

# Supporting Information: Glycyrrhetic acid functionalized Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticles for the co-delivery of DOX/CPT-PEG for targeting HepG2 cells.

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## 1. Synthesis and characterization of CPT-PEG (1)

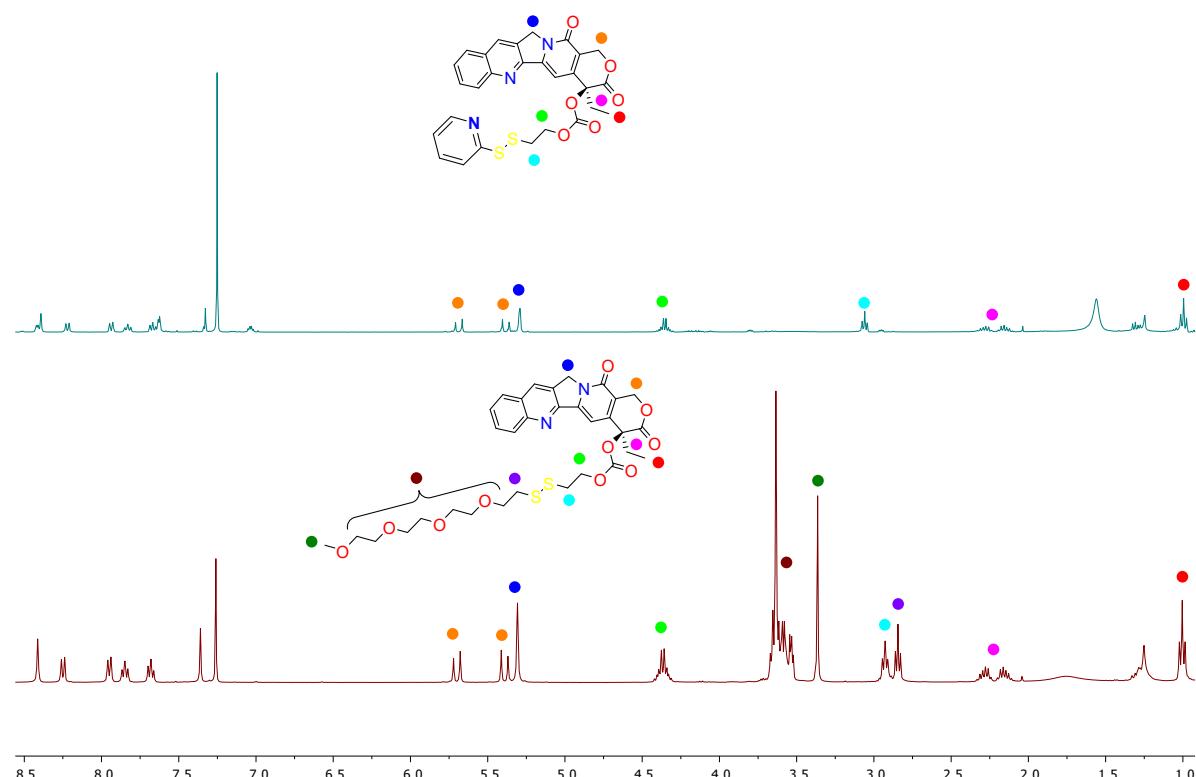
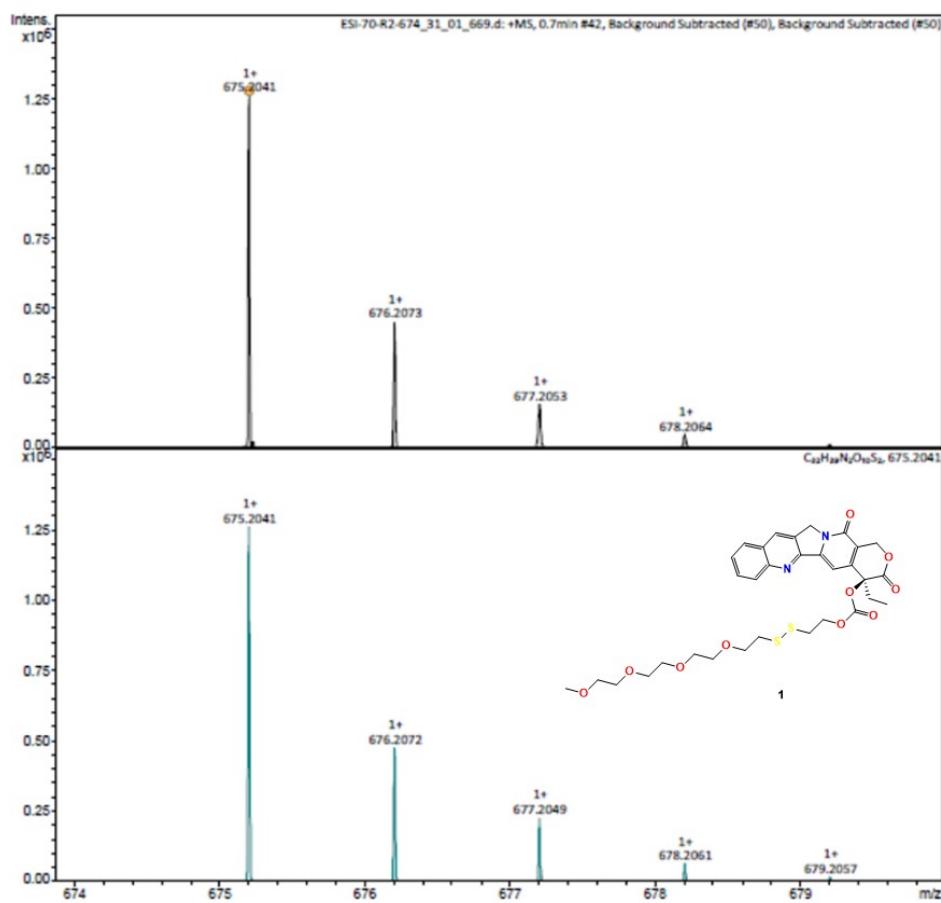
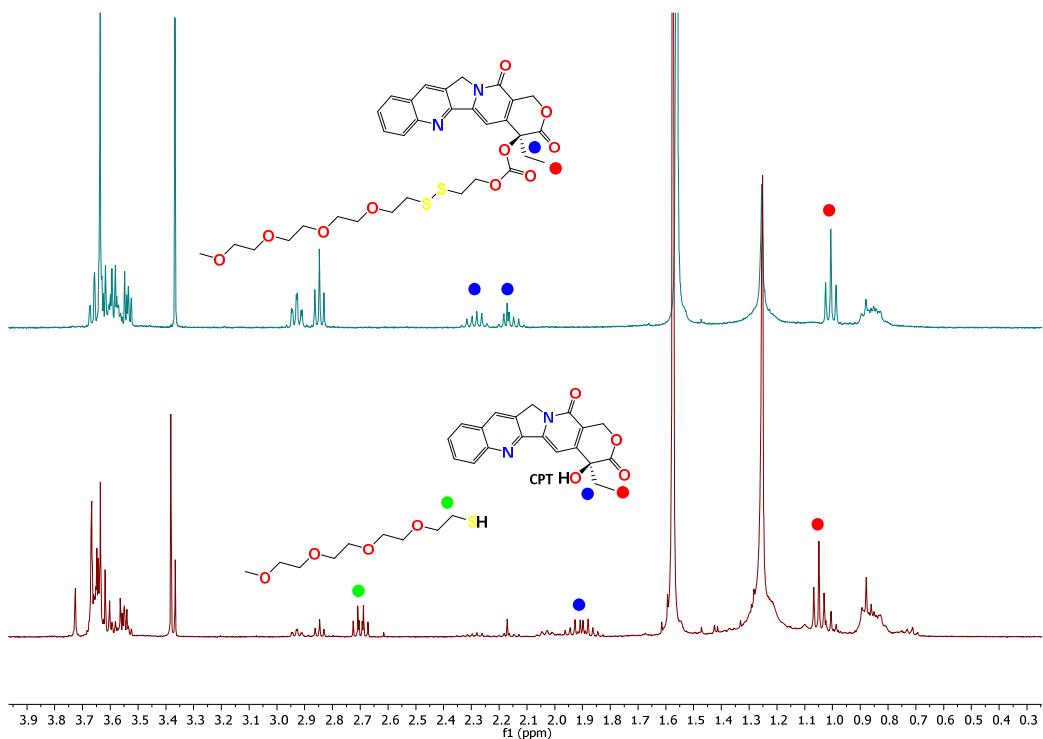


Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of a) compound 2 and b) CPT-PEG (1).



