# Anticancer Ruthenium(II) Tris(pyrazolyl)methane Complexes with Bioactive Co-ligands

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## **Supporting Information**

Table of contents	Pages
IR spectra of products (Figures S1–S10)	S2-S5
NMR spectra of products (Figures S11–S39)	S6-S23
X-ray data (Tables S1-S2)	S24
NMR data in D <sub>2</sub> O solutions (Figures S40–S54, Tables S3-S4)	S25-S38
ESI-MS spectra of <b>3</b> in H <sub>2</sub> O ( <b>Figure S55</b> )	S39
Graphical representation of IC <sub>50</sub> values (Figure S56)	S40

#### IR spectra

Figure S1. Solid-state IR spectrum (650-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>) of Py-EA.

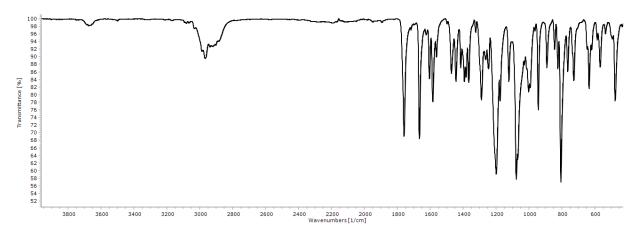


Figure S2. Solid-state IR spectrum (650-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>) of Py-FLU.

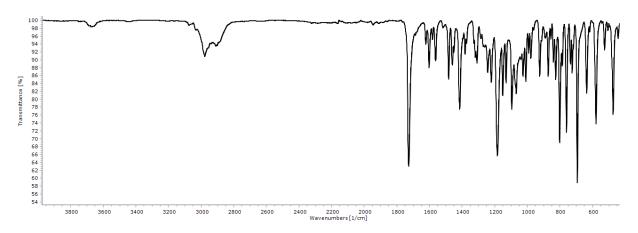


Figure S3. Solid-state IR spectrum (650-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>) of Py-IBU.

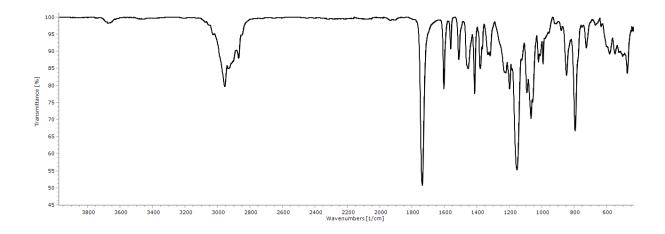


Figure S4. Solid-state IR spectrum (650-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>) of Py-NAP.

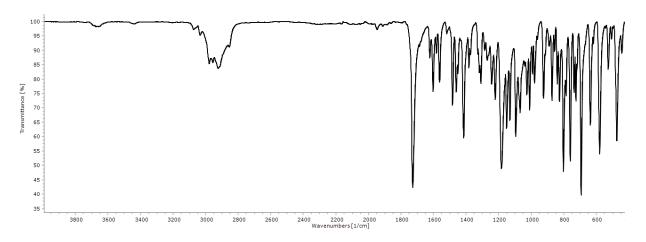


Figure S5. Solid-state IR spectrum (650-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>) of 2.

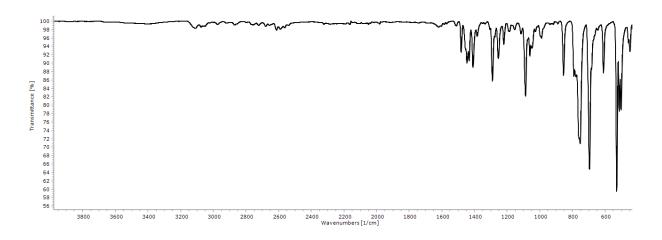


Figure S6. Solid-state IR spectrum (650-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>) of 3.

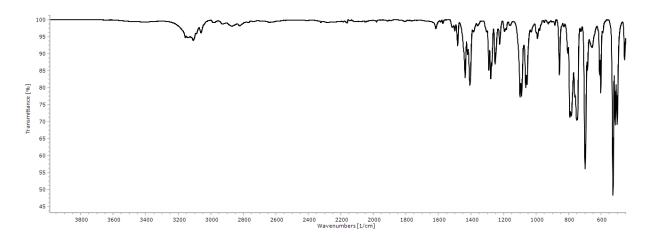


Figure S7. Solid-state IR spectrum (650-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>) of 4.

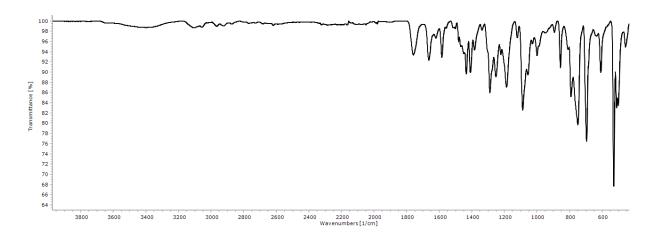


Figure S8. Solid-state IR spectrum (650-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>) of 5.

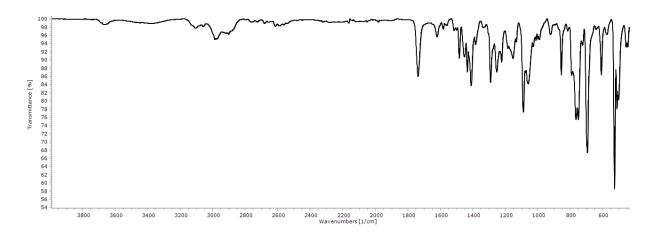


Figure S9. Solid-state IR spectrum (650-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>) of 6.

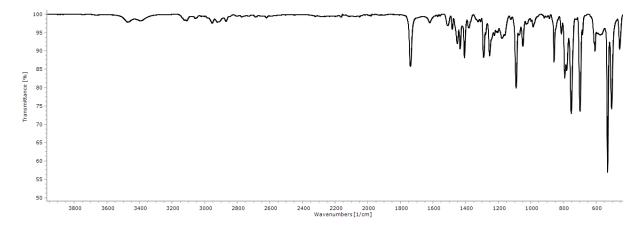
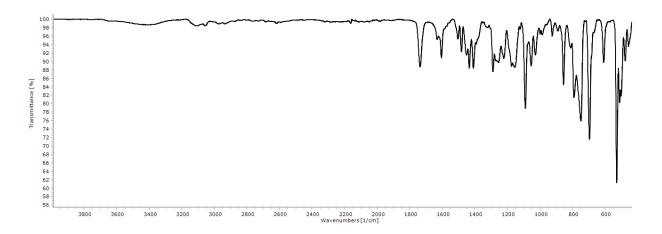


Figure S10. Solid-state IR spectrum (650-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>) of 7.



### NMR spectra

Figure S11. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (301 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of Py-EA

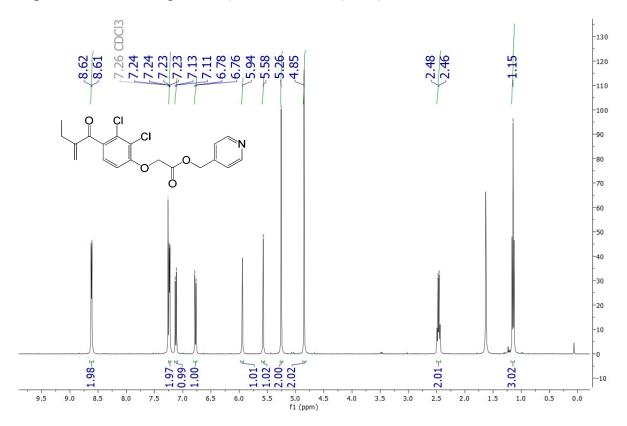


Figure S12. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (301 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of Py-FLU

