



Self-Adaptive Flask-Like Nanomotors Based on Fe₃O₄ Nanoparticles to a Physiological PH

Tianyu Gao ¹, Jinwei Lin ², Leilei Xu ^{1,*} and Jianguo Guan ^{1,2,*}¹ State Key Laboratory of Advanced Technology for Materials Synthesis and Processing, School of Materials Science and Engineering, Wuhan University of Technology, Wuhan 430070, China; gty@whut.edu.cn.² State Key Laboratory of Advanced Technology for Materials Synthesis and Processing, International School of Materials Science and Engineering, Wuhan University of Technology, Wuhan 430070, China; linjinwei@whut.edu.cn.

* Correspondence: xull@whut.edu.cn (L.X.); guanjq@whut.edu.cn (J.G.)

Supplementary Table:

Table S1. Typical parameters used in the simulations.

Parameters	Description	Values	Units
S_Fe ₃ O ₄ *	surface molar concentration	7.14×10 ⁻⁵	mol/m ²
Zeta_flask	Zeta potential of FCNMs	-0.057	V
D_H	diffusivity of H ⁺	9.31×10 ⁻⁹	m ² /s
D_OH	diffusivity of OH ⁻	5.3×10 ⁻⁹	m ² /s
D_•OH	diffusivity of •OH	2.3×10 ⁻⁹	m ² /s
D_O ₂	diffusivity of O ₂	1.97×10 ⁻⁹	m ² /s
D_C ₆ H ₈ O ₇	diffusivity of C ₆ H ₈ O ₇	0.66×10 ⁻⁹	m ² /s
D_C ₆ H ₇ O ₇	diffusivity of C ₆ H ₇ O ₇ ⁻	0.98×10 ⁻⁹	m ² /s

* Calculation of surface molar concentration of Fe₃O₄ NPs (S_{Fe₃O₄})

From the TEM images (Figure 2b), it can be estimated that the average volume of individual flask-like carbonaceous carrier (FCC, only the carbon shell is counted, and the cavity is not counted) is V_{FCC} = 2.76×10⁻²⁰ m³ and the internal surface area of individual FCC (only the bottom is counted, and the neck is not counted) is S_{FCC} = 3.35×10⁻¹³ m².

Based on the density of amorphous carbon (ρ_C = 1.8×10⁶ g m⁻³), the weight of individual FCC (m_{FCC}) is calculated as follows:

$$m_{FCC} = V_{FCC} \times \rho_C = 4.97 \times 10^{-14} \text{ g} \quad (1)$$

Based on the results of TG analysis (Figure 2e) and the relative molecular weight of Fe₃O₄ NP (M_{rFe₃O₄} = 231.54 g/mol), the number of FCCs (N_{FCCs}) and the molar amount of Fe₃O₄ NPs contained in each FCCs (n_{Fe₃O₄}) can be calculated as follows:

$$N_{FCCs} = \frac{m'_{FCCs}}{m_{FCC}} = 7.08 \times 10^{10} \quad (2)$$

$$n_{Fe_3O_4} = \frac{m_{Fe_3O_4}}{N_{FCCs} \times M_{rFe_3O_4}} = 2.39 \times 10^{-17} \text{ mol} \quad (3)$$

Assuming that the Fe₃O₄ NPs is evenly distributed at the bottom of the bottle, the surface molar concentration of the Fe₃O₄ NPs (S_{Fe₃O₄}) can be calculated as follows:

$$S_{Fe_3O_4} = \frac{n_{Fe_3O_4}}{S_{FCC}} = 7.14 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol/m}^2 \quad (4)$$

Table S2. Average size, saturation magnetization (Ms) and relative peroxidase-like activity of as-prepared different Fe₃O₄@OA NPs.

