

Electronic Supplementary Information

A novel NBD-based pH “on-off” fluorescent probe equipped with the N-phenylpiperazine group for lysosome Imaging

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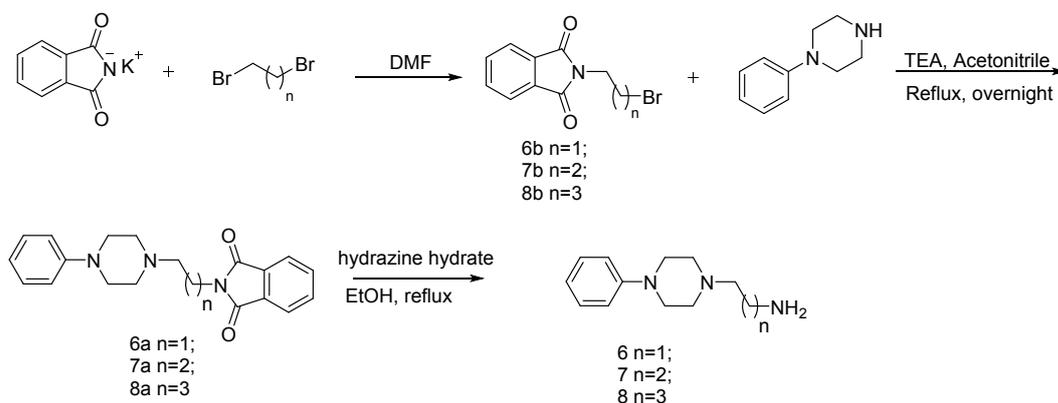
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1. Materials and instruments

General chemicals used in the synthesis were purchased from J&K, Accela and Aladdin. Buffer reagents purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and Acros were used without purification. Water used in activity studies was doubly distilled and further purified with a Mill-Q filtration system. Lyso Tracker Red, Mito Tracker Red and Golgi Tracker Red were available commercially from the Beyotime Institute of Biotechnology (Shanghai, China). Absorption spectra, fluorescence spectra and quantum yield were recorded using Varioskan microplate reader (Thermo Electron Corporation). Melting points were determined on an electrothermal melting point apparatus and were uncorrected. ¹HNMR and ¹³CNMR were recorded on Bruker 400 NMR spectrometers. Mass spectra were obtained using the analytical and mass spectrometry facilities at Shandong University. Confocal microscopy was recorded using a Zeiss LSM 700 or LSM 780 at the Microscopy Characterization Facility, Shandong University.

2. Synthesis



Scheme S1 Synthesis of intermediate compounds **6**, **7** and **8**.

2-(2-bromoethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (**6b**)

To the mixture of potassium phthalimide (2.0 g, 10.8 mmol) in 10 mL DMF was added 1,2-dibromoethane (6.1 g, 32.4 mmol) rapidly. The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 24 h, and then the solvent was evaporated in vacuum. The residue was dissolved with EtOAc (200 mL) and water (50 mL). The organic phase was collected, and washed with saturated ammonium chloride solution (100 mL × 2) and brine (100 mL × 2), and then dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄ overnight. The solvent was concentrated into oil, and then 30 mL methanol was added to produce much white solid as compound **6b**. Yield: 2.24 g, 82.3%. M.p. 77-79 °C. ¹HNMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.82-7.79 (m, 2 H), 7.70-7.67 (m, 2 H), 4.06 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 3.57 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H).

2-(3-bromopropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (**7b**)

Compound **7b** was synthesized as described for compound **6b**, except for the use of 1, 3-dibromopropane (6.5 g, 32.4 mmol). Yield: 2.52 g, 87.2%; M.p. 64-66 °C. ¹HNMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.88-7.86 (m, 2 H), 7.76-7.73 (m, 2 H), 3.88 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 3.45 (t, *J* =

6.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.32-2.25(m, 2 H).

2-(4-bromobutyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (8b)

Compound **8b** was synthesized as described for compound **6b**, except for the use of 1, 4-dibromobutane (7.0 g, 32.4 mmol). Yield: 1.46 g, 48.0%; M.p. 79-80 °C. ¹HNMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.79-7.70 (m, 2 H), 7.66-7.64 (m, 2 H), 3.68 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2 H), 3.39 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2 H), 1.86-1.77(m, 4 H).

2-(2-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)ethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (6a)

The solution of N-phenylpiperazine (697 mg, 4.3mmol), **6b** (913 mg, 3.6mmol), triethylamine (1.6 mL, 10.8mmol) in 20 mL acetonitrile was refluxed overnight. After the mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature, the acetonitrile was evaporated under the vacuum condition. The residue was recrystallized from ethanol to afford yellowish solid as compound **6a**. Yield: 700 mg, 58.0%; M.p. 151-153°C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (2 H, m), 7.72(2 H, m), 7.25 (2 H, td, *J*₁ = 6.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.0 Hz), 6.91 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.85 (1 H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.88(2 H, t, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 3.15 (4 H, t, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 2.72 (6 H, m); ESI-MS: m/z [M+H⁺] calcd for C₂₀H₂₂N₃O₂⁺336.2, found 336.2

2-(3-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)propyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (7a)

The solution of N-phenylpiperazine (486.6 mg, 3 mmol), **7b** (665.2 mg, 2.5 mmol), triethylamine (1.1 mL, 7.5 mmol) in 20 mL acetonitrile was refluxed overnight. After the mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature, the acetonitrile was evaporated under the vacuum condition. And then the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (EA : PE=1 : 2~ EA) to afford white solid as compound **7a**. Yield: 620 mg, 71.0%; M.p. 125-127; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (2 H, m), 7.70 (2 H, m), 7.25 (2 H, td, *J*₁ = 6.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.6 Hz), 6.89 (3 H, m), 3.81 (2 H, t, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 3.06 (4 H, t, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 2.56(4 H, t, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 2.50 (2 H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.94 (2 H, m); ESI-MS: m/z [M+H⁺] calcd for C₂₁H₂₄N₃O₂⁺350.2, found 350.5.

2-(4-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)butyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (8a)

The solution of N-phenylpiperazine (697 mg, 4.3 mmol), **8b** (1010 mg, 3.6 mmol), triethylamine (1.6 mL, 10.8 mmol) in 20 mL acetonitrile was refluxed overnight. After the mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature, the acetonitrile was evaporated under the vacuum condition. The residue was recrystallized from ethanol to afford yellowish solid as compound **8a**. Yield: 900 mg, 68.8%; M.p. 135-137; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.84 (2 H, m), 7.74 (2 H, m), 7.28 (2 H, m), 6.93 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.86 (1 H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.75 (2 H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.20 (4 H, t, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 2.61 (4 H, t, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 2.45 (2 H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 1.78 (2 H, m) 1.62 (2 H, m); ESI-MS: m/z [M+H⁺] calcd for C₂₂H₂₆N₃O₂⁺364.2, found 364.5.

2-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)ethan-1-amine (6)

To the solution of N-phthaloyl derivatives compound **6a** (600 mg, 1.79mmol) dissolved in 30 mL heated ethanol was added the hydrazine monohydrate (343 mg, 6.87 mmol). After refluxed for 4 h, the mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature. The precipitate was filtered and the filtrate was evaporated under the vacuum condition to afford white solid as **6**. Yield: 350 mg, 94.9%; M.p. 104-107°C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 7.36 (2, t, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.08 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.96 (1 H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.31 (4 H, t, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 3.03 (2 H, t, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 2.78 (4 H, t, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 2.69 (2 H, t, *J* = 6.4 Hz). ESI-MS: m/z [M+H⁺] calcd for C₁₂H₂₀N₃⁺ 206.2, found 206.3.

3-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)propan-1-amine (7)

Compound **7** was synthesized as described for compound **6**, except for the use of **7a**

(600 mg, 1.72mmol). Yield: 300 mg, 79.3%; M.p. 76-79°C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 7.24 (2, t, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.97 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.85 (1 H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.19 (4 H, t, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 2.84 (2 H, t, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 2.66 (4 H, t, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 2.52 (2 H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.79 (2 H, m); ESI-MS: *m/z* [M+H⁺] calcd for C₁₃H₂₂N₃⁺ 220.2, found 220.4

4-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)butan-1-amine (8)

Compound **8** was synthesized as described for compound **6**, except for the use of **8a** (600 mg, 1.65mmol). Yield: 350 mg, 90.6%; M.p. 104-106°C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 7.36 (2, t, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.09 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.97 (1 H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.12 (4 H, t, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 2.94 (2 H, t, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 2.78 (4 H, t, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 2.58 (2 H, t, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 1.74 (4 H, m); ESI-MS: *m/z* [M+H⁺] calcd for C₁₄H₂₄N₃⁺ 234.2, found 234.4.

N,N'-dimethyl-*N*²-(7-nitrobenzo[*c*][1,2,5]oxadiazol-4-yl)ethane-1,2-diamine (LN1)

To the solution of **1** (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 5 mL acetonitrile was added dropwise **2** (460 mg, 5.0 mmol) in 5 mL acetonitrile. After stirred for 2 h at room temperature, the solution was diluted by ethyl acetate (200 mL), washed by saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (50 mL × 2), water (50 mL × 2) and brine (50 mL × 2), and then dried by anhydrous MgSO₄ for 6h. The solvent was evaporated under the vacuum condition and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc:MeOH=200:1) to afford **LN1** as reddish brown solid. Yield: 70 mg, 27.9%; M.p. 134-136°C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.14 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.50 (s, 2 H), 2.74 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2 H), 2.33 (s, 6 H); ¹³CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.2, 144.0, 144.0, 136.5, 123.7, 98.7, 56.1, 44.9, 40.0. ESI-HRMS: *m/z* [M+H⁺] calcd for C₁₀H₁₄N₅O₃⁺ 252.1091, found 252.1090.

N,N'-dimethyl-*N*³-(7-nitrobenzo[*c*][1,2,5]oxadiazol-4-yl)propane-1,3-diamine (LN2)

LN2 was synthesized as described for **LN1**, except for the use of **3** (510 mg, 5.0 mmol). Yield: 80 mg, 30.2%; M.p. 140-142°C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.45 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.01 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.60 (s, 2 H), 2.66 (s, 2 H), 2.38 (s, 6 H), 1.94 (s, 2 H); ¹³CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.9, 144.6, 144.1, 136.9, 122.5, 97.5, 59.0, 45.1, 45.0, 23.4. ESI-HRMS: *m/z* [M+H⁺] calcd for C₁₁H₁₆N₅O₃⁺ 266.1248, found 266.1248.

N-(2-morpholinoethyl)-7-nitrobenzo[*c*][1,2,5]oxadiazol-4-amine (LN3)

To the solution of **4** (130.2 mg, 1.0 mmol) and triethylamine (415 μL, 3.0 mmol) in 15 mL acetonitrile was added dropwise the solution of **1** (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 5 mL acetonitrile. After stirred for 4 h at room temperature, the solution was diluted by dichloromethane (200 mL), washed by water (50 mL × 2) and brine (50 mL × 2), and then dried by anhydrous MgSO₄ for 6h. The solvent was evaporated under the vacuum condition and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc :PE=1:2-2:1) to afford **LN3** as brown solid. Yield: 100 mg, 34.1%; M.p. 238-240°C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.46 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.14 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.80 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 4 H), 3.55 (s, 2 H), 2.84 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2 H), 2.59 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 4 H); ¹³CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.2, 143.9, 143.8, 136.4, 123.9, 98.8, 66.9, 55.4, 53.2, 39.4; ESI-HRMS: *m/z* [M+H⁺] calcd for C₁₂H₁₆N₅O₄⁺ 294.1197, found 294.1202.

N-(3-morpholinopropyl)-7-nitrobenzo[*c*][1,2,5]oxadiazol-4-amine (LN4)

To the solution of **5** (144.2 mg, 1.0 mmol) and triethylamine (415 μL, 3.0 mmol) in 15 mL acetonitrile was added dropwise the solution of **1** (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 5 mL acetonitrile. After stirred for 2 h at room temperature, the precipitate was filtered, washed with acetonitrile (10 mL) and methanol (5 mL), to afford brownish red solid as **LN4**. Yield: 190 mg, 61.9%; M.p. 141-144°C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.68 (s, 1 H), 8.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 8.8

Hz, 1 H), 3.60 (m, 6 H), 2.42 (m, 6 H), 1.86 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 145.7, 145.0, 144.7, 138.5, 121.1, 99.6, 66.6, 56.2, 53.7, 42.6, 24.6. ESI-HRMS: m/z [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_5\text{O}_4^+$ 308.1353, found 308.1348.

7-nitro-N-(2-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)ethyl)benzo[*c*][1,2,5]oxadi-azol-4-amine (LN5)

LN5 was synthesized as described for LN3, except for the use of 6 (103 mg, 0.5 mmol). Yield: 32 mg, 17.4%; M.p. 207-210°C; ^1H NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 9.40 (s, 1H), 8.53 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.22 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 6.94 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 6.79 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.49 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2 H), 3.65 (s, 2 H), 3.13 (s, 4 H), 2.73 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 151.5, 145.6, 144.9, 144.7, 138.4, 129.2, 121.2, 119.3, 115.8, 99.8, 55.9, 53.1, 48.7, 41.5. ESI-HRMS: m/z [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_6\text{O}_3^+$ 369.1670, found 369.1670.

7-nitro-N-(3-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)propyl)benzo[*c*][1,2,5]oxa-diazol-4-amine (LN6)

LN6 was synthesized as described for LN3, except for the use of 7 (109 mg, 0.5 mmol). Yield: 30 mg, 15.7%; M.p. 187-189°C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.83 (s, 1H), 8.42 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.33 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 7.01 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 6.93 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.01 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2 H), 3.60 (s, 2 H), 3.42 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 4 H), 2.78-2.75 (m, 6 H), 2.04-1.99 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 151.2, 144.6, 144.4, 144.0, 136.7, 129.2, 122.8, 120.1, 116.5, 97.7, 58.2, 53.5, 49.0, 45.2, 22.5. ESI-HRMS: m/z [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_6\text{O}_3^+$ 383.1826, found 383.1833.

