## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

## STEPWISE SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION, DNA BINDING PROPERTIES AND CYTOTOXICITY OF DIRUTHENIUM OLIGOPYRIDINE COMPOUNDS CONJUGATED WITH PEPTIDES.

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Figure S14. MTT assay on H1299 and H1437 cancer cell lines.

Table S1. Crystallographic data for complexes  $[(trpy)Ru(tppz)Ru(trpy-CO_2H)](PF_6)_4$ , (2)(PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>4</sub>;

[(ptrpy)Ru(tppz)Ru(trpy-CO<sub>2</sub>H)](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, (**3**)(PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>4</sub>; [(ptrpy)Ru(tppz)Ru(trpy-CO<sub>2</sub>H)](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, (**4**)(PF<sub>6</sub>).

Table S2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) in ppm of the complexes (**4**), (**5**) and (**6**) in aqueous (H<sub>2</sub>O:D<sub>2</sub>O, 9:1) buffer phosphates (100 mM, pH = 7.0) at 298 K.

Table S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) resonances (ppm) of the free d(5'-CGCGAATTCGC-3')<sub>2</sub> in 100 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), H<sub>2</sub>O:D<sub>2</sub>O 9:1, at 298 K.

Table S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) in ppm of the complexes (**4**), (**5**) and (**6**) upon addition to the oligonucleotide duplex d(CGCGAATTCGCG)<sub>2</sub> at 1:1 molar ratio, in aqueous buffer phosphates (100 mM, pH = 7.0) at 298 K

Table S5. Changes in d(5'-CGCGAATTCGC-3')<sub>2</sub> chemical shifts upon addition of (**4**) in molar ratio 1:1 [ ( $\delta$  ppm),100 mM phosphate buffer (*p*H 7.0), H<sub>2</sub>O:D<sub>2</sub>O = 9:1, 298 K.

Table S6. Changes in d(5'-CGCGAATTCGC-3')<sub>2</sub> chemical shifts upon addition of (**5**) in molar ratio 1:1 [ ( $\delta$  ppm),100 mM phosphate buffer (*p*H 7.0), H<sub>2</sub>O:D<sub>2</sub>O = 9:1, 298 K.

Table S7. Changes in  $d(5'-CGCGAATTCGC-3')_2$  chemical shifts upon addition of (6) in molar ratio

1:1 [ (δ ppm),100 mM phosphate buffer (*p*H 7.0), H<sub>2</sub>O:D<sub>2</sub>O = 9:1, 298 K



Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex (1) at 298 K in acetone-d<sub>6</sub> with the signal assignments



Figure S2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex (2) at 298 K in acetone-d<sub>6</sub> with the signal assignments



Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex (3) at 298 K in acetone-d<sub>6</sub> with the signal assignments



Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex (4) at 298 K in dmso-d<sub>6</sub> with the signal assignments



Figure S5. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex (5) at 298 K in aceton-d<sub>6</sub> with the signal assignments



Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex (6) at 298 K in aceton- $d_6$  with the signal assignments



Figure S7. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex (6) at 298 K in aceton-d<sub>6</sub> with the signal assignments



Figure S8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex (8) at 298 K in aceton-d<sub>6</sub> with the signal assignments



Figure S9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex (9) at 298 K in aceton- $d_6$  with the signal assignments



Figure S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex (10) at 298 K in aceton-d<sub>6</sub> with the signal assignments

[A]H3H5



**Figure S11.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex (4) in  $H_2O:D_2O$  9:1, 100 mM phosphates pH = 7.0, 298 K, with the signal assignments



**Figure S12.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex (5) in  $H_2O:D_2O$  9:1, 100 mM phosphates pH = 7.0, 298 K, with the signal assignments



**Figure S13.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex (6) in  $H_2O:D_2O$  9:1, 100 mM phosphates pH = 7.0, 298 K, with the signal assignments



**Figure S14. Figure 13.** MTT assay on H1299 and H1437. Cell viability was assessed by the trypan blue exclusion test in H1299 (A) or H1437 (B) cells. 5x104 lung cancer cells were seeded in a 24-well-plate and treated with (**5**)Cl<sub>5</sub>, (**6**)Cl<sub>5</sub> or (**4**)Cl<sub>4</sub> (50, 100, 200, 300 or 400  $\mu$ M). Viability tests were performed 24h post-treatment. Fluorescence values were normalized to those of non-treated cells.

