



## Supporting Information

for

### **pH-Responsive fluorescent supramolecular nanoparticles based on tetraphenylethylene-labelled chitosan and a six-fold carboxylated tribenzotriquinacene**

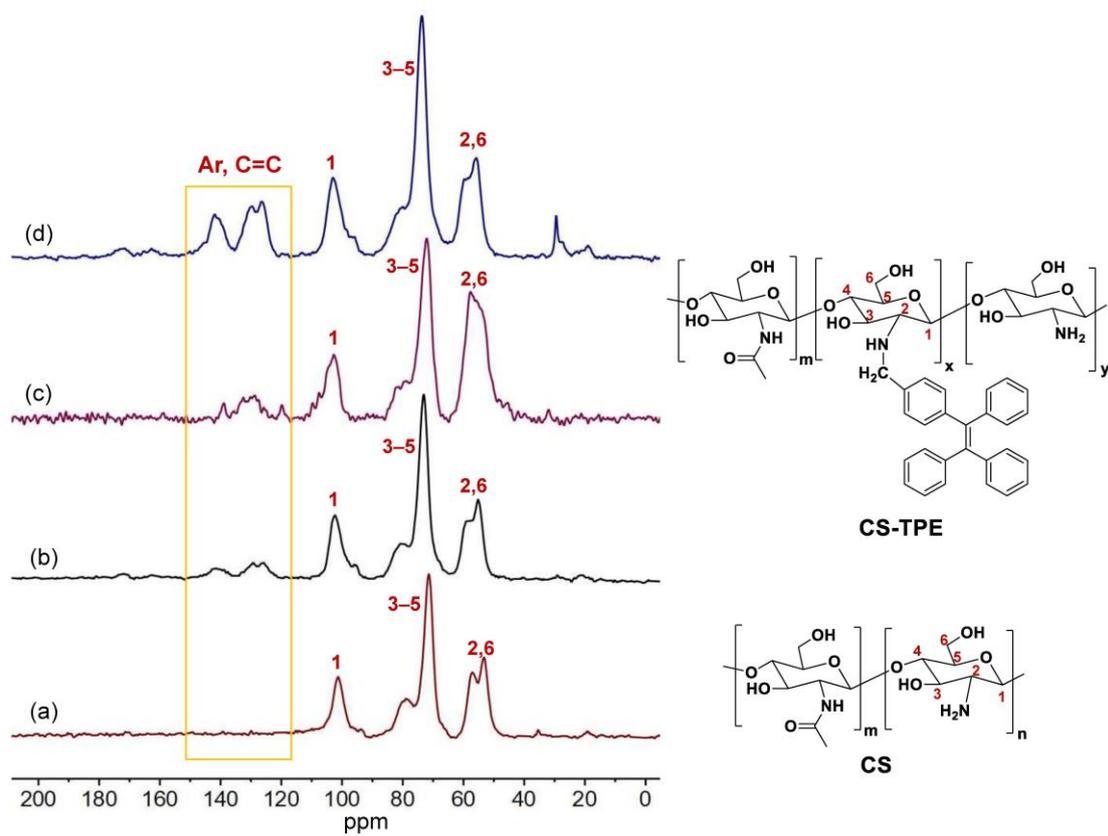
Nan Yang, Yi-Yan Zhu, Wei-Xiu Lin, Yi-Long Lu and Wen-Rong Xu

