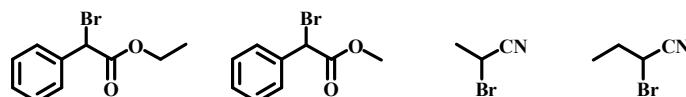


## Supporting Information

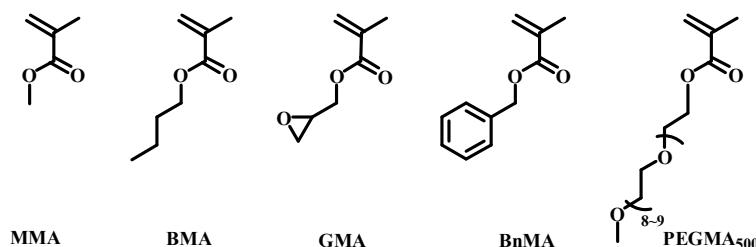
### Photocontrolled Bromine-Iodine Transformation Reversible-Deactivation Radical Polymerization: Facile Synthesis of Star Copolymers and Unimolecular Micelles

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**Scheme S1.** The structure types of the initiator precursor which are suitable for BIT-RDRP.



**Scheme S2.** The chemical structures of monomers used in this work.

**Table S1.** <sup>a</sup>Polymerization of MMA.

| Entry | Wavelength (nm) | t (h) | Solvent                         | R          | <sup>b</sup> Conv. (%) | <i>M</i> <sub>n,th</sub> (g/mol) | <sup>c</sup> <i>M</i> <sub>n,GPC</sub> (g/mol) | <sup>c</sup> <i>D</i> |
|-------|-----------------|-------|---------------------------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1     | 660             | 24    | CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> | 400/1/8/2  | 88.7                   | 36800                            | 48700  | 1.33                  |
| 2     | 460             | 24    | CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> | 400/1/8/2  | 92.3                   | 38300                            | 55300  | 1.21                  |
| 3     | 660             | 24    | DMF                             | 200/1/8/2  | 90.8                   | 19700                            | 29800  | 1.11                  |
| 4     | 660             | 24    | DMF                             | 200/1/8/0  | 65.5                   | 14600                            | 20200  | 1.08                  |
| 5     | 660             | 24    | DMF                             | 50/1/8/2   | 89.7                   | 6000                             | 9200   | 1.59                  |
| 6     | 660             | 24    | DMF                             | 400/1/8/2  | 84.3                   | 35200                            | 51400  | 1.47                  |
| 7     | 460             | 14    | DMF                             | 100/1/8/2  | 44.7                   | 5900                             | 8300   | 1.14                  |
| 8     | 460             | 14    | DMF                             | 200/1/8/2  | 49.4                   | 11400                            | 21900  | 1.18                  |
| 9     | 460             | 14    | DMF                             | 400/1/8/2  | 54.4                   | 23300                            | 37800  | 1.14                  |
| 10    | 460             | 24    | DMSO                            | 400/1/8/2  | 80.8                   | 33800                            | 54400  | 1.70                  |
| 11    | 460             | 24    | toluene                         | 400/1/8/2  | 49.1                   | 21100                            | 25200  | 1.22                  |
| 12    | 460             | 24    | toluene                         | 400/1/8/4  | 21.5                   | 10100                            | 32300  | 1.47                  |
| 13    | 460             | 14    | DMF                             | 100/1/12/2 | 64.0                   | 7900                             | 5100   | 1.16                  |
| 14    | 460             | 14    | DMF                             | 200/1/12/2 | 78.5                   | 14200                            | 21900  | 1.19                  |
| 15    | 460             | 14    | DMF                             | 400/1/12/2 | 69.3                   | 29200                            | 33400  | 1.20                  |

<sup>a</sup>Polymerization conditions: R = [MMA]<sub>0</sub>/[THPP-4Br]<sub>0</sub>/[NaI]<sub>0</sub>/[TEA]<sub>0</sub>, V<sub>MMA</sub> = 0.3 mL, V<sub>Solvent</sub> = 0.6 mL, under irradiation with red LED light ( $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 660$  nm, 32.8 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>) or blue LED light ( $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 460$  nm, 15 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>) at 25 °C. <sup>b</sup>Determined by gravimetry. <sup>c</sup>Determined by GPC using linear PMMA as the standard in THF.