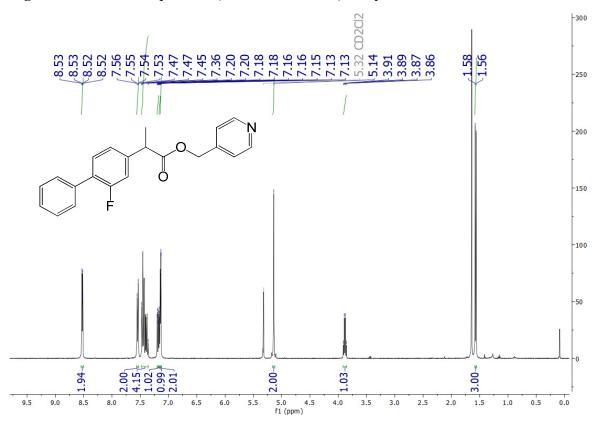


Figure S13. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (76 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of Py-FLU

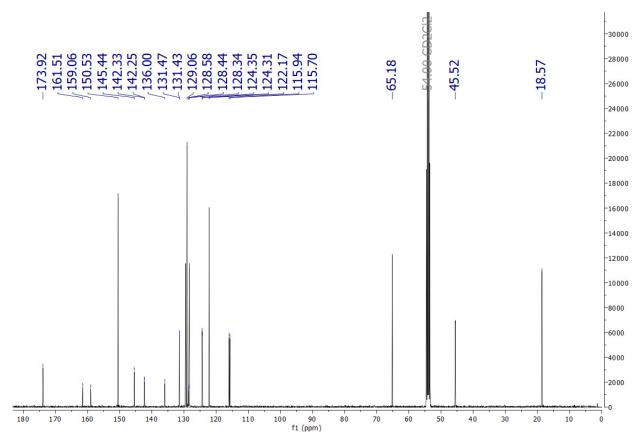


Figure S14. <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectrum (282 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of Py-FLU

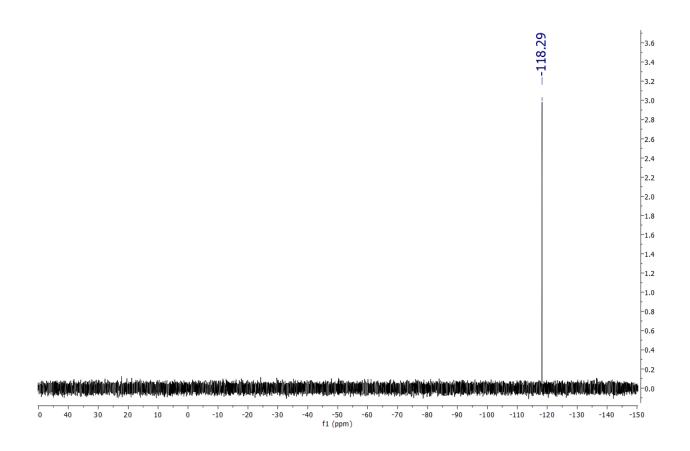


Figure S15. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (301 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of Py-IBU

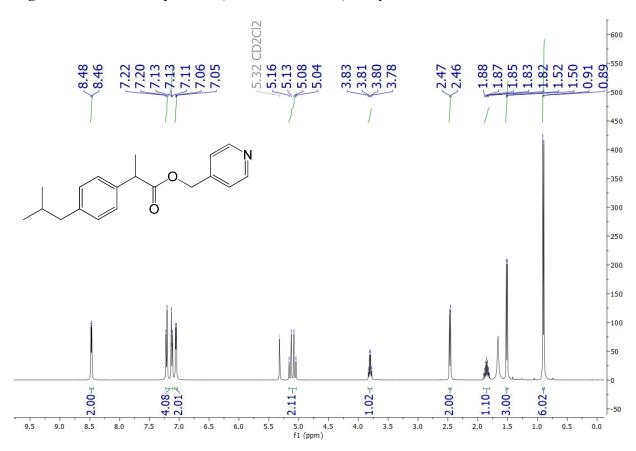


Figure S16. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (76 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of Py-IBU

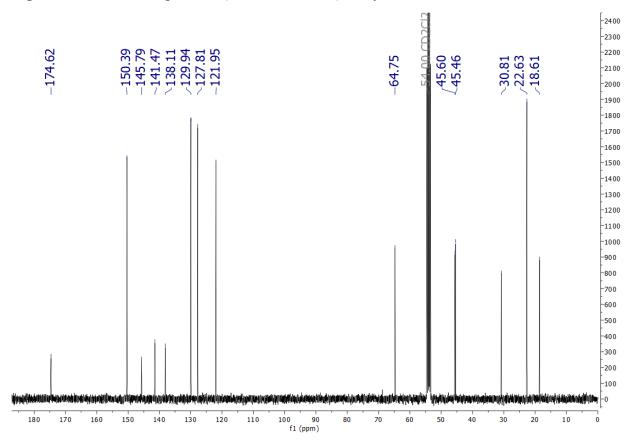


Figure S17. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (301 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of Py-NAP

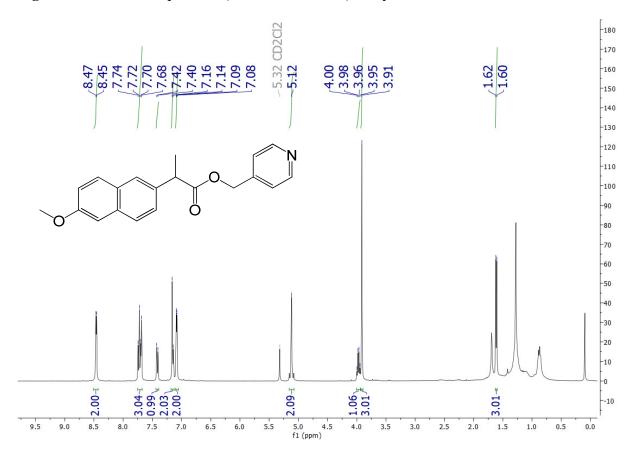


Figure S18. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (76 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of Py-NAP

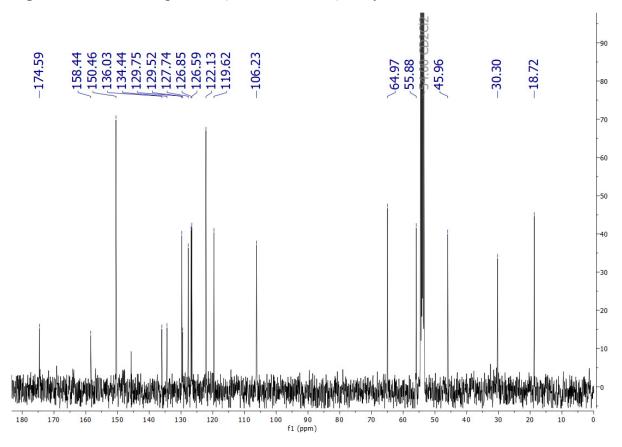


Figure S19. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (301 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2

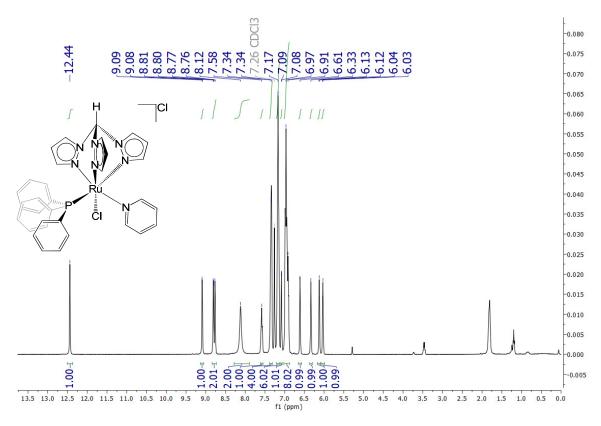


Figure S20. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2

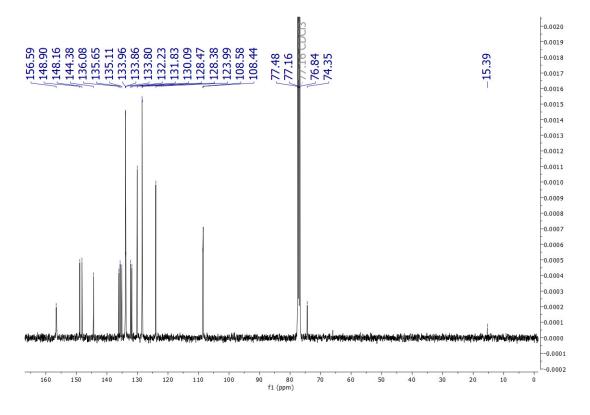


Figure S21. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum (121 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2

