Supporting Information for

Enhancing the Photosensitivity of Hypocrellin A by Perylene Diimide Metallacage-Based Host-Guest Complexation for

Photodynamic Therapy

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S1 Materials and Methods

All reagents and deuterated solvents were used as purchased without further purification. Compounds 2^{S1} , 7^{S2} , 8^{S2} and $3a^{S3}$ were prepared according to the literature procedures. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 or 600 MHz spectrometer. ¹H NMR chemical shifts were referenced to an external unlocked sample of 85% H₃PO₄ (δ 0.0). Mass spectra were recorded on a Micromass Quattro II triple-quadrupole mass spectrometer using electrospray ionization with a MassLynx operating system. The UV-vis experiments were conducted on a Lambd 950 absorption spectrophotometer. The fluorescent experiments were conducted on an Edinburgh FLS9 or a Hitachi F-7000 fluorescence spectrophotometer. X-ray diffraction analysis was conducted on a Bruker SMART APEX II diffractometer at 108 K with graphitemonochromated Mo K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) or a Bruker D8 VENTURE PHOTON III MetalJet, in which crystals were frozen in paratone oil inside a cryoloop under a cold stream of N₂. An empirical absorption correction using SADABS was applied for all data. The structures were solved and refined to convergence on F2 for all independent reflections by the

full-matrix least squares method using the OLEX2 1.2. Confocal laser scanning microscopy (CLSM) was performed with a Leica TCS SP8 STED 3X Super-resolution Confocal Microscope. Fluorescence titration experiments were performed by the addition of different amounts of guests into the CH₃CN/CHCl₃ (1:1) or CH₃CN solution of metallacages and the concentration of the metallacages was fixed to be 10.0 μ M. The data was fitted according to the following equation:

 $\delta = (\Delta \delta_{max}/[H]_0) (0.5[G] + 0.5 ([H]_0+1/K_a) - (0.5([G]^2+(2[G](1/K_a-[H]_0)) + (1/K_a+[H]_0)^2)^{0.5}))$ Where δ is the fluorescence changes of metallacages upon the addition of guests, $\Delta \delta_{max}$ is the maximum fluorescence intensity change when the metallacages are totally complexed, [H]_0 is the fixed concentration of metallacages (10.0 μ M), [G] is the concentration of the guests. All of these fluorescence titration experiments have been repeated three times.

S2 Synthetic Procedures and Characterization Data

S2.1 Synthesis of ligand 3b



To compound **8** (1.00 g, 0.92 mmol), 4-(4-Bromophenyl)pyridine (1.72 g, 7.34 mmol), anhydrous Cs₂CO₃ (2.39 g, 7.34 mmol) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.21 g, 0.18 mmol) in toluene (60.0 mL), H₂O (12.0 mL) and ethanol (12.0 mL) were added. Then the reaction mixture was stirred at 85 °C for 48 h under nitrogen atmosphere. After being cooled to room temperature, the product was concentrated to give a crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography with CH₂Cl₂:CH₃OH (50:1, v/v) as the eluent to afford compound **3b** (0.88 g, 80%) as an orange powder. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.71 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 8H), 8.45 (s, 4H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 8H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 8H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 8H), 5.00 (s, 2H), 2.10 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 7.7 Hz, 4H), 1.66 – 1.63 (m, 5H), 1.31 (dd, *J* = 15.1, 7.6 Hz, 9H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 12H). ¹³C NMR (243 MHz, CDCl₃, 295 K) 150.38, 147.67, 137.69, 132.73, 131.19, 128.90, 127.18, 121.64, 54.41, 34.13, 31.52, 31.45, 29.71, 20.07, 14.09. ESI-HR-MS: *m/z* 1199.5179 [**3b** + H]⁺, calcd. for [Cs₂H₆₆N₆O4]⁺, 1199.5212.



