

# Bioprinting Overview

**Prof. Steven S. Saliterman**  
 Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Minnesota  
<http://saliterman.umn.edu/>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Tissue Engineering & 3D Printing

- ▶ **Tissue Engineering Components:**
  - The type or types of living cells being implanted (e.g. somatic, embryonic stem cells, adult stem cells, or induced-pluripotent stem cells).
  - Type of scaffolds supporting the cells (i.e. the mechanical cues provided to the cells).
  - Type of drugs, extra-cellular matrix (ECM), and growth factors conditioning the cells, (the additives that provide chemical cues to the cells).
- ▶ **3D Printing:**
  - Computer assisted process for depositing biomaterials and living cells in a determinate configuration in order to produce a defined 3D biological structure.
  - Bioinks consist of various polymer materials, cells and additives.

Prof. Steven S. Saliterman | Mosadegh, B., G. L. Xiong, S. Dunham, and J. K. Min. "Current Progress in 3d Printing for Cardiovascular Tissue Engineering." *Biomedical Materials* 10, no. 3 (Jun 2015).

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Bioprinting Technology

The diagram illustrates various bioprinting technologies categorized by scanning speed and viscosity/cell density. At the top, a yellow arrow labeled 'Scanning speed' points to the right, indicating that speed increases from left to right. At the bottom, a yellow arrow labeled 'Viscosity and cell density' points to the right, indicating that these parameters increase from left to right. The technologies are grouped into three main categories:
 

- Inkjet bioprinting:** Includes Thermal and Piezoelectric methods.
- Orifice-free bioprinting:** Includes Surface acoustic waves and LIFT (Laser Induced Forward Transfer).
- Extrusion Bioprinting:** Includes Pneumatic, Piston, and Screw methods.

 Each method is shown with a schematic of its printing mechanism.

Figure 1. Overview of the most widespread bioprinting approaches and according parameters crucial for printability of the material.

Holzl, K., S. M. Lin, L. Tytgat, S. Van Vlierbergh, L. X. Gu, and A. Orsianikov. "Bioink Properties before, During and after 3d Bioprinting." *Biofabrication* 8, no. 3 (Sep 2016).

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Technologies...

**Laser-Induced Forward Transfer**

**Electrospinning (e.g. Polycaprolactone - PCL) Filament Extrusion**

Lee, V. K. et al. *3D Bioprinting and 3D Imaging for Stem Cell Engineering*. Bioprinting in Regenerative Medicine. Edited by K. Turksen 2015. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-21386-6\_1.  
 Sun, Y. S., Y. Y. Liu, S. Li, C. E. Liu, and Q. X. Hu. "Novel Compound-Forming Technology Using Bioprinting and Electrospinning for Patterning a 3d Scaffold Construct with Multiscale Channels." *Micromachines 7*, no. 12 (Dec 2016).

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Commercial Bioprinters

EnvisionTEC 3D-Bioplotter

Organovo's NovoGen MMX

RegenHU's 3DDiscovery + Biofactory

3D Bioprinting Solutions' FABION

BioBots BioBot

CELLINK Inkredible

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

[3dprintingindustry.com/news](http://3dprintingindustry.com/news)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Commercial Bioprinters...

Ourobotics Revolution

Advanced Solutions' BioAssemblyBot

CeSim's Bioscaffolder 2.1

3Dynamic Systems' Alpha & Omega

Bio3D's SYN and Explorer

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

[3dprintingindustry.com/news](http://3dprintingindustry.com/news)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Embryonic Stem Cells (ESC)

- ▶ Embryonic stem cells (ESCs) are cells derived from the inner cell mass of the preimplantation blastocyst that retain the ability to differentiate into all three germ layers.
- ▶ Theoretically, ESCs are capable of being expanded in culture indefinitely, which is due to their active telomerase enzymes that prevent telomere shortening, senescence, and rapid apoptosis.
- ▶ No new ESC lines generated with federal funds as declared by the Dickey-Wicker amendment in 1996.
  - Currently, the excess unused eggs from in vitro fertilization (IVF) are the main source of new ESC lines in the USA.

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

Anderson, C. W., et al. "Stem Cells in Cardiovascular Medicine: The Road to Regenerative Therapies." *Current Cardiology Reports* 19, no. 4 (Apr 2017).

