

Supplementary Information for:

## **Supramolecular Crafting of Self-Assembling Camptothecin Prodrugs with Enhanced Efficacy against Primary Cancer Cells**

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### Drug loading calculation

The drug loading of the SAPD is calculated by the following equation

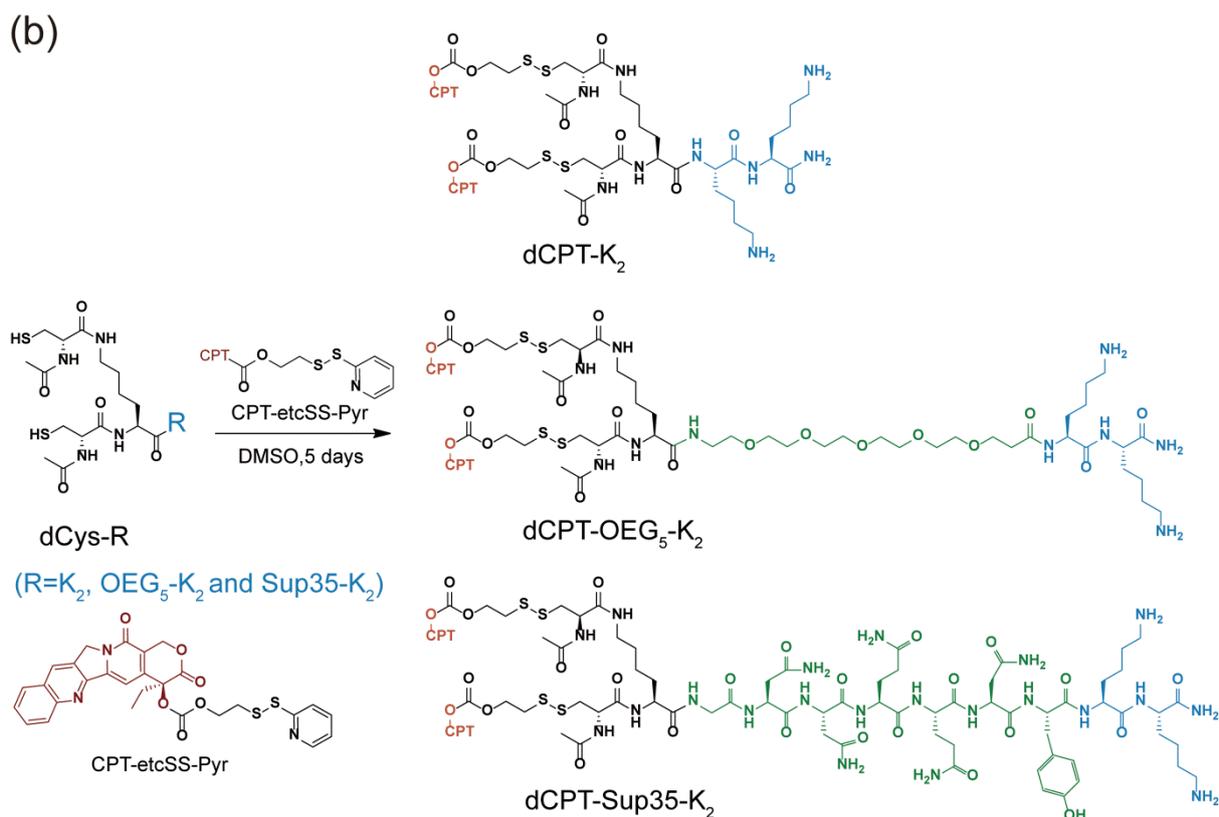
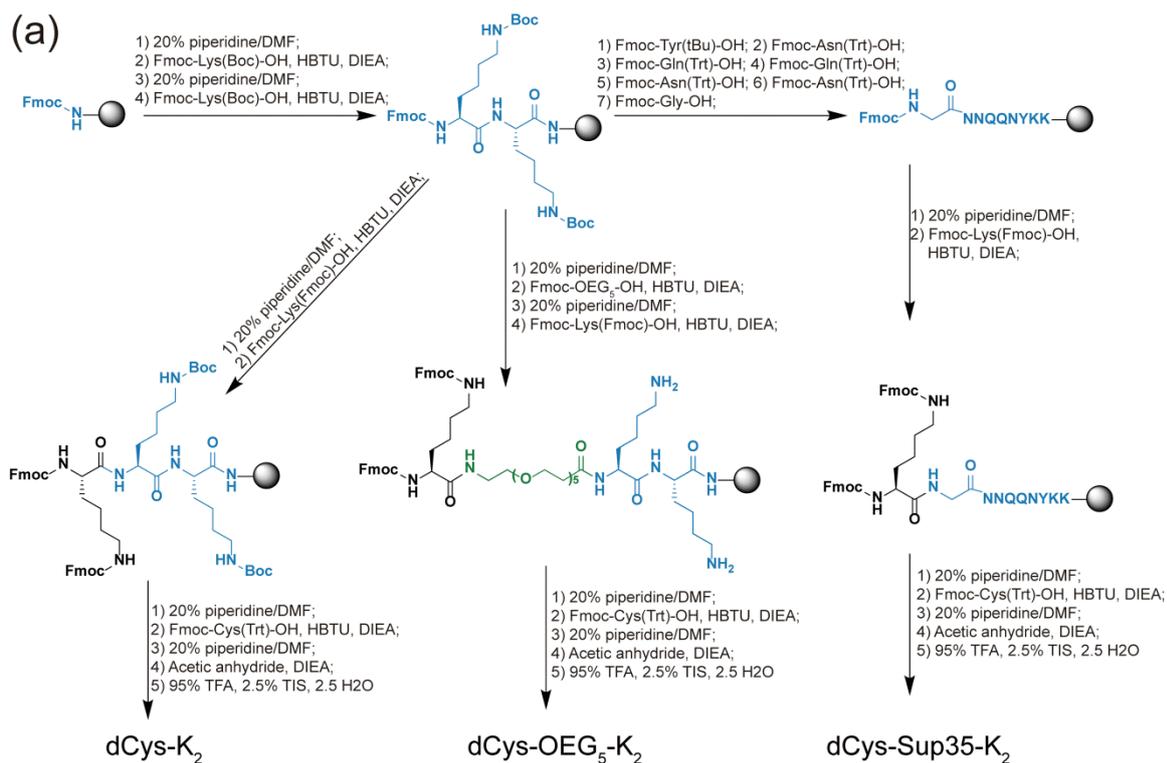
$$\text{Drug loading (\%)} = \frac{n \times M_{CPT}}{M_{SAPD}} \times 100\%$$

