

Supplementary Information

Encapsulation of oil droplets using film-forming Janus nanoparticles

Geosmin Turpin,^{1,2} Duc Nguyen,^{1,2} Kathryn Sypkes,¹ Christopher Vega-Sanchez,^{1,2,3} Tim Davey,⁴ Brian S. Hawkett,^{1,2} Chiara Neto^{1,2,*}

1. School of Chemistry, Key Centre for Polymers and Colloids, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006 Australia

2. University of Sydney Nano Institute, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006 Australia

3. School of Electromechanical Engineering, Costa Rica Institute of Technology, Cartago 159-7050, Costa Rica

4. Dulux Australia, Innovation Centre, 1956 Dandenong Road, Clayton, VIC 3168, Australia

*corresponding author: chiara.neto@sydney.edu.au

Number of pages: 8

Number of figures: 7

Number of tables: 2

Table of Contents

Figure S1. Zeta potential and particle diameter of Metastable Janus nanoparticles.	2
Table S1. Static contact angle of water on films made from Janus particles and PS seed particles.	3
Figure S2. AFM micrograph of unwashed silicone oil capsules	3
Table S2. Concentration and pH of Metastable Janus suspensions used to stabilize silicone oil emulsion droplets.	4
Figure S3. Silicone oil emulsion droplets generated in the microfluidic channel	5
Figure S4. Demonstration of the modification of the surface of silica upon application of silicone oil.	5
Figure S5. TEM micrograph of 'Metastable JP'	6
Figure S6. TEM micrograph of Stable JP.	6
Figure S7. TEM micrograph of Large JP,	7
Aqueous GPC characterization of macro-RAFT DoPAT-poly(HEA-co-AA-co-StS)	8

