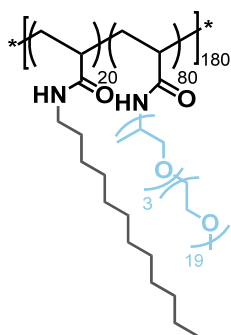


## 1. Structure of polymer P4



Scheme S1: Structure of polymer **P4**

## 2. NMR Spectra

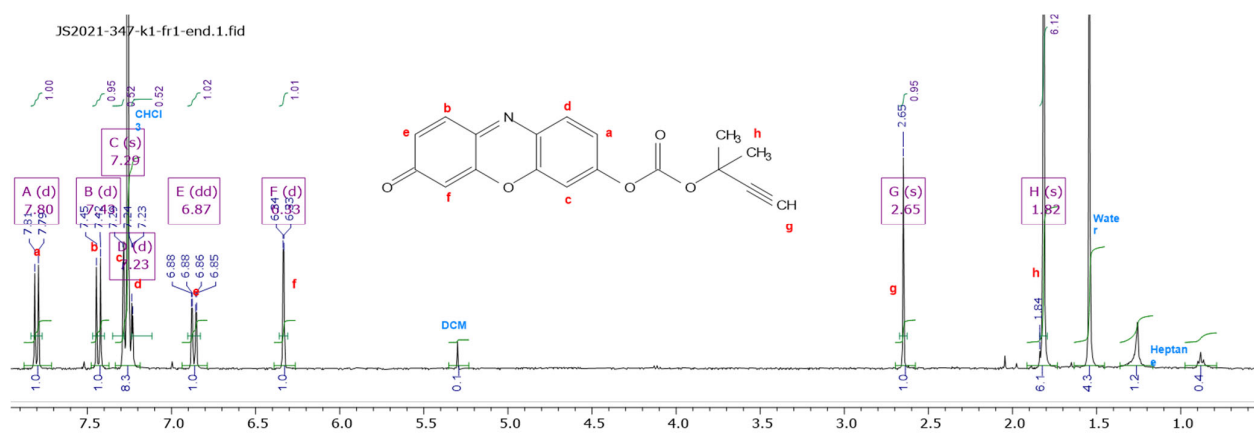


Figure S1:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of pro-res **6**

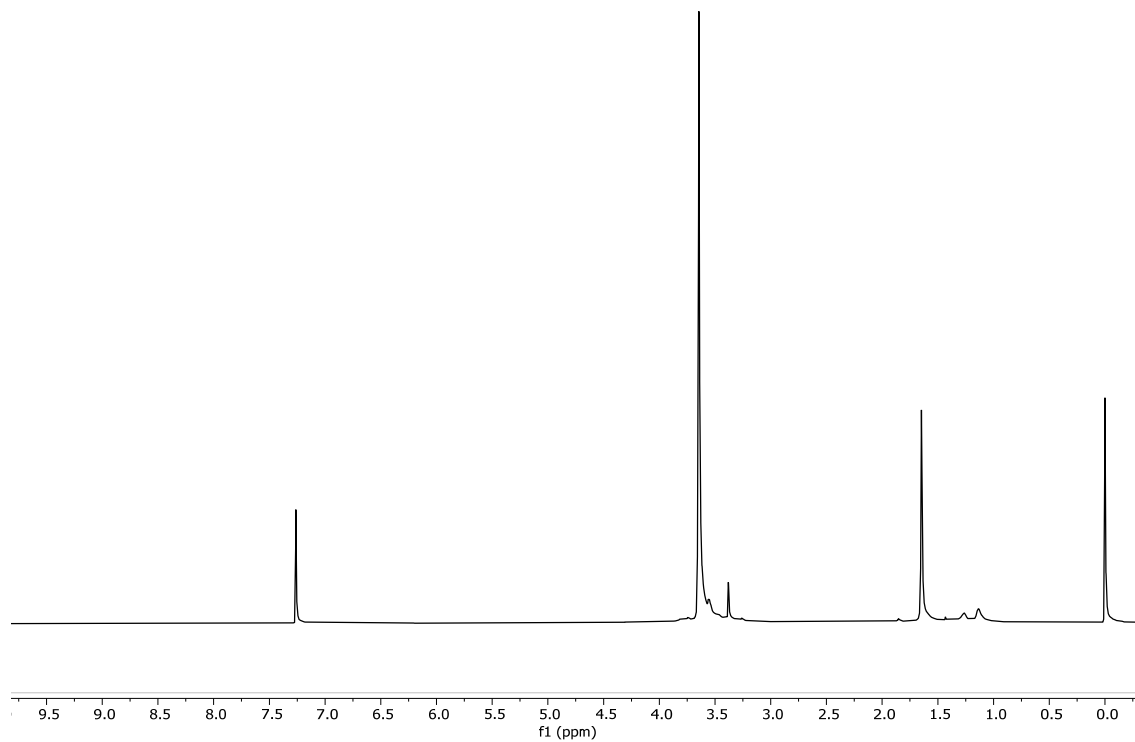


Figure S2:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **P1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