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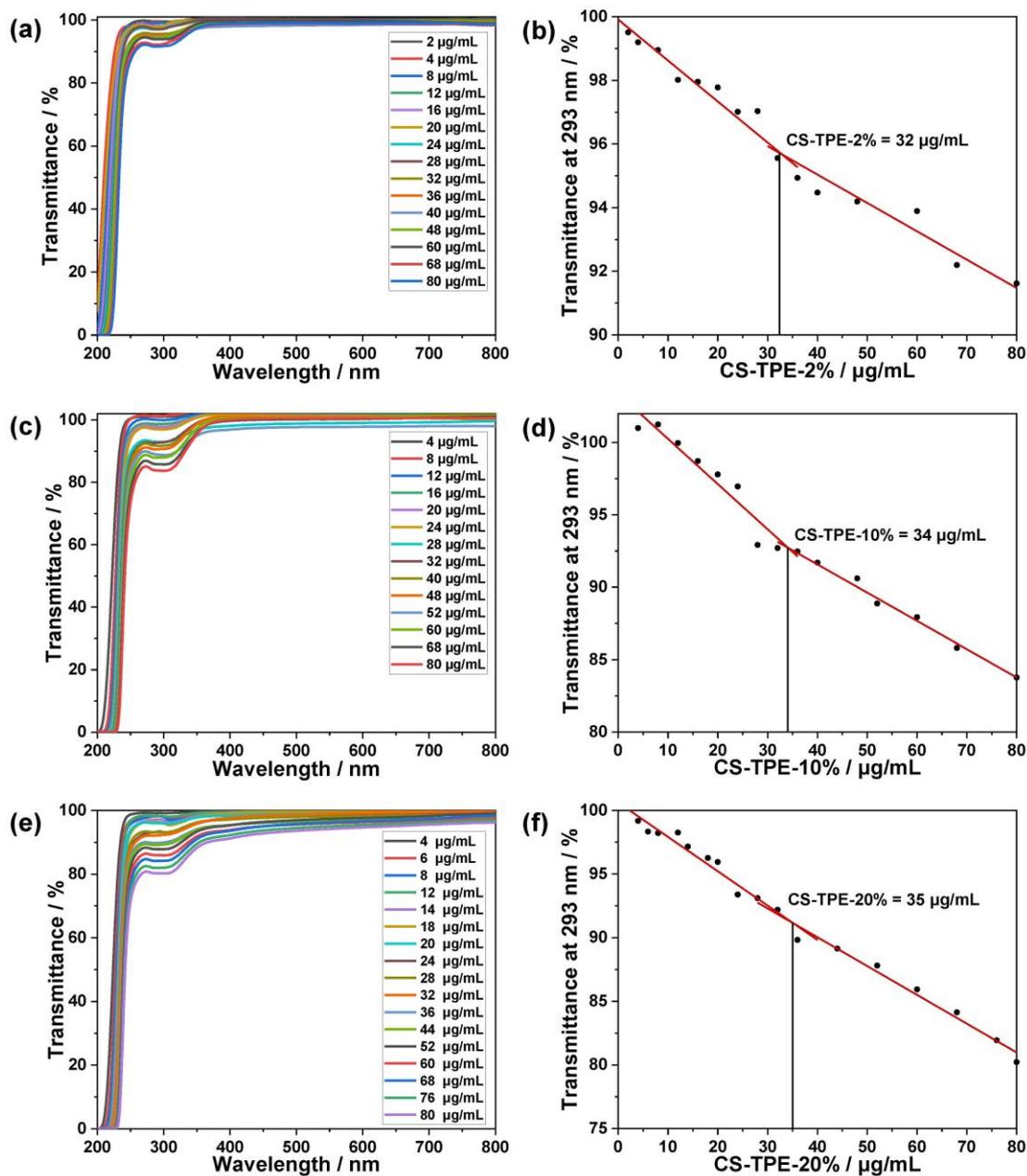
### **Solid-state CP/MAS $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of CS-TPE, optical transmittance and concentration-dependent transmittance of CS-TPE, Tyndall effect of CS-TPE and TBTQ-C<sub>6</sub>/CS-TPE and pH-responsive properties of TBTQ-C<sub>6</sub>/CS-TPE**

