Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for New Journal of Chemistry.

Supplementary data

Fabrication of PEGylated graphitic carbon nitride quantum dots as traceable, pH-sensitive drug delivery systems

Jian Dong,‡*[a] Yanli Zhao,‡[a] Hongyu Chen,[a] Li Liu,[a] Wenxian Zhang,[a] Baoliang Sun,[b] Mingfeng Yang,[b] Yi Wang,[c] and Lifeng Dong*[a]

[a] School of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Engineering, Taishan Medical University, Taian, 271016, P. R. China. E-mail: lfdong@tsmc.edu.cn and dongjian@tsmc.edu.cn

[b] Key Laboratory of Cerebral Microcirculation in Universities of Shandong and Department of Neurology of Affiliated Hospital, Taishan Medical University, Taian, Shandong 271016, P. R. China

[c] Institute of Optometry and Department of Ophthalmology of Affiliated Hospital, Taishan Medical University, Taian, Shandong 271016, P. R. China

‡These two authors contributed equally.

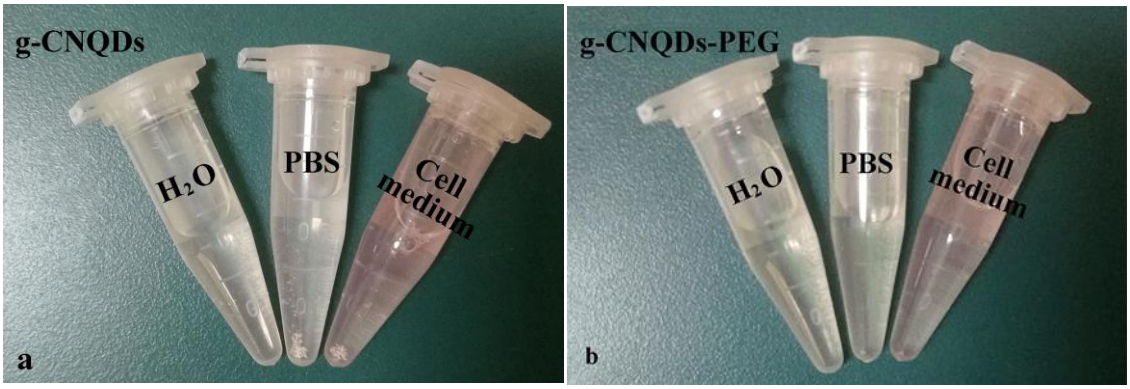

Fig. S1 The stability of (a) g-CNQDs in water, PBS, and cell medium after 48 h; and the stability of (b) g-CNQDs-PEG in water, PBS, and cell medium after 30 days.

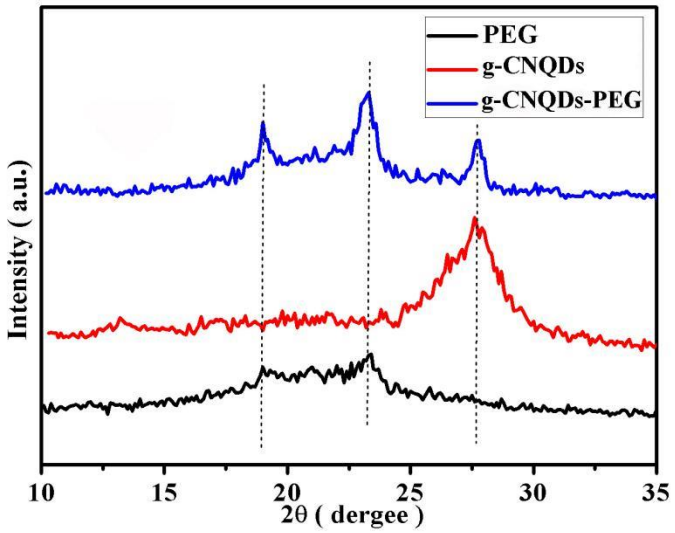

Fig. S2 The XRD spectra of g-CNQDs, g-CNQDs-PEG, and PEG.

