

# New plant-based nanovesicles based on alkyl polyglucosides surfactants and $\beta$ -sitosterol as topical delivery systems

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CONTROLLED RELEASE SOCIETY

**CRS**2023 ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

JULY 24-28, 2023 **Paris Hotel** » **Las Vegas, NV, USA**

*THE FUTURE OF DELIVERY SCIENCE*

# New plant-based nanovesicles based on alkyl polyglucosides surfactants and $\beta$ -sitosterol as topical delivery systems

Marta Alcaina-Hernando, Ivana Malvacio, Ilaria Ferraboschi, Annalisa Bianchera, Silvia Pescina, Lidia Ferrer-Tasies, Santiago Sala, Cristina Sissa, Nora Ventosa and Alba Córdoba



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**CRS**2023 ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

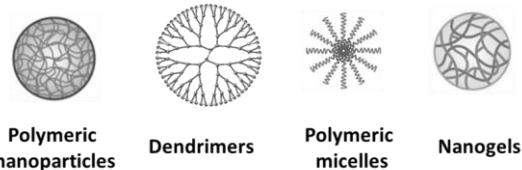
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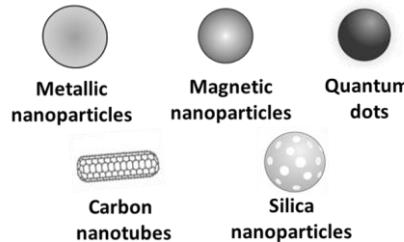
# THERMODYNAMICALLY STABLE DELOS NANOVESICLES



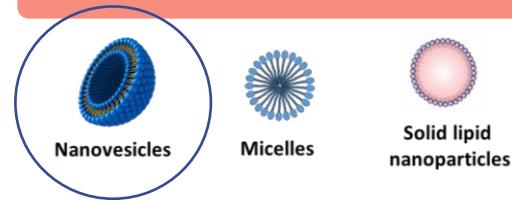
## POLYMERIC-BASED NANOPARTICLES



## INORGANIC-BASED NANOPARTICLES



## LIPID-BASED NANOPARTICLES

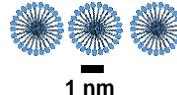


## PROTEIN-BASED NANOPARTICLES



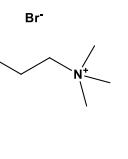
### Quaternary ammonium surfactants (CTAB)

(hexadecyltrimethylammonium bromide)



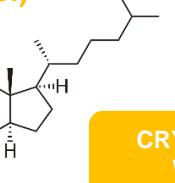
MICELLES IN WATER

Br<sup>-</sup>



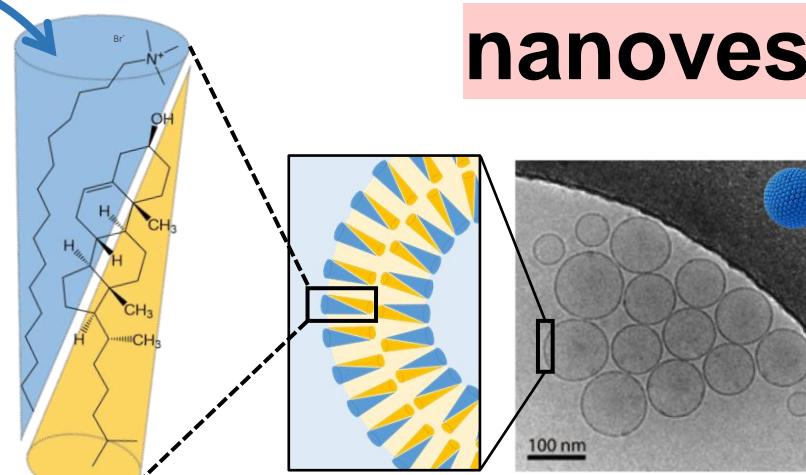
### Sterol (Cholesterol)

(Cholesterol)



CRYSTALS IN WATER

> 1  $\mu$ m



## DELOS nanovesicles

- Nanosized and highly homogeneous
- Thermodynamically stable
- Targeted delivery
- Integrate large range of active molecules

