

**Supporting Information**

**Metal–ligand complexation and clustering in mussel-inspired side-chain functionalized supramolecular hydrogels**

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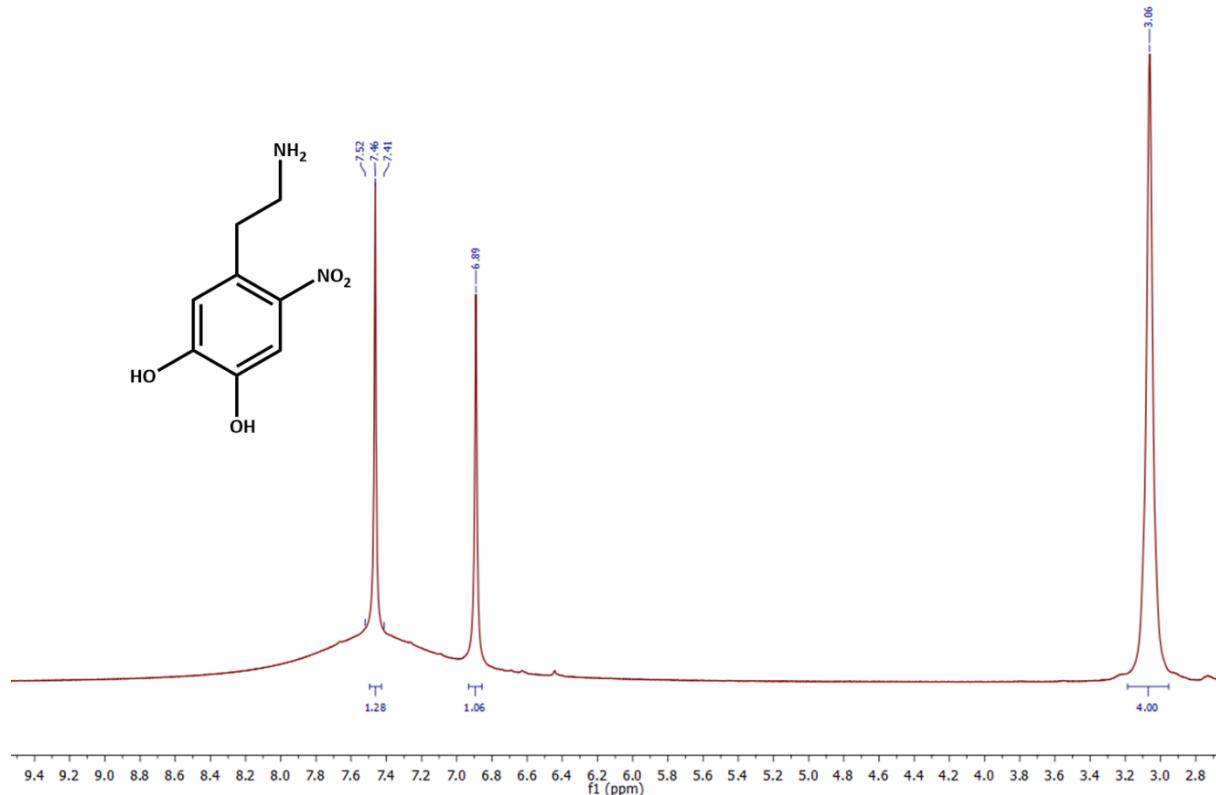


Figure S 1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of nitrodopamine hydrogen sulfate

