

*Supporting Information*

# From rust to riches: phytochemically assisted doping of superparamagnetic Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles with Au for SERS sensing

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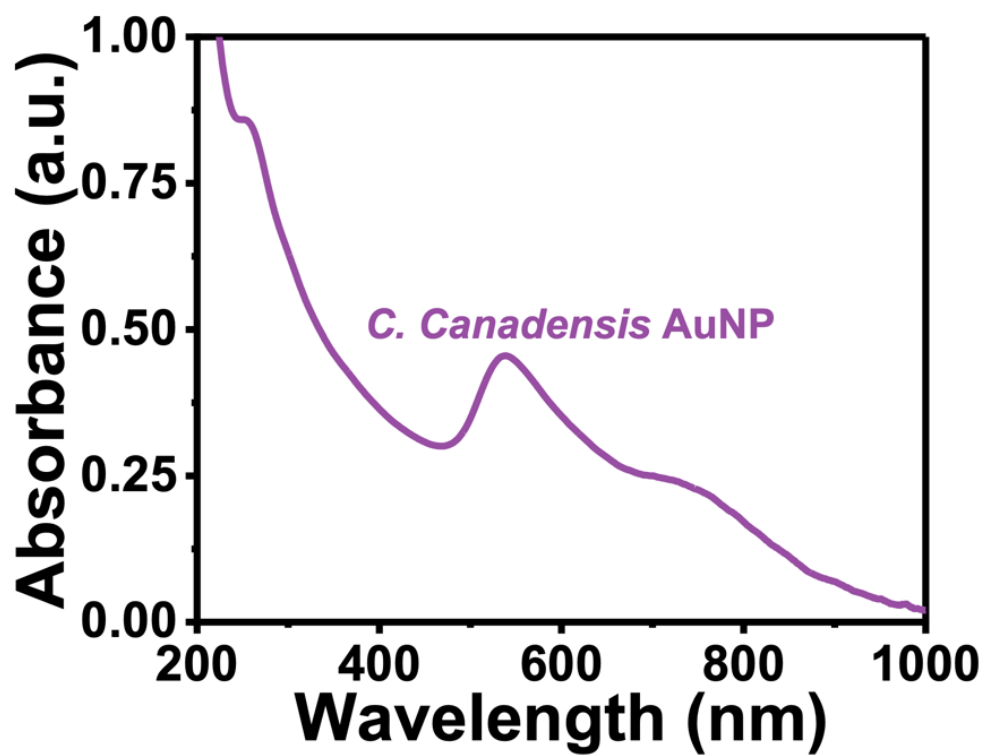
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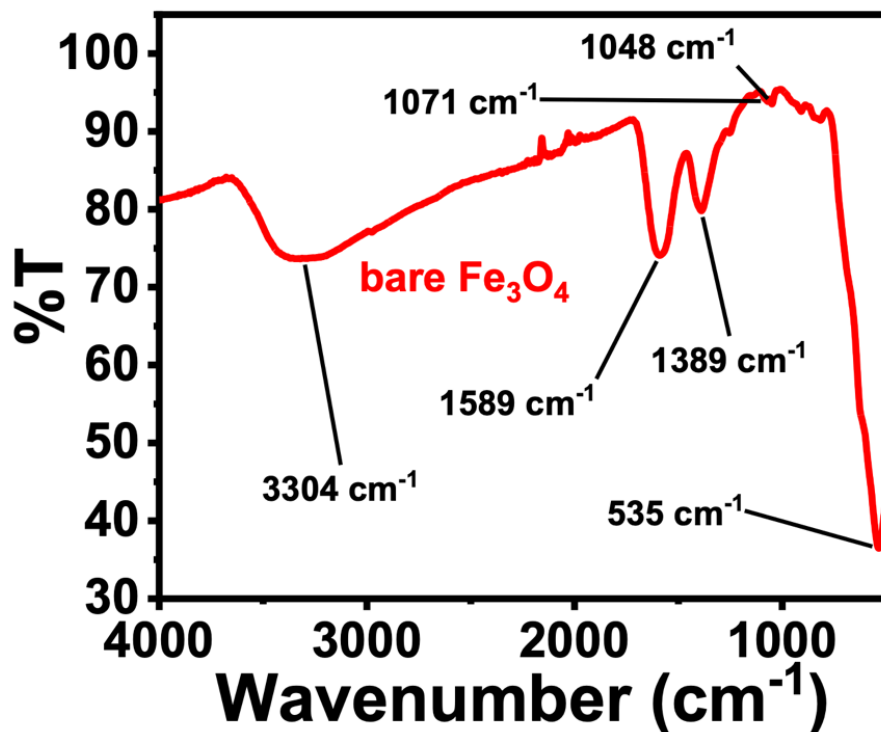
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Trial	Aqueous Extract	
	Mass of flowers (g)	[Anthocyanin] (mM)
1	1.000	0.105
2	1.000	0.121
3	1.000	0.0826
4	1.000	0.110
<b>Average ± std. dev.</b>	1.000	0.105 ± 0.016

**Table S1.** Anthocyanin values for four independent trials on the *C. Canadensis* extract demonstrating an average anthocyanin concentration of  $105 \pm 16 \mu\text{M}$ .



**Fig. S1.** UV-vis absorption spectrum of the synthesized Au nanoparticle synthesized with *C. Canadensis* demonstrating a broad plasmon resonance centered around 540 nm.



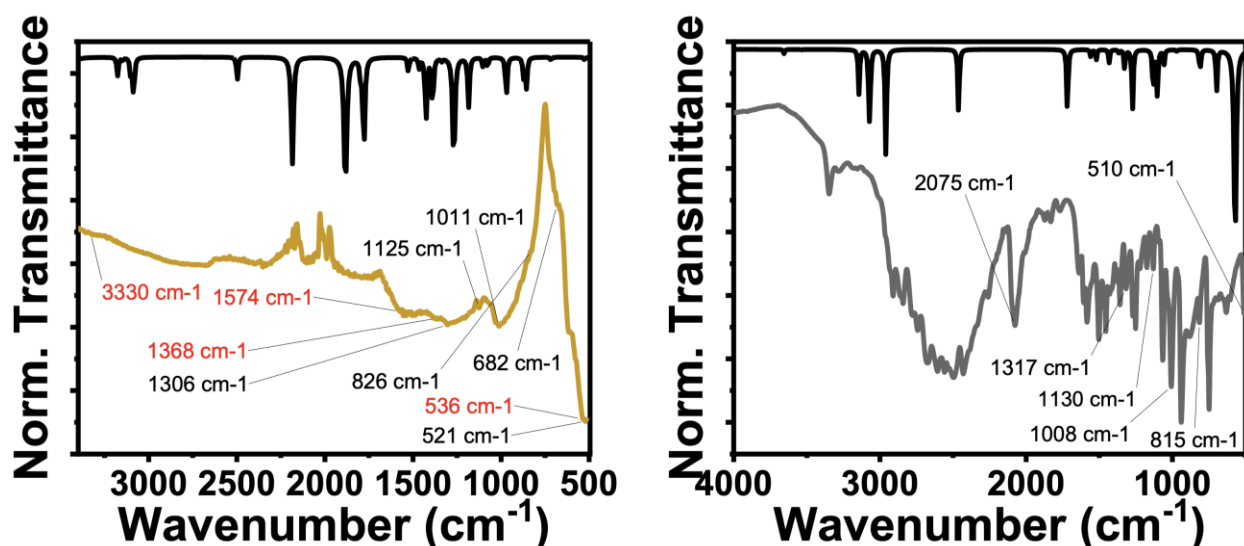
**Fig. S2.** ATR-IR spectrum of citrate-capped Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> used as a template for Au loading. Six main bands are seen: (1) 535 cm<sup>-1</sup> from Fe-O, (2) 1048<sup>-1</sup> from C-O-C of the citrate ligand, (3) 1071 cm<sup>-1</sup> from C-O-C of the citrate ligand, (4) 1389 cm<sup>-1</sup> from Fe-COO<sup>-</sup>, (5) 1589 cm<sup>-1</sup> from Fe-COO<sup>-</sup>, (6) 3304 cm<sup>-1</sup> from O-H of the citrate.

**Table S2.** Compiled theoretical assignments for Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> IR-active vibrational modes

<b>Exp. Freq. (Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>)</b>	<b>Theoretical Frequency [1, 2]</b>	<b>Vibrational Mode</b>
535 cm <sup>-1</sup>	578 cm <sup>-1</sup>	$\nu(\text{Fe-O})$
1048 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1020 cm <sup>-1</sup>	$\delta(\text{C-O-C})^*$
1071 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1020 cm <sup>-1</sup>	$\delta(\text{C-O-C})^*$
1389 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1428 cm <sup>-1</sup>	$\nu(\text{Fe-COO}^-)^*$
1589 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1521 cm <sup>-1</sup>	$\nu(\text{Fe-COO}^-)^*$
3304 cm <sup>-1</sup>	3126 cm <sup>-1</sup>	$\nu(\text{O-H})^*$

\*: in part or totally contributed to by the citrate ligand,  $\nu$ : stretching mode,  $\delta$ : scissoring mode



