## Supplementary Material for Journal of Materials Chemistry

## Optical tracking and biocompatibility assessment of nanoparticles from triblock copolymer encapsulating-dye complexes

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Figure S1 Optical images of DED (A) and DED-F (B) NPs in PBS.



**Figure S2** The absorption and emission spectra of DED-F NPs in PBS with different concentrations: (1) 9.38  $\mu$ g/mL; (2) 12.5  $\mu$ g/mL; (3) 18.75  $\mu$ g/mL.



**Figure S3** The absorption and emission spectra of 150  $\mu$ g/mL DED-F NPs in PBS, regular tank water and 10% serum at room temperature.



**Figure S4** The absorption and fluorescence intensity of 3.75  $\mu$ g/mL DED-F NPs in PBS under different pH conditions (pH = 6.4, 7.4 and 8.4, respectively).



**Figure S5** Fluorescent micrographs of DED-F injected, fluorescein (F) injected and uninjected zebrafish from 2 hpf to 168 hpf. (**1-8**) 0.5 mg/mL DED-F NPs injected zerbafish. (**A-H**) 33.3  $\mu$ g/mL F injected zebrafish. (**a-h**) uninjected control groups. In each observation, the parameters of the camera such as exposure time and sensitivity remained the same among these three groups to exclude the interference of autofluorescence of organism. Scale bar: full view, 0.5 mm; single zebrafish or magnifying part, 0.2 mm.



Figure S6 Fluorescent micrographs of 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 mg/mL DED-F NPs injected zebrafish from 2 hpf to 168 hpf. In each observation, the parameters of camera remained the same among these three groups. Scale bar = 0.5 mm.

**Table S1.** Quantum yield ( $\phi$ ) data of Fluorescein, DED-F. Compared with the quantum yiel of complex fluorescein ( $\phi_F = 0.790$ ), complex DED-F had a lower quantum yield ( $\phi_F = 0.33$ )

sample	Medium (T/K)	A(425nm)	$\lambda_{ex}$ =425nm	$\phi_F$
			$\lambda_{em}(nm)$	
Fluorescein (F)	Ethanol(298)	0.022	541	$0.790^{*}$
DED-F	PBS(298)	0.002	528	0.33

'\*' Indicates that the quantum yield of fluorescein has been measured by R. E. Kellogg and R. G. Bennett<sup>32</sup>

**Table S2** The fluorescence emission peaks of DED-F NPs in PBS, tank water and 10% serum.

Complex	Medium	$\lambda_{em}/nm$
DED-F	PBS	527.4
DED-F in tank water	tank water	528.0
DED-F in 10% serum	10% serum	531.8

**Table S3** The time during which all the zebrafish excreted DED-F NPs or fluorescein in each group. '\*' 11 or 13 days after injection, all the 1.5 mg/mL DED-F and 100  $\mu$ g/mL fluorescein injected zebrafish has dead due to the use up of yolk and lack of food. However, the fluorescence emission in zebrafish has not yet been observed completely disappeared.

Group	1	2	3
$c(DED-F) / (\text{mg·mL}^{-1})$	0.5	1.0	1.5
Time/day(s)	8	9	Dead(11)*
$c(F) / (\mu g \cdot m L^{-1})$	33.3	66.7	100
Time/day(s)	12	11	Dead(13)*