

### *Supplementary Information*

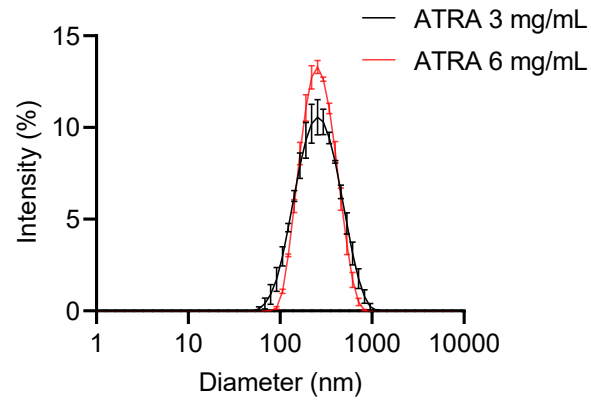
#### **Layer-by-layer nanoparticle encapsulating all-trans retinoic acid and CpG as a mucosal adjuvant targeting colorectal cancer**

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Yuanyuan Zhao<sup>a,b</sup> Haonan Huo<sup>a,b</sup> Haowei Zu<sup>a</sup> and Xueguang Lu<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

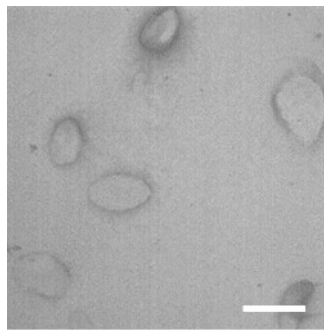
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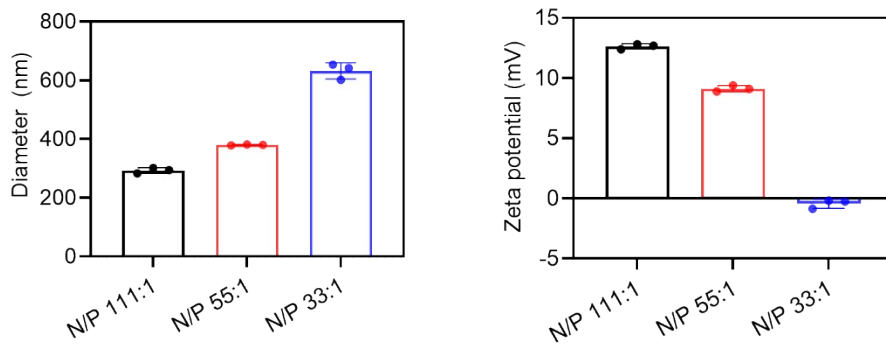


**Figure S1.** Representative size distribution of ATRA-NPs measured by DLS.

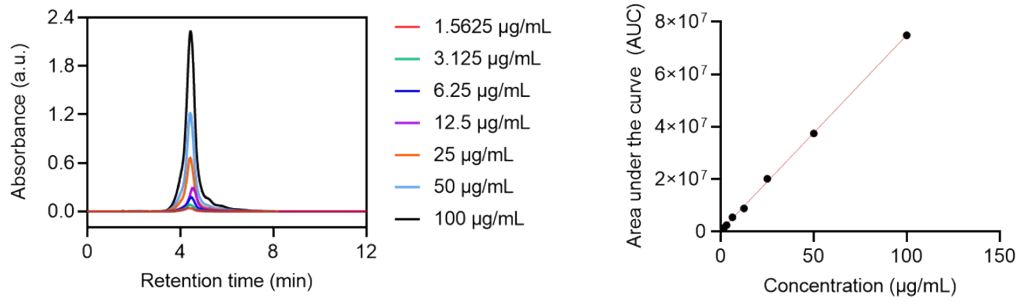


ATRA NPs

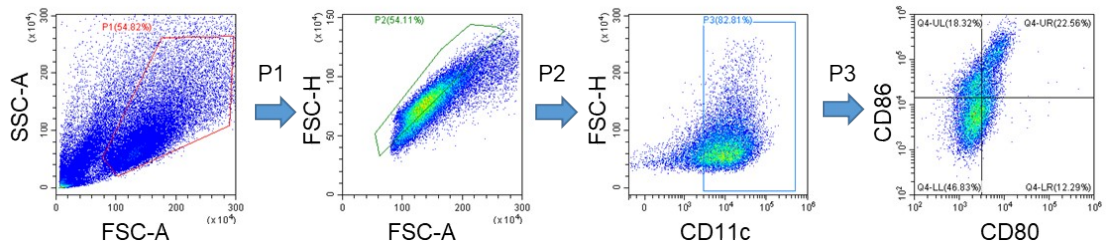
**Figure S2.** A representative TEM image of ATRA-NPs. The scale bar is 200 nm.



