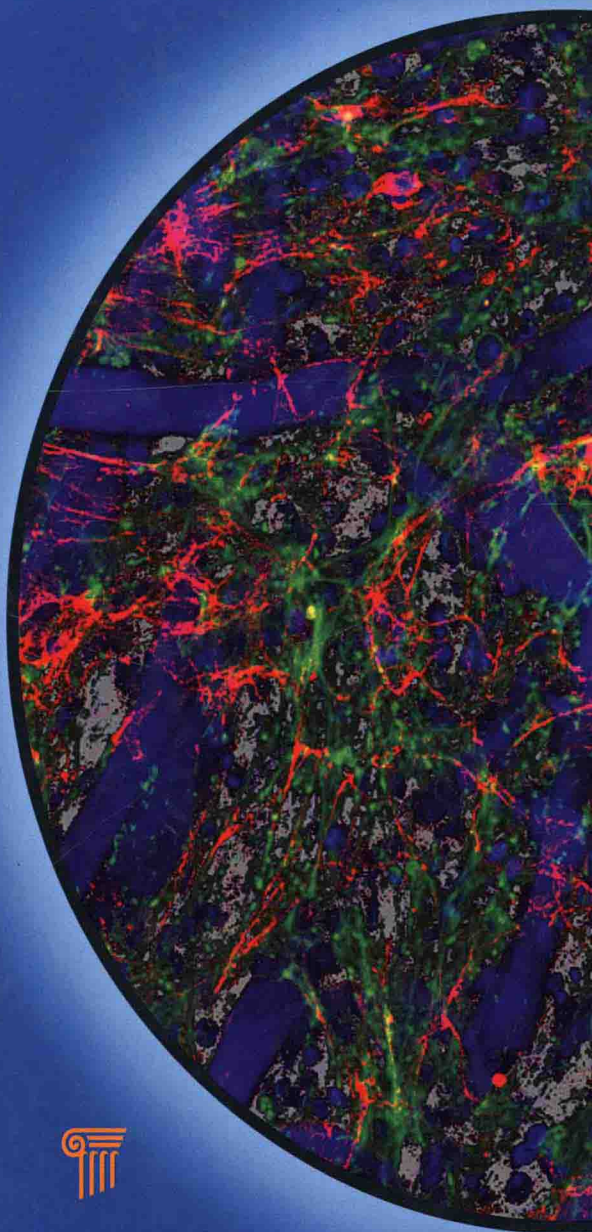


Scaffolds for Tissue Engineering

Biological Design, Materials, and Fabrication



edited by
Claudio Migliaresi
Antonella Motta



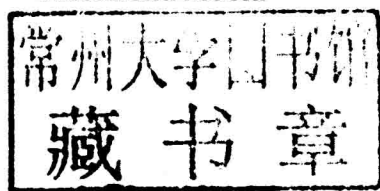
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PAN STANFORD  PUBLISHING

Published by

Pan Stanford Publishing Pte. Ltd.
Penthouse Level, Suntec Tower 3
8 Temasek Boulevard
Singapore 038988

Email: editorial@panstanford.com

Web: www.panstanford.com

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Scaffolds for Tissue Engineering: Biological Design, Materials, and Fabrication

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ISBN 978-981-4463-20-1 (Hardcover)

ISBN 978-981-4463-21-8 (eBook)

Printed in the USA

Scaffolds for Tissue Engineering



Preface

Three years ago, after a conference in Italy, we received an invitation by email from Stanford Chong, Pan Stanford Publishing, to submit a book project. It was to be focused on the functional applications of polymers (the theme of the conference), or another topic of our interest.

After some months of thought, we submitted our idea, which came after long discussions between us, sometimes involving our coworkers, our students, and also scientists who we were visiting then during our travels abroad.

We were well aware of the fact that there were many excellent books on the topic, and that others will have been published before this one. However, we imagined our book as the “negotiated” synthesis between the two different approaches of tissue engineering—that of the biologist (Antonella Motta) and of the engineer (Claudio Migliaresi)—which were much more different at that time, than now.

Our common assumption was that a scaffold should be designed, in terms of materials, architecture, properties, to accomplish not only mechanical but biological requirements, and our book should properly highlight this aspect, in both title and content. This is how the title of the book, *Scaffolds for Tissue Engineering: Biological Design, Materials, and Fabrication*, came into being.

