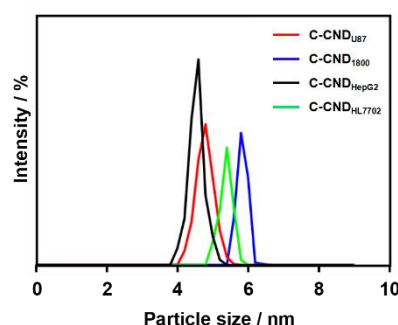
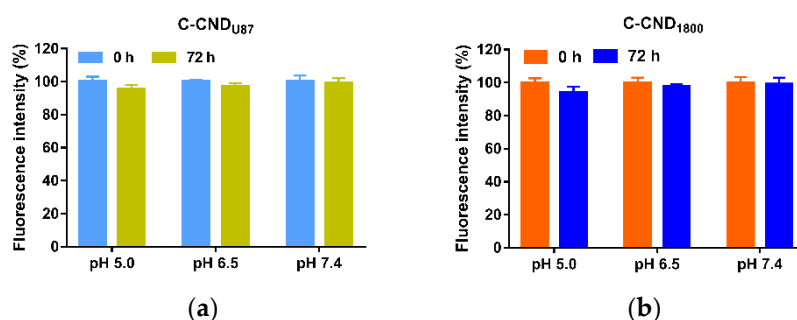


# Supplementary Materials: Tumor-Targeted Fluorescence Imaging and Mechanisms of Tumor Cell-Derived Carbon Nanodots

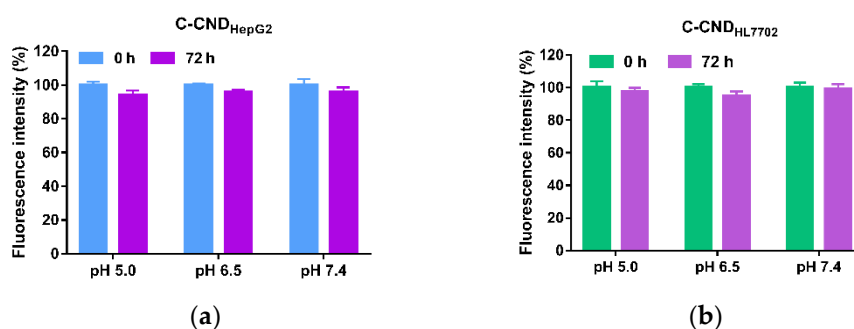
Taotao Huo, Wenshuai Li, Dong Liang and Rongqin Huang



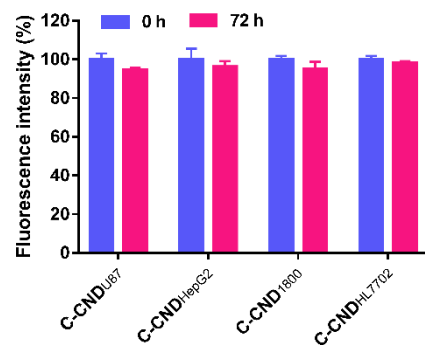
**Figure S1.** Particle size distribution curves of C-CND<sub>U87</sub>, C-CND<sub>1800</sub>, C-CND<sub>HepG2</sub> and C-CND<sub>HL7702</sub> determined by DLS.



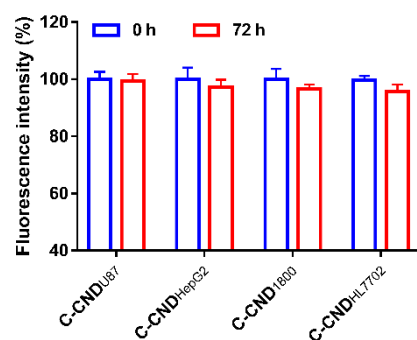
**Figure S2.** The normalized FL intensity of C-CND<sub>U87</sub> (a) and C-CND<sub>1800</sub> (b) upon the exposure to PBS solutions with different pH for 0 h and 72 h. Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD ( $n = 3$ ).



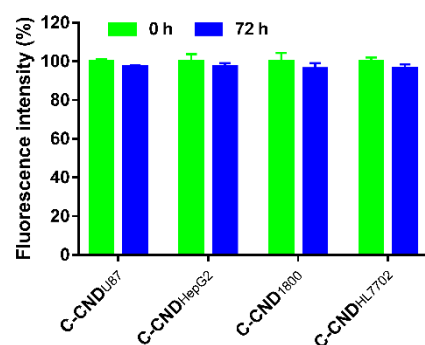
**Figure S3.** The normalized FL intensity of C-CND<sub>HepG2</sub> (a) and C-CND<sub>HL7702</sub> (b) upon the exposure to PBS solutions with different pH for 0 h and 72 h. Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD ( $n = 3$ ).



