

## Supporting information

### Drug-Mediated, Controlled Ring-Opening Polymerization for the Synthesis of Polymer-Drug Conjugates

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**Table S1. Ptxl / (BDI-II)ZnN(TMS)<sub>2</sub>-mediated ROP of LA<sup>a</sup>**

Entry	[LA]/[Ptxl]	Conv. (%)	$M_{\text{exp}}(\times 10^3 \text{ g/mol})$	$M_n(\times 10^3 \text{ g/mol})$	MWD ( $M_w/M_n$ )
1	50	>99%	8.1	7.8	1.04
2	75	>99%	11.7	9.6	1.09
3	100	>99%	15.3	12.7	1.03
4	200	>99%	29.7	28.1	1.02
5	300	>99%	44.1	35.2	1.03

<sup>a</sup>All reactions were performed in anhydrous THF with  $[LA]_0 = 0.69 \text{ M}$ . Abbreviations: Conv. = conversion;  $M_{\text{exp}}$ , expected MW; MWD = molecular weight distribution; Ptxl = paclitaxel. LA conversion was measured by FT-IR. Incorporation efficiency was determined by reversed-phase HPLC analysis of unreacted Ptxl.  $M_n$  and MWD were determined by GPC.

**Table S2. Dtxl / (BDI-II)ZnN(TMS)<sub>2</sub>-mediated ROP of LA<sup>a</sup>**

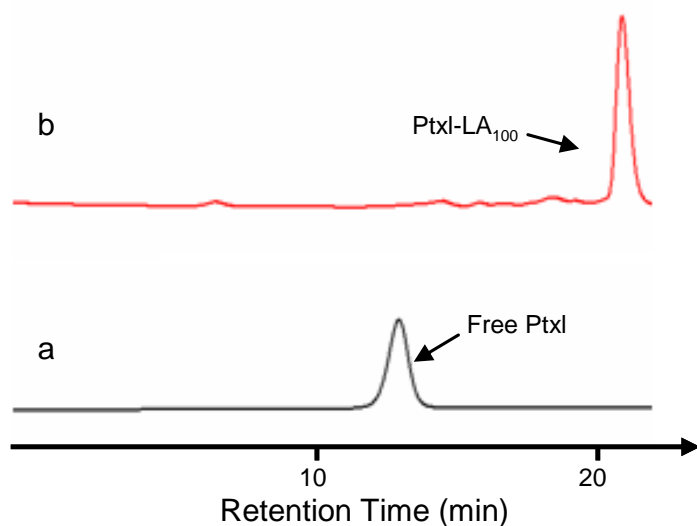
Entry	[LA]/[Dtxl]	Conv. (%)	$M_{\text{exp}}(\times 10^3 \text{ g/mol})$	$M_n(\times 10^3 \text{ g/mol})$	MWD ( $M_w/M_n$ ) <sup>c</sup>
1	75	>99%	11.6	8.9	1.05
2	100	>99%	15.2	13.6	1.04
3	200	>99%	29.6	25.2	1.03
4	300	>99%	44.0	47.1	1.04
5	400	>99%	58.4	55.3	1.13

<sup>a</sup>All reactions were performed in anhydrous THF with  $[LA]_0 = 0.69 \text{ M}$ . Abbreviations: Conv. = conversion;  $M_{\text{exp}}$ , expected MW; MWD = molecular weight distribution; Dtxl = docetaxel. LA conversion was measured by FT-IR. Incorporation efficiency was determined by reversed-phase HPLC analysis of unreacted Dtxl.  $M_n$  and MWD were determined by GPC.