Samples	Average size (nm)	Ms (emu/g)	Relative activity (%)
MNP-1	4.62	33.9	97.5
MNP-2(5)	6.85	50.5	69.8
MNP-3	7.37	59.1	60.0
MNP-4	4.19	40.9	100
MNP-6	7.73	61.7	59.9
MNP-7	8.66	65.3	40.9
MNP-8	2.94	7.02	28.4
MNP-9	9.52	71.3	64.1
MNP-10	6.91	54.5	68.5
MNP-11	6.06	49.9	83.8

Supplementary Figure:

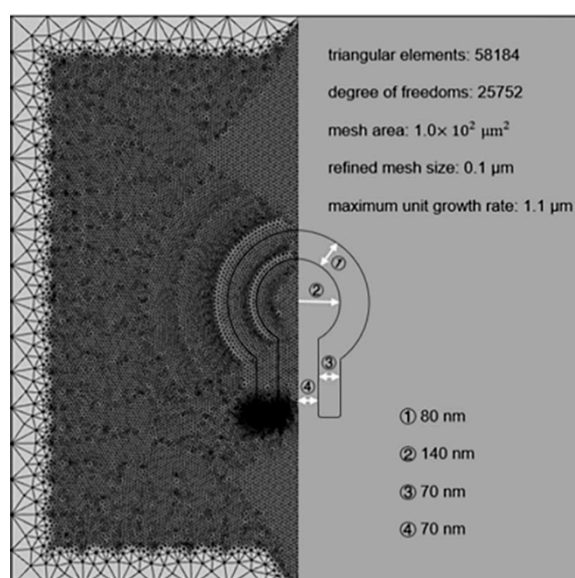


Figure S1. Meshing conditions of the theoretical model.

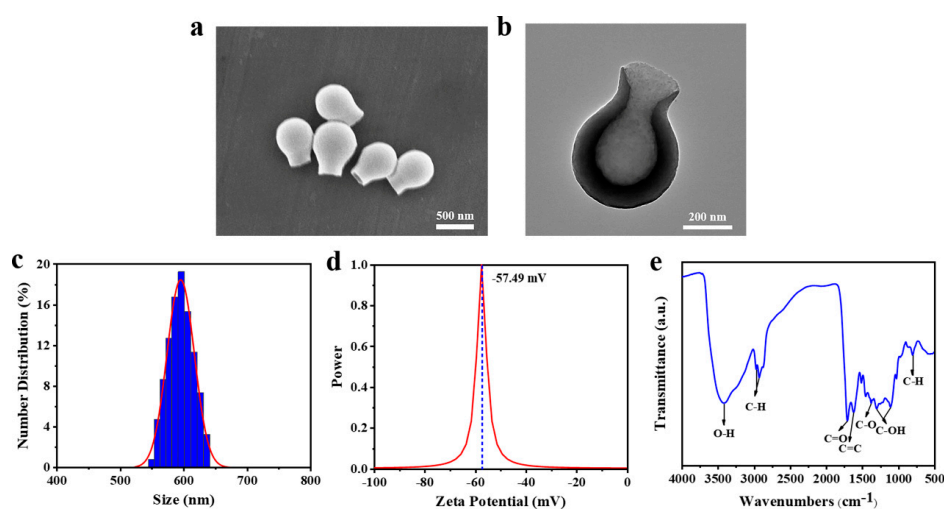


Figure S2. Characterizations of the FCCs. (a) SEM image of the FCCs. (b) TEM image of a typical FCC. (c) Zeta potential, (d) hydrodynamic size analysis and (e) FTIR spectra of the FCCs.

