

Novel H₂S Donor Proglumide-ADT-OH Protects HUVECs From ox-LDL-Induced Injury Through NF- κ B and JAK/SATA Pathway

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Research

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1 **Novel H₂S donor proglumide-ADT-OH protects HUVECs from ox-LDL-induced**
2 **injury through NF-κB and JAK/SATA pathway**

3

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9

10 **Short Running Title:** P-A protects HUVECs from ox-LDL-induced injury

11

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25 Hydroxyphenyl)-3H-1, 2-dithiole-3-thione) (P-A)

26

27 **Abstract**

28 Introduction: As a gaseous me dilator, hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) has many physiological
29 effects and pathological effects in atherosclerosis. In recent years, many exogenous H₂S
30 donors have been synthesized to study atherosclerosis diseases.

31 Methods: Proglumide-(5-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-3H-1, 2-dithiole-3-thione) (P-A) was
32 synthesized as a H₂S donor. The protective effect and mechanism of P-A on HUVEC
33 that injured by ox-LDL was detected.

34 Results: The HUEVCs was affected by 100μmol/L P-A for 24 hours, the release of H₂S
35 was the largest. After 100μmol/L P-A acted on HUVEC damage model for 12h, the cell
36 proliferation activity was the best. The results showed that P-A can down regulate the
37 expression of p-NF-κBp65 protein and reduce the amount of TNF-α and IL-6 and
38 promote the formation of IL-10 by inhibiting the NF-κB pathway, and also induce the
39 expression of superoxide dismutase (SOD) to protect HUVEC from ox-LDL injury. P-
40 A can also regulate JAK/STAT pathway to reduce the expression of p-JAK2 protein and
41 reduce the production of IL-6 and TNF-α.

42 Conclusion: P-A has protective effect on HUVEC injured by ox-LDL, and the
43 protective mechanism is related to the regulation of JAK/STAT pathway and NF-κB
44 pathway.

45

46 **Introduction**

47 Atherosclerosis is a common cardiovascular disease caused by the interaction of
48 environmental factors and genetic factors. The main manifestations of atherosclerosis
49 include the lipid deposition of the intima, the infiltration of monocytes and
50 macrophages, the formation of foam cells and fat veins, and the formation of fibrous
51 plates that caused by the migration and proliferation of vascular smooth muscle cells
52 (VSMCs), which causes the hardening of the vascular wall and the stenosis of the
53 functional cavity and the formation of thrombus[1].

54 H₂S is a novel gas transmitter and has important physiological functions in
55 atherosclerotic lesions[2]. The deficiency of H₂S in vivo may be related to the early
56 development of atherosclerotic lesions. On the contrary, an appropriate amount of
57 hydrogen sulfide is helpful to delay atherosclerosis[3]. Thus far, more and more
58 exogenous H₂S donors have been created, including 5-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-3H-1, 2-
59 dithiole-3-thione (ADT-OH)[4]. ADT-OH is one of the most widely studied slow-
60 releasing H₂S donors.

61 The NF-κB plays an important role in inflammatory response, immune response and
62 cell growth and development[5]. H₂S could decrease the production of TNF-α and IL-
63 1β as well as leukocyte adhesion to the endothelium by inhibiting the activation of NF-
64 κB[6]. Meanwhile, in the early atherosclerosis development process, TNF-α, IL-1β, IL-
65 6 and IL-10 is closely related to the activation of JAK/STAT signaling pathway which
66 is a signal transduction pathway that can be stimulated by cytokine and participates in
67 the signal transduction and regulation process of various inflammatory and anti-

68 inflammatory factors[7].
69 Proglumide could reduce the release of cytokines and inflammatory mediators by
70 inhibiting the activation of NF- κ B pathway in acute pancreatitis. Considering that one
71 of the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis disease is related to the inflammation and the
72 anti-inflammatory effect of proglumide, we combined proglumide with ADT-OH to
73 create proglumide-(5-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-3H-1, 2-dithiole-3-thione) (P-A). In this
74 study, we proved that P-A is a novel slow-releasing H₂S donor and shows anti-
75 atherosclerotic effect on the HUVECs injured model by inhibiting the activation of
76 JAK/STAT pathway and NF- κ B pathway.

77

78 **Materials and Methods**

79 **Synthesis of P-A**

80 5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1, 2-dithiole-3-thione (ADT) (Reference Number: 150127002,
81 Yansheng Biotechnology, Shanghai, China). Proglumide (Reference Number: 6620-60-
82 6, Ziqi Biotechnology, Shanghai, China). Anhydrous pyridine hydrochloride (sigma,
83 USA).

84 Step1: synthesis of ADT-OH (Supplementary Figure S1, Supplementary Table S1).

85 After the product were cooled to 25°C, 1mol/L HCL solution was added to dissolve the
86 product and then the solution was filtered. After the filtrate is removed, the product is
87 washed to neutral by distilled water. And then vacuum filtration, the residue was
88 retained. The ADT-OH was obtained by recrystallization of anhydrous ethanol. The
89 productivity of ADT-OH was 86.32%, with a total of 9.1382 g.

90 Step 2: synthesis of P-A (Figure 2A, Supplementary Table S2). Dichloromethane
91 (DCM), N, N-Dimethyl-4-pyridinamine (DMAP), sodium hydroxide (NaOH), N, N'-
92 dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) are from sigma in USA. After the reaction was
93 stopped, a small amount of NaOH solution (1mol/L) was added to the reaction
94 termination system until the color of the pH test paper displayed 7. After vacuum
95 filtration for 2-3 times, filter the residue and filtrate. The filtrate is added to water in the
96 separation funnel and layered, the water layer was removed and the dichloromethane
97 layer was retained. The residual water in the dichloromethane layer was removed by
98 adding anhydrous sodium sulfate. After vacuum filtration 2-3 times, the residue was
99 filtered and the filtrate was left. The products were obtained after drying with rotary
100 evaporator at 50°C. The product is dissolved in anhydrous ethanol. The product was
101 recrystallized in the refrigerator at -20°C for one night. After vacuum filtration for 2-3
102 times the product was retained. The oil pump is evacuated to remove the product water
103 and organic solvent to obtain P-A.

104 **Detection of H₂S releasing**

105 Human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) were incubated in 12-well plates,
106 and four microporous filtering films of 0.22μm were adhered to the inner side of the
107 12-well plates of each hole to set up the filter membrane adsorption device. After 500μL
108 1% (g/100mL) zinc acetate (Kelong, Chengdu, China) solution was added to each filter
109 membrane, the P-A solutions were added in HUVECs. The filter membranes were
110 collected after P-A acted on HUVEC for 1, 3, 6, 12, 24, 48h, respectively. Then the
111 filter membrane was soaked in 2.5mL ultrapure water. The release of H₂S was detected

112 by methylene blue spectrophotometry at 670 nm, and the Na₂S standard curve was
113 drawn according to the OD.

114 **Establishment of ox-LDL induced HUVECs injured model**

115 HUVECs were damaged by 80μg/mL ox-LDL for 24h. The oil red O staining method
116 was used to judge whether the HUVEC had been damaged.

117 **CCK-8 assay**

118 HUVECs were seeded in 96-well plates and cultured for overnight at 37°C. HUVECs
119 were induced by 80μg/mL ox-LDL for 24h, then the P-A were acted on HUVECs. Then
120 Cell proliferation was detected by CCK8 kits (Boster Biotechnology, Chengdu, China)
121 according to the manufacturer's protocol. Absorbance was determined at the 450nm by
122 enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay reader.

123 **ELISA assay of IL-6, IL-10 and TNF-α**

124 After the HUVECs were injured for 24h by 80μg/mL ox-LDL in 12-well plates, the
125 HUVECs were treated with 100μmol/L P-A for 12h. The supernatant from each well
126 was collected and used to detect the secretion of IL-6, IL-10 and TNF-α by ELISA
127 assay with commercial ELISA kits of IL-6, IL-10 and TNF-α (Boster Biotechnology,
128 Chengdu, China) according to the manufacturer's protocol. In the AG490 and PDTC
129 pre-treated assay, AG490 and PDTC were added in HUVECs respectively for 1h before
130 80μg/mL ox-LDL induced HUVEC for 24h. All other methods were the same as
131 described above.

