

## Supplementary information

### **Competitive coordination assembly of light-degradable gold nanoclusters- intercalated metal organic frameworks for photoresponsive drug release**

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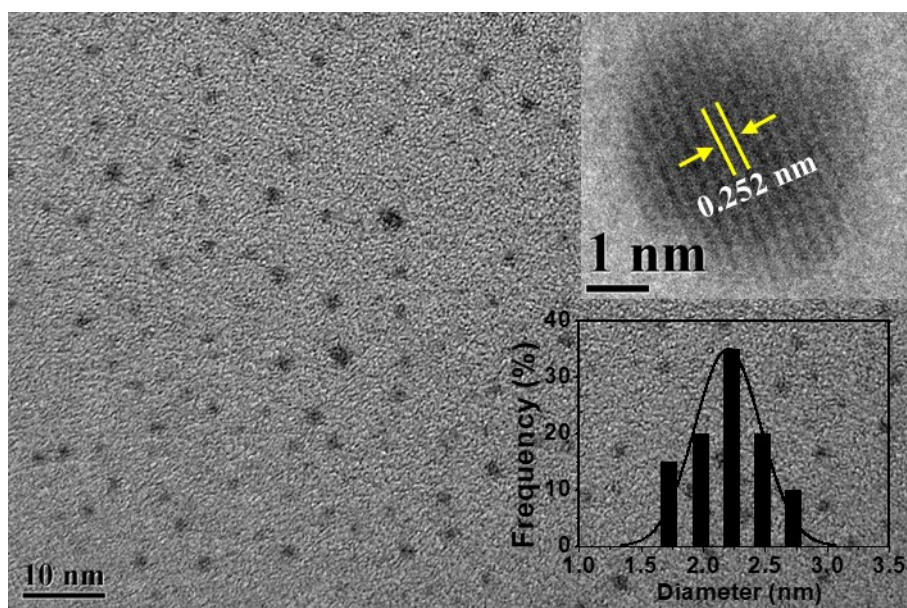


Fig. S1 TEM image of the AuNCs, inset: HRTEM image and size distribution of AuNCs.

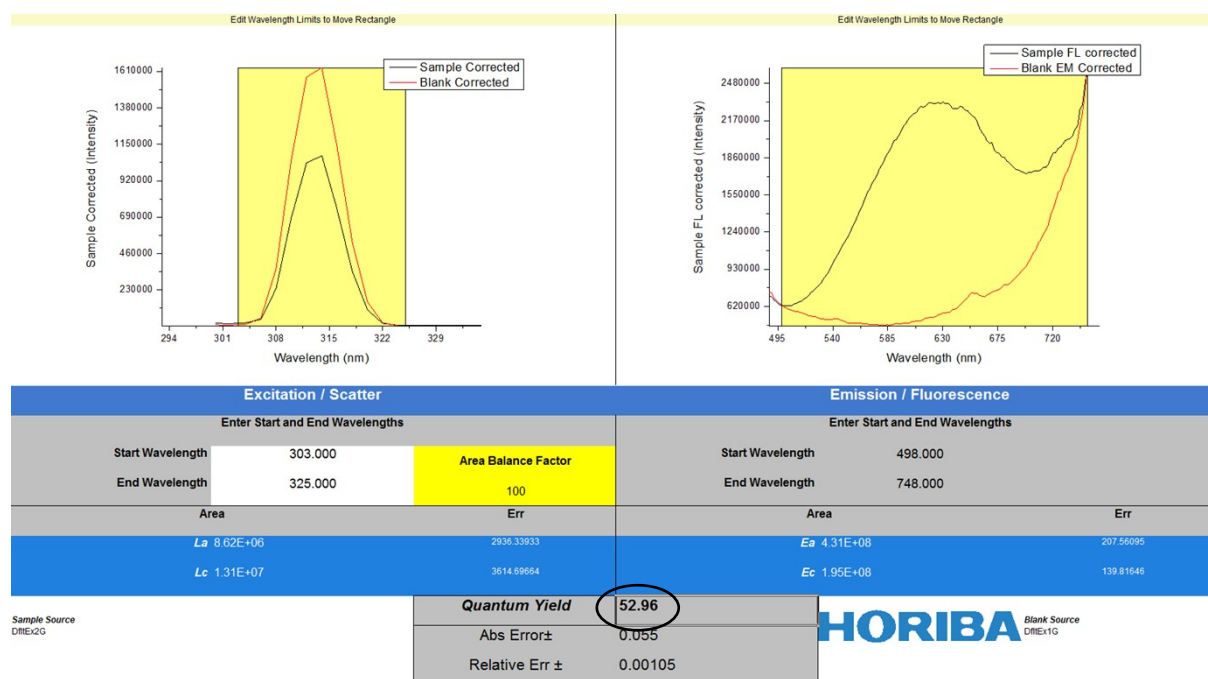


Fig. S2 The QY of AuNC@ZIF-8 in water.

