# **Supporting Information**

Easy Access to Oxygenated Block Polymers via Switchable Catalysis

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## **Supplementary Methods**

#### **Materials**

[SalcyCrCl] was purchased from Strem Chemicals and stored inside a glovebox; PPNCl (97%, Sigma Aldrich) was recrystallised from anhydrous acetonitrile/diethyl ether, dried at 40 °C under high vacuum overnight and stored inside a glovebox. (±)-Propylene oxide (99%, Sigma Aldrich) was purified by fractional distillation after drying over calcium hydride overnight and TCA1 was prepared according to a literature procedure. All anhydrides were recrystallised and sublimed under high vacuum ( $10^{-2}$  mbar, 60-100 °C) before use; phthalic anhydride was further stirred in anhydrous benzene overnight, filtered, evaporated, and recrystallised from anhydrous chloroform before sublimation. Chain-transfer agents were recrystallised and sublimed before use (if solid) or dried over calcium hydride and fractionally distilled (if liquid).

#### **Characterisation Techniques**

DSC thermograms were recorded on a Mettler Toledo DSC 3 Star calorimeter. First, the sample was kept at 25 °C for 1 minute, then heated to 180 °C at 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup>, kept for 1 minute and cooled down to -90 °C and kept for 1 minute; the nitrogen flow rate was 80 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. This heating / cooling cycle was then repeated three times and the data from the second or third heating cycle is reported. NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker Avance III HD nanobay NMR equipped with a 9.4T magnet  $(^1H 400.2$  MHz,  $^{13}C 100.6$  MHz), a Bruker Avance NMR equipped with a 11.75T magnet and a  $^{13}$ C detect cryoprobe ( $^{1}$ H 500.3MHz,  $^{13}$ C 125.8MHz) or a Bruker AV 400 ( ${}^{1}$ H 400 MHz,  ${}^{13}$ C 100 MHz) instrument. All spectra were recorded in CDCI $_3$ .<sup>1</sup> Molar masses were determined by SEC on an Agilent PL GPC-50 instrument, with HPLC grade THF (flow rate: 1.0 mL min<sup>-1</sup>) after calibration with near monodisperse polystyrene standards. Samples were dissolved in THF (ca. 10 mg mL $^{-1}$ ) and filtered through a 2 μm filter before injection.

#### **General Polymerisation Procedure**

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, CHD, PPNCl, [SalcyCrCl], TCA1, PO and toluene were added to a flame dried vial equipped with a rare-earth magnetic stir bar and sealed with a melamine cap containing a Teflon inlay and electrical isolation tape (PVC). The vial was then placed in a pre-heated aluminium block (60 °C) and reacted for the specified time. Typical amounts for [TCA1]:[PO]:[CHD]:[SalcyCrCl]:[PPNCl]=200:400:10:1:0.5 were 700 mg (TCA1, 3 mmol), 420 μL (PO, 6 mmol), 17.4 mg (CHD, 225 μmol), 9.5 mg ([SalcyCrCl], 15 μmol), 4.3 mg ([PPNCl], 7.5 μmol – based on a stock solution of 50 mg PPNCl in 250 μL of anhydrous acetonitrile) and 0.6 mL of toluene. To determine conversions, 5 equiv. of mesitylene were added as an internal standard; the polymers were typically isolated by precipitation from pentane, drying under high vacuum, or filtration over silica followed by drying under high vacuum. Please note that the purification methods resulted in isolated yield values which were, in some cases, significantly lower than the overall conversions.

#### **Large Scale Procedure**

TCA1 (25.0 g, 211 mmol, 200 equiv.), PO (15 mL, 422 mmol, 400 equiv.), CHD (1.24 g, 10.6 mmol, 10 equiv.), [SalcyCrCl] (675 mg, 1.06 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), PPNCl (306 mg, 527.5 mmol, 0.5 equiv.) and toluene (21.25 mL) were added a 100 mL stainless steel Paar reactor inside a nitrogen-filled glovebox and sealed. The reaction was stirred for 4 days at 60 °C before exposure to air. The conversions and molar mass was determined from this crude reaction mixture and the polymer was purified by filtration over silica (three times) and concentration to dryness.

