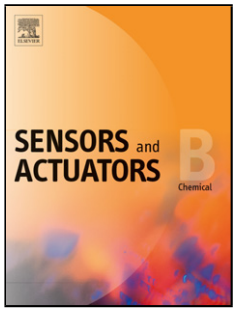

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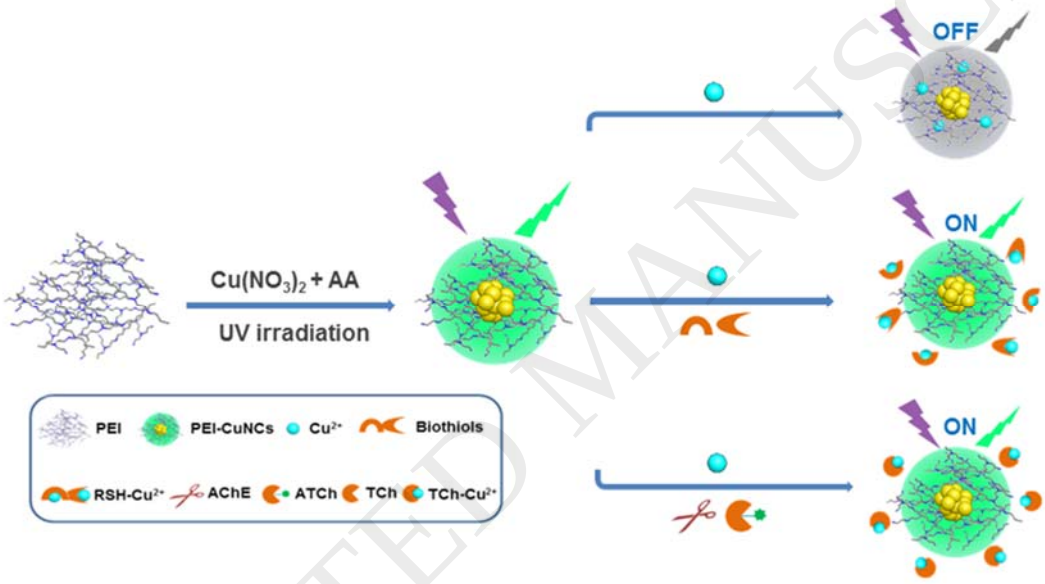
Graphical abstract



Highlights

- A facile UV-light-induced method was introduced into the synthesize process to obtain PEI-CuNCs with high stability and strong fluorescence intensity.
- Cu^{2+} acted as not only an analyte, but also a quencher mediated PEI-CuNCs for sensing other targets.

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