

A “Safe by Design” Concept for Flame-generated Nanomaterials

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**Harvard School
of Public Health**

ETH

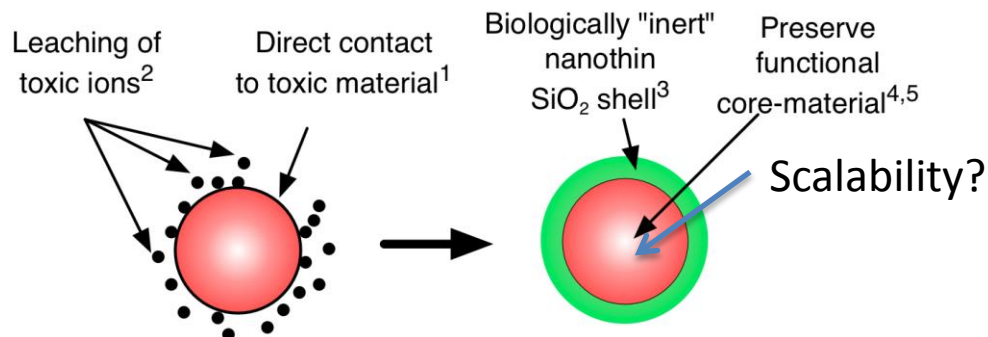
Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

NIOSH

Background Information

- The likely success or failure of NT industry depends on nano-EHS matters.
- Research on “safe by design” approaches is lacking behind but is considered crucial to the sustainability of the nanotech industry.
- Flame generated Me and MeO ENMs are currently the most widely used by volume, family of ENMs (90% by volume).
- Me/MeO: Many applications in cosmetics, building materials, antimicrobial applications, etc

A Safer Formulation Concept for flame-generated ENMs



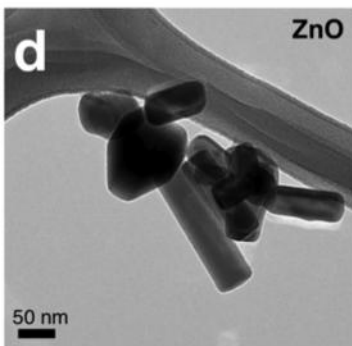
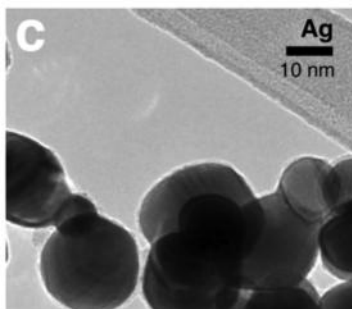
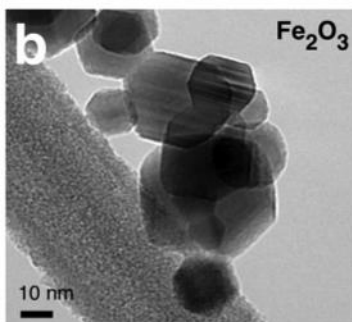
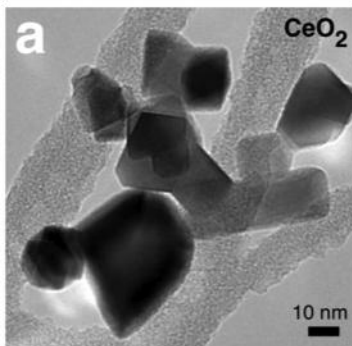
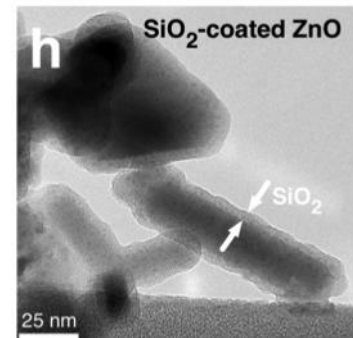
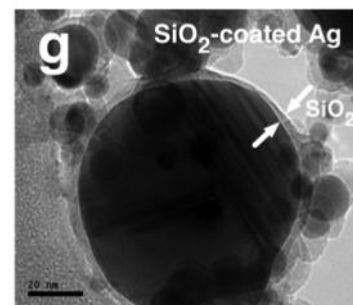
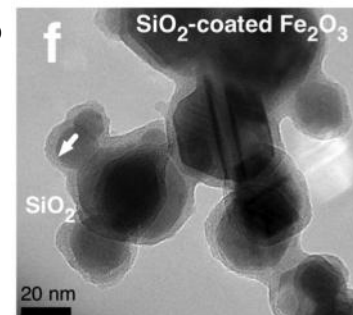
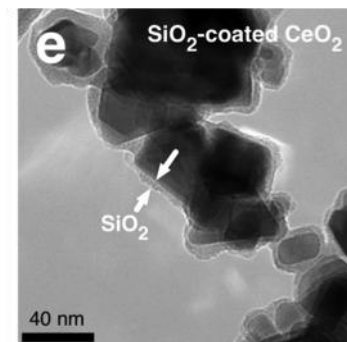
Study Objectives:

Objective 1: Develop and Validate the concept for a comprehensive nanopanel of industry-relevant ENMs (CeO₂, ZnO, Fe₂O₃, Ag).

Objective 2: Understand the coating fundamentals and assess coating efficiency. Characterize Physicochemical and morphological properties of SiO₂ coated and uncoated ENMs

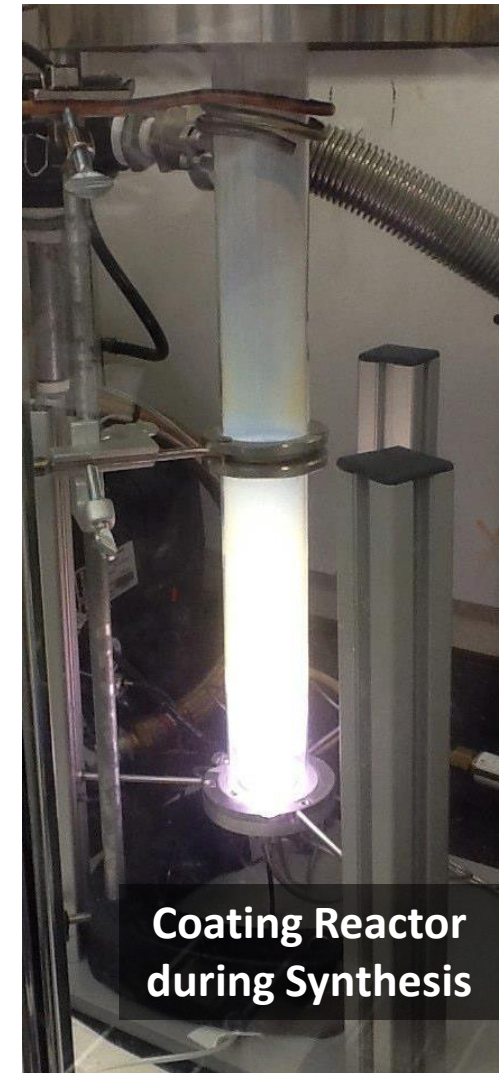
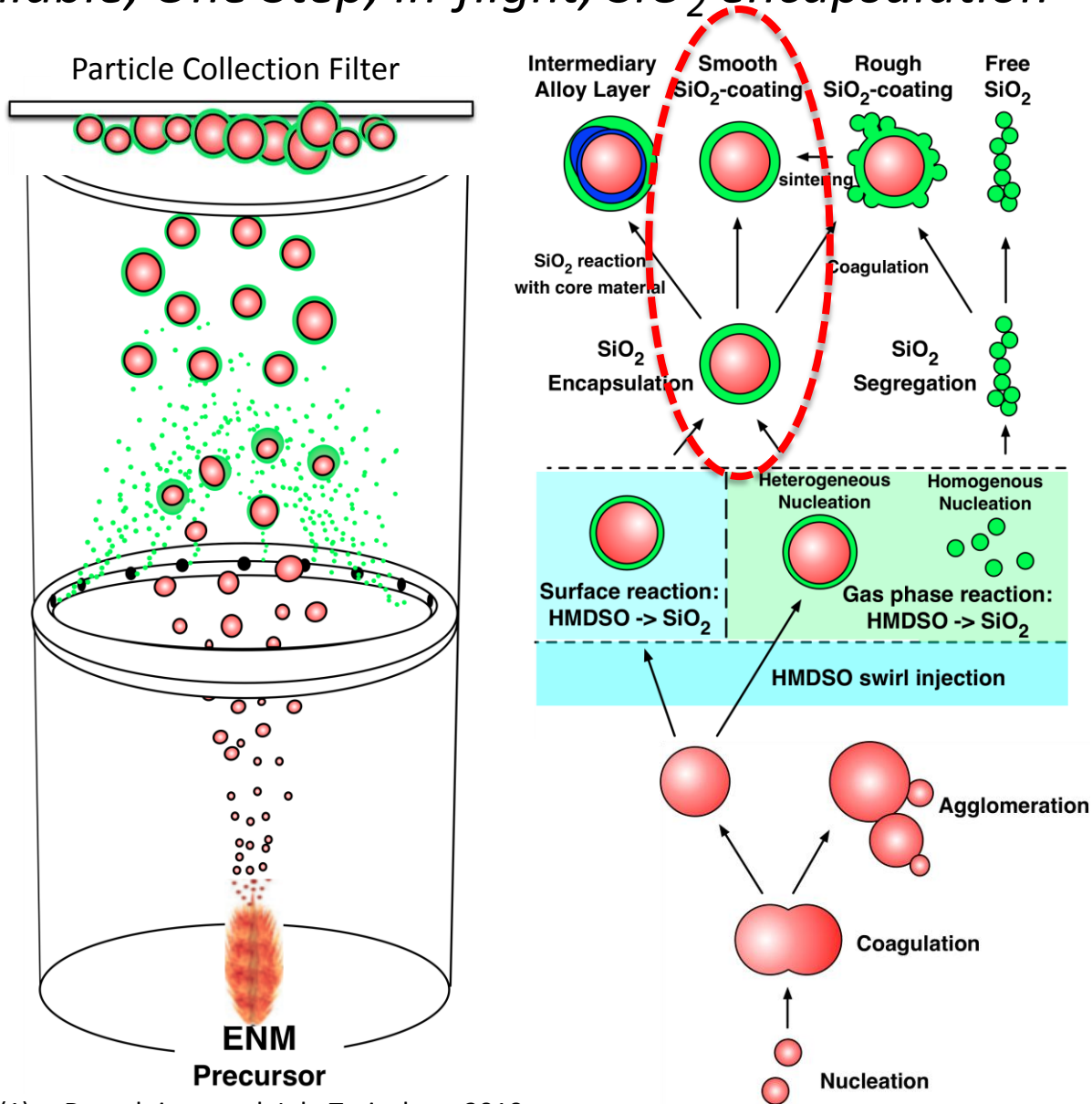
Objective 3: Assess the effect of SiO₂ coatings on nano-bio interactions using state of the art in-vitro cellular and in-vivo bio-assays

