

## Supporting Information

### Enzyme assisted peptide self-assemblies trigger cell adhesion in high density oxime based host gels

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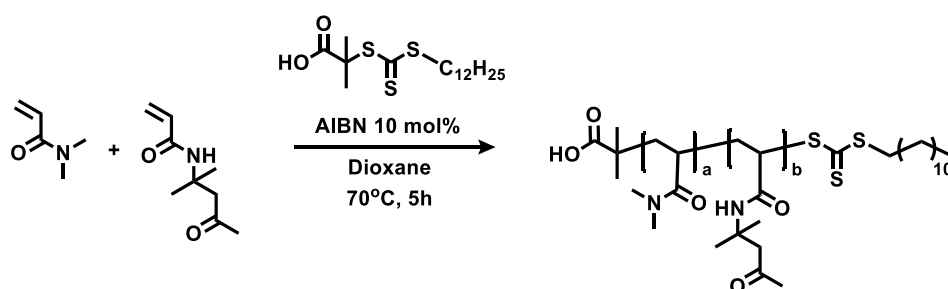
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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 1. Characterization of poly(*N,N*-dimethylacrylamide-co-diacetoneacrylamide) [Poly(DMA-co-DAAM)] and bis-Aminoxy PEG

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra were recorded on JEOL ECX400, and JEOL ECA-600 II spectrometers. Chemical shifts were referenced to solvent resonance signals. Gel permeation chromatography (GPC) was conducted on a ToSOH EcoSEC HLC8320GPC system equipped with a refractive index detector, UV-8320 detector, and TSKgel HHR columns (7.8x300mm G5000HHR, G4000HHR, and G3000HHR) with *N,N*-dimethylformamide (HPLC grade, containing 1 g.L<sup>-1</sup> LiBr) as the eluent at a flow rate of 1 mL.min<sup>-1</sup>.

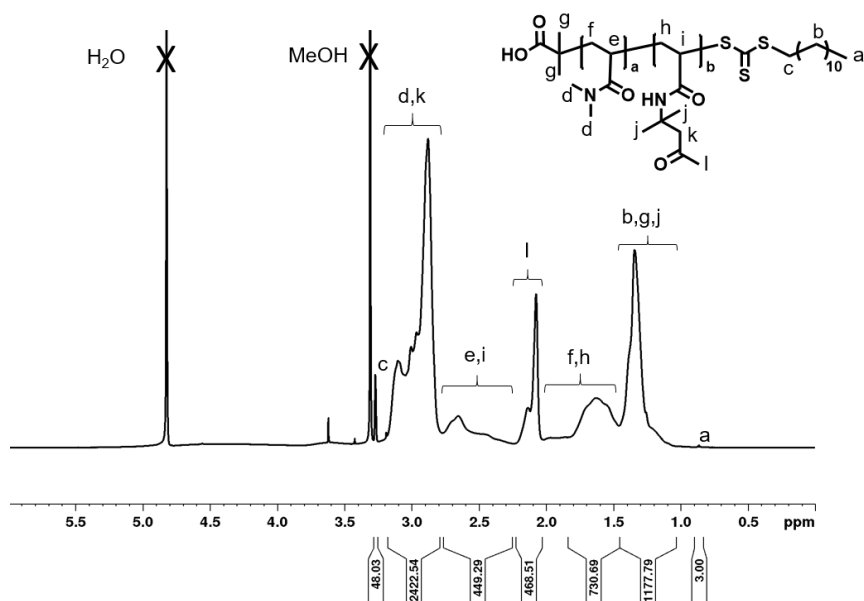
#### 1.1. Poly(*N,N*-dimethylacrylamide-co-diacetoneacrylamide) [Poly(DMA-co-DAAM)]



**Table S1.** Copolymers with *N,N*-dimethylacrylamide (DMA) and diacetoneacrylamide (DAAM) of varying comonomer composition.

