

Universidade de São Paulo Instituto de Física de São Carlos

VIII Semana Integrada do Instituto de Física de São Carlos

Livro de Resumos 24 a 28 de setembro de 2018

São Carlos Instituto de Física de São Carlos 2018

Universidade de São Paulo

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Ficha catalográfica elaborada pelo Serviço de Biblioteca e Informação do IFSC

Semana Integrada do Instituto de Física de São Carlos (8: 24 set. – 28 set.: 2018: São Carlos, SP.).

Livro de resumos da VIII Semana Integrada do Instituto de Física de São Carlos/ Organizado por Humberto Ribeiro de Souza [et al].São Carlos: IFSC, 2018 390p.

Texto em português.

1. Fisica. I. Souza, Humberto Ribeiro de C.II. Titulo.

ISBN: 978-85-61958-23-7 CDD 530



PG127

Phototherapy applied to cellulose and chitosan hydrogels in Tissue engineering

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We are developing a low-cost scaffold of cellulose and chitosan for cell growth, which has antibacterial properties and do not use growth factors. (1) The quaternized chitosan with different linear density of positive charge and molecular weight is being searched and synthetized to help the interaction with the cells. (2) Additionally, the opportunity to integrate the fields of Tissue Engineering and Phototherapy to promote synergistically the cell adhesion are been evaluated for using different wavelengths and fluences. This research is being carried out through national and international collaboration with researchers of University of Bath and São Carlos Institute of Chemistry. The first part of the project was to develop and characterize the material. The project is going to initiate the stage of drawing different patterns above the hydrogel to direct the cell growth at the surface material and developing tridimensional scaffolds to grow more complexity tissues and apply the phototherapy to observe the biological response. (3) The first stage of the project was developed at the University of Bath, which gave a researcher scholarship for the first semester of 2017, and the analyses and techniques to hydrogel development were made through FT-IR, Confocal Microcopy, Fluorescence Microscopy and RMN. The preliminary results indicate a chitosan with 40% and 8% Degree of quaternization and a molecular weight around 400 and 900 kg/mol. The higher cell attachment (near to 60%), low cytotoxicity and high cell spreading (median circularity of 0.2) was observed for the higher DQ similar to tissue culture plate. The gram-negative bacteria (E. coli) had the more damage at higher DQ material casted, however the same material presented the higher number of E. coli attach to it. These results have a high potential at the development of Tissue Engineering using natural sources of low cost and high technologic impact.

Palavras-chave: Hydrogel. Chitosan. Cellulose. Tissue engineering. Phototherapy.

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