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## **Supplementary Information for:**

## Selective Detection of Inorganic Phosphates in Live Cells Based on a Responsive

## **Fluorescence Probe**

Huan Feng,<sup>a</sup> Yue Wang,<sup>a</sup> Hongmin Jia,<sup>a</sup> Run Zhang,<sup>a,b\*</sup> Qian Han,<sup>a</sup> Qingtao Meng,<sup>a\*</sup> Zhiqiang Zhang<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Chemical Engineering, University of Science and Technology Liaoning, Anshan, 114044, China

E-mail: Qingtao Meng, qtmeng@ustl.edu.cn. Tel: +86-412-5929627

<sup>b</sup> Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, 4072, Australia

E-mail: Run Zhang, r.zhang@uq.edu.au, Tel: +61-7-33463806



Fig. S2 <sup>13</sup>C NMR of L (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



Fig. S3 HR MS of L



Fig. S4 IR spectra of L



**Fig. S5** Fluorescence spectra of **L** (10  $\mu$ M) at different times in HEPES aqueous buffer (DMSO: HEPES = 3:7, 20 mM, pH = 7.4). The intensities were recorded at 490 nm, excitation at 430 nm.



**Fig. S6** Fluorescence intensities of **L** (10  $\mu$ M) at 490 nm as a function of Cu<sup>2+</sup> concentration (0–20  $\mu$ M) in HEPES aqueous buffer (DMSO: HEPES = 3:7, 20 mM, pH = 7.4). Excitation was performed at 430 nm.



**Fig. S7** Fluorescence color images of L-Cu<sup>2+</sup> (10  $\mu$ M) in HEPES aqueous buffer (DMSO: HEPES = 3:7, 20 mM, pH = 7.4) in the presence of various anionic analytes (40  $\mu$ M) under UV light: (1) Blank, (2) Pi. (3) Br<sup>-</sup>, (4) Cl<sup>-</sup>, (5) F<sup>-</sup>, (6) HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, (7) AcO<sup>-</sup>, (8) S<sup>2-</sup>, (9) SCN<sup>-</sup>, (10) OH<sup>-</sup>, (11) NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, (12) HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, (13) CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, (14) SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, (15) AMP, (16) ADP, (17) ATP, (18) PPi.



**Fig. S8** Fluorescence spectra of (a) **L** (10  $\mu$ M), sequential upon addition of(b) Cu<sup>2+</sup> (20  $\mu$ M) and (c) Pi (40  $\mu$ M) in HEPES aqueous buffer (DMSO: HEPES = 3:7, 20 mM, pH = 7.4). Excitation was performed at 430 nm.



**Fig. S9** Linear relationship between fluorescence intensity of L-Cu<sup>2+</sup>(3  $\mu$ M) at 490 nm versus the concentration of Pi (0–11  $\mu$ M) in HEPES aqueous buffer (DMSO: HEPES = 3:7, 20 mM, pH = 7.4). Excitation was performed at 430 nm.



**Fig. S10** UV-vis absorption spectra of (a) **L** (10  $\mu$ M), sequential upon addition of (b) Cu<sup>2+</sup> (20  $\mu$ M) and (c) Pi (40  $\mu$ M) in HEPES aqueous buffer (DMSO: HEPES = 3:7, 20 mM, pH = 7.4).



Fig. S 11 MTT assay of MDA-MB-231 cells treated with L-Cu<sup>2+</sup>.