Electronic Supporting Information

Thermoresponsive AIE polymers with fine-tuned response temperature

Tingzhong Li,^{*a*} Sicong He,^{*c*} Jianan Qu,^{*c*} Hao Wu,^{*a*} Shuizhu Wu,^{*a*} Zujin Zhao,^{*a*} Anjun Qin,^{*a*} Rongrong Hu^{**a*} and Ben Zhong Tang^{**ab*}

- ^{*a*} Key Laboratory of Luminescent Materials and Devices, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou 510640, China.
- ^b Department of Chemistry, The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong
- ^c Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Contents

Polymer Synthesis

Cell culture and imaging

Fig. S1 Emission intensity ratio I_{42} / I_{20} of copolymers P1 with different A₂TPE contents. Concentration: 0.02 mg/mL. I_{42} and I_{20} are the emission intensities of the polymer at 42 °C and 20 °C, respectively. Molar loading ratio of NIPAM and OEGMA is 9.7: 0.3.

Fig. S2 Standard absorbance-concentration calibration curve of A_2 TPE and the corresponding absorbance of P1a-f and P2a-d in THF at 310 nm.

Fig. S3 ¹H NMR spectra of (A) NIPAM, (B) OEGMA, (C) MMA, (D) A_2 TPE, (E) P1d, (F) P2d in DMSO- d_6 . The solvent peaks are marked with asterisks.

Fig. S4 IR spectra of (A) NIPAM, (B) OEGMA, (C) MMA, (D) P1d and (E) P2d.

Fig. S5 UV-vis spectra of aqueous solutions of P1d and P2d. Concentration: 0.5 mg/mL.

Fig. S6 Temperature-dependent relative emission intensity of aqueous solutions of (A) P1a–f and (B) P2a–d at 478 nm. *I* is the emission intensity at different temperature and I_0 is the emission intensity at the original temperature. Concentration: 0.02 mg/mL. Excitation: 310 nm.

Fig. S7 The relationship between temperature and (A) fluorescence lifetime, (B) area of polymer aggregates of the aqueous solution of P1d, respectively. Concentration: 1 mg/mL. Excitation wavelength: 720 nm.

Fig. S8 SEM image of nanoaggregates formed in the aqueous solution of P1d at 50 °C. **Fig. S9** (A) Bright field image and (B) fluorescence image of HeLa cells incubated in 200 μg mL⁻¹ of P2c for 1.5 h. Excitation wavelength: 360 nm.

Polymer Synthesis

All the polymerization reactions and manipulations were carried out under nitrogen using Schlenk techniques in a vacuum-line system except for the purification of the resulting polymers. Typical experimental procedure for the polymerization is given below using the synthesis of P1d as an example. NIPAM (241.5 mg, 2.13 mmol), OEGMA (30.6 μ l, 0.066 mmol), 4, 4'-tetraphenyl ethylene acrylate (1.7 mg, 3.7 μ mol) and AIBN (3.3 mg) were added in a 10 mLSchlenk tube. The tube was evacuated under vacuum and flushed with dry nitrogen three times. 2 mL distilled dry THF was injected and heated to 70 °C for 10 h. After cooled to room temperature, the mixture dissolved in a small amount of THF and precipitated in diethyl ether (200 mL) for two times. White precipitate was collected by filtration and drying. P1d: (yield: 85%) M_w : 21 000; M_w/M_n : 1.31 (Table 1). IR (KBr), v (cm⁻¹): 3442, 3302, 3090, 1719, 1650, 1556, 1461.¹H NMR (600MHz, DMSO), δ (TMS, ppm): 7.20, 3.83, 3.50, 3.23, 1.95, 1.44, 1.04.

Cell culture and imaging

HeLa cells were seeded on a sterilized glass cover slide in DMEM medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum at 37 °C and 5% CO₂ inside a 30 mm glass culture dishes and were allowed to adhere for 24 h. The stock solution of P**2c** was then added into each well to reach a final concentration of 200 μ g mL⁻¹. The cells were incubated for another 1.5 h and the glass slides with cells were washed with PBS. Confocal image was taken on an Olympus IX71 inverted fluorescence microscope equipped with a DP72 color CCD. The excitation wavelength was 360 nm and detected wavelength range was 415–510 nm.



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