## Supplementary Information

## Photo-responsive modulation of hybrid peptide assembly, charge transfer complex formation and gelation $\dagger$

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ESI Figure S1: (a) UV spectra of peptide 1 with picric acid in 1,2-dichlorobenzene (I) before UV light (II) after UV light. (b) Fluorescence spectra of peptide 1 with picric acid in 1,2dichlorobenzene (I) before UV light (II) after UV light (ex. 420 nm ).


ESI figure S 2a: A plot of Benesi Hildebrand equation from UV/Vis spectroscopy of peptide 1. Absorbance is measured with increasing concentration of picric acid at a constant concentration of peptide $1\left(10^{-5} \mathrm{M}\right)$. The plot shows that maximum at a 1:1 molar ratio of peptide 1 and picric acid and binding const. is $8.08 \times 10^{10} \mathrm{M}^{-1}$.


ESI figure S 2b: A plot of Benesi Hildebrand equation from UV/Vis spectroscopy of peptide 2. Absorbance is measured with increasing concentration of picric acid at a constant concentration of peptide $1\left(10^{-5} \mathrm{M}\right)$. The plot shows that maximum at a $1: 1$ molar ratio of peptide 1 and picric acid and binding const. is $8.78 \times 10^{10} \mathrm{M}^{-1}$.


ESI figure S 2c: A plot of Benesi Hildebrand equation from UV/Vis spectroscopy of peptide 3. Absorbance is measured with increasing concentration of picric acid at a constant concentration of peptide $1\left(10^{-5} \mathrm{M}\right)$. The plot shows that maximum at a 1:1 molar ratio of peptide 1 and picric acid and binding const. is $5.82 \times 10^{10} \mathrm{M}^{-1}$.


ESI figure S3: UV/visible absorption of peptide 2 in methanol $\left(10^{-5} \mathrm{M}\right)$.


ESI figure S4: The change of Tgel with increasing concentration of organogel obtained from (a) peptide $2(\mathrm{MGC} 11 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL})$ and (b) peptide $3(\mathrm{MGC} 12 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL})$ in 1,2-dichlorobenzene.

## Experimental:

## Synthesis of peptide 1:

(a) Boc-Phe(1)-OH : A solution of L-phenylalanine (3.30 g, 20 mmol ) in a mixture of dioxane $(40 \mathrm{~mL})$, water $(20 \mathrm{~mL})$ and $1(\mathrm{M}) \mathrm{NaOH}(20 \mathrm{~mL})$ was stirred and cooled in an icewater bath. Di-tert-butylpyrocarbonate $(4.8 \mathrm{~g}, 22 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added and stirring was continued at room temperature for 6 h . Then the solution was concentrated in vacuum to about 20-30 mL, cooled in an ice-water bath, covered with a layer of ethyl acetate (about 50 mL ) and acidified with a dilute solution of $\mathrm{KHSO}_{4}$ to $\mathrm{pH} 2-3$ (Congo red). The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate and this operation was done repeatedly. The ethyl acetate extracts were pooled, washed with water and dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ and evaporated under vacuum. The pure material was obtained as a waxy solid.

Yield: 4.87 g , (18.35 mmol, 91.78\%).
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (DMSO- $d_{6}, 500 \mathrm{MHz}, \delta$ in ppm); 12.75 (br, 1H, COOH); 7.28-7.09 (m, 5H, Ph-ring $-\mathrm{H}) ; 7.11-7.09\left(\mathrm{~m}\right.$, Phe NH); 4.09-4.01 (m, 1H, C ${ }^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ Phe); 3.02-2.87 (m, 2H, C ${ }^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ Phe), 1.36 (s, 9H, Boc). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (DMSO- $d_{6}, 125 \mathrm{MHz}, \delta$ in ppm): 173.57, 155.41, 138.00, $129.05,128.09,126.27,80.24,55.10,36.39,20.73$.
(b) Boc-Phe(1)-Gly(2)-OMe . $1.5 \mathrm{~g}(5.65 \mathrm{mmol})$ of Boc-Phe-OH was dissolved in 20 mL DCM in an ice-water bath. H-Gly-OMe was isolated from $1.44 \mathrm{~g}(11.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ of the corresponding methyl ester hydrochloride by neutralization and subsequent extraction with ethyl acetate and the ethyl acetate extract was concentrated to 10 mL . It was then added to the reaction mixture, followed immediately by $1.16 \mathrm{~g}(5.65 \mathrm{mmol})$ dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) and $764 \mathrm{mg}(5.65 \mathrm{mmol})$ of HOBt . The reaction mixture was allowed to come to room temperature and stirred for 48 h. DCM was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate $(50 \mathrm{~mL})$ and dicyclohexylurea (DCU) was filtered off. The organic layer was washed with $2 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{HCl}(3 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$, brine $(2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL}), 1(\mathrm{M})$ sodium carbonate $(3 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$ and brine ( $2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. It was evaporated under vacuum to yield Boc-Phe-Gly-OMe as a white solid.

