## **Supporting Information**

# Palladium Porphyrin Complexes for Photodynamic Cancer Therapy: Effect of Porphyrin Units and Metal

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### **Experiment sections**

#### General

All chemicals were reagent grade, purchased from Aladdin (China) and used without further purification. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on the Varian Mercury-VX 400 spectrometer (400 MHz) at room temperature using CDCl<sub>3</sub> (with 1wt% TMS as internal reference) as a solvent. The UV-vis spectra were obtained through an UV-vis spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, UV-1900). The fluorescence spectra were recorded on the fluorescence spectrometer (PE LS-55). The silica gel plates for TLC was 300-400 mesh and the silica gel for column chromatography was 200-300 mesh.



Scheme S1. Synthetic routes of Monopor and HO-TPP-OH.

#### Synthesis of Monopor

The Monopor was synthesized according to the method reported in the literature with minor modification.<sup>1</sup> A solution of benzaldehyde (5.3 mL, 81 mmol) and 2-hydroxylbenzaldehyde (5.5 mL, 52 mmol) in 250 mL of propionic acid was heated to reflux with intense stirring. Then 7.5 mL (108 mmol) of freshly distilled pyrrole in 80 mL propionic acid was added slowly to the solution in 30 min. The reaction mixture was continued to reflux for 1 hour and then cooled down to room temperature. Later the solvent was concentrated to about 150 mL and the same amount of methanol was added to precipitate the title compound. Filtration gave the crude products in about 1.8 g. Purification was processed on silica gel with dichloromethane as eluent. The desired product was obtained with the yield of 8%. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.88-8.96 (m, 6H), 8.84 (d, 2H, *J*=4.8 Hz), 8.55 (d, 2H, *J*=8.4 Hz), 8.41 (d, 2H, *J*=7.2 Hz), 8.23-8.27 (m, 6H), 7.75-7.89 (m, 9H), -2.84 (s, 2H). HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O 630.2415 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 630.5682.

#### Synthesis of HO-TPP-OH

The synthetic procedure of HO-TPP-OH was similar with that of Monopor by replacing 2hydroxybenzaldehyde with 2,6-dihydroxybenzaldehyde. After the reaction, the crude compound was purified by silica gel column chromatography (EtOH in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 0-8% v/v) to get the desired product, yield 6%. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.89-9.02 (m, 6H), 8.87 (d, 2H, *J* =5.4 Hz), 8.53-8.46 (m, 4H), 8.27-8.35 (m, 6H), 7.79-7.92 (m, 8H), -2.92 (s, 2H). HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 646.2468 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 646.6345.

#### UV-vis absorption and fluorescence spectra

The UV-vis absorption spectrum and fluorescence spectrum of six porphyrin compounds at 10  $\mu$ M were measured in DMF solution.

#### Fluorescence quantum yield

Fluorescence quantum yield ( $\varphi_f$ ) of an unknown sample is calculated by using Eq. (1)

$$\varphi_f = \varphi_f^R \frac{I_f}{I_f^R} \frac{A^R}{A} \left(\frac{n}{n^R}\right)^2 \tag{1}$$

 $\varphi_f^R$  is the known fluorescence quantum yield of the reference sample (referred by the superscript '*R*').  $I_f$  and  $I_f^R$  are the integrated fluorescence intensities of the unknown sample and

reference sample, respectively. A and  $A^R$  are the absorbances of the unknown sample and reference sample, respectively. n and  $n^R$  are the refractive indices of the solvents for the unknown sample and reference sample, respectively. The unknown sample and reference sample are excited at the same wavelength for measuring  $I_f$  and  $I_f^R$ , respectively. The fluorescence quantum yield of the synthesized porphyrins was measured at 298 K in DMF solution with tetraphenylporphyrin (TPP) as a reference ( $\varphi_{fTPP}^R = 0.052$  in THF,  $n_{DMF} = 1.42817$ ,  $n^R_{THF} = 1.407$ ).<sup>2</sup>



**Figure S1.** UV–Vis absorption spectrum of free base porphyrins at the same concentration. (b) Fluorescence spectra of free base porphyrins at the same concentration.











Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of Tripor.







Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of Pd-Dipor.



Figure S7. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of Pd-Tripor.





Figure S9. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of Dipor.





Figure S12. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of Pd-Dipor.



## Reference

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