



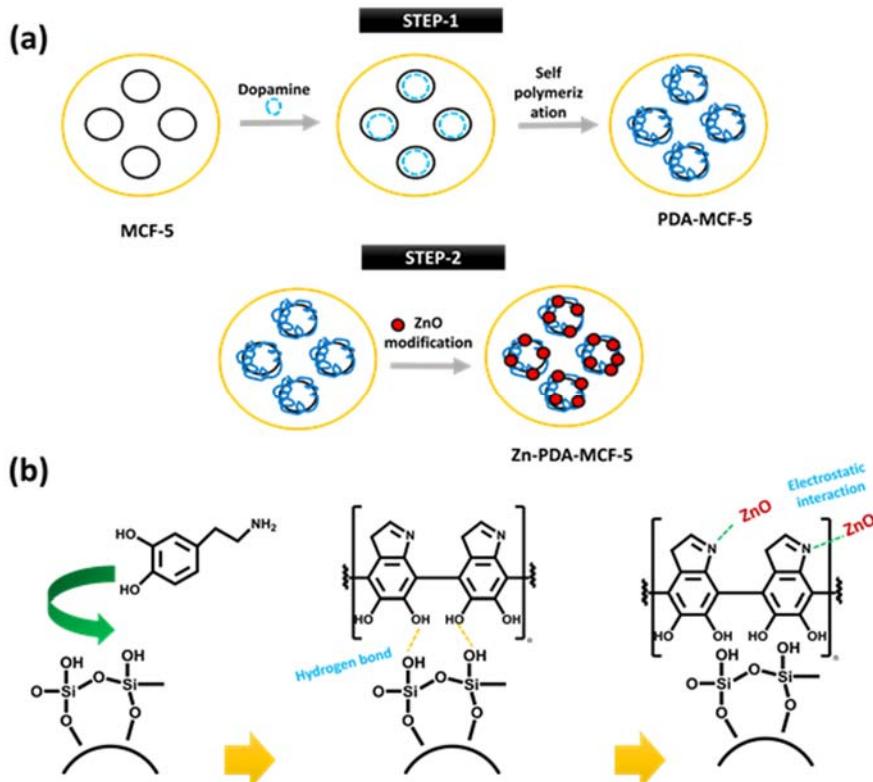
# ZnO/PDA/Mesoporous Cellular Foam Functionalized Thin-Film Nanocomposite Membrane towards Enhanced Nanofiltration Performance

Jenny Nambikkattu <sup>1</sup>, Anoopa Ann Thomas <sup>1</sup>, Noel Jacob Kaleekkal <sup>1,\*</sup>, Thanigaivelan Arumugham <sup>2,3</sup>, Shadi W. Hasan <sup>2,3</sup> and Saravanamuthu Vigneswaran <sup>4,5,\*</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Membrane Separation Group, Department of Chemical Engineering, National Institute of Technology Calicut (NITC), Kozhikode 673601, India  
<sup>2</sup> Department of Chemical Engineering, Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi P.O. Box 127788, United Arab Emirates  
<sup>3</sup> Center for Membranes and Advanced Water Technology (CMAT), Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi P.O. Box 127788, United Arab Emirates  
<sup>4</sup> Centre for Technology in Water and Wastewater, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2007, Australia  
<sup>5</sup> Faculty of Sciences & Technology (RealTek), Norwegian University of Life Sciences, P.O. Box 5003, 1432 As, Norway  
\* Correspondence: noeljacob89@gmail.com or noel@nitc.ac.in (N.J.K.); saravanamuth.vigneswaran@uts.edu.au (S.V.)

