A biocompatible two-photon absorbing fluorescent mitochondrial probe for deep *in vivo* bioimaging

Lingmin Lin^{2,3,†}, Zewei He^{4,†}, Tianfang Zhang^{1,†}, Yanming Zuo³, Xiangfeng Chen^{2,3}, Zeinab Abdelrahman^{2,3}, Feihong Chen⁴, Zhongcao Wei⁶, Ke Si⁴, Wei Gong⁵, Xuhua Wang^{2,3,7,*}, Sailing He^{4,*}, Zuobing Chen^{1,†,*}.

- Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, First Affiliated Hospital, College of Medicine, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, 310003, China
- Department of Neurobiology and Department of Orthopedics, 2nd Affiliated Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province 310009, China
 - NHC and CAMS Key Laboratory of Medical Neurobiology, MOE Frontier Science Center for Brain Research and Brain-Machine Integration, School of Brain Science and Brain Medicine, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, 310003, China
 - State Key Laboratory for Modern Optical Instrumentation, Centre for Optical and Electromagnetic Research, East Building No. 5, Zijingang Campus. and Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310058, China.
 - 5. Center for Neuroscience and Department of Neurobiology of the Second Affiliated Hospital, State Key Laboratory of Modern Optical Instrumentation, Zhejiang University School of Medicine, Hangzhou 310058, China

 Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Nanophotonic Functional Materials and Devices, School of Information and Optoelectronic Science and Engineering, South

China Normal University, Guangzhou 510006, China

7. Co-innovation Center of Neuroregeneration, Nantong University, Nantong, 226001

Jiangsu, PR China

[†] These authors contribute equally

* Correspondence: czb1971@zju.edu.cn (Z.C.), sailing@kth.se (S.H.), xhw@zju.edu.cn

(X.W.)



Figure S1. Structure representations of FO2. (a) The HRMS spectrum, (b) the ¹H NMR spectroscopy, and (c) the ¹³C NMR spectrum of FO2. Relative peaks of hydrogen or carbon and the other peaks were labeled by numerals.

Figure S2. Structure representations of Compound 2. (a-d) The LC-MS spectra of Compound 2 (2,7-dibromo-9H-fluorene and 1-(2-bromoethoxy)-2-methoxy-ethane). (b-c) One main peak of the liquid chromatogram at 1.11 min (d) with its desired mass, showing that the core precursor, 2,7-dibromo-9H-fluorene, was completely consumed. (e) The ¹H NMR spectrum of Compound 2, relative peaks and solvent peak were labeled by numerals.

Figure S3. Structure representations of Compound 6. (a-d) The LC-MS spectra of Compound 6 (methyl N-(4-bromophenyl)-N-methylglycinate). One main peak of the liquid chromatogram from 0.766 min to 0.803 min (d) with its desired mass, showing that the core

precursor was completely consumed. (e) The high-resolution mass spectrum of Compound 6, calcd. $C_{18}H_{26}BNO_4$, 331.1955, and found 330.1997. (f) The ¹H NMR spectrum and (g) the ¹³C NMR spectrum of Compound 6, with relative peaks and other peaks were labeled.

Figure S4. Structure representations of Compound 7. (a-d) The LC-MS spectra of Compound 7 (dimethyl 2,2'-((((1E,1'E)-(9,9-bis(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethyl)-9H-fluorene-2,7-diyl))bis(ethene-2,1-diyl))bis(4,1-phenylene))bis(methylazanediyl))diacetate). One main peak

of the liquid chromatogram with its desired mass, showing that the core precursor was completely consumed. (e) The high-resolution mass spectrum of Compound 7, calcd. $C_{47}H_{56}N_2O_8$, 776.4037, and found 776.4046. (f) The ¹H NMR spectrum and (g) the ¹³C NMR spectrum of Compound 7, with relative peaks and other peaks, were labeled.

(a-c) Solvents of various polarities.¹ A stored FO2 (in deionized water, 4 mM) was added to prepare working solutions (20 μ M). (a) The absorption and (b) the emission spectra ($\lambda_{Ex} = 405 \text{ nm}$) were recorded (T = 37 °C). (c) The $E_T(30)$ was employed to indicate solvent polarity², and the linearity of polarity and emission bands (blue dot) was shown (Slip = 2.837, $R^2 = 0.952$) excluding an outlier (DMSO, red dot). Then the polarity response of FO2 in the DMSO/H₂O system (black diamond) with different volume ratios was tested (Slip = 0.102, $R^2 = 0.027$), where the polarity in the binary solvent mixtures were calculated according to a reported formulation. Each test was replicated for 3 times, represented as mean \pm SD.³ (d-e) Solvents of different pH environment in phosphate buffers. A stored FO2 (in deionized water, 1 mM) was added to the phosphate buffer saline with different pH values to prepare working solutions of various pH (10 μ M). Then absorption and emission curves in solutions of various pH values were recorded in a cuvette filled with FO2 working solution. (d) The ultraviolet absorption spectra and a sigmoid curve on the right panel fitting scatters of optical density at 405 nm, with an inset depicting the color of detected solutions (pH 4.9, 11.3). (g)