Often scaffolds are made by a random combination of materials, with architecture and properties that evoke unrealistic biological behaviors, ignoring the fact that a scaffold is an *active device* that interacts with cells *in vitro* and with the complex biological system *in vivo*. The chapters of this book, written by leading scientists in the field, many of them also good friends, reflect this idea. And upon reading the book, which we have done several times, we must state that the contributing authors have done a wonderful job.

We are grateful to them for having accepted our invitation and for the valuable time they have spent on the book. We are also grateful to Pan Stanford Publishing, which patiently forgave our delay

with respect to the scheduled times, and in particular to Stanford Chong and Shivani Sharma, who were prompt in offering help and assistance.

Claudio Migliaresi
Antonella Motta
Spring 2014

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	xvii
1. Overview: An Evolving State of the Art in Tissue Engineering	1
<i>Anthony T. DiBenedetto</i>	
2. The Functional Role of Extracellular Matrix	21
<i>Eleonora Carletti, Matteo Stoppato, Claudio Migliaresi, and Antonella Motta</i>	
2.1 Introduction	22
2.2 ECM Functions	24
2.2.1 Biochemical Properties	24
2.2.2 Physical Properties	25
2.2.3 Mechanical Transduction	27
2.3 ECM Main Components	29
2.3.1 Collagens: The Major Fibrous Component	29
2.3.1.1 Chemical composition: collagen types	30
2.3.2 Elastin: The Elastic Component	31
2.3.3 Fibronectin: A Binding Protein	33
2.4 ECM Assembling and Organization	34
2.4.1 ECM Organization Function Dependent: Some Examples	35
2.4.1.1 Aorta wall	35
2.4.1.2 Bone	37
2.4.1.3 Hyaline Cartilage	38
2.4.1.4 Fibrocartilage (the meniscus case)	39
2.4.1.5 Skeletal muscle	40
2.5 ECM Development and Remodeling	41
2.5.1 ECM in the Healing Process	42
2.5.1.1 Inflammation	42
2.5.2 A Lesson from Fetal Healing: Scarless Regeneration	43

3. The Premise of Tissue Engineering: Molecular Recognition	57
<i>Christopher J. Pateman and John W. Haycock</i>	
3.1 Introduction	58
3.2 Biomaterials: From Medical Devices to Tissue Scaffolds	59
3.2.1 Natural ECM materials	61
3.3 Physical Properties of Scaffolds that Influence Molecular Bio-Recognition	61
3.3.1 Modification at the Interface	64
3.3.2 Stem Cell Differentiation: Physical and Topographic Properties	65
3.3.3 Multi-functional Biological Matrices for Directing Cellular Response	68
3.4 Conclusions and Future Directions	69
4. Principles and Biological Pathways to Tissue Regeneration: The Tissue Regenerative Niche	79
<i>Ranieri Cancedda and Claudia Lo Sicco</i>	
4.1 Introduction	80
4.2 Platelet-Derived Growth Factors	84
4.3 Inflammation	86
4.4 Hypoxia	89
4.5 Angiogenesis and Vasculogenesis	90
4.6 Locally Resident Pluripotent Cells and Circulating Stem/Progenitors Cells	92
4.7 Fracture Healing Cascade: A Paradigm of Tissue Repair/Regeneration	94
4.7.1 NF- κ B: A Main Biological Pathway Activated during Tissue Regeneration	98
5. Host Response to Biomaterials	115
<i>Sangeetha Srinivasan and Julia E. Babensee</i>	
5.1 Introduction	116
5.2 A Typical FBR	117
5.2.1 Cellular and Molecular Aspects	117
5.2.2 Deleterious Outcomes	120
5.2.2.1 Fibrosis, FBGC, and material degradation	120
5.2.3 Biomaterial Strategies to Affect Aspects of the Foreign Body Response	121

5.3	Instant Blood-Mediated Inflammatory Reaction	122
5.3.1	Biomaterial Intervention for IBMIR	124
5.4	Immune Response in the Context of Biomaterials	127
5.4.1	Types of Immune Responses	127
5.4.1.1	Innate immunity	127
5.4.1.2	Adaptive immunity	133
5.4.2	Biomaterial Strategies to Affect Adaptive Immune Responses	137
5.4.2.1	DC-mediated biomaterial adjuvant effect	139
5.4.2.2	Biomaterials-based adjuvants and vaccines	141
5.4.2.3	Biomaterial-based engineering anti-tumor immunity	143
5.4.2.4	Biomaterials and tolerance toward tissue-engineered devices (TEDs)/transplants	145
5.5	Constructive Remodeling and Effective Host Integration of Implants	146
5.5.1	Cell Injury and Repair	146
5.5.2	Stages of Wound Healing	147
5.5.2.1	Activation of platelets and blood coagulation	147
5.5.2.2	Inflammation	148
5.5.2.3	Re-epithelialization, granulation tissue, and angiogenesis	149
5.5.2.4	Matrix, scar formation, and remodeling	149
5.5.3	Biomaterial Strategies Employed to Direct Repair and Regeneration	151
5.5.3.1	Wound closure and vascularization	151
5.5.3.2	Stem cell-seeded SCs to direct regeneration	154
5.5.3.3	Remodeling of the ECM	155