N. Grimaldi, et al., *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2016, 45 (23), pp. 6520–6545.

M. Mitchell, et al., *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery*, 2021, 20(2), pp. 101-124.

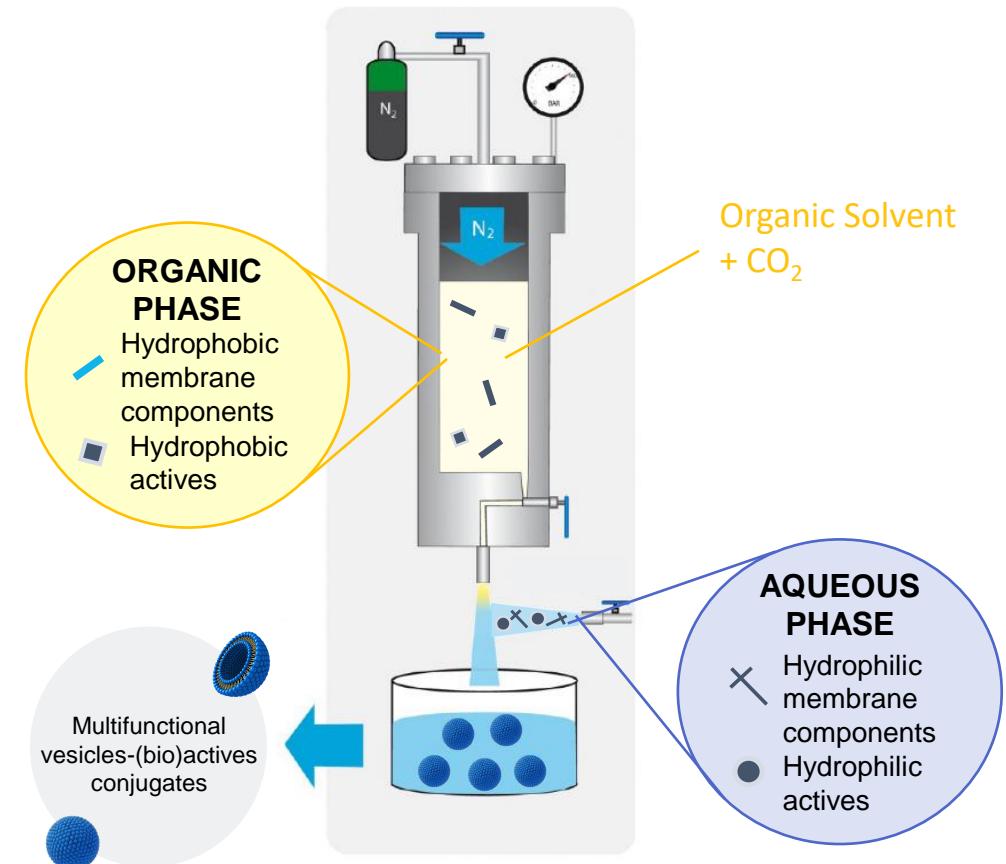
L. Ferrer-Tasies et al., *Langmuir*, 2013, 29, pp. 6519–6528

# DELOS METHODOLOGY AS NANOVESICLE MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY



**DELOS**= *Depressurization of an Expanded Liquid Organic Solution into aqueous solution*

- ✓ **Green and sustainable platform**, based on compressed CO<sub>2</sub> as solvent.
- ✓ **One-step preparation** of vesicle-based conjugates.
- ✓ Obtention of **nanoscopic size** vesicles and with **great degree of unilamellarity**.
- ✓ **Scalable process**, demonstrated from lab (ml) to pilot plant (L).
- ✓ GMP pilot manufacturing under implementation
- ✓ Tested with success for **+50 actives**:



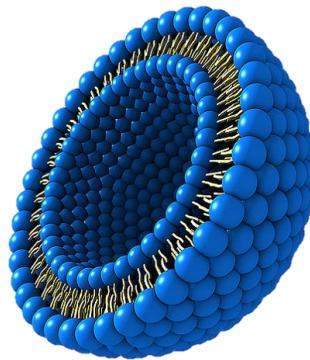
# OBJECTIVE



Highly experienced in **pharmaceutical applications** using DELOS-NVs composed by **cholesterol** and **quaternary ammonium surfactants**



DESIRE TO INTRODUCE **DELOS TECHNOLOGY** TO NEW MARKETS



## DELOS Nanovesicles



**HEALTHCARE AND COSMETIC MARKET**

### Cholesterol : CTAB

#### Quaternary ammonium surfactants

- ✖ Limited use in cosmetics due to irritation effects

#### Cholesterol

- ✓ Totally allowed for cosmetic and pharmaceutical use
- ✖ Not accepted by vegan consumers (dermocosmetics) and patients (pharma)

