

Drying research From physical and biological mechanisms to breakthrough innovation

Luca Lanotte, Romain Jeantet

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Drying research *From physical and biological mechanisms to breakthrough innovation*



Luca Lanotte & Romain Jeantet





Concentration, drying and rehydration of dairy products



STLOpen Days 19-21 March 2019

IENCE & IMPACI

Context, Research topics, Strategy

- □ Massive growth of Infant milk formula (IMF) / protein isolate market
- **Controlled properties, incorporation of live probiotics**
- Environmental and costs concern

Understand the particle formation mechanisms

Identify the key parameters that rule the powder properties and evolution

Explore new technological concepts for technological breakthrough innovation

Consider simplified & controlled models (dairy colloids, bacteria) Observe the phenomenon at different scales to make the study possible Combine disciplines: from biology to soft matter and chemical engineering Partnership to feed the scientific questions and identify technological outputs





□ 45 papers published / 4 years
□ 6,6 M€ funding on the same period







Strategy - Study of the drying process on multi-scales







Protein signature in the course of drying

Langmuir 29 (2013) 15606 - 15613 Drying Technol 32 (2014) 1540 - 1551 Food Hydrocolloids 48 (2015) 8 - 16 Food Hydrocolloids 52 (2016) 161 -166

Specific signatures of WP and MC proteins governing the particle formation / shape and properties, regardless of the drying kinetics





1. Homogeneous

kinetics &

shrinkage

Protein signature : the case of protein mixes

Single pendant droplet Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)



Flying monodisperse droplets Optical Microscopy



In this case of protein mixes, the major protein rules the transition and final shape of the droplet / particle





7

Is the skin composition representative of the bulk?

Elemental analysis by SEM (EDS)



Over-representation of WP on the external part of the dry skin in WP/MC mixes: how to explain such behavior?





Colloids and Surfaces A 553 (2018) 20 -27





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Drying-induced colloid behavior





Zhou J. *et al.*, PRL 118, 108002 (2017). Fortini A. *et al.*, PRL 116, 118301 (2016). Small on top theory

FILM FORMATION IN BINARY COLLOIDAL MIXTURES

Due to osmotic pressure, smaller colloids accumulate on the external part of the skin/gelled layer passing through its interstitial pores

Characterization of the sol-gel transition in dairy mixes

Control of the nutritional properties of the powders (rehydration)

Industrial application

Understanding the drying mechanisms in colloidal polydisperse systems

Physics









Strategies in probiotics drying research



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A coupled approach for a novel process



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Osmoregulation induce protection mechanisms before drying



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Drying bacteria at different scales





Acquired cross protection with multi stage scheme provides 100% survival

⇒ Patented process EP 15 306465.4 - 1357











Current bottlenecks in whey/permeate powder production



concentrate DM, but limiting viscosity / pumping and spraying 55% of the overall energy for # 4% of the water removed



Innovative process PST based on thin-film rotary evaporator where viscosity is controlled by a vigorous mechanical treatment that maintains a fluid flowing state at high DM





PST: a new process for whey/permeate powder production







Similar powder characteristics, lower energy requirements

PST process was run successfully for long duration experiments > 6 hours



PST process significantly saves energy compared to the standard drying process

- Estimation of energy costs on the sole basis of the energy required for removal of water
- Drying step (60 to 97 % DM): 32% energy savings
- □ Whole process (6 to 97 % DM): 11% energy savings

Innov Food Sci Emerging Technol 41 (2017) 144 -149





PST process in short

VALIDATION

- Feasibility of PST process at pilot scale / long duration for the production of permeate powder
- Satisfactory properties of the resulting powder



REDUCTION

- Energy savings estimation range from 10 to 30%
- Building savings estimated at 40%
- Water, CIP solutions and waste volumes should be cut as well

INNOVATION

- Potential new products ...
- Produced in a sustainable way...
- Using breakthrough innovation

Patent EP 15752957.9 - 1358 (2015)





Conclusion and perspectives

Extensive work on IMF formulation is needed

- Determines nutritional properties
- Conditions particle intrinsic features, then powder properties
- Enhances probiotics survival during drying and in the dry state

Research strategy to overcome industry challenges

- Needs to address growing market bottlenecks / societal issues
- Identifying the mechanisms at small scale, scale up needed
- Multidisciplinary approach is mandatory: physics / biology / medical

Next step in IMF research / development

- Understand the mechanisms governing the skin formation in colloid mixes
- Better control the end use properties while considering real complex formula in single drop experiments







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