## Supporting Information

#### A Highly Selective and instantaneous responsive Schiff Base

#### Fluorescent Sensor for the "Turn-off" Detection of Iron(III), Iron(II),

### Copper(II) lons

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Fig. S1 <sup>1</sup> H NMR (600 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of DBAB in DMSO-d <sub>6</sub>
Fig. S2 <sup>13</sup> C NMR (600 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of DBAB in DMSO-d <sub>6</sub> 4
Fig. S3 ESI MS spectrum of DBAB5
Fig. S4 (a) UV-vis spectra ,(b) Fluorescence spectra and (c) Colour changes under the
UV light irradiation observed of different concentration of DBAB in DMF6
Fig. S5 Absorption spectra of DBAB (1.7 $\mu M)$ in the presence of different metal ions
(353 equiv.) in DMF7
Eq. S1 and Eq. S2 The limit of detection and association constant8









Acquisition Parameter Wed Nov 15 08:44:13 2017 6 Polarity Broadband Low Mass Broadband High Mass Calibration Date Positive 57.7 m/z 800.0 m/z Acquired Scans Intens. x10<sup>8</sup> +MS 297.15980 1+ M=296.15248 1.5 ноос 1.0 298.16315 1+ 299.16656 1+ 0.5 0.0 298.5 299.0 296.5 297.0 297.5 298.0 m/z 296.0 mSigma rdb e<sup>-</sup>Conf N-Rule 4.3 9.5 even ok err [ppm] 0.1 Mean err [ppm] -0.3 Meas. m/z # Ion Formula 297.159797 1 C18H21N2O2 Score m/z 100.00 297.159754

#### Fig. S3







#### The limit of detection and association constant

The limit of detection (LOD) was calculated based on the fluorescence titration according to the following equation (Eq. S1) [1-3], where Sb<sub>1</sub> is the standard deviation of the blank solution and S is the slope of the calibration curve. To determine Sb<sub>1</sub>, the emission intensity of DBAB in DMF solution without any metal ions was measured 10 times, respectively.

$$LOD = 3 \times \frac{Sb_1}{S}$$
 (Eq. S1)

The association constant (Ka) of DBAB-metal ion was obtained from nonlinear curve fitting of the fluorescence titration data according to Benesi-Hildebrand equation (Eq. S2) [4-6], where  $F_0$ , F, and  $F_{min}$  are the fluorescence intensity of DBAB in the absence of metal ions, at a certain concentration of metal ions, and the minimum fluorescence intensity of [QLBM-Fe<sup>3+</sup>/Fe<sup>2+</sup>/Cu<sup>2+</sup>] in the linear range, [M] is the metal ion concentration, n is the binding stoichiometry.

$$\log[\frac{F_{\max} - F}{F - F_0}] = n \log[M] + \log K_a$$
(Eq. S2)

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