Supplementary Information

Chemoselective synthesis of functional homocysteine residues in polypeptides and peptides

Eric G. Gharakhanian and Timothy J. Deming*



Figure S1. Reaction of **11a** with various nucleophiles. Product selectivity indicates percent conversion to each type of product functional group. Conditions: **11a** and 5 eq nucleophile in sodium acetate-buffered 95% EtOH for 24h at 22 °C, followed by dialysis. Isolated yields ranged from 92 to 100%.



Figure S2. Comparison of extent reaction conversion (i.e. percent of methionine sulfonium groups converted) using thioacetate or pyrrolidine dithiocarbamate (**APDC**) nucleophiles for the demethylation of **11a** at 3h time point. Conditions: **11a** and 5 eq nucleophile in 75% EtOH for 3h at 22 °C, quenched with HCl_(aq), followed by dialysis.



Figure S3. Influence of EtOH/H₂O solvent composition on demethylation rate. Conditions: **11a** and 5 eq **APDC** in 0-75% EtOH for 3-24h at 22 °C, quenched with $HCl_{(aq)}$, followed by dialysis. Conversion = percent of methionine sulfonium groups converted.



Figure S4. Conversion vs. time for demethylation of **11a** using **APDC**. Conditions: **11a** and 5 eq **APDC** in 75% EtOH for 0-22h at 22 °C, quenched with HCl_(aq), followed by dialysis. Conversion = percent of methionine sulfonium groups converted.



Figure S5. ¹H NMR spectra at indicated time points for the reaction of **11a** with **APDC**. Resonances highlighted in red correspond to the methyl protons from **11a** residues (*); resonances highlighted in blue correspond to the of two sets of methylene protons from **11** residues (*).



Figure S6. <u>Top</u>: Expanded range ESI-MS data for **13** with $[13+H]^+$ (573.0398 m/z) and $[13+Na]^+$ (595.0241 m/z) ions labeled. <u>Middle</u>: Expanded range ESI-MS data for **14** with $[14]^+$ (672.2755 m/z) and fragment $[14-RSMe]^+$ (525.2473 m/z) ions labeled. <u>Bottom</u>: Expanded range ESI-MS data for **15** with $[15+H]^+$ (658.2784 m/z), $[15+Na]^+$ (680.2617 m/z) and fragment $[15-Tyr]^+$ (493.9630 m/z) ions labeled.



Figure S7. LC-MS data for **15**. Conditions: **14** (8.2 mM) and **APDC** (82 mM) in 75% EtOH at 22 °C for 26 h. Crude reaction mixture directly injected for LC-MS analysis. A) Scheme for synthesis of **15**. B) UV trace ($\lambda = 280.4$ nm) for LC of **15**. C) MS of LC peak at 12.659 min confirming identity of [**15**+TFA]⁻ (770.2 m/z).

1) Materials and Methods

Unless otherwise stated, all polymer functionalization reactions were performed in glass vials, under ambient atmosphere. Small molecule reactions were performed under N₂ using oven dried glassware. All ethanol concentrations are reported in weight percent (w/w). Reactions at elevated temperature were controlled using a Corning PC 420D thermostated hotplate equipped with a thermocouple probe. CH₂Cl₂ was degassed by sparging with N₂ and dried by passing through alumina columns. Commercial anhydrous DMF and MeCN were used as received. All other reagents were used as received. Fisher ACS grade glacial AcOH was used as received. Met-Enkephalin amide (14) was obtained from GenScript and was reported >95% pure. Alkyl triflates were synthesized according to established procedures and used promptly.¹ Dialysis was performed using deionized water (18.2 M Ω -cm) prepared by passing in-house deionized water through a Millipore Milli-Q Biocel A10 unit. In all other cases, in-house reverse osmosis purified water was used. Thin-layer chromatography was performed with EMD gel 60 F254 plates (0.25 mm thickness) and visualized using a UV lamp or permanganate stain. Column chromatography was performed using Silicycle Siliaflash G60 silica (60-200 µm). Chromatography eluents are reported as volume percent (v/v). Dialysis was performed using regenerated cellulose dialysis tubing obtained from Spectrum Labs. CD Spectra were obtained with an Olis DSM 10 spectrophotometer using a 0.1 cm path length quartz cell. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV400 instrument with chemical shifts reported relative to residual solvent signal. Abbreviations of splitting pattern designations are listed in the abbreviation section. ESI-MS was performed using a Waters LCT Premier spectrometer. Small molecule samples were prepared in MeOH (1 mg/mL) and injected at a rate of 20 µL/min. Peptide samples (5 mM) were analyzed analogously using a 50% MeCN/H₂O matrix. Analytical HPLC was performed using an Agilent 1100 HPLC system equipped with a Waters Sunfire[™] C18, 4.6x250mm, 5µm column, an Agilent G1312A binary pump, a G1314A VWD and 6130 LC/MS

