

Supporting Information

of

Molecular structure matters: PEG-b-PLA nanoparticles with hydrophilicity and deformability demonstrate their advantages for high-performance delivery of anti-cancer drugs

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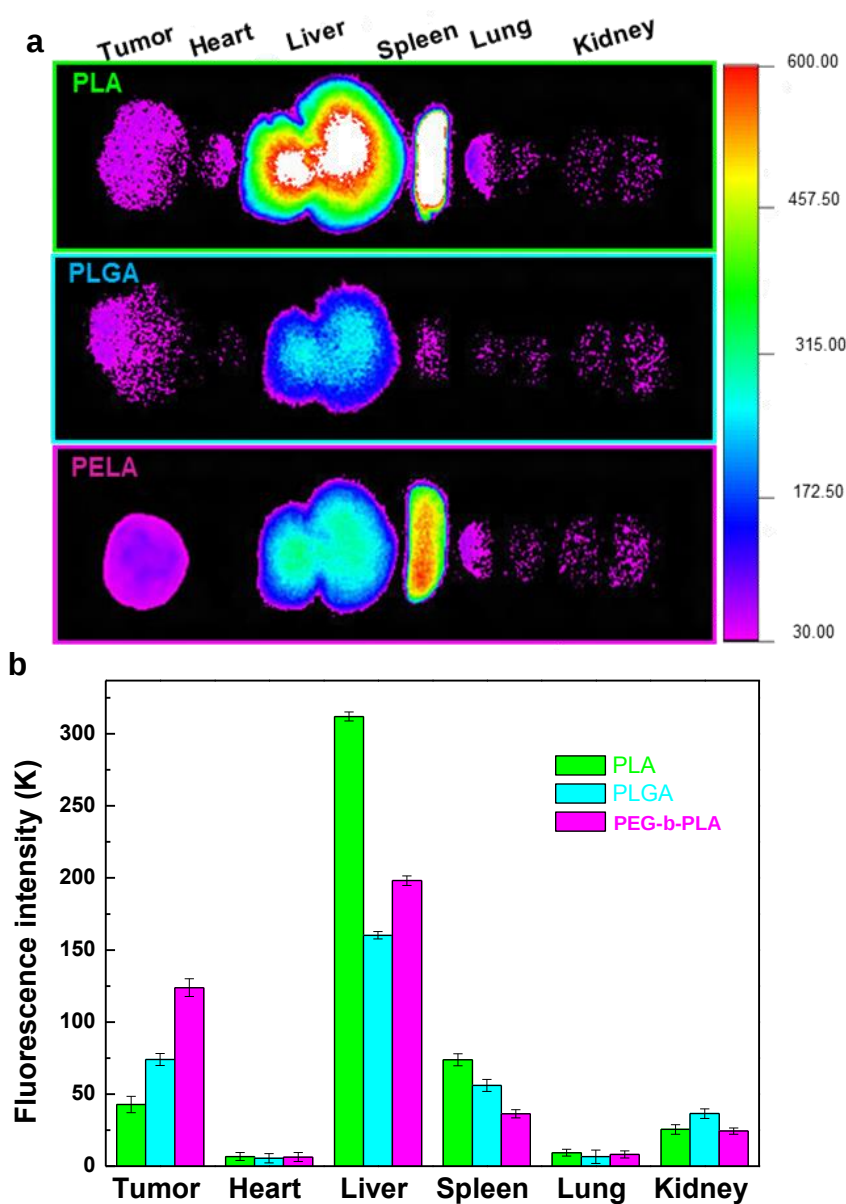


Figure S1. Biodistribution of PLA, PLGA, and PEG-b-PLA NPs after intravenous injection. (a) NIRF imaging of resected organs from LLC tumor-bearing C57BL/6 mice at 12 h post intravenous injection of NPs. (b) The corresponding fluoresce single intensity of resected organs. Data represent averages $\pm$ SD (n = 6).

