

# **Multi-Stimuli Responsive Smart Materials: Cyanine Amphiphile Self-Assembly for Photochromic and pH-Switching Applications**

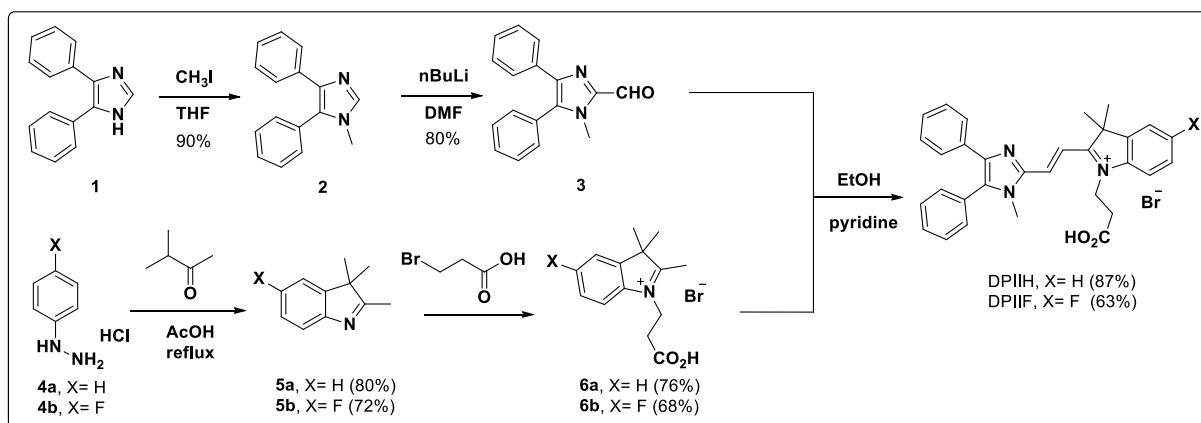
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Scheme S1. Synthetic routes for DPIIH and DPIIF.

#### Synthesis of 2,3,3-trimethyl-3*H*-indole (**5a**)

Phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (**4a**) (20.7 mmol, 3.00 g) and 3-methyl-2-butanone (22.8 mmol, 2.44 mL) were dissolved in acetic acid (20mL), then the reaction mixture was refluxed at 120°C for 4h. After cooling to room temperature, the crude product was extracted with DCM (80mL) and the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> to obtain 2,3,3-trimethyl-3*H*-indole (**5a**) as a brown liquid (2.63g, 80%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ= 1.23 (s, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.20 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.14-7.24 (m, 1H, CH), 7.26-7.29 (m, 2H, 2CH), 7.40-7.43 (m, 1H, CH).

#### Synthesis of 5-fluoro-2,3,3-trimethyl-3*H*-indole (**5b**)

In a manner similar to that described above, a mixture of (4-fluorophenyl)hydrazine hydrochloride (**4b**) (0.012 mol, 2.00 g) and 3-methyl-2-butanone (0.018 mol, 0.55 mL) were converted to 5-fluoro-2,3,3-trimethyl-3*H*-indole (**5b**) as a red-brown liquid (1.53 g, 72%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ= 1.32 (s, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.28 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.97-7.03 (m, 2H, 2CH), 7.44-7.48 (m, 1H, CH).

Synthesis of 1-(2-carboxyethyl)-2,3,3-trimethyl-3*H*-indol-1-ium bromide (IH bromide, **6a**)

2,3,3-trimethyl-3*H*-indole (**5a**) (8.27 mmol, 1.32 g) and 3-bromopropionic acid (10.7 mmol, 1.64 g) were dissolved in dry CH<sub>3</sub>CN (5 mL) and the reaction mixture was refluxed under nitrogen for 24h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, and diethyl ether was added to precipitate the crude product, followed by purified using chromatography on silica (acetone: diethyl ether 1:2 and DCM) to afford IH bromide (**6a**) as red solid (1.29 g, 76%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ= 1.53 (s, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.86 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.99 (t, *J*= 9.2 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.66 (t, *J*= 9.2 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.61-7.63 (m, 2H, CH), 7.83-7.84 (m, 1H, CH) 7.98-8.00 (m, 1H, CH).

Synthesis of 1-(2-carboxyethyl)-5-fluoro-2,3,3-trimethyl-3*H*-indol-1-ium bromide (IF bromide, **6b**)

In a manner similar to that described above, a reaction mixture of 5-fluoro-2,3,3-trimethyl-3*H*-indole (**5b**) (8.63 mmol, 1.53 g) and 3-bromopropionic acid (9.41 mmol, 1.44 g) were converted to IF bromide (**6b**) as a yellow solid (1.94 g, 68%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ= 1.54 (s, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.84 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.97 (t, *J*= 9.2 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.64 (t, *J*= 9.2 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.46-7.53 (m, 1H, CH), 7.82-7.86 (m, 1H, CH), 8.03-8.08 (m, 1H, CH).

Synthesis of DPIIH

DPI-CHO (1.65 mmol, 0.43 g), IH bromide (1.27 mmol, 0.39 g), and a catalytic amount of pyridine were dissolved in dry ethanol. The reaction mixture was then heated to reflux under nitrogen for 12 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was concentrated using a rotary evaporator, and the residue was precipitated with diethyl ether to obtain DPIIH as a red-brown solid (0.61 g, 87% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ= 1.81 (s, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.98 (t, *J*= 6.7 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.77 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.81 (t, *J*= 6.7 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.25-7.29 (m, 3H, 3CH), 7.44-7.47 (m, 4H, 4CH), 7.58-7.63 (m, 5H, 5CH), 7.86 (d, *J*= 15.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.89-7.96 (m, 2H, 2CH), 8.11 (d, *J*= 15.6 Hz, 1H, CH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ= 181.7, 172.0, 144.0, 143.3, 142.8, 141.1,

136.9, 136.2, 133.6, 130.9, 129.8, 129.7, 129.4, 128.9, 128.2, 127.3, 123.5, 115.7, 112.5, 52.7, 43.3, 32.7, 32.3, 26.4. HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) *m/z* for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, calcd 476.2338, found 476.2593.

### Synthesis of DPIIF

In a manner similar to that described above, a reaction mixture of DPI-CHO (0.10 mmol, 28 mg), IF bromide (0.10 mmol, 35 mg), and a catalytic amount of pyridine was utilized. This yielded DPIIF as a red-brown solid (0.06 g, 63% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ= 1.82 (s, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.97 (t, *J*= 6.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.77 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.79 (t, *J*= 6.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.25-7.30 (m, 3H, 3CH), 7.43-7.50 (m, 4H, 4CH), 7.57-7.59 (m, 4H, 4CH), 7.83 (d, *J*=15.1, 1H, CH), 7.89-7.92 (m, 1H, CH), 8.00-8.03 (m, 1H, CH), 8.09 (d, *J*=15.1, 1H, CH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ= 181.8, 172.0, 161.8, 146.7, 143.3, 142.8, 137.5, 136.9, 133.6, 130.9, 130.1, 129.8, 129.4, 128.8, 128.2, 127.3, 124.3, 116.8, 112.4, 52.9, 43.4, 32.6, 32.2, 26.2. HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) *m/z* for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>29</sub>FN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, calcd 494.2238, found 494.2469.

### Characterizations

The <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were captured using a Bruker AVANCE II-400 MHz spectrometer with DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> as the solvent, and CF<sub>3</sub>COOH was utilized as the reference (δ = -75.0 ppm) for the <sup>19</sup>F NMR.<sup>S1</sup> Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectra were acquired employing a Thermo Fisher Scientific Nicolet iS5 infrared spectrophotometer to characterize and evaluate the intermolecular and/or intramolecular interactions of DPIIH and DPIIF. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) using the JEOL JSM-7600F model was utilized to examine the morphologies of DPIIH and DPIIF, with test samples prepared *via* freeze-vacuum drying.<sup>S2</sup> UV-vis absorption and fluorescence emission spectra were recorded with a Shimadzu UV-2550 spectrometer for UV-vis absorption and a Horiba FluoroMax<sup>®</sup>-4 spectrometer for fluorescence emission. The emission spectra of samples were observed at excitation wavelengths of 495.3 nm, 513.8 nm, and 536.2 nm in water, DMSO, and CHCl<sub>3</sub>, respectively. To prevent reabsorption of emission from the sample, micro fluorometer cuvettes with a 1 mm light path and 0.35 mL volume were utilized.<sup>S3</sup> Rheological assessments were

performed using a TA rheometer (DHR-1) with a 40 mm parallel plate. The hydrogel sample (400  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1 wt%) underwent an angular frequency sweep test with parameters including a test range of 1-100  $\text{rad}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ , a strain of 1%, 15 points per decade, a sweep mode of “log”, and a temperature of 25  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .<sup>S4</sup>

### Biocompatibility of DPIIF

The biocompatibility of DPIIF hydrogel was evaluated by culturing L929 cells with an extraction medium.<sup>S5</sup> The extraction medium was prepared by immersing DPIIF hydrogel in Dulbecco’s Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM, Gibco, Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) at a volume ratio of 1:10 (hydrogel volume to medium volume) and incubating at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for two days. L929 cells were seeded in 96-well plates and cultured with DMEM at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  under 5%  $\text{CO}_2$  for one day. The cells were treated with extraction medium at pH values ranging from 5.5 to 8.0, replacing the DMEM, and allowed to grow for one, three, and five days.<sup>S6,S7</sup> For the light exposure experiment, the selected wells were irradiated with UV light for 30 seconds and subsequently cultured for one, three, and five days.<sup>S8</sup> Cell viability assays were conducted on the L929 cells cultured with the extraction medium and DMEM using the MTT reagent. The optical density of the resulting solution was measured at 595 nm using a BioTek (Winooski, VT, USA) 800 TS microplate reader. Cells that were not exposed to the test hydrogels were assigned to the control group.

