

## Multivalent Amino Sugars to Recognize Different TAR RNA Conformations

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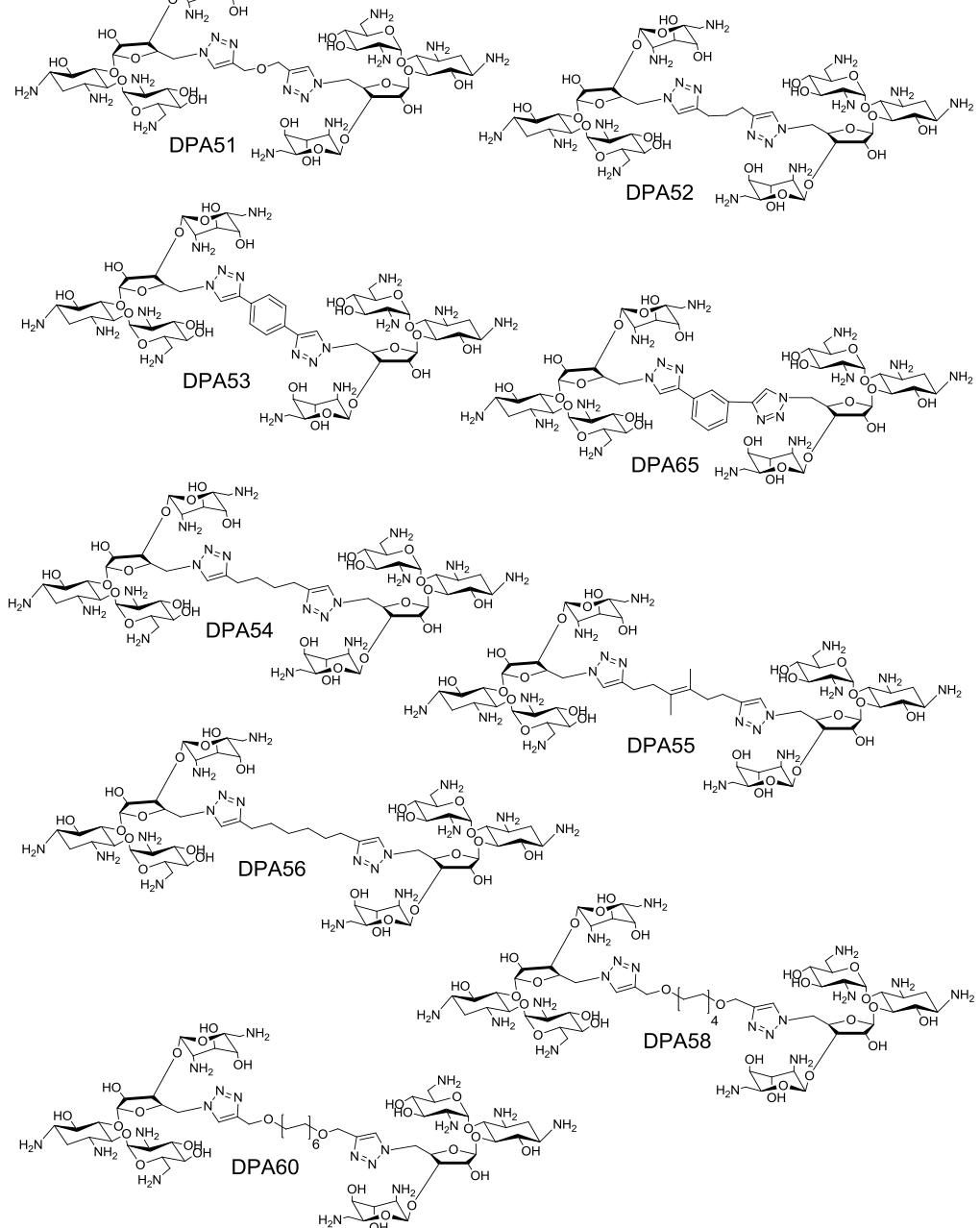
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## Supporting Information

### Appendices

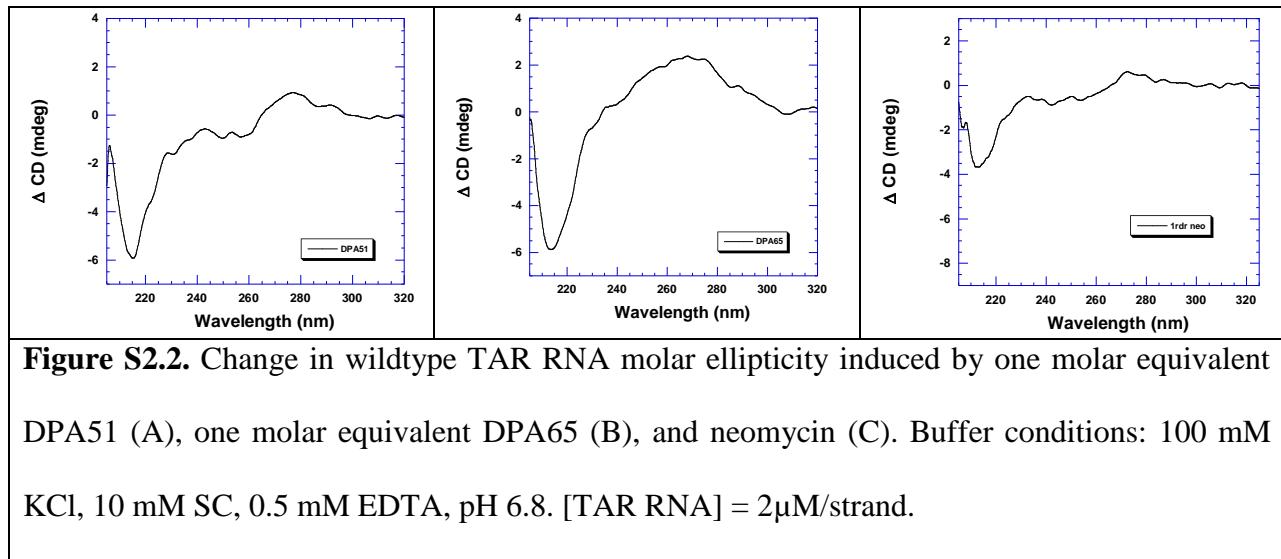
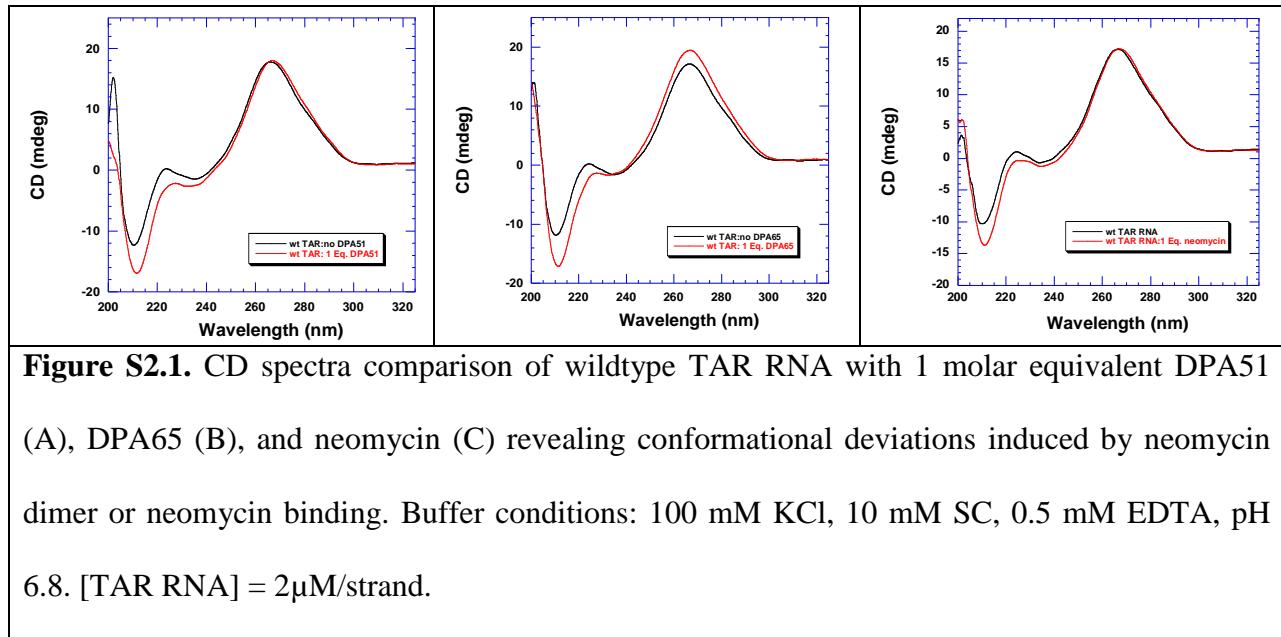
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## S1. Chemical Structures of Neomycin Dimers.

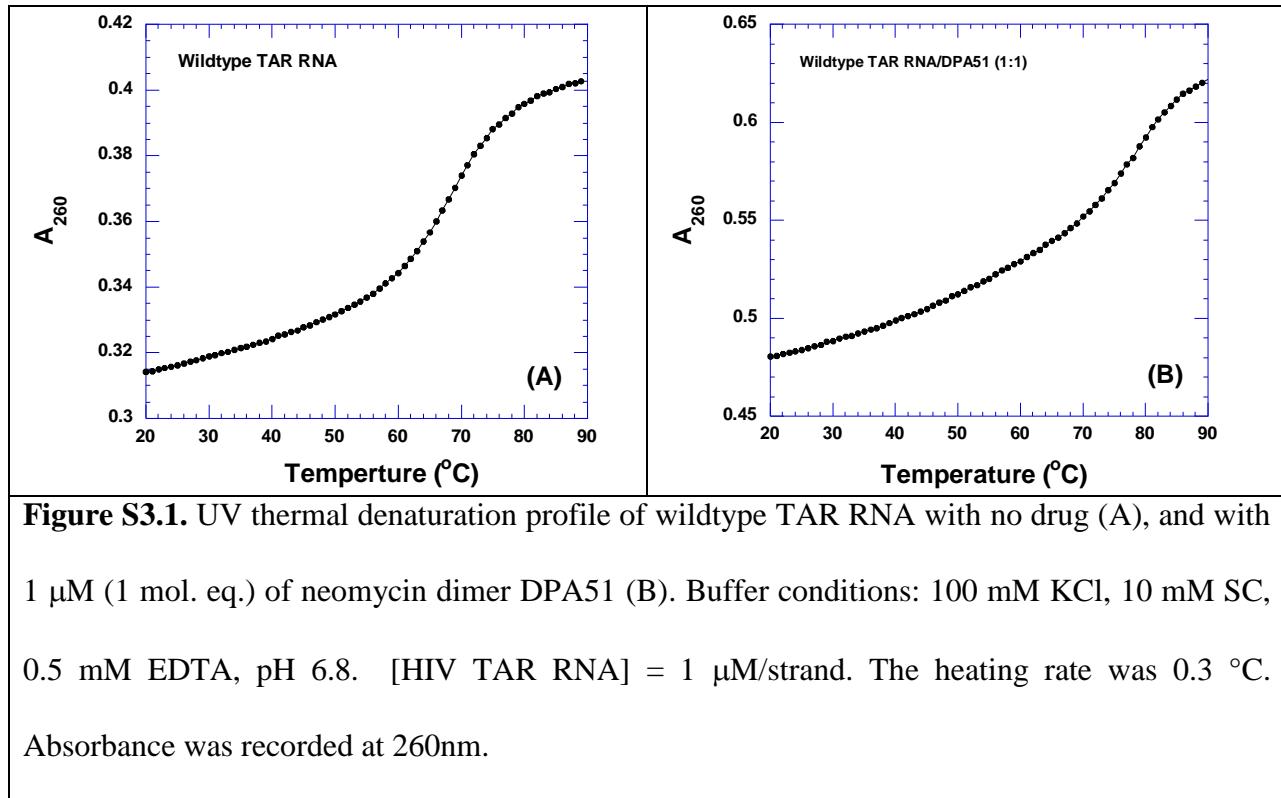


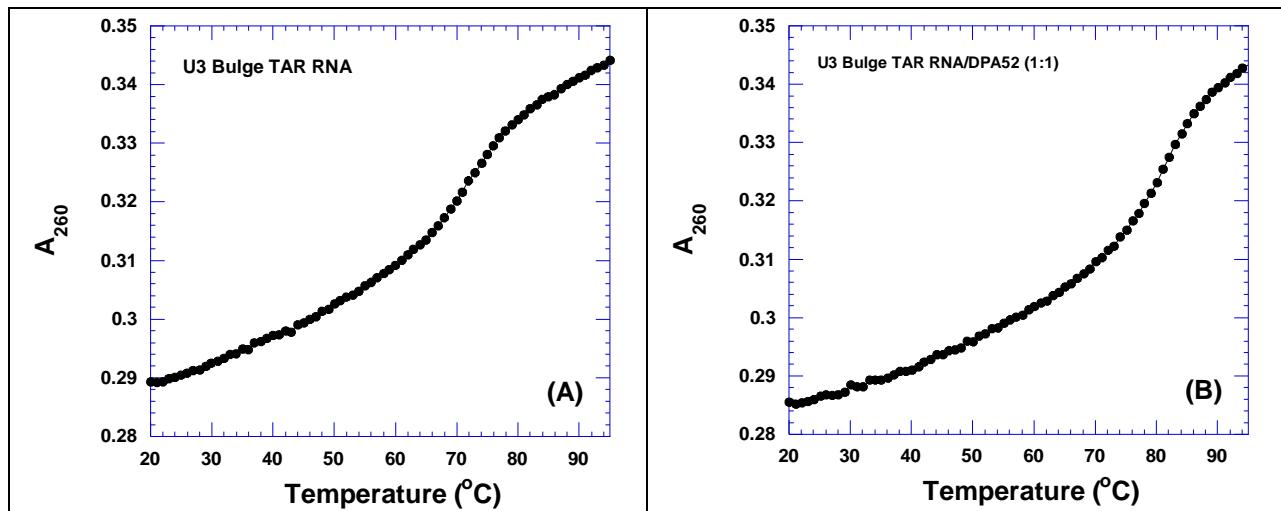
**Scheme 1.** Chemical structure of neoneo dimers. All the amine groups in neomycin dimers are in salt form (+HCl).

## S2. CD Spectroscopy.

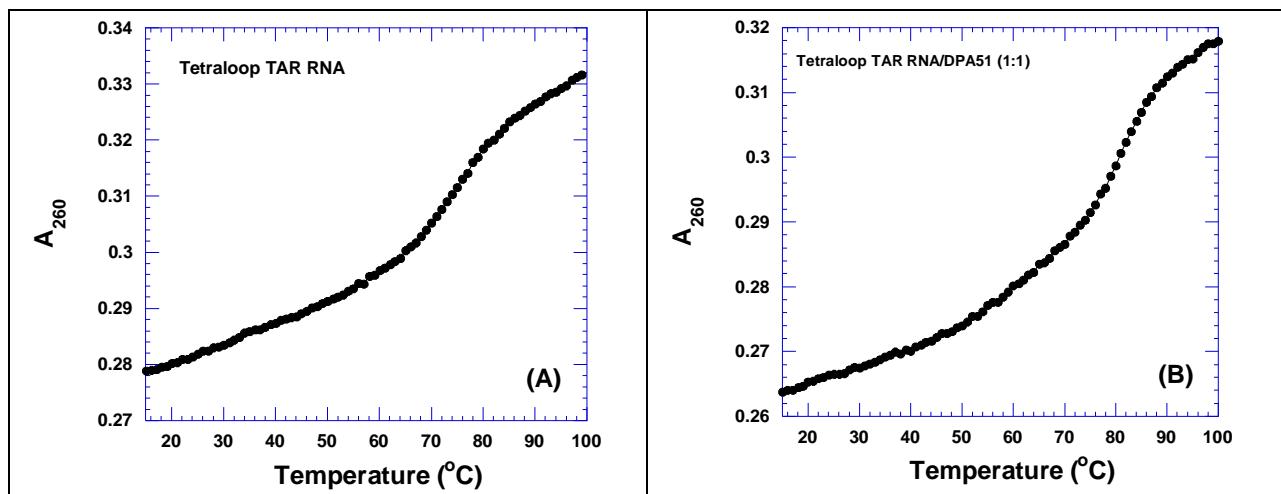


### S3. UV thermal Denaturation profiles

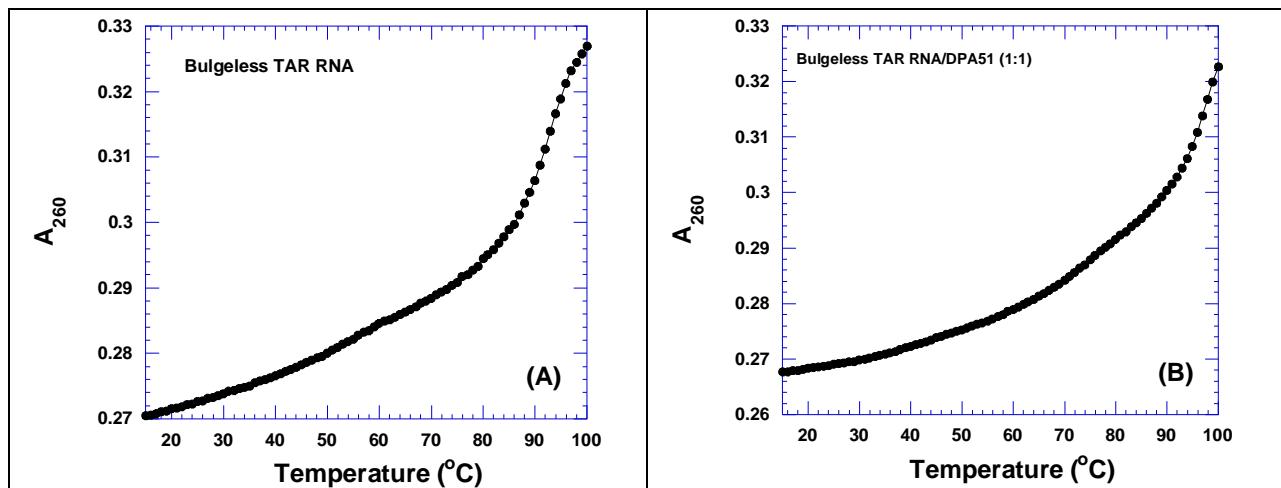




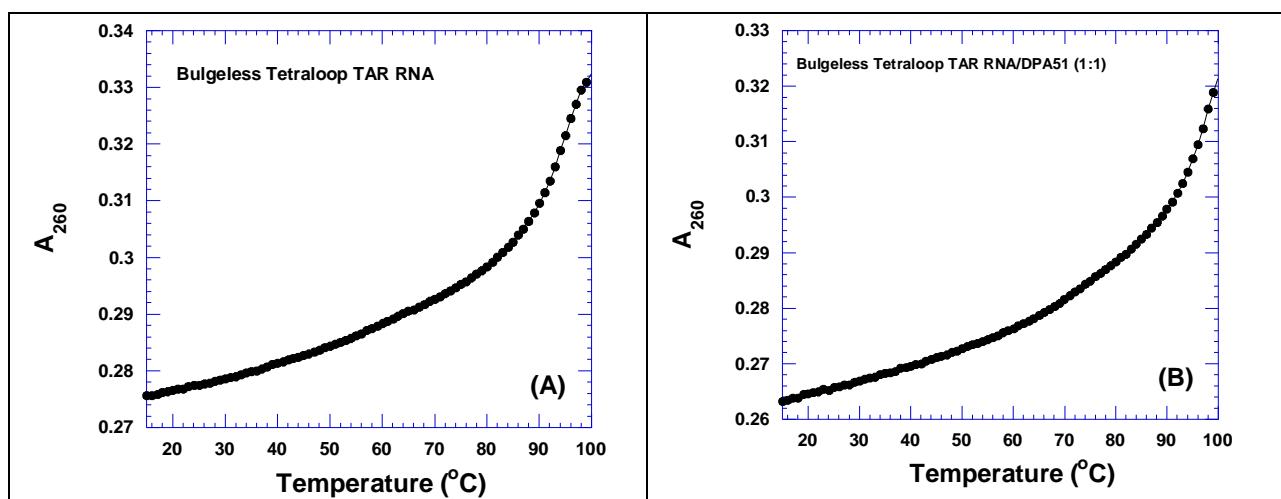
**Figure S3.2.** UV thermal denaturation profile of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant with no drug (A), and with 1  $\mu\text{M}$  (1 mol. eq.) of neomycin dimer DPA51 (B). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. [HIV TAR RNA] = 1  $\mu\text{M}$ /strand. The heating rate was 0.3  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Absorbance was recorded at 260nm.



