## Supplementary data

 $\label{eq:total_prop_sol} \text{TPPS}_{2a}(\text{Tetraphenyl prophyrin disulphonate}) \quad \text{TPCS}_{2a}(\text{Tetraphenyl chlorin disulphonate})$ 

Figure S1. The chemical structure of  $TPPS_{2a}$  and  $TPCS_{2a}$ . The arrow indicates the structural difference between the two molecules.

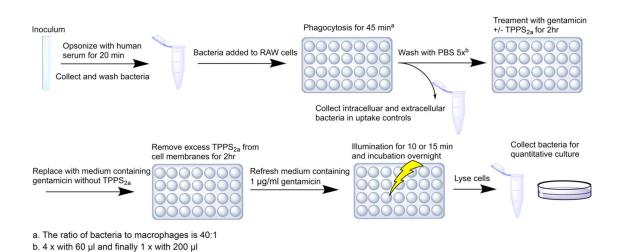


Figure S2. Experimental procedure of *in vitro* phagocytosis assay and intracellular antimicrobial activity assay.

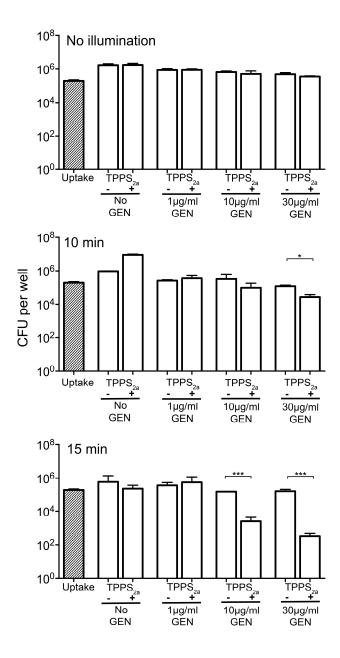


Figure S3. Similar effect of PCI on efficacy of gentamicin against intracellular *S. epidermidis* in RAW cells observed in a repetition experiment, as shown in Figure 2. The cells containing *S. epidermidis* were treated with 0.25 µg/ml TPPS<sub>2a</sub> or gentamicin (GEN) only or with GEN-TPPS<sub>2a</sub> combinations. Cells subsequently were illuminated for 0, 10 or 15 minutes. Differences between GEN alone and respective GEN-TPPS<sub>2a</sub> treatments were analyzed using Sidak's multiple comparisons test. Data represent mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (n=3). \*, P  $\leq$  0.05, \*\*\*, P < 0.001.

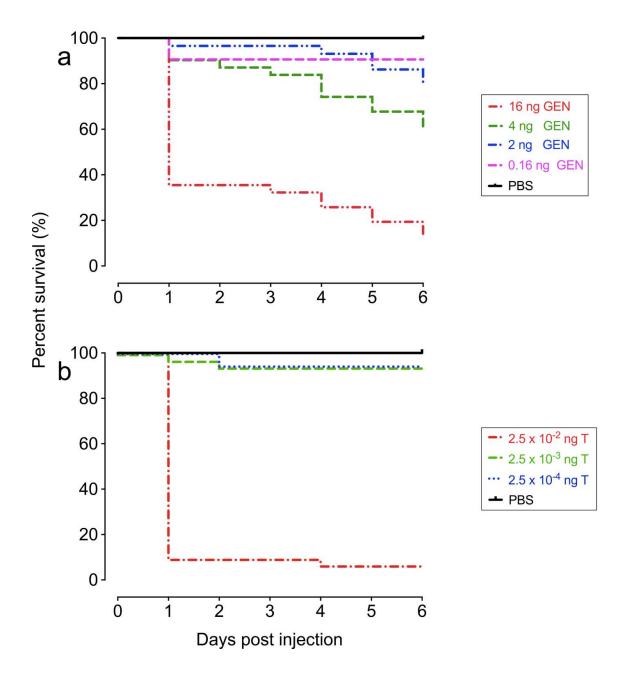


Figure S4. Effect of injection of gentamicin (GEN) or injection of  $TPCS_{2a}$  (T) on survival of zebrafish embryos. a) Effect of GEN. Doses ranging from 0.16 to 16 ng in 1 nl of PBS were injected per embryo; b) Effect of  $TPCS_{2a}$  after illumination for 10 minutes. Doses of 2.5 x 10-2, 2.5 x 10-3 and 2.5 x 10-4 ng in 1 nl of PBS were injected per embryo. PBS injections served

as controls. Initial group sizes ranged from 27 to 32 embryos and from 31 to 36 embryos for testing the effect of gentamic and  $TPCS_{2a}$ , respectively.