

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

A biophysical study of the interactions of palladium(II), platinum(II) and gold(III) complexes of aminopyridyl-2,2'-bipyridine ligands with RNAs and other nucleic acid structures

Francesca Binacchi, Cassandra Elia, Damiano Cirri, Corjan van de Griend, Xue-Quan Zhou, Luigi Messori, Sylvestre Bonnet, Alessandro Pratesi, Tarita Biver

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Formation of the RNA 4WJ: melting test

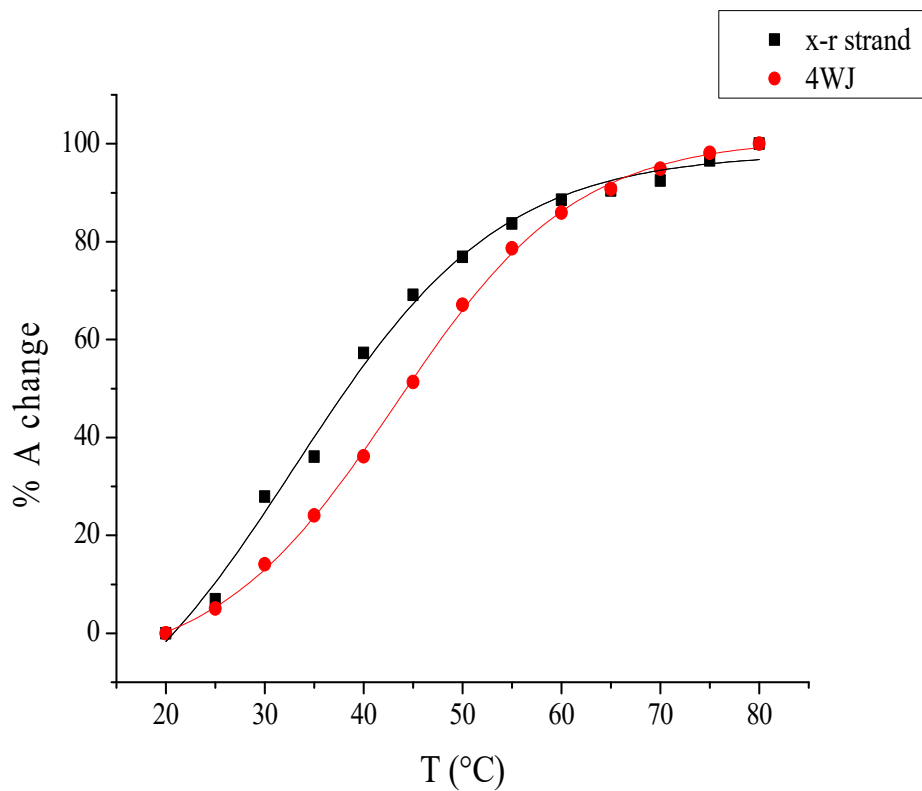


Figure S1. UV-melting tests of the coupled x-r strands and of the RNA 4WJ; $C_{\text{x-r strand}} = C_{\text{4WJ}} = 1.03 \times 10^{-5}$ M; $C_{\text{CaCl}_2} = 182 \mu\text{M}$. % A change = $100 \cdot (A - A^\circ) / (A^\infty - A^\circ)$ where A° and A^∞ are the two absorbance values limiting the fitting sigmoid.

Spectrophotometric characterisation of the metal complexes

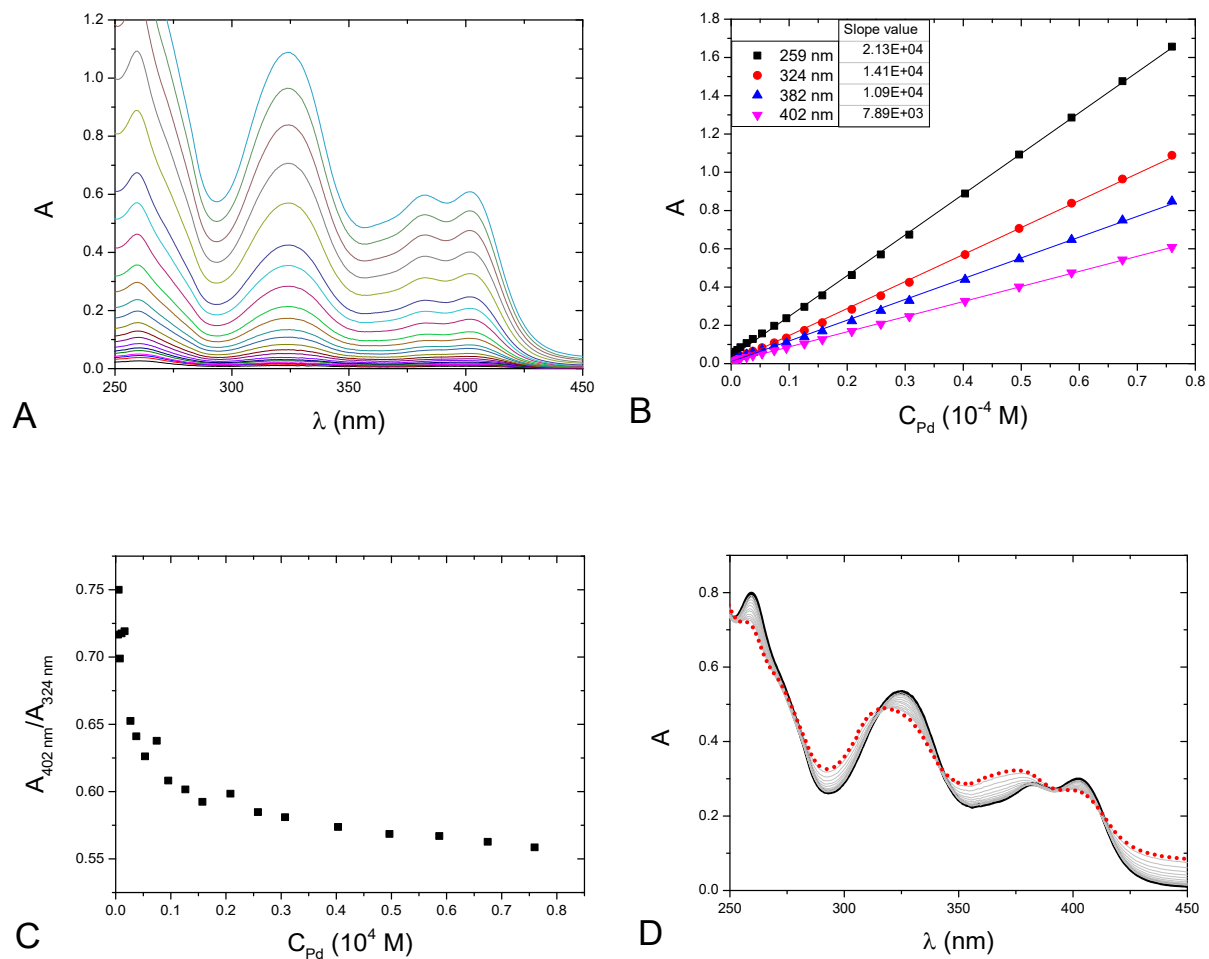


Figure S2. $[Pd(H_2L1)]Cl_2$: absorbance spectra at different concentrations (A) C_{Pd} from 0 M to 7.60×10^{-5} M with relevant absorbance versus concentration plot (B) and absorbance ratio plot (C), 25.0 °C; (D) absorbance spectra in the 25 °C (—) – 90 °C (.....) temperature range, $C_{Pd} = 2.08 \times 10^{-5}$ M, NaCl 0.1 M, NaCac 2.5 mM, pH = 7.0.

