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## **Supplementary Material**

# Stimuli-responsive Transmembrane Anion Transport by AIE-active Fluorescent Probe

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## 1. Synthesis and characterization of compounds:



Scheme S1 Synthesis of 1,1,2,2-tetraphenylethene.



Scheme S2 Synthesis of 1,1,2,2-tetrakis(4-nitrophenyl)ethane.



Scheme S3 Synthesis of the 4,4',4''-(ethene-1,1,2,2-tetrayl)tetraanilin.



Scheme S4 Synthesis of TPE-based compound 1a.



Scheme S5 Synthesis of TPE-based compound 1b.



Scheme S6 Synthesis of TPE-based compound 1c.



Scheme S7 Synthesis of TPE-based compound 1d.



Scheme S8 Synthesis of proanionophore 2.



**Fig. S1** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration spectra for compound **1a** (3.45 mM) with a fixed concentration of numerous anions salt of TBA (58.65 mM) in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> solvent at room temperature.



**Fig. S2** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration spectra of compound **1c** (A) and **1d** (B) (3.45 mM) with a fixed concentration of various anions of TBA salts (58.65 mM) in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> solvent at room temperature.



Fig. S3 Job's plot analysis for 1d with TBACl in DMSO-d6 solvent by varying mole fraction of 1d against the chemical shift of N-H<sub>a</sub> (A) and N-H<sub>b</sub> (B).



**Fig. S4** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600MHz) titration spectra for compound **1a** (**A**) and **1c** (**B**) with the chronological addition of TBACl in DMSO- $d_6$  solvent, respectively. The equivalent amounts of added TBACl were shown on the spectra.



**Fig. S5** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600MHz) titration spectra for compound **1d** with the chronological addition of TBACl in DMSO- $d_6$  solvent. The amounts of added TBACl were shown on the spectra.



Fig. S6 Plots of non-linear fit using WinEqNMR and experimental points (symbols) against the concentration of TBACl for 1a in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> solvent mixture using either N-H<sub>a</sub> (A, C), N-H<sub>b</sub> (B, D) with 1:1 or a mixture of 1:1 and 1:2 host/guest stoichiometries.



**Fig. S7** Plots of non-linear fit using WinEqNMR and experimental points (symbols) against the concentration of TBACl for **1c** in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> solvent using either N-H<sub>a</sub> (A, C), N-H<sub>b</sub> (B, D) with 1:1 or a mixture of 1:1 and 1:2 host/guest stoichiometries.



**Fig. S8** Plots of non-linear fit using WinEqNMR and experimental points (symbols) against the concentration of TBACl for **1d** in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> solvent mixture using either N-H<sub>a</sub> (A, C), N-H<sub>b</sub> (B, D) with 1:1 or a mixture of 1:1 and 1:2 host/guest stoichiometries.

1:1 binding model								
Compound Code	K for N-H <sub>a</sub>	K for N-H <sub>b</sub>						
1a	168.55	170.42						
1c	118.05	118.71						
1d	12.11	9.71						
1:1 + 1:2 binding model								
<b>1</b> a	158.84	160.59						
1c	111.35	116.23						
1d	18.76	15.0						

N.B. Due to the broadening of N-H peaks, binding affinities from the <sup>1</sup>H NMR could not be measured for compound **1b** compound.



**Fig. S9** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600MHz) titration spectra for compound **1d** with the chronological addition of TBABr (A) and TBAI (B) in DMSO- $d_6$  solvent, respectively. The amounts of added TBABr and TBAI were shown on the spectra. An insignificant extent of the chemical shift was observed.



**Fig. S10** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600MHz) titration spectra for compound **1d** with the chronological addition of TBANO<sub>3</sub> (A). The amounts of added TBANO<sub>3</sub> were shown on the spectra. An insignificant extent of the chemical shift was observed.

## **3. Density functional theory studies:**

**Table S2.** Optimized structure of compound **1d** using the using B3LYP/ 6-31+G (d) and B3LYP/ 6-31++G (d,p) basic sets.



