

## Supporting Information

### Guanidine as inexpensive dual function ligand and reducing agent for ATRP of methacrylates

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Table ST1. Results of the Cu<sup>0</sup>-mediated ATRP of MMA using TMG as the ligand and freeze-thaw degassing procedure (replicate experiments). Conditions: [MMA]<sub>0</sub>/[EBPA]<sub>0</sub>/[TMG]<sub>0</sub>/[CuB<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0</sub>; 222/1/0.5/0.1, [MMA]<sub>0</sub>/[DMSO] = 1/0.5 (v/v); t = 6.5 h; T = 30 °C; Cu<sup>0</sup><sub>wire</sub>: l = 5 cm, d = 1 mm.

| Entry | Conv. (%) | $M_n^{\text{th}} \times 10^{-3}$ | $M_n^{\text{SEC}} \times 10^{-3}$ | $\bar{D}$ | $I_{\text{eff}}(\%)$ |
|-------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 1     | 64        | 15.0                             | 21.4                              | 1.29      | 70                   |
| 2     | 66        | 15.0                             | 48.8                              | 2.32      | 30                   |
| 3     | 71        | 16.9                             | 74.6                              | 1.49      | 22                   |

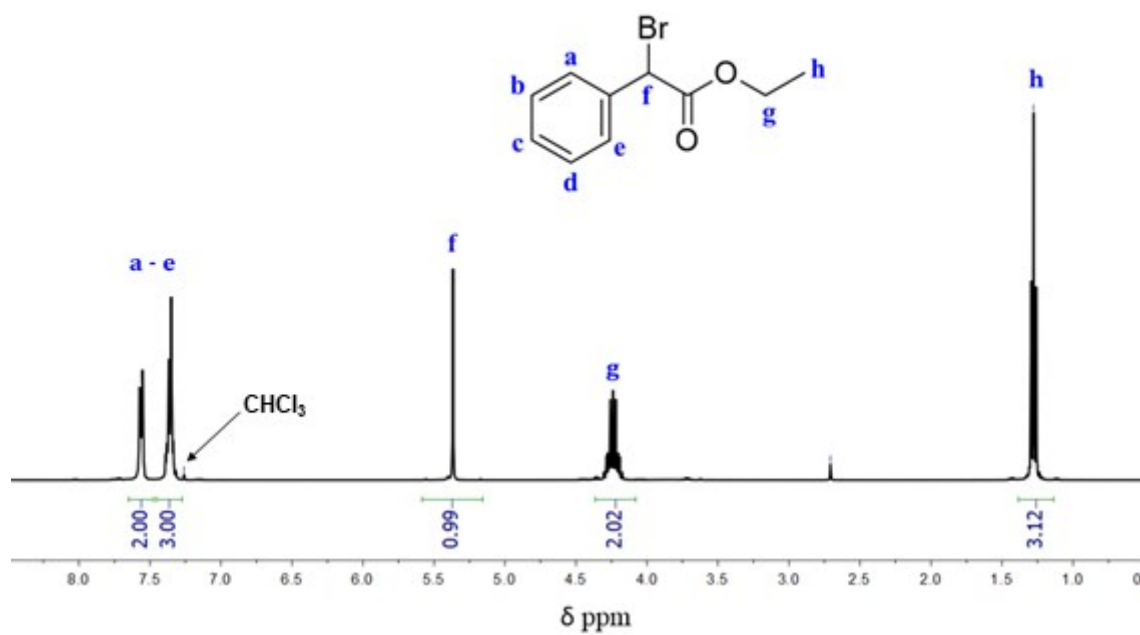


Figure SF1. 400 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR, in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , of ethyl  $\alpha$ -bromophenyl acetate (EBPA).

