

**One step emission tunable synthesis of PEG coated Ag<sub>2</sub>S NIR quantum dots and the development of receptor targeted drug delivery vehicles thereof**

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**Table S1.** Size distribution and zeta potential of Ag<sub>2</sub>S-PEG QDs in water.

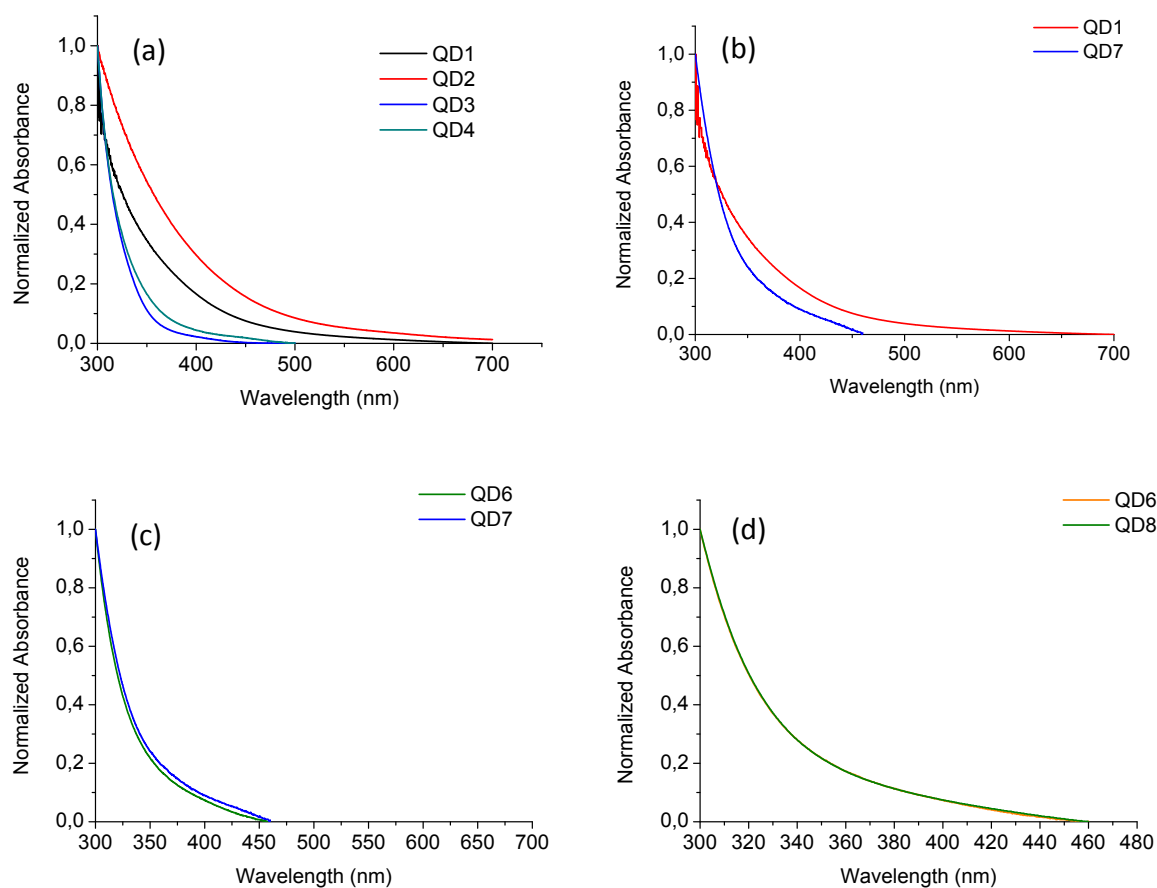
Rxn Code	Hydrodynamic Size (Dh) <sup>a</sup> (nm)			PDI <sup>b</sup>	Zeta Pot. (mV)
	Intensity	Volume	Number		
QD1	14.87	8.37	6.19	0.216	-1.23
QD2	21.50	2.78 (83 %)	2.47	0.357	-21.5 (50 %)
		11.06 (16.9 %)			+3.88 (50 %)
QD3	15.24 (75.5 %)	9.45	2.70	0.444	-5.66
	298 (17.3 %)				
QD4	16.39	3.65	1.77	0.257	-12.1 (49.1 %)
					+2.42 (34.5 %)
QD5	12.73	7.22	5.36	0.197	-4.10
QD6	42.60	11.91	8.04	0.449	-1.01
QD7	169.7 (88 %)	18.09	11.90	0.479	-7.55 (83.3 %)
	18.89 (10 %)				-32.1 (16.7 %)

