

**Synthesis and characterization of fluorescent gold clusters encapsulated in PNIPAM and PAAM hydrogels for selective detection of mercury in water**

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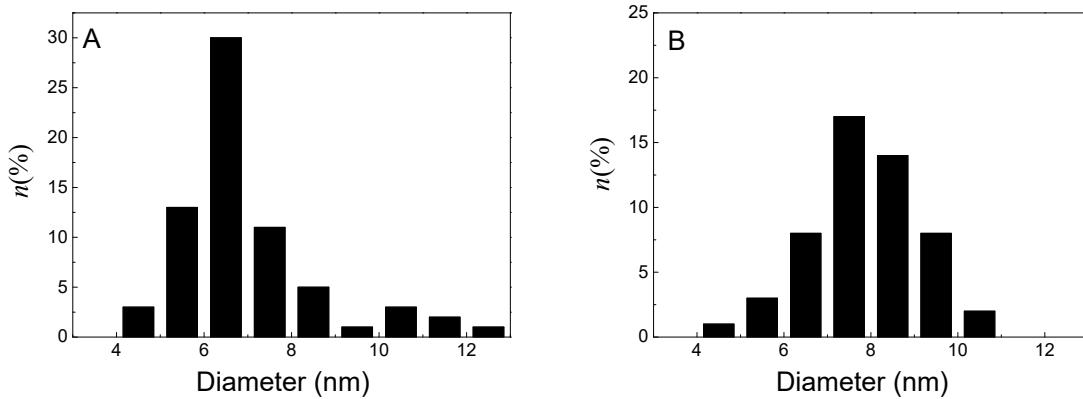
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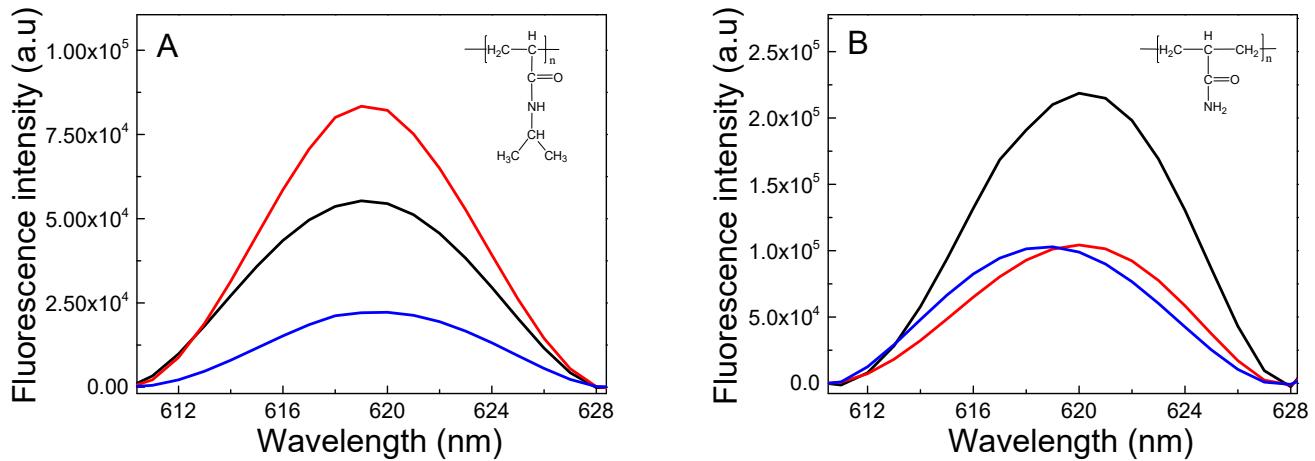
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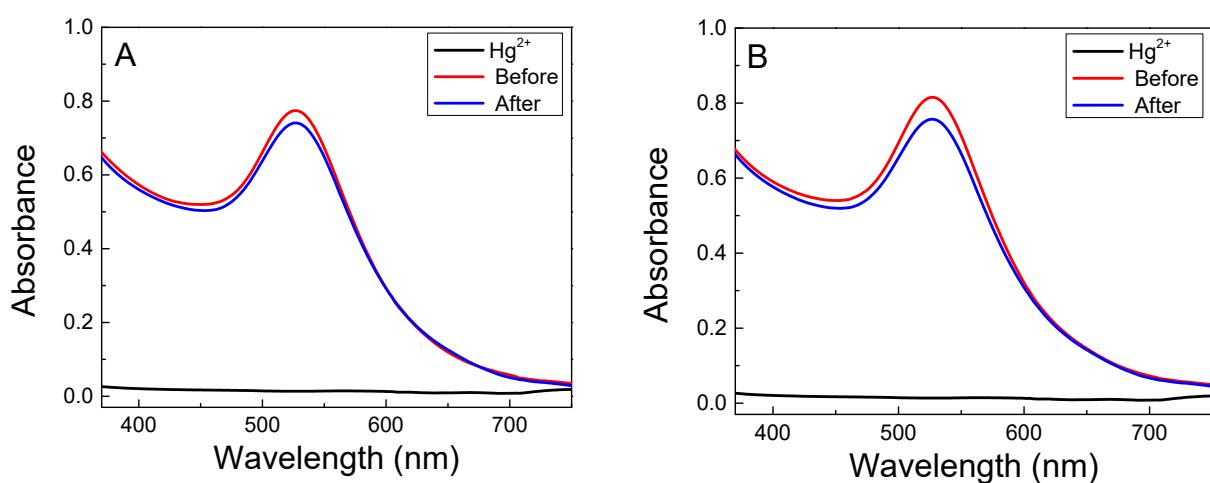
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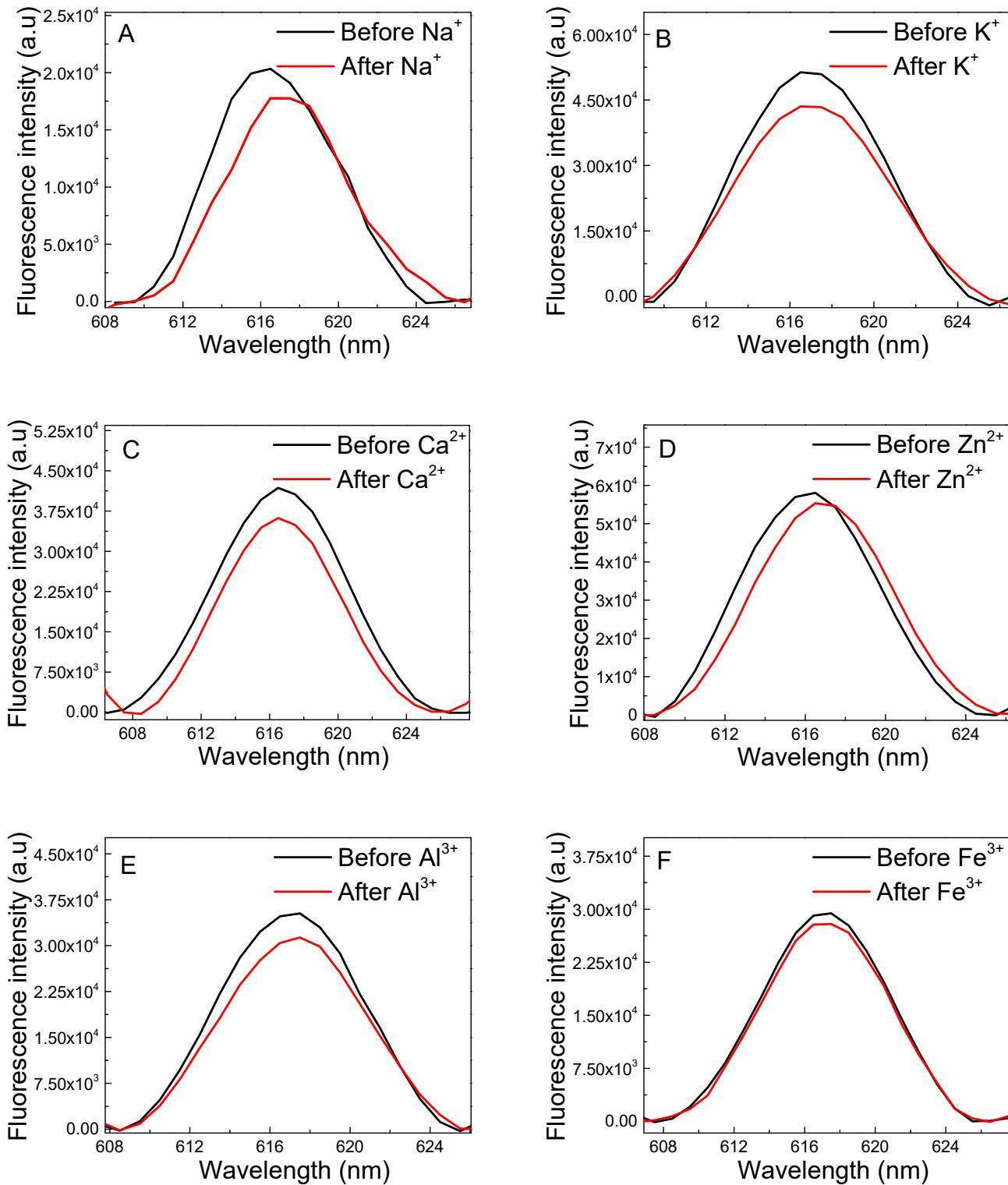