Fig. S1 ¹H NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 295 K) recorded for 3b



Fig. S2 ¹³C NMR spectrum (151 MHz, CDCl₃, 295 K) recorded for 3b









Fig. S4 Self-assembly of Cage 4a

3a (3.00 mg, 3.35 µmol), tetracarboxylate ligand **1** (1.49 mg, 3.35 µmol), and cis-(PEt₃)₂Pt(OTf)₂ (9.78 mg, 13.41 µmol) were mixed in a 1:1:4 molar ratio and dissolved in acetone/water (6.0 mL, 4:1, ν/ν). The whole reaction mixture was heated at 50°C for 8 h and then cooled to room temperature. The solvent was removed by nitrogen flow. The residue was redissolved in CH₃CN (1.0 mL) and filtered, and the filtrate was poured into ethyl ether (10.0 mL) to give a precipitate, which was collected by centrifugation to give **Cage 4a** (15.00 mg, 93%) as an orange powder. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 9.01 (s, 8H), 8.76 (s, 8H), 8.38 (s, 8H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 34.2 Hz, 11H), 7.63 (s, 8H), 7.38 (s, 8H), 7.27 (s, 4H), 4.78 (s, 4H), 1.05 – 0.64 (m, 24H). ³¹P{¹H}NMR (243 MHz, CD₃CN, 295 K): 5.36 ppm (d, ²*J*_{P-P} = 21.9 Hz, ¹⁹⁵Pt satellites, ¹*J*_{Pt-P} = 1660.3 Hz), -0.12 pp m (d, ²*J*_{P-P} = 21.9 Hz, ¹⁹⁵Pt satellites, ¹*J*_{Pt-P} = 1660.3 Hz). ESI-TOF-MS: m/z 742.9245 [Cage 4a - 80Tf]⁸⁺, 1040.5464 [Cage 4a - 60Tf]⁶⁺, 1278.2423 [Cage 4a - 50Tf]⁵⁺ and 1635.2900 [Cage 4a - 40Tf]⁴⁺.



Fig. S5 ¹H NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 295 K) recorded for Cage 4a



Fig. S6 ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum (243 MHz, CD₃CN, 295 K) recorded for Cage 4a

S2.3 Synthesis of Cage 4b



Fig. S7 Self-assembly of Cage 4b

3b (3.00 mg, 2.50 µmol), tetracarboxylate ligand **1** (1.11 mg, 2.50 µmol), and cis-(PEt₃)₂Pt(OTf)₂ (7.30 mg, 10.00 µmol) were mixed in a 1:1:4 molar ratio and dissolved in acetone/water (6.0 mL, 4:1, ν/ν). The whole reaction mixture was heated at 50°C for 8 h and then cooled to room temperature. The solvent was removed by nitrogen flow. The residue was redissolved in CH₃CN (1.0 mL) and filtered, and the filtrate was poured into ethyl ether (10.0 mL) to give a precipitate, which was collected by centrifugation to give **Cage 4b** (15.00 mg, 93%) as an orange powder. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 8.82 (s, 16H), 8.28 (s, 8H), 8.15 (s, 4H), 8.07 (s, 8H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 16H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 15H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 15H), 7.20 (s, 4H), 4.76 (s, 4H), 0.71 (s, 24H). ³¹P{¹H}NMR (243 MHz, CD₃CN, 295 K): 5.36 ppm (d, ²*J*_{P-P} = 21.9 Hz, ¹⁹⁵Pt satellites, ¹*J*_{Pt-P} = 1665.8 Hz), -0.12 ppm (d, ²*J*_{P-P} = 21.9 Hz, ¹⁹⁵Pt satellites, ¹*J*_{Pt-P} = 1665.8 Hz). ESI-TOF-MS: *m/z* 818.8931 [**Cage 4b** - 80Tf]⁸⁺, 957.4337 [**Cage 4b** - 70Tf]⁷⁺, 1141.8347 [**Cage 4b** - 60Tf]⁶⁺ and 1400.1527 [**Cage 4b** -50Tf]⁵⁺.