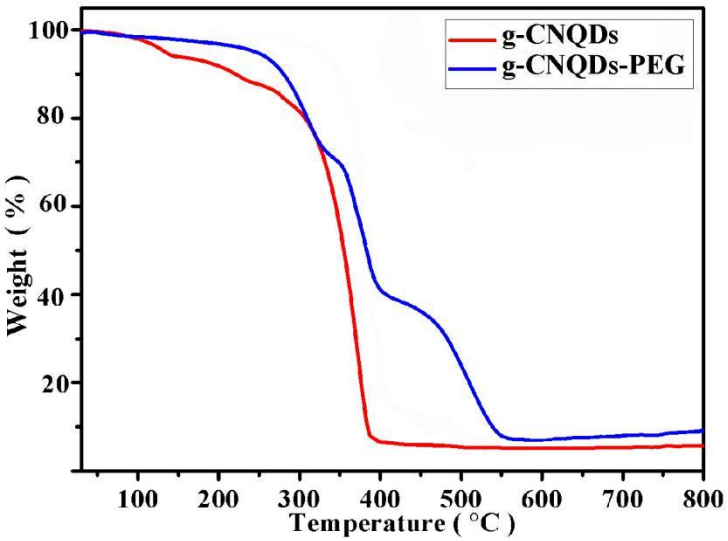

Fig. S3 TGA (in N_2) of g-CNQDs and g-CNQDs-PEG with a heating rate of 5 °C min^{-1}.

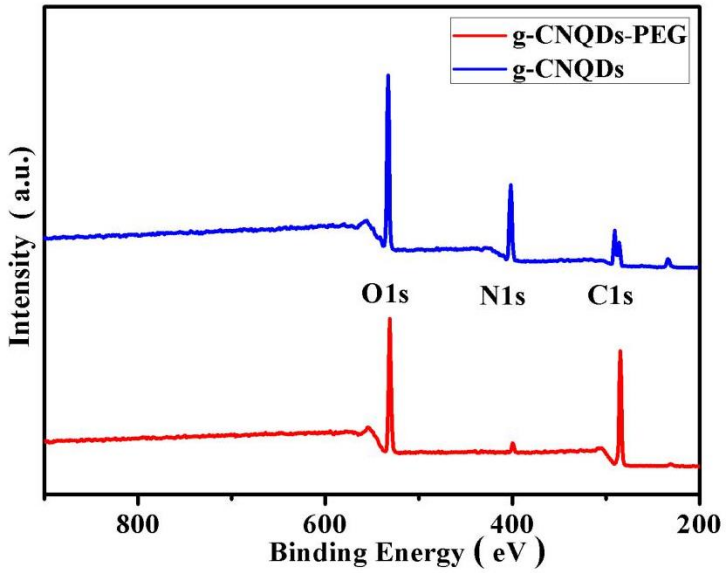

Fig. S4 Survey XPS spectra of g-CNQDs and g-CNQDs-PEG.

