## Supporting Information

High Quality Polyacrylic Acid Modified Multifunction Luminescent Nanorods for Tri-Modality Bioimaging, *In Vivo* Long-Lasting Tracking and Biodistribution

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**Figure S1.** XRD pattern of the oleic acid capped NaYF<sub>4</sub>:Yb/Er UCNRs. Similar as the crystal phase and compositions of NaYF<sub>4</sub>:Gd/Yb/Er, the diffraction peaks of NaYF<sub>4</sub>:Yb/Er are all indexed as pure hexagonal phase NaYF<sub>4</sub> (JCPDS FILE No. 16-0334).



Figure S2. Typical TEM image of the oleic acid capped NaYF<sub>4</sub>:Yb/Er UCNRs.



Figure S3. DLS of PAA-UCNRs (2 mg/mL) in (a) aqueous solution and (b) phosphate buffer solution (pH = 7.4)



**Figure S4.** Schematic energy-level diagram of  $Yb^{3+}$  and  $Er^{3+}$  ions.



**Figure S5**. *In vivo* X-ray imaging of a Kunming mouse: (a) without and (b) with subcutaneous injection of PAA-UCNRs. The red arrow indicates the injected region.