

Supplementary Information

A fluorogenic probe for tracking GSH flux in developing neurons

Haichao Zong,^{‡b,c} Jiayi Peng,^{‡a} Xiao-Rong Li,^a Meng Liu,^{b,c} Yongzhou Hu,^a Jia Li,^{b,c} Yi Zang,^{b,c,*} Xin Li,^{a,*} Tony D. James^d

^a College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310058, China

^b State Key Laboratory of Drug Research, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai 201203, China

^c University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China

^d Department of Chemistry, University of Bath, Bath, BA2 7AY UK.

* To whom correspondence should be addressed: lixin81@zju.edu.cn, yzang@simm.ac.cn

‡ These authors contributed equally to this work.

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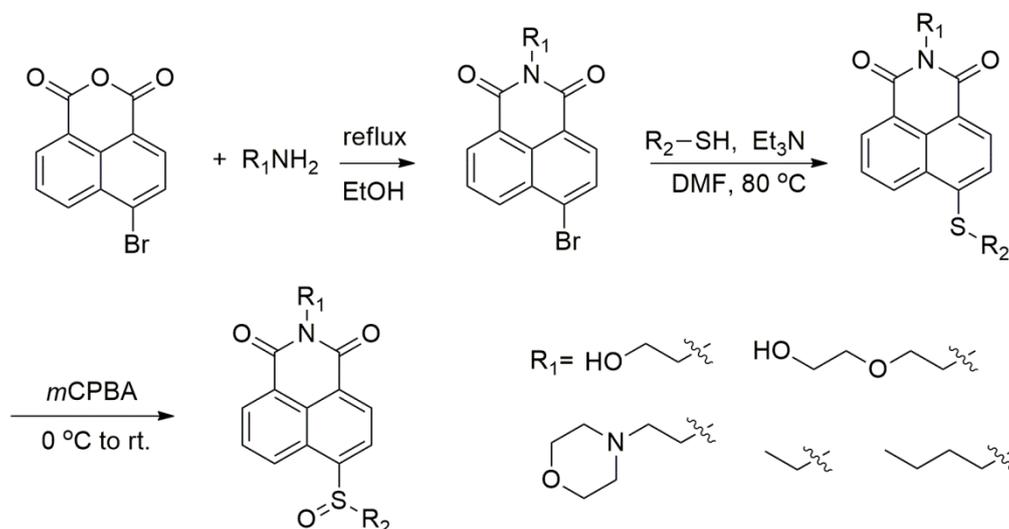
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Probe synthesis and characterization

General experimental for probe synthesis

Dry dichloromethane (DCM) was distilled from CaH_2 . Other reagents and chemicals for probe synthesis were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Reactions were run under a nitrogen atmosphere and monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) carried out on Silica gel 60 F254 plates supplied by Qingdao Puke Separation Material Corporation, and UV light was used as the visualizing agent. Flash column chromatography was performed using 200-300 mesh silica gel supplied by Qingdao Marine Chemical Factory, Qingdao, China. ^1H NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker 500 UltraShield™ Fourier transform spectrometer (500 MHz) at 25 °C. ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 500 UltraShield™ Fourier transform spectrometer (125 MHz) spectrometer. All NMR spectra were calibrated using the residual solvent (CDCl_3) as internal reference (^1H NMR = 7.26, ^{13}C NMR = 77.16). All chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm) and coupling constants (J) in Hz. The following abbreviations were used to explain the multiplicities: d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were measured on an Agilent 6224 TOF LC/MS spectrometer using ESI-TOF (electrospray ionization-time of flight). UV-Vis spectra were taken on a HITACHI U-3010 Spectrophotometer. Fluorescence measurements were conducted on an Agilent Cary Eclipse Fluorescence Spectrophotometer with slit widths to be 5 and 5 nm for excitement and emission respectively, and the photomultiplier (PMT) detector voltage was set at medium.

Scheme S1. General synthetic route of GP series of probes



Procedures for 4-bromo-1, 8-naphthalimide synthesis

To a stirred solution of 1,8-naphthalic anhydride (1.0 eq) in ethanol, was added the substituted amine (2.0 eq). The reaction was stirred under reflux and monitored by thin-layer chromatography analysis. After the disappearance of starting naphthalic anhydride which required about 3 hours, the solution was cooled to ambient temperature and poured into water to precipitate a solid, which was collected by filtration, washed with water, and dried. Purification of the crude product by flash column chromatography (SiO_2) yielded the product.

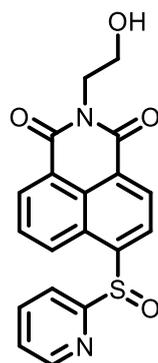
General procedures for sulfenyl naphthalimides synthesis

To a stirred solution of 4-bromo-1, 8-naphthalimide (1.0 eq) and the substituted thiophenol (5.0 eq) in 2-methoxyethanol was added triethylamine (5.0 eq) under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction was stirred under reflux and monitored by thin-layer chromatography analysis. After the disappearance of the starting naphthalimide which required about 3 hours, the solution was cooled to ambient temperature and poured into water to precipitate a solid, which was collected by filtration, washed with water, and dried. Purification of the crude product by flash column chromatography (SiO₂) to give the product.

General procedures for sulfinyl naphthalimide synthesis

To a stirred solution of the sulfenyl naphthalimide (1.0 eq) in CH₂Cl₂ at 0°C was added *m*CPBA (1.0 eq) in portions. The reaction was allowed to warm to ambient temperature by removing the ice bath. After completion as shown by thin-layer chromatography analysis which required about 1.0 hr, H₂O was added to quench the reaction and the mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂. The biphasic mixture was then transferred to a separatory funnel and the organic layer was washed sequentially with H₂O, saturated NaHCO₃ and brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The remaining residue was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO₂) to give the product.

Probe structure characterization

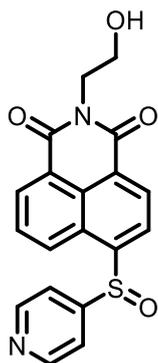


GP1

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.90 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, J = 6.9, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.59 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO): δ 164.90, 163.60, 163.36, 150.35, 147.52, 139.85, 131.62, 130.49, 130.13, 128.70, 128.28, 128.11, 126.22, 125.47, 124.25, 123.47, 119.66, 58.12, 42.46.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺ calculated:367.0753, found 367.0755.

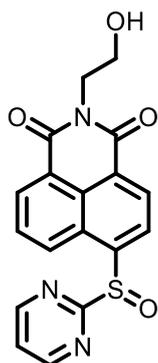


GP2

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.83 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.68 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 8.61 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.52 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 4.78 (s, 1H), 4.11 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.65 – 3.53 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 163.47, 163.25, 154.76, 151.23, 147.03, 131.68, 130.56, 129.25, 128.93, 128.35, 127.29, 125.79, 124.65, 123.75, 119.07, 58.14, 42.48.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺ calculated:367.0753, found 367.0753.

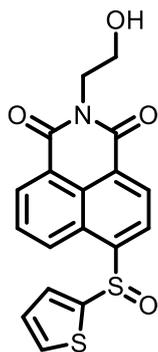


GP3

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.89 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.83 (dd, J = 8.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.62 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.52 (dd, J = 7.3, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (dd, J = 8.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.60 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO): δ 172.41, 163.55, 163.34, 160.11, 159.76, 146.35, 131.55, 130.40, 129.88, 128.81, 128.30, 127.98, 125.67, 125.55, 123.56, 123.39, 58.17, 42.49.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺ calculated:368.0705, found 368.0704.

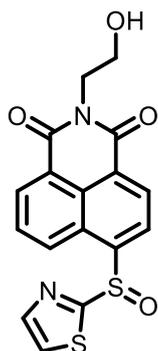


GP4

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.74 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.51 (dd, J = 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (dd, J = 3.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.92 – 7.87 (m, 2H), 7.15 (dd, J = 5.0, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (q, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO): δ 163.07, 162.92, 147.56, 145.75, 134.37, 133.60, 130.98, 130.13, 128.52, 128.03, 127.78, 127.73, 126.38, 125.02, 123.25, 122.45, 57.69, 42.03.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺ calculated: 372.0364, found 372.0369.

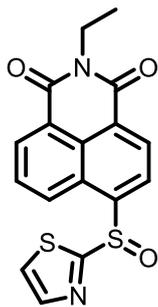


GP5

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.68 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 8.55 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.02 – 7.97 (m, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.62 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO): δ 174.02, 163.02, 162.80, 145.73, 144.61, 131.19, 130.08, 128.72, 128.55, 127.82, 126.92, 126.39, 125.45, 123.13, 123.04, 57.67, 42.03.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺ calculated: 373.0317, found 373.0318.

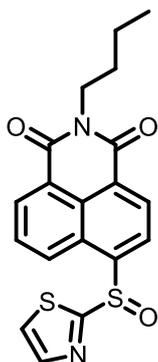


GP6

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.68 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.55 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO): δ 174.48, 163.17, 162.94, 146.28, 145.13, 131.72, 130.62, 129.29, 129.08, 128.25, 127.42, 126.95, 125.85, 123.53, 35.45, 13.45.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺ calculated:357.0368, found 357.0373.

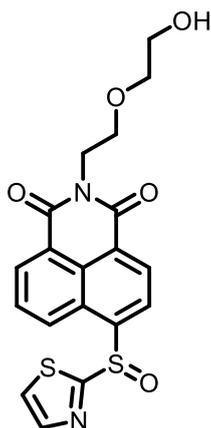


GP7

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.70 – 8.69 (m, 1H), 8.68 – 8.66 (m, 1H), 8.55 (dd, J = 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (dd, J = 8.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (dd, J = 8.2, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.60 (ddt, J = 9.0, 7.6, 3.6 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO): δ 174.50, 163.39, 163.15, 146.29, 145.12, 131.76, 130.67, 129.29, 129.07, 128.28, 127.45, 126.89, 125.81, 123.57, 123.51, 40.52, 30.00, 20.24, 14.17.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺ calculated 385.0681, found 385.0684.