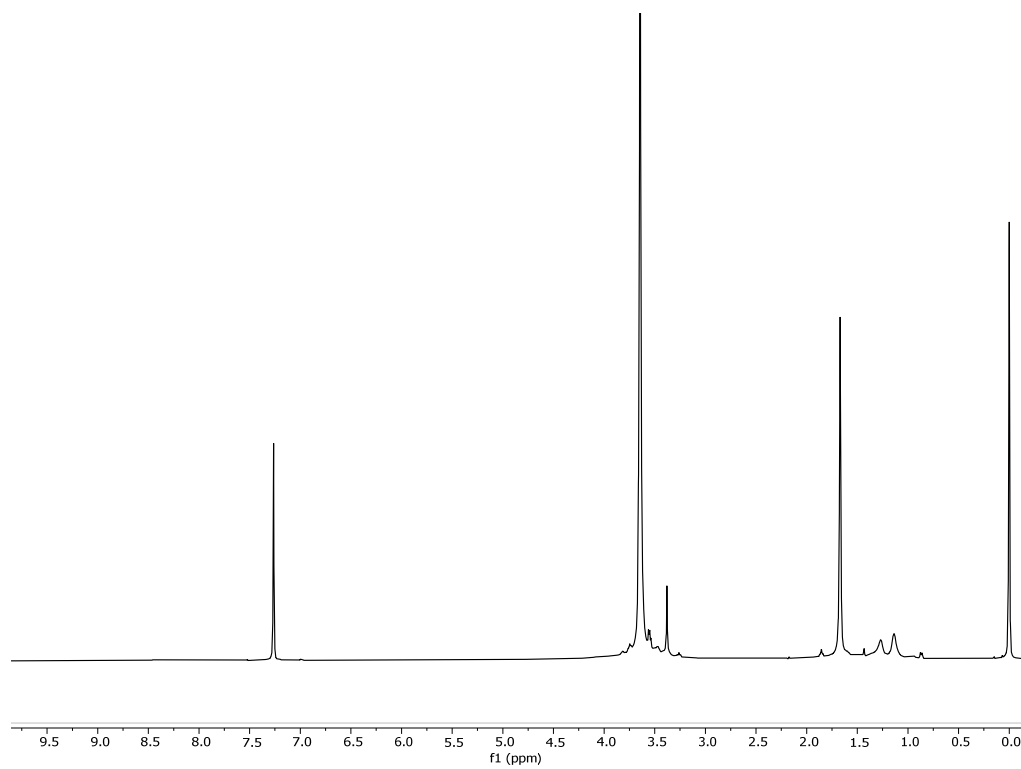


Figure S3:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **P2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

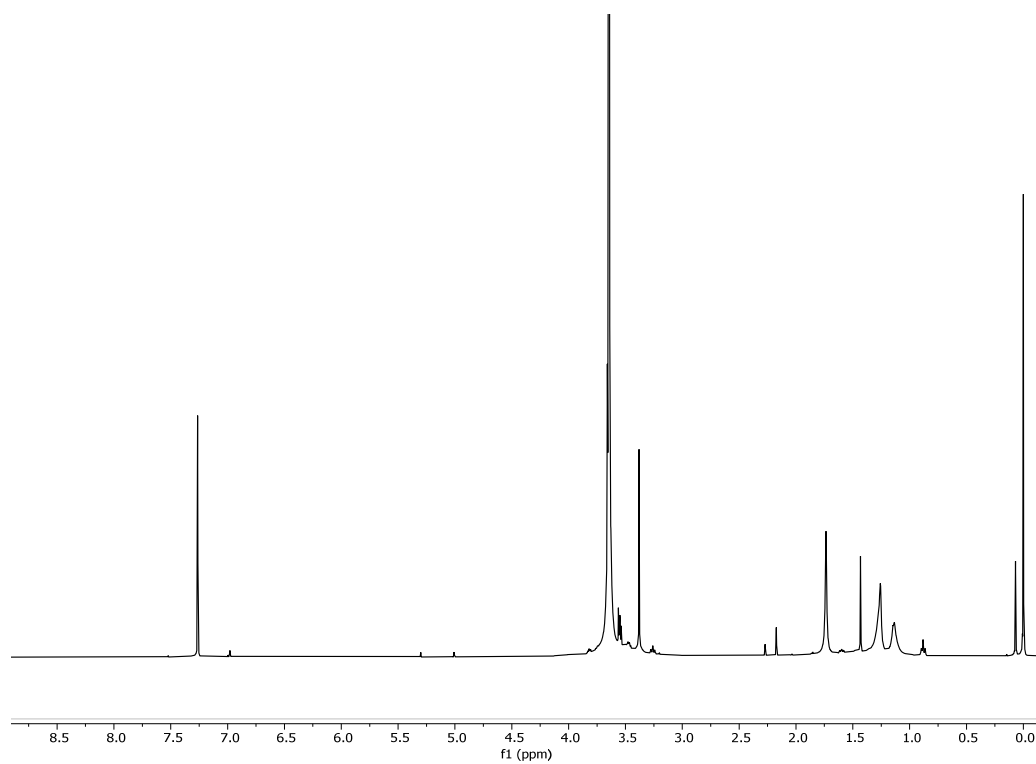


Figure S4:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **P3** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