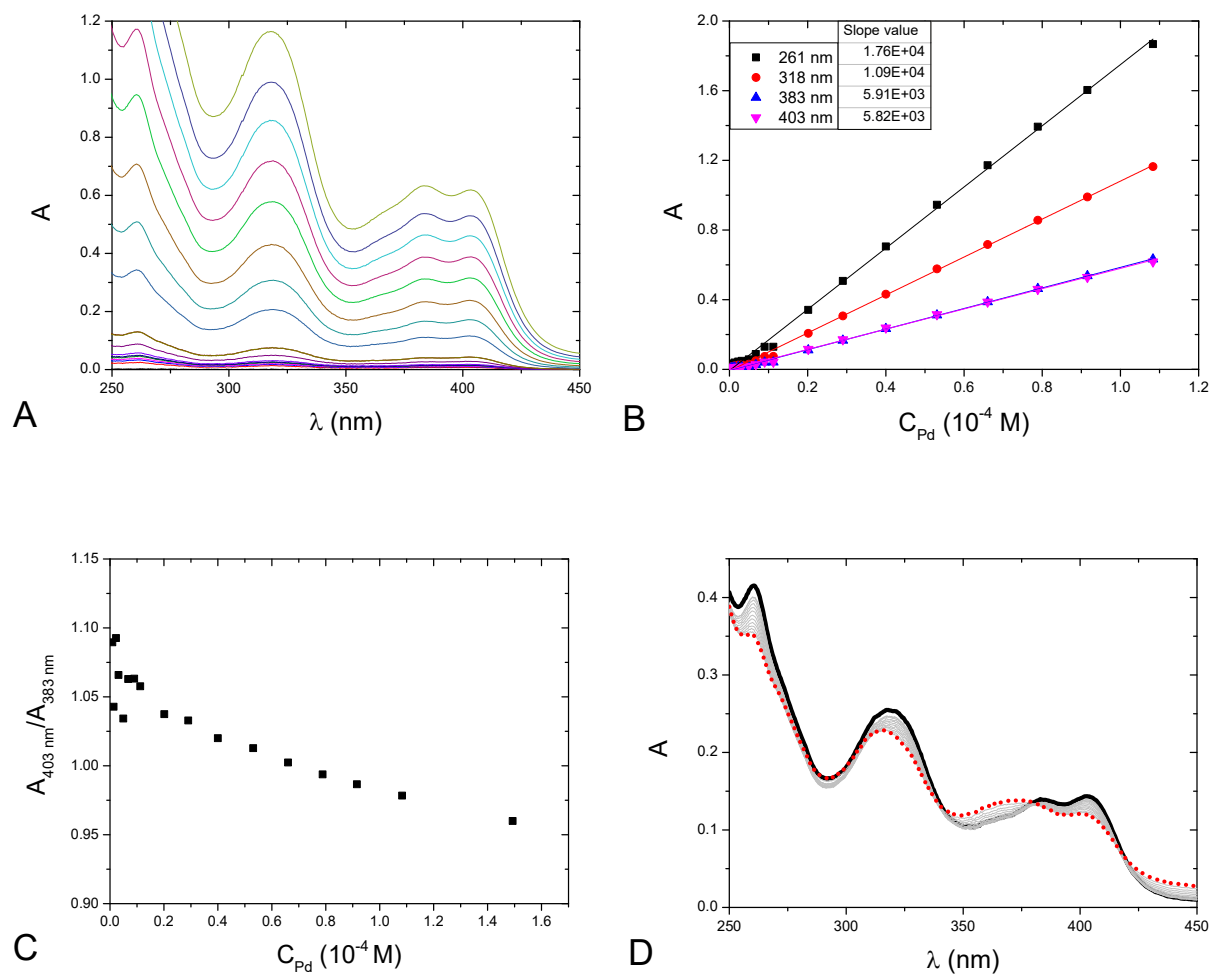


Figure S3. $[\text{Pd}(\text{H}_2\text{L}_2)]\text{Cl}_2$: absorbance spectra at different concentrations (A) C_{Pd} from 0 M to 1.08×10^{-4} M with relevant absorbance versus concentration plot (B) and absorbance ratio plot (C), 25.0 C; (D) absorbance spectra in the 25 °C (—) – 90 °C (.....) temperature range, $C_{\text{Pd}} = 2.01 \times 10^{-5}$ M, NaCl 0.1 M, NaCac 2.5 mM, pH = 7.0.

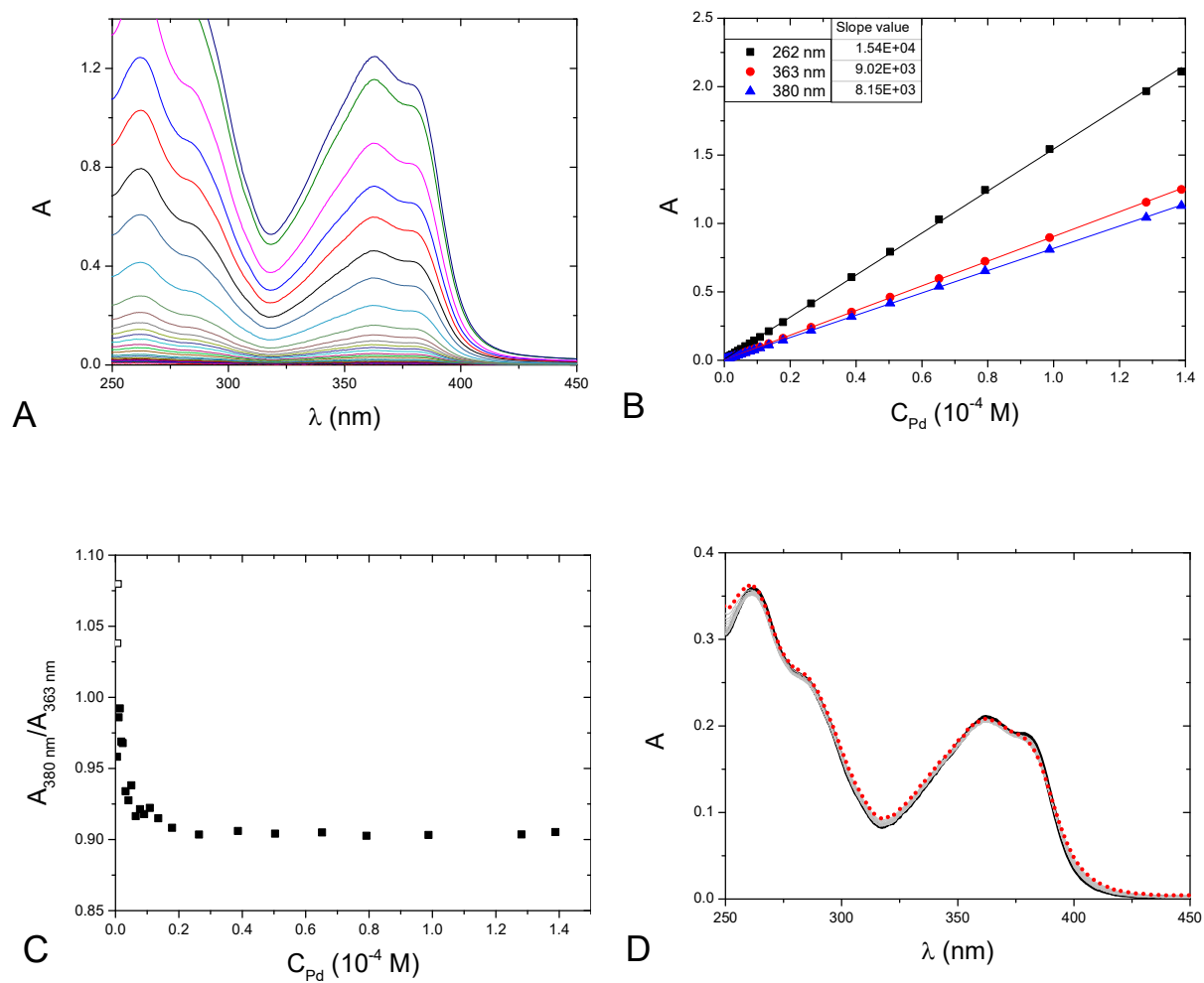


Figure S4. $[\text{Pd}(\text{L3})](\text{OAc})_2$: absorbance spectra at different concentrations (A) C_{Pd} from 0 M to 1.39×10^{-4} M with relevant absorbance versus concentration plot (B) and absorbance ratio plot (C), 25.0 °C; (D) absorbance spectra in the 25 °C (—) – 90 °C (.....) temperature range, $C_{\text{Pd}} = 2.64 \times 10^{-5}$ M. NaCl 0.1 M, NaCac 2.5 mM, pH = 7.0.