## Supplementary Information

### Figures



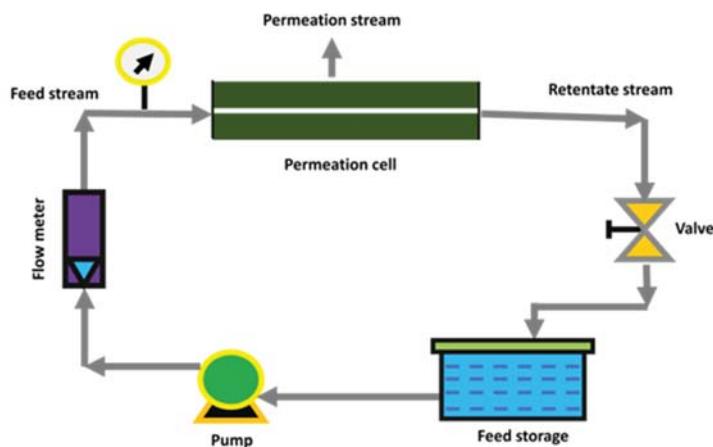
**Figure S1.** Schematic illustration of synthesis of Zn-PDA-MCF-5 nanoparticle.

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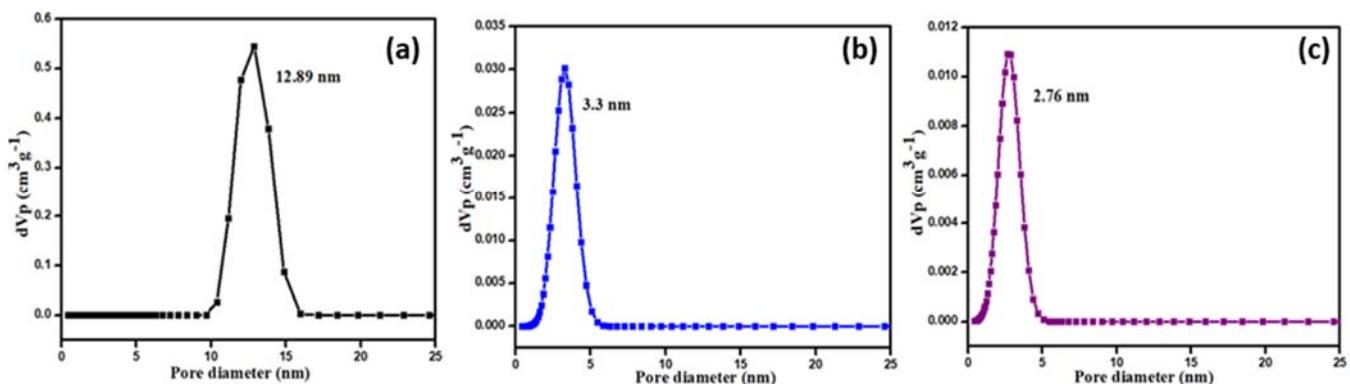
