Supporting Information:

Bone Formation Promoted by Bone Morphogenetic Protein-2 Plasmid-Loaded Porous Silica Nanoparticles with Involvement of Autophagy

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Table S1. Zeta-potential of PSN-NH$_2$, PSN-COOH and PPSN, respectively.

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<th>Zeta potential (mV)</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSN-NH$_2$</td>
<td>6.2 ± 0.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSN-COOH</td>
<td>-9.8 ± 0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPSN</td>
<td>50.3 ± 0.8</td>
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**Figure S1.** XPS spectra of C 1s in PSN-COOH (a) and N 1s in PPSN (b).
Figure S2. Agarose gel electrophoresis retardation assay. PPSN and pEGFP at various weight ratios of 0:1, 5:1, 10:1, 20:1, 30:1 and 40:1.
Figure S3. Quantitative analysis for AO staining assay. Data from all three experiments are presented as mean ± SD. *: $P < 0.05$, **: $P < 0.01$. 
Figure S4. TEM images of MC3T3-E1 cells treated with pBMP-2 at low (a1) and high (a2) magnification, and AO staining of MC3T3-E1 cells treated with pBMP-2 at low (b1) and high (b2) magnification.
**Figure S5.** AO staining of MC3T3-E1 cells treated without or with rhBMP-2. Data from all three experiments are presented as mean ± SD. *: $P < 0.05$, **: $P < 0.01$. 
Figure S6. Effects of autophagy inhibitor (3-MA, 3 mM) on AO staining. MC3T3-E1 cells without treatment (control), MC3T3-E1 cells treated with PPSN at 50 μg/well, and MC3T3-E1 cells treated with PPSN/pBMP-2 at weight ratio of 20:1.
Figure S7. IHC staining of LC3 in the rat calvarial bone defect twelve weeks post-treatment. Control group is rat calvarial bone defect without treatment, PPSN group is treated with 200 μg of PPSN, and PPSN/pBMP-2 group is treated with PPSN/pBMP-2 at weight ratio of 20:1.
Figure S8. Effects of PPSN or PPSN/pBMP-2 on heart, liver, spleen and kidney by histological evaluation (H&E staining) at the end of 12 weeks after local application of PPSN or PPSN/pBMP-2 at rat calvarial bone defect model in vivo. The scale bar is 50 μm.