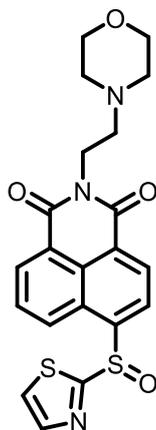


GP8

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 8.73 – 8.69 (m, 2H), 8.58 (dd, J = 7.4, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.48 (dd, J = 7.7, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.05 – 8.00 (m, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.61 – 4.55 (m, 1H), 4.23 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.64 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.43 (m, 4H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 174.48, 163.44, 163.22, 146.43, 145.14, 131.85, 130.76, 129.42, 129.12, 128.30, 127.46, 126.95, 125.74, 123.57, 123.44, 72.58, 67.24, 60.61.

ESI-MS (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated 417.0579, found 417.0581.



GP9

^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform- d): δ 8.66 (d, 1H), 8.58 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 4.76 – 4.71 (m, 2H), 4.45 – 4.38 (m, 2H), 3.74 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 2H), 3.60 – 3.56 (m, 2H), 3.36 – 3.30 (m, 4H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform- d): δ 163.74, 163.56, 159.94, 144.28, 139.53, 132.24, 131.43, 131.18, 131.15, 131.03, 128.81, 127.91, 122.96, 122.82, 122.50, 67.88, 64.84, 61.61, 34.14.

ESI-MS (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated 442.0895, found 442.0893.

Fluorescent analysis methods

Deionized water was used to prepare all aqueous solutions. All the photophysical characterization experiments were carried out at room temperature. Phosphate buffer saline (PBS,

10 mM, pH 7.4) was purged with nitrogen for 5 min before use. **GP1-GP9** was dissolved in DMSO to make a 5 mM stock solution. GSH and other reactive bio-relevant species were prepared by dissolving commercial reagents in H₂O. To test the fluorescent responses of **GP1-GP9** towards GSH or other reactive species, aliquots of probe stock solution were diluted with PBS (with 1‰ cetrimonium bromide) and treated with analytes to make sure both probes and analytes were kept at desired final concentrations. After quick and vigorous shaking, the mixture was allowed standing in the dark at room temperature for desired time and the fluorescent spectra were then recorded under excitation at 405 nm. The emission spectra were scanned from 410 to 650 nm. All fluorometric experiments were performed in triplicate, and data shown were the average.

Biological methods

Primary mouse cortex neurons culture

Primary cortex neurons were derived from embryonic 16.5 (E16.5) mouse. And the experimental methods were in accordance with the guidelines of the IACUC of Shanghai and the National Research Council Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Cortical tissues were dissected from embryos and digested in HBSS containing 0.25% trypsin at 37 °C for 15 min. Neurons were plated on poly-L-lysine-coated 96-well plates and cultured with Neurobasal medium with 2% B-27 supplement, 2 mM Glutamax, and 1% horse serum (ThermoFisher Scientific) in humidified incubator at 37 °C with 5% CO₂.

SH-SY5Y Cell culture

SH-SY5Y cells were obtained from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, VA, USA) and maintained at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO₂ in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM, Gibco, Grand Island, NY) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Gibco, Grand Island, NY), 100 U/ml penicillin, 100 µg/ml streptomycin, and 2 mM L-glutamine.

Fluorescence imaging of GSH in different cells

SH-SY5Y cells or neurons were seeded into 96-well plates microplate with optically clear bottom (Greiner bio-one, Germany) 24h at the density of 2-10 X10⁴ cells each well. For direct fluorescent quantitation, cells were incubated with probes (10µM) for 30 min in culture medium.

For endogenous GSH detection, SH-SY5Y cells were incubated with NEM (Sigma, E3876) of 100µM and 200µM for 30min and changed to fresh medium containing GP5 10µM for further 30min. For exogenous GSH detection, SH-SY5Y cells were firstly incubated with NEM (200µM) before loaded with probe GP5 (10µM) 30 min, then 100µM and 200µM GSH (Sigma, G4251) was added to fresh medium for culture another 30 min.

For detect endogenous GSH through development of cultured primary cortex neurons, GP5 (10µM) was add to culture medium for indicated time-day in vitro(DIV) 0.25, 0.5, 2, 4, 7 for staining 30min. Before that, all neurons were placed in normal conditional medium for development.

After treatment with probe, all above were washed with PBS twice before image. The fluorescence images were recorded by Operetta high content imaging system (PerkinElmer, USA) at the excitation wavelengths of 360-440nm. The fluorescence was quantified by columbus

analysis system (Perkinelmer, US).

Cell viability assay

Cell viability was detected by MTS assay as the guidelines. Briefly, cultured cells were added 10 μL per well of MTS/PMS (20:1, Promega Corp) solution each well containing 100 μL of culture medium. After incubation at 37 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ under 5% CO_2 for 4 h in cell incubator, the absorbance of the solutions was measured at 490 nm by an M5 microplate reader (Molecular Device, USA).

Neuron polarity quantification and analysis

For the determination of polarized neurons, neuron was plated onto each well in low density of 2×10^4 cells for 8h with conditional medium. Then cultured medium was change to fresh containing 100 μM BSO. After treatment with or without BSO 40h, the cultured primary cortex neurons were staining with GP5 and photo as described above. Neuronal polarity was assessed by determining the percentage of polarized cells within 15 images in 3 wells taken at 40X magnification. A polarized neuron was considered if the longest neurite was least twice as long as any sister neurite.

Statistical analysis

Unpaired T-test was performed to analyze the results using GraphPad Prism software. Results (Fig. 4-7) are presented as mean \pm S.D. Statistical significance was determined at $P < 0.05$ (*); $P < 0.01$ (**); $P < 0.001$ (***).

Supplementary Figures

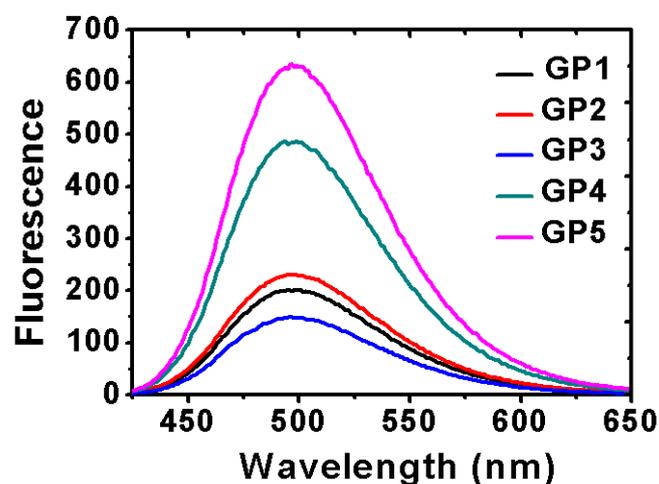


Fig. S1 Fluorescence spectra of GP1-GP5 (5 μM) after being treated with GSH (2 mM, 60 min) in PBS (10 mM, pH7.4).

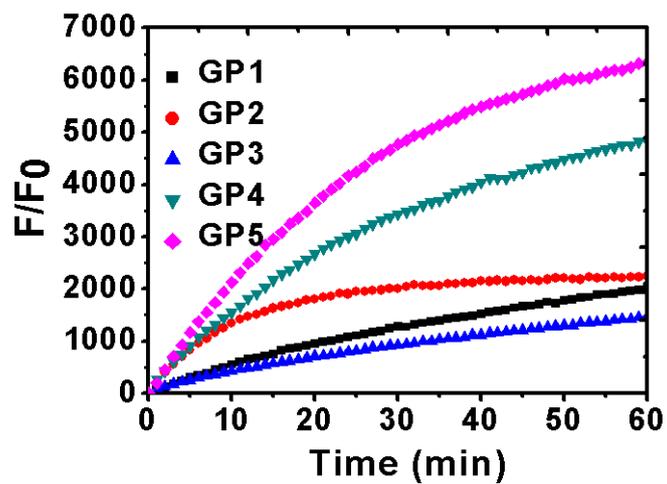


Fig. S2 Time-dependent fluorescence changes of probe GP1-GP5 in response to GSH (2 mM). F_0 represents probe emission at 496 nm before the addition of GSH.

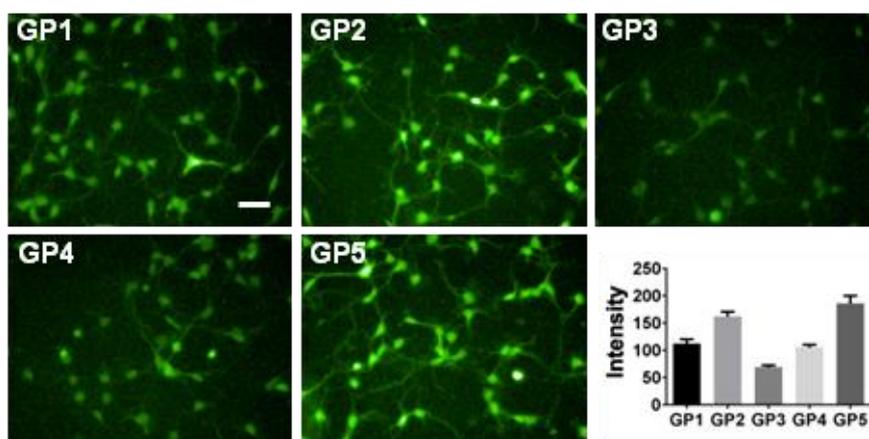


Fig. S3 Imaging GSH in primary cortex neurons (DIV2) with GP1-GP5, and the sensitivity comparison.