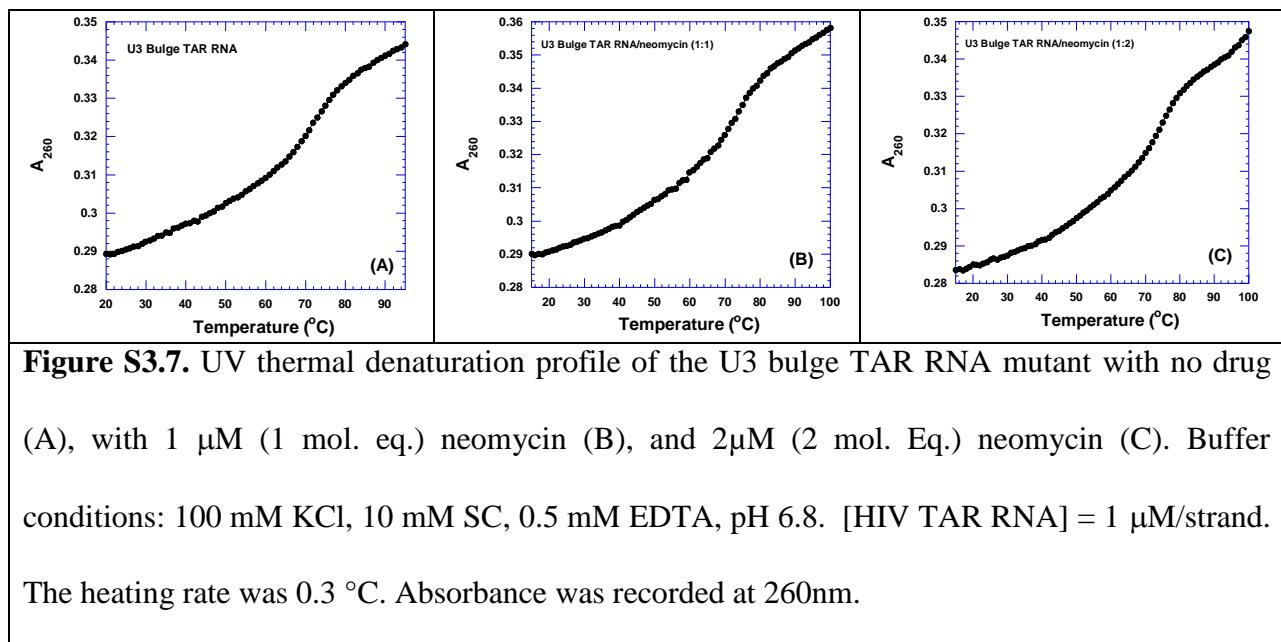
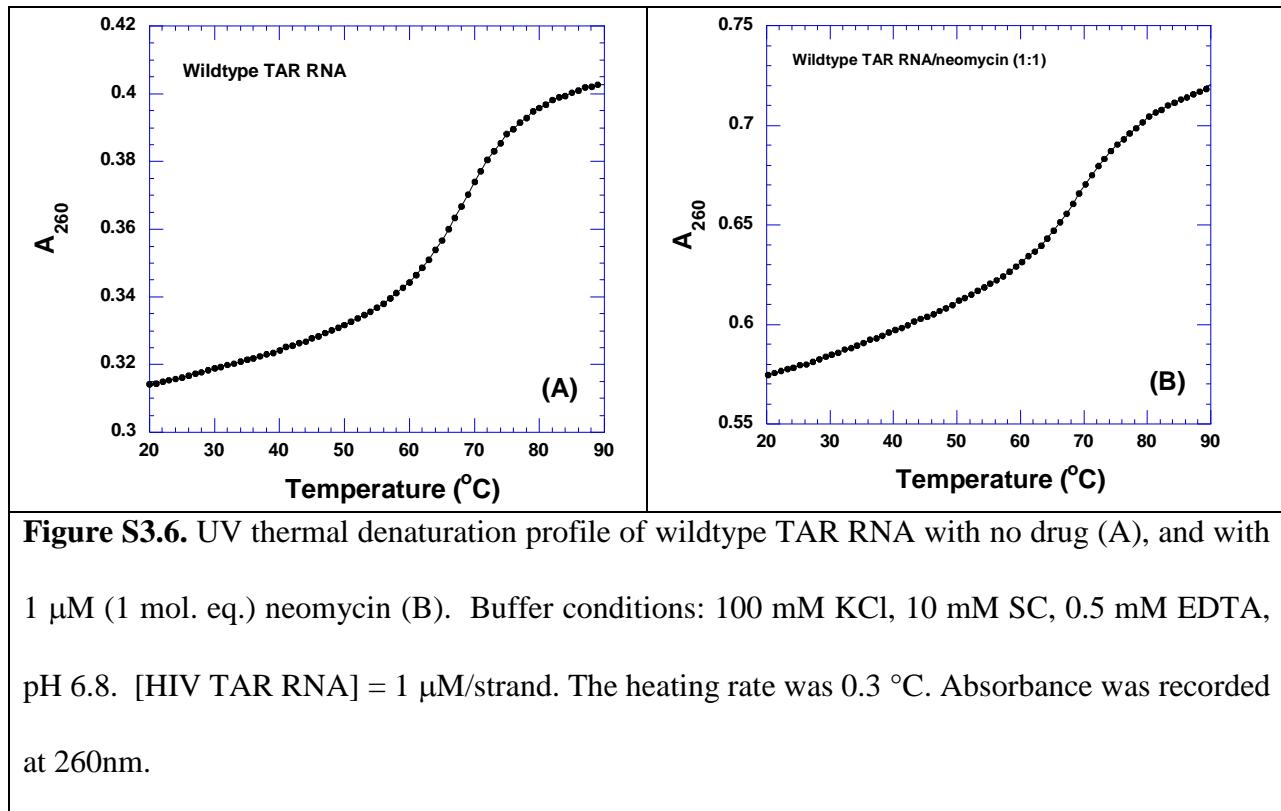
**Figure S3.3.** UV thermal denaturation profile of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant with no drug (A), and with 1  $\mu\text{M}$  (1 mol. eq.) of neomycin dimer DPA51 (B). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. [HIV TAR RNA] = 1  $\mu\text{M}$ /strand. The heating rate was 0.3  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Absorbance was recorded at 260nm.

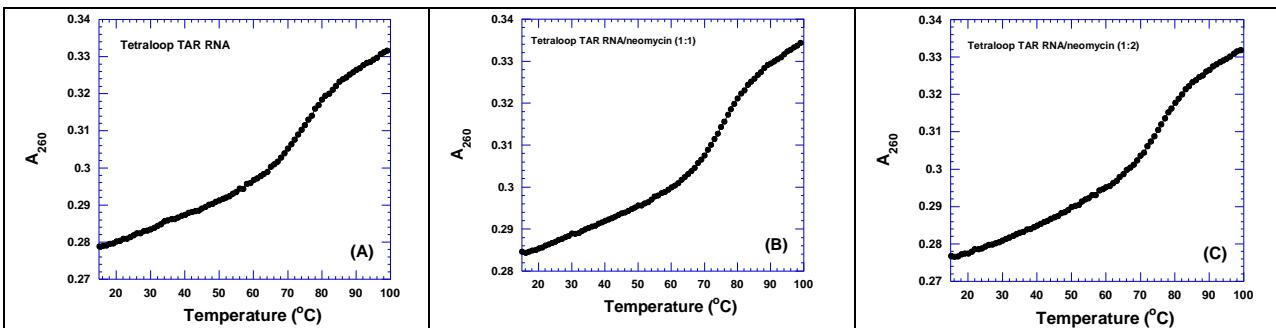


**Figure S3.4.** UV thermal denaturation profile of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant with no drug (A), and with 1  $\mu$ M (1 mol. eq.) of neomycin dimer DPA51 (B). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. [HIV TAR RNA] = 1  $\mu$ M/strand. The heating rate was 0.3  $^{\circ}$ C. Absorbance was recorded at 260nm.

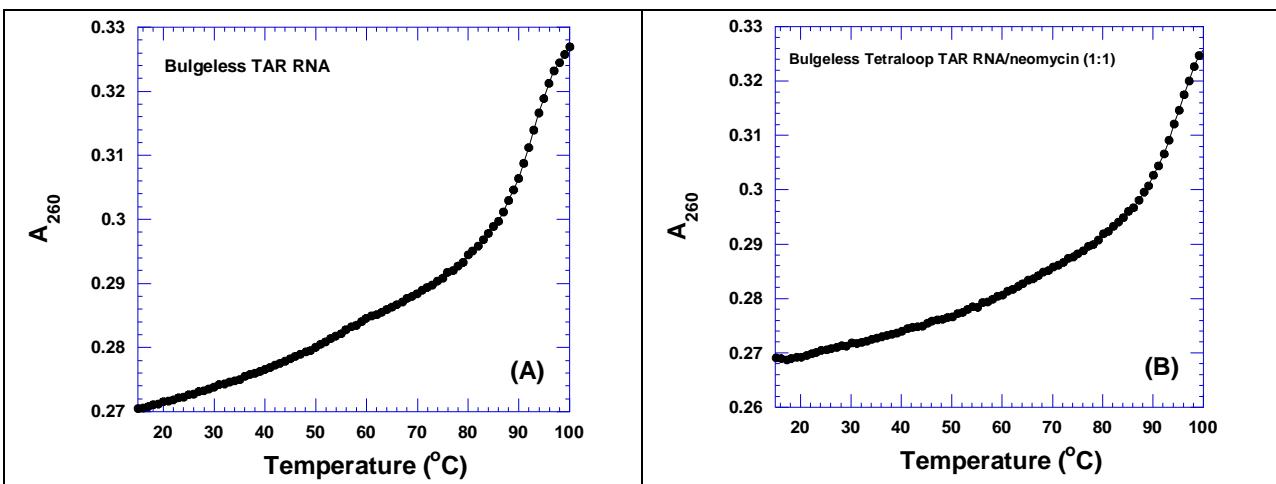


**Figure S3.5.** UV thermal denaturation profile of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant with no drug (A), and with 1  $\mu$ M (1 mol. eq.) of neomycin dimer DPA51 (B). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. [HIV TAR RNA] = 1  $\mu$ M/strand. The heating rate was 0.3  $^{\circ}$ C. Absorbance was recorded at 260nm.

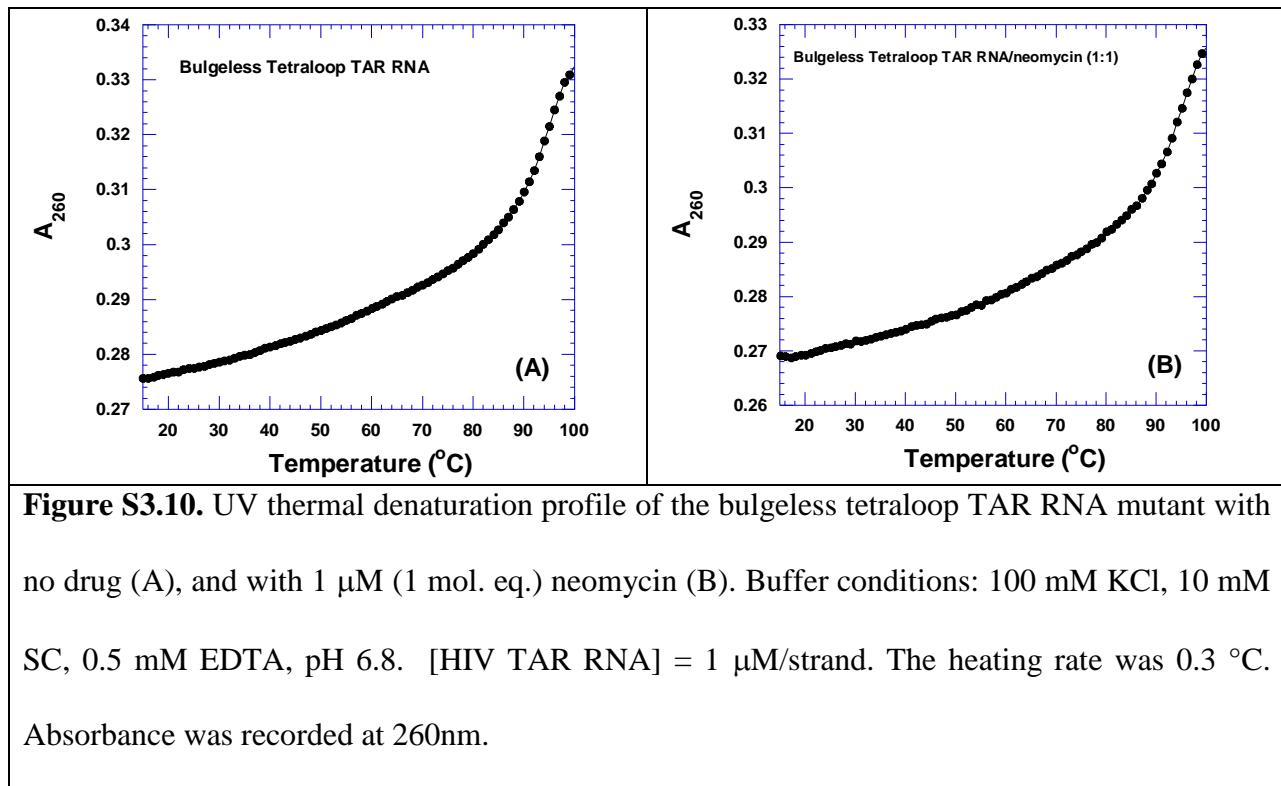




**Figure S3.8.** UV thermal denaturation profile of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant with no drug (A), with  $1 \mu\text{M}$  (1 mol. eq.) neomycin (B), and  $2\mu\text{M}$  (2 mol. Eq.) neomycin (C). Buffer conditions:  $100 \text{ mM KCl}$ ,  $10 \text{ mM SC}$ ,  $0.5 \text{ mM EDTA}$ , pH 6.8.  $[\text{HIV TAR RNA}] = 1 \mu\text{M}/\text{strand}$ . The heating rate was  $0.3 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . Absorbance was recorded at  $260\text{nm}$ .



**Figure S3.9.** UV thermal denaturation profile of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant with no drug (A), and with  $1 \mu\text{M}$  (1 mol. eq.) neomycin (B). Buffer conditions:  $100 \text{ mM KCl}$ ,  $10 \text{ mM SC}$ ,  $0.5 \text{ mM EDTA}$ , pH 6.8.  $[\text{HIV TAR RNA}] = 1 \mu\text{M}/\text{strand}$ . The heating rate was  $0.3 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . Absorbance was recorded at  $260\text{nm}$ .



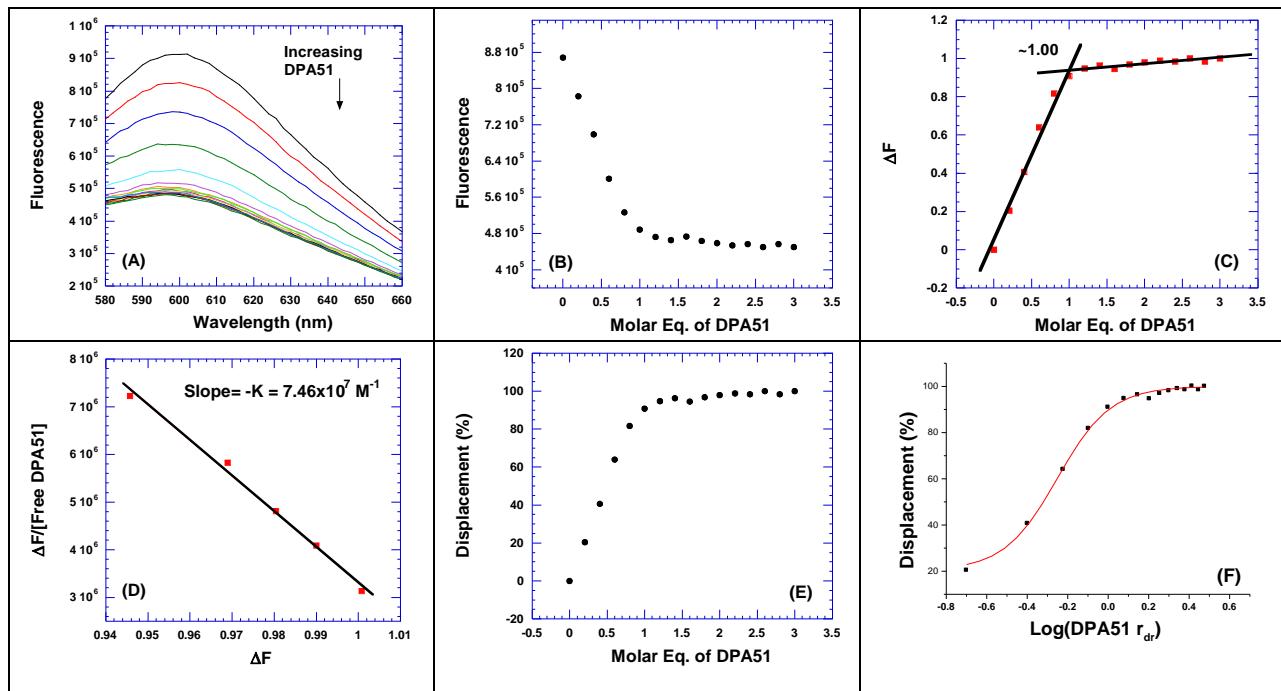
#### **S4. Mutant TAR RNA Ethidium Bromide Displacement Assays.**

The IC<sub>50</sub> plots shown use concentrations expressed as r<sub>dr</sub> (ratio of drug to RNA). All ethidium bromide displacement assays used the same 200 nM/strand RNA concentration, therefore the IC<sub>50</sub> values can be converted from r<sub>dr</sub> to nM by multiplying the r<sub>dr</sub> by the RNA concentration used (200 nM/strand).