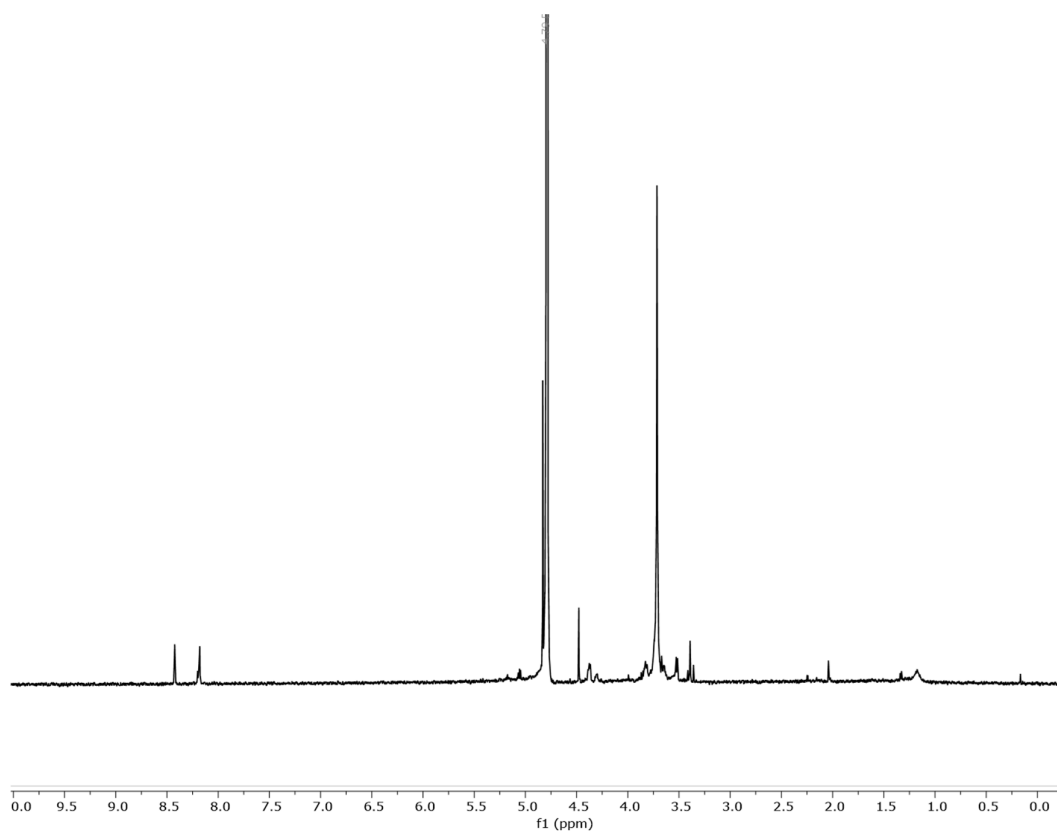


Figure S5:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **P1a** in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ .

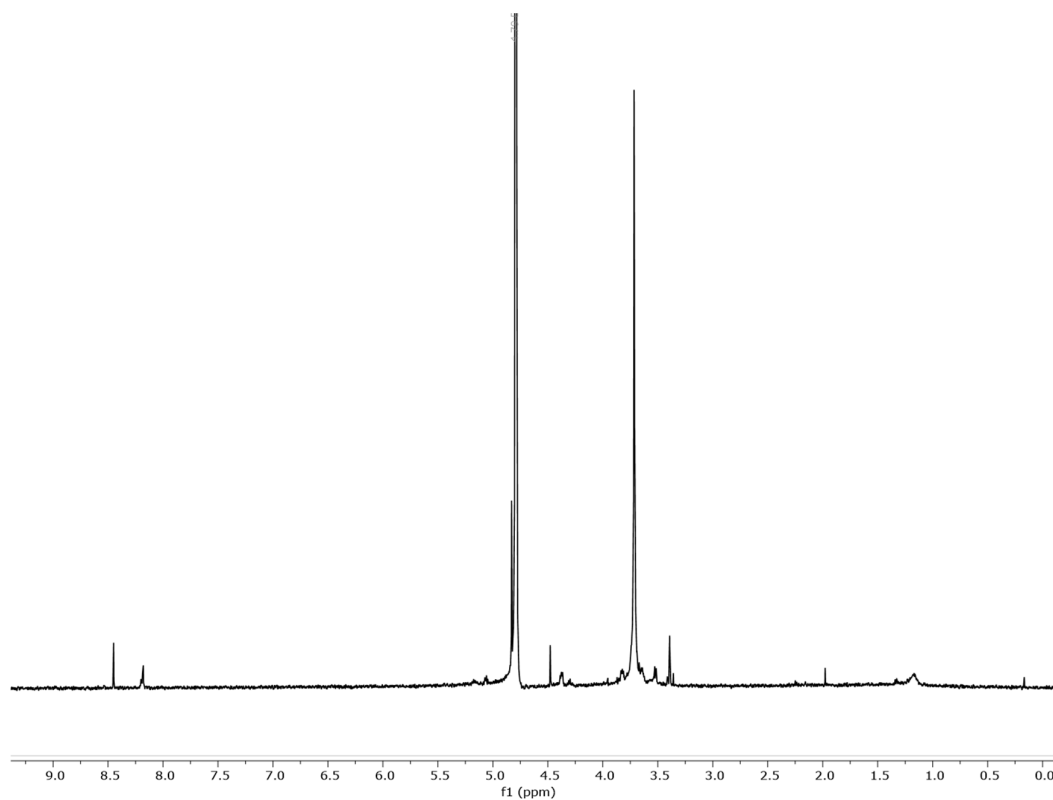


Figure S6:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **P2a** in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ .

