



# Influence of porous architecture of scaffolds obtained from different routes on the cell colonization.

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**Collaboration with** 

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Os compact



Spongy bone







 $\sigma_c = a$  few tenths MPa

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- Porous ceramics : wide range of structures
- Foams with cell walls randomly oriented in space







Honeycombs with polyhedral cells 3D arranged



• Connected hollow spheres or rods or fibres...



P. Colombo, Phil.Trans.R.Soc.A 2006

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Large applications fields in advanced engineering such as filtering liquids and particles in gas streams, porous burners, lightweight load-bearing structures,...and biomedical devices such as bone substitutes.



Ohji and M.Fukushima. International Material Reviews 57, 2, 2012

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Various processing routes :

**Conventional methods :** 

partial sintering, sacrificial fugitives, replica templates, direct foaming, extrusion, aerogels...

**Innovative methods:** 



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Three methods to manufacture macroporous and microporous ceramic scaffolds:

- The first one by ceramic slurry infiltration of organic bead skeleton, permits to have an isotropic structure with close control of the pore size and the interconnection size but relatively low mechanical resistance.

#### Patent FR2823305, Biocetis SARL, M. DESCAMPS, P HARDOUIN, J LU, F MONCHAU

M. Descamps et al., J. Eur. Ceram. Soc. 28 (2008) 149



This technique type has been industrially applied by SOFAMOR – DANEK, BIOCETIS and BIOLU since a few years.

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**Three methods** to manufacture macroporous and microporous ceramic scaffolds:

- The first one by ceramic slurry infiltration of organic bead skeleton, permits to have an isotropic structure with close control of the pore size and the interconnection size but relatively low mechanical resistance.

- The second one by ceramic slurry casting using ice templating, permits to develop anisotropic structure which allows higher compressive strength but compromise has to be found between  $\sigma_c$  and pore size (s. Deville).





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Up today substitutes present lower  $\sigma_c$  values than compact bone one's, the freeze casting excepted.

But high  $\sigma_c$  values correspond to smaller pore sizes than usually used for bone substitutes.

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Three methods to manufacture macroporous and microporous ceramic scaffolds:

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- The second one by ceramic slurry cast using ice templating, permits to develop anisotropic structure which allows higher compressive strength but compromise has to be found between  $\sigma_c$  and pore size.

-The third one by 3D printing of ceramic slurry in UV sensitive resin permits to develop anisotropic structure with regularly continuous channels with bigger size and square shape.

#### 3D Printing of ceramic slurry in UV sensitive resin

Ceramic stereolithography is an additive manufacturing process which employs a ceramic slurry in a liquid ultraviolet curable photopolymer and an ultraviolet dynamic mask to build parts' layers one at a time.

This layer by layer deposition technology is today commercialized by various companies such as 3DCERAM, SIRRIS (high-viscosity paste slurries) and Admatec Europe BV and Lithoz GmbH (low-viscosity slurries).

J.Deckers , J.Vleugels, J.P. Kruth

Additive Manufacturing of Ceramics: A Review J.Ceram.Sci.Tech 05 [04] 245-260 (2014)



Lithoz GmbH



By courtesy of Dr Johannes Homa

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# The objectives of our study is to compare the mechanical properties and cell colonization ability of these different structures

Part I: Presentation of the three shaping methods applied to calcium phosphate materials and the material structural properties

Part II: Comparison of cell colonization ability by static in vitro tests for the two methods: replica and freeze casting

Part III: Functionalization of as-prepared scaffolds by drug and phage impregnation through microporosity





Patent FR2823305

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# Organic skeleton preparation



Chemical forming with acetone









Bonding between PMMA beads (scaffold)
Controlled diameter bonding (Interconnection) depends on time, temperature, pressure

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Shaping

Impregnation

Debinding



**PMMA** beads

ceramic

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- Control of pore size depending on PMMA beads size
- Control of interconnection diameters: Id
   PMMA beads (500 600 μm)
   Id : 60 μm





Id: 260 μm



Control of porosity gradient in pore size and interconnection size





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Possibility to add microporosity by mixing graphite as micropore forming agent.









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### Second method: Ceramic slurry ice templating Human bone





D. Hautcoeur Ph D UMons-BCRC Nov 2014

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# Second method: Ceramic slurry ice templating



D. Hautcoeur Ph D UMons-BCRC Nov 2014

S. Deville et al,, Biomaterials 27 (2006) 5480-5489

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#### Second method: Ceramic slurry ice templating

0

5



Pore long axis size:

- between 150 and 340 μm versus dry matter content
- between 13 and 210 μm versus cooling rate .