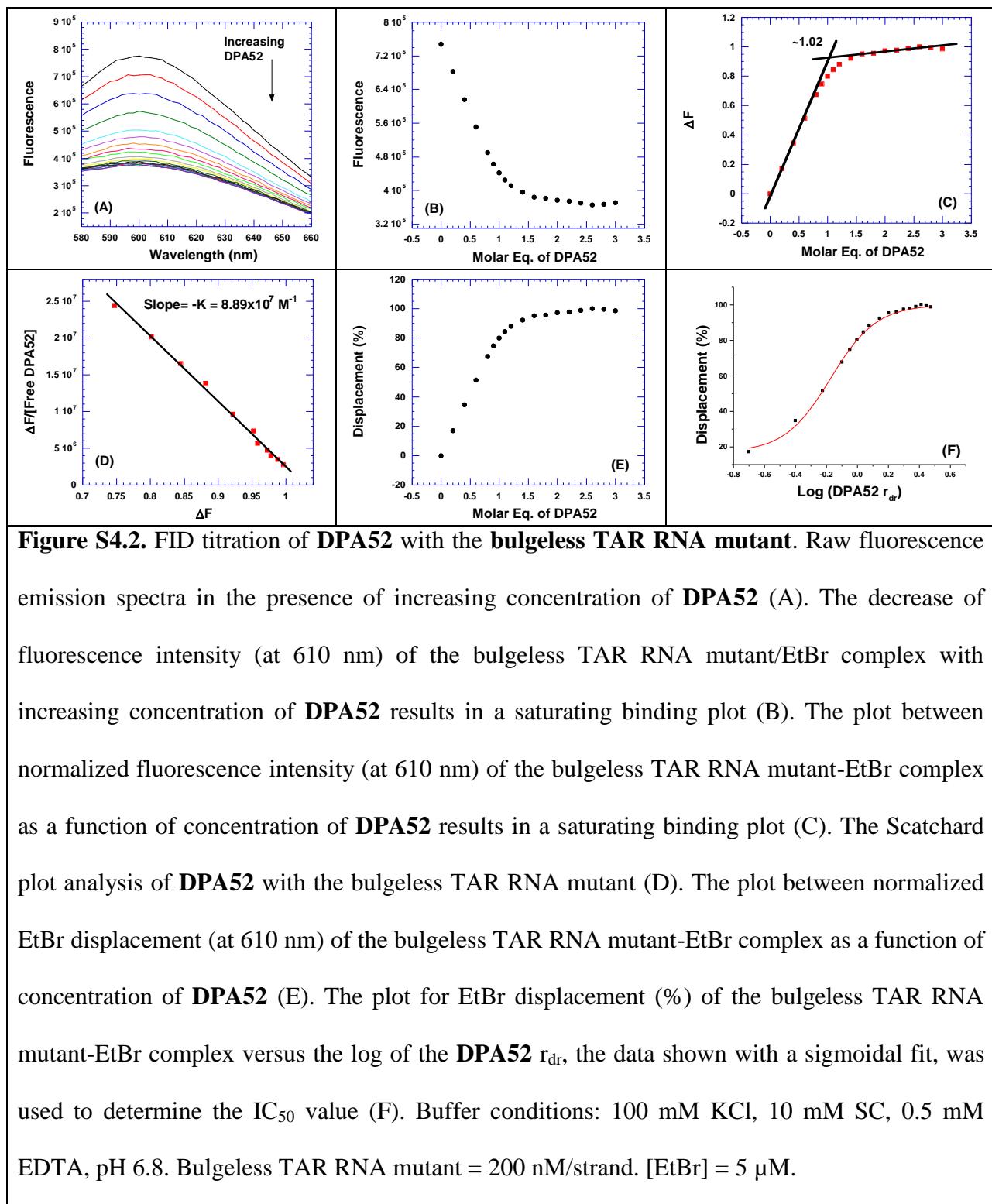
$$IC_{50} \text{ (nM)} = [\text{Ratio of drug to RNA}] \times [\text{RNA Concentration}]$$

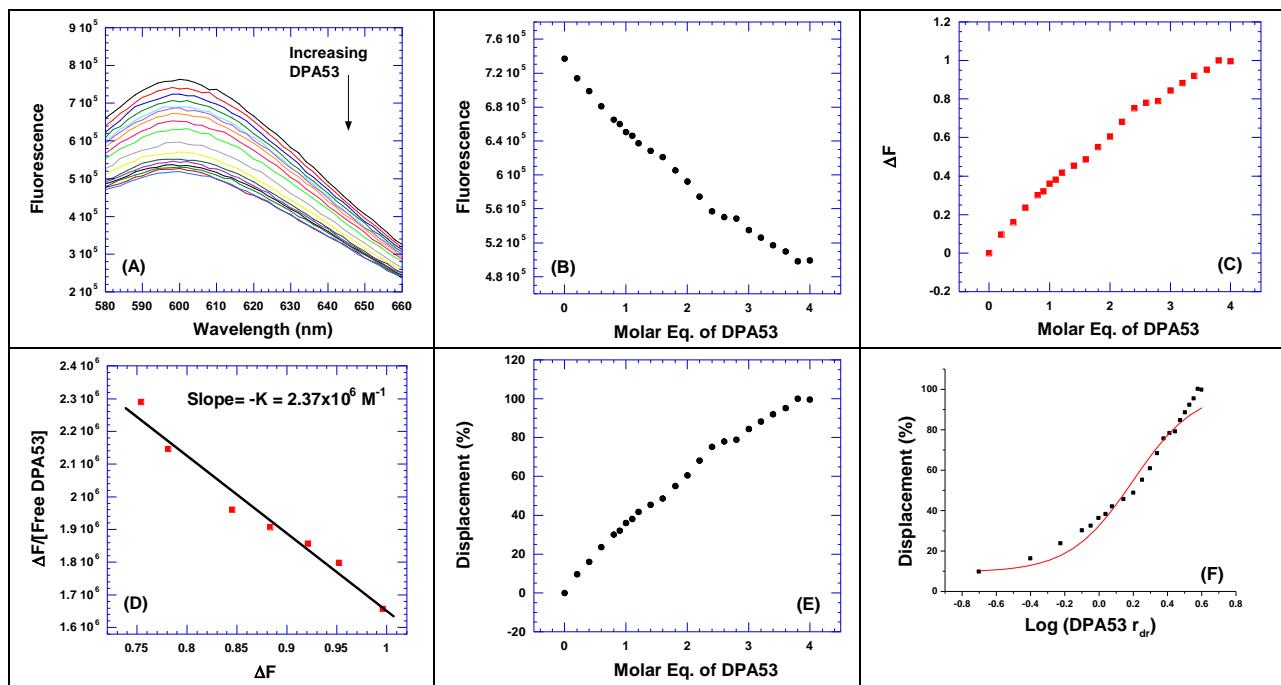
$$IC_{50} \text{ (nM)} = r_{dr} \times 200 \text{ nM/strand}$$

## Bulgeless TAR RNA Mutant Ethidium Bromide Displacement Binding Assay

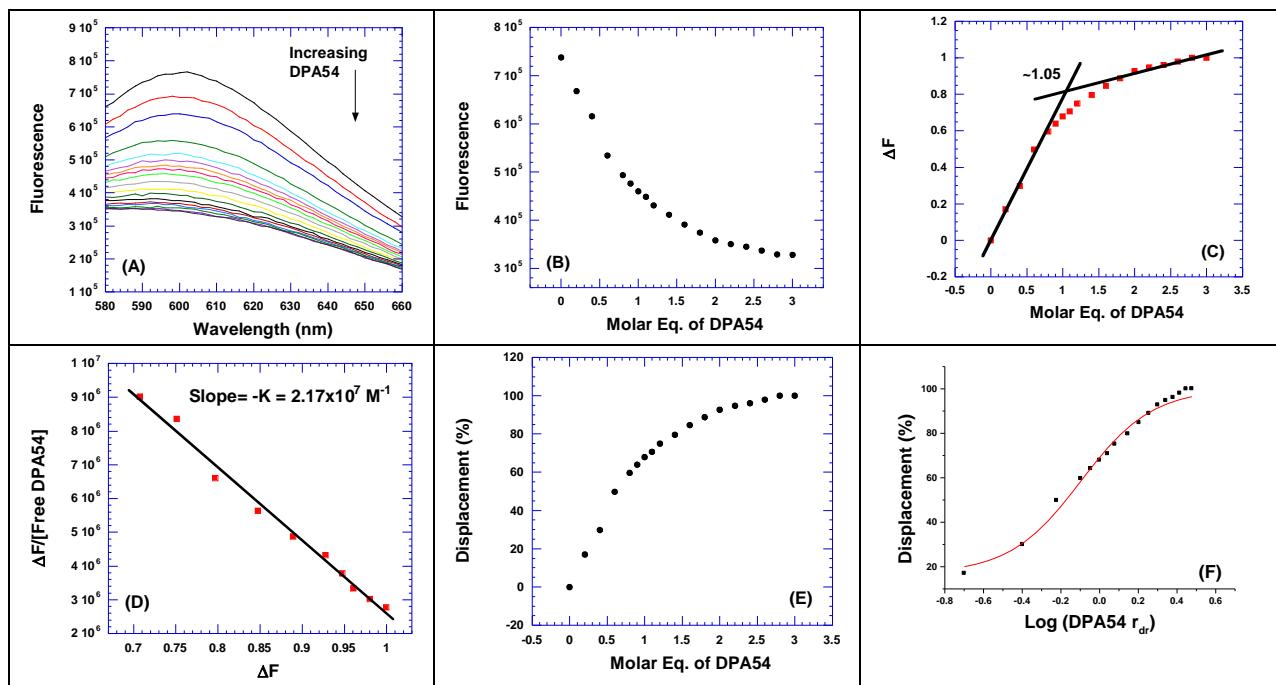


**Figure S4.1.** FID titration of **DPA51** with the **bulgeless TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA51** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA51** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA51** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA51** with the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA51** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA51**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

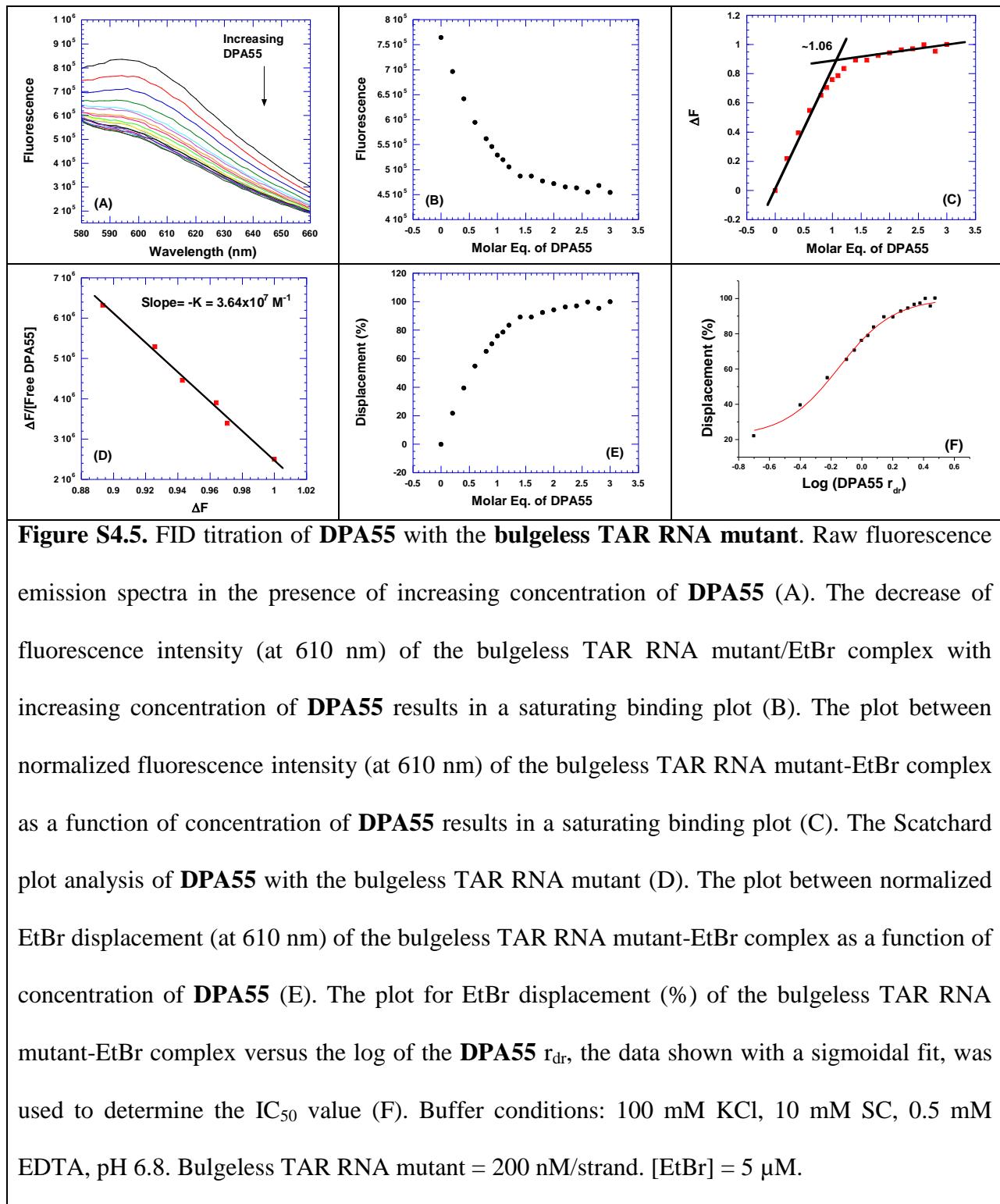


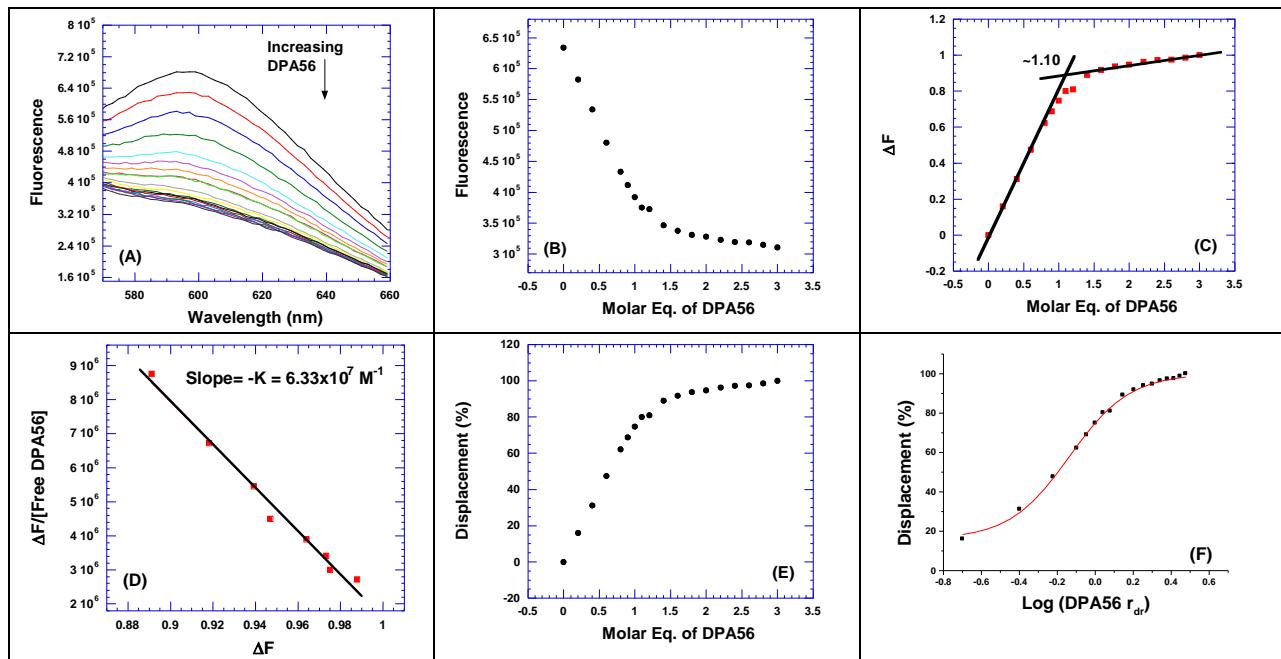


**Figure S4.3. FID titration of DPA53 with the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant.** Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA53** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA53** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA53** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA53** with the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA53** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA53**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

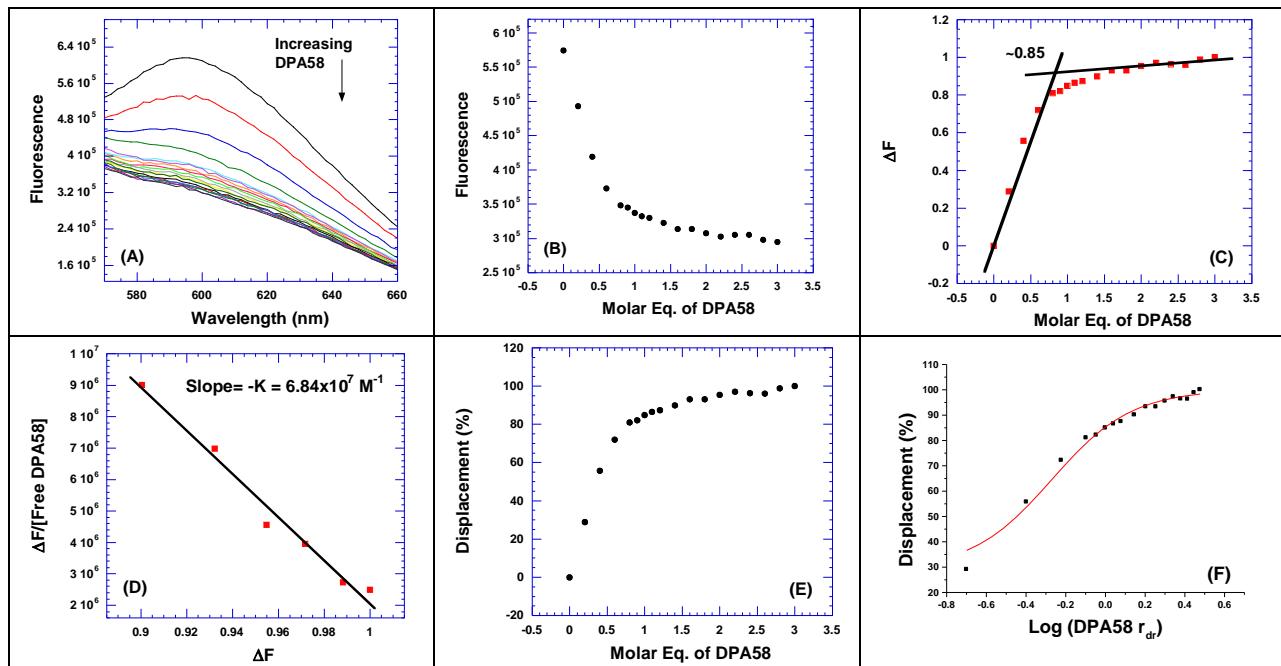


**Figure S4.6.** FID titration of **DPA54** with the **bulgeless TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA54** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA54** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA54** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA54** with the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA54** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA54**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