7-nitro-N-(4-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)butyl)benzo[*c*][1,2,5]oxad-iazol-4-amine (LN7)

LN7 was synthesized as described for LN3, except for the use of 8 (116 mg, 0.5 mmol). Yield: 34 mg, 17.2%; M.p. 112-114°C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.45 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.33 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 6.97 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 6.89 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.14 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2 H), 3.52 (t, 2 H), 3.34 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 4 H), 2.70 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 4 H), 2.55 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2 H), 1.96-1.91 (m, 2 H), 1.83-1.78 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 151.3, 144.4, 144.2, 144.1, 136.7, 129.3, 123.6, 120.1, 116.3, 98.5, 56.9, 53.3, 51.0 (methanol), 49.1, 44.2, 25.8, 24.6. ESI-HRMS: m/z [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_6\text{O}_3^+$ 397.1983, found 397.1983

3. Measurement of optical properties

All samples were prepared at room temperature, and before measurement, each solution was incubated for 5 min. All of the compounds (LN1-7) were dissolved with DMSO to prepare the stock solutions (1 mM). The absorption and fluorescence spectra were in 10 mM PBS solution (pH = 7.40). The relative quantum yield for each sample in 10 mM PBS was calculated according the equation below:

$$\Phi_x = \Phi_s (A_s/A_x) (FA_x/FA_s) (\eta_x/\eta_s)^2$$

Where Φ is the quantum yield, A is the absorbance at the excitation wavelength. FA is the area under corrected emission curve, n is the refractive index of the solvent. X refers to the sample, and S refers the standard. Fluorescein was chosen as the standard, which has the fluorescence quantum yield of 0.92 in 0.1 M NaOH solution.

The pH response of compounds was tested in the Britton-Robinson buffer solutions (40 mM acetic acid, boric acid, and phosphoric acid) with various pH values (3.2-10.0), and the pKa values were calculated according to the literature.¹

In the case of the investigation of photostability, the prepared solutions (30 μM) of LN6 dissolved in 40 mM B-R buffers (pH=4.0) were illuminated continuously by ultraviolet light at

365 nm and their fluorescence intensity were recorded at different time intervals.

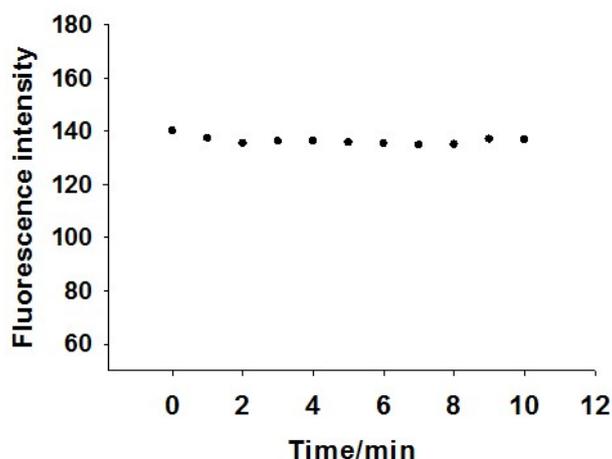


Fig. S1 Fluorescence intensity of LN6 (10 μ M) in B-R buffers (pH = 4.0) solution illuminated continuously by ultraviolet light at 365 nm. $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 470$ nm, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 545$ nm.

4. Cell culture, MTT assay and cell imaging

HeLa cells were grown in DMEM medium supplemented with 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum in an atmosphere of 5% CO₂ and 95% air at 37°C. Cells with density of 5×10^4 /mL were seeded into confocal dishes in 2 mL medium, incubated for 24 h, and then washed with cell culture medium once. For imaging research, the samples were prepared as the procedure in legend of each figure. The compounds LN1-7 were used at the concentration of 50 μ M, and the three commercial trackers were used according to their instructions for use. The cell imaging was performed on the LSM700 or LSM780 confocal microscope under a 63 \times immersion objective. All images were adjusted by ImageJ software, and the colocalization coefficient was calculated using this software as well.

The cell viability of HeLa cells exposed to compounds LN1-7 was evaluated using a 24 h MTT assay on 96-well plates. The absorbance values were recorded at 590 nm to avoid the interference from absorption of LN1-7.

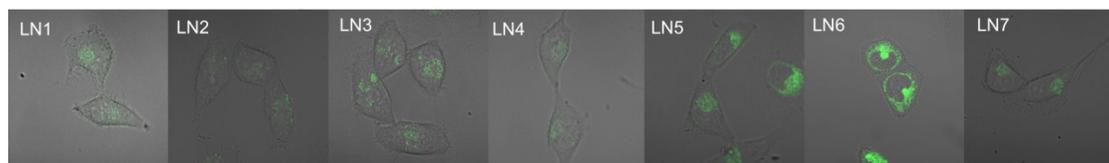
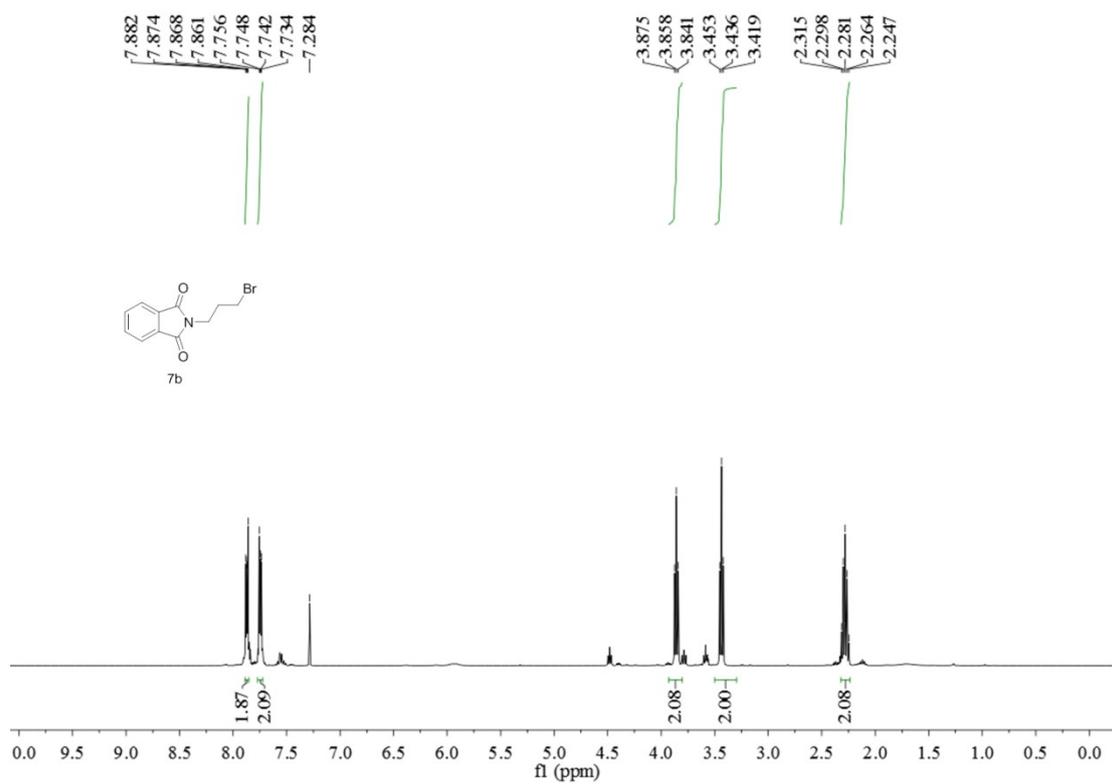
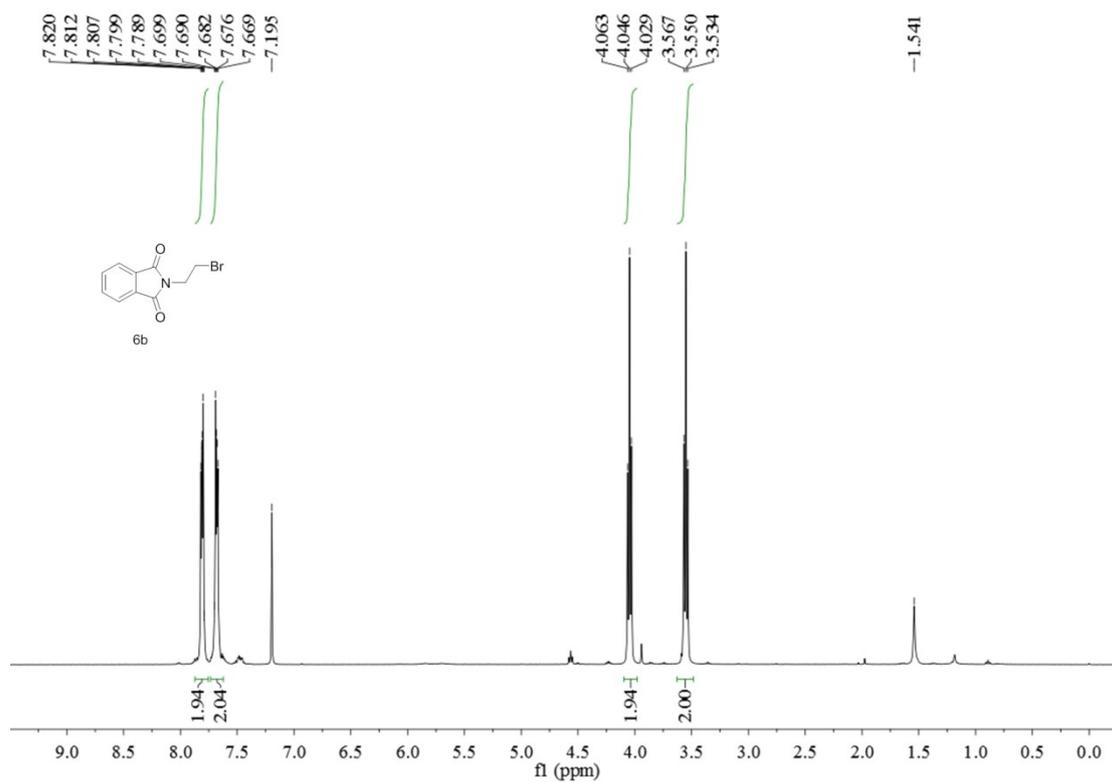
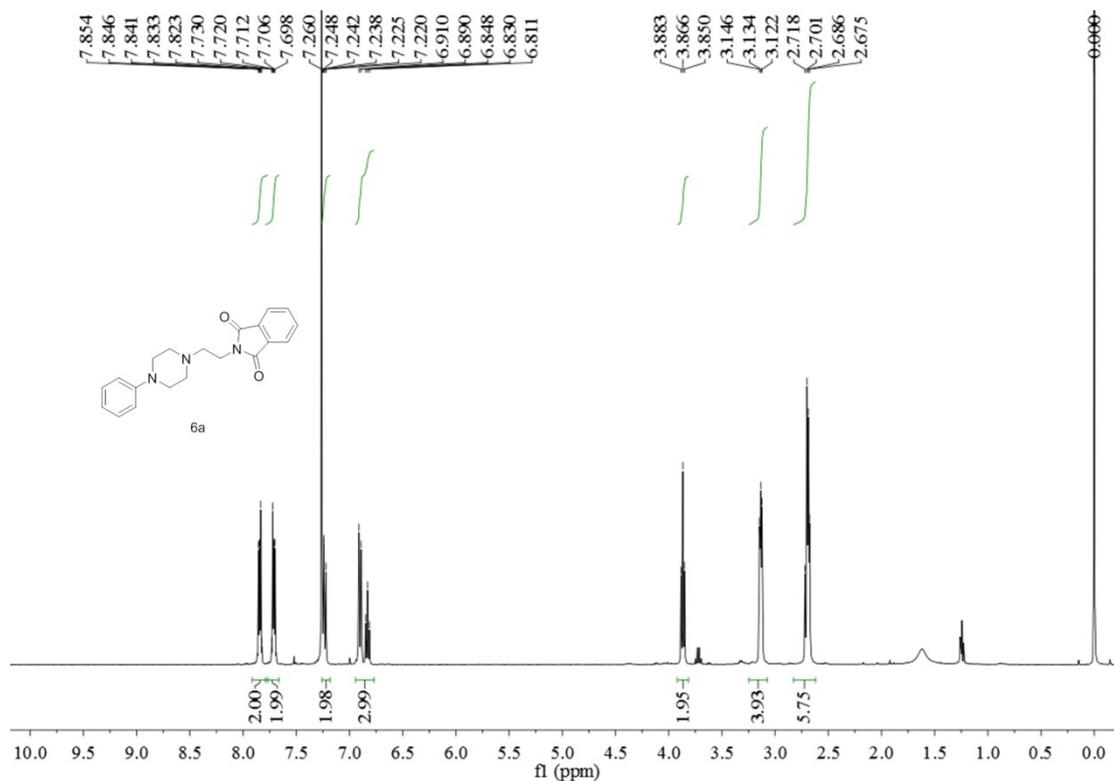
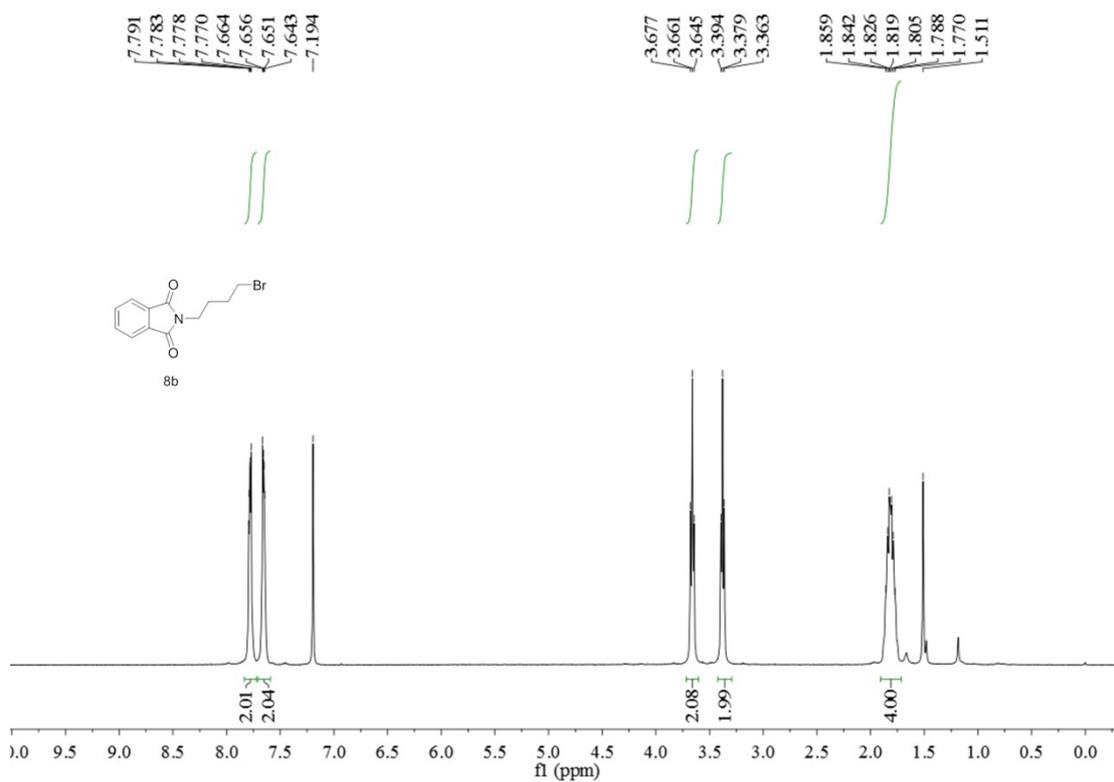
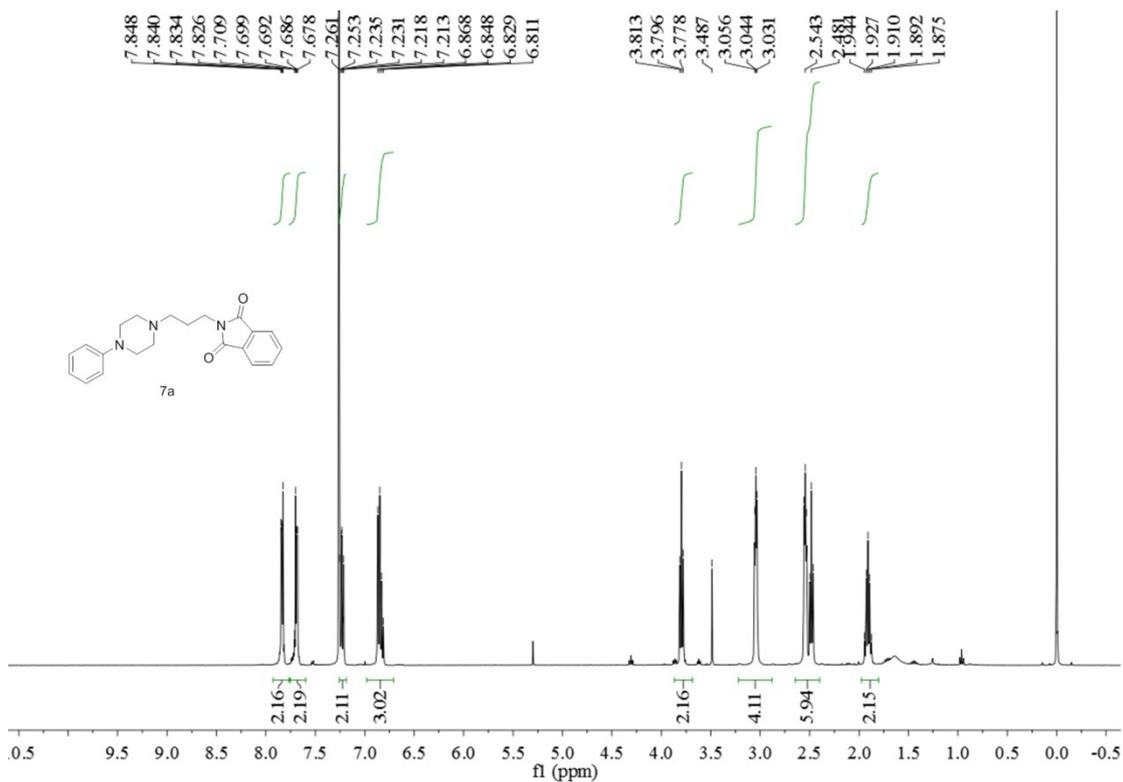
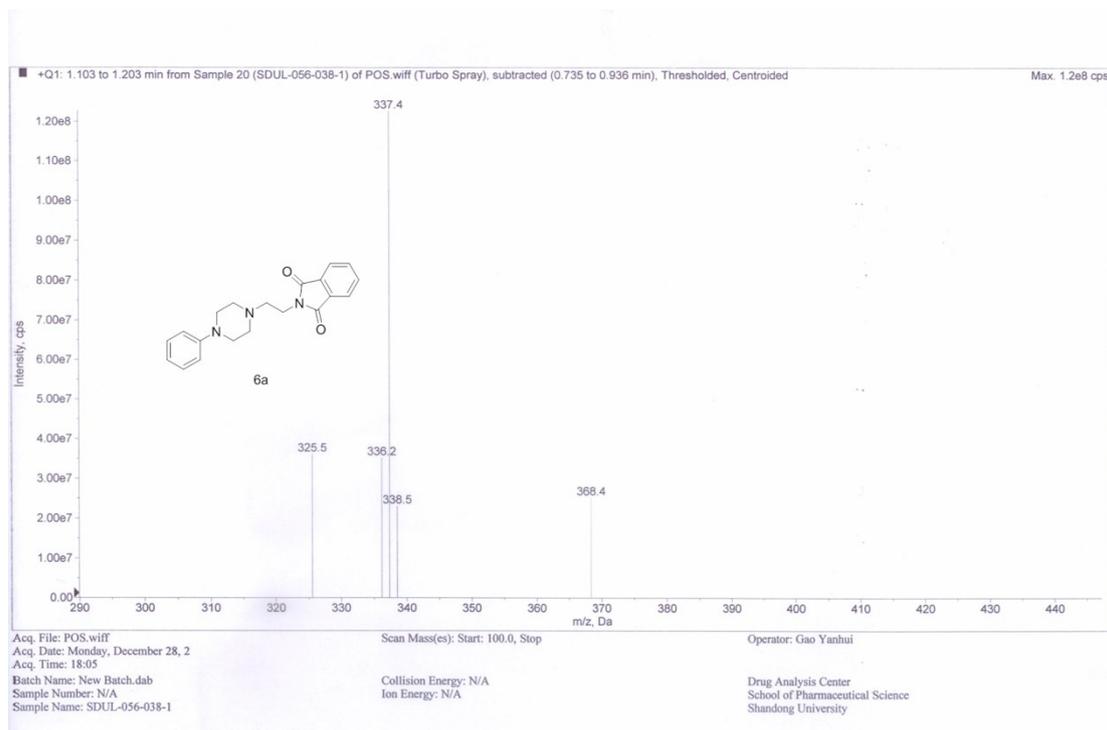


