

# 4D Bioprinting Smart And Nanomaterials For Complex Tissue Regeneration

**Dr. Grace Zhang**

Professor and Associate Dean for Research

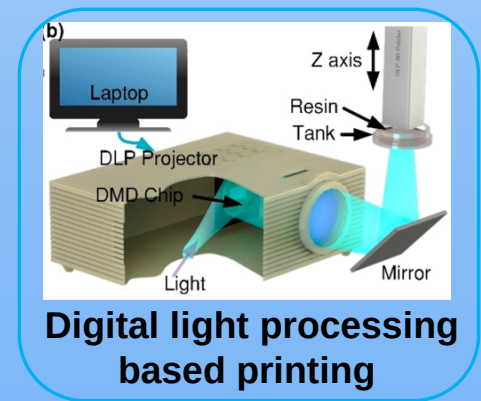
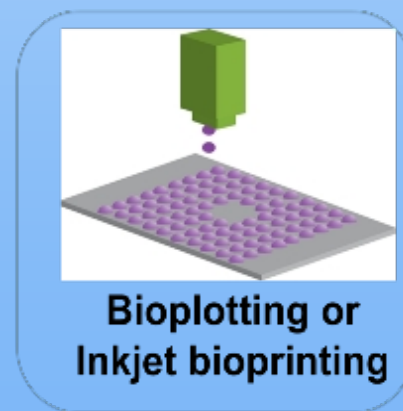
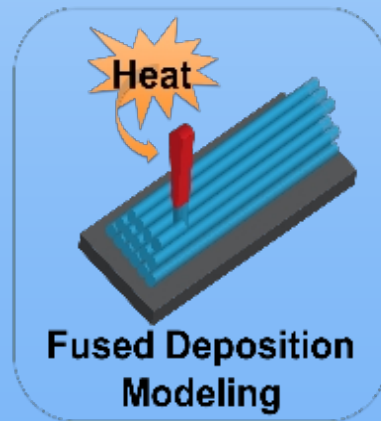
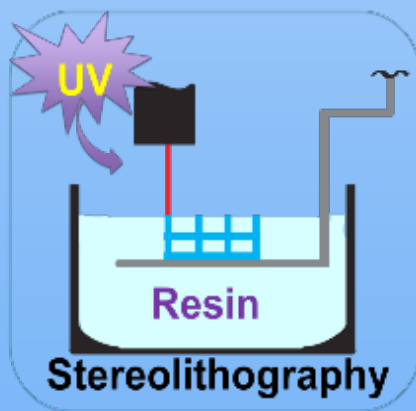
Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
School of Engineering and Applied Science

The George Washington University

December 7, 2023

# Pillar I: 3D Bioprinting

- Printing cells, bioactive factors and biomaterials
- 3D microfabrication for patient specific complex tissue and organ design

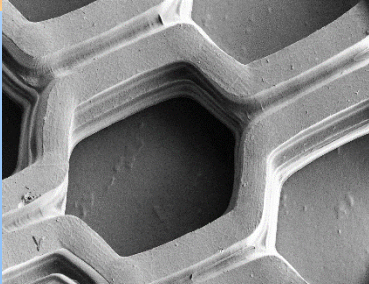
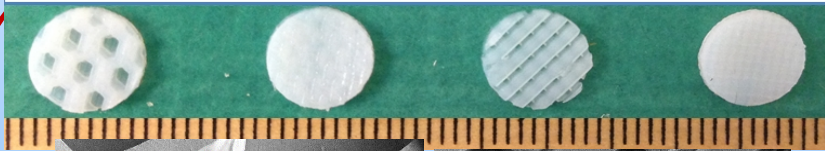


Y. Wang, H. Cui, et al., ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces, 13(11):12746–12758 (2021).

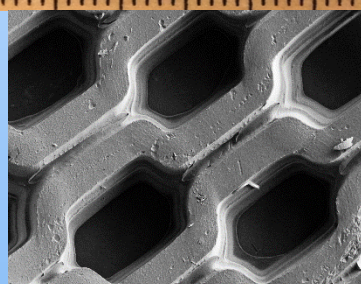
C. O'Brien, B. Holmes, S. Faucett and L.G. Zhang. *Tissue Engineering*, 21(1): 103-114, (2015)

# 3D Printed Tissue Scaffolds

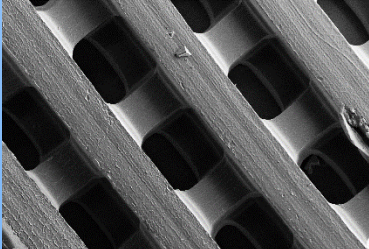
Large hexagon    Small hexagon    Large square    Small square



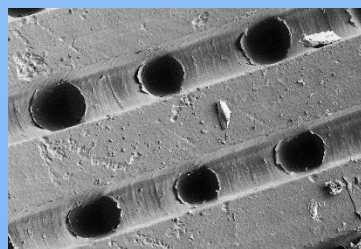
100 µm    EHT = 5.00 kV    Signal A = SE2    Date: 28 May 2014    Time: 14:29:27



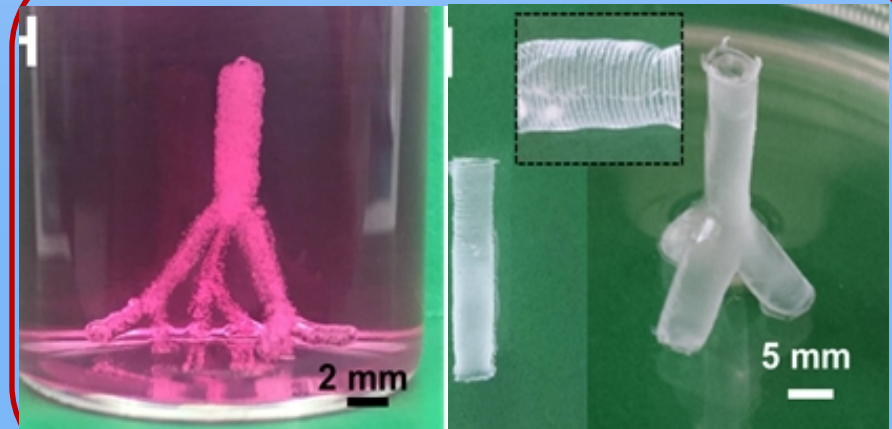
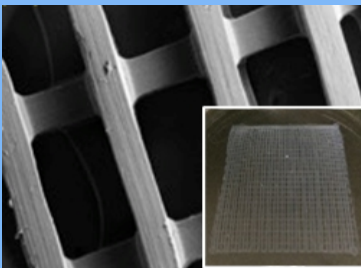
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100 µm    EHT = 5.00 kV    Signal A = SE2    Date: 28 May 2014    Time: 14:01:20



