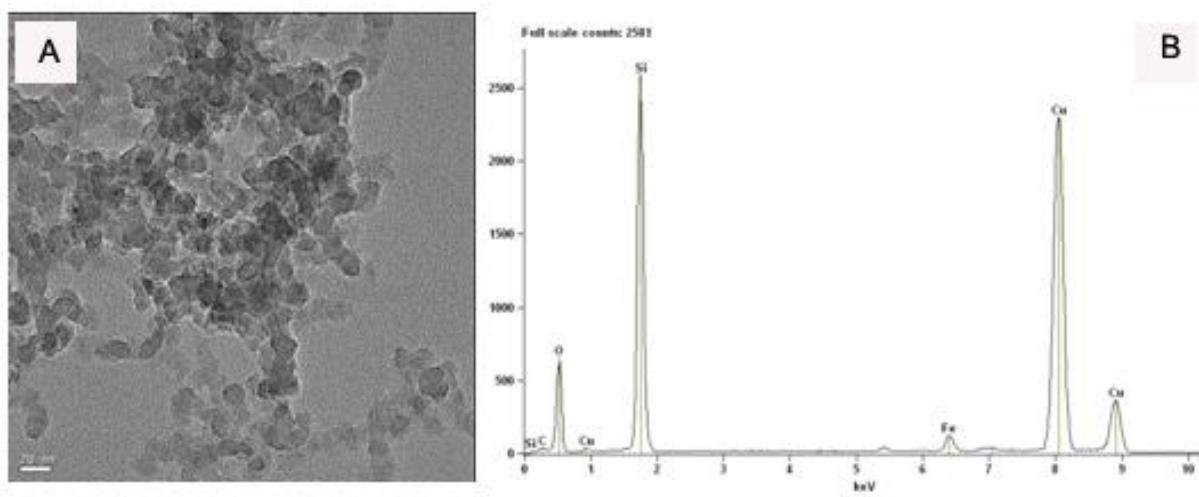


**Supplementary Information: *Journal of Materials Chemistry***

**Title: Hybrid Silica Nanoparticles Traceable by Fluorescence and FT-IR Spectroscopy: Preparation, Characterization, and Preliminary Biological Studies**

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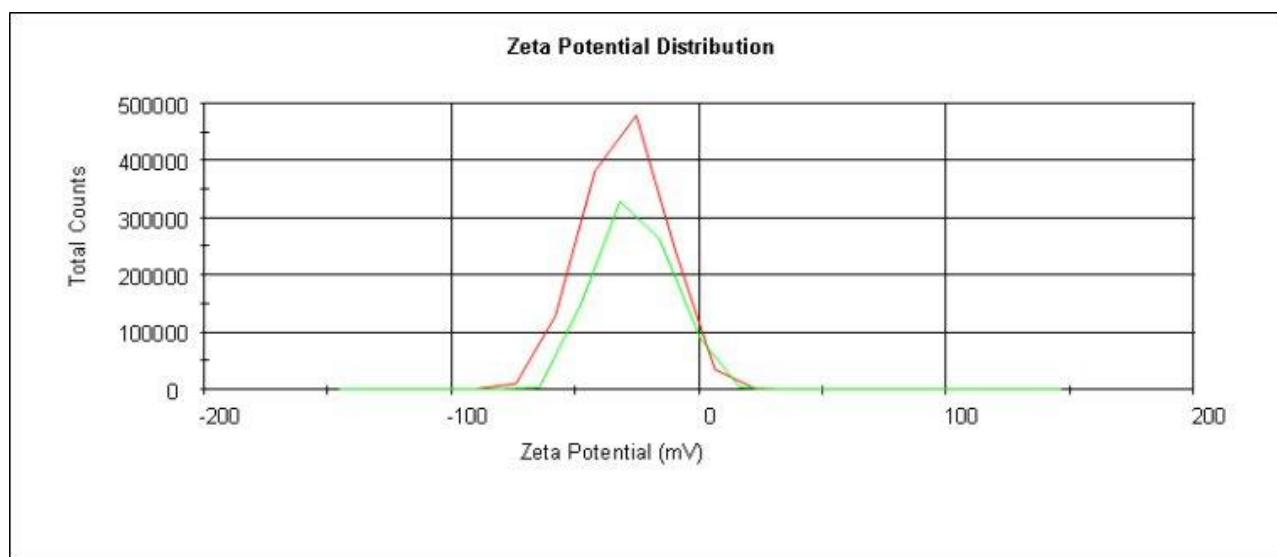
**Figure S1.** HR-TEM EDC analysis data of  $\text{SiO}_2@\text{DIT-tag}_{60}$  NPs

