

Supporting Information

## pH-induced transformation of captopril-capped Au<sub>25</sub> to brighter Au<sub>23</sub> nanoclusters

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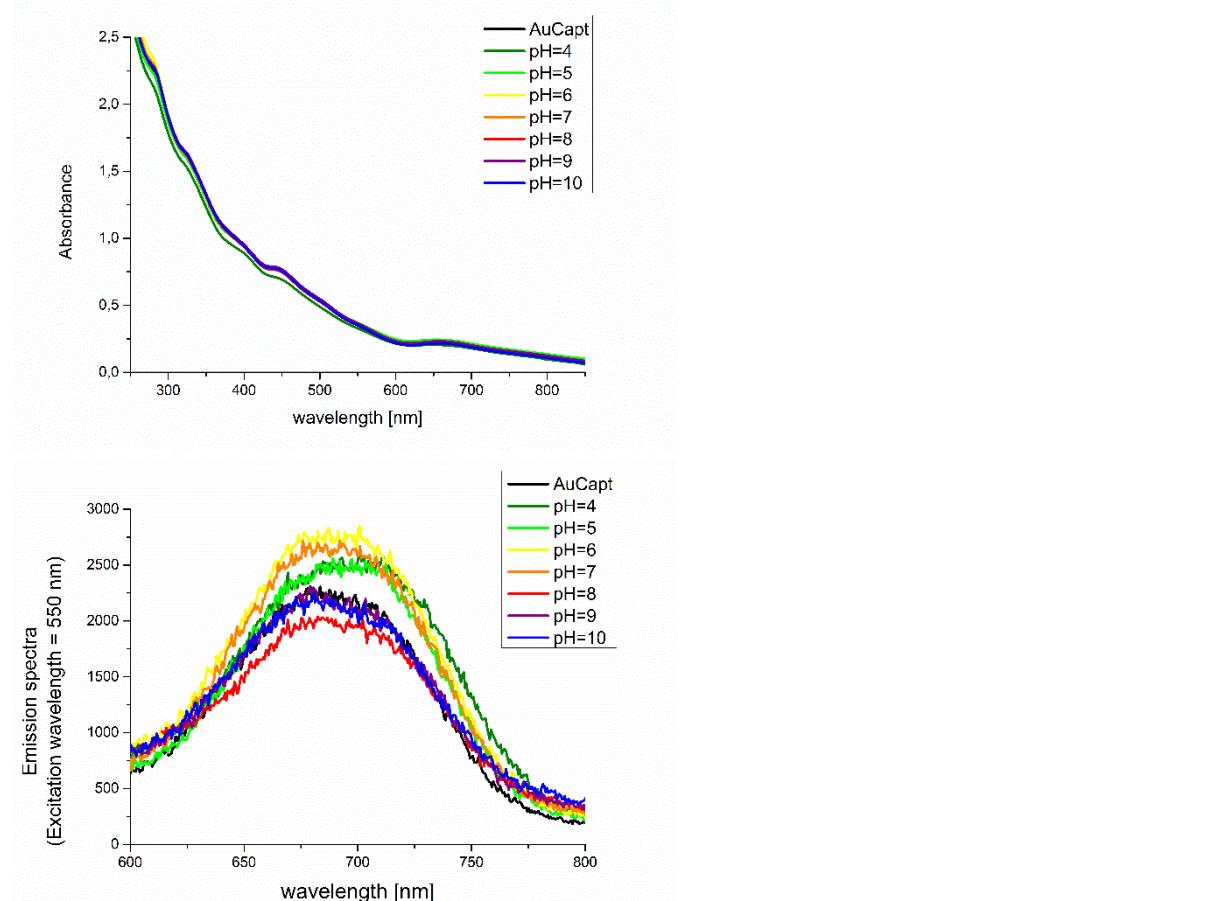


Figure S1. Absorption and emission spectra of AuCapt in a range of pH.