**Figure S2.** ESI-FIA-TOF spectrum of CPT-PEG (**1**).

## 2. CPT release from CPT-PEG



**Figure S3.** Cleavage study of CPT-PEG with GSH 10 mM in PBS 7.4 for 1 h.

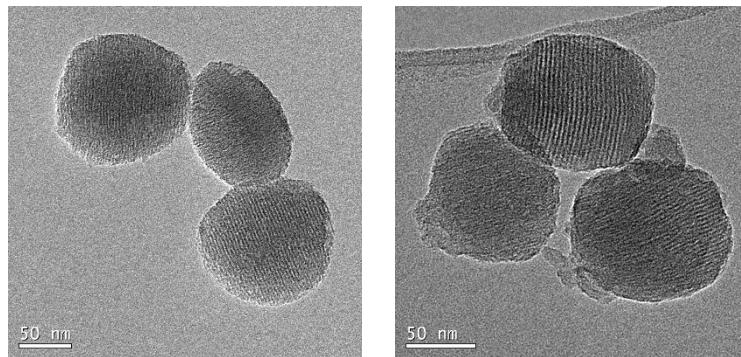
### 3. Characterization of nanoparticles

**Table S1.** MSN-(NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>i</sub>(CHO)<sub>o</sub> size and  $\zeta$  potential (pH = 5.5).

Size / nm	TEM	DLS	pdl	$\zeta$ -pot / mV
MSN-(NH <sub>2</sub> )	100	140 ± 4	0.04 ± 0.02	-1 ± 4
MSN-(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>i</sub> (CHO) <sub>o</sub>	100	145 ± 5	0.17 ± 0.005	-14 ± 4
MSN-(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>i</sub> (hyd-PEG-hyd) <sub>o</sub>	100	190 ± 5	0.06 ± 0.02	-10 ± 5

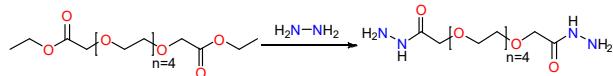
**Table S2.** N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption and BJH pore size distribution values of MSN-(NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>i</sub>(CHO)<sub>o</sub>.

	MSN-NH <sub>2</sub> (CTAB)	MSN-(NH <sub>2</sub> )	MSN-(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>i</sub> (CHO) <sub>o</sub>
BET surface area / m <sup>2</sup> ·g <sup>-1</sup>	50 ± 0.2	1011 ± 10	990 ± 6
BJH pore volume / cm <sup>3</sup> ·g <sup>-1</sup>	0.02 ± 0.01	0.66 ± 0.05	0.56 ± 0.1
Pore size / nm	--	2.4 ± 0.2	2.4 ± 0.2



**Figure S4.** TEM micrographs of (a) MSN-(NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>i</sub>(CHO)<sub>o</sub> and (c) CPT-PEG@MSN-hyd-PEG-hyd-DOX.

