Multi-responsive physical gels formed by a biosynthetic asymmetric triblock protein polymer and a polyanion

Thao T. H. Pham^{ac*}, Junyou Wang^a, M. W. T. Werten^b, Frank Snijkers^a, F. A. de Wolf^b, M. A. Cohen Stuart^a and J. van der Gucht^a.

^a Laboratory of Physical Chemistry and Colloid Science, Wageningen University,

Dreijenplein 6, NL-6703 HB Wageningen, The Netherlands

^b Wageningen UR Food & Biobased Research, Bornse Weilanden 9, NL-6708 WG

Wageningen, The Netherlands

^c Foundation FOM, Van Vollenhovenlaan 659, NL-3527 JP Utrecht, The Netherlands

*Corresponding author: Thao.Pham@wur.nl.



Figure S1: SDS-PAGE of TR4H during purification process (M) Protein marker, (lane 1) cell-free fermentation broth, (lane 2) supernatant of 40 % ammonium sulfate saturation 1x, (lane 3) protein precipitation with 40 % ammonium sulfate saturation 1x, (lane 4) purified TR4H by precipitation with 40 % ammonium sulfate saturation twice.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION



Figure S2: MALDI-TOF of purified TR4H. Singly and doubly charged molecular ions are

indicated.



Figure S3: Equilibrium calculations of triple helix formation at a concentration *C* of 0.125 mM (corresponding to the conditions in Figure 2B). Calculations were done with a temperature-dependent equilibrium constant for helix formation, $K=[H]/[T]^3$, with [H] the concentration of triple helices and [T] the concentration of free T blocks. The temperature dependence of K was published previously [Skrzeszewska *et al.*; *Soft Matter* 2009, 5, 2057] and was found to follow van 't Hoffs equation, $K=K_0 \times \exp(-\Delta H/RT)$ with the enthalpy $\Delta H=$ -

250 kJ/mol and the pre-exponential factor $K_0=4.1\times10^{37}$ M⁻², and with *R* the gas constant. (A) The calculated fraction of end blocks in triple helices as a function of temperature; the broad melting curve is in agreement with the light scattering data of Figure 2B. (B) The calculated weight-averaged cluster size, $\langle n \rangle = ([T]+9[H])/C$, as a function of temperature.



Figure S4: (A) Light scattering titration of charged TR4H with PSS in 10 mM phosphate buffer pH 3 , (B) clear sample at stoichiometric peak (f- =0.61) and visible large aggregates at the second peak at f- =0.85.



Figure S5: Phase separation of temperature-induced charge-driven TR4H/PSS micelle solutions at different protein concentrations.