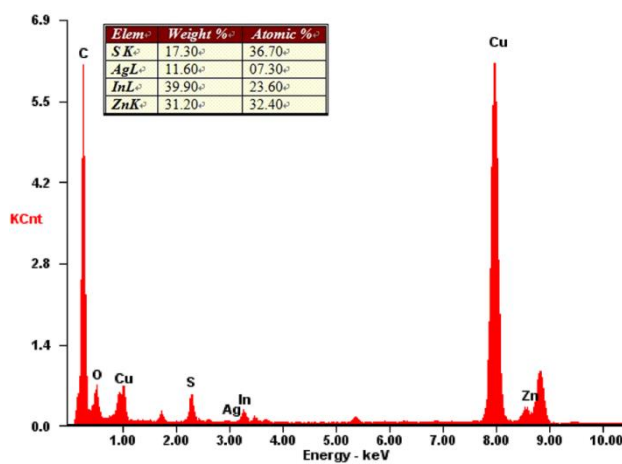


## Supporting Information

### Microwave-assisted Synthesis of Highly Luminescent AgInS<sub>2</sub>/ZnS Nanocrystals for Dynamic Intracellular Cu (II) Detection

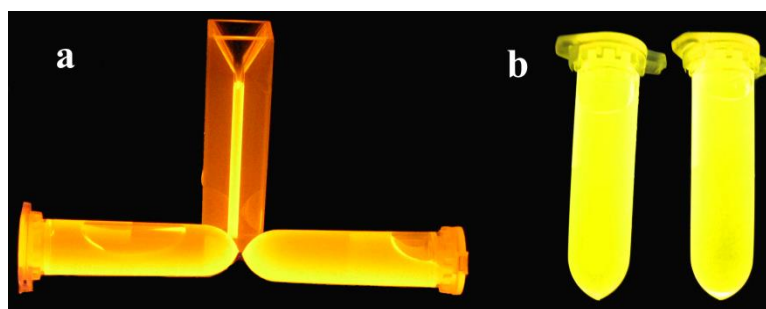
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Fig. S1 EDS spectrum of the AgInS<sub>2</sub>/ZnS NCs



The result indicated the presence of Ag, In, Zn and S.

**Fig.S2** Photographs of water-soluble AgInS<sub>2</sub> NCs (a) and AgInS<sub>2</sub>/ZnS NCs (b) under a 365 nm UV illumination.



**Fig. S3** Cell viability assay of HeLa cells incubated with different concentrations of AgInS<sub>2</sub>/ZnS NCs for 24 h, respectively. Blank (A), 200 μg mL<sup>-1</sup> (B), 100 μg mL<sup>-1</sup> (C), 50 μg mL<sup>-1</sup> (D), 25 μg mL<sup>-1</sup> (E), 10 μg mL<sup>-1</sup> (F), 5 μg mL<sup>-1</sup> (G)

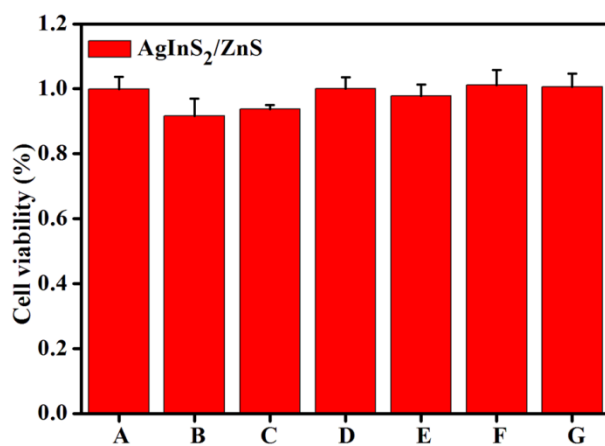
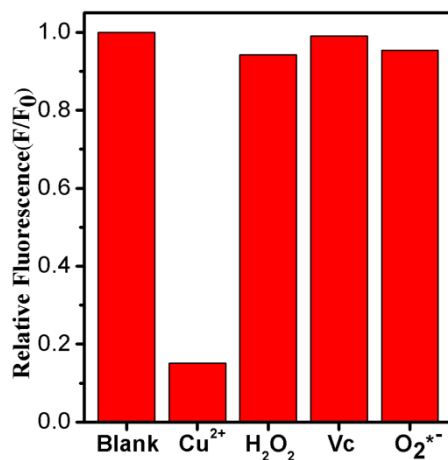


Fig. S4 Fluorescence responses of AgInS<sub>2</sub>/ZnS NCs (0.02 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>) towards ROS (10 μM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 10 μM Vc, and 10 μM O<sub>2</sub><sup>\*-</sup>, respectively)



In order to assess the effect of reactive oxygen species (ROS) on the PL intensity of AgInS<sub>2</sub>/ZnS probes, the PL quenching effect of ROS to probes was investigated. The concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, NaClO, and ascorbic acid (Vc) were all 10.0 μM. O<sub>2</sub><sup>\*-</sup> was generated by the reaction of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> with NaClO as previously reported.<sup>[S1]</sup> As shown in Fig. S4, only a little change of the PL intensity was observed for the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 10 μM Vc, and 10 μM O<sub>2</sub><sup>\*-</sup>. This result ruled out the possibility of intracellular fluorescence quenching of the probes by ROS.

## References

[S1] D. W. Li, L. X. Qin, Y. Li, R. P. Nia, Y. T. Long, H. Y. Chen, *Chem. Commun.*, 2011, **47**, 8539.