## **Supporting Information**

## **Enhancing Hydrophilicity of Photoacoustic Probes for Effective Ratiometric Imaging of Hydrogen Peroxide**

Xiaomei Lu, <sup>a</sup> Meng Zhao, <sup>a</sup> Pengfei Chen, <sup>a</sup> Quli Fan, \*, <sup>b</sup> Wenjun Wang, <sup>c</sup> and Wei Huang, <sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Key Laboratory of Flexible Electronics (KLOFE) & Institute of Advanced Materials (IAM), Jiangsu

National Synergetic Innovation Center for Advanced Materials (SICAM), Nanjing Tech University

(NanjingTech), 30 South Puzhu Road, Nanjing 211816, China;

bKey Laboratory for Organic Electronics and Information Displays & Jiangsu Key Laboratory for Biosensors, Institute of Advanced Materials (IAM), Jiangsu National Synergetic Innovation Center for Advanced Materials (SICAM), Nanjing University of Posts & Telecommunications, 9 Wenyuan Road, Nanjing 210023, China. E-mail: iamqlfan@njupt.edu.cn;

<sup>c</sup>Key Lab of Optical Communication Science and Technology of Shandong Province & School of

Physics Science and Information Engineering, Liaocheng University, Liaocheng 252059;

<sup>d</sup>Shaanxi Institute of Flexible Electronics (SIFE), Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU), 127

West Youyi Road, Xi'an 710072, Shaanxi, China.

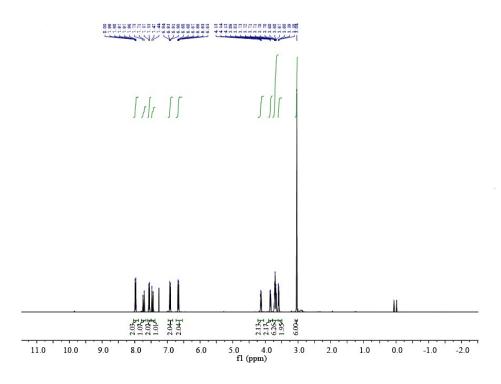
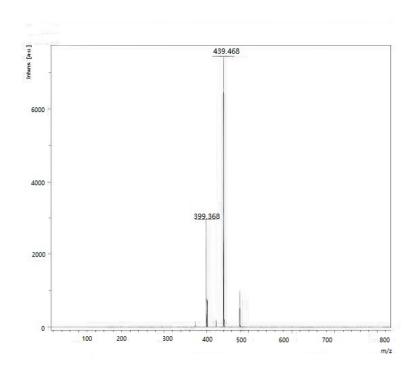


Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound 2a in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S2.** MALDI-TOF-MS of compound 2a.

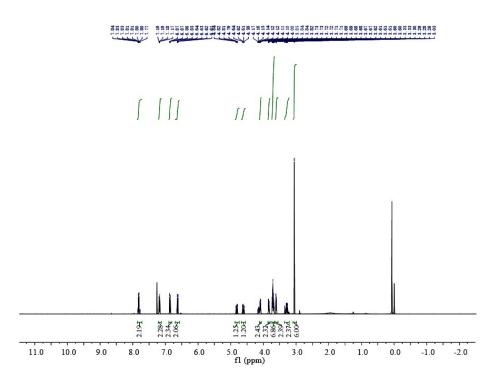


Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound 3a in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

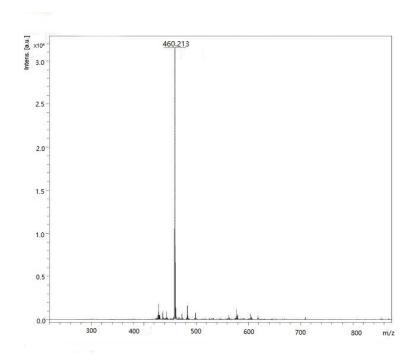
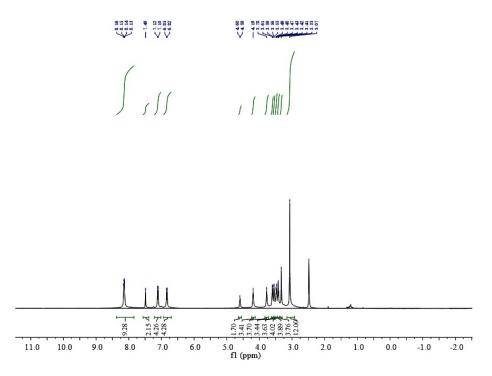


Figure S4. MALDI-TOF-MS of compound 3a.