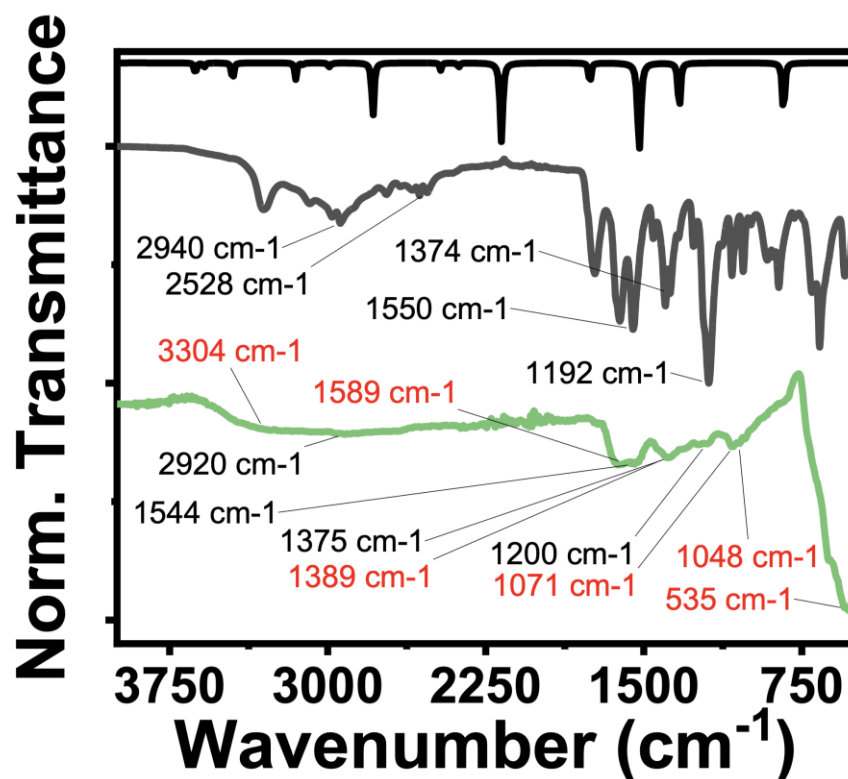


**Fig. S3.** Annotated IR spectra for cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (left, yellow trace) and cysteamine powder (right, gray trace). Different simulated data (black trace) are seen due to the lack of protonation of the cysteamine in powdered form and the presence of an extra proton when dissolved in aqueous media. The lack of a 2075 cm<sup>-1</sup> band (due to S-H stretching) in the cysAuMNP demonstrates the presence of an Au-S bond between the cysteamine and the Au nanoparticle. The simulated data for cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> was obtained from the protonated form of cysteamine (HS(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>) while the simulated data for the cysteamine powder was obtained from the neutral species (HS(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>). The annotated peaks are described in **Table S3**.

**Table S3.** Vibrational assignments for cysteamine present in cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and cysteamine powder. CysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> was simulated using a protonated, or basic, form of cysteamine, and the powder was simulated using the neutral species. Theoretical frequencies are chosen such that the vibrational modes of both are the same and are the closest wavenumber occurrence of each vibration to the protonated value. For example, if both a 691 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 800 cm<sup>-1</sup> ν(C-S) exist for the neutral species, the 691 cm<sup>-1</sup> is shown in the table as it is closer to 710 cm<sup>-1</sup> than 800 cm<sup>-1</sup> is.

Exp. Freq. (cysAuMNP)	Exp. Freq. (Powder)	Theoretical Frequency (basic/neutral)	Vibrational Mode
521 cm <sup>-1</sup>	510 cm <sup>-1</sup>	519 cm <sup>-1</sup> /–	τ(C-N)
536 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	ν(Fe-O)*
682 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	710 cm <sup>-1</sup> / 691 cm <sup>-1</sup>	ν(C-S)
826 cm <sup>-1</sup>	815 cm <sup>-1</sup>	849 cm <sup>-1</sup> / 966 cm <sup>-1</sup>	ν(C-C)
1011 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1008 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1071 cm <sup>-1</sup> / 1052 cm <sup>-1</sup>	ν(C-C)
1125 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1130 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1179 cm <sup>-1</sup> / 1359 cm <sup>-1</sup>	ρ(C-H)
1306 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1317 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1383 cm <sup>-1</sup> / 1428 cm <sup>-1</sup>	ω(C-H)
–	2075 cm <sup>-1</sup>	2494 cm <sup>-1</sup> / 2459 cm <sup>-1</sup>	ν(S-H) <sup>#</sup>
1368 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	ν(Fe-COO <sup>-</sup> )*
1574 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	ν(Fe-COO <sup>-</sup> )*
3330 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	ν(O-H)*

<sup>#</sup>: thiol bonding mode, \*: contributed to be the citrate-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> core, ν: stretching mode, δ: scissoring mode, τ: on-axis rotational mode, ρ: rocking mode, ω: wagging mode

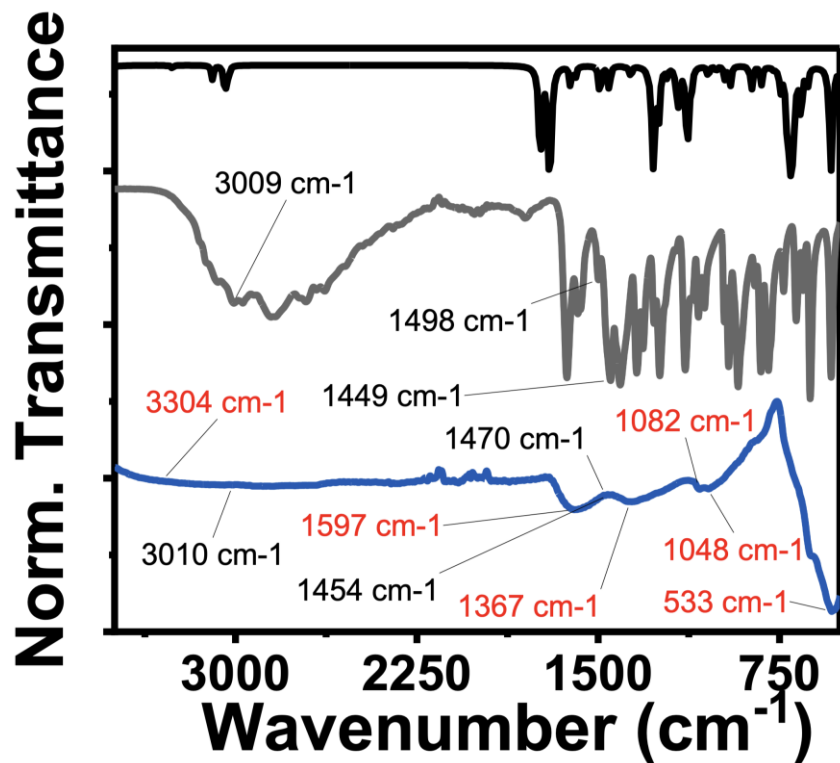


**Fig. S4.** Annotated IR spectra for  $\text{tioAuFe}_3\text{O}_4$  (green trace) and tiopronin powder (gray trace) as well as the theoretical simulated spectra (black trace). Eight distinguishable peaks are found in the  $\text{tioAuFe}_3\text{O}_4$  with four being attributable to  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  and the other four being attributable to the tiopronin powder. The lack of the  $2528\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band due to thiol stretching indicates the presence of an Au-S in place of the S-H. The annotated peaks are described in **Table S4**.

**Table S4.** Vibrational assignments for the tiopronin present in tioAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and cysteamine powder. TioAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and tiopronin powder were simulated using the neutral tiopronin species.

Exp. Freq. (tioAuMNP)	Exp. Freq. (Powder)	Theoretical Frequency	Vibrational Mode
535 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(Fe-O)*
1048 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(C-O)*
1071 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(C-O)*
1200 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1192 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1326 cm <sup>-1</sup>	v(N-H)
1375 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1374 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1516 cm <sup>-1</sup>	v(N-H), δ(C-N-C)
1389 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(Fe-COO <sup>-</sup> )*
1544 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1550 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1523 cm <sup>-1</sup>	v(C-S)
1589 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(Fe-COO <sup>-</sup> )*
–	2528 cm <sup>-1</sup>	2461 cm <sup>-1</sup>	v(S-H) <sup>#</sup>
2920 cm <sup>-1</sup>	2940 cm <sup>-1</sup>	2977 cm <sup>-1</sup>	v(C-H)
3304 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(O-H)*

#: thiol bonding mode, \*: contributed to be the citrate-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> core, v: stretching mode

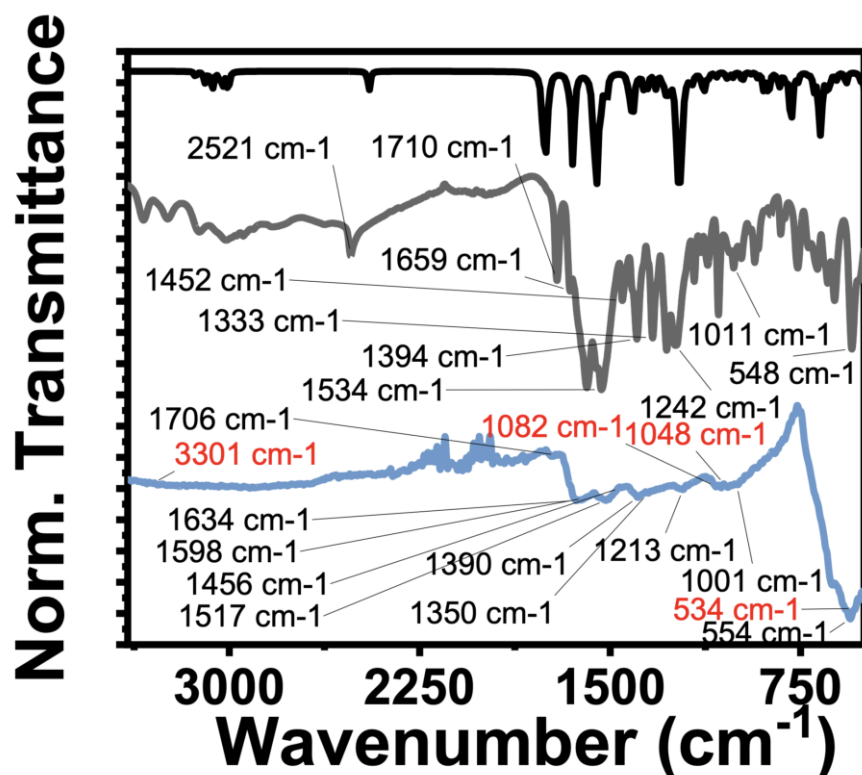


**Fig. S5.** Annotated IR spectra for hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (dark blue trace) and tiopronin powder (gray trace) as well as the theoretical simulated spectra (black trace). Eight distinguishable peaks are found in the hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> with five being attributable to Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and the other three being attributable to the tiopronin powder. The annotated peaks are described in **Table S5**.