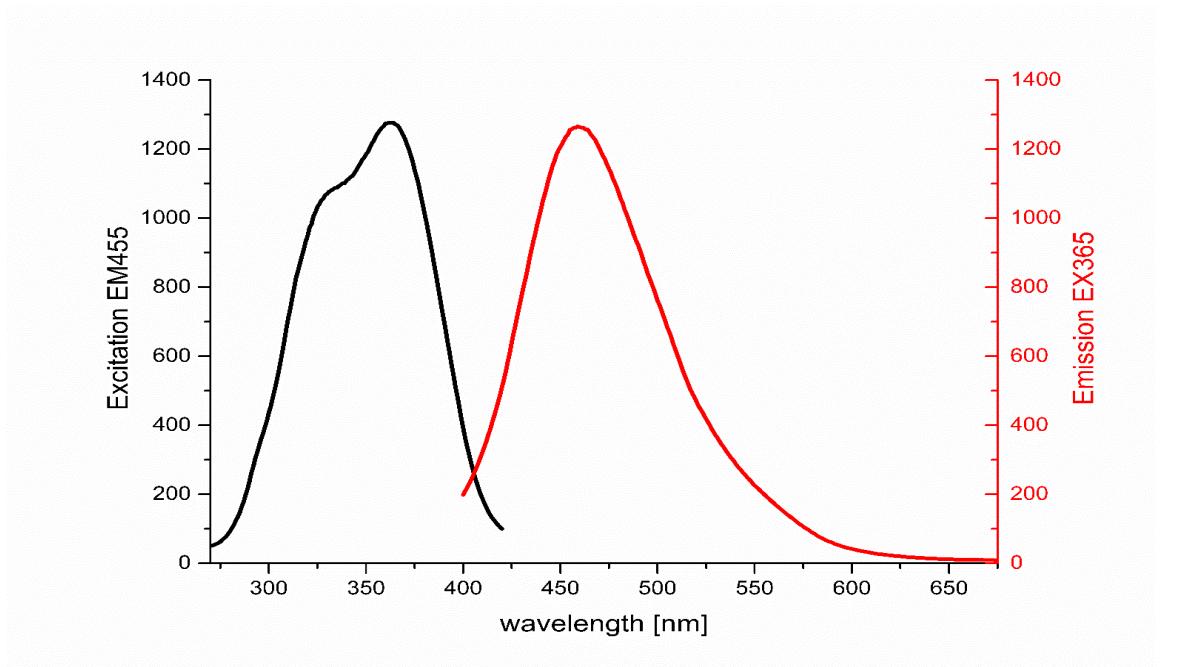


Figure S2. Excitation and emission spectra of Au(I)Capt polymer.