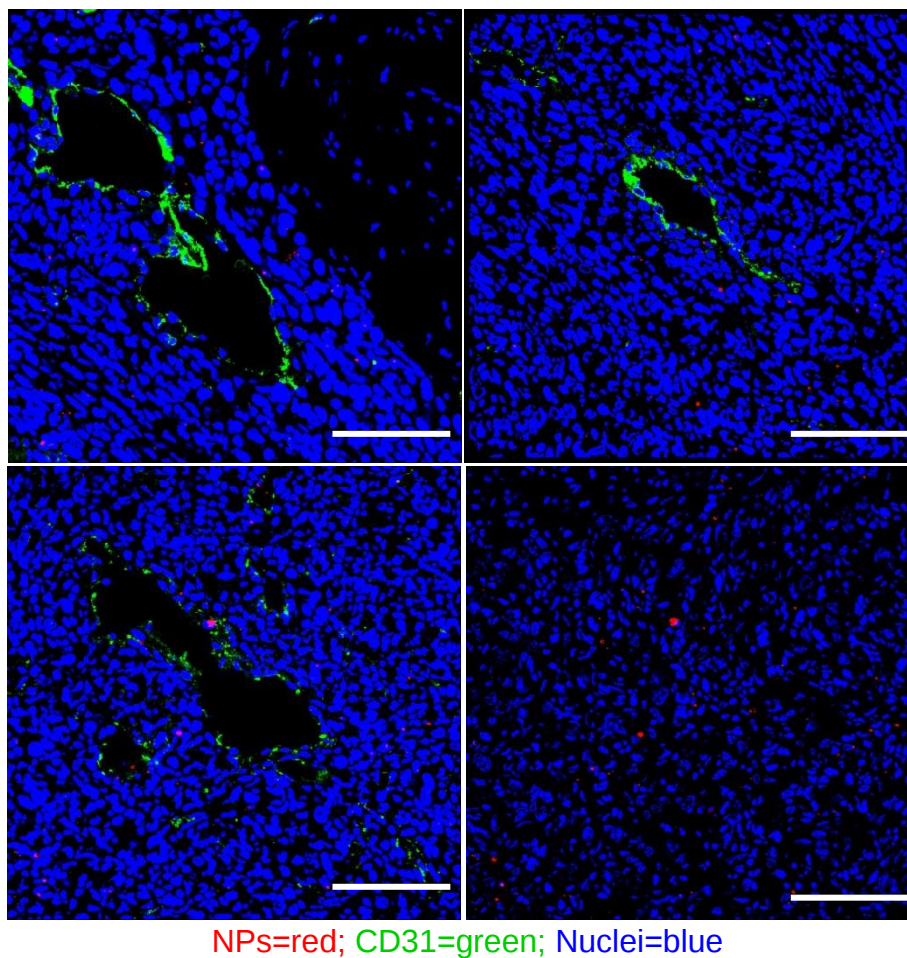


Figure S2. CLSM images of the frozen tumor tissue section showed the intratumoural location of PEG-b-PLA NPs 12 h after injection. Red, Cy5-labeled NPs; green, rat anti-mouse CD31 mAb (FITC conjugate); blue, nuclei staining with Hoechst. Scale bars: 100 μ m.

