



# Materials for Biomedical Applications: From Layered Double Hydroxides to Natural Biopolymers

Tamara Posati

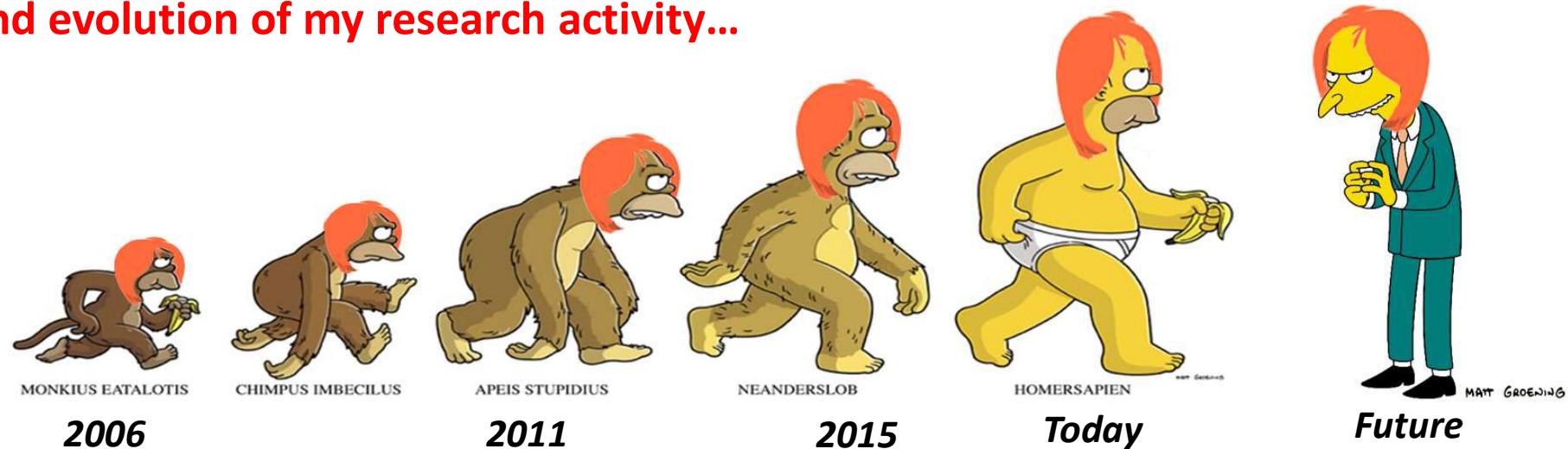
CNR-ISOF, Area della Ricerca di Bologna



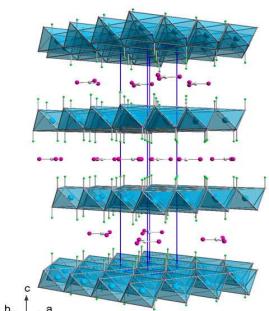
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*Conferenza di Dipartimento 2018, Assisi, 24-26 Settembre*

## History and evolution of my research activity...



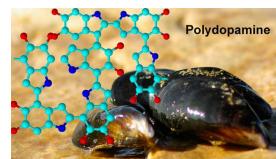
Hydrotalcites (HTlc)



Fibroin

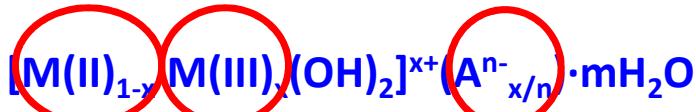
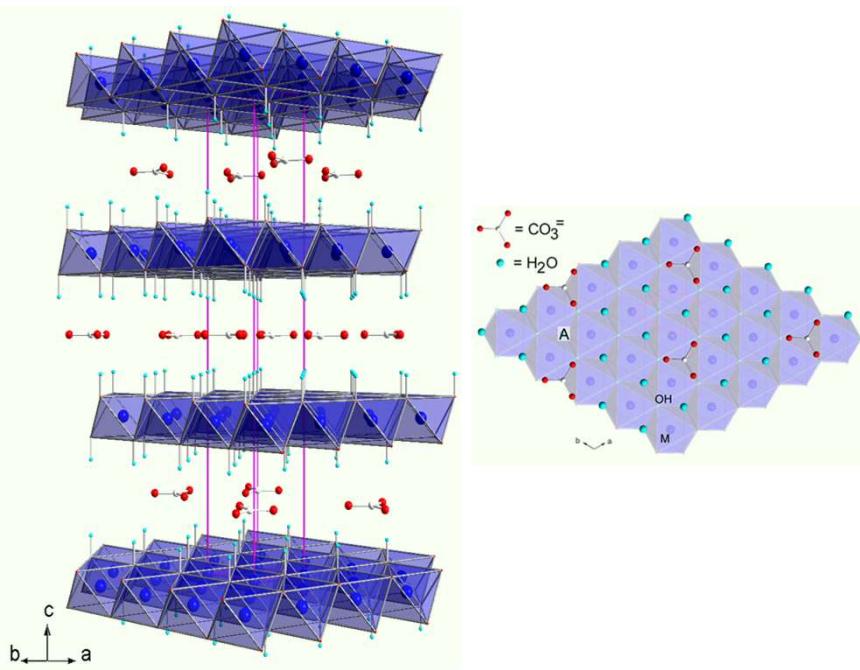


Keratin



Polydopamine

## Hydrotalcite-Like Compounds (HTIcs)



M(II) = Mg, Zn, Co, Ni, Mn, Cu.

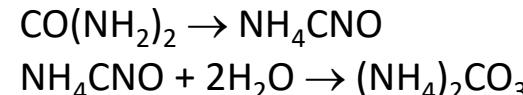
M(III) = Al, Cr, Fe, V, Co, Ga or Ln.

A<sup>n-</sup> = inorganic or organic anion of charge n.

