Supporting Information

Engineering of donor-acceptor-donor curcumin analogues as near-infrared fluorescent probes for *in vivo* imaging of amyloid-β species

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1. Experimental Procedures

1.1 Instrument

The $^1$H and $^{13}$C NMR spectra were acquired on a 400 MHz Bruker Avance III 400 spectrometer. High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was carried out on Thermo Scientific Dionex Ultimate 3000 with CH$_3$CN/H$_2$O (1‰ CF$_3$COOH) as the eluents. Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization Time of Flight Mass Spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS) and high-resolution spectrometry (HRMS) analysis was conducted on AB SCIEX 4800 Plus MALDI TOF/TOFTM mass spectrometer and Bruker microTOF-Q111, respectively. The UV-Vis spectra were carried out on an Ocean Optics Maya 2000 Pro spectrometer. The fluorescence spectra were measured with a HORIBA Jobin Yvon Fluoromax-4 fluorometer. The calorimetric experiments were conducted on a MicroCal ITC200. TEM images were obtained on a JEM-1011 transmission electron microscope (JEOL, Ltd., Japan) with an accelerating voltage of 100 kV. MTT assay and the fluorescence intensity of probe 2 or probe 9 extracted from biological samples was performed on a microplate reader (Tcan). Fluorescent images of brain tissue slices were acquired on Olympus VS200 microscope. Confocal fluorescence images were obtained on Leica TCS SP8 confocal laser scanning microscope. In vivo fluorescence images were recorded with an IVIS Lumina XR III system, and fluorescence intensity was quantified by the region-of-interest measurement using Living image software (PerkinElmer).

1.2 Isothermal titration microcalorimetry (ITC)

The preparation of Aβ42 monomers was conducted according to previously reported approach (Int J Biol Macromol. 2021; 168: 611-619). The preparation of Aβ42 oligomers and aggregates was same as that in in vitro spectroscopic measurement.

ITC experiments were performed on MicroCal ITC200 calorimeter (GE). Probe 9 was placed in the sample cell (10 μM, containing 3% DMSO) and Aβ42 protein (Aβ42 monomers, oligomers and aggregates respectively) was loaded into syringe cell. All solution in its corresponding group were prepared in the same buffer and were degassed for 20 min before experiments. After equilibration at 25 ºC and an initial delay, 20 serial
injection (2 μL) were added into the sample cell from the syringe by using 1000 rpm stirring speed and 2 min intervals. In addition, the titrant was injected into the buffer solution in the sample cell to measure the heat of dilution. The value of the heat of dilution was subtracted from the titration data. Origin 7.0 software supplied with the instrument was used to analyze the ITC titration data.

1.3 Western Blotting

The protein was separated by SDS-PAGE (×1) and transferred to the nitrocellulose membrane by electrophoretic blotting (250 mA, 60 min). The membrane was sealed in 5% skimmed milk powder (dispersed in TBST buffer with 0.1% Tween 20) at room temperature for 1 h, incubated with 6E10 anti-Aβ primary antibody (1:2000 dilution, Biolegend) for 30 min at room temperature and stored at 4 ºC overnight. The next day, the membrane was incubated with the primary antibody at room temperature for 30 min. After washing with TBST 4 times, the membrane was incubated with horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated secondary antibody at room temperature for 1 h. Then, the membrane was washed with TBST 4 times. The secondary antibody on the membrane was visualized with ECL detection reagent using G:BOX chemiXR5. Image J was used to quantify the band intensity. RealBand 3-color Broad Range Protein Marker (Sangon Biotech)(4-250KDa) was used as a molecular weight marker.

The samples were prepared using the following procedure. A 10 μL HFIP (hexafluoroisopropanol) solution (25 μM) of native Aβ42 was added to a 1.5 mL eppendorf tube. After evaporating the organic solvent under vacuum, a 10 μL DMSO or DMSO stock solution of probe 9 (25, 125 and 250 μM) was added to the tube, followed by the addition of 30 μL of vitamin C solution in PBS (33.3 μM) and 10 μL of copper sulfate solution in PBS (pH 7.4) (12.5 μM). The resulting mixture was incubated at 37 ºC for 4 h and then subjected to gel electrophoresis. For the CRANAD-58 group, the same operation was employed except that 10 μL DMSO solution of CRANAD-58 (250 μM) was added to the tube.

1.4 Measurement of blood circulation time
Probe 9 (1.0 mg/kg) was i.v. injected into the healthy BALB/c mice (5-6 weeks old). At 0, 15 min, 0.5, 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, and 24 h, bloods were collected from the venous sinus of mice (n = 3), and preserved into 1.5-mL EDTA coated Eppendorf tubes that are chilled on ice. 100 μL collected bloods at each time point were pipetted to Eppendorf tubes, and diluted with 400 μL PBS (pH = 7.4) and then homogenized vigorously (65 Hz, 60 s, adding 2 magnetic bead per tube). The homogenates (100 μL respectively) were successively denatured and extracted with equal volume methanol and acetonitrile respectively. The mixture was centrifuged at 14400 rpm for 5 min. The supernatant was transferred to an Eppendorf tube. The sediment was treated with equal volume PBS buffer (pH = 7.4), methanol and acetonitrile respectively as described above, and was repeated another time (totally 3 times). The supernatant in each time was merged and subjected to fluorescence assay on a microplate reader. Plot of the percentage of probe 9 remained in the blood versus injection time to determine the blood circulation half-time ($t_{1/2}$).

1.5 Biodistribution studies

Healthy female mice were i.v. injected with probe 9 (1.0 mg/kg). After 10, 60, and 240 min (n = 3), the mice were sacrificed, and major organs including heart, liver, spleen, lung, kidneys, intestines, stomach, brain and muscle were resected and then cut into small pieces and weighted. Each organ was homogenized with PBS buffer (pH = 7.4) (5.0 mL/g) vigorously (65 Hz, 240 s, adding 3-4 magnetic bead per tube). The homogenate (100 μL respectively) were successively denatured and extracted with equal volume methanol and acetonitrile respectively. The mixture was centrifuged at 14400 rpm for 5 min. The supernatant was transferred to an Eppendorf tube. The sediment was treated with equal volume PBS buffer (pH = 7.4), methanol and acetonitrile respectively as described above, and was repeated another time (totally 3 times). The supernatant in each time was merged and subjected to fluorescence assay on a microplate reader. The contents of probe 9 in each sample was deduced from the standard curve of probe 9, divided by the injection dose and then normalized to the weight of each organ to obtain the value of %ID/g tissue.
1.6 Investigation of principal metabolic pathway

The healthy BALB/c mice were i.v. injected with probe 9 (1.0 mg/kg) and placed in metabolic cages for 72 h. Feces and urine were collected at the period of 0-4 h, 4-12 h, 12-24 h, 24-48 h and 48-72 h after injection. The urine was diluted with PBS buffer (pH = 7.4) 5 times for the following denature and extration. The feces was homegenized with PBS beffer (pH = 7.4) (5.0 mL/g) vigorously (65 Hz, 240 s, adding 3 magnetic bead per tube). The diluted urine and feces homegenate (100 μL respectively) were successively denatured and extracted with equal volume methanol and acetonitrile respectively. The mixture was centrifuged at 14400 rpm for 5 min. The supernatant was transferred to an Eppendorf tube. The sediment was treated with equal volume PBS buffer (pH = 7.4), methanol and acetonitrile respectively as described above, and was repeated another time (totally 3 times). The supernatant in each time was merged and subjected to fluorescence assay on a microplate reader. The contents of probe 9 in each sample was deduced from the standard curve of probe 9, divided by the injection dose to obtain the value of %ID.
1.7 Synthesis and characterization

Scheme S1. Synthesis of curcumin derivatives. Reaction conditions: (a) BF₃·Et₂O, Toluene, 60 °C, 2 h, 61%; (b) AcOH, tetrahydroisoquinoline, acetonitrile, 60 °C, overnight; (c) Ac₂O, 60 °C, overnight.

