## **Supporting information**

## Synthesis of SBA-15 Rods with Small Sizes for Enhanced Cellular Uptake

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**Fig. S1** TEM image of vesicular structure obtained at pH=3.98 while keep the other synthesis conditions the same as SR-X samples.



**Fig. S2** XRD pattern (a), TEM image (b), nitrogen sorption isotherm (c) and pore size distribution curve (d) of MCM-41.

MCM-41 was synthesized according to our previous report with slight modifications.<sup>1</sup> The XRD pattern (Fig.S2a) of MCM-41 shows three well-resolved diffraction peaks which can be assigned to the 100, 110 and 200 reflections of an ordered two dimensional (2D) hexagonal structure. The TEM image (Fig. S2b) displays that MCM-41 are spherical nanoparticles with particle sizes of 50-100 nm and well-ordered mesopores inside. The nitrogen adsorption-desorption plot of MCM-41 (Fig. S2c) exhibits a typical type IV isotherm and a steep capillary condensation step occurring at a relative pressure ( $P/P_0$ ) of ~ 0.3, corresponding to a narrow pore size distribution centred at 2.3 nm (Fig. S2d). The surface area, and pore volume of MCM41 is 766 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> and 0.76 cm<sup>3</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>, respectively.



**Fig. S3** KHOS cell viability after 24 h incubation with various concentrations of SR-3.88 or MCM-41.

## References

1. S. Yang, L. Z. Zhao, C. Z. Yu, X. F. Zhou, J. W. Tang, P. Yuan, D. Y. Chen and D. Y. Zhao, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2006, 128, 10460-10466.