Electronic Supporting Information

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Structure Related Transport Properties and Cellular Uptake of Polyglycerol Sulfates with Hydrophobic Cores

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GPC traces of synthesized copolymers

Figure S1 presents the normalized GPC traces of the synthesized copolymers. The GPC measurements were performed in NMP (0.05M LiBr) at constant flow of 0.8 mL / min. Samples were measured at a concentration of 1.5 mg / mL after filtration with syringe filter (450 nm cut off). A sample volume of 100 μ L was injected.



Figure S1: Normalized GPC traces of PPhGE-*block*-hPG (b1, black curve), PNpGE-*block*-hPG (b2, red curve), PbPhGE-*block*-hPG (b3, blue curve), PPhGE-*co*-hPG (r1, turquois curve), PNpGE-*co*-hPG (r2, magenta curve), and PbPhGE-*co*-hPG (r3, dark yellow curve) in NMP (0.05M LiBr, flow rate: 0.8 mL / min).

¹H NMR spectra of copolymers

Figure S2 presents the ¹H NMR of the synthesized block and random copolymers. The integrals are referenced to the aromatic resonance signals from the hydrophobic moieties to calculate the amount [%] of incorporated comonomer. All spectra are reference to DMSO- d_6 ($\delta = 2.5$ ppm).





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Figure S2. ¹H NMR spectra of (1) PPhGE-*block*-hPG, (2) PNpGE-*block*-hPG, (3) PbPhGE-*block*-hPG, (4) PPhGE-*co*-hPG, (5) PNpGE-*co*-hPG, and (6) PbPhGE-*co*-hPG. The spectra are referenced to DMSO-*d*₆ and integrals are related to the aromatic resonance signals.

Calculation of comonomer incorporation determined by ¹H NMR

The comonomer incorporation into the polyglycerol matrix was calculation from ¹H NMR spectra presented in Figure S2. The integrals from the spectra are processed as follows:

$$Integral_{aromatic resonance signals} \equiv 1 \ comonomer \ r. \ u.$$
(Equation 1)

Integral_{signals} from PG backbone/
$$5 \equiv x \ glycerol \ r. \ u.$$
 (Equation 2)

$$I_{r,measured} = \frac{1}{x \, glycerol \, r. \, u.}$$
 (Equation 3)

¹³C NMR spectra of copolymers

Figure S3 presents the ¹³C NMR of the synthesized block and random copolymers. All spectra are reference to DMSO- d_6 (δ = 39.52 ppm).





Figure S3. ¹³C NMR spectra of (1) PPhGE-*block*-hPG, (2) PNpGE-*block*-hPG, (3) PbPhGE-*block*-hPG, (4) PPhGE-*co*-hPG, (5) PNpGE-*co*-hPG, and (6) PbPhGE-*co*-hPG. The spectra are referenced to DMSO-*d*₆.

Combustion analysis of sulfated copolymers for DS calculation

| Table S1 | ble S1. Results from combustion analysis including mass, elementary content (N, C, S, H), and resulting degree of sulfation. | | | | | | | |
|----------|--|---------------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Entry | M _n [kDa] | M _{n,Aggregates} [kDa] | Content [%] | | | | DS [%] ^b | Copolymer |
| Lifting | (PDI) ^a | (PDI) ^a | Ν | С | S | Н | 00[/0] | copolymer |
| b1 | 4.3 (2.78) | 126 (1.91) | 0 | 22.13 | 15.28 | 3.305 | 99 | PPhGE-block-hPGS (b1S) |
| b2 | 1.6 (3.55) | 130 (1.75) | 0 | 21.45 | 14.93 | 3.354 | 84 | PNpGE-block-hPGS (b2S) |
| b3 | 2.4 (1.23) | 105 (1.81) | 0 | 28.63 | 12.13 | 4.347 | 64 | PbPhGE-block-hPGS (b3S) |
| r1 | 5.1 (1.75) | n.d. | 0 | 23.44 | 15.18 | 3.718 | 96 | PPhGE-co-hPGS (r1S) |
| r2 | 5.6 (1.83) | n.d. | 0 | 23.55 | 14.63 | 3.749 | 91 | PNpGE-co-hPGS (r2S) |
| r3 | 5.0 (1.87) | n.d. | 0 | 23.57 | 15.21 | 3.592 | 93 | PbPhGE-co-hPGS (r3S) |

The degree of sulfation was calculated from combustion analysis with respect to the sulfur content.

^aMolecular weights of amphiphilic core structure determined by GPC. "n.d." indicates "not detectable"; ^bDS was determined by elemental analysis with respect to the sulphur content of the polymer samples.

