

## Supplementary Information

# Is the effect of surface modifying molecules on antibacterial activity universal for a given material?

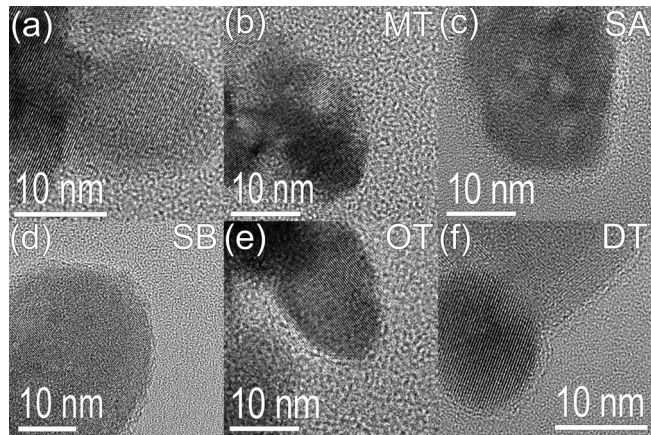
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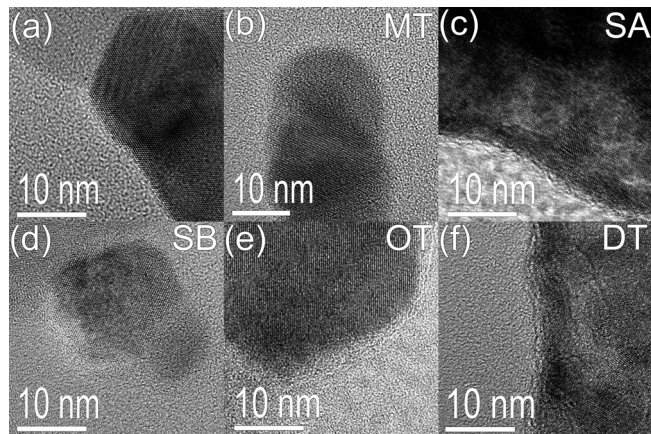
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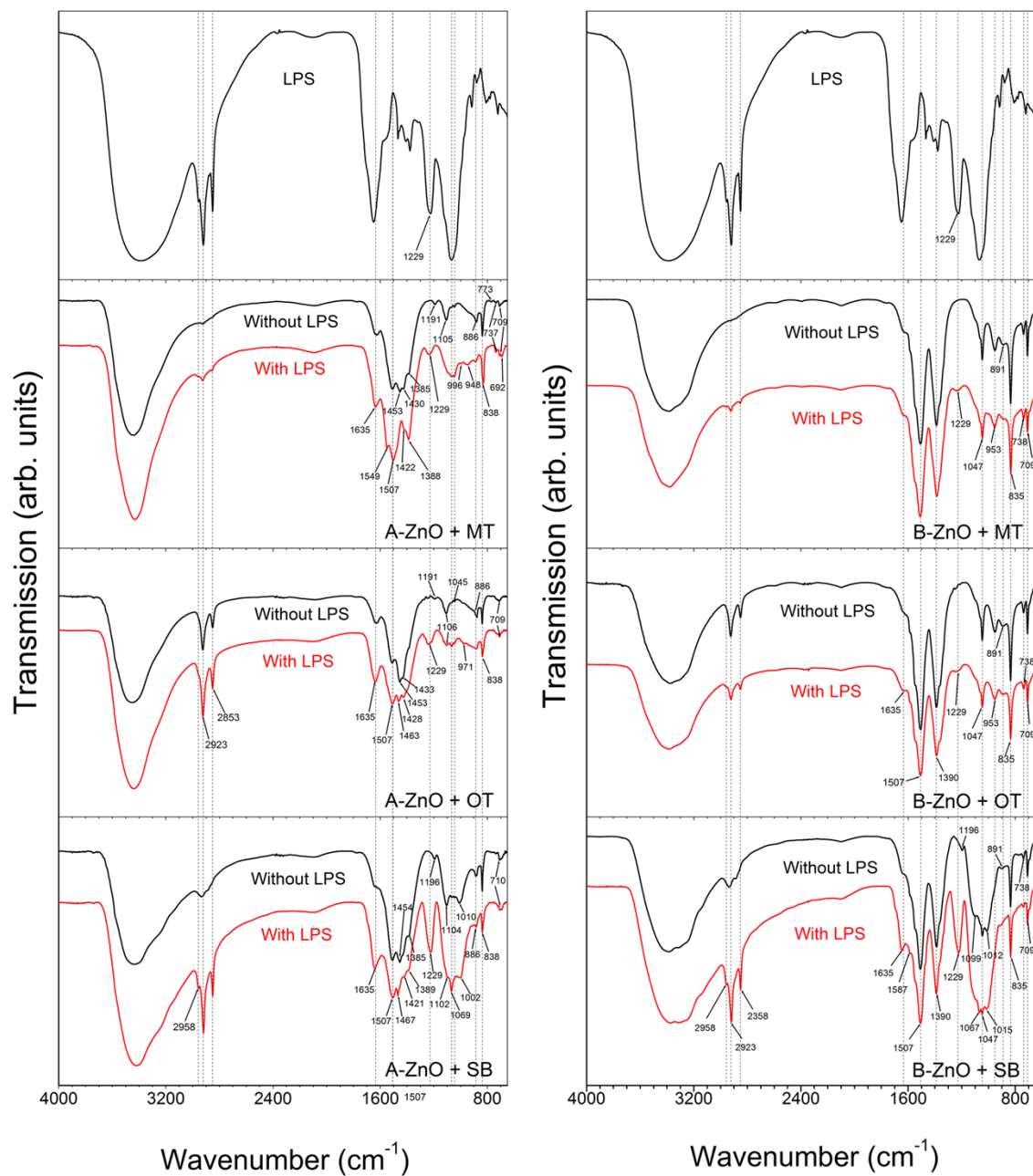
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**Figure S1** TEM images of A-ZnO nanoparticles with different surface modifications: a) none b) MT, c) SA, d) SB, e) OT, f) DT.



**Figure S2** TEM images of B-ZnO nanoparticles with different surface modifications: a) none b) MT, c) SA, d) SB, e) OT, f) DT.



**Figure S3** FTIR spectra of ZnO nanoparticles before and after exposure to LPS. A-ZnO samples are on the left, B-ZnO on the right, and the FTIR spectra of pure LPS are also shown for comparison.