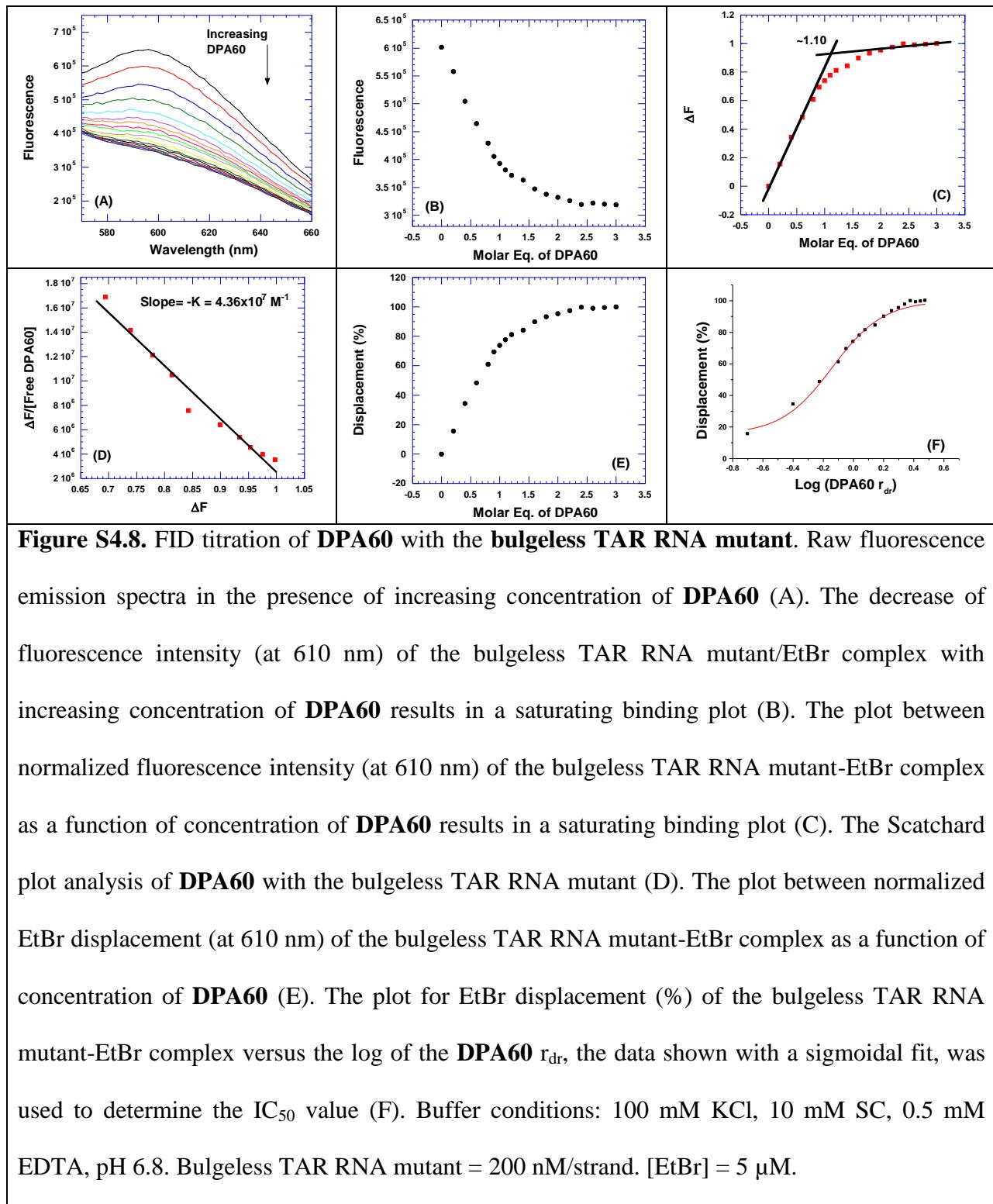


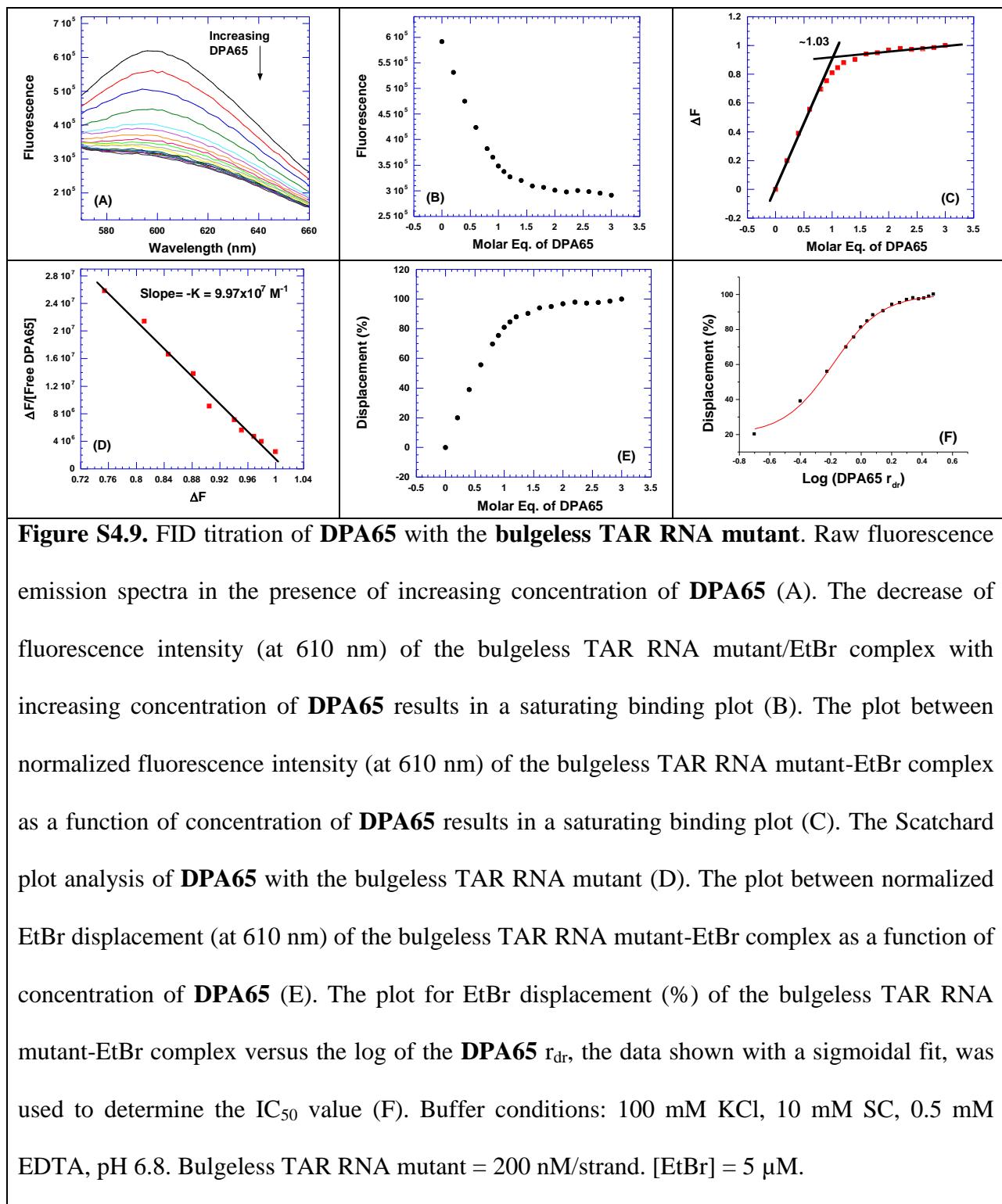


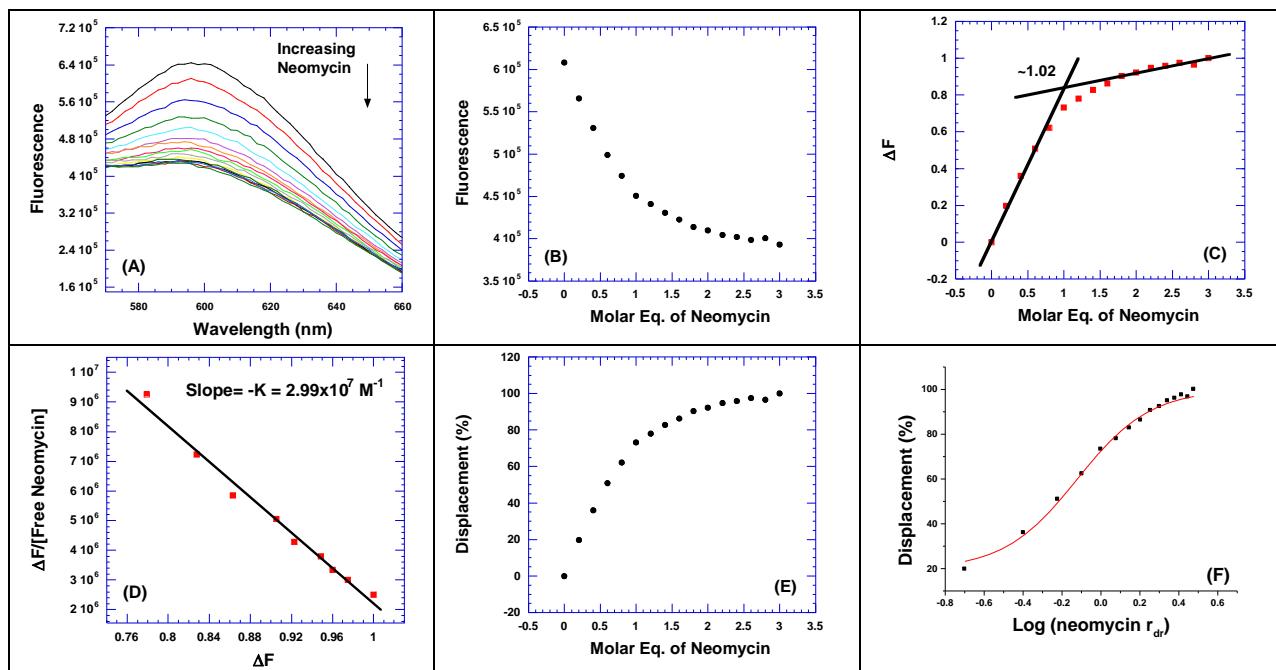
**Figure S4.6.** FID titration of **DPA56** with the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA56** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA56** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA56** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA56** with the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA56** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA56**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .



**Figure S4.7. FID titration of **DPA58** with the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant.** Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA58** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA58** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA58** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA58** with the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA58** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA58**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

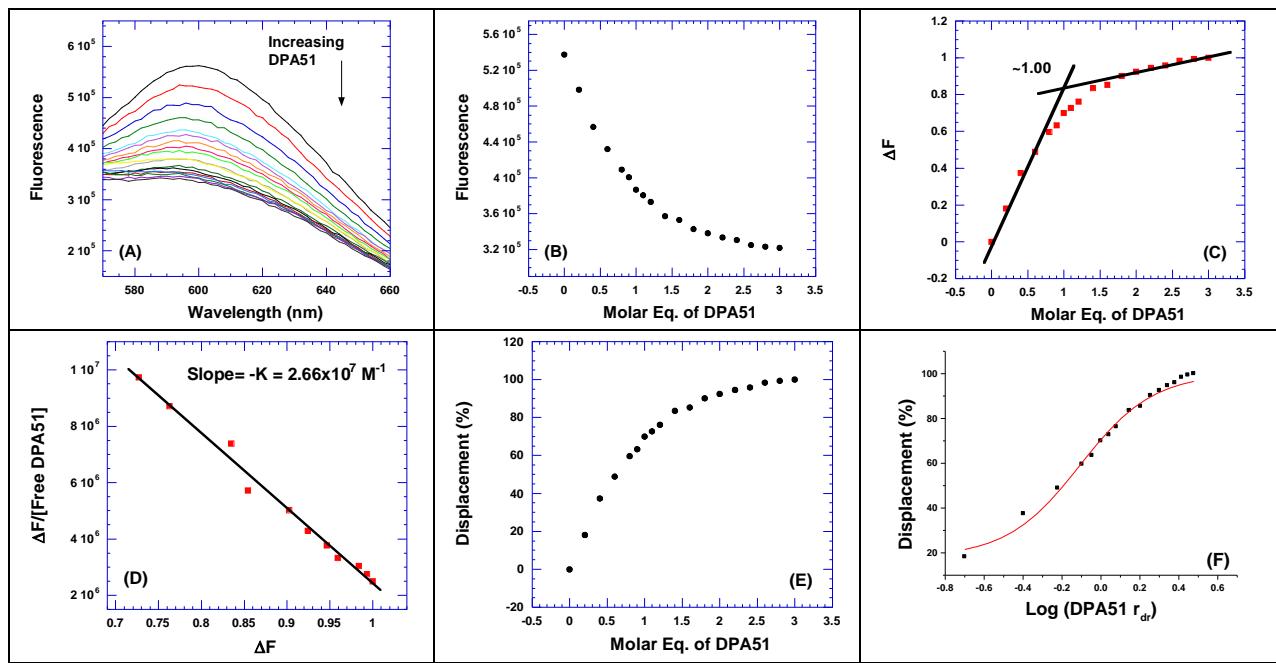




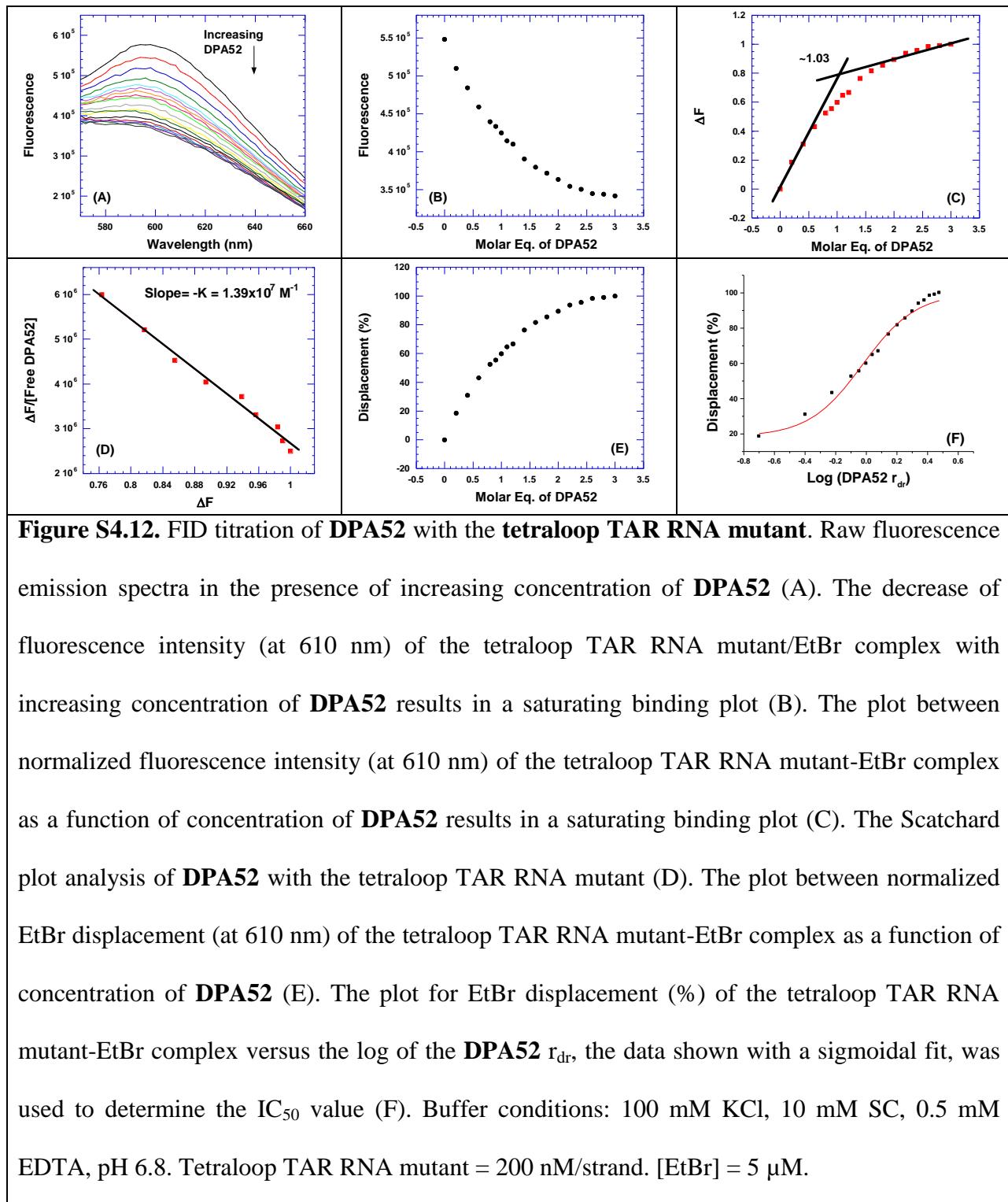


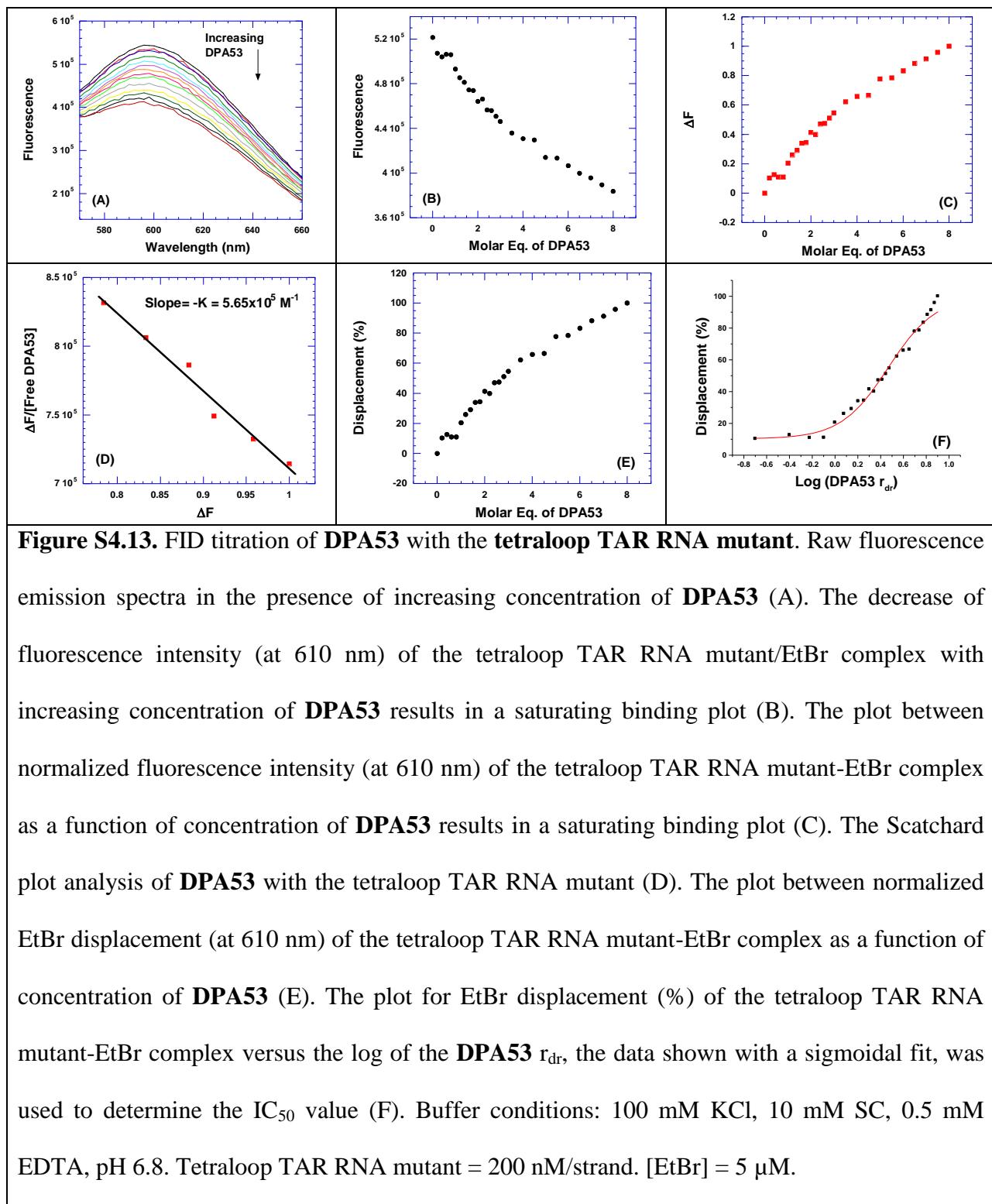
**Figure S4.10.** FID titration of **neomycin** with the **bulgeless TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **neomycin** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **neomycin** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **neomycin** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **neomycin** with the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **neomycin** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **neomycin**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

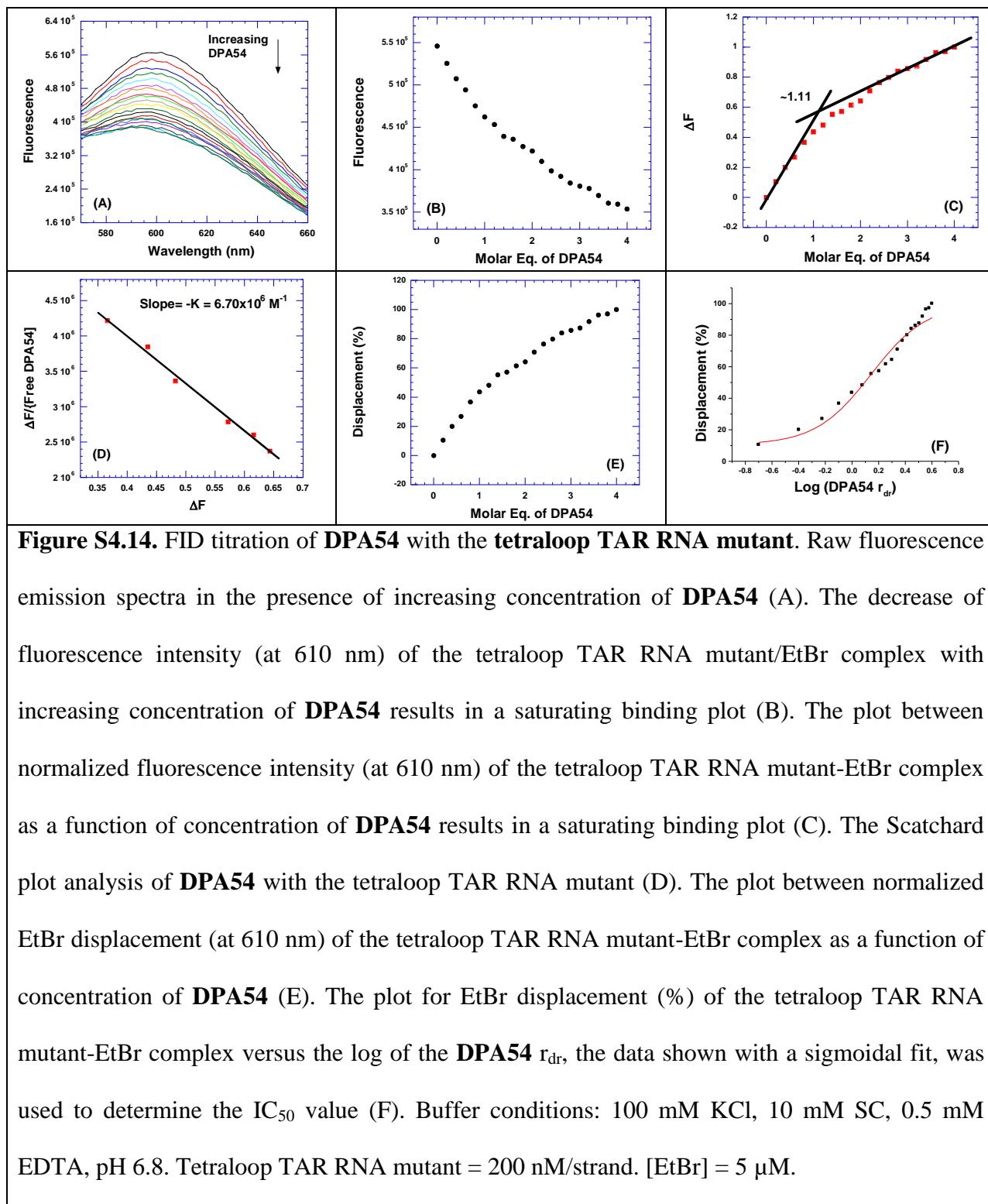
### Tetraloop TAR RNA Mutant Ethidium Bromide Displacement Binding Assay