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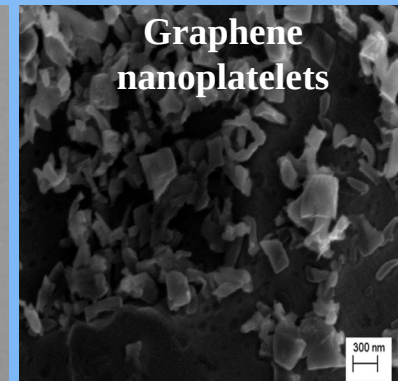
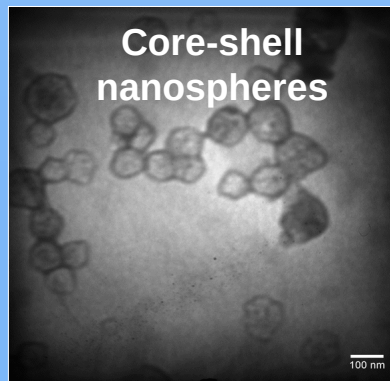
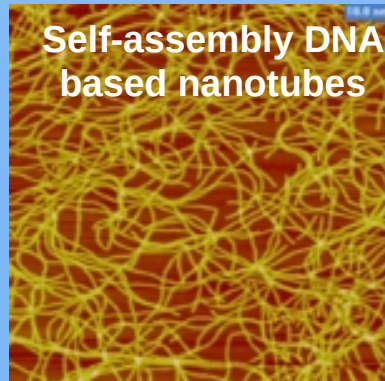


# Pillar II: Nanotechnology

- Nanomaterials are materials with basic structural units, grains, particles, fibers or other constituent components **smaller than 100 nm** in **at least one dimension**.

Human tissue structure: **nanostructured extracellular matrix (ECM)** and various cells

Nanoinks : Nanoparticles, Nanotubes, Nanofibers, Nanocrystals, Nanorods...



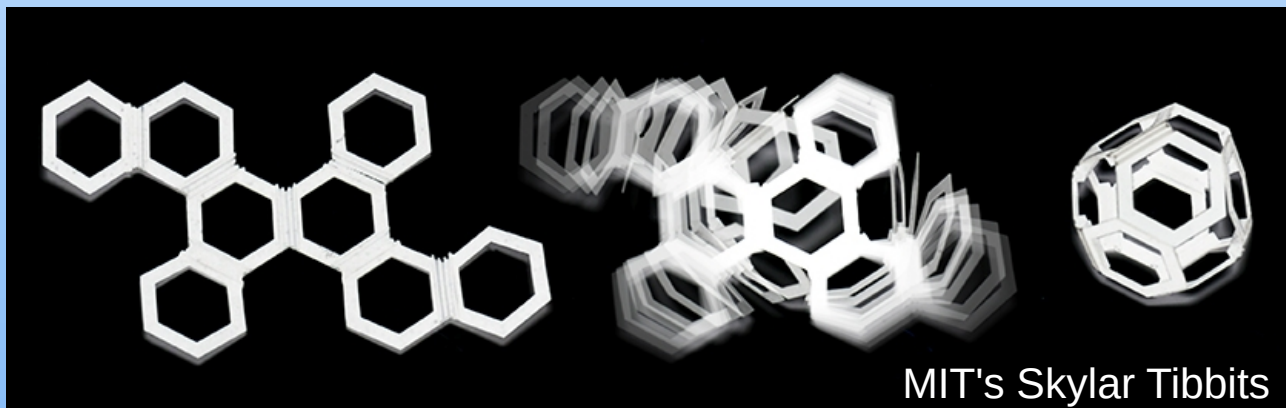


**NEW FRONTIER:**

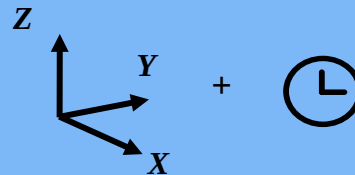
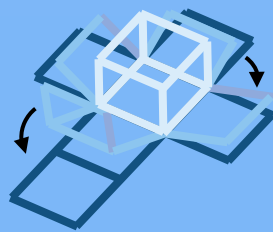
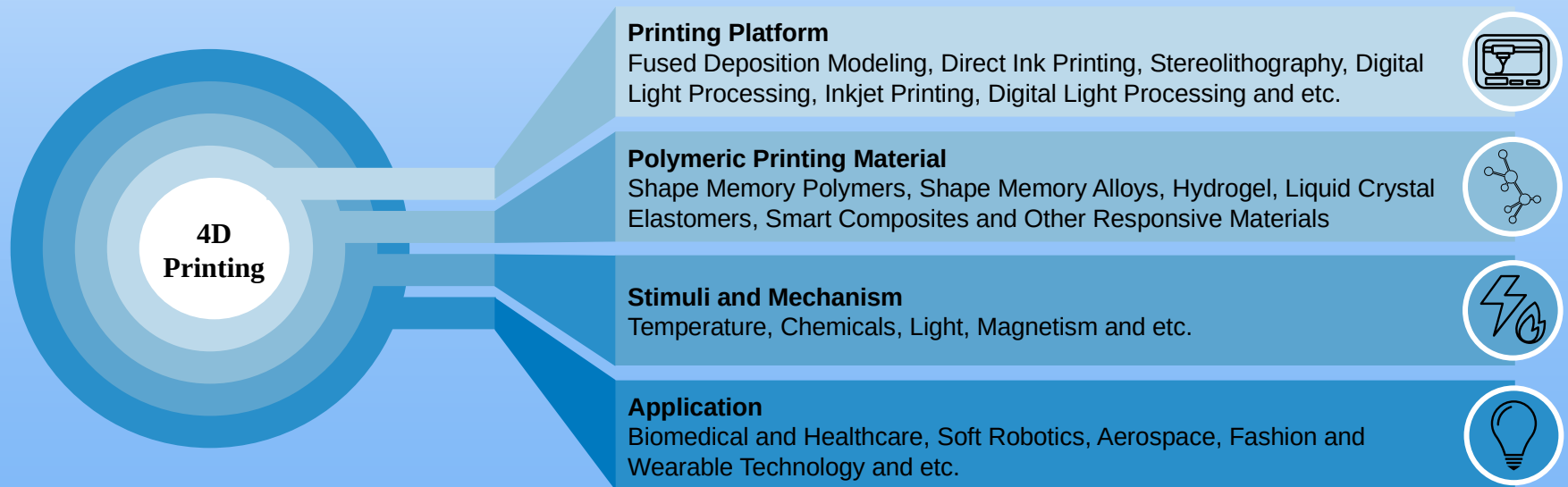
**4D BIOPRINTING**

# 4D Printing

- The printed constructs are able to change and mutate **over time**.

