



MedImmune

# Particle Design using Spray Drying

Reinhard Vehring

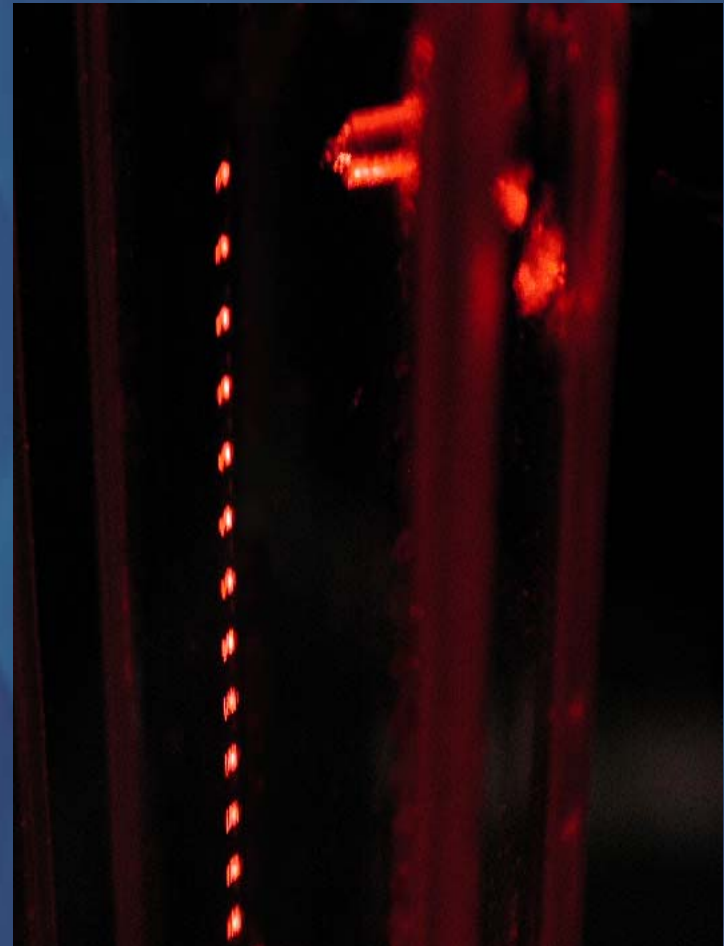
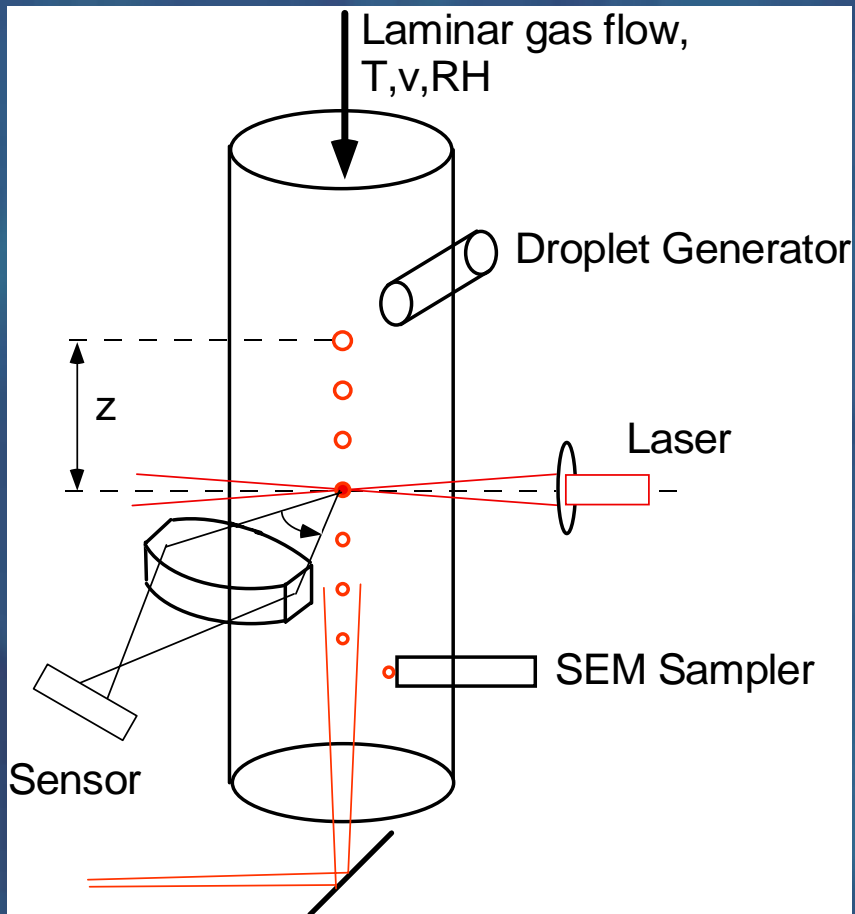
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# Outline

- **Study of Particle Formation Mechanism**
  - Experimental Methods
    - Droplet Chain
    - Monodisperse Spray Dryer
  - Theoretical Approach
  - Results
- **Particle Design Examples**
- **Summary and Outlook**



