

# Design of etched- and functionalized halloysite/meloxicam hybrids: a tool for enhancing drug solubility and dissolution rate

**Valeria Friuli<sup>1,\*</sup>, Claudia Urru<sup>2</sup>, Chiara Ferrara<sup>3</sup>, Debora Maria Conti<sup>2</sup>, Giovanna Bruni<sup>2</sup>, Laretta Maggi<sup>1,\*</sup>, and Doretta Capsoni<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Department of Drug Sciences, University of Pavia, Via Taramelli 12, 27100 Pavia, Italy;  
valeria.friuli@unipv.it (V.F.); laretta.maggi@unipv.it (L.M.)

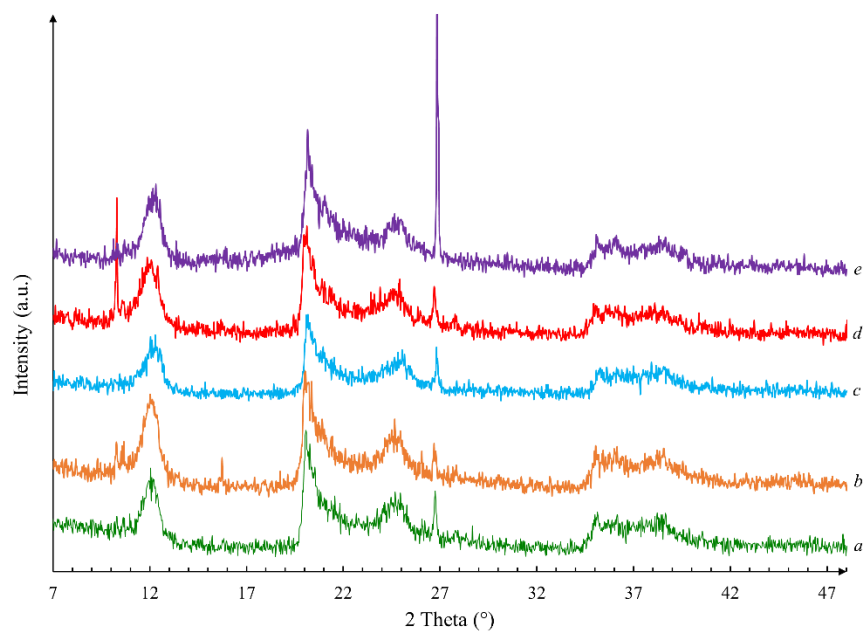
<sup>2</sup> Department of Chemistry, Physical Chemistry Section & C.S.G.I. (Consorzio Interuniversitario per lo Sviluppo dei Sistemi a Grande

Interfase), University of Pavia, 27100 Pavia, Italy;

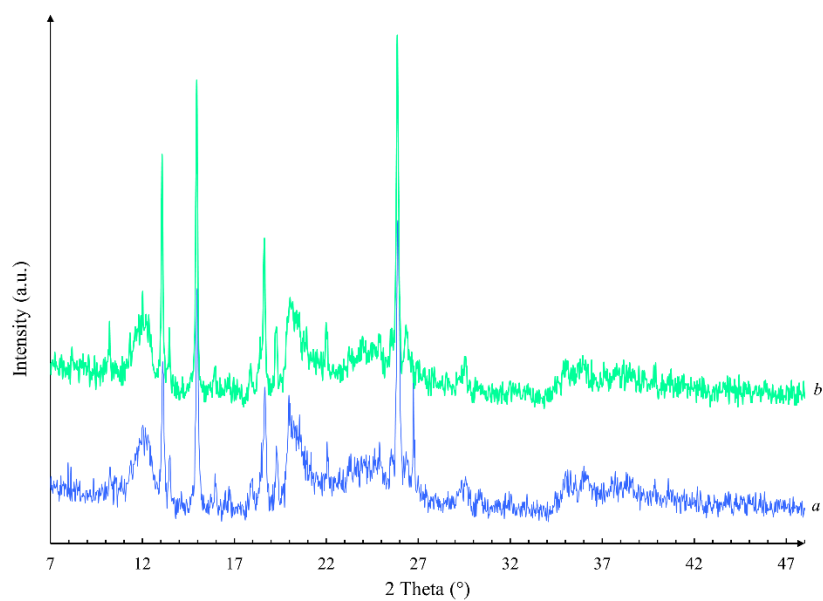
claudia.urr01@universitadipavia.it (C.U.); deboramaria.conti01@universitadipavia.it (D.M.C.);  
giovanna.bruni@unipv.it (G.B.); doretta.capsoni@unipv.it (D.C.)