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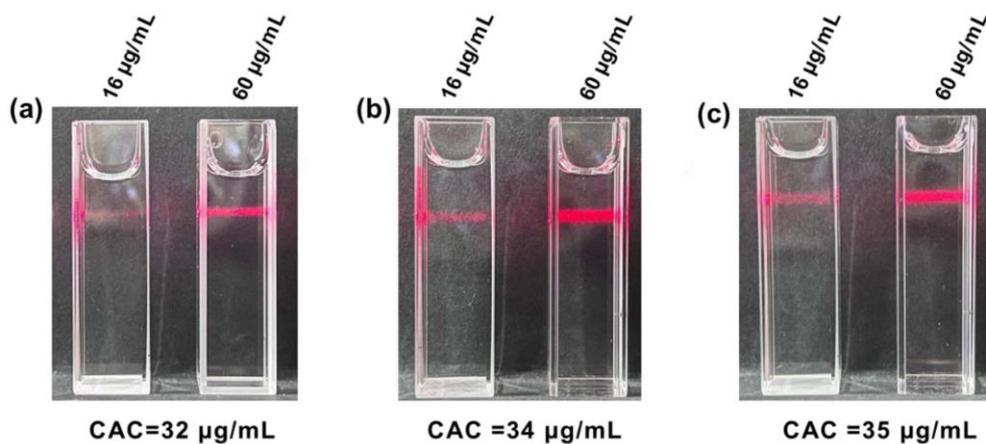
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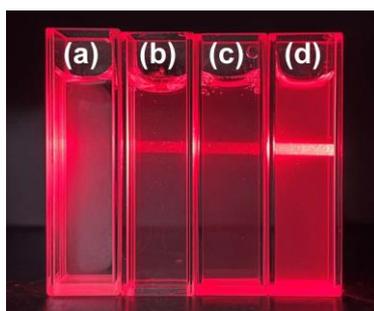
**Figure S1:** Solid-state CP/MAS  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (a) CS, (b) CS-TPE-2%, (c) CS-TPE-10% and (d) CS-TPE-20%.



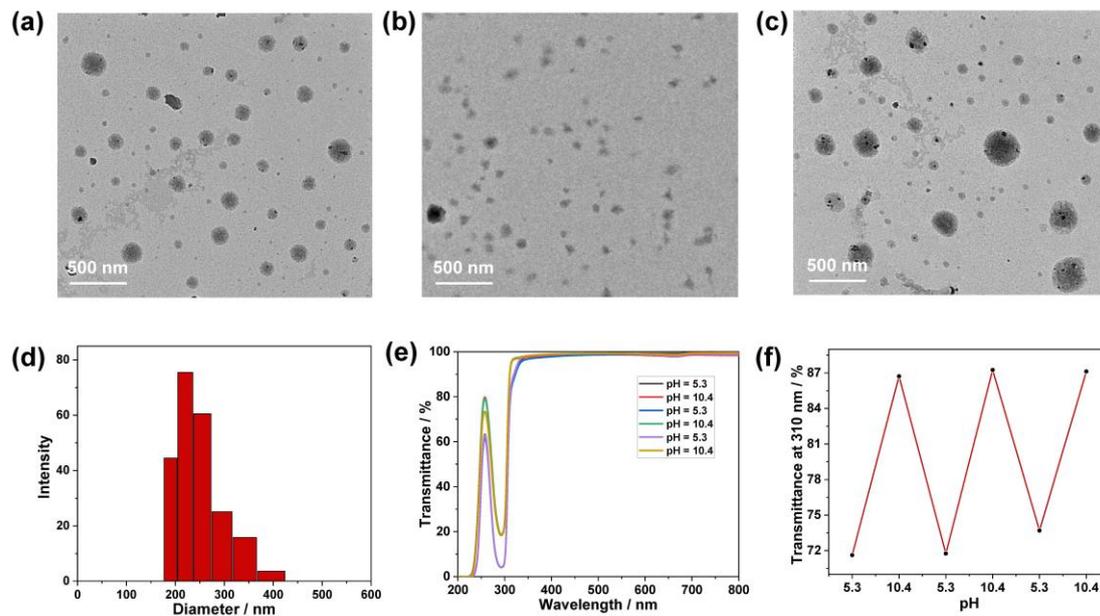
**Figure S2:** (a) Optical transmittance and (b) concentration-dependent transmittance at 293 nm of **CS-TPE-2%**; (c) Optical transmittance and (d) concentration-dependent transmittance at 293 nm of **CS-TPE-10%**; (e) Optical transmittance and (f) concentration-dependent transmittance at 293 nm of **CS-TPE-20%** in aqueous solutions (pH 5.3).



