Electronic Supplementary Information

Mechanistic aspects of fluorescent gold nanocluster internalization by live HeLa cells

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Fig. S1 Confocal images of HeLa cells upon incubation with 20 μ g/ml AuNCs (green) in serum-free DMEM (A) and DEME complemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (B). Cell membranes were stained with CellMaskTM DeepRed (red). Scale bar: 10 μ m. (C) Quantitative analysis of the effect of serum on the AuNC uptake by HeLa cells. Total integrated intensity (black) of AuNCs per cell area and separation into intracellular (red) and membrane-associated (blue) AuNCs (*: p < 0.05).

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Fig. S2 Confocal fluorescence (upper panel) and DIC (lower panel) images of HeLa cells labeled with the nuclear marker (Hoechst 33342, blue) upon AuNC (green) internalization for different times. The overlapped images clearly showed that AuNCs and the nucleus do not colocalize within 24 h. Scale bar: $10 \,\mu$ m.