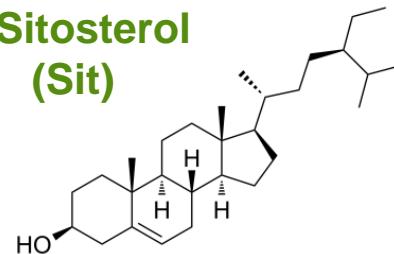
## OBJECTIVE

To develop novel plant-based DELOS vesicles using membrane components according to market needs, and to evaluate their potential as new delivery systems, loading actives of interest for topical administration

# NEW SIT:LGL VESICLES USING COMPONENTS FROM VEGETAL ORIGIN

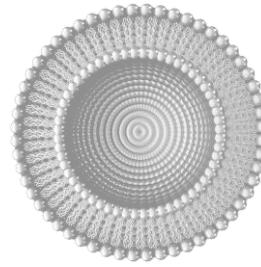


**$\beta$ -Sitosterol  
(Sit)**

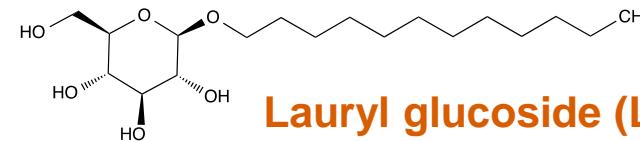


Sterol from vegetal origin

- ✓ Biocompatible
- ✓ Biodegradable



**Neutral vesicles**  
Sit:LGL



**Lauryl glucoside (LGL)**

- ✓ Biocompatible
- ✓ Biodegradable



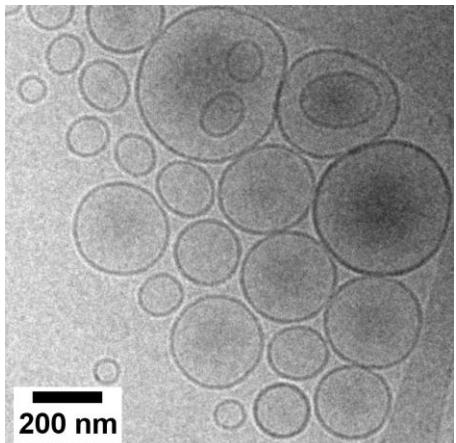
Sugar-based surfactant of the alkyl polyglucosides (APGs) family

## Sit:LGL

Membrane components molar ratio = 1:1

[membrane components] = 5 mg/mL

Dispersant media =  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{EtOH}$  15% (v/v)



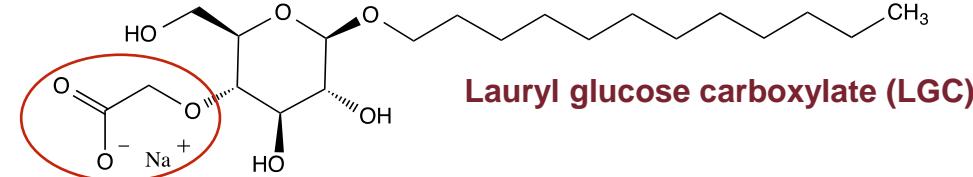
Technique: Cryo TEM

Size =  $217 \pm 11$  nm  
Pdl =  $0.22 \pm 0.01$   
 $\zeta$ -Pot =  $-42 \pm 3$  mV

Technique: Dynamic Light Scattering  
(n=3)

Long colloidal stability

## USE OF ADDITIVES TUNING OF THE SURFACE CHARGE



**Lauryl glucose carboxylate (LGC)**

- Integrate a larger range of actives (by electrostatic interaction)
- Change the physicochemical properties of the vesicles