**Table S5.** Vibrational assignments for the histidine present in hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and histidine powder. The hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and histidine powder were simulated using the neutral histidine species.

Exp. Freq. (hisAuMNP)	Exp. Freq. (Powder)	Theoretical Frequency	Vibrational Mode
533 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(Fe-O)*
1048 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(C-O)
1082 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(C-O)
1367 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(Fe-COO <sup>-</sup> )*
1454 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1449 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1449 cm <sup>-1</sup>	imidazole ring deformation
1470 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1498 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1488 cm <sup>-1</sup>	imidazole ring deformation
1597 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(Fe-COO <sup>-</sup> )*
3010 cm <sup>-1</sup>	3009 cm <sup>-1</sup>	3042 cm <sup>-1</sup>	v(C-H)
3304 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(O-H)*

\*: contributed to be the citrate-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> core, v: stretching mode



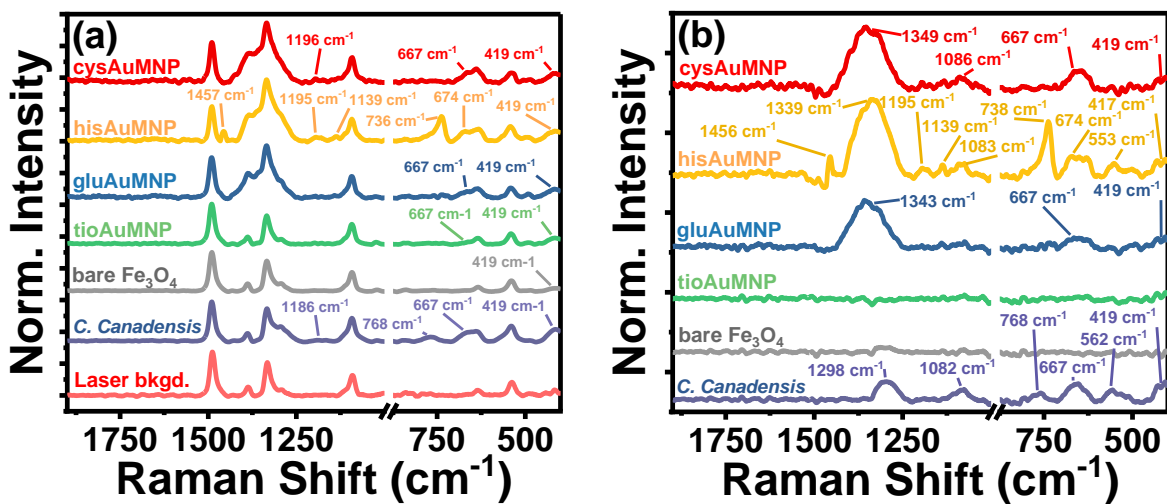
**Fig. S6.** Annotated IR spectra for gluAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (light blue trace) and tiopronin powder (gray trace) as well as the theoretical simulated spectra (black trace). Fourteen distinguishable peaks are found in the gluAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> with four being attributable to Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and the other ten being attributable to the tiopronin powder. The absence of the 2521 cm<sup>-1</sup> band (S-H stretching) in the gluAuMNP demonstrates the presence of an Au-S bond between the glutathione and the Au. The annotated peaks are described in **Table S6**.

**Table S6.** Vibrational assignments for the glutathione present in gluAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and glutathione powder. GluAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and glutathione powder were simulated using the neutral glutathione species.

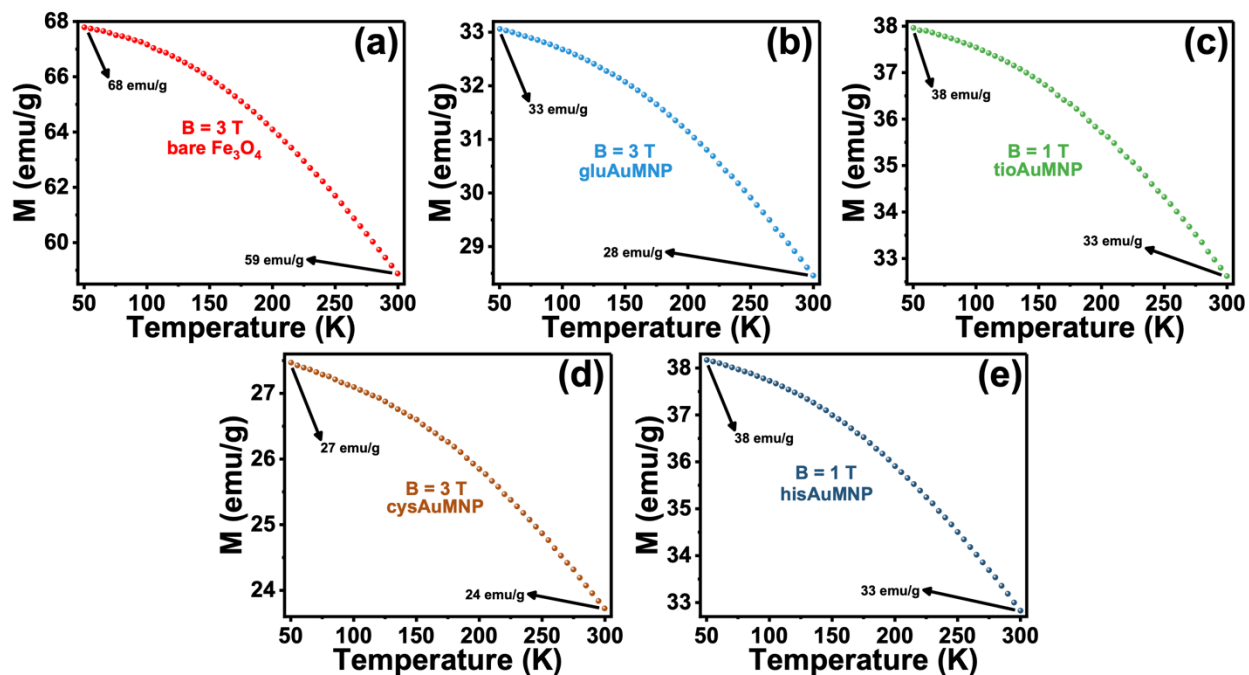
Exp. Freq. (gluAuMNP)	Exp. Freq. (Powder)	Theoretical Frequency	Vibrational Mode
533 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(Fe-O)*
554 cm <sup>-1</sup>	548 cm <sup>-1</sup>	484 cm <sup>-1</sup>	ω(O-H)
1001 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1011 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1011 cm <sup>-1</sup>	v(C-C)
1048 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(C-O)
1082 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(C-O)
1213 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1242 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1225 cm <sup>-1</sup>	v(C-O)
1350 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1333 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1347 cm <sup>-1</sup>	ω(C-H)
1390 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1394 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1407 cm <sup>-1</sup>	δ(C-N-C)
1456 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1452 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1509 cm <sup>-1</sup>	δ(H-C-H)
1517 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1534 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1548 cm <sup>-1</sup>	v(C-N)
1598 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(Fe-COO)*
1634 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1659 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1642 cm <sup>-1</sup>	v(C=O)
1706 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1710 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1750 cm <sup>-1</sup>	v(C=O)
–	2521 cm <sup>-1</sup>	2446 cm <sup>-1</sup>	v(S-H)#
3301 cm <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	v(O-H)*

#: thiol bonding mode, \*: contributed to be the citrate-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> core, v: stretching mode, δ: scissoring mode, τ: on-axis rotational mode, ρ: rocking mode, ω: wagging mode

