

# Materials and Schwann cell approaches for repair to nerve injury

John Haycock Professor of Bioengineering Faculty Director of Research & Innovation - Engineering Department of Materials Science & Engineering, University of Sheffield, UK.

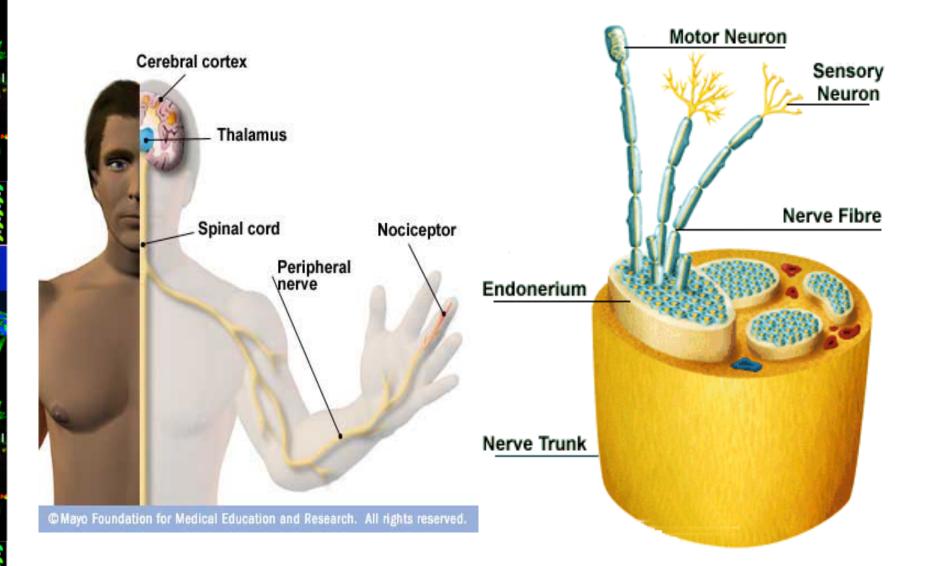
#### Biomaterials in Medicine: New concepts of drug-free antibacterial therapies Westminster University

20<sup>th</sup> July 2016



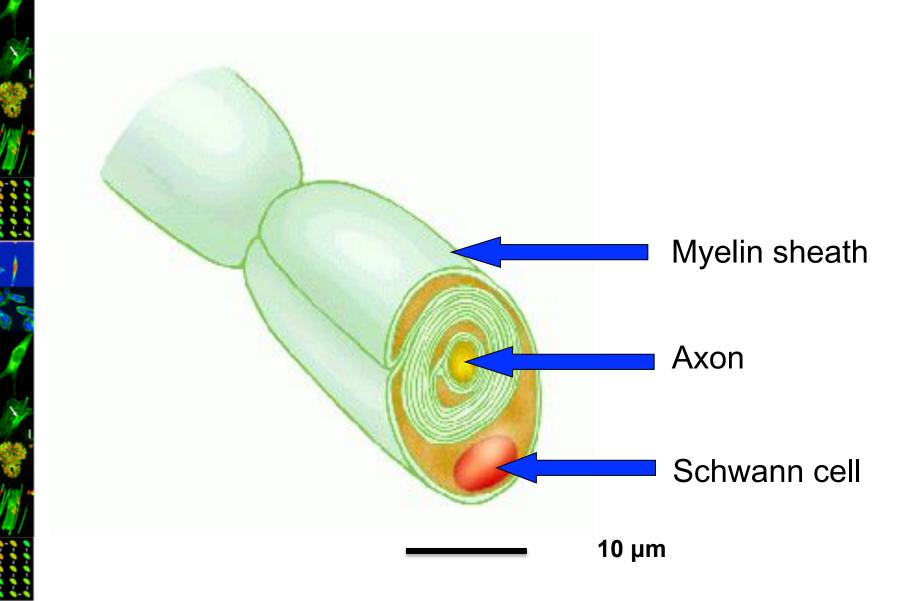


### **Peripheral nerve**





#### Peripheral nerve axons





- Injuries to the peripheral nervous system
  - USA 360 000 injuries per year
  - Europe 300 000 injuries per year
- Typically result from acute trauma
  - Road traffic accidents
  - Work accidents

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- Domestic accidents



- 80-90% patients show permanent sensory or motor deficit following nerve repair
- Have profound social and economic costs



# Three main clinical strategies to repair gap injuries

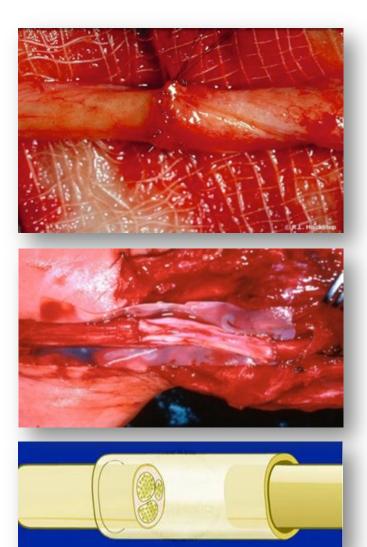
- 1. Suturing together proximal and distal ends
  - + 'Clean' transection injury
  - Tension in sutures

#### 2. Autografting

- + Good reinnervation
- Donor site morbidity

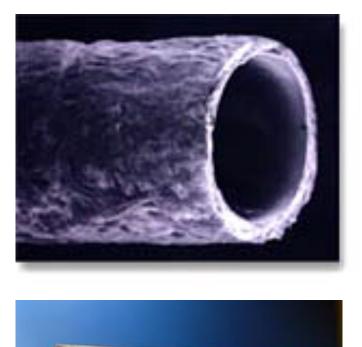
#### 3. Nerve guidance conduits

- + Biocompatible materials
- Primitive design
- Limited regeneration



www.bgsm.edu/ortho/brachial\_plexus\_menu.htm

## **Nerve Guidance Channels**



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- Collagen Integra Life Sciences NeuraGen<sup>™</sup> nerve guide
- Silicone SaluMedica's SaluBridge<sup>™</sup> nerve cuff

- PGA Neurotube (Synovis)
- PLLA/PCL Neurolac (Polyganics)

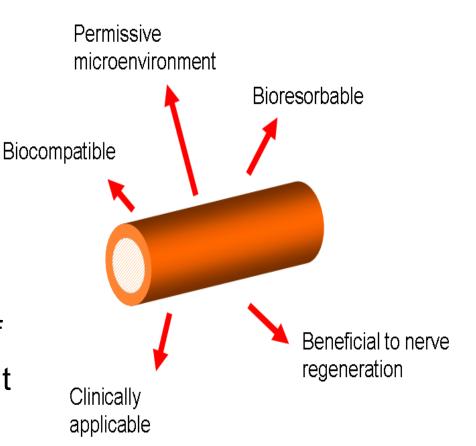
**Bell JHA and Haycock JW** (2012). Next generation nerve guides - materials, fabrication, growth factors and cell delivery. *<u>Tissue Engineering</u>* 18(2):116-28

### Present strategies for repairing peripheral nerve

 To increase regeneration distance

The University Of Sheffield.

- To improve extent and effectiveness of reinnervation
- Involves a combination of
  1) Nerve guidance conduit
  2) Schwann cells

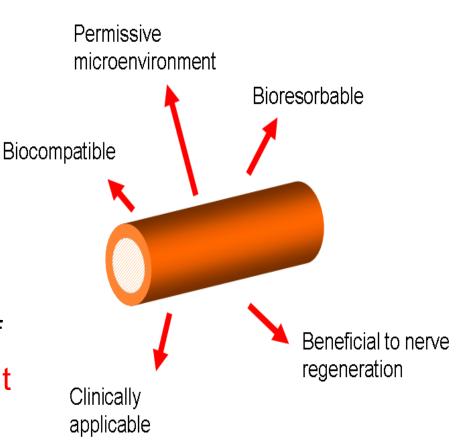


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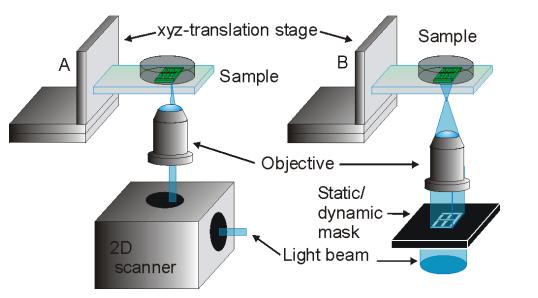


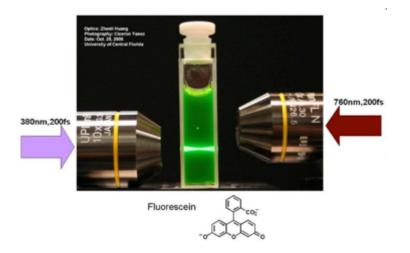
#### Present strategies for repairing peripheral nerve