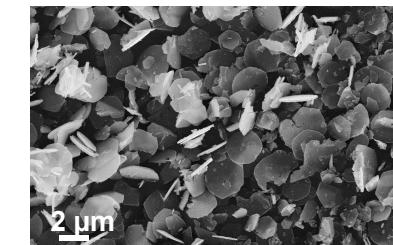
## HTlc synthesis

### Standard methods :

- Co-precipitation of the metal ions: variable pH (NaOH) or constant pH (NaHCO<sub>3</sub>–Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>)
- Urea method: Hydrolysis of urea at 80 - 100°C

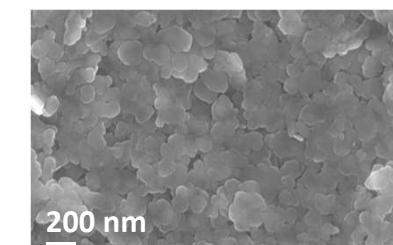
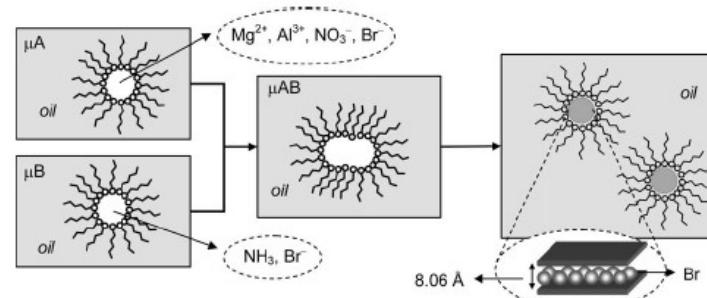


U. Costantino et al. *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.*, 1998, 1439.



**HTlc microparticles**

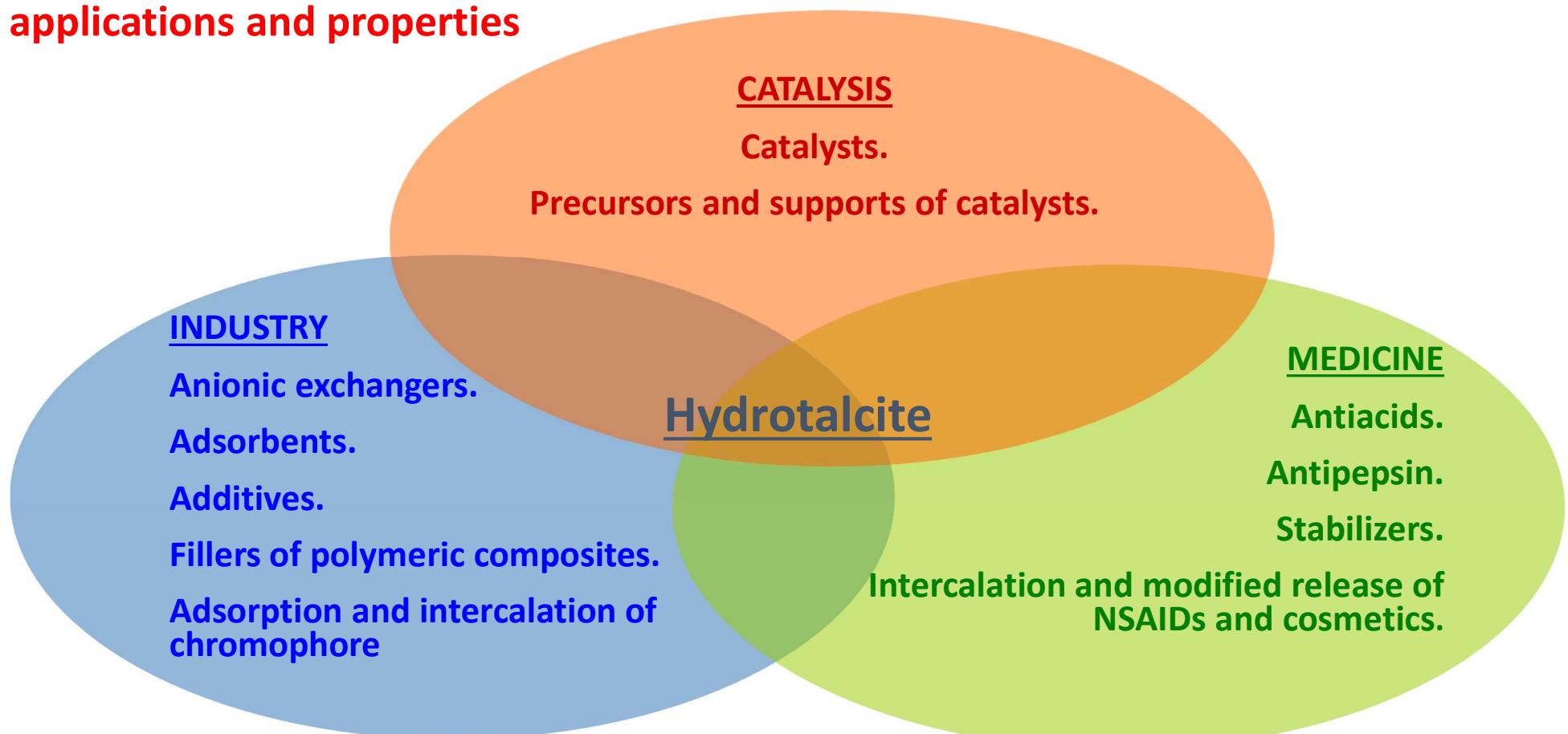
### Double microemulsion technique: w/o microemulsion



**HTlc nanoparticles**

F. Bellezza, A. Cipiciani, U. Costantino, M. Nocchetti, T. Posati, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.*, 2009, 2603.

## HTlc applications and properties



Low toxicity, good biocompatibility, tunable chemical composition and ionic exchange capacity (easy functionalization)

