

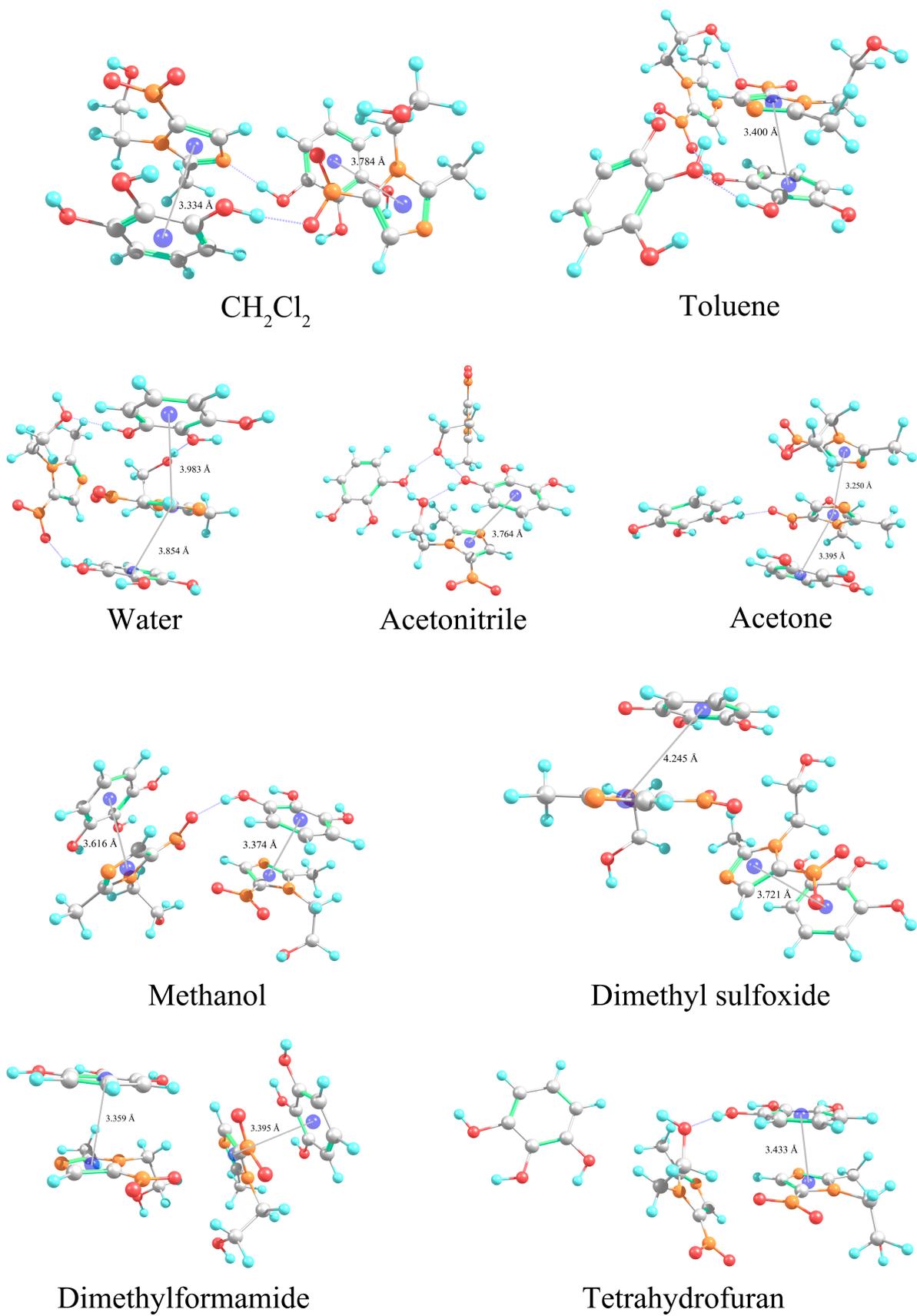
## Electronic Supplementary Information

### Color tuning of active pharmaceutical ingredient through cocrystallization: A case study of metronidazole–pyrogallol cocrystal

