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## Glycosylated zinc phthalocyanine-gold nanoparticle conjugates for photodynamic therapy: Effect of nanoparticle shape.

Edith Dube, David O. Oluwole, Njemuwa Nwaji, Tebello Nyokong\*

Center for Nanotechnology Innovation, Department of Chemistry, Rhodes University, Grahamstown 6140, South Africa

### Abstract

In this work, we report on the synthesis of tris-[(2,2,7,7-tetramethyltetrahydro-3aH-bis([1,3]dioxolo)[4,5-b:4',5'-d]pyran-5-yl)methoxy)-2-(4-benzo[d]thiazol-2-ylphenoxyphthalocyaninato)] zinc(II) (complex **3**) and its linkage to gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) of different shapes through S-Au/N-Au self-assembly. The conjugates of complex **3** (with both gold nanorods (AuNR) and nanospheres (AuNS)), displayed decreased fluorescence quantum yield with corresponding improved triplet and singlet quantum yields compared to complex **3** alone, however **3**-AuNR showed improved properties than **3**-AuNS. Complex **3** showed relatively low *in vitro* dark cytotoxicity against the epithelial breast cancer cells with cell survival  $\geq 85\%$  at concentration  $\leq 160 \mu\text{g/mL}$  but afforded reduced photodynamic therapy activity which may be due to aggregation. **3**-AuNR afforded superior PDT activity with less than 50% viable cells at concentration  $\geq 40 \mu\text{g/mL}$  in comparison to **3**-AuNS with less than 50% viable cells at concentration  $\geq 80 \mu\text{g/mL}$ . The superior activity of **3**-AuNR is attributed to the photothermal therapy effect since nanorods absorb more light at 680 nm than nanospheres.

Key words: Glycosylation, zinc phthalocyanine, photodynamic therapy, gold nanoparticles.

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\*Corresponding author. Tel: + 27 46 6038260; Fax: + 27 46 6225109. E-mail: t.nyokong@ru.ac.za. (T. Nyokong)

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