# Making a scaffold precisely Micro-stereolithography

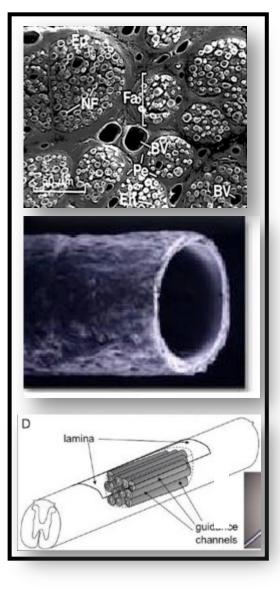




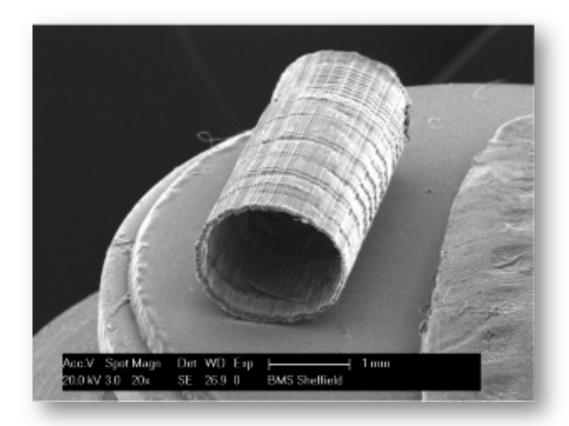
- Construction of 3D objects from photocurable materials
- UV laser: 3D objects with 10 - 50 μm resolution
- 2-photon polymerisation: structures with <10 µm resolution



# Making a scaffold precisely Micro-stereolithography

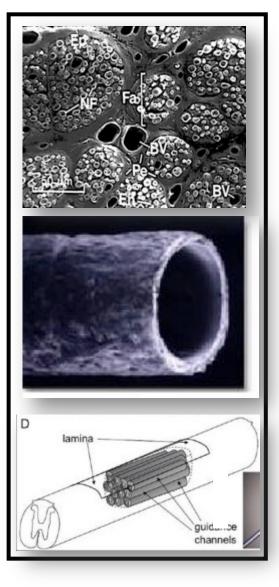


- 1. Manufacture of NGCs with PEG, PLA or PCL
- 2. Incorporate internal structure within the tube to improve regeneration

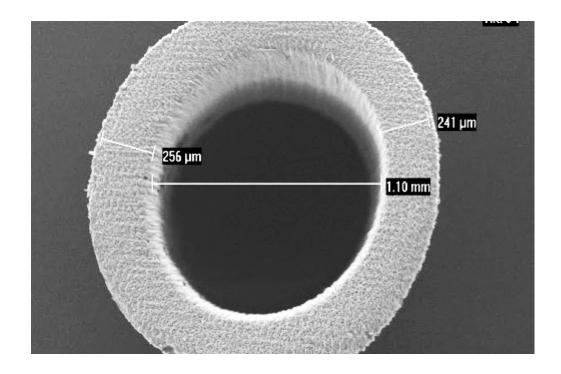




# Making a scaffold precisely Micro-stereolithography



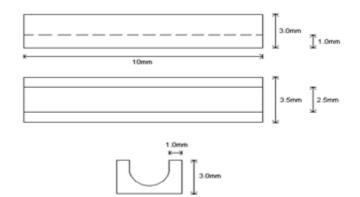
- 1. Manufacture of NGCs with PEG, PLA or PCL
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# Channels for in vitro culture

- Channels allow the placement of a rat derived explant DRG into the center, in vitro culture and subsequent immunolabelling and imaging
- Produced by irradiating photocurable resin to channel cross section
- Mounted into 6-well plate for in vitro culture
- Essential to ensure smooth uniform structure



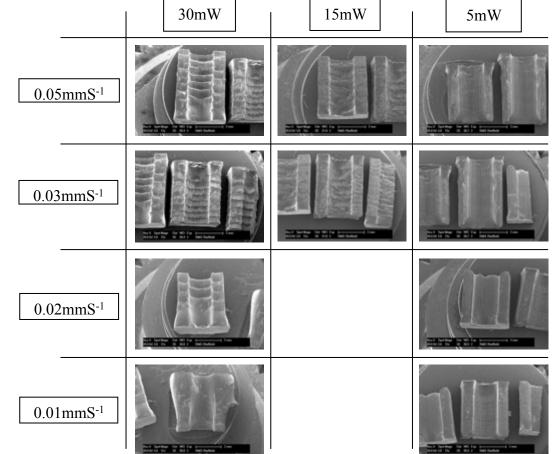


Channels before mounting



# **DRG channel structures**

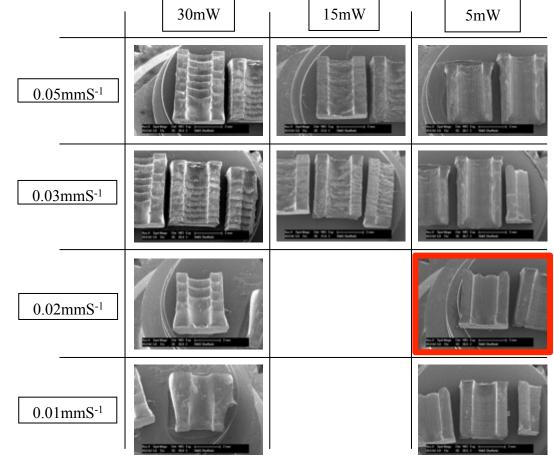
- SEM micrographs of poly(ethylene glycol) channels produced by 405nm microstereolithography
- Varying laser power of 30mW, 15mW and 5mW
- Varying z-axis translation velocities of:
  - 0.05 mm/s
  - 0.03 mm/s
  - 0.02 mm/s
  - 0.01 mm/s





# **DRG channel structures**

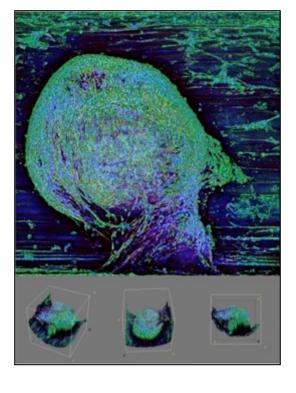
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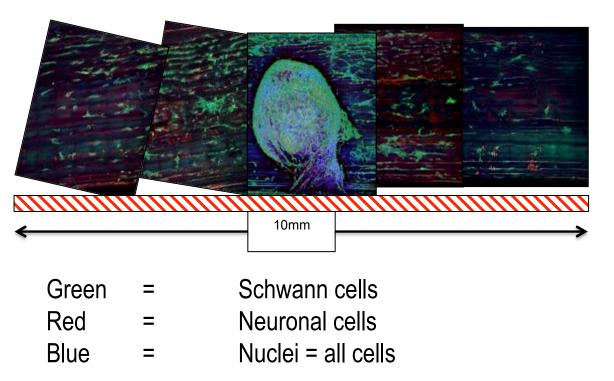




# Use of in vitro DRG culture for analysis

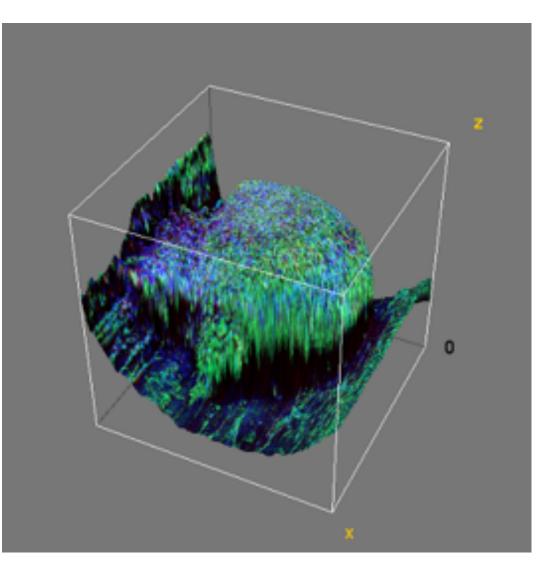
Dorsal root ganglion were placed within channels and cultured for 14 days. Degree of cellular outgrowth assessed by immunolabelling and 2-photon imaging.





