1	Supplementary Information
2	for
3	A ratiometric two-photon fluorescent probe for quantification of
4	nitroreductase in hypoxic neurons
5	Zhiquan Tang, Hong Huang,* Yuanyuan Yao, Shumei Gao, Bingyong Lin, Qianshou
6	Zong, Wanpeng Hu, [*] Jianguo Xu, Yangang Wang, Longhua Guo [*]
7	College of Biological, Chemical Science and Engineering, Jiaxing University, Jiaxing
8	314001, China.
9	
10	*Corresponding author:
11	huangho17@zjxu.edu.cn, huangho17@163.com (H. Huang);
12	hu688@zjxu.edu.cn (W. Hu);
13	guolh@zjxu.edu.cn (L. Guo).
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	

1 Experimental section

2 **Reagents and Chemicals**

3 All chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers and without further purification. 4-Nitro-1.8-naphthalicanhydride, 4-amino-1.8-naphthalicanhydride, 3-4 5 amino-1-propanol, triethylamine, 7-(diethylamino)-2-oxo-2H-chromene-3carbaldehyde, 4-methylpyridine, tribromophosphine, NaI were purchased from 6 Adamas-Beta Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China). Petroleum ether (PE), ethyl acetate (EA), 7 dichloromethane (DCM), methanol (MeOH) and N, N-dimethylformamide (DMF) 8 9 were bought from General Reagents Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China). Nitro reductase (NTR), monoamine oxidase-A (MAO-A), monoamine oxidase-B (MAO-B), protein 10 tyrosine phosphatase (PTP), gamma-glutamyl transferase (GCT), bovine serum 11 12 albumin (BSA), human serum albumin (HSA), tyrosinase (TYR) and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) were purchased from Aladdin Chemistry Co. Ltd. (China). 13 Phosphate buffer solution (PBS, pH 7.4) with concentration of 0.1 M was prepared from 14 15 KH₂PO₄, K₂HPO₄·3H₂O and KCl. All aqueous solutions were prepared with Milli-Q 16 water (18.2 M Ω cm, Millipore) and all chemicals were used as purchase without further purification. 17

18 Instruments

The ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained from a 500 MHz Bruker NMR spectrometer (Bruker, Germany). The mass spectra were detected by a Bruker ESI timeof-flight MS system (Bruker, Germany). The fluorescence spectrum and the UV-vis absorption spectrum were recorded by using a Hitachi F-4500 fluorescence spectrometer (Hitachi, Japan) and a Hitachi UH-5300 spectrometer (Hitachi, Japan), respectively. The fluorescence imaging was obtained from a Leica TCS SP8 confocal laser scanning microscope (Leica, Germany) equipped with two-photon laser (Chameleon Ultra II, Coherent, UK). The cytotoxicity assays were measured by Varioskan LUX multimode microplate reader (Thermo Fisher scientific, USA). The apoptosis assay was carried out by a FACS Calibur flow cytometry (Becton, Dickinson and Company, USA).

8 Cell culture

The acquisition and cultivation of neurons were conducted as a previous reported 9 procedure. Newborn within 24 hours C57BL/6 wild-type mice were anesthetized by 10 halothane, and then their brains were removed quickly and put in Hanks' balanced salt 11 solution (HBSS, free Mg²⁺ and Ca²⁺) at 0 °C. Tissues of the cortex were stripped out 12 and then incubated with papain at 37 °C for 12 min, after that they were dispersed into 13 poly-d-lysine-coated 35 mm Petri dishes at a density of 1×10^{6} cells/dish. The neurons 14 15 were cultured with neurobasal medium containing L-glutamine and B27 and the medium was changed three times a week. After maintained at 37 °C in a humidified 16 atmosphere with 5% CO₂ for a week, the neurons could be used for imaging. All 17 experiments involving mice were carried out in accordance with the principles and 18 guidelines approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of Jiaxing University. 19

20 Cytotoxicity and apoptosis assay

21 The cytotoxicity assays were measured by 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-22 diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT). Neurons in 96-well plates were incubated with

