

# Supporting Information

*for*

## Isocyanide or Nitrosyl Complexation to Hemes with Varying Tethered Axial Base Ligand

### Donors: Synthesis and Characterization

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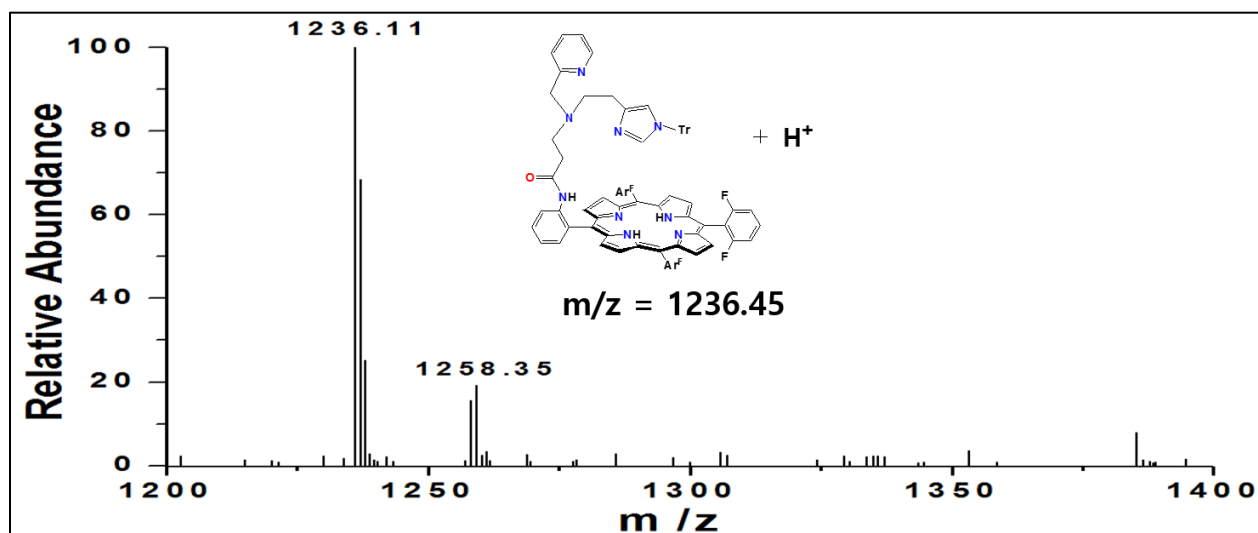
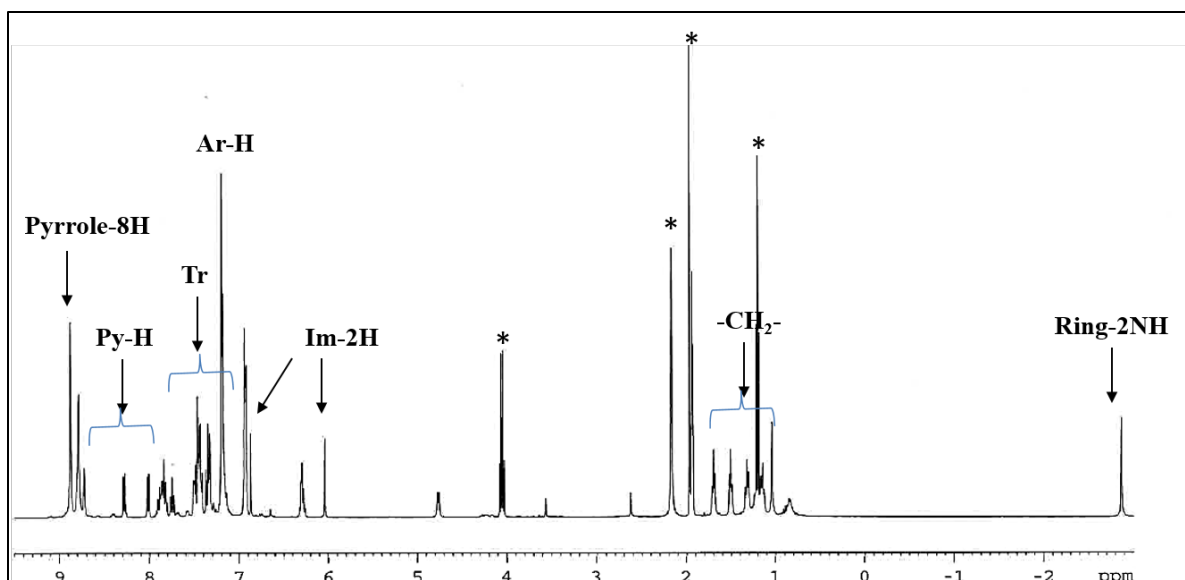
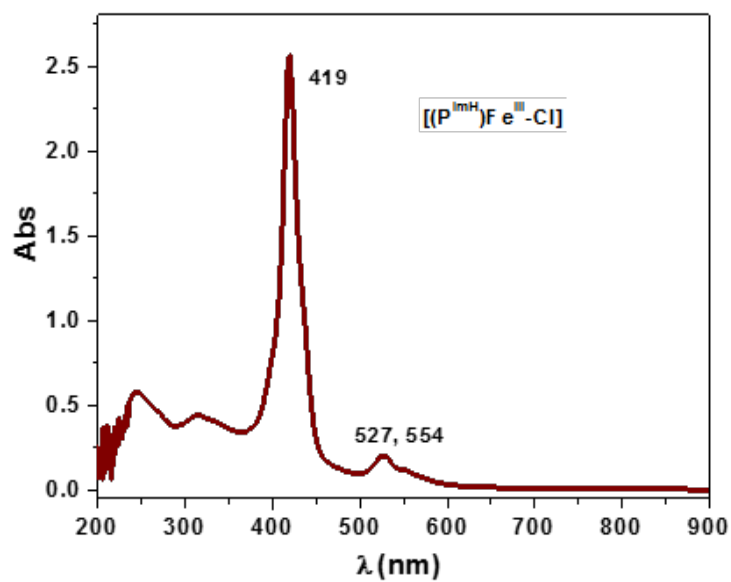


