

# Supporting Information for

**Poly(glycerol monomethacrylate)-poly(benzyl methacrylate)**

**diblock copolymer nanoparticles via RAFT emulsion polymerization:**

**synthesis, characterization and interfacial activity**

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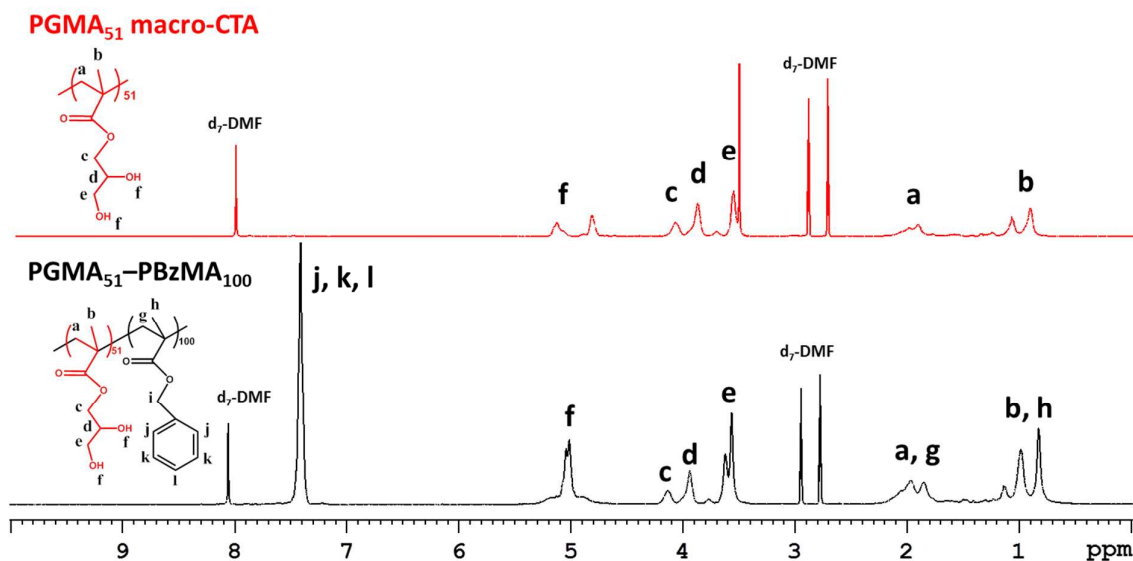
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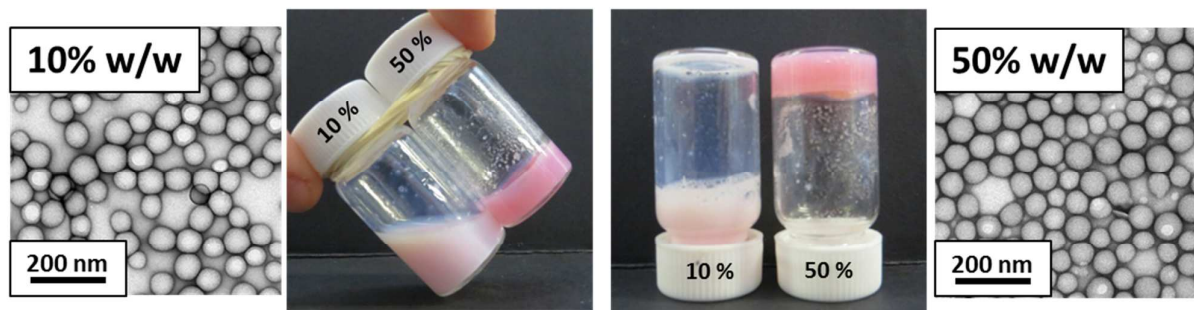
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## **RAFT aqueous emulsion polymerization of PEG<sub>113</sub>-PBzMA<sub>200</sub>**

AIPD azo initiator (6.10 mg, 0.0189 mmol), PEG<sub>113</sub>-DB macro-CTA (0.2996 g, 0.0568 mmol; [CTA]/[AIPD] molar ratio = 3.0) and BzMA monomer (2.00 g, 11.4 mmol, target DP = 200) were weighed into a round-bottomed flask containing a magnetic stir bar. These reagents were dissolved in previously deoxygenated water (9.20 mL, 10% w/w solids formulation) and purged with nitrogen for 30 min at 20°C. The flask was sealed using a rubber septum under a positive nitrogen flow and immersed in an oil bath at 50°C for 24 h, after which the reaction was quenched by exposure to air and cooling to 20°C. (N.B. The synthesis and characterization of the PEG<sub>113</sub>-DB macro-CTA has been described elsewhere, see N. J. Warren et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2014**, *136*, 1023).



