

Figure S1: Schematic diagram of dialysis apparatus used for measurements of fibril shrinkage and quasi-equilibrium solubility. In the latter measurements, a larger quantity of fibrils was placed in the dialysis tube, and aliquots were taken from the buffer reservoir (rather than from the dialysis tube) for UV/HPLC analysis.

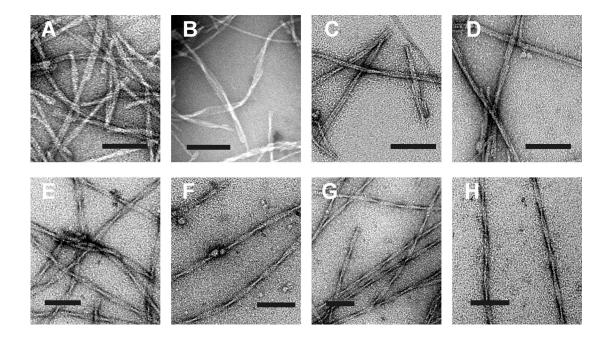


Figure S2: Representative TEM images of \boldsymbol{a} (A-D) and $\boldsymbol{\&}$ (E-H) A β_{1-40} fibrils used as the source of seeds for fibril elongation measurements. Scale bars are 100 nm.

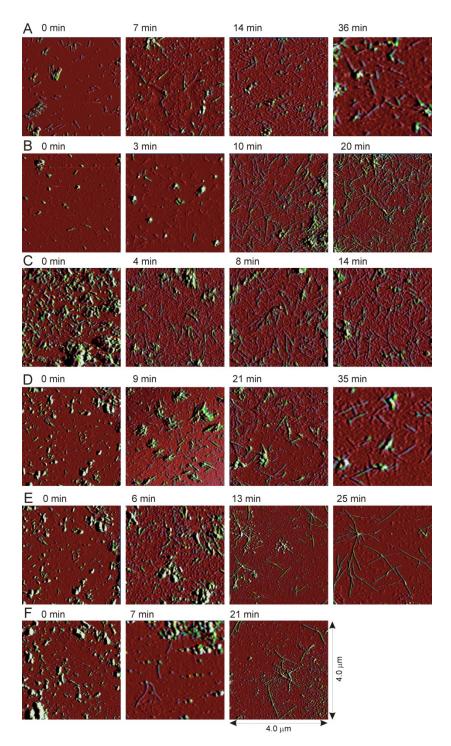


Figure S3: Representative AFM images (4.0 μ m X 4.0 μ m) from elongation measurements at 24° C. (A,B,C) \mathcal{Q} fibril seeds with soluble A β_{1-40} concentrations of 25 μ M, 50 μ M, and 75 μ M, respectively. (D,E,F) \mathcal{A} fibril seeds with soluble A β_{1-40} concentrations of 25 μ M, 50 μ M, and 75 μ M, respectively.

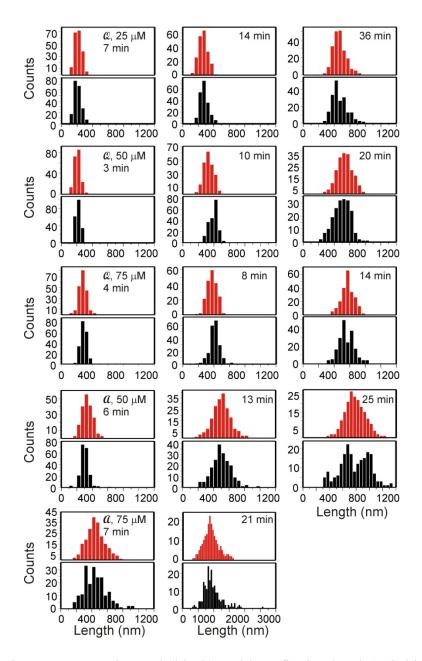


Figure S4: Experimental (black) and best-fit simulated (red) histograms of fibril length distributions at 24° C. \mathcal{Q} and \boldsymbol{a} represent "quiescent" and "agitated" fibril seeds.