1	different concentrations of the IFRP probe (0, 10, 20, 30 and 40 μ M) and cultured for
2	12 and 24 h. Then, the neurons in each well were treated with 20 $\mu L,5$ mg/mL MTT
3	solution and further continuously incubated for 4 h at 37 °C. After that, MTT solution
4	was removed and 100 μ L Formazan solvent was added to each well until the crystalline
5	formazan products were dissolved. Absorbance was next measured at 490 nm in a
6	Varioskan LUX multimode microplate reader (Thermo Fisher scientific, USA). Cell
7	viability was defined as the ratio of absorbance in the experimental groups to that in the
8	blank control groups. For apoptosis assays, the Annexin V-FITC Apoptosis Detection
9	Kit was used to determine the degree of cell apoptosis. Neurons were incubated with
10	the IFRP probe (0, 10, 30 and 50 μ M) for 24 h, then they were collected with the help
11	of EDTA-free trypsin and washed by 5 mL PBS for three times. Moreover, PBS was
12	removed by centrifugation of 1000 rpm for 5 min and neurons were incubated with 195
13	μL binding buffer of Annexin V-FITC, 5 μL Annexin V-FITC and 10 μL Propidium
14	Iodide (PI) at room temperature in the dark for 30 min. After these procedures, neurons
15	were used for the flow cytometry and detected at an excitation wavelength of 488 nm.

NTR analysis in cell lysates

The cultured neuronal cells were subjected to centrifugal treatment to remove the 17 nutrient solutions and then dispersed in normal saline. Pulsed sonication, with a cycle 18 of 2 seconds on and 2 seconds off, was performed at a power out of 600 W for 2 min to 19 break the cells (Scientz-IID, Ningbo Scientz Biotechnology Co., Ltd., China). 20 Subsequently, the neuronal cell lysates were clarified through a centrifugation process 21 at 10,000 rpm at 4 °C for 5 min and stored at -20 °C for further use. The procedure for 22

1 NTR analysis in neuronal cell lysates was identical to that in PBS solution.

2 Subcellular imaging

The subcellular localization of IFRP was studied through colocalization imaging 3 experiments, in which neurons labelled with IFRP (5.0 μ M, labeling time: 0.5 h) were 4 further labelled with MitoLite blue FX490 (5.0 µM) for additional 0.5 h. Following 5 staining, neurons were gently washed thrice with PBS before conducting confocal 6 fluorescence imaging experiments. MitoLite blue FX490 was excited using a 405 nm 7 laser, and emission signals were collected within the 420-490 nm wavelength range. As 8 for IFRP, fluorescence was excited at 800 nm, and images were collected within 470-9 550 nm (F₅₁₅ channel) and 600-700 nm (F₆₄₀ channel) wavelength range. 10

11





1

Scheme S1. The synthesis procedures of IFRP.

Synthesis of Compound 1: 4-Nitro-1,8-naphthalicanhydride (486 mg, 2.0 mmol) and 3-4 amino-1-propanol (300 mg, 4.0 mmol) were dissolved in ethanol (20 mL). The reaction 5 6 mixture was stirred and refluxed for 3 h under a nitrogen atmosphere, the resulting mixture was evaporated to dryness. After the solvent was evaporated under reduced 7 pressure, the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using 8 PE/EA (20:1, v/v) as eluent to get Compound 1 as brown solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 9 298 K, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.65-8.63 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 8.57-8.49 (m, 3H), 8.06-8.03 (m, 10 1H), 4.53-4.51 (m, 1H), 4.11-4.08 (m, 2H), 3.53-3.50 (m, 2H), 1.83-1.77 (m, 2H). ¹³C 11 NMR (125 MHz, 298 K, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 163.33, 162.53, 149.44, 132.04, 130.51, 129.96, 12 129.09, 128.68, 127.06, 124.68, 123.17, 123.11, 59.43, 40.49, 40.32, 40.16, 39.99, 13 39.82, 39.65, 39.49, 38.44, 31.21. HR-MS (ESI): m/z calcd for C15H12N2NaO5 14 15 [M+Na]⁺: 323.0638; found: 323.0646.

16

S6





3

Fig. S3. HR-MS spectrum of Compound 1.