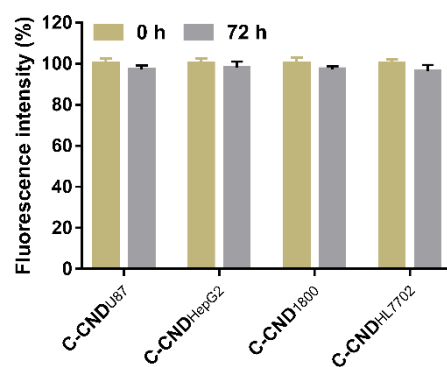
**Figure S4.** The normalized FL intensity of C-CND upon the exposure to  $\text{Na}^+$  solution (2 M) for 0 h and 72 h. Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD ( $n = 3$ ).



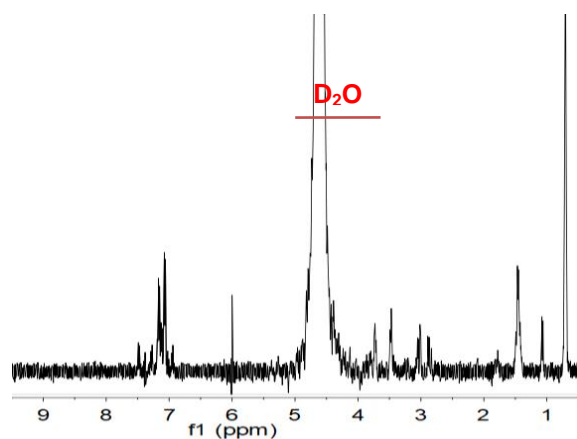
**Figure S5.** The normalized FL intensity of C-CND upon the exposure to pure water containing 10% FBS ( $v/v$ ) for 0 h and 72 h. Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD ( $n = 3$ ).



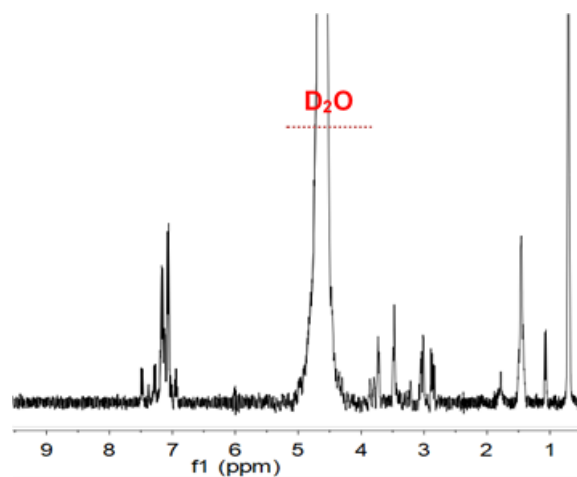
**Figure S6.** The normalized FL intensity of C-CND upon the exposure to UV excitation for 0 h and 72 h. Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD ( $n = 3$ ).



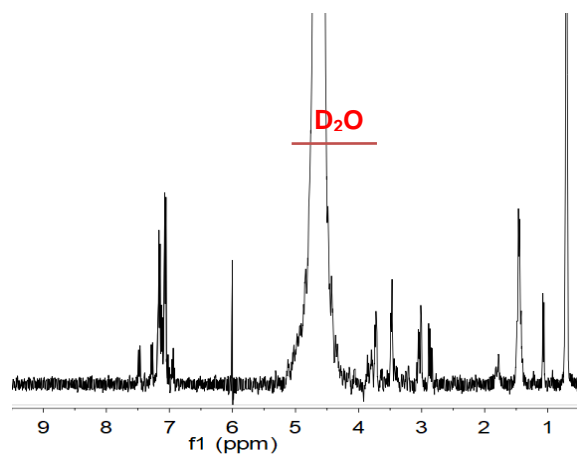
**Figure S7.** The normalized FL intensity of C-CND upon the exposure to complete media at 37 °C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 0 h and 72 h. Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD ( $n = 3$ ).



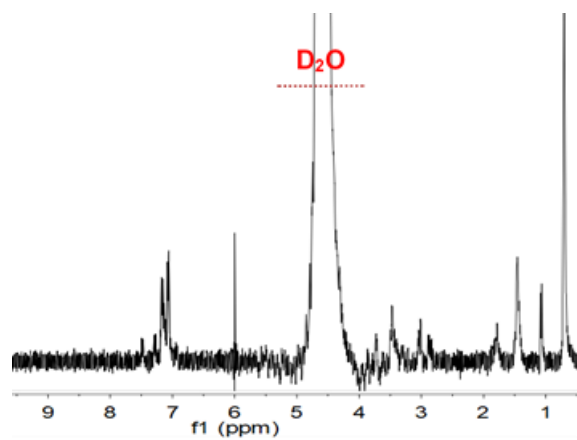
**Figure S8.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of C-CND<sub>U87</sub>.