Fig. S1. ESI-MS of the porphyrin ligand  $P^{ImTr}$ , corresponding to  $M+H^+$  and  $M+Na^+$  (1258.35) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  at 293 K.



**Fig. S2.**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra of covalently linked histamine containing porphyrin  $\text{P}^{\text{ImTr}}$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  at 293 K. (\*) corresponds to solvent molecules, residual NMR solvent  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  and ethyl acetate (used as an eluent for column chromatography).



**Fig. S3.** UV-Vis spectra of heme iron(III) porphyrin,  $[(\text{P}^{\text{ImH}})\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}-\text{Cl}]$  complex in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at 293 K.

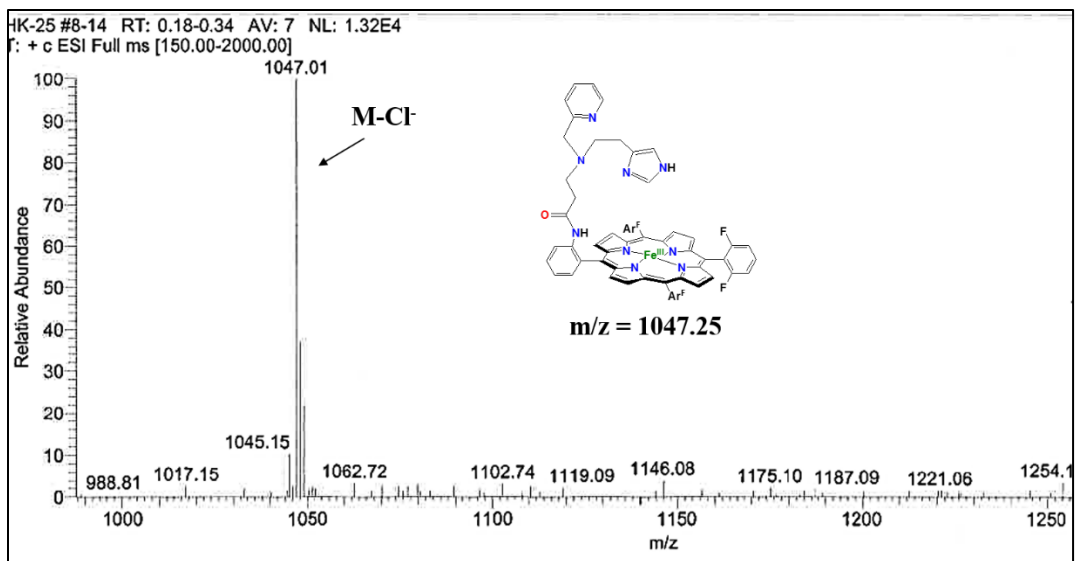


Fig. S4. ESI-MS of  $[(P^{ImH})Fe^{III}-Cl]$  in  $CH_2Cl_2$  at 293 K; the peak at 1047.01 corresponds to M-Cl.