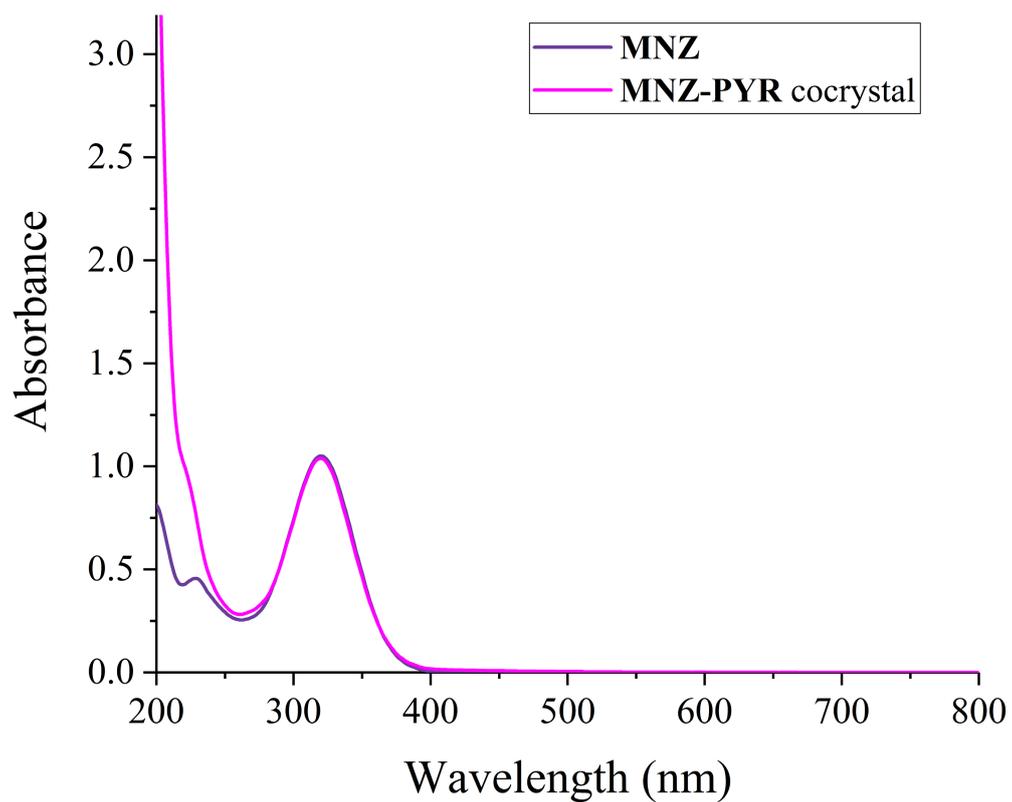
**Kang Zheng,<sup>ab\*</sup> Sijia Gao,<sup>ab</sup> Meishan Chen,<sup>ab</sup> Ao Li,<sup>ab</sup> Weiwei Wu,<sup>ab</sup> Shaosong Qian<sup>ab</sup> and Qiuxiang Pang<sup>ab\*</sup>**

<sup>a</sup> *Laboratory of Developmental and Evolutionary Biology, School of Life Sciences, Shandong University of Technology, Zibo, Shandong, 255049, China*