### Computational methodology

Theoretical calculations were conducted using Gaussian 09 software to elucidate the structural and electronic properties of the molecules under study.<sup>S9</sup> Geometry optimization in both the ground and excited states was achieved *via* density functional theory (DFT) and time-dependent density functional theory (TD-DFT) methods, using the M06-2X density functional with a 6-31G (d,p) basis set, respectively.<sup>S10-S13</sup> The polarizable continuum model (PCM) was employed to simulate the water or DMSO solution environment.<sup>S14</sup> Analysis of frontier molecular orbitals, electrostatic potential

maps, and calculations of both ground and excited states were conducted at the same optimized structural level. Furthermore, UV-Vis absorption and emission spectra of the molecules in water were generated using the TD-DFT method, providing insights into their spectroscopic behavior. Additionally, calculations of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ), referenced relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS), were performed using the Gauge-Independent Atomic Orbital (GIAO) method developed by Wolinski *et al.*, further enhancing the understanding of molecular properties.<sup>S15</sup> To address the basis set superposition error (BSSE), the counterpoise (CP) method proposed by Boys and Bernardi was employed.<sup>S16</sup> Larger negative binding energy ( $E_B$ ) values indicate stronger interactions, such as hydrogen bonding, leading to more stable complexes. Moreover, non-covalent interactions were visualized and analyzed in real space using Multiwfn 3.7 software, with graphical representations generated using VMD 1.9.<sup>S17, S18</sup>

Table S1. Physical properties of DPIOH, DPIIH, DPIIF.

	Conc. (wt%)	Appearance	G', G'' (Pa)
DPIOH	0.5-2.0	Solution	/
DPIIH	0.5-2.0	Solution	/
DPIIF	0.5	Solution	/
DPIIF	1.0 <sup>a</sup>	Gel	688.0, 201.3
DPIIF	2.0	Gel	2387.3, 472.2

<sup>a</sup>The lower critical gelation concentration.

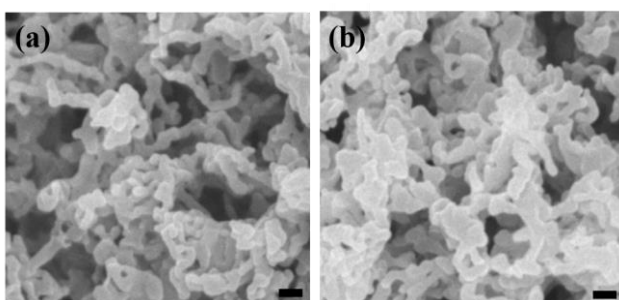


Fig. S1. SEM images of DPIIF hydrogels at (a) 1 wt% and (b) 2 wt%. Scale bar: 100 nm.

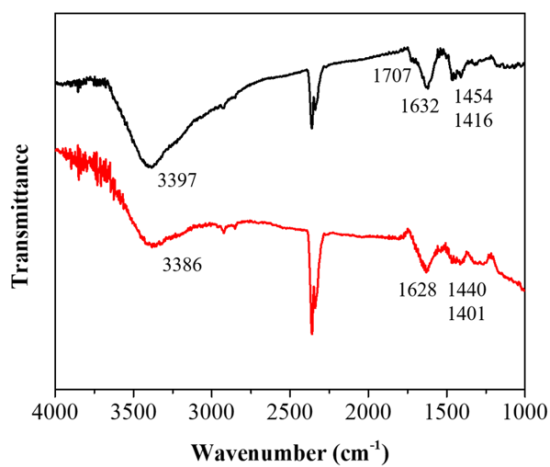


Fig. S2. FT-IR spectra of DPIIH (black) and DPIIF (red).



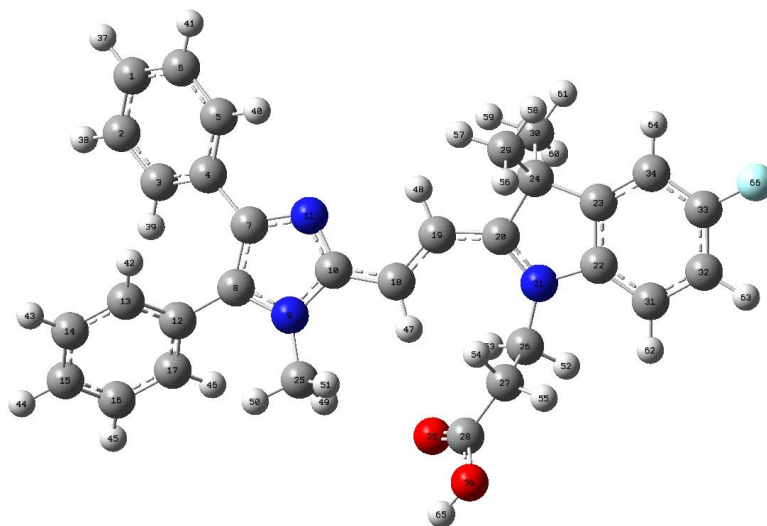


Table S2 NBO charge distribution of (*E*)-DPIIF, and (*Z*)-DPIIF by M06-2X/6-31G(d,p) level of theory using IEFPCM in water solvent.

<i>(E)</i> -DPIIF				<i>(Z)</i> -DPIIF			
C <sub>1</sub>	-0.24743	C <sub>34</sub>	-0.28954	C <sub>1</sub>	-0.25154	C <sub>34</sub>	-0.28751
C <sub>2</sub>	-0.24665	O <sub>35</sub>	-0.65335	C <sub>2</sub>	-0.24622	O <sub>35</sub>	-0.62269
C <sub>3</sub>	-0.22893	O <sub>36</sub>	-0.71815	C <sub>3</sub>	-0.23174	O <sub>36</sub>	-0.74771
C <sub>4</sub>	-0.08859	H <sub>37</sub>	0.2567	C <sub>4</sub>	-0.08166	H <sub>37</sub>	0.25586
C <sub>5</sub>	-0.22414	H <sub>38</sub>	0.25787	C <sub>5</sub>	-0.22649	H <sub>38</sub>	0.25679
C <sub>6</sub>	-0.24728	H <sub>39</sub>	0.25701	C <sub>6</sub>	-0.24619	H <sub>39</sub>	0.25596
C <sub>7</sub>	0.13797	H <sub>40</sub>	0.26027	C <sub>7</sub>	0.12691	H <sub>40</sub>	0.25175
C <sub>8</sub>	0.19242	H <sub>41</sub>	0.25744	C <sub>8</sub>	0.16371	H <sub>41</sub>	0.25589
N <sub>9</sub>	-0.3375	H <sub>42</sub>	0.26395	N <sub>9</sub>	-0.34941	H <sub>42</sub>	0.26277
C <sub>10</sub>	0.32689	H <sub>43</sub>	0.26245	C <sub>10</sub>	0.34385	H <sub>43</sub>	0.26138
N <sub>11</sub>	-0.4786	H <sub>44</sub>	0.26096	N <sub>11</sub>	-0.52978	H <sub>44</sub>	0.26003
C <sub>12</sub>	-0.11583	H <sub>45</sub>	0.26288	C <sub>12</sub>	-0.11107	H <sub>45</sub>	0.26172
C <sub>13</sub>	-0.21544	H <sub>46</sub>	0.26222	C <sub>13</sub>	-0.21917	H <sub>46</sub>	0.26068
C <sub>14</sub>	-0.24256	H <sub>47</sub>	0.25568	C <sub>14</sub>	-0.24344	H <sub>47</sub>	0.28365
C <sub>15</sub>	-0.23593	H <sub>48</sub>	0.28423	C <sub>15</sub>	-0.23932	H <sub>48</sub>	0.30172
C <sub>16</sub>	-0.24205	H <sub>49</sub>	0.26853	C <sub>16</sub>	-0.24275	H <sub>49</sub>	0.26248
C <sub>17</sub>	-0.22956	H <sub>50</sub>	0.2702	C <sub>17</sub>	-0.23103	H <sub>50</sub>	0.26996
C <sub>18</sub>	-0.13456	H <sub>51</sub>	0.26186	C <sub>18</sub>	-0.20455	H <sub>51</sub>	0.26207
C <sub>19</sub>	-0.33212	B <sub>52</sub>	0.28632	C <sub>19</sub>	-0.31544	H <sub>52</sub>	0.28924
C <sub>20</sub>	0.39927	O <sub>53</sub>	0.28401	C <sub>20</sub>	0.46449	H <sub>53</sub>	0.28933
N <sub>21</sub>	0.31467	O <sub>54</sub>	0.29615	N <sub>21</sub>	0.27528	H <sub>54</sub>	0.29125

