## Surface Modified Multifunctional ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Nanoparticles for Hydrophobic and Hydrophilic Anti-Cancer Drug Molecules Loading

Debabrata Maiti, <sup>†</sup> Arindam Saha<sup>†</sup> and Parukuttyamma Sujatha Devi<sup>\*</sup>

Sensor & Actuator Division, CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Kolkata 700032, India.

† These two authors contributed equally.

\*E-mail:psujathadevi@cgcri.res.in, psujathadevi@gmail.com



Fig. S1: FT-IR spectra of (a) Fe-Oleate (b) Zn-Oleate (c) as prepared ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles



Fig. S2: The measured particle size distribution of (a) chloroform dispersed  $ZnFe_2O_4$  nanoparticles (inset) and the average particles size is ~20 nm.



**Fig. S3:** (a) Fast Fourier transformation (FFT) pattern clearly indicates the mono crystalline nature of the particles which have 311 planes of  $ZnFe_2O_4$  (b) Energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) shows the presence of Zn and Fe elements in the sample (c) and (d) are HRTEM images of  $ZnFe_2O_4$  nanoparticles.



**Fig. S4:** (a) The excitation spectrum at  $\lambda_{\text{emission}}$  480 nm and (b) Emission spectrum at  $\lambda_{\text{excitation}}$ -400 nm of ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles.



Fig. S5: The photoluminescence spectra of chloroform dispersed ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles. The solution was excited at different excitation wavelengths,  $\lambda_{\text{excitation}}$ - 320, 340, 360, 380, 400 and 420 nm and emission peaks were centered at 470-480 nm. The highest intense peak was  $\lambda_{\text{emission}}$ -480 nm corresponding to the  $\lambda_{\text{excitation}}$ -400 nm



**Fig. S6:** Fluorescamine test performed to confirm the presence of primary amines groups on hydrophilic nanoparticle. For the test 200  $\mu$ l of hydrophilic ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> solution and 100  $\mu$ l of carbonate buffer solution were mixed together and fluorescamine was added the solution. The emission of the solution was carried upon excitation wavelength of 400 nm.



Fig. S7: The photoluminescence spectra of water dispersed  $ZnFe_2O_4$  and DAUN loaded  $ZnFe_2O_4$  nanoparticles on excitation at 360 nm.



Fig. S8: UV-visible spectra for (a) Curcumin loading and (b) DAUN loading on  $ZnFe_2O_4$  nanoparticles



Fig. S9: Zeta potential measurement of hydrophilic and drug loaded ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticle



Fig. S10: Hydrodynamic particle size of  $ZnFe_2O_4$  nanoparticles in DMEM and different pH-buffer solutions.



**Fig. S11:** Colloidal stability of  $ZnFe_2O_4$  nanoparticles in DMEM and different pH-buffer solutions. Digital images show optically clear solutions.



**Fig. S12:** Emission spectra depicting the drug release from curcumin loaded  $ZnFe_2O_4$  nanoparticles a) at pH ~5 b) at pH ~7.4 and DAUN loaded  $ZnFe_2O_4$  nanoparticles c) at pH ~5 and d) at pH ~7.4



**Fig. S13** The bright field (a,c) and fluorescence (b,d) imaging of CHO and HeLa cells respectively.



**Fig. S14:** MTT assay of ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles (A, B), daunorubicin (C, D) and curcumin (E, F), daunorubicin (G-J) and curcumin (K-N) loaded ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles treated on normal cell line (CHO).