

Forum Inżynierii Materiałowej Materials Engineering Forum

 The Materials Engineering and Metallurgy Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences
Polish Materials Science Society



3D printing technologies and bio-ink materials in medical applications



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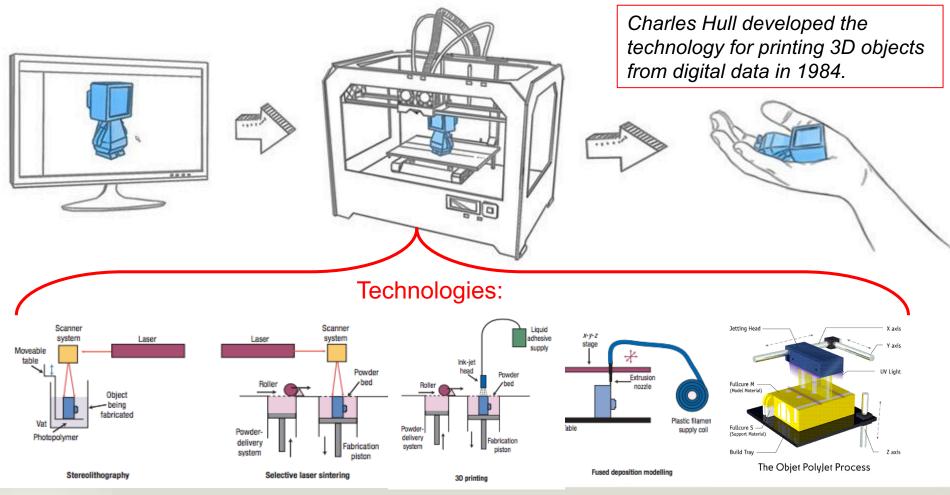
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3D printing

• **3D printing**, also known as additive manufacturing (AM), refers to various processes used **to create a three-dimensional objects** of almost any shape or geometry **based on a 3D computer model**.



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3D printing in medicine

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3D Printing surgical models and templates







3D Printing prosthesis and implants







3D Printing of drugs and drug delivery systems



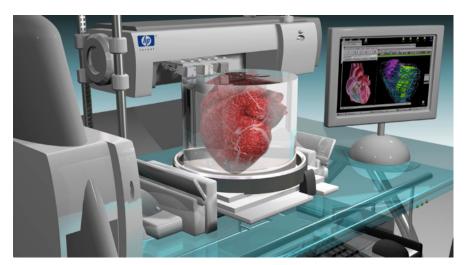


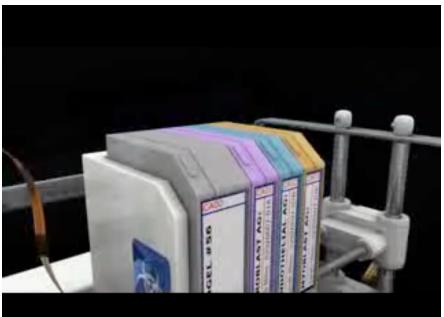
3D Printing in tissue and organ engineering

 Bioprinting is an automated computer aided layer-by-layer deposition of biological materials (bio-ink) for manufacturing of functional tissues and organs.

Bioprinting

• It allows, in a single step, for the generation of <u>spatially controlled</u> <u>cell patterns</u> through the deposition of a bioink.

