

## Electronic Supporting Information

# **Facile preparation of albumin-stabilized gold nanostars for targeted photothermal ablation of cancer cells**

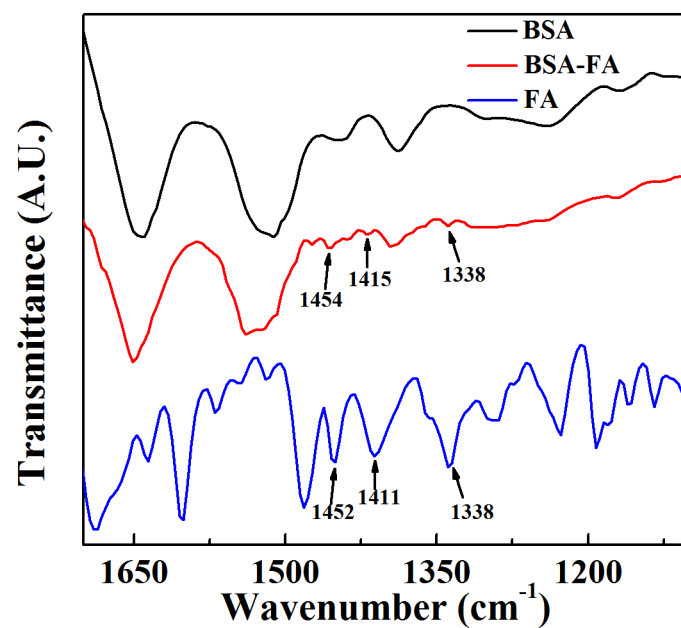
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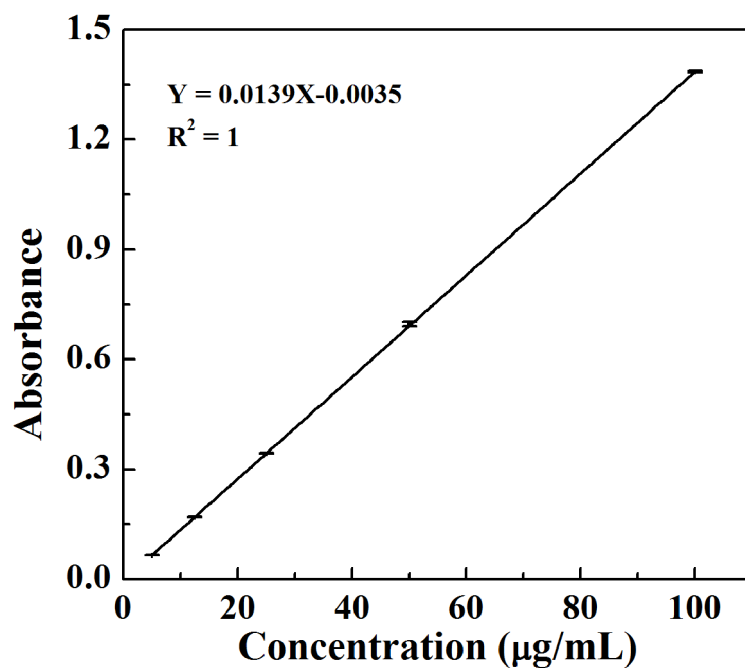
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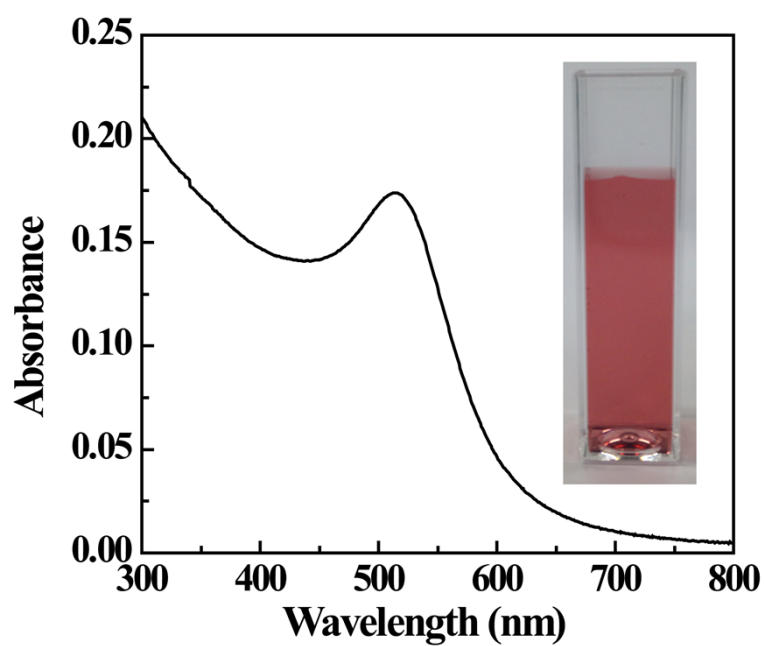
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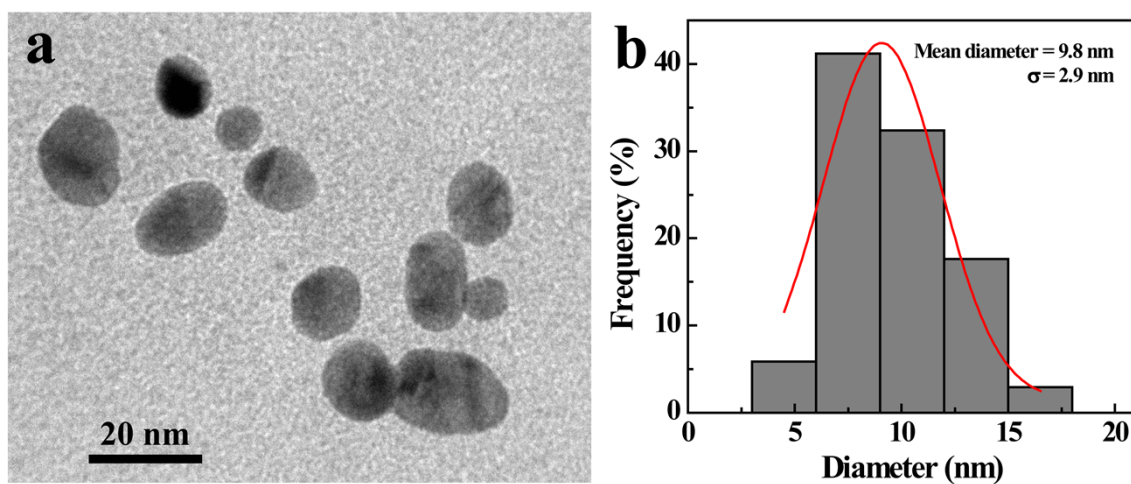
**Fig. S1** FTIR spectra of BSA, BSA-FA conjugation and FA.



