ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

## The Endocytic Pathway and Therapeutic Efficiency of Doxorubicin Conjugated Cholesterol-Derived Polymers

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RESULTS



Scheme S1: The formation of stable amide bonds via EDC/sulfo-NHS reactions. The scheme was adapted from Hermanson.



**Figure S1:** Intracellular distributions of endocytic markers in SHEP cells. Control samples consist of (A) human transferrin (16.7  $\mu$ g/ml) and (B) lactosylceramide (0.81  $\mu$ M) 1 hour treatments. (C) Human transferrin inhibition after 5  $\mu$ g/ml chlorpromazine treatment, lactosylceramide inhibition following a (D) 2.5 mM M $\beta$ CD and (E) 300  $\mu$ M genistein treatments for 2 hours. Nuclei are visualized with Hoechst 33342 stain. Scale bars correspond to 10  $\mu$ m.



**Figure S2:** Intracellular distributions of endocytic markers in HepG2 cells. Control samples consist of (A) human transferrin (16.7  $\mu$ g/ml) and (B) after 5  $\mu$ g/ml chlorpromazine treatment, lactosylceramide inhibition following a (D) 2.5 mM M $\beta$ CD and (E) 300  $\mu$ M genistein treatments for 2 hours. Nuclei are visualized with Hoechst 33342 stain. Bars represent 10  $\mu$ m.



**Scheme S2:** Schematic representation of a phasor plot. All single exponential lifetimes lie on the universal circle while multi-exponential lifetimes are a linear combination of their components.

**Figure S3:** Distribution of lifetimes for P(MAA-*co*-CMA)-DOX nanocomplexes ranging from 6.25:1 to 1250:1 (w/w) ratios with in (A) 1 hour and (B) 24 hours. 1.4  $\mu$ M free DOX was included as a control sample.



**Figure S4:** Toxicity of DOX and P(MAA-*co*-CMA)-DOX nanocomplexes prepared at 125:1 ratio in (A) SHEP (B) HepG2 (C) MRC5 cells for P(MAA-*co*-CMA) series. The assay was repeated three times in 4 replicates and the viability results were normalized according to the positive control (untreated cells). Error bars represent standard deviation.



**Figure S5:** Toxicity of DOX and P(MAA-*co*-CMA)-DOX nanocomplex series at complexation ratios of 1250:1 in (A) SHEP (B) HepG2 (C) MRC5 cells, respectively. The assay was repeated three times in 4 replicates and the viability results were normalized according to the positive control (untreated cells). Error bars show standard deviation.



**Figure S6**: Confocal microscopy images of HepG2 cells treated with DOX (0.5  $\mu$ M) and P(MAA-*co*-CMA)-DOX nanocomplexes (125:1 and 1250:1) for (A-B-C) 1 hour, (D-E-F) 4 hours and (G-H) 24 hours. (E) Alexa Fluor 488 labelled 8 mol% CMA copolymers were utilized for preparing P(MAA-*co*-CMA)-DOX nanocomplexes at 125:1 and incubated in cells for 4 hours. Alexa Fluor 488 and DOX images were acquired at  $\lambda^{ex} = 495$  nm -  $\lambda^{em} = 591$  nm and  $\lambda^{ex} = 485$  nm -  $\lambda^{em} = 595$  nm, respectively. Nuclei were stained with Hoechst 33342. Bars represent 10  $\mu$ m.



**Figure S7:** Confocal laser scanning microscopy exhibiting cellular internalization of 0.5  $\mu$ M DOX and P(MAA-*co*-CMA)-DOX nanocomplexes at conjugation ratios of 125:1 and 1250:1 within (A-B-C) 1 hour and (D-E-F) 4 hours in MRC5 cells. Nuclei (represented in blue) were visualized with Hoechst 33342 stain. DOX fluorescent images were acquired at  $\lambda^{ex} = 485$  nm and  $\lambda^{em} = 595$  nm. Scale bars indicate 10  $\mu$ m.



**Figure S8:** Inhibition of P(MAA-*co*-CMA)-DOX nanocomplexes after incubation with endocytic inhibitors (2 hours) in SHEP cells determined by confocal laser scanning microscopy. (A) No inhibitor, (B) genistein (300  $\mu$ M), (C) chlorpromazine (5  $\mu$ g/ml) and (D) M $\beta$ CD (2.5 mM). Scale bars indicate 10  $\mu$ m.