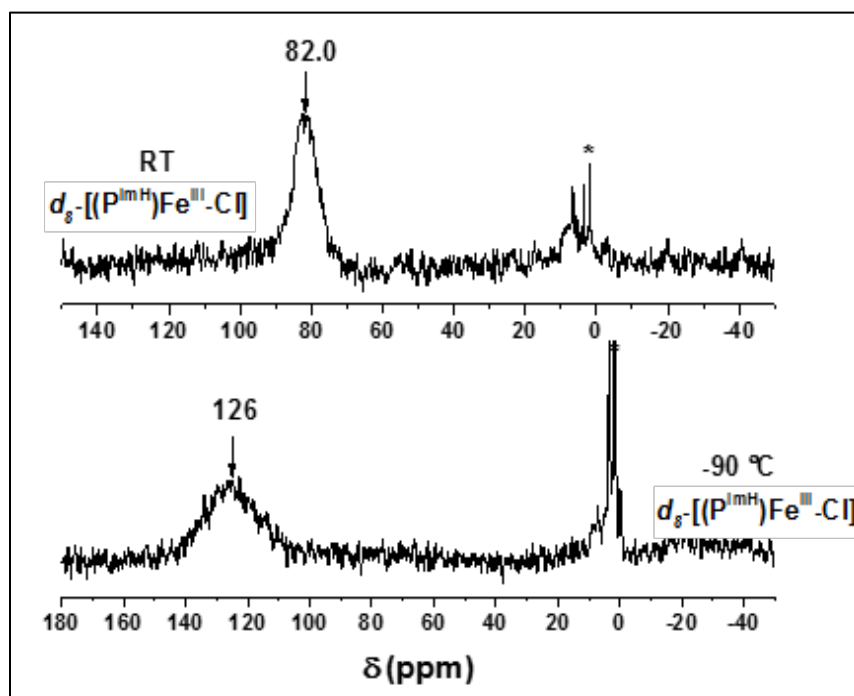
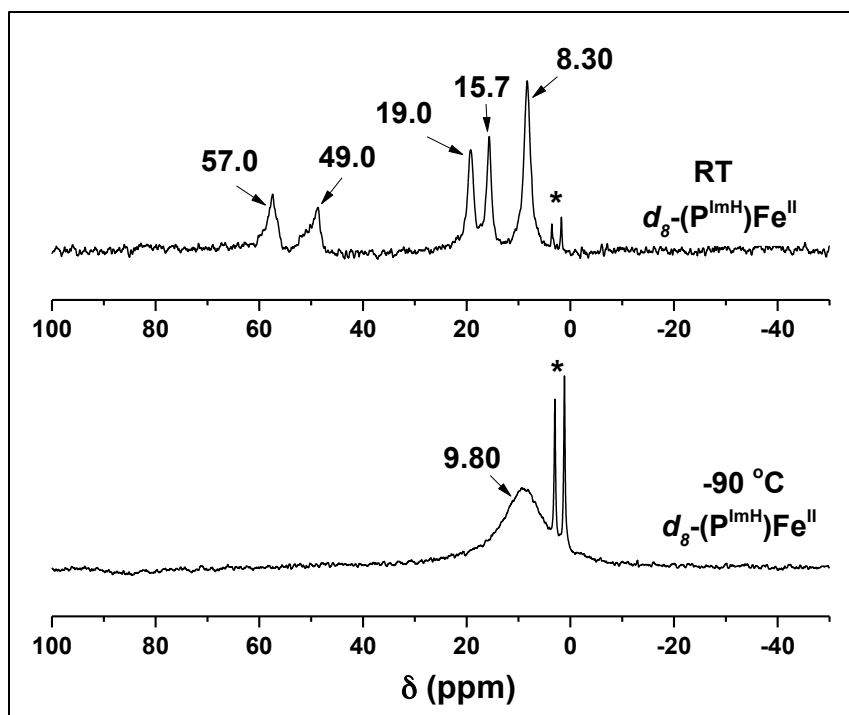
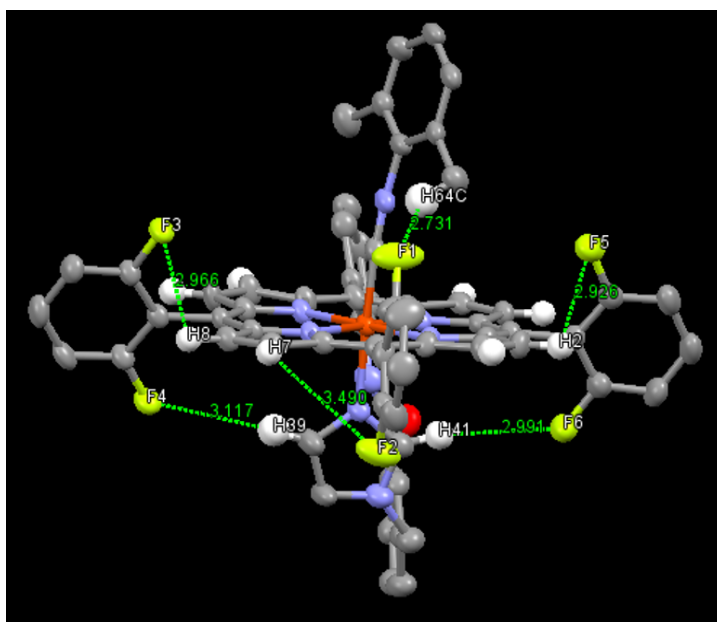


