Supporting information

An organelle-directed Staudinger reaction enabling fluorescence-on

resolution of mitochondrial electropotentials via a self-immolative charge

reversal probe

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S-1

## Content

## **Experimental Procedure**

- Fig. S1 HRMS confirms genesis of F-TPP by Staudinger reduction of AzF-TPP.
- Fig. S2 Incapability of mitochondria to uptake F-TPP.
- Fig. S3 Phosphine dependent staining of mitochondria.
- Fig. S4 CCCP-dose dependent  $\Delta\Psi m$  changes detected by intra-mitochondrial Staudinger reaction.
- Fig. S5 Cytotoxicity of PPh<sub>3</sub> on AzF-TPP treated cells.
- Fig. S6 Cytotoxicity of AzF-TPP on PPh<sub>3</sub>-treated cells.
- Fig. S7 Selectivity of <sup>Az</sup>F-TPP towards PPh<sub>3</sub> over biological reductants.
- Fig. S8 Photostability of F-TPP.
- Fig. S9 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of F-TPP
- Fig. S10  $^{13}$ C-DEPT NMR of F-TPP
- Fig. S11 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of <sup>Az</sup>F-TPP
- Fig. S12  $^{13}$ C-DEPT NMR of  $^{Az}$ F-TPP
- Fig. S13 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of <sup>Az</sup>F
- Fig. S14  $^{13}$ C-DEPT NMR of  $^{Az}$ F
- Fig. S15 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of PPh<sub>3</sub>-TPP
- Fig. S16 <sup>13</sup>C NMR of PPh<sub>3</sub>-TPP

HO HO PPh<sub>3</sub> PPh<sub>3</sub> 
$$N_3$$
  $N_3$   $N_3$   $N_3$   $N_3$   $N_3$   $N_3$   $N_4$   $N_5$   $N_$ 

**Scheme S1.** Synthesis of F-TPP and <sup>Az</sup>F-TPP

**Scheme S2.** Synthesis of F-TPP and <sup>Az</sup>F

Scheme S3. Synthesis of PPh<sub>3</sub>-TPP

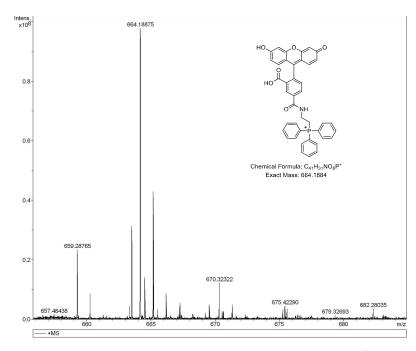
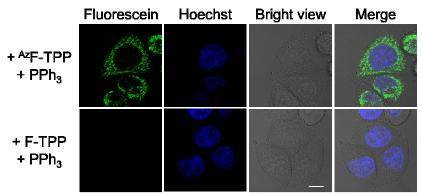
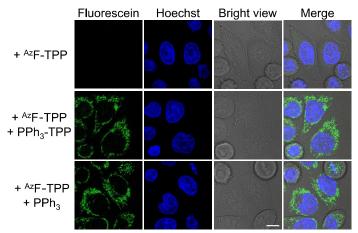


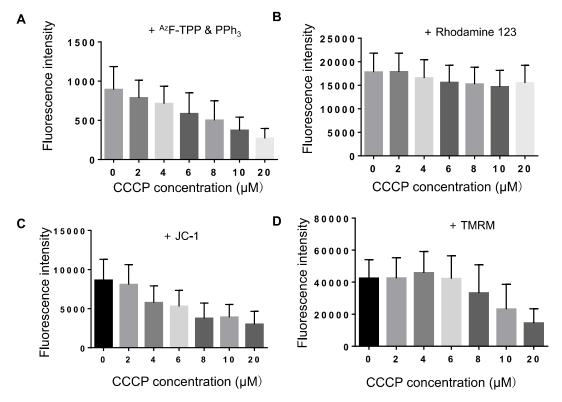
Figure S1. HRMS confirms genesis of F-TPP by Staudinger reduction of <sup>Az</sup>F-TPP.



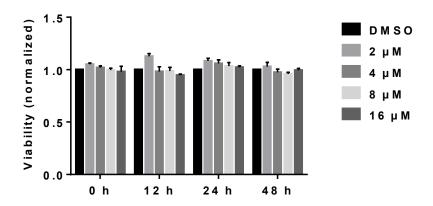
**Figure S2.** Incapability of mitochondria to uptake F-TPP. HeLa cells were respectively cultivated with F-TPP or  $^{Az}F$ -TPP in the presence of PPh<sub>3</sub> and then analysed by confocal fluorescence microscopy. Bar, 10  $\mu$ m.