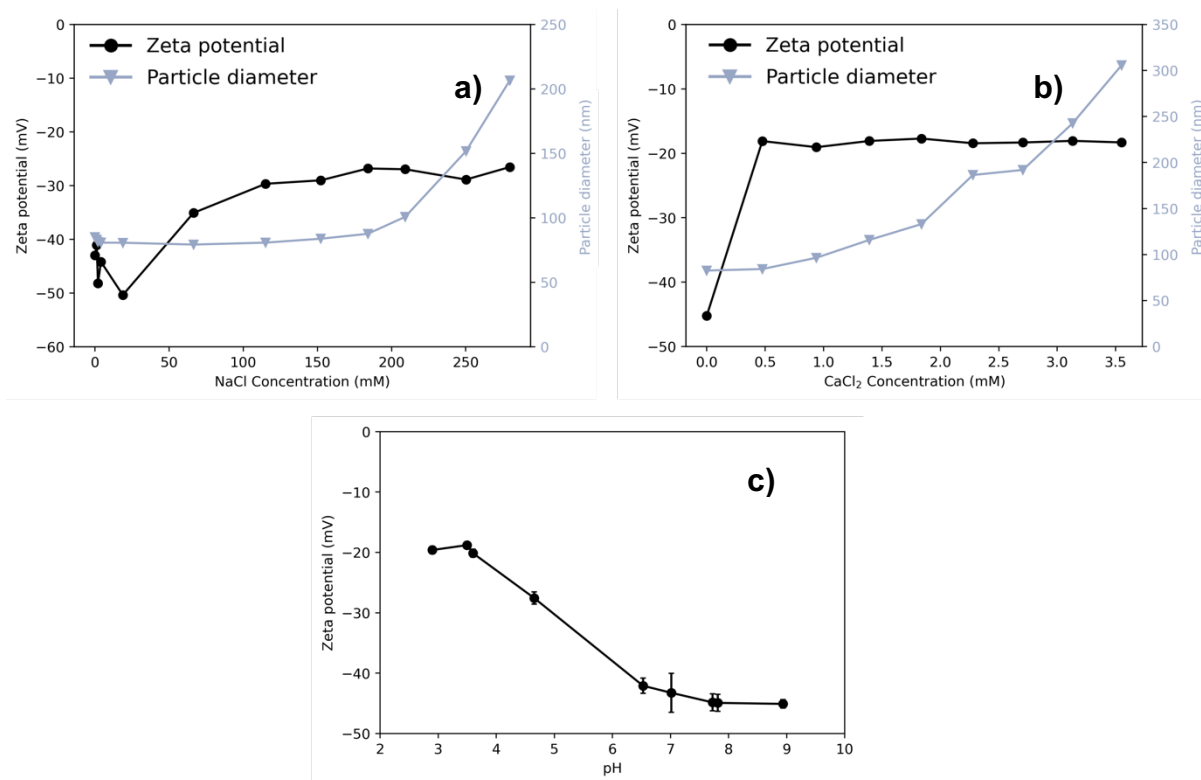


Figure S1. Zeta potential and particle diameter of Metastable Janus nanoparticles (0.17 wt%) as a function (a) NaCl and (b) CaCl₂ concentration for suspensions of pH = 8.3. (c) Zeta potential values measured for Janus nanoparticles suspensions (4 wt%) as a function of suspension pH.

Table S1. Static contact angle of water on films made from Janus particles and PS seed particles.

Nanoparticle constituent of film	Static contact angle
Polystyrene seed film	$83 \pm 3^\circ$
JP film with P(MMA-BA) lobe protruding into air	$74 \pm 3^\circ$
JP film with PS lobe protruding into air	$78 \pm 3^\circ$

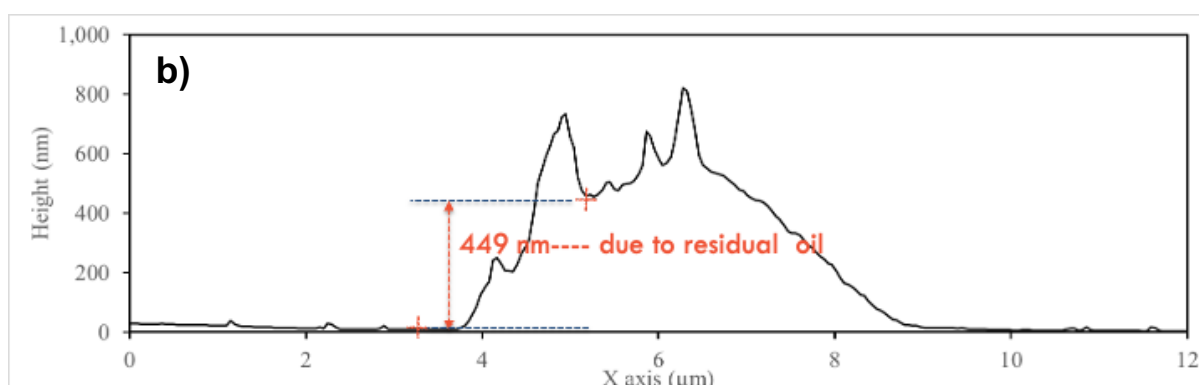
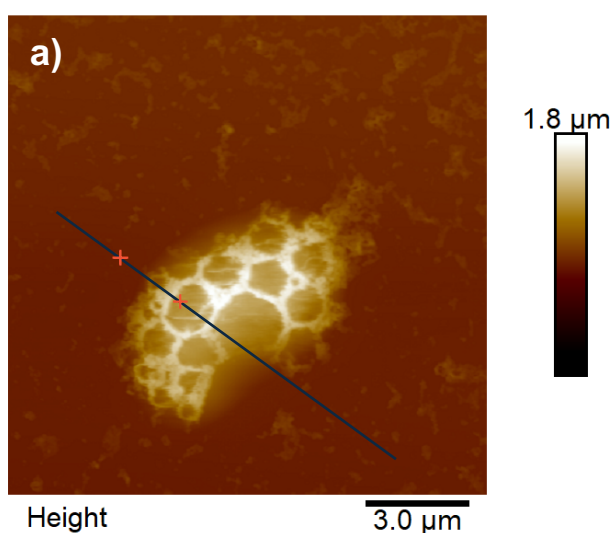


Figure S2. AFM micrograph of unwashed silicone oil capsules dried on a silicon wafer, corresponding to Figure 4f) of the main article text (a). Here the residual oil in the capsule is visible inside the capsule. b) Cross-sectional profile corresponds to the red line in AFM micrograph.