<sup>3</sup> Department of Materials Science, University of Milano-Bicocca, Via Cozzi 55, 20125 Milano, Italy;  
chiara.ferrara@unimib.it (C.F.)

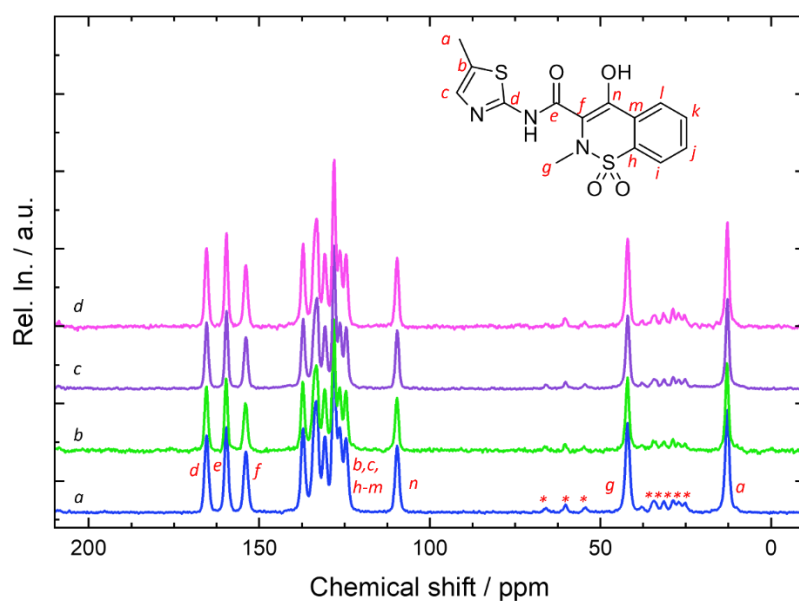
\* Correspondence: valeria.friuli@unipv.it; Tel.: +39-0382-987303; laretta.maggi@unipv.it; Tel.: +39-0382-987367



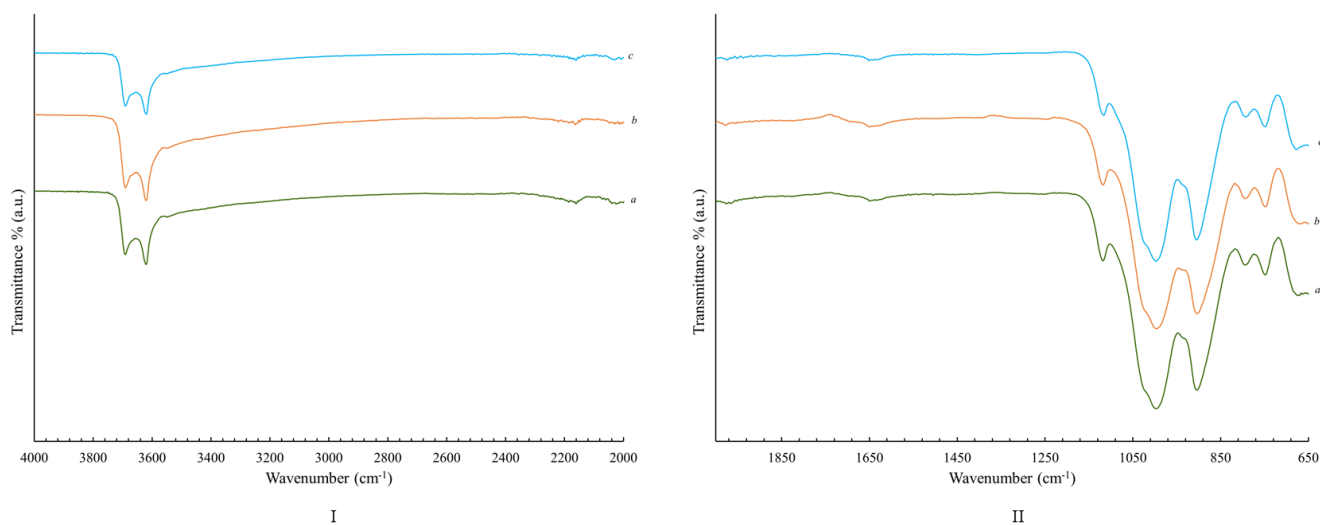
**Figure S1.** XRPD patterns of modified-halloysite samples: (a) H\_HCl\_2M, (b) H\_HCl\_4M, (c) H\_NaOH\_0.5M, (d) H\_A, (e) H\_C.