# Droplet Chain Technique

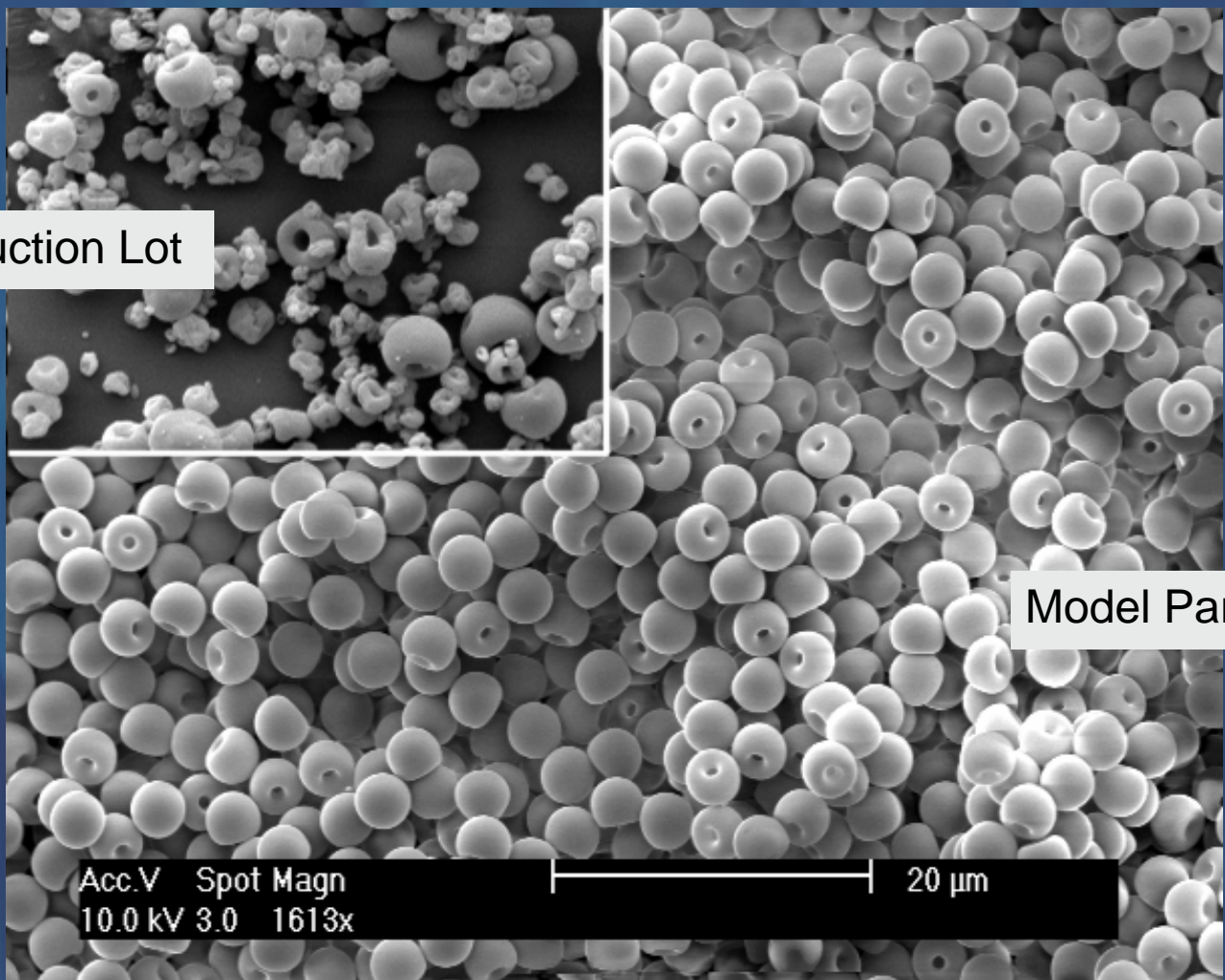


- Droplets do not influence gas phase
- Allows measurement of evaporation rates

# Monodisperse, Monomorph Particles

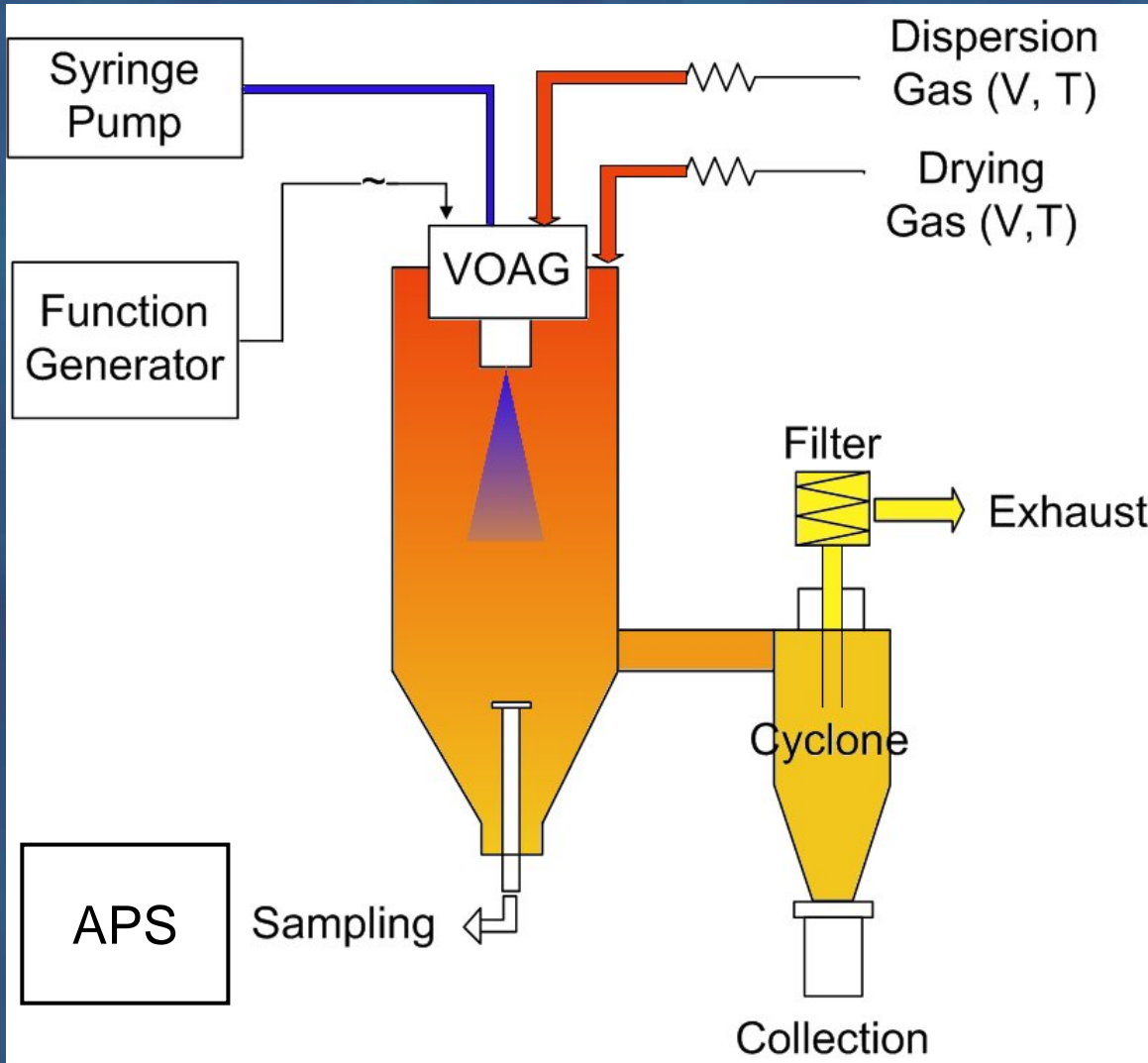
Production Lot

Model Particles



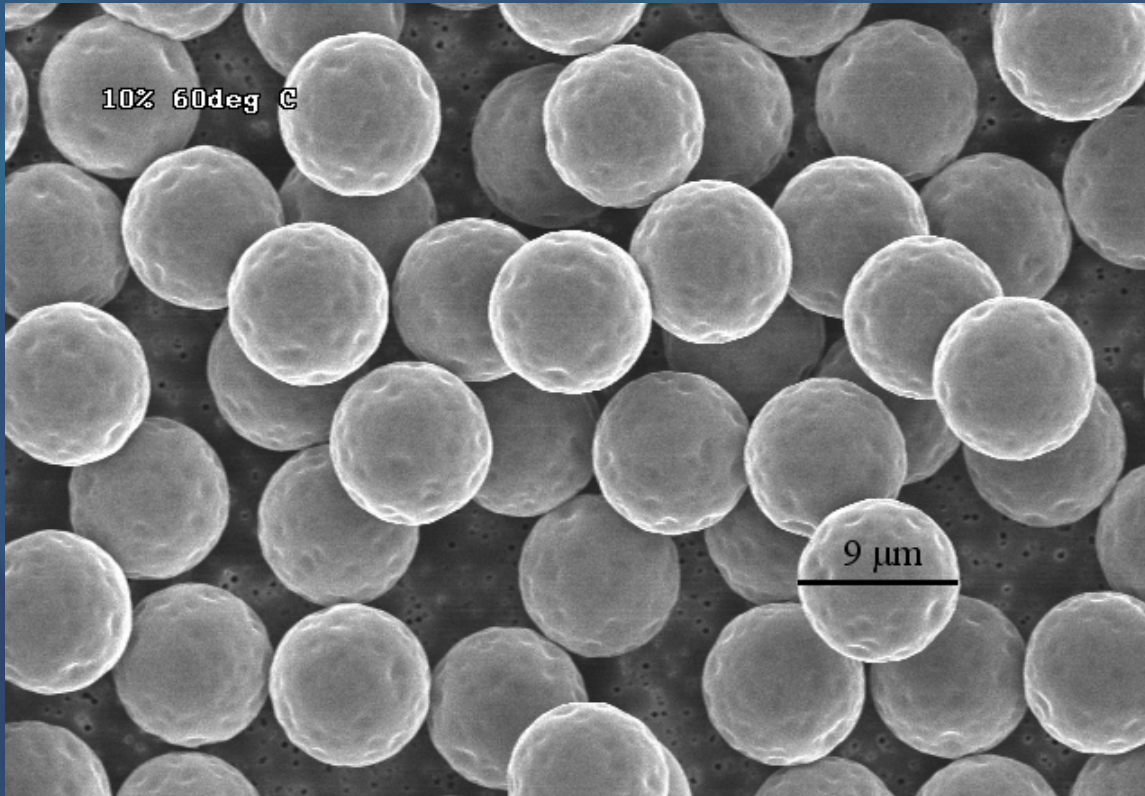
Geometric diameter and density can be correlated with drying rate  
Only small quantities can be produced (< 1mg/h)

# Monodisperse Spray Dryer



- 1000 x higher production rates
- Gas phase conditions not constant
- No direct observation of evaporation process
- Online measurement of aerodynamic dry particle diameter

# Particles from Monodisperse Spray Dryer



- Consistent morphology
- Density of main population can be determined

# Analytical Description

Analytical model provides dimensionless numbers

Diffusion equation for normalized radial coordinate,  $R=r/r_s$ ,

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = \frac{D}{r_s^2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial R^2} + \frac{2\partial c}{R\partial R} \right) + \frac{R\partial c\partial r_s}{r_s\partial R\partial t}, \quad d^2(t) = d_0^2 - \kappa t$$

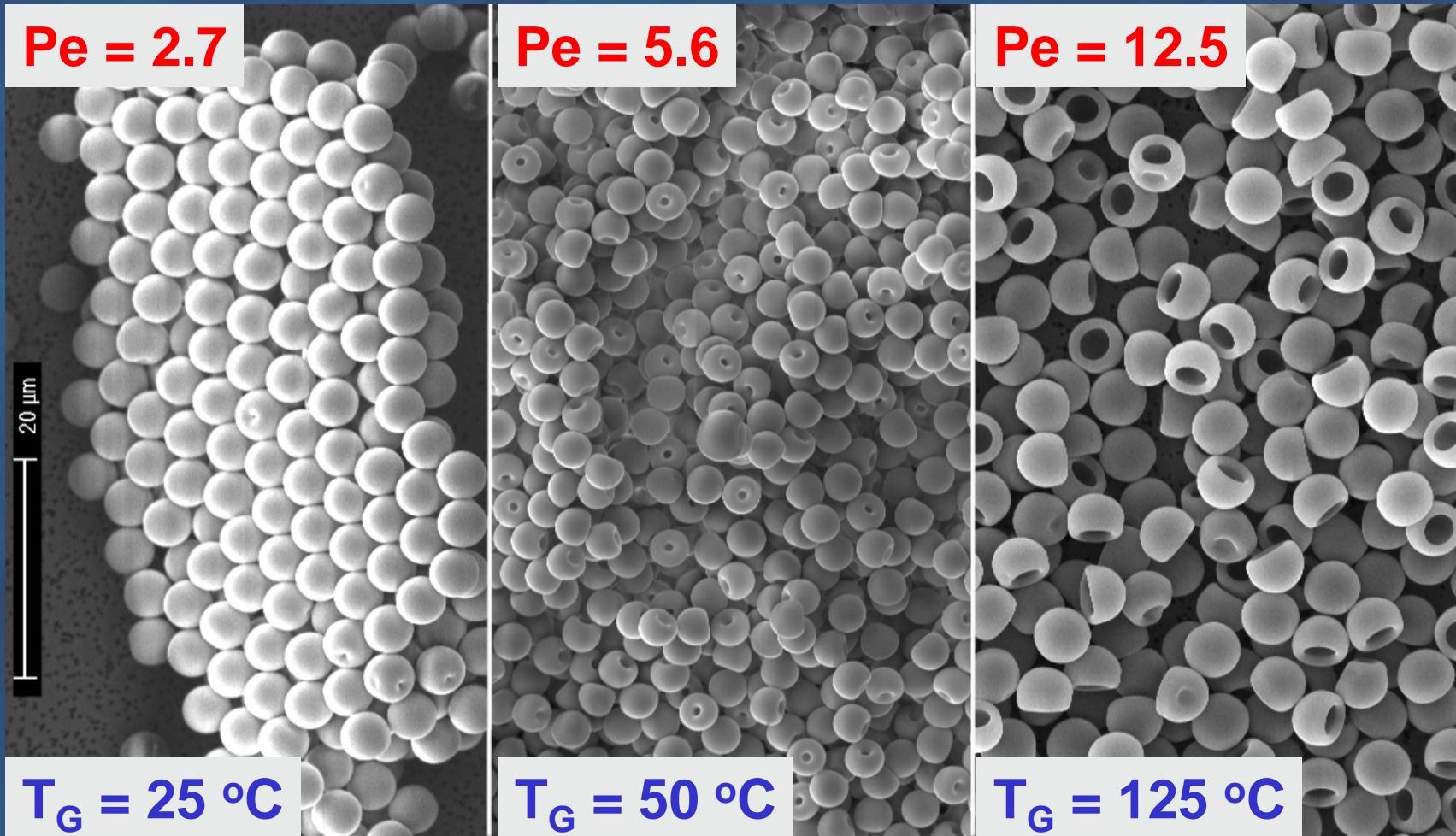
$D$ : Diffusion coefficient,  $c$ : concentration,  $r_s$ : droplet radius,  $d$ : droplet diameter,  $\kappa$ : evaporation rate.

