

# long-acting injectables

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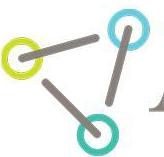
improved bioresorbable polymers for  
formulation success

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Ashland  
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ashland.com

/ efficacy usability allure integrity profitability™



**Ashland**  
always solving

# core strengths

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## tablet binding

Ashland produces binders for wet granulation, dry granulation, direct compression and roller compaction, as well as hot-melt extrusion.



## modified release

Our extensive product lines offer various degrees of both hydrophilicity and molecular weights, providing you with a host of options.



## tablet disintegration

Polyplasdone™ crospovidone provides rapid disintegration and dissolution of oral solid-dosage forms, even at low use levels.



## drug solubilization

High-quality excipients that improve the solubility of your API.



## film coatings

Fully formulated film-coating systems, easily dispersed and provides a range of functions to suit almost any tablet core.



## parenteral applications

Ashland provides a suite of products that are be suitable for use in **parenteral, controlled release drug delivery systems**.

# comprehensive pharma excipient portfolio

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**Klucel**<sup>TM</sup> hydroxypropylcellulose

**Benecel**<sup>TM</sup> hypromellose

**Aquarius**<sup>TM</sup> coating systems

**Natrosol**<sup>TM</sup> hydroxyethylcellulose

**Aqualon**<sup>TM</sup> and  
**Blanose**<sup>TM</sup> sodium carboxymethylcellulose

**Viatel**<sup>TM</sup> bioresorbable polymers

**Pharmasolve**<sup>TM</sup> n-methyl-2-pyrrolidone

**Vialose**<sup>TM</sup> trehalose dihydrate

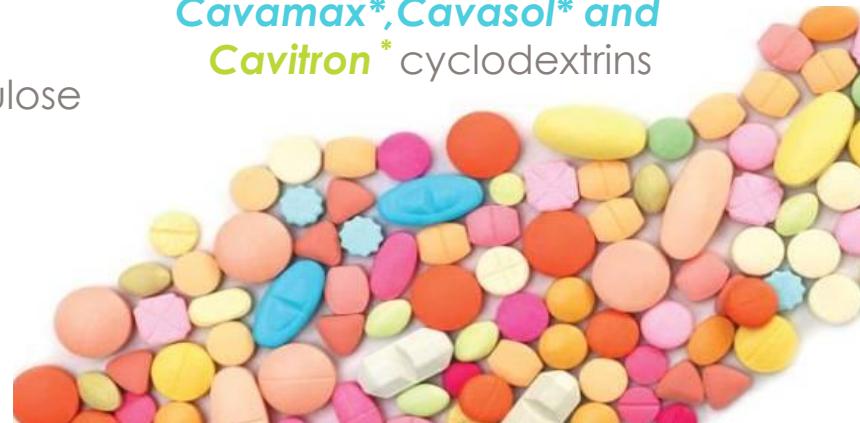
**Aqualon**<sup>TM</sup> ethylcellulose

**Polyplasdone**<sup>TM</sup> crospovidone

**Plasdone**<sup>TM</sup> povidone

**Plasdone**<sup>TM</sup> S-630 copovidone

**Cavamax\***, **Cavasol\*** and  
**Cavitron**<sup>\*</sup> cyclodextrins

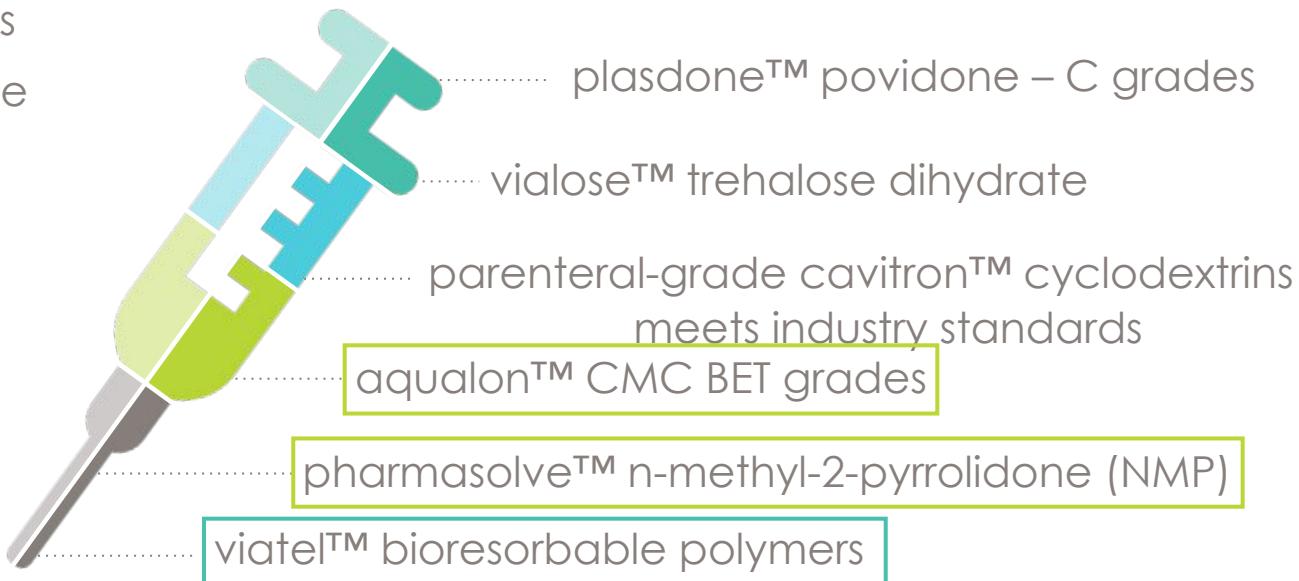


# excipients for parenteral use

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parenteral applications  
require excipients of the  
**highest quality**

Ashland's **high-purity**  
excipient portfolio



# outline

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## overview of drug delivery strategies using bioresorbable polymers (BRP's)

- o purpose of bioresorbable polymers in drug delivery
- o commercial products

## controlling drug release via BRP chemistry

- o understanding the puzzle behind long-acting injectables

## formulation selection process & chemistry for extended drug release

- o choosing formulation process
- o advantages of polymeric nanoparticles and customized polymers

## viate<sup>TM</sup> ultrapure : low residual monomer designed for more control

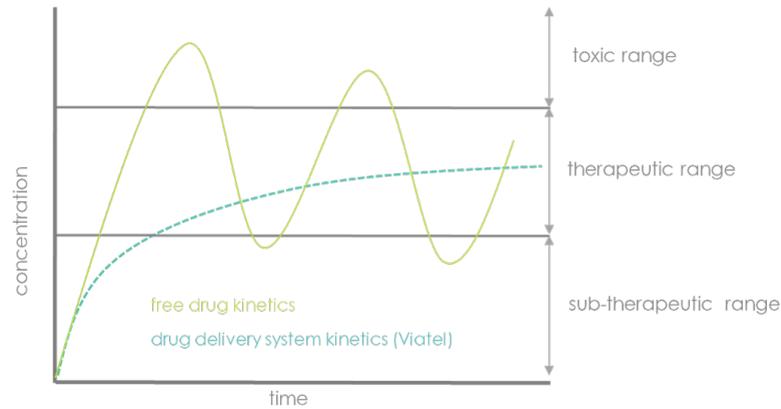
## how ashland can support



# purpose of BRPs in pharma

## many drugs present

- toxicity, fast metabolism and excretion
- low uptake / PK variability after oral administration
- low drug concentrations in desired location



## advantages of injectable sustained release drug delivery

- tuneable release profiles (days to months)
- decreased overall drug dosage and local delivery = reduced side effects
- consistent release within therapeutic window
- simplified drug stability by avoiding digestive system
- case dependent advantages (carriers, molecule types, other)

# history of LG polymers in medical products

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1930s-60s early patents and publications

1971 Dexon: first synthetic bioabsorbable suture

1973 DuPont: first lactide / glycolide drug delivery patent

1986 Decapeptyl\*: first injectable extended-release microparticle product

1989 Zoladex\*: first implantable extended-release implant product

2001 Atridox\*: first local delivery product

2002 Eligard\*: first injectable extended-release lactide/glycolide in-situ forming product

2006 SmartShotB12: first injectable microparticle for animals

2007 Genexol\* PM: first nanoparticle

2009 Ozurdex\*: first product for ocular delivery

2011 Propel\*: first drug-eluting device

2011 Revalor\*: XS first implantable for animals

2016 Reseligo: first generic implantable

2016 Absorb GT1\*: first bioabsorbable drug-eluting cardiovascular stent

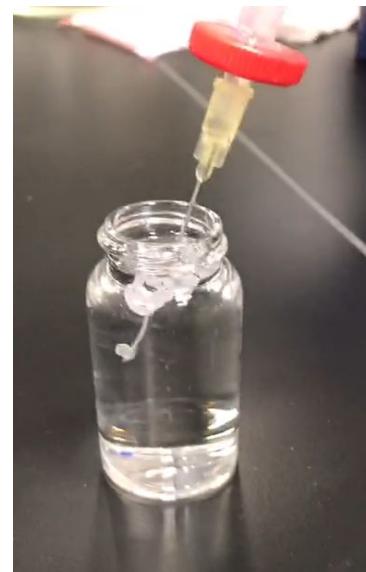
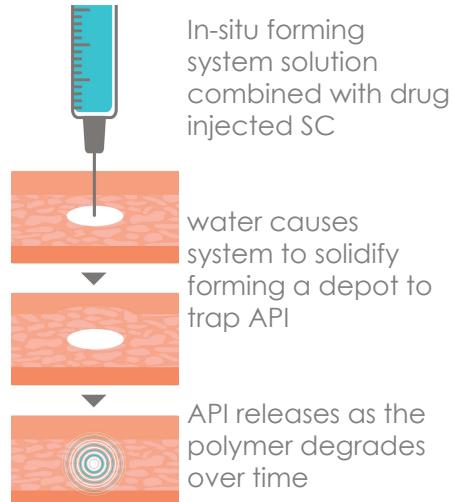
2017 Zilretta\*: first micro-particle product for intra-articular delivery (knee)