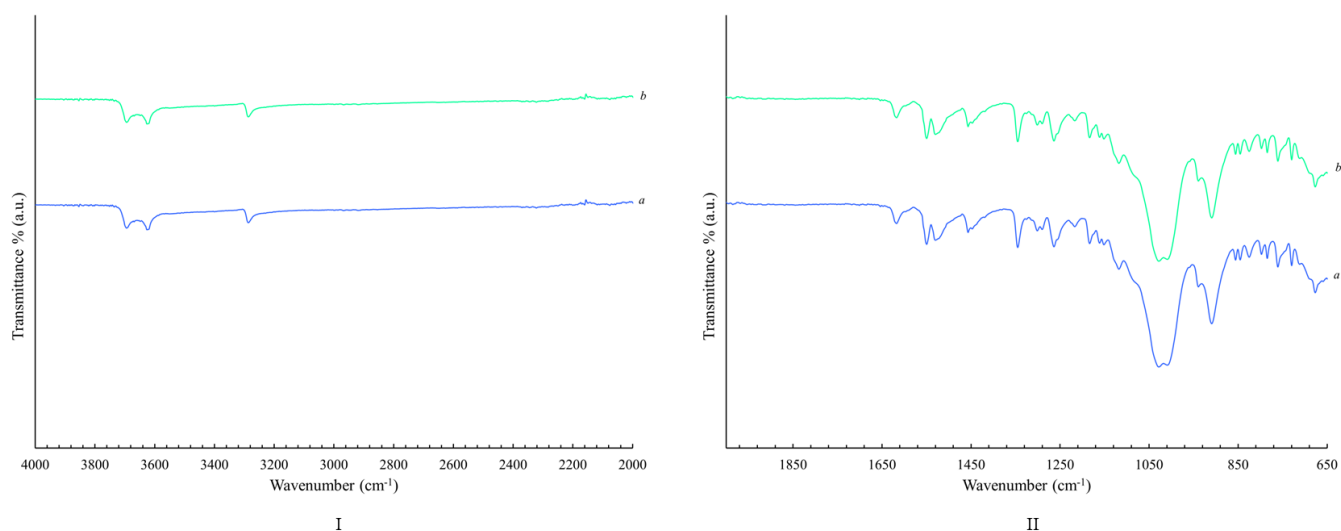
**Figure S2.** XRPD pattern of (a) MH\_HCl\_2M, (b) MH\_HCl\_4M.



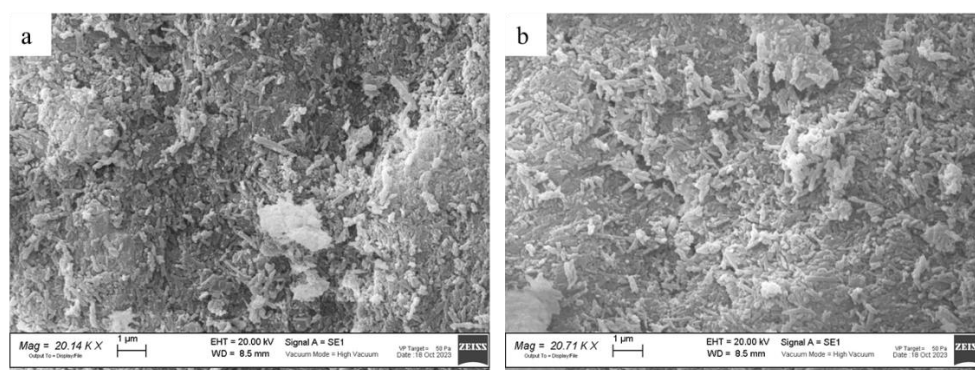
**Figure S3.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  CPMAS spectra for (a) MEL, (b) MH, (c) MH-A, (d) MH-C samples and signals attribution for the MEL pristine compound.



