

Electronic Supporting Information for *New Journal of Chemistry*:

**ESIPT-based fluorescent probe for cysteine sensing with large Stokes shift over homocysteine and glutathione and its application in living cells**

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# 1. <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and HRMS spectra

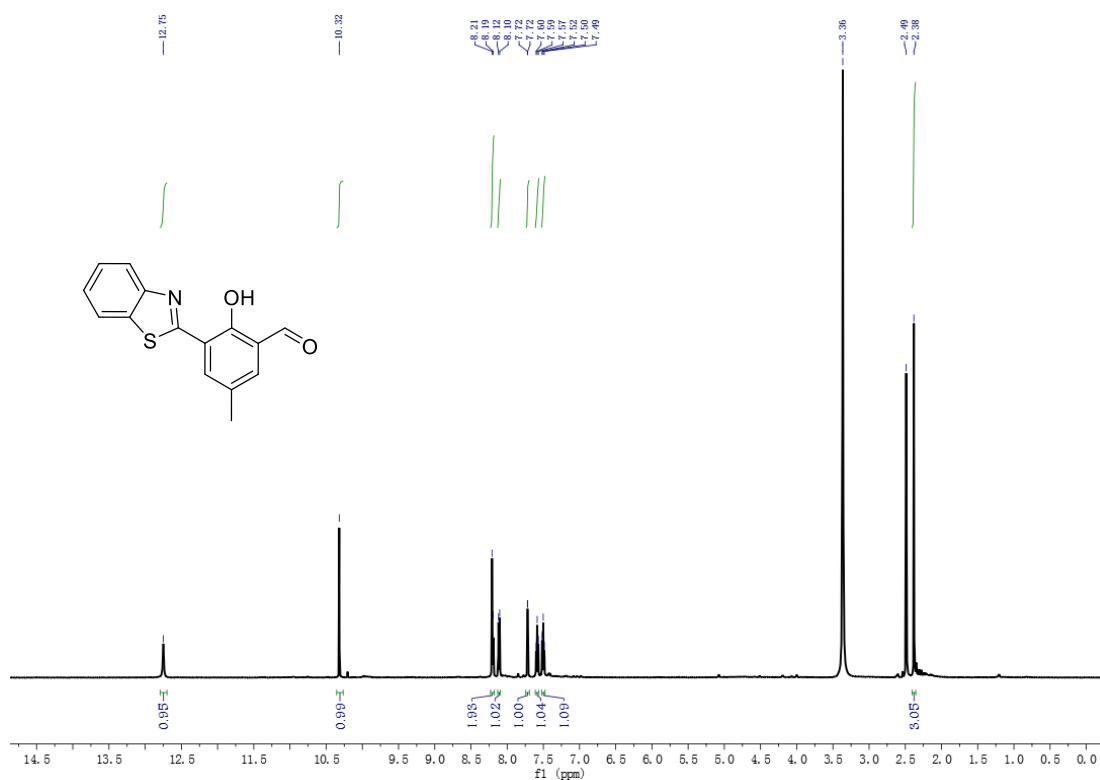


Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz) of HBTA in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.

