Supplementary Material

Fibroblast activation protein α activatable theranostic pro-photosensitizer for accurate tumor imaging and highly-specific photodynamic therapy

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Synthesis and characterization of FAP-MB-1~10



Scheme S1. Synthesis route of FAP-MB-1~10. Reagents and conditions: (i) Na₂CO₃, Na₂S₂O₄, DCM/H₂O, 40 °C; (ii) Triphosgene, Na₂CO₃, DCM, 0 °C; (iii) *p*-Aminobenzyl alcohol, HATU, DIPEA, DMF, r.t.; (iv) Na₂CO₃, DMAP, DCM, r.t.; (v) TFA, DCM, r.t.; (vi) HATU, DIPEA, DCM, r.t.

FAP-MB-1: Synthesis of FAP-MB-1 has been described in the synthesis of compound D.

FAP-MB-2: Synthesis of **FAP-MB-2** by method A using acetic anhydride as reactant to yield a white solid (0.052 g, 48.6%). LC-MS (ESI, *m/z*): calcd. for C₃₃H₃₉N₆O₅S [M+H]⁺ 631.26, found 631.35; HPLC purity: 98.28%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.97 (s, 1H), 8.01 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.40–7.16 (m, 4H), 6.78–6.55 (m, 4H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 4.49–4.34 (m, 1H), 4.08–3.79 (m, 2H), 3.65–3.40 (m, 2H), 2.88 (s, 12H), 2.21–1.90 (m, 4H), 1.87 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 170.99, 169.90, 167.74, 154.06, 149.07, 139.26, 132.44, 131.44, 128.83, 128.03, 127.47, 119.56, 111.34, 110.19, 67.37, 60.82, 46.48, 41.71, 40.64, 29.81, 24.88, 22.85.

FAP-MB-3: Synthesis of **FAP-MB-3** by method A using propionic anhydride as reactant to yield a white solid (0.063 g, 57.3%). LC-MS (ESI, *m/z*): calcd. for $C_{34}H_{41}N_6O_5S$ [M+H]⁺ 645.28, found 645.40; HPLC purity: 95.72%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.97 (s, 1H), 7.92 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.36–7.17 (m, 4H), 6.75–6.57 (m, 4H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 4.51–4.36 (m, 1H), 4.06–3.92 (m, 2H), 3.92–3.74 (m, 2H), 2.88 (s, 12H), 2.15 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.08–1.80 (m, 4H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 173.66, 171.01, 167.81, 154.07, 149.08, 139.27, 132.44, 131.44, 128.81, 128.03, 127.47, 119.56, 111.34, 110.18, 67.36, 60.83, 46.49, 41.63, 40.64, 29.81, 28.69, 24.88, 10.33.

FAP-MB-4: Synthesis of **FAP-MB-4** by method B using methacrylic acid as reactant to yield a white solid (0.057 g, 50.9%). LC-MS (ESI, *m/z*): calcd. for C₃₅H₄₁N₆O₅S [M+H]⁺ 657.28, found 657.40; HPLC purity: 96.32%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.96 (s, 1H), 8.01 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.40–7.18 (m, 4H), 6.75–6.53 (m, 4H), 5.37 (s, 2H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 4.50–4.36 (m, 1H), 4.12–3.81 (m, 2H), 3.70–3.46 (m, 2H), 2.88 (s, 12H), 2.20–1.92 (m, 4H), 1.88 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 170.99, 168.02, 167.68, 154.07, 149.07, 139.92, 139.26, 132.44, 131.44, 128.83, 128.03, 127.47, 120.08, 119.52, 111.33, 110.18, 67.36, 60.84, 46.53, 41.91, 40.64, 29.80, 24.89, 18.99.

FAP-MB-5: Synthesis of **FAP-MB-5** by method B using *N*,*N*-dimethylglycine as reactant to yield a white solid (0.072 g, 63.2%). LC-MS (ESI, *m/z*): calcd. for $C_{35}H_{44}N_7O_5S$ [M+H]⁺ 674.30, found 674.45; HPLC purity: 98.62%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.99 (s, 1H), 7.82 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41–7.19 (m, 4H), 6.80–6.55 (m, 4H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 4.49–4.36 (m, 1H), 4.08–3.88 (m, 2H), 3.67–3.39 (m, 2H), 2.91 (s, 1H), 2.88 (s, 12H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 2.10–1.80 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 170.90, 170.11, 167.44, 154.06, 149.08, 139.25, 132.44, 131.47, 128.86, 128.03, 127.47, 119.56, 111.35, 110.19, 67.36, 63.14, 60.81, 46.38, 46.01, 41.43, 40.65, 29.86, 24.83.

