## Supporting Information

# Real time self-assembly and reassembly of molecular nanowires of trigeminal porphyrins 

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## 1. Materials and Methods

Solvents and reagents were obtained from Aldrich Chemical Co., Fischer Chemical Co., Wako Chemical Co., Tokyo Kasei Chemical Co. or Kanto Chemical Co. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra were measured at 298 K from $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ solutions of the samples using a JEOL model AL300BX spectrometer with tetramethylsilane as internal standard. Electronic absorption spectra were measured from dichloromethane solutions of the samples using a Shimadzu model UV-3600 UV/Vis/NIR spectrophotometer. FTIR spectra were measured from samples cast on a barium fluoride disc using a Nicolet model 760X FTIR spectrometer. Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS) was measured using a Shimadzu-Kratos model Axima CFR+ mass spectrometer with dithranol as matrix.

Electron Microscopy. Scanning electron microscopy images were obtained using a Hitachi model S3600 FE-SEM instrument (Operating voltage: 5 kV ). Samples were cast on a passivated silicon substrate followed by coating with Pt (Hitachi E1030 Ion Sputterer). Scanning transmission electron microscopy was also conducted on a Hitachi S3600 FE-SEM instrument on samples cast on carbon-coated copper grids.

Atomic force microscopy (AFM) measurements. AFM measurements were carried out under ambient conditions. Samples were prepared by dropping a suspension of the preassembled molecules ( $100 \mu \mathrm{~L} ; \sim 10^{-4} \mathrm{M}$ ) in dichloromethane/methanol onto a freshly cleaved mica surface at room temperature $\left(27^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and relative humidity, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{H}}=$ $62 \%$. Relative humidity of the atmosphere was constantly monitored during AFM measurements. AFM images were obtained using a Seiko Instruments SPA400-SPI4000 equipped with a calibrated $20-\mu \mathrm{m}$ xy-scan range and a $10 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ z-scan range PZT-scanner. All AFM images were taken in dynamic force mode at optimal force. Rectangular
shaped silicon cantilevers (Tip radius: $\sim 10 \mathrm{~nm}$; SI-DF20; Seiko Instruments Inc.), with spring constant of $11 \mathrm{~N} / \mathrm{m}$ and resonance frequency of 122 kHz , were used for imaging in air. Supersharp tips (Tip radius: $2-3 \mathrm{~nm}$; SI-DF20S; Seiko Instruments Inc.) were used for images shown in Fig. 2.

Nanowire erasure. For nanowire erasure, a rectangular shaped cantilever was used (SI-DF20). In dynamic force mode, an area for erasure was selected (either 50 or 100 nm ) and the substrate rotated to present the nanowire perpendicular to the scanning direction of the probe tip then scan rate was increased to 4 Hz . Scanning force was increased until damage of the nanowire could be observed followed by scanning at that force until no structure could be observed, i.e. nanowire was erased. Residual nanowire fragments could be erased using the same procedure. Observation of the regrowth of the nanowires was made by returning to the initial conditions and using optimal imaging force.

Additional compounds. 3,4,5-[2-(2-(2-Methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy]benzyl chloride(S1), 4-dodecyloxybenzaldehyde (S2), dipyrromethane (S3), 3,4,5-[2-(2-(2methoxyethoxy)ethoxy) ethoxy]benzyl alcohol (S4) and compound 5 (S5) (see Scheme 1 below) were prepared as previously described. In the description of synthesis the 3,4,5-[2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy) ethoxy)ethyl] (or methoxy-triethylene glycol groups are denoted using the abbreviation 'TEG'.

## 2. Synthesis



Scheme S1. Synthesis of trigeminal porphyrin amphiphiles, $\mathbf{1 H}_{3}$ and $\mathbf{1 B r} r_{3}$
4-\{3,4,5-[2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy]benzyloxy\}benzaldehyde, 2: A mixture of 3,4,5-[2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy]benzyl chloride $\quad(8.02 \mathrm{~g}, 13 \mathrm{mmol})$, 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde $(1.34 \mathrm{~g}, \quad 11 \mathrm{mmol})$, and $\mathrm{K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}(15.7 \mathrm{~g}, \quad 114 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{N}, \mathrm{N}$-dimethylformamide ( 100 mL ) was stirred at reflux for 40 hours, and cooled to room temperature. The mixture was filtered and the solid washed with N,N-dimethylformamide. The
combined filtrates were collected and the solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. To the residue was partitioned between dichloromethane $(100 \mathrm{~mL})$ and water $(100 \mathrm{~mL})$. The aqueous phase was then extracted with dichloromethane $(2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$. The organic phases were combined, dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ then solvents were removed under reduced pressure affording light yellow oil, which was used in the next reaction step without further purification.