Yield: $1.4 \mathrm{~g}(4.16 \mathrm{mmol}, 73.66 \%)$.
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm): 7.26-7.24 (d, 2 H , Phe ring -H), 7.19-7.17 (m, 3H, Ph ring -H), 6.69-6.67 (m, $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Gly}(2) \mathrm{NH}$ ), 5.17-5.16 (m, 1H, Phe-NH), 4.40-4.39 (br, 1 H , Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 4.01-3.94 (m, 2H, Gly $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.69 ( $\mathrm{s}, 3 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{OCH}_{3}$ ), 3.16-3.14 (m, 2 H , Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.36-1.34 (s, 9H, Boc - $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm): 174.17, 170.44, 156.31, 136.86, 129.54, 128.26, 126.95, 80.2, 56.43, 56.4, 52.65, 38.54, 28.32, 24.76
(c) Boc-Phe(1)-Gly(2)-OH . To $1.1 \mathrm{~g}(3.26 \mathrm{mmol})$ of Boc-Phe-Gly-OMe, 15 mL MeOH and 2 (M) 4.5 mL NaOH were added and the progress of saponification was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). The reaction mixture was stirred. After 10 h , methanol was removed under vacuum; the residue was dissolved in 50 mL of water and washed with diethyl ether ( 2 x 50 mL ). Then the pH of the aqueous layer was adjusted to 2 using 1 M HCl and it was extracted with ethyl acetate ( $3 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The extracts were pooled, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and evaporated under vacuum to obtained compound as a waxy solid.

Yield: 1 g ( $3.1 \mathrm{mmol}, 96.9 \%$ ).
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 500 MHz, DMSO- $d_{6}, \delta$ in ppm): 12.53-12.51 (br, $1 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{COOH}$ ), 8.29-8.26 (m, 1 H, Gly(2) -NH), 7.26-7.19 (m, 5H, Ph ring -H) 6.89-6.88 (m, 1H, Phe-NH), 4.21-4.19 (m, 1 H, Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.80 (m, 2H, Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.02-2.99 (m, 1 H , Gly $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 2.55-2.51 (m, 1H, Gly $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.31 ( $\mathrm{s}, 9 \mathrm{H}$, Boc- $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm ): 174.20, 170.42, $156.29,136.86,129.54,128.26,126.95,80.2,56.43,52.67,38.54,28.32,24.72$.
(d) Boc-Phe(1)-Gly(2)-Phe(3)-OMe. 1 g ( 3.1 mmol ) Boc-Phe-Gly-OH was dissolved in 5 mL of DMF in an ice-water bath. H-Phe-OMe 1.1 g ( 6.2 mmol ) was isolated from the corresponding methyl ester hydrochloride by neutralization and subsequent extraction with ethyl acetate and the ethyl acetate extract was concentrated to 7 mL . Then it was added to the reaction mixture, followed immediately by $640 \mathrm{mg}(3.1 \mathrm{mmol})$ of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) and $419 \mathrm{mg}(3.1 \mathrm{mmol})$ of HOBt . The reaction mixture was allowed to come to room temperature and then stirred for 72 h . The residue was taken in 30 mL ethyl acetate and dicyclohexylurea (DCU) was filtered off. The organic layer was washed with 2(M) HCL $(3 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$, brine $(2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$, then $1(\mathrm{M})$ sodium carbonate $(3 \times 30 \mathrm{~mL})$ and brine $(2 \times 30 \mathrm{~mL})$ and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evaporated under vacuum to yield the tripeptide

1 as a white solid. Purification was done by silica gel column (100-200 mesh size) with an ethyl acetate and hexane mixture $1: 2$ as the eluent.