C <sub>22</sub>	0.13957	H <sub>55</sub>	0.29447	C <sub>22</sub>	0.1272	H <sub>55</sub>	0.28811
C <sub>23</sub>	-0.01567	H <sub>56</sub>	0.26188	C <sub>23</sub>	-0.01165	H <sub>56</sub>	0.26364
C <sub>24</sub>	-0.10613	H <sub>57</sub>	0.25862	C <sub>24</sub>	-0.11305	H <sub>57</sub>	0.26081
C <sub>25</sub>	-0.50044	H <sub>58</sub>	0.26447	C <sub>25</sub>	-0.5012	H <sub>58</sub>	0.26871
C <sub>26</sub>	-0.28235	H <sub>59</sub>	0.25769	C <sub>26</sub>	-0.27987	H <sub>59</sub>	0.26153
C <sub>27</sub>	-0.60727	H <sub>60</sub>	0.26278	C <sub>27</sub>	-0.59803	H <sub>60</sub>	0.26335
C <sub>28</sub>	0.87864	H <sub>61</sub>	0.26554	C <sub>28</sub>	0.87135	H <sub>61</sub>	0.26537
C <sub>29</sub>	-0.68425	H <sub>62</sub>	0.279	C <sub>29</sub>	-0.68537	H <sub>62</sub>	0.28158
C <sub>30</sub>	-0.68366	H <sub>63</sub>	0.28378	C <sub>30</sub>	-0.68388	H <sub>63</sub>	0.28607
C <sub>31</sub>	-0.23863	H <sub>64</sub>	0.28442	C <sub>31</sub>	-0.23483	H <sub>64</sub>	0.28703
C <sub>32</sub>	-0.29761	H <sub>65</sub>	0.53804	C <sub>32</sub>	-0.29702	H <sub>65</sub>	0.53936
C <sub>33</sub>	0.44281	F <sub>66</sub>	-0.33805	C <sub>33</sub>	0.4483	F <sub>66</sub>	-0.33599

Table S3. Theoretically calculated electron transition energy of (*E*)-DPIIF using the TD-DFT/M06-2X/6-31G(d,p) level of theory with the PCM model in a water environment.

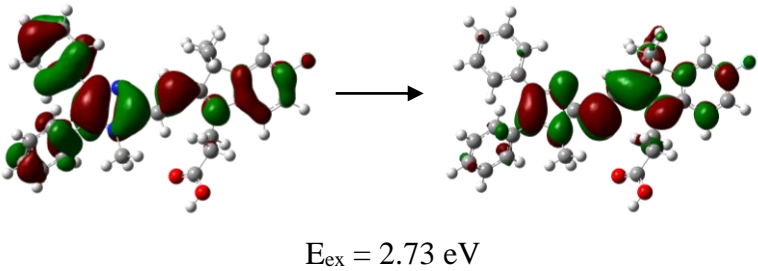
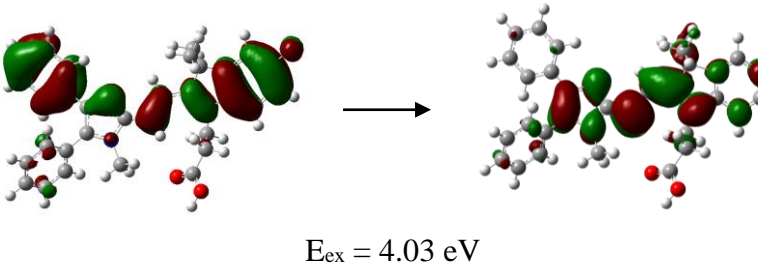
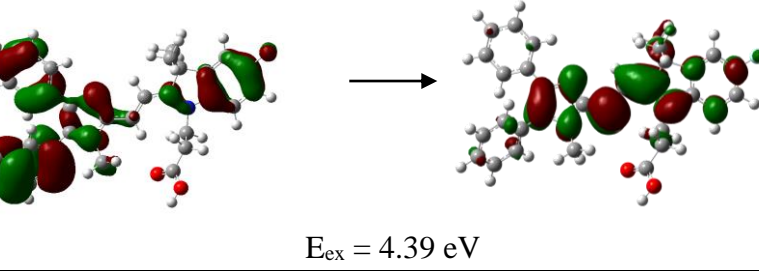
<b>Bands (nm)</b>	<b>Electron transitions</b>	<b>Molecular orbitals</b>
453.9	HOMO→LUMO Molecular contribution 0.69001 Oscillator strength (f) 1.3391	 E <sub>ex</sub> = 2.73 eV
307.7	HOMO-1→LUMO Molecular contribution 0.67705 Oscillator strength (f) 0.0606	 E <sub>ex</sub> = 4.03 eV
282.5	HOMO-3→LUMO Molecular contribution 0.55089 Oscillator strength (f) 0.0270	 E <sub>ex</sub> = 4.39 eV

Table S4. Theoretically calculated electron transition energy of (Z)-DPIIF using the TD-DFT/M06-2X/6-31G(d,p) level of theory with the PCM model in a water environment.

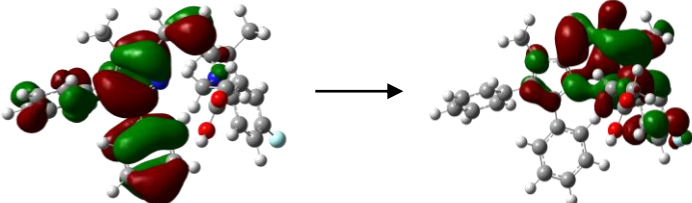
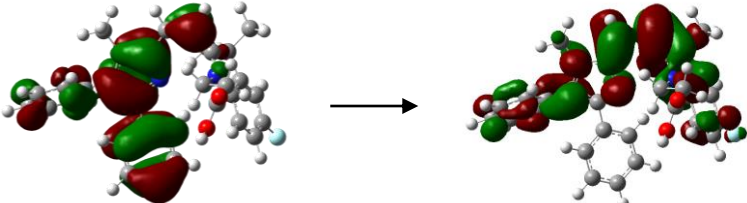
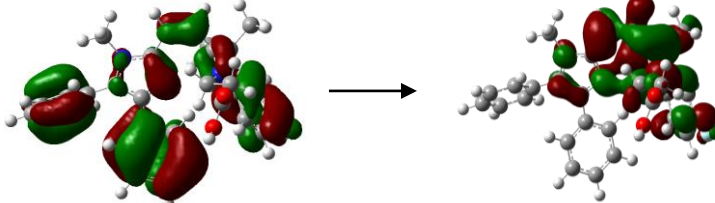
<i>Bands</i> (nm)	<i>Electron transitions</i>	<i>Molecular orbitals</i>
378.1	HOMO→LUMO Molecular contribution 0.67031 Oscillator strength (f) 0.2133	 <p style="text-align: center;"><math>E_{ex} = 3.28 \text{ eV}</math></p>
280.9	HOMO→LUMO+1 Molecular contribution 0.57614 Oscillator strength (f) 0.3732	 <p style="text-align: center;"><math>E_{ex} = 4.41 \text{ eV}</math></p>
274.9	HOMO-2→LUMO Molecular contribution 0.34858 Oscillator strength (f) 0.1649	 <p style="text-align: center;"><math>E_{ex} = 4.51 \text{ eV}</math></p>

Table S5. Theoretically calculated electron transition energy of (*E*)-DPIIF-OH using the TD-DFT/M06-2X/6-31G(d,p) level of theory with the PCM model in a water environment.

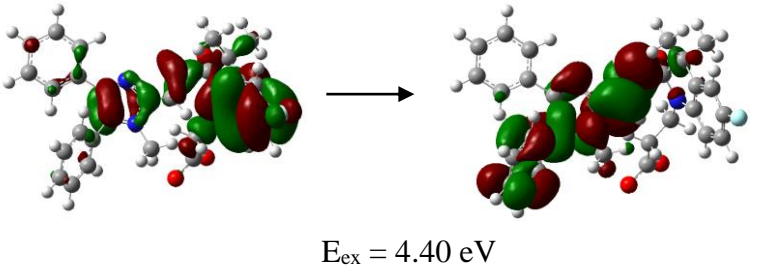
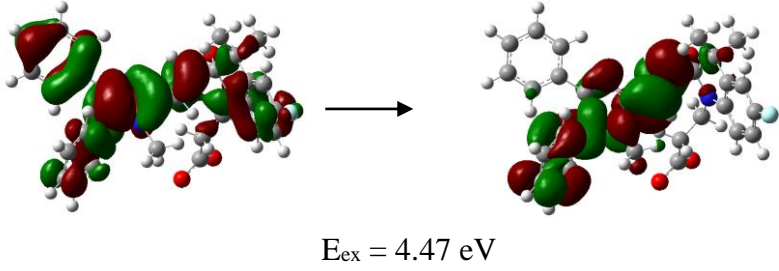
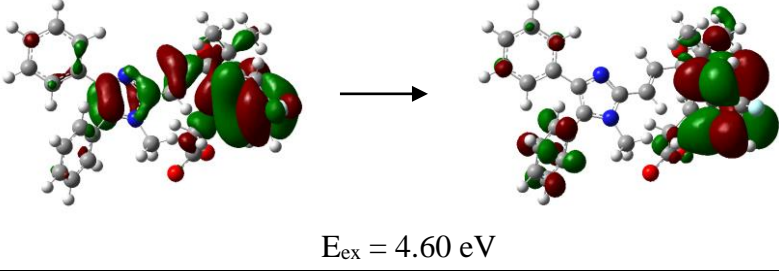
<b>Bands (nm)</b>	<b>Electron transitions</b>	<b>Molecular orbitals</b>
281.5	HOMO→LUMO Molecular contribution 0.57564 Oscillator strength (f) 0.0743	 $E_{ex} = 4.40 \text{ eV}$
277.7	HOMO-1→LUMO Molecular contribution 0.61625 Oscillator strength (f) 0.6127	 $E_{ex} = 4.47 \text{ eV}$
269.4	HOMO→LUMO+2 Molecular contribution 0.42926 Oscillator strength (f) 0.2996	 $E_{ex} = 4.60 \text{ eV}$

