

## Supporting Information

### Replacing amine by azide: Dopamine azide polymerization triggered by sodium periodate

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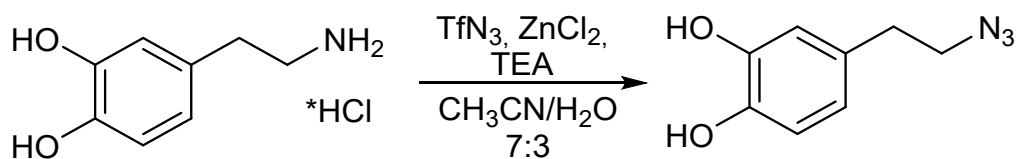
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## Synthesis of 4-(2-azidoethyl)benzene-1,2-diol



The compound was synthesized according to the procedure presented by Pagoti et al.<sup>1</sup> The trifluoromethanesulfonylazide (TfN<sub>3</sub>) was prepared by addition trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (Tf<sub>2</sub>O) (1.06 mL, 6.32 mmol, 1.2 eq.) to the suspension of sodium azide (1.0 g, 15.38 mmol, 2.0 eq) in 15 mL of CH<sub>3</sub>CN in ice bath. The reaction temperature was maintained at 0 °C for 2 hours. Next dopamine hydrochloride (DA·HCl) (1.0 g (5.27 mmol, 1.0 eq.) was dissolved 25 mL of H<sub>2</sub>O:CH<sub>3</sub>CN (3:7) mixture under argon atmosphere followed by addition freshly prepared trifluoromethanesulfonyl azide (TfN<sub>3</sub>), zinc chloride (ZnCl<sub>2</sub>) (71.8 mg ,0.53 mmol, 0.1 eq.) and 2.21 mL (15.87 mmol, 3.0 eq.) of triethylamine (TEA). After 24 h, the crude mixture was filtered and concentrated on the rotary evaporator followed by extraction with ethyl acetate. The organic layer were dried over magnesium sulfate and evaporated to dryness. The product was purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate:hexane 3:7 as eluent phase yielding 850 mg (79 %) of 4-(2-azidoethyl)benzene-1,2-diol as slightly darkish solid.