## Hydrotalcite before....

### 1) Interaction with globular enzymes (Myoglobin, Chymotrypsin and serum proteins)

F. Bellezza, T. Posati, A. Cipiciani et al. *Langmuir*, 2009, 25(18), 10918.

### 2) Controlled drug release and cellular uptake

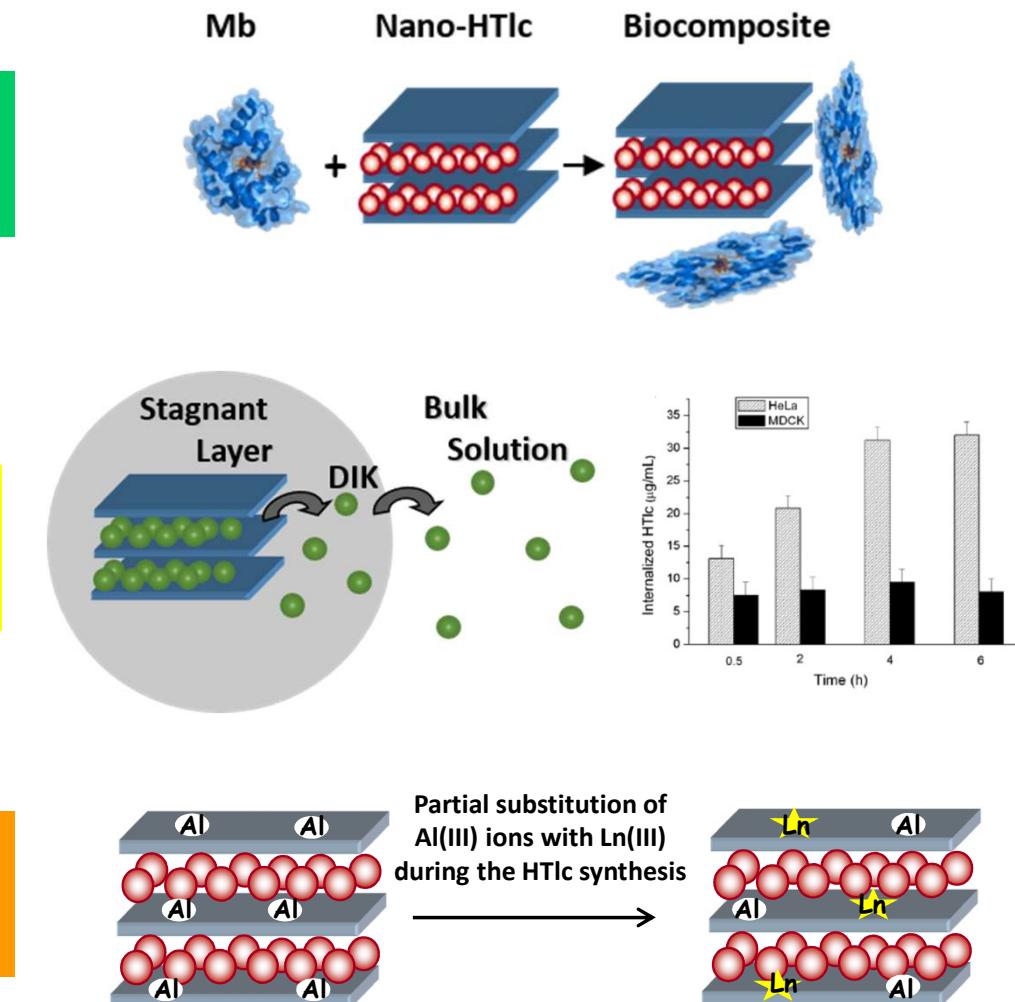
L. Perioli, T. Posati, M. Nocchetti et al. *Appl. Clay Sci.*, 2011, 53, 374.

T. Posati, F. Bellezza, A. Cipiciani et al. *Appl. Clay Sci.*, 2012, 55, 62.

### 3) Doping of HTlc nanoparticles with luminescent lanthanide ions (Eu, Tb...)

T. Posati, L. Latterini et al. *Cryst. Growth Des.*, 2010, 10, 2847.

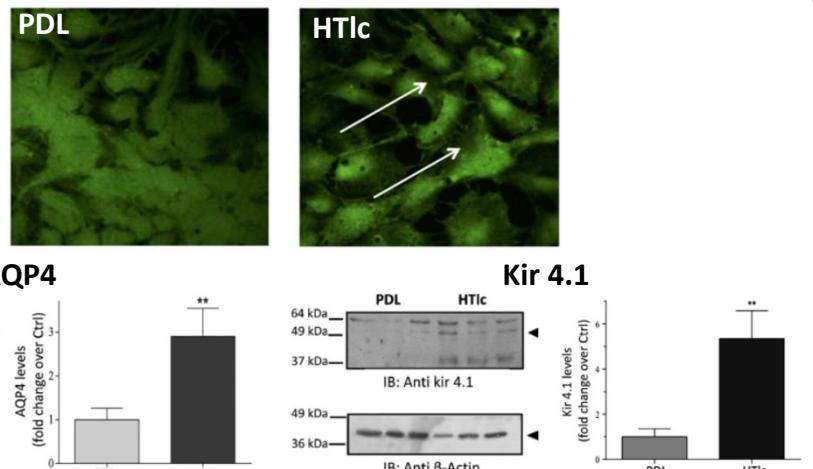
T. Posati, M. Nocchetti et al. *Inorg. Chem.* 2012, 51, 13229.