# LG-based drug delivery systems

## in situ forming depots (API + LG polymer + solvent)

- formed in vivo, simplified formulation process
- cost effective
- administered through injection, larger initial burst effect, implant shape variance



# LG-based drug delivery systems

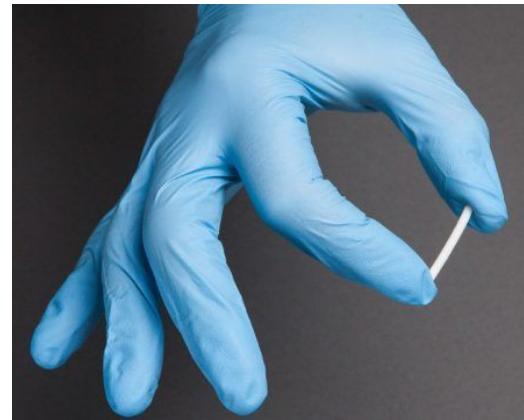
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- extrusion (thermal deg.), administered through surgery or injection



# LG-based drug delivery systems

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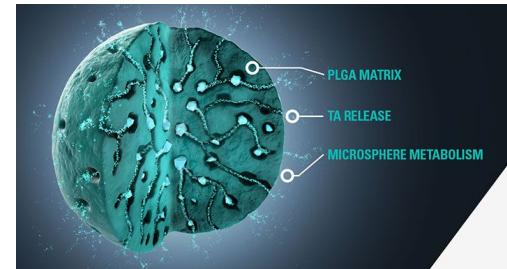
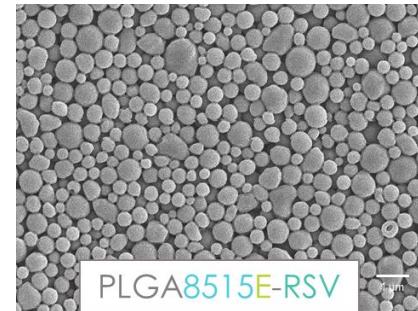
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## particle technologies (API + LG polymer + diluent)

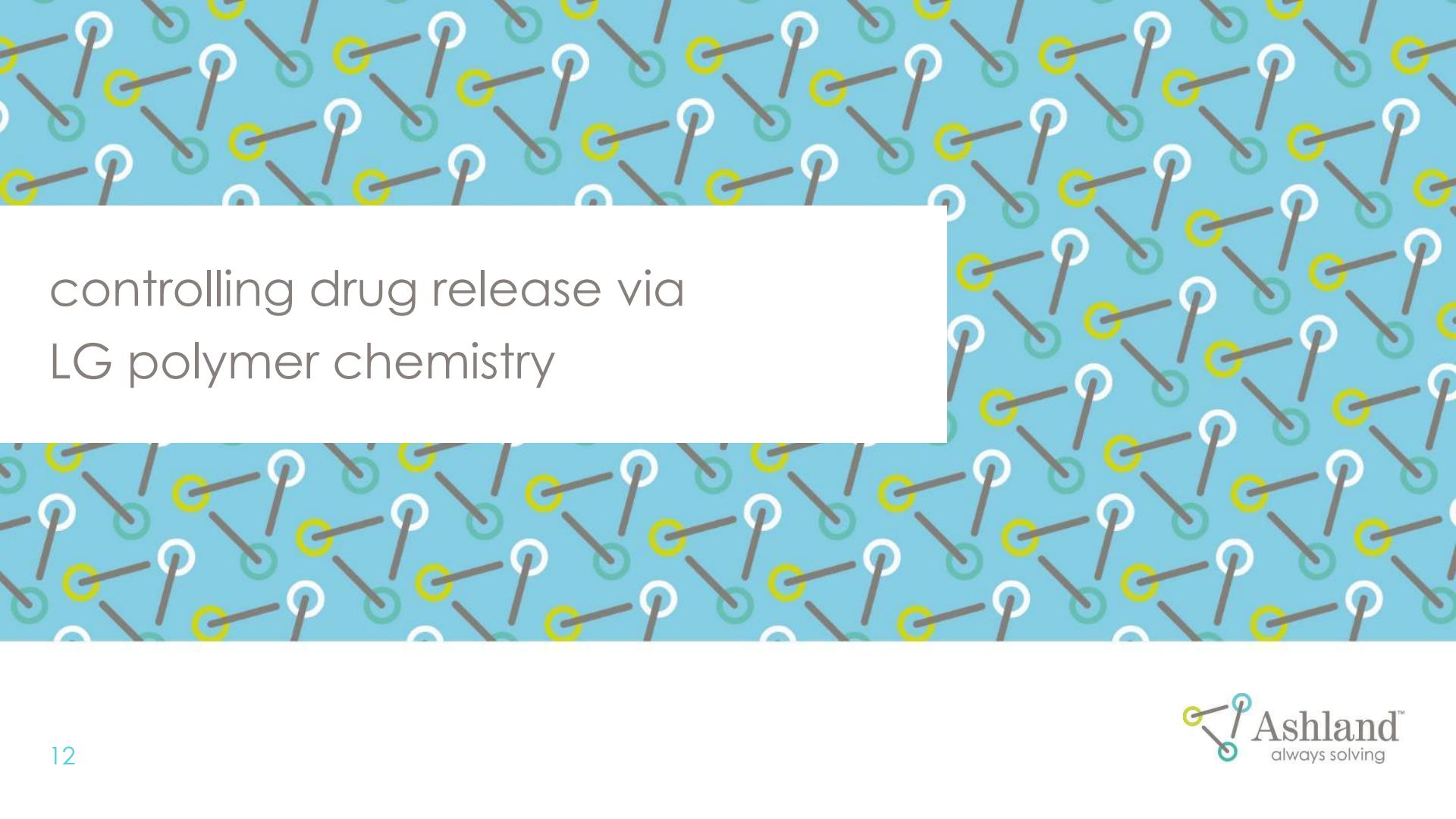
- microspheres, nanoparticles
- smaller needles, tuneable profiles
- organic solvents, particle stability, complexity



# product examples

brand name	indication	company	drug substance	API Size (Da)	dose (mg)	months	needle
Eligard*	Prostate cancer	Sanofi-Aventis	Leuprolide acetate	1260 (peptide)	7.5 – 45	1, 3, 6	18 – 20 G
Sublocade*	Opioid dependency	Indivior	Buprenorphine	467.64 (SMD)	100, 300	1	19 G
Longrange*	Parasite treatment	Merial Limited	Eprinomectin	914 (SMD)	50	5	16 / 18 G
Bydureon*	Diabetes (II)	AstraZeneca	Exenatide	4187 (peptide)	2	0.25	23 G
Sandostatin* LAR	Acromegaly / flushing / cancer-induced diarrhea	Novartis	Octreotide acetate	1079 (peptide)	10 – 30	1	19 G
Decapeptyl* SR	Prostate cancer	Ipsen / Ferring	Triptorelin pamoate	1700 (peptide)	4 – 28	1, 3, 6	20 G
Scenesse*	Erythropoietic protoporphyrin (light intolerance)	Clinuvel	Afamelanotide	1707 (peptide)	16	2	14 G
Zoladex* 1 / 3 month	Prostate / breast cancer	AstraZeneca	Goserelin Acetate	1269 (peptide)	3.6 – 10.8	1, 3	14 / 16 G
Revalor*	Growth promotion (animal)	Intervet / Merck Animal Health	Trenbolone / estradiol	270 / 272 (SMD)	140 / 14	6	Implant tool

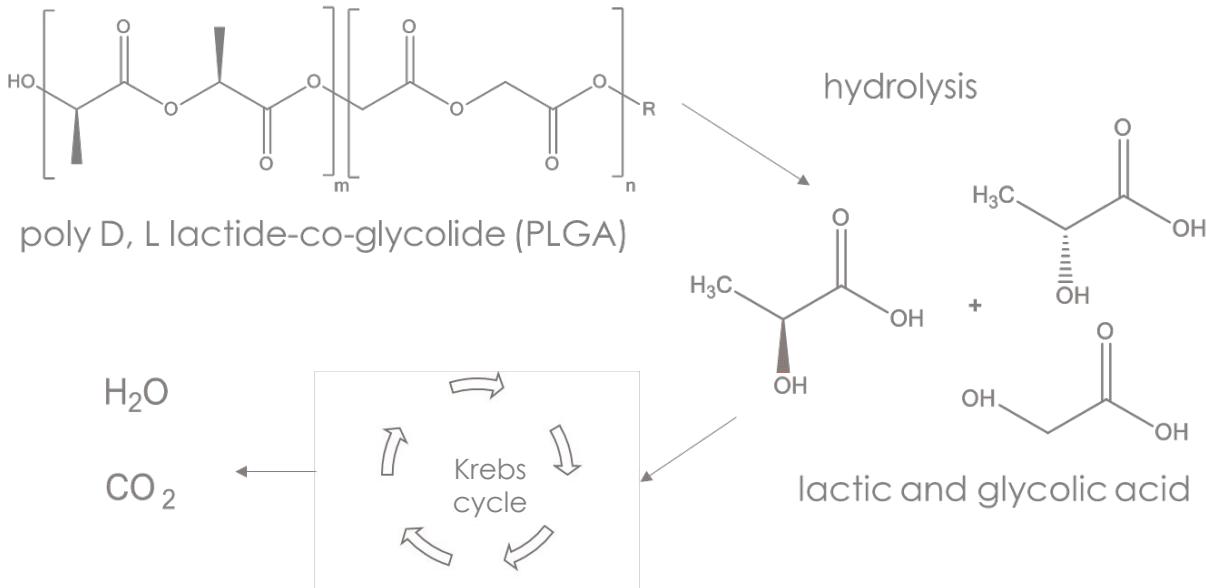
in-situ  
microspheres  
implants



controlling drug release via  
LG polymer chemistry

# what happens LG polymers in the body?

- hydrolyzed and break down in vivo into naturally-occurring degradation by-products
- safely and easily absorbed by the body