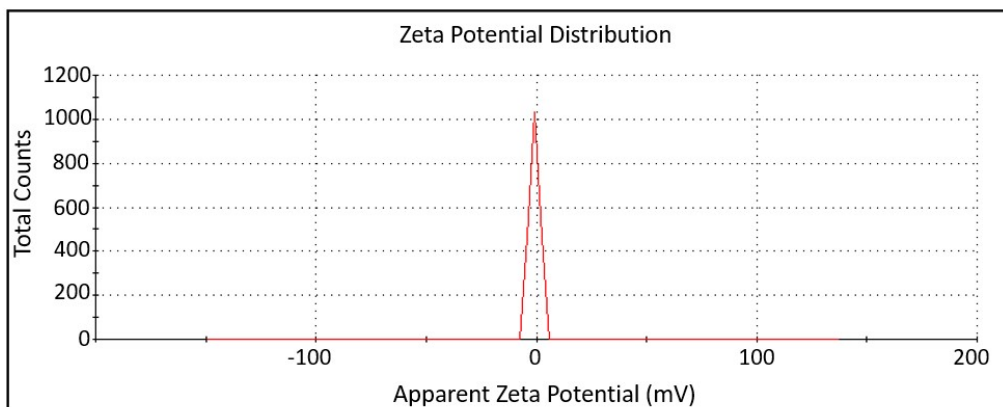


Figure S1. Zeta Potential of poly(dopaazide) particles in H<sub>2</sub>O

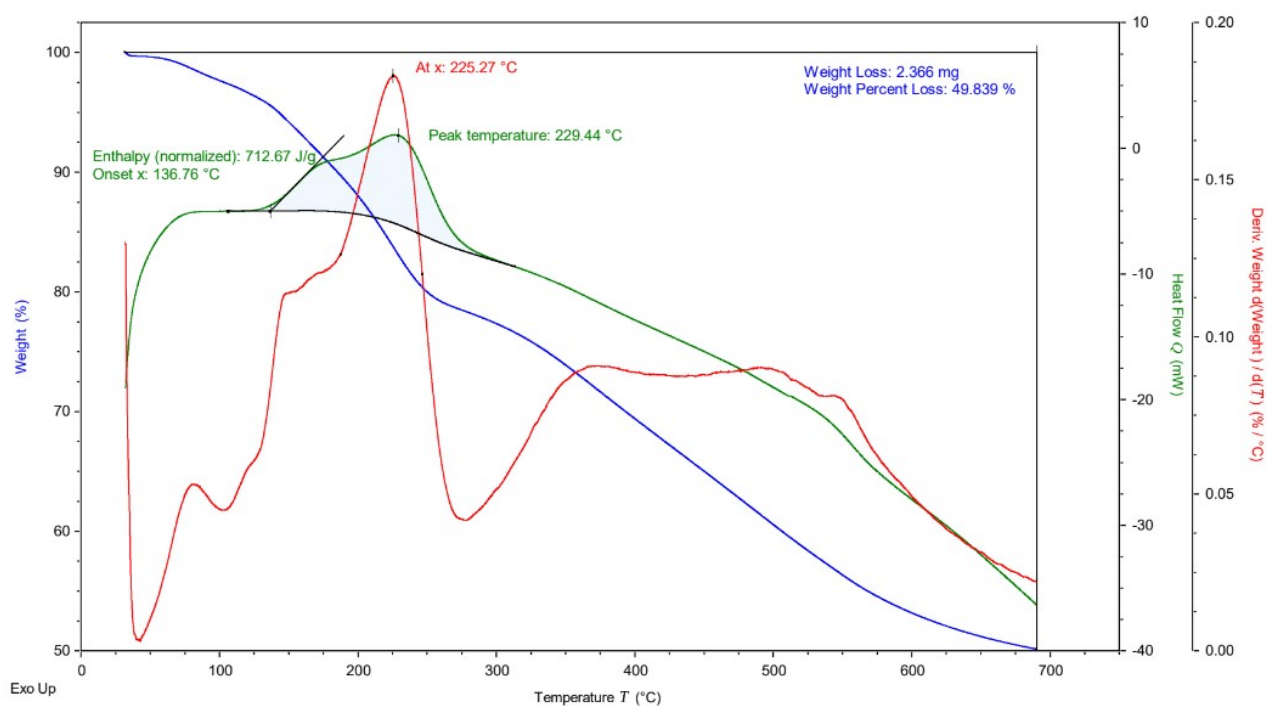


Figure S2. Thermal properties of poly(dopaazide) recorded by means of STA

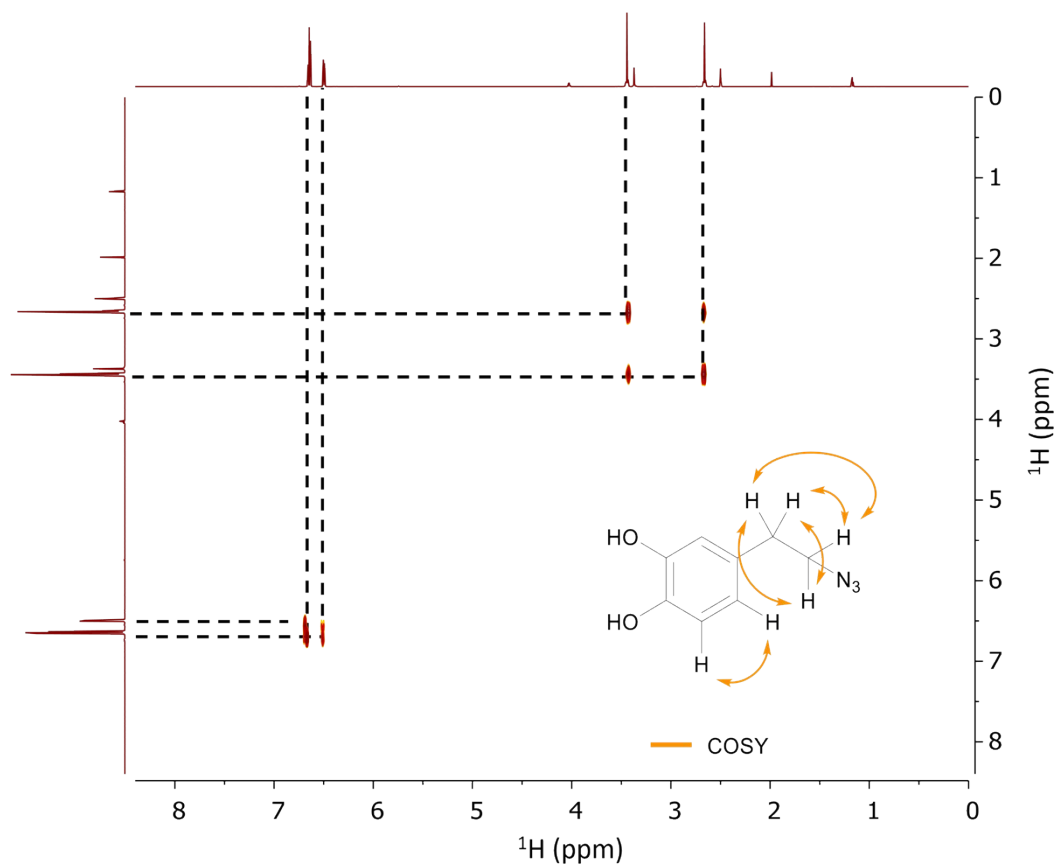


Figure S3.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum of dopamine-azide (DMSO- $d_6$ , 298 K).

