

Supporting Information

A new fluorometric turn-on assay for alkaline phosphatase and inhibitor screening based on aggregation and deaggregation of tetraphenylethylene molecules

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Contents

1. Synthesis and characterization of compounds 2 and 3	S2
2. Selectivity Experiment.....	S3
3. Variation of the fluorescence intensity of the ensemble solution vs. the initial concentration of ALP after incubation with excess ALP.....	S3
4. The plot of the fluorescence intensity at 480 nm vs. the concentration of ALP.....	S4
5. Lineweaver-Burk plot for the hydrolysis of 1 by ALP.....	S4
6. The plot of the inhibition efficiency of <i>L</i> -cysteine toward ALP vs. the concentration of <i>L</i> -cysteine	S5
7. Cell experiments.....	S5
8. Cell viability of HeLa cells treated with 1	S6

Synthesis and characterization:

Synthesis of compound 3. TiCl₄ (6.2 mL, 56 mmol) was added dropwise under N₂ atmosphere to a stirred suspension of Zn powder (7.3 g, 112 mmol) in dry THF (100 mL) below -10 °C, and the reaction was allowed to proceed under reflux for 2 h. A solution of 4,4'-bis(methoxy)benzophenone (3.40 g, 14.0 mmol) and 4-hydroxybenzophenone (2.8 g, 14.0 mmol) in THF (50 mL) was added to the suspension of the titanium reagent, and the reaction was allowed to proceed under reflux for 5 h. After reaction, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×50 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtrated and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was separated with column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ether (60–90 °C) / CH₂Cl₂ (4:1, v/v) as eluent to afford **2** as a white solid (1.77 g, 30%). M.p. 73.4-75.3 °C. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, acetonitrile-*d*₃): δ 7.14-7.08 (m, 3H), 7.04-7.01 (m, 2H), 6.96-6.90 (m, 4H), 6.86-6.83 (m, 3H), 6.70-6.63 (m, 4H), 6.58-6.56 (m, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, acetonitrile-*d*₃): δ 158.13, 158.09, 155.30, 139.32, 136.65, 136.57, 132.29, 132.23, 131.06, 127.66, 126.10, 114.47, 113.01, 112.97, 54.81, 54.79. HR-MS: calcd. for C₂₈H₂₄O₃ (M⁺): 408.1725; Found: 408.1730.

Synthesis of compound 2. Compound **3** (1.02 g, 2.5 mmol) and NaH (0.12 g, 5.0 mmol) were dissolved in 100 mL of dry THF under an argon atmosphere, and diethyl chlorophosphate (0.73 mL, 5.0 mmol) was added, and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours. The reaction was quenched with H₂O (10 mL) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the crude mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel with petroleum ether (60–90 °C)/ethyl acetate (2:1, v/v) as eluent to afford **3** as a white solid (1.18 g, 87%). M.p. 95.4-97.2 °C. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, dichloromethane-*d*₂): δ 7.16-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.08-7.02 (m, 4H), 7.00-6.95 (m, 6H), 6.68 (t, 4H), 4.22-4.14 (m, 4H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 1.36-1.32 (m, 6H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, dichloromethane-*d*₂): δ 158.33, 158.28, 149.04, 148.97, 144.12, 141.17, 140.57, 138.26, 136.16, 132.52, 132.43, 131.25, 127.73, 126.20, 119.22, 119.17, 113.05, 112.95, 64.58, 64.52, 55.04, 15.94, 15.88. HR-MS: calcd. for C₃₂H₃₃O₆P (M)⁺: 544.2015; Found: 544.2023.

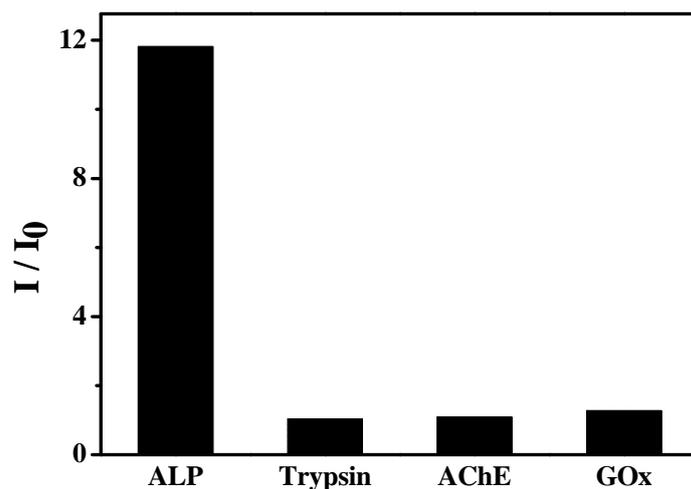


Figure S1. Variation of the fluorescence intensity at 480 nm for the solution of **1** [10 μ M in Tris-HCl (10 mM) buffer solution, pH = 7.4] after separate incubation with ALP [2 U], Trypsin [10 mg/mL], AChE [1 U] and GOx (glucose oxidase, 10 mg/mL) for 15 min.; the excitation wavelength was 350 nm.