### **Post-Functionalisation Reaction**

#### *Synthesis of Pre-Polymer:*

The general procedure was followed TCA1 (5.00 g, 21.34 mmol, 200 equiv.), 3,4-epoxy-1 butene (3.44 mL, 42.68 mol, 400 equiv.), cyclohexane diol (124 mg, 1.07 mmol, 10 equiv.), [SalcyCrCl] (67.65 mg, 107 μmol, 1 equiv.), PPNCl (30.4 mg, 53 μmol, 0.5 equiv.) and 4.2

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mL of toluene. After four days, the mixture was dried under high vacuum, dissolved in dichloromethane and filtered over a silica plug to remove the catalyst. The obtained solution was concentrated and dried overnight under high vacuum (vield: 600 mg).

#### *Thiol-ene Reactions*

Inside a glovebox, the polymer (100 mg, 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in 0.5 mL of anhydrous (deuterated) chloroform and dimethylacetophenone (10 mg, 0.1 equiv.) and the corresponding thiol (30 equiv.) were added. The vial was sealed in the glovebox, exposed to UV light (Philips Facial Tanner HB172, 4x15 W) in a distance of ca. 10 cm and stirred for 2 hours before analysis by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy and GPC.

#### *MDI Chain-Extension Reaction*

The polymer ( $M_n = 3,700$  g mol<sup>-1</sup>; 0.5 g), MDI (360 mg), tin(II) octoate (45  $\mu$ L) and toluene (5.5 mL) were added to a flame-dried vial and the mixture was reacted overnight at 60 °C before being quenched by exposure to air. The viscous solution was dried under high vacuum, dissolved in a minimal amount of DCM and precipitated from methanol (three times).



Supplementary Figure  $1 - {}^{1}H$  NMR spectra at different times of the one-pot polymerization of TCA1/PO.



Supplementary Figure 2 - Selected <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of one-pot polymerization of TCA1/PO at different conversions.

Supplementary Table 1 – Integrals based on  ${}^{1}H$  NMR spectroscopy used for conversion vs. time plots.





<sup>a</sup> Calculated from integral at 5.88-5.55 pm (corresponds to C=C of polyester); \* not considered.



Supplementary Figure 3 – MALDI Spectrum of crude sample of one-pot polymerization of TCA1/PO after 2h (25% polyester formation,  $<$  5% polyether formation,  $M_n$ =1,790 g mol<sup>-1</sup> (*Ð*=1.13). The peaks correspond to a perfectly alternating polyester (n \* 292.167 with n=2- 11) + CHD (116.08) + K<sup>+</sup> (38.96). A second distribution with a repeating unit of m/z=74.00 was assigned to polysiloxane, a common trace impurity in high-resolution mass spectrometry (not shown). $^{2,3}$ 





Supplementary Figure 4 – Zeroth-order plot for TCA1/PO ROCOP. Based on integrals from 1H NMR spectroscopy after normalizing against mesitylene as an internal standard. The following errors were applied: y-axis  $\pm$  3 % and x-axis  $\pm$  0.08 h.





Supplementary Figure 5 – Semi-logarithmic first-order plot for the polymerisation of PO. Based on conversion vs. time data based on integrals of PPO from <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy after normalizing against mesitylene as an internal standard. The following errors were applied: y-axis  $\pm 3$  % and x-axis  $\pm 0.08$  h.



Supplementary Figure 6 – Selected GPC traces during the one-pot polymerization of TCA1/PO at different stages of the reaction. Reaction times are given in the legend; M<sub>n</sub> values (in g mol<sup>-1</sup>) and *Đ* values are given in brackets.