Synthesis of 2,2-Difluoro-1,3-dioxaboryl-pentadione (A1): BF₃·Et₂O (1.26 g, 9.99 mmol) was slowly added to a dry toluene solution (2.0 ml) containing acetylacetone (1 g, 9.99 mmol), and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 2 h. Then, the mixture was evaporated and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the desired product as a pale yellow solid. Yield: 899 mg (61%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.98 (s, 1H), 2.29 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.55, 102.04, 24.27. ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -138.26, -138.33. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C₅H₈BF₂O₂ [M+H]+ 149.0580; found 149.0241.
Synthesis of \( \textbf{C1} \): \( \text{A1} \) (150 mg, 1.014 mmol) was dissolved in acetonitrile (2.0 mL), followed by addition of acetic acid (0.1 mL), tetrahydroisoquinoline (0.02 mL, 0.15 mmol) and \( \text{B1} \) (181 mg, 1.014 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 60 °C overnight. A black residue was obtained after removing the solvent, which was further purified with flash column chromatography to give a red powder. Yield: 109 mg (35%). 

\(^1\)H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \( \delta \) 8.35 (d, \( J = 2.4 \) Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, \( J = 15.3 \) Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, \( J = 9.2, 2.4 \) Hz, 1H), 6.52 (d, \( J = 9.2 \) Hz, 1H), 6.35 (d, \( J = 15.3 \) Hz, 1H), 5.89 (s, 1H), 3.60 (q, \( J = 7.1 \) Hz, 4H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.23 (t, \( J = 7.1 \) Hz, 6H). 

\(^{13}\)C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \( \delta \) 188.19, 180.72, 159.10, 153.83, 147.35, 135.94, 117.93, 113.59, 106.37, 100.62, 43.32, 24.16, 13.05. MALDI-TOF-MS: calcd. for C\(_{15}\)H\(_{20}\)BF\(_2\)N\(_2\)O\(_2\) [M+H]\(^+\) 309.1580; found 309.1298.

Synthesis of \( \textbf{C2} \): \( \text{A1} \) (0.15g, 1.0 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (2.0 mL), followed by the additions of acetic acid (0.1 mL), tetrahydroisoquinoline (0.02 mL, 0.15 mmol), and \( \text{B2} \) (0.15g, 1.0 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 60 °C overnight. A black residue was obtained after removing the solvent and further purified with flash column chromatography to give a red powder. Yield: 58.7 mg (21%). 

\(^1\)H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \( \delta \) 8.03 (d, \( J = 15.2 \) Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, \( J = 8.9 \) Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d, \( J = 8.9 \) Hz, 2H), 6.38 (d, \( J = 15.2 \) Hz, 1H), 5.87 (s, 1H), 3.09 (s, 6H), 2.25 (s, 3H). 

\(^{13}\)C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \( \delta \) 187.18, 180.81, 153.36, 150.15, 132.22, 121.82, 113.30, 112.07, 100.54, 40.25, 29.83. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C\(_{14}\)H\(_{17}\)BF\(_2\)NO\(_2\) [M+H]\(^+\) 280.1315; found 280.1308.

Synthesis of \( \textbf{C3} \): \( \text{A1} \) (150 mg, 1.014 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (2.0 mL), followed by the additions of acetic acid (0.1 mL), tetrahydroisoquinoline (0.02 mL, 0.15 mmol), and \( \text{B3} \) (163 mg, 1.014 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 60 °C overnight. A black residue was obtained after removing the solvent and further purified with flash column chromatography to give a red powder. Yield: 120 mg (41%). 

\(^1\)H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \( \delta \) 8.02 (d, \( J = 15.2 \) Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, \( J = 8.7 \) Hz, 2H), 6.41 – 6.32 (m, 3H), 5.86 (s, 1H), 4.04 (t, \( J = 7.4 \) Hz, 4H), 2.45 (quint, \( J = 7.4 \) Hz, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H). 

\(^{13}\)C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \( \delta \) 187.23, 180.81, 153.99, 150.34, 132.12, 122.27,
113.25, 110.69, 100.54, 51.56, 24.05, 16.52. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C\textsubscript{15}H\textsubscript{17}BF\textsubscript{2}NO\textsubscript{2} [M+H]\textsuperscript{+} 292.1315; found 292.1314.

**Synthesis of C4:** A1 (85 mg, 0.57 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (2.0 mL), followed by the additions of acetic acid (0.1 mL), tetrahydroisoquinoline (0.02 mL, 0.15 mmol), and B4 (100 mg, 0.57 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 60 °C overnight. A black residue was obtained after removing the solvent and further purified with flash column chromatography to give a red powder. Yield: 79.7 mg (45%). \textsuperscript{1}H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3}) δ 8.04 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.55 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.35 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (s, 1H), 3.42-3.38 (m, 4H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.09 – 2.02 (m, 4H). \textsuperscript{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3}) δ 186.55, 180.72, 151.12, 150.54, 132.51, 121.46, 112.54, 112.33, 100.42, 47.88, 29.84, 25.54, 23.99. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C\textsubscript{16}H\textsubscript{19}BF\textsubscript{2}NO\textsubscript{2} [M+H]\textsuperscript{+} 308.1628; found 308.1635. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C\textsubscript{16}H\textsubscript{18}BF\textsubscript{2}NNaO\textsubscript{2} [M+Na]\textsuperscript{+} 328.1447; found 328.1455.

**Synthesis of C5:** A1 (100 mg, 0.67 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (2.0 mL), followed by the additions of acetic acid (0.1 mL), tetrahydroisoquinoline (0.02 mL, 0.15 mmol), and B5 (119 mg, 0.67 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 60 °C overnight. A black residue was obtained after removing the solvent and further purified with flash column chromatography to give a red powder. Yield: 110 mg (49%). \textsuperscript{1}H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3}) δ 8.02 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.35 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 5.86 (s, 1H), 3.44 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 6H). \textsuperscript{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3}) δ 186.55, 180.74, 151.40, 150.21, 132.66, 121.21, 112.58, 111.66, 100.43, 44.89, 23.97, 12.71. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C\textsubscript{16}H\textsubscript{21}BF\textsubscript{2}NO\textsubscript{2} [M+H]\textsuperscript{+} 308.1628; found 308.1635. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C\textsubscript{16}H\textsubscript{20}BF\textsubscript{2}NNaO\textsubscript{2} [M+Na]\textsuperscript{+} 330.1447; found 330.1455.