where  $n$  is the number of CPT molecules per SAPD,  $M_{CPT}$  is molecular weight of the CPT (348.35 g/mol) and  $M_{SAPD}$  is the molecular weight of the SAPD.

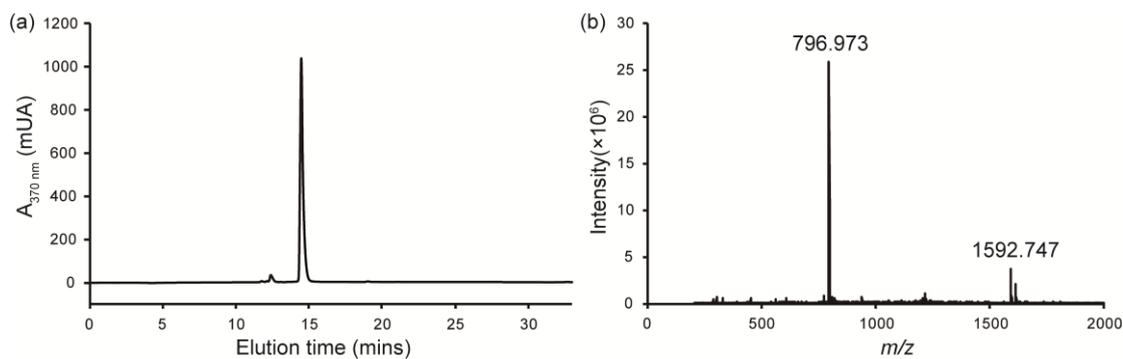
$$\mathbf{dCPT-K_2} \text{ drug loading (\%)} = (2 \times 348.35 / 1592.84) \times 100\% = 43.74\%$$

$$\mathbf{dCPT-OEG_5-K_2} \text{ drug loading (\%)} = (2 \times 348.35 / 1884.18) \times 100\% = 36.98\%$$