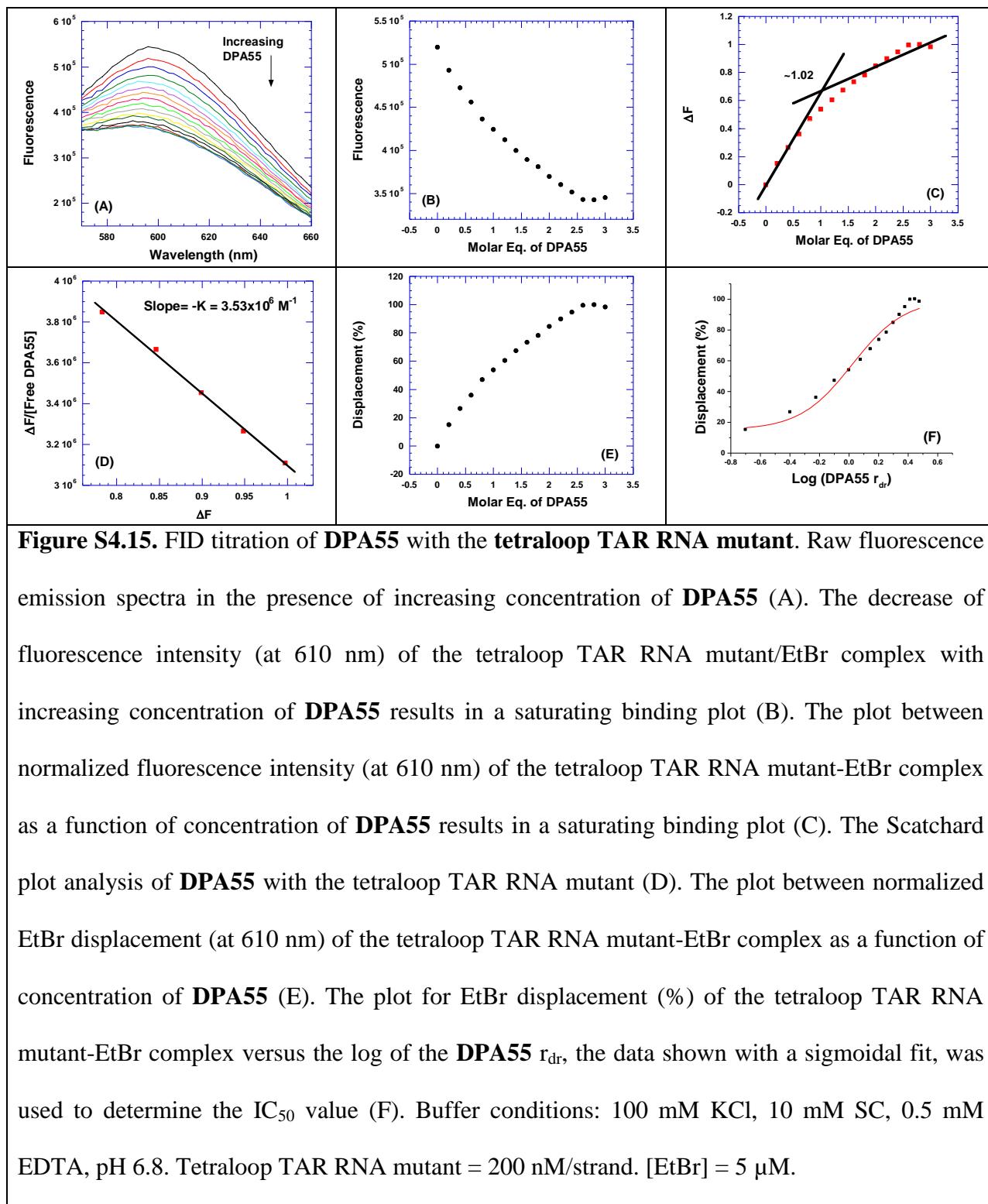


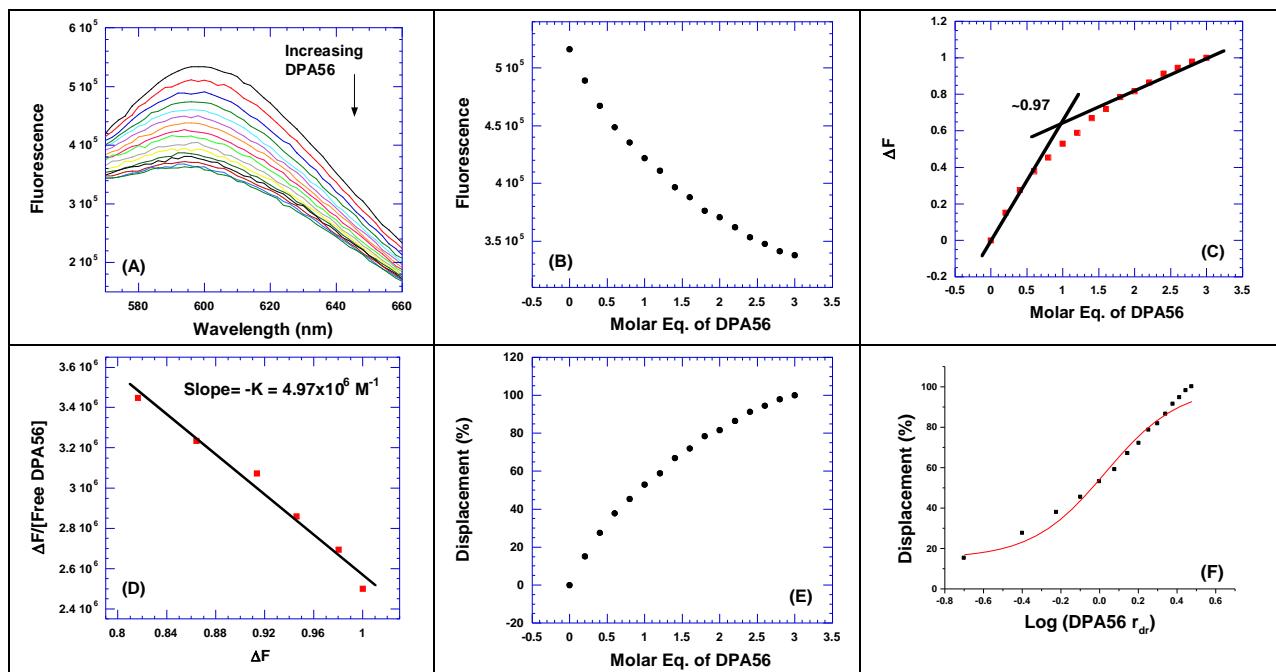
**Figure S4.11.** FID titration of **DPA51** with the **tetraloop TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA51** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA51** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA51** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA51** with the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA51** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA51**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .



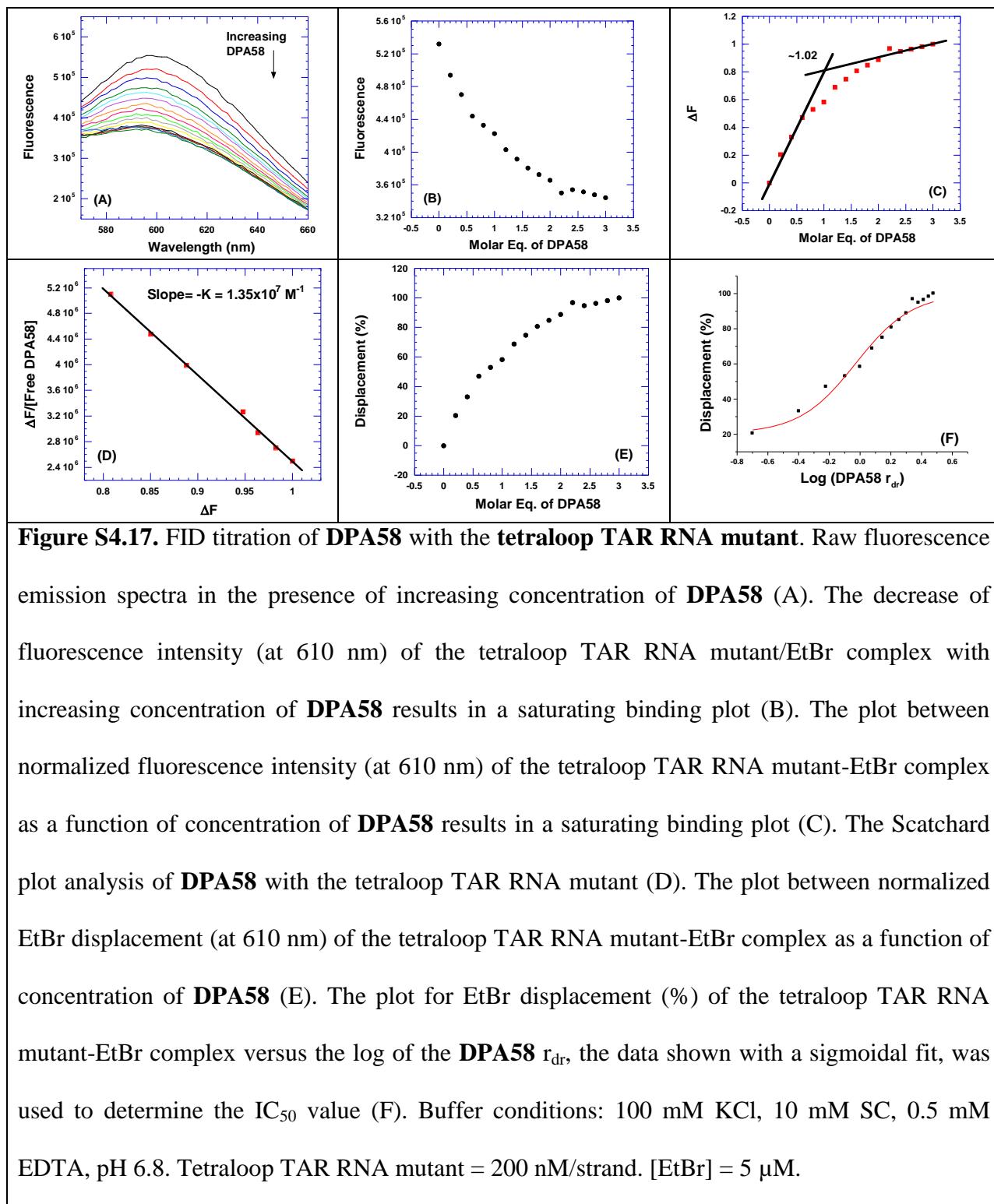


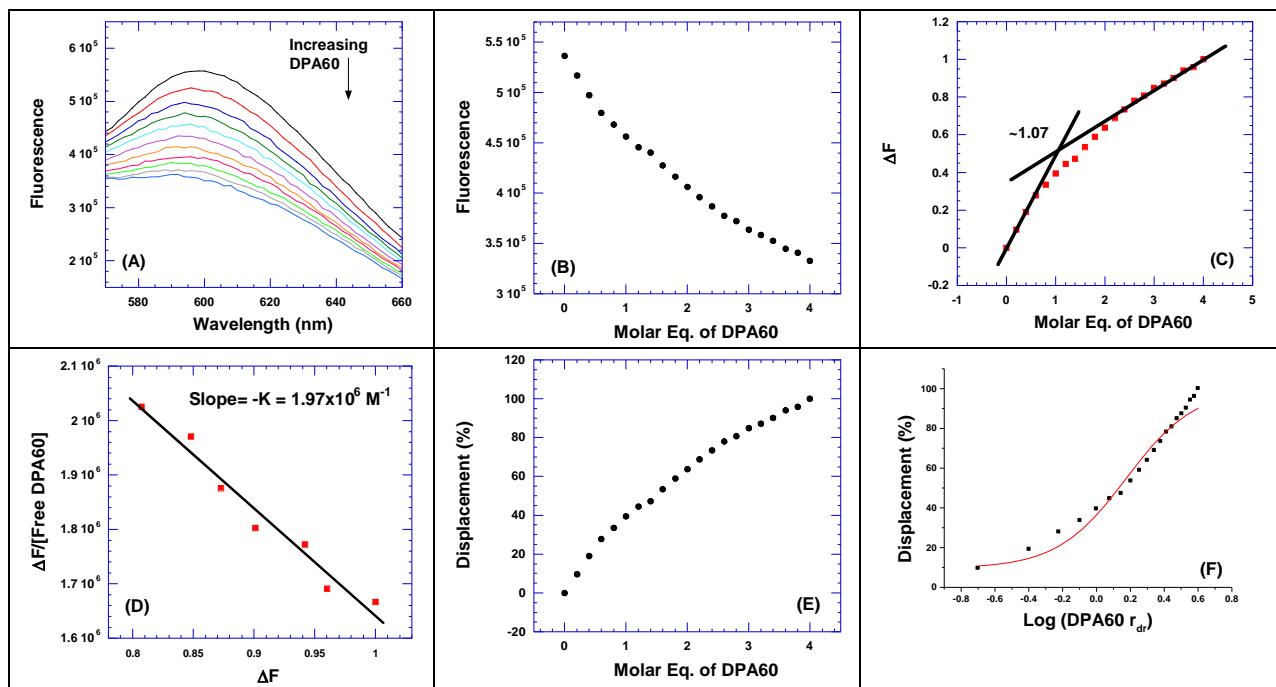




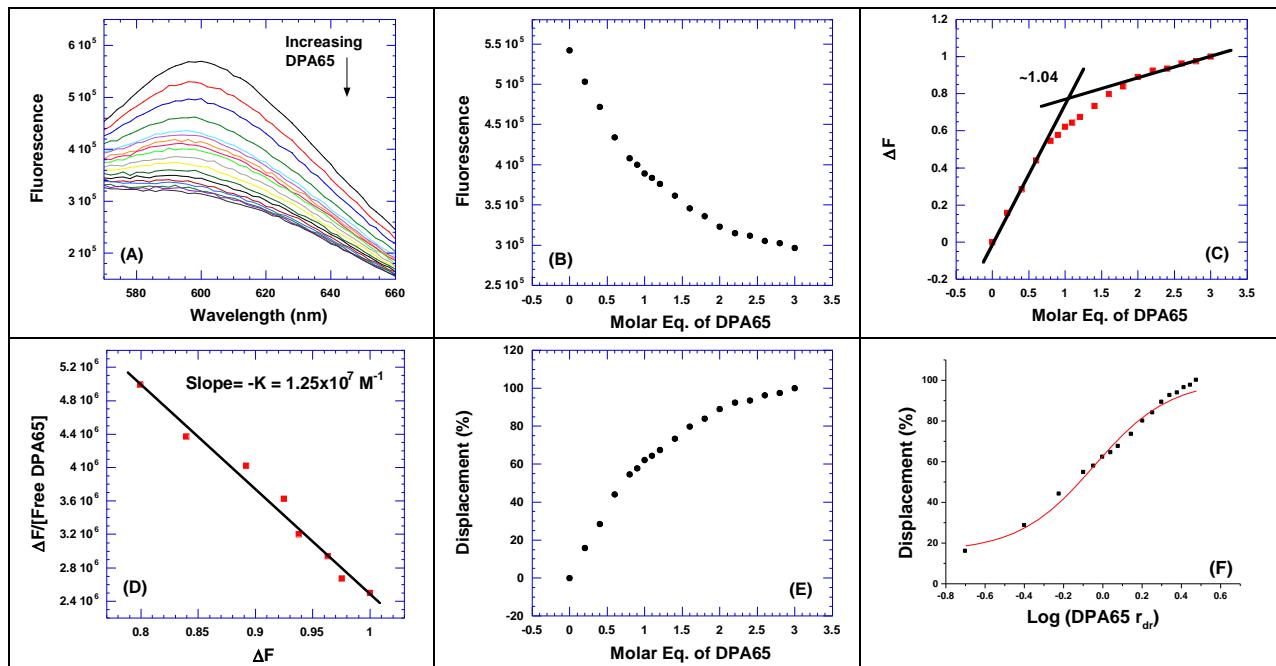


**Figure S4.16. FID titration of DPA56 with the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant.** Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA56** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA56** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA56** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA56** with the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA56** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA56**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5\ \mu M$ .

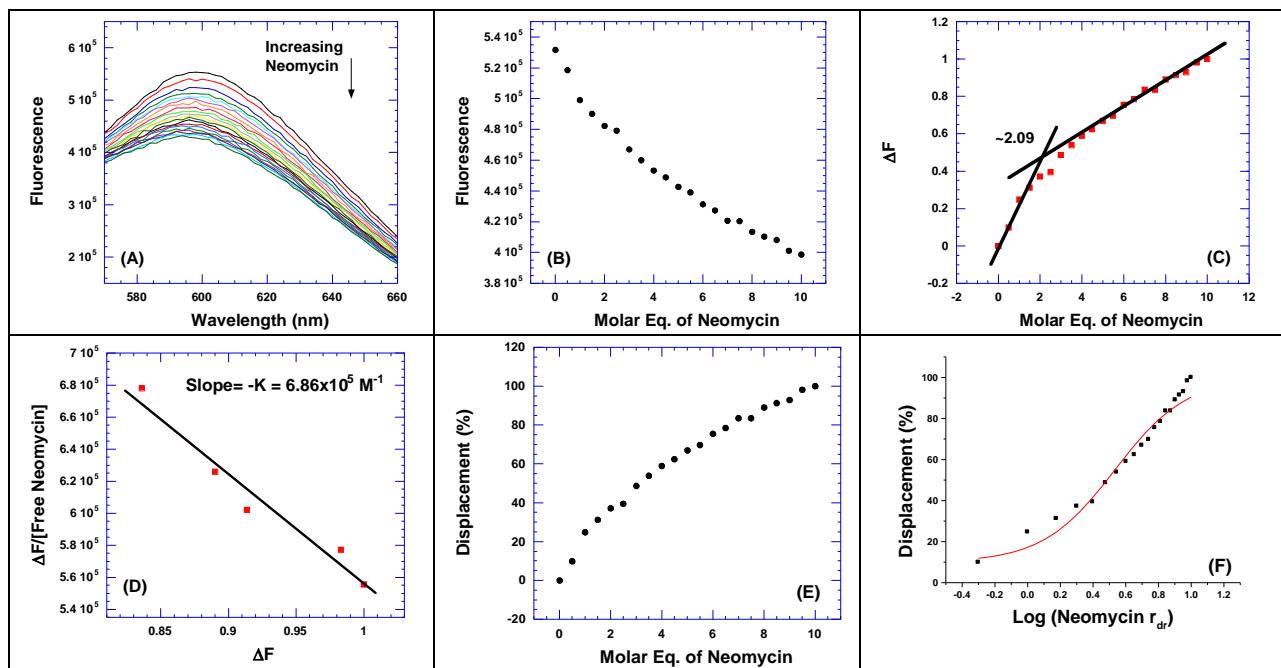




**Figure S4.18.** FID titration of **DPA60** with the **tetraloop TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA60** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA60** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA60** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA60** with the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA60** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA60**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

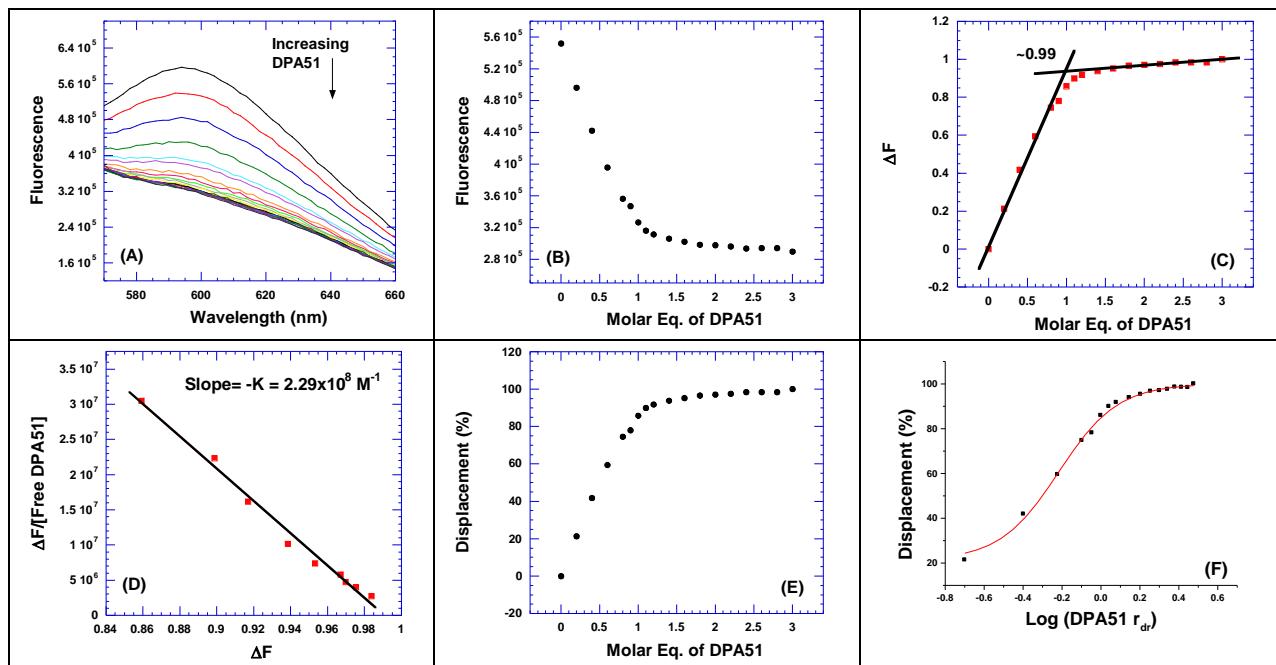


**Figure S4.19. FID titration of DPA65 with the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant.** Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA65** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA65** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA65** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA65** with the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA65** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA65**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