¹H NMR spectra of sulfated copolymers

Figure S4 presents the ¹H NMR of the sulfated block and random copolymers. All spectra are reference to D_2O ($\delta = 4.79$ ppm).





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Figure S4. ¹H NMR spectra of (1) PPhGE-*block*-hPGS, (2) PNpGE-*block*-hPGS, (3) PbPhGE-*block*-hPGS, (4) PPhGE-*co*-hPGS, (5) PNpGE-*co*-hPGS, and (6) PbPhGE-*co*-hPGS. The spectra are reference to D₂O.

Results from FACS measurements with A2780 and A549 cells

Table S2 presents the data from the FACS analysis of the A2780 ovarian carcinoma and A549 human lung carcinoma epithelial cell lines before and after normalization to the TC obtained by UV spectroscopy.

| Entry | Mean fluoresc | ence in A2780 | TC [m - l - l] | Normalized fluorescence in A2780 ^a | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Entry | 4 h | 24 h | IC [mg/g] | 4 h | 24 h | |
| b2S + Cy3 | 419.3 ± 10 | 524.2 ± 17 | 0.144 | 2915 ± 73 | 3645 ± 115 | |
| b3S + Cy3 552.9 ± 25 | | 635.1 ± 15 | 0.182 | 3030 ± 135 | 3482 ± 83 | |
| free Cy3 | 538.7 ± 10 | 1432 ± 41 | - | 538.7 ± 10 | 1432 ± 41 | |
| PBS control | 3.000 ± 0.035 | 3.123 ± 0.681 | 0 | 3.000 ± 0.035 | 3.123 ± 0.681 | |
| F (| Mean fluores | cence in A549 | | Normalized fluorescence in A549 ^a | | |
| Entry | 4 h | 24 h | IC [mg/g] | 4 h | 24 h | |
| | 951.1 ± 43 | 1243 ± 34 | 0.144 | 3030 ± 135 3030 ± 135 538.7 ± 10 3.000 ± 0.035 Normalized flue $4 h$ 6614 ± 299 7280 ± 554 | 8646 ± 238 | |
| | 1328 ± 101 | 1503 ± 36 | 0.182 | 7280 ± 554 | 8240 ± 196 | |
| | 1290 ± 38 | 1451 ± 43 | ± 43 - | | 1451 ± 43 | |
| | 3.203 ± 0.085 | 3.003 ± 0.087 | 0 | 3.203 ± 0.085 | 3.003 ± 0.087 | |

Table S2. Results from FACS analysis of the A2780 ovarian carcinoma and A549 human lung carcinoma epithelial cell lines and TC normalized values.

Results from FACS measurments with QGP-1 cell lines

Table S3 presents the data from the FACS analysis of the QGP-1 pancreatic carcinoma cell line before and after normalization to the TC obtained by UV spectroscopy.

| Entres | Mean fluoresc | ence in QGP-1 | TC [| Normalized fluorescence in QGP-1 ^a | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|---|-------------------|
| Entry | 4 h 24 h | | IC [mg/g] | 4 h | 24 h |
| b2S + Cy3 | 1101 ± 62 | 389.5 ± 33 | 0.144 | 7660 ± 432 | 2709 ± 227 |
| b3S + Cy3 | 1057 ± 12 | 439.0 ± 56 | 0.182 | 5792 ± 63.6 | 2406 ± 307 |
| free Cy3 | 1050 ± 44 | 297.3 ± 27 | - | 1050 ± 44 | 297.3 ± 27 |
| PBS control | 3.527 ± 0.038 | 2.797 ± 0.015 | 0 | 3.527 ± 0.038 | 2.797 ± 0.015 |



Figure S5: Mean fluorescence at 590 nm (Cy3 dye detection) is displayed for QGP-1 cells incubated with copolymers **b2S** and **b3S**, free ICC dye, and PBS control for 4 h (light gray), and 24 h (dark gray).

Results from CFM measurements with A2780 and A549 cells

Figure S6 and S7 present the pictures from A2780 and A549 cells recorded with a confocal laser microscope. The merged pictures show the ICC dye in red and nuclei stained in blue (DAPI).



Figure S6: Confocal laser scanning fluorescence microscopy images from A2780 cells after incubation for 4 h (upper row) and 24 h (lower row) with (a,b) b2S + ICC dye, (c,d) b3S + ICC dye (e,f) free ICC dye, and (g,f) control PBS. The merged pictures show the ICC dye in red and nuclei stained in blue.



Figure S7: Confocal laser scanning fluorescence microscopy images from A549 cells after incubation for 4 h (upper row) and 24 h (lower row) with (a,b) b2S + ICC dye, (c,d) b3S + ICC dye (e,f) free ICC dye, and (g,f) control PBS. The merged pictures show the ICC dye in red and nuclei stained in blue.