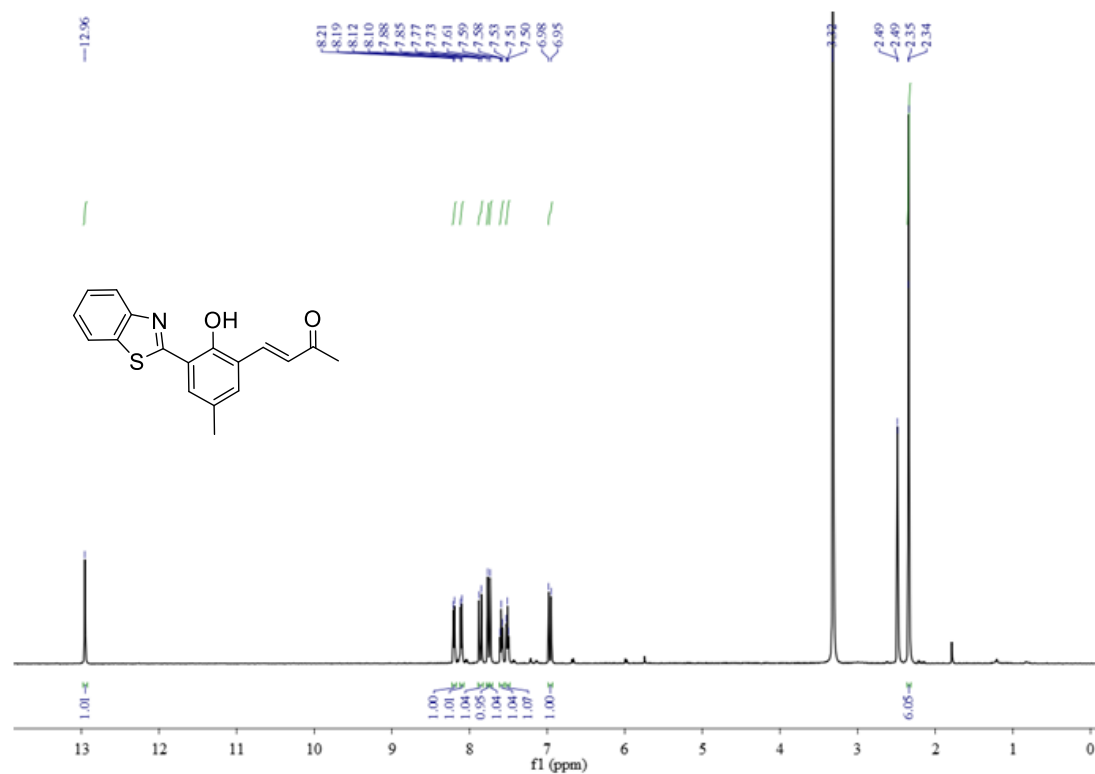
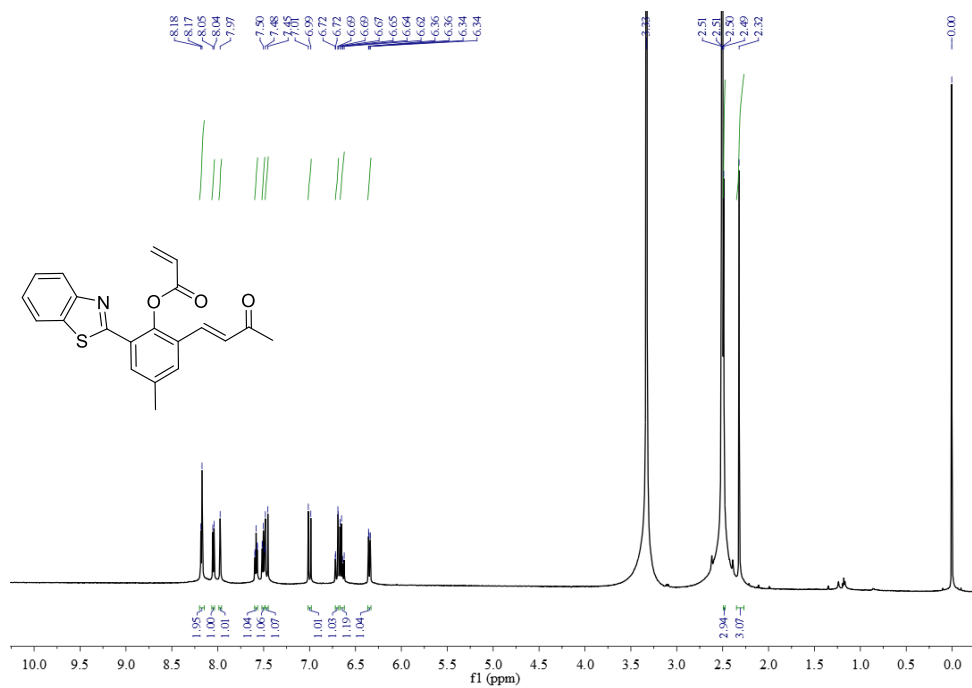
