The Synthesis of Complex Polymer Architectures Using Hyperbranched Polyglycerols for Applications in Drug Delivery and Cell Surface Display

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Hyperbranched polyglycerols represent a new class of non-toxic, non-immunogenic, biocompatible polymers useful as multivalent platforms for biological applications. By using a simple propargyl alcohol initiator, we have developed a method for producing monovalent polyglycerol with $M_{\rm n}$ values ranging from 1000-7000 g/mol and polydispersity as low as 1.25. These polymers are capable of undergoing 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition and have been used for the synthesis of complex polymeric architectures which require highly robust and orthogonal chemistry. These include core-shell polymers containing acid labile triazaadamantane dendrimer cores for drug delivery and dendrigraft polyglycerols that are partially alkylated for cell membrane binding and cell surface display.

