

## Electronic Supporting Information

### **Bispecific FpFs; A Versatile Tool for Preclinical Antibody Development**

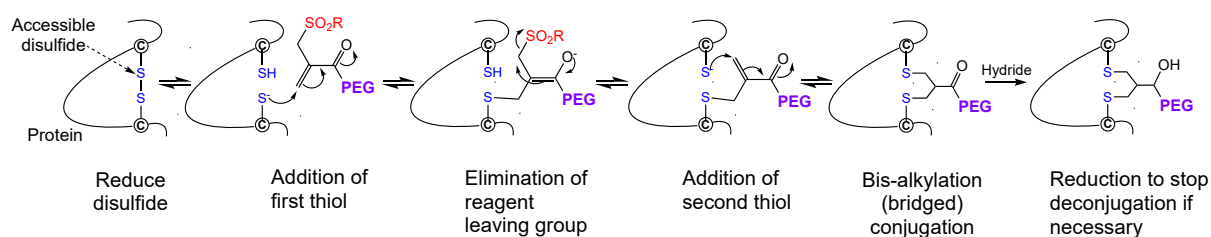
Matthew Collins<sup>1†</sup>, Nkiru Ibeanu<sup>2,3†</sup>, Wiktoria Roksana Grabowska<sup>4</sup>,  
Sahar Awwad<sup>2,3</sup>, Peng T Khaw<sup>3</sup>, Steve Brocchini<sup>2</sup>, Hanieh Khalili<sup>2,4\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Health, Sport and Bioscience, University of East London, UK. <sup>2</sup>School of Pharmacy, University College London, UK. <sup>3</sup>National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre at Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, London EC1V 9EL, UK. <sup>4</sup>School of Biomedical Science, University of West London, W5 5RF, UK.

\*Corresponding Author: [hanieh.khalili@uwl.ac.uk](mailto:hanieh.khalili@uwl.ac.uk)

† Equal first authorship

## Supplementary Scheme 1

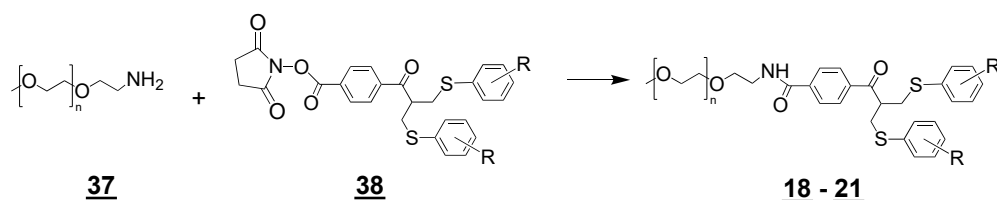


**Scheme S1.** Mechanism of site-specific PEGylation by bis-alkylation the thiols from a reduced, accessible protein disulfide. *Bis*-sulfone reagents (e.g. **3** and **5**) undergo elimination of the sulfinic acid leaving group as shown in **Scheme 3A** to give the *mono*-sulfone enone **9** (structure **9** in **Scheme 3A**) which can then undergo conjugation with one thiolate from the disulfide as shown above. After the first thiol addition has occurred, elimination of the second sulfinic acid leaving group can occur to produce the second enone with another  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated double bond to the same electron-withdrawing carbonyl for the second thiol addition reaction to occur to complete the conjugation. When necessary, mild reduction of the electron withdrawing carbonyl (e.g.,  $\text{NaCNBH}_3$  or  $\text{Na}(\text{AcO})_3\text{BH}$ ) can be conducted to avoid PEG deconjugation via a retro-Michael reaction. In practice, this is often not required as the non-covalent interactions of the protein and the flexibility of the 3-carbon bridge contribute to the stability of the bridged disulfide to prevent deconjugation. The *bis*-sulfide reagents (e.g. **18-21**) also undergo conjugation via an addition-elimination reaction through the formation of analogous enones (e.g. **12**, **Scheme 3A**).

## Supplementary Methods

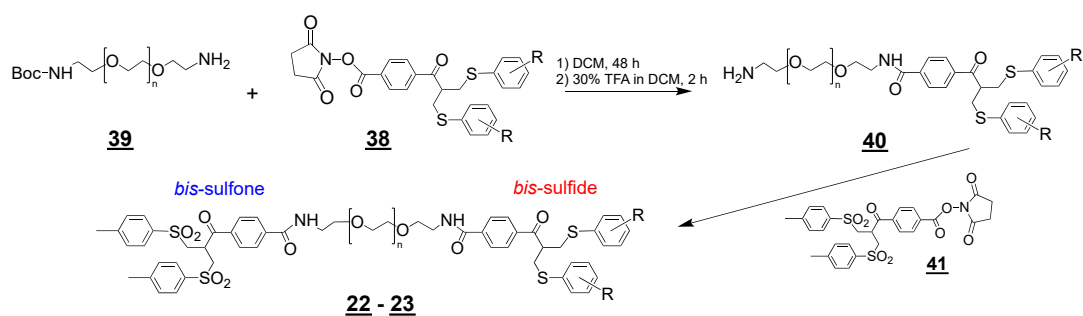
**Protein concentration determination:** Protein concentration was measured using UV absorbance at 280 nm. A 1.0 mg/mL solution of IgG displays an approximate absorbance of 1.39 at 280 nm with an extinction coefficient of  $210,000 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . A Fab fragment at a concentration of 1.0 mg/mL has an absorbance of approximately 1.40 at 280 nm with an extinction coefficient of  $216,000 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . This latter value was confirmed with a solution of ranibizumab, a Fab molecule, (1.0 mg/mL) that was prepared from the pharmaceutical formulation (10 mg/mL). As the linker in the PEG reagent contributes to the UV absorbance at 280 nm, the bicinchoninic acid (BCA) assay was used for PEGylated protein samples while UV spectroscopy at 280 nm was used for most unPEGylated protein samples.

### Preparation of PEG<sub>10</sub> bis-sulfides **18 - 21**



As a representative procedure [1, 2], methoxy-PEG<sub>10</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub> **37** (10 kDa; 1 g,  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  mole, 1 equiv.) was placed in a single neck round bottom flask (250 mL) and dissolved in toluene (5.0 mL), which was then evaporated to remove residual water as an azeotrope. The solid PEG amine **37** was re-dissolved in anhydrous DCM (2.5 mL) and *bis*-sulfide-*o*-fluoride N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS) ester **38** (0.32 g,  $6 \times 10^{-4}$  mole, 6 equiv.; prepared as described in [1]) was dissolved in DCM (2.5 mL) and added drop-wise to the reaction mixture which was then allowed to incubate for 24-48 h at ambient temperature. The DCM was removed by rota-evaporation and the residue dissolved in minimal acetone (~15-20 mg solid per mL of acetone) and the desired product (75-85%) was precipitated (3×) from acetone that had been chilled over dry ice (as described in [3]).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** for PEG-*bis*-sulfide-*o*-fluoride **19** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 3.10-3.30 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>SAr), 3.35 (s, 3H, PEG-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.40-3.80 (br, PEG), 4.05-4.10 (m, 1 H, CHC=O), 6.90-7.00 (m, 4H, SFArCH<sub>2</sub>CH and SFAr CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH), 7.15-7.20 (dd, SFArCH and SFAr CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH), 7.55-7.60 (d, 2H, C=OArCH), 7.70-7.75 (d, 2H, ArCHC=O).

