

## Supporting Information

# Novel heterobimetallic Ir(III)-Re(I) complexes: design, synthesis and antitumor mechanism investigation

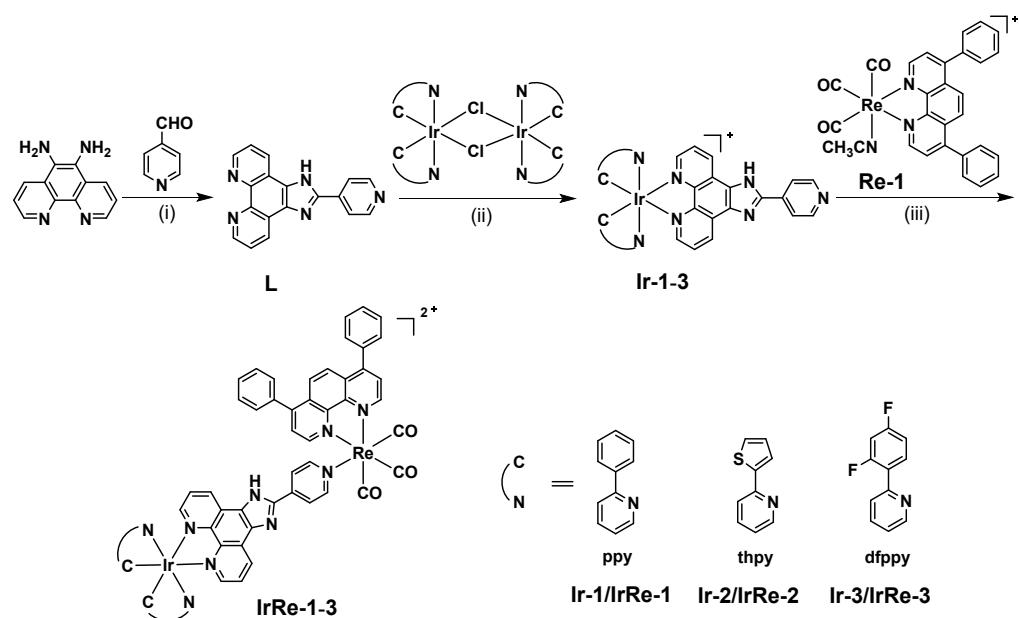
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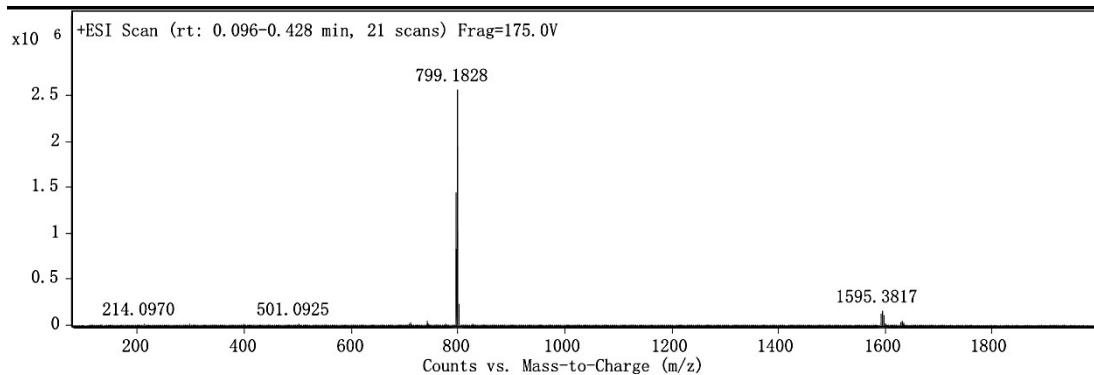
**Scheme S1** Synthetic routes of **IrRe-1–3**.



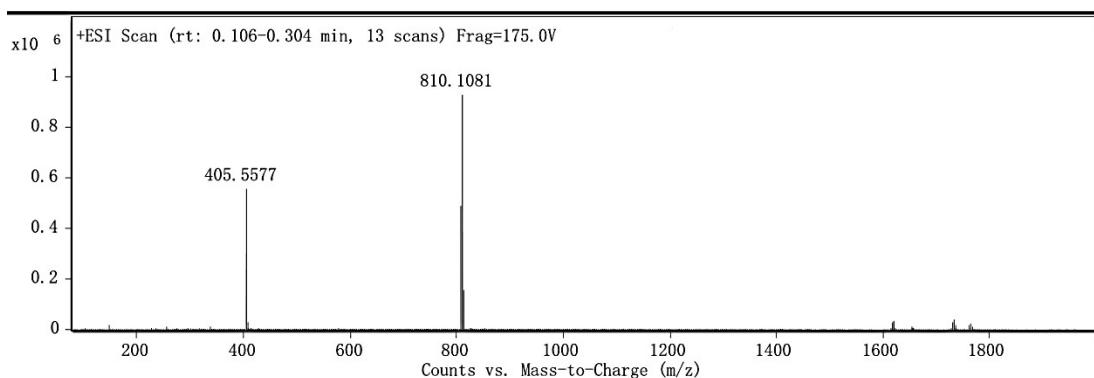
Condition: (i) CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH, reflux, 24 h;

