



**S6 Fig. Microscopic examination of cellular reagents.** Freshly cultured *E. coli* cells overexpressing RTX DNA polymerase were washed and resuspended either in 1X PBS (a) or in water (b) prior to Gram staining and microscopic imaging under oil immersion and a 100X objective lens. Aliquots of these cells were also lyophilized and then rehydrated with water prior to microscopy. Cells lyophilized in 1X PBS are depicted in panel c while lyophilized cells examined after heat treatment are depicted in panels d (cells lyophilized in 1X PBS) and e (cells lyophilized in water).