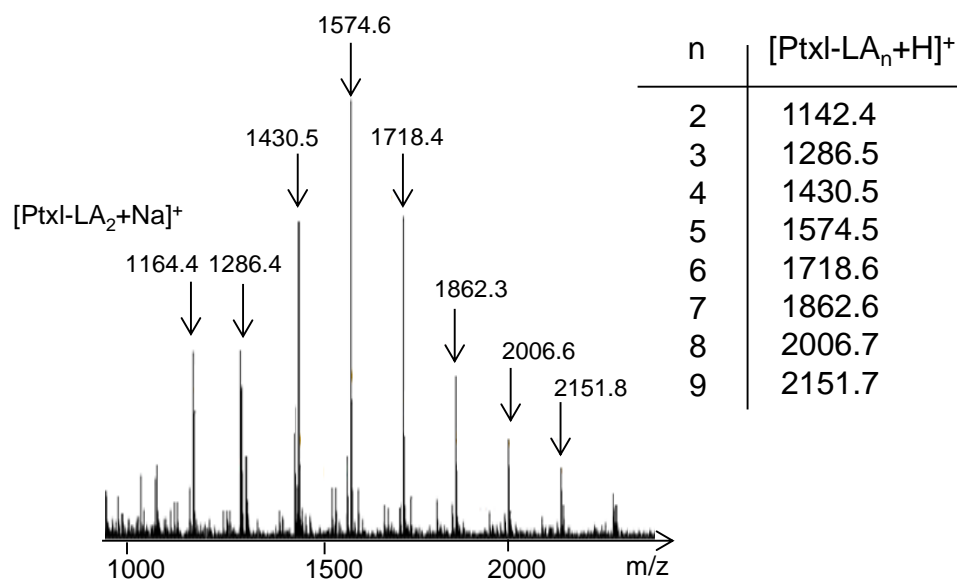
**Table S3. Ptxl (or Dtxl) / (BDI-II)ZnN(TMS)<sub>2</sub>-mediated ROP of VL, TMC, and CL<sup>a</sup>**

Entry	Initiator (R)	Monomer	[M]/[R]	Catalyst ligand	Time (h)	Temp. (°C)	Conv. (%)	Incorp. eff. (%)	$M_n / M_{exp} (\times 10^3 \text{ g/mol})$	MWD ( $M_w/M_n$ )
1	Ptxl	CL	100	BDI-II	10	r.t.	>99	>99	11.9 / 12.3	1.14
2	Ptxl	CL	200	BDI-II	10	r.t.	>99	>99	20.3 / 23.7	1.07
3	Ptxl	CL	300	BDI-II	10	r.t.	>99	>99	27.5 / 35.1	1.15
4	Ptxl	CL	100	BDI-IICN	10	r.t.	>99	>99	13.0 / 12/3	1.10
5	Ptxl	CL	200	BDI-IICN	10	r.t.	>99	>99	26.2 / 23.7	1.07
6	Dtxl	CL	100	BDI-II	10	r.t.	>99	>99	11.2 / 12.2	1.05
7	Dtxl	CL	200	BDI-II	10	r.t.	>99	>99	20.9 / 23.6	1.15
8	Dtxl	CL	300	BDI-II	10	r.t.	>99	>99	38.4 / 35.0	1.13
9	Ptxl	VL	100	BDI-II	12	r.t.	>99	>99	15.1 / 10.8	1.17
10	Ptxl	VL	200	BDI-II	12	r.t.	>99	>99	23.1 / 20.8	1.18
11	Ptxl	VL	300	BDI-II	12	r.t.	>99	>99	31.2 / 30.8	1.18
12	Dtxl	VL	100	BDI-II	12	r.t.	>99	>99	14.2 / 10.7	1.15
13	Dtxl	VL	100	BDI-IICN	12	r.t.	>99	>99	12.6 / 10.7	1.13
14	Ptxl	TMC	100	BDI-II	6	50	>99	>99	14.7 / 11.1	1.10
15	Ptxl	TMC	200	BDI-II	6	50	>99	>99	27.6 / 21.3	1.21
16	Ptxl	TMC	300	BDI-II	6	50	>99	>99	49.2 / 31.5	1.21
17	Ptxl	TMC	100	BDI-IICN	6	50	>99	>99	18.1 / 11.1	1.10
18	Dtxl	TMC	100	BDI-II	6	50	>99	>99	12.6 / 11.0	1.23
19	Dtxl	TMC	200	BDI-II	6	50	>99	>99	25.9 / 21.3	1.19

