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## An innovative sol-gel based hybrid biomaterial for bone tissue engineering

Henri Granel, C. Bossard, Fabien Wauquier, Anne-Marie Collignon, G.Y. Rochefort, Edouard Jallot, J Lao, Y. Wittrant

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H. Granel<sup>1</sup>, C. Bossard<sup>2</sup>, F. Wauquier<sup>1</sup>, AM. Collignon<sup>3</sup>, GY. Rochefort<sup>3</sup>, E. Jallot<sup>2</sup>, J. Lao<sup>2</sup>, Y. Wittrant<sup>1\*</sup>

1: INRA / UCA UMR 1019, 63122 THEIX, France; \*yohann.wittrant@inra.fr

2: UCA / CNRS-IN2P3, UMR 6533, 63170 AUBIERE, France

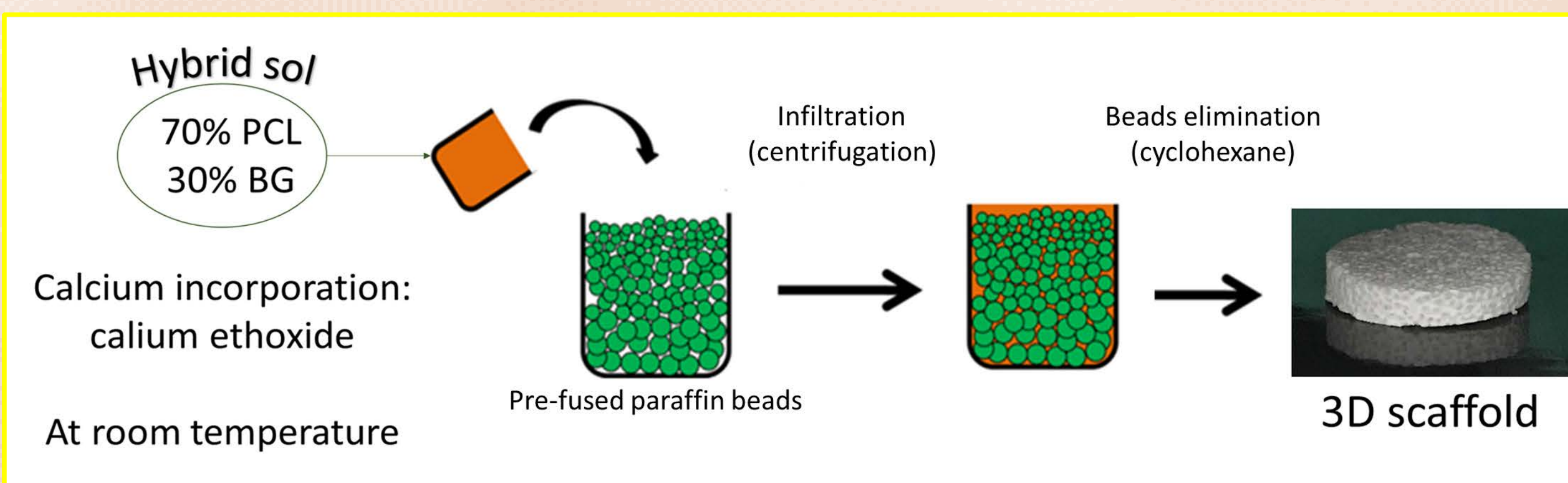
3: Faculté de chirurgie dentaire, EA2496, 92120 Montrouge, France

## Introduction:

Among the materials used as bone substitutes, **bioactive glass** (SiO<sub>2</sub> CaO) (BG) has a **high potential**. BG is **biocompatible** and is able to strongly **bind to bone**. It is **bioresorbable** and its dissolution products **stimulate bone regeneration**. However, BG is **not suitable for scaffolds** as it is brittle and its applications are limited to bone fillers. From a chemical point of view, natural bone is a hybrid consisting of a mineral and an organic phase intimately linked at the molecular level. **Thus, combining BG with a polymer** may address BG issues regarding **elasticity** while **preserving its biological properties**. We recently **patented a sol-gel organic-inorganic hybrid porous scaffold** consisting in **BG** and a synthetic polyester, **polycaprolactone (PCL)**. The aim of this study was **to determine and improve the mechanical and biological properties** of this **original biomaterial**. RPO: rat primary osteoblasts; BG-PCL: bioactive glass with PCL; BTB: bovine trabecular bone

