Electronic Supplimentary Information

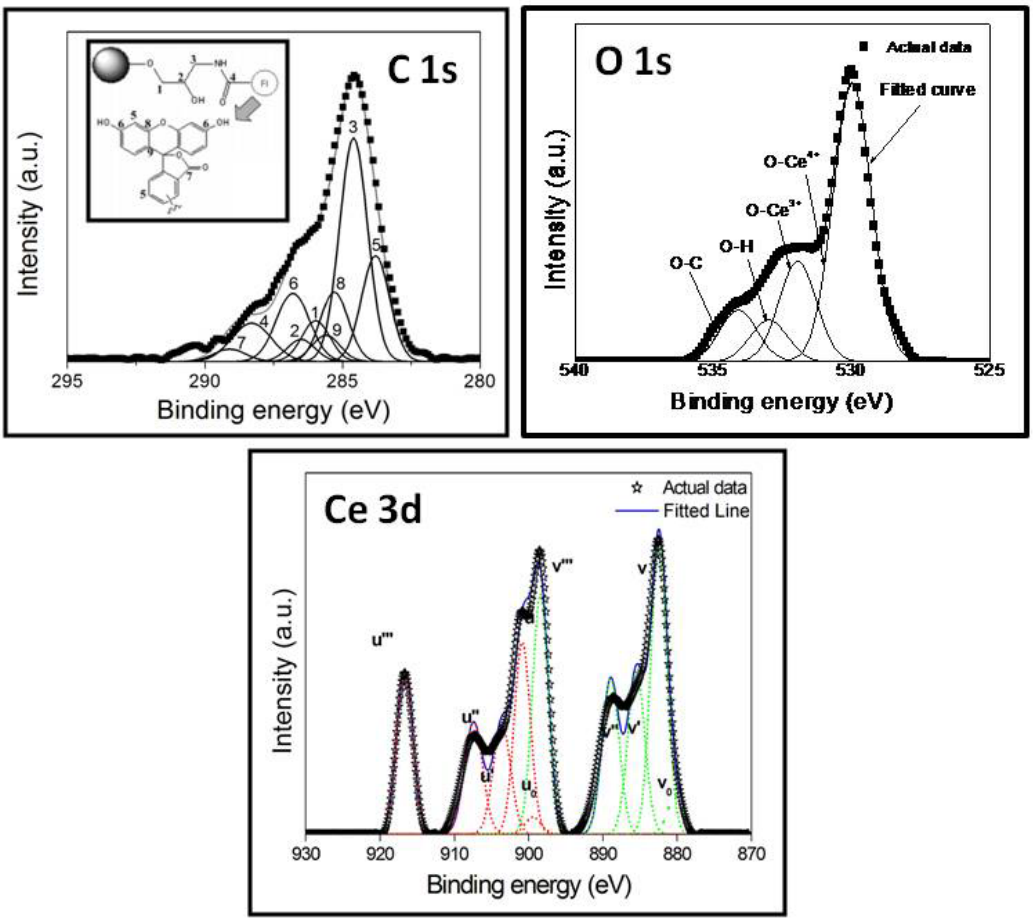

Figure ESI-1. XPS spectra of CCNPs. (A) XPS spectra recorded from O1s core levels and spectra was fitted to peaks obtained due to the interactions of CFL with CNPs. (B) The XPS spectra obtained from C 1s core levels was fitted in to several components for "C" present in CFL. (C) The XPS recorded Ce 3d spectrum is deconvoluted to show the presence of Ce in tri- and tetra- valent states. The peaks denoted by v_o, v', u_o and u' are characteristic peaks of Ce^{3+} ions and those marked by v, v'', v''', u, u'', u''' are of Ce^{4+} ions.

