

Electronic Supplementary Information

Antibacterial activities of N-alkyl imidazolium-based poly(ionic liquid) nanoparticles

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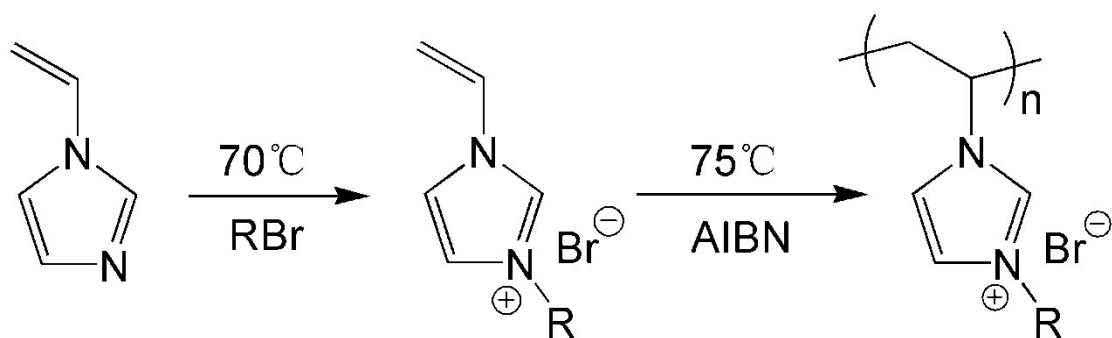


Fig. S1. General synthetic route of poly[C_nVIm⁺][Br⁻] (n = 8, 10, 12 and 16)

Table S1 Yields and molecular weights of poly[C_nVIm⁺][Br⁻] (n = 8, 10, 12 and 16)

Samples	Yield	Molecular weight	
		Mn	PDI
poly[C ₈ VIm ⁺][Br ⁻]	78%	16855	1.52
poly[C ₁₀ VIm ⁺][Br ⁻]	81%	16231	1.73
poly[C ₁₂ VIm ⁺][Br ⁻]	80%	12379	1.72
poly[C ₁₆ VIm ⁺][Br ⁻]	76%	10841	1.58