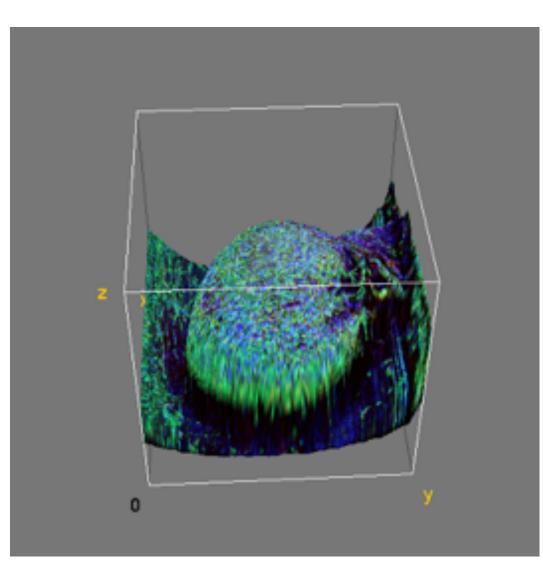
Z-stack converted into 3D using EDF ImageJ plugin





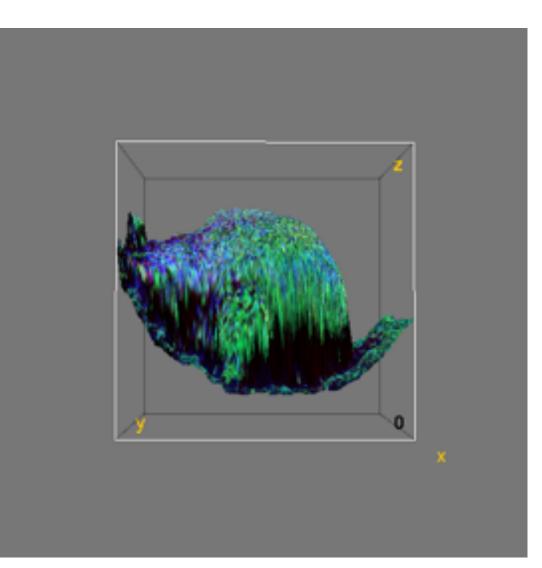
Neurites – βIII tubulin Schwann cells – S100β Nuclei – DAPI





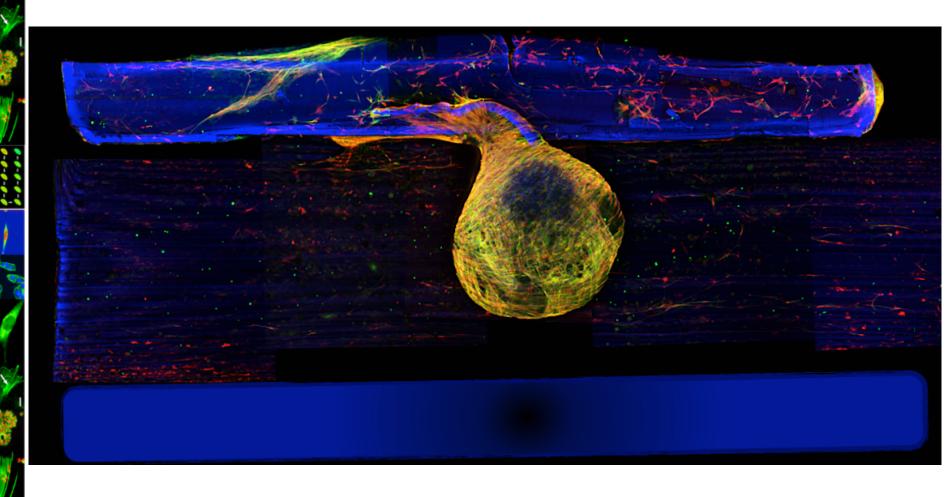
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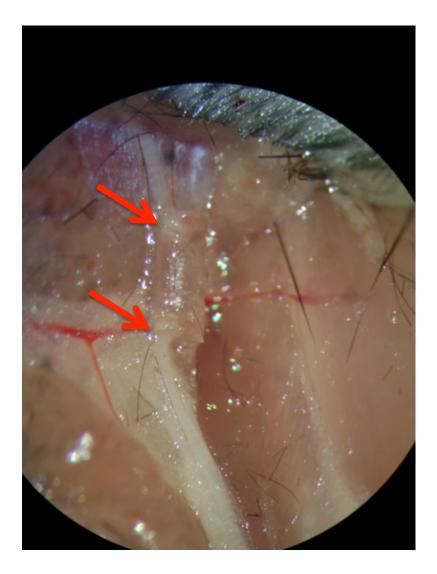
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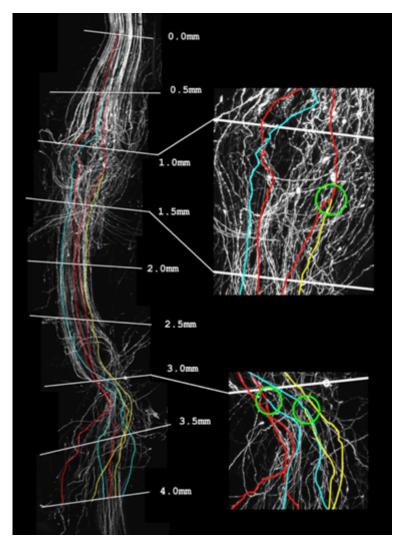




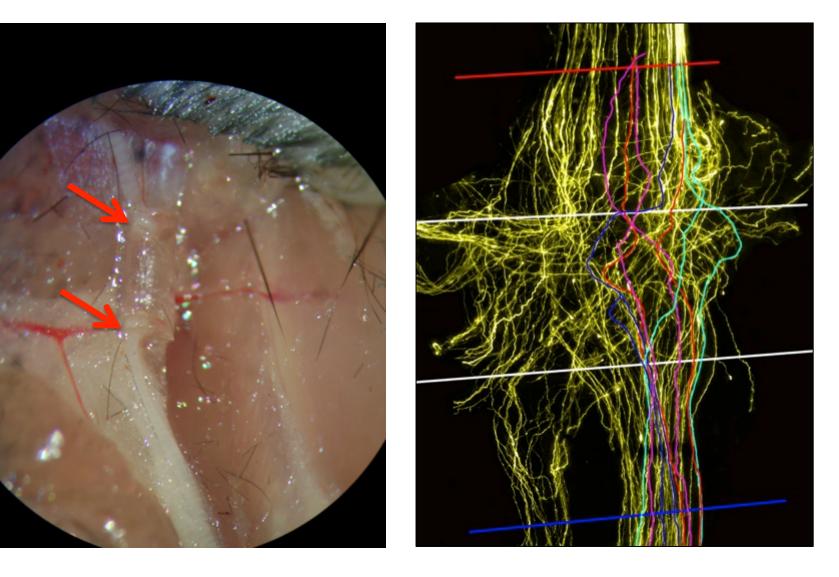
Mr Dharaminder Singh, PhD student (EPSRC), Materials Science & Engineering, University of Sheffield





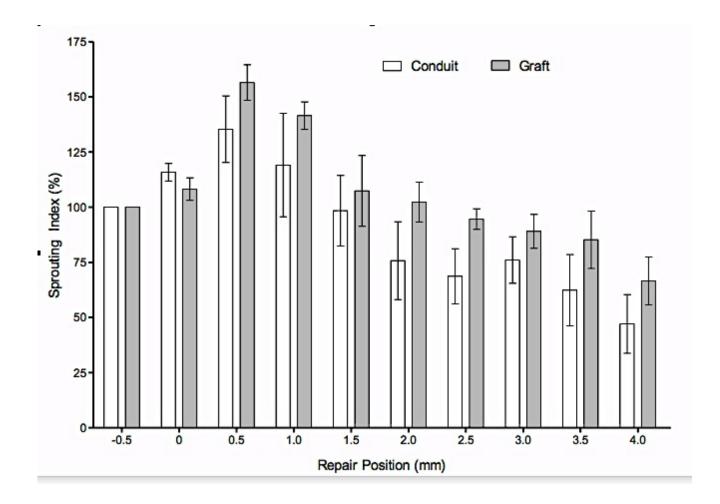








## Graft versus nerve conduit repair

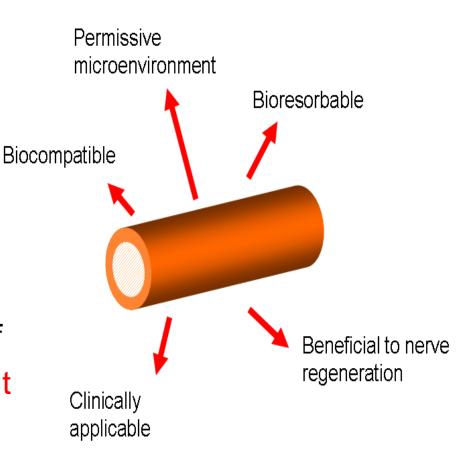


Pateman C, Harding A, Glen A, Taylor C, Christmas C, Robinson P, Rimmer S, Boissonade F, Claeyssens F, **Haycock JW**. (2015) Nerve guides manufactured from photocurable polymers to aid peripheral nerve repair. <u>Biomaterials</u> 49, 77–89.



