Electronic supplementary information (ESI) for

Synthesis and UCST-type thermoresponsive property of polypeptide based single-chain nanoparticles

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Materials

Propargyl bromide (99%), trifluoroacetic acid (99%), copper bromide (CuBr, 99%),
\(N,N',N'',N''\)-pentamethyldiethylenetriamine (PMDETA, 99%), NaI (98%), (3-
bromopropyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (98%), and 1,4-diiodobutane (98%)
were purchased from Energy Chemical. \(N,N\)-dimethylformamide (DMF, 99.9%) was
dried over molecular sieves before use. Chloroform-\(d\) (CDCl\(_3\), D.99.8%) + silver foil
was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc. Sodium azide (NaN\(_3\),
99.5%) and dimethyl sulfoxide-\(d_6\) (DMSO-\(d_6\), 99.9 atom % D, contains 0.03% v/v
TMS) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Proteinase K (≥30 units/mg protein,
lyophilized) was purchased from Shanghai Aladdin Biochemical Technology Co., Ltd.
Deionized water (DI H\(_2\)O) was obtained from Aquapro AR1-100L-P11 water-
purification system (Ever Young Enterprises Development Co., Ltd., P. R. China). \(\gamma\)-
3-Methylthiopropyl-L-glutamic acid based \(N\)-carboxyanhydride (MTPLG-NCA) and
poly(ethylene glycol) bis(2-aminoethyl ether) (PEG-BA, \(M_n = 4000, n = 90\)) were
prepared according to reported procedures.\(^1\)\(^2\) The L929 murine fibroblasts cell line
was obtained from Shanghai ASTRI Cell Resource Center, Chinese Academy of
Sciences. Cell Counting Kit-8 (CCK-8) was purchased from Boster Biological
Technology Co. Ltd.

Instrumentation

\(^1\)H and \(^{13}\)C nuclear magnetic resonance (\(^1\)H and \(^{13}\)C NMR) spectra were recorded
on a Bruker ARX400 MHz spectrometer at room temperature. Chemical shifts (\(\delta\))
were reported in the units of ppm and referenced to the protonic impurities. Gel
permeation chromatography (GPC) measurements were performed on a PL-GPC120 setup equipped with a column set consisting of two PL gel 5 \( \mu \text{m} \) MIXED-D columns (7.5 mm × 300 mm, effective molar mass range of 0.2-400.0 kg·mol\(^{-1}\)) and PL-RI differential refractive index (DRI) detector. DMF containing 0.01 M LiBr was used as the eluent at 80 °C at a flow rate of 1.0 mL·min\(^{-1}\). Narrowly distributed polystyrene standards in the molar mass range of 2.95-871 kg·mol\(^{-1}\) (PSS, Mainz, Germany) were utilized for calibration. FTIR spectra were recorded on a Thermo Scientific Nicolet 6700 FTIR spectrometer equipped with an attenuated total reflection (ATR) sample holder. Solid samples were placed on the diamond crystal window and pressed with a metal probe. Spectral measurements were carried out in the transmittance mode (scan range = 4000-600 cm\(^{-1}\), resolution = 2 cm\(^{-1}\), number of scans = 2, 25 °C). Elemental analysis was recorded using an Elementar Vario EL instrument. Circular dichroism (CD) measurements were carried out on a JASCO J820 CD spectrometer (Japan Spectroscopic Corp.). The polymer aqueous solutions (0.5 mg·mL\(^{-1}\)) were placed in a quartz cell with a path length of 0.2 cm. CD data were collected with the high tension voltage (i.e., the voltage applied to the photomultiplier) less than 600 V. Two scans were conducted and averaged between 185 and 250 nm with a resolution of 0.5 nm. The data were processed by subtracting the solvent (i.e., DI H\(_2\)O) background and smoothing with the FFT-Filter method with points of window of 8. The CD spectra were reported in mean residue ellipticity (MRE) (units: deg·cm\(^2\)·dmol\(^{-1}\)) which was calculated by the equation 
\[ [\theta]_\lambda = \text{MRW} \times \theta_\lambda / 10 \times d \times c \]  
where MRW is the mean residue weight (MRW = the molecular weight of polypeptide repeating unit), \( \theta_\lambda \) is the
observed ellipticity (mdeg) at the wavelength $\lambda$ (i.e., 222 nm), $d$ is the path length (mm), and $c$ is the concentration (mg·mL$^{-1}$). Dynamic light scattering (DLS) was conducted on a Zetasizer Nano ZS90 (Malvern Instruments Ltd, UK) with a He Ne laser ($\lambda = 633$ nm) at a scattering angle of 90 (25 °C). In a heating/cooling cycle, the aggregation size was recorded at every 2 °C augment after a 5 min thermal equilibration at each measurement. The heating or cooling rate for variable temperature DLS measurements were around 2 °C·min$^{-1}$. Ultraviolet–visible (UV–vis) spectra were measured using an Agilent Cary 100 spectrometer. The polymer solutions placed in a quartz cell with a path length of 1.0 cm. The transmittance at 500 nm was recorded at every 2 °C augment after a 5 min thermal equilibration at each measurement. The heating or cooling rate for variable temperature UV-vis measurements were around 2 °C·min$^{-1}$.

References


Fig. S1 $^1$H NMR spectra of P5 with various crosslinking densities in CDCl$_3$.

Fig. S2 $^{13}$C NMR spectra of P1 and P5-5eq in CDCl$_3$. 
Table S1. Elemental analysis results of P1 and P5-5eq.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Samples</th>
<th>N [%]</th>
<th>C [%]</th>
<th>H [%]</th>
<th>S [%]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1</td>
<td>4.62</td>
<td>50.25</td>
<td>7.478</td>
<td>10.706</td>
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<tr>
<td>P5-5eq</td>
<td>4.67</td>
<td>50.15</td>
<td>7.554</td>
<td>10.734</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Fig. S3 FTIR spectra of TPP-N$_3$, P1-P4 in the solid-state.
Fig. S4 $^1$H NMR spectra of P1 (top curve) and P2 (bottom curve) in CDCl$_3$.

Fig. S5 $^1$H NMR spectra of P5 (top curve) and P6 (bottom curve) in CDCl$_3$. 
Fig. S6 $^1$H NMR spectra of TPP-Br (top curve) and TPP-N$_3$ (bottom curve) in CDCl$_3$.

Fig. S7 $^1$H NMR spectra of P3 (top curve) and P4 (bottom curve) in DMSO-d$_6$. 
Fig. S8 Plots of transmittance at $\lambda = 500$ nm versus temperature for (a) P4 at 0.5 mg·mL$^{-1}$, (b) P4, (c) P8-1eq, and (d) P8-5eq in DI water at various polymer concentrations.

Fig. S9 Plots of transmittance at $\lambda = 500$ nm versus temperature for (a) P4, (b) P8-1eq, and (c) P8-5eq in PBS at various polymer concentrations.