**Synthesis of C6:** A1 (87 mg, 0.558 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (2.0 mL), followed by the additions of acetic acid (0.1 mL), tetrahydroisoquinoline (0.02 mL, 0.15 mmol), and B6 (100 mg, 0.558 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 60 °C overnight. A black residue was obtained after removing the solvent and further purified with flash column chromatography to give a red powder. Yield: 65 mg (38%). \textsuperscript{1}H NMR
(400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ 8.01 (d, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dd, $J = 8.3$, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 6H), 2.29 (s, 3H). $^{13}$C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ 189.15, 180.79, 151.49, 149.39, 146.96, 126.53, 125.34, 117.28, 116.01, 111.11, 100.98, 55.71, 42.79, 24.24. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C$_{15}$H$_{19}$BF$_2$NO$_3$ [M+H]$^+$ 310.1421; found 310.1415.

**Synthesis of C7:** A1 (50 mg, 0.335 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (2.0 mL), followed by the additions of acetic acid (0.1 mL), tetrahydroisoquinoline (0.02 mL, 0.15 mmol), and B7 (67 mg, 0.335 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 60 °C overnight. A black residue was obtained after removing the solvent and further purified with flash column chromatography to give a dark red powder. Yield: 28 mg (25%). $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ 8.18 (d, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, $J = 9.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.14 (dd, $J = 9.1$, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H). $^{13}$C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ 189.42, 180.89, 150.47, 149.94, 137.51, 133.59, 130.69, 127.40, 127.25, 125.92, 124.23, 116.82, 116.39, 105.77, 101.15, 40.53, 29.84. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C$_{18}$H$_{19}$BF$_2$NO$_2$ [M+H]$^+$ 330.1471; found 330.1468.

**Synthesis of C8:** A1 (30 mg, 0.203 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (2.0 mL), followed by the additions of acetic acid (0.1 mL), tetrahydroisoquinoline (0.02 mL, 0.15 mmol), and B8 (36 mg, 0.203 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 60 °C overnight. A black residue was obtained after removing the solvent and further purified with flash column chromatography to give a dark red powder. Yield: 14 mg (22%). $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ 8.00 (d, $J = 15.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 6.37 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.87 (s, 1H), 3.86 (t, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.61 (t, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 1.36 – 1.13 (m, 1H). $^{13}$C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ 187.41, 180.81, 152.90, 149.94, 132.28, 122.15, 113.55, 112.26, 100.61, 60.29, 54.47, 39.29, 24.05. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C$_{15}$H$_{19}$BF$_2$NO$_3$ [M+H]$^+$ 310.1421; found 310.1422. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C$_{15}$H$_{18}$BF$_2$NNaO$_3$ [M+Na]$^+$ 332.1240; found 332.1242.
Synthesis of probe 1: C1 (20 mg, 0.065 mmol) and Fischer’s aldehyde (D1) (13 mg, 0.065 mmol) were dissolved in acetic anhydride (2.0 mL). After stirred at room temperature for 10 min, the mixture was transferred to stirred at 60 °C overnight. The acetic anhydride was removed under vacuum and the residues was purified by flash chromatography to give dark powder. Yield: 11 mg (34%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.33 (m, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (s, 1H), 5.66 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 1.64 (s, 6H), 1.22 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.42, 173.67, 169.64, 158.08, 151.42, 145.52, 143.47, 140.40, 140.22, 135.53, 128.25, 123.08, 122.13, 118.88, 116.53, 113.59, 108.43, 106.16, 100.64, 97.65, 48.05, 43.13, 30.00, 28.77, 28.49. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C₂₈H₃₃BF₂N₃O₂ [M+H]+ 492.2628; found 492.2629.

Synthesis of probe 2: C2 (50 mg, 0.179 mmol) and Fischer’s aldehyde (D1) (39.7 mg, 0.197 mmol) were dissolved in acetic anhydride (2.0 mL). After stirred at room temperature for 10 min, the mixture was transferred to stirred at 60 °C overnight. The acetic anhydride was removed under vacuum and the residues was purified by flash chromatography to give dark powder. Yield: 46 mg (55%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.32 (t, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.41 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (s, 1H), 5.65 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.04 (s, 6H), 1.65 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.22, 173.67, 169.64, 158.08, 151.42, 145.52, 143.47, 140.40, 140.22, 135.53, 128.22, 122.12, 116.23, 113.85, 112.14, 108.29, 100.56, 97.48, 53.57, 47.94, 40.33, 29.94, 28.79. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C₂₇H₃₃BF₂N₂O₂ [M+H]+ 463.2363; found 463.2361.

Synthesis of probe 3: C3 (32 mg, 0.110 mmol) and Fischer’s aldehyde (D1) (22 mg, 0.110 mmol) were dissolved in acetic anhydride (2.0 mL). After stirred at room temperature for 10 min, the mixture was transferred to stirred at 60 °C overnight. The
acetic anhydride was removed under vacuum and the residues was purified by flash chromatography to give dark powder. Yield: 28 mg (54%). $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 8.32 (t, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.06 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.40 (d, $J = 15.84$ Hz, 1H), 6.37 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 5.81 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.68 (s, 1H), 5.65 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.98 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 4H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.48-2.37 (m, 2H), 1.65 (s, 6H).

$^{13}$C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 177.30, 174.35, 169.22, 153.15, 145.09, 143.83, 143.58, 140.21, 130.55, 128.22, 123.83, 122.92, 122.14, 116.31, 113.83, 110.97, 108.28, 100.58, 97.47, 51.90, 47.96, 29.95, 29.84, 28.80. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C$_{28}$H$_{30}$BF$_2$N$_2$O$_2$ [M+H]$^+$ 475.2363; found 475.2367.

Synthesis of probe 4: C4 (50 mg, 0.163 mmol) and Fischer’s aldehyde (D1) (32.9 mg, 0.163 mmol) were dissolved in acetic anhydride (2.0 mL). After stirred at room temperature for 10 min, the mixture was transferred to stirred at 60 °C overnight. The acetic anhydride was removed under vacuum and the residues was purified by flash chromatography to give dark powder. Yield: 21 mg (35%). $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 8.28 (t, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 15.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.03 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.36 (d, $J = 15.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.79 (d, $J = 13.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.65 (s, 1H), 5.62 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.33 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 4H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 2.09 – 1.96 (m, 4H), 1.62 (s, 6H). $^{13}$C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 176.98, 174.35, 168.85, 149.78, 144.63, 144.19, 143.63, 140.17, 130.99, 128.19, 122.77, 122.57, 122.10, 115.41, 114.01, 112.10, 108.20, 100.44, 97.39, 47.87, 47.80, 29.90, 28.79, 25.57. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C$_{29}$H$_{32}$BF$_2$N$_2$O$_2$ [M+H]$^+$ 489.2519; found 489.2519.