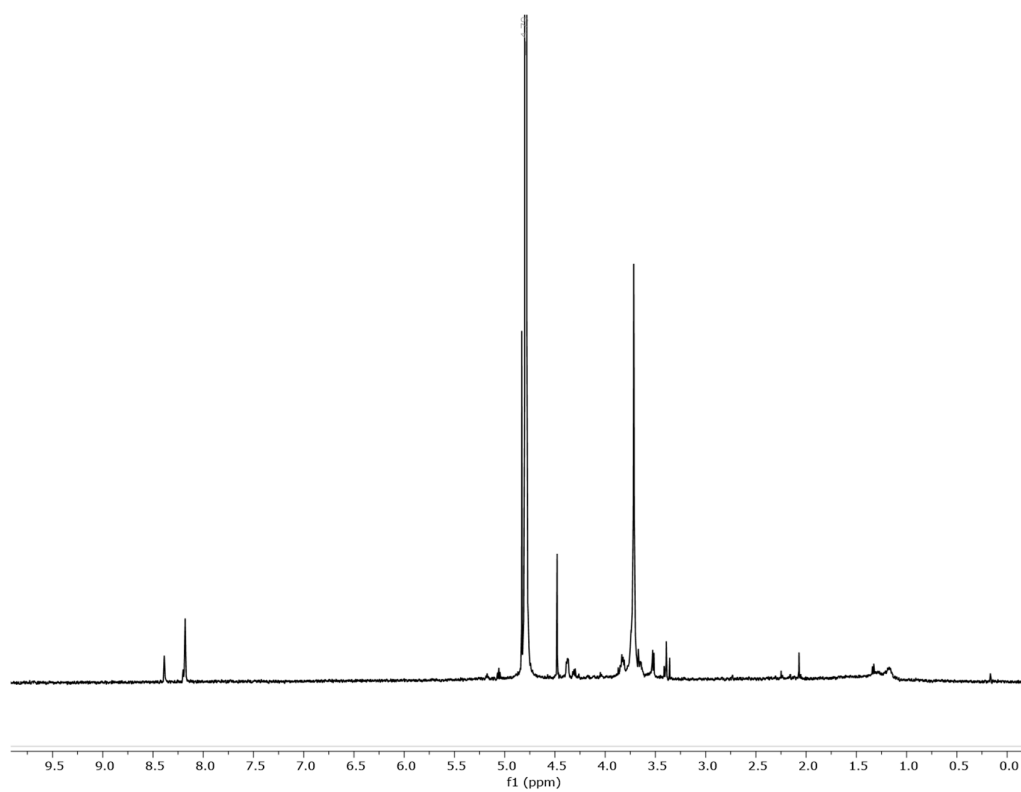


Figure S7:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **P3a** in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ .

### 3. IR spectroscopy

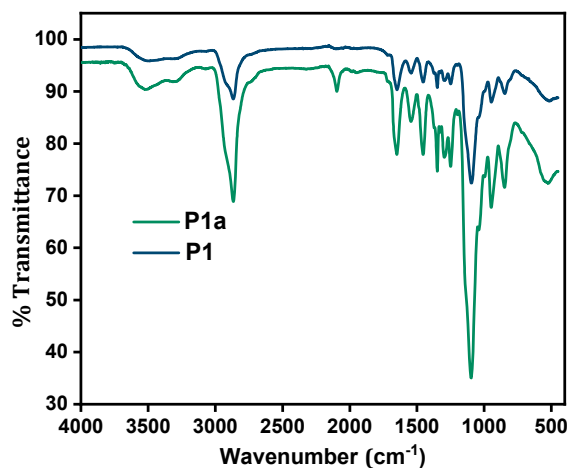
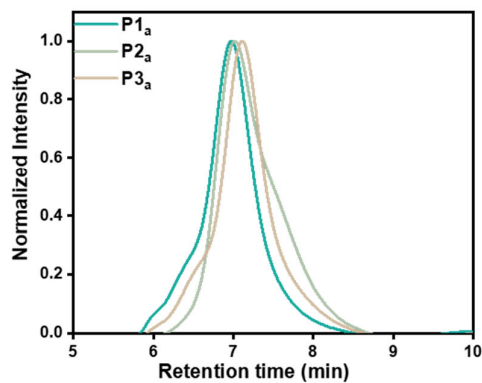


Figure S8: Infrared spectra of amphiphilic polymer of **P1<sub>a</sub>** and **P1**: before and after incorporation of diyne **2** confirming the disappearance of azide peak at 2096 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

### 4. SEC chromatography

A



B

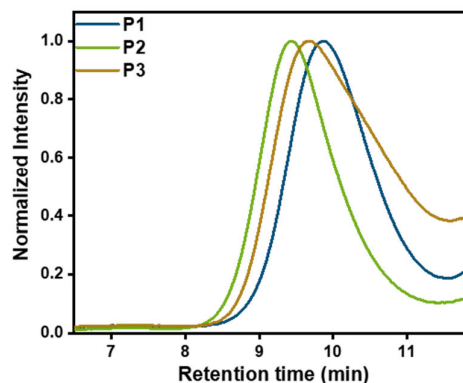


Figure S9: A) Normalised SEC traces in DMF of polymer precursors **P1<sub>a</sub>-P3<sub>a</sub>** (1 mg/mL). B) Normalised SEC traces in PBS of **P1-P3** after incorporation of ligand (1 mg/mL).

## 5. CD Spectroscopy

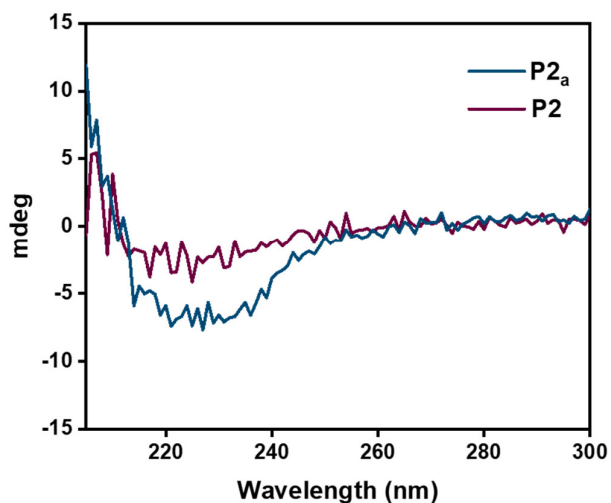


Figure S10: Circular dichroism spectra of polymeric nanoparticles: **P2<sub>a</sub>** and **P2** after intramolecular crosslinking,  $[P] = 0.5 \text{ mg/mL}$ ,  $T = 20 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ : The self-assembly of BTA grafts before and after the incorporation of the crosslinking ligands showed a negative CD signal centred around  $\lambda = 225 \text{ nm}$  indicating the presence of left-handed (M) helical BTA aggregates. The incorporation of the ligand reduced the size of the CD effect, indicating that the degree of BTA self-assembly was negatively affected.

