

# Water-Insoluble $\alpha$ -Glucan Polysaccharide Nanoparticles for Controlled Release of Compounds

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D. Skory, David L. Compton,  
Michael Appell

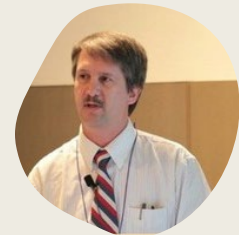
# Thanks to the Following:



David Compton – ARS Chemist,  
Feruloyl Soy Glycerides synthesis



Michael Appell –ARS Chemist,  
molecular modeling



Greg Cote – Retired ARS Chemist, ,  
 $\alpha$ -glucan polysaccharide synthesis &  
purification

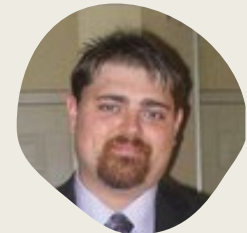


Chris Skory – ARS  
Microbiologist,  $\alpha$ -glucan  
polysaccharide synthesis &  
purification



Suzanne Unser – High  
pressure homogenization,  $\alpha$ -  
glucan polysaccharide  
synthesis & purification,  
Technical Assistance

Leslie Smith  
Retired, Technical  
Assistance



Ryan Cormier, former ARS,  
Catalent Pharma Solutions,  $\alpha$ -  
glucan nanoparticles & films

**National Program 306 – Product Quality and New Uses**

**Problem Statement 1.B – New Bioactive  
Ingredients and Health-Promoting Foods**

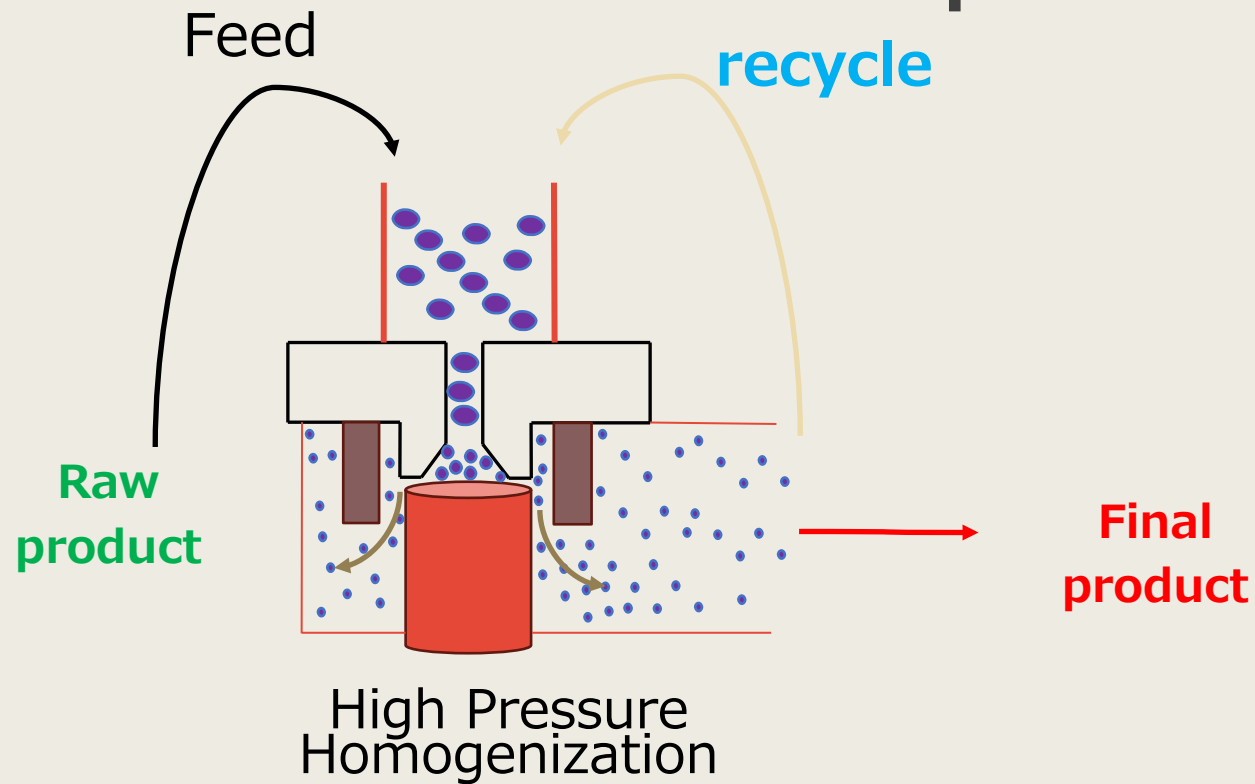
**Problem Statement 2.B – Enable technologies to  
produce new/expand marketable non-food, non-  
fuel biobased products derived from agricultural  
feedstocks**

**CRIS – Technologies for Producing  
Marketable Bioproducts**

***Objective 2. Develop innovative lipid  
and biopolymer-based encapsulation  
systems for delivering, preserving, or  
promoting the activity of bioactive  
ingredients.***