<sup>a</sup> Hydrodynamic diameter measured by DLS. <sup>b</sup> Size distribution calculated by DLS

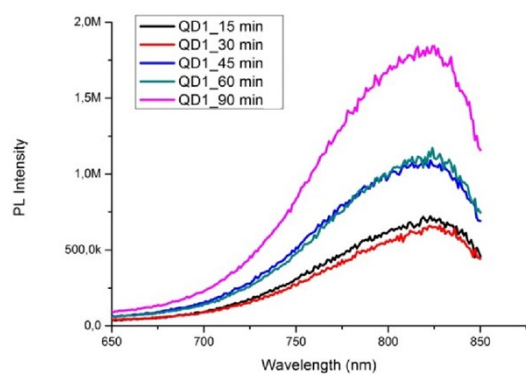
**Table S2.** Size distribution and zeta potential of Ag<sub>2</sub>S-PEG QDs before and after DOX loading in water.

Sample	Zeta Potential (mV)	Hydrodynamic size by DLS (nm)
QD	-13 (st. dev. 6.31)	10.45/St.Dev: 2.86 (N)* 13.08/St.Dev: 4.47 (V)**
QD-DOX	-10.8 (st. dev: 6.83)	10.84/St.Dev:2.9(N)* 13.40/St.Dev:4.7(V)**

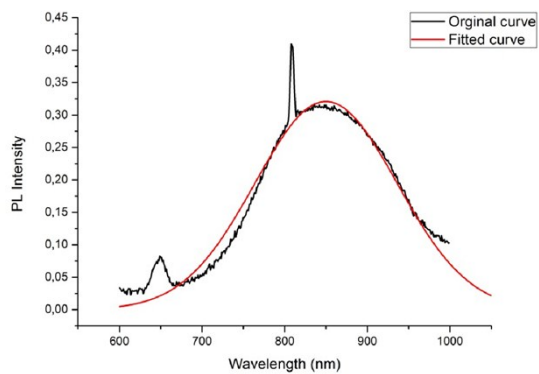
\* Number average, \*\* Volume average



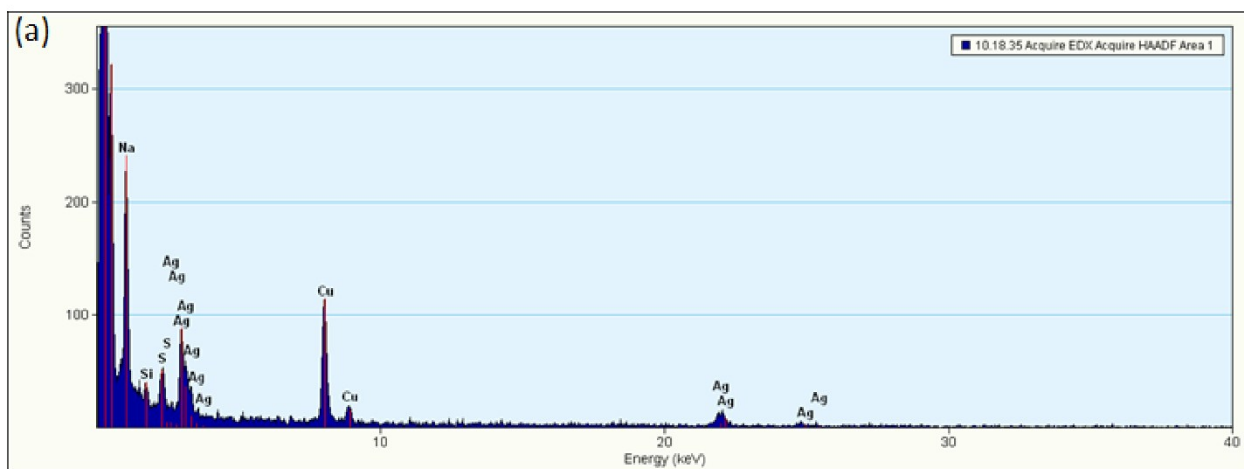
**Figure S1.** Normalized absorbance spectra of Ag<sub>2</sub>S-PEG QDs.