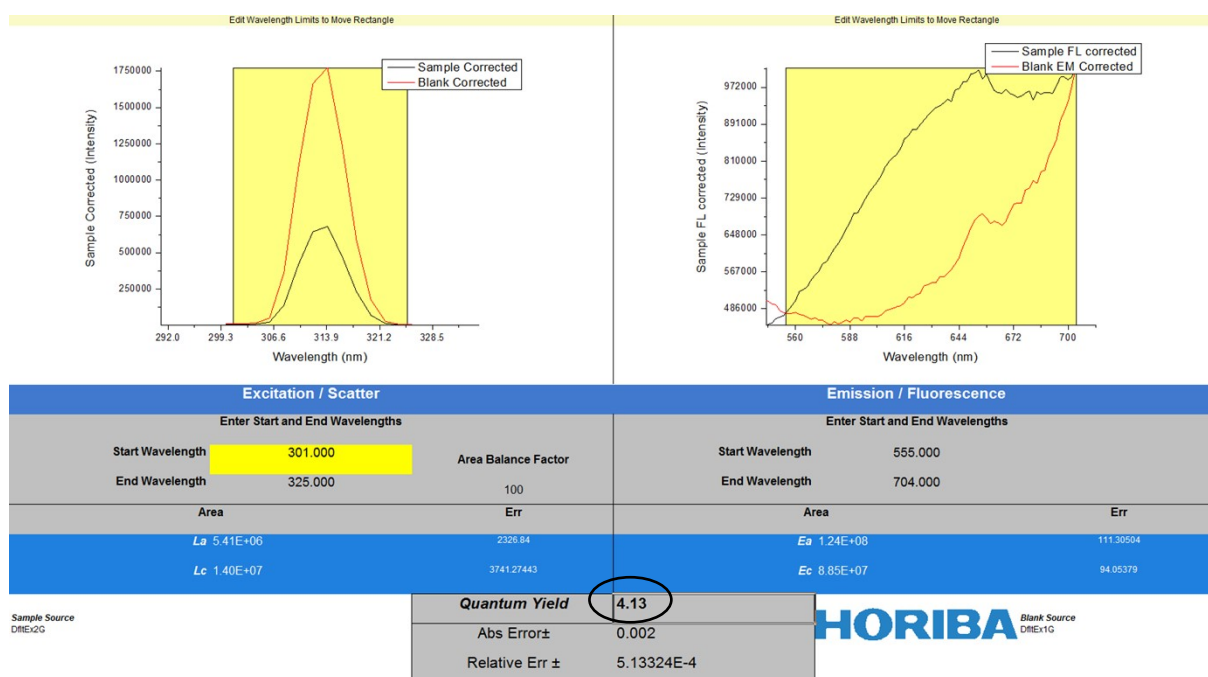
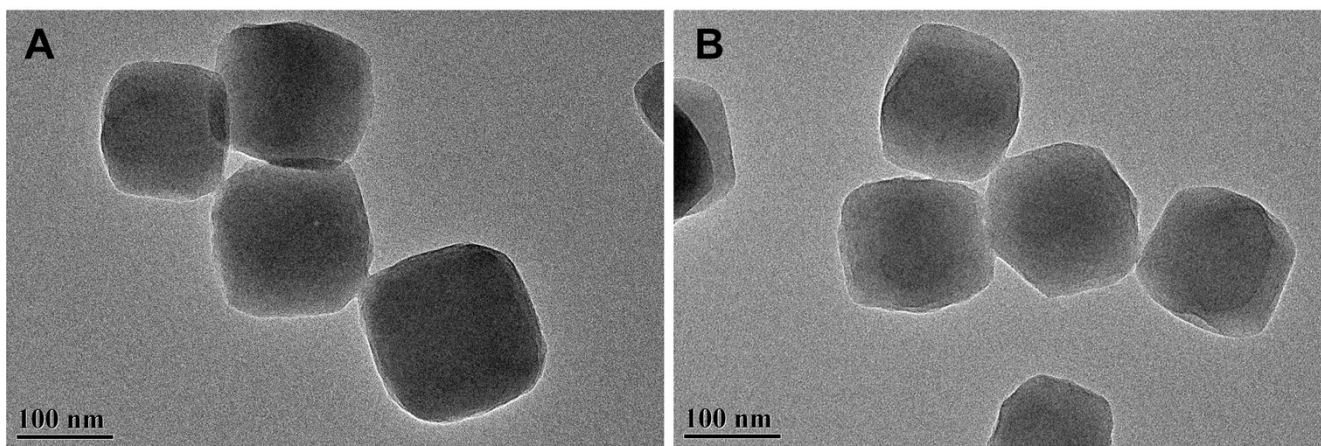


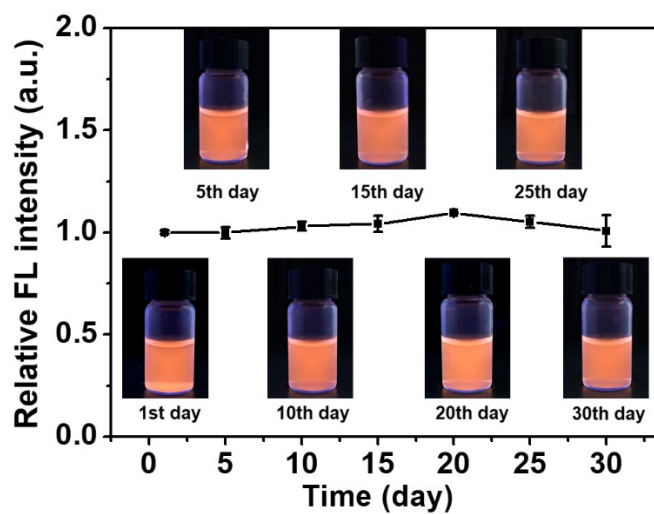
Fig. S3 The QY of AuNCs aqueous solution.

Table S1 List of reported for enhancing QY of GSH-AuNCs.

Materials	Step number	Solution	$QY_{AuNCs}$ (%)	$QY_{material}$ (%)	Ref.
Au NCs/LDH UTFs	Two	H <sub>2</sub> O	2.69	14.11	[1]
Au NCs/ELDH	Three	Formamide	2.60	19.05	[2]
Au(I)-Thiolate@SiO <sub>2</sub>	Two	85% Ethanol	/	/	[3]
aAuNCs-MOF	Two	Methanol	4.63	7.74	[4]
AuNCs@ZIF-8	Two	Methanol	7.6	33.6	[5]
AuNCs@ZIF-8.	One	H <sub>2</sub> O	4.13	52.96	This work

