

**EPSRC**

Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council

# Materials: the more the merrier!

*Centre for Additive Manufacturing  
University of Nottingham*



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



University of  
**Reading**



  
Malvern



syngenta



“you can print anything”





**WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?**

**Phill, we asked a 100 companies what was holding AM back ...**



**Tim, are materials on there?**

**The UK National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing revealed that lack of materials was the #1 concern for adoption of AM/3DP**

<http://www.amnationalstrategy.uk/>



So let's find some materials ...

**ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY**

**FIND MATERIALS AND EXPECT  
THEM TO WORK FOR 3D PRINTING**

# An example formulation problem

- Find materials that enable ink jet printing of a highly soluble drug compound
- Demonstrate that drug can elute
- Demonstrate that elution can be undertaken in GI transit times



Ropinirole HCl (Requip™)

For treatment of Parkinson's

Highly soluble in water



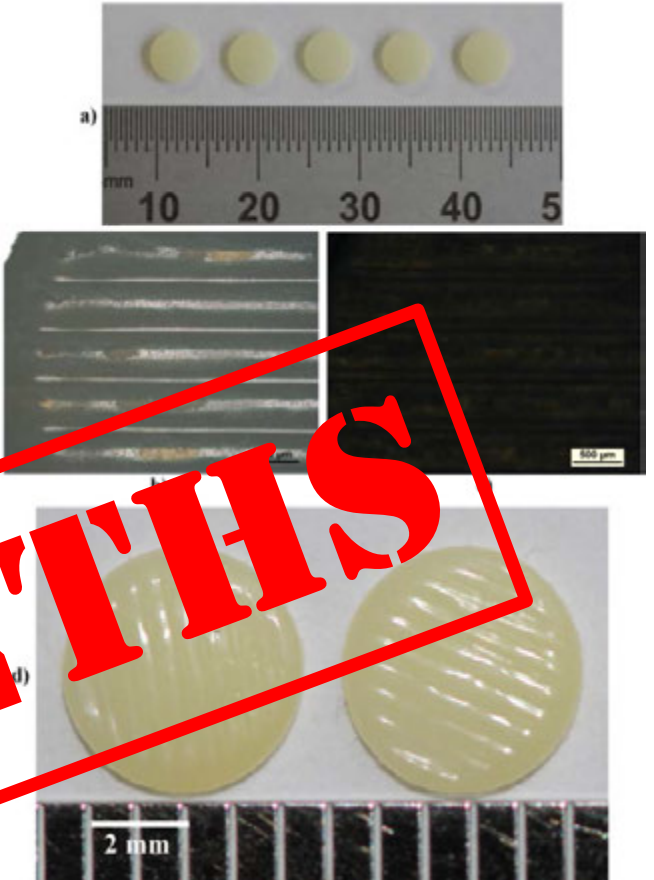
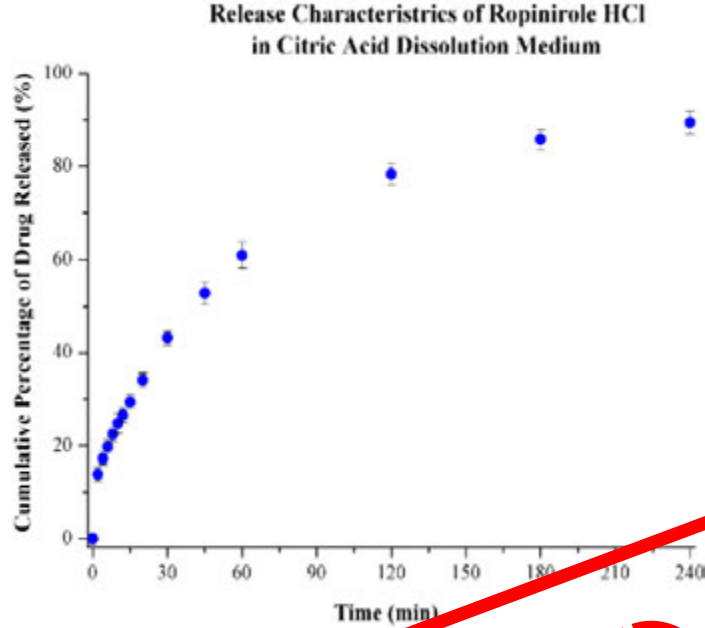
Clark et al. '3D Printing of Tablets using Inkjet with UV photoinitiation'  
International Journal of Pharmaceutics, 529 2017 523-530

# UV curable materials for solid dosage forms

Material	wt %
PEGDA	30
Irgacure 2959	0.5
ropinirole	2
Water	67.5

Formulation:

- Printable
- API stable
- API elutes within prescribed limits



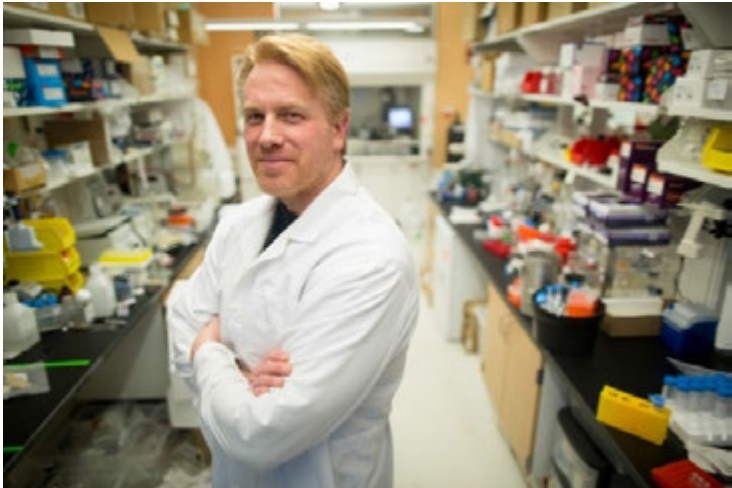
**12 MONTHS**

*but it took a long time to produce a single formulation that may not work for other APIs*



# Serendipity

who was inspired by this chap ...



Introduced to this guy ...

to work with Paul Williams  
to fight microbial resistance

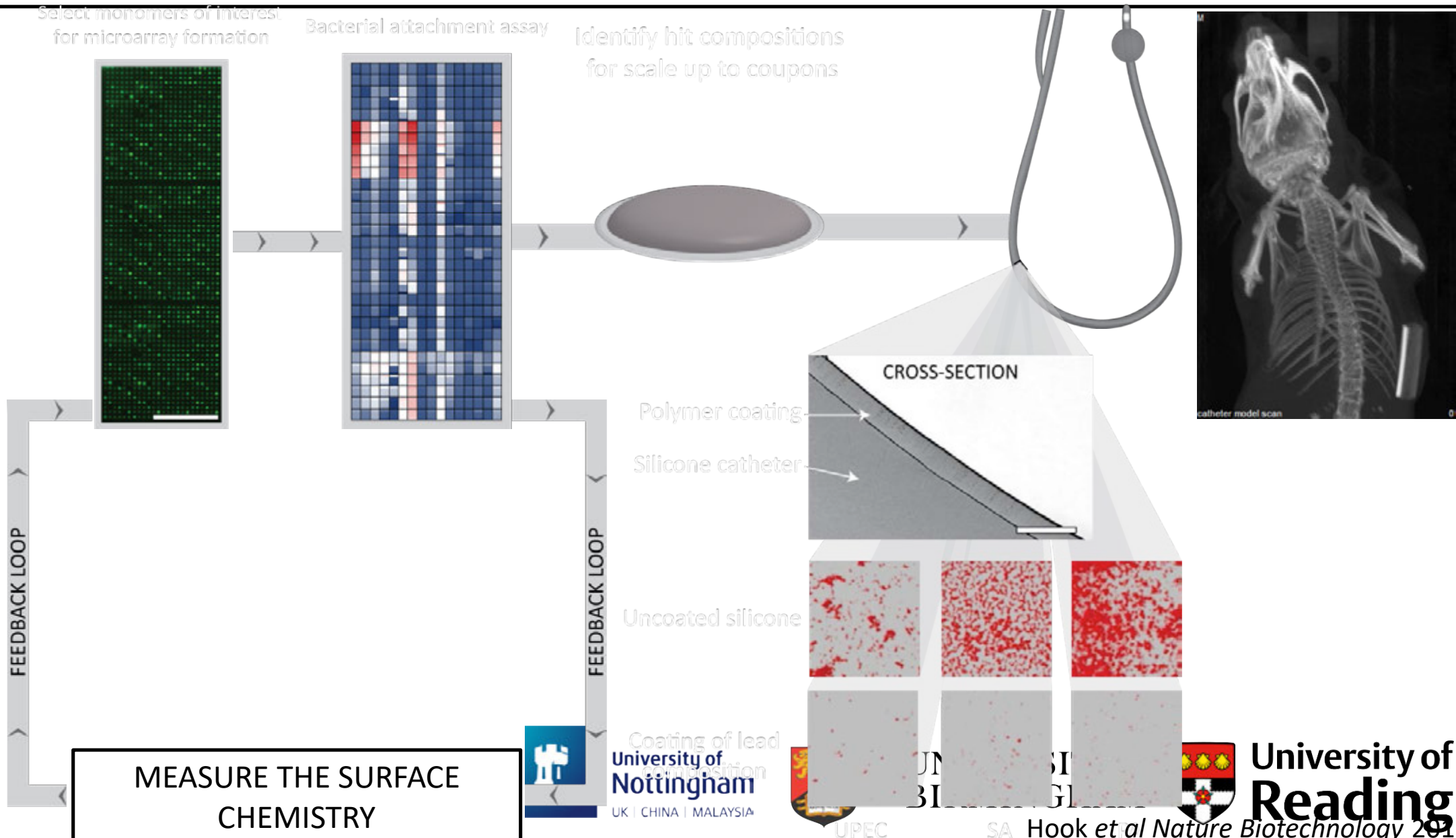


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# BACKGROUND: High Throughput Materials Discovery of weakly amphiphilic acrylate polymers