- (1) Sotiriou et al., *Curr Opin Chem Eng* **2011**, 1, 3 – 10
- (2) Xia et al., *ACS Nano* **2011**, 5, 1223 – 1235
- (3) Napierska et al., *Particle and Fibre Toxicology* **2010**, 7, 39
- (4) Teleki et al., *Chem. Mater.* **2009**, 21, 2094–2100
- (5) Sotiriou et al., *Adv. Funct. Mater.* **2010**, 20, 4250–4257



Methods (1/5) : Synthesis using the VENGES platform

Scalable, One Step, In-flight, SiO₂ encapsulation



- (1) Demokritou et al. Inh. Toxicology, 2010
- (2) Buesser et al., Chem Eng Sci **2011**, 65, 5471-5481

Methods (2/5): State of the art P-c-m Characterization (powder, liquid, aerosol)

As **nanopowder**:

X-ray Diffraction XRD (Crystal Structure):

- Crystal phase and composition
- Crystal Size

BET N₂ adsorption:

- Specific surface area (m²/g)

X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS):

- Quantifiable elemental surface composition & coating efficiency

Isopropanol Chemisorption was also used to validate coating efficiency

TEM/SEM for morphology



In **liquids (DI, bio media)**:

Dynamic Light Scattering:

- Hydrodynamic diameter
- Zeta-potential

Agglomeration potential-Effective density (DeLoid et al. in preparation)

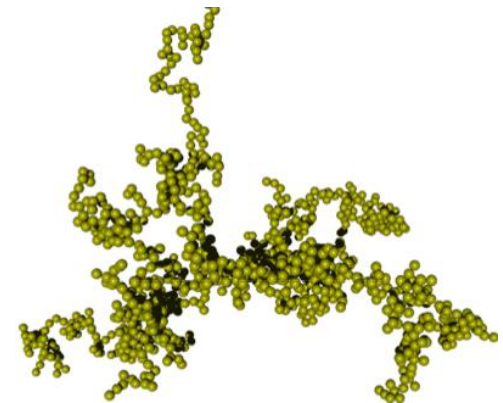
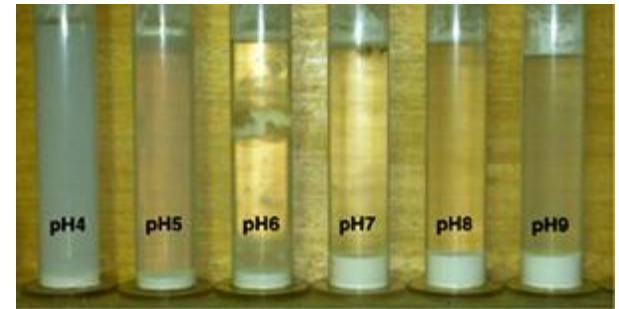
As **aerosol**:

Scanning Mobility Particle Sizer (SMPS):

- Mobility diameter (distribution)
- Particle concentration

MOUDI Cascade impactor:

- Mass size distribution



Methods (3/5): Nano-cellular interactions

Assessing SiO₂ coating influence on ENM-bio interactions in-vitro.

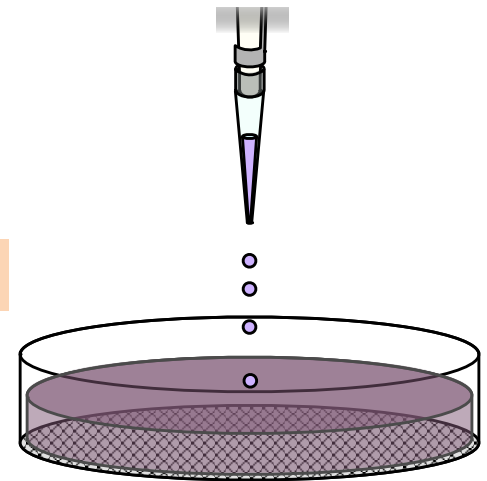
Multiple Cell lines : A549, CALu3, Primary AM

ENM nanopowder dispersion and dosimetry according to Cohen et al., 2012

Multiple Assays: MTT, WST (metabolic activity), LDH (membrane integrity), etc

Exposure Period: 24 h

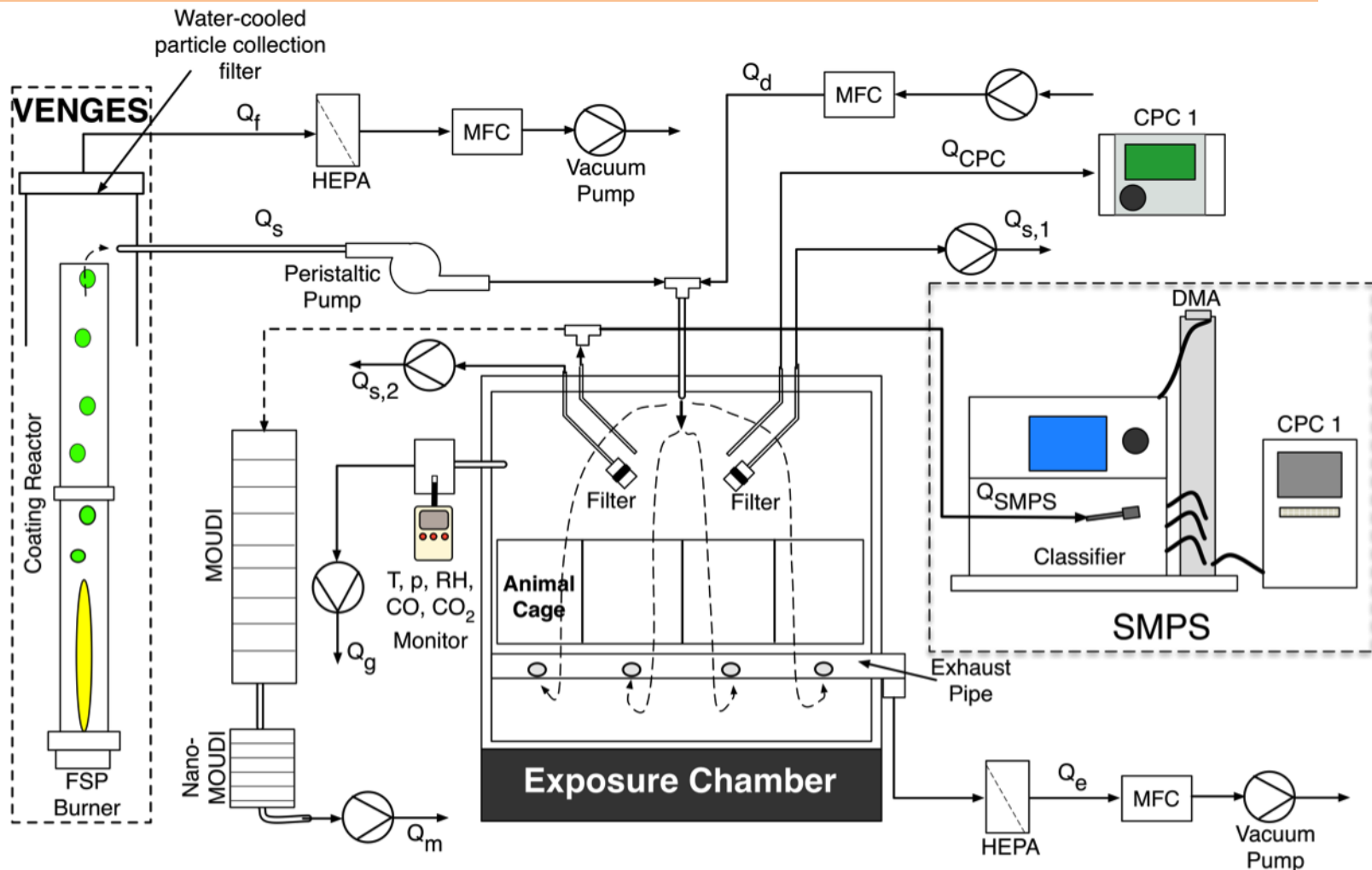
Administered doses: 6.25, 12.5, 25.0, 50.0, 100.0 mg/ml



Methods (4/5): In-vivo validation for CeO₂

Assessing SiO₂ coating influence on ENM-bio interactions in-vivo.