	5.5.3.4 Biodegradable and bioresorbable polymers	156
5.6	Summary	156
6.	Scaffold Vascularization	173
	<i>Lindsay E. Fitzpatrick, Alexandra Lisovsky, Ema C. Ciucurel, and Michael V. Sefton</i>	
6.1	Introduction	174
6.2	The Native Vascular Network	174
	6.2.1 Angiogenesis: The Formation of New Blood Vessels	176
6.3	Vascularization of Biomaterial Scaffolds	178
	6.3.1 GF Delivery	179
	6.3.1.1 Single GF delivery	179
	6.3.1.2 Multiple GF delivery	183
	6.3.2 Cell Delivery and Transplantation	184
	6.3.2.1 Scaffolds seeded with cells	184
	6.3.2.2 Modular tissue engineering	186
	6.3.2.3 Genetically modified GF-producing cells	189
	6.3.2.4 Scaffold-free cell delivery approaches	190
	6.3.3 <i>In situ</i> Vascularization with Endogenous Cells	192
	6.3.4 Scaffold Prevascularization	195
	6.3.5 Decellularized Scaffolds	197
	6.3.6 Angiogenic Biomaterials	199
	6.3.7 Microfabrication Methods	202
6.4	Limitations and the Road Ahead	203
6.5	Summary	204
	The Role of Osteoblasts in <i>in vitro</i> Vascularization	219
7.	Engineering Biomimetic Scaffolds	223
	<i>Nasim Annabi, Nihal Engin Vrana, Pinar Zorlutuna, Fariba Dehghani, and Ali Khademhosseini</i>	
7.1	Approaches to Engineer Biomimetic Constructs	224
	7.1.1 Fabrication of 3D Biomimetic Scaffolds	225
	7.1.1.1 Rapid prototyping (RP)	225

	7.1.1.2 Electrospinning	225
	7.1.1.3 Phase separation	227
	7.1.2 Effect of Surface Topography on Biomimetic Scaffolds	229
7.2	Controlling the Physical Properties of Biomimetic Scaffolds	232
	7.2.1 Mechanical Properties	232
	7.2.2 Pore Architectures	236
7.3	Biomimicry by Modification of Chemical Properties of Scaffolds	239
	7.3.1 Mimicking the Spatiotemporal Distribution of Biochemical Factors	239
	7.3.2 ECM Components as Biomimetic Scaffold Building Blocks	242
	7.3.3 Engineering Biomolecules for Tissue Engineering	245
7.4	Summary and Future Directions	248
8.	Biomaterials for Scaffolds: Synthetic Polymers	263
	<i>Luis Rojo, Blanca Vázquez, and Julio San Román</i>	
8.1	Introduction	264
8.2	Polymers Hydrophilicity and Water Permeability	266
8.3	Hydrophobic Polymer Systems	267
8.4	Hydrophilic Polymer Systems	270
8.5	Amphiphilic Systems	277
	8.5.1 Block Copolymer Scaffolds	278
	8.5.2 Peptide-Based Scaffolds	283
9.	Biomaterials for Scaffolds: Natural Polymers	301
	<i>Lindsay S. Wray and David L. Kaplan</i>	
9.1	Introduction	302
	9.1.1 Benefits and Limitations	302
	9.1.2 Naturally Derived Polymer Diversity	304
9.2	Proteins	308
	9.2.1 Collagen and Gelatin	308
	9.2.1.1 Collagen	308
	9.2.1.2 Gelatin	311
	9.2.2 Fibrin	311
	9.2.3 Silk	312
	9.2.4 Elastin	313

