Supporting Information

Enzyme-responsive double-locked amonafide prodrug for the treatment of

glioblastoma with low side effects

Wei Cheng^{†, a}, Yanli Yang^{†, a}, Bo Zhang^{†, *, b}, Chen-Wen Shao^{†, d}, Wei Chen^{†, a}, Ruimin Xia^a, Wenwei

Sun^a, Xiubo Zhao^b, Bing Zhang^c, Xiangjie Luo^{*, a}, Tony D. James^{*, e, f}, Yong Qian^{*, a, c, e}

^bJiangsu Collaborative Innovation Center of Biomedical Functional Materials, School of Chemistry

and Materials Science, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing 210046, China

^bSchool of Pharmacy, Changzhou University, Changzhou 213164, China

^cDepartment of Radiology, Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital, The Affiliated Drum Tower Hospital of Nanjing University Medical School, Nanjing 210008, China

^dWuxi School of Medicine, Jiangnan University, Wuxi 214122, China

^eDepartment of Chemistry, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY United Kingdom

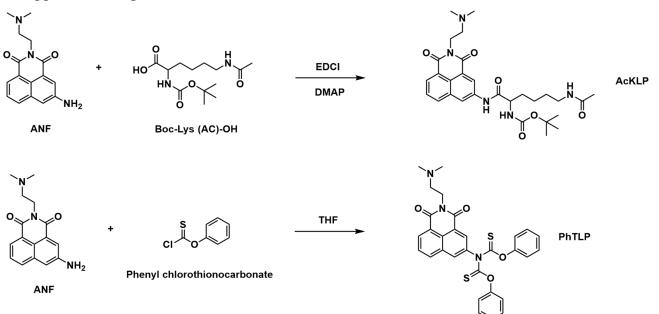
^fSchool of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. Henan Normal University, Xinxiang 453007 China

[†]*These authors contributed equally to this work.*

Table of contents

| 1. Supplemental Figures | 3 |
|-------------------------|----|
| 2. NMR and MS Spectra | 11 |

1. Supplemental Figures



Scheme S1. Synthesis routes of AcKLP and PhTLP.

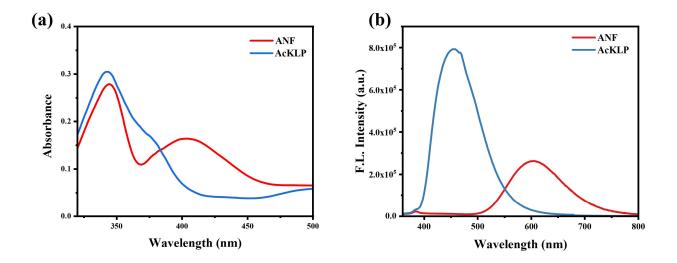


Fig. S1. Absorption (a) and fluorescence emission (b) spectra of **AcKLP** and ANF (10 μ M) in a PBS (10 mM, pH 7.4, 1%DMSO) buffer (AcKLP, $\lambda_{ex}/\lambda_{em} = 340 \text{ nm}/485 \text{ nm}$).

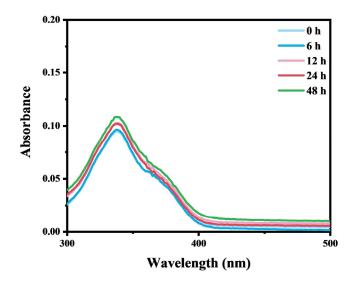


Fig. S2. UV-vis spectra of AcKLP (10 μ M) in a PBS (10 mM, pH 7.4, 1% DMSO) buffer recorded for a period of 48 h at 298 K.

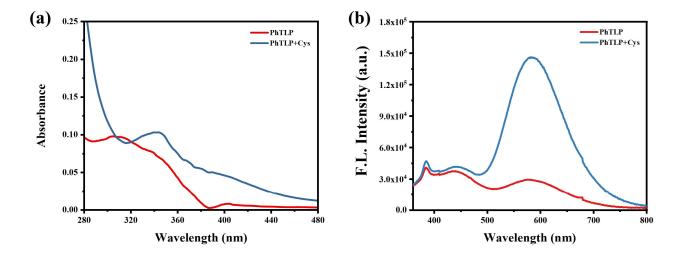


Fig. S3. Absorption (a) and fluorescence emission (b) spectra of PhTLP (10 μ M) before and after addition of Cys (100 μ M) to PBS (10 mM, pH 7.4, 1%DMSO) and 1 mM CTAB buffer (PhTLP, $\lambda_{ex}/\lambda_{em} = 340 \text{ nm}/585 \text{ nm}$).