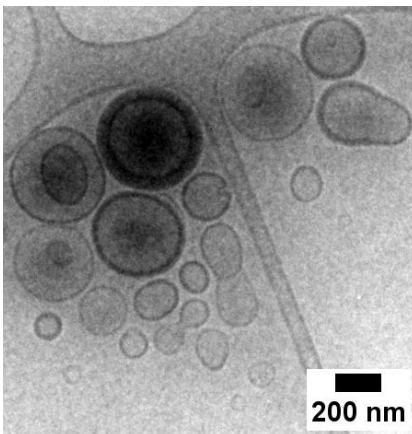
# TUNING OF SIT:LGL VESICLES

## Screening of LGL:LGC molar ratio

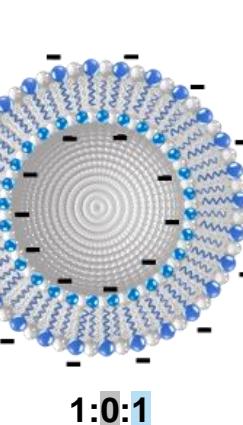
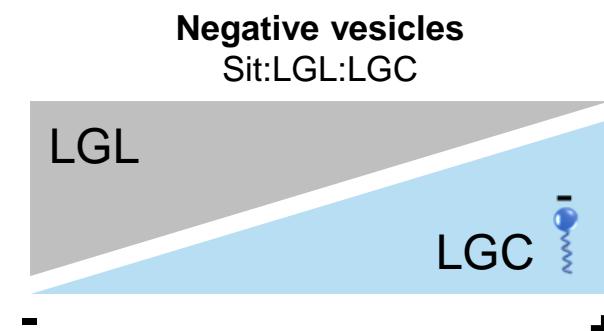
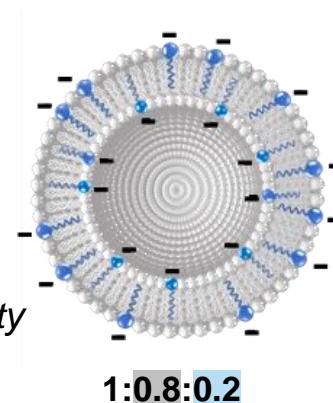
Low quantity of LGC

1:0.8:0.2

Sit:LGL:LGC (1:0.8:0.2)



Technique: Cryo TEM

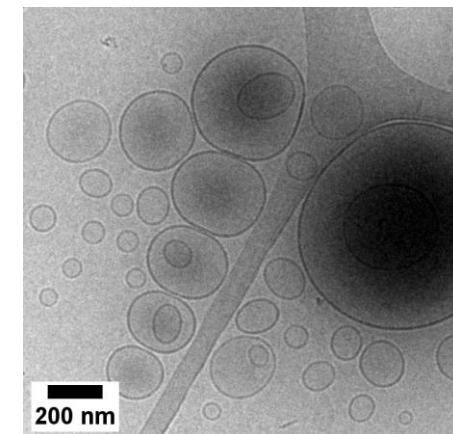


LGL completely replaced by LGC

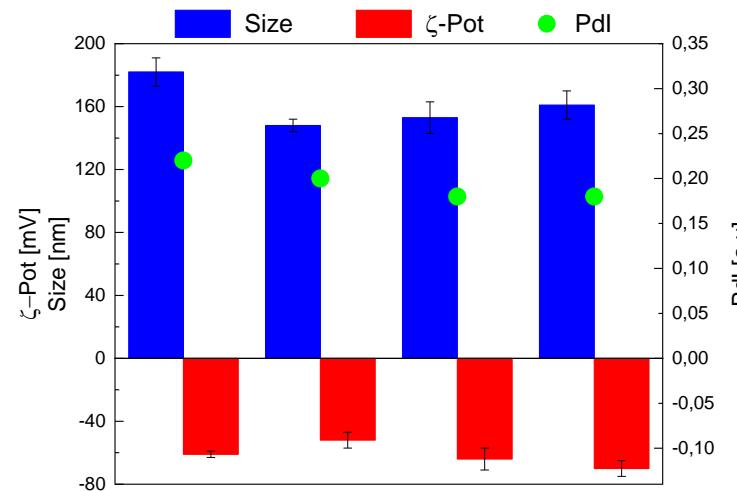
**Sit:LGL:LGC**

[membrane components] = 3 mg/mL  
Dispersant media = H<sub>2</sub>O/EtOH 15% (v/v)

**Sit:LGL:LGC (1:0:1)**



Technique: Cryo TEM



Technique: Dynamic Light Scattering (n=3)