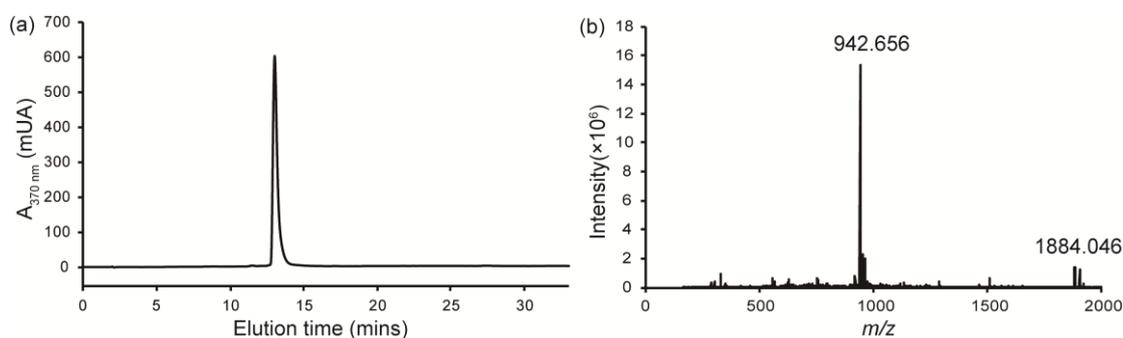
$$\mathbf{dCPT-Sup35-K_2} \text{ drug loading (\%)} = (2 \times 348.35 / 2411.64) \times 100\% = 28.89\%$$



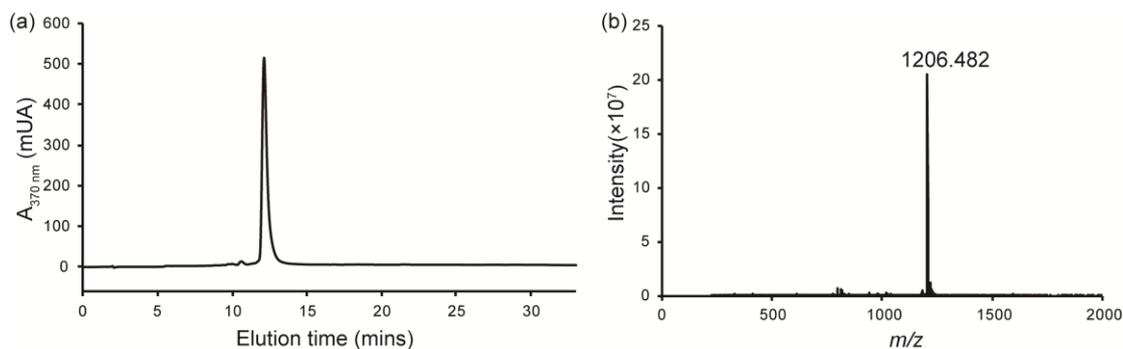
**Scheme S1.** (a) Synthetic routes of peptide segments (dCys-K<sub>2</sub>, dCys-OEG<sub>5</sub>-K<sub>2</sub> and dCys-Sup35-K<sub>2</sub>) using standard Fmoc solid phase peptide techniques and (b) synthesis of self-assembling prodrugs by mixing peptide segments synthesized in (a) with CPT-etcSS-Pyr in DMSO.



