

## Supplementary Information

Table S1: COMSOL reactions and kinetic rate constants

| #  | Reaction  | Rate Constant | Rate Constant Value                                  | Reference        |
|----|---|---------------|--|------------------|
| 1  | $E + hv \rightarrow E_s$                                      |               | $R_i = \frac{I_0}{bE} (1 - 10^{-\varepsilon C E^b})$ | Beer-Lambert Law |
| 2  | $E_s \rightarrow E$   | $k_{ic}$      | 1.2E8 s <sup>-1</sup>                                | 1                |
| 3  | $E_s \rightarrow E_t$   | $k_{isc}$     | 5.0E8 s <sup>-1</sup>                                | 1                |
| 4  | $E_s \rightarrow E + hv$                                      | $k_f$         | 2.0E8 s <sup>-1</sup>                                | 1                |
| 5  | $E_s + TEOA \rightarrow E + TEOA$                             | $k_q$         | 3.4E9 s <sup>-1</sup>                                | 1                |
| 6  | $E_t \rightarrow E$   | $k_{deact}$   | 5.4E2 s <sup>-1</sup>                                | 2                |
| 7  | $E_t + E \rightarrow 2E$                                      | $k_{te}$      | 3.0E8 L/mol·s  | 2                |
| 8  | $E_t + TEOA \rightarrow E^{\cdot} + TEOA^{\cdot+}$            | $k_i$         | 4.2E7 L/mol·s  | 1                |
| 9  | $TEOA^{\cdot+} + OH^- \rightarrow TEOA^{\cdot} + H_2O$        | $k_{TEArad}$  | 1.0E10 L/mol·s                                       | 3                |
| 10 | $TEOA^{\cdot} + O_2 \rightarrow TEOA^{\cdot+} + O_2^{\cdot-}$ | $k_{TEA-O2}$  | 3.5E9 L/mol·s  | 3                |
| 11 | $TEOA^{\cdot} + PEDGA \rightarrow P_n^{\cdot}$                | $k_{pA}$      | 2.17E4 L/mol·s                                       | 4                |
| 12 | $TEOA^{\cdot} + VP \rightarrow P_n^{\cdot}$                   | $k_{pB}$      | 7.66E4 L/mol·s                                       | 5                |
| 13 | $P_n^{\cdot} + PEDGA \rightarrow P_{n+1}^{\cdot}$             | $k_{pA}$      | 2.17E4 L/mol·s                                       | 4                |
| 14 | $P_n^{\cdot} + VP \rightarrow P_{n+1}^{\cdot}$                | $k_{pB}$      | 7.66E4 L/mol·s                                       | 5                |
| 15 | $E^{\cdot} + H^+ \rightarrow EH^{\cdot}$                      | $k_{ab}$      | 4.0E9 L/mol·s  | 6                |
| 16 | $EH^{\cdot} + OH^- \rightarrow E^{\cdot} + H_2O$              | $k_{af}$      | 2.0E10 L/mol·s                                       | 6                |
| 17 | $E^{\cdot} + O_2 \rightarrow E + O_2^{\cdot-}$                | $k_{regen}$   | 1.0E9 L/mol·s  | 7                |
| 18 | $TEOA^{\cdot} + EH^{\cdot} \rightarrow E + TEOA$              | $k_{regen2}$  | 1.0E8 L/mol·s  | *                |
| 19 | $EH^{\cdot} + EH^{\cdot} \rightarrow E + EH_2$                | $k_{leuco}$   | 4.2E6 L/mol·s  | 8                |
| 20 | $P_n^{\cdot} + TEOA^{\cdot} \rightarrow P_{n+1}^{\cdot}$      | $k_t$         | 7.55E5 L/mol·s                                       | 9                |
| 21 | $P_n^{\cdot} + P_n^{\cdot} \rightarrow P_{n+n}^{\cdot}$       | $k_t$         | 7.55E5 L/mol·s                                       | 9                |
| 22 | $P_n^{\cdot} + O_2 \rightarrow P_n^{\cdot}OO^{\cdot}$         | $k_{inh}$     | 4.9E9 L/mol·s  | 10               |

