Supporting information for

Evaluation of Alkyl Chain Length and Photocatalytic Antibacterial

Performance of Cation g-C₃N₄

Junling Leng^a, Xuanwei Liu^b, Shi-En Zhu^b, Yin Xu^b, Yuefei Zhang^a, Zhongbing Tan^b, Xiaofei Yang^b, Jia-En Jin^b, Yufeng shi^b, Hongying, Fan^c, Yi Yang^d, Hang Yao^b, Yu Zhang^{e,*}, Hui Chong^{f,b*} and Chengyin Wang^{b,*}

^a Department of Emergency, Affiliated Hospital of Yangzhou University, Yangzhou 225000, Jiangsu, China.

^b Department of Chemical and Chemical Engineering, Yangzhou University, No. 180, Si-Wang-Ting Rd., Yangzhou, Jiangsu, 225009, China.

^c Testing Center of Yangzhou University, Yangzhou, 225009, China.

^d Center Laboratory, Affiliated Hospital of Yangzhou University, Yangzhou 225000, Jiangsu, China.

^e School of Nursing, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou, China. Jiangsu Key Laboratory of Integrated Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine for Prevention and Treatment of Senile Diseases, No. 88 South University Rd., Yangzhou, 225009, China.

^f Institute of Innovation Materials and Energy, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou 225009, Jiangsu, China.



Fig. S1. SEM photos of synthesized carbon materials. Scale bar was 1 μ m.



Fig. S2. ζ potential of *A. baumannii* and *S. aureus* incubated with g-C₃N₄-(CH₂)_n-ImI⁺ (n = 0, 2, 4, 8, 12 and 16).



Fig. S3. Fluorescence images of live (DMAO), dead (PI) and merged *S. aureus* cells treated with $g-C_3N_4-(CH_2)_4-ImI^+$ in dark and under light irradiation. [$g-C_3N_4-(CH_2)_4-ImI^+$] = 1.0 mg/mL, light intensity was 100 mW/cm², irradiation time was 120 min.



Fig. S4. Photos of MDR *A. baumannii* incubated with g-C₃N₄-(CH₂)₄-ImI⁺ in dark (a) and after white light irradiation (b). Photos of *S. aureus* incubated with g-C₃N₄-(CH₂)₄-ImI⁺ in dark (c) and after white light irradiation (d). White light intensity was 100 mW/cm², irradiation time was 2 hours.



Fig. S5. Time dependent colony photos of *A. baumannii* incubated with $g-C_3N_4-(CH_2)_4-ImI^+$ after light irradiation. [$g-C_3N_4-(CH_2)_4-ImI^+$] = 1.0 mg/mL, white light intensity was 100 mW/cm².



Fig. S6. 24 hours cellular viability of $g-C_3N_4-(CH_2)_n-ImI^+$ in L929 cell line. Concentration of carbon materials was 1 mg/mL.



Fig. S7. Absorption spectra of ABDA with and without g-C₃N₄-(CH₂)_n-ImI⁺ (n = 0, 2, 4, 8, 12 and 16) after light irradiation for different time. [g-C₃N₄-(CH₂)_n-ImI⁺] = 1.0 mg/mL, [ABDA] = 50 μ M, white light intensity was 100 mW/cm².

Fig. S8. Mott-Schottky plots of g-C₃N₄(a) and g-C₃N₄-(CH₂)₄-ImI⁺ (b).

Fig. S8. Time dependent bacterial killing efficiencies of g-C₃N₄-(CH₂)₄-ImI⁺ towards water supplies after light irradiation. [g-C₃N₄-(CH₂)₄-ImI⁺] = 1.0 mg/mL, white light intensity was 100 mW/cm².

| Material - | Antibacterial Efficiency in Dark (%) | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | A. baumannii | S. aureus | |
| $g-C_3N_4$ | 7.15 ± 3.98 | 14.02 ± 3.50 | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₂ -ImI ⁺ | -22.47±3.81 | $\textbf{-45.00} \pm 7.79$ | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₄ -ImI ⁺ | 25.95 ± 1.43 | -21.36 ± 4.41 | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₈ -ImI ⁺ | 28.07 ± 3.24 | -32.96 ± 3.32 | |
| $g-C_{3}N_{4}-(CH_{2})_{12}-ImI^{+}$ | -35.28 ± 6.22 | -23.12 ± 3.03 | |
| $g-C_{3}N_{4}-(CH_{2})_{16}-ImI^{+}$ | 16.38 ± 3.76 | -58.05 ± 5.18 | |

Table S1. Anti-MDR *A. baumannii* and *S. aureus* of g-C₃N₄ and g-C₃N₄-(CH₂)_n-ImI⁺ in dark (n = 2, 4, 8, 12 and 16). [Carbon materials] = 1.0 mg/mL, bacterial density was 1.0×10^7 CFU/mL, incubation time was 2 hours.