Synthesis of Compound CMP: 4-amino-1,8-naphthalicanhydride (426 mg, 2.0 mmol) 4 and 3-amino-1-propanol (300 mg, 4.0 mmol) were dissolved in ethanol (20 mL). The 5 reaction mixture was stirred and refluxed for 3 h under a nitrogen atmosphere, the 6 resulting mixture was evaporated to dryness. After the solvent was evaporated under 7 reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography 8 using PE/EA (5:1, v/v) as eluent to get Compound1 as yellow solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 9 10 298 K, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.62-8.60 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.43-8.42 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 8.20-8.18 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.43 (s, 2H), 6.86-8.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 11 4.96-4.47 (m, 1H), 4.08-4.05 (m, 2H), 3.50-3.47 (m, 2H), 1.78-1.75 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR 12 (125 MHz, 298 K, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.25, 163.41, 153.12, 134.37, 131.41, 130.11, 129.70, 13 124.40, 122.24, 119.80, 108.60, 108.04, 59.48, 37.45, 31.69. HR-MS (ESI): m/z calcd 14 for C₁₅H₁₄N₂NaO₃ [M+Na]⁺: 293.0897; found: 293.0900. 15

16





2

Fig. S6. HR-MS spectrum of Compound CMP.

Synthesis of Compound DMP: 7-(diethylamino)-2-oxo-2H-chromene-3-3 carbaldehyde (490 mg, 2 mmol) and 4-methylpyridine (279 mg, 3.0 mmol) 4 were dissolved in acetonitrile (20 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred 5 and refluxed for 8 h under nitrogen atmosphere, the resulting mixture was 6 evaporated under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by silica 7 gel column chromatography using DCM/MeOH (200:1, v/v) as eluent to 8 get **DMP** as red solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.79-8.78 9 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 8.24 (s, 1H), 8.16-8.14 (m, 2H), 7.83-7.81 (d, J = 13.5)10 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.66 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.54 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 11 6.81-6.79 (m, 1H), 6.60-6.59 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (s, 3H), 3.51-3.47 12 (m, 4H) , 1.16-1.14 (m, 6H). $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR (125 MHz, 298 K, DMSO- $d_6)$ δ 13 13C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO) δ 160.07, 156.76, 153.36, 152.40, 145.78, 14 145.25, 137.12, 131.20, 123.46, 123.08, 114.11, 110.49, 108.82, 96.68, 15 47.18, 44.84, 40.42, 40.28, 40.14, 40.00, 39.86, 39.72, 39.58, 12.86. HR-16 MS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₂₁H₂₃N₂O₂ [M-I]⁺: 335.1754; found: 335.1760. 17







3

Fig. S9. HR-MS spectrum of Compound DMP.

Synthesis of Compound 2: To a solution of compound 1 (300 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 4 dichloromethane (30 mL) at 0 °C, tribromophosphine (0.19 mL, 2.0 mmol) was added 5 dropwise. The resulting reaction mixture was warmed up to room temperature and 6 stirred for 6 h. Then, the mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (20 ml), and washed 7 three times with water (20 mL). The organic layer was separated and dried over 8 anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure, 9 10 and the purified by silica-gel column chromatography PE/EA (20:1, v/v) to afford compound 2 as yellow solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.64-8.62 (d, J 11 = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 8.57-8.47 (m, 3H), 8.05-8.02 (m, 1H), 4.12-4.07 (m, 4H), 2.01-1.94 (m, 12 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 298 K, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 170.76, 163.41, 162.61, 149.46, 132.07, 13 130.51, 129.99, 129.14, 128.69, 126.98, 124.68, 123.10, 62.58, 40.49, 40.32, 40.24, 14 40.16, 40.08, 39.99, 39.91, 39.82, 39.66, 39.49, 37.76, 27.12, 21.07. HR-MS (ESI): m/z 15 16 calcd for C₁₅H₁₁BrN₂NaO₄ [M+Na]⁺: 384.9794; found: 384.9777.





Fig. S12. HR-MS spectrum of Compound 2.