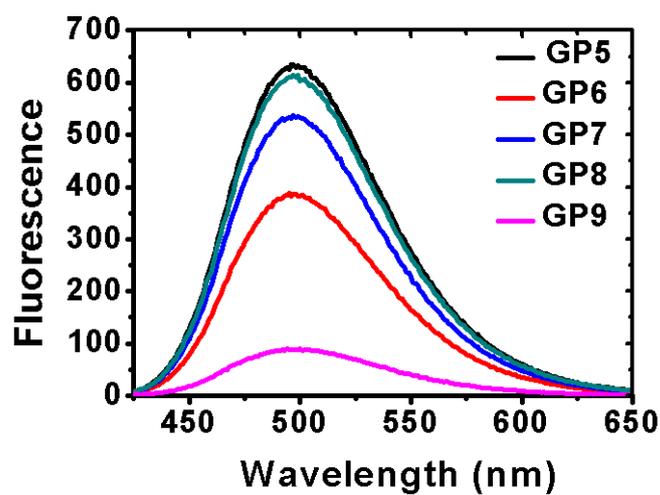


Fig. S4 Fluorescence spectra of GP5-GP9 (5 μ M) after being treated with GSH (2 mM, 60 min) in PBS (10 mM, pH7.4).

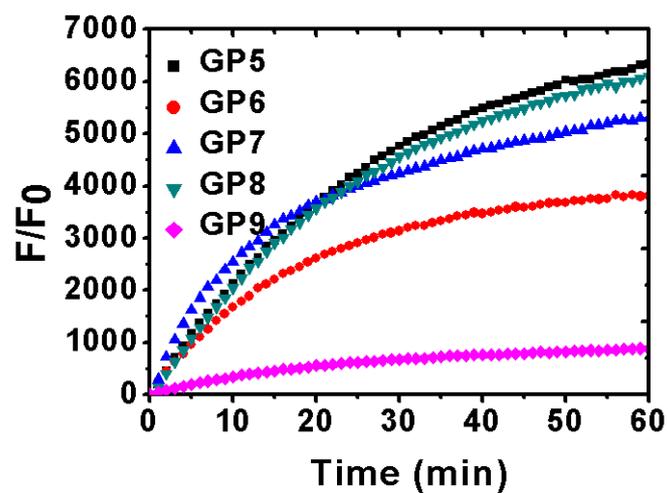


Fig. S5 Time-dependent fluorescence intensity change of probe **GP5-GP9** in response to GSH (2 mM). F_0 represents probe emission at 496 nm before treatment with GSH.

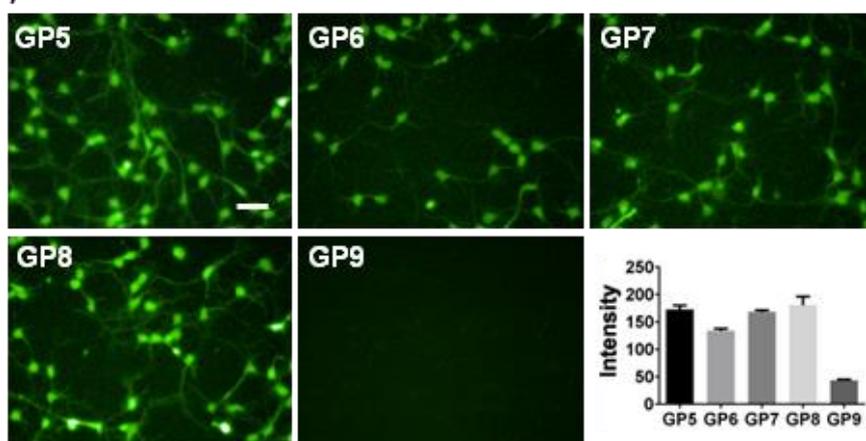


Fig. S6 Imaging GSH in primary cortex neurons (DIV2) with **GP5-GP9**, and the sensitivity comparison.

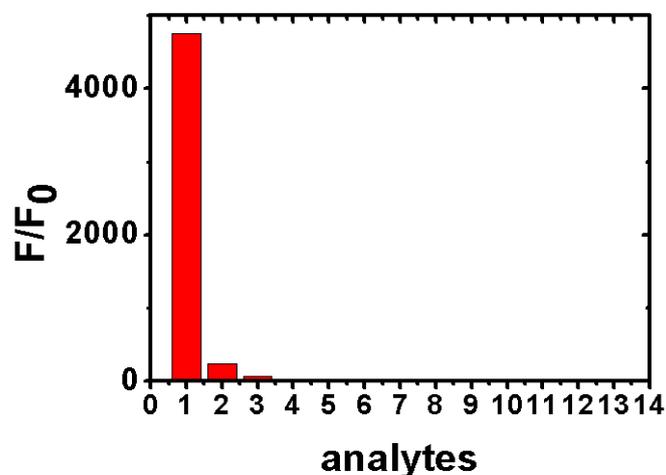


Fig. S7 Fluorescence changes of **GP5** in response to various analytes. Aliquots of **GP5** (5 μM) in PBS were incubated with various analytes for 60 min, then its intensity at 496 nm was measured. The analytes tested were 1) GSH; 2) Cys; 3) Hcy; 4) Ala; 5) Gly; 6) H_2O_2 ; 7) ONOO^- ; 8) NO_2^- ; 9) Fe^{3+} ; 10) Cu^{2+} ; 11) Ca^{2+} ; 12) $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$; 13) SO_4^{2-} ; 14) SO_3^{2-} . All analytes were kept at or above their biologically relevant concentrations (All were 500 μM except ONOO^- (20 μM), Cys (300 μM) and Hcy (15 μM)).

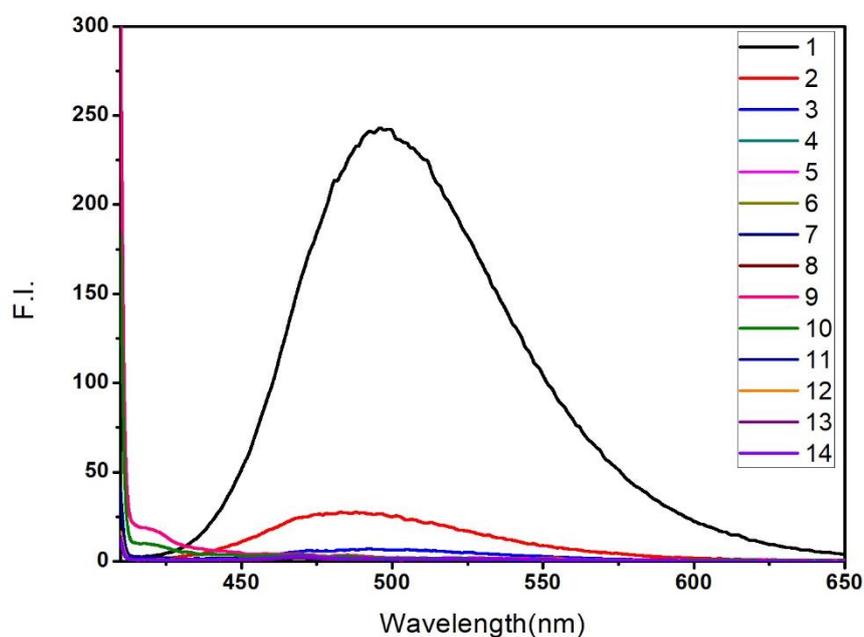


Fig. S8 Selectivity evaluation of **GP5** towards GSH. Fluorescent intensity change of **GP5** in response to various analytes. Aliquots of **GP5** (5 μM) in PBS were incubated with various analytes for 60 min, then its fluorescence spectra was recorded. The analytes tested were 1) GSH; 2) Cys; 3) Hcy; 4) Ala; 5) Gly; 6) H_2O_2 ; 7) ONOO^- ; 8) NO_2^- ; 9) Fe^{3+} ; 10) Cu^{2+} ; 11) Ca^{2+} ; 12) $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$; 13) SO_4^{2-} ; 14) SO_3^{2-} . All analytes were kept at or above their biologically relevant concentrations (all were 500 μM except ONOO^- (20 μM), Cys (300 μM) and Hcy (15 μM)).

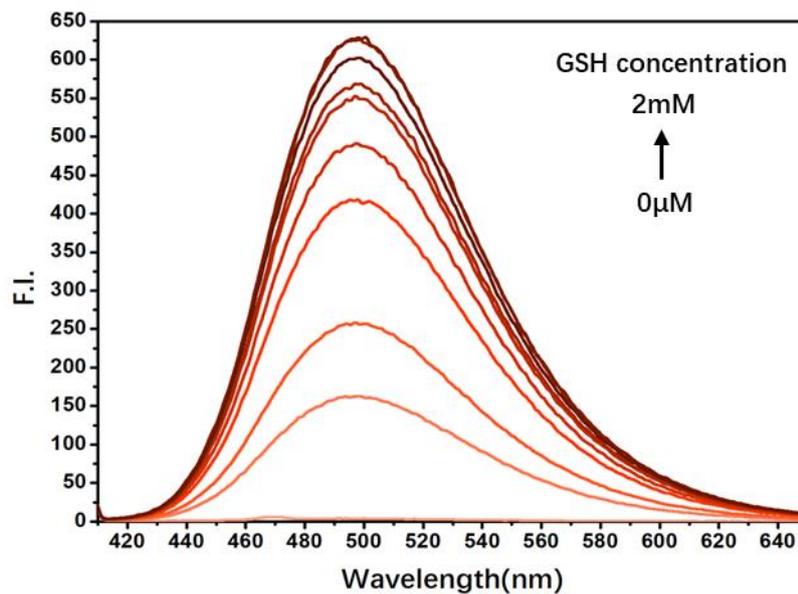


Fig. S9 Fluorescence changes of **GP5** on addition of various GSH concentrations.

