Electronic Supplementary Information

## Hollow Carbon Nanospheres Derived from Biomass By-product

## **Okara for Imaging-guided Photothermal Therapy of Cancers**

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Figure S1. SEM image of HCNS.



Figure S2. XRD pattern of HCNS.



Figure S3. Zeta potential of HCNS.



Figure S4. DLS measurement of HCNS.



Figure S5. X-ray photoelectron survey spectra (XPS) spectrum of the HCNS.





Figure S7. O 1s XPS spectra of HCNS.



**Figure S8**. The fitting curve of the absorbance of HCNSs aqueous dispersions at 808 nm as a function of HCNSs concentrations; the correlation coefficient ( $\mathbb{R}^2$ ) is 0.9998.



**Figure S9**. Cell viability of HepG-2 cells treated with HCNS with and without NIR irradiation (808 nm, 1.5 W, 10 min).

	Agents	Wavelength (nm)	η	Ref.
1	UiO-66@PAN	808	21.6	1
2	SPNCT	808	35	2
3	AuNR	808	15.7	3
4	AuNR	808	61	4
5	C-dots	635	38.5	5
6	Cu <sub>2-x</sub> Se	800	22	6
7	ILAA NHCs	808	32.89	7
8	DTC cocrystal	808	18.8	8
9	WO <sub>2.9</sub> Nanorods	808	44.9	9
10	Au-Ag nanourchins	808	80.4	10
11	Graphene	808	67	11
12	Graphene oxide	808	58	11
13	HCNS	808	35.7	This work

 Table S1 Photothermal conversion efficacy of several PTT agents.

## **Photothermal Conversion Efficiency Measurement**

To precise evaluate the photothermal conversion efficiency ( $\eta$ ) of HCNS, which was calculated according to a literature method<sup>12</sup>:

$$\eta = \frac{hS(T_{max,HCNS} - T_{max,solvent}) - Q_0}{I(1 - 10^{-A_{808}})}$$

Where  $T_{max,HCNS}$  and  $T_{max,solvent}$  are maximum temperature for HCNS solution and water with irradiation. *h* is the transfer coefficient. *S* represents the surface area of the cuvette cell.  $Q_0$  is the heat input due to light absorption by the solvent. *I* is the irradiation laser power (1.5 W).  $A_{808}$  is the absorbance at 808 nm. For the calculation of *hS* following equation was used:

$$hS = \frac{\sum c_i m_i}{\tau_s}$$

Where  $m_i$  and  $c_i$  represent the mass and heat capacity of each element of the system, respectively (solvent (1.5 g, 4.2 J/(g×°C)), heating material (0.15 mg, 1.6 J/(g×°C)).<sup>11</sup> The heat capacity of HCNS was measured by the differential scanning calorimeter (PerkinElmer DSC8500). The sample system time constant ( $\tau_s$ ) was calculated using the equation:

$$\tau_s = -\frac{t}{ln\theta}$$

Where *t* is time and  $\theta$  is the dimensionless driving force.

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