653, \mathrm{wR}_{2}=0.1467$ |
| Largest diff. peak/hole / e $\AA^{-3}$ | 1.00/-0.79 | 0.59/-0.82 |

Table S2 Selected bond lengths $(\AA)$ and bond angles $\left(^{\circ}\right)$ for $\mathbf{1}$ and 2.

| Bond lengths ( $\AA$ ) 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 ( ${ }^{\circ}$ ) for 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N2-Mn1-N1 | 71.81(10) | N3-Mn1-N1 | 143.35(10) | N3-Mn1-N2 | 72.55(10) | N5-Mn1-N1 | 103.22(12) |
| N5-Mn1-N2 | 98.80(11) | N5-Mn1-N3 | 90.37(11) | N6-Mn1-N1 | 109.98(11) | N6-Mn1-N2 | 170.61(11) |
| N6-Mn1-N3 | 106.59(10) | N6-Mn1-N5 | 71.82(10) | N7-Mn1-N1 | 90.96(12) | N7-Mn1-N2 | 116.54(10) |
| N7-Mn1-N3 | 97.33(12) | N7-Mn1-N5 | 144.56(10) | N7-Mn1-N6 | 72.83(10) |  |  |
| Bond lengths ( $\mathbf{(}$ ) for 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zn1-O4 | 2.012(3) | $\mathrm{Zn1-O4}{ }^{1}$ | 2.012(3) | Zn1-N2 | 2.051(3) | Zn1-N3 | 2.151(3) |
| Zn1-N3 ${ }^{1}$ | 2.151(3) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bond angles ( ${ }^{\circ}$ ) for 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| O4'-Zn1-O4 | 85.59(17) | N2-Zn1-O4 | 137.20(9) | N2-Zn1-O4 ${ }^{1}$ | 137.20(9) | N31-Zn1-O4 ${ }^{1}$ | 94.42(11) |
| N31-Znl-O4 | 106.04(11) | N3-Zn1-O4 ${ }^{1}$ | 106.04(11) | N3-Zn1-O4 | 94.42(11) | N3-Zn1-N2 | 76.07(7) |
| N31-Zn1-N2 | 76.07(7) | N31-Zn1-N3 | 152.13(15) | N5-O4-Zn1 | 112.9(2) |  |  |

Table S3. Inhibitory rates (\%) of $\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{1 , 2}$, 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 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathbf{L}^{\text {a }}$ | $37.08 \pm 0.87$ | $40.14 \pm 0.49$ | $50.24 \pm 1.49$ | $58.16 \pm 0.52$ | $44.05 \pm 1.82$ |
| $\mathbf{1}^{\text {a }}$ | $55.09 \pm 1.23$ | $56.97 \pm 0.64$ | $62.03 \pm 1.05$ | $60.33 \pm 2.15$ | $34.18 \pm 1.39$ |
| $\mathbf{2}^{\text {a }}$ | $72.07 \pm 0.80$ | $64.11 \pm 1.01$ | $78.01 \pm 0.68$ | $64.01 \pm 0.94$ | $31.52 \pm 0.77$ |
| $\mathrm{Mn}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2} \cdot 6 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $20.11 \pm 1.36$ | $12.17 \pm 0.63$ | $22.08 \pm 0.64$ | $12.73 \pm 1.75$ | $19.11 \pm 0.93$ |
| $\mathrm{Zn}\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{2} \cdot 6 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $16.02 \pm 0.57$ | $16.15 \pm 1.98$ | $10.89 \pm 0.37$ | $20.37 \pm 2.49$ | $15.88 \pm 1.56$ |
| cisplatin ${ }^{\mathrm{a}}$ | $58.12 \pm 1.13$ | $52.09 \pm 2.71$ | $50.01 \pm 1.17$ | $57.18 \pm 1.35$ | $54.61 \pm 1.42$ |

Results represent mean $\pm$ SD of at least five independent experiments. SD represents the standard deviation. ${ }^{\text {a }}$ The concentration is $20 \mu \mathrm{M}$. ${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ The concentration is $100 \mu \mathrm{M}$.

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

|  | BEL-7404 | SK-OV-3 | T-24 | MGC80-3 | HL-7702 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathbf{L}$ | $33.19 \pm 1.22$ | $20.13 \pm 0.43$ | $12.53 \pm 1.36$ | $15.22 \pm 0.59$ | $30.82 \pm 1.75$ |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | $14.86 \pm 1.29$ | $11.53 \pm 0.55$ | $10.26 \pm 1.02$ | $12.84 \pm 2.07$ | $45.02 \pm 1.33$ |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | $5.29 \pm 0.76$ | $9.05 \pm 1.09$ | $1.28 \pm 0.61$ | $8.59 \pm 0.82$ | $51.17 \pm 0.74$ |
| Cisplatin $^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $15.02 \pm 1.08$ | $15.17 \pm 1.82$ | $20.18 \pm 1.07$ | $13.02 \pm 1.13$ | $17.68 \pm 1.39$ |

${ }^{\text {a }}$ The $\mathrm{IC}_{50}$ values are presented as mean $\pm \mathrm{SD}$ (standard error of the mean) from five independent experiments. ${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ The cisplatin stock solution was prepared at a concentration of 1 mM with 0.154 M $\mathrm{NaCl} .{ }^{1}$


Scheme S1. Synthetic routes for complexes 1 and 2. Reagents: (a) $\mathrm{Mn}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2}$, methanol/ $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ (10:1), $80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$; (b) $\mathrm{Zn}\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{2}$, methanol/ $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(10: 1), 80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


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


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


Figure S3. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 600 MHz, DMSO- $d_{6}$ ) for complex 2.