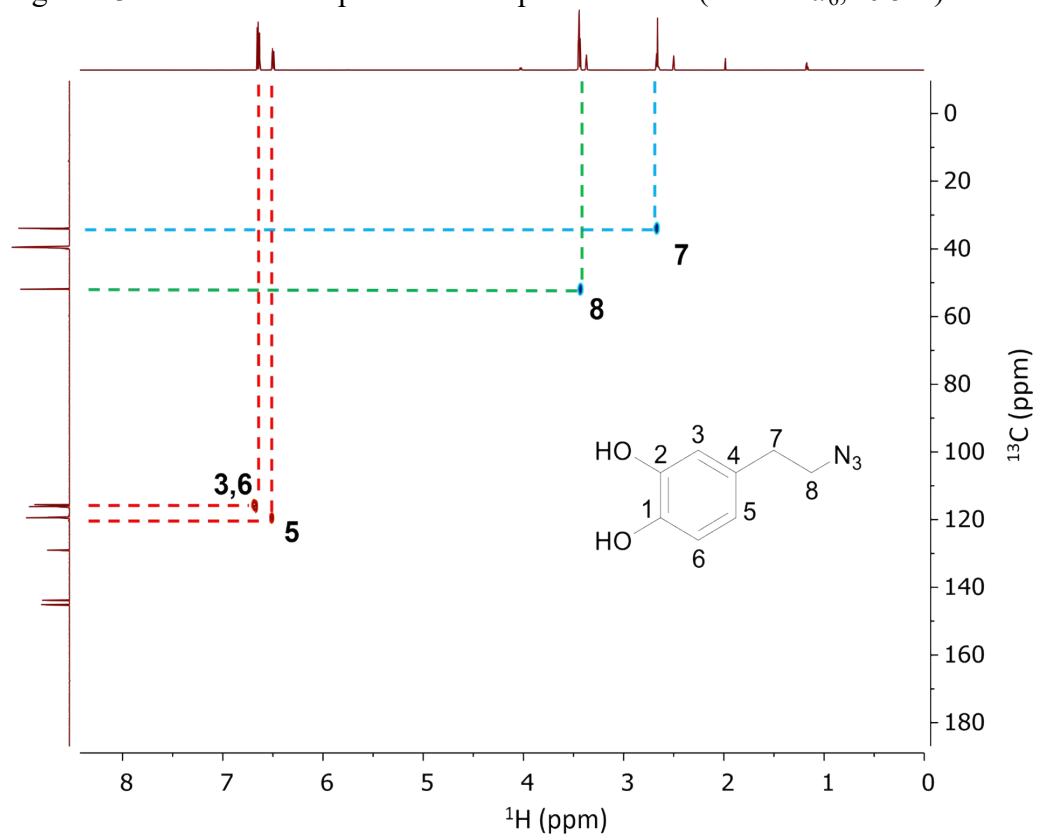


Figure S4.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC spectrum of dopamine-azide (DMSO- $d_6$ , 298 K).