Synthesis of Compound **3**: Compound **2** (363 mg, 1.0 mmol) and NaI (450 mg, 4 mmol) 4 were dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (50 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred and 5 6 refluxed for 12 h under a nitrogen atmosphere, the resulting mixture was evaporated to dryness. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to get Compound 3 as 7 yellow solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.70-8.67 (m, 1H), 8.63- 8.58 8 9 (m, 2H), 8.56-8.54 (m, 1H), 8.11-8.07 (m, 1H), 4.15-4.06 (m, 4H), 2.01-1.96 (m, 2H). ³C NMR (125 MHz, 298 K, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 163.27, 162.76, 146.08, 136.61, 134.44, 10 134.24, 134.12, 131.15, 130.15, 129.97, 129.88, 129.61, 124.43, 123.13, 123.03, 11 122.99, 41.36, 40.88, 40.48, 40.31, 40.24, 40.14, 39.98, 39.90, 39.81, 39.72, 39.64, 12 13 39.47, 31.96, 5.01. R-MS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₅H₁₁IN₂NaO₄ [M+Na]⁺: 432.9656; found: 432.9650. 14

15

1

2

3





3

Fig. S15. HR-MS spectrum of Compound 3.

Synthesis of Compound 4: Compound 3 (1.0 g, 2.5 mmol) and 4-methylpyridine (279 4 mg, 3.0 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (20 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred 5 and refluxed for 8 h under a nitrogen atmosphere, the resulting mixture was evaporated 6 to dryness. After the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, the crude product 7 was purified by silica gel column chromatography using DCM/MeOH (200:1, v/v) as 8 eluent to get Compound 4 as brown solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K, DMSO- d_6) δ 9 10 9.50 (s, 1H), 8.95-8.94 (m, 3H), 8.81-8.79 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 8.69-8.67 (d, J = 10.0Hz, 1H), 8.10-8.07 (m, 1H), 8.00-7.99 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 4.67-4.63 (m, 2H), 4.16-11 4.14 (m, 2H), 2.60 (s, 1H), 2.37-2.31 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 298 K, DMSO-*d*₆) 12 δ 163.58, 163.10, 159.32, 146.25, 144.26, 136.81, 134.38, 131.31, 130.18, 130.07, 13 129.78, 128.93, 128.79, 124.63, 123.20, 58.43, 40.49, 40.33, 40.25, 40.16, 39.99, 39.92, 14 39.83, 39.73, 39.66, 39.49, 37.41, 30.07, 21.86. HR-MS (ESI): m/z calcd for 15 16 C₂₁H₁₈N₃O₄ [M]⁺: 376.1292; found: 376.1294.







Fig. S18. HR-MS spectrum of Compound 4.

Synthesis of Compound IFRP: Compound 4 (753 mg, 2 mmol) and 7-(diethylamino)-4 2-oxochromene-3-carbaldehyde (589 mg, 2.4 mmol) were dissolved in ethanol (50 mL). 5 6 The reaction mixture was stirred and refluxed for 8 h under a nitrogen atmosphere, the 7 resulting mixture was evaporated to dryness. After the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography 8 9 using DCM/MeOH (100:1, v/v) as eluent to get compound IFRP as purple solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K, DMSO-d₆) & 8.87 (s, 2H), 8.67-8.55 (m, 3H), 8.33 (s, 1H), 10 8.17-8.08 (m, 4H), 7.77-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.49 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.77-6.75 (d, *J* = 11 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 4.58-4.57 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.14 (s, 2H), 3.47-3.46 (d, J = 12 6.5 Hz, 4H), 2.34 (s, 2H), 1.15-1.14 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 298 K, 13 DMSO-d₆) δ 163.48, 162.99, 159.95, 159.32, 156.71, 156.36, 153.82, 152.41, 146.15, 14 15 146.12, 145.76, 144.45, 144.25, 137.38, 136.78, 134.35, 131.25, 131.16, 130.13, 129.95, 129.74, 128.79, 124.47, 124.18, 123.70, 123.13, 123.05, 122.91, 114.00, 110.48, 16











Fig. S21. HR-MS spectrum of IFRP.





3 Fig. S22. Two-photon fluorescence spectra of probe IFRP before and after addition of NTR.







Fig. S23. (A) Michaelis-Menten plot for enzymatic reaction of 10 mg/mL NTR with IFPR at
various concentrations (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15 μM). (B) Lineweaver-Burk plot of the enzymecatalyzed reaction.

