

## Supporting information

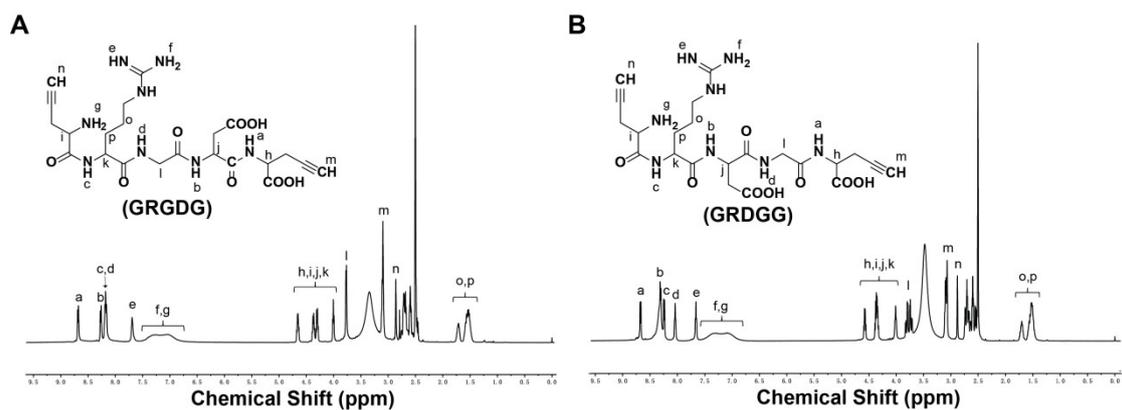
### **Biofunctional peptide-click PEG-based hydrogel as a 3D cell scaffold for corneal epithelial regeneration**

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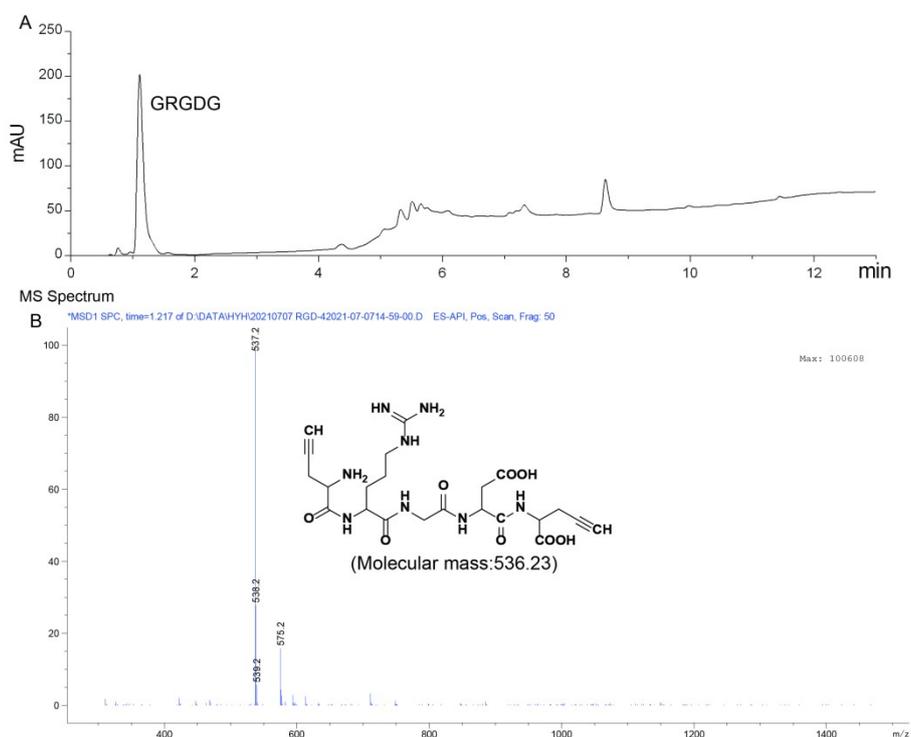
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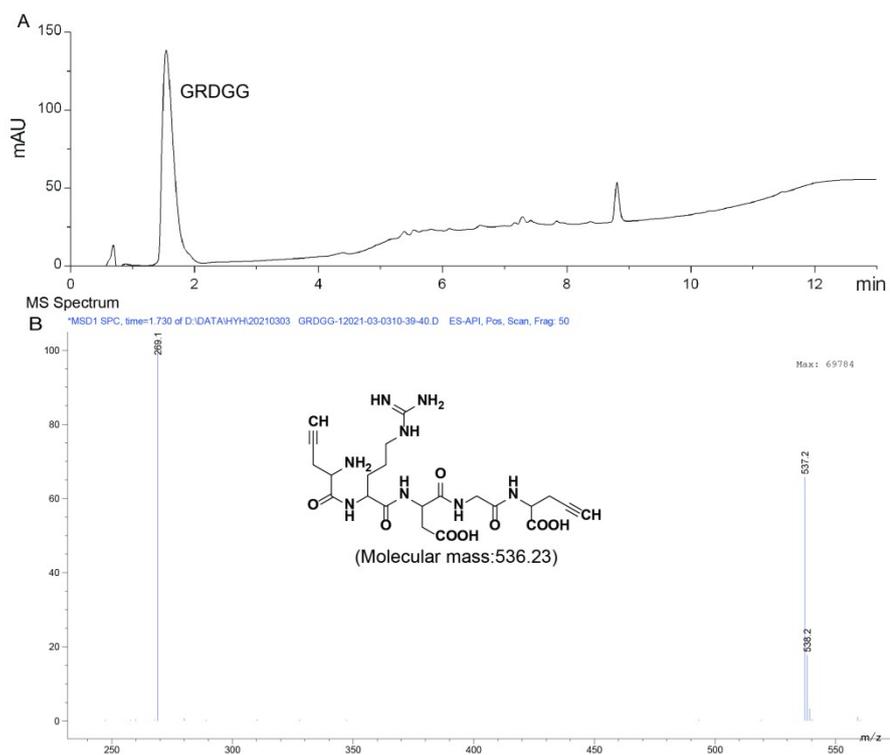
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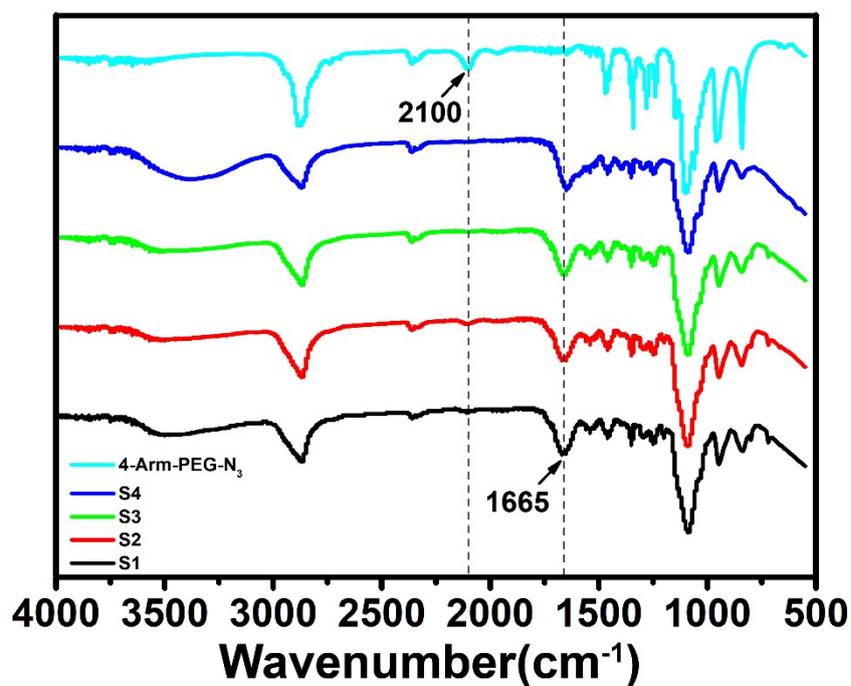
**Fig. S1.**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra of **(A)** GRGDG and **(B)** GRDGG di-propargylated peptide in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .