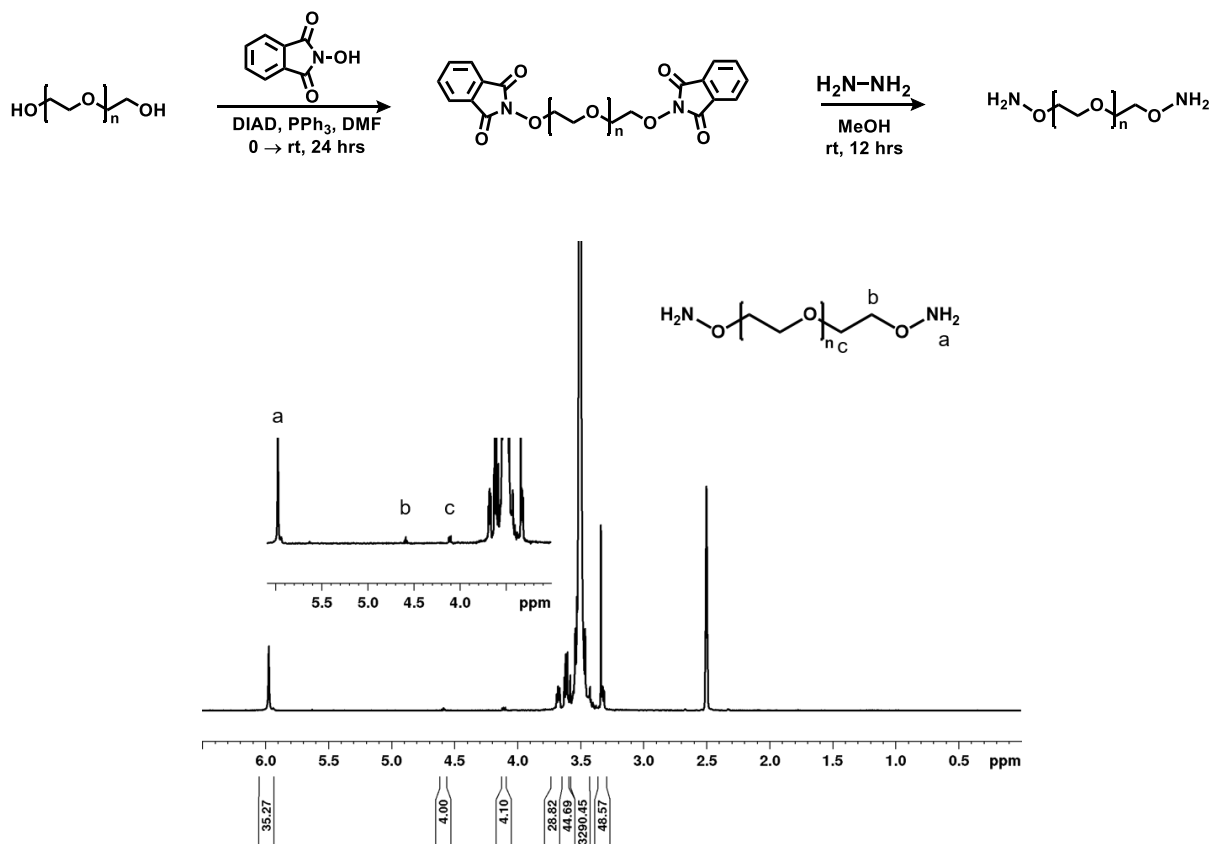
ENTRY	Feed Ratio [DAAM]/ [DMA]	DAAM <sup>a</sup> mol %	M <sub>n,GPC</sub> <sup>b</sup> (g.mol <sup>-1</sup> )	M <sub>w,GPC</sub> <sup>b</sup> (g.mol <sup>-1</sup> )	M <sub>w</sub> /M <sub>n</sub> <sup>b</sup>
1	0.11	13	56000	67000	1.19
2	0.18	21	61000	76000	1.24
3	0.25	29	56000	73000	1.23
4	0.33	39	53000	61000	1.16
5	0.43	49	56000	63000	1.13

<sup>a</sup>Determined from <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectroscopy. <sup>b</sup>Determined by GPC with DMF (containing 1 g.L<sup>-1</sup> LiBr) as the eluent at a flow rate of 1 mL.min<sup>-1</sup> using PMMA calibration.



**Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of representative poly(DMA-co-DAAM). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 0.878, 1.04-1.46, 1.46-2.02, 2.02-2.24, 2.24-2.78, 2.78-3.25, 3.25-3.29.

## 1.2. Bis-Aminoxy PEG (6k)



**Figure S2.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of representative bis-amino PEG polymer. The labeled a, b, c peaks are the end group of the polymer. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO): δ 3.50, 4.11, 4.59, 5.97.

## 2. Formation of poly(DMA-co-DAAM)/AO-PEG hydrogel

As an example, we show the calculations for the preparation of PDD-AOP hydrogels at 15% wt:

$$5 \text{ mg } P(\text{DMA} - \text{DAAM}) \times \frac{\text{mmol}}{56000 \text{ mg}} \times \frac{206.8 \text{ mmol DAAM}}{1 \text{ mmol } P(\text{DMA} - \text{DAAM})} \\ = 0.0185 \text{ mmol } P(\text{DMA} - \text{DAAM})$$

$$0.0185 \text{ mmol } P(\text{DMA} - \text{DAAM}) \times \frac{0.5 \text{ mmol AO} - \text{PEG}}{1 \text{ mmol } P(\text{DMA} - \text{DAAM})} \times \frac{6000 \text{ mg}}{\text{mmol}} = 55 \text{ mg AO} - \text{PEG}$$

Total polymer mass = 5 mg P(DMA-co-DAAM) + 55 mg AO-PEG = 60 mg total polymer.

For a 15 %wt solution, 60 mg total polymer should be in 400  $\mu\text{L}$  of polymer solution (60 mg/0.15 mg. $\mu\text{L}^{-1}$ ) assuming a density of 1 mg. $\mu\text{L}^{-1}$ .

$$\frac{5 \text{ mg } P(\text{DMA} - \text{DAAM})}{0.12 \text{ mg}/\mu\text{L}} = 42 \mu\text{L } P(\text{DMA} - \text{DAAM})$$

$$\frac{55 \text{ mg AO} - \text{PEG}}{0.32 \text{ mg}/\mu\text{L}} = 172 \mu\text{L AO} - \text{PEG}$$

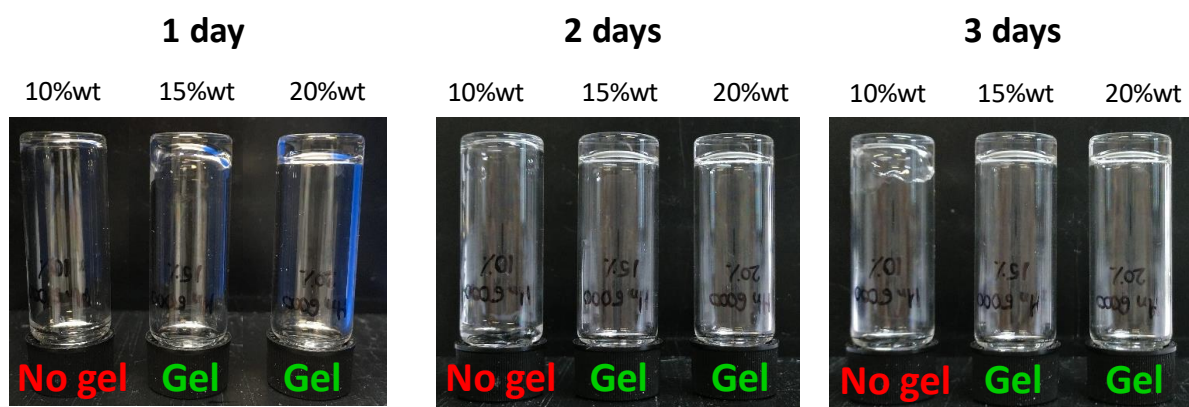
where P(DMA-co-DAAM) is in a 12 wt% solution in water and AO-PEG is in a 32 %wt solution in water. Therefore, 42  $\mu\text{L}$  + 172  $\mu\text{L}$  = 214  $\mu\text{L}$ . 400  $\mu\text{L}$  – 214  $\mu\text{L}$  = 186  $\mu\text{L}$ . Hence, adding 186  $\mu\text{L}$  of PBS buffer to P(DMA-co-DAAM) will give a 15 %wt solution when combined with AO-PEG.