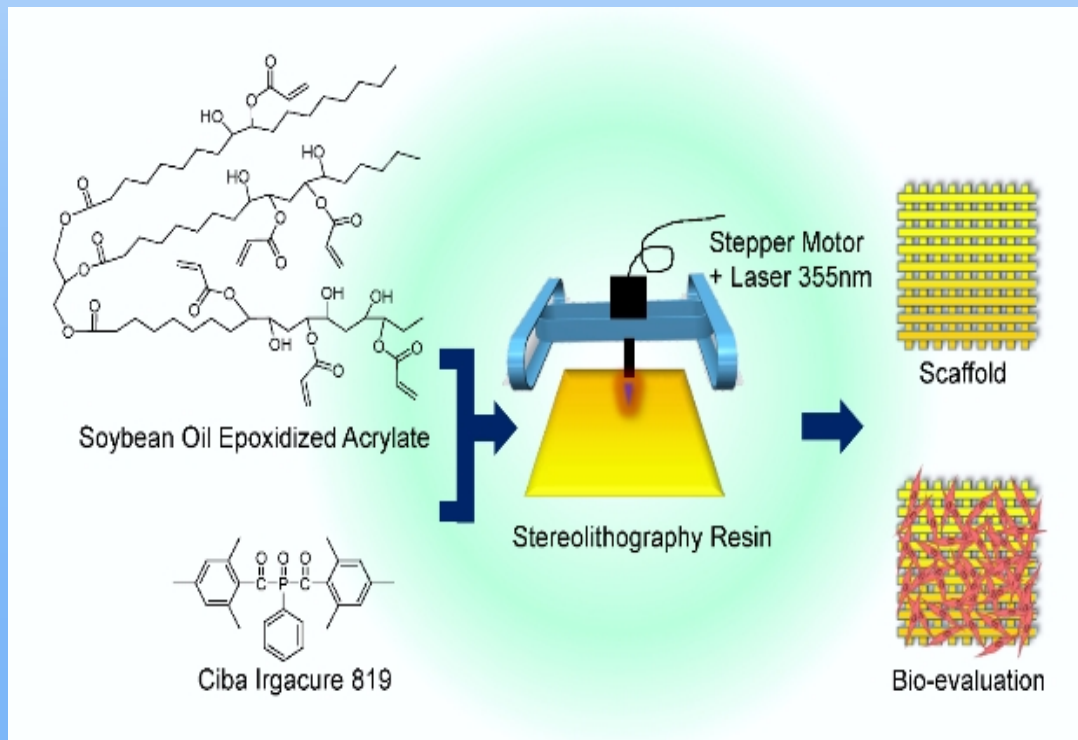


# 4D Printing

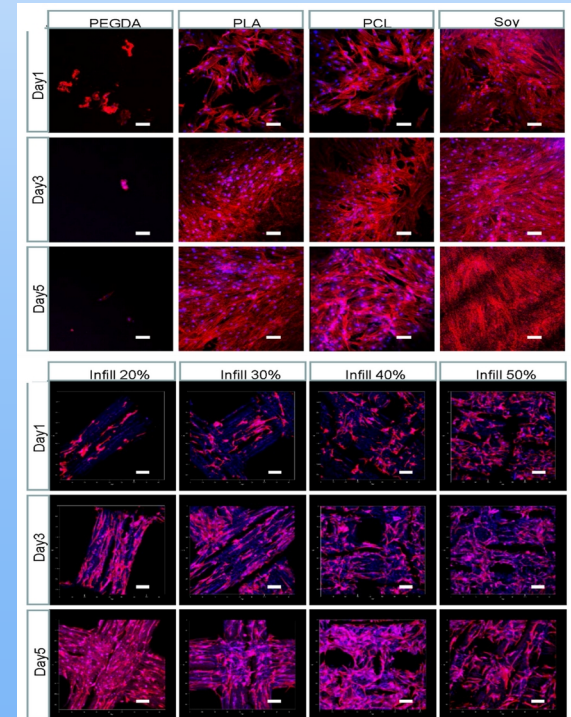


# Novel Natural Smart Materials for 4D Bioprinting

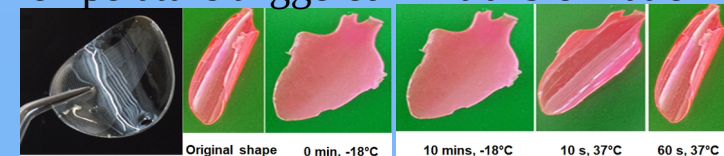
➤ Synthesize novel smart natural biomaterials (plant oil) for 4D bioprinting complex tissues



Excellent stem cell proliferation



Temperature triggered 4D transformation



S. Miao, W. Zhu, N. Castro, J.S. Leng and L. Zhang. *Tissue Engineering Part C*, 22(10): 952–963 (2016). \*Cover image of the Oct issue.

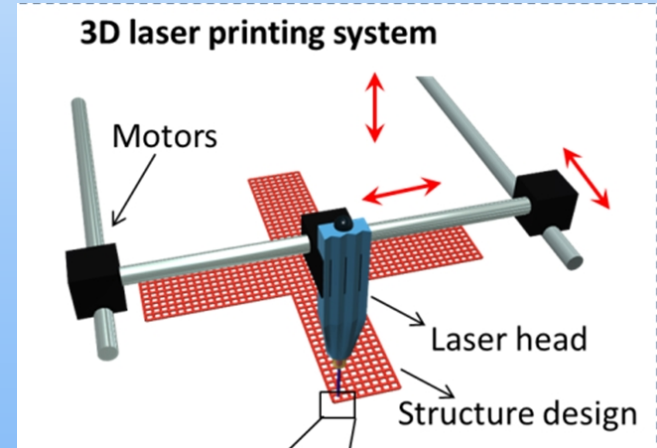
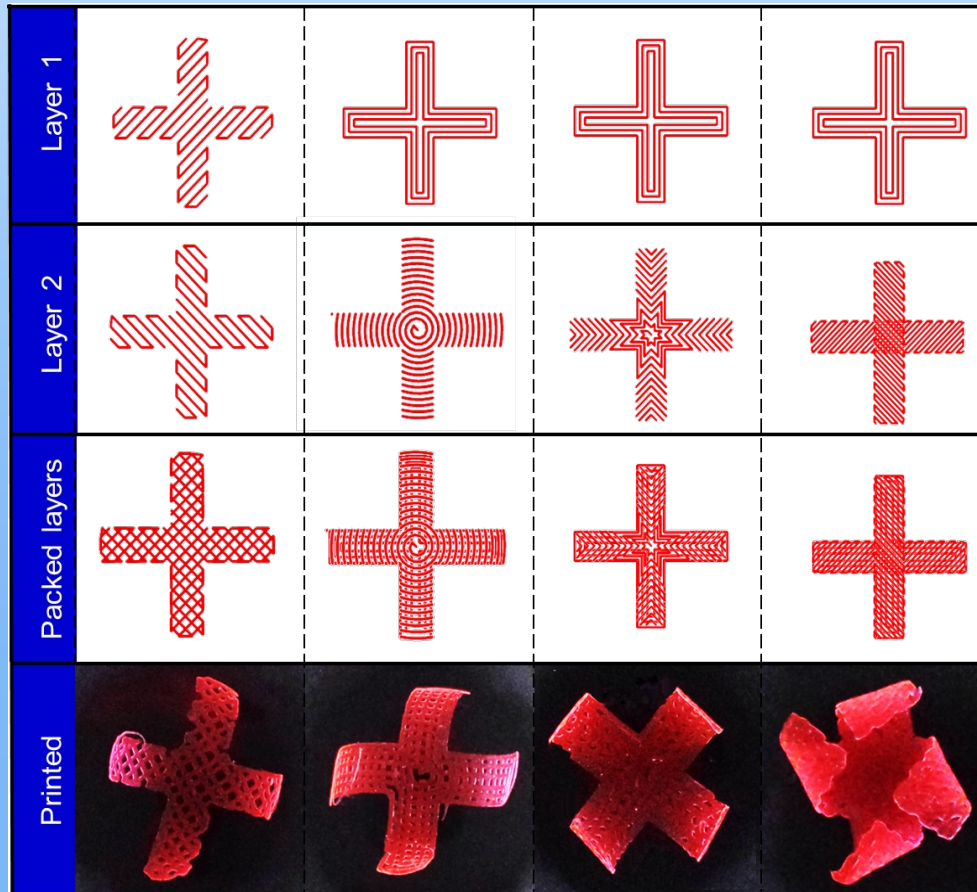
S. Miao, W. Zhu, N. Castro, M. Nowicki, H. Cui, X. Zhou, J.P Fisher, and L. Zhang. *Scientific Reports*, 6:27226 (2016).