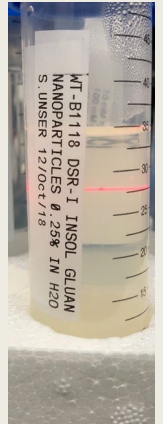
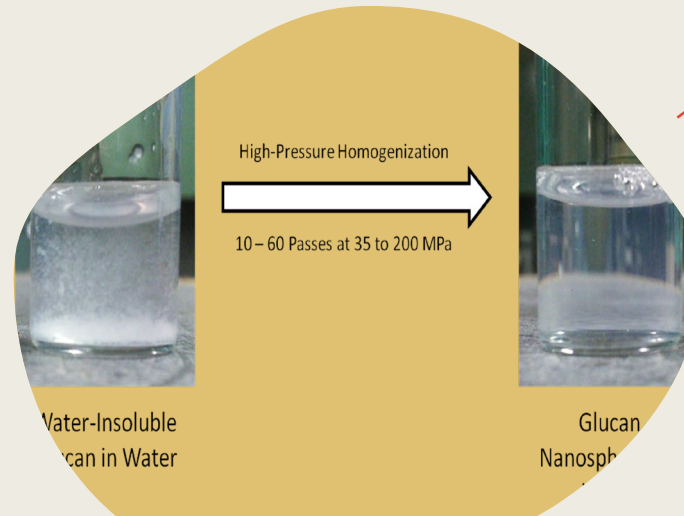
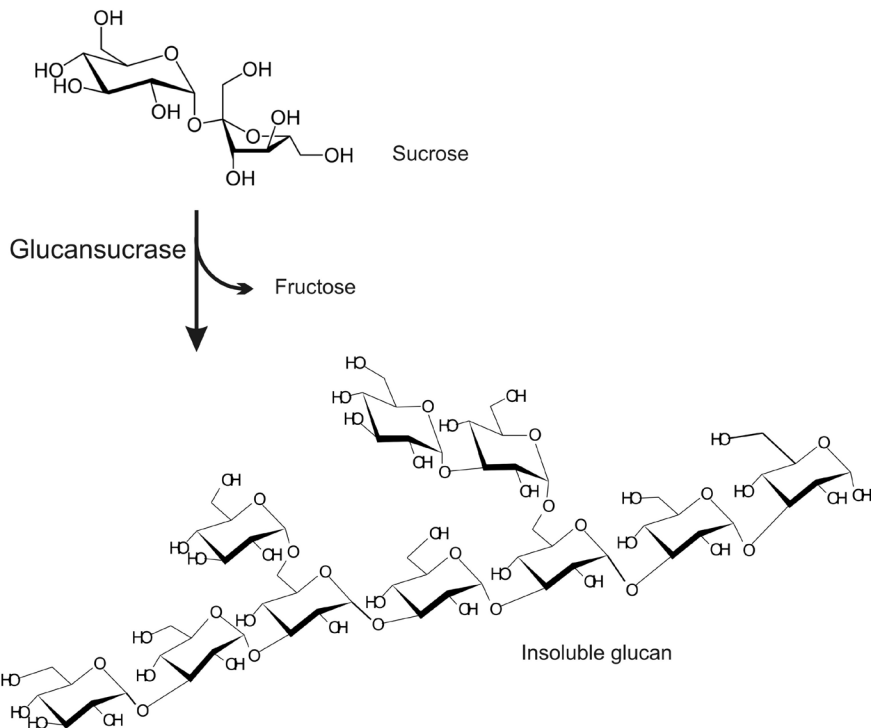
# Nanoparticles via High-Pressure Homogenization for Nanoencapsulation



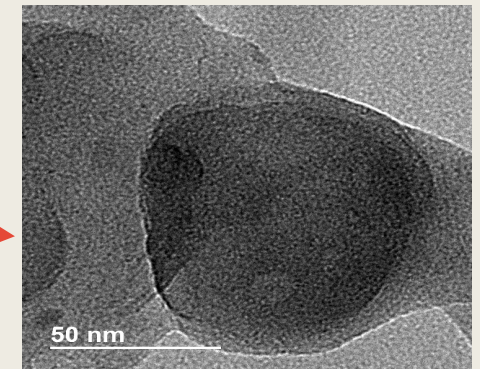
High pressure homogenizer

Sample solutions forced through small openings via high pressure shear forces (MegaPascal) to form small particle (<600 nm diameter)

# Water-Insoluble Glucan Nanoparticles Formation

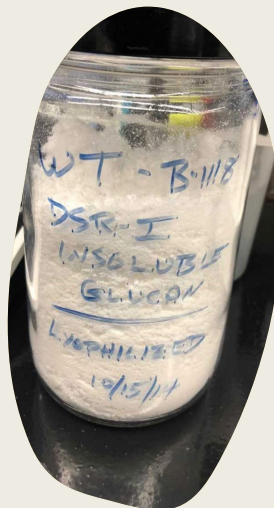


Example of alpha-glucan nanoparticles scattering red laser light



Cryo-TEM

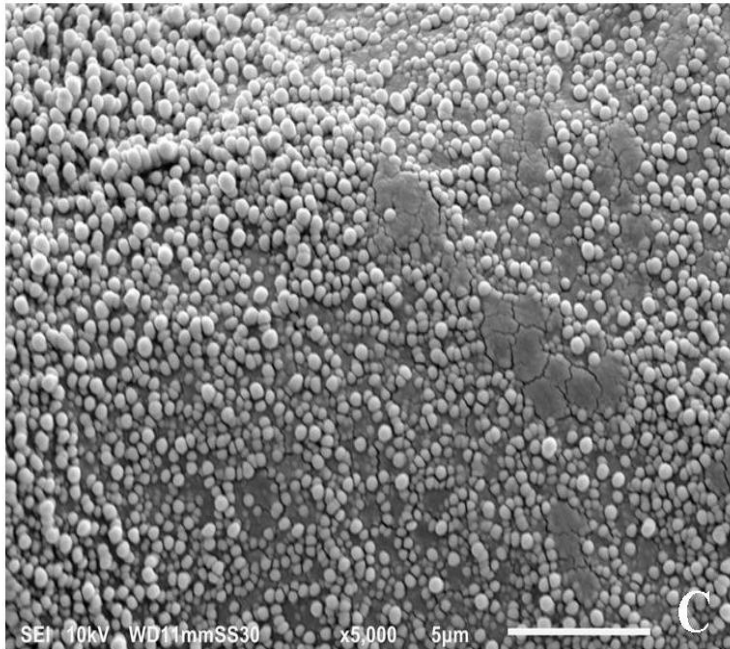
Evans et al, 2020, Molecules 25 (17): 3807



Cote et al, 2013, Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology 97: 7265-7273

MW ~ 1.2 Mega Dalton  
(polymer ~ 1.4 Mega Dalton)

