

1 *[Supporting Information]*

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3 **Selective dual detection of Hg<sup>2+</sup> and TATP based on amphiphilic conjugated**  
4 **polythiophenes-quantum dot hybrid materials**

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## 36 **1. Materials and characterization**

37 The 3-thiopheneacetic acid (98%), *N,N*-dimethylethylenediamine (95%), 1-  
38 bromooctadecane (97%), 8-hydroxyquinoline, boric acid (99.8%), dicyclohexylcarbodiimide  
39 (DCC, 99%), 4-(*N,N*-dimethylamino)-pyridine (DMAP, 98%), *N*-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS,  
40 98%), polyethylene glycol ( $M_n$  2000),  $CdCl_2$  (99%), Te powder, and  $NaBH_4$  were obtained from  
41 Sigma-Aldrich and used without further purification. Various metallic salts (AR) including  
42 magnesium chloride ( $MgCl_2$ ), stannous chloride ( $SnCl_2$ ), manganese chloride ( $MnCl_2$ ), ferric  
43 chloride ( $FeCl_3$ ), cobalt chloride ( $CoCl_2$ ), nickel chloride ( $NiCl_2$ ), copper chloride ( $CuCl_2$ ), zinc  
44 chloride ( $ZnCl_2$ ), cadmium nitrate ( $Cd(NO_3)_2$ ), mercury chloride ( $HgCl_2$ ), lead nitrate ( $Pb(NO_3)_2$ ),  
45 and chromic chloride ( $CrCl_3$ ) were received from Sigma-Aldrich. The distilled water used in all  
46 experiments had a resistivity higher than  $18\text{ M}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$  from a Milli-Q water purification system.

47 FT-IR spectra were recorded on an FT/IR-6300 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer  
48 (Jasco, Japan).  $^1H$ -NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz using a Bruker NMR instrument. The  
49 fluorescence experiments were performed on an FP-6500 spectrofluorometer (Jasco, Japan) using  
50 a quartz cuvette with a 1-cm path length. The absorption spectra were obtained using an Agilent  
51 8543 (Agilent, USA) UV/Vis spectrophotometer. TEM measurements were carried out using a  
52 JEM-2100F transmission electron microscope (JEOL, Tokyo, Japan) operating at 200 kV. The  
53 XRD powder pattern was obtained on an X'Pert PRO MPD X-ray diffractometer (Analytical,  
54 Netherlands) with  $Cu\ K_{\alpha}$  ( $K_{\alpha 2} / K_{\alpha 1} = 0.5$ ) radiation. DLS analysis was carried out using a Zetasizer  
55 Nano ZS90 apparatus (Malvern Instruments, Worcestershire, U.K.).

## 56 **Safety note**

57 TATP is an extremely dangerous explosive because it shows high sensitivity to friction,  
58 temperature changes, and mechanical shocks. Therefore, inexperienced handling of TATP may  
59 lead to incapacitating and death. Its synthesis should only be performed in small quantities (about  
60 100 mg) and by highly qualified personnel under the use of appropriate safety measures, such as  
61 gloves and reinforced goggles, splinter-proof vessels, and protective shield.<sup>1, 2</sup>

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## 65 **2. Synthesis of monomer 1**