Developing optimal biomedical device



# Product Development to CE mark achieved Q4 2017

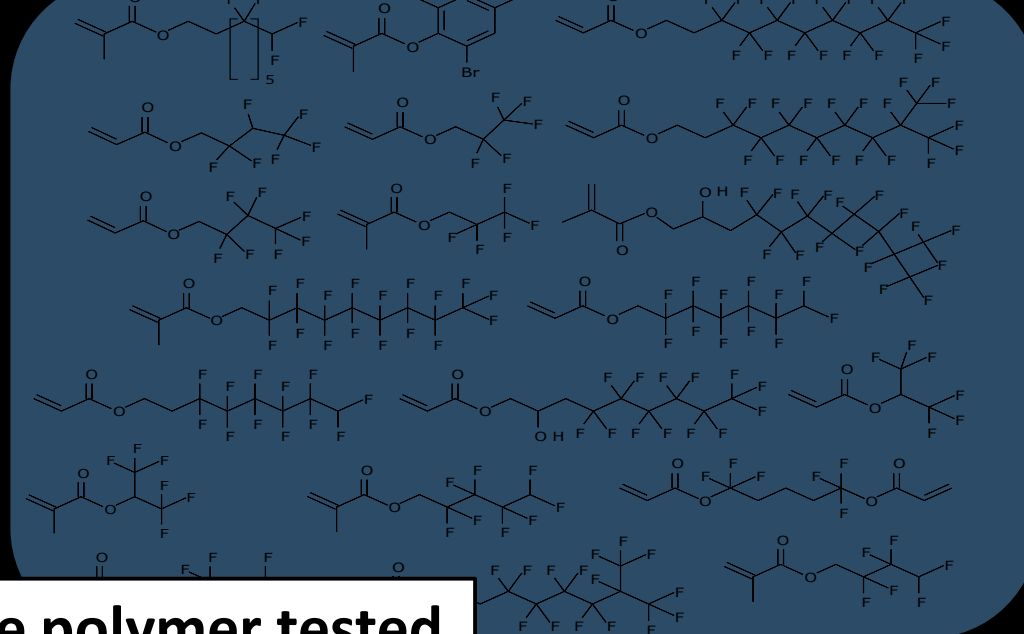
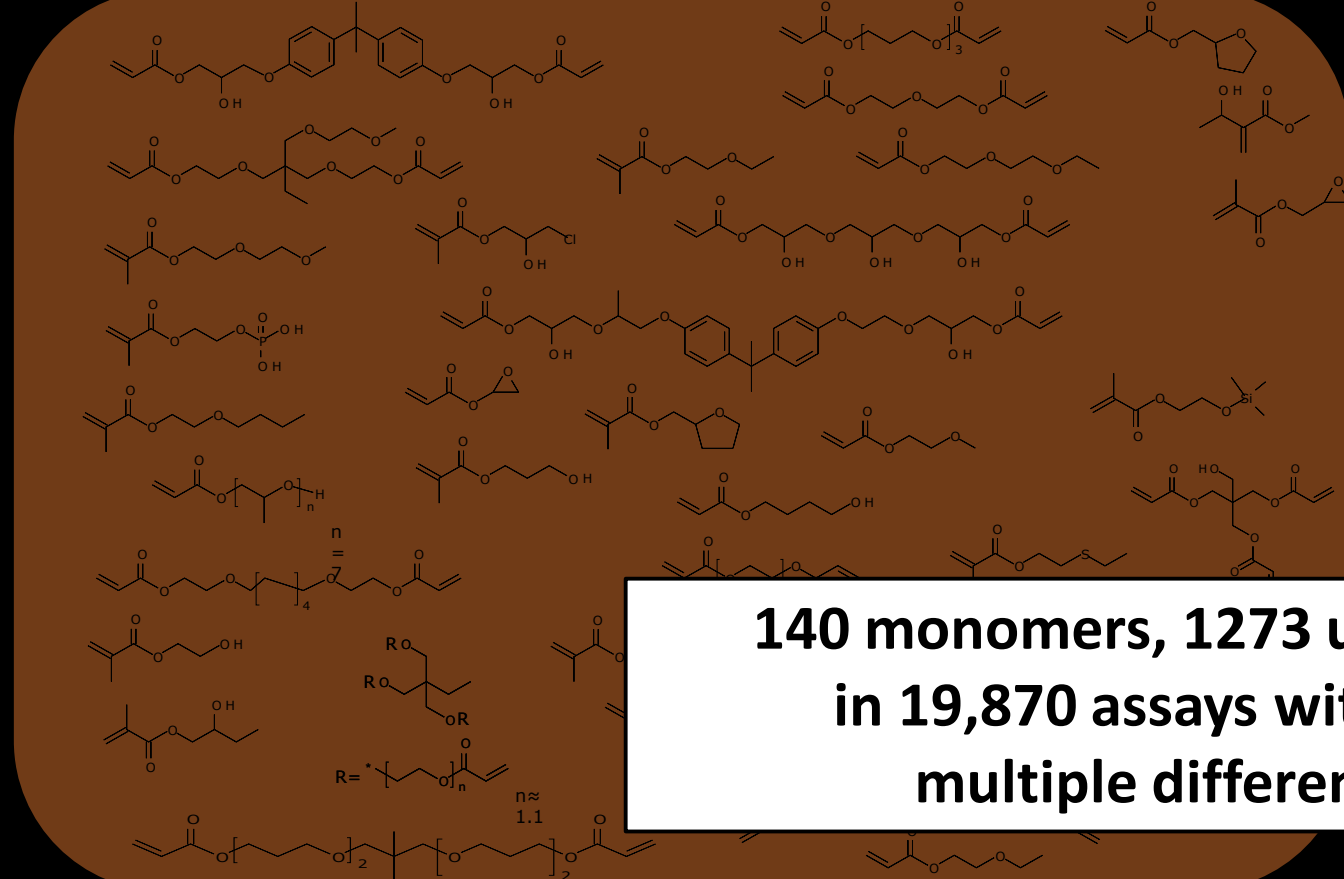
In collaboration with UK SME Camstent, CEO Dave Hampton



