## Electronic Supplementary Information

for

# Water-soluble luminescent copper nanoclusters reduced and protected by histidine for sensing of guanosine 5 ' -triphosphate 

Xi Juan Zhao, ${ }^{\text {a,b }}$ Cheng Zhi Huang a,c*
${ }^{a}$ Key Laboratory of Luminescent and Real-Time Analytical Chemistry (Southwest University ), Ministry of Education, College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Southwest University, Chongqing 400715, ${ }^{b}$ College of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Southwest University, Chongqing, 400716, PR China, ${ }^{c}$ College of Pharmaceutical Science, Southwest University, Chongqing 400715, PR China

## Supporting Figures



Fig. S1 XPS spectrum of Cu 2 p electrons in dried Cu NCs.

[^0]

Fig. S2 Photographs of alanine and $\mathrm{CuCl}_{2}$ refluxed for 12 hours at $70{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under daylight (A) and under 365 nm UV lamp light (B). $c_{\text {alanine }}, 112.5 \mathrm{mM} ; c_{\mathrm{CuCl} 2}, 2.5 \mathrm{mM}$.


Fig. S3 Effects of temperature on the synthesis of Cu NCs.


Fig. S4 Effects of the ratio of histidine and $\mathrm{CuCl}_{2}$ on the synthesis of luminescent $\mathrm{Cu} \mathrm{NCs} . c_{\mathrm{CuCl}}, 2.5$ $\mathrm{mM}, c_{\text {histidine }} / c_{\mathrm{CuCl2}}=10: 1,15: 1,30: 1,45: 1$, and $60: 1$.


Fig. S5 Effects of pH values on the quenching extent of Cu NCs induced by GTP. $I_{0}$ and $I$ represent the luminescence intensity of Cu NCs in the absence and presence of GTP, respectively. $\quad \lambda_{\mathrm{ex}}=350.0 \mathrm{~nm}$, $\lambda_{\mathrm{em}}=456.0 \mathrm{~nm}, c_{\mathrm{GTP}}=12 \mathrm{mM}, \mathrm{pH}$ values of tris- HCl buffer, $7.4,7.6,7.8,8.0,8.2,8.4,8.6,8.8$.


Fig. S6 The luminescent responses of Cu NCs to some inorganic anions including $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{COO}^{-}, \mathrm{PO}_{4}{ }^{3-}, \mathrm{Br}^{-}$, $\mathrm{HPO}_{4}{ }^{2-}, \mathrm{Cl}^{-}, \mathrm{HCO}_{3}^{-}, \mathrm{P}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{7}^{4-} . \lambda_{\text {ex }}=350.0 \mathrm{~nm}, c_{\text {anion }}=12 \mathrm{mM}, \mathrm{pH} 7.8$ tris -HCl .


[^0]:    * Corresponding author. Tel.: +86-23-68254659; Fax: +86-23-68367257.

    E-mail address: chengzhi@swu.edu.cn (C. Z. Huang)