(ii) MeOH/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, 55 °C, 5 h;

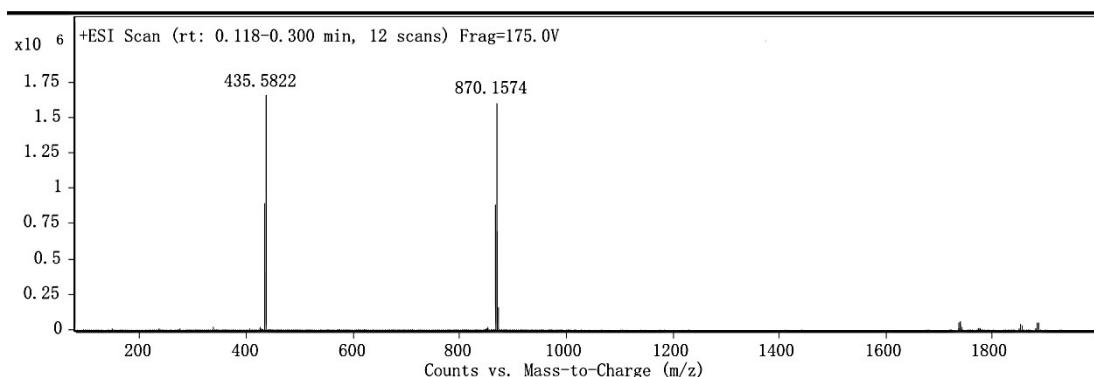
(iii) acetone, N<sub>2</sub>, 24 h.



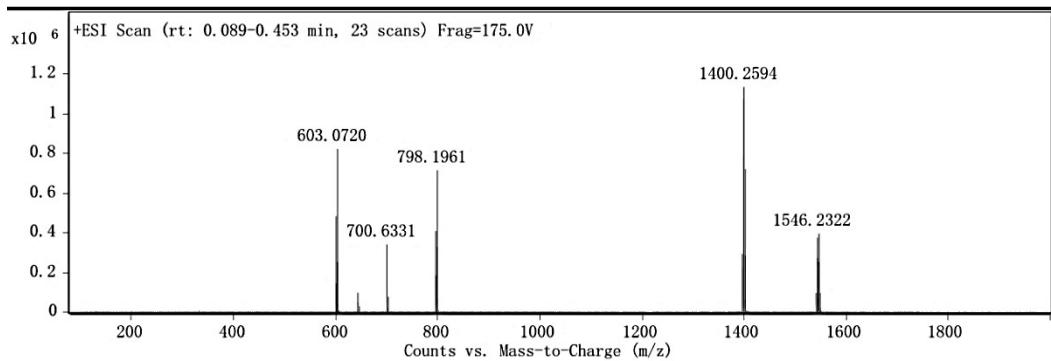
**Fig. S1** ESI-MS characterization of **Ir-1**, 799.1828 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>.



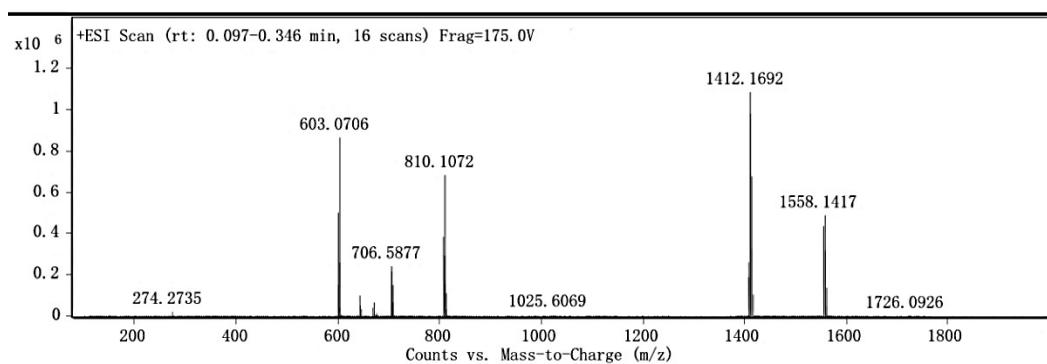
**Fig. S2** ESI-MS characterization of **Ir-2**, 405.5577 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>+H]<sup>2+</sup>, 810.1081 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>.



