

Supporting Information

**Efficient Synthesis and Excellent Antimicrobial Activity of Star-Shaped
Cationic Polypeptides with Improved Biocompatibility**

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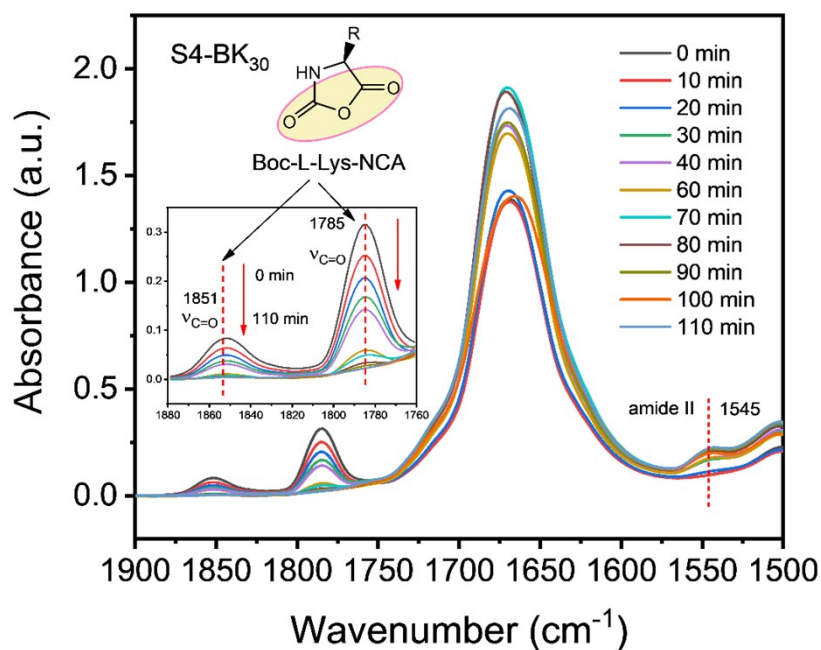


Figure S1. Polymerization process of Boc-L-Lys-NCA initiated by G0-PAMAM in a mixed solvent of DCM and DMF (v/v = 2.5) as measured by FTIR. Polymerization condition: $[M]_0 = 0.4$ M.

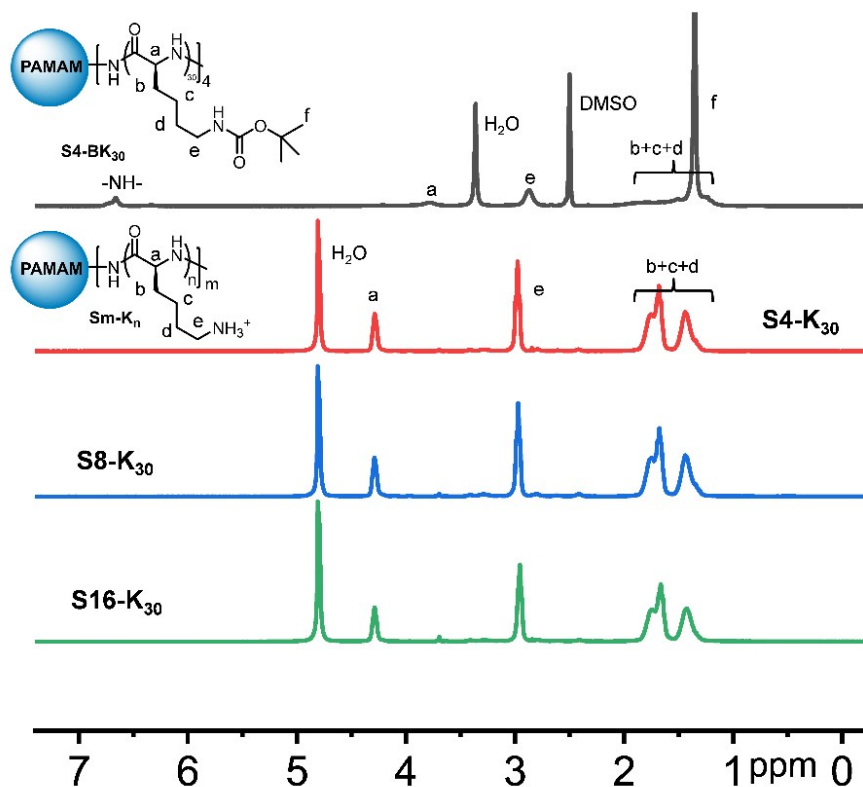


Figure S2. ^1H NMR spectra of S4-BK₃₀ in DMSO- d_6 and S_m-K_n ($m = 4, 8, 16, n = 30$) in D₂O.

