

## Supporting information:

# A Spontaneous In Situ Thiol-Ene Crosslinking Hydrogel with Thermo-Responsive Mechanical Properties

Andreas Aerts <sup>1</sup>, Maxim Vovchenko <sup>2,3</sup>, Seyed Ali Elahi <sup>2,4</sup>, Rocío Castro Viñuelas <sup>4,5</sup>, Tess De Maeseneer <sup>6</sup>, Martin Purino <sup>7</sup>, Richard Hoogenboom <sup>7</sup>, Hans Van Oosterwyck <sup>2,8</sup>, Ilse Jonkers <sup>4</sup>, Ruth Cardinaels <sup>6</sup> and Mario Smet <sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Laboratory of Organic Material Synthesis, Polymer Chemistry and Materials, Department of Chemistry, KU Leuven, Celestijnenlaan 200f, P.O. Box 2404, 3001 Leuven, Belgium; andreas.aerts@kuleuven.be (A.A.)

<sup>2</sup> Biomechanics Section, Department of Mechanical Engineering, KU Leuven, Celestijnenlaan 300C, P.O. Box 2419, 3001 Leuven, Belgium.

<sup>3</sup> Laboratory for Soft Matter and Biophysics, Department of Physics and Astronomy, KU Leuven, Celestijnenlaan 200D, P.O. Box 2416, 3001 Leuven, Belgium

<sup>4</sup> Human Movement Biomechanics Research Group, Department of Movement Sciences, KU Leuven Tervuursevest 101, P.O. Box 1501, 3001 Leuven, Belgium.

<sup>5</sup> Laboratory for Tissue Homeostasis and Disease, Department of Development and Regeneration, KU Leuven, Herestraat 49, P.O. Box 813, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

<sup>6</sup> Rheology and Technology, Soft Matter, Department of Chemical Engineering, KU Leuven, Celestijnenlaan 200J, P.O. Box 2424, 3001 Leuven, Belgium;

<sup>7</sup> Supramolecular Chemistry Group, Department of Organic and Macromolecular Chemistry, UGent, Krijgslaan 281, Building S4, 9000 Ghent, Belgium;

<sup>8</sup> Prometheus, Division of Skeletal Tissue Engineering, KU Leuven, Herestraat 49, P.O. Box 813, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