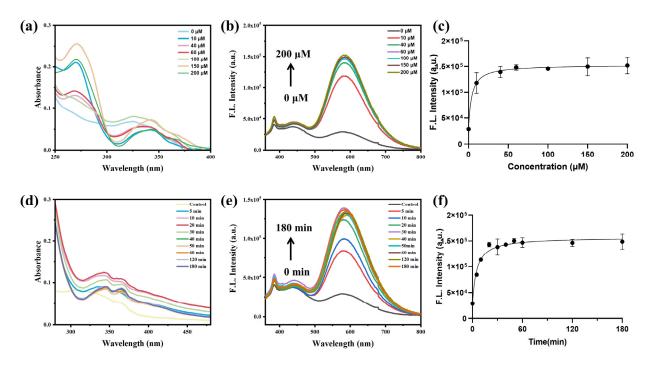


Fig. S4. The change of PhTLP (10 μ M) absorption (a) and fluorescence intensity (b) with time (0-180 min) in the presence of Cys (100 μ M). (c) The time-dependent fluorescence intensity of PhTLP (10 μ M) at 585 nm in the presence of Cys (100 μ M). Absorption (d) and fluorescence intensity (e) of PhTLP (10 μ M) incubated with different concentrations of Cys (1-200 μ M).

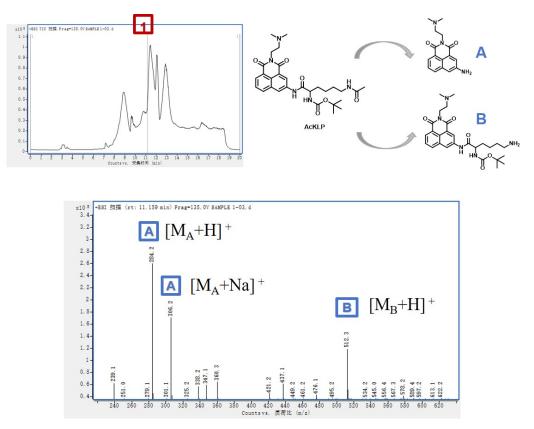


Fig. S5. The release behavior of intracellular AcKLP was analyzed by LC-MS. U87 cells were treated with AcKLP (5 μ M) for 48 h. Cells were then lysed with cell lysis solution and the supernatant was extracted. Followed by the addition of 0.5 mL of methanol to the supernatant to precipitate the protein, the supernatant was taken for LC-MS analysis.

| Lyso-tracker | AcKLP | Merged |
|--------------|-------|---------------|
| 6 | 1 | 6 |
| | | Rcolor: 0.809 |
| | | |
| Mito-tracker | AcKLP | Merged |
| Mito-tracker | AcKLP | Merged |

Fig. S6. Confocal microscopy images of U87 cells treated with **AcKLP** for 6 h, respectively. **AcKLP** (5 μ M, $\lambda_{ex} = 405$ nm, λ_{em} range 550–650 nm); MitoTracker Red (0.3 μ M, $\lambda_{ex} = 561$ nm, λ_{em} range 570–620 nm); LysoTracker Green (2 μ M, $\lambda_{ex} = 488$ nm, λ_{em} range 500–550 nm). Scar bar: 20 μ m.