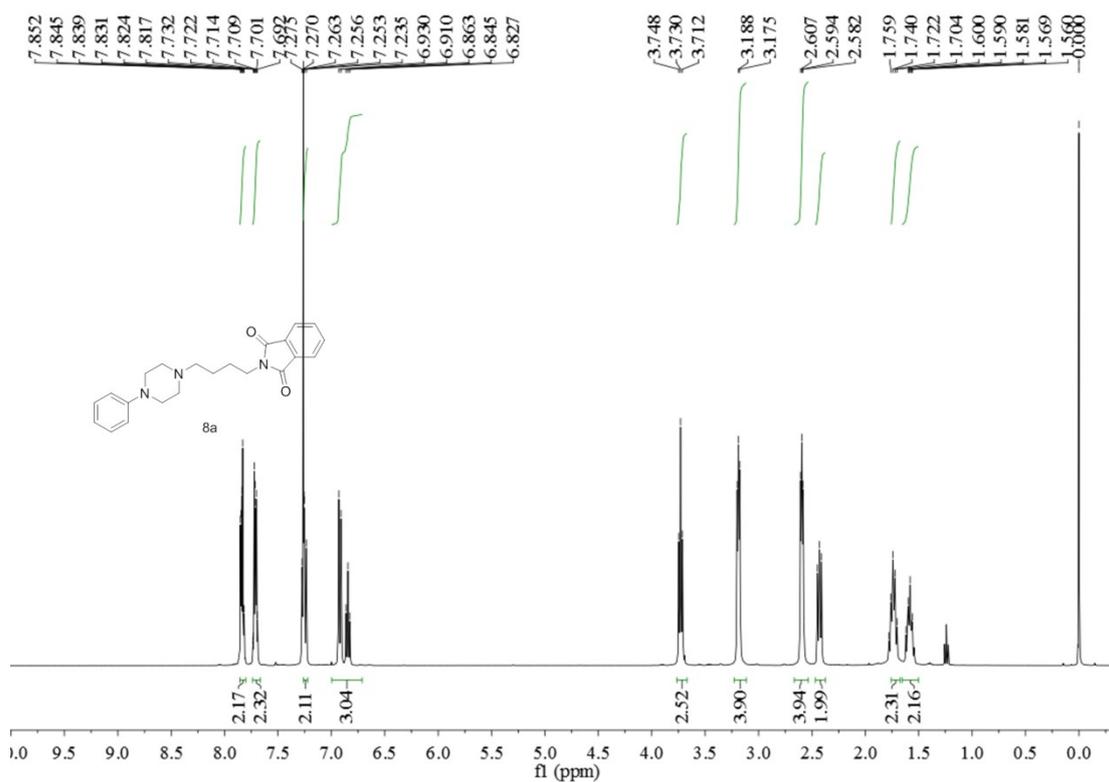
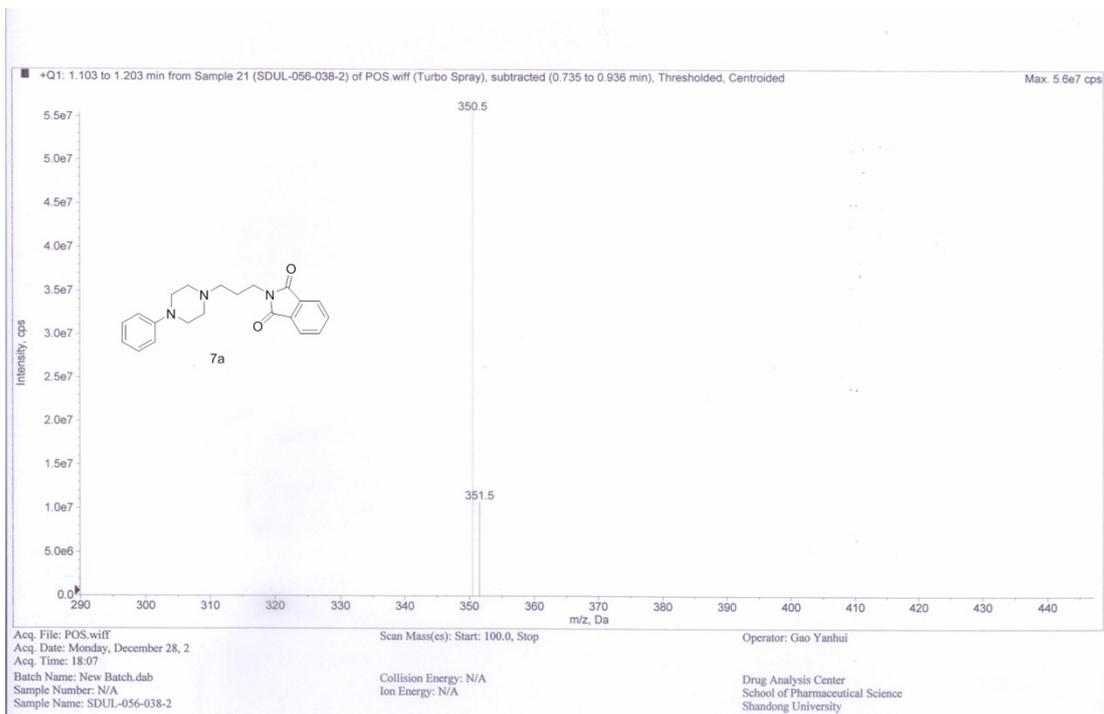
Fig. S2 Confocal images of HeLa cells treated by compounds LN1, LN2, LN3, LN4, LN5, LN6 or LN7, respectively. Cells were incubated with compounds (50 μ M) for 1 h at 37 °C and then the probe solutions were discarded followed by washing with PBS buffer once. Then the cell imaging were carried out on the LSM 700 or 780 microscope ($\lambda_{\text{ex}}=488$ nm). Objective lens, 63 \times .