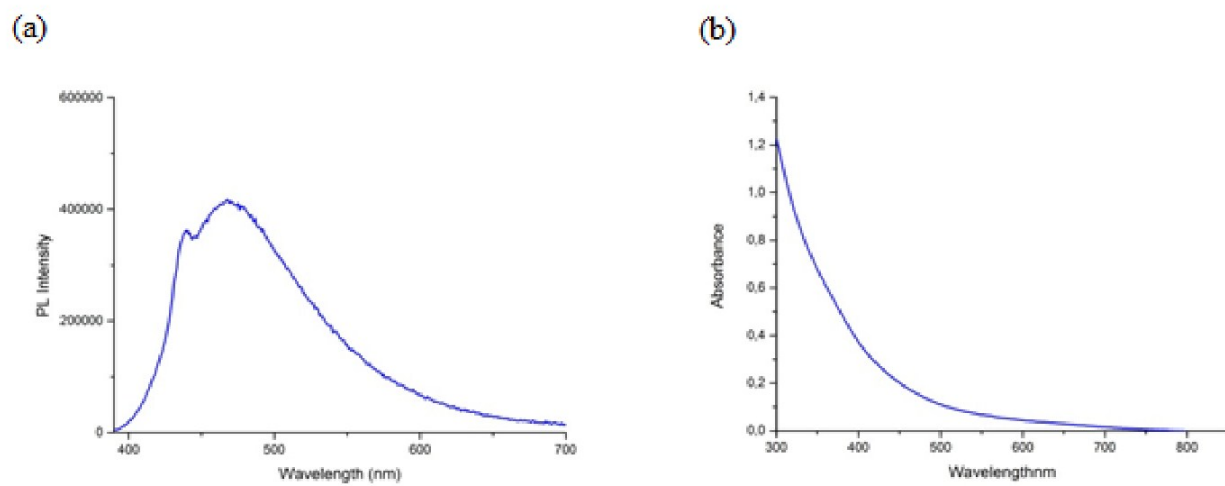
**Figure S2.** Photoluminescence spectra of QD1 at different reaction times (15, 30, 45, 60 and 90 minutes).



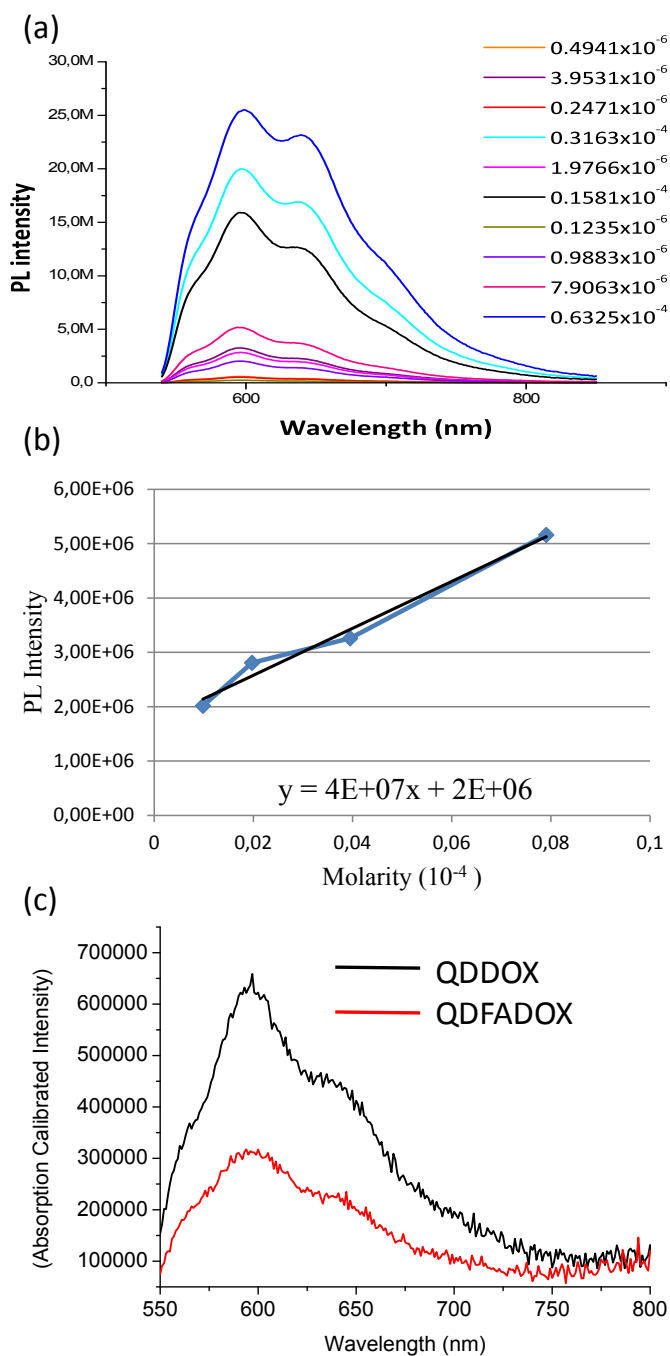
**Figure S3.** Original and fitted photoluminescence spectrum of QD1. Original curve was fitted by OriginPro 9.0 software equation  $(y=y_0+A*\exp(-0.5*((x-x_c)/w)^2))$ .