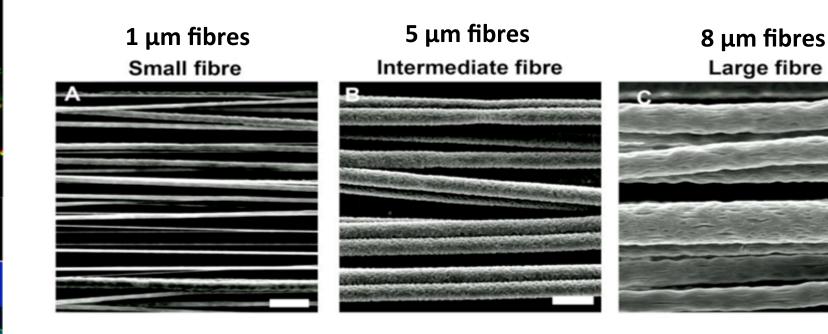
# Present strategies for bioengineering peripheral nerve

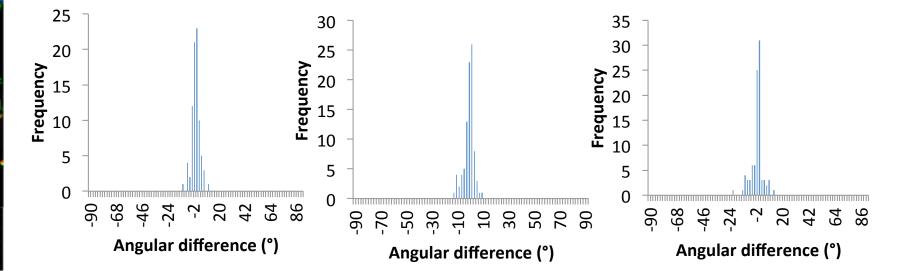
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### Aligned polycaprolactone fibres





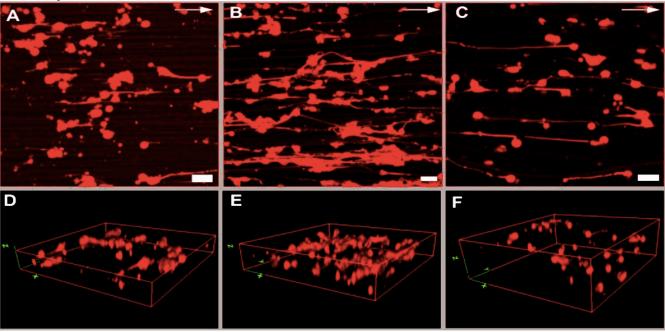


1 µm PCL fibres

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5 µm PCL fibres

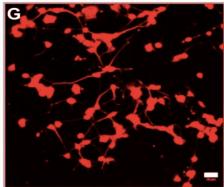
8 µm PCL fibres

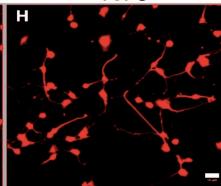


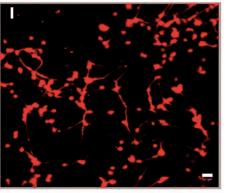
PCL film

TCPS

Glass

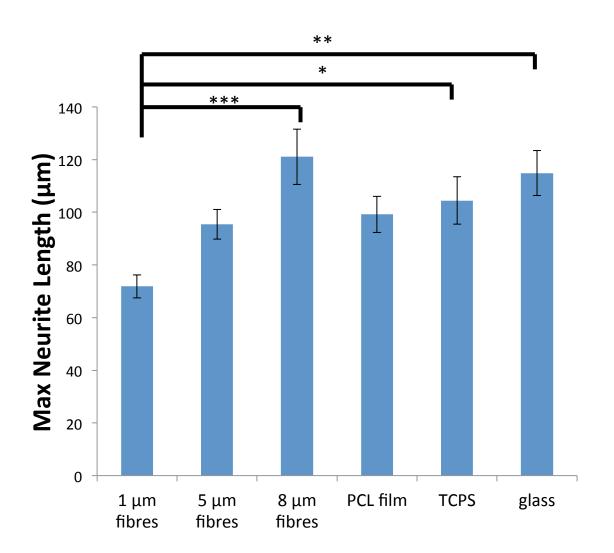






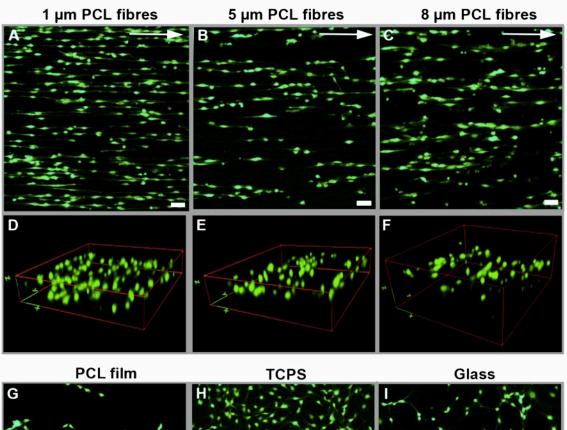


#### Maximum neurite length



# Primary Schwann cells on aligned polycaprolactone fibres

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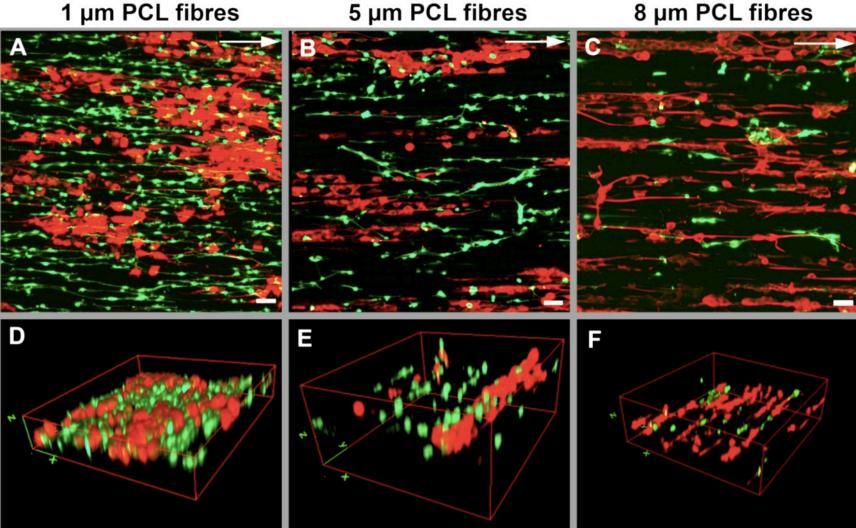


TCPS Glass



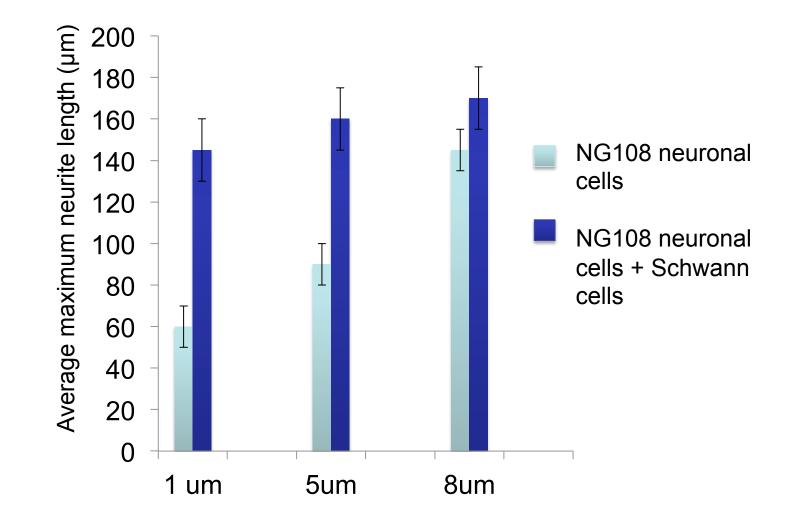
#### **Neuronal cells and primary Schwann** cells on aligned polycaprolactone fibres

1 µm PCL fibres





Neuronal cells and primary Schwann cells on aligned polycaprolactone fibres





### **Dorsal Root Ganglion cultures**

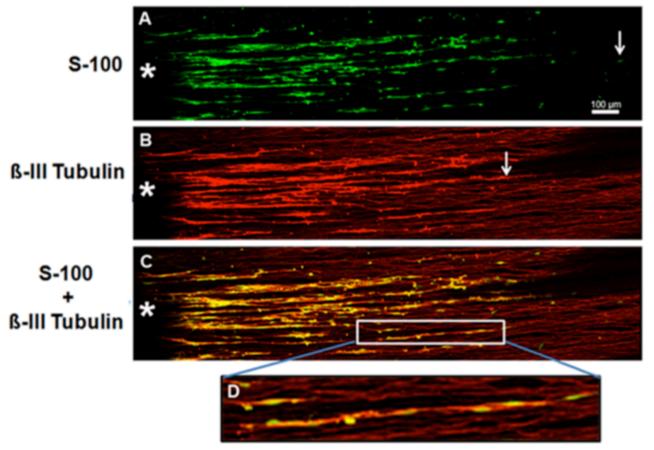


- On flat culture surfaces DRG neurites form a highly connected but disorganised network
- Nuclei
- β-tubulin-III
- S100β
- Can DRG neurites and Schwann cells be organised to resemble a peripheral nerve?



