

Wallenberg Wood Science Center

Research for new materials from wood

Professor Lisbeth Olsson
Co-director WWSC Chalmers

WWSC is a joint research center at KTH and Chalmers

Creating knowledge and building competence
of innovative use of wood raw material

WWSC

WALLENBERG WOOD
SCIENCE CENTER

A joint research center KTH – Chalmers, started 2009
Based on a donation from Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation

*Knut och Alice
Wallenbergs
Stiftelse*



CHALMERS

New start for the research area: a new research culture



- A multidisciplinary competence platform
- Increased internationalisation
- **Scientific excellence**

WWSC research: new components for new materials from wood

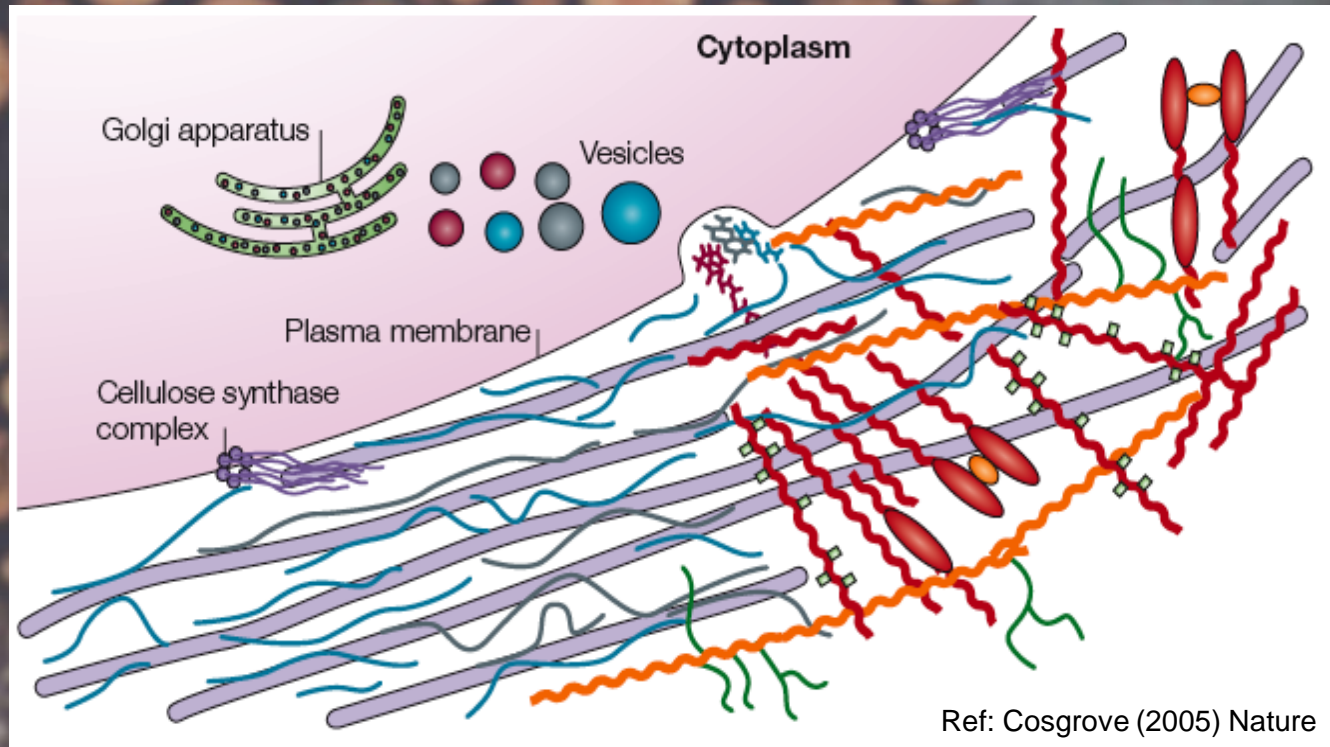
New components

Lignins
Hemicelluloses
Nanocellulose
Bark components

New materials

Wood bioplastics
Biocomposites
Inorganic hybrids
Aerogels/foams

WWSC research starting point: understanding the cell wall and nanostructure



WWSC research: three research themes