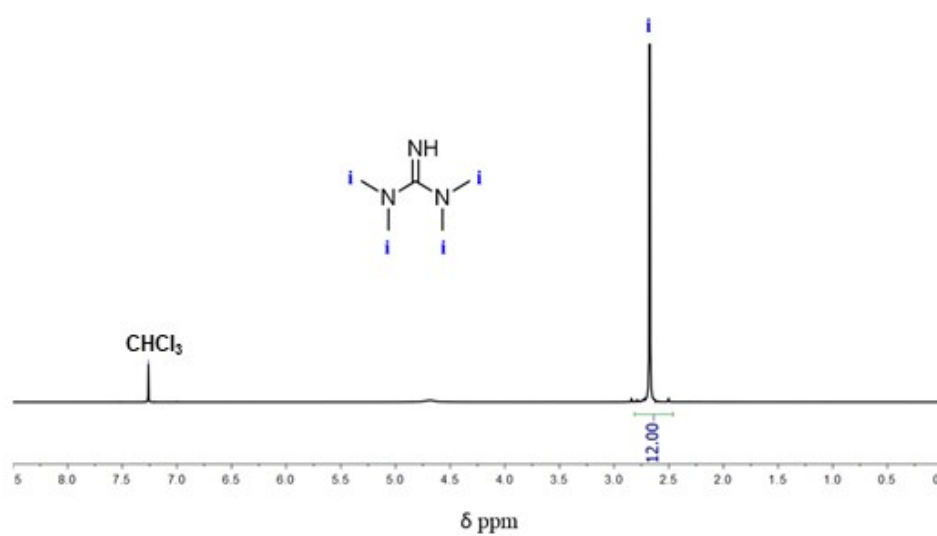


Figure SF2. 400 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR, in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , of 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine (TMG).

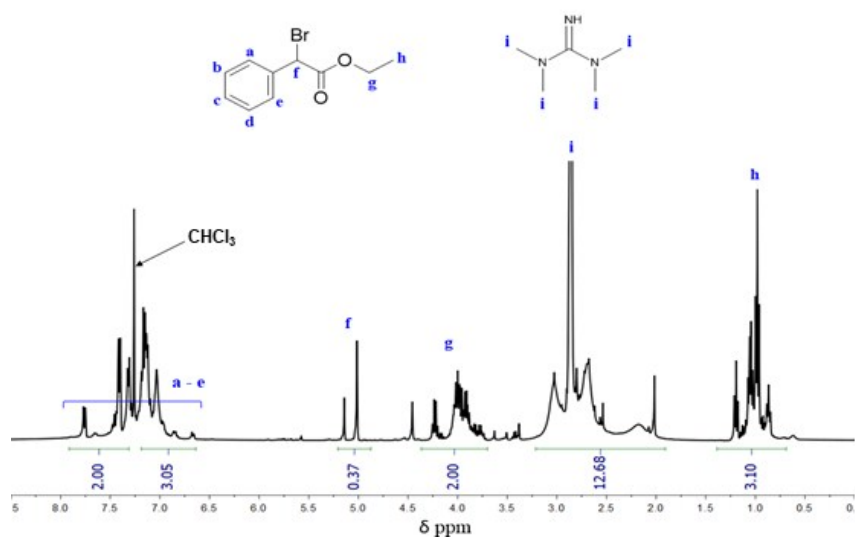


Figure SF3. 400 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR, in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , of a  $[\text{EBPA}]_0/[\text{TMG}]_0 = 1/1$  (molar)