S. Miao, H. Cui, M. Nowicki, et al. *Biofabrication*, 10(3):035007, (2018).



# Anisotropic Smart Structure Design for 4D Transformation

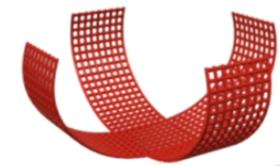
## Various Structure Design



**Self-assembly structure after external stimulation right after 3D printing**



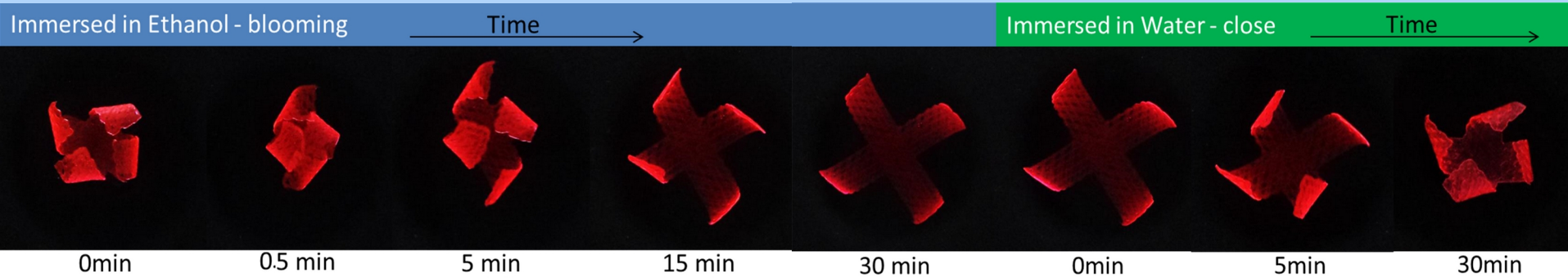
Top view



Down view

# Solvent Triggered 4D Transformation

## Reverse shape change effect



I : 4D transformation

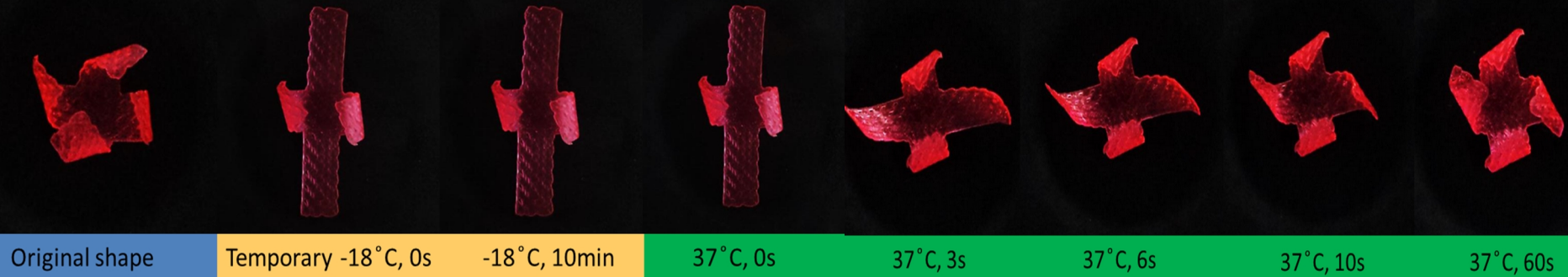
(Immersed in ethanol)

II : 4D transformation

(Immersed in water)

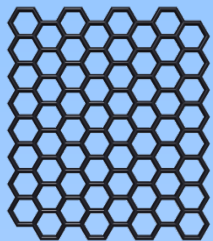
# Temperature Sensitive 4D Printing

## Shape memory effect

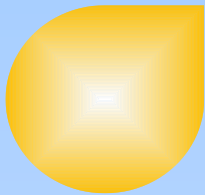


III: 4D transformation  
(Thermomechanical-programming)

