

## *Supplementary Material*

# **Graphene oxide nanosheets tailored with aromatic dipeptide nanoassemblies for a tunable interaction with cell membranes**

**Giuseppe Trapani**<sup>1†§</sup>, **Viviana Carmela Linda Caruso**<sup>2†</sup>, **Lorena Maria Cucci**<sup>2</sup>, **Francesco Attanasio**<sup>3</sup>, **Giovanni Tabbì**<sup>3</sup>, **Giuseppe Forte**<sup>4</sup>, **Diego La Mendola**<sup>5\*</sup> and **Cristina Satriano**<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Scuola Superiore di Catania, University of Catania, 95123 Catania, Italy.

<sup>2</sup> Nano Hybrid BioInterfaces Lab (NHBIL), Department of Chemical Sciences, University of Catania, 95125 Catania, Italy.

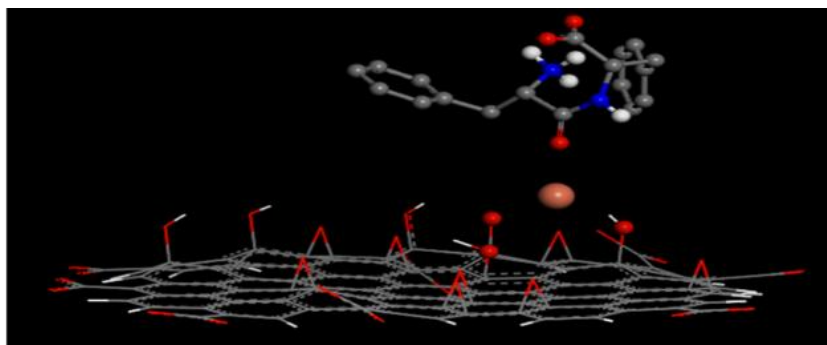
<sup>3</sup> Institute of Crystallography – National Council of Research, 95123 Catania, Italy.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Catania, 95125 Catania, Italy.

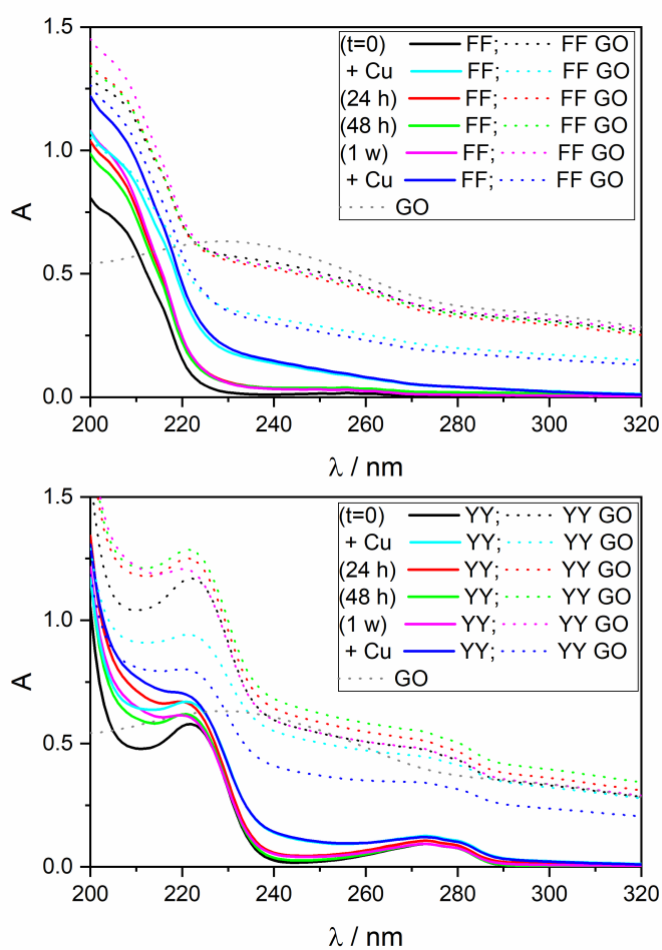
<sup>5</sup> Department of Pharmacy, University of Pisa, 56126, Pisa, Italy.

