

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

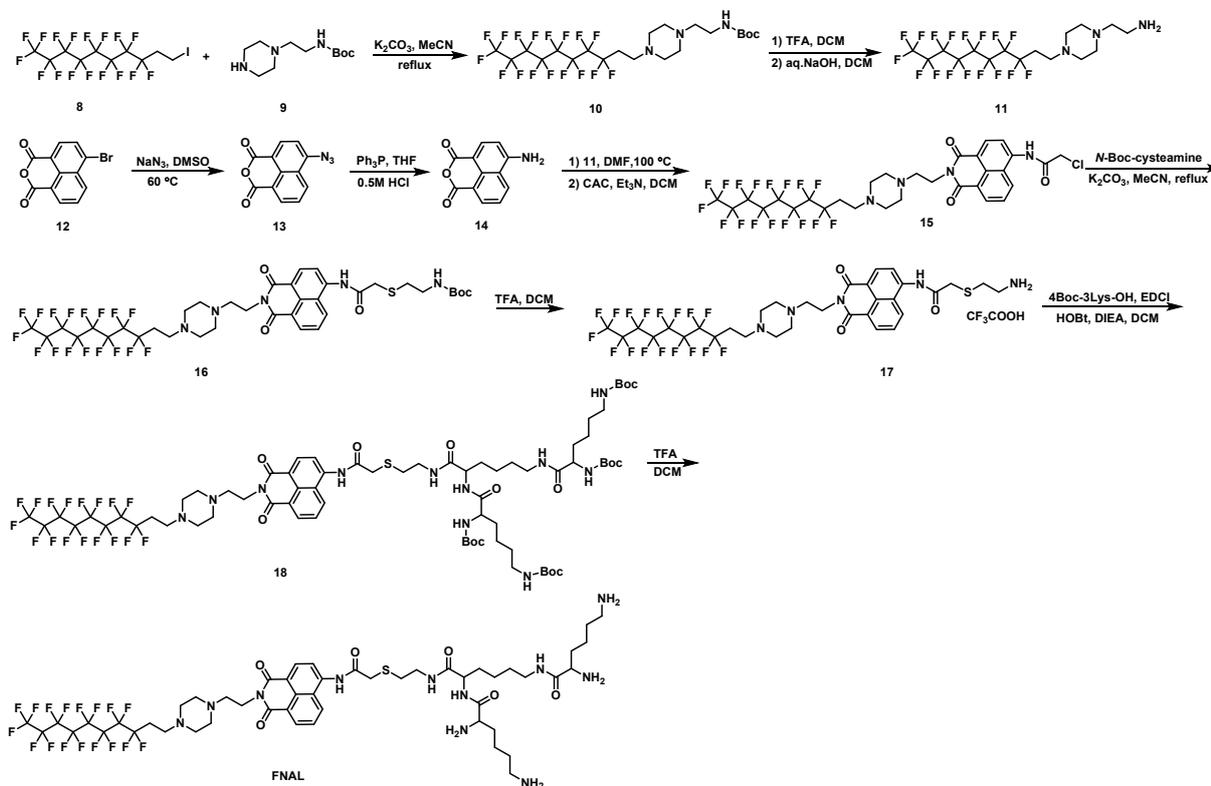
**Reduction-responsive liposomal nanocarrier with self-reporting
ability for efficient gene delivery**

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1. Synthesis of FNAL



Scheme 1S. Synthetic routes of target lipid FNAL.