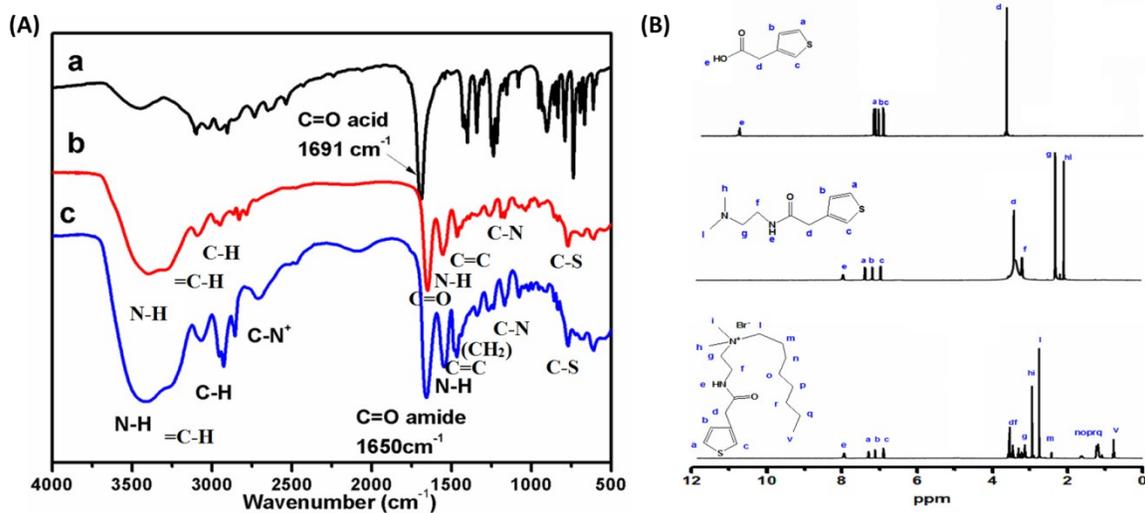
### 66 *Synthesis of N-(2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)acetamide*

67 N-(2-dimethylamino)ethyl-2-thiophen-3-yl)acetamide was synthesized according to our previous  
68 procedures<sup>3,4</sup>. Boric acid (0.031 g, 0.5 mmol) was added to a solution of 3-thiophene acetic acid  
69 (0.711 g, 5.0 mmol) in toluene (100 mL). *N,N*-dimethylethylenediamine (0.443g, 5.0 mmol) was  
70 then added in one portion. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 8 h and water was collected  
71 azeotropically in the Dean–Stark trap. The mixture was allowed to cool to 40–45 °C, filtered to  
72 remove the boric acid present in the reaction mass and further cooled to 25–35 °C. After stirring  
73 for 1 h at 25–35 °C, toluene was decanted, and then the resulting crude material was dissolved in  
74 methanol (50 mL). Distillation afforded the product (1.01 g, yield 94.92%) as syrup. FT-IR (KBr,  
75 Figure 1A),  $\nu=3280\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (N–H),  $3070\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (=C–H),  $2910\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C–H),  $1640\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C=O amide),  
76  $1520\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (N–H bond),  $1450\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C=C),  $1125\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C–N).  $750\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C–S). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O, 400  
77 MHz, Figure 1B):  $\delta=7.98$  (t, 1H, N–H), 7.46 (s 1H, thiophene moiety), 7.22 (d, 1H, thiophene  
78 moiety), 7.02 (d, 1H, thiophene moiety), 3.45 (s, 2H, -CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.19 (m, 2H, -CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.28 (m, 2H, -  
79 CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.106 (s, 6H, -CH<sub>3</sub>).

### 80 *Synthesis of N, N-dimethyl-N-(2-(2-(thiophen-3-yl)acetamido)ethyl)octan-1-aminium bromide*

81 N, N-dimethyl-N-(2-(2-(thiophen-3-yl)acetamido)ethyl)octan-1-aminium bromide was  
82 synthesized according to our previous procedures<sup>3,4</sup>. 1-Bromooctane (0.193 g, 1 mmol) was  
83 dissolved in 20 mL of CH<sub>3</sub>OH/(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>O (v/v = 3/2) with the subsequent addition of N-(2-  
84 (dimethylamino)ethyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)acetamide (0.276 g, 1.3 mmol). The mixture was stirred  
85 at room temperature for 12 h. After the reaction was completed, the reaction solution was  
86 concentrated to 5 mL. The residue was poured into 200 mL of absolute diethyl ether under stirring  
87 and then filtered. The precipitate was filtered, washed with absolute diethyl ether and dried to give  
88 yellow waxy compound **monomer 1** (0.44 g, yield 93.89%). FT-IR (KBr, Figure 1A),  $\nu=3305\text{ cm}^{-1}$   
89 (N–H),  $3075\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (=C–H),  $2950\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C–H asy),  $2840\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C–H sy),  $2680\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C–N<sup>+</sup>),  $1650$   
90  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C=O amide),  $1533\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (N–H bond),  $1470\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C=C),  $1350\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ((CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>),  $1150\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C–  
91 N).  $755\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C–S). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O, 400 MHz, Figure 1B):  $\delta=7.95$  (t, 1H, N–H), 7.28 (s, 1H,  
92 thiophene moiety), 7.15 (d, 1H, thiophene moiety), 6.95 (d, 1H, thiophene moiety), 3.55 (s, 2H, -

