### **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Turn-on NIR fluorescence and colorimetric cyanine probe for monitoring thiol content in serum and glutathione reductase assisted glutathione redox process

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#### General method for measurements of photophysical properties

UV/Vis spectra were recorded on Perkin Elmer Lambda 900 spectrophotometer and fluorescence spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer model LS 55 spectrophotometer. 1 cm cells were used for absorption and emission titration. For UV/Vis and fluorescence titrations stock solution of **DNBSCy** probe were prepared ( $c = 2000 \mu$ M) in 10 mM PBS buffer (pH = 7.4). The solutions of guest cations and amino acids were prepared in buffer solution in the order of 10<sup>-3</sup> M. Working solutions of the probe and metal ions were prepared from the stock solutions. Excitation was carried out at 600 nm excitation wavelength and 10 nm emission slit widths.



**Fig. S1** UV/Vis absorption spectra of **DNBSCy** (10.0  $\mu$ M) and on addition of 10.0 equivalents of Cys, Hcy and GSH in 10 mM PBS buffer medium (pH = 7.4).



**Fig. S2** Relative fluorescence response of **DNBSCy** (10.0  $\mu$ M) on addition different concentration of GSH in 10 mM PBS buffer medium (pH = 7.4).



**Fig. S3** Relative fluorescence intensities of **DNBSCy** with GSH in the presence of various other amino acids. Dark grey bar: **DNBSCy** (10.0  $\mu$ M) with 10 equiv. of amino acid stated. Light grey bar: 10.0  $\mu$ M of **DNBSCy** and 5 equiv. of GSH with 10 eqv. of amino acid stated. ( $E_{\lambda} = 695$  nm). The responses of the **DNBSCy** to GSH, in the absence of amino acids, is included as controls, dark grey bar, no amino acid added, light grey bar, 10.0  $\mu$ M of **DNBSCy** with 5 eqv. of GSH in 10 mM PBS buffer medium (pH = 7.4).



**Fig. S4** ESI mass spectra (positive ion mode) for the reaction of 10.0 μM **DNBSCy** with GSH (10.0 μM) in water. Mass peak observed at 935.1 was attributed to unreacted **DNBSCy**, peak at m/z = 705.2, (calculated for  $[C_{38}H_{43}N_2O_7S_2^- + H]^+$ ) corresponding to this cyanine dye (**Cy-quinone**); peaks at 614.8 ( $[M + 2H]^+$ ), 637.0 ( $[M + H + Na]^+$ ) and 653 ( $[M + H + K]^+$ ) were attributed to the oxidized form of GSH (GS–SG). Peak at m/z = 474.0 corresponding to the side product  $\gamma$ -glutamyl-S-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)cysteinylglycine (calculated for  $C_{16}H_{19}N_5O_{10}S$ ).



**Fig. S5** RP-HPLC (grad. 20-100% ACN in water, 20 min.) of the reaction mixture of **DNBSCy** and GSH in 10 mM PBS buffer medium (pH = 7.4).



**Fig. S6** ESI mass spectra (positive ion mode) of the eluant fraction collected at 2.517 min in RP-HPLC (Fig. S5). Mass peak observed at 615  $([M + 2H]^+)$  and 653  $([M + H + K]^+)$  were attributed to the oxidized form of GSH (GS–SG).



**Fig. S7** ESI mass spectra (positive ion mode) of the eluant fraction collected at 7.124 min in RP-HPLC (Fig. S5). Mass peak at m/z = 474.0 corresponding to the side product  $\gamma$ -glutamyl-S-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)cysteinylglycine (calculated for  $C_{16}H_{19}N_5O_{10}S$ ).



**Fig. S8** ESI mass spectra (positive ion mode) of the eluant fraction collected at 7.856 min in RP-HPLC (Fig. S5). Mass peak at m/z = 705, (calculated for  $[C_{38}H_{43}N_2O_7S_2^- + H]^+$ ) corresponding to this cyanine dye (**Cy-quinone**).



Fig. S9 Absorption spectra of probe DNBSCy (10.0  $\mu$ M) upon addition of various amounts (0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100  $\mu$ L) of reduced fetal bovine serum solution to the 10 mM PBS buffer solution (pH 7.4).



**Fig. S10** Fluorescence spectra of probe **DNBSCy** (10.0  $\mu$ M) in response to enzymatic conversion of GSSG (2 mM) to free GSH using glutathione reductase (1 unit/mL) and 0.4 mM of NADPH in the10 mM PBS buffer solution (pH 7.4).



**Fig. S11** Fluorescence spectra of probe **DNBSCy** (10.0  $\mu$ M) in presence of 1.0 equivalent of GSH, t-BuOOH and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in the10 mM PBS buffer solution (pH 7.4).



Fig. S12 Emission intensity response of the probe DNBSCy (10.0  $\mu$ M) upon addition of 2 mM of GSH in the10 mM PBS buffer solution (pH 7.4).



Fig. S13 Absorption spectra of probe DNBSCy (10.0 µM) in water.



Fig. S14 Emission spectra of probe DNBSCy (10.0  $\mu$ M) in water.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 2,4-dinitrophenyl 2,4-diformylphenyl sulphate



<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 2,4-dinitrophenyl 2,4-diformylphenyl sulphate



<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dinitrobenzenesulphonyl-cyanine (DNBSCy) probe



<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of dinitrobenzenesulphonyl-cyanine (DNBSCy) probe