## Supporting Information

## Carbon nanodots prepared from ophenylenediamine for sensing of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions in cells

Mani Vedamalai, Arun Prakash Periasamy, Chia-Wei Wang, Yu-Ting Tseng, Lin-Chen Ho, Chung-

Chien Shih and Huan-Tsung Chang\*

Department of Chemistry, National Taiwan University, 1, Section 4, Roosevelt Road, Taipei 106, Taiwan.

Correspondence: Professor Huan-Tsung Chang, Department of Chemistry, National Taiwan University, 1, Section 4, Roosevelt Road, Taipei 106, Taiwan.

Tel. and fax: 011-886-2-33661171

E-mail: changht@ntu.edu.tw



Figure S1. XRD pattern of C dots.



Figure S2. Effects of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions on the (a) FTIR, (b) absorption, and (c) Raman scattering spectra of

C dots in PBS (10 mM, pH 7.0). Concentrations of  $Cu^{2+}$  ions are 80 nM in (a) and (c), and are 0, 20, 40, 60, and 80 nM in (b).



Fig. S3. Fluorescence spectra of C dots prepared from glycine in the absence and presence of  $Cu^{2+}$  (80 nM).



Figure. S4. (a) Absorption (b) fluorescence spectra of OPD (20  $\mu$ M) in the absence and presence of Cu<sup>2+</sup> (80 nM).



**Figure S5**. Effects of (a) ligand and (b) pH on the PL spectra of C dots (30 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>) in PBS (10 mM, pH 7.02) containing 80 nM Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions. (i) OPD, (ii) histidine and (iii) EDTA. The concentrations of the three ligands are all 2  $\mu$ M. Excitation and emission wavelengths are 420 nm and 567 nm, respectively.



**Figure S6.** Effects of (a) NaCl concentration and (b) irradiation time on the PL intensity of C dots (3 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>). Excitation and emission wavelengths are 420 and 567 nm, respectively. (a) C dots were prepared in PBS (10 mM, pH 7.0) containing various concentrations of NaCl. (b) C dots were prepared in PBS (10 mM, pH 7.0).



Figure S7. Viability of three types of cells treated with C dots. (a) A549, (b) MCF-10A, and (c)

MDA-MB-231 cells were treated with C dots at various concentrations for 24 h.