

Supporting Information for

**In Situ Synthesis of Fluorescent Mesoporous Silica-Carbon Dot Nanohybrids Featuring Folate Receptor-Overexpressing Cancer Cell Targeting and Drug Delivery**

Shuai Zhao<sup>1, 2</sup>, Shan Sun<sup>2, \*</sup>, Kai Jiang<sup>2</sup>, Yuhui Wang<sup>2</sup>, Yu Liu<sup>3</sup>, Song Wu<sup>3</sup>, Zhongjun Li<sup>4</sup>, Qinghai Shu<sup>1, 3, \*,</sup>, Hengwei Lin<sup>2, \*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Material Science and Engineering, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing 100081, People's Republic of China

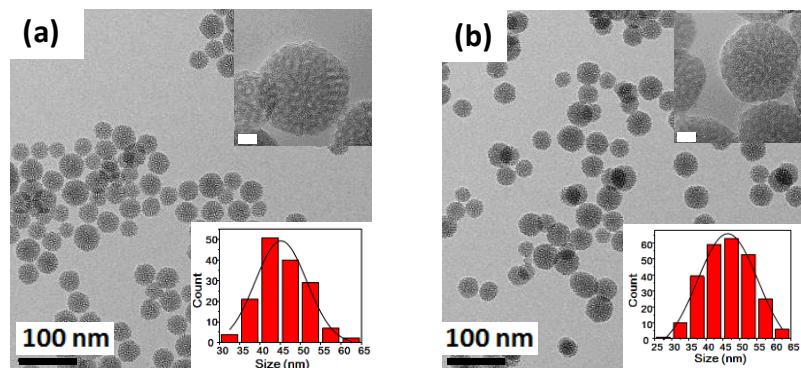
<sup>2</sup>Key Laboratory of Graphene Technologies and Applications of Zhejiang Province, Ningbo Institute of Materials Technology & Engineering, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Ningbo 315201, People's Republic of China

<sup>3</sup>The Affiliated Luohu Hospital of Shenzhen University, Shenzhen Luohu Hospital Group, Shenzhen 518001, People's Republic of China

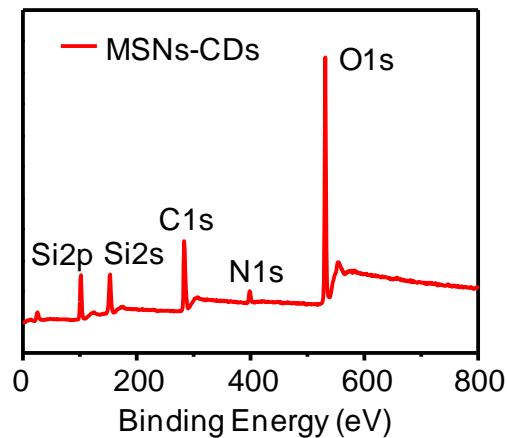
<sup>4</sup>College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou, 450001, People's Republic of China

\*Corresponding authors. E-mail: sunshan@nimte.ac.cn (Shan Sun); qhshu121@bit.edu.cn (Qinghai Shu); linhengwei@nimte.ac.cn (Hengwei Lin)