Synthesis of probe 5: C5 (50 mg, 0.162 mmol) and Fischer’s aldehyde (D1) (32.7 mg, 0.162 mmol) were dissolved in acetic anhydride (2.0 mL). After stirred at room temperature for 10 min, the mixture was transferred to stirred at 60 °C overnight. The acetic anhydride was removed under vacuum and the residues was purified by flash chromatography to give dark powder. Yield: 30 mg (38%). $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 8.31 (t, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 15.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d,
$J = 2.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.05 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.38 (d, $J = 15.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.81 (d, $J = 13.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.68 (s, 1H), 5.64 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.41 (q, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 4H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 1.64 (s, 6H), 1.41 (d, $J = 13.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.20 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H). $^{13}$C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 177.03, 174.63, 168.89, 149.95, 144.67, 143.96, 143.62, 140.17, 131.12, 128.34, 128.20, 122.80, 122.28, 122.11, 115.42, 113.97, 111.52, 108.22, 100.45, 97.40, 47.88, 44.71, 29.91, 28.79. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C$_{29}$H$_{34}$BF$_2$N$_2$O$_2$ [M+H]$^+$ 491.2676; found 491.2677.

Synthesis of probe 6: C6 (30 mg, 0.097 mmol) and Fischer's aldehyde (D1) (20 mg, 0.097 mmol) were dissolved in acetic anhydride (2.0 mL). After stirred at room temperature for 10 min, the mixture was transferred to stirred at 60 °C overnight. The acetic anhydride was removed under vacuum and the residues was purified by flash chromatography to give dark powder. Yield: 17 mg (36%). $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 8.37 (t, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, $J = 15.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.10 (m, 2H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.88 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.49 (d, $J = 15.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.82 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 5.70 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 2.88 (s, 6H), 1.65 (s, 6H). $^{13}$C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 177.74, 173.22, 170.19, 151.93, 146.15, 143.38, 142.44, 140.28, 128.30, 123.30, 123.08, 122.16, 119.08, 117.90, 113.36, 110.44, 108.58, 101.12, 97.85, 55.61, 48.18, 43.05, 30.07, 29.82, 28.77. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C$_{28}$H$_{32}$BF$_2$N$_2$O$_3$ [M+H]$^+$ 493.2469; found 493.2470.

Synthesis of probe 7: C7 (44 mg, 0.134 mmol) and Fischer's aldehyde (D1) (27 mg, 0.134 mmol) were dissolved in acetic anhydride (2.0 mL). After stirred at room temperature for 10 min, the mixture was transferred to stirred at 60 °C overnight. The acetic anhydride was removed under vacuum and the residues was purified by flash chromatography to give dark powder. Yield: 18 mg (26%). $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 8.40 (t, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J = 15.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.10 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, $J = 15.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.85 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.76 (s, 1H), 5.71 (d, $J = 13.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.36 (s, 2H), 3.14 (s, 6H), 1.67 (s, 6H). $^{13}$C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 177.24, 174.52, 168.38, 152.11, 144.97, 143.82, 143.07,
Synthesis of probe 8: C1 (40 mg, 0.186 mmol) and N-ethyl-3,3-dimethyl-indoline (D2) (37 mg, 0.186 mmol) were dissolved in acetic anhydride (2.0 mL). After stirred at room temperature for 10 min, the mixture was transferred to stirred at 60 °C overnight. The acetic anhydride was removed under vacuum and the residues was purified by flash chromatography to give dark powder. Yield: 55 mg (62%). $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 8.34 (t, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.42 (d, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.80 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.68 (s, 1H), 5.678 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.82 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.05 (s, 6H), 1.64 (s, 6H), 1.32 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}$C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 177.19, 174.09, 168.31, 151.94, 145.34, 143.41, 142.61, 140.47, 130.65, 128.25, 122.96, 122.25, 116.65, 116.42, 113.45, 112.30, 108.31, 100.55, 97.07, 48.13, 40.43, 37.92, 28.77, 28.59. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C$_{31}$H$_{32}$BF$_2$N$_2$O$_2$ [M+H]$^+$ 513.2519; found 513.2517.

Synthesis of probe 9: C8 (35 mg, 0.113 mmol) and Fischer's aldehyde (D1) (23 mg, 0.113 mmol) were dissolved in acetic anhydride (2.0 mL). After stirred at room temperature for 10 min, the mixture was transferred to stirred at 60 °C overnight. The acetic anhydride was removed under vacuum and the residues was purified by flash chromatography to give dark powder. Yield: 13 mg (23%). $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 8.33 (t, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.07 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.41 (d, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.81 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.69 (s, 1H), 5.66 (d, $J = 13.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.26 (t, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 2H), 3.66 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 1.64 (s, 6H). $^{13}$C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 177.32, 174.19, 168.31, 151.94, 145.34, 143.41, 142.61, 140.47, 130.65, 128.25, 122.96, 122.25, 116.65, 116.42, 113.45, 112.30, 108.31, 100.55, 97.07, 48.13, 40.43, 37.92, 28.77, 28.59. HRMS(ESI): calcd. for C$_{28}$H$_{31}$BF$_2$N$_2$O$_3$ [M+Na]$^+$ 515.2288; found 515.2288.
Figure S1. The normalized HPLC profiles of probe 1-9 and CRANAD-58. The spectra were recorded using a gradient of 50%-95% acetonitrile-water eluent. Both acetonitrile and water contained 1‰ TFA.

Figure S2. Fluorescence spectrum of 2.5 μM probe 1 (A), probe 2 (B) and CRANAD-58 (C) in different solutions. (Note: PBS buffer contained 10% DMSO).

Figure S3. Contour map of probe 2 (250 nM) after interaction with 250 nM Aβ42 monomers (A), Aβ oligomers (B) and Aβ aggregates (C) in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4).

Figure S4. Binding constants ($K_d$) of probe 1 against 2.5 μM Aβ42 monomers, oligomers and aggregates, respectively.
**Figure S5.** Binding constants ($K_d$) of probe 2 against 2.5 μM Aβ42 monomers, oligomers and aggregates, respectively.

**Figure S6.** Binding constants ($K_d$) of CRANAD-58 against 2.5 μM Aβ42 monomers, oligomers and aggregates, respectively.

**Figure S7.** Determination of the sensitivity of probe 2 against Aβ42 species. (A, B, C) Fluorescence spectrum of probe 2 (250 nM) incubating with different concentrations of (A) Aβ42 monomers, (B) Aβ42 oligomers and (C) Aβ42 aggregates, respectively. (D, E, F) Linear fitting curves of mean fluorescence intensity versus the concentration of (D) Aβ42 monomers, (E) Aβ42 oligomers and (F) Aβ42 aggregates. The LOD of probe 2 toward each Aβ42 species could be calculated using 3σ/k. Values are mean ± SD, (n = 3).
Figure S8. (A) TEM images of Aβ42 oligomers and (B, C) confocal fluorescence imaging of Aβ42 oligomers (25.0 μM) upon staining with probe 2 (2.5 μM). (D) TEM images of Aβ42 aggregates and (E, F) confocal fluorescence imaging of Aβ42 aggregates (25.0 μM) upon staining with probe 2 (2.5 μM). TEM images were acquired with negative staining with phosphotungstic acid (PTA).

Figure S9. Fluorescence spectra of probe 2 (1.0 μM) in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4) (contained 2.0% DMSO) that contained varying amount of glycerin to increase the viscosity.
**Figure S10.** The HPLC traces of probe 2 (250 nM) after incubation in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4) at room temperature for 1-7 days. The HPLC analysis was run using a gradient of 65%-95% acetonitrile-water eluent. Both acetonitrile and water contained 1‰ TFA.