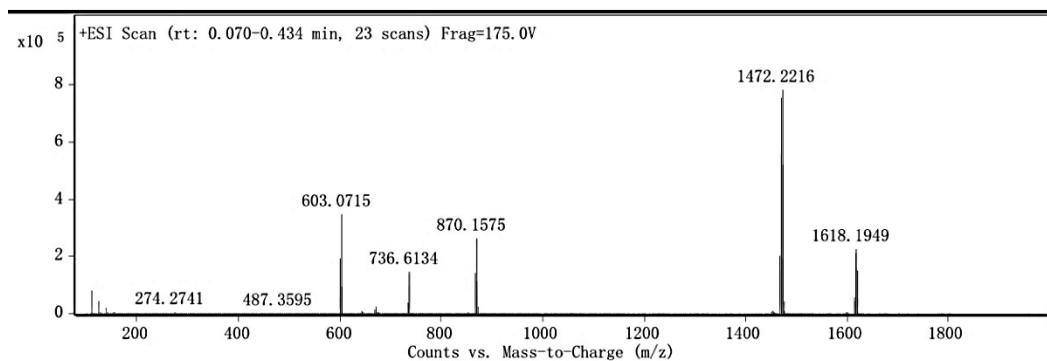
**Fig. S3** ESI-MS characterization of **Ir-3**, 435.5822 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>+H]<sup>2+</sup>, 870.1574 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>.



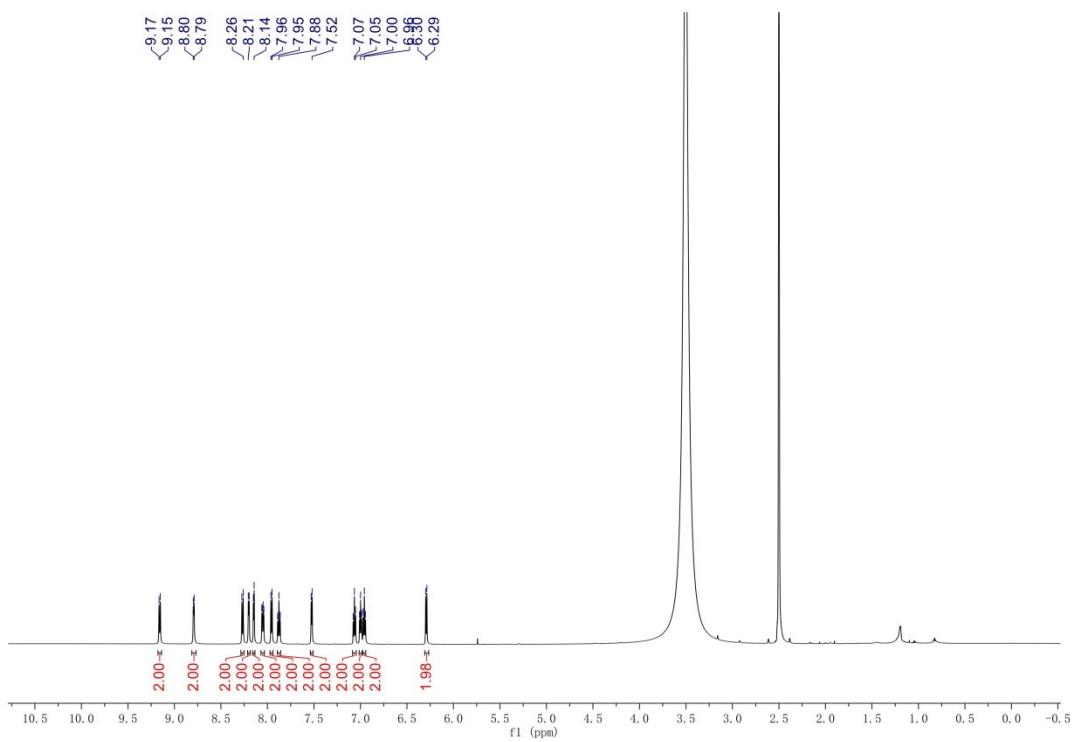
**Fig. S4** ESI-MS characterization of **IrRe-1**, 603.0720 [M-L-Ir(ppy)<sub>2</sub>-2PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 700.6331 [M-2PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2+</sup>, 798.1961 [M-Re(DIP)(CO)<sub>3</sub>-2PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 1400.2591 [M-2PF<sub>6</sub>-H]<sup>+</sup>, 1546.2322 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>.



