

## Supporting Information for:

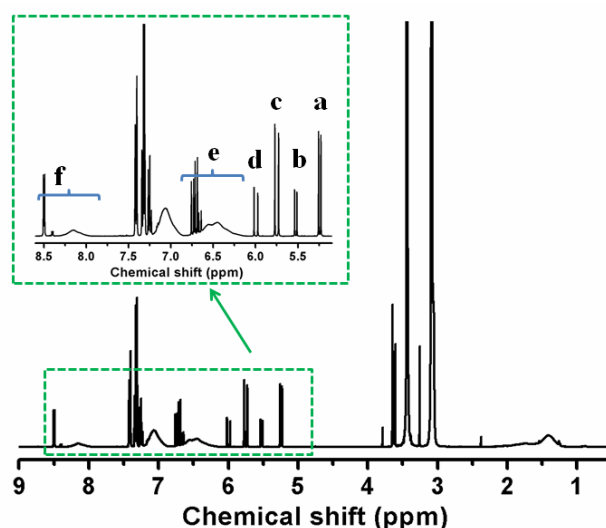
### Macro-RAFT agent mediated dispersion copolymerization: a small amount of solvophilic co-monomer leads to a great change

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#### 1. The $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra of the polymerization solution and the equations



**Figure S1.** The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of the polymerization solution after the RAFT dispersion polymerization of 4VP and St.

$$\text{Conversion}_{4VP} \% = \frac{I_{7.90 \sim 8.60} - 2I_{5.50 \sim 5.55}}{I_{7.90 \sim 8.60}} \times 100\% \quad (\text{S1})$$

$$\text{Conversion}_{St} \% = \frac{2I_{6.10 \sim 6.80} - I_{7.90 \sim 8.60} - I_{5.20 \sim 5.30}}{2I_{6.10 \sim 6.80} - I_{7.90 \sim 8.60}} \times 100\% \quad (\text{S2})$$

$$\text{Conversion}_{St/4VP} \% = \frac{n_{st} \times \text{Conversion}_{St} + n_{4VP} \times \text{Conversion}_{4VP}}{n_{st} + n_{4VP}} \times 100\% \quad (\text{S3})$$

in which,  $n_{St}$  and  $n_{4VP}$  are the initial molar quantity of the feeding styrene and 4-vinylpyridine, respectively.

## 2. Summary of the synthesized polymers

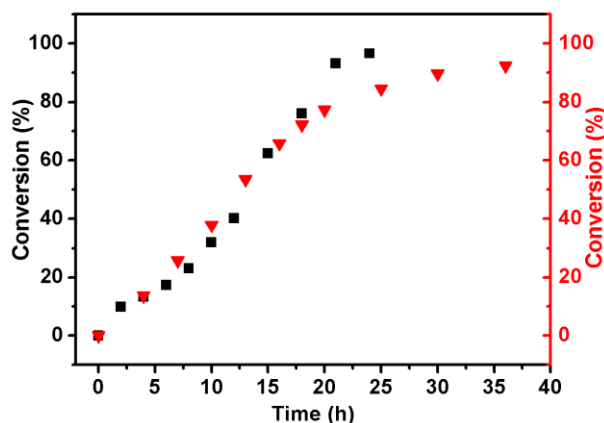
**Table S1.** Summary of the synthesized polymers.