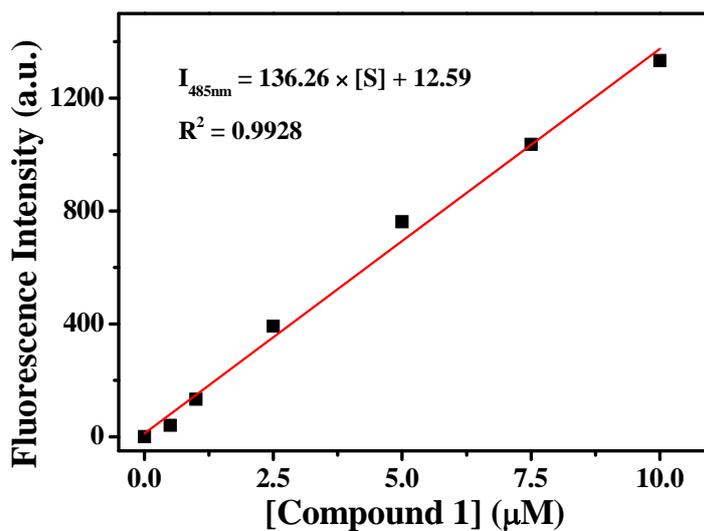


Figure S2. Variation of the fluorescence intensity of the solution of **1** (at 480 nm) after incubation with ALP (500 mU/mL) for 5.0 min. at 25 $^{\circ}$ C vs. the initial concentration of **1**; Tris-HCl buffer solution (10 mM, pH = 7.4) was employed; the fluorescence intensity at 480 nm was monitored and the excitation wavelength was 350 nm.

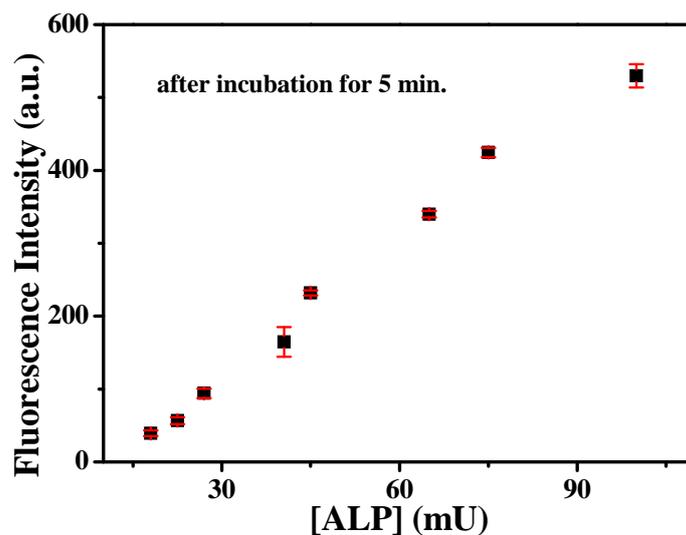


Figure S3. The plot of the fluorescence intensity for **1** [10 μM in Tris-HCl (10mM) buffer solution, pH = 7.4] at 480 nm vs. the amounts of ALP (from 0 to 100 mU/mL) upon incubation with ALP at 25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 5.0 min.; the excitation wavelength was 350 nm.

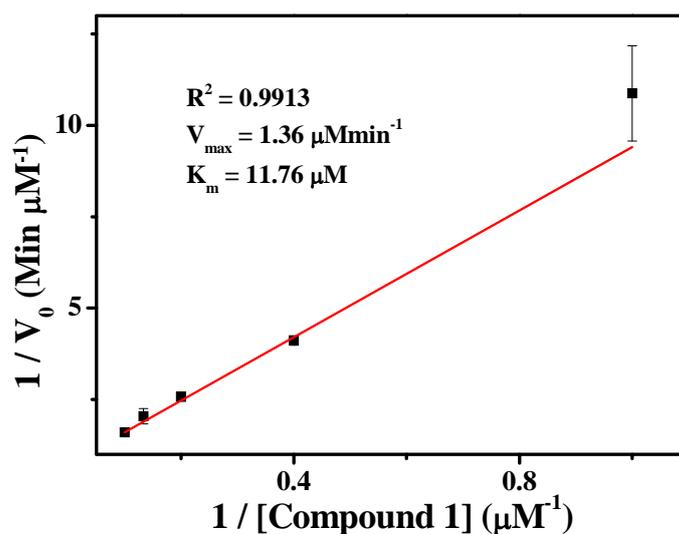


Figure S4. Lineweaver-Burk plot for the hydrolysis of **1** by ALP (75 mU/mL) in Tris-HCl (10 mM) buffer solution, pH = 7.4, 25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$]; the concentration of **1** was 1.0, 2.5, 5, 7.5 and 10.0 μM ; the fluorescence intensity was monitored at 480 nm and the excitation wavelength was 350 nm.

