

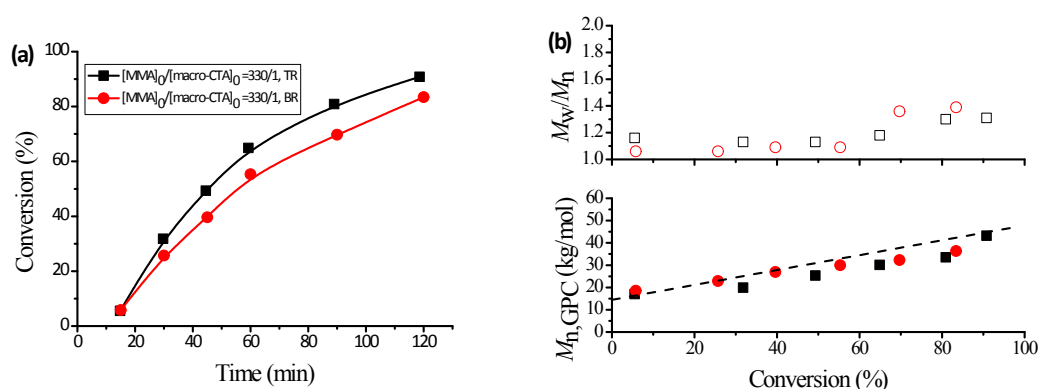
## Supplementary Information

# The *in situ* formation of nanoparticles *via* RAFT polymerization-induced self-assembly in a continuous tubular reactor

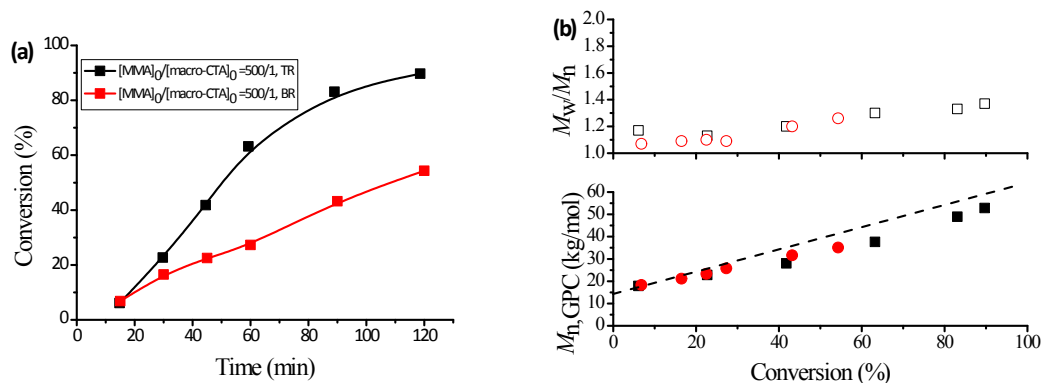
Jinying Peng, Chun Tian, Lifen Zhang\*, Zhenping Cheng\* and Xiulin Zhu\*

Suzhou key Laboratory of Macromolecular Design and Precision Synthesis, Jiangsu Key Laboratory of Advanced Functional Polymer Design and Application, State and Local Joint Engineering Laboratory for Novel Functional Polymeric Materials, Department of Polymer Science and Engineering, College of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Soochow University, Suzhou 215123, China.