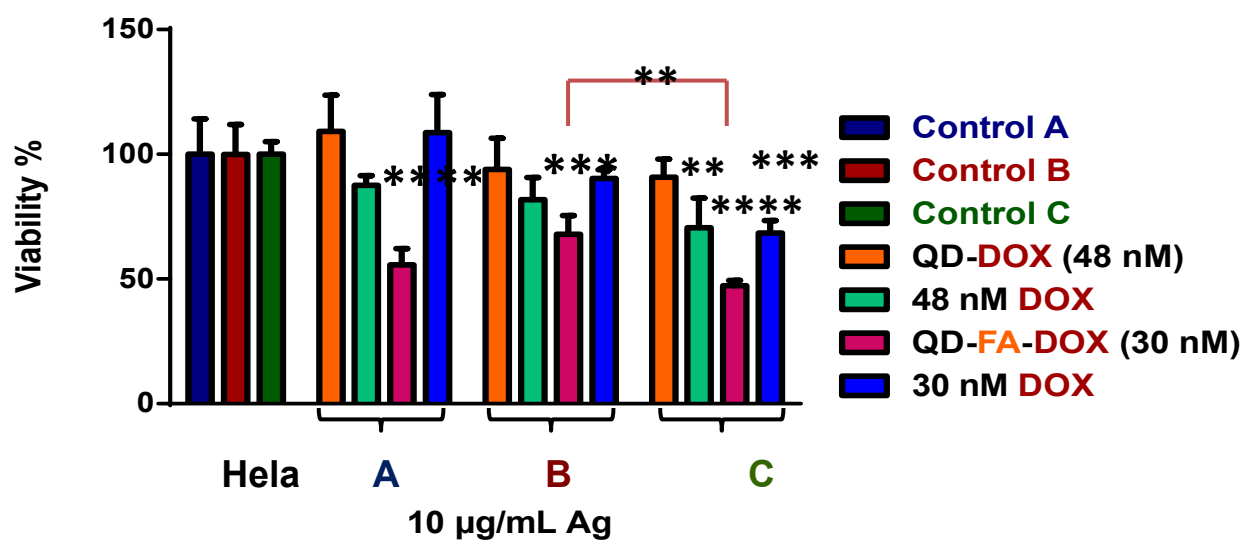
**Figure S4.** The EDX image of QD8 .



**Figure S5.** Photoluminescence (a) and absorbance (b) spectrum of folic acid tagged  $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$ -PEG QD (QD-FA).



**Figure S6.** (a) Photoluminescence spectra ( $\lambda_{exc}$ : 520 nm) of Doxorubicin hydrochloride at different concentration ( $0.1235 \times 10^{-6}$  to  $0.6325 \times 10^{-4}$  M). (b) Concentration dependence of DOX.HCl luminescence intensity at 595 nm. (c) Photoluminescence spectra of QD-FA-DOX and QD-DOX between 550-800 nm.



**Figure S7.** In vitro viability of HeLa cells incubated 24 hours with QD-FA-DOX at 10 µg Ag /mL (0.836 mg QD/mL), QD-DOX at 10 µg Ag /mL (0.672 mg QD/mL) and with free DOX (30-48 nM). In vitro cell viability studies were performed in (I) complete DMEM, (II) folic acid free medium with 2 mM folic acid, and (III) folic acid free medium. Significant difference was observed between control groups and QD treated cells (one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison at  $p < 0.05$  (\*),  $p < 0.01$  (\*\*),  $p < 0.001$  (\*\*\*) and  $p < 0.0001$  (\*\*\*\*)).