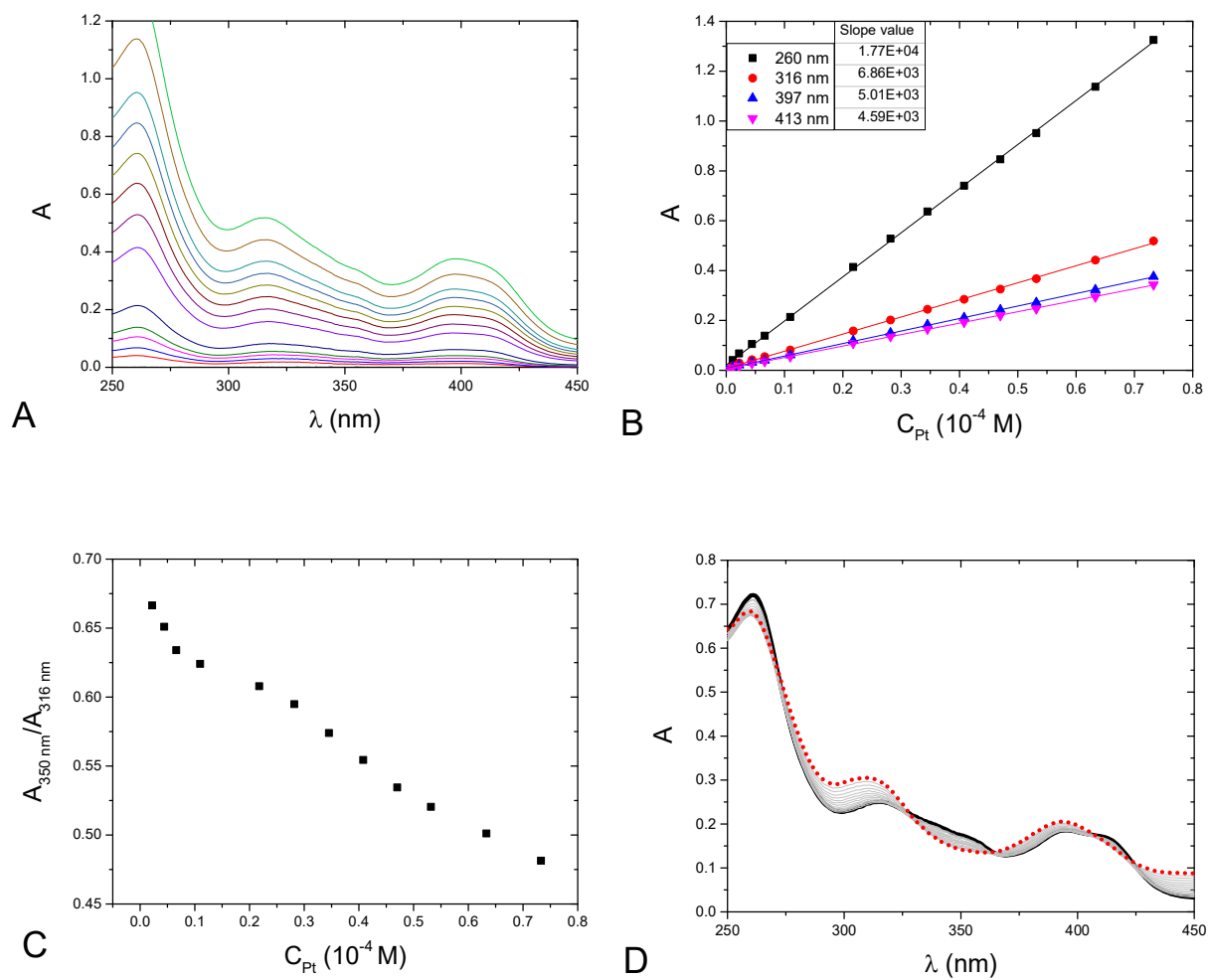


Figure S5. Complex $[\text{Pt}(\text{H}_2\text{L1})]\text{Cl}_2$: absorbance spectra at different concentrations (A) C_{Pt} from 0 M to 7.33×10^{-5} M with relevant absorbance versus concentration plot (B) and absorbance ratio plot (C), 25.0 °C; (D) absorbance spectra in the 25 °C (—) – 90 °C (.....) temperature range, $C_{\text{Pt}} = 3.10 \times 10^{-5}$ M. NaCl 0.1 M, NaCac 2.5 mM, pH = 7.0.

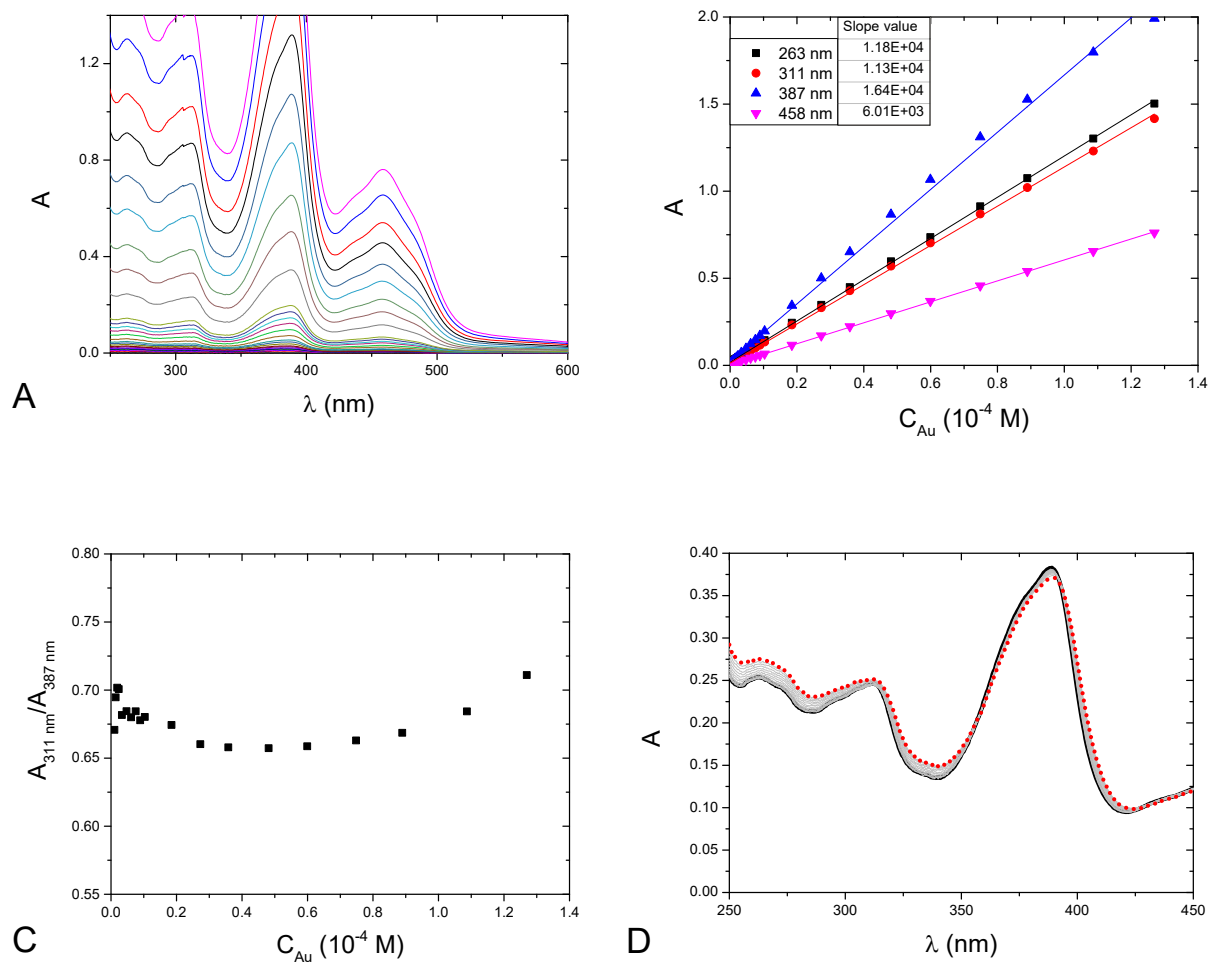


Figure S6. Complex [Au(L1)]Cl: A) Absorbance spectrum $C_{Au} = 2.73 \times 10^{-5}$ M, $T = 25$ °C; B) Absorbance versus temperature plot at different wavelengths, $C_{Au} = 2.73 \times 10^{-5}$ M; C) Absorbance versus concentration plot, $T = 25$ °C; (D) Absorbance ratio plot, $T = 25$ °C. Buffer: NaCl 0.1 M, NaCac 2.5 mM, pH = 7.0.