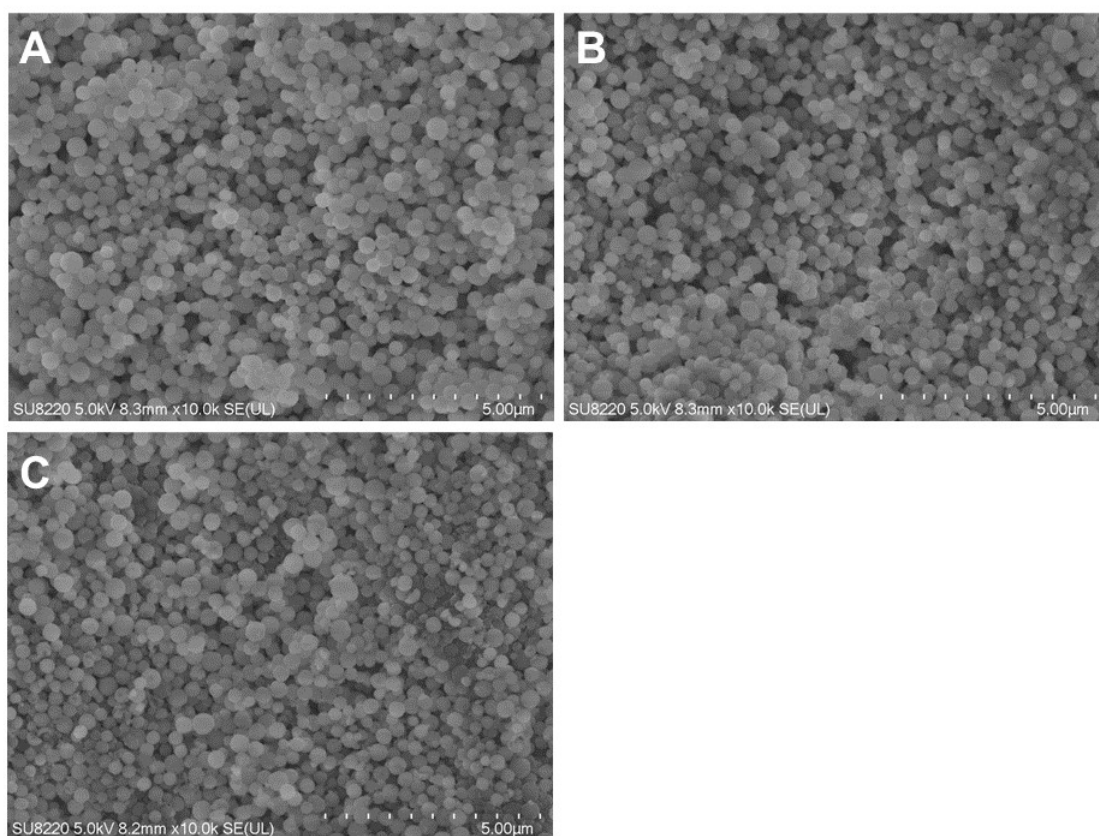


**Fig. S4** TEM images of ZIF-8 in water (A) before and (B) after light irradiation at 405 nm ( $0.1 \text{ W/cm}^2$ ) for 20 min.

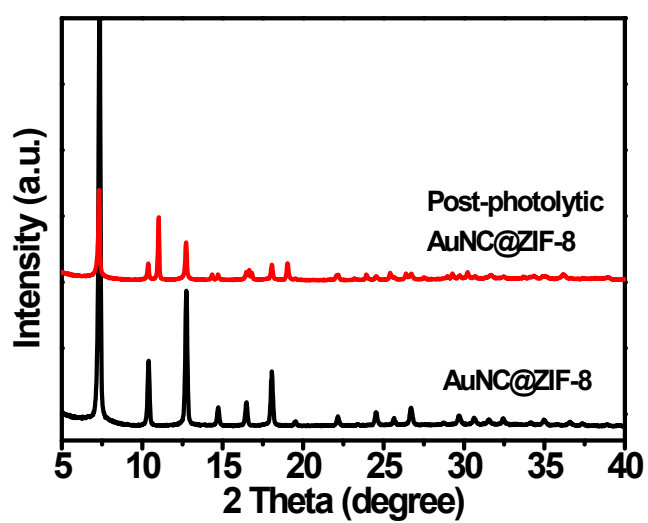


**Fig. S5** Relative fluorescence intensity and photographs of AuNC@ZIF-8 aqueous solution for different days.





**Fig. S6** The SEM images of AuNC@ZIF-8 (A) before and after dispersion in aqueous solution (B) and cell culture medium (C) for 30 days at 4°C.

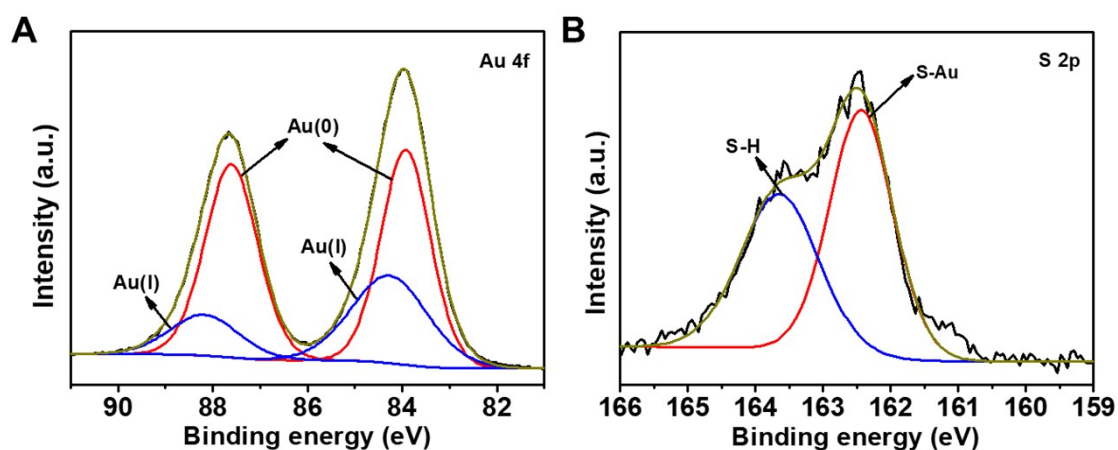


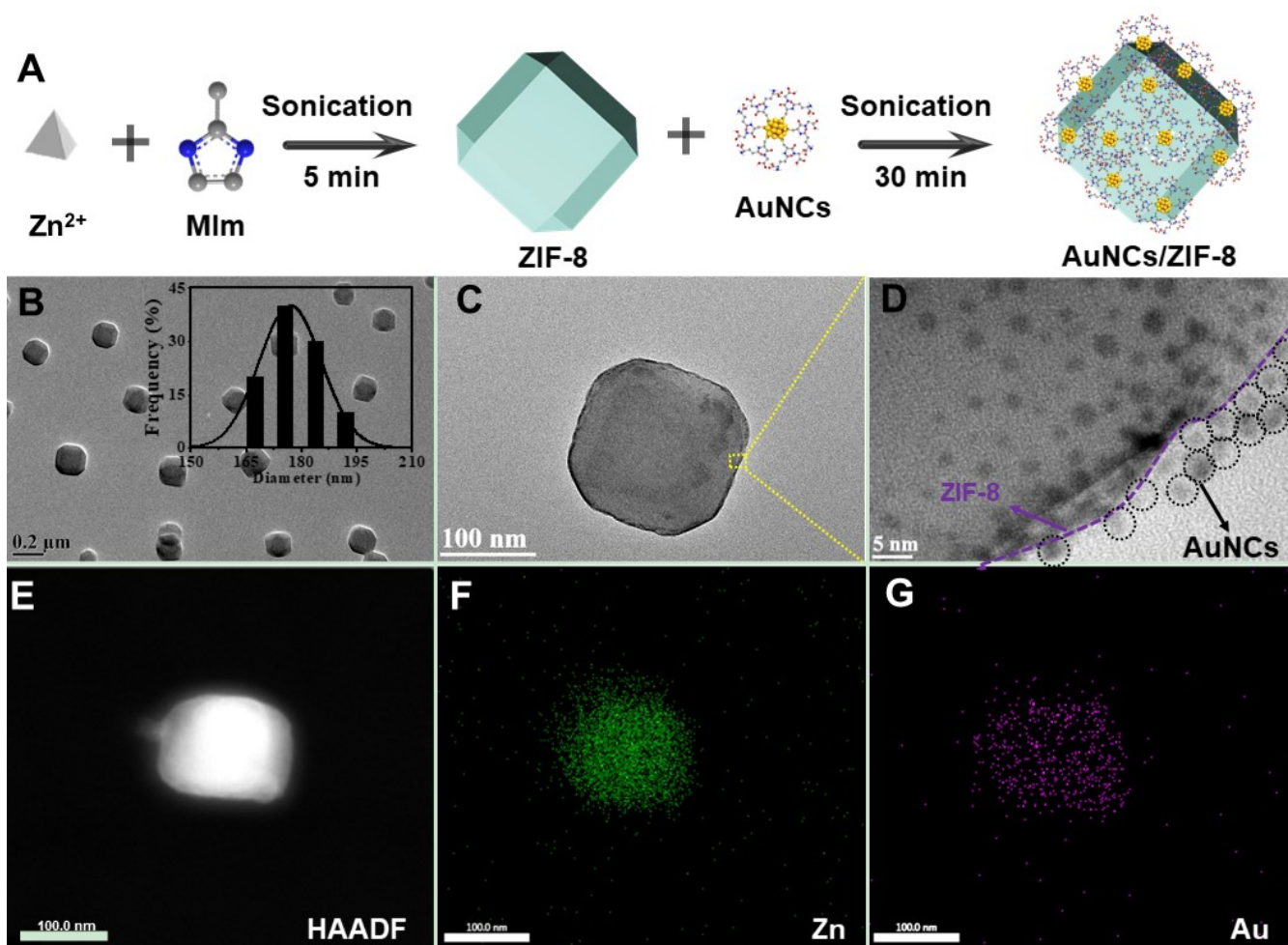
**Fig. S7** XRD patterns of AuNC@ZIF-8 and post-photolytic AuNC@ZIF-8.