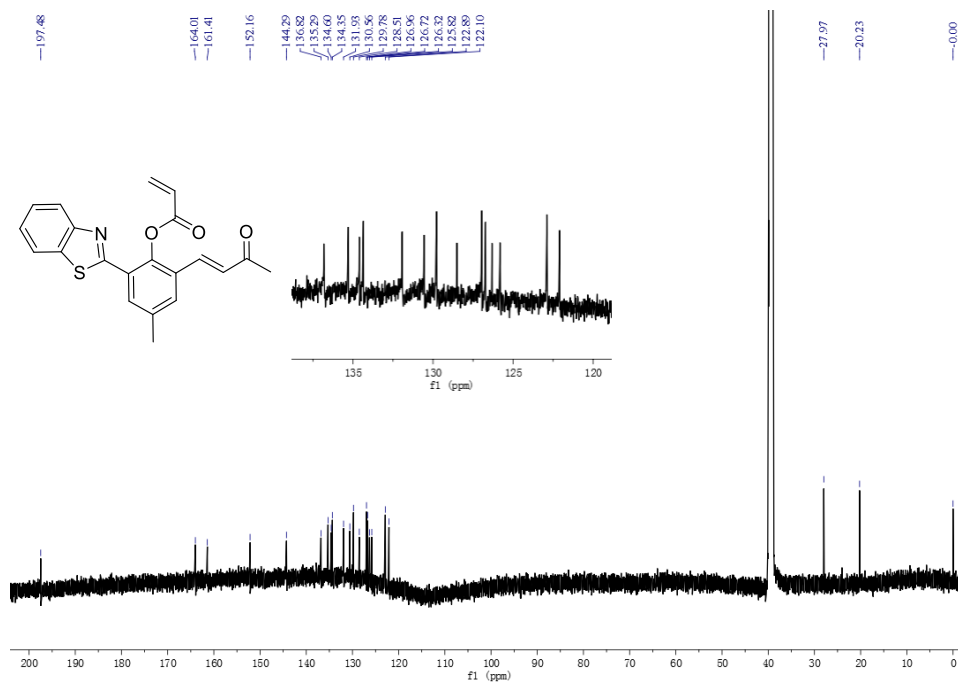