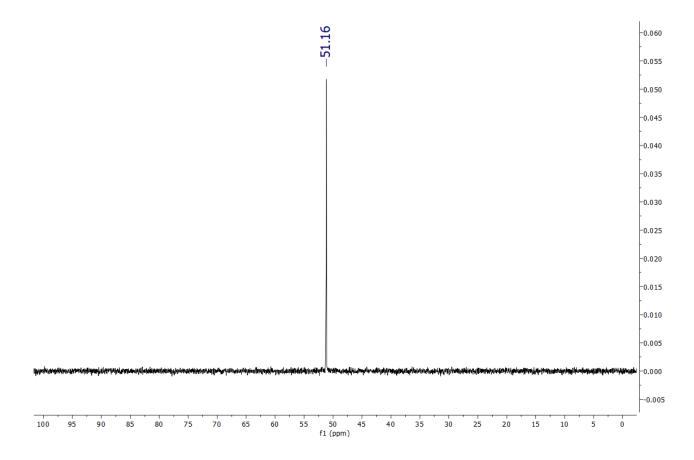


Figure S22. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (301 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3

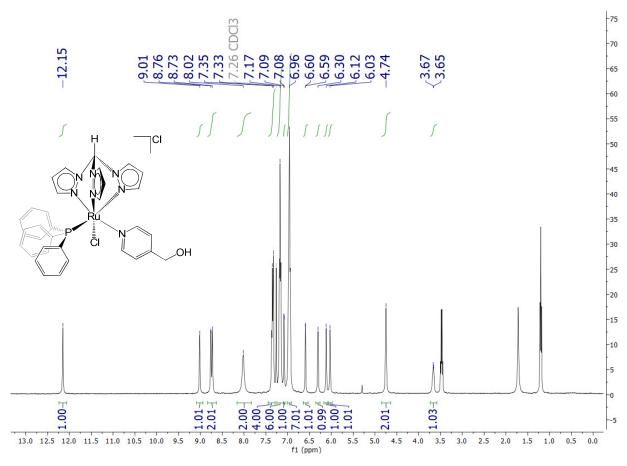


Figure S23. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum (121 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3

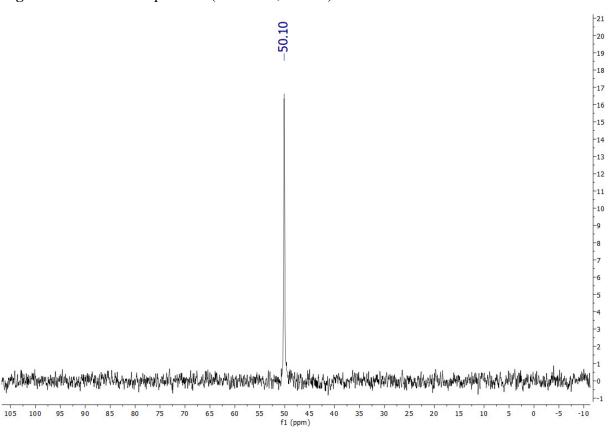


Figure S24. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (301 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) of 3

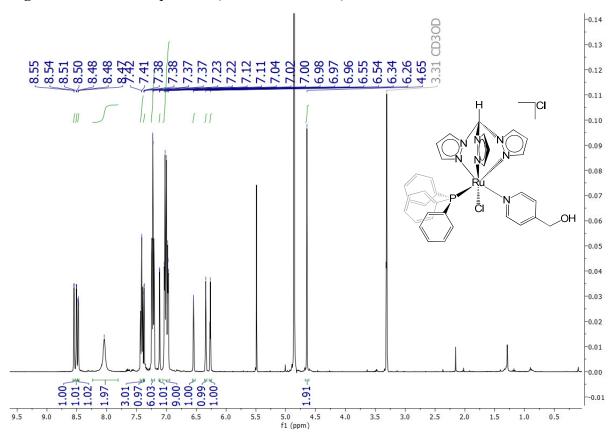


Figure S25. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (126 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) of 3

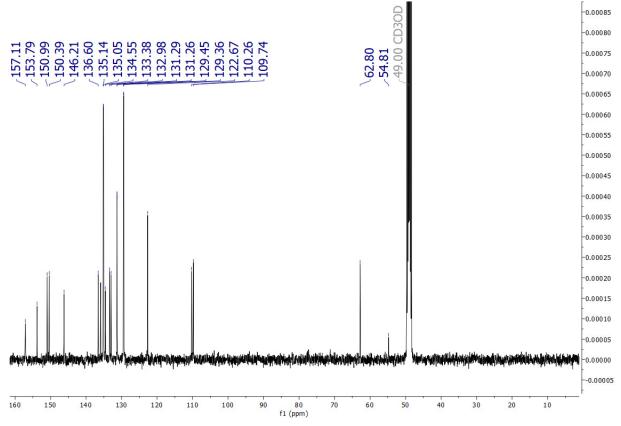


Figure S26. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum (202 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) of 3

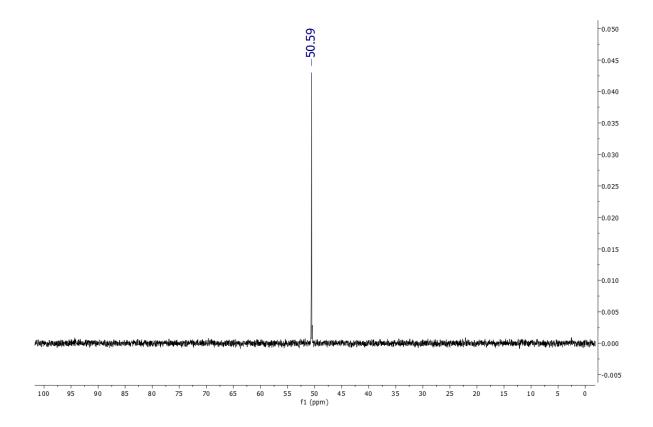


Figure S27. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (301 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of 4

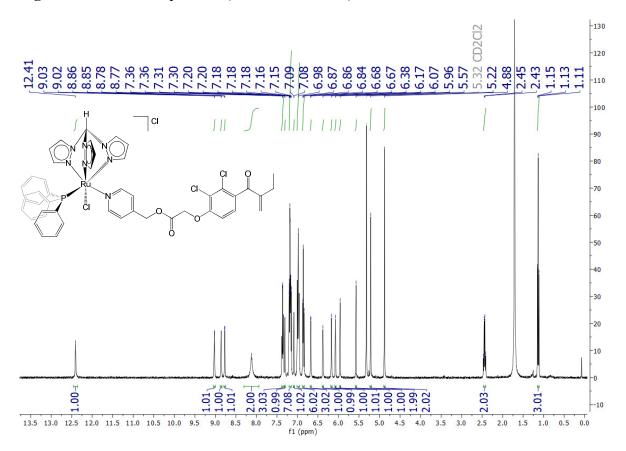


Figure S28. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (76 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub> Cl<sub>2</sub>) of 4

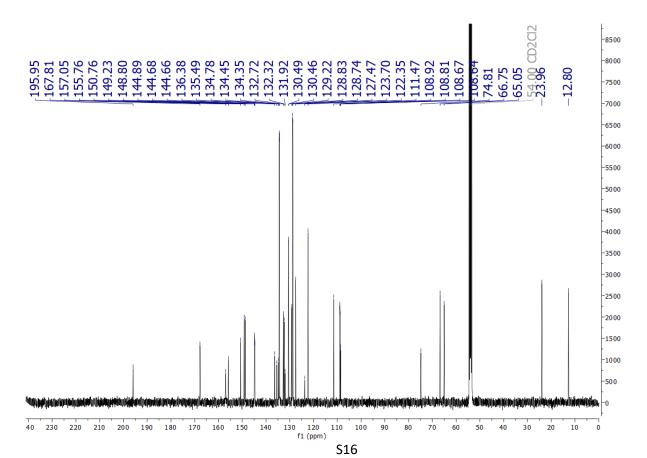


Figure S29. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum (121 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of 4