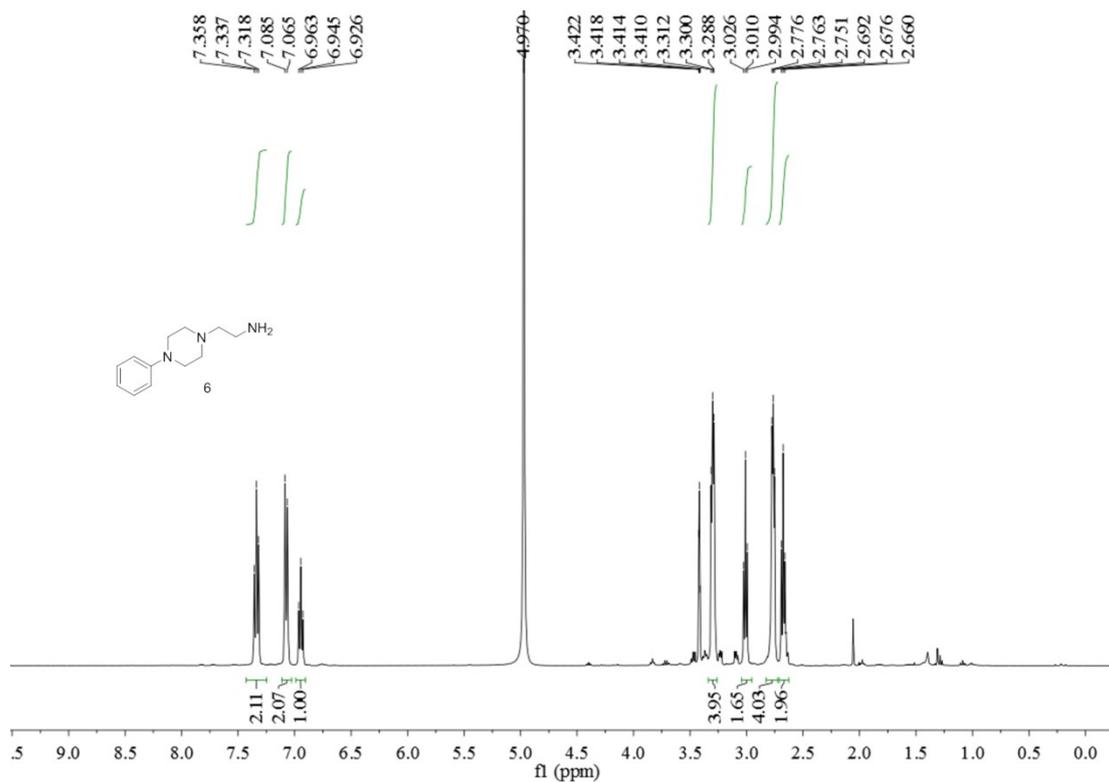
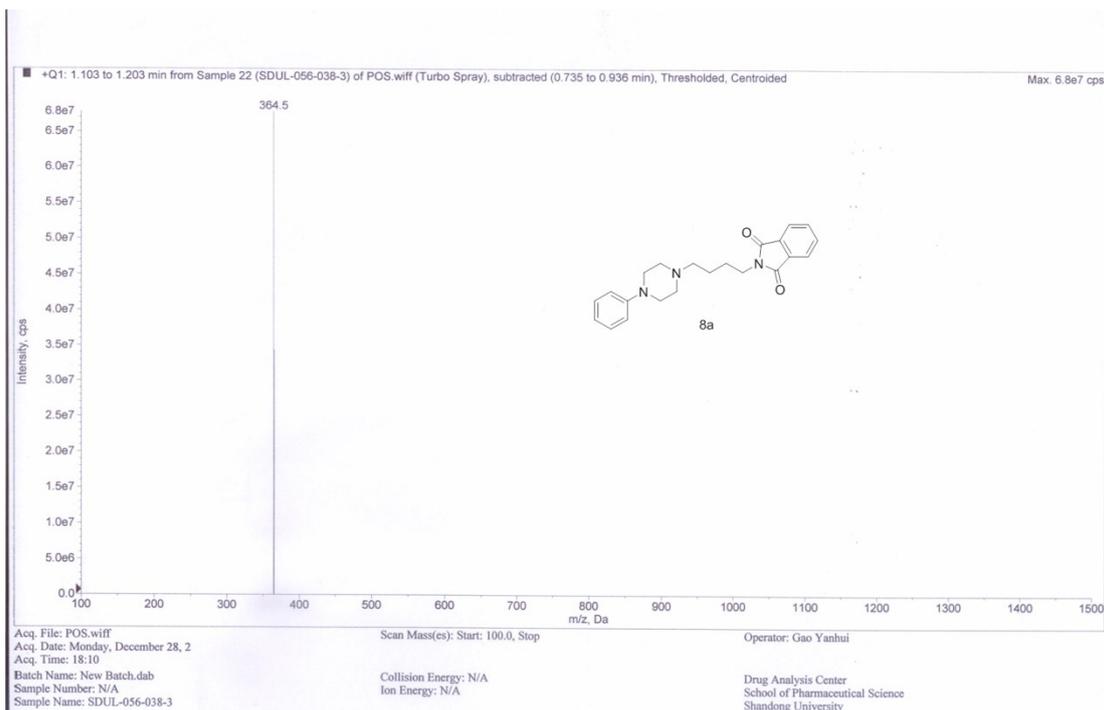
5. NMR and MS data

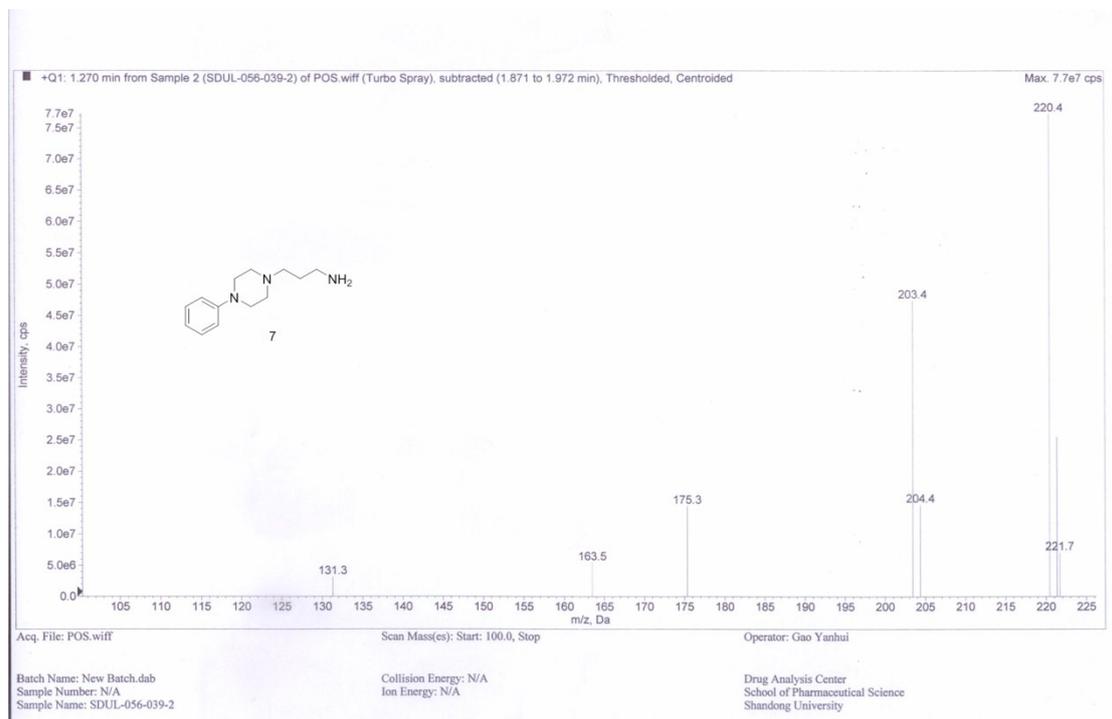
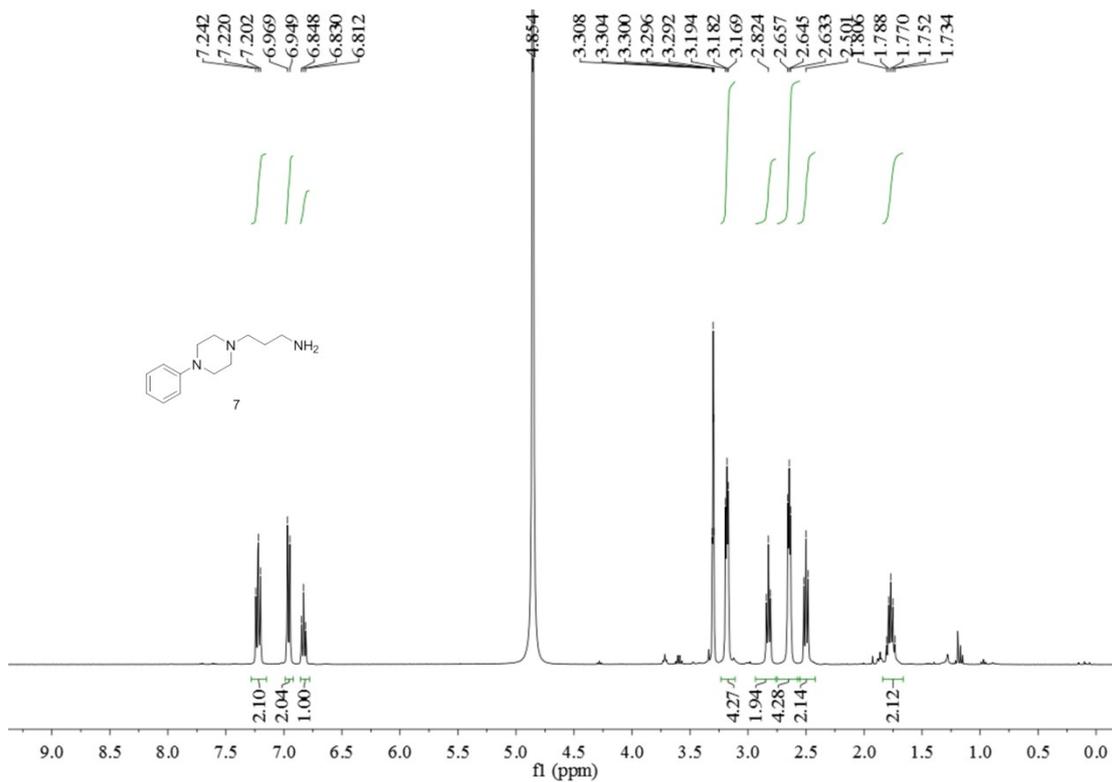


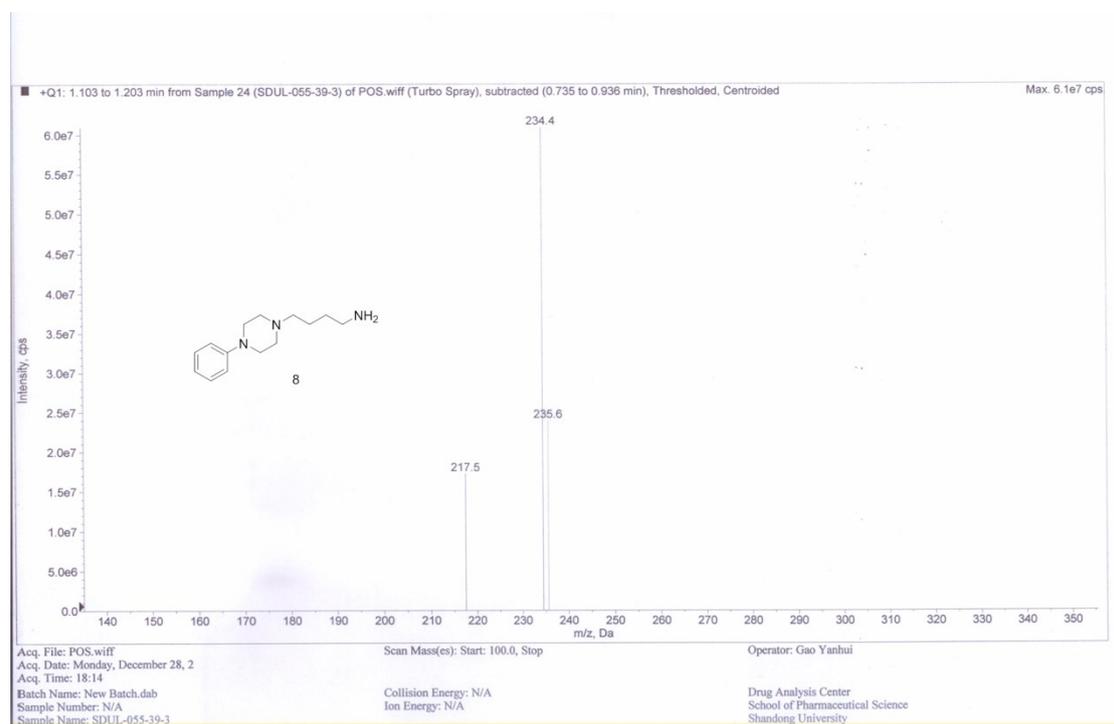
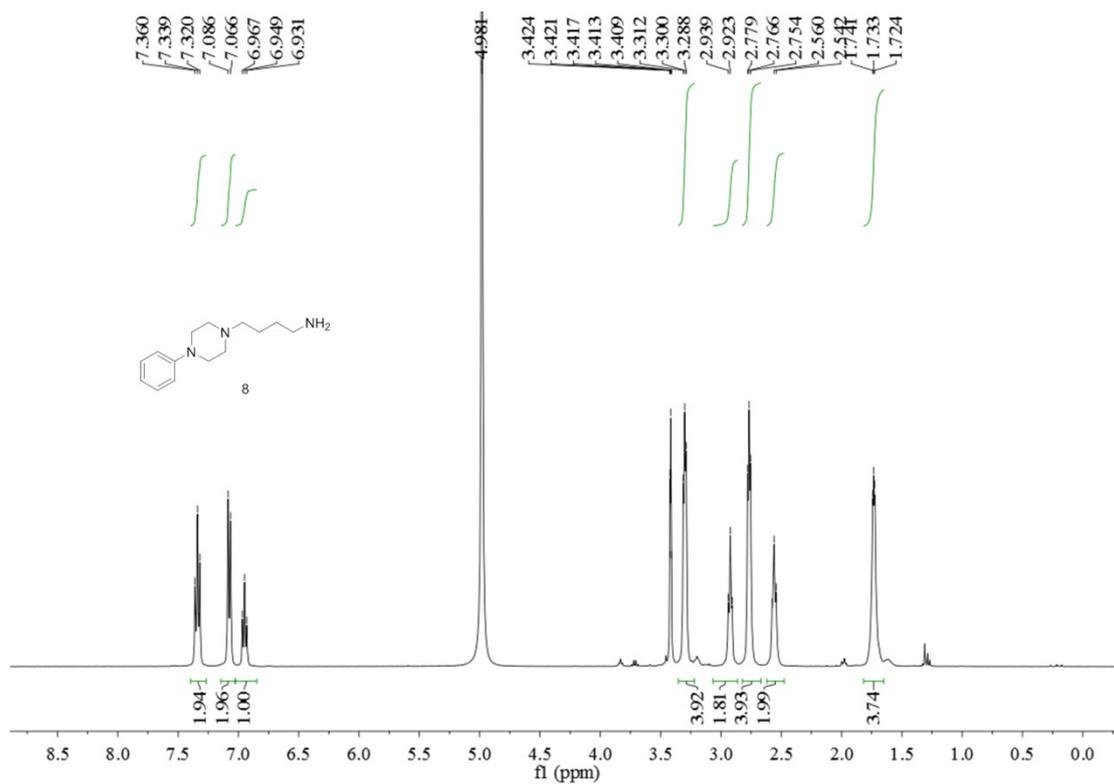