Preparation bis-sulfide bis-sulfone reagents **22** - **23**

As a representative procedure, the synthesis of the *ortho*-fluoro bis-sulfide bis-sulfone reagent **22** [1]. Boc-NH-PEG<sub>10</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub> **39** (Iris Biotech GmbH, 10 kDa, 1 g, 1 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mole, 1 equiv.) was dissolved in toluene (5.0 mL) in a round bottom flask and the toluene was evaporated in vacuum to remove residual water. The solid Boc-NH-PEG<sub>10</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub> **39** was re-dissolved in anhydrous DCM (2.5 mL). In a separate vial bis-sulfide-*o*-fluoride N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS) ester **38** (0.32 g, 6 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mole, 6 equiv.; prepared as described in [1]) was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (2.5 mL) and added drop-wise to the Boc-NH-PEG<sub>10</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub> **39** solution. The reaction mixture was sealed with a septum and allowed to stir for 48 hours at RT (~25°C). After roto-evaporation of the DCM, the residue dissolved in minimal acetone (~15-20 mg solid per mL of acetone) and precipitated (3×) from acetone chilled over dry ice (as described in [3]). The residue was dried by vacuum and then dissolved in 30% TFA in anhydrous DCM (2.0 mL). After 2-3 h, the DCM and most of the TFA were removed by roto-evaporation and then vacuum. The residue was then dissolved in minimal acetone (~15-20 mg solid per mL of acetone) and precipitated (3×) from acetone chilled over dry ice (as described in [3]) to give H<sub>2</sub>N-PEG<sub>10</sub>-bis sulfide **40** (50-60% yield from Boc-NH-PEG<sub>10</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub> **39**).

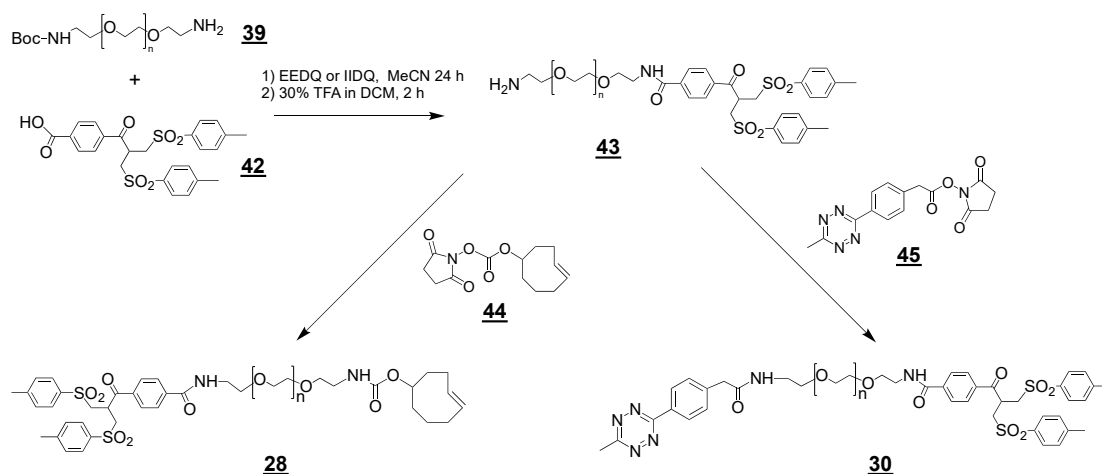
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) intermediate **40**: δ (ppm) 2.28 (s, 6H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.01-3.20 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>SAr), 3.40-3.80 (br, PEG), 6.92 (br, 1H, PEGNH<sub>2</sub>C=O), 6.97 (d, 4H, ArCHCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.12 (d, 4H, SArCH), 7.51 (d, 2H, C=OArCH), 7.70 (d, 2H, ArCHC=O).

To bis-sulfide PEG amine **40** (10 kDa, 0.6 g, 6 × 10<sup>-5</sup> mole, 1 equiv.) dissolved in DCM (2.5 mL) in a single neck round bottom flask was added dropwise a DCM solution (2.5 mL) of bis-sulfone N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS) ester **41** (0.21 g, 3.6 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mole, 6 equiv.; prepared as described in [1]). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 48 hours at RT (~25°C). The DCM was removed by roto-evaporation and the residue dissolved in minimal acetone (~15-20 mg solid per mL of acetone) and

the desired product (~80-90%) was precipitated (3×) from acetone that had been chilled over dry ice (as described in [3]).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) *ortho*-fluoro *bis*-sulfide *bis*-sulfone reagent **22**: δ (ppm) 2.28 (s, 6H, SArcH<sub>3</sub>), 2.41 (s, 6H, SO<sub>2</sub>ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.02 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>SAr), 3.10 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>Ar), 3.40-3.80 (br, PEG), 4.29 (br, 1H, SO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH), 6.92 (br, 1H, PEGNH), 6.99 (d, 4H, SArcHCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.05 (d, 4H, SArcHCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.30 (d, 4H, SO<sub>2</sub>ArCHCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.55 (d, 4H, SO<sub>2</sub>ArCHCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.65 (d, 4H, ArCHC=ONH), 7.76 (dd, 4H, ArCHCHC=ONH).

