

# ORGANTRANS

# **Controlled Organoids Transplantation as Enabler for Regenerative Medicine Translation**

www.organtrans.eu



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 874586, project ORGANTRANS.



- 2 million deaths per year worldwide
- Transplantation is the only effective treatment for various liver diseases
- Only 10% of global transplantation needs are met
- Demand for livers is projected to increase by 23% in the next 20 years

#### **ORGANTRANS** target patients

- Chronic end-stage liver diseases
- Residual healthy tissues



Liver cancer



Cirrhosis



Fatty liver







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### Enabling technologies & processes









- Optimization of co-cultures and universal media
- Supporting cells: mesenchymal stem cells and endothelial cells







### Spheroid production

#### Sphericalplate 5D<sup>®</sup>

- Self-assembling of hepatic cells into standardized spheroids
- Establishing Roadmap for technical cGMP implementation







### Production of hepatic spheroids

#### Upscaling without loss of spheroid quality

- Intrahepatic Cholangiocyte Organoids (ICOs)
- Stem cells
- Endothelial cells





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### Spheroid sorting

**Quality control and safety** 







### Robotic sorting of hepatic spheroids

#### **Strategy in 3 steps**







### Materials

**PEG-based hydrogel** 

**DWI** Leibniz-Institut für Interaktive Materialien

- Biofunctional
- Custom architecture
- Tunable porosity
- Cell spheroid protection
- Printability
- Controlled degradation
- Tunable stiffness



Hydrogel components mixing and bioconstruct printing

Printed PEG-based hydrogel



### **Bioprinting platform**

Controlled mixing of hydrogel precursors and assembly of spheroids

- Combination of biodegradable bioinks with sacrificial scaffolds
- Integrated stirring
- Temperature and humidity control







REGEN+IU

### 3D printed liver bioconstruct

#### Sacrificial material for perfusion and maturation





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### Vascularization







## Macro- and microvessels

Vascularization

- Sacrificial channels with endothelial cells for perfusion (macrovessels) Α.
- Vascular cell spheroids to generate microvessels by sprouting Β.
- Single vascular cells to generate microvessels by assembly in С. networks and secondary sprouting



Α.







C.





### Maturation

#### Perfusion in closed system

Continuous and unidirectional flow through chamber

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### Perfusion of liver bioconstruct

#### **Perfusion platform**

#### Microfluidic based lid for closed perfusion



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Utrecht University

### In vitro / in vivo testing

#### In vitro

- Expression profile and histology
- Functionality
- Functional in vitro liver constructs



#### In vivo

- Vascularization under kidney capsule
- Orthotopic transplantation
- Functional liver rescue in vivo





### Liver tissue engineering





ICOs + CellTracker<sup>™</sup> Blue MSCs + CellTracker<sup>™</sup> Red HUVEC-GFP





Bioprinting



#### Perfusion





Live / Dead staining

Utrecht University KUGELMEIERS DWI Leibniz-Institut für Interaktive Materialien REGEN+1U VIB **:: CSEM** 

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### Liver tissue engineering

#### Viable liver construct





#### GFP-HUVECs in channels





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# Thank you for your attention



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