# Organised growth of DRG neurites and Schwann cells

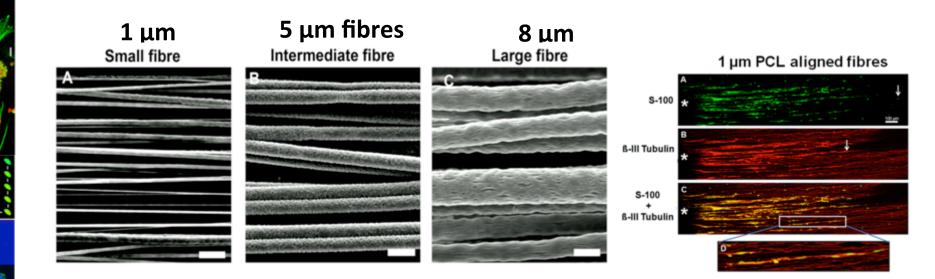
#### 1 µm PCL aligned fibres



Daud MFB, Pawar KC, Claeyssens F, Ryan AJ, Haycock JW (2012) An aligned 3D neuronal glial co-culture model for peripheral nerve studies. *Biomaterials* 33(25) 5901-5913.



#### PCL aligned fibre scaffolds for organised growth of DRG neurites and Schwann cells

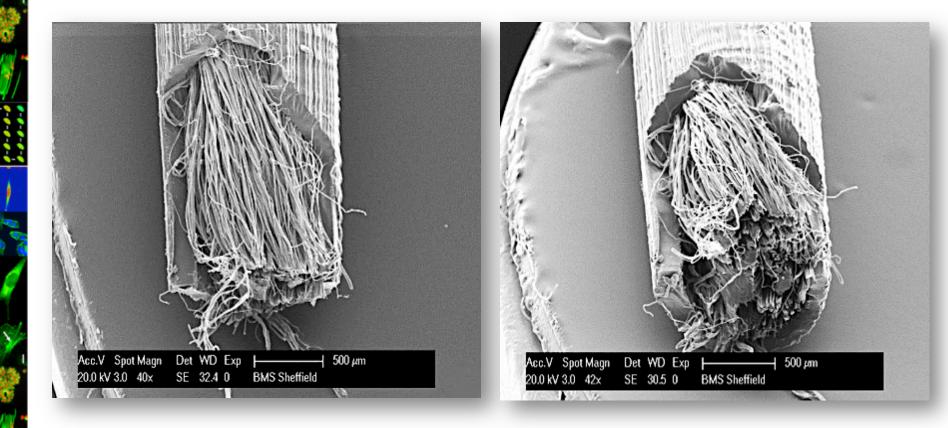


- 1. Nerve guides
- 2. 3D in vitro model of peripheral nerve

Daud MFB, Pawar KC, Claeyssens F, Ryan AJ, Haycock JW (2012) An aligned 3D neuronal glial co-culture model for peripheral nerve studies. *Biomaterials* 33(25) 5901-5913.

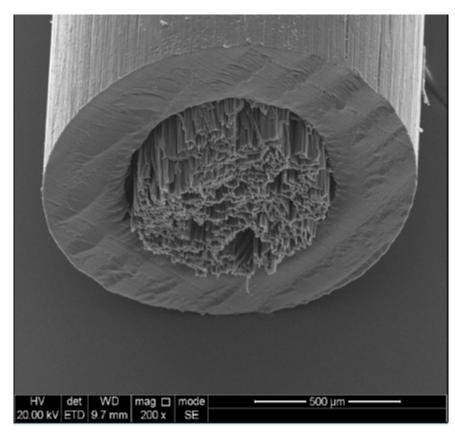


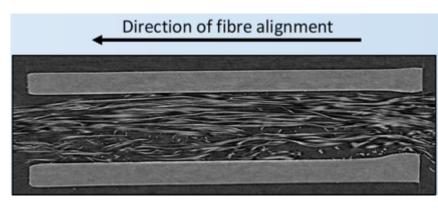
#### Photocurable poly(ethyleneglycol) conduit + poly(caprolactone) fibres





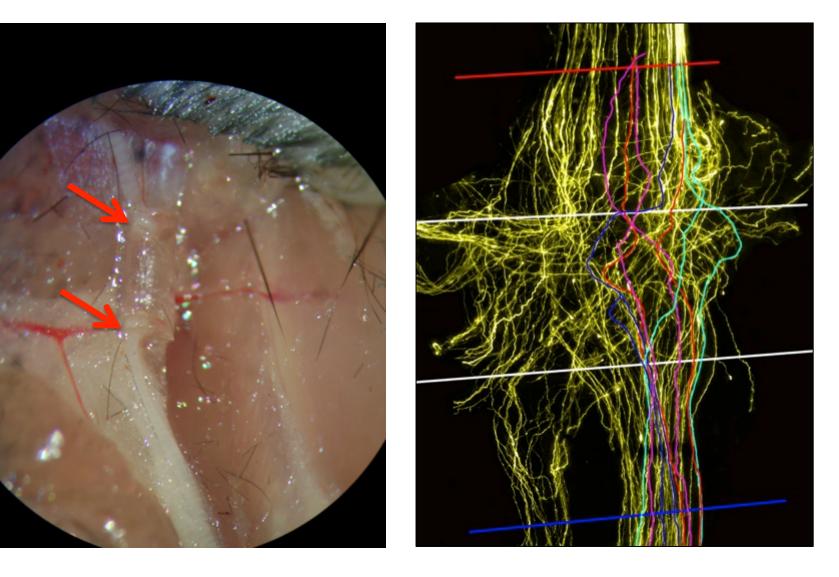
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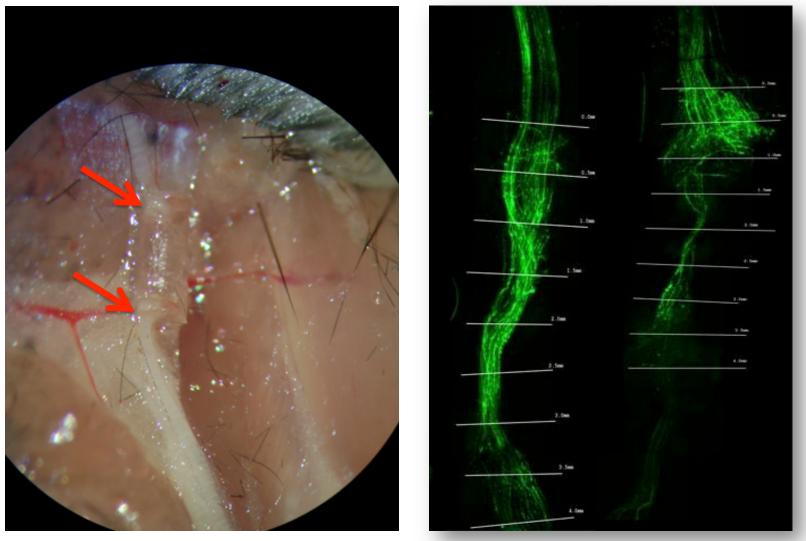
Mr Jonathon Field, PhD student (EPSRC), Materials Science & Engineering, University of Sheffield







