## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for

## Preparation and application of thionin-bridged graphene-gold

## nanoparticle nanohybrids

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**Fig. S1** TEM images of AuNP-MPA (A) and AuNP-MUA (B) decorated TH-rGO sheets via EDC/NHS conjugation.



**Fig. S2** The UV-vis-NIR spectra of as-prepared AuNP-TH-rGO before (curve a) and after treated with 10 mM hydrochloric acid (curve b), 10 mM NaOH (curve c), 0.5 M NaCl saline (curve d) and sonication for 10 min (curve e), respectively.



**Fig. S3** Difference spectra of rGO, TH-rGO and Au-TH-rGO. The absorption of Au-TH-rGO is subtracted by the absorption of rGO and AuNP-CALNN (A), the absorption of TH-rGO is subtracted by the absorption of rGO (B), and the absorption of Au-TH-rGO is subtracted by the absorption of TH-rGO (C), respectively.



Fig. S4 UV-vis-NIR spectra of AuNP-CALNN and TH.



Fig. S5 Fluorescence spectra of TH and TH-rGO aqueous solutions with an excitation wavelength of 598 nm.



**Fig. S6** Bight-field microscopic images of control cells (A), cells incubated with AuNP-TH-rGO only (B, C and D) and PLL-AuNP-TH-rGO (E, F and G). The concentrations of AuNP-TH-rGO are 3 (B and E), 10 (C and F) and 20  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup> (D and G), respectively. The scale bar is 50  $\mu$ m.



**Fig. S7** The amount of cellular uptaken Au determined by ICP-OES as a function of the concentration of PLL-AuNP-TH-rGO in cell culture medium.



**Fig. S8** The viability profile of cells which incubated with different concentrations of PLL-rGO for 24 h.



Fig. S9 The viability profile of cells which incubated with PLL-AuNP-TH-rGO after NIR irradiation for different time. The concentration of AuNP-TH-rGO is 40  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup>.



**Fig. S10** The viability profile of cells which incubated with different concentrations of PLL for 48 h with or without NIR irradiation.