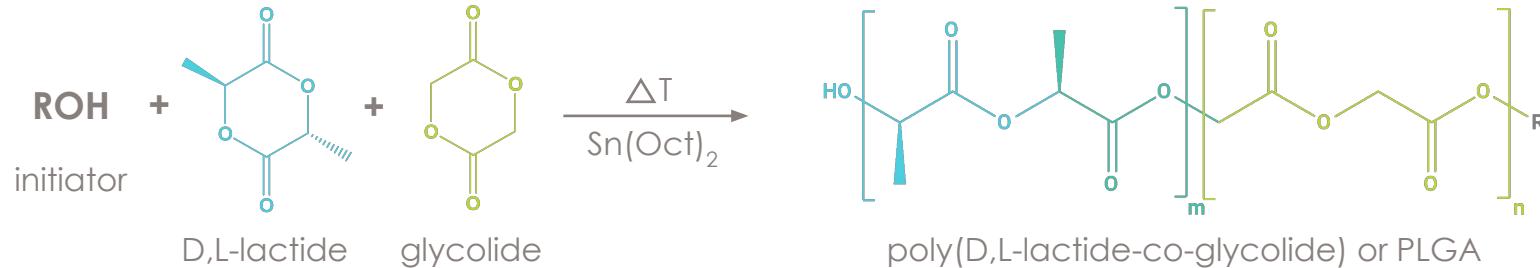


## biodegradation process

1. water penetrates amorphous regions
2. cleavage of covalent bonds and a decrease in molecular weight
3. carboxylic end groups autocatalyze the process with mass loss beginning
4. solubilization

# LG polymer synthesis and structure

## ring-opening polymerization



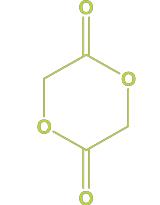
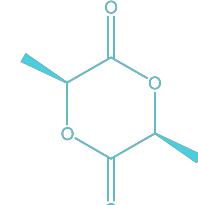
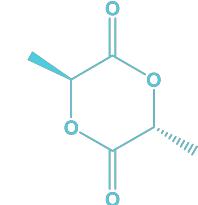
### 1 end group options

$R = H =$  acid

$R = CH_3 =$  ester

$R = \text{other}$

### 2 monomer options



### 3 chemical characteristics

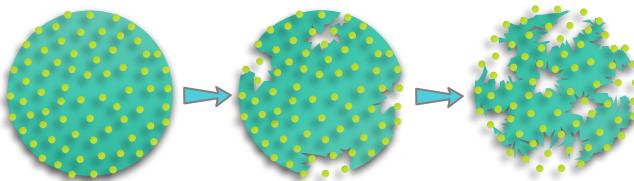
inherent viscosity or molecular weight

no. of repeating  $m$  &  $n$  units

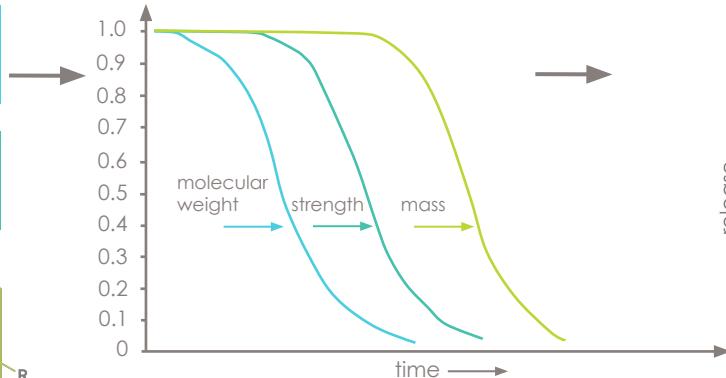
distribution of  $m$  &  $n$  units

# polymer chemistry controls release

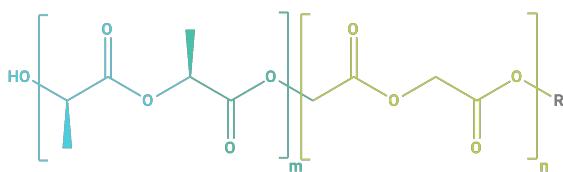
L:G ratio and distribution



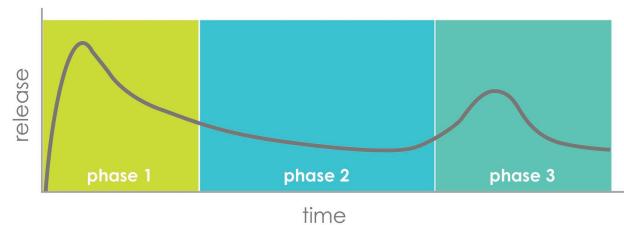
molecular weight



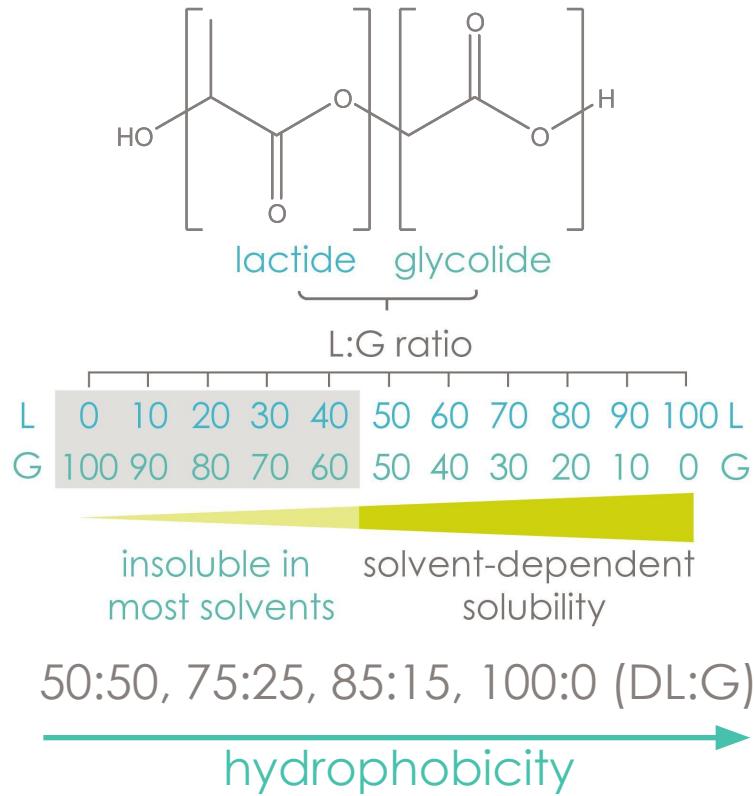
end-group and structure



performance & release profile



# lactide to glycolide ratio (L:G ratio)

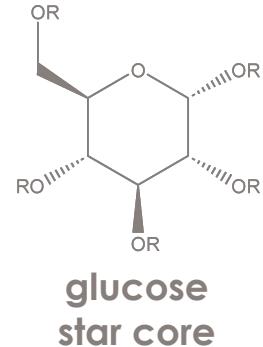


# structure & microstructure

- structures
  - linear : randomized, di-block, tri-block
  - branched : glucose star initiated, dendritic
- microstructure: monomer distribution (block vs. random vs. blockiness)

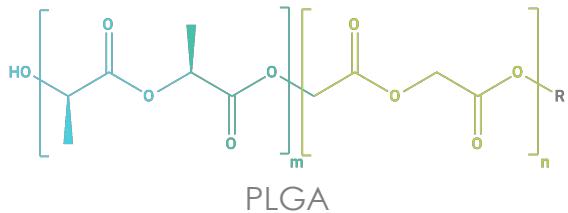
alternating	L G L G L G L G L G
random	L L G L G G L G L G L G
increased blockiness (and block length)	L L L G G G G L L L G G

- impact on performance
  - solubility
  - drug release profile
  - processing



# end group options

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- hydrophilicity of end group
  - PEG > acid > ester
- API sensitivity / stability

initiator	end groups	effect
<b>monofunctional alcohol</b>	<b>ester and hydroxyl</b>	<b>hydrophobic</b>
<b>Diol</b>	<b>hydroxyl and hydroxyl</b>	
<b><math>\alpha</math>-hydroxyl acid</b>	<b>carboxylic acid and hydroxyl</b>	
<b>polyethylene glycol methyl ether (mPEG)</b>	<b>PEG and hydroxyl</b>	<b>hydrophilic</b>

# theoretical polymer influence on release

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polymer characteristic	option & effect
molecular weight / inherent viscosity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ higher Mw / inherent viscosity = longer release duration</li></ul>
lactide : glycolide content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ increased lactide content = longer release duration</li></ul>
polymer end-cap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ acid = hydrophilic</li><li>○ ester = hydrophobic = longer release duration</li></ul>

# API can alter choice of formulation process

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## API type

- organic small molecule
- protein
- peptide
- monoclonal antibody
- DNA / RNA

## solubility

- hydrophobic vs. hydrophilic vs. amphiphilic
- water solubility

## dosage requirements and duration

- therapeutic level
- possibility for increased bioavailability vs. current dosing



# solving the “sustained release” puzzle



## MOLAR MASS

- IV, MW, PDI
- increased MW = ++ hydrophobicity
- degradation & release implications
- viscosity implications



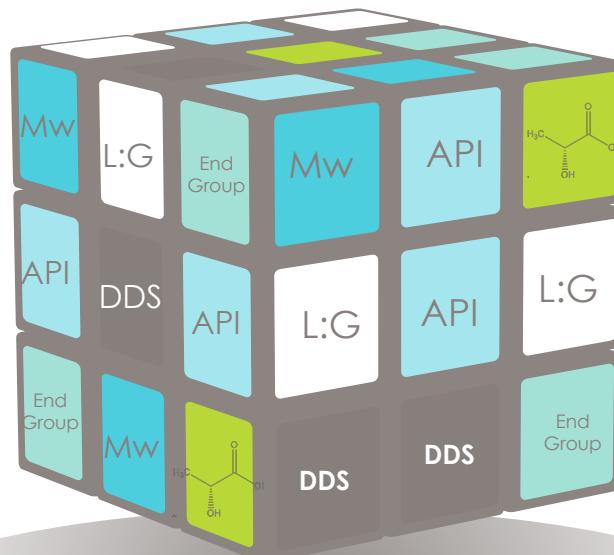
## L : G RATIO

- increased L = more hydrophobic
- slowed degradation & release
- EE%, processing solvents, compatibility



