

## Supporting Information

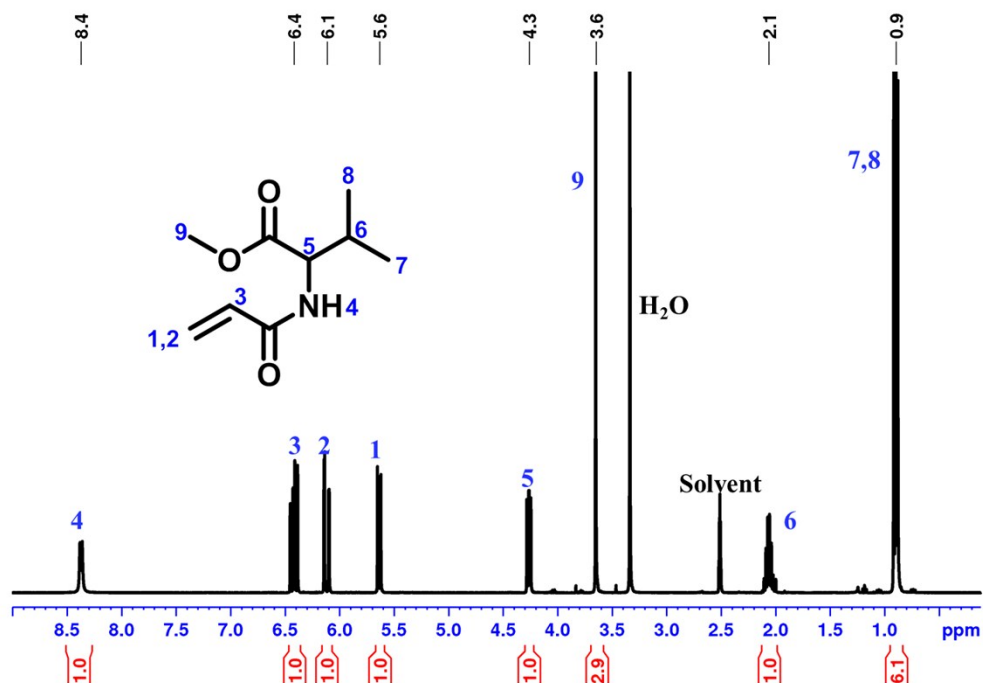
### Precise Synthesis of Poly(*N*-Acryloyl Amino Acid) Through Photoinduced Living Polymerization

Guofeng Li,<sup>a,b</sup> Wenli Feng,<sup>a</sup> Nathaniel Corrigan,<sup>b</sup> Cyrille Boyer,<sup>b</sup> Xing Wang,<sup>a,\*</sup> and Jiangtao Xu<sup>b,\*</sup>

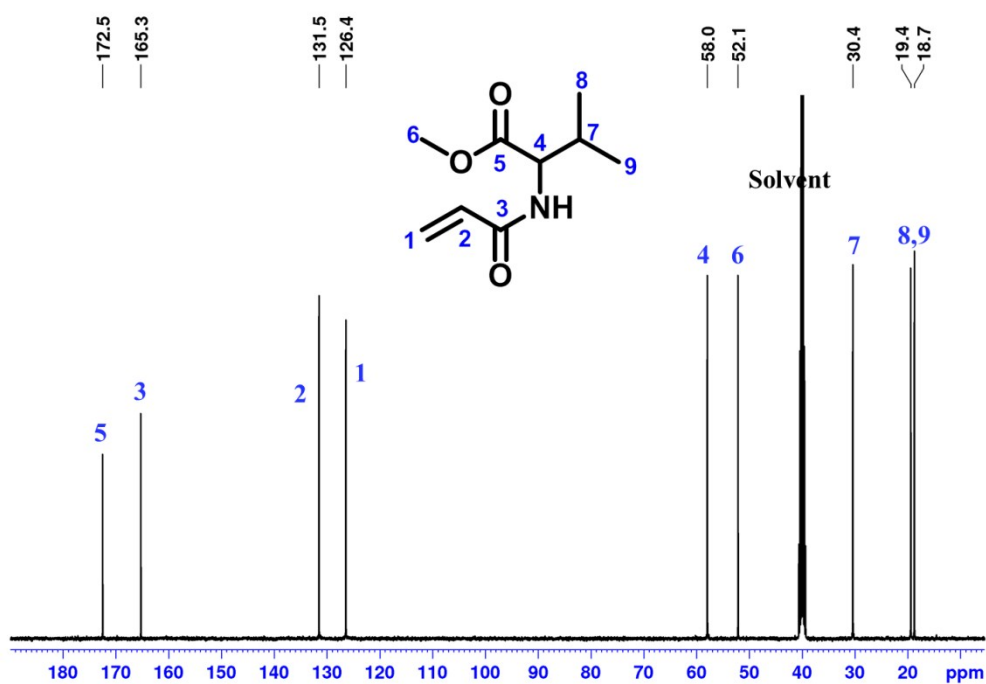
<sup>a</sup>Beijing Advanced Innovation Center for Soft Matter Science and Engineering, Beijing Laboratory of Biomedical Materials, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, Beijing 100029, P. R. China

<sup>b</sup>Centre for Advanced Macromolecular Design and Australian Centre for NanoMedicine, School of Chemical Engineering, University of New South Wales, Sydney 2052, Australia

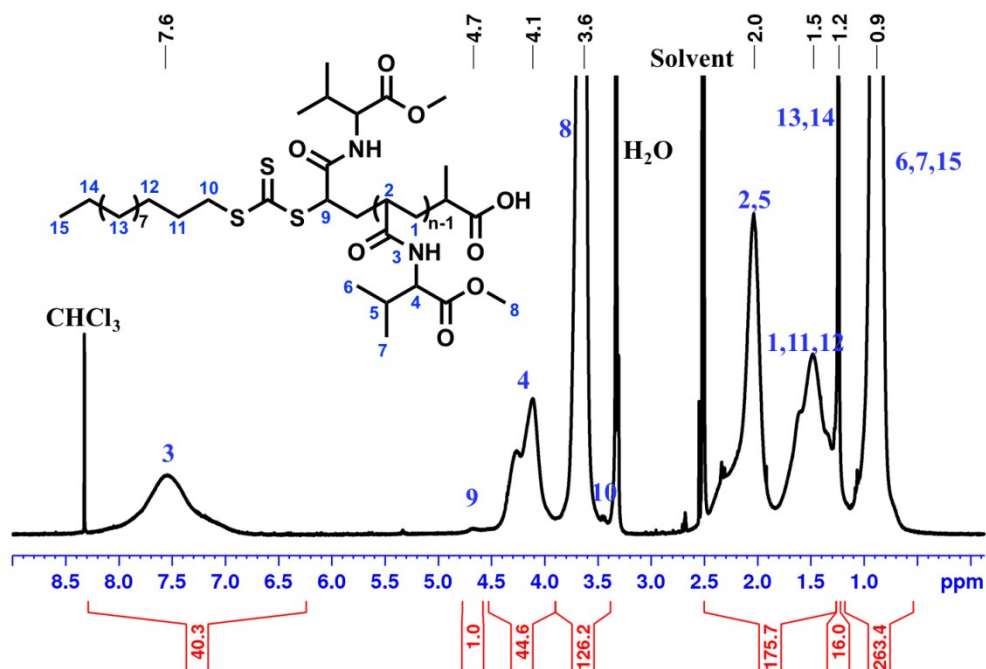
#### 1. PET-RAFT polymerization of *N*-Acryloyl-*DL*-Val-OMe (V-OMe)



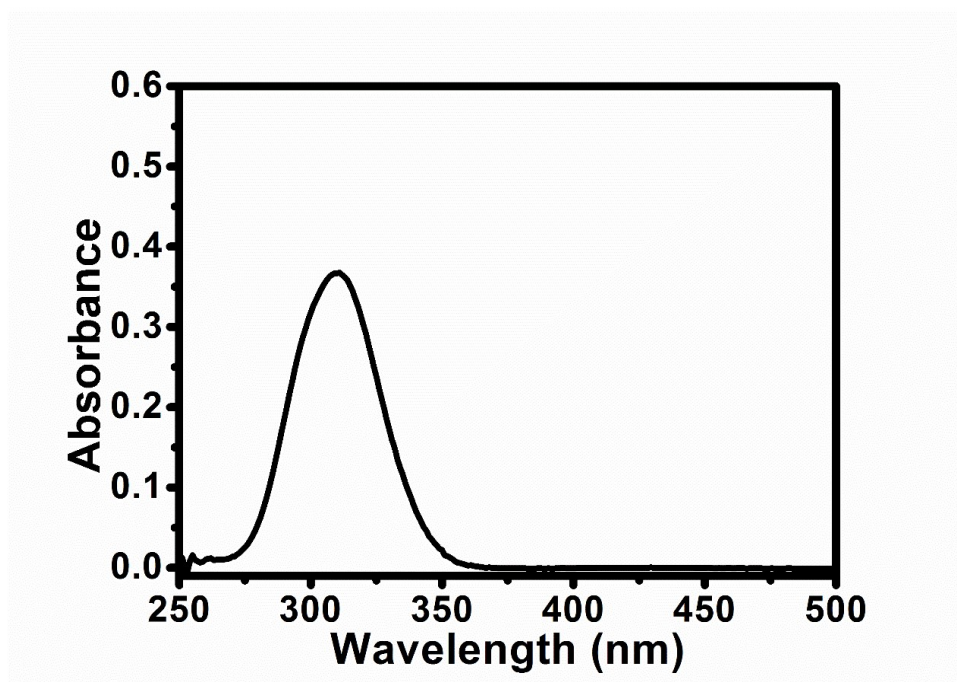
**Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of V-OMe monomer (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> as solvent).



