## **Supporting Information**

## RNAi in *Spodoptera frugiperda* Sf9 Cells via Nanomaterial Mediated Delivery of dsRNA: a Comparison of Poly-L-Arginine Polyplexes and Poly-L-Arginine-Functionalized Au Nanoparticles

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## **Contents:**

**Figure S1.** Dose-response luciferase expression assay for PLR10:dsRNA (1:1) micro-polyplexes. **Figure S2.** Dose-response phenotype of the cells without exposure (control) or after exposing the cells to various amount (600, 1200 and 3000 ng) of PLR10 and PLR10:dsRNA (1:1) micro-polyplexes. **Figure S3.** UV-Vis absorbance spectra of PLR10, citrate-Au NPs (e-Au) and citrate-Au NPs after functionalization with PLR10 (e-PLR10/Au) then washing once (1x) or twice (2x) with DI water.

**Figure S4.** Evolution of the size (a) and zeta potential (b) of the NHS-Au NPs (c-Au) in function of the incubation time with PLR10 before the quenching of the reaction with bovine serum albumin (c-PLR10/Au/BSA) and hydroxylamine (c-PLR10/Au/Hyd).

**Figure S5.** Adsorption of dsGFP (349 bp) and dsLUC (355 bp) on e-PLR10/Au, c-PLR10/Au/BSA and c-PLR10/Au/Hyd NPs followed by 1% agarose gel retardation method performed on the supernatants and the redispersed pellets in water.

**Figure S6.** HAADF and EDS spectra of the e citrate-Au NPs (e-Au) before/after PLR10 functionalization and loading with dsLUC (NP:dsRNA mass ratio of 5:1).

**Figure S7.** HAADF and EDS spectra of the c-PLR10/Au/BSA and c-PLR10/Au/Hyd NPs loaded with dsLUC (NP:dsRNA mass ratio of 5:1).

**Figure S8.** Complexation followed by 1% agarose gel retardation assay of CypHer5E-dsGFP with PLR10 (PLR:CypHer5E-dsGFP ratio of 1:1), c-PLR10/Au/BSA and c-PLR10/Au/Hyd NPs (NP: CypHer5E ratio of 5:1) after addition and washing with DI water (1x).



**Figure S1.** Dose-response luciferase expression assay for PLR10:dsRNA (1:1) micro-polyplexes. 30,000 cells/well were seeded in a 96 well plates then exposed to various amount of PLR10:dsRNA complexes (600, 1200 and 3000 ng) dispersed in 100 µl of SF900 II SFM media.



**Figure S2.** Dose-response phenotype of the cells without exposure (control) or after exposing the cells to various amount (600, 1200 and 3000 ng) of PLR10 and PLR10:dsRNA (1:1) micro-polyplexes dispersed in 100  $\mu$ l of SF900 II SFM media.



**Figure S3.** UV-Vis absorbance spectra of PLR10, citrate-Au NPs (e-Au) and citrate-Au NPs after functionalization with PLR10 (e-PLR10/Au) then washing once (1x) or twice (2x) with DI water.



**Figure S4.** Evolution of the size (a) and zeta potential (b) of the NHS-Au NPs (c-Au) in function of the incubation time with PLR10 before the quenching of the reaction with bovine serum albumin (c-PLR10/Au/BSA) and hydroxylamine (c-PLR10/Au/Hyd).



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**Figure S6.** HAADF and EDS spectra of the citrate-Au NPs (e-Au NPs) before/after PLR10 functionalization and loading with dsLUC (NP:dsRNA mass ratio of 5:1).



**Figure S7.** HAADF and EDS spectra of the c-PLR10/Au/BSA and c-PLR10/Au/Hyd NPs loaded with dsLUC (NP:dsRNA mass ratio of 5:1).



**Figure S8.** Complexation followed by 1% agarose gel retardation assay of CypHer5E-dsGFP with PLR10 (PLR:dsRNA mass ratio of 1:1), c-PLR10/Au/BSA (NP:dsRNA mass ratio 5:1) and c-PLR10/Au/Hyd (NP:dsRNA mass ratio of 5:1) particles after addition and washing with DI water (1x).