## END GROUP

- hydrophilicity : Ester > Acid > PEG
- swelling, release, degradation
- EE%, compatibility, other



## DEPOT FORMAT & PROCESSING (DDS)

- category: Particle, ISI depot, implant
- particle type/size, surface area
- solvent type, processing conditions



## POLYMER STRUCTURE

- linear, diblock, triblock, branched



## API RELATED

- loading, encapsulation efficiency,
- drug form, molecule size & solubility
- drug dispersion



# case : Eligard\*

Eligard\* (leuprolide acetate)

- long acting polymer  
**poly D,L lactide-co-glycolide (PLGA)**
- biocompatible solvent  
**N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP)**
- active pharmaceutical ingredient  
**leuprolide acetate (API)**

4 long-acting variations

- 1 month : 7.5 mg **API** + 82.5 mg **PLGA 50:50 A** + 160 mg **NMP**
- 3 month : 22.5 mg **API** + 158.6 mg **PLGA 75:25 E** + 193.9 mg **NMP**
- 4 month : 30 mg **API** + 211.5 mg **PLGA 75:25 E** + 258.5 mg **NMP**
- 6 month : 45 mg **API** + 165 mg **PLGA 85:15 E** + 165 mg **NMP**





formulation strategies & optimization

# formulation options

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active pharmaceutical  
ingredient



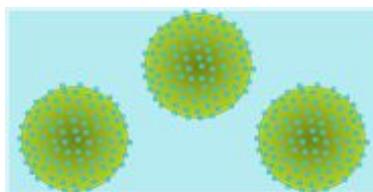
bioresorbable polymer



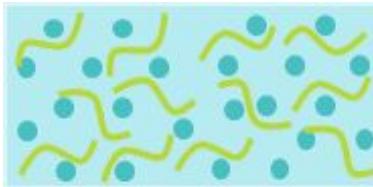
solid implant



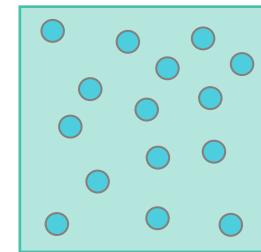
particles



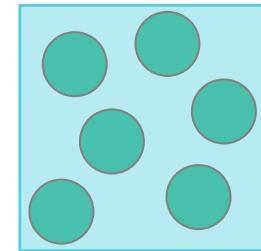
in-situ forming depot



nanoparticles



microparticles



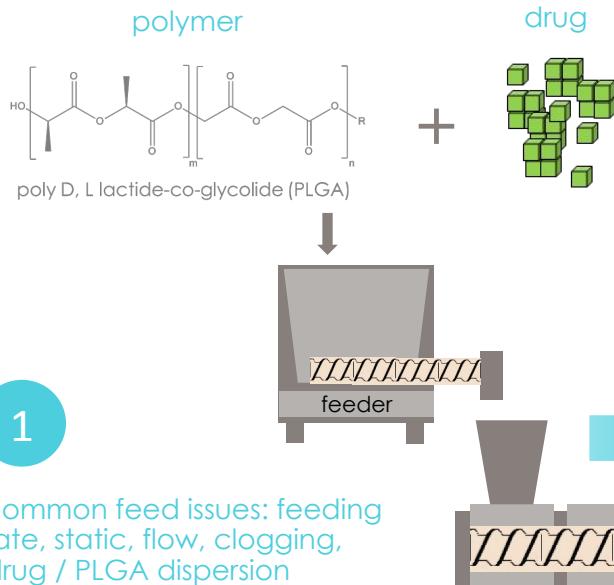
# polymer thermal properties can alter choice of formulation process

polymer	Tg (°C)	Tm (°C)	structure	
PGA	35 – 45	220-233	semi-crystalline	
PLGA	35 – 55	Amorphous	Amorphous	
PDLLA	45 – 60	amorphous	Amorphous	
PLCL	10 - 20	130 - 155	Amorphous	
PCL	-65 to -60	55 - 65	semi-crystalline	

increasing  
degradation  
rate

PEGylated polymers, such as PCL-PEGs, can decease melting temperature resulting in lower HME processing temperatures

# implants: hot melt extrusion process



how can we improve HME performance of PLGA?

- dense flowing particles
- flexible particle size for drug / PLGA dispersion
- tune process parameters and optimise

# PLGA form enhancement for HME

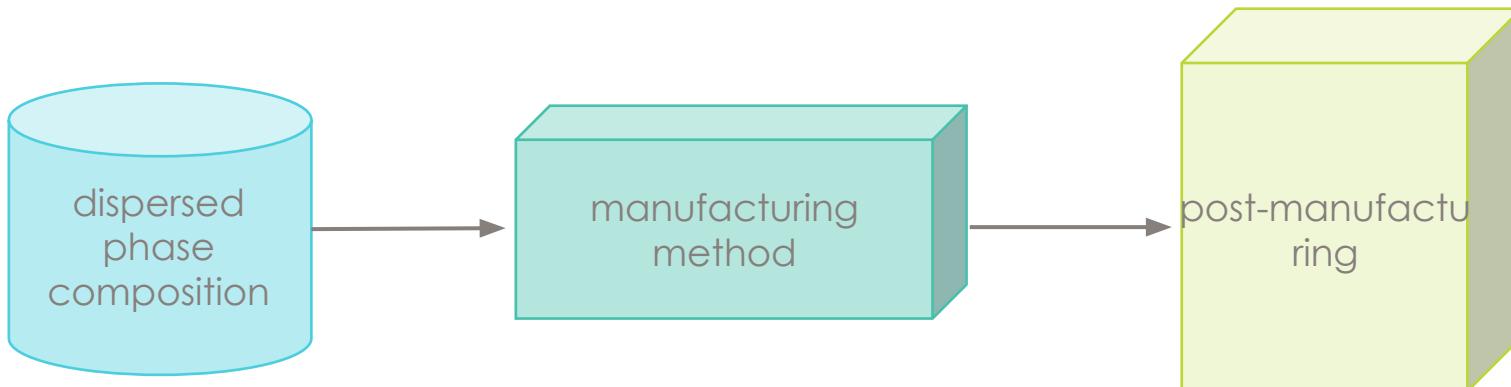


fine particles improve HME formulations and lead to increased content uniformity

additional milling capabilities available for unique applications

# microsphere process

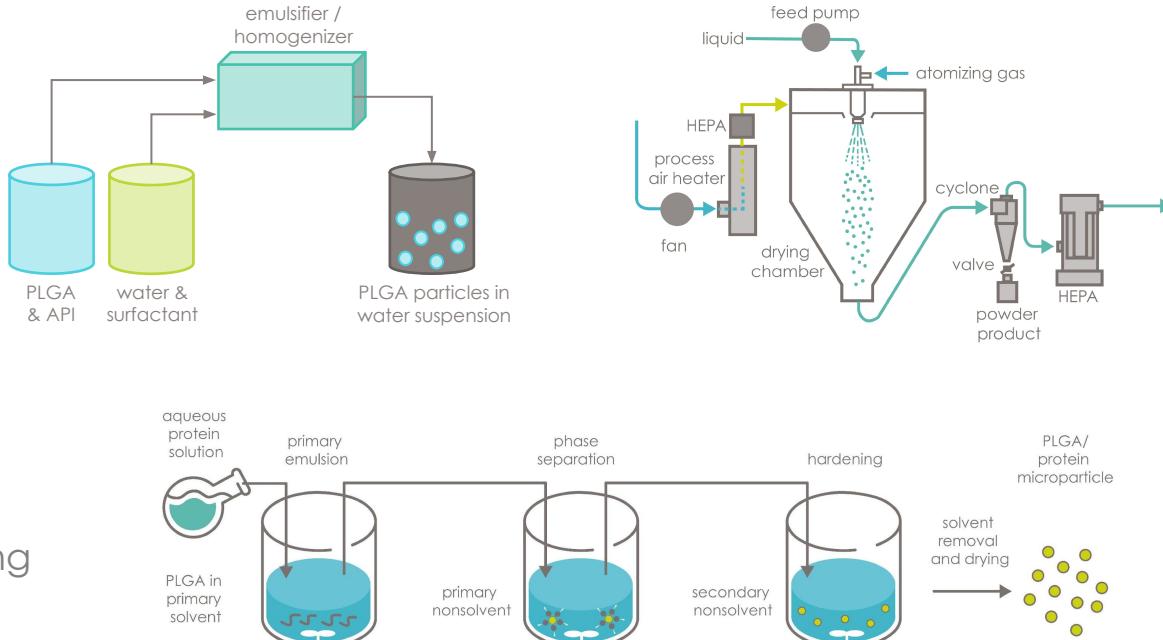
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# particle technologies

- single / double emulsions
- coacervation
- spray drying
- microfluidics
- membrane emulsification
- nano-precipitation
- vibration assisted printing
- self-assembly (micelle tech)
- electro-spinning / electro-spraying

+ downstream handling

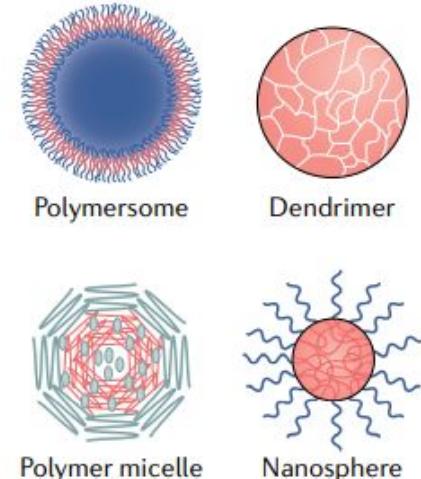


# polymeric nanoparticle advantages

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## why use LG polymer NPs for drug delivery?