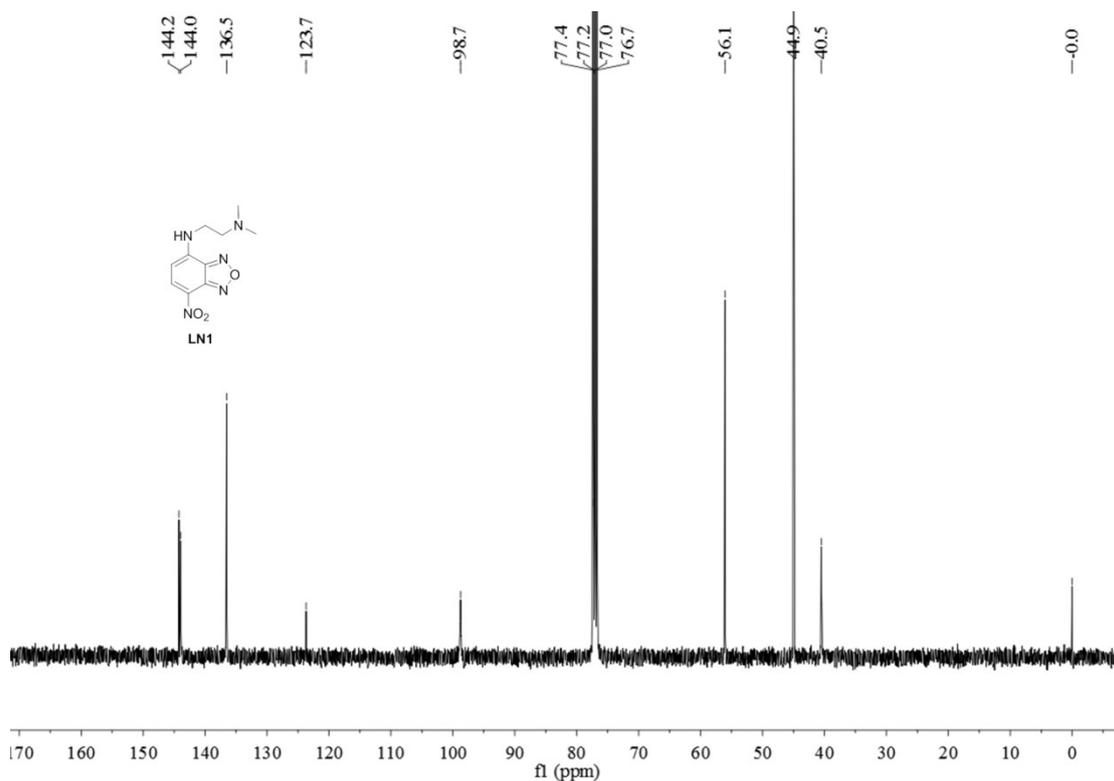
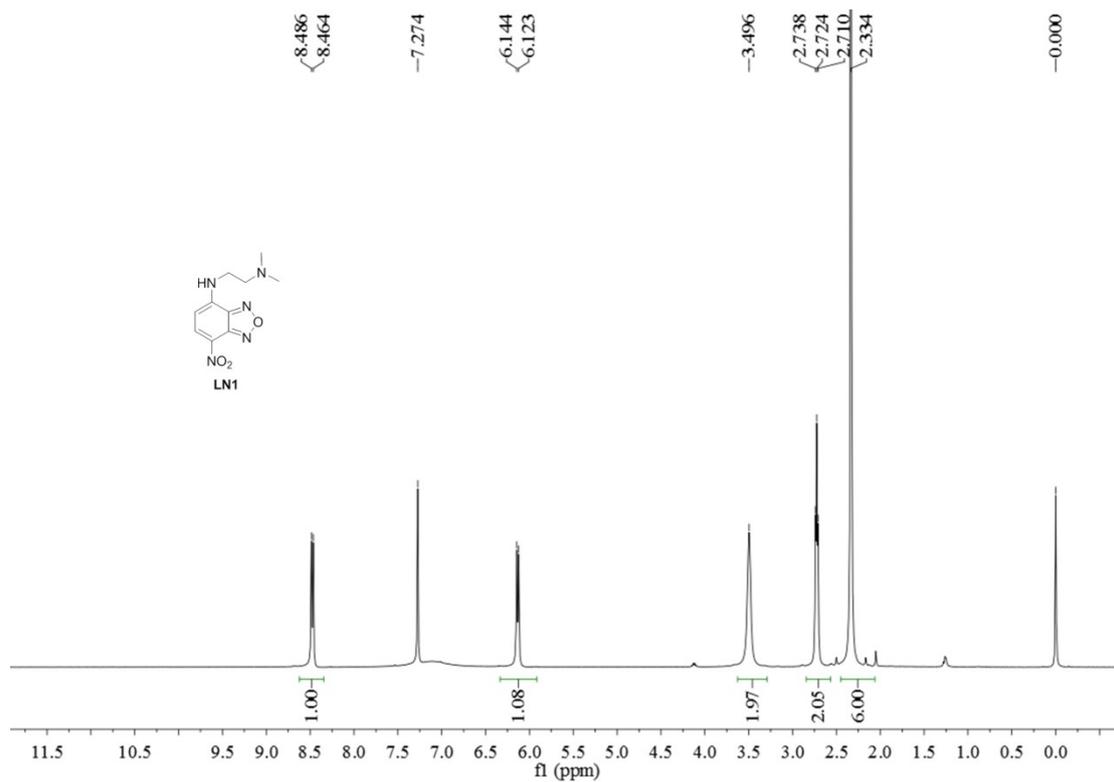


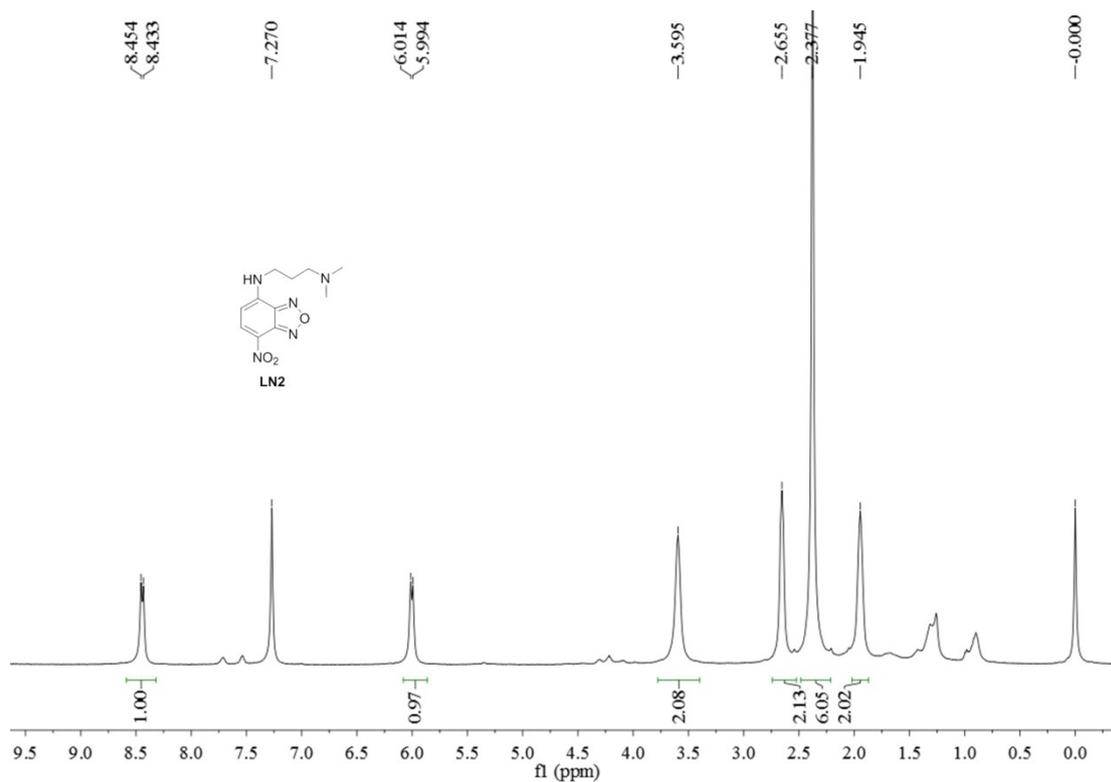
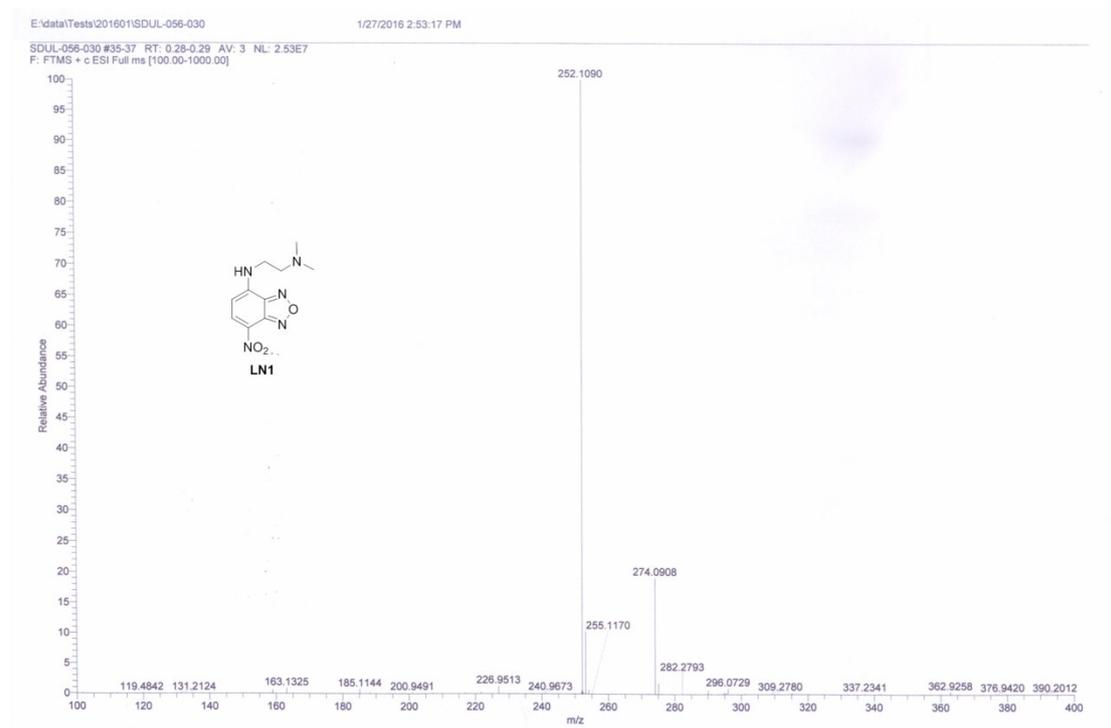


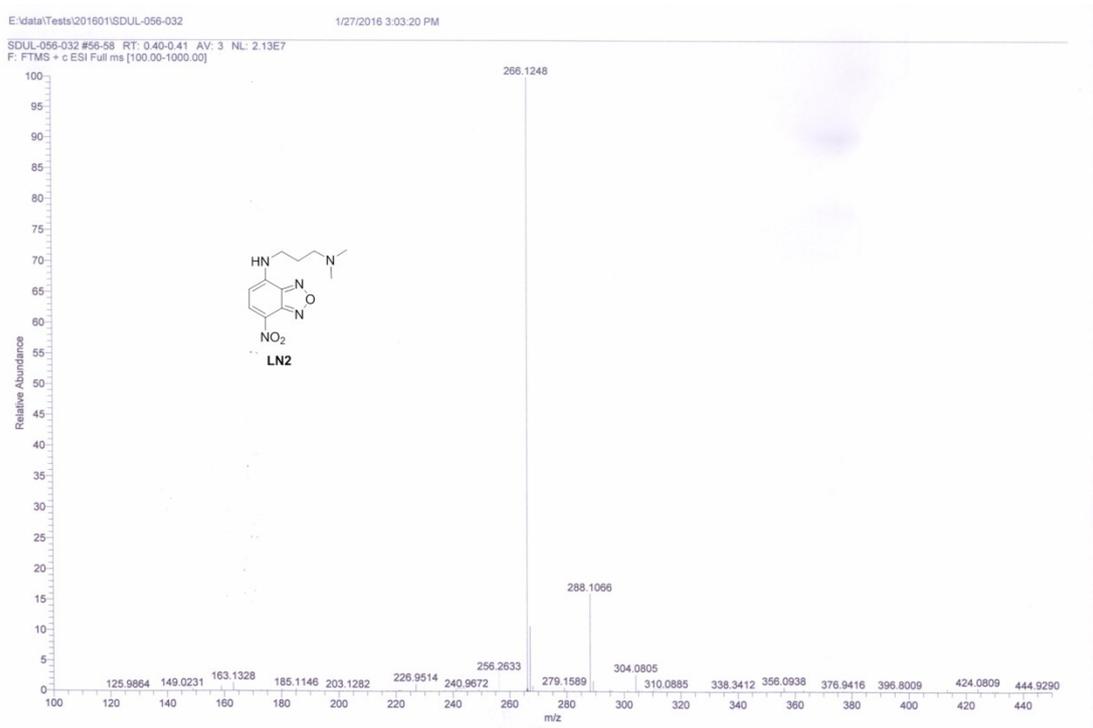
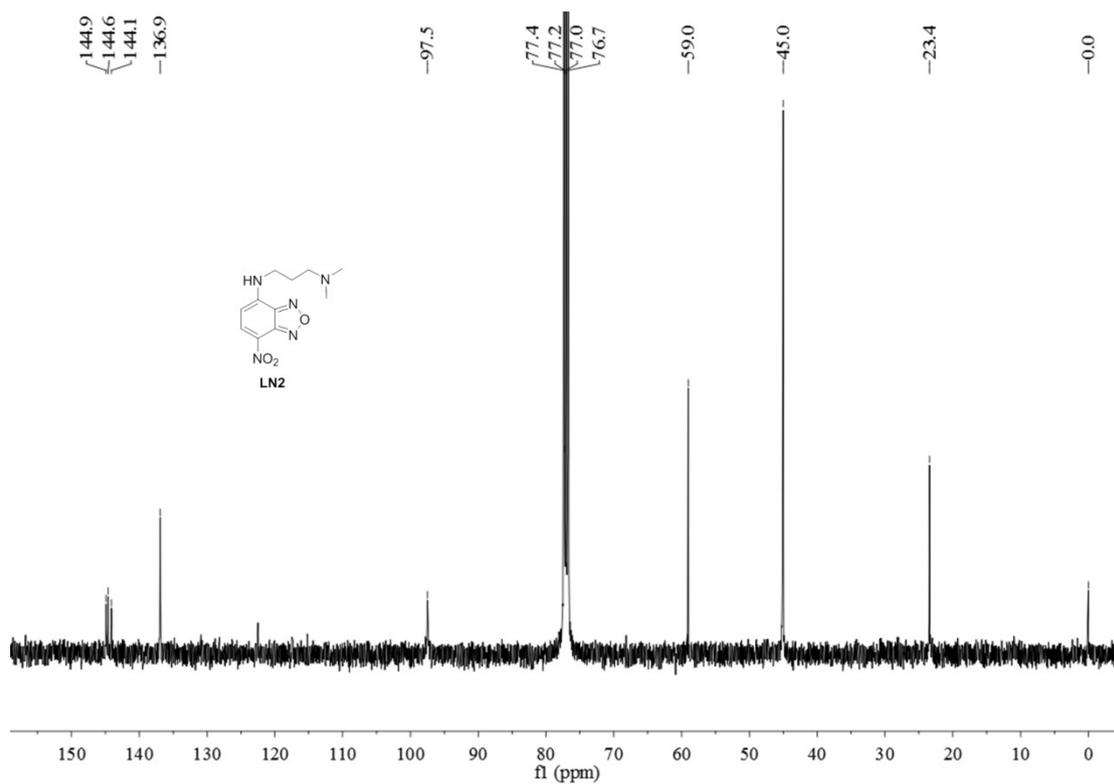


