

*Supplementary Information*

**Multivalent Polymer-Au Nanocomposites with cationic  
surfaces displaying enhanced antimicrobial activity**

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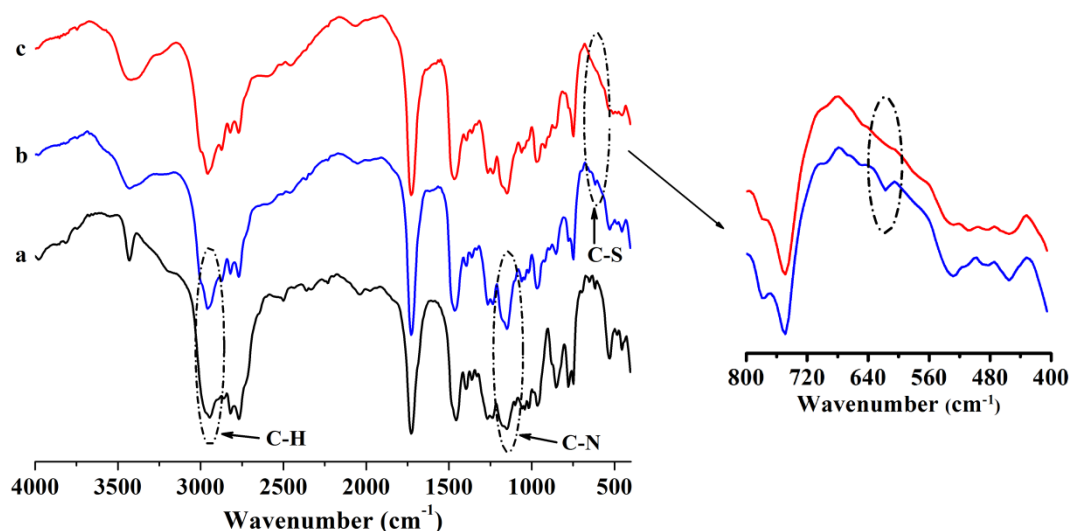
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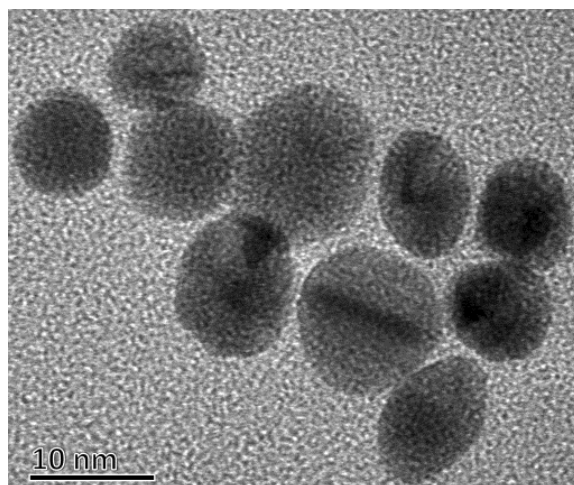
## S1. FTIR assay

FTIR assay was used to further characterize the structural change of PDMAEMA, as shown in Fig. S1. The increased band intensities of C-H stretching ( $2924\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and C-N stretching ( $1151\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) in the IR spectrum of PDMAEMA- $\text{C}_4$  suggested the successful conversion of the tertiary amines to quaternary amines. FTIR spectra can also confirm the possible group of PDMAEMA- $\text{C}_4$  linking to AuNPs. When compared with the spectrum of PDMAEMA- $\text{C}_4$ , the band of AuNPs@PDMAEMA- $\text{C}_4$  at  $616\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C-S stretching) was vanished, indicating the binding of PDMAEMA- $\text{C}_4$  to AuNPs mainly generated via thiol group from the reduction of PDMAEMA- $\text{C}_4$ .<sup>S1</sup>



**Fig. S1.** FTIR spectra of PDMAEMA (a), PDMAEMA- $\text{C}_4$  (b) and AuNPs@PDMAEMA- $\text{C}_4$  (c).

## S2. TEM image



**Fig. S2.** TEM image of AuNPs@PDMAEMA-C<sub>4</sub>.

## References

- S1. A. B. Lowe, B. S. Sumerlin, M. S. Donovan and C. L. McCormick, *J Am Chem Soc.* 2002, **124**, 11562-31156.