- enhanced drug stability and solubility
- transport across membranes allows intracellular delivery of all types of APIs, organic small molecules and biologics
- prolonged circulation times increases safety and efficacy
- flexibility in method of API incorporation
- amenable to small molecules, peptides, proteins or nucleic acids
- control of polymer and particle characteristics allows precise, targeted and controlled delivery



# PEGylated LG polymer NPs

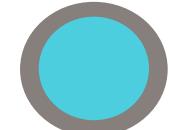
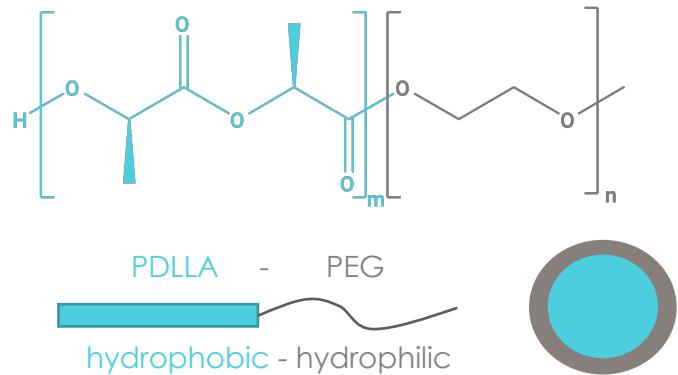
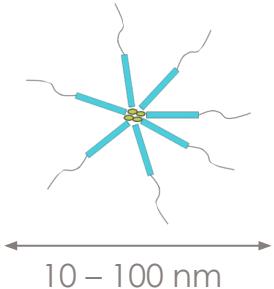
amphiphilic PLA-PEG di-block co-polymer

self-assembling micelles

EPR effect for passive targeting in tumors

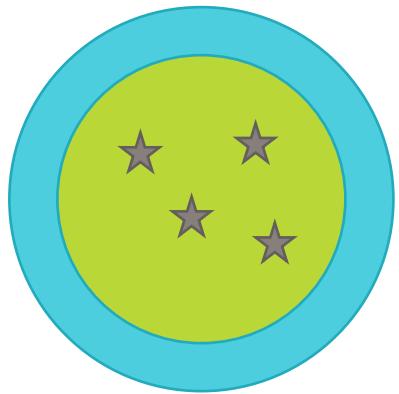
## PEG corona

- avoid immune system (stealth effect)
- 2-5 kDa for desirable blood circulation profile
  - Less opsonization
  - Higher circulation time
  - Kidney elimination
  - Avoid liver clearance



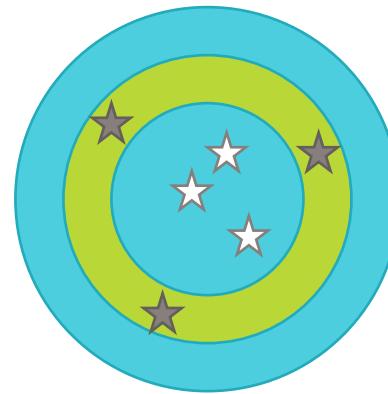
# micelles vs. vesicles: drug carrier

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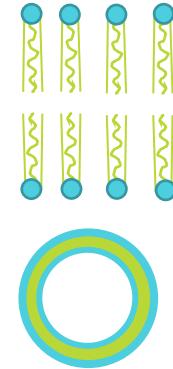
only hydrophobic drugs

