# Stability and gelation behavior of bovine serum albumin pre-aggregates in the presence of calcium chloride

# —Electronic Supplementary Information

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## A. Characterization of the BSA-PAs using TEM and AFM:

Samples for transmission electron microscopy (TEM) were loaded on a carbon grid (Quantifoil, DE) and stained with a 1% sodium phosphotungstate aqueous solution. Pictures were recorded on a FEI Morgagni 268. For atomic force microscopy (AFM), 10 μL of 150 fold diluted samples were spotted on a freshly cleaved mica surface for 30 seconds before washing with Milli-Q (Milli-pore) deionized water to remove unattached material and gently drying under nitrogen flux. Samples were imaged at room temperature by a Nanoscope IIIa (Digital Instrument, USA) operating in tapping mode. Scan rate of 0.8 Hz and antimony doped silicon cantilevers with resonance frequency in the range 325-382 kHz and tip radius of 8 nm (Veeco, Plainview, NY, USA) were used.

## B. Characterization of the BSA-PAs using SLS and DLS:

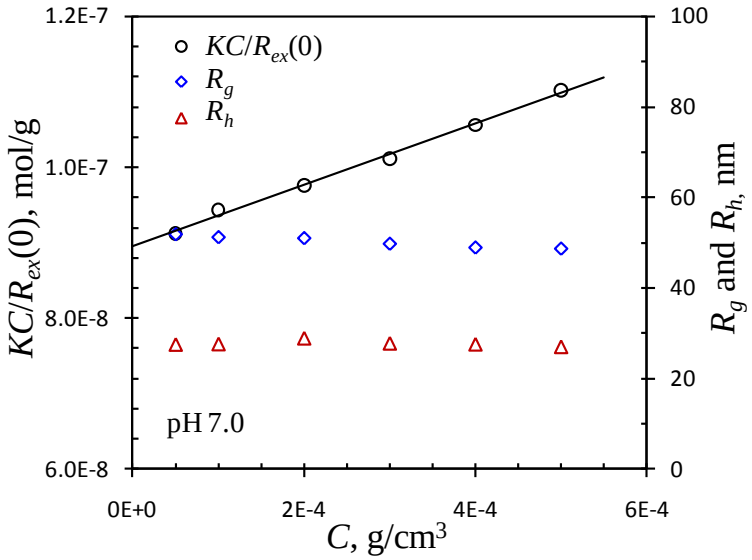


**Fig. S1** The quantity, $KC/R_{ex}(0)$, the radius of gyration, $\langle R_g \rangle_0$, and the hydrodynamic radius, $\langle R_h \rangle_0$, of the BSA-PAs, estimated from the SLS and DLS experiments, as a function of the BSA concentration, $C$.

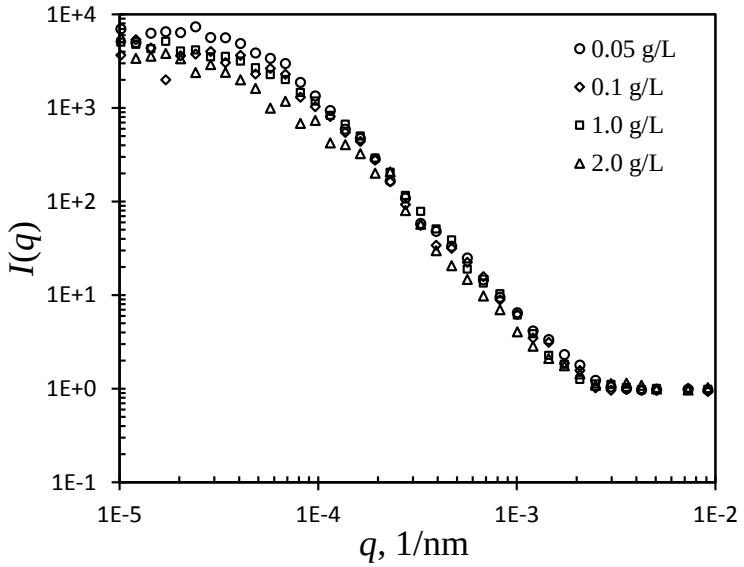


**Fig. S2** Intensity curves of the original dispersion of the BSA-PAs measured by the SALS instrument at different BSA concentrations, $C$=0.05, 0.1, 1 and 2 g/L. Note that all the curves have been shifted vertically to overlap in the large $q$ range.