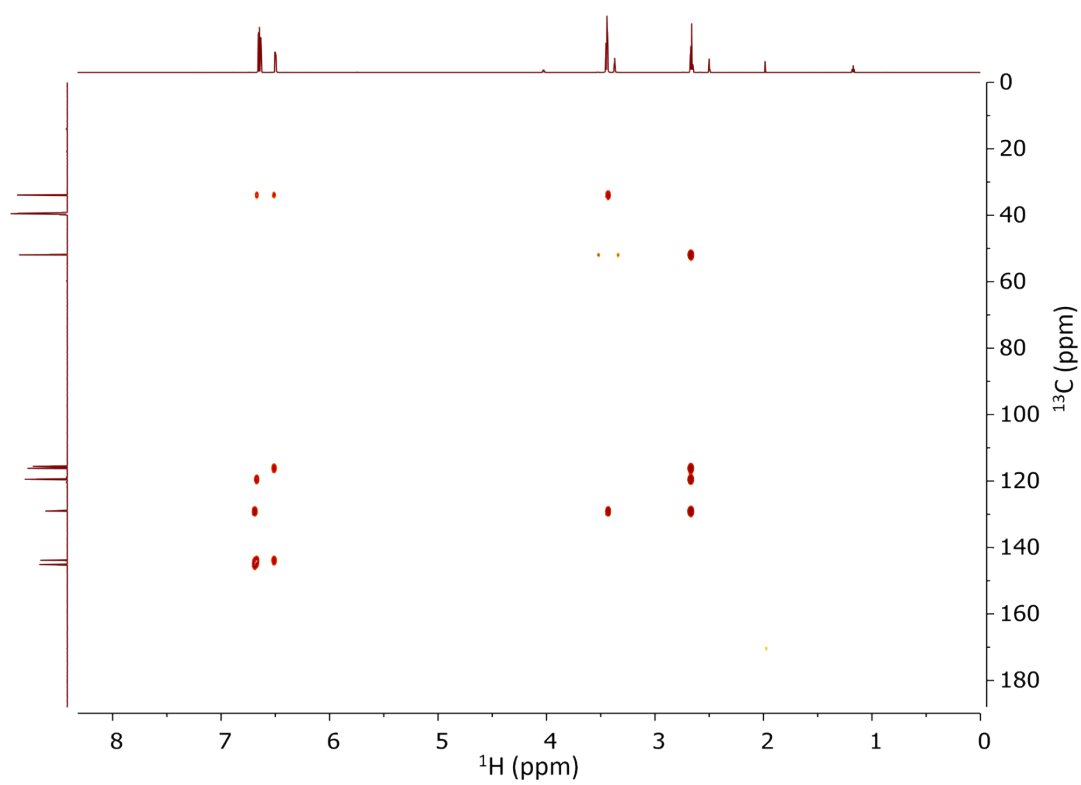


Figure S5.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HMBC spectrum of dopamine-azide ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , 298 K)



Figure S6. Experiment with different equivalents of  $\text{NaIO}_4$ . The left row corresponds to poly(dopaazide) and the right row presents PDA. Flask number: 1 and 10 (0.1 eq.  $\text{NaIO}_4$ ), 2 and 9 (0.2 eq.  $\text{NaIO}_4$ ), 3 and 8 (0.5 eq.  $\text{NaIO}_4$ ), 4 and 6 (1.0 eq.  $\text{NaIO}_4$ ), 5 and 6 (2.0 eq.  $\text{NaIO}_4$ )

After adding the periodate solution in water to the dopamine azide solution, an instantaneous color change from transparent to intense, clear orange was observed. Over time, the mixture turned cloudy, and the color became slightly lighter, dirty-orange. It was noticed that with more periodate added, the color of the mixture was darker and more brown than orange what suggest increased transformation speed of the intermediates. In the case of dopamine, the solution turned red immediately after adding the oxidant, gradually turning into cherry red, and finally turning a maroon color. As the concentration of periodate increased in the flask, the effect was the same as for the azide analog, i.e. a darker color was observed. The experiment was carried out for 24 h with oxygen access. The samples were purified by centrifugation and washed with water until the supernatant was transparent.

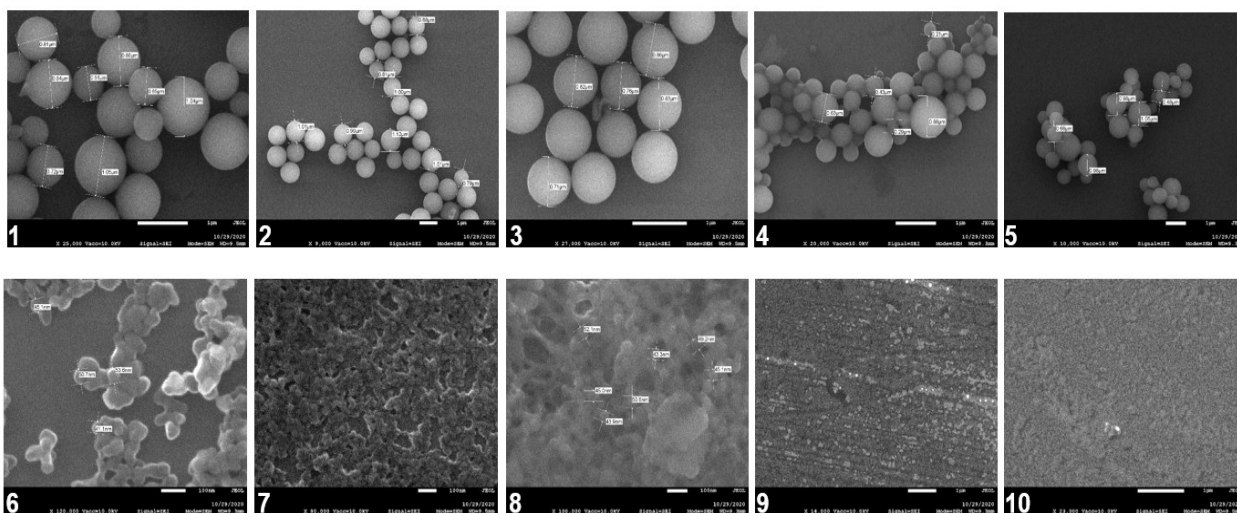


Figure S7. SEM pictures of poly(dopaazide) and PDA particles formed after 24 hours of polymerization with different equivalents of  $\text{NaIO}_4$ . The upper row corresponds to poly(dopaazide) and the bottom row presents PDA. Flask number: 1 and 10 (0.1 eq.  $\text{NaIO}_4$ ), 2 and 9 (0.2 eq.  $\text{NaIO}_4$ ), 3 and 8 (0.5 eq.  $\text{NaIO}_4$ ), 4 and 6 (1.0 eq.  $\text{NaIO}_4$ ), 5 and 6 (2.0 eq.  $\text{NaIO}_4$ )

