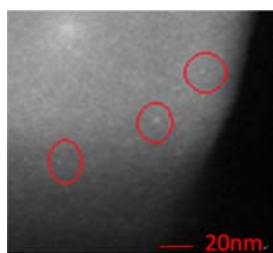


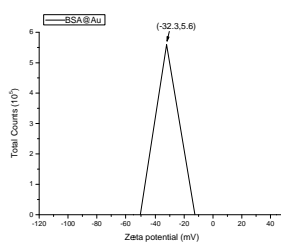
Synthesis and characterizations of Au-BSA NCs.

Aqueous HAuCl₄ (5 mL, 10 mmol/L) was vigorously mixed with BSA (5 mL, 50 mg/mL) at 37 °C. After 2 min, aqueous NaOH (0.5 mL, 1.0 M,) was added, and the mixture was incubated at 37 °C for 12 h. All glassware was washed with aqua regia (HCl:HNO₃, 3:1 v/v), and then rinsed with ultrapure water and ethanol. (Red emission with $\lambda_{em\ max}$ 650 nm, QY \approx 6%, Au NCs consisted of \sim 25 gold atoms, with nanoparticle \sim 0.8 nm encapsulated in the BSA molecule)

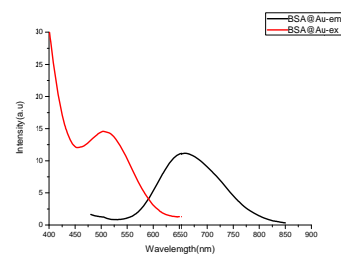
The characterizations of Au-BSA NCs (TEM, Zeta potential and Fluorescence emission and excitation spectra) were shown in the following figures.



TEM of the Au-BSA NCs



Zeta potential of the Au-BSA NCs



Fluorescence emission and excitation spectra