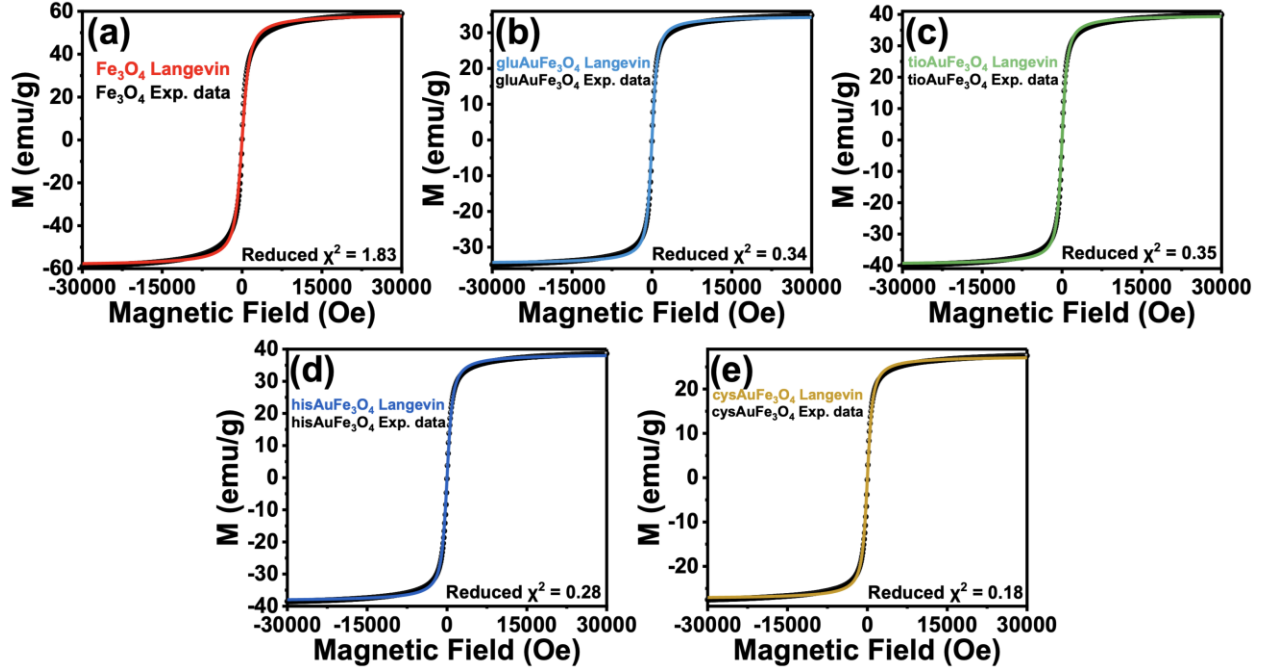




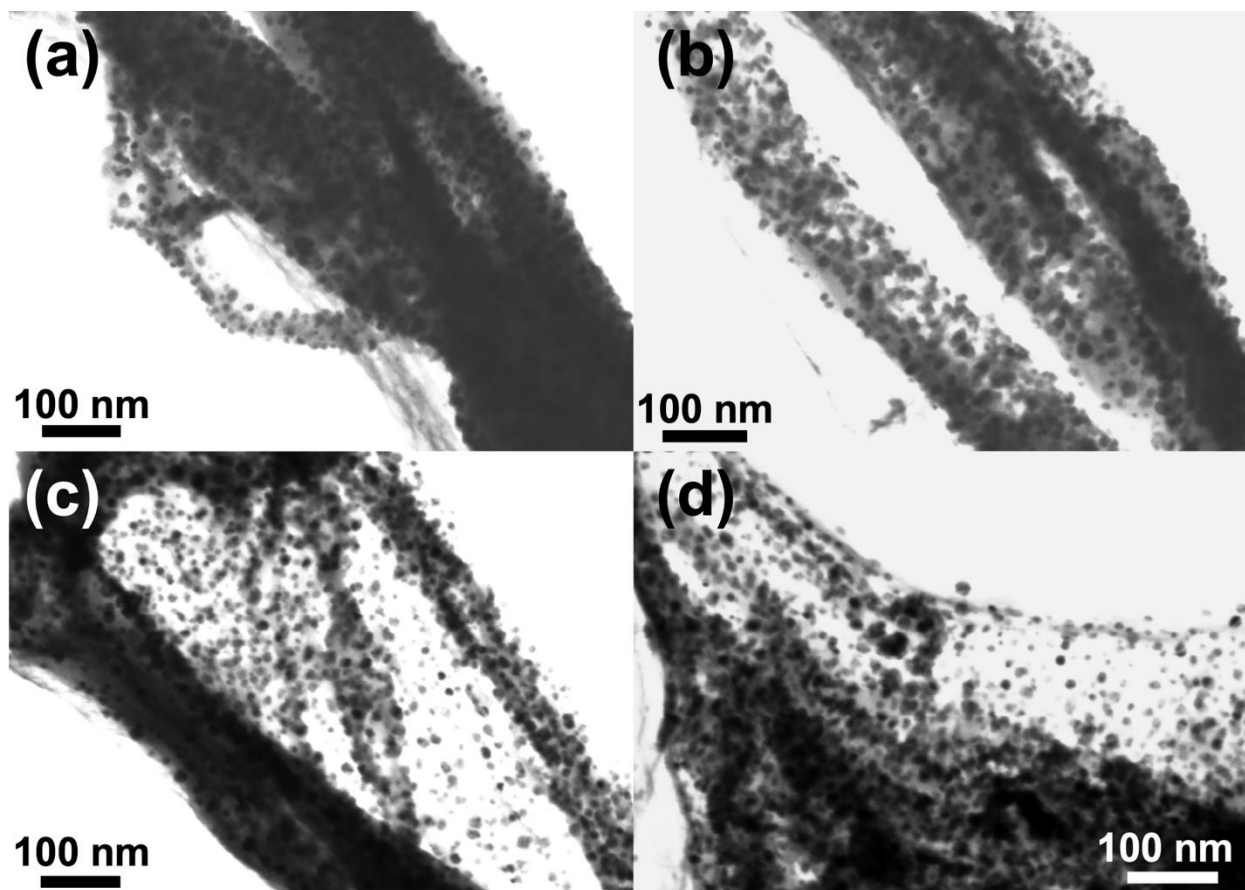
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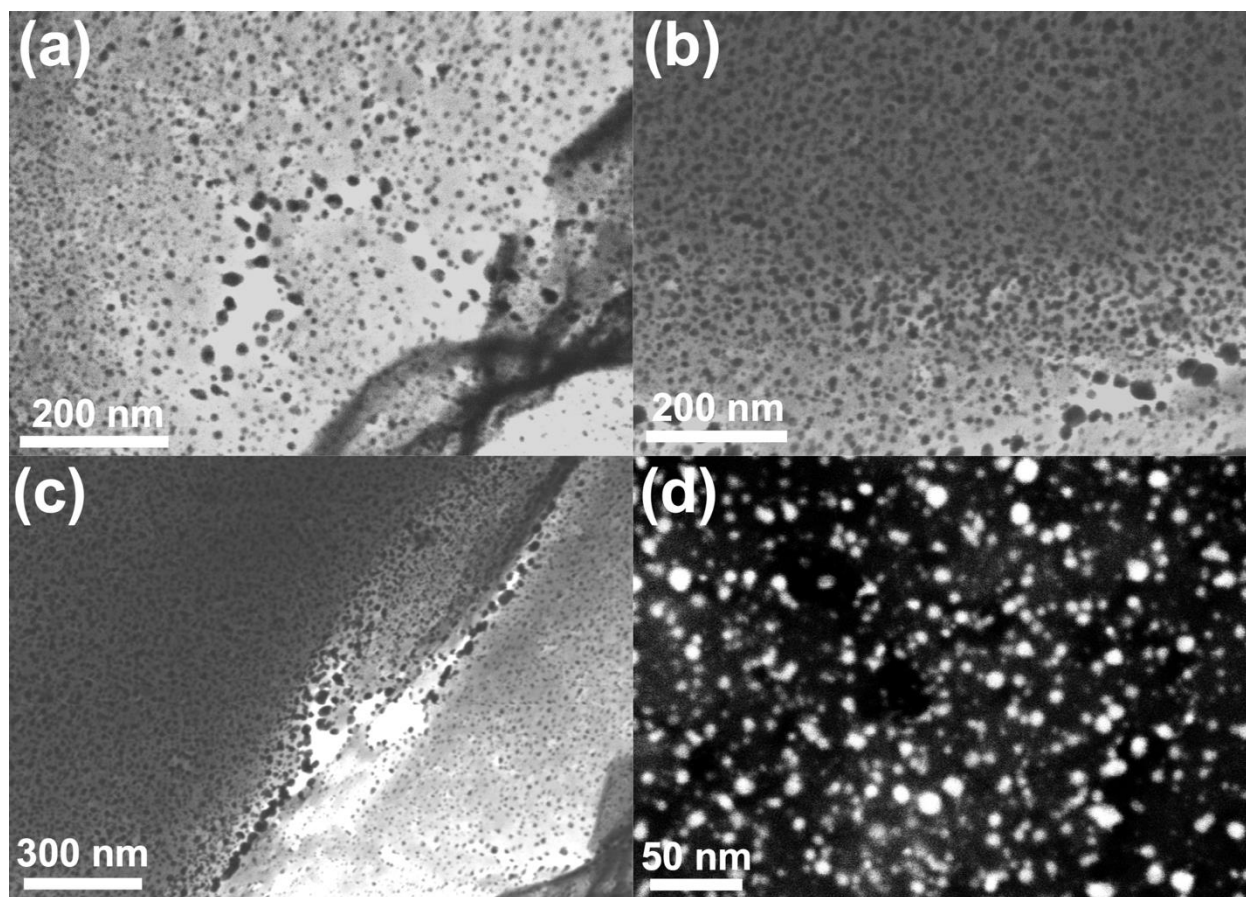
**Fig. S8.** Magnetic saturation as a function of temperature for all nanoparticles synthesized over the range of 50-300 K. (a) bare  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ , (b) gluAuMNP, (c) tioAuMNP, (d) cysAuMNP, and (e) AuMNP. All nanoparticles demonstrate the same shape of decline with cysAuMNP and gluAuMNP having the lowest magnetic saturation overall but still maintaining relatively high saturation as opposed to diamagnetic product (0 emu/g).