Materials biorefinery: Cell wall disintegration and fractionation

H. Theliander, M. Lindström, L. Olsson

Wood nanotechnology: Colloids and solutions

L. Wågberg, P. Gatenholm

Wood nanotechnology: Nanostructured materials

L. Berglund

WWSC Research: New material components from wood



New components

Lignins

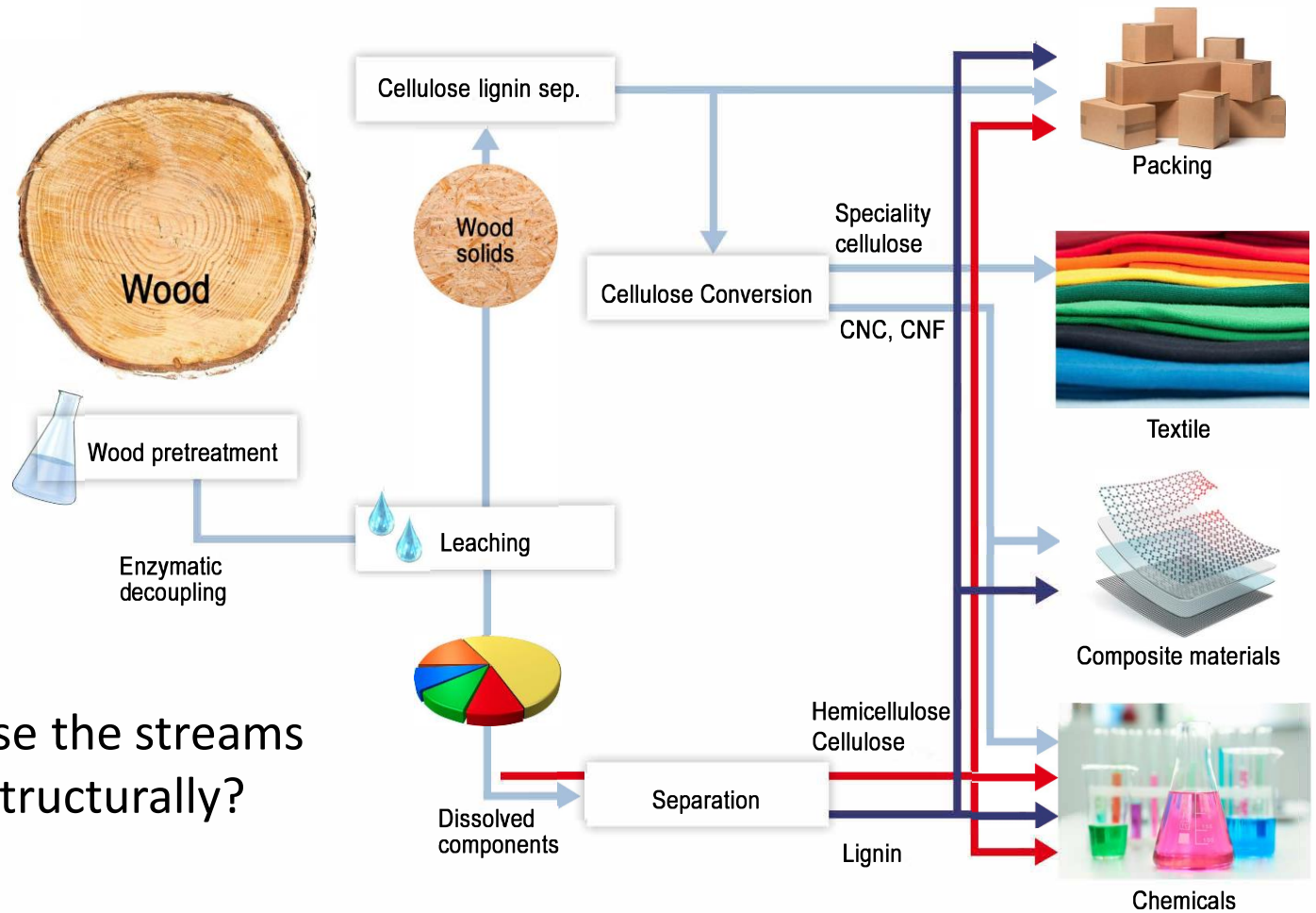
Hemicelluloses

Nanocellulose

Bark components

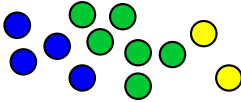
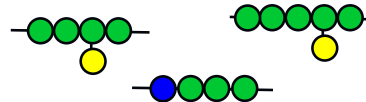
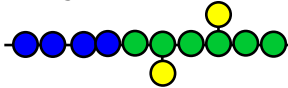
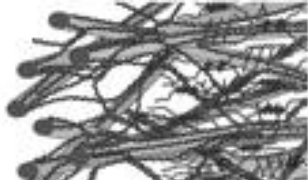
How can biomass be treated chemically, physically and enzymatically to decompose wood into new components?

Materials biorefinery



What characterise the streams chemically and structurally?

Analytical toolbox for wood structure and pretreatment

Constituent sugars	Intramolecular Substitution Pattern	Macromolecular architecture	Supramolecular organization
			

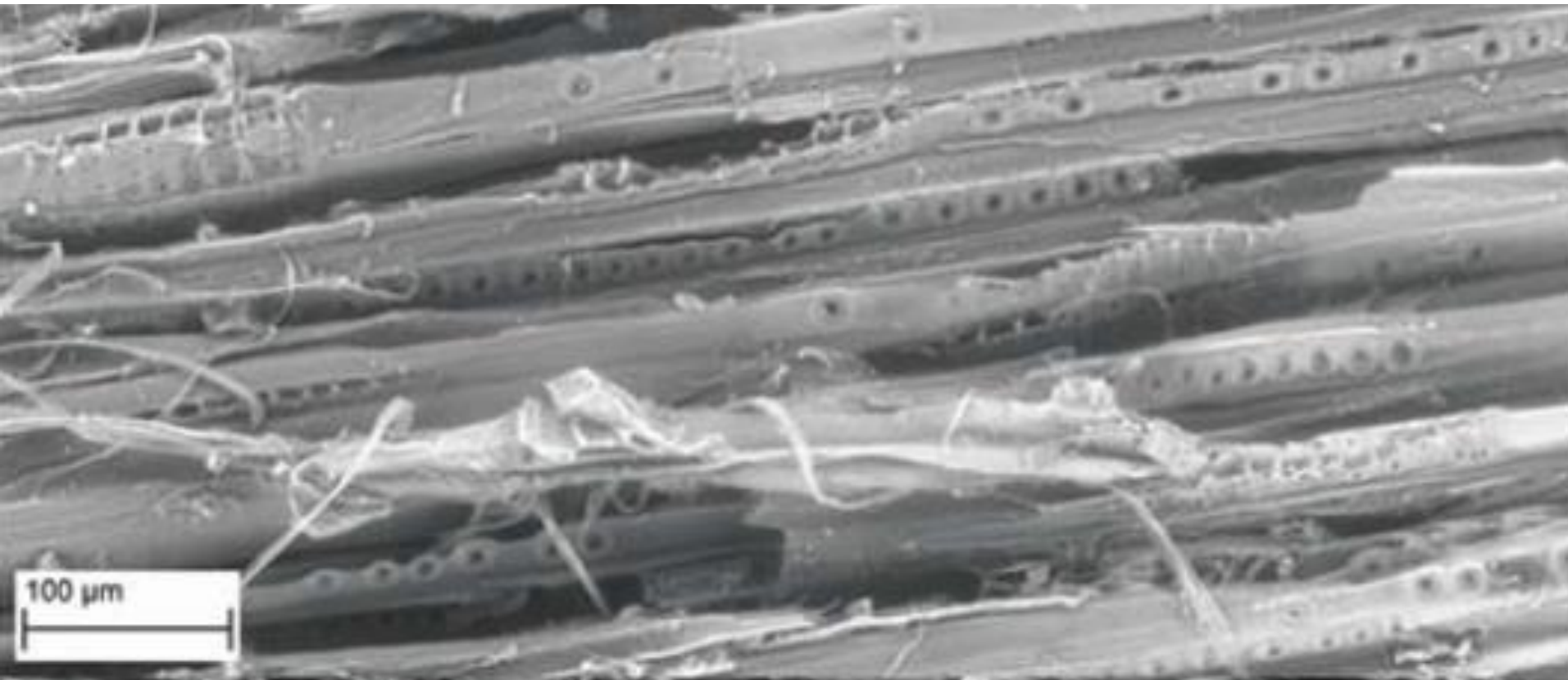
Mass spectrometry (GC-MS, ESI, MALDI)

