Polymer hydrogel-based microneedles for metformin release

Manoj B. Sharma,$^{a,b}$ Özlem Kap,$^c$ Hend A. M. Abdelmohsen,$^{a,d}$ Garry R. Harper,$^a$ Melike Firlak,$^{a,†}$ Jasmine E. Aaltonen,$^{a,‡}$ Kerry A. Bolland,$^{a,‡}$ Ryan Bragg,$^{a,‡}$ Sarah Deeley,$^{a,‡}$ Ella Francis,$^{a,‡}$ Nahin Kazi,$^{a,‡}$ Bethany L. Mapley,$^{a,‡}$ Vasilios Oikonomou,$^a$ Amal D. Aljohani,$^{a,e}$ Nathan R. Halcovitch,$^a$ David Cheneler,$^{b,f}$ Volkan Kilic,$^{g,*}$ Nesrin Horzum,$^c,*$ and John G. Hardy,$^{a,h,*}$

$^a$ Department of Chemistry, Lancaster University. Bailrigg, Lancaster LA1 4YB, UK.
$^b$ Department of Engineering, Lancaster University, Bailrigg, Lancaster, LA1 4YW, UK.
$^c$ Department of Engineering Sciences, Izmir Katip Celebi University, Izmir, 35620, Turkey.
$^d$ Department of Pharmaceutics and Industrial Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Ain Shams University, African Union Organization Street, Abbassia, Cairo, Egypt.
$^e$ Department of Chemistry (Female Section), Faculty of Science, King Abdulaziz University, 21589 Jeddah-Rabbigh, Saudi Arabia
$^f$ Materials Science Institute, Lancaster University. Bailrigg, Lancaster LA1 4YB, UK.
$^g$ Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Izmir Katip Celebi University, Izmir, 35620, Turkey.

m.b.sharma@lancaster.ac.uk (presenting author); * corresponding authors.

Abstract

Drug delivery devices ensure the effective delivery of a broad range of therapeutics to millions of patients worldwide on a daily basis.$^1$ Microneedles are a class of drug delivery device that provide pain free transdermal delivery with improved patient compliance.$^2$–$^4$ The release of metformin, a drug used in the treatment of cancer and diabetes, from polymer hydrogel-based microneedle patches was demonstrated in vitro. Tuning the composition of the polymer hydrogels enabled preparation of robust microneedle patches with mechanical properties such that they would penetrate skin (insertion force of a single microneedle to be ca. 40 N). Swelling experiments conducted at 20°C, 35°C and 60°C show temperature dependent degrees of swelling and kinetics (Fickian diffusion). Drug release from the hydrogel-based microneedles was fitted to various models (e.g., zero order, first order, second order, Korsmeyer-Peppas, Peppas-Sahlin), observing the best fit for the zero-order model. Such microneedles have potential application for transdermal delivery of metformin for the treatment of cancer and diabetes.

References