132 **Determination of intracellular SOD**

133 After injured by 80μg/mL ox-LDL for 24h, HUVECs were treated with 100μmol/L P-

134 A for 12h. Then HUVECs were collected to lysis at 4°C in RIPA buffer. The lysate was
135 clarified by centrifugation at 12000 rpm for 15 min at 4°C. Protein concentration of
136 HUVEC lysate was determined by BCA assay kits (Yiyuan Biotechnology, Guangzhou,
137 China). The activity of intracellular SOD was determined by SOD assay kits (Yiyuan
138 Biotechnology, Guangzhou, China) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

139 **Protein expression by western blotting**

140 p-NF-κBp65, p-JAK2, p-STAT3, NF-κBp65, JAK2, STAT3 antibody and goat anti-
141 rabbit IgG were from Cell Signaling Technology, China. The total protein was extracted
142 from HUVECs according to the standard procedures. Protein samples (40μg) were
143 separated by 10% SDS-PAGE and then transferred into PVDF membranes. The
144 membrane was blocked with 5% nonfat dry milk solutions. After washing the PVDF
145 membranes with TBST, the PVDF membranes were incubated overnight at 4°C with
146 the above antibody, respectively. It was followed by secondary antibody for 2h with
147 goat anti-rabbit IgG. After washing, the membrane was developed with ECL kit and
148 detected with VILBER Fusion FX5 system.

149 **Statistical analysis**

150 All data were analyzed with Graph Pad Prism5 and were presented as the mean ± SD.

151 For all tests, P<0.05 was considered statistically significant.

152

153 **Results**

154 **P-A was synthesized successfully**

155 AS proved by ¹H-NMR (Table 1), MS (Figure 1B) and HPLC (Figure 1C), P-A was

156 successfully synthesized and used for subsequent experiments.

157 **P-A is a slow-releasing H₂S donor**

158 The H₂S productivity of P-A was analyzed in HUEVCs, and we found that the release
159 of H₂S from P-A increased in a time and concentration dependent manner, generally.
160 However, the release rate decreased after the incubation time reached 24h or the
161 concentration reached 100μmol/L. (Table 2, Figure 2).

162 **P-A reliefs ox-LDL induced HUVECs injury**

163 To test the protective effect of P-A on vein endothelial cells, we established the ox-LDL
164 injured HUVECs in vitro model. After the HUVECs were induced by 80μg/mL ox-LDL
165 for 24h, oil red O staining showed that a large number of red dye particles appeared in
166 the cells (Figure 3A & B). This phenomenon indicated that HUVECs had formed
167 damage which causing the oil red O enter into the cell and dissolve in the lipid. Then
168 we treated the ox-LDL injured HUVECs with P-A, as shown in figure 3 C & D, the cell
169 proliferation activity increased with time in a concentration dependent manner
170 in24h..When the concentration of P-A reached to 200 mol/L, the declined cell viability
171 indicated that P-A produces cytotoxicity at very high concentration above 100mol/L.
172 (Figure 3C). After 100μmol/L P-A acted on HUVECs damage model for 12h, the cell
173 proliferation activity was the best (Figure 3D).

174 **P-A regulates the expression of IL-6, IL-10, TNF-α and SOD**

175 Compared with normal cell control group, the amount of IL-6, TNF-α, IL-10 in the
176 HUVEC injury model group increased significantly (P<0.01). As shown in Table 3,
177 compared with the HUVEC damage model group, the secretion of IL-6 and TNF-α

178 reduced significantly after treated with P-A as well as positive control NaHS and ADT-
179 OH ($P<0.01$), while the secretion of IL-10 increased significantly ($P<0.01$).

180 SOD can regulate the level of superoxide anion in the vascular wall, and alleviate the
181 oxidative damage of oxygen free radicals to endothelial cells, as well as protect
182 endothelial cells from atherosclerosis[8], therefore we analyzed the SOD level after P-
183 A treatment. As shown in Figure 4, compared with normal cell control group, the
184 activity of SOD in the HUVEC injury model group decreased significantly ($P<0.01$).

185 Compared with the HUVEC damage model group, the activity of SOD in the NaHS
186 group, P-A group and proglumide group increased significantly ($P<0.01$).

187 **P-A regulates expression of IL-6, IL-10 and TNF- α through NF- κ B and**
188 **JAK/SATA pathway**

189 Compared with P-A group, the expression of p-NF- κ Bp65 protein increased in the
190 PDTTC+P-A group (Figure 5A, $P<0.05$); the expression of p-NF- κ Bp65 protein reduced
191 and the expression of p-JAK2 protein as well as the expression of p-STAT3 protein
192 increased in NaHS group (Figure 5A-C); the expression of p-JAK2 protein increased
193 in the AG490+P-A group(Figure 5B, $P<0.01$). Compared with NaHS group, the
194 expression of p-NF- κ Bp65 protein increased in the PDTTC+ NaHS group (Figure 5A,
195 $P<0.05$); the expression of p-JAK2 protein increased in the AG490+P-A group (Figure
196 5B, $P<0.01$).

197 As shown in Table 4, compared with NaHS group, the amount of IL-6 and TNF- α
198 increased significantly as well as the amount of IL-10 reduced significantly in the
199 PDTTC+ NaHS group in the PDTTC+NaHS group ($P<0.05$). Compared with P-A group,

200 the amount of IL-6 increased significantly and the amount of IL-10 reduced
201 significantly in the PDTC+P-A group and AG490+P-A group ($P<0.05$); the amount of
202 TNF- α increased significantly in the PDTC+P-A group ($P<0.05$). Compared with
203 Proglumide group, the amount of IL-10 reduced significantly in the PDTC+Proglumide
204 group ($P<0.05$). Compared with ADT-OH group, the amount of IL-6 increased
205 significantly ($P<0.05$).

206

207 **Discussion**

208 The current research on H₂S presents the trend of cross disciplinary research in
209 pharmacology, physiology, chemistry, biology, materials science and so on[9]. In
210 addition to the endogenous H₂S and the traditional hydrogen sulfide donor NaHS, more
211 and more exogenous hydrogen sulfide donor[10], and some sulfur compounds extracted
212 from natural plants have also been widely studied[11]. In this study, a novel hydrogen
213 sulfide donor P-A was successfully synthesized as proved by ¹H-NMR and MS. The
214 demethylation reaction of ADT is the key in the whole synthesis reaction. The purity of
215 the P-A will be affected by the purity of the ADT-OH. The addition of DCC in this
216 system can activate carboxyl. After the reaction was stopped, adding NaOH solutions
217 to the reaction system to pH 7 can wash out some acidic by-products, and can also
218 adjust the reaction system pH to the neutral to avoid the degradation of the products.
219 The chemical synthesis method in this experiment is simple and the reaction conditions
220 are mild, while the post-processing is also simple. The product is easy to be purified
221 through recrystallization. The study shows that the synthetic method in this experiment

222 can be used to obtain the target product P-A, which also provides valuable reference
223 for the synthesis of other H₂S donors in the future.

224 With the increase amount of P-A used for treating HUVECs, the release of hydrogen
225 sulfide and the cell proliferation gradually increased. However, excessive P-A has
226 cytotoxic effect on cells, the proliferation and release of hydrogen sulfide was inhibited.

227 Vascular endothelial cells, smooth muscle cells and macrophages can secrete
228 interleukin at different stages of inflammation[12]. In our study, we found that
229 intracellular triglyceride and cholesterol metabolism disorder cause lipid aggregation
230 to damage endothelial cells after the HUVEC was injured by ox-LDL, and the
231 inflammatory reaction started at the same time , as well as the secretion of inflammatory
232 factors TNF- α , IL-6 and anti-inflammatory factor IL-10 increased. IL-6 can cause
233 chronic inflammation and magnify acute inflammatory response to some extent, and
234 promote the release of some chemokines and reactive oxygen species to participate in
235 and further aggravate the atherosclerosis process[13]. TNF- α is present in
236 atherosclerotic plaques, which stimulates the production of inflammatory factors and
237 directly promotes the development of inflammation. IL-10 has the functions of anti-
238 inflammatory for the atherosclerosis disease[14].