**Table S2.** <sup>a</sup>Polymerization of PEGMA<sub>500</sub>.

| Entry | t (h) | Solvent  | R         | <sup>b</sup> Conv.<br>(%) | <i>M</i> <sub>n,th</sub> (g/mol) | <sup>c</sup> <i>M</i> <sub>n,GPC</sub><br>(g/mol) | <sup>c</sup> <i>D</i> |
|-------|-------|----------|-----------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1     | 12    | Methanol | 20/1/12/2 | 45.8                      | 6000                             | 15800   | 1.31                  |
| 2     | 8     | DMF      | 80/1/12/2 | 24.8                      | 11400                            | 71200   | 1.75                  |
| 3     | 8     | DMSO     | 80/1/12/2 | 39.2                      | 17100                            | 80800   | 1.30                  |
| 4     | 12    | Anisole  | 80/1/12/2 | 21.6                      | 10100                            | 22700   | 1.16                  |
| 5     | 12    | Acetone  | 80/1/12/2 | 52.5                      | 22500                            | 59300   | 1.55                  |
| 6     | 12    | Dioxane  | 80/1/12/2 | 27.4                      | 12400                            | 33000   | 1.27                  |
| 7     | 12    | Ethanol  | 20/1/12/2 | 88.7                      | 10300                            | 12200   | 1.31                  |
| 8     | 12    | Ethanol  | 40/1/12/2 | 72.4                      | 15900                            | 17300   | 1.24                  |
| 9     | 12    | Ethanol  | 80/1/12/2 | 75.6                      | 31700                            | 34100   | 1.27                  |

<sup>a</sup>Polymerization conditions: R = [PEGMA]<sub>0</sub>/[THPP-4Br]<sub>0</sub>/[NaI]<sub>0</sub>/[TEA]<sub>0</sub>, V<sub>PEGMA</sub> = 0.3 mL, V<sub>Solvent</sub> = 0.6 mL, under irradiation with blue LED light ( $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 460$  nm, 15 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>) at 25 °C. <sup>b</sup>Determined by gravimetry. <sup>c</sup>Determined by GPC using linear PMMA as the standard in THF.

**Table S3** <sup>a</sup>Polymerization of PEGMA<sub>500</sub> by using linear PMMA as the macroinitiator.

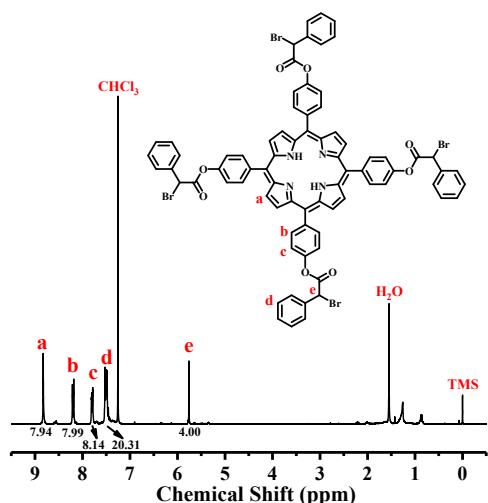
| Entry | t (h) | <i>M</i> <sub>n,PMMA</sub><br>(g/mol) | R           | <sup>b</sup> <i>M</i> <sub>n,GPC</sub><br>(g/mol) | <sup>c</sup> <i>M</i> <sub>n,NMR</sub><br>(g/mol) | <sup>b</sup> <i>D</i> | <sup>d</sup> BR                                      |
|-------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------------|---|---|-----------------------|--|
| 1     | 72    | 11500                                 | 400/1/3/0.5 | 40400   | 43300   | 1.23                  | PMMA <sub>112</sub> - <i>b</i> -PPEGMA <sub>64</sub> |
| 2     | 72    | 15000                                 | 400/1/3/0.5 | 30500   | 32800   | 1.29                  | PMMA <sub>147</sub> - <i>b</i> -PPEGMA <sub>36</sub> |
| 3     | 72    | 18000                                 | 400/1/3/0.5 | 42400   | 44100   | 1.32                  | PMMA <sub>177</sub> - <i>b</i> -PPEGMA <sub>52</sub> |