Total porosity: 36 to 67 % versus dry matter %



Cooling rate (K/min)

D. Hautcoeur Ph D UMons-BCRC Nov 2014

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### **Second method: Ceramic slurry ice templating**

Relationship between porosity and propagation rate for isotropic samples (calibration curve) and anisotropic samples

high

а

=





#### 10 % microporosity

Slurry composition and freezing rate	Ceramic walls porosity % (average)
28% Vol.+ 3% PEG1000 and 1.3°C/min	11.5± 0.2
<b>33% Vol.</b> + 3% PEG1000 and 1.3°C/min	11.2 ± 0.2

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### Third method: 3D printing of ceramic slurry Human bone





#### JC Hornez LMCPA January2015

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# Third method: 3D printing of ceramic slurry



- The thickness of a single layer, typically 20  $\mu$ m to 100  $\mu$ m
- Close control of porosity shape, size and orientation



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#### Comparison of the three different macroporosities

Isotropic porosity

Anisotropic porosity

Controlled porosity







- 65% porosity (limits 65-75%)
- 100 µm interconnection
- 500-600 µm spherical pore diameter
- HA: 15 MPa, TCP: >15 MPa
- Possibility for pore size and content gradient
- 55% porosity (limits 40-75%)
- Ellipsoidal porosity
- 13-400 µm pore large diameter
- 6 -70 µm pore small diameter
- 10 50 µm width of wall
- HA: 51% porosity, 180/35  $\mu$ m pore Ø  $\sigma_c$  : 21 MPa
  - β-TCP: 40% porosity, 280/35 μm pore Ø  $\sigma_c$ : 35 MPa
- 500-700 µm tubular porosity
- Up to 80 % porosity
- Any sizes and shapes are achievable

WD51.2mm 20.0kV X20

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# Part II Comparison of cell colonization ability by static in vitro tests for the two methods: replica and freeze casting

- What will be the impact of these two different macroporosities (size and morphology) on human cell invasion?
- Is the ice-templated samples porosity size enough large to permit the human cell invasion?

# Colonization tests with MG63 osteoblasts

STSM E.Meurice at INEB, Porto July 2014

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Organic bead skeleton infitration



1 day

Тор

Slice

#### Ice - templating



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#### Organic bead skeleton infitration 4 days







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### Organic bead skeleton infitration Beads 750 μm 7 days





Ice - templating

37/200 μm



#### Beads 350 µm

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 CEMUP
 5 000 x
 15.00 kV
 ETD
 8.9 mm
 SE
 B4 day 4
 Mg63
 Surface

Ice - templating

1 day

4 days

#### 198 μm/37 μm





EMUP 2 000 x 15.00 kV ETD 8.9 mm SE B4 day 4 Mo63 Surface

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Comparison of the two different macroporosities

What will be the impact of these two different macroporosities (size and morphology) on human cell invasion? The columnar porosity seems to be preferable for osteoblast mobility inside the substitute.

Is the ice-templated samples porosity size enough large to permit the human cell invasion?
Yes

What could be the benefit of 3D printing technique for cell invasion? Marie Lasgorceix Ph thesis (SPCTS Limoges)



Micrographs by immunoflurescence of porous substrates in SiHA obtained by microstereolithography: PhD of Marie Lasgorceix SPCTS Limoges 2014 large pores (a) and small pores (b), after 7 days of incubation with MC3T3 cells, large pores (c) and small pores (d) after 14 days

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# Part III Functionalization of as-prepared scaffolds by drug and phage impregnation through microporosity

Chemical functionalization

**Biological functionalization** 

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# Chemical functionalisation

# 20% $\mu$ -porosity



1 mm



The micro-porosity allows functionalisation of the ceramic by loading the microstructure with various active substances.

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# Chemical functionalisation

### 20% μ-porosity

### TGA of gentamicin loaded HA microporous beads





1 mm

The HA beads are loaded with 40 mg gentamicine /g HA

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# Chemical functionalization



#### By protecting the surface, it is possible to control the drug delivery



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# Chemical functionalization



« Functionalisation of porous HA for bone substitutes » E.Meurice et al JECS 32 (2012) 2673-2678

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A bacteriophage (phage) is a virus that infects and replicates only within a specific bacterium





Diameter 24 to 200 nm

Bacteriophage lytic cycle

The antibacterial activity of ceramics loaded with  $\lambda$  phage was tested on the bacterium Escherichia Coli K12.

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Bacterial growth kinetics (*Escherichia coli K12*) was measured by optical density at 620 nm in presence of  $\lambda$  vir phage in ceramic supports with various porosity.

HA samples with different microporosity level (0, 20 and 30%) were incubated for 24 h with 5 ml of  $\lambda$  phage stock and added into culture tubes after obtaining a growth of bacterial two generations.



