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Frederic Tewes, Oliviero L Gobbo, Carsten Ehrhardt, Anne Marie Healy. Amorphous calcium carbonate based-microparticles for peptide pulmonary delivery. *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces*, 2015, 8 (2), pp.1164-1175. 10.1021/acsami.5b09023 . inserm-01375596

HAL Id: inserm-01375596

<https://inserm.hal.science/inserm-01375596>

Submitted on 3 Oct 2016

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Supporting Information

Amorphous calcium carbonate based-microparticles for peptide pulmonary delivery

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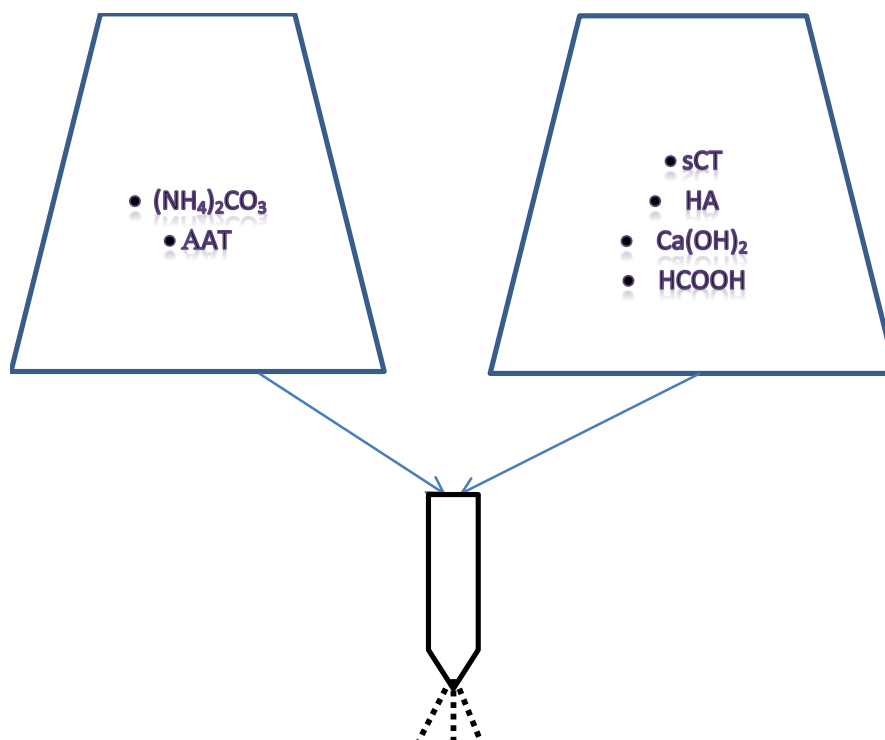


Figure S1: Spray drying process scheme. *Spray drying:* The microparticles were manufactured in a one-step procedure using a Mini Spray Dryer B-290 (Büchi, Flawil, Switzerland). Two solutions were prepared separately and mixed during the process in a Y shape tubing connector fed to the spray dryer. One solution was composed of salmon calcitonin acetate salt (sCT) (0, 0.2 or 0.4 g L⁻¹, Polypeptide Laboratories, Sweden) Ca(OH)₂ (0.8 g L⁻¹), hyaluronic acid sodium salt from *Streptococcus equii* (0.1 – 0.6 g L⁻¹, Sigma-Aldrich, Dublin, Ireland) and 0.1% v/v of formic acid. The other solution was composed of ammonium carbonate ((NH₄)₂CO₃)(1.2 – 6 g L⁻¹) and alpha 1-antitrypsin (AAT) (0 or 0.2 g L⁻¹). sCT and AAT were in separate solutions as their mixing induced the formation of a precipitate. The spray dryer was operated in an open-cycle suction mode as follows: A 2-fluid nozzle was used to disperse the solution in the same direction as the flow of hot drying air (flowing at 630 L min⁻¹); spraying air nozzle flow rate was 15 L min⁻¹; inlet temperature ranged from 100 to 140 °C; feeding peristaltic pump was set at 30 % for the 2 solutions. These conditions resulted in an outlet temperature ranging from 47 to 70 °C.