Liquid Chromatography (HPAEC, HPLC, SEC)

Spectroscopy and Scattering (NMR, IR, MALLS, DLS, X-ray)

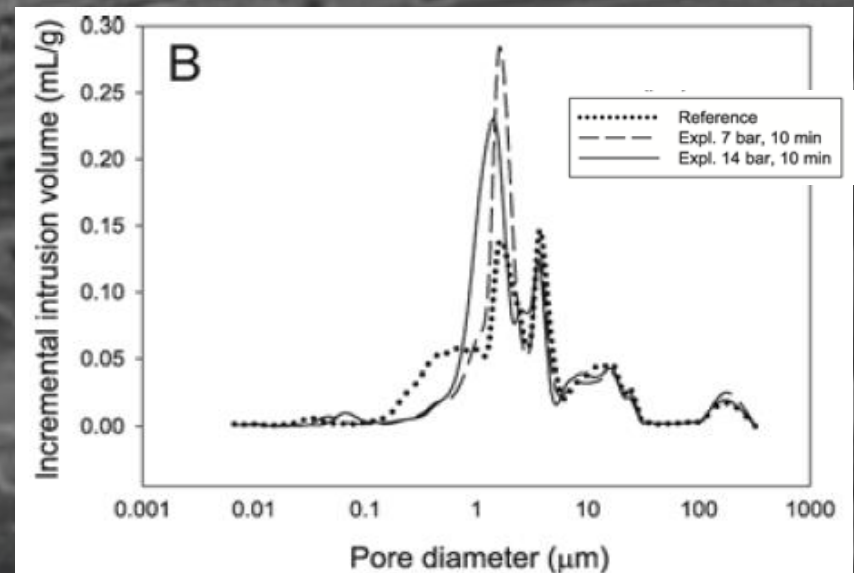
Thermo-Mechanical and Imaging
(EM, AFM, tensile testing, DMA, rheometry)

Mild steam pretreatment can positively affect chemical and structural material modification