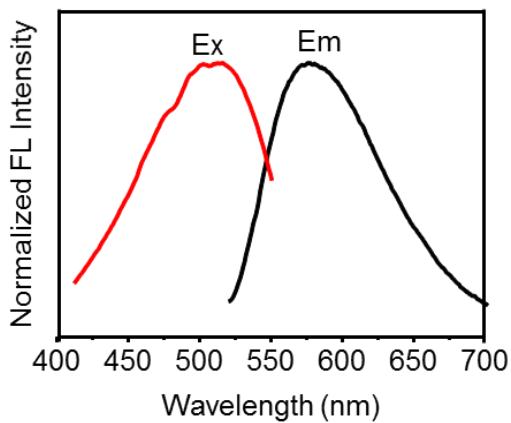
**Supplementary Figures and Table**



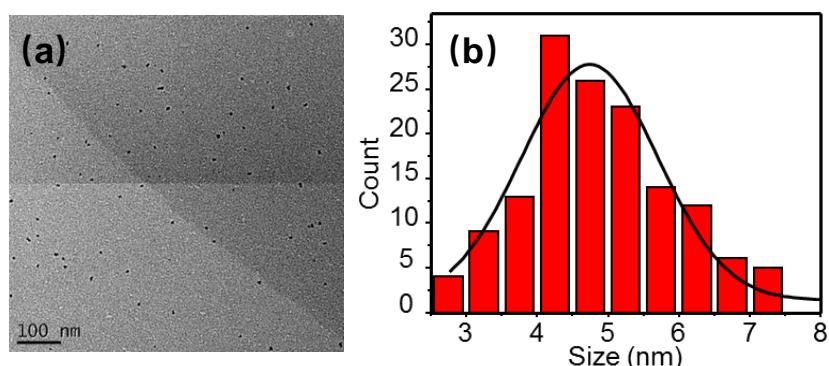
**Fig. S1** TEM images of **a** MSNs and **b** MSNs-NH<sub>2</sub>. Inset: high resolution images (scale bar: 10 nm) and size distributions



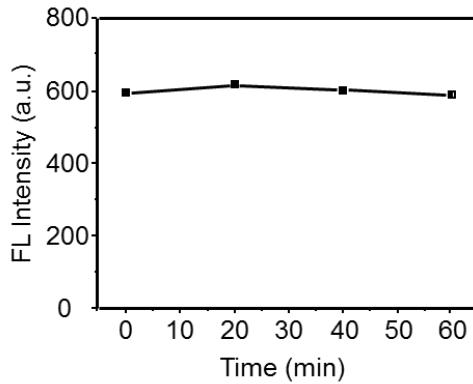
**Fig. S2** XPS spectrum of MSNs-CDs



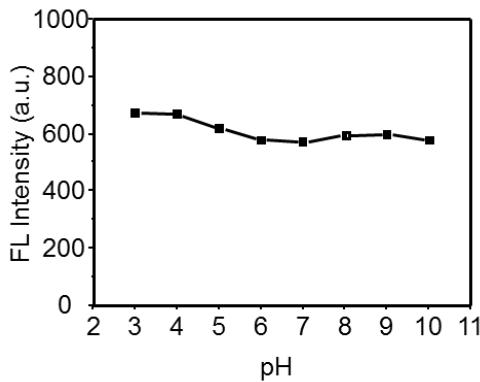
**Fig. S3** Fluorescence excitation spectrum (red line,  $\lambda_{\text{em}}=580$  nm) and emission spectrum (black line,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=510$  nm) of MSNs-CDs



**Fig. S4 a** TEM image of the CDs harvested from MSNs-CDs with the treatment by HF; **b** Size distribution of the CDs



**Fig. S5** Photostability of the MSNs-CDs ( $200 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ) under continuous irradiation of ultraviolet light



**Fig. S6** Fluorescence emission intensities ( $\lambda=580 \text{ nm}$ ) of the MSNs-CDs ( $200 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ) at different pH values

**Table S1** Parameters of mesoporous structure, including specific surface area, pore size, and pore volume of MSNs, MSNs-NH<sub>2</sub>, and MSNs-CDs

Sample	$S_{BET}^a (\text{m}^2/\text{g})$	$V_t^b (\text{cm}^3/\text{g})$	$D_{BJH}^c (\text{nm})$
MSNs	760.95	1.42	3.12
MSNs-NH <sub>2</sub>	554.16	1.22	2.48
MSNs-CDs	502.94	0.88	2.20

<sup>a</sup> $S_{BET}$ : specific surface area based on BET method; <sup>b</sup> $V_t$ : total pore volume at  $P/P_0 = 0.974$  based on BJH analysis; <sup>c</sup> $D_{BJH}$ : averaged pore diameter based on BJH analysis of desorption isotherm.