Fig. S8 ¹H NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 295 K) recorded for Cage 4b



Fig. S9 ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum (243 MHz, CD₃CN, 295 K) recorded for Cage 4b

S3 Crystallographic Data and Refinement Details

Table S1 Crystallographic data and refinement details for Cage 4a

Compound	Cage 4a
Empirical formula	$C_{256}H_{356}F_{24}N_{12}O_{48}P_{16}Pt_8S_8$
Formula weight	7138.23
Temperature/K	193.00
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	20.9600(13)
b/Å	22.1707(13)
c/Å	25.1102(16)
α/°	103.154(2)
β/°	109.811(2)
γ/°	98.891(2)
Volume/Å ³	10342.5(11)
Z	1
$D_{calc}/g \ cm^{-3}$	1.146
μ/mm^{-1}	2.856
F(000)	3568.0
Theta(max)	25.350
Reflections collected	63132
Independent reflns	36624
$R_1; wR_2 [I > 2\sigma (I)]$	0.1099; 0.2220
GOOF	1.083



S4 Host-guest Complexation Study

Fig. S10 Partial ¹H NMR spectra (CD₃CN) of (a) Cage $4a \supset G_1$, (b) G_1 , (c) Cage $4b \supset G_1$, (d) Cage $4a \supset G_2$, (e) G_2 , (f) Cage $4b \supset G_2$, (g) Cage $4a \supset G_4$, (h) G_4 , and (i) Cage $4b \supset G_4$. [Host] = [Guest]=2 mM



Fig. S11 (a) UV-vis absorption of Cage 4a with guest G_1 in different molar ratios ([Cage 4a] + [G₁] = 10 μ M). (b) Job's plot of the complex Cage 4a \supset G₁ in CH₃CN, showing a 1:1 stoichiometry



Fig. S12 (a) UV-vis absorption of Cage 4a with guest G₂ in different molar ratios ([Cage 4a] + [G₂] = 10 μ M). (b) Job's plot of the complex Cage 4a \supset G₂ in CH₃CN, showing a 1:1 stoichiometry



Fig. S13 (a) UV-vis absorption of Cage 4a with guest G₃ in different molar ratios ([Cage 4a] + [G₃] = 10 μ M). (b) Job's plot of the complex Cage 4a \supset G₃ in CH₃CN, showing a 1:1 stoichiometry



Fig. S14 (a) UV-vis absorption of Cage 4a with guest G_4 in different molar ratios ([Cage 4a] + [G₄] = 10 μ M). (b) Job's plot of the complex Cage 4a \supset G₄ in CH₃CN, showing a 1:1 stoichiometry



Fig. S15 (a) UV-vis absorption of Cage 4b with guest G_1 in different molar ratios ([Cage 4a] + [G₁] = 10 μ M). (b) Job's plot of the complex Cage 4a \supset G₁ in CH₃CN, showing a 1:1 stoichiometry



Fig. S16 (a) UV-vis absorption of Cage 4b with guest G_2 in different molar ratios ([Cage 4b] + [G_2] = 10 μ M). (b) Job's plot of the complex Cage 4b \supset G₂ in CH₃CN, showing a 1:1 stoichiometry



Fig. S17 (a) UV-vis absorption of Cage 4b with guest G₃ in different molar ratios ([Cage 4b] + [G₃] = 10 μ M). (b) Job's plot of the complex Cage 4b \supset G₃ in CH₃CN, showing a 1:1 stoichiometry



Fig. S18 (a) UV-vis absorption of Cage 4b with guest G₄ in different molar ratios ([Cage 4b] + [G₄] = 10 μ M). (b) Job's plot of the complex Cage 4b \supset G₄ in CH₃CN, showing a 1:1 stoichiometry



