## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

## Producing magnetic nanocomposites from paper sludge for the adsorptive removal of pharmaceuticals from water - A fractional factorial design

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**Table S1.** Physical and chemical properties of amoxicillin tri-hydrate (AMX), carbamazepine(CBZ) and sodium diclofenac (DCF).

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**Table S3.** Results of ANOVA analysis: sum of square (SS) and mean of square (MS) values, degree of freedom (df), F-test and the *p*-value (confidence level of 95%).

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**Figure S1.**  $N_2$  adsorption isotherms expressed as (A.) adsorption (cm<sup>3</sup> STP g<sup>-1</sup>) *vs* relative pressure (p/p<sup>0</sup>) and (B.) adsorption (cm<sup>3</sup> STP g<sup>-1</sup>) *vs* -log (p/p<sup>0</sup>) of the following materials: PAC (—), MAC 4 (—), MAC 7 (—), MAC 11 (—) and MAC 17 (—).

Figure S2. Pore size distribution of PAC, MAC 3, MAC6, MAC 13 and MAC 16.

Figure S3. Values obtained for  $S_{\text{BET}}(A.)$  and  $M_s$  (B.) as a function of PAC:Fe salts ratio (w/w).

Figure S4. SEM images of the MAC 7 using a magnification of 20000 (A.) and 40000× (B.).

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**Figure S5.** Overall XPS spectra of PAC (—), MAC 4 (—), MAC 7 (—), MAC 11 (—) and MAC 17 (—).

**Figure S6.** Deconvolution of C1s, O1s and Fe2p XPS peaks of MAC 7, MAC 11 and MAC 17: experimental peak (—), adjusted peak (—) and the component groups (—).

**Table S1.** Physical and chemical properties of amoxicillin tri-hydrate (AMX)<sup>1</sup>, carbamazepine (CBZ)<sup>2</sup> and sodium diclofenac (DCF)<sup>3</sup>.

Pharmaceutical				
Classe	Molecular structure	Properties		
Antibiotic		<b>Amoxicillin tri-hydrate:</b> Mw: 419.5 g mol <sup>-1</sup> $pk_{a1}$ : 3.23, $pk_{a2}$ : 7.43 $log K_{ow}$ : 0.87		
Antiepileptic	O NH2	<b>Carbamazepine:</b> Mw: 236.3 g mol <sup>-1</sup> pk <sub>a</sub> :13.9 log K <sub>ow</sub> : 2.45		
Non-steroidal anti- inflammatory drug		<b>Sodium diclofenac:</b> Mw: 318.1 g mol <sup>-1</sup> $pk_a$ : 4.15 $log K_{ow}$ : 4.51		

<sup>1</sup> https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/Amoxicillin-trihydrate (accessed in 15.07.2020)

<sup>2</sup> https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/Carbamazepine (accessed in 15.07.2020)

<sup>3</sup> https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/Diclofenac-sodium (accessed in 15.07.2020)

Material	N <sub>2</sub> adsorption at -196 °C			
	$S_{\rm BET} ({ m m}^2~{ m g}^{-1})$	$V_{\rm p} ({\rm cm}^3{\rm g}^{-1})$	$V_{\rm mic} ({\rm cm}^3~{\rm g}^{-1})$	D (nm)
PAC	1438	1.00	0.57	1.39
MAC1	782	0.68	0.31	1.74
MAC2	658	0.56	0.26	1.69
MAC3	532	0.46	0.21	1.73
MAC4	725	0.63	0.29	1.73
MAC5	653	0.56	0.26	1.70
MAC6	475	0.48	0.19	2.03
MAC7	794	0.74	0.32	1.87
MAC8	609	0.60	0.24	1.97
MAC9	672	0.62	0.27	1.86
MAC10	624	0.58	0.25	1.87
MAC11	741	0.76	0.30	2.04
MAC12	552	0.59	0.22	2.15
MAC13	828	0.86	0.33	2.08
MAC14	645	0.68	0.26	2.10
MAC15	538	0.57	0.21	2.13
MAC16	899	0.82	0.36	1.83
MAC17	767	0.72	0.31	1.87
MAC18	641	0.68	0.26	2.13

**Table S2.** Values obtained for the specific surface area ( $S_{BET}$ ) and textural properties (total pore volume  $V_{p}$ , micropore volume  $V_{mic}$ , and average pore diameter D) of PAC and the eighteen MACs.

