

**Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for RSC Advances**

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## **Supporting Information**

**Dispersed SnO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles on MoS<sub>2</sub> nanosheets for superior  
gas-sensing performances to ethanol**

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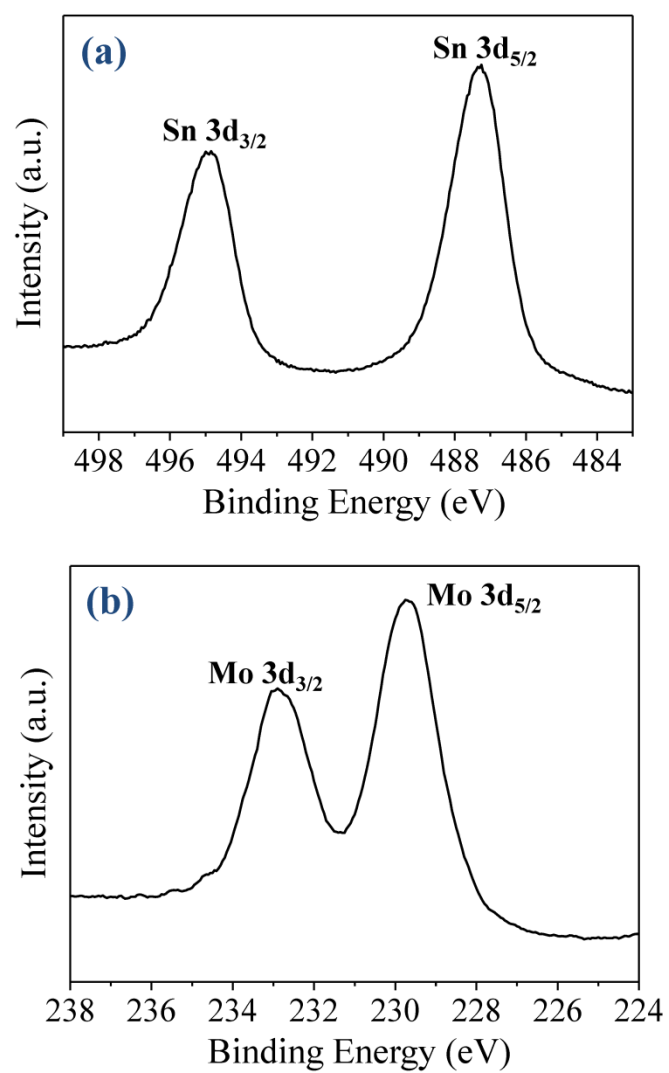
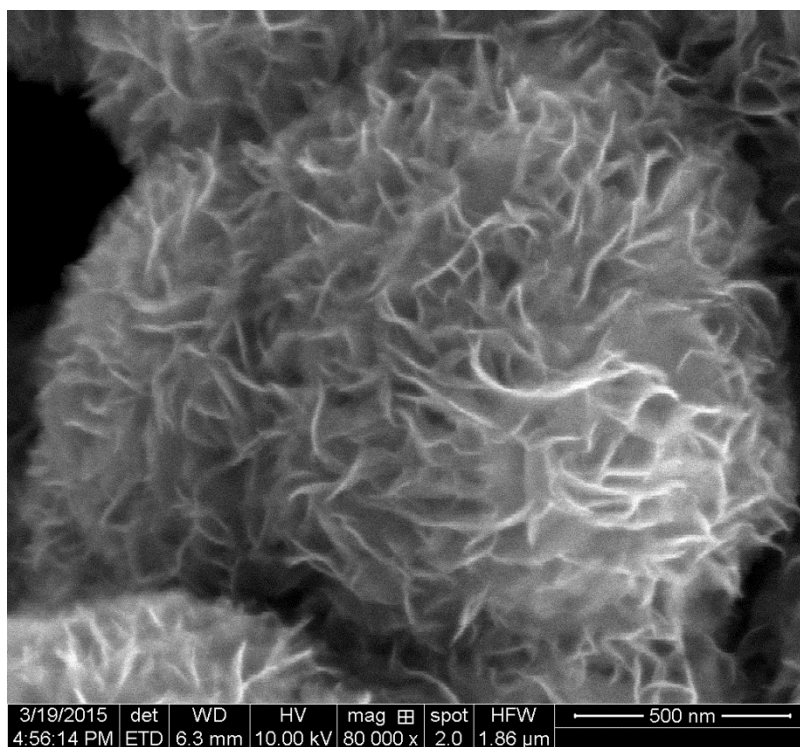
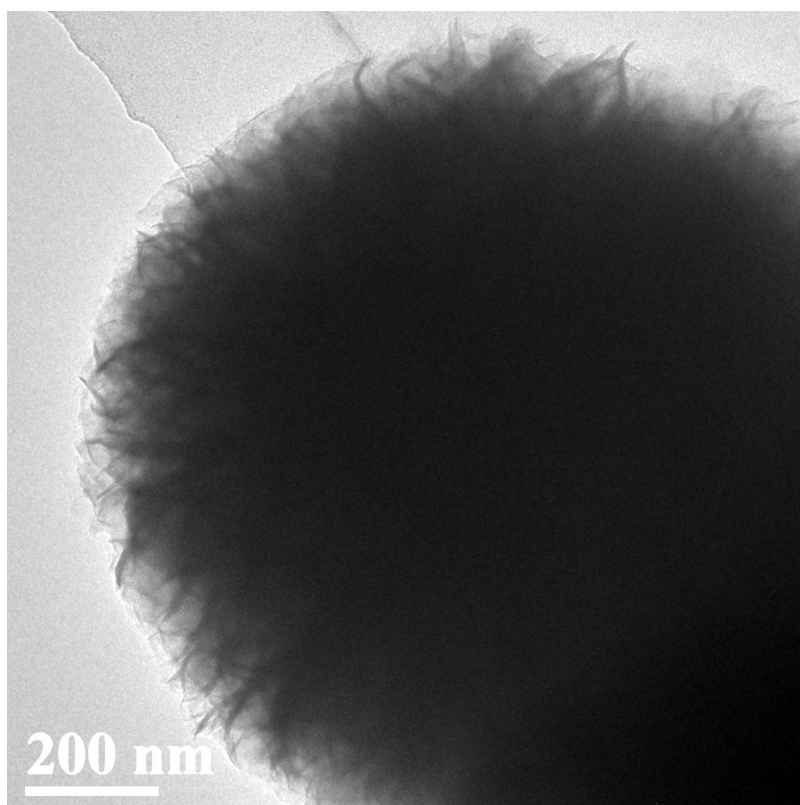