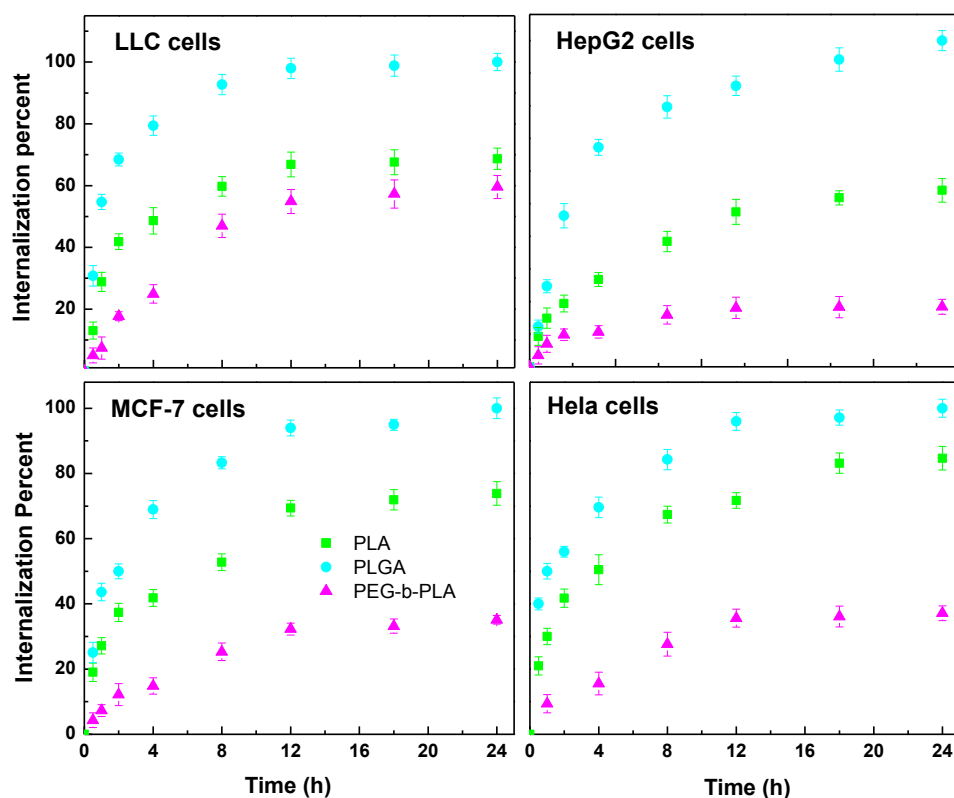


Figure S3. Cellular internalization kinetics of PLA, PLGA, and PEG-b-PLA NPs by four carcinoma cell lines. Cells cultured in 24-well plate were incubated with Cy5-labeled NPs (100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) for a desired period of time. Then, they were extensively washed by phosphate-buffered solution (PBS) for three times and analyzed on a CyAn ADP nine-color flow cytometer (Dako, Denmark). Data were acquired from 15 000 cells per sample. LLC, Lewis lung carcinoma; HepG2, human hepatocellular carcinoma cells; MCF-7, human breast adenocarcinoma cells; HeLa, human cervical carcinoma cells. Data represent averages $\pm$ SD ($n = 3$).