**Figure S1.** Assigned NMR spectra of the PGMA<sub>51</sub> macro-CTA and PGMA<sub>51</sub>-PBzMA<sub>100</sub> diblock copolymer in d<sub>7</sub>-DMF. PGMA<sub>51</sub>-PBzMA<sub>100</sub> was freeze-dried prior to dilution in d<sub>7</sub>-DMF.



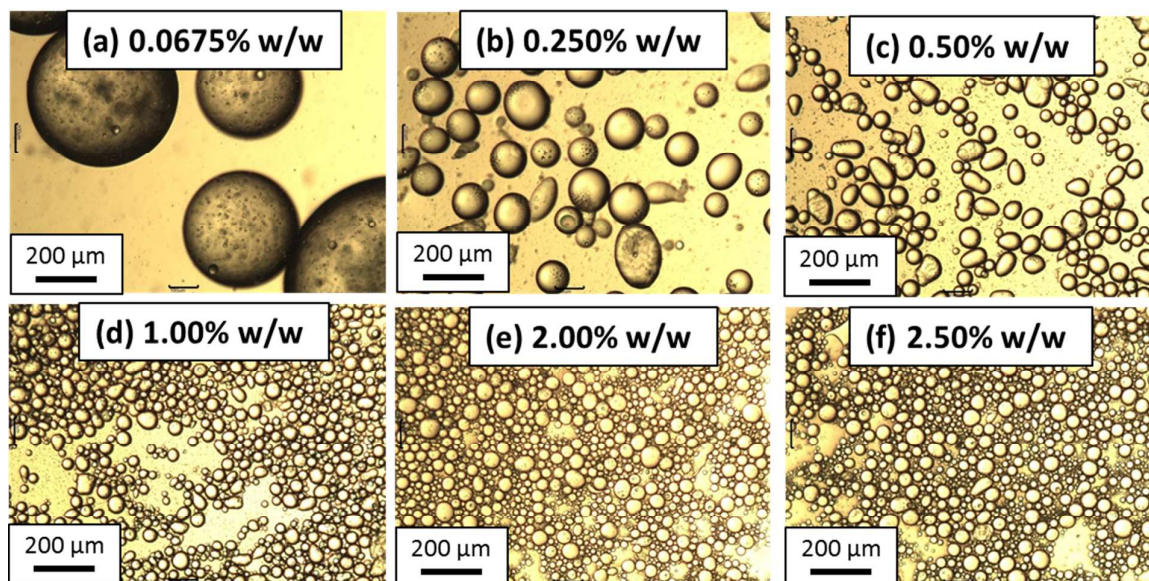
**Figure S2.** Digital photographs and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) images obtained for PGMA<sub>51</sub>-PBzMA<sub>250</sub> diblock copolymer nanoparticles prepared at both 10% w/w and 50% w/w. Both samples contain spherical particles, see corresponding TEM images. However, the reaction mixture has a paste-like consistency at 50% w/w solids, whereas free-flowing liquids are obtained at 10-40% w/w solids.

**Table S1.** Summary of solids contents, conversions, number-average molecular weights ( $M_n$ ), polydispersities ( $M_w/M_n$ ) and mean DLS and TEM diameters determined for PGMA<sub>18</sub>-PBzMA diblock copolymer nanoparticles and the corresponding PGMA<sub>18</sub> macro-CTA. (N.B. for the sake of brevity ‘G’ denotes PGMA and ‘B’ denotes PBzMA).