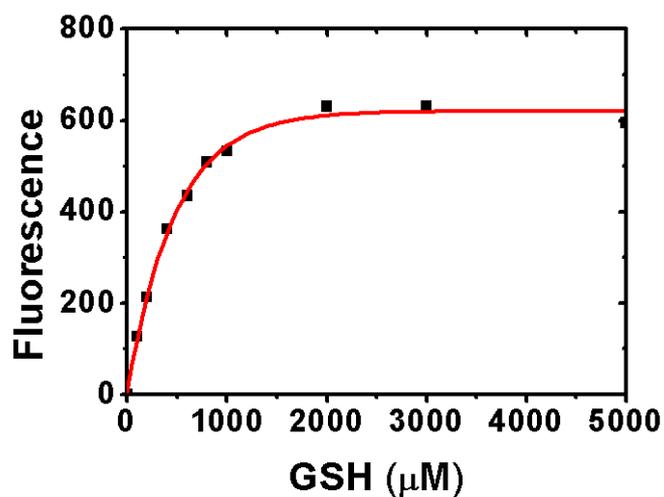
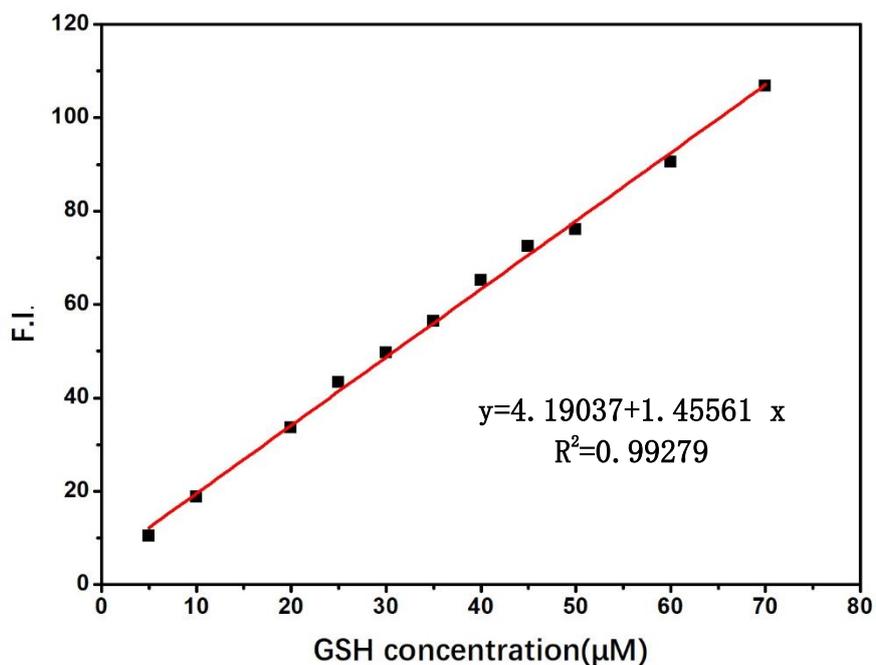


Fig. S10 GSH concentration-dependent fluorescence intensity changes of **GP5** (5 μM) at 496 nm. **GP5** was incubated with various doses of GSH for 60 min and then its emission intensity at 496 nm was plotted against GSH dosage. All of the experiments performed in PBS (10 mM, pH 7.4) at room temperature. The excitation wavelength was 405 nm.



$$\text{LOD} = 3\sigma/S$$

σ : the standard deviation of the blank solution

S : the slope of the linear calibration plot between the fluorescence emission intensity and the concentration of GSH.

Fig. S11 LOD calculation. Linear calibration plot between the fluorescence emission intensity and the concentration of GSH.

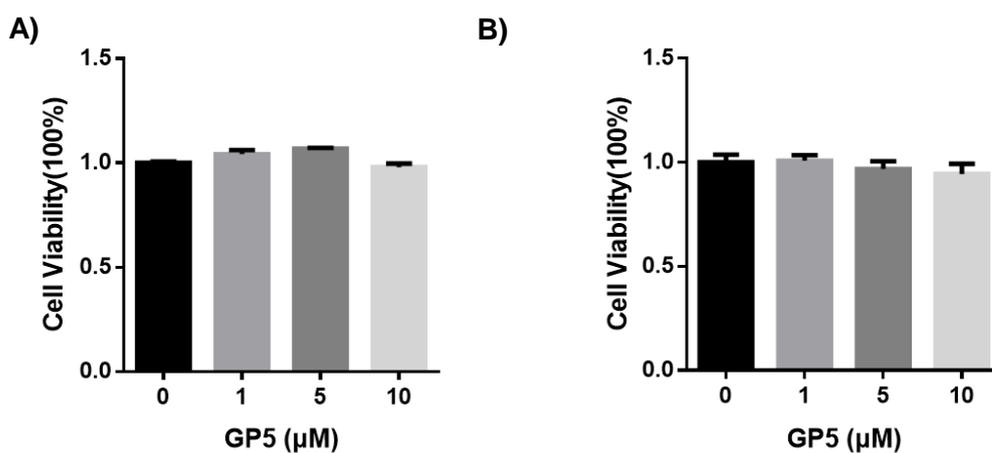


Fig. S12 Probe GP5 had no effect on cell growth. (A) SH-SY5Y cells were incubated with increasing concentrations of probe GP5 for 1 h, and then the medium was changed to fresh one. Cell viability was then tested after 47 h of incubation by MTS assay. (B) SH-SY5Y cells were incubated with increasing concentrations of probe GP5 for 4 h, and then the medium was changed to fresh one. Cell viability was tested by MTS assay 44h later.

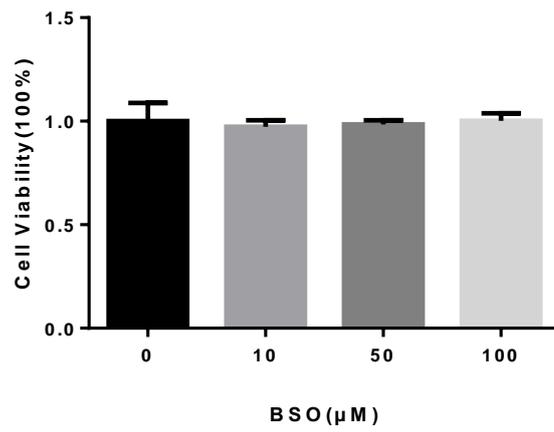
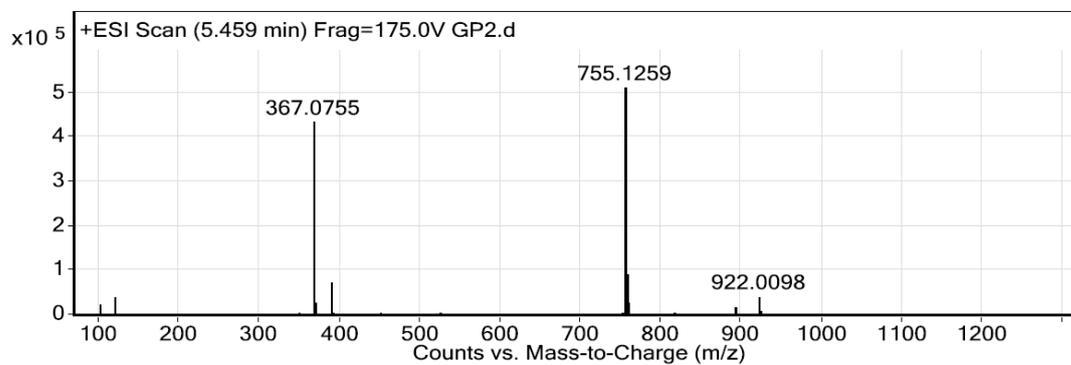
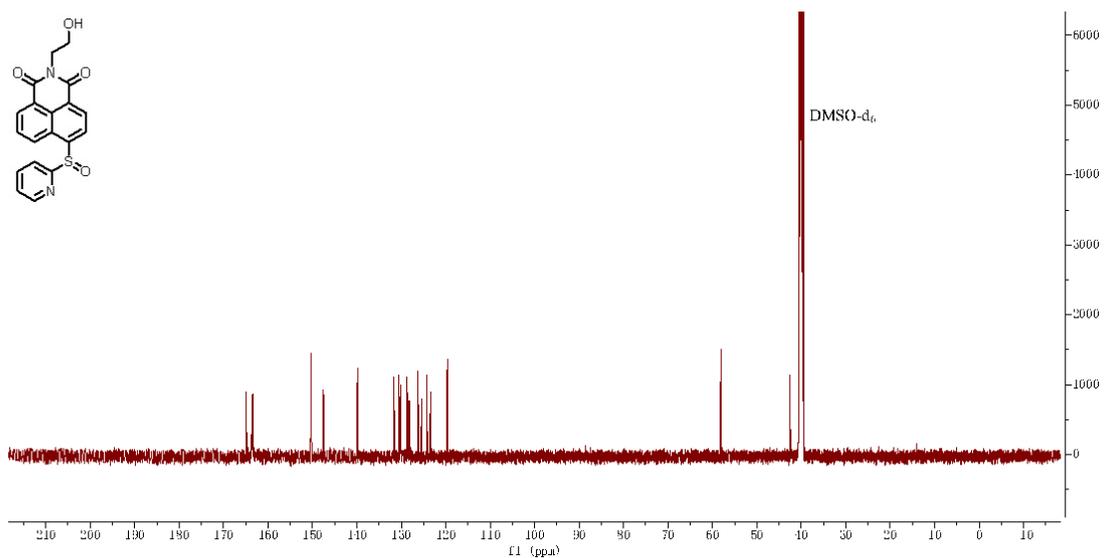
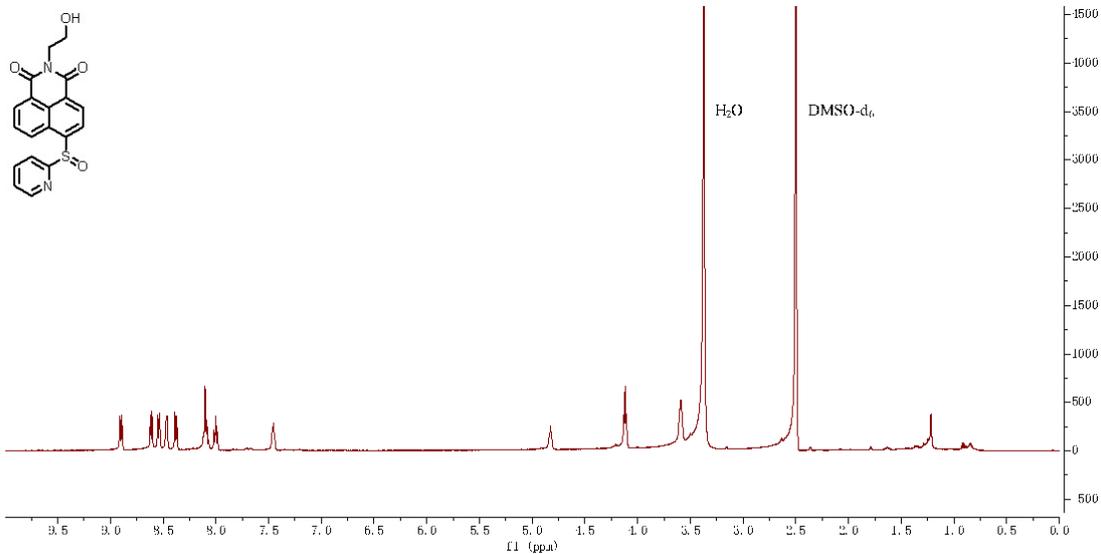