Figure S4. UV-Vis absorption spectra of complexes 1 and $2\left(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}\right)$ 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 $4-\left(\left[2,2^{\prime}: 6^{\prime}, 2^{\prime \prime}\right.\right.$-terpyridin $\left.]-4^{\prime}-y l\right)-N, N-$ diethylaniline ( $\mathbf{L}$ )

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

### 1.2. Synthesis of $\left[\mathrm{Mn}(\mathbf{L})_{2}\right] \cdot 2 \mathrm{ClO}_{4}$ (1)

$\mathrm{Mn}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2}(0.1 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.042 \mathrm{~g}), \mathbf{L}(0.2 \mathrm{mmol}), 1.0 \mathrm{~mL}$ methanol, $0.1 \mathrm{~mL} \mathrm{CHCl}{ }_{3}$ were mixed a thick Pyrex tube (ca. 25 cm long). The tube was then placed in a liquid
$\mathrm{N}_{2}$ bath to make the sample frozen. The solvent in the frozen sample was removed under vacuum while the tube was kept in the liquid $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ bath. Afterwards, the tube was sealed and heated at $80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for three days. The resulting red brown crystals were used for spectroscopic characterizations. Yield: $0.0810 \mathrm{~g}, 80.0 \%$. ESI-MS m/z: 914.28, $\left[\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right]^{+} . \mathrm{IR}\left(\mathrm{KBr}, \mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right): 3748,3429,3191,3069,2966,2932,2895,2007,1595$, $1529,1473,1414,1357,1271,1249,1202,1155,1090,1012,878,791,746,727,681$, 658, 620, 560, 524, 450, 411. Elemental analysis: theoretical mass-percentage chemical composition for $\mathrm{C}_{50} \mathrm{H}_{48} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{MnN}_{8} \mathrm{O}_{8}$, 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 $\left[\mathrm{Zn}(\mathbf{L})\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]$ (2)

$\mathrm{Zn}(\mathbf{L})\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{2}$ (2) was prepared by mixing $\mathrm{Zn}\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{2}(0.1 \mathrm{mmol})$, $\mathbf{L}(0.1 \mathrm{mmol})$, methanol ( 1.0 mL ) and $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(0.1 \mathrm{~mL})$ in a thick Pyrex tube ( $c a .25 \mathrm{~cm}$ long), followed by the same procedures as those described for the synthesis of $\left[\mathrm{Mn}(\mathbf{L})_{2}\right] \cdot 2 \mathrm{ClO}_{4}(\mathbf{1})$. Yield: $0.0528 \mathrm{~g}, 93.0 \% .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 600 MHz, DMSO- $d_{6}$ ) $\delta: 9.19$ $(\mathrm{s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 9.10(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 9.03(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.97(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.86(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $8.40(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.33(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.24(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.17(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.90(\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{J}$ $=8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.46(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.93(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=8.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.86(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=8.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.51(\mathrm{~s}$, 4H), $1.20(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H})$. ESI-MS m/z: 842.34, $[2 \mathrm{~L}+\mathrm{Zn}]^{2+}$; 506.11, $\left[\mathrm{L}+\mathrm{Zn}+\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right]^{+}$. IR (KBr, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 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 $\mathrm{C}_{25} \mathrm{H}_{24} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{6} \mathrm{Zn}$, 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 $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{2}$ were
performed on a SuperNova CCD area detector with graphite monochromated $\mathrm{Mo}-\mathrm{K} \alpha$ radiation $(\lambda=0.71073 \AA)$ at room temperature. The structures were determined using direct methods and refined using the SHELX-97 program. ${ }^{4,5}$ 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 $\mathrm{S} 1-\mathrm{S} 2$ 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 transcriptasepolymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), western blot, and the transfection assay of complexes $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{2}$ were performed as reported previously. ${ }^{6-8}$ 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 $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{2}$ 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 $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$; the supernatant was collected and stored at $-80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ before use. ${ }^{6,9}$. The TRAP assay was performed by following previously published procedures, ${ }^{10}$ and the TRAP-silver staining assay of complexes $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{2}$ were performed as reported by Reed and co-workers. ${ }^{9,11}$ Commonly, the IOD (integrated optical density) data of TRAP-silver staining assay were captured using Gel pro4.0, and the inhibitory rates of complexes $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{2}$ on telomerase could be described by the following:

$$
\text { Inhibitory rates }(\%)=\frac{I O D_{\text {control group }}-I O D_{\text {treatment group }}}{I O D_{\text {control group }}} \times 100 \%
$$

## 4. Statistics

The statistical analysis including the Student's $t$-test was performed using SPSS 13.0. $P \leq 0.05$ was treated as statistically significant.

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