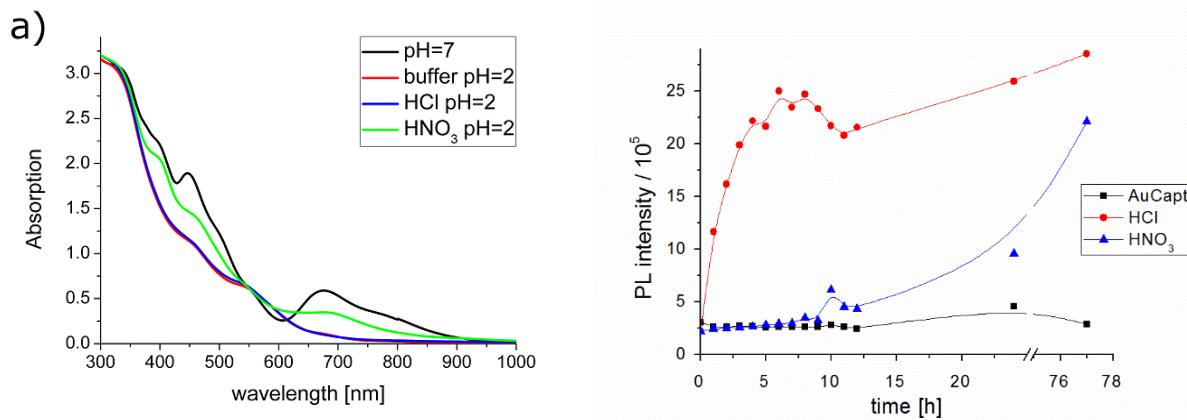


Figure S3. (a) Absorption spectra of AuCapt in buffer solutions (pH = 7 black line, pH = 2 red line) and in HCl and HNO<sub>3</sub> of pH = 2 (blue and green line, respectively). The measurements were taken 24 hours after addition of acid / buffer. (b) PL changes in time for AuCapt in pH = 7, AuCapt in HCl and HNO<sub>3</sub> solutions