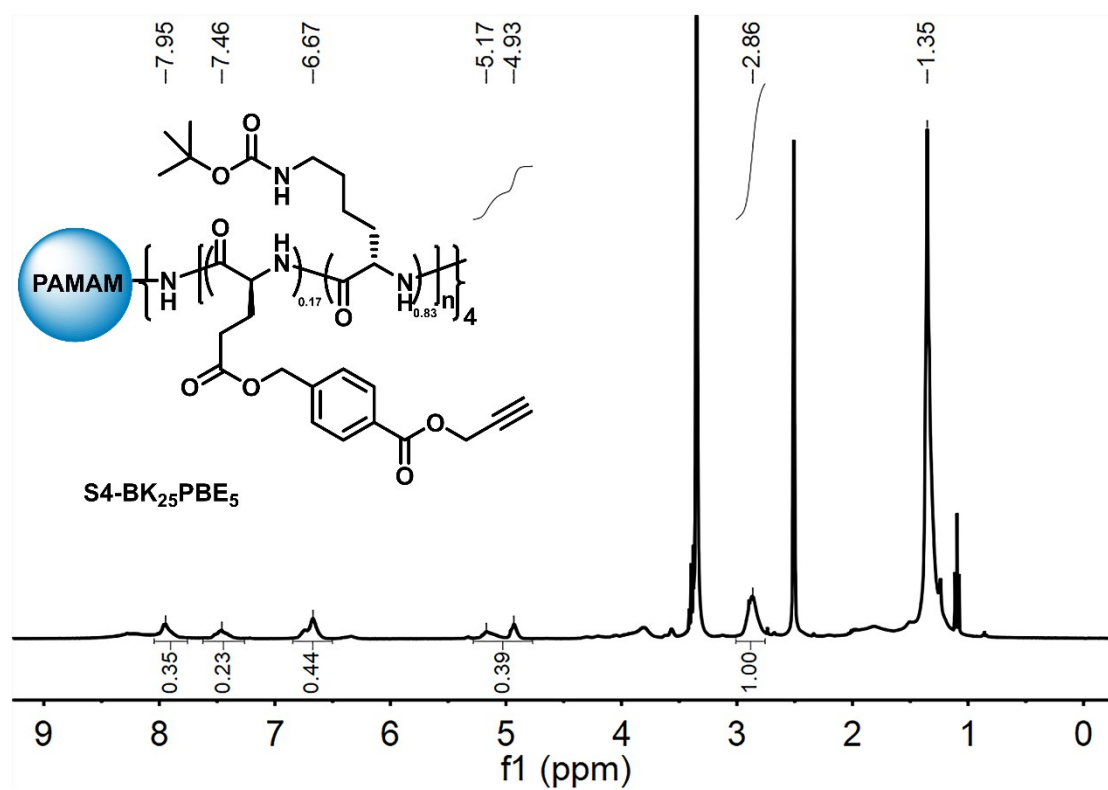


Figure S3. ¹H NMR spectrum of S4-BK₂₅PBE₅ in DMSO-d₆.