**Table S2** List of XPS area percentage of Au, S, N, O.

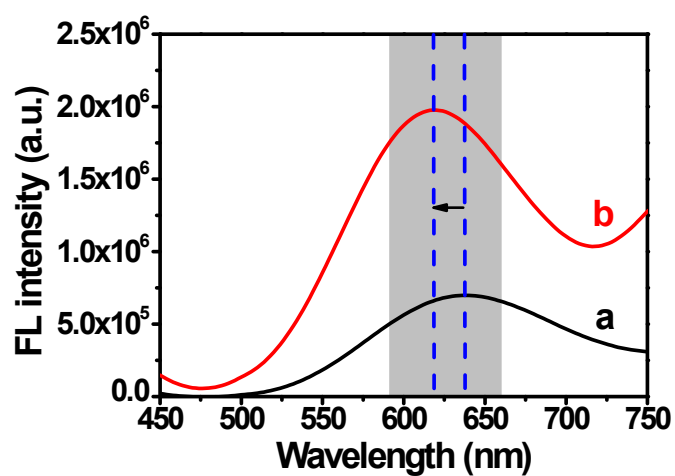
	Au		S	N			O
	Au(I)	Au(0)	-SH	-NH <sub>2</sub>	N-Zn	pyrrolic/N	O-Zn
AuNCs	47.89%	52.11%	15.65%	39.73%	0	60.27	0
post-photolytic AuNCs	31.25%	68.75%	43.59%	N.D.	N.D.	N.D	0
AuNC@ZIF-8	49.41%	50.59%	12.41%	3.58%	51.76%	44.65%	4.59%
post-photolytic AuNC@ZIF-8	34.30%	65.70%	36.59%	0	58.07%	41.93%	15.25%

N.D.: no detection.

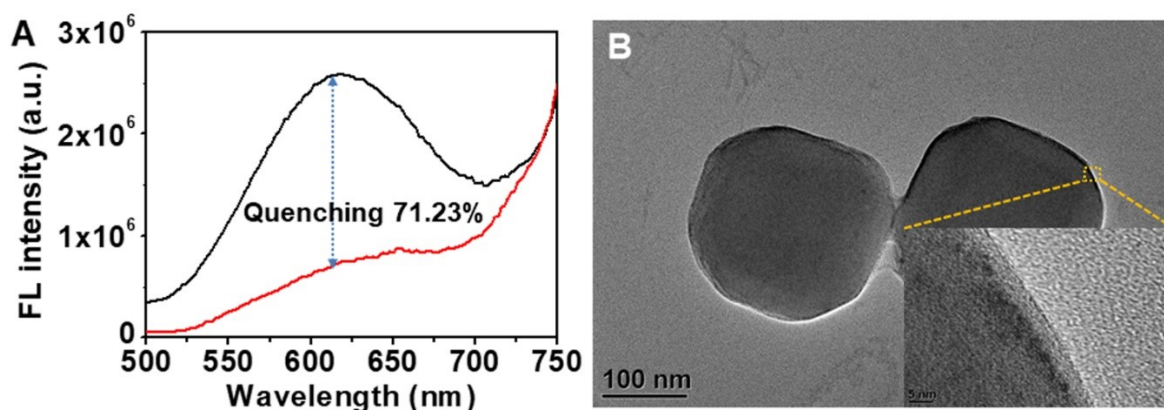
**Fig. S8** High-resolution XPS Au 4f (A) and S 2p (B) spectra of the AuNCs aqueous solution after irradiation for 20 min.



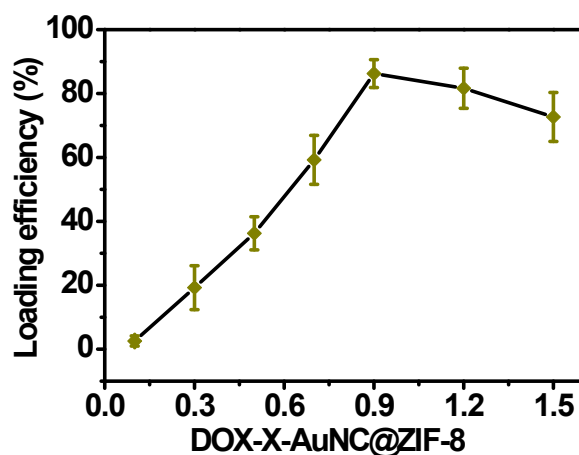
**Fig. S9** (A) Schematic illustration of two step synthesis of AuNC/ZIF-8. (B) TEM image of the ZIF-8, inset: size distribution of ZIF-8. (C) TEM image of AuNC/ZIF-8, (D) HRTEM image of the interested district of AuNC/ZIF-8, (E-G) HAADF-STEM images and corresponding elemental mappings of AuNC/ZIF-8.



