Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

## Targeted Imaging of EGFR Overexpressed Cancer Cells by

## **Brightly Fluorescent Nanoparticles Conjugated with Cetuximab**

Meng Gao,<sup>‡a</sup> Huifang Su,<sup>‡b</sup> Gengwei Lin,<sup>a</sup> Shiwu Li,<sup>a</sup> Xingsu Yu,<sup>b</sup> Anjun Qin,<sup>a</sup> Zujin Zhao,<sup>\*a</sup> Zhenfeng Zhang,<sup>\*b</sup> Ben Zhong Tang<sup>\*acd</sup>

<sup>*a*</sup> State Key Laboratory of Luminescent Materials and Devices, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou 510640, China

<sup>b</sup> Sun Yat-sen University Cancer Center, State Key Laboratory of Oncology in South China, Collaborative Innovation Center for Cancer Medicine, Guangzhou 510060, China

<sup>c</sup> Department of Chemistry, The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong, China

<sup>*d*</sup> Hong Kong Branch of Chinese National Engineering Research Center for Tissue Restoration and Reconstruction, Hong Kong, China



**Figure S1**. Fluorescence lifetime of *t*-BuPITBT-TPE NPs (2  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup> of *t*-BuPITBT-TPE) in aqueous solution.



**Figure S2.** The CLSM images of HCC827 cells after pre-treating with C225 (100  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup>) at 37 °C for 2 h and then incubation with *t*-BuPITBT-TPE NPs (2  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup> of *t*-BuPITBT-TPE) at 37 °C for 8 h. (A) Bright-field image; (B) Fluorescent image; (C) The merged image. Scale bar = 20  $\mu$ m.