Supplementary Information

The Function of Peptide-Mimetic Anionic Groups and Salt Bridges in the Antimicrobial Activity and Conformation of Cationic Amphiphilic Copolymers

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1. Monomer and Polymer characterization

1-1a 1H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra of monomers and assignment of peaks



Figure S 1. ¹H NMR spectrum of Boc-aminoethyl methacrylate monomer in CDCl₃



Figure S 2. ¹³C NMR spectrum of Boc-aminoethyl methacrylate monomer in CDCl₃



Figure S 3. ¹H NMR of ^t butyl propanoic acid methacrylate monomer



Figure S 4. ¹³C NMR of ^t butyl propanoic acid methacrylate monomer



1-1a. ¹H NMR spectrum of AE₃₉PA₁₇E₄₄ in CD₃OD as solvent and assignment of peaks

Figure S 5. ¹H NMR of AE₃₉PA₁₇E₄₄

The DP and mol. % of monomers were determined as following:

DP = 33.86/2 (b, d, f) = 16.93

PAMA = [12.58 (c) - 7 (h, i, j, r)] / 33.86 (b, d, f) = 16.5%

EMA = f / (b, d, f) = 26.5 mm / (26.5 mm + 33.5 mm) * = 44 % (* = heights of integration curve)AEMA = 100 mol. % - 44 mol. % (EMA) - 16.5 mol. % = 38.5 mol. %

1-2. Polymer GPC traces



Figure S 6: SEC trace of $AE_{00}PA_{55}E_{45}$ using RI detector



Figure S 7: SEC trace of $AE_7PA_{47}E_{46}$ using RI detector



Figure S 8: SEC trace of $AE_{21}PA_{42}E_{37}$ using RI detector



Figure S 9: SEC trace of $AE_{29}PA_{27}E_{44}$ using RI detector



Figure S 10: SEC trace of $AE_{37}PA_{24}E_{39}$ using RI detector



Figure S 11: SEC trace of $AE_{39}PA_{22}E_{41}$ using RI detector



Figure S 12: SEC trace of $AE_{39}PA_{17}E_{44}$ using RI detector



Figure S 13: SEC trace of $AE_{46}PA_{12}E_{42}$ using RI detector



Figure S 14: SEC trace of $AE_{59}PA_{00}E_{41}$ using RI detector





Figure S 15. Representative hemolysis curves. Each data point and error represent the average and standard deviation of triplicates

1-4 Titration curves



Figure S 16. Representative potentiometric titration curve of $AE_{39}PA_{17}E_{44}$ copolymer. The titration curve was measured at the polymer concentration of 0.5mg/mL due to its low availability.

| | Feed | l composi (mole%) | ition | Protected copolymers ^a | | | | | | Deprotected copolymers ^a | | | | | | |
|---|------|----------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|-------|--------------|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Polymer | AEMA | PAMA | EMA | AEMA | PAMA | EMA | DP | Conv. | Yield (%) | AEMA | PAMA | EMA | DP | M _n ^a w/TFA | M _n w/o TFA | Yield (%) |
| AE ₀ PA ₅₅ E ₄₅ | 0 | 60 | 40 | 0.0 | 55.6 | 45.4 | 18.8 | - | - | 0 | 54.8 | 45.2 | 19.6 | 2770 | 2770 | 16 |
| AE ₇ PA ₄₇ E ₄₆ | 10 | 50 | 40 | 7.6 | 50.9 | 41.5 | 15.7 | 88.5 | 35 | 6.7 | 46.6 | 46.7 | 15.3 | 2330 | 2190 | 16 |
| AE ₂₁ PA ₄₂ E ₃₇ | 20 | 40 | 40 | 25.5 | 38.9 | 35.6 | 15.6 | 91.6 | - | 21.4 | 41.6 | 37 | 14.8 | 2490 | 2130 | 28 |
| AE ₂₉ PA ₂₇ E ₄₄ | 30 | 30 | 40 | 30.5 | 27.2 | 42.3 | 15.1 | - | 58 | 29.4 | 26.8 | 43.8 | 17.1 | 2930 | 2360 | 50 |
| AE ₃₇ PA ₂₄ E ₃₉ | 40 | 20 | 40 | 35.2 | 22.7 | 42.1 | 15.2 | - | - | 36.6 | 23.2 | 40.2 | 15.3 | 2780 | 2140 | 50 |
| AE ₃₇ PA ₂₂ E ₄₁ | 35 | 25 | 40 | 38.0 | 22.5 | 39.5 | 14.8 | 97.4 | 72 | 37.3 | 21.7 | 41.0 | 15.4 | 2740 | 2100 | 60 |
| AE ₃₉ PA ₁₇ E ₄₄ | 40 | 20 | 40 | 43.3 | 15.9 | 40.8 | 15.9 | - | 60 | 39.4 | 16.5 | 44.1 | 16.9 | 3040 | 2290 | 55 |
| AE ₄₆ PA ₁₂ E ₄₂ | 45 | 15 | 40 | 45.2 | 12.8 | 42.0 | 16.5 | 95.2 | 65 | 46.3 | 12.1 | 41.6 | 18.6 | 3440 | 2480 | 58 |
| AE ₅₉ PA ₀ E ₄₁ | 60 | 0 | 40 | 61.1 | 0.0 | 38.9 | 14.8 | - | 88 | 59.3 | 0.0 | 40.7 | 14.4 | 2860 | 1900 | 81 |

Table S 1. Characterization of protected and deprotected copolymers with EMA 40 mol. %

a) Values determined by ¹H NMR

2. Atomistic MD simulations of model polymer M2



Figure S 17. Radius of gyration (R_g) for the model polymer (M2) as a function of simulation time. Representative snapshots to illustrate the conformations of the polymers are also presented, with arrows indicating the corresponding simulation time and R_g values.



Figure S 18. Time evolution of distance between the nitrogen atom of NH_3^+ in AEMA group and the carboxyl oxygen atoms of COO⁻. A representative snapshot of the polymer is shown with arrows pointing to the corresponding distance between nitrogen (shown as green ball) and oxygen atoms (shown as magenta balls) and simulation time.

3. Solvent accessible surface area of M1



Figure S 19. Time evolution of SASA value of M1.

References

1. Stromstedt, A. A.; Pasupuleti, M.; Schmidtchen, A.; Malmsten, M., Evaluation of Strategies for Improving Proteolytic Resistance of Antimicrobial Peptides by Using Variants of EFK17, an Internal Segment of LL-37. *Antimicrob Agents Ch* 2009, *53* (2), 593-602.