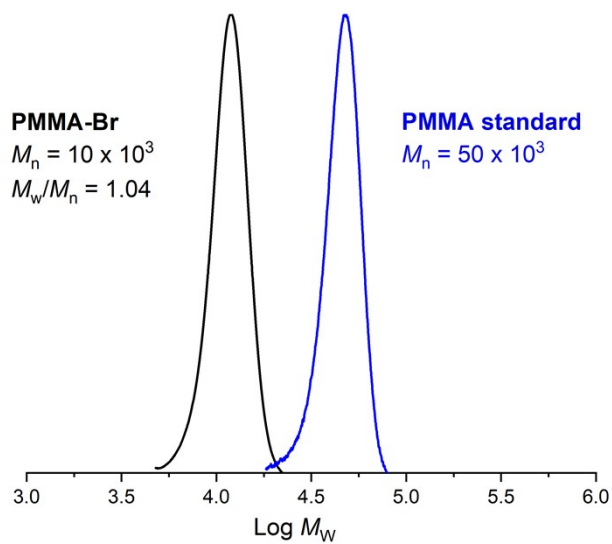


Figure SF 4. SEC traces of a PMMA-Br ( $M_n^{\text{SEC}} = 10 \times 10^3$ ;  $M_w/M_n = 1.12$ ) prepared by SARA ATRP using TMG as the ligand (black line) and a PMMA standard (blue line).

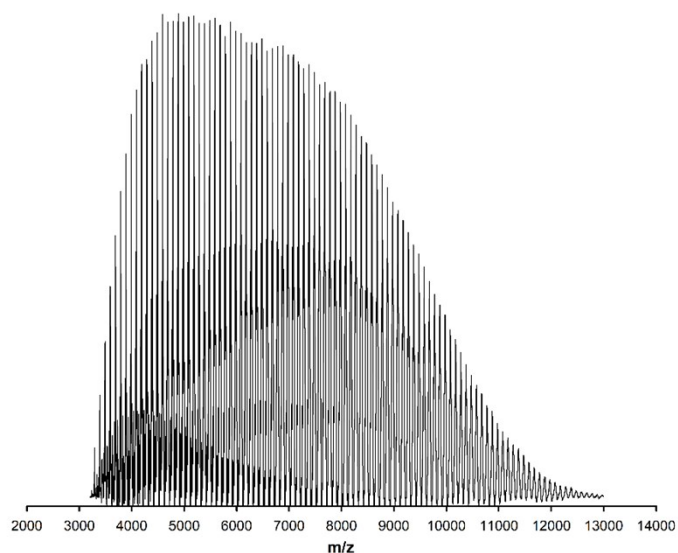


Figure SF5. MALDI-TOF MS spectrum of PMMA-Br ( $M_n^{\text{SEC}} = 7000$ ,  $M_w/M_n = 1.14$ ) from  $m/z$  500 to 7500, using DCTB matrix.