\*assumed to match eosin conc vs. time curve

Table S2: Diffusion constant values

| Diffusion Constant | Value (m <sup>2</sup> /s) | Diffusion Species              |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| $D_E$              | 5.500E-10                 | Eosin Y                        |
| $D_{Es}$           | 5.500E-10                 | Eosin Y (singlet excited)      |
| $D_{Et}$           | 5.500E-10                 | Eosin Y (triplet excited)      |
| $D_{E^*}$          | 5.500E-10                 | Eosin Y radical trianion       |
| $D_{EH^*}$         | 5.500E-10                 | Protonated Eosin Radical       |
| $D_{EH2}$          | 5.500E-10                 | Leuco Eosin Y                  |
| $D_{TEOA}$         | 7.043E-10                 | Treithanolamine                |
| $D_{TEOA^*+}$      | 7.043E-10                 | Triethanolamine radical cation |

|              |           |                                      |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| $D_{TEOA^*}$ | 7.043E-10 | Triethanolamine radical              |
| $D_{TEOA^+}$ | 7.043E-10 | Triethanolamine cation               |
| $D_{O_2}$    | 1.960E-9  | Oxygen                               |
| $D_{OO^-}$   | 1.960E-9  | Superoxide                           |
| $D_{PEGDA}$  | 9.013E-10 | Polyethylene glycol diacrylate       |
| $D_{VP}$     | 9.013E-10 | Vinyl pyrrolidinone                  |
| $D_{Pn^*}$   | 9.013E-10 | Polymer chain radical (n-units long) |
| $D_{Pn}$     | 9.013E-10 | Polymer (n-units long)               |
| $D_{PnOO^*}$ | 9.013E-10 | Peroxy radical                       |

Table S3: COMSOL variable values

| Variable        | Initial Value        | Description  |
|-----------------|----------------------|--|
| $C_E$           | 0.6 $\mu$ M          | Eosin Y concentration                              |
| $C_{Es}$        | 0                    | Eosin Y (singlet) concentration                    |
| $C_{Et}$        | 0                    | Eosin Y (triplet) concentration                    |
| $C_{E^*}$       | 0                    | Eosin Y radical concentration                      |
| $C_{EH^*}$      | 0                    | Protonated eosin radical concentration             |
| $C_{EH_2}$      | 0                    | Leuco eosin Y concentration                        |
| $C_{TEOA}$      | 150 mM               | Treithanolamine concentration                      |
| $C_{TEOA^{*+}}$ | 0                    | Triethanolamine radical cation concentration       |
| $C_{TEOA^*}$    | 0                    | Triethanolamine radical concentration              |
| $C_{TEOA^+}$    | 0                    | Triethanolamine cation concentration               |
| $C_{O_2}$       | 0.58 mM              | Oxygen concentration                               |
| $C_{OO^-}$      | 0                    | Superoxide concentration                           |
| $C_{PEGDA}$     | 200 mM               | Polyethylene glycol diacrylate concentration       |
| $C_{VP}$        | 100 mM               | Vinyl pyrrolidinone concentration                  |
| $C_{Pn^*}$      | 0                    | Polymer chain radical (n-units long) concentration |
| $C_{Pn}$        | 0                    | Polymer (n-units long) concentration               |
| $C_{PnOO^*}$    | 0                    | Peroxy radical concentration                       |
| $C_{H^+}$       | 1.26 mM              | Proton concentration                               |
| $C_{OH^-}$      | 7.94 mM              | Hydroxide ion concentration                        |
| $I_0$           | 250 W/m <sup>2</sup> | Light Intensity                                    |
| $\epsilon$      | 85800 L/(mol*cm)     | Extinction coefficient eosin Y (0-1 $\mu$ M)       |
| $b$             | 0.39 mm              | Light path length through droplet                  |
| $E'$            | 2.39 J/mol           | Energy of photons at 500 nm                        |
| $\delta$        | 0.1 mm               | Oxygen boundary layer in water                     |

## Materials

Whatman Grade 1 chromatography paper was purchased from VWR (Radnor, PA, USA). Poly(ethylene glycol) diacrylate (Mn=575) (PEGDA), triethanolamine (TEOA), 1-vinyl-2-pyrrolidinone (VP), eosin Y disodium salt, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), 10X phosphate buffered saline (PBS), phenolphthalein, hydrogen chloride, and Tween® 20 were obtained from Sigma Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). Eosin-5-isothiocyanate (EITC) was obtained from Marker Gene Technology (Eugene, OR, USA). Streptavidin was obtained from Rockland Immunochemicals Inc. UltraCruz™ Micro G-25 Spin Columns were purchased from Santa Cruz Biotechnology Inc. (Santa Cruz, CA, USA). CBD-fused, SA-binding variant of reduced charge protein Sso7d from *Sulfolobus solfataricus* was expressed and purified by Eric A. Miller as described previously<sup>11</sup>.