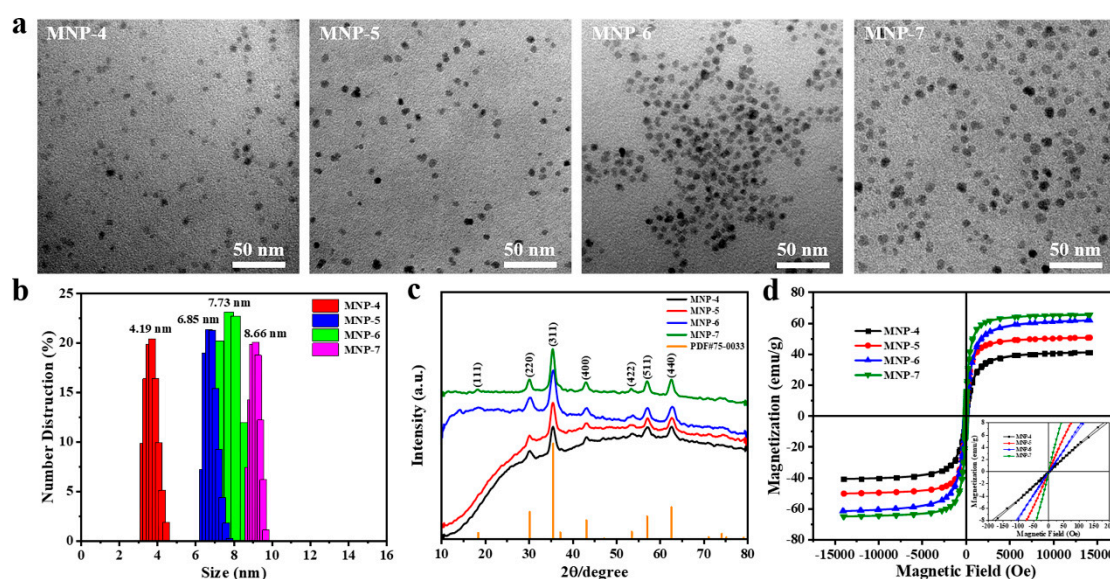


Figure S3. Characterizations of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@OA$ NPs synthesized at different aging temperatures (MNP-1, 200 °C; MNP-2, 220 °C; MNP-3, 240 °C). (a) TEM images, (b) hydrodynamic size analysis, (c) XRD patterns, and (d) hysteresis loops of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@OA$ NPs.

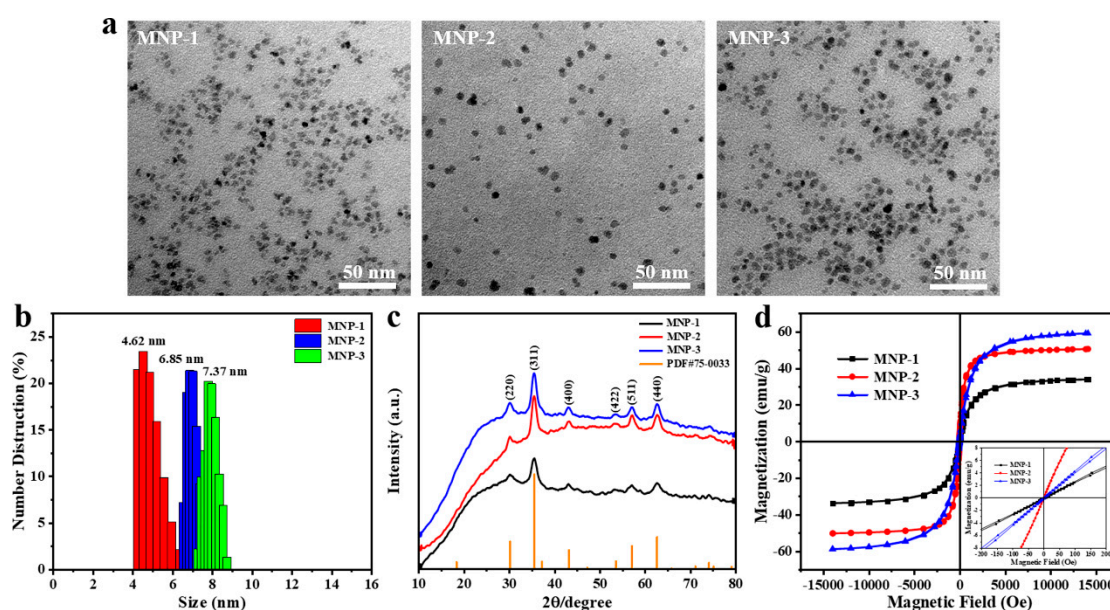


Figure S4. Characterizations of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@OA$ NPs synthesized at different aging time (MNP-4, 10 min; MNP-5, 30 min; MNP-6, 60 min; MNP-7, 90 min). (a) TEM images, (b) hydrodynamic size analysis, (c) XRD patterns, and (d) hysteresis loops of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@OA$ NPs.