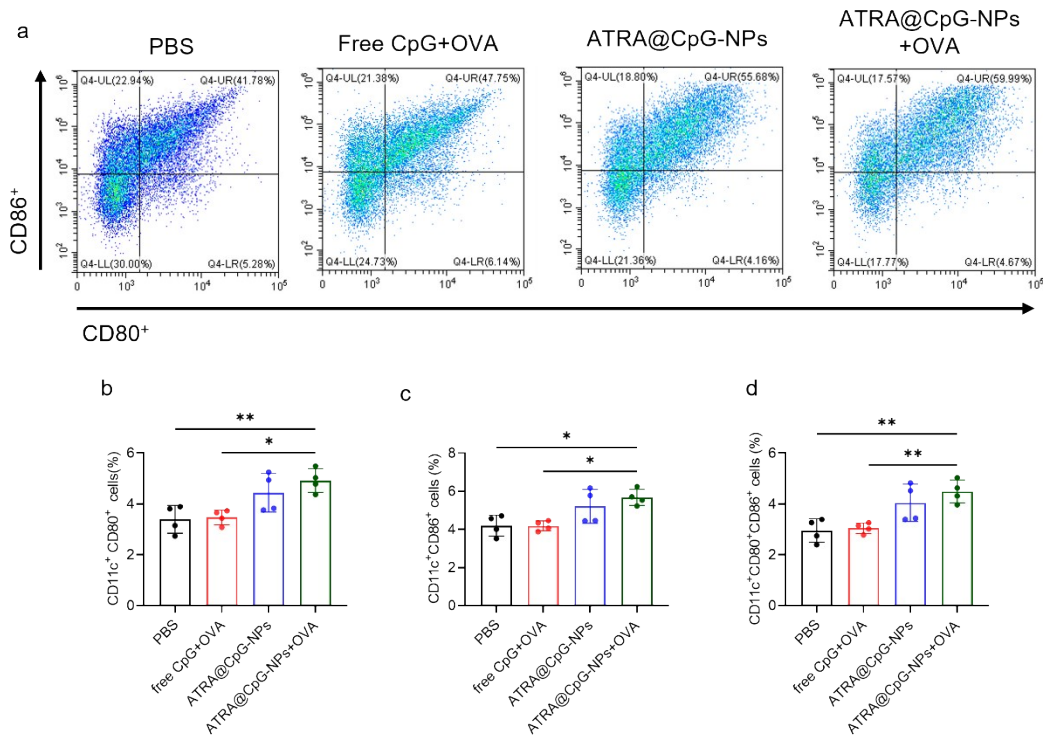
**Figure S3.** The hydrodynamic diameters and zeta potentials of ATRA@CpG-NPs with N/P ratios. n = 3 technical replicates. Data are shown as mean ± SD.



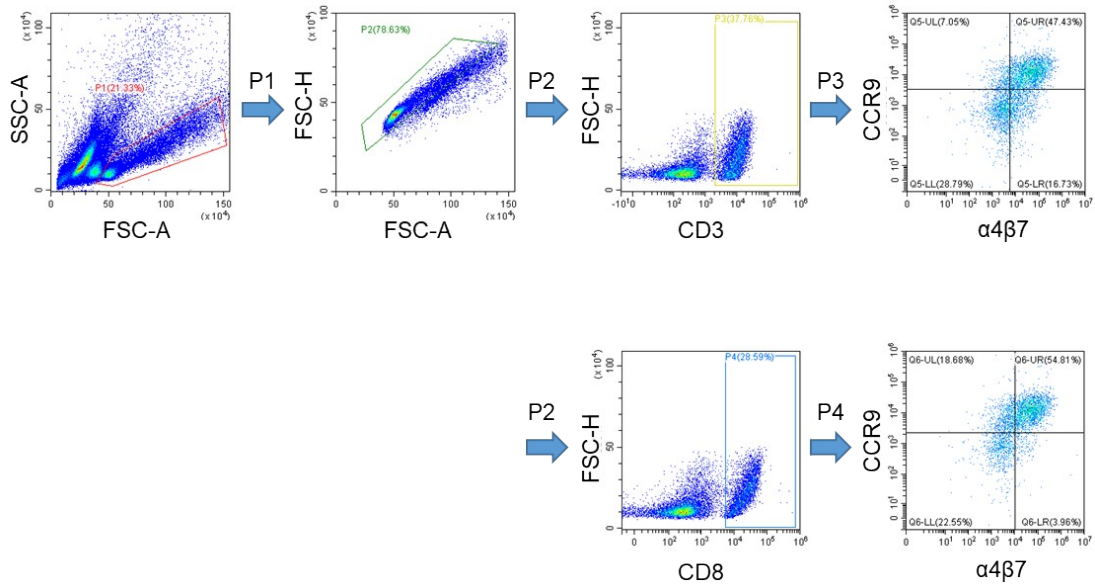
**Figure S4.** Reverse-phase HPLC chromatograms of the ATRA in acetonitrile (left). Standard curve of HPLC AUC over ATRA concentrations.