	( <b>2</b> )(PF <sub>6</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	( <b>3</b> )(PF <sub>6</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	( <b>4</b> )(PF <sub>6</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>
Formula	$C_{55}H_{36}N_{12}O_2Ru_2(PF_6)_4$	C <sub>61</sub> H <sub>41</sub> N <sub>12</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Ru <sub>2</sub> (PF <sub>6</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	$C_{60}H_{42}N_{12}Ru_2(PF_6)_4$
FW	1678.98	1756.08	1713.08
Т (К)	100(3)	100(3)	100(3)
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic
Space group	<i>C</i> 2/c	<i>C</i> 2/c	<i>C</i> 2/c
a (Å)	23.5727(8)	23.830(2)	14.9492(14)
b (Å)	17.0533(5)	17.0667(16)	33.781(3)
<i>c</i> (Å)	18.1277(7)	18.275(2)	15.9327(11)
в (°)	104.936(4)	105.189(11)	97.180(8)
V (Å <sup>3</sup> )	7041.0(4)	7172.8(13)	7982.9(12)
Ζ	4	4	4
$ ho_{ m calcd}$ (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.584	1.626	1.425
final <i>R</i> indices $[I>2\sigma(I)]$	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0450	R1 = 0.0525	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0721
	wR2 = 0.1130	wR2 = 0.1347	wR2 = 0.1311
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0509	R1 = 0.0762	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.1637
	wR2 =0.1156	wR2 =0.1533	wR2 =0.1868

**Table S1**: Crystallographic data for complexes [(trpy)Ru(tppz)Ru(trpy-CO<sub>2</sub>H)](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, (**2**)(PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>4</sub>; [(ptrpy)Ru(tppz)Ru(trpy-CO<sub>2</sub>H)](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, (**3**)(PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>4</sub>; [(ptrpy)Ru(tppz)Ru(trpy-CO<sub>2</sub>H)](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, (**4**)(PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, (**3**)(PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>4</sub>; [(ptrpy)Ru(tppz)Ru(tppz)Ru(trpy-CO<sub>2</sub>H)](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, (**3**)(PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>4</sub>; [(ptrpy)Ru(tppz)R

Proton	(4)	(5)	(6)
[A]H3'H5'	9.23	9.23	8.97
[C][D] H3H3"	9.09	9.09	9.08
[F]H3'H5'	8.97	9.35	9.35
[B]H3H3"	8.78	8.78	8.68
[E]H3H3"	8.68	8.78	8.78
[F]4′	8.61	-	-
[A]H4'	-	-	8.64
[G]H6H2	8.27	8.27	-
[E]H4H4"	8.08	8.10	8.10
[B]H4H4"	8.07	8.08	8.06
[C][D]H4H4"	7.96	7.96	7.95
[B]H6H6"	7.90	7.90	7.85
[E]H6H6"	7.86	7.74	7.74
[G]H5H3	7.85	7.86	-
[G]H4	7.79	7.77	-
[C][D]H6H6"	7.73	7.79, 7.81	7.81
[C][D]H5H5"	7.45	7.46, 7.42	7.43
[E]H5H5"	7.32	7.37	7.37
[B]H5H5"	7.32	7.32	7.31
Lys <sup>1</sup> Hα	-	4.30	4.30
Lys¹Hβ	-	1.89, 1.84	1.89, 1.84
Lys <sup>1</sup> Hγ	-	1.49	1.49
Lys¹Hδ	-	1.71	1.71
Lys <sup>1</sup> Hε	-	3.02	3.02
Gly¹Hα	-	4.10	4.07
Gly²Hα	-	3.93	3.93
Gly³Hα	-	3.88	3.88
Gly¹NH	-	9.15	9.16
Gly² NH	-	8.67	8.67
Gly <sup>3</sup> NH	-	8.77	8.77
Lys <sup>1</sup> NH	-	8.39	8.39
cis-Lys <sup>1</sup> CONH <sub>2</sub>	-	7.69	7.71
trans-Lys <sup>1</sup> CONH <sub>2</sub>	-	7.13	7.14

**Table S2:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) in ppm of the complexes (**4**), (**5**) and (**6**) in aqueous (H<sub>2</sub>O:D<sub>2</sub>O, 9:1) buffer phosphates (100 mM, pH = 7.0) at 298 K <sup>a</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> The proton numbering and the designation of the ligand rings are based in Fig. 2.

**Table S3.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) resonances (ppm) of the free  $d(5'-CGCGAATTCGC-3')_2$  in 100 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.0),  $H_2O:D_2O$  9:1, at 298 K.