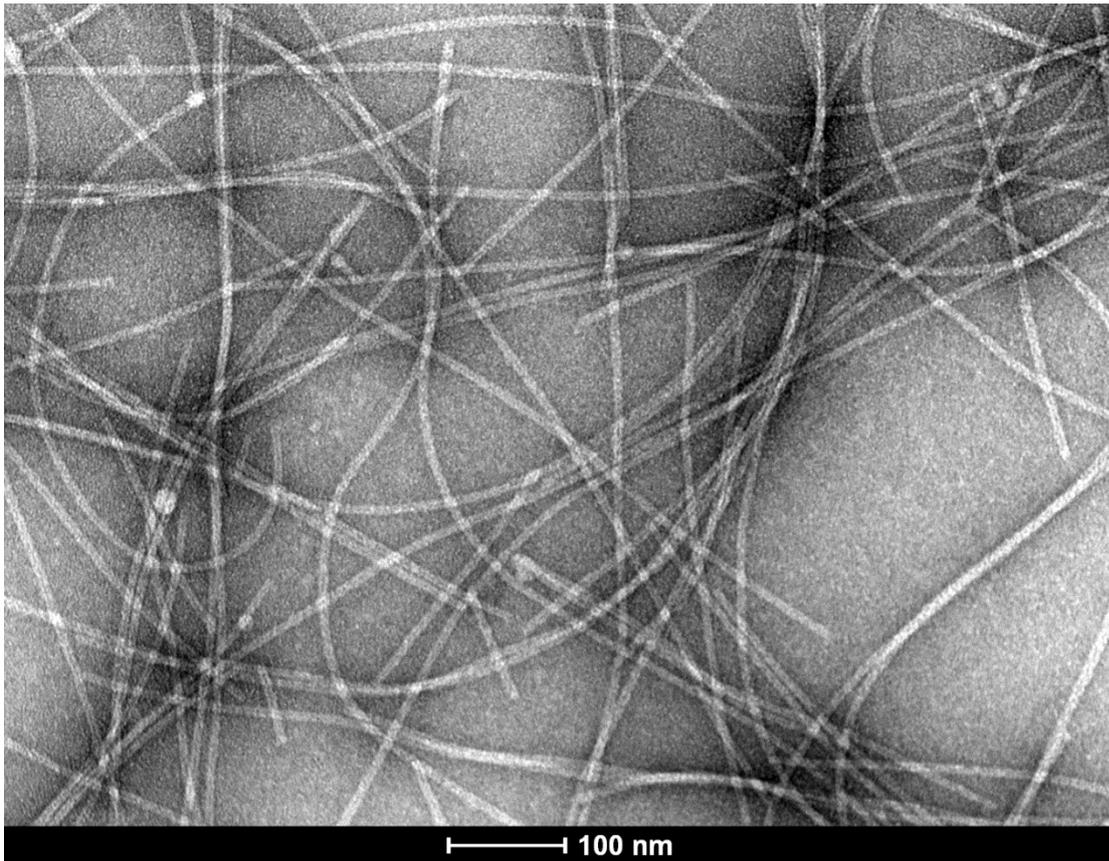
**Figure S1.** RP-HPLC (a) and ESI-MS spectrum (b) of dCPT-K<sub>2</sub>. The peaks at 796.973 and 1592.747 correspond to  $[M+2H]^{2+}$  and  $[M+H]^+$ , respectively.



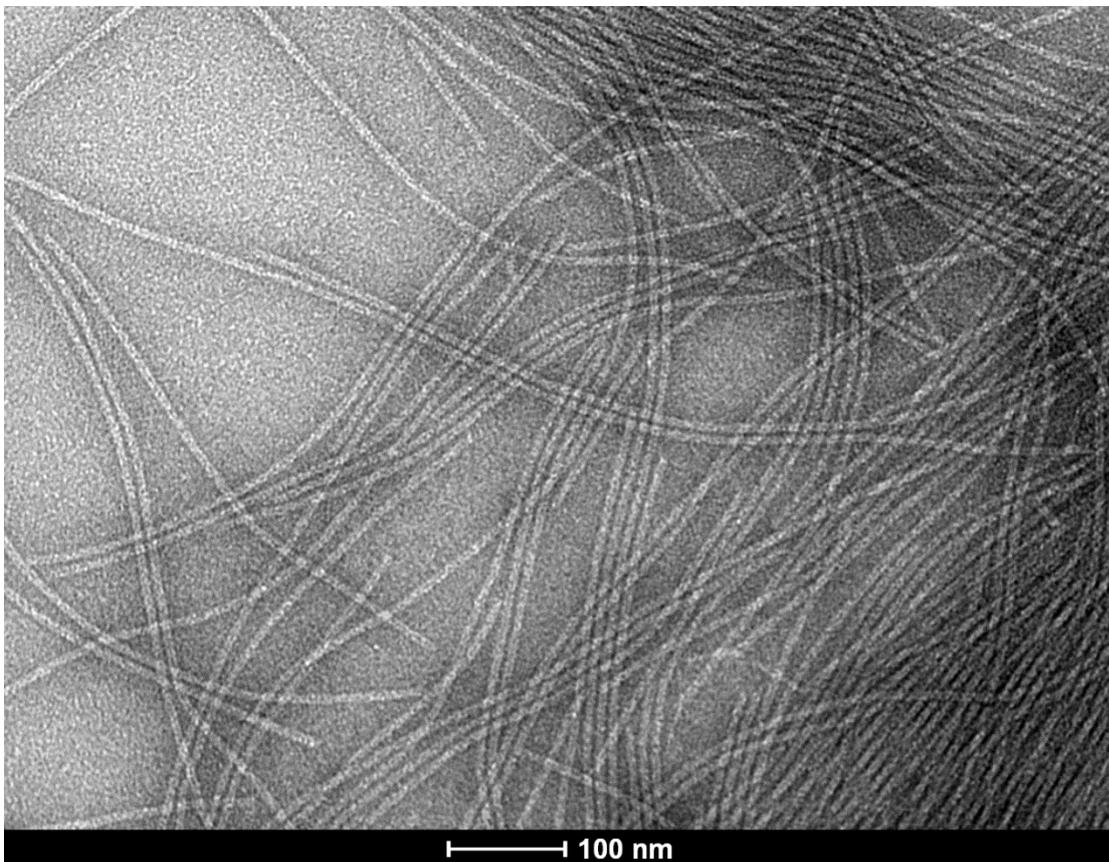
**Figure S2.** RP-HPLC (a) and ESI-MS spectrum (b) of dCPT-OEG<sub>5</sub>-K<sub>2</sub>. The peaks at 942.656 and 1884.046 correspond to  $[M+2H]^{2+}$  and  $[M+H]^+$ .