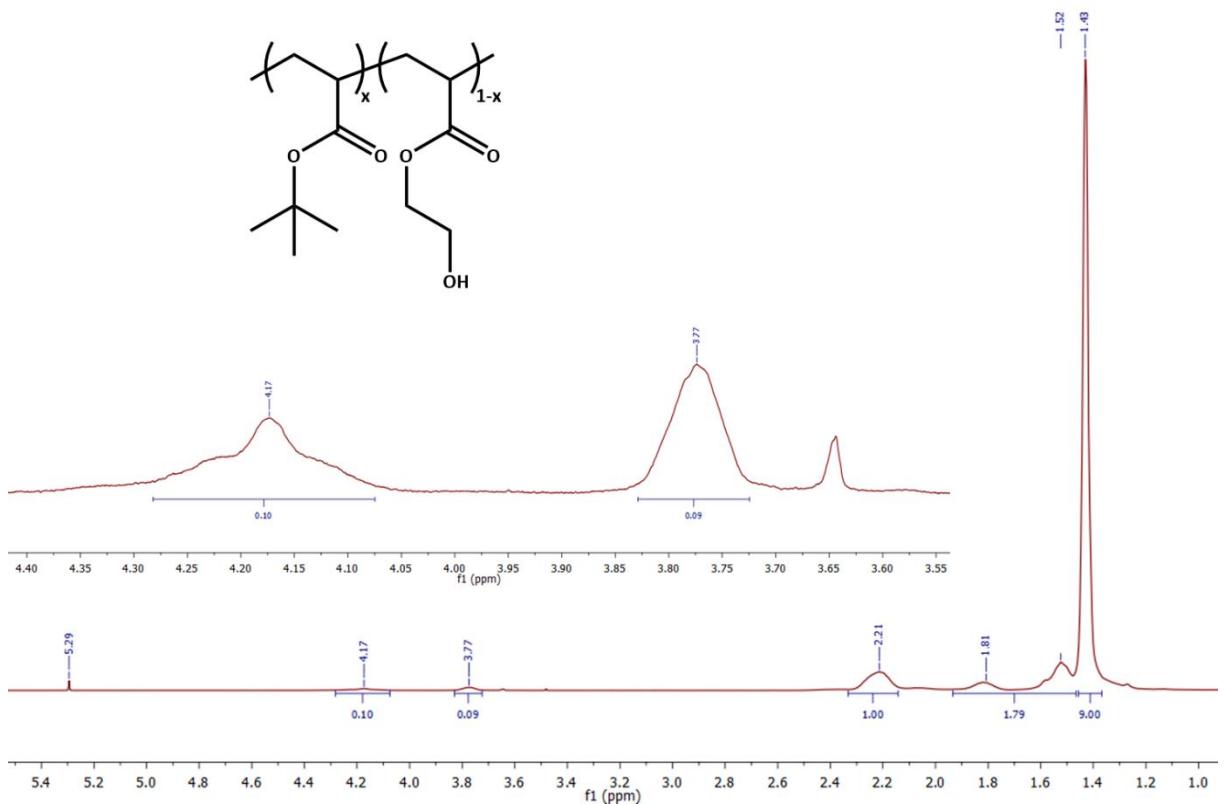


Figure S 2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of poly(*tert*-butyl acrylate-*ran*-hydroxyethyl acrylate)