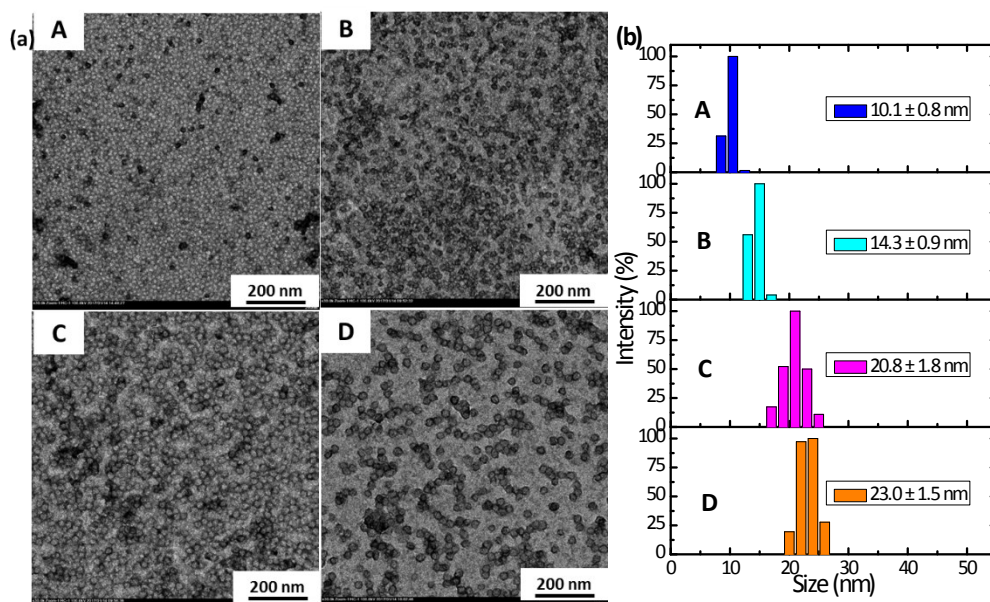
## Contents



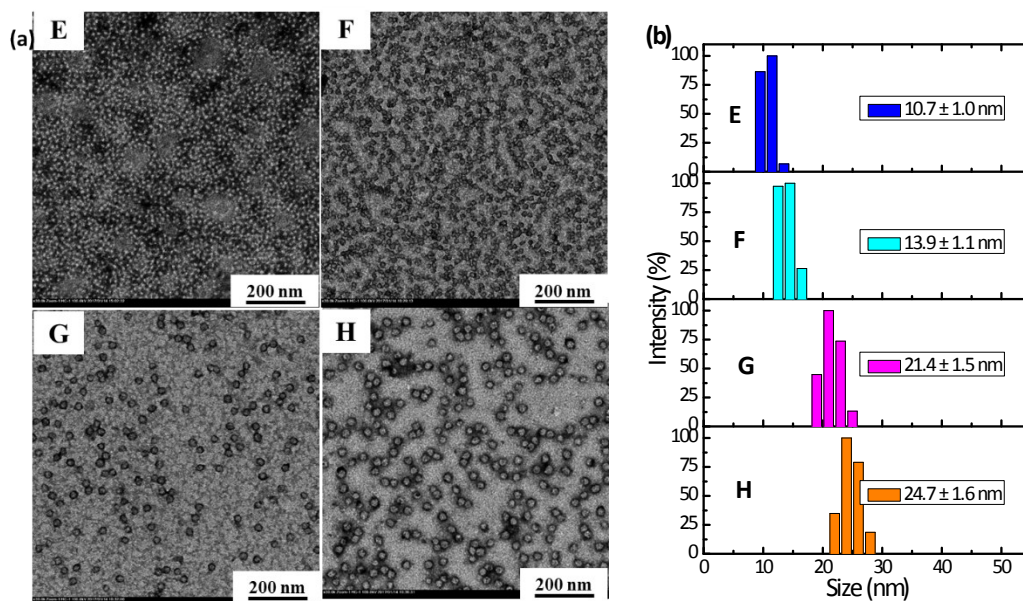
**Fig. S1** The evolution of monomer conversion with time (a), and number-average molecular weight ( $M_{n, GPC}$ ) and molecular weight distribution ( $M_w/M_n$ ) versus conversion (b) for the PISA of MMA in batch reactor (BR) and continuous tube reactor (TR). Polymerization conditions:  $[PEGMA]_0/[CPADB]_0/[AIBI]_0 = 40/1/0.2$ ,  $R_v^{-1} = V_{PEGMA}/V_{water}/V_{ethanol} = 2/19.9/6.9$ ,  $[MMA]_0/[macro-CTA]_0/[AIBI]_0 = 330/1/0.3$ ,  $T = 70\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