Supplementary Figure 7 – GPC traces during the one-pot polymerization of TCA1/PO. Time, *M*<sub>n</sub> and *Đ* values are given in [Supplementary Table](#page-11-0) 2.

<span id="page-11-0"></span>Supplementary Table  $2 - M_n$  (g mol<sup>-1</sup>) and *Đ* values of GPC traces during the one-pot polymerization of TCA1/PO.







Supplementary Figure 9 – DOSY NMR Spectra of block copolymer (top) and blend of homopolymers (bottom). In both cases, samples with similar theoretical molecular weight were used.



Supplementary Figure 10  $-$  <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of homopolymers (PPO, PE) and the block copolymer.



Supplementary Figure 11 –  ${}^{13}C_1{}^{1}H$ } NMR Spectrum of polymer obtained from TCA1/PO (top) and extended region used for the analysis of PPO (bottom). 4



Supplementary Figure 12  $-$  <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectra of degradation products from TCA1 (top left) and the polymer obtained from TCA1/PO (bottom left).

Supplementary Table 3 – Epoxide Scope.



<span id="page-17-0"></span>



# Soluble in pentane (not isolated). \* Insoluble material obtained after isolation.



Supplementary Figure 13 –GPC traces of substrates shown in [Supplementary Table](#page-17-0) 3.



Supplementary Figure 14 – DSC thermograms for selected epoxides substrates shown in [Supplementary Table](#page-17-0) 3.



Supplementary Table 4 – Synthesis of Homo- and Block Copolymers for Selected Epoxides.

\*Low conversion is sometimes observed for styrene oxide due to catalyst deactivation.



Supplementary Figure 15 – GPC traces of polyethers (blue), polyesters (Red) and polyester-*b*-polyethers (black) with different PO derivatives.

# Supplementary Table 5 – Anhydride Scope.







 $[15]$  Conversion based on integrals in <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum at δ = 3.03 – 2.97 ppm of crude mixture and given with respect to the formation of polyether (i. e. 100  $*$  1 –Integral (t=x) / (Integral (t=0) \* 0.5))

\* Partial overlap of anhydride and polyester signals.

 $*$  Integral between δ = 2.80 – 2.73 ppm used for PO conversion.



Supplementary Figure 16 – GPC traces of the one-pot polymerization of different anhydrides with PO.



Supplementary Figure 17 – DSC thermograms for polymers based on different anhydrides and PO.

Supplementary Table 6 – Switch catalysis with PO and TCA1 in the presence of different chain-transfer agents.





<sup>[1]</sup>Molar ratio with respect to catalyst. <sup>[2]</sup>Based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy. The following chemical shifts were used: 1.04-1.00 ppm (TCA1), 3.72-3.25 ppm (PPO; the conversion was calculated based on the theoretical maximum conversion of PO). <sup>[3]</sup>Based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy of crude sample. PE content was calculated based on shifts for PE (5.85-5.55, HC=C) and PPO (3.72-3.25 ppm), i. e. Integral PE/(Integral PE+Integral PPO/3). [4]Measured by GPC (30°C, THF) with narrow polystyrene standards. [5] Measured by DSC, 3<sup>rd</sup> heating cycle.



Supplementary Figure 18 – GPC traces of TCA1/PO switch catalysis with selected alcohols.



Supplementary Figure 19 – DSC thermograms of TCA1/PO switch catalysis with selected alcohols.





#### \* 0.5 mL of toluene added.



2.0 1.8 1.6 1.4 1.2 1.0 0.8 0.6

Supplementary Figure 20  $-$  <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of crude reaction mixture of one-pot polymerization of TCA1/PO after each addition of the monomer mixture.



Supplementary Figure 21 – GPC traces of crude reaction mixture of one-pot polymerization of TCA1/PO after each addition of the monomer mixture.



Supplementary Figure 22 – DSC thermogram of multiblock copolymer based on TCA1/PO.



