



INFORM 2020: Deconstructing the Role of Powder Agglomerates in Inhaled Powders

Darragh Murnane  
Centre for Research in Topical Drug Delivery & Toxicology

# INFORM 2020 – Molecules to Manufacture



EP/N025075/1 Academic investigators & commercial partners

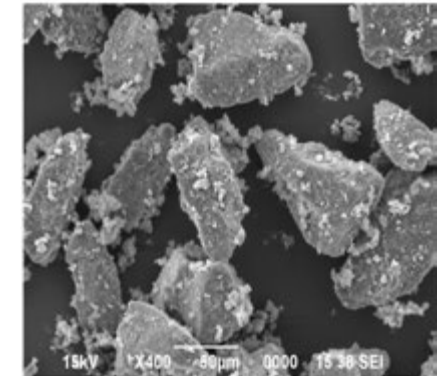
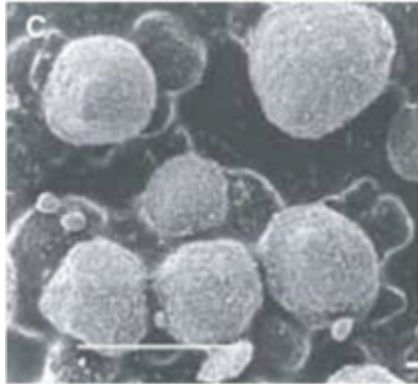
University of Hertfordshire **UH**



Tim Burnett, David Chau, Simon Connell, James Elliott, Robert Hammond, Victoria Hutter, Darragh Murnane, Robert Price, Kevin Roberts, Digby Symons, & Philip Withers



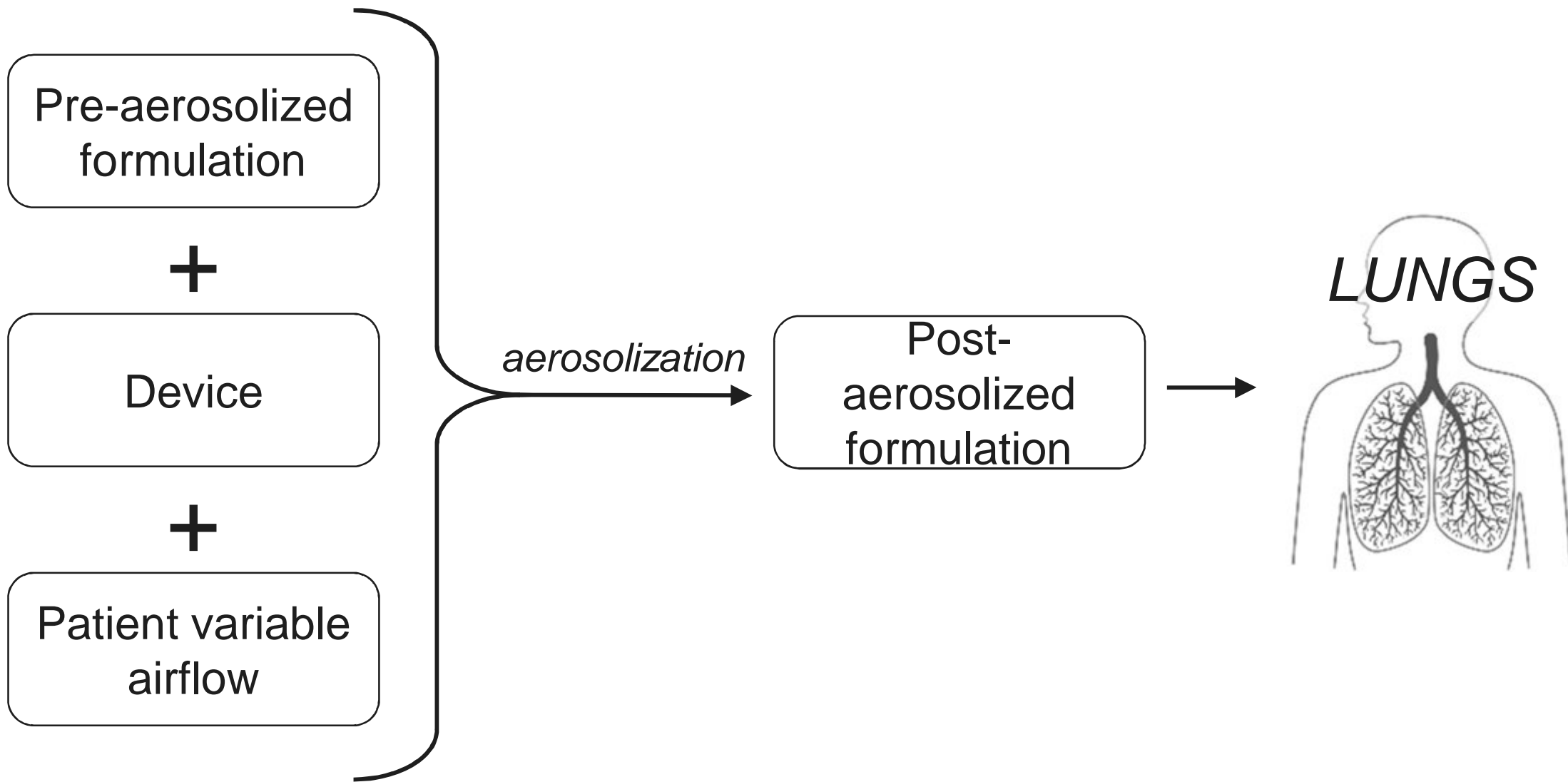
# The future formulation of inhaled therapies? INFORM 2020 – Molecules to Manufacture



Can we develop predictive models of formulation behaviour, manufacturing processes and aerosolization events to increase understanding of product performance, and stability in order to accelerate development?