93 CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.41 (m, 2H, -CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.11 (m, 2H, -CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.95 (s, 6H, -CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.75-1.11(m, 14H, alkyl chain),  
 94 0.88 cm<sup>-1</sup> (t, 3H, -CH<sub>3</sub>).

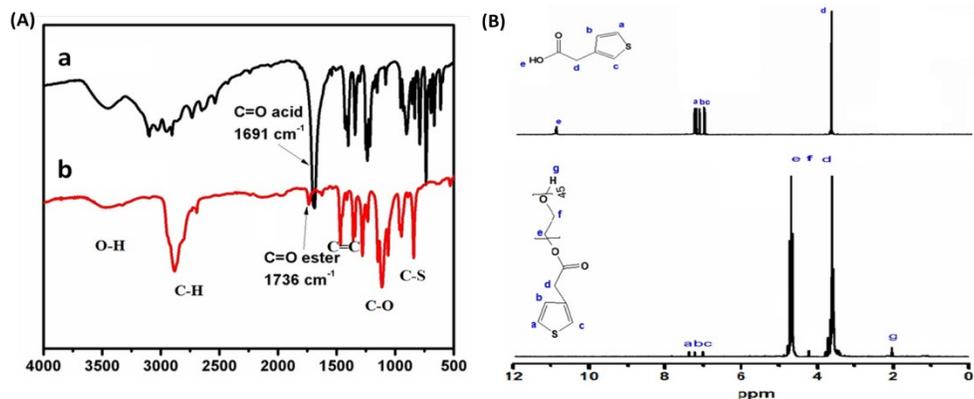


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96 **Figure S1.** FT-IR (A) <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (B) spectra of cationic monomer (a) 3-thiopheneacetic acid, (b)  
 97 N-(2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)acetamide, (c) N,N-dimethyl-N-(2-(2-(thiophen-3-  
 98 yl)acetamido)ethyl) octan-1-aminium bromide (**monomer 1**).

### 99 3. Synthesis of monomer 2

100 3-thiopheneacetic acid (0.142 g, 1 mmol), PEG-2000 (10 g, 5 mmol), DCC (0.206 g, 1 mmol) and  
 101 DMAP (0.0244 g, 0.2 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous DCM (60 mL) and stirred at room  
 102 temperature for 24 h. The mixture was centrifuged, and the supernatant was concentrated in vacuo  
 103 (20 mbar, 30 °C), redissolved in DCM (10 mL), and washed with 1 mM HCl (pH 3) (3 × 30 mL),  
 104 saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (3 × 30 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 30 mL). The organic phase was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>  
 105 for 12 h, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo (20 mbar, 30 °C) to give monomer **2** as a white solid  
 106 (1.95 g, yield 91.80 %).<sup>3, 4</sup> FT-IR (KBr, Figure S2A),  $\nu$ = 3470 cm<sup>-1</sup> (O-H), 3100 cm<sup>-1</sup> (=C-H),  
 107 2900 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C-H), 1736 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=O ester), 1480 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C), 1125 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C-O), 839 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C-S).  
 108 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O, 400 MHz, Figure 2B):  $\delta$ = 7.38 (s, 1H, thiophene moiety), 7.23 (d, 1H, thiophene  
 109 moiety), 7.01 (d, 1H, thiophene moiety), 3.55 (s, 2H, -CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.65-4.22 (m, 4H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> in PEG  
 110 unit), 2.05 (t, 1H, -OH).