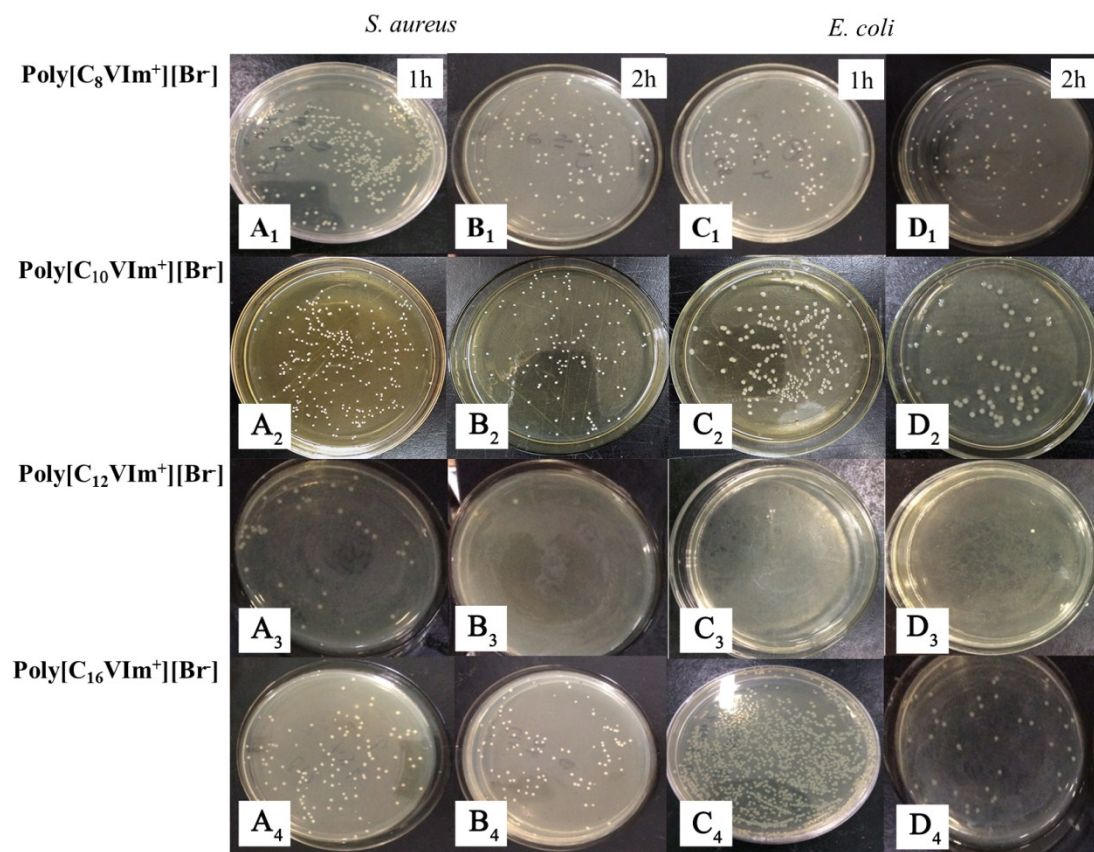


Fig. S2. Number of colony forming units (CFU) of *E. coli* and *S. aureus* treated with PIL nanoparticles at different contacting hours. (A₁-D₁) poly[C₈VIm⁺][Br⁻]; (A₂-D₂) poly[C₁₀VIm⁺][Br⁻]; (A₃-D₃) poly[C₁₂VIm⁺][Br⁻]; (A₄-D₄) poly[C₁₆VIm⁺][Br⁻].

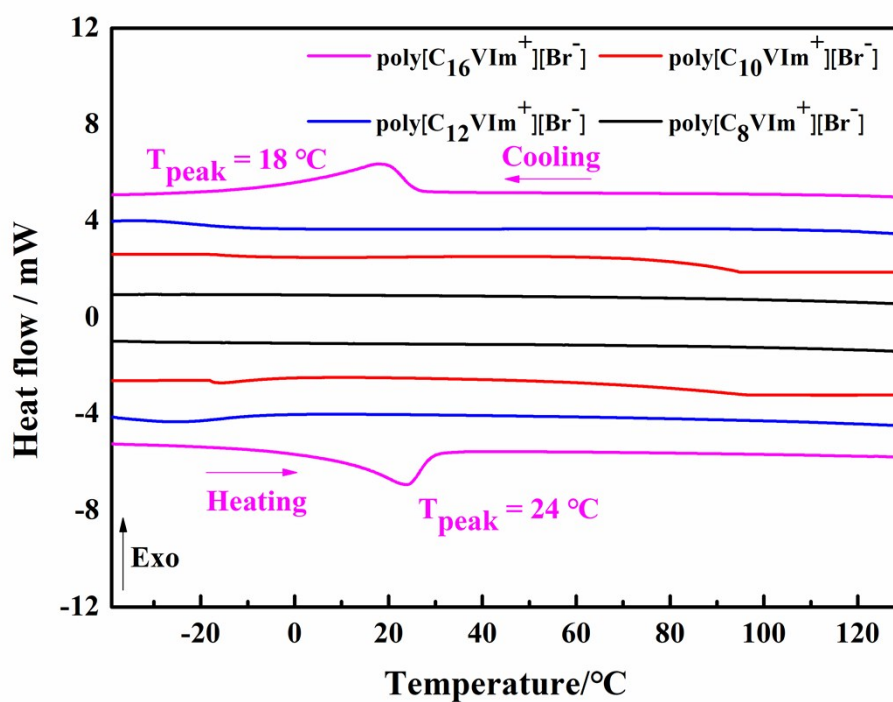


Fig. S3. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) curves of poly[C_nVIm⁺][Br⁻] (n = 8, 10, 12 and 16)