Preparation of compound 10

The synthetic procedure is similar to compound 5. To the solution of compound 9 (0.50 g, 2.18 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.45 g, 3.27 mmol), and MeCN (50 mL) was added 1H,1H,2H,2H-Heptadecafluoro-1-iododecane (1.50 g, 2.62 mmol). The heterogeneous mixture was refluxed for 12 h. After filtration, the solvent was evaporated off, and residues were purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EA/DCM = 1/2 to 2/1) to yield pure compound 10 (0.72 g, 49%) as white solid.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, δ): 1.45 (s, 9H, -Boc), 2.20-2.37 (m, 2H, -CF₂CH₂CH₂-), 2.38-2.60 (m, 10H, -CH₂N(CH₂CH₂)₂NCH₂CH₂-), 2.63-2.72 (m, 2H, -N(CH₂CH₂)₂NCH₂CH₂-), 3.14-3.28 (m, 2H, -N(CH₂CH₂)₂NCH₂CH₂-).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, δ): 28.4, 28.8, 37.1, 49.3, 52.7, 52.8, 52.9, 57.0, 79.2, 155.9.

HR-MS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₁H₂₆F₁₇N₃O₂ [M+H]⁺ 676.1826, found 676.1821.

Preparation of compound 11

Firstly, compound **10** was deprotected the Boc group following the procedure used in preparation of compound **6**. Then, the obtained white solid (trifluoroacetate) was alkalized by aq. NaOH to free the trifluoroacetic acid. Briefly, the solid was suspended in 50 mL DCM, and then aqueous NaOH (5 equiv., NaOH/H₂O=1/2, w/w) was added. The mixture was stirred for 5 minutes and then the organic layer was separated and dried with Na₂SO₄. After filtration, the solvent was evaporated off, and the product was used directly.

Preparation of compound 15

To a solution of compound **14** (0.17 g, 0.78 mmol) in DMF (50 ml) was added compound **11** (0.45 g, 0.78 mmol). After the reaction mixture was reacted at 100 °C overnight, the residue was cooled to room temperature, concentrated to afford an orange solid, which was further purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EA/DCM = 1/1, then EA/DCM/THF=1/1/0.3) to yield orange solid products (0.47 g, 78%). The obtained solid was used immediately to the next reaction. 30 mL anhydrous DCM was added to the round bottom flask with the obtained orange solid (0.24 g, 0.31 mmol), then Et₃N (86 μL, 0.62 mmol) and chloroacetyl chloride (50 μL, 0.62 mmol) was added. After the stirring at room temperature overnight, the mixture was then washed with H₂O (50 mL), saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (50 mL) and saturated brine (50 mL). The organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated to afford an orange solid, which was further purified by column chromatography on silica gel (DCM/MeOH=100/1 to 50/1) to yield compound **15** as orange solid (0.17 g, 84%).

¹H NMR (CDCl₃ and three drop CD₃OD, 400 MHz, δ): 2.21-2.34 (m, 2H, -CF₂CH₂CH₂-), 2.39-2.74 (m, 12H, -CH₂N(CH₂CH₂)₂NCH₂-), 4.30 (t, 2H, *J*= 6.8 Hz, -N(CH₂CH₂)₂NCH₂CH₂-), 4.35 (s, 2H, -CH₂Cl), 7.79 (t, 1H, *J*=8.4 Hz, Ar-H), 8.20-8.38 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 8.53-8.61 (m, 2H, Ar-H).

HR-MS (ESI): Calcd for C₃₀H₂₄ClF₁₇N₄O₃ [M+H]⁺ 847.1338, found 847.1340.

Preparation of compound 16

To the solution of compound **15** (0.16 g, 0.19 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.05 g, 0.38 mmol), and MeCN (20 mL) was added *N*-Boc-cysteamine (0.07 g, 0.38 mmol). The heterogeneous mixture was refluxed for 12 h. After filtration, the solvent was evaporated off, and residues were purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EA/DCM = 1/4 to 1/1) to yield pure compound **16** (0.16 g, 85%) as orange solid.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, δ): 1.37 (s, 9H, -Boc), 2.18-2.37 (m, 2H, -CF₂CH₂CH₂-), 2.39-2.74 (m, 12H, -CH₂N(CH₂CH₂)₂NCH₂-), 2.85 (t, 2H, -SCH₂CH₂NH-), 3.37-3.47 (m, 2H, -SCH₂CH₂NH-), 4.35 (s, 2H, -CH₂S-), 4.33 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz, -N(CH₂CH₂)₂NCH₂CH₂-), 7.81 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, Ar-H), 8.20-8.48 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 8.58-8.64 (m, 2H, Ar-H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, δ): 23.4, 23.6, 24.0, 28.6, 32.2, 34.8, 44.4, 44.5, 48.3, 48.4, 50.7, 75.3, 114.1, 118.5, 119.2, 121.8, 122.1, 124.1, 126.5, 127.5, 133.5, 158.8, 159.3, 162.6.