Fig. S19 (a) Fluorescence spectra of Cage 4a at a fixed concentration upon the addition of G_1 in CH₃CN ([Host] = 10 μ M, [Guest] = 500 μ M). (b) Nonlinear fitting curves of the emission intensity at 365 nm of Cage 4a versus the concentrations of G_1



Fig. S20 (a) Fluorescence spectra of Cage 4a at a fixed concentration upon the addition of G₂ in CH₃CN ([Host] = 10 μ M, [Guest] = 500 μ M). (b) Nonlinear fitting curves of the emission intensity at 365 nm of Cage 4a versus the concentrations of G₂



Fig. S21 (a) Fluorescence spectra of Cage 4a at a fixed concentration upon the addition of G_3 in CH₃CN ([Host] = 10 μ M, [Guest] = 500 μ M). (b) Nonlinear fitting curves of the emission intensity at 365 nm of Cage 4a versus the concentrations of G₃



Fig. S22 (a) Fluorescence spectra of **Cage 4a** at a fixed concentration upon the addition of G_4 in CH₃CN ([Host] = 10 μ M, [Guest] = 500 μ M). (b) Nonlinear fitting curves of the emission intensity at 365 nm of **Cage 4a** versus the concentrations of G_4



Fig. S23 (a) Fluorescence spectra of Cage 4b at a fixed concentration upon the addition of G_1 in CH₃CN ([Host] = 10 μ M, [Guest] = 200 μ M). (b) Nonlinear fitting curves of the emission intensity at 365 nm of Cage 4b versus the concentrations of G_1



Fig. S24 (a) Fluorescence spectra of Cage 4b at a fixed concentration upon the addition of G_2 in CH₃CN ([Host] = 10 μ M, [Guest] = 200 μ M). (b) Nonlinear fitting curves of the emission intensity at 365 nm of Cage 4b versus the concentrations of G_2



Fig. S25 (a) Fluorescence spectra of Cage 4b at a fixed concentration upon the addition of G₃ in CH₃CN ([Host] = 10 μ M, [Guest] = 200 μ M). (b) Nonlinear fitting curves of the emission intensity at 365 nm of Cage 4b versus the concentrations of G₃



Fig. S26 (a) Fluorescence spectra of Cage 4b at a fixed concentration upon the addition of G_4 in CH₃CN ([Host] = 10 μ M, [Guest] = 200 μ M). (b) Nonlinear fitting curves of the emission intensity at 365 nm of Cage 4b versus the concentrations of G_4



Fig. S27 (a) UV-vis absorption of Cage 4a with guest G₅ in different molar ratios ([Cage 4a] + [G₅] = 10 μ M). (b) Job's plot of the complex Cage 4a \supset G₅ in CH₃CN, showing a 1:1 stoichiometry



Fig. S28 (a) UV-vis absorption of Cage 4b with guest G₅ in different molar ratios ([Cage 4b] + [G₅] = 10 μ M). (b) Job's plot of the complex Cage 4b \supset G₅ in CH₃CN, showing a 1:1 stoichiometry



Fig. S29 ESI-TOF-MS spectra of (a) Cage 4a⊃G5 and (b) Cage 4b⊃G5



Fig. S30 (a) Fluorescence spectra of **Cage 4a** at a fixed concentration upon the addition of **G**⁵ in CH₃CN ([Host] = 10 μ M, [Guest] = 500 μ M). (b) Nonlinear fitting curves of the emission intensity at 365 nm of **Cage 4a** versus the concentrations of **G**⁵



Fig. S31 (a) Fluorescence spectra of **Cage 4b** at a fixed concentration upon the addition of **G**₅ in CH₃CN ([Host] = 10 μ M, [Guest] = 200 μ M). (b) Nonlinear fitting curves of the emission intensity at 365 nm of **Cage 4b** versus the concentrations of **G**₅



