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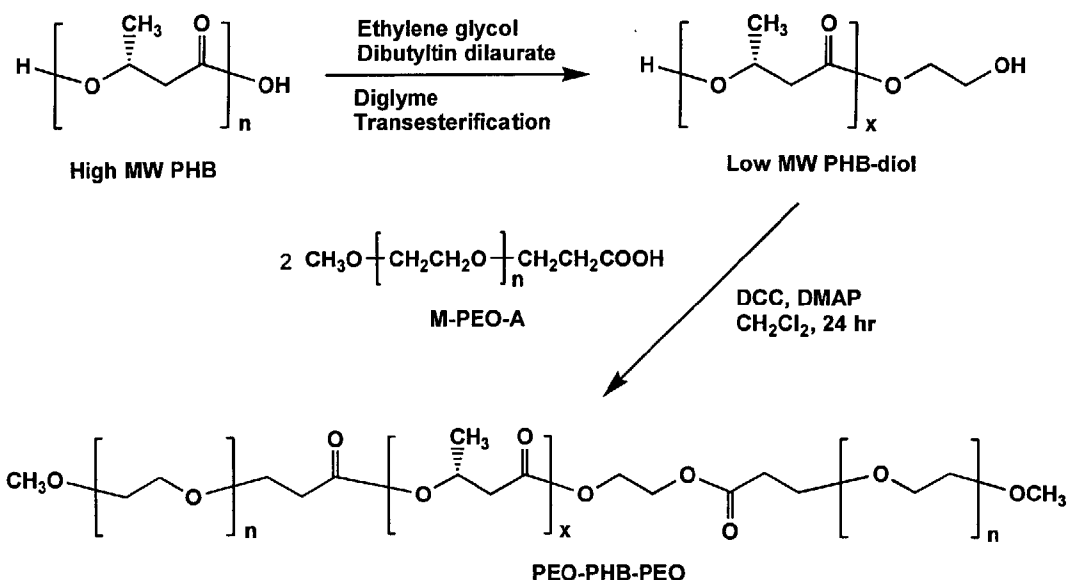
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(54) Title: BIODEGRADABLE TRIBLOCK COPOLYMERS, SYNTHESIS METHODS THEREFOR, AND HYDROGELS AND BIOMATERIALS MADE THERE FROM



(57) Abstract: A drug delivery system that includes a hydrogel formed from cyclodextrin and an amphiphilic copolymer that includes an A polymer block comprising a poly(alkylene oxide) and a B polymer block comprising a poly(hydroxyalkanoate), and a therapeutically effective amount of at least one therapeutic agent intimately contained within the hydrogel. In one preferred embodiment of the invention, the A polymer block is poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO) and the B polymer block is poly([(R)-3-hydroxybutyrate] (PHB), and the copolymer is the triblock ABA copolymer PEO-PHB-PEO. A method of synthesizing the amphiphilic triblock copolymer is also provided.

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