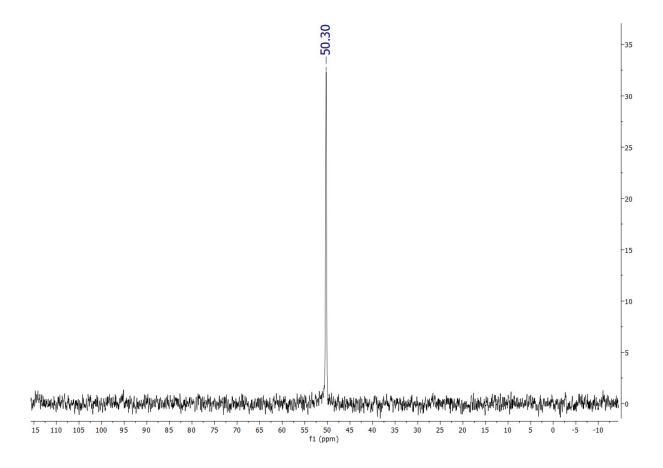


Figure S30. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (301 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of 5

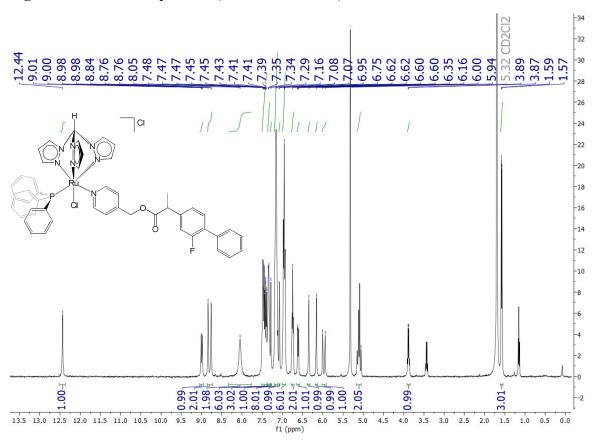


Figure S31. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (76 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of 5

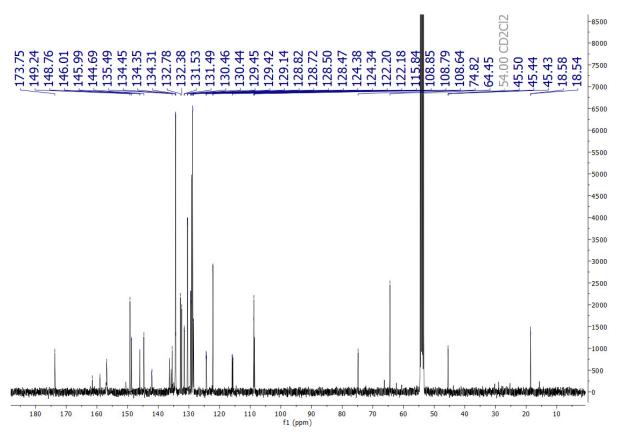


Figure S32. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum (121 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of 5

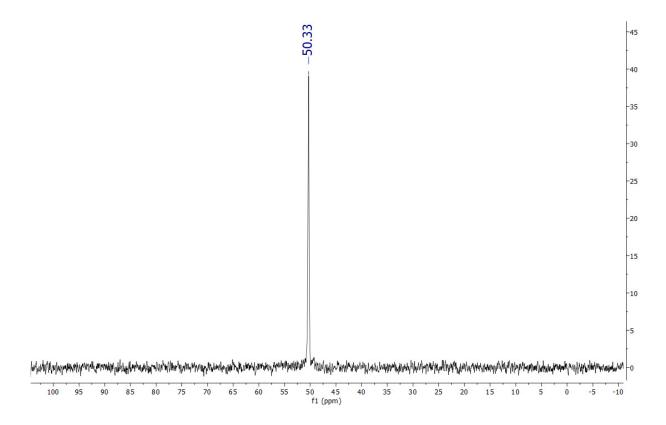


Figure S33. <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectrum (282 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of 5

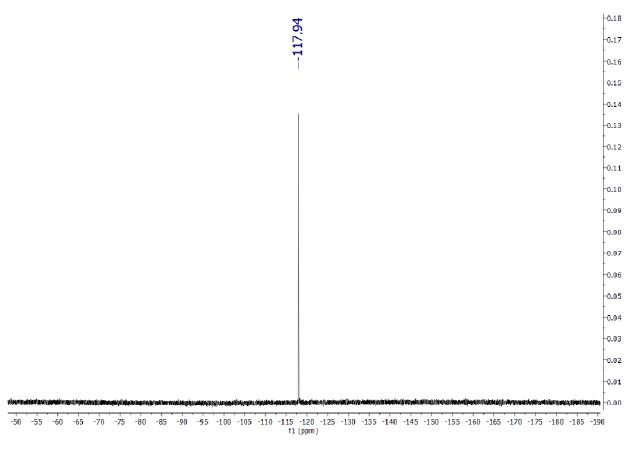


Figure S34. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (301 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of 6

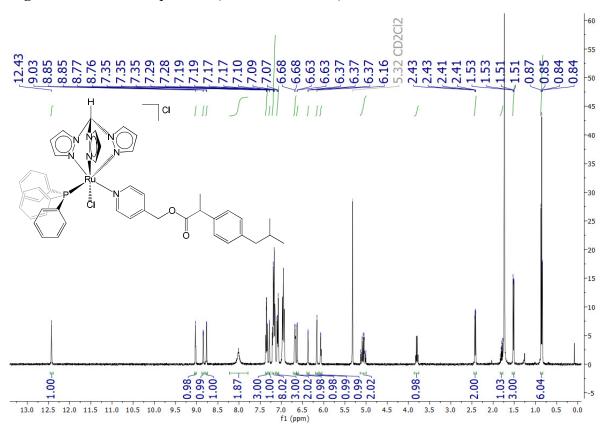


Figure S35. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (76 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of 6

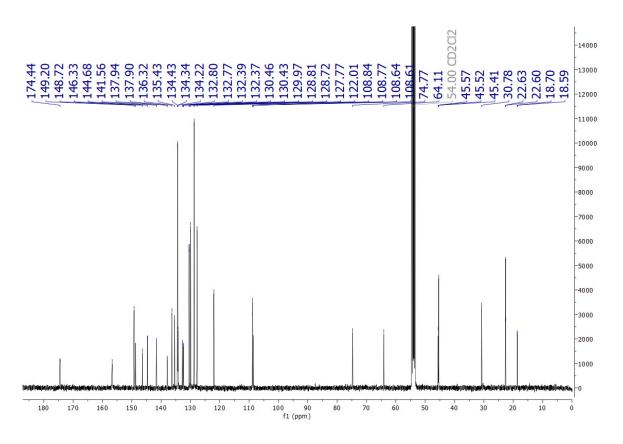


Figure S36. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum (121 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of 6

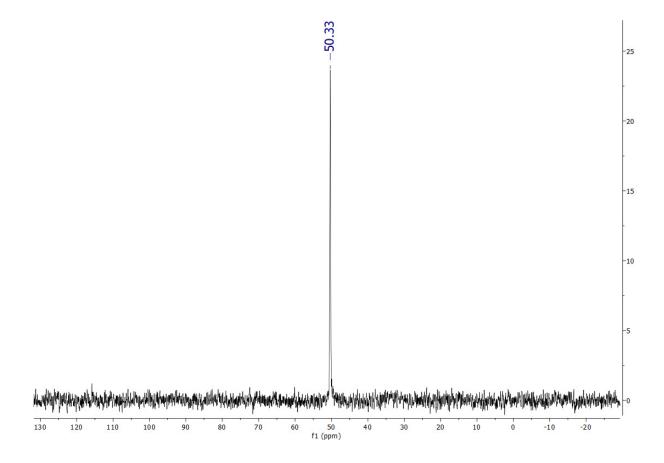


Figure S37. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (301 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of 7

