

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0378-5173(18)30155-8
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpharm.2018.03.009>
Reference: IJP 17352

To appear in: *International Journal of Pharmaceutics*

Received Date: 25 October 2017
Revised Date: 11 February 2018
Accepted Date: 7 March 2018

Please cite this article as: H. Li, Q. Sang, J. Wu, G.R. Williams, H. Wang, S. Niu, J. Wu, L-M. Zhu, Dual-responsive drug delivery systems prepared by blend electrospinning, *International Journal of Pharmaceutics* (2018), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpharm.2018.03.009>

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Dual-responsive drug delivery systems prepared by blend electrospinning

Heyu Li¹, Qingqing Sang¹, Junzi Wu¹, Gareth R. Williams^{2*}, Haijun Wang¹, Shiwei Niu¹, Jianrong Wu¹, Li-Min Zhu^{1*}

1. College of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, Donghua University, Shanghai, 201620, China

2. UCL School of Pharmacy, 29-39 Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 1AX, UK

*Corresponding authors:

E-mail: g.williams@ucl.ac.uk (G.R. Williams); lzhu@dhu.edu.cn (L.-M. Zhu)

Tel: +44 (0) 207 753 5868 (G.R. Williams); +86 216 779 2655 (L.-M. Zhu)

Abstract:

To prepare temperature and pH dual-responsive drug delivery systems, the thermosensitive polymer poly(N-isopropylacrylamide) (PNIPAAm) was first synthesized by free-radical polymerization. It was then co-dissolved with the pH-sensitive polymer Eudragit[®] L 100-55 (EL100-55) and processed into fibers using electrospinning. Ketoprofen (KET), a model drug, was also incorporated into the composite fibers, and fibers based on a single polymer additionally prepared. The fibers had smooth cylindrical morphologies, and no obvious phase separation could be seen. Using X-ray diffraction, KET was determined to be present in the amorphous state in the fiber matrix. FTIR spectroscopy also indicated the successful incorporation of amorphous KET in the fibers. *In vitro* drug release studies in media at different pH (4.5 or 7.4) or temperature (25 and 37 °C) showed that the release of KET from the blend PNIPAAm/EL100-55 fibers was dependent both on environmental temperature and pH, reflecting the dual-responsive properties of the fibers. The MTT assay was used to explore the biocompatibility of the PNIPAAm/EL100-55 composite fibers towards L929 fibroblasts. Viability was always found to be > 80 %, even at polymer concentrations of 100 mg/mL. Therefore, the fibers prepared here could lead to the development of multi-responsive fibers for drug

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