Solution

$$c = c_m \frac{\exp(-0.5PeR^2)}{3 \int_0^1 R^2 \exp(-0.5PeR^2) dR}, \quad Pe = -\frac{r_s \partial r_s}{D \partial t} = \frac{\kappa}{8D}$$

where the concentration is expressed as a function of the average concentration in the droplet,  $c_m$ .  $Pe$  is the Peclet number.

# Case 1: Large Molecules

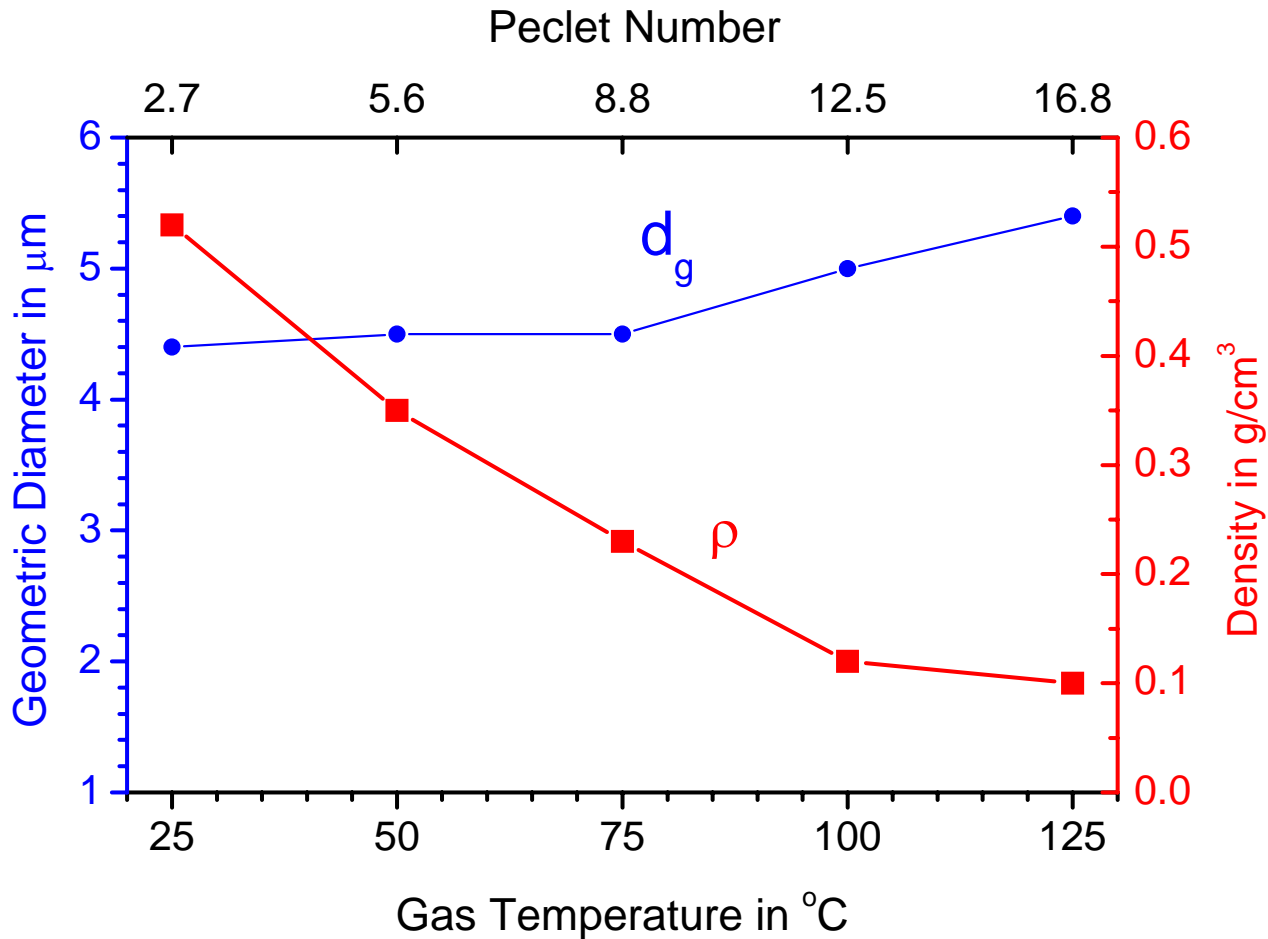


**Morphology and density change with drying rate**

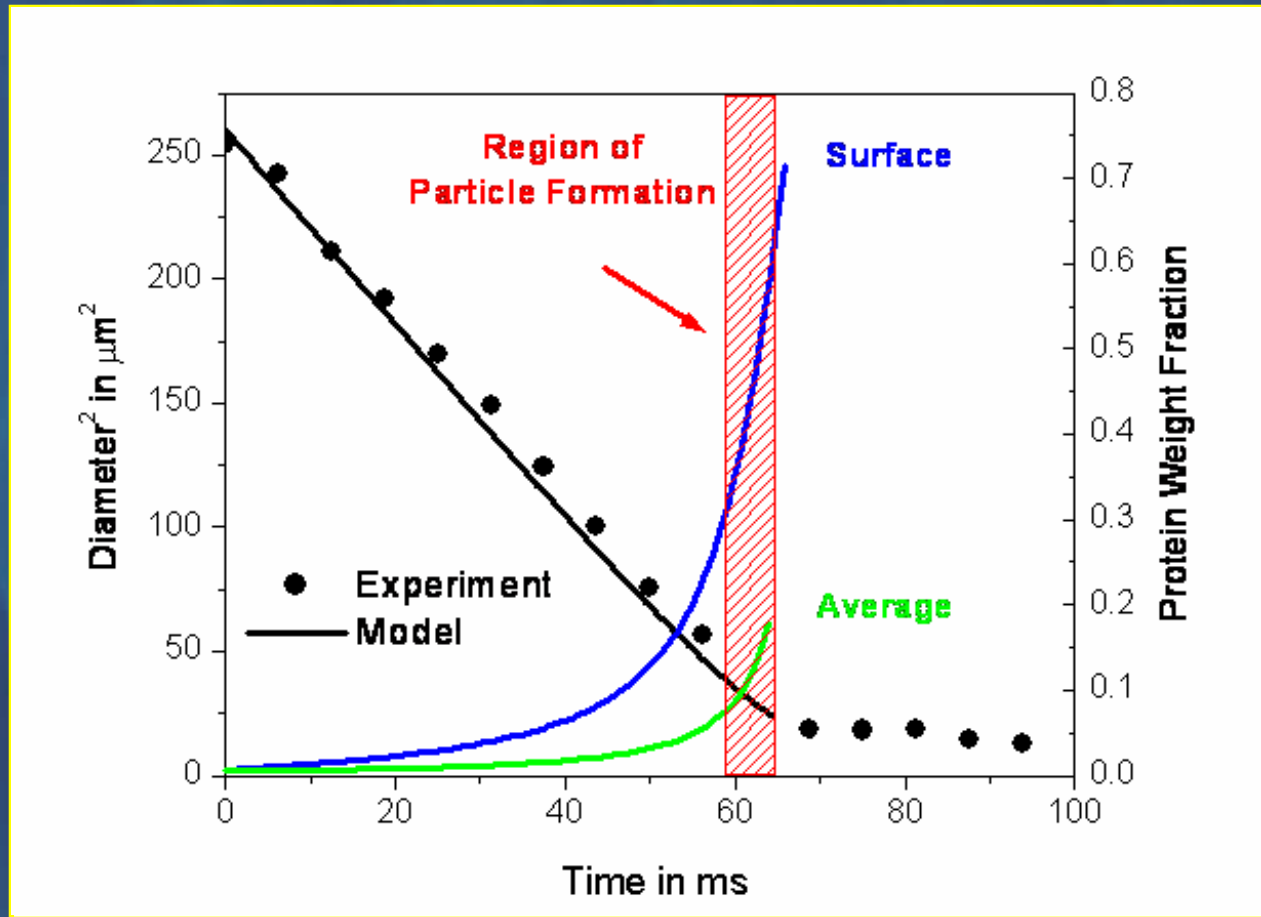
Glycoprotein, MW: 51 kDa, D:  $6 \cdot 10^{-11}$  m<sup>2</sup>/s (estimate)