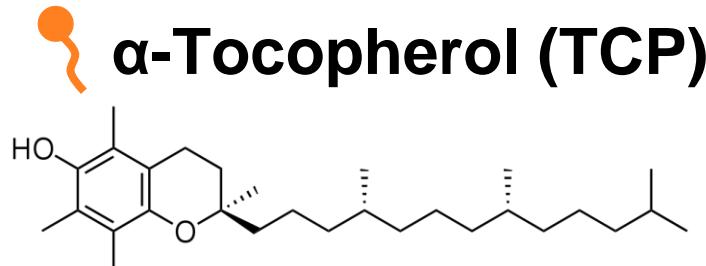
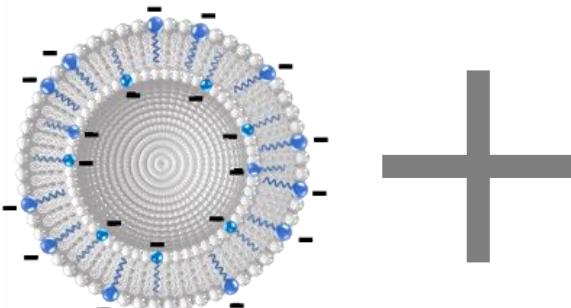
Technique: Cryo TEM

Patent application filed in August 2022 (EP22382751.0) 7

# INTEGRATION OF $\alpha$ -TOCOPHEROL IN SIT:LGL:LGC vesicles



**Negative vesicle**  
Sit:LGL:LGC  
(1:0.8:0.2)

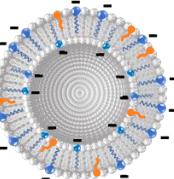


- Type of Vitamine E
- Antioxidant (free-radical scavenger)
- Lipophilic molecule



## Sit:LGL:LGC

Membrane components molar ratio = 1:0.8:0.2  
[membrane components] = 3 mg/mL  
Dispersant media = H<sub>2</sub>O/EtOH 15% (v/v)  
[TCP] = 0.75 mg/mL



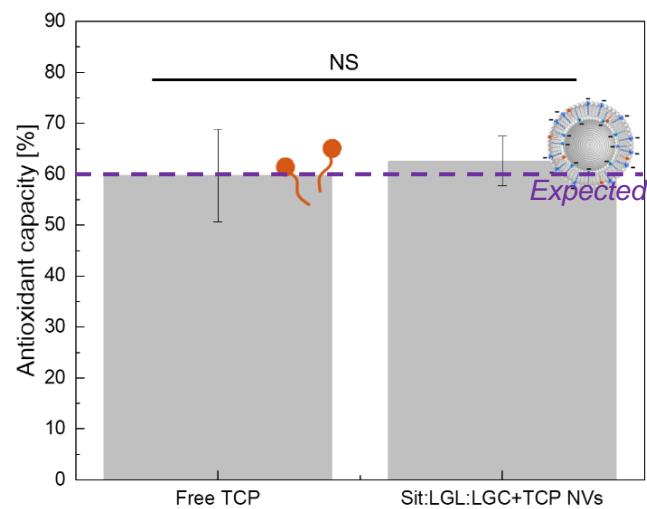
Size = 131  $\pm$  4 nm  
Pdl = 0.19  $\pm$  0.01  
 $\zeta$ -Pot = -41  $\pm$  1 mV

Technique: Dynamic Light Scattering  
(n=3)

**Entrapment Efficiency = 49  $\pm$  12 %**

Technique: UV-Vis spectroscopy  
(n=3)  
EE% = (TCP in filtered sample/TCP total)\*100

## Antioxidant capacity: DPPH assay



✓ Antioxidant capacity is maintained after TCP loading in DELOS vesicles

Patent application filed in August 2022 (EP22382751.0)