Poly(rA)2poly(rU) absorbance titrations

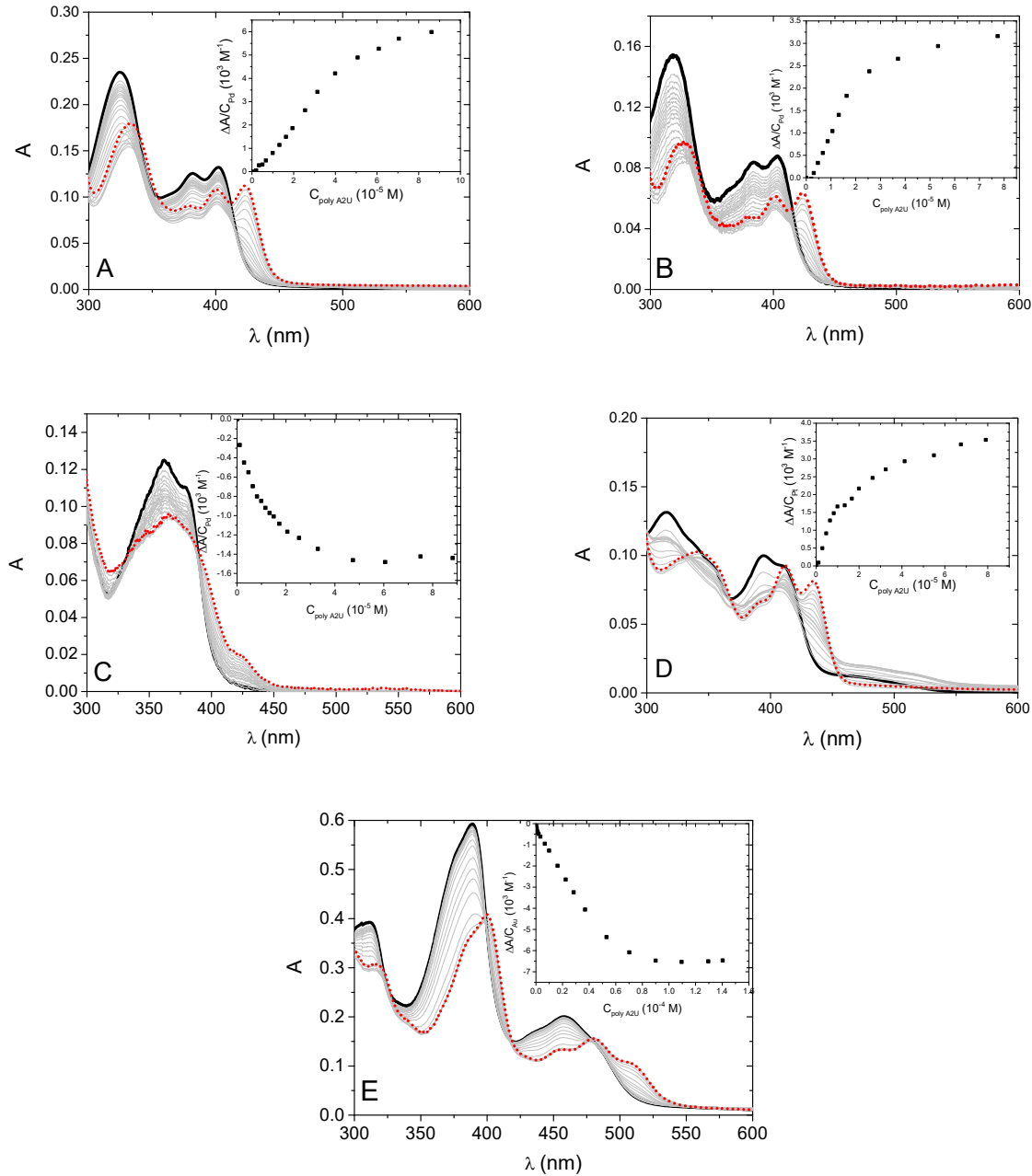


Figure S7. UV-vis titrations with poly(rA)·2poly(rU), NaCl 0.1 M, NaCac 2.5 mM, pH 7.0, 25.0 °C. (A) [Pd(H₂L1)]Cl₂/polyA₂U system, $C_{\text{Pd}} = 1.44 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$, C_{polyA2U} from 0 M (—) to $8.61 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at $\lambda = 425 \text{ nm}$; (B) [Pd(H₂L2)]Cl₂/polyA₂U system, $C_{\text{Pd}} = 1.37 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$, C_{polyA2U} from 0 M (—) to $7.74 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at $\lambda = 425 \text{ nm}$; (C) [Pd(L3)](OAc)₂/polyA₂U system, $C_{\text{Pd}} = 1.68 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$, C_{polyA2U} from 0 M (—) to $8.81 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at $\lambda = 369 \text{ nm}$; (D) [Pt(H₂L1)]Cl₂/polyA₂U system, $C_{\text{Pt}} = 1.56 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$, C_{polyA2U} from 0 M (—) to $7.91 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at $\lambda = 434 \text{ nm}$; (E) [Au(L1)]Cl/polyA₂U system, $C_{\text{Au}} = 3.46 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$, C_{polyA2U} from 0 M (—) to $1.4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at $\lambda = 389 \text{ nm}$.

Melting Tests

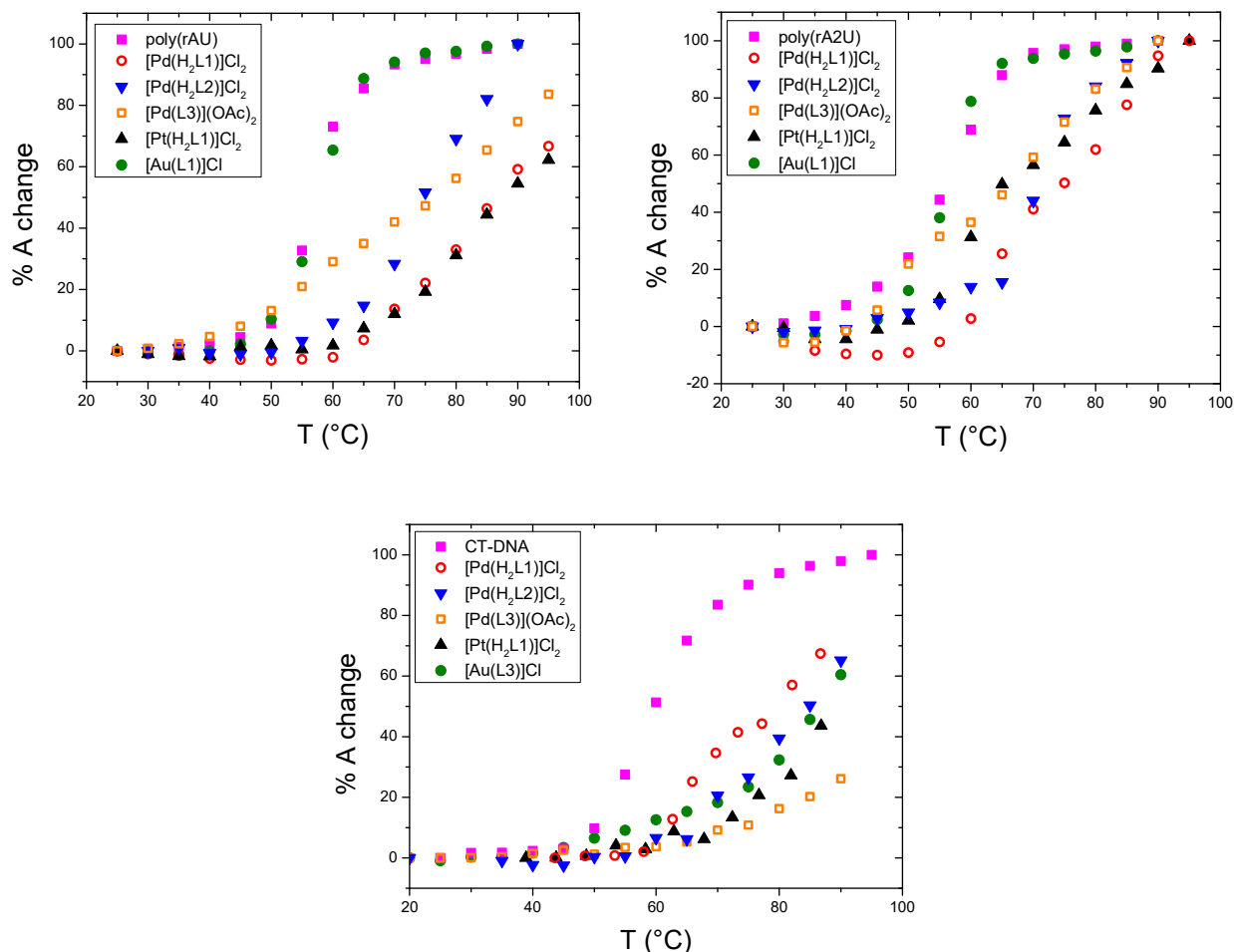


Figure S8. Melting tests for the poly(rA)poly(rU), poly(rA)2poly(rU) or CT-DNA polynucleotide alone (full squares) and for its mixtures with [Pd(H₂L1)]²⁺ (open circles), [Pd(H₂L2)]²⁺ (down triangles), [Pd(L3)]²⁺ (open squares), [Pt(H₂L1)]²⁺ (up triangles), [Au(L1)]⁺ (full circles); $C_{\text{polyrAU}} = C_P$ (in base pairs) = 2.45×10^{-5} M, $C_{\text{polyrA2U}} = C_P$ (in base triplets) = 1.92×10^{-5} M, $C_{\text{DNA}} = C_P$ (in base pairs) = 2.45×10^{-5} M, $r_b = \text{complex/DNA} = C_D/C_P = 1.0$, buffer for RNAs NaCl 0.1 M, NaCac 2.5 mM, pH 7.0, $\lambda = 260$ nm, for CT-DNA NaCac 2.5 mM, pH 7.0, $\lambda = 260$ nm; % A change = $100 \cdot (A - A^\circ) / (A^\infty - A^\circ)$ where A^∞ and A° are the two absorbance values limiting the fitting sigmoid.

Table S1. Melting temperature of the polynucleotide alone (Ref) and for its mixtures with $[\text{Pd}(\text{H}_2\text{L1})]^{2+}$, $[\text{Pd}(\text{H}_2\text{L2})]^{2+}$, $[\text{Pd}(\text{L3})]^{2+}$, $[\text{Pt}(\text{H}_2\text{L1})]^{2+}$, $[\text{Au}(\text{L1})]^+$. Buffer for RNAs NaCl 0.1 M, NaCac 2.5 mM, pH 7.0, for CT-DNA NaCac 2.5 mM, pH 7.0, for G-quad KCl 0.1M, LiCac 2.5 mM, pH 7.0.

| | poly(rAU) | poly(rA2U) | CT-DNA | G4 |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Ref | 57.0 ± 0.3 | 56.0 ± 0.3 | 59.8 ± 0.3 | 62.6 ± 0.2 |
| $[\text{Pd}(\text{H}_2\text{L1})]\text{Cl}_2$ | > 90 | 74 ± 2 | > 90 | 68.7 ± 0.5 |
| $[\text{Pd}(\text{H}_2\text{L2})]\text{Cl}_2$ | 76.7 ± 0.9 | 71.3 ± 0.7 | 82 ± 3 | 65.1 ± 0.2 |
| $[\text{Pd}(\text{L3})](\text{OAc})_2$ | 83 ± 6 | 67 ± 3 | > 90 | 67.9 ± 0.2 |
| $[\text{Pt}(\text{H}_2\text{L1})]\text{Cl}_2$ | > 90 | 67 ± 1 | > 90 | 65.0 ± 0.4 |
| $[\text{Au}(\text{L1})]\text{Cl}$ | 57.7 ± 0.2 | 55.9 ± 0.2 | > 90 | 64.8 ± 0.3 |