<sup>a</sup>Polymerization conditions: R = [PEGMA]<sub>0</sub>/[PMMA]<sub>0</sub>/[NaI]<sub>0</sub>/[TEA]<sub>0</sub>, V<sub>PEGMA<sub>500</sub></sub> = 0.5 mL, V<sub>C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH</sub> = 1.0 mL, under irradiation with blue LED light ( $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 460$  nm, 15 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>) at 25 °C. <sup>b</sup>Determined by GPC using linear PMMA as the standard in THF. <sup>c</sup>Calculated by <sup>1</sup>H NMR results. <sup>d</sup>Block ratio of amphiphilic linear block copolymers calculated from <sup>1</sup>H NMR results.

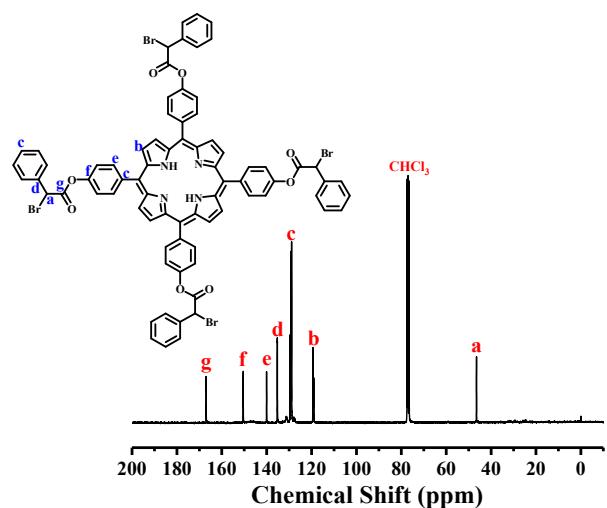
**Table S4** Estimation of the hydrodynamic radius of UIM.

| Entry | BR  | <sup>a</sup> Rc (nm) | <sup>b</sup> Ro (nm) | <sup>c</sup> Rs (nm) |
|-------|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1     | THPP-4PMMA <sub>93</sub> - <i>b</i> -4PPEGMA <sub>66</sub>  | 1.3                  | 8.3                  | 7.0                  |
| 2     | THPP-4PMMA <sub>115</sub> - <i>b</i> -4PPEGMA <sub>63</sub> | 1.4                  | 9.1                  | 7.7                  |
| 3     | THPP-4PMMA <sub>167</sub> - <i>b</i> -4PPEGMA <sub>62</sub> | 1.4                  | 10.6                 | 9.2                  |
| 4     | THPP-4PMMA <sub>105</sub> - <i>b</i> -4PPEGMA <sub>52</sub> | 1.4                  | 8.6                  | 7.2                  |
| 8     | THPP-4PMMA <sub>131</sub> - <i>b</i> -4PPEGMA <sub>66</sub> | 1.4                  | 9.6                  | 8.2                  |
| 10    | THPP-4PMMA <sub>158</sub> - <i>b</i> -4PPEGMA <sub>50</sub> | 1.4                  | 10.2                 | 8.8                  |
| 11    | THPP-4PMMA <sub>158</sub> - <i>b</i> -4PPEGMA <sub>71</sub> | 1.4                  | 10.4                 | 9.0                  |
| 13    | THPP-4PMMA <sub>171</sub> - <i>b</i> -4PPEGMA <sub>56</sub> | 1.4                  | 10.6                 | 9.2                  |
| 14    | THPP-4PMMA <sub>171</sub> - <i>b</i> -4PPEGMA <sub>66</sub> | 1.4                  | 10.7                 | 9.3                  |