\* Correspondence: mario.smet@kuleuven.be

# <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy

## P(NiPAAM-co-HEAcr)

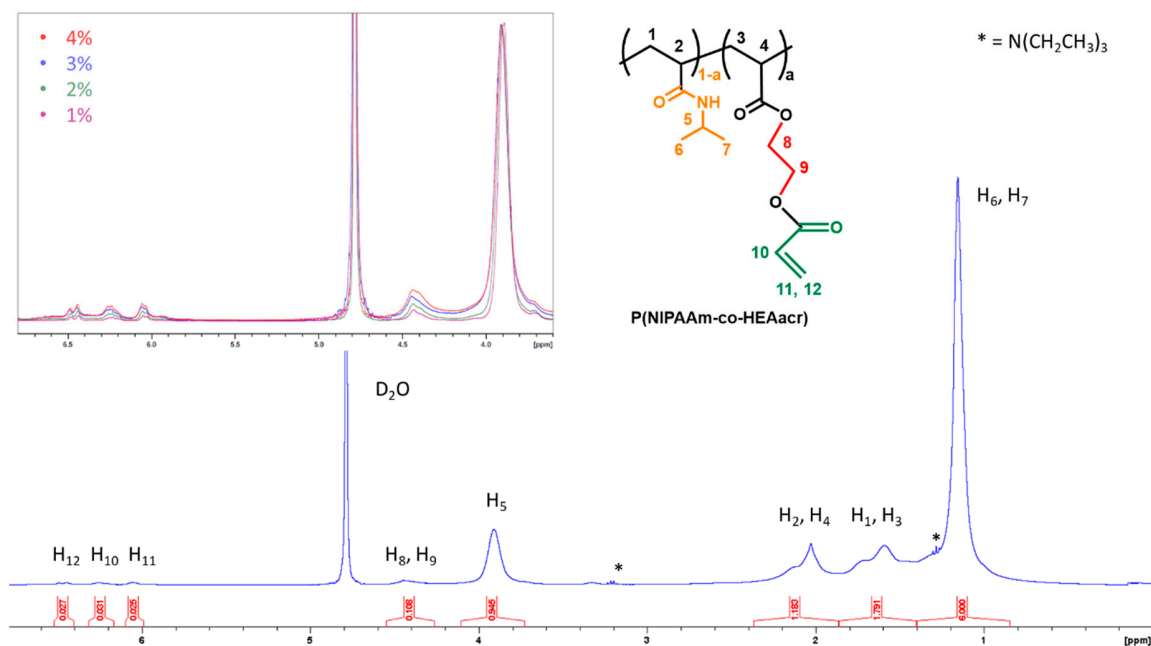


Fig. S1: Spectra of HEAcr: inset represents different incorporation ratio. Normalized to peak 3.91 ppm.

## DIFFERENT RATIOS HEAcr

$\delta(\text{ppm})$	Proton	# protons	Intensity HEAcr1	Intensity HEAcr2	Intensity HEAcr3	Intensity HEAcr4
6.46	H <sub>12</sub>	1	0.007	0.019	0.027	0.030
6.24	H <sub>10</sub>	1	0.006	0.019	0.031	0.039
6.05	H <sub>11</sub>	1	0.007	0.017	0.025	0.030
4.79	D <sub>2</sub> O	/	/	/	/	/

4.40	H <sub>8</sub> , H <sub>9</sub>	4	0.035	0.072	0.108	0.154
3.91	H <sub>5</sub>	1	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
2.12	H <sub>2</sub> , H <sub>4</sub>	2	1.108	1.137	1.183	1.397
1.63	H <sub>1</sub> , H <sub>3</sub>	4	1.864	1.814	1.791	1.800
1.13	H <sub>6</sub> , H <sub>7</sub>	6	5.922	5.82	5.682	5.688

Table S1: Overview intensities measured in NMR spectra P(NiPAAm-co-HEAacr)

$$\frac{HEA}{NIPAAm} = \frac{I(H_8, H_9)}{4} \quad e.g. (HEAacr3) = \frac{0.108}{4} = 2.7 \%$$

$$\frac{HEAacr}{NIPAAm} = \frac{I(H_{10}, H_{11}, H_{12})}{4}$$

$$e.g. (HEAacr3) = \frac{0.025 + 0.031 + 0.027}{3} = 2.7 \%$$

<i>Name</i>	<i>Feed</i>	<i>Measured HEA (NMR)</i>	<i>Measured HEAacr (NMR)</i>
HEAacr 1%	1 %	0.88 %	0.67 %
HEAacr 2%	2 %	1.8 %	1.8 %
HEAacr 3%	3 %	2.7 %	2.7 %
HEAacr 4%	4 %	3.8 %	3.3 %

Table S2: Obtained incorporation ratios from NMR spectra for P(NiPAAm-co-HEAacr)

P(NiPAAm-co-cys)