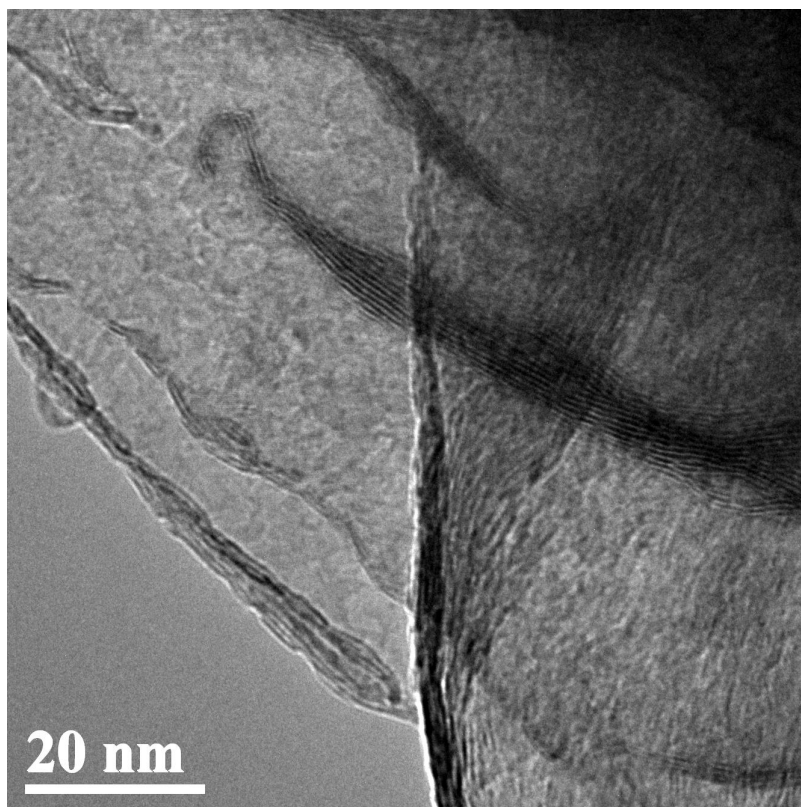
Fig. S1 High resolution XPS spectra of (a) Sn 3d and (b) Mo 3d.