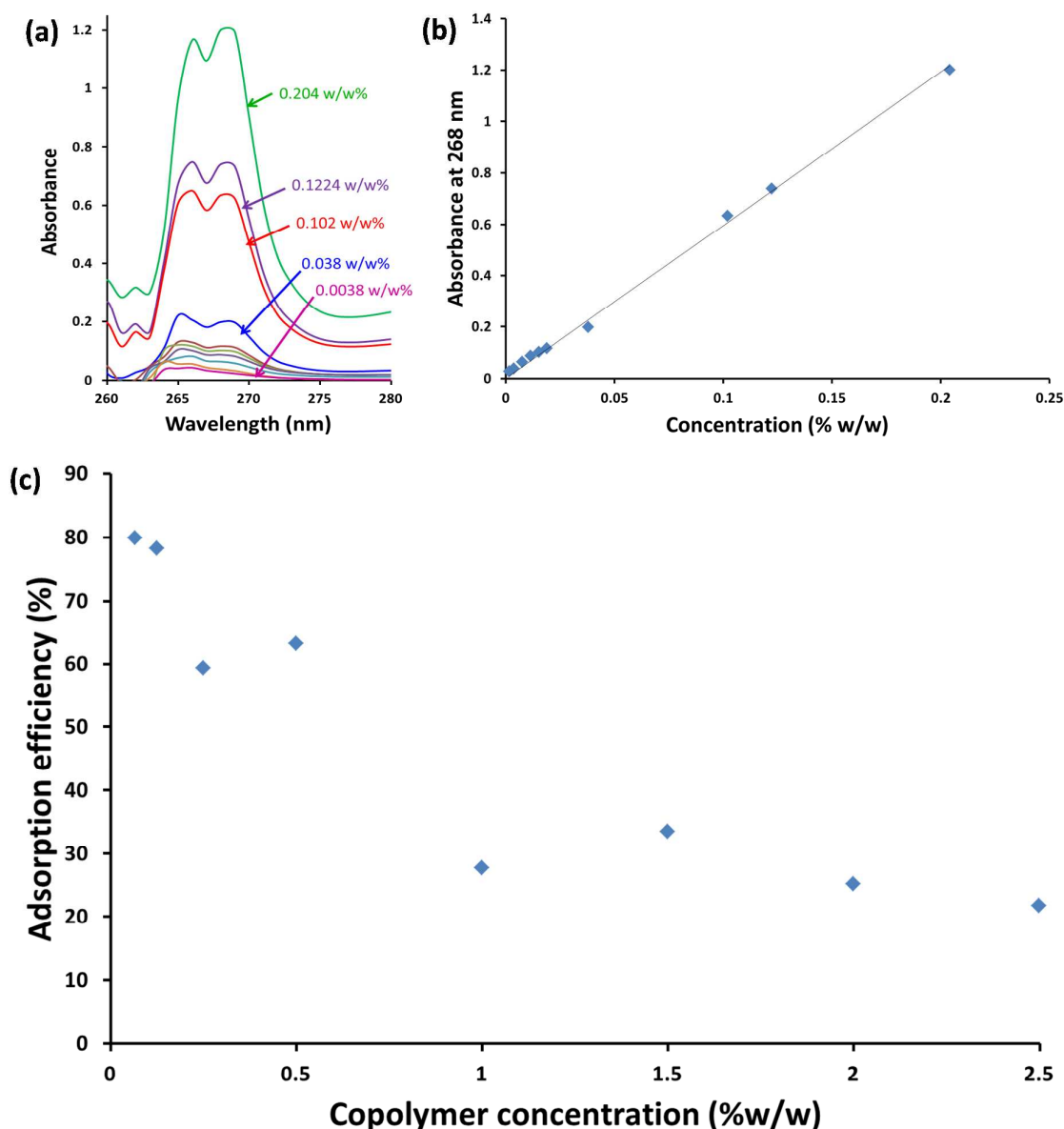
	Target Composition	Solids Content (w/w%)	Conversion <sup>a</sup> (%)	$M_n^b$	$M_w/M_n^b$	Particle Diameter DLS (nm)	Particle Diameter TEM (nm)
<b>S1</b>	G <sub>18</sub>	40	68	6,500	1.12	N/A	N/A
<b>S2</b>	G <sub>18</sub> -B <sub>50</sub>	20	>99	10,700	1.10	38 (0.161)	29
<b>S3</b>	G <sub>18</sub> -B <sub>100</sub>	20	>99	16,800	1.10	97 (0.209)	78
<b>S4</b>	G <sub>18</sub> -B <sub>150</sub>	20	>99	21,600	1.14	215 (0.044)	215

a. Monomer conversion determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy.

b. Determined by DMF GPC using a series of near-monodisperse poly(methyl methacrylate) calibration standards



**Figure S3.** Representative optical microscopy images obtained for sunflower oil-in-water Pickering emulsions prepared using PGMA<sub>51</sub>-PBzMA<sub>250</sub> nanoparticles as the sole emulsifier at 0.0675, 0.250, 0.500, 1.00, 2.00 or 2.50% w/w. Scale bar = 200 μm in each case.



**Figure S4.** (a) UV absorption spectra recorded for various concentrations of PGMA<sub>51</sub>-PBzMA<sub>250</sub> diblock copolymer dissolved in DMF. The chromophore at 268 nm is the aromatic benzyl group on the PBzMA block. (b) Beer-Lambert plot obtained for PGMA<sub>51</sub>-PBzMA<sub>250</sub> diblock copolymer dissolved in DMF. (c) Adsorption efficiency vs. nanoparticle concentration for PGMA<sub>51</sub>-PBzMA<sub>250</sub> nanoparticles when used as the sole Pickering emulsifier for sunflower oil, as determined using a supernatant depletion assay. This UV spectroscopy-based assay involves nanoparticle dissolution in DMF to avoid UV scattering problems at shorter wavelengths.