



Supporting Information

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Three vials are visible: The vial on the left contains a hemispherical poly(methacrylic acid) gel swollen in deionized water, in the center a polybase brush-modified silicon wafer is also swollen in deionized water, and on the right, water at pH 1.0.

Two schematic diagrams show how both surfaces when brought into contact may attract to one another. The poly(methacrylic acid) gel is then removed from the first vial and the wafer is removed from the second. The gel is placed in contact with the brush-modified wafer and immediately both adhere to one another.

Another diagram illustrates that, if the two surfaces are immersed at $\text{pH} < 2$, they quickly detach. To demonstrate this, we place the adhered surfaces into the third vial at pH 1.0 and after a short while the surfaces come apart and the gel falls to the bottom of the vial.