S4 Appendix. Swelling degree of NaGG-avd(L) hydrogel samples.

Hydrogels were prepared in Eppendorf tubes with either SPD or $CaCl_2$ as crosslinker and the initial mass of each sample was taken. Swelling media, either PBS or DMEM, were added on top after the gels had set and the samples were incubated at 37ºC up to 3 weeks. Swelling degree was calculated through monitoring change in mass according to **equation (3)**. Data are shown as means ± SD (n = 3).

$$swelling\ degree = \frac{swollen\ weight - dry\ weight}{dry\ weight} \times 100\% \quad (3)$$