Base	H8/H6	H5/H2/ T-	H1′	H2′	H2″	H3′	H4'	N3H/N1H	NH <sub>2</sub> (b)	NH₂(nb)
		CH <sub>3</sub>								
C1	7.60	5.88	5.72	1.94	2.39	4.67	4.03			
G2	7.92		5.88	2.61	2.68	4.94	4.31	13.02		
C3	7.25	5.35	5.58	1.82	2.26	4.78	4.12		8.41	6.42
G4	7.83		5.41	2.63	2.75	4.96	4.29	12.68		
A5	8.09	7.21	5.97	2.67	2.90	5.03	4.43			
A6	8.09	7.60	6.13	2.59	2.90	4.98	4.44			
T7	7.09	1.26	5.88	1.94	2.53	4.79	4.18	13.65		
Т8	7.35	1.51	6.08	2.15	2.53	4.87	4.17	13.78		
C9	7.44	5.60	5.65	2.04	2.40	4.84	4.12		8.40	6.80
G10	7.89		5.82	2.62	2.67	4.96	4.34	12.91		
C11	7.31	5.42	5.72	1.87	2.30	4.79	4.18		8.37	6.55
G12	7.92		6.13	2.36	2.62	4.65	4.14			

**Table S4**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) in ppm of the complexes (**4**), (**5**) and (**6**) upon addition to the oligonucleotide duplex d(CGCGAATTCGCG)<sub>2</sub> at 1:1 molar ratio, in aqueous buffer phosphates (100 mM, pH = 7.0) at 298 K <sup>a</sup>.

Proton	(4)	(5)	(6)
[A]H3'H5'	9.03 (-0.20)	9.10 (-0.13)	8.96 (-0.01)
[C][D] H3H3"	9.08 (-0.01)	9.12 (+0.03)	9.05 (+0.03)
[F]H3'H5'	8.93 (-0.04)	9.34 (-0.01)	9.34 (-0.01)
[B]H3H3"	8.60 (-0.18)	8.72 (-0.06)	8.67 (-0.01)
[E]H3H3"	8.65 (-0.03)	8.78 ( 0.00)	8.78 (0.00)
[F]4'	8.60 (-0.01)	-	-
[A]H4'	-	-	8.68 (+0.04)
[G]H6H2	8.00 (-0.27)	8.12 (-0.15)	-
[E]H4H4"	8.05 (-0.03)	8.14 (+0.04)	8.16 (+0.06)
[B]H4H4"	8.00(-0.07)	8.05 (-0.03)	8.08 (+0.02)
[C][D]H4H4"	7.95 (+0.01)	8.02 (+0.06)	8.01 (+0.06)
[B]H6H6''	7.80 (-0.10)	7.98 (+0.08)	7.87 (+0.02)
[E]H6H6"	7.79 (-0.07)	7.76 (+0.02)	7.75 (+0.01)
[G]H5H3	7.52 (-0.33)	7.72 (-0.14)	-
[G]H4	7.32 (-0.47)	7.42 (-0.35)	-
[C][D]H6H6"	7.71 (+0.02)	7.80, 7.82 (+0.01)	7.831 (+0.02)
[C][D]H5H5"	7.45 (0.00)	7.53, 7.49 (+0.07)	7.50 (+0.07)
[E]H5H5"	7.31 (+0.01)	7.41 (+0.04)	7.39 (+0.02)
[B]H5H5"	7.29(-0.03)	7.36 (+0.04)	7.33 (+0.02)
Lys <sup>1</sup> Hα	-	4.33 (+0.03)	4.31 (+0.01)
Lys¹Hβ	-	1.90, 1.85 (+0.01)	1.90, 1.87 (+0.02)
Lys¹Hγ	-	1.48 (-0.01)	1.52 (+0.03)
Lys¹Hδ	-	1.72 (+0.01)	1.73 (+0.02)
Lys <sup>1</sup> Hε	-	3.05 (+0.03)	3.04 (+0.02)
Gly¹Hα	-	4.15 (-0.05)	4.14 (+0.04)
Gly²Hα	-	3.96 (+0.03)	3.93 (0.00)
Glγ³Hα	-	3.88 (0.00)	3.85 (-0.03)
Gly¹NH	-	9.12 (-0.03)	9.13 (-0.03)
Gly² NH	-	8.72 (+0.05)	8.62 (-0.05)
Gly <sup>3</sup> NH	-	8.72 (-0.05)	8.75 (-0.02)
Lys <sup>1</sup> NH	-	8.41 (+0.02)	8.32 (-0.07)

<sup>a</sup> The proton numbering and the designation of the ligand rings are based in Fig. 2.

