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**SI 1** Characterization of dextrins and succinoylated dextrin intermediates. Panels (a, c, e) show FT-IR spectra for (a) 10,500 g/mol dextrin and its succinoylated intermediates, (c) 28,000 g/mol dextrin and its succinoylated intermediates, and (e) 48,500 g/mol dextrin and its succinoylated intermediates. Panels (b, d, f) show the change in relative molecular weight in the presence of amylase (100 IU/L in PBS at 37 °C) by GPC of (b) 10,500 g/mol dextrin and its succinoylated intermediates, (d) 28,000 g/mol dextrin and its succinoylated intermediates, (d) 28,000 g/mol dextrin and its succinoylated intermediates. (*n*=1).



**SI 2A** FPLC elution profiles of dextrin-colistin conjugates (3 mg/mL) from a Superdex 75 FPLC column, following incubation with amylase (100 IU/L in PBS at 37 °C). Panels show conjugates containing (a) 7,500 g/mol dextrin with 1.1 mol% succinoylation, (b) 7,500 g/mol dextrin with 2.5 mol% succinoylation, (c) 7,500 g/mol dextrin with 8.3 mol% succinoylation, (d) 7,500 g/mol dextrin with 21.3 mol% succinoylation, (e) 10,500 g/mol dextrin with 2.2 mol% succinoylation, and (f) 10,500 g/mol dextrin with 4.3 mol% succinoylation, (V<sub>0</sub> = void volume (7.7 mL)).



**SI 2B** FPLC elution profiles of dextrin-colistin conjugates (3 mg/mL) from a Superdex 75 FPLC column, following incubation with amylase (100 IU/L in PBS at 37 °C). Panels show conjugates containing (g) 10,500 g/mol dextrin with 7.0 mol% succinoylation, (h) 28,000 g/mol dextrin with 2.0 mol% succinoylation, (i) 28,000 g/mol dextrin with 3.4 mol% succinoylation, (j) 28,000 g/mol dextrin with 6.1 mol% succinoylation, (k) 48,500 g/mol dextrin with 17.4 mol% succinoylation, and (l) 48,500 g/mol dextrin with 28.6 mol% succinoylation ( $V_0$  = void volume (7.7 mL)).

|          | 4 °C |       | 37 °C |       |                             |
|----------|------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|
|          | PBS  | Water | PBS   | Water | PBS + amylase<br>(100 IU/L) |
| 1.1 mol% | 4.6  | 5.3   | 67.3  | 70.4  | 79.9                        |
| 2.5 mol% | 1.7  | 2.8   | 46.9  | 40.7  | 67.9                        |
| 4.7 mol% | 2.4  | 4.1   | 37.1  | 30.0  | 56.8                        |
| 8.3 mol% | 1.1  | 2.6   | 26.2  | 14.6  | 40.3                        |
| CMS      | 13.2 | 10.4  | 33.0  | 14.4  | -                           |

 Table SI 1 Liberated colistin at 48 h (% total).

MIC (mg/L) **Bacterial species** 2.5 mol% 4.7 mol% 8.3 mol% V4 A. baumannii MDR ACB >1024 >1024 >1024 V9 A. baumannii V19 A. baumannii 7789 >1024 >1024 V20 A. lwoffi 8065 V22 A. Iwoffi 6056 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 <1 V5 E. coli AIM-1 <1 <1 >1024 <1 V11 E. coli 5702 V24 E. coli 7273 >1024 V12 K. pneumoniae 5725 V6 K. pneumoniae IR25 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 V8 K. pneumoniae K3 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 V3 K. pneumoniae KP05 506 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 V13 P. aeruginosa PA01 V1 P. aeruginosa R22 256 256 256 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 V2 P. aeruginosa MDR 301 512 512 512 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 V7 P. stuartii IR57 >1024 >1024 >1024 >1024 

Table SI 2 Antimicrobial activity of dextrin-colistin conjugates\* (with and without amylase pre-exposure), measured by MIC assay. Data is

expressed as mode (*n*=3). \*MIC value represents equivalent colistin concentration of conjugates.