# Density Decreases with Increasing Pe-Number

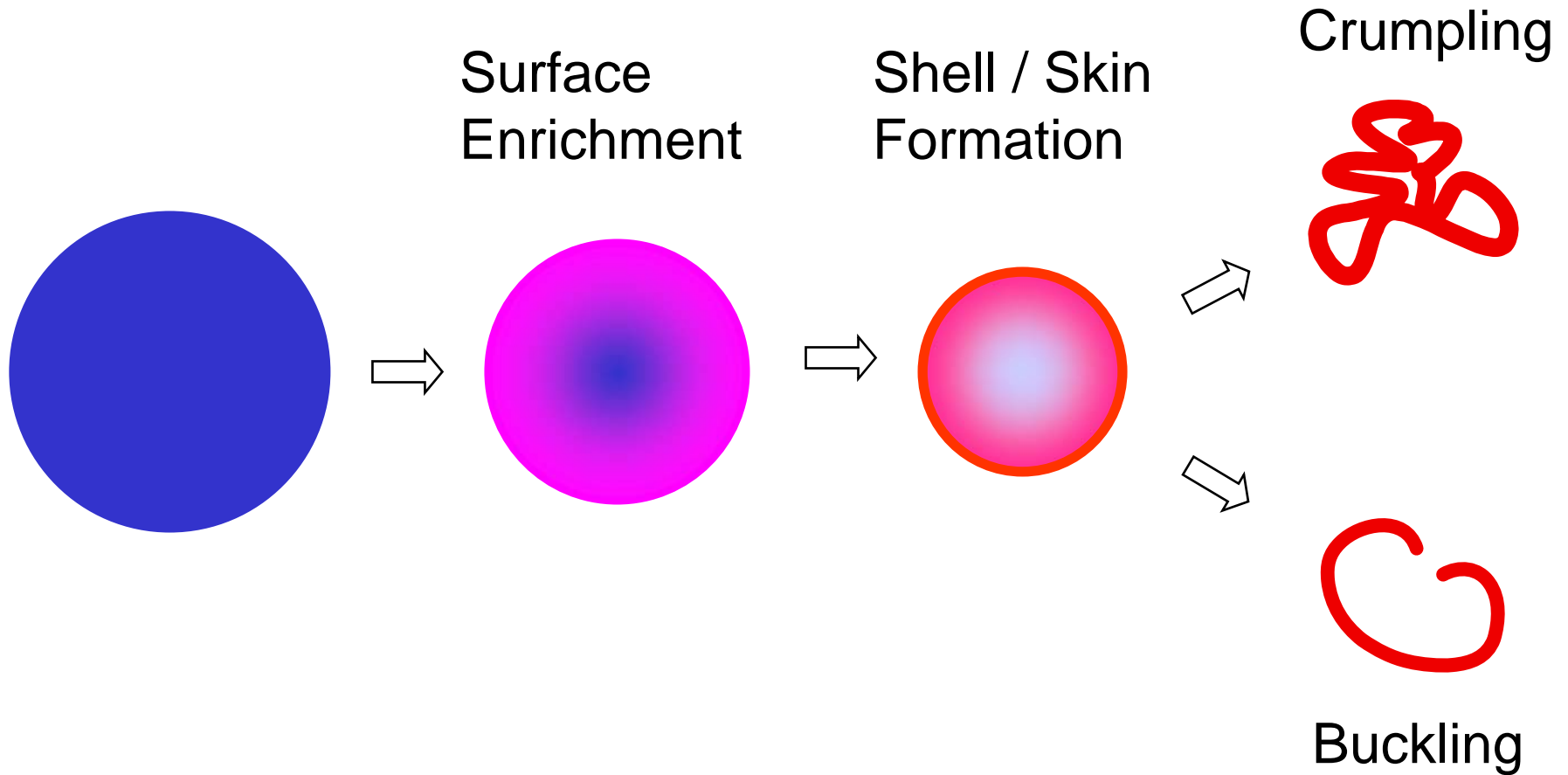


# Theory Predicts Surface Enrichment of Protein

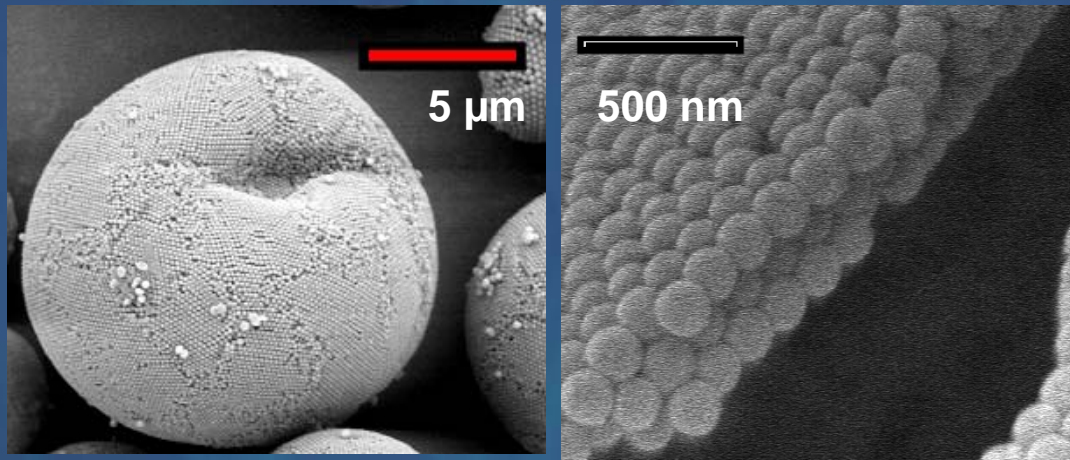


Dry particle formation coincides with predicted high surface concentration of the protein.

# Diffusion Controlled Particle Formation

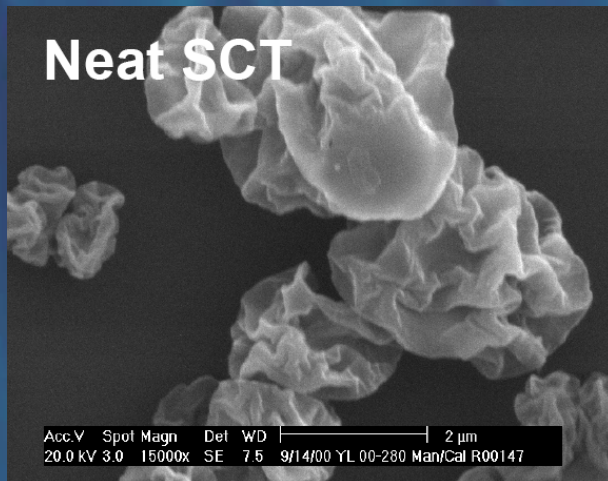


# Large Peclet Number Examples

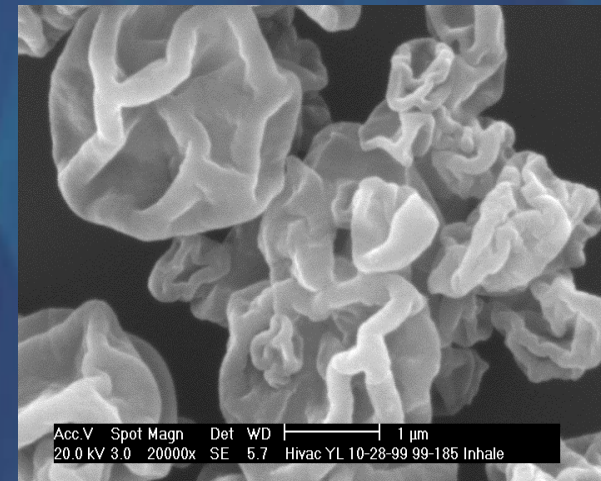


Polystyrene nanoparticle  
(170 nm) suspension

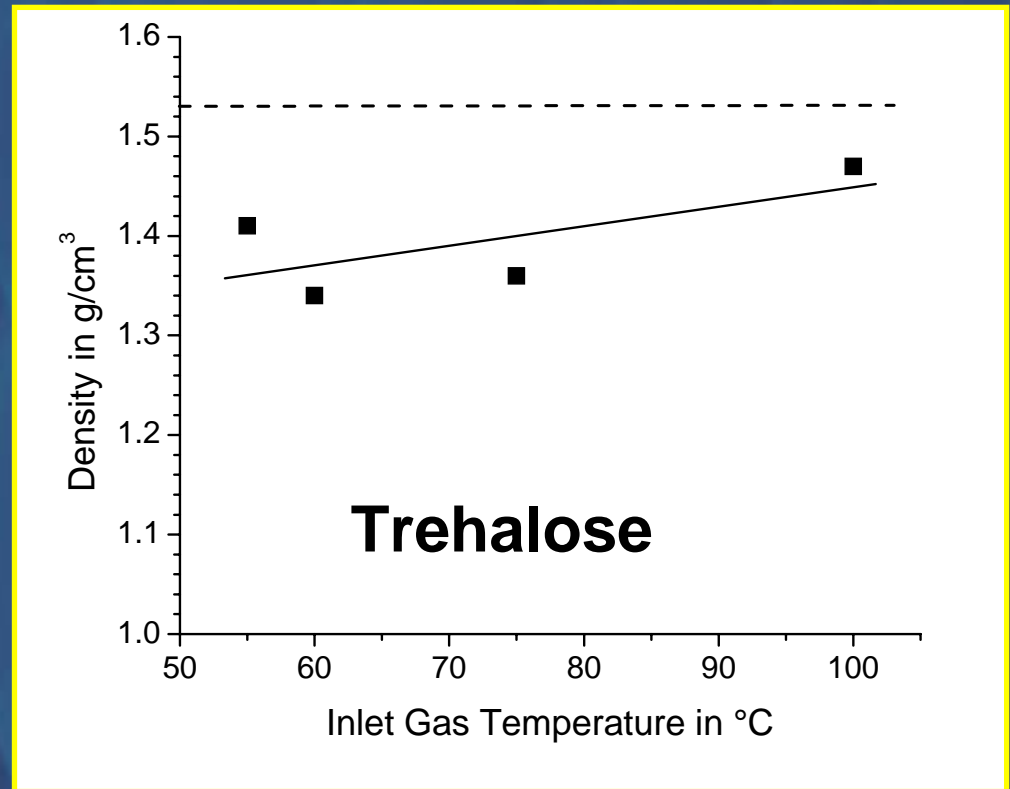
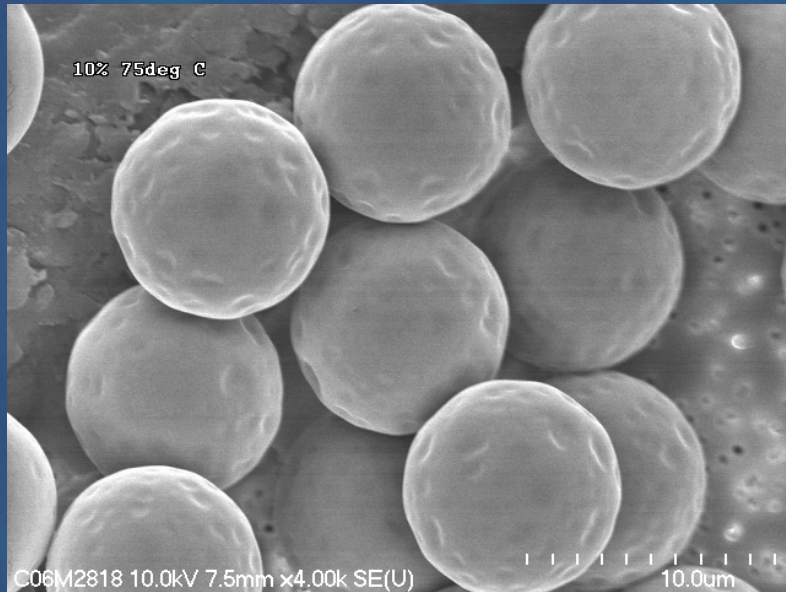
Salmon  
Calcitonin



