Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Nanoscale. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2015

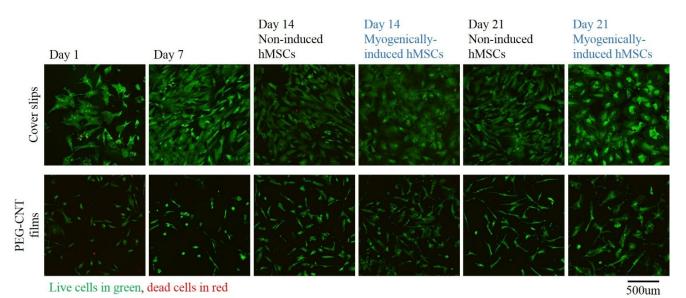
## Supplementary Data:

## 1. Live/dead staining

## Method:

The cell viability at day 1, 7, 14 and 21 was determined by a fluorescent live/dead viability/cytotoxicity kit (Invitrogen, USA) according to the manufacturer's instruction. Briefly, 2  $\mu$ M calcein-AM and 4  $\mu$ M EthD-1 were added into the hMSC samples after washing with PBS at each time point. The samples were incubated in dark at 37 °C for 45 minutes and then examined by a confocal microscope (Olympus, Japan).

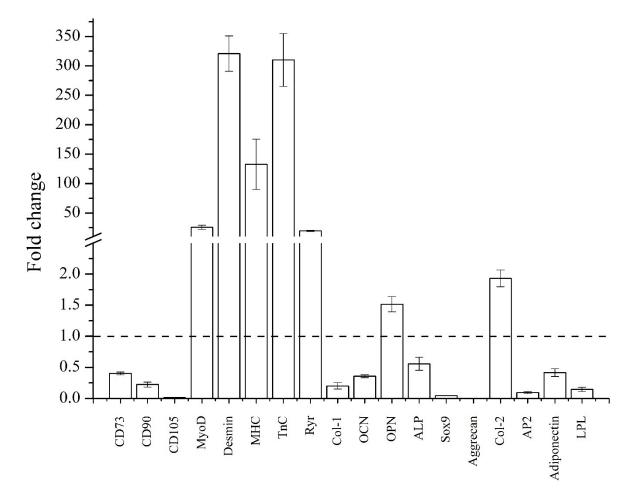
Result:



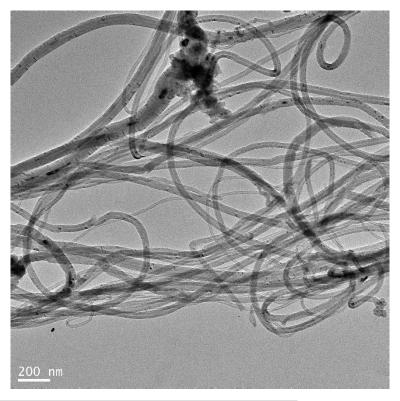
Supplementary Fig. S1. Live and dead staining of hMSCs (induced to myogenic differentiation or

not) on cover slips and PEG-CNT films during 21 days incubation.

Human skeletal muscle cells (SKMCs, Lonza, Switzerlands) were seeded at 3500 cells/cm<sup>2</sup> in SKGM Bullet Kit (Lonza, Switzerlands). SKMCs were maintained at 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> air atmosphere and medium was replaced twice per week. Sub-culturing was conducted when cells reached 80-90% confluence with 0.25% trypsin–EDTA (Invitrogen, USA).



Supplementary Fig. S2. Fold change of hMSC-feature, myogenic, SKMC-specific, osteogenic, chondrogenic and adipogenic genes in SKMCs with  $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ . Each gene was related to GAPDH and normalized to the negative control of non-induced hMSCs on cover slips, n=5.



Supplementary Fig. S3. A representative TEM image of pristine CNTs.

	variables		
Genes	Substrate	Induction	Substrate*Induction
CD73	0.312	2.308 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> *	0.002*
CD90	0.043*	2.120 × 10 <sup>-4</sup> *	0.937
CD105	0.314	1.233 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> *	0.373
MyoD	2.980 × 10 <sup>-8*</sup>	0.167	4.530 × 10 <sup>-4</sup> *
Desmin	3.615 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> *	0.503	0.949
MHC	9.919 × 10 <sup>-7</sup> *	0.502	0.994
TnC	3.279 × 10 <sup>-8*</sup>	0.259	0.024*
Ryr	9.118 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> *	0.092	0.413
Col-I	0.006*	0.096	0.609
OCN	0.807	0.088	0.001*
OPN	5.995 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> *	0.023*	0.276
ALP	0.004*	2.069 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> *	0.056
Sox9	1.086 × 10 <sup>-9*</sup>	1.595 × 10 <sup>-14</sup> *	1.086 × 10 <sup>-9*</sup>
Aggrecan	0.005*	0.113	0.002*
Col-II	0.302	0.911	0.361
AP2	0.002*	5.549 × 10 <sup>-7</sup> *	0.734
Adiponectin	0.090	0.495	0.225
LPL	4.712 × 10 <sup>-10*</sup>	1.387 × 10 <sup>-12</sup> *	5.022 × 10 <sup>-10*</sup>

Supplementary Table S1 *P*-value from two-way ANOVA of fold change for two variables of substrate and induction

\*indicated significant difference if P<0.05