## 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.

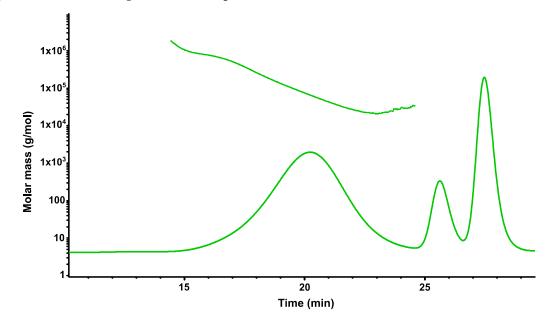


Figure S1. Refractive index chromatogram of commercial sodium alginate used as starting material.

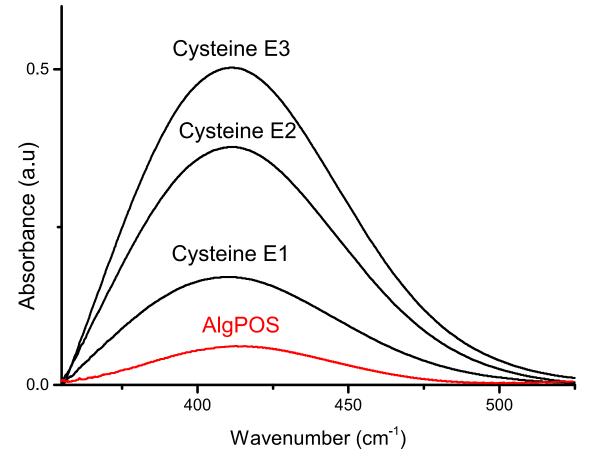


Figure S2. UV-Vis spectra of cysteine standards (E1, E2 and E3) and AlgPOS. Evaluation of thiols group by Ellman's reaction.

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.