<i>Element Line</i>	<i>Weight %</i>	<i>Weight % Error</i>	<i>Atom %</i>
<b>C K</b>	7.58	+/- 0.83	13.73
<b>O K</b>	28.06	+/- 0.68	38.17
<b>Si K</b>	59.73	+/- 0.43	46.29
<b>Fe K</b>	4.64	+/- 0.27	1.81

**Table S1.** EDC analysis data of  $\text{SiO}_2@\text{DIT-tag}_{60}$  NPs

	Atomic concentration %				
	Fe 2p 3/2	N 1s	C 1s	Si 2p	Si/Fe
SiO <sub>2</sub> @DIT-tag <sub>20</sub> NPs	0.24	1.06	48.71	49.99	208.29
SiO <sub>2</sub> @DIT-tag <sub>60</sub> NPs	1.14	3.24	39.88	55.74	48.89

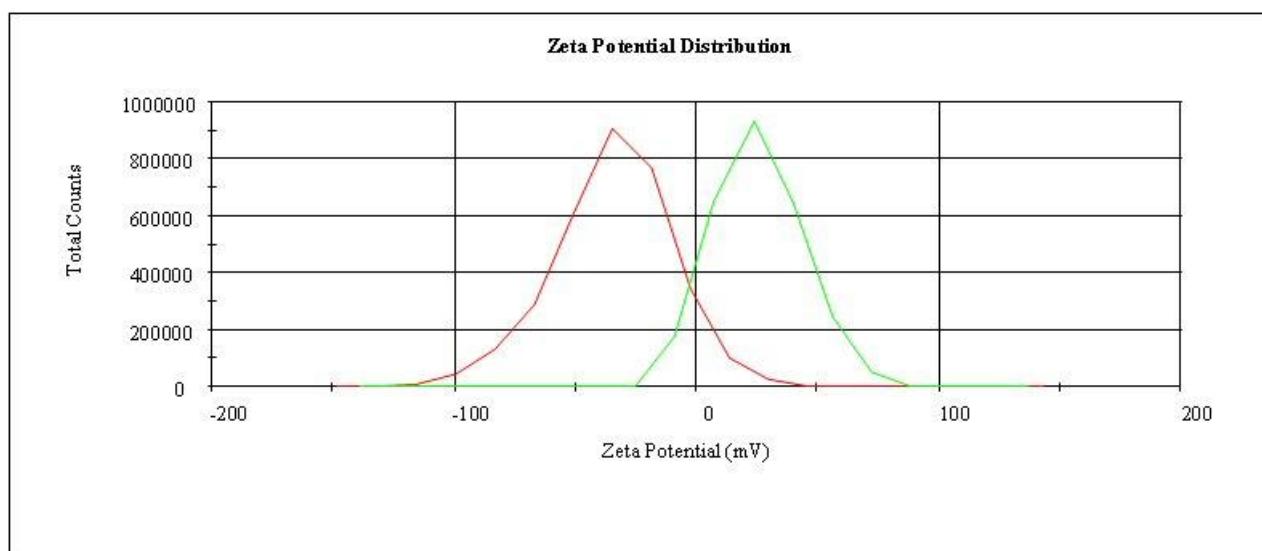
**Table S2.** Quantification report of an XPS analysis on SiO<sub>2</sub>@DIT-tag<sub>20/60</sub> NPs