HA 30% µporosity



A slow down of bacterial growth kinetic was noted after 80 min (HA) followed by the death of bacteria. This phenomenon appears sooner as the microporosity is higher.

« New antibacterial microporous CaP materials loaded with phages for prophylactic treatment in bone surgery » E.Meurice et al. Journal of Materials Science: Material of Medecine 23,10, 2012, 2445-2452.

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Same effect with ice-templated samples with higher porosity level

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# phage

Antibiogram (*Escherichia coli K12*) with lyses diameter measured in presence of phage in ceramic supports with various porosity

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# Conclusion

The structure of bone substitute obtained by different processes have been compared:

Process using a PMMA bead skeleton allows to obtain an isotropic spherical porosity with a close control of size:

•microporosity: 0 to 40 vol %, μm sized

- •macroporosity: 60 to 75 vol %, 200 to 3000  $\mu m$  pore size and 20 400  $\mu m$  interconnection size.
- It is possible by this method to build porosity gradient to mimic the natural bone structure.
- Process using ceramic slurry ice templating leads to an oriented porosity structure:
  - •microporosity: 10 vol%
  - •macroporosity: 40 to 75 vol%, 180 300 μm size (large diameter).
- Process using 3D printing should allow to build up continuous pore channels with control of shape and size with gradient from piece core up to the surface.
  - •macroporosity: up to 80 vol%, customized pore size

Conclusion

Concerning the human cell invasion tests, the columnar porosity obtained by ice-templating method seems surprisingly very favorable for the mobility of osteoblasts inside the substitute.

The shape and size of pores would influence also the cell colonization kinetic.

These results have to be confirmed by dynamic tests which will be performed in the following months by our partners from INEB Instituto de Engenharia Biomedica, University Porto.

This STSM has initiated a collaborative research with INEB. The following actions are a co-direction with F.Monteiro of a starting PhD thesis and a financial support for the PhD student has been obtained from JECS Trust for a 2 month stay at INEB.

The microporosity allowing a better control of resorbability can be also used as biological substances and phage supports.

This study has shown that phage loaded ceramics could be used in bone prophylactic treatments.



# Osteoblasts MG63

- 2 multi-well plates (48 wells)
- 2 10<sup>5</sup> cell/ml α-MEM + 10% FBS, 1% ascorbic acid, 1% penicillin, 1% fungicide.
- $37^{\circ}$ C under 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.
- After 24 hours or 4 days if incubation: coloration with MTT (0,5 mg/ml) during 3 hours.



# NIH 3T3 Fibroblasts (6 days)





Part 2 : Functionalization for phage therapy

#### A bacteriophage (phage) is a virus that infects and replicates only within bacteria.



Discovered in 1915 by Frederick W. Twort and Felix d'Hérelle <sup>46</sup>

Part 2 : Functionalization for phage therapy

# **Biological functionalization**

The bacterium Escherichia Coli K12 strain is lytic  $\lambda$  phage sensitive.

-The bacterium was grown at 150 rpm and incubated at 37°C, in agitation 170 rpm in Luria-Bertani broth

-Solid media used is the R-medium (added agar at 15 g/L).

-Phage  $\lambda$ vir stock was prepared by infecting *Escherichia coli K12 strain (A324)*.

-*HA and TCP* samples with different porosity level (0, 20 and 40%) were incubated for 24 h with 5 ml of stock  $\lambda$  phage.

-After incubation, the sample was washed once with LB medium to remove excess phage suspension.

-Cultures of 30 ml of *Escherichia coli K12 (A324)* in LB liquid medium were performed for each condition. The growth of E. coli was performed at 37°C with agitation at 170 rpm.

Part 3 : Functionalization of as-prepared scaffolds

# **Biological functionalisation**



Part 3 : Functionalization of as-prepared scaffolds

# **Biological functionalisation**



Bacterial growth kinetics (*Escherichia coli K12*) measured by optical density at 620 nm in presence of phage in ceramic supports with various porosity 49









UPORTO mag □ HV det WD mode CENUP 5 000 x 15.00 kV ETD 9.1 mm SE

20 μm — B2 day 4 Mg63 Surface













## Part 1 : Mimic bone structure

#### **First method Ceramic slurry infiltration of organic skeleton**

- 65% porosity (limits: 65-75%)
- 100 µm interconnections
- 500-600 µm pore diameter



Macro/meso-porous HA samples colonized by MC3T3-E1 osteoblasts after a 6-days culture (a). First mineralized bone particles can already be detected (b).

•HA 15 MPa

•TCP >15 MPa

With the collaboration of GRB University Lille2 (Prof Hildebrand's team)