## Synthesis, characteristics and mechanical properties of BG-PCL scaffolds

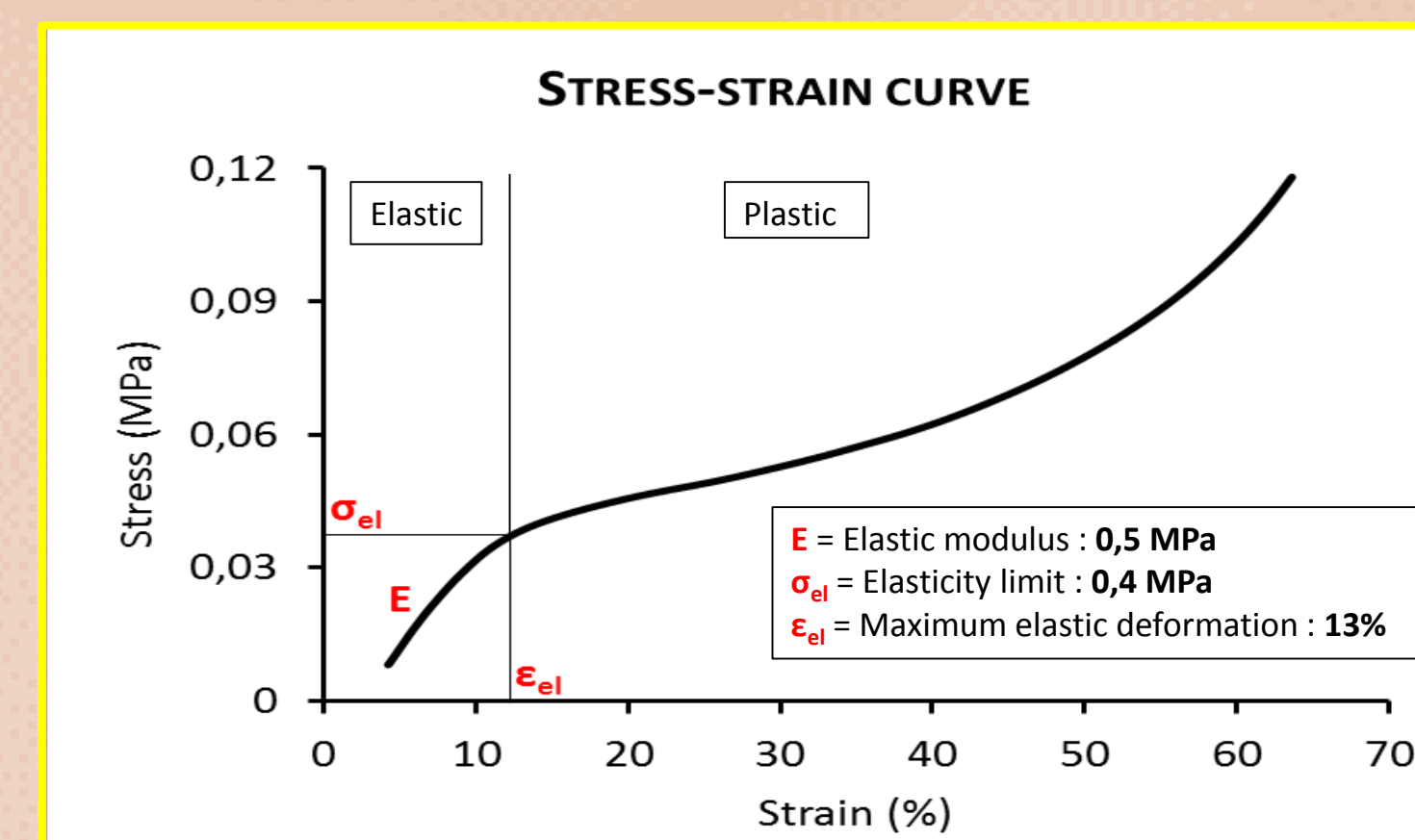
### Room temperature synthesis