Table S2. Concentration and pH of Metastable Janus suspensions used to stabilize silicone oil emulsion droplets.

Concentration of Janus nanoparticles (wt%)	Preparation age	Suspension pH	Duration of emulsion stability
0.6%	fresh	3.5	Not stable
4.2%	fresh	4.2	Not stable
4.3 %	fresh	6.3	Not stable
0.6%	fresh	7.0	30 min
4.0%	fresh	7.7	2 days
4.0%	aged	7.7~8.2	14 days
2.1%	aged	7.9	6 days
2.0%	fresh	8.3	4 days
4.1%	fresh	8.5	2 day
7.4%	fresh	8.5	2 days
2.2% (150 mM NaCl)	fresh		Not stable

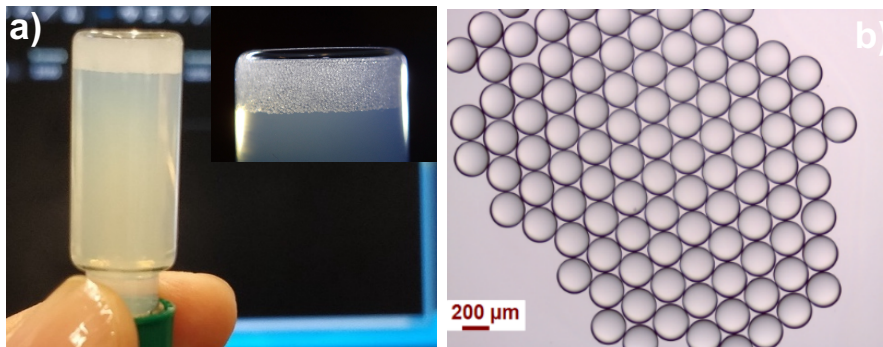


Figure S3. Silicone oil emulsion droplets generated in the microfluidic channel. a) Demonstration of collection of droplets with JPs with an upside down vial. b) Micrograph showing the droplets are monodisperse.

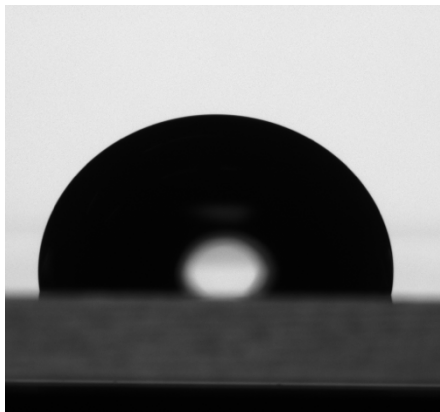


Figure S4. Demonstration of the modification of the surface of silica upon application of silicone oil. The water contact angle was $99 \pm 1^\circ$ on this coated glass surface, indicating that PDMS grafting was successful.