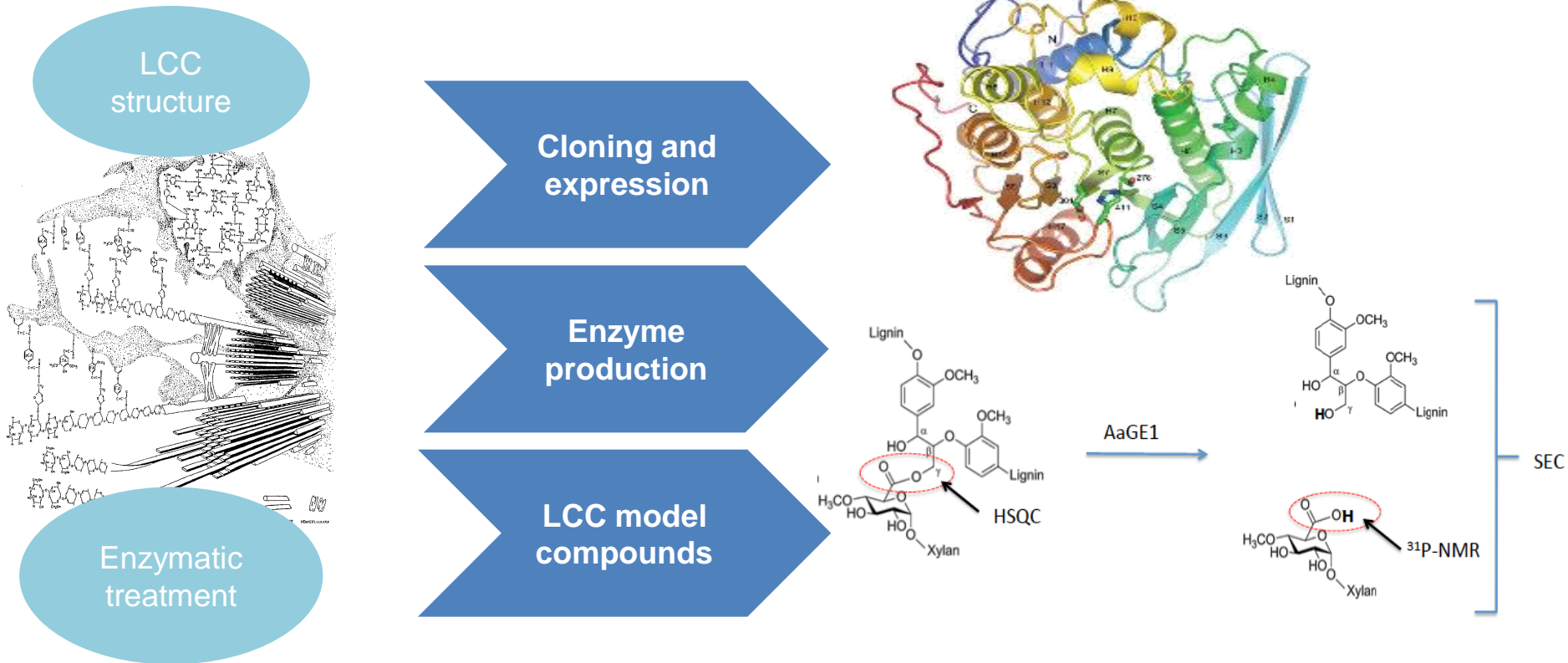


Mild steam pretreatment can positively affect chemical and structural material modification

Effect on the pore volumes



Enzymes, nature's scissors, cleave ester bonds between hemicellulose and lignin



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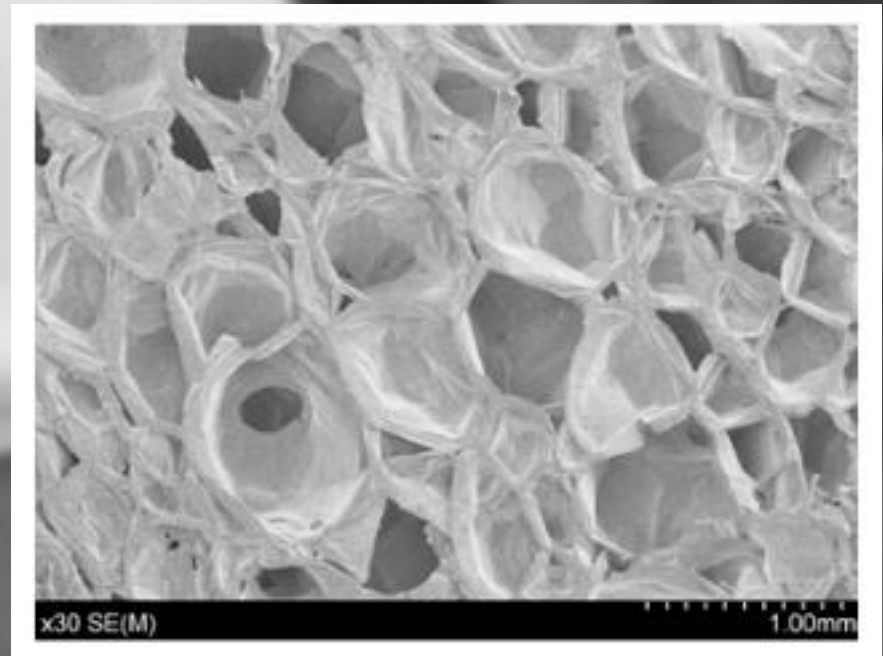
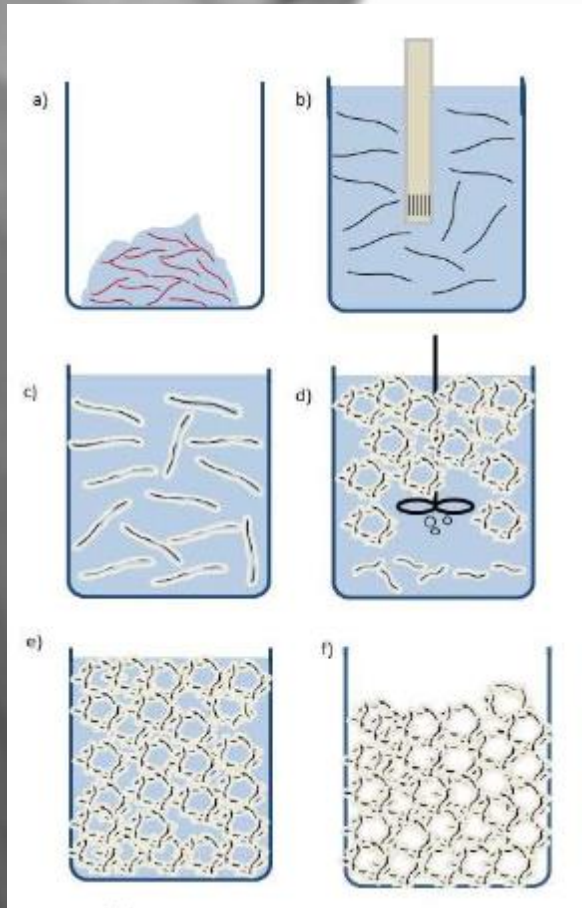
New materials