Inhalation Study Exposure system (CeO₂ case study):



Methods (5/5): In-vivo validation for CeO₂

Assessing SiO₂ coating influence on ENM-bio interactions in-vivo.

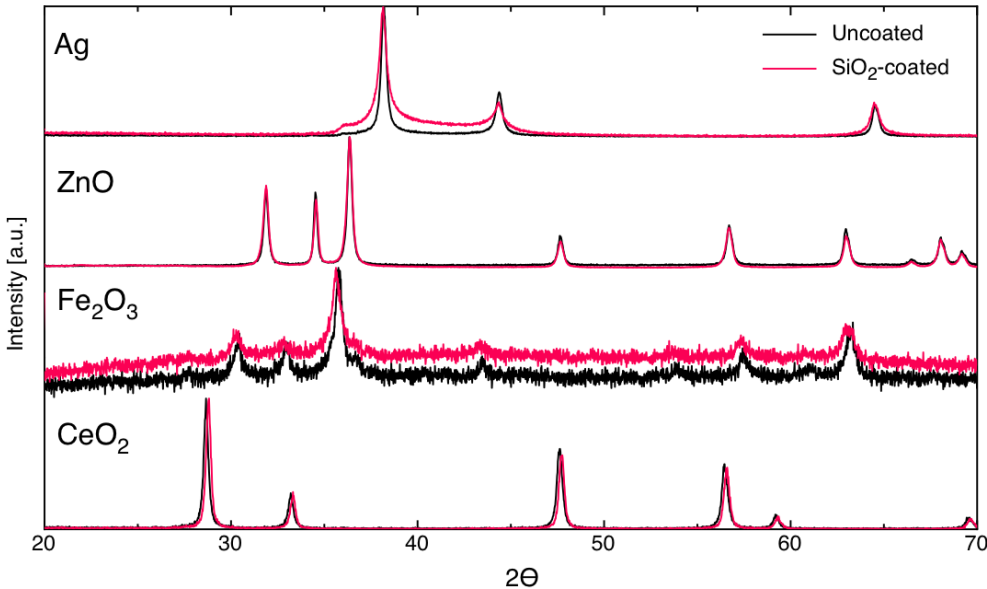
Study Design:

- Animal Model: Male Sprague-Dawley rats
- The animals (n = 6/group) were exposed to either SiO₂-coated CeO₂, uncoated CeO₂ or particle-free environments (controls)
- Exposure : 2 h/day, 4 days.
- BAL biochemical analysis at 24 h post exposure.
- Inflammatory and cytotoxicity biomarkers: PMNs, LDH alveolar macrophages (AM), and albumin)
- **Special considerations:** Match deposited to lungs dose for both coated and uncoated aerosol s. (How? We matched both aerosol mass concentrations and size distribution for SiO₂-coated and uncoated CeO₂)

Results (1/5): Synthesis and Characterization

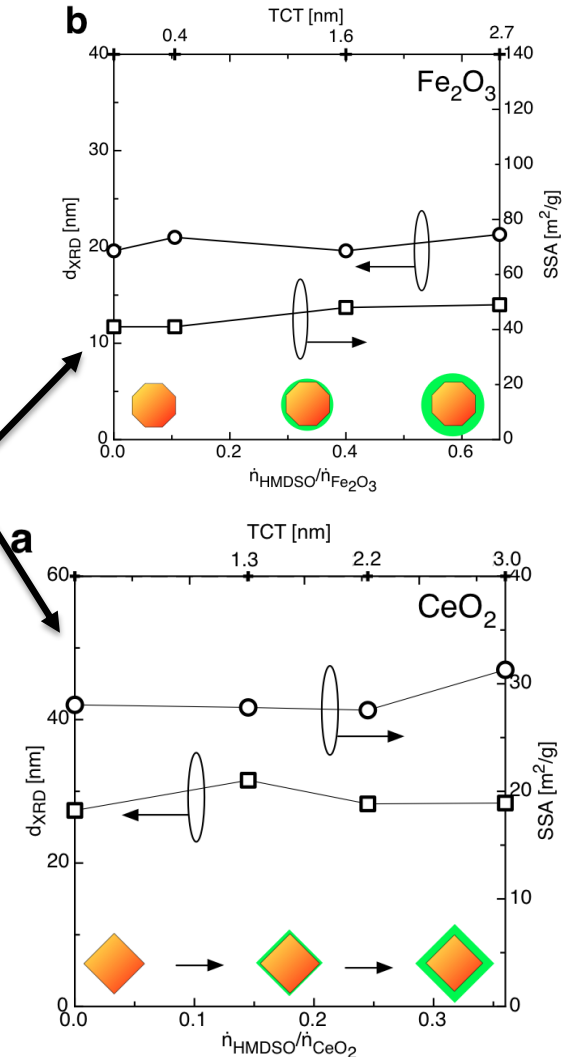
Assessing SiO_2 coating influence on core material crystal structure.

X-Ray Diffraction



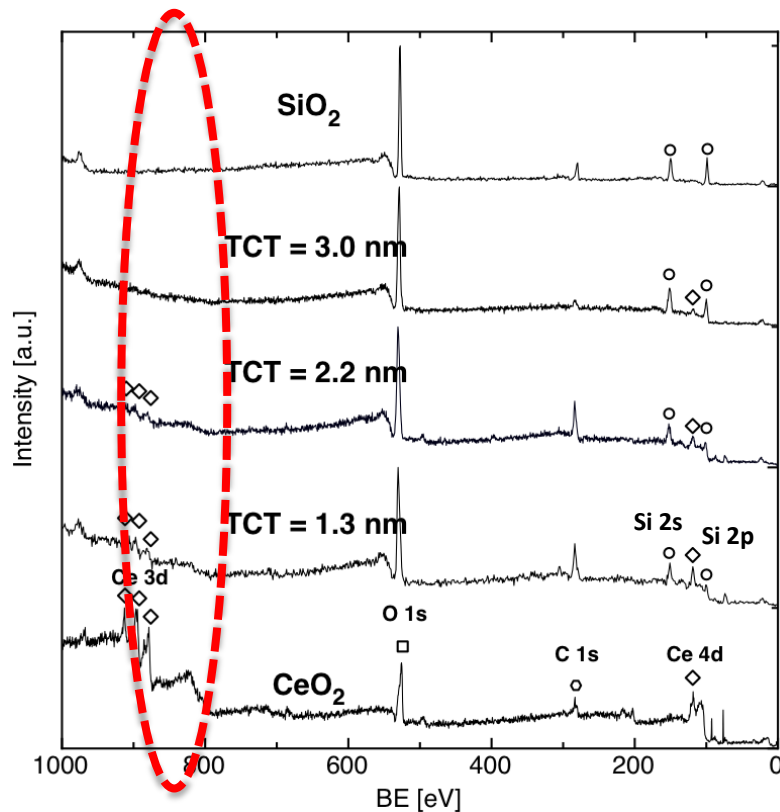
SiO_2 -coating has **minimal effect on core crystal structure** (heterogeneous nucleation)
(Gass et al., Manuscript in submission)

Independent control over crystal size and coating thickness



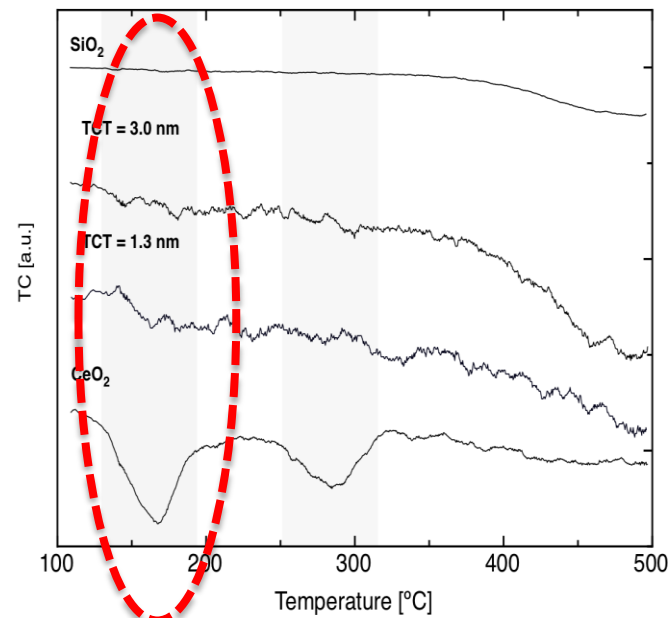
Results (3/5): Assessing SiO₂ coating efficiency qualitatively and quantitatively