## Conjugation of eosin to streptavidin

The method of conjugation of EITC to proteins has been described previously<sup>12,13</sup>. EITC (1 mg) was dissolved in 100 µL of DMSO to prepare a 10 mg/mL EITC stock solution. To prepare the streptavidin conjugate, 10 µL of the EITC stock solution was mixed with a 100 µL solution of streptavidin (1 mg/mL) in 0.1 M sodium bicarbonate buffer (pH 9.7) to give a total reaction volume of 110 µL and the reaction mixture was protected from light and placed at 4 °C overnight. During the reactions, the isothiocyanate functional group of EITC reacts with the amine group of the lysine residues of the proteins to form a thiourea bond. At the end of the reaction, the excess EITC was separated from the eosin-conjugated streptavidin by size-exclusion chromatography with Sephadex matrix (Micro G-25 Spin-Column). UV-visible absorbance spectroscopy was used to determine the concentration of the protein and the average number of eosin molecules coupled to each streptavidin molecule by taking an absorbance scan of the purified conjugate, and using the following equation.

$$\frac{n_{EITC}}{n_{SA}} = (Abs_{525} / \epsilon_{EITC, 525}) / [ \{ Abs_{280} - (Abs_{525} \epsilon_{EITC, 280} / \epsilon_{EITC, 525}) \} / \epsilon_{SA, 280} ]$$

Where  $n_{EITC}$  is the number of molecules of eosin,  $n_{SA}$  is the number of molecules of streptavidin,  $Abs_{280}$  and  $Abs_{525}$  are the measured absorbance values at 280 nm and 525 nm, respectively,  $\epsilon_{EITC,280}$  is  $26,800 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\epsilon_{SA,280}$  is  $173,000 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ , and  $\epsilon_{EITC,525}$  is  $90,200 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

The purified and characterized conjugates were diluted to make 50% v/v glycerol stock and stored at  $-20 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  until use.

### **Sensitivity Analysis of Parameters Estimated from Literature**

While many system-specific variables were measured directly, kinetic rate constants and oxygen boundary layer thickness were estimated from similar systems in literature. Therefore, we performed a sensitivity analysis on oxygen boundary layer thickness and key kinetic parameters to observe the effects on  $t_{0.2}$  if estimated parameter values were increased by 10%. Literature values for  $k_{ic}$ ,  $k_{isc}$ , and  $k_f$  were obtained in water at neutral-to-high pH, which is quite different from our system. Therefore these rate constants, as well as  $k_{TEA-O_2}$ ,  $k_{regen}$ , and  $k_{inh}$ —which are associated with key oxygen inhibition reactions—were chosen for the sensitivity analysis. Oxygen boundary layer, which was estimated from literature<sup>14</sup>, was also included.

Only minor changes in  $t_{0.2}$  were observed in most parameters, but rate constants associated with generation of triplet eosin ( $k_{ic}$ ,  $k_{isc}$ , and  $k_f$ ) did demonstrate more sensitivity to perturbation, with  $k_{isc}$ , the rate constant associated with reaction of excited singlet eosin Y to excited triplet eosin Y, showing the most significant change (-5.2%). Given that triplet eosin is critical for eosin radical formation and subsequent overcoming of oxygen inhibition and polymerization, this sensitivity makes sense. Oxygen boundary layer demonstrated some sensitivity as well, which was expected, given its key role in determining flux of oxygen into the reaction volume. It is likely that measurement of these values for this specific system could increase the accuracy of the model if needed.

