## **Supporting Information**

## A releasable disulfide carbonate linker for PEI-based Gene Vectors

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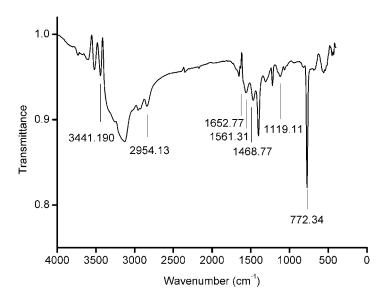
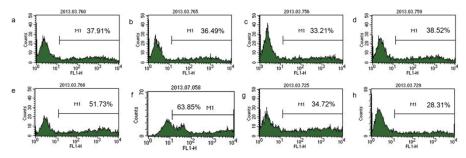
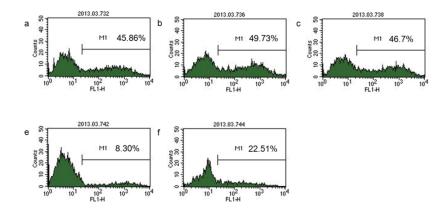


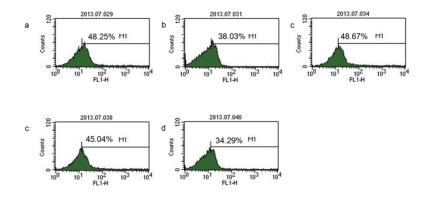
Figure S1. FT-IR spectrum of PEI-SS-CL-1.5.



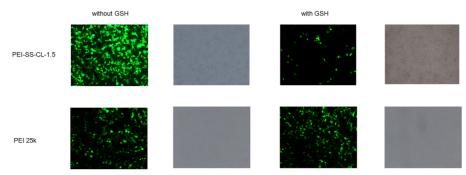
**Figure S2.** Flow cytometry assay of the EGFP expression efficacy in COS-7 cells by PEI-SS-CLs/pDNA polyplexes, compared with PEI 25k and Lipofectamine 2000 at different weight ratios: PEI-SS-CL-1.0 (a) 3.5:1, (b) 4.5:1 and (c) 5.5:1; PEI-SS-CL-1.5 (d) 3.5:1, (e) 4.5:1 and (f) 5.5:1; PEI-25k (g) 3:1 and Lipofectamine 2000 (h) 3:1. M1 represents the percent of cells transfected with pEGFP.



**Figure S3.** Flow cytometry assay of the EGFP expression efficacy in HepG2 cells by PEI-SS-CL-1.5/pDNA polyplexes, compared with PEI 25k and Lipofectamine 2000 at different weight ratios: PEI-SS-CL-1.5 (a) 3.5:1, (b) 4.5:1 and (c) 5.5:1; PEI-25k (d) 3:1; Lipofectamine 2000 (e) 3:1. M1 represents the percent of cells transfected with pEGFP.



**Figure S4.** Flow cytometry assay of the EGFP expression efficacy in Raw246.7 cells by PEI-SS-CL-1.5/pDNA polyplexes, compared with PEI 25k and Lipofectamine 2000 at different weight ratios: PEI-SS-CL-1.5 (a) 3.5:1, (b) 4.5:1 and (c) 5.5:1; PEI-25k (d) 3:1; Lipofectamine 2000 (e) 3:1. M1 represents the percent of cells transfected with pEGFP.



**Figure S5.** Fluorescent microscopy images of COS-7 cells transfected by PEI-SS-CL-1.5 and PEI 25k for 24 h. PEI-SS-CL-1.5 was treated without or with 50 mM DTT for 30 min and formed complexes with EGFP gene. The polymer/DNA weight ratio of the polyplexes was fixed at 5.5:1. PEI 25k was used as a control at w/w weight ratio of 3:1.