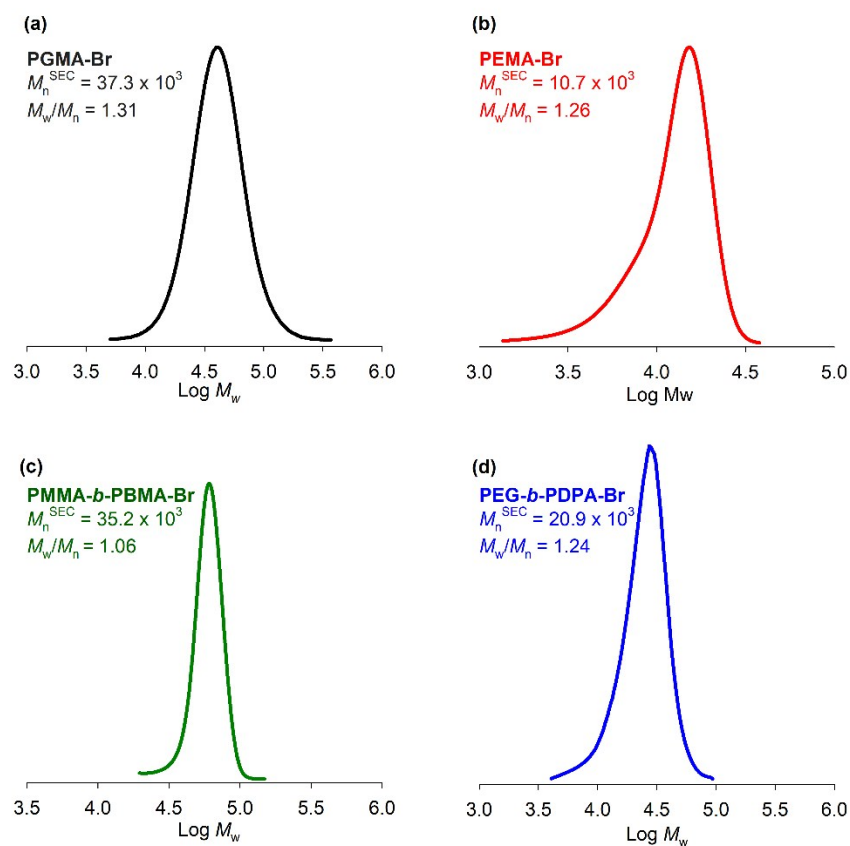


Figure SF6. SEC traces of the polymethacrylates obtained by SARA ATRP.

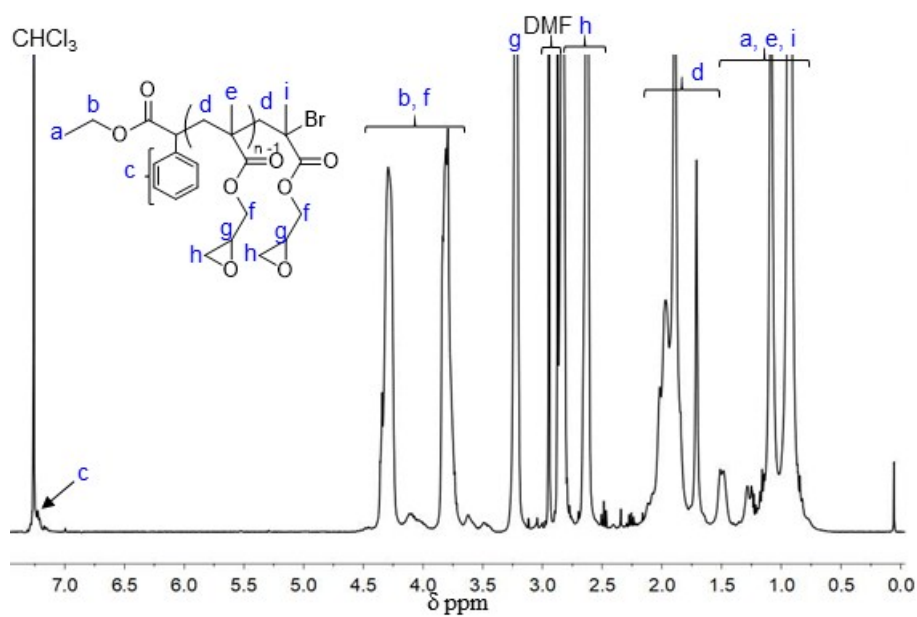


Figure SF7. 400 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum, in CHCl<sub>3</sub>, of PGMA-Br homopolymer ( $M_n^{\text{th}} = 22600$ ,  $M_n^{\text{SEC}} = 37300$ ,  $M_w/M_n = 1.31$ ).