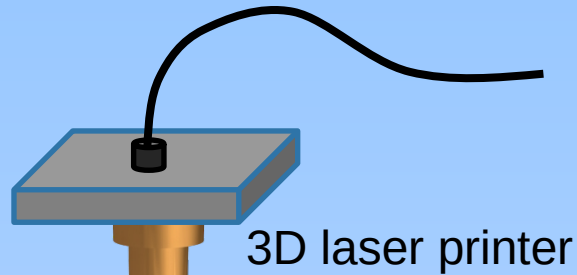
# 4D Printing Nanomaterials



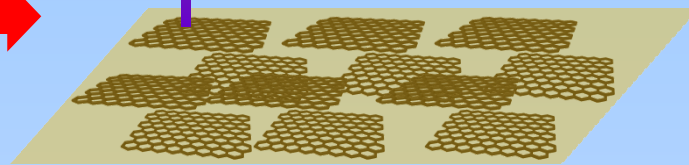
Graphene



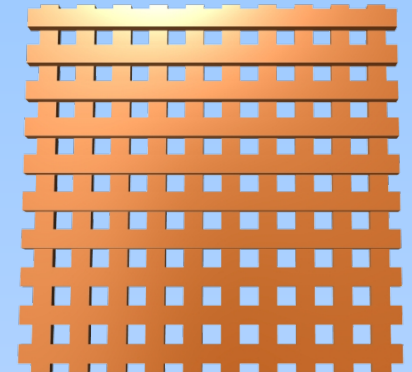
Soybean oil  
epoxidized acrylate



3D laser printer

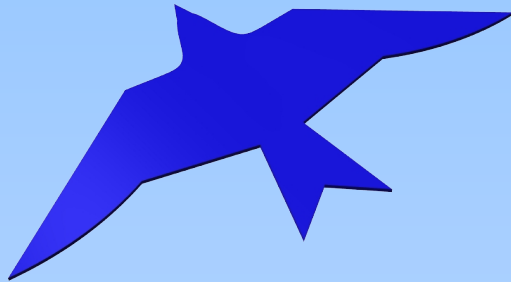


Graphene bioink

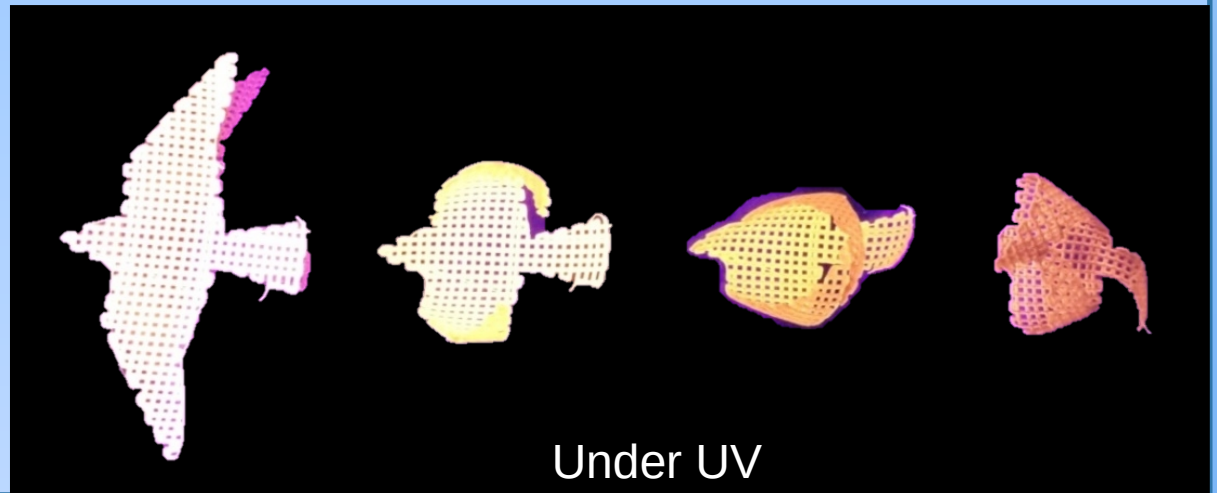
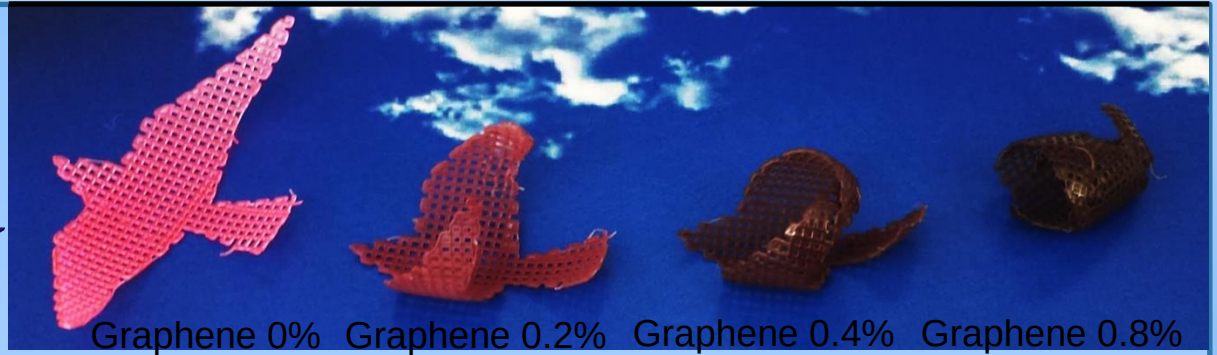