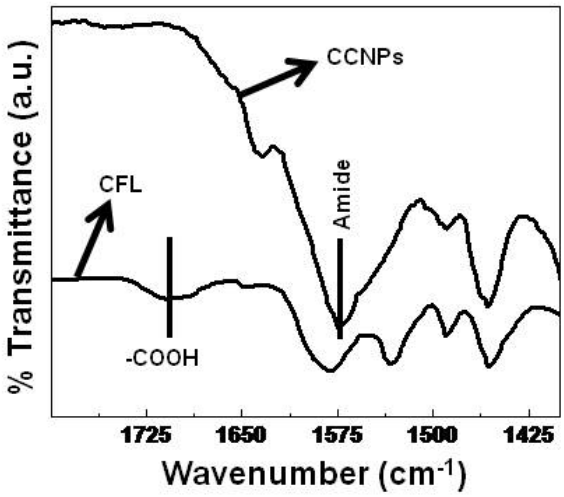

Figure ESI-2. FTIR spectra of carboxyfluorescein (CFL) and CCNPs. Samples for FT-IR were prepared by mixing the sample with KBr powder followed by overnight vacuum drying. The spectra were taken with dried KBr powder as the background in the wavenumber range of 4000 to 650 cm-1 and measurement was performed on Perkin-Elmer Spectrum One FTIR Spectrometer.

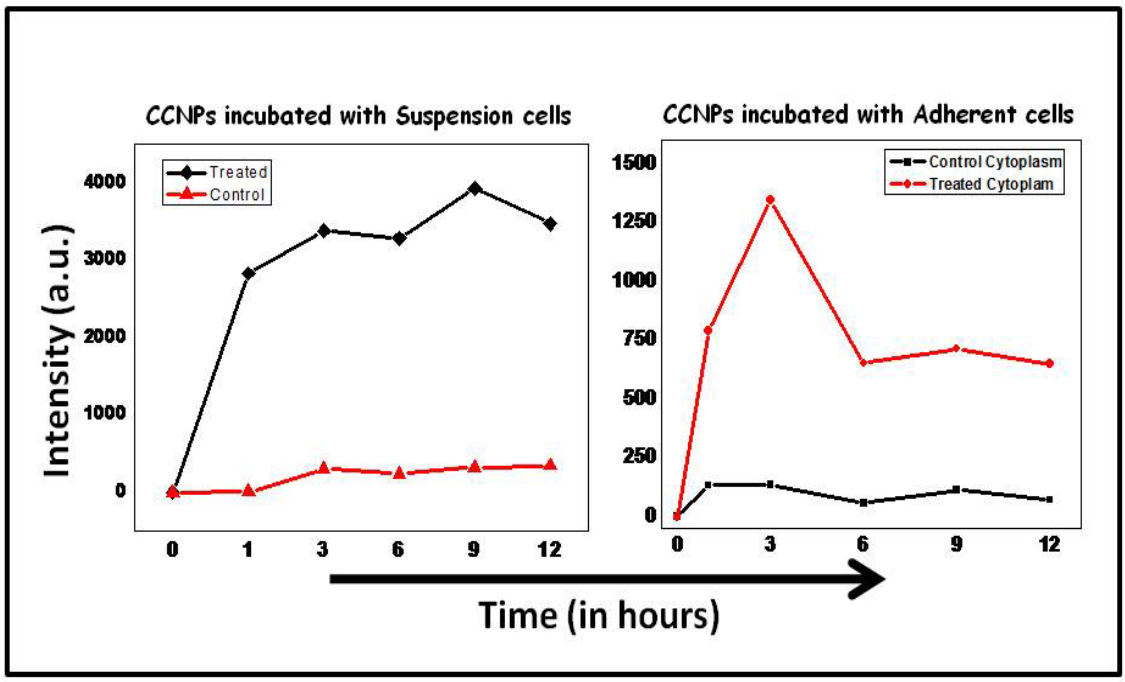

Figure ESI-3: Cellular uptake kinetics (time dependent) of CCNPs: Maximum CCNPs uptake was found when cells were exposed for 3 h. Suspended cells (left panel) showed higher uptake yield than adherent cells (right panel).