Fig. S32 (a) Normalized absorption and emission spectra of compounds G₅ and Cage 4a. (b) Fluorescence spectra of Cage 4a (c = 10.0 μ M) and G₅ (c = 500.0 μ M) in a mixture of CH₃CN and water (v/v = 1/1) with different concentrations of G₅

S5 Measurements of Singlet Oxygen



Fig. S33 ESR spectra of complexes **Cage 4a** \supset **G5** and **Cage 4b** \supset **G5** under illumination (white light, 100 mW/cm²), using TEMP as a spin trap agent



Fig. S34 The absorption decays of DPBF at 410 nm vs irradiation time in the presence of (a) RB, (b) 3a, (c) Cage 4a, (d) 3b, (e) Cage 4b, (f) G5, (g) Cage 4a \supset G5 and (h) Cage 4b \supset G5 upon irradiation in acetonitrile ($\lambda_{ex} = 520$ nm)

S6 Photophysical Property



Fig. S35 UV-vis absorption of NPs 5 in 1% DMSO/H₂O within 7 days



Fig. S36 (a) UV-vis absorption, (b) emission spectra and (c) fluorescence quantum yield of 3a, Cage 4a, 3b, Cage 4b, G₅, Cage 4a \supset G₅ and Cage 4b \supset G₅ in 1% DMSO/H₂O. Excitation wavelengths: $\lambda_{ex} = 400$ nm



Fig. S37 Absolute fluorescence quantum yield of ligand 3a



Fig. S38 Absolute fluorescence quantum yield of Cage 4a



Fig. S39 Absolute fluorescence quantum yield of ligand 3b







Fig. S41 Absolute fluorescence quantum yield of G5



Fig. S42 Absolute fluorescence quantum yield of Cage 4a⊃G5



Fig. S43 Absolute fluorescence quantum yield of Cage 4b⊃G5

S7 Fluorescence Intensity of Different Compounds at Different Time



Fig. S44 CLSM images of NCI-H460 cells after the incubation with DAPI and G5, Cage 4b, Cage 4b⊃G5 or NPs 5



Fig. S45 Flow cytometric analysis of MHCC-97L cells with emission of Cage $4b \supset G_5(a)$ or NPs 5 (b) at different incubation times



Fig. S46 Flow cytometric analysis of NCI-H460 cells with emission of Cage $4b \supset G_5(a)$ or NPs 5 (b) at different incubation times



Fig. S47 Fluorescence intensity of NCI-H460 cells incubated with Cage 4b⊃G5 or NPs 5 at different times



Fig. S48 The fluorescence signal of MHCC-97L cells treated with PBS, 3b, G₅, Cage 4b, Cage $4b \supset G_5$ and NPs 5 without light (a) or with light (b)



Fig. S49 The fluorescence signal of NCI-H460 cells treated with PBS, 3b, G5, Cage 4b, Cage $4b \supset G_5$ and NPs 5 without light (a) or with light (b)

S8 MTT Assay of Different Compounds against Cancer Cells



Fig. S50 MTT assay of NCI-H460 cells after the incubation with 3b, G5, Cage 4b, Cage $4b \supset G_5$ and NPs 5

S9 In vivo Tumor Therapy Study

Fig. S51 In vivo fluorescence imaging of the tumor-bearing mice after injection of 2, 3b, G₅, Cage 4b, Cage 4b \supset G₅ and NPs 5



Fig. S52 Images of different organs after injection of 2, 3b, G5, Cage 4b, Cage 4b⊃G5 and NPs 5



Fig. S53 Hematology analysis of the tumor-bearing mice with PBS or NPs 5 + L. No significant changes with all tested parameters were detected. White blood cells: WBC, neutrophil: NEU, lymphocyte: LYM



Fig. S54 Alterations of alanine transaminase (ALT), aspartate transaminase (AST), albumin (ALB), urea nitrogen (UREA), creatinine (CREA), and uric acid (UA) in the tumor-bearing mice (n = 5 for each group) with PBS or **NPs 5** + L

Supplementary References

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