Table S2. Photocatalytic anti-MDR *A. baumannii* and *S. aureus* of g-C₃N₄ and g-C₃N₄-(CH₂)_n-ImI⁺ (n = 2, 4, 8, 12 and 16). [Carbon materials] = 1.0 mg/mL, bacterial density was 1.0×10^7 CFU/mL, light intensity was 100 mW/cm², light irradiation time was 2 hours.

| Conditions - | Photo-assisted Antibacterial Efficiency (%) | | |
|--|---|------------------|--|
| | A. baumannii | S. aureus | |
| Light | 59.32 ± 0.98 | 57.91 ± 5.16 | |
| $g-C_3N_4$ | 72.54 ± 3.49 | 75.92 ± 4.52 | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₂ -ImI ⁺ | 94.59 ± 3.12 | 93.38 ± 1.61 | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₄ -ImI ⁺ | 99.61 ± 0.12 | 99.06 ± 0.27 | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₈ -ImI ⁺ | 95.14 ± 2.59 | 94.41 ± 3.80 | |
| $g-C_3N_4-(CH_2)_{12}-ImI^+$ | 89.66 ± 3.15 | 89.72 ± 2.44 | |
| $g-C_{3}N_{4}-(CH_{2})_{16}-ImI^{+}$ | 86.52 ± 1.86 | 85.85 ± 1.28 | |

| Carbon materials | materials Cell viability (%) | |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| <i>g</i> -C ₃ N ₄ | 110.29 ± 4.93 | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₂ -ImI ⁺ | 75.42 ± 1.71 | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₄ -ImI ⁺ | 108.68 ± 10.05 | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₈ -ImI ⁺ | 112.73 ± 5.27 | |
| $g-C_{3}N_{4}-(CH_{2})_{12}-ImI^{+}$ | 93.10 ± 3.31 | |
| $g-C_{3}N_{4}-(CH_{2})_{16}-ImI^{+}$ | 113.37 ± 3.95 | |

 Table S3 Cell viability of L929 cell line treated with carbon materials.

Table S4. Summary of •OH and •O₂⁻ generated amount in the presence of g-C₃N₄ and g-C₃N₄-(CH₂)_n-ImI⁺ (n = 2, 4, 8, 12 and 16) after white light irradiation. [Carbon materials] = 1.0 mg/mL, light intensity was 100 mW/cm², light irradiation time was 2 hours.

| Conditions - | Photocatalytic generation of •OH and $•O_2^-$ (mmol/L) | | |
|---|--|------------------|--|
| | •OH | •O2 ⁻ | |
| $g-C_3N_4$ | 15.85 ± 2.26 | 38.00 ± 5.72 | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₂ -ImI ⁺ | 46.84 ± 0.46 | 80.80 ± 1.04 | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₄ -ImI ⁺ | 58.29 ± 2.69 | 124.80 ± 0.29 | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₈ -ImI ⁺ | 57.58 ± 0.37 | 108.80 ± 0.66 | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₁₂ -ImI ⁺ | 34.16 ± 1.22 | 61.20 ± 3.16 | |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ -(CH ₂) ₁₆ -ImI ⁺ | 36.98 ± 2.14 | 51.60 ± 4.09 | |

| Time | Photo-assisted Antibacterial Efficiency (%) | | | |
|-------|---|-------------------|------------------------|--|
| (min) | Urban Water | The Yangtze River | The Slender West Laker | |
| 20 | 32.60 ± 0.94 | $34.03\pm2.26\%$ | 32.80 ± 5.56 | |
| 40 | 47.89 ± 3.17 | 46.31 ± 4.89 | 40.11 ± 2.28 | |
| 60 | 58.18 ± 4.98 | 54.52 ± 3.37 | 47.64 ± 6.44 | |
| 80 | 73.20 ± 3.29 | 76.67 ± 6.79 | 74.13 ± 2.81 | |
| 100 | 89.17 ± 2.88 | 88.06 ± 4.14 | 84.27 ± 0.63 | |
| 120 | 98.93 ± 1.87 | 99.26 ± 2.18 | 97.78 ± 1.77 | |

Table S5. Photo-assisted time dependent bacterial killing rate of g-C₃N₄-(CH₂)₄-ImI⁺ towards different water supplies. [Carbon materials] = 1.0 mg/mL, light intensity was 100 mW/cm², light irradiation time was 2 hours.