### Preparation of cyclooctene (TCO) and tetrazine (Tz) *bis*-sulfone reagents **28** and **30**



The *bis*-sulfone carboxylic acid **42** (prepared as described in [2]) was coupled directly to Boc-NH-PEG-NH<sub>2</sub> **39** (5 and 10 kDa) using either N-ethoxycarbonyl-2-ethoxy-1,2-dihydroquinoline (EEDQ) or isobutyl 1,2-dihydro-2-isobutoxy-1-quinolinecarboxylate (IIDQ) [4]. As a representative procedure, to an acetonitrile solution (2.0 mL) of Boc-NH-PEG<sub>10</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub> **39** (10 kDa, 0.4 g, 4.0 × 10<sup>-5</sup> mole, 1 equiv.) and *bis*-sulfone carboxylic acid **42** (0.1 g, 2.0 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mole, 5 equiv.) was added dropwise IIDQ (72 mg, 2.4 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mole, 6 equiv., Sigma Aldrich) in an acetonitrile (1.0 mL). After the reaction mixture was gently stirred for 24 h, the acetonitrile was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure and the residue dissolved in minimal acetone (~15-20 mg solid per mL of acetone) and precipitated (3×) from acetone chilled over dry ice (as described in [3]). The residue was dried by vacuum and then dissolved in 30% TFA in anhydrous DCM (2.0 mL) and stirred for 2-3 h after which the DCM and most of the TFA were removed by roto-evaporation and then vacuum. The residue was then dissolved in minimal acetone (~15-20 mg solid per mL of acetone) and precipitated (3×) from acetone chilled over dry ice (as described in [3]) to give H<sub>2</sub>N-PEG<sub>10</sub>-*bis*-sulfone **43** (80-90% yields typically from Boc-NH-PEG-NH<sub>2</sub> **39**, 5 and 10 kDa PEG precursors).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) intermediate **43**: δ (ppm) 2.49 (s, 6H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.40-3.80 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>SAr; br, PEG), 4.35 (m, 1H, CHC=O), 6.97 (d, 4H, ArCHCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.36, 7.69 (2 superimposed AB q, 4H, SO<sub>2</sub>ArHMe, 4H, COAr), 7.64, 7.81 (AB q, 4H, SO<sub>2</sub>HArMe).

As a representative procedure, the TCO *bis*-sulfone reagent **28** was prepared by allowing a DCM solution (18.0 mL) of *bis*-sulfone PEG<sub>10</sub> amine **43** (10.5 kDa g/mol, 0.39 g,  $3.8 \times 10^{-5}$  mole, 1 equiv.), TCO NHS ester **44** (Iris Biotech GmbH, 0.04 g,  $1.5 \times 10^{-5}$  mole, 4 equiv.) and N-methyl morpholine (NMM) (0.92 g/mL, 15.0 mg,  $1.4 \times 10^{-4}$  mole, 4 equiv.) to stir for 24 h at ambient temperature. Although dimethylamino pyridine (DMAP) can be used in place of NMM, DMAP is a stronger base than NMM and can cause some elimination of sulfinic acid, which is not deleterious, but requires more careful handling of the conjugation reagents. The DCM was evaporated at reduced pressure and the residue dissolved in minimal acetone (~20 mg solid per mL of acetone) and the desired product **28** (typically 60-70%) was precipitated (3-5×) from acetone that had been chilled over dry ice (as described in [3]).

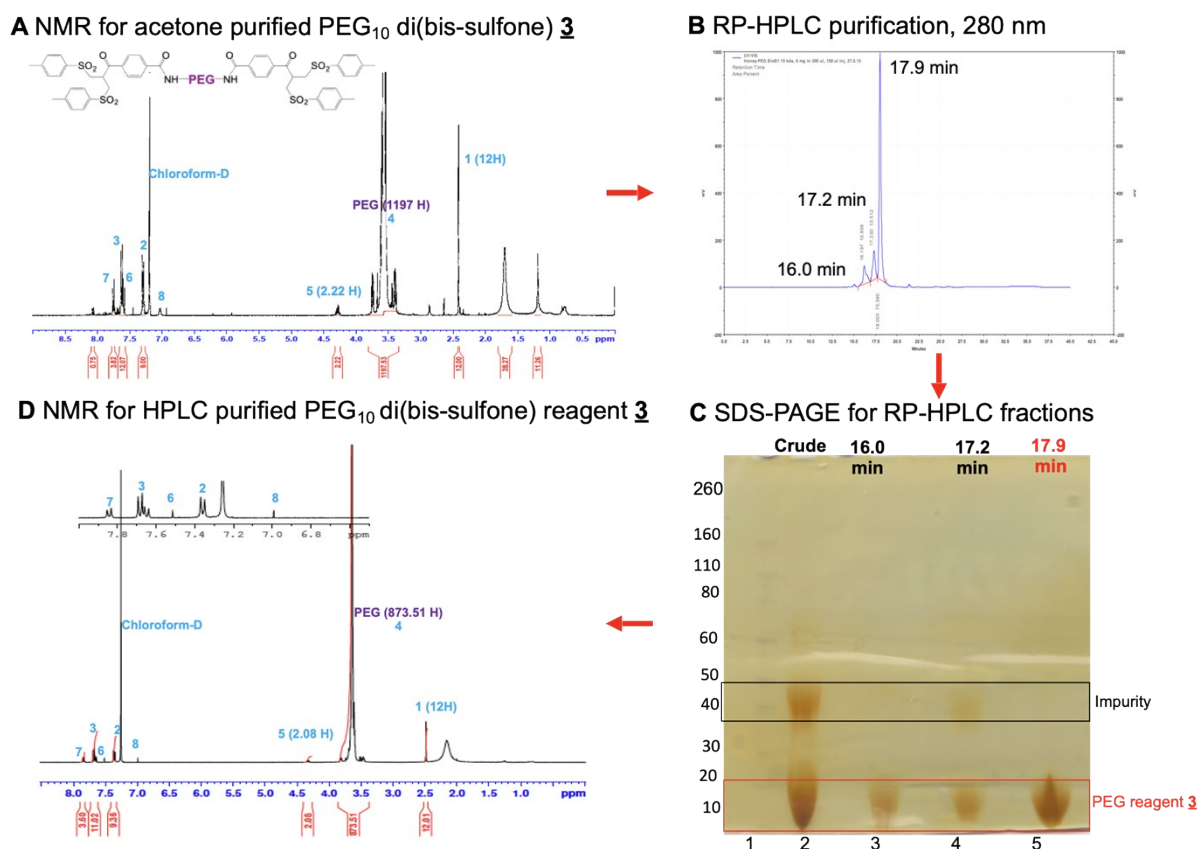
In analogous fashion, the Tz *bis*-sulfone reagent **30** was prepared by allowing a DCM solution (18.0 mL) of *bis*-sulfone PEG<sub>10</sub> amine **43** (10.5 kDa g/mol, 0.18 g,  $1.7 \times 10^{-5}$  mole, 1 equiv.), Tz NHS ester **45** (Iris Biotech GmbH, 0.018 g,  $5.2 \times 10^{-5}$  mole, 3 equiv.) and N-methyl morpholine (NMM) (0.92 g/mL, 15.0 mg,  $1.4 \times 10^{-4}$  mole, 8 equiv.) to stir for 24 h at ambient temperature. The DCM was evaporated at reduced pressure and the residue dissolved in minimal acetone (~15-20 mg solid per mL of acetone) and the desired product **30** (typically 60-70%) was precipitated (4-6 ×) from acetone that had been chilled over dry ice (as described in [3]). Effort was made to ensure the supernatant from the precipitation was colourless.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) *bis*-sulfone-PEG-TCO **28**: δ (ppm) 1.65-2.00 (m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.28 (s, 6H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.28-2.39 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.40-3.80 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>SAr; br, PEG), 4.35 (m, 1H, CHC=O, m 1 H OCH(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 6.97 (d, 4H, ArCHCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.36, 7.69 (2 superimposed AB q, 4H, SO<sub>2</sub>ArHMe, 4H, COAr), 7.64, 7.81 (AB q, 4H, SO<sub>2</sub>HArMe).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) *bis*-sulfone-PEG-Tz **30**: δ (ppm) 2.49 (s, 6H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.04 (s, 3H, tetrazolAr-CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.40-3.80 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>SAr; br, PEG), 4.35 (m, 1H, CHC=O), 6.97 (d, 4H, ArCHCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.36, 7.69 (2 superimposed AB q, 4H, SO<sub>2</sub>ArHMe, 4H, COAr), 7.64, 7.81 (AB q, 4H, SO<sub>2</sub>HArMe) 7.50, 8.50 (AB q, 4H, tetrazol-ArH).