Table S6. Theoretically calculated emission transition energy of (*E*)-DPIIF using the TD-DFT/M06-2X/6-31G(d,p) level of theory with the PCM model in a water environment.

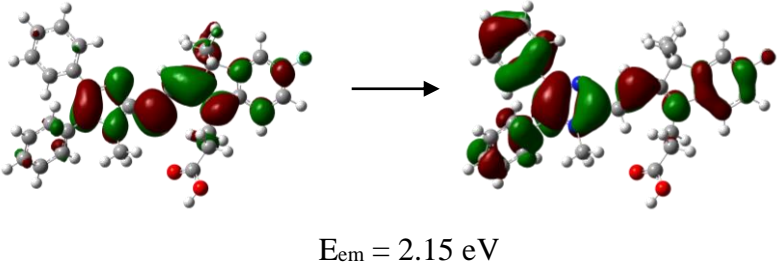
<b>Bands (nm)</b>	<b>Electron transitions</b>	<b>Molecular orbitals</b>
577.4	LUMO→HOMO Molecular contribution 0.69897 Oscillator strength (f) 1.0980	 $E_{em} = 2.15 \text{ eV}$

Table S7. Theoretically calculated emission transition energy of (*Z*)-DPIIF using the TD-DFT/M06-2X/6-31G(d,p) level of theory with the PCM model in a water environment.

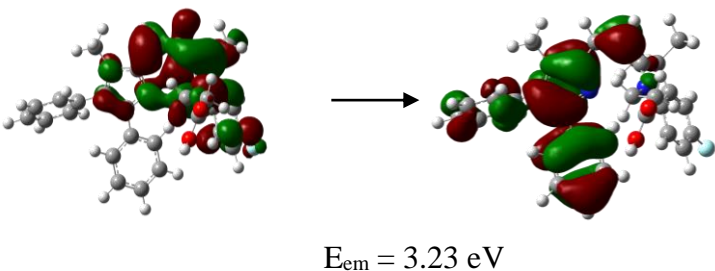
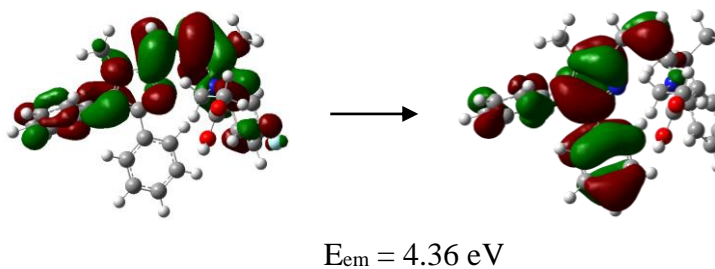
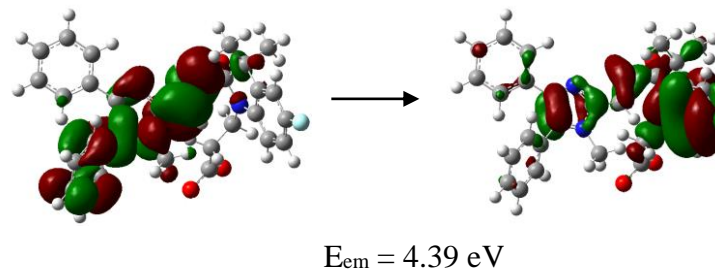
<i>Bands</i> (nm)	<i>Electron transitions</i>	<i>Molecular orbitals</i>
384.03	LUMO→HOMO Molecular contribution 0.66861 Oscillator strength (f) 0.0761	 E <sub>em</sub> = 3.23 eV
284.41	LUMO+1→HOMO Molecular contribution 0.63782 Oscillator strength (f) 0.1843	 E <sub>em</sub> = 4.36 eV

Table S8. Theoretically calculated emission transition energy of (*E*)-DPIIF-OH using the TD-DFT/M06-2X/6-31G(d,p) level of theory with the PCM model in a water environment.

<i>Bands</i> (nm)	<i>Electron transitions</i>	<i>Molecular orbitals</i>
282.19	LUMO→HOMO Molecular contribution 0.60623 Oscillator strength (f) 0.2095	 E <sub>em</sub> = 4.39 eV

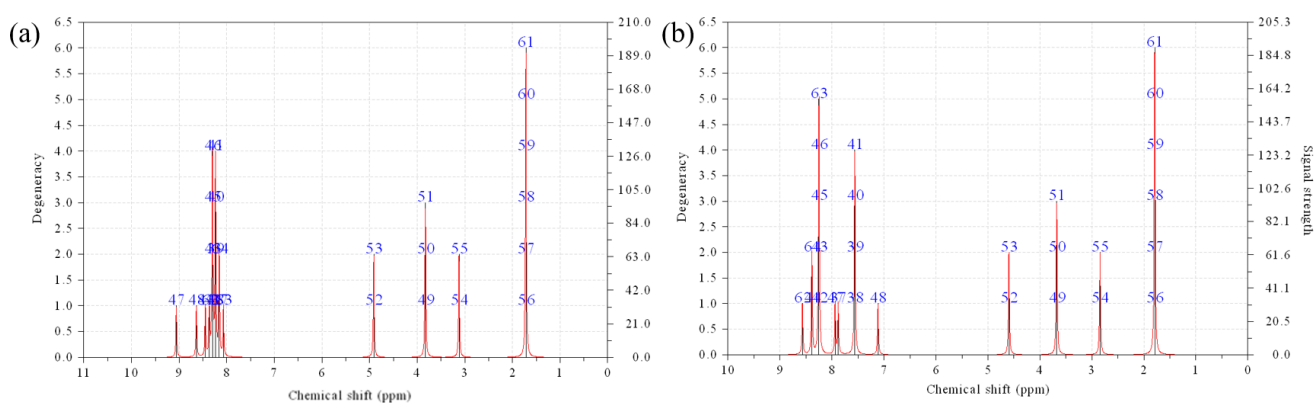
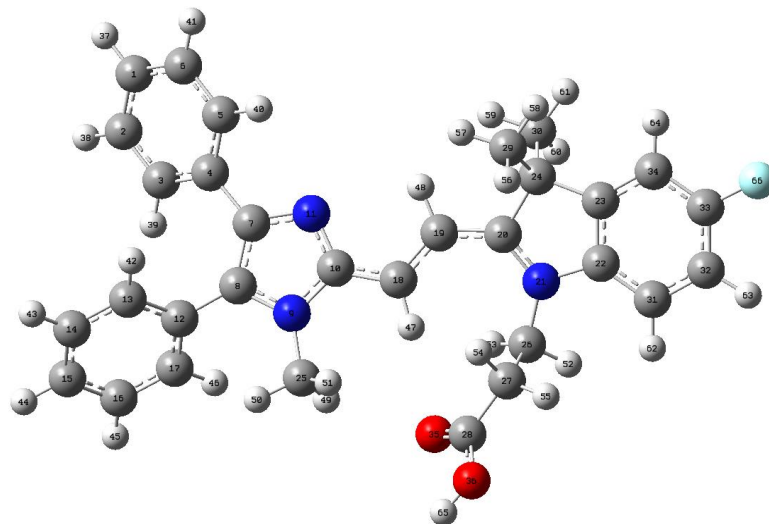


Fig. S3. Theoretical  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (a) (*E*)-DPIIF and (b) (*Z*)-DPIIF by the DFT/M06-2X/6-31G(d,p) level of theory with PCM model in a DMSO environment.

Table S9. Theoretical  $^1\text{H}$  NMR calculations for (*E*)-DPIIF and (*Z*)-DPIIF by the DFT/M06-2X/6-31G(d,p) level of theory with PCM model in a DMSO environment.