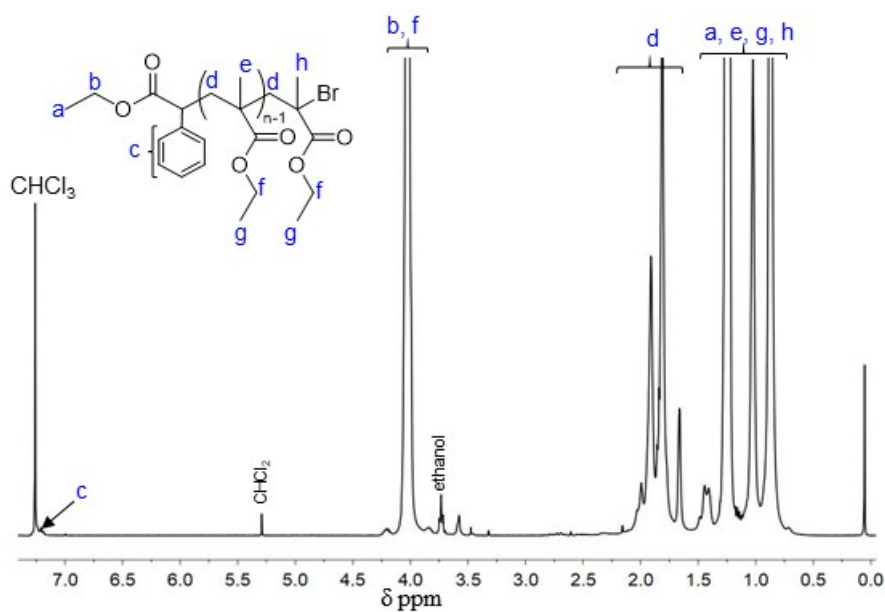


Figure SF8. 400 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum, in CHCl<sub>3</sub>, of PEMA-Br homopolymer ( $M_n^{\text{th}} = 8340$ ,  $M_n^{\text{SEC}} = 1070$ ,  $M_w/M_n = 1.26$ ).

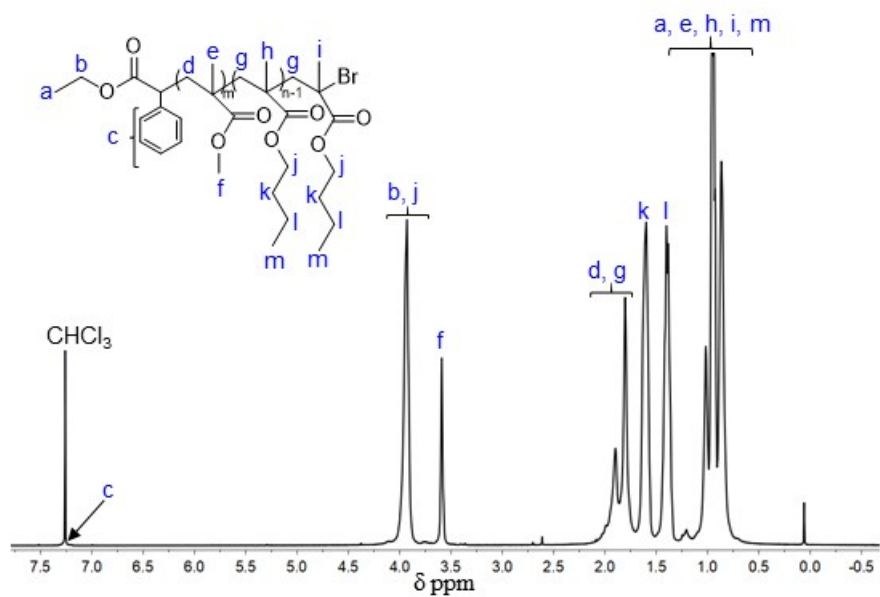


Figure SF9. 400 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  of PMMA-*b*-PBMA-Br copolymer ( $M_n^{\text{th}} = 27900$ ,  $M_n^{\text{SEC}} = 35200$ ,  $M_w/M_n = 1.06$ ).

