## Supporting Information

## Novel AIEgens with 3,5-dibromobenzaldehyde skeleton: molecular design, synthesis, tunable emission and detection application

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Synthesis of S1



Scheme S1 Synthesis of S1

S1: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, *d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO) δ (ppm): 10.12 (s, 1H), 8.14-7.80 (m, 9H), 7.60-7.45 (m, 6H), 4.31-4.25 (t, 1H), 3.07-2.89 (m, 2H), 2.36-2.41 (t, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, *d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO) δ (ppm): 171.15, 160.03, 135.24, 134.01, 132.27, 127.11,
126.13, 122.79, 120.45, 119.45, 60.07 and 24.47.

ESI-MS (m/z): calcd for  $C_{22}H_{19}NO_2S$  [M]<sup>+</sup>, 361.5; found, 361.1.

Elemental analysis: calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S: C, 73.10; H, 5.30; N, 3.88; S, 8.85. Found: C, 73.12; H, 5.31; N, 3.92; S, 8.84.



Scheme S2 Synthesis of S2

**S2**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, *d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO) δ (ppm): 9.88 (s, 1H), 7.79-7.60 (m, 10H), 7.93-7.91 (d, 3H), 7.40-7.45 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.37 (m, 3H), 4.35-4.29 (t, 1H), 3.77-3.61 (m, 4H), 3.14-3.26 (2H), 1.34-1.30 (t, 6H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, *d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO) δ (ppm): 173.39, 162.46, 134.45, 133.06, 128.98, 127.05, 125.70, 122.41, 120.40, 117.32, 65.32, 51.79, 27.14, 13.97 and 13.74.

ESI-MS (m/z): calcd for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M]<sup>+</sup>, 595.4; found, 595.1.

Elemental analysis: calcd for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: C, 76.61; H, 5.58; N, 7.05; S, 5.38. Found: C, 76.63; H, 5.57; N, 7.02; S, 5.40.

## Synthesis of S3



Scheme S3 Synthesis of S3

**S3**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, *d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO) δ (ppm): 9.82 (s, 1H), 8.23-8.16 (m, 4H), 8.01-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.67-7.48 (m, 10H), 7.41-7.23 (m, 12H), 4.1 (t, 1H), 3.11-2.94 (m, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, *d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO) δ (ppm): 167.49, 158.31, 140.61, 137.33, 130.63, 128.12, 127.16, 126.63, 123.18, 120.97, 114.03, 111.97, 110.03, 66.43, and 26.14.

ESI-MS (m/z): calcd for C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M]<sup>+</sup>, 691.2; found, 691.1.

Elemental analysis: calcd for C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: C, 79.86; H, 4.81; N, 6.07; S, 4.63. Found: C, 79.77; H, 4.84; N, 6.11; S, 4.62.



**Fig. S1** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **S1** in  $d_6$ -DMSO



Fig. S2 The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of S1 in  $d_6$ -DMSO



Fig. S3 The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of S2 in  $d_6$ -DMSO



Fig. S4 The  ${}^{13}$ C NMR spectrum of S2 in  $d_6$ -DMSO



**Fig. S5** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **S3** in  $d_6$ -DMSO







Fig. S7. The fluorescence spectra of S2 and S3 (10  $\mu M)$  in solid-film state and THF-water mixtures (v/v, 1/9).



Fig. S8 ESI-Mass spectrum of S1



Fig. S9 ESI-Mass spectrum of S2



Fig. S10 ESI-Mass spectrum of S3



Fig. S11 ESI-Mass spectrum of S1 after the addition of  $As^{3+}$  (240 ppb).



Fig. S12 ESI-Mass spectrum of S2 after the addition of As<sup>3+</sup> (240 ppb).



**Fig. S13** ESI-Mass spectrum of S3 after the addition of  $As^{3+}$  (240 ppb).



**Fig. S14** The selectivity and anti-interference of S1, S2 and S3 toward  $As^{3+}$  in water-THF mixtures (v/v, 7/3). The cyan, magenta and yellow bars represent the fluorescence responses of S1, S2 and S3 (10  $\mu$ M) to various cation ions (As<sup>3+</sup>, 200 ppb; As<sup>5+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, 400 ppb; the other, 2000 ppb), respectively. The green, red and blue bars represent the fluorescence of above solution upon subsequent addition of 200 ppb of As<sup>3+</sup>.



**Fig. S15** The selectivity and anti-interference of S1, S2 and S3 toward  $As^{3+}$  in water-THF mixtures (v/v, 7/3). The cyan, magenta and yellow bars represent the fluorescence responses of S1, S2 and S3 (10  $\mu$ M) to various anions (the concentration for various anion was 2000 ppb), respectively. The green, red and blue bars represent the fluorescence of above solution upon subsequent addition of 200 ppb of  $As^{3+}$ .



**Fig. S16** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **S3** in  $d_6$ -DMSO before (a) and after (b) addition of 240 ppb of As<sup>3+</sup>.

Method	LOD(ppb)
Coumarin-Appended Benzothiazolines <sup>1, 2</sup>	0.14-0.23
Functionalized gold nanoparticles <sup>3</sup>	2.58-2.84
Schiff base system <sup>4</sup>	4.10
Cationic polymers and aptamers probe <sup>5</sup>	5.30
GO/Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @GSH <sup>6</sup>	0.1
Rhodamine based fluorescence reagent <sup>7</sup>	0.22
Glutathione-capped CdTe quantum dots <sup>8</sup>	1.50
IC-HG-AFS <sup>9</sup>	1.0-3.0
Gold cluster-based fluorescent sensor <sup>10</sup>	4.01
Nano-sized arsenic-imprinted polymer <sup>11</sup>	37.50
Pulsed Laser-Induced Desorption <sup>12</sup>	1.87
S1	6.74
S2	2.63
S3	1.32

Table S1 Comparison of the LOD for the detection of As<sup>3+</sup>by fluorescence chemsensors

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