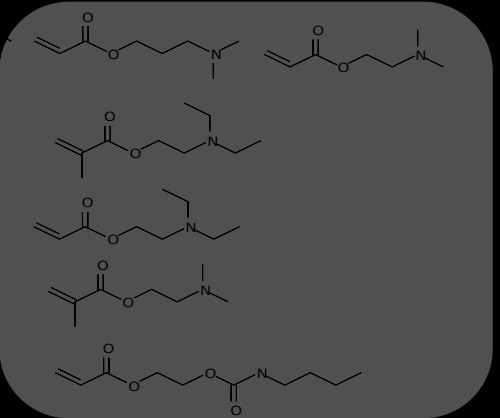
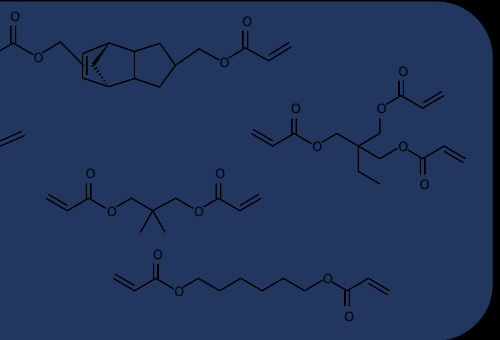
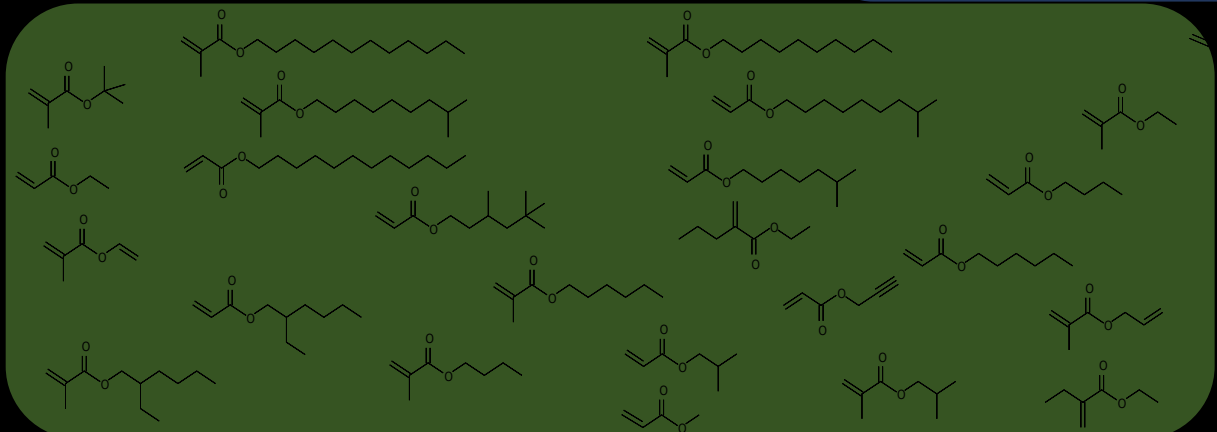
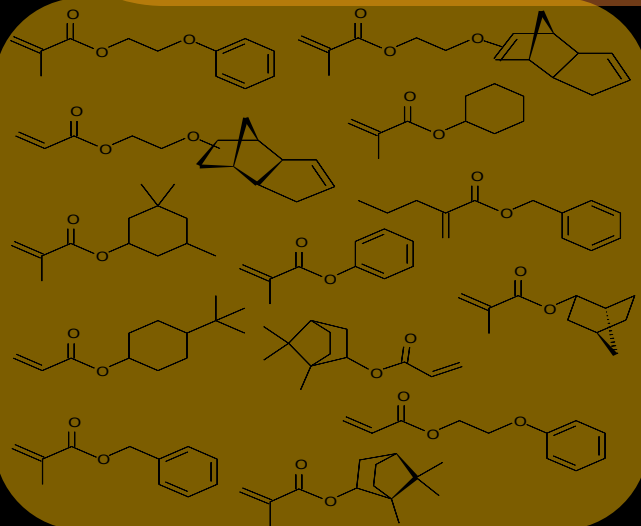
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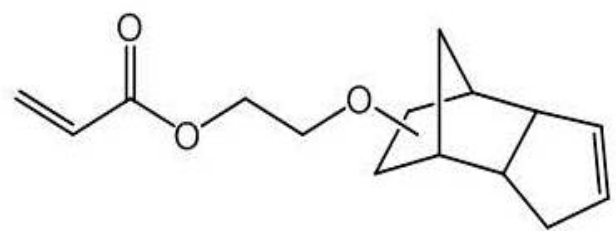
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**140 monomers, 1273 unique polymer tested  
in 19,870 assays with 4 pathogens and  
multiple different environments**

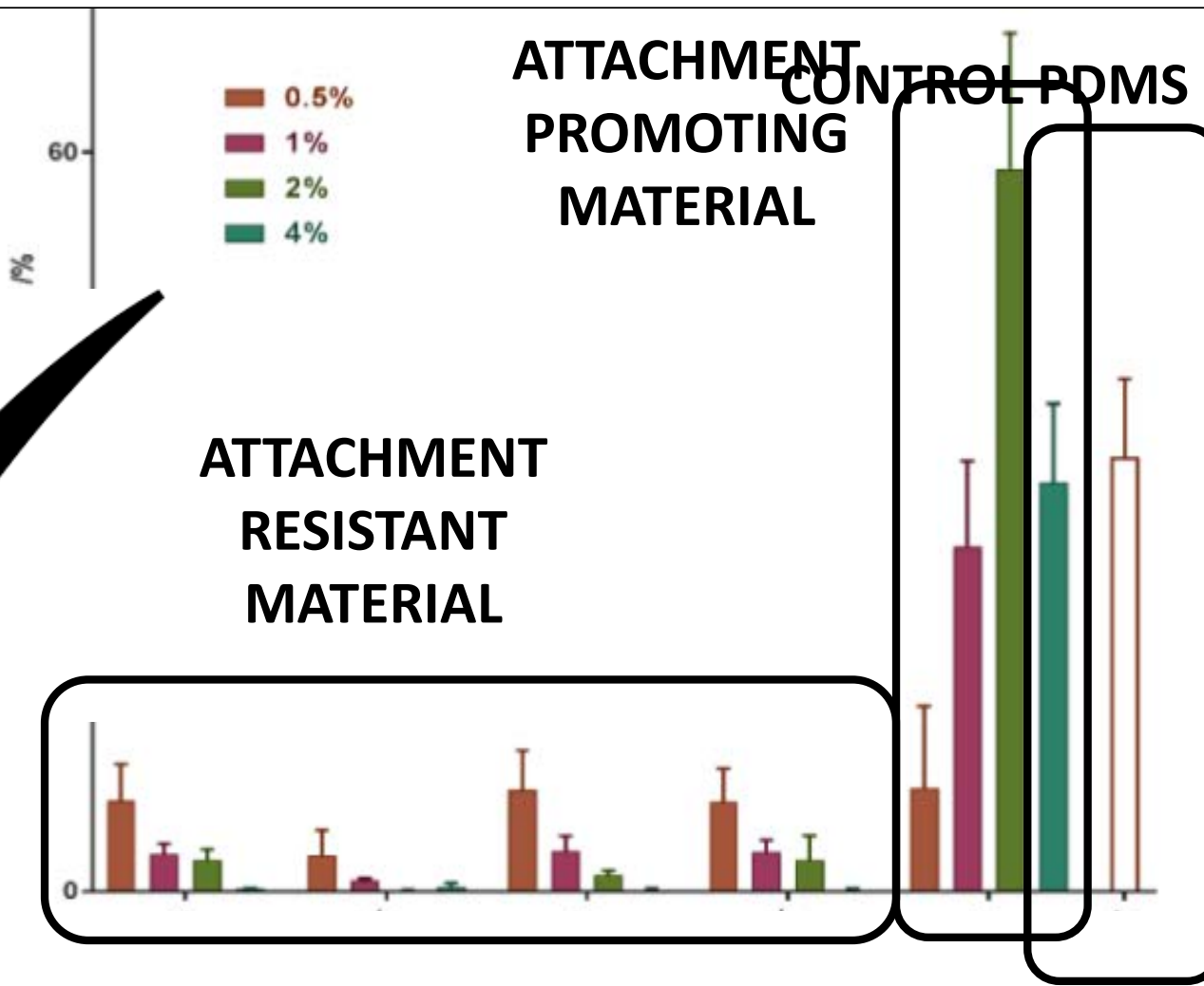


# Borrowing materials shown to have microbial resistance



**Scaled up material  
RETAIN  
functionality**

Tricyclo[5.2.1.0.2,6]  
decanedimethanol diacrylate



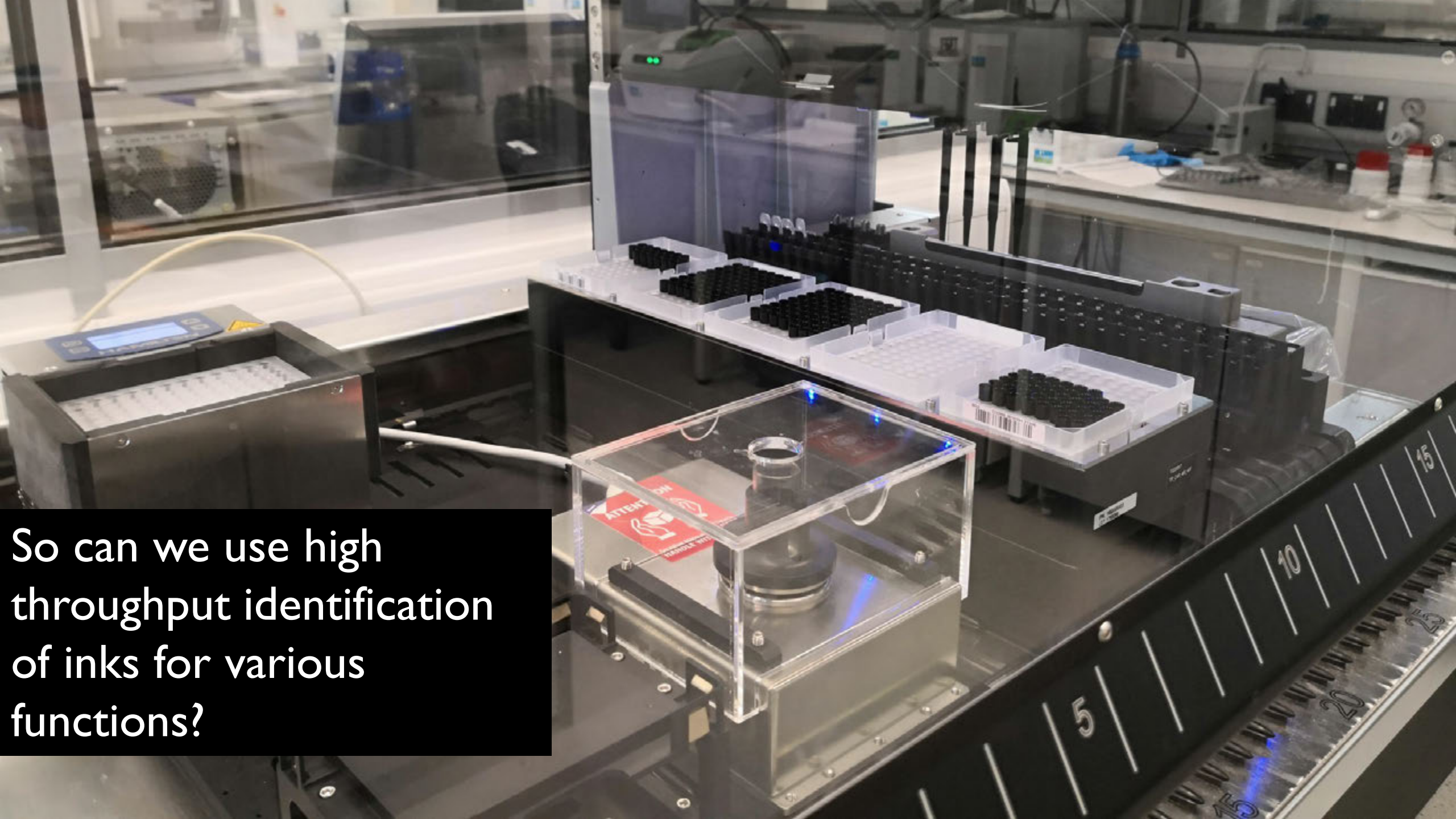
Begines et al 'Development, printability and post-curing studies of formulations of materials resistant to microbial attachment for use in inkjet based 3D printing', Rapid Prototyping Journal, 22, 2016 835-841



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So can we use high throughput identification of inks for various functions?