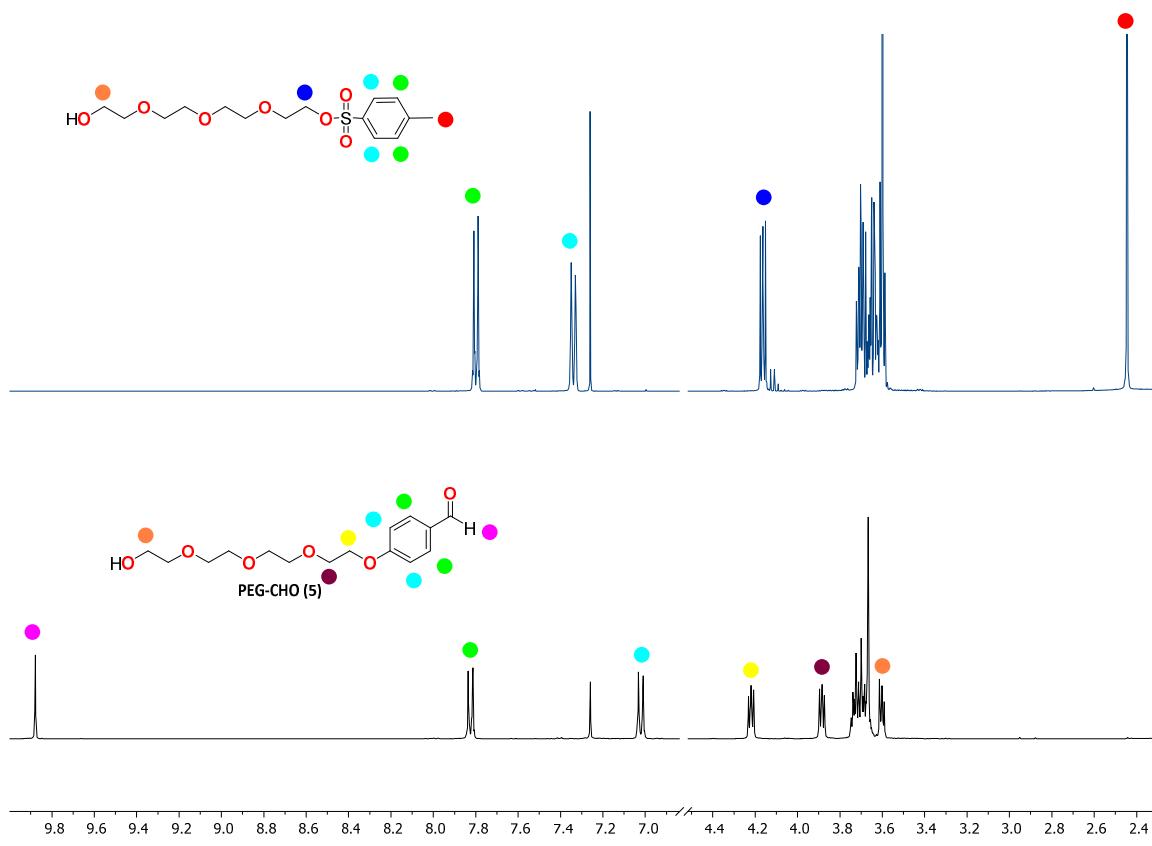
### 4. Synthesis of 3,6,9,12,15-pentaoxaheptadecanedihydrazide



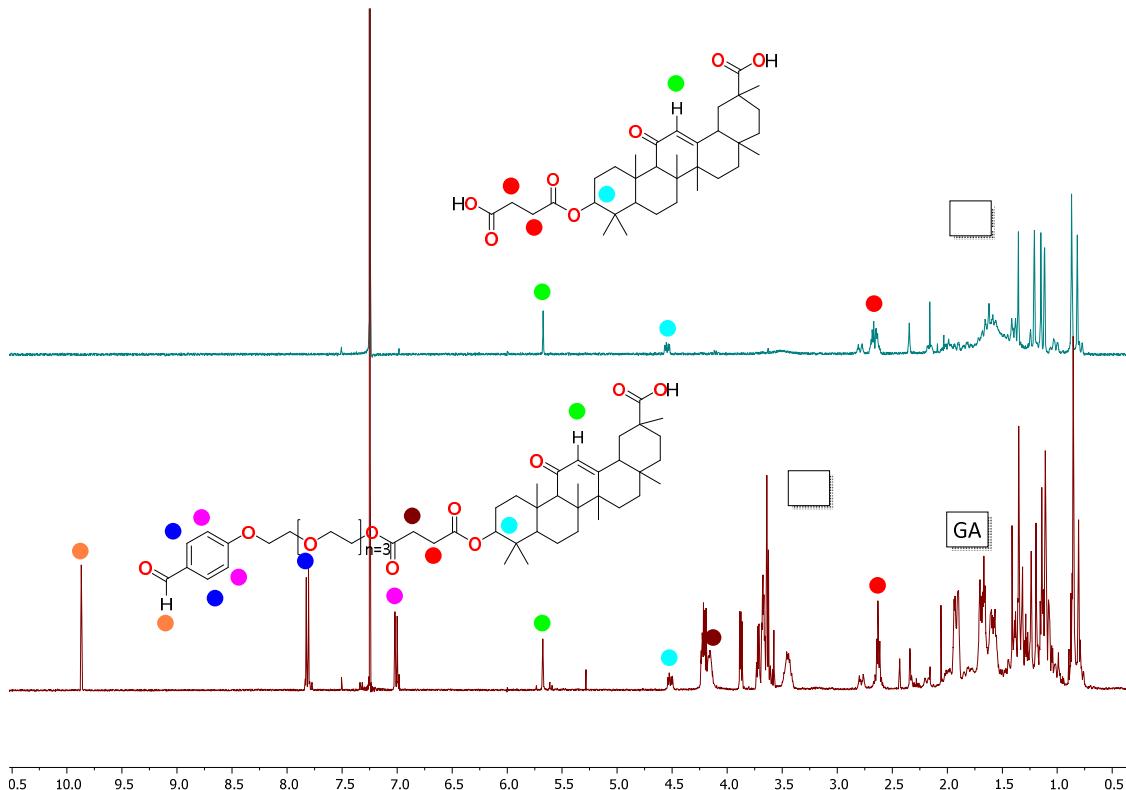
**Scheme S1.** Schematic synthesis of 3,6,9,12,15-pentaoxaheptadecanedihydrazide.