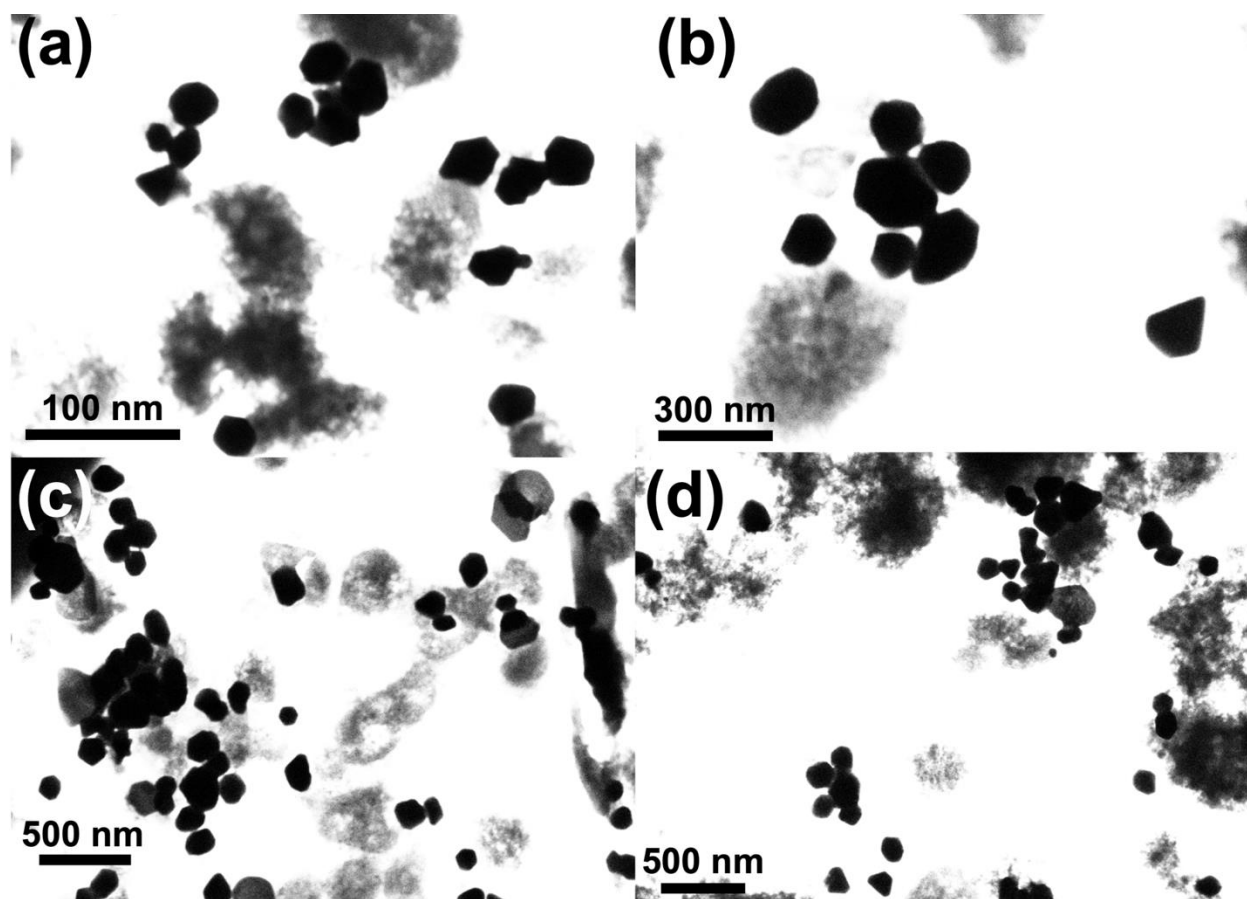
**Fig. S9.** Langevin functions fitted to experimental data from magnetic hysteresis (MH) for nanoparticle at 300 K. All black scatter-plot data corresponds to the MH loop measurements from the vibrating sample magnetometer for each nanoparticle. Colored Langevin function fits correspond to: (a) red for  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ , (b) light blue for  $\text{gluAuFe}_3\text{O}_4$ , (c) green for  $\text{tioAuFe}_3\text{O}_4$ , (d) dark blue for  $\text{hisAuFe}_3\text{O}_4$ , and (e) yellow for  $\text{cysAuFe}_3\text{O}_4$ . Each Langevin fit was calculated using the standard equation  $y = C * \left( \coth(z) - \frac{1}{z} \right)$ , where  $z = \frac{x}{s}$ . The values for  $s$  and  $C$  were found through parameter estimation, with the overall agreement between the Langevin function and the experimental data indicating the presence of superparamagnetism in the sample. Reduced  $\chi^2$  values are shown on the plot to indicate agreement between the fit and the experimental data, with values  $<1$  indicating a good fit.



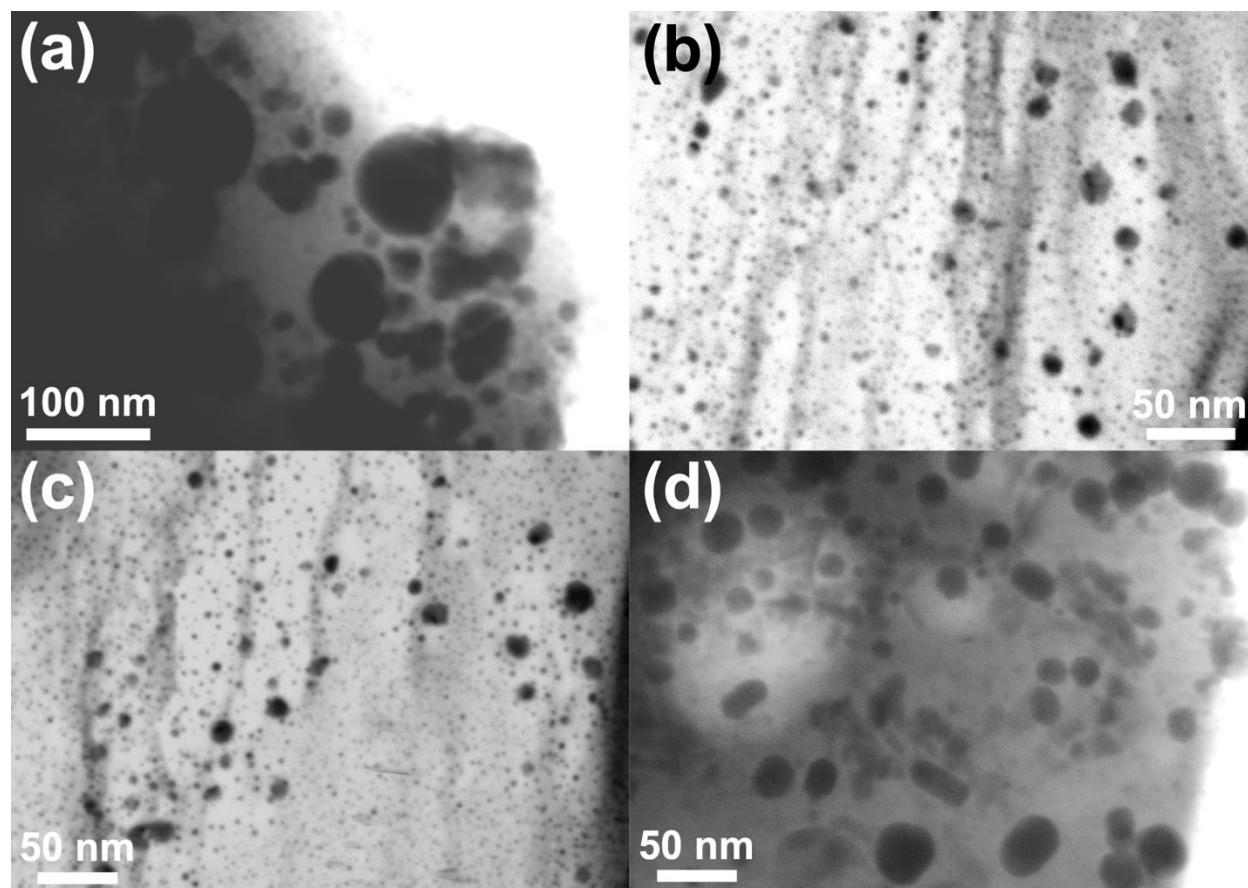
**Fig. S10.** Additional STEM images of the bare Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles in bright-field imaging mode. All samples (a-d) were taken with a 30 kV accelerating voltage and 13 pA current. All scale bar insets correspond to 100 nm in length.