239 The release of TNF- α , IL-6 and IL-10 can activate NF- κ B to promote the production of
240 inflammatory factors such as IL-6 and IL-8, that further aggravate the inflammatory
241 reaction in the atherosclerosis process[15, 16]. Our study shows that P-A and ADT-OH
242 can significantly reduce the secretion of IL-6 and TNF- α in the HUVEC damage model.

243 It is indicated that P-A reduces the secretion of IL-6 and TNF- α , which is related to the

244 structure of ADT-OH. P-A and proglumide can significantly increase the secretion of
245 IL-10 in the HUVEC damage model. It is indicated that P-A increase the secretion of
246 IL-10, which is related to the structure of proglumide.

247 H₂S can inhibit the expression of intercellular adhesion molecule-1 mediated by NF-
248 κB pathway in HUEVC, and induce the expression of SOD in endothelial cells at the
249 same time[17]. SOD can regulate the level of superoxide anion in the vascular wall,
250 and alleviate the oxidative damage of oxygen free radicals to endothelial cells, as well
251 as protect endothelial cells from atherosclerosis[8]. we found that P-A can significantly
252 increase the activity of SOD in the experimental ox-LDL affected HUVECs, which is
253 related to the structure of proglumide.

254 As the main transcription factor of the inflammatory response, NF-κB can be activated
255 by IL-6, TNF-α, CRP, and so on, which participates in the whole process of
256 atherosclerosis[18, 19]. JAK/STAT signal transduction pathway is activated after the
257 JAK2 phosphorylation. Inhibition of JAK2 activity can inhibit STAT3 phosphorylation
258 so that inhibiting the production of IL-6, IL-8, TNF-α and other inflammatory factors.
259 Blocking the JAK/STAT signal pathway can effectively prevent the occurrence and
260 aggravation of atherosclerosis diseases[20]. Our study found that P-A can down
261 regulate the expression of p-NF-κBp65 protein and reduce the production of TNF-α and
262 IL-6 and promote the formation of IL-10 by inhibiting the NF-κB pathway, and also
263 induce the expression of SOD in HUVEC damage model to protect HUVEC from ox-
264 LDL. P-A can also regulate JAK/STAT signal transduction pathway to reduce the
265 expression of p-JAK2 protein and reduce the production of TNF-α and IL-6.

266 However, there is no direct evidence showing that P-A protect HUVEC from ox-LDL
267 damage only through the NF- κ B pathway and JAK/STAT signaling pathway. Other
268 associated signaling pathways may also play important roles in protecting HUVECs
269 from ox-LDL damage. Based on the existing basis, the further study of the P-A is
270 needed to find the downstream targets and genes of NF- κ B pathway and JAK/STAT
271 signaling pathway protect HUVECs, as well as the receptors of IL-6, IL-10 and TNF- α
272 mediated by NF- κ B signaling pathway and JAK/STAT signaling pathway, and other
273 related signaling pathways and indicators.

274 In conclusion, P-A has the protective effect for experimental ox-LDL affected HUVEC,
275 and the protective mechanism is related to the regulation of JAK/STAT pathway and
276 NF- κ B pathway to some extent. What's more, our study provides direct evidence that
277 JAK/STAT pathway and NF- κ B pathway participate in the atherosclerosis process.

278

279 **Statement of Ethics**

280 There is no human or animal studies were conducted in this research.

281

282 **Conflict of Interest Statement**

283 The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research,
284 authorship and publication of this article.

285

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291

292 **Author Contributions**

293 All authors participated in the design, interpretation of the studies and analysis of the
294 data and review of the manuscript. XO, SZ, RH, CC, and TX conducted the experiments;
295 CY, CYU and CZ wrote the manuscript.

296

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350

351 **Figure Legends**

352 **Figure 1. P-A was successfully synthesized.** (A) The method of synthesizing P-A. (B)
353 MS of P-A. The molecular weight of P-A was 542 by MS. The molecular weight was
354 543, indicating that the combination of P-A and H. The molecular weight was 565,
355 indicating that the combination of P-A and Na⁺. The molecular weight was 1107,
356 indicating that the combination of 2 molecule of P-A and Na⁺. (C) P-A has higher purity
357 and less impurity content, as well as a single peak was showed by HPLC.

358 **Figure 2. HUVECs produce H₂S after P-A was added in cells.** The release of H₂S of
359 different concentrations P-A acted on HUVECs at different time. The release of H₂S
360 was the largest after the HUVECs was affected by 100μmol/L P-A for 24 hours. (Mean
361 ± SD, n=3).

362 **Figure 3. The cell proliferation of different concentrations P-A acted on HUVEC**
363 **at different time.** (A) representative images of HUVECs. (B) representative images of
364 ox-LDL induced HUVECs. After the HUVECs were induced by 80μg/mL ox-LDL for
365 24h, the cells had been damaged. (C)The cell proliferation activity increased with time
366 in a concentration dependent manner in 0-24h. ~P<0.01 vs control; ##P<0.05 vs
367 25μmol/L; ^{ΔΔ}P<0.01 vs 50μmol/L; &&P<0.01 vs 100μmol/L. (D) After 100μmol/L P-

368 A acted on HUVEC 12h, the cell proliferation activity was the largest. *P<0.05 vs 1h;
369 ##P<0.05 vs 3h; $\Delta\Delta$ P<0.001 vs 6h; &&P<0.01 vs 12h; $\delta\delta\delta$ P<0.001 vs 24h. (Mean \pm SD,
370 n=3).

371 **Figure 4. Effect of P-A acted on the activity of SOD in HUVEC damage model.**

372 (Mean \pm SD. n=4) **p<0.01 vs cell control; $\Delta\Delta$ p<0.01 vs model; #p<0.05 vs P-A.

373 **Figure 5. P-A regulates expression of IL-6, IL-10 and TNF- α through NF- κ B and**

374 **JAK/SATA pathway. (A) The expression of p-NF- κ B p65 protein in HUVEC damage**

375 **model., 1: cell control; 2: model; 3: NaHS; 4: P-A; 5: PDTC+NaHS; 6: PDTC+P-A.**

376 *p<0.05 **p<0.01 vs model; #p<0.05 ##p<0.01 vs P-A; Δ p<0.05 vs NaHS. Mean \pm SD,

377 n=3. (B)The expression of p-JAK2 protein in the HUVEC damage model 1: cell control;

378 2: model; 3: NaHS; 4: P-A; 5: AG490+NaHS; 6: AG490+P-A. (C)The expression of p-

379 STAT3 protein in the HUVEC damage model 1: cell control; 2: model; 3: NaHS; 4: P-

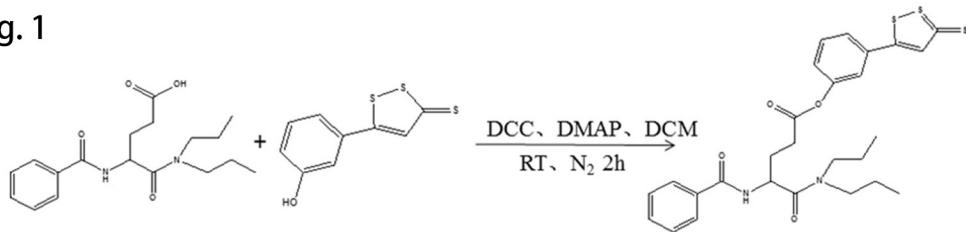
380 A; 5: AG490+NaHS; 6: AG490+P-A. **p<0.01 vs model; ##p<0.01 vs P-A; $\Delta\Delta$ p<0.01

381 vs NaHS. Mean \pm SD, n=3.