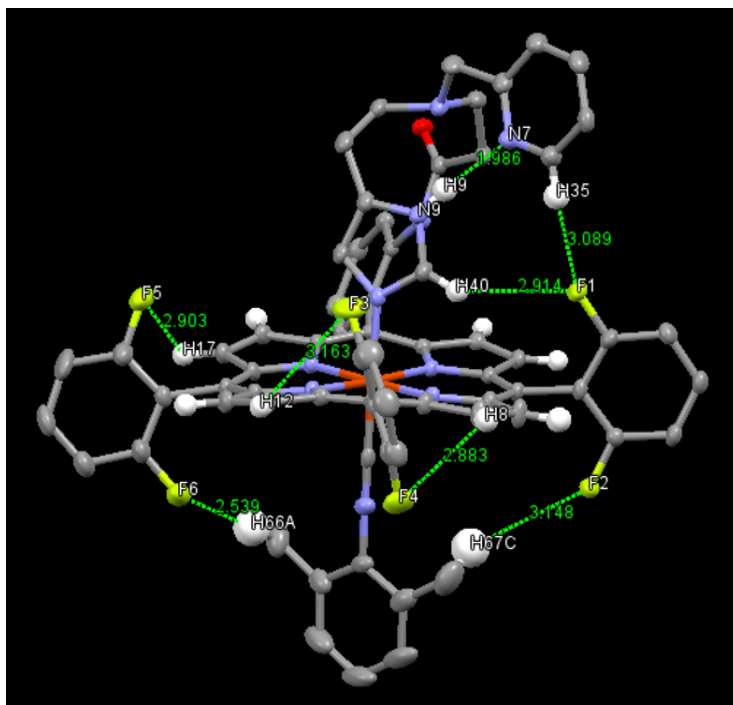
Fig. S5. (top)  $^2H$ -NMR spectra of heme iron(III) complex  $d_8-[(P^{ImH})Fe^{III}-Cl]$  in THF ( $\delta_{pyrrole} = 82.0$  ppm) at 293 K. (bottom)  $^2H$ -NMR spectra of heme iron(III) complex  $d_8-[(P^{ImH})Fe^{III}-Cl]$  in THF ( $\delta_{pyrrole} = 126$  ppm) at 183 K. (\*) corresponds to solvent molecule THF.



**Fig. S6.** (top)  $^2\text{H}$ -NMR spectra of heme iron(II) complex  $d_8\text{-}[(\text{P}^{\text{ImH}})\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}]$  in THF ( $\delta_{\text{pyrrole}} = 57.0, 49.0, 19.0, 15.7, 8.30$  ppm) at 293 K, (ratio of pyrrole-H is 1:1:2:4). (bottom)  $^2\text{H}$ -NMR spectra of heme iron(II) complex  $d_8\text{-}[(\text{P}^{\text{ImH}})\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}]$  in THF ( $\delta_{\text{pyrrole}} = 9.80$  ppm) at 183 K. See main text for detail. (\*) corresponds to solvent molecule THF.



**Fig. S7.** Crystal structure of (3)-DIMPI, showing weak intramolecular CH...F interactions identified by the dotted green lines. See main text for detailed discussion.



**Fig. S8.** Crystal structure of (4)-DIMPI, showing weak intramolecular CH...F interaction identified by the dotted green lines. See main text for detailed discussion.

**UV-vis Spectral Titrations for (P)Fe<sup>II</sup> + DIMPI.** To a solution of (P)Fe<sup>II</sup> (12 μM, THF; P = P<sup>Py</sup>, P<sup>Im</sup>, P<sup>ImH</sup>) was added 0.1 – 2.5 equiv of DIMPI in 0.1 equiv increments from a stock solution in THF. UV-vis spectrum was taken after each addition of DIMPI, showing isosbestic conversion of (P)Fe<sup>II</sup> to (P)Fe<sup>II</sup>-DIMPI. The reaction mixture was allowed to equilibrate fully until no further spectral change was observed prior to the next equivalent of DIMPI. A plot of the change in absorbance at 430 nm vs DIMPI resulted in the binding curve shown in Fig. S9 – S11 and could be well fit by a 1:1 binding model, eq 1–4. Using this equation, the best fit of the plot for P<sup>Py</sup>, P<sup>Im</sup> and P<sup>ImH</sup> system gives  $K_a = 2.29 \times 10^7 \text{ M}^{-1}$ ,  $1.19 \times 10^7 \text{ M}^{-1}$  and  $1.29 \times 10^7 \text{ M}^{-1}$ .

