## Nano-confinement driven enhanced magnetic

## relaxivity of SPIONs for targeted tumor bioimaging

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Supporting information



Figure S1. Synthesis scheme of ALE conjugate lipid reaction along with <sup>1</sup>HNMR of ALE-Lipid



**Figure S2.** Physicochemical properties of superparamagnetic iron oxide nanoparticles (SPIONs). (A) Dynamic light scattering showing size distribution of SPIONs. (B) Transmission electron micrograph showing morphology of SPIONs.

Amount of SPIONs input (μg/mL)	10	25	50	100	150	SPION loaded PEGylated NPs
Hydrodynamic size (nm)	$80.5\pm6.1$	$82.8\pm5.2$	$79.9\pm4.5$	82.5 ± 8	$83.4\pm3.2$	86.8 ± 3.8
PDI	$0.214\pm0.122$	$0.266\pm0.166$	$0.270\pm0.071$	$0.214 \pm 0.034$	$0.282 \pm 0.101$	$0.146 \pm 6$
PDI width (nm)	$33.7\pm7.1$	$32.71\pm4.3$	$40.5\pm5$	$37.4\pm2.3$	$39.5\pm5.9$	$33.2 \pm 6$
Zeta potential (mV)	$-35.3 \pm 0.68$	$-36.4 \pm 1.01$	$-34.6 \pm 0.52$	$-33.4 \pm 0.95$	$-34.9 \pm 1.2$	$-49.9 \pm 5.7$

**Table S1.** Physicochemical properties of HNCs with different SPIONs input (n=6) and SPIONsloaded control PEGylated NPs



Figure S3. Stability of different formulation of HNC in ionic condition (PBS)



**Figure S4.** MR decay curve of 4 different kinds of SPIOs nanocluster at 0.1, 2, and 0.5 mM measured at TR=1500 ms. Water was used as control



**Figure S5.** Confocal images of K7M2 cells incubated with RhB labeled HNC for 3h, at 37°C. The cell nuclei were stained by DAPI (blue).



Figure S6. Cellular uptake of HNC quantified by ICP-MS. PEGylated NPs were used as control



## Darker contrast

**Brighter contrast** 

**Figure S7.** (A) Ex-vivo MR images of tumor bearing mouse at different z-plane after IV injection of SPIONs loaded PEGylated NPs (control NPs). (B) Histogram of signal intensity distribution obtained from ImageJ indicating that HNC produces darker contrast than SPIONs loaded PEGylated NPs.