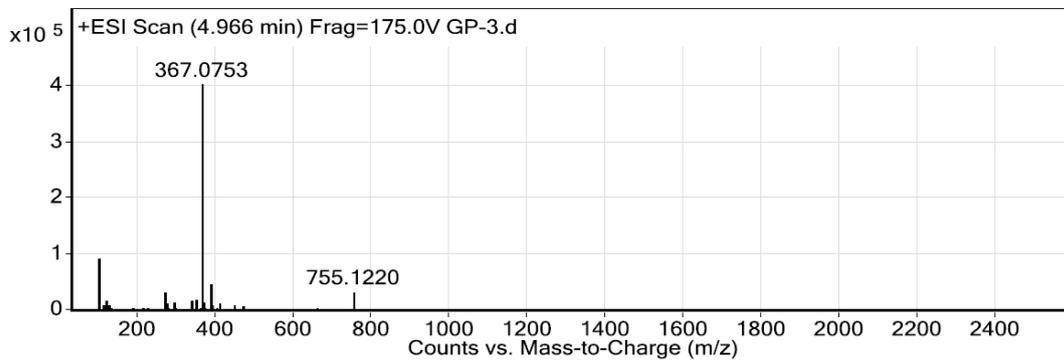
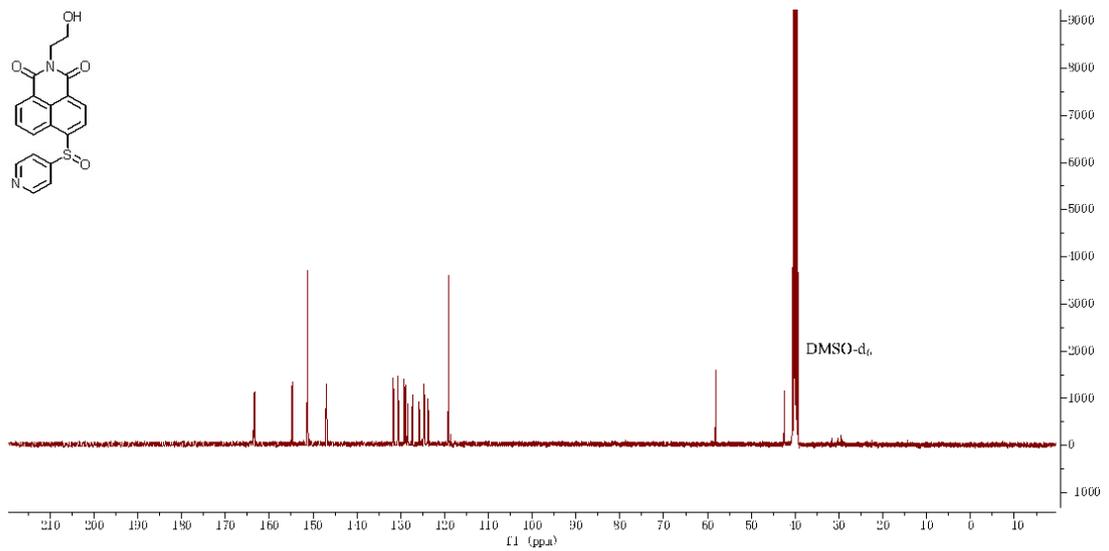
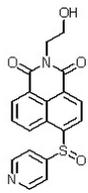
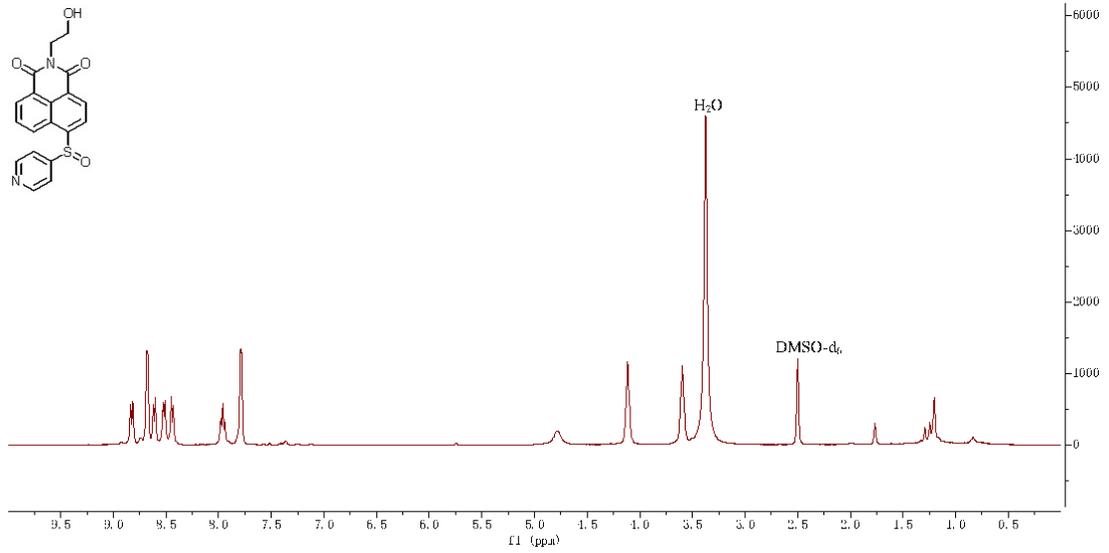
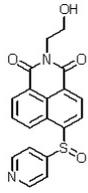
Fig. S13 BSO has no toxicity in PCN. PCN were incubated with increasing concentrations of BSO for 40 h after insertion into plate. Cell viability was then tested by MTS assay.

NMR and HRMS traces

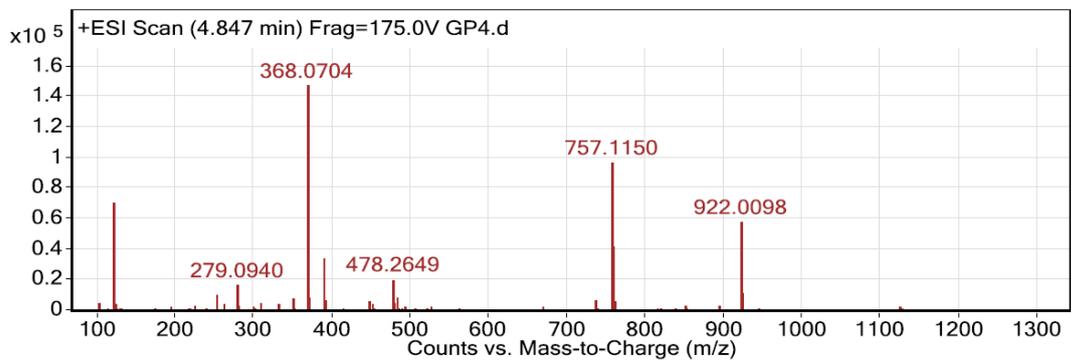
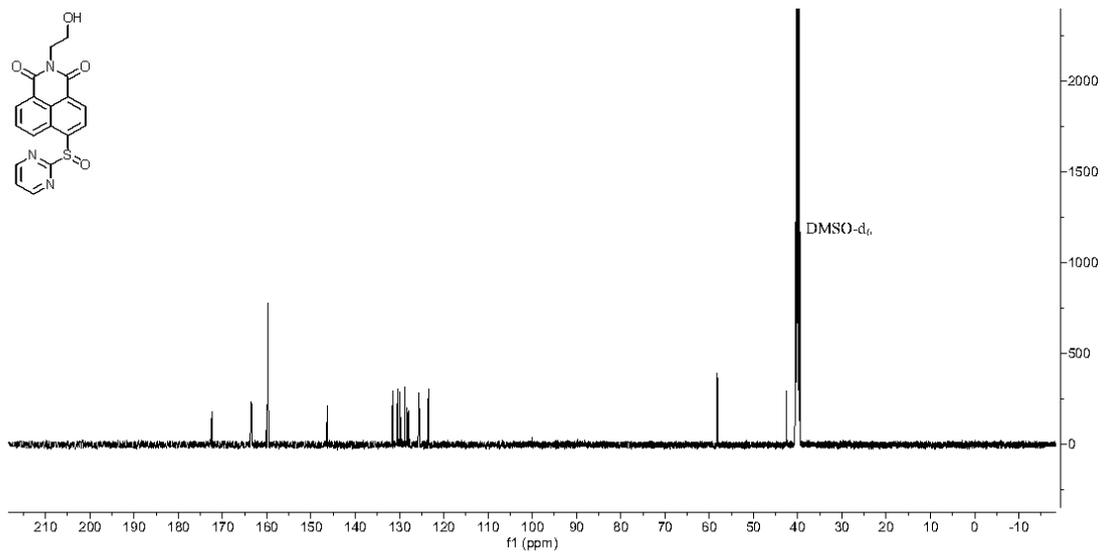
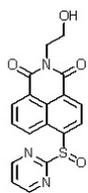
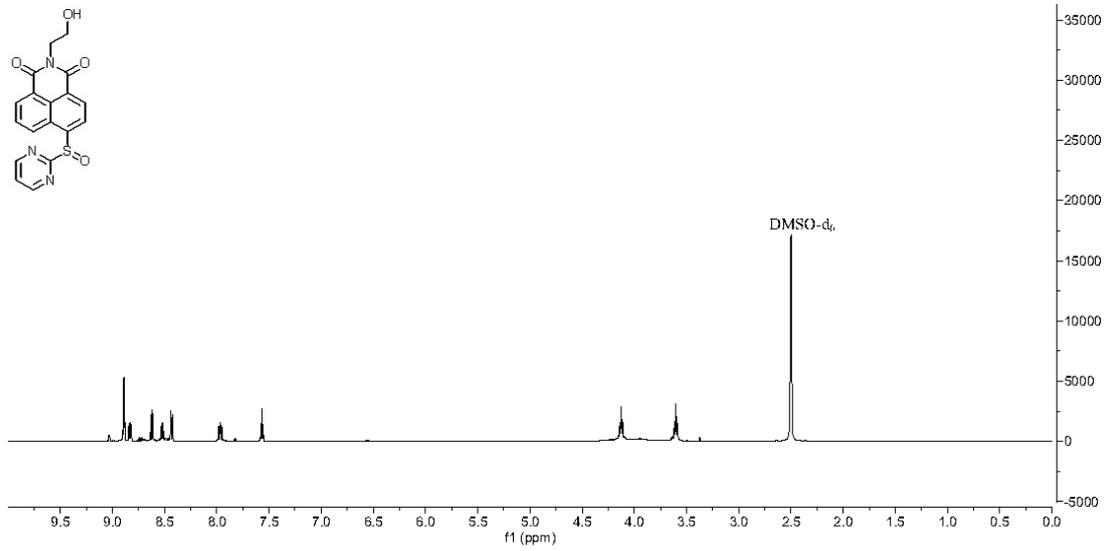
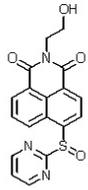
Probe GP1



