

Supplementary materials

Albumin and Hyaluronic Acid-Coated Superparamagnetic Iron Oxide Nanoparticle Loaded with Paclitaxel for Biomedical Applications

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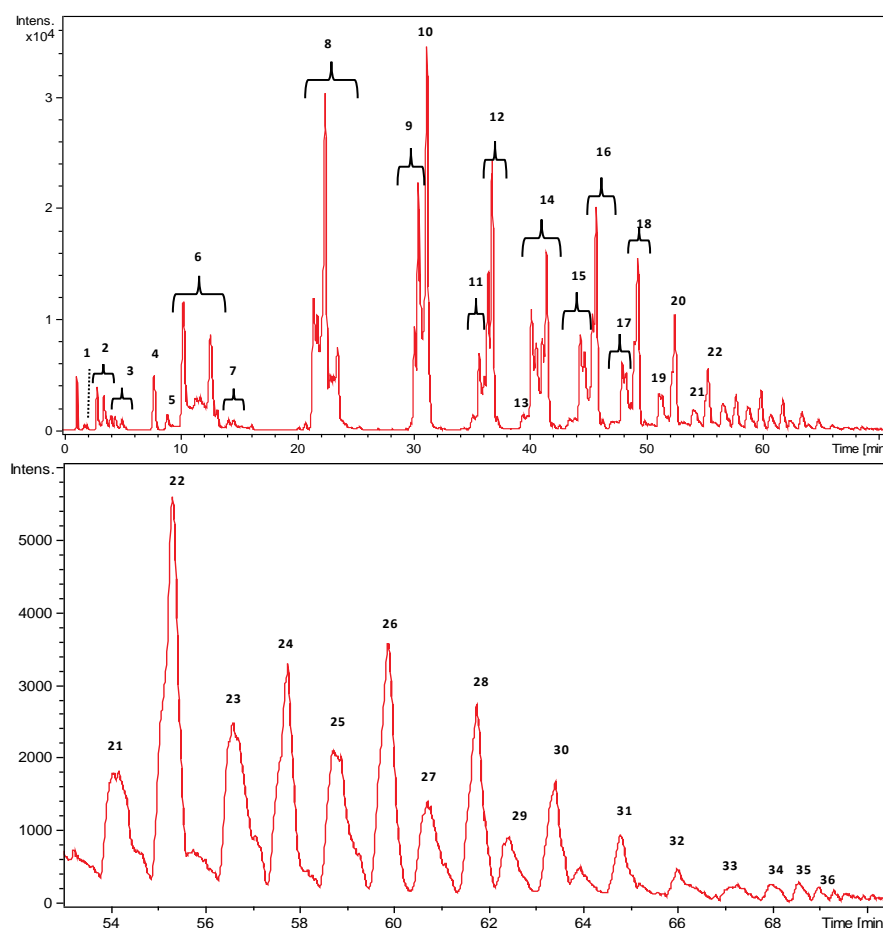


Figure S1. HPLC/ESI-Q-TOF mass spectrometry profile of intact hyaluronic acid: the whole chromatogram (upper panel) and the expanded chromatogram portion at higher retention times (lower panel). *Assignment of the labelled peaks are reported in table S1).*