In order to optimize the host hydrogel formation, different weight percentages (% wt) were tested keeping constant the 1:1 mole ratio between ketone and aminoxy derivatives (Table S2) following the previous calculations.

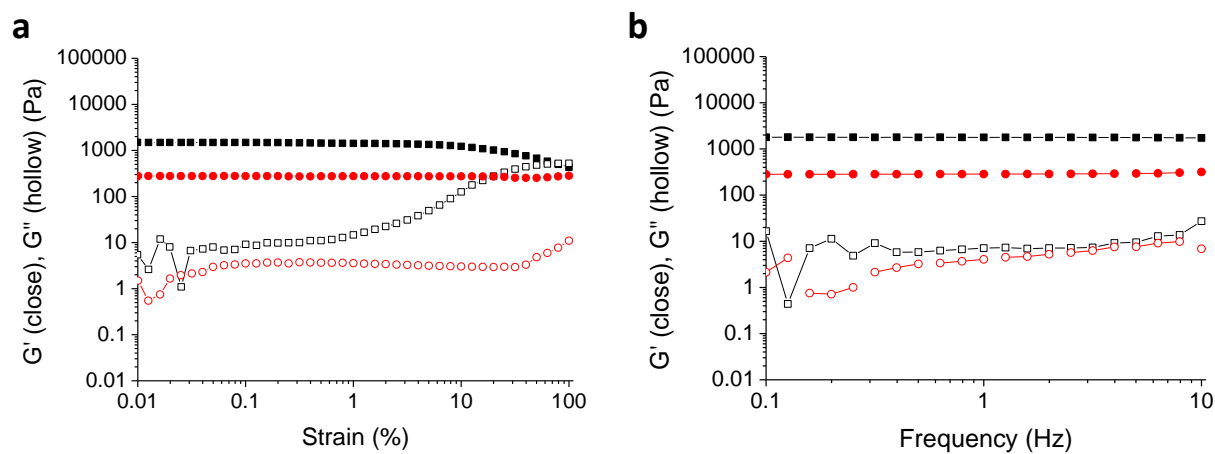
**Table S2.** Composition of PDD-AOP hydrogels at different weight percentages.

PDD-AOP (%wt)	P(DMA-co-DAAM) ( $\mu\text{L}$ )	PBS 7.4 ( $\mu\text{L}$ )	AO-PEG ( $\mu\text{L}$ )
20	42	86	172
15	31	139.5	129
10	21	193	86

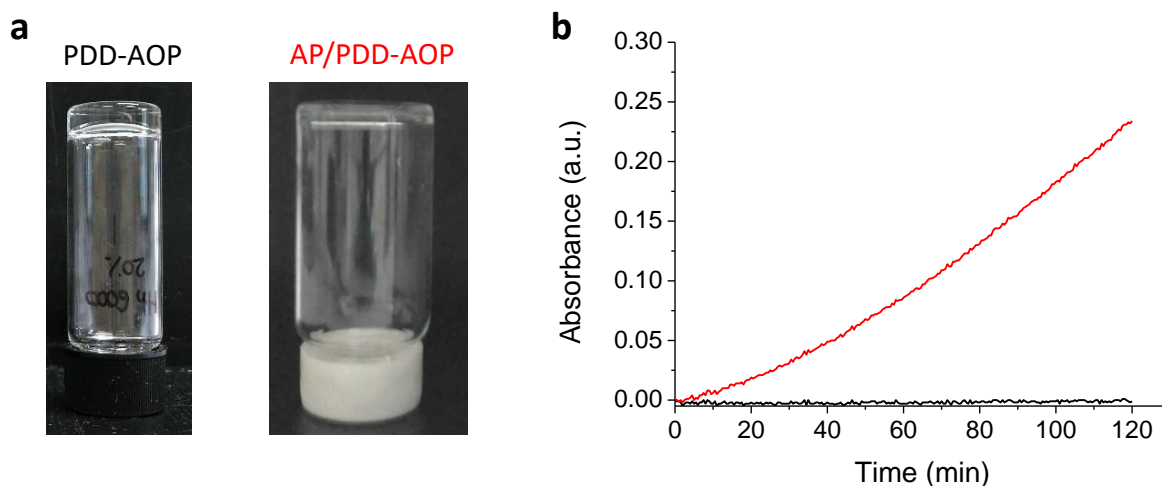
## SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES



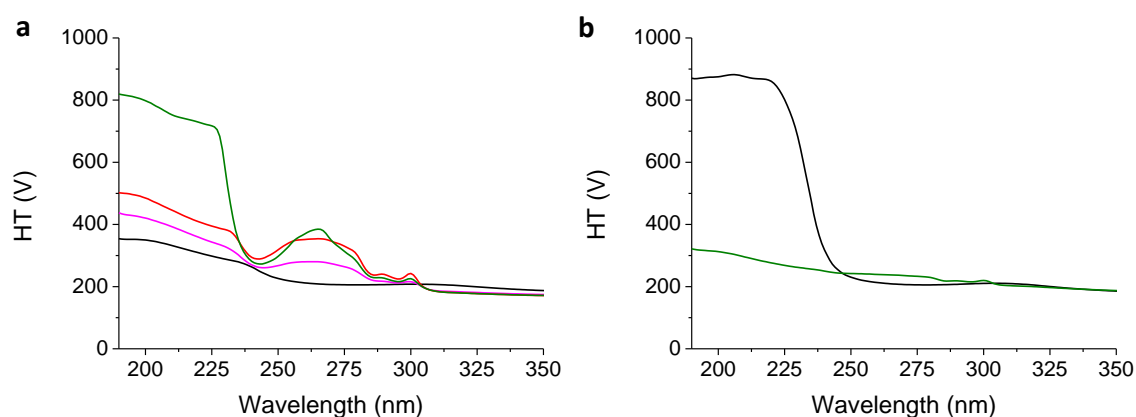
**Figure S3.** Inverted tube tests for PDD-AOP gel formation over the time.



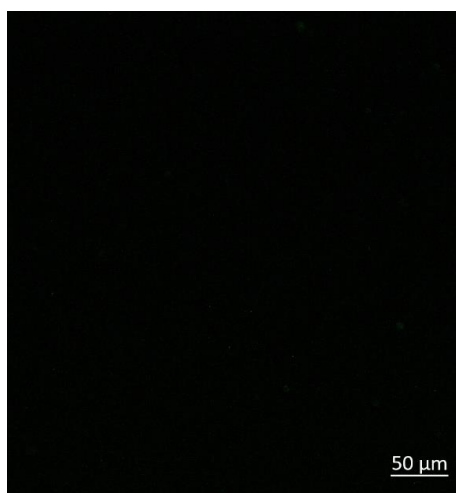
**Figure S4.** Storage modulus ( $G'$  – solid symbols) and loss modulus ( $G''$  – hollow symbols) of PDD-AOP gels with 20% wt (black line) and 15% wt (red line) a) as a function of the strain at a fixed frequency of 1Hz and b) as a function of the frequency at a fixed strain of 0.1%.



