## Advances



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# **Supporting Information**

### The nucleic acid probe based on DNA-templated silver nanoclusters for turnon fluorescence detection of tumor suppressor gene p53

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DNAs	Sequences (5'-3')						
p53 probe 1	CCCTCTTAACCCGAGTCTTCCAGTGTGATGAGGGTT						
p53 probe 2	CCCTAACTCCCCGAGTCTTCCAGTGTGATGAGGGGAG						
p53 probe 3	CCCTTAATCCCCGAGTCTTCCAGTGTGATGAGGGGGAT						
p53 probe1-2	AAGAGGGGAGTCTTCCAGTGTGATGACCCTCTTAACCC						
p53 probe2-2	TTAGGGGAGTCTTCCAGTGTGATGACCCTAACTCCCC						
p53 probe3-2	TTAAGGGGAGTCTTCCAGTGTGATGACCCTTAATCCCC						
p53	TCATCACACTGGAAGACTC						
m1 p53	TCATCACACTGGAAAACTC						
m2 p53	TCATCACACTGGAAGACTA						
2m p53	TCAACACTGGAAAACTC						

**Table S1.** Names and sequences of all the DNAs used in the experiment

Table S2. The lifetimes of DNA-Ag NCs before and after the interaction between probes and targets

P53	$\tau_1$ (ns)	<i>α</i> <sub>1</sub> (%)	$\tau_2$ (ns)	<i>a</i> <sub>2</sub> (%)	$\tau_3$ (ns)	$\alpha_3(\%)$	$\tau_{avg}(ns)$	$\chi^2$
P53 probe 1-Ag NCs	0.22	49.79	2.28	36.7	7.72	13.51	1.99	1.159
P53 probe 1-p53/ Ag NCs	1.14	20.76	2.53	77.49	8.37	1.76	2.34	1.028

Methods	Linear range	Limit of detection	Reference
Colorimetric detection		10 nmol	[1]
Fluorescence	15 nmol – 750 nmol	4 nmol	[2]
Fluorescence	100 pM – 40 nM	1 pM	[3]
Fluorescence	_	0.07 fM	[4]
Electrochemiluminence	0.1 nmol –15 nmol	0.03 nmol	[5]
Electrochemiluminescence	0.2 pM – 200 nM	0.1 pM	[6]
Electrochemiluminence	0.001 - 0.01 nM	0.68 nM	[7]
Quartz crystal microbalance	0.5  nM - 20  nM	0.3 nM	[8]

#### Table S3. Comparison of various fluorescent methods for p53 gene detection

### References

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**Figure S1**. The relative fluorescence intensity  $(F-F_0)/F_0$  is recorded by the response of p53 gene to p53 probe 1, 2, 3, 1-2, 2-2 and 3-2. *F* and  $F_0$  represent the emission intensity of Ag NCs in the presence and in the absence of p53, respectively. Error bars are calculated from three parallel experiments.



Figure S2 The corresponding photographs of p53 probe 1-Ag NCs (left) and p53 probe 1/ p53-Ag NCs (right) under the room light (A) and

hand-held UV lamp (B) irradiation (365 nm), respectively.



Figure S3 Effects of (A) the incubation time with  $NaHB_4$  and (B) the pH value of buffer solution on the synthesis of DNA-AgNCs. The error bars are standard deviations of three repetitive measurements.



**Figure S4** The TCSPC data for p53 probe 1-Ag NCs (A) and p53 probe 1/p53-Ag NCs (B), (a) the response of the instrument (red curve), DNA-Ag NCs (black curve) and the fitted curve (green curve), (b) The weighted residuals time scan of the fitted curve (excitation at 405 nm and emission at 600 nm).



**Figure S5** (A) The fluorescent emission spectra of DNA-Ag NCs synthesized in 1% fetal bovine serum samples are recorded with different concentrations of target p53. The concentration of the p53 probe 1 used is all 2.5  $\mu$ M. (B) The relationship between the fluorescence intensity and the concentration of target. (C) The linear relationship between the fluorescence intensity and the concentration of p53 gene ranging from 250 to 2500 nM. The error bars are obtained according to three independent experimental results.