Supporting Information for

Less Toxic Zinc(II), Diorganotin(IV), Gallium(III) and Cadmium(II) Complexes Derived from 2-benzoylpyridine N,N-dimethylthiosemicarbazone: Synthesis, Crystal Structures, Cytotoxicity and Investigations of Mechanisms of Action

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Figure S3. Structure of complex 3 with atomic numbering scheme.

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Table S1 Summary of Crystal Data and Refinement Results for Complexes 1-4.

| Compound | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Empirical formula | $C_{30}H_{30}N_8S_2Zn$ | $C_{29}H_{28}N_4O_2SSn$ | $C_{30}H_{30}GaN_9O_3S_2$ | $C_{30}H_{30}CdN_8S_2$ |
| Formula weight | 632.11 | 615.30 | 698.47 | 679.14 |
| Crystal size (mm) | $0.50 \times 0.41 \times 0.23$ | $0.38 \times 0.25 \times 0.17$ | $0.68 \times 0.23 \times 0.09$ | $0.49 \times 0.34 \times 0.26$ |
| Crystal system | Monoclinic | Monoclinic | Monoclinic | Monoclinic |
| Space group | P2(1)/c | P2(1)/c | P2(1)/n | C2/c |
| <i>T</i> (K) | 296(2) | 296(2) | 293(2) | 296(2) |
| <i>a</i> (Å) | 16.408(3) | 17.15(2) | 18.441 | 16.9715(10) |
| <i>b</i> (Å) | 8.6188(15) | 10.549(13) | 8.936 | 23.6235(15) |
| <i>c</i> (Å) | 21.365(4) | 16.45(2) | 21.809 | 15.9881(10) |
| V (Å) ³ | 2995.0(9) | 2914(6) | 3583.8 | 6249.1(7) |
| α (°) | 90.00 | 90.00 | 90.00 | 90.00 |
| β (°) | 97.571(3) | 101.78(3) | 94.29 | 102.8670(10) |

| γ (°) | 90.00 | 90.00 | 90.00 | 90.00 |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| $D_c ({\rm g}~{\rm cm}^{-3})$ | 1.402 | 1.402 | 1.295 | 1.444 |
| Z | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| $\mu (\mathrm{mm}^{-1})$ | 0.994 | 0.980 | 0.927 | 0.866 |
| θ (°) | 1.92-25.0 | 2.28-25.00 | 1.87-25.00 | 1.72-25.00 |
| <i>F</i> (000) | 1312 | 1248 | 1440 | 2768 |
| hkl Range | $-19 \leq h \leq 16,$ | $-20 \le h \le 19,$ | $-21 \le h \le 15, -10$ | $-20 \le h \le 14, -27$ |
| | $-10 \le k \le 10, -24$ | $-12 \le k \le 11,$ | $\leq k \leq 10, -25 \leq l \leq$ | $\leq k \leq 27, -18 \leq l$ |
| | $\leq l \leq 25$ | $-16 \le l \le 19$ | 25 | ≤18 |
| Refl. collected | 5264 | 5128 | 6302 | 5506 |
| Refl. unique | 4243 | 4093 | 2623 | 4679 |
| R _{int} | 0.0190 | 0.0377 | 0.1557 | 0.0234 |
| Parameters | 370 | 334 | 407 | 370 |
| $R_1, wR_2 [I \ge 2\sigma (I)]$ | 0.0353, 0.1161 | 0.0297, 0.0745 | 0.1430, 0.2260 | 0.0281, 0.0708 |
| R_1, wR_2 (all dates) | 0.0474, 0.1243 | 0.0422, 0.0795 | 0.3635, 0.3933 | 0.0366, 0.0743 |
| Goodness-of-fit on F^2 | 0.956 | 0.998 | 1.268 | 1.060 |
| $\Delta \rho_{\text{max}, \text{min}}$ (e Å ⁻³) | 0.521, -0.251 | 0.360, -0.446 | 2.646, -0.862 | 0.475, -0.311 |

Table S2 Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg) of complexes 1–4.