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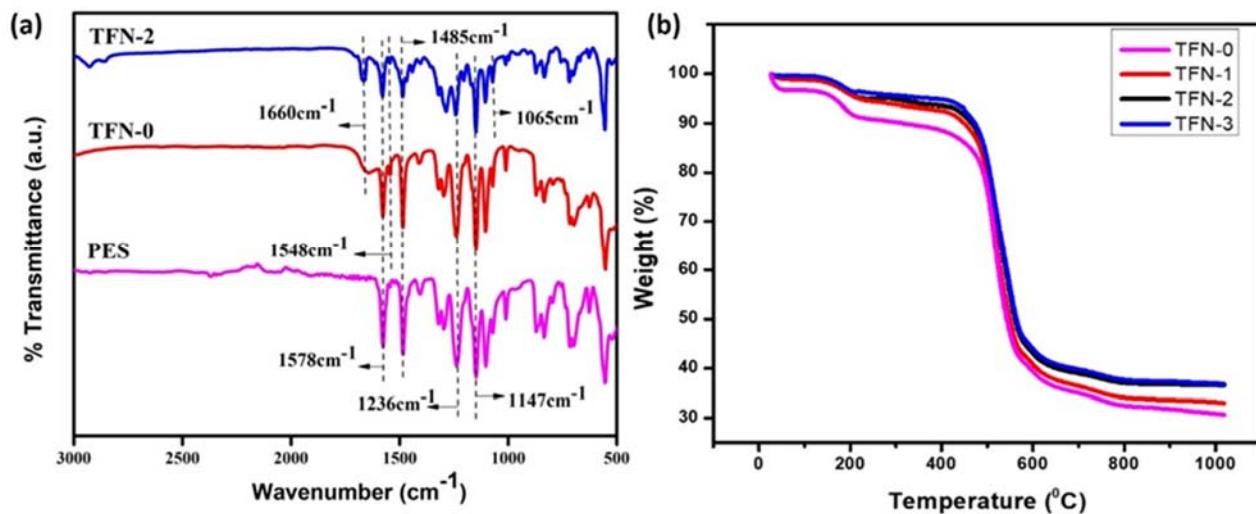
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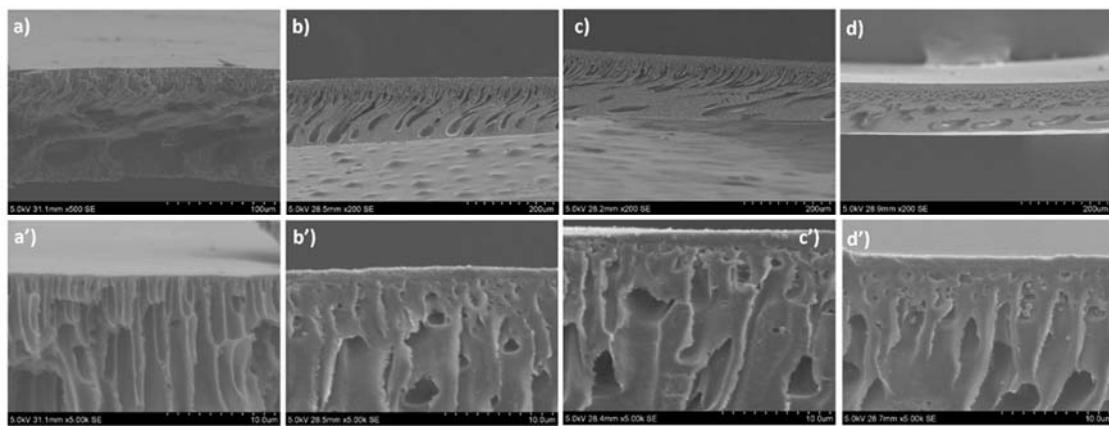
**Figure S2.** Schematic illustration of crossflow NF system.