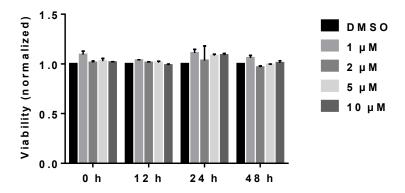
**Figure S3.** Phosphine dependent staining of mitochondria. HeLa cells were respectively cultivated with  $^{Az}F$ -TPP (5  $\mu$ M) together with PPh<sub>3</sub> (8  $\mu$ M), PPh<sub>3</sub>-TPP (8  $\mu$ M), or no addition for 1 h and then analysed by confocal fluorescence microscopy. Bar, 10  $\mu$ m.



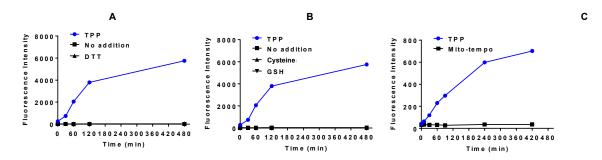
**Figure S4.** CCCP-dose dependent  $\Delta\Psi$ m changes detected by intra-mitochondrial Staudinger reaction. HeLa cells were cultured with various doses of CCCP and then stained with  $^{Az}F$ -TPP/PPh<sub>3</sub> (A), rhodamine 123 (B), JC-1 (C) or TMRM (D), and then analyzed by flow cytometry for intracellular fluorescence. Error bars represent standard deviation of 10000 cells.



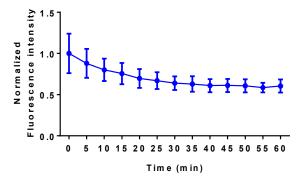
**Figure S5.** Cytotoxicity of PPh<sub>3</sub> on <sup>Az</sup>F-TPP treated cells. HeLa cells were incubated with <sup>Az</sup>F-TPP and various doses of PPh<sub>3</sub> and then cells were incubated for 0, 12, 24, and 48 h. The cell viability were determined by MTT assay.



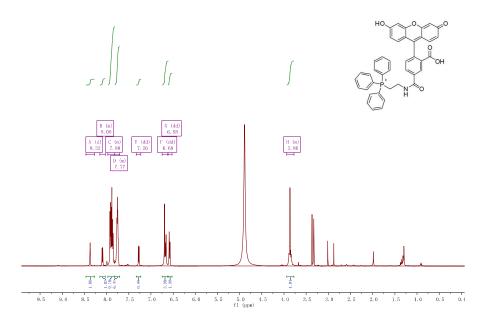
**Figure S6.** Cytotoxicity of <sup>Az</sup>F-TPP on PPh<sub>3</sub>-treated cells. HeLa cells were incubated with PPh<sub>3</sub> and various doses of <sup>Az</sup>F-TPP and then cells were incubated for 0, 12, 24, and 48 h. The cell viability were determined by MTT assay.



**Figure S7.** Selectivity of <sup>Az</sup>F-TPP towards PPh<sub>3</sub> over biological reductants. To <sup>Az</sup>F-TPP (10 mM) in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8, 100 mM, 40% DMF) were added dithiothreitol (DTT) (25 mM) (A), cysteine (25 mM), GSH (25 mM), Mito-Tempo (0.6 mM), PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mM) or no addition. Fluorescence emission of the the samples (Ex: 515 nm) were monitored and recorded as a function of incubation time.



**Figure S8.** Photophysical properties of F-TPP in HeLa cells. Cells preincubated with <sup>Az</sup>F-TPP/PPh<sub>3</sub> were constantly illuminated and scaned for 12 times with a confocal fluorescence microscope (Ex@488 nm). The fluorescence of cells were calculated by ImagingJ and normalized. Error bars represent standard deviation of 10 cells.