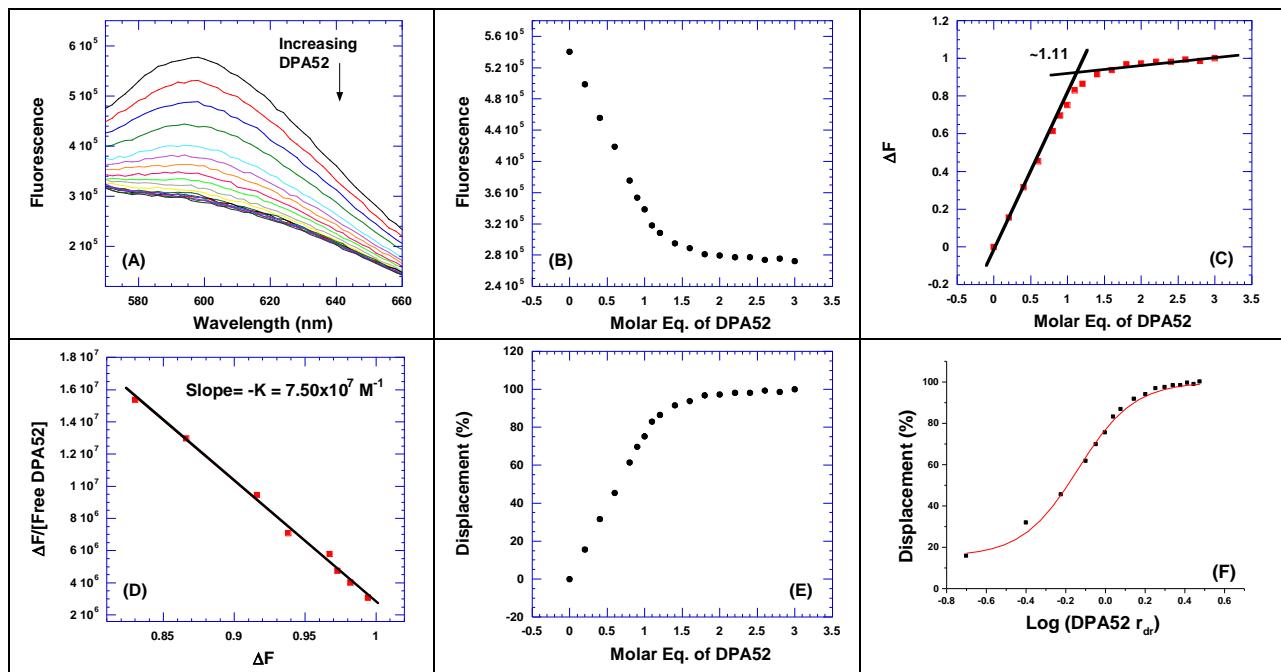


**Figure S4.20.** FID titration of **neomycin** with the **tetraloop TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **neomycin** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **neomycin** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **neomycin** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **neomycin** with the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **neomycin** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **neomycin**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

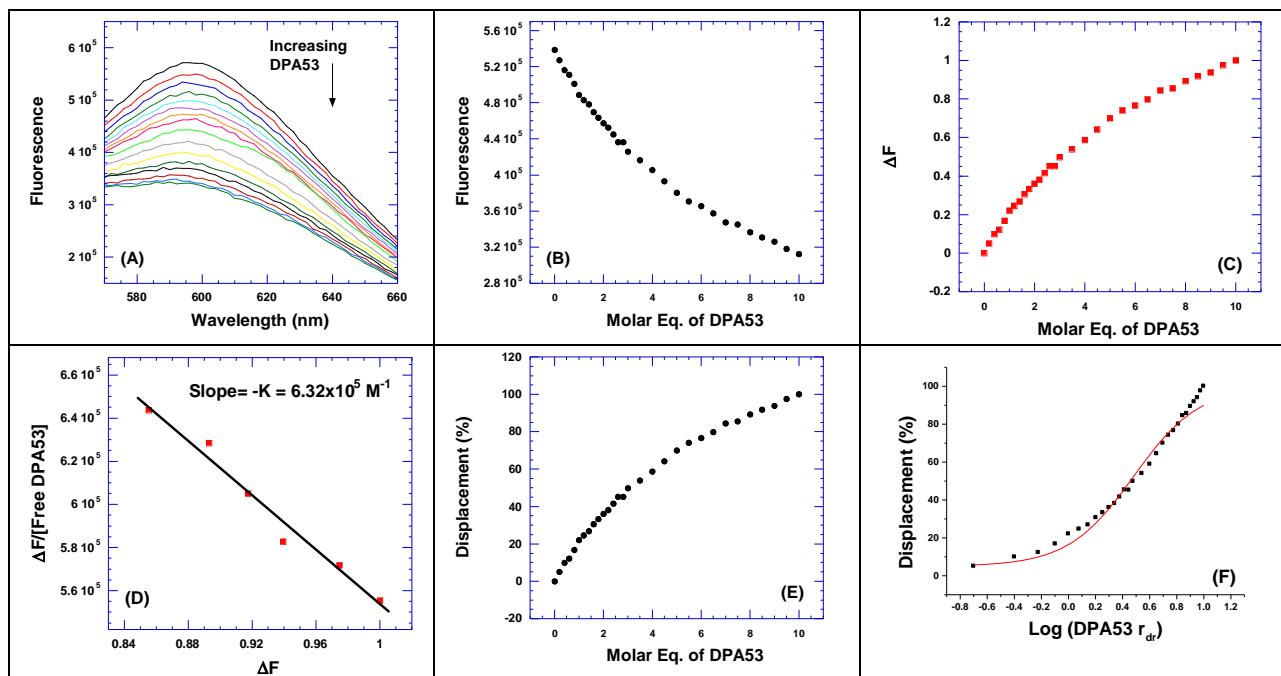
### Bulgeless Tetraloop TAR RNA Mutant Ethidium Bromide Displacement Binding Assay



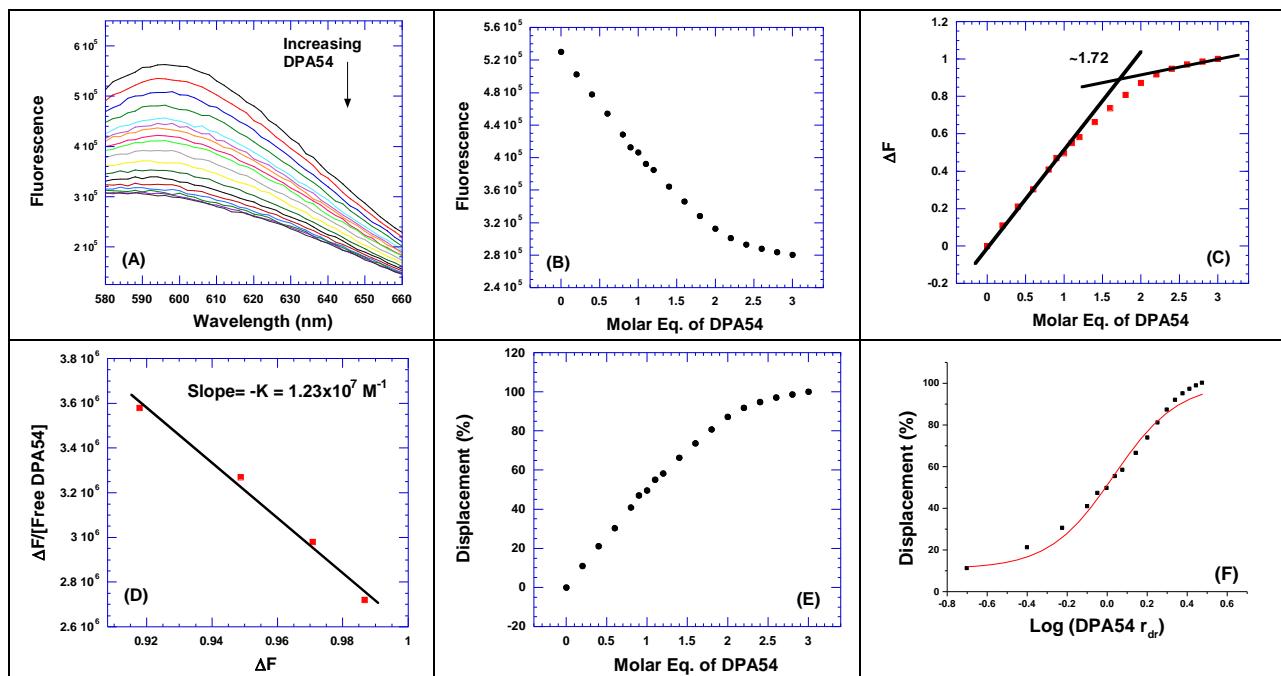
**Figure S4.21.** FID titration of **DPA51** with the **bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA51** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA51** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA51** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA51** with the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA51** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA51**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .



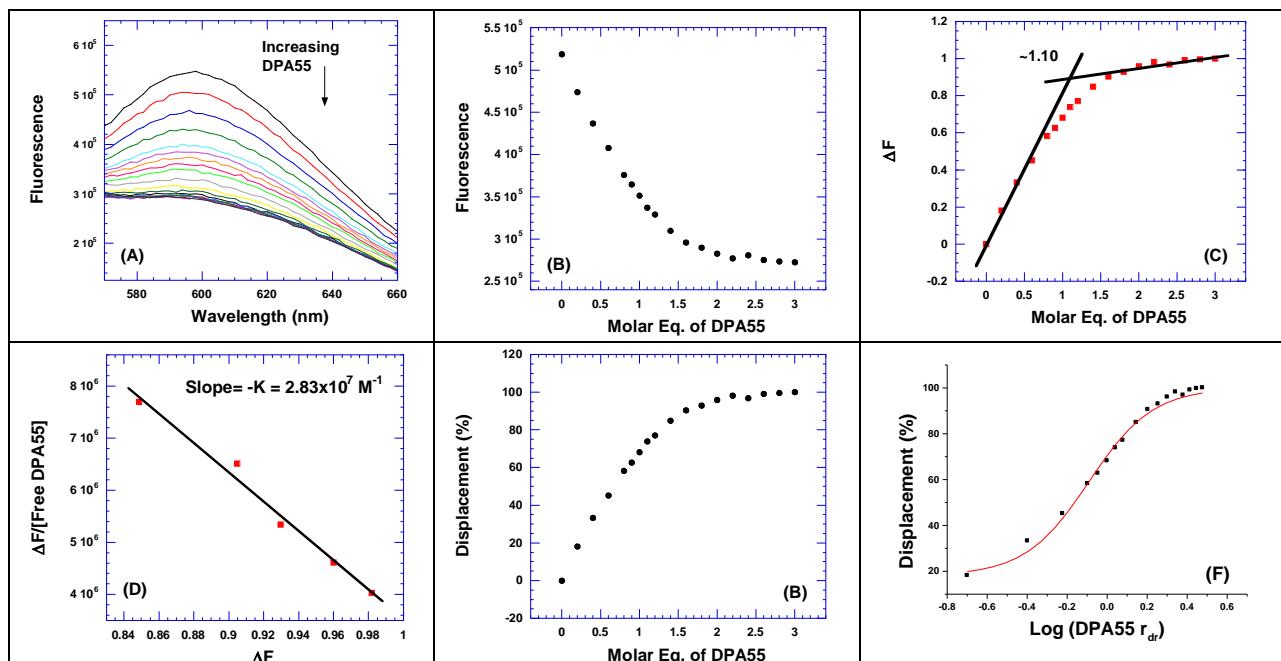
**Figure S4.22.** FID titration of **DPA52** with the **bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA52** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA52** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA52** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA52** with the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA52** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA52**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .



**Figure S4.23.** FID titration of **DPA53** with the **bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA53** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA53** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA53** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA53** with the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA53** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA53**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

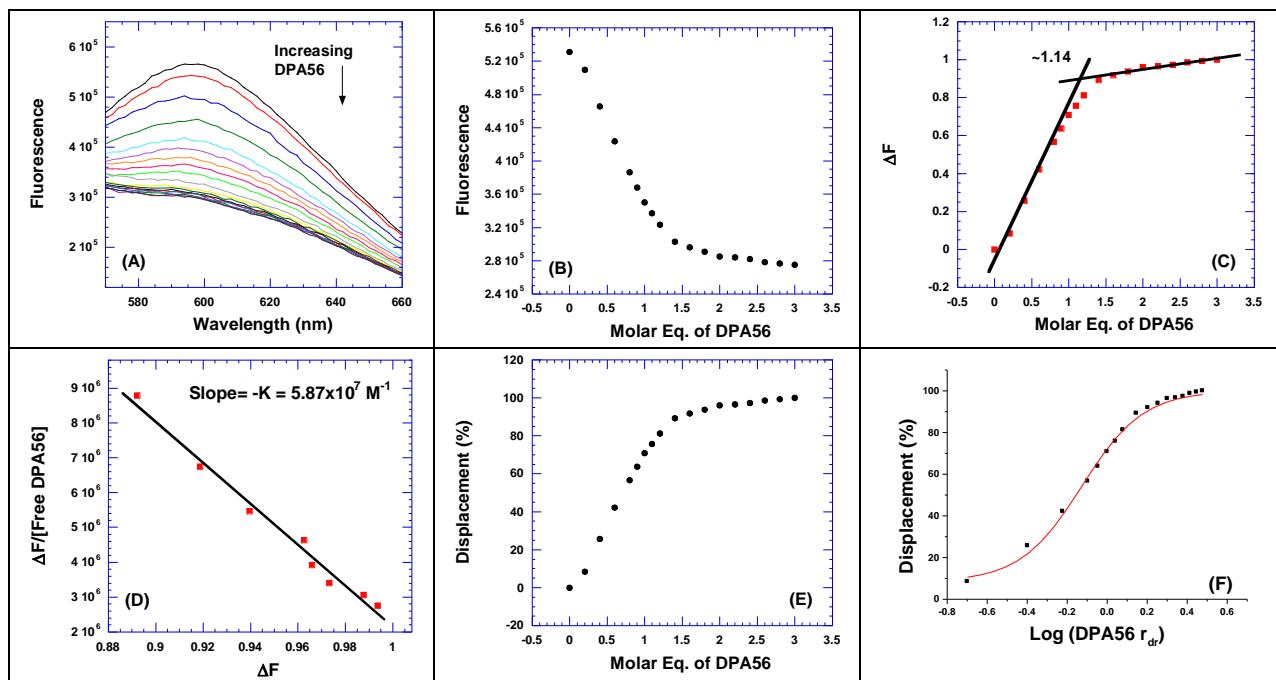


**Figure S4.24.** FID titration of **DPA54** with the **bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA54** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA54** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA54** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA54** with the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA54** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA54**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

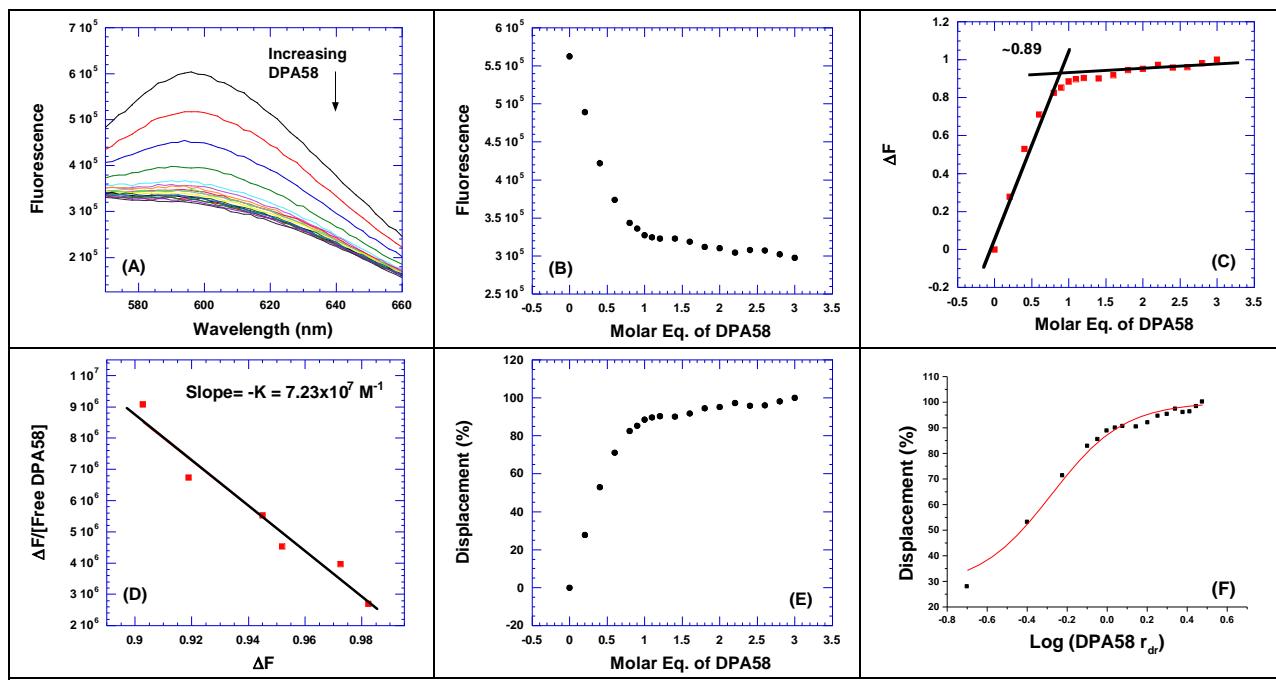


**Figure S4.25. FID titration of **DPA55** with the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant.** Raw

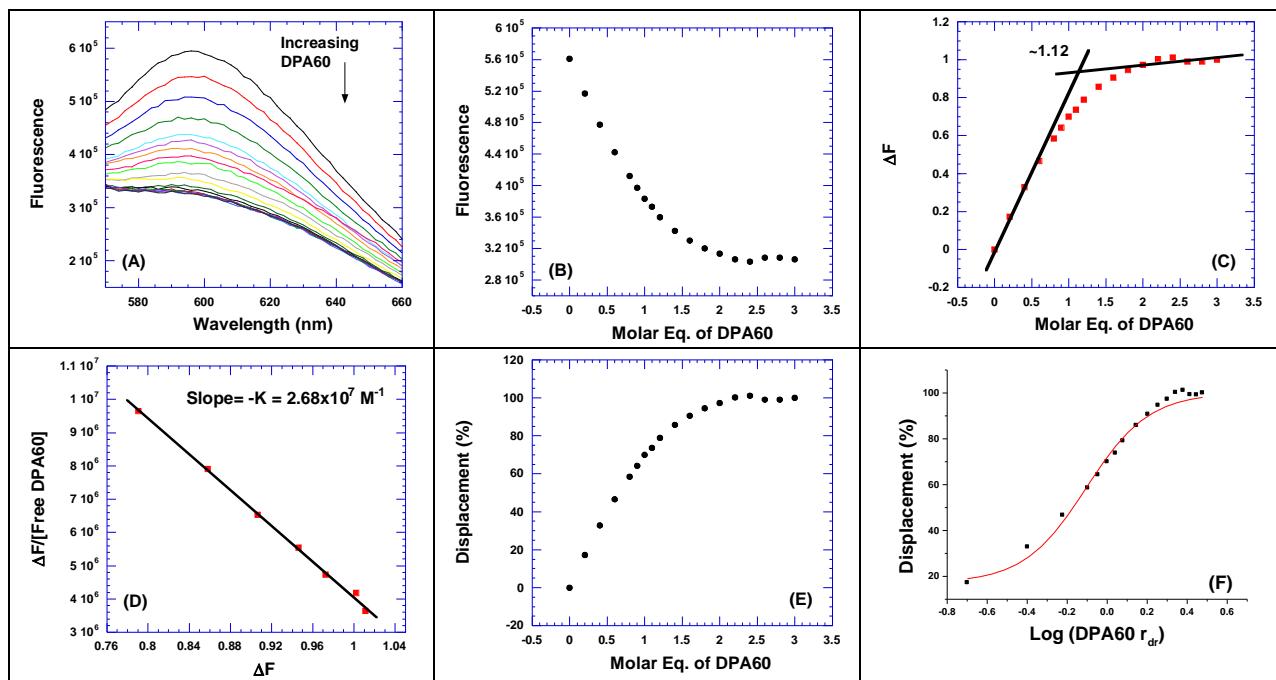
fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA55** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA55** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA55** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA55** with the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA55** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA55**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .



