

About the Cover: The drawing depicts microspheres formed from highly-homogeneous Tetra-PEG hydrogels that serve as sub-cutaneous depots for a novel drug-delivery system. Drugs – peptides, proteins or small molecules – are covalently attached to the hydrogel backbone by self-cleaving β -eliminative linkers that are tuned to release the drug at a specified rate. Slower self-cleaving β -eliminative linkers are also incorporated in the cross-links of the hydrogel to trigger biodegradation of the microspheres after the drug has been released.