| 1 | | 2 | | | 3 | 4 | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Zn1–N7 | 2.1332(19) | Sn1-C22 | 2.178(4) | Ga1–N7 | 1.994(8) | Cd1-N3 | 2.3751(19) |
| Zn1-N3 | 2.1441(19) | Sn1–C16 | 2.183(4) | Ga1–N3 | 2.053(8) | Cd1–N7 | 2.384(2) |
| Zn1–N4 | 2.213(2) | Sn1–O2 | 2.355(3) | Ga1–N4 | 2.111(8) | Cd1–N8 | 2.396(2) |
| Zn1–N8 | 2.2455(19) | Sn1-N3 | 2.395(3) | Ga1–N8 | 2.130(8) | Cd1-N4 | 2.420(2) |
| Zn1-S1 | 2.4331(8) | Sn1-O1 | 2.432(3) | Ga1-S1 | 2.368(3) | Cd1-S1 | 2.5609(7) |
| Zn1-S2 | 2.4371(8) | Sn1-N4 | 2.459(3) | Ga1-S2 | 2.372(3) | Cd1-S2 | 2.5616(7) |
| S1-C3 | 1.719(3) | Sn1-S1 | 2.612(3) | S1-C3 | 1.712(11) | S1-C3 | 1.729(3) |
| S2-C18 | 1.725(3) | S1–C3 | 1.762(3) | S2-C18 | 1.667(11) | S2-C18 | 1.740(3) |
| N2-C3 | 1.344(3) | N2-C3 | 1.347(4) | N2-C3 | 1.269(12) | N2-C3 | 1.336(3) |
| N2-N3 | 1.367(3) | N2-N3 | 1.376(3) | N2-N3 | 1.344(11) | N2-N3 | 1.362(2) |
| N3-C4 | 1.289(3) | N3C4 | 1.324(4) | N3-C4 | 1.294(11) | N3-C4 | 1.301(3) |
| N6-C18 | 1.333(3) | C22-Sn1-C16 | 167.67(12) | N6-C18 | 1.359(13) | N6-C18 | 1.331(3) |
| N6-N7 | 1.348(3) | C22-Sn1-O2 | 89.80(10) | N6–N7 | 1.388(11) | N6N7 | 1.367(2) |
| N7-C19 | 1.299(3) | C16-Sn1-O2 | 91.06(9) | N7-C19 | 1.310(13) | N7-C19 | 1.298(3) |
| N7–Zn1–N3 | 161.11(8) | C22-Sn1-N3 | 87.51(12) | N7–Ga1–N3 | 174.9(3) | N3-Cd1-N7 | 151.03(6) |
| N7–Zn1–N4 | 93.77(7) | C16–Sn1–N3 | 97.19(11) | N7–Ga1–N4 | 98.9(3) | N3-Cd1-N8 | 95.00(7) |
| N3-Zn1-N4 | 73.99(7) | O2-Sn1-N3 | 152.98(8) | N3–Ga1–N4 | 78.0(3) | N7-Cd1-N8 | 67.99(6) |
| N7–Zn1–N8 | 73.91(7) | C22-Sn1-O1 | 86.71(13) | N7–Ga1–N8 | 78.5(3) | N3-Cd1-N4 | 68.38(6) |
| N3–Zn1–N8 | 91.62(7) | C16–Sn1–O1 | 83.69(12) | N3–Ga1–N8 | 97.1(3) | N7-Cd1-N4 | 86.63(6) |
| N4–Zn1–N8 | 90.90(7) | O2-Sn1-O1 | 55.21(8) | N4–Ga1–N8 | 85.6(3) | N8-Cd1-N4 | 86.23(7) |
| N7–Zn1–S1 | 111.35(6) | N3-Sn1-O1 | 151.17(7) | N7–Ga1–S1 | 100.1(2) | N3-Cd1-S1 | 74.74(5) |
| N3–Zn1–S1 | 79.53(6) | C22-Sn1-N4 | 82.06(11) | N3- Ga1 - S1 | 82.6(2) | N7–Cd1–S1 | 126.85(5) |

| N4–Zn1–S1 | 153.47(5) | C16–Sn1–N4 | 89.04(11) | N4–Ga1–S1 | 159.7(3) | N8-Cd1-S1 | 91.77(5) |
|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| N8–Zn1–S1 | 88.16(6) | O2-Sn1-N4 | 137.58(9) | N8–Ga1–S1 | 91.0(2) | N4-Cd1-S1 | 142.71(5) |
| N7–Zn1–S2 | 79.71(5) | N3-Sn1-N4 | 68.53(11) | N7–Ga1–S2 | 81.9(2) | N3-Cd1-S2 | 121.22(5) |
| N3–Zn1–S2 | 113.81(6) | O1–Sn1–N4 | 82.70(11) | N3–Ga1–S2 | 102.0(2) | N7–Cd1–S2 | 74.43(5) |
| N4–Zn1–S2 | 89.54(6) | C22-Sn1-S1 | 97.14(13) | N4–Ga1–S2 | 90.5(3) | N8-Cd1-S2 | 142.10(5) |
| N8–Zn1–S2 | 153.59(5) | C16-Sn1-S1 | 95.11(12) | N8–Ga1–S2 | 159.2(2) | N4–Cd1–S2 | 96.49(5) |
| S1–Zn1–S2 | 102.82(3) | O2-Sn1-S1 | 79.78(6) | S1–Ga1–S2 | 99.41(12) | S1–Cd1–S2 | 107.28(3) |
| | | N3-Sn1-S1 | 73.90(8) | | | | |
| | | O1-Sn1-S1 | 134.87(8) | | | | |
| | | N4-Sn1-S1 | 142.42(6) | | | | |