**Table S3**. XYZ Cartesian coordinate for compound '**1d---Cl' complex**' using B3LYP/ 6-31+G (d) and B3LYP/ 6-31++G (d,p) basic sets.

<b>1d</b> Cl <sup>-</sup> { (B3LYP/ 6-31+G (d) basic set }			<b>1d</b> Cl <sup>-</sup> { (B3LYP/ 6-31++G (d,p) basic					
				set}				
Total Energy = -7095. 460848 Hartree				Total Energy = -7095.560816 Hartree				
Imaginary Frequency = 0			Imaginary Frequency = 0					
Atom	Х	Y	Z	Atom	Х	Y	Z	
С	-0.280605	0.472282	0.506758	С	-0.28061	0.472282	0.506758	
С	-0.274936	-0.86771	0.50743	С	-0.27494	-0.86771	0.50743	
С	-1.596381	1.236604	0.269807	С	-1.59638	1.236604	0.269807	
С	-2.421745	1.582429	1.312236	С	-2.42175	1.582429	1.312236	
С	-1.949324	1.583617	-1.05731	С	-1.94932	1.583617	-1.05731	
С	-3.588658	2.263758	1.066673	С	-3.58866	2.263758	1.066673	
Н	-2.139887	1.309255	2.339405	Н	-2.13989	1.309255	2.339405	
С	-3.137006	2.275676	-1.29396	С	-3.13701	2.275676	-1.29396	
Н	-1.294576	1.311183	-1.89788	Н	-1.29458	1.311183	-1.89788	
С	-3.976151	2.625019	-0.21521	С	-3.97615	2.625019	-0.21521	
Н	-4.230318	2.52675	1.920108	Н	-4.23032	2.52675	1.920108	
Н	-3.419464	2.54873	-2.32107	Н	-3.41946	2.54873	-2.32107	
С	1.04295	-1.63203	0.732365	С	1.04295	-1.63203	0.732365	
С	1.540279	-1.9827	1.895773	С	1.540279	-1.9827	1.895773	
С	1.776663	-1.97415	-0.5088	С	1.776663	-1.97415	-0.5088	
С	2.74581	-2.67532	2.011694	С	2.74581	-2.67532	2.011694	
Н	0.972045	-1.71336	2.797833	Н	0.972045	-1.71336	2.797833	
С	2.982148	-2.66619	-0.39296	С	2.982148	-2.66619	-0.39296	
Н	1.394259	-1.69788	-1.50224	Н	1.394259	-1.69788	-1.50224	
С	3.467017	-3.01656	0.867736	C	3.467017	-3.01656	0.867736	
Н	3.12784	-2.95097	3.005331	Н	3.12784	-2.95097	3.005331	
Н	3.550939	-2.9354	-1.29479	Н	3.550939	-2.9354	-1.29479	
С	1.021672	1.247935	0.778858	С	1.021672	1.247935	0.778858	