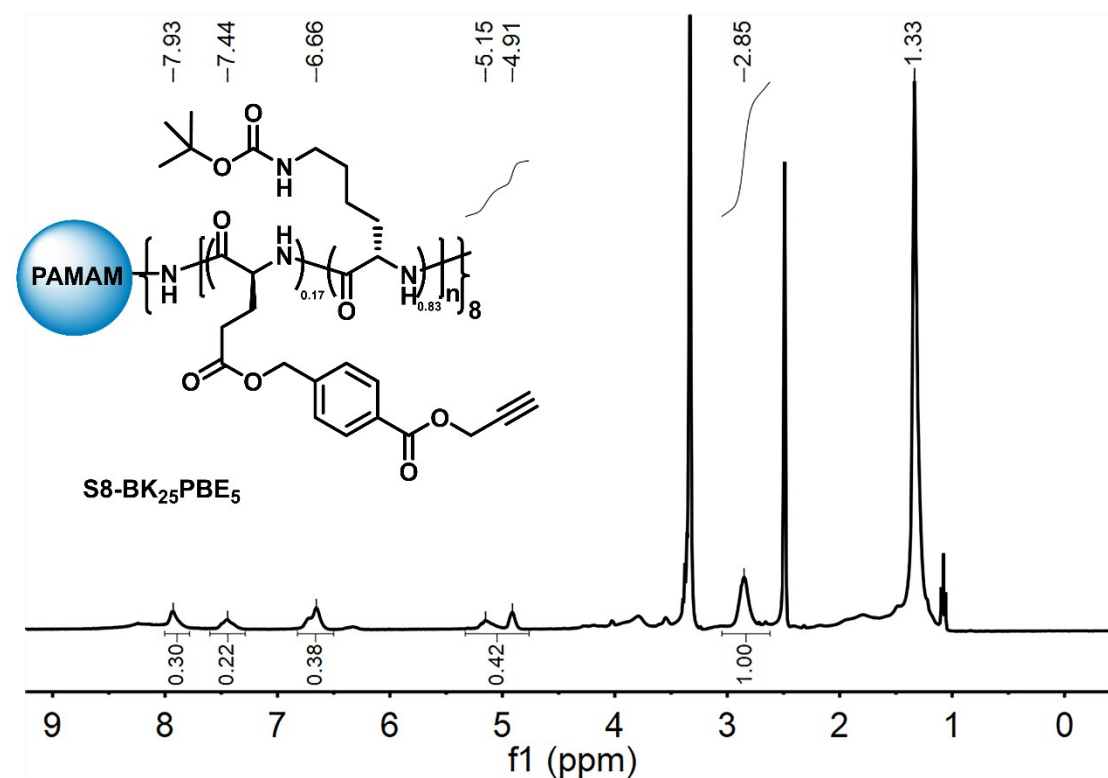


Figure S4. ¹H NMR spectrum of S8-BK₂₅PBE₅ in DMSO-d₆.

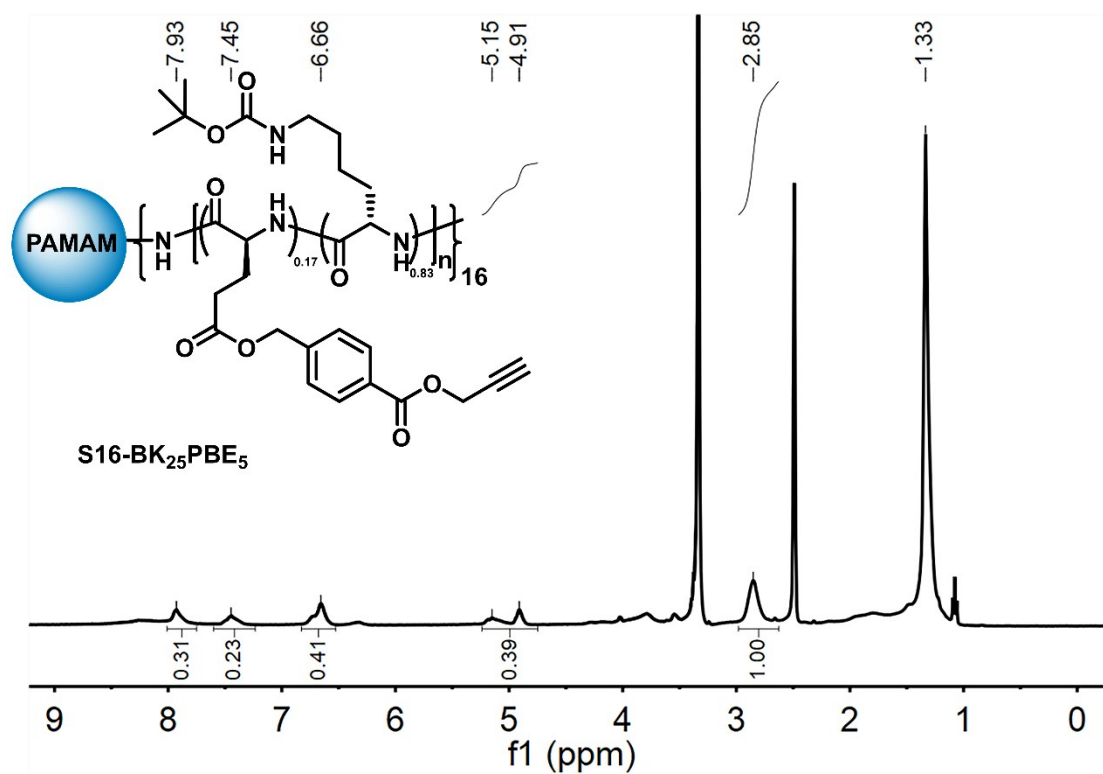


Figure S5. ¹H NMR spectrum of S16-BK₂₅PBE₅ in DMSO-d₆.