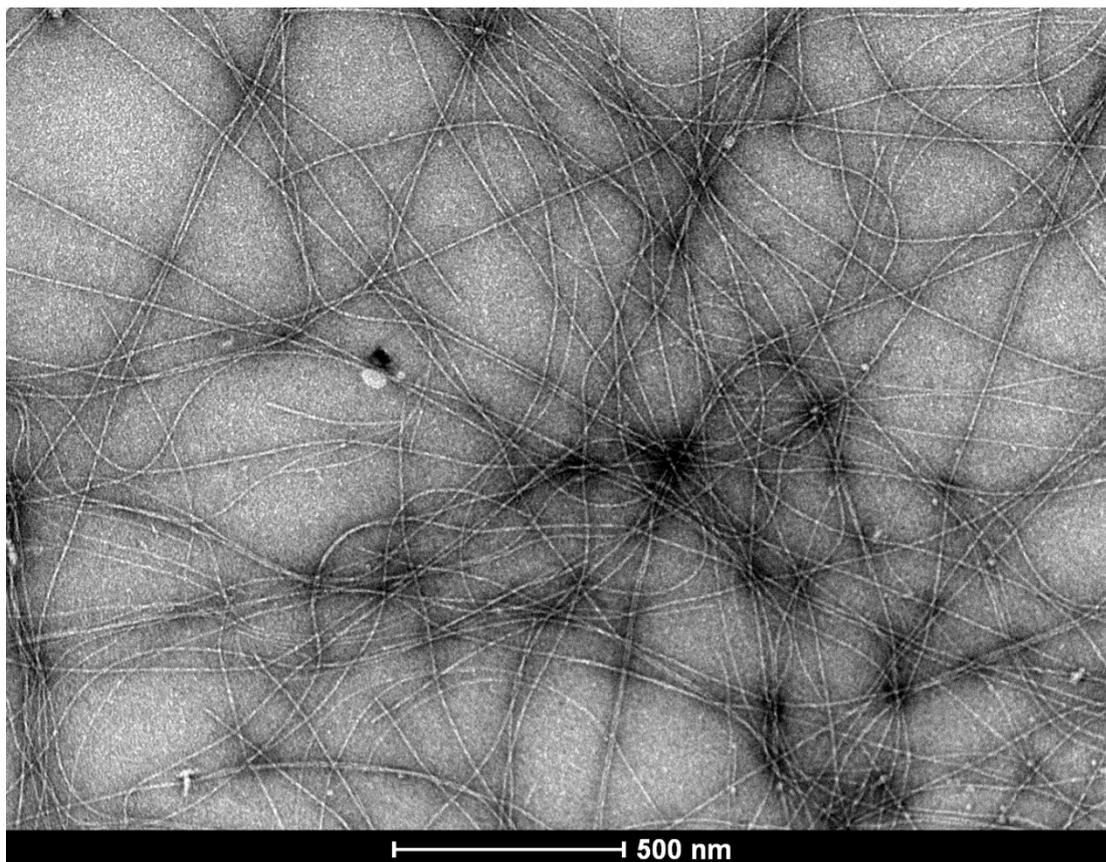
**Figure S3.** RP-HPLC (a) and ESI-MS spectrum (b) of dCPT-Sup35-K<sub>2</sub>. The peaks at 1206.482 correspond to  $[M+2H]^{2+}$ .



