

# **Bacteria-binding polymers: a novel way to reduce bacterial load in infection**

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The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.



**kroto**  
**research**  
**institute**



# BUG BINDING POLYMERS-the Sheffield University team



POLYMER CHEMISTRY



PHOTOPHYSICS



TISSUE ENGINEERING



MICROBIOLOGY

# What is the clinical problem?

Increasing number of chronic non-healing wounds



Acute trauma leading to infection in field situations  
lacking laboratory facilities

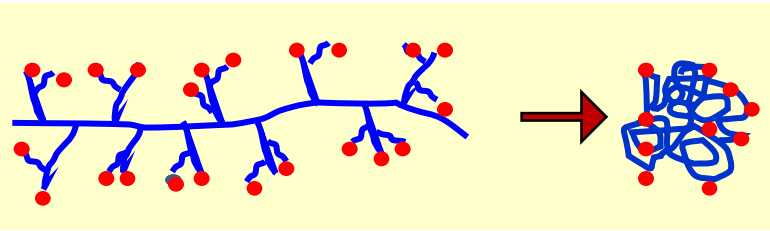


Increasing resistance to antibiotics

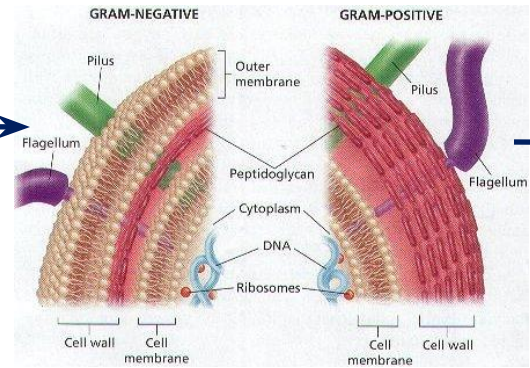


Decision making needs to be simple

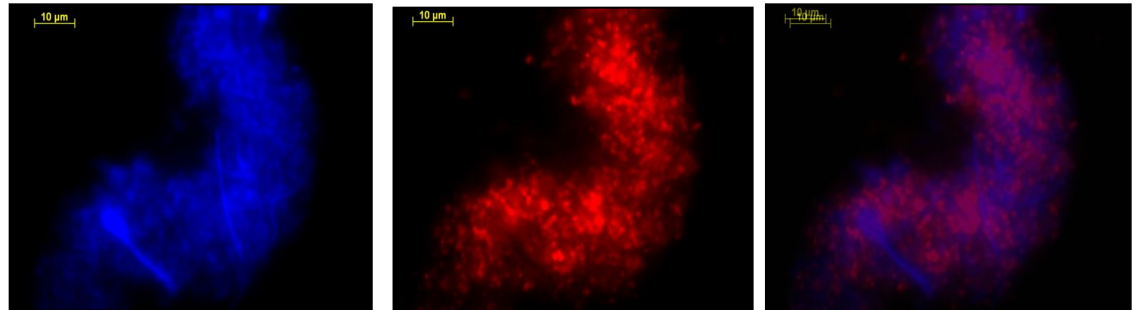
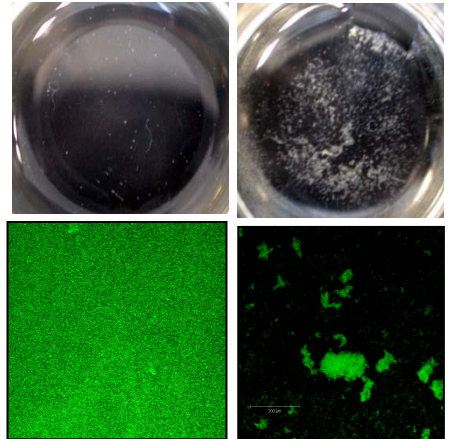