system equipped with an ESI source. Gradients of Solvent A (0.1% TFA/H₂O) and Solvent B (0.1% TFA/MeCN) were used as the mobile phase, operated with a 1.00 mL/min flow rate.

Abbreviations: Acetonitrile (MeCN), *N*-carboxyanhydride (NCA), degree of polymerization (DP), L-methionine (Met), L-methionine residue (\mathbf{M}), L-Methionine sulfonium residue ($\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}}$), alkyl homocysteine residue (\mathbf{R} - $\mathbf{C}^{\mathbf{H}}$), glacial acetic acid (AcOH), electrospray ionization-mass spectrometry (ESI-MS), ethanol (EtOH), ethyl acetate (EtOAc), formic acid (HCOOH), diethyl ether (Et₂O), trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), trifluoroacetic anhydride (TFAA), *meta*-chloroperbenzoic acid (mCPBA), molecular weight cut-off (MWCO), room temperature (RT), equivalents (eq), methanol (MeOH), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (DMF), broad (br), doublet (d), doublet of doublets (dd), doublet of triplets (dt), pentet (p), quartet (q), septet (sep), sextet (sext) singlet (s), triplet (t), triplet of doublets (td), thin layer chromatography (TLC).

2) General Synthetic Procedures

Poly(L-methionine)₆₀, M₆₀

Prepared by previously reported method.² Met NCA was polymerized with $Co(PMe_3)_4$ in THF under N₂ using a 20:1 monomer to initiator ratio. The DP was determined by endcapping a small aliquot from the polymerization mixture with 2 kDa PEG-isocyanate (CH₃(OCH₂CH₂)₄₅N=C=O) followed by ¹H NMR analysis.² Found average DP = 58.

M₆₀ alkylation procedure A (Alkylation Procedure A)

 M_{60} was alkylated with an alkyl halide in H₂O as previously reported.³

M₆₀ alkylation procedure B (Alkylation Procedure B)

 M_{60} was alkylated with an alkyl triflate in CH₂Cl₂/MeCN as previously reported.³

M₆₀ alkylation procedure C (Alkylation Procedure C)

 M_{60} was alkylated with an epoxide in AcOH as previously reported.²

M^R demethylation procedure A (Demethylation Procedure A)

A solution of $\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}_{60}}$ in 75% EtOH_(aq) (20 mM $\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}}$) was prepared in a vial and treated with **APDC** (5.0 eq per $\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}}$). The headspace of the vial was briefly flushed with a stream of N₂, then rapidly capped. The mixture was stirred vigorously at 22 °C. The initially homogenous solution became turbid with precipitate (polypeptide) over the course of minutes (products **5** & **6**) to hours (1-4). After 24h, the reaction mixture was centrifuged and the supernatant separated. The precipitate was triturated and then centrifuged 3x with MeOH, then 2x with H₂O (both 40 µL per µmol $\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}}$ in substrate) and lyophilized.