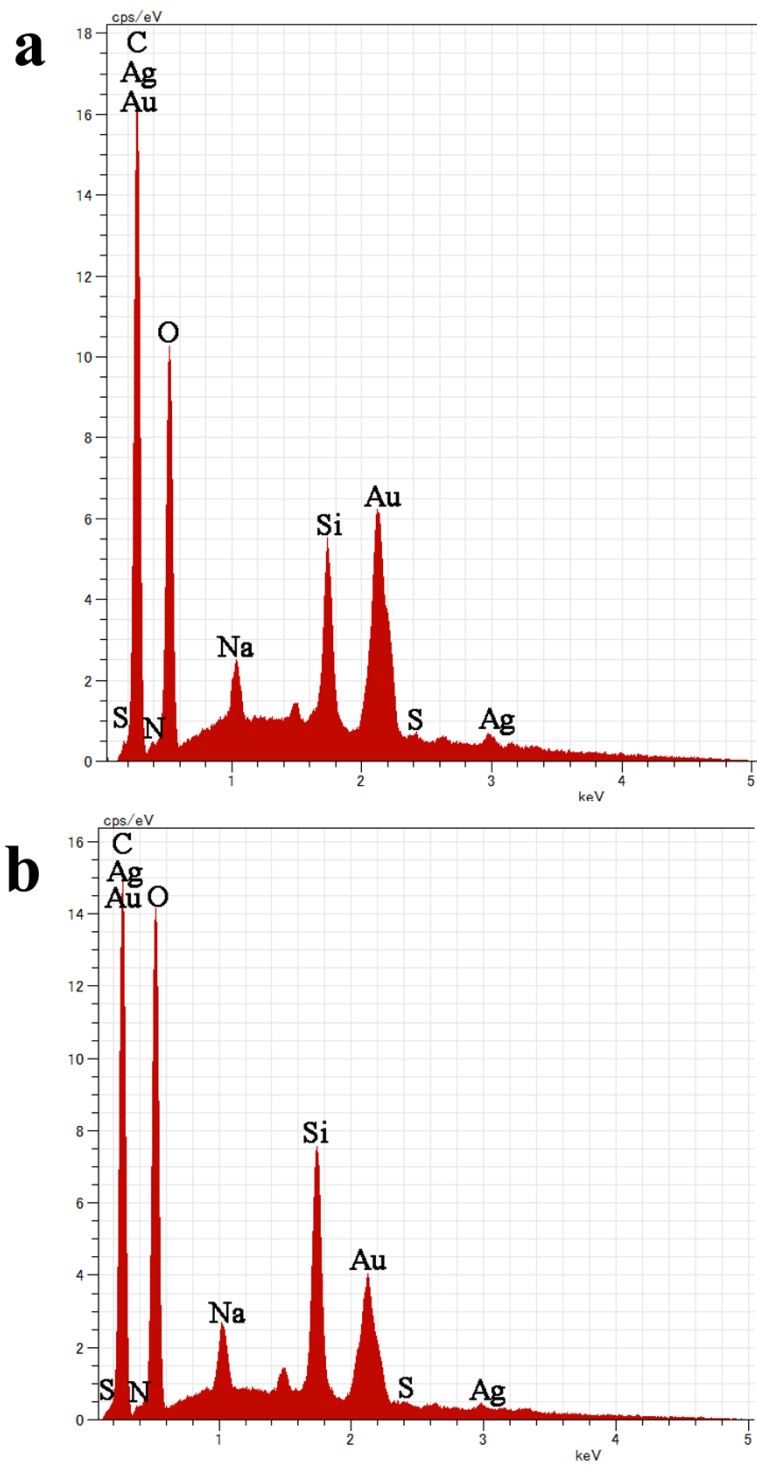
**Fig. S2** Calibration curve of FA absorption at 365 nm versus the FA concentration.