HR-MS (ESI): Calcd for C₃₇H₃₈F₁₇N₅O₅S [M+H]⁺ 988.2395, found 988.2401.

Preparation of compound 17

Compound **16** was deprotected the Boc group following the procedure used in preparation of compound **6**, and the obtained compound **17** was used directly.

Preparation of compound 18

Compound **17** (0.20 g, 0.16 mmol) was added to the anhydrous DCM solution (50mL) of 4Boc-3Lys-OH (0.19 g, 0.24 mmol), EDCI (0.05 g, 0.24 mmol), HOBt (0.04 g, 0.24 mmol) and DIEA (0.08 g, 0.64 mmol) after activation in ice-salt-bath for 1 h and then the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The mixture was then washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (2 × 50 mL) and saturated brine (50 mL). The organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated to afford an oil solid, which was further purified by column chromatography on silica gel (DCM/MeOH=100/1 to 20/1) to yield compound **18** as yellowish solid (0.18 g, 45%).

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, δ): 1.17-1.53 (m, 42H, -Boc, -NHCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH-), 1.54-2.04 (m, 12H, -NHCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH-), 2.20-2.38 (m, 2H, -CF₂CH₂CH₂-), 2.51 (s, 4H, -N(CH₂CH₂)₂NCH₂CH₂-), 2.59-2.79 (m, 8H, -SCH₂CH₂NH-, -CH₂N(CH₂CH₂)₂NCH₂CH₂-), 2.82-2.90 (m, 2H, -CH₂N(CH₂CH₂)₂NCH₂CH₂-) 2.95-3.17 (m, 6H, -NHCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH-), 3.41-3.71 (m, 4H, -CH₂S-, -SCH₂CH₂NH-), 3.95-4.37 (m, 5H, -N(CH₂CH₂)₂NCH₂CH₂N-, -CH(NH)CO-), 7.73-7.81 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.36-8.63 (m, 4H, Ar-H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, δ): 22.6, 28.3, 28.4, 28.8, 29.0, 29.7, 37.3, 49.2, 52.9, 53.0, 55.5, 79.3, 80.0, 118.7, 123.0, 126.6, 128.9, 131.2, 132.2, 156.3, 163.6, 164.2.

¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 Hz, δ): -80.7 (t, 3F, CF₃-), -114.0 (m, 2F, -CF₂-), -121.8 (m, 6F, -(CF₂)₃-), -122.7 (m, 2F, -CF₂-), -123.4 (m, 2F, -CF₂-), 126.1 (m, 2F, -CF₂-).

HR-MS (ESI): Calcd for C₇₀H₉₆F₁₇N₁₁O₁₄S [M+H+Na]²⁺ 847.8354, found 847.8355.

Preparation of target lipid FNAL

The final lipid FNAL were synthesized by Boc deprotection procedure described in preparation of compound **6** with yield of 95%.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, δ): 1.31-1.94 (m, 18H, $-\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}-$), 2.40-2.55 (m, 2H, $-\text{CF}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$), 2.78-3.02 (m, 10H, $-\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{N}-$), 3.12-3.30 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{N}-$), 3.33-3.53 (m, 6H, $-\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}-$), 3.60 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{S}-$), 3.77-3.95 (m, 4H, $2(\text{NH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}-)_2$), 4.03-4.11 ($-\text{CH}(\text{NH})\text{CO}-$), 4.20-4.30 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}(\text{NH}_2)\text{CO}-$), 4.50 (t, 2H, $J=5.6$ Hz, $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}-$), 7.84 (t, 1H, $J=7.6$ Hz, Ar-H), 8.19-8.37 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.51-8.63 (m, 3H, Ar-H).