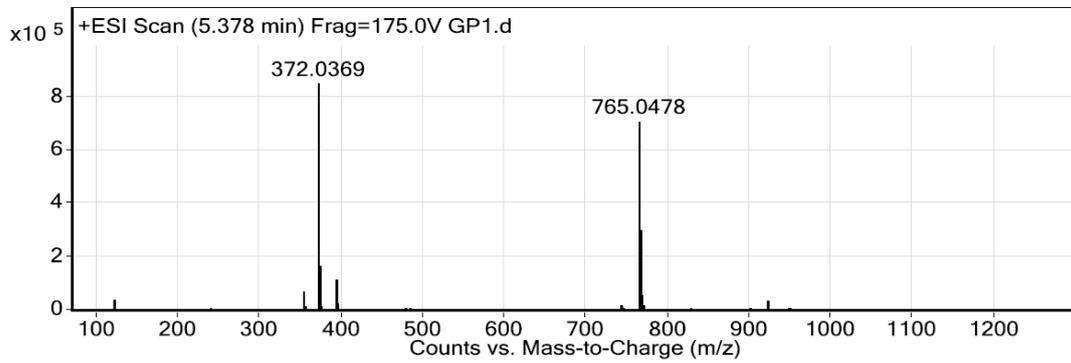
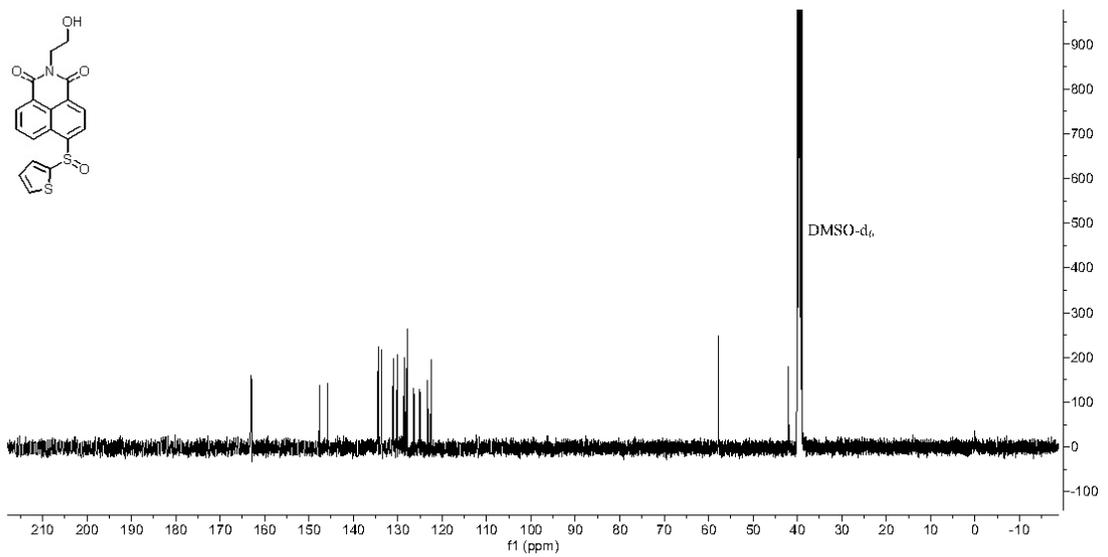
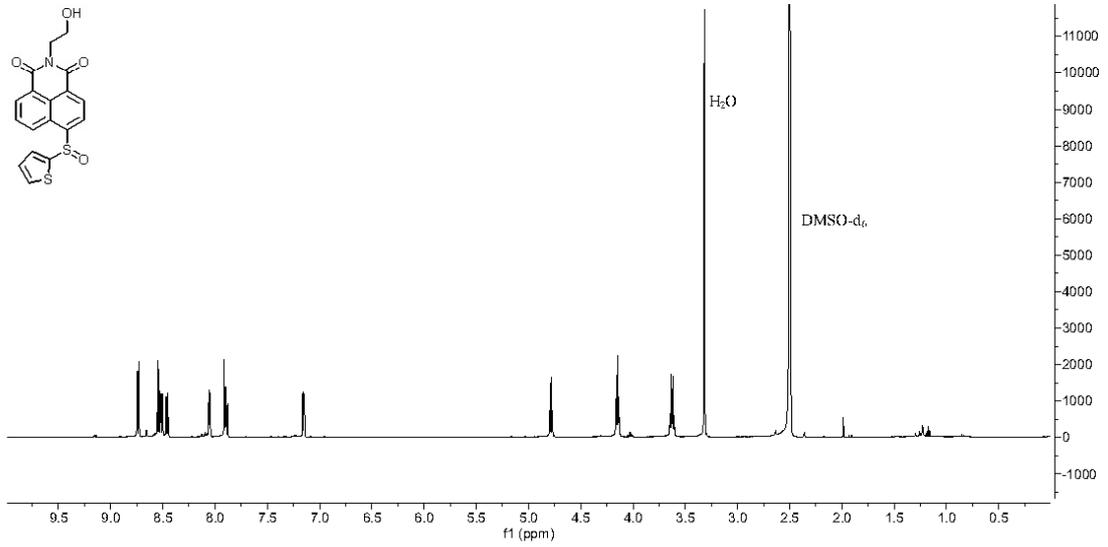
Probe GP2