## 5-(4-Dodecyloxyphenyl)-15-\{4-[3,4,5-(2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy)benzyloxy]phenyl\}

porphine, 3: Dry dinitrogen was bubbled into a solution of $2(1.86 \mathrm{~g}, \sim 2 \mathrm{mmol})$, 4-dodecyloxybenzaldehyde ( $0.581 \mathrm{~g}, 2 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), dipyrromethane $(0.585 \mathrm{~g}, 4 \mathrm{mmol})$ in a mixed solvent of dichloromethane $(900 \mathrm{~mL})$ and methanol $(100 \mathrm{~mL})$ for 10 min ., then $\mathrm{BF}_{3} . \mathrm{OEt}_{2}(150 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 1.19$ mmol) was added. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours then DDQ ( $1.36 \mathrm{~g}, 6 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added. Stirring was maintained for 1 hour then triethylamine ( 0.2 mL ) was added. Solvent was removed by rotary evaporation, and the residue was applied to a silica gel column, and eluted by gradient elution starting from $100 \%$ dichloromethane and ending at 97:3 dichloromethane:methanol. Three porphyrin bands were separated the 2 nd which was the target porphyrin $3(406 \mathrm{mg}, 16 \%)$. UV/vis $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right): \lambda_{\max }\left(\varepsilon / 10^{3}\right)=410(387), 504$ (16.9), 540 (7.96), 578 (5.65), 633 (2.61). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ): $\delta=10.30(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, meso-H), $9.39(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J=$ 4.62 Hz , pyrrole-H), $9.11(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J=4.65 \mathrm{~Hz}$, pyrrole-H), 8.19 ( $2 \mathrm{H}, 8.55 \mathrm{~Hz}$, o-phenyl), 8.17 ( 2 H , 8.79 Hz, o-phenyl), 7.41 (2 H, d, $J=8.76 \mathrm{~Hz}, m$-phenyl), $7.34(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=8.79 \mathrm{~Hz}, m$-phenyl $), 6.90$ ( $2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, o-phenyl), $5.27\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}\right.$, benzyl- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 4.28 \sim 4.31\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{OCH}_{2}-\mathrm{TEG}\right), 4.23(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, \mathrm{J}=$ $5.13 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{OCH}_{2}$-dodecyl), $3.93(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J=5.01 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.86(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J=5.13 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.76 \sim$ $3.81(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.66 \sim 3.73(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.54 \sim 3.58(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.39(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$-TEG), $3.38\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right.$-TEG), $2.01\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}\right.$, dodecyl- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$, $1.65\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}\right.$, dodecyl- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.32$ $\left(16 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}\right.$, dodecyl $\left.-\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)_{8}\right), 0.91\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J=6.84 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, dodecyl- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right),-3.07(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, inner NH) ppm. MALDI-TOF-MS (dithranol): Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{72} \mathrm{H}_{95} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{14}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]+: \mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}=1239.68$; found: 1239.48.

## 5-(4-Dodecyloxyphenyl)-10-bromo-15-\{4-[3,4,5-(2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy)

benzyloxylphenyl\} porphine, 4: Compound $3(406 \mathrm{mg}, 0.328 \mathrm{mmol})$ was dissolved in $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(150$ $\mathrm{mL})$. N-bromosuccinimde ( $58.3 \mathrm{mg}, 0.328$ ) was added in small portions over 20 min . After the
addition, the solution was stirred for 30 min . Solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was applied to a silica gel column eluting with using $2 \% \mathrm{MeOH}-\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$. The two products of the reaction (mono- and dibrominated porphyrins) and the starting compound eluted successively from the column but they could not be fully separated. The amounts of compound $\mathbf{4}$ in the fractions collected were determined by NMR spectroscopy after removal of solvent, and the optimal fractions were combined. The mixture obtained contained $60-70 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ of 4 (Yield: 328 mg ) and it was used in the next step without further purification.

## 1,3,5-Tris\{5-[10-(4-Dodecyloxyphenyl)-20-(4-(3,4,5-(2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy)ben zyloxy)phenyl)porphyrinyl]\} benzene $\left(1 \mathrm{H}_{3}\right)$.