	Source	SS	df	MS	F	<i>p</i> -values <sup>*</sup>
	χ1	$2.47 \times 10^{4}$	2	$1.24 \times 10^{4}$	2.29	0.152
SBET	χ2	1.43×10 <sup>5</sup>	2	$7.17 \times 10^4$	13.3	0.002
$(m^2 g^{-1})$	χ3	4.23×10 <sup>3</sup>	2	$2.11 \times 10^{3}$	0.39	0.686
	χ4	3.89×10 <sup>3</sup>	1	3.89×10 <sup>3</sup>	0.72	0.416
	$\chi_1$	2.09×10 <sup>1</sup>	2	$1.04 \times 10^{1}$	0.17	0.846
Ms	χ2	$1.26 \times 10^{3}$	2	$6.32 \times 10^2$	10.3	0.004
(emu g <sup>-1</sup> )	χ3	$2.02 \times 10^{2}$	2	$1.01 \times 10^{2}$	1.64	0.241
	χ4	7.31×10 <sup>1</sup>	1	7.31×10 <sup>1</sup>	1.19	0.301
	χ1	3.30×10 <sup>2</sup>	2	$1.65 \times 10^{2}$	1.79	0.217
$A_{\rm AMX}$	χ2	$3.74 \times 10^{2}$	2	$1.87 \times 10^{2}$	2.03	0.182
(%)	χ3	$1.11 \times 10^{1}$	2	5.56	0.06	0.942
	χ4	6.50×10 <sup>1</sup>	1	6.50×10 <sup>1</sup>	0.70	0.421
	χ1	2.39×10 <sup>2</sup>	2	$1.19 \times 10^{2}$	1.2	0.342
$A_{\rm CBZ}$	χ2	1.92×10 <sup>3</sup>	2	9.58×10 <sup>2</sup>	9.59	0.005
(%)	χ3	1.09×10 <sup>1</sup>	2	5.44	0.05	0.947
	χ4	$1.20 \times 10^{2}$	1	$1.20 \times 10^{2}$	1.2	0.299
	$\chi_1$	2.36×10 <sup>1</sup>	2	$1.18 \times 10^{1}$	0.29	0.757
ADCF	χ2	$7.86 \times 10^2$	2	3.93×10 <sup>2</sup>	9.51	0.005
(%)	χ3	$1.94 \times 10^{2}$	2	9.72×10 <sup>1</sup>	2.35	0.146
	χ4	3.74	1	3.47	0.08	0.778

**Table S3.** Results of ANOVA analysis: sum of square (SS) and mean of square (MS) values, degree of freedom (df), F-test and the *p*-value (confidence level of 95%).

\* The bold *p*-values indicate the significant effect of factor on the response.

**Table S4.** Values of A (%) obtained for AMX, CBZ and DCF using MACs prepared using different carbon precursors, along with the experimental conditions used in the adsorption experiments ( $C_i$  of each pharmaceutical, dose of MAC, pH, temperature and contact time).

Carbon Precursor	Adsorption experiments	A (%)	Reference		
AMX					
Commercial PAC	$C_{AMX}$ =50 mg L <sup>-1</sup> ; Dose <sub>MAC</sub> =1000 mg L <sup>-1</sup> pH=5; T=20 °C Contact time: 1.5 h	95	[49]		
Waste-based PAC	$C_{AMX}$ =5 mg L <sup>-1</sup> ; Dose <sub>MAC</sub> =35 mg L <sup>-1</sup> ; pH=6 <sup>(a)</sup> ; T=25 °C Contact time: 4 h	61-70	Present study (MAC 4, 7, 11, 17)		
CBZ					
Commercial PAC	C <sub>CBZ</sub> =5.88 mg L <sup>-1</sup> ; Dos <sub>MAC</sub> = 248.5 mg L <sup>-1</sup> ; pH=6.6 <sup>(b)</sup> ; T=25 °C Contact time: 0.136 h	93	[25]		
Commercial granular AC	$C_{CBZ}$ =30 mg L <sup>-1</sup> ; Dose <sub>MAC</sub> =200 mg L <sup>-1</sup> pH=6 Contact time: 48 h	~80	[36]		
Waste-based PAC	$C_{CBZ}=5 \text{ mg } L^{-1}$ ; Dose MAC=35 mg $L^{-1}$ pH=6 <sup>(a)</sup> ; T=25 °C Contact time: 4 h	69-77	Present study (MAC 4, 7, 11, 17)		
DCF					
Waste-based PAC	$C_{\text{DCF}}$ =5 mg L <sup>-1</sup> ; Dose <sub>MAC</sub> =35 mg L <sup>-1</sup> pH=6 <sup>(a)</sup> ; T=25 °C Contact time: 4 h	80-84	Present study (MAC 4, 7, 11, 17)		

<sup>(a)</sup> Unadjusted value. <sup>(b)</sup> The adsorption experiments were performed in wastewater treatment plant influent.



**Figure S1.**  $N_2$  adsorption isotherms expressed as (A) adsorption (cm<sup>3</sup> STP g<sup>-1</sup>) vs relative pressure (p/p<sup>0</sup>) and (B) adsorption (cm<sup>3</sup> STP g<sup>-1</sup>) vs -log (p/p<sup>0</sup>) of the following materials: PAC (—), MAC 4 (—), MAC 7 (—), MAC 11 (—) and MAC 17 (—).



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Figure S5. Overall XPS spectra of PAC (-), MAC 4 (-), MAC 7 (-), MAC 11 (-) and MAC

17 (—).



Figure S6. Deconvolution of C1s, O1s and Fe2p XPS peaks of MAC 7, MAC 11 and MAC 17: experimental peak (-), adjusted peak (-) and the component groups (-).