## **Supplementary Material**

## Bifunctionalized Silver Nanoparticles as Hg<sup>2+</sup> Plasmonic Sensor in Water: Synthesis, Characterizations, and Ecosafety

Paolo Prosposito <sup>1,2</sup>, Luca Burratti <sup>1</sup>, Arianna Bellingeri <sup>3</sup>, Giuseppe Protano <sup>3</sup>, Claudia Faleri <sup>4</sup>, Ilaria Corsi <sup>3</sup>, Chiara Battocchio <sup>5</sup>, Giovanna Iucci <sup>5</sup>, Luca Tortora <sup>5,6</sup>, Valeria Secchi <sup>5</sup>, Stefano Franchi <sup>7</sup> and Iole Venditti <sup>5,\*</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Department of Industrial Engineering and INSTM, University of Rome Tor Vergata, via del Politecnico 1, 00133 Rome, Italy; paolo.prosposito@uniroma2.it (P.P.); luca.burratti@uniroma2.it (L.B.)
- <sup>2</sup> Center for Regenerative Medicine, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Via Montpellier 1, 00133 Rome, Italy
- <sup>3</sup> Department of Physical, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Siena, Via Mattioli 4, 53100 Siena, Italy; arianna.bellingeri@student.unisi.it (A.B.); <u>giuseppe.protano@unisi.it</u> (G.P.); ilaria.corsi@unisi.it (I.C.)
- <sup>4</sup> Department of Life Sciences, via Mattioli 4, 53100 Siena, Italy; <u>faleric@unisi.it</u>
- <sup>5</sup> Department of Sciences, Roma Tre University of Rome, Via della Vasca Navale 79, 00146 Rome, Italy; chiara.battocchio@uniroma3.it (C.B.); giovanna.iucci@uniroma3.it (G.I.); luca.tortora@uniroma3.it (L.T.); valeria.secchi@uniroma3.it (V.S.)
- <sup>6</sup> Surface Analysis Laboratory INFN Roma Tre, via della Vasca Navale 84, 00146 Rome, Italy
- <sup>7</sup> Elettra-Sincrotrone Trieste S.c.p.A., Strada statale 14, km 163.5, 34149 Basovizza Trieste, Italy; <u>stefano.franchi@elettra.eu</u>
- \* Correspondence: iole.venditti@uniroma3.it; Tel.: +39-06-5733-3388



Figure S1: TEM images of bifunctionalized AgNPs at different magnifications.



Figure S2: L-Cys FTIR spectrum.





**Figure S3.** Uv-Vis spectra of AgNPs in presence of 2.5 ppm of metal ions (As<sup>3+</sup>, As<sup>5+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Nd<sup>3+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>) in water; all references curves (AgNPs alone) are in black line, while red curves represent the interaction between AgNPs and metal ions.

**Table S1.** Table XPS: BE, FWHM, Atomic Ratio values and proposed assignments for all measured core-level signals.

Signal	BE (eV)	FWHM (eV)	Atomic Ratio (%)	Assignment
C1s	285.00	1.33	-	C-C
	286.46	1.33	47.9	C-S; C-N; C-O
	288.45	1.33	52.1	COOH
N1s	400.24	2.44	100.0	NR3
01s	532.00	1.67	41.0	C=0
	533.00	1.67	59.0	O-H
	534.42	1.67	-	Physisorbed H <sub>2</sub> O
S2p	161.05	0.95	54.4	S-Ag sp
	162.09	0.95	45.6	S-Ag sp <sup>3</sup>
Ag3d	368.08	0.96	92.0	Ag(0)
	369.20	0.96	8.0	Ag(δ+)
Hg4f	100.10	0.93	83.7	Hg(0)
	100.85	0.93	16.3	Hg(2+)