## 6. Dynamic light scattering measurements

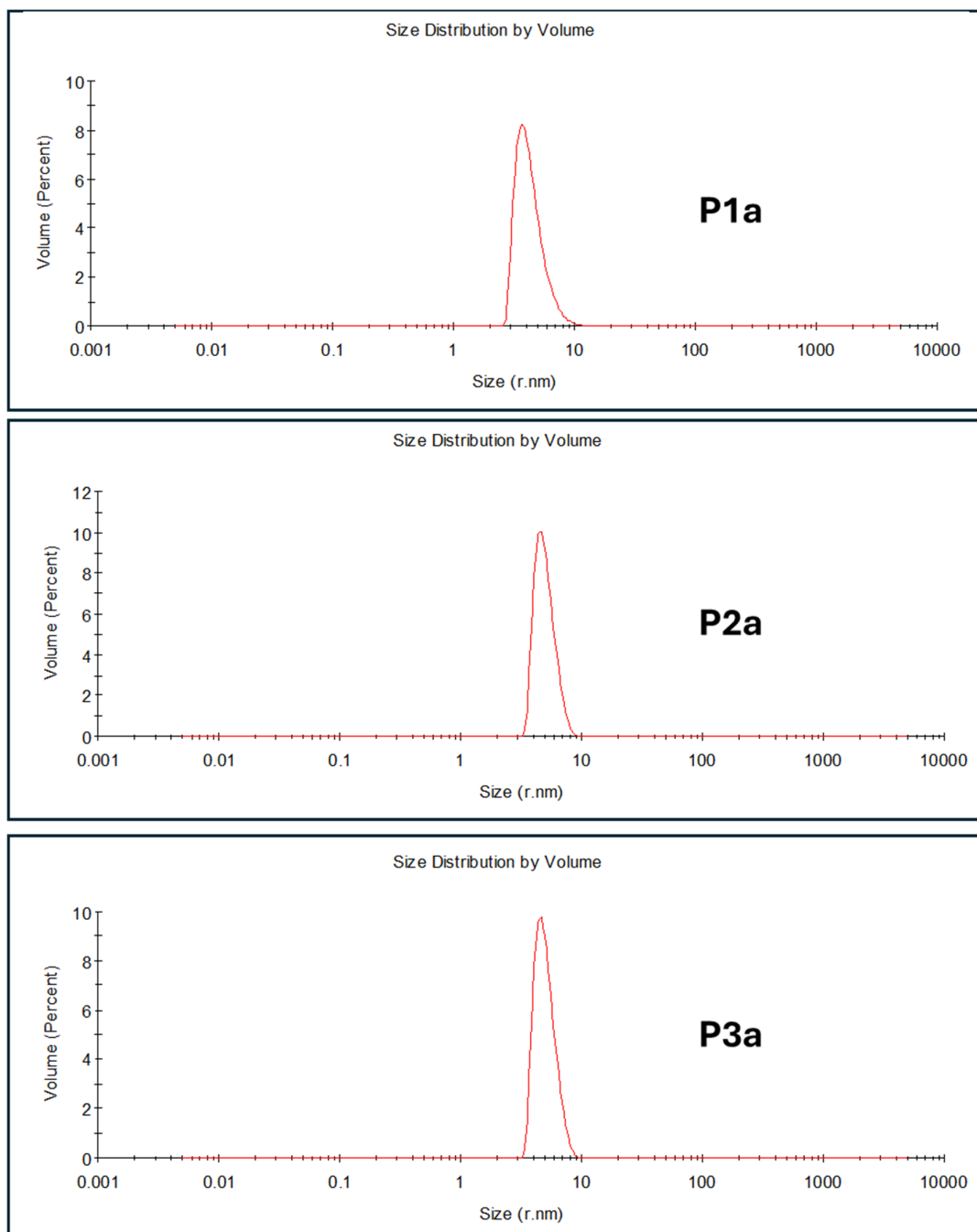


Figure S11: Dynamic light scattering measurements of **P1a-P3a**,  $[P] = 1 \text{ mg/mL}$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