С	1.827778	1.640118	-0.30354	С	1.827778	1.640118	-0.30354
С	1.401941	1.55883	2.073428	С	1.401941	1.55883	2.073428
С	3.009625	2.343013	-0.06765	С	3.009625	2.343013	-0.06765
Н	1.52988	1.39541	-1.33336	Н	1.52988	1.39541	-1.33336
С	2.583732	2.261139	2.309372	С	2.583732	2.261139	2.309372
Н	0.767877	1.249843	2.917208	Н	0.767877	1.249843	2.917208
С	3.387984	2.653027	1.238474	С	3.387984	2.653027	1.238474
Н	3.643392	2.651385	-0.91174	Н	3.643392	2.651385	-0.91174
Н	2.882229	2.505739	3.339112	Н	2.882229	2.505739	3.339112
С	-1.577212	-1.64336	0.23533	С	-1.57721	-1.64336	0.23533
С	-2.399684	-1.84642	1.504057	С	-2.39968	-1.84642	1.504057
С	-1.998474	-2.14256	-0.86011	С	-1.99847	-2.14256	-0.86011
С	-3.599473	-2.54897	1.388322	С	-3.59947	-2.54897	1.388322
Н	-2.085219	-1.45272	2.48143	Н	-2.08522	-1.45272	2.48143
С	-3.197732	-2.84537	-0.9758	С	-3.19773	-2.84537	-0.9758
Н	-1.367328	-1.98197	-1.7463	Н	-1.36733	-1.98197	-1.7463
С	-3.998285	-3.04892	0.148876	С	-3.99829	-3.04892	0.148876
Н	-4.229957	-2.70954	2.27486	Н	-4.22996	-2.70954	2.27486
Н	-3.512416	-3.2396	-1.95296	Н	-3.51242	-3.2396	-1.95296
Ν	4.739687	-3.77084	0.990829	Ν	4.739687	-3.77084	0.990829
Н	5.514413	-3.13347	1.016642	Н	5.514413	-3.13347	1.016642
С	5.070263	-4.83802	0.360004	С	5.070263	-4.83802	0.360004
S	5.59424	-6.07846	1.147632	S	5.59424	-6.07846	1.147632
Ν	5.89716	-4.1809	-0.5109	N	5.89716	-4.1809	-0.5109
Н	5.348401	-3.5598	-1.07677	Н	5.348401	-3.5598	-1.07677
С	6.491695	-5.21613	-1.36865	С	6.491695	-5.21613	-1.36865
Н	6.863222	-4.76611	-2.26551	Н	6.863222	-4.76611	-2.26551
Н	5.747924	-5.94429	-1.61661	Н	5.747924	-5.94429	-1.61661
Ν	-5.249959	3.395685	-0.42651	N	-5.24996	3.395685	-0.42651
Н	-5.620373	3.219883	-1.34248	Н	-5.62037	3.219883	-1.34248

С	-5.148814	4.925089	-0.20873	С	-5.14881	4.925089	-0.20873
S	-3.809923	5.517047	0.330301	S	-3.80992	5.517047	0.330301
Ν	-6.165809	5.696477	-0.38384	N	-6.16581	5.696477	-0.38384
Н	-6.67892	5.383281	-1.18742	Н	-6.67892	5.383281	-1.18742
С	-5.691704	7.071241	-0.59866	С	-5.6917	7.071241	-0.59866
Н	-5.325848	7.470636	0.324129	Н	-5.32585	7.470636	0.324129
Н	-4.904155	7.067839	-1.32299	Н	-4.90416	7.067839	-1.32299
С	-6.855061	7.941538	-1.10933	С	-6.85506	7.941538	-1.10933
Н	-6.547339	8.965869	-1.14024	Н	-6.54734	8.965869	-1.14024
Н	-7.134037	7.623126	-2.09202	Н	-7.13404	7.623126	-2.09202
S	-8.247537	7.773138	-0.0134	S	-8.24754	7.773138	-0.0134
С	-9.423791	9.067565	-0.34398	С	-9.42379	9.067565	-0.34398
Н	10.285729	8.933006	0.27558	Н	-10.2857	8.933006	0.27558
Н	-8.977814	10.0171	-0.13328	Н	-8.97781	10.0171	-0.13328
Н	-9.714903	9.030705	-1.37296	Н	-9.7149	9.030705	-1.37296
Ν	-5.252187	-3.7418	0.055707	N	-5.25219	-3.7418	0.055707
Н	-5.940861	-3.20059	0.545531	Н	-5.94086	-3.20059	0.545531
С	-5.092158	-4.86259	0.662335	С	-5.09216	-4.86259	0.662335
S	-3.900077	-5.06382	1.648262	S	-3.90008	-5.06382	1.648262
Ν	-6.16081	-5.86801	0.586896	N	-6.16081	-5.86801	0.586896
Н	-6.591614	-5.96588	1.487974	Н	-6.59161	-5.96588	1.487974
С	-5.590483	-7.15831	0.173691	С	-5.59048	-7.15831	0.173691
Н	-5.09541	-7.61251	1.006463	Н	-5.09541	-7.61251	1.006463
Н	-4.886845	-7.00049	-0.61681	Н	-4.88685	-7.00049	-0.61681
С	-6.718247	-8.0835	-0.32004	С	-6.71825	-8.0835	-0.32004
Н	-6.306146	-9.03086	-0.5986	Н	-6.30615	-9.03086	-0.5986
Н	-7.434184	-8.22233	0.462948	Н	-7.43418	-8.22233	0.462948
S	-7.516316	-7.34598	-1.72984	S	-7.51632	-7.34598	-1.72984
С	-8.681603	-8.49892	-2.42354	С	-8.6816	-8.49892	-2.42354
Н	-9.166267	-8.05249	-3.26657	Н	-9.16627	-8.05249	-3.26657
Н	-8.165945	-9.38305	-2.7355	Н	-8.16595	-9.38305	-2.7355