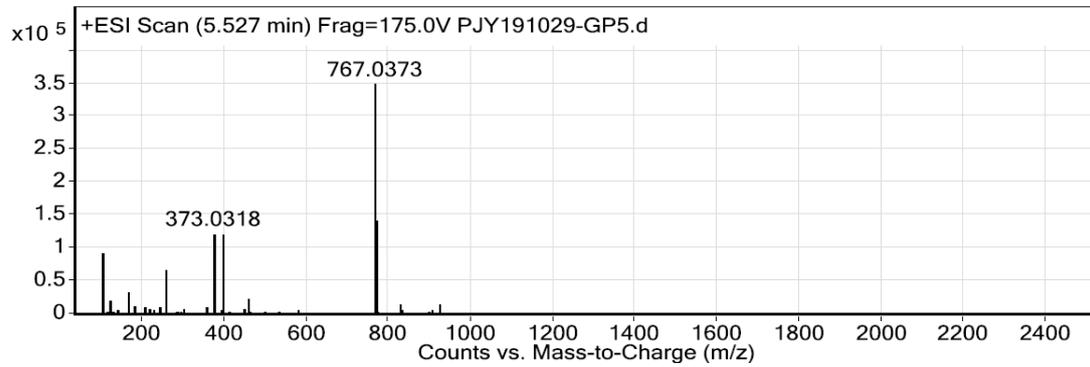
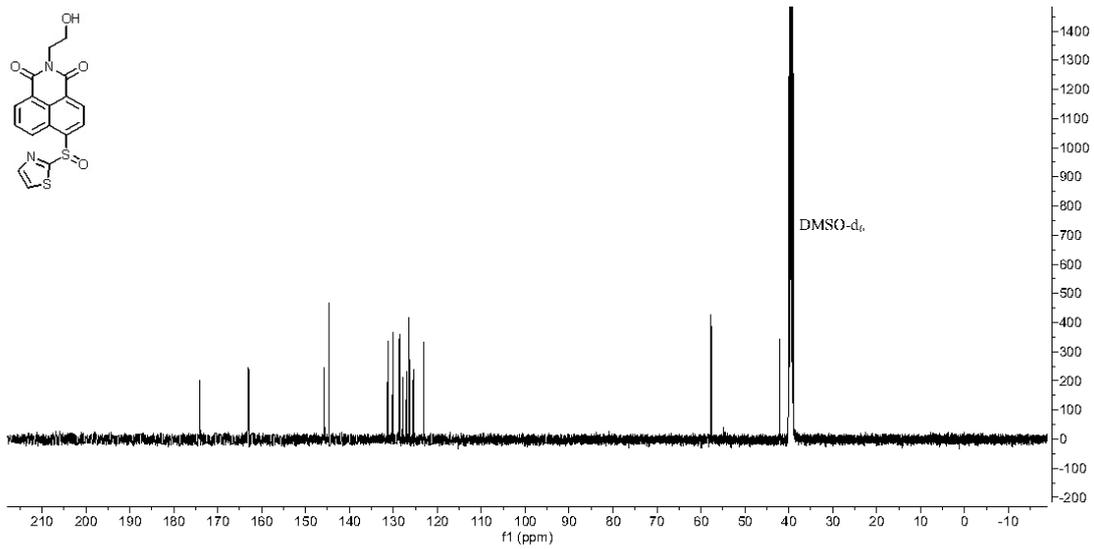
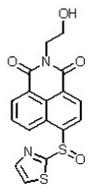
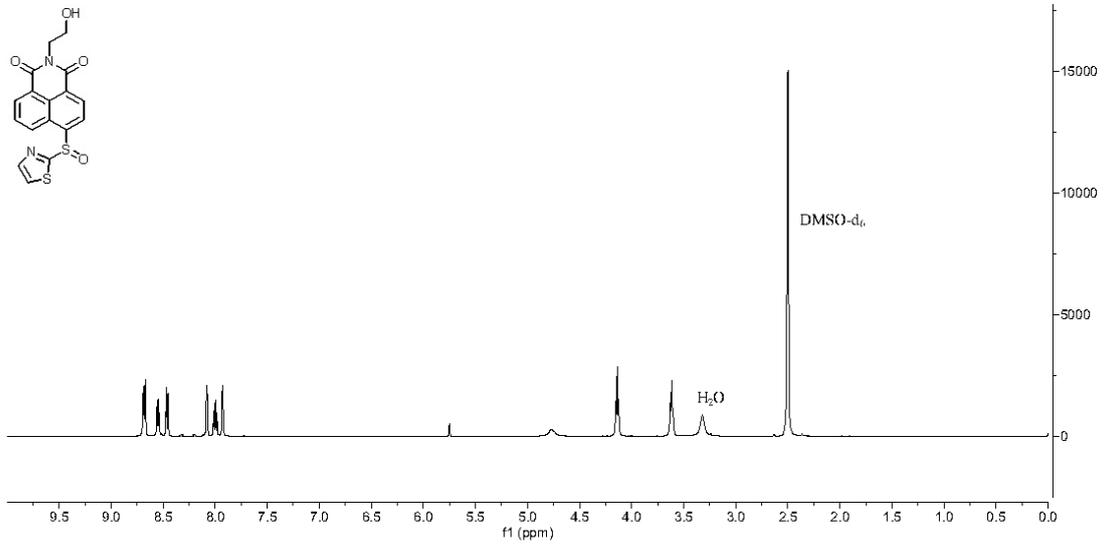
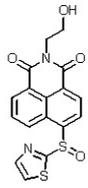
Probe GP3



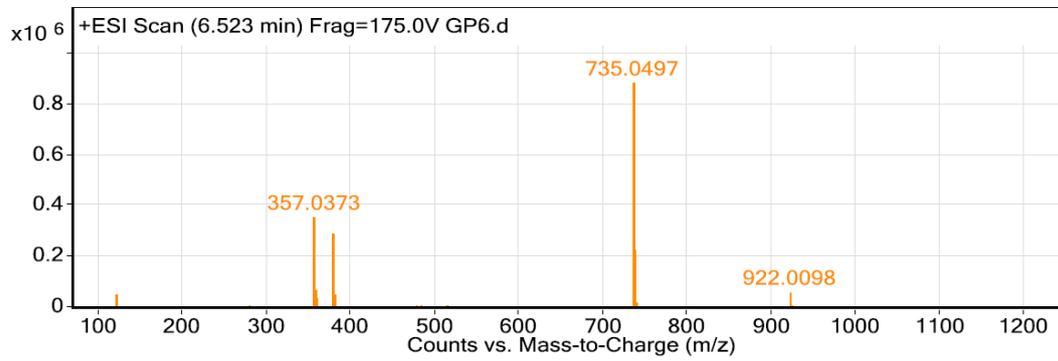
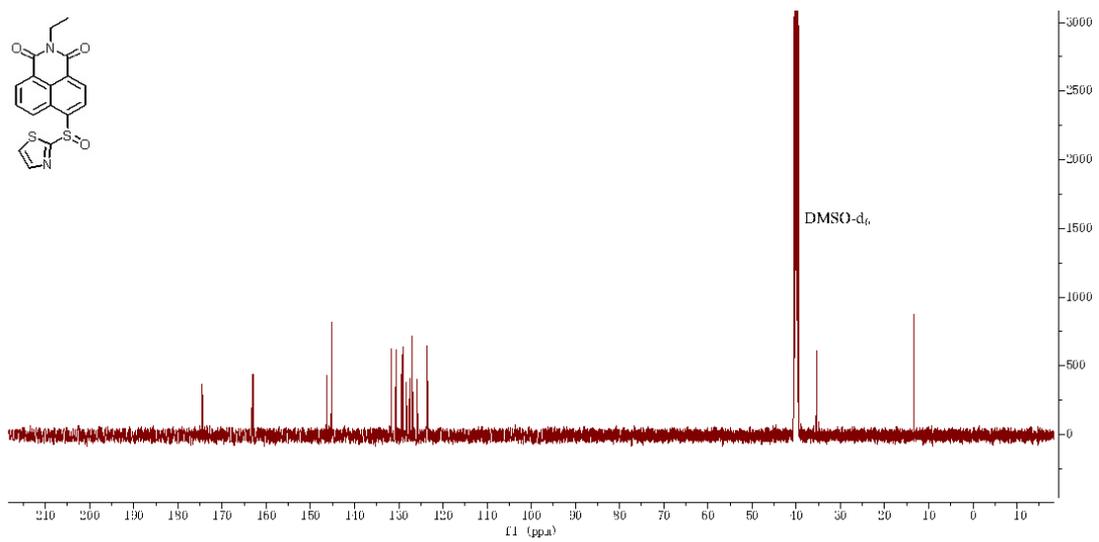
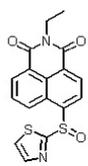
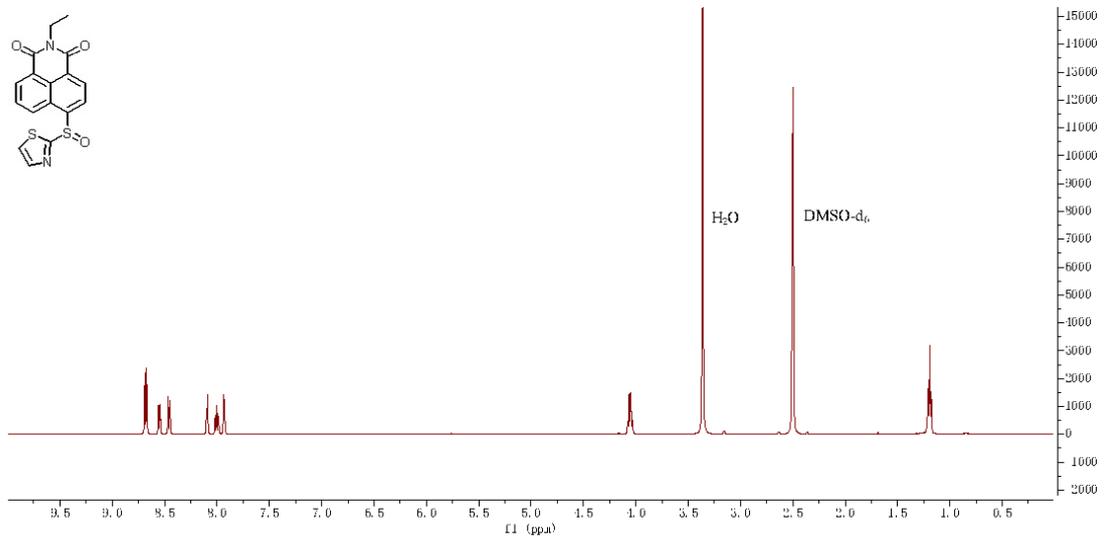
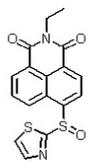
Probe GP4



