

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### Ferroferric oxide /cysteine magnetic nanospheres for isolation of his-tagged proteins

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#### ESI 1 Preparation of His-tagged proteins.

The stock solution of His-tagged protein was prepared as follows: A total of 5 mL of an overnight culture was subcultured into 300 mL fresh Luria-Bertani (LB) medium (10 g Tryptone, 5 g yeast extract and 10 g NaCl per litre of solution) containing kanamycin (50 mg/L). Transformed cells were grown at 37 °C, when the optical density (OD) at 600 reached 0.5–0.8, incubating the cells at 4 °C for 5 min. Protein expression was induced with 0.2 mM isopropyl β-d-1-thiogalactopyranoside overnight at 16 °C, 200 rpm in the rocking incubator. Cells were harvested by centrifugation at 10 °C for 15 min, 4500 rpm, resuspended in binding buffer, and disrupted by sonication. Then centrifugation at 4 °C for 40 min, 14000 rpm, the clear supernatant was filtered and the soluble His-tagged proteins were in the supernatant.

The soluble His-tagged proteins were purified as follows:

1. Preparation of Ni-NTA agarose. Use a pipette to remove sufficient slurry of Ni-NTA agarose to a 10 mL tube, sediment the medium by centrifugation for 5 min, 3000 rpm, decant the supernatant, wash the agarose by adding 5 mL Binding buffer, invert to mix, sediment the medium by centrifugation for 5 min, 3000 rpm. Repeat to add Binding buffer and sediment the medium for at least 3 times.

2. Combine the agarose with the His-tagged proteins. Add the cell lysate to the prepared Ni-NTA agarose and incubate for at least 30 min, use an agitation in the horizontal rotator. Sediment the chromatography medium by centrifugation for 5 min, 3000 rpm. Decant the supernatant, wash the Ni-NTA agarose by 5 mL Binding buffer, 5 mL Washing buffer 1, 5 mL Washing buffer 2 for at least 3 times, respectively.

3. Elute the bound His-tagged proteins. Elute the bound His-tagged proteins by adding 3 mL Elution buffer per 1 mL Ni-NTA agarose. Incubate at room temperature for 5-10 min using a horizontal rotator.

Binding buffer : 20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, pH 8.0.

Washing buffer 1: 5 mM imidazole, 20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, pH 8.0.

Washing buffer 2: 20 mM imidazole, 20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, pH 8.0.

Elution buffer: 500 mM imidazole, 20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, pH 8.0.

Water and chemicals used for buffer preparation should be of high purity. All water and solution should be filtered.

## ESI 2. Concentration of His-tagged TRX washed off from different Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Cys-Ni<sup>2+</sup> NSs.

Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /Cys NSs	Thiol group density (μmol/g)	Binding Capacity (mg/g)
Sample a	189.59	53.2
Sample b	268.59	44.9
Sample c	309.62	34.4

Protein	Amount of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /Cys (mg)	Binding Capacity (mg/g)
TRX protein	3	53.2
TRX protein	6	41.7
TRX protein	12	37.7

Amount of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /Cys NSs (mg)	Concentration imidazole (mmol/L)	Binding Capacity (mg/g)
3	100	34.0
3	250	47.5
3	500	53.2
3	1000	56.5

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Amount of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /Cys NSs (mg)	concentration of TRX (μg/mL)	Binding Capacity (mg/g)
3	44	48.0
3	88	45.6
3	132	47.9
3	220	53.2

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Amount of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /Cys NSs (mg)	Reused times	Binding Capacity (mg/g)
3	1st	48.2
3	2nd	51.5
3	3rd	52.1
3	4th	53.2

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Amount of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /Cys NSs (mg)	His-tagged proteins	Binding Capacity (mg/g)
3	OST1	31.5
3	ABI2	28.8
3	TRX	53.2

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