Supporting Information

## Synthesis and LCST-Type Phase Behavior of Water-Soluble Polypeptide with Y-Shaped and Charged Side-Chains

Yanzhi Xu, Mengxiang Zhu, Minjie Li, Ying Ling, and Haoyu Tang\*

Key Laboratory of Polymeric Materials and Application Technology of Hunan Province, Key Laboratory of Advanced Functional Polymer Materials of Colleges and Universities of Hunan Province, College of Chemistry, Xiangtan University, Xiangtan, Hunan, 411105, China

Correspondence to: Haoyu Tang (Email: <u>htang@xtu.edu.cn</u>)



Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub>/C<sub>4</sub>-X (X = Br or BF<sub>4</sub>) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



*Table S1*. Elemental analysis results of PMBLG-OEG $_7/C_m$ -BF $_4$  samples.

Samples	C (%)		Н (%)		N (%)		O (%)	
	Calcd	Found	Calcd	Found	Calcd	Found	Calcd	Found
PMBLG-OEG7/C4-BF4	52.77	52.53	7.21	7.25	7.03	7.07	22.09	22.33
PMBLG-OEG7/C6-BF4	53.89	53.69	7.46	7.49	6.79	6.83	21.34	21.75
PMBLG-OEG7/C12-BF4	56.82	57.60	8.10	8.14	6.16	6.18	19.36	19.67

*Table S2.* Solubility characteristics of PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub> and PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub>/ $C_m$ -X samples in various solvents.

Solvents	PMBLG	PMB	LG-OEG <sub>7</sub> /	C <sub>m</sub> -Br	PMBLG-OEG <sub>7</sub> /C <sub>m</sub> -BF <sub>4</sub>			
	-OEG7	m = 4	m = 6	m = 12	m = 4	m = 6	m = 12	
DMSO	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
DMF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
$H_2O$	L	S	S	S	L	L	L	
MeOH	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
EtOH	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
THF	S	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	
EAc	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	
DEE	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	
TCM	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
DCM	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Hexane	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	

DMSO = dimethyl sulphoxide; DMF = N,N-dimethylformamide; MeOH = methanol; EtOH = ethanol; THF = tetrahydrofuran; EAc = ethyl acetate; DEE = diethyl ether; TCM = trichloromethane; DCM = dichloromethane; S = soluble; I = insoluble; L = LCST-type phase transition (concentration = 10 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>).

*Table S3.* Mean residual ellipticity ( $[\theta]_{222}$ ) and fractional helicity ( $f_{\rm H}$ ) of PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub> and PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub>/C<sub>m</sub>-X samples in DI-H<sub>2</sub>O (0.05 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>).

,		6 /	
Name	$[ heta]_{222}$	$f_{ m H}$ (%)	
PMBLG-OEG <sub>7</sub>	-32,411	91	
PMBLG-OEG7/C4-Br	-20,800	61	
PMBLG-OEG <sub>7</sub> /C <sub>6</sub> -Br	-16,981	51	
PMBLG-OEG7/C12-Br	-14,018	44	
PMBLG-OEG7/C4-BF4	-23,177	67	
PMBLG-OEG7/C6-BF4	-18,005	54	
PMBLG-OEG <sub>7</sub> /C <sub>12</sub> -BF <sub>4</sub>	-14,987	46	



**Figure S3.** The plots of transmittance at  $\lambda = 500$  nm versus temperature for the aqueous solutions of (a) PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub> and (b-d) PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub>/C<sub>m</sub>-BF<sub>4</sub> (m = 4, 6, and 12) in DI-H<sub>2</sub>O (polymer concentration = 10 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>).



**Figure S4.** DLS size distribution plots of PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub> and PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub>/C<sub>m</sub>-BF<sub>4</sub> (m = 4, 6, and 12) at the temperatures above respective  $T_{cp}s$ . (polymer concentration = 1 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>)

Name	Diameter (nm)	PDI <sup>a</sup>
PMBLG-OEG <sub>7</sub>	331.7	0.183
PMBLG-OEG7/C4-BF4	290.3	0.378
PMBLG-OEG7/C6-BF4	221.3	0.109
PMBLG-OEG7/C12-BF4	349.6	0.201

*Table S4.* DLS results of resulting polypeptides in DI-H<sub>2</sub>O above respective  $T_{cp}$  (polymer concentration = 1 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>).

<sup>a</sup> Distribution of polymer aggregates in the solvents.



**Figure S5.** The plots of transmittance at  $\lambda = 500$  nm versus temperature for the NaBF<sub>4</sub> aqueous solutions (salt concentration = 5 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>) of (a) PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub> and (b-d) PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub>/C<sub>m</sub>-BF<sub>4</sub> (m = 4, 6, and 12) (polymer concentration = 5 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>).



**Figure S6.** The plots of transmittance at  $\lambda = 500$  nm versus temperature for the NaCl aqueous solutions of (a) PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub> and (b-d) PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub>/C<sub>m</sub>-BF<sub>4</sub> (m = 4, 6, and 12) (salt concentration = 1, 3, 6 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>). (e) The plots of T<sub>cp</sub> versus concentrations in NaBF<sub>4</sub> aqueous solution (polymer concentration = 5 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>).



**Figure S7.** (a) UV-vis spectra of polymer/SWCNT/NaCl aqueous solutions (polymers: PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub> and PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub>/C<sub>m</sub>-BF<sub>4</sub>, salt concentration = 6 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>, the solutions were diluted 10 times before UV-vis measurement). (b) Optical images of PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub>/C<sub>12</sub>-BF<sub>4</sub>/SWCNT/NaCl aqueous solution at room temperature (left) and temperature above the  $T_{cp}$  (right).

*Table S5.* SWCNT dispersibility in NaCl aqueous solution (salt concentration = 6 mgm·L<sup>-1</sup>) in the presence of PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub> and PMBLG-OEG<sub>7</sub>/C<sub>m</sub>-BF<sub>4</sub> (m = 4, 6, and 12).

/								
Samples	PMBLG-OEG <sub>7</sub>		PMBLG-OEG <sub>7</sub> /C <sub>4</sub> -BF <sub>4</sub>		PMBLG-OEG7/C6-BF4		PMBLG-OEG7/C12-BF4	
	DI-H <sub>2</sub> O	NaCl <sub>aq</sub>	DI-H <sub>2</sub> O	NaCl <sub>aq</sub>	DI-H <sub>2</sub> O	NaCl <sub>aq</sub>	DI-H <sub>2</sub> O	NaCl <sub>aq</sub>
$[A]_{500}^{a}$	0.045	0.204	0.003	0.205	0.003	0.121	0.003	0.480
Dispersibility <sup>b</sup> (mg·L <sup>-1</sup> )	32.6	147.8	2.2	148.6	2.2	87.7	2.2	347.8

<sup>a</sup>The absorbance at 500 nm which was determined by UV-vis spectroscopy. Polymer aqueous solutions were diluted 10 times before UV-vis measurement.

<sup>b</sup>Dispersibility =  $10 \times [A]_{500}/0.0138$ .<sup>1</sup>

1. Q. Hu, Y. Deng, Q. Yuan, Y. Ling and H. Tang, J. Polym. Sci. Part A: Polym. Chem., 2014, 52, 149-

153.