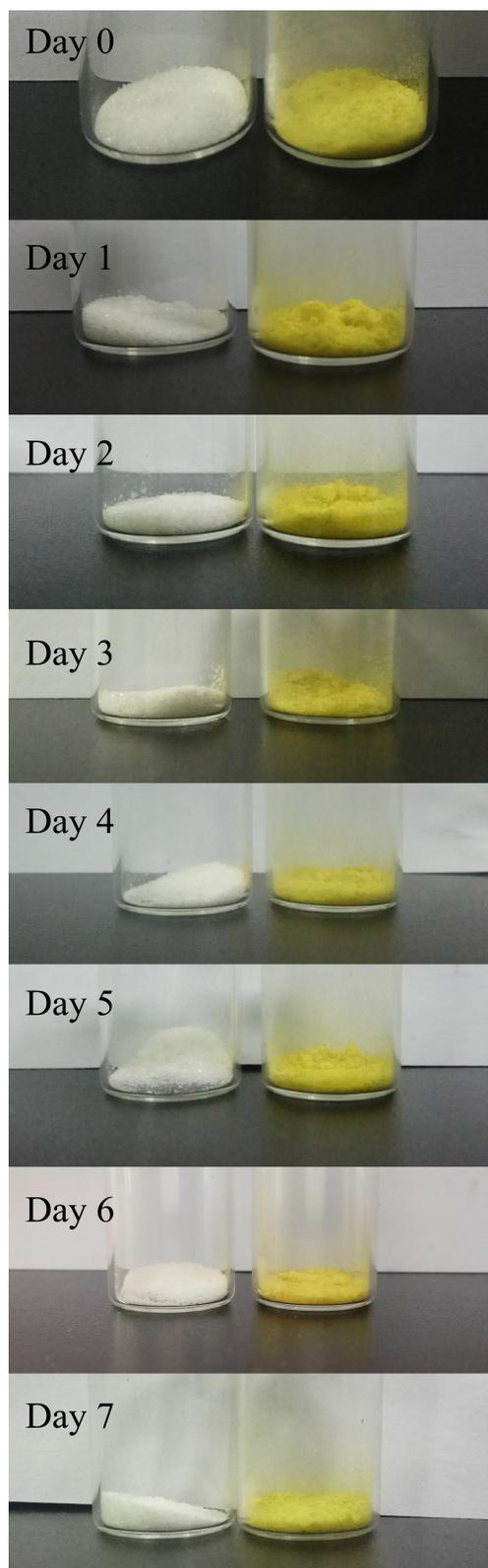
<sup>b</sup> *Anti-aging & Regenerative Medicine Research Institution, School of Life Sciences, Shandong University of Technology, Zibo, Shandong, 255049, China*



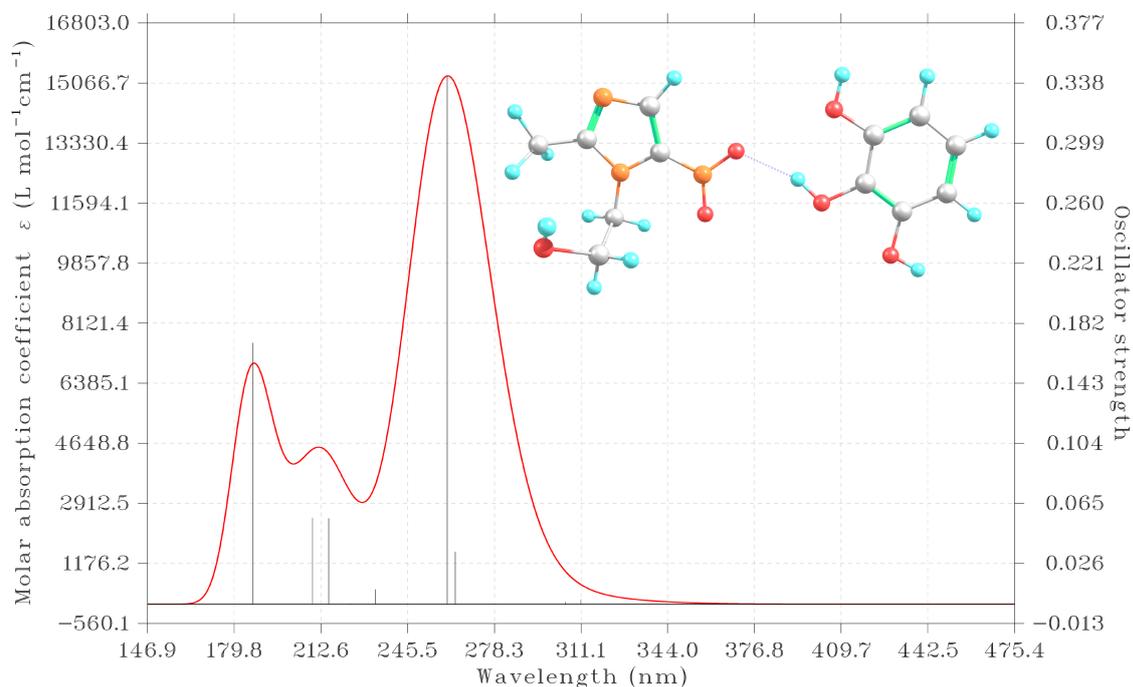
**Fig. S1.** The lowest-energy geometries of MNZ-GA clusters in solvents. The distance between the two rings is given.