( <i>E</i> )-DPIIF Atom	Chemical Shift (ppm)	( <i>Z</i> )-DPIIF Atom	Chemical Shift (ppm)
H <sub>56</sub> 、H <sub>57</sub> 、H <sub>58</sub> 、H <sub>59</sub> 、 H <sub>60</sub> 、H <sub>61</sub>	1.72	H <sub>56</sub> 、H <sub>57</sub> 、H <sub>58</sub> 、H <sub>59</sub> 、H <sub>60</sub> 、 H <sub>61</sub>	1.79
H <sub>54</sub> 、H <sub>55</sub>	3.12	H <sub>54</sub> 、H <sub>55</sub>	2.84
H <sub>49</sub> 、H <sub>50</sub> 、H <sub>51</sub>	3.83	H <sub>49</sub> 、H <sub>50</sub> 、H <sub>51</sub>	3.68
H <sub>52</sub> 、H <sub>53</sub>	4.91	H <sub>52</sub> 、H <sub>53</sub>	4.60
H <sub>63</sub>	8.07	H <sub>48</sub>	7.11
H <sub>37</sub> 、H <sub>64</sub>	8.16	H <sub>38</sub> 、H <sub>39</sub> 、H <sub>40</sub> 、H <sub>41</sub>	7.56
H <sub>38</sub> 、H <sub>39</sub> 、H <sub>40</sub> 、H <sub>41</sub>	8.24	H <sub>37</sub>	7.88
H <sub>42</sub> 、H <sub>43</sub> 、H <sub>45</sub> 、H <sub>46</sub>	8.30	H <sub>47</sub>	7.94
H <sub>62</sub>	8.37	H <sub>42</sub> 、H <sub>43</sub> 、H <sub>45</sub> 、H <sub>46</sub> 、H <sub>63</sub>	8.25
H <sub>44</sub>	8.45	H <sub>44</sub> 、H <sub>64</sub>	8.39
H <sub>48</sub>	8.64	H <sub>62</sub>	8.57
H <sub>47</sub>	9.06		

Table S10. Comparison of theoretical and experimental chemical shifts of H<sub>47</sub> (H<sub>a</sub>) and H<sub>48</sub> (H<sub>b</sub>) in <sup>1</sup>H NMR for (*E*)-DPIIF and (*Z*)-DPIIF.<sup>a</sup>

( <i>E</i> )-DPIIF Atom	Chemical Shift (ppm)	( <i>Z</i> )-DPIIF Atom	Chemical Shift (ppm)
H <sub>47</sub> <sup>b</sup>	9.06	H <sub>47</sub> <sup>b</sup>	7.94
H <sub>48</sub> <sup>b</sup>	8.64	H <sub>48</sub> <sup>b</sup>	7.11
H <sub>a</sub> <sup>c</sup>	8.09	H <sub>a</sub> <sup>c</sup>	6.92
H <sub>b</sub> <sup>c</sup>	7.83	H <sub>b</sub> <sup>c</sup>	6.75

<sup>a</sup>H<sub>47</sub> represents H<sub>a</sub>, and H<sub>48</sub> represents H<sub>b</sub>. <sup>b</sup>theoretical chemical shifts, <sup>c</sup>experimental chemical shifts.

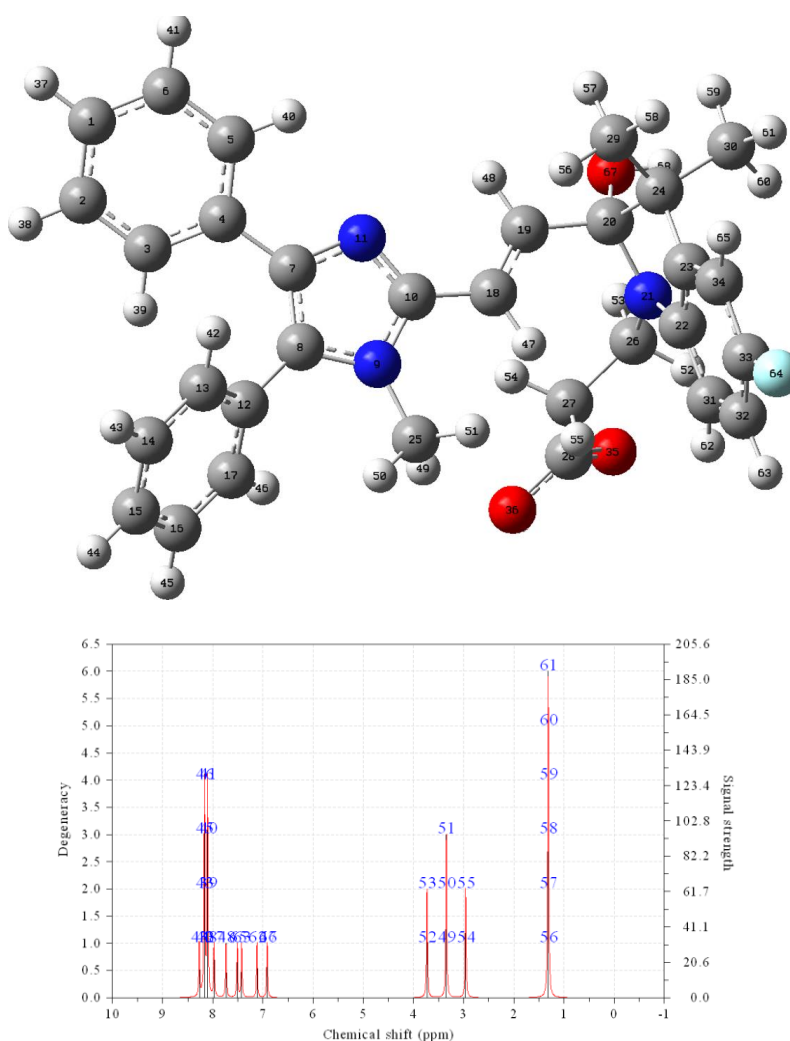


Fig. S4. Theoretical <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of (*E*)-DPIIF-OH by the DFT/M06-2X/6-31G(d,p) level of theory with PCM model in a DMSO environment.



Table S11. Theoretical  $^1\text{H}$  NMR calculations for (*E*)-DPIIF-OH by the DFT/M06-2X/6-31G(d,p) level of theory with PCM model in a DMSO environment.

Atom	Chemical Shift (ppm)
H <sub>56</sub> 、H <sub>57</sub> 、H <sub>58</sub> 、H <sub>59</sub> 、H <sub>60</sub> 、H <sub>61</sub>	1.31
H <sub>54</sub> 、H <sub>55</sub>	2.96
H <sub>49</sub> 、H <sub>50</sub> 、H <sub>51</sub>	3.34
H <sub>52</sub> 、H <sub>53</sub>	3.73
H <sub>47</sub>	6.92
H <sub>62</sub>	7.12
H <sub>63</sub>	7.42
H <sub>48</sub>	7.51
H <sub>65</sub>	7.74
H <sub>37</sub>	7.97
H <sub>38</sub> 、H <sub>39</sub> 、H <sub>40</sub> 、H <sub>41</sub>	8.10
H <sub>42</sub> 、H <sub>43</sub> 、H <sub>45</sub> 、H <sub>46</sub>	8.17
H <sub>44</sub>	8.27

Table S12. Comparison of theoretical and experimental chemical shifts of H<sub>47</sub> (H<sub>a</sub>) and H<sub>48</sub> (H<sub>b</sub>) in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR for (*E*)-DPIIF-OH.<sup>a</sup>

Atom	Chemical Shift (ppm)
H <sub>47</sub> <sup>b</sup>	6.92
H <sub>48</sub> <sup>b</sup>	7.51
H <sub>a</sub> <sup>c</sup>	6.62
H <sub>b</sub> <sup>c</sup>	6.88

<sup>a</sup>H<sub>47</sub> represents H<sub>a</sub>, and H<sub>48</sub> represents H<sub>b</sub>. <sup>b</sup>theoretical chemical shifts, <sup>c</sup>experimental chemical shifts.

Table S13. The quantum yields of DPIIF in solution and solid state.

Solution <sup>a,b</sup>	Solid <sup>b</sup>
1.82%	9.05%

<sup>a</sup>Measured in DMSO; <sup>b</sup>Determined by absolute method.<sup>S19</sup>



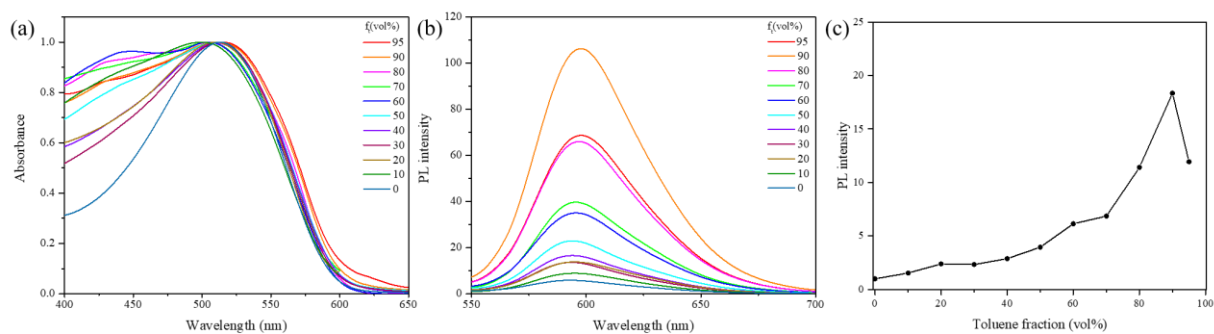


Fig. S5. (a) UV-vis absorption and (b) emission spectra of DPIIF at 5  $\mu\text{M}$  in toluene/DMSO mixtures ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 513.8$ ). (c) Plot of the relative fluorescence intensity ( $I/I_0$ ) of DPIIF with respect to the fraction of toluene in the toluene/DMSO mixtures;  $I_0$ : fluorescence intensity at 598 nm in pure DMSO.

