Harnessing Topographical Cues for Tissue Engineering

Citation for published version (APA):

Carlier, A., & Alsberg, E. (2016). Harnessing Topographical Cues for Tissue Engineering. *Tissue Engineering*, 22(15-16), 995-996. <https://doi.org/10.1089/ten.tea.2016.0188>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/08/2016

DOI:

[10.1089/ten.tea.2016.0188](https://doi.org/10.1089/ten.tea.2016.0188)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Document license:

Taverne

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

[Link to publication](#)

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

If the publication is distributed under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license above, please follow below link for the End User Agreement:

www.umlib.nl/taverne-license

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at:

repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl

providing details and we will investigate your claim.

INVITED SUBMISSION

Harnessing Topographical Cues for *Tissue Engineering*

Aurélie Carlier, PhD,¹ and Eben Alsberg, PhD²

BIOMATERIALS PLAY A pivotal role in the field of tissue engineering as their surface can influence cell behavior. Initially, biomaterials such as polymers from natural (collagen, fibrin, hyaluronic acid, alginate, hydroxyapatite, β -tricalciumphosphate, etc.) or synthetic (polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polyethylene glycol, polycaprolactone [PCL], etc.) origin primarily had a passive scaffolding function. However, it has become increasingly appreciated that biomaterials can directly instruct cell behavior through physical and biochemical signals such as their stiffness, micro/nanotopography, surface chemistry, cell adhesivity, crystallinity, release dynamics, degradation-by-products, and so on. Moreover, the interactions at the cell–biomaterial interface are a dynamic interplay of “give-and-take,” where, for example, cells degrade the biomaterial and the degradation-by-products can in turn influence cells’ behavior.

Despite the fact that it has been extensively shown that surface topographies greatly affect cell behavior, they have only been recently explored for applications in tissue engineering (first publication in *Tissue Engineering* in 2007). In this special collection, we will highlight articles that exploit the power of surface topography for applications in retinal regeneration,¹ nerve regeneration,² cartilage repair,³ bone repair,⁴ dermal wound healing,⁵ and vascularization.⁶ For example, Yao *et al.*¹ fabricated a biodegradable PCL scaffold with varying surface topographies using micro-fabrication techniques. They showed that the PCL scaffolds induced the differentiation of mouse retinal progenitor cells toward a photoreceptor fate *in vitro* and that the tissue-engineered constructs could be delivered into the subretinal space of mice with minimal disturbance. Moreover, functional integration was assessed by the expression of photoreceptor markers (i.e., Crx, Recoverin, and Rhodopsin). Yoon *et al.*⁴ demonstrated that micro-grooves with radial arrangement more efficiently recruited osteoblasts, correlating with the upregulation of cell migration signaling molecules (i.e., E-cadherin, Rac1, and PI3K). *In vivo*, these implants resulted in improved bone repair in mouse calvarial defect models. Interestingly, Chaterji *et al.*⁶ used nanotopographies to engineer an *in vitro* testing environment that is able to induce various

vascular smooth muscle cell phenotypes corresponding to healthy, diseased, and aged arterial beds.

To fully harness the potential of surface topographies, future research should address the challenges associated with topographical diversity, combinatorial complexity of biomaterial properties, and more fully understanding the cell signaling pathways that are involved in topographical sensing. First, most studies to date focus on limited topographical shapes such as pits, pillars, or grooves. However, using computational tools, libraries of surface topographies can be designed and microfabricated to increase the diversity of patterns and the identification of hit surfaces.⁷ Alternatively, diverse surface topographies can be inspired by nature-derived surface structures, such as shark skin, which prevents bacteria attachment and biofilm formation.⁸ Second, only a small number of biomaterial properties are typically analyzed simultaneously, neglecting potential synergies or even antagonistic effects between multiple biomaterial properties (stiffness, surface topography, composition, cell adhesivity, etc.). The same applies to the soluble biochemical environment where, for example, limited growth factor types and concentrations are explored. In this respect, the study of Chaterji *et al.*⁶ nicely demonstrates the synergistic effects of nanotopographical cues and substrate stiffness on vascular smooth muscle function. Due to the complex interplay between cells and substrates and the daunting number of ways in which biomaterials can be modified, combinatorial screening approaches, typically used in the pharmaceutical industry for drug discovery, are an exciting avenue to tackle this combinatorial complexity (“materiomics”).⁹ Finally, to further optimize and advance current topographical designs, a fundamental understanding of the mechanisms of action underlying topography-induced cellular behavior is required. In this respect, Stukel *et al.*¹⁰ and Miyoshi *et al.*¹¹ provide an informative overview of this area of investigation.