## Hydrotalcite at CNR...

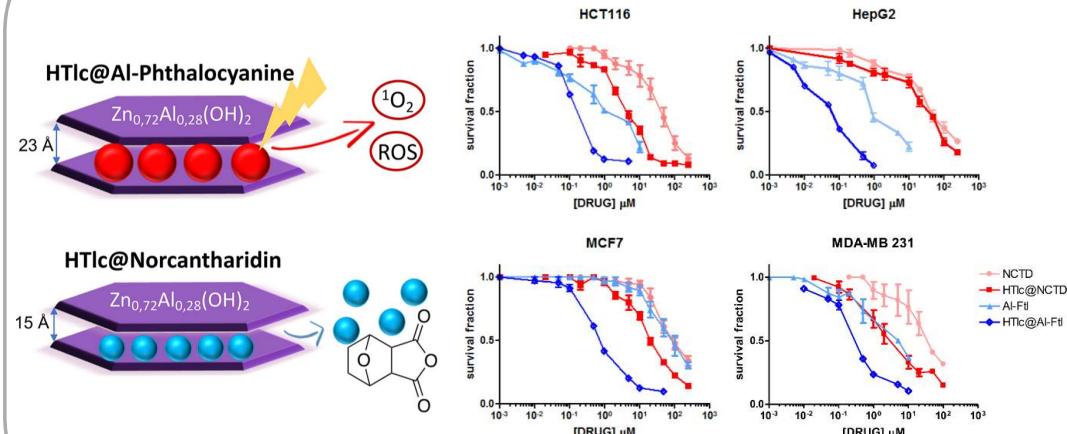
### Biomedical applications

#### 1) HTlc and astrocytes



T. Posati, V. Benfenati, R. Zamboni, M. Muccini et al. *Sci. Rep.*, 2016, 6, 31226.

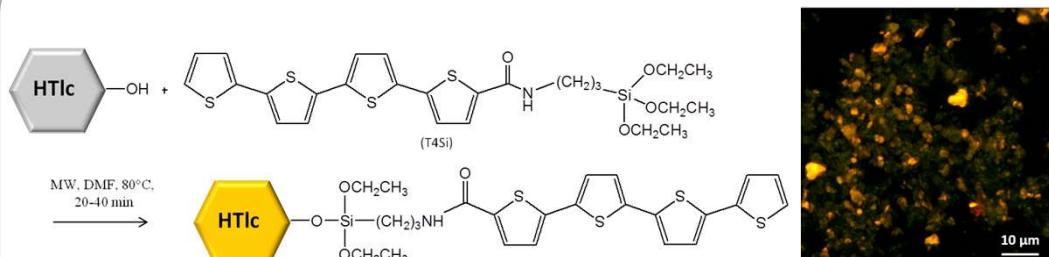
#### 2) HTlc and cancer therapy



C. Martini, C. Ferroni, T. Posati, G. Varchi et al. *submitted*.

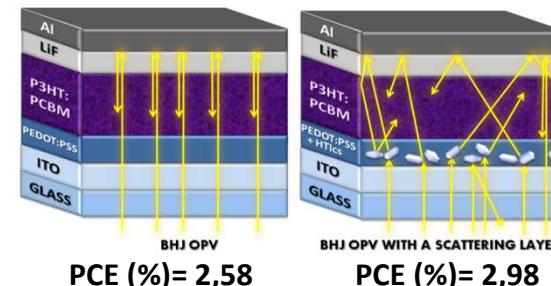
### Other applications

#### 3) Chemical functionalization



T. Posati, M. Melucci, V. Benfenati, R. Zamboni et al. *RSC Adv.*, 2014, 4, 11840.

#### 4) Scattering NPs for organic photovoltaics



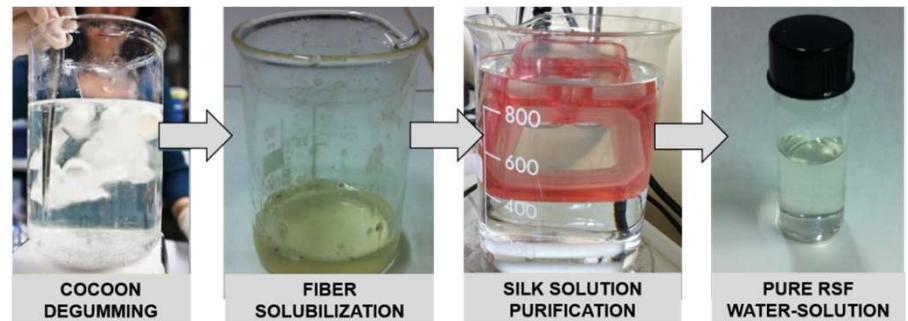
T. Posati, M. Bolognesi, M. Seri, et al. *OPP.*, 2013, 1.

## Natural Proteins

### Silk Fibroin



Sustainable extraction and purification protocol of «reverse engineering» (water-based)