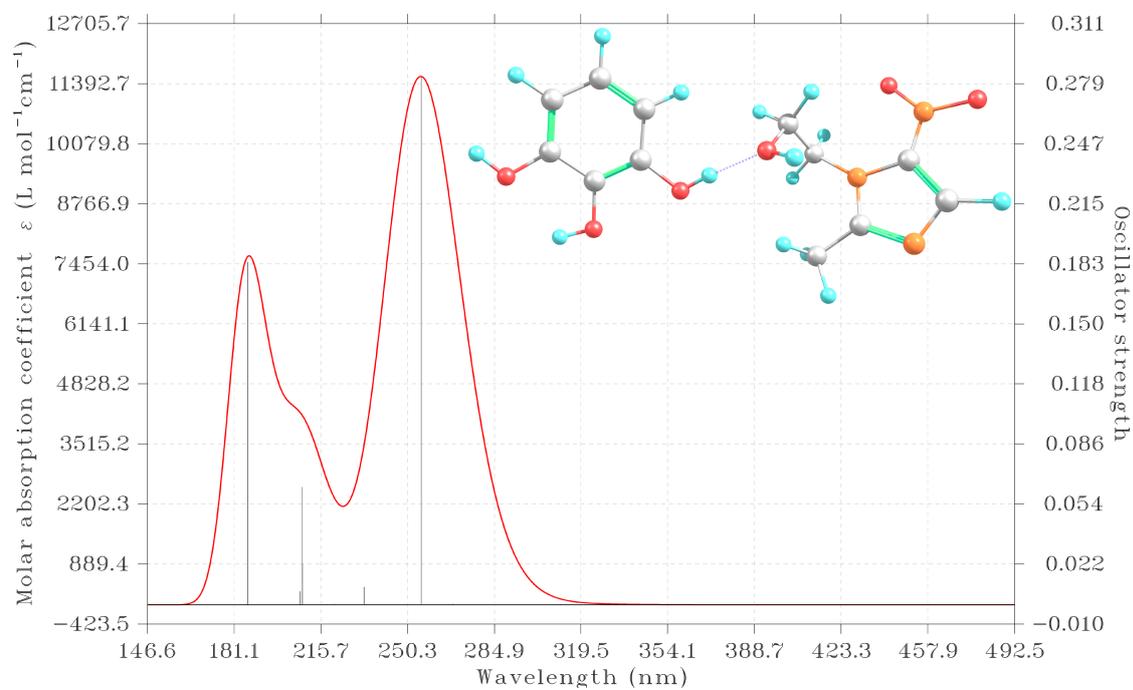
**Fig. S2.** The UV-vis absorption spectra of MNZ and MNZ-GA cocrystal in water. The concentration is 100  $\mu\text{M}$ .



