

## Supporting Information

### **In situ growth of $\beta$ -FeOOH nanorods on graphene oxide with ultra-high relaxivity for *in vivo* magnetic resonance imaging and cancer therapy**

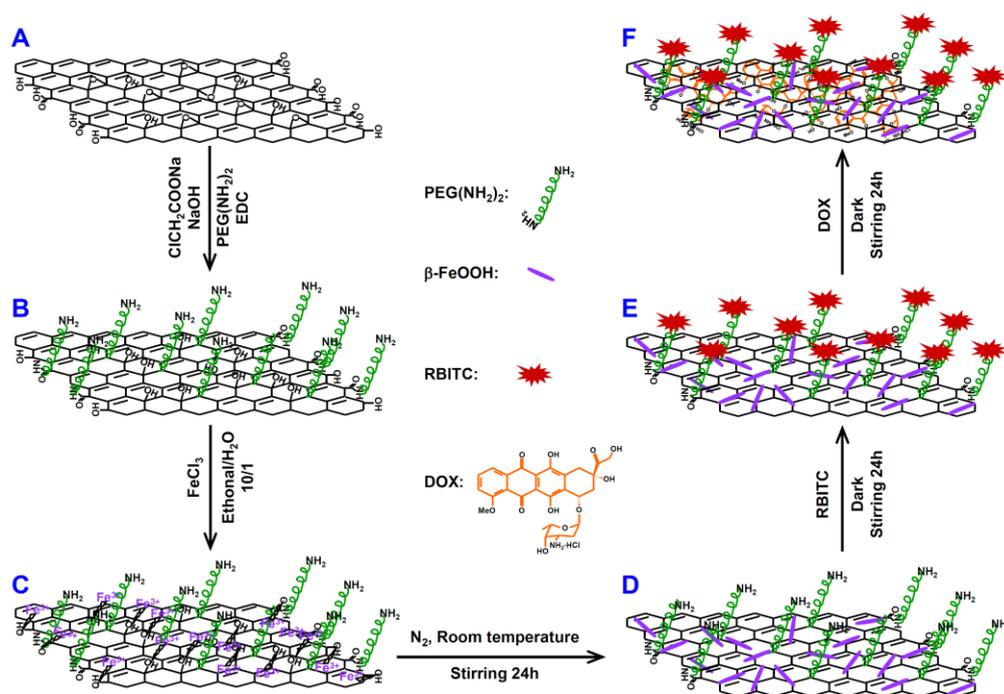
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Scheme S1. The preparation of water-dispersible DOX-GO-PEG-β-FeOOH nanocomposites.

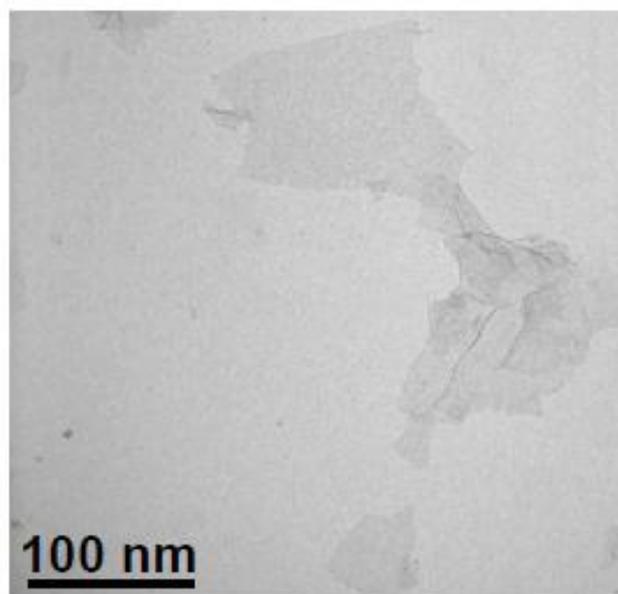


Figure S1. The TEM images of GO-PEG.

