**Electronic Supplementary data For** 

## A cancer cell-specific two-photon fluorescent probe for imaging

## hydrogen sulfide in living cells

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Scheme S1. Proposed response mechanism of  $BN-H_2S$  to  $H_2S$ .



Fig. S1. HRMS study of the product of **BN-H<sub>2</sub>S** with Na<sub>2</sub>S (80 equiv) in PBS (pH 7.4, 20 mM, 5% MeOH) at room temperature.



Fig. S2. Absorption spectra of 5  $\mu$ M **BN-H**<sub>2</sub>S to various species in PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 20 mM, 5% MeOH).



Fig. S3. Fluorescence intensity at 544 nm of 5  $\mu$ M **BN-H<sub>2</sub>S** in absence and presence of 100 $\mu$ M Na<sub>2</sub>S at different pH under excitation at 440 nm.



Fig. S4. Cytotoxicity of  $BN-H_2S$  in HeLa cells (left) and NIH 3T3 cells (right). The cell viability was measured by a standard MTT assay.



Fig. S5. (A) Fluorescence images of HeLa cells treated with 10  $\mu$ M **BN-H**<sub>2</sub>**S**. (B) Fluorescence images of HeLa cells treated with 10  $\mu$ M **BN-H**<sub>2</sub>**S** and 100  $\mu$ M Na<sub>2</sub>S. (C) Fluorescence images of NIH 3T3 cells treated with 10  $\mu$ M **BN-H**<sub>2</sub>**S**. (D) Fluorescence images of NIH 3T3 cells treated with 10  $\mu$ M **BN-H**<sub>2</sub>**S** and 100  $\mu$ M Na<sub>2</sub>S. One-photon (OP) imaging: emission at 500-550 nm with excitation at 488 nm; Two-photon (TP) imaging: emission at 500-550 nm with excitation at 760 nm. Scale bar = 20  $\mu$ m.



ig. S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (DMSO- $d_6$ ) of compound **2**.



S5



Fig. S8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) of compound **BN-H**<sub>2</sub>S



Fig. S9. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) of compound **BN-H**<sub>2</sub>S



Fig. S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) of compound **BN-NH**<sub>2</sub>



Fig. S11. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) of compound **BN-NH**<sub>2</sub>