#### Photocurable poly(ethyleneglycol) conduit + poly(caprolactone) fibres

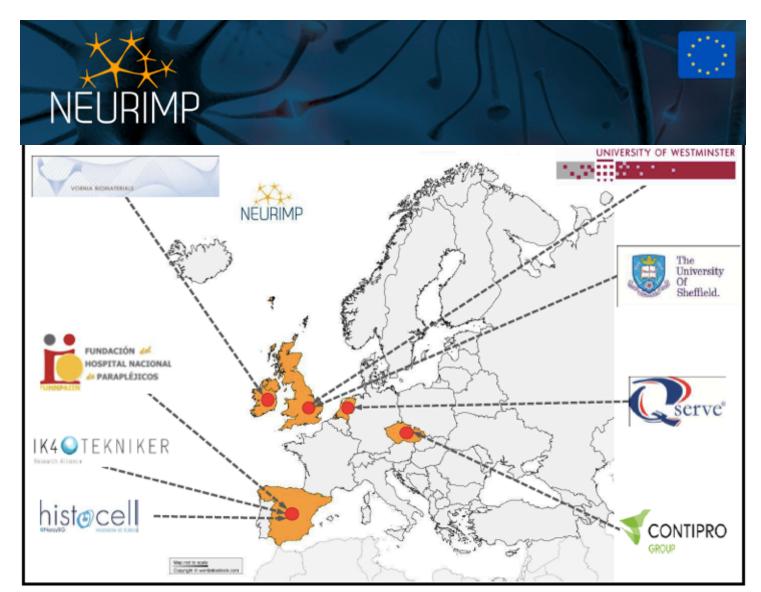


500 fibres

1000 fibres



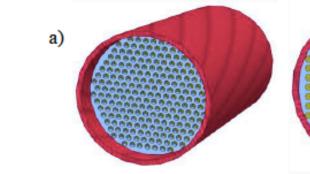
#### Future strategies for bioengineering peripheral nerve FP7 – NEURIMP - €4.6 million – 2014 - 2018

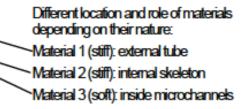




## Nerve Repair – New materials and processing techniques

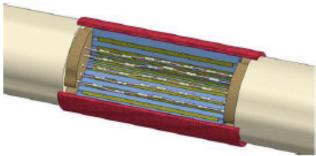










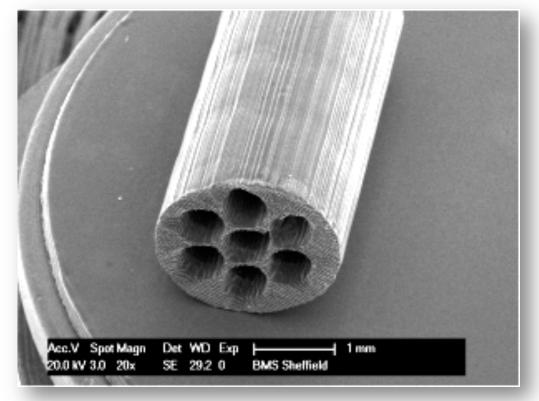




## Nerve guidance conduits



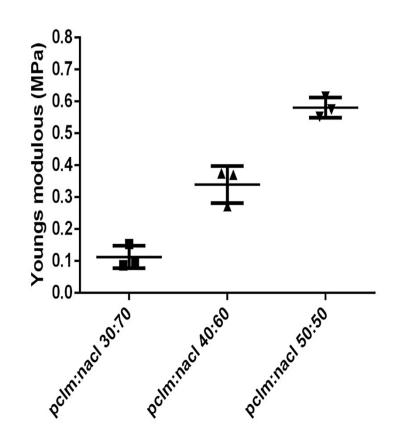
- Manufacture of NGCs from PEG, PLA or PCL→ Polyhydroxyalkoanates
- 2. Incorporate internal structure within the tube to improve regeneration





# Compression testing of UV casted channelled NGCs

Similar to rat sciatic nerve Young's modulus



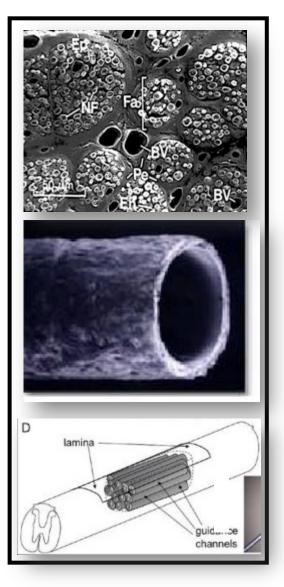


Borschel et al. (2003) = rat sciatic nerve Young's Modulus of  $0.58 \pm 0.015$  MPa

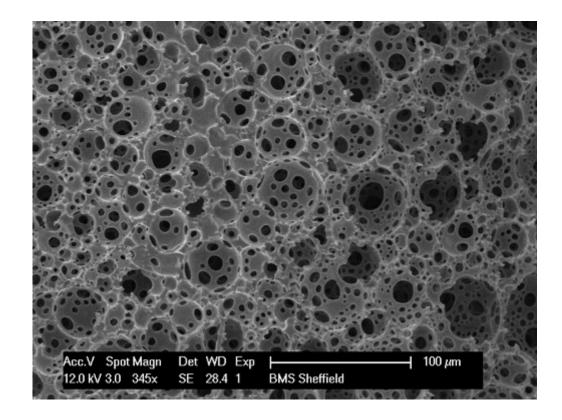
PCLm/NaCl 50:50 = Young's modulus of 0.58 ± 0.016 MPa



## Nerve guidance conduits PolyHIPE



- 1. Manufacture of NGCs from PCL
- 2. Incorporate porosity by direct write

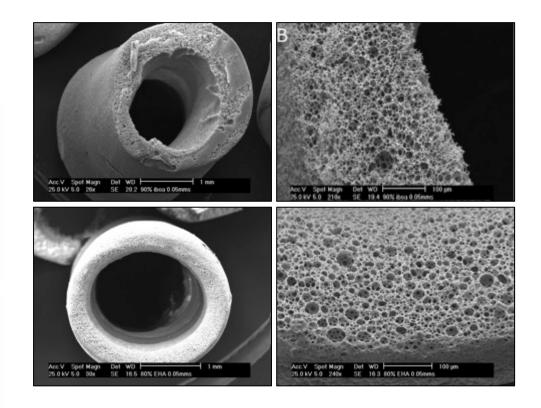




## Nerve guidance conduits PolyHIPE

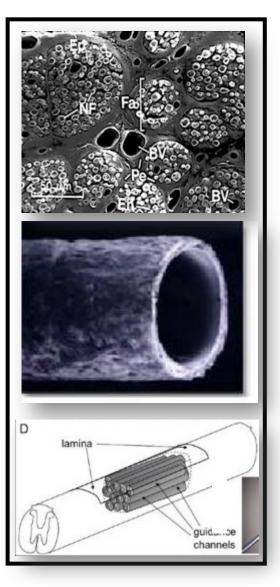


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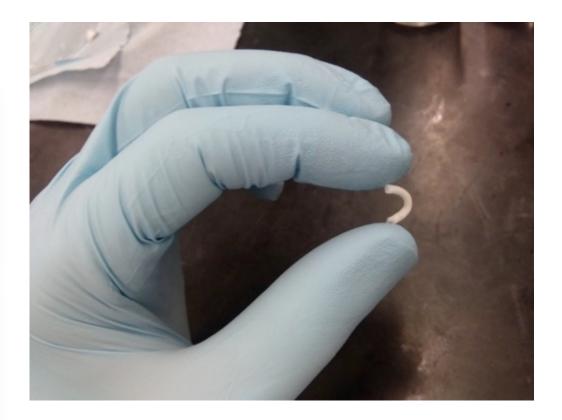




## Nerve guidance conduits PolyHIPE



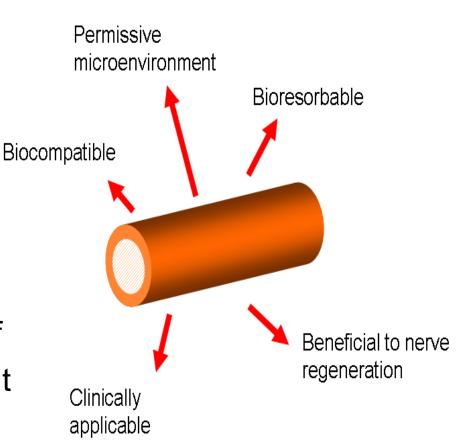
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# Present strategies for bioengineering peripheral nerve