3,6,9,12,15-pentaoxaheptadecanedihydrazide 2 was synthesized following the procedure of Li et al. [1] Spectroscopic data were in good agreement with reported data. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.81 (brs, 6H), 4.07 (s, 4H), 3.71-3.64 (m, 16H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 169.6, 77.0, 72.6, 70.1, 61.5.

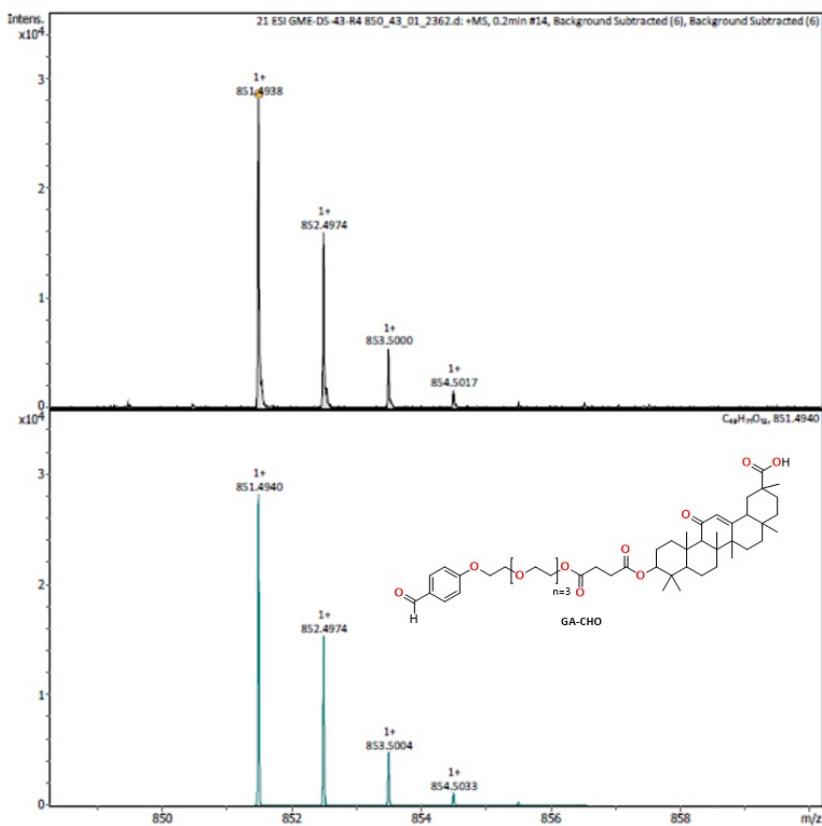
**5. Synthesis and characterization of GA-aldehyde (GA-CHO)**