Peptide  
formulation

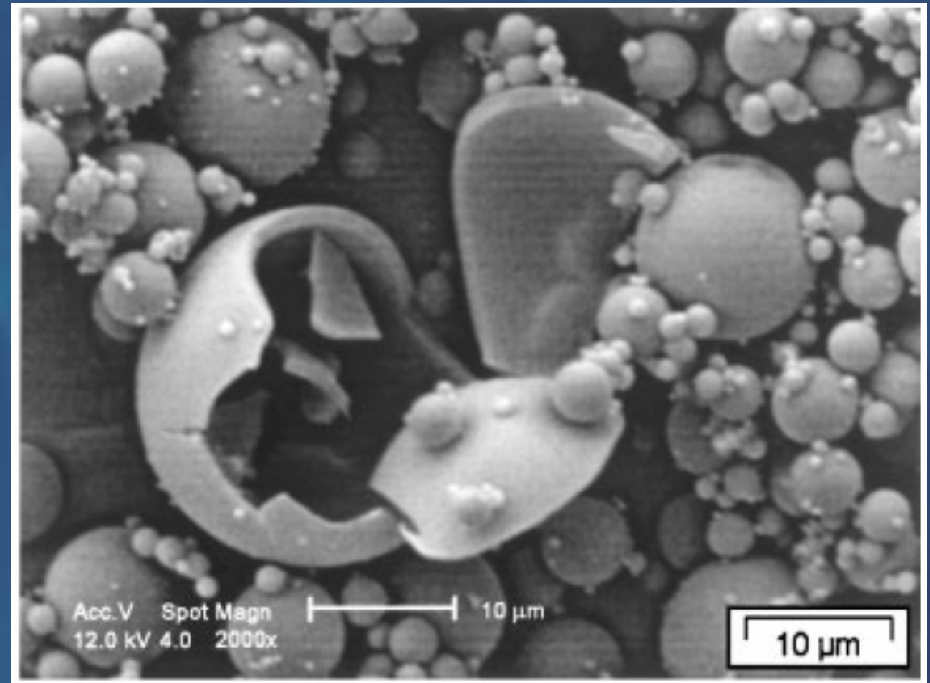
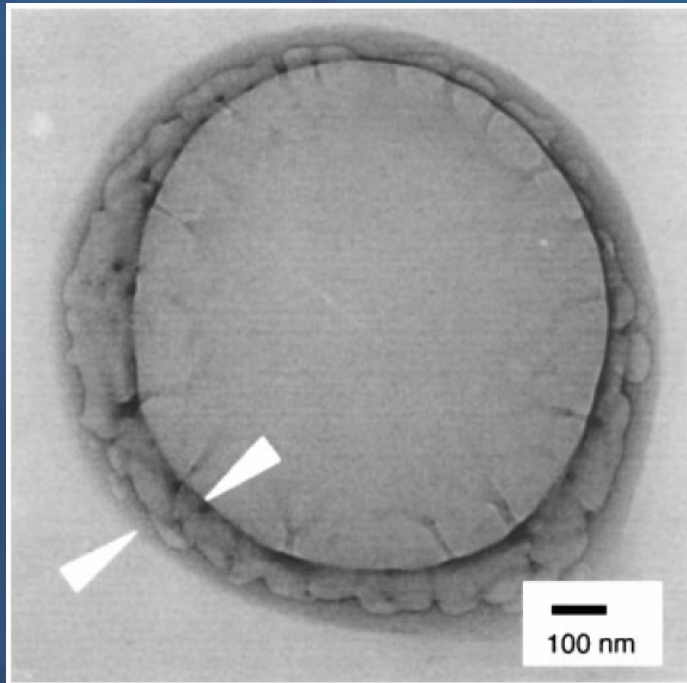


# Case 2: Small Molecules



Low Peclet Number (<2) and high solubility leads to solid particles with a density close to the pycnometer density (1.53 g/cm<sup>3</sup>)

# Small Molecules at High Peclet Numbers

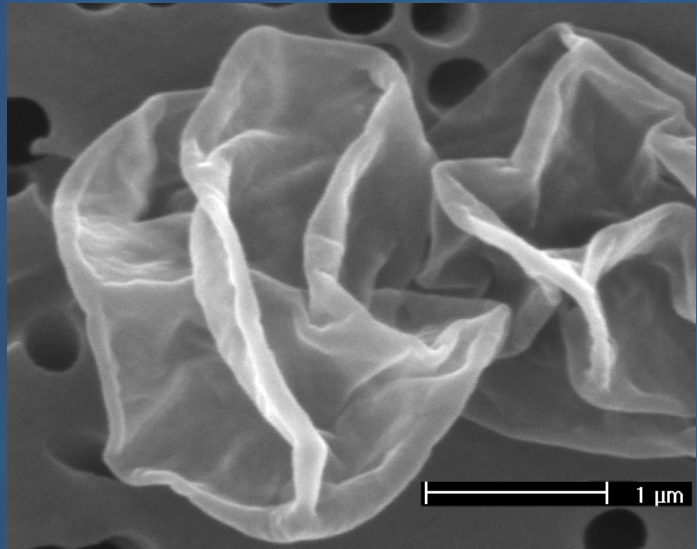


Lactose particles, dried at high drying gas temperatures (200 °C inlet)  
Peclet number range: 2-5

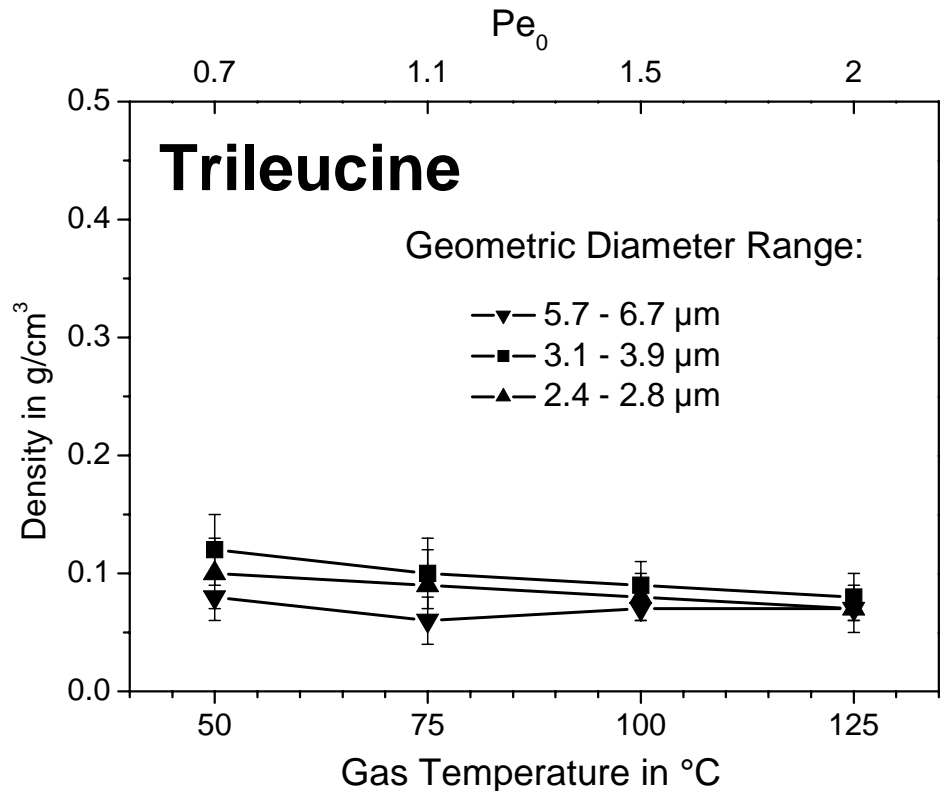
**Saccharides can form hollow particles at high Peclet numbers**

# Small Molecules

## Low Solubility – High Surface Activity



Solubility: 8 mg/ml (25°C, pH7)  
Surface Activity: 42 mN/m (sat, 25°C)  
MW: 357.5 Da