XPS (CeO₂):

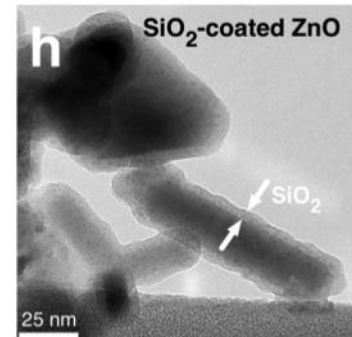
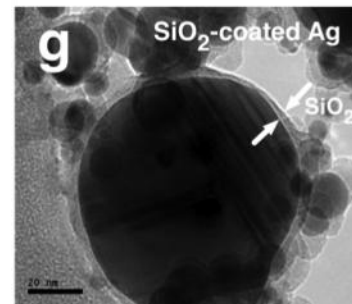
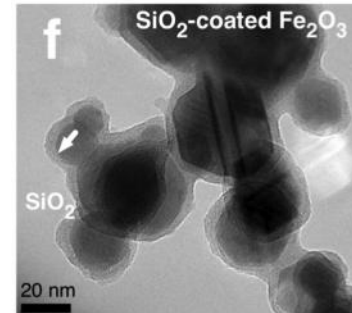
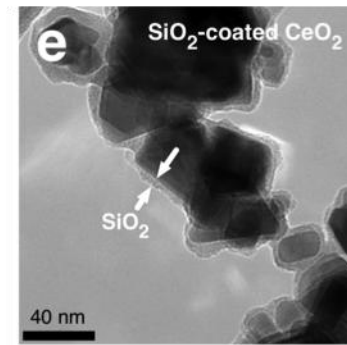


Core electron transitions (Ce 3d) **disappears** for TCT = 3 nm
-> **full encapsulation**

Isopropanol Chemisorption (CeO₂)



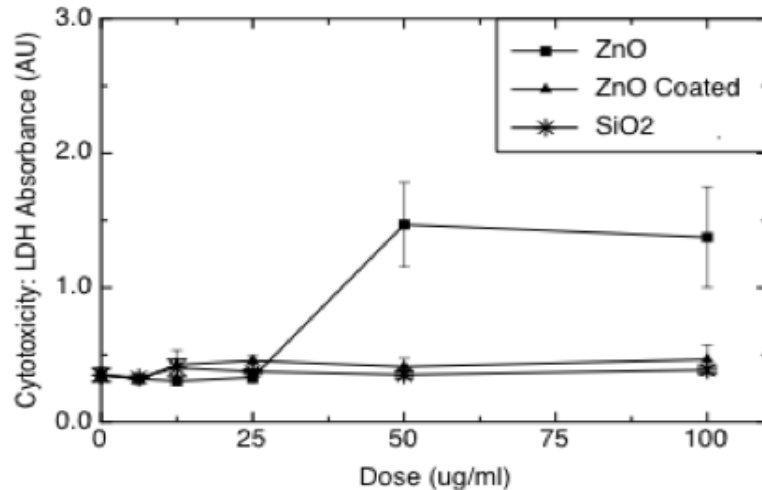
Isopropanol desorption bands **disappear** for TCT = 3 nm
-> **full encapsulation**



Results: In-vitro Cellular data

Assessing SiO₂ coating influence on ENM-cellular interactions in-vitro (A549, THP1 human macrophages).

LDH:



MTT:

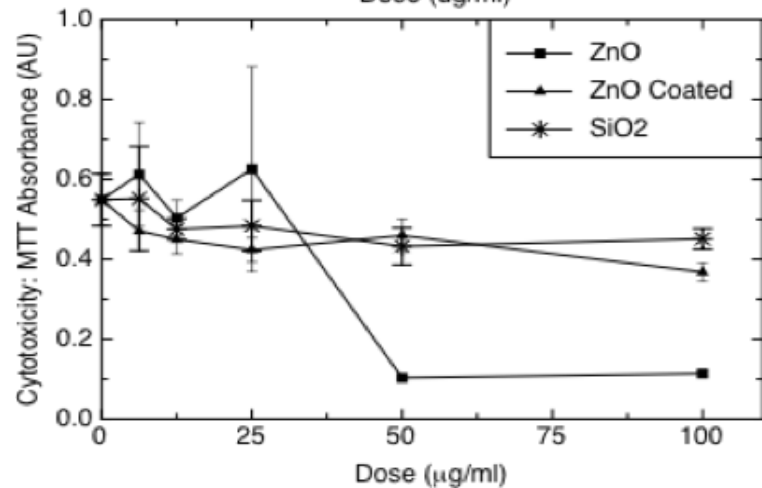
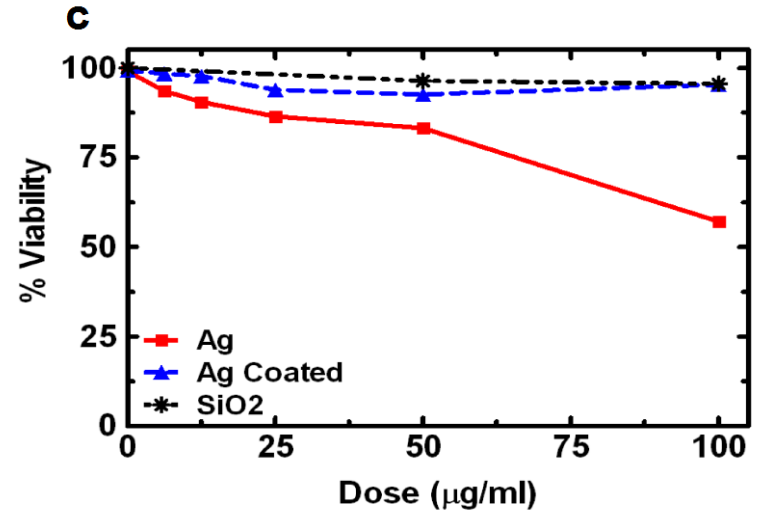


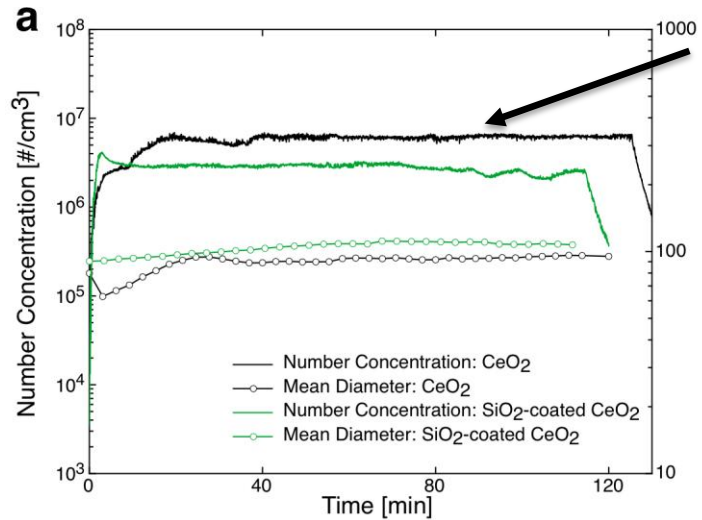
Figure 8: Cytotoxicity results for ZnO and SiO₂ coated ZnO .



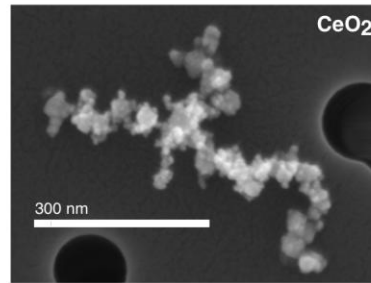
□ SiO₂ coated ENMs have lower toxicological properties as indicated in in-vitro cellular assays

- (1) Kroll et al., *Particle and Fibre Toxicology* **2011**, 8, 9
- (2) Xia et al., *ACS Nano* **2011**, 5, 1223 – 1235

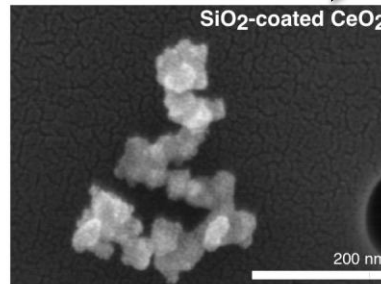
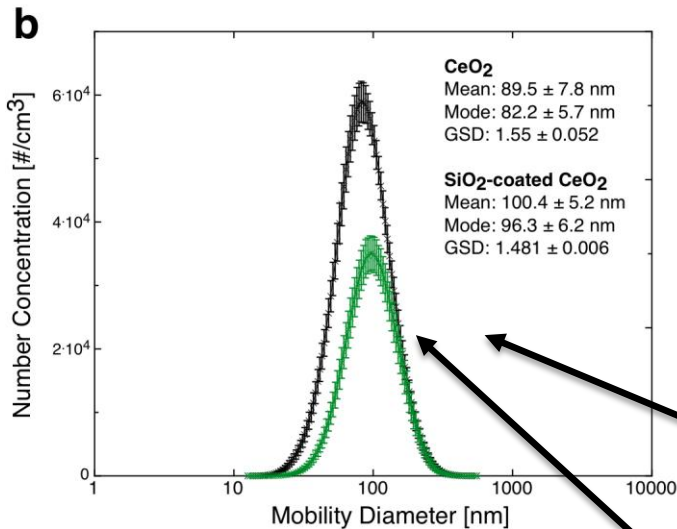
Results: In-vivo data-CeO₂ inhalation study