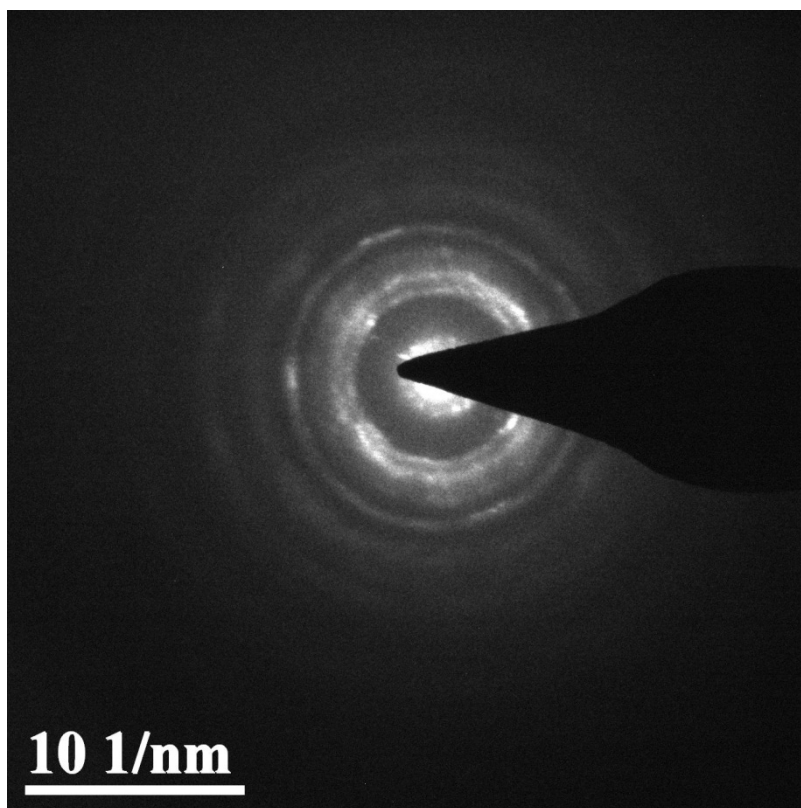
(a)



(b)

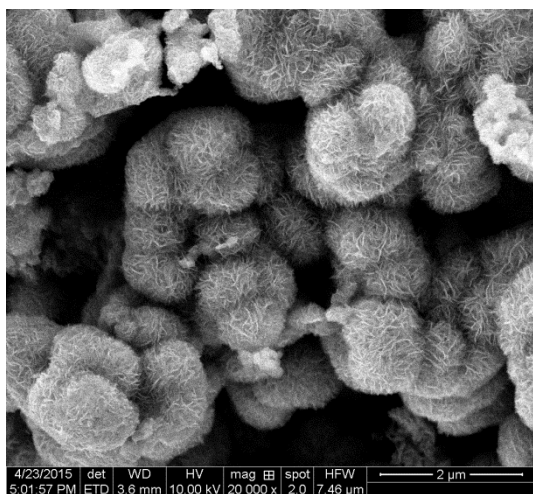


(c)