Yield: 1.2 g ( $2.73 \mathrm{mmol}, 88 \%$ ).
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm): 7.23-7.15 (m, 10H, Ph ring -H), 7.15-7.13 (m, 1 H , Phe-NH and 1H, Gly-NH), 5.42 (br, 1H, Phe-NH), 4.80-4.77 (m, 1H, Phe C ${ }^{\alpha}$ H), 4.01-3.95 (m, 1H, Phe C ${ }^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.94-3.90 (m, 2H, Gly C ${ }^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), $3.63\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right.$ ), 3.10-3.08 (m, 2 H , Phe $\left.\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}\right)$ 3.03-3.00 (m, 2 H , Phe $\left.\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}\right), 1.34\left(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}\right.$, Boc- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)$, ${ }^{13} \mathrm{CNMR}$ ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm ): 172.02, 171.74, 168.47, 156.24, 136.71, 129.56, 129.02, 127.39, 126.67, 79.89, 60.24, 55.62, 53.41, 52.14, 42.78, 38.26, 37.68, 29.51, 25.10, 14.02. ESIMS: $m / z 484.26,[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+} ; \mathrm{M}_{\text {calcd }} 483.23$.

## Synthesis of peptide 2:

(b) Boc-Phe(1)- $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-Ala(2)-OMe . $1.5 \mathrm{~g}(5.67 \mathrm{mmol})$ of Boc-Phe-OH was dissolved in 15 mL DCM in an ice-water bath. H- $\beta$-Ala-OMe was isolated from $1.17 \mathrm{~g}(11.34 \mathrm{mmol})$ of the corresponding methyl ester hydrochloride by neutralization and subsequent extraction with ethyl acetate and the ethyl acetate extract was concentrated to 10 mL . It was then added to the reaction mixture, followed immediately by $1.17 \mathrm{~g}(5.67 \mathrm{mmol})$ dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) and $766.1 \mathrm{mg}(5.67 \mathrm{mmol})$ of HOBt. The reaction mixture was allowed to come to room temperature and stirred for 48 h . DCM was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate $(60 \mathrm{~mL})$ and dicyclohexylurea (DCU) was filtered off. The organic layer was washed with $2 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{HCl}(3 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$, brine $(2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$, $1(\mathrm{M})$ sodium carbonate $(3 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$ and brine ( $2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. It was evaporated under vacuum to yield Boc-Phe-Gly-OMe as a white solid.

Yield: 1.3 g ( $3.71 \mathrm{mmol}, 65.43 \%$ ).
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm): 7.24-7.19 (m, 2H, Ph ring -H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 3H, Ph ring -H), 6.69-6.67 (m, 1H, $\beta$-Ala -NH), 5.39-5.37 (m, 1H, Phe-NH), 4.30-4.27 (br, 1H, Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.58-3.56 (s, $3 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{OCH}_{3}$ ), 3.45-3.41 (m, 2H, $\beta$-Ala $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 2.97-2.96 (m, 2 H , Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\beta}$ H ), 2.42-2.25 (m, 2H, $\beta$-Ala $\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ) 1.33 (s, 9 H, Boc- $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ).
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm): 172.76, 171.75, 156.31, 137.13, 129.57, 129.79, $127.06,80.20,56.17,51.90,39.13,35.06,33.85,29.55$.
(c) Boc-Phe(1)- $\boldsymbol{\beta}-\mathrm{Ala}(\mathbf{2}) \mathbf{- O H}$. To $1.24 \mathrm{~g}(3.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ of Boc-Phe- $\beta$-Ala-OMe, 15 mL MeOH and $2(\mathrm{M}) 4.65 \mathrm{~mL} \mathrm{NaOH}$ were added and the progress of saponification was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). The reaction mixture was stirred. After10 h, methanol was removed under vacuum; the residue was dissolved in 50 mL of water and washed with diethyl ether $(2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$. Then the pH of the aqueous layer was adjusted to 2 using 1 M HCl and it was extracted with ethyl acetate $(3 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$. The extracts were pooled, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and evaporated under vacuum to obtained compound as a waxy solid.