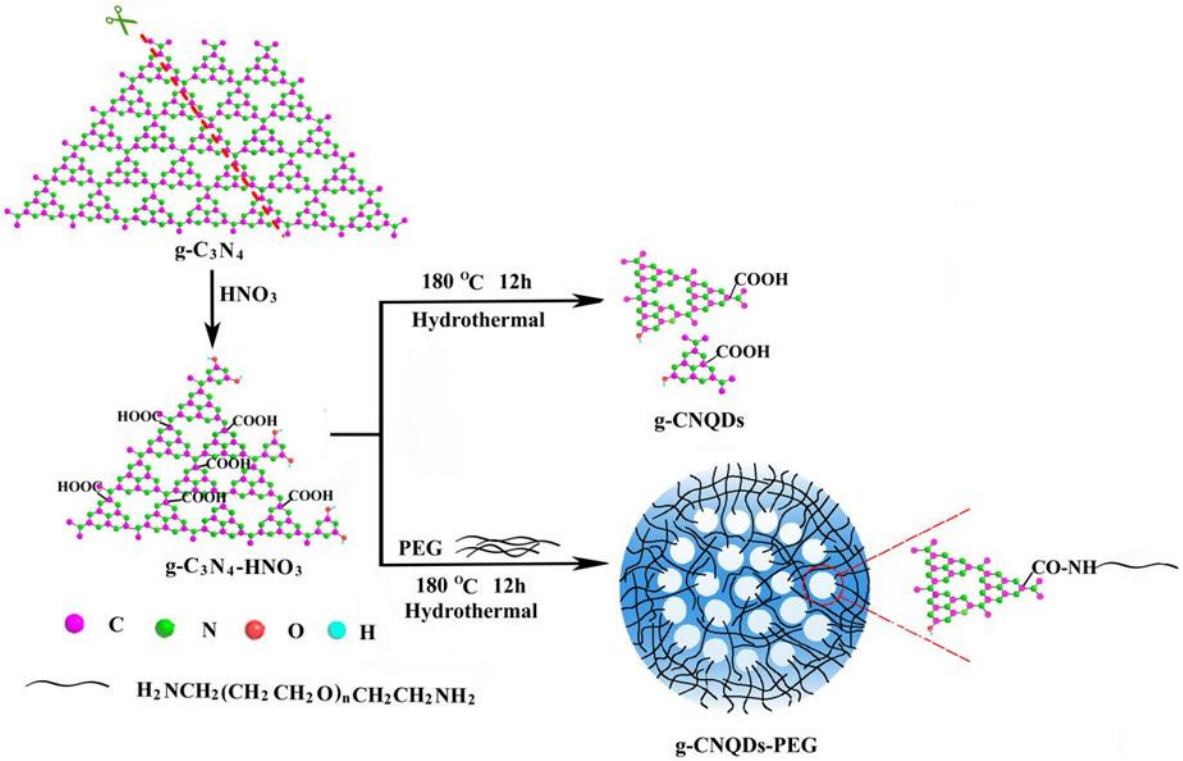

Fig. S5 Illustration of the synthesis of g-CNQDs and g-CNQDs-PEG.

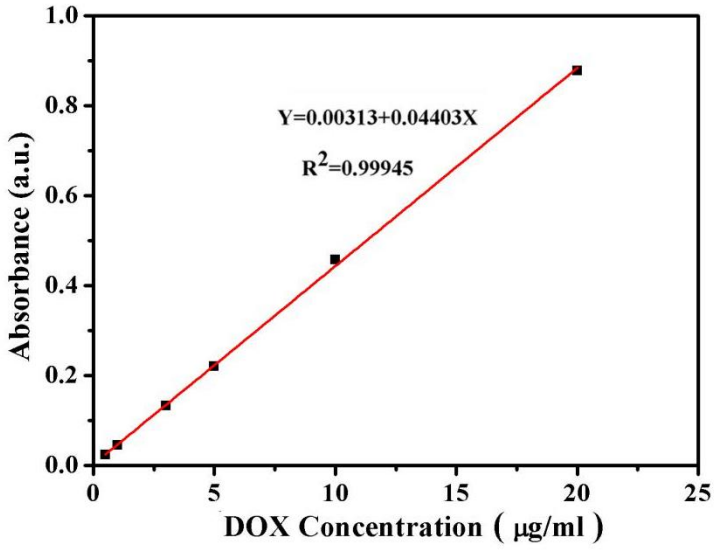

Fig. S6 UV-Vis absorbance standard curve of DOX at 480 nm.