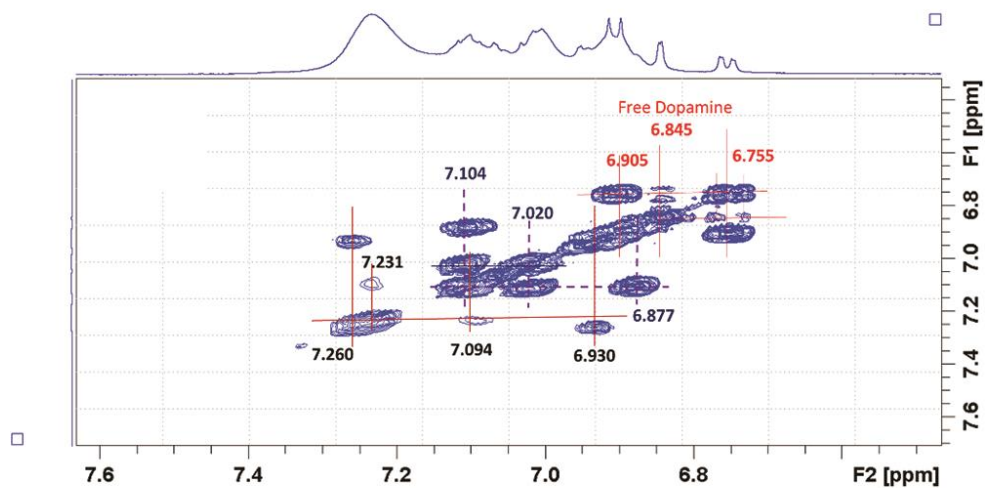


Figure S2. COSY spectrum, expansion of aromatic signals. Three correlation systems are well evident, a signal belonging to a fourth one is also shown.