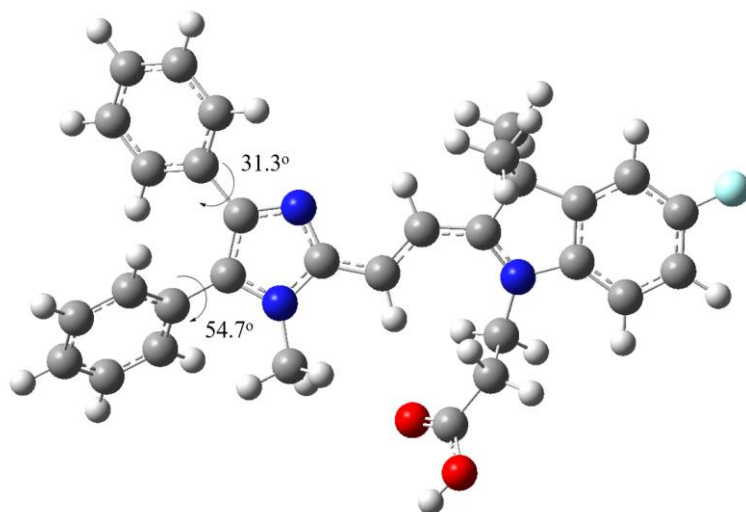


Fig. S6. (*E*)-DPIIF was optimized using the DFT/M06-2X/6-31G(d,p) level of theory with the PCM solvation model (water as the solvent). Carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and fluorine atoms are depicted in gray, white, blue, red, and cyan, respectively.

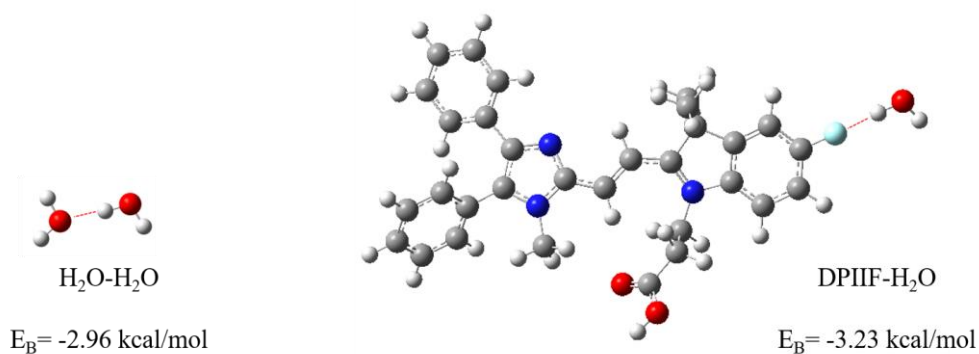


Fig. S7. DFT analysis of the intermolecular binding energy between DPIIF and water. Carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and fluorine atoms are depicted in gray, white, blue, red, and cyan, respectively.

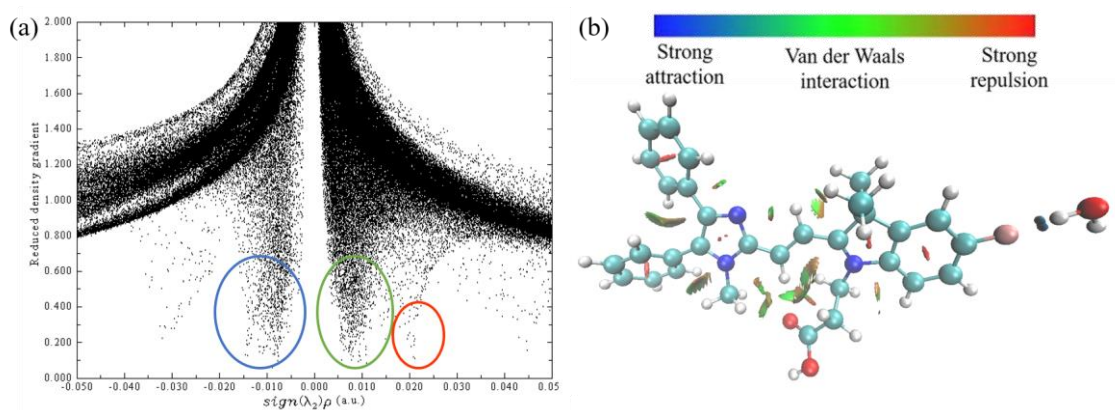


Fig. S8. Reduced density gradient ( $\sigma$ ) between DPIIF and water, plotted with respect to the electron density ( $\rho$ ) multiplied by the sign of  $\lambda_2$ . (b) Visualization of the intermolecular interactions between DPIIF and water in real space; carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and fluorine atoms are depicted in cyan, white, blue, red, and pink, respectively.

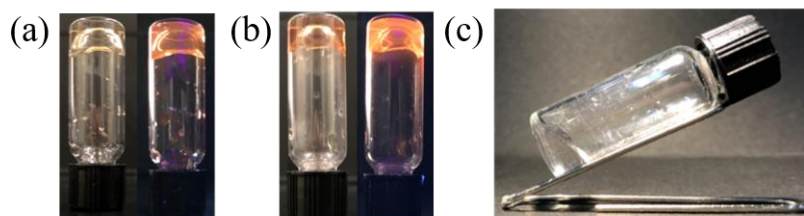


Fig. S9. Optical images of 1 wt% (*E*)-DPIIF at (a) pH 2, (b) pH 7, and (c) pH 12, with (a) and (b) captured under ambient room lighting (left) and UV illumination (right).

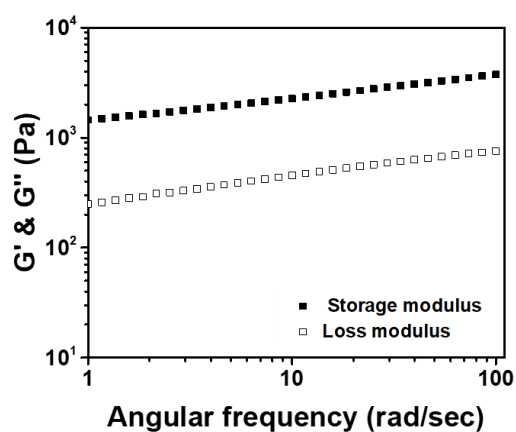


Fig. S10. Frequency-dependent rheology measurement of 2 wt% of (*E*)-DPIIF hydrogel.

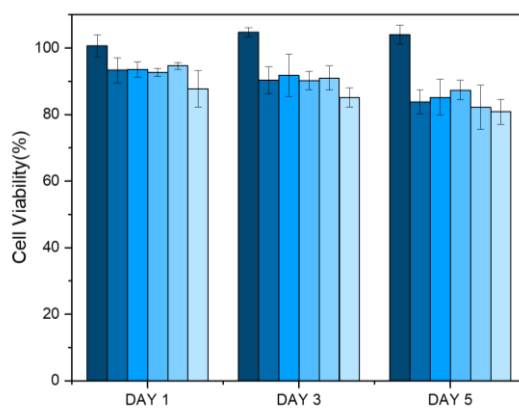


Fig. S11. Cell viability of L929 cells on DPIIF hydrogels for 1, 3, and 5 days. (From left to right are the control, pH 5.5, pH 6.5, pH 7.0, pH 8.0, and samples exposed to UV light irradiation for 30 seconds.)