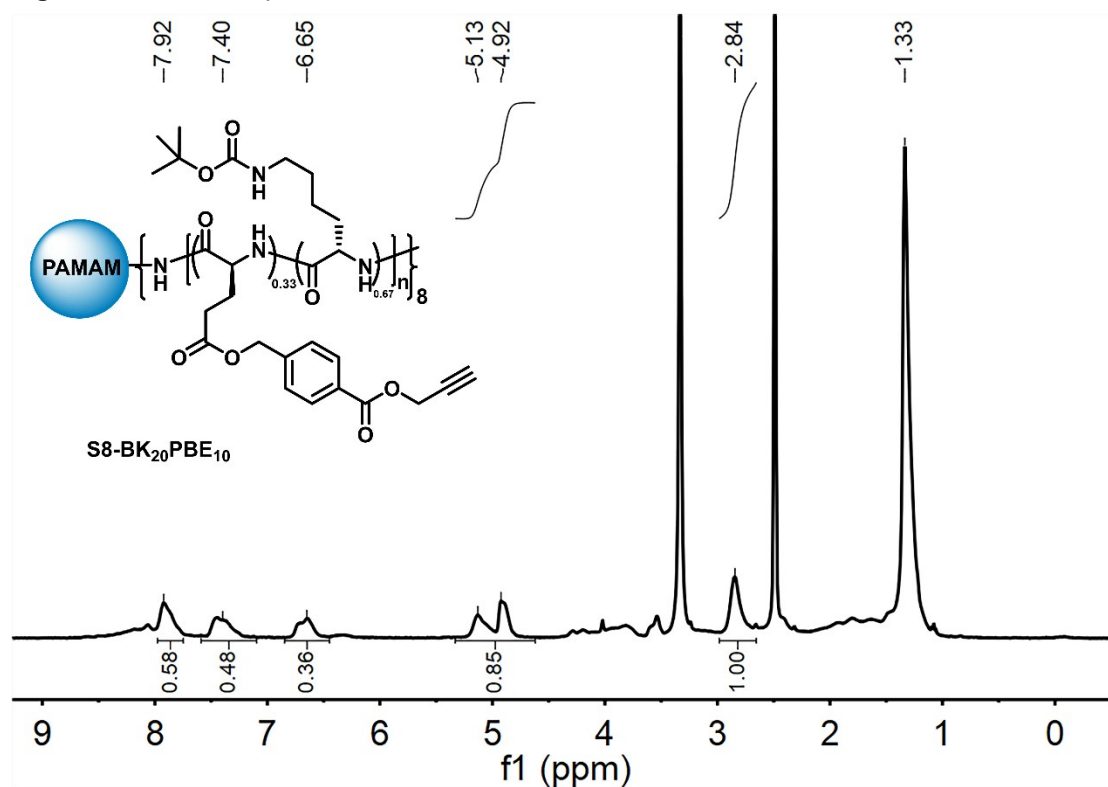


Figure S6. ¹H NMR spectrum of S8-BK₂₀PBE₁₀ in DMSO-d₆.

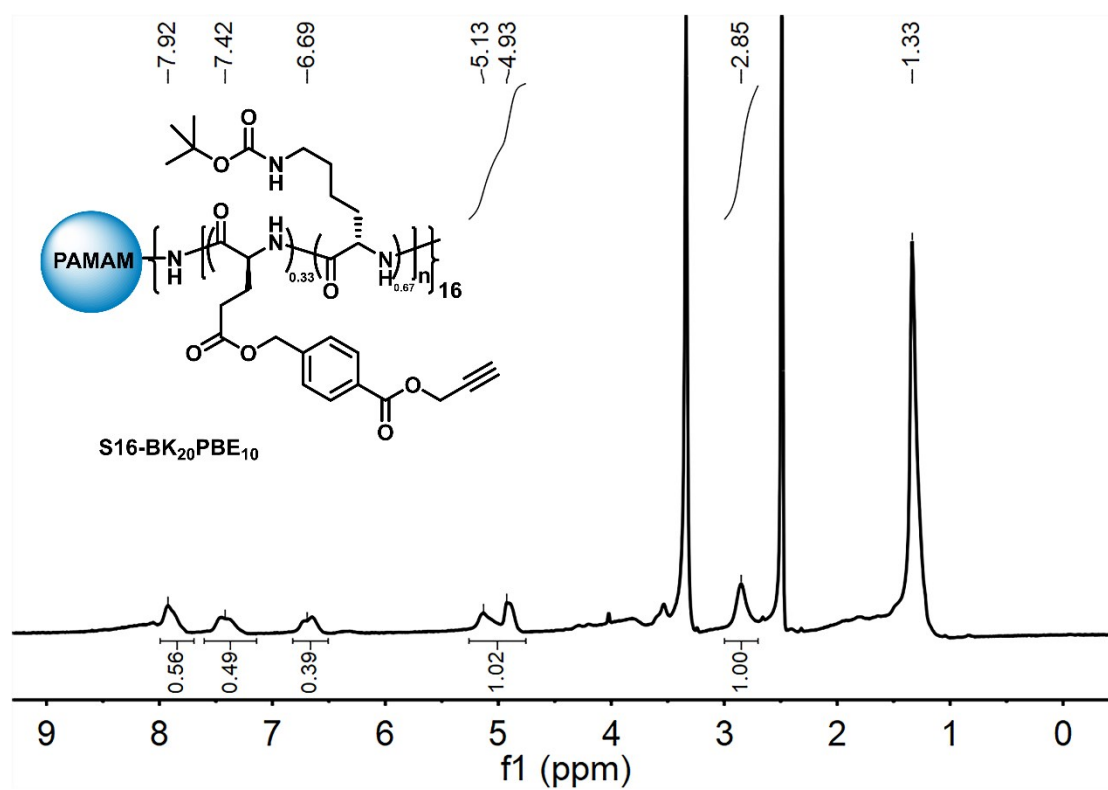


Figure S7. ¹H NMR spectrum of S16-BK₂₀PBE₁₀ in DMSO-d₆.