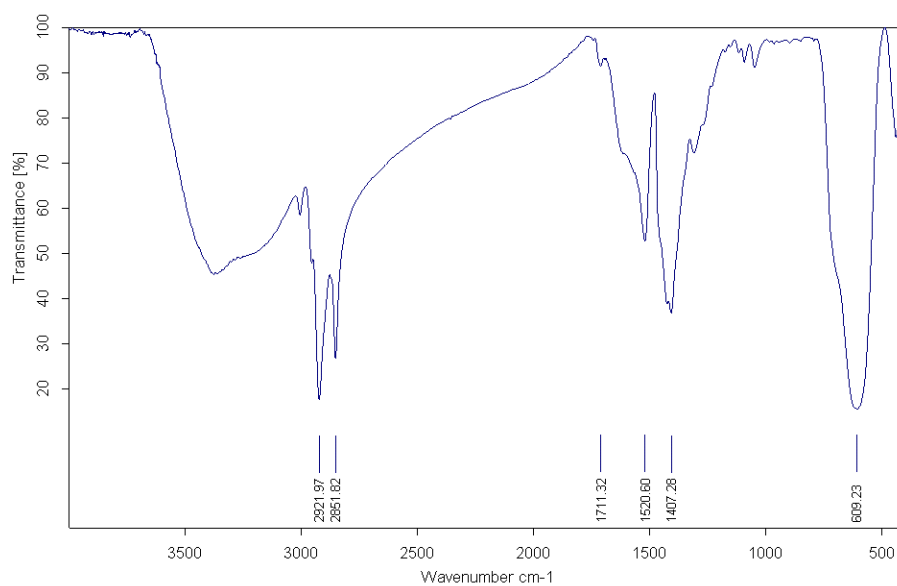


Figure S3. FT-IR spectrum of sample SPION1

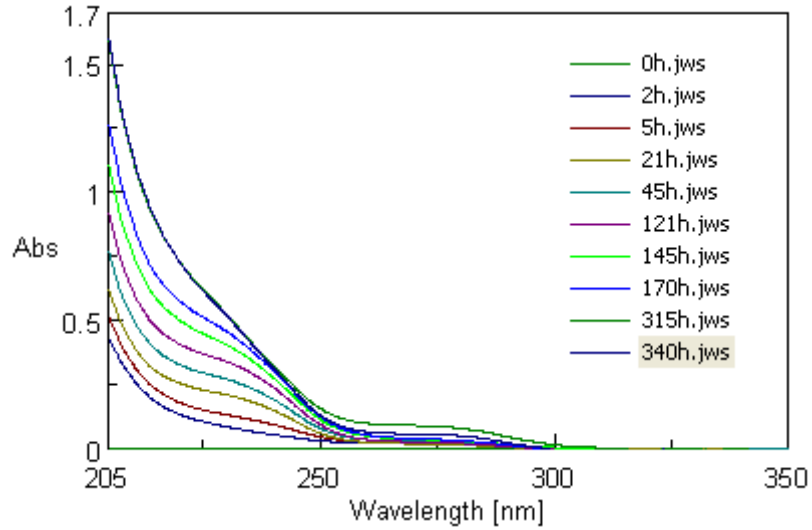


Figure S4. UV-vis spectra of dialysate buffer at selected times

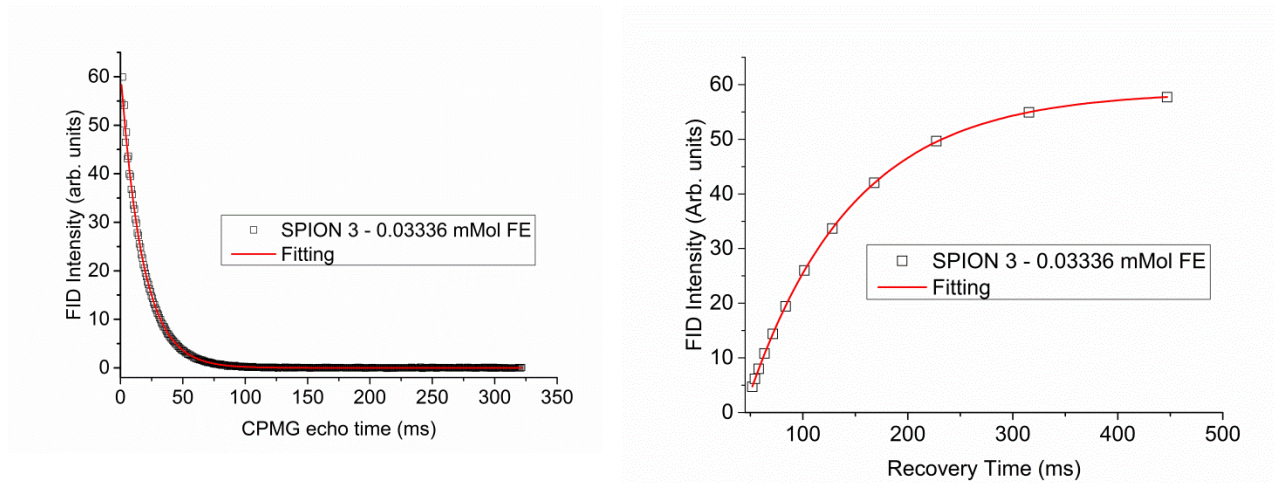


Figure S5: Example of monomodal fitting for sample **SPION3** diluted to 0.125 of the initial concentration. On the left, fitting of CPMG data with an exponential decay function. On the right, fitting of the saturation recovery curve.

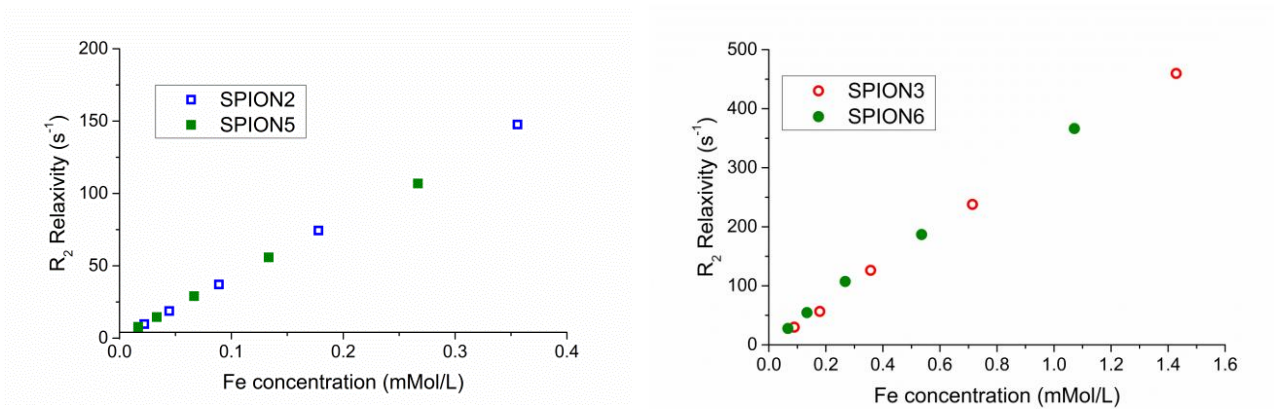


Figure S6: Comparison between analogous particles before and after addition of PTX.