D. L Kaplan et al. *Nature Protocols* 2011, 6, 1612.

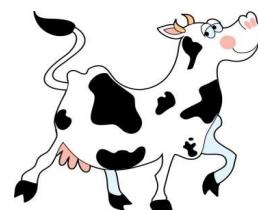
### Keratin



Wool



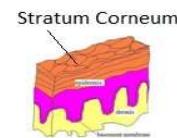
Feather



Horns & Nails



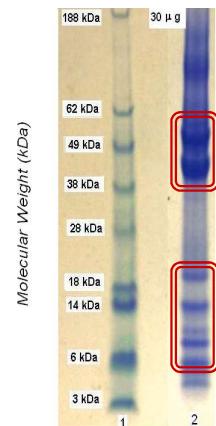
Hair



Skin



Keratin Powder



Renewable sources  
at low cost of  
biopolymers



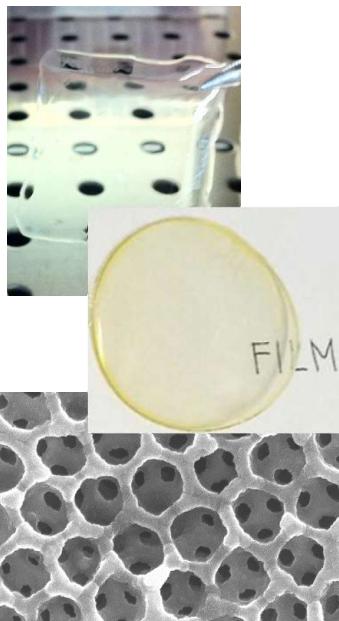


PROTEIN  
SOLUTION

## Natural Proteins

•Easy to process into many material formats

TRANSPARENT,  
NANOSTRUCTURED AND  
FLEXIBLE FILM



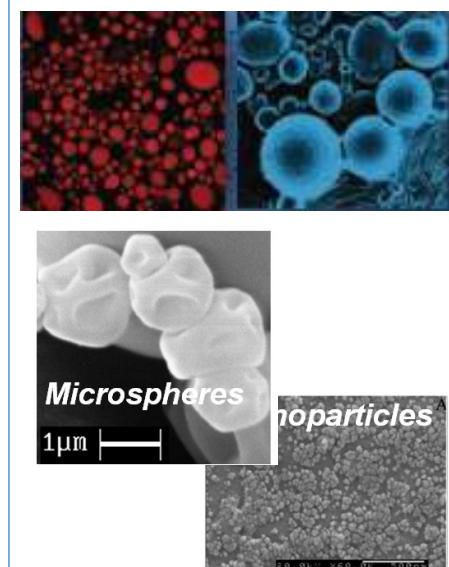
HYDROGELS



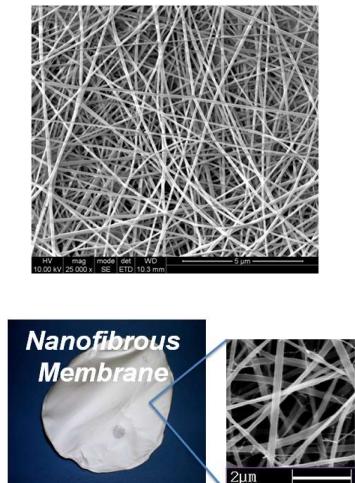
SPONGES



MICROSpheres AND  
NANOPARTICLES

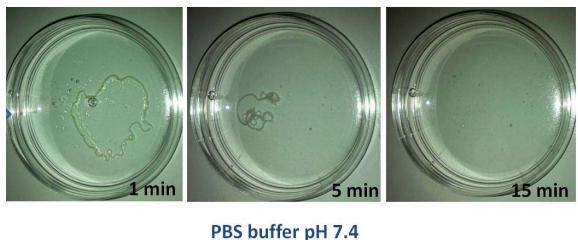


ELECTROSPUN  
NANOFIBERS

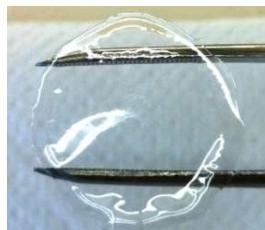


## Properties...

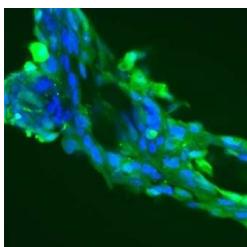
### Biodegradability



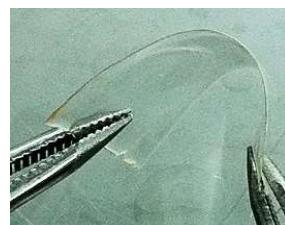
### Transparency



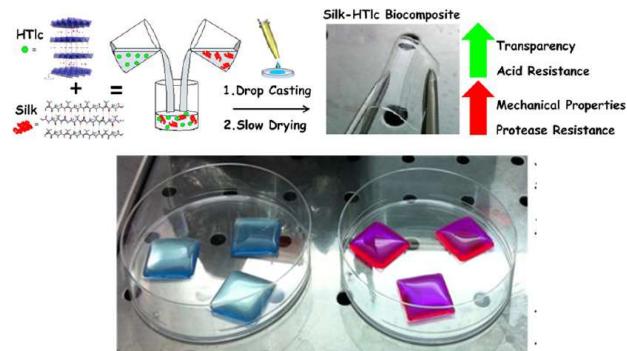
### Biocompatibility



### Flexibility



### Easy functionalization

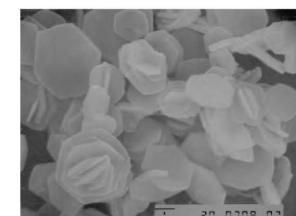
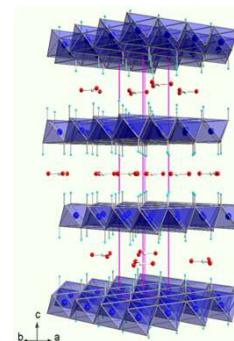
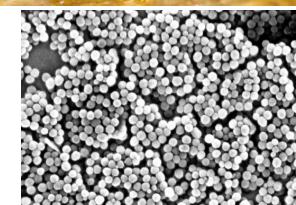
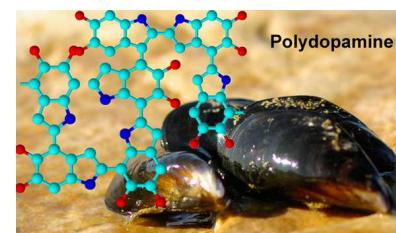


Limits

- Improved mechanical properties
- Improved biodegradability
- Microbial growth

Solutions

## Biocomposites Multifunctional Systems

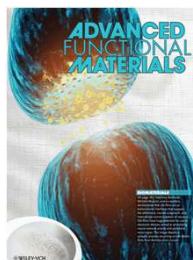
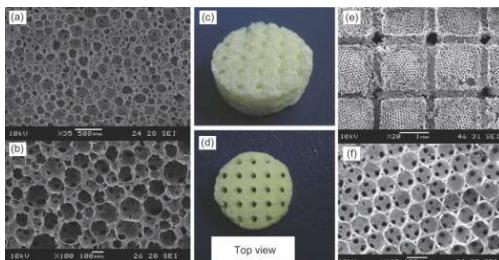


## Biomedical Field

Drug delivery systems

Scaffolds for Tissue Engineering

Regenerative medicine

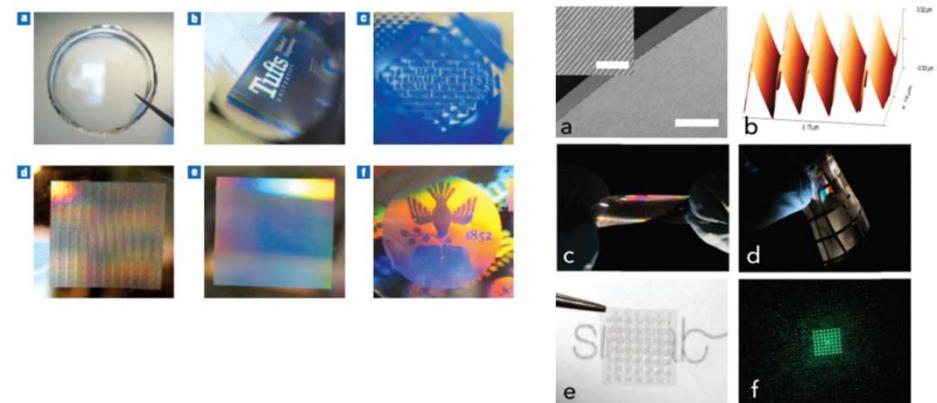


V. Benfenati et al. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* **2012**, *22*, 1871–1884

A. Aluigi, G. Sotgiu et al. *ACS Appl Mater Interfaces*, **2015**, *7*, 17416.

**Applications...**

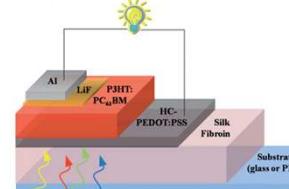
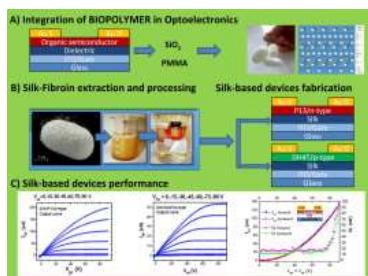
## Optical elements



B. Marelli, F. G. Omenetto, *J. Mater. Chem. C*, **2015**, *3*, 2783.

S. Toffanin, M. Muccini, R. Zamboni et al. *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, **2012**, *101*, 091110.

## Electronic and optoelectronic devices



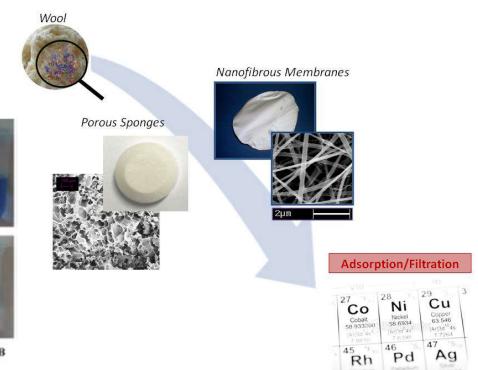
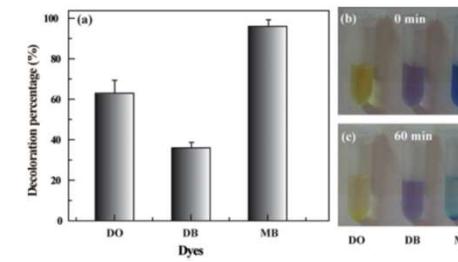
R. Capelli, R. Zamboni et al. *Organic Electronics* **2011**, *12*, 1146.

