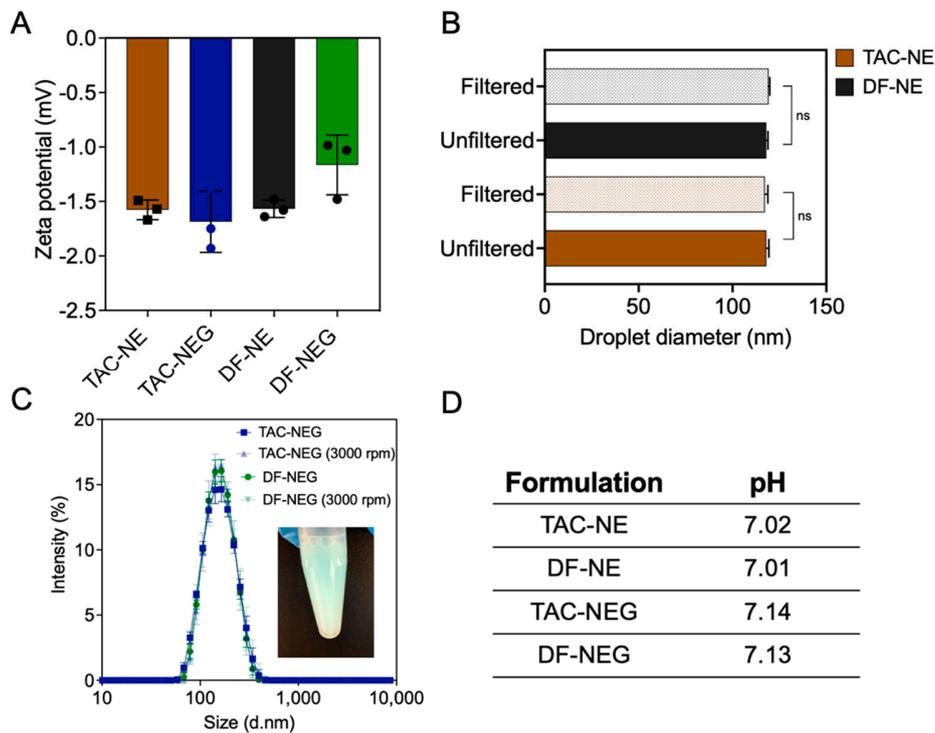


# A Reversibly Thermoresponsive, Theranostic Nanoemulgel for Tacrolimus Delivery to Activated Macrophages: Formulation and In Vitro Validation

Riddhi Vichare <sup>1</sup>, Caitlin Crelli <sup>1</sup>, Lu Liu <sup>1</sup>, Amit Chandra Das <sup>1</sup>, Rebecca McCallin <sup>1</sup>, Fatih Zor <sup>2</sup>, Yalcin Kulahci <sup>2</sup>, Vijay S. Gorantla <sup>2</sup> and Jelena M. Janjic <sup>1,\*</sup>

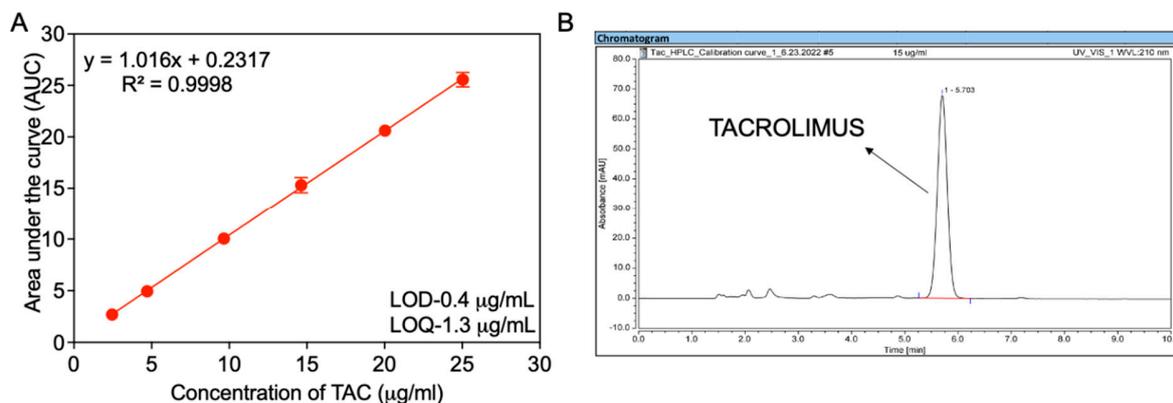
- <sup>1</sup> School of Pharmacy, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA 15282, USA; vicharer@duq.edu (R.V.); crellic@duq.edu (C.C.); liul@duq.edu (L.L.); dasa@duq.edu (A.C.D.); mcallinr@duq.edu (R.M.)  
<sup>2</sup> Wake Forest School of Medicine, Wake Forest Institute of Regenerative Medicine, Winston Salem, NC 27101, USA; fzor@wakehealth.edu (F.Z.); ykulahci@wakehealth.edu (Y.K.); vgorantl@wakehealth.edu (V.S.G.)  
 \* Correspondence: janjicj@duq.edu

## SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURES AND LEGENDS

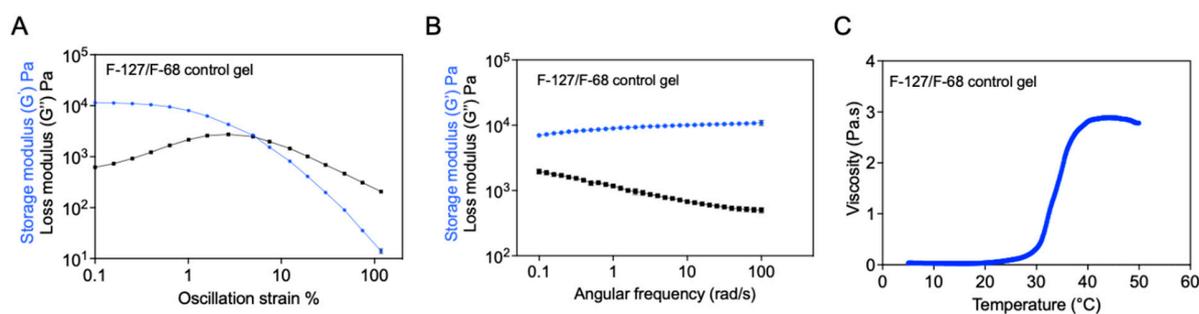


**Supplementary Figure S1.** (A) Zeta potential (mV) measurements for TAC-NE, DF-NE, TAC-NEG, and DF-NEG measured on Day 1. (B) Size of TAC loaded and DF NEs before and after filtration through a membrane filter with a mean pore diameter of 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$ . (C) Overlay of the size distribution of TAC loaded and DF NEs before and after centrifugation at 3000 rpm for 30 mins. (D) Average of recorded pH

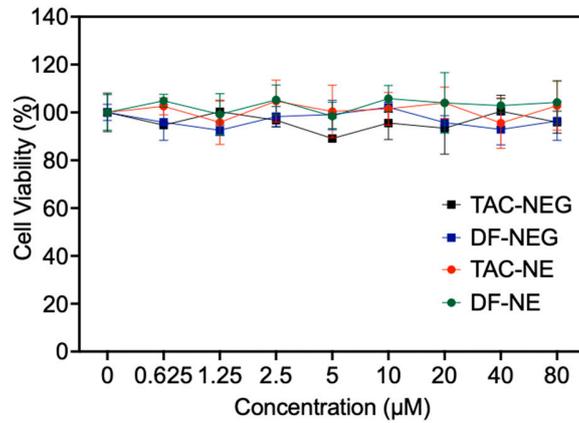
measurements for TAC-NE, DF-NE, TAC-NEG, and DF-NEG. Each data is represented as the mean  $\pm$  SD (n=3). ns not significant.



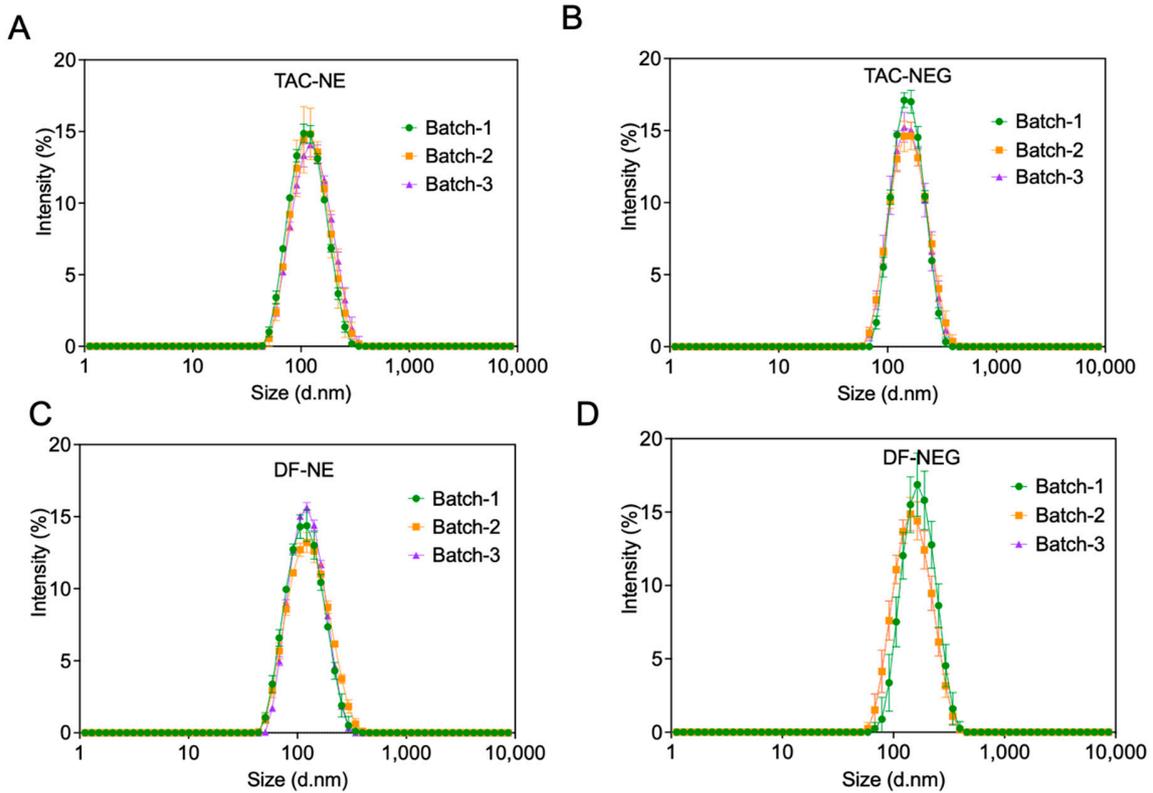
**Supplemental Figure S2:** (A) HPLC method validation standard curve for Tacrolimus with limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantification (LOQ). (B) Representative of HPLC chromatograph indicating Tacrolimus peak using ACN: Water: Orthophosphoric acid (75:25:0.1) as the mobile phase on a C18 column with UV detection at 240 nm. The retention time for TAC was 5.8 min.