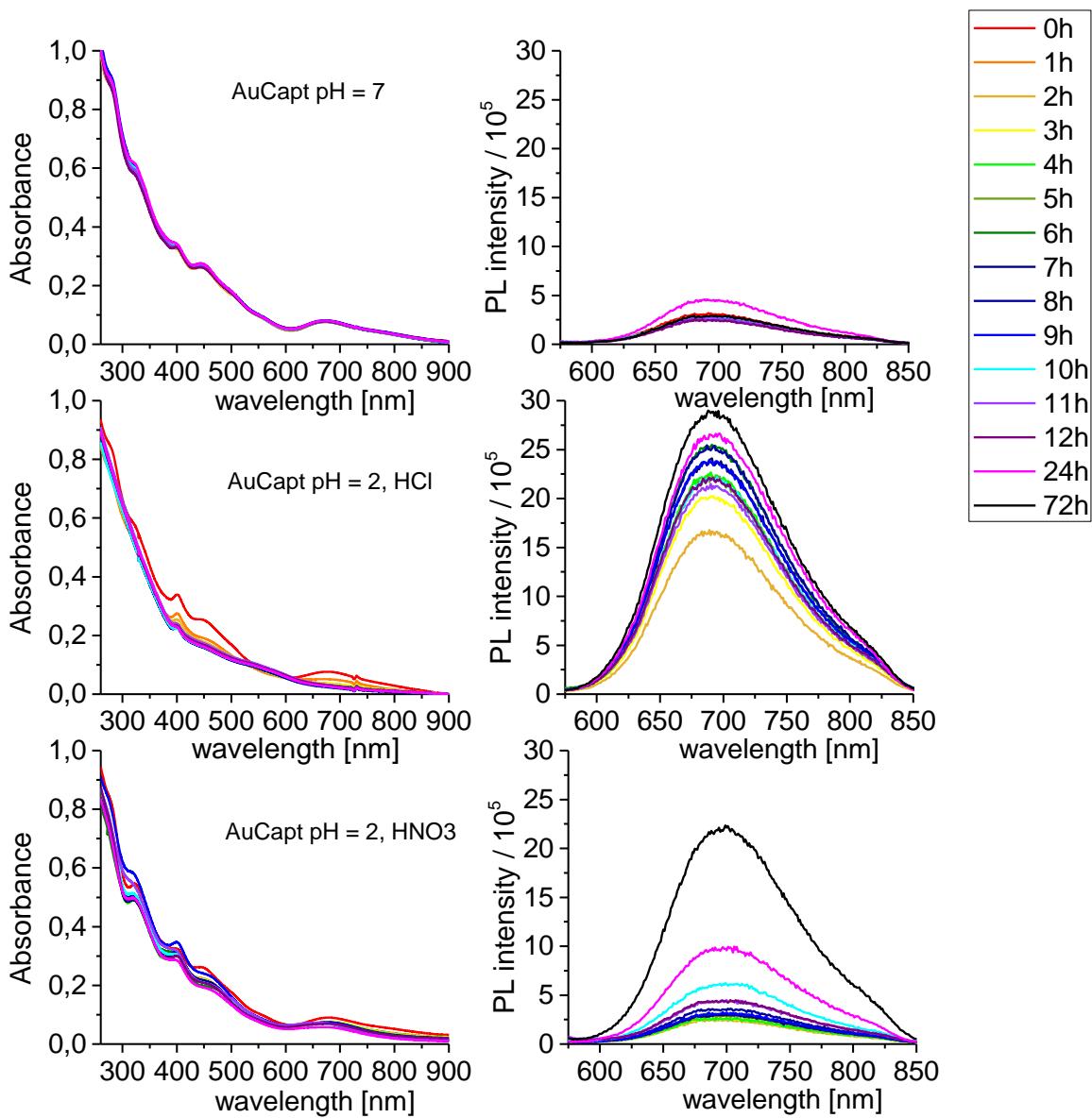


Figure S4. Development of new nanoclusters in solutions of  $\text{Au}_{25}\text{Capt}_{18}$  in acids of pH=2. The first column corresponds to absorption and the second to emission with excitation at 550nm.

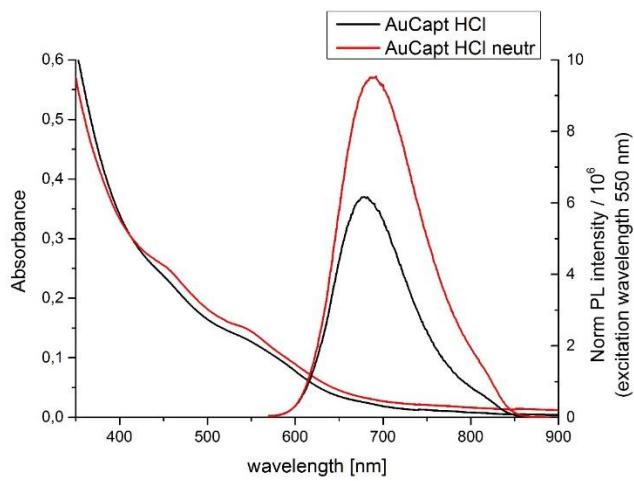


Figure S5. Absorption and emission spectra of AuCapt treated with HCl (black lines) and after neutralization with NaOH (red lines).

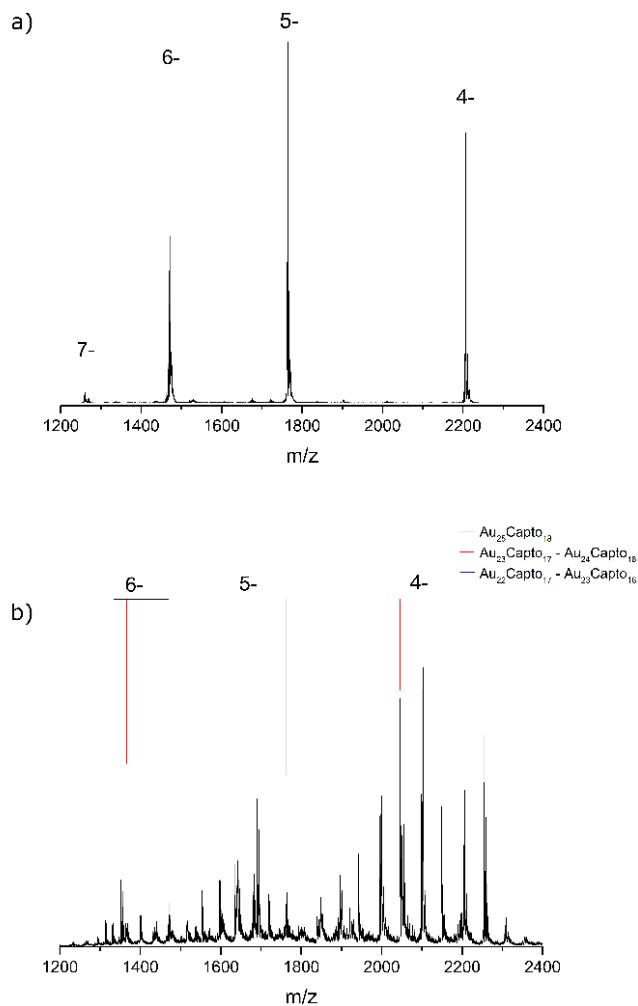


Fig. S6. Electrospray Ionisation Mass Spectrometry. ESI-MS spectra and size assignment of AuCapt NCs before (a) and after pH=2 treatment (b).