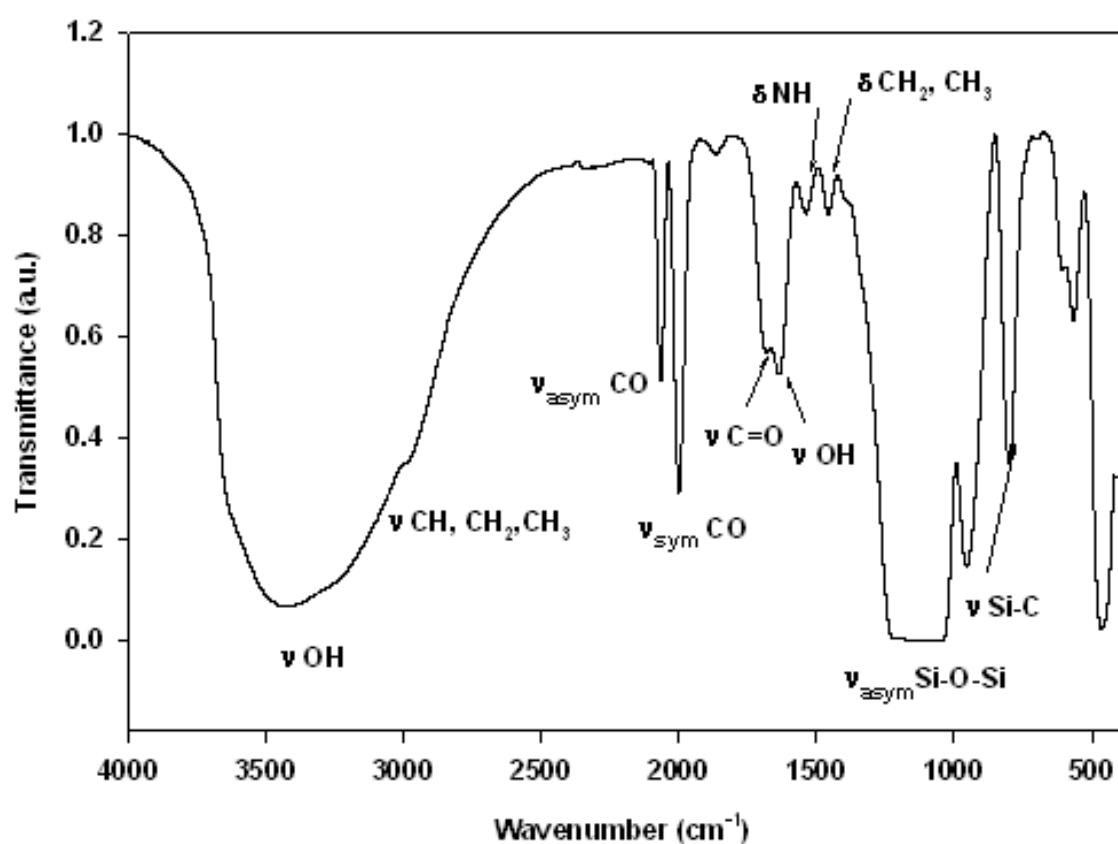
**Figure S2.** ξ potential distributions of SiO<sub>2</sub>@DIT-tag<sub>20/60</sub> NPs (1 mg NPs/mL of EtOH) are -30.1 mV (red curve) and -26.1 mV (green curve), respectively.

	Atomic concentration %				
	Fe 2p 3/2	N 1s	C 1s	Si 2p	Si/Fe
SiO <sub>2</sub> @DIT-tag <sub>20</sub> @FITC NPs	0.83	1.81	57.88	39.48	47.57

**Table S3.** Quantification report of an XPS analysis of SiO<sub>2</sub>@DIT-tag<sub>20</sub>@FITC NPs



**Figure S3.**  $\zeta$  potential distributions of  $\text{SiO}_2@\text{DIT-tag}@ \text{FITC}$  NPs (1.0 mg NPs/mL EtOH, *red curve*, -34.0 mV) and of  $\text{SiO}_2@\text{DIT-tag}@ \text{FITC}@ \text{NH}_2$  NPs (1.0 mg NPs/mL EtOH, *green curve*, +25.6 mV)