Part A. The compounds 4 ( 328 mg , contains 0.17 mmol of $\mathbf{4}$ ), $\mathbf{3}(9.1 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}(165$ $\mathrm{mg}, 1.19 \mathrm{mmol})$, and $\mathrm{Pd}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{4}(7.6 \mathrm{mg}, 6.6 \mu \mathrm{~mol})$ were added to a mixed solvent of $\mathrm{N}, \mathrm{N}$-dimethylformamide $(8 \mathrm{~mL})$, toluene $(8 \mathrm{~mL})$ and water $(0.4 \mathrm{~mL})$ in a Schlenk tube and degassed. The mixture was stirred at $80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ for 1 day. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was partitioned between $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(100 \mathrm{~mL})$ and water $(100 \mathrm{~mL})$. After separation of the 2 phases, the organic phase was washed with water $(3 \times 100 \mathrm{~mL})$, dried over $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ and evaporated. The residue dissolved in the minimum volume of $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and applied to a silica gel column and eluted using a gradient from $100 \% \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ to $98: 2 \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}: \mathrm{MeOH}$ to remove starting materials, then finally with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}-\mathrm{MeOH}(96: 4)$ to collect the crude product of $1 \mathrm{H}_{3}(34.5 \mathrm{mg})$, which was shown by MALDI-TOF-MS to contain small amounts of meso-brominated derivatives.

Part B. The crude product from Part A was debrominated according to a literature method (S6). It was dissolved in toluene $(4 \mathrm{~mL})$ in a Schlenk tube and $\operatorname{Pd}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{4}(3 \mathrm{mg}, 2.6 \mu \mathrm{~mol})$ was added. The solution was degassed, and formic acid $(25 \mu \mathrm{~L})$ and triethlamine $(25 \mu \mathrm{~L})$ were added. The mixture was heated at $100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 15 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was partitioned between $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(20 \mathrm{~mL})$ and water $(20 \mathrm{~mL})$. After separation of the 2 phases, the organic phase was washed with water $(3 \times 20 \mathrm{~mL})$, dried over $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ and solvents removed under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was loaded to a silica gel column and eluted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}-\mathrm{MeOH}$ (97.5:2.5), affording $1 \mathrm{H}_{3}(15 \mathrm{mg}, 20 \%)$. UV/vis $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right): \lambda_{\max }\left(\varepsilon / 10^{4}\right)=411(66.5), 424(72.7), 513(5.84), 548$
(2.68), 587 (1.85), 642 (1.19). FT-IR $\left(\mathrm{BaF}_{2}\right): v=3282.9$ (w, N-H str), 3095.0 (w, Ar C-H str), 2922.4, 2869.7, 2853.5 (all s, C-H str), 1604.8 (m, C=C str), 1533.4 (w), 1514.3 (m), 1503.6 (m), 1467.1 (m, C-H def), 1456.2 (m), 1436.2 (m, C-H def), 1413.4 (w), 1376.0 (w), 1362.45 (w), 1351.0 (w), 1331.0 (m), 1285.1 (m), 1242.1 (s, C-O str), 1198.3 (w), 1175.4 (m), 1108.2 (br. s, C-O str, C-N str), 1049.4 (m), 1027.9 (m), 988.8 (m), 973.4 (m), 957 (s), 849 (s, Ar. C-H def), 794.9 (s, Ar. C-H def) $\mathrm{cm}^{-1} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ): $\delta=10.17(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, meso-H), $9.79 \sim 9.86(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, pyrrole), $9.56\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}\right.$, central- $\left.\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right), 9.28 \sim 9.31(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, pyrrole), $9.18 \sim 9.24$ ( $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, pyrrole), $8.99 \sim 9.04(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, pyrrole $), 8.13(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{J}=6.78 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{o}-\mathrm{Ph}), 7.27 \sim 7.36(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{m}-\mathrm{Ph}), 6.87(\mathrm{~s}$, 6 H , o-phenyl), $5.23\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}\right.$, benzyl- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 4.21 \sim 4.30\left(24 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{OCH}_{2}\right.$-TEG, $\mathrm{OCH}_{2}$-dodecyl), 3.89 ~ 3.93 ( $12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}$ ), 3.83 ~ 3.87 ( $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}$ ), 3.75 ~ 3.78 (18 H, m, TEG), 3.62 ~ $3.70(36 \mathrm{H}$, m, TEG), $3.49 \sim 3.57(18 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.38\left(9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}-\mathrm{TEG}\right), 3.33\left(18 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}-\mathrm{TEG}\right), 1.98 \sim 2.03$ ( $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, dodecyl- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.28 \sim 1.51\left(54 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}\right.$, dodecyl $\left.-\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)_{9}\right)$, $0.87 \sim 0.93\left(9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}\right.$, dodecyl- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)$, $-2.87\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}\right.$, inner NH) ppm. MALDI-TOF-MS (dithranol): Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{222} \mathrm{H}_{282} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{42}[\mathrm{M}]+: \mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ $=3788.03$; found: 3788.52.