**Figure S11.** The HPLC profiles of probe 2 upon incubation with mouse serum at room temperature for 2 h. The spectra were recorded using a gradient of 60%-95% acetonitrile-water eluent. Both acetonitrile and water contained 1‰ TFA.

**Figure S12.** Photostability analysis of probe 2 (black), probe 9 (red) and ThT (blue) (all at 10 mM in DMSO) under lamplight (λ > 400 nm, 30 mW/cm²) for different times. λ_{ex} = 620 nm, λ_{em} = 701 nm for probe 2; λ_{ex} = 620 nm, λ_{em} = 693 nm for probe 9; λ_{ex} = 416 nm, λ_{em} = 497 nm for ThT.
Figure S13. Cell viability of probe 2 towards U87MG cells (A) and PC-12 cells (B) at 0, 0.25, 0.5, 1.0, 2.5, 5.0 and 10.0 μM for 24 h respectively. Data were present as mean ± S.D. (n = 3).

Figure S14. (A) Fluorescence images and (B) mean fluorescence intensity (F.I.) of brain homogenates (1), brain homogenates added with probe 2 (2), and brain homogenates added with probe 2 plus Aβ monomers (3), Aβ oligomers (4) or Aβ aggregates (5). The concentrations of probe 2 and each Aβ species were at 5 μM. Data were mean ± S.D. (n = 3).
Figure S15. Quantitative analysis of the brain FL intensities of the APP/PS1 and WT mice at indicated time (A). Longitudinal FL images of APP/PS1 transgenic mice (B) and WT mice (C) (10-month old) following i.v. injection of probe 2 (1.0 mg/kg) at 0, 10, 30, 60, 120, 240 and 360 min.

Figure S16. Quantitative analysis of the brain FL intensities of the APP/PS1 and WT mice at indicated time (A). Longitudinal FL images of APP/PS1 transgenic mice (B) and WT mice (C) (10-month old) following i.v. injection of CRANAD-58 (1.0 mg/kg) at 0, 10, 30, 60, 120, 240 and 360 min.
Figure S17. Ex vivo fluorescence imaging of cerebrum tissue slice resected from a 14-month-old WT mouse at 30 min after i.v. injection of probe 2 (1 mg/kg). Boxes 1 and 2 indicated enlarged cerebral cortex and hippocampus, respectively. The resected cerebrum tissue slice was co-stained with ThT.

Figure S18. Ex vivo fluorescence imaging of cerebellum tissue slice resected from the same 14-month-old WT mouse in Figure S17 at 30 min after i.v. injection of probe 2 (1mg/kg). The resected cerebellum tissue slice was co-stained with ThT.
Figure S19. Ex vivo histological staining of CAAs in cerebellum tissue slice from 10-month-old APP/PS1 mouse (A) and WT mouse (B) at 30 min after i.v. injection of probe 2 (1 mg/kg), respectively. The resected cerebrum tissue slice was co-stained with CD31 and ThT respectively. White arrows showed the presence of CAAs in the cerebral vessels.

Figure S20. (A) Normalized UV-vis absorption and (B) fluorescence emission spectra of probes 1-9 (2.5 μM) in CH₂Cl₂.
Figure S21. Fluorescence spectra of 2.5 μM probes 3-9 in different solutions. (Note: PBS contained 10% DMSO).
Figure S22. Fluorescence spectra of probes 3-9 (250 nM) upon incubation with 250 nM Aβ42 monomers, Aβ42 oligomers and Aβ42 aggregates in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4).

Figure S23. Binding constants ($K_d$) of probe 3 against 2.5 μM Aβ42 monomers, oligomers and aggregates, respectively.

Figure S24. Binding constants ($K_d$) of probe 4 against 2.5 μM Aβ42 monomers, oligomers and aggregates, respectively.
Figure S25. Binding constants ($K_d$) of probe 5 against 2.5 μM Aβ$_{42}$ monomers, oligomers and aggregates, respectively.

Figure S26. Binding constants ($K_d$) of probe 6 against 2.5 μM Aβ$_{42}$ monomers, oligomers and aggregates, respectively.

Figure S27. Binding constants ($K_d$) of probe 7 against 2.5 μM Aβ$_{42}$ monomers, oligomers and aggregates, respectively.

Figure S28. Binding constants ($K_d$) of probe 8 against 2.5 μM Aβ$_{42}$ monomers, oligomers and aggregates, respectively.
Figure S29. Binding constants ($K_d$) of probe 9 against 2.5 μM Aβ42 monomers, oligomers and aggregates, respectively.

Figure S30. In vitro fluorescence staining of cerebrum tissue slice resected from an APP/PS1 AD mouse with probe 4. The Aβ plaques in the slice were further confirmed by staining with ThT (green). Boxes 1 and 2 indicated enlarged cerebral cortex and hippocampus, respectively. The white arrows showed that probe 4 could well highlight the Aβ plaques in the cerebral cortex and hippocampus of APP/PS1 mouse brain.
**Figure S31.** In vitro fluorescence staining of cerebrum tissue slice resected from a WT mouse with probe 4. Boxes 1 and 2 indicated enlarged cerebral cortex and hippocampus, respectively.

**Figure S32.** In vitro fluorescence staining of cerebrum tissue slice resected from an APP/PS1 AD mouse with probe 6. The Aβ plaques in the slice were further confirmed by staining with ThT (green). Boxes 1 and 2 indicated enlarged cerebral cortex and hippocampus, respectively. The white arrows showed that probe 6 could well highlight the Aβ plaques in the cerebral cortex and hippocampus of APP/PS1 mouse brain.
**Figure S33.** In vitro fluorescence staining of cerebrum tissue slice resected from a WT mouse with probe 6. Boxes 1 and 2 indicated enlarged cerebral cortex and hippocampus, respectively.

**Figure S34.** In vitro fluorescence staining of cerebrum tissue slice resected from an APP/PS1 AD mouse with probe 9. The Aβ plaques in the slice were further confirmed by staining with ThT (green). Boxes 1 and 2 indicated enlarged cerebral cortex and hippocampus, respectively. The white arrows showed that probe 9 could well highlight the Aβ plaques in the cerebral cortex and hippocampus of APP/PS1 mouse brain.
**Figure S35.** In vitro fluorescence staining of cerebrum tissue slice resected from a WT mouse with probe 9. Boxes 1 and 2 indicated enlarged cerebral cortex and hippocampus respectively.

**Figure S36.** Quantitative analysis of the brain FL intensities of the APP/PS1 and WT mice at indicated time (A). Longitudinal FL images of APP/PS1 transgenic mice (B) and WT mice (C) (10-month old) following i.v. injection of probe 4 (1.0 mg/kg) at 0, 10, 30, 60, 120, 240 and 360 min.
Figure S37. Quantitative analysis of the brain FL intensities of the APP/PS1 and WT mice at indicated time (A). Longitudinal FL images of APP/PS1 transgenic mice (B) and WT mice (C) (10-month old) following i.v. injection of probe 6 (1.0 mg/kg) at 0, 10, 30, 60, 120, 240 and 360 min.