Smart scaffold

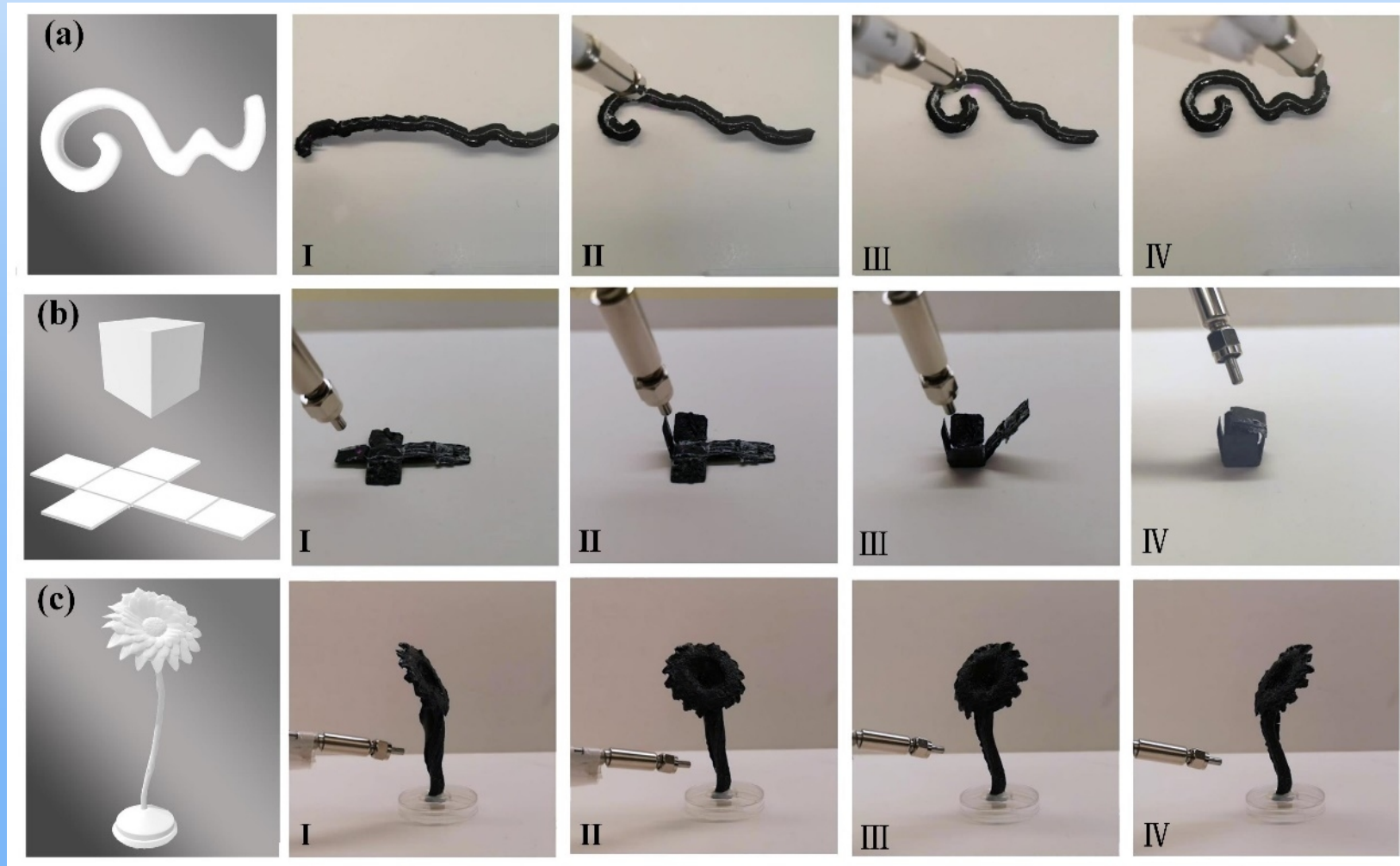
# The Effect of Graphene on 4D Printing



Mimic Flying Bird



# 4D Printed NIR Sensitive Structures



# Light Sensitive 4D Printing

## NIR responsive 4D transformation

Remote and dynamic control

# Other Noteworthy 4D printing Nanomaterial Research

## Ferromagnetic particles as magnetothermal fillers in 4D actuators

### Magnetothermal recovery of the 4D actuators

#### Printing ferromagnetic domains for untethered fast-transforming soft materials

Yoonho Kim<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Hyunwoo Yuk<sup>1\*</sup>, Ruike Zhao<sup>1\*</sup>, Shawn A. Chester<sup>3</sup>, Xuanhe Zhao<sup>1,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Soft Active Materials Laboratory, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

<sup>2</sup>Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

<sup>3</sup>Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, New Jersey Institute of Technology

<sup>4</sup>Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

\*These authors contributed equally to the current work  
Correspondence should be addressed to Xuanhe Zhao (zhaox@mit.edu)



Rolling-based locomotion and delivery of a drug pill of the hexapedal structure under a rotating magnetic field

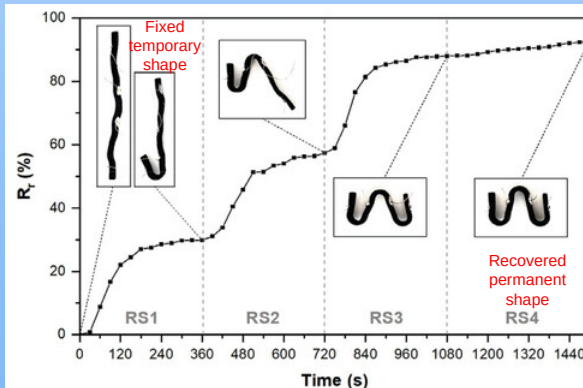
#### 4D ink composition:

- SE 1700
- Ecoflex 00-30
- NdFeB particles

Kim, Yoonho, et al. Nature 558.7709 (2018): 274-279.

## Carbon Nanoparticles as electrothermal fillers in 4D actuators

### Electrothermal recovery of the 4D construct

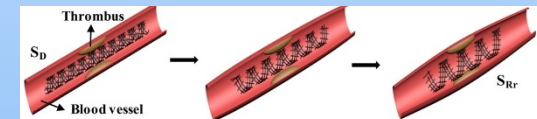


#### 4D ink composition:

- Poly(ethylene glycol) diacrylate
- Poly(hydroxyethyl methacrylate)
- Carbon Nanotubes

Cortés, Alejandro, et al. Advanced Functional Materials 31.50 (2021): 2106774.

## Iron oxide nanoparticles as magnetothermal fillers in 4D stents



### Magnetothermal recovery of the 4D stent

*Self-expandable behavior of the spiral stent actuated by alternating magnetic field*

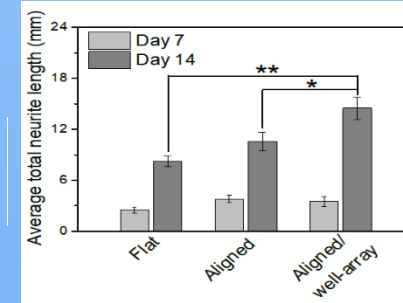
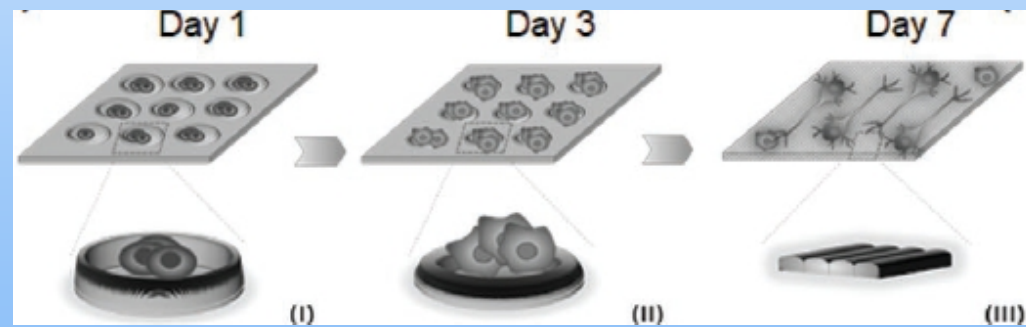
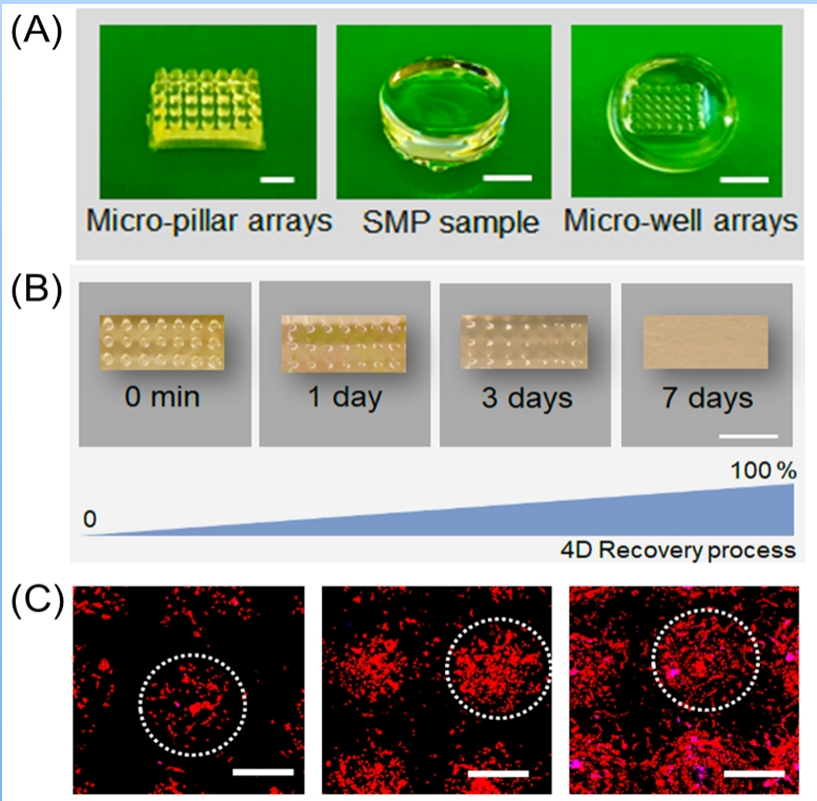
#### 4D ink composition:

- Poly(lactic acid)
- Iron oxide nanoparticles

Wei, Hongqiu, et al. ACS applied materials & interfaces 9.1 (2017): 876-883.