 hydrophilic part  
 hydrophobic part

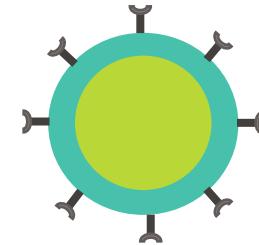


both hydrophobic and hydrophilic drugs

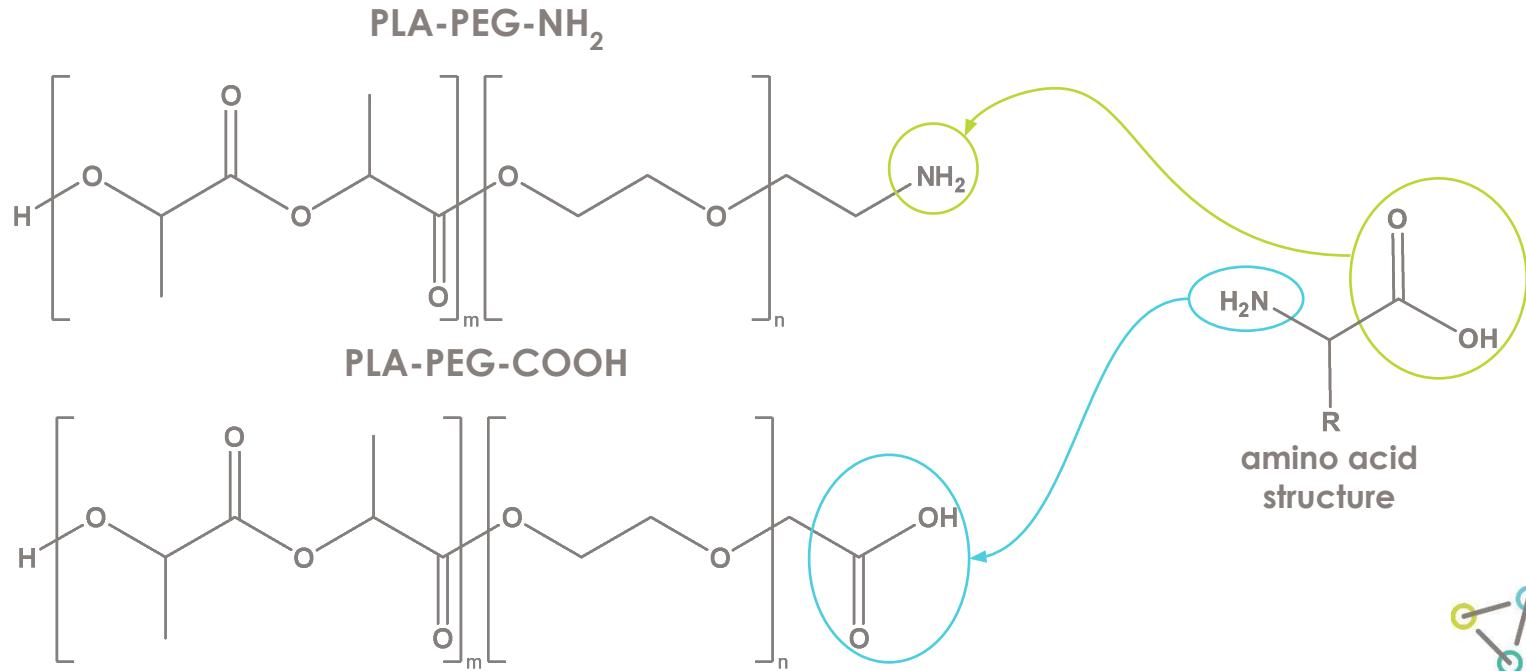
 hydrophilic drug  
 hydrophobic drug



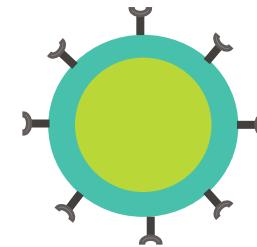
# functionalised LG-PEG NPs



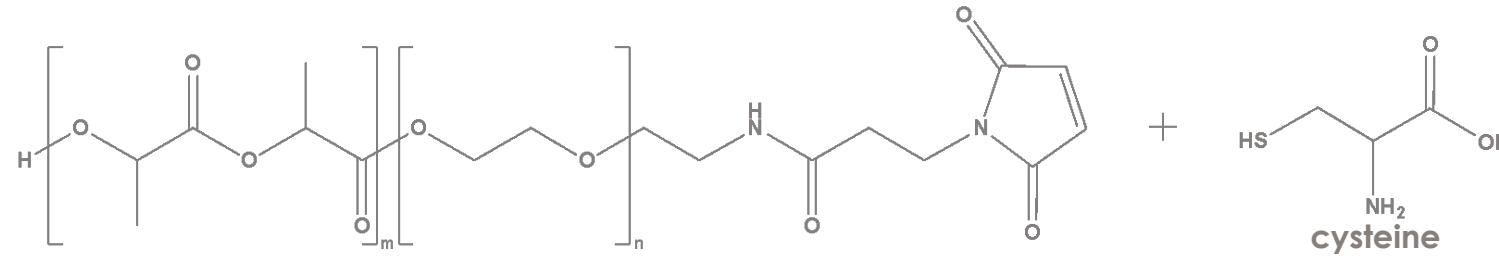
- from passive to active targeting

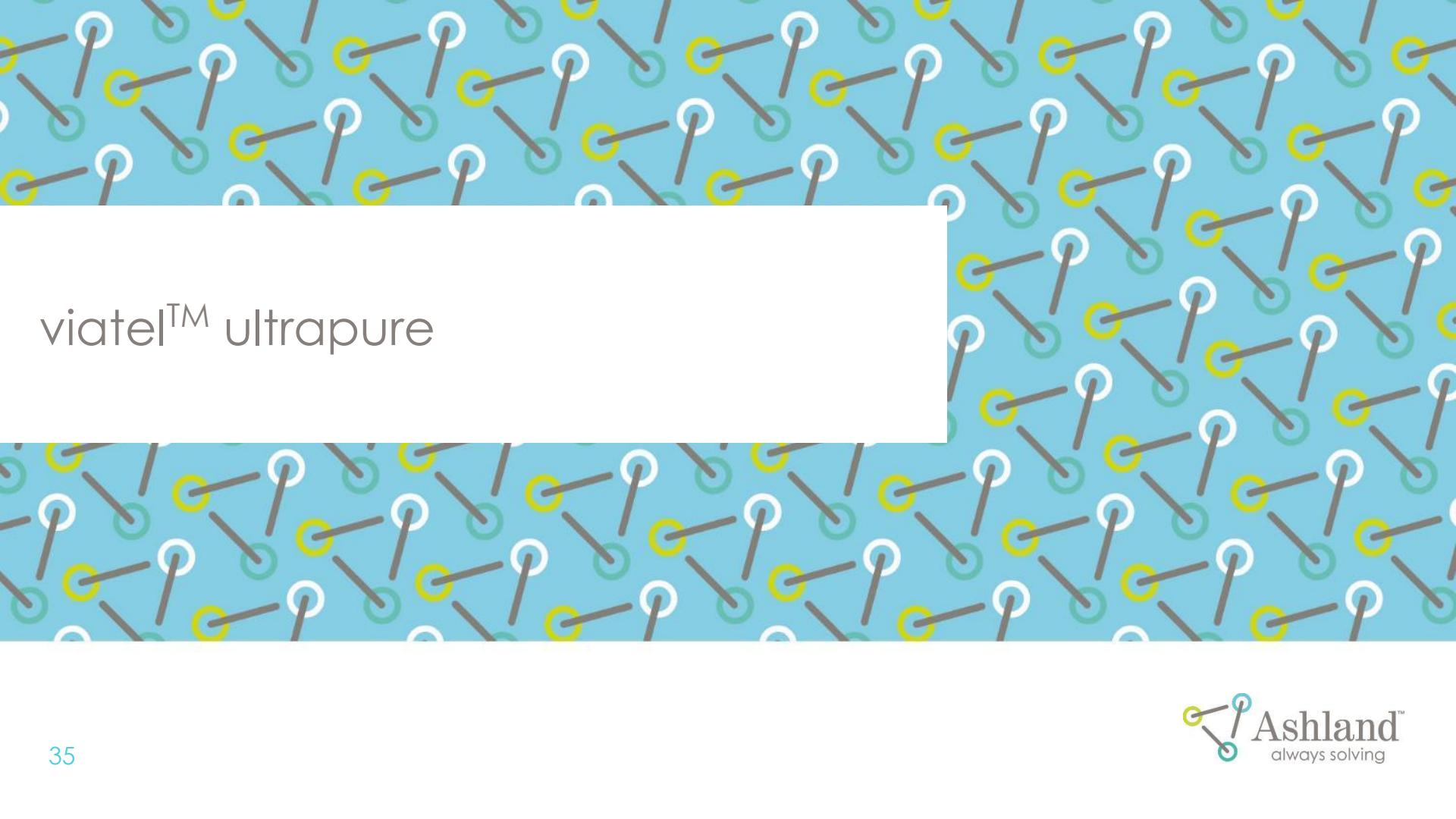


# functionalised LG-PEG NPs



**PLA-PEG-MAL** → more specific for thiol function – end-capping with ligands





viatel™ ultrapure

# viatel™ ultrapure : introduction

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what is it? lowered residual monomer

## key features

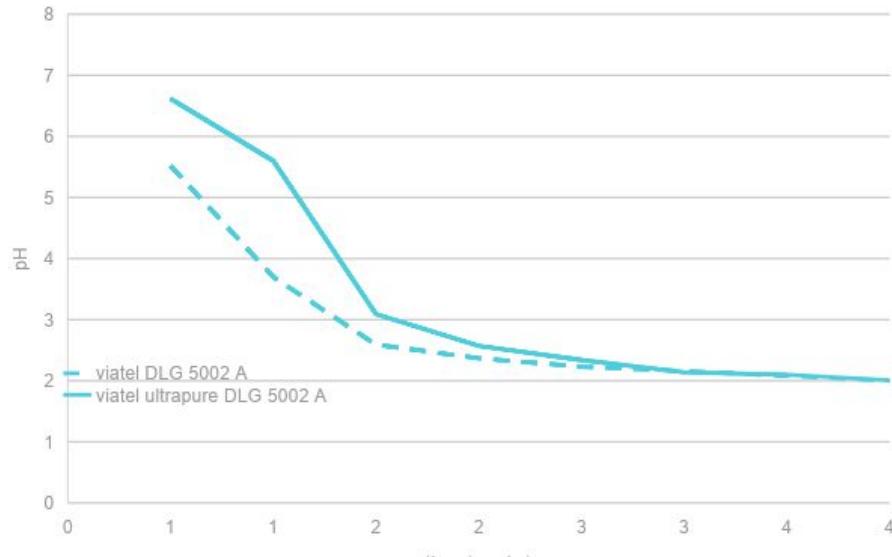
- lowered residual monomer :  $\leq 0.5\%$  total, typical batch results of 0.1%
- pre-filtered polymer during additional purification process to ensure exceptional quality

## benefits

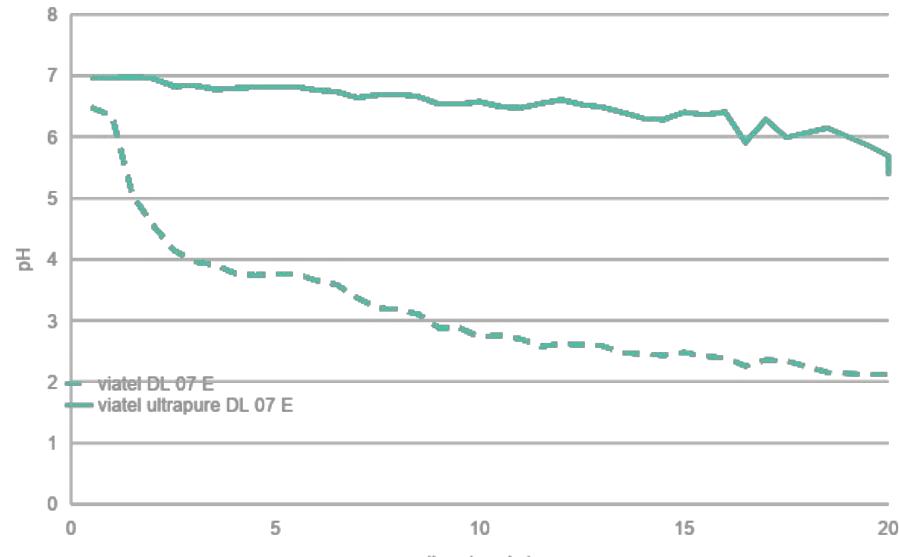
- reduced acidity
  - improved API stability
  - improved shelf-life stability
- improved release consistency across all applications due to fewer variables
- extended release in hot melt extrusion and in situ forming depot applications

# viatel™ ultrapure = less acidic

acidification comparison: viatel and viatel ultrapure DLG 5002 A



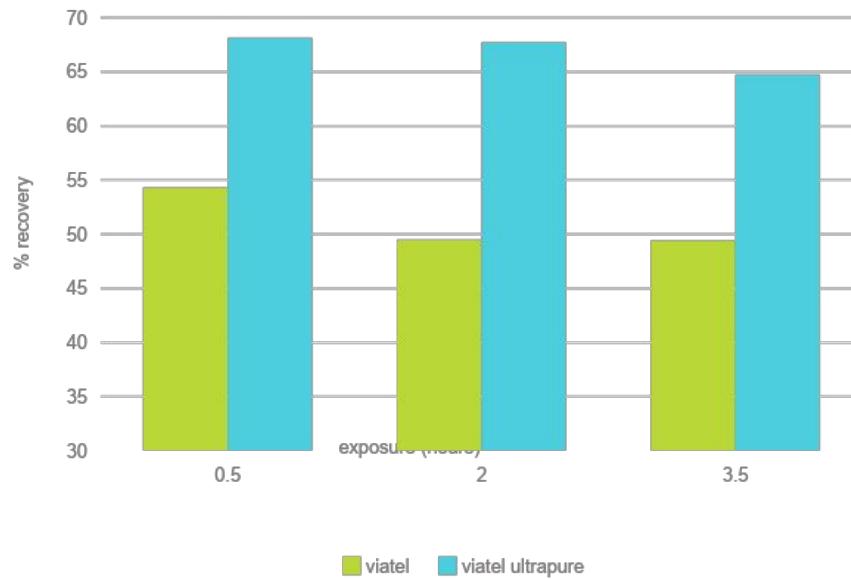
acidification comparison: viatel and viatel ultrapure DLG 5002 A



viatel™ ultrapure polymers exhibit decreased acidity when pH is monitored in PBS

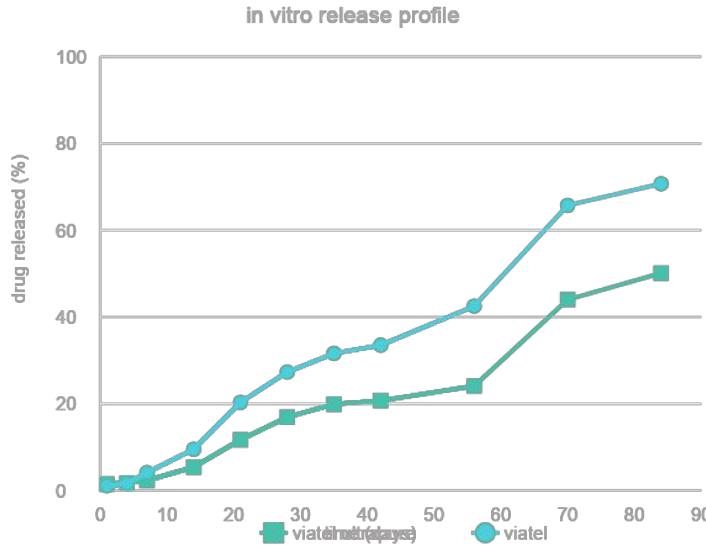
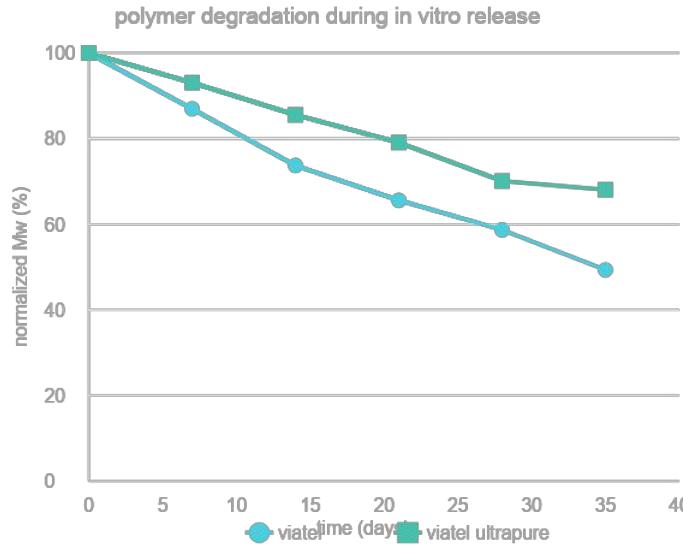
# omeprazole stability

composition	viatel	viatel ultrapure
polymer	DL 02 A	
monomer	3%	0.2%
NMP	80%	
API	10% omeprazole	