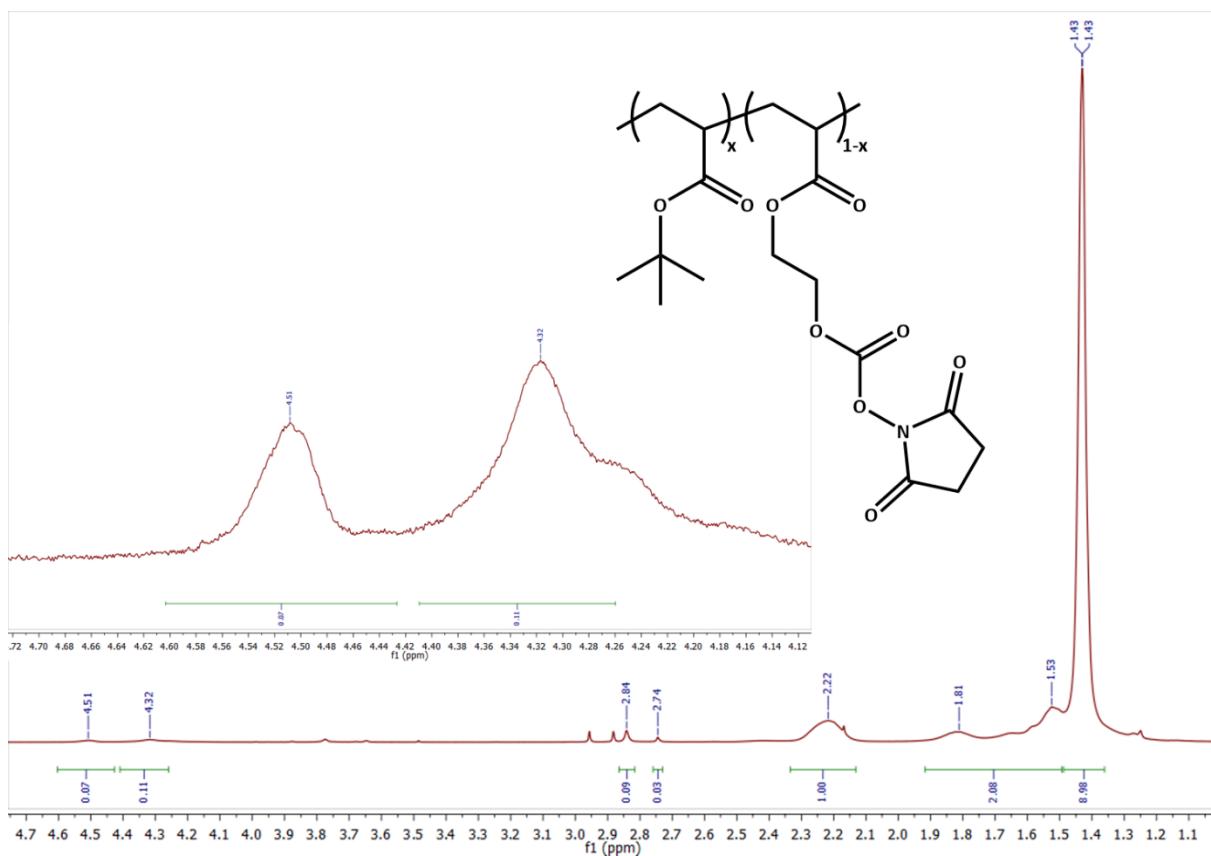


Figure S 3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of poly(*tert*-butyl acrylate-*ran*-NHS-ethyl acrylate)