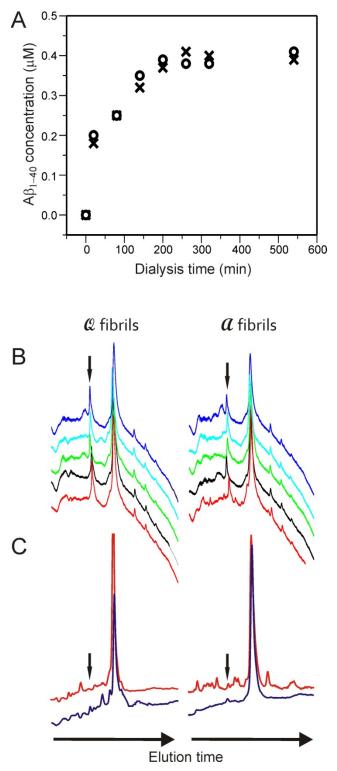


Figure S5: (A) Control experiment to show that monomeric $A\beta_{1-40}$ diffuses through the dialysis membrane used in quasi-equilibrium solubility within 3 measurements hr. Concentration in the buffer reservoir outside the dialysis tube is plotted as a function of dialysis time. Initial concentration of monomeric $A\beta_{1-40}$ inside the dialysis tube was 20 µM. Inner and outer buffer volumes were 1 ml and 45 ml, respectively. Circles and crosses represent two independent measurements. (B) HPLC traces from five independent measurements of quasi-equilibrium $A\beta_{1-40}$ monomer concentrations in the presence of \mathcal{Q} and \boldsymbol{a} fibrils at 24° C. Arrows indicate the position of the $A\beta_{1-40}$ elution peaks, which were identified by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry. (C) HPLC traces from two independent attempts to measure quasi-equilibrium monomer concentrations at 37° C. The concentrations were below the reliable detection limit.

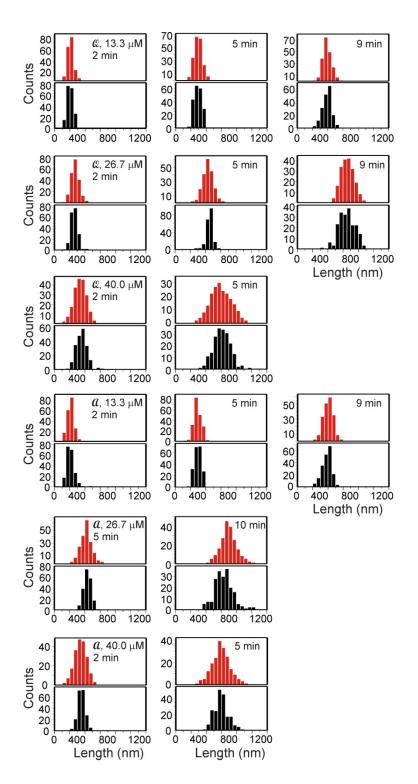


Figure S6: Experimental (black) and best-fit simulated (red) histograms of fibril length distributions at 37° C. \mathcal{Q} and \boldsymbol{a} represent "quiescent" and "agitated" fibril seeds.

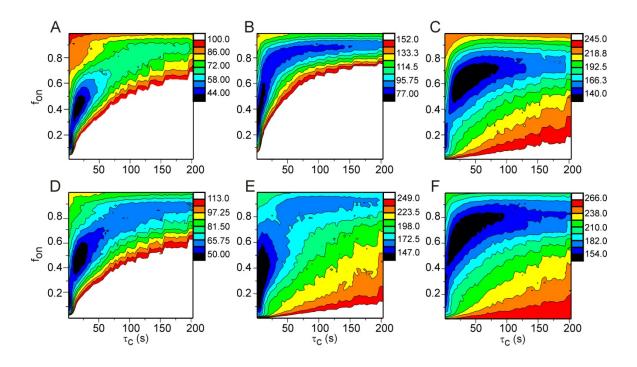


Figure S7: Same as Figure 6 of the main text, but for fibril elongation measurements at 37° C. (A,B,C) \mathcal{A} fibrils with 13 μ M, 27 μ M, and 40 μ M soluble A β_{1-40} concentrations, respectively. (D,E,F) \mathcal{A} fibrils with 13 μ M, 27 μ M, and 40 μ M soluble A β_{1-40} concentrations, respectively.

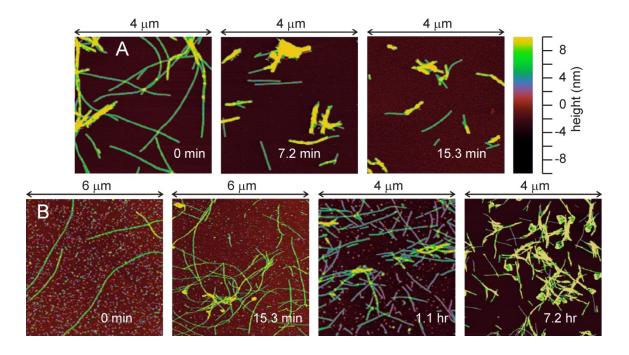


Figure S8: Polymorph-specific susceptibility to fragmentation by shear forces. Either a (A) or \mathcal{Q} (B) A β_{1-40} fibrils were suspended in incubation buffer in a 2 ml glass vial. A stir bar (6.6 mm length) was placed in the bottom of the vial and rotated at maximum speed with a stirrer plate (Corning model PC-410, setting 10) at 24° C. Aliquots were taken at indicated times, adsorbed to mica, and imaged in air by AFM. Height images are shown. Fragmentation of a fibrils was significantly more rapid than fragmentation of a fibrils.