route



Room temperature  
Uniform distribution of calcium

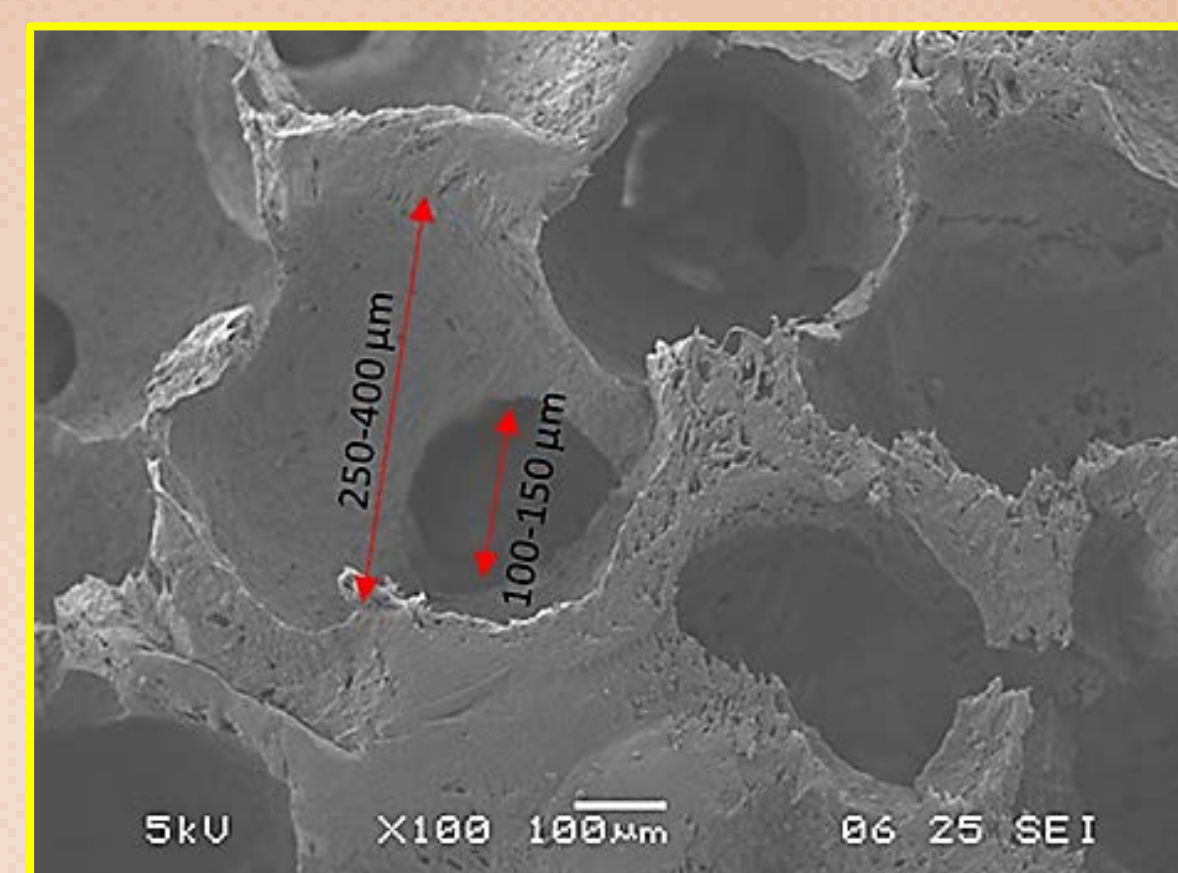
Compatible with polymers  
No residual methanol