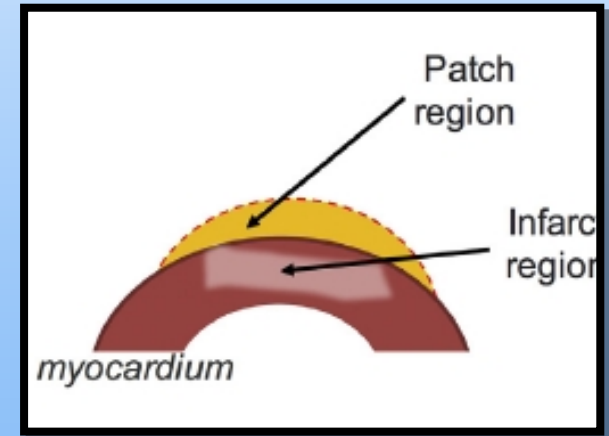
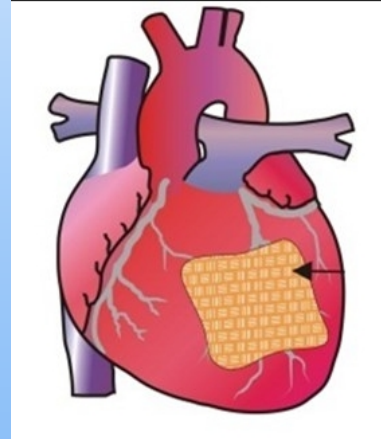
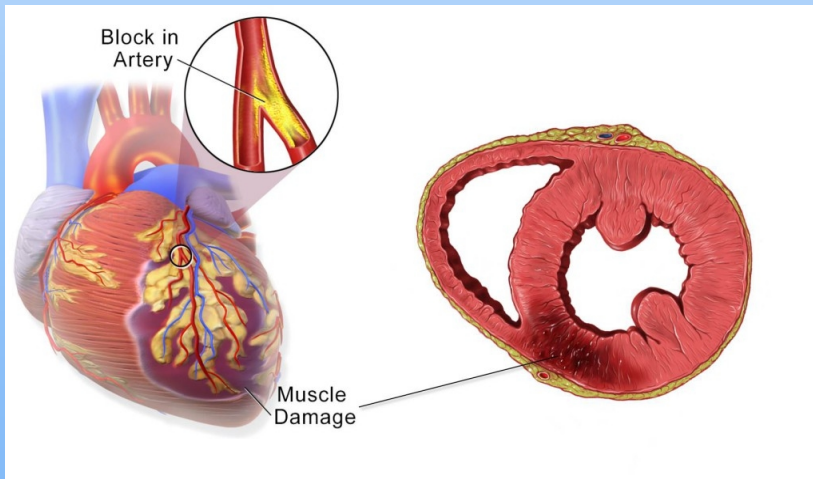


# Application I: 4D Printed Self-Morphing Culture Substrate for Improving Neural Stem Cell Functions



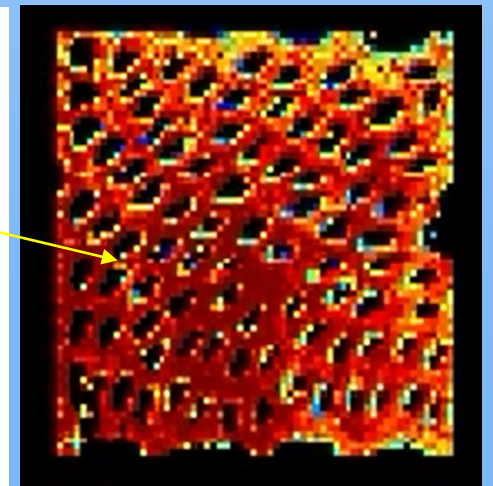
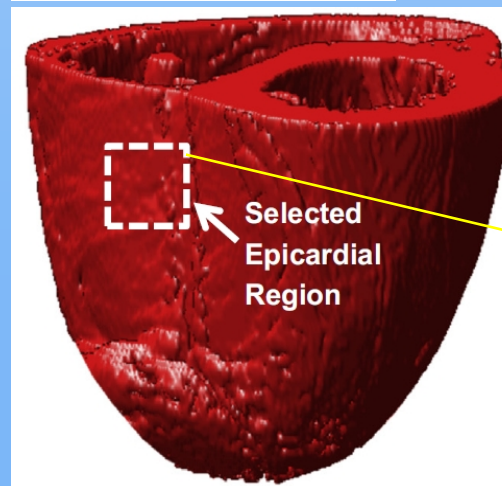
# Application II: 4D Smart Cardiac Patch for Heart Repair

## Myocardial infarction



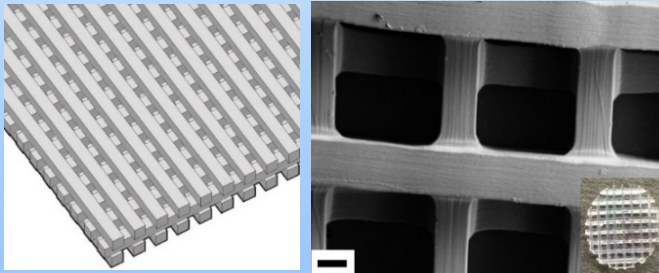
## Cardiac tissue patch

- ◆ Cell delivery
- ◆ Mechanical supporting
- ◆ Biophysical integration

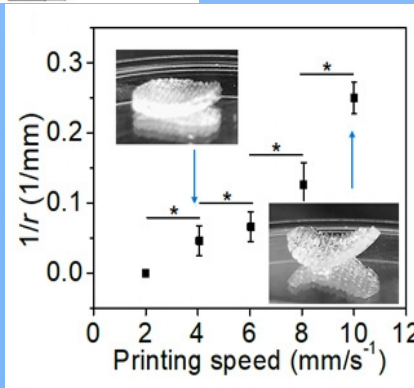
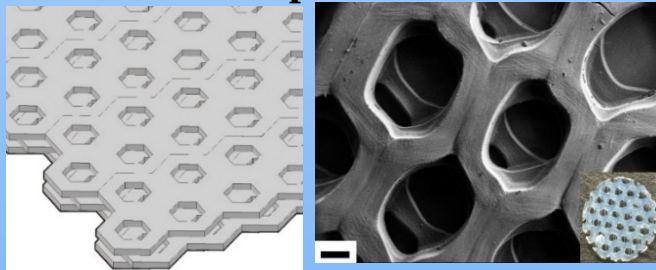