M. Seri et al. *RSC Adv.* **2014**, *4*, 44815.

## Depuration Systems

Water Treatment

Air Cleaning



S. Xiao et al. *Advanced Powder Technology*, **2014**, *25*, 574–581

A. Aluigi et al. *Eur. Polym. J.*, **2011**, *47*, 1756.

## Silk Fibroin and Hydrotalcite biocomposite films

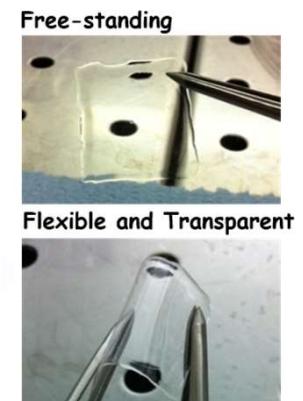
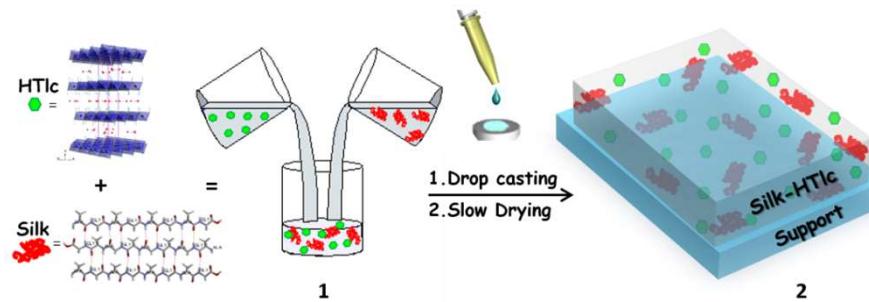
(1) Blending of SF solution and HTlc nanoparticles (NPs)

(2) Drop casting and slow drying

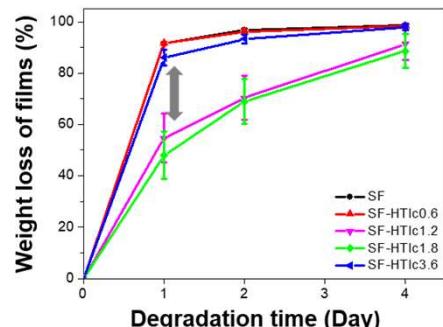
were...

... STRONGER and TOUGHER than PRISTINE SF

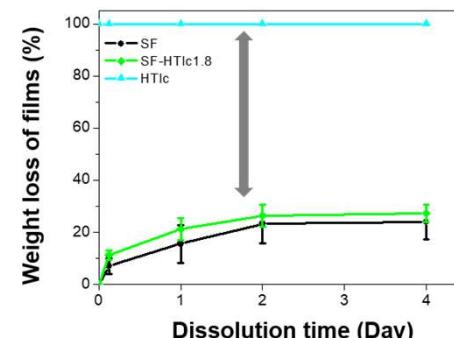
filler wt %	E/MPa	stress at break/Nmm <sup>-2</sup>	elongation at break/%	modulus of toughness/MPa
SF	2278 ± 17.42	44.4 ± 0.5	2.07 ± 0.08	45.7 ± 2.6
SP-HTlc0.6	2415 ± 9.7	65.3 ± 8.6	3.02 ± 0.36	86.1 ± 6.8
SP-HTlc1.2	2557 ± 4.15	75.9 ± 9.4	3.42 ± 0.32	105.9 ± 9.9
SP-HTlc1.8	2812 ± 58.2	56.16 ± 8.8	1.79 ± 0.39	64.9 ± 4.6
SP-HTlc3.6	2575 ± 112.76	21.65 ± 7.2	0.87 ± 0.10	8.9 ± 1.9



...MORE RESISTENT TO PROTEASE



and PROTECTIVE for HTlc-NPs towards ACID ENVIRONMENT

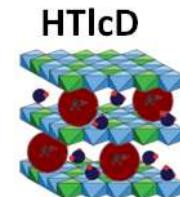
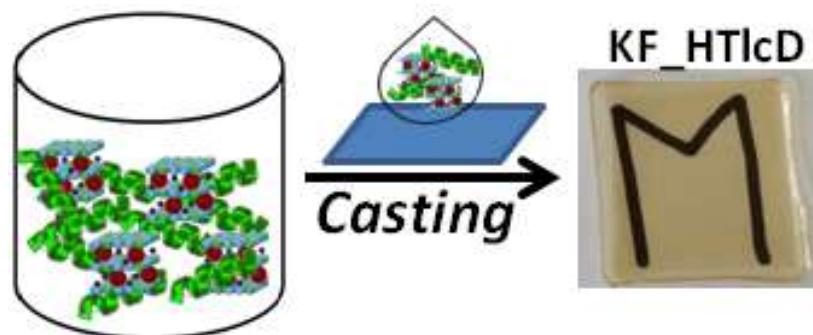


**Mutual benefit on the stability of the two components after their combination**

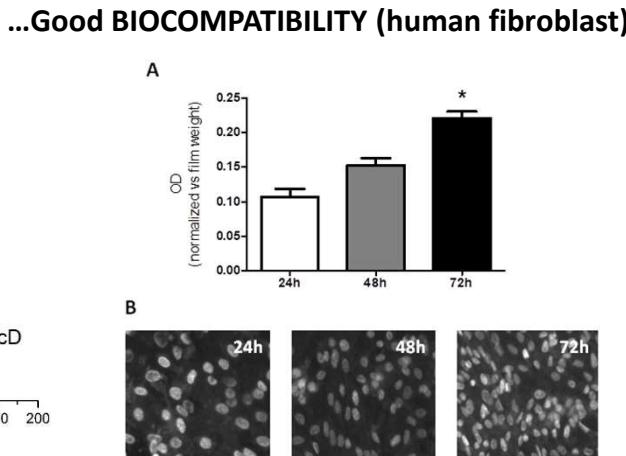
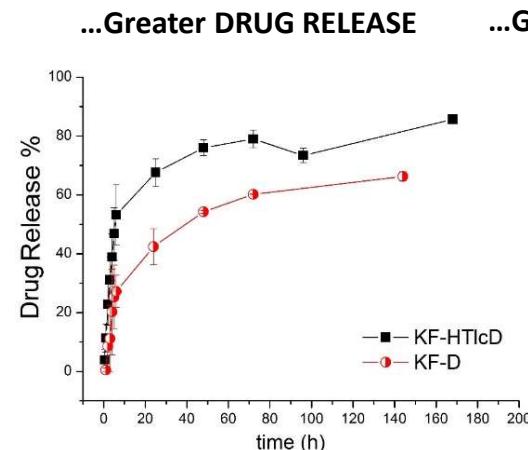
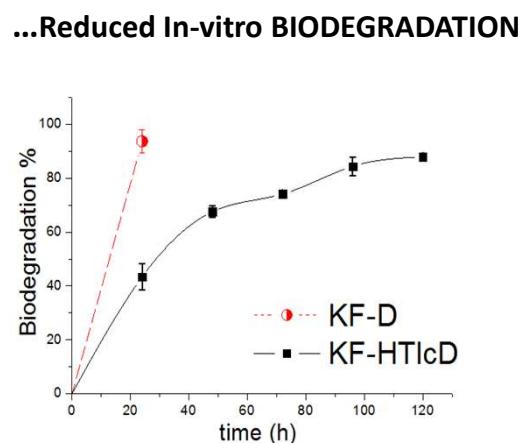
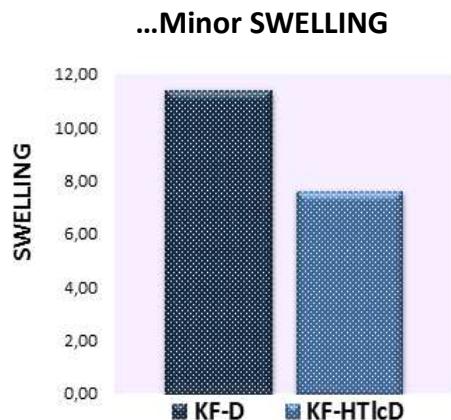
## Keratin and Hydrotalcite biocomposite films