| Entry              | Polymer                                                                             | St] <sub>0</sub> :[4VP] <sub>0</sub> | Time (h) | Conv <sub>St and 4VP</sub> <sup>a</sup> (%) | Conv <sub>St/4VP</sub> <sup>b</sup> (%) | M <sub>n</sub> (kg/mol)        |                                 |                                 | PDI <sup>f</sup> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
|                    |                                                                                     |                                      |          |                                             |                                         | M <sub>n,th</sub> <sup>c</sup> | M <sub>n,GPC</sub> <sup>d</sup> | M <sub>n,NMR</sub> <sup>e</sup> |                  |
| 1A                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> -TTC                                                              | ---                                  | 0        | ---                                         | ---                                     | 2.4                            | 2.9                             | 2.3                             | 1.05             |
| 1B                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>39</sub>                                      | 6.0:0                                | 2        | 9.9/---                                     | 9.9                                     | 6.4                            | 9.2                             | 6.5                             | 1.08             |
| 1C                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>54</sub>                                      | 6.0:0                                | 4        | 13.4/---                                    | 13.4                                    | 8.0                            | 11.1                            | 7.9                             | 1.07             |
| 1D                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>69</sub>                                      | 6.0:0                                | 6        | 17.4/---                                    | 17.4                                    | 9.5                            | 12.3                            | 9.2                             | 1.18             |
| 1E                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>92</sub>                                      | 6.0:0                                | 8        | 23.0/---                                    | 23.0                                    | 11.7                           | 15.0                            | 11.3                            | 1.11             |
| <b>Fig S2-4</b> 1F | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>128</sub>                                     | 6.0:0                                | 10       | 32.0/---                                    | 32.0                                    | 15.7                           | 19.6                            | 15.2                            | 1.12             |
| 1G                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>160</sub>                                     | 6.0:0                                | 12       | 40.1/---                                    | 40.1                                    | 19.0                           | 22.5                            | 18.5                            | 1.11             |
| 1H                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>250</sub>                                     | 6.0:0                                | 15       | 62.4/---                                    | 62.4                                    | 26.0                           | 29.8                            | 27.1                            | 1.09             |
| 1I                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>304</sub>                                     | 6.0:0                                | 18       | 76.0/---                                    | 76.0                                    | 34.0                           | 38.2                            | 35.3                            | 1.11             |
| 1J                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>373</sub>                                     | 6.0:0                                | 21       | 93.2/---                                    | 93.2                                    | 41.2                           | 46.1                            | 43.0                            | 1.10             |
| 1K                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>384</sub>                                     | 6.0:0                                | 24       | 96.6/---                                    | 96.6                                    | 42.3                           | 50.3                            | 47.3                            | 1.12             |
| 2A                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>384</sub>                                     | 6.0:0                                | 24       | 96.6/---                                    | 96.6                                    | 42.3                           | 50.3                            | 47.3                            | 1.12             |
| 2B                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>57</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>315</sub> )  | 5.0:1                                | 36       | 94.5/85.9                                   | 93.1                                    | 41.2                           | 45.7                            | 42.2                            | 1.10             |
| 2C                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>71</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>305</sub> )  | 4.0:1                                | 36       | 95.4/88.2                                   | 94.0                                    | 41.6                           | 48.6                            | 43.9                            | 1.10             |
| <b>Fig 1-4</b> 2D  | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>87</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>282</sub> )  | 3.0:1                                | 36       | 94.1/87.3                                   | 92.4                                    | 40.9                           | 47.7                            | 43.2                            | 1.11             |
| 2E                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>98</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>267</sub> )  | 2.5:1                                | 36       | 93.5/85.4                                   | 91.2                                    | 40.6                           | 46.6                            | 42.9                            | 1.18             |
| 2F                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>113</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>247</sub> ) | 2.0:1                                | 36       | 92.5/84.5                                   | 89.8                                    | 40.2                           | 45.3                            | 42.7                            | 1.10             |
| 2G                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>133</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>223</sub> ) | 1.5:1                                | 36       | 93.0/83.4                                   | 89.2                                    | 40.1                           | 49.5                            | 45.5                            | 1.23             |
| 3A                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> -TTC                                                              | ---                                  | 0        | ---                                         | ---                                     | 2.4                            | 2.9                             | 2.3                             | 1.05             |
| 3B                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>14</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>41</sub> )   | 3.0:1                                | 4        | 13.8/13.7                                   | 13.7                                    | 8.1                            | 12.2                            | 9.1                             | 1.11             |
| 3C                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>25</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>78</sub> )   | 3.0:1                                | 7        | 26.0/24.8                                   | 25.7                                    | 13.1                           | 17.9                            | 14.7                            | 1.12             |
| 3D                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>36</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>115</sub> )  | 3.0:1                                | 10       | 38.4/36.3                                   | 37.9                                    | 18.1                           | 21.9                            | 18.5                            | 1.10             |
| 3E                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>50</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>164</sub> )  | 3.0:1                                | 13       | 54.8/49.7                                   | 53.5                                    | 24.7                           | 29.4                            | 25.5                            | 1.11             |
| <b>Fig 5-7</b> 3F  | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>62</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>201</sub> )  | 3.0:1                                | 16       | 67.1/62.0                                   | 65.8                                    | 29.8                           | 33.7                            | 30.2                            | 1.12             |
| 3G                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>68</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>221</sub> )  | 3.0:1                                | 18       | 73.6/68.1                                   | 72.2                                    | 32.5                           | 36.7                            | 34.0                            | 1.10             |
| 3H                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>73</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>237</sub> )  | 3.0:1                                | 20       | 78.9/72.7                                   | 77.3                                    | 34.7                           | 39.2                            | 36.2                            | 1.09             |
| 3I                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>79</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>259</sub> )  | 3.0:1                                | 25       | 86.2/79.3                                   | 84.5                                    | 37.6                           | 42.5                            | 39.9                            | 1.10             |
| 3J                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>84</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>275</sub> )  | 3.0:1                                | 30       | 91.6/84.1                                   | 89.7                                    | 39.8                           | 44.7                            | 41.9                            | 1.10             |
| 3K                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>87</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>282</sub> )  | 3.0:1                                | 36       | 94.1/87.3                                   | 92.4                                    | 40.9                           | 47.7                            | 43.2                            | 1.11             |
| 4A                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>100</sub>                                     | 6.0:0                                | 24       | 99.9/---                                    | 99.9                                    | 12.8                           | 14.5                            | 13.4                            | 1.18             |
| 4B                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>200</sub>                                     | 6.0:0                                | 24       | 99.9/---                                    | 99.9                                    | 23.2                           | 26.8                            | 25.1                            | 1.16             |
| 4C                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>294</sub>                                     | 6.0:0                                | 24       | 98.2/---                                    | 98.2                                    | 33.0                           | 38.9                            | 36.7                            | 1.15             |
| <b>Fig 8</b> 4D    | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -PS <sub>384</sub>                                     | 6.0:0                                | 24       | 96.6/---                                    | 96.6                                    | 42.3                           | 50.3                            | 47.3                            | 1.12             |
| 4E                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>24</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>74</sub> )   | 3.0:1                                | 36       | 98.9/96.1                                   | 98.2                                    | 12.6                           | 15.9                            | 14.2                            | 1.11             |
| 4F                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>47</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>147</sub> )  | 3.0:1                                | 36       | 98.3/94.6                                   | 97.4                                    | 22.6                           | 28.7                            | 26.4                            | 1.17             |
| 4G                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>68</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>220</sub> )  | 3.0:1                                | 36       | 97.6/91.1                                   | 96.0                                    | 32.4                           | 38.6                            | 36.1                            | 1.12             |
| 4H                 | PEG <sub>45</sub> - <i>b</i> -P(4VP <sub>87</sub> - <i>co</i> -St <sub>282</sub> )  | 3.0:1                                | 36       | 94.1/87.3                                   | 92.4                                    | 40.9                           | 47.7                            | 43.2                            | 1.11             |