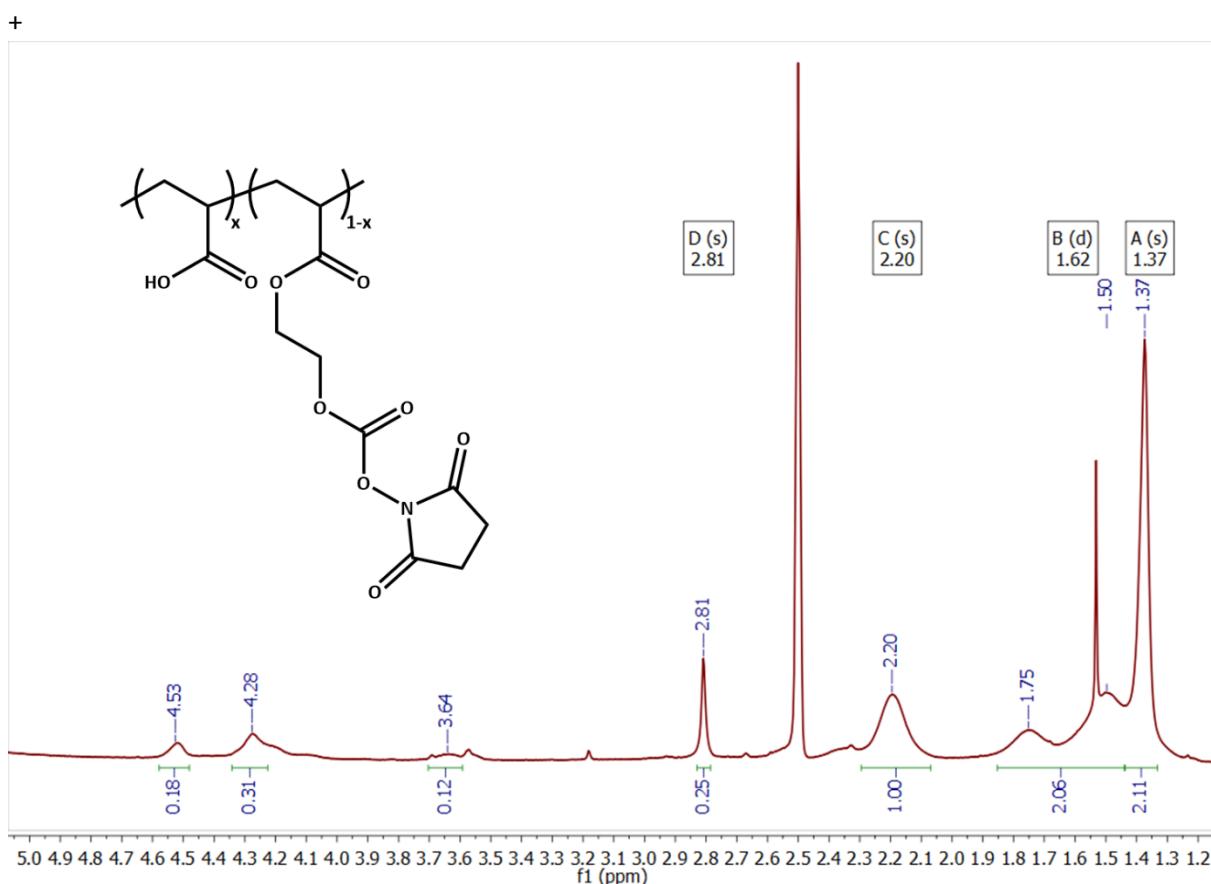


Figure S 4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of poly(AAc-*ran*-NHS-ethyl acrylate)