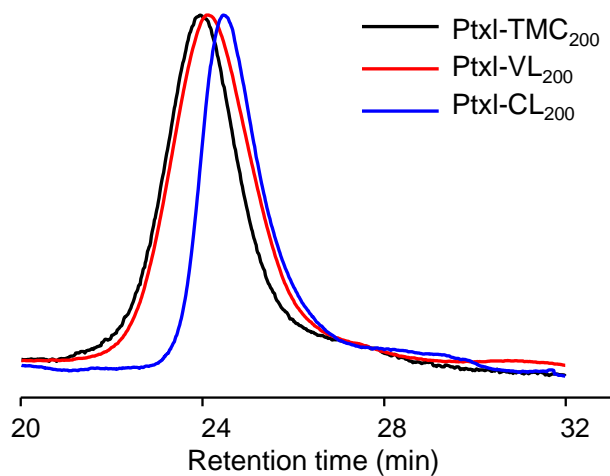
<sup>a</sup>All reactions were performed in anhydrous THF with  $[\text{monomer}]_0 = 0.69 \text{ M}$ . Abbreviations: Conv. = conversion; Dtxl = docetaxel; Incorp. eff. = incorporation efficiency;  $M_{exp}$ , expected MW; MWD = molecular weight distribution; Ptxl = paclitaxel. Monomer conversion was measured by FT-IR. Incorporation efficiency was determined by reversed-phase HPLC analysis of unreacted Ptxl (or Dtxl).  $M_n$  and MWD were determined by GPC.



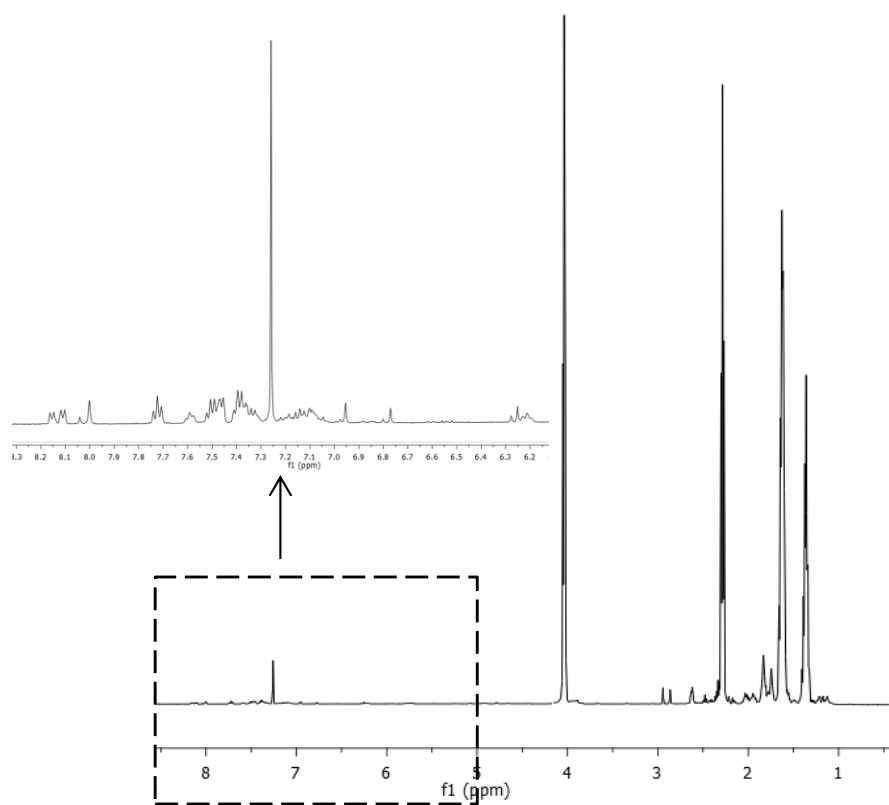
**Figure S1.** HPLC spectrum of (a) free Ptxl and (b) the solution of Ptxl / (BDI-II)ZnN(TMS)<sub>2</sub>-mediated LA polymerization at a LA/Ptxl ratio of 100. An aliquot (30-50  $\mu$ L) of polymerization solution was injected into HPLC equipped with analytical RP-HPLC column (Curosil-PFP, 4.6  $\times$  250 mm, 5 $\mu$ , Phenomenex, Torrance, CA). Mobile phase was acetonitrile/water with 0.1% TFA (50/50 (v/v)); the flow rate was set at 1.0 mL/min.