9.2.5	Keratin	313
9.2.6	Soy Protein	314
9.3	Polysaccharides	314
9.3.1	Glycosaminoglycans: Hyaluronate and Chondroitin Sulfate	314
9.3.2	Chitin and Chitosan	316
9.3.3	Alginate	317
9.3.4	Cellulose	317
9.3.5	Starch: Amylose and Amylopectin	318
9.3.6	Pectin	319
9.4	Polyhydroxyalkanoates	320
9.5	Conclusions	321
10.	Hydrogels: Characteristics and Properties	337
	<i>Rolando Barbucci and Daniela Pasqui</i>	
10.1	Generality	338
10.1.1	Water in the Hydrogel	342
10.1.2	Swelling Behavior	344
10.1.3	Thixotropy	348
10.2	Synthesis of Polysaccharide-Based Hydrogels	353
10.2.1	Chemical Modifications on the Backbone of Polysaccharide Chains	354
10.3	Applications in Medicine	363
10.3.1	Scaffolds for Tissue Engineering: The Role of Thixotropy and Microporosity	363
10.3.2	Drug Delivery	367
10.3.3	Tissue Engineering Applications	369
	Protein-Based Hydrogels	379
11.	Fabrication Methods of Tissue Engineering Scaffolds	387
	<i>Vitor M. Correlo, Joaquim M. Oliveira, Ana R. C. Duarte, Albino Martins, Ana L. Oliveira, Joana Silva-Correia, Rui L. Reis, and Nuno M. Neves</i>	
11.1	Introduction	388
11.2	Introduction to Scaffold Fabrication Methods	390
11.2.1	Critical Issues in the Control of the Porosity and Interconnectivity of Scaffolds	391

11.3	Melt-Based Processing	392
11.4	Solvent-Based Fabrication	395
11.5	Supercritical Processing of Porous Scaffolds	401
11.6	Hierarchical Scaffolds	405
11.7	Advanced Textile Technologies	408
11.8	Hydrogel-Based Technologies	413
11.9	Final Remarks	417
12.	Engineered Scaffolds: Materials and Microstructure from Nanostructures to Macrostructures for Tissue Engineering	435
	<i>Venu G. Varanasi, Panayiotis S. Shiakolas, and Pranesh B. Aswath</i>	
12.1	Introduction	436
12.2	Design Requirements for Scaffolds for Hard Tissue Regeneration	438
12.3	Materials Used for Tissue Engineering and Drug Delivery Applications	440
12.3.1	Biopolymers	440
12.3.1.1	Poly lactides	441
12.3.1.2	Polyglycolides	441
12.3.1.3	Poly(lactide-co-glycolide) (PLGA)	442
12.3.1.4	Polycaprolactone (PCL)	442
12.3.2	Bioceramics	442
12.3.2.1	Crystalline bioceramics	444
12.3.2.2	Bioactive glass ceramics	446
12.3.2.3	Amorphous silica	447
12.3.2.4	Role of dopants in amorphous silica	450
12.3.2.5	Bioactivity of bioactive glasses	452
12.3.2.6	Response of osteoblasts to bioactive glass ions	454
12.3.2.7	Clinical applications of bioactive glasses	455
12.4	Engineering Scaffolds for Drug Delivery and Tissue Engineering Applications	456
12.4.1	Rapid Prototyping	458
12.4.1.1	Transfer printing replication	461

12.4.1.2	Stereolithography	463
12.4.1.3	Selective laser sintering (SLS)	463
12.4.1.4	Fused deposition modeling	464
12.4.1.5	3D printing process	465
12.4.1.6	Robocasting	467
12.4.1.7	Two photon polymerization	467
12.4.1.8	Inkjet printing	470
12.5	Final Remarks	471
	Decellularized Tissues as Scaffolds	485
13.	Organ Printing and Cell Encapsulation	491
	<i>Savas Tasoglu, Umut Atakan Gurkan, Sinan Guven, and Utkan Demirci</i>	
13.1	Introduction	492
13.2	Cell Encapsulation	494
13.2.1	Cell Encapsulation in Picoliter Droplets	495
13.2.2	Theory Behind Picoliter Acoustic Cell Encapsulation	497
13.3	Computational Modeling of Cell Encapsulation and Bioprinting	499
13.3.1	Statistical Modeling of Cell Encapsulation	499
13.3.2	Computational Modeling of Cell Printing	501
13.4	Applications of Cell Encapsulation and Bioprinting	505
13.4.1	Cardiomyocyte Encapsulation and Printing	505
13.4.2	Stem Cell Encapsulation and Printing	507
13.4.3	Cancer Cell Encapsulation and Printing	509
13.4.4	Cryoprinting: Cryobiology Applications of Cell Encapsulation and Bioprinting	509
13.4.5	Bioprinting Blood Vessels	511
13.4.6	Bioprinting in Bone Tissue Engineering	513
13.4.7	Cell Printing as a Platform for Genomic Analyses	516