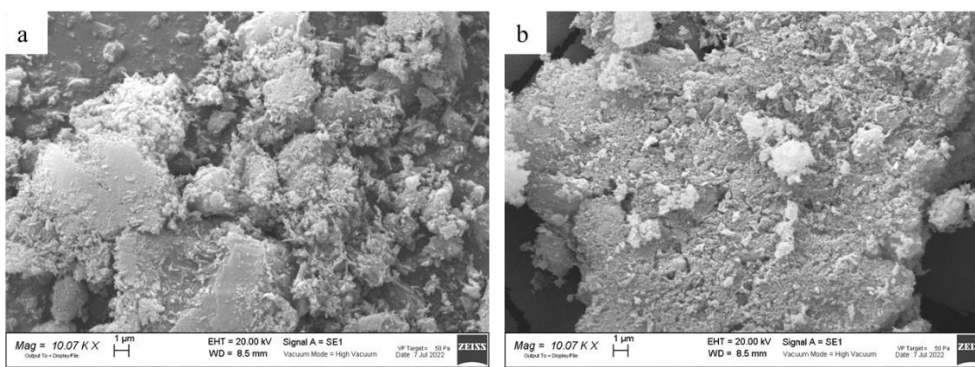
**Figure S4.** FT-IR spectra of (a)  $\text{H}_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4$ , (b)  $\text{H}_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4$ , and (c)  $\text{H}_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4$  in (I) 4000 – 2000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , and (II) 2000 – 650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  wavenumber range.



**Figure S5.** FT-IR spectra of (a) MH\_HCl\_2M, and (b) MH\_HCl\_4M in (I) 4000 – 2000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , and (II) 2000 – 650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  wavenumber range.

