



Supporting information

## Photo-sensitive poly-L-lysine/heparin interpolyelectrolyte complexes for delivery of genetic drugs

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**Table S1.** The effect of [Monomer]:[Initiator] molar ratio on the M<sub>n</sub> of obtained PLL. Conditions: Monomer (NCA of Lys) concentration – 4 wt.%; initiation with n-hexylamine; T = 25 °C; reaction in 1,4-dioxane during 48 hours. The M<sub>n</sub> was determined by GPC in DMF for polymers prior to deprotection with application of PMMA standards (10 – 50×10<sup>3</sup> g/mol).

| Sample # | [M]/[I],<br>mol/mol | $M_n$ | Đ   |
|----------|---------------------|-------|-----|
| 1        | 250                 | 51000 | 1.4 |
| 2        | 200                 | 33000 | 1.3 |
| 3        | 150                 | 8000  | 2.5 |
| 4        | 100                 | 7000  | 1.8 |
| 5        | 50                  | 5000  | 1.6 |



**Figure S1.** Calibration curve showing the dependence of the fluorescence intensity ( $\lambda ex = 550 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\lambda em = 570 \text{ nm}$ ) of the solution on the concentration of Cy3-oligo-dT-dA, plotted to determine the amount of encapsulated oligonucleotide as well as to quantify its release.



**Figure S2.** A calibration curve showing the linear dependence of the optical density of the solution on the concentration of the photo-sensitive linker. The curve was plotted to determine the content of unbound linker upon conjugation with PLL. The absorption was measured at a wavelength of 325 nm. The molar extinction coefficient was estimated as  $\varepsilon = 619 \text{ L} \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .



Figure S3. The scheme of the installation for irradiation of IPECs with a 325 nm laser.



**Figure S4.** Calibration curve showing the dependence of the optical density of the solution on the concentration of 3-nitro-4-formylbenzoic acid, plotted to determine the amount of released decomposition product, which entered into a qualitative reaction with Schiff's reagent. The absorption was measured at a wavelength of 550 nm. The molar extinction coefficient was estimated to be  $\varepsilon = 1521 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .



**Figure S5.** Reaction of linker decomposition aldehyde product with Schiff's reagent (A); colour reaction with Schiff's reagent, used for photo-colormetric quantification of the reaction.



**Figure S6.** Agarose gel electrophoresis: (1) – ladder; (2,3) – pDNA; (4) – pLys+pDNA; (5) – pLys+pDNA+4xHep; (6) – pLys+pDNA+8xHep.



**Figure S7.** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 4 -(((2-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino) ethyl)amino)methyl)-3-nitrobenzoic acid.



**Figure S8.** Linker (4 -(((2-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino)ethyl)amino)methyl)-3-nitrobenzoic acid decomposition under UV radiation at  $\lambda$  = 325 nm.



**Figure S9.** Differences in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of the initial linker (A, C) and its photodestruction product (B, D) when irradiated with a laser with a wavelength of 325 nm with a power of 3 W/cm<sup>2</sup> for 15 minutes. The signal of aldehyde (B) and hemiacetal (D) groups were detected. Spectra were obtained in DMSO-d6.



**Figure S10.** Stability of IPECS: particles hydrodynamic diameter (A) and  $\zeta$ -potential (B) change with time. Conditions: 0.1 M PBS buffer solution, pH 7.4; particles concentration 0.1 mg/mL, 37 °C.



**Figure S11.** CTB test: viability of HEK 293 and BEAS 2B cells incubated with different concentrations of photo-sensitive linker (see **Figure 5**, compound **3**).



Figure S12. Modification of IPECs by amino-Cy5 probe.



**Figure S13.** Optical microscopy: mouse fibroblast cells (NIH-3T3) morphology after exposure to 325 nm laser.