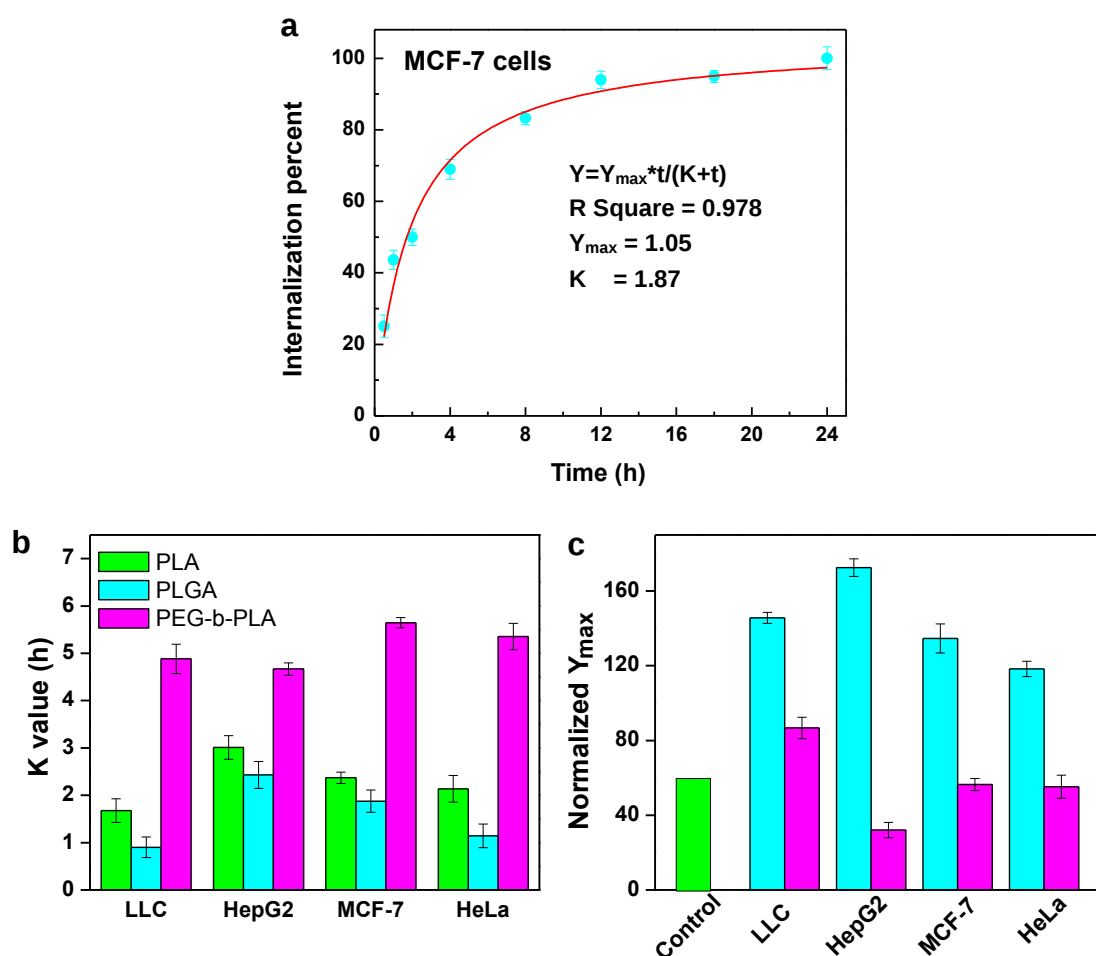


Figure S4. Mathematical analysis of cellular internalization patterns. The kinetics was well fitted to the Michaelis-Menten equation, taking PLGA uptake by MCF-7 cells as example (a). In this equation, $Y_{\max}$ is the maximal uptake level representing the saturated plateau value of the kinetic curves, and k is a rate constant. A smaller k reflects a quicker cellular internalization. After fitting, Uptake rate constant K value (b) and the maximum uptake amount $Y_{\max}$ value (c) of three NPs in different carcinoma cells could be obtained. The $Y_{\max}$ values of PLGA and PEG-b-PLA NPs in each cell line were normalized to their PLA counterparts.