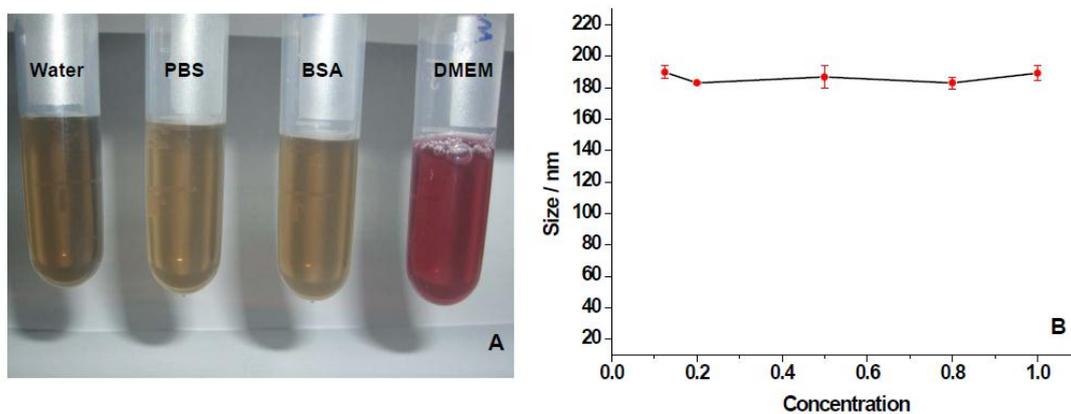


Figure S2. (A) Photographs for the dispersion status of GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH in water, PBS, BSA and DMEM (10% serum-containing medium) for 4 h incubation at 37°C.

(B) Dependence of particle size of GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH on its concentration.

### Conjugation of GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH with RBITC

The successful conjugation GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH with RBITC was checked by UV-vis, FL and FT-IR spectra, respectively. Fig. S3A showed the UV-vis spectra of RBITC, GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH and GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH. The specific absorption of RBITC is 557 nm, after conjugation with GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH slight red-shifts was recorded indicating interactions between RBITC and GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH. The fluorescence spectra of GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH-RBITC clearly illustrated that the conjugation of GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH with RBITC endowed it with excellent fluorescent properties (Fig. S3B). As shown in Fig. S3C, the FT-IR spectrum of GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH-RBITC presented a increasing band at 1619  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (N-H vibration) compared with GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH, disappeared a band at 2040  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (N=C=S vibration) compared with RBITC due to the formation of the thiourea structure and some new bands located at 1560-1400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  can be ascribed to the stretching vibrations of the benzene skeleton in the rhodamine B groups [1]. In addition, the amine concentration present in GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH was determined to be about 21.7  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$  (Table S1). After conjugation with RBITC, the content of the remaining amine groups in GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH-RBITC was 0  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ , which indicated that the all of amine groups on the surface of GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH react with RBITC.

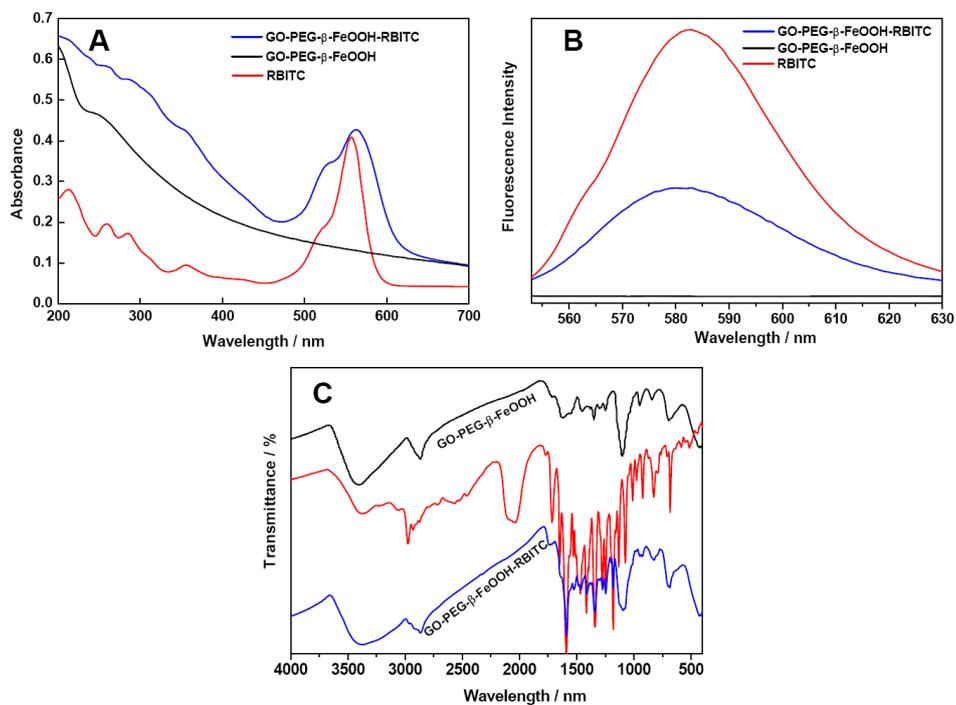


Figure S3. Characterization of GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH-RBITC nanocomposites. (A) UV-vis (B) Fluorescence (C) FT-IR spectra of RBITC, GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH and GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH-RBITC.