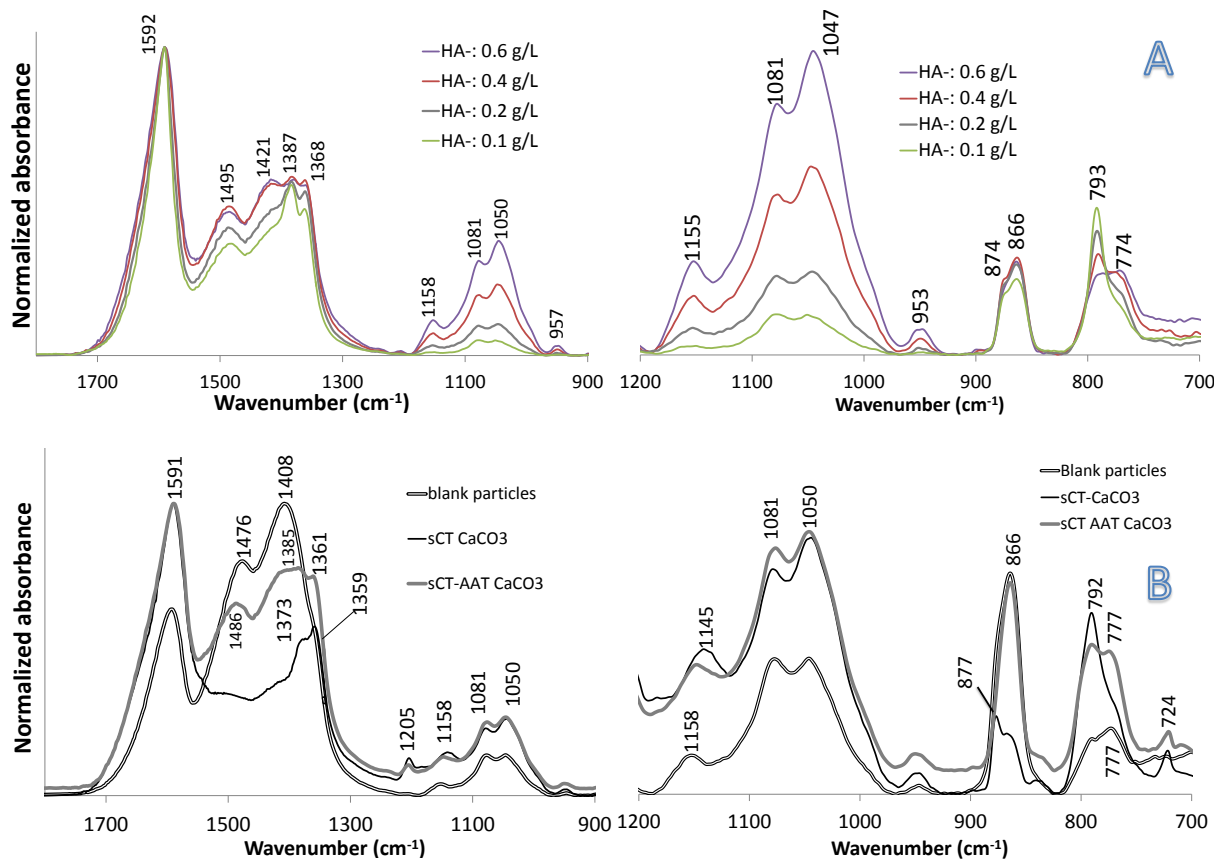


Figure S2: FTIR spectra of Ca/HA composite microparticles A) Formulated at different concentrations of HA, B) Loaded with sCT and AAT.

