

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ELECTRONIC AEROSOL ATOMISATION SYSTEM FOR  
GENERATING THREE-DIMENSIONAL (3D) CELLS IN  
MICROENCAPSULATIONS AND MICROTISSUES CHARACTERISATION

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Special dedication with full gratitude on the guidance and encouragement to families who loved, especially my beloved father and mother and not forgotten to my supervisor that contributed ideas and opinions



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## LIST OF ASSOCIATED PUBLICATIONS

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## ABSTRACT

Cell encapsulation is a micro technology widely applied in cell and tissue engineering, tissue transplantation and regenerative medicine. Various techniques had been developed for microencapsulation of cells but these techniques presented threat to the cells due to the harsh or chemical treatment applied. In this research, a simple and economic electronic aerosol atomisation system was proposed for producing calcium alginate microcapsules. The system was developed with the incorporation of a conventional syringe pump, a customised air pump and motor controller circuits. The microcapsules and 3D microtissues were biophysically characterised. For the output of the system, the microcapsules size slightly increased with the extrusion rates and decreased significantly with the airflow rates. At an extrusion rate of 20  $\mu\text{l}/\text{min}$  and airflow rate of 0.3 l/min, microcapsules with a diameter ranging from 220 - 270  $\mu\text{m}$  were generated. The polymerisation time for the microcapsules was approximately 10 minutes after the immersion in calcium chloride solutions. The microcapsules showed high porous surface structure in field emission-scanning electron microscopy (FE-SEM) imaging. Keratinocytes (HaCaT) and Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma (ORL-48) cells at cell densities of  $3 \times 10^7$  and  $9 \times 10^7$  cells/ml, respectively were applied for encapsulation and successfully grew into microtissues after 16 days of culture. The fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy of the 3D cells showed stretching in phosphate bond of Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and Ribonucleic acid (RNA) backbone, lipid and protein. The cells of HaCaT and ORL-48 microtissues were viable and they were characterised by different nucleus size. Replating experiment demonstrated that the cells in the microtissues could spread and proliferate in the culture dish. The electronic aerosol atomisation system developed in this work has successfully produced microcapsules with controllable size and applicable for growing microtissues. The microtissues produced are potentially a useful cell model for the study of cytochemicals.

## ABSTRAK

Pengkapsulan sel adalah teknologi mikro digunakan secara meluas dalam bidang penyelidikan sel dan tisu, pemindahan tisu dan perubatan regeneratif. Pelbagai teknik telah dibangun untuk menghasilkan kapsul mikro untuk membalut sel tetapi memberi ancaman kepada sel disebabkan layanan kasar atau kimia semasa proses pengkapsulan. Dalam kajian ini, sistem pengabusan aerosol elektronik yang mudah dan ekonomi telah dicadang untuk menghasilkan kapsul mikro kalsium alginat. Sistem ini dibangun dengan penggabungan pam picagari konvensional, pam udara dan litar pengawal motor. Kapsul mikro dan tisu mikro telah dicirikan. Bagi output sistem, saiz kapsul mikro menunjukkan sedikit peningkatan dengan kadar penyemperitan dan menurun nyata sekali dengan kadar aliran udara. Pada 20  $\mu\text{l}/\text{min}$  kadar penyemperitan dan 0.3 l/min kadar aliran udara, kapsul mikro dengan diameter 220 - 270  $\mu\text{m}$  telah dihasilkan. Masa jangkaan polimerisasi kapsul mikro adalah 10 minit selepas rendam dalam larutan kalsium klorida. Kapsul mikro menunjukkan struktur permukaan yang berliang tinggi dalam pengimejan mikroskopi elektron imbasan-emisi medan (*FE-SEM*). Sel *keratinocytes (HaCaT)* dan *Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma (ORL-48)* pada kepadatan  $3 \times 10^7$  dan  $9 \times 10^7$  sel/ml telah digunakan untuk pengkapsulan dan berjaya tumbuh menjadi tisu mikro selepas 16 hari kultur. Inframerah transformasi Fourier (*FTIR*) bagi sel 3D menunjukkan peregangan ikatan fosfat dalam tulang belakang asid deoksibonukleik (*DNA*) dan asid ribonukleik (*RNA*), lipid dan protein. Sel tisu mikro *HaCaT* dan *ORL-48* hidup tetapi menunjukkan perbezaan dalam saiz nukleus. Eksperimen pemplatan semula menunjukkan bahawa sel-sel dalam tisu mikro boleh mengasingkan diri dan proliferasi dalam bekas kultur. Sistem pengabusan aerosol elektronik dihasil dalam kerja ini berjaya menghasilkan saiz kapsul mikro yang boleh dikawal dan dapat digunakan untuk menumbuhkan tisu mikro. Tisu mikro yang dihasilkan adalah berpotensi untuk dijadikan model sel yang berguna untuk kajian sitokimia.