**Figure S2.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of V-OMe monomer (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> as solvent).

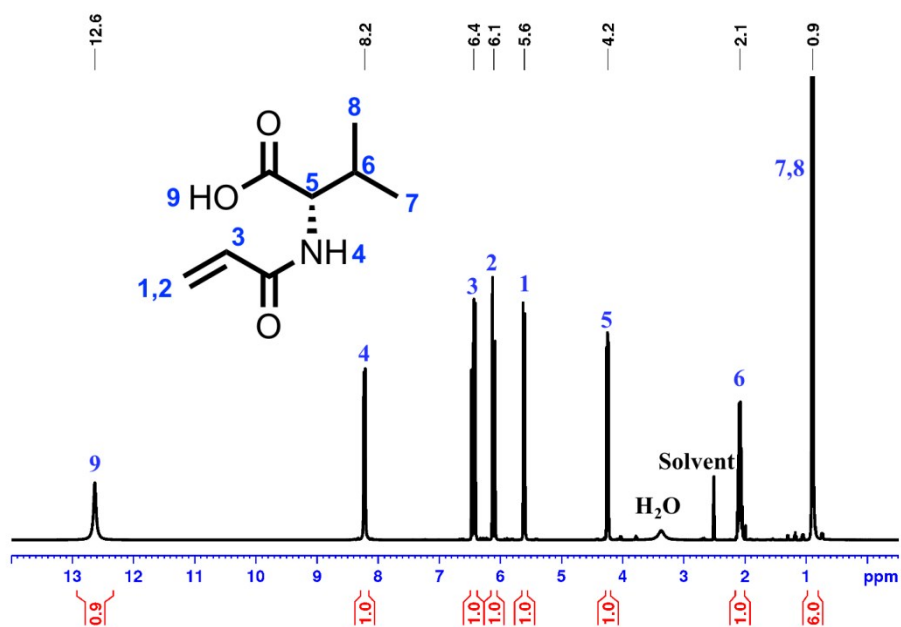


**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of poly(V-OMe) (PV-OMe) (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> as solvent).

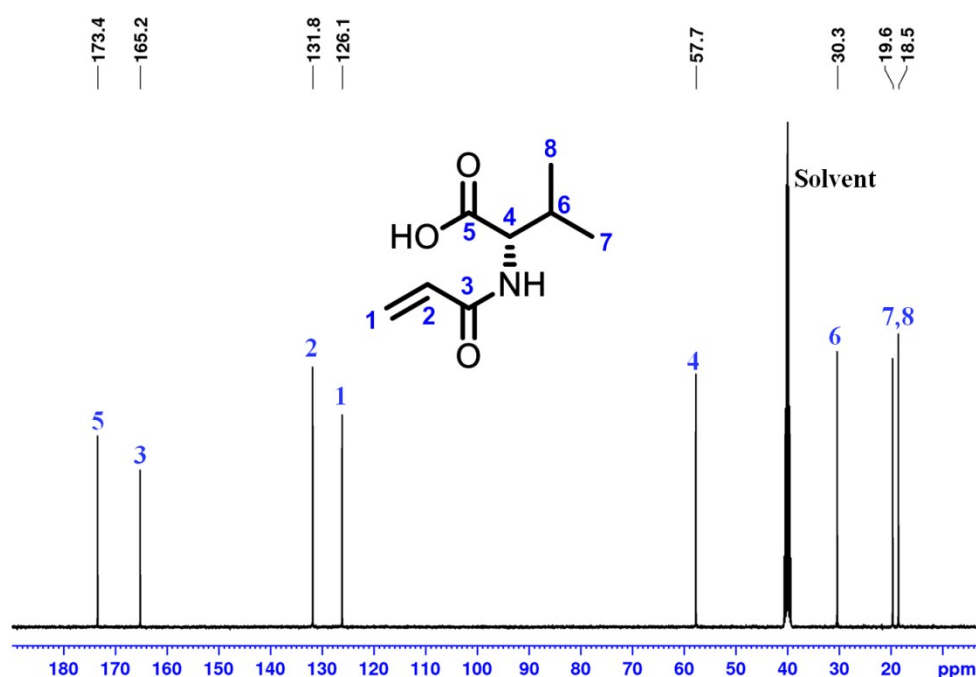


**Figure S4.** UV-vis spectrum of PV-OMe in DMSO, showing the typical UV absorption of the thiocarbonylthio group at the maximum of 305 nm.

## 2. PET-RAFT polymerization of *N*-Acryloyl-*L*-Val (*LV*)



**Figure S5.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of *LV* monomer (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  as solvent).

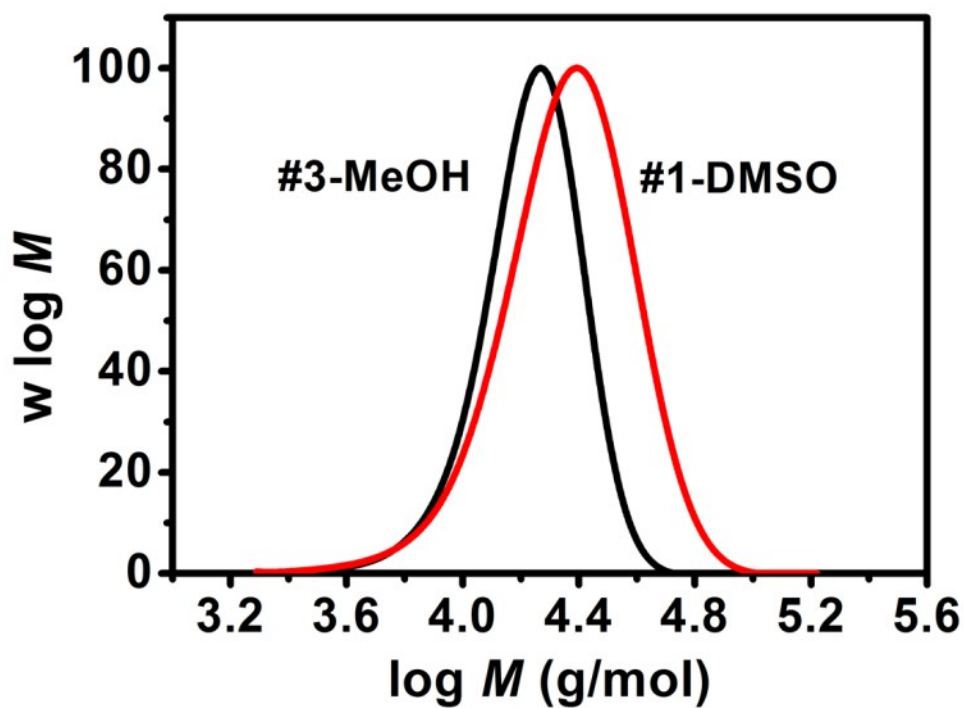


**Figure S6.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of LV monomer (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  as solvent).

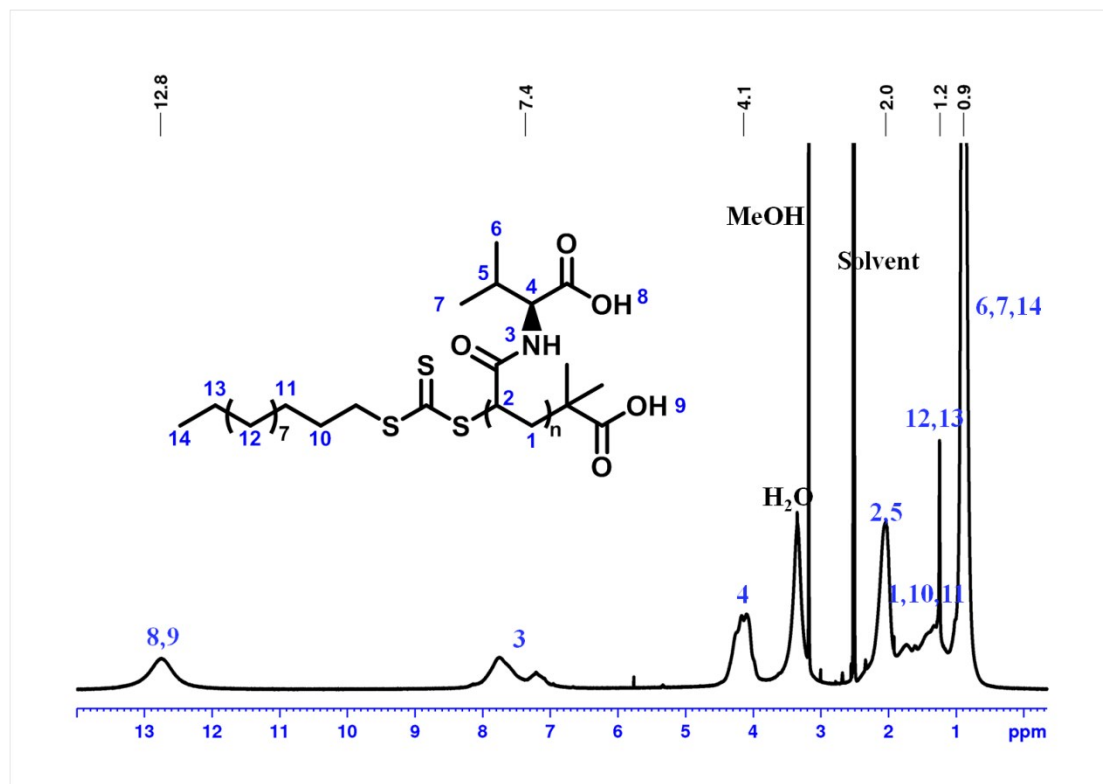
**Table S1.** PET-RAFT polymerization of LV using different solvents.<sup>a</sup>