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112 **Figure S2.** FT-IR (A) <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (B) spectra of nonionic monomer (a) 3-thiopheneacetic acid, (b)  
 113 3-thiopheneacetic acid-PEG2000 (**monomer 3**).

#### 114 4. Synthesis of monomer 3

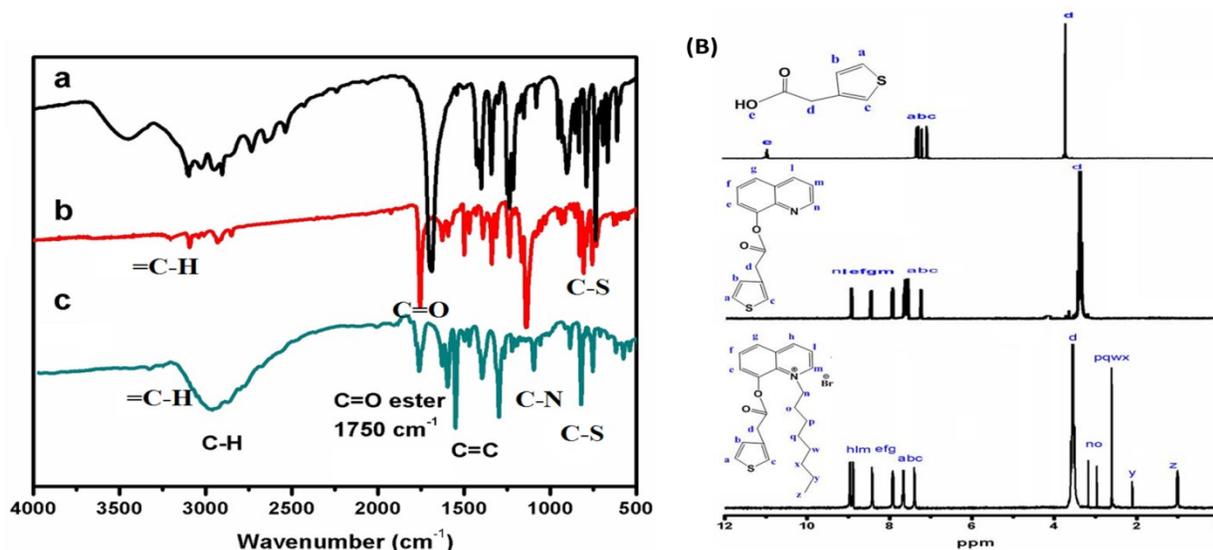
##### 115 *Synthesis of quinolin-8-yl 2-(thiophen-3-yl)acetate*

116 Quinolin-8-yl 2-(thiophen-3-yl)acetate was prepared according to our previous procedures.<sup>3, 4</sup> 3-  
 117 thiopheneacetic acid (1.42 g, 10 mmol), 8-Hydroxyquinoline (1.45 g, 10 mmol), DCC (2.06 g, 10  
 118 mmol) and DMAP (0.488 g, 4 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous DCM (40 mL) and stirred at  
 119 room temperature for 24 h. The mixture was centrifuged and the supernatant was concentrated in  
 120 vacuo (20 mbar, 30 °C) redissolved in DCM (10 mL), and washed with 1 mM HCl (pH 3) (3 × 30  
 121 mL) saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (3 × 30 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 30 mL). The organic phase was dried over  
 122 MgSO<sub>4</sub> for 12 h, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo (20 mbar, 30 °C) to give quinolin-8-yl 2-  
 123 (thiophen-3-yl) acetate as a brown solid (2.32 g, yield 86.24 %). FT-IR (KBr, Figure 3A),  $\nu$ = 3090  
 124 cm<sup>-1</sup> (=C-H), 2955 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C-H), 1748 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=O ester), 1610 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C benzene), 1120 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C-  
 125 N), 782 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C-S). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O, 400MHz, Figure 3B):  $\delta$ = 7.66-8.93 (m, 6H, quinoline  
 126 moiety), 7.51 (s, 1H, thiophene moiety), 7.45 (d, 1H, thiophene moiety), 7.20 (d, 1H, thiophene  
 127 moiety), 3.50 (s, 2H, -CH<sub>2</sub>).