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### LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

2D	-	Two-Dimensional
3D	-	Three-Dimensional
$\alpha$	-	Alpha
$\beta$	-	Beta
$^{\circ}\text{C}$	-	Degree Celsius
<	-	Lower Than
%	-	Percent
cells/ml	-	Cells per Milli Litre
cm	-	Centimeter
$\text{cm}^2$	-	Centimeter Square
f	-	Frequency
F	-	Force
$\text{cm}^{-1}$	-	Reciprocal Centimeter
$\text{kg/m}^3$	-	Kilo Gram per Cubic Meter
kV	-	Kilo Volt
l/min	-	Litre per Minute
$\mu\text{g/ml}$	-	Micro Gram per Milli Litre
$\mu\text{l}$	-	Micro Litre
$\mu\text{l/min}$	-	Micro Litre per Minute
$\mu\text{m}$	-	Micro Meter
$\mu\text{M}$	-	Micro Molar
mA	-	Milli Ampere
mg/l	-	Milli Gram per Litre
mg/ml	-	Milli Gram per Milli Litre
min	-	Minute

ml	-	Milli Litre
mm	-	Milli Meter
mM	-	Milli Molar
ms	-	Milli Second
ms <sup>-1</sup>	-	Milli per Second
nm	-	Nano Meter
nM	-	Nano Molar
R <sup>2</sup>	-	Coefficient of Determination
s	-	Second
units/ml	-	Units per Milli Litre
v	-	Velocity
V	-	Volume
A	-	Ampere
ARES	-	Advanced Routing and Editing Software
A-T	-	Adenine–Thymine
ATR	-	Attenuated Total Reflection
A-U	-	Adenine–Uracil
BD	-	Becton Dickinson
CaCl <sub>2</sub>	-	Calcium Chloride
CLS	-	Cell Line Services
CO <sub>2</sub>	-	Carbon Dioxide
DAPI	-	4', 6-Diamidino-2-Phenylindole Dihydrochloride
dc	-	Direct Current
DI	-	Deionised
DMEM	-	Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium
DNA	-	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
ECM	-	Extracellular Matrix
ER	-	Endoplasmic Reticulum
EthD-1	-	Ethidium Homodimer
ex/em	-	Excitation/Emission
FA	-	Focal Adhesion

FBS	-	Fetal Bovine Serum
FDA	-	Food and Drug Administration
FE-SEM	-	Field Emission-Scanning Electron Microscope
FTIR	-	Fourier Transform Infrared
G	-	Guluronate
HaCaT	-	Human Keratinocyte Cell Line
HBSS	-	Hank's Balanced Salt Solution
HTS	-	High-throughput Screening
Hz	-	Hertz
I-C	-	Hypoxanthine–Cytosine
ICF	-	Inertial Confinement Fusion
IL	-	Illinois
ISIS	-	Intelligent Schematic Input System
LABE	-	Low Angle Backscatter Imaging
LCD	-	Liquid Crystal Display
LED	-	Light Emitting Diode
LEI	-	Lower Secondary Electron Imaging
M	-	Mannuronate
MiNT-SRC	-	Microelectronics and Nanotechnology-Shamsuddin Research Centre
MO	-	Missouri
N	-	Newton
Na <sup>+</sup>	-	Sodium
NaCl	-	Sodium Chloride
NIH	-	National Institutes of Health
ORL-48	-	Oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) cell line
OSCC	-	Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma
Pa	-	Pascal
PCB	-	Printed Circuit Board
P <sub>d</sub>	-	Dynamic Pressure
PDMS	-	Polydimethylsiloxane



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