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Imaging of alkyne-functionalized ruthenium complexes for photoactivated chemotherapy

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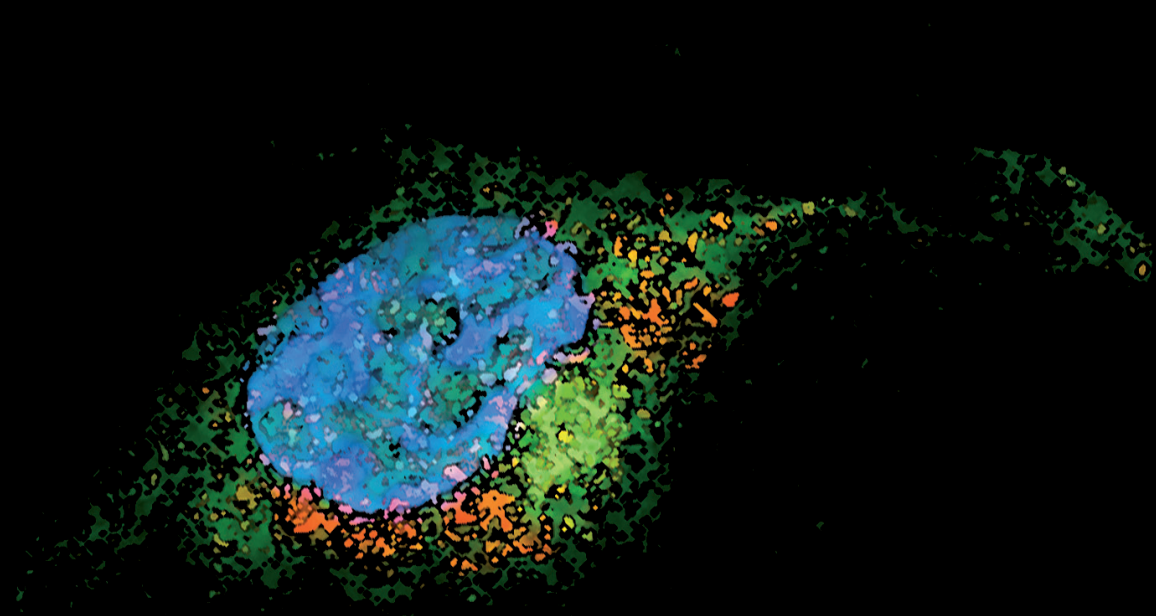
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In photoactivated chemotherapy (PACT), a biologically active compound is caged by a light-cleavable protecting group. Light irradiation leads to the release of the active species which can then interact with the cell environment to induce cell death. In recent years, ruthenium polypyridyl complexes have proved to be promising candidates for PACT. To obtain more insight in the mode of action of these potential anticancer complexes, we explored their intracellular distribution. Post-treatment fluorophore labelling via click chemistry allowed for the visualization of the non-emissive ruthenium polypyridyl complexes in fixed cells.

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