Figure S2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz) of HBTA-MVK in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.

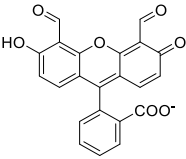
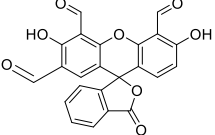
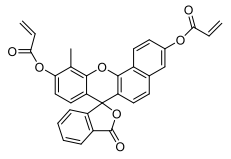
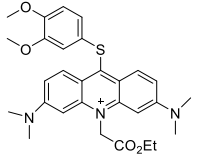
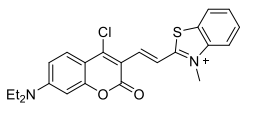
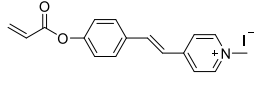
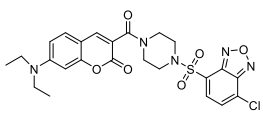
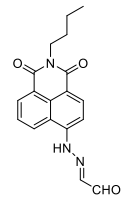
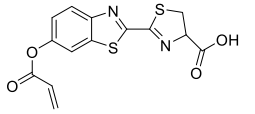
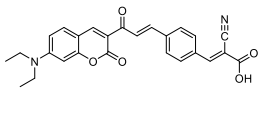


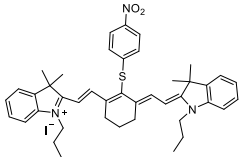
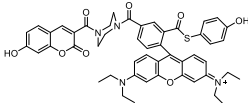
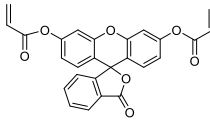
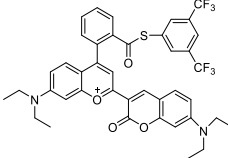
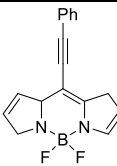
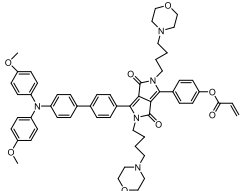
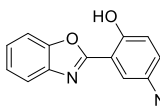
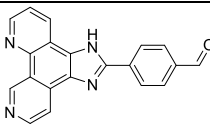
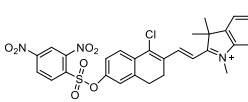
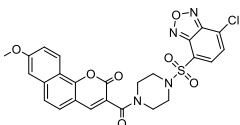
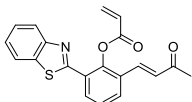
**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of ABT-MVK in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.

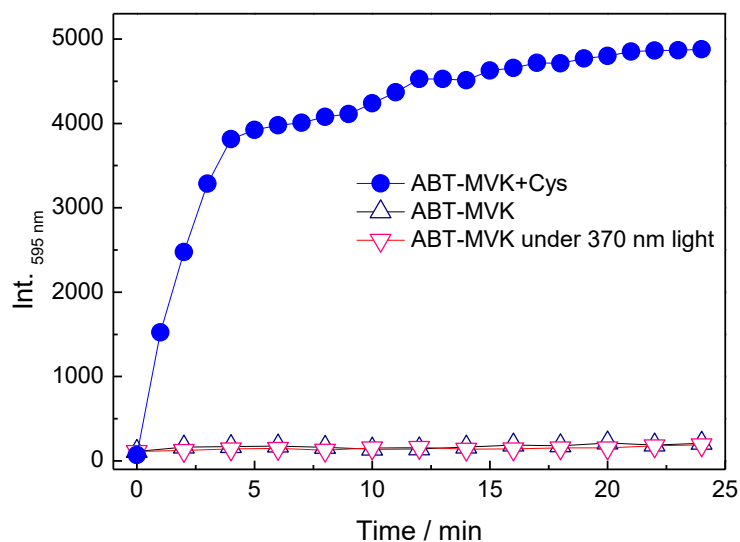


**Figure S4.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (151 MHz) of ABT-MVK in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.

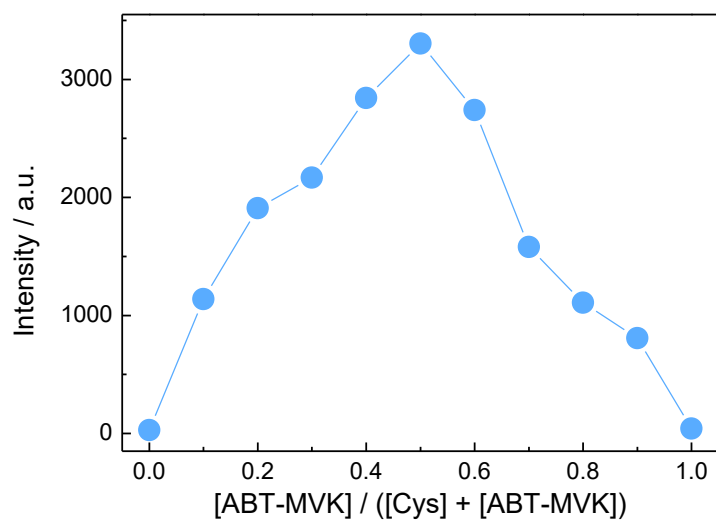
**Table S1.** Fluorescent probes for the detection of biothiols.