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSC)

- ▶ MSCs are adult stem cells traditionally found in the bone marrow, but also present in cord blood, peripheral blood, fallopian tube, and fetal liver and lung.
- ▶ They are multipotent stromal cells that can differentiate into a variety of cell types, including: osteoblasts (bone cells), chondrocytes (cartilage cells), myocytes (muscle cells, cardiomyocytes) and adipocytes (fat cells).
- ▶ Morphologically, MSCs have long thin cell bodies with a large nucleus.
- ▶ MSCs have a high capacity for self renewal while maintaining multipotency.
- ▶ Bone marrow derived (BMSCs) and adipose derived (ADMSC) cells may be useful in cardiovascular regenerative medicine.

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

R&D Systems, <https://www.rndsystems.com/research-area/mesenchymal-stem-cells>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSC)...



White Adipocytes  
Brown Adipocytes  
Myocytes  
Chondrocytes  
Osteocytes

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

R&D Systems, <https://www.rndsystems.com/research-area/mesenchymal-stem-cells>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPSCs)

- ▶ In 2006, Shinya Yamanaka described successful reprogramming of human somatic cells into a pluripotent state that was similar to ESCs in both its phenotype and transcriptome.
- ▶ This was accomplished by using retroviral transduction of what have become known as the Yamanaka factors (Oct3/4, c-MYC, Klf4, Sox-2).

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

Anderson, C. W., et al. "Stem Cells in Cardiovascular Medicine: The Road to Regenerative Therapies." *Current Cardiology Reports* 19, no. 4 (Apr 2017).

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Commercially Available Bioinks

| Company                | Bioink       | Material                                  | Features  |
|------------------------|--------------|---|---|
| Bioink Solutions, Inc. | GalGel®      | Gelatin based                             | UV crosslinkable<br>Cell viability >90%   |
|                        | GalGel®-BMP  | Coinkubated with different growth factors | Osteoinductive  |
|                        | GalGel®-VEGF |   | Angiogenic  |
|                        | GalGel®-TGF  |   | Chondrogenic  |
| CELLINK                | CELLINK      | Nano cellulose/diglycerin mixture         | Shear thinning<br>Fast crosslinking<br>For soft-tissue engineering  |
| RegenHU                | Bioink®      | PHG/gelatin/hyaluronic acid based         | Good self-adhesive properties<br>Biodegradable<br>Mimics the natural ECM  |
|                        | Osteoink™    | Calcium phosphate paste                   | Possible combination with Osteoink™<br>Osteoconductive<br>Chemical composition similar to human bone<br>For soft-tissue engineering |
| BioBot                 | BioBot       | Pluronic-F127 based                       | Gels at room temperature<br>Dissolves when cooled   |
|                        | BioGel       | Gelatin Methacrylate based                | *When combined with GalGel it<br>Consistently crosslinks when exposed to light  |

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

Holzl, K., S. M. Lin, L. Tytgat, S. Van Vlierberghe, L. X. Gu, and A. Ovsianikov. "Bioink Properties before, During and after 3d Bioprinting." *Biofabrication* 8, no. 3 (Sep 2016).

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Bioinks

Table 1 Common Materials Used in Bioinks and Mechanism of Gel Formation

| Compound        | Mechanism gel formation                   | Chemical structure   |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Agar            | Thermal                                   | Polysaccharide   |
| Collagen        | Spontaneous gelation/<br>photoirradiation | Protein  |
| Alginate        | Ionic                                     | Polysaccharide   |
| PLGA-PEG        | Thermal                                   | Poly(lactide-co-glycolic acid)   |
| PEGDMA          | Thermal-chemical                          | Poly(ethylene glycol) dimethacrylate                                   |
| Pluronic        | Thermal                                   | Poly(ethylene glycol)-poly(propylene glycol)-<br>poly(ethylene glycol) |
| Agarose         | Thermal                                   | Polysaccharide   |
| Chitosan        | Thermal                                   | Polysaccharide   |
| Carageenan      | Thermal                                   | Polysaccharide   |
| Fibrin          | Spontaneous gelation                      | Protein  |
| Elastin         | Photoirradiation                          | Protein  |
| Silk            | Photoirradiation                          | Protein  |
| Chitosan        | Chemical                                  | Polysaccharide   |
| Hyaluronic acid | Chemical                                  | Glycosaminoglycan  |
| NIPAAm          | Thermal                                   | N-isopropyl acrylamide/N-t-butyl acrylamide<br>copolymer               |

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

Williams, S. K., and J. B. Hoying. *Bioinks for Bioprinting*. Bioprinting in Regenerative Medicine. Edited by K. Turksen 2015. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-21386-6\_1.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▶ **Agar**

- Isolated from algae. Agar was the first gel used extensively in bioprinting (Wilson and Boland 2003)
- Major components are agarose and agaropectin.
- Ability to transition between a solution at high temperatures and forms a gel at lower temperatures. (Temperature will influence cell viability.)