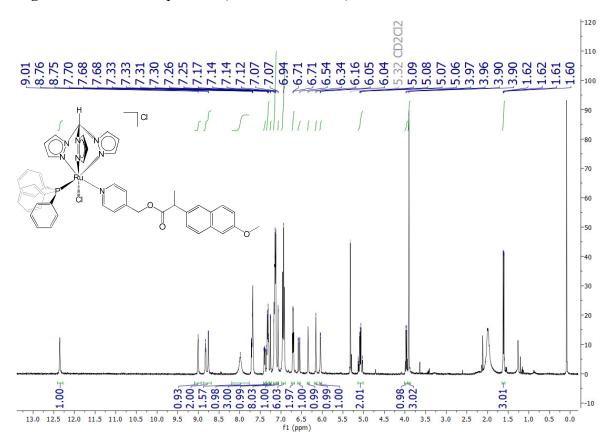


Figure S38. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (76 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of 7

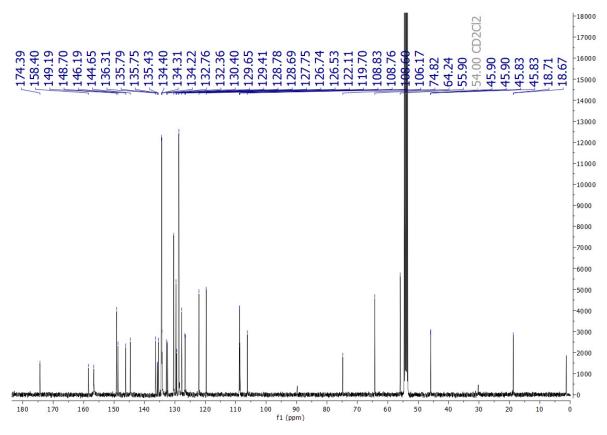
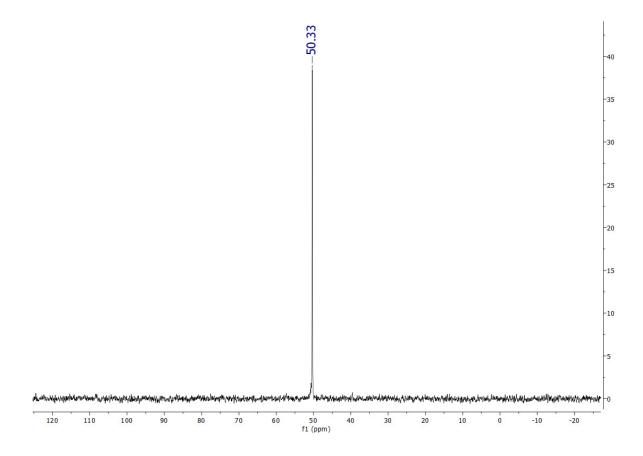


Figure S39. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum (121 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) of 7



**Table S1.** Hydrogen bonds for **2**·CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O [Å and °].

D-HA	d(D-H)	d(HA)	d(DA)	<(DHA)
O(1)-H(401)····Cl(2)#1	0.85(2)	2.33(3)	3.151(5)	165(7)
O(1)-H(402)····Cl(2)#2	0.85(2)	2.39(3)	3.212(5)	165(7)
O(2)-H(501)····Cl(2)#3	0.858(15)	2.389(16)	3.241(6)	172(7)
O(2)-H(502)···Cl(2)	0.859(15)	2.385(15)	3.245(6)	179(10)

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: #1 x, y+1, z; #2 -x+1, -y+1, -z+1; #3 -x, -y,-z+1.

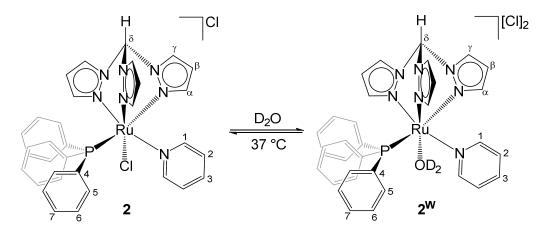
Table S2. Hydrogen bonds for 3.3CHCl $_3$  [Å and °].

O(1)-H(1A)····Cl(3) 0.84 2.24		
$O(1)^{-1}(1A) O(0) 0.04 2.24$	4 3.051(3) 163.8	
O(11)-H(11)···Cl(4)#1 0.84 2.3	4 3.108(3) 151.7	

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: #1 x+1, y, z+1.

#### NMR data of complexes in aqueous solutions

Figure S40. Chloride/water exchange equilibrium for 2 in D<sub>2</sub>O solutions.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O). δ/ppm (**2**) = 8.42, 8.40, (d, 3H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 2.9 Hz, C<sup>γ</sup>H); 8.09 (s-br, 2H, C<sup>1</sup>H); 7.80 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 7.4 Hz, C<sup>3</sup>H); 7.44 (t, 3H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 7.2 Hz, C<sup>7</sup>H); 7.40, 7.10, 7.02 (d-br, 3H, C<sup>α</sup>H); 7.24 (t-br, 6H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 7.4 Hz, C<sup>6</sup>H); 7.06 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 6.7 Hz, C<sup>2</sup>H); 6.97 (t-br, 6H, C<sup>5</sup>H); 6.54, 6.33, 6.18 (t-br, 3H, C<sup>β</sup>H). δ/ppm (**2**<sup>w</sup>) = 8.49, 8.45, 8.43 (d, 3H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 2.9 Hz, C<sup>γ</sup>H); 7.97 (s-br, 2H, C<sup>1</sup>H); 7.85 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 7.4 Hz, C<sup>3</sup>H); 7.50 (t, 3H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 7.2 Hz, C<sup>7</sup>H); 7.44, 7.02, 6.99 (d-br, 3H, C<sup>α</sup>H); 7.30 (t-br, 6H, C<sup>6</sup>H); 7.17 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 6.7 Hz, C<sup>2</sup>H); 6.93 (t-br, 6H, C<sup>5</sup>H); 6.59, 6.37, 6.20 (t-br, 3H, C<sup>β</sup>H). C<sup>δ</sup>H not observed.  ${}^{31}P\{{}^{1}H\}$  NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O). δ/ppm = 50.2 (**2**<sup>w</sup>), 50.0 (**2**). **2**<sup>w</sup>/**2** ratio (from  ${}^{1}H$  NMR) = 0.1 (t<sub>0</sub>), 33.3 (after 48h at 37 °C). In DMEM-d: **2**<sup>w</sup>/**2** ratio (from  ${}^{1}H$  NMR) = 0 (t<sub>0</sub>), 1.3 (after 24h at 37 °C).

Figure S41. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (301 MHz,  $D_2O$ ) of  $2 + 2^W$  at  $t_0$  (blue) and after 48h (red) at 37 °C.

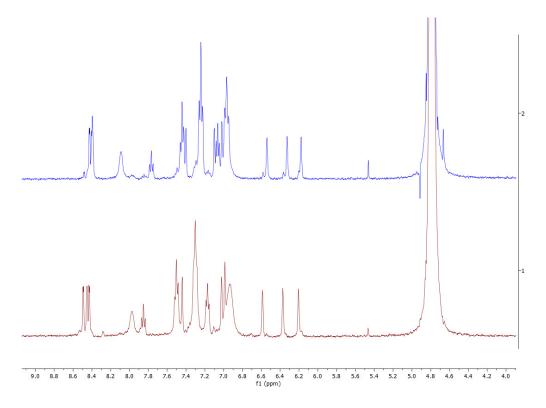


Figure S42. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum (121 MHz,  $D_2O$ ) of  $2 + 2^W$  at  $t_0$  (blue) and after 48h (red) at 37 °C.

