## Supporting information

## Functionalization of an alginate-based Material by Oxidation and Reductive Amination

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The molecular weight of commercial sodium alginate was evaluated by Size-exclusion chromatography (SEC) with online multi-angle static laser light scattering (MALLS), which were performed at ambient temperature on an HPLC system consisting of a solvent reservoir, on-line degasser, HPLC isocratic pump, automatic sample injector, pre-column, and a G6000PW main column. The column outlet was connected to a Dawn HELEOS-II multiangle laser light scattering photometer (Wyatt, U.S.A.) ( $\lambda 0 = 663.8$  nm) followed by Shodex RI-501 refractive index detector. The eluent was 0.15 mol L<sup>-1</sup> NaNO<sub>3</sub>, 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> EDTA (pH = 6.0) and the flow rate was 0.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. Samples (1 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>) were filtered (pore size 0.45 µm) before injection and each sample were analyzed twice with injection volume 50 and 100 µL. Data were collected and processed (with dn/dc = 0.150 mL g<sup>-1</sup>) using the Astra (v. 7.3.0) software (Wyatt, U.S.A.). The analysis was performed according to the ASTM protocol nr. F2602 – 13.

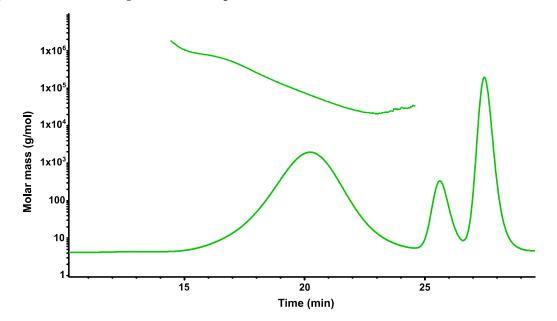


Figure S1. Refractive index chromatogram of commercial sodium alginate used as starting material.

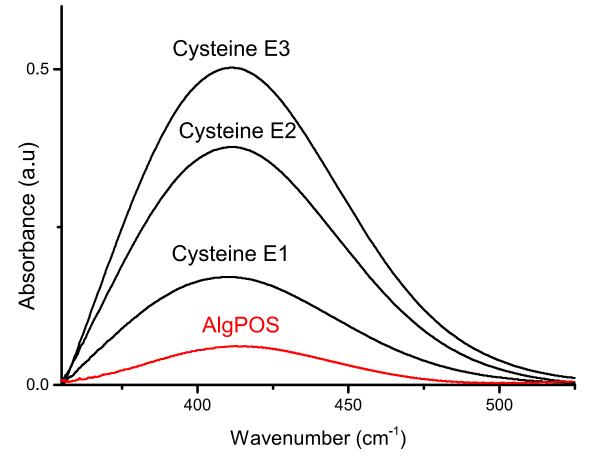


Figure S2. UV-Vis spectra of cysteine standards (E1, E2 and E3) and AlgPOS. Evaluation of thiols group by Ellman's reaction.

Table S1. Values obtained of commercial sodium alginate by SEC-MALS

| Sample          | Mn   | Mw    | PI (Mw/Mn) |
|-----------------|------|-------|------------|
| Sodium alginate | 58.6 | 124.7 | 2.1        |
| (Sigma Aldrich) | 57.0 | 123.7 | 2.2        |
| Average         | 57.8 | 124.2 | 2.1        |

Table S2. Values obtained of commercial sodium alginate by <sup>1</sup>H NMR

| Sample   | FG   | Fм   | Fgg  | Fgm  | Fмм  | Fggm | FMGM | Fggg | N(G>1) | M/G  |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|------|
| Sodium   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |        |      |
| alginate | 0.49 | 0.50 | 0.30 | 0.18 | 0.31 | 0.07 | 0.11 | 0.24 | 5.33   | 1.02 |
| (Sigma   | 0.49 | 0.50 | 0.30 | 0.10 | 0.31 | 0.07 | 0.11 | 0.24 | 5.55   | 1.02 |
| Aldrich) |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |        |      |

| Sample      | Absorbance | [C] (µM) | V(mL) |
|-------------|------------|----------|-------|
| Cysteine E1 | 0.171      | 24.6     | 10    |
| Cysteine E2 | 0.377      | 49.2     | 10    |
| Cysteine E3 | 0.503      | 61.5     | 10    |
| AlgPOS      | 0.086      | 74.7     | 200   |

Table S3. Values obtained of AlgPOS by UV-Visible.