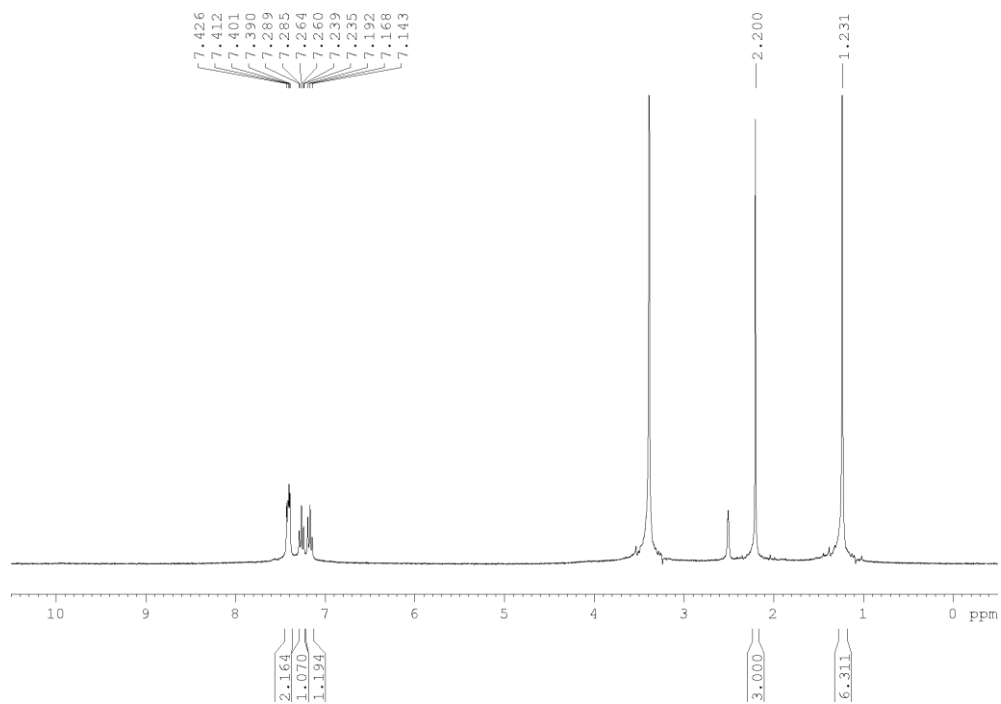


Fig. S12.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of compound **5a** in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .

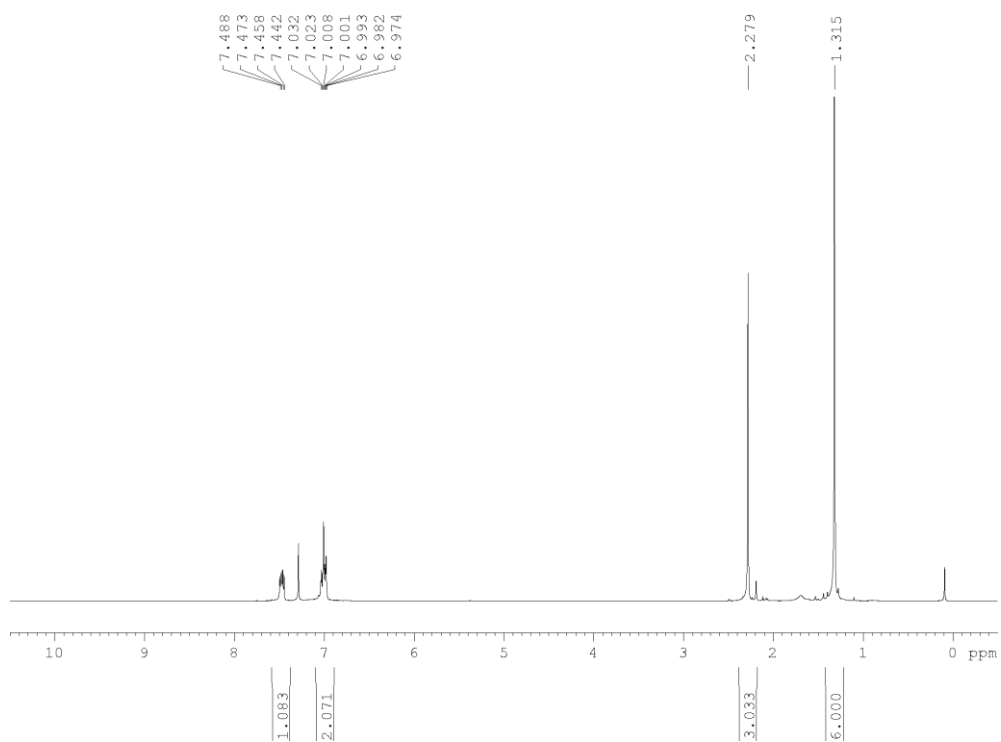


Fig. S13.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of compound **5b** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

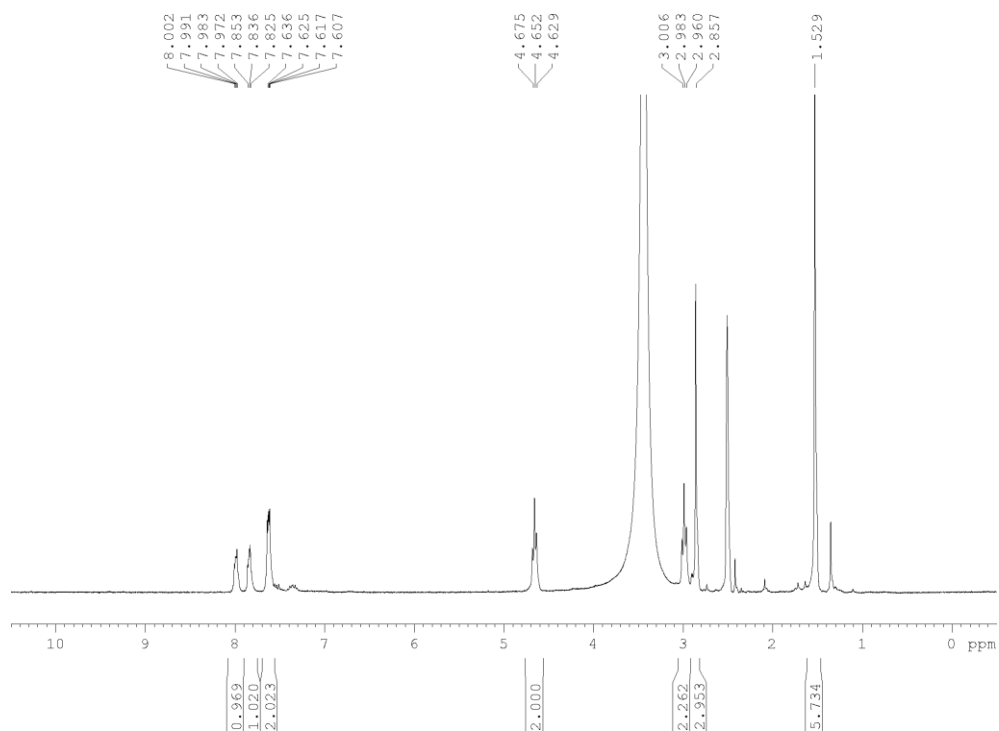


Fig. S14.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of compound **6a** in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .

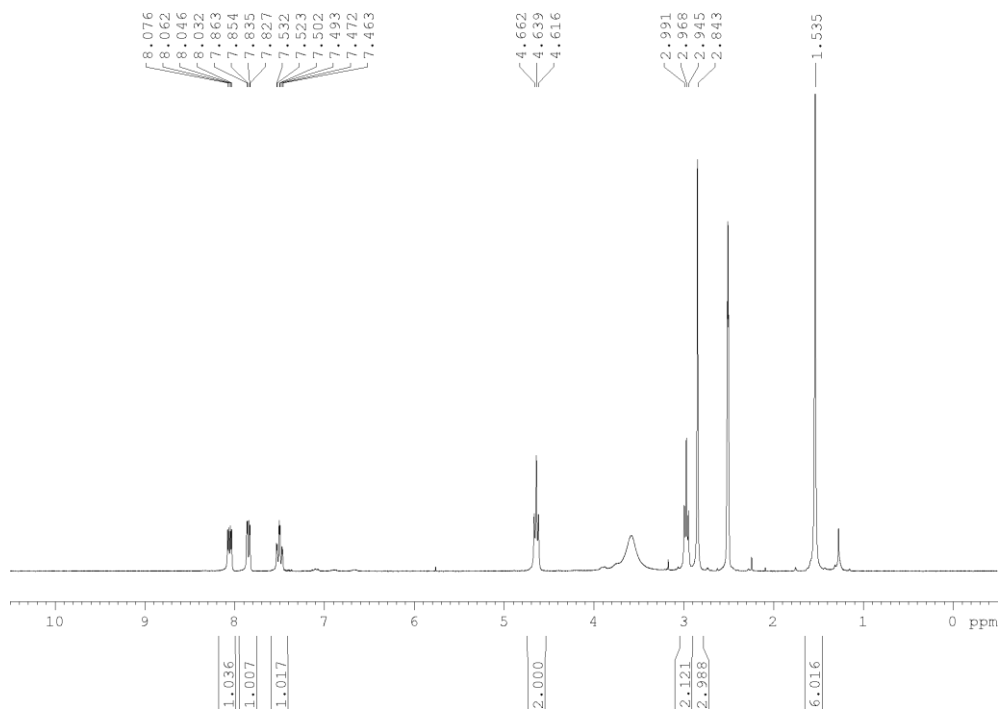


Fig. S15.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of compound **6b** in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .