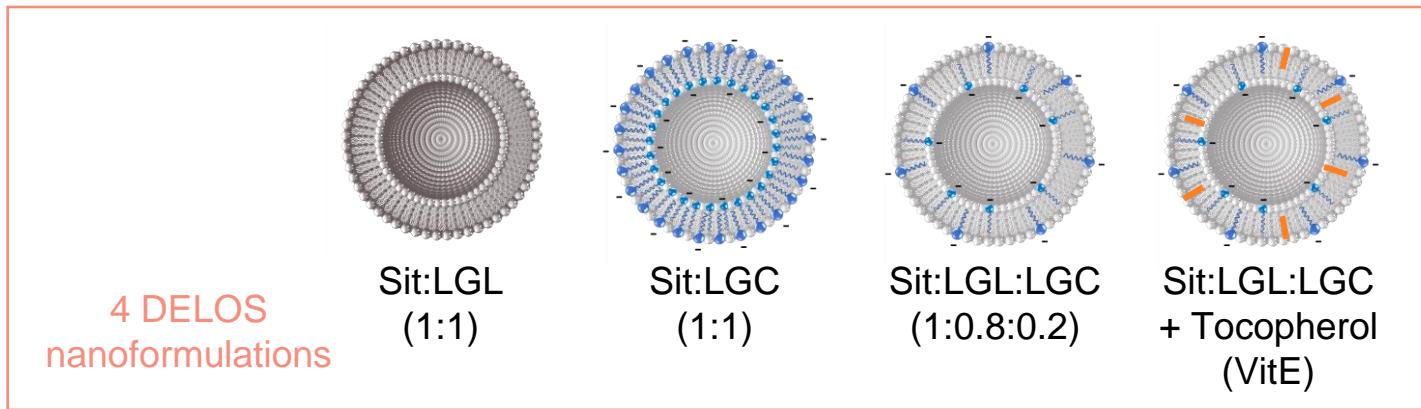
✓ Additional actives have been successfully integrated.

# IN VITRO SKIN COMPATIBILITY: NON-IRRITANT DELIVERY SYSTEMS

How to validate the safety of nanoformulations for topical administration?

**SKIN IRRITATION TESTS** → **Reconstructed Human Epidermis (RHE)**,  
3D *in vitro* models of human skin (commercially available)

Samples analyzed:



Negative control: PBS (100% of viability)  
Positive control: SDS 5% w/v in PBS (no viability)

Dispersant media  
Water/EtOH 15% (v/v)



All formulations are biocompatible with the skin, non-irritant effects are seen.

**SAFE FORMULATIONS FOR TOPICAL ADMINISTRATION**

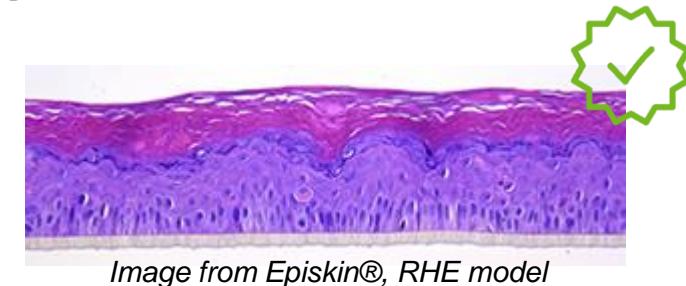
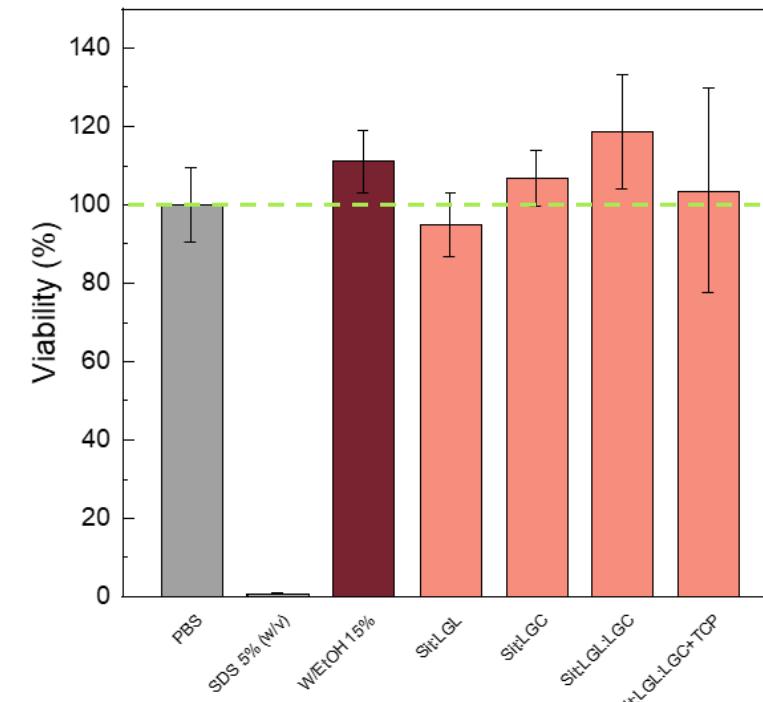