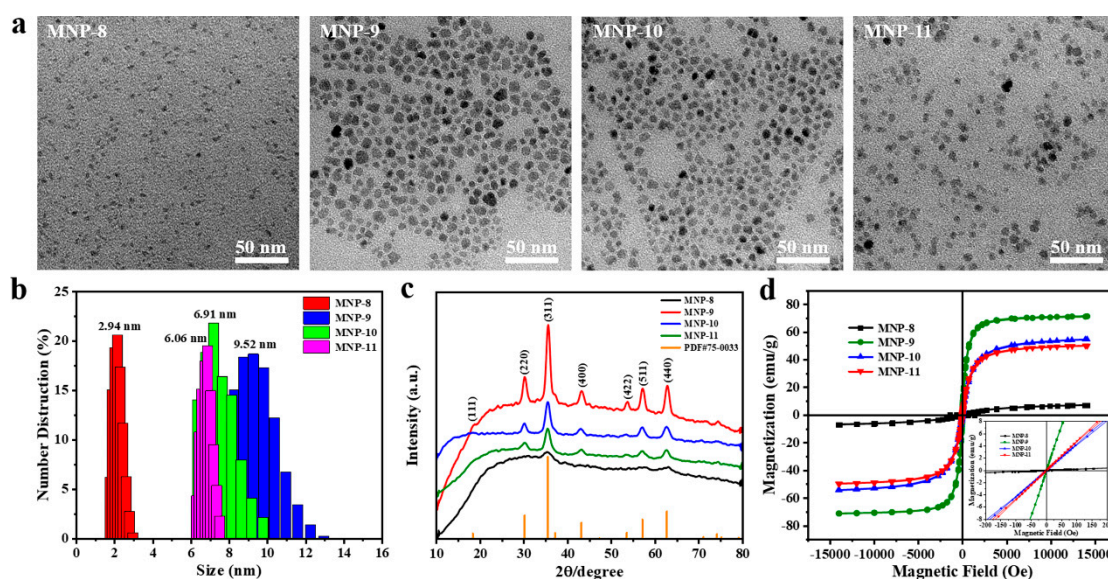


Figure S5. Characterizations of the Fe₃O₄@OA NPs synthesized at different raw material molar ratios between oleyl alcohol and oleic acid (MNP-8, 12 : 12; MNP-9, 16 : 8; MNP-10, 20 : 4; MNP-11, 24 : 0). (a) TEM images, (b) hydrodynamic size analysis, (c) XRD patterns, and (d) hysteresis loops of the Fe₃O₄@OA NPs.

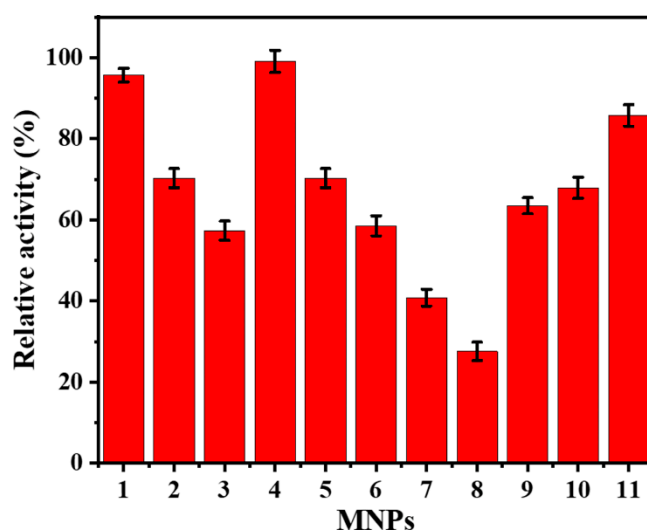


Figure S6. Relative peroxidase-like activities of the as-synthesized Fe₃O₄@OA NPs calculated by taking the group with the highest activity as 100%.