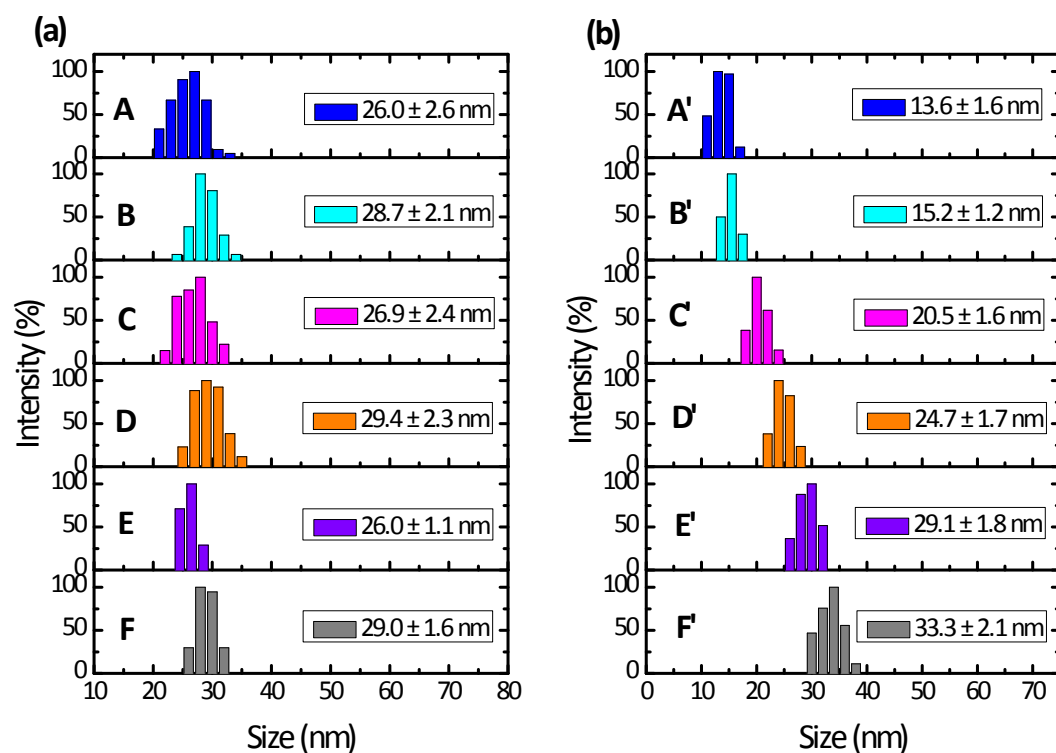
**Fig. S2** The evolution of monomer conversion with time (a), and number-average molecular weight ( $M_{n, \text{GPC}}$ ) and molecular weight distribution ( $M_w/M_n$ ) versus conversion (b) for the PISA of MMA in batch reactor (BR) and continuous tube reactor (TR). Polymerization conditions:  $[\text{PEGMA}]_0/[\text{CPADB}]_0/[\text{AIBI}]_0 = 40/1/0.2$ ,  $R_v^1 = V_{\text{PEGMA}}/V_{\text{water}}/V_{\text{ethanol}} = 2/33.9/12.1$ ,  $[\text{MMA}]_0/[\text{macro-CTA}]_0/[\text{AIBI}]_0 = 500/1/0.3$ ,  $T = 70^\circ\text{C}$ .