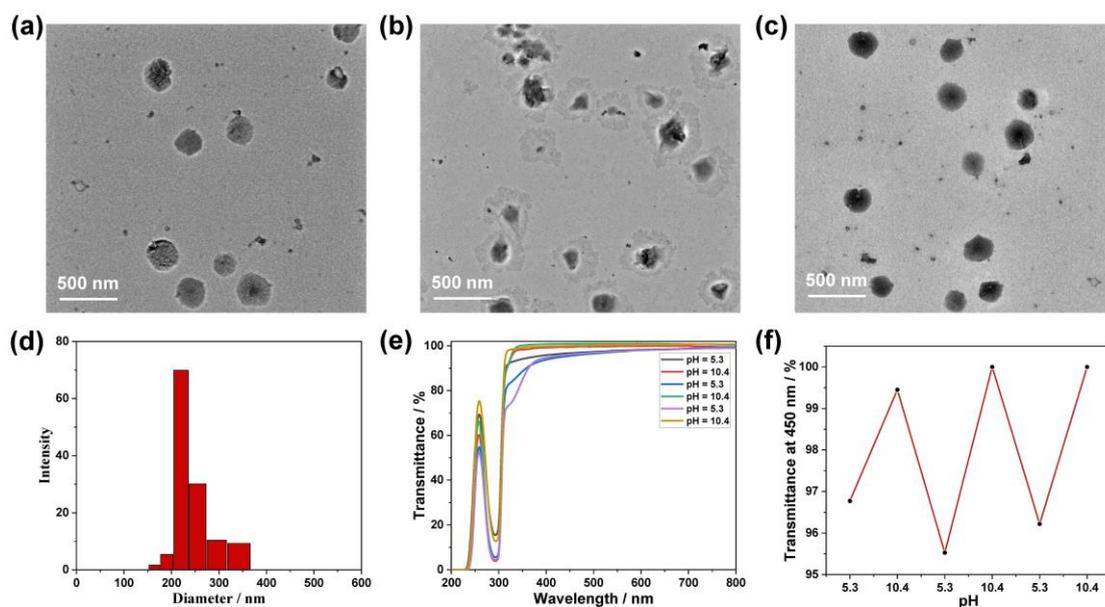
**Figure S3:** Tyndall effect of (a) CS-TPE-2%, (b) CS-TPE-10% and (c) CS-TPE-20% at concentrations below and above the CACs in aqueous solutions (pH 5.3).



**Figure S4:** Tyndall effect of (a) TBTQ-C<sub>6</sub>, (b) TBTQ-C<sub>6</sub>/CS-TPE-2%, (c) TBTQ-C<sub>6</sub>/CS-TPE-10% and (d) TBTQ-C<sub>6</sub>/CS-TPE-20% in aqueous solution at pH 5.3 ([TBTQ-C<sub>6</sub>] = 0.10 mM, [CS-TPE] = 10 µg/mL).



**Figure S5:** TEM images of (a) **TBTQ-C<sub>6</sub>/CS-TPE-2%** in aqueous solution at pH 5.3; (b) after adjustment of the solution (a) to pH 10.4; (c) after readjustment of solution (b) to pH 5.3; (d) DLS data of **TBTQ-C<sub>6</sub>/CS-TPE-2%** assembly; (e) Optical transmittance and (f) dependence of the optical transmittance at 310 nm of the **TBTQ-C<sub>6</sub>/CS-TPE-2%** assembly under acidic and alkaline conditions over several cycles ( $[\text{TBTQ-C}_6] = 0.10 \text{ mM}$ ,  $[\text{CS-TPE-2\%}] = 48 \text{ }\mu\text{g/mL}$ ).



**Figure S6:** TEM images of (a) **TBTQ-C<sub>6</sub>/CS-TPE-20%** in aqueous solution at pH 5.3; (b) after adjustment of the solution (a) to pH 10.4; (c) after readjustment of solution (b) to pH 5.3; (d) DLS data of **TBTQ-C<sub>6</sub>/CS-TPE-20%** assembly; (e) optical transmittance and (f) dependence of the optical transmittance at 450 nm of the **TBTQ-C<sub>6</sub>/CS-TPE-20%** assembly under acidic and alkaline conditions over several cycles ( $[\text{TBTQ-C}_6] = 0.10 \text{ mM}$ ,  $[\text{CS-TPE-20\%}] = 60 \text{ }\mu\text{g/mL}$ ).