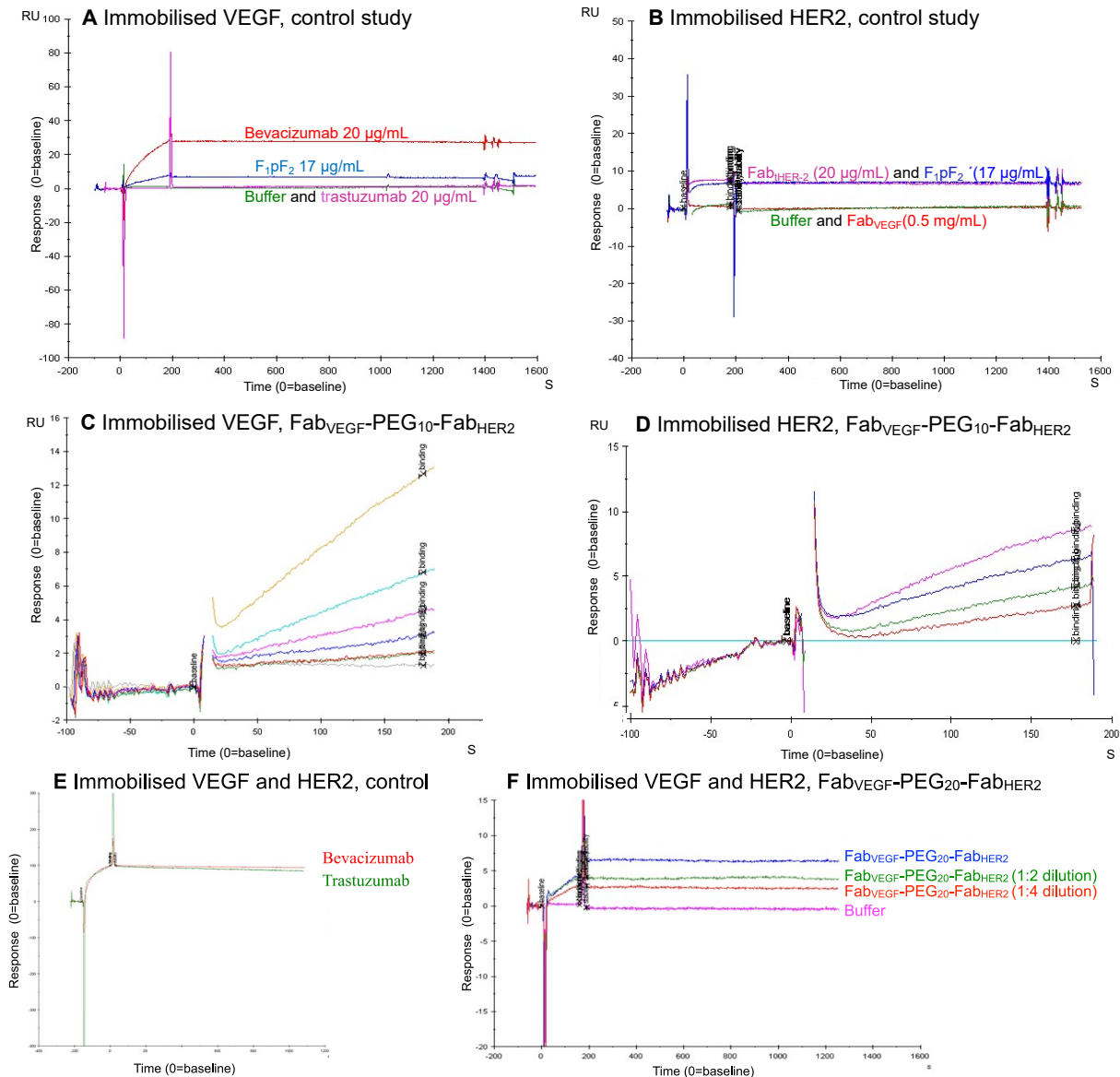
## Supplementary Figures

Figure S1



**Figure S1.** (A) <sup>1</sup>H-NMR analysis of the PEG<sub>10</sub> di(bis-sulfone) **3** after acetone precipitation purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 2.49 (s, 12H, CH<sub>3</sub>Ar), 3.38 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>OPEG), 3.44-3.84 (m, PEG + 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>), 4.34 CHCO (qn, 2H, CHCO), 7.36, 7.69 (AB q, SO<sub>2</sub>Ar, 8H, J = 16.6 MHz), 7.64, 7.81 (AB q, COAr, 8H, J = 8.3 MHz). PEG<sub>10</sub> protons appeared between ~3.4-4.5 ppm with an integration of 1197.53 bigger than theoretical integration value of ~900 suggesting an excess unreacted PEG di(amine) within the mixture. (B) Reverse phase-HPLC analysis of PEG<sub>10</sub> di(bis-sulfone) **3** at A280 nm, 150 mg scale. Three peaks appeared at 16.0, 17.2 and 17.9 min. N=20 samples), (C) SDS-PAGE analysis of HPLC fractions stained with barium iodide staining, **lane 1**: Novex pre-stained marker, **lane 2**: PEG reagent **3** after acetone precipitation purification and before RP-HPLC, **lane 3**: RP-HPLC fraction at 16 min, **lane 4**: RP-HPLC fraction at 17.2 min and **lane 5**, RP-HPLC fraction at 17.9 min, (D) <sup>1</sup>H-NMR analysis of the PEG<sub>10</sub> di(bis-sulfone) **3** after HPLC purification (fraction collected at 17.9 min), PEG<sub>10</sub> protons appeared with an integration of 873.51, close to the theoretical integration value of ~900.