FAP-MB-6: Synthesis of FAP-MB-6 has been described in the synthesis of compound C.

FAP-MB-7: Synthesis of **FAP-MB-7** by method C using benzyl alcohol as reactant to yield a white solid (0.082 g, 66.7%). LC-MS (ESI, m/z): calcd. for C₃₉H₄₃N₆O₆S [M+H]⁺ 723.29, found 723.40; HPLC purity: 99.21%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.99 (s, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.2 Hz,

2H), 7.44–7.11 (m, 9H), 6.78–6.48 (m, 4H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 5.04 (s, 2H), 4.49–4.37 (m, 1H), 4.04– 3.71 (m, 2H), 3.71–3.39 (m, 2H), 2.88 (s, 12H), 2.30–1.72 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO*d*₆) δ 170.99, 167.81, 156.97, 154.07, 149.08, 139.29, 137.58, 132.44, 131.43, 128.85, 128.79, 128.21, 128.12, 128.04, 127.47, 119.53, 111.34, 110.19, 67.37, 65.85, 60.81, 46.35, 43.22, 40.64, 29.75, 24.90.

FAP-MB-8: Synthesis of **FAP-MB-8** by method C using 4-pyridylcarbinol as reactant to yield a white solid (0.076 g, 61.8%). LC-MS (ESI, *m/z*): calcd. for C₃₈H₄₂N₇O₆S [M+H]⁺ 724.28, found 724.35; HPLC purity: 99.97%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.01 (s, 1H), 8.58–8.49 (m, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.41–7.15 (m, 6H), 6.76–6.56 (m, 4H), 5.20–5.00 (m, 4H), 4.52–4.40 (m, 1H), 4.04–3.76 (m, 2H), 3.69–3.41 (m, 2H), 2.88 (s, 12H), 2.20–1.82 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 170.99, 167.69, 156.72, 154.06, 150.06, 149.07, 146.81, 139.29, 132.44, 131.43, 128.86, 128.03, 127.47, 121.93, 119.52, 111.34, 110.19, 67.37, 64.09, 60.81, 46.35, 43.25, 40.64, 29.76, 24.89.

FAP-MB-9: Synthesis of **FAP-MB-9** by method D using Fmoc-L-phenylalanine as reactant to yield a white solid (0.046 g, 36.8%). LC-MS (ESI, *m/z*): calcd. for C₄₀H₄₆N₇O₅S [M+H]⁺ 736.32, found 736.45; HPLC purity: 96.41%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.01 (s, 1H), 8.26 (t, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42–7.04 (m, 9H), 6.76–6.51 (m, 4H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 4.56–4.40 (m, 1H), 4.12–3.87 (m, 2H), 3.67–3.44 (m, 2H), 3.21–2.93 (m, 1H), 2.88 (s, 12H), 2.68–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.19–1.73 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 173.79, 170.91, 167.32, 154.06, 149.07, 139.25, 138.64, 132.44, 131.48, 129.81, 128.85, 128.68, 128.03, 127.47, 126.74, 119.58, 111.33, 110.19, 67.36, 60.84, 56.01, 46.45, 41.77, 40.64, 29.88, 24.85, 19.57.

FAP-MB-10: Synthesis of **FAP-MB-10** by method B using 3-indolepropionic acid as reactant to yield a white solid (0.055 g, 42.6%). LC-MS (ESI, *m/z*): calcd. for C₄₂H₄₆N₇O₅S [M+H]⁺ 760.32, found 760.40; HPLC purity: 99.90%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.73 (s, 1H), 9.94 (s, 1H), 8.07 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64–7.46 (m, 3H), 7.35–7.23 (m, 4H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 7.08–6.92 (m, 3H), 6.70–6.61 (m, 4H), 5.09 (s, 2H), 4.51–4.35 (m, 1H), 4.12–3.80 (m, 2H), 3.63–3.47 (m, 2H), 2.93 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.88 (s, 12H), 2.57–2.51 (m, 2H), 2.19–1.73 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 172.68, 171.00, 167.84, 154.07, 149.08, 139.27, 136.70, 132.44, 128.83, 128.04, 127.51, 127.47, 122.60, 121.32, 119.58, 118.76, 118.58, 114.28, 111.74, 111.34, 110.19, 67.37, 60.85, 46.53, 41.78, 40.64, 36.39, 29.83, 24.88, 21.42.

Synthesis and characterization of N-FAP-MB



Scheme S2. Synthesis route of compound N-FAP-MB. Reagents and conditions: (i) *p*-Aminobenzyl alcohol, HATU, DIPEA, DMF, r.t.; (ii) Na₂CO₃, DMAP, DCM-MeCN (1:1), reflux.; (iii) TFA, DCM, r.t.; (iv) HATU, DIPEA, DCM, r.t.