# Formulation for 3D printing: Creating a plug and play platform for a disruptive UK industry

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- EPSRC – £3.53M grant, 4 Years, started 1 Oct 2016
- Project partners:

- Academic partners



- Industrial partners



# The vision

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Vision: We will remove the barriers to the uptake of 3D printing through the adoption of high throughput formulation, establishing sector specific material libraries and creating a “plug and play” approach to materials selection, thereby securing the UK at the forefront of the 3D printing revolution



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# The solution

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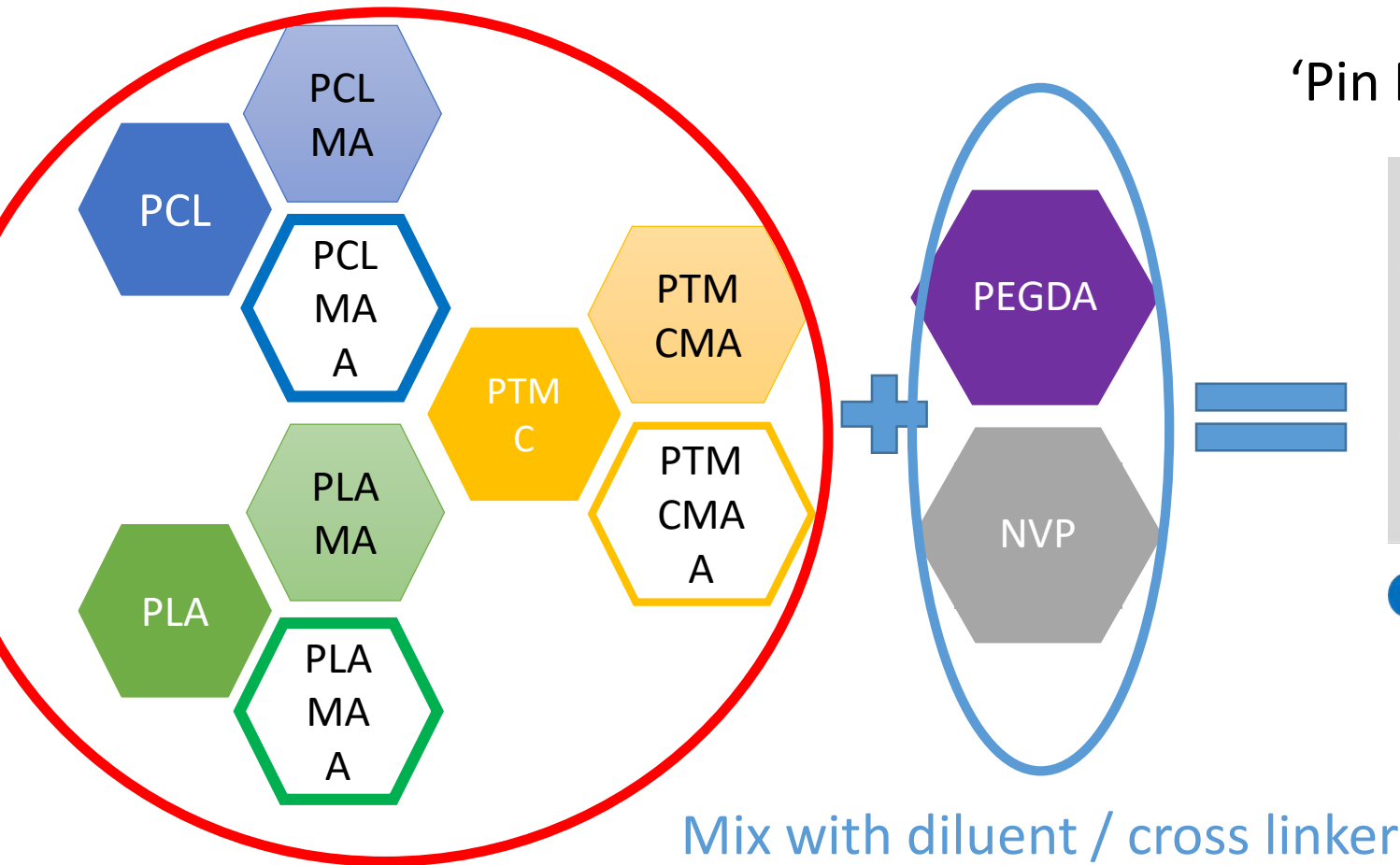
**Our experience shows it can take up to 6 months to identify a single formulation for a given function – very intensive**

- We can synthesis new materials that are amenable for 3D Printing and retain desired functionality
- We can use high throughput methods can help us narrow down the possible options – allow us to rapidly identify candidate materials
- Demonstrate how these materials can be use to create structure and texture via 3D printing
- Can obtain a library of available formulations and their properties can be shared for all

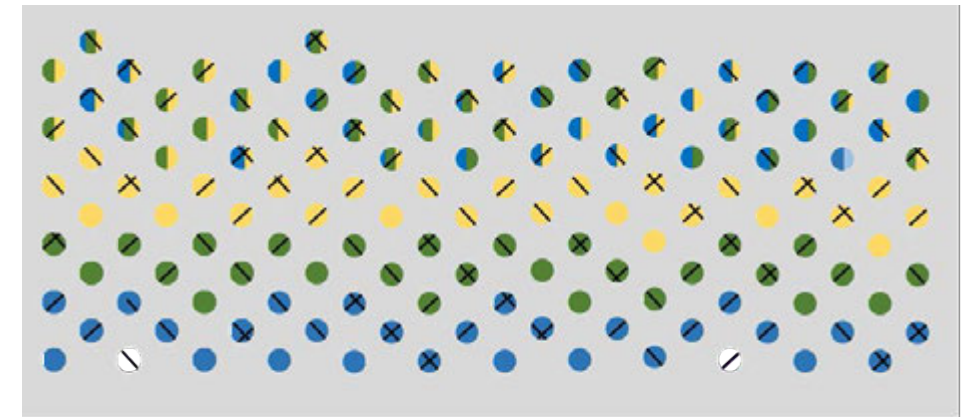
Materials permutations

# Finding new, printable resins and blends

Synthesize base, resorbable, UV curable material



'Pin Print' array of combinations of materials



● PCL ● PLA ● PTMC / PEGDA \ NVP

Synthesis of Methacrylate-Terminated Block Copolymers with Reduced Transesterification by Controlled Ring-Opening Polymerization

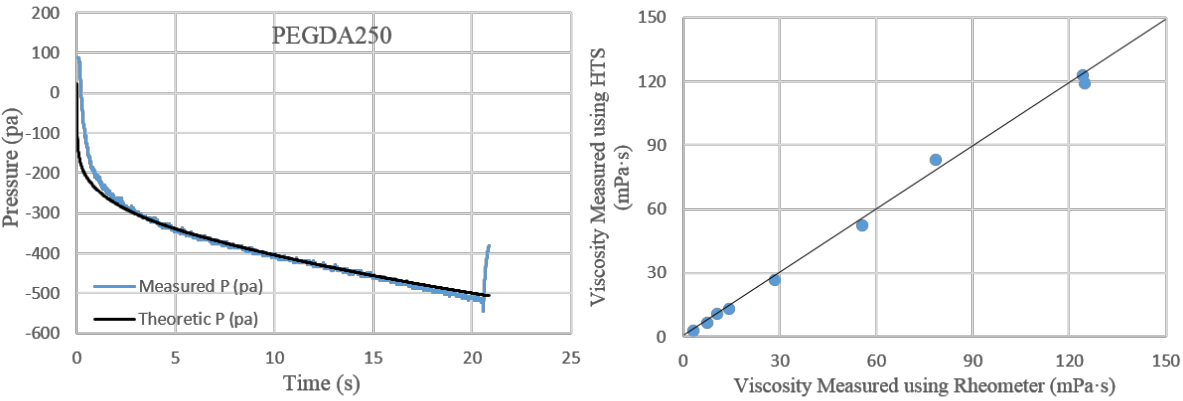
Laura A. Ruiz-Cantu et al. *Macromol. Chem. Phys.* 2019, 220, 1800459