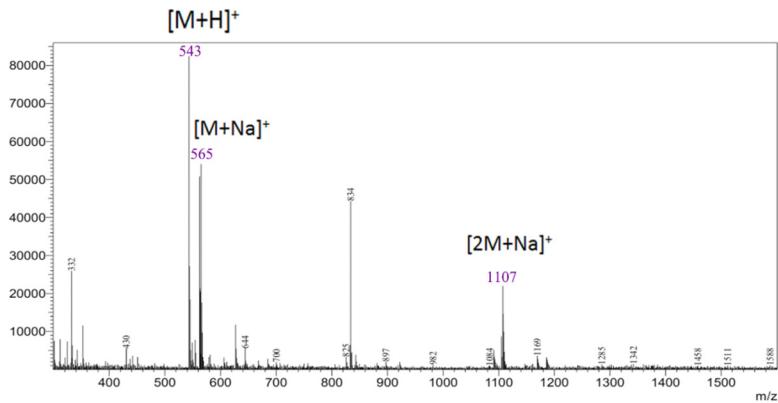
382

Fig. 1

A



B



C

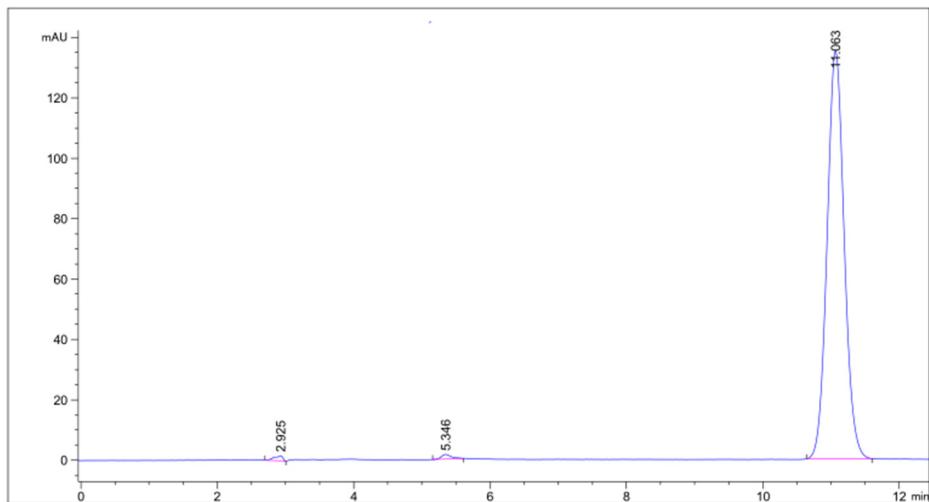


Fig. 2

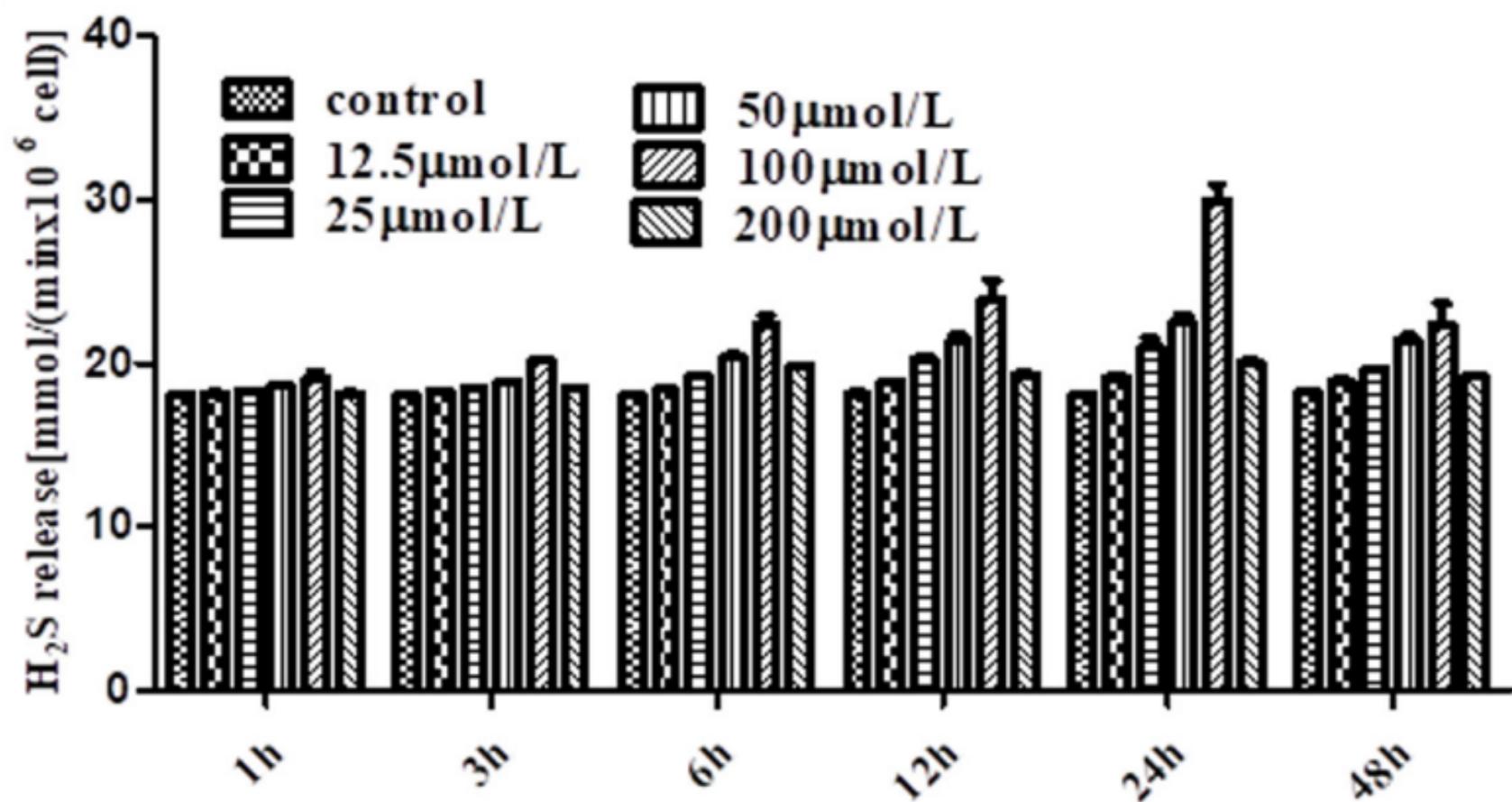


Fig. 3

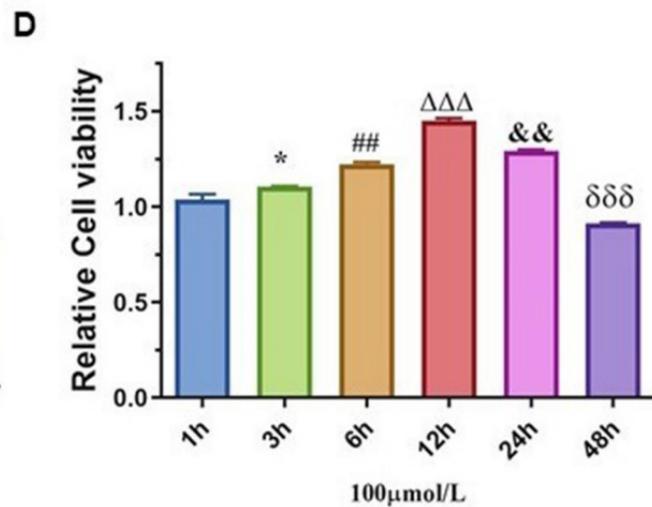
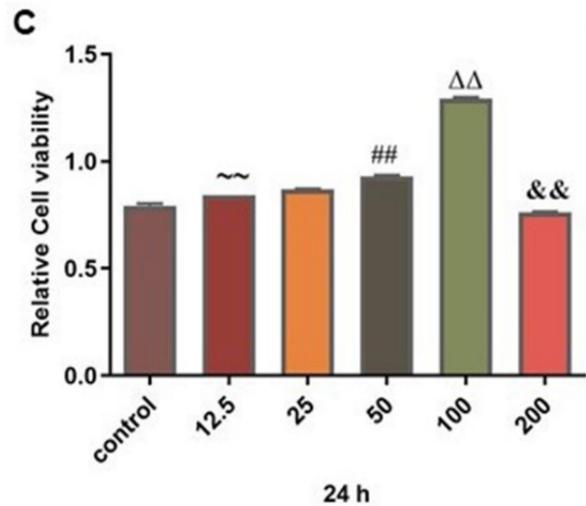
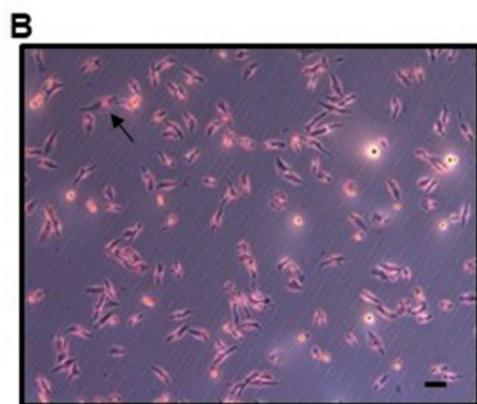
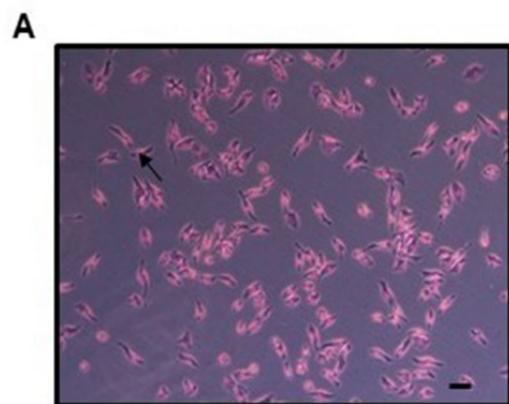