Table S1 Contact angle (CA) measurement results for poly(dopaazide) and polydopamine (PDA)

Sample	Initial CA	After 1 min	After 10 min
Poly(dopaazide)/glass 24 h	62	58	36
Poly(dopaazide)/glass 48 h	70	67	47
Poly(dopaazide)/Si 48 h	77	53	32
PDA/glass 24 h	51	50	39
PDA/glass 48 h	62	60	38
PDA/Si 48 h	65	61	53



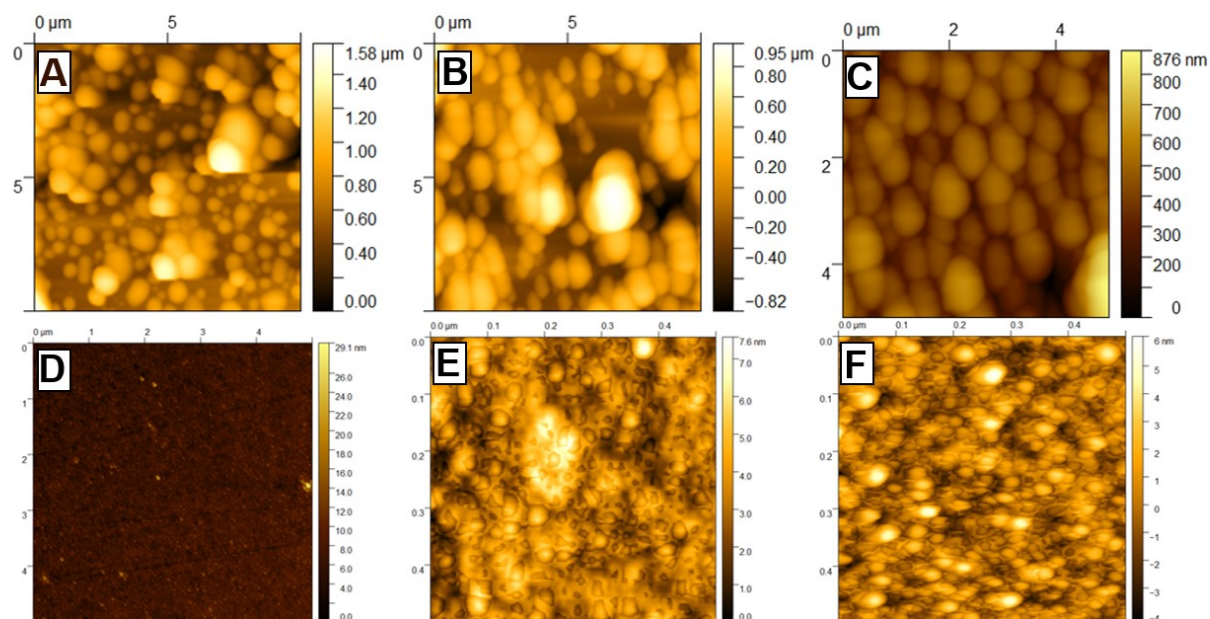
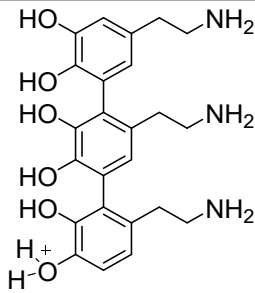
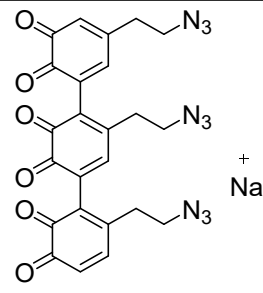
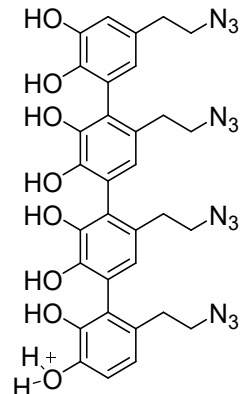
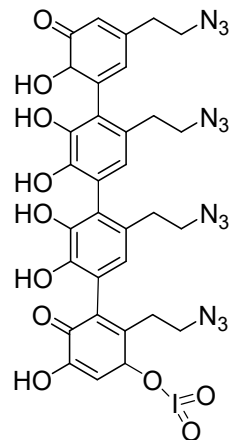
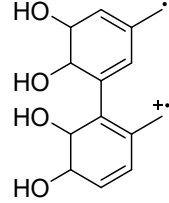
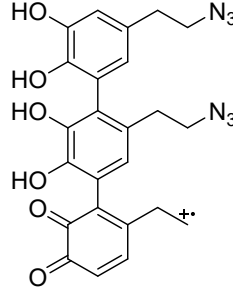
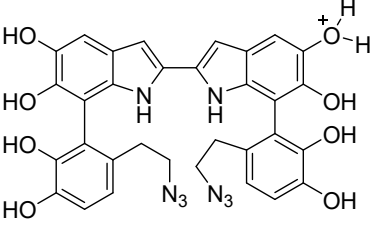
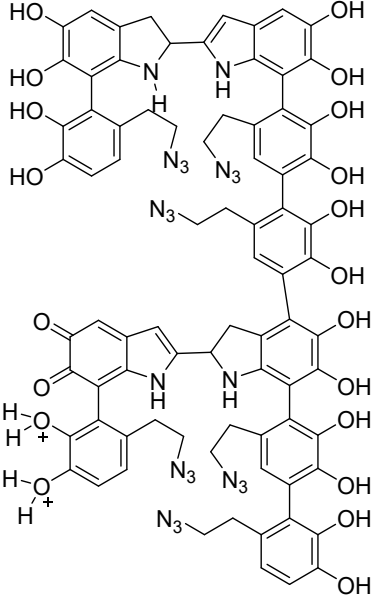