## 1,3,5-Tris\{5-[10-(4-Dodecyloxyphenyl)-15-bromo-20-(4-(3,4,5-(2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)

ethoxy)benzyloxy)phenyl)porphyrinyl]\} benzene, ( $1 \mathrm{Br}_{3}$ ): To a $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(20 \mathrm{~mL})$ solution of $1 \mathrm{H}_{3}(42$ $\mathrm{mg}, 0.011 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added N -bromosuccinimde ( $7.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.042 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in small portions. The mixture was stirred for 30 min then solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. The residue was purified by chromatography over silica gel and then dissolved in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ in a small vial and layered with hexane. The mixture was left for diffusion for 2 days. The precipitate was collected by filtration through a cotton plug. Yield: $29.5 \mathrm{mg}(66 \%)$. UV/vis $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right): \lambda_{\max }\left(\varepsilon / 10^{4}\right)=421(\mathrm{sh}, 72.7), 429$ (85.8), $521(5.21), 560$ (4.29), 598 (1.66), 656 (2.05). FT-IR ( $\mathrm{BaF}_{2}$ ): $v=3320.8$ (w, N-H str), 3033.5 (w, Ar C-H str), 2955.5, 2922.0, 2851.6 (all s, C-H str), 1604.6 (m, C=C str), 1559.1 (w), 1540.0 (w), 1503.1 (m), 1465.1 (m, C-H def), 1436.9 (m), 1419.3 (w), 1399.1 (w), 1377.48 (w), 1334.3 (m), 1284.0 (m), 1244.7 (s, C-O str), 1199.2 (w), 1175.6 (m), 1108.6 (br. s, C-O str, C-N str), 1021, (w), 972.6 (w), 963.2 (w), 924.5 (w), 848.3 (w, Ar. C-H def), 798.1 (s, Ar. C-H def) cm ${ }^{-1} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (300
$\left.\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right): \delta=9.63(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{J}=4.65 \mathrm{~Hz}$, pyrrole $), 9.49\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}\right.$, central- $\left.\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right), 9.04 \sim$ 9.09 ( $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, pyrrole), $8.87 \sim 8.93$ ( $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, pyrrole), $8.05 \sim 8.08(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{o}-\mathrm{Ph}), 7.25 \sim 7.33(12 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{m}, \mathrm{m}-\mathrm{Ph}), 6.86\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}\right.$, o-phenyl), $5.21\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}\right.$, benzyl- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 4.27 \sim 4.21\left(24 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{OCH}_{2}-\mathrm{TEG}\right.$, $\mathrm{OCH}_{2}$-dodecyl), $3.89 \sim 3.93(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, TEG $), 3.83 \sim 3.86(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.74 \sim 3.79(18 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, TEG), 3.62~3.71 (36 H, m, TEG), $3.49 \sim 3.58(18 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.38\left(9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}-\mathrm{TEG}\right), 3.33(18 \mathrm{H}$, s, $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$-TEG), $1.95 \sim 2.05\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}\right.$, dodecyl- $\left.\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.26 \sim 1.52\left(54 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m} \text {, dodecyl-( } \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)_{9}\right), 0.87 \sim$ $0.93\left(9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}\right.$, dodecyl- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right),-2.64(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, inner NH) ppm. MALDI-TOF-MS (dithranol): Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{222} \mathrm{H}_{279} \mathrm{Br}_{3} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{42}[\mathrm{M}]+: m / z=4027.77$; found: 4027.79.

## Synthesis of more rigid (non-benzyloxy) Trigeminal Porphyrin Amphiphile



Scheme S2. Synthesis of less flexible trigeminal porphyrin amphiphiles.