^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, δ): 21.5, 26.5, 26.7, 28.5, 30.5, 30.7, 34.8, 38.8, 49.6, 51.8, 52.8, 54.8, 114.9, 117.8, 118.6, 120.6, 120.7, 122.4, 126.5, 128.8, 128.9, 131.3, 131.6, 139.9, 168.5, 170.5, 172.6.

^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 Hz, δ): -82.3 (t, 3F, CF_3-), -114.8 (m, 2F, $-\text{CF}_2-$), -121.8 (m, 6F, $-\text{CF}_2-$), -123.7 (m, 2F, $-\text{CF}_2-$), -124.3 (m, 2F, $-\text{CF}_2-$), 127.2 (m, 2F, $-\text{CF}_2-$).

HR-MS (ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{50}\text{H}_{68}\text{F}_{17}\text{N}_{11}\text{O}_7\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+2\text{H}]^{2+}$ 636.7396, found 636.7395.

2. Supplementary figures

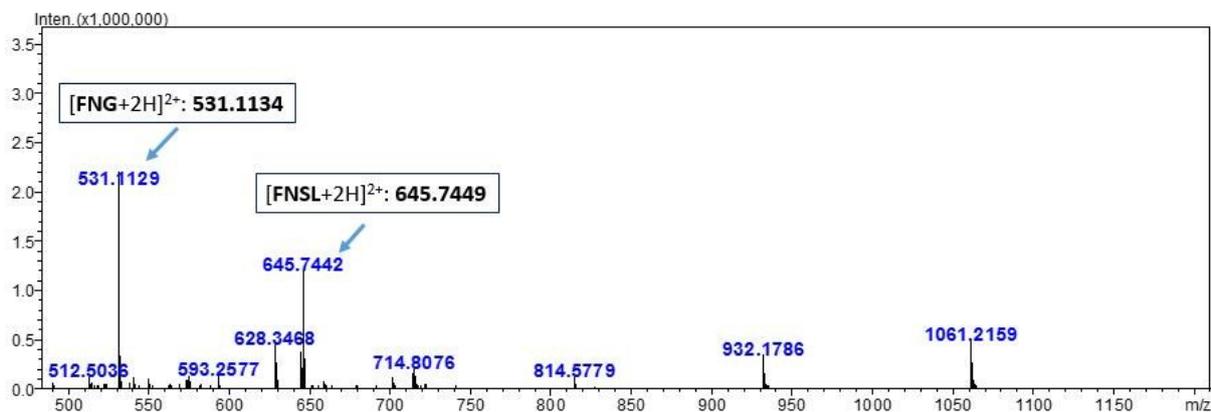


Fig. S1 ESI Mass spectrometry of FNSL incubated with GSH (10 mM) after 12 h.

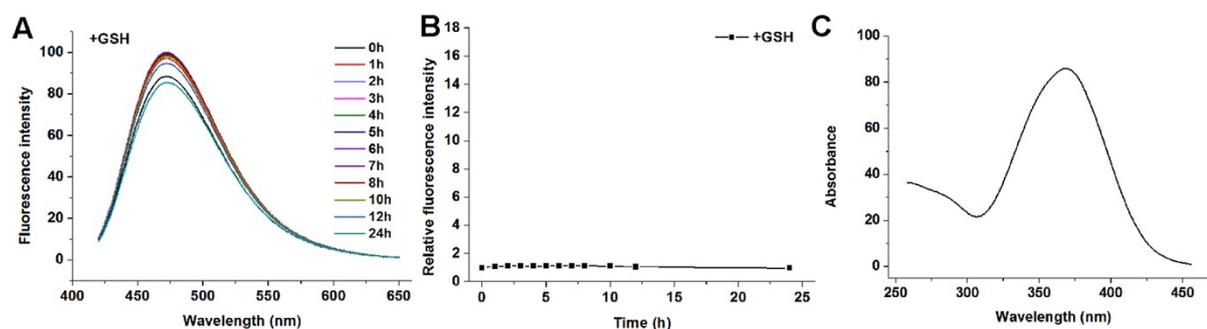


Fig. S2 Time-dependent fluorescent spectra of FNAL liposome (20 μM) with 5 mM GSH (A); The relative fluorescence intensity of FNAL liposome at 470 nm with GSH ($\lambda_{ex} = 370$ nm) (B); The absorption spectra of FNAL (20 μM) in the presence of 5 mM GSH at 12 h (C).