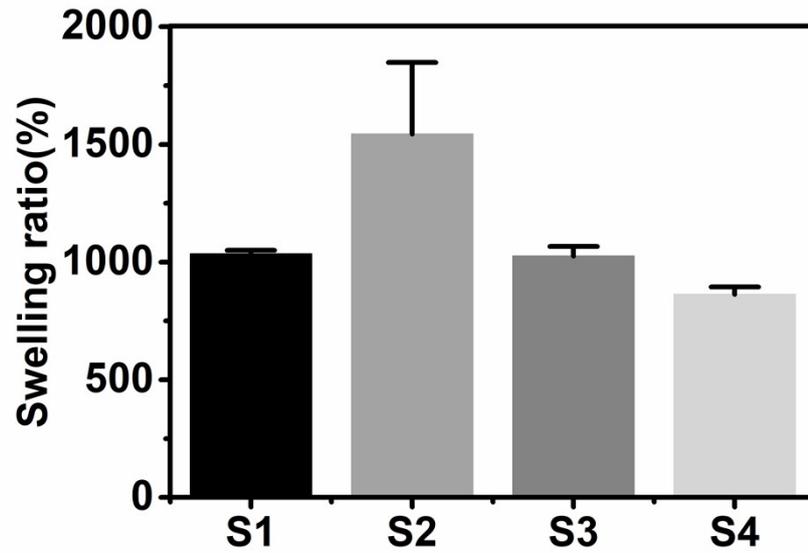
**Fig. S2.** **(A)** The DAD signal of GRGDG peptide measured by HPLC at 220 nm; **(B)** MS spectrum of GRGDG peptide.