## 3,4,5-Tris\{2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethoxy\}benzaldehyde,

6. A solution of 3,4,5-tris $\left\{2-\left[2-(2-m e t h o x y e t h o x y)\right.\right.$ ethoxy]ethoxy\}benzyl alcohol ${ }^{5}$ ( $5.56 \mathrm{~g}, 0.00935 \mathrm{~mol}$ ) in dry dichloromethane ( 40 mL ) was added dropwise during 15 minutes to a suspension of pyridinium chlorochromate $(5.04 \mathrm{~g}, 0.0234 \mathrm{~mol})$ in dry dichloromethane $(40 \mathrm{~mL})$. The mixture turned from bright orange to dark brown. After the addition, the mixture was stirred for 4 hours, then it was
filtered through celite and the resulting cake was further washed with dichloromethane. The filtrate was concentrated and filtered through a filter paper then solvent was removed by rotary evaporation to yield a crude product $(8.39 \mathrm{~g})$. It was loaded to a silica gel column, and eluted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}-\mathrm{MeOH}$ (98:2). A light yellow oil of 6 was obtained, which was used without further purification. Yield: $4.39 \mathrm{~g}(79 \%)$.

## 5-(4-Dodecyloxyphenyl)-15-\{3,4,5-tris[2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy]phenyl\}porphine,

 7: It was synthesized from the reaction of $6(1.185 \mathrm{~g}, 2 \mathrm{mmol})$, 4-dodecyloxybenzaldehyde ( 0.581 g , $2 \mathrm{mmol})$ and dipyrromethane $(0.585 \mathrm{~g}, 4 \mathrm{mmol})$ by a procedure similar to that for $1 \mathrm{H}_{3}$. Yield: 348 $\mathrm{mg}(15 \%) . \mathrm{UV} / \mathrm{vis}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right): \lambda_{\max }\left(\varepsilon / 10^{4}\right)=410(383), 504(17.3), 540(7.35), 577(5.71), 632(2.24)$. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right): \delta=10.23(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, meso-H$), 9.33(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J=4.86 \mathrm{~Hz}$, pyrrole-H), $9.12(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=4.56 \mathrm{~Hz}$, pyrrole-H), $9.08(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=4.59 \mathrm{~Hz}$, pyrrole-H), $8.12(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}$, $J=8.43 \mathrm{~Hz}, o$-phenyl $), 7.51(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, o$-phenyl), $7.29(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=8.61 \mathrm{~Hz}, m$-phenyl), $4.52(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J$ $=5.15 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{OCH}_{2}$-TEG), $4.30\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J=4.95 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{OCH}_{2}-\mathrm{TEG}\right), 4.21(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J=6.50 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $\mathrm{OCH}_{2}$-dodecyl), $4.05(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J=5.15 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.87 \sim 3.92(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.77 \sim 3.80(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, TEG), $3.70 \sim 3.75$ ( $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}$ ), 3.57~3.62 ( $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}$ ), $3.47 \sim 3.51$ ( $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}$ ), 3.41 ( $3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$-TEG), $3.31 \sim 3.35(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.19\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}-\mathrm{TEG}\right), 1.96\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}\right.$, dodecyl- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.61(2 \mathrm{H}$, m, dodecyl- $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ ), $1.31\left(16 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}\right.$, dodecyl- $\left.\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)_{8}\right), 0.90\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, \mathrm{J}=6.78 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, dodecyl- $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right),-3.09(2 \mathrm{H}$, s , inner NH ) ppm.
## 5-(4-Dodecyloxyphenyl)-10-bromo-15-\{3,4,5-tris[2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy]

phenyl\} porphine, 8. This was synthesized and later employed according to the same procedures used for compound 4 (Parts A and B above). $7(650 \mathrm{mg}, 0.524 \mathrm{mmol})$ was reacted with NBS ( 93 mg , $0.473 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(200 \mathrm{ml})$. Yield: 630 mg containing $60-70 \%$ of the required monobrominated porphyrin, 8 .