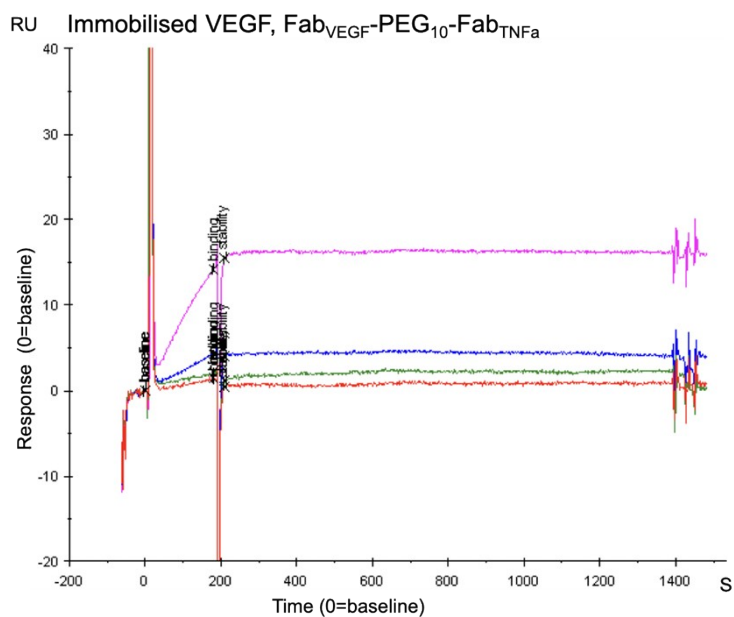
Figure S2



**Figure S2.** Superposition of sensograms obtained for Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>10</sub>-Fab<sub>HER2</sub>. A control study was performed using bevacizumab, trastuzumab and Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>10</sub>-Fab<sub>HER2</sub> with (A) a CM3 chip immobilised with VEGF (55 RU) and (B) a CM3 chip immobilised with HER2 (65 RU). Trastuzumab and Fab<sub>VEGF</sub> (obtained from bevacizumab) displayed binding to the VEGF chip and HER-2 chip respectively. This suggested that binding of Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>10</sub>-Fab<sub>HER2</sub> to VEGF and HER-2 was specific. Binding sensograms for Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>10</sub>-Fab<sub>HER2</sub> were obtained at various concentrations (1.06-17.00 µg/mL) using (C) a CM3 chip immobilised with VEGF (55 RU) and (D) another CM3 chip immobilised with HER-2 (65 RU). The bispecific Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>10</sub>-Fab<sub>HER2</sub> conjugate displayed binding to both immobilised ligands in concentration-dependent manner. (E) Bevacizumab (targeting VEGF) and trastuzumab (targeting HER2) both display binding sensograms for a chip with both immobilised VEGF and HER2 (F) Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>20</sub>-Fab<sub>HER2</sub> displays binding in a concentration-dependent manner to a chip with both immobilised VEGF and HER2.