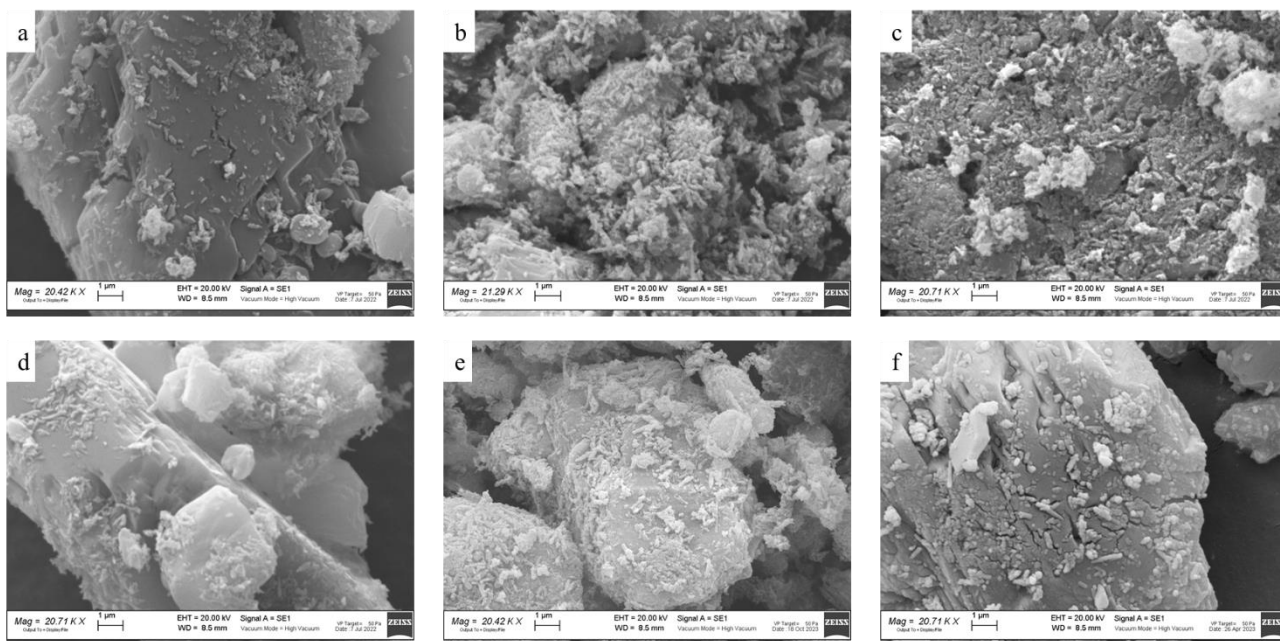


**Figure S6.** SEM images at 20 kX magnification of (a) H\_HCl\_2M, and (b) H\_HCl\_4M.

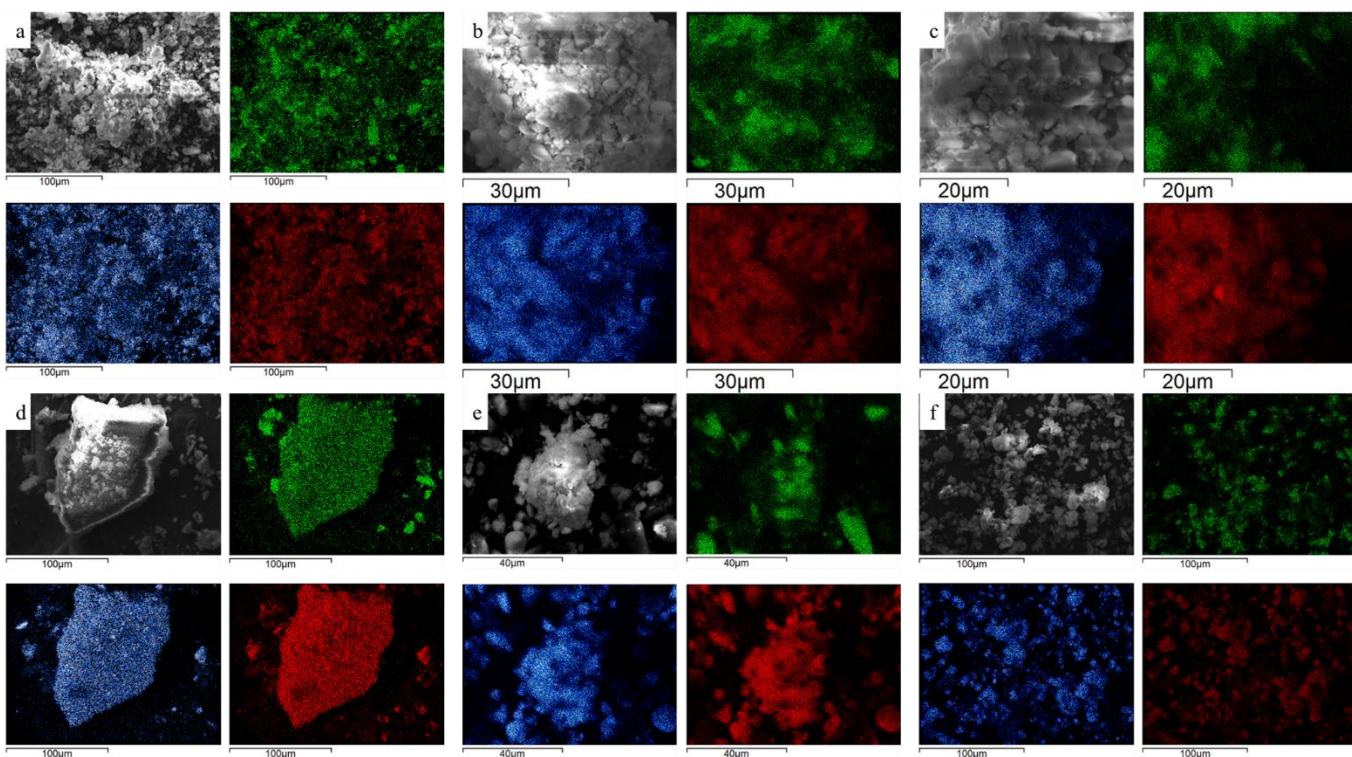


**Figure S7.** SEM images at 10kX magnification of (a) MH\_HCl\_2M, and (b) MH\_HCl\_4M.

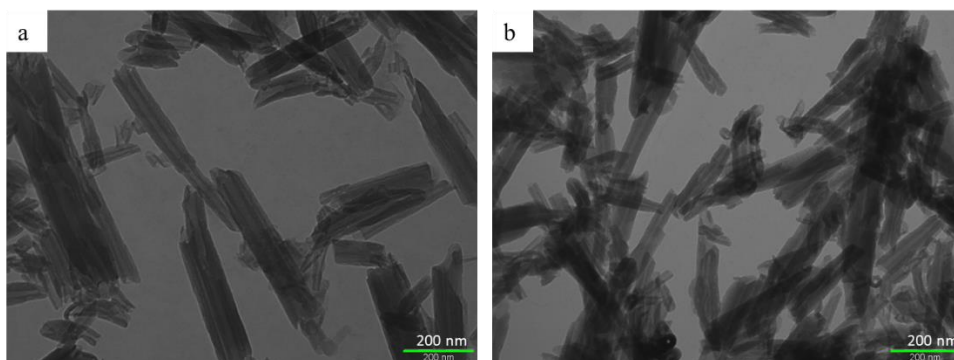




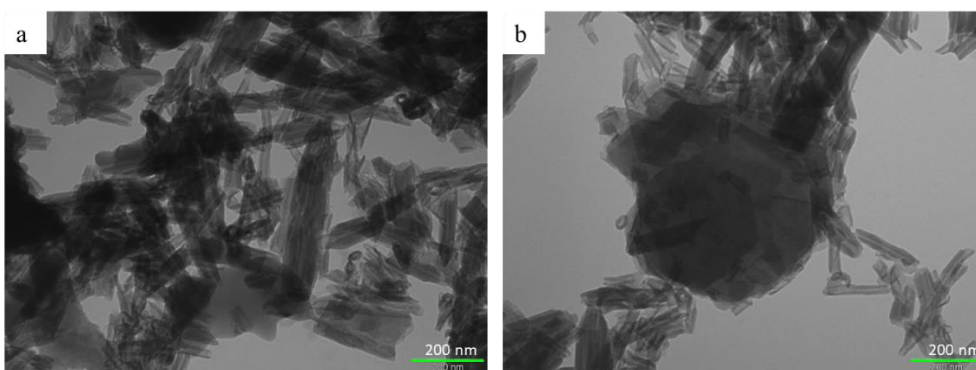
