## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Ratiometric sensing of Zn<sup>2+</sup> with a new benzothiazole-based

## fluorescent sensor and living cell imaging

Qi Wu<sup>a</sup>, LiHen Feng<sup>a</sup>, Jian Bin Chao<sup>b</sup>, Yu Wang<sup>a\*</sup>, Shaomin Shuang<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Shanxi University, Taiyuan 030006, PR China

<sup>b</sup> Scientific Instrument Center, Shanxi University, Taiyuan 030006, PR China

Fig. S1 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of probe BTT.

Fig. S2 <sup>13</sup>C NMR of probe BTT.

Fig. S3 Mass spectrum in negative-ion mode of probe BTT.

Fig. S4 Effect of pH on the fluorescence intensity of BTT and BTT- $Zn^{2+}$ . [BTT]=4  $\mu$ M, [Zn<sup>2+</sup>]=8  $\mu$ M.

Fig. S5 Time dependent fluorescence intensity of BTT (4  $\mu$ M) for Zn<sup>2+</sup>. [BTT]=4 $\mu$ M, [Zn<sup>2+</sup>]=8 $\mu$ M.

Fig. S6 Fluorescence intensity changes of BTT upon alternate addition of Zn<sup>2+</sup> and EDTA. [BTT]= 4µM, [Zn<sup>2+</sup>]=

4μM, [EDTA]=4μM.

Fig. S7 Cell cytotoxic effect of BTT on HeLa cells.

<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding authors. Tel.: +86 351 7010588; fax: +86 351 7011688.

E-mail: wangyu1168@sxu.edu.cn (Y. Wang), smshuang@sxu.edu.cn(S.M.Shuang ).



Fig. S3 Mass spectrum in negative-ion mode of probe BTT.



Fig. S4 Effect of pH on the fluorescence intensity of BTT and BTT- $Zn^{2+}$ . [BTT]=4 $\mu$ M, [ $Zn^{2+}$ ]=8 $\mu$ M.



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4µM, [EDTA]=4µM.



Fig. S7 Cell cytotoxic effect of BTT on HeLa cells. Values are the mean  $\pm$  s.d. For n = 5.