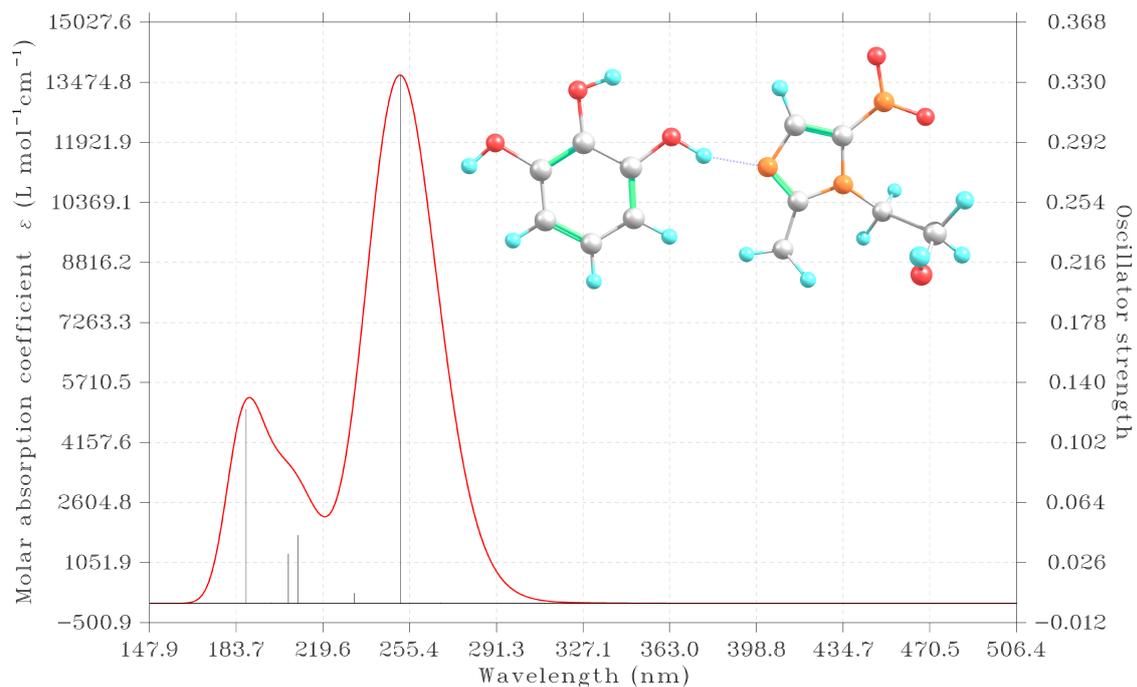
**Fig. S3.** The appearance of **MNZ** and **MNZ-PYR** cocrystal at accelerated condition (40 °C/75% relative humidity). The powder of **MNZ** and **MNZ-PYR** cocrystal were placed in open vessels and kept in a closed screw cap reagent bottle. The temperature was controlled by an oven and the relative humidity was achieved by placing a tray of saturated NaCl solution in the closed bottle.