Figure S38. Quantitative analysis of the brain FL intensities of the APP/PS1 and WT mice at indicated time (A). Longitudinal FL images of APP/PS1 transgenic mice (B) and WT mice (C) (10-month old) following i.v. injection of probe 9 (1.0 mg/kg) at 0, 10, 30, 60, 120, 240 and 360 min.
Figure S39. (A) Representative longitudinal FL images of APP/PS1 transgenic and WT mice (6-month old) following i.v. injection of probe 9 (1.0 mg/kg) at 0, 10, 30, 60, and 360 min. (B) Quantitative analysis of the brain FL intensities of the APP/PS1 and WT mice at indicated time. Data are mean ± S.D. (n = 3).
Figure S40. (A) FL intensity (λ_{ex/em}=620/700 nm) of probe 9 (250 nM) following incubation with 250 nM Aβ_{42} monomers (black), oligomers (red) and aggregates (blue) for 0-180 s. (B) Plots of the mean FL intensity of probe 9 (250 nM) versus varying concentration of Aβ_{42} monomers (black), oligomers (red) and aggregates (blue). (C) Comparison of the FL intensity of 250 nM probe 9 upon incubation with Aβ_{42} species (10 μg/ml) and other representative endogenous biological species (10 μg/ml) in PBS buffer (1: PBS, 2: OH⁻ (200 μM Fe^{2+} + 1 mM H2O2), 3: 1O₂ (1 mM H2O2 + 1 mM ClO⁻), 4: O₂⁻ (100 μM xanthine + 22 mU xanthine oxidase), 5: H2O2 (1 mM H2O2), 6: hMAO-A, 7: β-Galactosidase, 8: AChE, 9: BuChE, 10: L-Cysteine, 11: GSH, 12: Cytochrome C, 13: Vitamin C, 14: Amylin, 15: BSA, 16: Aβ_{42} monomers, 17: Aβ_{42} oligomers, 18: Aβ_{42} aggregates). (D) FL spectra of probe 9 (black) and probe 9 (250 nM) incubating with KLVFF (250 nM) or Aβ22-35 (250 nM) peptides. (E) Comparison of the ¹H-NMR spectra (DMSO-d₆, 500 MHz) of KLVFF (2.0 mM) in the presence (red) or absence (green) of probe 9 (2.0 mM). Red arrows indicated the change of chemical shifts of the amide protons of L, V and F residues. * indicating the ¹H-NMR peaks from probe 9.
**Figure S41.** The HPLC traces of probe 9 (250 nM) after incubation in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4) at room temperature for 1-7 days. The HPLC analysis was run using a gradient of 65%-95% acetonitrile-water eluent. Both acetonitrile and water contained 1‰ TFA.

**Figure S42.** Cell viability of probe 9 towards U87MG cells (A) and PC-12 cells (B) at 0, 0.25, 0.5, 1.0, 2.5, 5.0 and 10.0 μM for 24 h respectively. Data were present as mean ± S.D. (n = 3).

**Figure S43.** Titration calorimetry curve of probe 9 with Aβ monomers (A), oligomers (B) and aggregates (C) respectively.
**Figure S44.** Blood circulation curve of probe 9 (1.0 mg/kg) after i.v. injection into healthy BALB/c mice. Data are mean ± S.D. (n = 3).

**Figure S45.** (A) Standard curve of probe 2 in biological simulated solution. (B) Standard curve of probe 9 in biological simulated solution. (C) Comparison of brain uptake of probe 2 (1.0 mg/kg) and probe 9 (1.0 mg/kg) after i.v. injection at 10, 60 and 240 min.

**Figure S46.** Biodistribution evaluation of probe 9 in BALB/c mice. The mice were i.v. injected with probe 9 (1.0 mg/kg). After 10, 60 and 240 min respectively, the mice were sacrificed, and the main organs (e.g., H: heart, Li: liver including gallbladder, Sp: spleen, Lu: lung, Ki: kidneys, In: intestines, St: stomach, Br: Brain and Mu: muscle) were resected and weighted. The amount of probe 9 in the main organs were determined by standard curve of probe 9 in Figure S45B. Data are mean ± S.D. (n = 3).
Figure S47. The excretion of probe 9 in healthy BALB/c mice. (A) Contents of probe 9 (% ID) in feces and urine of mice in 0-4, 4-12, 12-24, 24-48 and 48-72 h following i.v. injection of probe 9 (1.0 mg/kg). (B) Plots of the accumulative excretion of probe 9 (% ID) in feces (red), urine (blue), and feces together with urine (summation, black) following i.v. injection of probe 9. Data are mean ± S.D. (n = 3).

Figure S48. Investigation of the biocompatibility of probe 9 in BALB/c mice. Blood count analysis of BALB/c mice pre (0 d) or after i.v. injection of probe 9 (1.0 mg/kg) at 1, 2 and 7 d. Abbreviations: RBC, red blood cells; WBC, white blood cells; HGB, hemoglobin; HCT, hematocrit; MCH, mean corpuscular hemoglobin; MCHC, mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration; PLT, platelet count; MCV, mean corpuscular volume. Dotted lines indicate the range of normal reference values (r_{min}→r_{max}) for mice.
Figure S49. Representative H&E staining of major organs including heart, liver, spleen, lung, kidneys and intestine resected from BALB/c mice pre (0 d) or after i.v. injection of probe 9 (1.0 mg/kg) at 1, 2 and 7 day. Scale bar: 100 μm.

Figure S50. Dynamic fluorescence imaging of the brain of a living skull-thinning 14-month-old WT mouse following i.v. injection of probe 9 (1.0 mg/kg). The fluorescence images were monitored every 5 s on an upright fluorescent microscope, and last for 20 min. Red and green rectangles indicated enlarged brain parenchyma area and cerebral vessel, respectively. The results showed that neither parenchymal Aβ plaques’ fluorescence nor CAAs’ fluorescence appeared in the age-matched WT mouse during the time course of imaging.
Figure S51. Western blotting of Aβ42 species. (A) Western blotting of CuSO₄ + Aβ42 (I) (Control group), CuSO₄ + (Aβ42 : probe 9 =1:1) (II), CuSO₄ + (Aβ42 : probe 9 =1:5) (III), CuSO₄ + (Aβ42 : probe 9 =1:10) (IV), CuSO₄ + (Aβ42 : CRANAD-58 =1:10) (V) and native Aβ42 (VI). (B) Quantitative analysis of the monomeric bands in (A). The result indicated that the binding of probe 9 to soluble Aβ monomers could help to slow the process of soluble Aβ species into Aβ aggregates.
2. Supplementary tables

Table S1. LogP, HOMO-LUMO energy gap and the spectroscopic properties.

| Probes | LogP \(^a\) | gap (eV) \(^b\) | \(\lambda_{ab}\) (nm) | \(\lambda_{em}\) (nm) | Stokes’ shift | CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\) | PBS |
|--------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-----|
| 1      | 2.27         | 2.79           | 614                 | 659                 | 45             | 13.22          | 0.019 |
| 2      | 2.31         | 2.77           | 619                 | 675                 | 56             | 26.34          | 0.071 |
| 3      | 2.39         | 2.78           | 618                 | 681                 | 63             | 18.46          | 0.014 |
| 4      | 2.60         | 2.76           | 627                 | 683                 | 58             | 15.70          | 0.018 |
| 5      | 2.65         | 2.76           | 627                 | 682                 | 57             | 17.28          | 0.011 |
| 6      | 2.42         | 2.80           | 611                 | 706                 | 95             | 8.52           | 0.006 |
| 7      | 2.72         | 2.75           | 623                 | 696                 | 73             | 7.55           | 0.040 |
| 8      | 2.54         | 2.77           | 621                 | 675                 | 54             | 21.02          | 0.021 |
| 9      | 2.14         | 2.77           | 618                 | 668                 | 50             | 20.31          | 0.020 |
| CRANAD-58 | 1.86   | 2.84           | 581                 | 653                 | 72             | 9.58           | 0.016 |

\(^a\) The LogP values were measured in an octanol/water system.

