# **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

# [12]aneN<sub>3</sub>-based multifunctional compounds as fluorescent probes and nucleic acids delivering agents

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### 1. Spectroscopic properties of 1a-1e



**Fig. S1** The absorption spectra (50  $\mu$ M) and fluorescence (10  $\mu$ M) spectra of **1a-1e** in water-Tris-HCl buffer (1 mM, pH = 7.2).

Probes	Fluorescent Intensity (F0,	Fluorescent Intensity (F,	Fluorescent Changes
	before addition of Cu <sup>2+</sup> )	after addition of Cu <sup>2+</sup> )	(F0/ F)
1a	605.86	60.91	9.95
1b	810.36	17.15	47.25
1c	339.10	57.22	5.93
1d	866.29	13.60	63.69
1e	582.98	39.97	14.59

**Table S1** The fluorescent intensity changes of **1a-1e** after addition of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions



**Fig. S2** Selectivity studies of **1b** with  $Cu^{2+}$  in the presence of other metal ions. Blue bars represent the addition of the competing metal ion (100  $\mu$ M) to the solution of the 1 (10  $\mu$ M). Red bars represent the addition of  $Cu^{2+}$  (30  $\mu$ M) to the solution containing other metal ions.



**Fig. S3** Plots of fluorescence intensity of **1a-1e** as a function of  $[Cu^{2+}]/[1]$ . The standard deviations obtained by fluorescence responses of **1a-1e** were determined to be  $\sigma = 1.17$ , 0.63, 1.08, 0.13 and 0.34 for  $Cu^{2+}$ , therefore, the detection limits were calculated by the formula  $(3\sigma/k)$  and given the results of  $1.21 \times 10^{-8}$  M,  $7.48 \times 10^{-9}$  M,  $4.40 \times 10^{-8}$  M,  $1.23 \times 10^{-9}$  M and  $2.36 \times 10^{-9}$  M, respectively.



**Fig. S4** Job's plot showing the 1:1 (**1a-1d**/Cu<sup>2+</sup>) and 1:2 (**1e**/Cu<sup>2+</sup>) complex stiochiometry, mole fraction of Cu<sup>2+</sup> X =  $[Cu^{2+}]/([Cu^{2+}]+[1])$ ,  $[Cu^{2+}]+[1] = 30 \mu M$  in Tris-HCl buffer.



Fig.S5  $^{1}$ H NMR of compound **1b** upon titration of Cu(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (CD<sub>3</sub>SOCD<sub>3</sub>)



Fig.S6 The proposed binding modes of  ${\bf 1}$  and  ${\rm Cu}^{2+}$ 

# 2. Characterization of 1a-1e/RNA (DNA) complexes





**Fig. S7** (A1-E1) Mean diameter and (A2-E2) zeta potential of **1a-1e**/DNA complexes and **1a-1e**/RNA complexes obtained at various concentrations by DLS.



## 3 Cell uptake of 1a-1e/RNA (DNA) complexes

**Fig. S7** Fluorescence microscope images of HeLa cells transfected with Cy5-labaled siRNA (9  $\mu$ g/mL) by **1b** at different concentrations. A1-A4: BF, B1-B4: red channels, C1-C4: green channels.



**Fig. S8** Fluorescence microscope images of HeLa cells transfected with Cy5-labaled siRNA (9  $\mu$ g/mL) by 25 KDa PEI at different weight ratios. A1-A4: BF, B1-B4: red channels.



**Fig. S9** Fluorescence microscope images of HeLa cells transfected with Cy5-labaled siRNA (9  $\mu$ g/mL) by lipofectamine 2000 at different weight ratios. A1-A4: BF, B1-B4: red channels.



**Fig. S10** Fluorescence microscope images of HepG2 cells transfected with Cy5-labaled siRNA (9  $\mu$ g/mL) by MFCs **1a-1e** at the concentration of 20  $\mu$ M, 25 kD PEI and lipofectamiine 2000 as positive control. A1-E1: red channels, A2-E2: green channels.



**Fig. S11** Fluorescence microscope images of U2Os cells transfected with Cy5-labaled siRNA (9  $\mu$ g/mL) by MFCs **1a-1e** at the concentration of 20  $\mu$ M, 25 kD PEI and lipofectamiine 2000 as positive control. A1-E1: red channels, A2-E2: green channels.



**Fig. S12** Fluorescence microscope images of MC3T3-E1 cells transfected with Cy5-labaled siRNA (9  $\mu$ g/mL) by MFCs 1a-1e at the concentration of 20  $\mu$ M, 25 kD PEI and lipofectamiine 2000 as positive control. A1-E1: red channels, A2-E2: green channels.

#### 4. Cytotoxicity



**Fig. S13** Cytotoxicities of the complexes of MFCs **1a-1e**/DNA at different concentrations on HeLa, HepG2, U2Os and MC3T3-E1 cells.