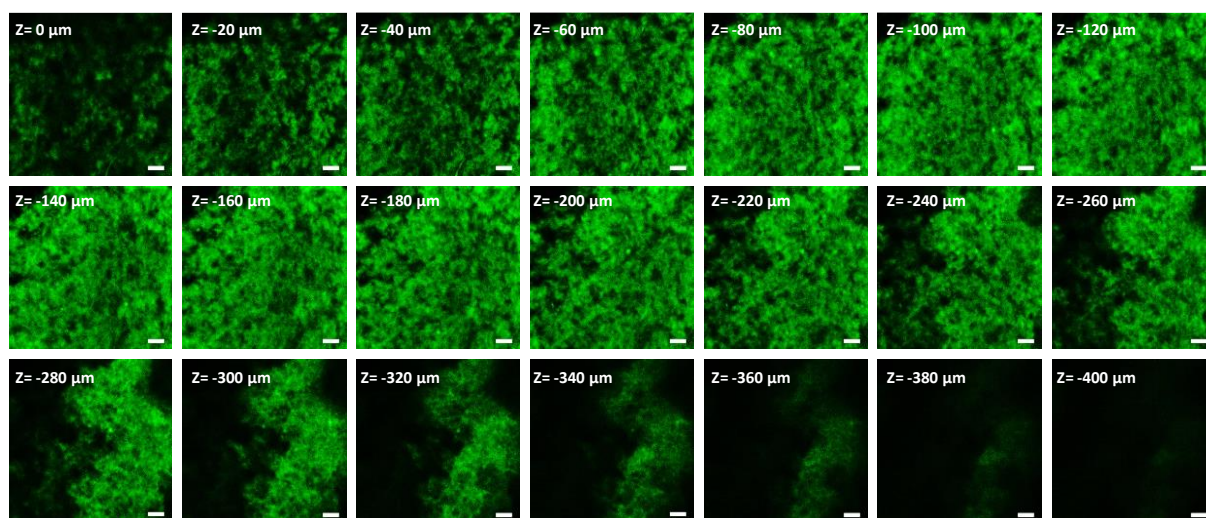
**Figure S5.** a) Inverted tube tests of PDD-AOP and AP/PDD-AOP gels after 48 h; b) Evolution of the optical density (OD) as a function of time of a *para*-nitrophenyl phosphate (PNP) solution brought in contact with PDD-AOP gel (black curve) and AP/PDD-AOP gel (red curve). The absorbance was measured at 405 nm. PNP is transformed into *para*-nitrophenol ( $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 405$  nm) and phosphate ions by AP embedded into the gel. The values of the slopes are  $0$  and  $2.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1}$  for PDD-AOP and AP/PDD-AOP gels, respectively.



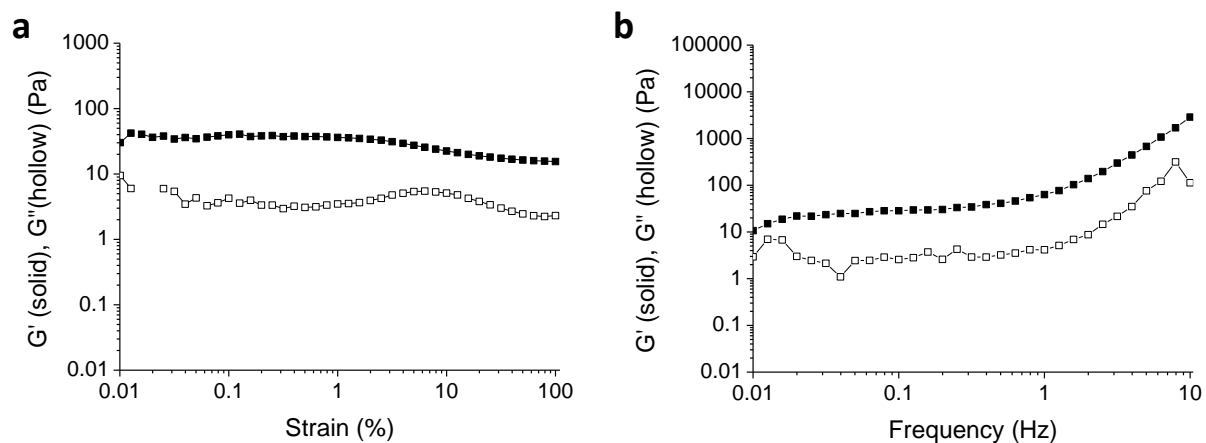
**Figure S6.** HT voltage curves for a) AP/PDD-AOP gel (black line), 4h (pink line), 24 h (red line) and 48 h (green line) after Fmoc-FFpY diffusion into the host gel and b) PDD-AOP gel (black line) and PDD-AOP gel after 48 hours Fmoc-FFpY ( $2.5 \text{ mg.mL}^{-1}$ ) diffusion (green line) into the host gel.