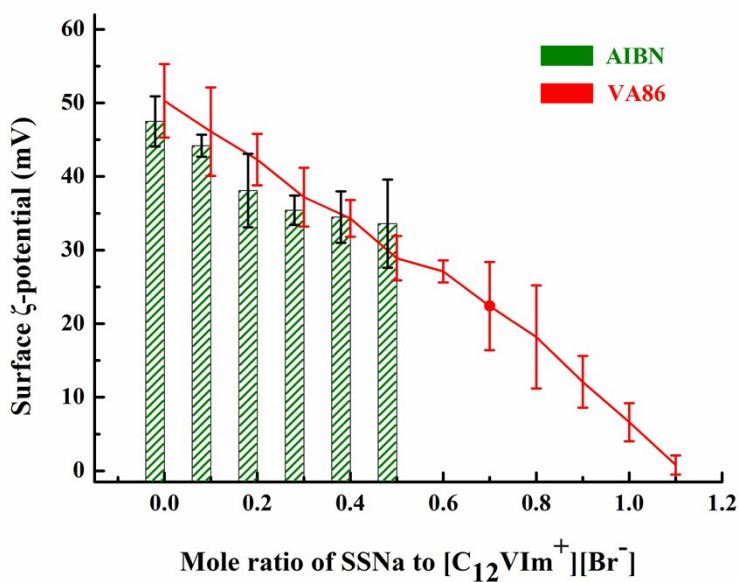


Fig. S4. Surface ζ -potential of poly[C₁₂VIm⁺][Br⁻]-r-PSSNa with different SSNa content prepared by using AIBN and VA86 as initiator.

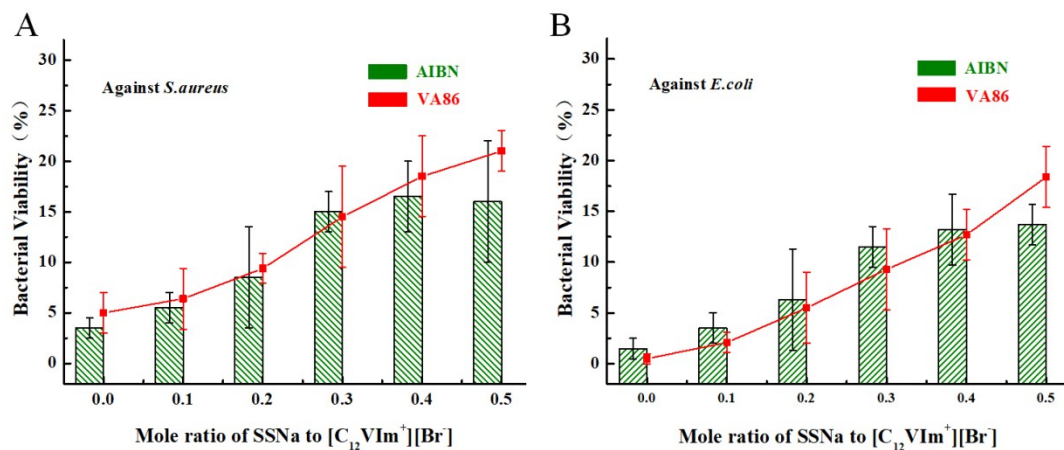


Fig. S5. Bacterial viabilities of (A) *S. aureus* and (B) *E. coli* after contacting with poly $[C_{12}VIm^+][Br^-]$ -r-PSSNa for 1 h; The random copolymers were synthesized by using AIBN (green column) and VA86 (red line) as initiator respectively.