Yield: 1.11 g ( $3.29 \mathrm{mmol}, 93.42 \%$ ).
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 500 MHz, DMSO- $d_{6}, \delta$ in ppm): 12.22-12.19 (br, $1 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{COOH}$ ), 7.94-7.91 (br, 1 H , $\beta$-Ala(2) -NH), 7.27-7.22 (m, 5H, Phe ring -H ) 6.86-6.84 (d, 1H, Phe-NH), 4.01-3.99 (m, 1 H, Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.33-3.28 (m, 2H, Phe $\left.\mathrm{C}^{\beta}-\mathrm{H}\right), ~ 2.91-2.89\left(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \beta\right.$-Ala $\left.\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}\right), 2.74-2.70(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\beta$-Ala $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 2.35-2.32 (m, 2H, $\beta$-Ala $\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ) 1.29 ( $\mathrm{s}, 9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{BOC}-\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 125 MHz , $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm): $172.84,170.42,154.94,137.93,131.24,129.13,127.94,126.95,77.64$, 56.43, 52.67, 38.54, 28.32.
(d) Boc-Phe(1)- $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-Ala(2)-Phe(3)-OMe . 1.1 g ( 3.3 mmol ) Boc-Phe- $\beta$-Ala-OH was dissolved in 5 mL of DMF in an ice-water bath. H-Phe-OMe $1.18 \mathrm{~g}(6.6 \mathrm{mmol})$ was isolated from the corresponding methyl ester hydrochloride by neutralization and subsequent extraction with ethyl acetate and the ethyl acetate extract was concentrated to 7 mL . Then it was added to the reaction mixture, followed immediately by $681 \mathrm{mg}(3.3 \mathrm{mmol})$ of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) and $446 \mathrm{mg}(3.3 \mathrm{mmol})$ of HOBt. The reaction mixture was allowed to come to room temperature and then stirred for 72 h . The residue was taken in 30 mL ethyl acetate and dicyclohexylurea (DCU) was filtered off.The organic layer was washed with 2(M) HCL $(3 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$, brine $(2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$, then $1(\mathrm{M})$ sodium carbonate $(3 \times 30 \mathrm{~mL})$ and brine $(2 \times 30 \mathrm{~mL})$ and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evaporated under vacuum to yield the tripeptide $\mathbf{1}$ as a white solid. Purification was done by silica gel column (100-200 mesh size) with an ethyl acetate and hexane mixture 1:2 as the eluent.

Yield: $1 \mathrm{~g}(2 \mathrm{mmol}, 61 \%)$.
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm): $7.23-7.14(\mathrm{~m}, 10 \mathrm{H}, 2$ phenyl ring protons and 1 H , Phe-NH), 6.84-6.83 (br, 1H, $\beta$-ala -NH), 6.51-6.49 (br, 1H, Phe-NH), 5.25-5.23 (m, 1H, Phe -NH ), 4.82-4.79 (m, 1H, Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 4.28 (br, 1 H , Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.74 ( $\mathrm{s}, 3 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{OCH}_{3}$ ), 3.22-3.15 ( $\mathrm{m}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \beta$-ala $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.14-2.96 (m, 2 H , Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ) 2.95-2.84 (m, 1 H , Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ) 2.38-2.24 (m, 1 H , Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ), 2.22-2.15 (m, $1 \mathrm{H}, \beta$-Ala $\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ), 2.00-1.98(m, $1 \mathrm{H}, \beta$-Ala $\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.37 (s, 9 H , $\mathrm{Boc}-\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ).
${ }^{13} \mathrm{CNMR}$ ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm): 173.01, 171.84, 172.37, 156.65, 137.62, 136.56, $129.05,128.79,128.47,127.22,127.01,79.96,57.25,55.60,53.36,52.14,39.42,38.22$, 37.81,30.78, 29.27. ESIMS: $m / z$ 498.13, 498.18; $[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+} ; \mathrm{M}_{\text {calcd }} 497.25$.

## Synthesis of peptide 3:

(b) Boc-Phe(1)- $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$-Abu(2)-OMe. $1.5 \mathrm{~g}(5.67 \mathrm{mmol})$ of Boc-Phe-OH was dissolved in 15 mL DCM in an ice-water bath. H- $\gamma$-Abu-OMe was isolated from $1.7 \mathrm{~g}(11.34 \mathrm{mmol})$ of the corresponding methyl ester hydrochloride by neutralization and subsequent extraction with ethyl acetate and the ethyl acetate extract was concentrated to 10 mL . It was then added to the reaction mixture, followed immediately by $1.17 \mathrm{~g}(5.67 \mathrm{mmol})$ dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) and $766.1 \mathrm{mg}(5.67 \mathrm{mmol})$ of HOBt. The reaction mixture was allowed to come to room temperature and stirred for 48 h . DCM was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate $(60 \mathrm{~mL})$ and dicyclohexylurea (DCU) was filtered off. The organic layer was washed with $2 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{HCl}(3 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$, brine $(2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL}), 1(\mathrm{M})$ sodium carbonate $(3 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$ and brine ( $2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. It was evaporated in a vacuum to yield Boc-Phe- $\gamma$-Abu-OMe as a white solid.