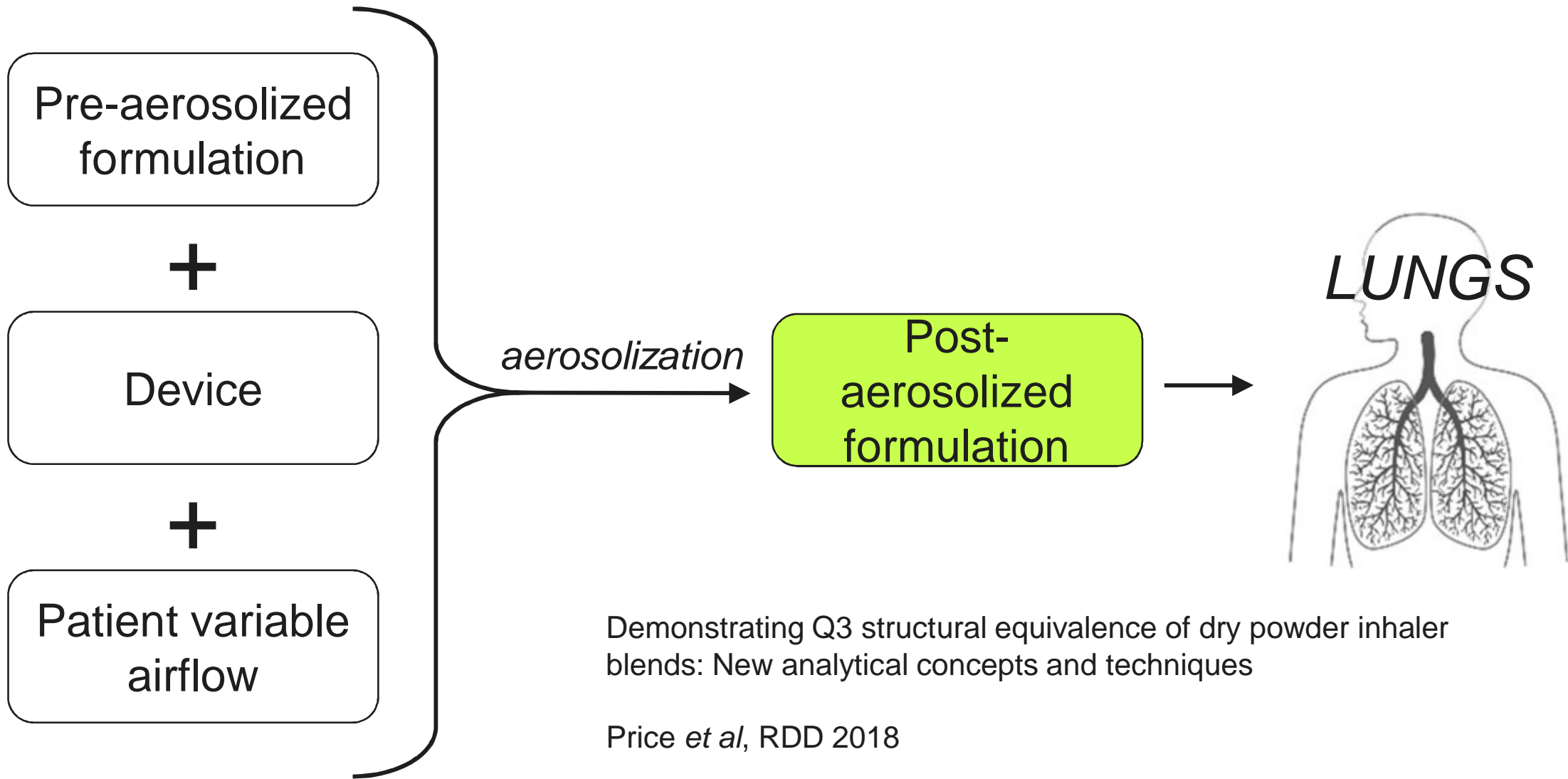
# Factors determining inhaled product bioavailability