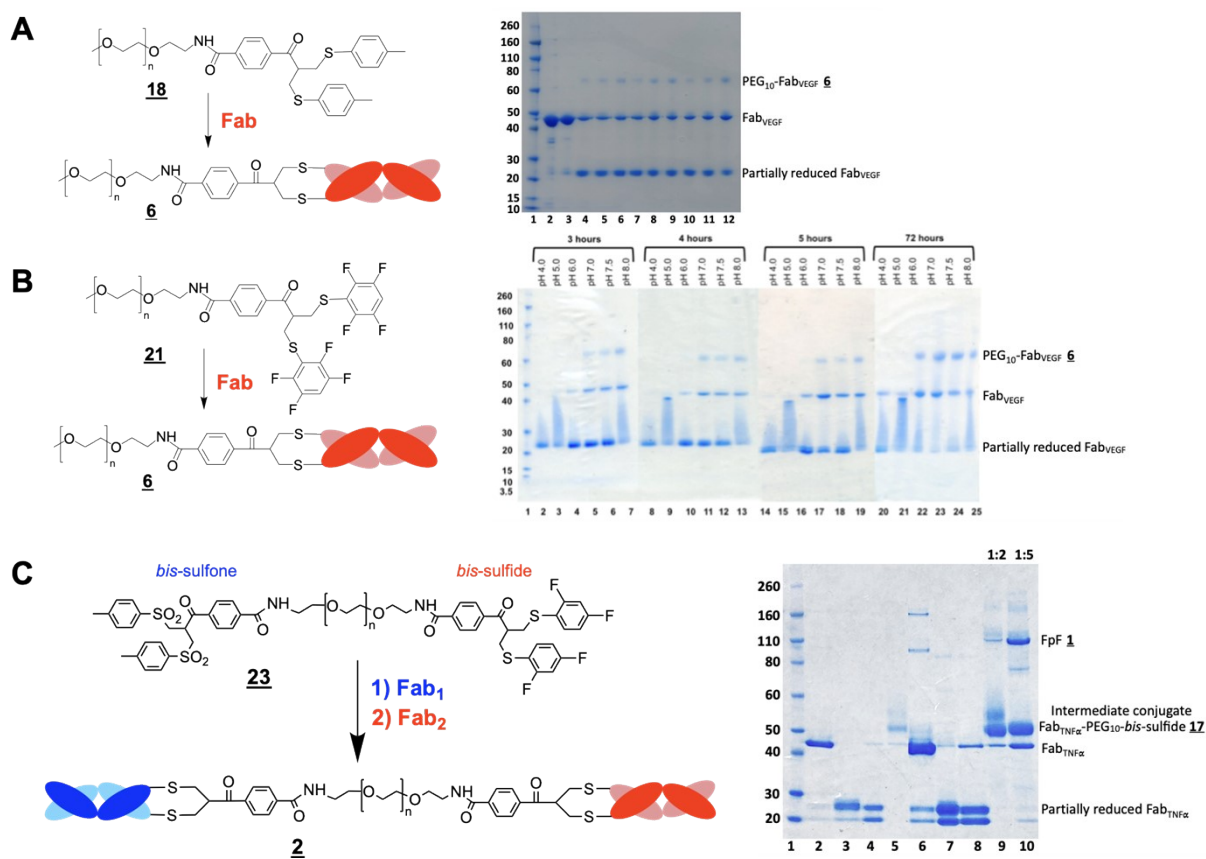


Figure S3



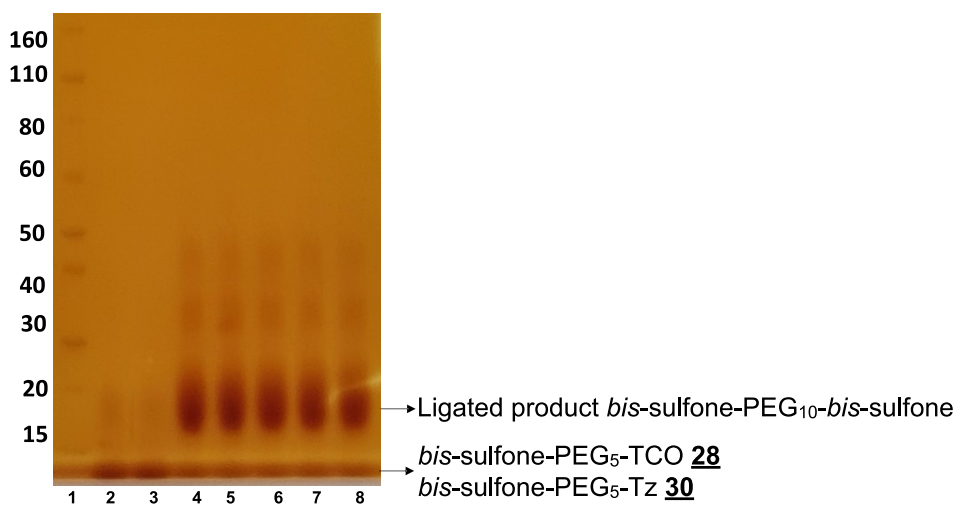
**Figure S3.** Binding sensograms of Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>10</sub>-Fab<sub>TNF- $\alpha$</sub>  **2** obtained at different concentrations (2.5 to 20  $\mu$ g/mL) using a CM3 chip immobilised with VEGF (55 RU). The bispecific Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>10</sub>- Fab<sub>TNF- $\alpha$</sub>  **2** demonstrated concentration-dependent binding.

Figure S4



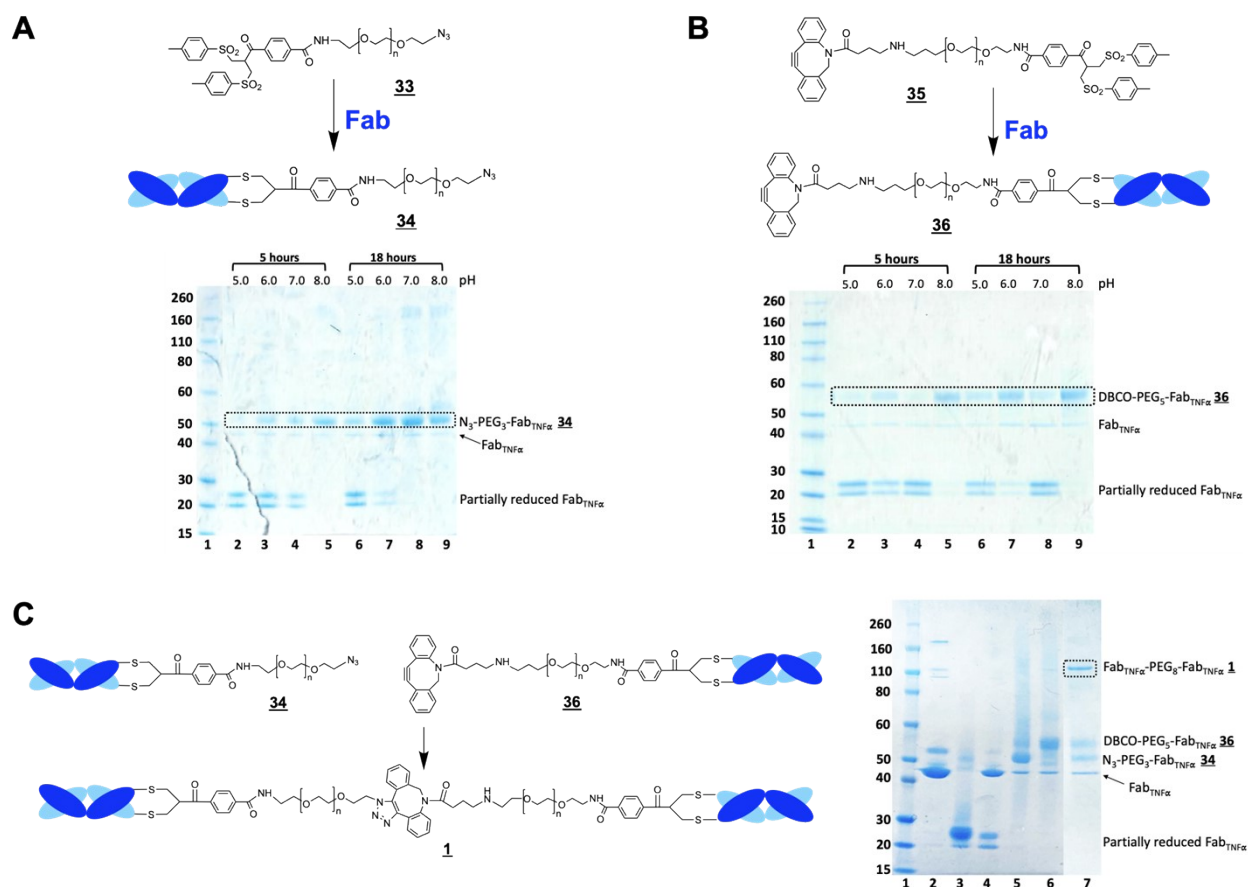
**Figure S4.** (A) SDS PAGE gel of the conjugation of 0.3 mg ranibizumab per conjugation (0.30 mg/mL) with increasing stoichiometries to PEG<sub>10</sub> bis-sulfide **18** from 1.5 to 2.5 equivalents at pH 8.2 for 2, 3 and 18 hours conjugation times – Coomassie blue: **lane 1**: Protein markers, **lane 2**: ranibizumab, **lane 3**: reduced ranibizumab, **lanes 4-6**: 1.5 equiv. **18** for 2, 3 and 18 h respectively; **lanes 7-9**: 2 equiv. **18** for 2, 3 and 18 h respectively; **lanes 10-12**: 2.5 equiv. **18** for 2, 3 and 18 h respectively. (B) Scouting conjugation of Fab<sub>RANI</sub> to PEG<sub>10</sub>-bis-sulfide tetra-fluoride **21** (2 eq) from pH 4-8 at different incubation times. **Lane 1**: protein markers, **lanes 2–7**: 3-hour incubation time, **lanes 8–13**: 4-hour incubation time, **lanes 14–19**: 5-hour incubation time and **lanes 20-25**: 72-hour incubation time. (C) Scouting reaction to prepare a FpF in two steps using di-fluoro bis-sulfide bis-sulfone reagent **23**. The same Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  was used in both conjugation steps so a FpF **1** was prepared rather than a bsFpF **2**. Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  was obtained from the proteolytic digestion of infliximab. Novex Bis-Tris 4-12% gel stained with Coomassie Blue: **lane 1**: protein standard, **lane 2**: Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub> , **Lane 3**: reduced Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  (pH 6.0), **lane 4**: reduced Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  after DTT removal by elution over a PD10 column (pH 6.0), **lane 5**: conjugation of Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  to give the Intermediate conjugate (Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub> -PEG<sub>3</sub>-bis sulfide), **lane 6**: Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  sample used for the second conjugation step, **Lane 7**: reduced Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  for the second conjugation step (pH 8.0), **Lane 8**: Reduced Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  after DTT removal, **Lane 9**: conjugation of Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  (2 equivalents) to the intermediate conjugate, Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub> -PEG<sub>3</sub>-bis sulfide to give Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub> -PEG<sub>3</sub>-Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  **1**, **Lane 10**: conjugation of Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  (5 equivalents) to the intermediate conjugate, Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub> -PEG<sub>3</sub>-bis sulfide to give Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub> -PEG<sub>3</sub>-Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  **1**. Increasing the stoichiometric ratio of the Fab for the second conjugation improved the conversion to the desired FpF.