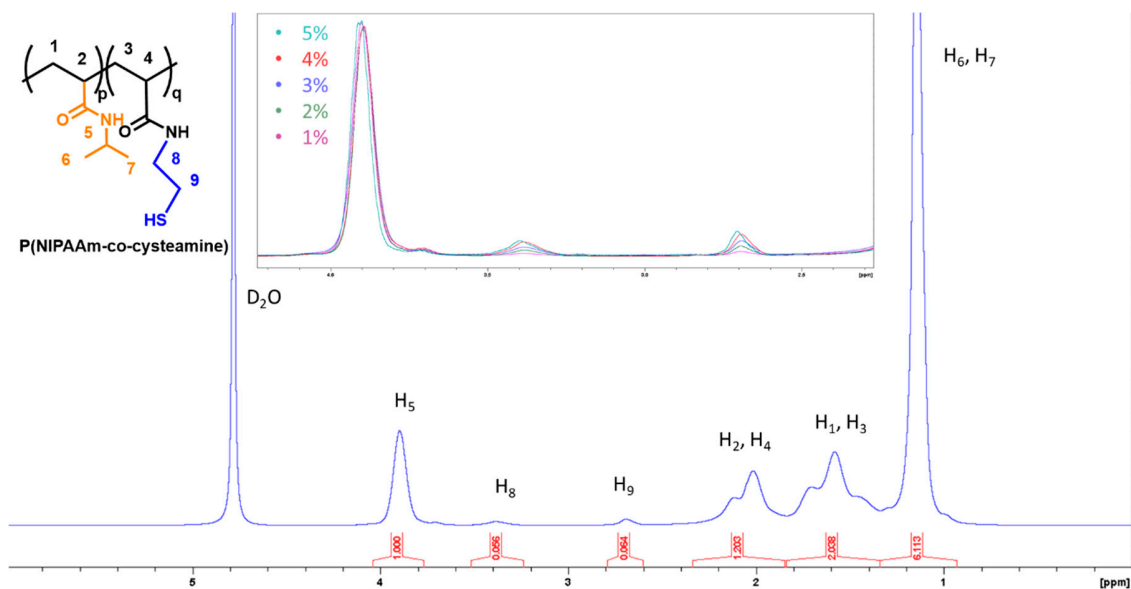


Fig.S2: Spectra of Cys3; inset represents different incorporation ratio. Normalized to peak 3.91 ppm.

$\delta(\text{ppm})$	Proton	# protons	Intensity Cys 1	Intensity Cys 2	Intensity Cys 3	Intensity Cys 4	Intensity Cys 5
4.79	D <sub>2</sub> O		/	/	/	/	/
3.90	H <sub>5</sub>	1	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
3.39	H <sub>8</sub>	2	0.017	0.035	0.056	0.076	0.095
2.69	H <sub>9</sub>	2	0.021	0.039	0.064	0.078	0.091
2.10	H <sub>2</sub> , H <sub>4</sub>	2	1.131	1.193	1.203	1.235	1.126
1.60	H <sub>1</sub> , H <sub>3</sub>	4	1.909	1.875	2.038	1.880	1.977
1.14	H <sub>6</sub> , H <sub>7</sub>	6	6.024	6.091	5.988	6.192	6.000

Table S3: Overview intensities measured in NMR spectra P(NiPAAm-co-Cys)

$$\frac{\text{Cys}}{\text{NiPAAm}} = \frac{I(\text{H}_8, \text{H}_9)}{4} \quad e.g. \quad (\text{Cys3}) = \frac{0.056 + 0.064}{4} = 3.0 \%$$

<i>Name</i>	<i>Feed</i>	<i>Measured (NMR)</i>
Cys 1%	1 %	0.95 %
Cys 2%	2 %	1.85 %
Cys 3%	3 %	3.00 %
Cys 4%	4 %	3.85 %
Cys 5%	5%	4.65 %

Table S4: Obtained incorporation ratios from NMR spectra for P(NiPAAm-co-Cys)

#### ELLMAN'S METHOD

<i>Name</i>	<i>Concentration solution (mmol/L)</i>	<i>Absorbance (A)</i>	<i>Percentage free thiols</i>	<i>Conversion</i>
<b>CYS1</b>	7.35	0.774	0.74%	74%
<b>CYS2</b>	2.77	0.690	1.76%	88%
<b>CYS3</b>	7.33	2.74	2.64%	88%
<b>CYS4</b>	3.41	1.88	3.89%	97%
<b>CYS5</b>	7.31	4.36	4.22%	84%

Table S5: : Obtained incorporation ratios from Ellman's method for P(NiPAAm-co-Cys)

$$\text{molar absorption coefficient } (\varepsilon) = 14\,150\, M^{-1}cm^{-1}$$

$$\text{Percentage free thiols} = \frac{\text{Absorbance (A)}}{\frac{\text{molar absorption coefficient } (\varepsilon)}{\text{concentration solution}}}$$