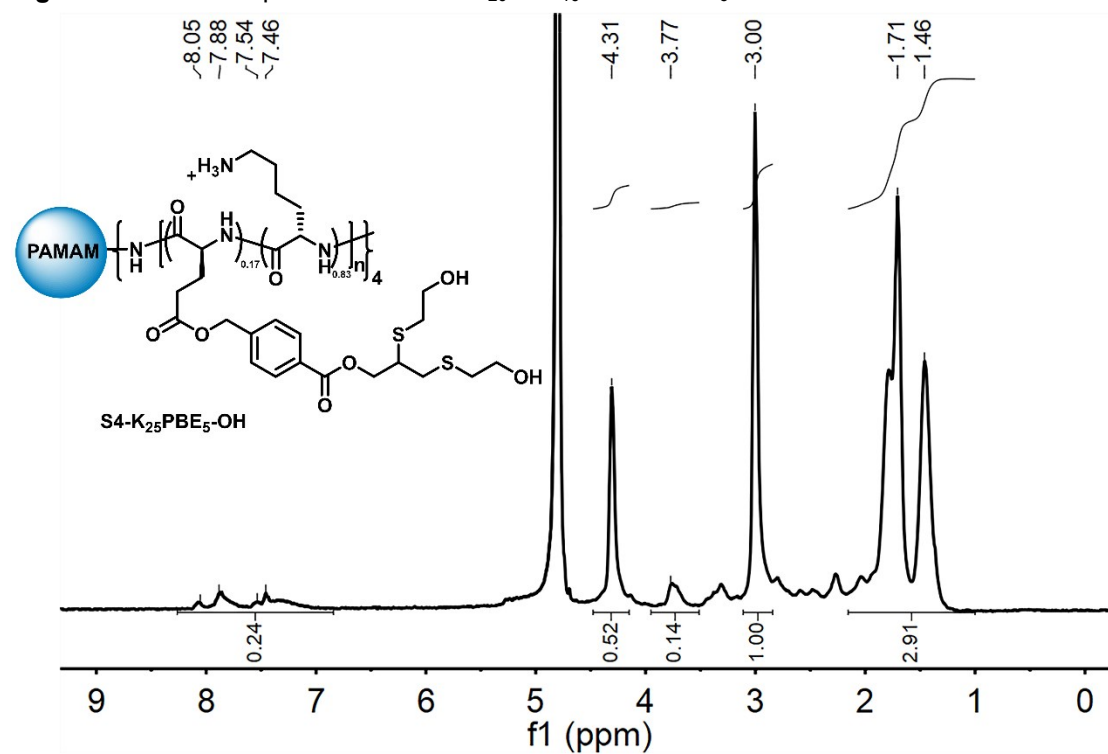


Figure S8. ¹H NMR spectrum of S4-K₂₅PBE₅-OH in D₂O.