In conclusion, there are many exciting ideas on how to diversify surface topographies and tailor them together with other properties to accelerate the transition of biomaterials from passive space-filling scaffolds to bioactive, cell-instructive materials.

¹MERLN Institute for Technology-Inspired Regenerative Medicine, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands.

²Departments of Biomedical Engineering and Orthopaedic Surgery, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

References

1. Yao, J., Ko, C.W., Baranov, P.Y., Regatieri, C.V., Redenti, S., Tucker, B.A., Mighty, J., Tao, S.L., and Young, M.J. Enhanced differentiation and delivery of mouse retinal progenitor cells using a micropatterned biodegradable thin-film polycaprolactone scaffold. *Tissue Eng Part A* **21**, 1247, 2015.
2. Mobasseri, A., Faroni, A., Minogue, B.M., Downes, S., Terenghi, G., and Reid, A.J. Polymer scaffolds with preferential parallel grooves enhance nerve regeneration. *Tissue Eng Part A* **21**, 1152, 2015.
3. Joergensen, N.L., Le, D.Q., Andersen, O.Z., Foss, M., Danielsen, C.C., Foldager, C.B., Lind, M., and Lysdahl, H. Topography-guided proliferation: distinct surface microtopography increases proliferation of chondrocytes in vitro. *Tissue Eng Part A* **21**, 2757, 2015.
4. Yoon, J.K., Kim, H.N., Bhang, S.H., Shin, J.Y., Han, J., La, W.G., Jeong, G.J., Kang, S., Lee, J.R., Oh, J., Kim, M.S., Jeon, N.L., and Kim, B.S. Enhanced bone repair by guided osteoblast recruitment using topographically defined implant. *Tissue Eng Part A* **22**, 654, 2016.
5. Muthusubramaniam, L., Zaitseva, T., Paukshto, M., Martin, G., and Desai, T. Effect of collagen nanotopography on keloid fibroblast proliferation and matrix synthesis: implications for dermal wound healing. *Tissue Eng Part A* **20**, 2728, 2014.
6. Chaterji, S., Kim, P., Choe, S.H., Tsui, J.H., Lam, C.H., Ho, D.S., Baker, A.B., and Kim, D.H. Synergistic effects of matrix nanotopography and stiffness on vascular smooth muscle cell function. *Tissue Eng Part A* **20**, 2115, 2014.
7. Unadkat, H.V., Hulsman, M., Cornelissen, K., Papenburg, B.J., Truckenmüller, R.K., Carpenter, A.E., Wessling, M., Post, G.F., Uetz, M., Reinders, M.J., Stamatialis, D., van Blitterwijk, C.A. and de Boer, J. An algorithm-based topographical biomaterials library to instruct cell-fate. *PNAS* **108**, 16565, 2011.
8. Green, D.W., Lee, J.M., and Jung, H.S. Marine structural biomaterials in medical biomimicry. *Tissue Eng Part B Rev* **21**, 438, 2015.
9. Cranford, S., de Boer, J., van Blitterswijk, C., and Buehler, M.J. Materiomics: an -omics Approach to Biomaterials Research. *Adv Mater* **25**, 802, 2013.
10. Stukel, J.M., and Willits, R.K. Mechanotransduction of neural cells through cell-substrate interactions. *Tissue Eng Part B Rev* **22**, 173, 2016.
11. Miyoshi, H., and Adachi, T. Topography design concept of a tissue engineering scaffold for controlling cell function and fate through actin cytoskeletal modulation. *Tissue Eng Part B Rev* **20**, 609, 2014.

Address correspondence to:

Aurélie Carlier, PhD

Laboratory for Cell Biology-Inspired Tissue Engineering

MERLN Institute for Technology-Inspired

Regenerative Medicine

Maastricht University

Universiteitssingel 40

6229 ER Maastricht—room C3.557

PO Box 616

Maastricht 6200 MD

The Netherlands

E-mail: a.carlier@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Received: May 9, 2016

Accepted: July 1, 2016

Online Publication Date: August 1, 2016