$$\text{Conversion} = \frac{\text{Percentage free thiols}}{\text{feed ratio}}$$

## FTIR SPECTROSCOPY

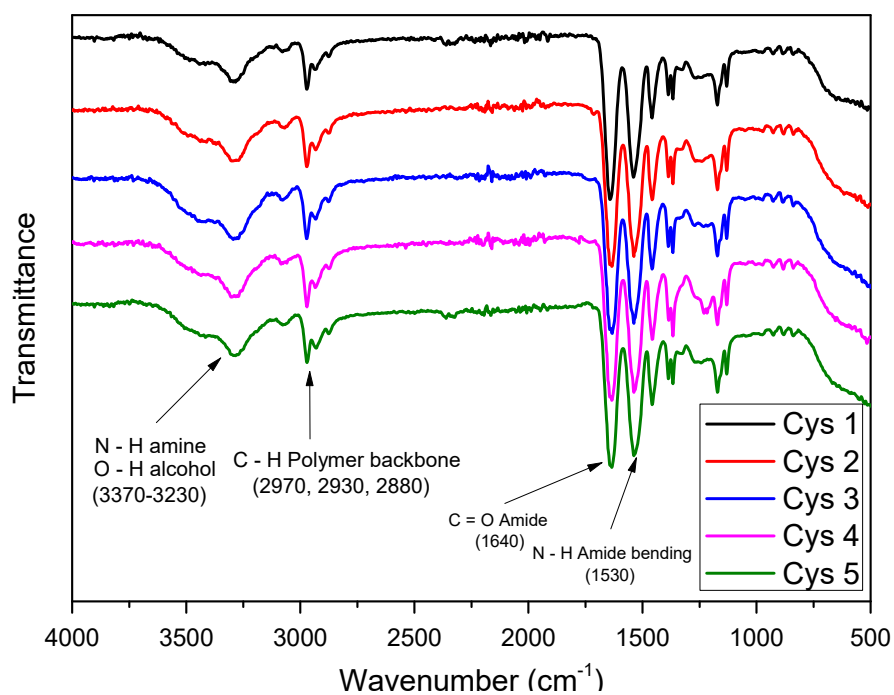


Fig.S3: FITR of Cys with different incorporation ratio and annotated peaks.

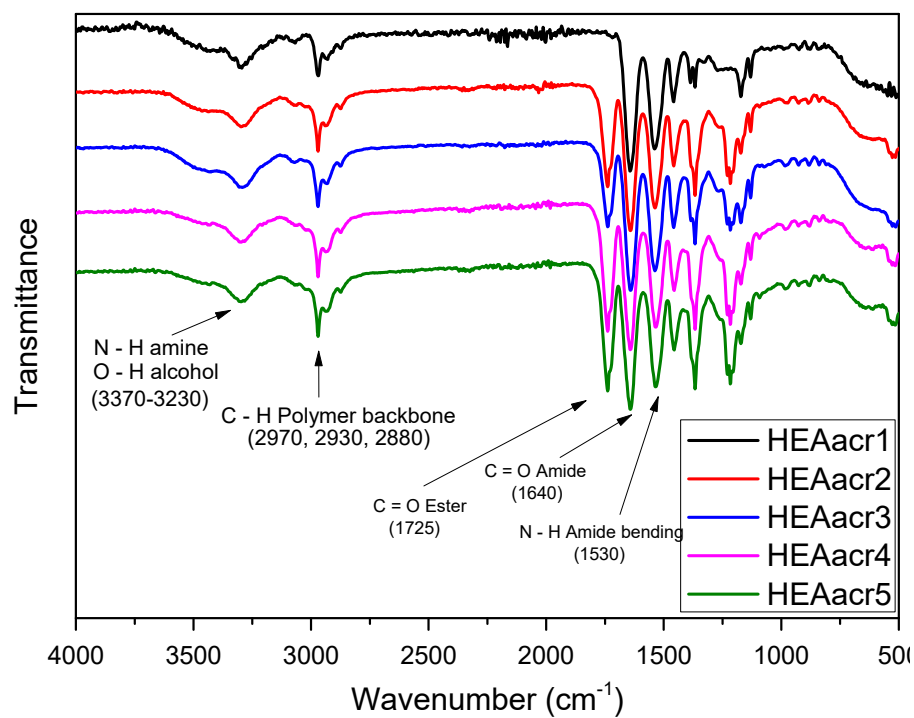


Fig.S4: FTIR of HEAacr with different incorporation ratio and annotated peaks.

