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## Supporting Information

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# Molecular recognition of a three-way DNA junction by a metallo-supramolecular helicate 

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Fig. S1: Supermimposition of the free (blue; F. Tuna, M.J. Hannon and G.J. Clarkson, unpublished) and DNA-bound (red) structures of the supramolecular helicate $\left[\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{~L}_{3}\right]^{4+}$ ( $\mathrm{L}=\mathrm{C}_{25} \mathrm{H}_{20} \mathrm{~N}_{4}$ ).

Table S1. Data collection, phasing and refinement statistics

## Data collection:

Data collection:
Data set
$\lambda(\AA)^{\mathrm{a}}$
Space group
Unit cell parameters
Resolution range $(\AA)$
Number of reflections:
$\quad$ total
unique
Completeness (\%)
$<\mathrm{I} / \sigma(\mathrm{I})>^{\mathrm{b}}$
Average multiplicity
$\mathrm{R}_{\text {sigma }}{ }^{\text {c,b }}$

| Peak | Inflexion | Remote | High resolution |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1.739 | 1.741 | 1.627 | 0.933 |
| P4,32 |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{a}=\mathrm{b}=\mathrm{c}=71.20 \AA, \alpha=\beta=\gamma=90^{\circ}$ |  |  |  |
| 30-2.6 | 30-2.6 | 30-2.8 | 22.5-1.7 (1.8-1.7) |
| 73,467 | 54,690 | 42,532 | 91,621 |
| 3399 | 3407 | 2865 | 7,134 |
| 99.3 (97.8) | 99.5 (98.3) | 99.7 (100) | 99.2 (99.7) |
| 53.0 (11.4) | 48.52 (9.3) | 26.1 (5.5) | 29.1 (8.8) |
| 21.61 | 16.1 | 14.8 | 12.8 |
| 4.7 (24.3) | 3.9 (26.6) | 9.8 (55.1) | 2.4 (11.8) |

## Phasing:

Connectivity ${ }^{\text {d }} 0.90$
Contrast ${ }^{\text {e }} 0.35$
Pseudo free CC ${ }^{\text {f }} \quad 62.9$
Map CC ${ }^{\text {g }} 94$

## Refinement:

| $\mathrm{R}_{\text {factor }}$ (free $\mathrm{R}_{\text {factor }}{ }^{\text {h }}$ | 24.9 (29.1) |
| :---: | :---: |
| r.m.s.deviation from target values |  |
| Bond lengths ( $\AA$ ) | 0.008 |
| Bond angle distances ( $\AA$ ) | 0.023 |
| Average B-factors ( $\AA^{2}$ ) |  |
| $\mathrm{Fe}^{2+}$ | 17.1 |
| Drug | 18.0 |
| DNA | 22.6 |
| Solvent | 41.5 |
| Number of $\mathrm{Fe}^{2+\mathrm{i}}$ | 2 |
| Number of Drug atoms ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 87 |
| Number of DNA atoms ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 180 |
| Number of solvent molecules ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 45 |

${ }^{\text {a }}$ The absorption peak dataset was taken as a reference.
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Outermost resolution shell values in parenthesis.
${ }^{\mathrm{c}} \mathrm{R}_{\text {sigma }}=\left(\Sigma\left[\sigma\left(\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{o}}{ }^{2}\right)\right] / \Sigma\left[\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{o}}{ }^{2}\right]\right) \times 100$.
${ }^{\mathrm{d}}$ The variance $V$ of density on a spherical surface of radius $2.42 \AA$ is calculated for each pixel in the map, and the pixels with the highest variances $(V)$ are considered more likely to be atom positions. The connectivity is the fraction of adjacent pixels that are either both in the solvent or both in the macromolecular region(22).
${ }^{\mathrm{e}}$ Contrast $=$ The variance of $V$ over all pixels(22).
${ }^{\mathrm{f}}$ Pseudo free CC: CC (see g) calculated with $10 \%$ of the reflections omitted at random after performing one cycle of density modification(22).
${ }^{\mathrm{g}}$ Map CC $=\left[\mathrm{N} \Sigma\left|\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{H}}\right|\left|\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{A}}\right|-\Sigma\left|\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{H}}\right| \Sigma\left|\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{A}}\right|\right] /\left\{\left[\mathrm{N} \Sigma\left|\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{H}}\right|^{2}-\left(\Sigma\left|\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{H}}\right|\right)^{2}\right]\left[\mathrm{N} \Sigma\left|\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{A}}\right|^{2}-\left(\Sigma\left|\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{A}}\right|\right)^{2}\right]\right\}^{1 / 2} \times 100$ with $\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{H}}$ normalized structure factors derived from the calculated iron atom positions and $\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{A}}$ from the observed MAD F $\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{A}}$ data(22).
${ }^{\mathrm{h}} \mathrm{R}_{\text {factor }}=\left\{\Sigma_{\mathrm{hkl}}| | \mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{o}}|-\mathrm{k}| \mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{c}} \| / \Sigma_{\mathrm{hkl} \mid}\left|\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{o}}\right|\right\} \times 100$, with $\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{o}}$ and $\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{c}}$ as the observed and calculated structure factor amplitudes; free $\mathrm{R}_{\text {factor }}$, same for a test set of reflections not used during refinement.
${ }^{i}$ Per asymmetric unit.


Fig. S2: Stereo plot of a $\sigma_{A}$-weighted Fourier map calculated with coefficients $2 \mathrm{Fo}-\mathrm{Fc}$ and contoured at the $1 \sigma$ level showing part of the refined DNA and drug molecules fitted in the electron density. The two $\mathrm{Fe}^{2+}$ ions are represented as spheres; pyridine rings: $\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{D}$; phenyl rings: $\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{C}$.