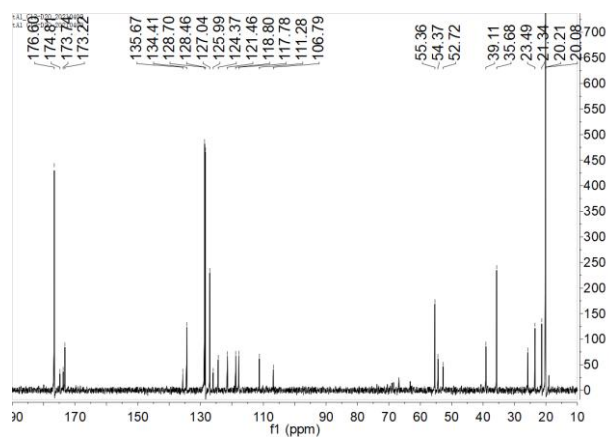
**Figure S9.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of C-CND<sub>1800</sub>.



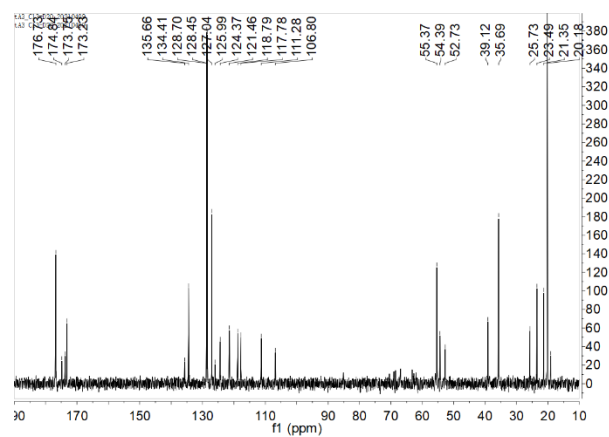
**Figure S10.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of C-CND<sub>HepG2</sub>.



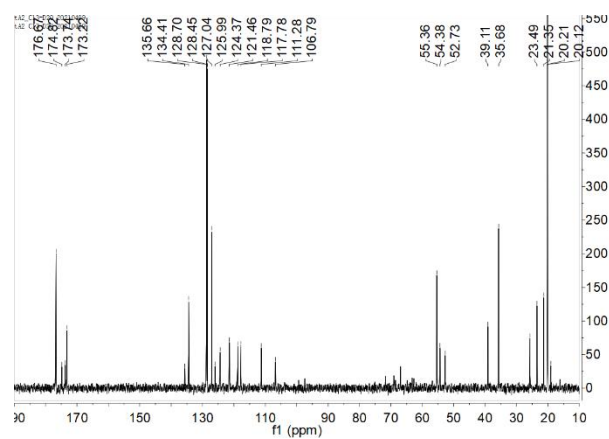
**Figure S11.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of C-CND<sub>HL7702</sub>.



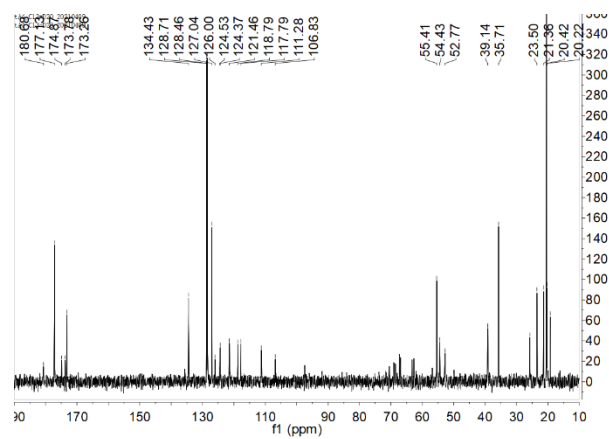
**Figure S12.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of C-CND<sub>U87</sub>. Solvent: D<sub>2</sub>O.