## Combination drug formulation & device products



# Factors determining inhaled product bioavailability

## Characterising aerosol product performance impacts on bioavailability

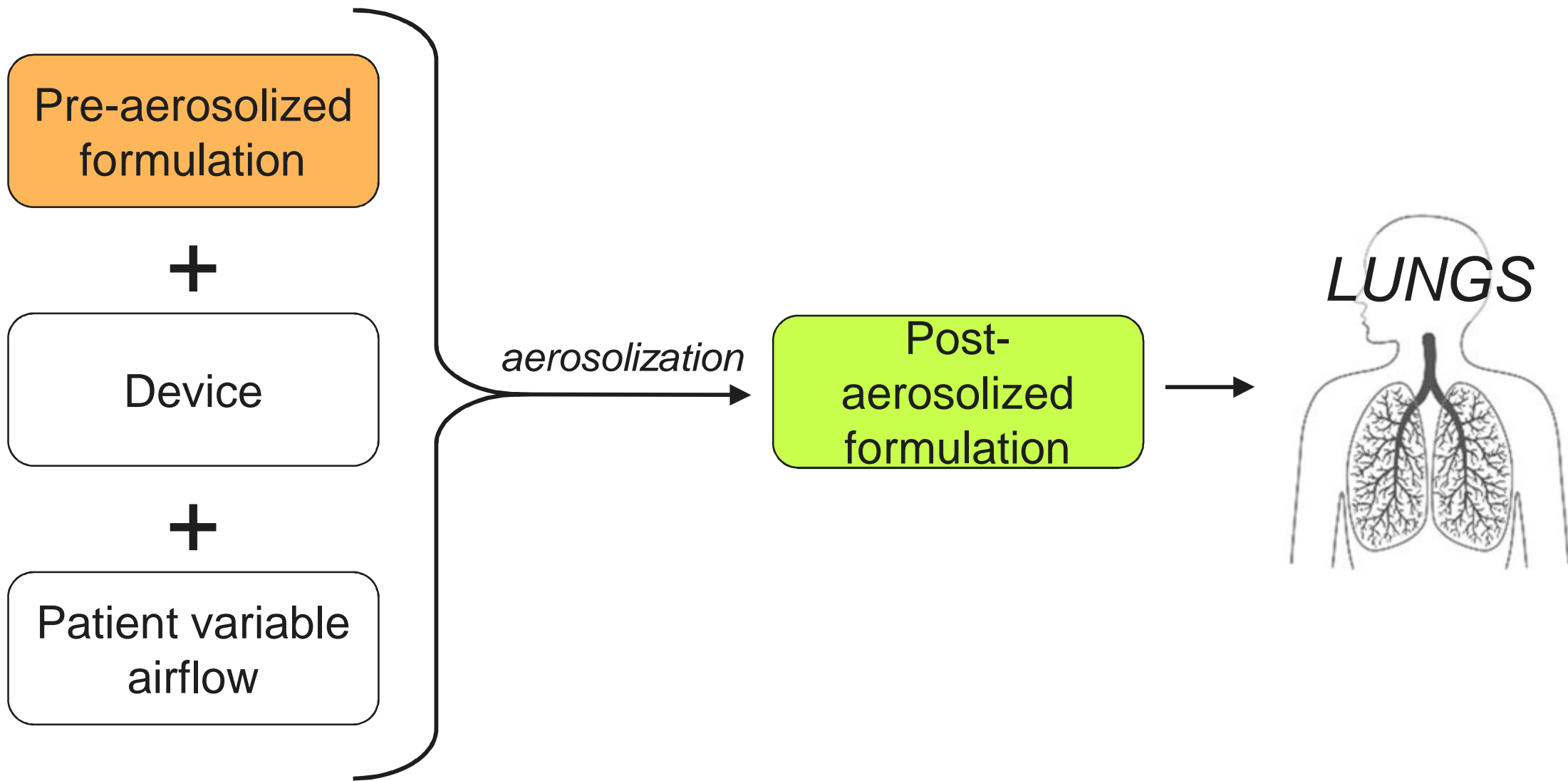


Demonstrating Q3 structural equivalence of dry powder inhaler blends: New analytical concepts and techniques

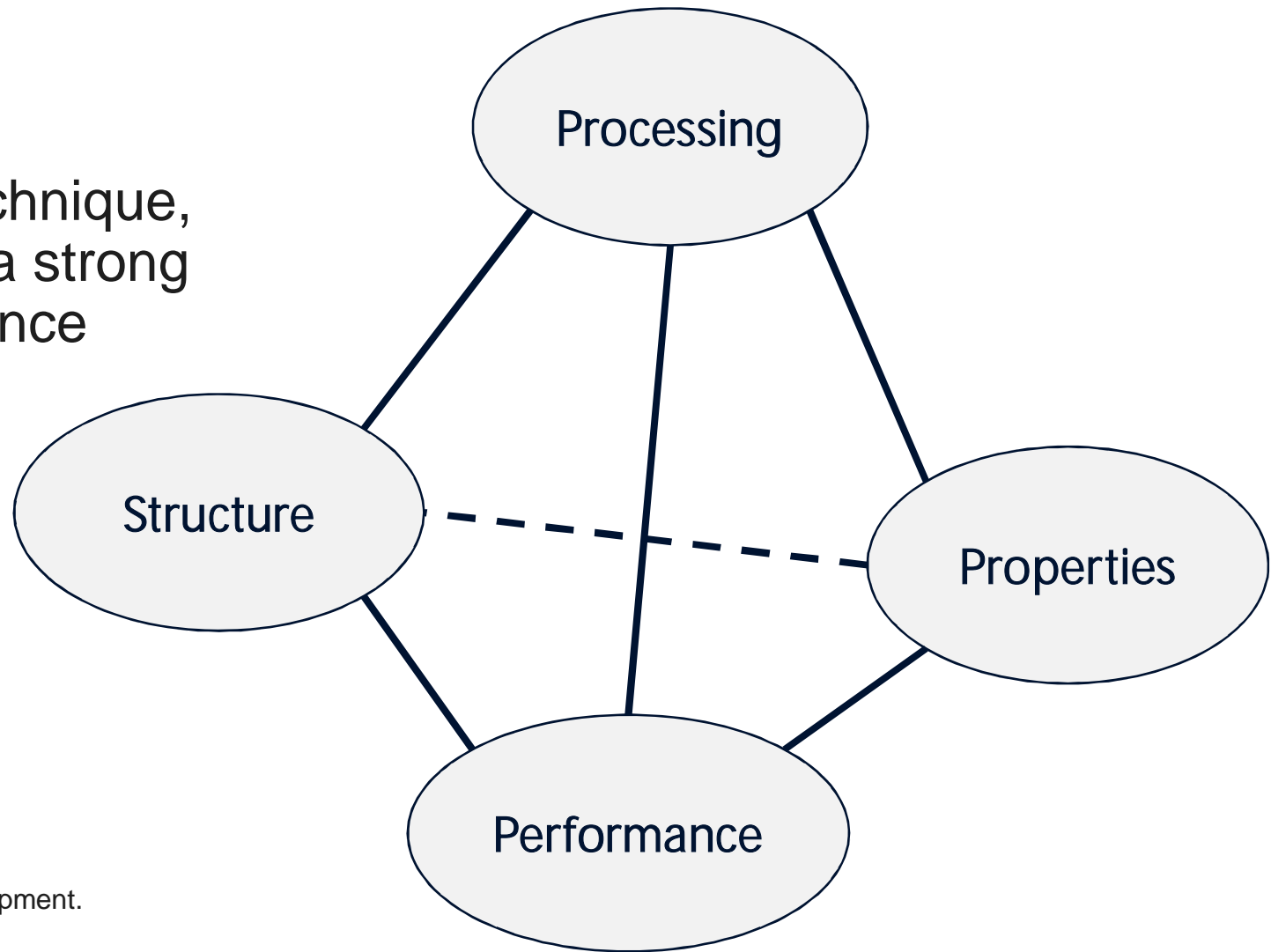
Price *et al*, RDD 2018

# Factors determining inhaled product bioavailability

## What links the manufactured product & aerosolization performance?



Even with good patient technique, formulation structure has a strong influence on performance