Wood bioplastics
Biocomposites
Inorganic hybrids
Aerogels/foams

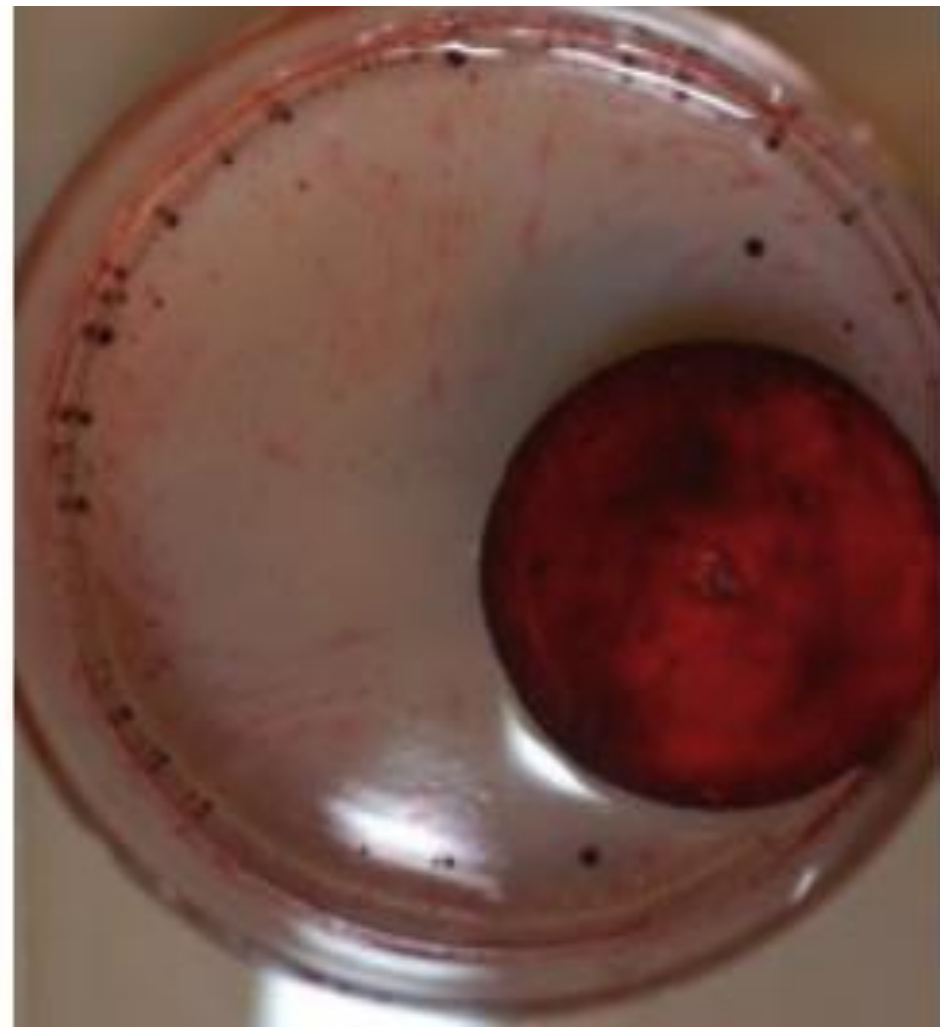
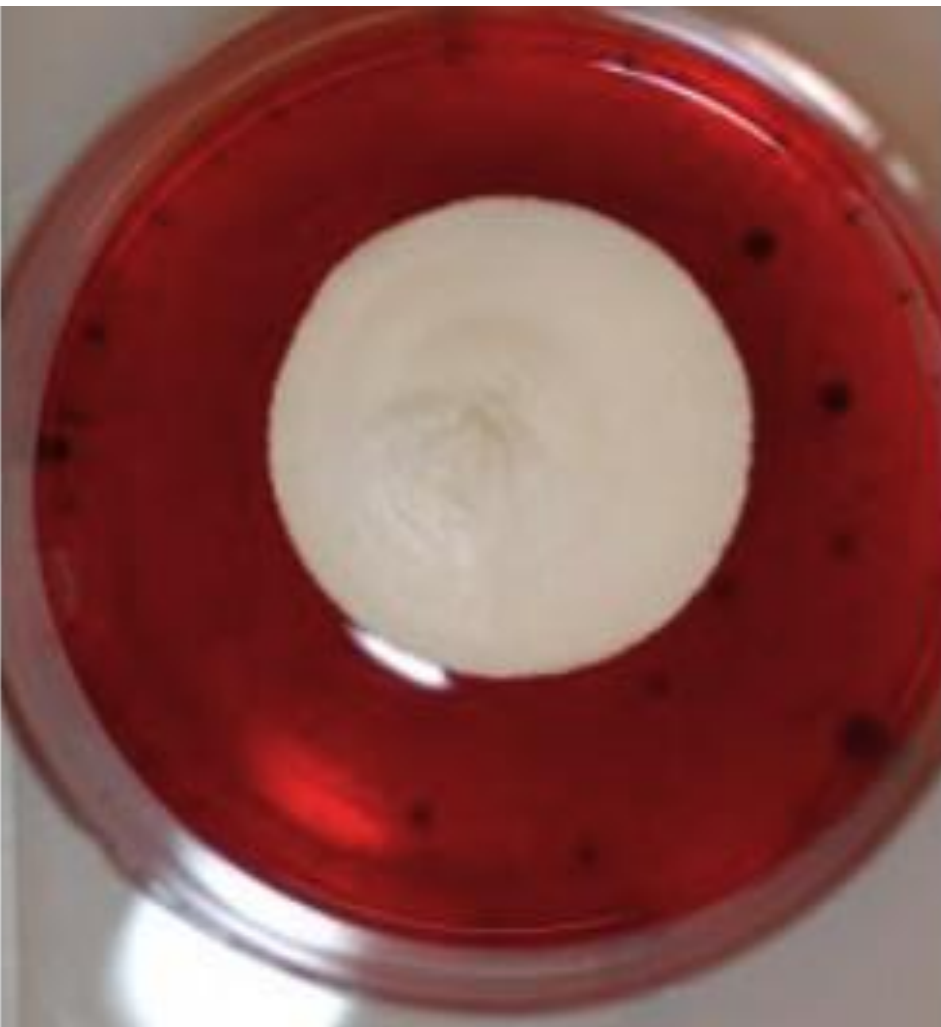
Light-weight nanocellulose foams