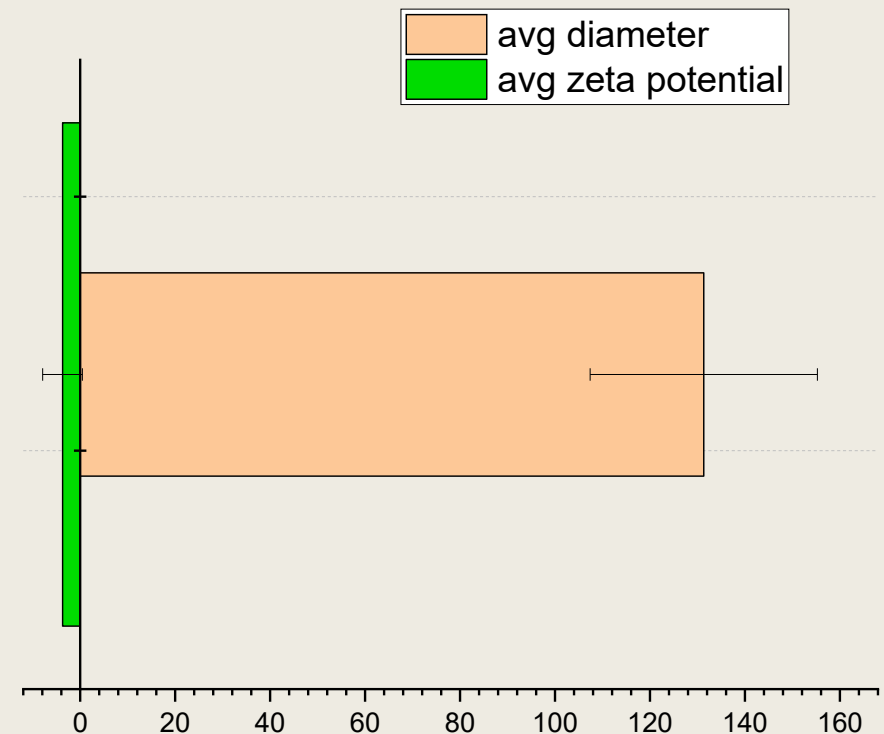
Presented by Kervin Evans  
at the CRS 2024  
July 11, 2024



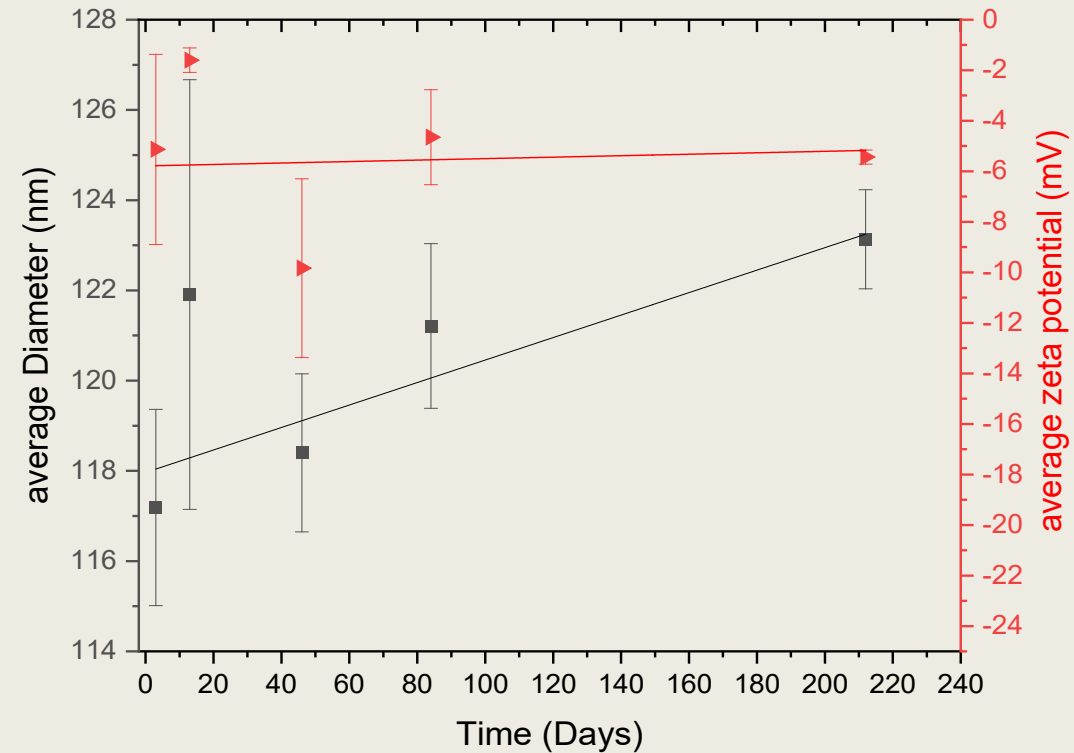
SEM image shows the spherical nature of freeze-dried polysaccharides after high-pressure homogenization

Cormier et al, 2017, US Patent  
9,708,417 B2

- Average  $\alpha$ -glucan nanoparticles
- 106-160 nm in diameter
  - $\sim$ -4 mV zeta potential