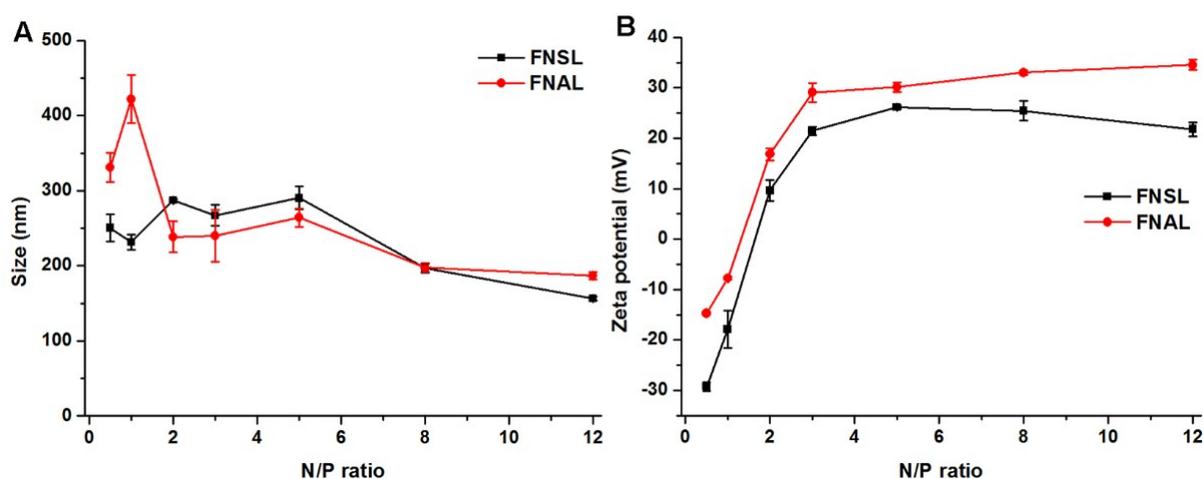


Fig. S3 Particle sizes (A) and zeta-potentials (B) of lipoplexes obtained at various N/P ratios in 10 mM of HEPES solution (pH = 7.4) by dynamic light scattering (DLS). Data represent mean \pm SD (n = 3).

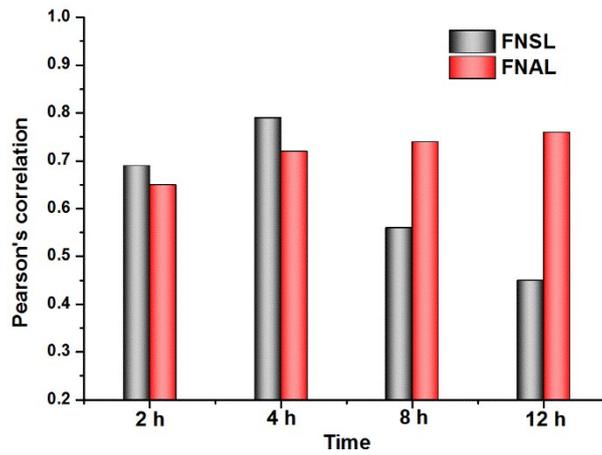


Fig. S4 The colocalization analysis for Fig. 6.