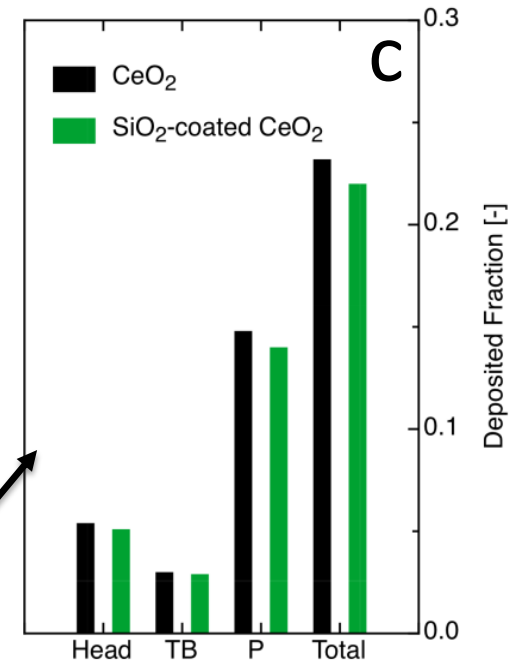
Very stable exposure
atmospheres
(VENGES)



SEM images of
in-situ sampled
aerosol: **fractal**
structure of
agglomerates
formed



Gravimetric Analysis
Particle concentration
For both scenarios:
2.6 - 2.75 mg/m³

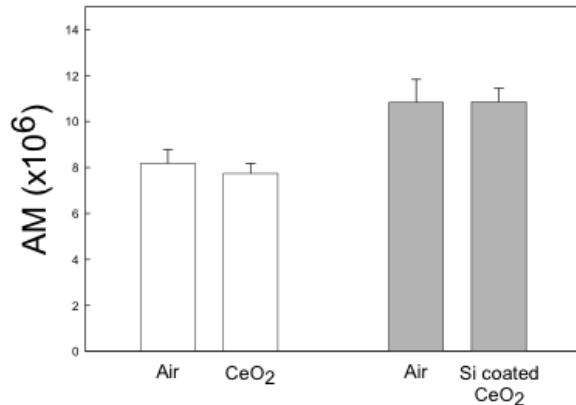


Almost *identical* mobility size distributions -
> **similar lung deposition (MPPD2 model)**

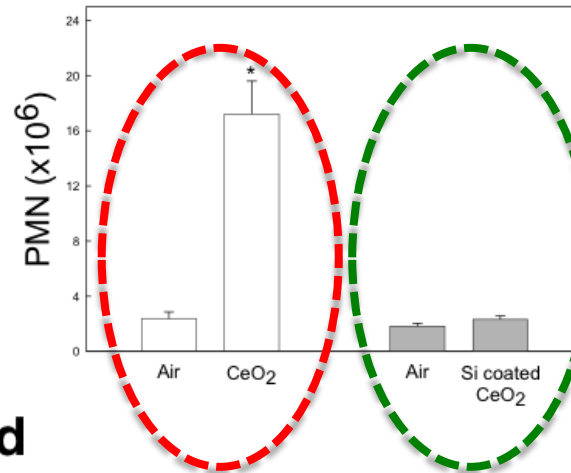
Results: : In-vivo data-CeO₂ inhalation study

BAL, 1-day post exposure:

a



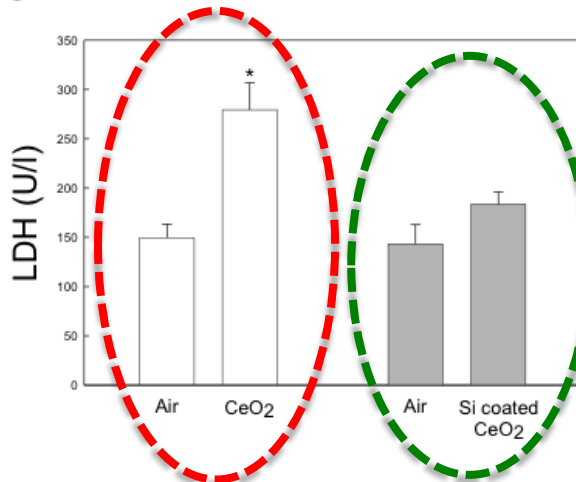
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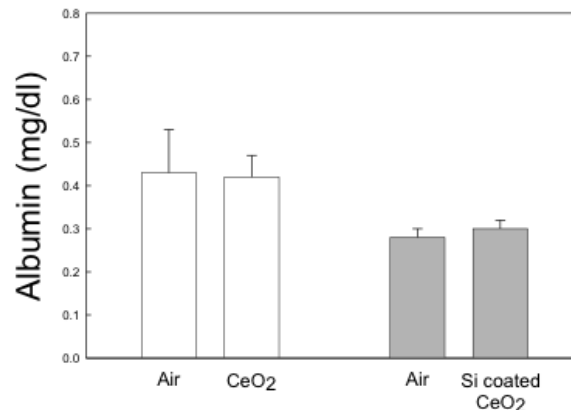
CeO₂ exposure induces **lung injury & inflammation**^{1,2} -> increased PMN, LDH levels

SiO₂-encapsulation inhibits **lung injury % inflammation** -> PMN, LDH levels comparable to particle-free controls

c



d



SiO₂-coated and uncoated CeO₂ did not cause **air/capillary damage** -> albumin levels as in control group

(1) Ma et al., *Nanotoxicology* **2011**, 5, 312 - 325

(2) Nalabotu et al., *International Journal of Nanomedicine* **2011**, 6, 2327-2335

Conclusions

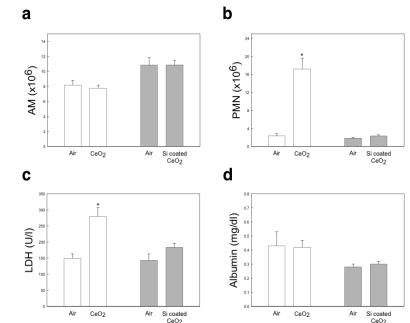
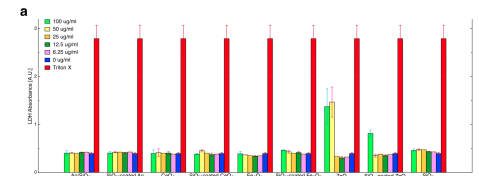
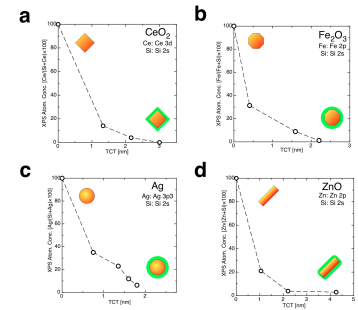
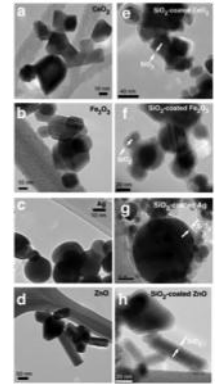
1) A scalable method for in-flight SiO_2 coating of Me an Me_xO_y ENMs was developed and **optimized** for a comprehensive nanopanel

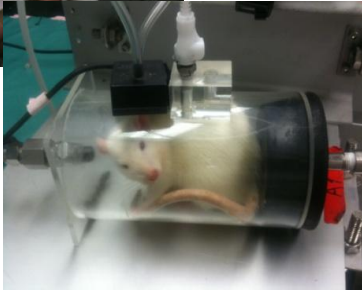
2) The method enabled the **hermetic coating** of all materials in the nanopanel (XPS, Chemisorption)

3) Once coated, nanomaterial exhibited agglomeration and surface charge **similar to pure SiO_2** when dispersed in **liquid media** (DLS).

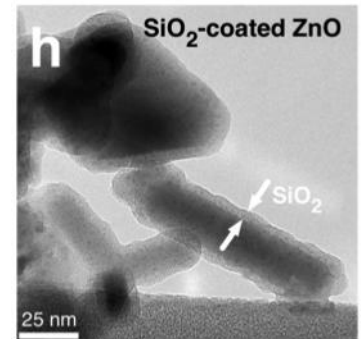
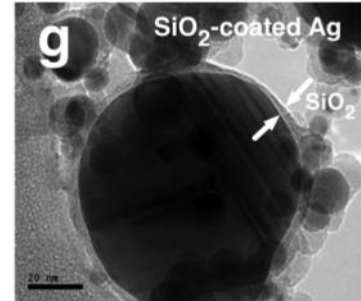
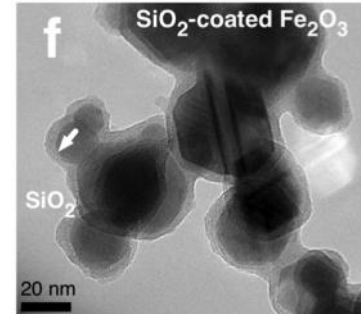
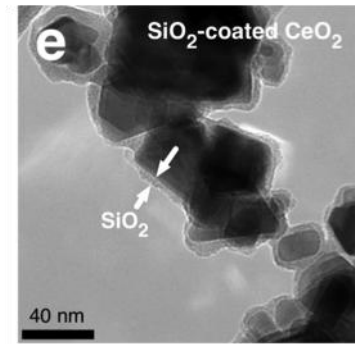
4) The SiO_2 coating was effectively **reduced toxicity in-vitro** (LDH, MTT on A549 for ZnO and Ag)

5) The Safer Formulation Concept was **validated in-vivo** for **CeO₂**





Questions???