#	Solvent	CTA	[M]/[CTA]/[P C]	[I]/[M] (ppm)	Time (h)	$\alpha^b$ (%)	$M_{n,\text{GPC}}^c$ (g/mol)	$M_w/M_n$
1	DMF	DDMAT	150:1:7.5 $\times 10^{-4}$	5	4	76	13 690	1.40
2	THF	DDMAT	150:1:7.5 $\times 10^{-4}$	5	4	60	10 560	1.46
3	Diox	DDMAT	150:1:7.5 $\times 10^{-4}$	5	4	93	19 220	1.35

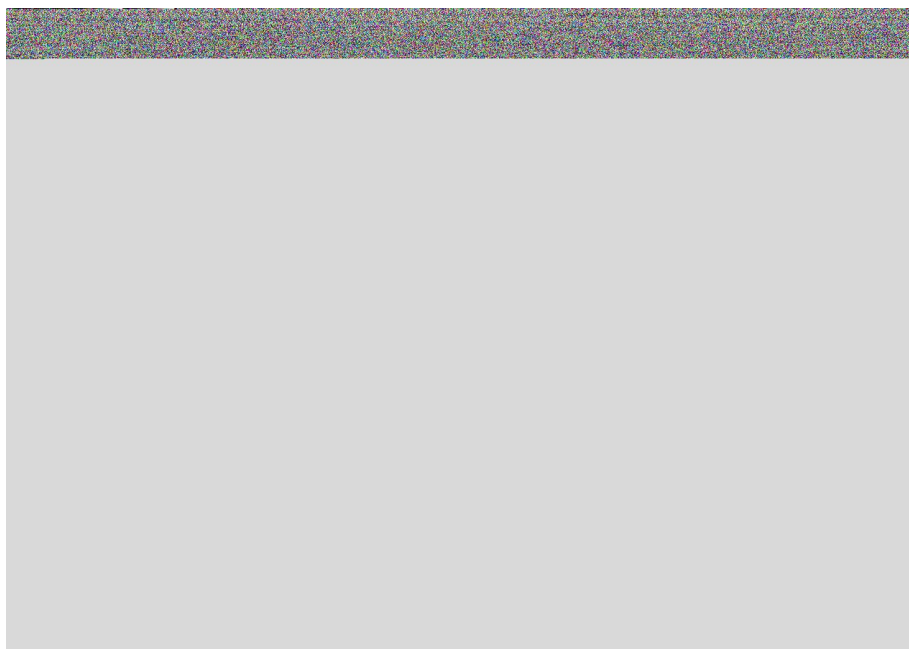
<sup>a</sup>The reactions were performed using  $\text{Ir}(\text{ppy})_3$  as catalyst under blue LED light irradiation ( $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 460 \text{ nm}$ ,  $0.7 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ ) at room temperature. <sup>b</sup>Monomer conversion determined by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy. <sup>c</sup>Molecular weight and dispersity determined by GPC analysis (DMAc used as eluent) using polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) standards for calibration. The resulting polymer was methylated using  $\text{TMSCHN}_2$ .



**Figure S7.** GPC curves for poly(LV) (PLV)s prepared in DMSO and MeOH (#1 and #3 in Table 2).

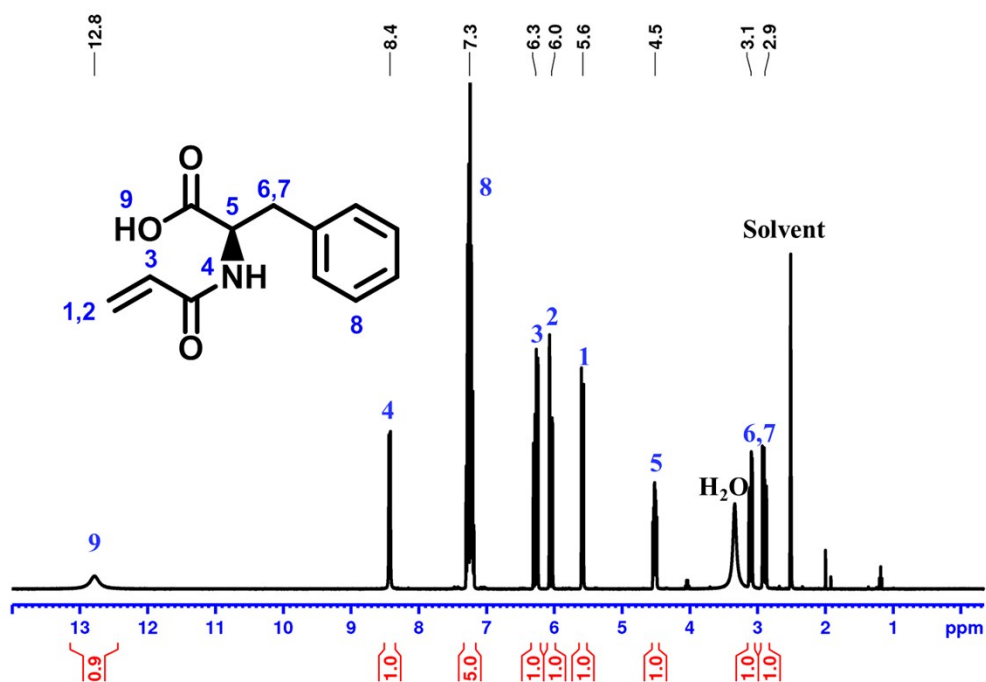


**Figure S8.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of poly(LV) (PLV) (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  as solvent).

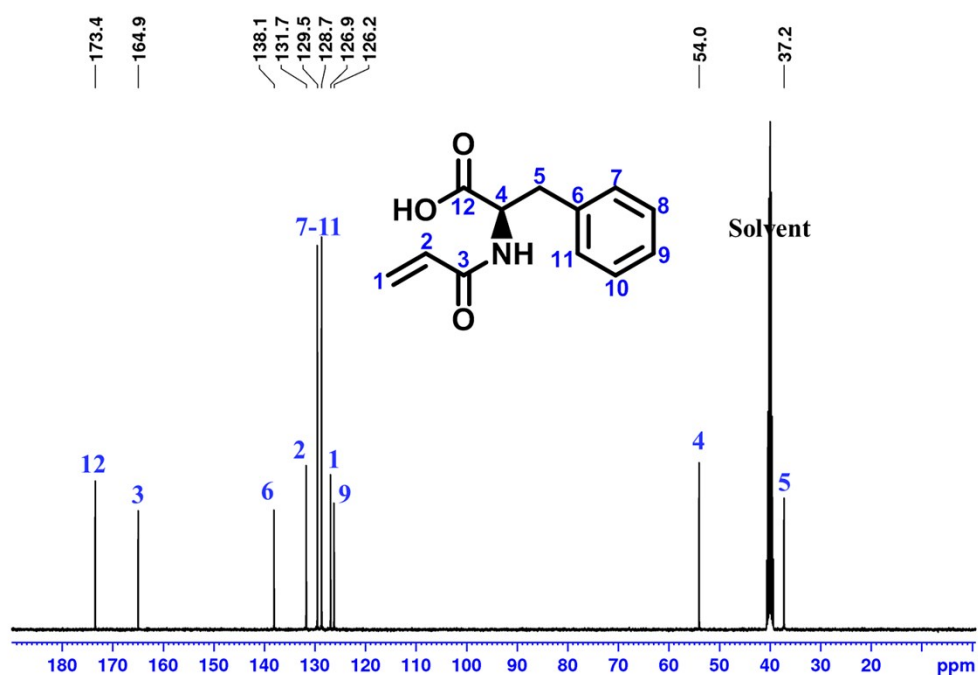


**Figure S9.** UV-vis spectrum of PLV in DMSO, showing the typical UV absorption of the thiocarbonylthio group at the maximum of 305 nm.

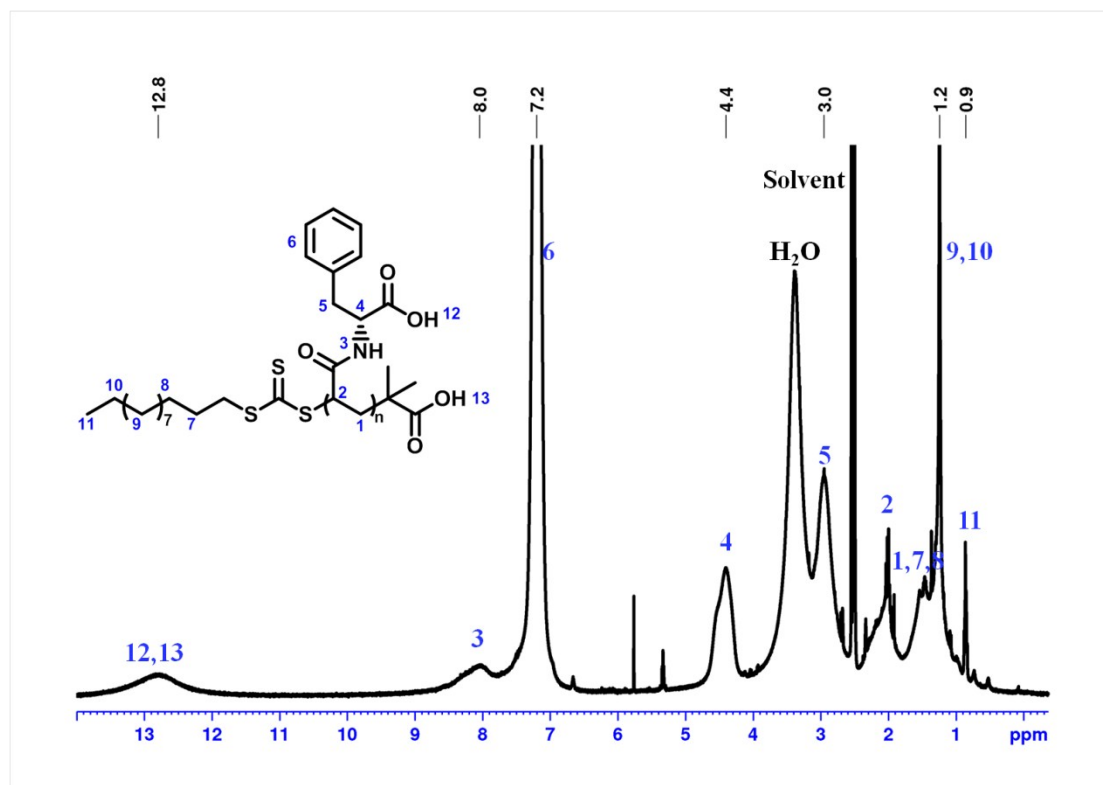
### 3. PET-RAFT polymerization of *N*-Acryloyl-*D*-Phe (DF)



