# **Supporting Information**

for

# Dual Optical Responses of Phenothiazine Derivatives: Near-IR Chromophore and Water-soluble Fluorescent Organic Nanoparticles

Sheng-Yuan Su,<sup>a</sup> Hsin-Hung Lin,<sup>b</sup> Cheng-Chung Chang\*<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of chemistry, National Chung Hsing University 250, Kuo Kuang Road,

Taichung 402, Taiwan, R.O.C.

<sup>b</sup> Graduate Institute of Biomedical Engineering, National Chung Hsing University 250,

Kuo Kuang Road, Taichung 402, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Fax: (886)-4-228 52422

Tel: (886)-4-22840734 ext. 24

E-mail: ccchang555@dragon.nchu.edu.tw

## 1. General procedure for the synthesis of phenothiazine derivatives (Scheme 2).

- 1. 3-((E)-(4-aminostyryl))-10H-phenothiazine (**PTZ-NH**)
- 2. 3-((E)-(4-methoxystyryl)-10H-phenothiazine (**PTZ-OMe**)
- 3. 3-((E)-(4-acetoxystyryl))-10H-phenothiazine (3)
- 4. 3-((E)-2-(phenol-4-yl) vinyl)-10H-phenothiazine (PTZ-OH)
- 5. 3-((E)-2-(phenol-4-yl) vinyl)-10-methyl-phenothiazine (MPTZ-OH)

2. Figure S1 Deprotonated titration spectrum of PTZ-OH in  $Na_3PO_4$  containing DMSO solution. Insert shows the first stage for the appearance of phenolate-PTZ, while the second stage shows the unparent appearance of phenothiazinated-PTZ and dominate component hybrid-PTZ.

- 3. Figure. S2 Absorption (left) and emission (right) spectral illustrations of 25 uM MPTZ-OH in alkaline aqueous solutions (10 mM). Insert photo shows the emission images under the UV light (365 nm)
- 4. Figure. S3 Absorption (left) and emission (right) spectral illustrations of variable concentration of PTZ-OH in KOH aqueous solutions (10 mM). Insert shows the emission intensities (at 500 nm) plots.

### 1. General procedure for the synthesis of phenothiazine derivatives (Scheme 2)

Synthesis of the phenothiazine derivatives is shown in Scheme 1. 10*H*-phenothiazine or N-methyl-phenothiazine containing solution was subjected to bromination with NBS/THF in an additional funnel. Next, the samples were subjected to the Heck coupling reaction<sup>34</sup> with 4-vinylaniline, 4-acetoxystyrene or 4-methoxystyrene under catalyst Pd (OAc)<sub>2</sub>. Finally, 4-vinylphenol substituted PTZ derivatives were easily prepared by the addition of KOH in a methanol system.



**Scheme 2** Synthesis of PTZ derivatives. Reaction reagents and conditions: (i) Mixture of  $Pd(OAc)_2/(o-tol)_3P$  complex and 4-vinylaniline (for PTZ-NH) or 4-methoxyly styrene (for PTZ-OMe) or 4-acetoxyly styrene (for compound 3 and 4) with Et<sub>3</sub>N/MeCN as a solvent pair. Reflux under nitrogen, 48 h. (ii) KOH, methanol, reflux, 4 h

#### 1. 3-((E)-(4-aminostyryl))-10H-phenothiazine (PTZ-NH)

Compound 1 (5 mmole) was added to a high pressure bottle containing a mixture of palladium (II) acetate (8 mg, Strem) and tri-o-tolyl phosphine (80 mg, Aldrich), after which the solvent pair (triethylamine 5 mL/acetonitrile 15 mL) and 4-vinylanile (8 mmole, Acros) was added. The bottle was then sealed after bubbling with nitrogen for 10 min. After keeping the system under ~105 for two days, the system was cooled to room temperature and then extracted with  $CH_2CI_2/H_2O$  twice. The organic layer was then dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated in under vacuum, after which the residue was subjected to chromatography on a silica gel using hexane/ethyl acetate (1/2, Rf = 0.4). A

dark-yellow solid compound was then obtained by recrystallization with acetone/hexane (yield: 52%). Data for *PTZ-NH*: <sup>1</sup>HNMR (400 Hz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  = 8.614 (s, 1H), 7.198 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.102 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.052(s, 1H), 6.965 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.898 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.840 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.728 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.690 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.650 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.625 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.520 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.285 (b, 2H). Anal. Calcd. %. For C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S: C, 75.92; H, 5.10; N, 8.85. C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OS·1H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 71.83; H, 5.42; N, 8.38. Observation: C, 71.02; H, 5.49; N, 8.29.