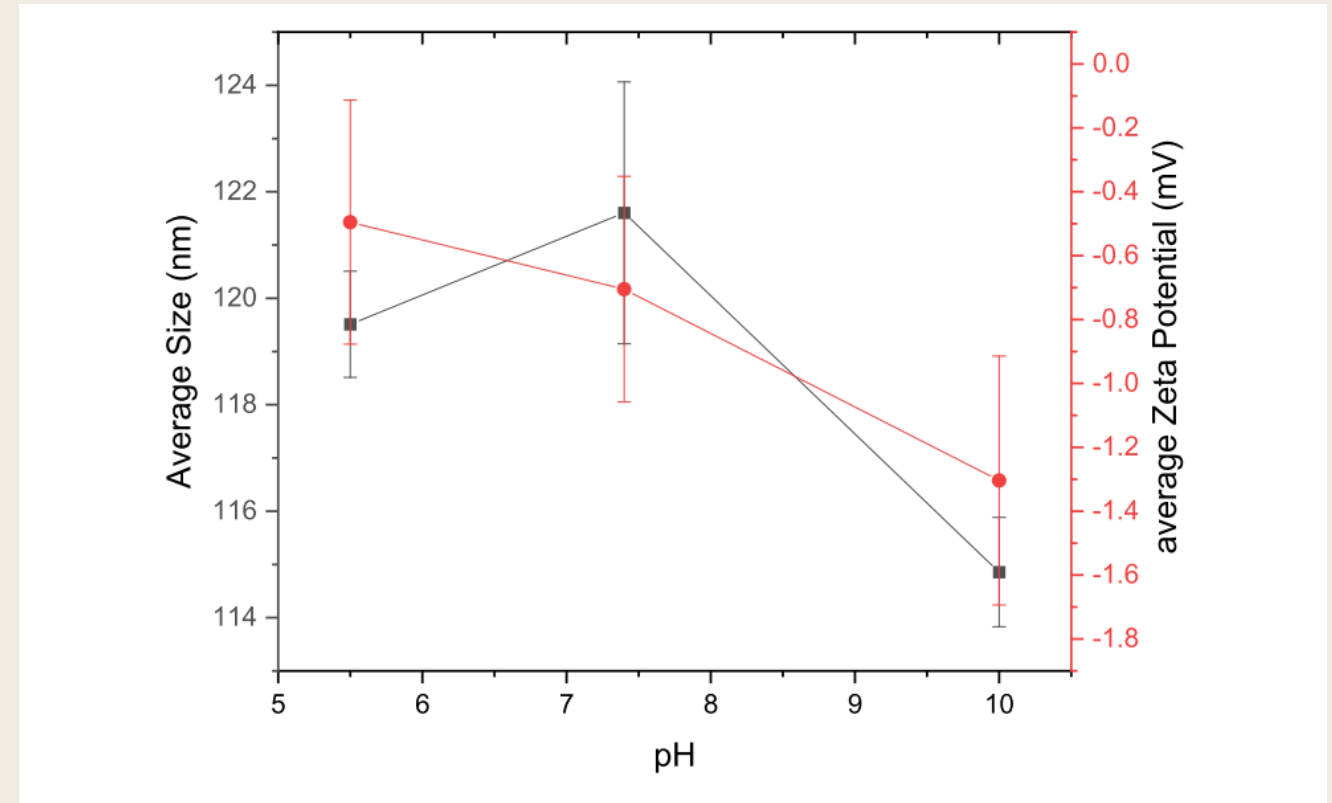


- $\alpha$ -Glucan Nanoparticles show stability for more than 7 months
- Likely due to steric hindrance of highly dense particle

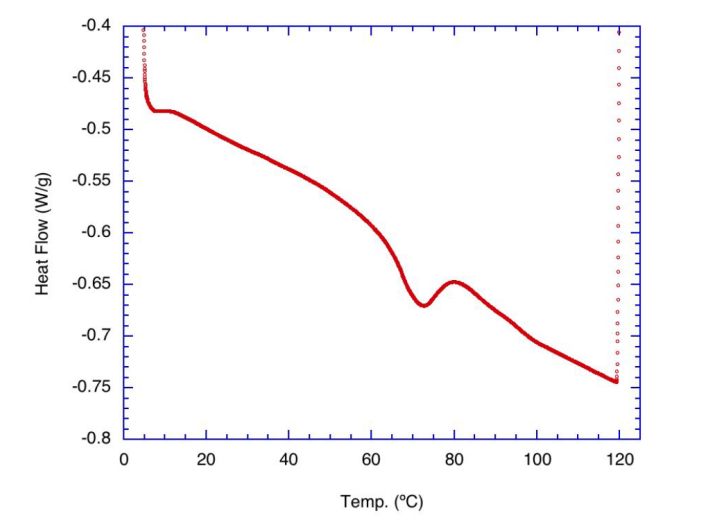


Stability suggests  $\alpha$ -glucan nanoparticle can be used for long term controlled-release system

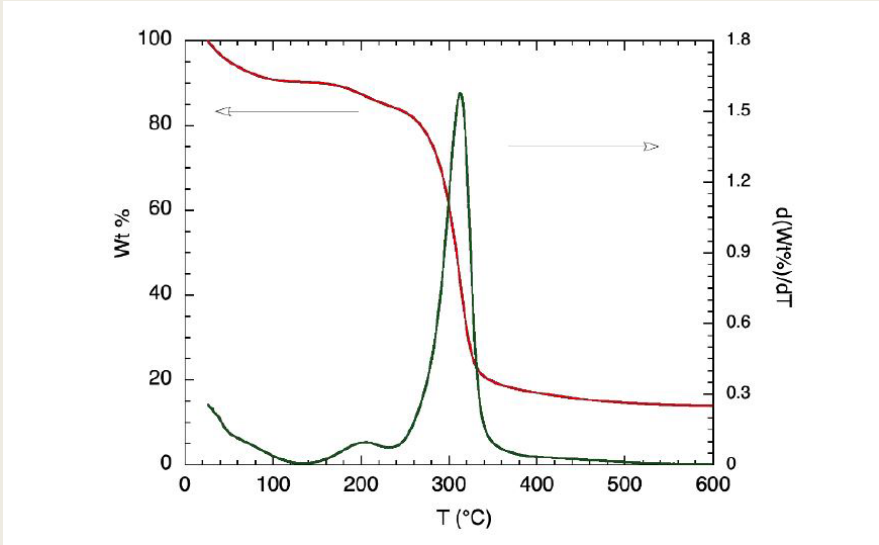
- Alpha-glucans can be made into nanoparticles at pH 5.5, 7.4 and 10 under buffered conditions.