Yield: 1.2 g ( $3.29 \mathrm{mmol}, 58.07 \%$ ).
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm): 7.26-7.16 (m, 5 H , phenyl ring protons), 6.39 (br, $1 \mathrm{H}, \gamma-\mathrm{Abu}(2) \mathrm{NH}), 5.24(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, Phe-NH$), 4.25\left(\mathrm{br}, 1 \mathrm{H}\right.$, Phe $\left.\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}\right), 3.61\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right)$, 3.22-3.20 (m, 2H, Phe C ${ }^{\beta}$ H), 3.00-2.97 (br, 2H, $\gamma$-Abu $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma} \mathrm{H}$ ), 2.17-2.15 (br, 2H, $\gamma$-Abu $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.67-1.65(br, 2H, $\gamma$-Abu C ${ }^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ) 1.36 (s, $9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Boc}-\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ), ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in
ppm): 173.96, 171.84, 155.83, 137.23, 129.69, 128.94, 127.22, 80.38, 51.98, 39.19, 34.32, 31.55, 30.04, 28.64, 26.02.
(c) Boc-Phe(1)- $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$-Abu(2)-OH. To $1.0 \mathrm{~g}(2.74 \mathrm{mmol})$ of Boc-Phe- $\gamma$-Abu-OMe, 15 mL MeOH and $2(\mathrm{M}) 3.70 \mathrm{~mL} \mathrm{NaOH}$ were added and the progress of saponification was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). The reaction mixture was stirred. After10 h, methanol was removed under vacuum; the residue was dissolved in 50 mL of water and washed with diethyl ether $(2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$. Then the pH of the aqueous layer was adjusted to 2 using $1(\mathrm{M}) \mathrm{HCl}$ and it was extracted with ethyl acetate $(3 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$. The extracts were pooled, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and evaporated under vacuum to obtained compound as a waxy solid.

Yield : 850 mg (2.33 mmol, 85.12\%).
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 500 MHz, DMSO- $d_{6}, \delta$ in ppm): 12.02 (br, $1 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{COOH}$ ), 7.86 (br, $1 \mathrm{H}, \gamma-\mathrm{Abu}(2)$ NH ), 7.25-7.23 (m, 5 H , phenyl ring protons) $6.85-6.84(\mathrm{~d}, 1 \mathrm{H}, J=5$, Phe-NH), $4.06(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.08-2.89 (m, 2H, Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ), 2.85-2.73 (m, 2H, $\gamma$-Abu $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma} \mathrm{H}$ ), 2.17-2.15 (t, 2H, $\gamma$ abu $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.61-1.59 (m, 2H, $\gamma$-Abu $\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ), $1.30\left(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}\right.$, Boc $-\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 125 MHz , $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm): 174.18, 171.42, 155.12, 138.11, 129.12, 128.07, 126.18, 77.91, 55.78, 39.00, 37.85, 30.44, 28.32, 26.72.
(d) Boc-Phe(1)- $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$-Abu(2)-Phe(3)-OMe. $840 \mathrm{mg}(2.3 \mathrm{mmol})$ Boc-Phe- $\gamma-\mathrm{Abu}-\mathrm{OH}$ was dissolved in 5 mL of DMF in an ice-water bath. H-Phe-OMe $896 \mathrm{mg}(5 \mathrm{mmol})$ was isolated from the corresponding methyl ester hydrochloride by neutralization and subsequent extraction with ethyl acetate and the ethyl acetate extract was concentrated to 7 mL . Then it was added to the reaction mixture, followed immediately by 475 mg ( 2.3 mmol ) of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) and $311 \mathrm{mg}(2.3 \mathrm{mmol})$ of HOBt. The reaction mixture was allowed to come to room temperature and then stirred for 72 h . The residue was taken in 30 mL ethyl acetate and dicyclohexylurea (DCU) was filtered off.The organic layer was washed with $2(\mathrm{M}) \mathrm{HCL}(3 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$, brine $(2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$, then $1(\mathrm{M})$ sodium carbonate $(3 \times 30 \mathrm{~mL})$ and brine ( $2 \times 30 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evaporated under vacuum to yield the tripeptide 1 as a white solid. Purification was done by silica gel column (100-200 mesh size) with an ethyl acetate and hexane mixture $1: 2$ as the eluent.