Fig. 4

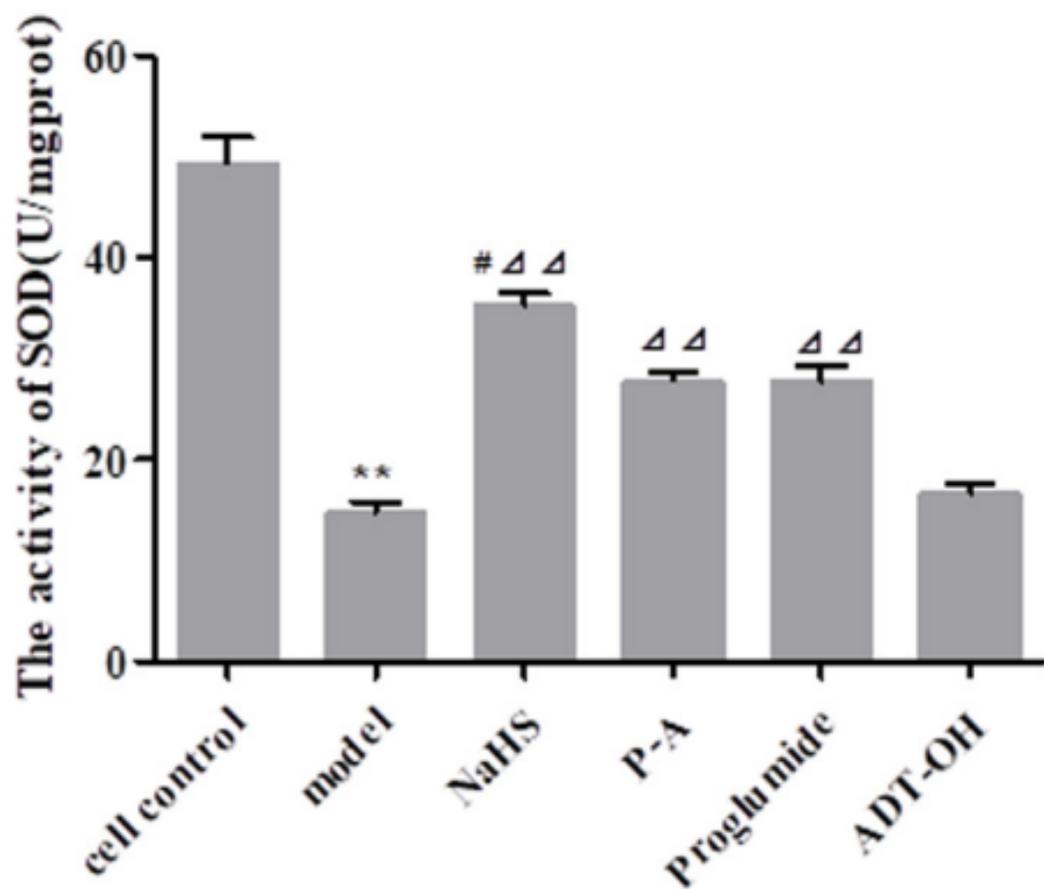
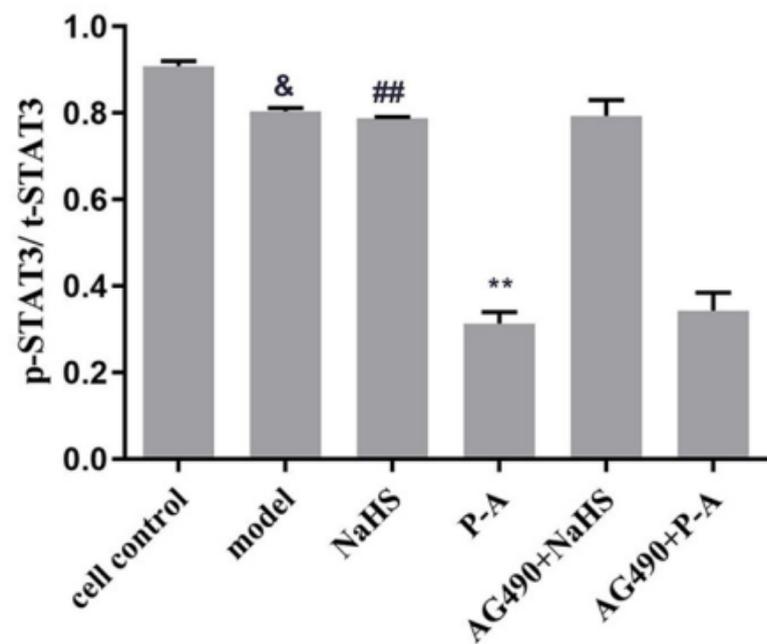
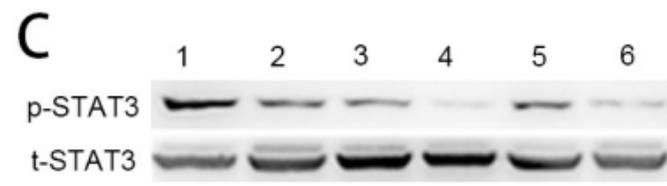
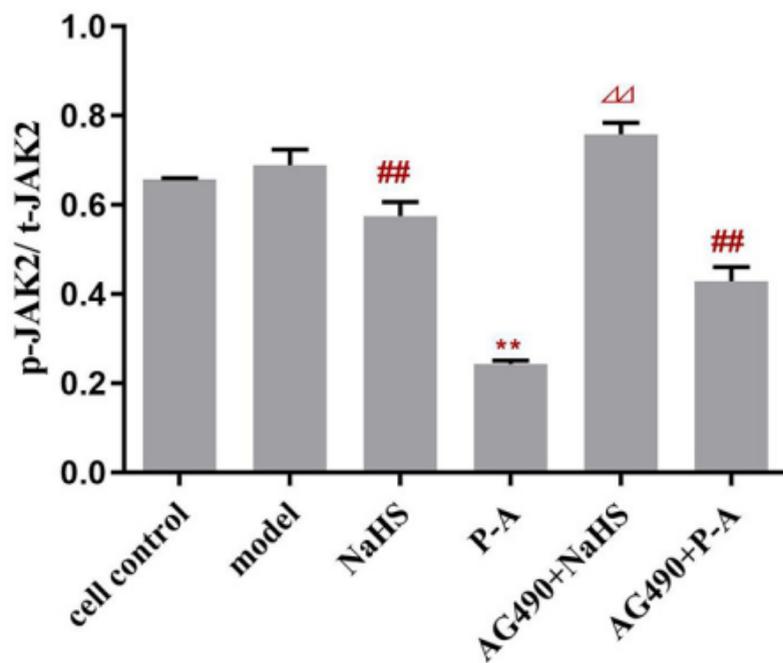
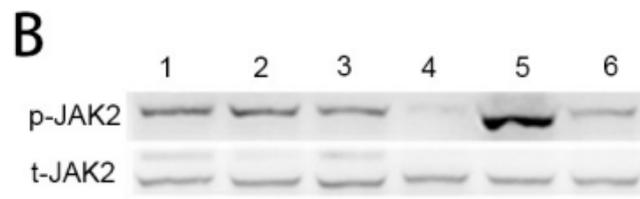
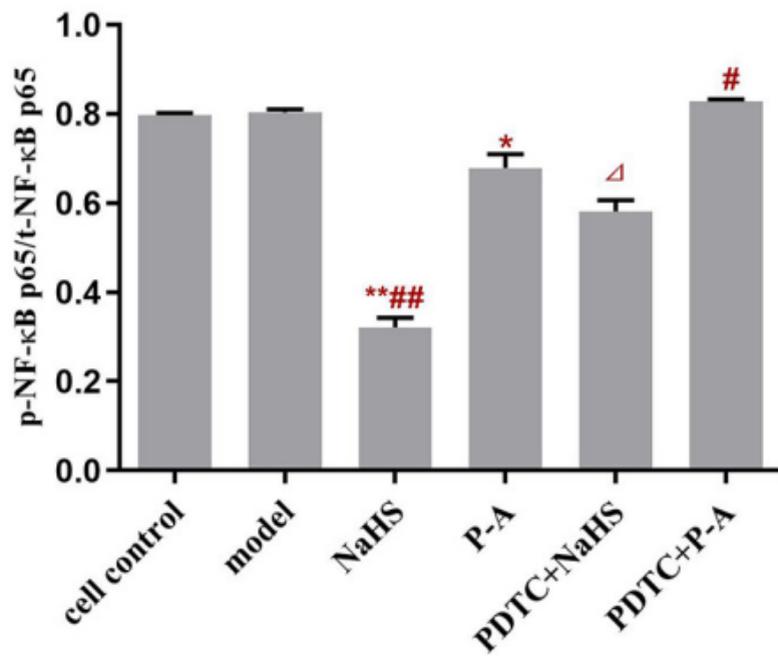
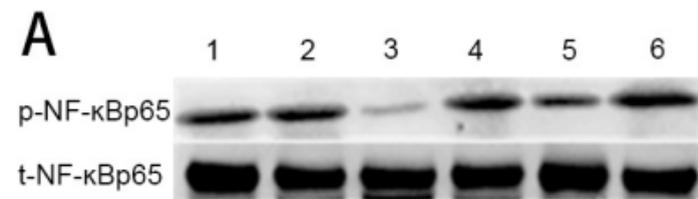
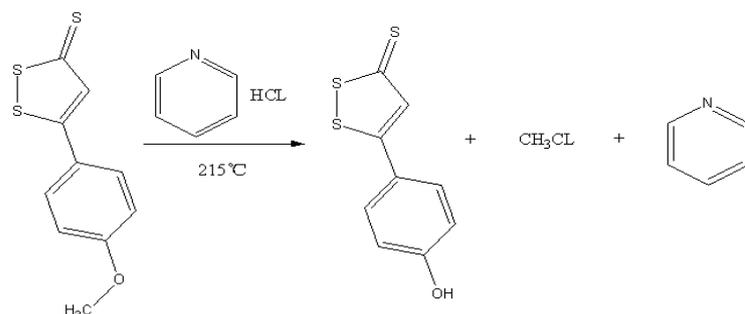