Poly(rA)poly(rU) Ethidium displacement

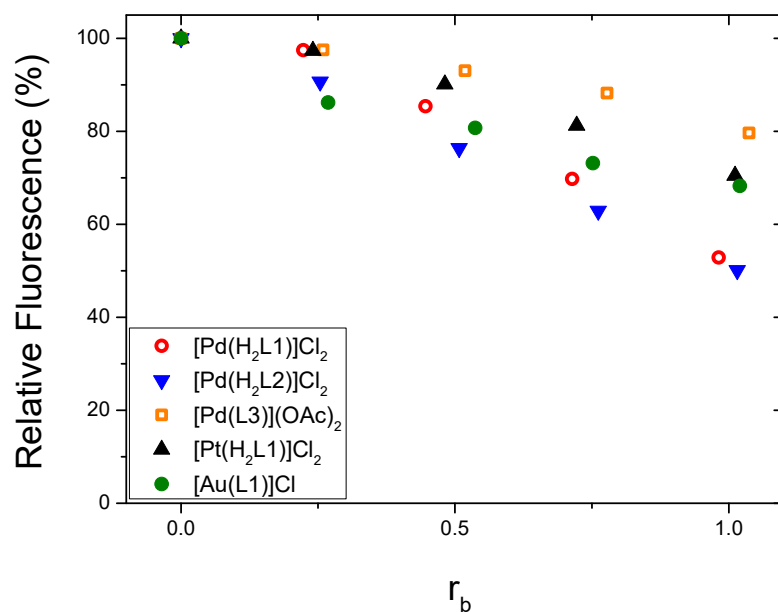


Figure S9. Ethidium bromide (EtBr) exchange tests where the metal complexes are added to EtBr-saturated poly(rA)poly(rU) where the latter adduct is strongly fluorescent only as the EtBr probe is intercalated between polynucleotide base pairs; $C_{\text{polyAU}} = 1.25 \times 10^{-4}$ M, $C_{\text{EtBr}} = 5.84 \times 10^{-5}$ M, $r_b = \text{complex}/\text{DNA} = C_D/C_{\text{polyAU}}$, relative fluorescence = $100 * F/F^\circ$ where F° is the fluorescence of the system at $r_b = 0$, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 520$ nm, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 595$ nm.

DNA Absorbance titrations

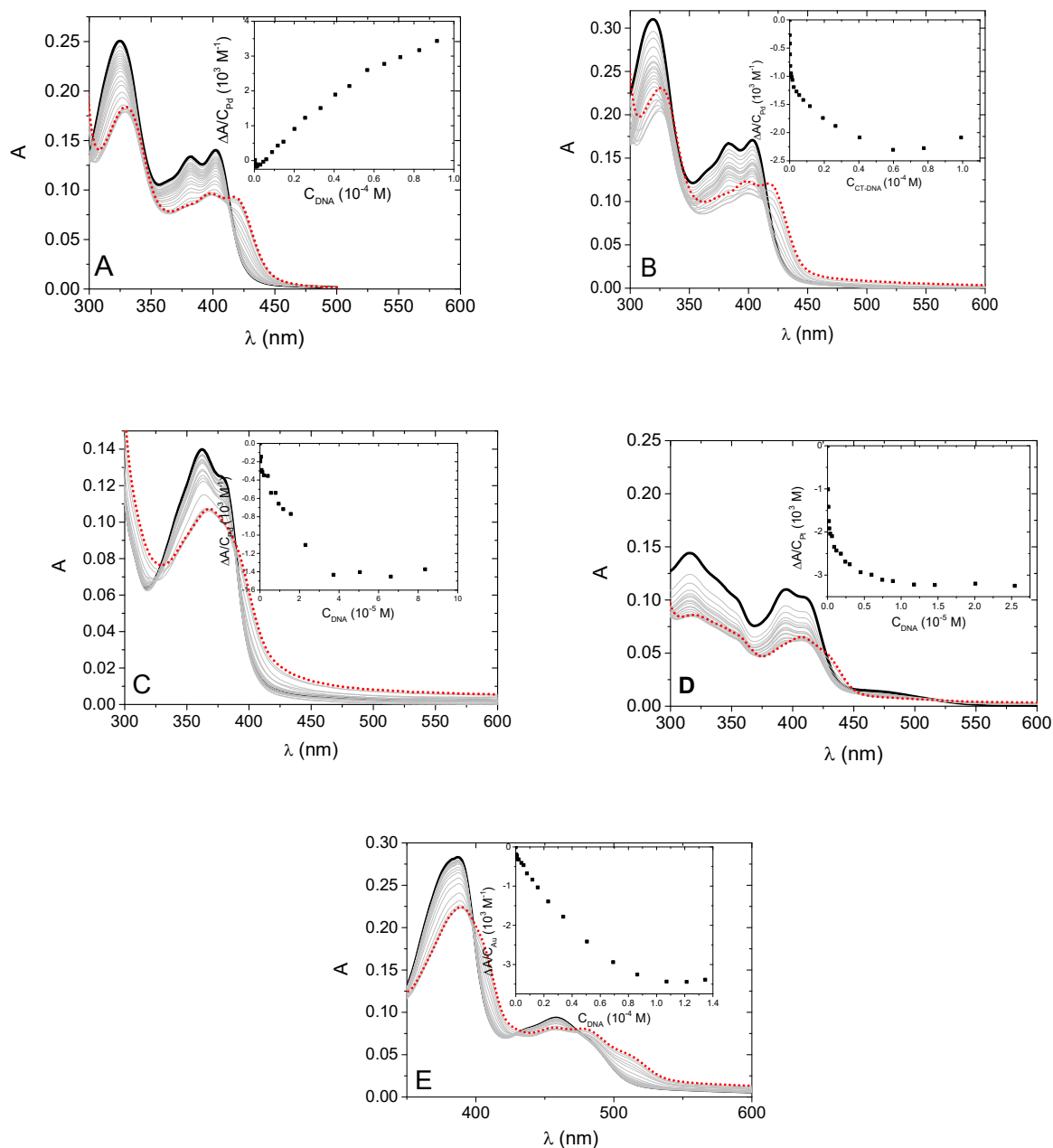


Figure S10. UV-vis titrations where increasing amounts of DNA are added to the complexes (NaCl 0.1 M, NaCac 2.5 mM, pH 7.0, 25.0 °C); (A) [Pd(H₂L1)]Cl₂/DNA system, $C_{Pd} = 1.44 \times 10^{-5}$ M, C_{DNA} from 0 M (—) to 9.15×10^{-5} M (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at $\lambda = 418$ nm; (B) [Pd(H₂L2)]Cl₂/DNA system, $C_{Pd} = 2.72 \times 10^{-5}$ M, C_{DNA} from 0 M (—) to 1.23×10^{-4} M (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at $\lambda = 418$ nm; (C) [Pd(L3)](OAc)₂/DNA system, $C_{Pd} = 1.68 \times 10^{-5}$ M, C_{DNA} from 0 M (—) to 8.35×10^{-5} M (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at $\lambda = 418$ nm; (D) [Pt(H₂L1)]Cl₂/DNA system, $C_{Pt} = 1.87 \times 10^{-5}$ M, C_{DNA} from 0 M (—) to 2.54×10^{-5} M (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at $\lambda = 396$ nm. (E) [Au(L1)]Cl/DNA system, $C_{Au} = 1.74 \times 10^{-5}$ M, C_{DNA} from 0 M (—) to 1.35×10^{-4} M (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at $\lambda = 388$ nm.