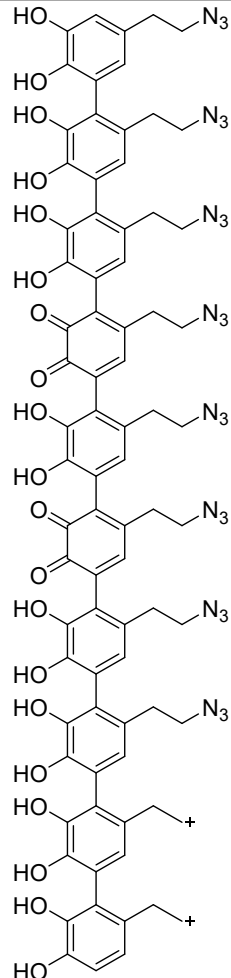
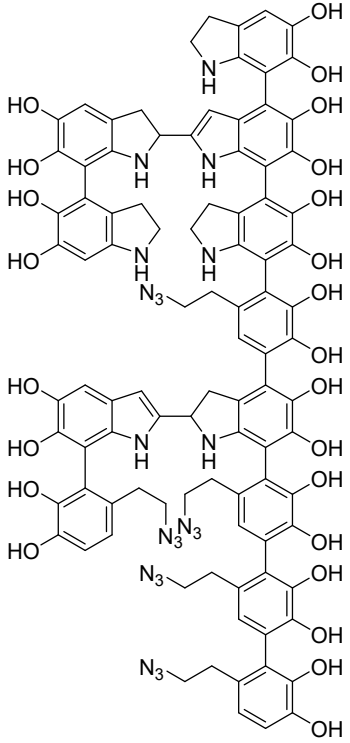
Figure S8. AFM pictures of coated substrates by poly(dopaazide) and PDA. A. poly(dopaazide)/glass 24 h, B. poly(dopaazide)/glass 48 h, C. poly(dopaazide)/Si 48 h, D. PDA/glass 24 h, E. PDA/glass 48 h, F. PDA/Si 48 h

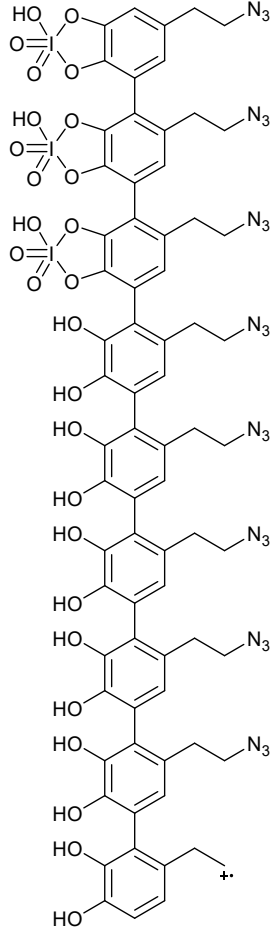
Table S2 Proposed structures of poly(dopaazide) predicted from mass spectrometry analysis