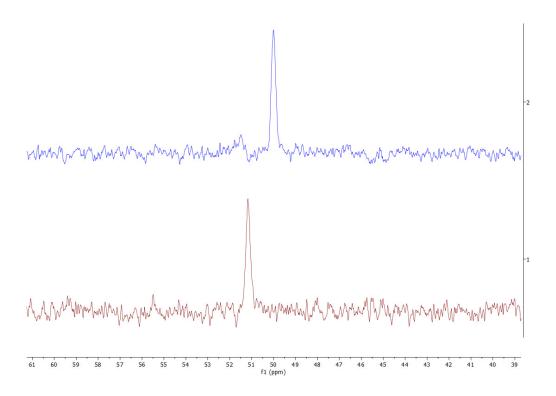
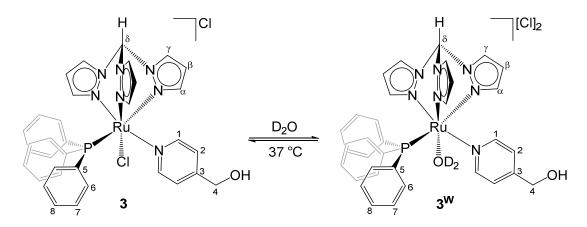


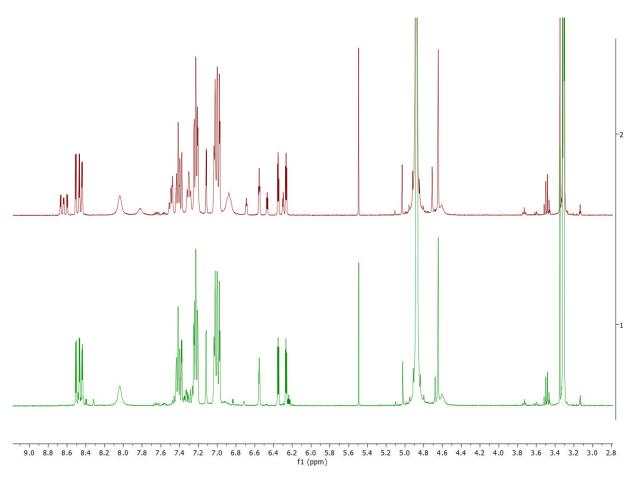
Figure S43. Chloride/water exchange equilibrium for 3 in D<sub>2</sub>O solutions.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O). δ/ppm (**3**) = 8.44, 8.41 (m, 3H, CγH); 8.05 (s-br, 2H, C¹H); 7.48 (t-br, 3H, C<sup>8</sup>H); 7.41 (m, 1H, CαH); 7.28 (m, 6H, C<sup>7</sup>H); 7.13 (d, 2H, C²H); 7.05-7.00 (m, 8H, C<sup>6</sup>H + CαH); 6.56, 6.36, 6.20 (m, 3H, CβH). CδH, CH<sub>2</sub>, OH not detected. δ/ppm (**3**<sup>W</sup>) = 8.51, 8.46, 8.44 (m, 3H, CγH); 7.93 (s-br, 2H, C¹H); 7.51 (t-br, 3H, CβH); 7.45, 7.05, 6.99 (m, 3H, CαH); 7.31 (t-br, 6H, CγH); 7.14 (d-br 2H, C²H); 6.96 (m, 8H, C<sup>6</sup>H); 6.60, 6.39, 6.21 (m, 3H, CβH). CδH, CH<sub>2</sub>, OH not detected. <sup>31</sup>P{¹H} NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O): δ/ppm = 51.1 (**3**<sup>W</sup>), 50.0 (**3**). **3**<sup>W</sup>/**3** ratio (from ¹H NMR) = 1.4 (t<sub>0</sub>), ∞ (after 48h at 37 °C). In DMEM-d: **3**<sup>W</sup>/**3** ratio (from ¹H NMR) = 0 (t<sub>0</sub>), 1.1 (after 24h at 37 °C).

Experiments on chloride/water exchange. Compound 3 was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O and maintained at 37 °C for 24h. The solution was then cooled to room temperature, the solvent was evaporated, and the obtained solid was washed with diethyl ether (2 x 3 mL). The isolated yellow powder was dissolved in CD<sub>3</sub>OD, then <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of the solution were recorded immediately after the preparation of the sample (red), and after 24h at room temperature (green). Both 3 and 3<sup>w</sup> were identified in the first recorded spectrum. After 24h, only 3 was detected.

**Figure S44**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (401 MHz) of **3/3**<sup>W</sup> in CD<sub>3</sub>OD solution. Red: from isolated solid following chloride/water exchange in H<sub>2</sub>O at 37 °C; green: same sample maintained in CD<sub>3</sub>OD solution at room temperature for 24h.



**Figure S45**. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra (162 MHz) of **3/3**<sup>W</sup> in CD<sub>3</sub>OD solution. Red: from isolated solid following chloride/water exchange in H<sub>2</sub>O at 37 °C; green: same sample maintained in CD<sub>3</sub>OD solution at room temperature for 24h.

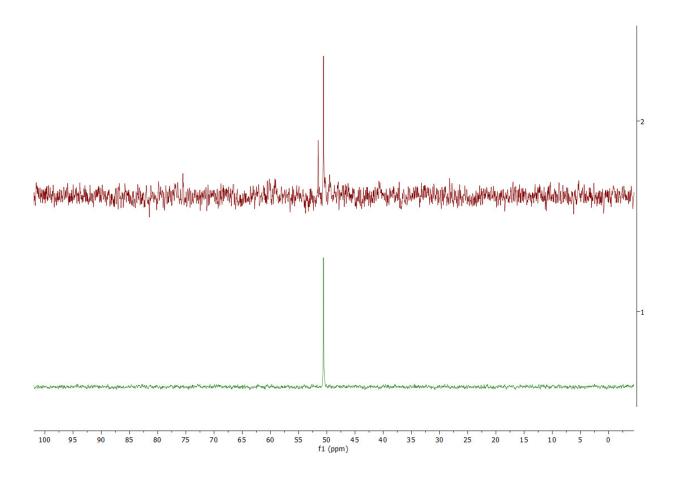


Figure S46. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (301 MHz,  $D_2O$ ) of  $3 + 3^W$  at  $t_0$  (blue) and after 48h (red) at 37 °C.

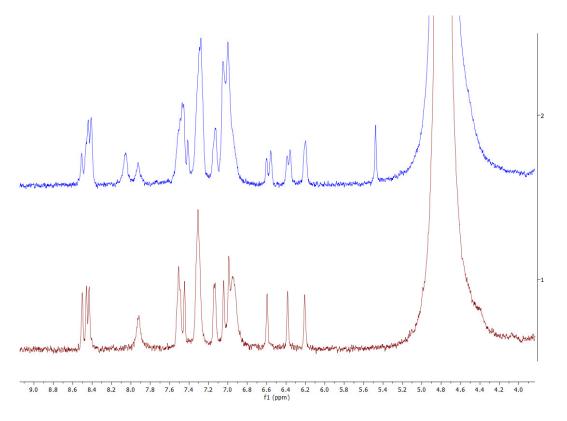


Figure S47. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum (121 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O) of  $3 + 3^{W}$  at t<sub>0</sub> (blue) and after 48h (red) at 37 °C.

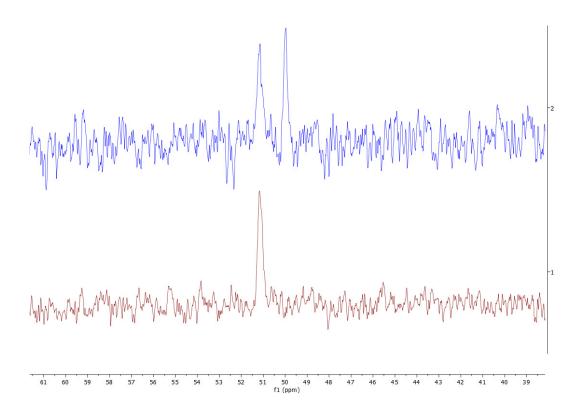
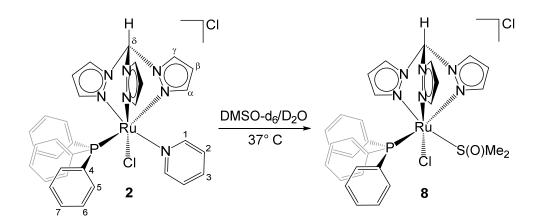
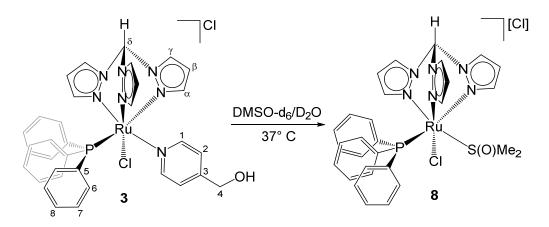


Figure S48. NMR data of 2 in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O solution



