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## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## A serendipitous crossed aldol reaction in the ligand periphery of a Ru(II) polypyridyl complex in silica bed: prospects for delivering anticancer agents for photoactivated chemotherapy

Ramranjan Mishra,<sup>a</sup> Pritha Chatterjee,<sup>a</sup> Ray J. Butcher<sup>b</sup> and Ashis K. Patra\*<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Kanpur 208016, Uttar Pradesh, India. E-mail: <u>akpatra@iitk.ac.in</u>

<sup>b</sup>Department of Chemistry, Howard University, Washington, DC 20059, USA

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**Figure S1.** ESI-MS spectra of the compounds obtained in MeOH (a) Experimental (red lines) and the calculated (black lines) isotopic pattern of the crossed aldol product [**1-Ac**]. (b) Isotopic pattern for [**1**]( $PF_6$ )<sub>2</sub> obtained experimentally (red column) compared to the calculated isotopic distributions.



Figure S2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the pure product [1-Ac] obtained from column in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



**Figure S3.** Second order complex coupling pattern in between the diastereotopic methylene protons A and B with the X proton in [1-Ac].



**Figure S4.** Expanded <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [**1-Ac**] in CD<sub>3</sub>OD. The  $H_X$  proton was observed as a doublet of doublet at 5.11 ppm.



Figure S5. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of [1-Ac] in DMSO- $d_6$  at 125 MHz.



**Figure S6.**  ${}^{1}\text{H}{}^{-13}\text{C}$  HSQC spectrum of [**1**-Ac] in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> establishes the identity of the aliphatic region  ${}^{13}\text{C}$  peaks associated with the aldol adduct of the coordinated 4-pyridine carboxaldehyde ligand.



**Figure S7.** Electronic absorption spectra and cyclic voltammetry of [**1-Ac**]. (a) UV–vis spectrum of [**1-Ac**] in DMSO. (b) Cyclic voltammetric plot of [**1-Ac**] in acetonitrile depicting the oxidation side of the CV diagram.

Table	<b>S1</b> .	Selected	bond	distances	(Å)	of [ <b>1</b>	<b>-Ac</b> ].
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Compound	Ru1-N1	Ru1-N2	R1-N3	Ru1-N4	Ru1-N5	Ru1-N6
[ <b>1-A</b> c]	2.068(3)	1.957(4)	2.067(3)	2.093(4)	2.070(3)	2.120(3)

Angles	Values
N1-Ru1-N2	79.5(1)
N1-Ru1-N3	159.3(1)
N1-Ru1-N4	100.3(1)
N1-Ru1-N5	91.6(1)
N1-Ru1-N6	89.2(1)
N2-Ru1-N3	79.8(1)
N2-Ru1-N4	173.0(1)
N2-Ru1-N5	93.9(1)
N2-Ru1-N6	91.0(1)
N3-Ru1-N4	100.1(1)
N3-Ru1-N5	89.5(1)
N3-Ru1-N6	91.4(1)
N4-Ru1-N5	79.1(1)
N4-Ru1-N6	96.0(1)
N5-Ru1-N6	175.1(1)

 Table S2. Selected bond angles (degree) for [1-Ac].

Empirical formula	$C_{106}H_{96}N_{26}O_{25}Ru_2$
Formula weight	2336.22
Temperature/K	100.0
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	$P2_{1}/c$
$a/{ m \AA}$	11.809(3)
b/Å	20.790(6)
$c/{ m \AA}$	21.430(6)
$lpha/^{\circ}$	90
$eta/^{\circ}$	102.404(8)
$\gamma/^{\circ}$	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	5138(2)
Ζ	2
$ ho_{ m calc} g/ m cm^3$	1.510
$\mu/{ m mm^{-1}}$	0.385
F(000)	2404.0
Radiation	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ )
$2\Theta$ range for data collection/°	4.66 to 56.812
Index ranges	$-15 \le h \le 15, -27 \le k \le 27, -28 \le l \le 28$
Reflections collected	105756
Independent reflections	12796 [ $R_{int} = 0.0930, R_{sigma} = 0.0535$ ]
Data/restraints/parameters	12796/177/810
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.095
Final <i>R</i> indexes $[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0682, wR_2 = 0.1510$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0925, wR_2 = 0.1635$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	1.38/-0.85

 Table S3. Refinement details and crystallographic parameters of the crystal structure of [1-Ac].

$$R_{1} = \frac{\sum ||F_{o}| - |F_{c}||}{\sum |F_{o}|}; \ wR_{2} = \sqrt{\left\{\frac{\sum [w(Fo^{2} - Fc^{2})^{2}]}{\sum [w(Fo^{2})^{2}]}\right\}}$$



**Figure S8.** ESI-MS-based characterization of the photoproduct obtained from the photoreactivity study of [**1-Ac**] upon blue LED irradiation in DMSO- $d_6$ . (a) The experimental isotopic pattern in comparison with the theoretically calculated values for {[Ru(ttp)(dppz)(DMSO- $d_6$ ]<sup>2+</sup>+2[NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>]+Na<sup>+</sup>}. (b) ESI-MS plot of the released ligand obtained as [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.