List of precursor solutions used in *Nanopanel Synthesis*

ENM	Precursor	Solvent	Precursor Molarity
Ag	Silver acetate (Sigma Aldrich)	2-ethylhexanoic acid:acetonitril (1:1) (>99%, Sigma Aldrich)	0.5
ZnO	Zinc naphthenate, 65% in Mineral Spirits (10% Zn) (STREM)	ethanol (95%, Sigma Aldrich)	0.5
Fe ₂ O ₃	Iron(III) acetylacetonate (Sigma Aldrich)	2-ethylhexanoic acid:acetonitril (1:1) (>99%, Sigma Aldrich)	0.5
CeO ₂	Cerium(III) Ethylhexanoate, 49% in 2-ethylhexanoic acid (12 wt% Ce) (STREM)	xylene (>99%, Sigma Aldrich)	0.5
SiO ₂	Hexamethyl disiloxane (HMDSO) (Sigma Aldrich)	ethanol (95%, Sigma Aldrich)	0.5

Summary of ENMs used to evaluate ENM-cellular interactions (in-vitro)

Material	Theoretical SiO ₂ [wt %]	TCT [nm]	d _{XRD,core}	SSA [m ² /g]
SiO ₂	100	N/A	19 (d _{BET})	147
CeO ₂	0	0	27	28
SiO ₂ -coated CeO ₂	20	3	28	31.3
Fe ₂ O ₃	0	N/A	19.6	42
SiO ₂ -coated Fe ₂ O ₃	33	2.7	21.3	49
Ag/SiO ₂	50	N/A	20.4	57
SiO ₂ -coated Ag	10	1.8	28	29
ZnO	0	N/A	28	36
SiO ₂ -coated ZnO	23	2.5	27.0	66

Detailed schematic of VENGES reactor

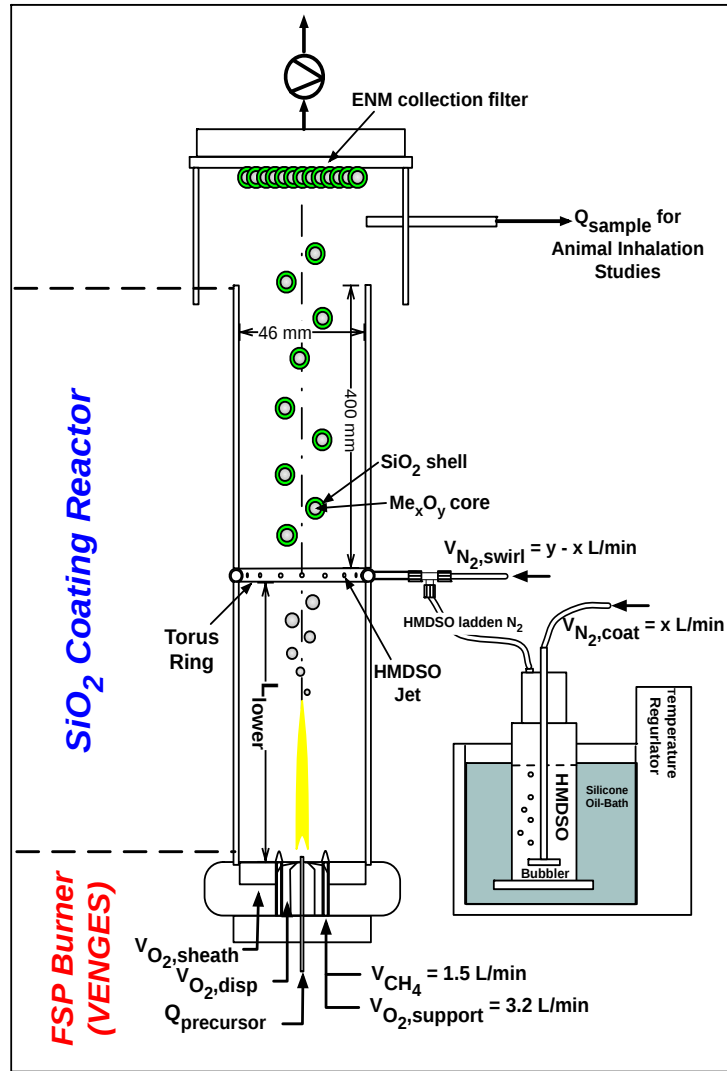
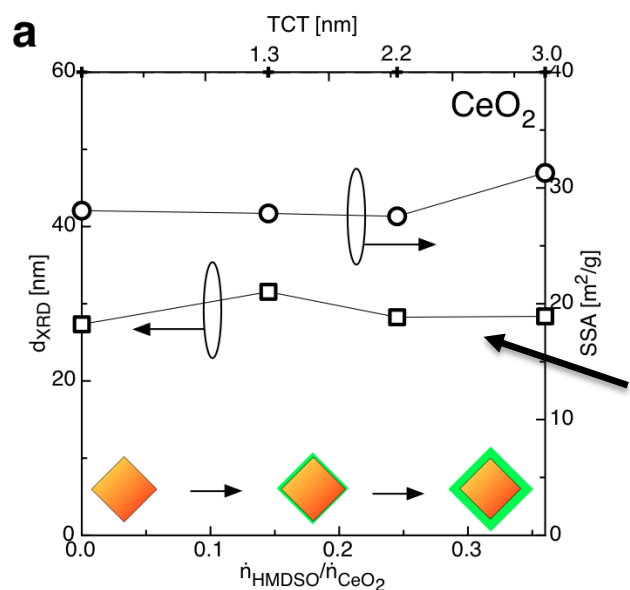


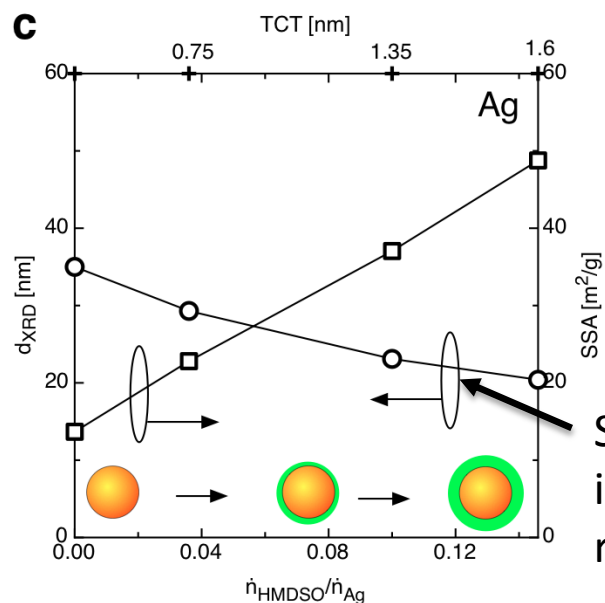
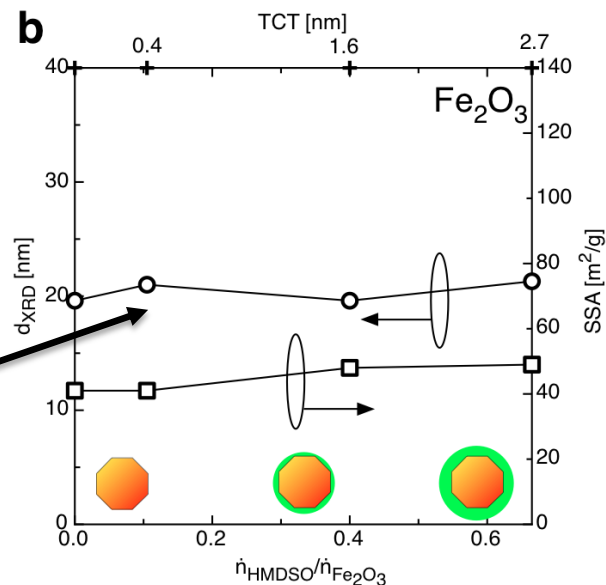
Figure 4: Detailed schematic of the SiO₂ coating reactor for synthesis of hermetically coated ENMs.