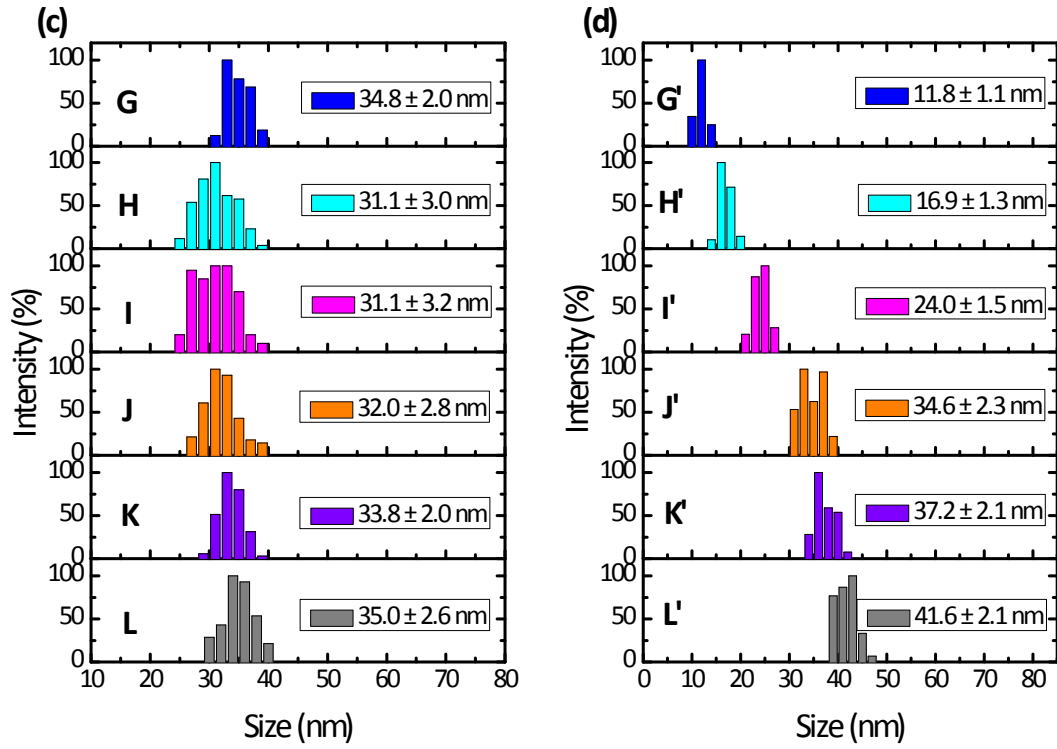


**Fig. S3** TEM images of nanoparticles *via* PISA in a batch reactor with molar ratio of  $[\text{MMA}]_0/[\text{macro-CTA}]_0/[\text{AIBI}]_0 = 330/1/0.3$  (a), and size distribution of nanoparticles from TEM images (b) for different polymerization times: (A) 45 min (MMA conv. 39.6%), (B) 60 min (55.3%), (C) 90 min (69.7%), (D) 120 min (83.4%).

