# Supporting Information

# A new GFP fluorophore-based probe for lysosomes labelling and

## tracing lysosomal viscosity in live cells

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1. Comparison between the absorption and emission of HBDI and Lys-V

**Figure S1**. The normalized absorption and emission of HBDI and **Lys-V** in water (pH 7.0, containing 1% DMSO).



**Figure S2.** (a) Normalized UV-Vis absorption and (b) normalized fluorescence spectra of the probe Lys-V (10  $\mu$ M) in different solvents.



3. pH Titration.

**Figure S3.** (a) UV-Vis absorption and (b) fluorescence spectra of the probe Lys-V (10  $\mu$ M) in different pH aqueous solutions. The pH was adjusted by addition of HCl (0.1 M) and NaOH (0.1 M).  $\lambda_{ex} = 430$  nm.

#### 4. Temperature Measurement



**Figure S4.** Temperature-varied fluorescence spectra of the probe Lys-V (10  $\mu$ M) in water/glycerol (5/95) solution.  $\lambda_{ex} = 430$  nm, pH = 7.0.



**Figure S5.** Fluorescence spectra of the probe Lys-V (10  $\mu$ M) in (a) water and (c) glycerol at different temperature (20°C, 30°C, 40°C, 50°C). Fluorescence intensity maxima (515 nm) in (b) water and (d) glycerol.  $\lambda_{ex} = 430$  nm, pH = 7.0.

#### 5. Viscosity Measurement at different pH values



**Figure S6.** (a-f) Fluorescence spectra of the probe Lys-V (10  $\mu$ M) in different pH aqueous buffer solutions at various viscosities, (a) 7.90 cP, (b) 32.50 cP, (c) 78.90 cP, (d) 140.60 cP, (e) 246.70 cP, (f) 438.40 cP.  $\lambda_{ex} = 430$  nm.



**Figure S7.** Fluorescence spectrum of Lys-V (10  $\mu$ M) with increasing of solvents viscosity (from 7.9 cP to 438.4 cP, pH 4.0, containing 1% DMSO). (Inset: linear relation between the Log FI and Log Viscosity).

 $\lambda_{ex} = 430$  nm. Temperature: 25°C.



**Figure S8.** Fluorescence spectrum of Lys-V (10  $\mu$ M) with increasing of solvents viscosity (from 7.9 cP to 438.4 cP, pH 5.0, containing 1% DMSO). (Inset: linear relation between the Log FI and Log Viscosity).

 $\lambda_{ex} = 430$  nm. Temperature: 25°C.



### 6. MTT Assay of Lys-V

Figure S9. Cell viability of MCF-7 cells after incubation with different concentrations of Lys-V for 12

hours. (Concentration: 0  $\mu M,$  10  $\mu M,$  20  $\mu M,$  30  $\mu M,$  40  $\mu M,$  50  $\mu M).$ 



#### 7. Fluorescence Images

**Figure S10.** The Lysosome-targeting properties of probe Lys-V in live MCF-7 cells. The colocalization imaging of (a) Lys-V and (b) Lyso-Tracker Red costained living MCF-7 cells. Green image: the probe Lys-V stained signal collected from channel 1 (490 nm-610 nm). Red image: Lyso-Tracker labeled signal collected at 650 nm-800 nm (Pearson's correlation Rr = 0.933 and overlap coefficient R = 0.934). Scale bar in a) is 50 µm, in b) is 25 µm. Excited at 405 nm.

#### 8. Movie S1

The dynamic changes of intracellular lysosomal viscosity through direct observing of the fluorescence signal changes was captured by merging the fluorescence images taken from every five minutes after dexamethasone stimulation.

#### 9. HRMS and NMR Spectra

#### **Elemental Composition Report**

Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 30.0 PPM // DBE: min = -1.5, max = 100.0 Element prediction: Off Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 2 Monoisotopic Mass, Even Electron Ions 31 formula(e) evaluated with 1 results within limits (up to 1 best isotopic matches for each mass) Elements Used: C: 21-31 H: 0-50 N: 0-5 O: 0-5 WP-ZHU 20-Dec-2017 21:38:48 1: TOF MS ES+ 6:68e+002 ECUST institute of Fine Chem ZWP-LXL-3 20 (0.348) Cm (19:21) 547.2919 100-548.2941 \* 512.6052 540.5380 548.3042 568.5726 581.3677 596.5783 438.1915 537.3354 619,5184 m/z 620 nih. 0-1111 470 610 450 460 T 440 480 490 500 590 600 510 520 530 540 550 560 570 580 -1.5100.0 Minimum: Maximum: 30,0 30,0 PPM DBE i-FIT (Norm) Formula Mass Calc. Mass nDa 1-FIT 547.2919 547.2920 -0.1 -0.1 14.5 7.4 0.0 C31 H39 N4 O5

Figure S11. HRMS of Lys-V.



Figure S12. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of Compound 1.

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Figure S13.<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (101MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of Compound 1.



Figure S14. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of Compound HBDI.



Figure S15.<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (101MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of Compound HBDI.



Figure S16. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of Compound 3.



Figure S17.<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (101MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectrum of Compound 3.



Figure S18.<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of Compound Lys-V.



Figure S19. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (101MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of Compound Lys-V.