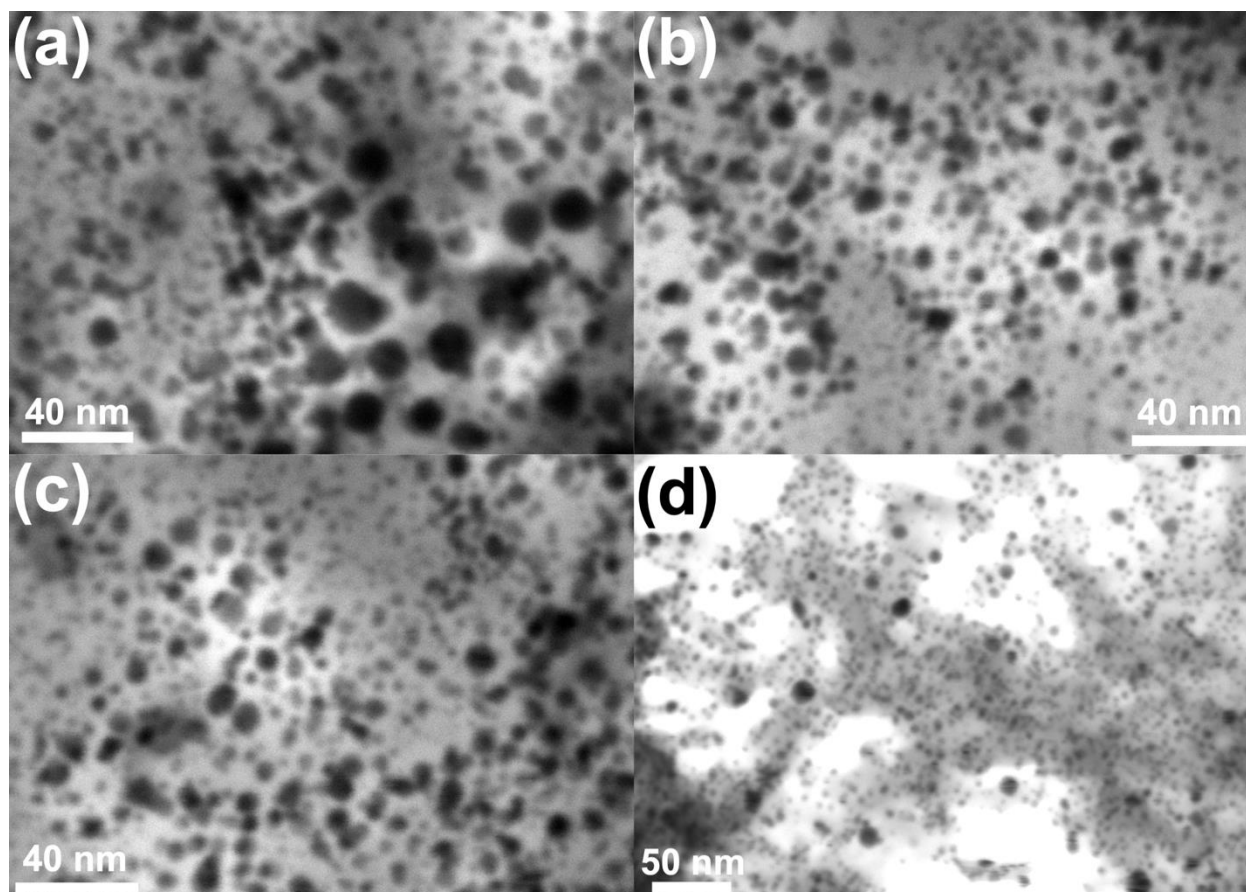
**Fig. S11.** Additional STEM images for the  $\text{tioAuFe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles. Images (a-c) were taken in bright-field imaging mode and (d) was taken in high-angle annular diffraction (HAADF) mode. All samples were imaged with 30 kV accelerating voltage and 13 pA current.



**Fig. S12.** Additional STEM images for the hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles synthesized. All images (a-d) were taken in bright-field mode with an accelerating voltage of 30 kV and a current of 13 pA.

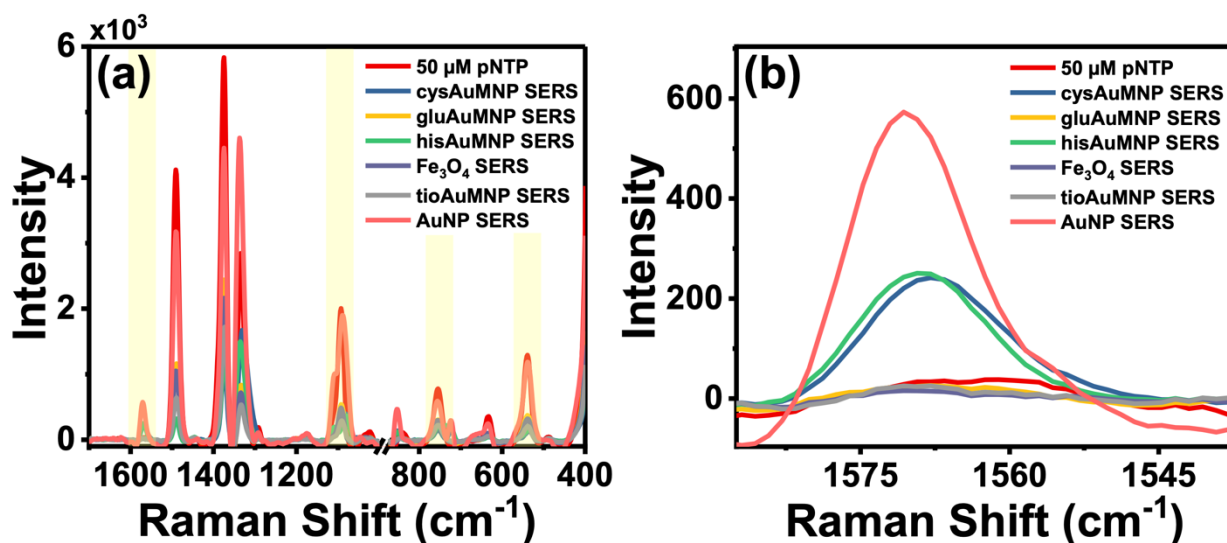


**Fig. S13.** Additional STEM images for the cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles. All images (a-d) were taken in bright field mode with an accelerating voltage of 30 kV. Images (a) and (d) were taken with a current of 50 pA, while images (b) and (c) were taken with a current of 13 pA.

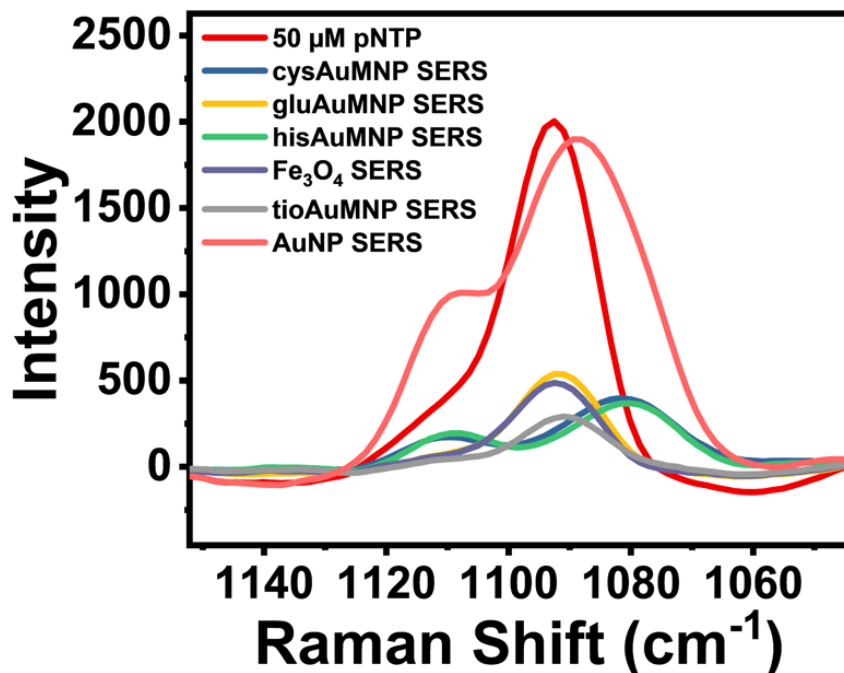


**Fig. S14.** Additional STEM images for the  $\text{gluAuFe}_3\text{O}_4$  product synthesized. All images (a-d) were taken in bright field imaging mode with an accelerating voltage of 30 kV and a current of 13 pA.

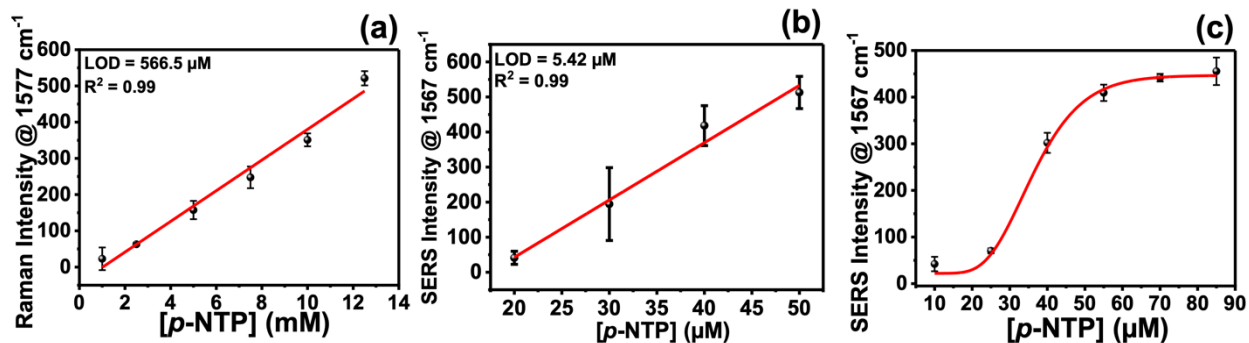




**Fig. S15.** Additional Raman and SERS spectra of *p*-NTP with and without the nanoparticles synthesized. (a) Full range (1700-400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) Raman and SERS spectrum of the analyte on its own (50  $\mu\text{M}$  *p*-NTP) and then with the nanoparticles in solution. (b) Region of interest over the fingerprint peak ( $\sim 1567 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) demonstrating the SERS enhancement when hisAuMNP, cysAuMNP, and AuNP are applied to the natural Raman signal of 50  $\mu\text{M}$  *p*-NTP.



**Fig. S16.** Region of interest Raman/SERS spectrum over the 1080-1120  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  band demonstrating the presence of a single peak in the dark red 50  $\mu\text{M}$  *p*-NTP spectrum as opposed to splitting peaks in *cys*AuMNP, *his*AuMNP, and the AuNP, as well as the *tio*AuMNP to some extent. The splitting phenomenon demonstrates the presence of a thiol-Au bond between the *p*-NTP and the Au nanoparticles.



