## **Supporting Information**

## Magnetic γ-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@REVO<sub>4</sub> (RE=Sm, Dy, Ho) Affinity Microspheres for Selective Capture, Fast Separation and Easy Identification of Phosphopeptides

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Fig. S1 SEM (a) and TEM (b) images of the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> particles. Inset is the Selected Area Electron Diffraction (SAED) pattern.

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Fig. S2 EDS spectra (a), XRD patterns (b), and FTIR spectra (c) of the  $Fe_3O_4@Sm(OH)CO_3$ ,  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@Sm<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub> and  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@SmVO<sub>4</sub> samples.



Fig. S3 EDS spectra (a), XRD patterns (b), and FTIR spectra (c) of the  $Fe_3O_4@Dy(OH)CO_3$ ,  $\gamma$ - $Fe_2O_3@Ho_2O_3$  and  $\gamma$ - $Fe_2O_3@HoVO_4$  samples.



**Fig. S4** SEM images : Column A: a)  $Fe_3O_4@SmVO_4$ , b)  $Fe_3O_4@DyVO_4$ , and c)  $Fe_3O_4@HoVO_4$  microspheres synthesized using  $Fe_3O_4@RE(OH)CO_3$  as precursors with stirring.

 $_{5}$  Column B: a)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@SmVO<sub>4</sub>, b)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@DyVO<sub>4</sub>, and c)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@HoVO<sub>4</sub> synthesized using the  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@RE<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> microspheres as precursors without stirring. Scale bars: 1 µm



Fig. S5 MALDI-TOF mass spectra of a)  $\beta$ -casein digest (1 × 10<sup>-7</sup> M), b) a digest mixture of  $\beta$ -casein and BSA (1:25, molar ratio) and c) a diluted human serum sample treated without the  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@REVO<sub>4</sub> affinity microspheres.





**Fig. S6** MALDI-TOF mass spectra of a digest mixture of  $\beta$ -casein and BSA (1:25, molar ratio) treated with a) as-synthesized Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and s b) TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles, respectively.

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**Fig. S7** MALDI-TOF mass spectra of the peptides from  $\beta$ -casein digest (1×10<sup>-7</sup> M) treated with a)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@SmVO<sub>4</sub>, b)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@DyVO<sub>4</sub>, c)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@HoVO<sub>4</sub> microspheres respectively after these microspheres were recycled up to five times.



**Fig. S8** MALDI-TOF mass spectra of the peptides from  $\beta$ -casein digest (1 × 10<sup>-7</sup> M) treated with a)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@SmVO<sub>4</sub>, b)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@DyVO<sub>4</sub>, c)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@HoVO<sub>4</sub> microspheres respectively after these microspheres were recycled up to eight times.

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5



Fig. S9 SEM images of a)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@SmVO<sub>4</sub> b)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@DyVO<sub>4</sub> c)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@HoVO<sub>4</sub> after eight cycles using  $\beta$ -casein (1×10<sup>-7</sup>) as analyte. Scale bar: 1  $\mu$ m



**Fig. S10** MALDI-TOF mass spectra of the highly diluted  $\beta$ -casein digest (1×10<sup>-9</sup>) treated with a)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@SmVO<sub>4</sub>, b)  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@DyVO<sub>4</sub>, respectively, and c) MALDI-TOF mass spectra of the highly diluted  $\beta$ -casein digest (2×10<sup>-9</sup>) treated with  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@HoVO<sub>4</sub> is microspheres.

**Table S1.** The phosphopeptides and their label signals identified by MALDI-TOF MS from tryptic digest of  $\beta$ -casein.

AA	Peptide sequences	Observed	Theoretical	Phosphorylation site
		m/z	m/z	
33-48	FQ[pS]EEQQQTEDELQDK	2061.3	2061.8	1
33-52	FQ[pS]EEQQQTEDELQDKIHPF	2555.5	2556.0	1
1-25	RELEELNVPGEIVE[pS]L[pS][pS][pS]EESITR	3121.6	3122.2	4

<sup>5</sup> Table S2. Detailed Information of the Observed Endogenous Phosphopeptides from Human serum

NO.	Peptide sequences	Observed	Theoretical	Phosphorylation site
		m/z	m/z	
1	D[pS]GEGDFLAEGGGVR	1545.8	1545.5	1
2	AD[pS]GEGDFLAEGGGVR	1616.9	1616.7	1