## **Supporting Information**

# Coumarin based dual switching fluorescent 'turn-on' chemosensor for selective detection of Zn<sup>2+</sup> and HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>: An experimental and theoretical study

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Fig. S1. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of HL in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



Fig. S2. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of HL in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



Fig. S3. ESI-MS spectra of the receptor HL



Fig. S4. ESI-MS spectra of the receptor HL- $Zn^{2+}$  complex



Fig. S5. UV-Vis spectra of chemosensor (HL) (10  $\mu$ M) upon addition of 2 equivalent of various metal ions (100  $\mu$ M).



Fig. S6. Life time decay profile of HL (•••), HL-Zn<sup>2+</sup> (•••) and HL-HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> (•••) ( $\lambda_{\text{excitation}} = 370$  nm)



Fig. S7. Job's plot diagram of the receptor (HL) for  $Zn^{2+}$  (where  $\Delta F$  indicates the change of emission intensity at 457 nm)

#### **Determination of detection limit:**

The detection limit was calculated based on the fluorescence titration. To determine the S/N ratio, the emission intensity of HL without any analyte was measured by 10 times and the standard deviation of blank measurements was found to be  $5.0859 \times 10^{-4}$ .

The limit of detection (LOD) of HL for  $Zn^{2+}$  was determined from the following equation: LOD =  $K \times \sigma$  Where K = 3 in this case and  $\sigma = (Sb_1)/(S)$ ; Sb<sub>1</sub> is the standard deviation of the blank solution; S is the slope of the calibration curve.

From the graph we get slope = 23.3248, and Sb<sub>1</sub> value is  $5.0859 \times 10^{-4}$  (Fig. S8). Thus using the formula we get the LOD =  $6.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M.



Fig. S8. Linear response curve of HL at 457 nm depending on the Zn<sup>2+</sup> concentration.

#### Determination of binding constant from Fluorescence titration data:

Binding constant was calculated according equation. The binding constant  $\beta$  was calculated following the equation stated below.

 $Log (F-F_{min})/(F_{max}-F) = nlog [M^{n+}] + B$ 

Here  $F_{min}$ , F and  $F_{max}$  indicate the emission intensity in absence of, at intermediate and at infinite concentration of metal ion respectively. B = log $\beta$ , where  $\beta$  is the total binding constant and n is the number of Zn<sup>2+</sup> bind per ligand. From the plot n = 1.103 indicating 1:1 stoichiometry for the formed HL-Zn<sup>2+</sup> complex (Fig. S8). From the intercept  $\beta$  is found to be 4.8×10<sup>5</sup>.



Fig. S9. Determination of binding constant of HL for  $Zn^{2+}$  from fluorescent titration data



Fig. S10. Change in emission intensity of chemosensor (HL) upon addition of 1 equivalent of  $Zn^{2+}$  along with 2 equivalents of other metal ions to the receptor HL



Fig. S11. UV-Vis spectra of chemosensor (HL) (10  $\mu$ M) upon addition of 2 equivalent of various anions (100  $\mu$ M).



Fig. S12. Linear response curve of HL at 376 nm depending on the HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> concentration.

(From the graph we get slope = 25.41673, and Sb<sub>1</sub> value is  $5.0859 \times 10^{-4}$ . Thus using the formula we get the LOD =  $0.274 \times 10^{-6}$  M)



Fig. S13. Determination of binding constant of HL for  $HSO_4^-$  from fluorescent titration data (For determination of binding constant of  $HSO_4^-$  with the chemosensor,  $\beta$  is found to be  $1.17 \times 10^6$  and n = 1.11 indicating 1:1 stoichiometry for the formed HL-HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> complex)



Fig. S14. Job's plot diagram of receptor for  $HSO_4^-$  (where  $\Delta F$  indicates the change of emission intensity at 376 nm).



Fig. S15. Change in emission intensity upon addition of 1 equivalents of  $HSO_4^-$  along with 2 equivalents of other anions to the receptor HL



HOMO (E = -5.33 eV) HOMO-1 (E = -6.19 eV) HOMO-2 (E = -6.35 eV)

LUMO (
$$E = -1.58 \text{ eV}$$
) LUMO+1 ( $E = -0.46 \text{ eV}$ ) LUMO+2 ( $E = -0.30 \text{ eV}$ )

Fig. S16. Contour plots of selected molecular orbitals of chemosensor (HL)



Fig. S17. Contour plots of selected molecular orbitals of HL-Zn<sup>2+</sup>



LUMO (E = -1.72 eV) LUMO+1 (E = -0.81 eV) LUMO+2 (E = -0.24 eV)

Fig. S18. Contour plots of selected molecular orbitals of HL-HSO<sub>4</sub>-