## Supporting information

## Terminal aspartic acids promote the self-assembly of collagen mimic peptides into nanospheres

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**Figure S1.** Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS) measurements of peptide  $(GPO)_7D_2$  at pH 7.0. DLS experiments were performed on the peptide (0.5 mg/ml) stored at 4 °C (black) and that incubated at 4 °C for 60 hrs after preheating at 20 °C for 30 min (red).



**Figure S2.** CD characterization of collagen mimic peptides  $(\text{GPO})_5\text{D}_2$  (a-c) and  $(\text{GPO})_9\text{D}_2$  (d-f) at pH 7.0. CD spectra (a), CD thermal unfolding (b) and the first derivative  $(d[\theta]/dT)$  of the CD unfolding curve (c) of peptide  $(\text{GPO})_5\text{D}_2$ . CD spectra (d), CD thermal unfolding (e) and the first derivative  $(d[\theta]/dT)$  of the CD unfolding curve (f) of peptide  $(\text{GPO})_9\text{D}_2$ .



**Figure S3.** Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS) measurements of peptides  $(\text{GPO})_5\text{D}_2$  (a) and  $(\text{GPO})_9\text{D}_2$  (b) at pH 7.0. DLS experiments were performed on peptide  $(\text{GPO})_5\text{D}_2$  (0.5 mg/ml) incubated at 4 °C without preheating (black). DLS experiments were performed on peptide  $(\text{GPO})_9\text{D}_2$  (0.5 mg/ml) stored at 4 °C (black) and that incubated at 4 °C for 60 hrs after preheating at 47°C for 30 min (red).



**Figure S4.** CD characterization of collagen mimic peptides  $(\text{GPO})_7$  (a-c) and  $(\text{GPO})_7\text{D}_5$ (d-f) at pH 7.0. CD spectra (a), CD thermal unfolding (b) and the first derivative  $(d[\theta]/dT)$  of the CD unfolding curve (c) of peptide  $(\text{GPO})_7$ . CD spectra (d), CD thermal unfolding (e) and the first derivative  $(d[\theta]/dT)$  of the CD unfolding curve (f) of peptide  $(\text{GPO})_7\text{D}_5$ .