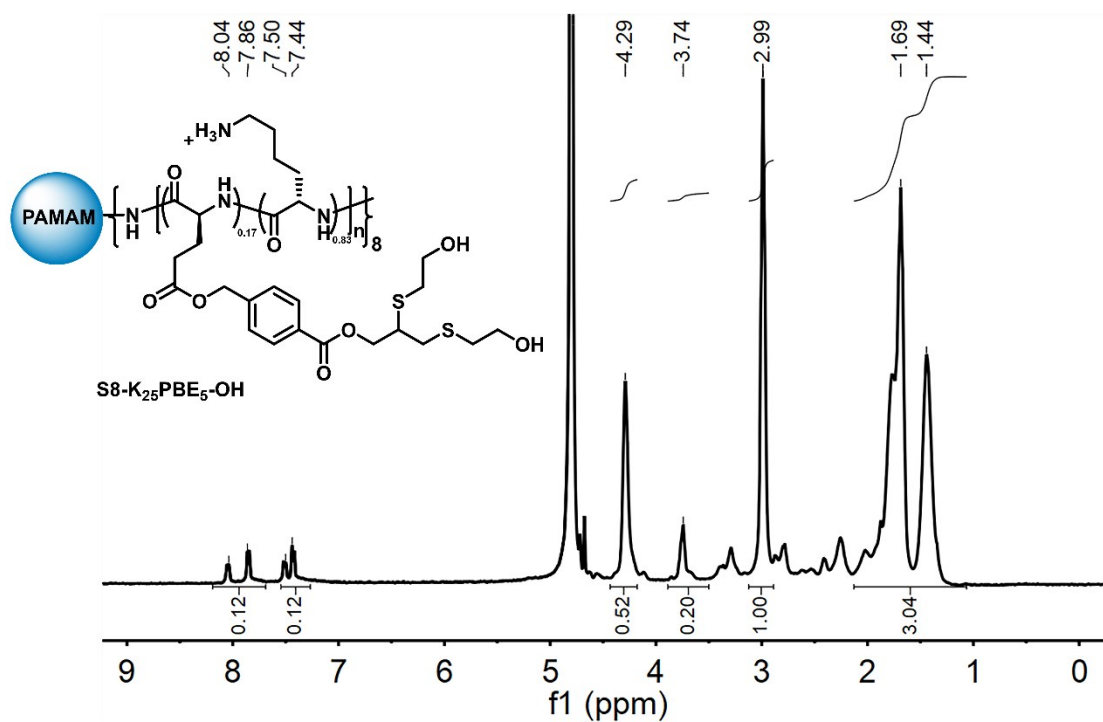


Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of S8-K₂₅PBE₅-OH in D₂O.

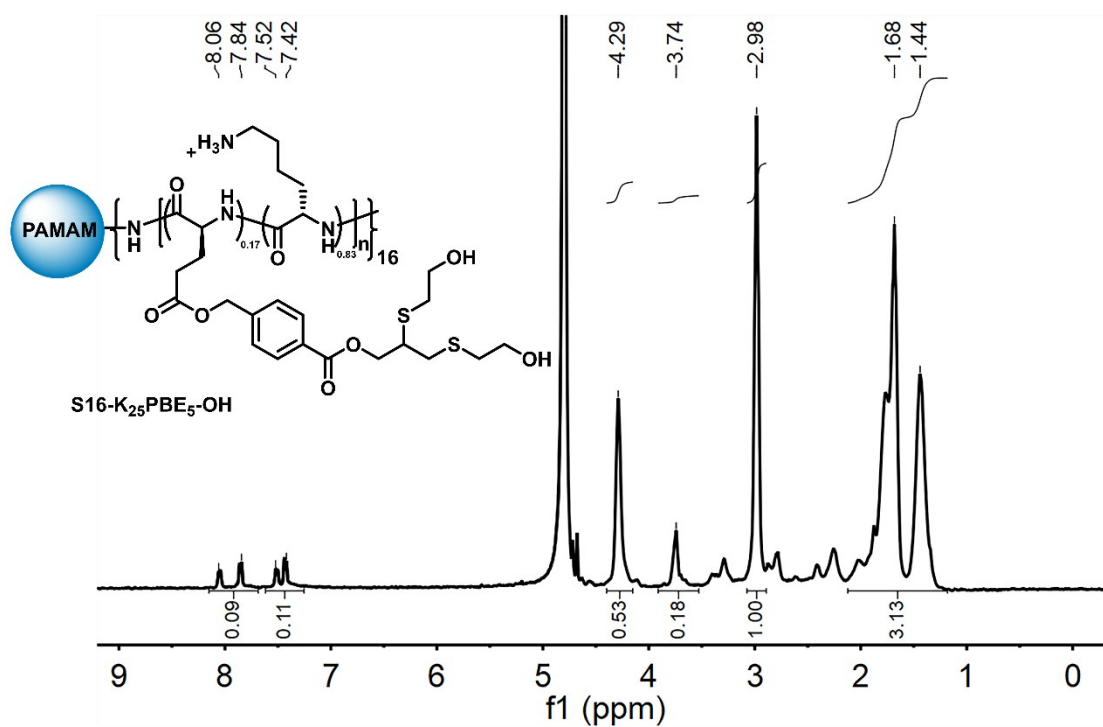


Figure S10. ¹H NMR spectrum of S16-K₂₅PBE₅-OH in D₂O.