**Table S5.** Changes in d(5'-CGCGAATTCGC-3')<sub>2</sub> chemical shifts upon addition of (**4**) in molar ratio 1:1 [ ( $\delta$  ppm),100 mM phosphate buffer (*p*H 7.0), H<sub>2</sub>O:D<sub>2</sub>O = 9:1, 298 K.

Base	H8/H6	H5/H2/ T- CH <sub>3</sub>	H1'	H2′	H2"	N3H/N1H	NH <sub>2</sub> (b)	NH₂(nb)
C1	(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.02)	(-0.01	(-0.01)			
G2	(+0.01)		(-0.01)	(-0.01	(+0.01)	(-0.01)		
C3	(-0.01)	(+0.01)	(0.00)	(+0.01)	(+0.01)		(-0.01)	(-0.01)
G4	(+0.01)		(0.00)	(0.00)	2.75	(+0.01)		
A5	(-0.01)	(+0.01)	(-0.03)	(-0.03)	(-0.03)			
A6	(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.05)	(-0.04)	(-0.07)			
T7	(-0.03)	(0.00)	(-0.03)	(-0.03)	(-0.05)	(-0.06)		
Т8	(-0.03)	(-0.01)	(-0.04)	(-0.06)	(-0.05)	(-0.06)		
C9	(0.00)	(0.00)	(-0.03)	(-0.06)	(-0.03)		(-0.01)	(0.00)
G10	(-0.01)		(-0.01)	(-0.02)	(-0.02)	(-0.00)		
C11	(0.00)	(-0.01)	(0.00)	(-0.01)	(-0.01)		(0.00)	(0.00)
G12	(-0.01)		(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.02)			

**Table S6.** Changes in d(5'-CGCGAATTCGC-3')<sub>2</sub> chemical shifts upon addition of (**5**) in molar ratio 1:1 [ ( $\delta$  ppm),100 mM phosphate buffer (*p*H 7.0), H<sub>2</sub>O:D<sub>2</sub>O = 9:1, 298 K.

Base	H8/H6	H5/H2/ T-	H1′	H2′	H2″	N3H/N1H	NH <sub>2</sub> (b)	NH <sub>2</sub> (nb)
C1	(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.02)	(-0.01	(-0.01)			
G2	(+0.01)		(-0.01)	(-0.01	(+0.01)	(-0.01)		
C3	(-0.02)	(0.00)	(-0.01)	(+0.01)	(+0.01)		(-0.01)	(-0.01)
G4	(0.00)		(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(+0.01)		
A5	(-0.01)	(+0.01)	(-0.03)	(-0.01)	(-0.02)			
A6	(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.05)	(-0.00)	(-0.02)			
Т7	(-0.01)	(0.00)	(-0.06)	(-0.02)	(-0.01)	(-0.06)		
Т8	(-0.02)	(-0.01)	(-0.07)	(-0.01)	(0.00)	(-0.04)		
C9	(0.00)	(0.00)	(-0.01)	(-0.02)	(-0.01)		(-0.01)	(0.00)
G10	(-0.01)		(-0.01)	(-0.02)	(-0.02)	(-0.00)		
C11	(0.00)	(-0.01)	(0.00)	(-0.01)	(-0.01)		(0.00)	(0.00)
G12	(0.00)		(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.02)			

**Table S7.** Changes in d(5'-CGCGAATTCGC-3')<sub>2</sub> chemical shifts upon addition of (6) in molar ratio 1:1 [ ( $\delta$  ppm),100 mM phosphate buffer (*p*H 7.0), H<sub>2</sub>O:D<sub>2</sub>O = 9:1, 298 K.

Base	H8/H6	H5/H2/ T- CH₃	H1′	H2′	H2"	N3H/N1H	NH <sub>2</sub> (b)	NH <sub>2</sub> (nb)
C1	(0.00)	(0.00)	(-0.01)	(+0.01)	(-0.01)			
G2	(+0.01)		(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.01)		
C3	(-0.01)	(0.00)	(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(+0.01)		(+0.01)	(0.00)
G4	(0.00)		(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)		
A5	(0.00)	(-0.01)	(-0.02)	(-0.01)	(+0.01)			
A6	(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.00)	(-0.02)			
T7	(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.02)	(-0.02)	(-0.01)	(-0.01)		
Т8	(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(0.00)	(-0.01)		
C9	(0.00)	(0.00)	(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.01)		(-0.01)	(0.00)
G10	(-0.01)		(0.00)	(0.00)	(-0.02)	(0.00)		
C11	(0.00)	(-0.01)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(-0.01)		(0.00)	(0.00)
G12	(0.00)		(-0.01)	(-0.01)	(-0.02)			