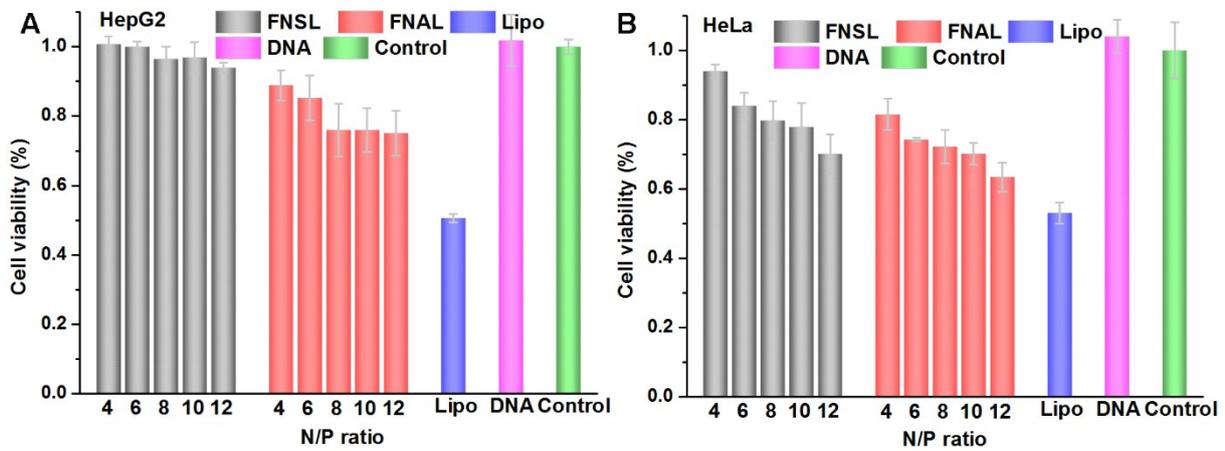


Fig. S5 Cytotoxicity of lipoplexes at various N/P ratios against HepG2 (A) and HeLa cells (B). The percentage of cell viability was expressed relative to blank control cells. Lipo and naked DNA were used as controls.

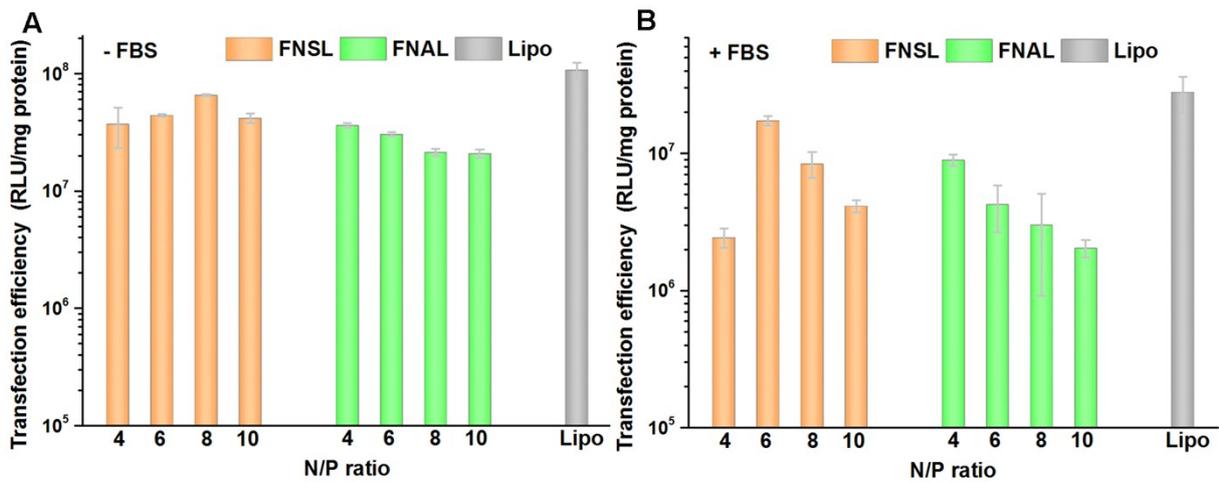


Fig. S6 Luciferase expression induced by lipoplexes at various N/P ratios in HeLa cells without (A) or with (B) 10% serum. Lipo 2000 was used as control.