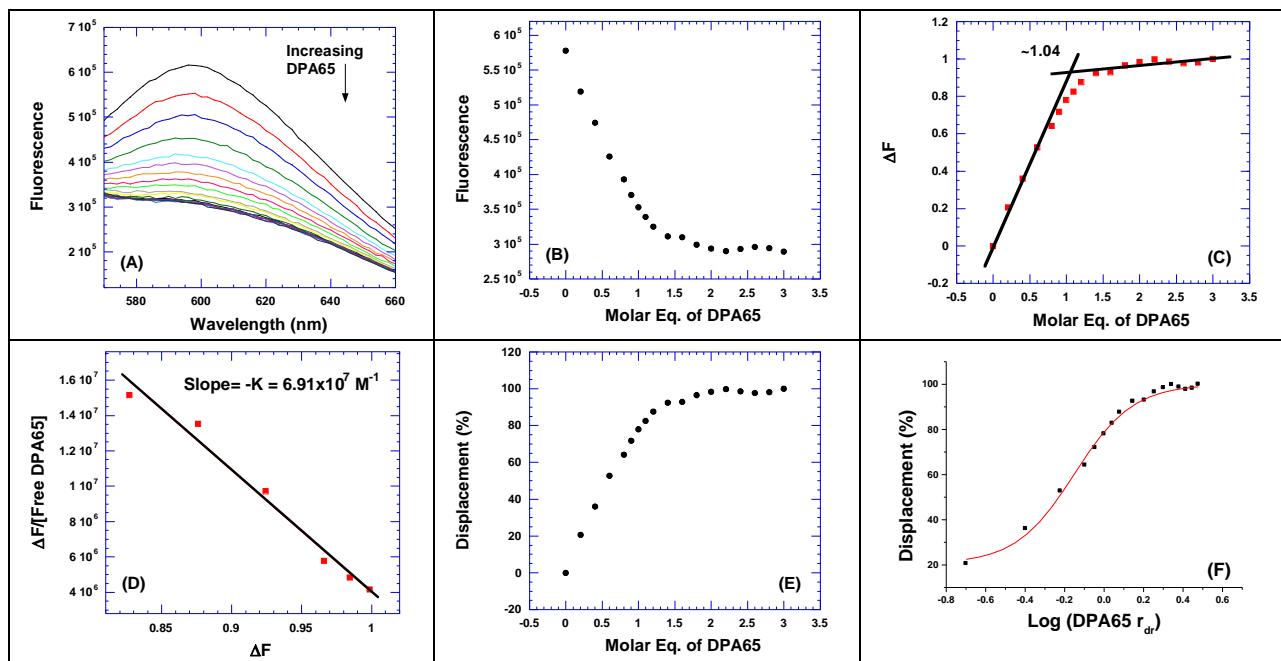
**Figure S4.26.** FID titration of **DPA56** with the **bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA56** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA56** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA56** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA56** with the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA56** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA56**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .



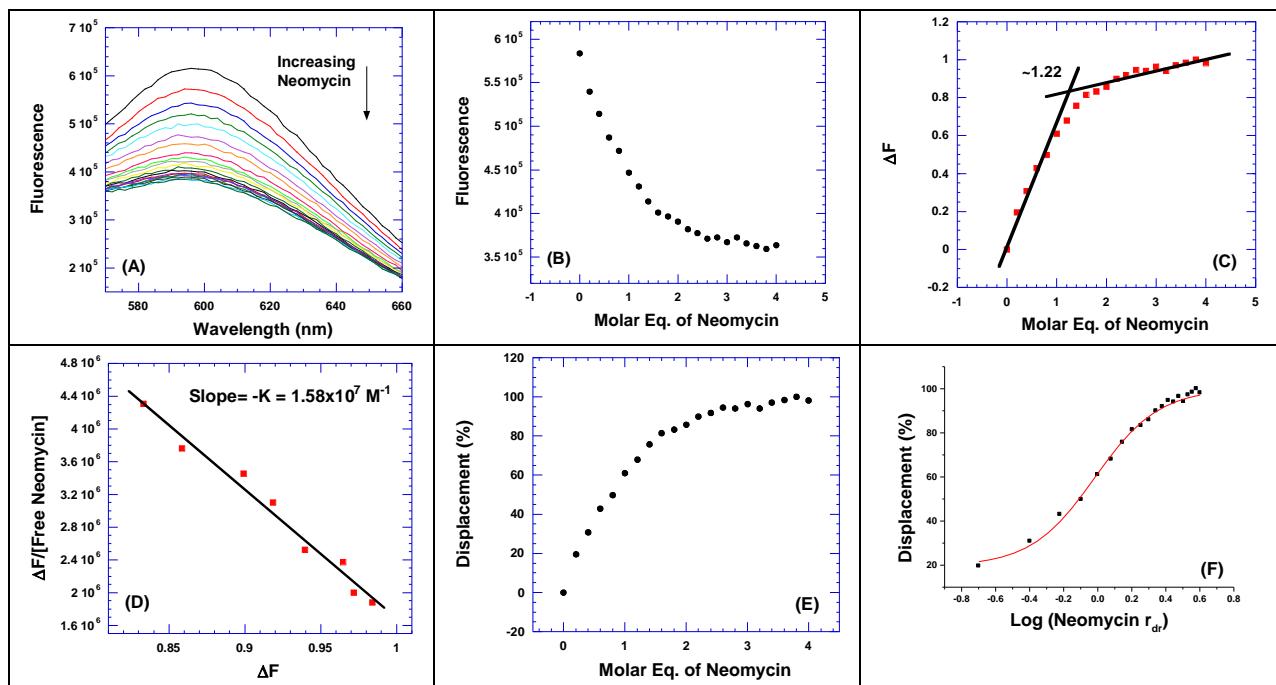
**Figure S4.27.** FID titration of **DPA58** with the **bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA58** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA58** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA58** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA58** with the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA58** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA58**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .



**Figure S4.28.** FID titration of **DPA60** with the **bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA60** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA60** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA60** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA60** with the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA60** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA60**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

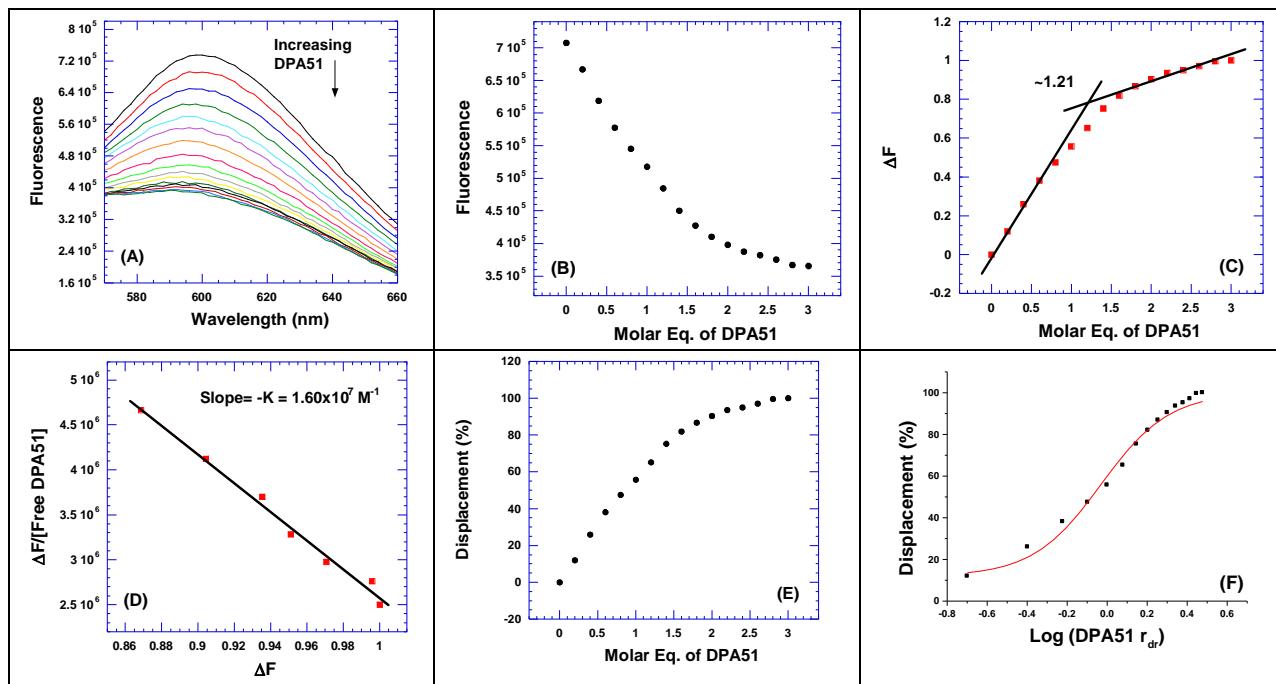


**Figure S4.29.** FID titration of **DPA65** with the **bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA65** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA65** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA65** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA65** with the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA65** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA65**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

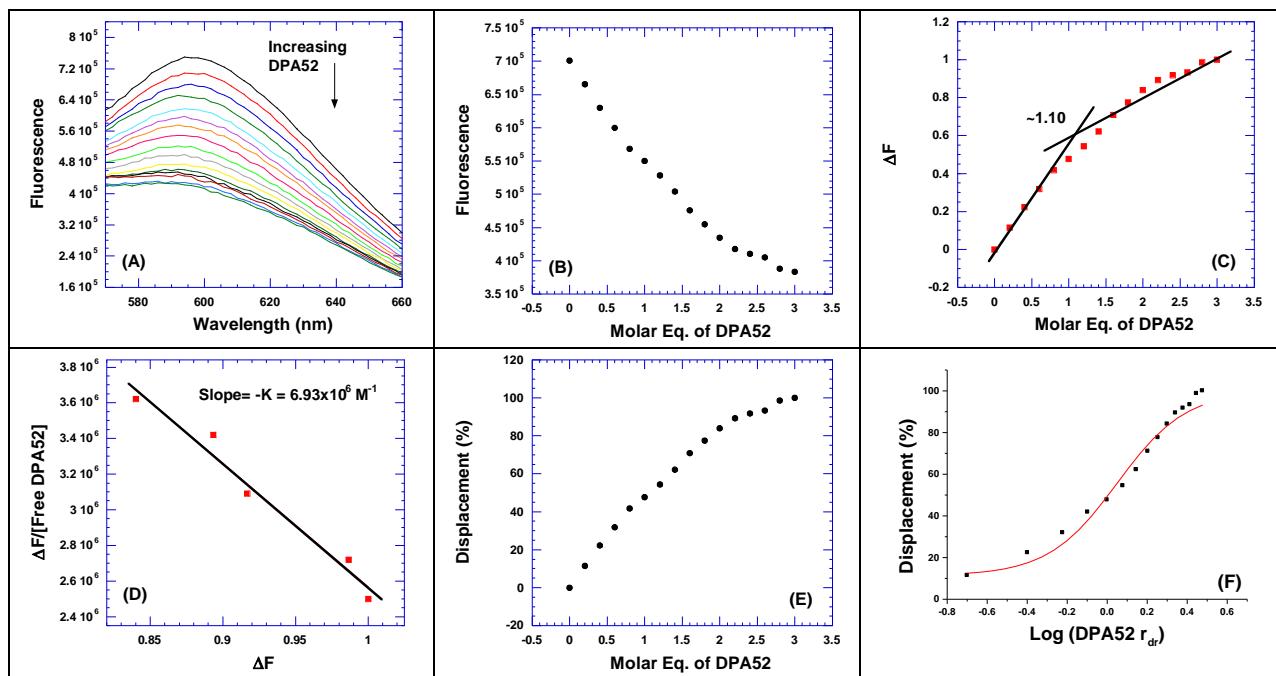


**Figure S4.30. FID titration of neomycin with the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant.** Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **neomycin** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **neomycin** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **neomycin** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **neomycin** with the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **neomycin** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **neomycin**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. Bulgeless tetraloop TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

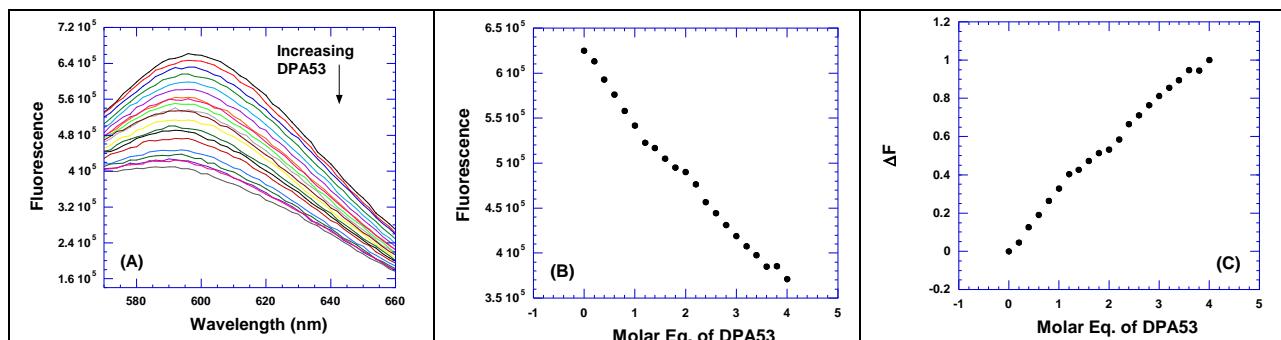
### U3 Bulge TAR RNA Mutant Ethidium Bromide Displacement Binding Assay



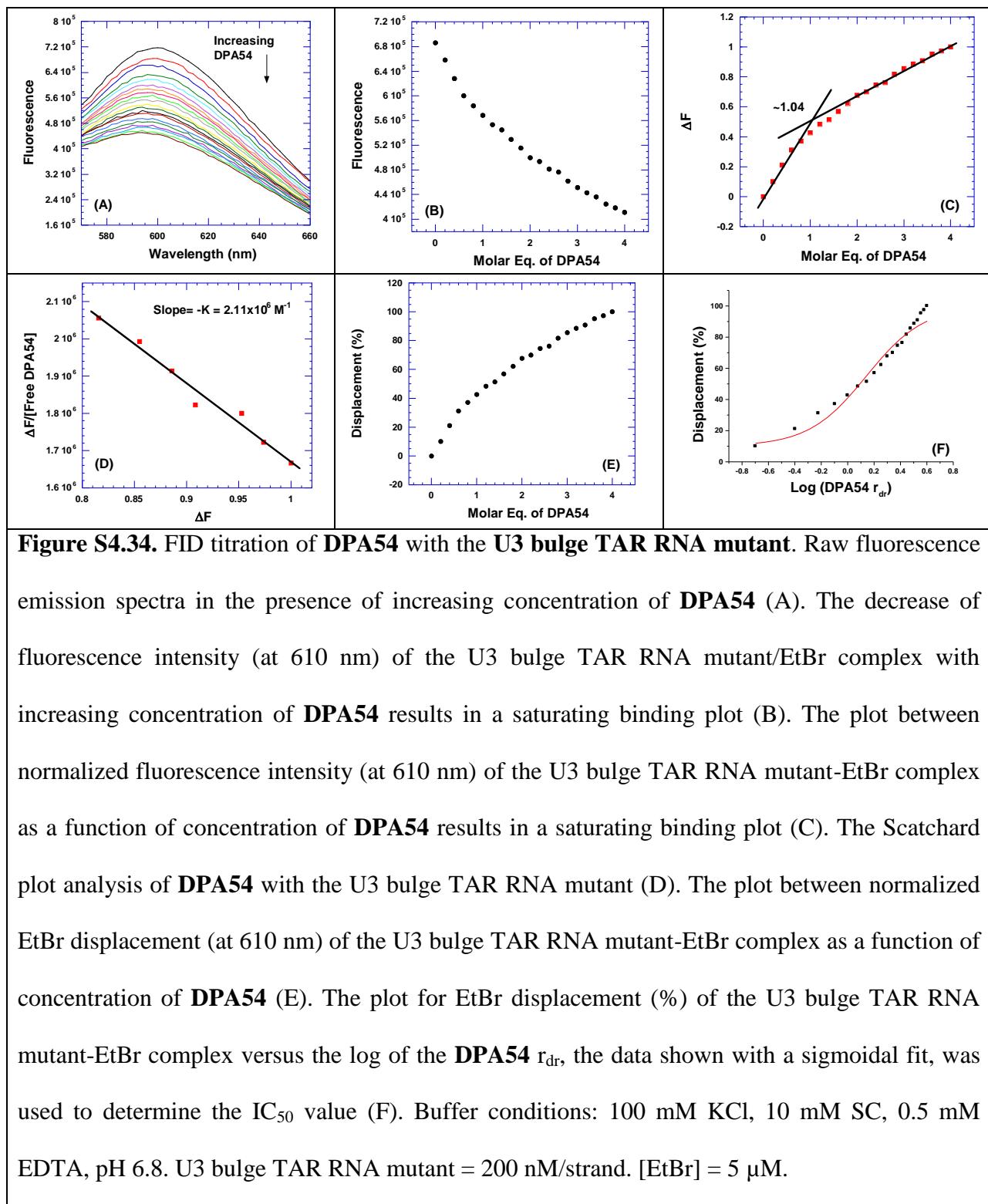
**Figure S4.31.** FID titration of **DPA51** with the **U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant**. Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA51** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA51** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA51** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA51** with the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA51** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA51**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .