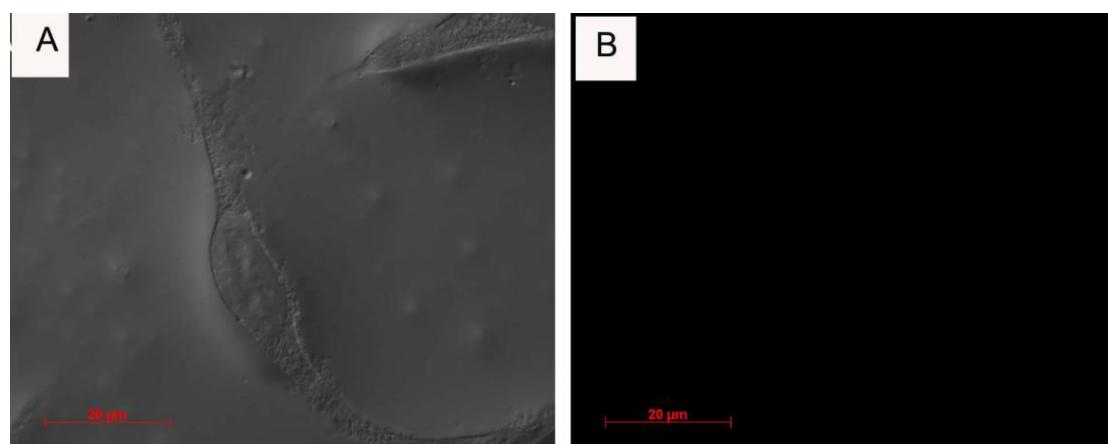
**Figure S4.** FT-IR spectrum and the main vibrational bands of  $\text{SiO}_2@\text{DIT-tag}@ \text{FITC}$  NPs

<b>Element Line</b>	<b>Atom %</b>	<b>Atom % Error</b>
<b>C K</b>	5.65	+/- 0.49
<b>O K</b>	75.25	+/- 0.54
<b>Si K</b>	18.88	+/- 0.09
<b>Fe K</b>	0.22	+/- 0.03
<b>Total</b>	100.00	

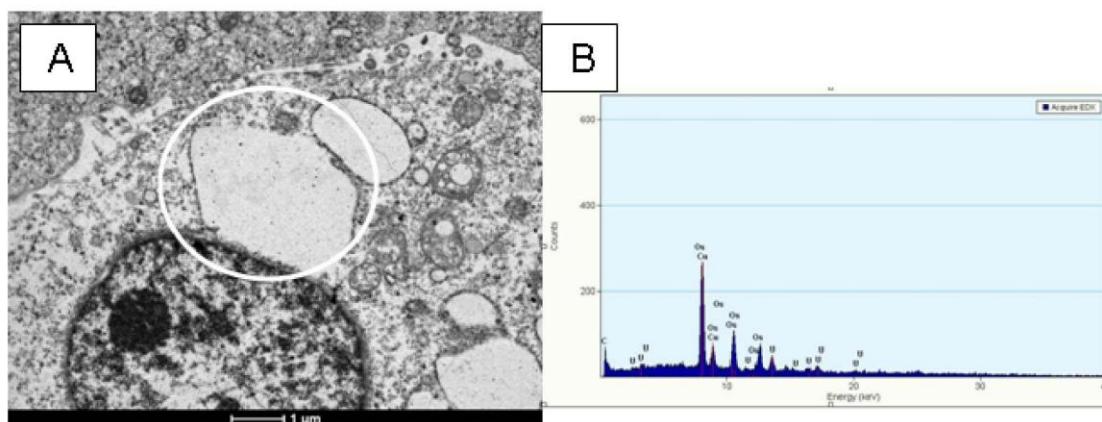
**Table S4.** HR-SEM EDAX analysis data of SiO<sub>2</sub>@DIT-tag<sub>20</sub>@FITC@NH<sub>2</sub> NPs

<b>Element Line</b>	<b>Atom %</b>
<b>O K</b>	65.28
<b>Si K</b>	34.08
<b>Cl K</b>	0.14
<b>Fe K</b>	0.51
<b>Total</b>	100.00