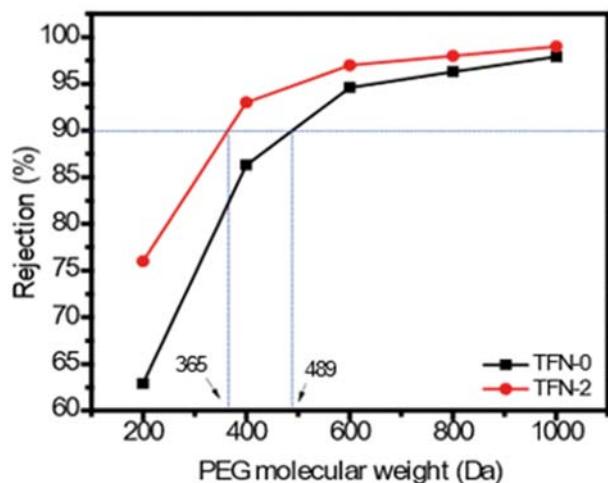
**Figure S3.** Pore size distribution of (a) MCF-5 silica (b) PDA-MCF-5 (c) Zn-PDA.



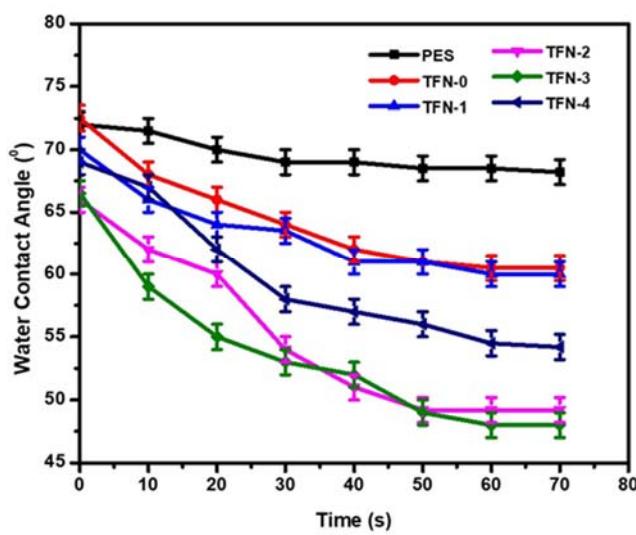
**Figure S4.** (a) FT-IR spectra and (b) TGA Curves of fabricated membranes.



**Figure S5.** Cross-sectional morphologies of (a, a') PES; (b, b') TFN-0; (c, c') TFN-2; and (d, d') TFN-4 membranes.



**Figure S6.** Molecular weight cut-off of membranes.



**Figure S7.** Dynamic water contact angles of the membranes.

## Tables

**Table S1.** Elemental composition from nanoparticles.

Element	Atomic wt.%	
	MCF silica	Zn-PDA-MCF-5
O	72.25	52.50
Si	27.75	10.55
C	0	18.52
N	0	4.67
Zn	0	13.76

**Table S2.** Brief summary of surface areas and pore sizes of mesoporous fillers.

Samples	Specific Surface Area <sup>a</sup> (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	Pore Volume <sup>a</sup> (cm <sup>3</sup> /g)	Pore Size <sup>b</sup> (nm)
MCF-5	389.71	2.13	12.89
PDA-MCF-5	278.12	0.30	03.29
Zn-PDA-MCF-5	138.92	0.12	02.76

<sup>a</sup> Calculation based on BET method. <sup>b</sup> Calculation based on NLDFT method.

**Table S3.** Roughness parameters of the membranes from AFM.

Membrane ID	Ra (nm)	Rz (nm)	Rrms (nm)
PES	12.80 ± 1.70	40.20 ± 6.30	15.60 ± 1.90
TFN-0	47.80 ± 12.60	133.30 ± 26.90	59.50 ± 19.30
TFN-1	45.20 ± 7.70	164.80 ± 23.60	56.70 ± 9.00
TFN-2	37.83 ± 7.00	143.70 ± 21.60	48.13 ± 9.90
TFN-3	70.60 ± 13.50	227.50 ± 39.50	88.20 ± 16
TFN-4	80.60 ± 15.50	292.50 ± 45.30	99.60 ± 18.80

Ra (average roughness), Rz (mean height roughness) and Rrms (root mean square roughness).

**Table S4.** Parameters of inorganic ions in the feed solution [1,2].

Ions	Z	Hydrated radius (Å)	D (10 <sup>-3</sup> mm <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
Na <sup>+</sup>	1	3.58	1.33
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	-2	3.79	1.07
Mg <sup>2+</sup>	2	4.28	0.71
Cl <sup>-</sup>	-1	3.32	2.03

## References

1. H. Sun and P. Wu, "Tuning the functional groups of carbon quantum dots in thin film nanocomposite membranes for nanofiltration," *J. Membr. Sci.*, vol. 564, pp. 394–403, Oct. 2018, doi: 10.1016/j.memsci.2018.07.044.
2. D.-X. Wang, M. Su, Z.-Y. Yu, X.-L. Wang, M. Ando, and T. Shintani, "Separation performance of a nanofiltration membrane influenced by species and concentration of ions," *Desalination*, vol. 175, no. 2, pp. 219–225, May 2005, doi: 10.1016/j.desal.2004.10.009.

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