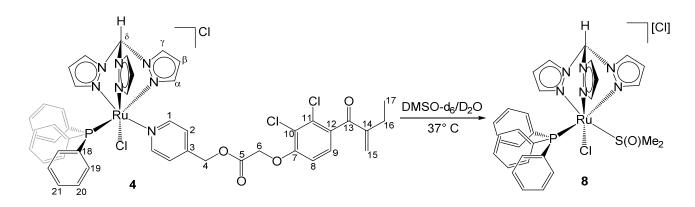
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O, 4:1 v/v ratio, **2**): δ/ppm = 9.80 (s, 1H, C<sup>δ</sup>H); 8.50, 8.56 (d, 3H, <sup>3</sup> $J_{HH}$  = 2.8 Hz, C<sup>γ</sup>H); 7.94 (s-br, 2H, C<sup>1</sup>H); 7.70 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup> $J_{HH}$  = 7.5 Hz, C<sup>3</sup>H); 7.39 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup> $J_{HH}$  = 7.5 Hz, C<sup>7</sup>H); 7.19 (m, 7H, C<sup>6</sup>H + C<sup>α</sup>H); 7.00 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup> $J_{HH}$  = 6.8 Hz, C<sup>2</sup>H); 6.97, 6.88 (d, 2H, <sup>3</sup> $J_{HH}$  = 2.1 Hz, C<sup>α</sup>H); 6.85 (t-br, 6H, C<sup>5</sup>H); 6.55, 6.37, 6.24 (t-br, 3H, <sup>3</sup> $J_{HH}$  = 2.6 Hz C<sup>β</sup>H). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O, 4:1 v/v ratio, **2**): δ/ppm = 51.3. DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> as reference. **2**/**8** ratio (from <sup>1</sup>H NMR) =  $\infty$  (t<sub>0</sub>), 3.0 (after 48h at 37 °C).

Figure S49. NMR data of 3 in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O solution



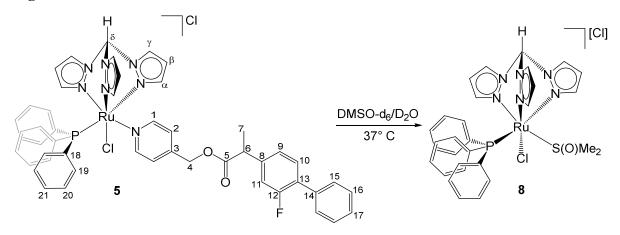
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O, 4:1 v/v ratio, **3**): δ/ppm = 9.78 (s, 1H, C<sup>δ</sup>H); 8.49, 8.45, (d, 3H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 2.8$  Hz, C<sup>γ</sup>H); 7.86 (s-br, 2H, C<sup>1</sup>H); 7.38 (t, 3H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.5$  Hz, C<sup>8</sup>H); 7.24, 7.00, 6.84 (d, 3H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 2.2$  Hz, C<sup>α</sup>H); 7.19 (t-br, 6H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.70$  Hz, C<sup>7</sup>H); 6.93 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz, C<sup>2</sup>H); 6.89 (t-br, 6H, C<sup>6</sup>H); 6.55, 6.36, 6.24 (t, 3H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 2.5$  Hz, C<sup>β</sup>H), 4.49 (s, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 4.8$  Hz, C<sup>4</sup>H). OH not observed. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O, 4:1 v/v ratio, **3**): δ/ppm = 51.2. DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> as reference. **3/8** ratio (from <sup>1</sup>H NMR) =  $\infty$  (t<sub>0</sub>), 6.7 (after 48h at 37 °C).

Figure S50. NMR data of 4 in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O solution



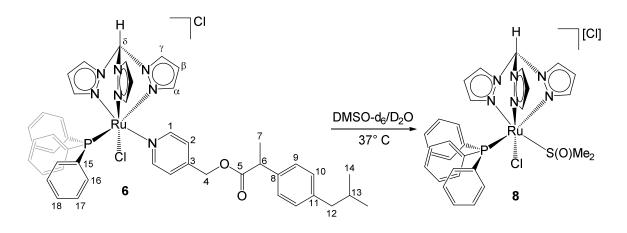
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O, 4:1 v/v ratio, **4**): δ/ppm = 8.49, 8.45 (m, 3H, C<sup>γ</sup>H); 7.90 (s-br, 2H, C<sup>1</sup>H); 7.36 (t, 3H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 7.5 Hz, C<sup>21</sup>H); 7.24-7.12 (m, 9H, C<sup>20</sup>H + C<sup>9</sup>H, 2C<sup>α</sup>H); 6.99 (d, 3H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 2.2 Hz, C<sup>α</sup>H); 6.90 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 6.2 Hz, C<sup>2</sup>H); 6.83 (t, 6H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 8.3 Hz, C<sup>19</sup>H); 6.81 (m, 1H, C<sup>8</sup>H); 6.54, 6.37, 6.22 (m, 3H, C<sup>β</sup>H); 6.01, 5.46 (s, 2H, C<sup>15</sup>H); 5.19 (s, 2H, C<sup>4</sup>H); 5.11 (s, 2H, C<sup>6</sup>H); 2.30 (q, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 7.6 Hz, C<sup>16</sup>H); 1.01 (t, 3H,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 7.6 Hz, C<sup>17</sup>H). C<sup>8</sup>H not observed. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O, 4:1 v/v ratio, **4**): δ/ppm = 50.3. DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> as reference. **4/8** ratio (from <sup>1</sup>H NMR) = ∞ (t<sub>0</sub>), 3.2 (after 48h at 37 °C).

Figure S51. NMR data of 5 in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O solution



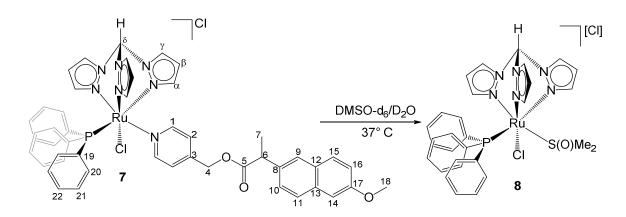
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O, 4:1 v/v ratio, **5**): δ/ppm = 8.47, 8.43, 8.41 (m, 3H, C<sup>γ</sup>H); 7.80 (s-br, 2H, C<sup>1</sup>H); 7.44-7.34 (m, 9H, C<sup>15</sup>H + C<sup>17</sup>H + C<sup>10</sup>H + C<sup>16</sup>H+ C<sup>9</sup>H + C<sup>11</sup>H + C<sup>α</sup>H); 7.21 (t-br, 3H, C<sup>21</sup>H); 7.12 (t-br, 6H, C<sup>20</sup>H); 6.96 (m, 1H, C<sup>α</sup>H); 6.78-6.72 (m, 7H, C<sup>19</sup>H + C<sup>α</sup>H); 6.65 (m, 2H, C<sup>2</sup>H); 6.51, 6.36 (m, 2H, C<sup>β</sup>H); 6.10, 6.04 (m, 1H<sub>A+B</sub>, C<sup>β</sup>H); 5.23-5.00 (m, 2H, C<sup>4</sup>H); 4.00 (m, 1H, C<sup>6</sup>H); 1.45 (d, 3H,  ${}^3J_{HH}$  = 7.1 Hz, C<sup>7</sup>H). C<sup>δ</sup>H not observed. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O, 4:1 v/v ratio, **5**): δ/ppm = 50.3. DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> as reference. **5/8** ratio (from <sup>1</sup>H NMR) = ∞ (t<sub>0</sub>), 2.1 (after 48h at 37 °C).