Light-weight nanocellulose foams



Application: oil-absorbing foam



Soft batteries of nanocellulose foam



WWSC foam in the wood bicycle helmet

Cellufoam™

Research from WWSC
further developed by
Cellutech

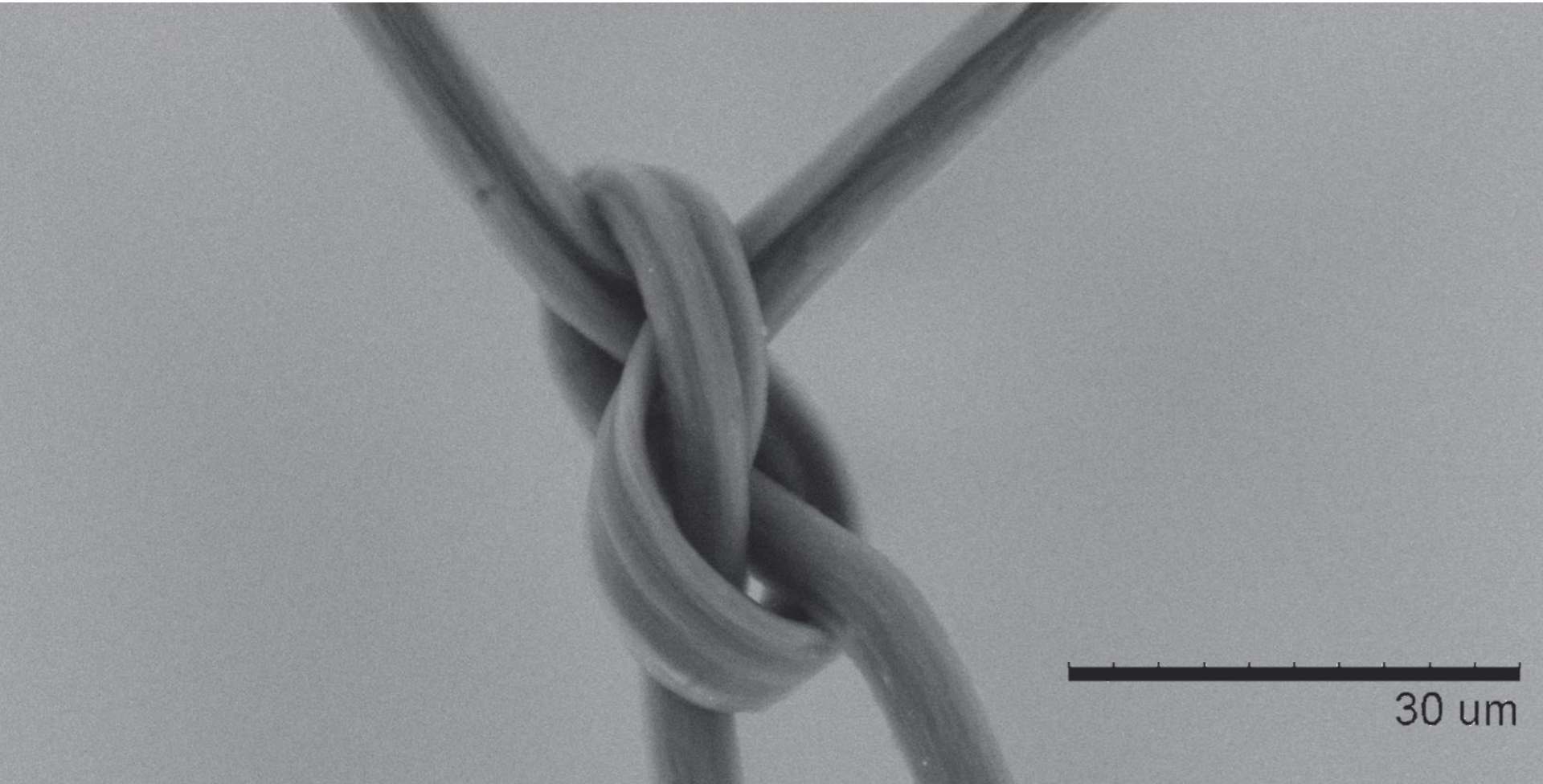