M^R demethylation procedure **B** (Demethylation Procedure **B**)

A solution of $\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}_{60}}$ in 75% EtOH_(aq) (20 mM $\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}}$) was prepared in a vial and was treated with **APDC** (5.0 eq per $\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}}$). The headspace of the vial was briefly flushed with a stream of N₂ and

rapidly capped. The vial was vortexed until homogenous, then allowed to stand for 24h at 22 °C. The reaction mixture was directly treated with K_2CO_3/H_2O to cleave the protecting group(s) (detailed deprotection conditions included in **Section 3**). The reaction mixture was transferred to a 2 kDa MWCO dialysis bag and dialyzed against 50% MeOH_(aq) containing 3 mM HCl or 3 mM NH₃ (24h, 3 solvent changes) followed by H₂O (8h, 3 H₂O changes). The retentate was lyophilized to provide the functionalized polypeptide.

M^R demethylation procedure **C** (Demethylation Procedure **C**)

A solution of $\mathbf{M^R_{60}}$ in 75% EtOH_(aq) (20 mM $\mathbf{M^R}$) was prepared in a vial and was treated with **APDC** (5.0 eq per $\mathbf{M^R}$). The headspace of the vial was briefly flushed with a stream of N₂ and rapidly capped. The vial was vortexed until homogenous, then allowed to stand for 24h at 22 °C. The reaction mixture was transferred to a 2 kDa MWCO dialysis bag and dialyzed against 50% MeOH_(aq) (24h, 3 solvent changes) followed by H₂O (8h, 3 H₂O changes). The retentate was lyophilized, to provide the functionalized polypeptide.

3) Synthesis of Alkylating Agents

$$\Delta_{\rm o}$$

Ethyl 2-(oxiran-2-ylmethoxy)acetate, 9b

Ethyl 2-(allyloxy)acetate⁴ (0.95 g, 6.6 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL). Commercial 70% mCPBA (2.4 g, 9.8 mmol, 1.5 eq) was added. The mixture was allowed to stir 2 days at 22 °C, then cooled on an ice bath. 10% Na₂SO_{3(aq)} (12 mL) was added followed by 10% Na₂CO_{3(aq)} (8.7 mL, 8.3 mmol, 1.3 eq) and EtOAc (60 mL). The solution was stirred for 10 min, then transferred to a separatory funnel using EtOAc (60 mL) and H₂O (40 mL) to complete the transfer. The mixture was partitioned. The organic phase was washed with sat. NaHCO_{3(aq)} (60 mL) and dried over Na₂SO₄. The extract was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (35% EtOAc/Hexanes). **9b** (0.73 g, 70% yield) was recovered as a colorless oil. $R_F = 0.61$; 40% EtOAc/Hexanes.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 4.24 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (dd, *J* = 11.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (m, 1H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 170.1, 72.1, 68.5, 60.9, 50.6, 44.0, 14.2. ESI-MS *m/z* = 182.9952 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd 183.0633 for C₇H₁₂O₄Na).



Methyl O-(oxiran-2-ylmethyl)-*N***-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-(***S***)-serinate, 10b** *O-allyl-N-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-(S***)-serine, 10d**

O-allyl-*N*-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-(*S*)-serine⁵ (6.0 g, 25 mmol, 1.0 eq) was cooled on an ice bath. TFA (20 mL) was added. TFAA (4.1 mL, 29 mmol, 1.2 eq) was added dropwise over 5 minutes. The solution was stirred for 1h on the ice bath, then concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was directly purified by flash chromatography (0:40:60 to 0.5:40:59.5 HCOOH:EtOAc:Hexanes). **10d** was isolated as an orange-red viscous oil (5.0 g, 85% yield).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 7.75-7.29 (br s, 1H), 7.14 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.84 (m, 1H), 5.26 (m, 2H), 4.78 (m, 1H), 4.04 (dt, J = 5.8, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (dd, J = 7.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (dd, J = 9.8, 3.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 172.8, 157.6 (q, 38.5 Hz), 133.2, 118.4, 117.0 (q, J = 287.0 Hz), 72.5, 68.2, 52.9. ¹⁹F{¹H} NMR (376 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ -75.6. ESI-MS m/z = 240.0082 [M-H]⁻ (calcd 240.0484 for C₈H₉F₃NO₄).