Probe	Analyte	Stokes shift	LOD	Spectral change	Biological application	Ref.
	Cys; Hcy	60		Off-on	Human plasma	[1]
	Hcy	32	1.88 $\mu$ M	Off-on	Human plasma	[2]
	Cys	71		Off-on		[3]
	Cys; GSH	80 30	0.11 $\mu$ M 5.0 nM	Off-on	HeLa Cells	[4]
	Cys; GSH	60 70	0.4 mM 0.05 $\mu$ M	Off-on	COS-7 cells	[5]
	Cys	168		Ratio	HeLa Tissue slices	[6]
	Cys	130	1.4 $\mu$ M	Ratio	HeLa, Zebrafish	[7]
	Cys; Hcy	85		Off-on	Tetrahymena thermophila cells	[8]
	Cys	ca. 210	88.0 nM	Off-on	MDA-MB-231 cells, mice	[9]
	Cys	55	122 nM	Ratio	A549/HeLa cells	[10]

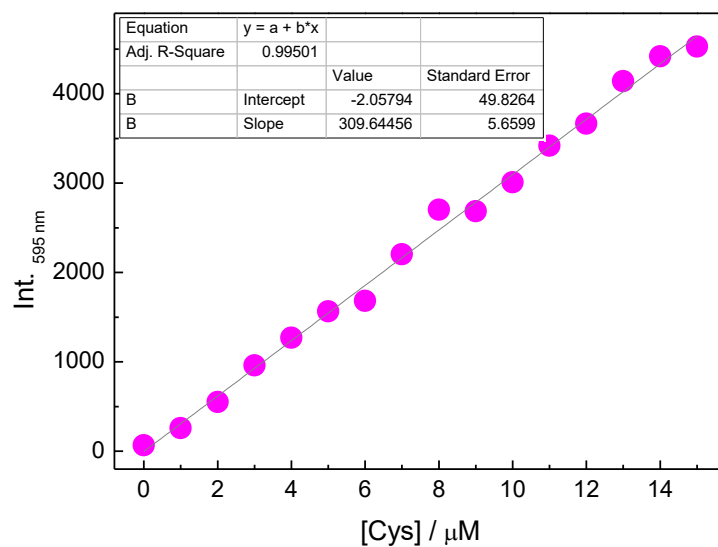
	Cys	ca. 100	1.26 $\mu\text{M}$	Off-on	HeLa cells	[11]
	Cys; Hcy	75		Ratio	HepG2 cells	[12]
	Cys	ca. 42		Off-on	PC-12 cells	[13]
	Cys; Hcy	51	16 $\mu\text{M}$ 18 $\mu\text{M}$	Ratio	HepG2 cells	[14]
	Cys	25	0.38 nM	Off-on	HeLa cells	[15]
	Cys	ca. 45	84 nM	Ratio	Hela cells	[16]
	Cys; GSH	ca. 160	90 nM	Off-on	Hela cells	[17]
	Cys; Hcy	ca. 140		Ratio	Hela cells	[18]
	Cys	40	0.19 $\mu\text{M}$	Off-on	HeLa cells	[19]
	Cys	200		Ratio	HeLa cells	[20]
	Cys	225	19 nM	Off-on	HeLa cells	this work