Results (2/5): *Synthesis and Characterization*

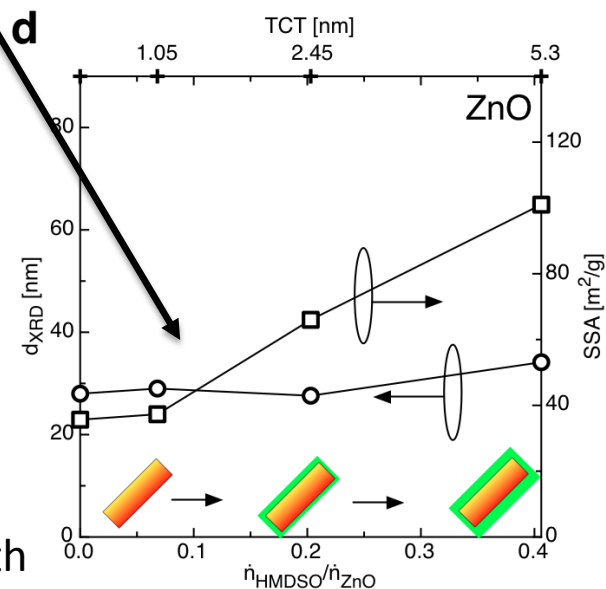
Assessing SiO₂ coating influence on Crystal Size and SSA.



Independent control over crystal size and coating thickness



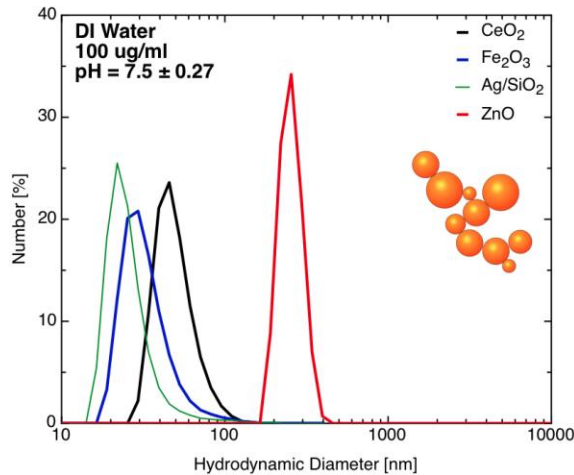
SiO₂ encapsulation inhibits post-torus ring Ag crystal growth



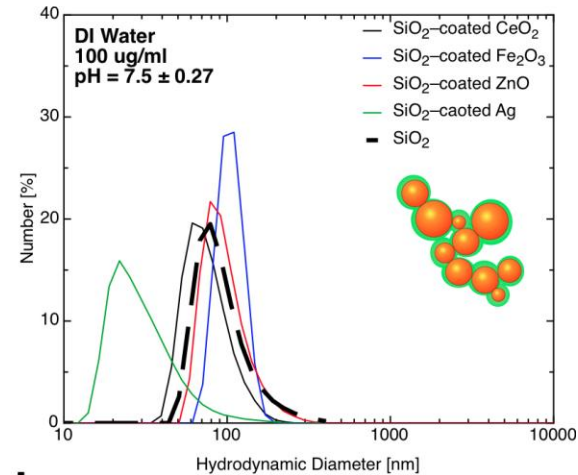
Results: ENM-media Interactions

Assessing SiO_2 coating influence on ENM agglomeration in liquid media.

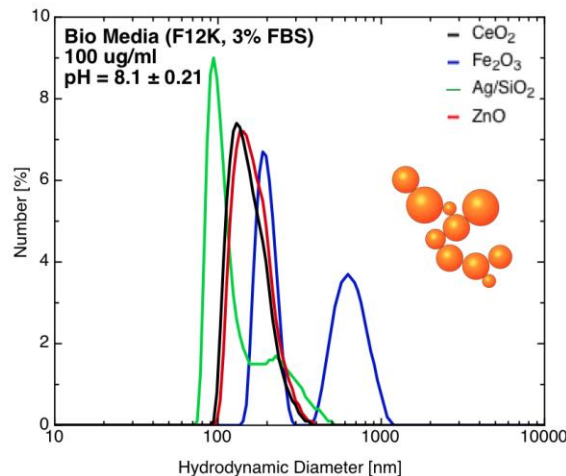
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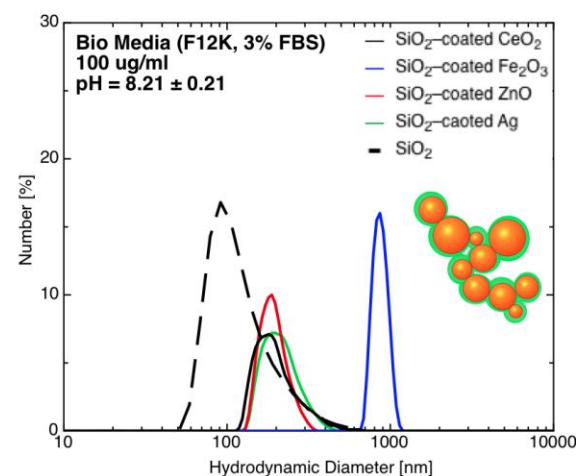
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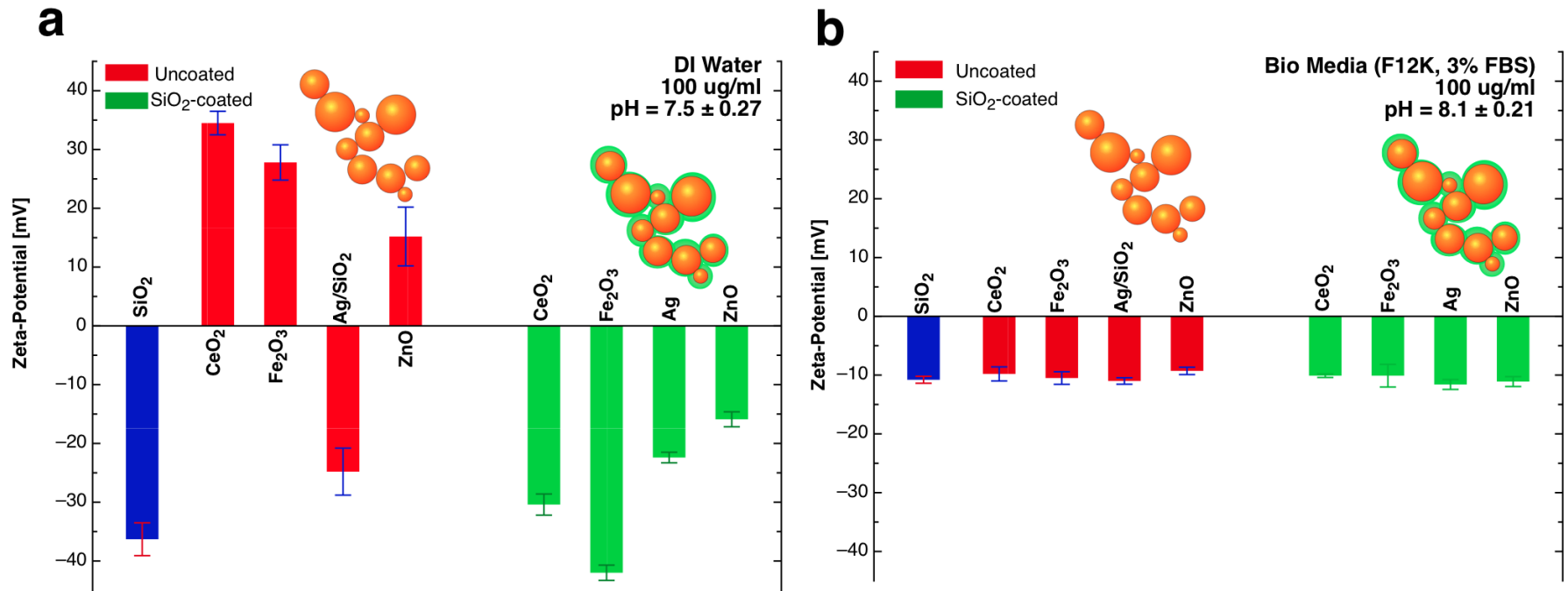