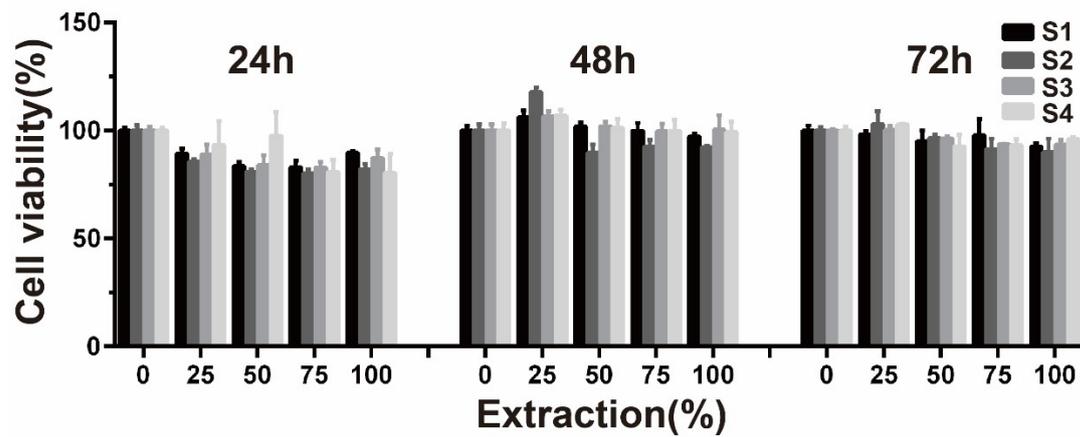
**Fig. S3.** (A) The DAD signal of GRDGG peptide measured at 220 nm; (B) MS spectrum of GRDGG peptide.



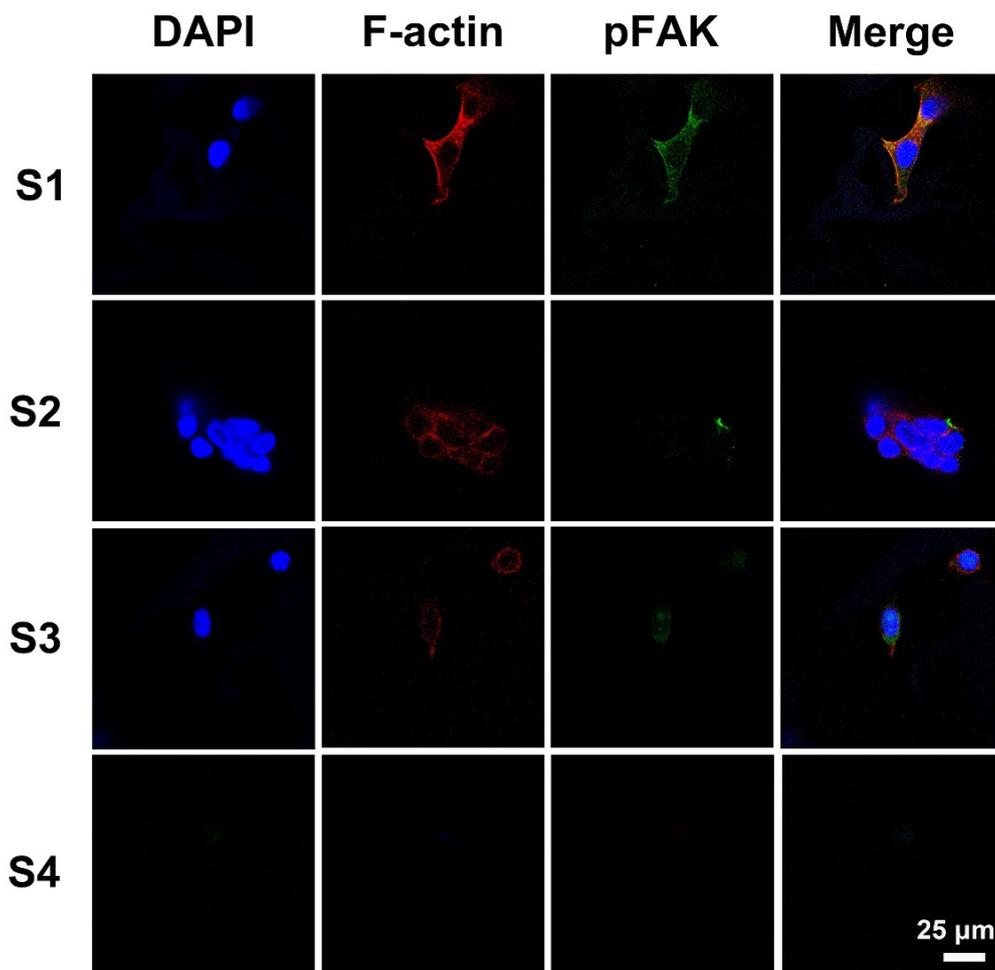
**Fig. S4.** ATR-FTIR spectra of the various lyophilized PEG-peptide hydrogels (S1, S2, S3, and S4) and 4-arm-PEG-N<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S5.** The equilibrium swelling ratios of the various PEG-peptide hydrogels (S1, S2, S3, and S4) measured at 48 h.



**Fig. S6.** Viability of HCECs cultured in 0%, 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100% extracts of the various PEG-peptide hydrogels (S1, S2, S3, and S4) at 24, 48, and 72 h.



**Fig. S7.** Representative images of immunofluorescence staining against F-actin (red), nuclei (blue), and pFAK (green) of HCECs seeding on the various PEG-peptide hydrogels (S1, S2, S3, and S4) at 24 h.