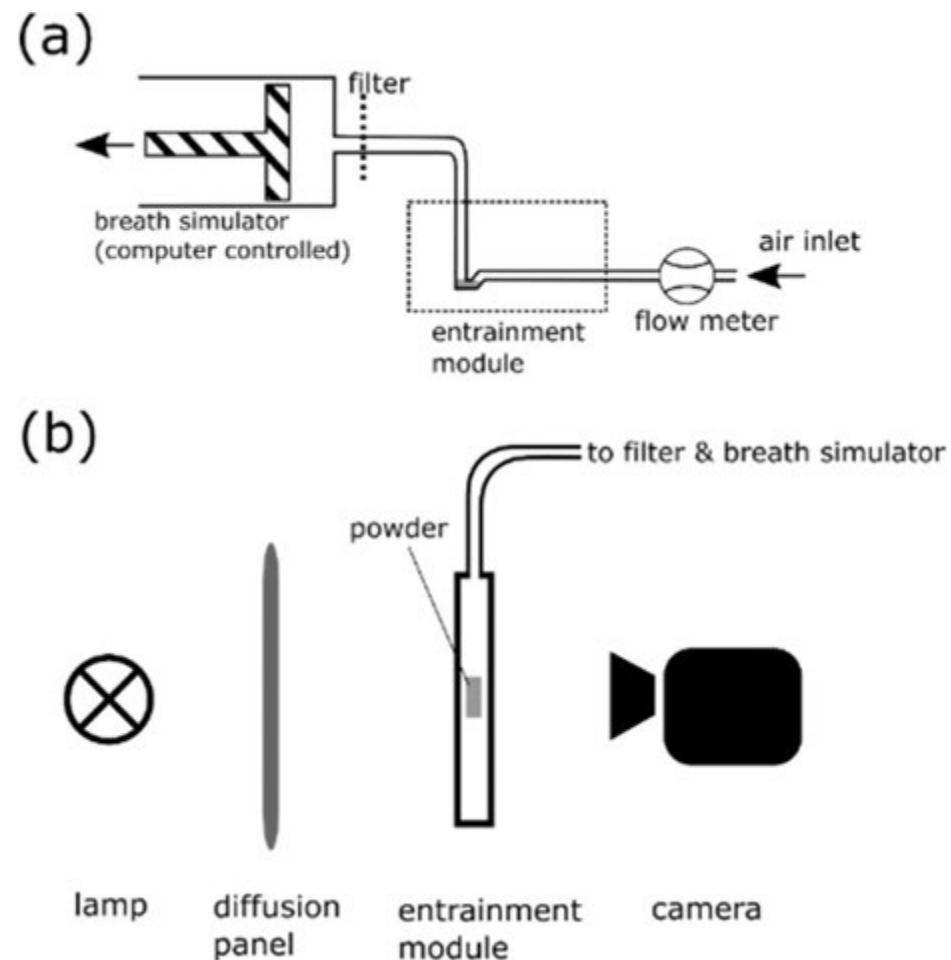
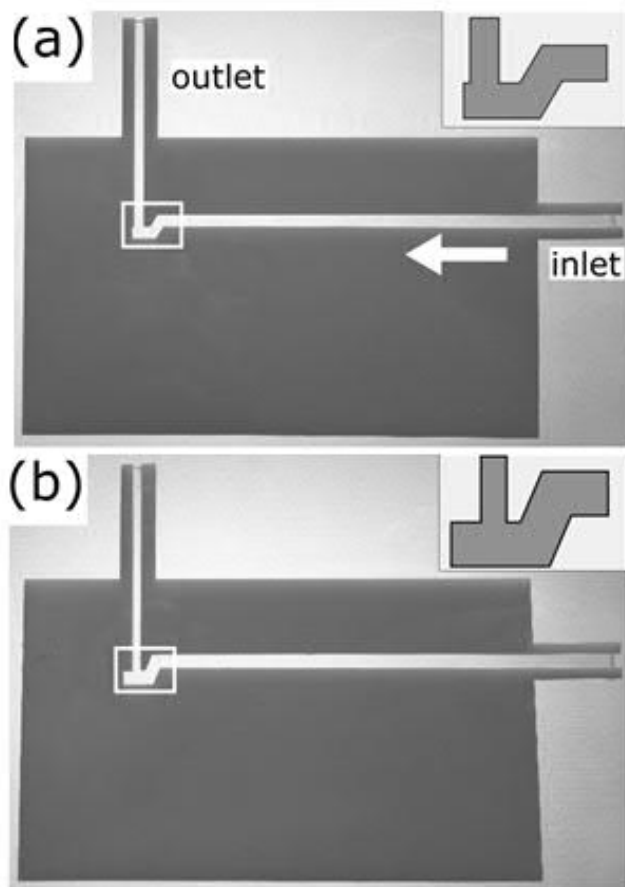
Sun, C.C. Materials Science Tetrahedron—  
A Useful Tool for Pharmaceutical Research and Development.  
*J. Pharm. Sci.* **2009**, *98*, 1671–1687.