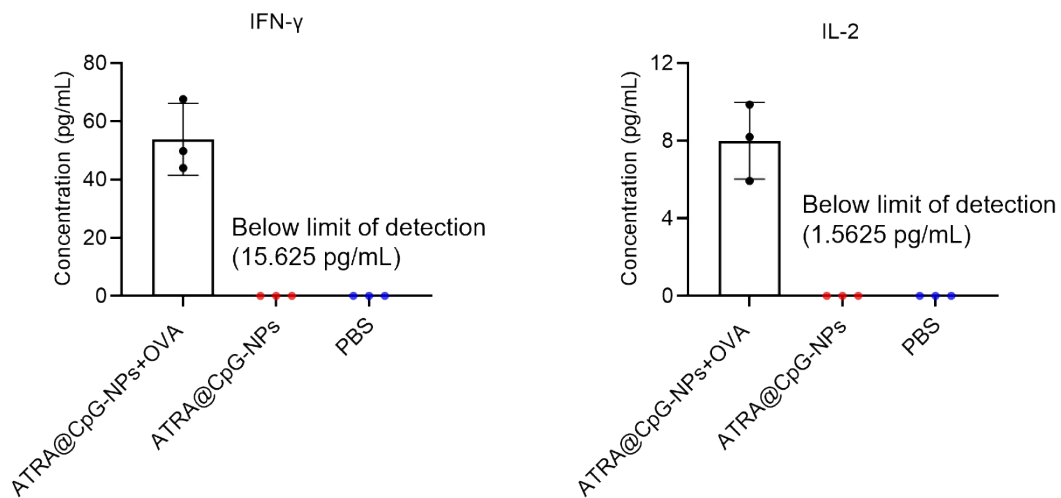
**Figure S5.** Gating strategy for flow cytometry analysis of CD11c<sup>+</sup>CD80<sup>+</sup>CD86<sup>+</sup> cells among BMDCs.



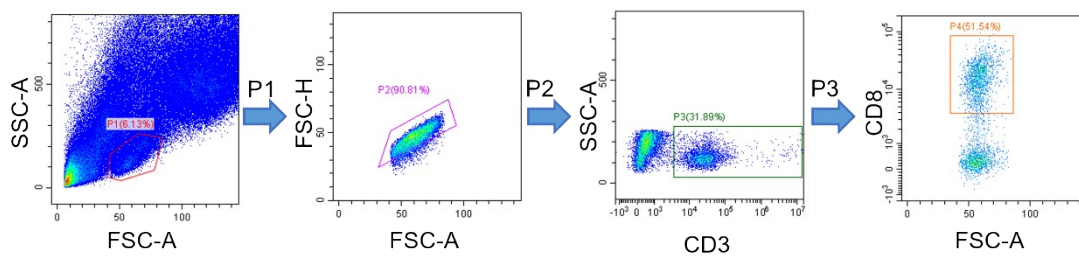
**Figure S6.** (a) Representative flow cytometry plots of CD11c<sup>+</sup>CD80<sup>+</sup>CD86<sup>+</sup> cells. Quantification analysis of CD11c<sup>+</sup>CD80<sup>+</sup> cells (b), CD11c<sup>+</sup>CD86<sup>+</sup> cells(c) and CD11c<sup>+</sup>CD80<sup>+</sup>CD86<sup>+</sup>cells (d). n = 4 technical replicates. Data are shown as mean ± SD. Statistical analysis was performed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Tukey's multiple comparisons tests: \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01.