### Elastic-plastic material



None brittle and deformable  
Interconnected porosity suitable for cell colonisation

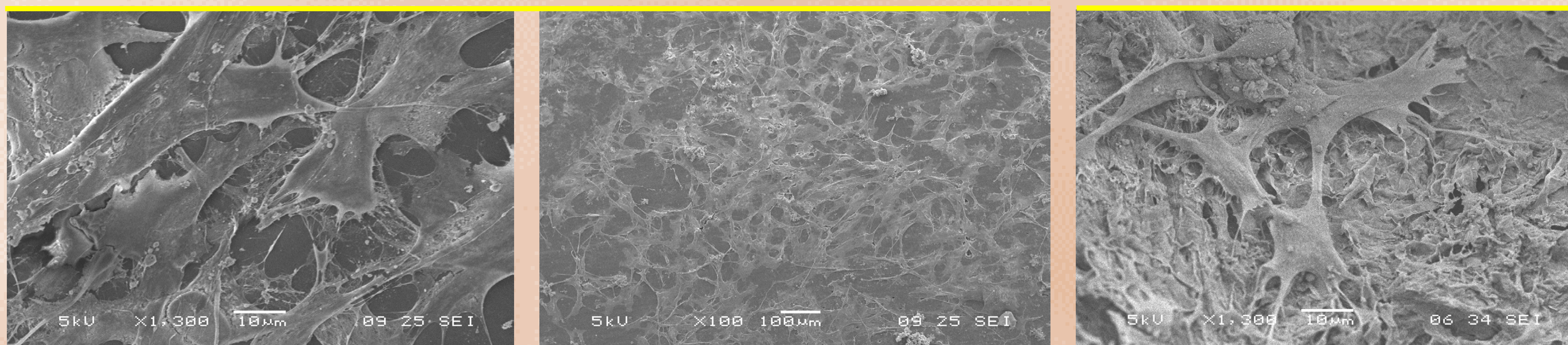
### Interconnected porosity



## Biological properties of BG-PCL scaffolds

### Promotion of cell attachment – Electron scanning microscopy

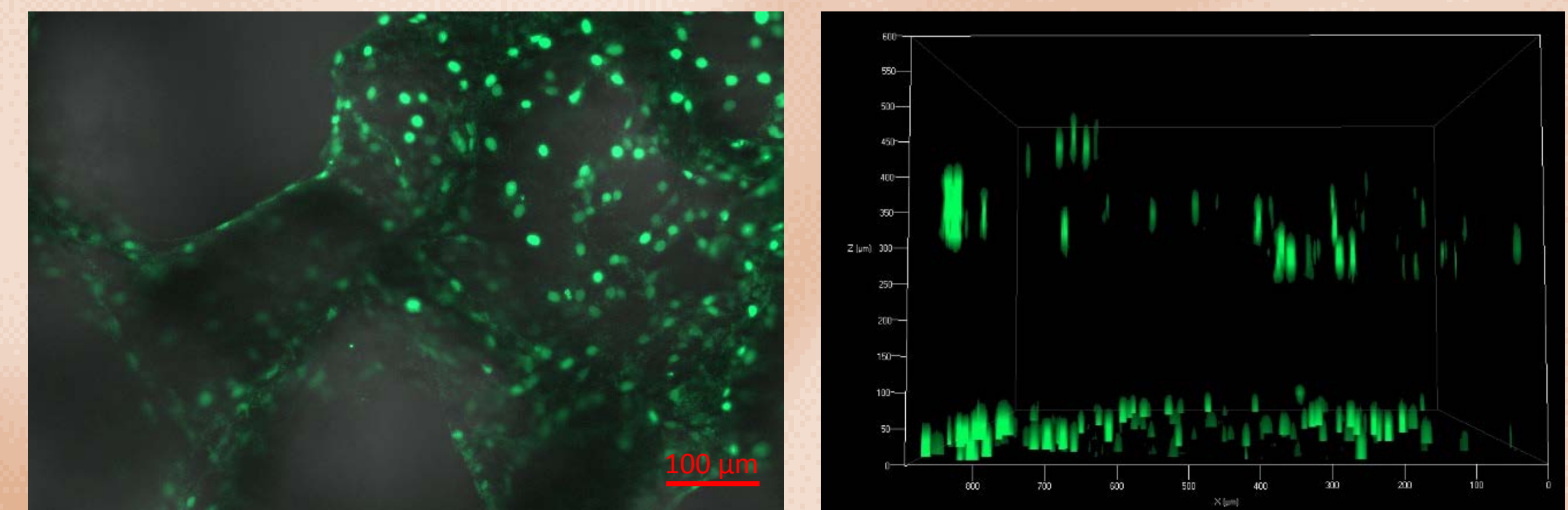
Rat primary osteoblasts (RPO) on a BG-PCL pellet