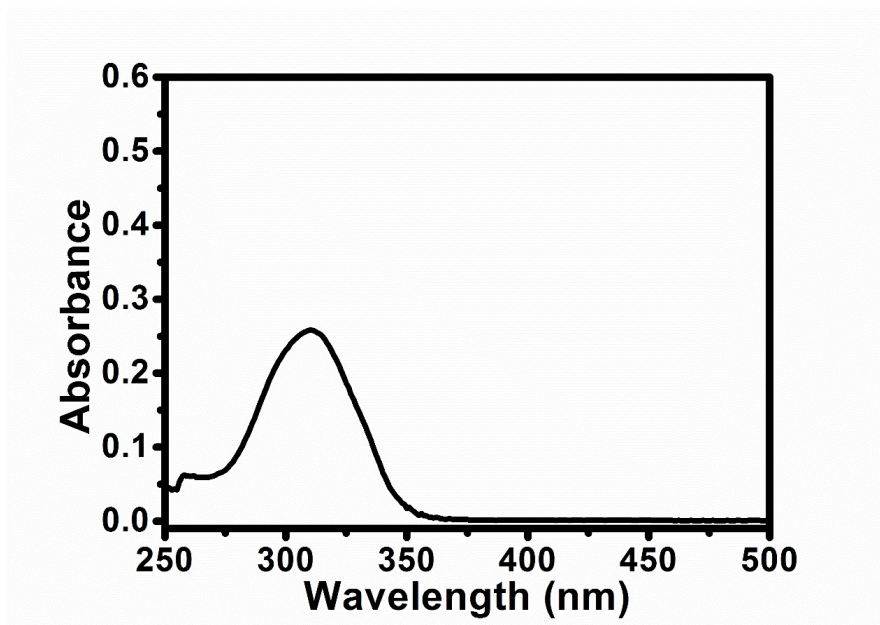
**Figure S10.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of DF monomer (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> as solvent).



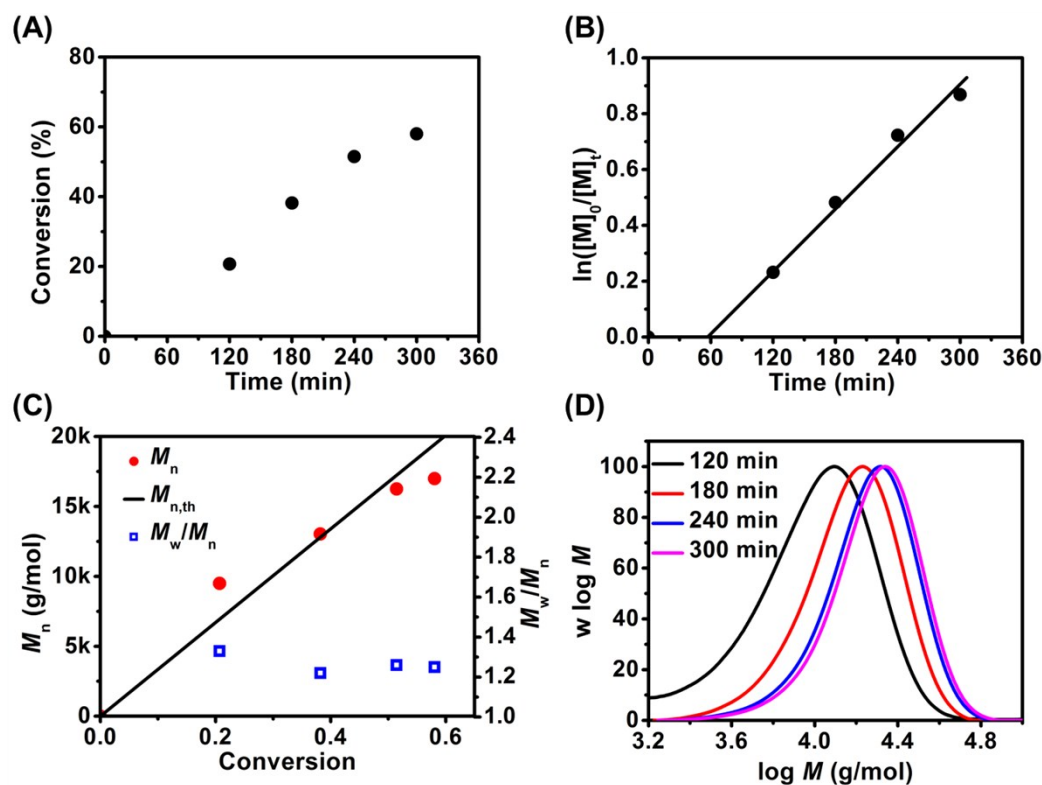
**Figure S11.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of DF monomer (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> as solvent).



**Figure S12.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of poly(DF) (PDF) (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> as solvent).



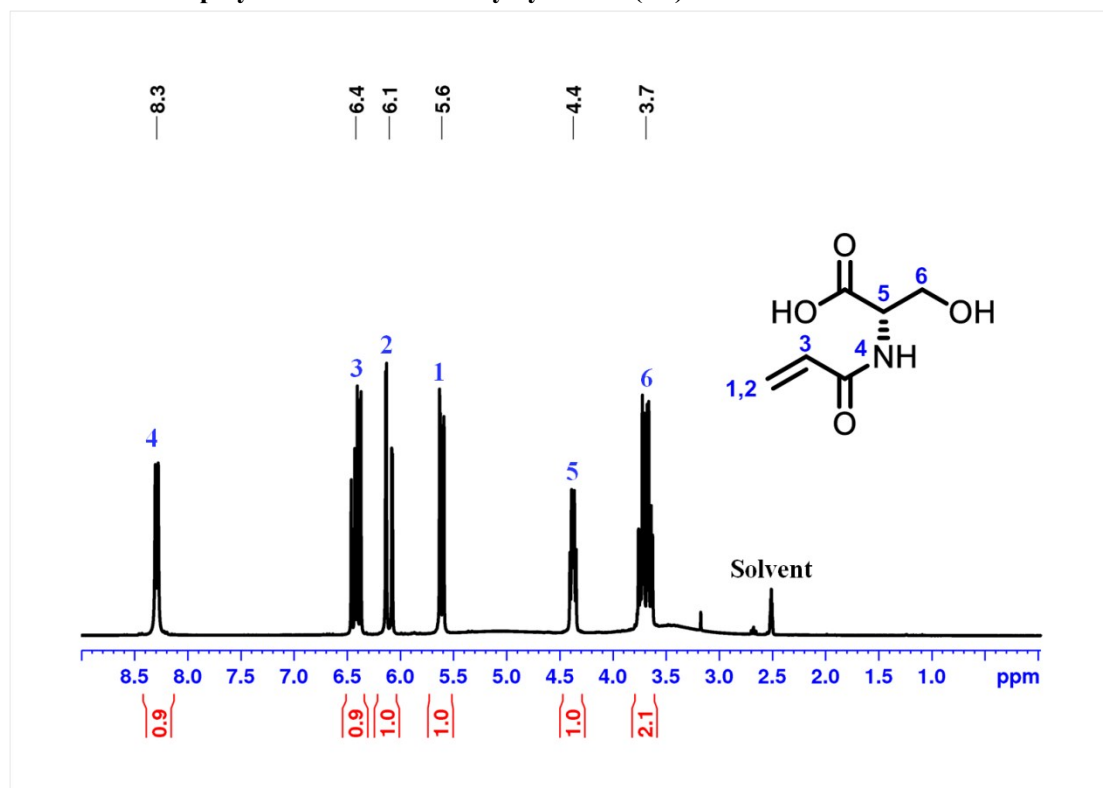
**Figure S13.** UV-vis spectrum of PDF in DMSO, showing the typical UV absorption of the thiocarbonylthio group at the maximum of 305 nm.