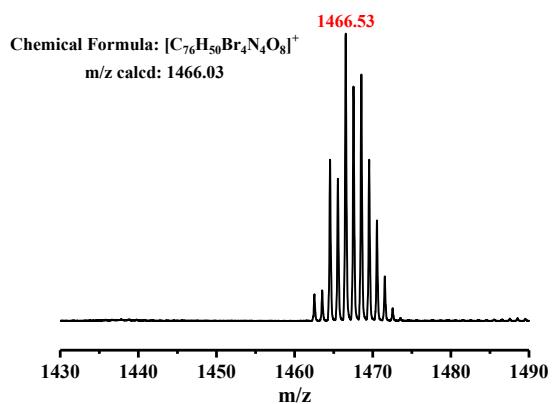
<sup>a</sup>The hydrodynamic radius of the core,  $R_C = N_B^{0.065}$ . <sup>b</sup>The hydrodynamic radius of the overall micelle,  $R_O = N_B^{0.408}N_A^{0.065}$ . <sup>c</sup>The hydrodynamic radius of the shell,  $R_S = R_O - R_C$ .  $N_B$  and  $N_A$  are respectively the polymerization degree of the hydrophobic and hydrophilic segments of the star block copolymer.



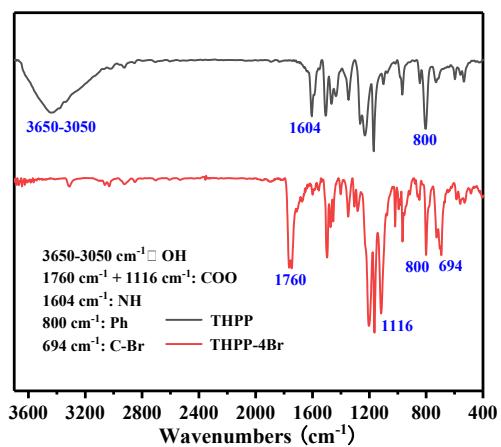
**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of THPP-4Br in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



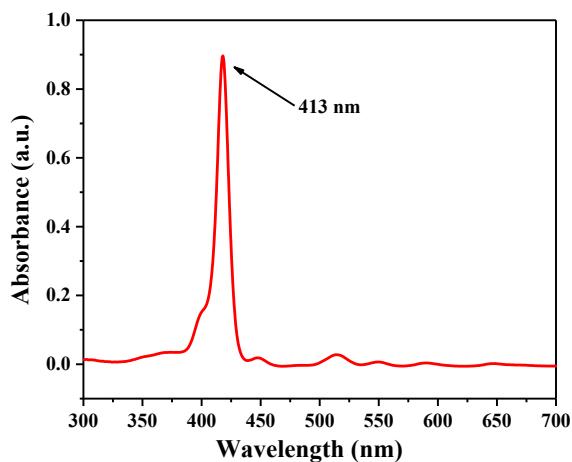
**Figure S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of THPP-4Br in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