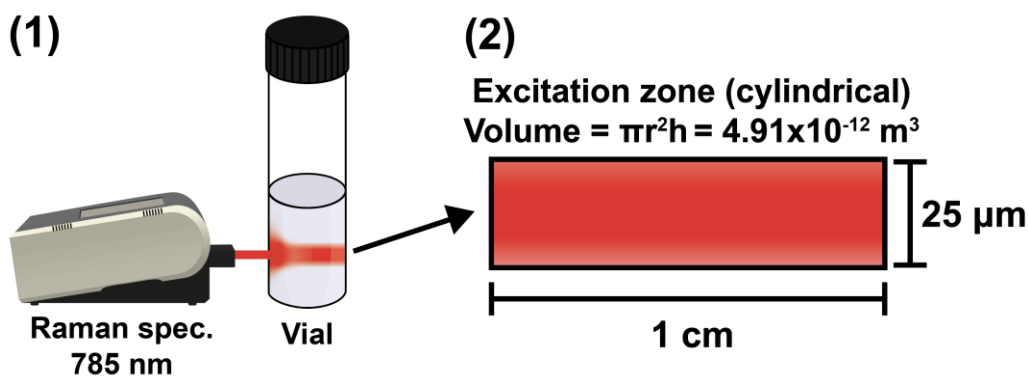
**Fig. S17.** Calibration curves for the Raman and SERS measurements on the portable Raman spectrometer. The limit of detection (LOD) was calculated using the  $3\sigma$  method. The LOD for the natural Raman signal of the *p*-NTP (a) was 566.5  $\mu\text{M}$  at the most intense peak ( $1577\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). The SERS LOD for *p*-NTP (b) when using cysAuMNP (nanoparticle with highest EF) was 5.42  $\mu\text{M}$ , roughly 100x lower than the Raman LOD. The linear dynamic range (c) for this measurement is shown to be in the region of roughly 20-50  $\mu\text{M}$  with qualitative detection still achievable above this region. All measurements were completed in triplicate.

## Section 1. Calculation of SERS enhancement factor.

To quantify the enhancement factor of our nanoparticle in the liquid phase, we made multiple mathematical approximations to simplify the calculations. The general equation that was used for these calculations was

$$(i) \quad EF = \frac{N_{Raman} * I_{SERS}}{N_{SERS} * I_{Raman}}$$

where  $N_{Raman}$  is the number of molecules probed during natural Raman,  $I_{Raman}$  is the intensity of that natural Raman signal,  $N_{SERS}$  is the number of molecules probed during SERS, and  $I_{SERS}$  is the intensity of that SERS signal. The figure below demonstrates the first of these approximations, where in panel (1) the excitation scenario is demonstrated whereby the portable Raman's 785 nm excitation creates a roughly cylindrical excitation zone within the borosilicate vial. Therefore, we make a cylindrical approximation for this excitation zone (2) in order to simplify calculations and determine that given the spot size of the laser (25  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and the diameter of the vial (1 cm), the volume of excitation would be  $4.91 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m}^3$ .

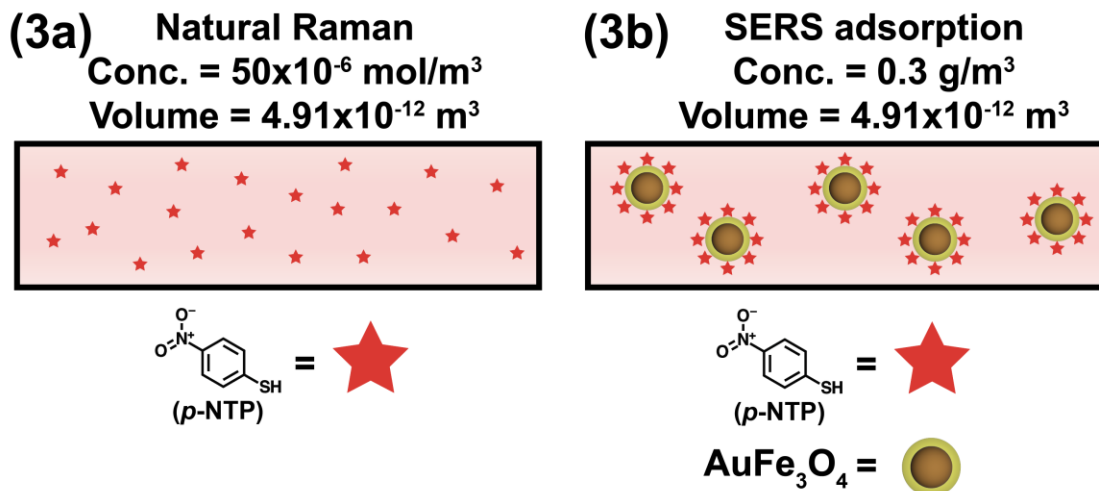


This value was then used to determine the number of molecules of both *p*-NTP and  $\text{AuFe}_3\text{O}_4$  that would be located in this cylindrical excitation zone. To carry out this calculation, the following formula was used

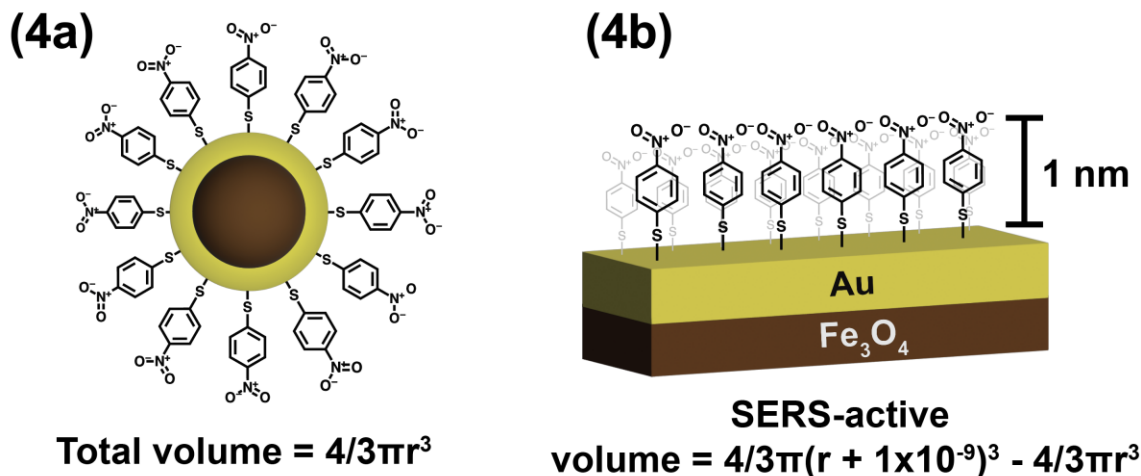
$$(ii) \quad N_{\text{molecule}} = C_{\text{molecule}} * V_{\text{cyl}} * N_A$$

where  $N_{\text{molecule}}$  was the number of *p*-NTP molecules in the cylindrical zone,  $C_{\text{molecule}}$  was the concentration of *p*-NTP in solution (50  $\mu\text{M}$  or 50  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^3$ ),  $V_{\text{cyl}}$  was the volume of the cylindrical excitation zone ( $4.91 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m}^3$ ), and  $N_A$  was Avogadro's constant ( $6.022 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ ). From this equation one can see that the number of molecules of *p*-NTP in the cylindrical zone was  $1.48 \times 10^8$ . This calculation in equation (ii) was carried out similarly for the  $\text{AuFe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles where  $C_{\text{molecule}}$  was 0.15  $\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , instead of 50  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^3$  in the case of *p*-NTP. The value for  $N_{\text{molecule}}$  in this case was found to be  $4.44 \times 10^{11} \text{ g} \cdot \text{AuFe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{mol}$ , with the unwanted units in the final value (units should not include g or mol) meaning that the molecular weight of the  $\text{AuFe}_3\text{O}_4$  (g/mol) must be divided out of this number to obtain the number of molecules of  $\text{AuFe}_3\text{O}_4$ . Using the %Au loading for the  $\text{AuFe}_3\text{O}_4$  obtained, cys $\text{AuFe}_3\text{O}_4$  has an Au:Fe ratio of 0.081:1, or 0.24 Au in 3 Fe, and

hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> has an Au:Fe ratio of 0.360:1, or 1.08 Au in 3 Fe. This means that the molecular formula of cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> would be essentially Au<sub>0.24</sub>Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (278.80 g/mol), and hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> would have the formula Au<sub>1.08</sub>Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (444.26 g/mol). Factoring this into the number 4.44x10<sup>11</sup> g•AuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/mol, we obtain 1.59x10<sup>9</sup> molecules of cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and 9.98x10<sup>8</sup> molecules of hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. This is schematically represented below for clarity, where in panels (3a) and (3b) one can see the pictorial representations of this calculation in the cylindrical excitation zone.



While from  $N_{\text{molecule}}$  of *p*-NTP we immediately obtained the  $N_{\text{Raman}}$ , the  $N_{\text{SERS}}$  number has yet to be obtained as all that has been calculated was how many nanoparticles of AuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> are in the excitation zone. To identify the  $N_{\text{SERS}}$ , one must calculate the number of *p*-NTP molecules that would be contained in a SERS-active zone above the AuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.