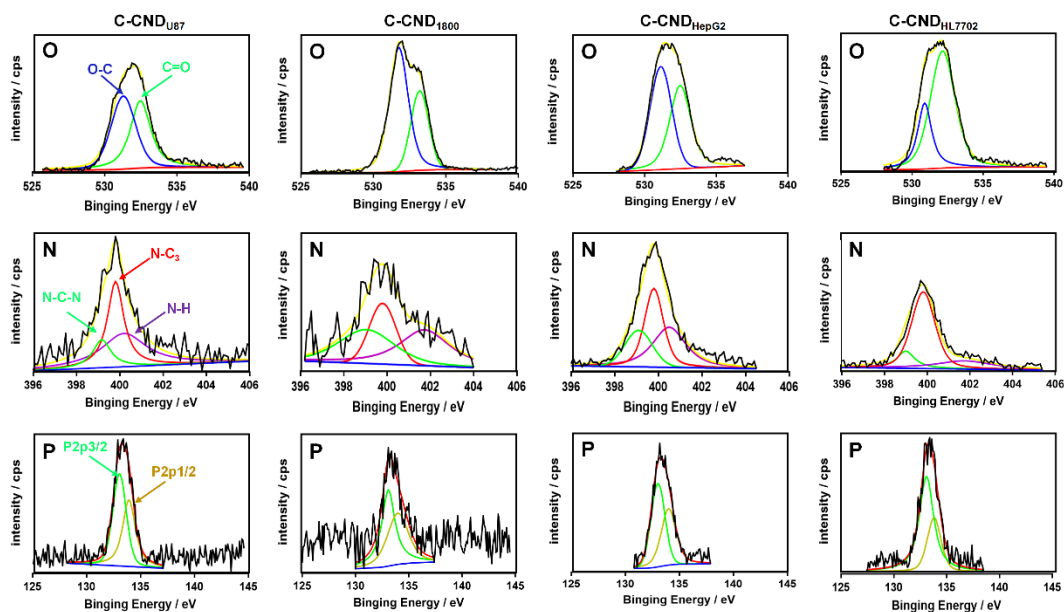
**Figure S13.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of C-CND<sub>1800</sub>. Solvent: D<sub>2</sub>O.



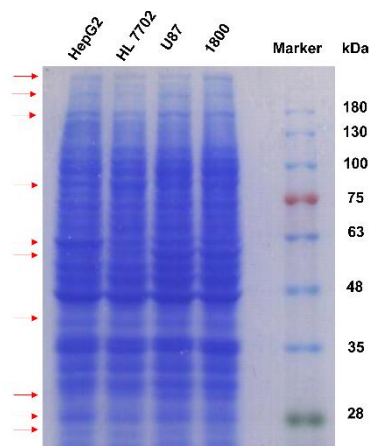
**Figure S14.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of C-CND<sub>HepG2</sub>. Solvent: D<sub>2</sub>O.



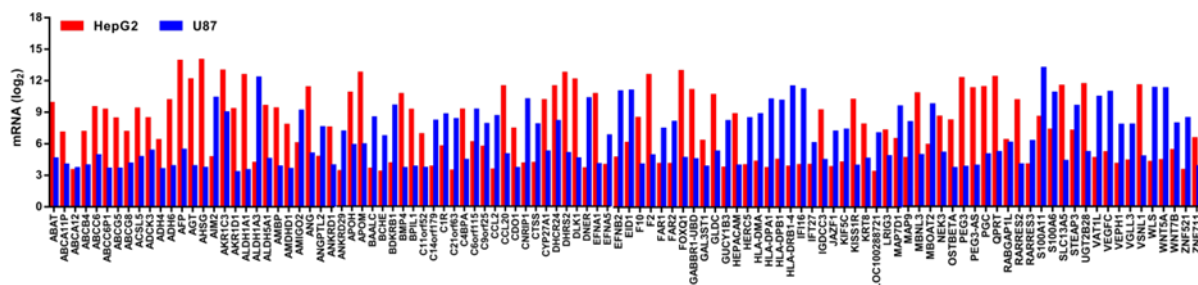
**Figure S15.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of C-CND<sub>HL7702</sub>. Solvent: D<sub>2</sub>O.



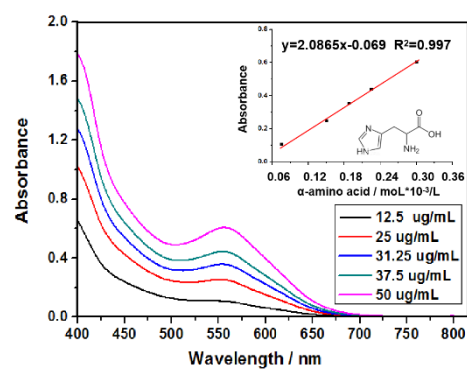
**Figure S16.** O1s, N1s and P1s spectra of C-CND<sub>U87</sub>, C-CND<sub>1800</sub>, C-CND<sub>HepG2</sub> and C-CND<sub>HL7702</sub>, respectively.