Figure S5



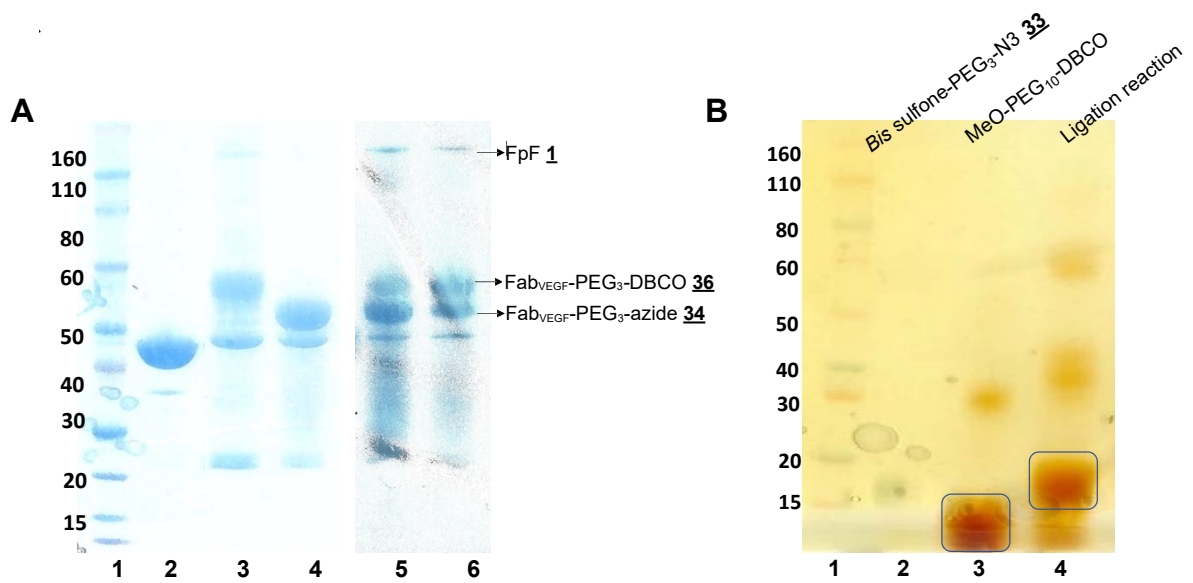
**Figure S5.** SDS PAGE gel showing ligation of *bis*-sulfone-PEG<sub>5</sub>-TCO **28** and *bis*-sulfone-PEG<sub>5</sub>-Tz **30**, 1:1 molar ratio stained with barium iodide at a range of different pHs, 2-hour reaction time. **lane 1:** Protein marker, **lane 2:** *bis*-sulfone-PEG<sub>5</sub>-TCO **28**, **lane 3:** *bis*-sulfone-PEG<sub>5</sub>-Tz **30**, **lanes 4-8:** reagents **28** and **30** ligated at pH 5, **lane 5:** at pH 6, **lane 6:** at pH 7, **lane 7:** at pH 8, **lane 8:** at pH 9.

Figure S6



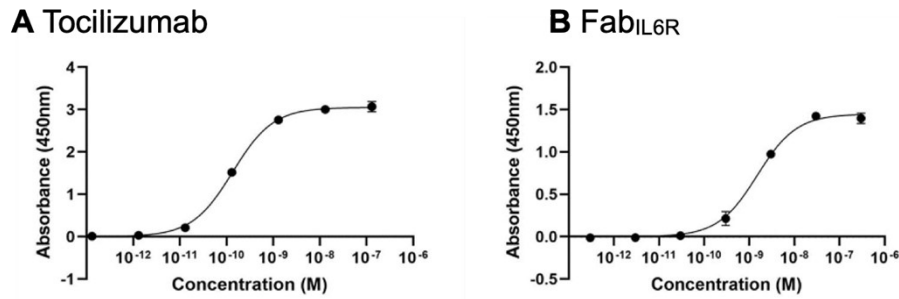
**Figure S6.** Conjugation scouting reactions using 2 equivalents of either **(A)** bis sulfone-PEG<sub>3</sub>-N<sub>3</sub> **33** and **(B)** bis sulfone-PEG<sub>5</sub>-DBCO **35**. Novex Bis-Tris 4-12% gel stained with Coomassie Blue; **lane 1**: protein marker, **lanes 2 – 5**: Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  pH scouting reactions 5-hour incubation time, **lanes 6 – 9**: Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  pH scouting reactions 18-hour incubation time. **(C)** Ligation of Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  conjugates **34** and **36**; **lane 1**: protein standard, **lane 2**: Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub> , **lane 3**: reduced Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  (pH 8.0), **lane 4**: reduced Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  after DTT removal by PT10 elution (pH 8.0), **lane 5**: conjugation mixture (pH 8.0, 5-hour incubation) for the preparation of Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub> -PEG<sub>3</sub>-N<sub>3</sub> **34**, **lane 6**: conjugation mixture (pH 8.0, 5-hour incubation) for the preparation of Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub> -PEG<sub>5</sub>-DBCO **36**, **lane 7**: Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub> -PEG<sub>8</sub>-Fab<sub>TNF $\alpha$</sub>  using a 1:1 ratio of conjugates **34** and **36**.

