

## Making attachments

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Proposition  
Accompanying the dissertation

**Making attachments:  
advancing enthesis regeneration through miniaturized models**

By  
Francesca Giacomini

Maastricht, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025

1. The ability to manipulate collagen fiber alignment in a controlled microenvironment paves the way for the development of more physiologically relevant models of tendon regeneration. (Chapter 2, this thesis)
2. Overall, the FC-Chip represents a straightforward and accessible platform for the manipulation and modeling of cell morphology and organization in 3D. (Chapter 3, this thesis)
3. Microfluidic platforms enable the creation of physiologically relevant compartmentalized microenvironments, allowing for the controlled differentiation of tissue-specific cell types and the study of tissue interactions. (Chapter 4, this thesis)
4. By fusing two distinct tissue types, a transitional third tissue phase can form. (Chapter 5, this thesis)
5. This research provides a novel platform for personalized treatments by incorporating patient-specific cells, which could lead to more effective therapies for enthesitis and musculoskeletal diseases. (Chapter 7, this thesis)
6. Scientific research is the most powerful tool we have to improve the human condition. (Rita Levi-Montalcini)
7. Curiosity is the spark that ignites the fire of knowledge. (Margherita Hack)
8. The beginning is the most important part of the work. (Plato)