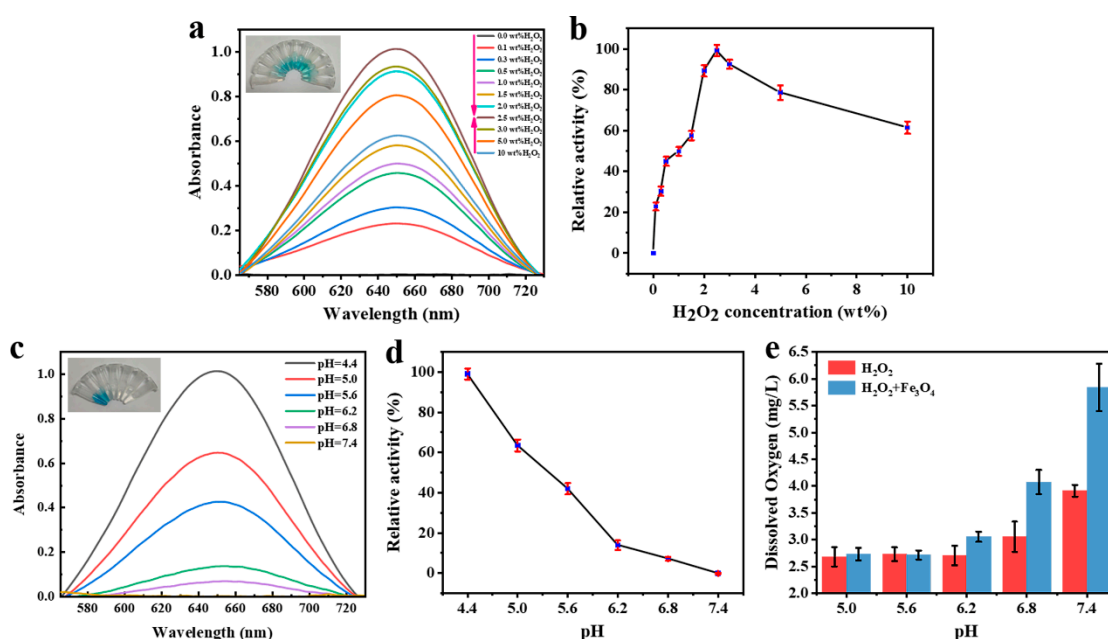


Figure S7. Characterizations of oil-soluble Fe₃O₄@OA and water-soluble Fe₃O₄@DMSA NPs. (a) TEM image of Fe₃O₄@DMSA NPs. (b) Fe 2p XPS spectra of the Fe₃O₄@DMSA NPs. (c) DLS, (d) VSM, and (e) FITR of Fe₃O₄@OA and Fe₃O₄@DMSA NPs. (f) Zeta potentials of the Fe₃O₄@DMSA NPs at different pH values.