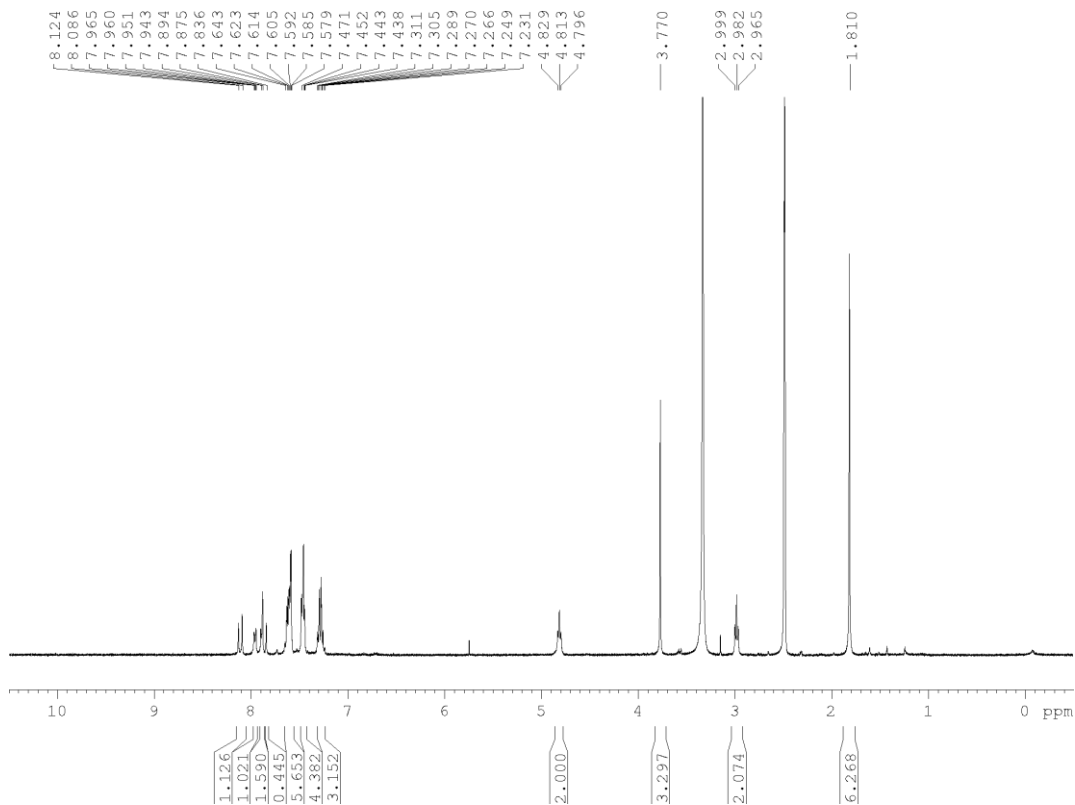


Fig. S16.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of DPIIH in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .

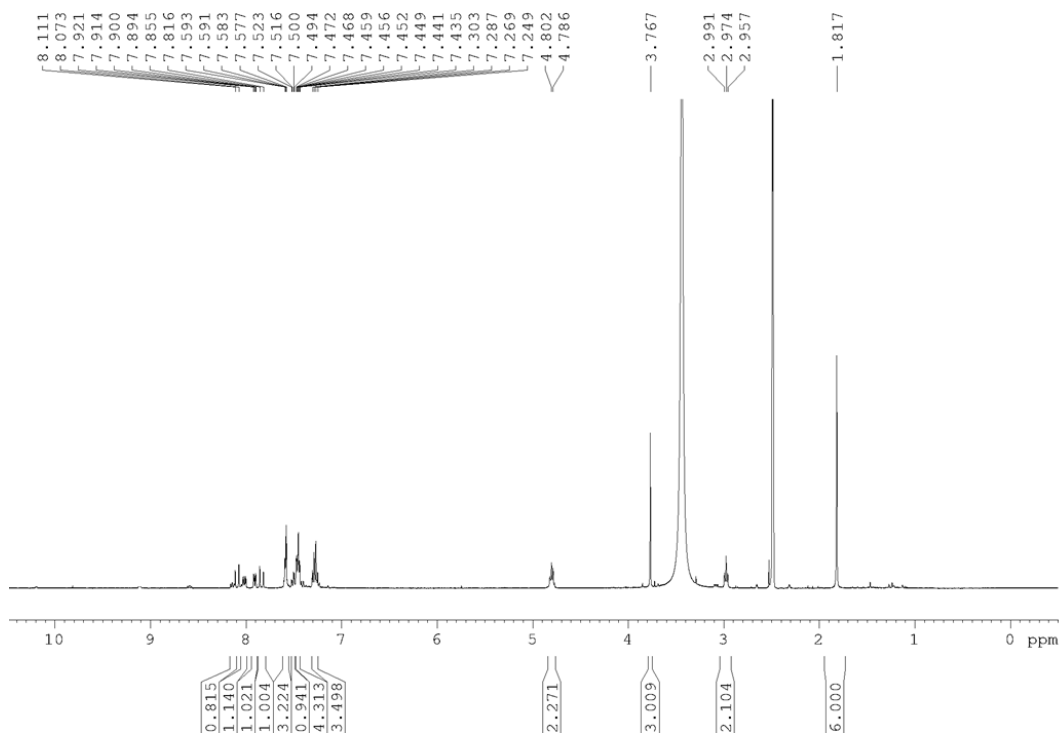


Fig. S17.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of DPIIF in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .

Data:Im H  
Comment:  
Description:  
Ionization Mode:ESI+  
History:Average(MS[1] 0.21..0.48)

Acquired:4/15/2024 3:45:30 PM  
Operator:AccuTOF  
m/z Calibration File:20240411-TFANa\_...  
Created:4/17/2024 11:33:43 AM  
Created by:AccuTOF

Charge number:1 Tolerance:400.00[ppm], 400.00 .. 400.... Unsaturation Number:-300.5 .. 300.0 (...  
Element:<sup>12</sup>C:31 .. 31, <sup>1</sup>H:15 .. 31, <sup>14</sup>N:3 .. 3, <sup>23</sup>Na:0 .. 2, <sup>16</sup>O:2 .. 2

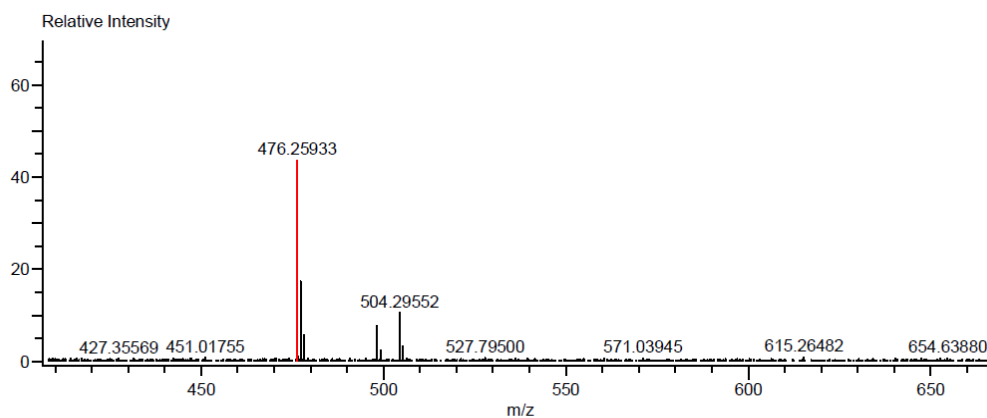


Fig. S18. HRMS spectrum of DPIIH.

Data:Im F  
Comment:  
Description:  
Ionization Mode:ESI+  
History:Average(MS[1] 0.25..0.39)

Acquired:4/15/2024 3:48:34 PM  
Operator:AccuTOF  
m/z Calibration File:20240411-TFANa\_...  
Created:4/17/2024 11:32:19 AM  
Created by:AccuTOF

Charge number:1 Tolerance:400.00[ppm], 400.00 .. 400.... Unsaturation Number:-300.5 .. 300.0 (...  
Element:<sup>12</sup>C:31 .. 31, <sup>1</sup>H:15 .. 31, <sup>14</sup>N:3 .. 3, <sup>23</sup>Na:0 .. 2, <sup>16</sup>O:2 .. 2

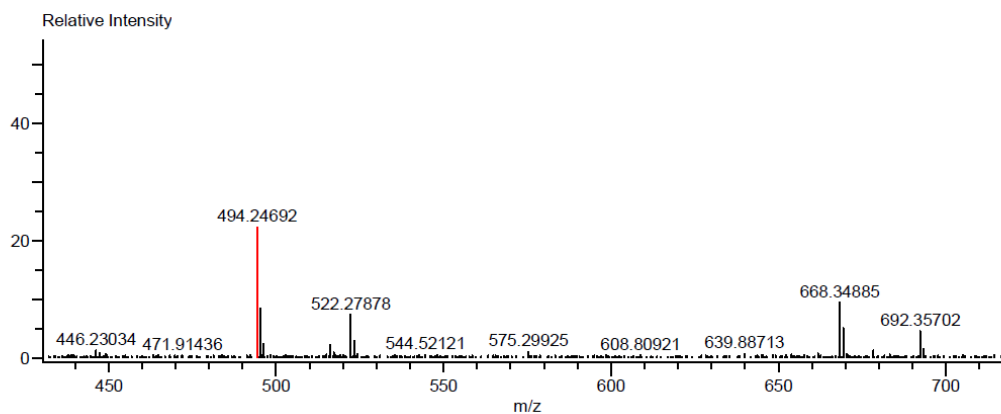


Fig. S19. HRMS spectrum of DPIIF.

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