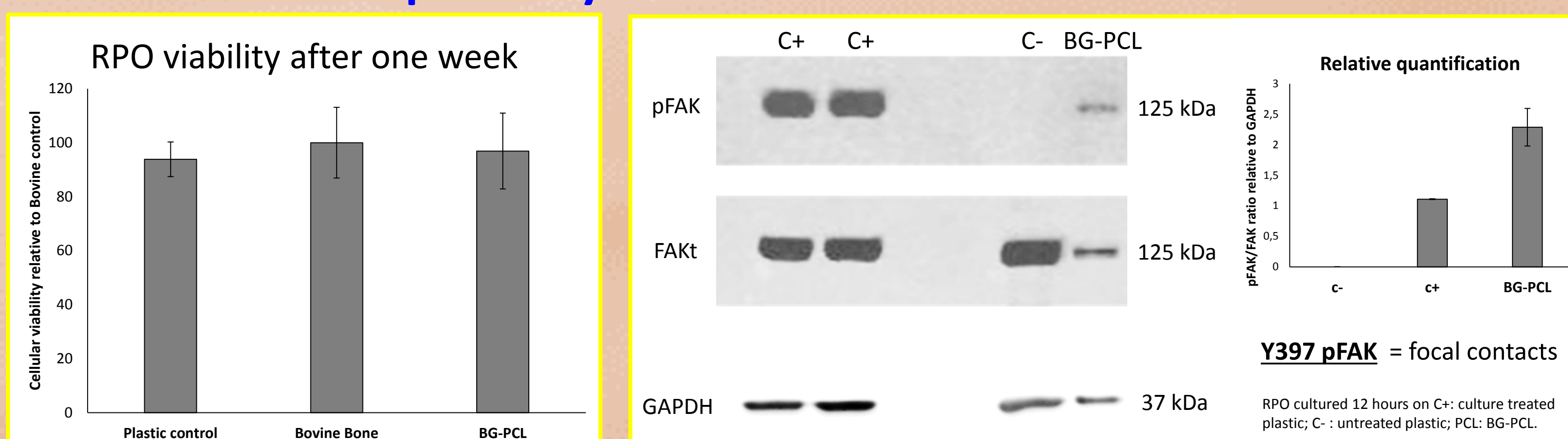
### 3D cell distribution – Apotome fluorescent microscopy

