**Supplementary Figure S1:** Cytokines are not adsorbed to the cationic surface of MSN-NH$_2$.

(A) MSN-NH$_2$ and unfunctionalized (bare) MSN were incubated with defined concentrations of recombinant cytokines. After 18 h, the concentration of the indicated cytokines in the culture medium was analyzed by ELISA. (B) Complete splenocytes were incubated for 18 h with different concentrations of MSN-NH$_2$ or bare MSN. The amounts of the pro-inflammatory cytokines IL-1β, IL-6 and IL-12p70 in the cell culture supernatant were determined by ELISA. Data give the mean value of triplicate samples ± s.e.m. All results are representative of two independent experimenta.