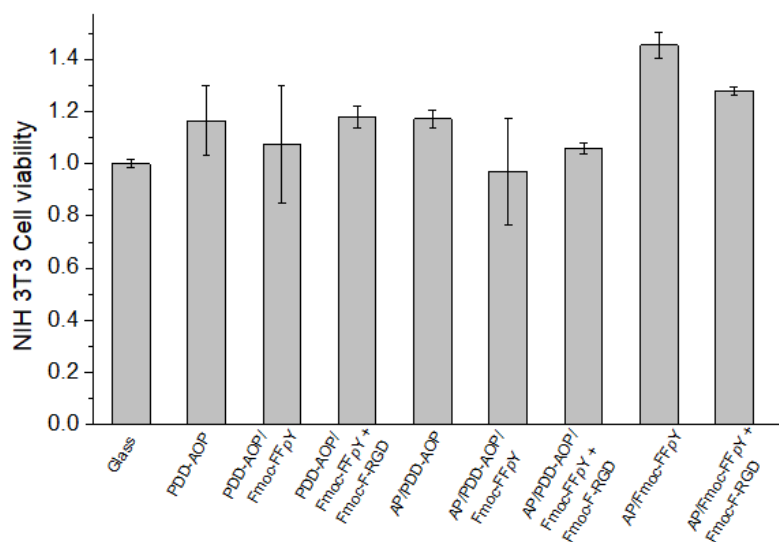
**Figure S7.** Confocal image of ThT/PDD-AOP hydrogel after 48 hours contact with Fmoc-FFpY ( $2.5 \text{ mg.mL}^{-1}$ ).



**Figure S8.** Confocal images taken along the z-axis penetrating inside the PDD-AOP hydrogel, 48 hours after the diffusion of Fmoc-FFpY solution ( $100 \mu\text{L}$ ,  $2.5 \text{ mg.mL}^{-1}$ ). Scale bar =  $100 \mu\text{m}$ .

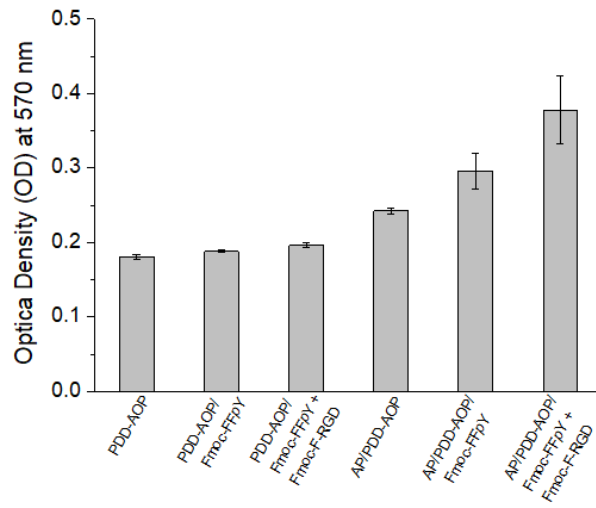


**Figure S9.** Storage modulus ( $G'$  – solid symbols) and loss modulus ( $G''$  – hollow symbols) of Fmoc-FFpY ( $2.5 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$ ) in contact with AP ( $0.2 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$ ) a) as a function of the strain at a fixed frequency of 1Hz and b) as a function of the frequency at a fixed strain of 0.1%.



**Figure S10.** Cytotoxicity assay of hydrogels after 24 hours determined through MTT indirect test using NIH 3T3 mouse embryonic fibroblasts cells.





**Figure S11.** Cytotoxicity assay of hydrogels after 24 hours determined through MTT direct test using NIH 3T3 mouse embryonic fibroblasts cells.