Figure S7



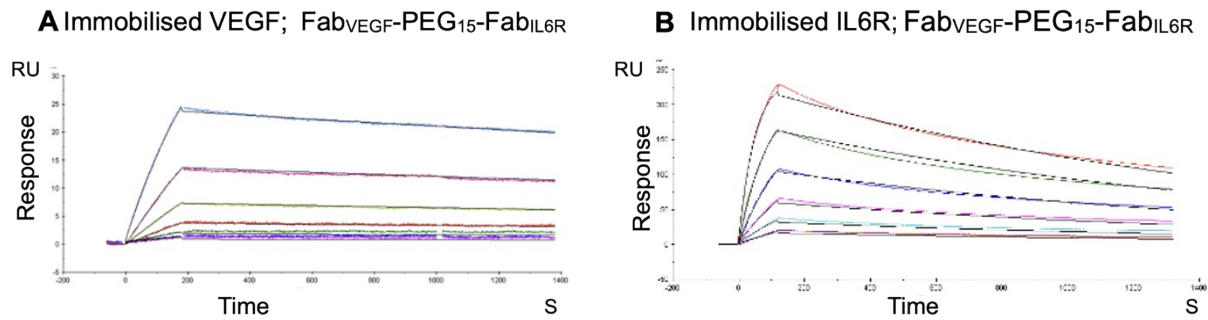
**Figure S7. (A)** SDS PAGE gel showing the conjugation of Fab<sub>VEGF</sub> with bis-sulfone-PEG<sub>3</sub>-N<sub>3</sub> **33** and bis-sulfone-PEG<sub>10</sub>-DBCO **35** followed by ligation. **Lane 1:** Protein marker, **lane 2:** Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>, **lane 3:** Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>3</sub>-N<sub>3</sub> conjugate intermediate **34**, **lane 4:** Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>10</sub>-DBCO conjugate intermediate **36**, **lanes 4, 5:** Ligation reaction between conjugate intermediates **34** and **36** to obtain the FpF **1**. **(B)** SDS PAGE gel showing the ligation of commercially sourced Me-PEG<sub>10</sub>-DBCO with PEG<sub>3</sub> bis-sulfone azide at a 1:1 molar ratio stained with barium iodide. **lane 1:** Protein marker, **lane 2:** bis-sulfone-PEG<sub>3</sub>-azide **33**, **lane 3:** commercially purchased Me-PEG<sub>10</sub>-DBCO, **lane 4:** ligation reaction between bis-sulfone-PEG<sub>3</sub>-azide **33** and Me-PEG<sub>10</sub>-DBCO.

**Figure S8**



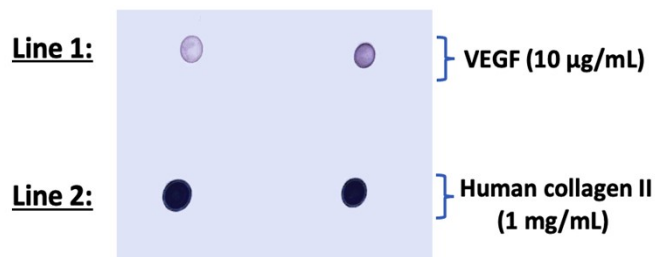
**Figure S8.** ELISA curves for **(A)** Tocilizumab and **(B)** Fab<sub>IL6R</sub> with a concentration range of  $1.3 \times 10^{-7}$  to  $1.3 \times 10^{-13}$  M over wells coated with IL6R (0.1  $\mu$ g).

**Figure S9**



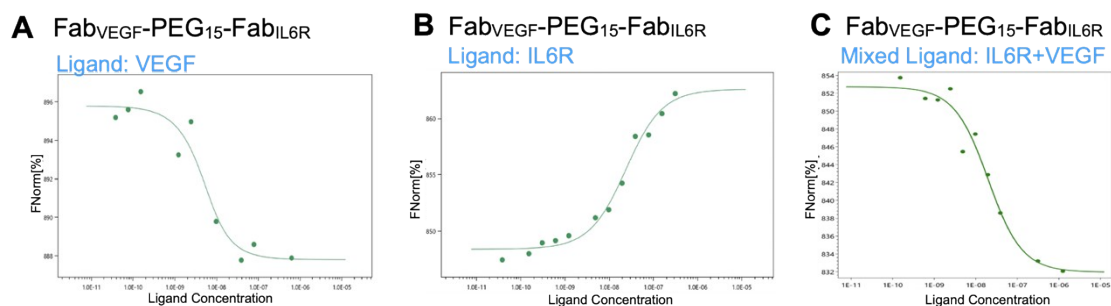
**Figure S9.** SPR binding sensograms for **(A)** bispecific Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>15</sub>-Fab<sub>IL6R</sub> using CM3 chip immobilised with VEGF (95 RU), and **(B)** bispecific Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>15</sub>-Fab<sub>IL6R</sub> using NTA chip functionalised with IL6R (his-tag).

**Figure S10**



**Figure S10.** Immunoblotting (dot blot) assay for Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>15</sub>-Fab<sub>COL2</sub> to VEGF (Line 1) and human collagen II (Line 2). The appearance of the dark spots is an indication of binding of the heterodimer to both ligands.

## Figure S11



**Figure S11:** (A) MST curve of the Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>15</sub>-Fab<sub>IL6R</sub> (5nM) binding to VEGF ( $1.09 \times 10^{-7}$  -  $3.31 \times 10^{-11}$ M), (B) MST curve of the Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>15</sub>-Fab<sub>IL6R</sub> (5nM) binding to IL6R ( $6.25 \times 10^{-7}$  to  $3.81 \times 10^{-11}$ M) (C) MST curve of the Fab<sub>VEGF</sub>-PEG<sub>15</sub>-Fab<sub>IL6R</sub> (5nM) binding to mixed VEGF and IL-6R (1:1 molar ratio). Combined ligand concentrations ranging between  $1.25 \times 10^{-6}$  to  $1.52 \times 10^{-10}$ M.

## Table S1

bsFpF <u>2</u>	Ligand	$k_a$ (1/Ms) $\times 10^4$	$k_d$ (1/s) $\times 10^{-4}$	$K_D$ (nM)
Fab <sub>VEGF</sub> -PEG <sub>15</sub> -Fab <sub>IL6R</sub>	IL6R	2.80	5.71	20.3
Fab <sub>VEGF</sub> -PEG <sub>15</sub> -Fab <sub>IL6R</sub>	VEGF	0.84	1.0	12.0
Fab <sub>TNF<math>\alpha</math></sub> -PEG <sub>15</sub> -Fab <sub>IL6R</sub>	TNF $\alpha$	8.81	5.34	5.9
Fab <sub>TNF<math>\alpha</math></sub> -PEG <sub>15</sub> -Fab <sub>IL6R</sub>	IL6R	9.15	2.63	2.9
Fab <sub>VEGF</sub> -PEG <sub>15</sub> -Fab <sub>TNF<math>\alpha</math></sub>	VEGF	0.81	0.81	10.0
Fab <sub>VEGF</sub> -PEG <sub>15</sub> -Fab <sub>TNF<math>\alpha</math></sub>	TNF $\alpha$	7.03	0.84	2.4

**Table S1.** Average kinetic constant rates of the bsFpFs using conjugation-ligation reagents 28 and 30 measured by SPR techniques

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*Electronic Supporting Information*

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