Methyl O-allyl-N-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-(S)-serinate, 10c

10d (1.3 g, 5.1 mmol, 1.0 eq) and NaHCO₃ (0.86 g, 10 mmol, 2.0 eq) were suspended in DMF (50 mL). Methyl iodide (1.6 mL, 26 mmol, 5.0 eq) was added. The suspension was stirred at 22 °C overnight. The mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was directly purified by flash chromatography (15% EtOAc/Hexanes). **10c** (1.0 g, 76% yield) was recovered as a pale yellow, mobile oil. $R_F = 0.30$; 15% EtOAc/Hexanes.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 7.13 (br s, 1H), 5.81 (m, 1H), 5.25 (dm, 13.9 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (dm, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (dm, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (dq, J = 5.7, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (dd, J = 9.9, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.72 (dd, J = 9.8, 3.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 169.1, 157.1 (q, J = 38.3 Hz), 133.5, 118.0, 117.1 (q, J = 288.6 Hz), 72.3, 68.5, 53.0, 53.0. ¹⁹F {¹H} NMR (376 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ -75.9. ESI-MS m/z = 254.0211 [M-H]⁻ (calcd 254.0640 for C₉H₁₁F₃NO₄).

Methyl O-(oxiran-2-ylmethyl)-N-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-(S)-serinate, 10b

10c (0.90 g, 3.5 mmol, 1.0 eq), was dissolved in a 0.45 M mCPBA solution in $CH_2Cl_2^2$ (12 mL, 5.3 mmol, 1.5 eq). The mixture was allowed to stir 3 days at 22 °C, then cooled on an ice bath. 10% Na₂SO_{3(aq)} (7 mL) was added followed by 10% Na₂CO_{3(aq)} (4.6 mL, 4.4 mmol, 1.3 eq) and EtOAc (60 mL). The solution was stirred for 10 min. H₂O (20 mL) was added, then the mixture was partitioned. The organic phase was washed with sat. NaHCO_{3(aq)} (30 mL) and dried over Na₂SO₄. The extract was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (35-40% EtOAc/Hexanes). **10b** (0.73 g, 76% yield) was recovered as a colorless oil. Epoxide *dr*: 2:1 (¹H NMR). $R_F = 0.25$; 40% EtOAc/Hexanes. NMR data is for major diasteriomer.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 4.69 (m, 1H), 4.10 (dd, J = 10.2, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (m, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.73 (dd, J = 10.1, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.43, (dd, J = 12.0, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (m, 1H), 2.76 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (dd, J = 5.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 168.0, 156.9 (q, J = 37.1 Hz), 117.1 (q, J = 285.5 Hz), 71.6, 70.4, 53.2, 53.0, 50.7, 43.7. ¹⁹F{¹H} NMR (376 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ -75.9. ESI-MS m/z = 293.9496 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd 294.0565 for C₉H₁₂F₃NO₅Na).

4) Synthesis of M^R Polymers



Poly(S-methyl-L-methionine sulfonium chloride), 1a

Prepared from M_{60} and methyl iodide using *Alkylation Procedure A*. Spectral data in agreement with those previously reported.³

Poly(S-ethyl-L-methionine sulfonium chloride), 2a

Prepared from M_{60} and ethyl triflate using *Alkylation Procedure B*. Yield: 99%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ 4.68-4.55 (br m, 1H), 3.60-3.30 (br m, 4H), 2.98 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 3H), 2.51-2.17 (br m, 2H), 1.50 (dt, *J* = 7.4, 2.8 Hz, 3H).