13.4.8	Generating Porous Bioprinted Hydrogels	516
13.4.9	<i>In vivo</i> Applications of Bioprinting	517
13.5	Current Challenges and Future Perspectives in Bioprinting	518
14.	<i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> Testing	529
	<i>Milena Fini, Nicolò Nicoli Aldini, and Paola Torricelli</i>	
14.1	Introduction	530
14.1.1	Biocompatibility Evaluations: <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> Tests	531
14.2	Regulations and International Standard Organization Rules	534
14.2.1	<i>In vitro</i> Tests	536
14.2.1.1	Cytotoxicity	536
14.2.1.2	Genotoxicity	539
14.2.1.3	Hemocompatibility	539
14.2.2	<i>In vivo</i> Tests	539
14.2.2.1	Irritation and sensitization test	542
14.2.2.2	Systemic toxicity	543
14.2.2.3	Carcinogenicity and reproductive and development toxicity	544
14.2.2.4	Hemocompatibility	544
14.2.2.5	Test for local effects after implantation in soft and hard tissues	544
14.3	New Scenario and Further Biological Test Requirements	547
15.	Bioreactor Strategies for <i>in vitro</i> Conditioning of Engineered Tissues	555
	<i>Aaron S. Goldstein and Patrick Thayer</i>	
15.1	Introduction	556
15.2	Bone Tissue	558
15.2.1	Perfusion Bioreactors	560
15.2.2	Mechanotransduction	560
15.2.3	Other Bioreactors	561

15.3	Cartilage: Bioreactors for Hydrodynamic Shear Stress and Cyclic Compression	561
15.3.1	Stirred-Tank Bioreactors	561
15.3.2	Cyclic Compression Bioreactors	563
15.3.3	Oxygen Tension	564
15.4	Tendon and Ligament: Application of Cyclic Uniaxial Strain	565
15.4.1	Uniaxial Cyclic Strain	566
15.4.2	Cell Signaling	566
15.5	Cardiac Tissue	567
15.5.1	Electrical Pulses	568
15.5.2	Mechanical Stretch	568
15.5.3	Perfusion Bioreactors	569
15.6	Vascular Tissue and Heart Valves	570
15.6.1	Vascular Tissue Engineering	570
15.6.2	Heart Valve	572
15.7	Organ Bath Bioreactors for Hollow and Solid Organs	574
15.7.1	Lung	574
15.7.2	Kidney and Liver	575
15.8	<i>In situ</i> Imaging of Tissue Development	576
15.8.1	Optical Coherence Tomography	577
15.8.2	Confocal Imaging	577
15.8.3	Bioluminescence Imaging	577
15.8.4	Microcomputed Tomography	578
15.8.5	Magnetic Resonance Imaging	579
15.9	Summary and Future Outlook of Bioreactors	580
16.	Microvascular Imaging Methods for Tissue Engineering	591
	<i>Benjamin W. Thimm, Sandra Hofmann, and Ralph Müller</i>	
16.1	Introduction	592
16.2	Imaging Methods for Tissue Engineering	594
16.3	Angiogenesis in Tissue-Engineered Constructs	598
16.4	Imaging of Angiogenesis	599
16.5	Major Problems of Vascular Imaging Modalities	601
16.5.1	The Study of Microvasculature by Optical Light Microscopy	602

16.5.1.1	Epi/transillumination and orthogonal polarization spectral imaging	605
16.5.1.2	Confocal laser scanning microscopy	607
16.5.1.3	Multi-photon laser scanning microscopy	610
16.5.1.4	Near-infrared fluorescence microscopy	611
16.5.1.5	Quantum dot imaging	612
16.5.1.6	Bioluminescent imaging	613
16.5.2	The Study of Microvasculature by Radiation-Based Methods	614
16.5.2.1	Micro-computed tomography/synchrotron radiation micro-computed tomography	615
16.5.2.2	Positron emission tomography	617
16.5.2.3	Magnetic resonance imaging	618
16.5.3	The Study of Microvasculature by Sound-Based Methods	619
16.5.3.1	Ultrasonography	619
16.6	Conclusion	622
17.	Tissue Engineering: Scope, Products, and Commercialization Strategies	637
	<i>Arthur J. Coury</i>	
17.1	Concepts and Scope of Tissue Engineering	638
17.2	Tissue Engineering Product Development	641
17.2.1	All-Important Resourcing during Product Development	644
17.3	Valuation of Product for Technology Transfer	647
17.4	Concluding Remarks	648
	<i>Index</i>	651