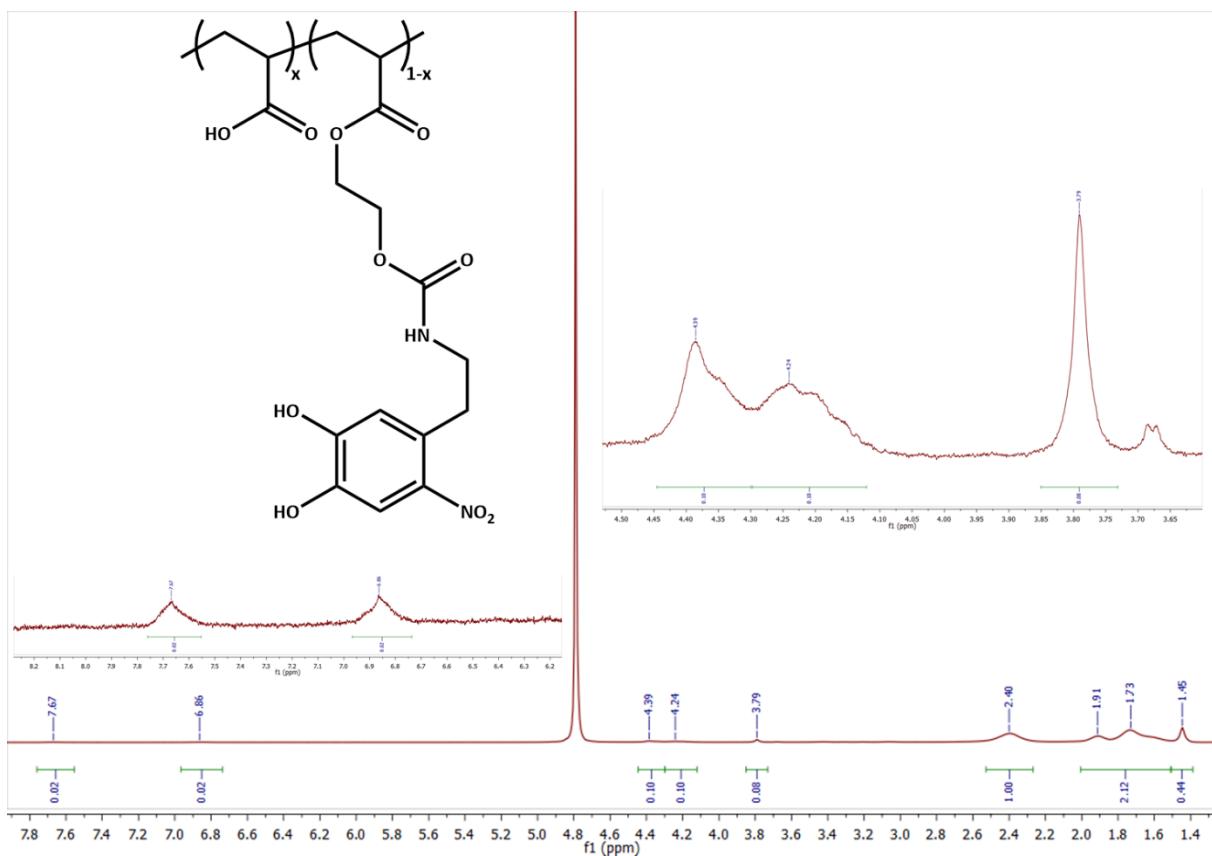


Figure S 5.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of Poly(acrylic acid-*ran*-NHS-ethyl acrylate)

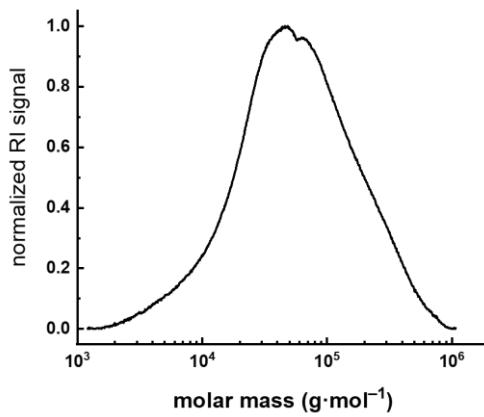


Figure S 6. GPC spectrum of poly(*tert*-butyl acrylate-*ran*-hydroxyethyl acrylate). The polydispersity index ( $M_w/M_n$ ) is 3.16.