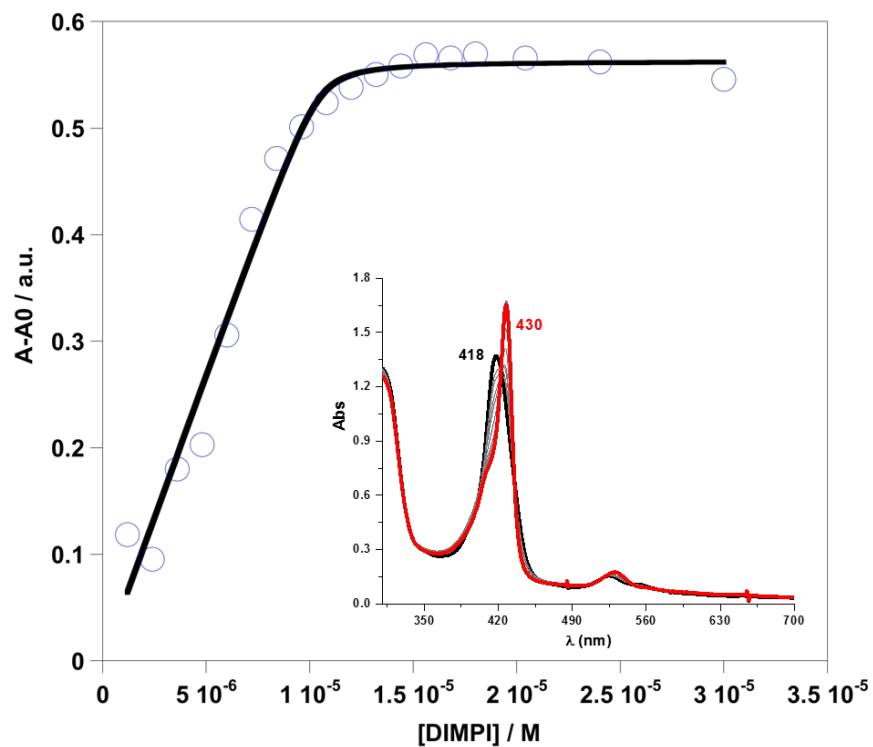


$$K_a = \frac{[(P)Fe^{II}\text{-DIMPI}]}{[(P)Fe^{II}][DIMPI]} \quad (2)$$

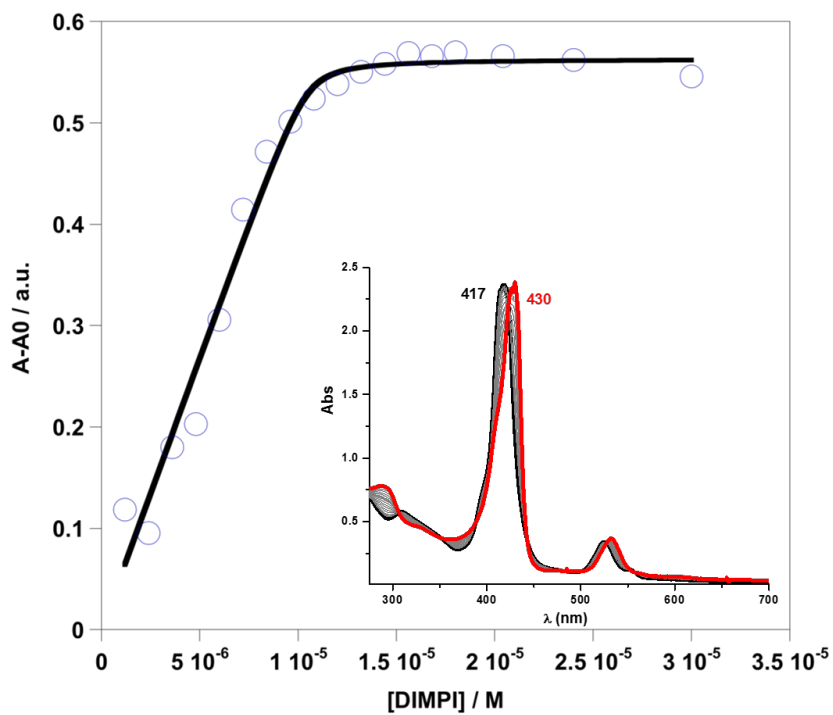
$$\frac{(A - A_0)}{(\epsilon_{Fe^{II}\text{-DIMPI}} - \epsilon_{Fe^{II}})} = [(P)Fe^{II}\text{-DIMPI}] \quad (3)$$

$$[(P)Fe^{II}\text{-DIMPI}] = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ [DIMPI] + [(P)Fe^{II}]_i + \left( \frac{1}{K_a} \right) \right\} - \quad (4)$$