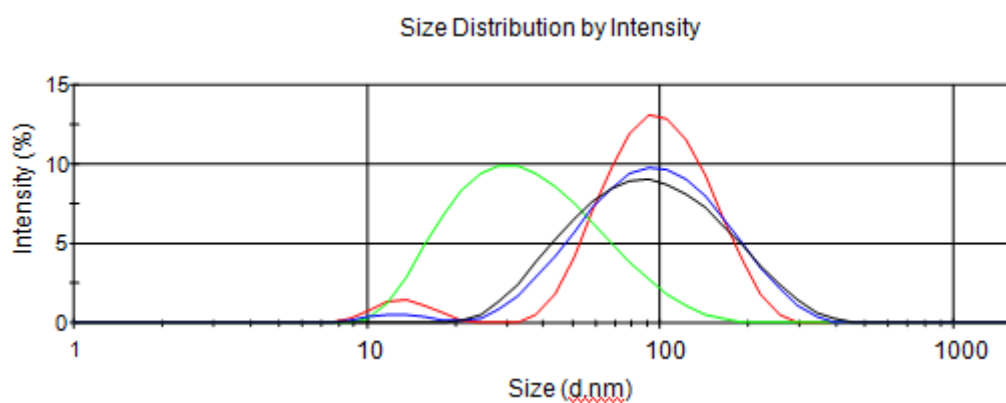


Figure S7. DLS profiles of SPION1 (green), SPION2 (red), SPION3 (blue) and SPION6 (black)

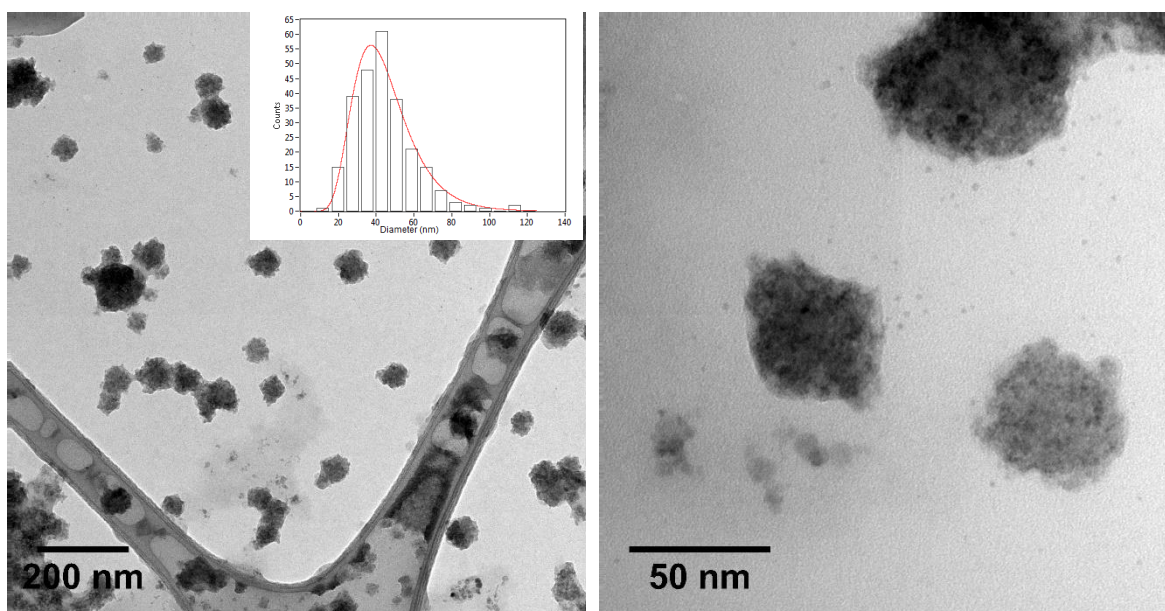


Figure S8. TEM analysis on supra-particles (SPION6): Low (A) and high (B) magnification bright field micrographs and size distribution histogram of the supra-particles ensemble (C).