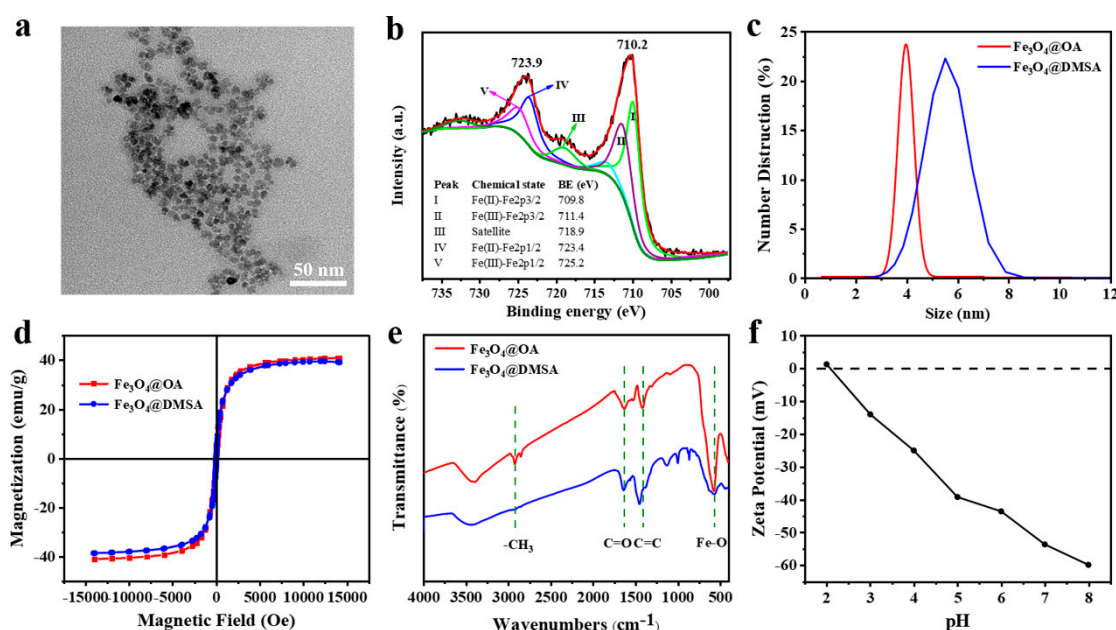


Figure S8. Verifications of dual enzyme-like activities of the Fe₃O₄@DMSA NPs. (a) UV-Vis spectra of the TMB-H₂O₂ system at different H₂O₂ concentrations. (b) Relative peroxidase-like activity of the Fe₃O₄@DMSA NPs at different H₂O₂ concentrations calculated by taking the activity at 2.5 wt% as 100%. (c) UV-Vis spectra of TMB-H₂O₂ system at different pH values. (d) Relative catalase-like activity of the Fe₃O₄@DMSA NPs at different pH values calculated by taking the activity at pH 7.4 as 100%. (e) Dissolved oxygen analysis of the as-prepared FCNMs moving in 2.5 wt% H₂O₂ aqueous solution at different pH values. (f) Zeta potentials of the Fe₃O₄@DMSA NPs at different pH values.

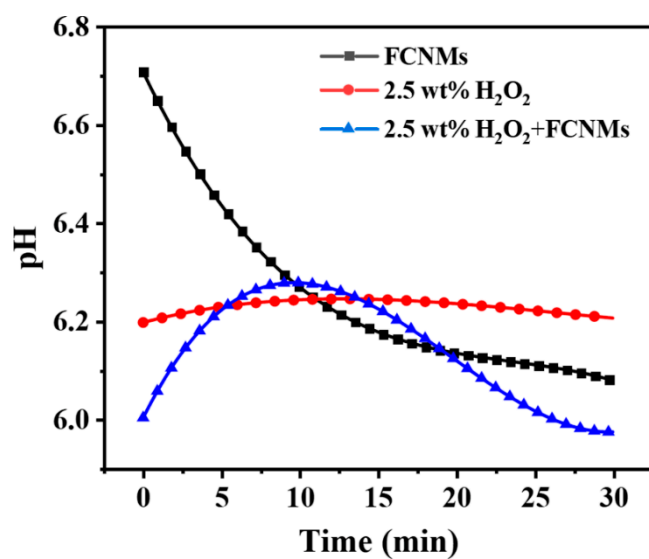


Figure S9. Verification of OH^- product by monitoring the change of pH values of pure 2.5 wt% H_2O_2 aqueous solution, FCNMs aqueous solution and their mixed solutions in 30 min.

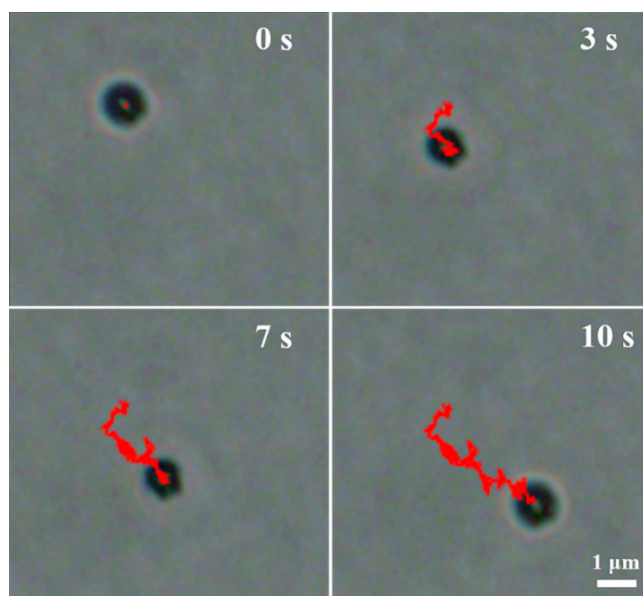


Figure S10. Time-lapse images monitored the motion direction of a comparable FCNM with a larger size of $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$ in 2.5 wt% H_2O_2 aqueous solution at pH 4.4.