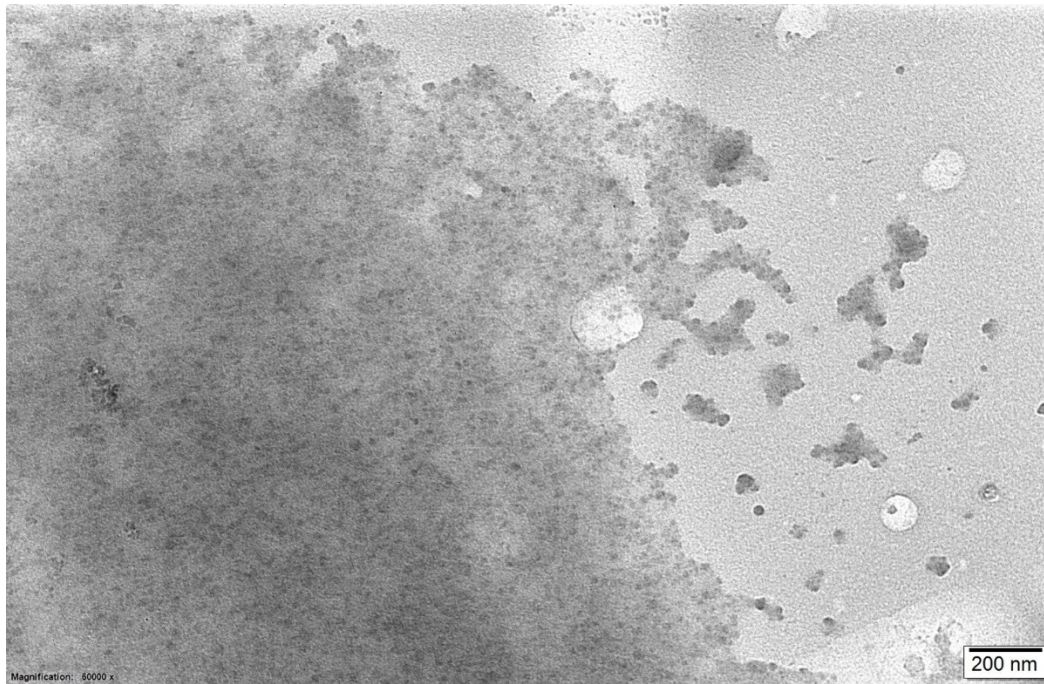


Figure S5. TEM micrograph of 'Metastable JP'. The soft lobes of the Metastable JP merge into a continuous film, while the hard PS lobes stand out as distinct particles.

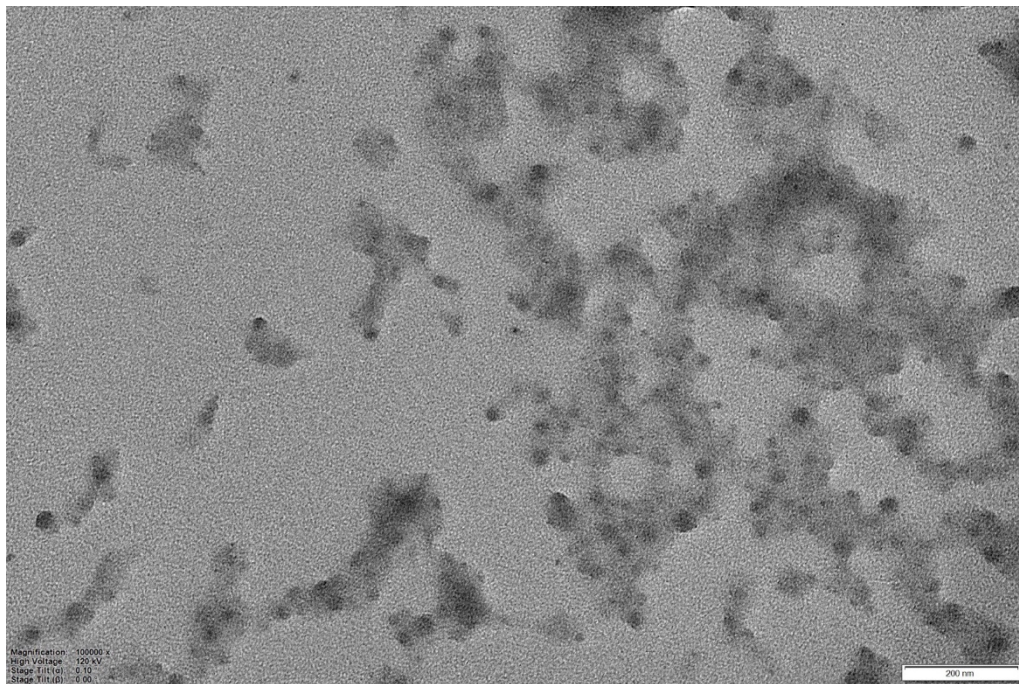


Figure S6. TEM micrograph of Stable JP. The soft lobes of the Stable JP merge into patches of film, while the hard PS lobes stand out as distinct particles.