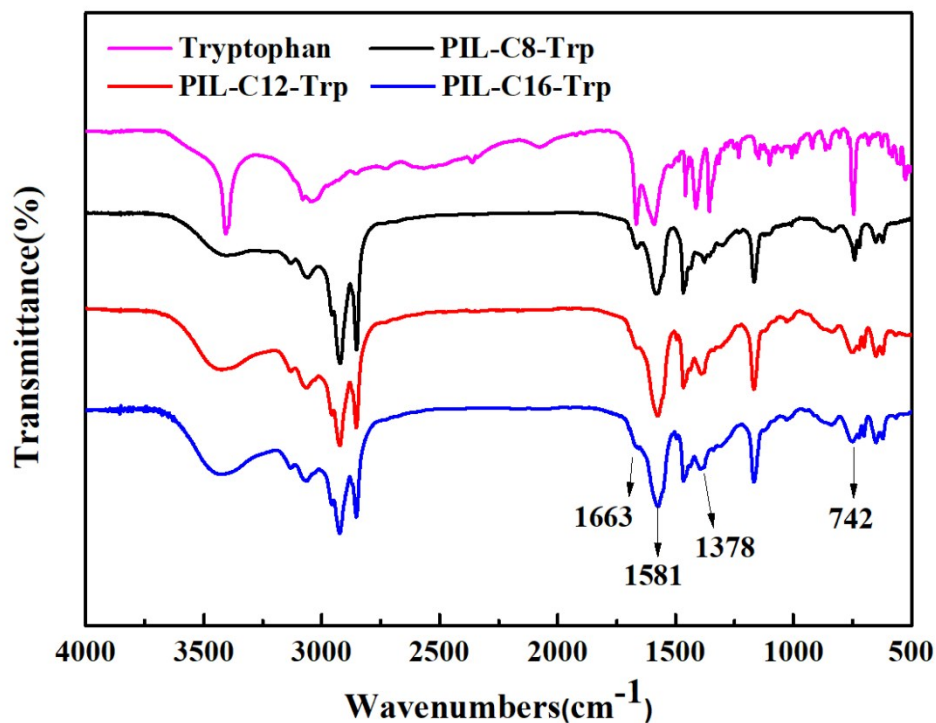


Fig. S6. FT-IR spectra of PIL-Trp.

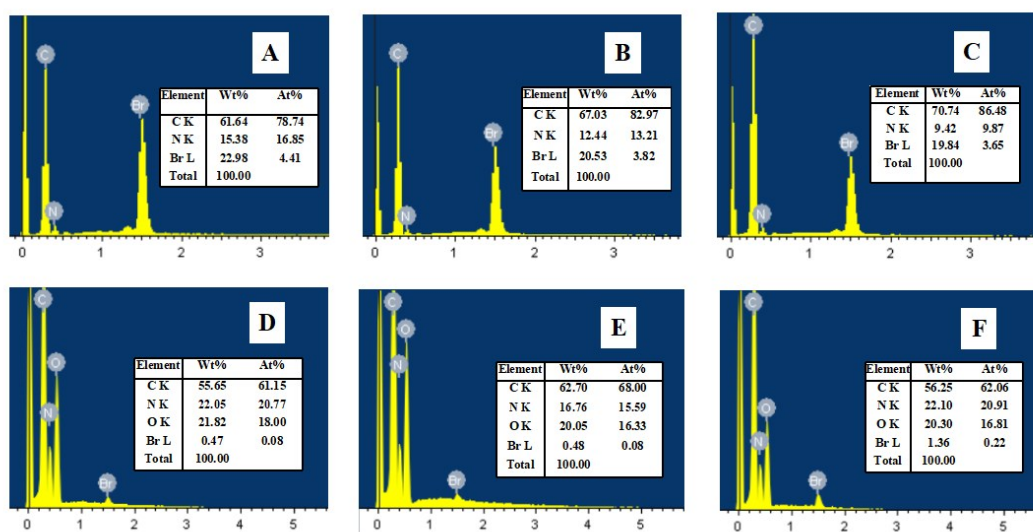


Fig. S7. Energy dispersive X-ray (EDX) spectra of (A) poly[C₈VIm⁺][Br⁻], (B) poly[C₁₂VIm⁺][Br⁻], (C) poly[C₁₆VIm⁺][Br⁻], (D) poly[C₈VIm⁺][Trp⁻], (E) poly[C₁₂VIm⁺][Trp⁻] and (F) poly[C₁₆VIm⁺][Trp⁻].