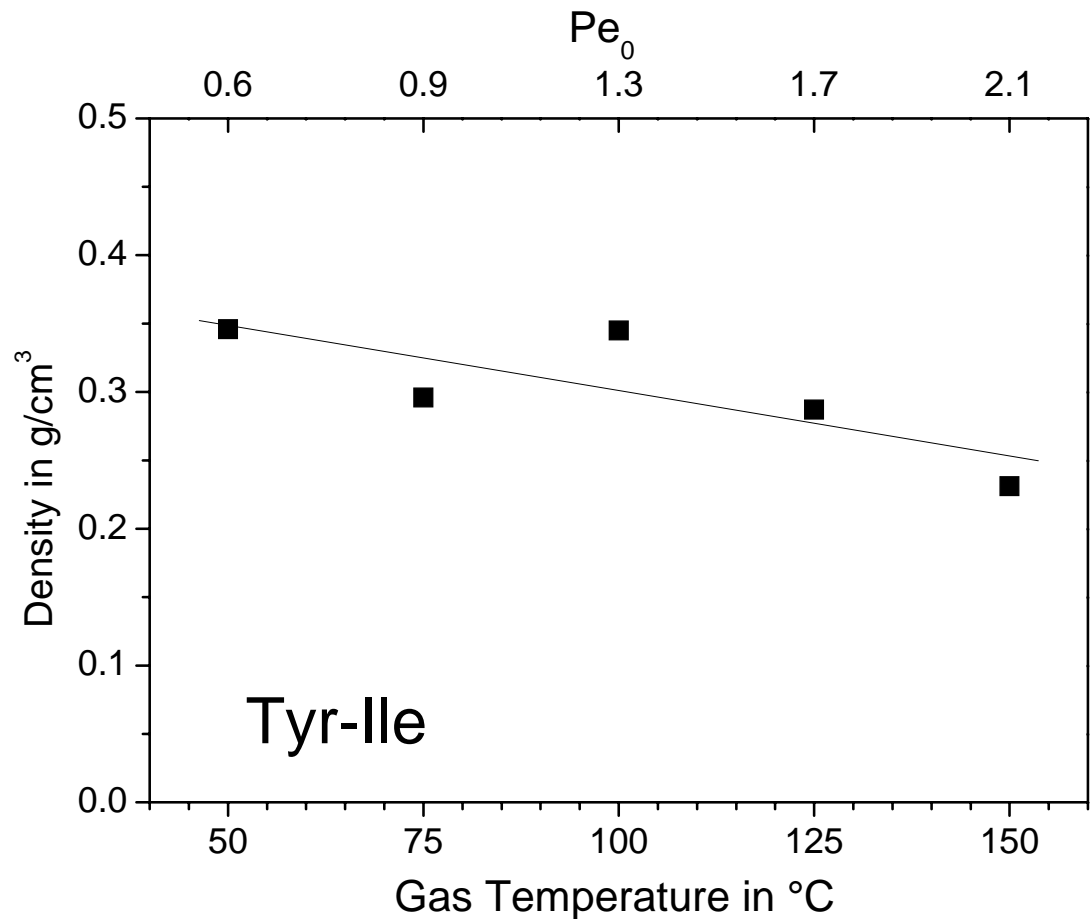
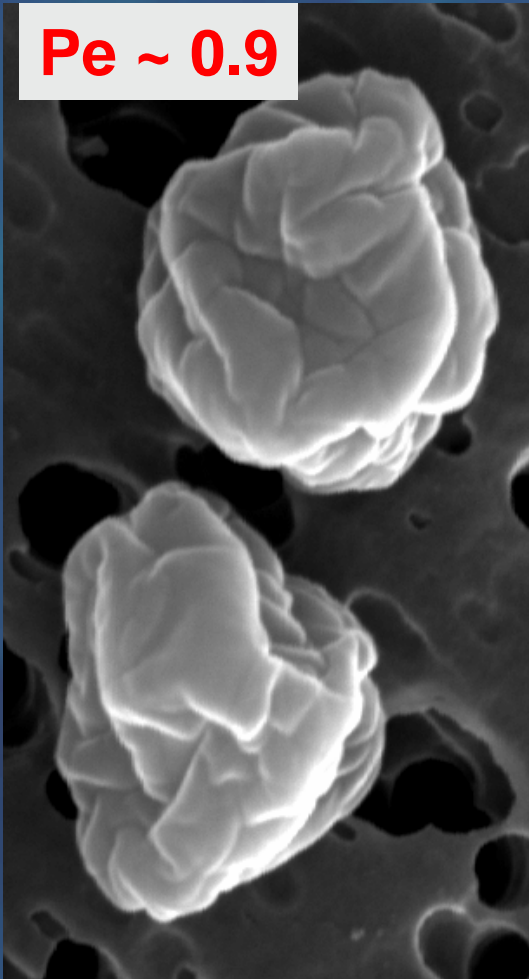