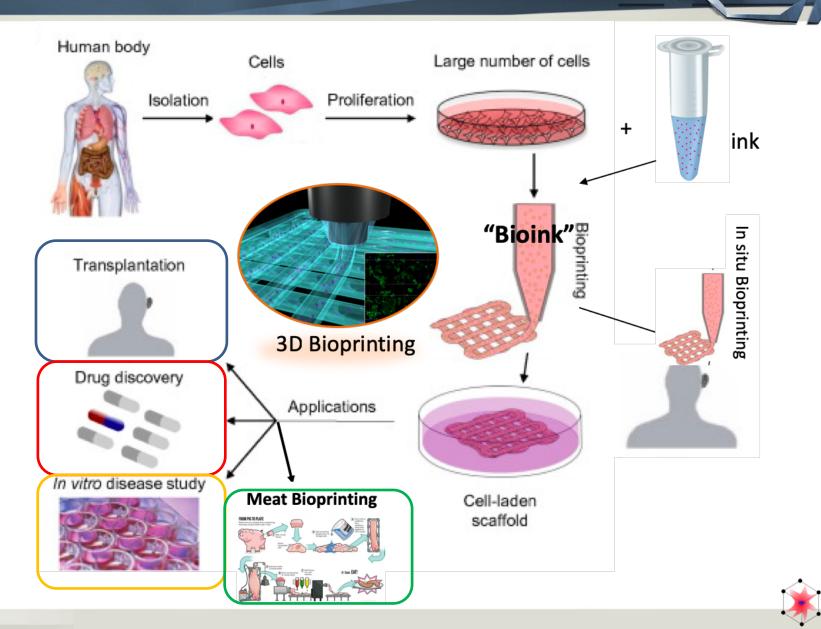




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Biofabrication

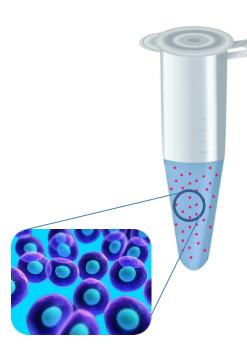
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BioMaterials (Group

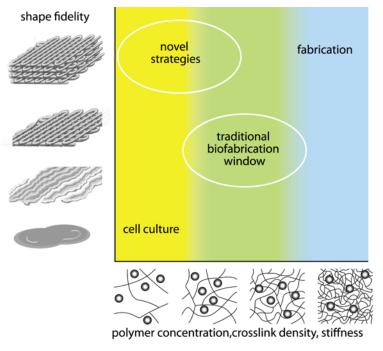
Bioinks and Bioprinting process optimization

- **Bioinks** are aqueous solutions of polymers in which cells are suspended and deposited in the form of hydrogel to fabricate a 3D construct.
- Formulating a proper bioink is **challenging** as from one side it **has to provide an ideal environment for cells growth**, spreading and differentiation and from the other it deeply **influences the quality of printing**.



Main features of an **ideal** bioink:

- > Printable
- Biocompatible and Bioactive
- ECM Biomimetic
- Support cell proliferation, differentiation
- Allow proper tissue maturation
- Tailored degradation
- Dynamic mechanical behaviour (if needed)



Moda J et al. Biofabrication, 2016,

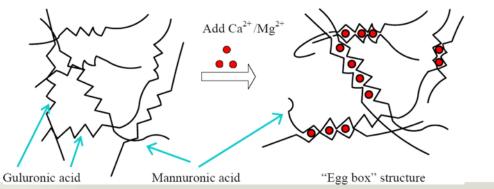
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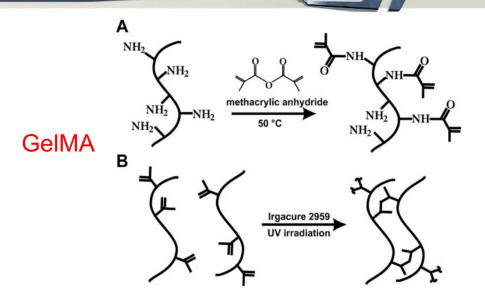
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Bio-ink materials

Materials	Synthetic or natural	Gelation mechanisms	Gelation speed
Acrylated PEG or multi-arm PEG	Synthetic	Photopolymerization	Seconds-minutes
Collagen	Natural	pH and temperature	Hours
Thiolated hyaluronic acid	Natural	pH-mediated Michael addition	Minutes-hours
Thiolated hyaluronic acid	Natural	Photopolymerization thiol-ene	Seconds
Methacrylated hyaluronic acid	Natural	Photopolymerization	Minutes
Tyramine hyaluronic acid	Natural	Chemical cross-linking (oxidative coupling, tyramine– H_2O_2)	Seconds
Gelatin	Natural	Temperature	Minutes-hours
Methacrylated gelatin	Natural	Photopolymerization	Minutes
Alginate	Natural	Chemical cross-linking (Ca^{2+})	Seconds
Fibrin	Natural	Enzymatic reaction (thrombin– fibrinogen)	Seconds

Alginate gel formation in the presence of calcium ions



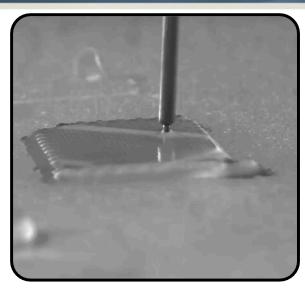


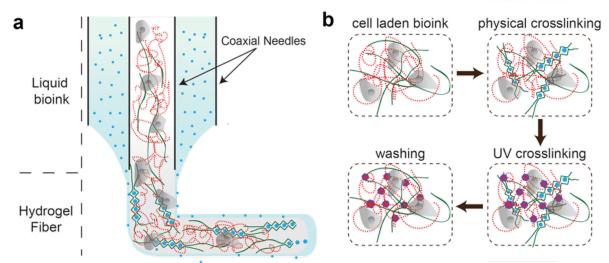
Photocurable biopolymers: **GeIMA** – Gelatin methacrylamide, **CS-AEMA** – Chondroitin sulfate 2-aminoethyl methacrylate **HAMA** – Methacrylated hyaluronic acid **PEGMA-fibrinogen**)

