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## Keynote Lecture: Biomimetic membranes incorporating artificial water channels for highperformance water reverse osmosis desalination

M Barboiu

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# Biomimetic membranes incorporating artificial water channels for high-performance water reverse osmosis desalination

M. Barboiu\*

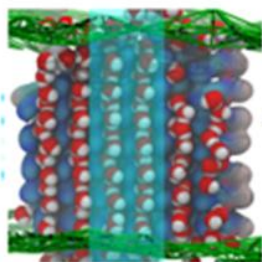
*Institut Européen des Membranes, Adaptive Supramolecular Nanosystems Group,  
University of Montpellier, ENSCM, CNRS, Place Eugène Bataillon, CC 047, F-34095, Montpellier, France.*

*\*mihail-dumitru.barboiu@umontpellier.fr*

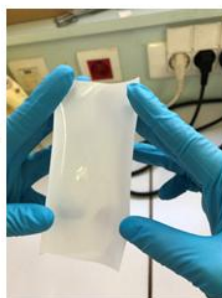
Inspired by biological models, artificial water channels can be used to overcome the permeability/selectivity trade-off of traditional desalination membranes. We demonstrate that rational incorporation of I-quartet artificial water channels in composite polyamide membranes synthesized *via* interfacial polymerization, provide defect free biomimetic membranes with intrinsic water-to-salt permeability on the operational SWRO-BWRO/TWRO desalination pressure and high/medium/low salinity conditions. The best biomimetic composite membranes, which can be easily scaled for industrial standards ( $> \text{m}^2$ ), provide remarkable 99.5% rejection of NaCl and 91.2% boron rejection with water flux of  $75 \text{ L m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$  at 65 bar applied pressure with a 35000 ppm NaCl feed solution at pH 8, representative of seawater desalination. This flux is more than 75% higher than that observed with current state-of-the-art membranes with equivalent solute rejection, translating into an equivalent reduction of the membrane effective area for the same water output and a  $\sim 12\%$  reduction of the required energy for desalination.

## « Towards the ultimate reverse osmosis desalination membranes »

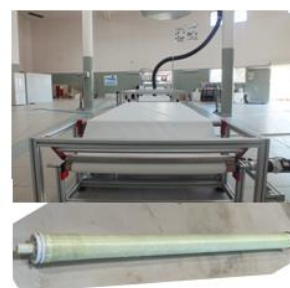
**Fundamental  
science  
Artificial Water  
Channels**



**Lab scale  
Membranes**



**Industrial  
Modules**



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### **References**

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2. L.-B. Huang, M. Di Vincenzo, M. Göktuğ Ahunbay, A. van der Lee, D. Cot, S. Cerneaux, G. Maurin\*, M. Barboiu, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2021, 143, 14386-14393.
3. M. Di Vincenzo, A. Tiraferri, V.-E. Musteata, S. Chisca, M. Deleanu, F. Ricceri, D. Cot, S. P. Nunes, M. Barboiu, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 2021, 118(37), e2022200118.