Fig. 5

Supplementary materials

Supplementary Figure S1



Supplementary Figure 1. Reaction equation for the synthesis of ADT-OH compounds.

Supplementary Table S1

Supplementary table S1. Synthesis of ADT-OH

reagent	C ₁₀ H ₈ OS ₃ (ADT)	C ₅ H ₆ NCl
M(g/mol)	240.36	115.56
m(g)	10.5853	50.01
n(mol)	0.44	0.4327
melting point (°C)	110	-41.6
boiling point (°C)	—	115.2
solvent	—	—
reaction temperature (°C)	215	—
reaction time(min)	60	—

Supplementary Table S2

Supplementary table S2. Synthesis of P-A

reagent	M(g/mol)	m (g)	n(mmol)
Proglumide	334.42	1.338	4
ADT-OH	226.34	0.995	4.4
DCC	206.33	0.992	4.8
DAMP		0.066	
DCM	100ml		
Reaction conditions	RT, 4h , N ₂		

Figures

Fig. 1

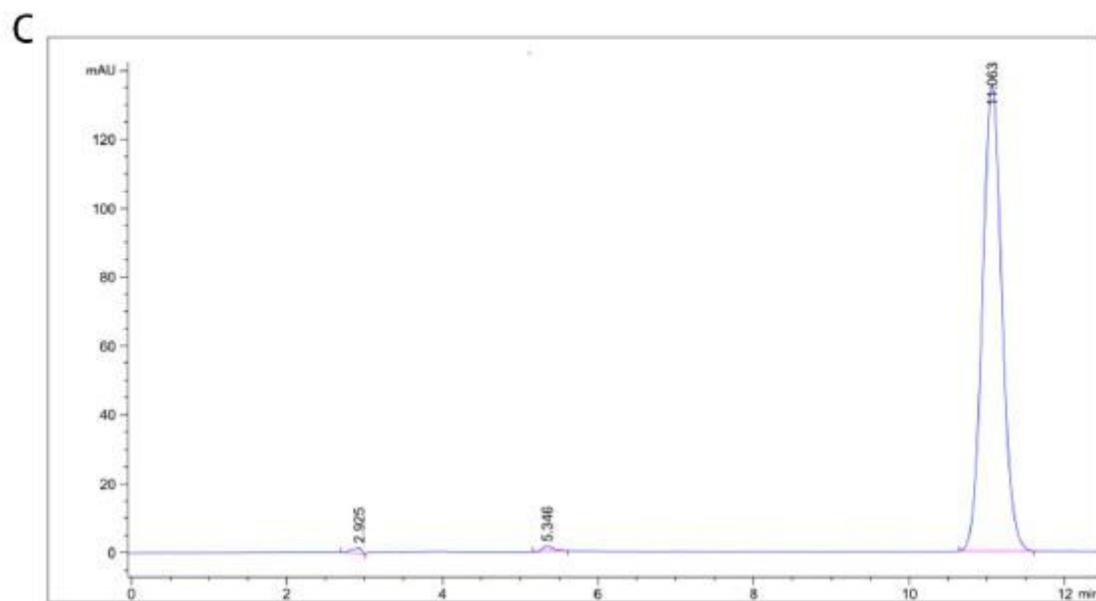
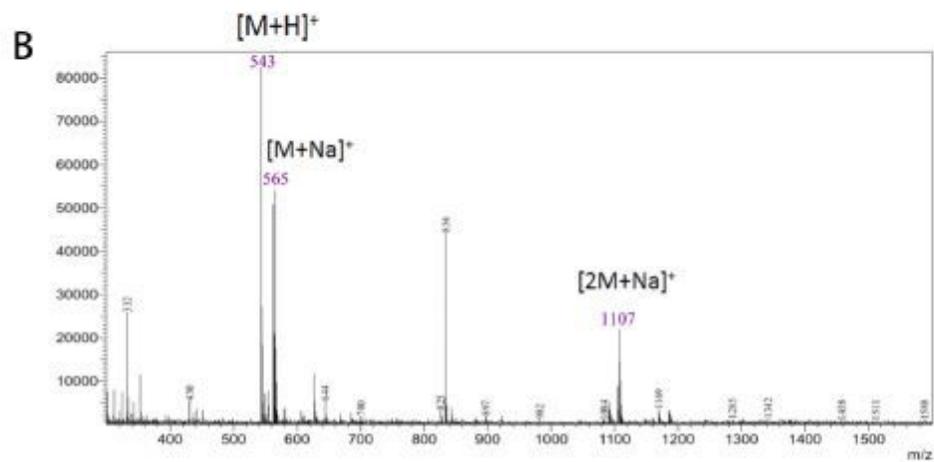
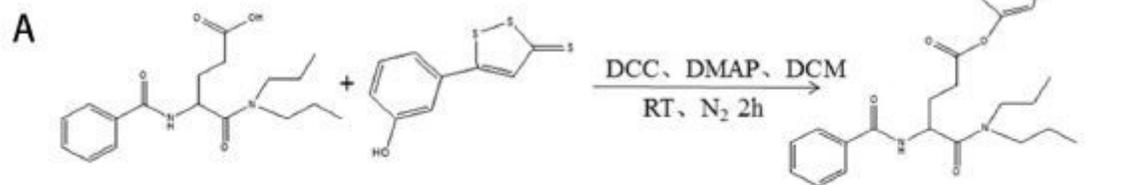


Figure 1

P-A was successfully synthesized. (A) The method of synthesizing P-A. (B) MS of P-A. The molecular weight of P-A was 542 by MS. The molecular weight was 543, indicating that the combination of P-A and H. The molecular weight was 565, indicating that the combination of P-A and Na⁺. The molecular weight was 1107, indicating that the combination of 2 molecule of P-A and Na⁺. (C) P-A has higher purity and less impurity content, as well as a single peak was showed by HPLC.