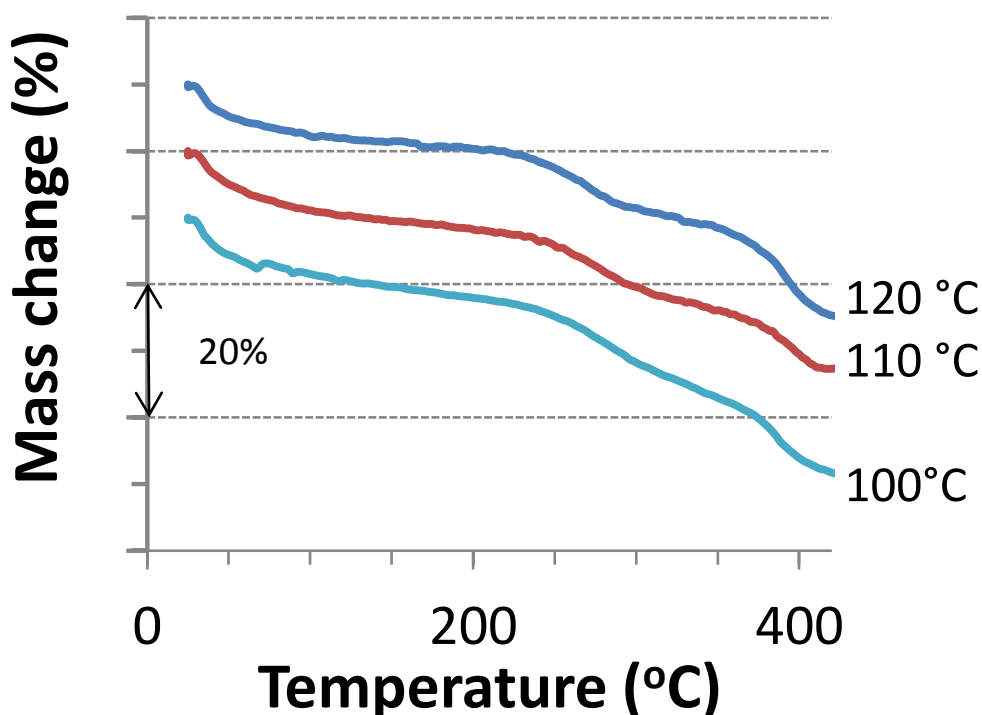


Figure S3: TGA thermograms of Ca/HA composite particles formulated at different spray drying inlet temperatures (T_{inlet}). Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA) was performed using a Mettler TG 50 (Mettler Toledo, Greifensee, Switzerland). Samples were loaded into 40 μ L aluminium open pans and run at a heating rate of 10 $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$ from 25 – 420 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Thermogravimetric analysis of the particles formulated at various temperatures showed a 3-step decrease in mass with the increase in temperature on each thermogram. The first step of 12 wt.% occurred at a temperature in the TGA lower than 200 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and is assumed to be related to water release from ACC. The second step of 10 wt.% had an onset temperature of 230 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and maybe due to the decomposition of HA. The third step of 10 wt.% had an onset temperature at 360-380 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and corresponds to the melting/decomposition temperature of calcium formate.