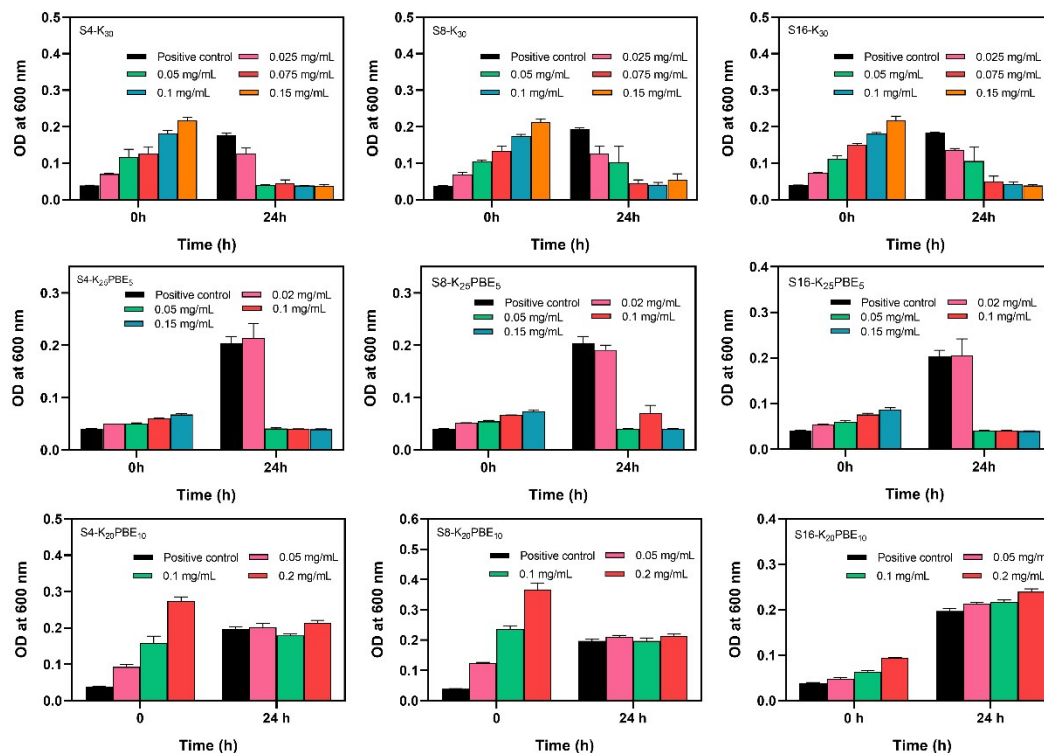


Figure S11. Dose-dependent growth inhibition of *S. aureus* in the presence of the resulting polymers.

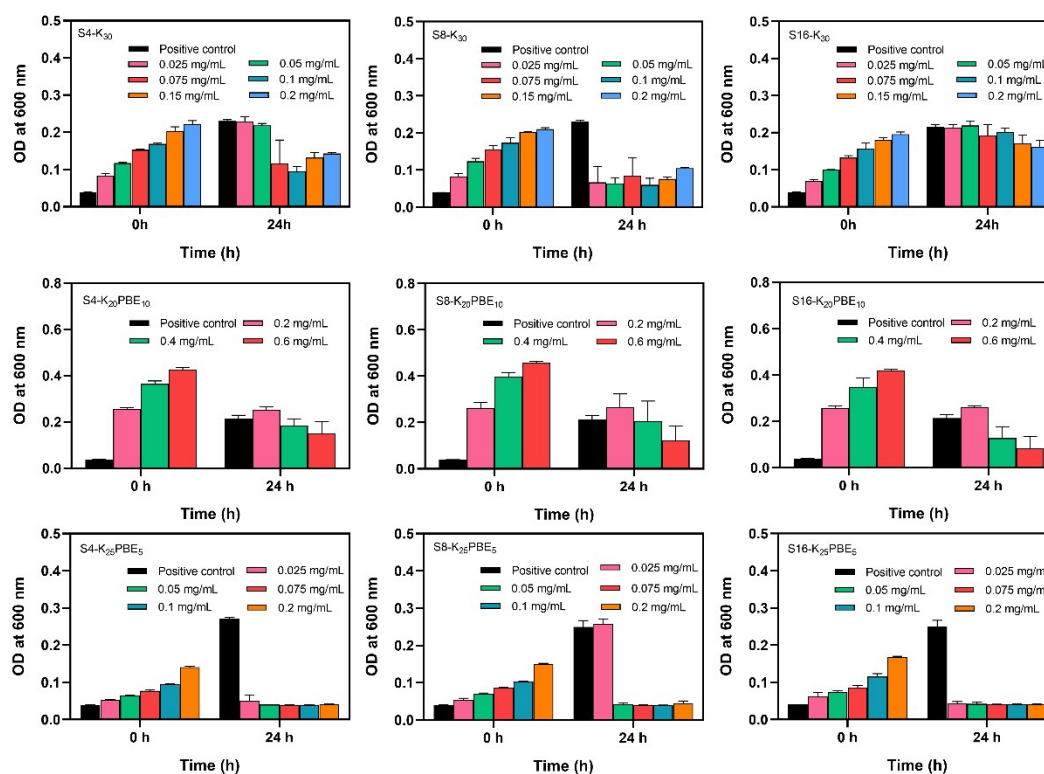


Figure S12. Dose-dependent growth inhibition of *E. coli* in the presence of the resulting polymers.