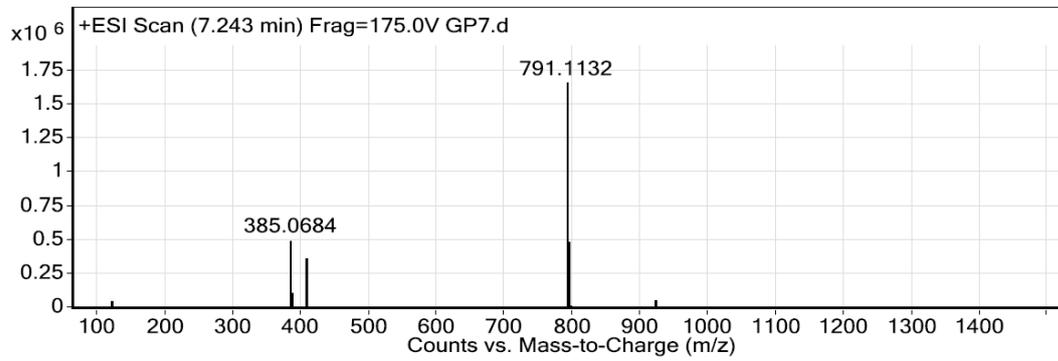
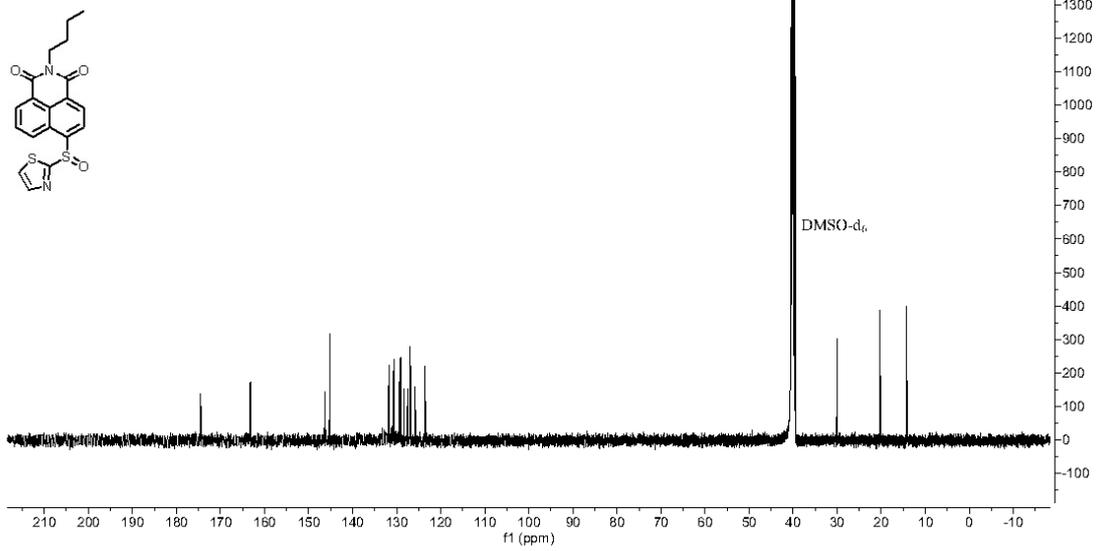
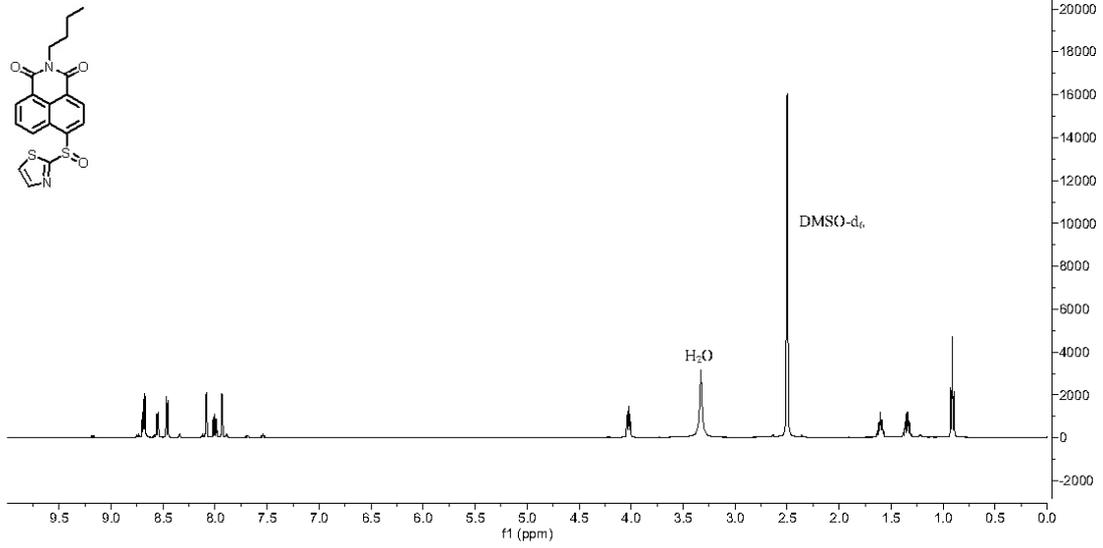
Probe GP5



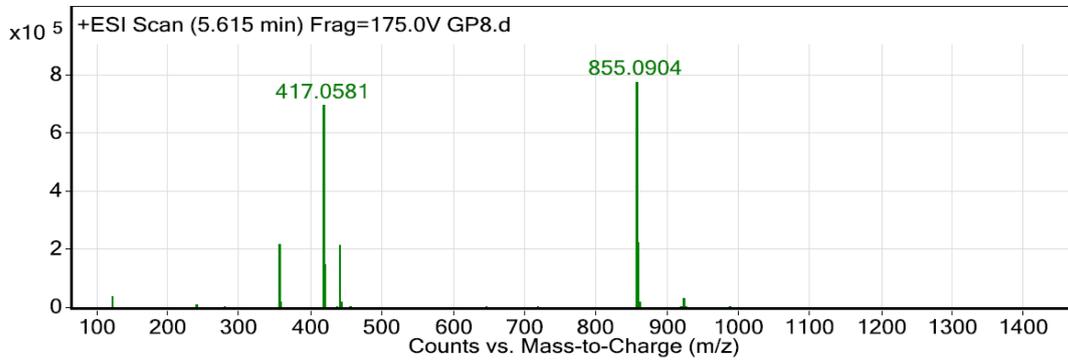
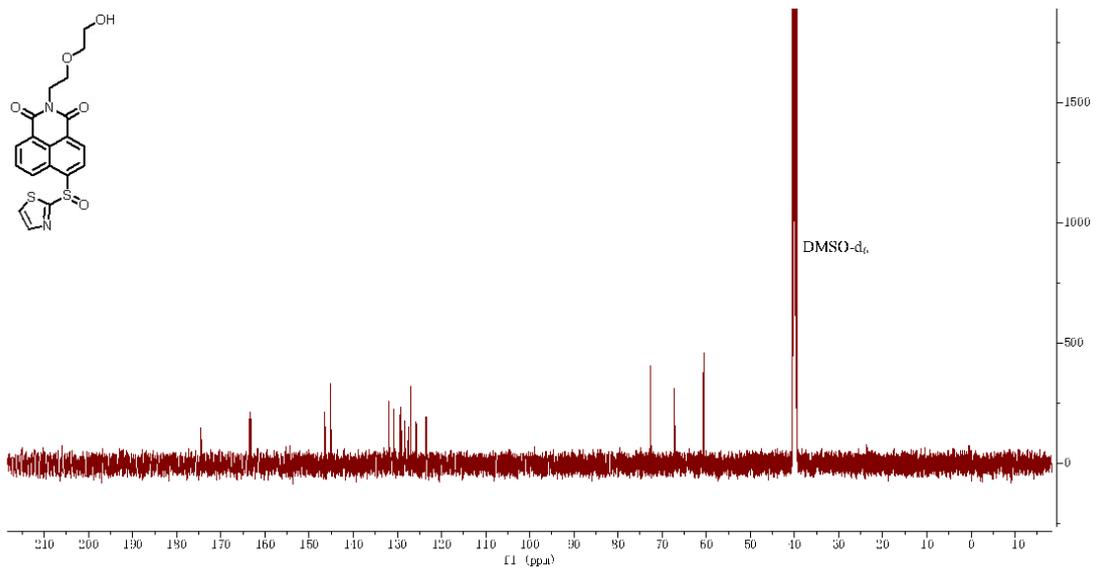
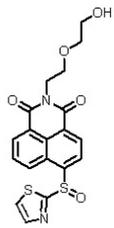
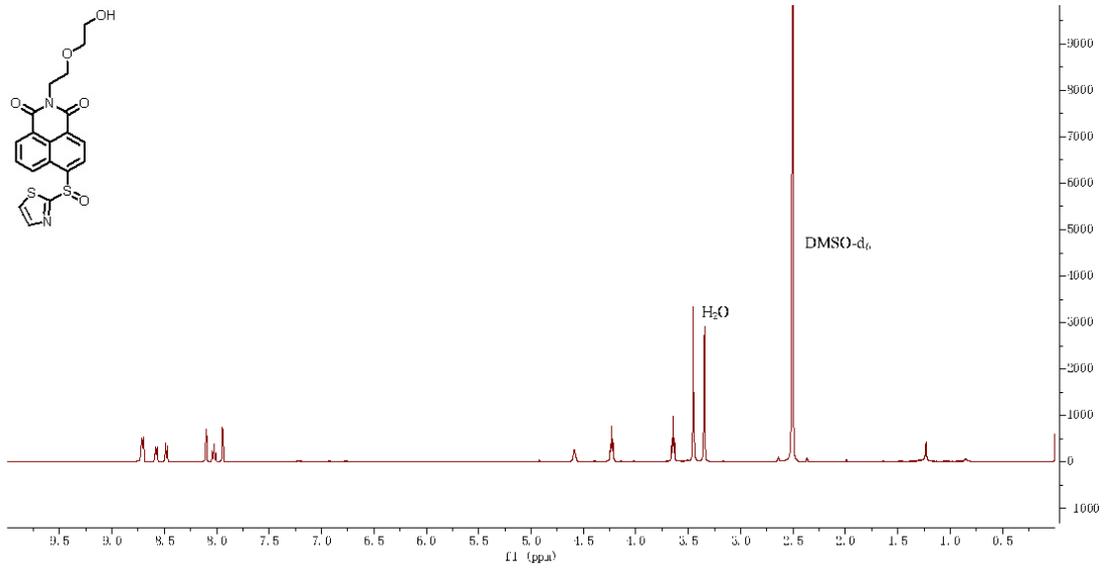
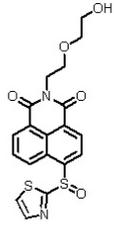
Probe GP6



Probe GP7



Probe GP8



Probe GP9

