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(71) **Applicant** (for all designated States except US): **AGENCY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH** [SG/SG]; 1 Fusionopolis Way, #20-10, Connexis, Singapore 138632 (SG).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) **Inventors/Applicants** (for US only): **YING, Jackie, Y.** [US/SG]; Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, 31 Biopolis Way, The Nanos, #04-01, Singapore 138669 (SG). **XIE, Jianping** [CN/SG]; Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, 31 Biopolis Way, The Nanos, #04-01, Singapore 138669 (SG). **ZHENG, Yuan-gang** [SG/SG]; Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, 31 Biopolis Way, The Nanos, #04-01, Singapore 138669 (SG).

(74) **Agent**: **YU SARN AUDREY & PARTNERS**; 17 Upper Circular Road, #03-00 Jura Building, Singapore 058415 (SG).

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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

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(54) **Title**: METHODS, COMPOSITIONS, AND ARTICLES COMPRISING STABILIZED GOLD NANOCCLUSERS

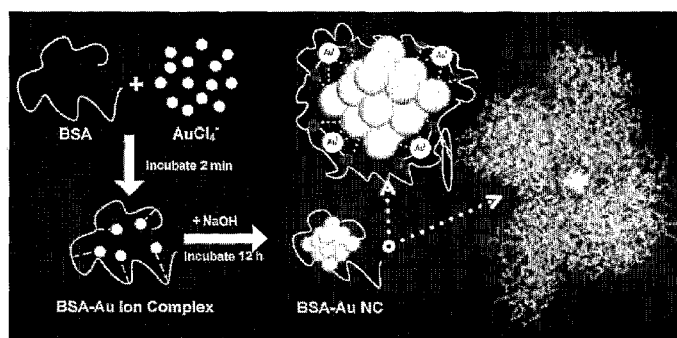


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract**: The invention relates generally to gold nanoclusters, and in particular, fluorescent gold nanoclusters. The gold nanoclusters may be stabilized, for example, with a protein or stabilizing agent. In some cases, the gold nanoclusters may be used in methods or articles to determine the presence, absence, and/or concentration of mercuric ions in a sample.