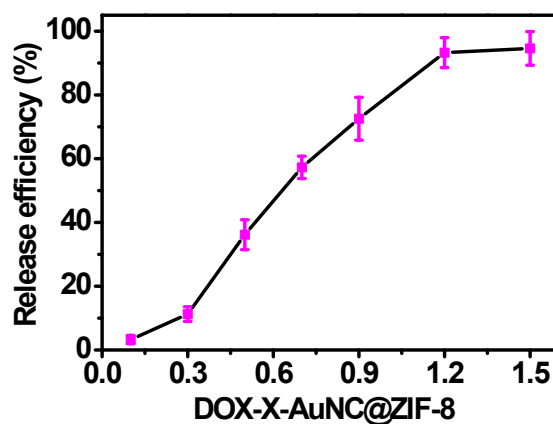
**Fig. S10** The fluorescence spectra of the AuNCs (a) and AuNC/ZIF-8 (b).



**Fig. S11** (A) Fluorescence spectra of the AuNCs/ZIF-8 before (black) and after (red) after irradiation (405 nm) in aqueous solution for 20 min. (B) TEM image of AuNCs/ZIF-8 after light irradiation (405 nm) in aqueous solution for 20 min. inset: HRTEM image of the interest district in B.

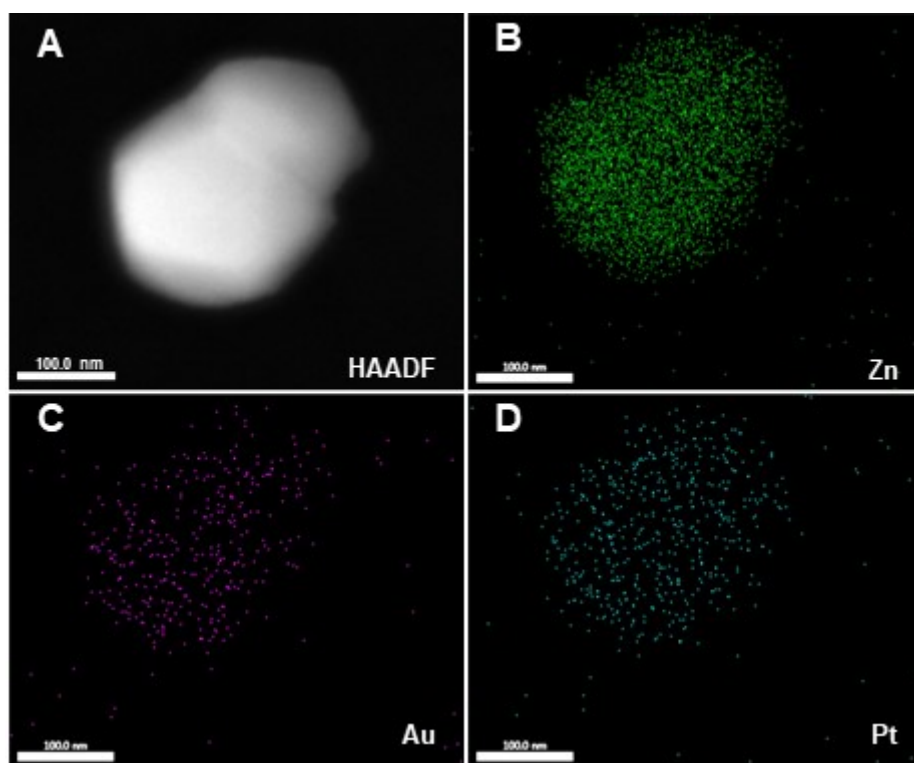


**Fig. S12** The loading efficiency of DOX in X-AuNC@ZIF-8.

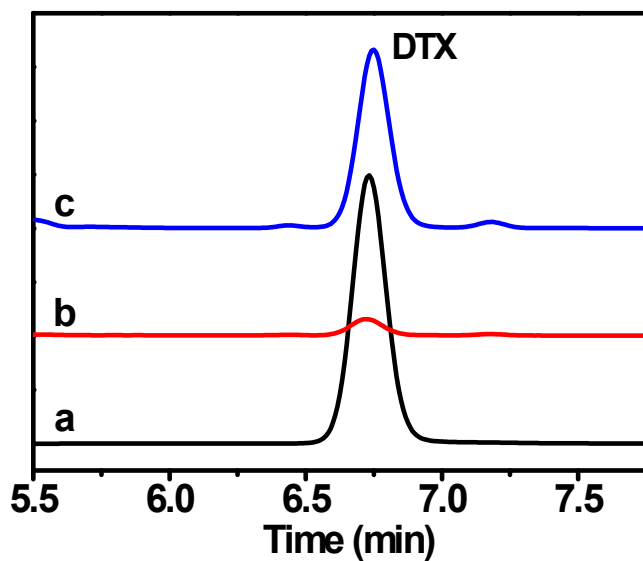