 ▶ **Agarose**

- Purified from agar.
- Biocompatible
- Various sol-gel temperatures.
- Suitable for scaffolds that can be washed away by changing temperature.

Williams, S. K., and J. B. Hoying. *Bioinks for Bioprinting*. Bioprinting in Regenerative Medicine. Edited by K. Turksen 2015. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-21386-6\_1.

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▶ **Alginate**

- Found in cell walls of brown algae and seaweed.
- Binds 300 times its weight with water, forming a gum like material (e.g. dental impressions).
- Used as a bandage, implantable material, encapsulation material, gel for 3D culture of cells and as a gel forming material for 3D bioprinting.
- Ionic crosslinking (gel formation) can occur with various salts – e.g. CaCl<sub>2</sub> solutions.
- Can be rapidly crosslinked through chelation of divalent cations by the carboxylic acid groups found on adjacent strands of the component β- D -mannuronate or α- L -guluronate epimers.

Williams, S. K., and J. B. Hoying. *Bioinks for Bioprinting*. Bioprinting in Regenerative Medicine. Edited by K. Turksen 2015. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-21386-6\_1.

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Extruding Hydrogels & Alginate

Panel A shows a 3D printed structure with a central channel. Panel B shows a circular structure with a central channel. Panel C shows a cross-section of a coaxial needle system with labels for 'Liquid Ink', 'Hydrogel Ink', and 'Gelatin Beads'.

(A) Extrusion of a shear-thinning bioink into a self-healing support hydrogel allowing printing of high-resolution and multimaterial structures encapsulating cells.

(B) Proliferation of cells in a construct printed using two-photon polymerization, scale bar 200 μm (right).

(C) Bioprinting using coaxial needle system. The inner needle contains the bioink consisting of gelatin methacryl (red dashed lines), alginate (green lines), photoinitiator and cells. The outer needle contains the CaCl<sub>2</sub> (blue dots), which induces gelation after mixing.

A. Highley C et al. 2015 Direct 3d printing of shear-thinning hydrogels into self-healing hydrogels Adv. Mater. 27 5075-9  
 B. Ovsianikov A et al 2014 Laser photofabrication of cell containing hydrogel constructs Langmuir 30 3787-94  
 C. Wu W, et al. 2011 Omnidirectional printing of 3d microvascular networks Adv. Mater. 23

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Nanofibrillated Cellulose/Alginate Bioink

(A) 3D printed constructs of the nanofibrillated cellulose/alginate bioink that show stability in size and shape.

(B) Viability of hNSCs before and after the printing process.

Markstedt K, et al. 2015 3D bioprinting human chondrocytes with nanocellulose-alginate bioink for cartilage tissue engineering applications *Biomacromolecules* 16 1489-96

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- ▶ **Chitosan**
  - Obtained from shrimp and other crustacean shells
  - Extrusion followed by chemical crosslinking with NaOH.
  - Scaffolds can be created by photopolymerization.
- ▶ **Carrageenan**
  - Seaweed derived – contains sulfur groups.
  - Porosity of scaffolds during gelation can be controlled to support cellular ingrowth.
- ▶ **Collagen**
  - Most abundant protein in the body (28 types, and types I to V are most common):
    - Type I or "Mature" collagen is found in skin, tendon, vascular ligature, organs, bone. This collagen is found in most scars after wounding.
      - Most common type used for gel formation.
      - Undergoes fibrillar collagen formation at 37°C and neutral pH.
      - Functionality is derived from various constituents including ions, peptides, proteins and the extracellular matrix proteins.

Williams, S. K., and J. B. Hoying. *Bioinks for Bioprinting*. Bioprinting in Regenerative Medicine. Edited by K. Turksen 2015. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-21386-6\_1.

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- ▶ **Gelatin**
  - Collagen that has been subjected to complete (usually thermal) hydrolysis.
- ▶ **Hyaluronic Acid**
  - Predominantly in connective, epithelial, and neural tissues.
  - High molecular weight > 1 million.
  - Useful for scaffolds and subsequent treatment gels,
  - Used for heart valves.
  - Stable structures often use chemical or photo-crosslinking.
- ▶ **Silk**
  - Protein fiber composed mainly of fibroin and is produced by many insect larvae during the formation of cocoons.
  - Used for scaffold construction.

