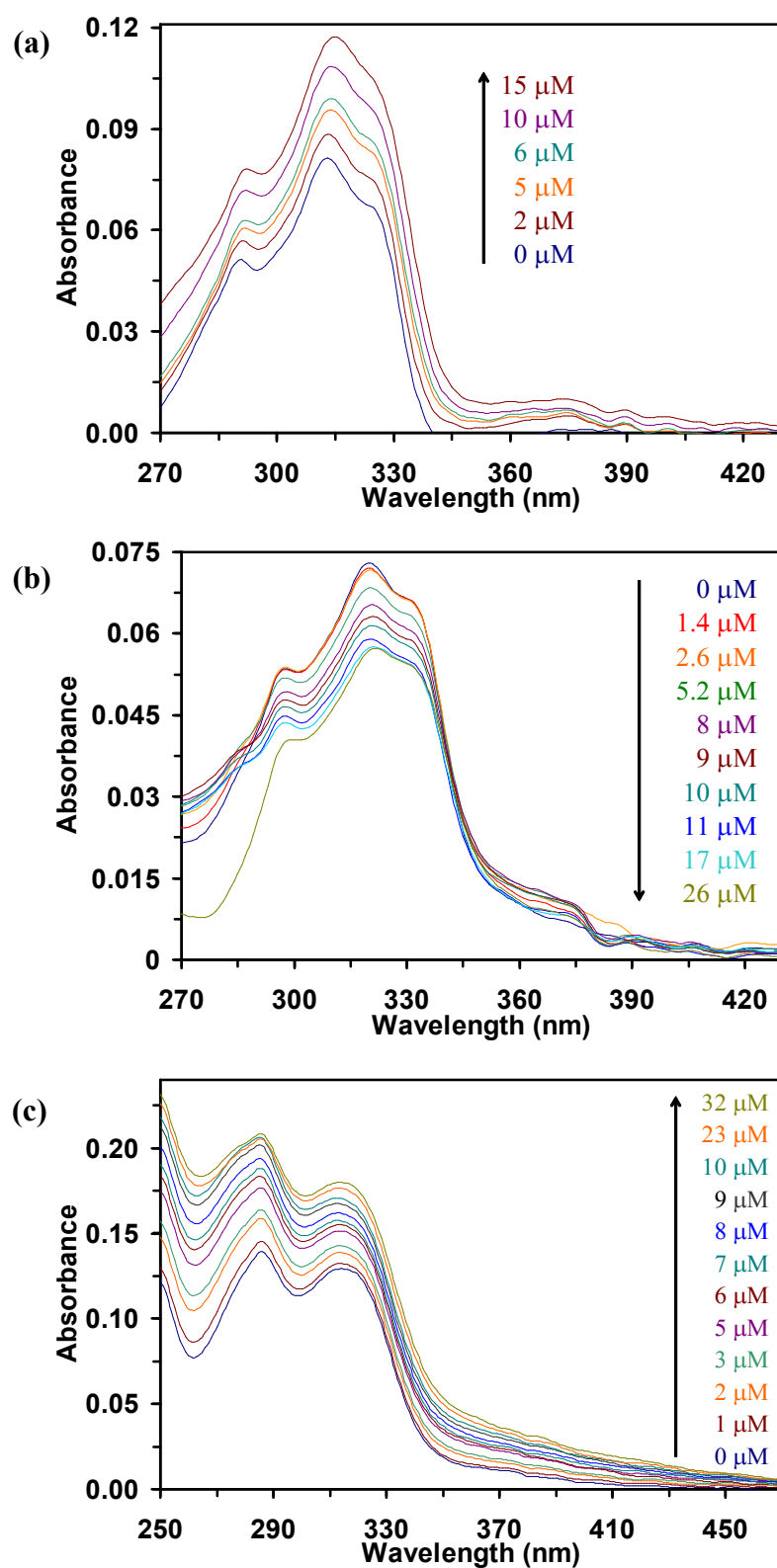


## **Excited State Proton Transfer of 2-(2'-Hydroxyphenyl)benzimidazole and Its Nitrogen Substituted Analogues in Bovine Serum Albumin**