Mix with diluent / cross linker

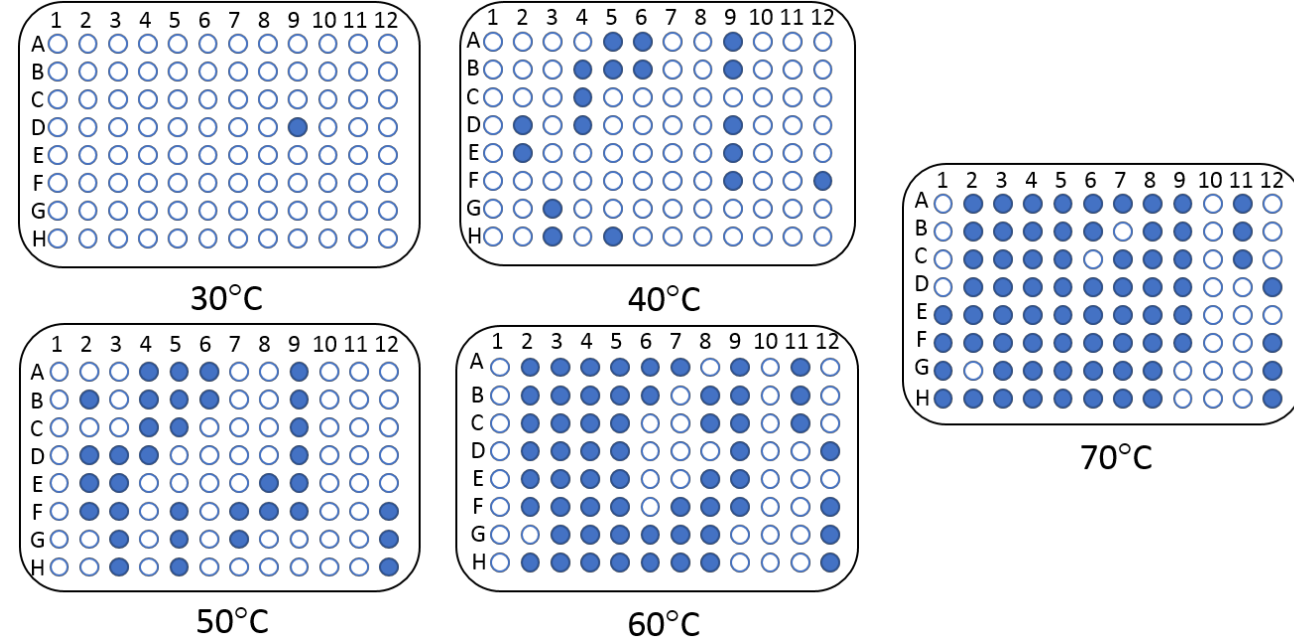
So, how to find out if any of these are printable?



# High-throughput Inkjet Printability Determination



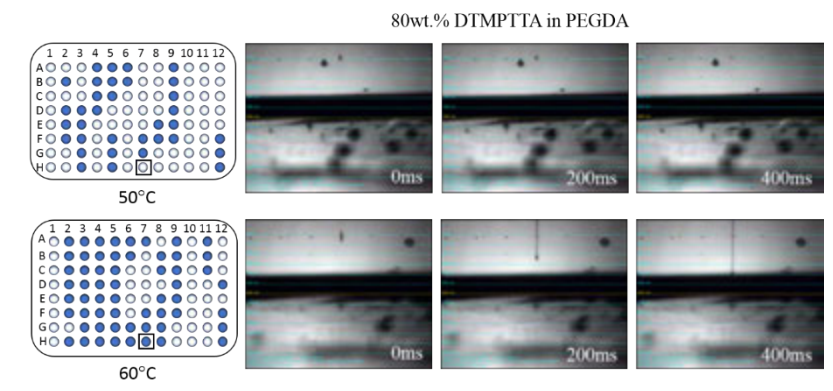
Viscosity (mPa·s) @ 25°C			
	Measured using Rheometer	Measured using HTS	Difference
PEGDA250	10.52	10.87	3.33%
TCDDDA	124.08	122.82	1.02%
S3	3.26	2.85	12.58%
S6	7.37	6.76	8.28%
N10	14.26	13.24	7.15%
S20	28.39	26.59	6.34%
N35	55.70	52.21	6.27%
N75	124.80	119.13	4.54%



$$P_{gas} = \int_0^H \frac{8\mu Q}{\pi \left( \frac{R_t + R_{(t-0.01)}}{2} \right)^4} dH - \rho g(0.02 - H_t) - \frac{2\gamma \cos \theta}{R_t}$$

$$\gamma_{sample} = m_{sample} \frac{\gamma_{water}}{m_{water}}$$

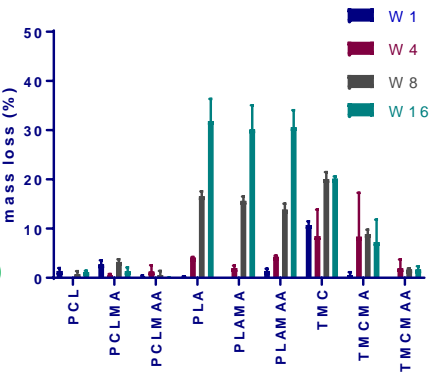
## Variation in printability with temperature



Validation of results: demonstration of printability

# Many materials = many characterisation!

In vitro biodegradation

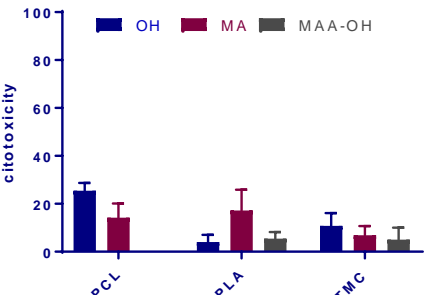


Printability

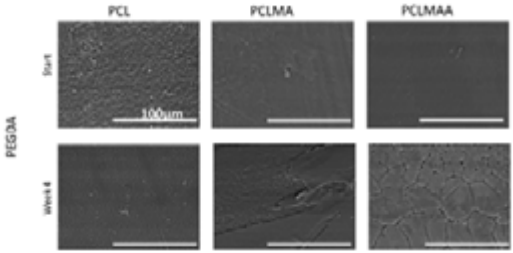


Drug release

Cytotoxicity



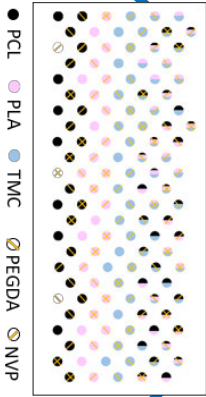
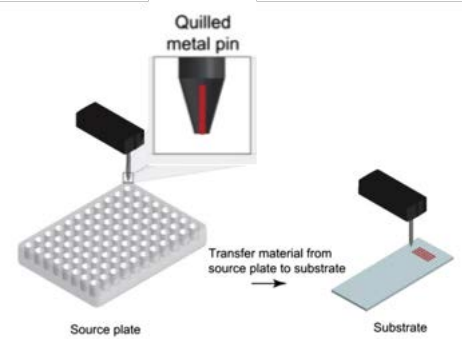
SEM