**\* Correspondence:**

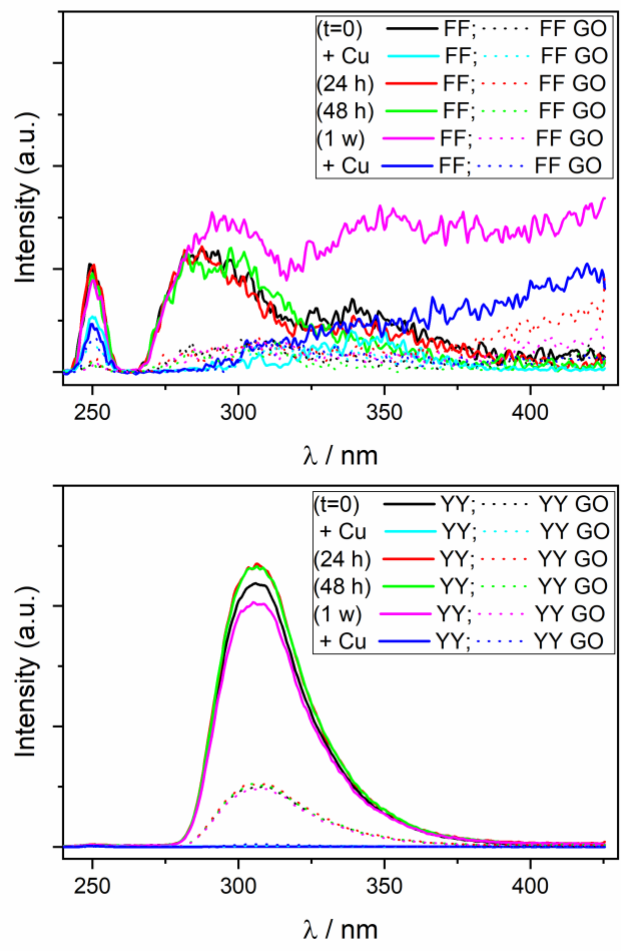
Prof. D. La Mendola, [lamendola@farm.unipi.it](mailto:lamendola@farm.unipi.it); Prof. C. Satriano, [csatriano@unict.it](mailto:csatriano@unict.it)



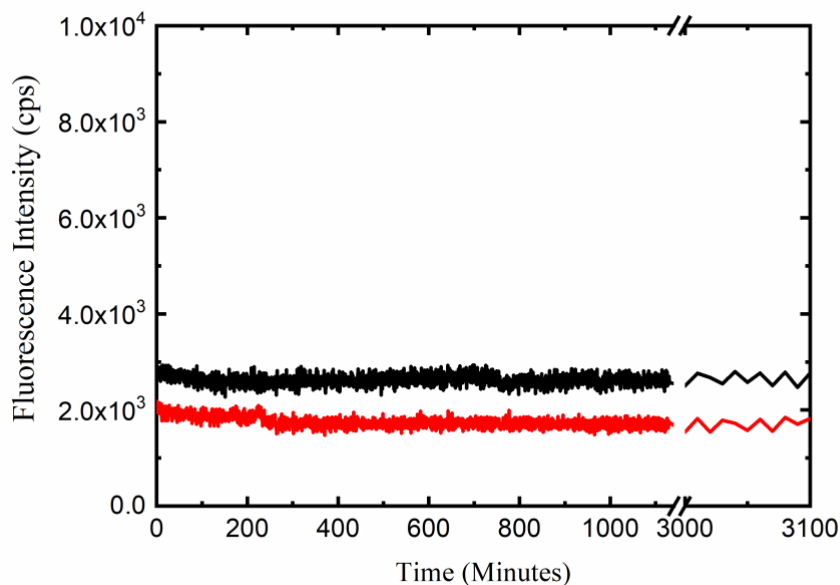
**Supplementary Figure 1.** A schematic representation of Phe-Phe dipeptide at the interface with a GO nanosheet in the presence of Cu(II).