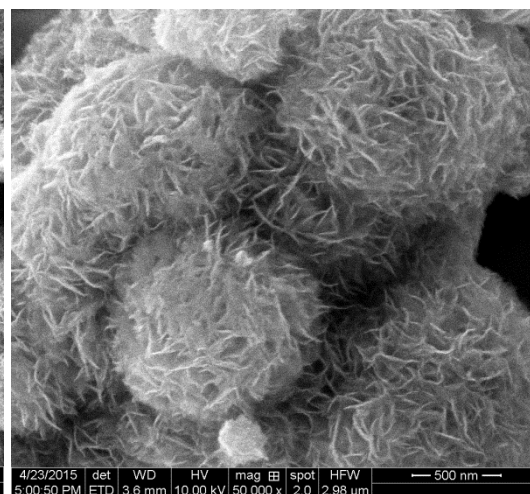


(d)

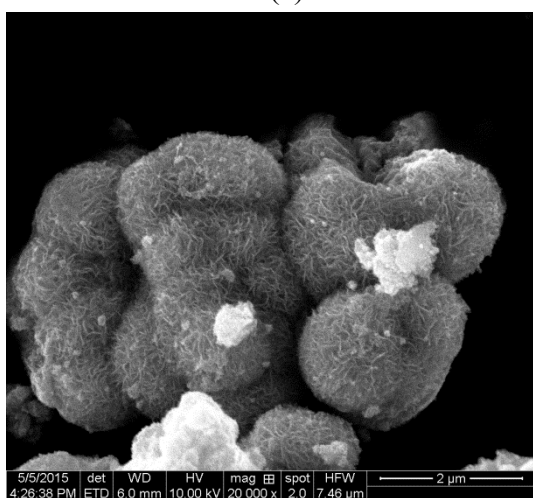
Fig. S2 (a) High magnification FESEM image, (b and c) TEM images, and (d) corresponding SAED pattern of as-prepared MoS<sub>2</sub> nanosheets.



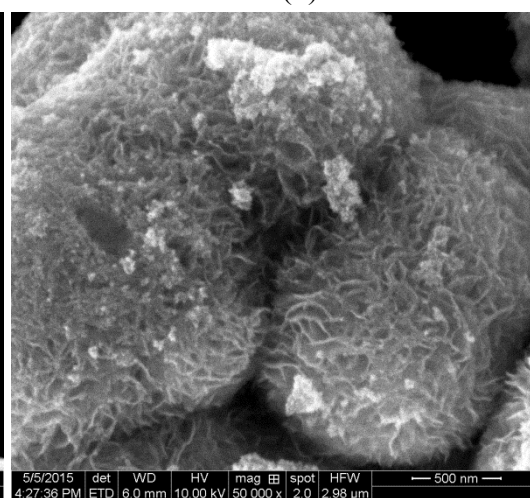
(a)



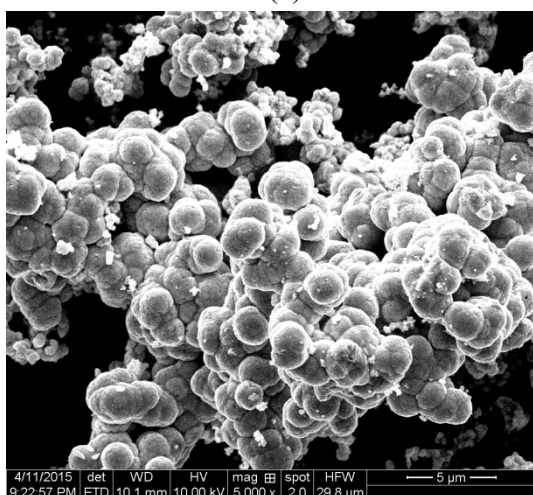
(b)