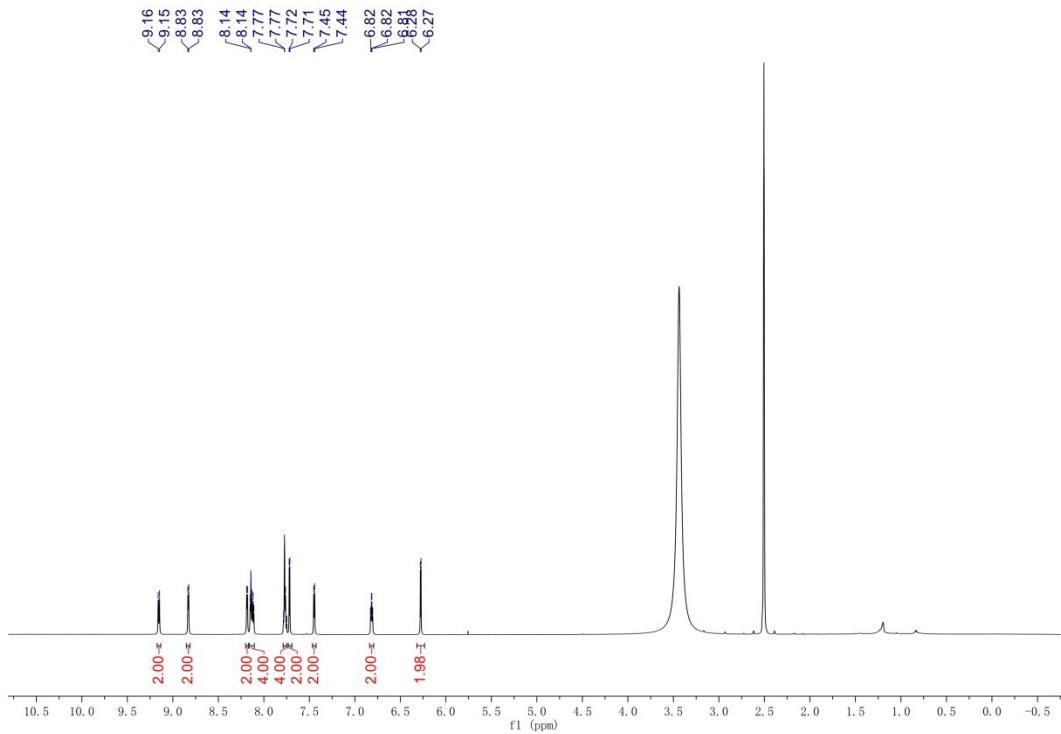
**Fig. S5** ESI-MS characterization of **IrRe-2**, 603.0706 [M-L-Ir(thpy)<sub>2</sub>-2PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 706.5877 [M-2PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2+</sup>, 810.1072 [M-Re(DIP)(CO)<sub>3</sub>-2PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 1412.1692 [M-2PF<sub>6</sub>-H]<sup>+</sup>, 1558.1417 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>.



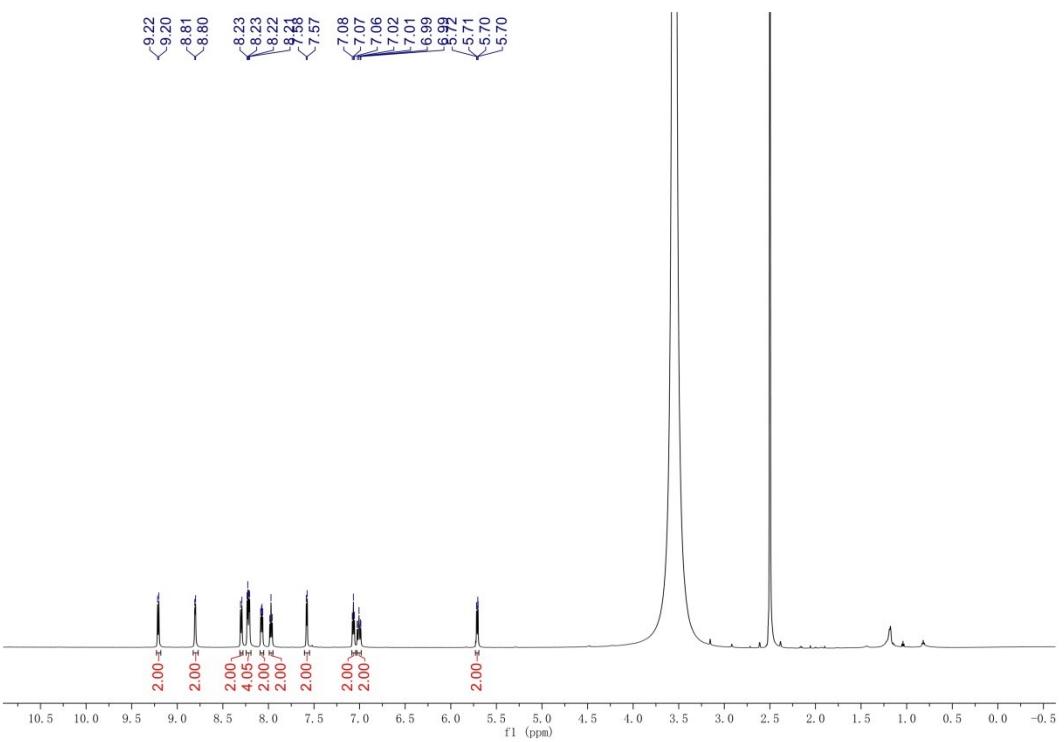
**Fig. S6** ESI-MS characterization of **IrRe-3**, 603.0715 [M-L-Ir(dfppy)<sub>2</sub>-2PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 736.6134 [M-2PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2+</sup>, 870.1575 [M-Re(DIP)(CO)<sub>3</sub>-2PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 1472.2216 [M-2PF<sub>6</sub>-H]<sup>+</sup>, 1618.1949 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>.