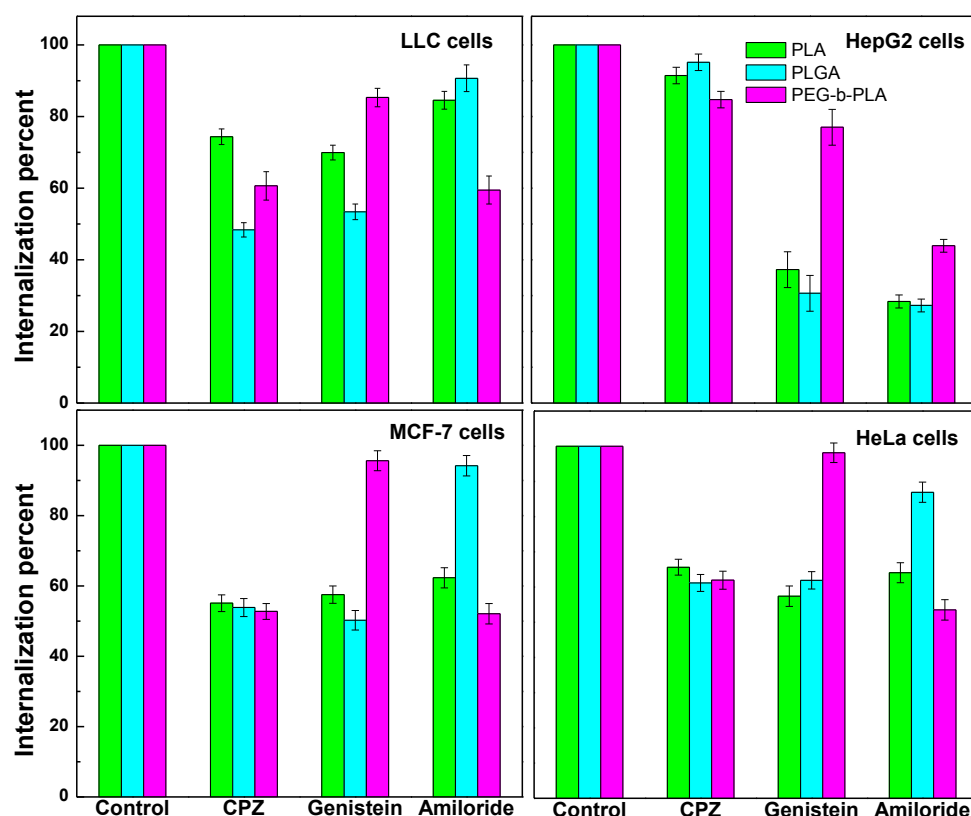


Figure S5. Evaluation on cellular uptake pathways of three NPs. For non-macrophage cells, the internalization pathways are usually divided into clathrin-mediated endocytosis, caveolae-mediated endocytosis, and macropinocytosis, which could be specifically inhibited by CPZ (30 μ M), genistein (200 μ M), and amiloride (100 μ M), respectively. Data represent averages $\pm$ SD ($n = 3$).

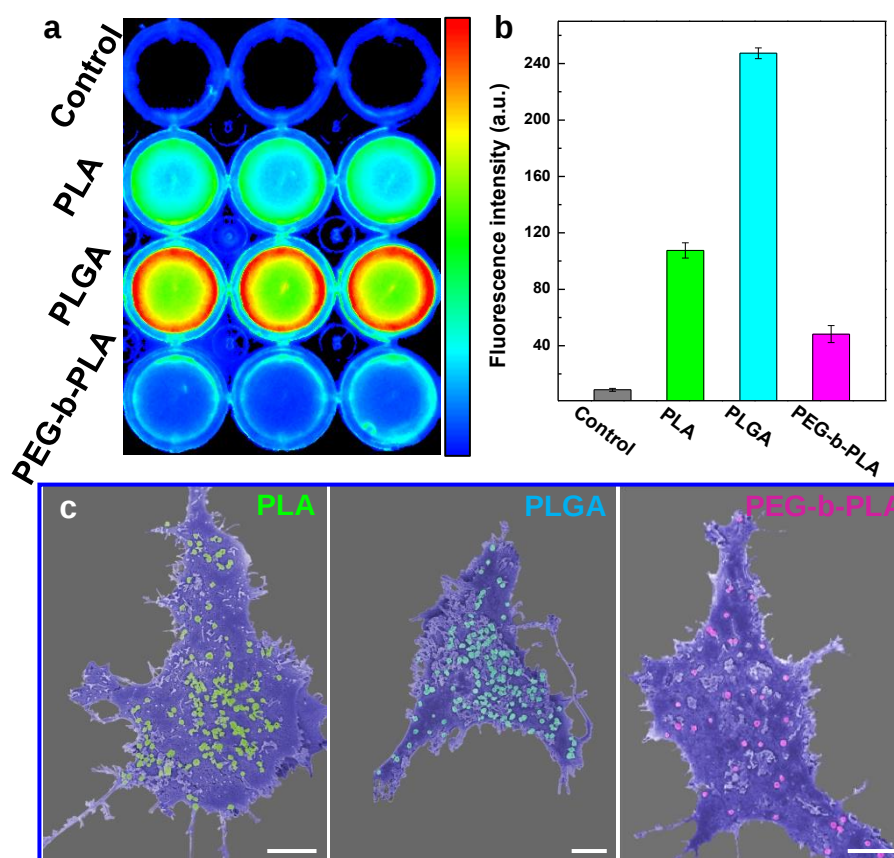


Figure S6. The bioadhesion of NPs on LLC cell surface 2 h after co-incubation at 4 °C. In-vivo Imaging System showing the fluorescence intensity of LLC cells and NP-adhered cells (a), with the corresponding quantitative diagram (b). (c) SEM images of LLC cells adsorbing with NPs. Data represent averages $\pm$ SD (n = 3). Scale bars: 5 μ m.