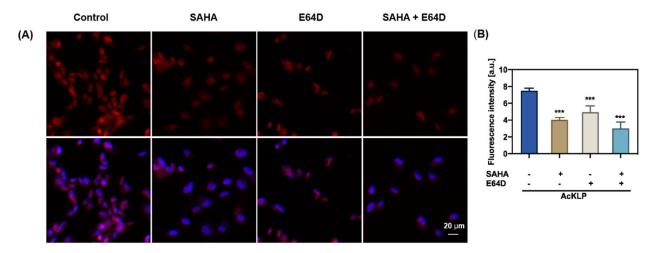


Fig. S7. (A) U87 cells were pre-incubated with 50 μ M histone deacetylases inhibitor SAHA (2 h) or 50 μ M cathepsin L inhibitor E64D (0.5 h), followed by treatment with 5 μ M **AcKLP** for 6 h. Cell images were obtained using confocal fluorescence microscopy (scale bar = 20 μ m). (B) Quantification of relative fluorescence intensities in (A). Data are presented as mean ± S.D., n = 3. ****p* -value < 0.001.

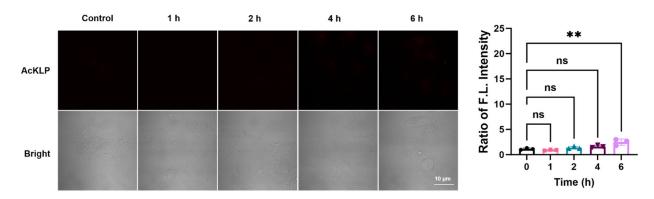


Fig. S8. Confocal microscopic images of HUVEC cells treated with 5 μ M AcKLP for different times ($\lambda_{ex} = 405 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{em} = 550-650 \text{ nm}$). All the data represent the average of three independent experiments with an error bar of ± standard deviation (SD).

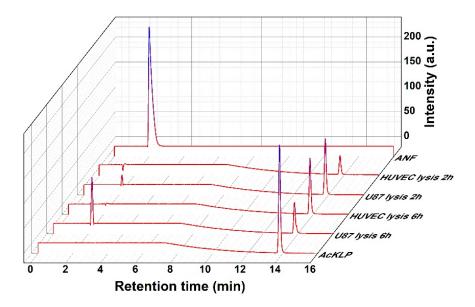


Fig. S9. U87 or HUVEC cells, incubated with 10 μ M AcKLP for 2 and 6 h, were lysed, and the supernatant was removed for analysis by HPLC (detection at 340 nm).

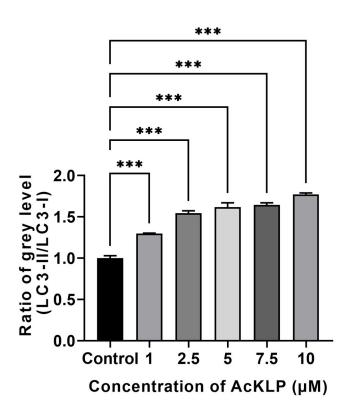


Fig. S10. Relative grey intensity of LC-3 is based on the result of Fig 3C. Error bars are \pm S.D. (n = 3).

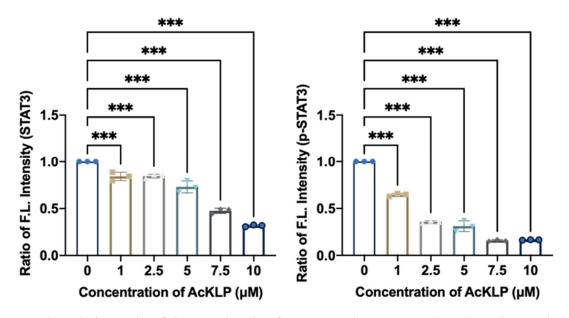


Fig. S11. The relative ratio of the grey levels of STAT3 and p-STAT3 is based on the result of Fig 3D. The grey level of 0 μ M AcKLP-treated cells was set as 1, respectively. Statistical analyses were performed using two-way ANOVA with multiple comparisons, ^{***}*P* < 0.001 *vs.* 0 μ M AcKLP group. Error bars are \pm S.D. (n = 3).