\(^b\) The HOMO-LUMO gap was estimated based on DFT calculation.

\(^c\) The absolute fluorescence quantum yield was determined using a calibrated integrating sphere.
Table S2. Comparison of the reported NIR fluorescence probes for detection of Aβ species (monomers, oligomers and aggregates)

| Probes     | QY (Φ)% | λex/λem (nm) | λem (nm) | Kd (nM) | λem (nm) | Kd (nM) | λem (nm) | Kd (nM) | Incubation (in vitro) | Fold (in vivo) | Tg mouse type | Mouse age (months) | Selectivity | R^2 |
|------------|---------|---------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|----|
| AOI-987    | 61^a    | 644/670^d     | NR       | NR      | NR       | 705     | 200      |         | without e             |                | APP23          | 10                | Aggregates   | [1] |
| NIAD-4     | 15^f    | ~475/612^d    | NR       | NR      | NR       | ~600    | 10       |         | without 1.7^f         |                | APP/PS1        | 27                | Aggregates   | [2] |
| THK-265    | 38.5^d  | 627/644^d     | NR       | NR      | NR       | 650     | 97 ± 5.0 |         | without 1.7^f         |                | APP/PS1        | 27                | Aggregates   | [3] |
| PAD-1      | 0.5^a   | 464/617^c     | NR       | NR      | NR       | 570     | 58.9     |         | 60 min g              |                | APP/PS1        | 13                | Aggregates   | [4] |
| QM-FN-SO_3  | NR      | ~500/720^b    | NR       | NR      | NR       | 660     | 170      |         | 40 min i              |                | APP/PS1        | 22                | Aggregates   | [5] |
| DANIR 2c   | 4.09^j  | 597/665^a     | NR       | NR      | NR       | ~620    | 26.9 ± 3.0 | 30 min k | APPswe/               |                | APPswe/        | 22                | Aggregates   | [6] |
| DANIR 3b   | 0.3^a   | 557/682^a     | NR       | NR      | NR       | 615     | 8.8 ± 1.5 | 1.5 h    | 1.1                  |                | APPswe/        | 14                | Aggregates   | [7] |
| PHC-4      | 0.2^a   | 614/798^c     | NR       | NR      | NR       | 741     | 14.1 ± 6.4 | 30 min l | APPswe/               |                | APPswe/        | 14                | Aggregates   | [8] |
| DANIR-18   | 1.9^a   | 572/762^a     | NR       | NR      | NR       | 650     | 43.1 ± 4.9 | 60 min m | APPswe/               |                | APPswe/        | 12                | Aggregates   | [9] |
| MC-1       | 0.42^e  | 630/695^a     | NR       | NR      | NR       | 685     | 59.09 ± 5.6 | 60 min n | APP/PS1               |                | APP/PS1       | 14                | Aggregates   | [10] |
| CQ         | 0.08^e  | 516/664^a     | NR       | NR      | NR       | 654     | 86 ± 6.3  |         | without NR             |                | APP/PS1       | 14                | Aggregates   | [11] |
| TM-1       | NR      | 500/680^c     | NR       | NR      | NR       | 670     | 35       |         | without NR             |                | APP/PS1       | 14                | Aggregates   | [12] |
| BAP-1      | 46.8^o  | 604/648^o     | NR       | NR      | NR       | ~640    | 44.1     | 30 min p | Tg2576               |                | APP/PS1       | 25                | Aggregates   | [13] |
| BAP-2      | 11.4^a  | 650/708^c     | NR       | NR      | NR       | 708     | 54.6 ± 7.0 | 30 min q | Tg2576               |                | APP/PS1       | 25                | Aggregates   | [14] |
| BAP-3      | 4.5^a   | 665/705^c     | NR       | NR      | NR       | 705     | 149 ± 15 | 30 min s | Tg2576               |                | APP/PS1       | 25                | Aggregates   | [14] |
| BAP-4      | 9.3^a   | 636/704^c     | NR       | NR      | NR       | 704     | 26.8 ± 2.8 | 30 min | Tg2576               |                | APP/PS1       | 25                | Aggregates   | [14] |
| BAP-5      | 4.3^a   | 649/723^c     | NR       | NR      | NR       | 723     | 18.1 ± 1.3 | 30 min | Tg2576               |                | APP/PS1       | 25                | Aggregates   | [14] |
| F-SLOH     | 1.7^c   | 483/636^e     | ~600     | ~610    | 660      | ~620    | 1900     | 3 min    | APP/PS1               |                | APP/PS1       | 7                 | Oligomers    | [15] |
| Name       | Value | Signal | Matched | Min   | Max   | Value   | Matched | Min   | Max   | Value   | Matched | Min   | Max   | Value   | Matched | Min   | Max   | Value   | Matched | Min   | Max   | Value   | Matched | Min   | Max   |
|------------|-------|--------|---------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|-------|
| BD-Oligo   | 0.087 | 580/604| ~580    | NR    | ~580  | 480     | NR      | ~580  | NR    | ~580    | NR      | ~580  | NR    | NR      | NR      | ~1.5 | APPSWE/PSEN/1dE9 | 6 | APPSWE/ | Monomers | Oligomers | Aggregates | [16] |
| QAD-1      | NR    | 645/755| 680     | 18    | 700   | 6       | 700     | 27    | 30 min| ~1.5    | APPSWE/PSEN/1dE9 | 6 | APPSWE/ | Monomers | Oligomers | Aggregates | [17] |
| CRANAD-2   | 0.6   | 640/805| NR      | NR    | NR    | NR      | NR      | 715   | 38.69 ± 2.77 | without | 0.55 | Tg2576 | 19 | Aggregates | [18] |
| CRANAD-58  | NR    | ~630/750| 672     | 45.8  | ~680  | NR      | ~700    | NR    | without| 1.62    | APP/PS1  | 4 | APP/PS1 | Monomers | Oligomers | Aggregates | [19] |
| CRANAD-3   | NR    | 600/730| 650     | 23 ± 1.6 | 650  | 27 ± 15.8 | ~675   | 21 ± 2.3 | without| 2.04    | APP/PS1  | 4 | APP/PS1 | Monomers | Oligomers | Aggregates | [20] |
| CRANAD-28  | 0.32 | 498/578| ~573    | 159.7 ± 97.3 | ~575 | 162.9 ± 34.8 | ~575   | 52.4 ± 12.3 | without| NR      | NR      | NR      | 15 min | 1.22 | APP/PS1 | 4 | APP/PS1 | Oligomers | Oligomers | Aggregates | [21] |
| CRANAD-102 | 0.018 | 560/820| ~680    | 722.8 ± 392.8 | 700  | 7.5 ± 10.0 | ~750   | 505.9 ± 275.9 | 15 min | 1.89 | APP/PS1 | 12 | Oligomers | [22] |
| PTO-29     | 0.15 | 570/680| ~660    | NR    | 656   | 248 ± 48 | ~680   | 2703 ± 639 | 15 min | 1.34 | APP/PS1 | 4 | APP/PS1 | Oligomers | Oligomers | Aggregates | [23] |
| PTO-41     | 26   | ~538/690| ~670    | NR    | 680   | 349 ± 41 | ~670   | 2651 ± 773 | without| 1.3 | APP/PS1 | 4 | APP/PS1 | Oligomers | Oligomers | Aggregates | [24] |
| CAQ        | 1.1  | 603/726| NR      | NR    | NR    | NR      | NR      | 635   | 78.89 | 30 min | 1.57 | 5x FAD | 10 | Aggregates | [25] |
| Probe 2    | 26.34 | 619/675| 693     | 8.64 ± 0.37 | 692  | 67.83 ± 4.70 | 700   | 28.02 ± 2.00 | < 150 s| ~1.3  | APP/PS1 | 10 | APP/PS1 | Monomers | Oligomers | Aggregates | [26] |
| Probe 9    | 20.31 | 618/668| 690     | 11.16 ± 0.79 | 688  | 36.59 ± 2.69 | 697   | 14.57 ± 1.27 | < 120 s| ~1.5  | APP/PS1 | 6 | APP/PS1 | Monomers | Oligomers | Aggregates | [27] |