(UV or visible light crosslinking)

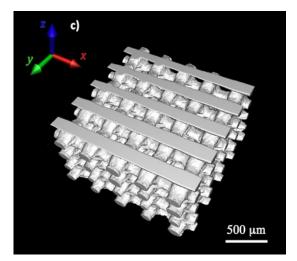
Co-axial extrusion-based bioprinting

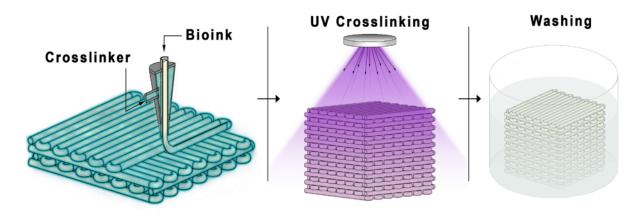
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Dual cross-linking bioprinting

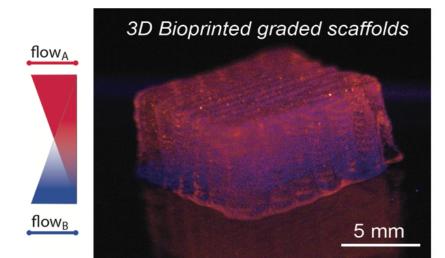




Microfluidic extrusion-based strategies

Microfluidic Bioink 2 Bioink 1 Crosslinking solution (CaCl₂)

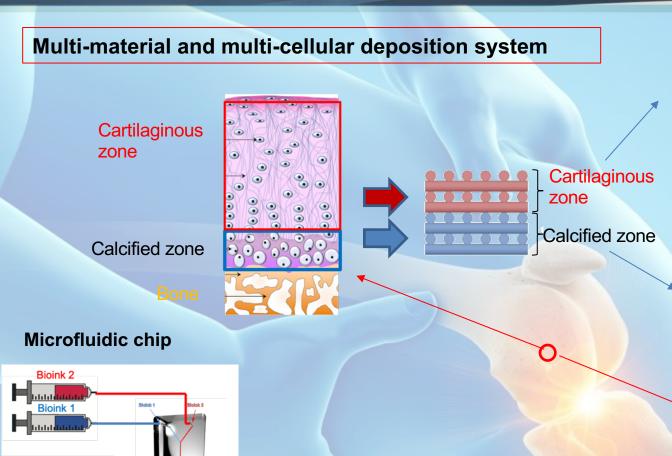




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3D bioprinting of hydrogel constructs for zonal cartilage regeneration

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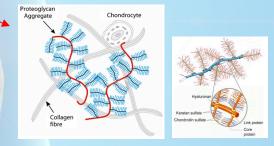


Bioink 2:

ALG: 4% w/w GeIMA: 6% w/w CS-AEMA: 4% w/w hAC: 2,5·10⁶ cells/mL hBM-MSCs: 7,5·10⁶ cells/mL

Bioink 1:

ALG: 4% w/w GeIMA: 6% w/w CS-AEMA: 4% w/w HA-MA: 0.5% w/w TCP NPs: 0.5% w/w hBM-MSCs: 10⁷ cells/mL