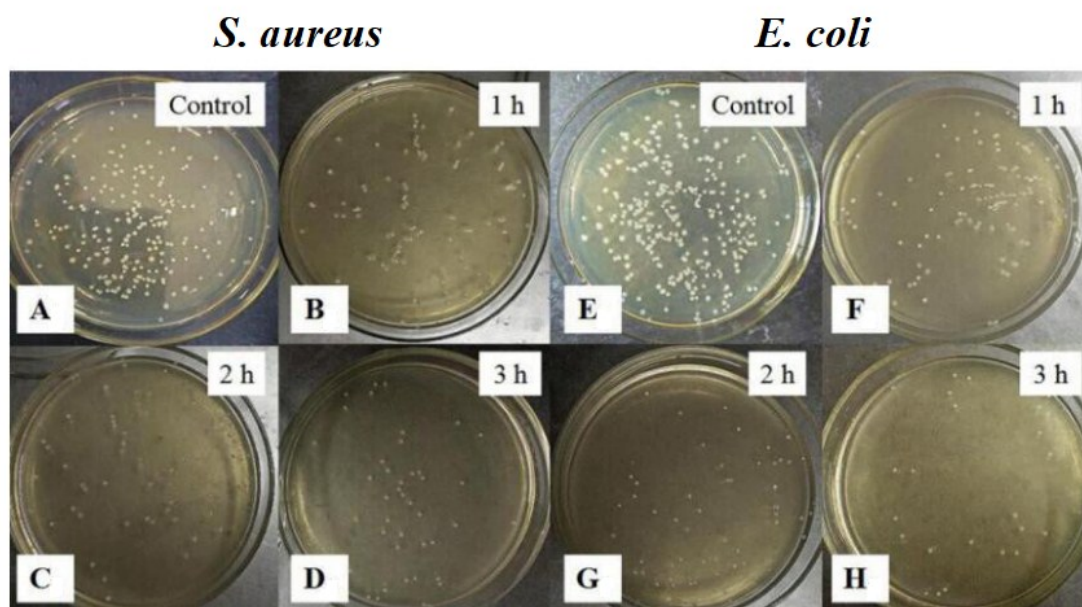


Fig. S8. Number of colony forming units (CFU) of *E. coli* and *S. aureus* after treated with poly[C₈VIm⁺][Trp⁻] for 1-3 h.

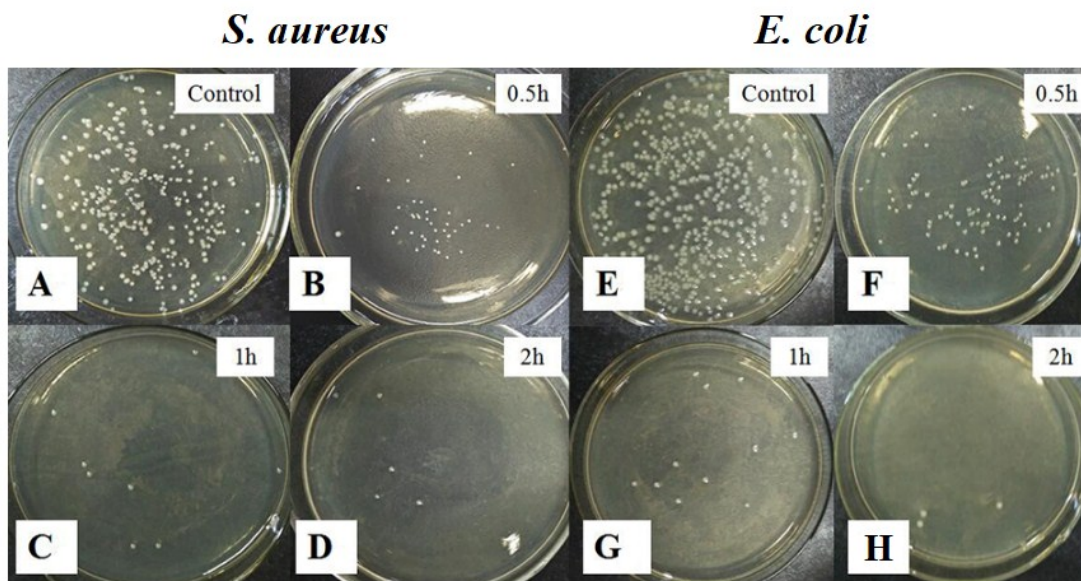


Fig. S9. Number of colony forming units (CFU) of *E. coli* and *S. aureus* after treated with poly[C₁₂VIm⁺][Trp⁻] for 0.5-2 h.