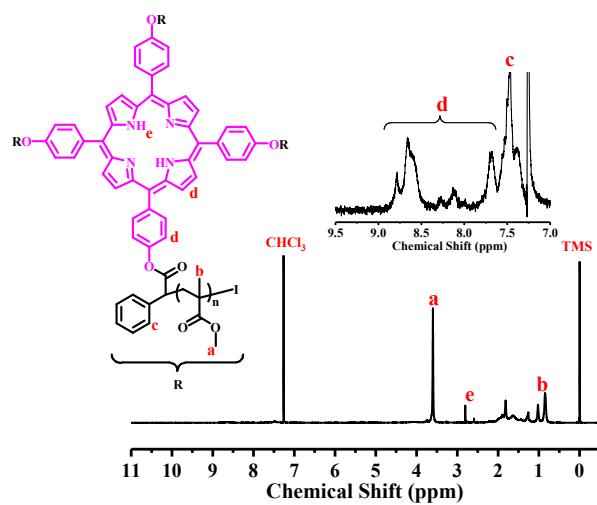
**Figure S3.** MALDI-TOF MS spectrum of THPP-4Br in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ .



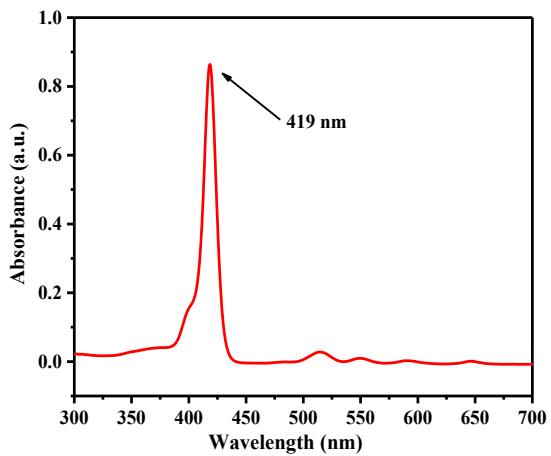
**Figure S4.** FT-IR spectra of THPP and THPP-4Br.



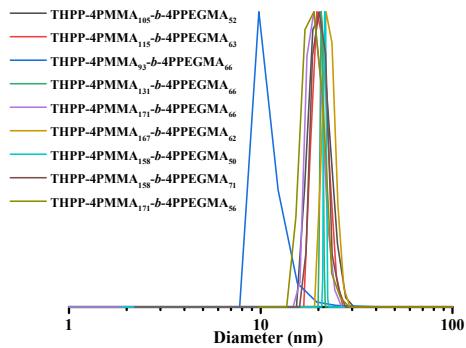
**Figure S5.** UV-vis absorption spectrum of THPP-4Br.



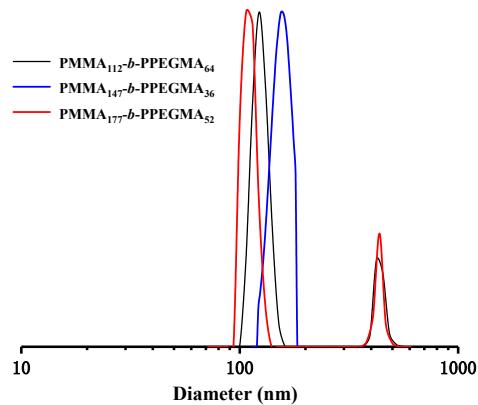
**Figure S6.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of THPP-4PMMA ( $M_{n, GPC} = 14600$  g/mol,  $D = 1.22$ ) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



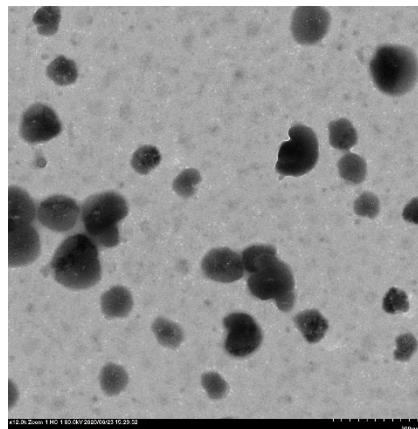
**Figure S7.** UV-vis absorption spectrum of THPP-4PMMA ( $M_{n,\text{NMR}} = 14600 \text{ g/mol}$ ,  $D = 1.22$ ).



