## Oil Phase Evaporation Induced Self-Assembly of Hydrophobic Nanoparticles into Spherical Clusters with Controlled Surface Chemistry in an Oil-in-Water Dispersion and Comparison of Behaviors of Individual and Clustered Iron Oxide Nanoparticles

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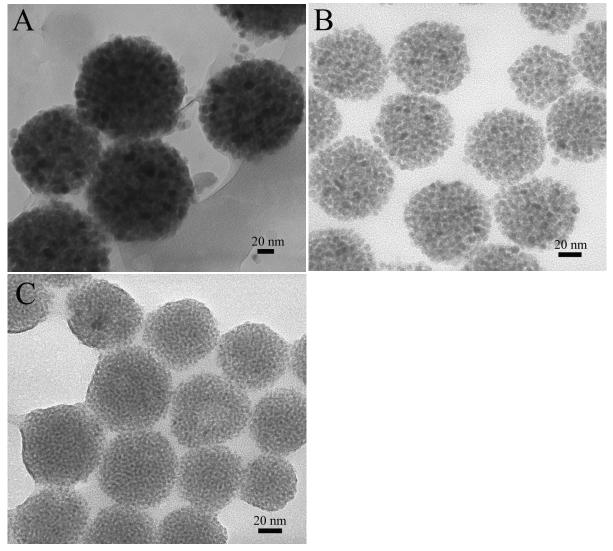


Fig. S1, Larger view of NPCs in Fig. 1 with different iron oxide nanoparticles size. A-C corresponds to 12, 6 and 3 nm NPs respectively.

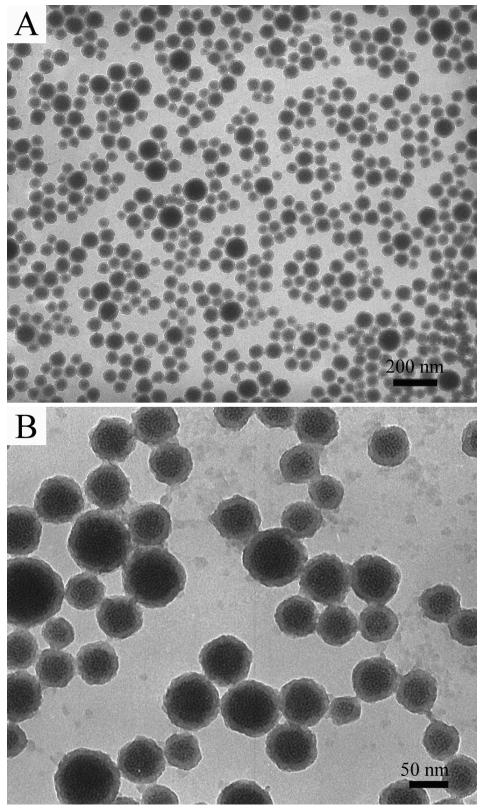
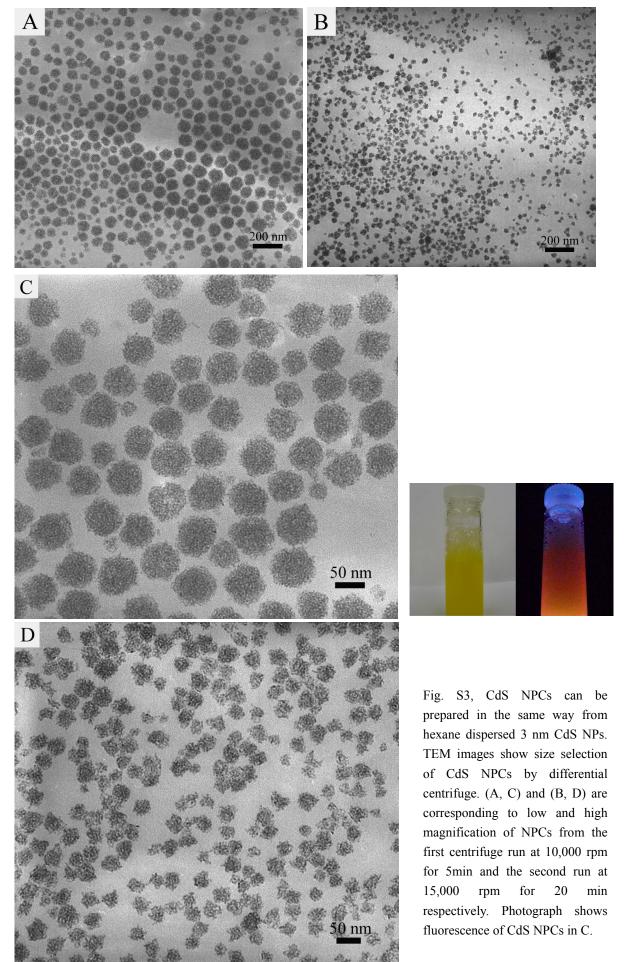


Fig. S2, Silica coating of 3 nm iron oxide NPCs derived from CTAB as surfactant. No size selection was applied to the NPCs before silica coating.