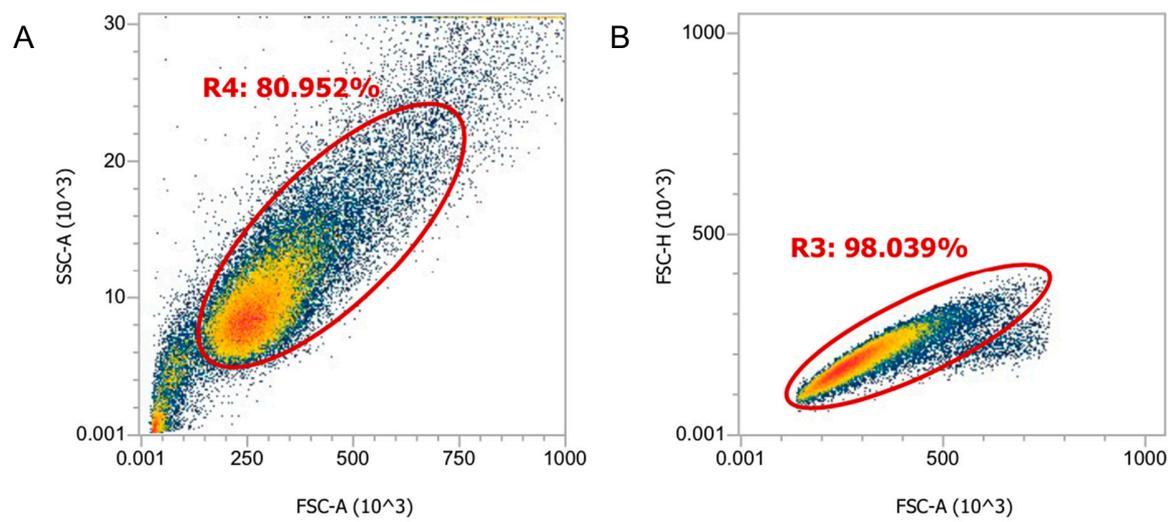
**Supplemental Figure S3.** (A,B) Oscillation Amplitude and Oscillation Frequency sweeps on F-127/F-68 control gel. OA tests were performed using 10 rad/s at strain of 0.1 to 100%. OF tests were performed with a constant strain of 0.1% and varying angular frequency from 0.1 rad/s to 100 rad/s on F-127/F-68 control gel. (C) Viscosity change of F-127/F-68 control gel in response to temperature increase from 5°C to 50°C using constant shear of 100 1/s.



**Supplementary Figure S4.** LPS-activated macrophages were exposed to TAC-NE, TAC-NEG, DF-NE, and DF-NEG. Macrophage viability assessed via ATP-based CellTiter-Glo® 2.0. The data points represent mean  $\pm$  SD (n= 6).



**Supplementary Figure S5:** (A-D) Overlays of averaged size distributions from three reproducible batches of TAC-NE, TAC-NEG, DF-NE, and DF-NEG produced on M110S (25 mL).



**Supplementary Figure S6:** (A, B) All the gating was set on the target population (FSC-A vs SSC-A) followed by gating singlet gating. DiD was detected in RL1 channel of Attune Nxt flow cytometer.