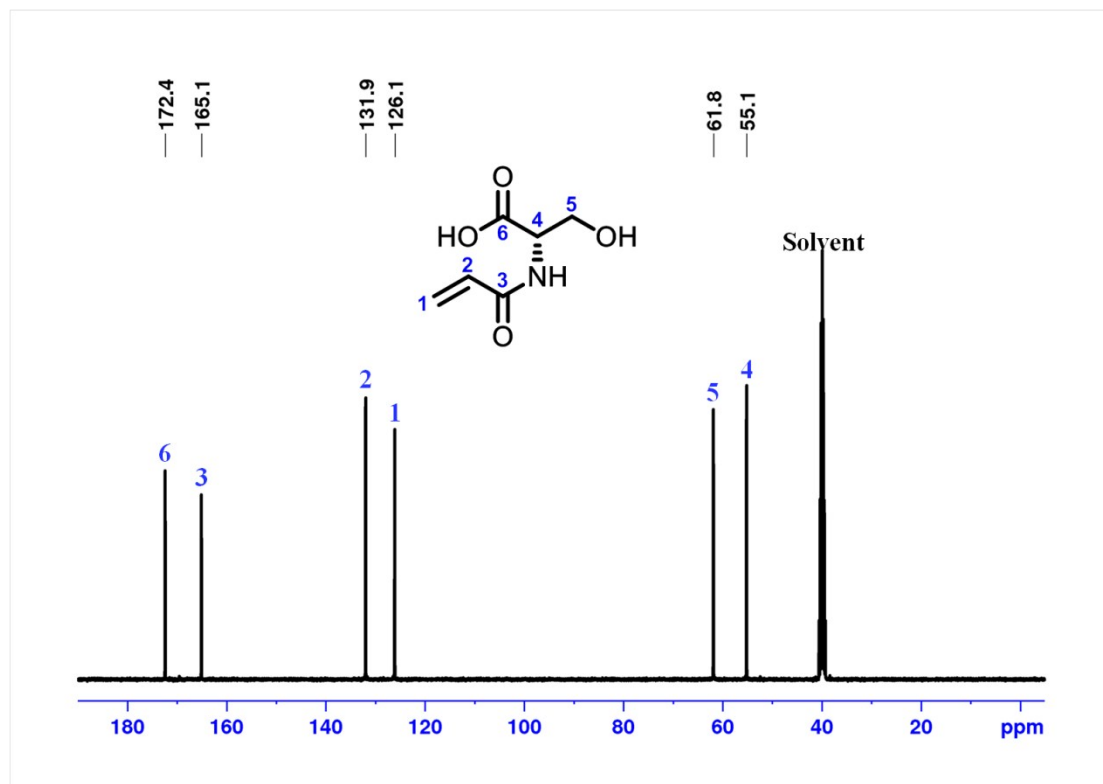
**Figure S14.** Kinetic study of the PET-RAFT polymerization of DF using DDMAT as the CTA and Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub> as catalyst under blue light irradiation ( $\lambda_{\max} = 460$  nm, 0.7 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>), a molar ratio of  $[DF]/[DDMAT]/[Ir(ppy)_3] = 150:1:7.5 \times 10^{-4}$  in MeOH. (A) Monomer conversion versus polymerization time. (B)  $\ln([M]_0/[M]_t)$  versus polymerization time. (C)  $M_n$ , GPC and  $M_w/M_n$  versus monomer conversion. (D)

Molecular weight distributions at different polymerization time intervals. The resulting polymer was methylated by  $\text{TMSCHN}_2$ .

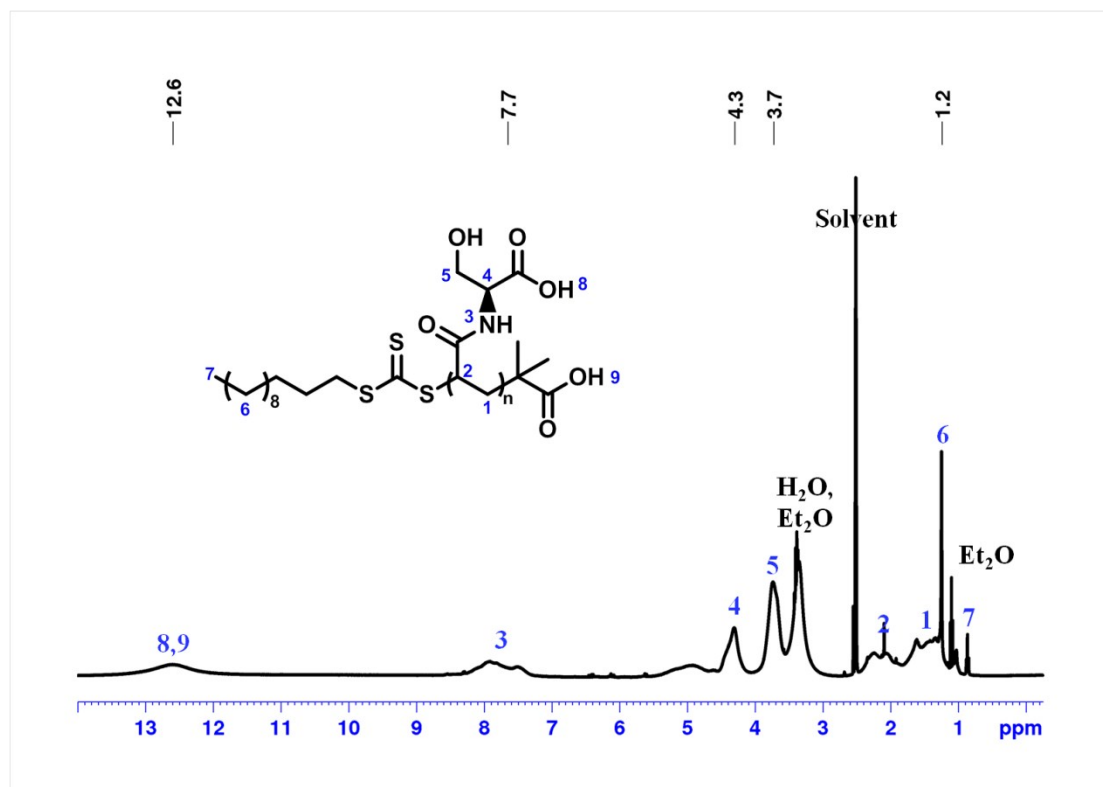
#### 4. PET-RAFT polymerization of *N*-Acryloyl-*L*-Ser (*LS*)



**Figure S15.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of *LS* monomer (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> as solvent).

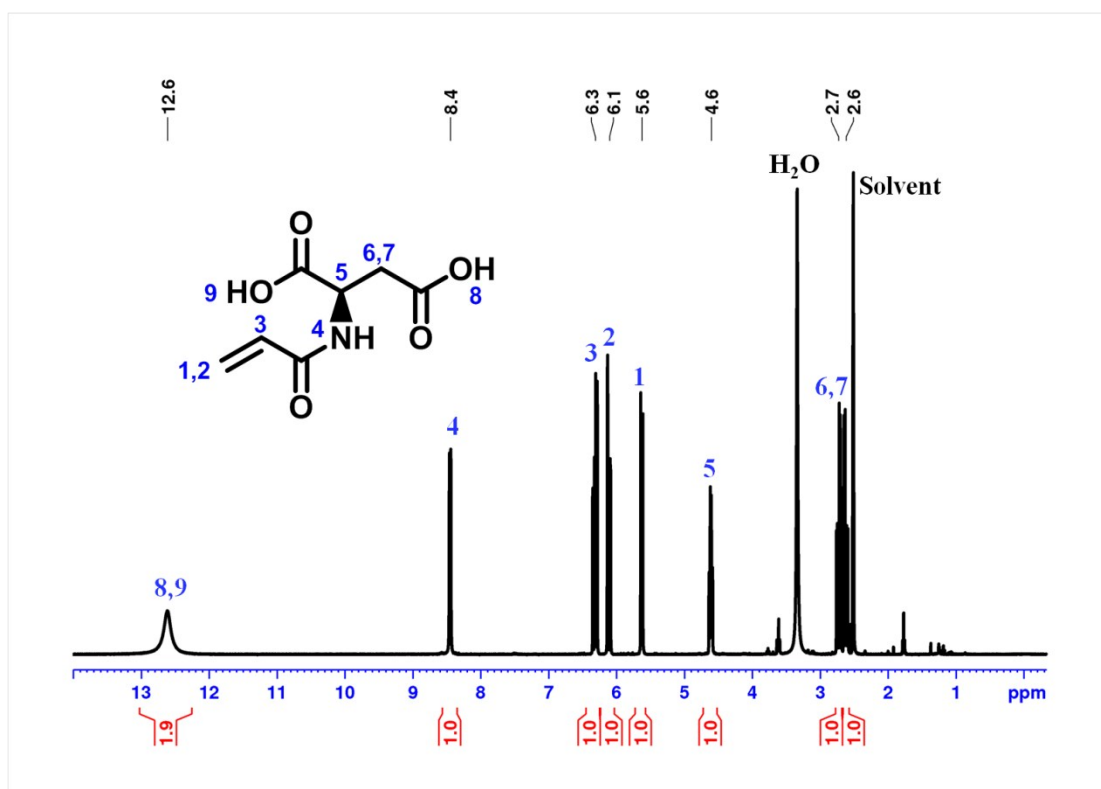


**Figure S16.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of *LS* monomer (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  as solvent).