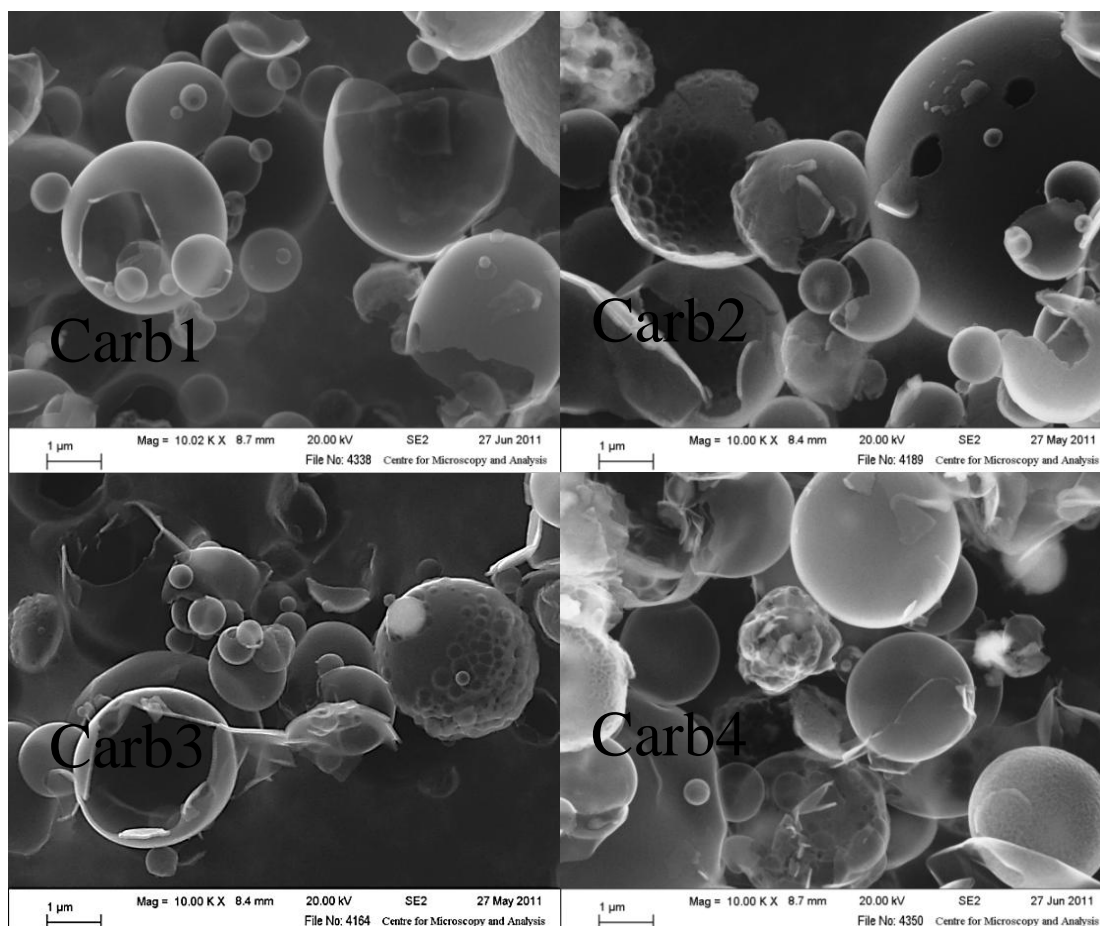


Figure S4: SEM micrographs of composite particles formulated with different concentrations of $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{CO}_3$. Carb1 (1.2 g L^{-1}), Carb2 (2.4 g L^{-1}), Carb3 (4.8 g L^{-1}), Carb4 (6 g L^{-1}).