## 1,3,5-Tris(5-(10-(4-Dodecyloxyphenyl)-20-tris(3,4,5-(2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy)

phenyl)porphyrinyl) benzene $\left(9 \mathrm{H}_{3}\right) .9 \mathrm{H}_{3}$ was synthesized from the reaction of $\mathbf{8}(630 \mathrm{mg}$, contains
0.28 mmol of $\mathbf{8}), \mathbf{5}(13.9 \mathrm{mg}, 0.03 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}(252 \mathrm{mg}, 1.82 \mathrm{mmol})$, and $\operatorname{Pd}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{4}(11.6 \mathrm{mg}, 10$ $\mu \mathrm{mol})$ in a mixed solvent of DMF $(12 \mathrm{~mL})$, toluene $(12 \mathrm{~mL})$ and water $(0.6 \mathrm{~mL})$ followed by debromination according to the same procedure used for $1 \mathrm{H}_{3}$. Yield: $36 \mathrm{mg}, 35 \%$. UV/vis $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right)$ : $\lambda_{\max }\left(\varepsilon / 10^{4}\right)=411(72.4), 424(78.6), 512(6.58), 547(2.64), 586(2.04), 641(1.08)$. FT-IR $\left(\mathrm{BaF}_{2}\right): v$ $=3308.0$ ( $\mathrm{w}, \mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H}$ str), 2922.3, 2852.3 (all s, C-H str), 1644.8 ( $\mathrm{m}, \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}$ str), 1579.1 ( $\mathrm{m}, \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}$ str), 1503.3 (w), 1466.2 (m, C-H def), 1418.4 (m), 1377.5 (w), 1340.3 (m), 1285.4 (m), 1243.6 (s, C-O str), 1200.1 (w), 1174.8 (w), 1111.5 (br. s, C-O str, C-N str), 998.1 (w), 966.0 (w), 957.2 (w), 941.5 (w), 921.6 (w), 846.7 (w, Ar. C-H def), 797.4 (s, Ar. C-H def) 763.6 (w), 742.9 (m) cm ${ }^{-1} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ): $\delta=10.17(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, meso-H), $9.70 \sim 9.90(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, pyrrole), $9.54(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, central- $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}$ ), $9.16 \sim 9.31(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, pyrrole $), 9.02 \sim 9.06(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, pyrrole), $8.09 \sim 8.19(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, o-Ph $), 7.44 \sim 7.49\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}\right.$, o-phenyl), $7.29 \sim 7.36(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, m-phenyl $), 4.50\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{OCH}_{2}\right.$-TEG), $4.21 \sim 4.32\left(18 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{OCH}_{2}\right.$-TEG, $\mathrm{OCH}_{2}$-dodecyl), $4.04(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.77 \sim 3.92(24 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG})$, $3.72 \sim 3.76(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.59 \sim 3.69(18 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.47 \sim 3.56(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.41(9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$-TEG), $3.32 \sim 3.38(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.14 \sim 3.25(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{TEG}), 3.02 \sim 3.08(18 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$-TEG), $2.04\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}\right.$, dodecyl $\left.-\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.26 \sim 1.58\left(54 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}\right.$, dodecyl $\left.-\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)_{8}\right), 0.91(9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, dodecyl- $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ), -2.91 (6 $\mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, inner NH ) ppm. MALDI-TOF-MS (dithranol): Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{201} \mathrm{H}_{266} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{39}[\mathrm{M}+2 \mathrm{H}]+: \mathrm{m} / z=3471.92$; found $: 3472.36$.

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## 3. Scanning electron microscopy of solution self-assemblies of $1 \mathrm{Br}_{3} \underline{]_{2}}$ and $\mathbf{1 H}_{\underline{3}}$



Fig. 51.
a, Hollow capsules of $1 \mathrm{Br}_{3}$ precipitated from dichloromethane/methanol.
b, Thin-walled vesicles (collapsed) of $1 \mathrm{Br}_{3}$ observed in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ /methanol supernatant solution.
c, Thin-walled (collapsed) microtubules of $1 \mathrm{Br}_{3}$ self-assembled in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ /hexane.


Figure S2. Thick-walled robust microtubules of $\mathbf{1} \mathrm{H}_{3}$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ /methanol.

## 4. Scanning electron microscopy images of self-assembled nanowires on mica



Figure S3. $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}$, SEM images of the $1 \mathrm{Br}_{3}$ self-assembled nanowires on mica. A sputtered Pt coating of at least 10 nm was required to visualize the nanowires due to their small size.

## 5. Electronic absorption spectra



Fig. S4. Electronic absorption spectra $1 \mathrm{Br}_{3}$. a, Solution ( $\sim 0.1 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL}$ in dichloromethane, 10 mm pathlength cell) black line. b, Suspension ( $\sim 1 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL}$ in dichloromethane:methanol, $50: 50 \mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}, 1 \mathrm{~mm}$ pathlength cell) green line. c, Cast on a solid substrate (quartz) red line.