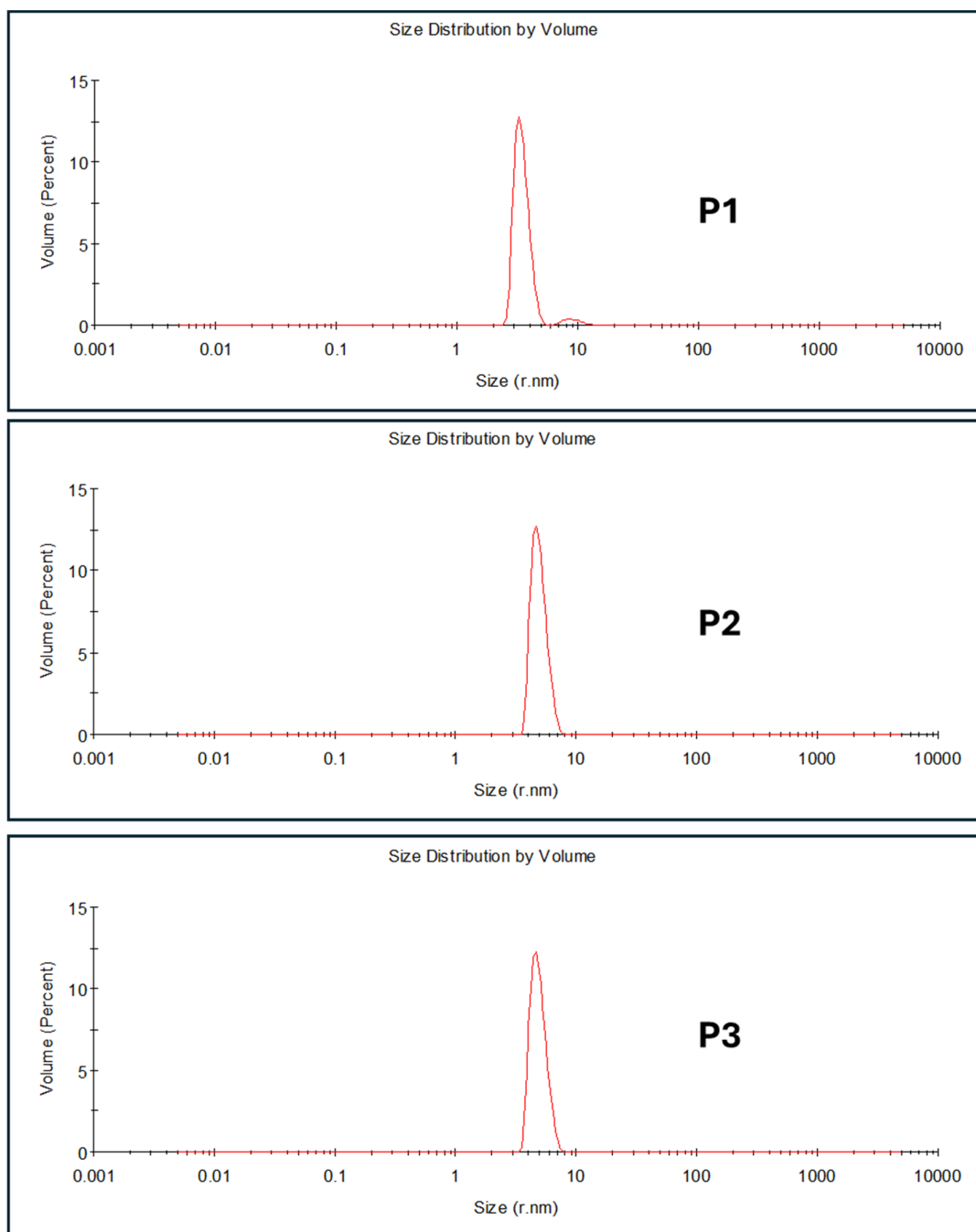


Figure S12: Dynamic light scattering measurements of **P1-P3**,  $[P] = 1 \text{ mg/mL}$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

## 7. HPLC-UV

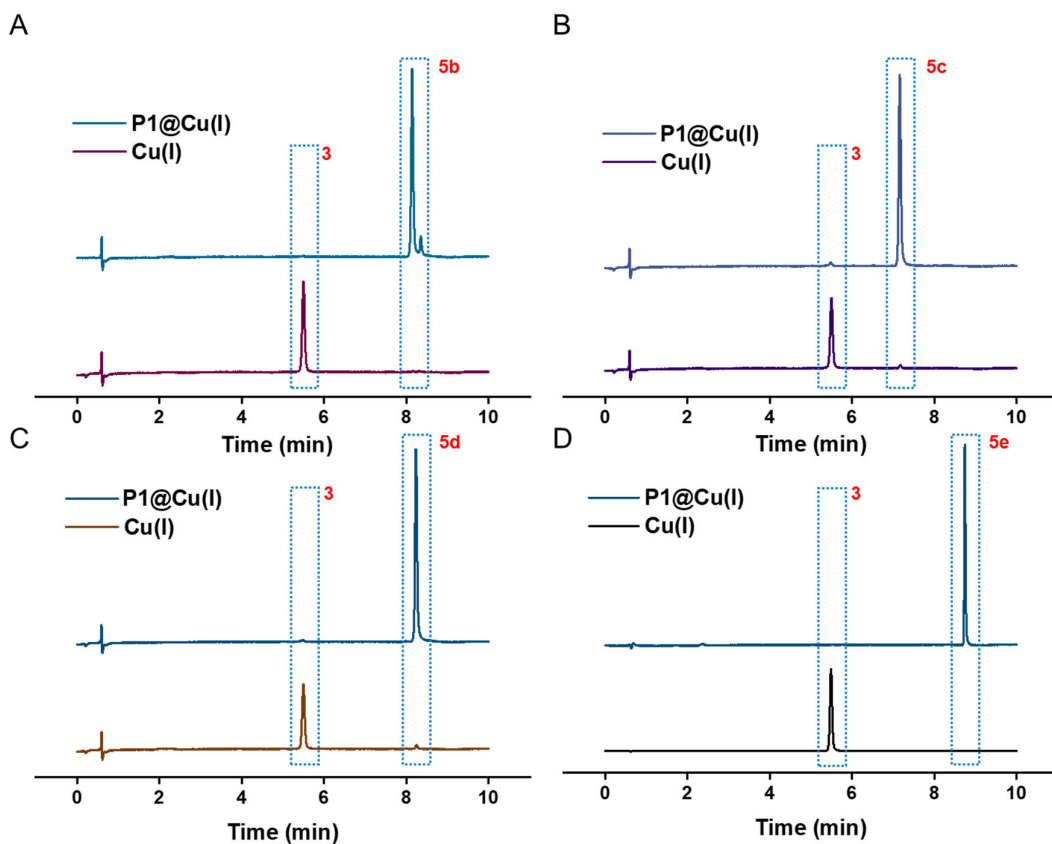


Figure S13: HPLC-UV chromatogram after CuAAC reaction between **3** and **4b-e** to form **5b-e** using **P1@Cu(I)** and **Cu(I)**, monitored after 10 min, at  $\lambda = 340$  nm. Reaction conditions: in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $[\text{Cu(I)}] = 10 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $[\mathbf{3}] = 100 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $[\mathbf{4b-e}] = 400 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $[\text{NaAsc}] = 2 \text{ mM}$ ,  $[\mathbf{P}] = \sim 600 \text{ nM}$ , at room temperature.