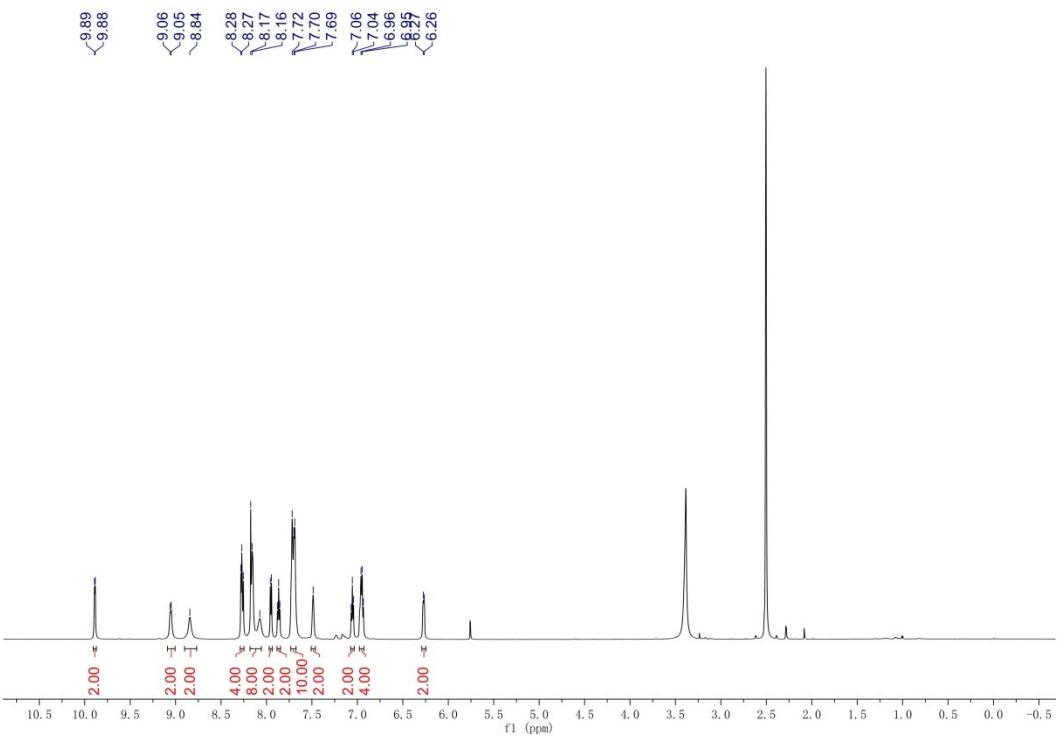
**Fig. S7**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of Ir-1.