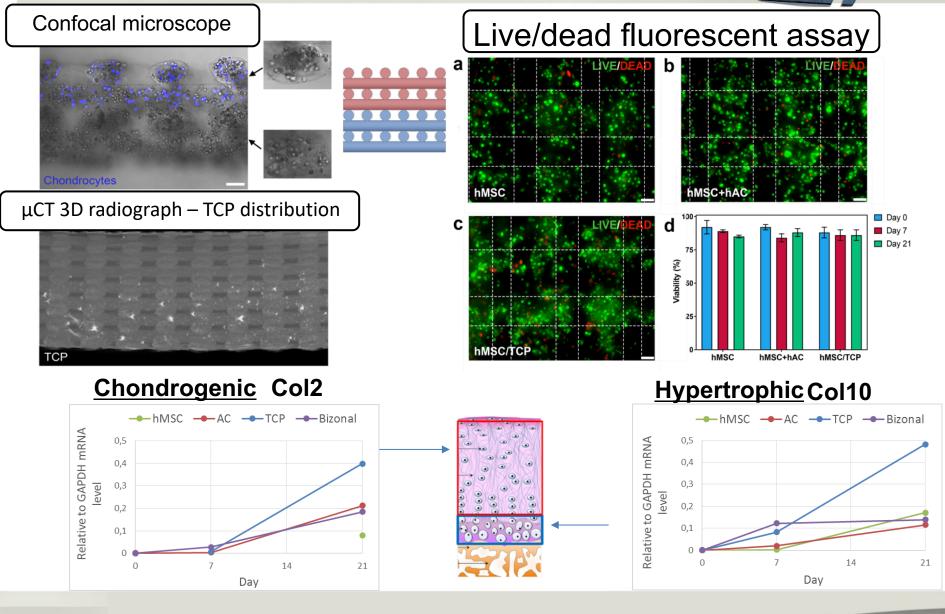
100 million people worldwide suffer from osteoarthritis

Idaszek J, et al. Biofabrication 2019

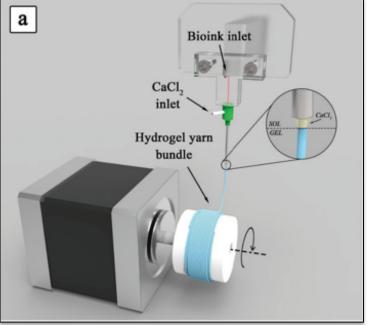
Crosslinking solution

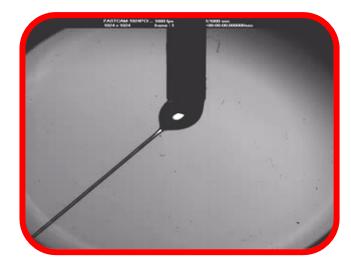
Bioprinting od 3D bizonal articular cartilage

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Co-axial wet-spinning biofabrication





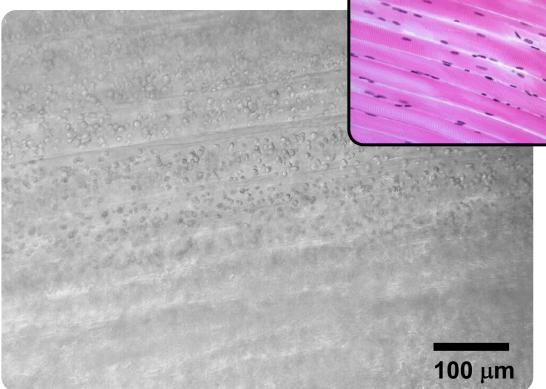
- \checkmark The first crosslinking of the yarns during the spinning process
- ✓ Hydrogel fibers were then collected onto a rotating drum with 30 rpm motor speed, in order to obtain aligned fibrous structures
- \checkmark A second crosslinking was performed by exposing the yarns to UV light for 30 s

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Highly aligned bio-fibers





Highly aligned and compact fibers!

Fiber diameter down to 100 μm!!

 Highly aligned yarns recapitulate the structure and morphology of the muscle or tendon, mimicking the native tissue architecture Skeletal muscles are characterized by a precise and **hierarchical structure** that allows them to exert their main function: **<u>contraction</u>**.

This structure is composed of **unidirectionally aligned myotubes** surrounded by connective tissue, capillaries and nerves.



So far, several approaches have been developed, however **a functional model of skeletal muscle is still missing!**



3D bioprinting represents a suitable technology to engineer successfully artificial skeletal muscle!!

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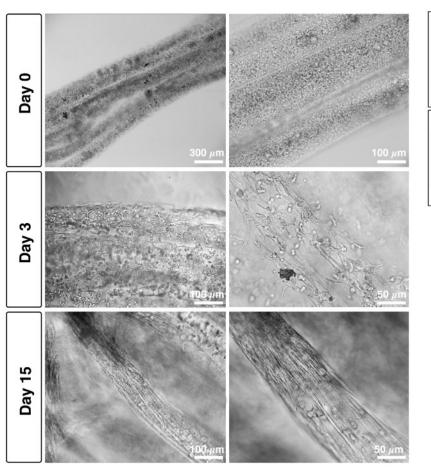
33 millions musculoskeletal injuries per year in United States alone !!!