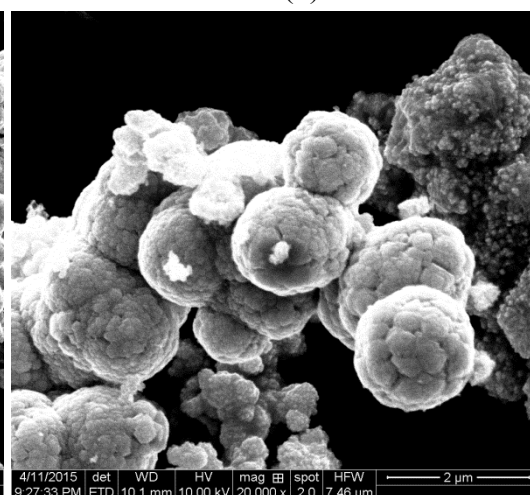
(c)



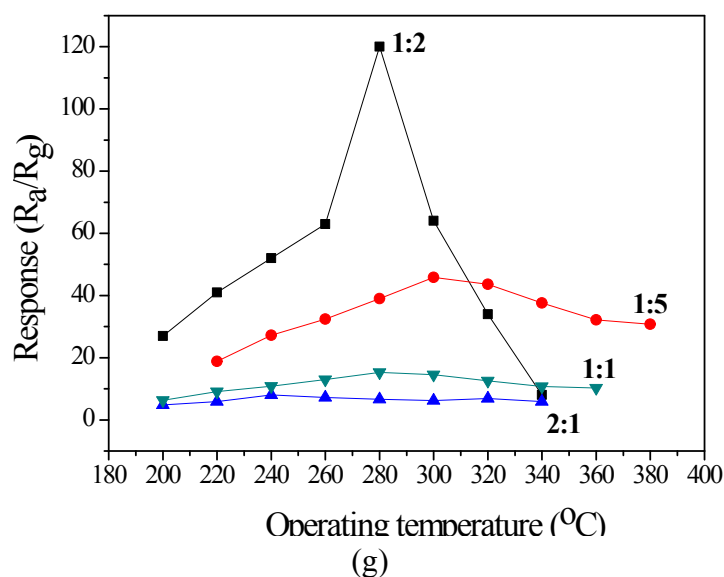
(d)



(e)



(f)



**Fig. S3 FESEM images and gas response of SnO<sub>2</sub>@MoS<sub>2</sub> composites at different molar ratio.**

**MoS<sub>2</sub>:SnO<sub>2</sub> = 2:1 (a and b), 1:1 (c and d) and 1:5 (e and f).**

To reveal the influence of the content of SnO<sub>2</sub> in composites, the study of morphology and gas response of SnO<sub>2</sub>@MoS<sub>2</sub> composites with different reaction conditions was investigated by changing the MoS<sub>2</sub>/SnO<sub>2</sub> molar ratios, while temperature and reaction time were kept at 200 °C and 21 h, respectively. As shown in Fig. S3, with the increase in the molar ratio from 2:1 to 1:1, an increased amount of SnO<sub>2</sub> can be observed on the surface of MoS<sub>2</sub> nanoflowers. When the molar ratio is 1:5, the MoS<sub>2</sub> nanoflowers are almost all covered with SnO<sub>2</sub>. As seen in Fig.S3 (g), only few SnO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles can be observed with the lower molar ratio. In addition, a higher molar ratio can induce the MoS<sub>2</sub> almost all covered with SnO<sub>2</sub>, leading to the decrease of specific surface area and the loss of the supporting substrate for dispersing SnO<sub>2</sub>. As a result, the composites with the MoS<sub>2</sub>/SnO<sub>2</sub> molar ratios of 1:2 exhibit the optimum gas sensing performance.