### 5. Spectroscopic data of compounds

**4a**: 59%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.59 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.48 (dd, *J* = 17.1, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (s, 2H), 7.28 - 7.09 (m, 4H), 5.45 (s, 4H), 4.15 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.83 - 3.76 (m, 8H), 3.33 (s, 16H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 8H), 1.88 - 1.82 (m, 12H), 1.73 - 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.45 (s, 38H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 169.68, 164.15, 163.76, 155.96, 143.89, 137.52, 136.45, 132.15, 130.98, 130.44, 129.94, 127.91, 126.38, 125.16, 122.93, 115.55, 114.88, 79.07, 53.01, 49.56, 46.52, 45.30, 43.70, 41.90, 39.85, 37.62, 30.11, 28.36, 27.62, 25.96, 20.22, 13.73; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3338.86, 3127.11, 2967.17, 2931.93, 1690.36, 1649.70, 1581.93 1416.57, 1359.64, 1245.78, 1169.88, 776.81; EI-MS calcd. For  $C_{73}H_{109}N_{15}O_{11}$  (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 1372.8, found 1373.0.

**4b**: 78%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.57 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (s, 1H), 7.73 (s, 2H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (s, 7H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.52 (s, 4H), 4.19 - 4.12 (m, 2H), 3.89 (s, 2H), 3.70 (s, 4H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 3.30 - 3.24 (m, 16H), 2.39 (s, 8H), 1.90 - 1.66 (m, 14H), 1.42 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 38H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  168.55, 164.39, 163.90, 156.20, 149.97, 144.08, 136.55, 135.81, 134.13, 130.72, 130.16, 129.45, 127.07, 124.42, 122.41, 120.11, 109.37, 103.27, 79.25, 53.12, 49.65, 46.87, 45.31, 43.90, 39.73, 39.22, 30.21, 28.38, 25.84, 25.40, 20.29, 13.78; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3379.22, 2967.17, 2923.80, 1684.94, 1646.99, 1584.64, 1413.86, 1362.35, 1248.49, EI-MS calcd. For C<sub>71</sub>H<sub>105</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>11</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 1344.8, found 1344.9.

**4c**: 57%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.61 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.76 - 7.72 (m, 1H), 7.41 (s, 2H), 7.31 (s, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 5.56 (s, 4H), 4.31

(t, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.20 - 4.15 (m, 2H), 4.07 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 4H), 3.31 (s, 18H), 2.44 - 2.42 (m, 8H), 1.88 - 1.83 (m, 12H), 1.73 - 1.67 (m, 4H), 1.44 (s, 38H), 1.28 - 1.21 (m, 2H), 0.98 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O)  $\delta$  166.26, 165.02, 161.60, 161.15, 153.66, 152.17, 141.72, 134.54, 134.26, 129.71, 129.66, 128.53, 128.27, 127.13, 126.99, 126.19, 125.60, 124.01, 123.59, 120.82, 120.26, 115.24, 112.96, 76.67, 62.88, 50.54, 50.39, 47.10, 44.28, 42.82, 41.33, 37.45, 27.93, 27.61, 25.87, 24.75, 23.46, 17.73, 16.54, 11.21, 11.08; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3343.72, 3127.11, 2969.88, 2926.51, 1690.36, 1657.83, 1590.06 1416.57, 1365.06, 1229.52, 1161.75, 784.94; EI-MS calcd. For C<sub>73</sub>H<sub>107</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>11</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 1370.8, found 1370.8.

**7d**: 42%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.58 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.63 - 7.59 (m, 3H), 7.38 (s, 2H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 6.71 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 5.76 (s, 1H), 5.52 (s, 4H), 4.16 (s, 2H), 3.74 (s, 4H), 3.58 - 3.10 (m, 20H), 2.41 (s, 8H), 1.87 - 1.39 (m, 60H), 0.97 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.36, 164.64, 164.06, 156.26, 149.89, 136.84, 136.46, 134.41, 130.93, 129.82, 126.77, 124.38, 122.88, 120.33, 109.64, 104.04, 79.31, 53.25, 49.85, 46.97, 45.39, 43.95, 43.28, 39.85, 39.71 30.28, 29.60 , 29.38, 28.53, 27.88, 26.39, 26.29, 26.04, 20.36, 13.83; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3433.43, 2929.22, 1638.86, 1579.22, 1384.04, 1362.35, 1251.20, 1167.17, 1104.82, 641.2; EI-MS calcd. For C<sub>75</sub>H<sub>113</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>11</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 1400.8, found 1400.6. **7e**: 36%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.49 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (s, 2H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.65 (s, 1H), 5.48 (s, 2H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 4.08 (s, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 3.39 - 3.32 (m, 4H), 3.21 - 3.16 (m, 8H), 2.33 (s, 4H), 1.73 (s, 8H), 1.61 (s, 4H), 1.47 (s, 2H), 1.37 (s, 20H), 1.18 (s, 2H), 0.89 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.61, 164.67, 164.11, 156.30, 149.72, 137.18, 136.56, 136.13, 134.39, 130.97, 129.98, 129.83, 126.41, 126.32, 126.90, 126.41, 126.32, 124.48, 123.02, 120.32, 109.92, 104.12, 79.40, 53.94, 53.48, 49.88, 47.22, 45.42, 44.05, 43.28, 39.90, 39.69, 30.30, 29.63, 29.47, 28.55, 28.45, 26.36, 26.25, 20.39, 13.83; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3438.86, 2926.51, 2099.70, 1638.86, 1579.22, 1549.40, 1384.04, 1359.64, 1248.49, 1164.46, 1115.66, 779.52; EI-MS calcd. For C<sub>53</sub>H<sub>74</sub>N<sub>12</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 991.5, found 991.3.



