Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Biomaterials Science. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2017

## Supporting information

Multifunctional UCNPs@MnSiO<sub>3</sub>@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>

Nanoplatform: Improved ROS Generation and Reduced Glutathione Levels for High Efficient Photodynamic Therapy

Lili Feng,<sup>†</sup> Fei He,<sup>†</sup>,\* Yunlu Dai, Shili Gai,<sup>†</sup>,\* Chongna Zhong, Chunxia Li,<sup>‡</sup> and Piaoping Yang<sup>†</sup>,\*

<sup>†</sup> Key Laboratory of Superlight Materials and Surface Technology, Ministry of Education, College of Material Sciences and Chemical Engineering, Harbin Engineering University, Harbin, 150001, P. R. China <sup>‡</sup> College of Chemistry and Life Sciences, Zhejiang Normal University, Jinhua, 321004, P. R. China

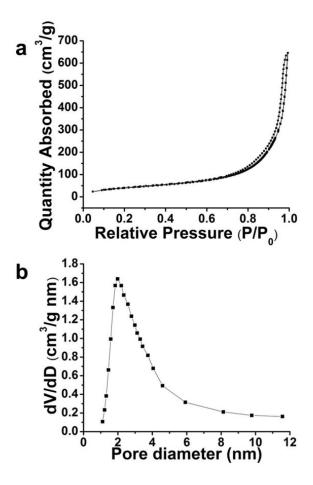
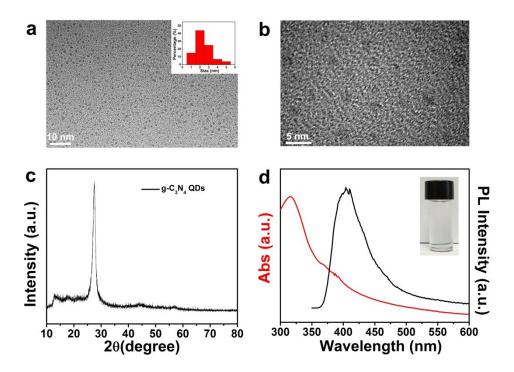
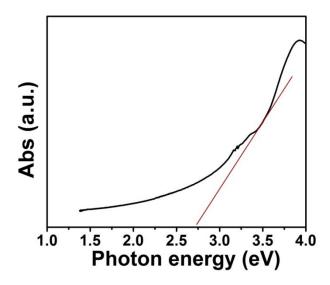


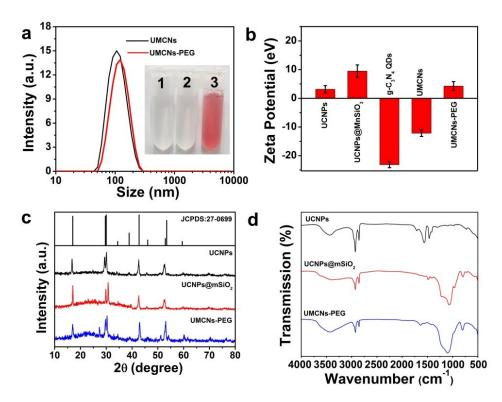
Figure S1.  $N_2$  adsorption/desorption isotherms (a) and pore size distributions (b) of UCNPs@MnSiO<sub>3</sub>.



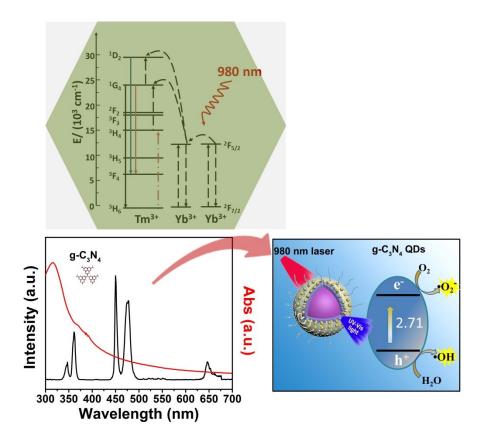
**Figure S2.** (a) TEM image (scale bar = 10 nm) and particle size distribution (inset) of as-prepared g- $C_3N_4$  QDs. (b) HRTEM image of g- $C_3N_4$  QDs. (c) XRD pattern of g- $C_3N_4$  QDs. (d) The UV-vis absorption spectrum and photoluminescence emission spectrum of g- $C_3N_4$  QDs irradiation upon UV light (Inset: A digital image of g- $C_3N_4$  QDs dispersed in pure water).



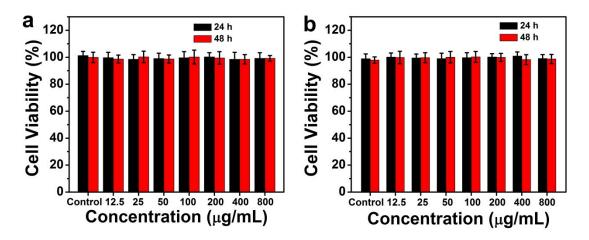
**Figure S3**. UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> QDs.