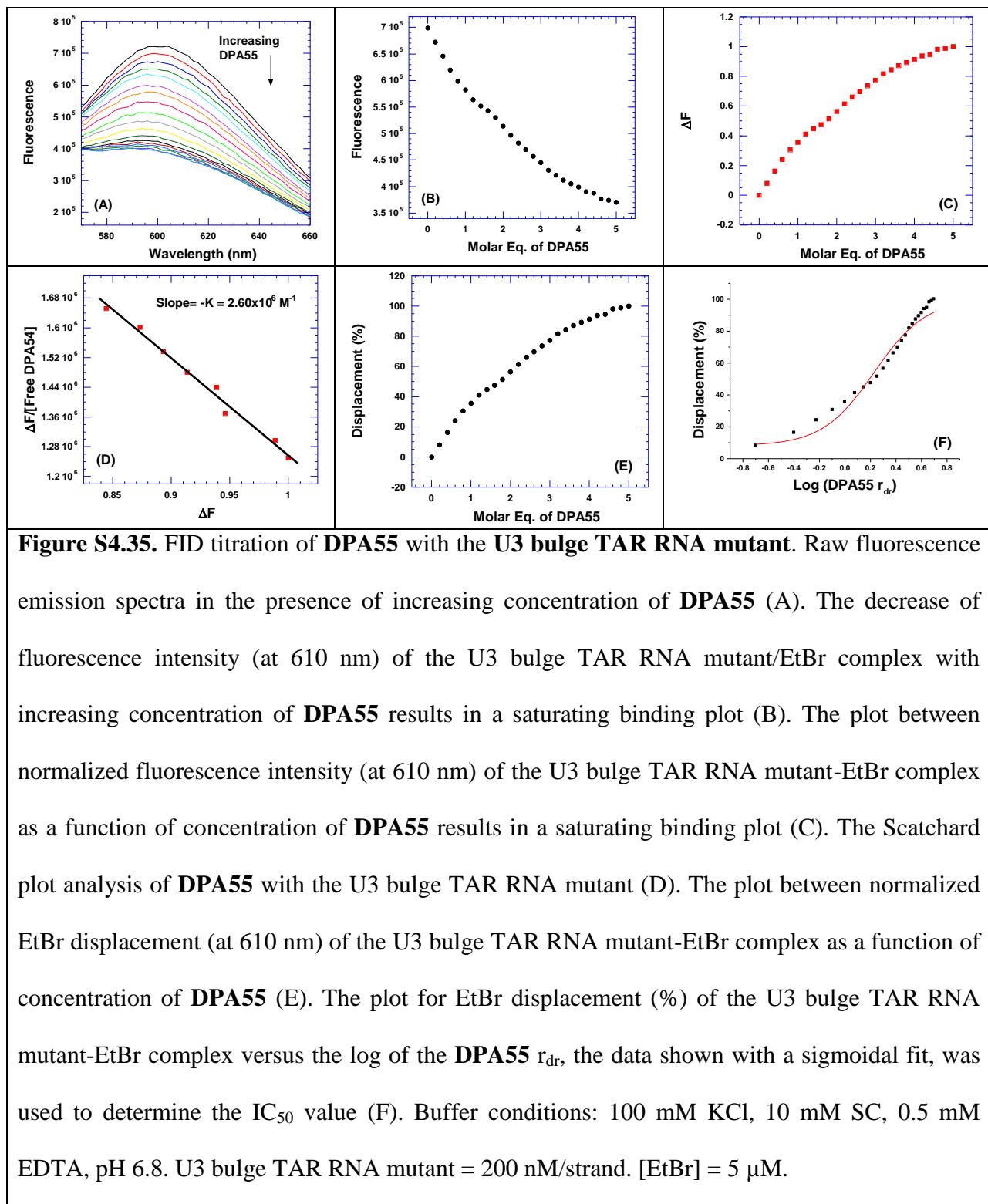


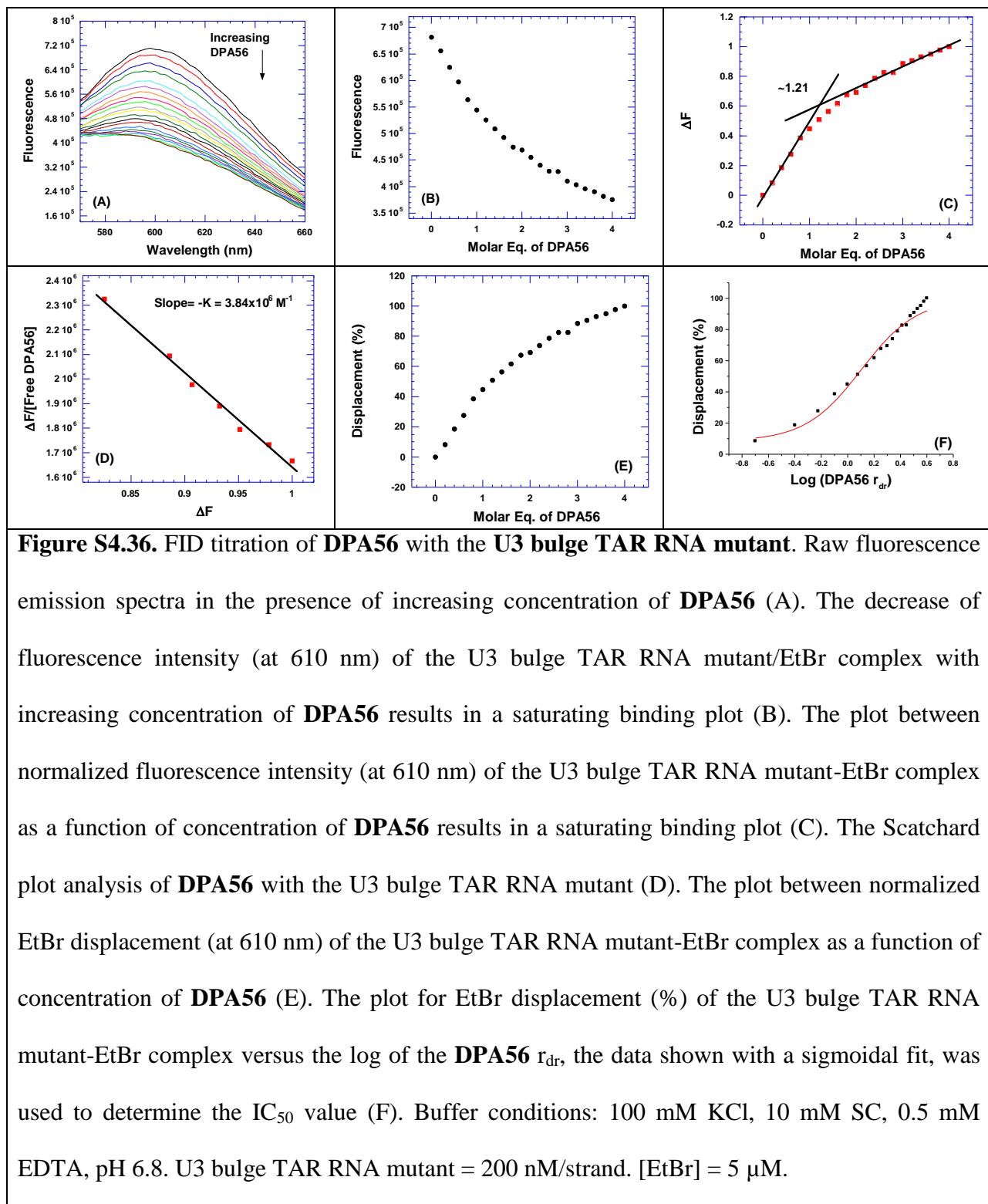
**Figure S4.32. FID titration of DPA52 with the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant.** Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA52** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA52** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA52** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA52** with the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA52** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA52**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the IC<sub>50</sub> value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand. [EtBr] = 5  $\mu$ M.

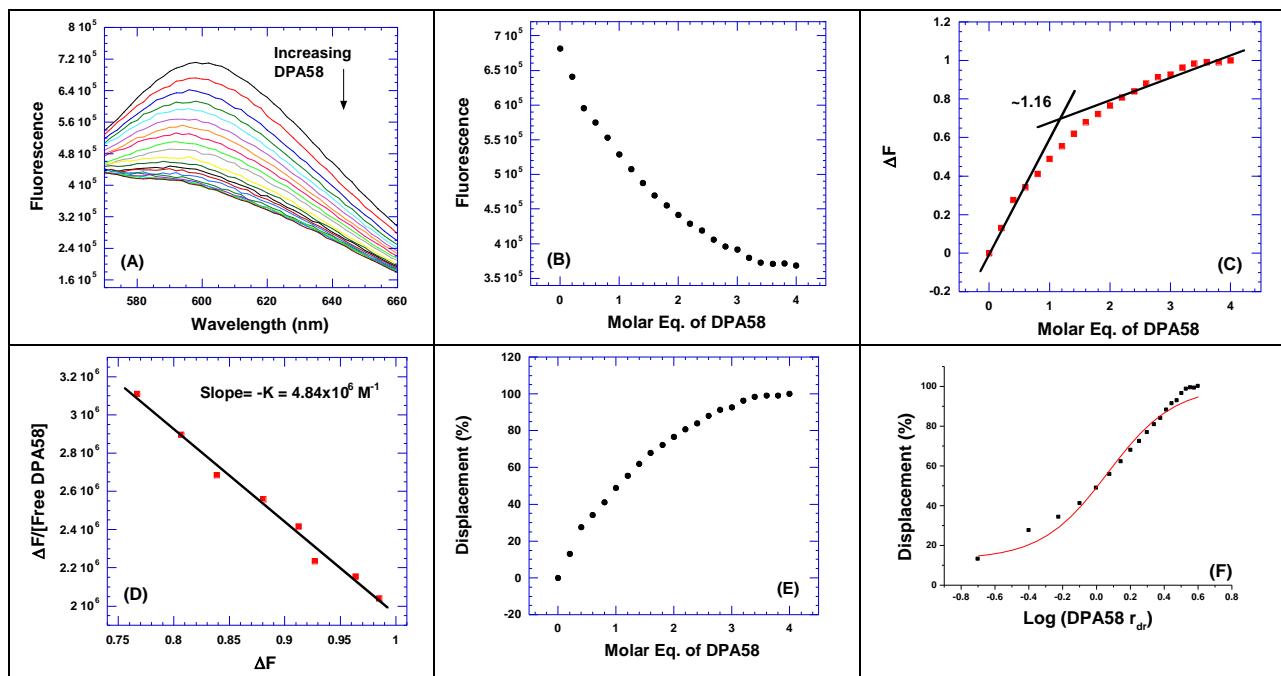


**Figure S4.33. FID titration of DPA53 with the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant.** Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA53** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA53** (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA53** (C). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand. [EtBr] = 5  $\mu$ M.

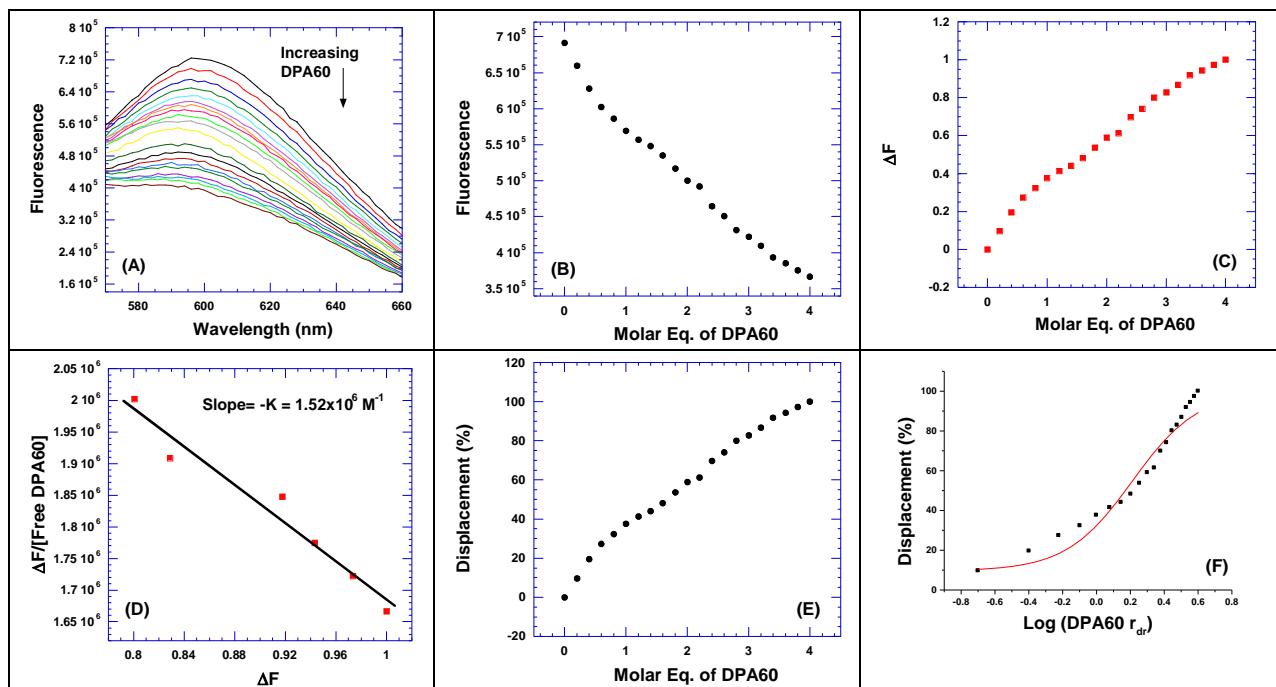




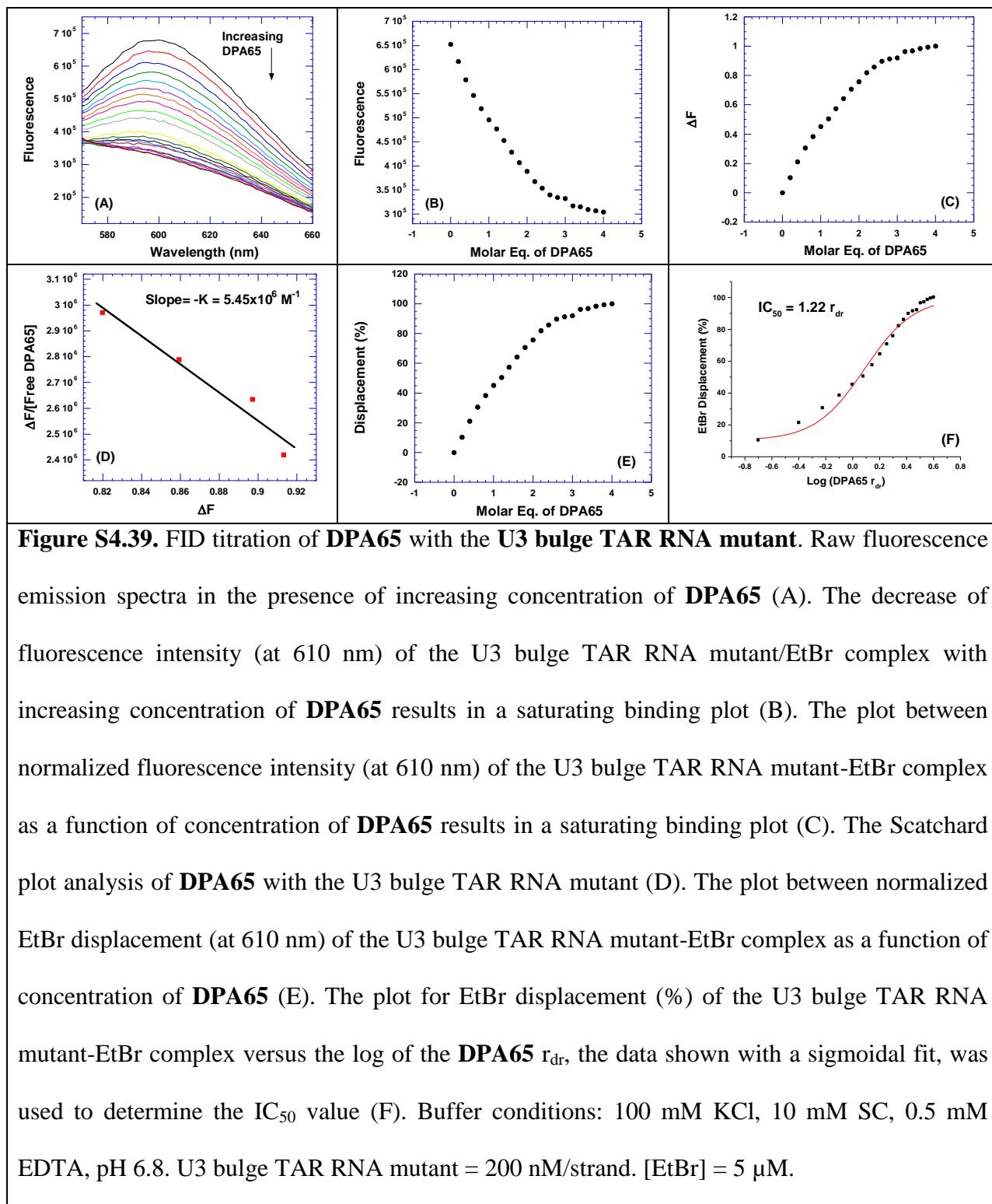


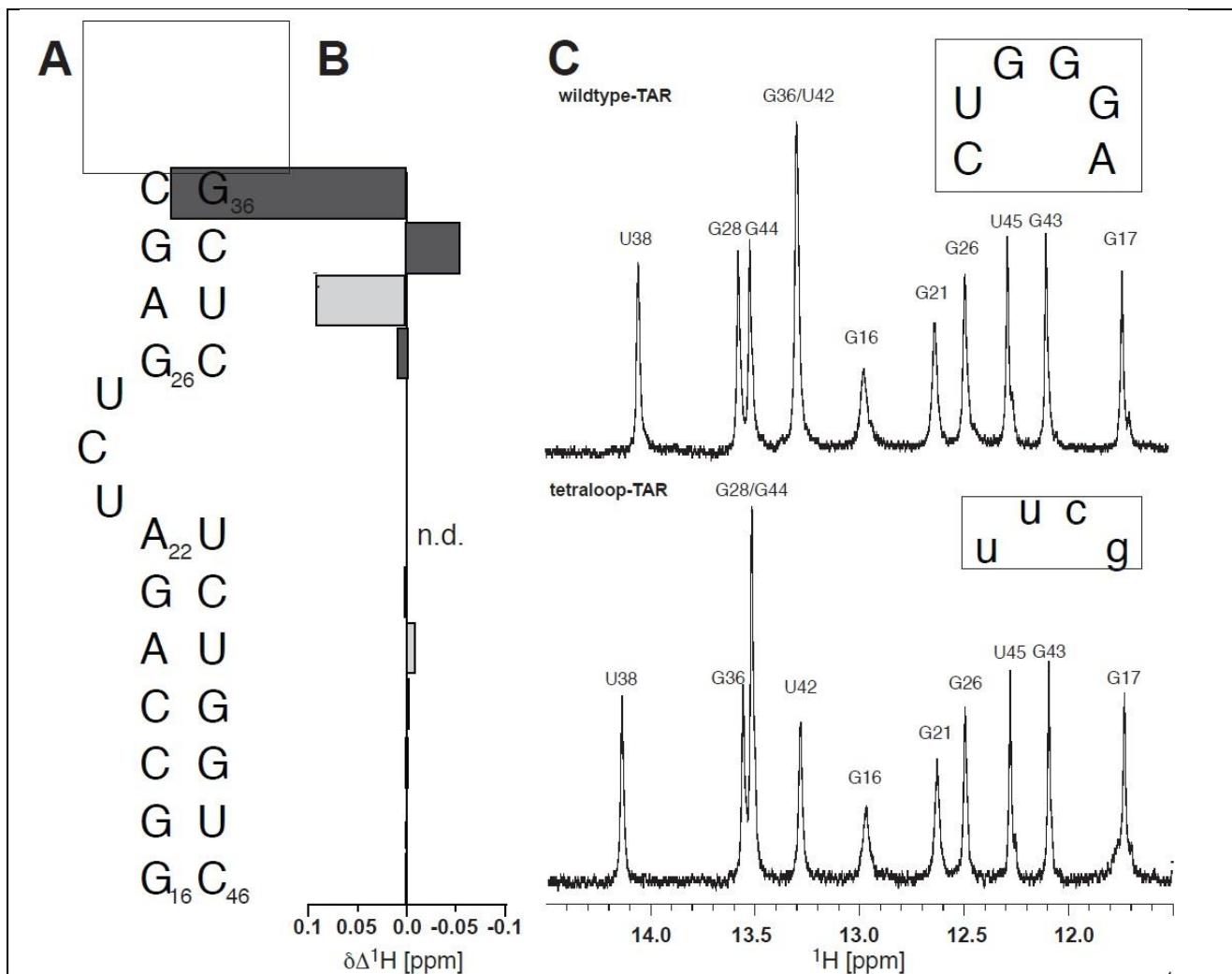


**Figure S4.37. FID titration of **DPA58** with the **U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant**.** Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA58** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA58** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA58** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA58** with the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA58** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA58**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .



**Figure S4.38. FID titration of **DPA60** with the **U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant**.** Raw fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of increasing concentration of **DPA60** (A). The decrease of fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant/EtBr complex with increasing concentration of **DPA60** results in a saturating binding plot (B). The plot between normalized fluorescence intensity (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA60** results in a saturating binding plot (C). The Scatchard plot analysis of **DPA60** with the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant (D). The plot between normalized EtBr displacement (at 610 nm) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex as a function of concentration of **DPA60** (E). The plot for EtBr displacement (%) of the U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant-EtBr complex versus the log of the **DPA60**  $r_{dr}$ , the data shown with a sigmoidal fit, was used to determine the  $IC_{50}$  value (F). Buffer conditions: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM SC, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 6.8. U3 bulge TAR RNA mutant = 200 nM/strand.  $[EtBr] = 5 \mu M$ .





**Figure S5.1** (A) Secondary structure (stems + bulge) of TAR variants used for NMR studies. (B) Chemical shift changes ( $\Delta\delta = \delta_{\text{tetra}} - \delta_{\text{wildtype}}$  [ppm]) of GH1 (dark gray bars) and UH3 (light gray bars), respectively. Overlapped- or imino resonances broadened beyond detection are labeled n.d. (not determined) (C) Imino regions of 1D  $^1\text{H}$ -jump-return echo experiments of wildtype- and tetraloop TAR. Data were collected on TAR variant samples containing ca. 0.25 mM RNA in 500  $\mu\text{l}$  volume of NMR buffer. Spectra were recorded at 298K on a Bruker Avance III 850 MHz spectrometer.