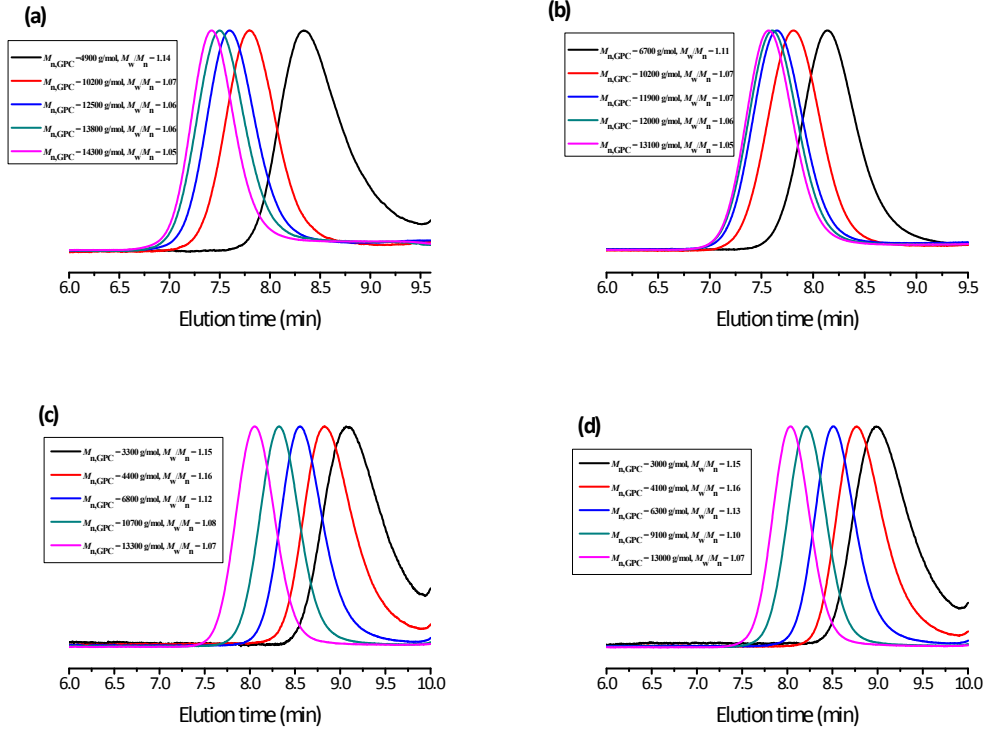


**Fig. S4** TEM images of nanoparticles *via* PISA in a batch reactor with molar ratio of  $[\text{MMA}]_0/[\text{macro-CTA}]_0/[\text{AIBI}]_0 = 500/1/0.3$  (a), and size distribution of nanoparticles from TEM images (b) for different polymerization times: (E) 45 min (MMA conv. 22.5%), (F) 60 min (27.3%), (G) 90 min (43.2%), (H) 120 min (54.3%).