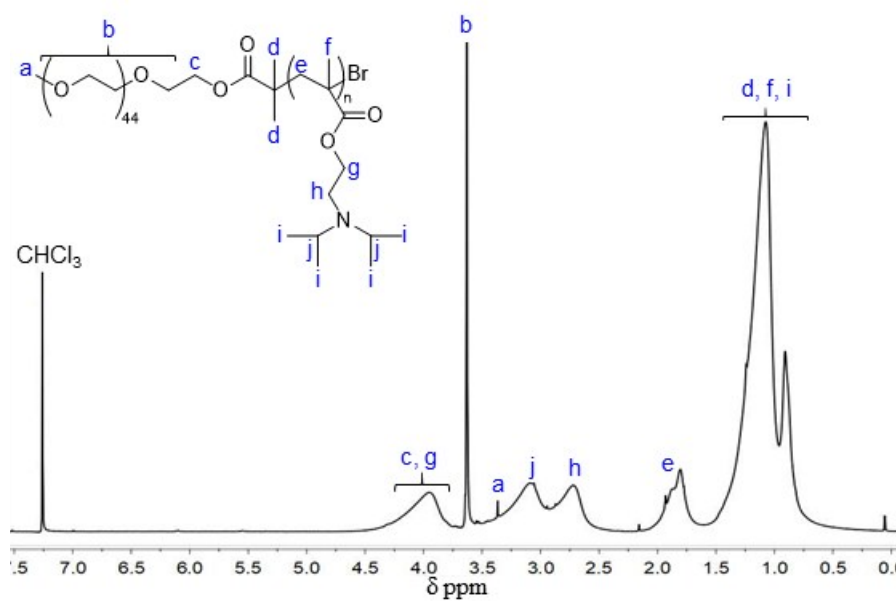


Figure SF10. 400 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  of PEG-*b*-PDPA-Br block copolymer ( $M_n^{\text{th}} = 20100$ ,  $M_n^{\text{SEC}} = 20900$ ,  $M_w/M_n = 1.24$ ).

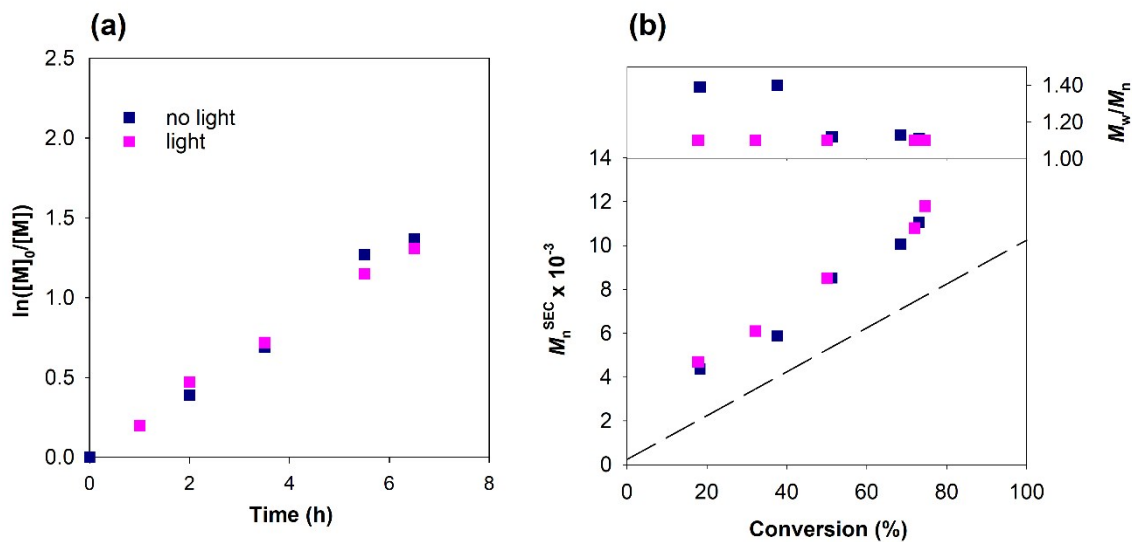


Figure SF11. Kinetic plots of (a)  $\ln([M]_0/[M])$  vs. time and (b)  $M_n^{\text{SEC}}$  and  $M_w/M_n$  vs. monomer conversion for SARA ATRP of MMA at 30 °C in DMSO in the presence and absence of light. Conditions:  $[MMA]_0/[DMSO] = 2/1$  (v/v);  $[MMA]_0/[EBPA]_0/[CuBr_2]_0/[TMG]_0 = 100/1/0.1/2$ ;  $Cu^0$  wire:  $l = 5.0$  cm,  $d = 1$  mm.