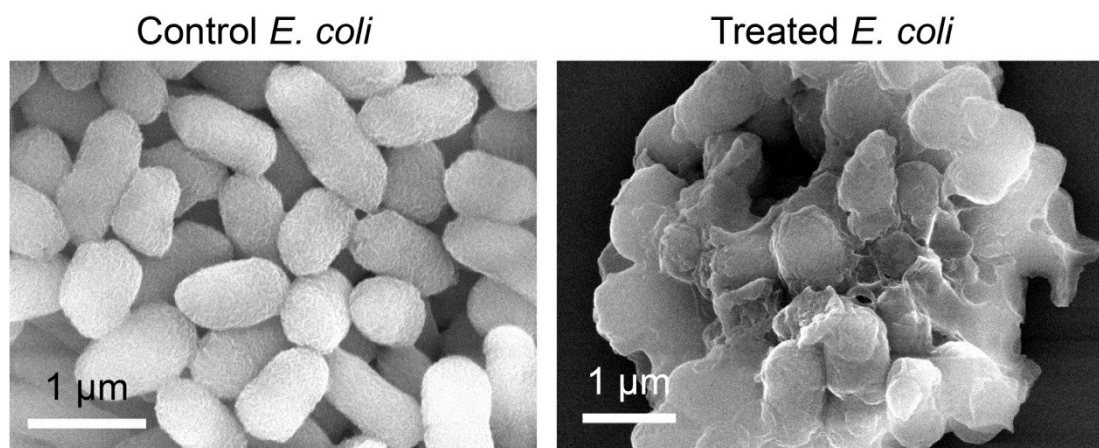


Figure S13. SEM micrographs un- and S4-K₂₅PBE₅-OH treated *E. coli* at 4 × MIC for 3 h.

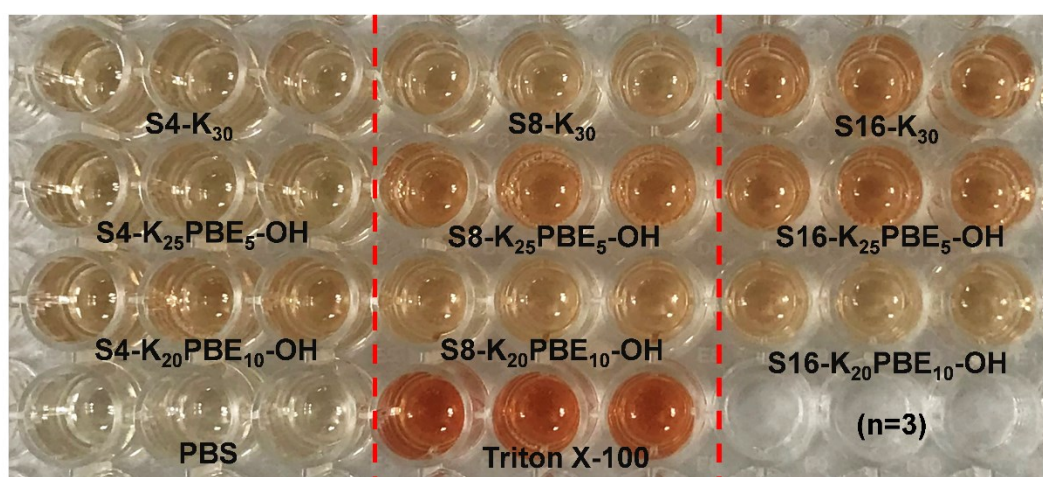


Figure S14. Optical images of the supernatant of mice red blood cells after hemolysis experiment (4 mg·mL⁻¹).

Table S1. The Gx-PAMAM mediated ROP of Boc-L-Lys-NCA

| Entry | Sample | Initiator | [M] ₀ /[NH ₂] ₀ | <i>M_n</i> (thero) | <i>M_n</i> (GPC) | <i>M_w</i> / <i>M_n</i> |
|-------|----------------------|-----------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | S4-BK ₃₀ | G0-PAMAM | 30 | 27900 | 28000 | 1.15 |
| 2 | S8-BK ₃₀ | G1-PAMAM | 30 | 56200 | 50200 | 1.07 |
| 3 | S16-BK ₃₀ | G2-PAMAM | 30 | 112700 | 114500 | 1.05 |
| 4 | S4-BK ₆₀ | G0-PAMAM | 60 | 55200 | 54700 | 1.03 |
| 5 | S8-BK ₆₀ | G1-PAMAM | 60 | 110900 | 105200 | 1.01 |
| 6 | S16-BK ₆₀ | G2-PAMAM | 60 | 222100 | N/A ^a | N/A |
| 7 | S4-BK ₁₀₀ | G0-PAMAM | 100 | 91700 | 91500 | 1.15 |
| 8 | S4-BK ₂₀₀ | G0-PAMAM | 200 | 182900 | N/A | N/A |
| 9 | S8-BK ₂₀₀ | G1-PAMAM | 200 | 366200 | N/A | N/A |
| 10 | S8-BK ₄₀₀ | G1-PAMAM | 400 | 731000 | N/A | N/A |

^a The data were not available owing to the bimodal peaks of the GPC curves.