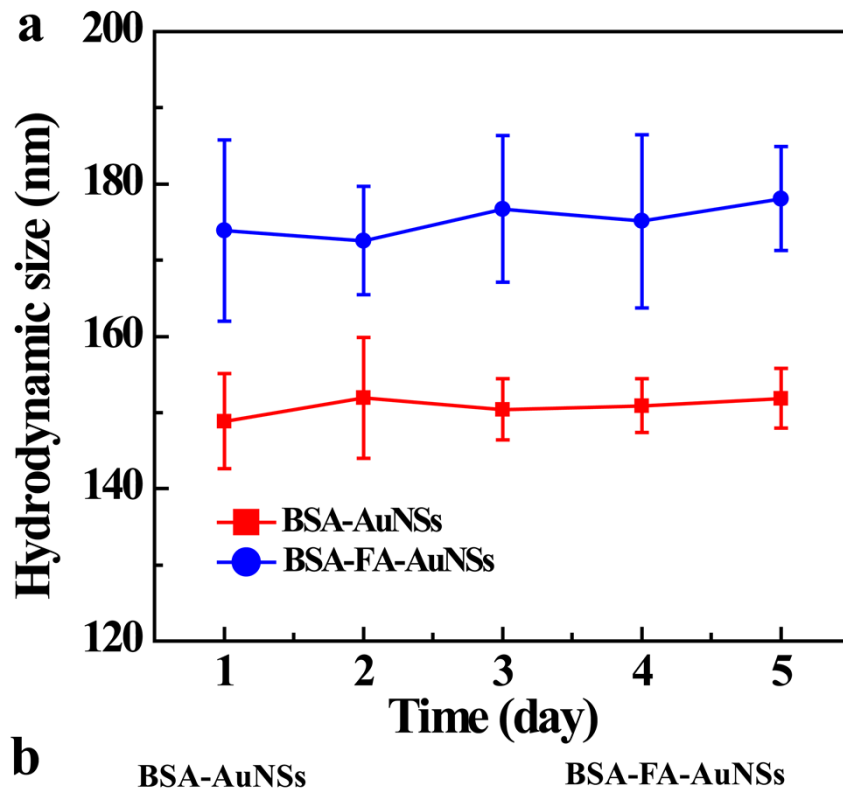
**Fig. S3** UV-Vis spectroscopy of trisodium citrate-stabilized Au seeds (insert is the photo of Au seeds solution).



**Fig. S4** TEM image (a) and size distribution histogram (b) of trisodium citrate-stabilized Au seeds.



**Fig. S5** EDS spectra of BSA-AuNSs (a) and BSA-FA-AuNSs (b).



**Fig. S6** Hydrodynamic size of BSA-AuNSs and BSA-FA-AuNSs dispersed in water at different storage time (a). The photos of BSA-AuNSs and BSA-FA-AuNSs dispersed in water, PBS and cell culture medium (containing 10% FBS) over a period of 5 d (b).