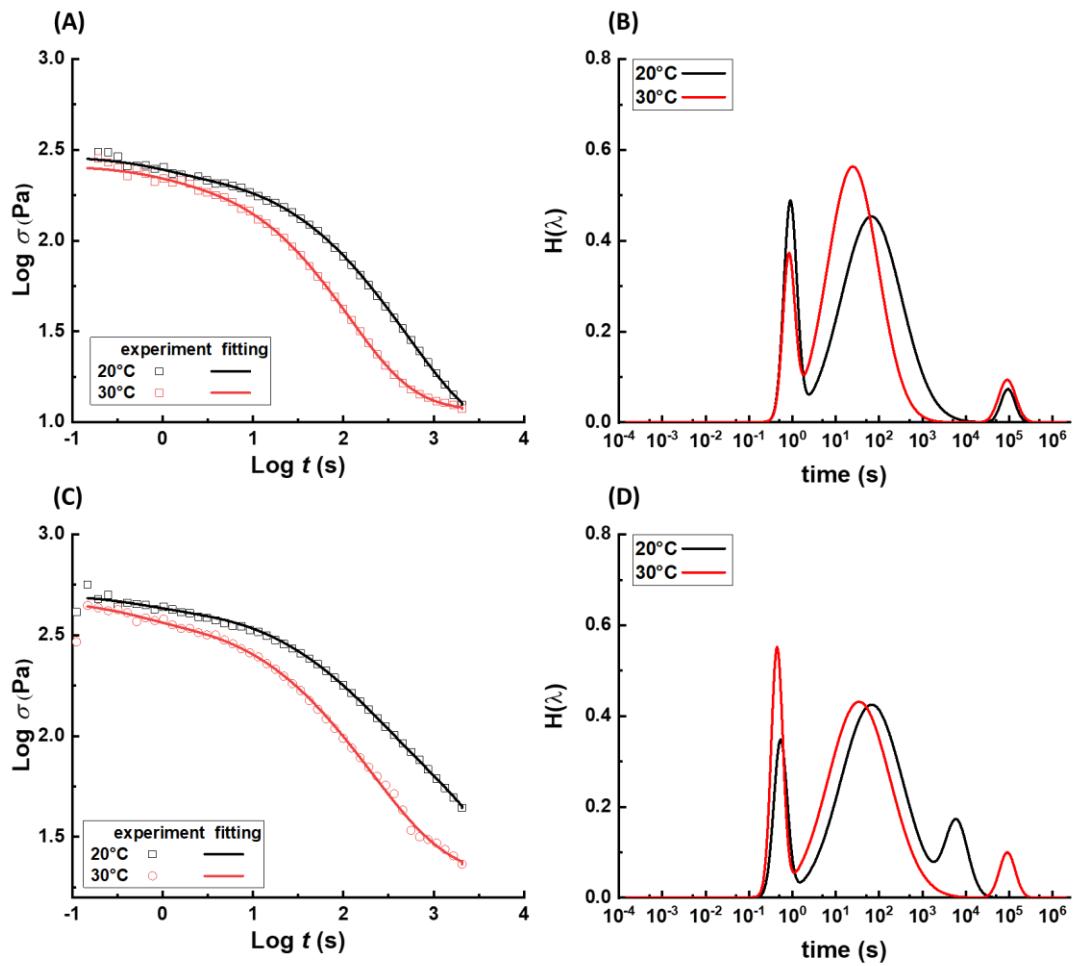


Figure S 7. (A) Comparison of the experimentally and calculated stress relaxation data for sample 153 at 20°C and 30°C. (B) The relaxation time spectrum for this sample at 20°C and 30°C, obtained from the fitting of stress relaxation data by considering three relaxation modes. (C) and (D) demonstrate similar data for sample 203.