**Particles with very low density can be formed from small molecules**

# Small Molecules

## Low Solubility – Low Surface Activity

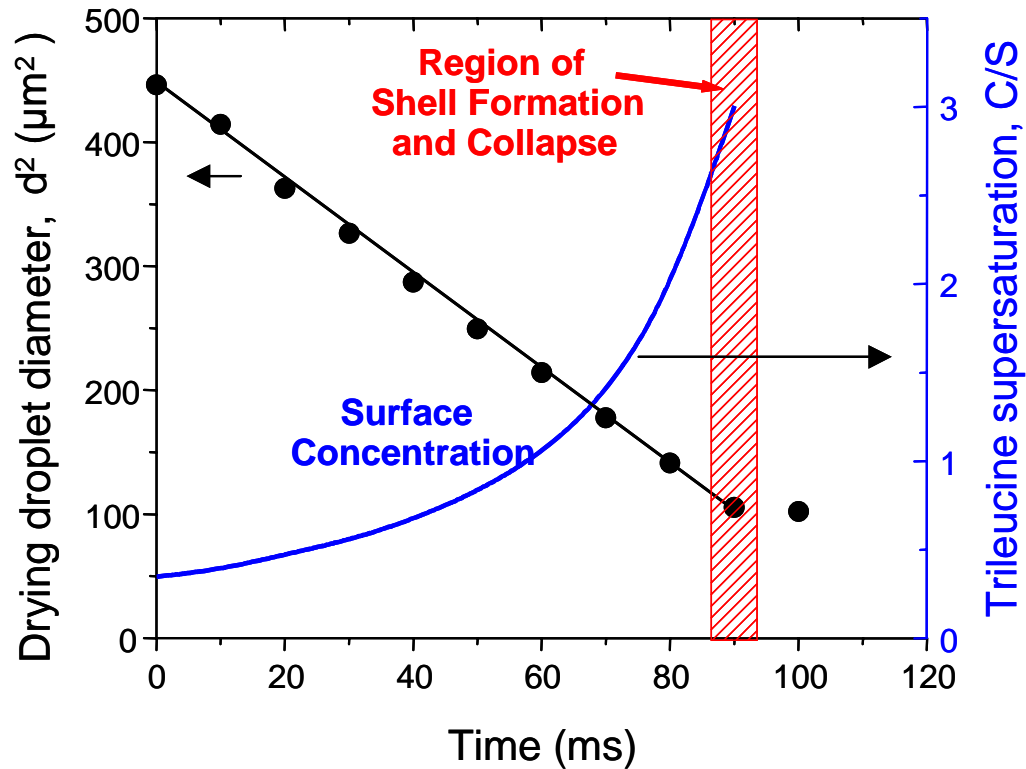
**Pe ~ 0.9**



**Surface activity is not necessary for low particle density**

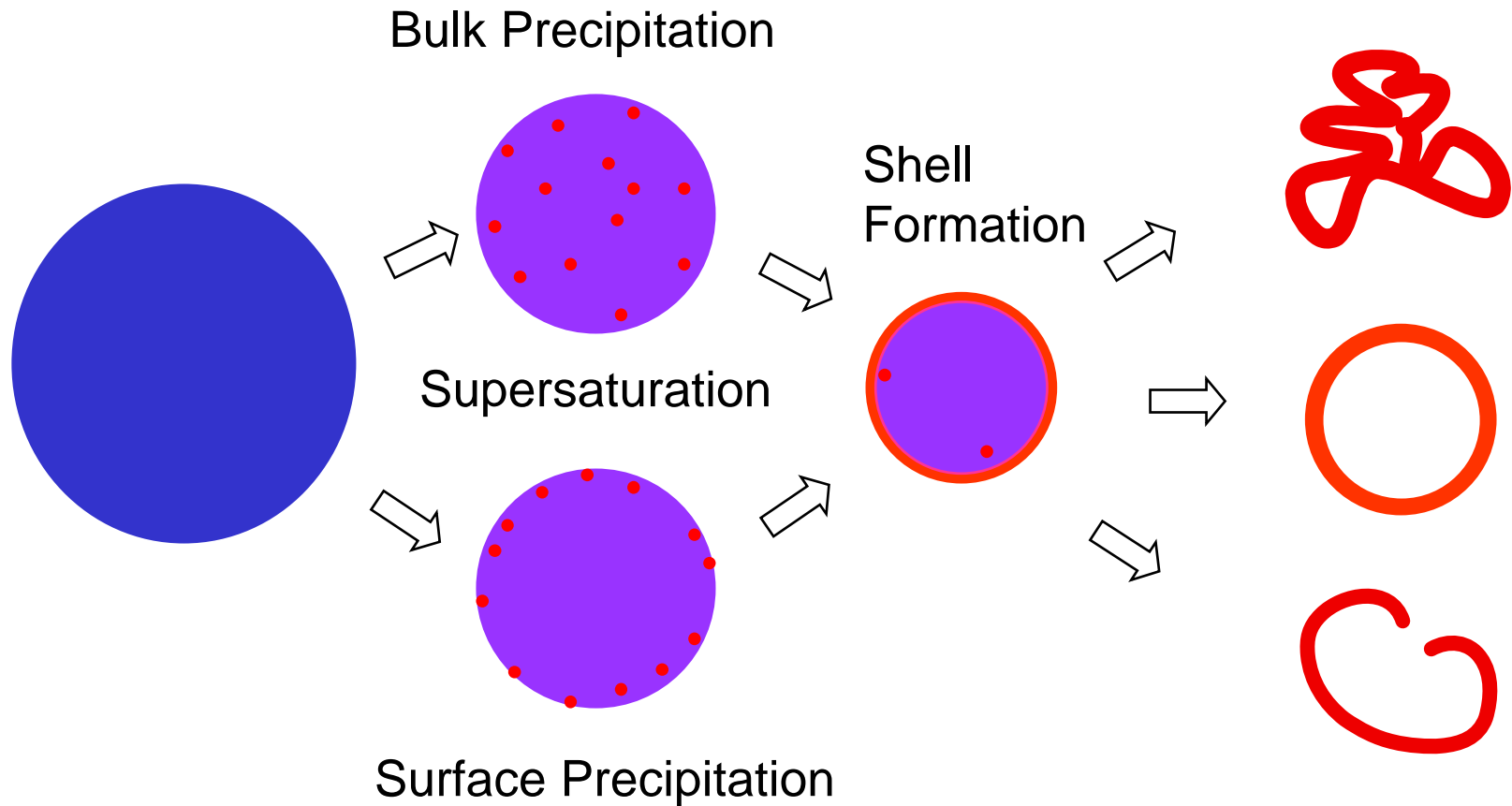


# Particle Formation Coincides with Supersaturation

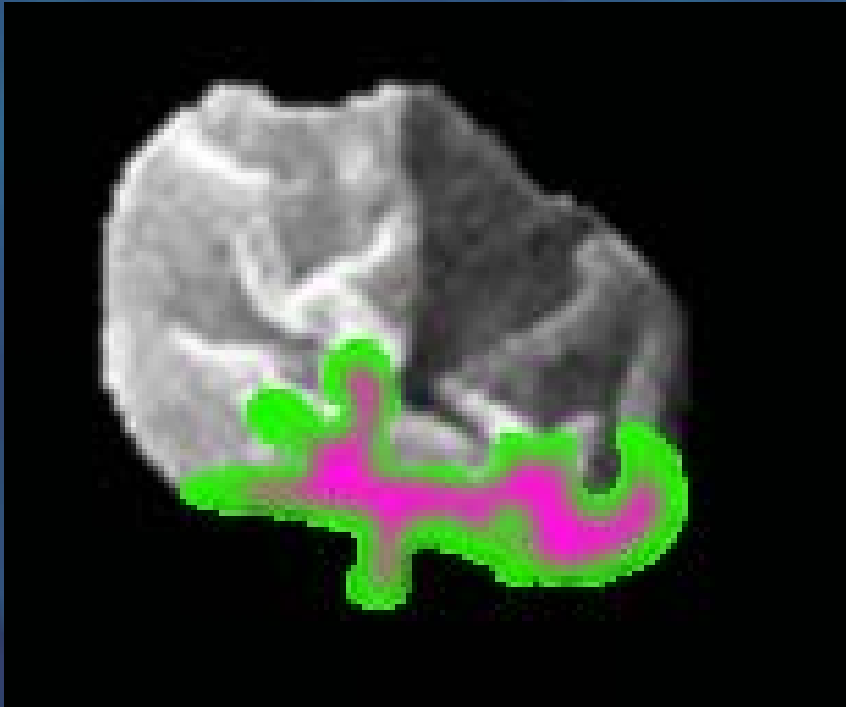


Precipitation leads to sharp increase in Pe - number

# Particle Formation with Early Phase Separation



# Designing Structured Particles - Applications

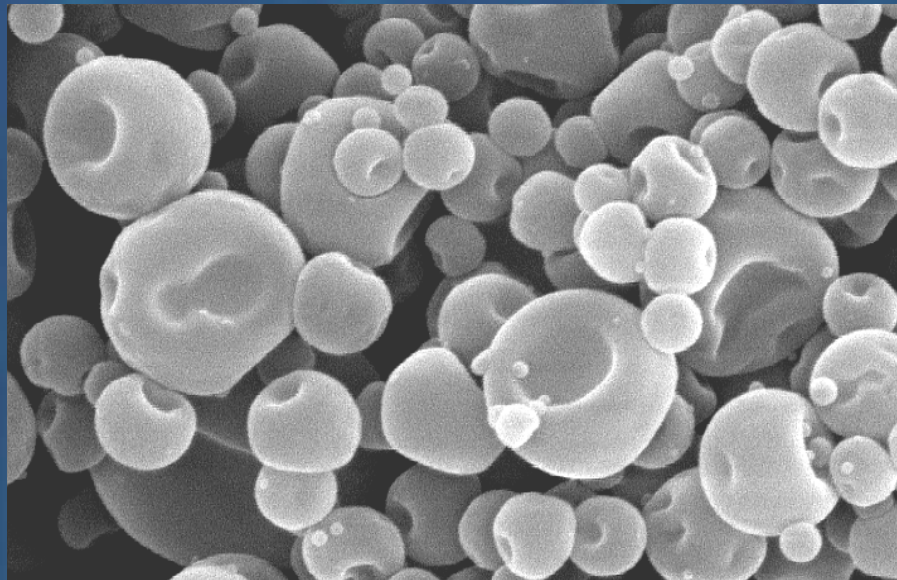


- **Encapsulation**
- **Structural layers**

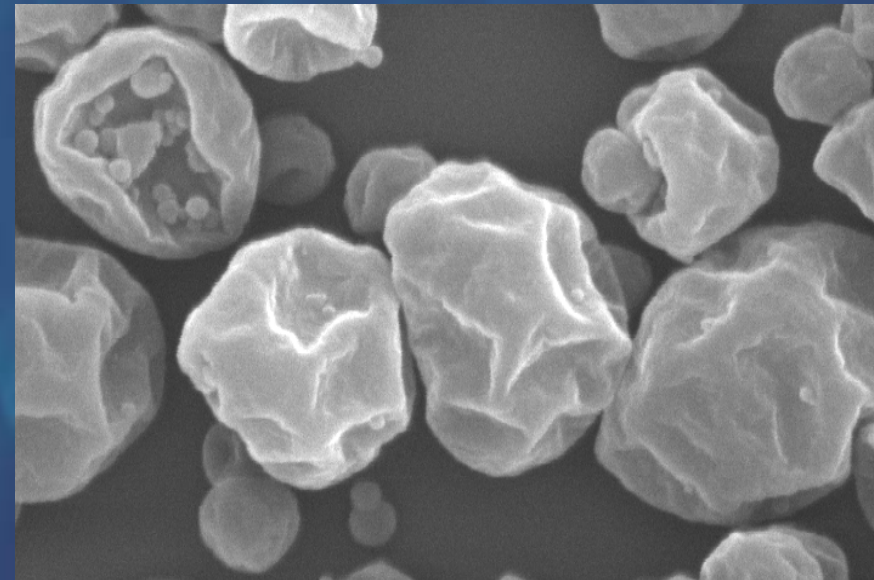
- **Improving physical stability**
- **Improving biological / chemical stability**
- **Improving powder / aerosol properties**
  - Flowability
  - Dispersibility
  - Density / Aerodynamic diameter
- **Improving delivery**
  - Solubility
  - Bioadhesion
  - Release

# Encapsulation of a Model Molecule

100 % PVP K17



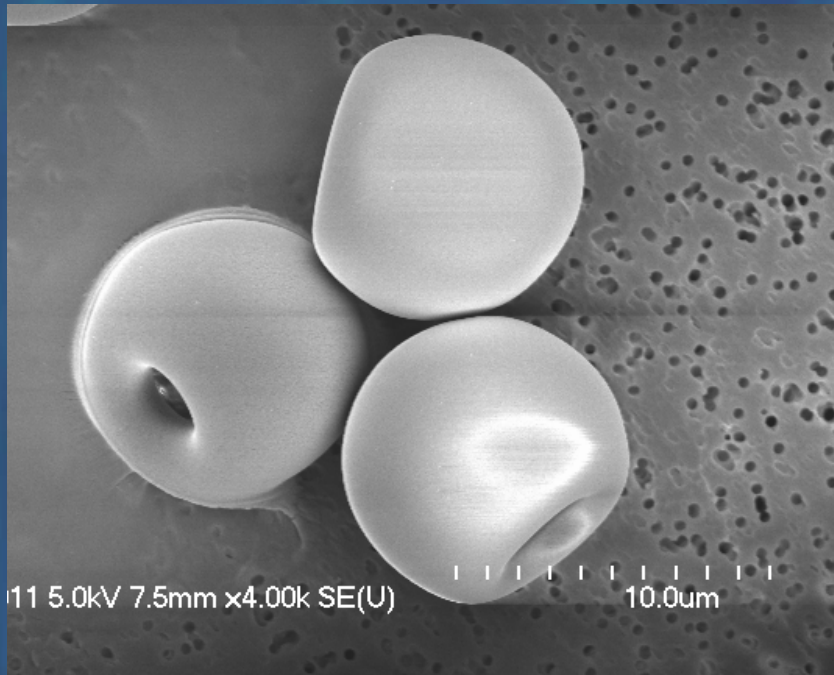
90 % PVP, 10 % Amino Acid



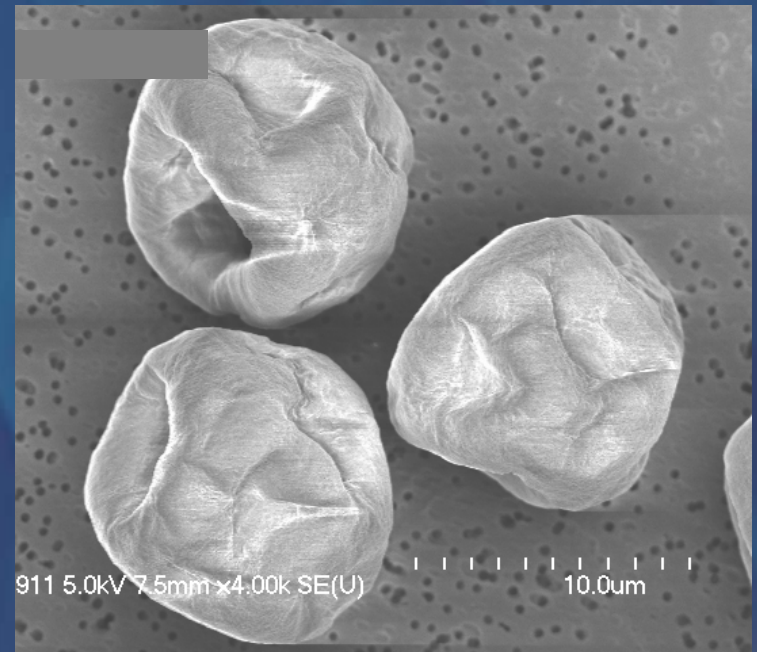
**Amino acid solubility intentionally reduced by a co-solvent to achieve encapsulation**