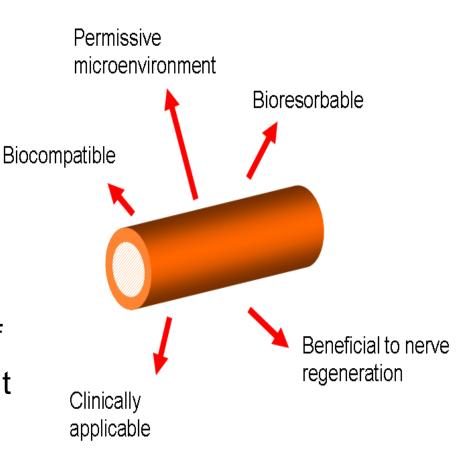
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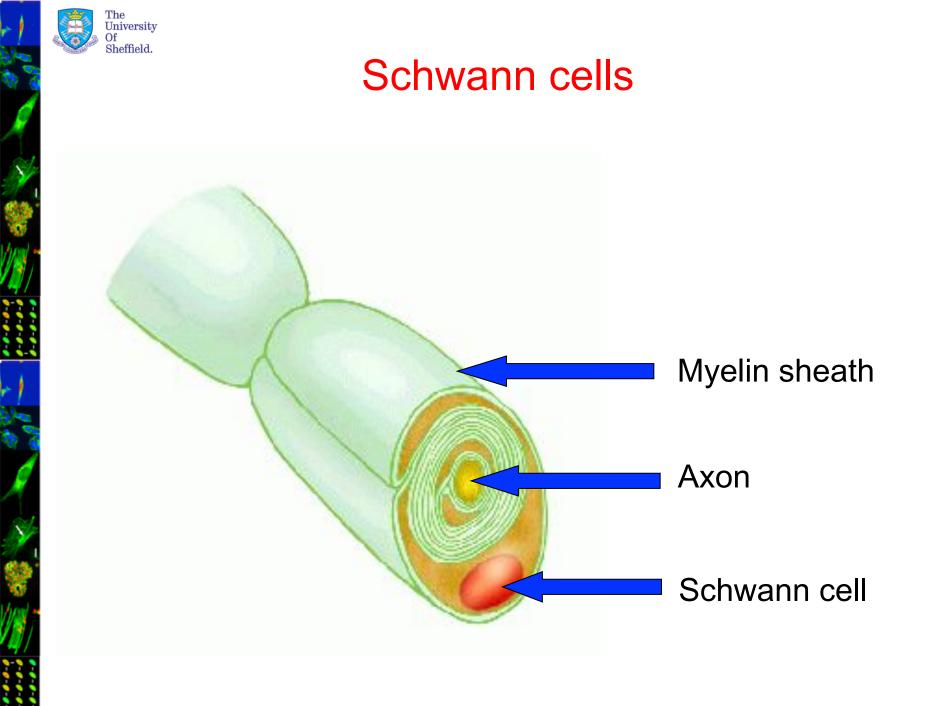




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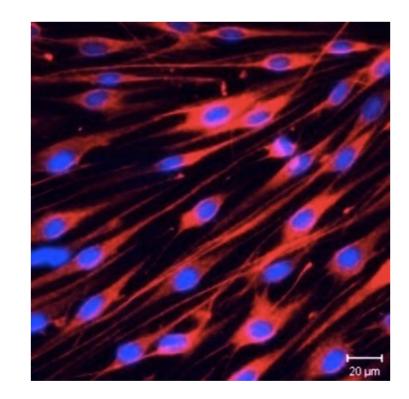






#### Role of Schwann cells

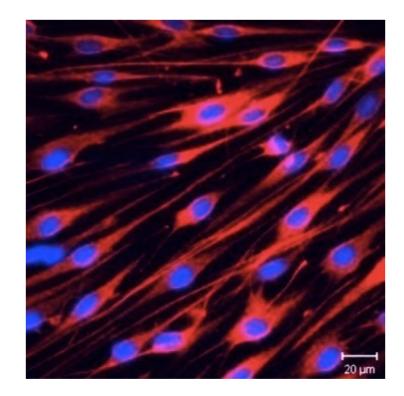
- Provide structural support for nerve fibres
- Produce growth factors
- Essential for successful nerve regeneration





#### Role of Schwann cells

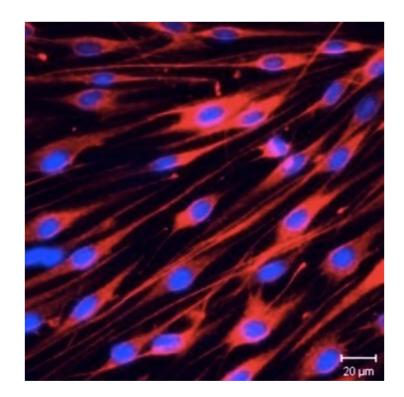
- Extremely difficult to culture
- Heavily contaminated with fibroblasts
- Require 3-4 months + large nerve samples for sufficient numbers clinically





#### Role of Schwann cells

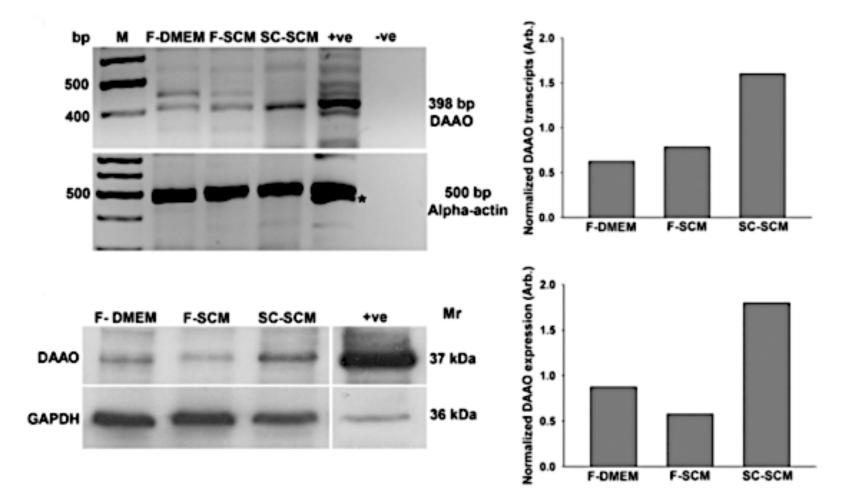
- A simple method for culture needed
- Hypothesis Is there a differential expression of *D*amino acid oxidase between Schwann and fibroblasts?
- Selective culture in D-valine medium





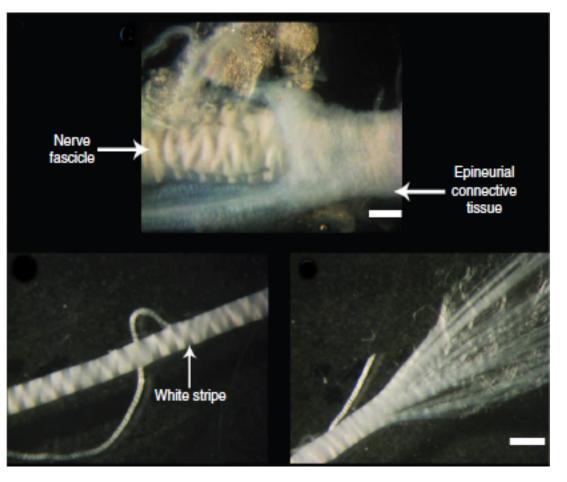
The University Of Sheffield.

## Differential expression of *D-amino acid oxidase* between Schwann and fibroblasts identified



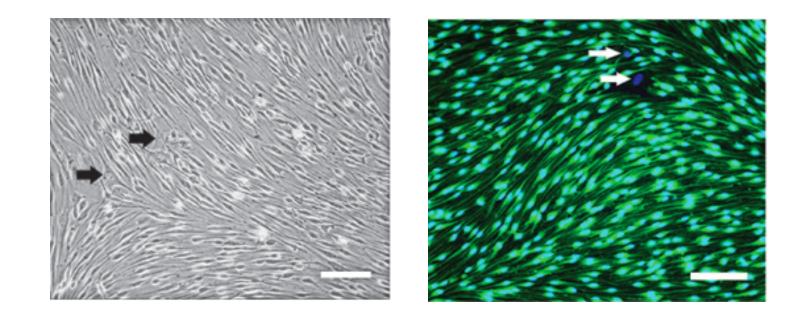


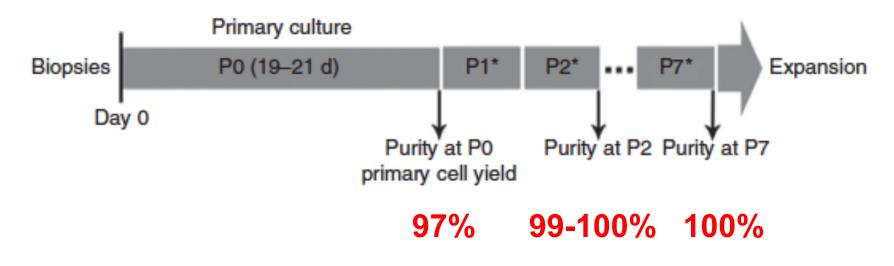
#### Schwann cells Isolation from adult nerve