Figure S52. NMR data of 6 in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O and DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> solutions



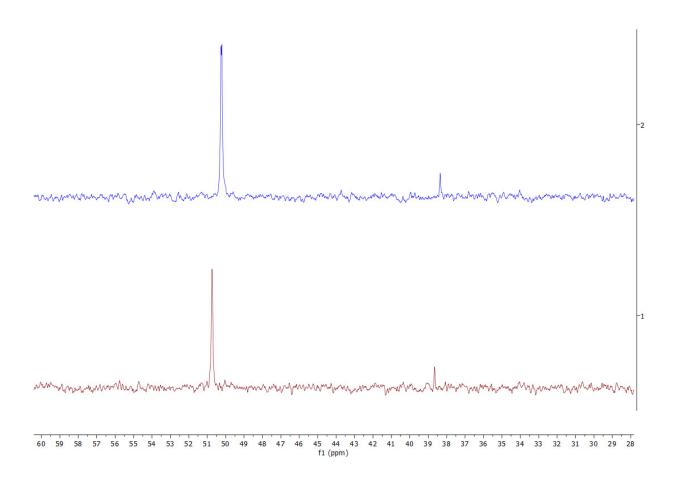
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O, 4:1 v/v ratio): δ/ppm = 8.51, 8.48, 8.45 (m, 3H, C<sup>γ</sup>H); 7.75 (s-br, 2H, C<sup>1</sup>H); 7.37 (t, 3H,  ${}^{3}J_{HP}$  = 7.1 Hz, C<sup>18</sup>H); 7.20-7.12 (m, 9H, C<sup>17</sup>H + C<sup>10</sup>H); 7.03-6.94 (m, 3H, C<sup>9</sup>H + C<sup>α</sup>H); 6.79 (m, 7H, C<sup>16</sup>H + C<sup>2</sup>H); 6.56, 6.45, 6.43, 6.42, 6.36, 6.28, 6.26 (m, 5H, 3C<sup>β</sup>H + 2C<sup>α</sup>H); 5.20, 4.94 (m, 2H<sub>A+B</sub>, C<sup>4</sup>H); 3.85 (m, 1H, C<sup>6</sup>H); 2.29 (m, 2H, C<sup>12</sup>H); 1.57 (m, 1H, C<sup>13</sup>H); 1.38 (m, 3H, C<sup>7</sup>H); 0.72, 0.66 (d, 6H<sub>A+B</sub>,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 6.6, Hz, C<sup>14</sup>H). C<sup>δ</sup>H not observed. <sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O, 4:1 v/v ratio): δ/ppm = 50.2. DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> as reference. **6/8** ratio (from <sup>1</sup>H NMR) =  $\infty$  (t<sub>0</sub>), 7.7 (after 48h at 37°C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, **6**): δ/ppm = 10.27 (s, 1H, C<sup>δ</sup>H); 8.65, 8.59 (m, 3H, C<sup>γ</sup>H); 7.83 (s-br, 2H, C<sup>1</sup>H); 7.40 (t-br, 3H, C<sup>18</sup>H); 7.22 (m, 9H, C<sup>17</sup>H + C<sup>10</sup>H); 7.07 (m, 2H, C<sup>9</sup>H); 6.98 (m, 1H, C<sup>α</sup>H); 6.88 (m, 7H, C<sup>16</sup>H + C<sup>2</sup>H); 6.65, 6.57, 6.44, 6.34, 6.31 (m, 5H, 3C<sup>β</sup>H + 2C<sup>α</sup>H); 5.22, 5.03 (m, 2H, C<sup>4</sup>H); 3.90 (q-br, 1H, C<sup>6</sup>H); 2.36 (m, 2H, C<sup>12</sup>H); 1.68 (m, 1H, C<sup>13</sup>H); 1.43 (m, 3H, C<sup>7</sup>H); 0.77 (d, 6H<sub>A+B</sub>, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 5.8, Hz, C<sup>14</sup>H). <sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, **6**): δ/ppm = 50.7. **6/8** ratio (from <sup>1</sup>H NMR) =  $\infty$  (t<sub>0</sub>), 5.5 (after 48h at 37°C).

Figure S53. NMR data of 7 in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O solution



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O, 4:1 v/v ratio, 7): δ/ppm = 8.47, 8.44, 8.43 (m, 3H, C<sup>γ</sup>H); 7.72-7.66 (m, 5H, C<sup>1</sup>H + C<sup>11</sup>H + C<sup>9</sup>H + C<sup>15</sup>H); 7.39-7.30 (m, 4H, C<sup>22</sup>H + C<sup>10</sup>H); 7.21 (d, 1H,  ${}^3J_{HH}$  = 6.7 Hz, C<sup>16</sup>H); 7.17 (m, 1H, C<sup>α</sup>H); 7.13-7.07 (m, 7H, C<sup>21</sup>H + C<sup>14</sup>H); 6.96 (m, 1H, C<sup>α</sup>H); 6.76 (t, 6H,  ${}^3J_{HP}$  = 8.1 Hz, C<sup>20</sup>H); 6.68, 6.65 (m, 3H, C<sup>2</sup>H + C<sup>α</sup>H); 6.53, 6.36, 6.22 (m, 3H, C<sup>β</sup>H); 5.19-4.96 (m, 2H, C<sup>4</sup>H); 4.06 (m, 1H, C<sup>6</sup>H); 3.80 (s, 3H, C<sup>18</sup>H); 1.49 (m, 3H, C<sup>7</sup>H). C<sup>δ</sup>H not observed. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O 4:1 v/v ratio, 7): δ/ppm = 50.2. DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> as reference. 7/8 ratio (from <sup>1</sup>H NMR) =  $\infty$  (t<sub>0</sub>), 10 (after 48h at 37 °C).

**Figure S54**.  $^{31}$ P NMR spectrum (121 MHz) of **3** + **8** in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O (4:1 v/v ratio) (blue) and DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> (red) after 24h at 37 °C.



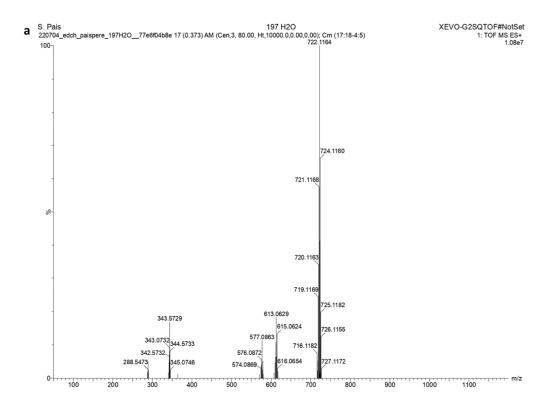
**Table S3.** Relative amounts of aquo-complexes in aqueous solutions after a variable time at 37 °C (calculated from <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra).

Compound	Aquo species % in D₂O at t₀	Aquo species % in D <sub>2</sub> O after 48h	Aquo species % in DMEM- d/DMSO-d₅ at t₀	Aquo species % in DMEM- d/DMSO-d <sub>6</sub> after 24h
2	13	97	0	77
3	42	93	0	87

**Table S4.** Relative amounts of residual starting material in aqueous solutions after a variable time at 37 °C (calculated from  $^{1}$ H NMR spectra, Me<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub> as internal standard); IC<sub>50</sub> values on A2780 cancer cell line; Log  $P_{ow}$  values (see also Table 2).

Compound	Residual complex % in D <sub>2</sub> O/DMSO-d <sub>6</sub> after 48h	Residual complex % in DMEM- d/DMSO-d₀ after 24h	IC <sub>50</sub>	Log Pow
2	77	-	$8\pm3$	-0.04 ± 0.05
3	87	-	$26\pm10$	$-0.25 \pm 0.04$
4	77	89	$12\pm2$	$0.46 \pm 0.02$
5	81	90	$4.5 \pm 0.6$	> 2
6	87	85	5 ± 1	> 2
7	86	89	6 ± 1	> 2

**Figure S55**. HR-ESI-MS spectra of **3** in H<sub>2</sub>O. a) Recorded immediately after the preparation of the sample; b) recorded after 3h at RT.



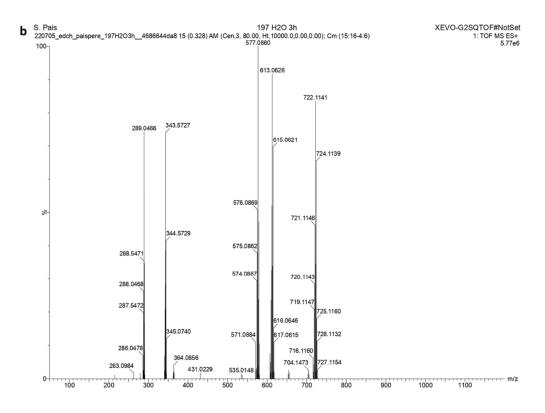


Figure S56. Graphical representation of IC<sub>50</sub> values obtained for complexes 2-7 on three cell lines.