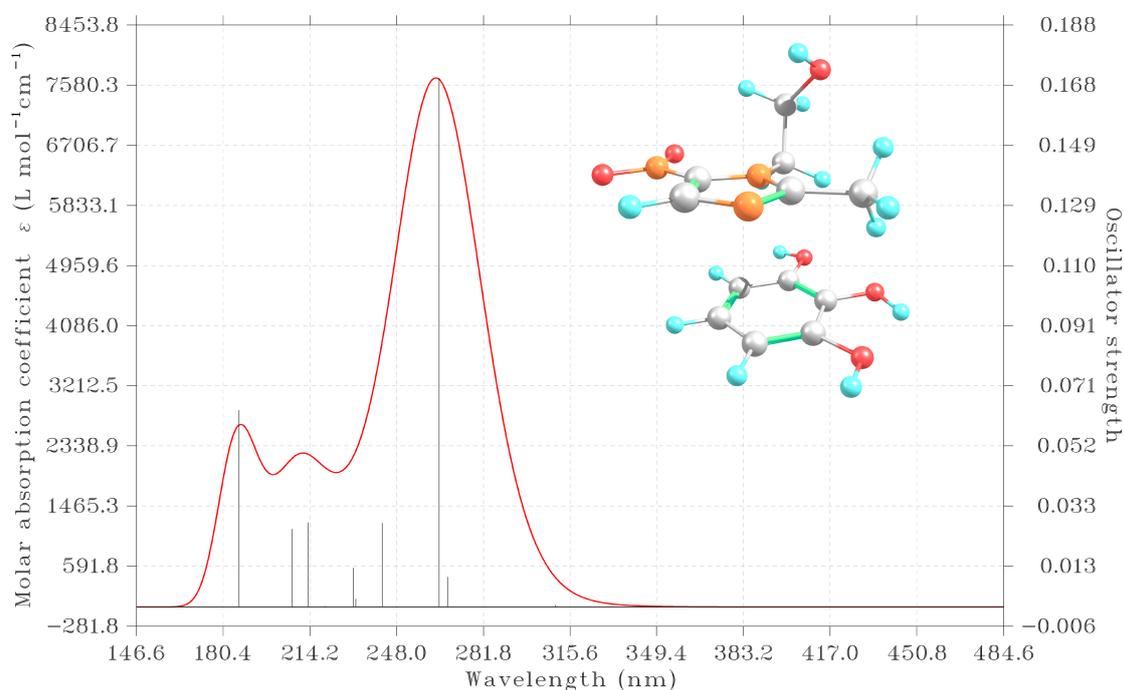
**Fig. S4.** Simulated absorption spectrum of MNZ-PYR cluster through the -OH of PYR and -NO<sub>2</sub> of MNZ.



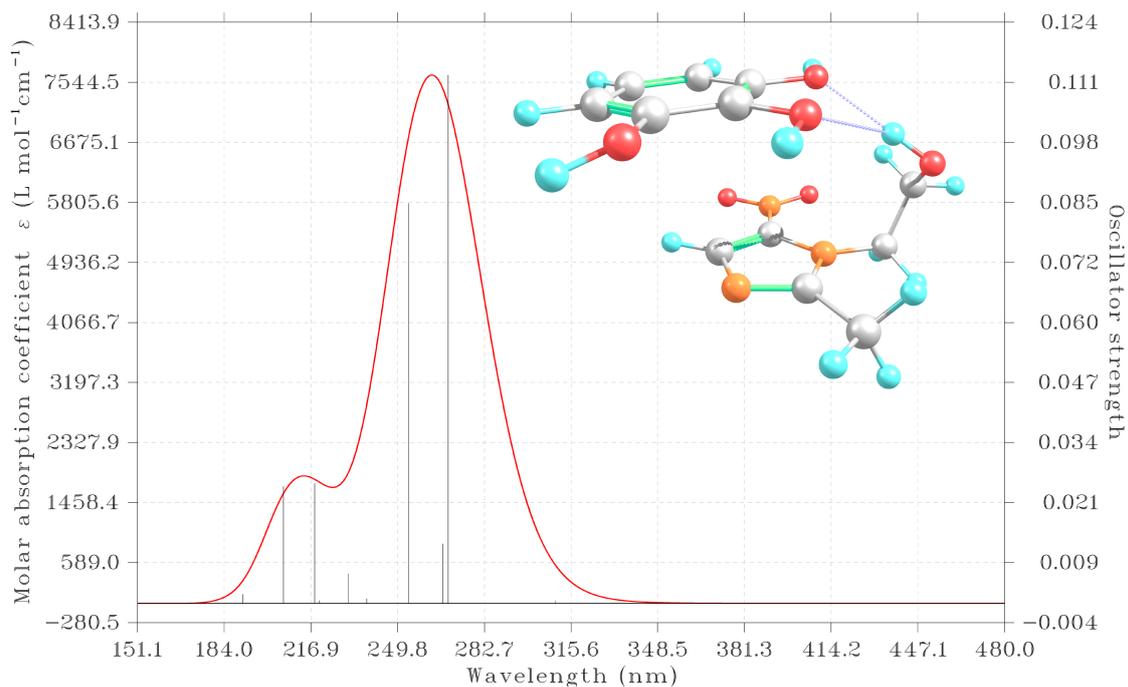
**Fig. S5.** Simulated absorption spectrum of MNZ-PYR cluster through the -OH of PYR and -OH of MNZ.