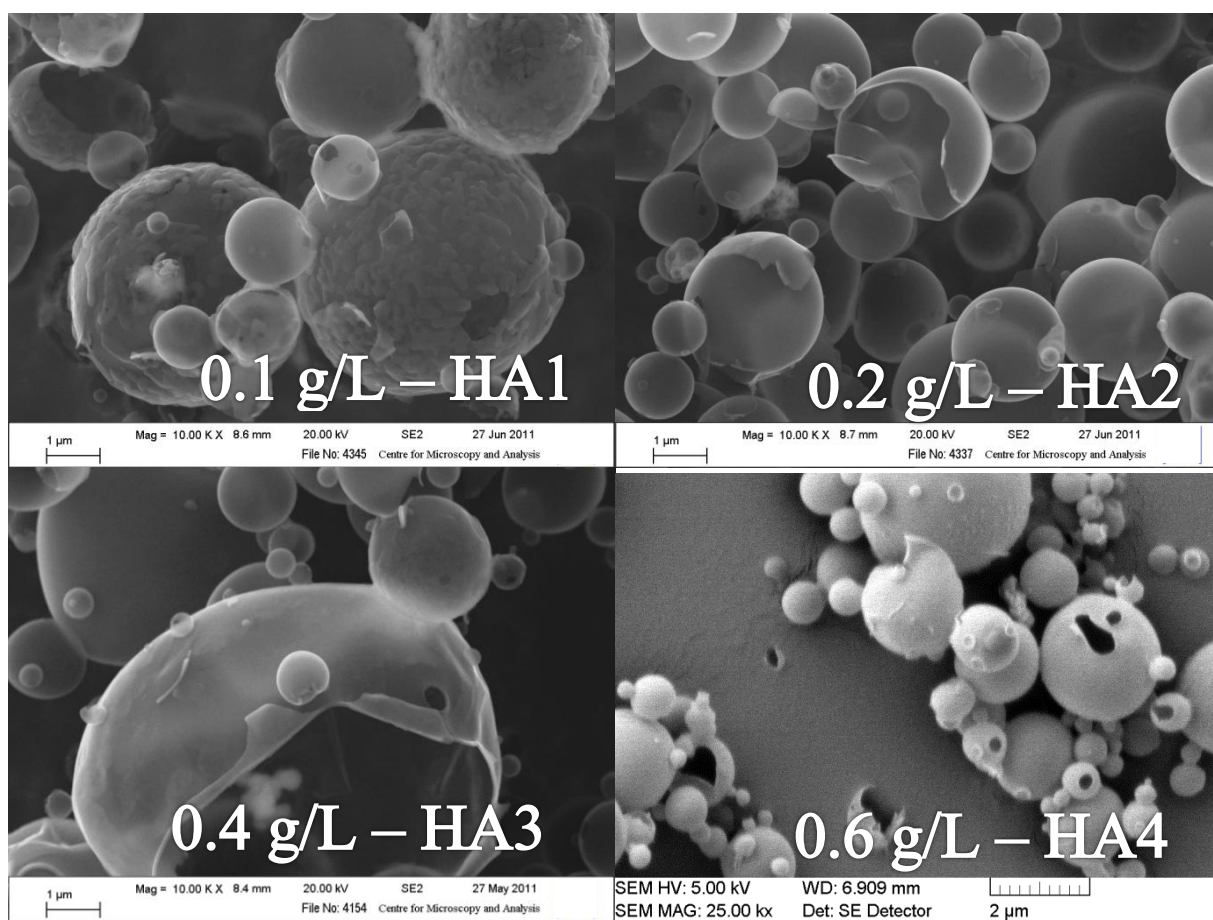


Figure S5: SEM micrographs of Ca/HA composite particles formulated with different concentrations of HA.

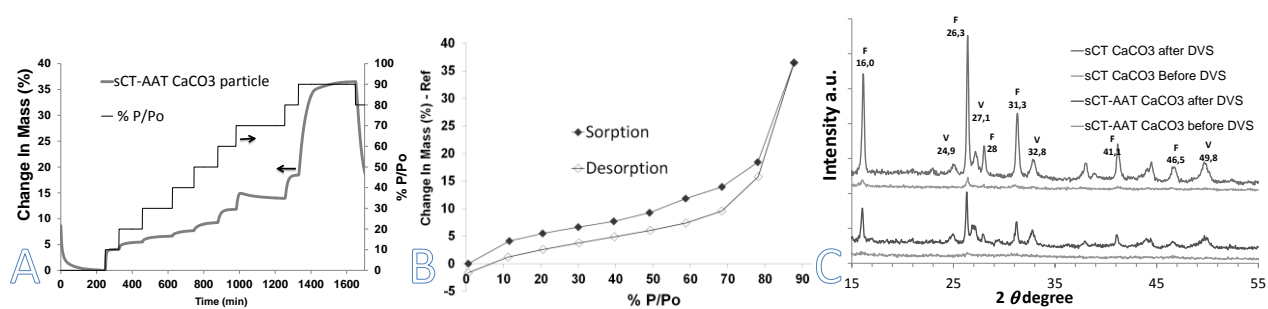


Figure S6: A) sCT-AAT Ca/HA composite particle water sorption versus time profiles obtained at different % relative humidity, B) sCT-AAT Ca/HA particle water sorption-desorption isotherm, C) XRD patterns of sCT-AAT and sCT Ca/HA particles after DVS experiments.