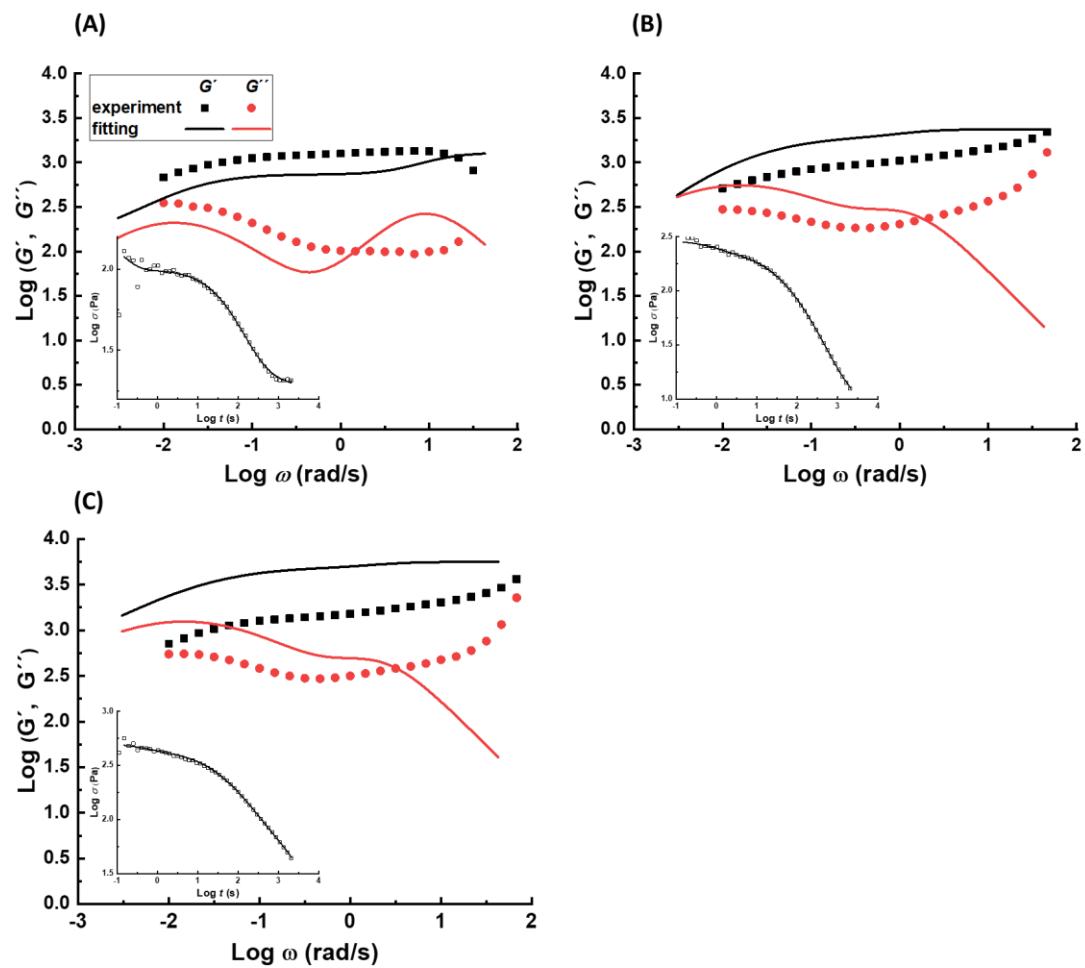


Figure S 8. Experimental and calculated frequency sweep data for samples (A)103, (B)153, and (C)203 at 20 °C. Insets represent the experimental and calculated stress relaxation for the corresponding samples.