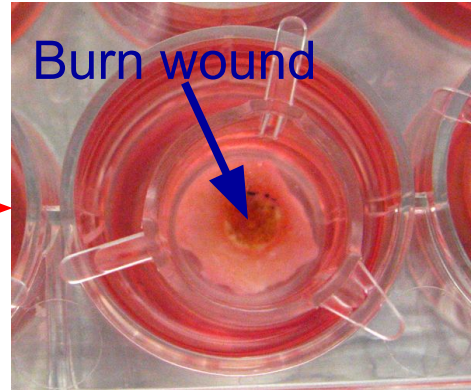
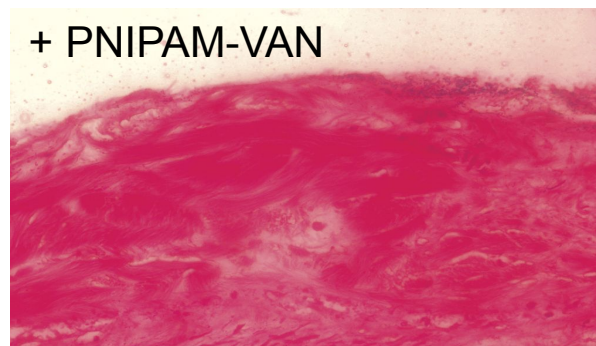
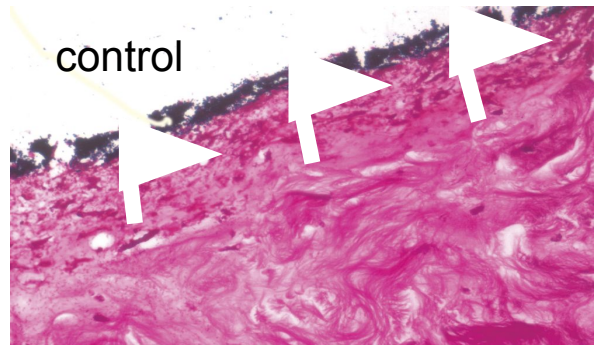
# Polymer chemistry



*S.aureus* / PBS      PNIPAM-VAN + *S.aureus*



# Microbiology



# Tissue engineering

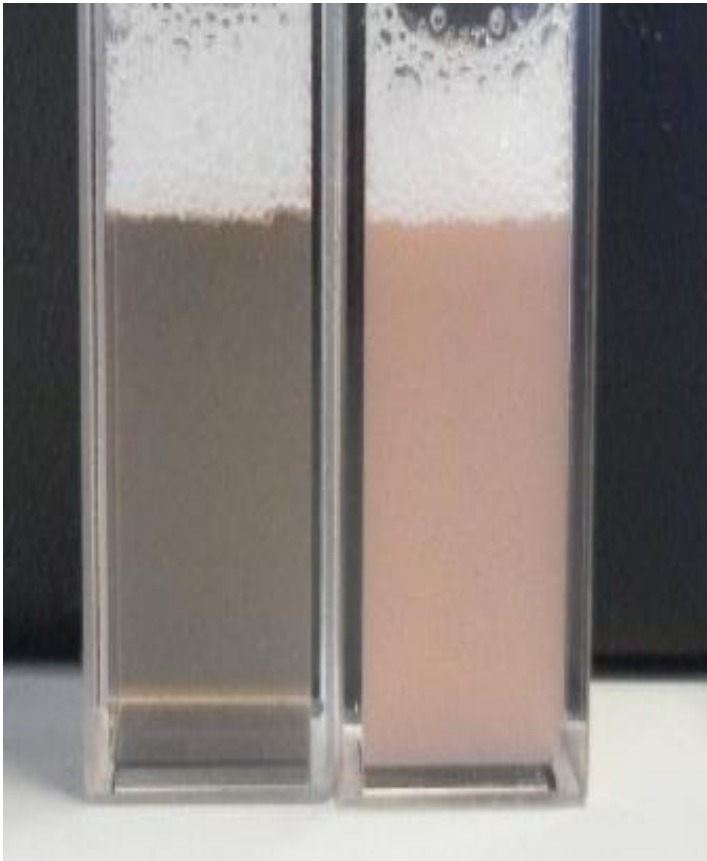


# Final step-can we make it visible?

Bacteria detecting gel with fluorescent indicator

**Visible light**

No bacteria    With bacteria



**Ultraviolet light**

No bacteria    With bacteria



# Publications and where next?

- Shepherd J, Douglas I, Rimmer S, Swanson L and MacNeil S. Development of three-dimensional tissue engineered models of bacterial infected human skin wounds. *Tissue Engineering* 15(3):475-484 (2009).
- Shepherd J, Sarker P, Douglas I, MacNeil S, Swanson L, Rimmer S and Swindells K. Binding bacteria to highly branched poly(N-isopropyl acrylamide) modified with vancomycin induces the coil-to-globule transition. *Journal of the American Chemical Society* 132(6): 1736-+ (2010)
- Sarker P, Shepherd J, Swindells K, Douglas I, MacNeil S, Swanson L, Rimmer S. Highly Branched Polymers with Polymyxin End Groups Responsive to *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *Biomacromolecules* 2011, 12, 1–5 (2010)
- **HAVE RECENTLY BEEN AWARDED TSB FUNDING TO DEVELOP A DETECTOR SYSTEM FOR APPLICATION OF THIS TECHNOLOGY TO WOUNDS-Will start Jan 2013.**