## **Supporting Information**

## Recyclable fluorescent gold nanocluster membrane for visual sensing of copper(II) ion in aqueous solution

Zhijin Lin, Fenqiang Luo, Tongqing Dong, Liyan Zheng, Yaxian Wang, Yuwu Chi\*,

Guonan Chen

MOE Key Laboratory of Analysis and Detection Technology for Food Safety, Fujian Provincial Key Laboratory of Analysis and Detection Technology for Food Safety, and Department of Chemistry, Fuzhou University, Fujian 350108, China.

## **List of Contents**

1. Optical properties of the as-prepared Au NCs. Fig. S1

2. The photos for a piece of fluorescence gold nanoclusters membrane (FGM) obtained by drying Au NC suspension at 90 °C. Fig. S2

3. The photos of FGM-based sensors using FGMs of various thicknesses. Fig. S3

4. The photos of eliminating the interference of  $\mathrm{Hg}^{2+}$  in detecting  $\mathrm{Cu}^{2+}$  by Au NCs. Fig. S4

5. The fluorescence inhibition ratio of FGM upon addition of various concentrations of  $Cu^{2+}$  Fig. S5



**Figure S1.** Optical properties of the as-prepared Au NCs. (A) The photo of an Au NC solution illuminated by white light; (B) The fluorescent photo of the Au NC solution under UV light excitation (365nm). (C) UV-Vis absorption and fluorescence spectra obtained for the Au NC solution.



**Figure S2.** The photos for a piece of fluorescence gold nanoclusters membrane (FGM) obtained by drying Au NC suspension at 90 °C. (A) The photo was taken under a white light. (B) The photo was taken under a 365 nm UV light.



**Figure S3.** The photos of FGM-based sensors using FGMs of various thicknesses: (a) 67  $\mu$ m; (b) 100; (c) 133  $\mu$ m; (d) 167  $\mu$ m. The photo was taken under 365 nm UV light.



**Figure S4.** The photos of eliminating the interference of  $Hg^{2+}$  in detecting  $Cu^{2+}$  by Au NCs. (A) The fluorescence of Au NCs in the presence of  $Hg^{2+}$ ; (B) The fluorescence of Au NCs in the presence of  $Cu^{2+}$ ; (C) The fluorescence of Au NCs in the presence of  $Sn^{2+}$  and  $Hg^{2+}$ ; (D) The fluorescence of Au NCs in the presence of  $Sn^{2+}$  and  $Cu^{2+}$ . The photo was taken under 365 nm UV light. The concentration of metal ions:  $[Hg^{2+}]=5\times10^{-5}$  M;  $[Cu^{2+}]=10^{-3}$  M;  $[Sn^{2+}]=10^{-3}$  M. The pH value of the acetate buffer solution is 6.



**Figure S5.** The calibration curve of the FGM sensors at pH 6. The fluorescence inhibition ratio (F0/F) was measure under various concentrations of  $Cu^{2+}$  (From bottom to top): 0, 10, 30, 50, 75, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500  $\mu$ M). The error bars represent the standard deviation in three measurements.