# Cardiac Patch: Structural Design and 7 Days of Dynamic Cell Co-Culture

## Isotropic Patch

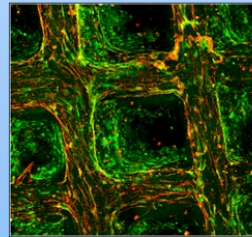


## Anisotropic Patch

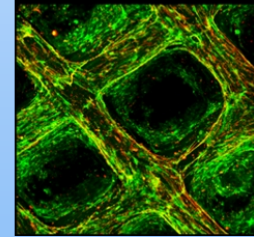


Anisotropic Isotropic

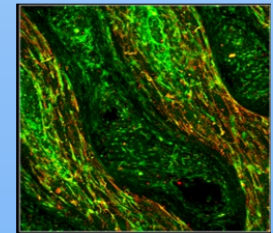
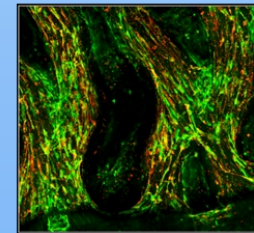
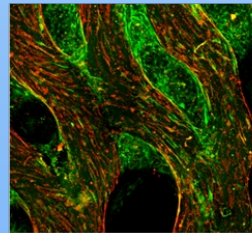
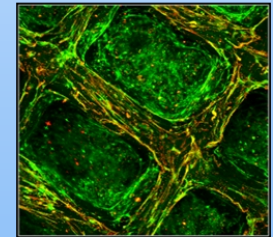
1:2:2



1:2:3

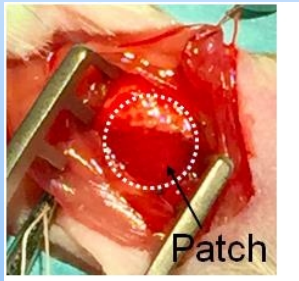


1:2:4

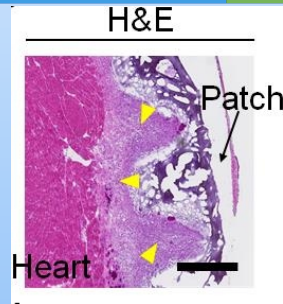
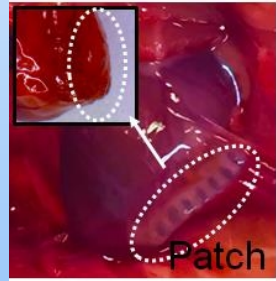


- ❖ The above cell images showed 1:2:4 is the best cell ratio for co-culture of MSCs, HUVECs (red) and iPS-cardiomyocyte (green) implantation.

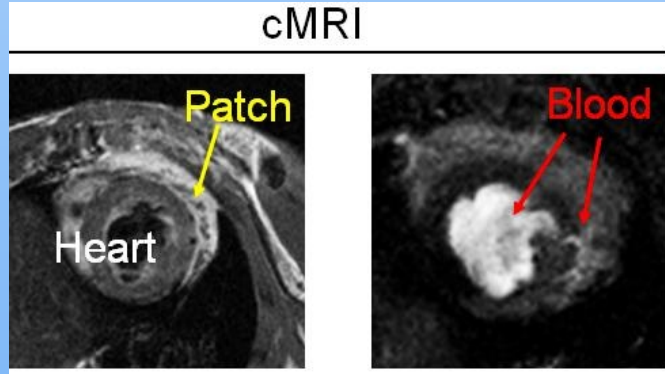
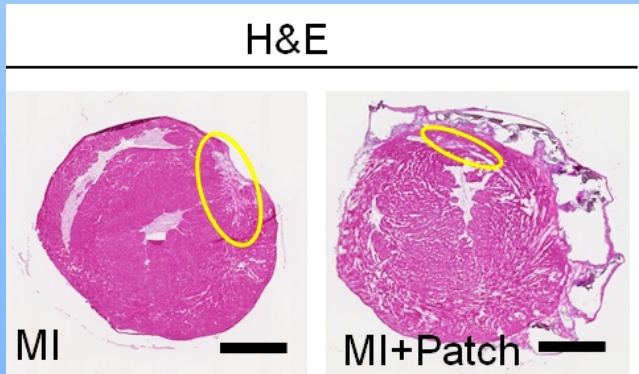
# In Vivo Heart Implantation: Myocardial Infarct Mice for 4 months



Implantation  
→

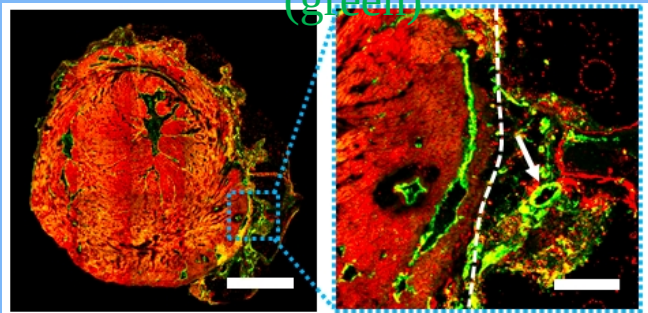


A firm adhesion & cell clusters with a high density

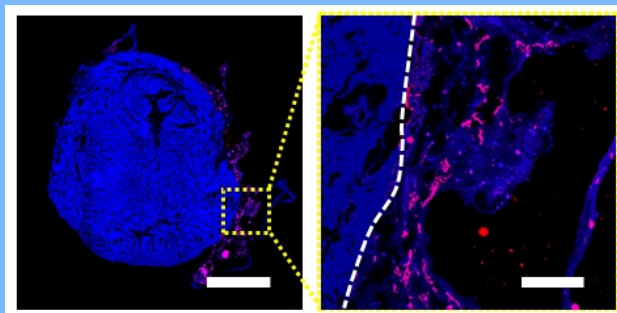


Smaller infarct size & contract and relax with the heartbeat and evident blood perfusion from the heart to the patch

Cardiac troponin I (red) /VwF (green)



Human CD31 (red) /DAPI



Robust survival of cardiomyocytes and vascularization *in vivo*. & a high density of capillaries.

# Challenges and Future Directions

- **Smart bioprinting “inks”**: not biomimetic and bioactive for maximal cell growth and tissue integration
- **Bioprinting platforms**: low resolution, low cell viability and low yield
- **Human benign stimulus-responsive performance and controllable function**
- **Improving the printed product lifespan, recycle times, multi-responsibility, and preprogrammed cycle capability**
- **“Functional” organs**

# Acknowledgements

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Dr. Tarun Agarwal  
Timothy Esworthy  
Shengbo Guo  
Shuaiqi Song

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Dr. Brent Harris	Georgetown University
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Dr. Manfred Boehm	National Heart Lung Blood Institute
Dr. Michael Plesniak	The George Washington University
Dr. Rong Li	The George Washington University
Dr. Michael Keidar	The George Washington University
Dr. Kausik Sarkar	The George Washington University
Dr. Muhammad Mohiuddin	University of Maryland Baltimore
Dr. John Fisher	University of Maryland, College Park

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# Questions?