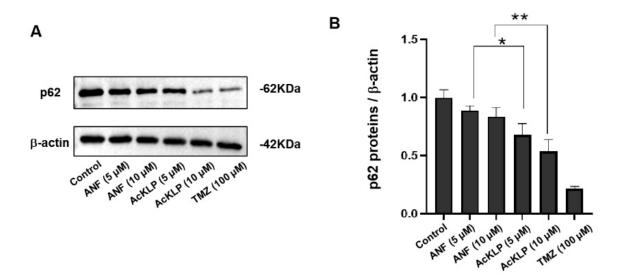


Fig. S12. (A) Effects of ANF and **AcKLP** on the protein expression of p62 in U87 cells after 24 h treatment. (B) The relative grey intensity of p62 is based on the result of (A). The fluorescence intensity of cells treated with 0 μ M **AcKLP** was set as 1. Data are presented as mean \pm S.D., n = 3. ***p*-value < 0.01, ****p* -value < 0.001. Error bars are \pm S.D. (n = 3).

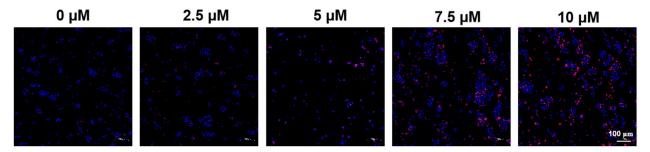


Fig. S13. U87 cells stained by Hochest 33342 and PI after being treated with different concentrations of AcKLP for 24 h. The blue color (Hochest 33342, $\lambda_{ex} = 405 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{em} = 420-500 \text{ nm}$) indicates healthy cells, and the red color (propidium iodide, $\lambda_{ex} = 561 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{em} = 600-640 \text{ nm}$) indicates dead cells. Scale bar, 100 µm.

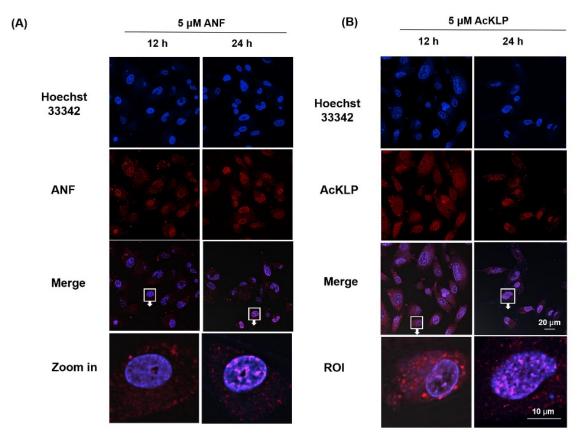


Fig. S14. U87 cells were treated with ANF and AcKLP (5 μ M) for 12 and 24 h. The cells were imaged and analyzed after incubation with Hoechst 33342 and Lyso-Tracker Red DND-99. ANF, $\lambda_{ex}/\lambda_{em}$ = 405/550-650nm; Hoechst 33342, $\lambda_{ex}/\lambda_{em}$ = 405/425–475 nm. Lyso-Tracker Red DND-99, $\lambda_{ex}/\lambda_{em}$ = 577/590 nm. Scale bar = 25 μ m.

2. NMR and MS Spectra

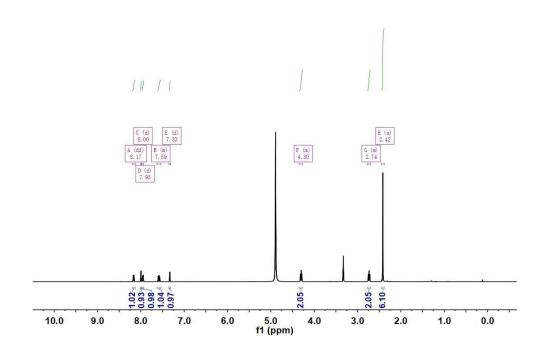


Fig. S15. ¹H NMR of compound ANF.

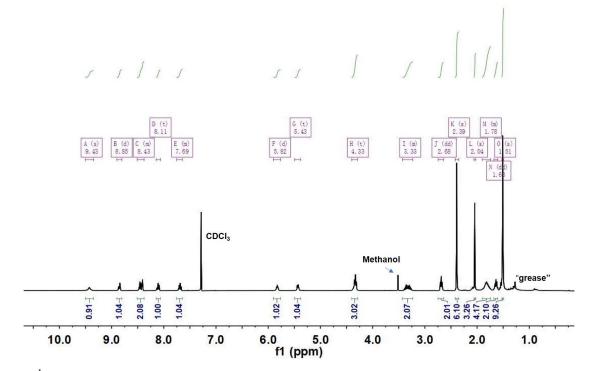


Fig. S16. ¹H NMR of compound AcKLP.