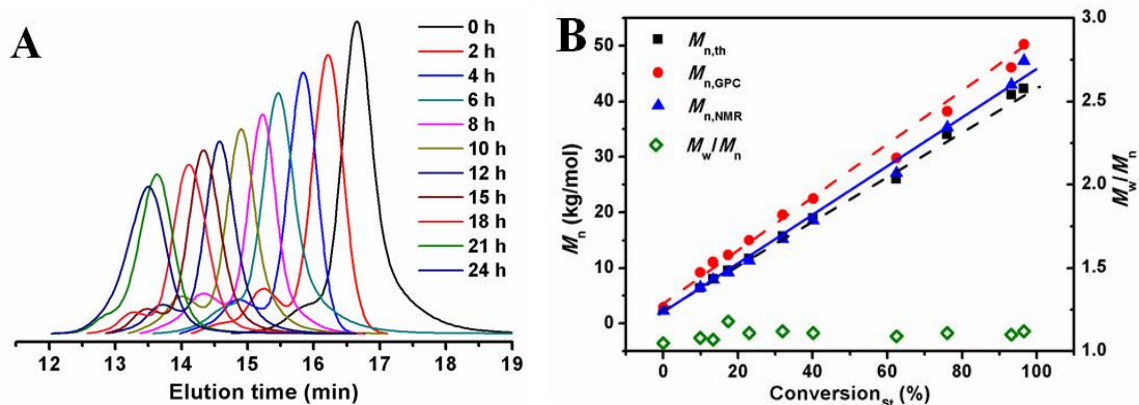
<sup>a</sup> The conversion of the St and 4VP monomers determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis. <sup>b</sup> The

