### Supporting information

for

# Solid-phase synthesis of peptide Mn(I)–carbonyl bioconjugates and their CO release upon visible light activation

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**Figure S1**<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of SAAC: Fmoc-Lys(dpa)-OH.

## 2. Side reaction of the SAAC approach



Model dipeptide **1**: Fmoc-Lys(dpa)-Ala-NH<sub>2</sub> compound **2**: Lys(dpa)-Ala-NH<sub>2</sub> compound **3**: Ac-Lys(dpa)-Ala-NH<sub>2</sub>

compound 3': Ac-Lys(Ac-dpa)-Ala-NH<sub>2</sub>



**Figure S2.** HPLC and ESI-MS trace of the purified **1**; (A) HPLC:  $t_R = 17.7 \text{ min} (15-65 \% \text{ solvent B} \text{ in solvent A over 15 min, } \lambda = 214 \text{ nm, C18 column}$ ; (B) ESI-MS calculated for **1**: [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z = 621.32, [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> m/z = 643.30, found: 621.25, 643.25.



**Figure S3.** HPLC and ESI-MS trace of **2**; (A) HPLC:  $t_R = 12.35 \text{ min}$  (0-45 % solvent B in solvent A over 15 min,  $\lambda = 214 \text{ nm}$ , C18 column); (B) ESI-MS calculated for **2**:  $[M + H]^+ \text{ m/z} = 399.24$ ,  $[M + Na]^+ \text{ m/z} = 421.23$ , found: 399.20, 421.15.



**Figure S4.** HPLC and ESI-MS trace of **3** and **3'**; (A) HPLC:  $t_{R1} = 12.07 \text{ min}$ ,  $t_{R2} = 13.06 \text{ min}$  (0-45 % solvent B in solvent A over 15 min,  $\lambda = 214 \text{ nm}$ , C18 column); (B) ESI-MS calculated for **3'**: [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z = 392.51, [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> m/z = 414.21, found: 392.20, 414.20. (C) ESI-MS calculated for **3**: [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z = 441.55, [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> m/z = 463.24, found: 441.25, 463.25.



**Scheme S1.** Proposed mechanism of the Ac<sub>2</sub>O caused side-reaction in the SAAC strategy.

### **3.** Synthesis of TAT-MnCO bioconjugates



**Figure S5.** Analytical HPLC trace and MALDI-TOF-MS of the cleaved peptide from resin **4**. (A) Analytical HPLC of **4**:  $t_R$ =10.43 min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15 min); (B) MALDI-TOF-MS found 1681.79 Da of **4**, calculated: 1684.99 Da.



**Figure S6.** Analytical HPLC trace and MALDI-TOF-MS of the cleaved peptide from resin **4'**. (A) Analytical HPLC of **4'**:  $t_R$ =4.47 min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15min); (B) MALDI-TOF-MS found 1599.65 Da of **4'**, calculated: 1600.91 Da.



**Figure S7.** Analytical HPLC trace and LCMS of the cleaved peptide from resin **5a** and **5b**. (A) Analytical HPLC of **5a**:  $t_R$ =8.70 min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15min); (B) ESI-MS found of **5a**, calculated: 1783.14 Da; (C) Analytical HPLC of **5b**:  $t_R$ =14.23 min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15 min); (D) ESI-MS found 1883.00 Da of **5b**, calculated: 1883.14 Da.



**Figure S8.** Analytical HPLC trace and LCMS of **7a** and **7b**. (A) Analytical HPLC of **7a**:  $t_R$ =13.37 min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15min); (B) ESI-MS found 1921.00 Da of **7a**, calculated: 1922.10 Da; (C) Analytical HPLC of **7b**:  $t_R$ = 15.39 min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15min); (D) ESI-MS found 2021.00 Da of **7b**, calculated:2022.23 Da.



**Figure S9.** Analytical HPLC trace and LCMS of **5c** and **5d**. (A) Analytical HPLC of **5c**:  $t_R$ =11.37 min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15min); (B) ESI-MS found 1794.68 Da of **5c**, calculated: 1795.18 Da; (C) Analytical HPLC of **5d**:  $t_R$ = 15.33 min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15min); (D) ESI-MS found 1895.00 Da of **5d**, calculated:1895.30 Da.



**Figure S10.** Analytical HPLC trace and LCMS of **7c** and **7d**. (A) Analytical HPLC of **7c**:  $t_R$ =11.72 min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15min); (B) ESI-MS found 1933.00 Da of **7c**, calculated: 1932.90 Da; (C) Analytical HPLC of **7d**:  $t_R$ = 14.29 min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15min); (D) ESI-MS found 2033.00 Da of **7d**, calculated:2032.23 Da.



