## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

## Structure-pDNA complexation and structurecytotoxicity relationships of PEGylated, cationic aminoethyl-based polyacrylates with tunable topologies

Maël Le Bohec<sup>1</sup>, Kévin Bonchouo Kenzo<sup>1</sup>, Sandie Piogé<sup>1</sup>, Simona Mura<sup>2</sup>, Julien Nicolas<sup>2</sup>, Nathalie Casse<sup>3</sup>, Gwénaël Forcher<sup>1</sup>, Laurent Fontaine<sup>1</sup>, Sagrario Pascual<sup>1,\*</sup>

 <sup>1</sup> Institut des Molécules et Matériaux du Mans, UMR 6283 CNRS – Le Mans Université, Avenue Olivier Messiaen, 72085 Le Mans Cedex, France
 <sup>2</sup> Institut Galien Paris-Sud, UMR 8612 CNRS, Faculté de Pharmacie, Université Paris-Sud, 5 rue Jean-Baptiste Clément, 92296 Châtenay-Malabry Cedex, France
 <sup>3</sup> Mer, Molécules et Santé, EA 2160 – Le Mans Université, Avenue Olivier Messiaen, 72085 Le Mans Cedex, France

\*Corresponding author. E-mail: Sagrario.pascual@univ-lemans.fr



**Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of the  $\alpha$ -alkynyl, $\omega$ -dodecyltrithiocarbonate-PEG obtained by esterification of the  $\alpha$ -alkynyl, $\omega$ -hydroxyl-PEG with CDP using DCC and DMAP.



**Figure S2.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of POEGA synthesized by RAFT polymerization of OEGA with ACVA and COPYDC ( $[OEGA]_0/[COPYDC]_0/[ACVA]_0 = 30/1/0.1$ ) in DMF at 70 °C.  $DP_{n,POEGA} = 12$  was calculated by comparing the integration area values of the signal at 0.88 ppm corresponding to the methyl protons  $S(CH_2)_{11}CH_3$  and of the signal at 4.17 ppm corresponding to the methylene protons  $CH=CCH_2NHC(=O)$  and  $CH_2CH_2O(CH_2CH_2O)_8CH_3$ .



**Figure S3.** Overlaid of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) between 4.6 and 8.5 ppm of the crude mixture of RAFT copolymerization of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA using IPEG-CTA as the macromolecular chain transfer agent and ACVA as the initiator at 70°C in 1,4-dioxane and DMF using  $[DMAEA]_0/[tBocAEA]_0/[IPEG-CTA]_0/[ACVA]_0 = 50/50/1/0.2$ . Total of conversion of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA was determined to be 22% by comparing the integration areas of vinylic proton of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA at 5.81-6.46 ppm and with the integral area value of the CH of DMF at 8.02 ppm.



**Figure S4.** Overlaid SEC traces using RI detection (top) and UV-vis detection (fixed at 309 nm, bottom) of IPEG-CTA (dash line) and IPEG-*b*-P(DMAEA-*co*-*t*BocAEA) (solid line) synthesized by RAFT copolymerization of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA using IPEG-CTA and ACVA at 70 °C in 1,4-dioxane and DMF with  $[DMAEA]_0/[tBocAEA]_0/[IPEG-CTA]_0/[ACVA]_0 = 50/50/1/0.2$ .



**Figure S5.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of purified IPEG-*b*-P(DMAEA-*cot*BocAEA) synthesized by RAFT copolymerization of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA using IPEG-CTA as the macromolecular chain transfer agent and ACVA as the initiator in 1,4-dioxane and DMF at 70 °C with [DMAEA]<sub>0</sub>/[*t*BocAEA]<sub>0</sub>/[IPEG-CTA]<sub>0</sub>/[ACVA]<sub>0</sub> = 50/50/1/0.2.  $DP_{n,PDMAEA}$  (= 11) and  $DP_{n,tBocAEA}$  (= 12) were determined by comparing the integration area values of the signal of CH<sub>3</sub>CHC(=O)NH at 5.10 ppm, of the signal of OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NHC(=O)O and of SCH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>10</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> at 3.35 ppm and of the signal of CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OC(=O) , of OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and of OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH at 4.16 ppm.



**Figure S6.** Overlaid <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) between 5.4 and 8.6 ppm of the crude mixture of RAFT polymerization of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA using bPEG-CTA as the macromolecular chain transfer agent and ACVA as the initiator in 1,4-dioxane and DMF at 70 °C using  $[DMAEA]_0/[tBocAEA]_0/[bPEG-CTA]_0/[ACVA]_0 = 50/50/1/0.2$ . Total conversion of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA were determined to be 20% by comparing the integration areas of vinylic proton of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA at 5.79-6.52 ppm and with the integral area value of the CH of DMF at 8.02 ppm.



