## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

## **Responsive upconversion nanoprobe for monitoring** and inhibition of EBV-associated cancers *via* targeting EBNA1

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**Supplementary Scheme 1.** The synthetic schemes of the dual functional up-conversion nanoparticles (UCNP-P<sub>4</sub>) from the NaGdF<sub>4</sub>: Yb<sup>3+</sup>, Er<sup>3+</sup> @NaGdF<sub>4</sub> (UCNP) coated with EBNA1-specific peptide.

UCNP				
Run	Temperature/°C	Size/nm	PDI	Zeta/mV
1	24.9	94.1	0.112	-15.5
2	25.0	94.2	0.118	-14.5
3	25.1	92.2	0.115	-15.1
Average		93.5	0.115	-15.0
UCNP-P <sub>4</sub>				
Run	Temperature/°C	Size/nm	PDI	Zeta/mV
1	25.1	114.1	0.097	31.2
2	25.0	113.9	0.116	30.7
3	25.0	114.7	0.126	32.1
Average		114.2	0.113	31.3

**Supplementary Table 1.** Summary data on DLS and zeta potential of UCNP and UCNP-P<sub>4</sub>.



**Supplementary Figure 1.** X-Ray diffraction patterns of initial nanoparticles (UCNP) and the peptide capped nanoparticles (UCNP-P<sub>4</sub>) indexed with a standard hexagonal-phase NaGdF<sub>4</sub> (ICDD#27-0699).



**Supplementary Figure 2.** FTIR transmission spectrum of (a) UCNP with OA ligand, (b) Ligand free UCNP, (c) amine-functionalized NaGdF<sub>4</sub>:Yb<sup>3+</sup>, Er<sup>3+</sup> @NaGdF<sub>4</sub> (UCNP-PEI), (d) click reaction-modified NaGdF<sub>4</sub>:Yb<sup>3+</sup>, Er<sup>3+</sup> @NaGdF<sub>4</sub> (UCNP-C=O) and (e) EBNA1-specific peptides-coated UCNP (UCNP-P<sub>4</sub>).



**Supplementary Figure 3.** Zeta potential of UCNP, UCNP-PEI, UCNP-C=O and UCNP-P<sub>4</sub>.



**Supplementary Figure 4.** Luminescence titration of UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> (conc.: 0.5 mg/mL; excitation at 980 nm) towards (a) EBNA1-Y<sub>561</sub>A and (b) HSA.



**Supplementary Figure 5.** Luminescence titration of UCNP (conc.: 0.5 mg/mL; excitation at 980 nm) towards (a) EBNA1 (b) BSA (c) EBNA1-Y<sub>561</sub>A and (d) HSA.



**Supplementary Figure 6.** Two-photon confocal images of UCNP and UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> in EBV-positive NPC43 cells (Scale bar: 25  $\mu$ m,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =980 nm,  $\lambda_{em}$ =500-700 nm; a1-a3: bright field, UCNP treated with NPC43 cells for 3 h and overlay image respectively; a4-a6: bright field, UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> treated with NPC43 cells for 3 h and overlay image respectively; a7-a9: bright field, UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> treated with NPC43 cells for 12 h and overlay image respectively).



Supplementary Figure 7. Two-photon confocal images of UCNP and UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> in EBV-negative MRC-5 cells (Scale bar:  $25\mu m$ ,  $\lambda_{ex}=980 nm$ ,  $\lambda_{em}=500-700 nm$ ; a1-a3: bright field, UCNP treated with MRC-5 cells for 3 h and overlay image respectively; a4-a6: bright field, UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> treated with MRC-5 cells for 3 h and overlay image respectively; a7-a9: bright field, UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> treated with MRC-5 cells for 12 h and overlay image respectively; (b) Lambda scan of UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> in EBV-positive NPC43 cells and EBV-negative MRC-5 cells).



Supplementary Figure 8. Two-photon confocal images of UCNP and UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> with DRAQ5 nuclear dye in EBV-positive C666-1 cells (Scale bar: 25  $\mu$ m,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =980 nm,  $\lambda_{em}$ =500-700 nm; a1-a4: bright field, co-staining with DRAQ5 nuclear dye, UCNP treated with C666-1 cells for 12 h and overlay image respectively; b1-b4: bright field, co-staining with DRAQ5, UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> treated with C666-1 cells for 12 h and overlay image respectively).



**Supplementary Figure 9.** Two-photon confocal images of UCNP and UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> with DRAQ5 nuclear dye in EBV-positive NPC43 cells (Scale bar: 25  $\mu$ m,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =980 nm,  $\lambda_{em}$ =500-700 nm; a1-a4: bright field, co-staining with DRAQ5, UCNP treated with NPC43 cells for 12 h and overlay image respectively; b1-b4: bright field, co-staining with DRAQ5, UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> treated with NPC43 cells for 12 h and overlay image respectively).



**Supplementary Figure 10.** Two-photon confocal images of UCNP and UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> with DRAQ5 nuclear dye in EBV-negative HeLa cells (Scale bar: 25  $\mu$ m,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =980 nm,  $\lambda_{em}$ =500-700 nm; a1-a4: bright field, co-staining with DRAQ5, UCNP treated with HeLa cells for 12 h and overlay image respectively; b1-b4: bright field, co-staining with DRAQ5, UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> treated with HeLa cells for 12 h and overlay image respectively).



**Supplementary Figure 11.** Two-photon confocal images of UCNP and UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> with DRAQ5 nuclear dye in EBV-negative MRC-5 cells (Scale bar: 25  $\mu$ m,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =980 nm,  $\lambda_{em}$ =500-700 nm; a1-a4: bright field, co-staining with DRAQ5, UCNP treated with MRC-5 cells for 12 h and overlay image respectively; b1-b4: bright field, co-staining with DRAQ5, UCNP-P<sub>4</sub> treated with MRC-5 cells for 12 h and overlay image respectively).

Treatment	Weight/g
UCNP-P <sub>4</sub>	0.44
PBS buffer	2.85

**Supplementary Table 2.** Summary data on tumor weight of C666-1 cell xenograft with different treatment.