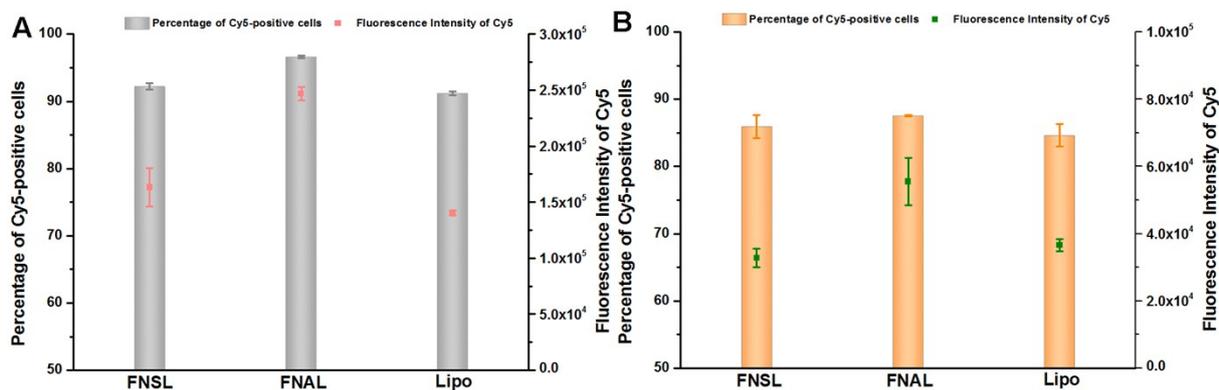


Fig. S7 Cellular uptake of lipoplexes (N/P = 8) in HepG2 (A) and HeLa cells (B) quantified by flow cytometry. Data represent mean \pm SD (n = 3).

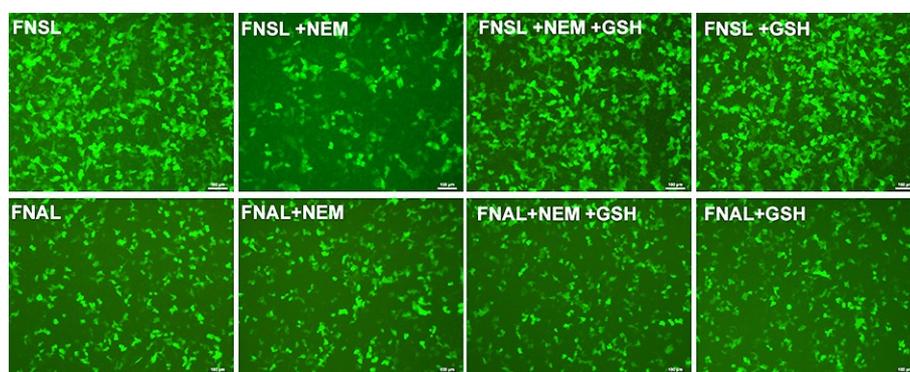


Fig. S8 Fluorescence microscopy images of eGFP expression HepG2 cells (N/P = 10) in the treatment of exogenous NEM (1 mM) or GSH (5 mM) without serum.

3. Analysis data of intermediate compounds

3: ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 400 MHz, δ): 1.17-1.40 (m, 13H, -Boc, -SO₂NHCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-), 2.65-2.92 (m, 4H, -SO₂NHCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-), 6.70-6.73 (t, 1H, *J*=5.2 Hz, Ar-H), 8.06-8.10 (t, 1H, *J*=8.4 Hz, Ar-H), 8.37-8.42 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 8.60-8.63 (m, 2H, Ar-H, -SO₂NH-), 9.09-9.11 (d, 1H, *J*=8.4 Hz, Ar-H).

¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆, 100 MHz, δ): 27.0, 28.7, 42.7, 77.8, 120.6, 123.8, 126.7, 128.9, 129.3, 131.1, 131.4, 132.2, 133.0, 142.4, 155.9, 160.3, 160.7.