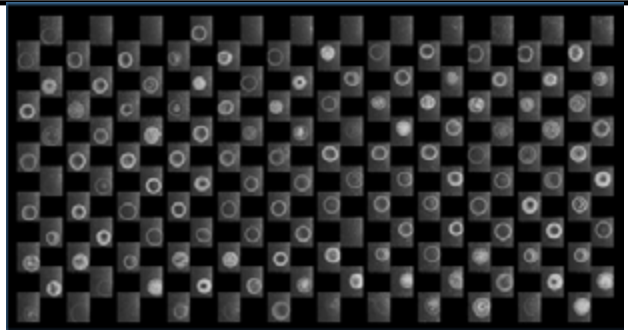
96 well plate format



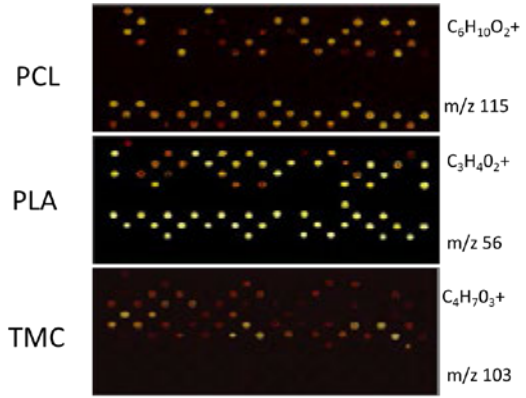
Micro array format



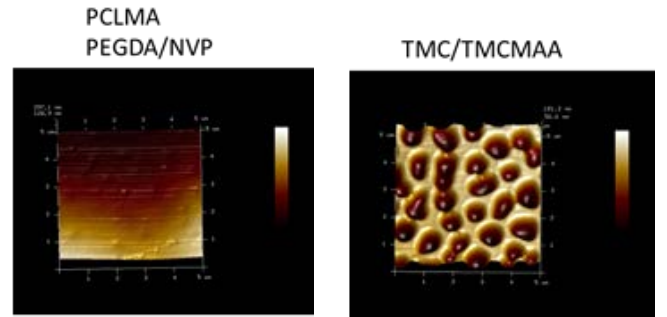
Microscopy



ToF SIMS

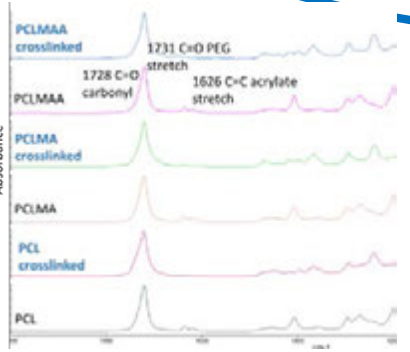


Surface topography



AFM

FTIR



# Printable materials

Material	Solvent	40 °C	50 °C	60 °C	70 °C
PCL	PEGDA	X	X	X	✓
PCL	NVP	✓	✓	✓	✓
PCLMA	PEGDA	X	✓	✓	✓
PCLMA	NVP	✓	✓	✓	✓
PCLMAA	PEGDA	X	X	X	X
PCLMAA	NVP	✓	✓	✓	✓
PLA	PEGDA	X	✓	✓	✓
PLA	NVP	✓	✓	✓	✓
PLAMA	PEGDA	X	✓	✓	✓
PLAMA	NVP	✓	✓	✓	✓
PLAMAA	PEGDA	X	X	X	X
PLAMAA	NVP	✓	✓	✓	✓
PTMC	PEGDA	X	✓	✓	✓
PTMC	NVP	✓	✓	✓	✓
PTMCMA	PEGDA	X	✓	✓	✓
PTMCMA	NVP	✓	X	X	X
PTMCMAA	PEGDA	X	✓	✓	✓
PTMCMAA	NVP	✓	✓	✓	✓

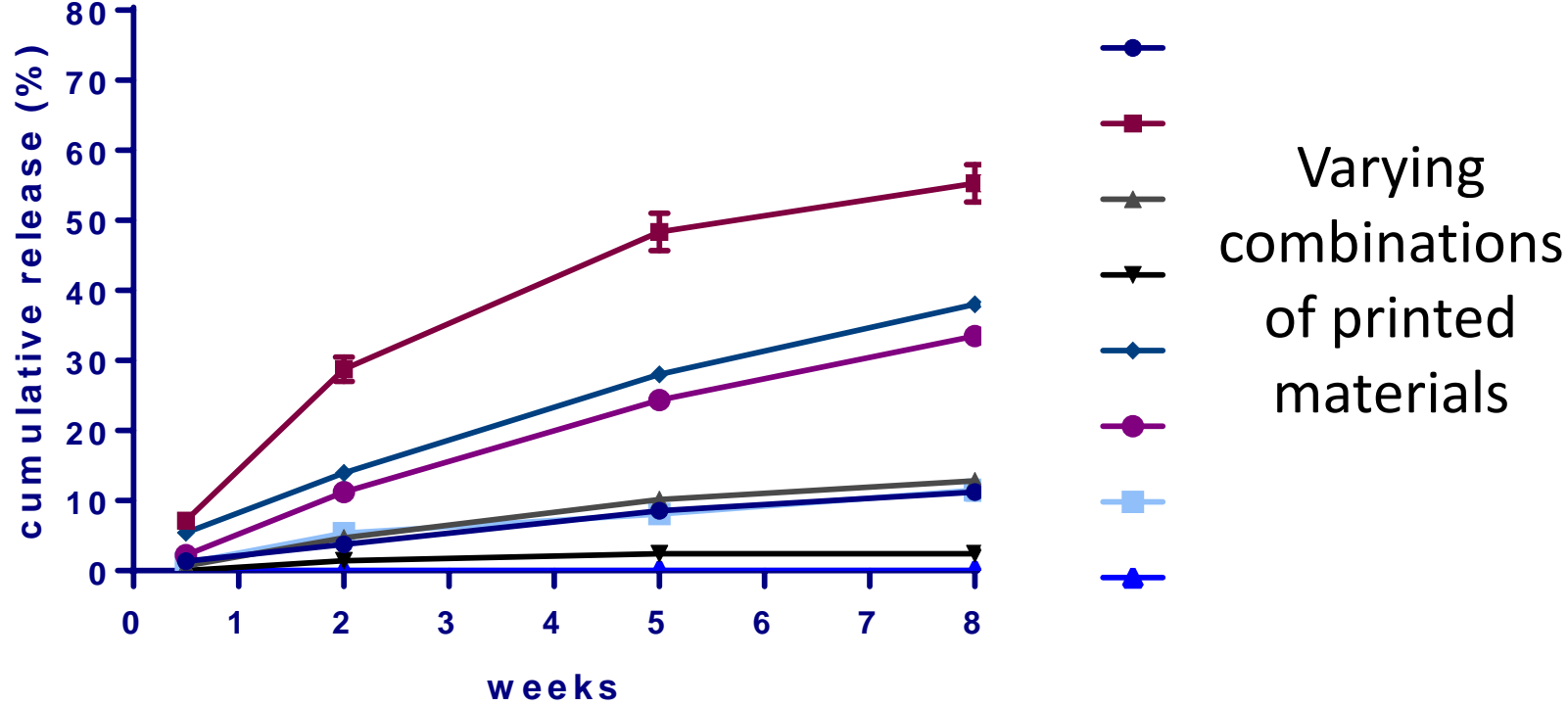
Poly - drug implants



Hypertension      Diabetes

# Drug release of API

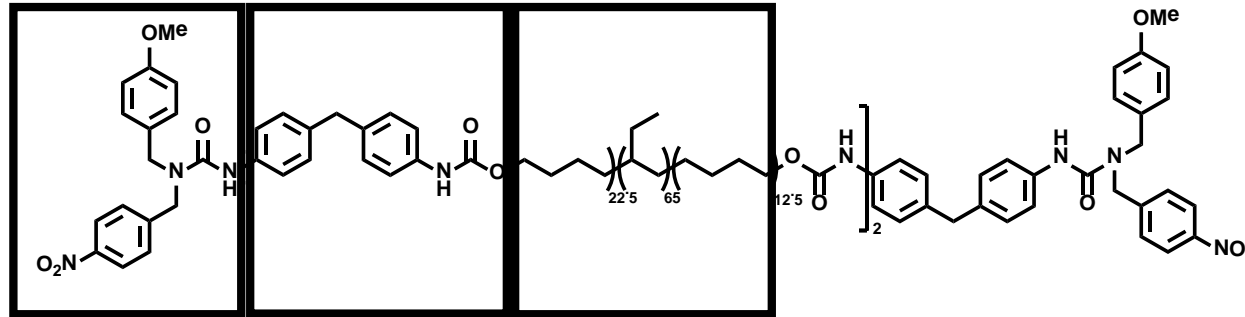
Different combinations lead to different release!



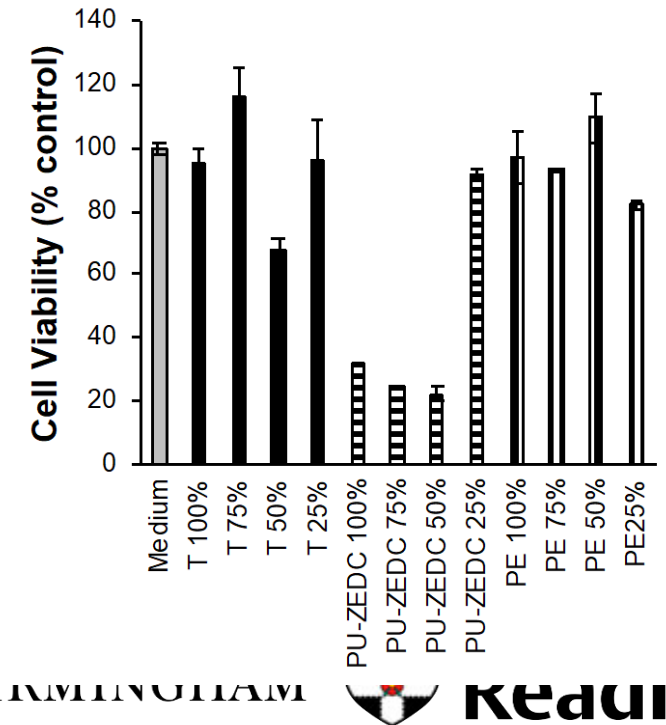
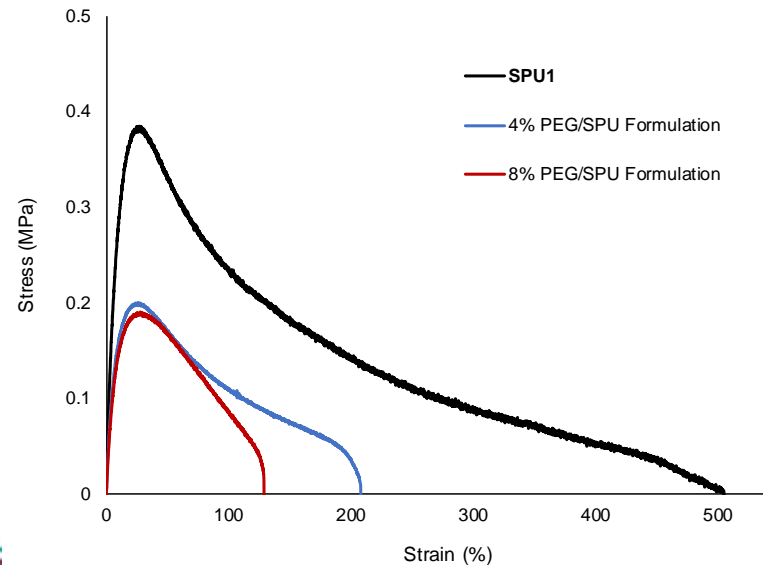
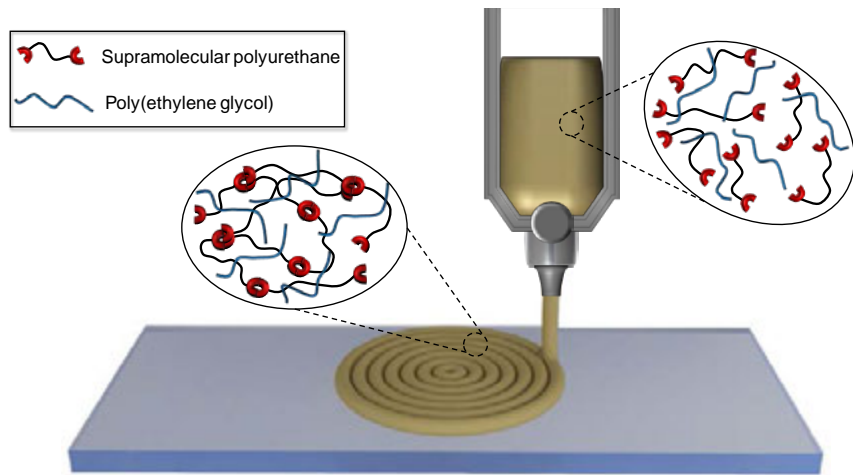