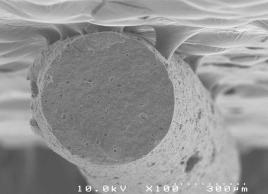
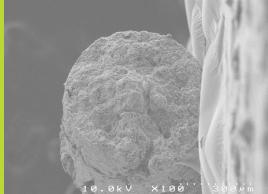
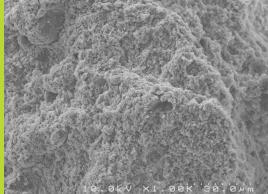
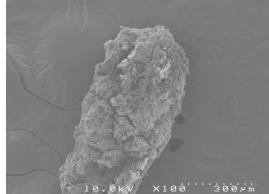
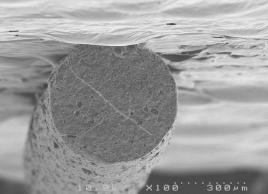
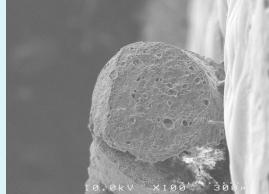
omeprazole exhibits increased stability with viatel™ ultrapure

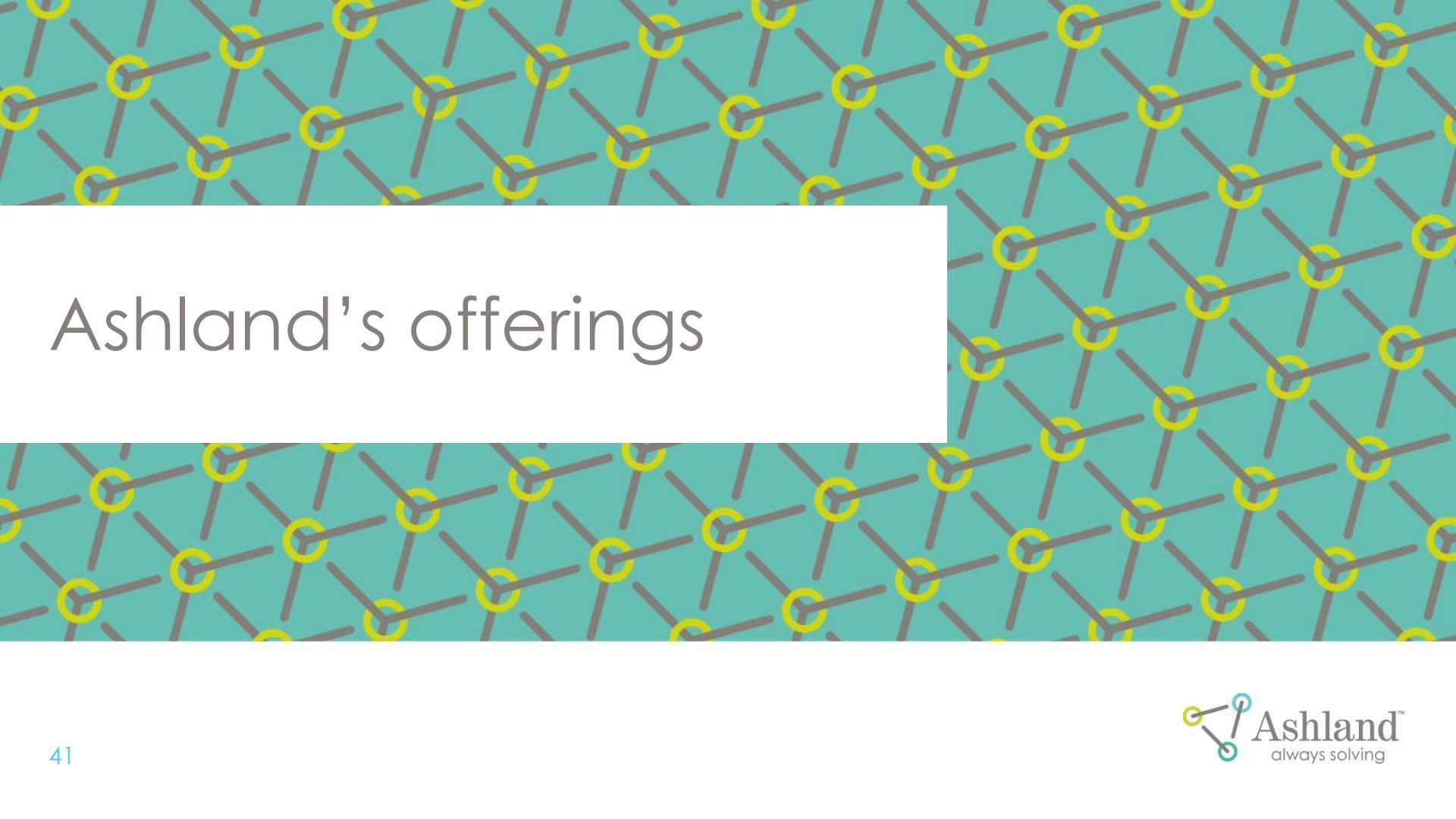
# dexamethasone implant results



dexamethasone implant formed with Viatel™ Ultrapure displays preserved molecular weight during release and extended release

# dexamethasone implant morphology during release

polymer	time (weeks)			
	1	2	3	4
viate <sup>TM</sup>				
viate <sup>TM</sup> ultrapure				



# Ashland's offerings

# viate<sup>TM</sup> lactide/glycolide platform

## amorphous copolymers

- poly D,L lactide-co-glycolide (PLGA or PDLGA)
- poly D,L-lactide (PDLLA)
- PEGylated PLA's / PLGA's (mPEG-PLA / mPEG-PLGA)

## semi-crystalline copolymers

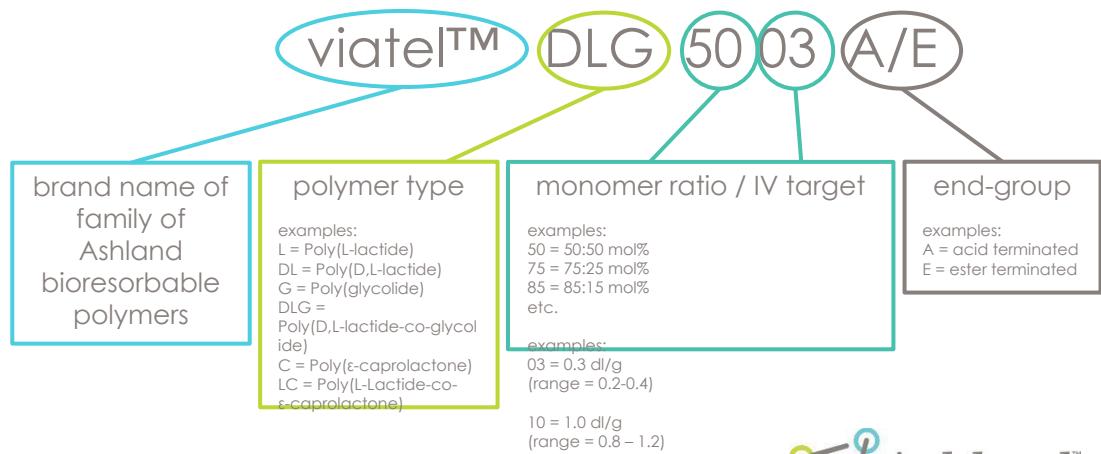
- poly L lactide (PLLA)
- poly caprolactone (PCL)
- poly L-lactide-co-glycolide (P-L-LGA)