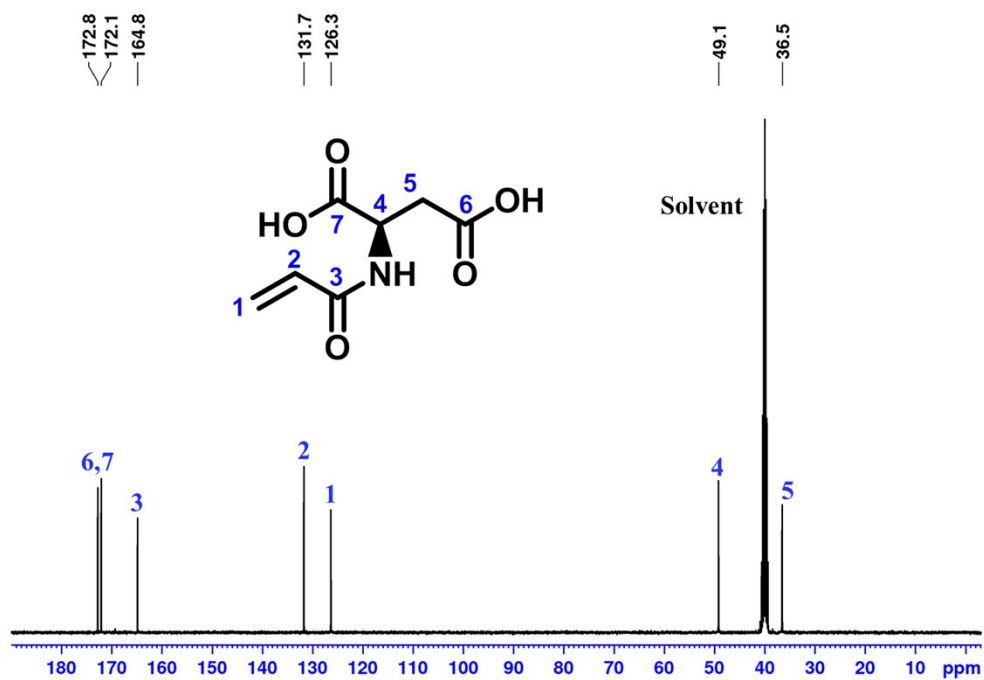


**Figure S17.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of poly(*LS*) (PLS) (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  as solvent)

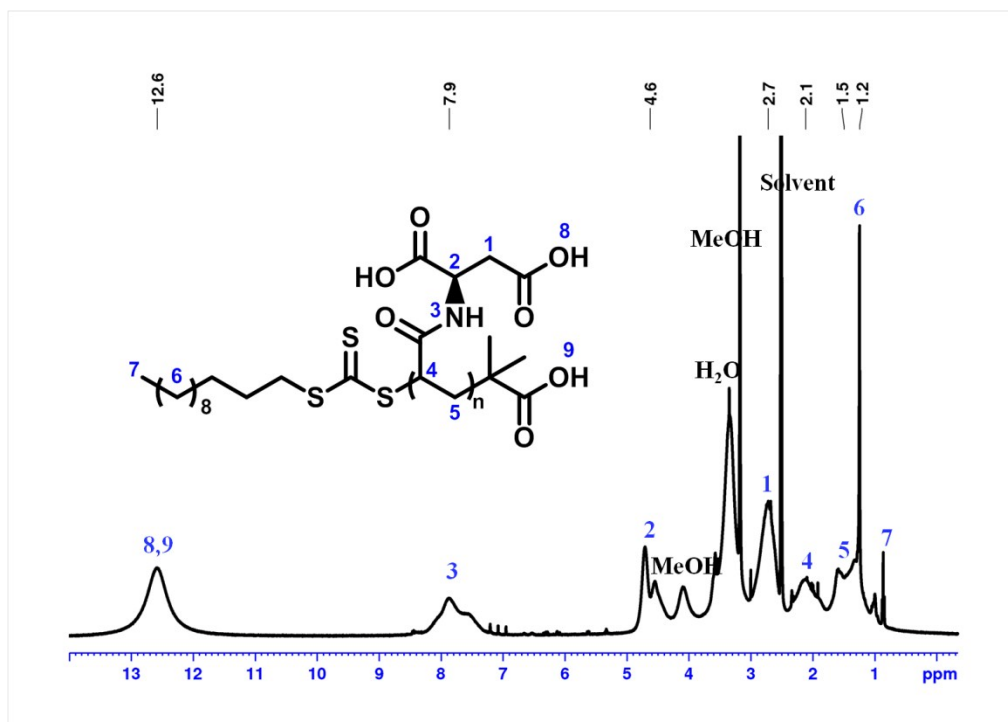
## 5. PET-RAFT polymerization of *N*-Acryloyl-*D*-Asp (*DD*)



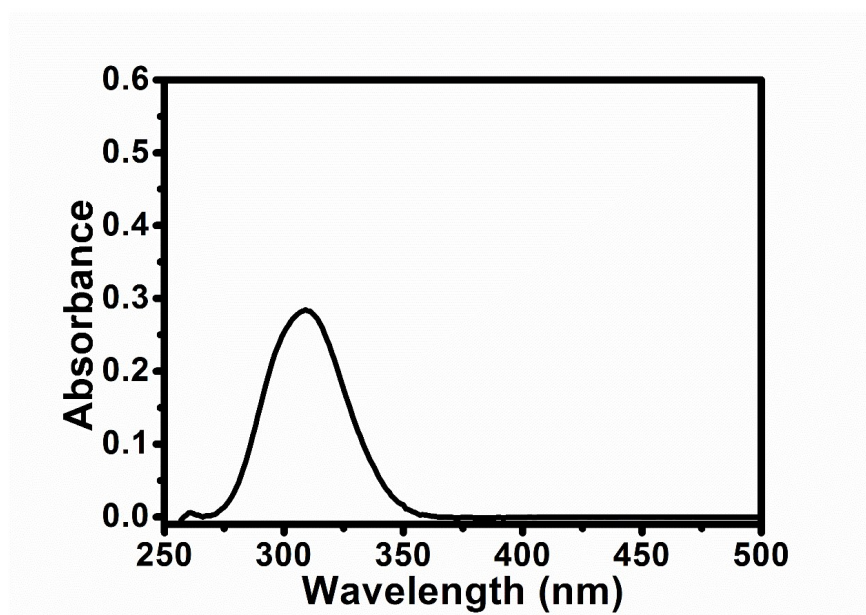
**Figure S18.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of DD monomer (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  as solvent).



**Figure S19.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of DD monomer (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  as solvent).



**Figure S20.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of poly(DD) (PDD) (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  as solvent).



**Figure S21.** UV-vis spectrum of PDD in DMSO, showing the typical UV absorption of the thiocarbonylthio group at the maximum of 305 nm.

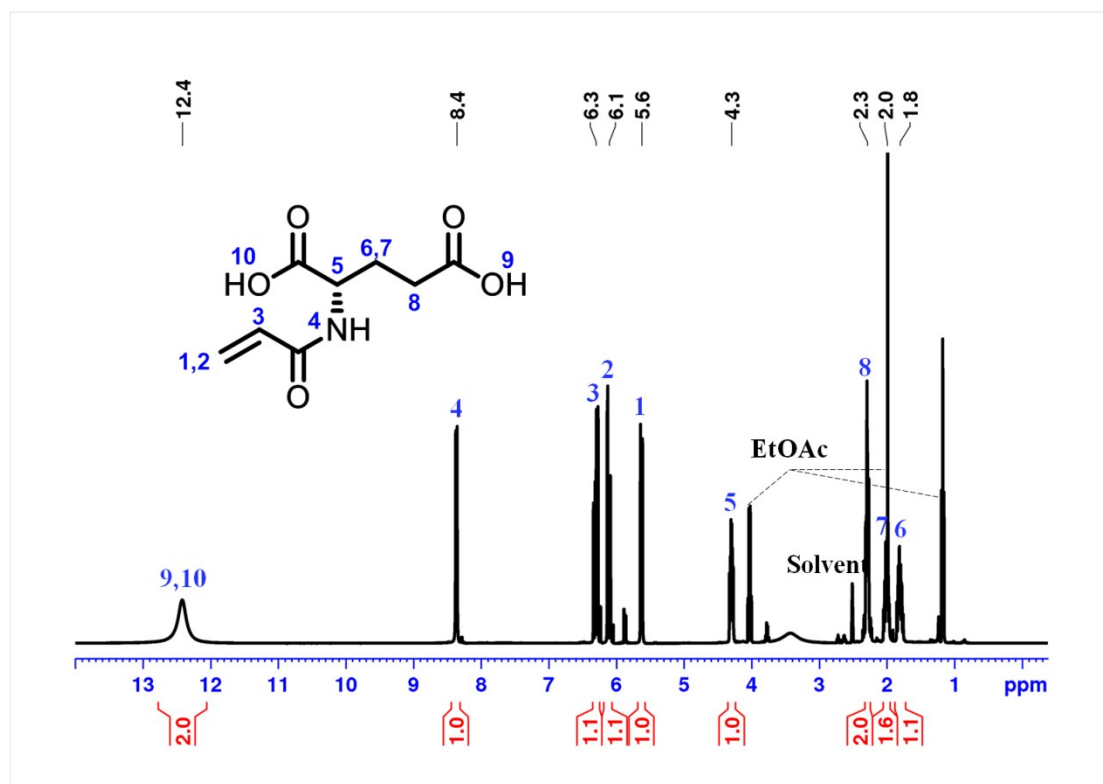
**Table S2.** Thermally initiated RAFT polymerization of DD using AIBN as catalyst.<sup>a</sup>

#	Catalyst	CTA	[M]/[CTA]/[P C]	Time (h)	<i>a</i> <sup>b</sup> (%)	<i>M</i> <sub>n, GPC</sub> <sup>c</sup> (g/mol)	<i>M</i> <sub>w</sub> / <i>M</i> <sub>n</sub>
1	AIBN	DDMAT	150:1:1	8	93	19 650	1.24
2	AIBN	DDMAT	150:1:0.5	16	88	18 550	1.20