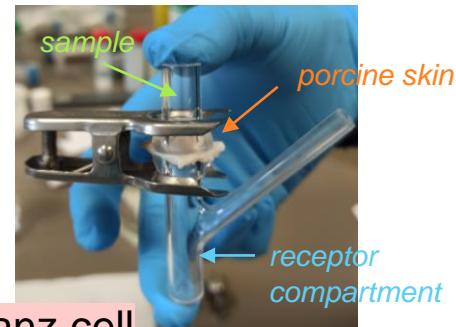
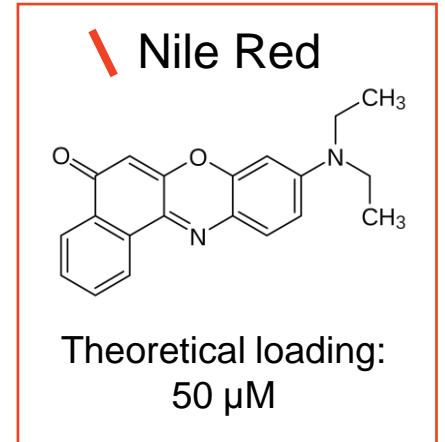
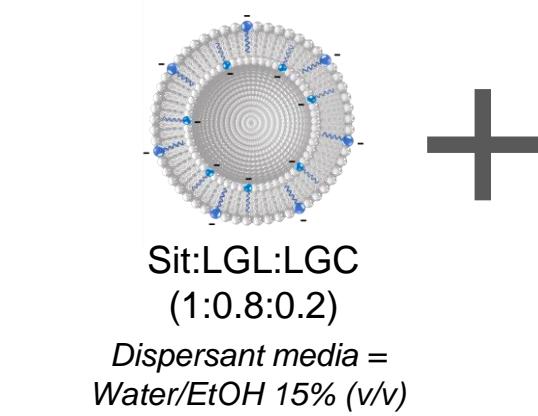
Image from Episkin®, RHE model



Technique: MTT assay  
(n=3)

# EX VIVO SKIN PERMEATION: Fluorescent payload delivered to the EPIDERMIS

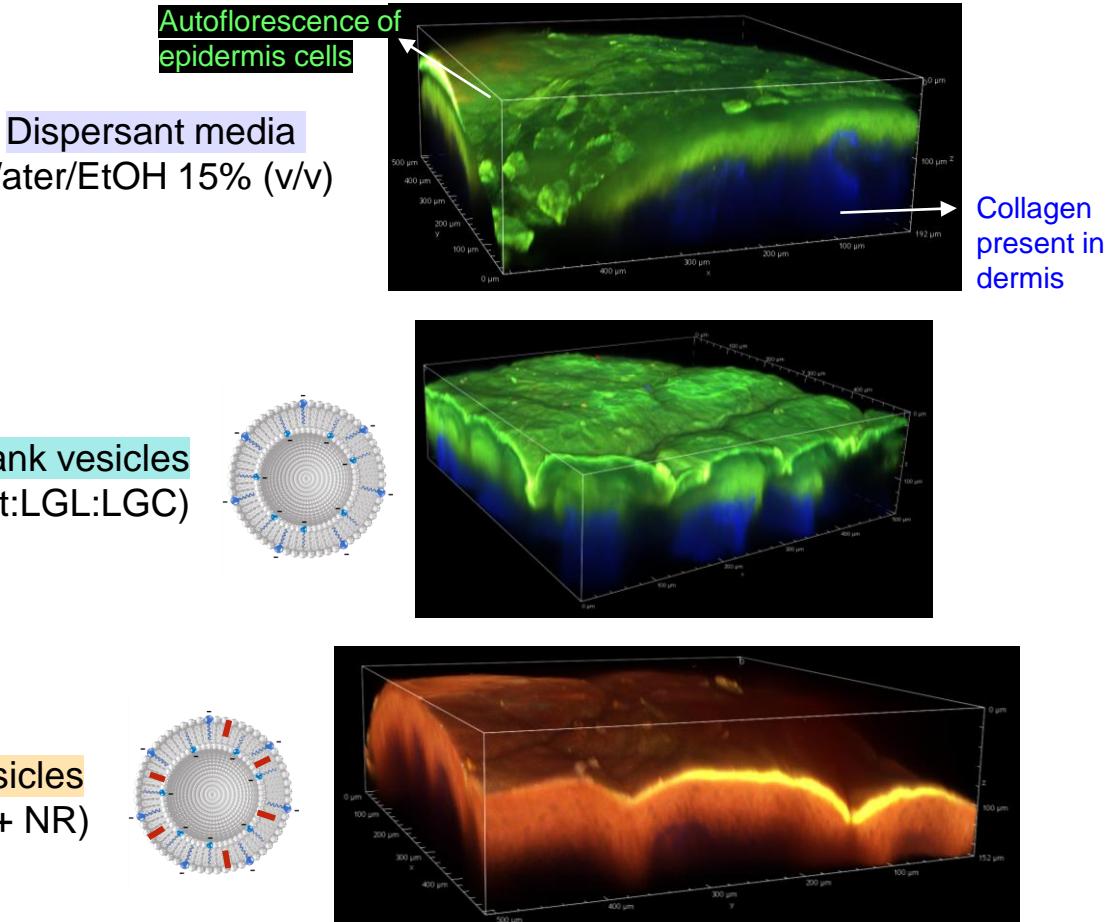
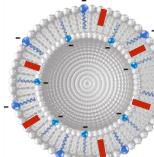
- Study permeation by fluorescence using Nile Red (NR) with Franz cells and multiphoton microscopy.



