Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Journal of Materials Chemistry B. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2021

## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Ultrasound-Light up AIEgens for Potential Surgical Navigation

Lixiu Chen<sup>a#</sup>, Bin Xia<sup>a#</sup>, Bing Yan<sup>b#</sup>, Jianhua Liu<sup>a</sup>, Zhaohua Miao<sup>a</sup>, Yan Ma<sup>a</sup>, Jinchen Wang<sup>a</sup>, Hu Peng<sup>b</sup>, Tao He<sup>a\*</sup>, and Zhengbao Zha<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Food and Biological Engineering, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Hefei University of Technology, Hefei 230009, P.R. China.

<sup>b</sup> School of Instrument Science and Optoelectronics Engineering, Hefei University of Technology, Hefei 230009, P.R. China.

\* Corresponding author. Email: <u>zbzha@hfut.edu.cn; taohe@hfut.edu.cn;</u>



**Fig. S1** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (a) and FTIR spectrum (b) of P((OEGMA-CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub>-co-(OEGMA-OH)<sub>2</sub>).



**Fig. S2** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of P((OEGMA-CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub>-co-(OEGMA-OH)<sub>2</sub>)-b-TPE<sub>4</sub>.



**Fig. S3** GPC curve of P((OEGMA-CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub>-*co*-(OEGMA-OH)<sub>2</sub>)-*b*-TPE<sub>4</sub> (*M*<sub>w</sub>: 4.4k, PDI: 1.28).



**Fig. S4** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of P((OEGMA-CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub>-*co*-(OEGMA-Gd)<sub>2</sub>)-*b*-TPE<sub>4</sub> (AIE-Gd).



**Fig. S5** Photos of the aqueous dispersions of AIE-Gd solution (a) and AIE-Gd MBs (b) with different compositions: pMBs, AIE-Gd MBs-10%, AIE-Gd MBs-20%, AIE-Gd MBs-30%, AIE-Gd MBs-40% and AIE-Gd MBs-50%.



**Fig. S6** Microscopic images of pMBs, AIE-Gd MBs-10%, AIE-Gd MBs-20%, AIE-Gd MBs-30%, AIE-Gd MBs-40% and AIE-Gd MBs-50% (scale bar =  $20 \mu m$ ).



**Fig. S7** Size distribution of pMBs, AIE-Gd MBs-10%, AIE-Gd MBs-20%, AIE-Gd MBs-30%, AIE-Gd MBs-40% and AIE-Gd MBs-50%.



**Fig. S8** Absorption spectra of AIE-Gd in DMSO with different concentrations (a) and corresponding UV-vis standard curve (b) (AIE-Gd absorbance peak at 310 nm).

Table S1. Composition,	concentration,	mean	diameter	and	loading	content o	of AIE-Gd
MBs							

Formulation	AIE-Gd:DSPC:DSPE-PEG <sub>2000</sub>	MB concentration	Mean diameter	Loading content	
	(mol:mol:mol)	(x10 <sup>8</sup> MBs/mL)	(μm)	(%)	
pMBs	0/9/1	$2.38 \pm 0.34$	$1.32 \pm 0.03$	0	
AIE-Gd MBs-10%	1/8/1	2.29 ± 0.33	$1.30 \pm 0.06$	11.4 ± 0.7	
AIE-Gd MBs-20%	2/7/1	1.57 ± 0.22	$1.32 \pm 0.06$	21.7 ± 0.3	
AIE-Gd MBs-30%	3/6/1	1.15 ± 0.19	1.34 ± 0.07	35.8 ± 0.9	
AIE-Gd MBs-40%	4/5/1	$1.01 \pm 0.10$	$1.42 \pm 0.007$	45.1 ± 2.5	
AIE-Gd MBs-50%	5/4/1	$0.64 \pm 0.24$	$1.60 \pm 0.12$	55.6 ± 2.9	



**Fig. S9** AIE-Gd MBs concentration change after incubation in DMEM or saline for different time.



**Fig. S10** Stability of the concentration (a) and hydrodynamic size (b) of AIE-Gd MBs stored at room temperature.



**Fig. S11** Dynamic absorption spectra (a) and fluorescence spectra (b) of AIE-Gd MBs suspension (inset: photographs of AIE-Gd MBs dispersed in PBS were kept static in 0 min and 30 min).



**Fig. S12** *In vitro* US imaging. (a) US imaging of AIE-Gd MBs with increasing concentration in a latex tube and (b) US signal intensities versus concentration of the MBs.



**Fig. S13** *In vivo* US imaging. US imaging (a) and US signal intensities (b) of the rabbit liver in 5 min with MI = 0.07. US imaging (c) and US signal intensities (d) after intravenous injection AIE-Gd MBs and treated with US MI=0.07, UTMD was carried out by suddenly increasing the MI to 0.25.



**Fig. S14** *In vivo* US imaging. US imaging (a) and US signal intensities (b) of the rabbit kidney in 5 min with MI = 0.07. US imaging (c) and US signal intensities (d) after intravenous injection AIE-Gd MBs and treated with US MI=0.07, UTMD was carried out by suddenly increasing the MI to 0.25.