## all products have high purity

- low residual tin
- new: viate<sup>TM</sup> ultrapure

## other

- custom specifications available
- de-formulation / PLGA matching



# expanded grade offering

polymer	molar ratio	inherent viscosity range (dl/g)	end group	product code
poly(D,L-lactide -co-glycolide)	50:50	0.1 – 0.3	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 5002 A/E
		0.2 – 0.4	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 5003 A/E
		0.4 – 0.6	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 5005 A/E
		0.6 – 0.8	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 5007 A/E
		0.8 – 1.0	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 5009 A/E
		1.0 – 1.2	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 5011 A/E
		1.2 – 1.4	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 5013 A/E
	55:45	0.2 – 0.4	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 5503 A/E
		0.4 – 0.6	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 5505 A/E
	65:35	0.2 – 0.4	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 6503 A/E
		0.1 – 0.3	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 7502 A/E
		0.2 – 0.4	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 7503 A/E
		0.4 – 0.6	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 7505 A/E
		0.6 – 0.8	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 7507 A/E
	75:25	0.8 – 1.0	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 7509 A/E
		1.0 – 1.2	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 7511 A/E
		1.2 – 1.4	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 7513 A/E
	80:20	0.1 – 0.3	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 8002 A/E
		0.2 – 0.4	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 8003 A/E
	85:15	0.1 – 0.3	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 8502 A/E
		0.2 – 0.4	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 8503 A/E
		0.4 – 0.6	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 8505 A/E
		0.6 – 0.8	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 8507 A/E
		0.8 – 1.0	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 8509 A/E
		1.0 – 1.2	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 8511 A/E
		1.2 – 1.4	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DLG 8513 A/E

polymer	molar ratio	inherent viscosity range (dl/g)	end group	product code
poly(D,L-lactide)	100:0	0.1 – 0.3	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DL 02 A/E
		0.2 – 0.4	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DL 03 A/E
		0.4 – 0.6	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DL 05 A/E
		0.6 – 0.8	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DL 07 A/E
		0.8 – 1.0	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DL 09 A/E
		1.0 – 1.2	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DL 11 A/E
		1.2 – 1.4	Acid / Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DL 13 A/E
poly(ethylene glycol) methyl ether-block-poly(D,L-lactide)	-	0.33 – 0.38 *	--	Viate <sup>TM</sup> DL 03 PEG5K
poly(L-lactide)	-	0.8 – 1.2	Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> L 10 E
			Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> L 14 E
			Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> L 18 E
poly( $\epsilon$ -caprolactone)	-	1.0 – 1.4	Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> C 12 E
			Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> C 18 E
poly(L-lactide-co- $\epsilon$ -caprolactone)	60:40	1.0 – 1.4	Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> LC 6012 E
			Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> LC 7012 E
			Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> LC 8012 E
			Ester	Viate <sup>TM</sup> LC 9012 E
			Ester	

GMP viatel<sup>TM</sup> ultrapure grades  
will be available for LG polymers



# quality and regulatory status

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## good manufacturing processes (GMP) compliance

- USP <1078> and Joint IPEC-PQG GMP Guide for Pharmaceutical Excipients (IPEC, 2017)
- manufactured in an ISO Class 8 clean room
- ISO 13485:2016 certified since 2013 (Notified Body: LRQA Lloyds)



## regulatory status

- type IV DMF filed with FDA 33847
- FDA chemical registration completed

## lead times

- in-stock materials : **2 – 3 weeks** for shipping
- made-to-order : **5 – 8 weeks** for shipping



Ashland announces expansion of Viatel™ bioresorbable polymers manufacturing and R&D capabilities in Mullingar, Ireland

August 30, 2022 17:00 ET | Source: [Ashland, Inc.](#)

# custom structures

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## tailored LG copolymers

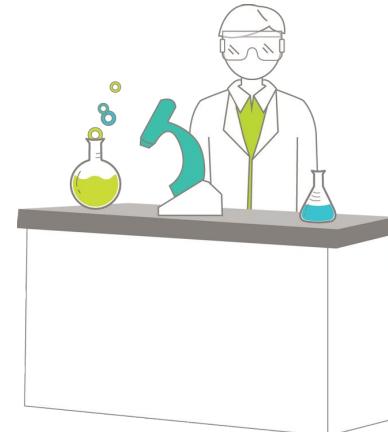
- narrowed specifications : useful to standardise release ( $\pm 0.02$  dl/g)
- DOE studies : varying L:G, Mw, end groups (incremental batches)
- test specification limits: batch provision at high, middle and low end of specification
- batch consistency testing : repeat lots within target range

## adjusted polymer structures

- composition: lactide, glycolide, caprolactone, PEG, other
- linear, di-block, tri-block, branched/dendritic structures
- end groups for active targeted delivery (e.g. maleimide)

## new chemistries

- new polymers for sustained release
- surface eroding polymers



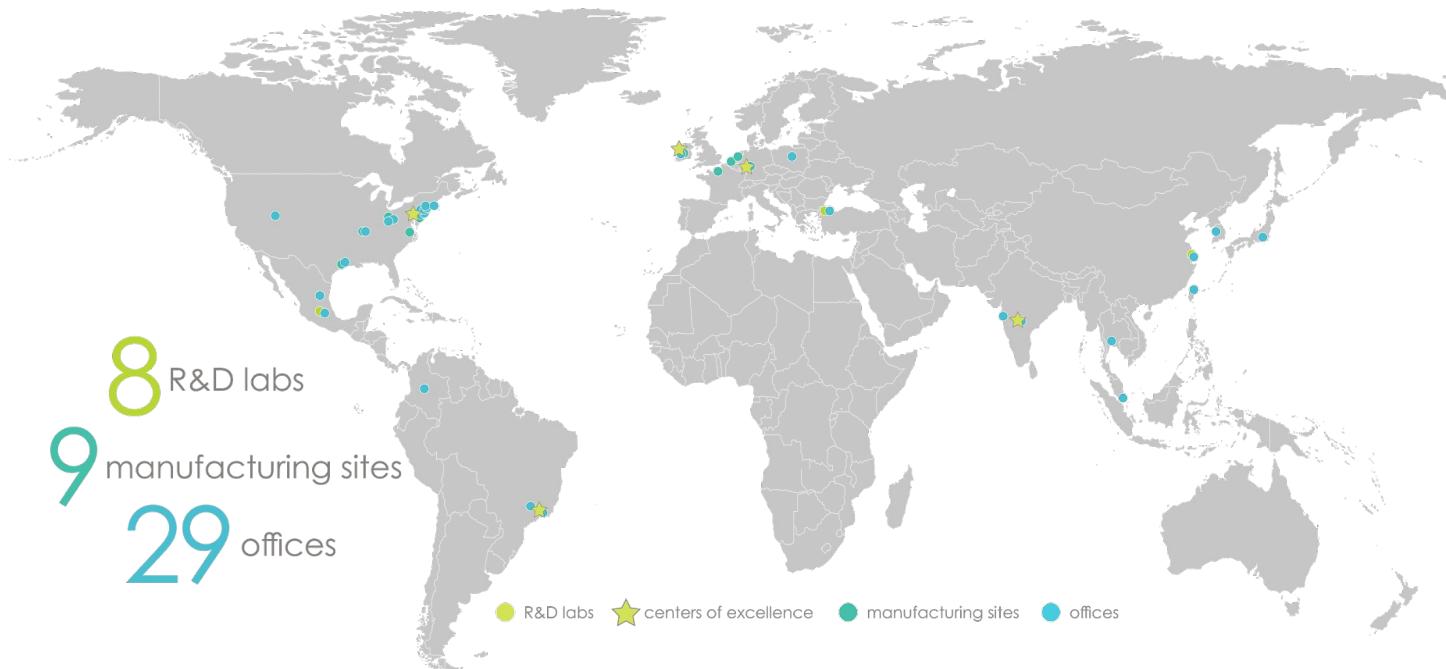
# made-to-order (MTO) examples

- example 1 : DOE study example - increment at  $\pm 0.02$  dl/g
- example 2 : lot-to-lot variability & spec setting - repeat batches within  $\pm 0.01$  dl/g
- MTO batch options: 0.1 kg, 0.5 kg, 1.5 kg, 3.5 kg, 10 kg, 20-30 kg
- typical MTO lead time : 5 - 8 weeks to ship

rational	viate <sup>TM</sup> grade	L:G ratio	IV request (dl/g)	batch #	IV result	Mw	quantities
DOE study	DLG 7505 A	75:25	0.38 – 0.42	2619314	0.38 dl/g	42.7 kDa	1 kg
			0.42 – 0.46	2619063	0.43 dl/g	45.8 kDa	1 kg
			0.46 – 0.50	2619881	0.46 dl/g	53.0 kDa	1 kg
			0.50 – 0.54	2567897	0.50 dl/g	60.8 kDa	3 x 1 kg
				2601092	0.50 dl/g	59.5 kDa	
				2594415	0.51 dl/g	61.7 kDa	
lot-to-lot variability & specification establishment (high, mid, low)	DL 02 A	100:0	0.15 – 0.17	2585007	0.17 dl/g	13.8 kDa	500 g
				2588391	0.16 dl/g	13.2 kDa	500 g
				2586589	0.15 dl/g	11.8 kDa	500 g

# committed to supporting customers

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# common challenges

## chemistry

- how to select / optimize appropriate polymer?
- troubleshooting issues?
- residual monomer

## partnering - CMO/CDMO engagement

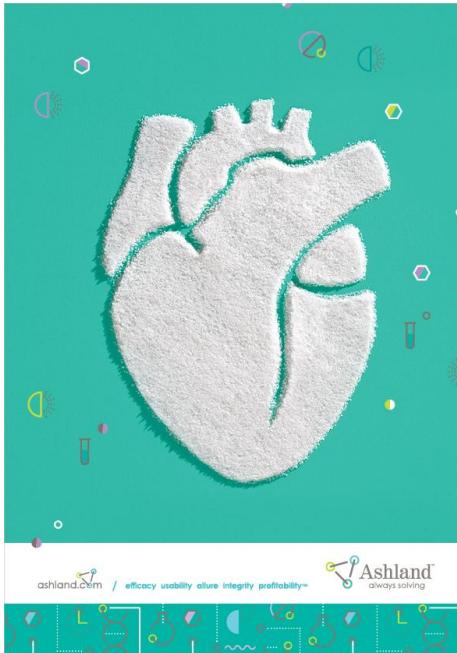
## formulation

- pro's / con's / limits of formulation formats
- melt based technology
  - HME, 3D printing, injection molding, etc.
  - Particle form benefits
- solvent based technologies
  - solvent solubility can be chemistry dependant
  - solvent impact on particle size / morphology & solvent removal
  - adjusting ISI formulation composition for required release

## terminal sterilization

- options, pros vs. cons and risk mitigation

many project specific challenges!!



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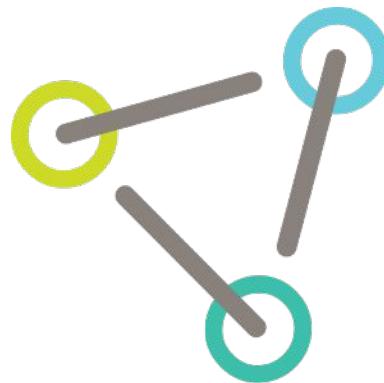
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