**Figure S8.** SEM images at 20 kX magnification of (a) MH, (b) MH\_HCl\_2M, (c) MH\_HCl\_4M, (d) MH\_NaOH\_0.5M, (e) MH\_A and (f) MH\_CTS.



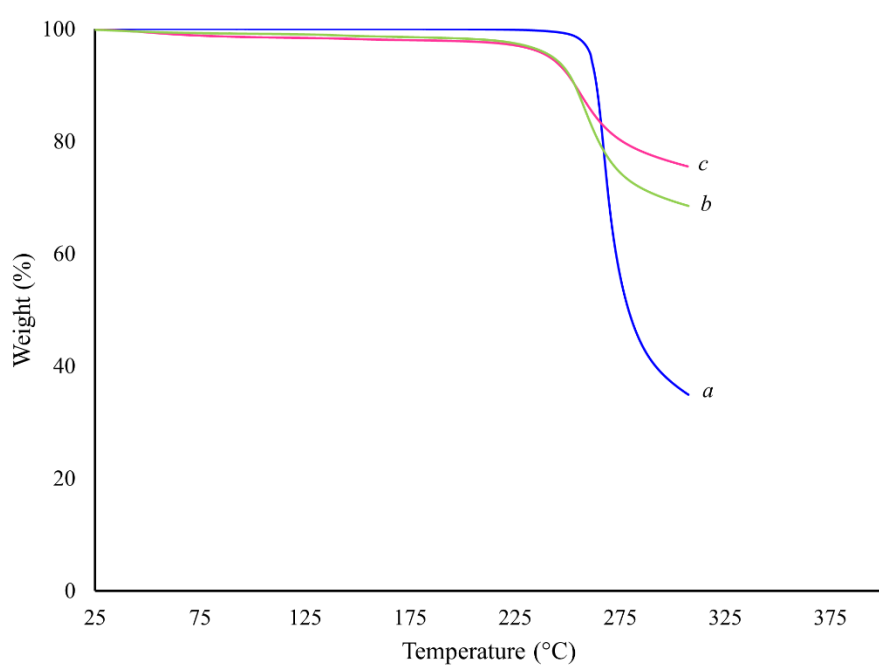
**Figure S9.** EDS analysis: investigated region (gray scale), S (green), Al (Blue) and Si (red) distribution maps for the (a) MH, (b) MH\_HCl\_2M, (c) MH\_HCl\_4M, (d) MH\_NaOH\_0.5M, (e) MH\_A, (f) MH\_C.