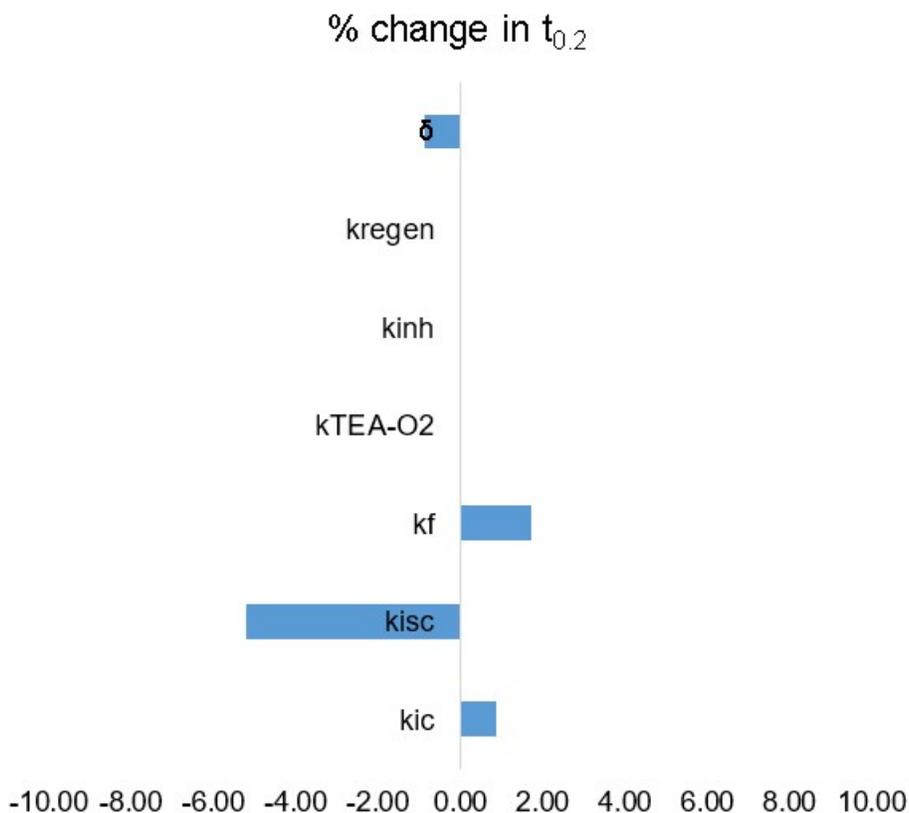
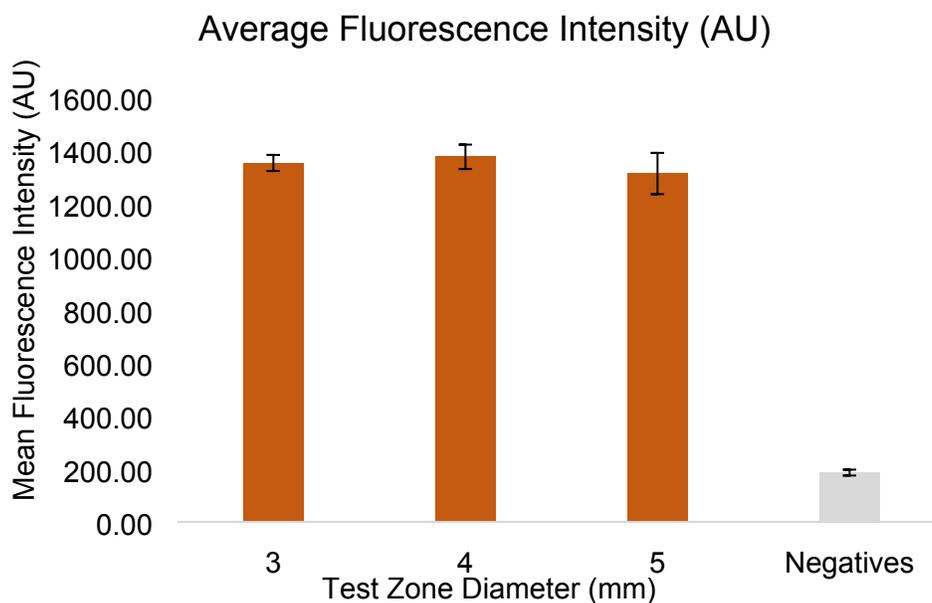


Figure S1: Sensitivity of gelation time ( $t_{0.2}$ ) to 10% perturbations in estimated kinetic rate constants and oxygen boundary layer

### Streptavidin-eosin biodetection assay fluorescence results

For all biodetection assays (capture of eosin-conjugated streptavidin by paper-immobilized streptavidin binders), the surface concentration of captured eosin was kept constant for all well sizes to fairly compare eosin photopolymerization signal amplification response across different well sizes and with different monomer solution droplet volumes. Eosin's fluorescence properties were used to assess paper-based streptavidin-eosin capture and compare between replicates and between well sizes.