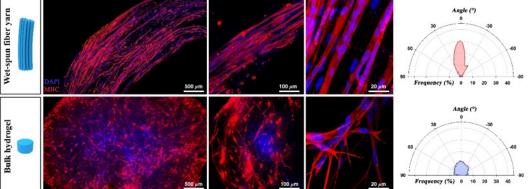
Engineering muscle tissue

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Cells: Skeletal muscle progenitors (murine mesoangioblasts) 2×10^7 cells/mL in hydrogel fibers

In vitro Mabs differentiation. MHC staining (red)





Cells rapidly started to elongate and fuse forming **highly aligned**, **long-range multinucleated myotubes**.

Day 15 revealing the progressive **formation of myofibers** and an outstanding **sarcomeric organization**.

Costantini et al., EMBO molecular medicine, just accepted, doi: 10.15252/emmm.202012778

Muscle model contraction

Tendon injury, treatment and challenges

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o <u>Tendon injury</u>

 ✓ Major tendon injuries are caused by physical activity (sport or professional activities), traumatic events or aging, degenerative process

✓ The decreasing of musculoskeletal functions reduces people activity and quality of life

✓ Affects an estimated number of 100 million people worldwide annually

✓ 500,000 annual reconstructive surgeries of tendons in the US (more than 100 billion USD)

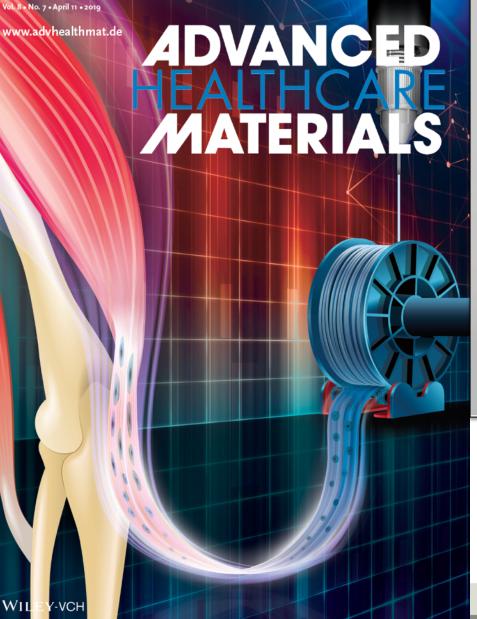
<u>Challenges</u>

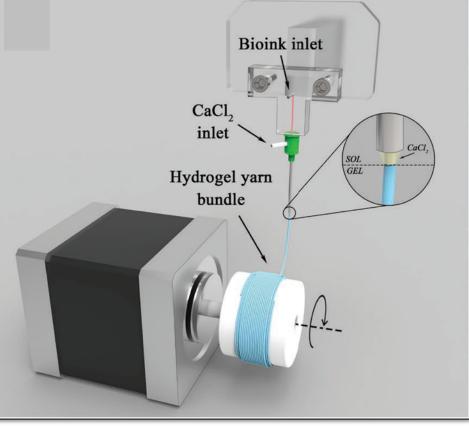
✓ Due to its hypovascularity and hypocellularity, tendon has a weak intrinsic healing ability

 ✓ Inability of the repaired tissue to regenerate the total functions of native tendon

Co-axial wet-spinning biofabrication for tendon TE

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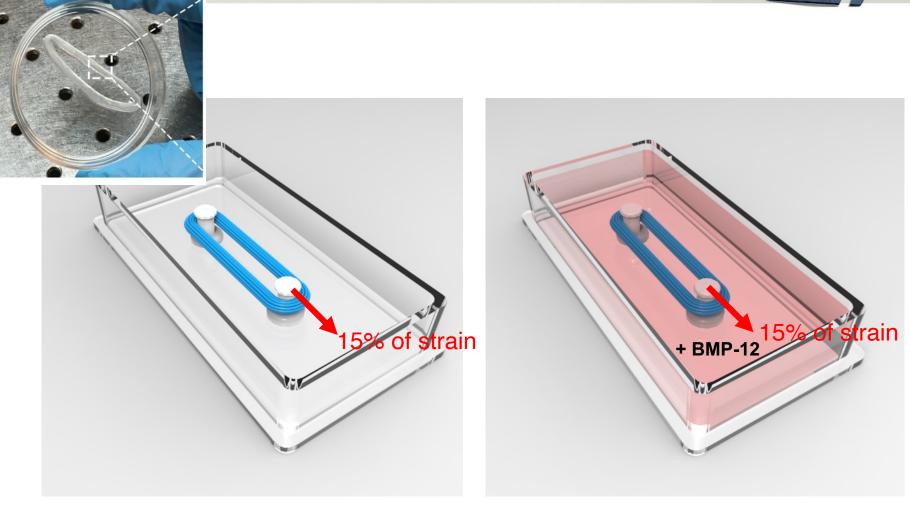


