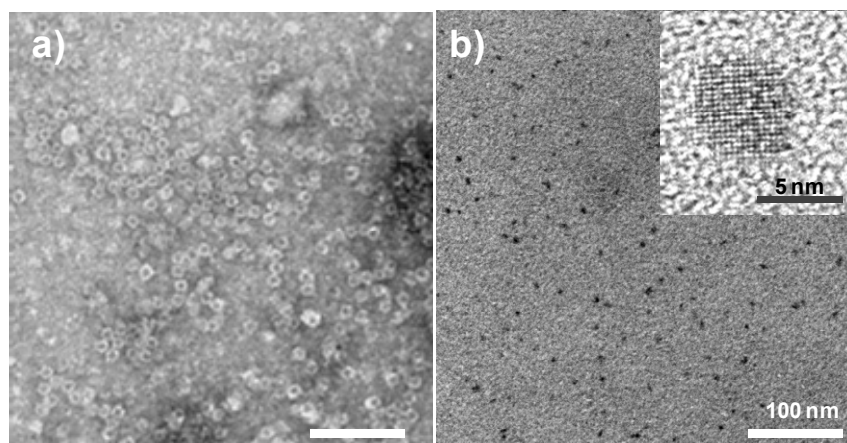


## Supplementary information

### The differential effect of apoferritin-PbS nanocomposites on cell cycle progression in normal and cancerous cells

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Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) images of unstained and negatively stained Aft-PbS nanocomposites reveal uniform nanocomposites with diameter of  $\sim 12$  nm, each with an electron dense PbS central core surrounded by an Aft shell. The analysis of the unstained images show that the average diameter of PbS QDs is  $d = 5 \pm 2$  nm. Also High angle annular dark field scanning transmission electron microscopy (HAADF-STEM) and electron energy loss spectroscopy (EELS) studies across a single nanocomposite reveal the presence of amorphous carbon-rich shell around the PbS nanoparticle, thus proving the formation of Aft-PbS nanocomposite. For details of these studies see also Ref [1].



**Figure 1.** TEM images of Aft-PbS nanocomposites negatively stained with uranyl acetate (a) and unstained (b). Inset: HR TEM image of a PbS nanoparticle.

[1] B. Hennequin, L. Turyanska, T. Ben, A. M. Beltrán, S. I. Molina, M. Li, S. Mann, A. Patané and N. R. Thomas, *Adv. Mater.*, 2008, **20**, 3592-3596