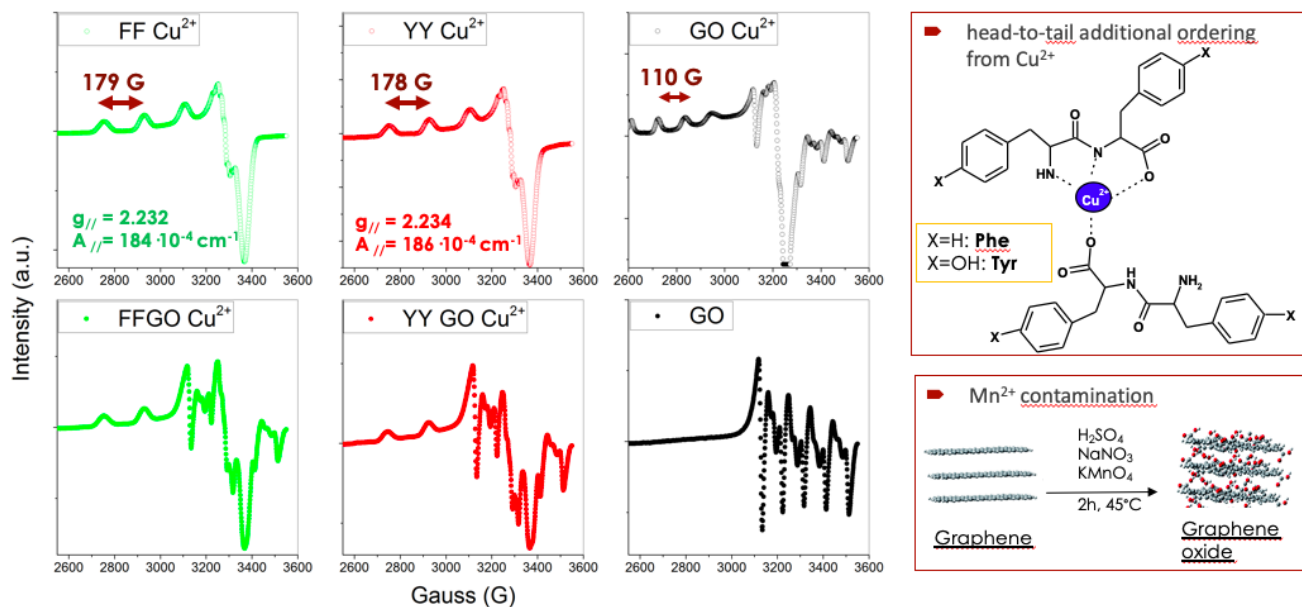
**Supplementary Figure 2.** UV-visible spectra of free dipeptide (solid curves,  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M solution in water) and GO/dipeptide (dotted curves, GO concentration =  $17 \mu\text{g/mL}$ ) assemblies at different aging times since dissolution. For  $t=0$  and  $t=1$  week the spectra of the samples added with  $\text{CuSO}_4$  ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) are included for comparison.



**Supplementary Figure 3.** Emission spectra (excitation wavelength = 230 nm) of free dipeptide (solid curves,  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M solution in water) and GO/dipeptide (dotted curves, GO concentration = 17  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ) assemblies at different aging times since dissolution. For  $t=0$  and  $t=1$  week the spectra of the samples added with  $\text{CuSO}_4$  ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) are included.