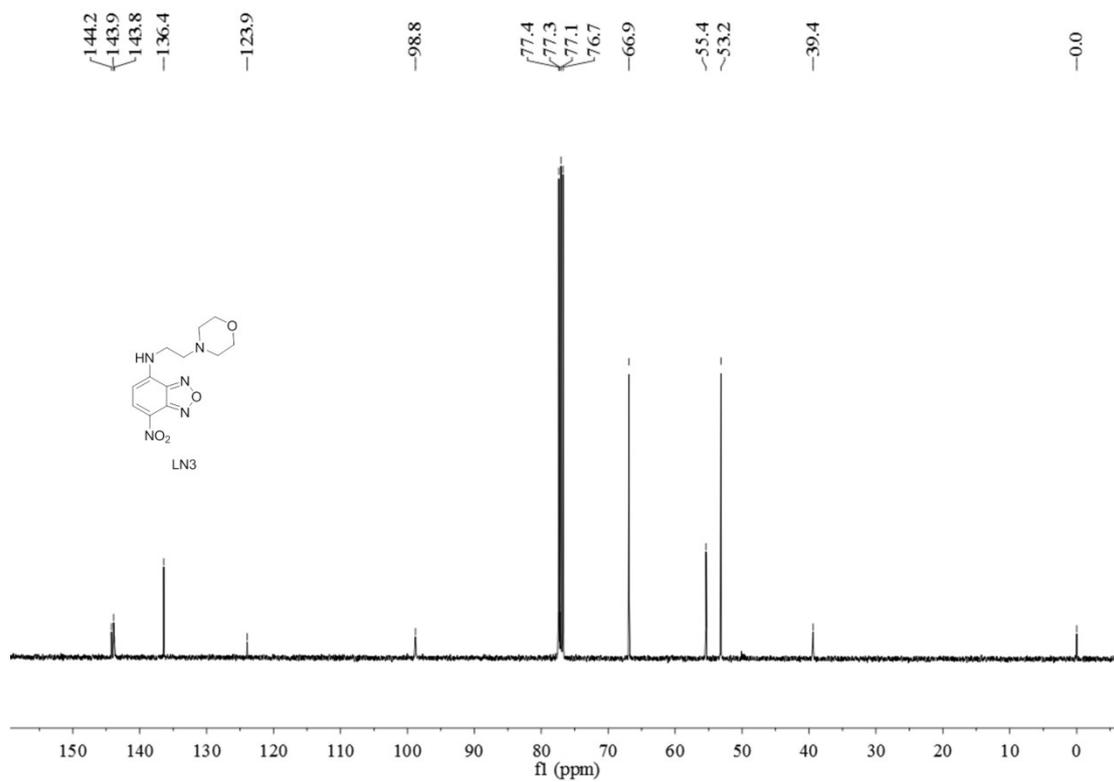
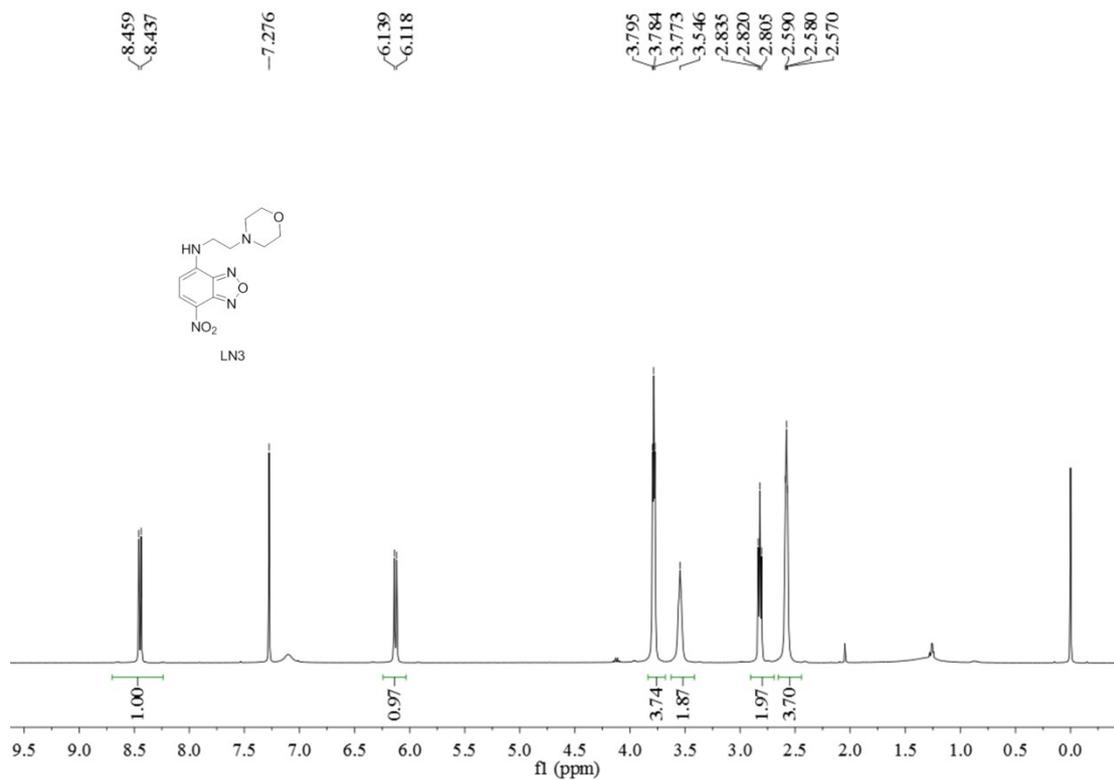


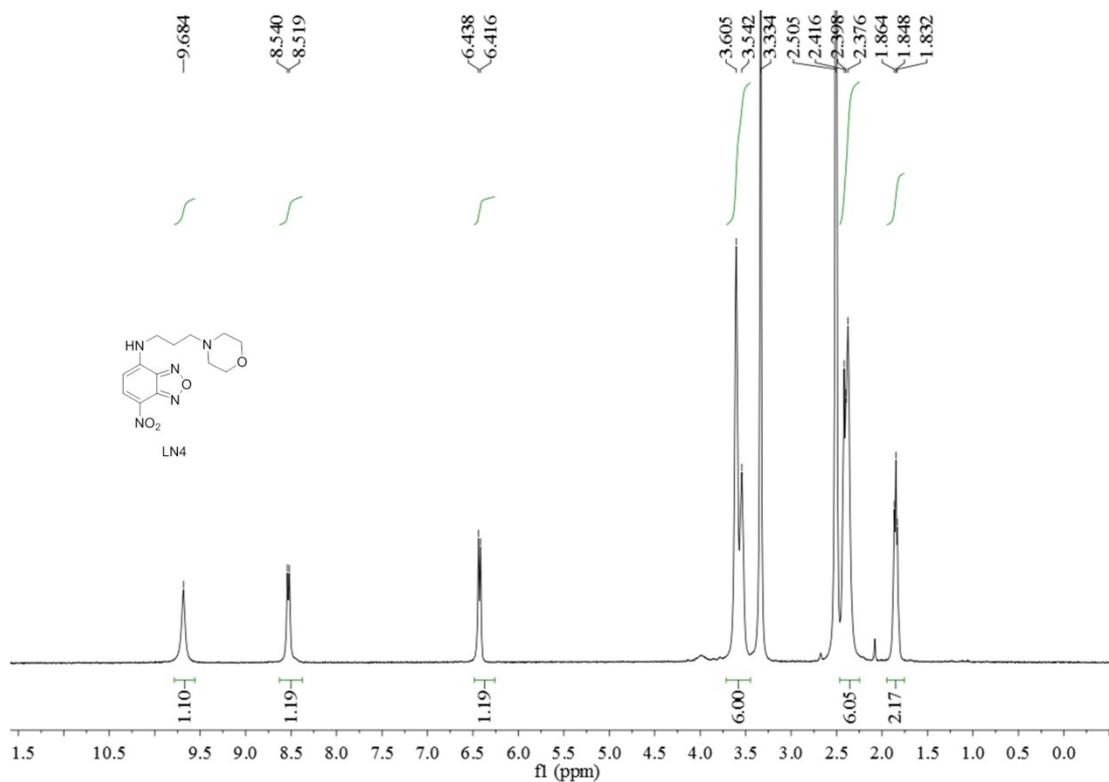
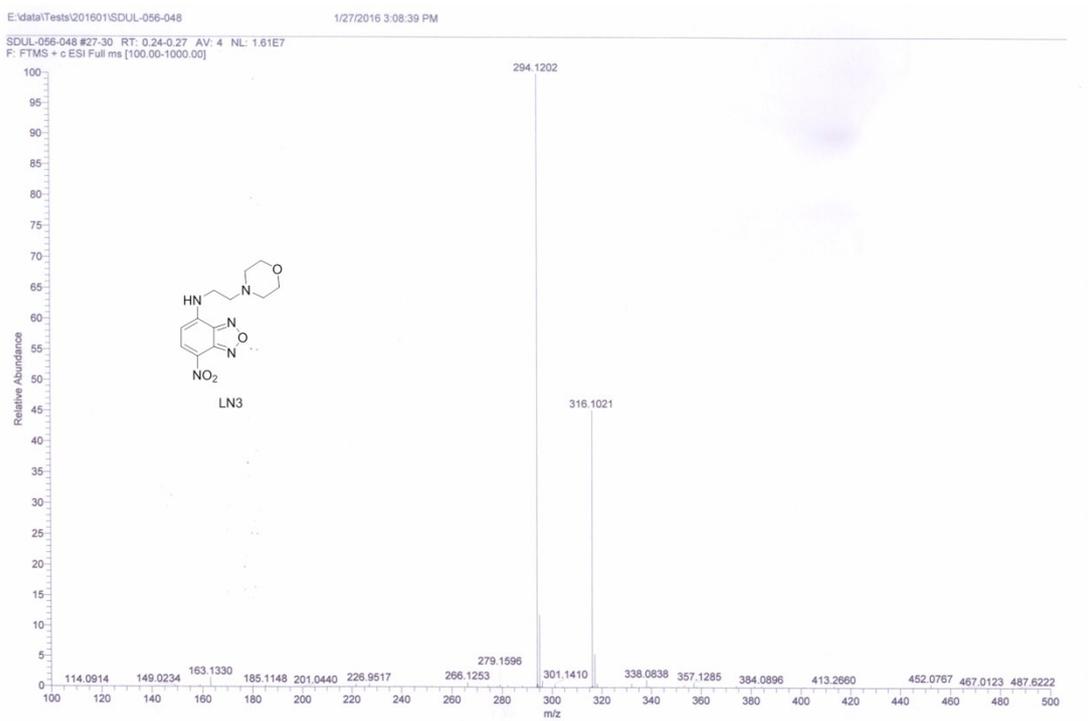


