Biomimetic Electrospun PVDF/Self-Assembling Peptide Piezoelectric Scaffolds for Neural Stem Cell Transplantation in Neural Tissue Engineering

Mahdi Forouharshad¹, Andrea Raspa¹, Giuseppe Fortino², Maria Gessica Ciulla¹, Arman

Farazdaghi³, Vlad Stolojan⁴, Luca Stendardo⁵, Silvia Bracco⁵, Fabrizio Gelain^{1,6,*}

¹Center for Nanomedicine and Tissue Engineering (CNTE), ASST Grande Ospedale Metropolitano Niguarda, 20162 Milan, Italy.

²Department of Biotechnology and Bioscience, University of Milano – Bicocca, via R. Cozzi 55, 20125 Milano, Italy.

³Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department, Whiting School of Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, MD, USA.

⁴Advanced Technology Institute, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 7XH, UK.

⁵Department of Materials Science, University of Milano – Bicocca, via R. Cozzi 55, 20125 Milano, Italy.

⁶Institute for Stem-Cell Biology, Regenerative Medicine and Innovative Therapies, IRCCS Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, 71013 San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy.



peak positions corresponding to the α , β , and γ in their IR spectra (range 950-700 cm⁻¹) and for the quantitative analysis of the phase content. (a) PVDF, (b) PVDF-SDS, (c) PVDF-SDS-al, (d) PVDF-DMF100, (e) PVDF-SDS-DMF100, (f) PVDF-FAQ(LDLK)₃, and (g) PVDF-SDS-FAQ(LDLK)₃.



peak positions corresponding to the β and γ in their IR spectra (range 1350-950 cm⁻¹) and quantitative analysis of the phase content. (a) PVDF, (b) PVDF-SDS, (c) PVDF-SDS-al, (d) PVDF-DMF100, (e) PVDF-SDS-DMF100, (f) PVDF-FAQ(LDLK)₃, and (g) PVDF-SDS-FAQ(LDLK)₃.



Figure 3. MTS assay on our PVDF and PVDF-SDS samples to assess cytotoxicity. Cultrex, the gold standard, was used as the control. Stem cells were seeded in both the control group and on the PVDF and PVDF-SDS samples. The graph shows no significant differences in cell viability between the PVDF and PVDF-SDS samples and the positive control, Cultrex. As depicted, the cell viability for both PVDF and PVDF-SDS samples closely aligns with the positive control, confirming their biocompatibility.

Table 1. Piezoelectric experiments to investigate the correlation between the thickness of PVDF meshes and the resulting voltage and capacitance.

Sample (mg/cm ²)	V _{AC} rms [mV]	V _{p-p} [mV]	С _{100Нz} [pF]	Θ _{100Hz} [pF]	C _{100kHz} [pF]	Θ _{100kHz} [pF]
1	58.22	181.5	375	-89.4	369	-89.4
2	180	532	217	-89.2	210	-89.6
3	625	1780	159	-89.4	154	-89.5
4	38	120	210	-89.3	201	-89.4

V_{AC}: Voltage Alternating Current

V_{p-p}: peak-to-peak voltage

C: Capacitance

 Θ : phase shift