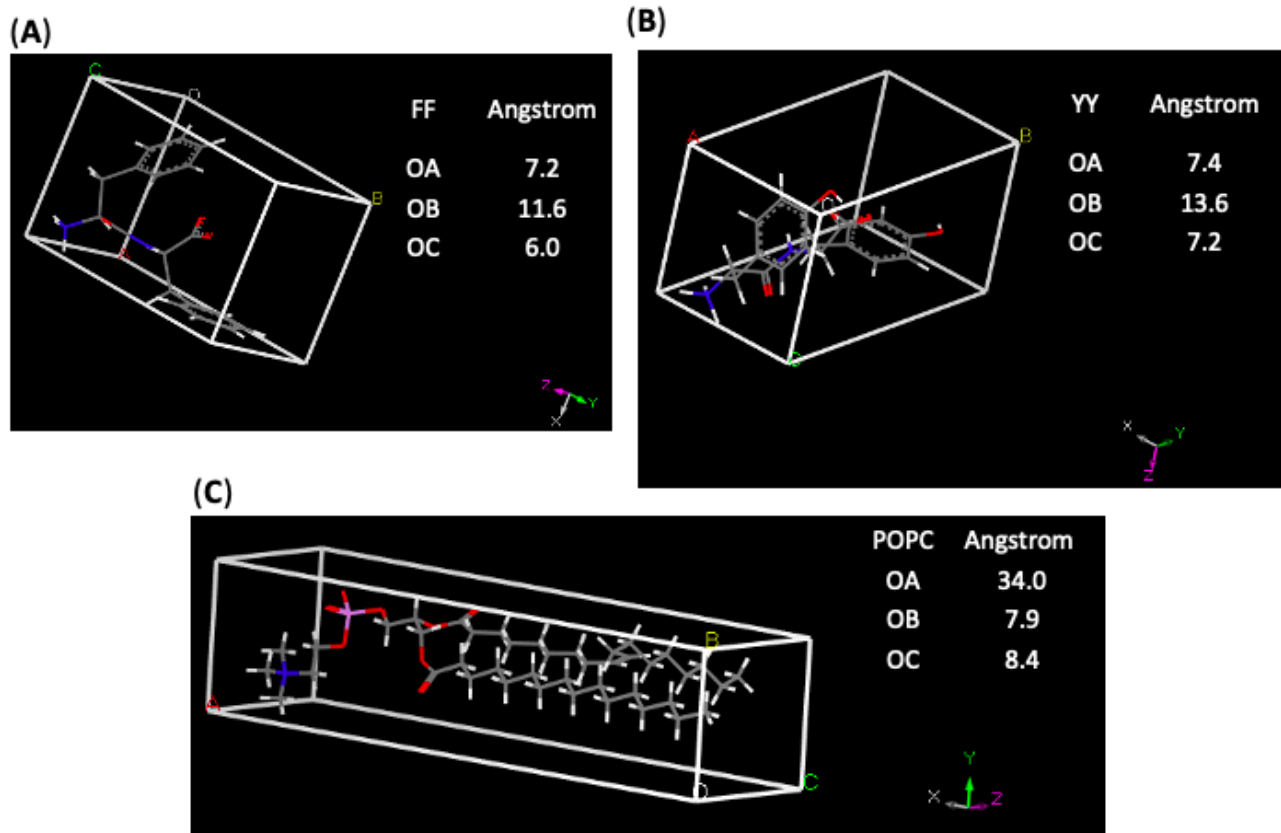


**Supplementary Figure 4.** Time dependent Th-T fluorescence profile for FF-GO (50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in 10 mM phosphate buffer pH = 7.4 (red line) and H<sub>2</sub>O (black line) recorded at 25°C for 2 days.



**Supplementary Figure 5.** EPR spectra of FF-Cu<sub>2+</sub>, YY-Cu<sub>2+</sub> and the corresponding GO-based platforms. Experimental conditions to record the spectra were as follows: 150 K in MQ-H<sub>2</sub>O; [dipeptide]=10<sup>-3</sup>M, GO concentration = 340  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , [Cu<sub>2+</sub>]:[dipeptide] = 1:1. The panels in the right hand side show one of the possible coordination environments of the copper chelates in the

peptide-copper complexes as well as the interlayer ions of manganese 'contamination' detected in the EPR spectra.



**Supplementary Figure 6.** Optimized structures of: (A) FF, (B) YY, (C) 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (POPC).