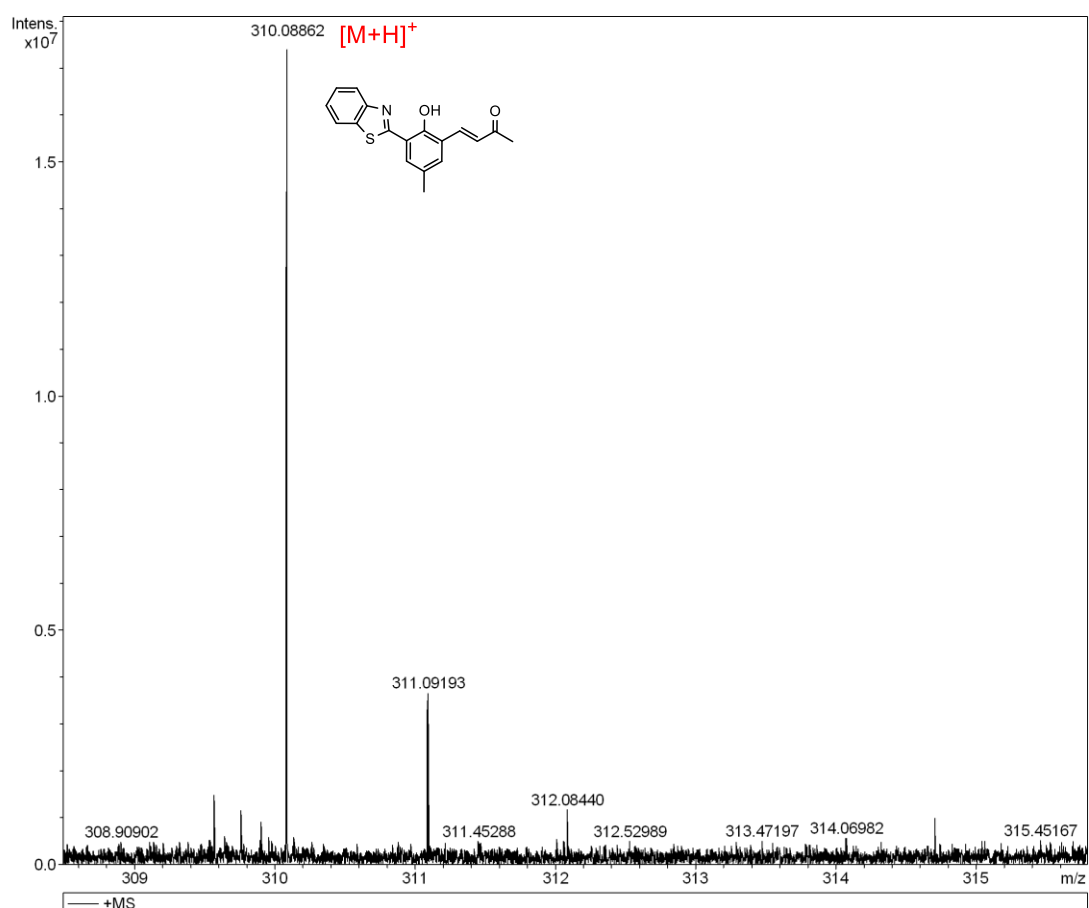
**Figure S5.** The stability of ABT-MVK (10  $\mu$ M) in PBS buffer with (black triangles) or without (red triangles) 370 nm light irritation.



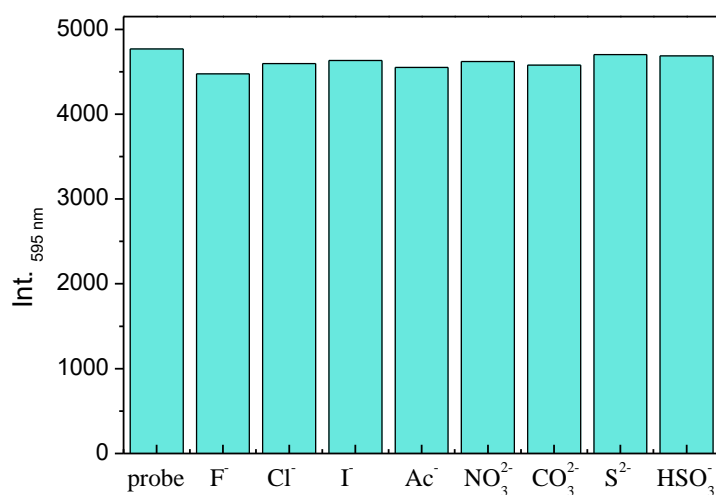
**Figure S6.** Job plot of Cys binding to ABT-MVK in 10 mM PBS buffer, measured by fluorescence spectra.