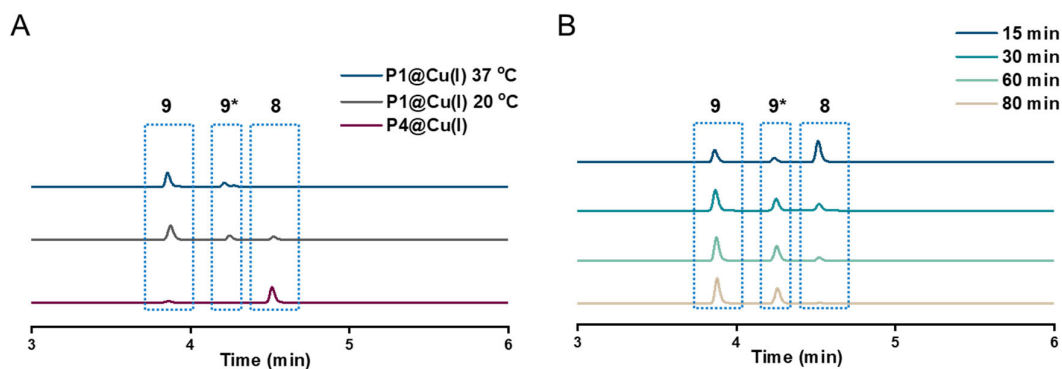


Figure S14: HPLC-UV chromatogram A) pro-rho **8** activation using **P1@Cu(I)**,  $T = 20$  °C and  $37$  °C and **P4@Cu(I)**,  $T = 20$  °C. Reaction conditions = in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $[\text{Cu(I)}] = 2 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $[\mathbf{8}] = 30 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $[\text{NaAsc}] = 2 \text{ mM}$ ,  $[\mathbf{P}] = \sim 120 \text{ nM}$ . B) pro-rho **8** activation using **P1@Cu(I)** over time, reaction

conditions = in H<sub>2</sub>O, [Cu(I)] = 10 μM, [8] = 100 μM, [NaAsc] = 2 mM, [P] = ~600 nM. **9\*** formed during pro-rho activation was also monitored using HPLC-MS, but was not detected as sharply as seen in UV, with [M+H]<sup>+</sup> = 510 and is expected to be the intermediate after depropargylation before the release of CO<sub>2</sub> stabilised by Na<sup>+</sup> from sodium ascorbate.

## 8. Ensemble kinetic studies

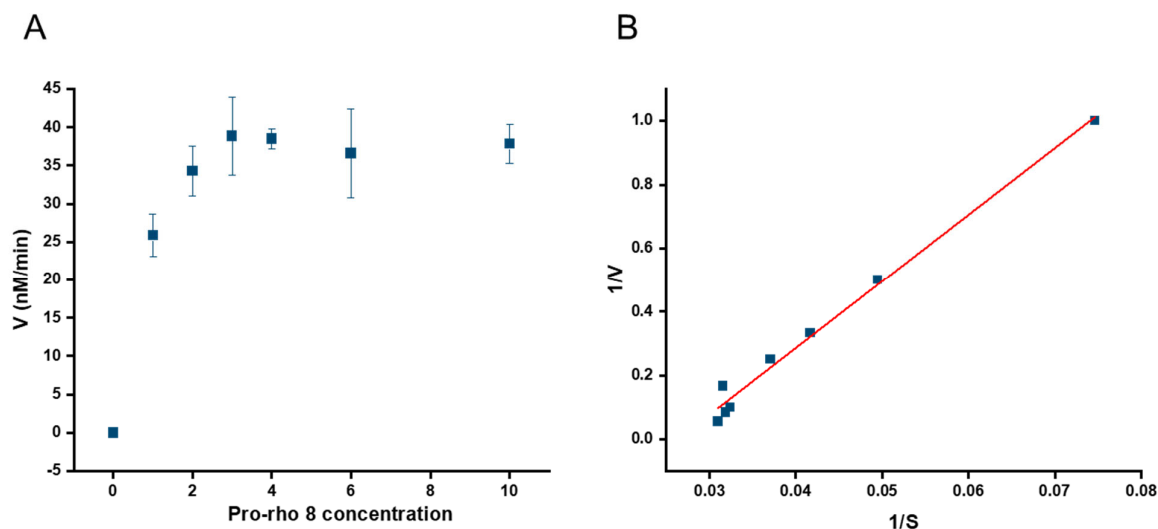
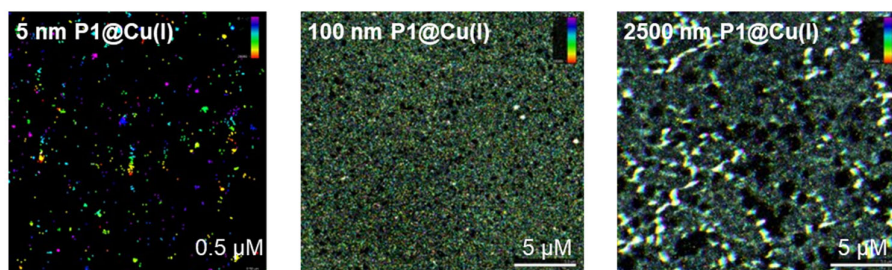


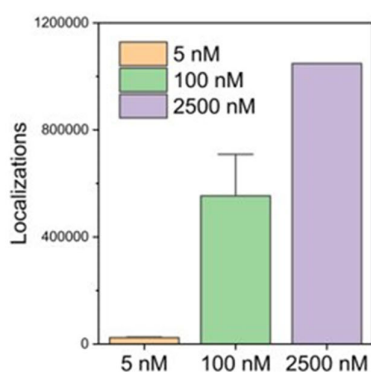
Figure S15: A) Change in the initial reaction rate of the depropargylation reaction of pro-rho **8** with the increase in substrate concentration using **P1@Cu(I)**, error calculated from three independent measurements. B) Lineweaver-Burk plot of reaction kinetics of the same reaction catalysed by **P3@Cu(I)**, rate monitored using fluorescence kinetic experiment ( $t_0 = 0$  min and  $t_f = 10$  min) and concentration of product determined from the calibration curve of rho **9**, [P] = 5 nM, in H<sub>2</sub>O, T = 37 °C, pro-rho **8** concentration as indicated, Equation :  $1/V = (K_m/V_{max} \times 1/[S]) + (1/V_{max})$ , in the plot  $y = 1/V$  and  $x = 1/[S]$ ,  $R^2 = 0.98$ .