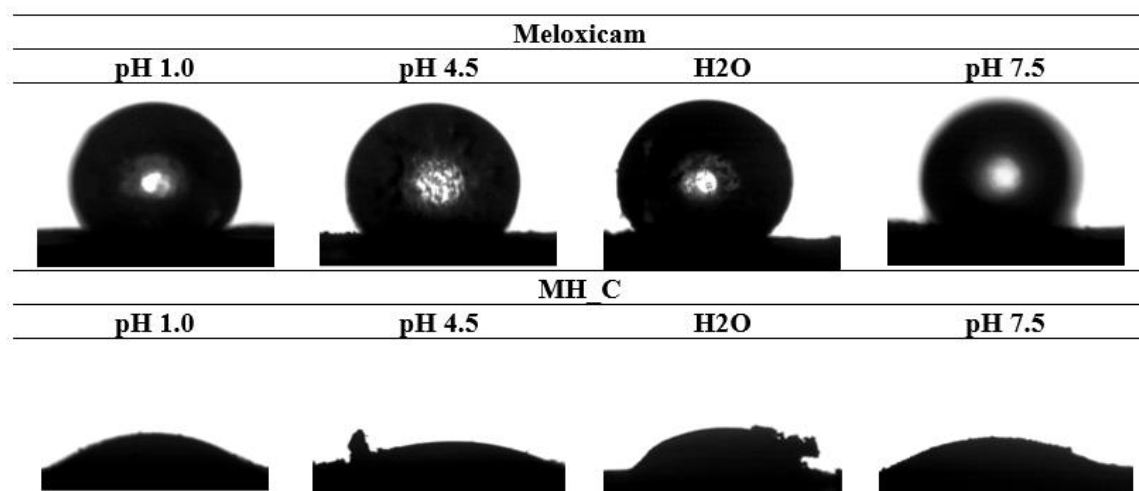
**Figure S10.** TEM images at 100kX magnification of (a) H\_HCl\_2M, and (b) H\_HCl\_4M.



**Figure S11.** TEM images at 100kX magnification of (a) MH\_HCl\_2M, and (b) MH\_HCl\_4M.



**Figure S12.** TG curves of (a) MEL, (b) MH, and (c) MH\_C.



**Figure S13.** Contact angle test: images of MEL and MH\_C drops in the different fluids at the time of 30 sec.

**Table S1.** Crystallite size of meloxicam in the drug-clay samples.

Sample	MEL	MH	MH_HCl_2M	MH_HCl_4M	MH_NaOH_0.5M	MH_A	MH_C
Crystallite size (nm)	68±3	66±2	48±4	57±3	50±4	61±2	58±3

**Table S2.** FT-IR bands and assignments.

Assignments		Position (cm <sup>-1</sup> )			
Sample	H	MEL	CTS	APTES	
Al-OH stretching of inner-surface hydroxyl groups	3690	-	-	-	
Al-OH stretching of inner hydroxyl groups	3619	-	-	-	
O-H stretching of interlayer water	3545	-	-	-	
O-H stretching	-	-	3360	-	
N-H stretching of amidic group	-	3285	-	-	
N-H stretching	-	-	3278	-	
C-H stretching	-	-	-	2973	
				2927	
				2882	
C-H symmetric stretching	-	-	2911	-	
C-H asymmetric stretching	-	-	2865	-	
C=O stretching of amide I	-	-	1651	-	
O-H deformation of water	1647	-	-	-	
C=O stretching of amidic group	-	1616	-	-	
N-H bending of primary amine	-	-	1584	-	
N-H bending of amide II	-	-	1560	-	
Stretching of aromatic ring	-	1548	-	-	
		1524			
		1456			
		1446			
N-H stretching and bending	-	-	-	1482	
				1440	
CH <sub>2</sub> bending	-	-	1419	-	
CH <sub>3</sub> symmetrical deformation	-	-	1372	-	
Asymmetric stretching of SO <sub>2</sub> group	-	1344	-	-	
C-N stretching of amide III	-	-	1316	-	
Symmetric stretching of SO <sub>2</sub> group	-	1182	-	-	
Symmetric stretching of C-O-C bridge	-	-	1151	-	
Stretching vibration of C-O group	-	1118	-	-	
Si-O stretching	1117	-	-	-	
C-O stretching	-	-	1062	-	
			1027		
Stretching vibration of C-N group	-	1042	-	-	
Si-O-Si stretching	1011	-	-	-	
Al-O-H bending	902	-	-	-	



**Table S3.** Meloxicam weight percentage in drug-clays systems evaluated by EDS microanalysis.

Sample	MH	MH_HCl_2M	MH_HCl_4M	MH_NaOH_0.5M	MH_A	MH_C
Meloxicam (wt%)	40.0±3.2	35.4±4.4	31.0±4.1	40.0±2.7	36.2±3.7	42.5±4.1