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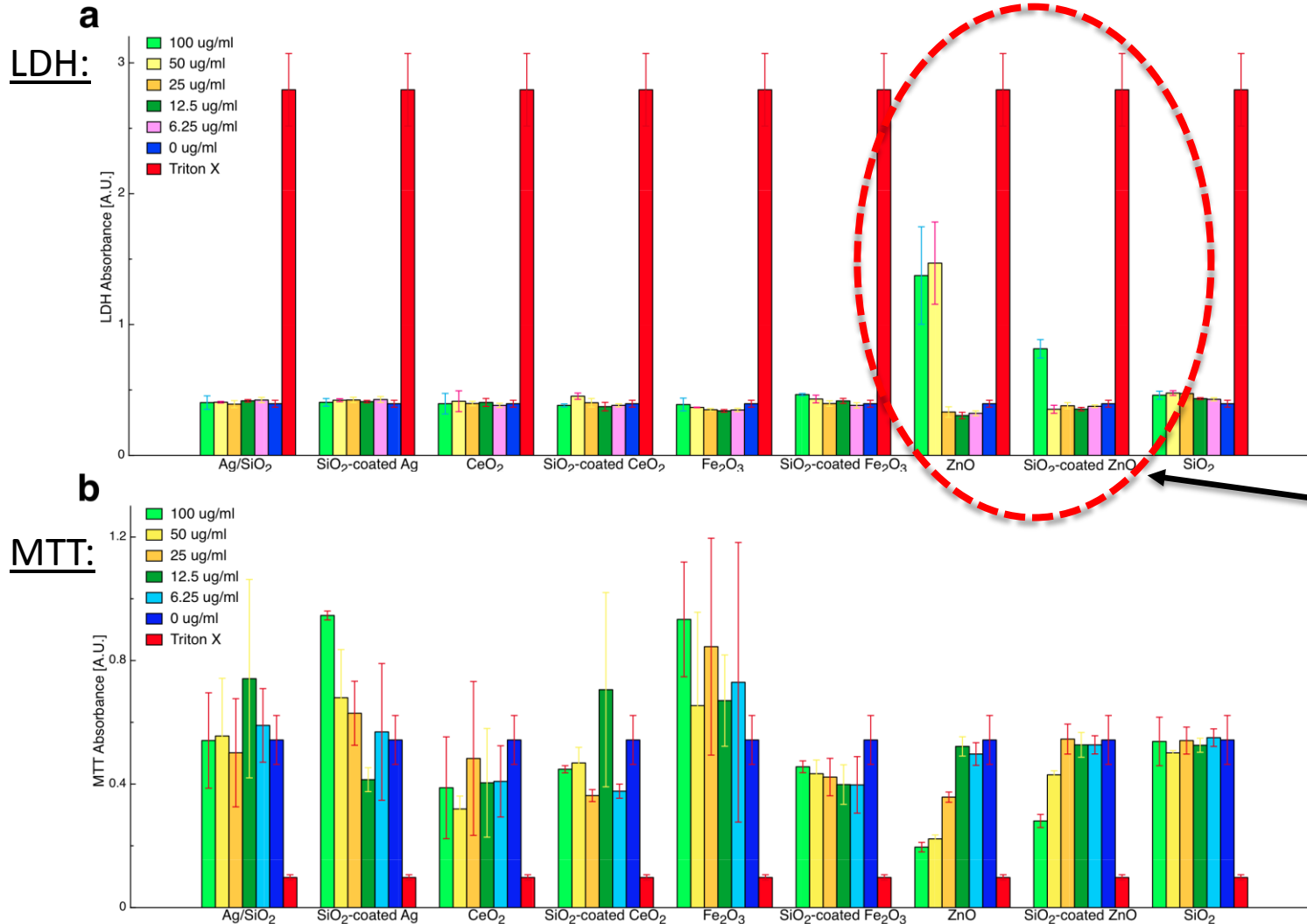
Results: ENM-media Interactions

Assessing SiO_2 coating influence on ENM surface charge in liquid media.



Results: ENM-Bio Interactions

Assessing SiO₂ coating influence on ENM-cellular interactions in-vitro (A549).



Most materials exhibit *minimal toxicity* for cells and endpoints investigated (in-vitro)¹

SiO₂-coating effectively reduces the toxicity of ZnO -> inhibition of ion leaching²

MTT results reflect LDH results in A549

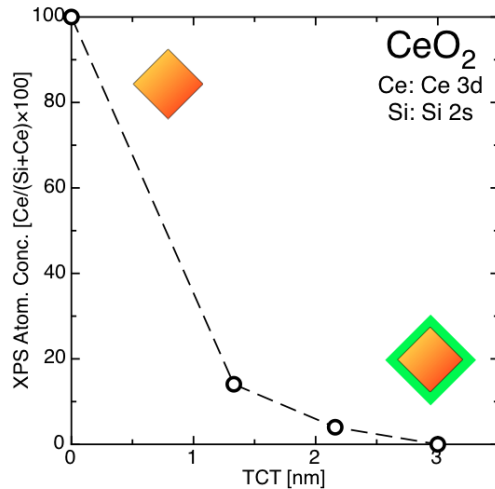
(1) Kroll et al., *Particle and Fibre Toxicology* **2011**, 8, 9

(2) Xia et al., *ACS Nano* **2011**, 5, 1223 – 1235

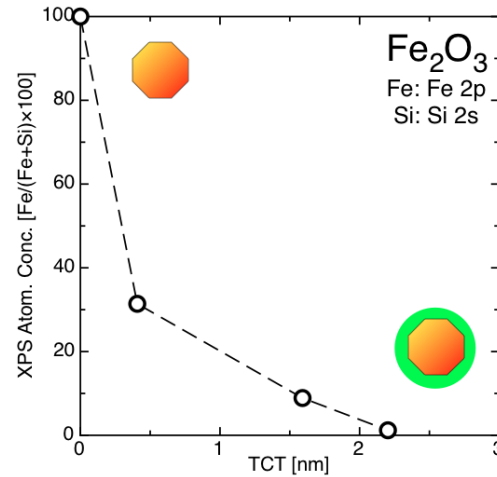
Results (4/5): *Synthesis and Characterization*

Assessing SiO₂ coating efficiency quantitatively using XPS

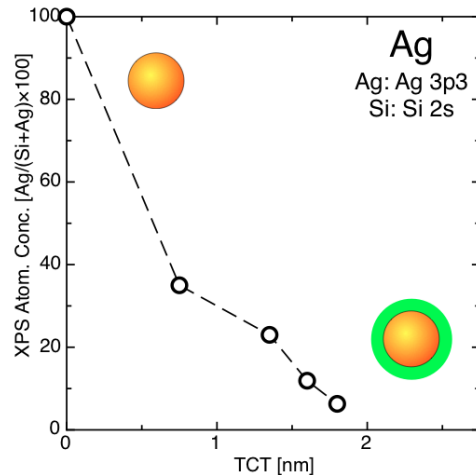
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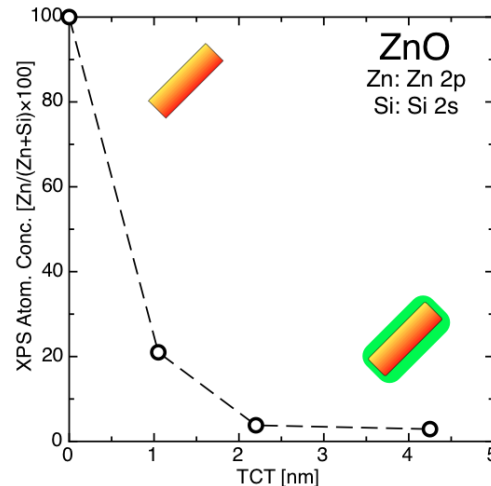
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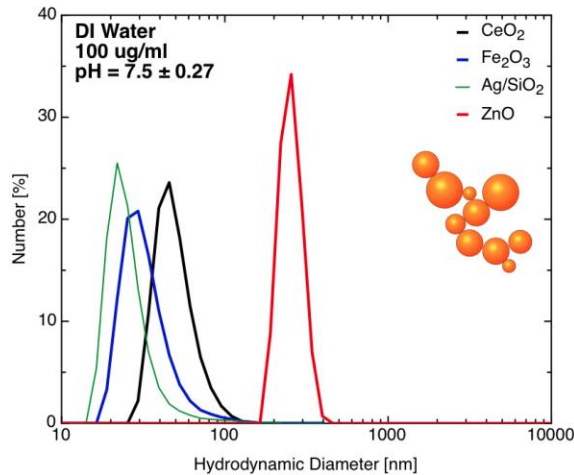
All materials:
***rapid decay in
Me/(Me+Si)
surface atomic
fraction***

***-> optimized
mixing conditions
in coating reactor
(homogenous
conditions)***

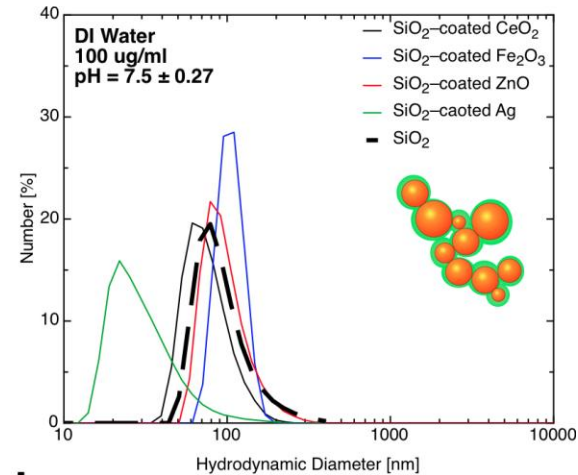
Results (5/6): ENM-media Interactions

Assessing SiO_2 coating influence on ENM agglomeration in liquid media.

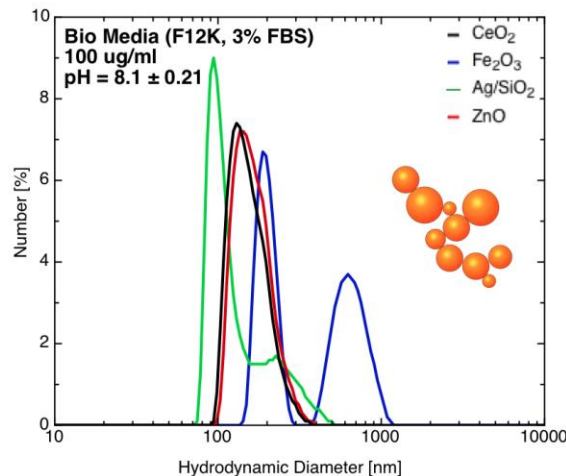
a



b



c



d

