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Supporting Information

Imaging GPCR Internalization Using Near-Infrared Nebraska Red-Based Reagents

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Table of Contents

Figure S1	2
Figure S2	3
Figure S3	4
Figure S4	5
Figure S5	6
Figure S6	7
Figure S7	8
Figure S8	9
Figure S9	.10
Table S1	. 12
Movie Captions	.13
Copies of ¹ H, ¹³ C, and ³¹ P NMR spectra	14





Evaluating HT-NR₆₆₆ labeling of recombinant His₆-HaloTag protein *in vitro*. (a) Labeling kinetics measured by fluorescence polarization. SDS-PAGE gels imaged by in-gel fluorescence corresponding to labeling of His₆-HaloTag with increasing concentrations of HT-NR₆₆₆ (b) as well as a Job's plot assay (c) demonstrate a 1:1 binding stoichiometry.



 $HT-NR_{666}$ is not cell permeable. CHO cells were transfected with a HaloTag-EGFP construct and labeled with membrane tracker. After washing 3 times with DPBS, cells were loaded with 10 μ M HT-NR₆₆₆ in HEPES buffered DMEM for 20 min. Images were taken in HEPES buffered DMEM after washing 3 times with DPBS.



In vitro evaluation of the fluorogenic behavior for mHT-spiroNR₆₆₆. (a) Absorbance spectrum of 10 μ M mHT-spiroNR₆₆₆ in water/dioxane mixtures with different dielectric constants. (b) The normalized absorption at 670 nm for mHT-spiroNR₆₆₆ across the indicated dioxane-water gradient.



Normalized fluorescence intensity of mHT-spiroNR₆₆₆ (490 nM) in DPBS containing 10% FBS, BSA (2.3 mg/mL), SDS (1 mM), or CTAB (1 mM). Error bars represent the standard deviation of triplicate experiments.



(a) The fluorescence of mHT-spiroNR₆₆₆ (490 nM) in the presence of increasing concentrations of CTAB. (b) The fluorescence of solutions containing BSA (2.3 mg/mL) and mHT-spiroNR₆₆₆ (490 nM) incubated with increasing concentrations of SDS. Error bars represent the standard deviation of triplicate experiments.





Labeling kinetics of mHT-spiroNR₆₆₆ (25 nM) with HaloTag-GST fusion protein (100 nM, Promega G4491) in PBS containing 10% FBS, measure by fluorescence turn-on (ex. = 669 nm and em. = 685 nm).



mHT-spiroNR₆₆₆ is not cell permeable. CHO cells were transfected with a HaloTag-EGFP construct and labeled with membrane tracker. After washing 3 times with DPBS, cells were loaded with 10 μ M mHT-spiroNR₆₆₆ in HEPES buffered DMEM for 20 min. Images were taken in HEPES buffered DMEM after washing 3 times with DPBS.





mHT-spiroNR₆₆₆ produces a clear fluorogenic signal using no-wash epifluorescence imaging. Epifluorescence images of CHO cells transiently transfected with HaloTag-hOX2R and labeled with 100 nM mHT-spiroNR₆₆₆. Cells were grown on a 24-well, glass-bottom plate (MatTek, P24G-1.5-13-F) and imaged using the Alexa 633 channel of an Operetta CLS High-Content Imaging System (top). Fluorescence was quantified across the indicated region of interest (bottom). Scale bar: 50 µm.

HT-NR₆₆₆

Erame 1	- 00 000 20 µm	20 µm	20 ym	20 ym Frame 9	20 ym	20 µm	20 ym Frame 15
mHT-spiroNR	666	Traine o	Traine T				Traine To
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HT-sulfoCy5.5	;						
20 µm	20 µm	20 µm	20 µm	20 µm	20 µm	20 µm	<u>20 µт</u> Егото 15
Flame	Kelative Florescent Units - 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0		Frame		k = 0.203 k = 0.217 k = 0.298 k = 0.298	frame ⁻¹ frame ⁻¹ frame ⁻¹	Frame 15

Comparison of photobleaching rates for HT-NR₆₆₆, mHT-spiroNR₆₆₆, and HT-sulfoCy5.5. CHO cells transiently transfected with HaloTag-hOX2R were labeled with the indicated probe (10 μ M). Cells were washed and imaged using laser scanning confocal microscopy at 5 seconds per frame using a 640 nm laser (2 mW) until fluorescence signal was lost. Regions of interest (ROI) are indicated by yellow squares. These ROIs were analyzed in ImageJ and fluorescence intensities were normalized to time zero. Changes in fluorescence over time were then fit to a first-order decay curve (see methods) yielding the bleaching rate constants (k, r² > 0.999 for each fit).

Table S1

Photophysical properties of probes.

Dye	λ _{ab} (nm)	λ_{em} (nm)	ε (M⁻¹·cm⁻¹)	φ
HT-NR ₆₆₆	671	685	80,367	0.37
mHT-spiroNR ₆₆₆	669	685	62,200	0.11

Measurements were conducted in PBS (pH = 7.4) with 0.5% DMSO. Sulfo-cyanine5.5 NHS ester (Lumiprobe) was used as the fluorescence reference standard (ex. = 670 nm, em. = 690 nm), which has a quantum yield of 0.237 in PBS at pH = 7.4.

Movie Captions

Time-lapse live-cell imaging of CHO cells expressing HaloTag-hOX2R and labeled with HT-NR₆₆₆ (10 μ M). Cells were treated with orexin A (1 μ M, Movie S1) to stimulate receptor internalization or with DMSO (control, Movie S2). Cells were imaged every 30 seconds for 32.5 minutes. Scale bar: 10 μ m.





 ^{13}C NMR chart of HT-NR_{666} in CD_3CN (75 MHz).



¹H NMR chart of mHT-spiroNR₆₆₆ in DMSO-d₆ (400 MHz).