Fig. 2

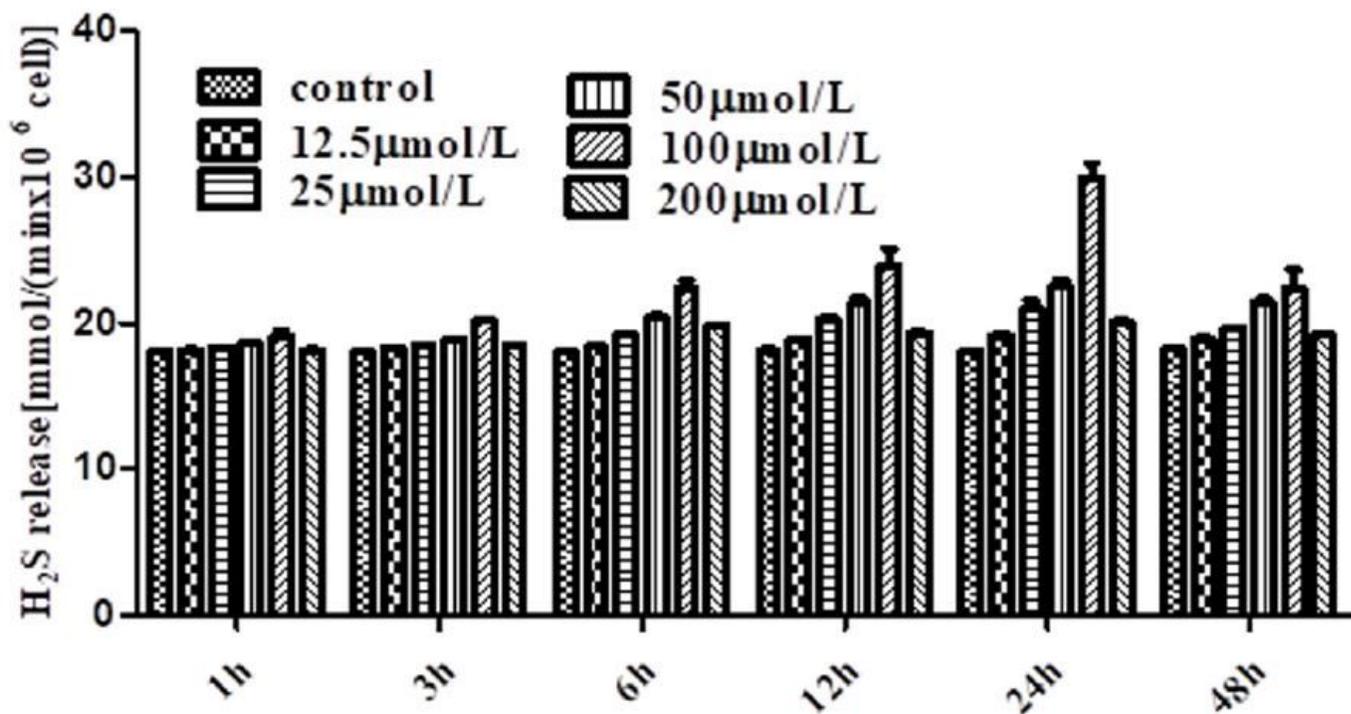


Figure 2

HUVECs produce H₂S after P-A was added in cells. The release of H₂S of different concentrations P-A acted on HUVECs at different time. The release of H₂S was the largest after the HUVECs was affected by 100 μmol/L P-A for 24 hours. (Mean ± SD, n=3).

Fig. 3

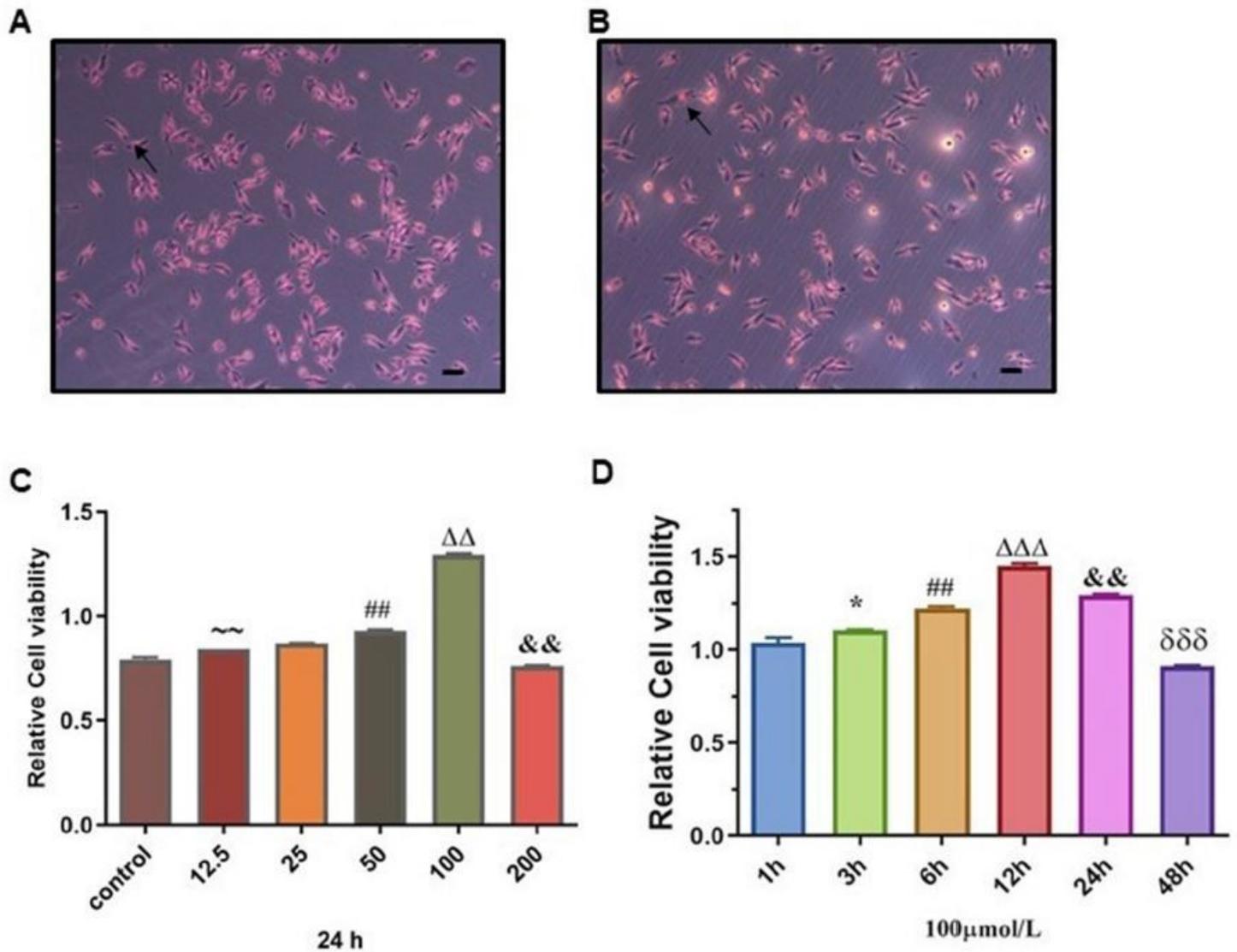


Figure 3

The cell proliferation of different concentrations P-A acted on HUVEC at different time. (A) representative images of HUVECs. (B) representative images of ox-LDL induced HUVECs. After the HUVECs were induced by 80μg/mL ox-LDL for 24h, the cells had been damaged. (C) The cell proliferation activity increased with time in a concentration dependent manner in 0-24h. ~P<0.01 vs control; #P<0.05 vs 25μmol/L; ΔΔP<0.01 vs 50μmol/L; &&P<0.01 vs 100μmol/L. (D) After 100μmol/L P18 A acted on HUVEC 12h, the cell proliferation activity was the largest. *P<0.05 vs 1h; ##P<0.05 vs 3h; ΔΔΔP<0.001 vs 6h; &&P<0.01 vs 12h; δδδP<0.001 vs 24h. (Mean ± SD, n=3).