# Molecular permutations

# Finding new materials via molecular combinations

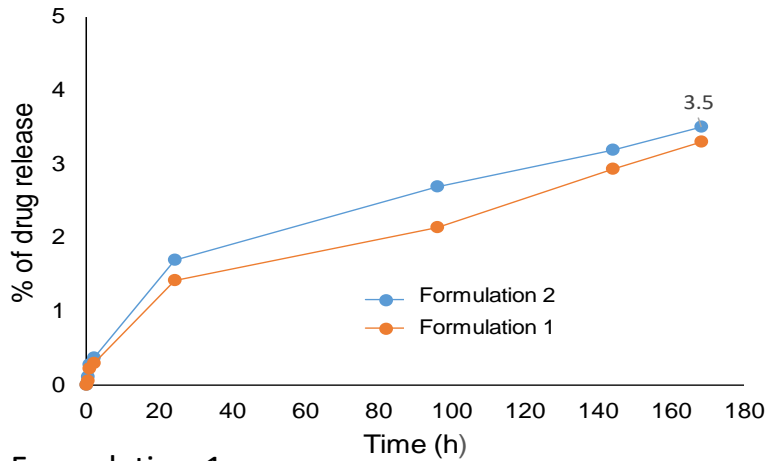


We can combine moieties to create supramolecular materials



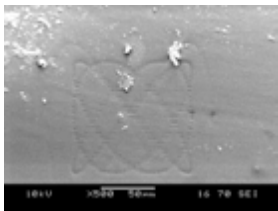
# Drug release – from immediate to sustained release

## IMPLANT

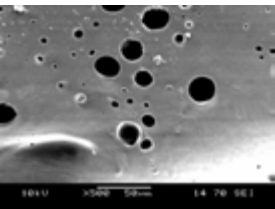
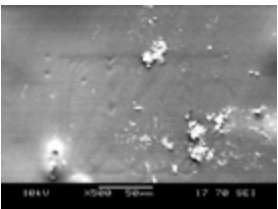
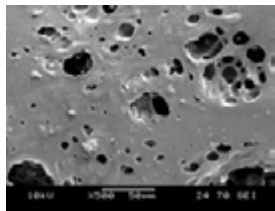


Formulation 1

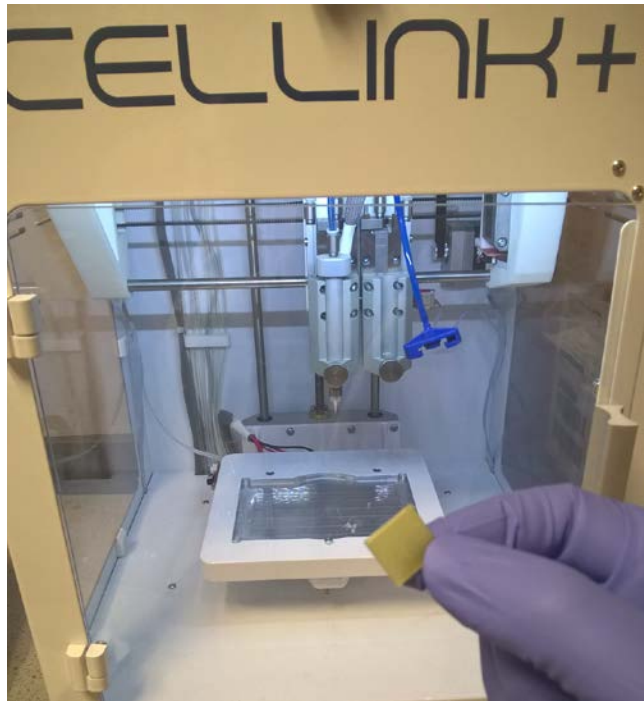
Before diss.