(1) Blending of Keratin solution and HTlc nanoparticles with intercalated diclofenac (D) anions

(2) Drop casting and slow drying

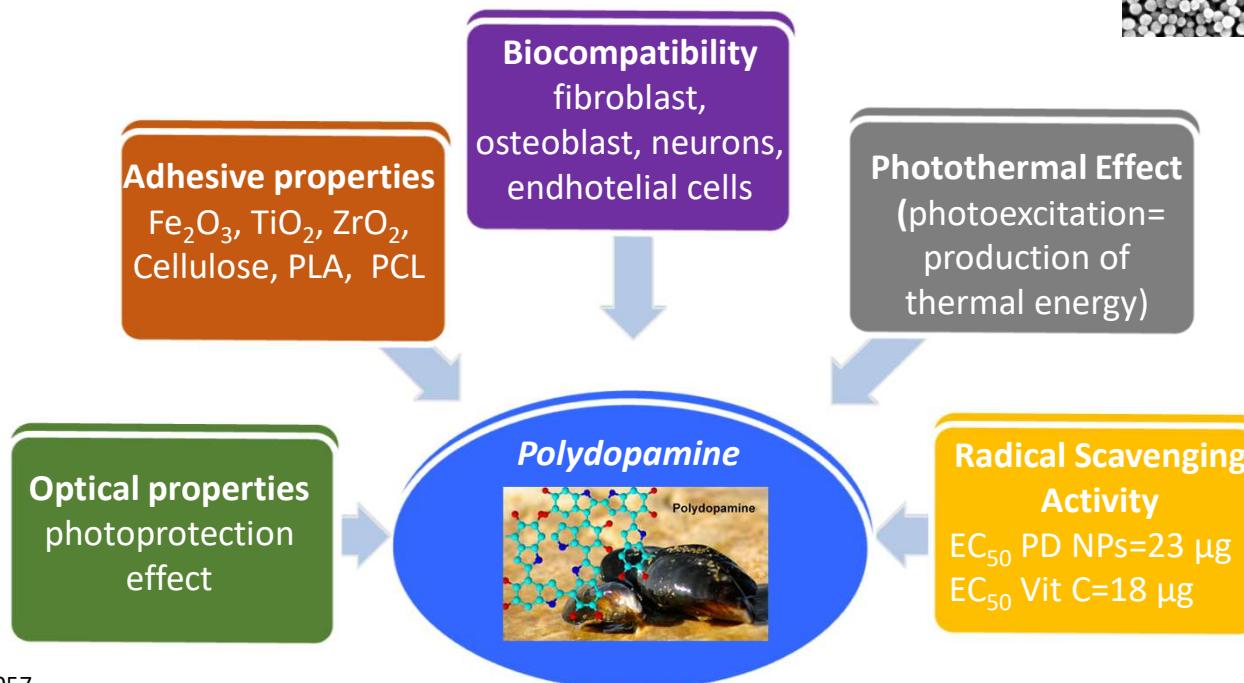
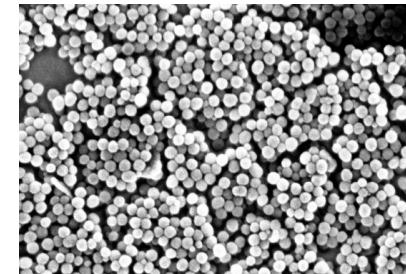
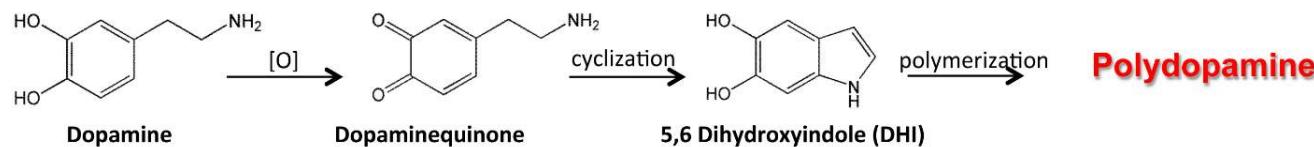


*showed...*

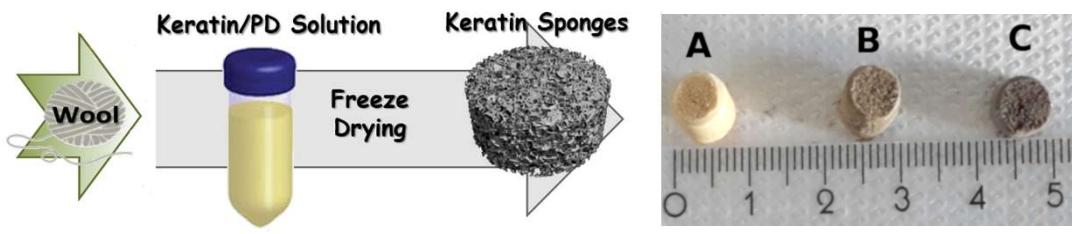


## Polydopamine nanoparticles (PD-NPs)

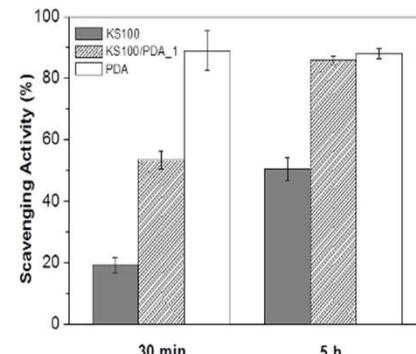
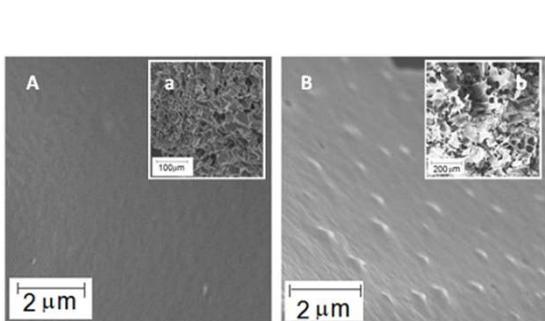
Demand for surfaces highly biocompatible, rich in functional groups  
Simple and efficient approach applicable to any surface