Cold 4 °C					Hot 45 °C			
Name	Storage modulus G' (kPa)	Loss modulus G'' (kPa)	Complex modulus G* (kPa)	Loss factor tan( $\delta$ )	Storage modulus G' (kPa)	Loss modulus G'' (kPa)	Complex modulus G* (kPa)	Loss factor tan( $\delta$ )
Hydr 1%	0.33 ± 0.08	0.056 ± 0.002	0.34 ± 0.08	0.17 ± 0.04	10.1 ± 1.6	14.7 ± 2.8	18.8 ± 2.9	1.45 ± 0.23
Hydr 2%	6.55 ± 0.59	0.442 ± 0.163	6.56 ± 0.59	0.068 ± 0.03	29.7 ± 5.5	34.7 ± 6.6	45.7 ± 8.6	1.17 ± 0.01
Hydr 3%	11.0 ± 2.7	0.269 ± 0.129	11.0 ± 2.7	0.025 ± 0.01	44.3 ± 11.9	31.5 ± 9.9	54.4 ± 15.3	0.71 ± 0.07
Hydr 4%	3.08 ± 0.49	0.155 ± 0.054	3.08 ± 0.49	0.05 ± 0.01	14.4 ± 1.4	12.3 ± 1.3	18.9 ± 1.9	0.86 ± 0.03

Table S6: Numerical values of Figure 4, mechanical properties of hydrogels consisting of polymers with a different incorporation ratio determined by rheology

### Frequency and strain sweep Hydr2%

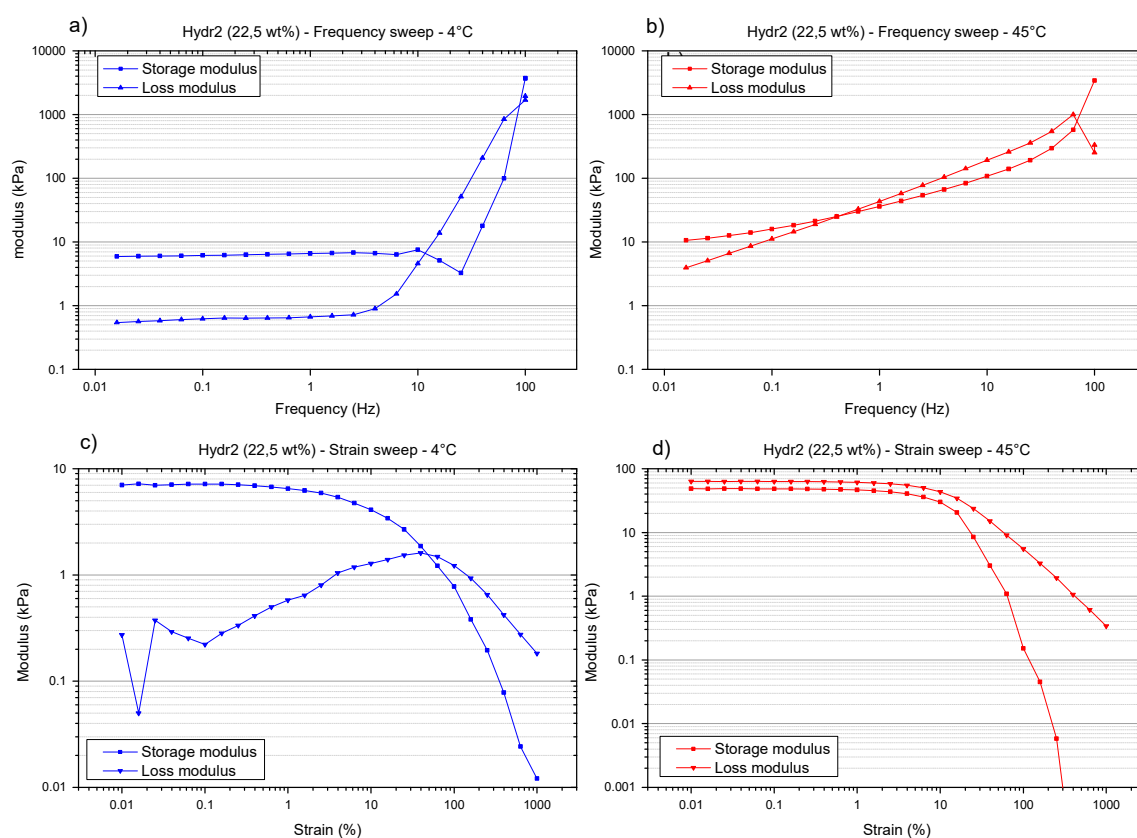


Fig.S5: Frequency and strain sweep for Hydr2% at 4°C and 45°C; Frequency and strain sweep for Hydr2% at 4°C (blue) and 45°C (red), a) frequency sweep at 4°C, b) frequency sweep at 45 °C, c) strain sweep at 4 °C, d) strain sweep at 45 °C