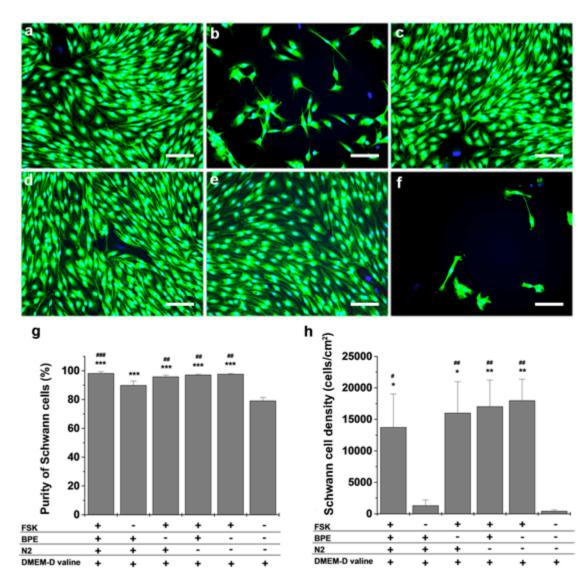
- Adult sciatic nerve isolated
- Epineurium removed
- Fascicles placed in collagenase
- Digest placed in DMEM
   D-valine + mitogens
- Change medium at day 7 – then every 3 days
- Check purity at days 19-21









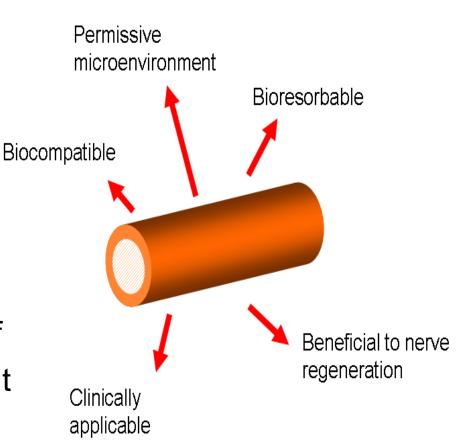


- Mitogen combinations
   + DMEM D-valine
- 1. Forskolin
- 2. Bovine pituitary extract
- 3. N2 supplement
- DMEM D-valine + forskolin
- Kaewkhaw R, Scutt AM & Haycock JW (2012) A rapid method for the selective isolation of Schwann cells from adult nerve. *Nature Protocols* 7, 1996–2004.



# Present strategies for bioengineering peripheral nerve

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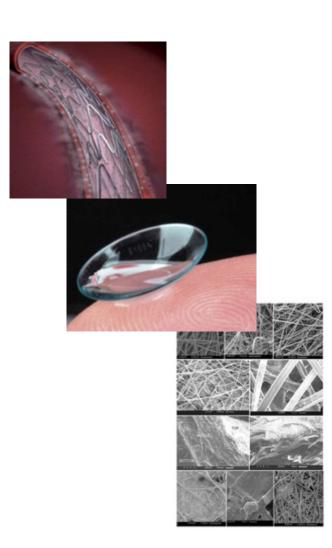




#### **Bioactive surfaces**

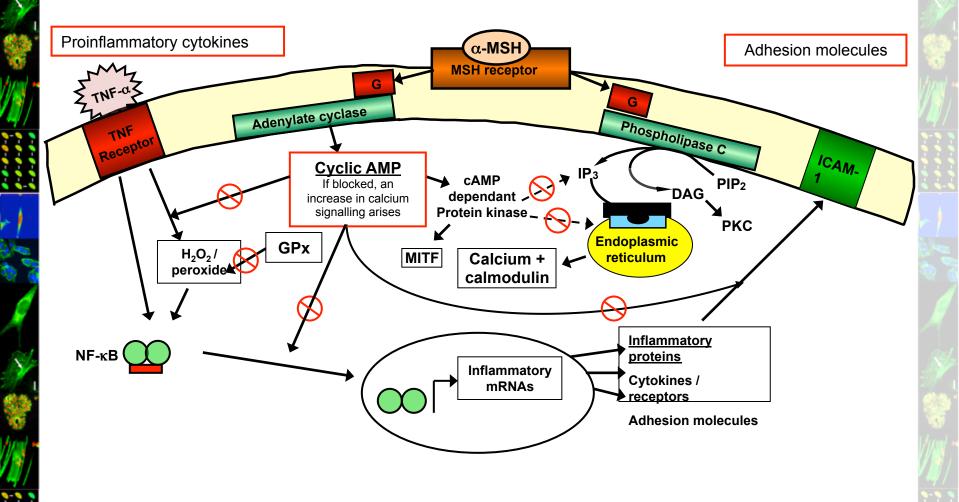
'Dip & dry' anti-inflammatory biomaterials Anti-microbial biomaterials

- To improve clinical outcome of coronary stenting
- To reduce inflammation / infection problems of contact lenses
- To improve the success of tissue engineering approaches where inflammation / infection is a problem
- A quick and easy method for surface treatment



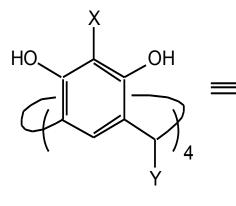


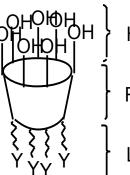
#### Anti-inflammatory peptide – $\alpha$ -MSH





#### Rapid self-assembling adhesive molecules Resorcinarenes

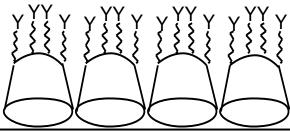




Hydrophilic rim

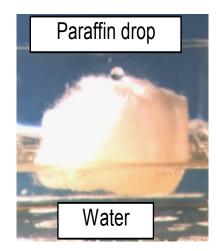


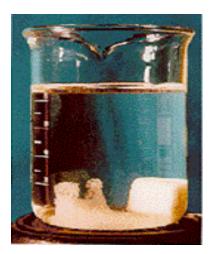
Legs



Rims bind to hydrophilic surface; bowls self assemble to leave a new surface made up of Y groups

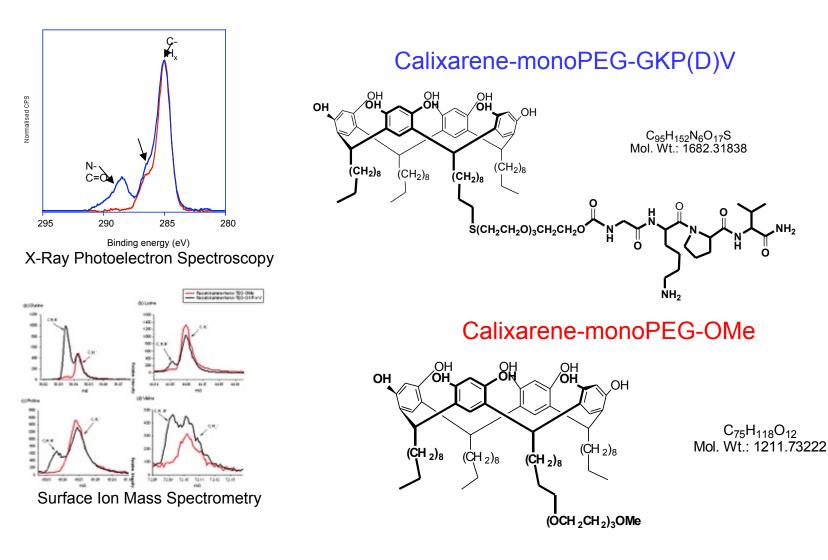








## Synthesis of α-MSH anti-inflammatory peptide – resorcinarene conjugates



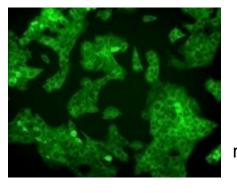
Fairfull-Smith K, Redon PMJ, Haycock JW, Williams, NH (2007). **Tetrahedron Letters**, 48: 1317-1319.

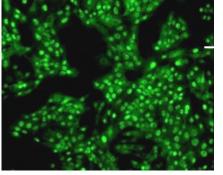


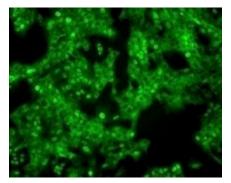
#### Calixarene-peptide surfaces NF-kB labelling in nerve Schwann cells

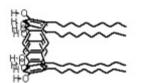
No TNF- $\alpha$ 

+ TNF- $\alpha$ 

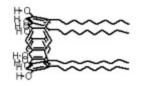








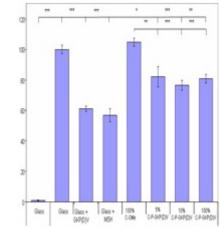




CalixarenemonoPEG-OMe



Calixarene-mono PEG-**GKP(D)V** 



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