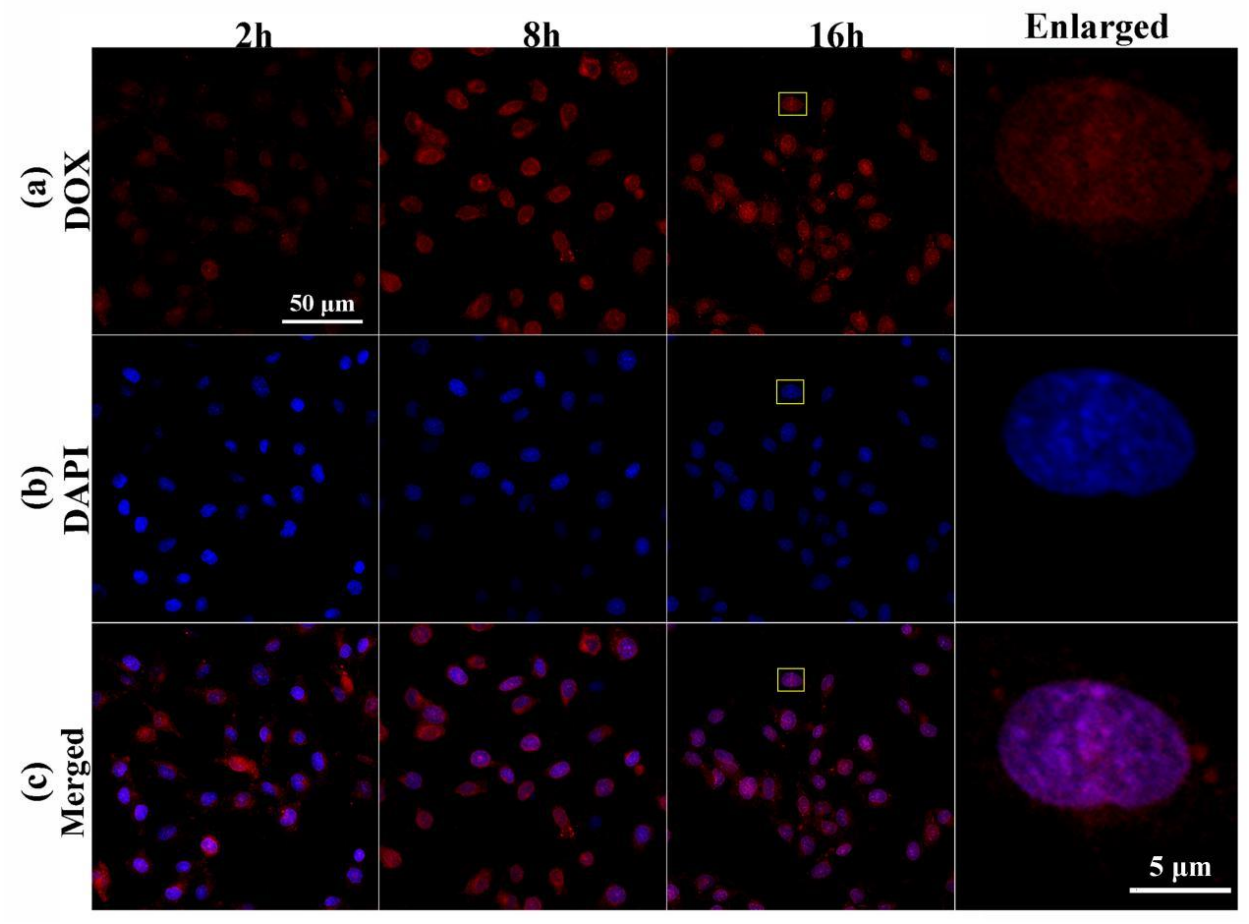

Fig. S7 CLSM images of U251 cells treated with g-CNQDs-PEG at a concentration of 5 μg mL^{-1} after incubation for 2, 8, and 16 h: (a) DOX excited by a 405 nm laser and signals collected in the range of 595±50 nm; (b) cell nuclei stained with DAPI excited by a 405 nm laser and signals collected from 450±50nm; (c) merged images of DOX and DAPI.