

Supplementary Materials: Development of a Thymoquinone Polymeric Anticancer Nanomedicine through Optimization of Polymer Molecular Weight and Nanoparticle Architecture

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Table S1. Characterization of the copolymers synthesized in this study.

| Copolymer | mPEG: CL | MW of PCL by ¹ H-NMR (g/mol) |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| mPEG5K-PCL10.3K | 1:2 | 10,364 |
| mPEG5K-PCL18.5K | 1:4 | 18,506 |

Table S2. Characterization of TQ NPs prepared in this study (values correspond to Figure 2 of the main text).

| Formulation | Particle Size (nm) | PDI | Zeta Potential (mV) | Loading (µg TQ/Mg Polymer) | Loading Efficiency (%) |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| F1-NS | 72 ± 4 | 0.26 ± 0.05 | -9.2 ± 3.7 | 24.0 ± 9.0 | 24.0 ± 9.0 |
| F1-NC | 130 ± 16 | 0.17 ± 0.03 | -14.2 ± 2.6 | 60.1 ± 0.9 | 60.1 ± 0.9 |
| F2-NS | 72 ± 3 | 0.26 ± 0.04 | -9.5 ± 3.9 | 26.3 ± 1.2 | 26.3 ± 1.2 |
| F2-NC | 117 ± 4 | 0.16 ± 0.01 | -10.6 ± 2.6 | 58.7 ± 7.2 | 58.7 ± 7.2 |

Table S3. Kinetic parameters for TQ release from F1-NC and F2-NC obtained by fitting in vitro release data to different kinetic models of drug release (Equations (3)–(5)). The best-fit models for each formulation are highlighted in yellow.

| Formulation | Release Medium | Korsmeyer–Peppas | | | Zero-Order | | First-Order | |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------|----------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | | R ² | <i>k</i> _{KP} | <i>n</i> | R ² | <i>k</i> ₀ | R ² | <i>k</i> ₁ |
| F1-NC | pH 7.4 | 0.99655 | 31.076 | 0.6135 | 0.98443 | 14.641 | 0.95703 | 0.334 |
| | pH 5.0 | 0.97243 | 4.8104 | 2.1978 | 0.99528 | 20.993 | 0.90291 | 1.1766 |
| F2-NC | pH 7.4 | 0.99288 | 14.604 | 0.7223 | 0.98679 | 7.7204 | 0.92006 | 0.2478 |
| | pH 5.0 | 0.98520 | 5.7026 | 2.1383 | 1.0000 | 24.218 | 0.92782 | 1.1528 |

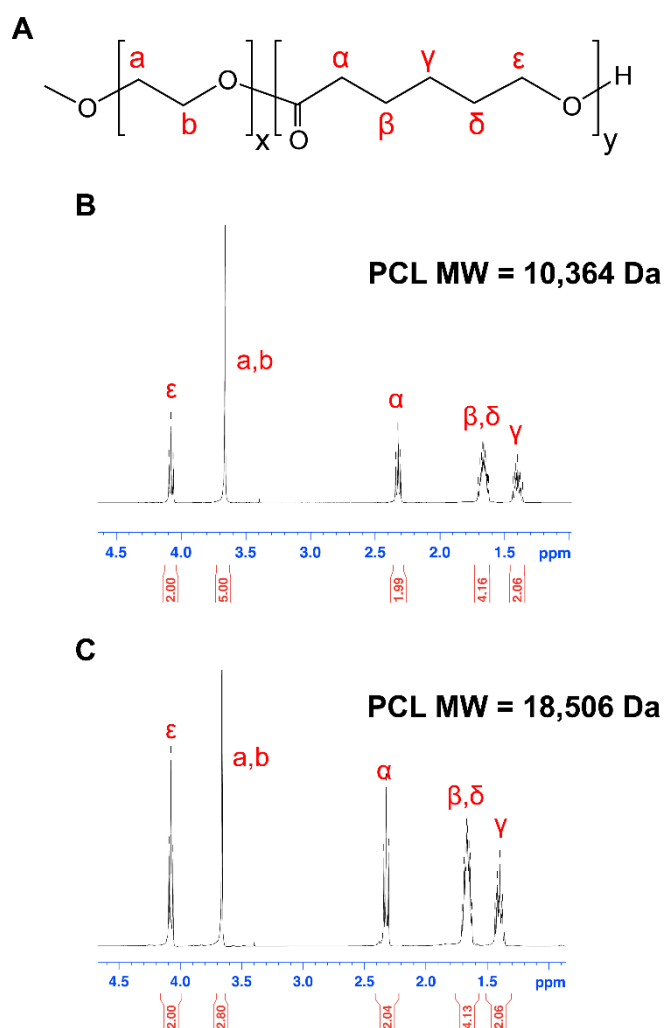


Figure S1. Confirmation of mPEG-PCL structure and MW by $^1\text{H-NMR}$. (A) Chemical structure of mPEG-PCL; (B) $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of mPEG5K-PCL10.3K synthesized at an mPEG:CL feed ratio of 1:2; (C) $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of mPEG5K-PCL18.5K synthesized at an mPEG:CL feed ratio of 1:4. The MW of the PCL blocks was calculated based on the relative integration ratio of the ethylene oxide protons (a,b) to any one of the PCL protons (α , β , γ , δ , or ϵ).