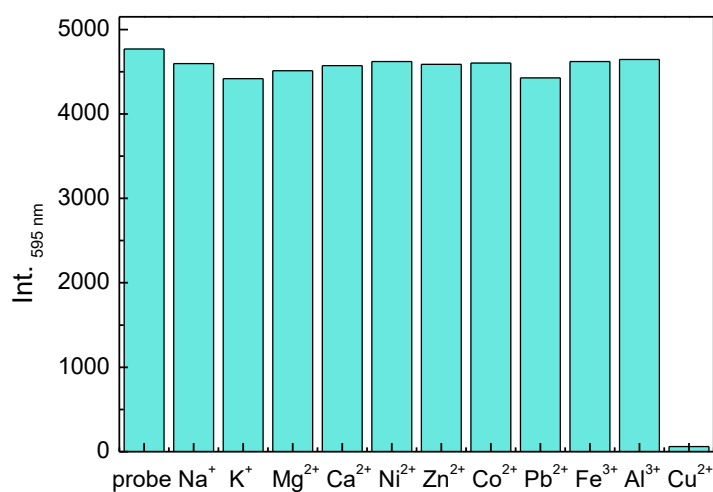
**Figure S7.** The limit of detection for Cys by fluorescence of ABT-MVK at 10  $\mu\text{M}$ . The limit of detection was calculated to be 19 nM.



**Figure S8.** HRMS spectra of ABT-MVK before (a) and after (b) treated with Cys in 10 mM PBS buffer.  $[\text{ABT-MVK}] = [\text{Cys}] = 10 \mu\text{M}$ .

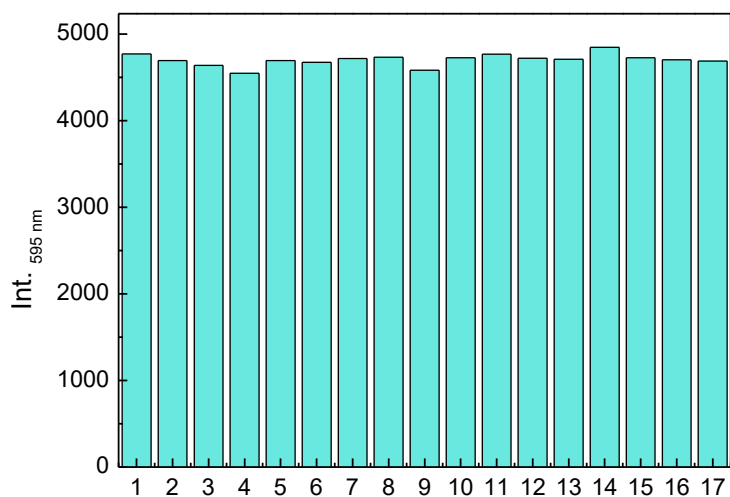


**Figure S9.** Fluorescence intensity of ABT-MVK at 595 nm in 10 mM PBS buffer pH 8.0 in the presence of 20  $\mu\text{M}$  Cys upon addition of 50  $\mu\text{M}$  of competition anions, such as F<sup>-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>-</sup>, Ac<sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, S<sup>2-</sup>, and HSO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>. [ABT-MVK] = 10  $\mu\text{M}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$  = 370 nm.