Photo: Skogsindustrierna

Transparent wood

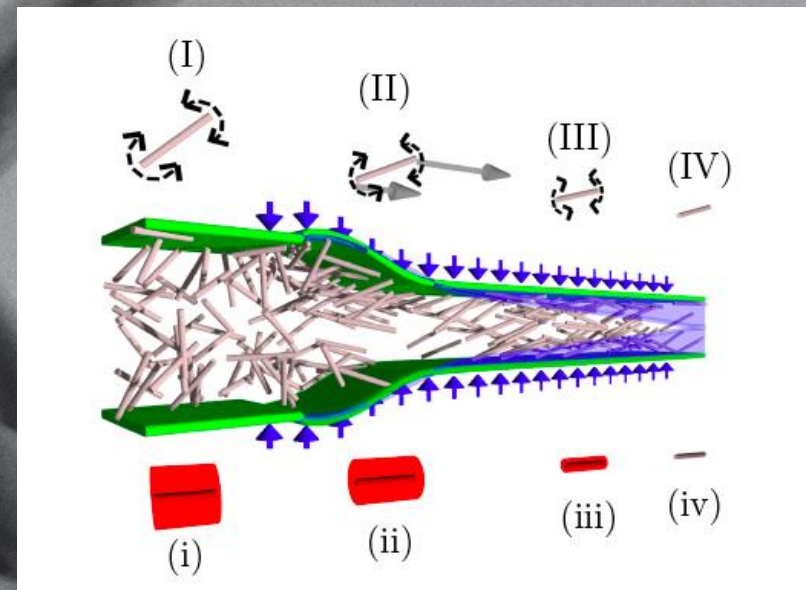


Nanocellulose fibres: strongest biobased material ever



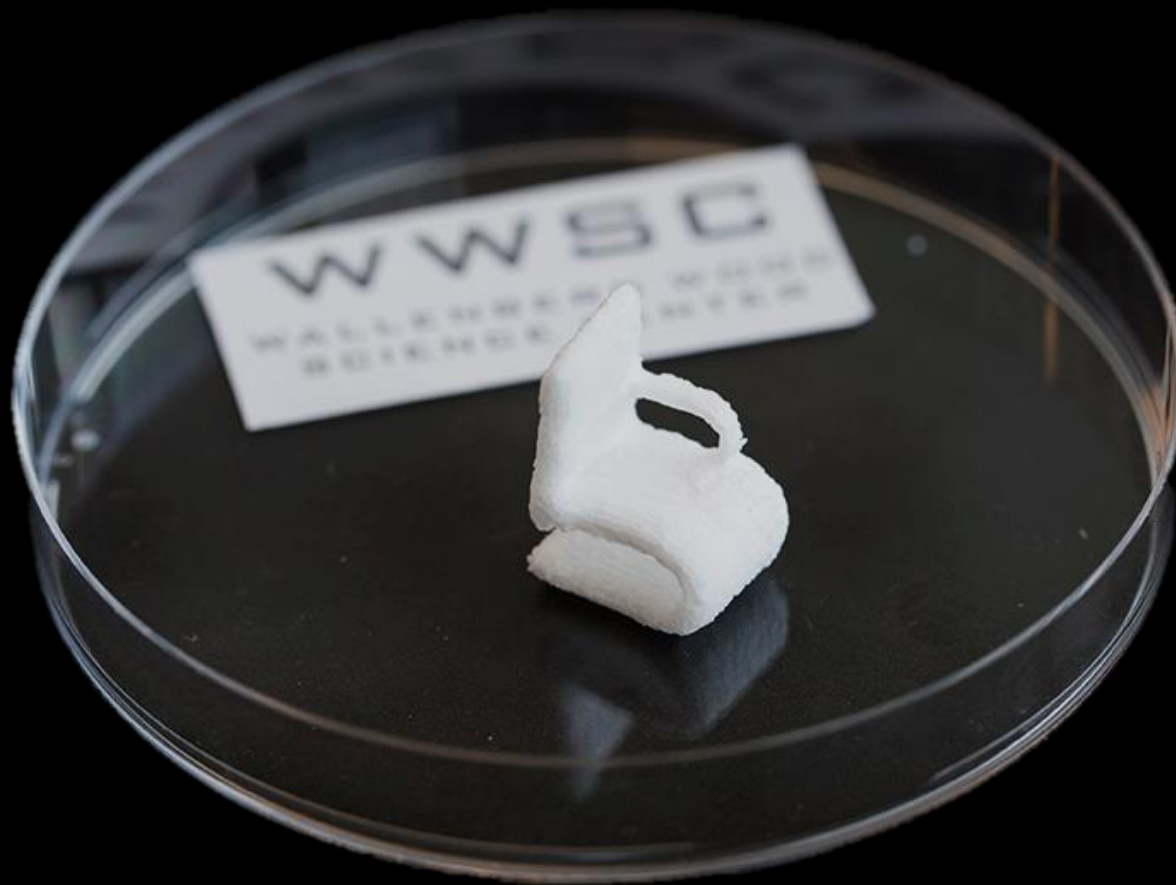
Nanocellulose fibres: strongest biobased material ever