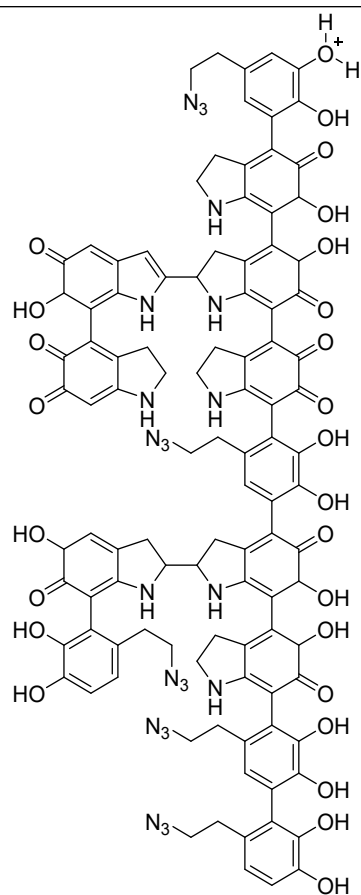
Mass predicted from ESI-MS in positive ion mode	Mass found	Structure
353.2670	353.9581 353.1227	<p>Exact Mass: 353.9581</p> <p>or</p> <p>+ Na</p> <p>Exact Mass: 330.1328 Exact Mass: 22.9892</p>

456.1425	456.2129	 <p>Exact Mass: 456.2129</p>
550.2056	550.1194	 <p>Exact Mass: 527.1302 Exact Mass: 22.9892</p>
711.5766	711.2382	 <p>Exact Mass: 711.2382</p>
884.4302	884.1123	 <p>Exact Mass: 884.1123</p>
<b>Mass predicted from MALDI -MS in positive ion mode</b>	<b>Mass found</b>	<b>Structure</b>

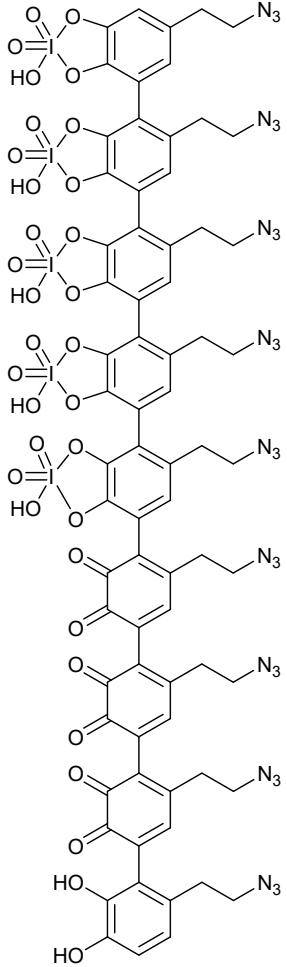
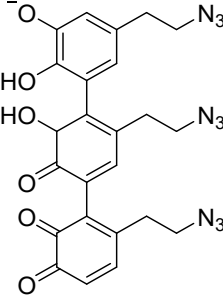
247.2295	247.0965	 <p>Exact Mass: 247.0965</p>
488.1690	488.1439	 <p>Exact Mass: 488.1439</p>
651.2294	651.1946	 <p>Exact Mass: 651.1946</p>
1656.2420	1656.4980	 <p>Exact Mass: 1656.4969</p>

<p>1684.2595</p>	<p>1684.5020</p>	 <p>Exact Mass: 1684.5031</p>
<p>1926.3296</p>	<p>1926.5872</p>	 <p>Exact Mass: 1926.5872</p>

<p>2074.3971</p>	<p>2074.1267 2074.6265</p>	 <p>Exact Mass: 2074.1267</p>
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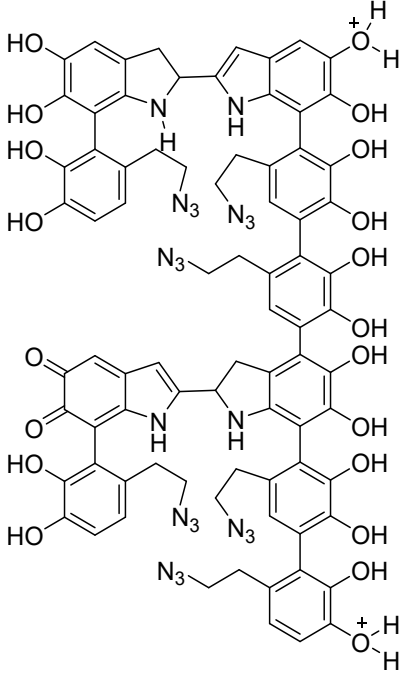
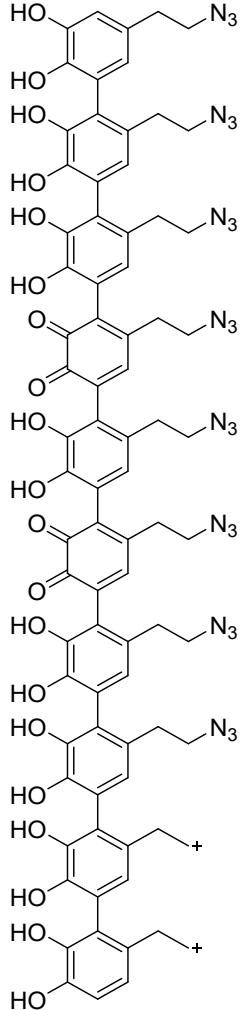