Fig. 4

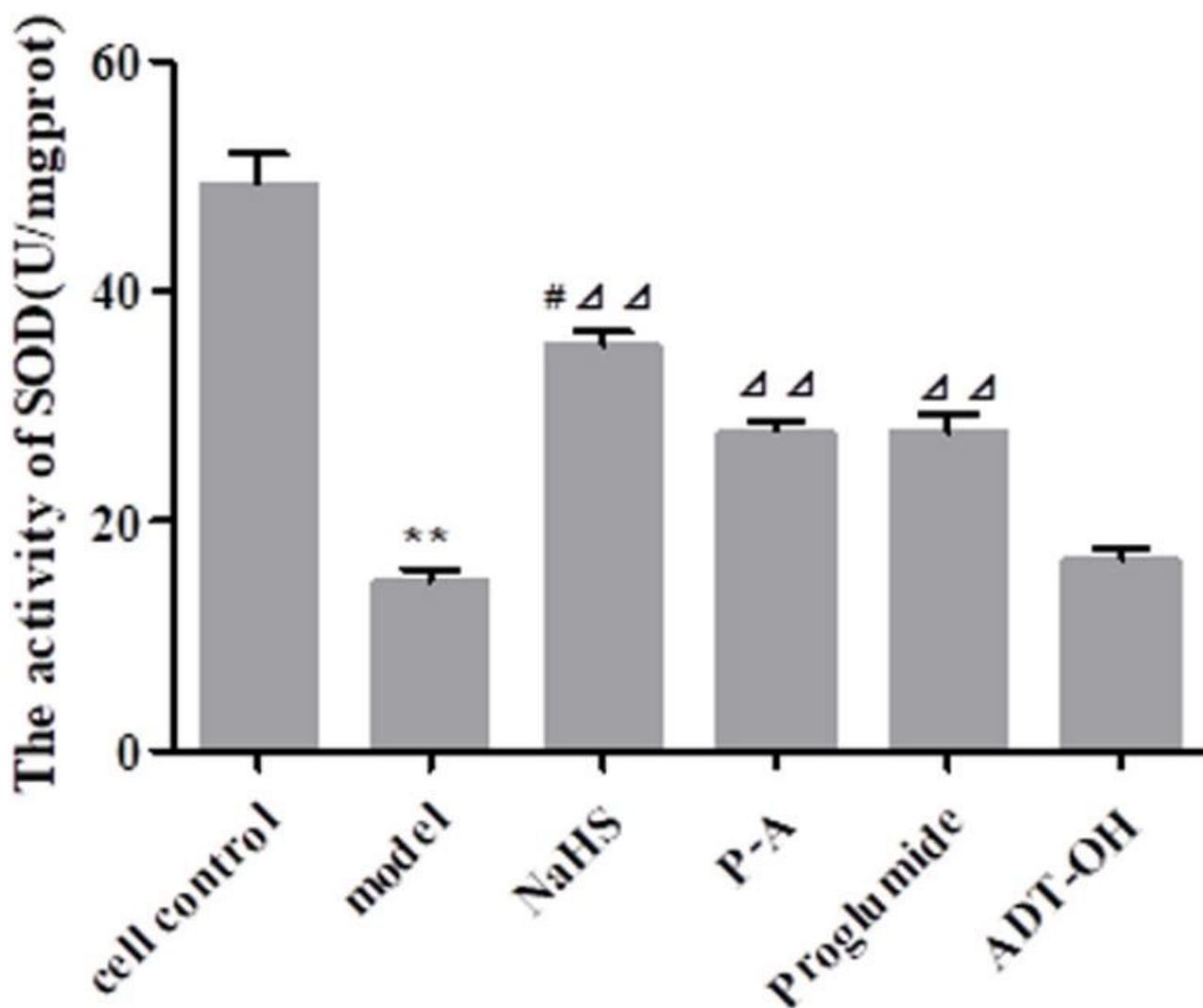


Figure 4

Effect of P-A acted on the activity of SOD in HUVEC damage model. (Mean \pm SD. n=4) **p<0.01vs cell control; ΔΔp<0.01 vs model; #p<0.05 vs P-A.

Fig. 5

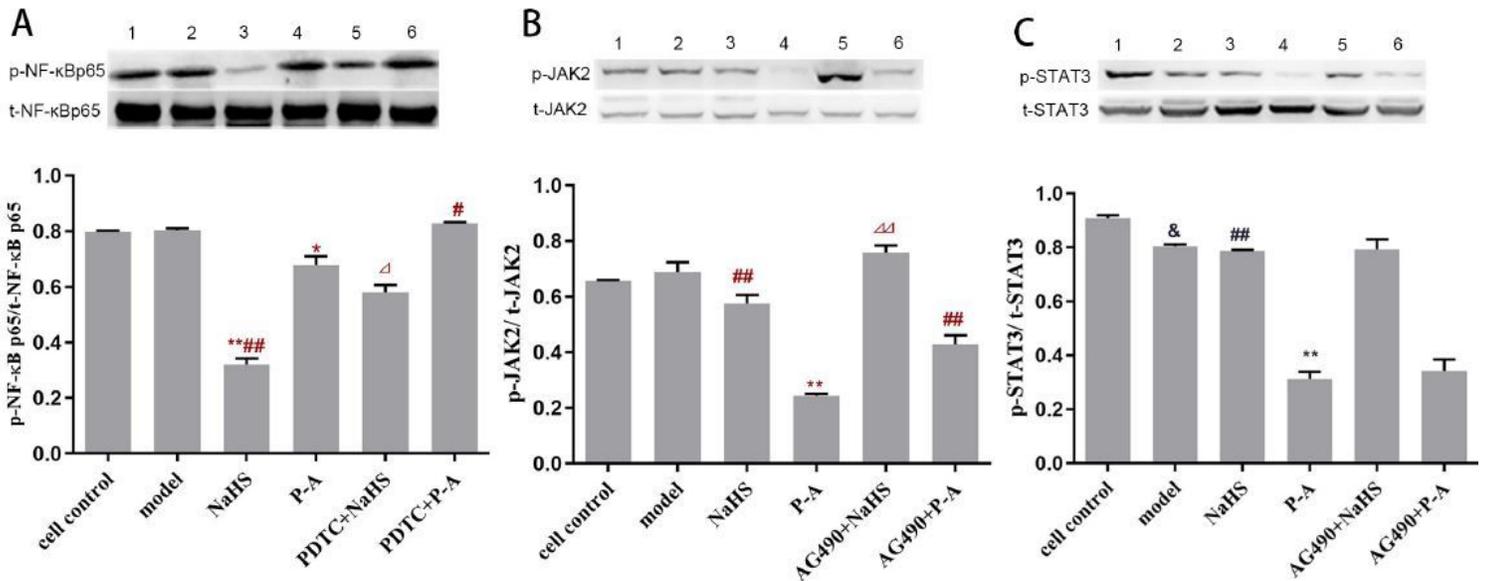


Figure 5

P-A regulates expression of IL-6, IL-10 and TNF- α through NF- κ B and JAK/SATA pathway. (A) The expression of p-NF- κ B p65 protein in HUVEC damage model., 1: cell control; 2: model; 3: NaHS; 4: P-A; 5: PDTC+NaHS; 6: PDTC+P-A. * $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ vs model; # $p < 0.05$ ## $p < 0.01$ vs P-A; Δ $p < 0.05$ vs NaHS. Mean \pm SD, n=3. (B) The expression of p-JAK2 protein in the HUVEC damage model 1: cell control; 2: model; 3: NaHS; 4: P-A; 5: AG490+NaHS; 6: AG490+P-A. (C) The expression of p-STAT3 protein in the HUVEC damage model 1: cell control; 2: model; 3: NaHS; 4: PA; 5: AG490+NaHS; 6: AG490+P-A. ** $p < 0.01$ vs model; ## $p < 0.01$ vs P-A; ΔΔ $p < 0.01$ vs NaHS. Mean \pm SD, n=3.