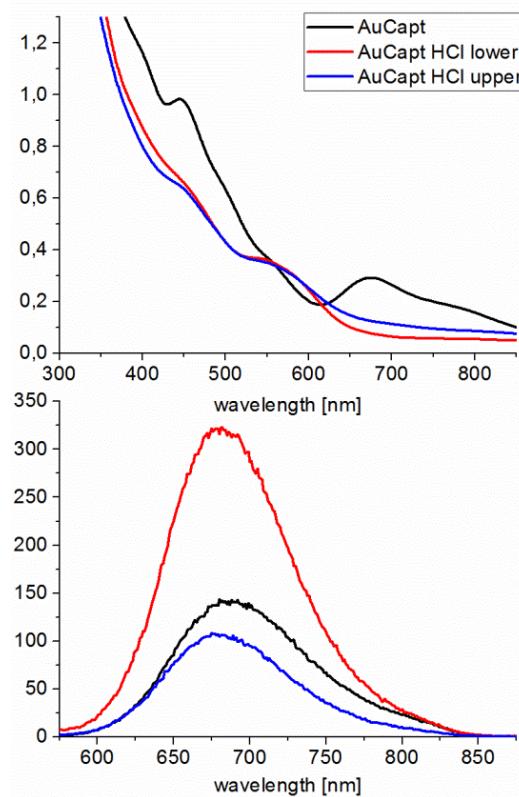


Figure S7. (top) absorption (bottom) emission spectra of separated fractions of AuCapt (black – AuCapt before pH = 2 treatment, red – lower fraction obtained in electrophoresis, blue – upper fraction obtained in electrophoresis).

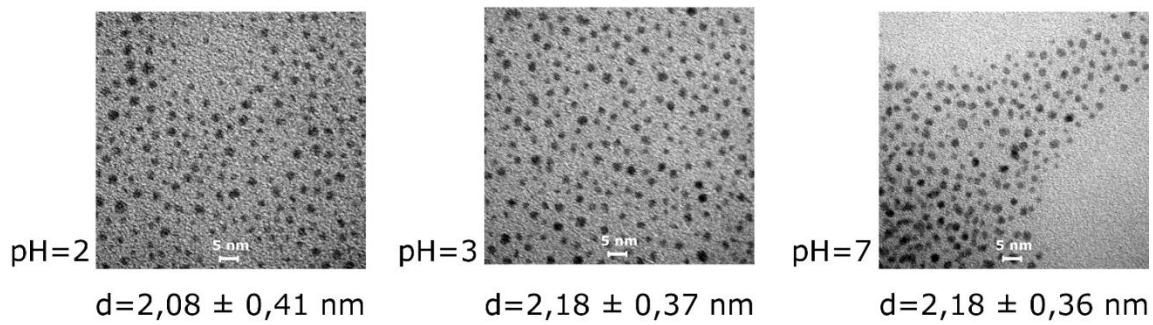


Figure S8. TEM images of AuCapt nanoclusters in pH = 2, 3 and 7.

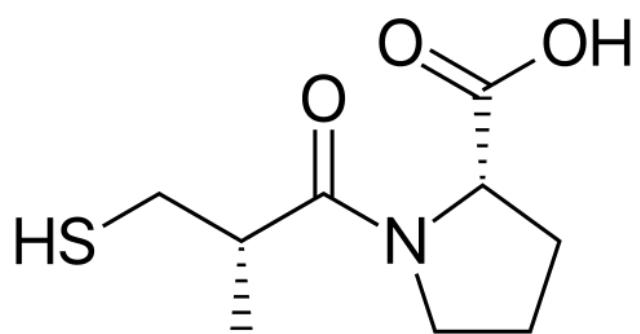


Figure S9. Captopril structure.