##### 128 *Synthesis of 1-octyl-8-(2-(thiophen-3-yl)acetoxyl)quinolin-1-ium bromide (monomer 4)*

129 1-octyl-8-(2-(thiophen-3-yl)acetoxyl)quinolin-1-ium bromide was prepared according to our  
 130 previous procedures.<sup>3, 4</sup> 1-Bromooctane (0.193 g, 1 mmol) was dissolved in 20 mL of  
 131 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>OH (v/v = 3/2) with the subsequent addition of quinolin-8-yl 2-(thiophen-3-yl)acetate  
 132 (0.276 g, 1.3 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. After the reaction was

133 completed, the reaction solution was concentrated to 5 mL. The residue was poured into 200 mL  
 134 of absolute diethyl ether under stirring and then filtered. The precipitate was washed with absolute  
 135 diethyl ether and dried to give compound **monomer 3** (0.39 g, yield 83.15%) as a yellow powder.  
 136 FT-IR (KBr, Figure S3A),  $\nu = 3050\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (=C-H),  $2960\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C-H<sub>asy</sub>),  $2875\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C-H sy),  $1750$   
 137  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C=O ester),  $1590\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C=C benzene),  $1360\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ((CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>),  $1100\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C-N),  $794\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C-  
 138 S). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O, 400 MHz, Figure 3B):  $\delta = 7.98\text{-}8.96$  (m, 6H, quinoline moiety), 7.81 (s, 1H,  
 139 thiophene moiety), 7.35 (d, 1H, thiophene moiety), 7.31 (d, 1H, thiophene moiety), 3.45 (s, 2H, -  
 140 CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.21-2.11(m, 14H, alkyl chain), 1.02 (t, 3H, -CH<sub>3</sub>).



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142 **Figure S3.** FT-IR (A) <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (B) spectra of conjugated cationic monomer (a) 3-thiopheneacetic  
 143 acid, (b) quinolin-8-yl 2-(thiophen-3-yl)acetate, (c) 1-octyl-8-(2-(thiophen-3-yl)acetoxy)  
 144 quinolin-1-ium bromide (**monomer 3**).

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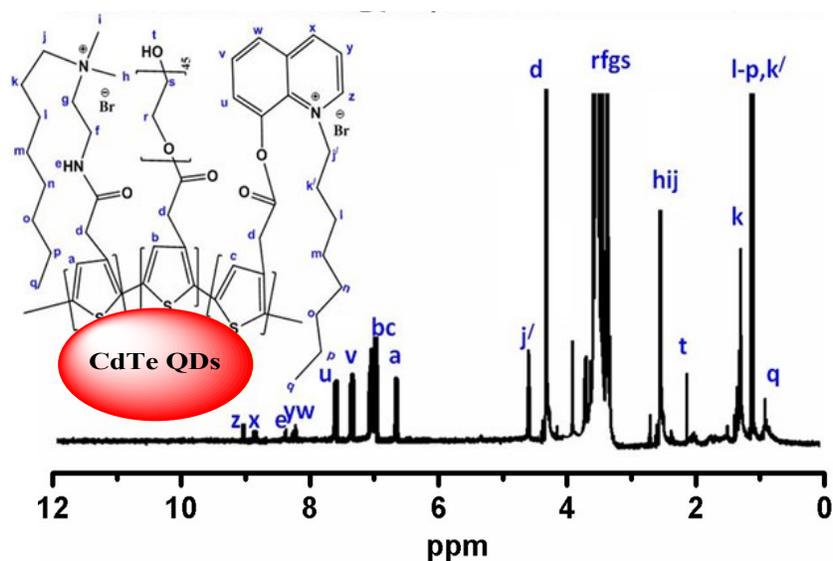
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151 **5. Synthesis of CdTe QDs coated thiophene copolymer via in situ polymerization in aqueous**  
152 **solution (PQDs)**