# Examining the inhalation behaviour of powders

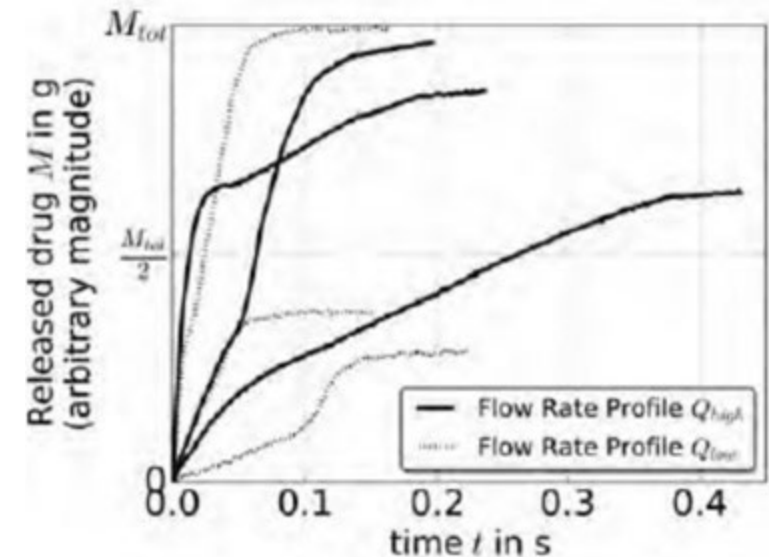
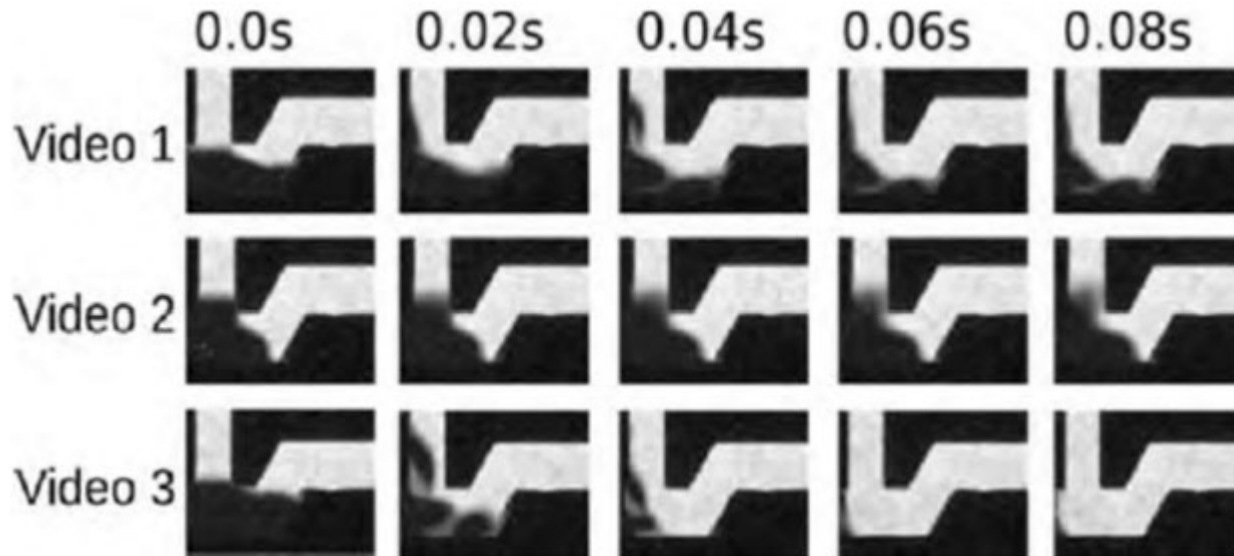