Supplementary Figure 23  $-$  <sup>1</sup>H DOSY NMR Spectrum of the multiblock copolymer after purification. Only one diffusion coefficient was found, indicating that all blocks are attached.



Supplementary Figure  $24 - 1$ H NMR spectra at selected points throughout the one-pot polymerization of TCA1/PO/DL.





Supplementary Table 8 – Kinetic data for the one-pot polymerisation of TCA1/PO/DL.

 $[\frac{1}{^{111}3.22}$ -3.15 ppm;  $^{[2]}$  3.68-3.25 ppm;  $^{[3]}$ 4.89-4.79 ppm;  $^{[4]}$ 4.24-4.16 ppm;  $^{[5]}$  Partial overlap of signals during 1.25-5 h.

# **Supplementary note 1: Reactivity Ratios**

Reactivity ratios were estimated by the Fineman-Ross method.<sup>5</sup>

$$
G_{PO} = H_{PO}r_{PO} - r_{DL} \quad G = \frac{f_{PO}(2F_{PO}-1)}{(1 - f_{PO})F_{PO}} \quad H = \frac{f_{PO}^2(1 - F_{PO})}{(1 - f_{PO})^2 F_{PO}} \tag{1}
$$

Where  $f_{\text{PO}}$  is the initial feed ratio of PO in the reaction mixture and  $F_{\text{PO}}$  is the composition of PO in the copolymer. At all feed ratios, the conversion of DL was <10% and PO <20%.



Supplementary Figure 26 **–** Estimation of reactivity ratios for PO and DL by Fineman-Ross method.

The Meyer-Lowry model was also used to estimate the reactivity ratios at conversions <30% by fitting the compositional drift in *f*<sub>PO</sub> to the total conversion  $X_n$ .<sup>6</sup>

$$
\chi_n = 1 - \left(\frac{f_1}{f_{10}}\right)^{\alpha} \left(\frac{f_2}{f_{20}}\right)^{\beta} \left(\frac{f_{10} - \delta}{f_1 - \delta}\right)^{\gamma} \tag{2}
$$

$$
\alpha = \frac{r_2}{(1 - r_2)}; \ \beta = \frac{r_1}{(1 - r_1)}; \ \gamma = \frac{1 - r_1 r_2}{(1 - r_1)(1 - r_2)}; \ \delta = \frac{(1 - r_2)}{(2 - r_1 - r_2)} \tag{3}
$$



Supplementary Figure 27 – Meyer-Lowry fit to PO/DL copolymerisation data.



Supplementary Figure 28 – Estimation of rate coefficient for TCA1/PO ROCOP. N.B. The estimated rate constants are different from the previous switch catalysis with TCA1/PO (Supplementary Figures 4 and 5) due to different reaction conditions.



Supplementary Figure 29 – Estimation of rate coefficient for PO ROP. Partial overlap with DL reduced the quality of fit up to 5 hours, which is why only a rough estimate can be provided here. For kinetic analysis of PO ROP, see Supplementary Figure 5.


Supplementary Figure 31 – Analysis of aliquots from one-pot polymerization of TCA1/PO/DL by GPC.



Supplementary Figure 32  $-$  <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR Spectrum of proposed pentablock copolymer obtained from the one-pot polymerization of TCA1, PO and DL (A, top), PDL (B, middle) and the triblock copolymer obtained from TCA1 and PO (C, bottom) the after the reaction with 2 chloro-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaphospholane. For A, only one peak at 147.1 ppm was found, which was in agreement with the PDL sample.



PO and DL.



Supplementary Figure 34 – DSC thermogram of polymer obtained from PO/TCA1/DL.



Supplementary Figure  $35 - {^{31}P_{{1}}}$ H} NMR Spectrum of proposed triblock copolymer obtained from the one-pot polymerization of TCA1 and PO after the reaction with 2-chloro-4,4,5,5 tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaphospholane.