DNA Ethidium displacement and viscometric tests

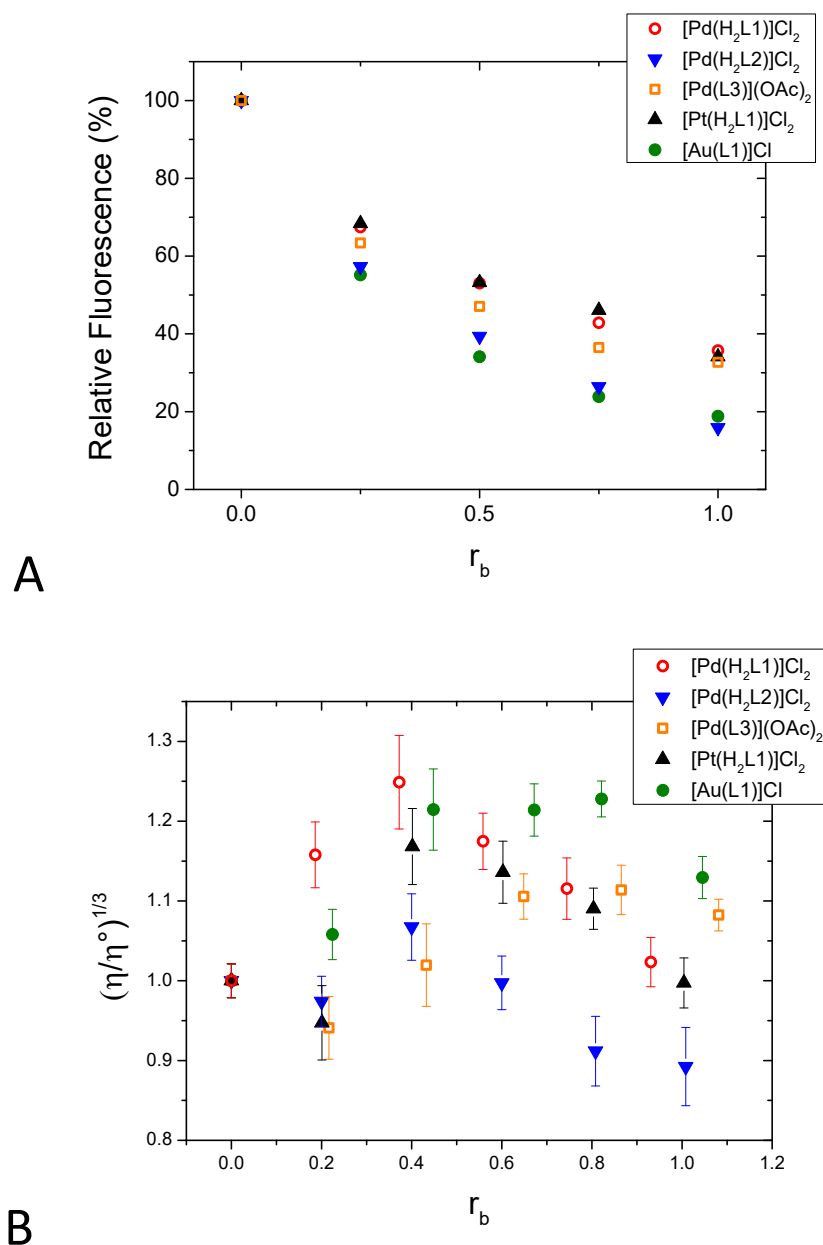


Figure S11. (A) Ethidium bromide (EtBr) exchange tests where the metal complexes are added to EtBr-saturated DNA where the latter adduct is strongly fluorescent only as the EtBr probe is intercalated between polynucleotide base pairs; $C_{\text{DNA}} = 1.49 \times 10^{-4}$ M, $C_{\text{EtBr}} = 6.11 \times 10^{-5}$ M, $r_b = \text{complex/DNA} = C_D/C_{\text{DNA}}$, relative fluorescence = $100 \cdot F/F^\circ$ where F° is the fluorescence of the system at $r_b = 0$, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 520$ nm, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 595$ nm. (B) Viscosity of DNA with increasing amount of metal complexes; $C_{\text{DNA}} = 1.2 \times 10^{-4}$ M, $r_b = \text{complex/DNA}$, $(\eta/\eta^\circ)^{1/3} = (t_{\text{complex}} - t_{\text{DNA}})/(t_{\text{DNA}} - t_{\text{solvent}})$. For both panels NaCl 0.1 M, NaCac 2.5 mM, 25.0°C, pH 7.0.

Circular Dichroism spectra of [Pd(H₂L1)]Cl₂/DNA and [Pt(H₂L1)]Cl₂/DNA

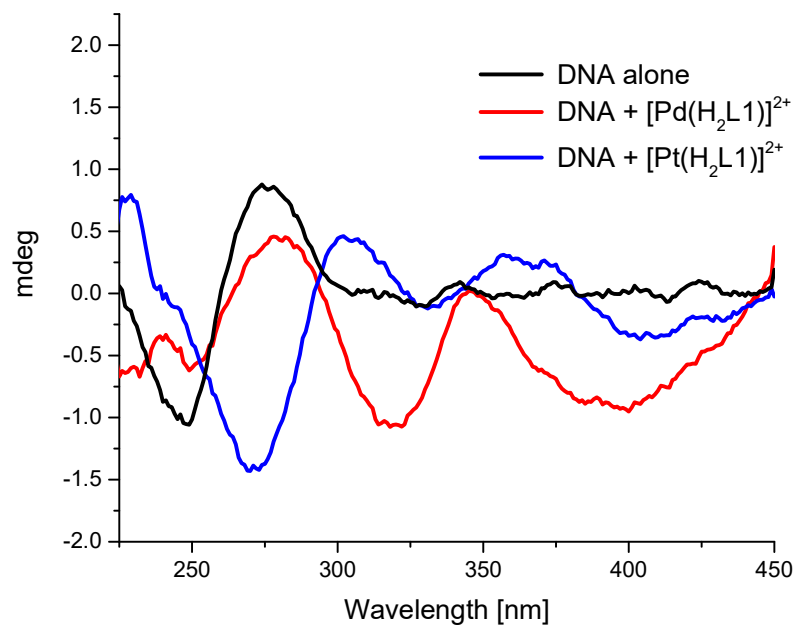


Figure S12. Circular dichroism spectra of DNA alone and in mixture with wither [Pd(H₂L1)]²⁺ or [Pt(H₂L1)]²⁺ metal complexes. $C_{\text{DNA}} = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$ M; $C_{\text{Pd}} = C_{\text{Pt}} = 2.2 \times 10^{-5}$ M; NaCl 0.1 M, NaCac 2.5 mM, T = 25.0 °C, pH 7.0.