**Table S5.** HR-TEM EDC analysis data of SiO<sub>2</sub>@DIT-tag<sub>20</sub>@FITC@NH<sub>2</sub> NPs



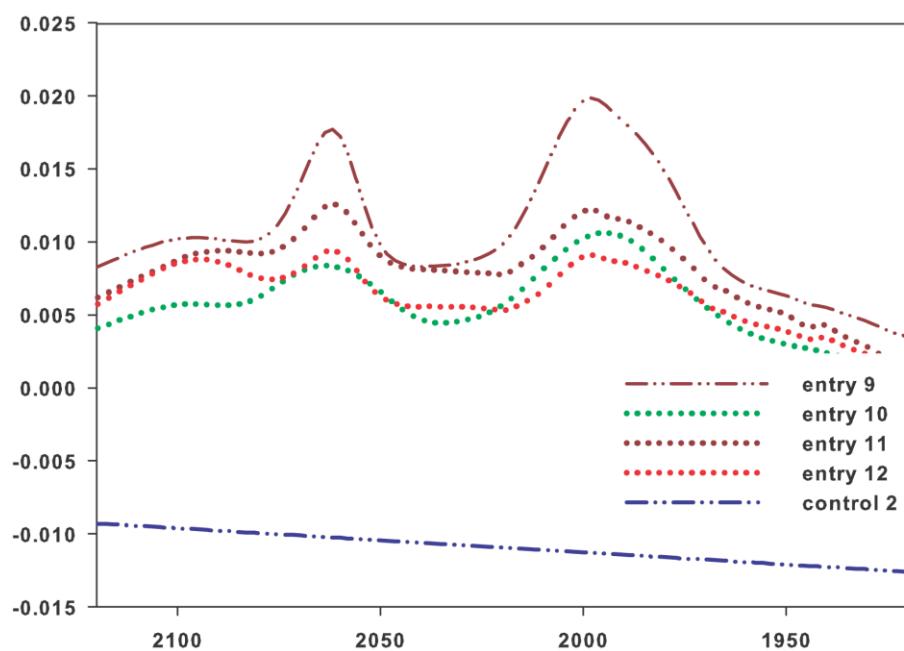
**Figure S5.** Fluorescence (**A**) and DIC photomicrographs (**B**) of the negative control of B16 cells (*without* NPs)



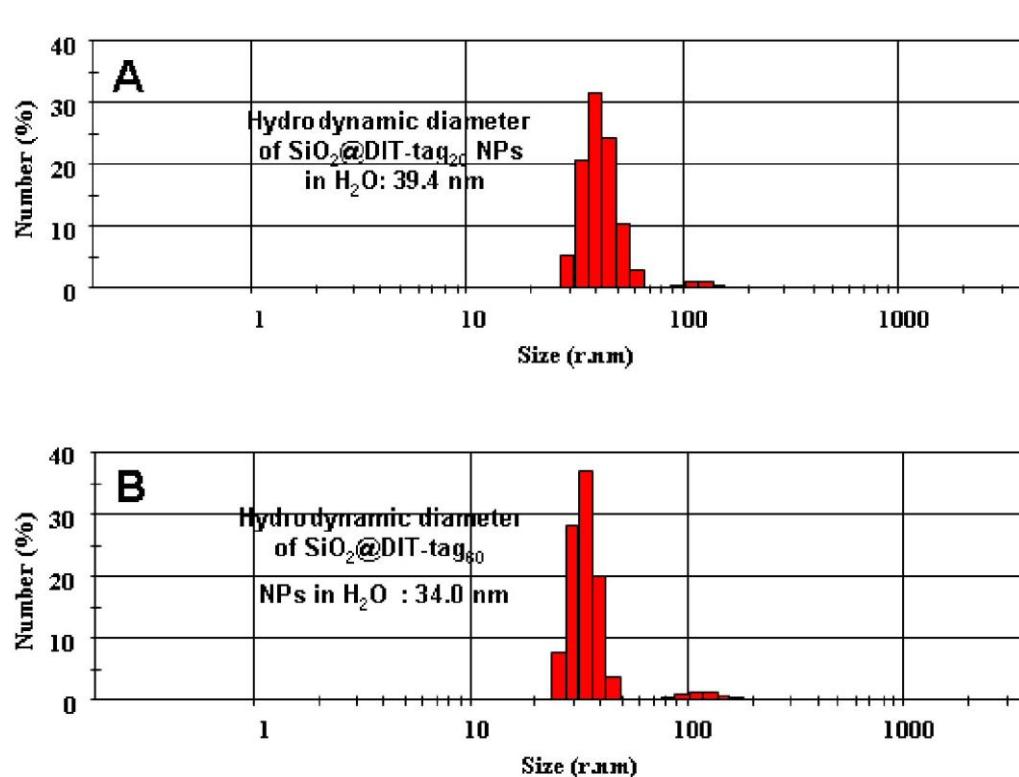
**Figure S6.** **A:** TEM photomicrograph of negative control B16 cells (*without* NPs). The white circle depicts the area upon which the EDS analysis was acquired from vacuoles; **B:** EDS spectrum demonstrated only elements that were used in cell fixation (Os) and staining (U)