153 PQDs was synthesized according to our previously reported procedures<sup>3, 4</sup>. Briefly, under N<sub>2</sub>  
154 atmosphere 15 mL aqueous solution of the three prepared monomers, M1 (0.03 mmol), M2 (0.04  
155 mmol) and M3 (0.004 mmol)) were added to 5 mL of CdTe QDs (pH 7) followed by stirring for  
156 30 min, then 0.6 mmol of (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub> was added by drop-wise into the mixture. The mixture was  
157 stirred for 24 h at 25 ± 1 °C, then 20 ml of methanol was added to precipitate the PQDs  
158 nanoparticle. The prepared nanomaterials were collected by filtration and washed with acetone via  
159 stirring for 3 h to remove residual oligomers and initiator. The prepared nanoparticles were air-  
160 dried overnight, followed by drying under vacuum (Scheme 1).

161 **PQDs:** FT-IR (KBr, Fig 1a),  $\nu = 3500\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (O–H),  $3350\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (N–H),  $3090\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (=C–H),  $2980$   
162  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C–H asy),  $2887\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C–H sy),  $1745\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C=O ester),  $1650\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C=O amide),  $1500\text{ cm}^{-1}$   
163 (N–H bond),  $1200\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C–O),  $1050\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C–N),  $767\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C–S). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O, 400 MHz, Fig S4):  
164  $\delta = 7.33\text{--}9.12$  (m, 6H, quinoline moiety), 8.33 (t, 1H, N–H), 7.11 (s, 1H, thiophene moiety), 6.95  
165 (s, 1H, thiophene moiety), 6.77 (s, 1H, thiophene moiety), 4.31 (s, 2H, –CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.55–4.66 (m, nH,  
166 OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> in PEG unit), 2.56 (s, 6H, –CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.11 (t, 1H, –OH), 1.36–0.91 (m, nH, alkyl chain), 0.91  
167  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (t, 3H, –CH<sub>3</sub>).



168

169 **Fig. S4.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of CdTe QDs coated with thiophene copolymer (PQDs).

## 170 6. The determination of photoluminescence quantum yield (PLQY)

171 The quantum yields of CdTe QDs and PQDs were determined by comparing the integrated FL  
172 intensities and the absorbance values of the QDs with the reference, rhodamine B ( $\Phi = 0.31$ ), and  
173 the as-prepared QDs were dissolved in water ( $n = 1.33$ ). A UV–vis absorption spectrometer was  
174 used to determine the absorbance values of the samples at 350 and 380 nm excitation wavelengths,  
175 respectively. The spectrophotometer set with an excitation slit width of 3 nm and an emission slit  
176 width of 3 nm was used to excite the samples to record their FL spectra. The PLQY was calculated  
177 using the equation (1) below <sup>5</sup>.

$$\Phi_x = \Phi_r \times \frac{I_x}{I_r} \times \frac{A_r}{A_x} \times \frac{n_x^2}{n_r^2} \quad (1)$$

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179 where  $\Phi_x$  is the PLQY,  $I$  is the integrated fluorescence intensity,  $A$  is the absorbance, and  $n$  is the  
180 refractive index of the solvent;  $r$  denotes the standard and  $x$  denotes the sample.