RPO on a BG-PCL scaffold

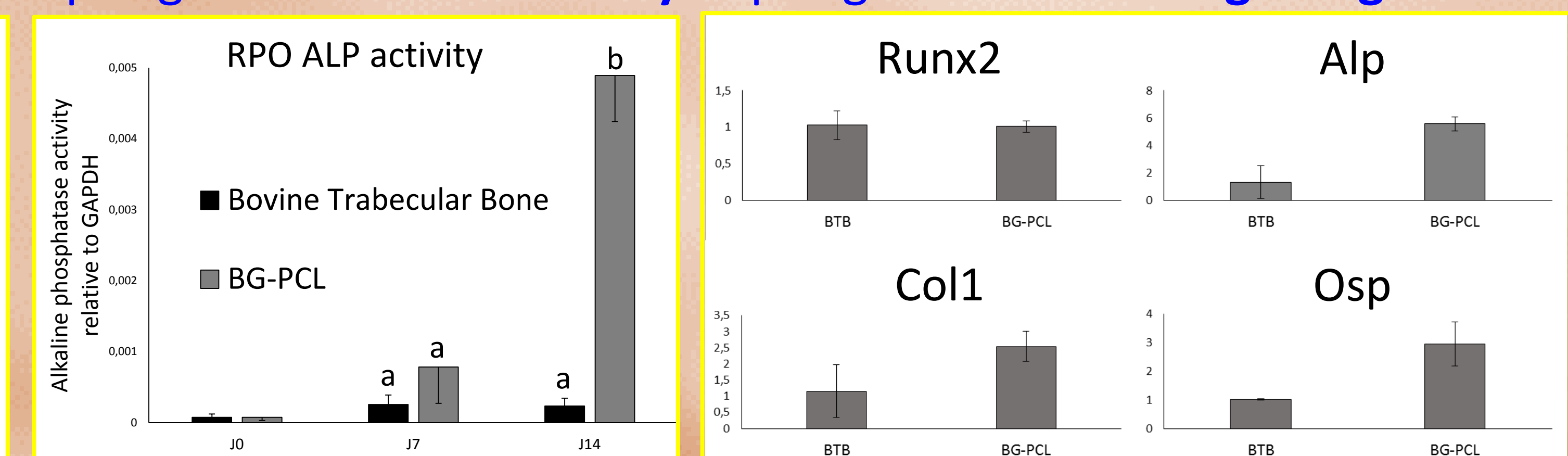
RPO distribution inside scaffolds



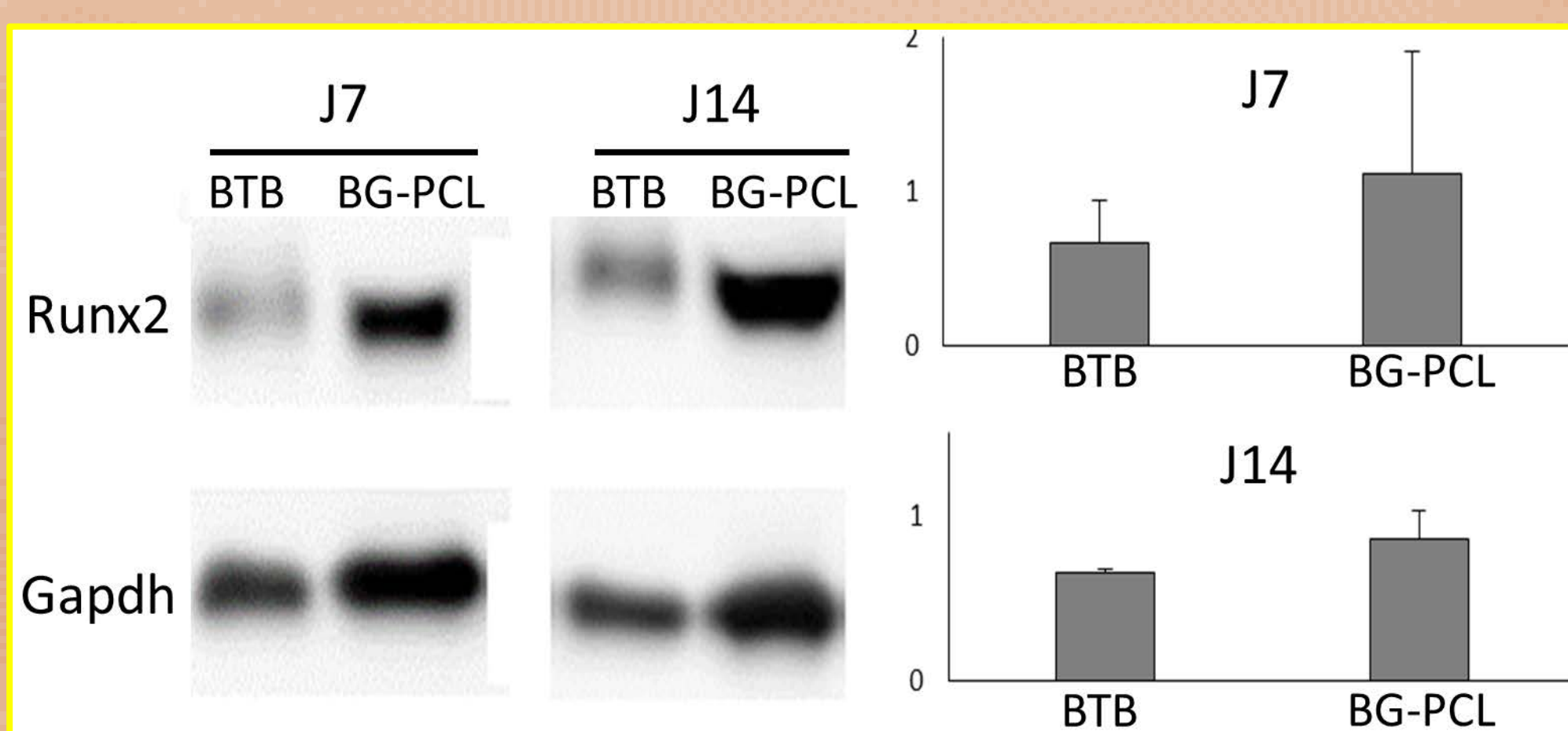
### Preserved biocompatibility Stimulation of focal contacts