Hydrodynamic
alignment of
nanocellulose
fibrils

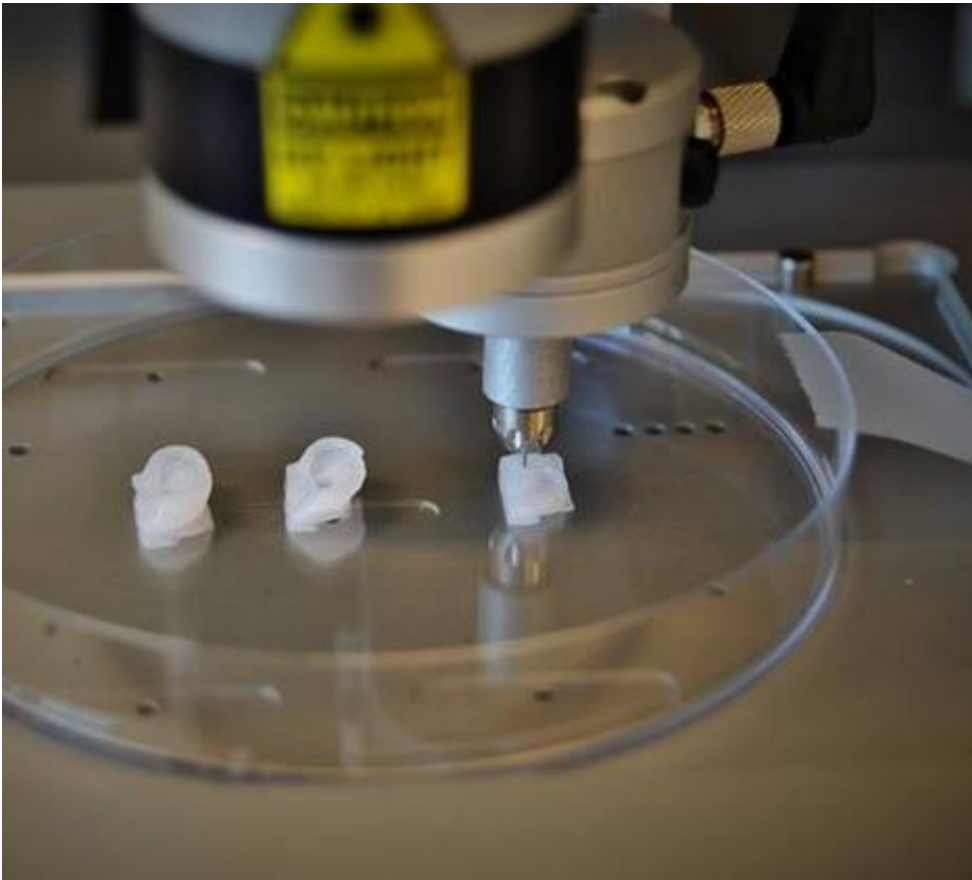


30 μm

3D-printing nanocellulose

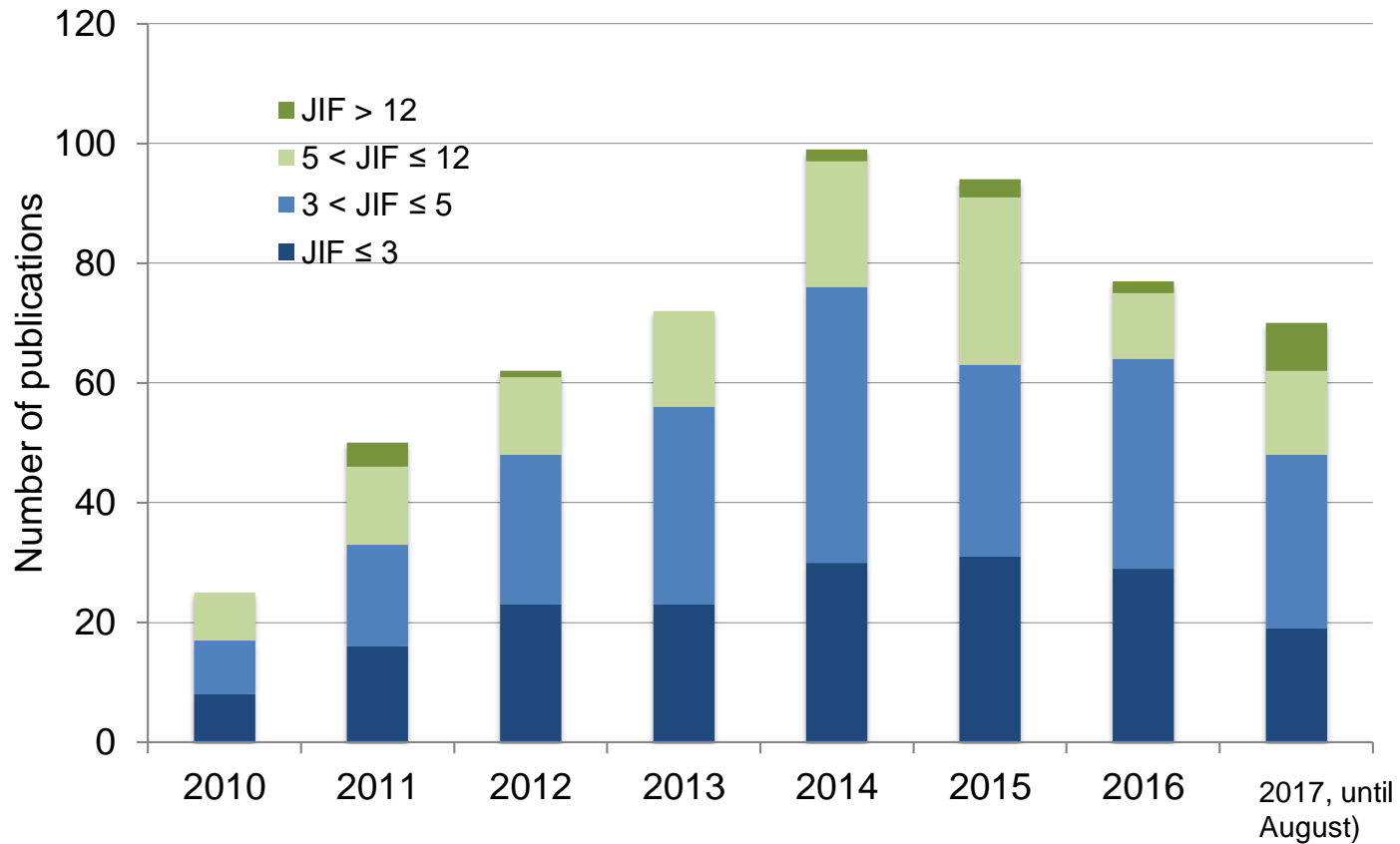


3D Bioprinting nanocellulose and cells for tissue engineering



Thin speakers with magnetic cellulose gel

WWSC research has led to excellence



based on the 2015 journal impact factor (JIF)

WWSC Academy: Multidisciplinary education and a strong network



WWSC Alumni: unique competence for academia and industry

30 PhD

50 / 50 men / women

1/3 postdocs

1/5 research institutes

1/5 start-ups

1/5 companies

> 2/3 in Sweden

WWSC alumni

“The skills acquired from WWSC and contacts have been of great value for me in my work “

Mikaela Helander
scientist, Cellutech



Photo: Cellutech

Next step: WWSC 2.0 (2019 – 2028)



Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation: up to 400 MSEK
Industrial co-funding: 100 MSEK
Co-funding from the Universities: 160 MSEK

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CHALMERS

li.u LINKÖPINGS
UNIVERSITET

 **TREESEARCH**

WWSC 2.0 work areas

CA1. Wood components

CA2. Processing of material systems

CA3. Advanced materials

TA1. Engineering materials and packaging

TA2. Energy, electronics and photonics

TA3. Functional fiber systems

TA4. Biobased polymers

TA5. Characterization and modeling

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