## **Supporting information**

## A New Green Titania with Enhanced NIR Absorption for Mitochondria-Targeted Cancer Therapy

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Supplementary figures

Figure S1. Nanocrystal size distribution histograms of B-TiO<sub>2-x</sub> (a) and G-TiO<sub>2-x</sub> (b).



Figure S2. Energy dispersive X-ray spectrum of the as-synthesized B-TiO<sub>2-x</sub> and G-TiO<sub>2-x</sub>.



Figure S3. Raman spectra of white TiO<sub>2</sub>, as-synthesized *B*-TiO<sub>2-x</sub> and *G*-TiO<sub>2-x</sub>.



**Figure S4.** X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy spectra of the *G*-TiO<sub>2-x</sub>. The shoulder peaks (in blue) at ~457 eV in the Ti  $2p_{3/2}$  and at 463 eV in Ti  $2p_{1/2}$  XPS spectra are correlated with Ti<sup>3+</sup> while the main peak (in magenta) at 458.9 and 464.6 eV corresponding to Ti  $2p_{3/2}$  and Ti  $2p_{1/2}$  of Ti<sup>4+</sup>, respectively.



**Figure S5.** UV-vis absorbance spectrum of aqueous solutions containing G-TiO<sub>2-x</sub> (Ti concentration: 50 ppm).



**Figure S6.** (a) Temperature elevation of the aqueous solution containing G-TiO<sub>2-x</sub> at determined Ti concentration (2 mL, 50 ppm) as a function of irradiation time and power densities (980 nm). (b) Photothermal stability investigation after laser irradiation for 10 cycles (980 nm, 0.72 W cm<sup>-2</sup>, 5 min).



Figure S7. (a) UV-vis absorbance spectra of aqueous solutions containing G-TiO<sub>2-x</sub>-TPP at varied

concentrations and (b) the corresponding linear plot of absorbance vs concentrations at 920 nm.



Figure S8. Hydrodynamic diameter distribution (a) and Zeta potential (b) of the as-synthesized

*G*-TiO<sub>2-*x*</sub> and after PEG, TPP modification.



Figure S9. FT-IR spectra of the *G*-TiO<sub>2-x</sub> and after PEG, TPP modification.



**Figure S10**. (a) Pharmacokinetic profile of G-TiO<sub>2-x</sub>-TPP following intravenous administration. (b) Biodistribution of G-TiO<sub>2-x</sub>-TPP at 24 h after intravenous injection in mice. Each experiment was repeated three times in triplicate. Data were shown as the means  $\pm$  SD.



**Figure S11**. *In vitro* cell viabilities of three types of normal cells (BRL, NRK-52E, BCECs) and two types of brain-related cancer cells (U87MG and PC12) incubated with *G*-TiO<sub>2-x</sub>-TPP at different concentrations for 24 h, evaluated by a standared MTT assay. Corresponding optical microscopic images of the *in vitro* cell morphology of five types of cells incubated without ( $c_1$ - $g_1$ ) or with *G*-TiO<sub>2-x</sub>-TPP ( $c_2$ - $g_2$ ) (Ti concentration:100 ppm) for 24 h. Each experiment was repeated three times in triplicate. Data were shown as the means ± SD. All the scale bars in (c-g) are 100 µm.



**Figure S12.** The variations of blood indexes of Kunming mice after intravenous injection of physiological saline (control) or *G*-TiO<sub>2-x</sub>-TPP (8 mg Ti/kg) at different time points (*i.e.*, 0, 3, 15, 30 days). Each experiment was repeated three times in triplicate. Data were shown as the means  $\pm$  SD.



**Figure S13.** Time courses of histological changes in main organs of Kunming mice *via* H&E staining after intravenous injection of physiological saline (control) or *G*-TiO<sub>2-x</sub>-TPP (8 mg Ti/kg) at different time points (*i.e.*, 0, 3, 15, 30 days). All the scale bars are 50  $\mu$ m.



**Figure S14**. *In vivo* brain toxicity evaluation of G-TiO<sub>2-x</sub>-TPP. H&E-stained main brain tissues sections of cortex, hippocampus and striatum, which were collected from mice treated with intravenous injection of physiological saline (control) or G-TiO<sub>2-x</sub>-TPP (8 mg Ti/kg) at different time points (*i.e.*, 0, 3, 15, 30 days), to monitor the histological changes. All the scale bars are 50  $\mu$ m.