**Figure S7.** Overlaid of SEC traces using RI detection (top) and UV-vis detection (fixed at 309 nm, bottom) of bPEG-CTA (dash line) and bPEG-*b*-P(DMAEA-*co*-*t*BocAEA) (solid line) synthesized by RAFT copolymerization of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA using bPEG-CTA and ACVA in 1,4-dioxane and DMF at 70 °C with  $[DMAEA]_0/[tBocAEA]_0/[bPEG-CTA-CTA]_0/[ACVA]_0 = 50/5/1/0.2$ .



**Figure S8.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of bPEG-*b*-P(DMAEA-*co*-*t*BocAEA) synthesized by RAFT copolymerization of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA using bPEG-CTA as the macromolecular chain transfer agent and ACVA as the initiator in 1,4-dioxane and DMF at 70°C with [DMAEA]<sub>0</sub>/[*t*BocAEA]<sub>0</sub>/[bPEG-CTA]<sub>0</sub>/[ACVA]<sub>0</sub> = 50/50/1/0.2.  $DP_{n,PDMAEA}$  (= 10) and  $DP_{n,tBocAEA}$  (= 10) were determined by comparing the integration area values of the signal of  $CH_2CH_2O$  units at 3.64 ppm, of the signal of (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>9</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, of OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH, of SCH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>10</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> at 3.38 ppm, and of the signal of HC=CCH<sub>2</sub>NH, of OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>8</sub> of OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH at 4.16 ppm.



**Figure S9.** Overlaid of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) between 5.4 and 8.6 ppm of the crude mixture of RAFT copolymerization of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA using COPYDC as the chain transfer agent and ACVA as the initiator in 1,4-dioxane and DMF at 70 °C using  $[DMAEA]_0/[tBocAEA]_0/[COPYDC]_0/[ACVA]_0 = 50/50/1/0.2$ . Total conversion of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA were determined to be 19% by comparing the integration areas of vinylic proton of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA at 5.79-6.52 ppm and with the integral area value of the CH of DMF at 8.02 ppm.



**Figure S10.** Overlaid SEC traces of purified P(DMAEA-*co-t*BocAEA) (solid line: RI response, dash line: UV-vis response at 309 nm) obtained by RAFT copolymerization of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA using COPYDC as RAFT agent, ACVA as the initiator in DMF at 70 °C.  $([DMAEA]_0/[tBocAEA]_0/[COPYDC]_0/[ACVA]_0 = 50/50/1/0.2).$ 



**Figure S11.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of purified P(DMAEA-*co-t*BocAEA) synthesized by RAFT copolymerization of DMAEA and *t*BocAEA mediated through COPYDC as the chain transfer agent and ACVA as the initiator in DMF at 70 °C using  $[DMAEA]_0/[tBocAEA]_0/[COPYDC]_0/[ACVA]_0 = 50/50/1/0.2$ .  $DP_{n,PDMAEA} = 10$ ) and  $DP_{n,tBocAEA}$  (= 12) were determined by comparing the integration area values of the signal of SCH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>10</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> at 0.88 ppm, of the signal of OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH, of SCH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, of CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH at 4.16 ppm.



**Figure S12.** Overlaid <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (400 MHz) of P(DMAEA-*co-t*BocAEA) (top, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and P(DMAEA-*co*-AEA) (bottom, D<sub>2</sub>O).



**Figure S13.** Overlaid of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (400 MHz) of IPEG-*b*-P(DMAEA-*co*-*t*BocAEA) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (top) and IPEG-*b*-P(DMAEA-*co*-AEA) in D<sub>2</sub>O (bottom).



**Figure S14.** Overlaid <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (400 MHz) of bPEG-*b*-P(DMAEA-*co*-*t*BocAEA) (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, top) and bPEG-*b*-P(DMAEA-*co*-AEA) (D<sub>2</sub>O, bottom).



**Figure S15.** DLS number-average diameter distribution of the pDNA/IPEG-*b*-P(DMAEA-*co*-AEA) polyplex (N/P = 3)

N/P	$V_{pDNA} (\mu L)$	$V_{DNA \text{ loading}}(\mu L)$	$V_{pH buffering}(\mu L)$	$V_{copolymer solution}(\mu L)$
0	2	2	7	0
1	2	2	5	2
2	2	2	3	4
3	2	2	1	6
4	2	2	0	8
5	2	2	0	10
6	2	2	0	12
7	2	2	0	14
8	2	2	0	16

**Table S1.** Preparation of pDNA/polymer polyplexes at different N/P ratios.