Entry	FT-IR Absorbance $\nu_{\text{FeC}\equiv\text{O}}$ [2063.3 & 1996.5 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ] (a.u.)
<b>Control 1</b>	
<b>1</b>	0.258800.15750 &
<b>2</b>	0.16758 0.10053 &
<b>3</b>	0.167580.10053 &
<b>4</b>	0.167580.09900 &
<b>5</b>	0.157230.10282 &
<b>6</b>	0.10086 0.06842 &
<b>7</b>	0.041620.03832 &
<b>8</b>	0.026720.02256 &
<b>9</b>	0.015620.01568 &
<b>10</b>	0.009790.01492 &
<b>11</b>	0.0054180.004874 &
<b>12</b>	0.004540.004795 &
<b>Control 2</b>	-

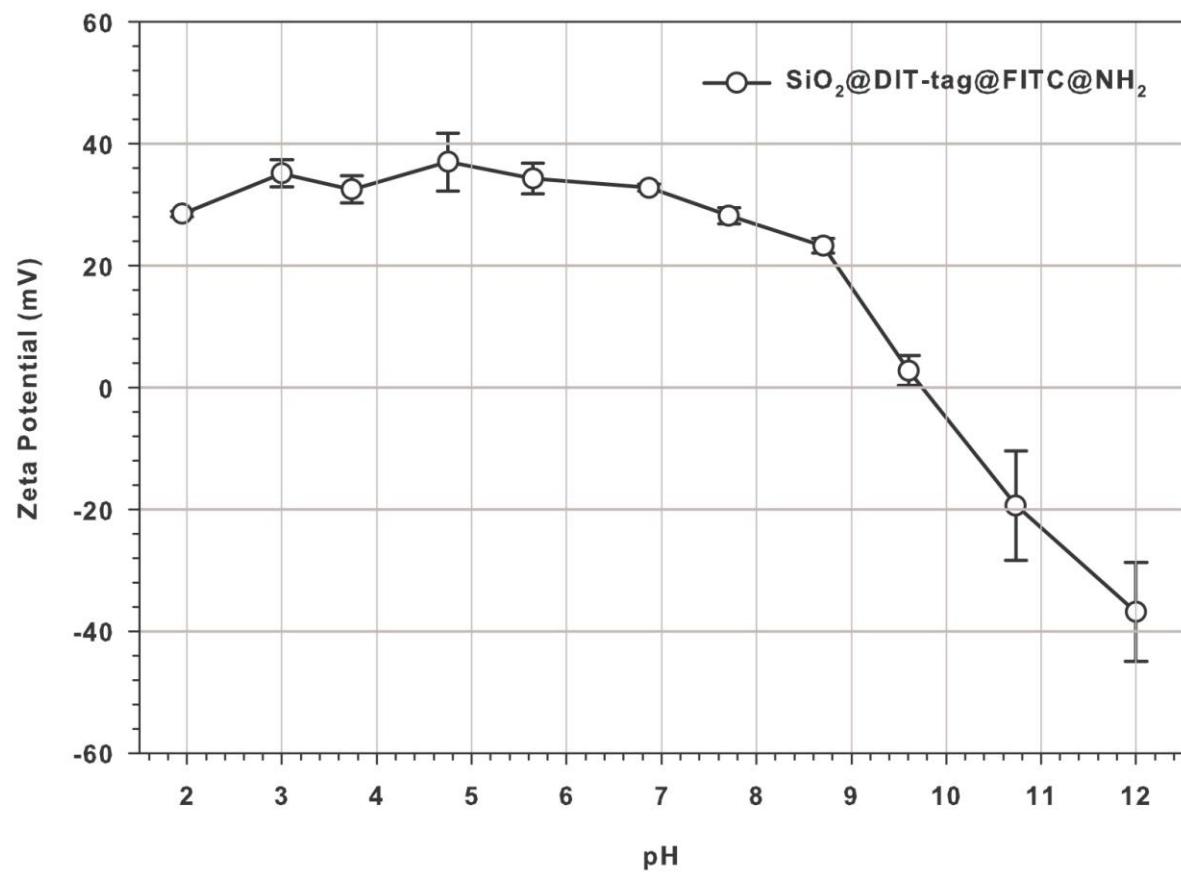
**Table S6.** Absorbance values (a.u.) of FT-IR sensitivity experiments