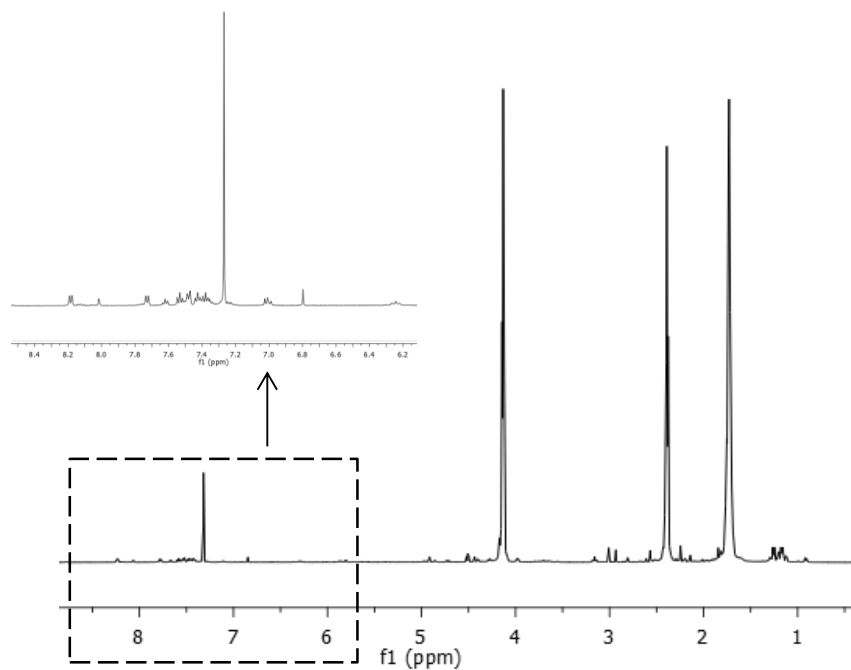
**Figure S2.** ESI-MS analysis of Ptxl-LA<sub>5</sub>. Ptxl-LA<sub>5</sub> was prepared by Ptxl/(BDI-II)ZnN(TMS)<sub>2</sub> (1/1 molar ratio).



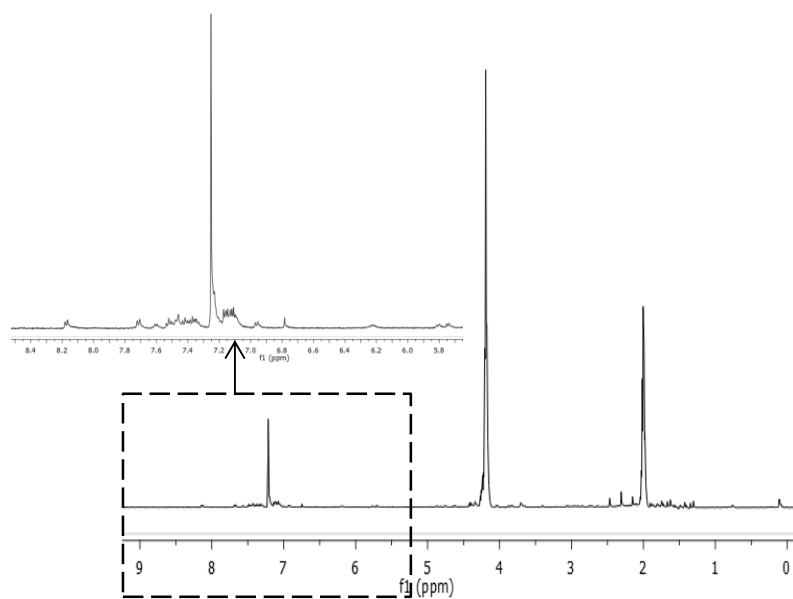
**Figure S3.** Overlay of GPC chromatogram of PtxI-TMC<sub>200</sub>, PtxI-VL<sub>200</sub> and PtxI-CL<sub>200</sub>. All reactions were mediated by PtxI/(BDI-II)ZnN(TMS)<sub>2</sub>



**Figure S4.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of PtxI-CL<sub>100</sub>. Inset: magnified spectrum. The small peaks indicated the PtxI conjugated onto the polymer.



**Figure S5.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of Ptxl-VL<sub>100</sub>. Inset: magnified spectrum. The small peaks indicated the Ptxl conjugated onto the polymer.



**Figure S6.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of Ptxl-TMC<sub>100</sub>. Inset: magnified spectrum. The small peaks indicated the Ptxl conjugated onto the polymer.