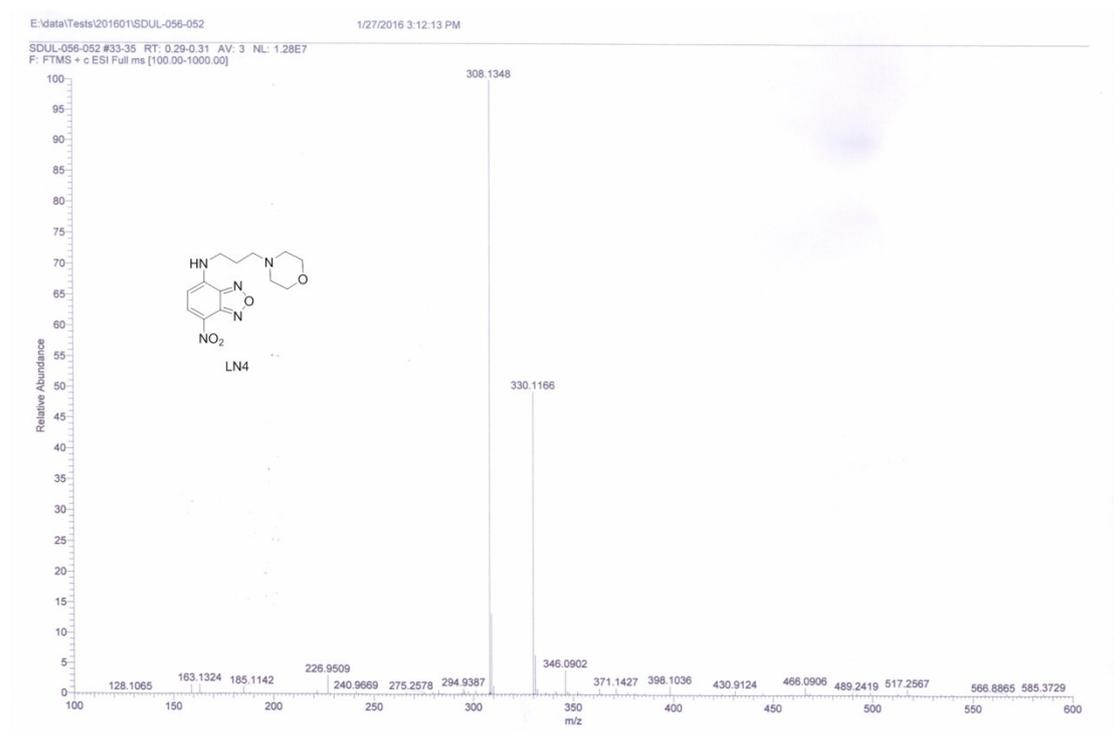
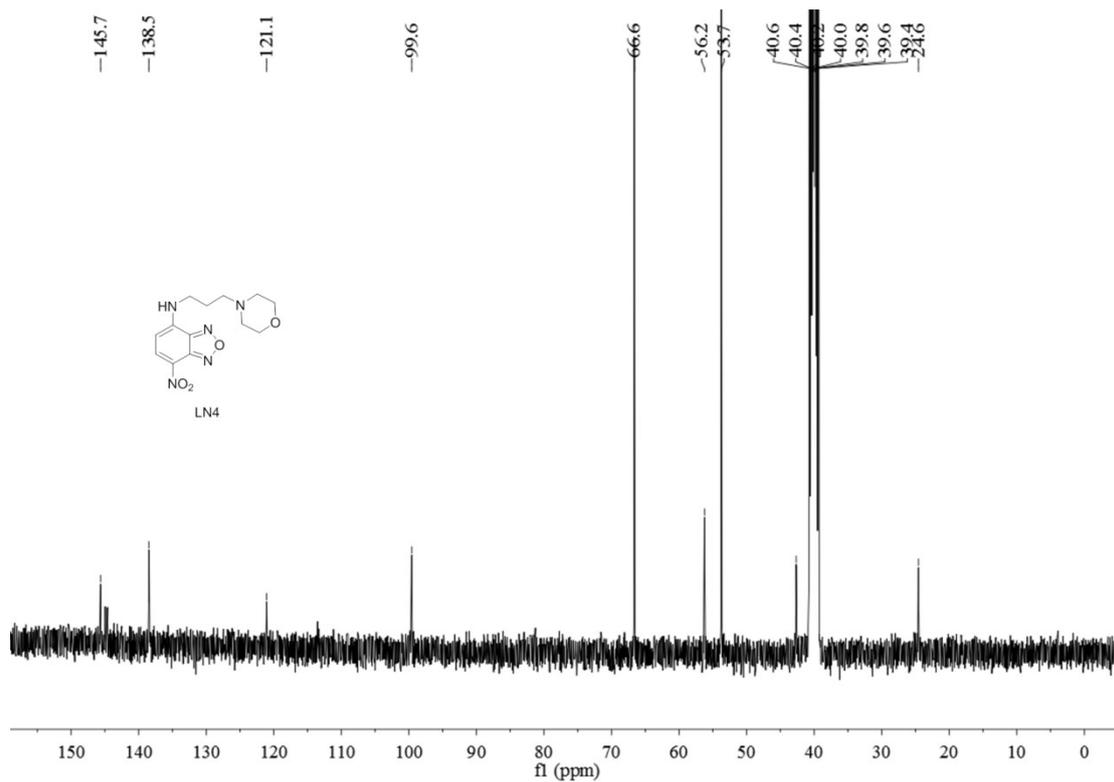


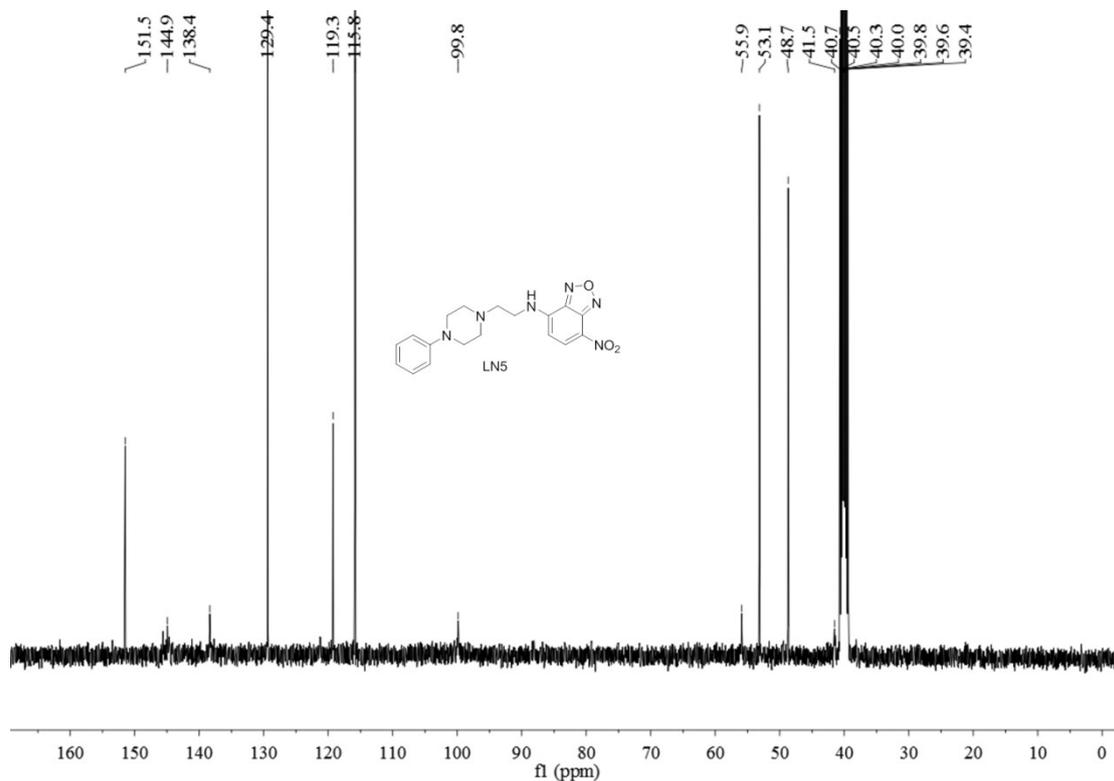
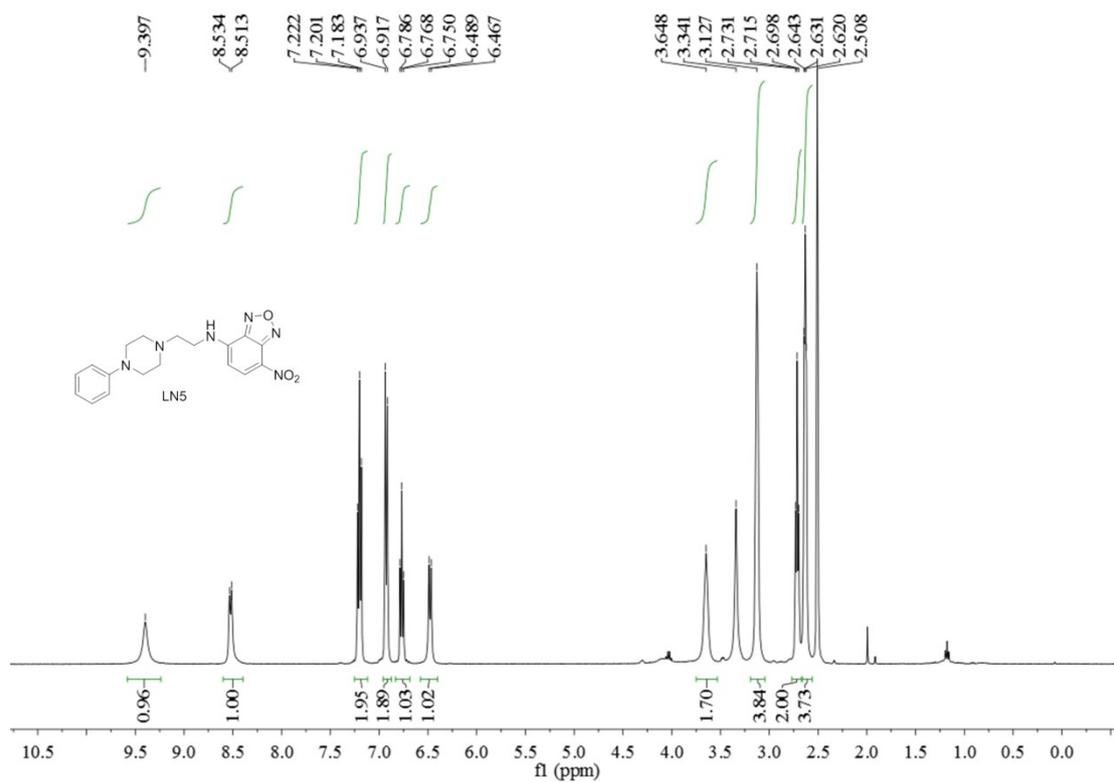


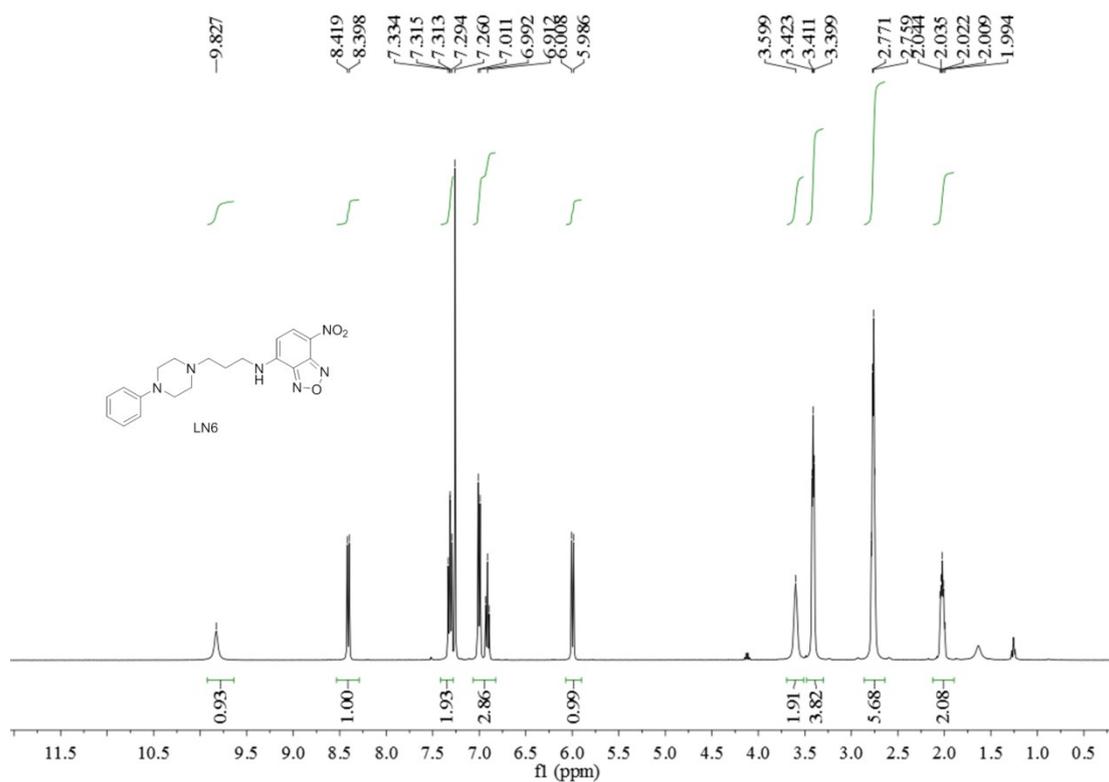
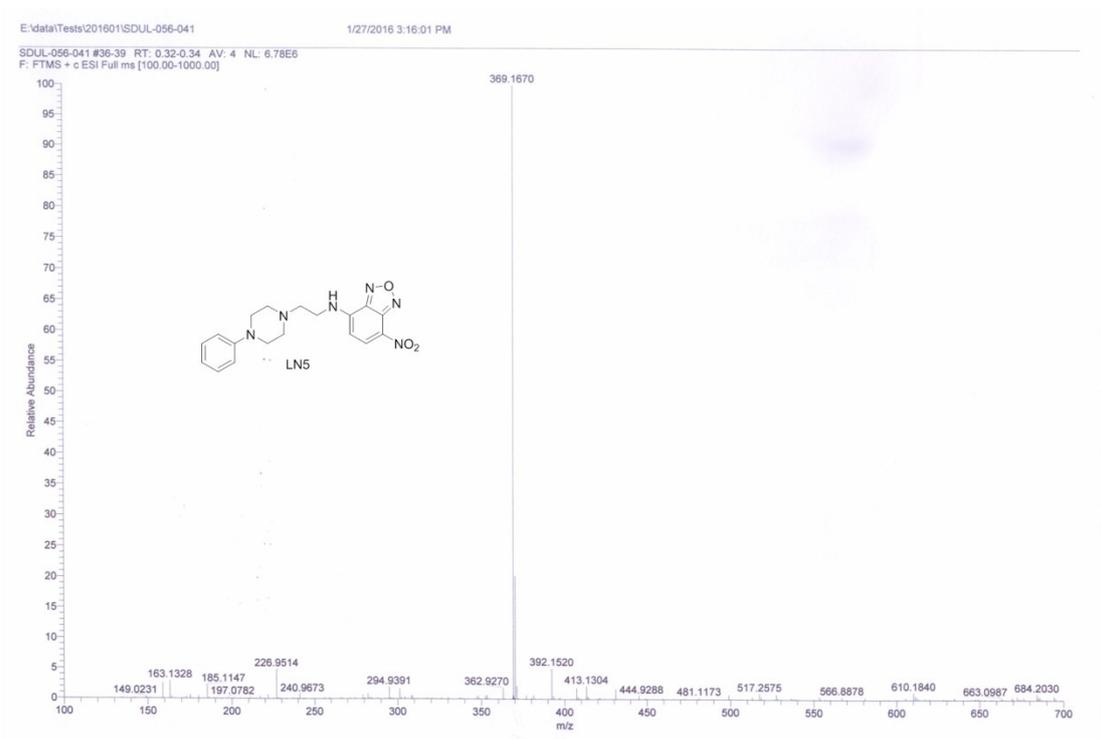