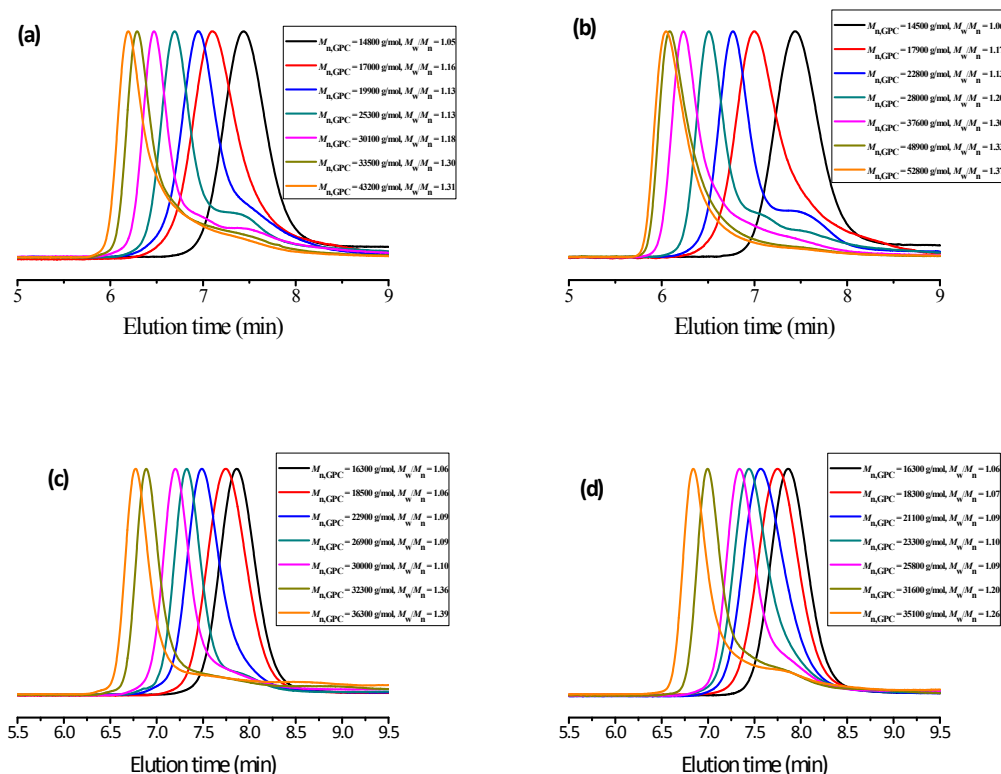




**Fig. S5** Size distribution of nanoparticles from TEM images, (a), (b), (c) and (d), corresponding to Fig. 4, Fig. 5, Fig. 7, and Fig. 8, respectively.



**Fig. S6** GPC traces for the polymerization of PEGMA, (a)  $R_v^1 = 2/19.9/6.9$ , TR; (b)  $R_v^1 = 2/33.9/12.1$ , TR; (c)  $R_v^1 = 2/19.9/6.9$ , BR; (d)  $R_v^1 = 2/33.9/12.1$ , BR.



**Fig. S7** GPC traces for the polymerization-induced self-assembly of MMA, (a)  $[MMA]_0/[macro-CTA]_0 = 330/1$ , TR; (b)  $[MMA]_0/[macro-CTA]_0 = 500/1$ , TR; (c)  $[MMA]_0/[macro-CTA]_0 = 330/1$ , BR; (d)  $[MMA]_0/[macro-CTA]_0 = 500/1$ , BR.

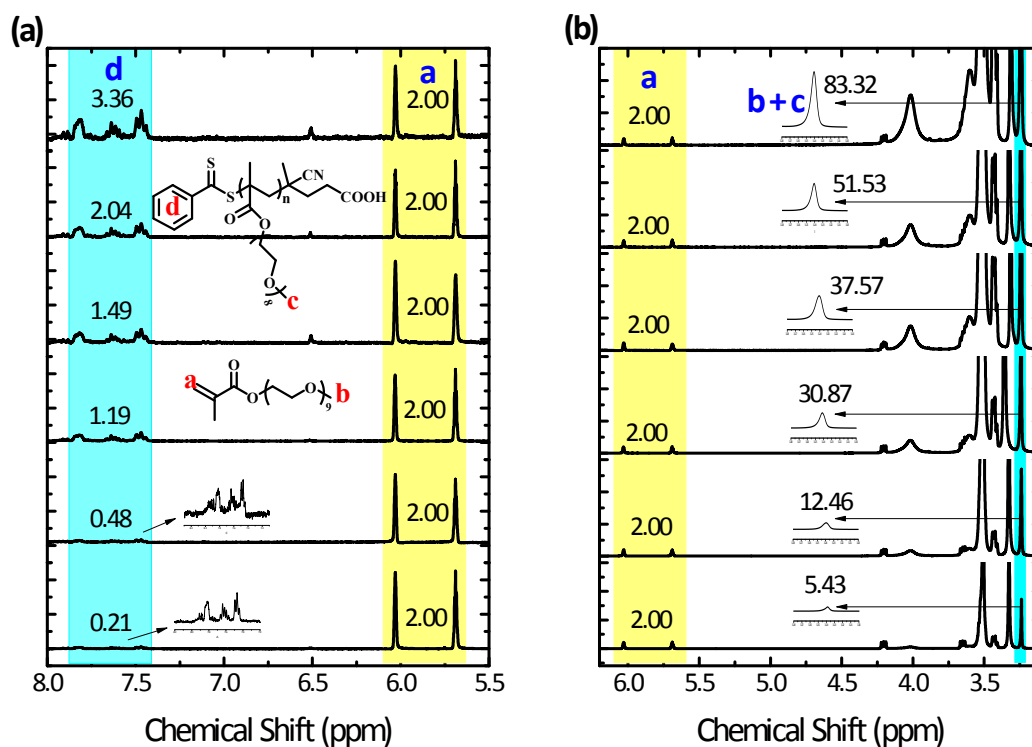
**Table S1** The conversation and the DP of PPEGMA in different conditions <sup>a</sup>