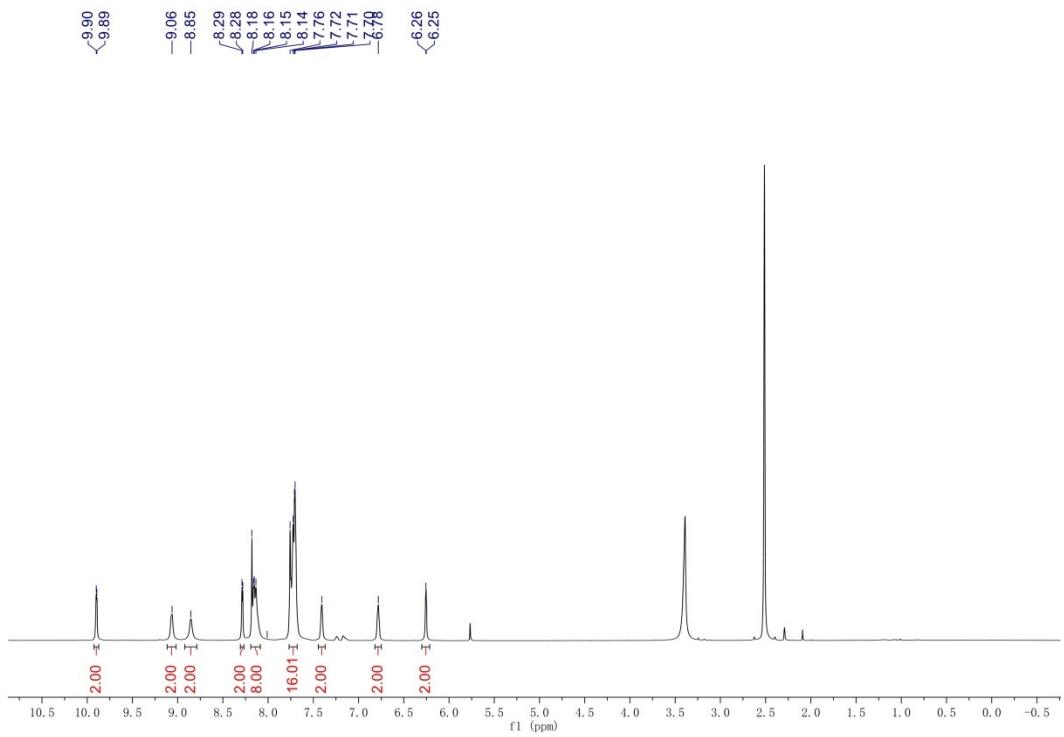
**Fig. S8**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of Ir-2.



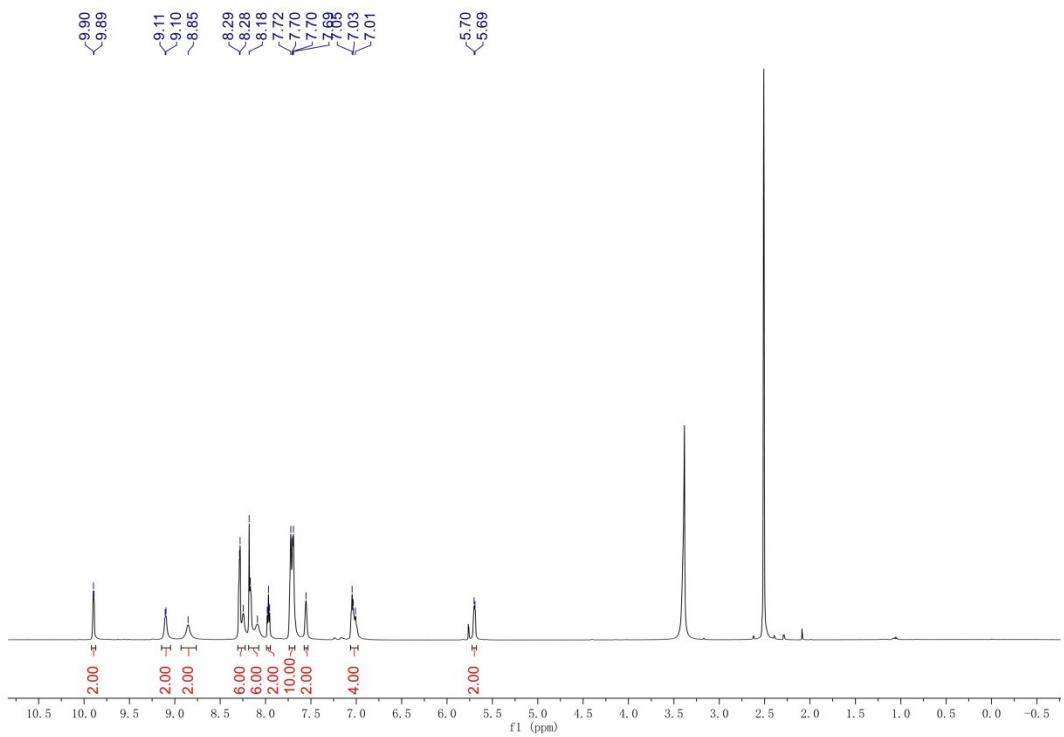
**Fig. S9** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **Ir-3**.