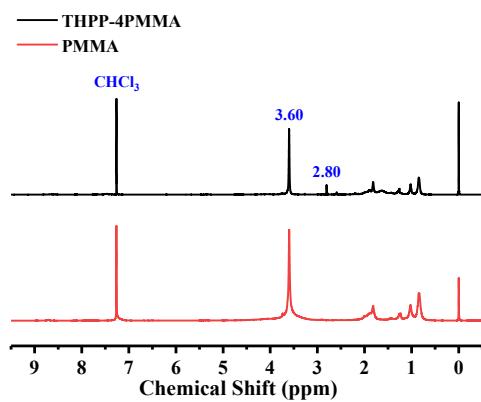
**Figure S8.** Size distributions from DLS of star copolymer THPP-4PMMA-*b*-4PPEGMA micelles.



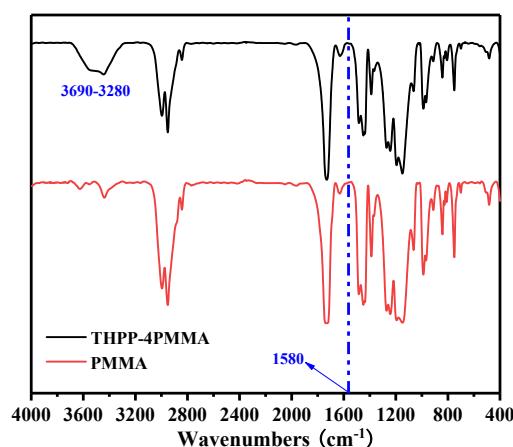
**Figure S9.** Size distributions from DLS of amphiphilic linear block copolymer PMMA-*b*-PPEGMA micelles.



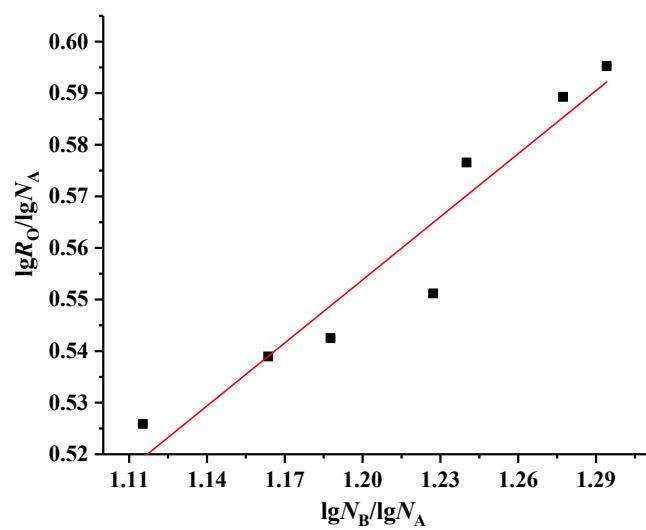
**Figure S10.** TEM image of the amphiphilic linear block copolymer PMMA-*b*-PPEGMA micelles. Sample: PMMA<sub>112</sub>-*b*-PPEGMA<sub>64</sub>,  $M_{n,\text{GPC}} = 40400 \text{ g/mol}$ ,  $M_{n,\text{NMR}} = 43300 \text{ g/mol}$ ,  $D = 1.23$ .



**Figure S11.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of THPP-4PMMA ( $M_{n,\text{GPC}} = 14600 \text{ g/mol}$ ,  $D = 1.22$ ) and linear PMMA ( $M_{n,\text{GPC}} = 4100 \text{ g/mol}$ ,  $D = 1.09$ ) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S12.** FT-IR Spectra of THPP-4PMMA ( $M_{n,\text{GPC}} = 14600 \text{ g/mol}$ ,  $D = 1.22$ ) and linear PMMA ( $M_{n,\text{GPC}} = 4100 \text{ g/mol}$ ,  $D = 1.09$ ).



**Figure S13.**  $\lg R_O / \lg N_A$  as a function of  $\lg N_B / \lg N_A$ .