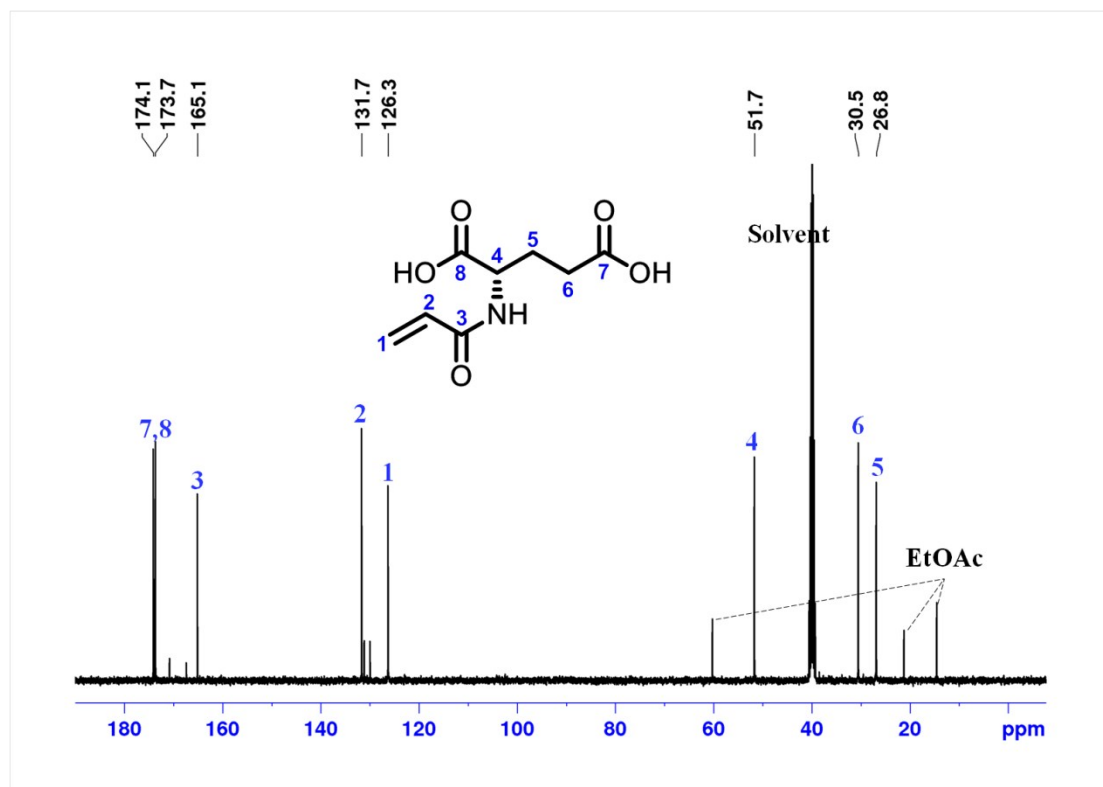
<sup>a</sup>The reactions were performed using AIBN as catalyst at 60 °C. <sup>b</sup>Monomer conversion determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy. <sup>c</sup>Molecular weight and dispersity determined by GPC analysis (DMAc used as eluent) using polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) standards for calibration. The resulting polymer was methylated using TMSCHN<sub>2</sub>.

*Experimental procedure for thermally initiated RAFT polymerization:* A reaction stock solution consisting of MeOH (0.65 mL), *N*-Acryloyl-*D*-Asp (100 mg, 0.54 mmol), DDMAT (1.26 mg, 0.0036 mmol) and AIBN (0.59 mg, 0.0036 mmol) was prepared in a 4 mL glass vial. The glass vial was sealed with a rubber septum, and the reaction mixture was degassed with nitrogen for 20 minutes. The glass vial was stirred in an oil bath at 60 °C for 8 h. The other polymerization was performed in the presence of half amount of AIBN (0.3 mg, 0.0018 mmol) under otherwise identical conditions.

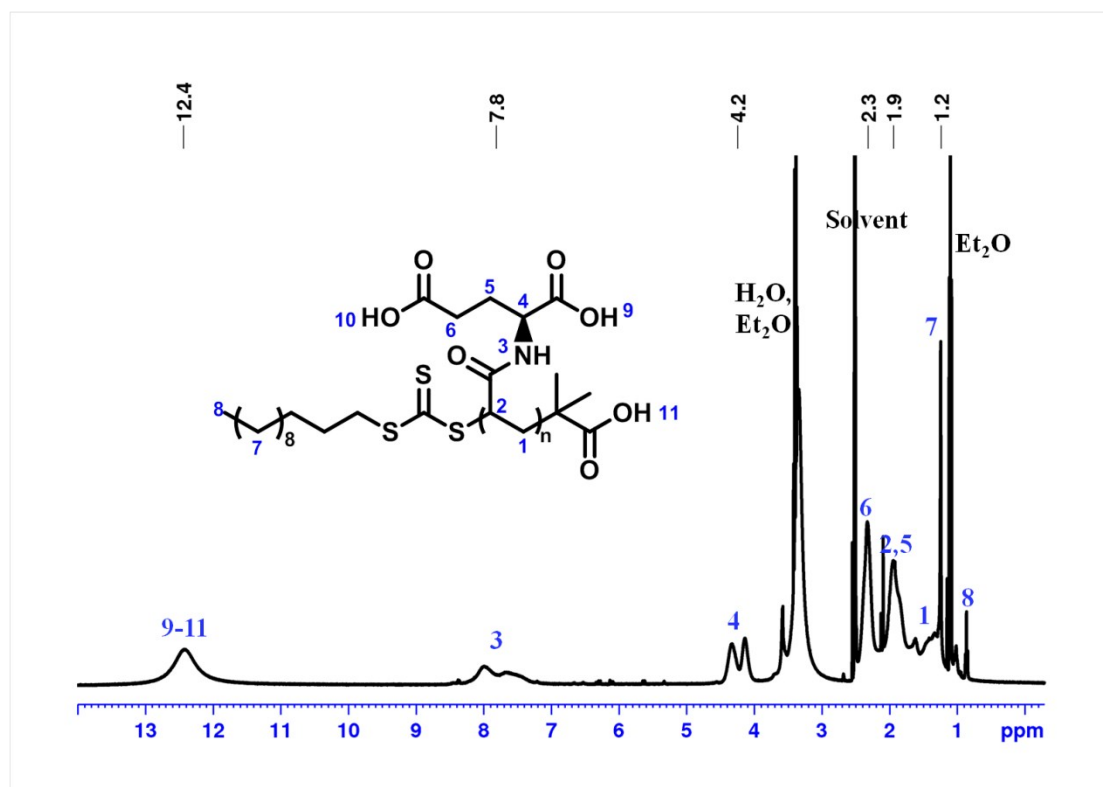
## 6. PET-RAFT polymerization of *N*-Acryloyl-*L*-Glu (LE)



**Figure S22.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of LE monomer (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  as solvent).

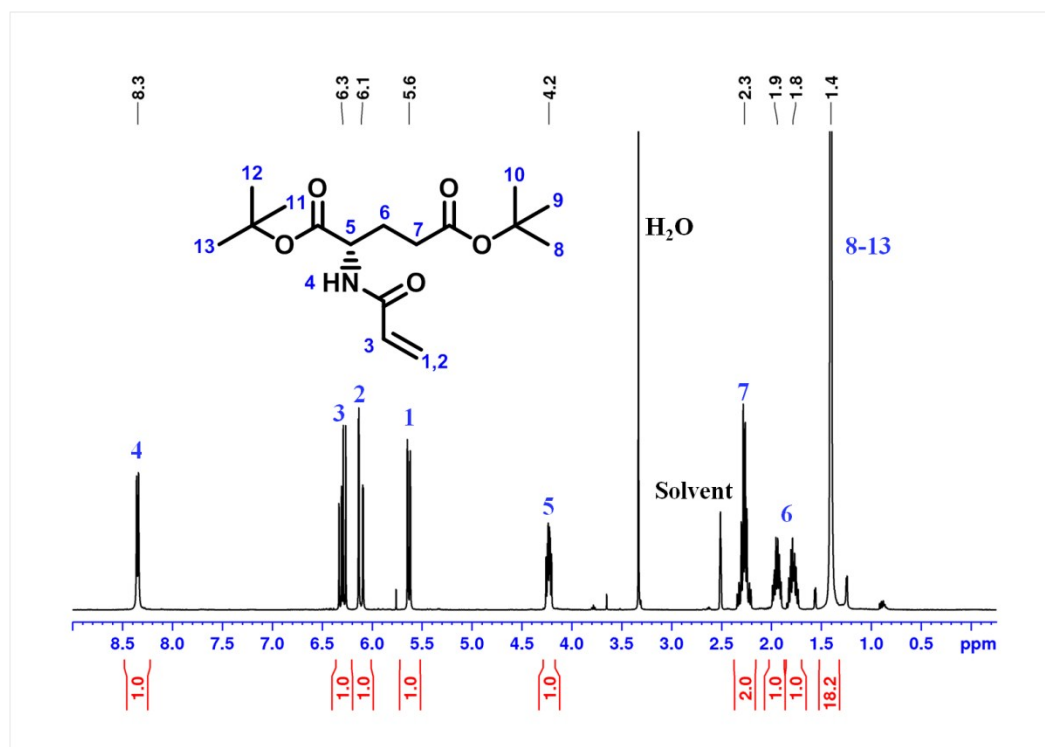


**Figure S23.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of LE monomer (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  as solvent).