## PD-NPs and keratin sponges

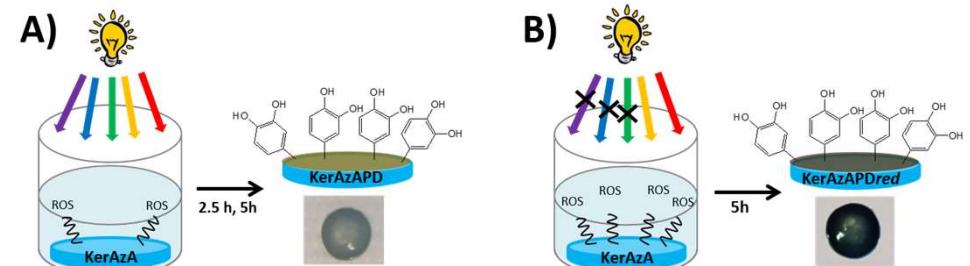


- ❖ Good dispersion degree of PD into keratin sponges
- ❖ No effect on pore shape and the size distribution
- ❖ Time-dependent antioxidant activity

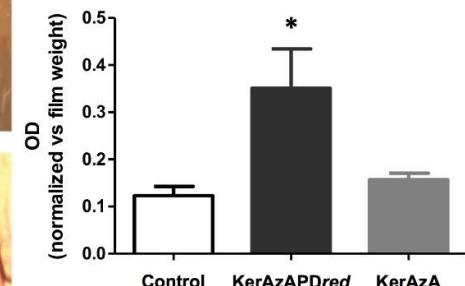
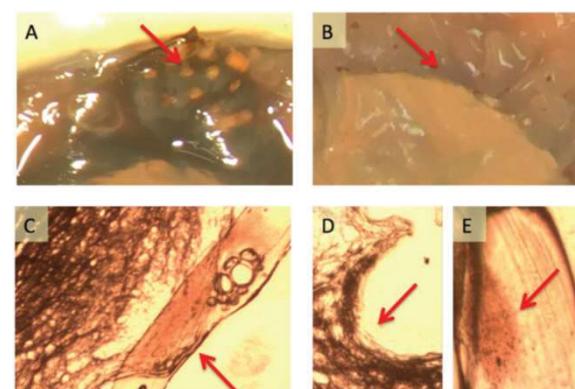


## PD coating on keratin/AzA films

Polydopamine deposition by reactive oxygen species (ROS) generated by keratin films doped with a photosensitizer



- ❖ Photothermal effect of PD = welding of the keratin film to connective tissue
- ❖ Human fibroblasts adhere and grow better on PD coated films



## Conclusions

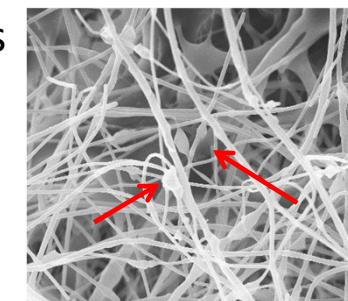
- We developed **Hydrotalcites** and innovative **Keratin** and **Fibroin-based 2D and 3D-scaffolds** of potential interest in Tissue Engineering, Wound Healing, Regenerative Medicine and Drug Delivery fields

## Future Perspectives

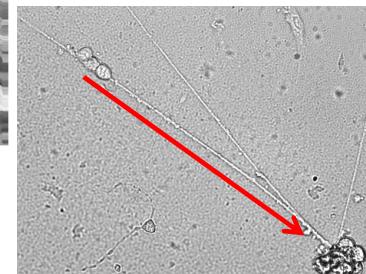
- **Keratin/Hydrotalcites** sponges and **polysulfone** powder or membranes, coated with **polydopamine** for water depuration



- **Keratin/Hydrotalcites electrospun nanofibers** for biomedical applications



- **Keratin/Fibroin blend** for biomedical applications and water depuration



- Detailed study on the interaction between **hydrotalcite based materials** and **neural cells**.

## COCOON Project

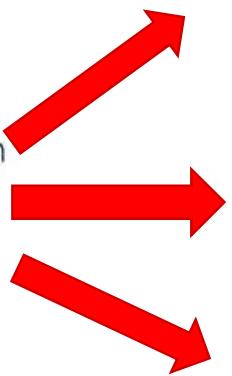
### Lending Institution



### Partners



DS@TM



Institute of Organic Synthesis and  
Photoreactivity



Institute of Crystallography



Institute of Biostructures and Bioimaging



Banca d'Italia  
BANCA D'ITALIA

## Collaborations...



Dr. Giampiero Ruani  
Dr. Chiara Dionigi  
Dr. Alberto Riminucci  
Dr. Francesco Valle  
Dr. Marianna Barbalinardo  
Dr. Stefano Toffanin  
Dr. Michele Muccini



Prof.ssa Domenica Tonelli  
Prof.ssa Erika Scavetta



Dipartimento di Scienze Teoriche e  
Applicate Laboratorio di  
Microbiologia Molecolare e  
Ambientale

Prof.ssa Orlandi Viviana Teresa  
Prof.ssa Elena Monti  
Marzia Gariboldi  
Emanuela Marras



Dr. Fulvio Ratto  
Dr. Francesca Rossi



**University of Massachusetts**  
Group of Prof .V. M Rotello



Dr. Silvia Cappellozza



Prof. Antonio Cipiciani  
Prof. Umberto Costantino  
Prof.ssa Morena Nocchetti  
Prof. Riccardo Vivani  
Prof. Mario Casciola  
Dr. Ferdinando Costantino  
Dr. Monica Pica  
Dr. Anna Donnadio  
Prof.ssa Loredana Latterini

Lanificio Cariaggi S.p.A.



**Many thanks to...**



Direttore Dr. Roberto Zamboni  
Dr. Claudia Ferroni  
Dr. Annalisa Aluigi  
Dr. Greta Varchi  
Dr. Giovanna Sotgiu  
Dr. Mirko Seri  
Dr. Valentina Benfenati  
Dr. Manuela Melucci  
Dr. Emanuela Saracino  
Marco Ballestri  
Andrea Guerrini

**MIST E-R**

Dr. Anna Sagnella

*«La ricerca scientifica, benché quasi costantemente guidata dal ragionamento, è pur sempre un'avventura»*

**Louis-Victor Pierre Raymond de Broglie**

**You for your attention!!**