## 9. Single-particle kinetic studies

A



B



C

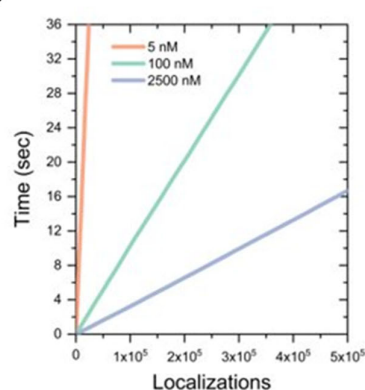


Figure S16: A) Time-sequence catalysis mapping using TIRF microscope monitoring the activation of pro-rho **3** by immobilised **P1@Cu(I)** in increasing concentrations B) Localisations of product molecules after catalysis measurements at different concentrations of **P1@Cu(I)** D) Localisation of product molecules overtime at different concentrations of **P1@Cu(I)**, [pro-rho **3**] = 1  $\mu$ M, [NaAsc] = 1 mM, [**P**] = 5, 100 and 2500 nM.

## 10. Mechanism of Cu(I) catalyzed depropargylation reactions

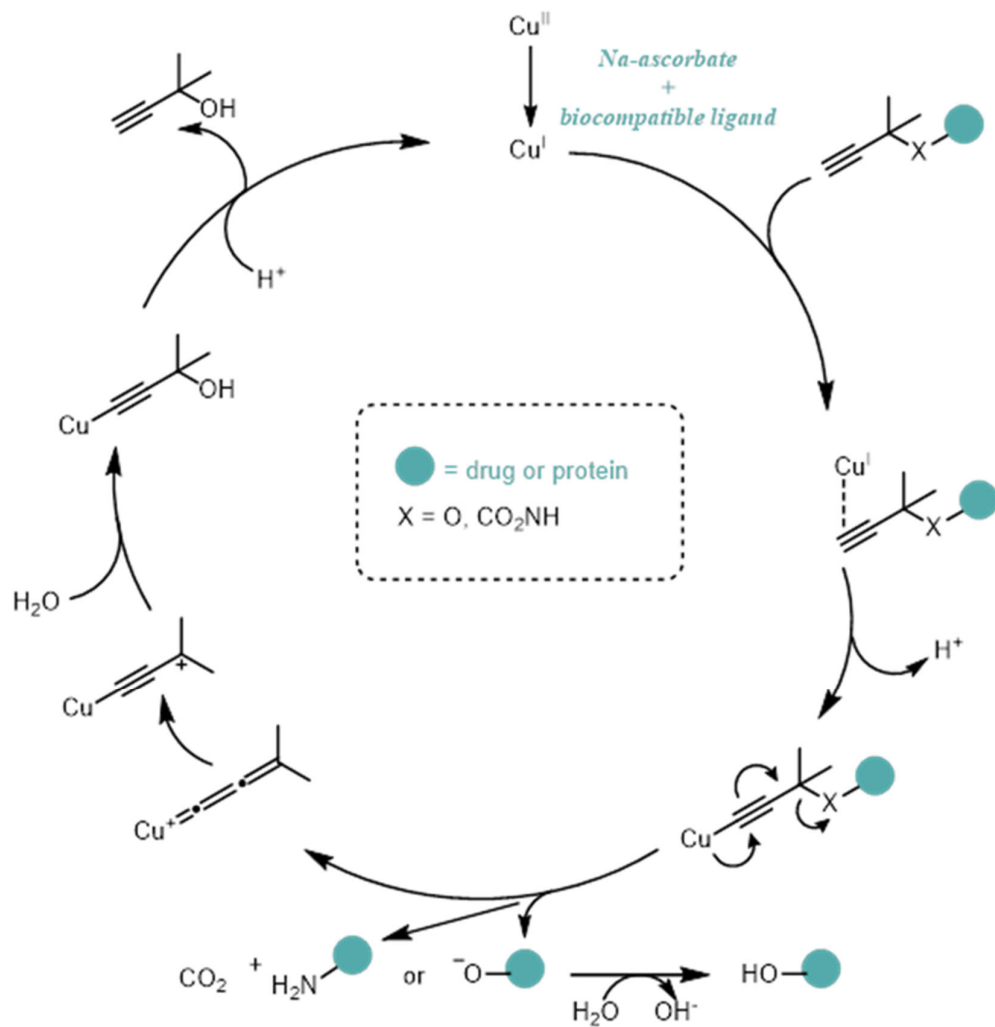


Figure S17: Reaction mechanism of Cu(I) catalyzed depropargylation reaction.[1]

## 11. References

1. Latocheski, E.; Dal Forno, G.M.; Ferreira, T.M.; Oliveira, B.L.; Domingos, J.B.; Bernardes, G.J.L.; et al. Mechanistic Insights into Transition Metal-Mediated Bioorthogonal Uncaging Reactions. *Chem Soc Rev* **2020**, *49*, doi:10.1039/D0CS00630K.