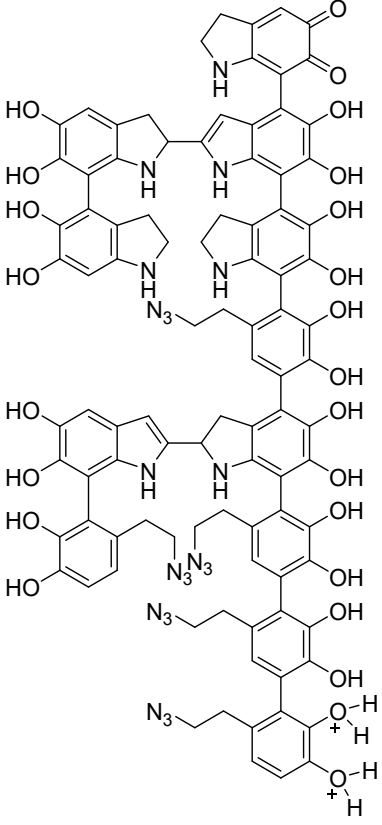
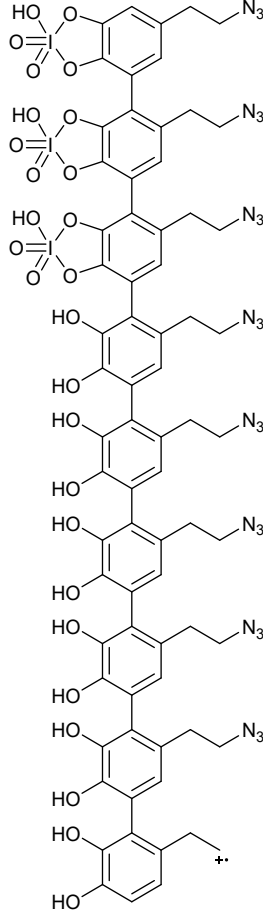
Exact Mass: 2074.6265

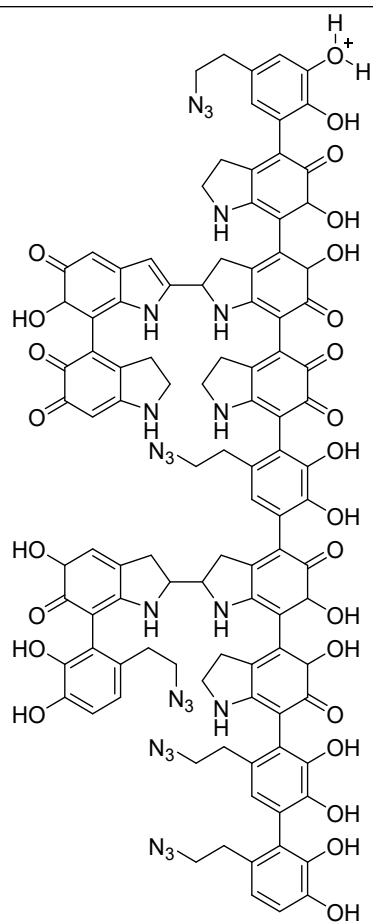
2482.5251	2482.8601	 <p>Exact Mass: 2458.8601</p>
<b>Mass predicted from ESI-MS in negative ion mode</b>	<b>Mass found</b>	<b>Structure</b>
530.1549	530.1542	 <p>Exact Mass: 530.1542</p>

707.2089	707.2080	<p>Exact Mass: 707.2080</p>
<b>Mass predicted from MALDI-MS in negative ion mode</b>	<b>Mass found</b>	<b>Structure</b>
247.2295	247.0965	<p>Exact Mass: 247.0965</p>
488.1690	488.1439	<p>Exact Mass: 488.1439</p>
651.2294	651.1946	<p>Exact Mass: 651.1946</p>



<p>1656.2420</p>	<p>1656.4969</p>	 <p>Exact Mass: 1656.4969</p>
<p>1684.2595</p>	<p>1684.5031</p>	 <p>Exact Mass: 1684.5031</p>

<p>1926.3296</p>	<p>1926.5861</p>	 <p>Exact Mass: 1926.5861</p>
<p>2074.3971</p>	<p>2074.1267 2074.6265</p>	 <p>Exact Mass: 2074.1267</p>



Exact Mass: 2074.6265

## References

1. Pagoti, S., Dutta, D. & Dash, J. A magnetoclick imidazolidinone nanocatalyst for asymmetric 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **355**, 3532–3538 (2013).