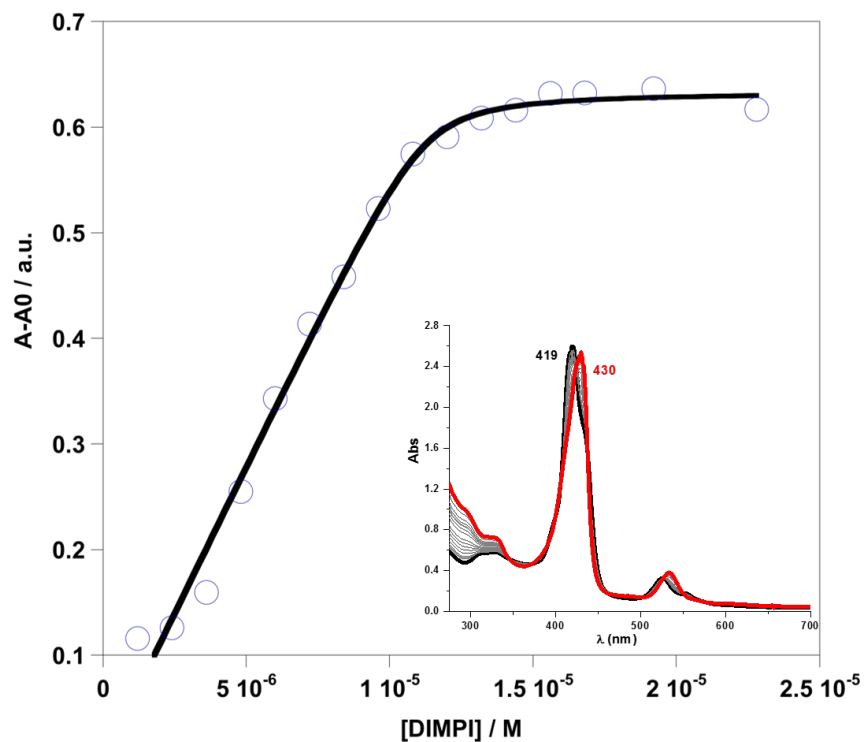
$$\sqrt{\left( [DIMPI] + [(P)Fe^{II}]_i + \left( \frac{1}{K_a} \right) \right)^2 - 4 [DIMPI][ (P)Fe^{II}]_i}$$



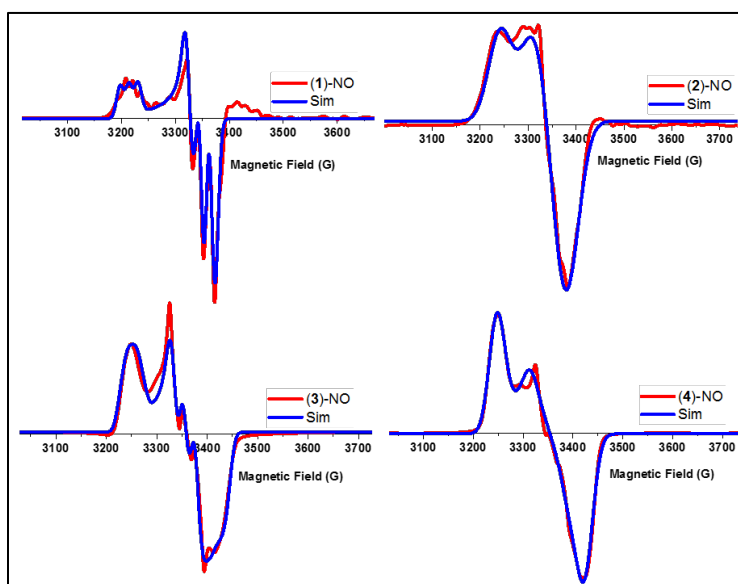
**Fig. S9.** Binding isotherm at 430 nm resulting from the reaction of  $(P^{Py})Fe^{II}$  (12  $\mu M$  in 2.5 mL Tetrahydrofuran, THF, black) and DIMPI (red,  $(P^{Py})Fe^{II}$ -DIMPI).  $K_a = 2.29 \times 10^7 M^{-1}$  See main text for detailed discussion.