Synthesis of compound B-2

Compound B-2 was synthesized according to the procedure of synthesis of compound B using 2-[[2-[(2-methylpropan-2-yl)oxycarbonylamino]acetyl]amino]acetic acid (Boc-Gly-Gly-OH) as reactant to yield a yellow solid (1.106 g, 76.1%). LC-MS (ESI, m/z): calcd. for C₁₆H₂₂N₃O₅ [M-H]⁻ 336.16, found 336.15.

Synthesis of compound C-2

Compound B-2 (0.4 g, 0.33 mmol), Compound A (0.453 g, 0.37 mmol), DMAP (0.159 g, 0.37 mmol), Na₂CO₃ (0.377 g, 1 mmol) were added to a mixed solvent of 15 mL of MeCN and 15 mL of DCM. The mixture was refluxed until the reaction was completed as monitored by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure, the residue was dissolved in DCM (20 mL), and successively washed with water (2×10 mL), 0.2 M HCl (2×10 mL) and brine (2×10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated on a rotary evaporator. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using DCM/MeOH (25: 1) as eluent to yield **compound C-2** as white solid (0.4 g, 52.02%). LC-MS (ESI, m/z): calcd. for C₃₃H₄₁N₆O₆S [M+H]⁺ 649.27, found 649.30; HPLC purity: 99.57%; ¹H NMR (500

MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.88 (s, 1H), 8.17 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.37–7.24 (m, 4H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 6.80–6.56 (m, 4H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 3.90 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 3.61 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.88 (s, 12H), 1.39 (s, 9H).

Synthesis of compound D-2

Compound D-2 was synthesized according to the procedure of synthesis of compound D using compound C-2 as reactant to yield a white solid (0.085 g, 51.3%). LC-MS (ESI, *m/z*): calcd. for $C_{28}H_{33}N_6O_4S$ [M+H]⁺ 549.22, found 549.30; HPLC purity: 98.92%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.01 (s, 1H), 8.20 (t, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.40–7.13 (m, 4H), 6.78–6.52 (m, 4H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 3.94 (d, 2H), 3.17 (t, 2H), 2.88 (s, 12H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 173.72, 168.24, 154.07, 149.08, 139.04, 132.45, 131.53, 128.87, 128.04, 127.47, 119.53, 111.34, 110.19, 67.36, 45.07, 42.94, 40.65.

Synthesis of N-FAP-MB.

Synthesis of **N-FAP-MB** by method B using compound D-2 and *N*,*N*-dimethylglycine as reactants to yield a white solid (0.042 g, 72.5%). LC-MS (ESI, m/z): calcd. for C₃₂H₄₀N₇O₅S [M+H]⁺ 634.27, found 634.35; HPLC purity: 98.76%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.00 (s, 1H), 8.32 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.42–7.23 (m, 4H), 6.79–6.54 (m, 4H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 3.91 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.08 (s, 2H), 2.88 (s, 12H), 2.32 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 169.94, 169.65, 168.13, 154.07, 149.08, 139.04, 132.44, 131.55, 128.83, 128.03, 127.48, 119.52, 111.34, 110.19, 67.35, 62.38, 45.68, 43.18, 42.34, 40.65.



Figure S1. Linear relationship between various concentrations of MB (1.5–200 μ M) and peak area at 665 nm *via* HPLC.



Figure S2. Kinetics studies of FAP-MB-1 (A), FAP-MB-5 (B) and FAP-MB-8 (C) towards FAPa.



Figure S3. The fluorescence intensity of serum.



Figure S4. UV-vis absorption spectra of FAP-MB-5 and MB in MeOH.



Figure S5. UV-vis absorption spectra of N-FAP-MB in MeOH.



Figure S6. Fluorescence emission of N-FAP-MB and MB in MeOH.



Figure S7. HPLC analysis for FAPα-mediated hydrolysis of N-FAP-MB at different time points.



Figure S8. The fluorescence intensity of FAP-MB-5 incubated with serum and major organ homogenate for 4h.



Figure S9. ESR spectra of FAP-MB-5 with or without irradiation. (+) and (-) refer to the treatment with or without irradiation, respectively.



Figure S10. Details of the interaction of FAP-MB-5 with FAPa in a two-dimensional view.



Figure S11. Western blot analysis of FAPa expression in 4T1 and Mia-paca-2 cells.