<span id="page-41-0"></span>Supplementary Figure  $36 - T_1$ -Inversion recovery experiment for peaks at 138 and 146 ppm in  $3^{3}P{1}H$  NMR spectrum. T<sub>1</sub> values were determined as 2.992 s and 2.415 s after exponential fitting (I[t]=I[0]+P\*exp(-t/T1)) for 138 and 144 ppm, respectively.



Supplementary Figure 37 – <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of block copolymer with  $D_1 = 5 * 2.992$  s (as determined [Supplementary Figure](#page-41-0) 36; 128 scans). Based on this integration, 27.3 μmol [OH] / 50.0 mg [Polymer] are present (calculated from standard, the integral 1.00 corresponds to 40 μL of a stock solution of 40 mg / mL (1.6 mg), which, in turn is equivalent to  $14.0 \mu$  mol of  $[OH]$ ).



Supplementary Figure 38 – Plot of polyester (TCA1/PO copolymer) conversion against time as a function of *ε*-decalactone equivalents.\*

\*A minimal solvent effect is observed, with the presence of ε-decalatone only slightly enhancing the rate of TCA1/PO copolymerization. The data do not provide evidence for the rate enhancement observed and this is instead attributed to catalyst concentration. However, it should be noted that solvent effects have been observed in other polymerisation systems.<sup>7</sup>



extension.

Supplementary Table 9 – Block Copolymers based on TCA1/PO with different block ratios.





 $11$ Molar ratio with respect to catalyst.  $^{[2]}$ Based on  $^{1}$ H NMR spectroscopy. The following chemical shifts were used: 1.04-1.00 ppm (TCA1), 3.72-3.25 ppm (PPO; the conversion was calculated based on the theoretical maximum conversion of PO).  $^{[3]}$ Based on  $^{1}$ H NMR spectroscopy of crude sample. PE content was calculated based on shifts for PE (5.85-5.55, HC=C) and PPO (3.72-3.25 ppm), i. e. Integral PE/(Integral PE+Integral PPO/3). [4]Measured by GPC (30°C, THF) with narrow polystyrene standards.  $^{[5]}$ Measured by DSC, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> heating cycle. <sup>[6]</sup>Determined by ratio of PO:PPO (3.02-2.97 ppm, H<sup>PO</sup>, vs. 3.73-3.20 ppm, HPPO; i. e. Integral  $H^{PPO}/(H^{PPO}+H^{PO*}3)$ .

\* Weak Transition.

# Soluble in Pentane (not isolated).



Supplementary Figure 40 – GPC traces of polymers based on TCA1/PO with different block ratios. Bimodality is attributed to 1) the presence of Cl initiating groups from the PPNCl cocatalyst; 2) feedstock impurities which become more evident at higher monomer loadings.



Supplementary Figure 41 – Thermal analysis of synthesised block copolymers. The recorded DSC thermograms are shown on the right and the obtained  $T_g$  values are compared with theoretical values (Fox equation for miscible polymers) on the right.

Supplementary Table 10 – TCA1/PO switch catalysis with varying monomer:catalyst loading.





 $<sup>[1]</sup>$ Molar ratio with respect to catalyst.  $<sup>[2]</sup>$ Based on  $<sup>1</sup>$ H NMR spectroscopy. The following</sup></sup></sup> chemical shifts were used: 1.04-1.00 ppm (TCA1), 3.72-3.25 ppm (PPO; the conversion was calculated based on the theoretical maximum conversion of PO).  $^{[3]}$ Based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy of crude sample. PE content was calculated based on shifts for PE (5.85-5.55, HC=C) and PPO (3.72-3.25 ppm), i. e. Integral PE/(Integral PE+Integral PPO/3). [4] Measured by GPC (30°C, THF) with narrow polystyrene standards. <sup>[5]</sup>Measured by DSC, 3<sup>rd</sup> heating cycle.

# Soluble in Pentane (not isolated).



Supplementary Figure 42 – GPC traces for polymers with different monomer loadings. Bimodality is attributed to 1) the presence of Cl initiating groups from the PPNCl co-catalyst; 2) feedstock impurities which become more evident at higher monomer loadings times.