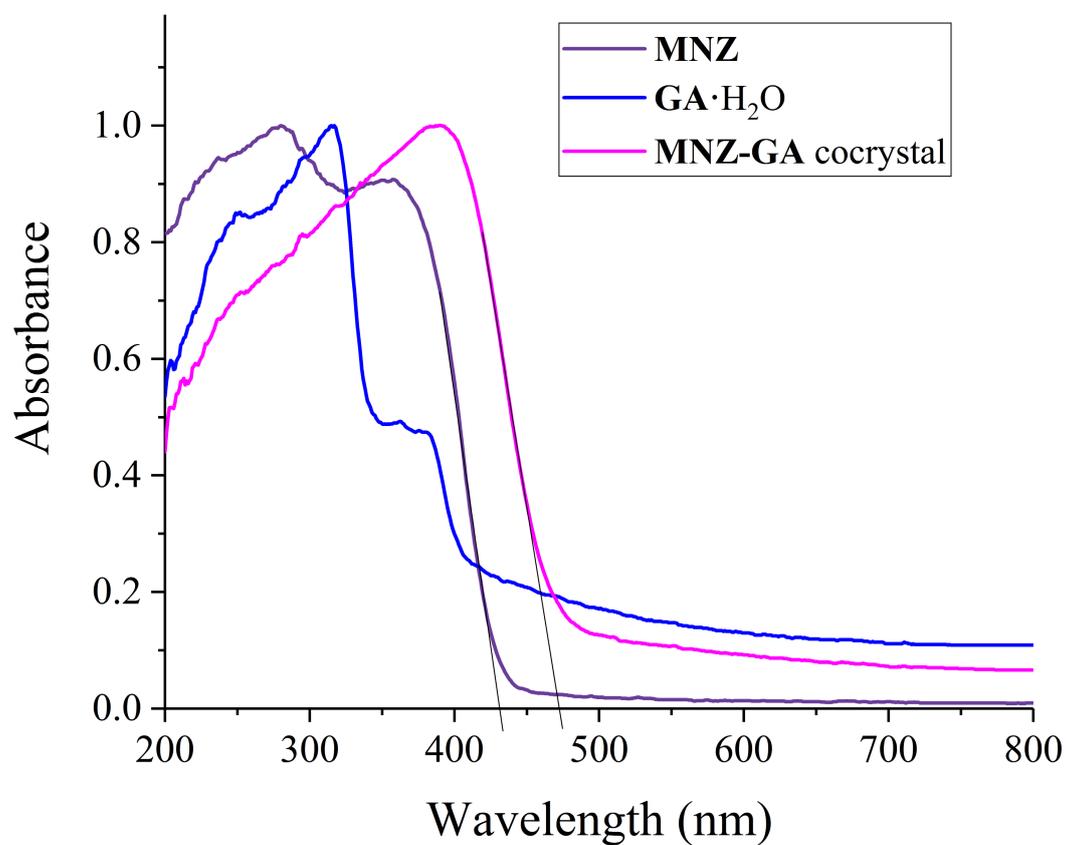
**Fig. S6.** Simulated absorption spectrum of MNZ-PYR cluster through the O-H $\cdots$ N<sub>heterocycle</sub> synthon.