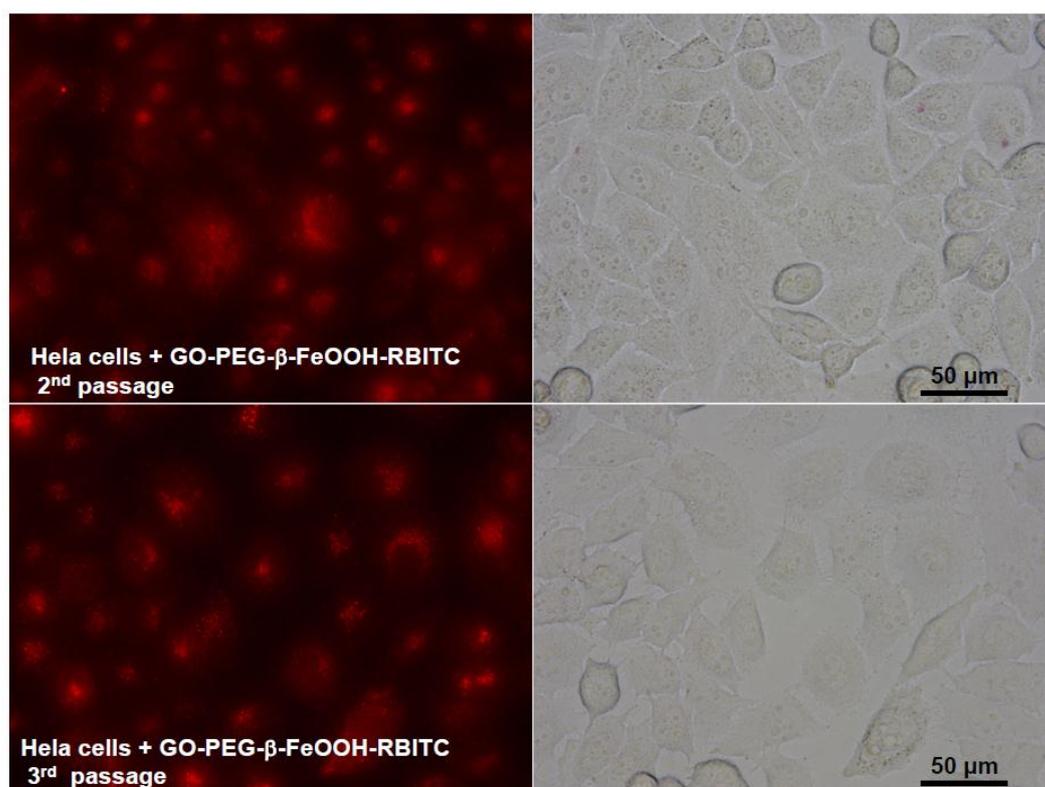


Figure S4. Fluorescence images of 2<sup>nd</sup> passage and 3<sup>rd</sup> passage of HeLa cells incubated with GO-PEG-β-FeOOH-RBITC (Left: fluorescence images; right: bright-fields images)

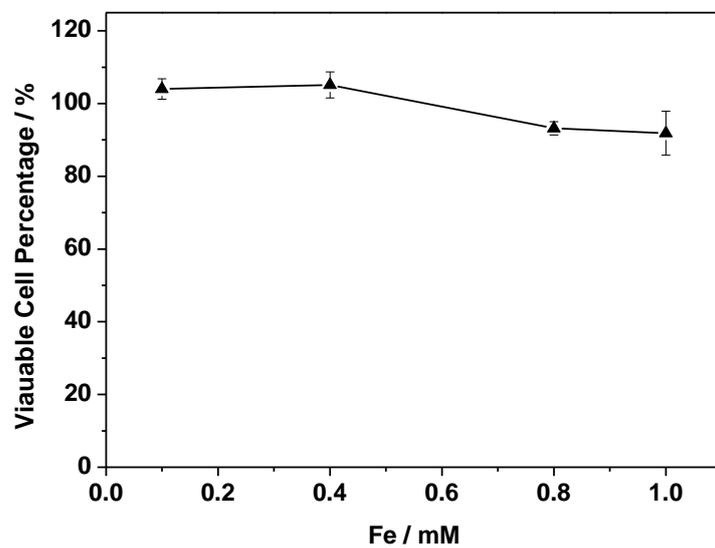


Figure S5. Concentration-dependent survival curves of HEK293 human kidney cells treated by GO-PEG- $\beta$ -FeOOH nanoparticles for 24 h.

**Table S1:** The amine concentration of GO-based nanomaterials.

Sample	C <sub>amine</sub> (μmol L <sup>-1</sup> )
GO-COOH	0
GO-PEG	45
GO-PEG-β-FeOOH	21.7
GO-PEG-β-FeOOH-RBITC	0

## References

1. H. Wu, S. Zhang, J. Zhang, G. Liu, J. Shi, L. Zhang, X. Cui, M. Ruan, Q. He and W. Bu, *Advanced Functional Materials*, 2011, **21**, 1850.