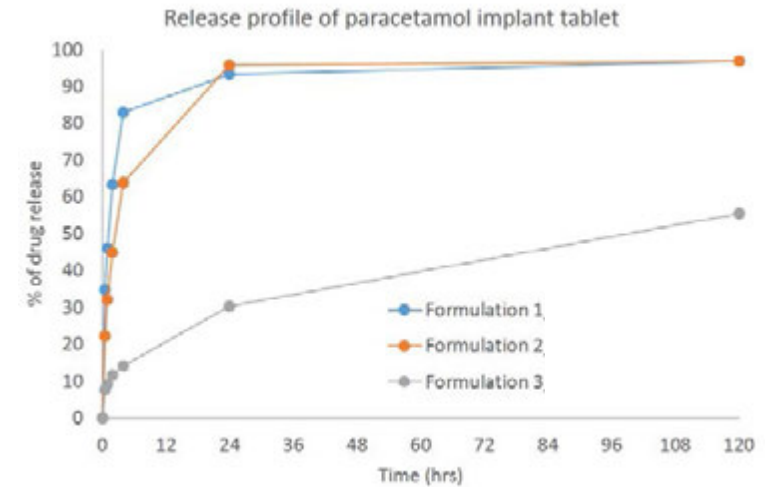
After diss. 7days



Formulation 2



## TABLET

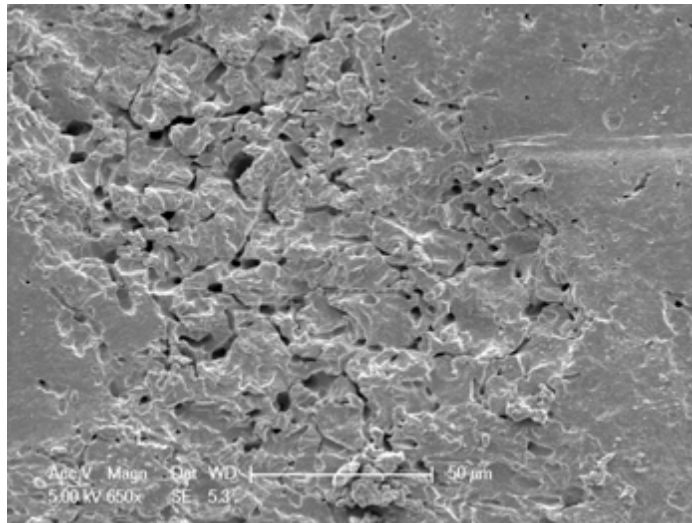


Microstructure permutations

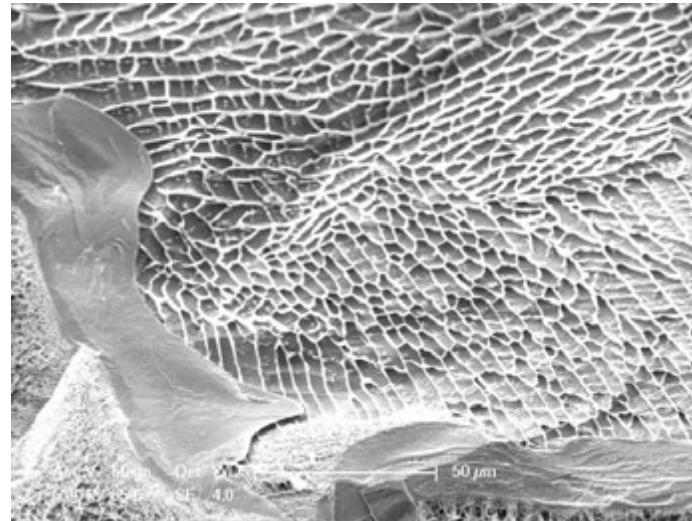
# Screening for complex microstructures

The act of printing can create complex structures

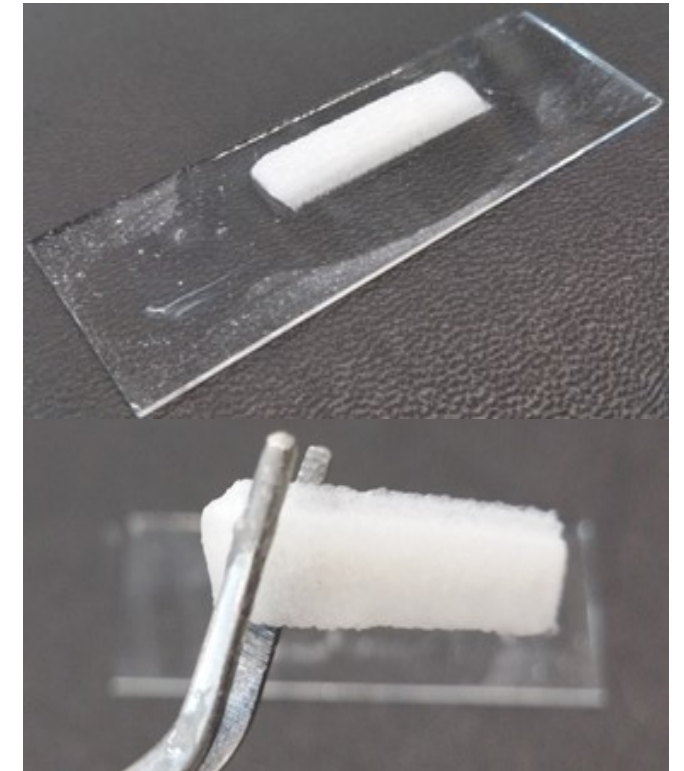
Cast



Printed

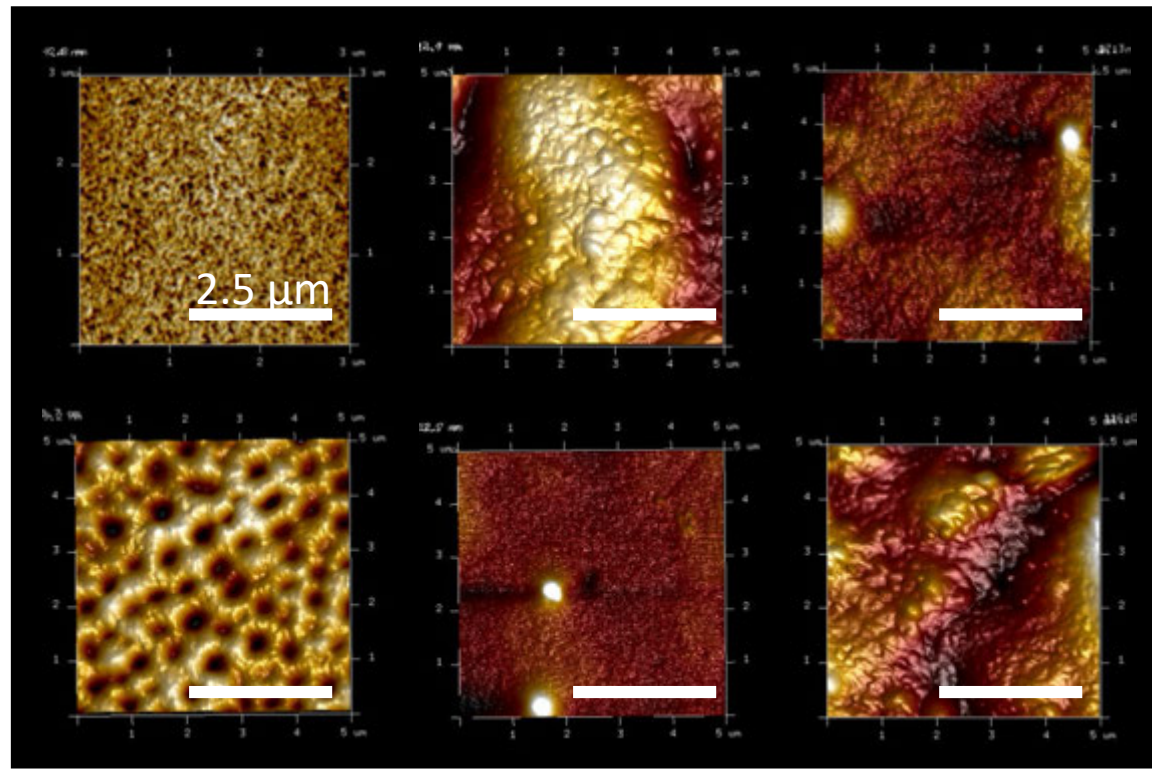
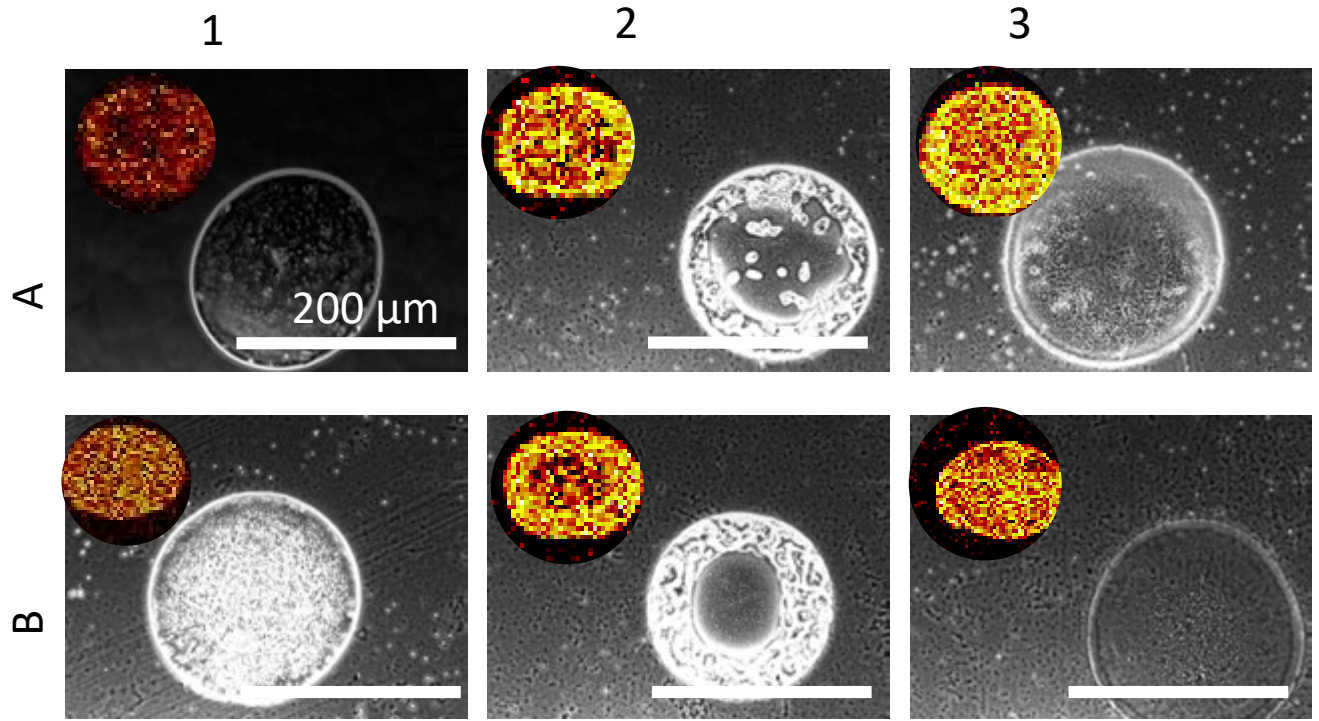


Chitosan in 1% acetic acid and sodium dodecyl sulphate in 0.1% xanthan in water.



# And even in single drops!

Can observe multifaceted phase separation to create complex tomo- and topographies



# Conclusions

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- Creation of new materials by combining monomers, oligomers and moieties to has lead to a new suite of 3D printable materials
- High throughput / automated methods can enable rapid identification of materials
- The act of 3D printing can lead to new and complex multiphase structures

# Project Team

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## Investigators

Ricky Wildman (UoN - PI and RC1 Lead)  
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Tom Mills (UoB - RC3 Lead)  
Wayne Hayes (UoR - RC4 Lead)  
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Morgan Alexander (UoN)  
Richard Hague (UoN)  
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Ian Ashcroft (UoN)  
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Ling Xin Yong (UoN)  
Yuyang Wu (UoN)  
Marica Malenica (UoN)  
Eva Kingwood (UoN)  
Andrea Alice Konta (UoN)  
Glenieliz- Glyssa Dizon (UoN)  
Sara Salimi (UoR)  
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Michael Kamlow (UoB)

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