

## From sunscreen to anticancer agent: ruthenium(II) arene avobenzene complexes display potent anticancer activity.

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A series of ruthenium(II) arene derivatives (arene = cymene (cym), hexamethylbenzene (hmb)) containing avobenzene (1-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propane-1,3-dione, AVBH) and PTA (1,3,5-triaza-7-phosphaadamantane) or PTA-Me (*N*-methyl-1,3,5-triaza-7-phosphaadamantane cation) have been synthesized and fully characterized. Three types of complexes have been obtained: i.e., neutral [Ru(arene)(AVB)Cl] (**1**, arene = cym; **2**, arene = hmb), monocationic [Ru(arene)(AVB)(PTA)][SO<sub>3</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>] (**3**, arene = cym; **4**, arene = hmb), and dicationic [Ru(arene)(AVB)(PTA-Me)][SO<sub>3</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>][BF<sub>4</sub>] (**5**, arene = cym; **6**, arene = hmb). The solid-state structures of **1** and **2** were determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction. The cytotoxicity of the complexes has been evaluated *in vitro* against human ovarian carcinoma cells, A2780 and A2780cisR, as well as against nontumorous Human Embryonic Kidney (HEK293) cells. The ionic complexes with hydrophilic PTA and PTA-Me ligands in **3–6** are considerably more active than the neutral complexes **1** and **2**.

### Adres publiczny

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