## Luminescent Zinc salophen derivatives:

## cytotoxicity assessment and action

## mechanism studies

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## **Supporting Information**



Figure S1. AFM images of pBR322 plasmid DNA (0.10  $\mu$ M) incubated with 1 (0.33  $\mu$ M) during 24 h.



Figure S2. AFM images of pBR322 plasmid DNA (0.10  $\mu$ M) incubated with 2 (0.15  $\mu$ M) during 24 h.



Figure S3. Electronic absorption spectra of complex 2 in the absence and presence of increasing amounts of ct-DNA. Inset: Plot of [DNA] *vs*. [DNA]/( $\epsilon_a$ - $\epsilon_f$ )).



Figure S4. Emission spectra of ethidium bromide (EB) bound to DNA in the absence and presence of increasing amounts of 2. Inset: Stern-Volmer plot:  $I_0/I$  vs [2].



Figure S5. Normalized absorption spectra of 1 recorded at different pH values.



Figure S6. Normalized absorption spectra of 2 recorded at different pH values.



Figure S7. Microscopy images of 3T3 cells incubated for 24 h with concentrations of compound 2 above 70 μM. White light is used for co-localize cells. Green area represents fluorescent compound 2.



**Figure S8**. 20x microscopy image of cells in DAPI-staining solution, using a UV2A fluorescence filter. Image of the negative effect on nucleotide in the presence of compound **2** (concentration of 50  $\mu$ g/mL, left) compared to positive control with MMS

(right).





**Figure S9.** Binding-time studies of **1** (70  $\mu$ M concentration) with 3T3 cells. The pictures were taken with a fluorescence microscope equipped with a UV2A filter.





Figure S10. Binding-time studies of 2 (70  $\mu$ M concentration) with 3T3 cells. The pictures were taken with a fluorescence microscope equipped with a UV2A filter.



Figure S11. 20x Fluorescence microscopy image of nucleoids incubated with 1 (concentration of 50  $\mu$ g/mL) in the absence (left) and in the presence of 10% DAPI (right).



**Figure S12.** Fluorescence confocal microscopy image of 3T3 incubated cells with Draq5 (left), salophen complex **2** (middle) and superimposed images (right).