Fluorescence images to detect surface-immobilized eosin species were acquired using an Olympus IX-81 microscope with a Texas Red filter set (Ex. 560/55, Em. 645/75). Fluorescence intensity measurements were conducted in Image J.



*Figure S2: Mean fluorescence intensity of test zones of varied diameter. Negative tests had no streptavidin binder immobilized on the surface. All tests were contacted with streptavidin-eosin. Each bar represents 9 replicates.*

### **Model-predicted and experimental conversion for shallower droplets**

Extensive exposure of the reaction volume to oxygen (here, in the form of increased droplet surface area-to-volume ratio) will, at a certain point, prevent any polymerization from occurring. While polymer will form in 3 mm and 5 mm diameter test zones when 20  $\mu\text{L}$  droplets of monomer solution are applied (Figure 4B), both the model and experimental results demonstrated that 3  $\mu\text{L}$  and 10  $\mu\text{L}$  droplets on 3 and 5 mm test zones, respectively, will never form visible polymer, even after 200 s of irradiation with green light. Free eosin Y concentration was set to 0.4  $\mu\text{M}$  for both the model and experiment.

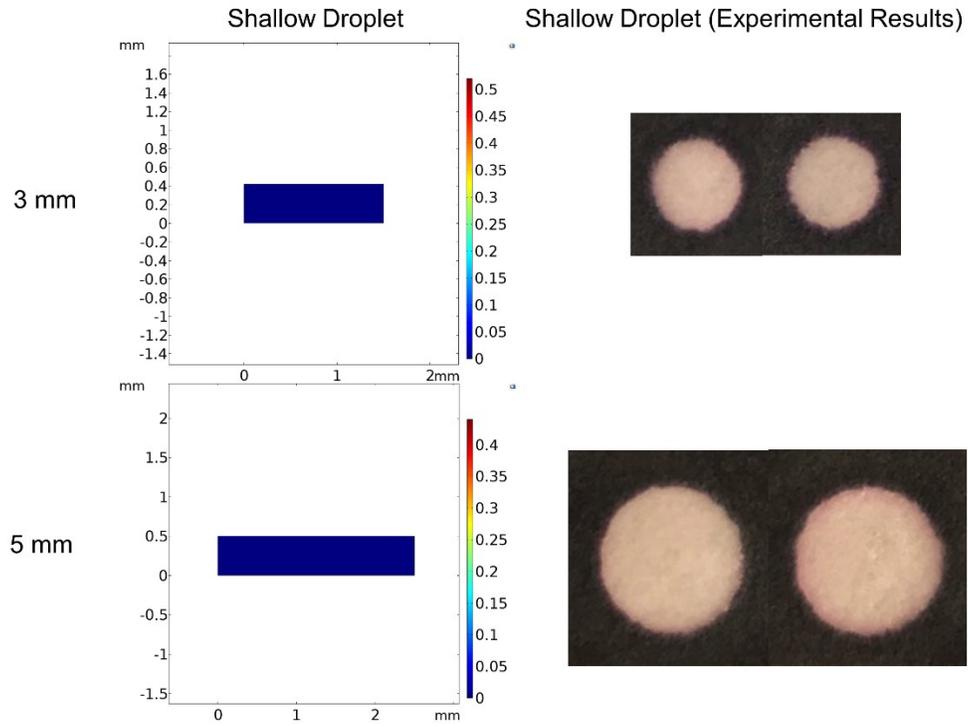


Figure S3: Conversion in 20  $\mu\text{L}$  and 3  $\mu\text{L}$  (3 mm zone)/10  $\mu\text{L}$  (5 mm zone) droplets at 200 s

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