## Double-crosslinkable poly(urethane)-based hydrogels relying on supramolecular interactions and light-initiated polymerization: promising tools for advanced applications in drug delivery.

Alessandro Torchio<sup>+</sup><sup>a</sup>, Monica Boffito<sup>+\*ab</sup>, Rossella Laurano<sup>a</sup>, Claudio Cassino<sup>c</sup>, Mario Lavella<sup>d</sup> and Gianluca Ciardelli<sup>ae\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Politecnico di Torino, Corso Duca degli Abruzzi 24, 10129 Torino, Italy.

<sup>b</sup> Institute for Chemical-physical Processes, National Research Council (CNR-IPCF), Via G. Moruzzi 1, 56124, Pisa, Italy.

<sup>c</sup> Department of Science and Technological Innovation, Università del Piemonte Orientale "A. Avogadro", Viale Teresa Michel 11, 15121 Alessandria, Italy.

<sup>d</sup> Department of Management, Information and Production Engineering, Università degli Studi di Bergamo, Viale G. Marconi, 5, 24044 Dalmine, BG, Italy.

<sup>e</sup> Department of Life Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Via Campi 287, 41125 Modena, Italy.

<sup>+</sup> These authors have contributed equally to this work.

## Physico-chemical characterization of HHP407



4000 3800 3600 3400 3200 3000 2800 2600 2400 2200 2000 1800 1600 1400 1200 1000 800 600 Wavenumber (cm<sup>-1</sup>)

**Fig. S1** ATR-FTIR spectra of P407 (black continuous line) and HHP407 (green continuous line). The typical peaks of urethane domains are indicated by vertical black arrows at 3350, 1720 and 1530 cm<sup>-1</sup>.



Fig. S2 CMT curves for HHP407 at 1% w/v concentration in a) ddH<sub>2</sub>O and b) PBS representing the measured absorbance at 356 nm as a function of temperature. CMT values are indicated by black vertical dotted lines.



**Fig. S3** DLS volume patterns of micelle hydrodynamic diameter measured at 25 °C (green) and 37 °C (red) for HHP407 at 1% w/v concentration in **a**) ddH<sub>2</sub>O and **b**) PBS.





**Fig. S4** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of CDs (blue), HHP407 (red) and HHP407 1% - SM 100% (green). The simultaneous presence of CDs and PEU in the produced SM powder was confirmed by the appearance of their typical resonance bands in HHP407 1% - SM 100% spectrum.

Biological characterization of SM hydrogels based on HHP407 and CDs



**Fig. S5** Appearance of HHP407 5% - CD 8% UV (left) and HHP407 5% - CD 8% (right) samples after 24 hours of incubation with DMEM according to the ISO 10993-5 guidelines. The higher stability of photo-crosslinked systems is demonstrated by the integrity of the hydrogel on the left with respect to the one on the right, which instead appeared completely solubilized.



**Fig. S6 a)** Cytotoxicity and **b)** cell viability assessed through CytoTox-ONE<sup>m</sup> and CellTiter-Blue assays, respectively, tested on NIH-3T3 murine fibroblasts treated for 24h with cyclodextrin-based solutions with concentration in the range 0 – 10 mg ml<sup>-1</sup>. **c)** Live&Dead images obtained through a fluorescence microscope. Live and dead cells are stained in green and red, respectively.

Physical and mechanical characterization of curcumin-loaded SM hydrogels



**Fig. S7** Visual comparison among a Cur solution (1 mg ml<sup>-1</sup>) in ethanol (left) and a Cur suspension (1 mg ml<sup>-1</sup>) in a solution of CDs at 14% w/v concentration in PBS/LAP (right).



**Fig. S8** G' and G" trends as a function of applied strain at 37 °C for the as prepared formulations and the same parameters measured after sample recovery in quiescent state for 15 minutes at 37 °C (i.e., after complete rupture of the gel network at 500% deformation, the sample was kept in quiescent state between the rheometer's plates for 15 min. at 37 °C and then analyzed again). G' and G" trends of self-healed samples were identified adding SH (i.e., self-healed) at the end of the sample acronym. a) HHP407 1% - CD 8% (green) and HHP407 1% - CD 8% SH (black), b) HHP407 1% - CD 8% Cur (orange) and HHP407 1% - CD 8% Cur SH (black), c) HHP407 5% - CD 8% (green) and HHP407 5% - CD 8% SH (black), and d) HHP407 5% - CD 8% Cur (orange) and HHP407 5% - CD 8% Cur SH (black).



**Fig. S9** G' (continuous lines) and G" (dashed lines) trends as a function of applied angular frequency at 25, 30 and 37 °C for HHP407 1% - CD 8%, and HHP407 5% - CD 8% as such (green) and containing Cur at 570 μg ml<sup>-1</sup> (orange).

## Release profiles of Cur encapsulated within HHP407-based hydrogels



**Fig. S10** Calibration curves showing the absorbance of standard samples as a function of Cur concentration. Standard samples were prepared starting from a stock solution obtained through dissolution of HHP407 1% - CD 8% Cur (light blue) and HHP407 1% - CD 8% Cur (blue) at a final Cur concentration of 100  $\mu$ g ml<sup>-1</sup>. Linear regressions are also reported with the resulting equations, which showed a good fitting.