**Fig. S10.** Binding isotherm at 430 nm resulting from the reaction of  $(P^{Im})Fe^{II}$  (12  $\mu M$  in 2.5 mL Tetrahydrofuran, THF, black) and DIMPI (red,  $(P^{Im})Fe^{II}$ -DIMPI).  $K_a = 1.19 \times 10^7 M^{-1}$  See main text for detailed discussion.



**Fig. S11.** Binding isotherm at 430 nm resulting from the reaction of  $(P^{ImH})Fe^{II}$  (12  $\mu$ M in 2.5 mL Tetrahydrofuran, THF, black) and DIMPI (red,  $(P^{ImH})Fe^{II}$ -DIMPI).  $K_a = 1.29 \times 10^7 M^{-1}$ . See main text for detailed discussion.



**Fig. S12.** X-band EPR spectroscopy of ferrous heme-NO complexes recorded at 8K in frozen THF (red) and fit of the spectrum using the program Easy Spin [1] (blue). Fit parameters:  
 (a) (1)-NO ( $g_1 = 2.0918$ ,  $g_2 = 2.0074$ ,  $g_3 = 2.0052$ ; N hyperfine:  $^{NO}A_1 = 48.78$ ,  $^{NO}A_2 = 67.63$ ,  $^{NO}A_3 = 35.68$ )  
 (b) (2)-NO ( $g_1 = 2.0746$ ,  $g_2 = 2.0081$ ,  $g_3 = 1.9904$ ; N hyperfine:  $^{NO}A_1 = 4.0$ ,  $^{NO}A_2 = 60.4$ ,  $^{NO}A_3 = 35.8$ ;  $^{Py}A_1 = 18.1$ ,  $^{Py}A_2 = 20.1$ ,  $^{Py}A_3 = 19.1$ )



(c) (3)-NO ( $g_1 = 2.0686$ ,  $g_2 = 2.002$ ,  $g_3 = 1.9662$ ; N hyperfine:  ${}^{\text{NO}}A_1 = 44.10$ ,  ${}^{\text{NO}}A_2 = 63.18$ ,  ${}^{\text{NO}}A_3 = 47.45$ ;  ${}^{\text{Im}}A_1 = 22.94$ ,  ${}^{\text{Im}}A_2 = 1.29$ ,  ${}^{\text{Im}}A_3 = 16.84$ )  
(d) (4)-NO ( $g_1 = 2.0690$ ,  $g_2 = 2.0050$ ,  $g_3 = 1.9643$ ; N hyperfine:  ${}^{\text{NO}}A_1 = 14.68$ ,  ${}^{\text{NO}}A_2 = 23.97$ ,  ${}^{\text{NO}}A_3 = 71.75$ ;  ${}^{\text{ImH}}A_1 = 2.0$ ,  ${}^{\text{ImH}}A_2 = 4.3$ ,  ${}^{\text{ImH}}A_3 = 10.2$ )

## Reference

1. S. Stoll and A. Schweiger (2006) Journal of Magnetic Resonance 178:42-55; <http://easyspin.org/>