## **Supporting Information**

## Theranostic nanocomposite from upconversion luminescent nanoparticles and black phosphorus nanosheets

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**Fig. S1.** High resolutions transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM) image of UCNP that show the lattice fringes.



Fig. S2. The dynamic light scattering (DLS) size of UCNP-BPNS nanocomposite.

## Size Distribution by Number



**Fig. S3**. The dynamic light scattering (DLS) size of UCNP-BPNS dispersed in phosphate buffer saline (PBS).



Fig. S4. FT-IR spectra of UCNP, UCNP-PAA, and UCNP-BPNS nanocomposite.



**Fig. S5.** Zeta potentials of upconversion nanoparticles modified with PAA (UCNP-PAA), BPNS modified with PEG-NH<sub>2</sub> (BPNS-NH<sub>2</sub>), and UCNP-BPNS nanocomposite.



**Fig. S6**. Absorption spectra of (a) PEG-NH<sub>2</sub> modified BPNS (BPNS-NH<sub>2</sub>) and (b) UCNP-BPNS nanocomposite dispersed in deionized water measured during two weeks.



Fig. S7. Infrared thermal images of different concentrations (50-400  $\mu$ g/mL) of UCNP-BPNS nanocomposite irradiated with 808 nm laser (1.5 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) at different time points (0-10 min). Water is used for comparison.



**Fig. S8.** Cytotoxicity assays of HeLa cells incubated with UCNP-BPNS nanocomposite with different concentrations for 24 h.



**Fig. S9.** Cytotoxicity assays of HeLa cells irradiated with 980 nm laser with power density of  $0.5 \text{ W/cm}^2$  for 6 min (2 min breaks after every 2 min irradiation) as compared to the control (without laser irradiation, that is, the irradiation time is 0).



Fig. S10. The three-dimensional confocal laser scanning microscopy (CLSM) images of HeLa cells after incubation with 400  $\mu$ g/mL of UCNP-BPNS for 4 h collected as series along the *Z* optical axis, that shows upconversion luminescence images of green (500-600nm), red (600-700 nm), and overly of green and red channels,  $\lambda_{ex}$ = 980 nm, 500 mW.