| Entry | $R_v^1$      | Conv.<br>(%) | DP | $M_{n, GPC}$<br>(g/mol) | $M_w/M_n$ | $H_a$ | $H_{b+c}$ | $H_d$ |
|-------|--------------|--------------|----|-------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1     | 2/12.9/4.3   | 96.4         | 40 | 14700                   | 1.05      | 2.00  | 83.32     | 3.36  |
| 2     | 2/19.9/6.9   | 94.2         | 40 | 14700                   | 1.05      | 2.00  | 51.53     | 2.04  |
| 3     | 2/26.9/9.5   | 92.0         | 39 | 14400                   | 1.05      | 2.00  | 37.59     | 1.49  |
| 4     | 2/33.9/12.1  | 90.3         | 39 | 14400                   | 1.05      | 2.00  | 30.87     | 1.19  |
| 5     | 2/67.8/24.2  | 75.9         | 33 | 13700                   | 1.05      | 2.00  | 12.46     | 0.48  |
| 6     | 2/135.6/48.4 | 44.8         | 19 | 10500                   | 1.06      | 2.00  | 5.43      | 0.21  |

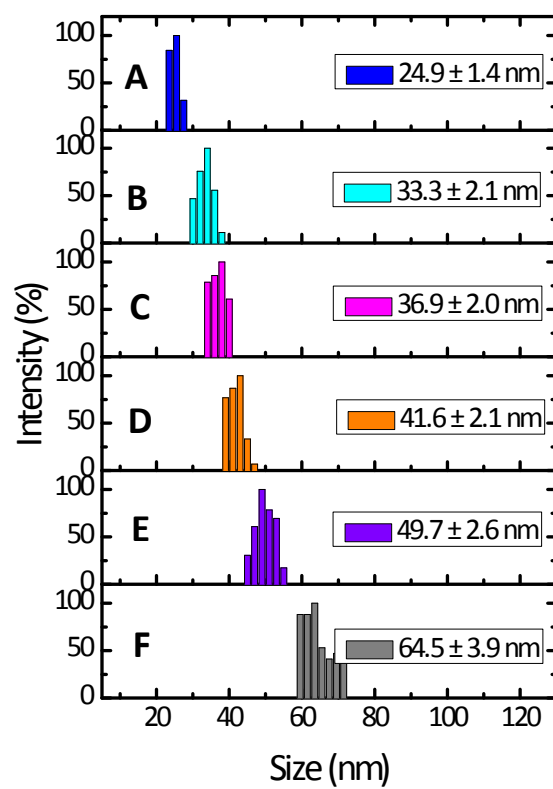
<sup>a</sup> Polymerization conditions:  $R_1 = [PEGMA]_0/[CPADB]_0/[AIBI]_0 = 40/1/0.2$ ,  $R_v^1 = V_{PEGMA}/V_{water}/V_{ethanol}$ ,  $Length_1 = 11$  m,  $v_{M1} = 0.262$  mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\tau_1 = 101.0$  min,  $[MMA]_0/[macro-CTAs]_0/[MMA]_0 = x/1/0.3$  ( $x \approx 230, 330, 420, 500, 1000$ , and 2000), T

= 70 °C.  $H_a$ ,  $H_{b+c}$ , and  $H_d$  corresponded to integral of the peaks a, b+c, and d (as shown in Fig. S8), respectively.

$$\text{Conv.} = \frac{H_b + c - 1.5 \times H_a}{H_b + c} \times 100 \% \quad ; \quad \text{DP} = \frac{(H_b + c - 1.5 \times H_a)/3}{H_d / 5}$$



**Fig. S8**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of unpurified PPEGMA (included unreacted PEGMA) with different DPs in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .



**Fig. S9** Size distribution of nanoparticles from TEM images, corresponding to Fig. 10.