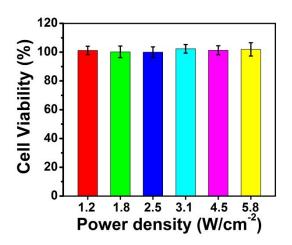
**Figure S4.** (a) The particle size distributions of UCNPs@MnSiO<sub>3</sub>@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, and UMCNs-PEG in water measured by dynamic light scattering (DLS) (inset: the representative photographs of UMCNs-PEG in different solutions including (1) phosphate buffered solution, (2) H<sub>2</sub>O and (3) culture medium). (b) Zeta potentials of different sample. (c) XRD patterns and (d) FT-IR spectra of UCNPs (black line), UCNPs@mSiO<sub>2</sub> (red line) and UMCNs-PEG (blue line). The standard JCPDS card 27-0699 of NaGdF<sub>4</sub>.



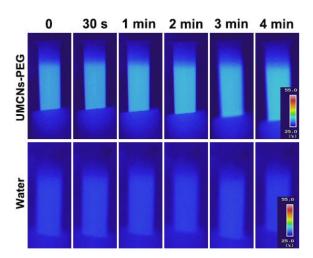
**Figure S5.** Energy-transfer diagram to explain upconversion emission process of UCNPs. UV-vis absorption apectrum of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> QDs (Black) and emission spectrum (Red) of UMCNs-PEG upon 980 nm NIR laser excitation and schematic illustration for the ROS generation mechanism of UMCNs-PEG irradiated 980 nm NIR light.



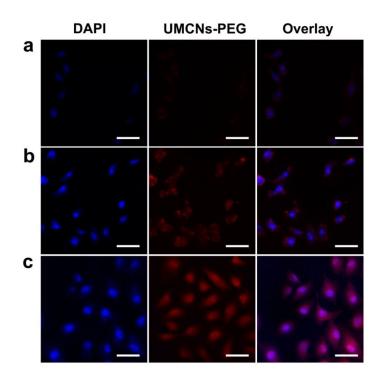
**Figure S6.** The viability of L929 cells incubated with USCNs-PEG and UMCNs-PEG with different concentrations (800, 400, 200, 100, 50, 25, 12.5 and 0  $\mu$ g/mL) for 24 h and 48 h measured by MTT assay, respectively.



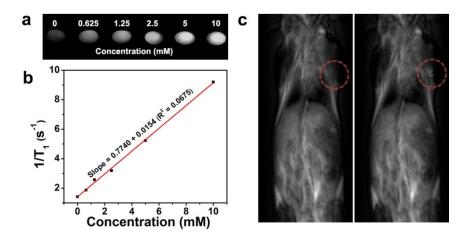
**Figure S7**. Cell viability after being irradiated with 980 nm laser under different intensities for 30 min (1.2 W cm<sup>-2</sup>, 5 min break after 5 min irradiation).



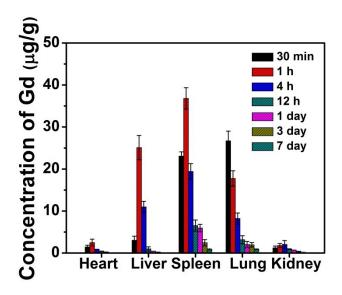
**Figure S8**. Infrared thermal photographs of UMCNs-PEG (400  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup>) and water exposed to 980 nm NIR laser (1.2 W cm<sup>-2</sup>) for various times. Note that the samples are dissolved in deionized water.



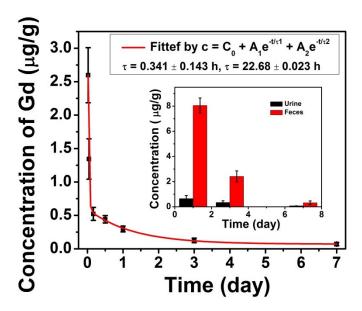
**Figure S9.** Fluorescence microscopy images of HeLa cells incubated with UMCNs-PEG for 0.5 h (a), 2.5 h (b) and light irradiation after 0.5 h and further 2.5 h of incubation (c). All images were obtained under a magnification of 50  $\mu$ m.



**Figure S10.** (a) *In vitro*  $T_1$ -weighted MR images of UMCNs-PEG at different concentrations. The signal are positively enhanced in a wide concentration range from 0 to 10 mM, (b) Relaxation rate  $1/T_1$  as a function of the sample molar concentration. The longitudinal relaxivity  $(r_1)$  value of the sample is calculated to be 0.7740 mM<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>.  $T_1$ -weighted MRI images of a tumor-bearing Balb/c mouse, (c) pre injection and (d) after injection *in situ*. The tumor site exhibits much higher MRI singal intensity after injection, illustrating that UMCNs-PEG could be used as a promising contrast agent for  $T_1$ -weighted MR imaging.



**Figure S11**. The bio-distribution of Gd in major organs of mice after injection of UMCNs-PEG intravenously at different time points. Error bars indicate standard deviations, N = 4.



**Figure S12**. The blood circulation time in tumor-bearing mice after intravenous injection of UMCNs -PEG, inset is the metabolism concentration with different times.