# What are Thermal Properties of $\alpha$ -Glucan Nanoparticles

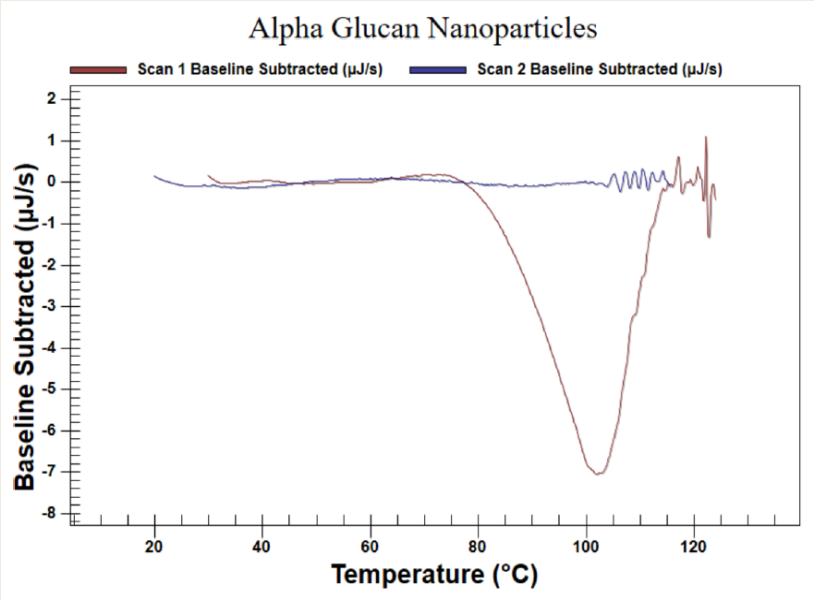


DSC Thermal analysis of  $\alpha$ -glucan show structural changes likely to occur  $\sim 70^\circ\text{C}$ .



TGA shows that  $\alpha$ -glucan thermally degrades between  $160^\circ\text{C}$  and  $340^\circ\text{C}$ .

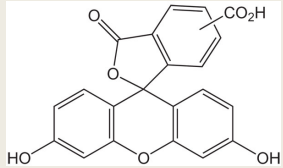
Nano DSC shows that nanoparticles start to unravel at  $\sim 70^\circ\text{C}$  and completely unravel at  $\sim 104^\circ\text{C}$ .



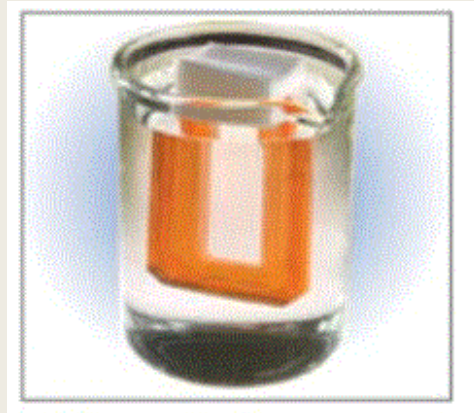
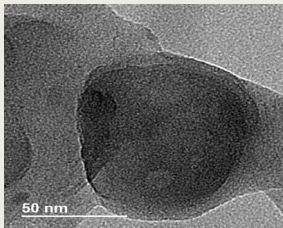
Evans et al, 2020, Molecules 25(17), 3807

Evans et al, 2023, Biotechnology Reports 40, e008107

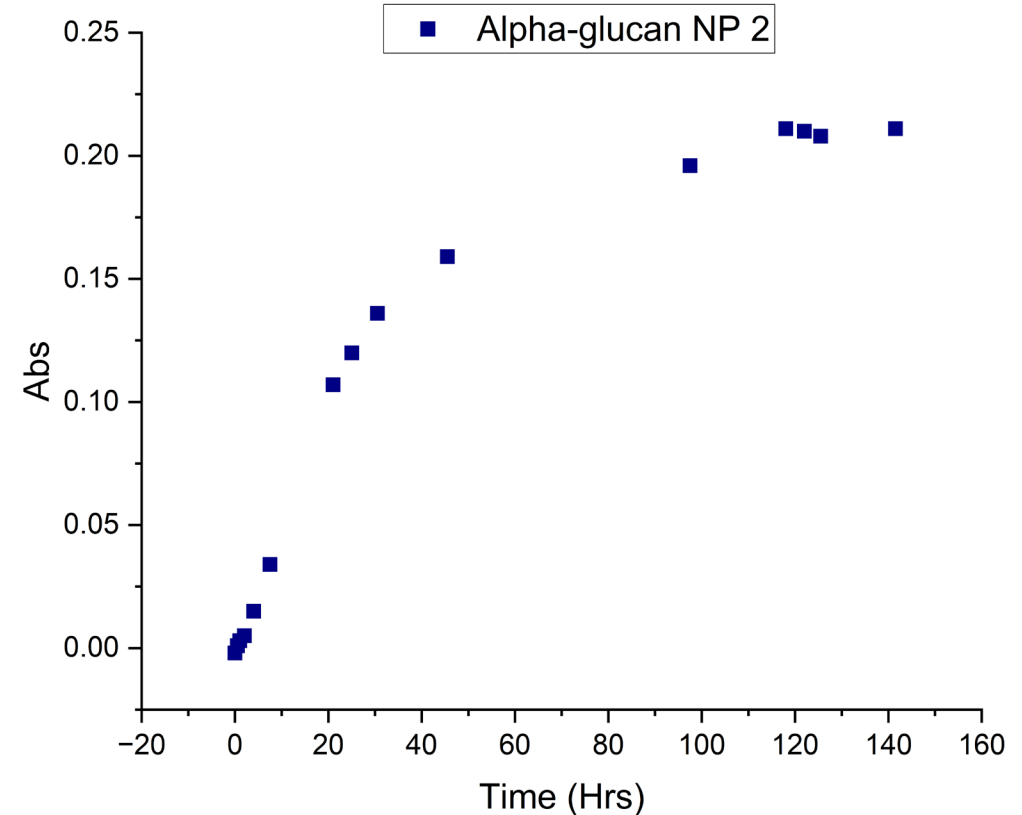
# Hydrophilic Encapsulation within $\alpha$ -Glucan Nanoparticles