Н	-9.413078	-8.7543	-1.68555	Н	-9.41308	-8.7543	-1.68555
С	7.650295	-5.90032	-0.61957	С	7.650295	-5.90032	-0.61957
Н	7.340262	-6.87113	-0.29351	Н	7.340262	-6.87113	-0.29351
Н	7.924317	-5.30957	0.229442	Н	7.924317	-5.30957	0.229442
S	9.049359	-6.05891	-1.70855	S	9.049359	-6.05891	-1.70855
С	10.020478	-7.47064	-1.22652	С	10.02048	-7.47064	-1.22652
Н	9.437927	-8.36065	-1.3424	Н	9.437927	-8.36065	-1.3424
Н	10.891945	-7.53183	-1.84434	Н	10.89195	-7.53183	-1.84434
Н	10.315325	-7.36808	-0.20308	Н	10.31533	-7.36808	-0.20308
N	4.633887	3.392542	1.486954	N	4.633887	3.392542	1.486954
Н	4.599328	3.809169	2.399281	Н	4.599328	3.809169	2.399281
С	4.789265	4.445475	0.473007	С	4.789265	4.445475	0.473007
N	5.883664	5.420959	0.580814	N	5.883664	5.420959	0.580814
Н	5.50265	6.333815	0.750038	Н	5.50265	6.333815	0.750038
S	3.78522	4.528287	-0.72643	S	3.78522	4.528287	-0.72643
С	6.65239	5.435392	-0.67208	С	6.65239	5.435392	-0.67208
Н	6.112721	5.984221	-1.41535	Н	6.112721	5.984221	-1.41535
Н	6.803215	4.431276	-1.00958	Н	6.803215	4.431276	-1.00958
С	8.017366	6.105783	-0.42915	С	8.017366	6.105783	-0.42915
Н	7.867277	7.121185	-0.12694	Н	7.867277	7.121185	-0.12694
Н	8.541821	5.578496	0.340144	Н	8.541821	5.578496	0.340144
S	8.972286	6.068646	-1.93087	S	8.972286	6.068646	-1.93087
С	10.319456	7.225459	-1.80711	С	10.31946	7.225459	-1.80711
Н	10.936666	7.148635	-2.67777	Н	10.93667	7.148635	-2.67777
Н	9.930355	8.219394	-1.73232	Н	9.930355	8.219394	-1.73232
Н	10.901164	7.003737	-0.93685	Н	10.90116	7.003737	-0.93685
Cl	-7.753512	-4.33365	0.740831	Cl	-7.75351	-4.33365	0.740831
Cl	-7.714784	3.572063	-1.18294	Cl	-7.71478	3.572063	-1.18294
Cl	6.099755	-1.72971	-0.45231	Cl	6.099755	-1.72971	-0.45231
Cl	6.386077	4.715264	2.416044	Cl	6.386077	4.715264	2.416044

## 4. Ion transporting activity studies:



Fig. S11 Representations of chloride efflux study across the EYPC/CHOL-LUVs (A and B).



Fig. S12 Initial screening for the compound-mediated transmembrane transport of  $Cl^{-}$  ions (at concentration 0.156  $\mu$ M).



**Fig. S13** Concentration-dependent Cl<sup>-</sup> ion transport activity of compounds **1a** (A and B) and **1d** (C and D) were measured by chloride ion-selective electrode using EYPC/CHOL-LUVs at pH 7.2.