## 181 7. Biocompatibility

182 To assess the biocompatibility of the PQDs in comparison with the pristine CdTe QDs, an MTT  
183 cell assay was performed on the HeLa cells. Briefly, HeLa cells were plated at a density of  $1 \times 10^4$   
184 cells per well in a 96-well plate, and then incubated for 24 h at 37 °C under 5% CO<sub>2</sub> to allow the  
185 cells to attach to the wells. The PQDs and CdTe QDs were sterilized by autoclaving, and then  
186 serial dilutions of the QDs at a different concentrations of 400 and 600  $\mu\text{g} \cdot \text{mL}^{-1}$  were added to the  
187 culture wells to replace the original culture medium and were incubated for another 24 h in 5%  
188 CO<sub>2</sub> at 37 °C. Next, 100 mL of MTT solution (dissolved in RPMI 1640) was added to each well  
189 (containing different amounts of the PQDs and pristine CdTe QDs, followed by incubation for 4  
190 h inside a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator at 37 °C. After incubation, the medium was removed, and the formed  
191 formazan crystals were dissolved in 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of DMSO/ethanol mixture (1:1). A Tecan Infinite  
192 M200 monochromator-based multifunction microplate reader was used to measure the OD 570  
193 (Abs value) of each well with background subtraction at 540 nm. At least three independent  
194 experiments were performed in each case. The following equation (2) was applied to calculate the  
195 viability of cell growth <sup>6</sup> :

$$196 \quad \text{Cell viability (\%)} = \frac{\text{mean Abs value of treatment group}}{\text{mean Abs value of control}} \times 100 \quad (2)$$

197 Table S1. Comparison of developed fluorescence method with some similar methods reported in  
 198 literature for the determination of Hg<sup>2+</sup>.

Detection method	Linear range ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	LOD (nM)	Ref.
CDs	0-80	201	7
Au/N-CQDs	0-41.86	118	8
Fluorescence polymer	0.2-2	370	9
Rhodamine labeled cellulose nanocrystals	0-100	232	10
Ferrocenyl-naphthalimide	-----	794	11
Rhodanine-stabilized gold nanobipyramids	0.6-50	200	12
Zr-based MOFs	0-13	500	13
solothiocarbonyl quinacridone	0-60	140	14
COF-LUZ8	0.5-5	125	15
AH-COF	0-100	100	16
Hollow MnFeO oxide	0.1-15	20	17
Tetraphenylethene derivatives	0-100	20	18
Near-infrared ratiometric fluorescent carbon dot-based nanohybrid	0-40	9	19
Conjugated polythiophenes-coated CdTe QDs	0.5-64	7.4	This work

199

201 Table S2. Comparison of developed fluorescence method with some similar methods reported in  
 202 literature for the determination of TATP.

Detection method	Step 1: process for TATP hydrolysis to H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (needed time)	Step 2: process for H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> detection (needed time)	Real Sample	Linear range (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	LOD (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	Ref.
Colorimetric	Acidic degradation (5 min)	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> MNPs catalyzed colorimetric reaction (30 min)	Synthetic complex, and contaminated soil samples	1-10	0.47	20
Colorimetric	Hydrolysis by acidic cation exchanger resin (30 min)	AgNPs-based colorimetric reaction (30 min)	Synthetic complex samples	1.25-31.25	0.31	21
CL	Acidic degradation-flow system (2 min)	Cu <sup>2+</sup> - catalyzed CL system (1 min)	Synthetic samples	0.22-44	0.11	22
CL	Acidic degradation (5 min)	HRP- catalyzed CL system (1 min)	Contaminated materials and to spiked soils	0.1-13.3	0.04	23
Fluorescence	solid acid catalysis, i.e., amberlyst-15	turn-on fluorescence responses ( 5 sec)	-----	-----	0.1	24
Colorimetric	Acidic degradation of TATP (5 min)	Ag@ZnMOF catalyzed colorimetric system (6 min)	Apple juices and water samples	0.4-15	0.1	25
Fluorescence	-----	30 min	-----	0.5-8	0.5	26
Colorimetric	acidic hydrolysis	degradation of TATP in the presence of MnO <sub>2</sub> nanozymes	Detergent	1.57 -10.50	0.34	27
Fluorescence- PQDs-Hg <sup>2+</sup>	-----	-----	river water	2.5-50	0.055	this work

203 LOD: limit of detection, MNPs: Magnetic Nanoparticles, AgNPs: silver nanoparticles, CL: chemiluminescence, HRP:

204 horseradish peroxidase, Ag@ZnMOF: silver nanoparticle/flake like zinc metal organic framework.

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