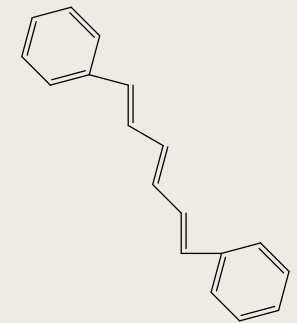


5 (6)-carboxyfluorescein

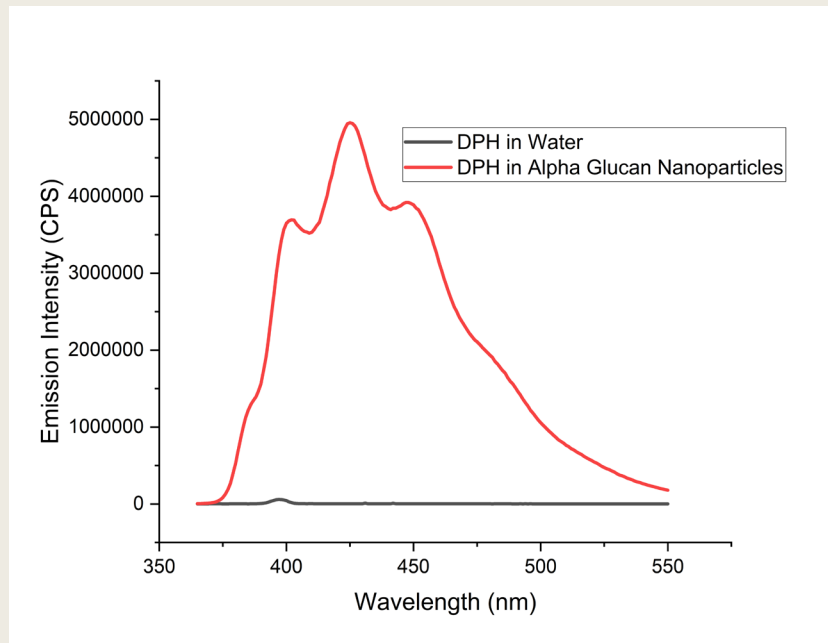


- Alpha-glucans nanoparticles show release of carboxyfluorescein for up to 120 hr during 6-day dialysis.

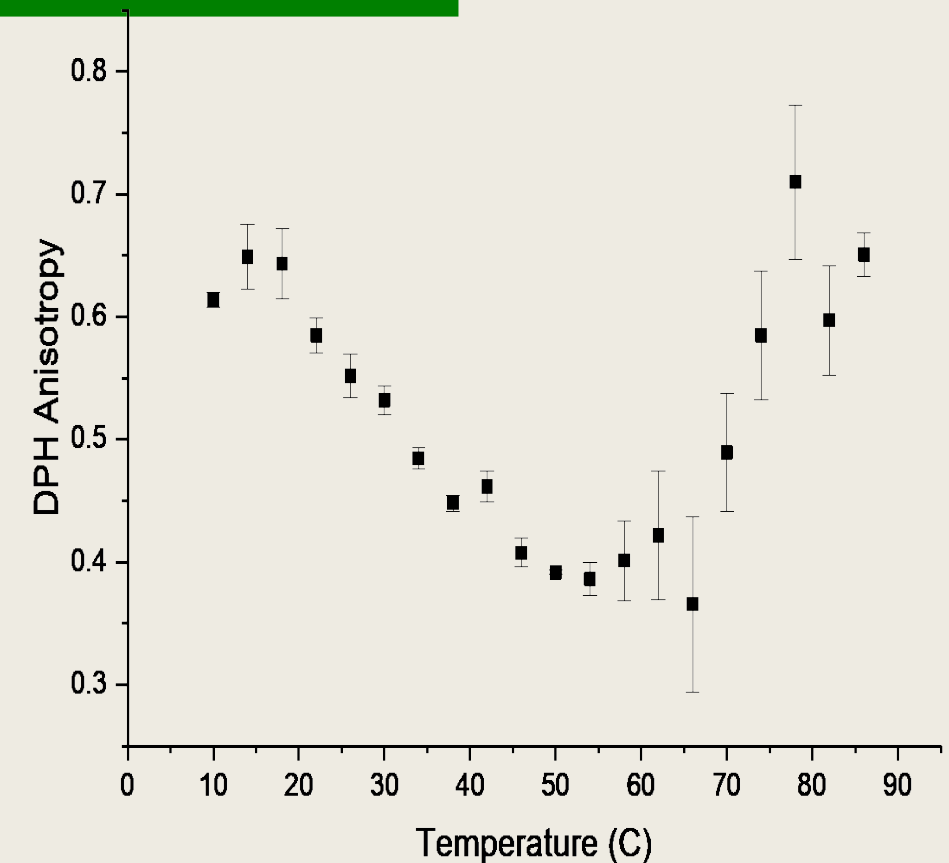




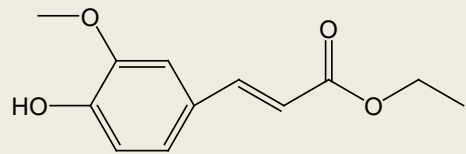
1,6 Diphenyl-1,3,5-hexatriene (DPH)



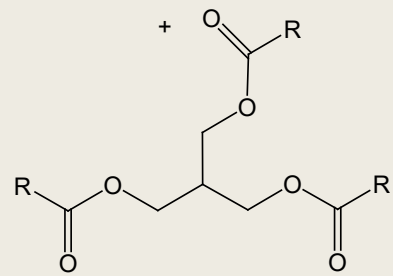
- Alpha-glucans nanoparticles have internal hydrophobic regions
- Anisotropy measurement show structure changes but not complete degradation.