**Figure S1:** Histogram by number ( $n$ ) of the A) Au-PNIPAM NCs and B) Au-PAAM NCs.



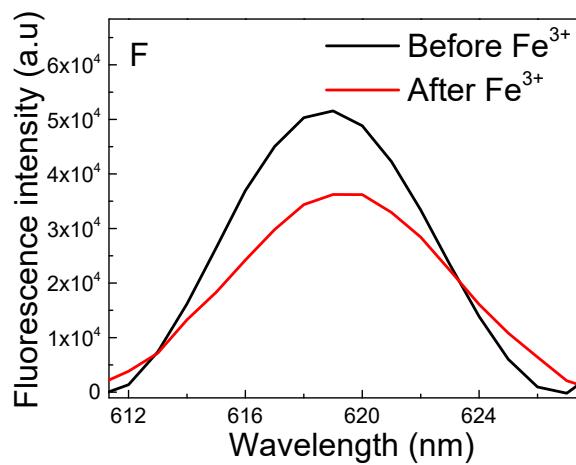
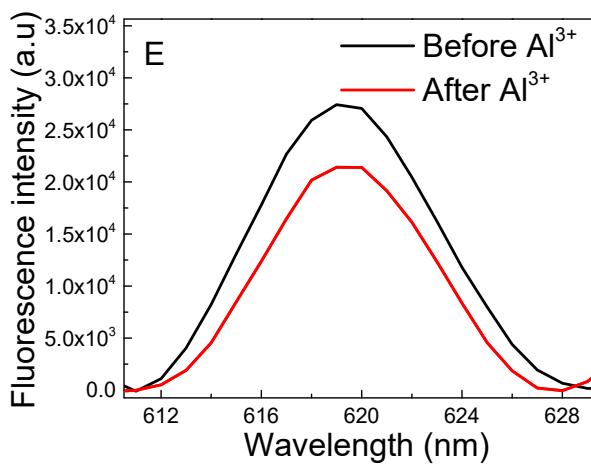
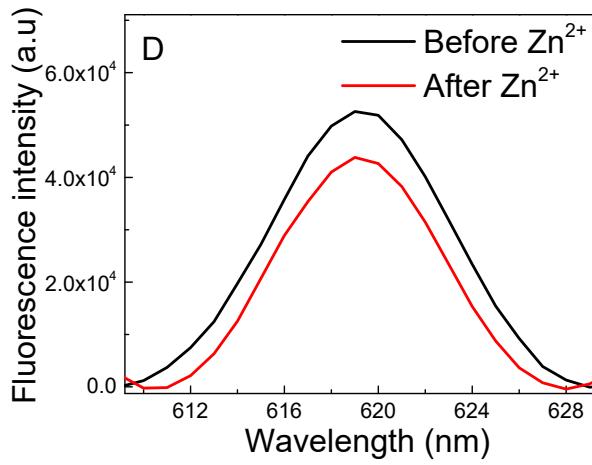
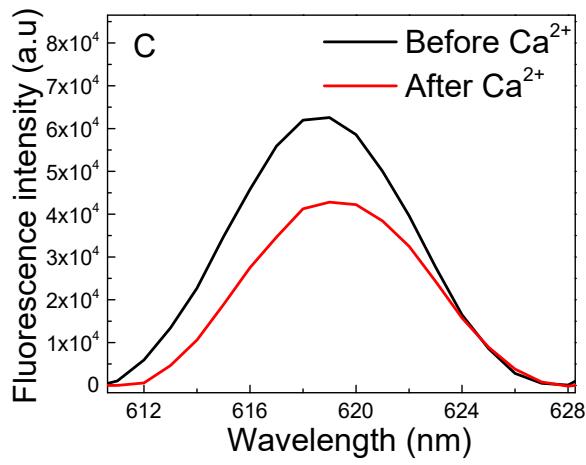
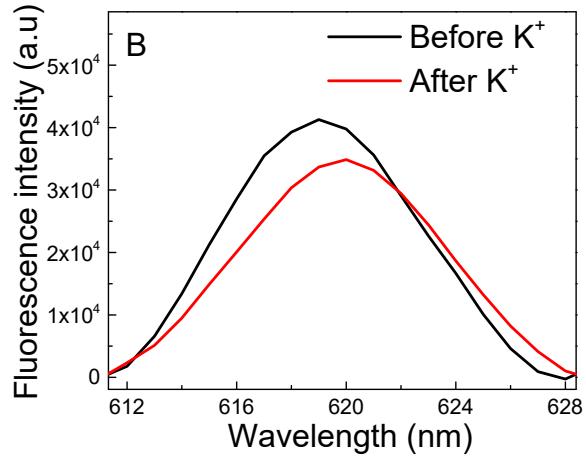
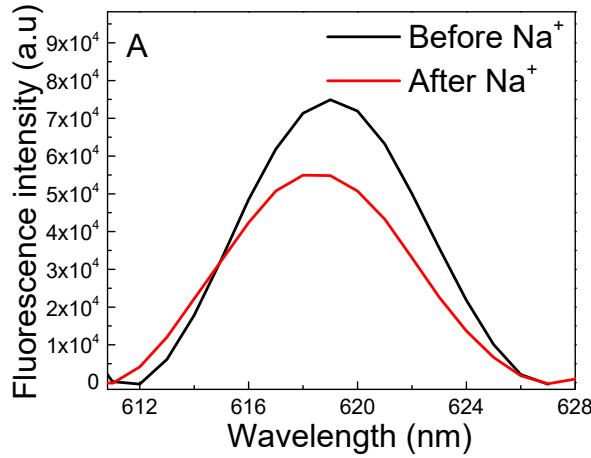
**Figure S2:** Effect of pH on the fluorescence of A) Au-PNIPAM NCs and B) Au-PAAM NCs. pH:4 (black line), pH:7 (red line) and pH:10 (blue line). Excitation wavelength: 535nm.



**e S3:** UV-Vis spectra of  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  ions (200nM) in water (black line), A) Au-PNIPAM NC and B) Au-PAAM before (red line) and after (blue line)  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  addition.



**Figure S4:** Fluorescence spectra of Au-PNIPAM NCs quenched by 20 nM of  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  before (black) and after the addition of 20 nM of: A)  $\text{Na}^+$ , B)  $\text{K}^+$ , C)  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , D)  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , E)  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  and F)  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ . Excitation wavelength: 535nm.



**Figure S5:** Fluorescence spectra of Au-PAAM NCs quenched by 20 nM of  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  before (black) and after the addition of 20 nM of: A)  $\text{Na}^+$ , B)  $\text{K}^+$ , C)  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , D)  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , E)  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  and F)  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ . Excitation wavelength: 535nm.