**Figure S9.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of F-TPP

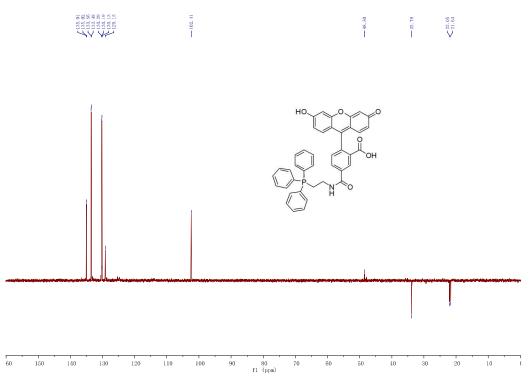


Figure S10. <sup>13</sup>C-DEPT NMR of F-TPP

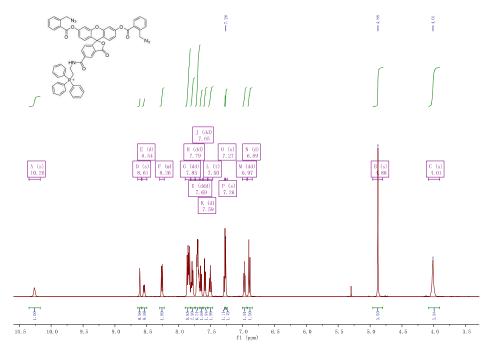
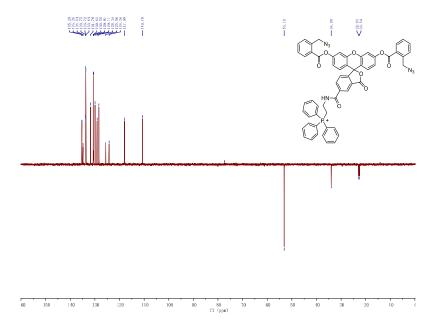
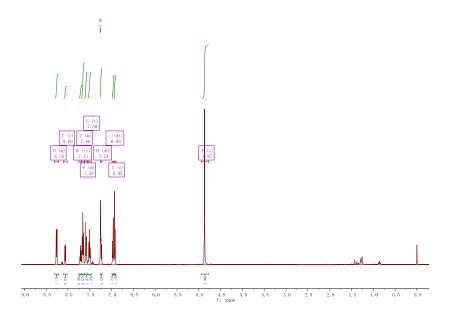


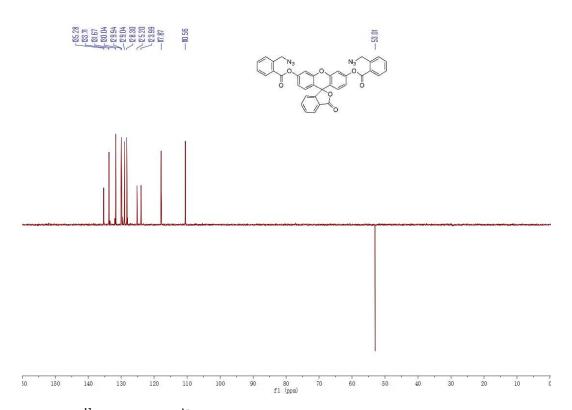
Figure S11. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of <sup>Az</sup>F-TPP



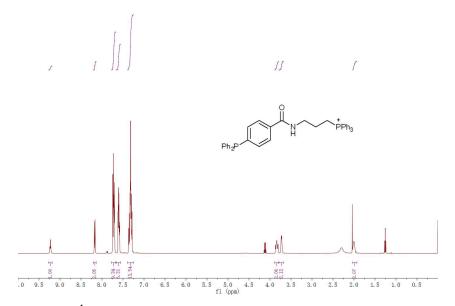
**Figure S12.** <sup>13</sup>C-DEPT NMR of <sup>Az</sup>F-TPP



**Figure S13.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of <sup>Az</sup>F



**Figure S14.** <sup>13</sup>C-DEPT NMR of <sup>Az</sup>F



**Figure S15.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of PPh<sub>3</sub>-TPP

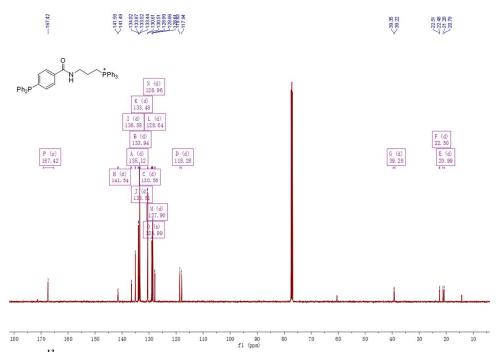


Figure S16. <sup>13</sup>C NMR of PPh<sub>3</sub>-TPP