**Figure S5.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound 4a in DMSO-d6.

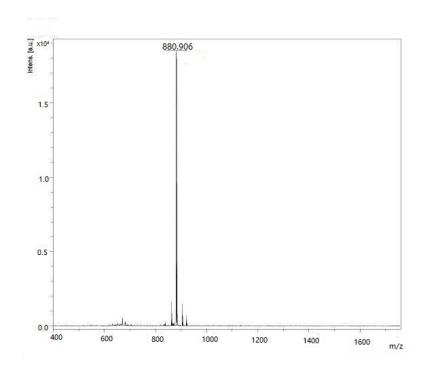
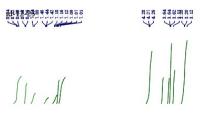
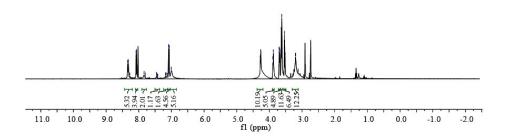
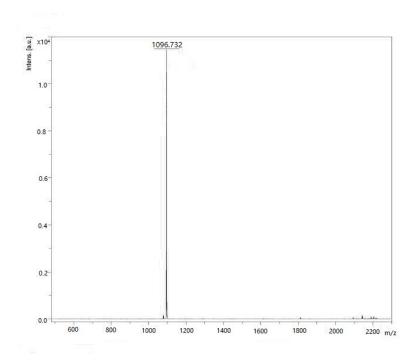


Figure S6. MALDI-TOF-MS of compound 4a.

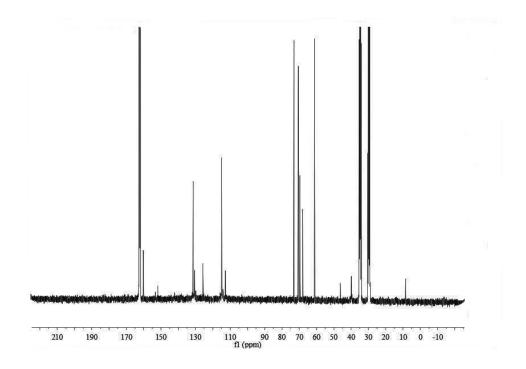




**Figure S7.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 5a in DMF-d7.



**Figure S8.** MALDI-TOF-MS of compound 5a.



**Figure S9.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 5a in DMF-d7.

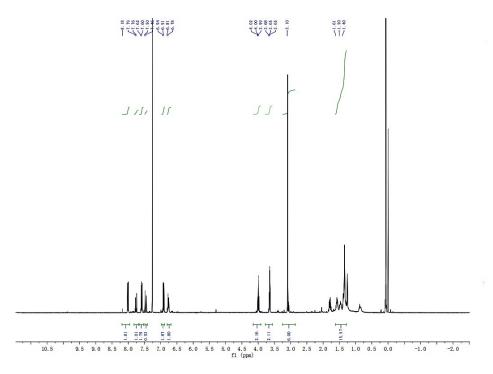
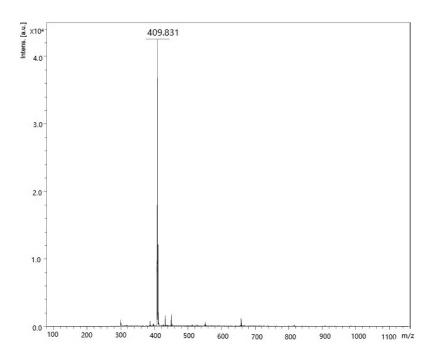


Figure S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 2b in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S11.** MALDI-TOF-MS of compound 2b.

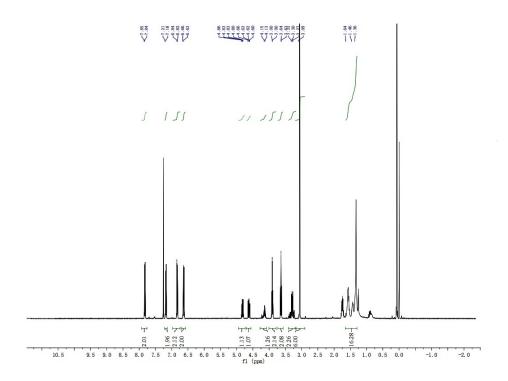
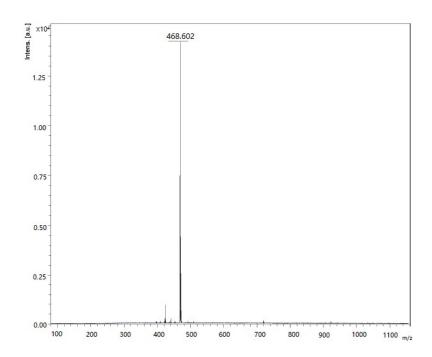


Figure S12. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 3b in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S13.** MALDI-TOF-MS of compound 3b.