**Fig. S13** The release efficiency of DOX-X-AuNC@ZIF-8.

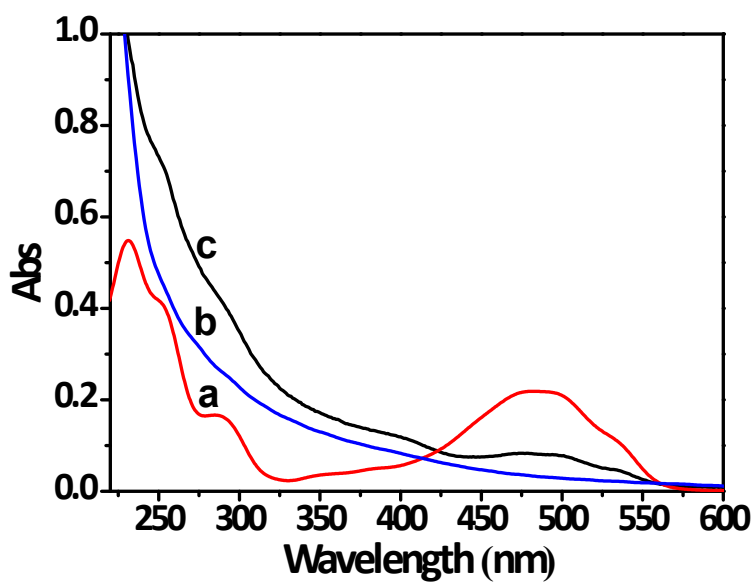




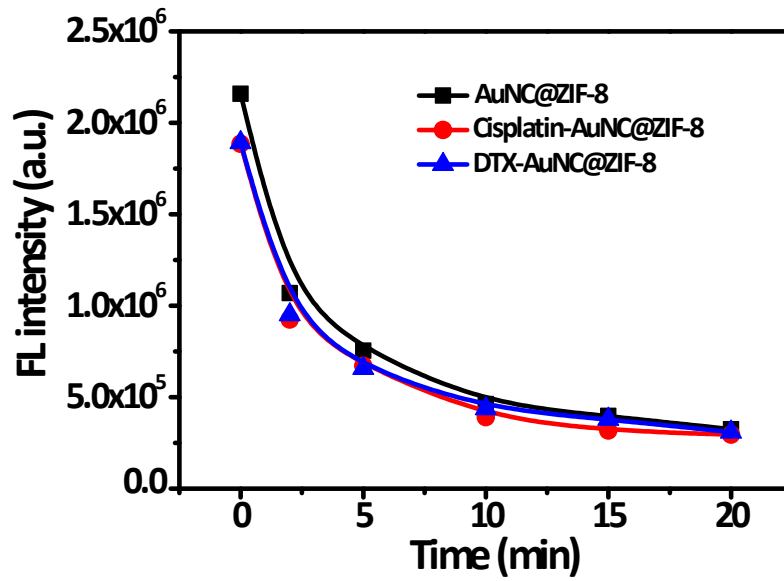
**Fig. S14** HAADF-STEM image (A) and elemental mapping of cisplatin-AuNC@ZIF-8 (B-D).



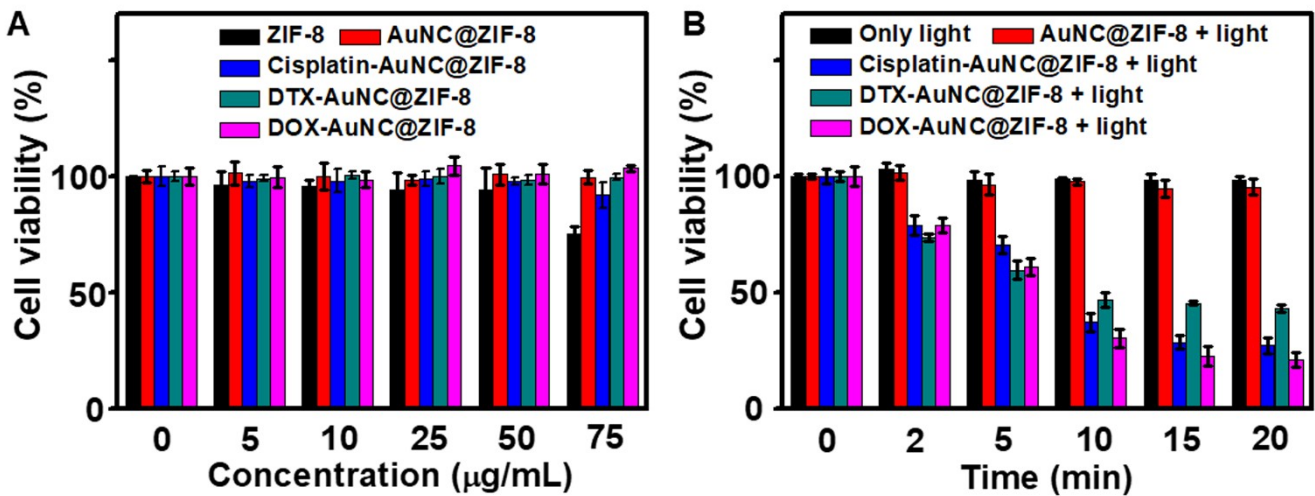
**Fig. S15** The HPLC analyses of DTX (UV detection at 243 nm). DTX (a) and the supernatant of DTX-AuNC@ZIF-8 in response to light irradiation (405 nm, 1 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) within 0 min (b) and 20 min (c).



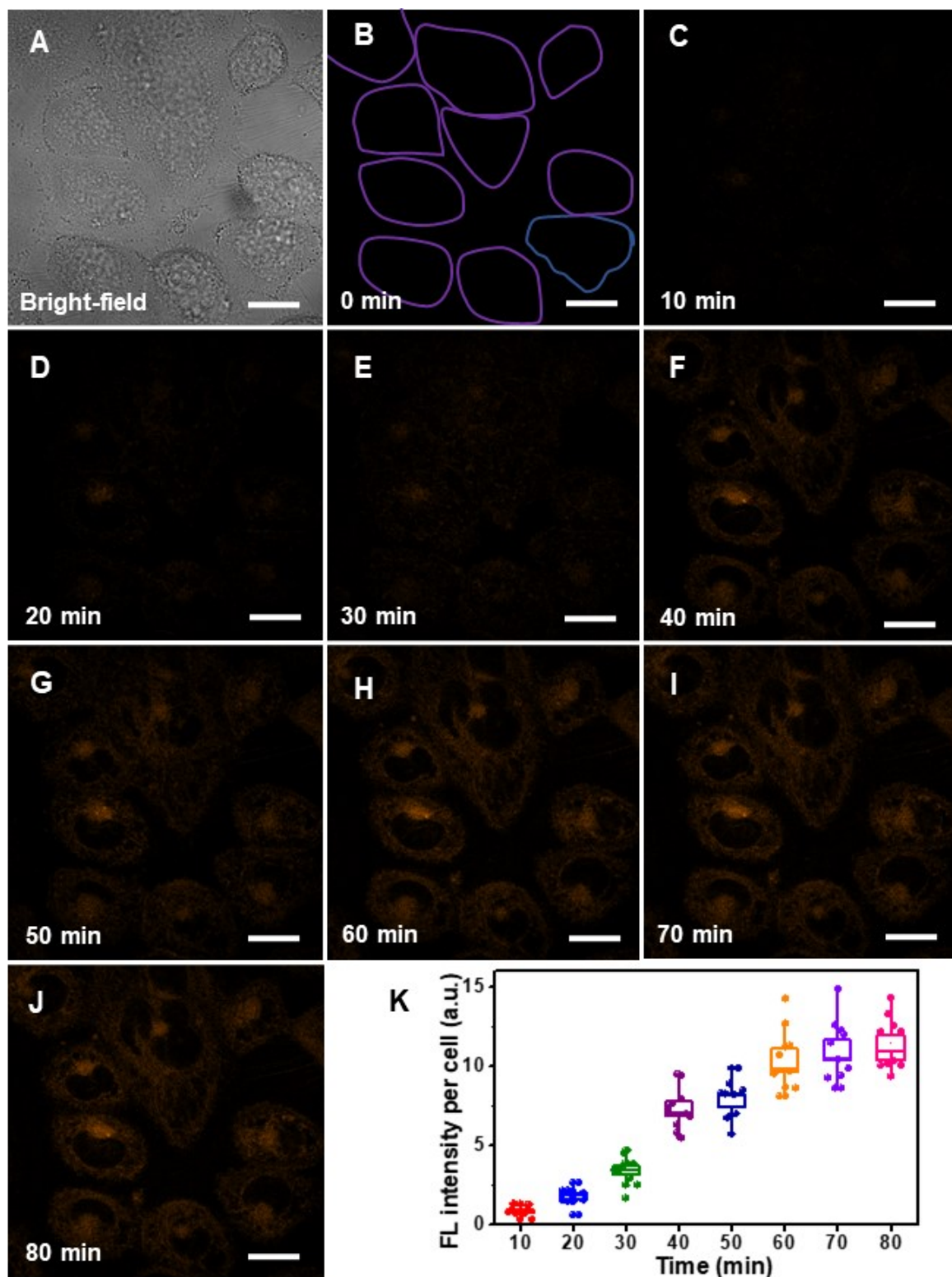
**Fig. S16 (A)** UV-vis absorption spectra of DOX (a), AuNC@ZIF-8 (b), and DOX-AuNC@ZIF-8 (c).



