## **Supplementary Information**

Unravelling the non-classical nucleation mechanism of an amyloid nanosheet through atomic force microscopy and an infrared probe technique

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**Fig. S1.** AFM morphology characterizations of the KLVFXAK system during amyloid nanosheet formation as a function of incubation time: (a) t=3 min; (b) t=6 min.



**Fig. S2.** Curve-fitting results of the FTIR spectra at different time points of the KLVFXAK system during the nanosheet formation in the amide I region. (a) t=0 h; (b) t=24 h; (c) t=48 h; (d) t=72 h.



**Fig. S3.** Comparative illustration of the proposed model and experimental AFM image for KLVFXAK nanosheet under the same coordinate system. (a) Model; (b) AFM ; (c) AFM height curve of the yellow cross section in (b).



**Fig. S4.** AFM morphology characterizations of the KLVFXAE system during amyloid nanosheet formation as a function of incubation time: (a) t=5 min; (b) t=15 min.



**Fig. S5.** Structural model of KLVFXAE nanosheet: (a) Overview of the model. Each dark-blue stripe represents an individual KLVFXAE β-strand and each light-blue sheet represents an individual KLVFXAE antiparallel β-sheet; (b) View towards the X-Y plane where the viewer can see the details of the KLVFXAE antiparallel β-sheet; each arrow represents an individual KLVFXAE β-strand (from N terminal to C terminal) and six strands are shown as representatives; octagon with letter: amino acid residue; open octagon: residue with its side chain pointing towards the viewer; shaded octagon: residue with its side chain pointing away from the viewer; (c) View towards the X-Z plane where the viewer can see how  $X_{20}$  is H-bonded by neighboring  $K_{16}$  and the presence of the electrostatic interaction between oppositely charged peptide terminals (i.e. between NH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> and COO<sup>-</sup>).



**Fig. S6.** Comparative illustration of the proposed model and experimental AFM image for KLVFXAE nanosheet under the same coordinate system. (a) Model; (b) AFM.