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 recorded relative to residual solvent signals. ${}^{31}P\{ {}^{1}H\}$ 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 Kα 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 $CH_3CN/CHCl_3$ (1:1) or CH_3CN solution of metallacages and the concentration of the metallacages was fixed to be 10.0 μM. 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. ¹ H 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 [C82H66N6O4] ⁺ , 1199.5212.

Fig. S1 ¹ H 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, *v*/*v*). 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, ²J_{P-P} =21.9 Hz, ¹⁹⁵Pt satellites, ¹J_{Pt-P} = 1660.3 Hz), -0.12 pp m (d, ²J_{P-P} = 21.9 Hz, ¹⁹⁵Pt satellites, ¹J_{Pt-P} = 1660.3

Hz). ESI-TOF-MS: m/z 742.9245 [Cage 4a − 8OTf]⁸⁺, 1040.5464 [Cage 4a − 6OTf]⁶⁺, 1278.2423 [**Cage 4a** − 5OTf]5+ and 1635.2900 [**Cage 4a** − 4OTf]4+.

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

Fig. S6 31P{1 H} 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, *v*/*v*). 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{1 H}NMR (243 MHz, CD3CN, 295 K): 5.36 ppm (d, ²J_{P-P} = 21.9 Hz, ¹⁹⁵Pt satellites, ¹J_{Pt-P} = 1665.8 Hz), -0.12 ppm (d, ²J_{P-P} = 21.9 Hz, 195Pt satellites, 1 *J*Pt-P = 1665.8 Hz). ESI-TOF-MS: *m*/*z* 818.8931 [**Cage 4b** − 8OTf]8+, 957.4337 [**Cage 4b** − 7OTf]7+, 1141.8347 [**Cage 4b** − 6OTf]6+ and 1400.1527 [**Cage 4b** − 5 OTf 15^{5+} .

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

Fig. S9 31P{1 H} 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}
$a/\text{\AA}$	20.9600(13)
b/A	22.1707(13)
c/A	25.1102(16)
$\alpha/^\circ$	103.154(2)
β /°	109.811(2)
γ ^o	98.891(2)
Volume/ \AA^3	10342.5(11)
Z	1
$D_{\rm calc}/g \rm \ cm^{-3}$	1.146
μ /mm ⁻¹	2.856
F(000)	3568.0
Theta(max)	25.350
Reflections collected	63132
Independent reflns	36624
R_1 ;w R_2 [I > 2 σ (I)]	0.1099; 0.2220
GOOF	1.083

S4 Host-guest Complexation Study

Fig. S10 Partial ¹ H NMR spectra (CD3CN) of (**a**) **Cage 4a**⊃**G1**, (**b**) **G1**, (**c**) **Cage 4b**⊃**G1**, (**d**) **Cage 4a**⊃**G2**, (**e**) **G2**, (**f**) **Cage 4b**⊃**G2**, (**g**) **Cage 4a**⊃**G4**, (**h**) **G4**, and (**i**) **Cage 4b**⊃**G4**. [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 μM). (b) Job's plot of the complex Cage $4a\supset G_1$ 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**] $+$ $[G_2] = 10 \mu M$). (**b**) Job's plot of the complex **Cage 4a**⊃ G_2 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**] $+$ $[G_3] = 10 \mu M$). (**b**) Job's plot of the complex **Cage 4a**⊃ G_3 in CH₃CN, showing a 1:1 stoichiometry

Fig. S14 (**a**) UV-vis absorption of **Cage 4a** with guest **G4** in different molar ratios ([**Cage 4a**] $+$ [G₄] = 10 μM). (b) Job's plot of the complex Cage $4a\supseteqsub>G_4$ 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 μM). (b) Job's plot of the complex Cage $4a\supset G_1$ 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] + [**G2**] = 10 μM). (**b**) Job's plot of the complex **Cage 4b**⊃**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**] $+$ $[G_3] = 10 \mu M$). (**b**) Job's plot of the complex **Cage 4b**⊃ G_3 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 μM). (**b**) Job's plot of the complex **Cage 4b**⊃**G4** in CH3CN, showing a 1:1 stoichiometry

Fig. S19 (**a**) Fluorescence spectra of **Cage 4a** at a fixed concentration upon the addition of **G1** 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 **G1**

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 **G3** 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 **G4** 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 **G4**

Fig. S23 (**a**) Fluorescence spectra of **Cage 4b** at a fixed concentration upon the addition of **G1** 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 **G1**

Fig. S24 (**a**) Fluorescence spectra of **Cage 4b** at a fixed concentration upon the addition of **G2** 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 **G2**

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 **G4** 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 **G4**

Fig. S27 (**a**) UV-vis absorption of **Cage 4a** with guest **G5** in different molar ratios ([**Cage 4a**] + [**G5**] = 10 μM). (**b**) Job's plot of the complex **Cage 4a**⊃**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 μM). (**b**) Job's plot of the complex **Cage 4b**⊃**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 **G5** 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 **G5**

Fig. S31 (**a**) Fluorescence spectra of **Cage 4b** at a fixed concentration upon the addition of **G5** 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 **G5**

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 G_5

S5 Measurements of Singlet Oxygen

Fig. S33 ESR spectra of complexes **Cage 4a**⊃**G5** and **Cage 4b**⊃**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 \neg G₅ and (h) Cage 4b \neg G₅ upon irradiation in acetonitrile (λ_{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**⊃**G5** and **Cage 4b**⊃**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**⊃**G5** (**a**) or **NPs 5** (**b**) at different incubation times

Fig. S46 Flow cytometric analysis of NCI-H460 cells with emission of **Cage 4b**⊃**G5** (**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**⊃**G5** 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**⊃**G5** 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**⊃**G5** 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**⊃**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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