Analysis time = 6 h

Permeation of NR to epidermis, without reaching dermis.  
**SUITABLE FOR LOCAL TOPICAL ADMINISTRATION**

NR loaded vesicles  
(Sit:LGL:LGC + NR)

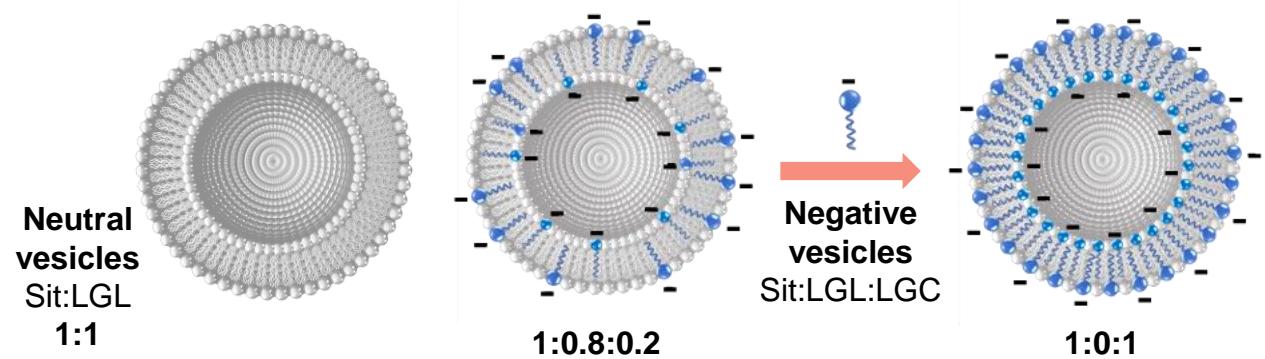




# TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- ✓ We report for the first time a tunable **delivery platform** using **plant-based membrane ingredients that self-assemble in stable small vesicles**.

*(Patent filed in August 2022)*

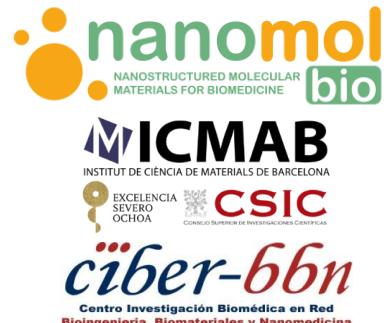


- ✓ Different kind of **actives, such as tocopherol, can be loaded in the Sit:LGL based vesicles** maintaining their function.
- ✓ The new delivery platform is **biocompatible and non-irritant** with the skin as demonstrated using an *in vitro 3D epidermal* model.
- ✓ These novel DELOS vesicles seem to help **actives to permeate through epidermis without reaching the dermis**, as shown in the *ex vivo* models using skin explants.
- ✓ Thus, this new delivery platform covers an unmet need for vegan patients and consumers in pharma and cosmetics.

# Thank you for your attention!



Any questions?



Department of Chemistry, Life Science and  
Environmental Sustainability

ADDRes Lab, Department of Food and Drug



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## Financial support



2020 DI 14



DIN2019-010396

PID2019-105622RDB-100



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 101007804".*



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