## Supporting Information

## Polyethylenimine functionalized porous/hollow nanoworm as drug delivery system and bioimaging agent

Xiao Sun,†<sup>a</sup> Chuanjie Cai,†<sup>a</sup> Qian Wang,<sup>b</sup> Dongqing Cai,<sup>a</sup> Junchao Qian,<sup>c</sup> Yu Chi,<sup>a</sup>

Kang Zheng,<sup>d</sup> Xin Zhang,<sup>b</sup> Guilong Zhang,<sup>\*a</sup> Kai Zhong,<sup>\*c</sup> and Zhengyan Wu<sup>\*a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Key Laboratory of Ion Beam Bioengineering, Hefei Institutes of Physical Science,

Chinese Academy of Sciences and Anhui Province, Hefei 230031, and University of

Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, People's Republic of China

<sup>b</sup> School of Life Sciences, Anhui Agricultural University, Hefei 230036, People's Republic of China

<sup>c</sup> High Magnetic Field Laboratory, Hefei Institutes of Physical Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Hefei 230031, People's Republic of China

<sup>d</sup> Key Laboratory of Materials Physics, Institute of Solid State Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Hefei 230031, People's Republic of China

\* Corresponding authors. Tel.: +86-551-65595012; Fax: +86-551-65595012. E-mail addresses: glz1531@mail.ustc.edu.cn, kzhong@hmfl.ac.cn, zywu@ipp.ac.cn. †Co-first authors.



Figure S1. Low-magnification TEM images of  $Gd_2O_3/Fe_3O_4$  composites without PEI (a), and the nanoworm with different molecular weights of PEI: 600 (b), 1800 (c) and 10000 (d);  $Gd_2O_3/Fe_3O_4$  composites fabricated with 10000 molecular weight of PEI but without  $Fe(acac)_3$  as a precursor (e) and its magnified image (f).



Figure S2. Energy-dispersive X-ray spectrum (EDX) analysis of p-nanoworm.



Figure S3.TEM image (a) and high resolution TEM image (b) of  $Fe_3O_4$ .



Figure S4. TEM images of sample morphologies at different reaction time: 1h (a), 4 h (b), 16 h (c), 72 h (d), and 72 h with ultrasonic treatment (e). Fe/Gd ratio of samples at different reaction time (f).



Figure S5. Full XPS spectra of p-nanoworm.



Figure S6. ZFC-FC curves of  $Gd_2O_3/Fe_3O_4$  composites without PEI (a), and the nanoworm with different molecular weights of PEI: 600 (b), 1800 (c), and 10000 (d)