- ✓ Co-axial wet-spinning biofabrication
- ✓ The bioink was prepared by dissolving lyophilized GelMA 5% (w/v) and Alginate 4% (w/v) in HEPES containing 0.1% (w/v) of Irgacure 2959 as photoinitiator + hBM-MSCs

Rinoldi C. et al. AHM, 2019,8 (7), 1970025

Tissue construct stimulation

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Mechanical stretching (MS)

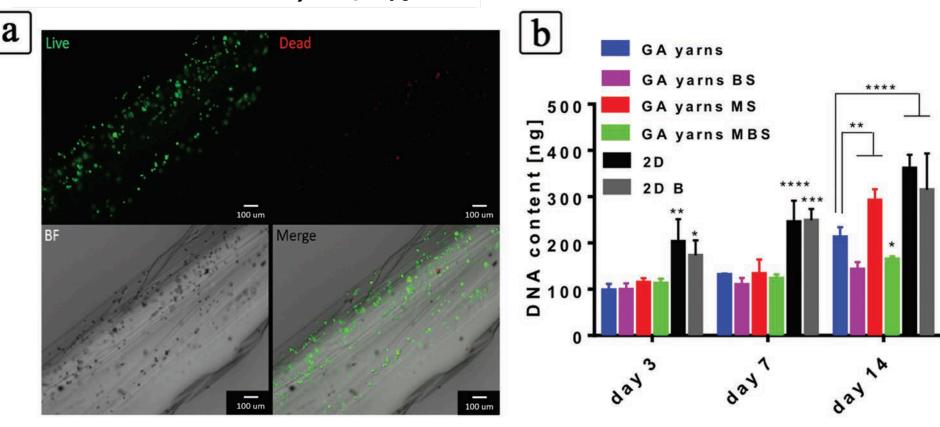
Mechanical stretching + Biochemical stimulation (MBS)

Rinoldi C. et al. AHM, 2019,8 (7), 1970025

Biological response

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Cell viability >94%



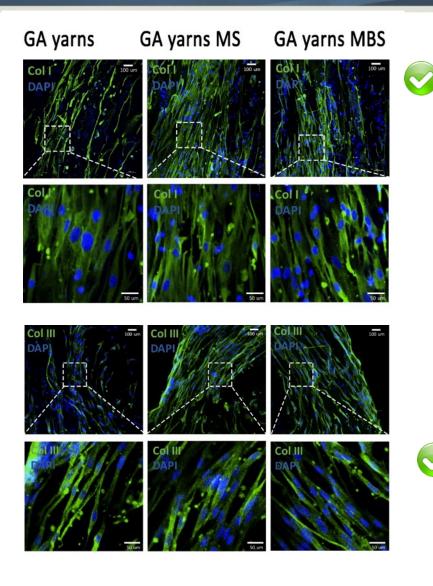
hBM-MSC viability, live/dead staining, performed 24 hours after fabrication process

Rinoldi C. et al. AHM, 2019,8 (7), 1970025

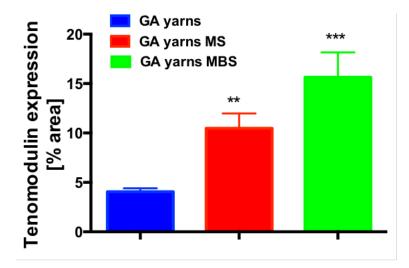
- Mechano-transduction promotes cell growth
- BMP-12 led to a proliferation detriment

ECM proteins expression

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Aligned orientation and deposition of collagen type I and III leading to the formation of oriented matrix, which can mimic the native tendon ECM architecture



Combination of mechanical and biochemical stimuli induces a synergistic effect on key tenogenic gene expression, leading to a more effective tenogenic differentiation of hBM-MSCs compared to non-stimulated condition.

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Properly designed bio-ink and 3D biofabrication method are crucial for development of tissue engineered constructs and products

- SD microextrusion-based bioprinting allow for highresolution 3D biofabrication (<100 um) to reproduce natural tissue structures.
- Section 3.1 Sec

Acknowledgements

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