Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Nanoscale. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2018

## Supporting Information nCVTs: A Hybrid Smart Tumour Targeting Platform

Wei Jiang Goh<sup>1,2</sup>, Shui Zou<sup>2</sup>, Bertrand Czarny<sup>3</sup> & Giorgia Pastorin<sup>1,2,4,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NUS Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering, Centre for Life Sciences (CeLS) 28 Medical Drive, #05-01, Singapore 117456

<sup>2</sup>Department of Pharmacy, National University of Singapore, Lower Kent Ridge Road, 18 Science Drive 2, Singapore 117543

<sup>3</sup>School of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) & Lee Kong Chian School of medicine (LKCmedicine), Nanyang Technological University, 50 Nanyang Avenue, Singapore 639798

<sup>4</sup>NUSNNI-NanoCore, National University of Singapore, T-Lab Level 11, 5A Engineering Drive 1, Singapore 117580

\*Correspondence: Giorgia Pastorin, Department of Pharmacy, National University of Singapore, Science Drive 2, S15#05-PI-03, Singapore 117543. Tel: +65 65161876 Email: phapg@nus.edu.sg

- Already used in clinical trials<sup>1</sup>
- Preparation methods widely established<sup>2</sup>
- Easily functionalized<sup>3</sup>
- Relatively low cellular uptake
- Increased clearance rates from MPS<sup>4</sup>
- PEGylated liposomes are affected by ABC<sup>5</sup>
- Risk of immunogenicity such as CARPA<sup>6</sup>
- Improved cellular uptake<sup>7</sup>
- Smart Targeting<sup>8</sup>
- Reduced immunogenicity<sup>9</sup>
- Difficultly in drug loading<sup>10</sup>
- New & relatively untested

## **Supporting Information**

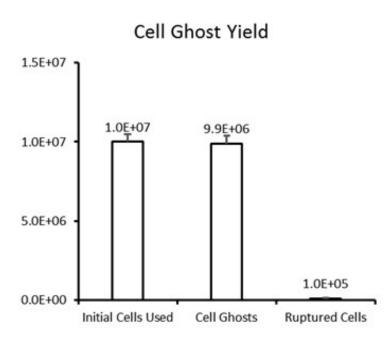


Figure S1. Indicative cell ghost yield from cell emptying procedure used.

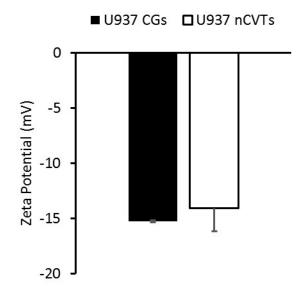


Figure S2. Zeta Potential of U937 CGs and nCVTs.

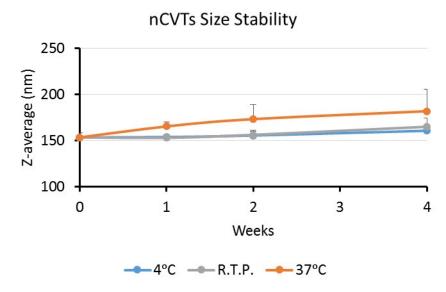
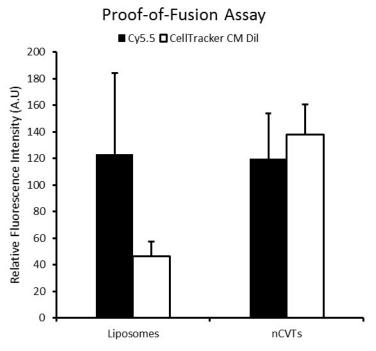


Fig S3. Stability of nCVTs in terms of Z-average size over 4 weeks at different storage temperatures.



**Fig. S4.** Supporting experiment demonstrating proof of fusion between cellular membranes from CGs and liposomes. Lipid components of liposomes were labelled with Cyanine 5.5 NHS monoester and biotinylated lipids. Cell Ghosts were labelled with CellTracker CM DIL dye. Liposomes and nCVTs were purified by use of magnetic streptavidin beads (Dynabeads MyOne Streptavidin) where only biotinylated samples are assayed. The fusion of lipids and cell membranes yield elevated fluorescence from both Cy5.5 and CellTracker dyes, whereas liposomes only yield elevated Cy5.5 fluorescence. Should fusion have failed to occur, non-biotinylated cell ghosts would be removed and no fluorescence from CellTracker CM Dil would be observed.