Supporting Information for

Distribution of Superparamagnetic Au/Fe nanoparticles in an isolated guinea pig brain with intact blood brain barrier

Barbara Sanavio1#, Laura Librizzi3#, Paolo Pennacchio2#, Galina V. Beznoussenko4, Fernanda Sousa1, Paulo Jacob Silva5, Alexandre A. Mironov4, Carolina Frassoni2, Francesco Stellacci5,6, Marco de Curtis3, Silke Krol1,7*

Supplementary Figure 1. Primary culture of Rat hippocampal neurons exposed for three hours to a 0.1mg/ml solution of NPs suspended in ACSF. Primary neuronal cultures were prepared from the hippocampi of 18-day-old fetal rats as described by Frassoni C. et al. (Neuroscience 131 (2005) 813–
Briefly, rat hippocampi were dissociated by treatment with trypsin (0.25% for 15 min at 37 °C), followed by trituration with a fire-polished Pasteur pipette. Dissociated cells were plated on poly-L-lysine-treated (SigmaAldrich) glass coverslips in MEM with 10% horse serum at densities of 20,000 cells/cm². Neurons were then exposed for 3h to a 0.1 mg/ml solution of BODIPY-labeled NP1s and live imaged by CLSM.

**Supplementary Figure 2.** Experimental set up of the experiments on the *in vitro* isolated guinea pig brain (A) B. Scheme of the Au/Fe MUS:OT NPs (NP1s) and their fluorescent-label functionalization. C. TEM micrograph of a sample of NP1s.
**Supplementary figure 3.** Caveolae (arrow) not involved in uptake and trancytosis process (top two panels). Bottom panels (four): NPs do not affect tight junctions.