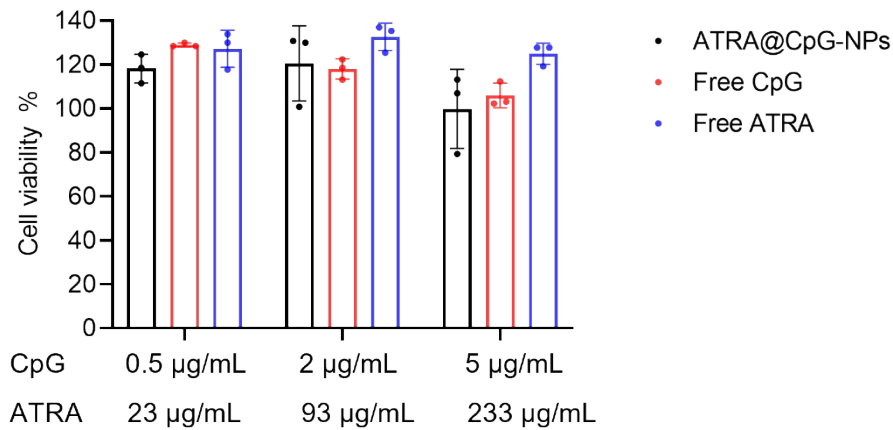
**Figure S7.** Gating strategy for flow cytometry analysis of  $\alpha 4\beta 7^+ \text{CCR}9^+ \text{CD}3^+$  and  $\alpha 4\beta 7^+ \text{CCR}9^+ \text{CD}8^+$  T cells among spleen cells.



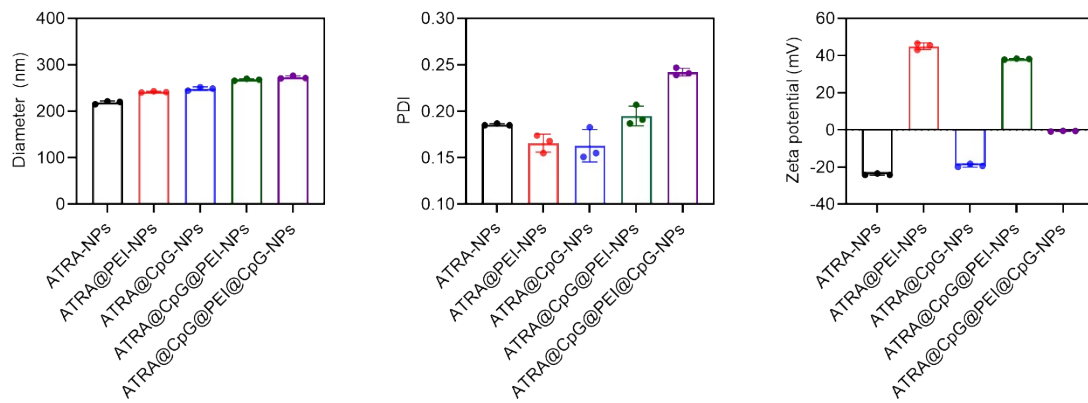
**Figure S8.** IFN- $\gamma$  and IL-2 secretion by OT-1  $\text{CD}8^+$  T cells after 48 h incubation with PBS, ATRA@CpG-NPs and ATRA@CpG-NPs+OVA.  $n = 3$  technical replicates. Data are shown as mean  $\pm$  SD



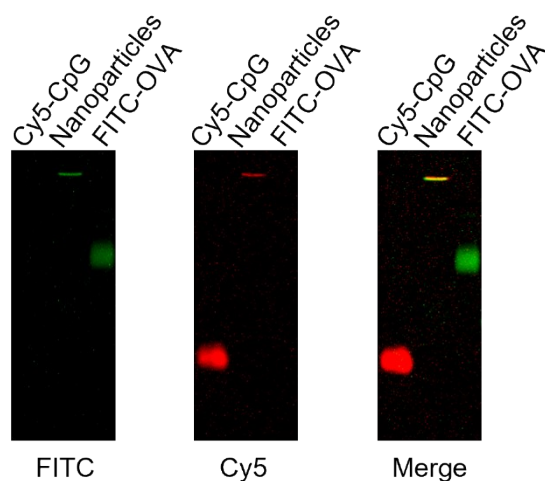
**Figure S9.** Gating strategy for flow cytometry analysis of  $\text{CD}3^+ \text{CD}8^+$  T cells among tumor cells.



**Figure S10.** The viability of DC2.4 cells after incubation with different concentrations of free CpG, free ATRA and ATRA@CpG-NPs. Data are shown as mean  $\pm$  SD.



**Figure S11.** The hydrodynamic diameters, polydispersity index and zeta potentials of multiple layered nanoparticles.  $n = 3$  technical replicates. Data are shown as mean  $\pm$  SD.



**Figure S12.** Agarose gel (1%) images of Cy5-CpG (red), FITC-OVA (green), and ATRA nanoparticles carrying both CpG and OVA.