Table S1. Experimental and theoretical masses values for identified hyaluronic oligosaccharides.

Regular chains where all the glucosamine residues are acetylated (**green** structures); components where one and two glucosamine residues are not acetylated (**red** and **black** structures, respectively); odd species exhibiting a glucuronic acid both at the reducing and at the non reducing end. Regarding to the oligomers containing non N-acetylated glucosamine residues, the extremely high mass accuracy of the MS detector allow to determine the type and number of monomers of each component, but doesn't provide the exact sequence.

| Peak N. | Experimental m/z | z | M | Structure hypothesis | Theoretical m/z | Error (ppm) | |
|---------|-------------------|----|--------|--|-----------------|-------------|--------|
| 1 | 691.2046 | -1 | 692.2 | (G-A) ₂ | 691.2040 | 0.9 | 4 mer |
| 2 | 733.2142 | -1 | 734.2 | G-A- G-ANac | 733.2145 | 0.4 | 4 mer |
| 3 | 534.6551 | -2 | 1071.3 | (G-A) ₂ - G-ANac | 534.6535 | 2.3 | 6 mer |
| 4 | 572.1462 | -1 | 573.1 | (G-ANac) ₁ -G | 572.1457 | 0.9 | 3 mer |
| 5 | 775.2243 | -1 | 776.2 | (G-ANac) ₂ | 775.2251 | 1.0 | 4 mer |
| 6 | 555.6604 | -2 | 1113.2 | (G-A)-(G-ANac) ₂ | 555.6588 | 2.9 | 6 mer |
| 7 | 724.2099 | -2 | 1450.4 | (G-A) ₂ -(G-ANac) ₂ | 724.2093 | 0.8 | 8 mer |
| 8 | <u>576.6654</u> | -2 | 1155.3 | (G-ANac) ₃ | 576.6641 | 2.2 | 6 mer |
| | + 745.2154 | -2 | 1492.4 | (G-A)-(G-ANac) ₃ | 745.2145 | 1.2 | 8 mer |
| 9 | 934.7700 | -2 | 1871.5 | (G-A)-(G-ANac) ₄ | 934.7703 | 0.3 | 10 mer |
| 10 | 934.7705 | -2 | 1871.5 | (G-A)-(G-ANac) ₄ | 934.7703 | 0.2 | 10 mer |
| | + 664.6813 | -2 | 1331.4 | (G-ANac) ₃ -G | 664.6801 | 1.8 | 7 mer |
| | + <u>766.2206</u> | -2 | 1534.4 | (G-ANac) ₄ | 766.2198 | 1.0 | 8 mer |
| 11 | 861.5831 | -3 | 2588.7 | (G-A) ₂ -(G-ANac) ₅ | 861.5815 | 1.9 | 14 mer |
| | + <u>749.2163</u> | -3 | 2250.6 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₅ | 749.2145 | 2.4 | 12 mer |
| 12 | 854.2366 | -2 | 1710.5 | (G-ANac) ₄ -G | 854.2359 | 0.8 | 9 mer |
| | + <u>955.7757</u> | -2 | 1913.6 | (G-ANac) ₅ | 955.7756 | 0.1 | 10 mer |
| 13 | 987.9534 | -3 | 2966.9 | (G-A) ₂ -(G-ANac) ₆ | 987.9520 | 1.4 | 16 mer |
| 14 | <u>763.2198</u> | -3 | 2292.7 | (G-ANac) ₆ | 763.2181 | 2.2 | 12 mer |
| | + 875.5864 | -3 | 2629.8 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₆ | 875.5850 | 1.6 | 14 mer |
| 15 | 1001.9574 | -3 | 3008.9 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₇ | 1001.9555 | 1.9 | 16 mer |
| 16 | <u>889.5904</u> | -3 | 2671.8 | (G-ANac) ₇ | 889.5886 | 2.0 | 14 mer |
| | + 821.8970 | -3 | 2468.7 | (G-ANac) ₆ -G | 821.8954 | 1.9 | 13 mer |