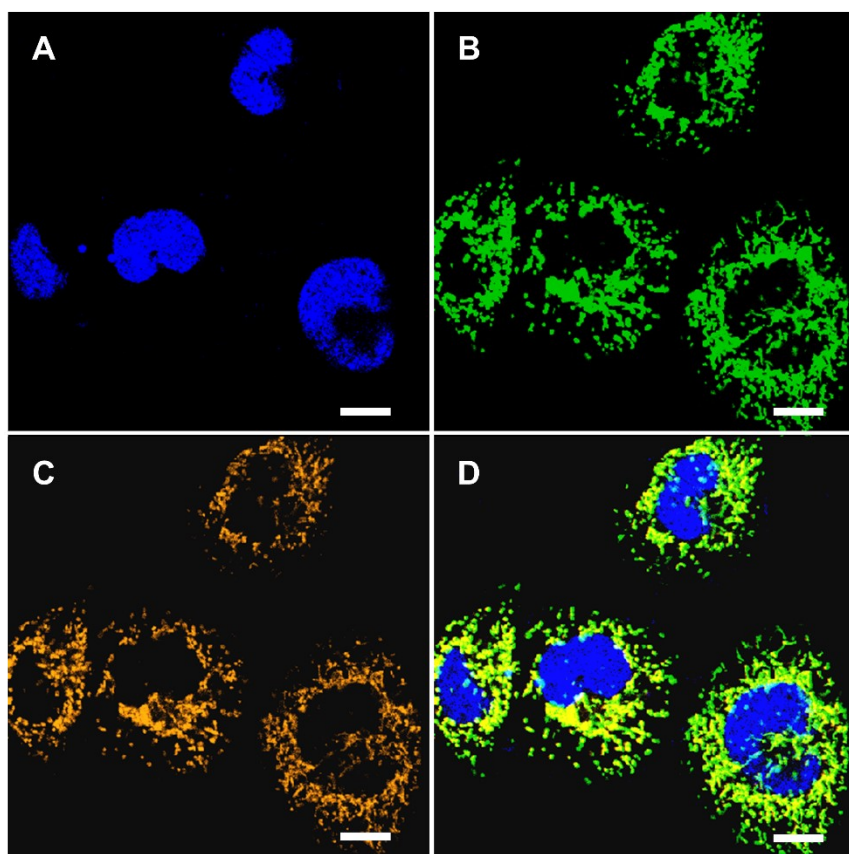
**Fig. S17** The fluorescence intensity vs irradiation time profiles of AuNC@ZIF-8 and drug-AuNC@ZIF-8.



**Fig. S18** (A) Cell viability of HeLa cells incubated with different concentrations of ZIF-8, AuNC@ZIF-8 and drug-AuNC@ZIF-8 for 24 h. (B) Cell viability of HeLa cells incubated with 50 μg/mL AuNC@ZIF-8 or 50 μg/mL drug-AuNC@ZIF-8 under different irradiation time.

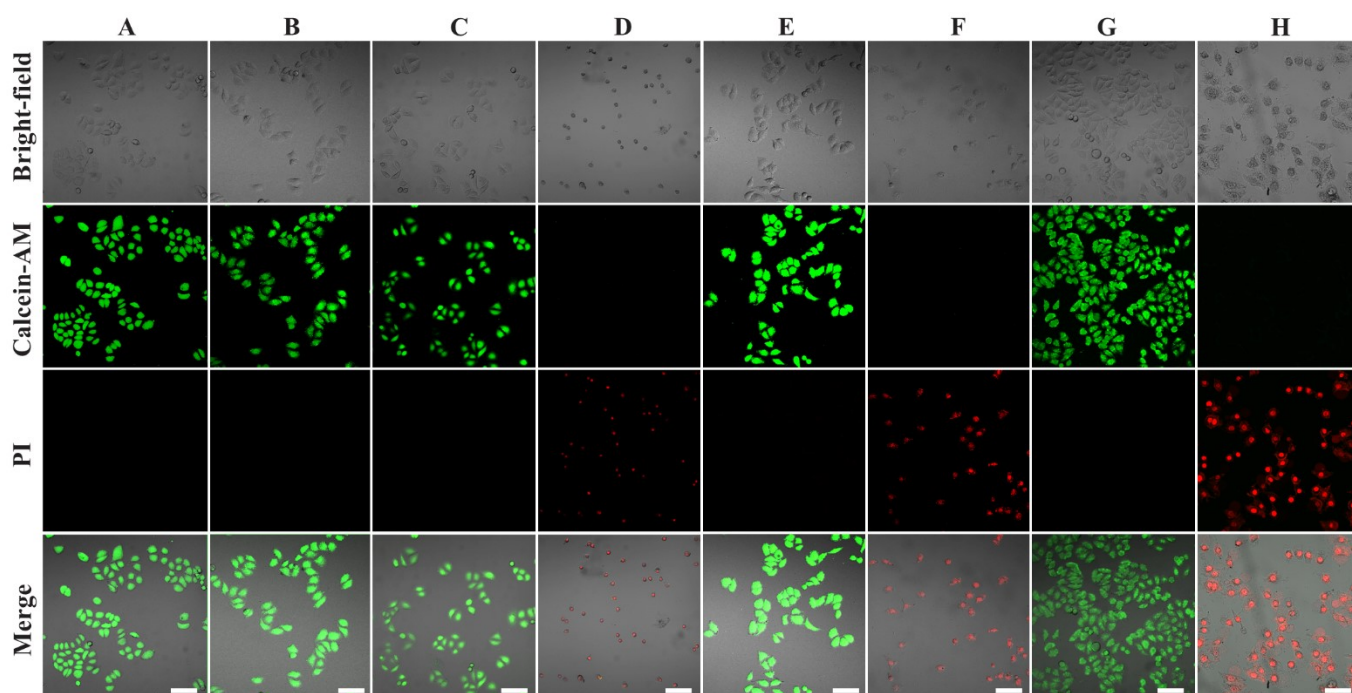


**Fig. S19** Bright field image (A) and CLSM image (B) of HeLa cells in the absence of cisplatin-AuNCs@ZIF-8. (C-J) CLSM images of HeLa cells incubated with cisplatin-AuNCs@ZIF-8 for 10 to 80 min. Scale bar: 20  $\mu$ m. (K) The corresponding intracellular fluorescence intensity of HeLa cells in images C-J. The box plot shows data points, in which each point corresponds to the fluorescence intensity of per cell obtained with ImageJ software.