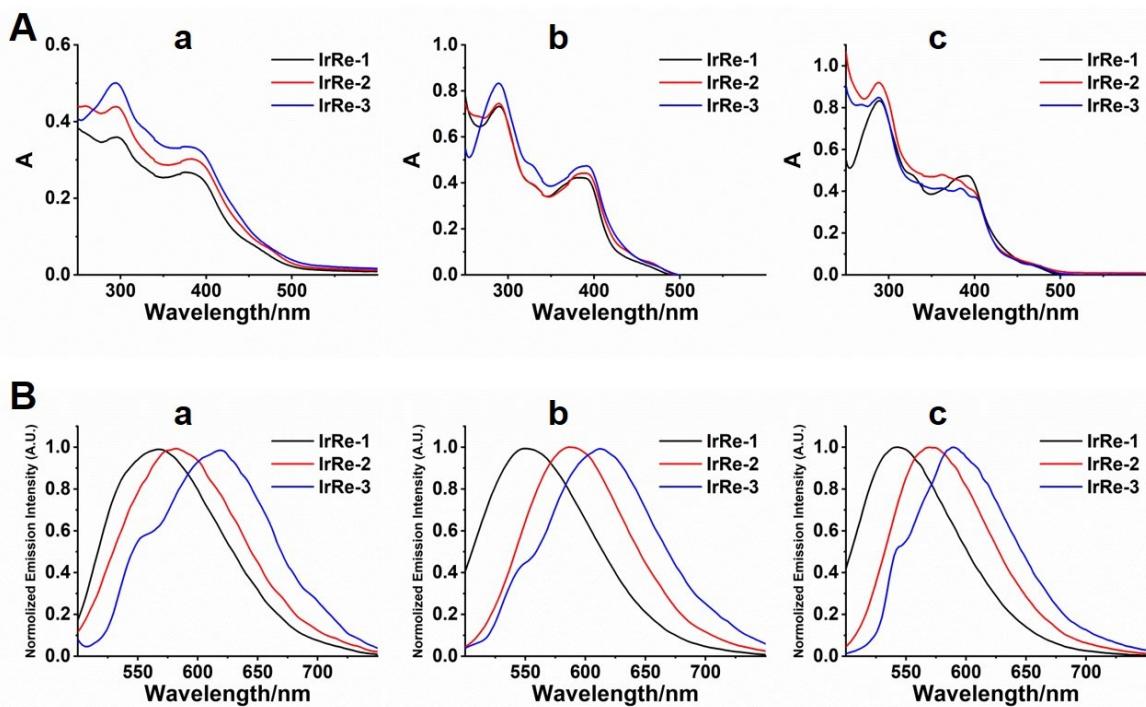
**Fig. S10** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **IrRe-1**.



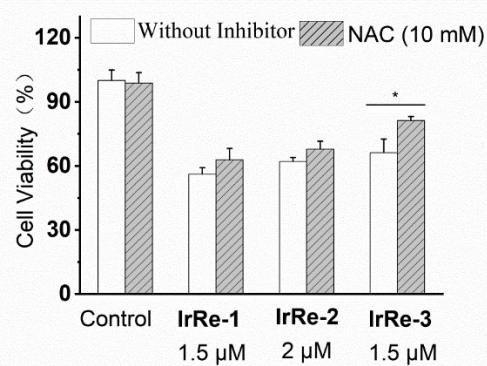
**Fig. S11**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of IrRe-2.



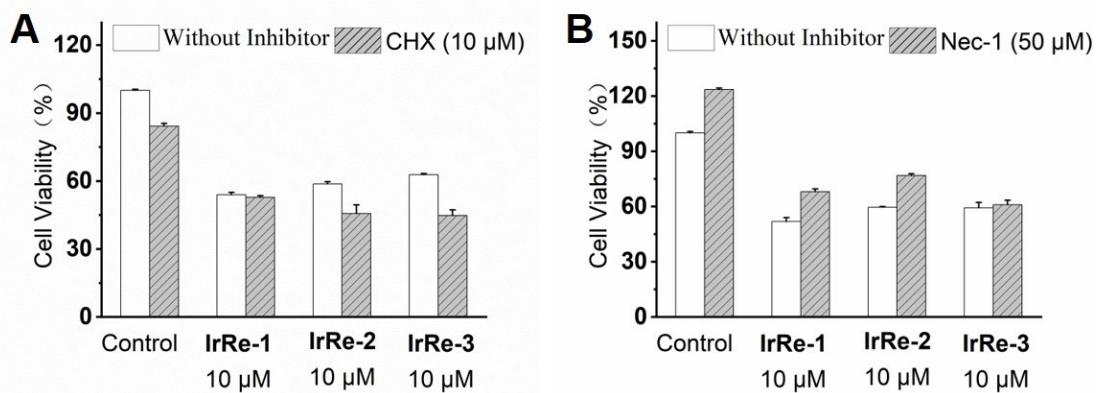
**Fig. S12**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of IrRe-3.