Figure S12. The corresponding mean fluorescence intensity of ROS generation by flow cytometric analysis with various treatments. (+) and (-) refer to the treatment with or without irradiation, respectively.



Figure S13. LC-MS spectrum of AQM-SG. AQM-SG was product of nucleophilic addition between AQM and GSH.



Figure S14. The cell viability of Mia-paca-2 cells treated with MB for 24 h (633 nm, 100 mW/cm², 5 min). (+) and (-) refer to the treatment with or without irradiation, respectively.



Figure S15. The cell vibility of FAP-MB-5 against 3T3 cells under dark or irradiation (633 nm, 100 mW/cm², 5 min). (+) and (-) refer to the treatment with or without irradiation, respectively.



Figure S16. The cell vibility of FAP-MB-5 against 4T1 cells under dark or irradiation (633 nm, 100 mW/cm², 5 min). (+) and (-) refer to the treatment with or without irradiation, respectively.



Figure S17. Annexin V-FITC/PI assay of Mia-paca-2 cells treated with FAP-MB-5 and N-FAP-MB (40 μ g/mL) under irradiation (633 nm, 100 mW/cm², 5 min). (+) and (–) refer to the treatment with or without irradiation, respectively.



Figure S18. (A) Immunofluorescence analysis of FAP α expression in 4T1 xenograft tissues. Scale bar: 100 µm. (B) Western blot analysis of FAP α expression in normal tissue lysate (1) and 4T1 xenograft lysate (2).



Figure S19. The content of the original FAP-MB-5 (**A**) detected by HPLC and the released MB (**B**) determined by fluorescence spectrofluorometer in tumor and major organs at 4 h post-injection. (**C**) The content of MB/FAP-MB-5 ratios in tumor and major organs at 4 h post-injection.



Figure S20. *In vivo* fluorescence images of 4T1 tumor-bearing mice after intratumoral injection of FAP-MB-5 (7 mg/kg, right tumor) and N-FAP-MB (7 mg/kg, left tumor), respectively.



Figure S21. MS spectrum of compound A.



Figure S22. ¹H-NMR spectrum of compound A.



Figure S23. MS spectrum of compound B.



Figure S24. ¹H-NMR spectrum of compound B.



Figure S25. MS spectrum of FAP-MB-1.



Figure S26. ¹H-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-1.



Figure S27. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-1.



Figure S28. HPLC data of FAP-MB-1.



Figure S29. MS spectrum of FAP-MB-2.



Figure S30. ¹H-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-2.



Figure S31. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-2.



Figure S32. HPLC data of FAP-MB-2.



Figure S33. MS spectrum of FAP-MB-3.



Figure S34. ¹H-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-3.



Figure S35. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-3.



Figure S36. HPLC data of FAP-MB-3.



Figure S37. MS spectrum of FAP-MB-4.



Figure S38. ¹H-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-4.



Figure S39. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-4.



Figure S40. HPLC data of FAP-MB-4.



Figure S41. MS spectrum of FAP-MB-5.



Figure S42. ¹H-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-5.



Figure S43. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-5.



Figure S44. HPLC data of FAP-MB-5.



Figure S45. MS spectrum of FAP-MB-6.



Figure S46. ¹H-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-6.



Figure S47. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-6.



Figure S48. HPLC data of FAP-MB-6.



Figure S49. MS spectrum of FAP-MB-7.



Figure S50. ¹H-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-7.



Figure S51. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-7.



Figure S52. HPLC data of FAP-MB-7.



Figure S53. MS spectrum of FAP-MB-8.



Figure S54. ¹H-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-8.



Figure S55. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-8.



Figure S56. HPLC data of FAP-MB-8.



Figure S57. MS spectrum of FAP-MB-9.



Figure S58. ¹H-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-9.



Figure S59. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-9.



Figure S60. HPLC data of FAP-MB-9.



Figure S61. MS spectrum of FAP-MB-10.



Figure S62. ¹H-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-10.



Figure S63. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of FAP-MB-10.



Figure S64. HPLC data of FAP-MB-10.



Figure S65. MS spectrum of compound B-2.



Figure S66. MS spectrum of compound C-2.



Figure S67. ¹H-NMR spectrum of compound C-2.



Figure S68. HPLC data of compound C-2.



Figure S69. MS spectrum of compound D-2.



Figure S70. ¹H-NMR spectrum of compound D-2.



Figure S71. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of compound D-2.



Figure S72. HPLC data of compound D-2.



Figure S73. MS spectrum of N-FAP-MB.



Figure S74. ¹H-NMR spectrum of N-FAP-MB.



Figure S75. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of N-FAP-MB.



Figure S76. HPLC data of N-FAP-MB.