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# **Near-Infrared Fluorescent Probes for Targeted Applications**

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#### **Message from the Guest Editors**

Dear Colleagues,

Optical imaging has emerged as an important tool for fundamental research and clinical practice, as the signals emitted from biological samples can provide abundant molecular information correlated with physiological and pathophysiological processes. Compared with conventional optical imaging that typically relied on visible light, near-infrared (NIR) optical imaging enables deep photon penetration in tissue, lowers photodamage to samples, and minimizes biological background autofluorescence originating from endogenous molecules.

A wide range of NIR fluorescent probes, including organic dyes, semiconducting polymers, carbon nanodots, metal nanoclusters, quantum dots, and upconversion materials, have been constructed. Further attachment of targeting moieties to these NIR fluorescent probes or intrinsic targeting abilities would endow them with subcellular organelles and/or cancer cell targeting capability, which is very beneficial for in situ biosensing, bioimaging and precise therapy. This Special Issue aims to collect research articles, communications or reviews exploring the achievements in NIR fluorescence-based probes or theranostic agents.







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### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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