St/4VP conversion calculated by equation S3. <sup>c</sup> Theoretical molecular weight determined by monomer conversion. <sup>d</sup> The molecular weight determined by GPC analysis. <sup>e</sup> The molecular weight determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis. <sup>f</sup> The PDI ( $M_w/M_n$ ) value determined by GPC analysis.

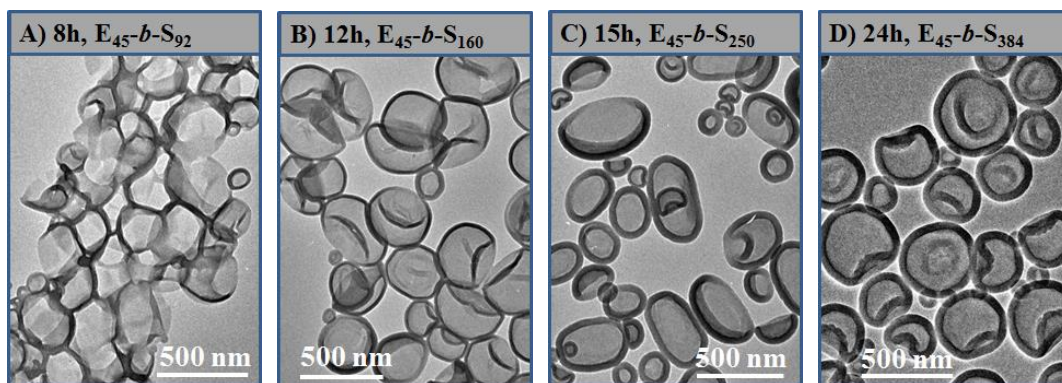
### 3. Polymerization kinetics of the dispersion RAFT polymerization of St



**Figure S2.** The monomer conversion-time plot for the dispersion RAFT polymerization of St (■) and the dispersion RAFT copolymerization of St/4VP (▼). Polymerization conditions:  $[St]_0: [PEG_{45}\text{-TTC}]_0:[AIBN]_0 = 1200: 3:1$  or  $[St]_0:[4VP]_0:[PEG_{45}\text{-TTC}]_0:[AIBN]_0 = 900:300:3:1$ , 70 °C. Note: the St/4VP conversion is defined by eq S3.



**Figure S3.** The GPC traces (A) and evolution of the molecular weight and the PDI ( $M_w/M_n$ ) value (B) of the E-*b*-S diblock copolymer synthesized through the dispersion RAFT polymerization of St. Polymerization conditions can be found in the caption for Figure S2.



**Figure S4.** TEM images of the synthesized E-*b*-S diblock copolymer nano-objects prepared at the polymerization times. Polymerization conditions can be found in the caption for Figure S2.