# Aerosolization studies and inhaler design for DPIs

## Experimental studies of high density powder fluidization



Kopsch et al. (2018) Int. J. Pharm. 553: 37-46

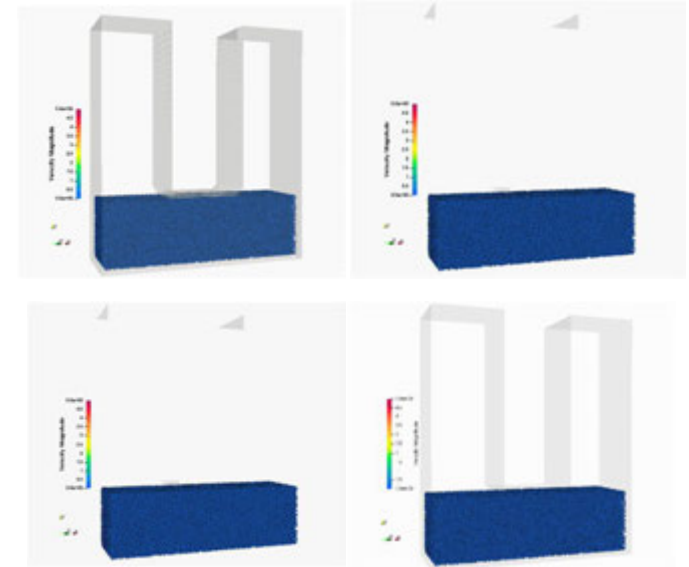
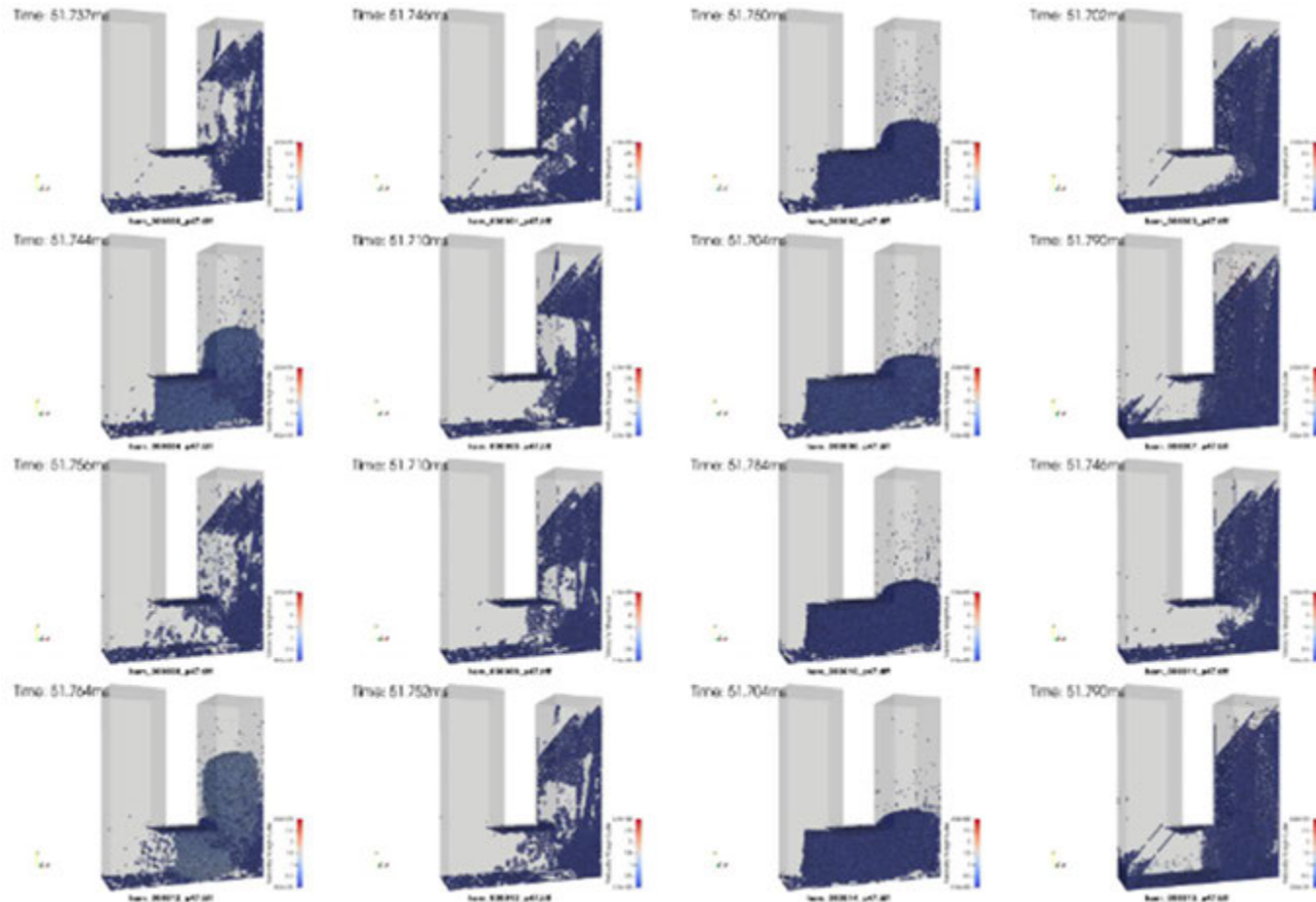


See highly chaotic and variable fluidization for lactose mixtures containing a significant portion of fine particles. What governs the powder cohesion?

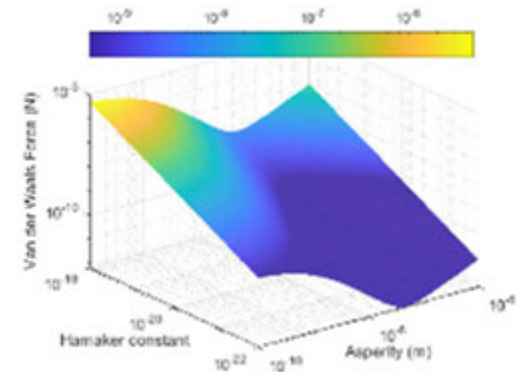
Kopsch et al. (2018) Int. J. Pharm. 553: 37-46