<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound **4a** (solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



IR spectrum of compound 4a



Ms spectrum of compound 4a



<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound **4b** (solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



IR spectrum of compound 4b



Ms spectrum of compound **4b** (solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub>)







IR spectrum of compound 4c



Ms spectrum of compound 4c







IR spectrum of compound 7d (solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



Ms spectrum of compound 7d (solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub>)







IR spectrum of compound **7e** (solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



Ms spectrum of compound 7e (solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub>)







IR spectrum of compound 1a



#### HRMs spectrum of compound 1a







IR spectrum of compound 1b



#### Single Mass Analysis

Tolerance = 5.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 50.0 Element prediction: Off Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 2



Monoisotopic Mass, Even Electron Ions 671 formula(e) evaluated with 4 results within limits (up to 50 closest results for each mass) Elements Used: C: 0-60 H: 0-80 N: 0-15 O: 0-10 GYG088 46 (0.851) TOF MS ES+



#### HRMs spectrum of compound 1b



<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound **1c** (solvent: D<sub>2</sub>O)







IR spectrum of compound 1c



HRMs spectrum of compound 1c







#### **Elemental Composition Report**

Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 5.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 50.0 Element prediction: Off Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 2

Monoisotopic Mass, Even Electron Ions 6941 formula(e) evaluated with 27 results within limits (up to 50 closest results for each mass) Elements Used: C: 0-100 H: 0-120 N: 0-15 O: 0-10 I: 0-4

GYG-144 11 (0.204) TOF MS ES+

1.83e+003 1000.6703 100 1001.6967 % 1002,7084 1003,7359 1004,7793 1001.2371 1001.9726 1005.7310 0 ----- m/z 1004.00 1000.00 1001.00 1002.00 1003.00 1005.00 1006.00 Minimum: Maximum: -1.550.0 5.0 5.0 mDa PPM DBE Mass Calc. Mass i-FIT Formula -0.1-0.9-0.91.01.21.6-1.7-0.1-0.9-0.91.01.01.21.6-1.7 $\begin{array}{c} 1000, 6704\\ 1000, 6712\\ 1000, 6693\\ 1000, 6693\\ 1000, 6691\\ 1000, 6691\\ 1000, 6720\\ 1000, 6725\\ 1000, 6725\\ 1000, 6725\\ 1000, 6725\\ 1000, 6680\\ 1000, 6726\\ 1000, 6672\\ 1000, 6672\\ 1000, 6672\\ 1000, 6672\\ 1000, 6736\\ 1000, 6736\\ 1000, 6736\\ 1000, 6736\\ 1000, 6736\\ 1000, 6748\\ 1000, 6752\\$  $14.2 \\ 10.4 \\ 239.2 \\ 119.4 \\ 2.5 \\ 19.9 \\ 122.8 \\ 2.9 \\ 268.8 \\ 6.7 \\ 212.1 \\ 2.5 \\ 139.0 \\ 87.8 \\ 29.4 \\ 299.5 \\ 21.6 \\ 215.2 \\ 12$ 1000.6703  $\begin{array}{c} 10.5\\ 17.5\\ 21.5\\ 34.5\\ 5.5\\ 5.5\\ 29.5\\ 222.5\\ 222.5\\ 225.5\\ 29.5\\ 20.5\\ 9.5\\ 5.5\\ 17.5\\ 13.5 \end{array}$ -1.7 1.8 -2.2 -2.2 2.3 2.3 -2.4 -1.7 1.8 -2.2 -2.2 2.3 2.3 -2.4 2.5 I4 I4 -2.5 -2.8 3.1 3.2 -2.4 2.5 -2.8 3.1 3.2 3.2 -3.3 -3.6 -3.6 3.7 3.9 -4.1 -4.9 5.0 3.2 -3.3 -3.6 -3.6 3.7 3.9 -4.1 -4.9 -4.9 5.0 I 2.5 16.5 20.5 20.5 6.5 13.5 21.5 25.5 30.5 45.2 6.5 211.6 3.4 27.3 371.0 3.8 186.4 161.1 I I4

#### HRMs spectrum of compound 1d

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<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound **1e** (solvent: D<sub>2</sub>O)



IR spectrum of compound 1e

#### **Elemental Composition Report**

Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 5.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 50.0 Element prediction: Off Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 2

Monoisotopic Mass, Even Electron Ions 4915 formula(e) evaluated with 11 results within limits (up to 50 closest results for each mass) Elements Used: C: 0-100 H: 0-120 N: 0-15 O: 0-10 I: 0-4

GYG-144S 25 (0.462) TOF MS ES+



#### HRMs spectrum of compound 1e

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