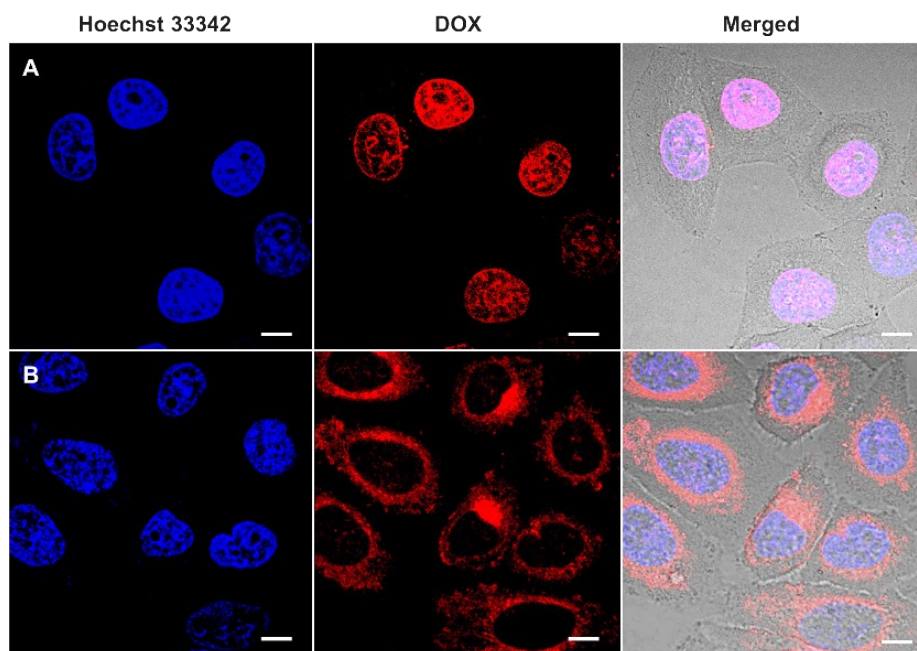


**Fig. S20** CLSM images of HeLa cells co-incubated with AuNC@ZIF-8 and Hoechst 33342 or Rhodamine 123 for 1 h. Image of Hoechst 33342 obtained with band path of 420-450 nm upon excitation at 405 nm (blue) (A), image of Rhodamine 123 obtained with band path of 500-540 nm upon excitation at 488 nm (green) (B), image of AuNC@ZIF-8 obtained with band path of 560-650 nm upon excitation at 488 nm (orange) (C), and merged image (D). Scale bars: 10  $\mu$ m.

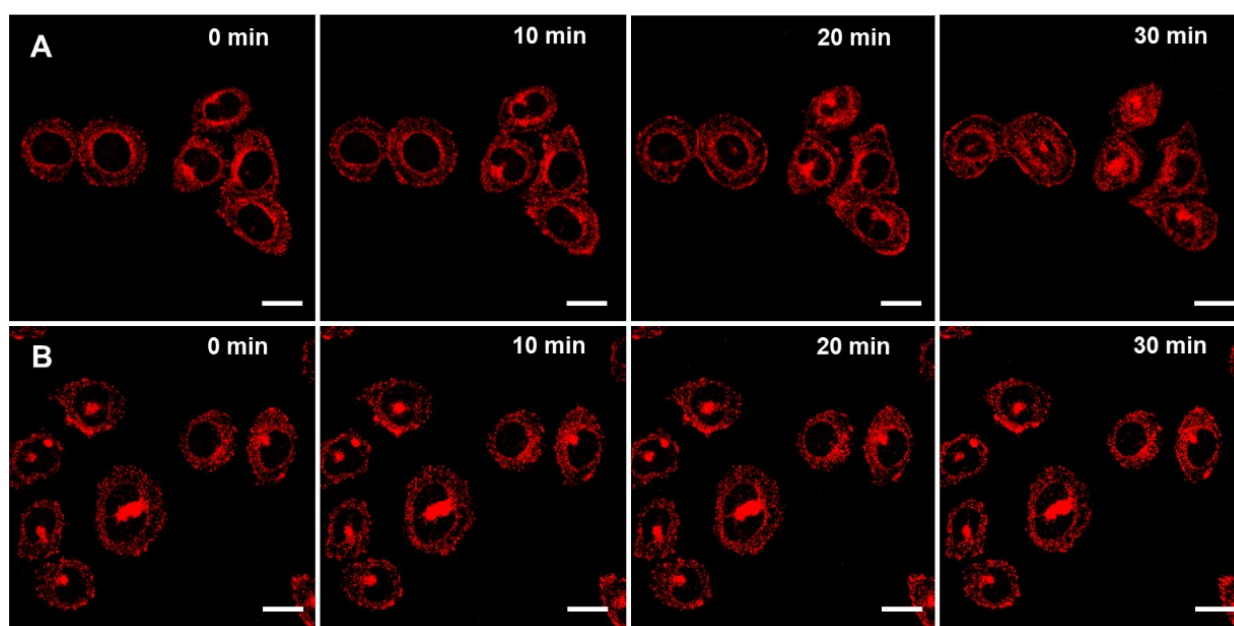




**Fig. S21** CLSM images of HeLa cells after different treatments: (A) HeLa cells incubated with PBS only; (B) HeLa cells treated with light irradiation only; HeLa cells incubated with cisplatin-AuNC@ZIF-8 (50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) and then treated without (C) and with (D) light irradiation for 5 min; HeLa cells incubated with DTX-AuNC@ZIF-8 (50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) and then treated without (E) or with (F) light irradiation for 5 min; HeLa cells incubated with DOX-AuNC@ZIF-8 (50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) and then treated without (G) or with (H) light irradiation for 5 min. The cells are all co-contained by Calcein-AM (green, live cells) and PI (red, dead cells). Scale bar: 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .



**Fig. S22** CLSM images of HeLa cells incubated with free DOX (A) and DOX-AuNC@ZIF-8 (B). Scale bar: 20  $\mu$ m.



**Fig. S23** CLSM images of HeLa cells incubated with DOX-AuNC@ZIF-8 with (A) or without (B) light irradiation for 5 min. Scale bar: 20  $\mu$ m.

## References

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