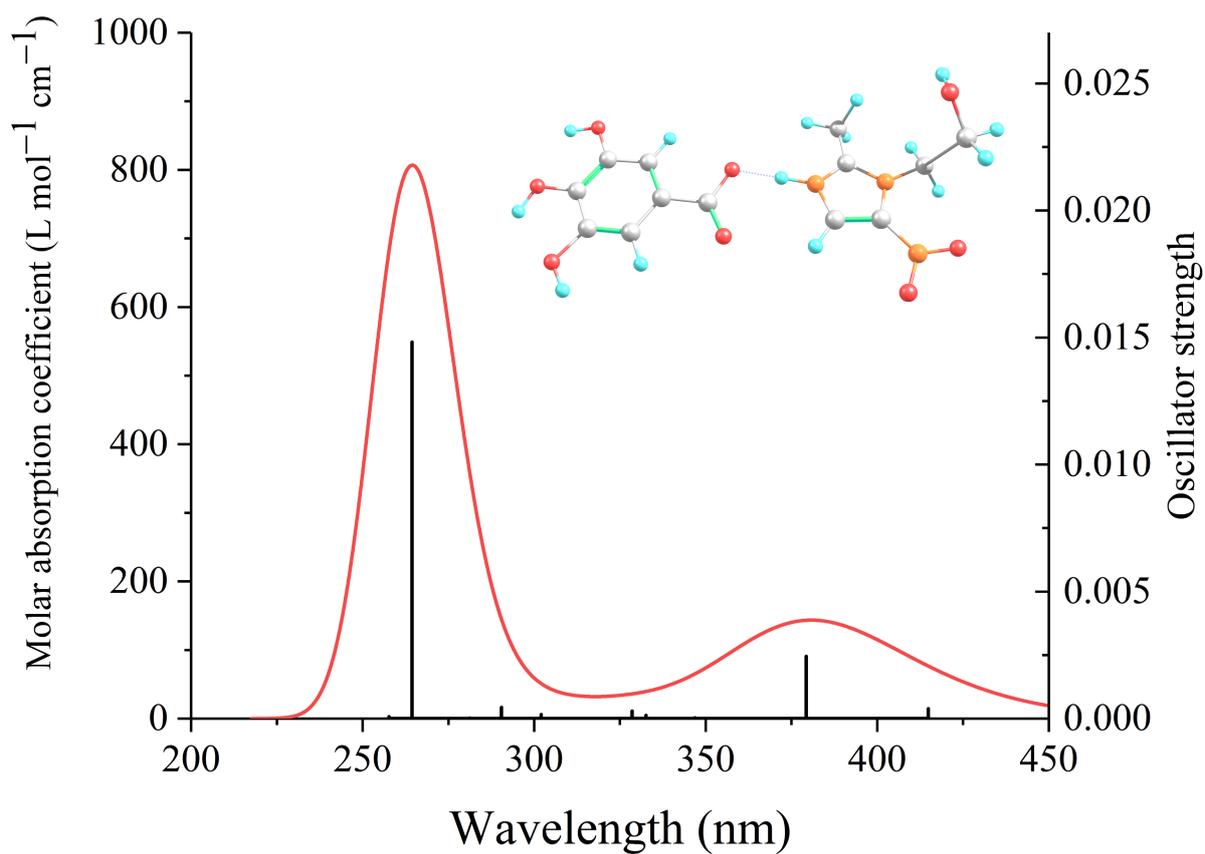
**Fig. S7.** Simulated absorption spectrum of MNZ-PYR cluster through  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interaction.



**Fig. S8.** Simulated absorption spectrum of MNZ-PYR cluster through  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interaction and O-H $\cdots$ O hydrogen bonding.



**Fig. S9.** Normalized solid-state UV-vis spectra of MNZ, GA·H<sub>2</sub>O, and MNZ-GA cocrystal.



**Fig. S10.** Simulated absorption spectra of MNZ-GA cluster due to the excited-state proton transfer process within  $\text{O-H}\cdots\text{N}_{\text{heterocycle}}$  synthon. Inset shows the first singlet excited state optimized structure of MNZ-GA cluster.