**Figure S11.** Analytical HPLC trace and LCMS of **5e** and **5f**. (A) Analytical HPLC of **5e**:  $t_R$ =5.53 min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15min); (B) ESI-MS found 1789.07 Da of **5e**, calculated: 1789.07 Da; (C) Analytical HPLC of **5f**:  $t_R$ = 15.81 min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15min); (D) ESI-MS found 1889.00 Da of **5f**, calculated:1889.10 Da.



**Figure S12.** Analytical HPLC trace and LCMS of **7e** and **7f**. (A) Analytical HPLC of **7e**:  $t_R$ =12.8 min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15min); (B) ESI-MS found 1926.67 Da of **7e**, calculated: 1927.00 Da; (C) Analytical HPLC of **7f**:  $t_R$ = 15.34min (15-65 % solvent B in solvent A over 15min); (D) ESI-MS found 2027.17 Da of **7f**, calculated:2027.00 Da.



6.FT-IR spectra characterization (with Gaussian fittings)

**Figure S13.** (A)-(F): FT-IR spectra of **7a-7f** in KBr pellets. The Gaussian fittings allowed for the assignment of the two un-resolved  $v_{CO}$  bands are shown as dashed lines.

7. Stability test



**Figure S14.** (A)-(F) HPLC traces of **7a-7f** incubation in 10mM PBS (pH 7.4) in the dark.

#### 8.Myoglobin assay



**Figure S15.** Time course of absorption spectral change of deoxy-Mb at RT (final concentration: 40  $\mu$ M, in 10 mM PBS buffer (pH 7.4)) in a solution containing **7a** (final concentration 10  $\mu$ M, in 10 mM PBS buffer (pH 7.4)) after Violet light (A) and Blue light (B) irradiation.



**Figure S16.** Time course of absorption spectral change of deoxy-Mb at r.t. (final concentration: 40  $\mu$ M, in 10 mM PBS buffer (pH 7.4)) in a solution containing **7b** (final concentration 10  $\mu$ M, in 10 mM PBS buffer (pH 7.4)) after violet light (A), blue light (B) and green light (C) irradiation.



**Figure S17.** Time course of absorption spectral change of deoxy-Mb at RT (final concentration: 40  $\mu$ M, in 10 mM PBS buffer (pH 7.4)) in a solution containing **7c** (final concentration 10  $\mu$ M, in 10 mM PBS buffer (pH 7.4)) after Violet light (A) and Blue light (B) irradiation.



**Figure S18.** Time course of absorption spectral change of deoxy-Mb at r.t. (final concentration: 40  $\mu$ M, in 10 mM PBS buffer (pH 7.4)) in a solution containing **7d** (final concentration 10  $\mu$ M, in 10 mM PBS buffer (pH 7.4)) after violet light (A), blue light (B) and green light (C) irradiation.



**Figure S19.** Time course of absorption spectral change of deoxy-Mb at RT (final concentration: 40  $\mu$ M, in 10 mM PBS buffer (pH 7.4)) in a solution containing **7e** (final concentration 10  $\mu$ M, in 10 mM PBS buffer (pH 7.4)) after Violet light (A) and Blue light (B) irradiation.



**Figure S20.** Time course of absorption spectral change of deoxy-Mb at r.t. (final concentration: 40  $\mu$ M, in 10 mM PBS buffer (pH 7.4)) in a solution containing **7f** (final concentration 10  $\mu$ M, in 10 mM PBS buffer (pH 7.4)) after violet light (A), blue light (B) and green light (C) irradiation.

### 9. EPR spectrum of TAT-CORM before and after irradiation

TAT-MnCO conjugates were prepared in dd- $H_2O$  (final concentration: 5 mM). The samples were added to the capillary EPR tubes and measured. Violet light (~ 415 nm, LED, 5 W) was then irradiated to the capillary EPR tubes for 5 min, the resulting spectrum was recorded. All EPR spectra were recorded at 293 K.



**Figure S21.** X-band EPR spectra (at 295 K) of **7a** (A) and **7b** (B) before (black trace) and after irradiated by violet light (5 min) in  $H_2O$ . Microwave frequency, 9.87 GHz; Modulation amplitude, 1.0 G; Modulation frequency, 100 kHz and power of the microwave source, 1.262 mW. Note that the background Mn<sup>II</sup> signals in both cases (black traces) was probably caused by partial CO release during sample preparation, due to light exposure and further oxidation.