Poly(S-(n-propyl)-L-methionine sulfonium chloride), 3a

Prepared from M_{60} and propyl triflate using *Alkylation Procedure B*. Yield: 97%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ 4.71-4.53 (br m, 1H), 3.74-3.23 (br m, 4H), 2.98 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 3H), 2.59-2.14 (br m, 2H), 2.05-1.79 (br m, 2H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).



Poly(S-(n-butyl)-L-methionine sulfonium chloride), 4a

Prepared from M_{60} and butyl triflate using *Alkylation Procedure B*. Yield: 96%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ 4.72-4.50 (br m, 1H), 3.62-3.29 (br m, 4H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 3H), 2.58-2.17 (br m, 2H), 1.85 (m, 2H), 1.54 (sext, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 0.99 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).



Poly(S-allyl-L-methionine sulfonium chloride), 5a

Prepared from M_{60} via a modified *Alkylation Procedure A*. M_{60} (16 mg, 0.122 mmol M, 1.0 eq) was suspended in AcOH. Allyl bromide (32 µL, 0.37 mmol, 3.0 eq) was added. The mixture was vigorously stirred at 37 °C. After 24h, the limpid solution was transferred to a 2 kDa

MWCO dialysis bag and dialyzed against 3 mM $HCl_{(aq)}$ (24h, 3 H₂O changes). The retentate was lyophilized, to provide **5** (25 mg, 99% Yield).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ 6.07-5.89 (br m, 1H), 5.84-5.61 (br m, 2H), 4.66-4.55 (br m, 1H), 4.26-4.03 (br m, 2H), 3.57-3.32 (br m, 2H), 2.94 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 2.53-2.18 (br m, 2H).

Poly(S-benzyl-L-methionine sulfonium chloride), 6a

Prepared from M_{60} and benzyl bromide using *Alkylation Procedure A*. Spectral data in agreement with those previously reported.³

Poly(S-(3-azido-2-hydroxypropyl)-L-methionine sulfonium chloride), 7a

Prepared from M_{60} and glycidyl azide using *Alkylation Procedure C*. Spectral data in agreement with those previously reported.²

$$(1 - 1)^{H}$$

Poly(*S*-(2-hydroxy-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetamido)propyl)-L-methionine sulfonium chloride), 8a

Prepared from M_{60} and glycidyl trifluoroacetamide using *Alkylation Procedure C*. Spectral data in agreement with those previously reported.²



Poly(S-(3-((1-ethoxy-1-oxoeth-2-yl)oxy)-2-hydroxypropyl)-L-methionine sulfonium chloride), 9a

Prepared from M_{60} and 9b using *Alkylation Procedure C*. Dialysis was conducted against 6 mM NaCl (24h, 3 H₂O changes) then H₂O (8h, 3 H₂O changes) instead of HCl_(aq), to reduce hydrolysis of the uncharacteristically labile ethyl ester. Recovered product showed 34% ethyl ester deprotection. Yield 96%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ 4.70-4.51 (br m, 1H), 4.51-4.35 (br m, 1H), 4.35-4.21 (br m, 2.6H), 4.01 (s, 0.6H), 3.97-3.40 (br m, 6H), 3.21-2.92 (br m, 3H), 2.55-2.18 (br m, 2H), 1.30 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H).

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Poly(S-(3-(((S)-1-methoxy-1-oxo-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetamido)prop-3-yl)oxy)-2hydroxypropyl)-L-methionine sulfonium chloride), 10a

Prepared from M_{60} and 10b using *Alkylation Procedure C*. Yield: 96% ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ 4.98-4.89 (br m, 1H), 4.71-4.56 (br m, 1H), 4.44-4.32 (br m, 1H), 4.06-4.96 (br m, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.79-3.34 (br m, 6H), 3.15-2.96 (br m, 3H), 2.58-2.17 (br m, 2H). ¹⁹F{¹H} NMR (376 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): -75.1.



