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## **Supporting Information (SI)**

## Real-time Detection and Imaging of Copper (II) in Cellular

## Mitochondria

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**Fig. S1:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of L (in DMSO- $d_6$ )

Fig. S2:  ${}^{13}C$  NMR spectrum of L (in DMSO- $d_6$ )

Fig. S3: FT-IR of L in KBr

Fig. S4: APCI-Mass spectrum of L

Fig. S5: A color change photograph for Cu<sup>2+</sup> and the other metal ions under visible light.

**Fig. S6:** A color change photograph for  $Cu^{2+}$  and the other metal ions under UV light at 365 nm.

**Fig. S7:** Fluorescence intensity of 10  $\mu$ L probe L at 450nm over a wide pH range of 4.0–11.0.

**Fig. S8:** Job's plot of the complexation between the probe L and Cu<sup>2+</sup>. The total concentration of probe L and Cu<sup>2+</sup> was 50  $\mu$ M.

Fig. S9: Benesi-Hildebrand plot of L-Cu<sup>2+</sup> complexe in mixed solution (water-tetrahydrofuran ,1:1,v/v).

**Fig. S10:**Fluorescence titration of L-Cu<sup>2+</sup> in mixed solution (tetrahydrofuran- water ,1:1,v/v) at 450nm.

Fig. S11: Fluorescence spectra of L (10  $\mu$ M) in the presence of Cu<sup>2+</sup> (1.0 equiv.) and EDTA

(1.0 equiv.) in mixed solution (water-tetrahydrofuran, 1:1, v/v).

**Fig. S12:** MTT assay of HepG2 cells treated with probe L at different concentrations for 24 h.

Fig. S13: Photon-bleach experiment showed L photostability over continued laser scanning.

**Fig. S14:** Confocal fluorescent images: a1-d1 is dark-field, a2-d2 is bright-field, a3-d3 is overlay, and the concentration of probe L from a – d is  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L,  $5 \times 10^{-6}$  mol/L,  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  mol/L,  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  mol/L.







Fig. S3: FT-IR of L in KBr



Fig. S4: APCI-Mass spectrum of L



**Fig. S5:** A color change photograph for  $Cu^{2+}$  and the other metal ions under visible light.



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