# Can Feruloyl Soy Glycerides (FSG) Encapsulate within $\alpha$ -Glucan Nanoparticles???



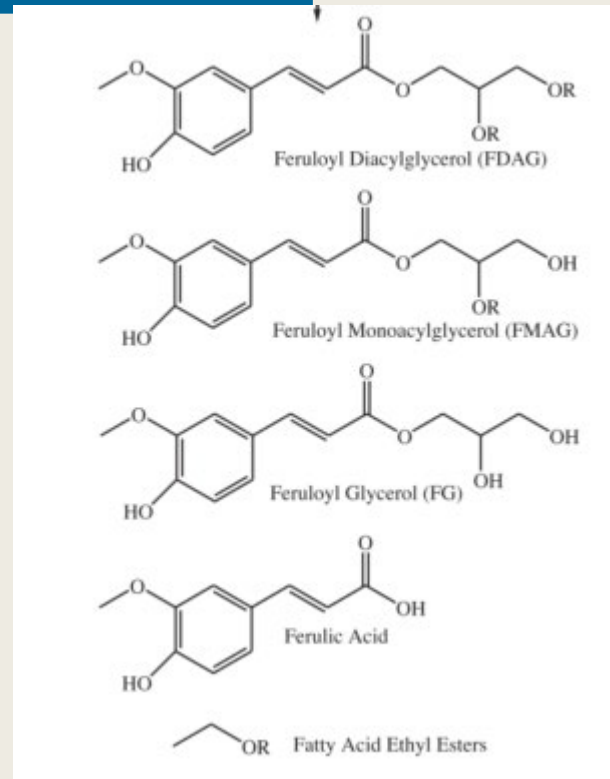
Ethyl ferulate, 1 mole  
(CAS # 40446-02-0)



Soybean oil, 1 mole  
(from *Glycine max*)

trace amount of H<sub>2</sub>O

*Candida antarctica* lipase B (Novozym 435)  
60° C, 144 h

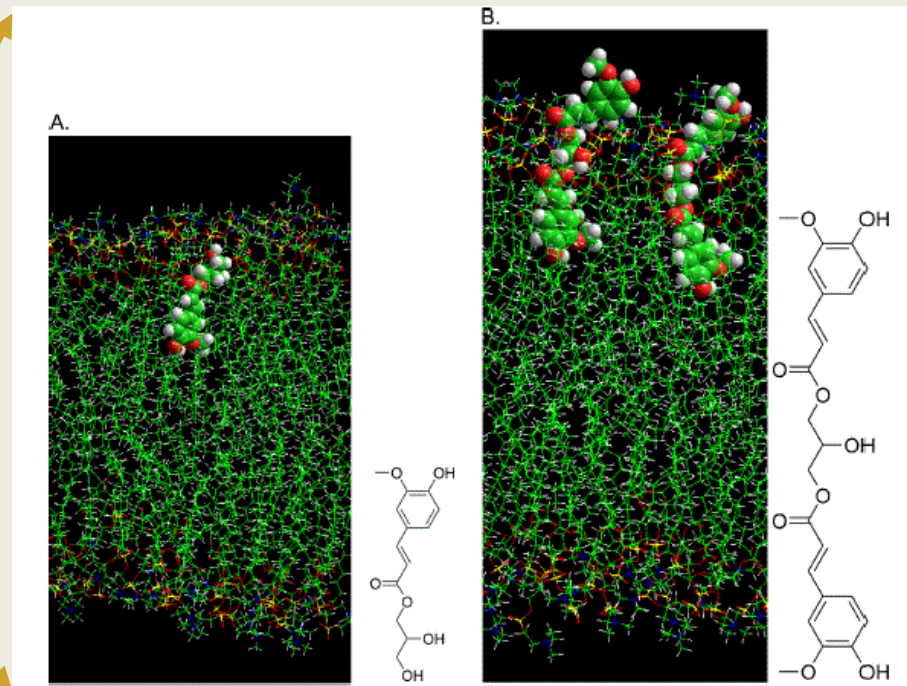
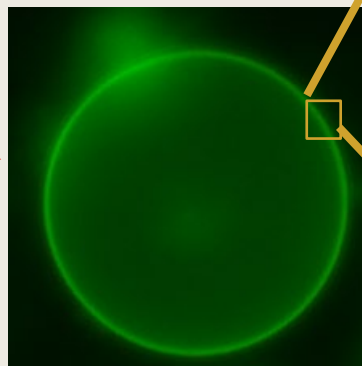


Compton et al, 2015, Industrial Crops and Products 77:787-794

# Isolated Components of Feruloyl Soy Glycerides Encapsulate within Liposomal Bilayer. Will they encapsulate within dense $\alpha$ -Glucan nanoparticles?