| 17 | <u>1128.3276</u> | -3 | 3388.0 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₈ | 1128.3260 | 1.4 | 18 mer |
| | 1060.6347 | -3 | 3184.9 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₇ -G | 1060.6333 | 1.3 | 17 mer |
| 18 | <u>1015.9610</u> | -3 | 3050.9 | (G-ANac) ₈ | 1015.9590 | 2.0 | 16 mer |
| | + 948.2670 | -3 | 2847.8 | (G-ANac) ₇ -G | 948.2659 | 1.2 | 15 mer |
| 19 | <u>1254.6981</u> | -3 | 3767.1 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₉ | 1254.6965 | 1.3 | 20 mer |
| | + 1187.0052 | -3 | 3564.0 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₈ -G | 1187.0034 | 1.5 | 19 mer |
| 20 | <u>1142.3308</u> | -3 | 3430.0 | (G-ANac) ₉ | 1142.3295 | 1.1 | 18 mer |
| | + 1074.6378 | -3 | 3226.9 | (G-ANac) ₈ -G | 1074.6364 | 1.3 | 17 mer |
| 21 | <u>1035.5505</u> | -4 | 4146.2 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₁₀ | 1035.5481 | 2.3 | 22 mer |
| | + 1381.0697 | -4 | 5528.4 | n.d. ^a | | | |
| 22 | <u>1268.7015</u> | -4 | 5078.8 | n.d. ^a | | | |
| | + 1201.0080 | -4 | 4808.0 | n.d. ^a | | | |
| 23 | 1130.3278 | -4 | 4525.3 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₁₁ | 1130.3260 | 1.6 | 24 mer |
| 24 | <u>1046.0526</u> | -4 | 4188.2 | (G-ANac) ₁₁ | 1046.0508 | 1.7 | 22 mer |
| | + 1395.0722 | -4 | 5584.3 | n.d. ^a | | | |
| 25 | 1225.1068 | -4 | 4904.4 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₁₂ | 1225.1039 | 2.4 | 26 mer |
| 26 | <u>1140.8313</u> | -4 | 4571.3 | (G-ANac) ₁₂ | 1140.8286 | 2.4 | 24 mer |
| | + 1090.0609 | -4 | 4364.2 | (G-ANac) ₁₁ -G | 1090.0588 | 1.9 | |
| 27 | <u>1319.8853</u> | -4 | 5283.6 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₁₃ | 1319.8817 | 2.7 | 23 mer |
| | + 1269.1113 | -4 | 5080.4 | n.d. ^a | | | |
| 28 | <u>1235.6101</u> | -4 | 4946.4 | (G-ANac) ₁₃ | 1235.6065 | 2.9 | 26 mer |
| | + 1184.8404 | -4 | 4743.4 | (G-ANac) ₁₂ -G | 1184.8367 | 3.1 | 25 mer |
| 29 | 1414.6649 | -4 | 5662.6 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₁₄ | 1414.6596 | 3.7 | 30 mer |
| 30 | <u>1330.3883</u> | -4 | 5325.6 | (G-ANac) ₁₄ | 1330.3844 | 2.9 | 28 mer |
| | + 1279.6168 | -4 | 5122.5 | (G-ANac) ₁₃ -G | 1279.6145 | 1.8 | 27 mer |
| 31 | 1425.1662 | -4 | 5704.7 | (G-ANac) ₁₅ | 1425.1622 | 2.8 | 30 mer |
| 32 | 1519.9445 | -4 | 6083.8 | (G-ANac) ₁₆ | 1519.9401 | 2.9 | 32 mer |
| 33 | 1434.8190 | -5 | 7179.0 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₁₈ | 1434.8152 | 2.6 | 38 mer |
| 34 | 1510.6503 | -5 | 7558.3 | (G-A) ₁ -(G-ANac) ₁₉ | 1510.6375 | 8.5 | 40 mer |
| | + 1367.4001 | -5 | 6842.0 | (G-ANac) ₁₈ | 1367.3950 | 3.7 | 36 mer |
| 35 | 1443.2228 | -5 | 7222.1 | (G-ANac) ₁₉ | 1443.2173 | 3.8 | 38 mer |
| 36 | 1519.0577 | -5 | 7600.5 | (G-ANac) ₂₀ | 1519.0396 | 12 | 40 mer |