9

10

Structure of probes	λ_{ex} / λ_{em} (nm)	Linear Range	LOD (ng	Km	Ref.
		$(\mu g m L^{-1})$	mL ⁻¹)	(µM)	
	495 / 595	0 - 10	2.2	12.67	S 1
	700 / 740	0 - 2	43	25.9	S2
	760 / 595	0 - 10	0.142	71.77	S3
	670 / 730	0 - 5	2.5	72.6	S4
	450 / 580	0 - 20	26	46.82	S5
	561 / 624	0.05 - 0.3	0.79	35.07	S6
	548 / 603	0 - 50	562	-	S7
	490 / 555	0 - 20	153	-	S7
	800 / 640, 515	1.0 - 9.0	250	7.76	This work

Table S1. Comparison of the sensing performances of our probe to the reported
 fluorescent probes for NTR.



Fig. S24. (A) Two-photon fluorescence responses of IFRP to different concentrations of NTR
(0-11 μg mL⁻¹) in cell lysates. (B) Corresponding linear relationship of the fluorescence
intensity ratio F₆₄₀/F₅₁₅ (F₅₁₅: 470-550 nm, F₆₄₀: 600-700 nm) versus the concentration of NTR.









Fig. S27. The apoptosis assay of neurons incubated with probe **IFRP** under different concentrations (A) 0 μ M, (B) 10 μ M, (C) 30 μ M, and (D) 50 μ M for 24 h. Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4 represent the regions of dead neurons, late apoptotic neurons, early apoptotic neurons, and normal neurons, respectively.



Fig. S28. (A) The MTT assay for neurons upon incubation with **IFRP** at different concentrations (0, 10, 20, 30, and 40 μ M) after 12 h and 24 h, respectively. (B) Summarized data of neuron viability stimulated by various concentrations of O₂ (20% O₂, 15% O₂, 10% O₂, 5% O₂ and 1% O₂) stimulation for different times. Error bars, n = 10, S.D.

3

9



10

11**Fig. S29**. Fluorescence images of neurons co-incubated with **IFRP** and MitoLite blue FX490.12The images of **IFRP** were obtained under 800 nm excitation and 470-550 nm collection for the13 F_{515} channel and 600-700 nm for the F_{640} channel. MitoLite blue FX490 was excited using a14405 nm laser, and emission signals were collected within the 420-490 nm wavelength range.

S25



Fig. S30. (A) Confocal microscopy imaging of neurons after hypoxic stimulation at different
time (0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 min). (B) Quantification of the intensity ratio (F₆₄₀/F₅₁₅) after
hypoxic stimulation at different times. Scale bar: 30 μm.









1

2

4 Fig. S32. The relative mRNA of NTR in neurons under normoxia or hypoxic condition with or 5 without the presence of dicoumarin (n = 10; **: p < 0.01; ***: p < 0.001).

- 6
- 7

8 **References:**

- 9 S1. Y.-X. Fu, W.-Y. Guo, N. Wang, Y.-J. Dai, Z.-Y. Zhang, X.-L. Sun, W.-C. Yang and
- 10 G.-F. Yang, Anal. Chem., 2022, 94, 17692-17699.
- 11 S2. H.-S. Wang, X.-F. Zhang, H. Dong, Q. Chen, X.-Q. Cao and S.-L. Shen, Anal. Chim.
- 12 *Acta*, 2022, **1221**, 340107.
- 13 S3. C. Yu, S. Wang, C. Xu, Y. Ding, G. Zhang, N. Yang, Q. Wu, Q. Xiao, L. Wang, B.
- 14 Fang, C. Pu, J. Ge, L. Gao, L. Li and S. Q. Yao, Adv. Healthcare Mater., 2022, 11,
- 15 2200400.
- 16 S4. S. Zhang, H. Chen, L. Wang, X. Qin, B.-P. Jiang, S.-C. Ji, X.-C. Shen and H. Liang,
- 17 Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2022, 61, e202107076.
- S5. Y. Wang, L. Zhang, Y. Huang, X. Wang, L. Zhang and L. Chen, Sensors and *Actuators B: Chemical*, 2020, **310**, 127755.
- 20 S6. R. Peng, J. Yuan, D. Cheng, T. Ren, F. Jin, R. Yang, L. Yuan and X. Zhang, Anal.
- 21 *Chem.*, 2019, **91**, 15974-15981.
- 22 S7. B. Zhang, H. Chen, L. Shi, R. Guo, Y. Wang, Y. Zheng, R. Bai, Y. Gao, B. Liu and
- 23 X. Zhang, ACS Sens., 2024, 9, 4560-4567.