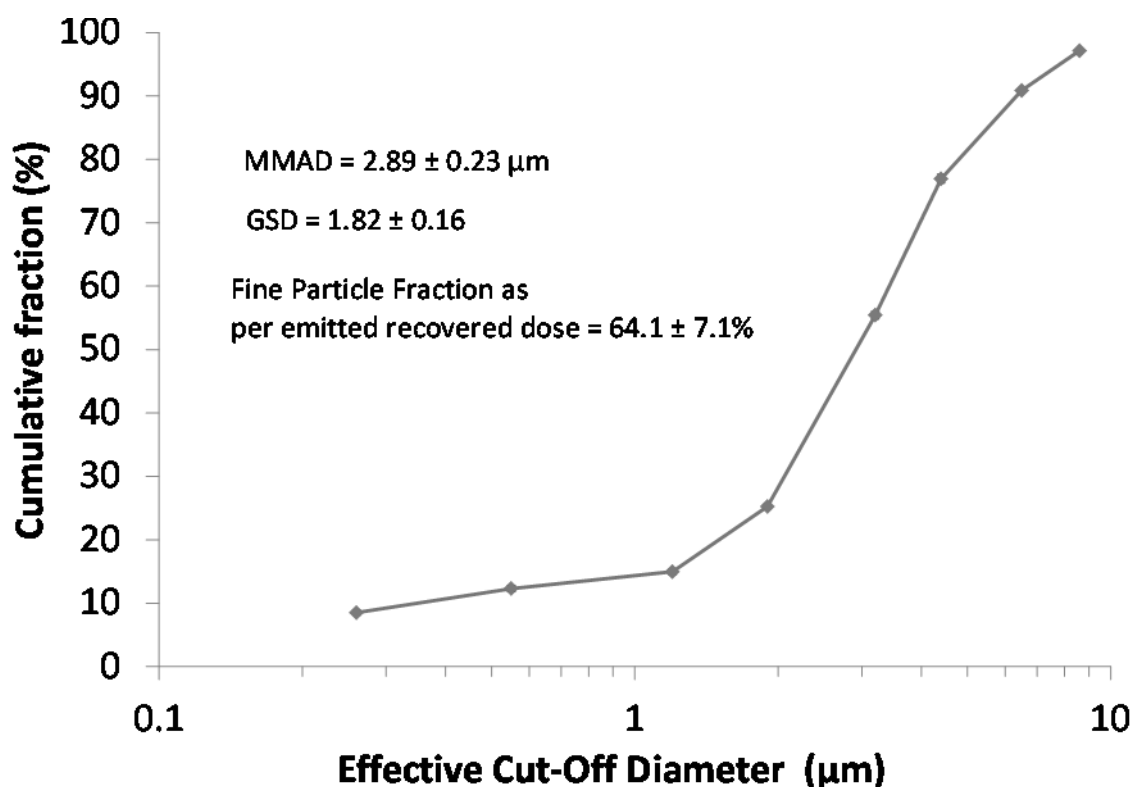


Figure S7: sCT-AAT-loaded microparticles' aerodynamic diameter size distribution.

The aerodynamic diameter (AD) distribution of the particles was measured using an Andersen cascade impactor (ACI). The flow rate was adjusted to 60 L min^{-1} in the powder inhaler (Handihaler[®], BoehringerIngelheim) and the time of aspiration was adjusted to obtain 4 L. The inhaler was filled with gelatin n^o3 capsule loaded with $20 \pm 2 \text{ mg}$ of powder ($n = 3$). After inhaler actuation, particle deposition on the ACI was determined by calcium assay. The amount of particles with $AD \leq 5.0 \text{ µm}$, expressed as a percentage of the emitted recovered dose, was considered as the fine particle fraction (FPF). The mass median aerodynamic diameter (MMAD) and FPF were calculated as previously described. (Tewes, F.; Gobbo, O. L.; Amaro, M. I.; Tajber, L.; Corrigan, O. I.; Ehrhardt, C.; Healy, A. M., Evaluation of HPβCD-PEG microparticles for salmon calcitonin administration via pulmonary delivery. *Molecular Pharmaceutics* 2011, 8 (5), 1887-1898)