Williams, S. K., and J. B. Hoying. *Bioinks for Bioprinting*. Bioprinting in Regenerative Medicine. Edited by K. Turksen 2015. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-21386-6\_1.

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

---

---

---

---

---

---

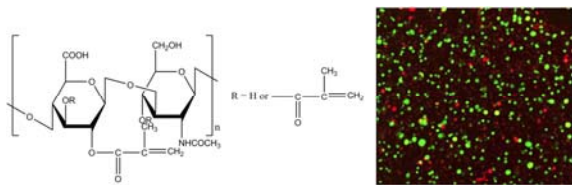
---

---

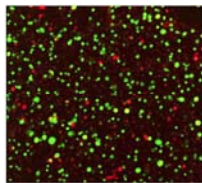
---

---

### Methacrylated Hyaluronic Acid



Live/dead staining results indicated that encapsulated cardiac valvular interstitial cells in methacrylated hyaluronic acid hydrogels remained viable after 1 week of cell culture



Prof. Steven S. Salterman

Masters K.S at al. 2005 Crosslinked hyaluronan scaffolds as a biologically active carrier for valvular interstitial cells Biomaterials 26 2517-25

---

---

---

---

---

---

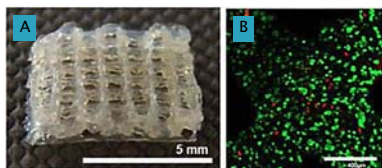
---

---

---

---

### Silk-Fibroin Construct



(A) 3D bioprinted silk-fibroin construct  
(B) Live/dead staining of hTSMCs encapsulated in the hydrogel

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

Das S, Pati F, et al. 2015 Bioprintable, cell-laden silk fibroin-gelatin hydrogel supporting multilineage differentiation of stem cells for fabrication of three dimensional tissue constructs Acta Biomater. 11 233-46

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

#### ► Fibrin and Fibrinogen

- Fibrin is formed when thrombin acts on fibrinogen in the body as part of the clotting mechanism.
- Fibrous fibrin may have spontaneous gel formation.
- Biocompatible and known cell and endothelial interactions.
- Gels may undergo neovascularization.

#### ► Elastin

- Naturally occurring extracellular matrix protein.
- May undergo transition between a coiled and elongated form.
- Provides elasticity to tissues such as skin and large caliber blood vessels.
- Scaffolds can be obtained from tissues samples using both enzymatic and chemical de-cellularization.
- Often co-printed with collagen or other materials that provide spontaneous or chemically augment cross-linking and gelation.

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

Williams, S. K., and J. B. Hoying. *Bioinks for Bioprinting: Bioprinting in Regenerative Medicine*. Edited by K. Turksen 2015. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-21386-6\_1.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



▶ **Hydrogels – Generally**

- Able to withstand extrusion, maintain structural fidelity, and permit adequate nutrient diffusion.
- Biocompatible
- Intrinsic porosity and capacity for high nutrient loading.
- Gelation can be triggered by chemical bonding, photoactivated crosslinking, thermal setting, or shear-thinning.

Prof. Steven S. Salterman Armstrong, J. P. K., et. al. "3d Bioprinting Using a Templated Porous Bioink." *Advanced Healthcare Materials* 5, no. 14 (Jul 2016): 1724-30.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▶ **Thermosensitive Hydrogels**

- Temperature sensitive transition between a solution and gel form.
- Ability to undergo transition from solution to gel at either a lower critical transition temperature (LCST) or upper critical transition temperature (UCST).
- Ability to undergo repetitive gel to solution to gel transitions.
- e.g. **Poly(N-isopropylacrylamide) or PNIPAM** (an LCST) can be bioprinted as a gel at temperatures below 32°C and then converted to a solution at temperatures above 32°C. Another LCST is **poly(N-isopropylacrylamide) or PIPAAm**.
- Sheets of cells can be grown on the thermosensitive polymer gel at higher temperature and then the cell sheet can be released by simply lowering the temperature below 32°C.

Prof. Steven S. Salterman Williams, S. K., and J. B. Hoying. *Bioinks for Bioprinting*. Bioprinting in Regenerative Medicine. Edited by K. Turksen 2015. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-21386-6\_1.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▶ **PEG Hydrogels**

- Synthetic crosslinked hydrogels of poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG).
- PEG is also known as **polyethylene oxide (PEO)** or **polyoxyethylene (POE)**, depending on the molecular weight.
- Biocompatible
- PEGylation is the process of attaching the strands of the polymer PEG to molecules, most typically proteins, drugs and antibodies, with the result of increased solubility and reduced immunogenicity.