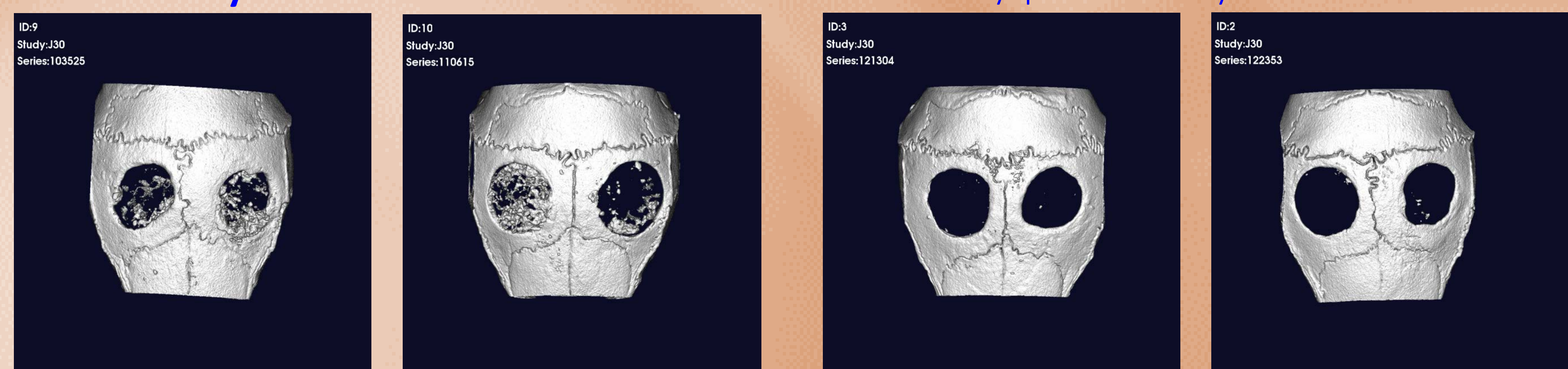
### Up-regulation of ALP activity Up-regulation of osteogenic genes



### Enhancement of Runx2 in RPO



### Validation by in-vivo models - Mineral structures observed at 30 days post- craniotomy in mice



## Conclusion:

BG-PCL hybrid scaffolds may represent a **ground-breaking** step in **bone regenerative medicine**. They preserve osteoinductive properties while addressing brittleness of bioactive glasses. Their **synthesis route** at room temperature offers **new opportunities for organic doping and improved bone regeneration**

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