

Supplemental Figure Legends:

Supplemental Figure S1. Gel components promote RNA degradation.

(A,B) Cell free hydrogels prepared from 0.25 mL of the gel precursor solution were homogenized in 1 mL TRIzol using pellet pestle. 2 mg of the purified total RNA was dissolved in (A) 1 mL of control or (B) gel containing TRIzol followed by RNA re-purification with RNeasy kit. (C-G). 2 mg of the purified total RNA was diluted in water (C) or in PEG hydrogel precursor solution (D – undiluted and with serial dilutions: 1:10 – E, 1:100 –F, 1:1000 – G). RNA integrity was analyzed using RNA 6000 Pico Kit on Agilent Bioanalyzer.