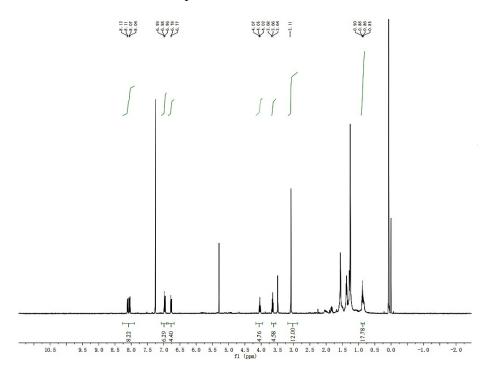
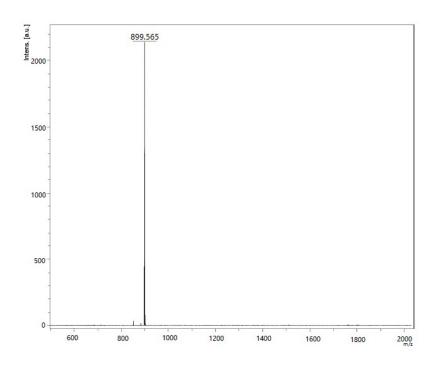
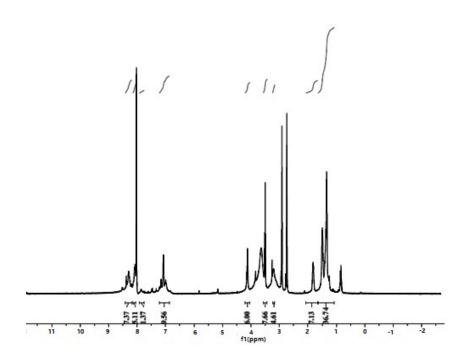


Figure S14. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 4b in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S15.** MALDI-TOF-MS of compound 4b.



**Figure S16.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 5b in DMF-d7.

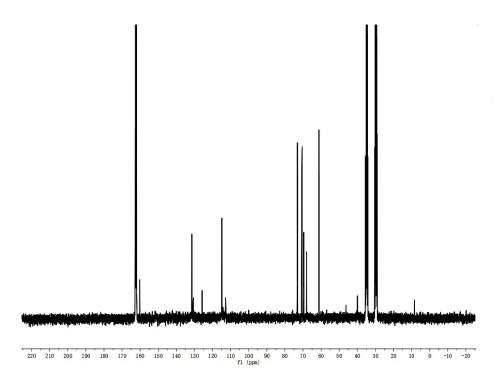


Figure S17. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 5b in DMF-d7.

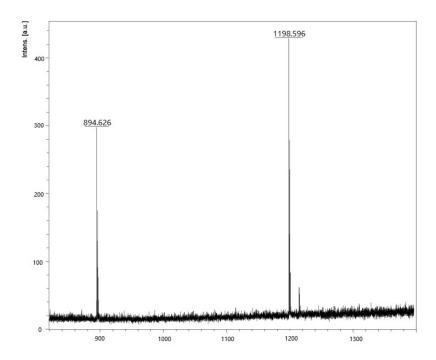


Figure S18. MALDI-TOF-MS of the Alk-Aza-BODIPY-BAPE probe in THF treated by  $H_2O_2$ .

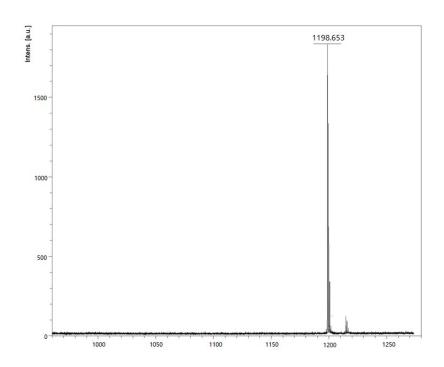
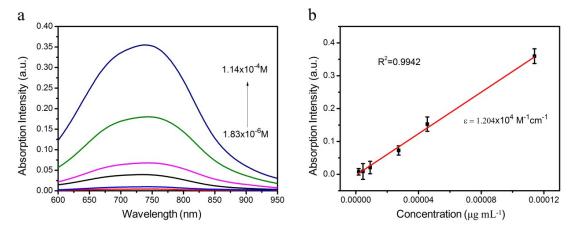
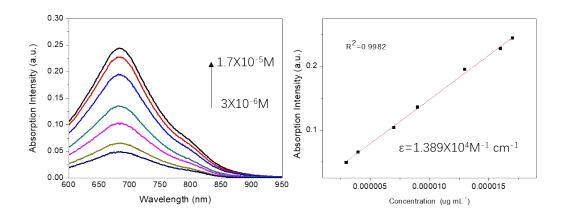


Figure S19. MALDI-TOF-MS of the Alk-Aza-BODIPY-BAPE probe in THF treated by ONOO.