Supplementary Figure 43 – DSC thermograms of polymer obtained from TCA1/PO with different monomer:catalyst loadings.

Supplementary Table 11 – Epoxide scope with higher monomer loading for selected epoxides.





§ An insoluble material, most likely due to cross-linking, was obtained after isolation.



Supplementary Figure 44 – GPC traces of one-pot reactions of different epoxides with TCA1.

Supplementary Table 12 – One-pot polymerization of TCA1/PO with various amounts of *iso*propanol as CTA.





#Soluble in pentane, not isolated.



Supplementary Figure 45 – GPC traces of the one-pot polymerization of TCA1/PO with various amounts of CTA.



Supplementary Figure 46 – DSC thermograms of polymers based on TCA1/PO with varying amounts of <sup>i</sup>PrOH as CTA.



Supplementary Figure  $47 - 1H$  NMR Spectra of crude mixture after thiol-ene reactions. The relevant alkene region is enlarged (top left).





<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 5.81-5.61 (H<sup>15</sup>, m, 1.00 H), 5.21-4.84 (H<sup>19</sup>, H<sup>19-Jct</sup>, m, 0.94 H), 4.77-4.58 (H<sup>3</sup>, m, 0.08 H), 4.31-3.71 (H<sup>18</sup>, H18', H<sup>23-Endgrp</sup>, m, 2.09 H), 3.67-3.27 (H<sup>21</sup>, H<sup>22</sup>,  $H^{21\text{-Endgp}},$  m, 2.23 H), 3.18-2.76 ( $H^5$ ,  $H^{11}$ ,  $H^{16}$ , m, 3.25 H), 2.72-2.55 ( $H^6$ , m, 0.90 H), 2.08-1.77 ( $H^{13}$ , m, 2.96 H), 1.76-1.53 ( $H^7$ ,  $H^8$ , m, 1.66 H), 1.41-1.00 ( $H^1$ ,  $H^2$ ,  $H^{10}$ ,  $H^{20}$ ,  $H^{23}$ ,  $H^{20\text{-}jet}$ ), 0.97-0.59 (H<sup>9</sup>, m, 7.35 H).





Supplementary Figure 51  $-$  <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR Spectrum of polymer obtained from TCA1/PO.



Supplementary Figure 53  $-$  <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR Spectrum for polymer obtained from PO/CA.



Supplementary Figure  $54 - 1$ H NMR Spectrum for polymer obtained from PO/TCA2. The signals at 6.78 and 2.26 ppm are attributed to residual amounts of mesitylene (< 3%).



Supplementary Figure 55 –  ${}^{13}C(^{1}H)$  NMR Spectrum for polymer obtained from PO/TCA2. The signals at 137.6 and 21 ppm are attributed to residual amounts of mesitylene (< 3%).





Supplementary Figure 59  $-$  <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR Spectrum for polymer obtained from PO/GA.



Supplementary Figure 61  $-$  <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR Spectrum for polymer obtained from PO/DGA.



Supplementary Figure  $62 - 1$ H NMR Spectrum for polymer obtained from 2-EHGE/TCA1.







Supplementary Figure  $65 - {^{13}C_1}^7H$  NMR Spectrum for polymer obtained from VPO/TCA1.



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Supplementary Figure 69 –  ${}^{13}C_{1}{}^{1}H$ } NMR Spectrum for polymer obtained from tBGE/TCA1.



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Supplementary Figure  $73 - {^{13}C_1}^7H$  NMR Spectrum for polymer obtained from THPA/PO.



Supplementary Figure  $75 - 1$ H NMR Spectrum for polymer obtained from DPA/PO.



Supplementary Figure  $77 - {^{13}C_1}^7H$  NMR Spectrum for polymer obtained from PO/TCA1/DL.

## **Supplementary References**

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