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Electronic Supplementary Information for

## An off-on fluorescent probe for detection of mitochondria-

## specific protein persulfidation

Wenqi Meng, <sup>†</sup><sup>a</sup> Yongchun Chen, <sup>†</sup><sup>a</sup> Yongwei Feng, <sup>†</sup><sup>a</sup> Hao Zhang, <sup>a</sup> Qingqiang Xu, <sup>a</sup> Mingxue Sun, <sup>a</sup> Wenwen Shi, <sup>a</sup> Jinfeng Cen, <sup>a</sup> Jie Zhao, <sup>a</sup> and Kai Xiao, <sup>\*</sup><sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Lab of Toxicology & Pharmacology, Faculty of Naval Medicine, Second Military Medical University, Shanghai, China

<sup>+</sup> These authors contributed equally to this work.

The corresponding author: Kai Xiao

E-mail: kaixiaocn@163.com.

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#### Synthesis and verification of papain persulfide

A solution of papain (10 mg) in 1 mL of Tris-HCl (pH 7.4, degassed with N<sub>2</sub> for 10 min) was incubated with cysteine (1.7 mg) at room temperature for 10 min. Protein-containing fractions were incubated with DTNB (50  $\mu$ L, 4 mM) at room temperature for 20 min and purified using a PD-10 column. A fraction of the pooled protein (200  $\mu$ L, 120  $\mu$ M) was incubated in a solution of Na<sub>2</sub>S (4  $\mu$ L, 30 mM) for 10 min and purified with a PD-10 column to obtain papain persulfide. Papain persulfide (20  $\mu$ M) was incubated with IAM (2 mM) at room temperature for 1.5 h, and the products were analysed by MALDI-TOF-MS.



Figure. S1. Mass analyses of the reaction between papain-SSH and IAM.

#### Fluorescence spectra of HQO-SSH with GAPDH-SSH

A solution of GAPDH (5 mg) in 1 mL of Tris-HCl (pH 7.4, degassed with N<sub>2</sub> for 10 min) was incubated with DTT (10 mM) at room temperature for 1 h. Then DTT was removed using a PD-10 column. Then  $H_2O_2$  and  $Na_2S$  were added to the GAPDH solution. The mixture was incubated at 37°C for 30 min. After that HQO-SSH (20  $\mu$ M) was added in the solution. The fluorescence spectra of HQO-SSH and HQO-SSH+GAPDH-SSH was recorded.



Figure S2. Fluorescence spectra of HQO-SSH (20 µM) with or without GAPDH-SSH.

#### Selectivity of HQO-SSH towards protein persulfidation



Figure S3. Selectivity of HQO-SSH towards protein persulfidation. A) Fluorescence spectra of HQO-SSH (20  $\mu$ M) with papain-SSH (40  $\mu$ M), Na2S (1 mM), GSH (10 mM), Cys (1 mM), and Hcy (100  $\mu$ M) for 4 min. B) Mass analyses of the reaction of HQO-SSH with Na2S (1 mM), GSH (10 mM), Cys (1 mM), and Hcy (100  $\mu$ M) for 4 min.

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CCK-8 assay of HQO and HQO-SSH
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viability was assessed using the CCK8 assay. The experiment was repeated three times and the data are shown as mean (±S.D.).

a b c c

Visualizing the change of mitochondrial protein persulfidation in SM-treated BEAS-2B cells

Figure. S5. Cells were incubated with HQO-SSH (10  $\mu$ M) alone for 6 min (a). The cells were treated with sulfur mustard (50  $\mu$ M) for 30 min, followed by incubation with HQO-SSH (10  $\mu$ M) for 6 min (b). Sulfur mustard-treated cells were treated with Na<sub>2</sub>S (70  $\mu$ M) for 30 min, followed by incubation with HQO-SSH (10  $\mu$ M) for 6 min (c).

Visualizing the change of mitochondrial protein persulfidation in SM-treated lung tissues



Figure. S6. Mice were injected subcutaneously with sulfur mustard (30 mg/kg), with or without intraperitoneal administration of 5 mg/kg NaHS. Additional NaHS was administered every day for three days. Control (a); sulfur mustard (30 mg/kg) treatment (b); sulfur mustard (30 mg/kg) with NaHS (5 mg/kg) treatment (c).

NMR and HRMS spectrum of compounds

HQO





### <sup>13</sup>C NMR for HQO-SSH in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (ppm)



HRMS for HQO-SSH in  $CHCl_3$