Poly(S-(2-hydroxy-4,7,10,13-tetraoxatetradecyl)-L-methionine sulfonium chloride), 11a Prepared from M_{60} and 2-(2,5,8,11-tetraoxadodecyl)oxirane using *Alkylation Procedure C*. Spectral data in agreement with those previously reported.²



Poly(S-((3-(2-(6-deoxy-D-galactopyranosid-6-yl)oxy)ethoxy)-2-hydroxypropyl)-L-methionine sulfonium chloride), 12a

Prepared from M_{60} and 2-(2-((1,2:3,4-di-O-isopropylidene-6-deoxy- α -D-galactopyranosid-6-yl)oxy)ethoxymethyl)oxirane using *Alkylation Procedure C* followed by acid deprotection of the isopropylidene protecting groups. Spectral data in agreement with those previously reported.²

5) Studies of Demethylation Reaction Conditions

Example reaction of M^R₆₀ with various nucleophiles

A stock solution of **11a** (22 mg/mL, 55 mM $\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}}$) in 95% EtOH was prepared. A buffered ethanol solution was prepared by mixing equal volumes of 0.27 M NaOAc in 95% EtOH with 0.27 M AcOH in 95% EtOH. **11a** stock (0.33 mL, 0.018 mmol $\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}}$, 1.0 eq) was diluted with buffered ethanol (0.33 mL). Nucleophile (KI, 2-mercaptopyridine, potassium thioaceate or **APDC**) (0.090 mmol, 5.0 eq) was added if required. The reaction mixture was vortexed briefly

and allowed to stand at 22 $^{\circ}$ C for 24h. The reaction mixture was transferred to a 2 kDa MWCO dialysis bag and dialyzed against H₂O (36h, 5 H₂O changes). The retentate was lyophilized and the reaction selectivity determined by ¹H NMR.

For thioglycolate the procedure was as above, except a NaOAc solution was used instead of buffer. Therefore, **11a** stock (0.33 mL, 0.018 mmol $\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}}$, 1.0 eq) was diluted with 0.27 M NaOAc in 95% EtOH (0.33 mL). Thioglycolic Acid (0.090 mmol, 6.2 µL, 5.0 eq) was added. From there the procedure was as above.

Comparison of extent of reaction conversion

An **11a** stock solution (7.8 mg/mL, 20 mM $\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}}$) in 75% EtOH_(aq) was prepared. **11a** stock (0.65 mL, 0.013 mmol $\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}}$, 1.0 eq) was added to a vial containing an accurately weighed quantity of **APDC** (11 mg, 0.064 mmol, 5.0 eq) or potassium thioacetate (7.4 mg, 0.064 mmol, 5.0 eq). The headspace of the vial was briefly flushed with N₂ then rapidly capped. The reaction was stirred for 3.0h at 22 °C. The reaction was then immediately quenched with 3 drops of con. HCl_(aq), transferred to a 2 kDa MWCO dialysis bag and dialyzed against 3 mM HCl_(aq) (4h, 2 H₂O changes) followed by H₂O (24h, 3 H₂O changes). The retentate was lyophilized and extent of reaction conversion determined by ¹H NMR.

Influence of EtOH/H₂O solvent composition on demethylation rate

As above, using **11a** stock solutions in 75% $EtOH_{(aq)}$, 50% $EtOH_{(aq)}$ or 0% $EtOH_{(aq)}$. Aliquots were removed from the reaction and quenched at either 3h or 24h time points.

Conversion vs. time study

As preceding experiments, this study was performed using a stock solution of **11a** in 75% $EtOH_{(aq)}$. Aliquots were removed from the reaction mixture and quenched at 0.33, 0.83, 2.0, 3.0, 5.0, 8.0 and 22.0h time points.