#### 2. 3-((E)-(4-methoxystyryl)-10H-phenothiazine (PTZ-OMe)

A procedure similar to that used to prepare the **PTZ-NH** was employed; however, 4-methoxystyrene (10 mmole, Merck) was added. The residue was then chromatographed on silica gel with hexane/acetone (2/1) and recrystallized from acetone/ethyl acetate (yield: 75%) to give a light-yellow solid. Data for **PTZ-OMe**: <sup>1</sup>HNMR ( 400 Hz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  = 8.664 (s, 1H), 7.450 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.124 (s, 1H), 6.980 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.938 (d, *J* = 16.2, 1H), 6.907 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.879 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 6.747 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.358 (d, d = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.637 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.751(s, 3H). Anal. Calcd. %. For C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NOS: C, 76.10; H, 5.17; N, 4.23. Observation: C, 76.01; H, 5.19; N, 4.25.

#### 3. 3-((E)-(4-acetoxystyryl))-10H-phenothiazine (3)

Compound **1** (5 mmole) was added to a high pressure bottle containing a mixture of palladium (II) acetate (8 mg, Strem) and tri-*o*-tolyl phosphine (80 mg, Aldrich), after which the solvent pair (triethylamine 5 mL/acetonitrile 15 mL) and 4-acetoxystyrene (8 mmole, Merck) was added. The bottle was then sealed after bubbling with nitrogen for 10 min. After keeping the system under ~105 for two days, the system was cooled to room temperature and then extracted with  $CH_2CI_2/H_2O$  twice. The organic layer was then dried using MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under vacuum, after which the residue was chromatographed on silica gel with hexane/acetone (2/1). A light yellow solid compound was obtained by recrystallization with acetone/ethyl acetate (yield: 57%). Data for **3**: <sup>1</sup>HNMR (400 Hz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  = 8.719 (s, 1H), 7.540 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.183 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H ), 8.163 (s, 1H), 7.090 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H ), 7.030 (s, 2H, double bond), 6.974 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.907 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.663 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.649 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.257 (s, 3H).

#### 4. 3-((E)-2-(phenol-4-yl)vinyl)-10*H*-phenothiazine (PTZ-OH)

After refluxing compound **3** with excess KOH in methanol for four hours, the system was evaporated in vacuum and the sample was then extracted with  $CH_2CI_2/1N$  HCl twice. Next, the organic layer was dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the collected residue was chromatographed on a silica gel using hexane/acetone (1/2). Finally, yellow powders (yield: 92%) were recrystallized with

acetone/hexane. Data for **PTZ-OH**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  = 9.497 (s, 1H), 8.650 (s, 1H), 7.332 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.137 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.098 (s, 1H), 6.970 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.925 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 6.903 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.801 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 6.735 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.725 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.656 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.628 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H). Anal. Calcd. %. For C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NOS: C, 75.68; H, 4.76; N, 4.41. Observation: C, 75.58; H, 4.79; N, 4.40.

#### 5. 3-((E)-2-(phenol-4-yl) vinyl)-10-methyl-phenothiazine (MPTZ-OH)

Compound 3-((*E*)-(4-acetoxystyryl))-10-methyl-phenothiazine (4), the precursor of **MPTZ-OH**, was prepared following the same procedure used to prepare compound **3**, except that compound **2** was used as the starting material. The residue was then chromatographed on silica gel by hexane/acetone (3/1, Rf = 0.5). A light-yellow solid was collected by recrystallization with methanol (yield: 65%). Data for **4**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  = 7.570 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.413 (s, 1H), 7.304 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.206 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.166 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.150 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.098 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.950 (m, 3H), 3.311 (s, 3H), 2.234 (s, 3H).

Following the preparation of **PTZ-OH**, the final product was chromatographed on silica gel by hexane/acetone (3/1, Rf = 0.4) and a yellow powder was recrystallized from hexane/acetone (yield: 90 %). Data for **MPTZ-OH**: <sup>1</sup>HNMR (400 Hz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  = 9.559 (s, 1H), 7.358 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.339 (m, 2H), 7.198 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.147 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.018 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.940 (m, 2H), 6.904 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.888 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.734 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.257 (s, 3H). Anal. Calcd. %. For C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NOS: C, 76.10; H, 5.17; N, 4.23. Observation: C, 75.69; H, 5.20; N, 4.20.

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