

## Supporting Information

### Characterization of thiolated chitosan

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and FTIR of chitosan derivatives (CS-NAC) were investigated. Fig. S1A displays the FTIR spectra of chitosan and CS-NAC. The absorption peaks at  $1654\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (amide I band),  $1546\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (amide II band) and  $1310\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (amide III band) in the spectrum of CS-NAC are stronger than those of chitosan, indicating the introduction of the additional amide groups from NAC. The thiolation of chitosan is further confirmed by the appearance of a new resonance peak at  $3.00\text{ ppm}$  from the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of CS-NAC, which is assigned to the side-chain methylene proton ( $\text{CH}_2\text{SH}$ ) (Fig. 1B).

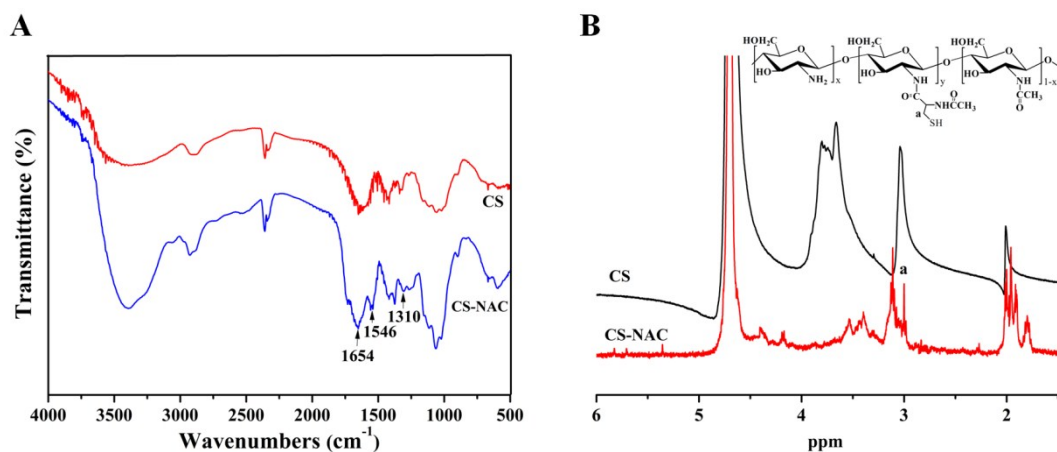


Fig. S1 FTIR (A) and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (B) spectra of chitosan (CS) and thiolated chitosan (CS-NAC).

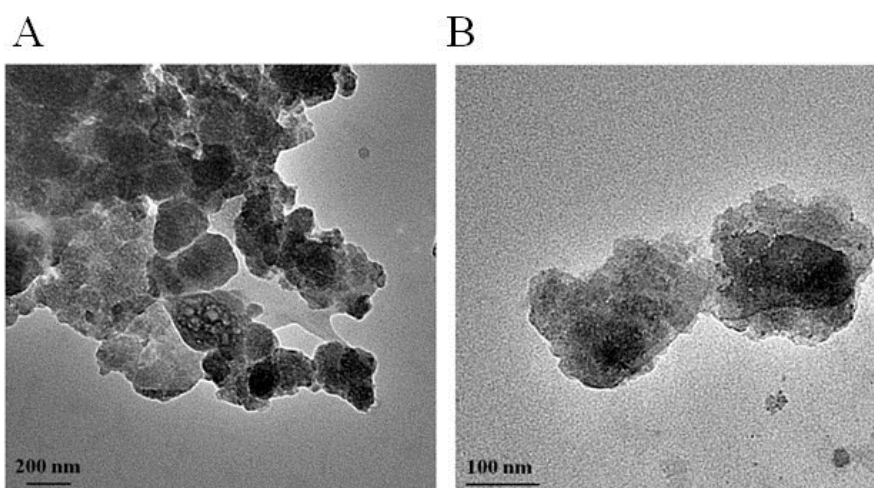


Fig. S2 TEM images of air-dried dual cross-linked chitosan based hydrogel where the molar ratio of thiol groups to double bonds from PEGDA and PECL micelles is 1:2:1.

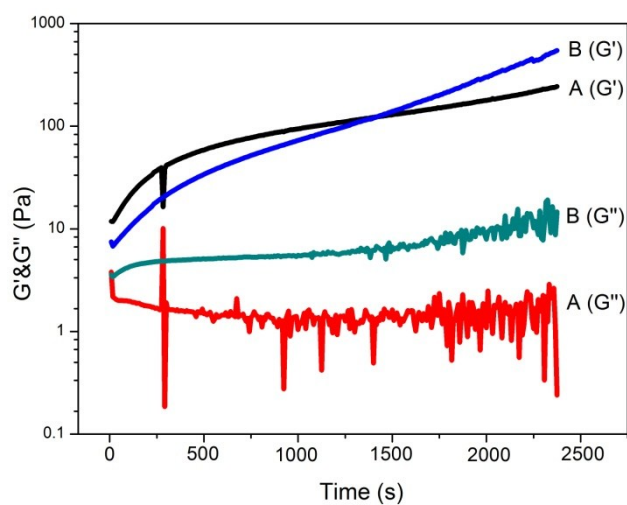


Fig. S3 Storage modulus ( $G'$ ) and loss modulus ( $G''$ ) of dual cross-linked chitosan based hydrogels via Michael-type addition reaction with or without incorporating PECL micelles. A and B represent hydrogels where the molar ratio of thiol groups to double bonds from PEGDA and PECL micelles is 1:2:0 and 1:2:1, respectively.