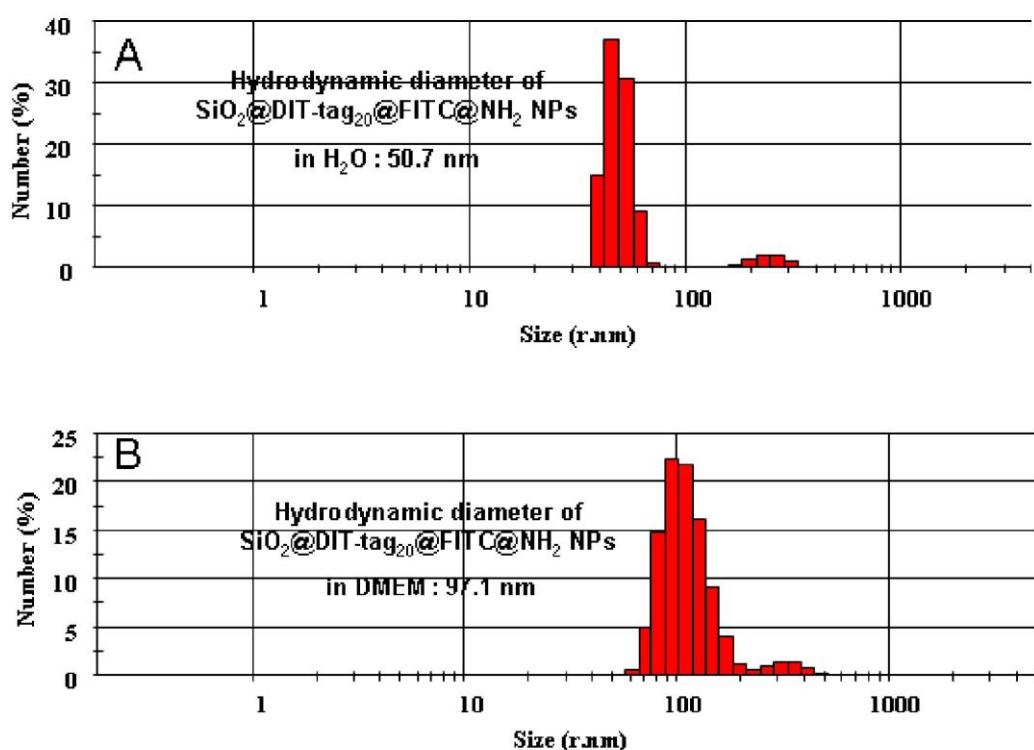
**Figure S7.** Magnified superimposed FT-IR signals (x 5) to entries 9-12 and Control 2 are in Table 1



**Figure S8.** DLS-measured diameter histograms of  $\text{SiO}_2@\text{DIT-tag}_{20}$  (**A**) and  $\text{SiO}_2@\text{DIT-tag}_{60}$  NPs (**B**) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1.0 mg NPs/mL)



**Figure S9.** pH dependency of the colloidal stability of  $\text{SiO}_2@\text{DIT-tag}@ \text{FITC}@ \text{NH}_2$  NPs in neutral  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (2.0 mg NPs/mL  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) - Acidic-base titration experiment



**Figure S10.** A & B: DLS histograms of  $\text{SiO}_2@\text{DIT-tag}_{20}@\text{FITC}@\text{NH}_2$  NPs in the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and DMEM containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), respectively. The hydrodynamic diameter of NP in water was measured to be 50.7 nm and in DMEM 97.1 nm, respectively.