For the 0.00h time point a slight deviation was made. **11a** stock (0.65 mL, 0.013 mmol $\mathbf{M}^{\mathbf{R}}$, 1.0 eq) was treated with 3 drops of con. HCl_(aq). **APDC** (11 mg, 0.064 mmol, 5.0 eq) was added. The mixture was vortexed until homogenous and allowed to stand for 2 minutes. The mixture was transferred to dialysis and isolated as in preceding experiments.

6) Details for Synthesis of Specific R-C^H Polymers

Poly(L-Methionine), 1, 5-6

Prepared from 1a, 5a or 6a using *Demethylation Procedure A*. 5a and 6a became turbid with precipitate (polypeptide) in <10 min, while for 1a precipitate began forming after \sim 6h.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, D-TFA, 25 °C): δ 4.93-4.70 (br m, 1H) 2.77-2.53 (br m, 2H) 2.29-1.94 (br m, 5H).



Poly[(*S*-ethyl-L-homocysteine)_{0.93}-*stat*-(L-Methionine)_{0.07}], 2 Prepared from **2a** using *Demethylation Procedure A*. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D-TFA, 25 °C): δ 4.98-4.82 (br m, 1.07H), 2.88-2.55 (br m, 4.14H), 2.38-2.03 (br m, 2.4H), 1.53-1.12 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H).



Poly(S-propyl-L-homocysteine), 3

Prepared from **3a** using *Demethylation Procedure A*. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D-TFA, 25 °C): δ 4.93-4.77 (br m, 1H), 2.89-2.63 (br m, 2H), 2.59 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.27-2.07 (br m, 2 H), 1.65 (sext, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

Poly(S-Butyl-L-homocysteine), 4 Prepared from **4a** using *Demethylation Procedure A*. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D-TFA, 25 °C): δ 5.52-5.13 (br m, 1H), 3.32-3.09 (br m, 2H), 3.05 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.73-2.52 (br m, 2H), 2.03 (p, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.86 (sext, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H).

Poly(S-(3-azido-2-hydroxypropyl)-L-homocysteine), 7

Prepared from **7a** using *Demethylation Procedure A*. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D-TFA, 25 °C): δ 5.26-4.68 (br m, 1H), 4.36-4.07 (br m, 1H), 3.89-3.43 (br m, 2H), 3.16-2.58 (br m, 4H), 2.43-2.04 (br m, 2H).



Poly(S-(3-ammonio-2-hydroxypropyl)-L-homocysteine chloride), 8

Prepared from **8a** using *Demethylation Procedure B*. Deprotection conditions: H_2O (7.5 µL per µmol **R-C^H**) and K_2CO_3 (10 eq per **R-C^H**) were added. Allowed to stir vigorously at 40 °C for 48h. Dialysis conditions: 50% MeOH_(aq) containing 3 mM HCl (24h, 3 solvent changes) followed by H_2O (8h, 3 H_2O changes).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ 4.67-4.39 (br m, 1H), 4.18-3.97 (br m, 1H) 3.32 (d, J = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (dd, J = 12.9, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.95-2.49 (br m, 4H), 2.23-2.00 (br m, 2H).

Poly(ammonium S-(3-(carboxylatomethoxy)-2-hydroxypropyl)-L-homocysteine), 9

Prepared from **9a** using *Demethylation Procedure B*. Deprotection conditions: H_2O (5.5 µL per µmol **R**-C^H) and K_2CO_3 (6 eq per **R**-C^H) were added. The mixture was allowed to stir 18h at 37 °C. Dialysis conditions: 50% MeOH_(aq) containing 3 mM NH₃ (24h, 3 solvent changes) followed by H_2O (8h, 3 H_2O changes).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ 4.49-4.21 (br m, 1H), 4.22-3.86 (br m, 3H), 3.81-3.51 (br m, 2H), 3.27-3.55 (br m, 4H), 2.42-1.97 (br m, 2H).