# CFD of DPI emission: Model input parameterization

## Is it possible to link material properties during product development?



Simulation results



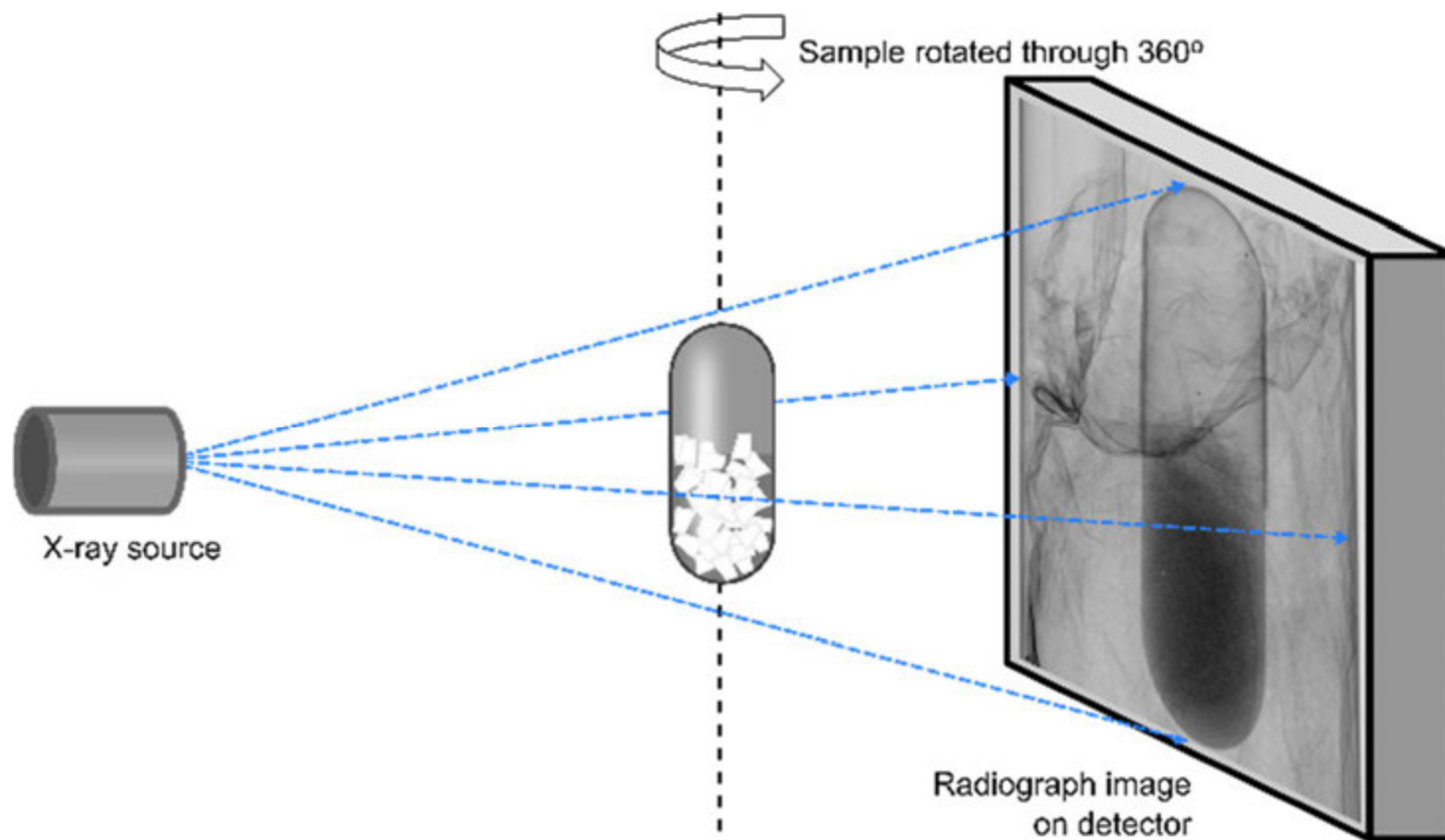
Sensitivity analysis

Batch design-of-experiment simulation cases: with varying Hamaker constant and particle asperity. Is it possible to include accurate powder structures and cohesive force balances?

# Approaches to measuring formulation properties and structure on inhalation powder performance

# Deconstructing the powder microstructure

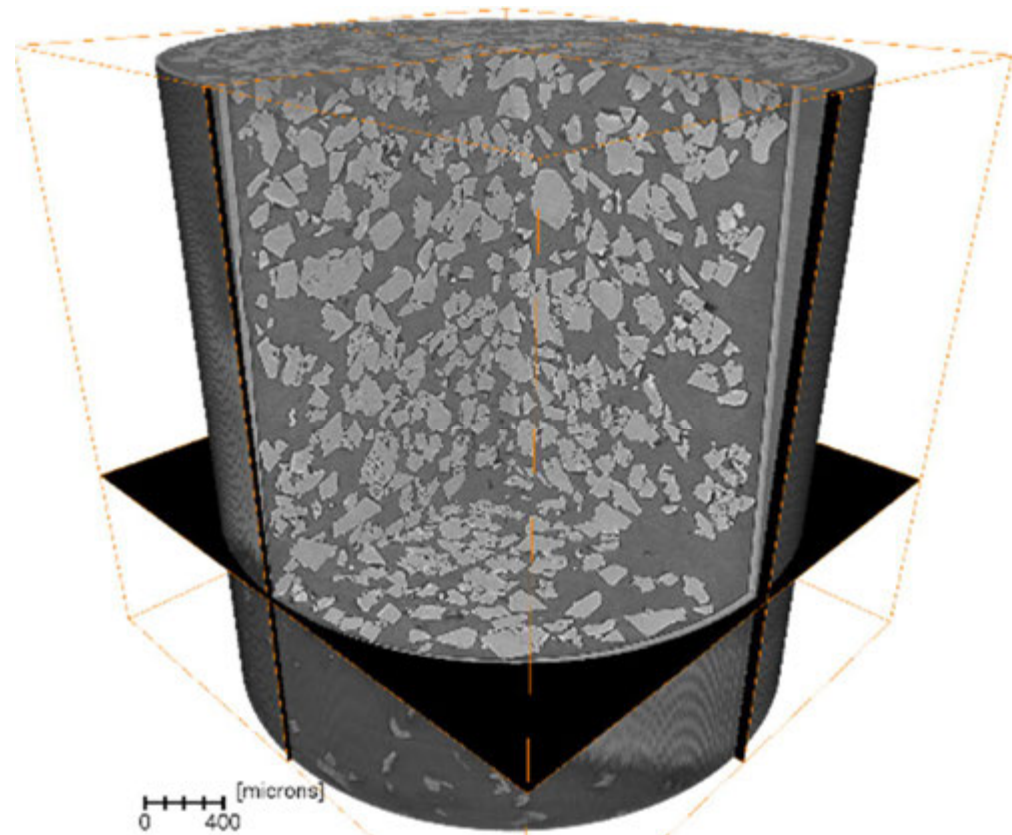
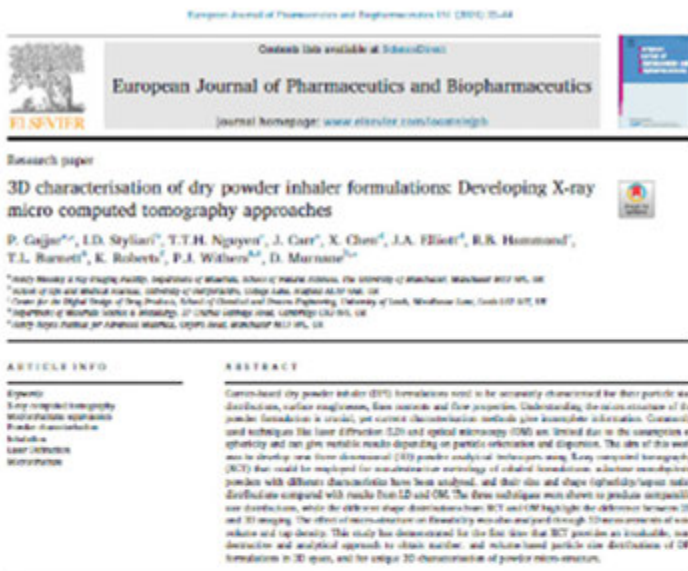
## X-ray tomographical insight into inhaled pharmaceuticals



