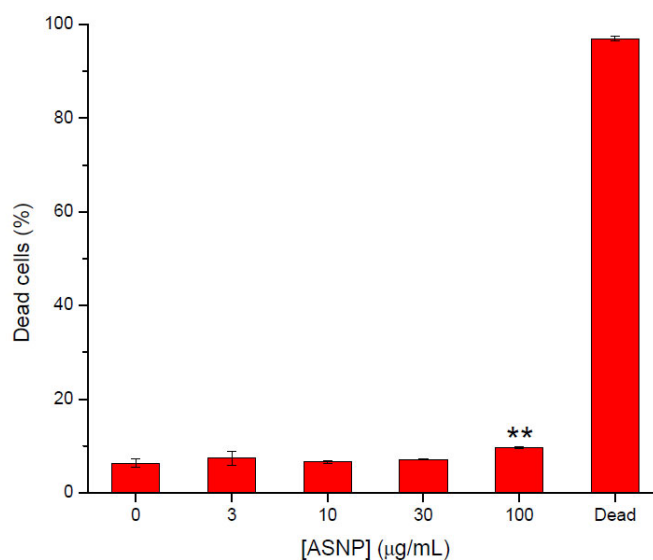


## Supplementary information

### Silica nanoparticles inhibit responses to ATP in human airway epithelial 16HBE cells

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**Figure S1. Viability test in 16HBE cells exposed to SiNPs.** 16HBE cells were exposed to different concentrations of SiNPs for 10 min and a Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting test was performed, using propidium iodide as a marker for detecting dead cells. After 10 min, cells exposed to 100 µg/ml SiNPs showed a significant decrease in viability compared to the population that was exposed to SiNPs (3.2% above the control level). However, none of the concentrations applied led to an increase in dead cell counts comparable to the positive control (a combination of ethanol and methanol).