of these emission spectra were recorded on the up-right panel, with an inset depicting the color (excited by a straight light laser at 405 nm) of detected solutions (pH 4.9, 11.3). (f-g) Solvents of different viscosity tested by the glycerol/methanol system, which has a set of well-distributed viscosity.⁴ A stored solution of FO2 (deionized water, 10 mM) was added to prepare working solutions (20 μ M). (f) The absorption spectra (25 °C) shift from the viscosity of pure methanol to pure glycerol (viscosity data obtained from literature).⁵ And (g) relevant emission spectra with a right-up panel of the viscosity sensitive analysis (the linear regression coefficient of log Viscosity and log fluorescence at 500 nm), where the Forster-Hoffmann value (X = -0.024, R² = 0.706) illustrated a negative effect of fluorescence intensity with viscosity (each test replicated for 3 times, represented as mean \pm SD).⁶ (h-i) The selectivity of various bio-analytes by (h) absorption and (i) emission spectra. A stored solution of FO2 (deionized water, 10 mM) was added to prepare working solutions (20 μ M, deionized water). Solvents of different bio-analytes, including nucleophiles potentially respondent towards FO2,⁷ were selected and measured the absorption and emission spectra (200 μ M) after mixing for 10 minutes. The GSH represents reduced glutathione.

Figure S6. Colocalization analysis of FO2 and lysosome. (a) The FO2 (800 nm, $\lambda_{ex} = 405$ nm; $\lambda_{em} = 430/530$ nm) and (b) LysoTrackerTM Deep Red FO2 (100 nm, $\lambda_{ex} = 635$ nm; $\lambda_{em} = 655/755$ nm) were mixed and added to incubate C6 cells for 30 min before one-photon laser excitation. Confocal microscopy under an oil lens was recorded (X60, Oil Zoom ×2). Scale bar = 10 µm.

Figure S7. The stack of FO2 *in vivo* **imaging in mice cortex.** A circular craniotomy opening (1.5~2.0 mm diameter) was performed, and FO2 was stereotactically injected (80 nL per site, 0.2 mM in disinfected normal saline) in various depths (200 µm, 400 µm, 600 µm).

Two-photon images were recorded with excitation lasers at 810 nm, and each picture in the stack differed by 20 μ m. The white rectangular dashed box showed typical mitochondria figures in cortex cells. Scale bar = 20 μ m.

Figure S8. Two-photon Colocalization in vivo. Two-photon fluorescent signals from mice cortex and excited by a femtosecond laser at 810 nm were collected, including (a) FO2 signals (200 μ M, 30 min; 495nm-540nm), (b) mitochondria by commercial dye MitoTracker Red (20 μ M, 30 min; 575nm-645nm), and (c) the merged image of (a) and (b). Colocalization results suggested a high affinity of FO2 to mitochondria. Bar scale = 50 μ m.

References

1. Collot, M.; Bou, S.; Fam, T. K.; Richert, L.; Mély, Y.; Danglot, L.; Klymchenko, A. S., Probing Polarity and Heterogeneity of Lipid Droplets in Live Cells Using a Push-Pull Fluorophore. *Analytical chemistry* **2019**, *91* (3), 1928-1935.

2. Reichardt, C., Solvatochromic Dyes as Solvent Polarity Indicators. *J Chemical Reviews* **1994**, *94*, 2319-2358.

3. Bosch, E.; Rosés, M., Relationship between ET polarity and composition in binary solvent mixtures. *Journal of the Chemical Society, Faraday Transactions* **1992**, *88* (24), 3541-3546.

4. Guo, R.; Yin, J.; Ma, Y.; Wang, Q.; Lin, W., A novel mitochondria-targeted rhodamine analogue for the detection of viscosity changes in living cells, zebra fish and living mice. *Journal of Materials Chemistry B* **2018**, *6* (18), 2894-2900.

5. Peng, M.; Yin, J.; Lin, W., Tracking mitochondrial viscosity in living systems based on a two-photon and near red probe. *New Journal of Chemistry* **2019**, *43* (43), 16945-16949.

6. Cheng, N. S., Formula for the Viscosity of a Glycerol-Water Mixture. *J Industrial Engineering Chemistry Research* **2008**, *47*, 3285-3288.

7. Chen, Q.; Fang, H.; Shao, X.; Tian, Z.; Geng, S.; Zhang, Y.; Fan, H.; Xiang, P.; Zhang, J.; Tian, X.; Zhang, K.; He, W.; Guo, Z.; Diao, J., A dual-labeling probe to track functional mitochondria–lysosome interactions in live cells. *Nature communications* **2020**, *11* (1), 6290.