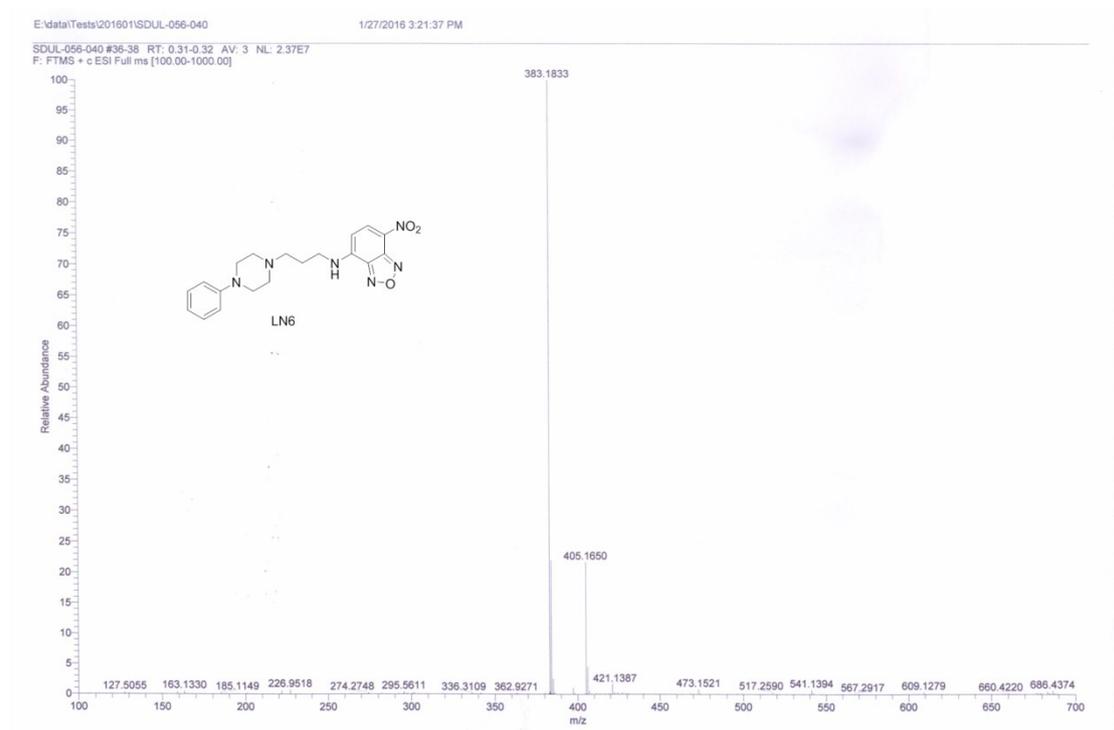
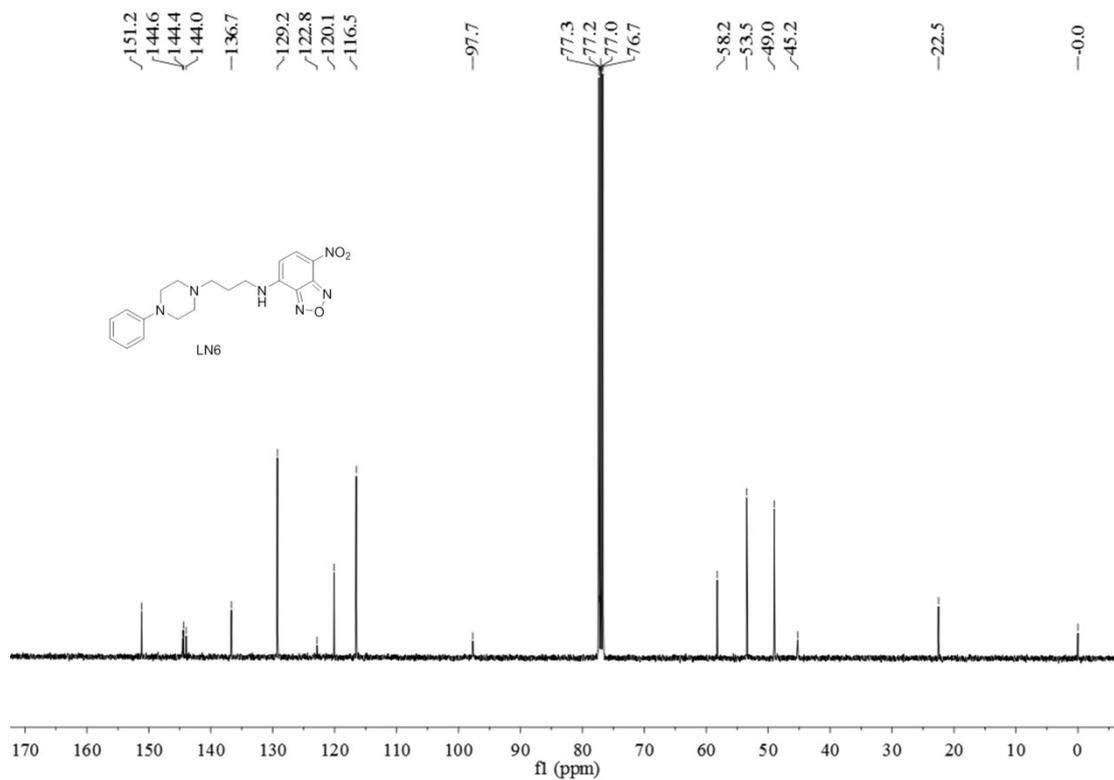


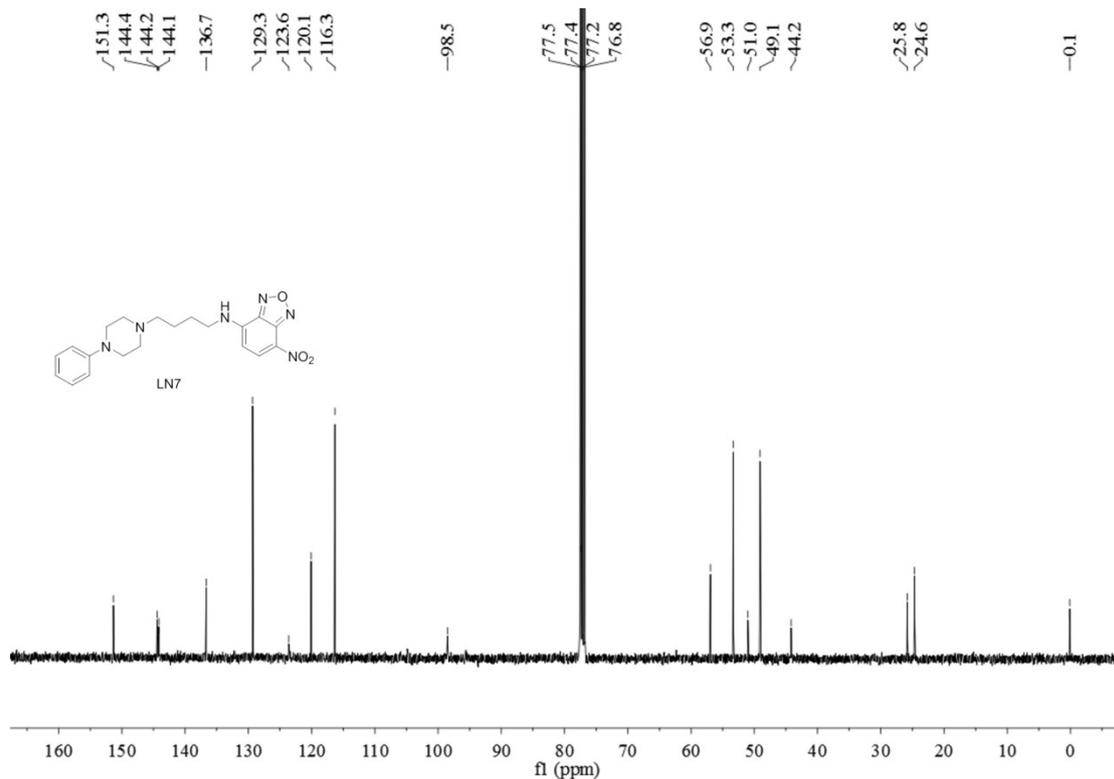
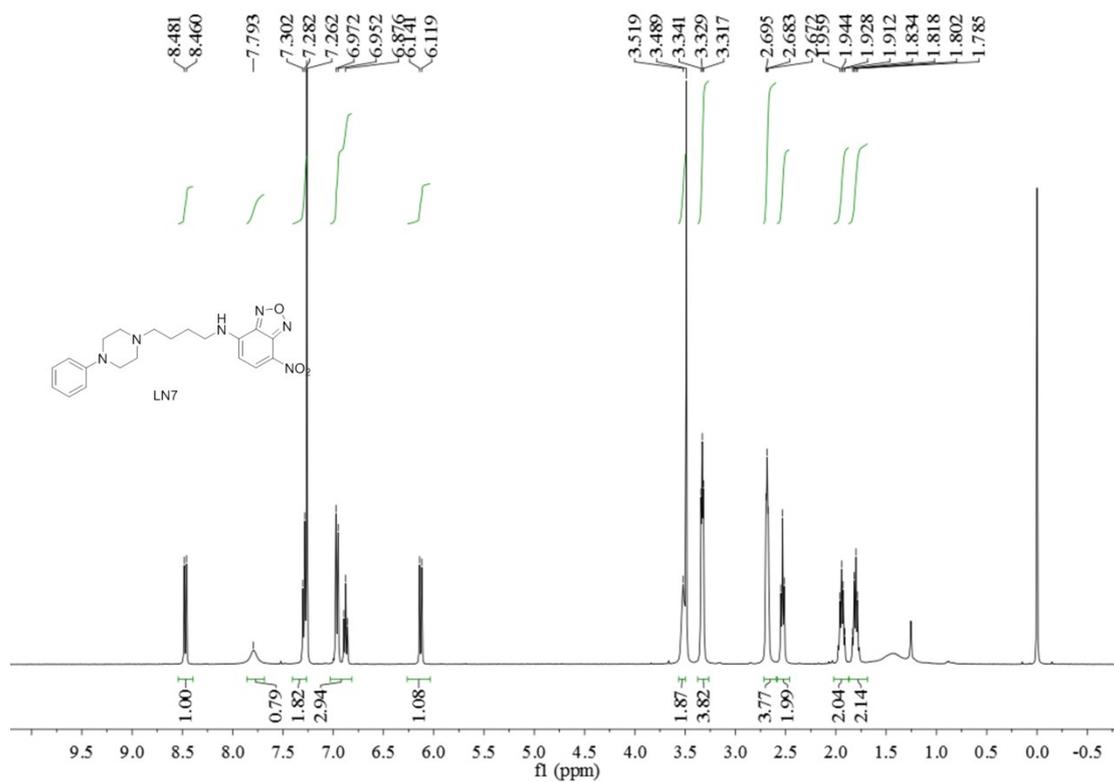


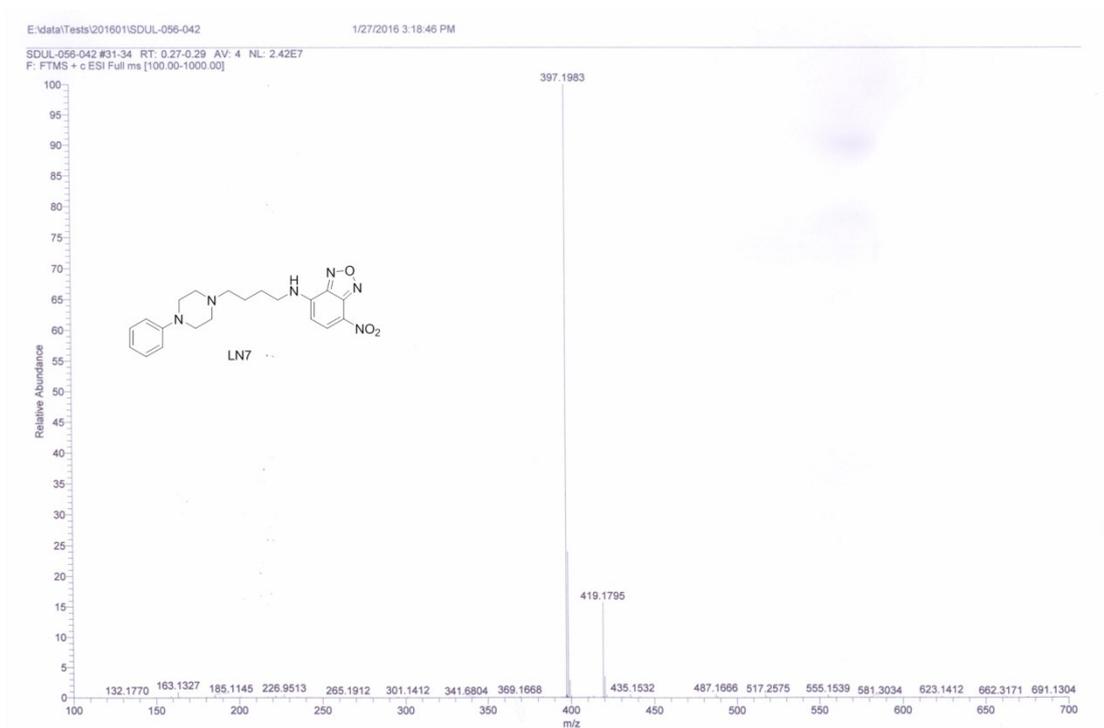












Reference

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