**Fig. S13** (A) UV/Vis spectra ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$  M) of **IrRe-1–3** measured in PBS (a), CH<sub>3</sub>CN (b) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (c) at 298 K. (B) Emission spectra ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$  M) of **IrRe-1–3** measured in PBS (a), CH<sub>3</sub>CN (b) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (c) at 298 K ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 405$  nm).



**Fig. S14** Cell viability of HeLa cells treated with **IrRe-1–3** in the presence or absence of NAC for 48 h. (\*  $P < 0.05$ , as compared with the group without NAC treatment).



**Fig. S15** Cell viability of HeLa treated with **IrRe-1–3** in the presence or absence of CHX (A) or Nec-1 (B) for 24 h.

**Table S1** Photophysical data of **IrRe-1–3**

Compounds	Medium	$\lambda_{\text{abs, max}}$ (nm)	$\lambda_{\text{em, max}}$ (nm)
<b>IrRe-1</b>	PBS	380	568
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	391	570
	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	384	540
<b>IrRe-2</b>	PBS	378	576
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	391	576
	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	386	572
<b>IrRe-3</b>	PBS	379	607
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	391	610
	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	378	590

**Table S2** The emission quantum yields of compounds

Compounds	Medium	$\Phi_{\text{em}}^{\text{a}}$
<b>IrRe-1</b>	PBS	0.004
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.009
	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.213
<b>IrRe-2</b>	PBS	0.001
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.004
	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.069
<b>IrRe-3</b>	PBS	0.005
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.008
	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.109
<b>Ir-1</b>	PBS	0.026
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.014
	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.048
<b>Ir-2</b>	PBS	0.003
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.007
	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.017
<b>Ir-3</b>	PBS	0.008
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.027
	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.106
<b>Re-1</b>	PBS	0.108
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.193
	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.291

<sup>a</sup> Solutions of [Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub> were used as the standard, PBS ( $\Phi_{\text{em}} = 0.042$ ),<sup>1</sup> CH<sub>3</sub>CN ( $\Phi_{\text{em}} = 0.062$ )<sup>2</sup> and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> ( $\Phi_{\text{em}} = 0.059$ ).<sup>3</sup>

**Table S3** Cell-cycle analysis data of **IrRe-1–3** on HeLa cells<sup>a</sup>

Compounds	G0/G1	S	G2/M
Control	57.1 ± 3.3	24.5 ± 2.1	18.4 ± 1.2
<b>IrRe-1</b> , 3 μM	59.9 ± 3.2	15.3 ± 2.4	24.8 ± 2.3
<b>IrRe-1</b> , 4.5 μM	66.4 ± 3.1	5.4 ± 1.1	28.2 ± 1.2
<b>IrRe-1</b> , 6 μM	66.6 ± 2.8	4.8 ± 1.2	28.6 ± 1.3
<b>IrRe-2</b> , 4 μM	44.6 ± 3.3	41.0 ± 3.7	14.4 ± 1.7
<b>IrRe-2</b> , 6 μM	61.3 ± 2.9	6.4 ± 1.7	32.3 ± 2.5
<b>IrRe-2</b> , 8 μM	70.7 ± 3.8	10.1 ± 1.9	19.2 ± 3.5
<b>IrRe-3</b> , 3 μM	59.8 ± 1.4	26.1 ± 1.8	13.9 ± 3.9
<b>IrRe-3</b> , 4.5 μM	61.8 ± 3.7	5.3 ± 0.8	32.8 ± 2.3
<b>IrRe-3</b> , 6 μM	82.6 ± 6.3	14.4 ± 1.6	3.0 ± 0.7

<sup>a</sup> Data shown are mean ± SD of three independent experiments for each treatment.

## Supporting References

- 1 J. Van Houten and R. J. Watts, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1976, **98**, 4853-4858.
- 2 D. S. Tyson and F. N. Castellano, *J. Phys. Chem. A*, 1999, **103**, 10955-10960.
- 3 D. Pucci, A. Bellusci, A. Crispini, M. Ghedini, N. Godbert, E. I. Szerb and A. M. Talarico, *J. Mater. Chem.*, 2009, **19**, 7643-7649.