Cation selectivity studies were also performed by the ISE based assay as described above using EYPC/CHOL-LUVs, where 5 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.2 containing 100 mM MCl salt (where  $M = Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Rb^+$ , and  $Cs^+$ ) was used as a intravesicular medium and extravesicular medium was filled with 5 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.2, containing 100 mM NaNO<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S14** Chloride ion transport efficiency of the compound **1d** (0.156  $\mu$ M = 0.05 mol % with respect to lipid) across the EYPC/CHOL-LUVs (6:4 molar ratio) was measured by an ISE-based assay at pH 7.2 in presence of different metal ion to rule out the possibility of metal ion dependency where figure A represents the bar plot and figure B corresponding plot.

Compound Code	EC <sub>50</sub> values	EC <sub>50</sub> values	Hill coefficient	
	(µM)	(mol %)	(n)	
<b>1</b> a	$0.123\pm0.018$	$0.039\pm0.006$	1.34	
1b	-		-	
1c	-		-	
1d	$0.097\pm0.011$	$0.031\pm0.003$	1.36	

Table S4. Cl<sup>-</sup> ion transport properties of the compounds.

N.B.  $EC_{50}$  values of compounds **1b** and **1c** could not be done due to the precipitation at higher concentrations.



Fig. S15 The probability of Cl<sup>-/</sup> NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> antiport mechanistic pathway of compound 1d by the U-tube assay in the presence of NaCl at left arm and NaNO<sub>3</sub> at right arm (A). Cholesterol-dependent chloride efflux assay using ISE to validate the carrier-mechanistic pathway of Cl<sup>-</sup> ion transport activity by the compound 1d across the different ratios of cholesterol encapsulated EYPC-LUVs (B). Experiment was performed at 0.156  $\mu$ M = 0.05 mol % with respect to lipid.



**Fig. S16** The probability of Cl<sup>-/</sup> NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> antiport mechanistic pathway of compound **1a** by the U-tube assay in the presence of NaCl at left arm and NaNO<sub>3</sub> at right arm (A). Cholesterol-dependent chloride efflux assay using ISE to validate the carrier-mechanistic pathway of Cl<sup>-</sup> ion transport activity by the compound **1a** across the different ratios of cholesterol encapsulated EYPC-LUVs (B). Cholesterol-dependent chloride efflux assay using ISE to validate the carrier-mechanistic pathway of Cl<sup>-</sup> ion transport activity by the compound **1a** across the different ratios of cholesterol encapsulated EYPC-LUVs (B). Cholesterol-dependent chloride efflux assay using ISE to validate the carrier-mechanistic pathway of Cl<sup>-</sup> ion transport activity by the compound **1a** across the different ratios of cholesterol encapsulated EYPC-LUVs (C). Experiment was performed at 0.156  $\mu$ M = 0.05 mol % with respect to lipid. Percentage of Cl<sup>-</sup> ion transport activity of compound **1a** in the absence and presence of valinomycin (D).



## 5. Regeneration of the active compound 1d from its proanionophore 2:

Fig. S17 Regeneration of the active compound in the presence of sodium dithionite.



**Fig. S18** Regeneration of the active compound **1d** from the proanionophore **2** in the presence of sodium dithionite. The initial concentration of the proanionophore **2** was 1 mM.



**Fig. S19** The reaction of proanionophore **2** in the presence of sodium dithionite in PBS at 37 °C led to the generation of intermediate compound **3**, which was also confirmed by ES-MS analysis.



**Fig. S20** The reaction of **p**roanionophore **2** in the presence of sodium dithionite in PBS at 37 °C led to the regeneration of active compound **1d**, which was also confirmed by ES-MS analysis.



**Fig. S21** Regeneration of the active compound in the presence of nitroreductase enzyme (bacterial cellular extract).



Fig. S22 The reaction of proanionophore 2 in the presence of bacterial cell lysate containing nitroreductase in PBS at 37 °C led to the generation of intermediate compound 3, which was also confirmed by ES-MS analysis.



Fig. S23 The reaction of proanionophore 2 in the presence of bacterial cell lysate containing nitroreductase in PBS at 37 °C led to the generation of intermediate compound 4, which was also confirmed by ES-MS analysis.