**Figure S5.**  $^1\text{H}$ -RMN spectra of PEG-CHO (5) and its precursor.

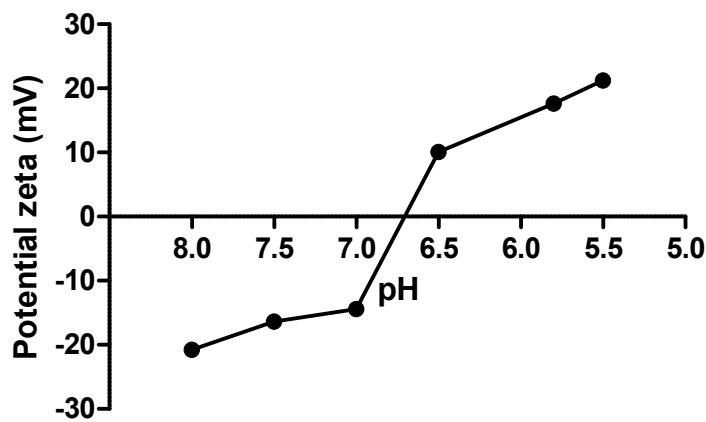


**Figure S6.**  $^1\text{H}$ -RMN comparison between GA-COOH (6) and GA-CHO (3).



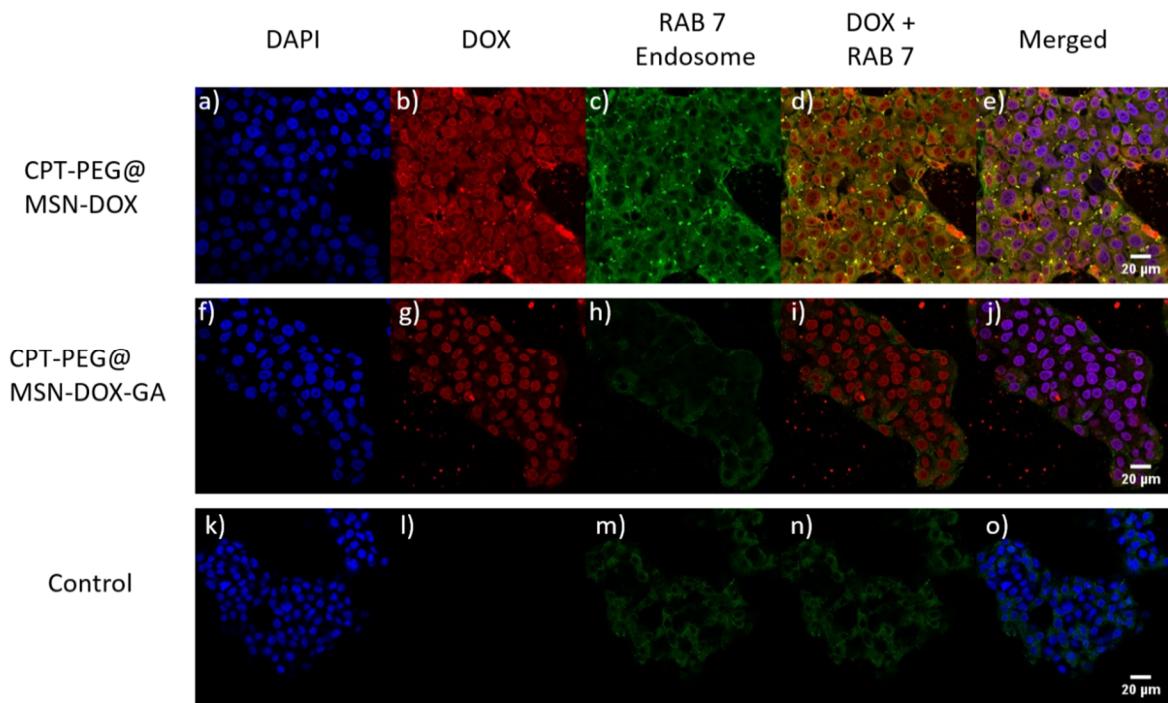
**Figure S7.** ESI-FIA-TOF-spectrum of GA-CHO (3).

