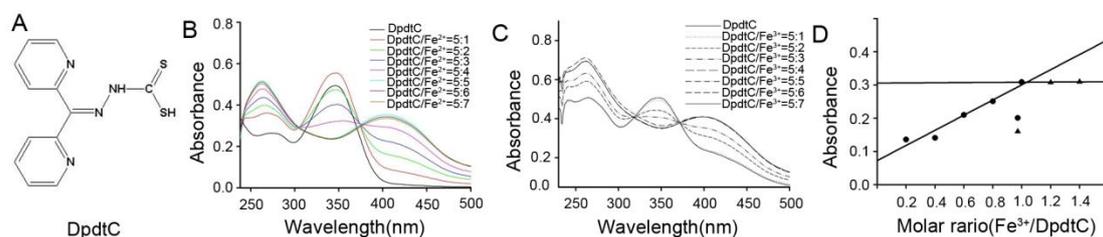


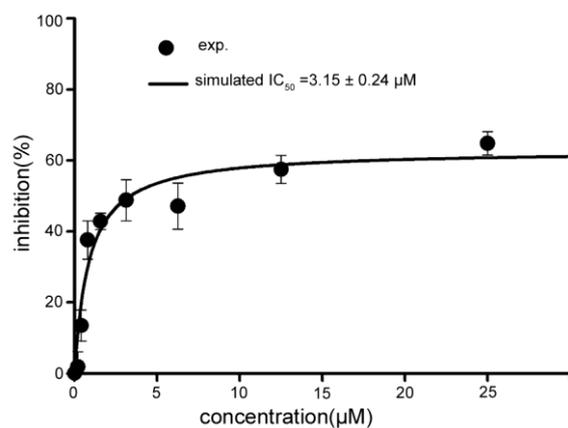
## Supplementary materials

### DpdtC chelates iron and forms a complex at 1:1 molar ratio



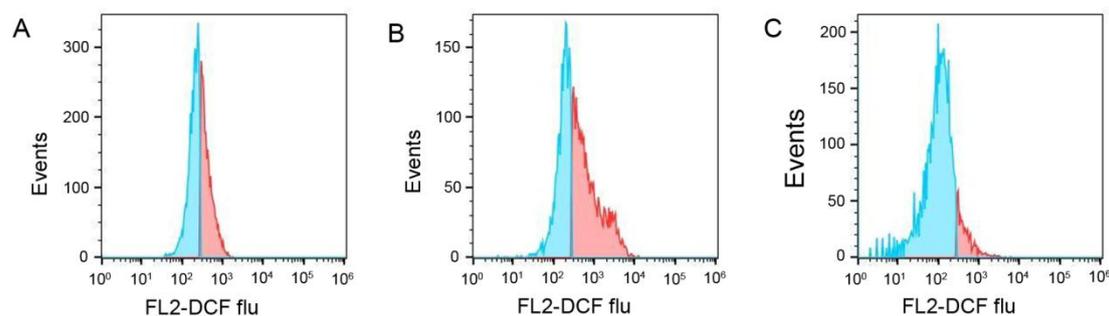
**Fig. S1** UV-visible spectra of DpdtC iron complex and relation between absorbance and molar ratio. (A) structure of DpdtC; (B) Spectra of DpdtC and in the presence of varied concentration of Fe<sup>2+</sup>; (C) Spectra of DpdtC and in the presence of varied concentration of Fe<sup>3+</sup>; the molar ratio as indicated in the figure. (D) Plot of the absorbance of copper complex at 404 nm vs. molar ratio of Fe<sup>3+</sup>/DpdtC.

### DpdtC induced growth inhibition against normal human hepatic cell



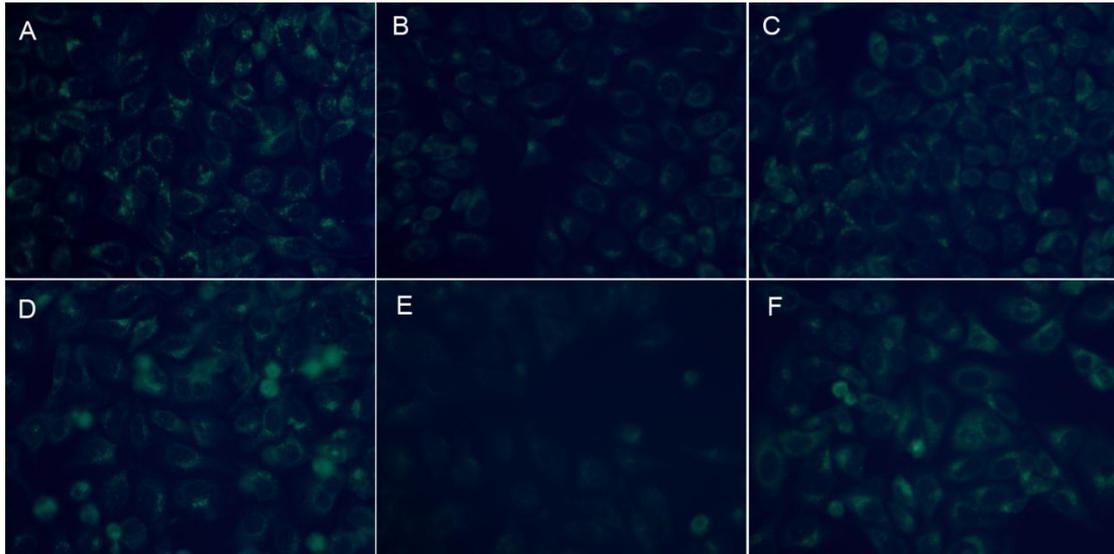
**Fig. S2** DpdtC induced growth inhibition against normal human hepatic cell LO2.

### ROS generation during the time period of exposure of DpdtC to HepG2 cell



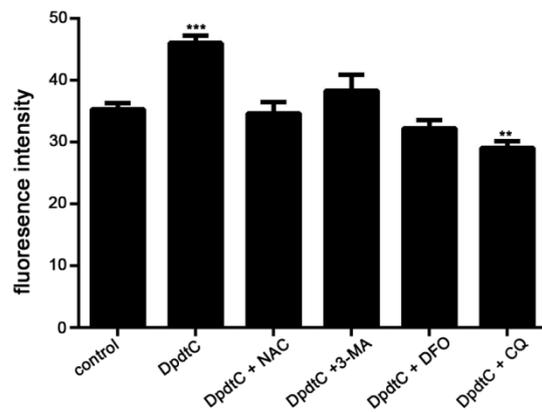
**Fig. S3** DpdtC induced ROS after 48 h incubation. (A) H<sub>2</sub>O; (B) 0.75 μM DpdtC; (C) 1.5 μM DpdtC.

### DpdtC induced change in autophagic vacuoles



**Fig. S4** The microscopic analysis of formation of autophagic vacuoles. (A) H<sub>2</sub>O control; (B) 1.5 mM 3-MA; (C) 1.5 mM NAC; (D) 2 μM DpdtC; (E) 2 μM DpdtC + 1.5 mM 3-MA; (F) 2 μM DpdtC + 1.5 mM NAC.

#### DpdtC induced alteration in LMP



**Fig. S5** The effect of DpdtC on lysosomal membrane permeability. The quantification analysis was performed by ImageJ. The results were obtained from three experiments. \*\*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\* $p < 0.05$ .