Supporting Information

A Facile Strategy to Prepare Hyperbranched Hydroxyl-Rich

Polycations for Effective Gene Therapy

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Figure S1 Typical synthesis routes of TE.



Figure S2 Typical ¹H NMR spectra of TE1, TE2 and TE3.

The chemical shift at $\delta = 2.40 \sim 2.95$ attributed to the methylene protons (N-<u>CH₂-CH₂-N and N-<u>CH₂-CH</u>). The signals at $\delta = 3.70 \sim 3.90$ attributed to the methylene protons (N-<u>CH₂-CH</u>). The signals at $\delta = 3.90 \sim 4.20$ attributed to the methenyl protons (CH₂-<u>CH</u>-CH₂).</u>

Sample	TGIC dosage	ED dosage	DMSO dosage	Reaction time	$M_{\rm n}{}^{\rm a}$	PDI ^a
	(mmol)	(mmol)	(mL)	(h)	$(g \cdot mol^{-1})^a$	
TE1	0.5	0.75	5	48	6.5×10 ³	1.12
TE2	1	1.5	5	48	10.2×10 ³	1.34
TE3	2	3	5	48	14.2×10^{3}	1.88

 Table S1 Characterization of TE

^aDetermined by GPC results. PDI = $M_{\rm w}/M_{\rm n}$



Figure S3 Stability of (a) TE1/pDNA, (b) TE2/pDNA and (c) TE3/pDNA complexes. All the complexes were formed at the mass ratio of 30, and were exposed to heparin sulfate salt solution at various concentrations.



Figure S4 Typical merged images of EGFP expression mediated by TE/pDNA (a, b, c) complexes at the mass ratio of 30 and PEI/pDNA (d) complexes at its optimal transfection condition (scale bar = $200 \mu m$).