Supplementary Material

A pH-responsive, Endosomolytic Liposome Functionalized with Membrane-anchoring, Comb-like Pseudopeptides for Enhanced Intracellular Delivery and Cancer Treatment

Siyuan Chen^{a,b}, Gabriella Morrison^a, Wenyuan Liu^b, Apanpreet Kaur Bhamra^a, Rongjun Chen^a*

^{a.} Department of Chemical Engineering, Imperial College London, South Kensington Campus, London, SW7 2AZ, United Kingdom

^{b.} College of Materials Science and Engineering, Nanjing Tech University, 30 South Puzhu Road, Nanjing 211816, P. R. China

*Tel: +44 (0)20 75942070. Fax: +44 (0)20 75945638. Email: <u>rongjun.chen@imperial.ac.uk</u>



Figure S1. ¹H-NMR spectra of PLP, PLP-NDA3, PLP-NDA10 and PLP-NDA18 in acidic form in d₆-DMSO at room temperature.



Figure S2. FT-IR spectra of PLP, PLP-NDA3, PLP-NDA10 and PLP-NDA18 in acidic form.



Figure S3. Dynamic light scattering (DLS) size distribution and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) morphology of (A) the bare liposomes (bare LP) and (B) PLP-NDA18-coated liposomes (PLP-NDA18-LP). Scale bar: 40 nm.



Figure S4. Confocal microscopy images of FITC labelled PLP-NDA18-coated liposomes at various pHs. Scale bar: 40 μ m.



Figure S5. Confocal microscopy images of MES-SA/DX5 cells showing subcellular DOX distribution. Cells were treated with 2.5 μ M free DOX for 1 h before imaging (scale bar 20 μ m).



Figure S6. Cellular uptake of DOX quantitatively analyzed by flow cytometry and presented as representative histogram plots. All the samples were analyzed after 1 h of treatment of (A) HeLa, (B) A549, and (C) MES-SA cells with free DOX, DOX-loaded bare liposomes (DOX-LP), and DOX-loaded, PLP-NDA18-coated liposomes (PLP-NDA18-DOX-LP), respectively, at the fixed equivalent DOX dosage of 2.5 μ M. (D) MES-SA/DX5 cells were treated with free DOX, DOX-LP, and PLP-NDA18-DOX-LP, respectively, at the fixed equivalent DOX concentration of 5 μ M for 1 h before flow cytometry measurements.



Figure S7. Concentration-dependent relative viabilities of (A) HeLa, (B) A549, (C) MES-SA, and (D) MES-SA/DX5 cells treated with the liposomes with (close columns) or without (open columns) PLP-NDA18 coating for 24 h as determined by Alamar Blue assay. The polymer-to-lipid ratio of the PLP-NDA18-coated liposomes was fixed at 2.85:100. Mean \pm S.D. (n=3).



Figure S8. Representative flow cytometry scatterplot of A549 cells after 24 h of incubation with (A) serum-free culture medium alone, (B) free DOX, (C) DOX-loaded bare liposomes (DOX-LP), and (D) DOX-loaded, PLP-NDA18-coated liposomes (PLP-NDA18-DOX-LP). DOX dosage in free DOX solution or the liposomal samples was fixed at 2.5 μ M. Mean ± S.D. (n=3).



Figure S9. Accumulative DOX release from the DOX-loaded, PLP-NDA18-coated liposomes at pH 7.4. Mean \pm S.D. (n=3).