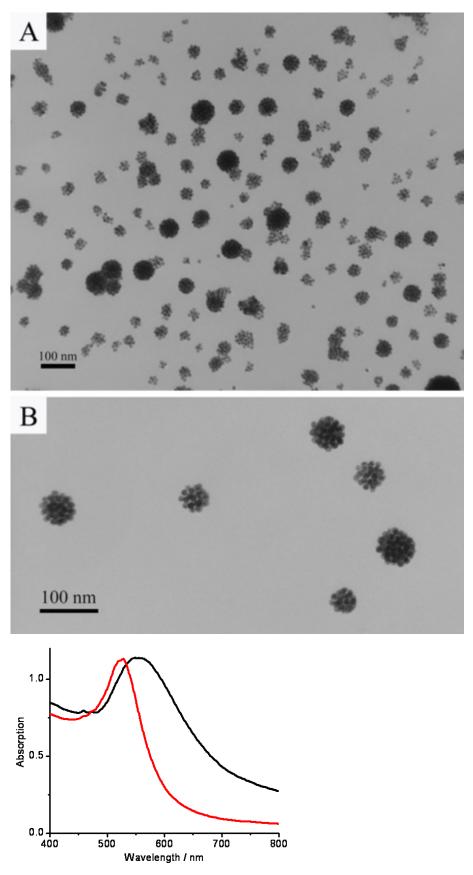


Fig. S4, gold NPCs: (A, B) low and high magnification of TEM images; (C) UV-Vis spectrum of individual AuNPs (red line) and Au NPCs (black line) indicating the coupling of surface plasmon upon the formation of clusters.

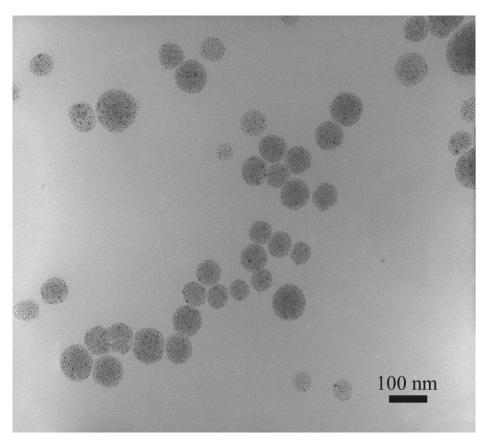


Fig. S5, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NPCs using PAA as emulsifier. Clusters were collected by 10,000 rpm for 5 min.

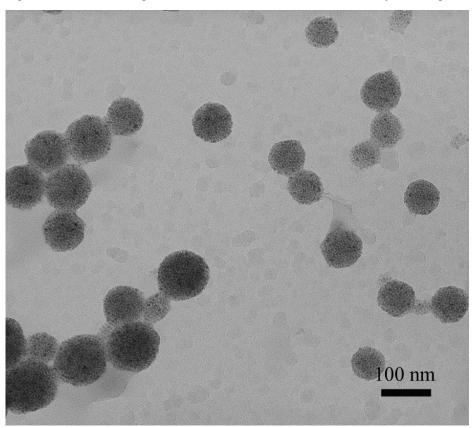


Fig. S6, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NPCs using PEI as emulsifier. Clusters were collected by 10,000 rpm for 5 min.

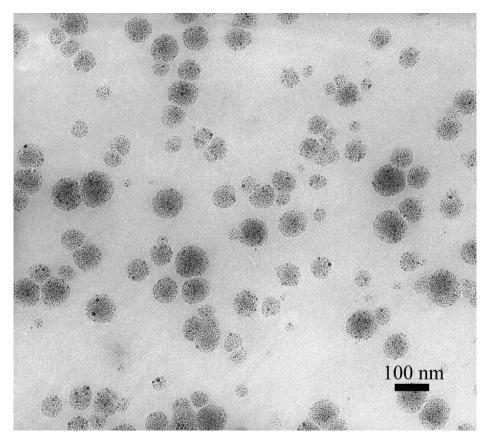


Fig. S7, Fe $_3$ O $_4$  NPCs using PSS as emulsifier. Clusters were collected by 10,000 rpm for 5 min.

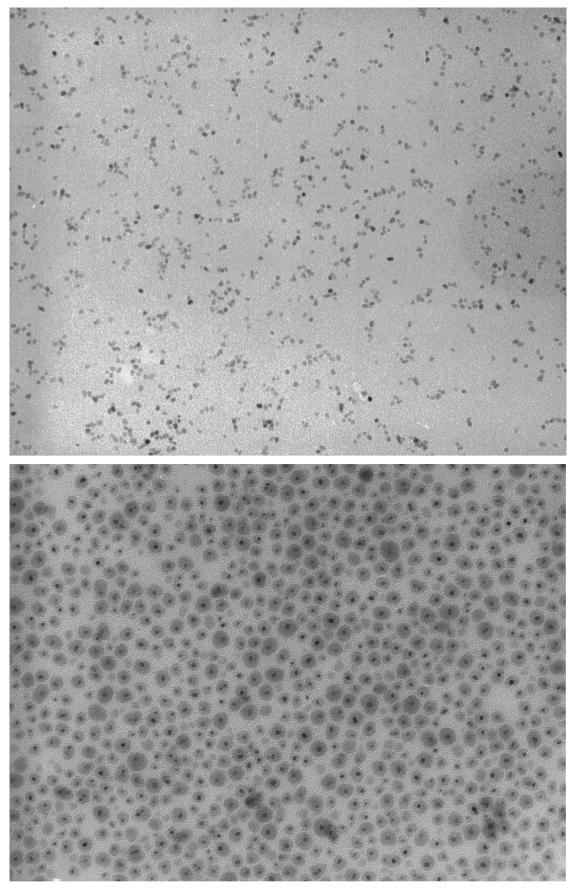


Fig. S8, TEM image of larger view of 6 nm iron oxide nanoparticles dispersed individually in water after phase transfer. Silica coated iron oxide nanoparticles is also shown here as a more direct evidence for the individual dispersion of nanoparticles.