HR-MS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₁H₂₄N₂O₇S [M+Na]⁺471.1196, found 471.1206.

4: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, δ): 1.41-1.51 (m, 13H, -SO₂NHCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -Boc), 2.57 (s, 4H, HN(CH₂CH₂)₂CH₂CH₂-), 2.69 (t, 2H, *J*=6.8 Hz, HN(CH₂CH₂)₂NCH₂CH₂-), 2.87 (s, 4H, HN(CH₂CH₂)₂NCH₂CH₂-), 2.96-3.10 (m, 4H, -SO₂NHCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-), 4.33 (t, 2H,

$J=6.8$ Hz, $\text{HN}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$), 7.87-7.91 (t, 1H, $J=8.0$ Hz, Ar-H), 8.40-8.42 (d, 1H, $J=7.6$ Hz, Ar-H), 8.61-8.67 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 9.06-9.08 (d, 1H, $J=8.8$ Hz, Ar-H).

^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, δ): 26.2, 27.5, 28.4, 37.5, 39.5, 43.0, 45.9, 54.4, 56.1, 79.6, 123.1, 126.5, 126.9, 128.7, 128.8, 129.0, 129.5, 131.0, 131.7, 140.9, 156.4, 163.0, 163.5.

HR-MS (ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{37}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 560.2537, found 560.2544

5: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, δ) 1.42-1.51 (m, 13H, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, -Boc), 2.20-2.37 (m, 2H, $-\text{CF}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$), 2.49 (s, 4H, $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$), 2.58-2.75 (m, 8H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$), 2.98-3.10 (m, 4H, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$), 4.34 (t, 2H, $J=6.8$ Hz, $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}-$), 7.88-7.92 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.42-8.44 (d, 1H, $J=8.0$ Hz, Ar-H), 8.62-8.69 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 9.06-9.08 (d, 1H, $J=8.4$ Hz, Ar-H).

^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, δ): 26.1, 27.6, 28.3, 28.6, 28.8, 29.0, 37.3, 39.5, 43.1, 49.3, 53.0, 53.1, 55.4, 79.6, 123.2, 126.6, 126.9, 128.8, 128.9, 129.1, 129.5, 131.0, 131.7, 140.8, 156.4, 163.0, 163.5.

HR-MS (ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{40}\text{F}_{17}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 1006.2501, found 1006.2506.

7: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, δ): 1.25-1.60 (m, 46H, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, -Boc, $-\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}-$), 1.62-1.95 (m, 12H, $-\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}-$), 2.19-2.33 (m, 2H, $-\text{CF}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$), 2.49 (s, 4H, $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$), 2.57-2.84 (m, 6H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$), 2.87-3.36 (m, 10H, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}-$), 3.99-4.36 (m, 5H, $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{NH})\text{CO}-$), 7.83-7.90 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.38-8.44 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.60-8.69 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 9.15 (d, 2H, $J=8.4$ Hz, Ar-H).

^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, δ): 22.6, 28.3, 28.4, 28.8, 37.6, 38.4, 39.7, 39.9, 42.9, 49.2, 53.0, 53.1, 55.4, 77.2, 79.2, 123.0, 123.1, 126.3, 127.0, 127.1, 128.6, 128.7, 129.0, 129.6, 131.7, 141.1, 141.3, 156.2, 163.1, 163.6, 163.7.

^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 Hz, δ): -80.8 (t, 3F, CF_3-), -114.0 (m, 2F, $-\text{CF}_2-$), -121.8 (m, 6F, $-(\text{CF}_2)_3-$), -122.7 (m, 2F, $-\text{CF}_2-$), -123.5 (m, 2F, $-\text{CF}_2-$), 126.1 (m, 2F, $-\text{CF}_2-$).

HR-MS (ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{70}\text{H}_{100}\text{F}_{17}\text{N}_{11}\text{O}_{15}\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}+\text{Na}]^{2+}$ 856.8407, found 856.8412.

4. NMR spectra