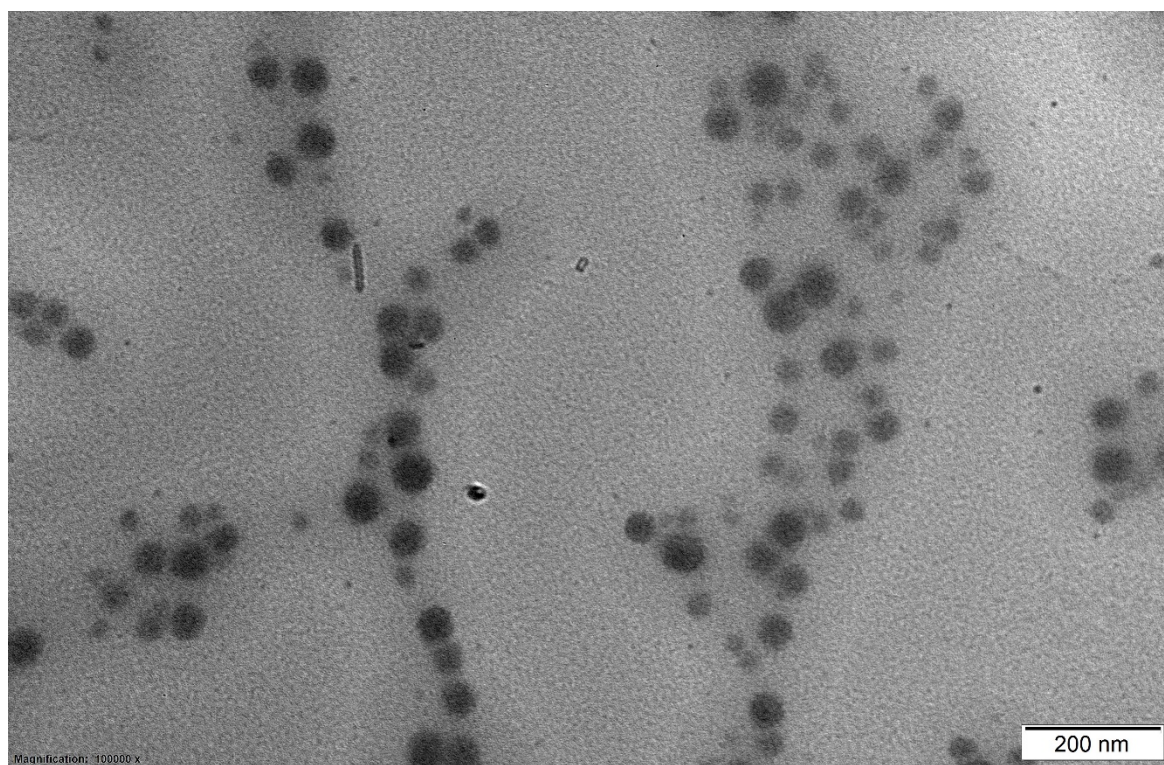


Figure S7. TEM micrograph of Large JP, synthesised using triblock DBTTC-poly(Sty)-block-poly(BA-co-AA) macro-RAFT copolymer. The soft lobes of the Large JP merge into patches of film, while the hard PS lobes stand out as distinct particles.

Aqueous GPC characterization of macro-RAFT DoPAT-poly(HEA-co-AA-co-StS)

The water-soluble macro-RAFT polymer was dissolved in the aqueous GPC eluent (80 v.% 50 mM, pH 7.4 PBS, 20v.% methanol) over 24 hours to the concentration of approximately 4 mg mL⁻¹. All GPC samples were filtered through 0.45 µm polyethersulfone PES filters prior to characterization.

The system comprised a DGU-20A5R degasser, an LC-20ADXR UHPLC pump, an SIL-20AHT automatic injector, a CTO-20A column oven, a RID-20A refractive index detector, and an SPD-M20A Shimadzu detector. The setup included a PL aquagel-OH 8µm 50 × 7.8 mm guard column, followed by three columns in the following order: PL Rapide Aqua L 150 x 7.5 mm, PL Rapide Aqua H 150 x 7.5 mm, and PL Aquagel-OH MIXED-H 8µm 300 x 7.5 mm. The flow rate was set at 1 mL min⁻¹, and the temperature was maintained at a constant 40 °C. The unit was calibrated using commercially available linear polyethylene oxide (PEO) standards (0.2–1000 kDa, ReadyCal-Kit PEO/PEG, PSS).