G: Glucuronic acid; A: glucosamine; ANac: N-acetyl glucosamine. Underlined value: main species.

Table S2. Experimental masses values for identified derivatized hyaluronic oligosaccharides.

| Peaks group | Experimental m/z | Charge state (z) | Molecular weight of derivatized oligomer | Mass interpretation | Molecular weight of intact HA oligomer |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|--|--|--|
| a | 742.2520 | -2 | 1486.5 | (G-ANac) ₂ -G + X | 952.4 |
| | 843.7902 | -2 | 1689.6 | (G-ANac) ₃ + X | 1155.3 |
| b | 1201.8923 | -2 | 2405.8 | (G-ANac) ₄ -G -A + X | 1871.5 |
| | 1033.3466 | -2 | 2068.7 | (G-ANac) ₄ + X | 1534.4 |
| c | 1222.8952 | -2 | 2447.8 | (G-ANac) ₅ + X | 1913.6 |
| d | 941.3048 | -3 | 2826.9 | (G-ANac) ₆ + X | 2292.7 |
| | 1166.0331 | -3 | 3501.0 | (G-ANac) ₆ - (G-A) ₂ + X | 2966.9 |
| e | 1067.6738 | -3 | 3206.0 | (G-ANac) ₇ + X | 2671.8 |
| | 1180.0499 | -3 | 3543.2 | (G-ANac) ₇ - G-A + X | 3008.9 |
| | 999.9759 | -2 | 2001.95 | n.d | - |
| f | 1194.0448 | -3 | 3585.1 | (G-ANac) ₈ + X | 3050.9 |
| | 1306.4210 | -3 | 3922.3 | (G-ANac) ₈ - G-A + X | 3388.0 |
| g | 1320.4192 | -3 | 3964.2 | (G-ANac) ₉ + X | 3430.0 |
| | 1432.7853 | -3 | 4301.4 | (G-ANac) ₉ - G-A + X | 3767.1 |

where X corresponding to a mass difference of about 534.3, was identified as C₃₂H₃₀N₄O₄ (theoretical value of neutral monoisotopic mass: 534.2267) suggesting the formation of derivatized HA chains containing at least three dopamine molecules.

Table S3: Comparison between lattice d-spacing extracted from SAED ring pattern (**Figure 7**, TEM of **SPION1**) and the standard atomic spacings for Fe₃O₄ along with their respective hkl indexes from the PDF database.

| Ring | h | k | l | d-spacing (Å) | |
|------|---|---|---|---------------|---|
| | | | | SPION1 | Standard Fe ₃ O ₄ |
| 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2.97 | 2.97 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2.54 | 2.53 |
| 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2.11 | 2.10 |
| 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1.72 | 1.71 |
| 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1.62 | 1.61 |
| 6 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 1.49 | 1.48 |

Table S4: Dimensional analysis data of iron oxide nanocrystals and final nanosystems.

| Sample | Counted NPs | NPs mean diameter (nm) | σ^- (nm) | σ^+ (nm) | Counted nanosystems | Particles mean diameter (nm) | σ^- (nm) | σ^+ (nm) |
|---------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| SPION1 | 1280 | 4.7 | 1.6 | 1.6 | | | | |
| SPION2 | | | | | 235 | 119 | 27 | 35 |
| SPION3 | | | | | 251 | 40 | 16 | 28 |
| SPION4 | | | | | 241 | 25 | 9 | 13 |
| SPION6 | | | | | 253 | 37 | 14 | 24 |