1-Feruloyl glycerol  
1,3-Diferuloyl glycerol

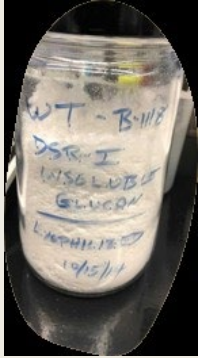


1-Feruloyl glycerol  
within lipid bilayer

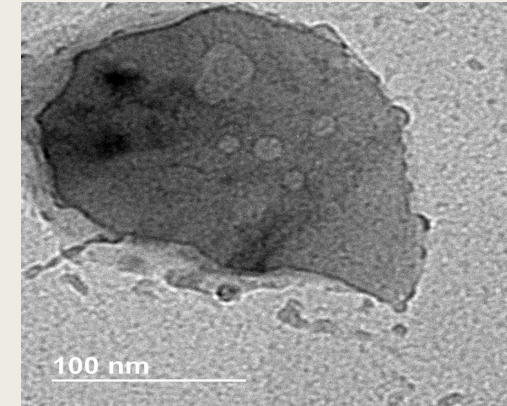
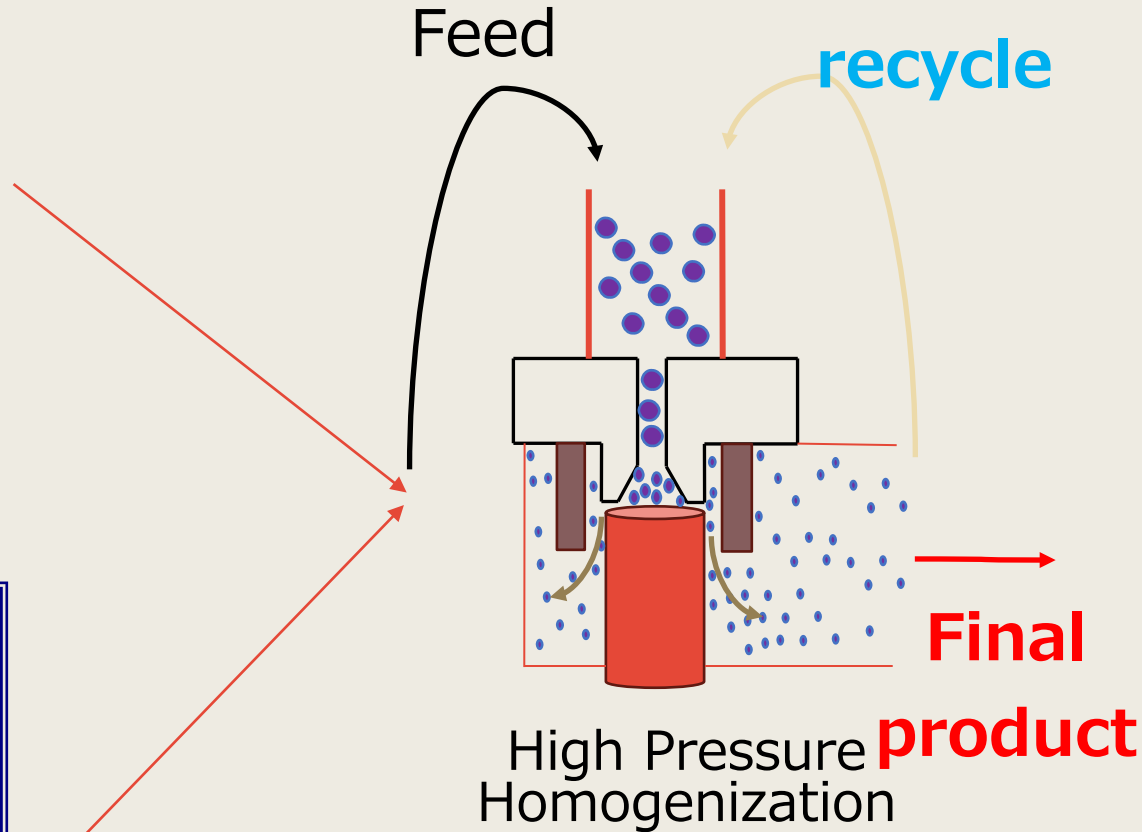
1,3-Diferuloyl glycerol  
within lipid bilayer

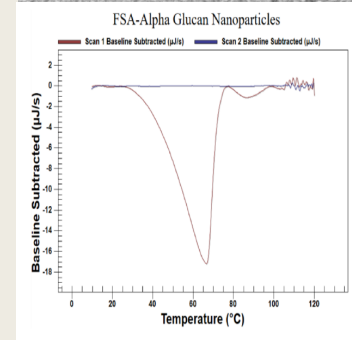
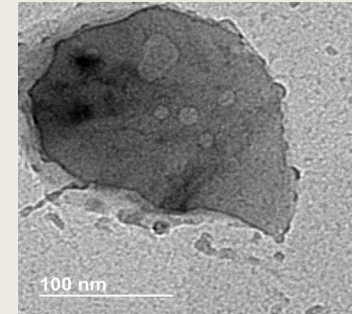
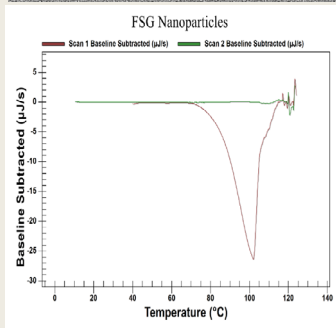
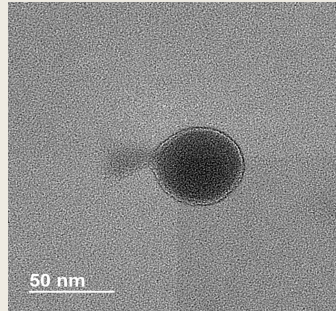
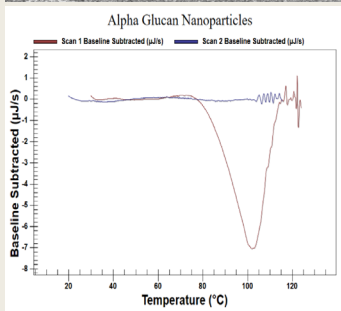
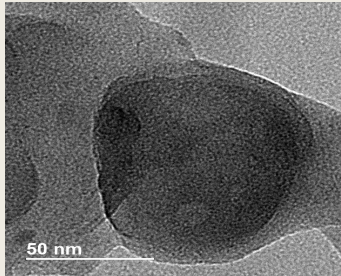
Evans et al, 2016, Chem. Phys. Lipids 195:1–11

# Can Feruloyl Soy Glycerides (FSG) Encapsulate within $\alpha$ -Glucan Nanoparticles???



$\alpha$ -glucan  
+  
FSG





## Alpha-glucans nanoparticles

- ~ 126 nm diameter
- ~ -5 mV
- ~ 75° C – 102° C irreversible unraveling

## FSG nanoparticles

- ~ 190 nm diameter
- ~ -25 mV
- ~ 70° C – 115° C irreversible degradation

## FSG/Alpha-glucans nanoparticles

- ~ 216 nm diameter
- ~ -15 mV
- ~ 98% encapsulation
- ~ FSG release 26° C – 66° C

- Insoluble  $\alpha$ -glucan forms nanoparticles stable up to 7 months and 80° C under neutral conditions; can be made at pH 5.5 – 10;
- $\alpha$ -Glucan nanoparticles can encapsulate and release hydrophilic and hydrophobic materials;
- $\alpha$ -Glucan nanoparticles encapsulate 98% of 5% (w/v) feruloyl soy glycerides;
- $\alpha$ -Glucan nanoparticles release feruloyl soy glycerides between 26° C and 66° C;
- $\alpha$ -Glucan nanoparticles may be good release system for oils.



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**Thank You for Your  
Attention!!!**

**Questions???**