**Fig. S24** The reaction of **p**roanionophore **2** in the presence of bacterial cell lysate containing nitroreductase in PBS at 37 °C led to the regeneration of active anionophore **1d**, which was also confirmed by ES-MS analysis.

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Fig. S25 Regeneration of the active compound in the presence of the GSH.



**Fig. S26** The reaction of **p**roanionophore **2** in the presence of GSH in PBS at 37 °C led to the generation of intermediate compound **5**, which was also confirmed by ES-MS analysis.



**Fig. S27** The reaction of proanionophore **2** in the presence of GSH in PBS at 37 °C led to the regeneration of active anionophore **1d**, which was also confirmed by ES-MS analysis.



**Fig. S28** Control experiments for the Cl<sup>-</sup> ion transport activities of active anionophore **1d** from its proanionophore **2** in the presence of GSH (A) and NTR enzyme (B). The concentration of the proanionophore **2** was 1 mM.



#### 6. Transport of chloride ions across the giant unilamellar vesicles:

**Fig. S29** Fluorescence microscopic images of the compound **1d** (1  $\mu$ M) loaded GUVs. Bight filed (A) and green channel (B). Microscopic images showed that at this concentration of compound **1d**, the fluorescence intensity in the green channel is not detectable, which ruled out the interference of the fluorescence of the compound during lucigenin encapsulated GUVs assay.



## 7. Chloride transport by <sup>35</sup>Cl NMR measurements:

**Fig. S30** The <sup>35</sup>Cl NMR control experiment was performed in the absence of a compound. The NMR experiment was performed in  $H_2O$ :  $D_2O$  (9:1) solution.

#### 8. Validation of AIE property:



**Fig. S31** Fluorescence emission spectra of compound **1d** (0.03  $\mu$ M) in the presence of the liposomal solution (0 - 28  $\mu$ L addition of EYPC-LUVs from 5 mM stock), where a clear blue shift with significant fluorescence enhancement was observed (A). The control experiment in the presence of the same amount (0 - 28  $\mu$ L) of water (B). For both cases, the compound was excited at 350 nm.



#### 9. Staining of GUVs:

Fig. S32 Fluorescence microscopic images of the compound 1d (10  $\mu$ M) loaded GUVs. Bight filed (A) and green channel (B) illustrates the compound 1d encapsulation efficiency of the GUVs. The scale bar of the images was 0.81  $\mu$ m.

**10. Selectivity of the stimuli:** 



Fig. S33 Regeneration of the active compound 1d from the proanionophore 2 in the presence of the different substances. Proanionophore 2 and active compound 1d was (1 mM) were incubated with individual substances (10 mM), and fluorescence spectra were recorded after 72 h of incubation. Fluorescence spectra of proanionophore 2 (A) compound 1d (C) and bar plot diagram of proanionophore 2 (B) compound 1d (D).



Fig. S34 A plot of the initial rates of Cl<sup>-</sup> ion transport activities at different concentrations of compounds.

# **11. NMR spectra of the compounds:**



Fig. S35 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (A) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (B) spectra of compound TPE.



Fig. S36  $^{1}$ H NMR (A) and  $^{13}$ C NMR (B) spectra of compound TPE-NO<sub>2</sub>.



Fig. S37  $^{1}$ H NMR (A) and  $^{13}$ C NMR (B) spectra of compound TPE-NH<sub>2</sub>.



Fig. S38  $^{1}$ H NMR (A) and  $^{13}$ C NMR (B) spectra of compound 1a.



Fig. S39  $^{1}$ H NMR (A) and  $^{13}$ C NMR (B) spectra of compound 1b.



Fig. S40  $^{1}$ H NMR (A) and  $^{13}$ C NMR (B) spectra of compound 1c.



Fig. S41  $^{1}$ H NMR (A) and  $^{13}$ C NMR (B) spectra of compound 1d.



Fig. S42  $^{1}$ H NMR (A) and  $^{13}$ C NMR (B) spectra of compound 2.