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## **Electronic Supplementary Information for:**

# A turn-off fluorescent probe for the detection of Cu<sup>2+</sup> based on a tetraphenylethylene-functionalized salicylaldehyde Schiff-base

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#### NMR spectrum



Figure S2. <sup>1</sup>HNMR of probe TPE-An-Py.





MS spectrum



Figure S4. MS spectrum of TPE-An-Py.

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Parameter	Probe	Probe@Cu <sup>2+</sup>
Empirical formula	$C_{73}H_{53}N_5O_4 \cdot 2(CHCl_3)$	2[C <sub>73</sub> H <sub>53</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub> •Cu <sub>2</sub> • (CH <sub>3</sub> OH) <sub>2</sub> ]
Formula weight [g mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	1302.94	2438.58
Crystal system	triclinic	triclinic
Space group	P -1	P -1
<i>a</i> [Å]	9.7778(9)	11.141(2)
<i>b</i> [Å]	15.7759(14)	12.787(3)
<i>c</i> [Å]	21.756(2)	21.303(4)
α [°]	91.503(3)	102.19(3)
β [°]	97.715(3)	94.10(3)
γ [°]	107.927(3)	95.61(3)
Volume [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	3156.0(5)	2938.9(11)
Z	2	1
Density, calcd [gm <sup>-3</sup> ]	1.371	1.378
Temperature [K]	223.0	223.0
Unique reflns	6712	6739
ObsdrefIns	11027	8341
Parameters	813	783
$R_{ m int}$	0.0880	0.0800
$R[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]^a$	0.1089	0.0987
W[all data]R <sup>b</sup>	0.1644	0.2273
GOF on $F^2$	1.023	1.071

#### X-ray crystallographic Analysis

Table S1. Summary of crystal data of TPE-An-Py

<sup>a</sup>Conventional *R* on  $F_{hkl}$ :  $\Sigma ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sigma |F_o|$ . <sup>b</sup>Weighted *R* on  $|F_{hkl}|^2$ :  $\Sigma [w(F_o^2 - w)^2 + w^2]$ 

 $F_{\rm c}^{2})^{2}]/\Sigma[w(F_{\rm o}^{2})^{2}]^{1/2}.$ 

## X-ray diffraction analysis



Figure S5. The X-ray structure of TPE-An-Py.



Figure S6. The enol and keto forms of TPE-An-Py.

#### **Photophysical properties**



Figure S7. PL spectra of TPE-An-Pyin the solid state ( $\lambda$  ex =415 nm).







Figure S9. The stability of TPE-An-Py depending on the reaction time.



**Figure S10.** Photograph of probe**TPE-An-Py** /  $Cu^{2+}$  complex interacting with variousinterference coexisting ions in THF/water ( $V_{THF}/V_{water}$ =4/1, pH = 7.00) solution under natural light.



Figure S11. The fluorescence behavior of TPE-An-Py upon addition of Cu<sup>2+</sup>under different pH values.



Figure S12. Curve fitting of Benesi-Hildebrand.



**Figure S13.** A) Fluorescence spectra of probe  $(1.00 \times 10^{-4} \text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1},\text{THF/H}_2\text{O},4/1,\text{V/V}$  Tris-Hcl buffer  $2.00 \times 10^{-3}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>, pH = 7.00) interacting with different anions  $(2.00 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \text{ L}^{-1})(\lambda_{\text{ex.}}/\lambda_{\text{em.}}=415/598\text{nm}, \text{slit: 5/5nm}, \text{voltage: 900})$  .B)Photograph of probe interacting with anions under natural light and C) under 365 nm UV lamp.



**Figure S14. A)** The UV spectra of probe (100.0 $\mu$ M) at increasing concentration of Cu<sup>2+</sup> in THF/water (V<sub>THF</sub>/V<sub>water</sub>=4/1, pH = 7.00) solution, B) curve of Cu<sup>2+</sup>vs. probe for the absorption peak at 439 nm.



**Figure S15. A)** The fluorescence spectra of probe (100.0  $\mu$ M) at increasing concentration of Cu<sup>2+</sup> inTHF/water (V<sub>THF</sub>/V<sub>water</sub>=4/1, pH = 7.00) solution, B) curve of Cu<sup>2+</sup>*vs*.probe for the emission peak at 598 nm.



**Figure S16.** Job plot for1:2 complex of probe and  $Cu^{2+}$  ion, where the difference is A) inabsorbance intensity at 439 nm and B) the emission intensity at 598nm was plotted against the mole fraction of probe **TPE-An-Py** at an invariant total concentration of 100  $\mu$ M in THF/water ( $V_{THF}/V_{water}=4/1$ ).