Table S3 The cytotoxicity of the tested compounds against HepG2 cells and QSG7701 cells. n = 4. Mean \pm SD.

| | | | Tested compounds | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Hepatocellular cells | Bp44mT | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| HepG2 | 1.45 ± 0.1 | 6.68 ± 1.0 | 3.61 ± 0.15 | 1.7 ± 0.25 | 2.47 ± 0.18 |
| QSG7701 | 7.3 ± 0.18 | 77.64 ± 10.05 | 9.42 ± 0.31 | 0.67 ± 0.069 | 17.05 ± 1.67 |

Table S4 Effects of 1 on intracellular ROS in HepG2 cells. n = 4. Mean \pm SD.

| | Concentrations (µM) | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|
| intracellular ROS | 0 | 1 | 5 | 10 | |
| | 2307 | 3245 | 5015 | 6670 | |
| Measured data | 2614 | 2628 | 4891 | 6715 | |
| | 2689 | 3482 | 5113 | 6779 | |
| | 2623 | 3190 | 5518 | 5656 | |
| Mean value | 2558.25 | 3136.25 | 5134.25 | 6455 | |
| Relative value (% of | 100.0 + 0.059 | 122 (0 + 0 12 | 200 70 + 0.001 | 252 22 + 0.19 | |
| control) | 100.0 ± 0.058 | 122.60 ± 0.12 | 200.70 ± 0.091 | 252.32 ± 0.18 | |

Table S5 Effect of 1 on MMP in HepG2 cells, the cells were loaded with membrane-sensitive probe Rh123. n = 4. Mean \pm SD.

| | Concentrations (µM) | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--|--|
| Rh123 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 10 | | |
| Measured data | 27022 | 11559 | 14274 | 7491 | | |
| | 24109 | 12280 | 15062 | 7702 | | |
| | 25379 | 17927 | 8320 | 6129 | | |
| | 28022 | 13454 | 8645 | 9348 | | |
| Mean value | 26133 | 13805 | 11575.25 | 7667.5 | | |
| Relative value (% of | 100.0 + 0.057 | 52 82 4 0.005 | 44.20 + 0.12 | 20.24 + 0.044 | | |
| control) | 100.0 ± 0.057 | 52.83 ± 0.095 | 44.29 ± 0.12 | 29.34 ± 0.044 | | |

| | Concentrations (µM) | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| caspase-3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 10 | |
| | 2330 | 2998 | 3668 | 6280 | |
| Measured data | 2416 | 3088 | 3910 | 9693 | |
| | 2097 | 3211 | 3856 | 8345 | |
| | 2100 | 2875 | 3722 | 7628 | |
| Mean value | 2235.75 | 3043 | 3789 | 7986.5 | |
| Relative activity | 1.0 ± 0.063 | 1.36 ± 0.055 | 1.70 ± 0.044 | 3.57 ± 0.55 | |

Table S6 Effects of 1-induced activations of caspase-3. n = 4. Mean \pm SD.

Table S7 Effects of **1** on the activation of the p21 gene in HepG2 cells by using in vitro kinase test. n = 4. Mean \pm SD.

| | Concentrations (µM) | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| p21 gene | 0 | 1 | 5 | 10 | |
| | 3106 | 3322 | 3217 | 5899 | |
| Measured data | 2761 | 3854 | 4581 | 6590 | |
| | 3116 | 3789 | 4356 | 6675 | |
| | 2767 | 3387 | 3442 | 5814 | |
| Mean value | 2937.5 | 3588 | 3899 | 6244.5 | |
| Relative activity | 1.0 ± 0.059 | 1.21 ± 0.080 | 1.33 ± 0.19 | 2.13 ± 0.13 | |

Table S8 Effects of **1** on the activation of the p53 gene in HepG2 cells by using in vitro kinase test. n = 4. Mean \pm SD.

| | Concentrations (µM) | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--|--|
| p53 gene | 0 | 1 | 5 | 10 | | |
| Measured data | 3451 | 3561 | 4321 | 6891 | | |
| | 2897 | 2672 | 2156 | 4781 | | |
| | 3621 | 3156 | 3476 | 6671 | | |
| | 2455 | 3899 | 2915 | 5253 | | |
| Mean value | 3106 | 3322 | 3217 | 5899 | | |
| Relative activity | 1.0 ± 0.15 | 1.07 ± 0.15 | 1.04 ± 0.25 | 1.90 ± 0.29 | | |



Figure S1. Structure of complex 1 with atomic numbering scheme.



Figure S2. Structure of complex 2 with atomic numbering scheme.



Figure S3. Structure of complex 3 with atomic numbering scheme.



Figure S4. Structure of complex 4 with atomic numbering scheme.