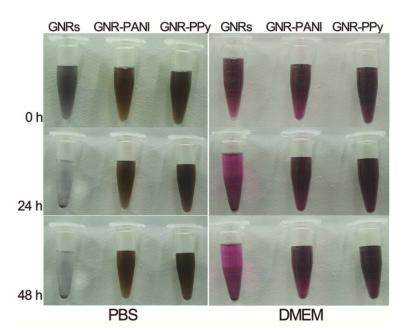
## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

Dye-free near-infrared surface-enhanced Raman scattering nanoprobes for bioimaging and high-performance photothermal cancer therapy

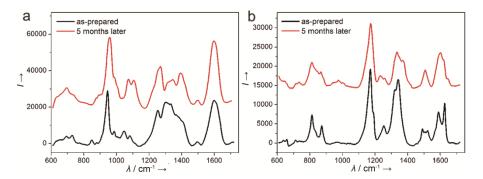
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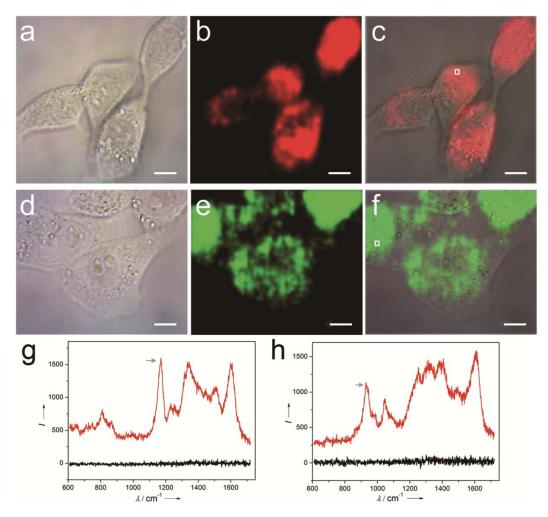
E-mail: liuzm021@126.com; ann@scnu.edu.cn.



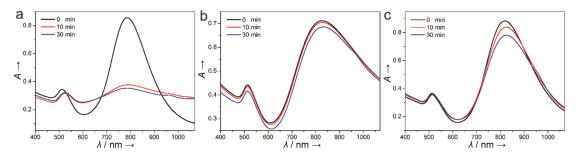
**Fig. S1** The dispersion of the as-prepared GNR-CP nanoprobes in different physiological environments after PVP-functionalization.



**Fig. S2** The storage stabilities of GNR-PPy (a) and GNR-PANI (b). The Raman signals of GNR-CPs maintained consistent levels during five months.



**Fig. S3** NIR SERS imaging of 4T1 cells using GNR-PANI (a-c) or GNR-PPy (d-f) as nanotags. g and h: SERS spectral lines acquired from the 4T1 cells incubated with GNR-PANI (c) and GNR-PPy (f), respectively. Black lines are the background lines. Scale bar:  $10 \mu m$ .



**Fig. S4** UV-vis-NIR absorbance spectra of GNR (a), GNR-PPy (b) and GNR-PANI (c) before and after NIR laser irradiation at the power density of 2.5W/cm<sup>2</sup> for 30 min. significant decrease was observed in the absorbance spectrum of GNRs after laser irradiation, indicating a structural collapse of nanorods under local heating.