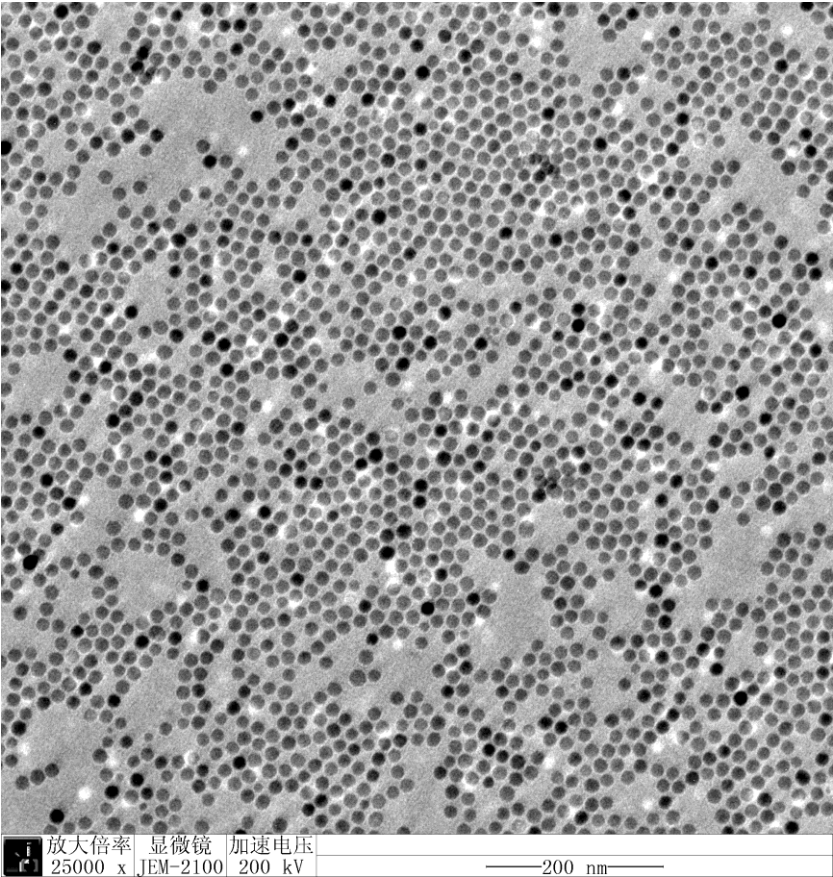


Figure S7. TEM image of Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles acquired from a JEOL JEM-2100F at 200 KV.

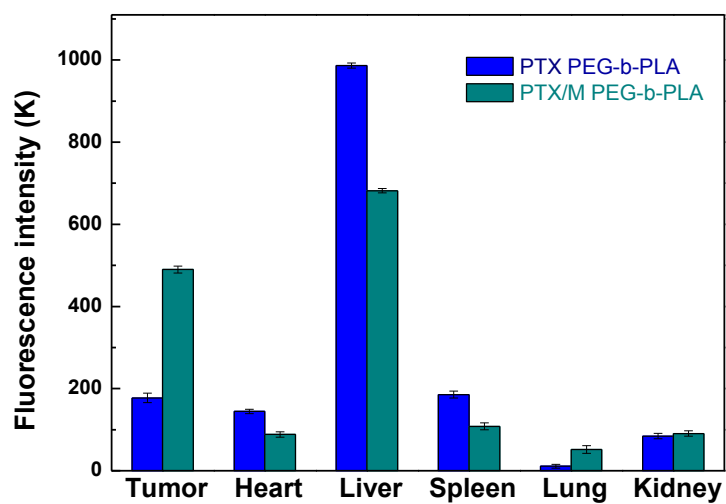


Figure S8. Biodistribution of PTX after intravenous injection of PTX PEG-b-PLA NPs and PTX/M PEG-b-PLA NPs.