Yield : 480 mg ( $0.91 \mathrm{mmol}, 39.7 \%$ ).
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm): 7.31-7.27 (m, 10H, 2 phenyl ring protons), 6.76 (br, 1 H, Phe -NH), 6.45 (br, 1H, Phe -NH), 5.18 (br, $1 \mathrm{H}, \gamma-\mathrm{Abu}-\mathrm{NH}$ ), 4.87 (m, 1H, Phe C ${ }^{\alpha}$ H), $4.29\left(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}\right.$, Phe $\left.\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}\right)$, $3.75\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right), 3.24-3.21\left(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}\right.$, Phe $\left.\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}\right)$, 3.20-3.16 (m, 2 H , Phe $\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.12-3.06 (m, 2H, $\gamma$-Abu $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma} \mathrm{H}$ ), 2.10-2.05 (m. 2H, $\gamma$-Abu $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha} \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.75-1.72(m, $2 \mathrm{H}, \gamma$-Abu $\mathrm{C}^{\beta} \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.42 (s, $9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Boc}-\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ).
${ }^{13} \mathrm{CNMR}$ ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \delta$ in ppm ): 177.79, 174.03, 172.83, 158.58, 139.36, 131.06, $130.75,129.07,128.13,127.89,126.46,80.15,58.29,57.72,39.92,38.19,37.97,32.48$, 31.86, 29.21, 24.73, 23.44. ESIMS: $m / z 534.19,\left[^{M}+\mathrm{Na}\right]^{+}$; $\mathrm{M}_{\text {calcd }} 511.26$.


Figure S1: ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 500 MHz , DMSO-d6) spectra of Boc-Phe-OH.


Figure S2: ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 125 MHz , DMSO- $d_{6}$ ) spectra of Boc-Phe-OH.


Figure S3: ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ of Boc-Phe-Gly-OMe.


Figure S4: ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C} \operatorname{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ of Boc-Phe-Gly-OMe.


Figure S5: ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 500 MHz , DMSO-d6) of Boc-Phe-Gly-OH.


Figure S6: ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR( 125 MHz , DMSO- $d_{6}$ ) of Boc-Phe-Gly-OH.


Figure S7: ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) of Boc-Phe-Gly-Phe-OMe.


Figure S8: ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) of Boc-Phe-Gly-Phe-OMe.


Figure S9: Mass Spectra of Boc-Phe-Gly-Phe-OMe.


Figure S10: ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) of Boc-Phe- $\beta$-Ala-OMe.


Figure S11: ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C} \operatorname{NMR}\left(125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ of Boc-Phe- $\beta$-Ala-OMe.



Figure S12: ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 500 MHz , DMSO-d6) of Boc-Phe- $\beta$-Ala-OH.


Figure S13: ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR( 125 MHz , DMSO- $d_{6}$ ) of Boc-Phe- $\beta$-Ala-OH.


Figure S14: ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ of Boc-Phe- $\beta$-Ala-Phe-OMe.


Figure S15: ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) of Boc-Phe- $\beta$-Ala-Phe-OMe.


Figure S16: Mass spectra of Boc-Phe- $\beta$-ala-Phe-OMe.


Figure S17: ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ of Boc-Phe- $\gamma$-Abu-OMe.


Figure S18: ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) of Boc-Phe- $\gamma$-Abu-OMe.


Figure S19: ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR( 500 MHz , DMSO-d6) of Boc-Phe- $\gamma-\mathrm{Abu}-\mathrm{OH}$.


Figure S20: ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR( 125 MHz , DMSO- $d_{6}$ ) of Boc-Phe- $\gamma$-Abu-OH.


Figure S21: ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) of Boc-Phe- $\gamma$-Abu-Phe-OMe.


Figure S22: ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR(125 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) of Boc-Phe- $\gamma$-Abu-Phe-OMe.


Figure S23: Mass spectra of Boc-Phe- $\gamma$-Abu-Phe-OMe.