## 6. CPT-PEG@MSN-DOX-GA Zeta potential dependence of pH



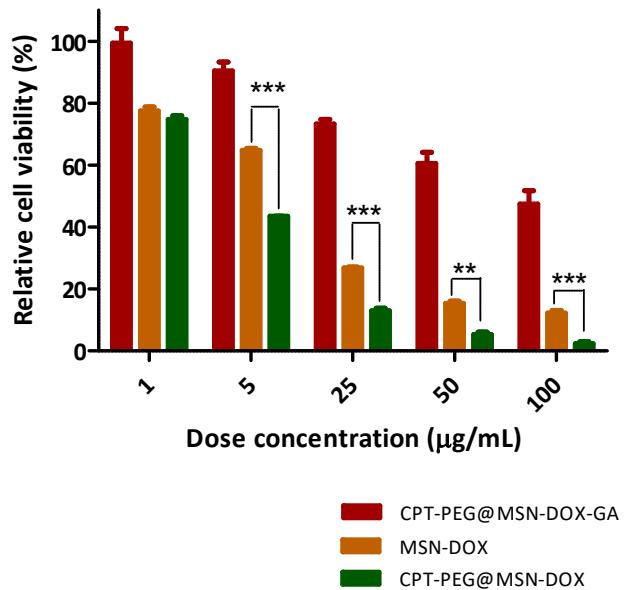
**Figure S8.** Zeta potential dependence of pH.

## 7. Confocal laser scanning microscopy (CLSM)



**Figure S9.** CLSM images of the uptake of CPT-PEG@MSN-DOX and CPT-PEG@MSN-DOX-GA ( $100 \text{ } \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$ ) at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 h at  $100 \text{ } \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$ . Scale bar  $20 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ . Blue: DAPI, red: DOX, green: RAB7.

## 8. Cytotoxicity of CPT-PEG@MSN-DOX toward HeLa cells



**Figure S10.** Cell viability of HeLa cells incubated with CPT-PEG@MSN-DOX-GA, MSN-DOX and CPT-PEG@MSN-DOX for 72 h. Data represented as mean  $\pm$  SD ( $n = 3$ ).

## 9. Combinational Index

$$CI = \frac{IC_x(A)_{comb}}{IC_x(A)} + \frac{IC_x(B)_{comb}}{IC_x(B)}$$

**Equation S1.** Combination index (CI):  $IC_x(A)$  and  $IC_x(B)$  are the IC of drug A and drug B given individually and  $IC_x(A)_{\text{comb}}$  and  $IC_x(B)_{\text{comb}}$  are the IC values of the drugs combined to achieve the same viability inhibition (IC: inhibition concentration, x is the % of cell viability inhibition). Values of  $CI < 1$  indicate synergism effect [2,3].

## 10. Bibliography

1. Li, Z.-Y.; Liu, Y.; Wang, X.-Q.; Liu, L.-H.; Hu, J.-J.; Luo, G.-F.; Chen, W.-H.; Rong, L.; Zhang, X.-Z. One-Pot Construction of Functional Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticles for the Tumor-Acidity-Activated Synergistic Chemotherapy of Glioblastoma. *ACS applied materials & interfaces* **2013**, *5*, 7995-8001, doi:10.1021/am402082d.
2. Li, Z.Y.; Liu, Y.; Wang, X.Q.; Liu, L.H.; Hu, J.J.; Luo, G.F.; Chen, W.H.; Rong, L.; Zhang, X.Z. One-pot construction of functional mesoporous silica nanoparticles for the tumor-acidity-activated synergistic chemotherapy of glioblastoma. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* **2013**, *5*, 7995-8001, doi:10.1021/am402082d.
3. Botella, P.; Abasolo, I.; Fernández, Y.; Muniesa, C.; Miranda, S.; Quesada, M.; Ruiz, J.; Schwartz Jr, S.; Corma, A. Surface-modified silica nanoparticles for tumor-targeted delivery of camptothecin and its biological evaluation. *Journal of Controlled Release* **2011**, *156*, 246-257, doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jconrel.2011.06.039>.