G-quadruplex absorbance titrations

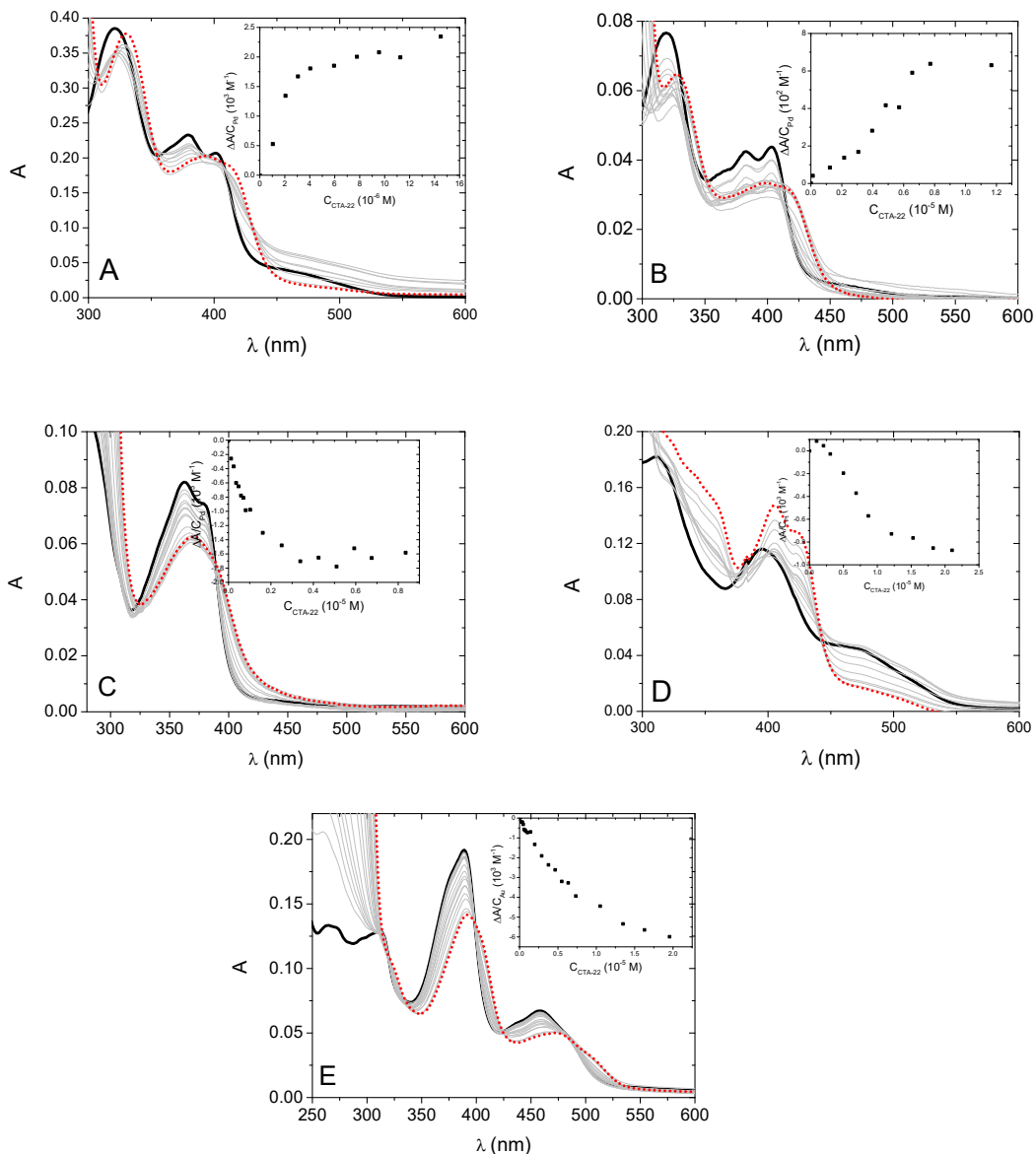


Figure S13. UV-vis titrations with G-quadruplex (CTA-22), KCl 0.1 M, LiCac 2.5 mM, pH 7.0, T = 25.0 °C. (A) [Pd(H₂L1)]Cl₂/CTA-22 system, C_{Pd} = 2.87×10⁻⁵ M, C_{CTA-22} from 0 M (—) to 1.45×10⁻⁵ M (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at λ = 425 nm; (B) [Pd(H₂L2)]Cl₂/polyA2U system, C_{Pd} = 9.08×10⁻⁶ M, C_{CTA-22} from 0 M (—) to 1.17×10⁻⁵ M (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at λ = 422 nm; (C) [Pd(L3)](OAc)₂/polyA2U system, C_{Pd} = 9.53×10⁻⁶ M, C_{CTA-22} from 0 M (—) to 8.35×10⁻⁶ M (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at λ = 369 nm; (D) [Pt(H₂L1)]Cl₂/polyA2U system, C_{Pt} = 3.10×10⁻⁵ M, C_{CTA-22} from 0 M (—) to 2.10×10⁻⁵ M (.....), the inset is the binding isotherm at λ = 434 nm; (E) [Au(L1)]Cl/polyA2U system, C_{Au} = 8.68×10⁻⁶, CTA22 from 0 M (—) to 1.96×10⁻⁵ M (...), the inset is the binding isotherm at λ = 389 nm.

G-quadruplex ESI mass spectra

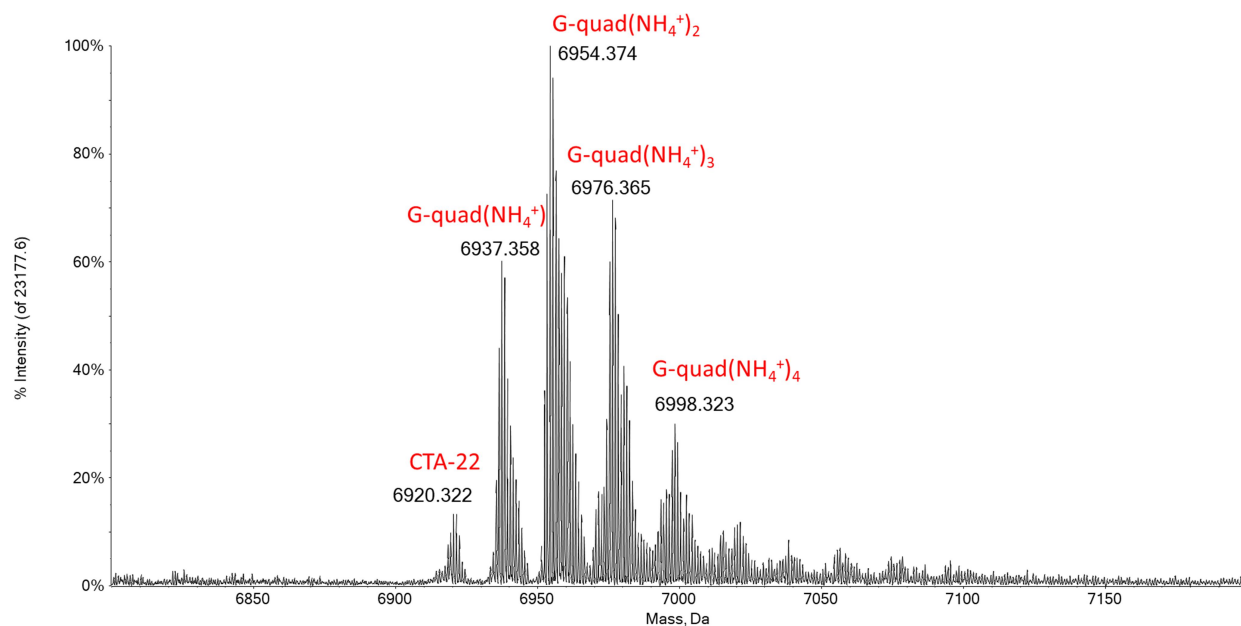


Figure S14. Deconvoluted ESI mass spectra of 10^{-6} M CTA-22 annealed in 100 mM ammonium acetate solution (pH 7.0) and recorded in the presence of 60% EtOH.

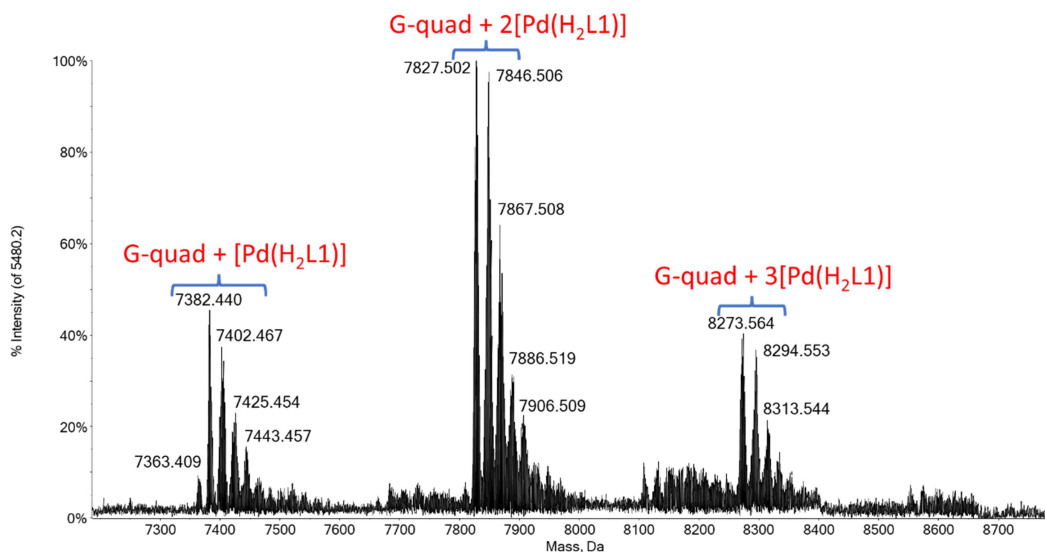


Figure S15. Deconvoluted ESI mass spectrum of 10^{-6} M G-quadruplex incubated for 24 h with [Pd(H₂L1)]Cl₂ in 100 mM ammonium acetate solution (pH 7.0) and in the presence of 60% EtOH. 3:1 metal complex/G-quad molar ratio.

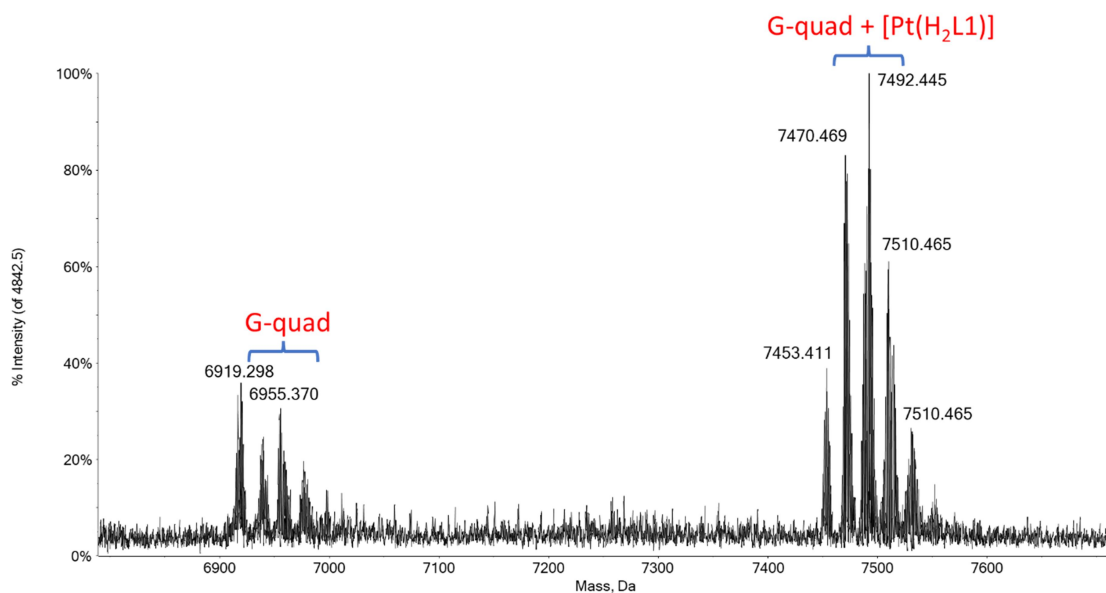


Figure S16. Deconvoluted ESI mass spectrum of 10^{-6} M G-quadruplex incubated for 24 h with $[\text{Pt}(\text{H}_2\text{L1})]\text{Cl}_2$ in 100 mM ammonium acetate solution (pH 7.0) and in the presence of 60% EtOH. 3:1 metal complex/G-quad molar ratio.