**Figure S20.** a) Absorption spectra of the OEG-Aza-BODIPY-BAPE probe with a series of concentrations in  $1 \times PBS$  (pH = 7.4). b) The plot of optical density at 720 nm versus concentration. The straight line is liner least-squares fit to the data.



**Figure S21.** a) Absorption spectra of the Alk-Aza-BODIPY-BAPE probe with a series of concentrations in  $1 \times PBS$  (pH = 7.4). b) The plot of optical density at 700 nm versus concentration. The straight line is liner least-squares fit to the data.

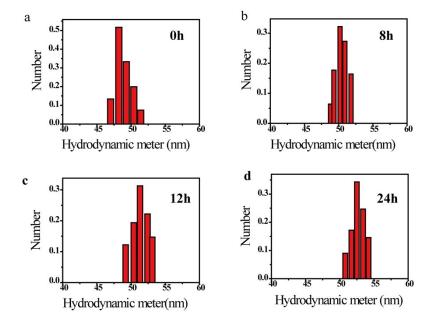
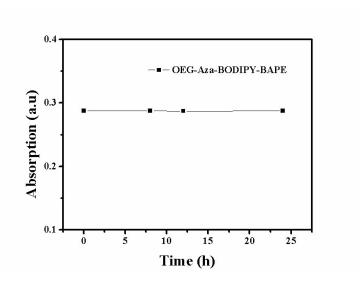
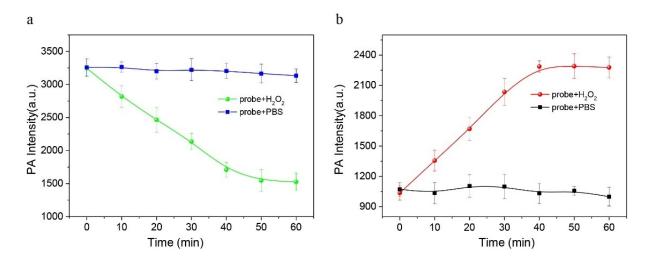


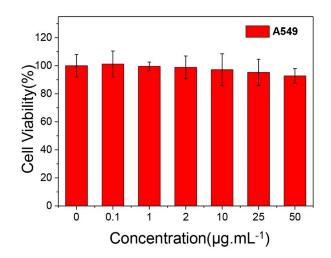
Figure S22. Hydrodynamic size change of OEG-Aza-BODIPY-BAPE NPs in PBS at different time.



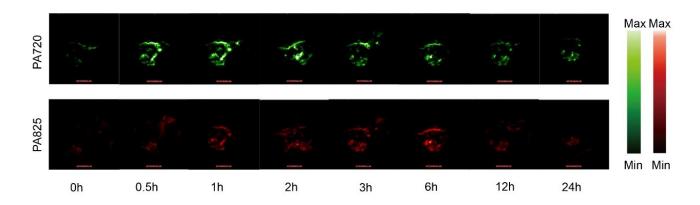
**Figure S23.** Absorption spectrum of OEG-Aza-BODIPY-BAPE in H<sub>2</sub>O with 24 h.



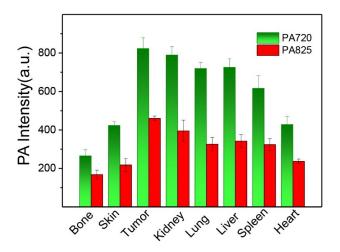
**Figure S24.** a) The PA intensity of the OEG-Aza-BODIPY-BAPE probe at 720 nm in the presence of  $H_2O_2$  (green line) and PBS (blue line) in 1 × PBS (pH = 7.4). b) The PA intensity of the probe at 825 nm in the presence of  $H_2O_2$  (red line) and PBS (black line) in 1 × PBS (pH = 7.4). Error bars were based on error of mean (n = 3).



**Figure S25.** Cytotoxicity of A549 cells after incubation with the OEG-Aza-BODIPY-BAPE probe with different concentrations for 24 h.



**Figure S26.** Representative PA images of tumor in a nude mice before and 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 6, 12, 24 h after the injection of the OEG-Aza-BODIPY-BAPE probe (200  $\mu$ L, 100  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup>).



**Figure S27.** *Ex vivo* PA quantification of major organs of mice after systemic administration of the OEG-Aza-BODIPY-BAPE probe at 720 nm and 825 nm. Error bars were based on error of mean (n = 3).