<i>Cold 4 °C</i>			<i>Hot 45 °C</i>	
<i>Name</i>	<b>young's modulus (kPa)</b>	<b>Relaxation modulus (kPa)</b>	<b>young's modulus (kPa)</b>	<b>Relaxation modulus (kPa)</b>
<i>Hydr 2%</i>	9.86 ± 1.56	5.98 ± 1.41	94.5 ± 30.6	6.12 ± 1.14
<i>Hydr 3%</i>	21.7 ± 4.3	12.6 ± 3.4	181.1 ± 31.7	55.4 ± 26.1

Table S7: Numerical values of Figure 9, mechanical properties of hydrogels consisting of polymers with a different incorporation ratio determined by rheology;

Compression – relaxation: data

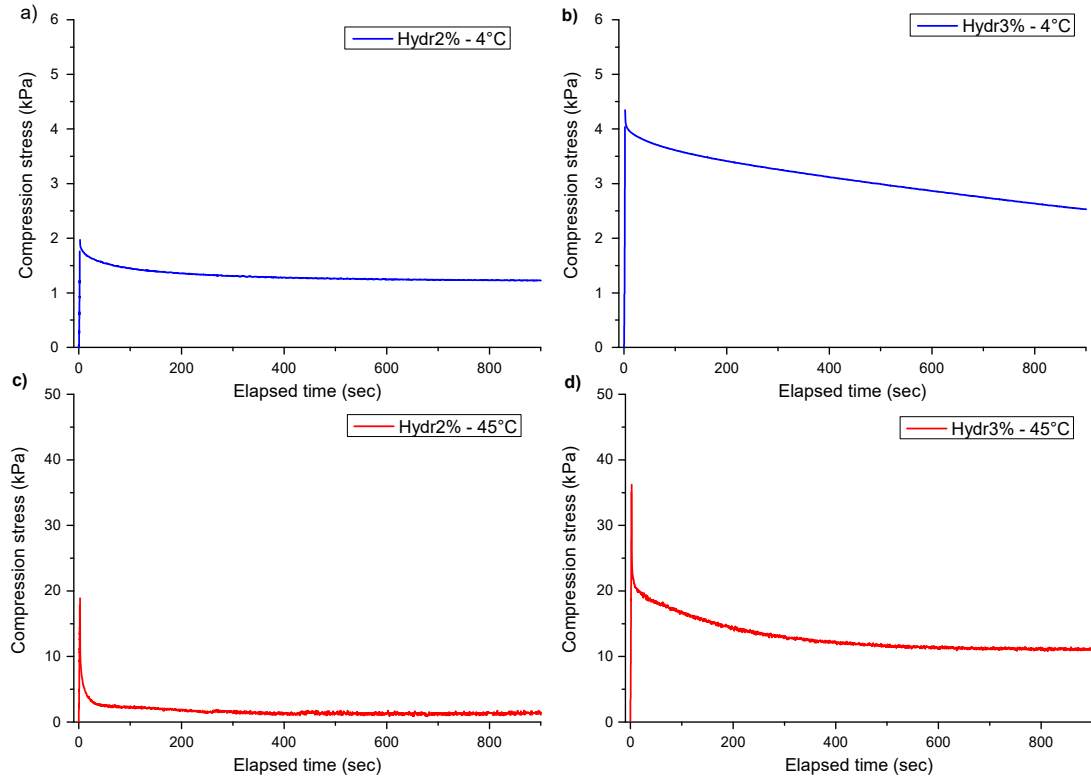


Fig.S6: Compression-relaxation test of hydr2% and hydr3% at 4 °C and 45 °C; a) hydr2% at 4 °C, b) hydr3% at 4 °C, c) hydr2% at 45 °C, d) hydr3% at 45 °C