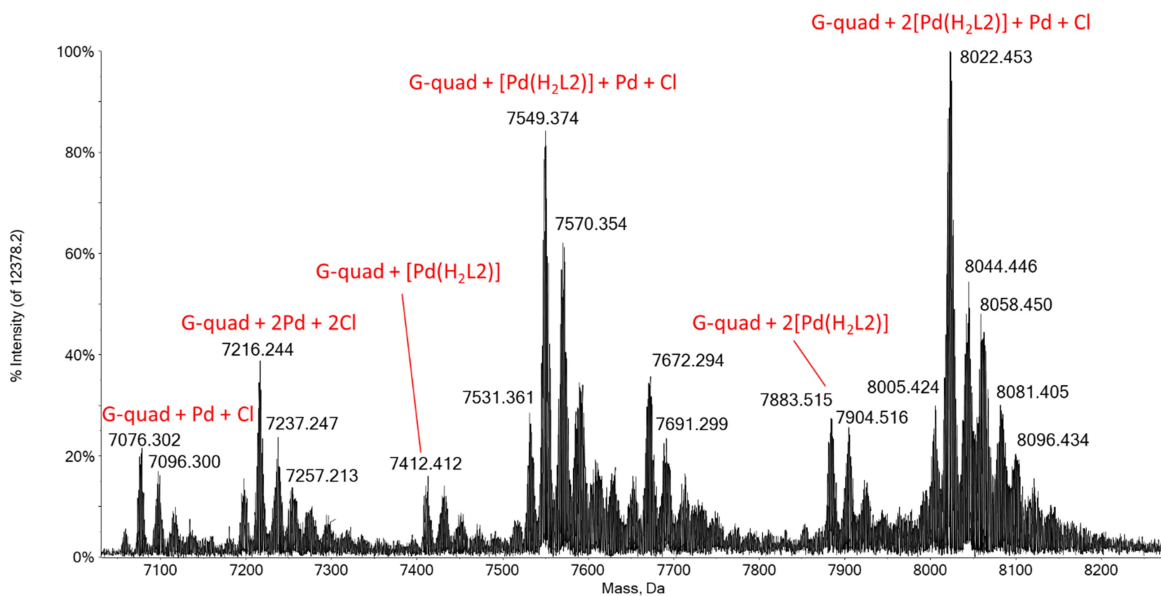


Figure S17. Deconvoluted ESI mass spectrum of 10^{-6} M G-quadruplex incubated for 24 h with $[\text{Pd}(\text{H}_2\text{L}_2)]\text{Cl}_2$ in 100 mM ammonium acetate solution (pH 7.0) and in the presence of 60% EtOH. 3:1 metal complex/G-quad molar ratio.

RNA-4WJ absorbance titrations

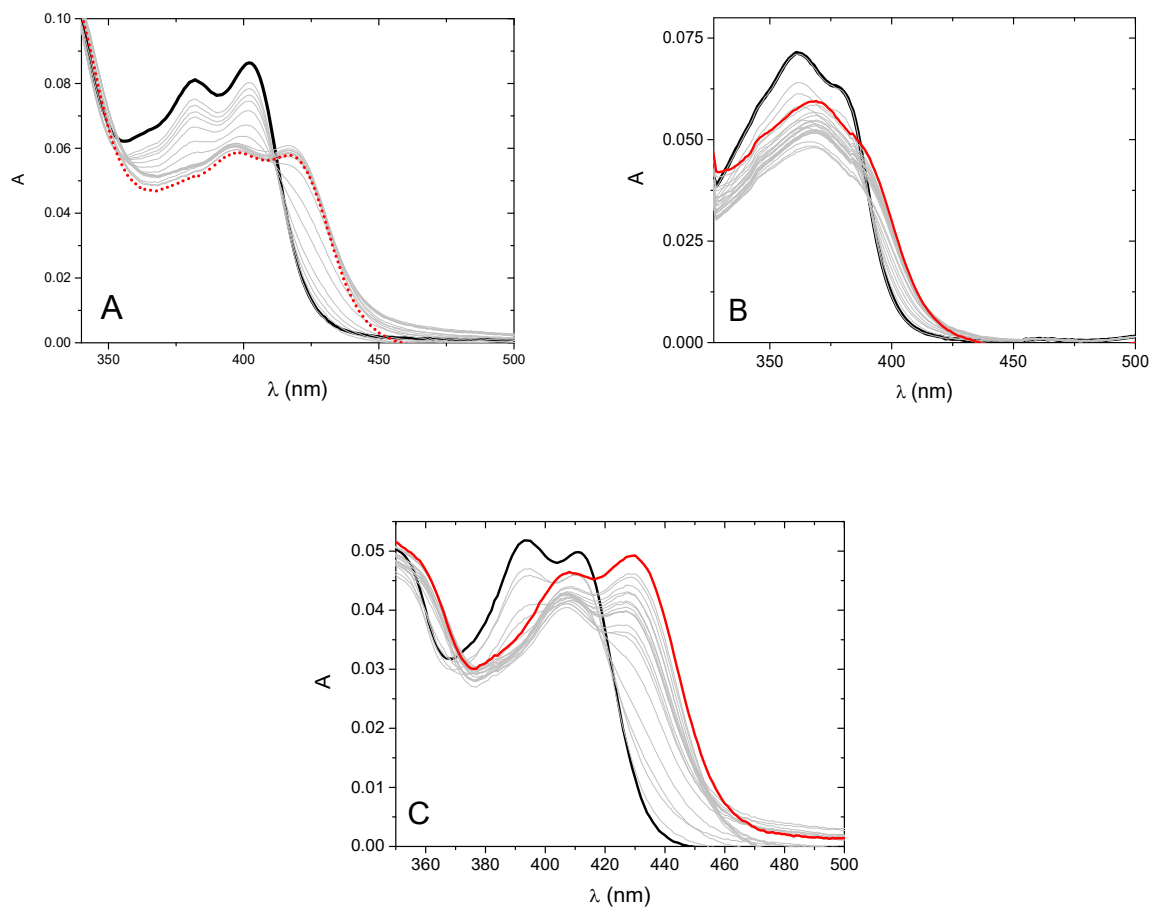


Figure S18. UV-vis titrations with RNA-4WJ, CaCl_2 182 μM , pH 7.0, $T = 25.0$ $^\circ\text{C}$. (A) $[\text{Pd}(\text{H}_2\text{L1})]\text{Cl}_2/\text{RNA-4WJ}$ system, $C_{\text{Pd}} = 8.76 \times 10^{-6}$ M, C_{RNA4WJ} from 0 M (—) to 6.20×10^{-6} M (.....); (B) $[\text{Pd}(\text{L3})](\text{OAc})_2/\text{RNA-4WJ}$ system, $C_{\text{Pd}} = 9.06 \times 10^{-6}$ M, C_{RNA4WJ} from 0 M (—) to 7.58×10^{-6} M (.....); (C) $[\text{Pt}(\text{H}_2\text{L1})]\text{Cl}_2/\text{RNA-4WJ}$ system, $C_{\text{Pt}} = 8.75 \times 10^{-6}$ M, C_{RNA4WJ} from 0 M (—) to 6.16×10^{-6} M (.....).

RNA-4WJ melting tests

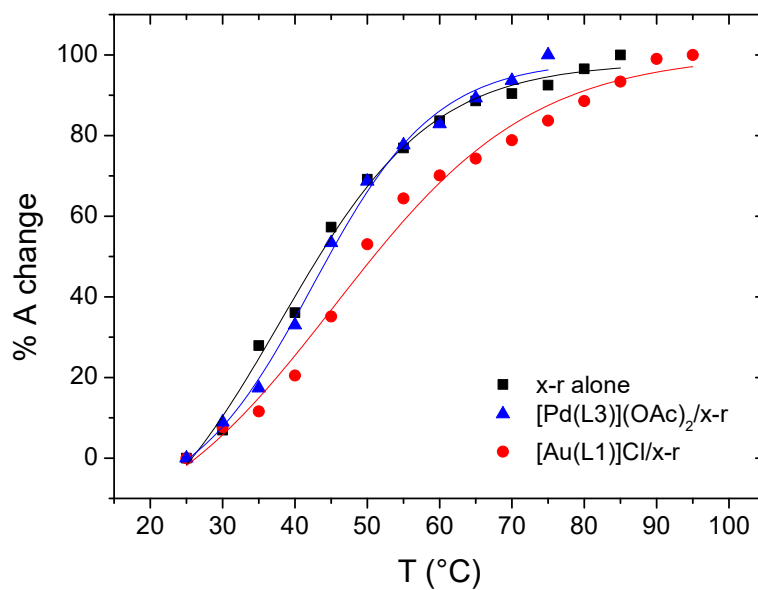


Figure S19. Melting profiles for the coupled x-r strands alone, for the [Pd(L3)](OAc)₂/x-r strands system and for the [Au(L1)]Cl/x-r strands system; $C_{x-r} = 1.03 \times 10^{-5}$ M, $C_{Pd} = 1.86 \times 10^{-5}$ M, $C_{Au} = 1.83 \times 10^{-5}$ M; $C_{CaCl_2} = 182$ μ M, pH 7.0, $\lambda = 260$ nm; % A change = $100 \cdot (A - A^\circ) / (A^\infty - A^\circ)$ where A^∞ and A° are the two absorbance values limiting the fitting sigmoid.