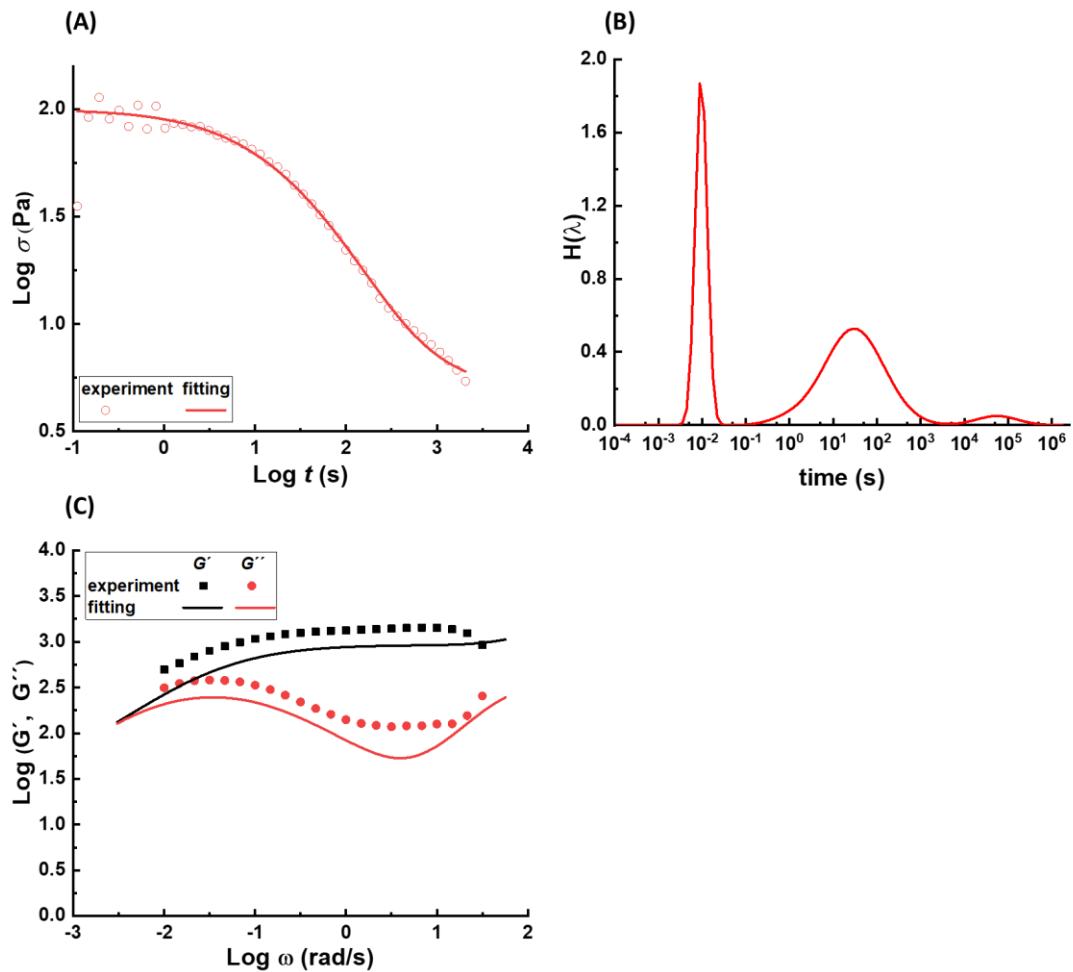


Figure S9. (A) experimental and fitted stress relaxation data, (B) relaxation time spectrum, and (C) experimental and fitted frequency sweep data of sample pAA10\_NC3 at 30 °C. The fitted data and the relaxation time spectrum are obtained by considering 4 relaxation modes. The relaxation time, PDI, and weight of this additional relaxation mode are 0.01 s, 1.1, and 0.17%, respectively. The results show a better agreement between experimental and fitted frequency sweep data. In addition, the overlap of the first two relaxation peaks in the relaxation time spectrum, are not observed anymore.

Table S 1. The fit parameters obtained from the fitting of stress relaxation data by considering three relaxation modes

Sample	Tempera ture (°C)	$\tau_1$ (s)	$\tau_2$ (s)	$\tau_3$ (s)	$PDI_1$	$PDI_2$	$PDI_3$	$W_1$	$W_2$	$W_3$
pAA10_	20	0.11540	135.908	98058.3	1.12910	3.24042	0.11540	0.200	0.652	0.146
NC3		335	963	934	878	403	335	828	633	539
pAA15_	20	0.95084	238.298	99981.2	1.12887	12.9346	0.95084	0.047	0.944	0.008
NC3		939	881	396	548	649	939	073	791	136
pAA20_	20	0.56614	260.647	7285.95	1.13376	14.9579	0.56614	0.034	0.918	0.046
NC3		133	505	638	895	503	133	34	718	942
pAA20_	20	0.04419	157.339	99927.0	4.49637	8.19549	0.04419	0.068	0.921	0.010
NC2		676	386	757	966	413	676	011	135	853
pAA20_	20	2.59499	402.229	97962.0	14.0694	11.7006	2.59499	0.523	0.425	0.051
NC4		925	326	004	403	265	925	271	209	52
pAA10_	30	1.51128	105.076	98993.8	2.76340	12.2678	3.17468	0.020	0.938	0.041
NC3		225	205	364	974	436	9	335	479	186
pAA15_	30	0.86975	62.2622	99973.6	1.10795	6.29986	1.22747	0.032	0.949	0.017
NC3		655	439	08	724	096	2	761	597	642
pAA20_	30	0.46327	133.736	98847.1	1.10076	14.9996	1.19056	0.041	0.944	0.014
NC3		881	008	463	295	929	849	096	055	
pAA20_	30	1.70488	68.7749	99999.9	4.41635	14.9999	1.21907	0.000	0.996	0.003
NC2		554	853	57	968	624	1	167	49	343
pAA20_	30	4.95779	253.865	90209.8	4.92751	12.2286	4.46290	0.440	0.511	0.047
NC4		499	403	432	198	889	1	849	226	926