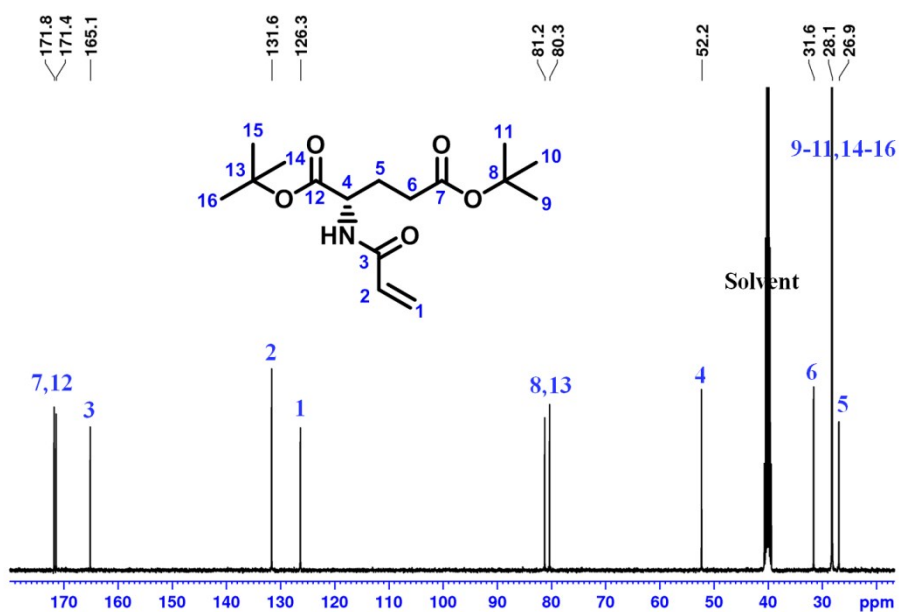


**Figure S24.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of poly(LE) (PLE) (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  as solvent).

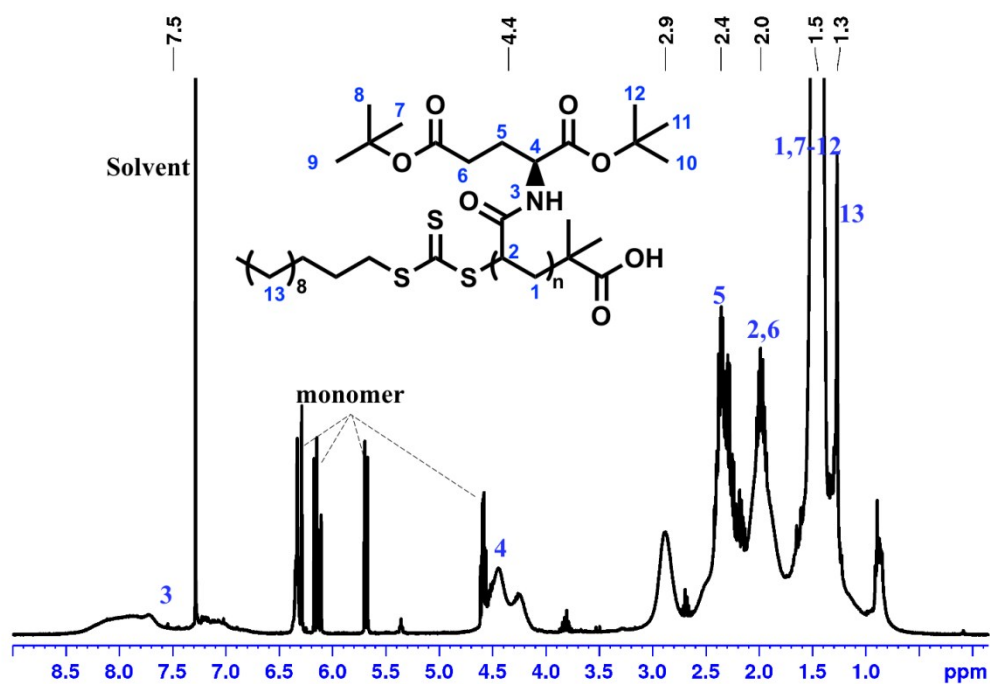
## 7. PET-RAFT polymerization of *N*-Acryloyl-*L*-Glu-*O**t*Bu (*LE-OtBu*)



**Figure S25.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of *LE-OtBu* monomer (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> as solvent).

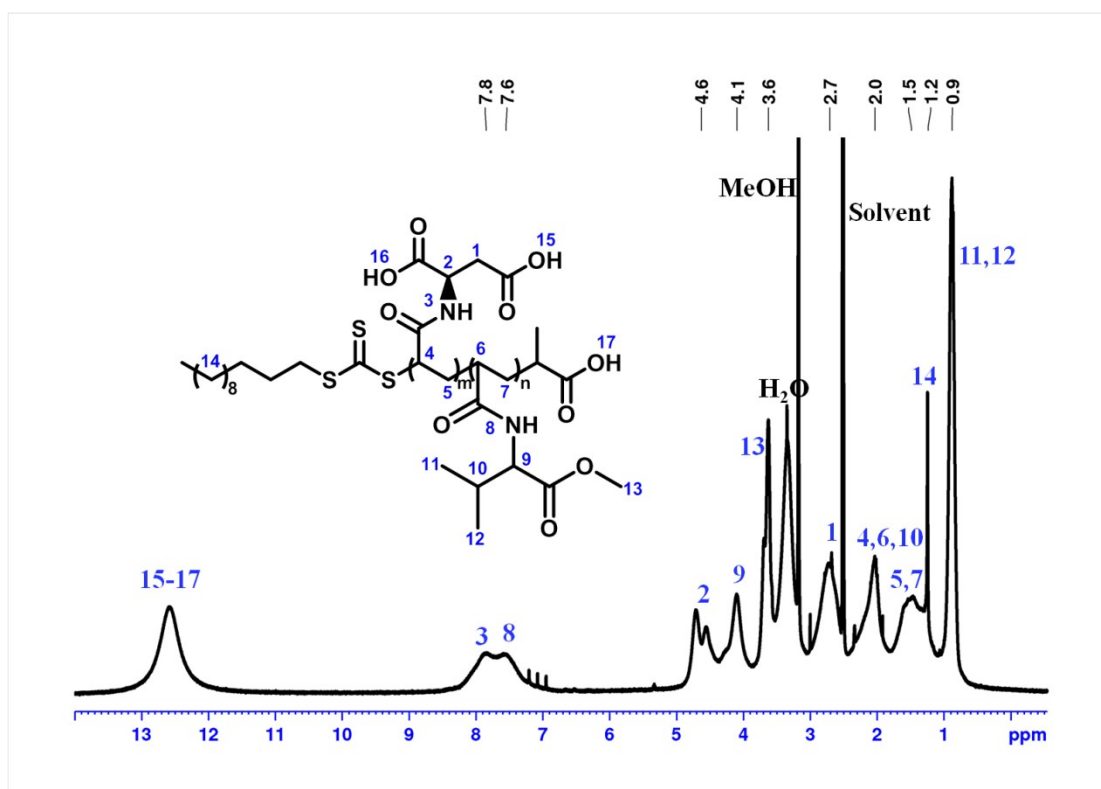


**Figure S26.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of *LE-OtBu* monomer (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  as solvent).

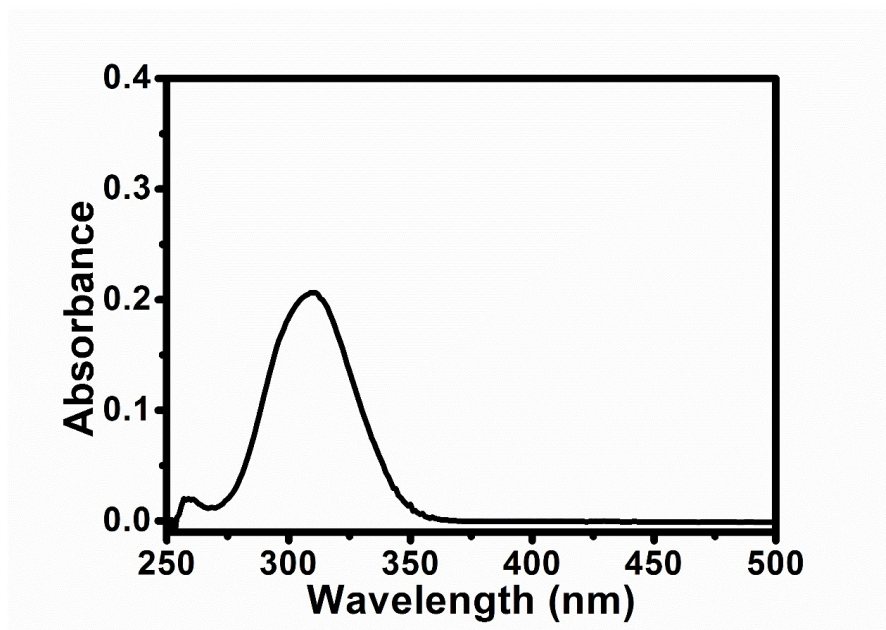


**Figure S27.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of poly(*LE-OtBu*) (*PLE-OtBu*) (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  as solvent).

## 8. Chain extension of various *N*-acryloyl amino acid monomers



**Figure S28.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of poly(V-OMe)-*b*-poly(DD) (PV-OMe-*b*-PDD) (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$  as solvent).



**Figure S29.** UV-vis spectrum of PV-OMe-*b*-PDD in DMSO, showing the typical UV absorption of the thiocarbonylthio group at the maximum of 305 nm.