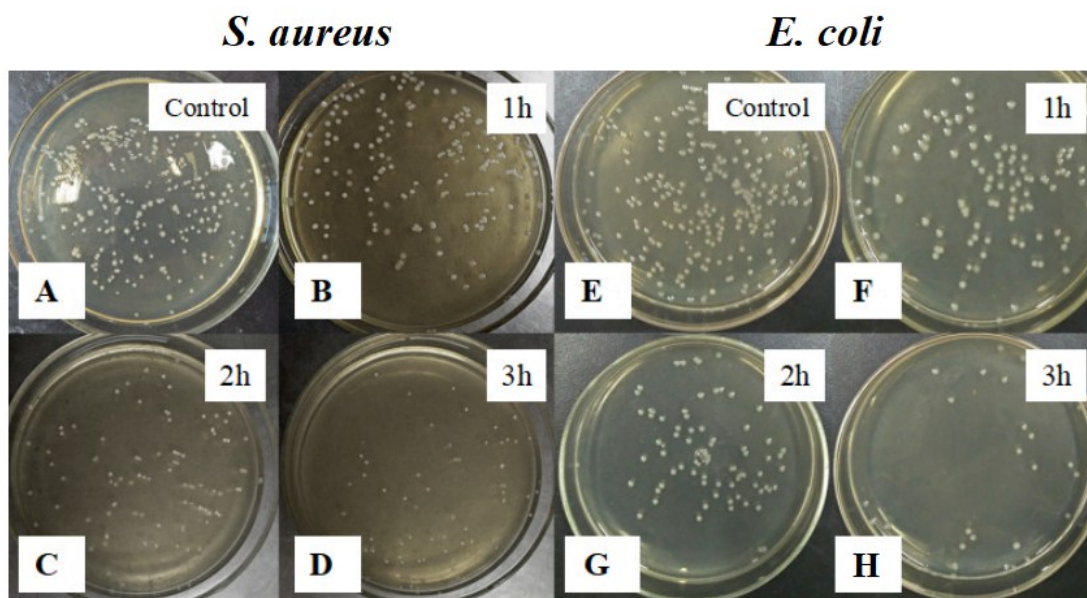


Fig. S10. Number of colony forming units (CFU) of *E. coli* and *S. aureus* after treated with poly[C₁₆VIm⁺][Trp⁻] for 1-3 h.

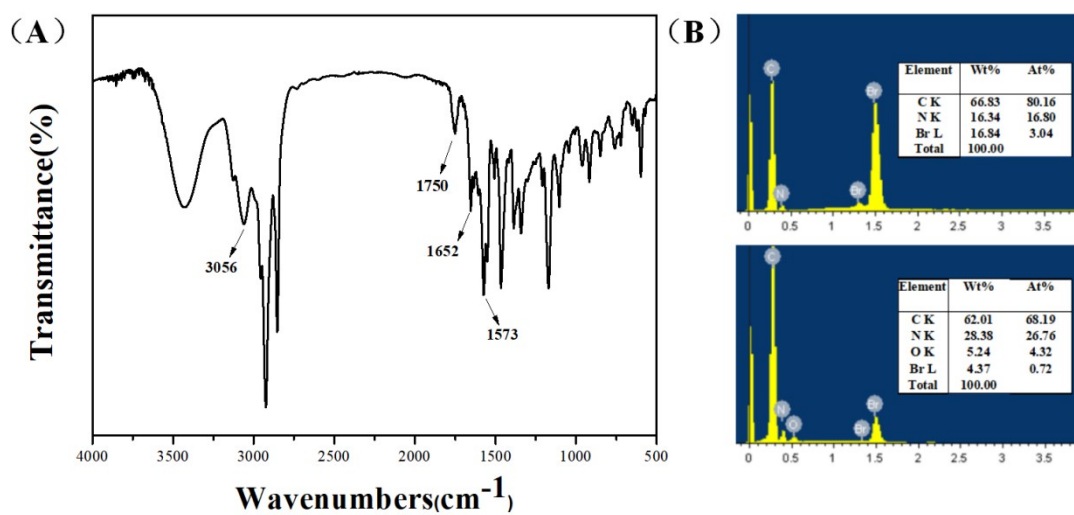


Fig. S11. (A) FT-IR spectra of poly[C₁₂VIm⁺][Flu⁻]; (B) Energy dispersive X-ray (EDX) spectra of the poly[C₁₂VIm⁺][Br⁻] and poly[C₁₂VIm⁺][Flu⁻].