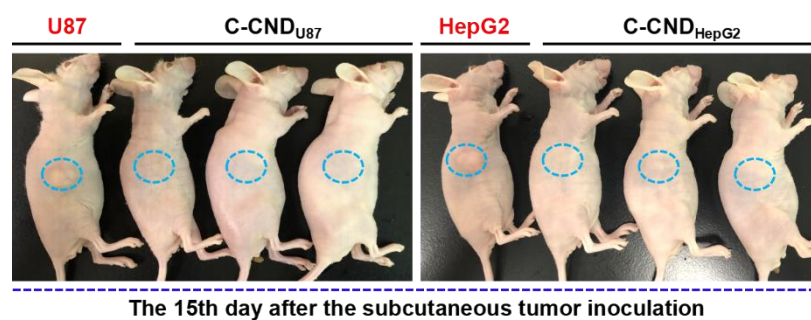
**Figure S17.** The SDS-PAGE analysis of proteins of U87 cell, 1800 cell, HepG2 cell and HL7702 cell. The red arrows marked the proteins with same molecular weight but varied in content between cells.



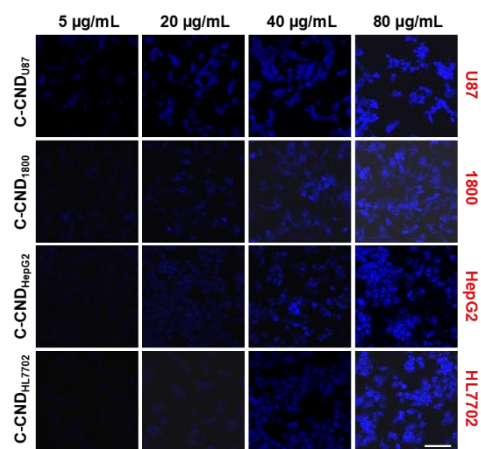
**Figure S18.** The differentiated mRNA expression in U87 and HepG2 cells.



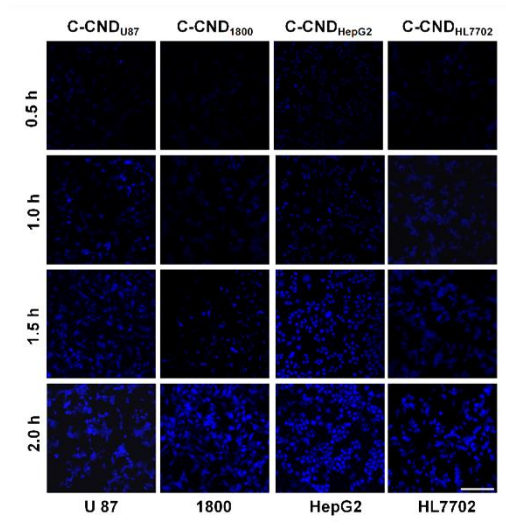
**Figure S19.** UV spectra of histidine after ninhydrin reaction. (Insert: Correlation of concentration and absorbance of histidine after ninhydrin reaction).



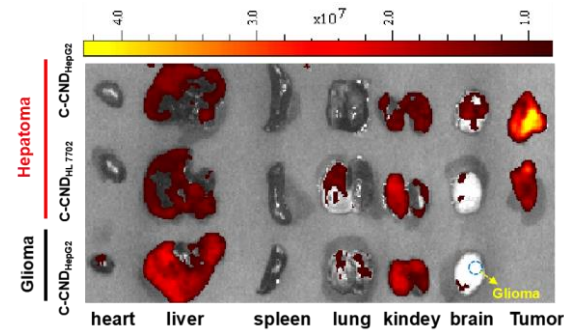
**Figure S20.** Tumorigenicity study of C-CND<sub>U87</sub> and C-CND<sub>HepG2</sub>.



**Figure S21.** Confocal fluorescence images of U87, 1800, HepG2 and HL7702 cells incubated with varied concentrations of C-CND for 2 h under 405 nm excitation. Bar = 50 μm.



**Figure S22.** Confocal fluorescence images of U87, 1800, HepG2 and HL7702 cells incubated with 80 µg/mL C-CND for varied time periods under 405 nm excitation. Bar = 100 µm.



**Figure S23.** Ex vivo imaging of main organs of tumor-bearing mice (the subcutaneous hepatoma-bearing mice and orthotopic U87 glioma-bearing mice) collected after 3 h intravenous injection of C-CND<sub>HepG2</sub> and C-CND<sub>HL7702</sub>.