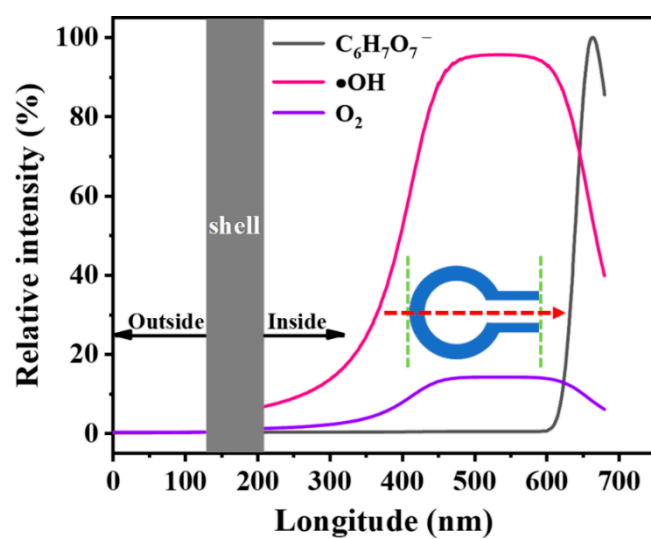


Figure S11. Concentration gradient distributions of $\bullet\text{OH}$, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_7\text{O}_7^-$ and O_2 on the symmetric axis of the FCNMs.

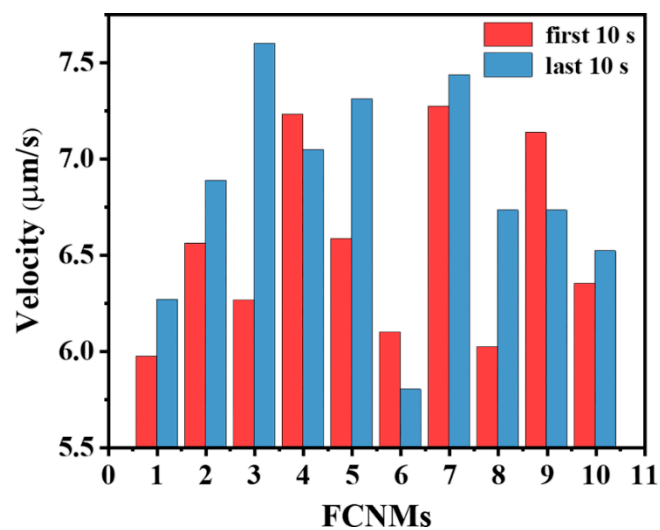


Figure S12. A discrete distribution of the average velocities of different chemotactic FCNMs in the first 10 s and last 10 s. .

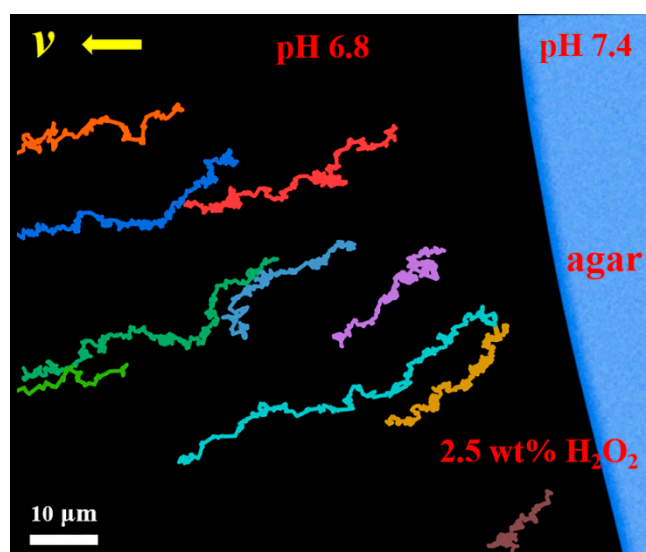


Figure S13. Chemotactic track trajectories of the FCNMs in 2.5 wt% H_2O_2 aqueous solution with a right-to-left gradually decreasing pH gradient in 30 s.

Supplementary Video:

Video S1. The FCNM moving in 0 wt% H_2O_2 aqueous solution.

Video S2. The FCNM moving in 2.5 wt% H_2O_2 aqueous solution at pH 5.6.

Video S3. The FCNM moving in 2.5 wt% H_2O_2 aqueous solution at pH 6.8.

Video S4. The FCNM with a larger size moving in 2.5 wt% H_2O_2 aqueous solution at pH 4.4 for observing its motion direction.

Video S5. The FCNM moving in 2.5 wt% H_2O_2 aqueous solution.

Video S6. The FCNMs moving in 2.5 wt% H_2O_2 aqueous solution with a left-to-right gradually decreasing pH gradient.

Video S7. The FCNMs moving in 2.5 wt% H_2O_2 aqueous solution with a right-to-left gradually decreasing pH gradient.