Prof. Steven S. Salterman Williams, S. K., and J. B. Hoying. *Bioinks for Bioprinting*. Bioprinting in Regenerative Medicine. Edited by K. Turksen 2015. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-21386-6\_1.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▶ **Poloxamers**

- Manufactured by BASF Corp. as *Synperonics*, *Pluronic* or *Koliphore*.
- Triblock copolymers of poly(propylene oxide/PPO and poly(ethylene oxide)/PEO.
- In aqueous solutions they form micellar structures above critical micellar concentration.
- Property of thermoreversible gelation. *Pluronic127* is a liquid when refrigerated (4–5°C) and turns into gel form when brought to room temperature (> 16°C).
- Useful for drug delivery systems and removable forms for making channels and voids.

Prof. Steven S. Salterman | Williams, S. K., and J. B. Hoying. *Bioinks for Bioprinting*. Bioprinting in Regenerative Medicine. Edited by K. Turksen 2015. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-21386-6\_1.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Additives to Influence Cellular Behavior

▶ Incubation occurs either in vitro or in vivo, with resulting changes in cellular function:
 

- Proliferation
- Migration
- Differentiation
- Apoptosis
- Self assemble

▶ Cellular activities are regulated by:
 

- Soluble factors such as growth factors and cytokines.
- The extracellular matrix proteins.

▶ The addition of *Matrigel* (a reconstructed basement membrane protein) to bioinks is an appropriate first step in identifying whether a complex mixture of components/additives can support desired cellular function in the printed structures.

Prof. Steven S. Salterman | Williams, S. K., and J. B. Hoying. *Bioinks for Bioprinting*. Bioprinting in Regenerative Medicine. Edited by K. Turksen 2015. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-21386-6\_1.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Chemical and Photo Cross Linkers

▶ Bioprinting of specific shapes, e.g. spheroid, rod and tube, require inherent viscosity or crosslinking (physical or chemical) for stabilization.

▶ Chemical cross linkers:
 

- *Glutaraldehyde* (for collagen, possible toxicity)
- *Genipin* (crosslink functional amine groups with little toxicity)
- 1-Ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)
- Carbodiimide/N-hydroxysuccinimide (EDC/NHS)
- Tetrahedral polyethylene
- Glycol

▶ Photoactivated cross linkers:
 

- *Irgacure* (e.g. 2959, requires UV light at 276 nm) and *Darocur* are tradenames for a family of photoinitiator chemistries. These are Type I (cleavage) photoinitiators.
- UV light can cause cell death and mutagenesis.
- There are visible light (Type II) photoinitiators under development.

Prof. Steven S. Salterman | Williams, S. K., and J. B. Hoying. *Bioinks for Bioprinting*. Bioprinting in Regenerative Medicine. Edited by K. Turksen 2015. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-21386-6\_1.

---

---

---

---

---

---

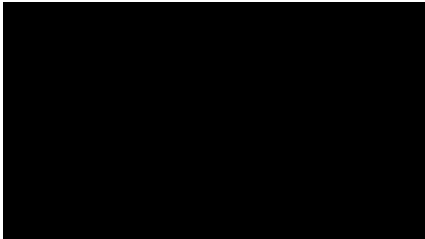
---

---

---

---

**Bioprinters: BioBots 3D Printer**



Run 5:45 of 16:12

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

---

---

---

---

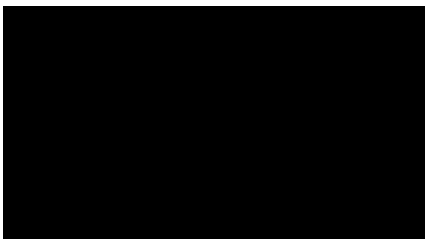
---

---

---

---

*Organovo*



1:17

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Summary**

- ▶ Bioprinting Techniques
  - Inkjet
  - Extrusion
  - Laser Forward Transfer
  - Electrospinning
- ▶ Commercial Bioprinters
- ▶ Embryonic Stem Cells (ESC), Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSC), Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPSCs)
- ▶ Bioinks
- ▶ Additives to Influence Cellular Behavior
- ▶ Chemical and Photo Crosslinking

Prof. Steven S. Salterman

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---