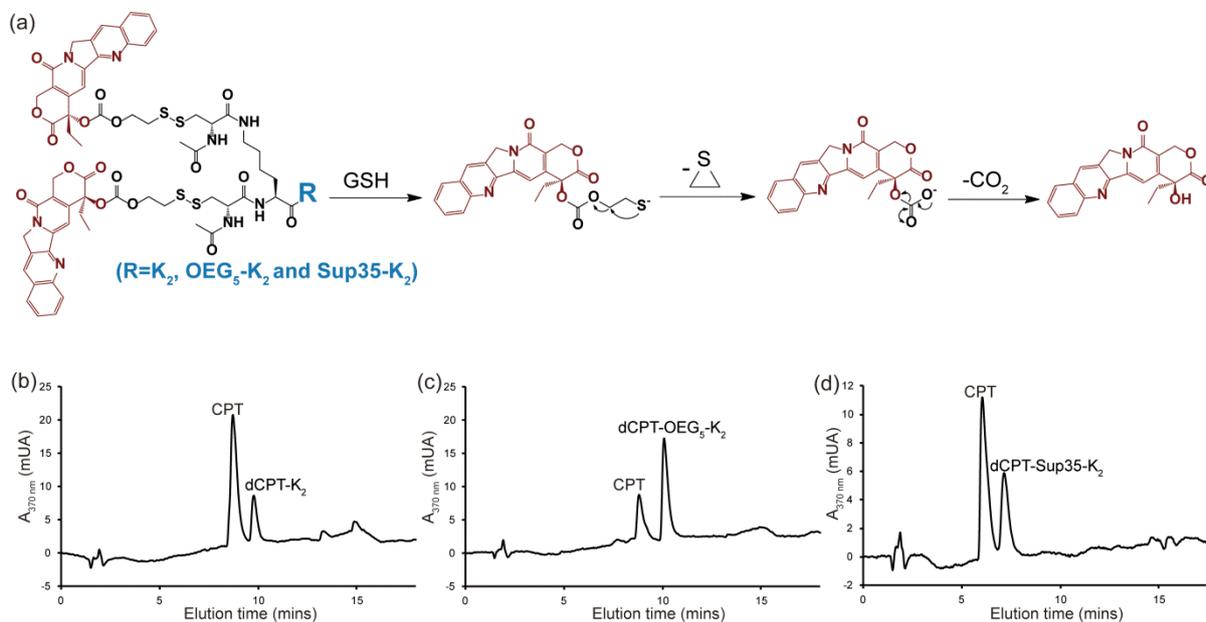
**Figure S4.** TEM image of nanotubes formed by dCPT-K<sub>2</sub> in water at 100  $\mu$  M.



**Figure S5.** TEM image of nanotubes formed by dCPT-OEG<sub>5</sub>-K<sub>2</sub> in water at 100  $\mu$  M.



**Figure S6.** TEM image of nanofibers formed by dCPT-Sup35-K<sub>2</sub> in water at 100  $\mu$ M.



**Figure S7.** (a) Expected molecular mechanism of GSH-induced release of free CPT from the designed conjugates (dCPT-K<sub>2</sub>, dCPT-OEG<sub>5</sub>-K<sub>2</sub> and dCPT-Sup35-K<sub>2</sub>). HPLC analysis of free CPT release from conjugates dCPT-K<sub>2</sub> after 5 minutes incubation (b), dCPT-OEG<sub>5</sub>-K<sub>2</sub> after 5 minutes incubation (c) and dCPT-Sup35-K<sub>2</sub> after 10 minutes incubation (d). The conjugates concentrations for all the cases were 25  $\mu$ M, and the release experiments were carried out in the presence of 10 mM GSH in 10 mM sodium phosphate solution at 37  $^{\circ}$ C.