NR: Not Reported.  
* determined in PBS buffer.  
* The enhancement ratio of signal from transgenic AD mice and age-matched control mice at 10min.  
* Reference.  
* determined in MeOH.  
* Statistically significant differences between transgenic and wild-type mice were obtained at the 120-min.  

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at 30 min. The fluorescence signals in the brain regions of the transgenic group were higher than those of the control group at 60 min. The fluorescence signals in the brain regions of the APP/PS1 mice was much higher than that in the control of wild-type mice at 20 min. Fluorescence intensities in the brain regions of the Tg mice were higher than in the control mice 30 min. The washout rate in Tg mice was significantly slower than in wild-type (WT) mice. The relative fluorescent signal \( [F(t)-F(\text{pre})]/F(\text{pre})] \) of the Tg-Aβ mice was higher than that of the control mice. The fluorescence signals \( ([F(t)/F(\text{pre})]) \) displayed an obvious difference between the Tg and WT groups at 30 and 60 min. determined in CHCl₃. The fluorescence in whole brains removed at 1 h postinjection of BAP-1 was much higher in the Tg2576 mouse than wild-type mouse. The fluorescence in whole brains removed at 2 hours postinjection of BAP-2 was much higher in the Tg2576 mouse than in the wild-type mouse. determined in DMSO. Higher fluorescence signals were consistently displayed in the Tg mouse compared to that of the WT mouse. The differences of normalized signal between Tg2576 and age-matched control mice. Decreased fluorescence intensity was observed after mixing CRANAD-28 with all Aβ species. The time point was at 30 min. The time point was at 60 min. The was ex vivo brain not in vivo brain.

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4. NMR and MS spectra

$^1$H-NMR spectra of A1 (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of A1 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
F-NMR spectrum of A1 (CDCl₃)

HRMS spectrum of A1

[M+H]^+ 149.0241
$^1$H-NMR spectra of C1 (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of C1 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
MALDI-TOF-MS spectrum of C1

$^{1}$H-NMR spectra of C2 (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
$\text{C-NMR spectra of C}_2$ (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

$\text{HRMS spectrum of C}_2$

$[\text{M+H}]^+ 280.1308$
1H-NMR spectra of C3 (400 MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3})

13C-NMR spectra of C3 (101 MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3})
HRMS spectrum of C3

\([\text{M+H}]^+ \ 292.1314\)

\(^1\)H-NMR spectra of C4 (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\))
$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of C4 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

HRMS spectrum of C4
$^1$H-NMR spectra of C5 (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of C5 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
HRMS spectrum of C5

1H-NMR spectra of C6 (400 MHz, CDCl₃)
$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of C6 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

HRMS spectrum of C6

[M+H]$^+$ 310.1415
$^1$H-NMR spectra of C7 (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of C7 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
HRMS spectrum of C7

1H-NMR spectra of C8 (400 MHz, CDCl₃)
$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of **C8** (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

**HRMS spectrum of C8**

$[\text{M+H}]^+ 310.1422$

$[\text{M+Na}]^+ 332.1242$

$332.1242$

$310.1422$

$301.1411$

$302.1559$

$309.1450$

$311.1453$

$317.2411$

$322.2653$

$325.2204$

$329.0054$

$330.2331$

$332.2374$

$335.2284$

$338.9992$

$342.9833$

$345.9684$

$348.9535$

$352.9386$

$355.9237$

$358.9088$

$361.8939$

$364.8790$

$367.8641$

$370.8492$

$373.8343$

$376.8194$

$379.8045$

$382.7896$

$385.7747$

$388.7598$

$391.7449$

$394.7290$

$397.7141$

$400.7042$

$403.6893$

$406.6744$

$409.6595$

$412.6446$

$415.6297$

$418.6148$

$421.5999$

$424.5850$

$427.5700$

$430.5551$

$433.5402$

$436.5253$

$439.5104$

$442.4955$

$445.4805$

$448.4656$

$451.4506$

$454.4357$

$457.4208$

$460.4059$

$463.3909$

$466.3759$

$469.3610$

$472.3461$

$475.3311$

$478.3162$

$481.3012$

$484.2863$

$487.2713$

$490.2564$

$493.2414$

$496.2265$

$499.2115$
$^{1}$H-NMR spectra of probe 1 (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of probe 1 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
HRMS Spectrum of probe 1

$[\text{M+H}]^+ 492.2629$

$^1$H-NMR spectra of probe 2 (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of probe 2 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

HRMS Spectrum of probe 2
$^1$H-NMR spectra of probe 3 (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of probe 3 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
HRMS Spectrum of probe 3

\[ \text{[M+H]}^+ 475.2367 \]

RT: 0.38  AV: 1  NL: 7.07E4

T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [150.0000-2000.0000]

\( m/z \)

Relative Abundance

475.23669

\( ^1H\)-NMR spectra of probe 4 (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\))
$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of probe 4 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

HRMS Spectrum of probe 4
$^1$H-NMR spectra of probe 5 (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of probe 5 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
HRMS Spectrum of probe 5

1H-NMR spectra of probe 6 (400 MHz, CDCl₃)
13C-NMR spectra of probe 6 (101 MHz, CDCl3)

HRMS Spectrum of probe 6
$^1$H-NMR spectra of probe 7 (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of probe 7 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
HRMS Spectrum of probe 7

$\text{^1H-NMR spectra of probe 8 (400 MHz, CDCl}_3\text{)}$
$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of probe 8 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

HRMS Spectrum of probe 8

[\text{M+H}]^+ 477.2517
$^1$H-NMR spectra of probe 9 (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

$^{13}$C-NMR spectra of probe 9 (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
HRMS Spectrum of probe 9

[M+Na]$^+$ 515.2288