

15-19 NOVEMBER 2021

TERMIS

6TH WORLD CONGRESS

MAASTRICHT

THE NETHERLANDS



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



termis

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PREFACE LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dear participants of the 6th World TERMIS Conference 2021,

How we would have loved to meet you all in Maastricht, in a region where three countries meet, characterized by tradition and innovation. The Romans settled this region and for centuries, it was one of the most important political centers of Europe. Even today, Maastricht had an important role in making it possible through the Maastricht Treaty, which still represents today the cornerstone of collaboration, cooperation, and co-development across Europe.

How we would have loved to show you this special region, at the heart of Europe, where the Dutch University of Maastricht, the Belgian Universities of Liege and Leuven and the German RWTH Aachen University have created an epicenter of Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine like only a few in the world. A fertile international ecosystem of academic, industrial, and governmental stakeholders that could be renamed the “Regenerative Valley” of Europe.

And how we would have loved to discuss, argue, network, laugh and celebrate with you during the breaks, evening events and casual meetings in the cafés of this wonderful old city of Maastricht; just what a lively (scientific) society like TERMIS is all about.

We had prepared all this for you and now this little coronavirus has thrown a spanner in the works. Nevertheless, or even more so now, we want to make the World TERMIS Conference a special event for you. An event that is still being held, but online leading us out of the isolation in our institutes back to scientific communing.

The general theme of the congress is “Biologically inspired technology driven regenerative medicine”, which is fully reflected in the 9 parallel thematic sessions. We want to stimulate a fruitful discussion between scientists and clinicians and industry representatives to foster the translation of ground-breaking ideas into clinical practice.

Enjoy the World TERMIS conference 2021...

...and we hope to see you soon face-to-face again!

Lorenzo Moroni

Liesbet Geris

Stefan Jockenhövel

PREFACE TERMIS PRESIDENT AND INCOMING PRESIDENT

Dear Participants of the TERMIS World Congress 2021,

On behalf of Geoff Richards, Tony Weiss and the entire governing board, we would like to thank our three organisers, Lorenzo Moroni, Liesbet Geris and Stefan Jockenhoevel for the TERMIS World Congress. It requires large amounts of work to host a TERMIS World Congress physically, but these three also had the extra work to then prepare for a hybrid meeting and unfortunately finally a fully online meeting. Our personal experiences of hosting meetings remind us how much work is involved but we did not have to prepare for a hybrid and/or online meeting. A big thank you to the three of you!

Thank you all who have prepared and submitted abstracts, symposia and workshops, for all those who have taken time to help review these abstracts and to all of you who have supported this congress by both registering and encouraging others to register.

It has been very difficult to run a Society during the pandemic without our usual three physical Chapter meetings and now with the World Congress going virtual, we have not had a face-to-face meeting since Brisbane in October 2019. Our normal income from these meetings was wiped out from one day to another, and we had to work hard to develop an alternative and more robust way to finance the Society that would work in all situations. The Governing Board decided to move to an annual membership structure for TERMIS, as most international societies have, to help our Society survive during difficult times. We therefore thank all of you who have paid your membership fees in 2020 and 2021 and encourage you to pay early in 2022 – these are essential to run the Society. This will allow you to attend all TERMIS conferences (face-to-face and virtual meetings such as webinars) at a special member rate.

In 2022 we will personally try to attend all three TERMIS Chapter meetings in Poland (TERMIS EU), Toronto (TERMIS AM) and Korea (TERMIS AP) and we hope many of you will be participating to help rebuild our in-person networking to strengthen our Society.

Geoff: As my last TERMIS Congress as the Society President I wish you a great online experience and hope to see you face to face in 2022.

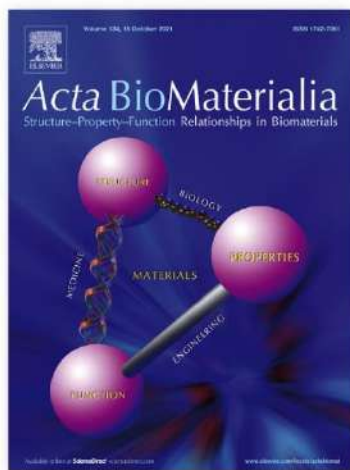
Tony: As the incoming President of TERMIS, I welcome you to our World Congress online and look forward to seeing you in person at future meetings.

R. Geoff Richards, President of TERMIS 2019,2020,2021.

Tony Weiss, incoming President of TERMIS.

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DEVELOPMENT OF A 3D MICROENVIRONMENT FOR ENGINEERING OF GLIOBLASTOMA BRAIN TUMOR

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The aim of this work was to develop a 3D microenvironment for glioblastoma brain tumor engineering based on alginate hydrogels as a matrix for cell immobilization followed by cultivation in a biomimetic perfusion bioreactor. Alginate microfibers with immobilized cells were obtained by a simple extrusion technique. We have examined the influence of the needle diameter (22G - 28G), cell density in alginate solution (1×10^6 - 8×10^6 cells/ml) and different cancer cell lines (rat C6 and human U251 and U87) on cell immobilization efficiency and viability. The best alginate microfibers (500 μm in diameter) with all immobilized cells were obtained by applying a 25G needle with a minimal cell density of 4×10^6 cells/ml. The obtained microfibers with immobilized cells (C6 and U87) were cultivated in a perfusion bioreactor at the continuous medium flowrate in the range 0.05-0.30 ml/min over short- and long-term cultivation periods. The results have shown that the flowrate of 0.30 ml/min, corresponding to the superficial velocity of 100 $\mu\text{m/s}$, in combination with the C6 cell density of 8×10^6 cells/ml in short-term studies yielded higher cell viabilities and proliferation as compared to the control static culture. In addition, U87 cells immobilized in alginate microfibers at the density of 4×10^6 cells/ml after long-term cultivation at the medium flowrate of 0.05 ml/min (superficial velocity of 15 $\mu\text{m/s}$) stayed viable. The overall results have shown potentials of the applied approach for tumor engineering provided optimization of cultivation conditions for each cell type.