

## Supplementary Information

### Derivation of Eqn (3)

If the total amount of DNR in a cell is T, then

$$T = c \times V$$

where c and V are the DNR concentration and cell volume, respectively.

Assuming the volume V does not change,

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = V \times \frac{dc}{dt} \quad (4)$$

Since  $\frac{dT}{dt}$  is determined by the uptake rate  $K_d$  and the efflux rate  $K_p$  of DNR,

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = K_d - K_p \quad (5)$$

Assuming the drug uptake is a diffusion process and obeys Fick's first law of diffusion,

$$K_d = DA \times \frac{dc}{dx}$$

where D is the diffusion coefficient; A is the cell surface area;  $dc/dx$  is the concentration gradient across the cell membrane

$$K_d = DA \times \frac{C_{out} - C_{in}}{x} \quad (6)$$

where x is the cell membrane thickness; and  $C_{out}$  and  $C_{in}$  are the extracellular and intracellular DNR concentrations, respectively.

Assuming the drug efflux of DNR involving Pgp is an enzymatic process obeying the Michaelis–Menten equation, the efflux rate  $F_{out}$  can be given as follows,

$$K_p = \frac{v_{\max} c_{in}}{K_m + c_{in}} \times A \quad (7)$$

where  $v_{\max}$  and  $K_m$  are the maximum rate in Michaelis-Menten equation and the Michaelis-Menten constant for the drug efflux process, respectively.

Substituting eqn (6) and (7) into eqn (4) and (5) and rearranging them, we have

$$\frac{dc}{dt} = \frac{A}{V} \times \left( D \times \frac{c_{out} - c_{in}}{x} - \frac{v_{\max} \times c_{in}}{K_m + c_{in}} \right) \quad (3)$$

## Figure captions

**Figure S1** The schematic diagram of the optical setup including the bright-field imaging system and epifluorescence measurement system. DM, dichroic mirror; EX, excitation filter; PMT, photomultiplier tube; CCD, charge-coupled device camera; TV, television monitor; VCR, video cassette recorder.

**Figure S2** Optimization of the emission wavelength and the excitation wavelength for DNR measurement. (a) Emission scan of a DNR solution (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) at the excitation wavelength of  $\lambda=470$  nm, showing an emission maximum at 590 nm. (b) Excitation scan of a DNR solution (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) at the emission wavelength of  $\lambda=590$  nm, showing an excitation maximum at 470 nm. The dashed lines represent the background without DNR.

Figure S1

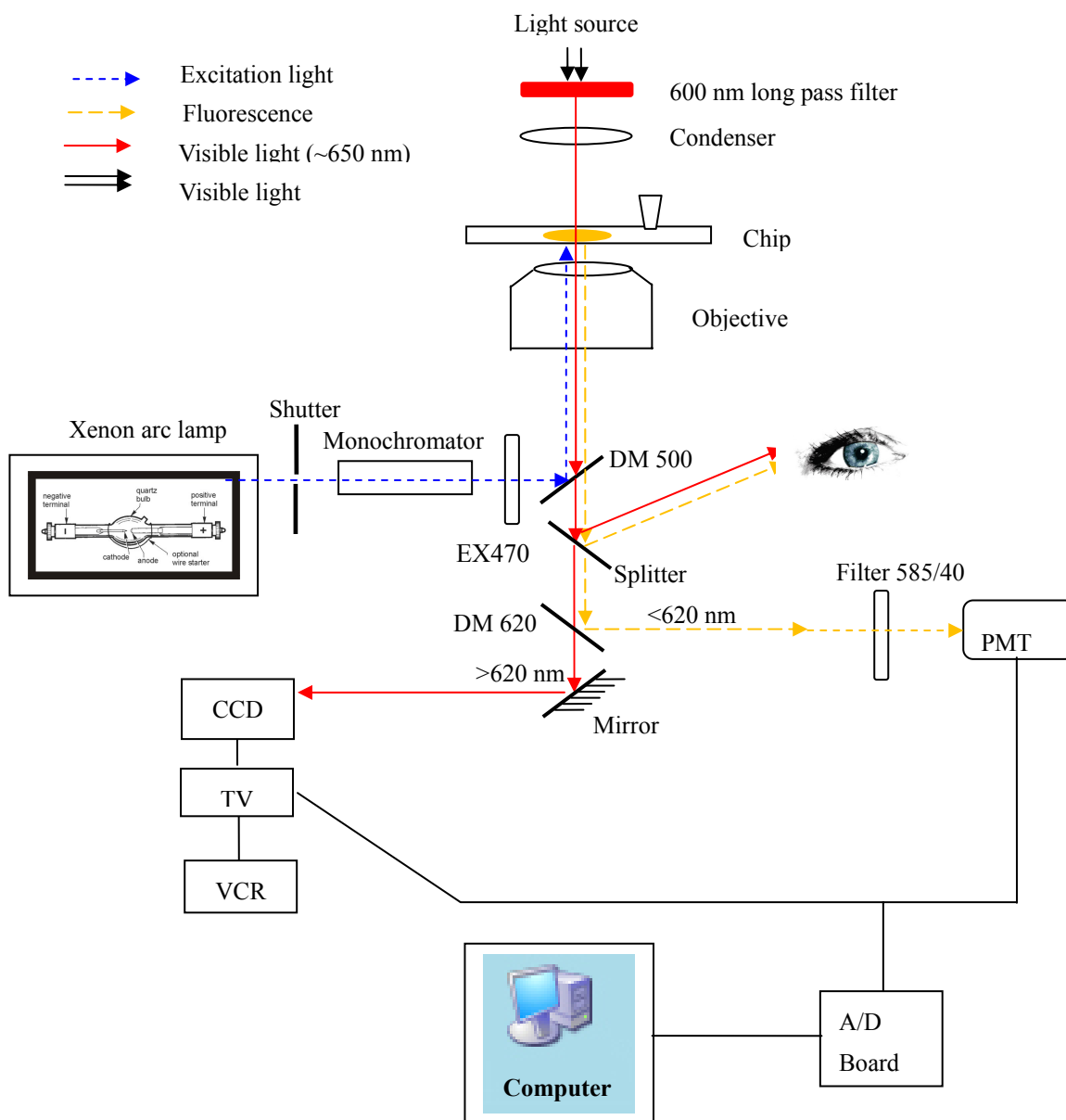


Figure S2

