## **Supporting Information**

## **Interface Assisted Synthesis of Complex Hydrogel Particles**

Liang Hu,<sup>a</sup> Zeming Chen<sup>a</sup> and Michael J. Serpe \*<sup>,a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2G2 (Canada). Fax: 780 492 8231; Tel: 780 492 5778; E-mail: michael.serpe@ualberta.ca

FTIR spectra of pNIPAm hydrogel particles synthesized at high temperature is shown in Figure S1(a). The spectrum exhibits the characteristic absorption peaks at ~3310 cm<sup>-1</sup> (N–H) and ~1650 cm<sup>-1</sup>(C=O). Additionally, the characteristic stretching vibration peaks for  $-CH_3$ , and N–H groups can be observed at ~2970 cm<sup>-1</sup>, ~1530 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, confirming the structures of the pNIPAm hydrogel particles. The FTIR spectra in Figure S1(b–e) show pNIPAm hydrogel particles doped with various NPs were also successfully polymerized. Furthermore, pHEMA spectrum (Figure S1(f)) exhibits the main characteristic absorption peaks of O–H and C=O at ~3436, ~1650 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, proving pHEMA hydrogel particles were successfully polymerized.



Figure S1. FTIR spectra of (a) pNIPAm hydrogel particles synthesized at 65 °C; pNIPAm hydrogel particles doped

with (b) Au, (c) Ag, (d) Co NPs and (e)FITC; (f) pHEMA hydrogel particles.



Figure S2. Photograph of pNIPAm hydrogel particles prepared at 65 °C at room temperature. Scale bar=1mm.