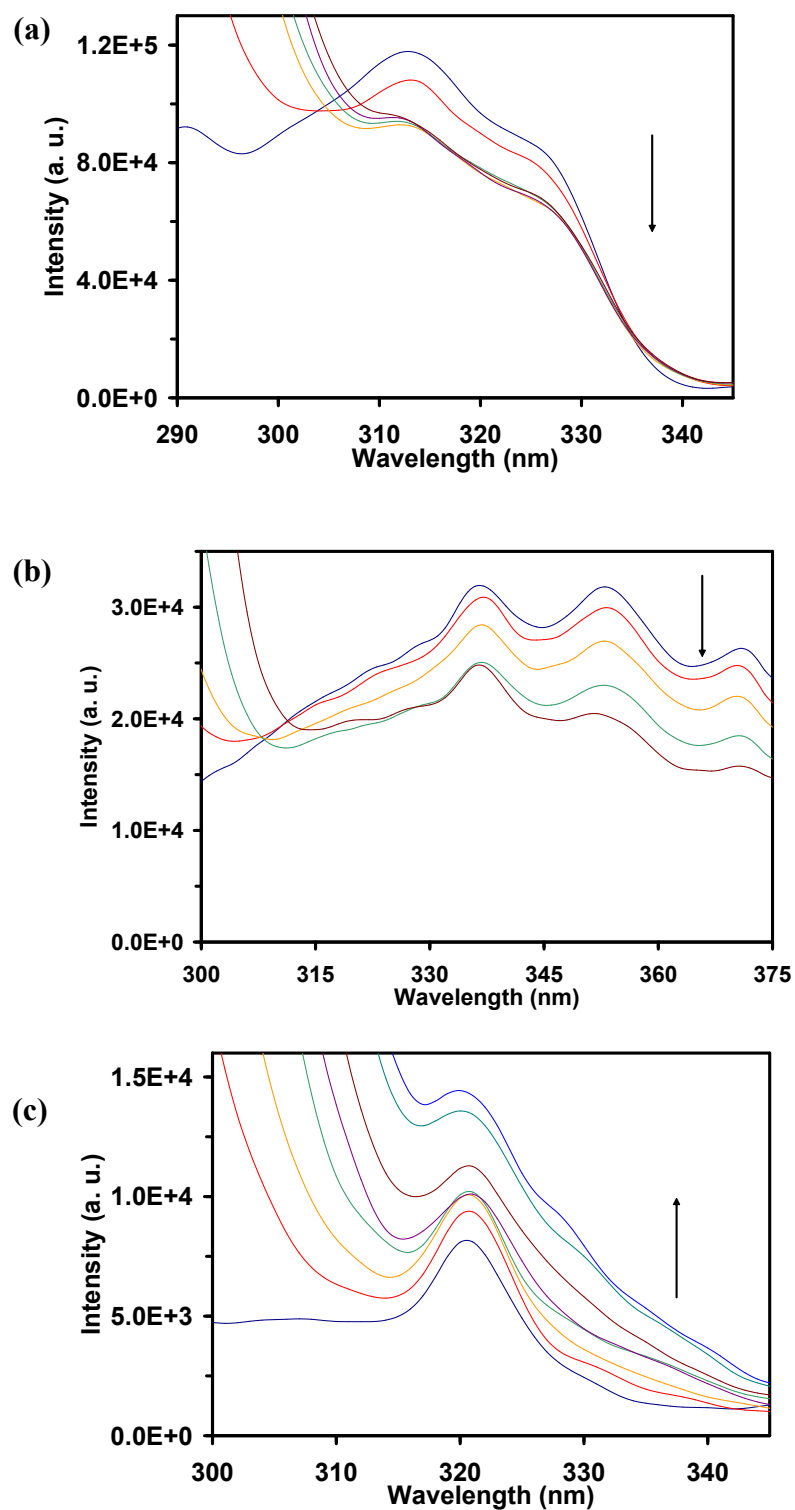
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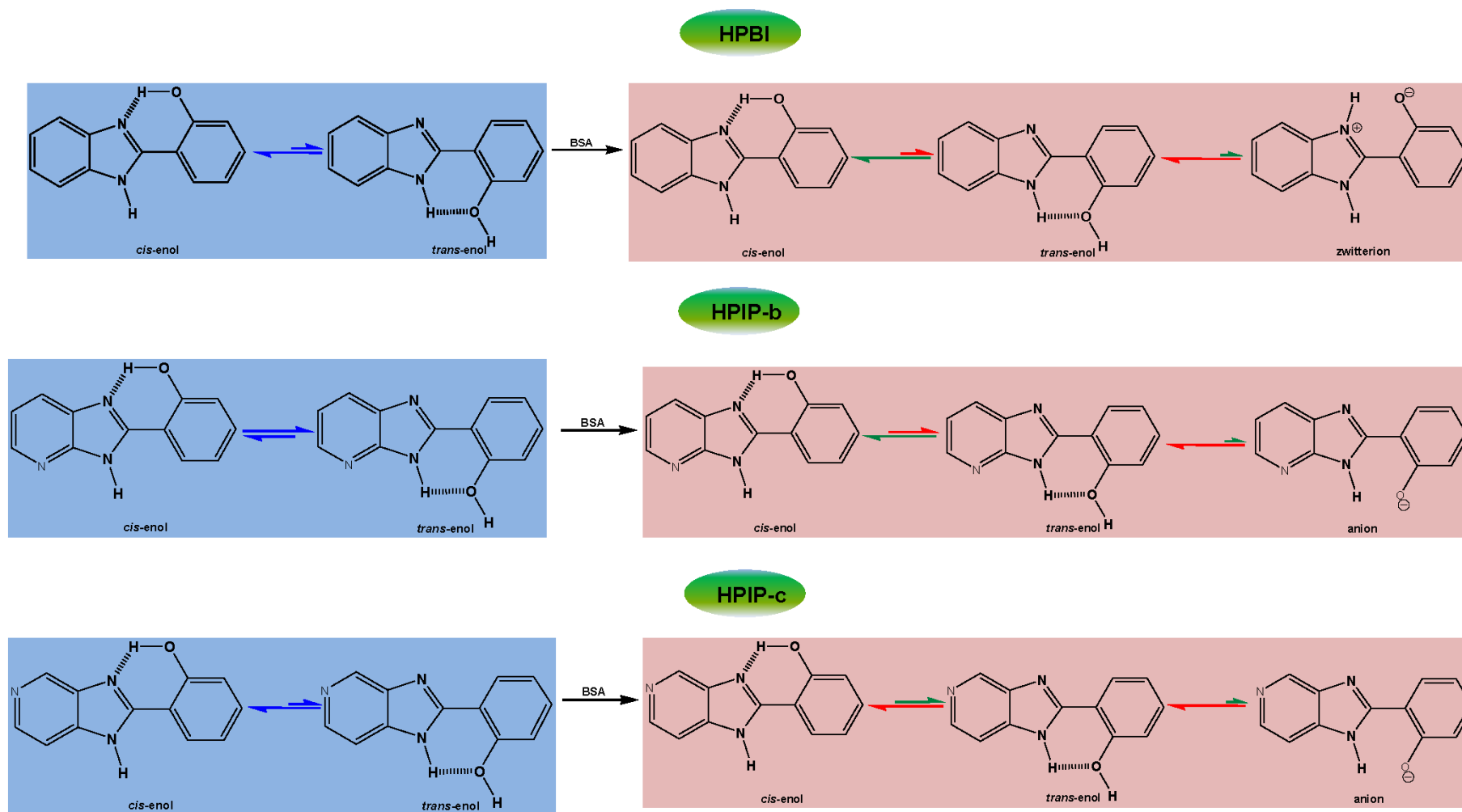
**Supplementary Information**



**Figure S1.** Absorption spectra of (a) HPBI, (b) HPIP-b, and (c) HPIP-c in presence of BSA measured at room temperature ( $298 \pm 2\text{K}$ ). The ligand concentration and cell path were  $5 \mu\text{M}$  and 1 cm, respectively.



**Figure S2.** Fluorescence excitation spectra of (a) HPBI ( $\lambda_{em} = 350$  nm), (b) HPIP-b ( $\lambda_{em} = 380$  nm), and (c) HPIP-c ( $\lambda_{em} = 360$  nm) monitored at the normal bands in presence of BSA at room temperature ( $298 \pm 2$  K). The ligand concentration is  $5 \mu\text{M}$ .



**Scheme S1.** Effect of BSA on the equilibriums of HPBI and its nitrogen substituted analogues.