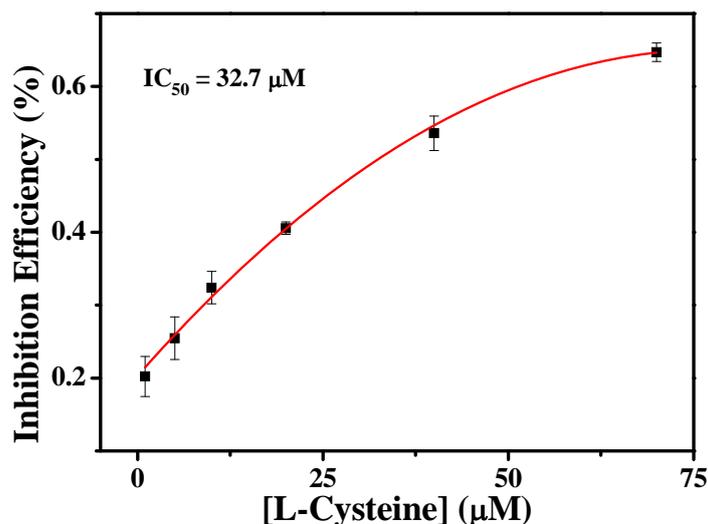


Figure S5. The plot of the inhibition efficiency of *L*-cysteine toward ALP vs. the concentration of *L*-cysteine; the measurements were performed with **1** [10 μM in Tris-HCl (10 mM) buffer solution, pH = 7.4, 25 °C], ALP (100 mU/mL), and different concentrations of *L*-cysteine (0, 1, 5, 10, 20, 40 and 70 μM).

Cell Culture. HeLa cells were maintained in DMEM (Gibco) medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum (Gibco) at 37 °C under a 5% humidified CO₂ atmosphere. Cells were pre-plated on substrates for 20 hours before each experiment.

Cytotoxicity assay. Using the Cell Counting Kit-8 (Dojindo), we measured the reduction of dehydrogenases in viable cells to show the cytotoxicity of probes. HeLa cells in a 96-well plate (20000 cells/well) were incubated with **1** (50 μM) for 30 minutes, followed by washing the cells with PBS twice. We add 100 μL of medium, containing 10 μL CCK-8 solutions, to each well of the plate and incubated the plate for 2.5 hours in the incubator. We measured the absorbance at 450 nm using a microplate reader (Ecan Infinite M200).

Cytotoxicity Assay. We found that HeLa cells treatment with probes maintained almost 100% viability. From these data, it can be concluded that the probes is not toxic to cells and can be safely used for further studies.

Microscopy and imaging. We acquired images on a Leica inverted microscope (DMI 6000) equipped with a digital monochrome camera (Leica DFC 350 FX) and the software provided by Leica. Phase contrast and fluorescence micrographs were obtained with a 20× objective.

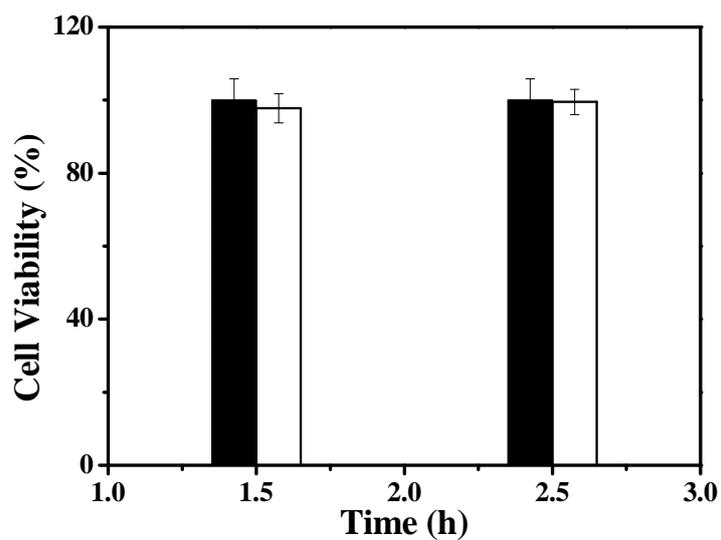


Figure S6. Cell viability of HeLa cells treated without (■) and with (□) **1** (50 μM) for different time periods. No cytotoxic effect was observed for the cells incubated with **1** for 1.5 h even after the treatment for 2.5 hrs.