# Surface Modification of an Antibody Therapeutic

IgG1 - Antibody



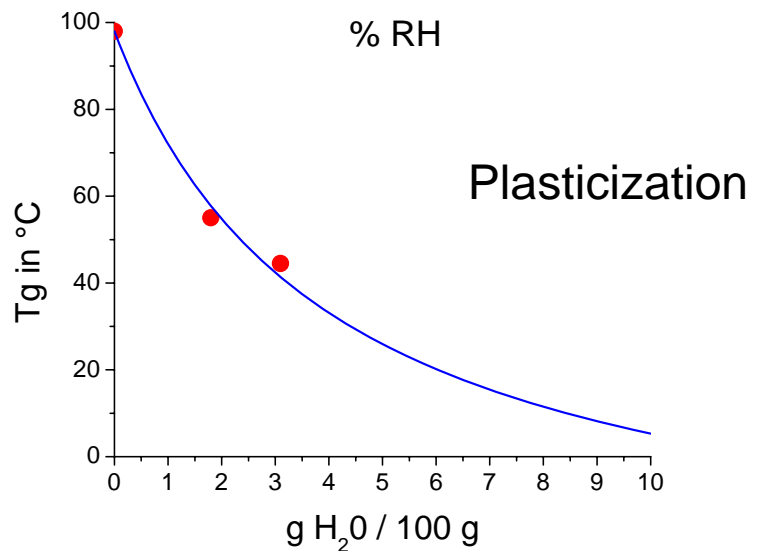
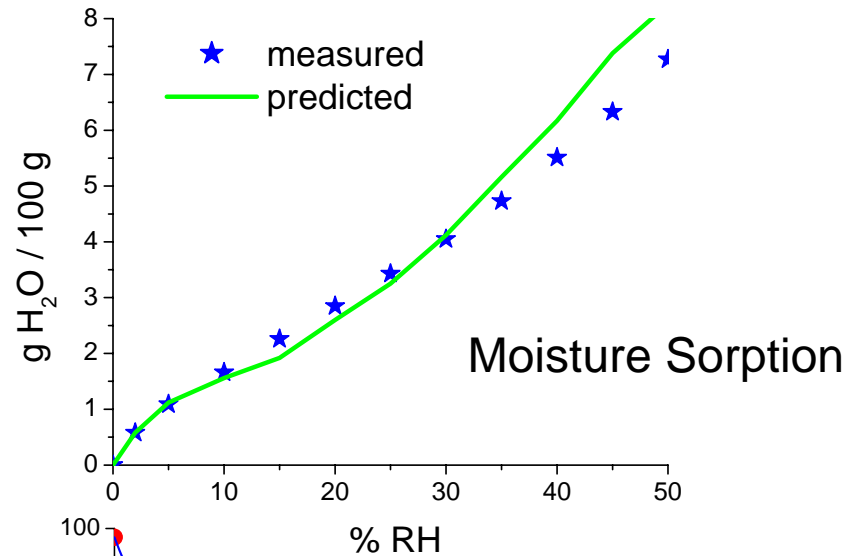
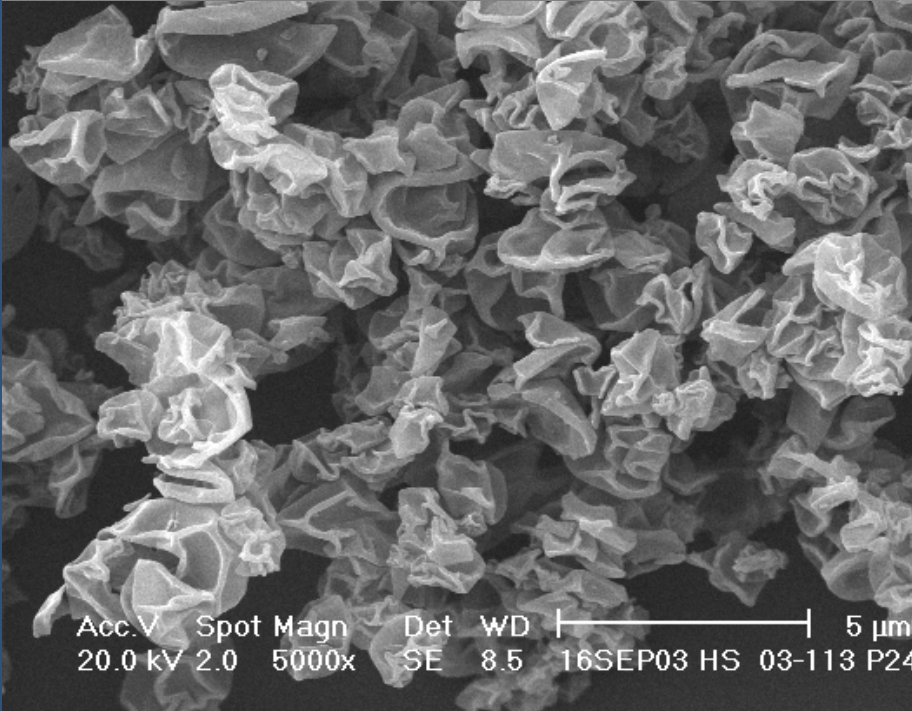
Encapsulated  
with 37.5 % amino acid



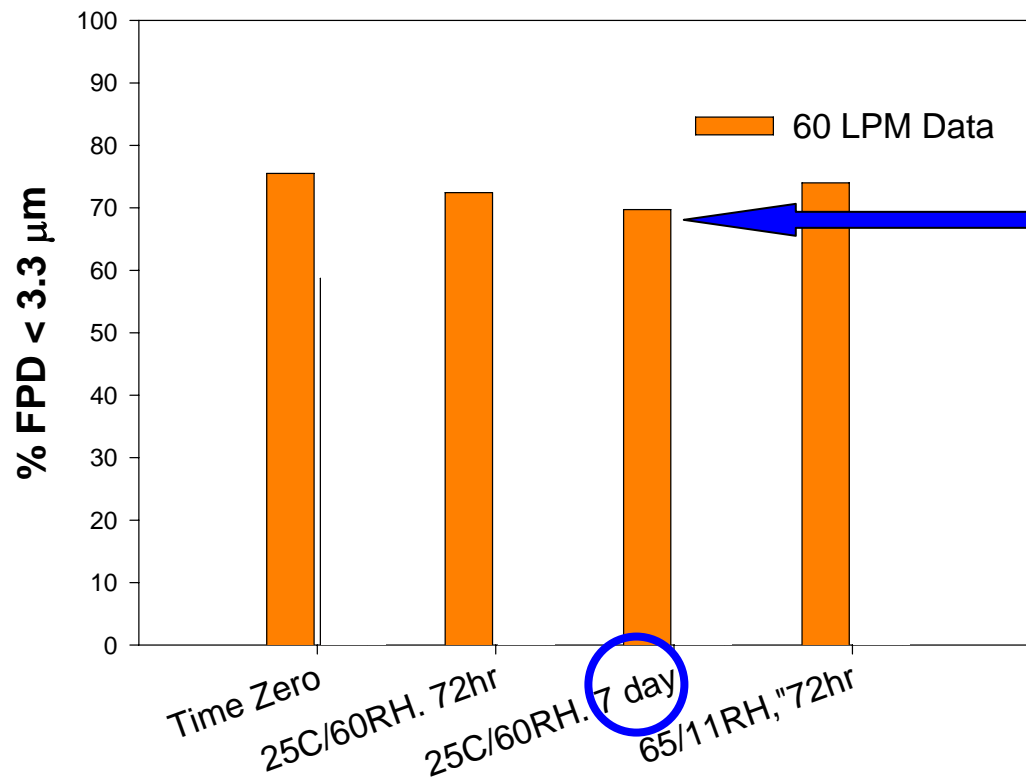
Encapsulation improves dispersibility

# Encapsulation Improves Physical Stability

56 % encapsulation excipient, 20 % saccharide, 20 % low Tg API, 4 % organic salt



# Structured Particle with Excellent Environmental Robustness



~ 20 °C above Tg !

Low Tg core  
protected  
by a high Tg shell

# Summary and Outlook

- Particle formation can be understood in the context of component saturation and Peclet number
- Surface activity and other material properties may influence particle morphology
- Analysis of particle formation enables rational particle design of structured particles through formulation and process design
- Particle engineering achieves much improved particle properties, enabling new products and improving product performance
- More work is necessary to understand and control nanostructures and multiple functional layers
- Process technology and formulation science must work together





# Acknowledgements

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