Poly(*S*-((*S*)-3-2-ammonio-2-carboxylatoethoxy)-2-hydroxypropyl)-L-homocysteine), 10 Prepared from 10a using *Demethylation Procedure B*. Deprotection conditions: H₂O (7.5 μ L per μ mol R-C^H) and K₂CO₃ (10 eq per R-C^H) were added. Allowed to stir vigorously at 40 °C for 48h. Dialysis conditions: 50% MeOH_(aq) containing 3 mM NH₃ (24h, 3 solvent changes) followed by H₂O (8h, 3 H₂O changes).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ 4.8-4.7 (1H)^{*}, 4.61-4.16 (br m, 1H), 4.15-3.82 (br m, 3H), 3.82-3.45 (br m, 2H), 3.15-2.48 (br m 4H), 2.48-1.84 (br m, 2H). ^{*}Obscured by solvent residual peak.

 $\overset{\text{OH}}{\leftarrow} \circ (\frown_{0})_{3}^{2}$

Poly(S-(2-hydroxy-4,7,10,13-tetraoxatetradecyl)-L-homocysteine), 11

Prepared from 11a using Demethylation Procedure C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ 4.50-4.15 (br m, 1H), 4.07-3.92 (br m, 1H), 3.85-3.51 (br m, 14H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 3.10-2.57 (br m, 4H), 2.57-1.96 (br m, 2H).



Poly(S-((3-(2-(6-deoxy-D-galactopyranosid-6-yl)oxy)ethoxy)-2-hydroxypropyl)-L-homocysteine), 12

Prepared from **12a** using *Demethylation Procedure C*. The product was found to contain a 1:2 ratio of α : β anomers (¹H NMR) in D₂O at 25 °C. Identification of anomers based on reported spectral assignments of D-galactose.⁶

¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ 5.29 (m, 0.34H), 4.62 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 0.66H), 4.54-4.29 (br m, 1H), 4.29-3.41 (br m, 13H), 3.10-2.56 (br m, 4H), 2.56-1.84 (br m, 2H).

7) Peptide Modifications



H-YGGF(M^{N3})-NH₂, 14

A 35 mM solution of **13** in AcOH was prepared. A 150 mM solution of glycidyl azide in AcOH was prepared immediately before use. The solution of **13** (0.11 mL, 3.8 µmol, 1.0 eq) was treated with the glycidyl azide solution (0.25 mL, 38 µmol, 10 eq). The mixture was stirred on a 30 °C H₂O bath for 24h. The volatiles were removed under high vacuum at 22 °C. The residue was triturated with Et₂O (2x 1.0 mL) then dissolved in 10 mM HCl_(aq) (1 mL). The solution was lyophilized to provide **14** (2.4 mg, 88% yield) as a colorless amorphous solid. ESI-MS $m/z = 672.2780 \text{ [M]}^+$ (calcd 672.2927 for C₃₀H₄₂N₉O₇S).



H-YGGF(N₃-C^H)-NH₂, 15

14 (2.2 mg, 3.3 µmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in an 82 mM APDC solution in 75% $EtOH_{(aq)}$ (0.40 mL, 33 µmol, 10 eq). The solution was stirred for 26h under N₂, then directly analyzed by HPLC-MS. Crude 15 was found to be 84% pure (% a/a) by UV (280.4 nm). ESI-MS concomitantly showed [15+TFA]⁻ (calcd: 770.3 *m/z*, found: 770.2 *m/z*). The reaction mixture was also analyzed by high resolution ESI-MS.

ESI-MS $m/z = 658.2784 [M+H]^+$ (calcd 658.2771 for C₂₉H₄₀N₉O₇S).

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S19





















--75.871

-80

-100

ppm





76.499364 MHz 0 1.00 Hz 1.00 1.0

S27

120