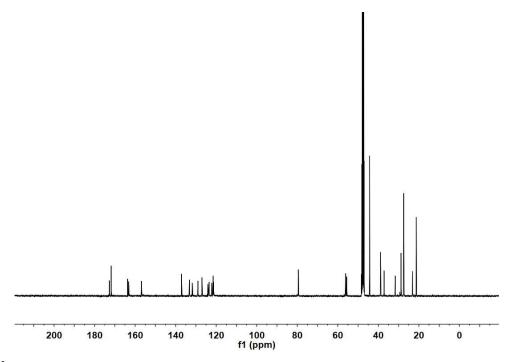


Fig. S17. ¹³C NMR of compound AcKLP.

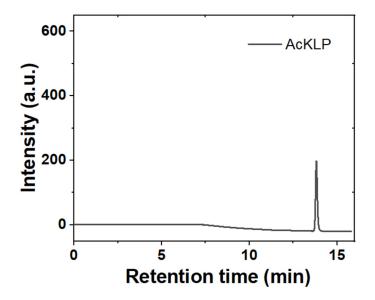


Fig. S18. HPLC analyzes the purity of AcKLP.

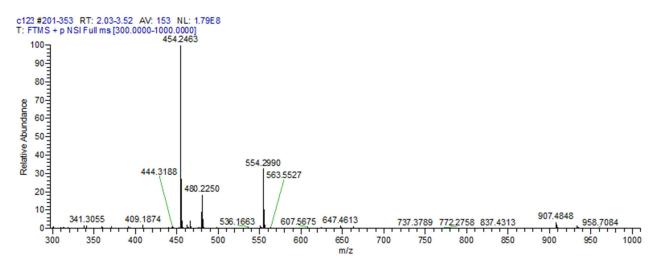


Fig. S19. MS spectrum of compound AcKLP.

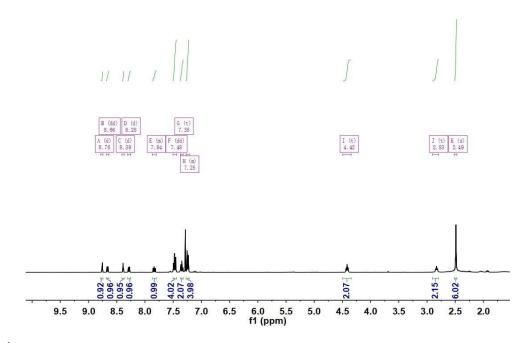


Fig. S20. ¹H NMR of compound PhTLP.

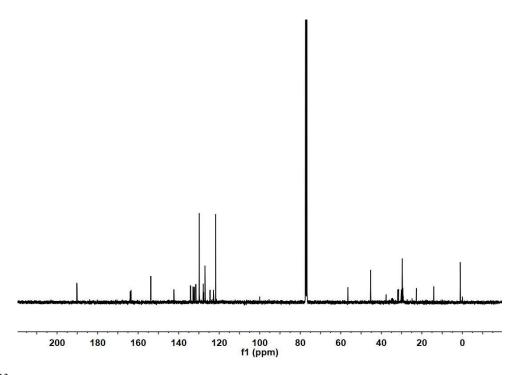


Fig. S21. ¹³C NMR of compound PhTLP.

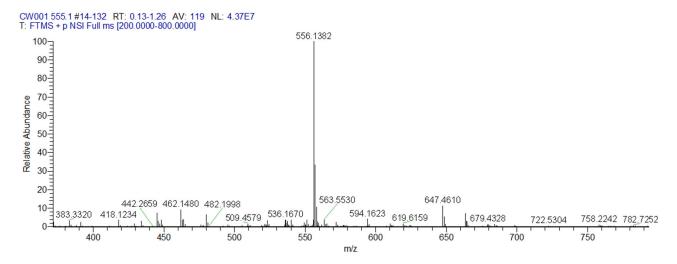


Fig. S22. HRMS spectrum of PhTLP.