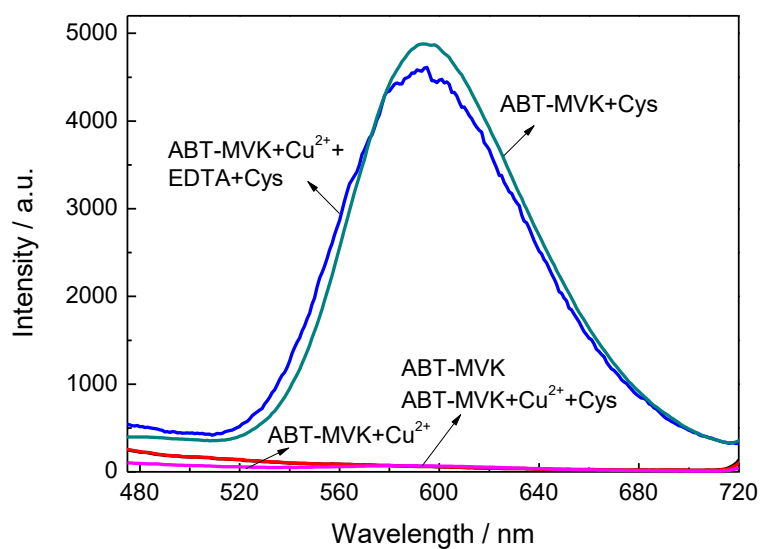


**Figure S10.** Fluorescence intensity of ABT-MVK at 595 nm in 10 mM PBS buffer pH 8.0 in the presence of 20  $\mu\text{M}$  Cys upon addition of 50  $\mu\text{M}$  of competition cations, such as Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Al<sup>3+</sup> and Cu<sup>2+</sup>. [ABT-MVK] = 10  $\mu\text{M}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$  = 370 nm.

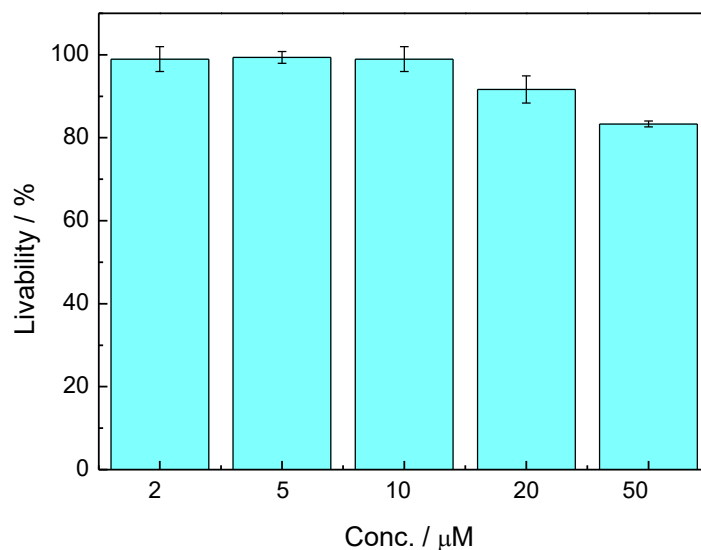




**Figure S11.** Fluorescence intensity of ABT-MVK at 595 nm in 10 mM PBS buffer pH 8.0 in the presence of 20  $\mu\text{M}$  Cys upon addition of 50  $\mu\text{M}$  competition amino acids, 1-17: Free, Ala, Asp, Gln, Glu, Gly, His, Ile, Leu, Lys, Met, Pro, Ser, Thr, Val, Hcy and GSH.  $[\text{ABT-MVK}] = 10 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 370 \text{ nm}$ .



**Figure S12.** Fluorescence spectra of ABT-MVK, ABT-MVK+Cys, ABT-MVK+Cu<sup>2+</sup>, ABT-MVK+Cu<sup>2+</sup>+Cys and ABT-MVK+Cu<sup>2+</sup>+EDTA+Cys in 10 mM PBS buffer.  $[\text{ABT-MVK}] = 10 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 370 \text{ nm}$ .



**Figure S13.** Cytotoxicity of ABT-MVK against HeLa cells as determined by CCK-8 assay: HeLa cells were treated with ABT-MVK (2-50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) for 2 hours.

## References

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