This is shown schematically above, where in panel (4a) one can see that if the entire volume of the nanoparticle was used the value would be  $\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$ , however only a 1 nm surface above the nanoparticle is actually SERS-active (4b), therefore the formula for that volume is

$$(iii) V_{\text{SERS}} = \frac{4}{3}\pi(r + 1 \times 10^{-9})^3 - \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$$

where  $r$  is the radius of the nanoparticle, with the first term ( $r + 1 \times 10^{-9}$ ) being the radius of the nanoparticle plus  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  m to account for a thickness of 1 nm above the surface. From the histograms obtained from STEM imaging, the  $r$  for cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> is roughly 14.8 nm ( $14.8 \times 10^{-9}$  m), and the  $r$  for hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> is roughly 65.1 nm ( $65.1 \times 10^{-9}$  m). Therefore, for cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> the  $V_{\text{SERS}}$  is  $2.94 \times 10^{-24}$  m<sup>3</sup>, and for hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> is  $5.41 \times 10^{-23}$  m<sup>3</sup>. This volume is then multiplied by the previous number of AuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> that would be found in this cylindrical zone ( $1.59 \times 10^9$  for cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and  $9.98 \times 10^8$  for hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) to determine the total SERS-active volume within the excitation zone. This was calculated to be a total volume of  $4.67 \times 10^{-15}$  m<sup>3</sup> for the cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and  $5.40 \times 10^{-14}$  m<sup>3</sup> for the hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. Substituting these volumes into equation (ii) in place of  $V_{\text{cyl}}$  allows us to obtain the  $N_{\text{SERS}}$  for both cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> ( $1.41 \times 10^5$ ) and hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> ( $1.63 \times 10^6$ ). To complete the parameters needed for equation (i) in order to calculate SERS EF, we simply obtain  $I_{\text{SERS}}$  and  $I_{\text{Raman}}$  from the corresponding SERS and Raman spectra. The  $I_{\text{SERS}}$  was measured to be 259.5 counts for cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and 273.6 counts for hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, with the  $I_{\text{Raman}}$  being 46.1 counts for the 50  $\mu\text{M}$  *p*-NTP. As previously stated, the  $N_{\text{Raman}}$  for 50  $\mu\text{M}$  *p*-NTP was found to be  $1.48 \times 10^8$  and the  $N_{\text{SERS}}$  for cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> were  $1.41 \times 10^5$  and  $1.63 \times 10^6$ , respectively. Therefore, our SERS EF for cysAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> was calculated as  $5.91 \times 10^3$ , and the SERS EF for hisAuFe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> was calculated as  $5.39 \times 10^2$ .

## Section 2. Optimized geometries and computational settings used for all four ligands.

### 1. Tiopronin, B3LYP/6-311G.

<i>Atom</i>	<i>Mass</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
C	6.0	0.4703227643	0.1025178224	0.7495675075
C	6.0	1.5635511462	-0.6117405111	-0.0366550025
C	6.0	2.0886549628	0.2289648839	-1.1875263082
O	8.0	2.3126085012	1.4563557832	-1.0648369525
N	7.0	2.3055145629	-0.4246307161	-2.3616265716
C	6.0	2.8582325087	0.2676567888	-3.5135561251
C	6.0	2.9995830697	-0.7006754846	-4.6519440133
O	8.0	2.7142468000	-1.8989309776	-4.6070241697
O	8.0	3.4960483683	-0.0904518599	-5.7725766277
S	16.0	3.0562251667	-1.0812454064	1.0891315227
H	1.0	-0.4045486383	0.2705994540	0.1148525027
H	1.0	0.8236908670	1.0744909124	1.0905893675
H	1.0	0.1677475942	-0.4913424559	1.6102963630
H	1.0	1.2247130444	-1.5854378415	-0.3884872018
H	1.0	2.1594525955	-1.4191607168	-2.4545576619
H	1.0	3.8335604994	0.7057549803	-3.2838447246
H	1.0	2.2204059405	1.1011974610	-3.8169084454
H	1.0	3.5917976452	-0.7264886632	-6.5080287558
H	1.0	3.4179326013	0.2280365469	1.3544252968

### 2. Cysteamine neutral, B3LYP/6-311G.

<i>Atom</i>	<i>Mass</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
C	6.0	-3.72402	2.20286	0.05682
C	6.0	-2.30854	1.63259	-0.05200
N	7.0	-4.73101	1.16316	-0.16946
H	1.0	-3.87667	3.00323	-0.67638
H	1.0	-3.88430	2.62731	1.05442
H	1.0	-4.67148	0.83356	-1.13273
H	1.0	-5.65942	1.57474	-0.07230
S	16.0	-1.06584	2.93790	0.18729
H	1.0	-2.14654	1.18298	-1.03737
H	1.0	-2.14620	0.85679	0.70370
H	1.0	0.00780	2.14003	0.09144

### 3. Cysteamine protonated, B3LYP/6-311G.

<i>Atom</i>	<i>Mass</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
C	6.0	-10.0530859246	1.6209288182	0.0821942896
C	6.0	-8.7632596522	2.3979766812	0.3033128247
N	7.0	-11.2514316627	2.5587442327	0.0461528162
H	1.0	-10.2337955603	0.9116841118	0.8854349696
H	1.0	-10.0446845535	1.0858637976	-0.8630184582

S	16.0	-7.3307703447	1.1454071983	0.1054911725
H	1.0	-8.7100324564	2.8146632195	1.3046723802
H	1.0	-8.6201615874	3.1739558259	-0.4420641891
H	1.0	-6.3080872123	2.0398947338	0.3482985152
H	1.0	-11.3295821376	3.0863984751	0.9162869858
H	1.0	-12.1182098948	2.0383616093	-0.0866527711
H	1.0	-11.1803590133	3.2366512964	-0.7147085355

#### 4. Glutathione, B3LYP/6-311G.

<i>Atom</i>	<i>Mass</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
C	6.0	1.0510336730	0.1064383750	0.4407194051
C	6.0	0.4261909856	-1.2375095199	0.8285182428
C	6.0	-1.0900341592	-1.1668536101	0.8665592560
O	8.0	-1.7436542895	-0.3599932648	0.1647025913
N	7.0	-1.7031143709	-2.0700345407	1.6909700734
C	6.0	-3.1511685549	-2.1646894617	1.8127951953
C	6.0	-3.7330527121	-3.4210642831	1.1360798852
S	16.0	-3.4326382497	-3.3677340676	-0.7497299283
C	6.0	-3.4882918269	-2.2321939680	3.3065549083
O	8.0	-2.7496058971	-2.8537185680	4.1080412572
N	7.0	-4.6347989543	-1.6257544476	3.7041973398
C	6.0	-5.0768933083	-1.6924596183	5.0867962136
C	6.0	-6.4688277544	-1.1054773364	5.1940427807
O	8.0	-7.0729830135	-0.6107594037	4.2514721943
O	8.0	-7.0412372882	-1.1410770176	6.4448337831
C	6.0	2.5666756388	-0.0148389917	0.1566718189
C	6.0	3.1276273013	1.3307510034	-0.3308976529
O	8.0	3.9787739381	1.9800433890	0.2619396432
O	8.0	2.6149636745	1.8125926189	-1.5270970461
N	7.0	3.2733469050	-0.5256321862	1.3270620940
H	1.0	0.5151221656	0.4980672317	-0.4263221227
H	1.0	0.8992809959	0.8361490070	1.2420725187
H	1.0	0.8401590656	-1.5817717529	1.7760467367
H	1.0	0.6950751959	-1.9969933315	0.0841598488
H	1.0	-1.1658695884	-2.6360213412	2.3316127884
H	1.0	-3.5715750080	-1.2691252726	1.3538416337
H	1.0	-4.8072556356	-3.4717227562	1.3026594385
H	1.0	-3.2535174580	-4.3111759503	1.5367938423
H	1.0	-3.9186563154	-4.6439527034	-0.9825380914
H	1.0	-5.2215901071	-1.1025667674	3.0685237663
H	1.0	-4.3933397565	-1.1428656811	5.7438642224
H	1.0	-5.0686131829	-2.7303674925	5.4330708174
H	1.0	-6.4877557219	-1.5574799588	7.1314446398
H	1.0	2.7022127154	-0.7374864297	-0.6562196019
H	1.0	1.9215533203	1.2459644485	-1.9115216693
H	1.0	3.3447699116	0.1669009288	2.0650816728
H	1.0	4.1936776661	-0.8904672791	1.1136075044



### 5. Histidine, B3LYP/6-311G.

Atom	Mass	x	y	z
C	6.0	-1.9381642864	-1.5077724201	-0.7364225444
C	6.0	-1.5738211505	-0.2251609807	-0.3677065973
N	7.0	-0.3235089906	-0.3743357426	0.2346511499
C	6.0	0.0150247281	-1.7021963638	0.2032103451
N	7.0	-0.9434132742	-2.4236601053	-0.3788044555
C	6.0	-2.2465723556	1.1022446162	-0.5293891563
C	6.0	-2.9905470237	1.6592970263	0.7508965253
C	6.0	-4.3216806899	0.9467919531	0.9337113873
O	8.0	-5.4238094164	1.4867579770	0.8387586542
O	8.0	-4.2731809366	-0.4038232201	1.1929985574
N	7.0	-3.2298690627	3.0956424133	0.7288460035
H	1.0	-2.8260893187	-1.8228052804	-1.2544941380
H	1.0	0.2439851224	0.3633849566	0.6182266593
H	1.0	0.9372814534	-2.0818284096	0.6029756875
H	1.0	-2.9576609587	1.0515723033	-1.3555592536
H	1.0	-1.5075920438	1.8582872588	-0.8013078640
H	1.0	-2.3683375815	1.4289907945	1.6201604386
H	1.0	-3.3752509413	-0.7945435805	1.1711559573
H	1.0	-3.9537390225	3.3814690224	0.0815533360
H	1.0	-2.3868642508	3.6445477817	0.6244293076

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