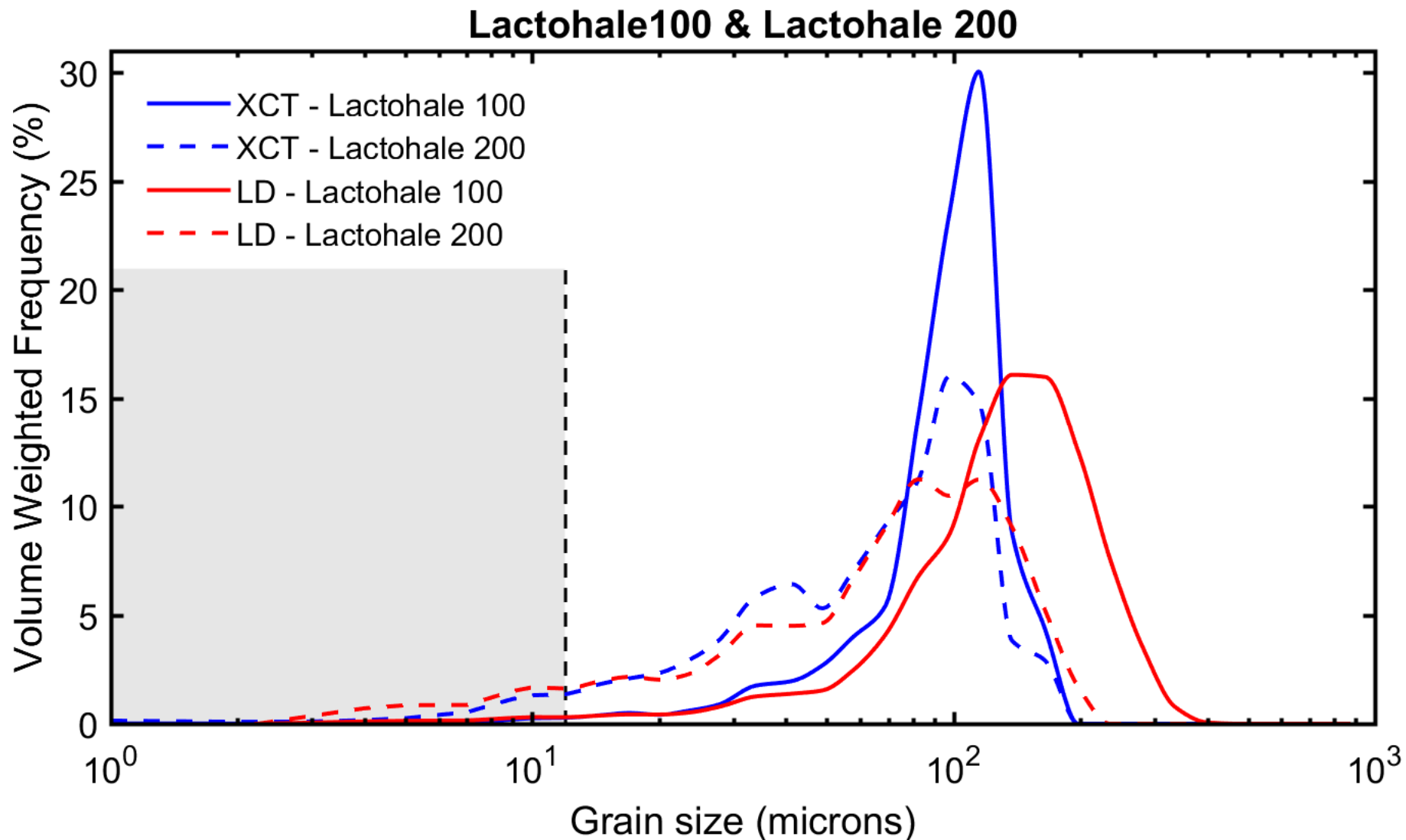
Gajjar, P. et al Eur. J. Pharm. Biopharm.  
Open Access: DOI 10.1016/j.ejpb.2020.02.013

# Deconstructing the powder microstructure

## X-ray tomographical insight into inhaled pharmaceuticals



3D Characterisation of Dry Powder Inhaler Formulations: Developing X-ray Micro Computed Tomography Approaches  
 Gajjar, P. et al *Eur. J. Pharm. Biopharm.*  
 Open Access: DOI [10.1016/j.ejpb.2020.02.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejpb.2020.02.013)



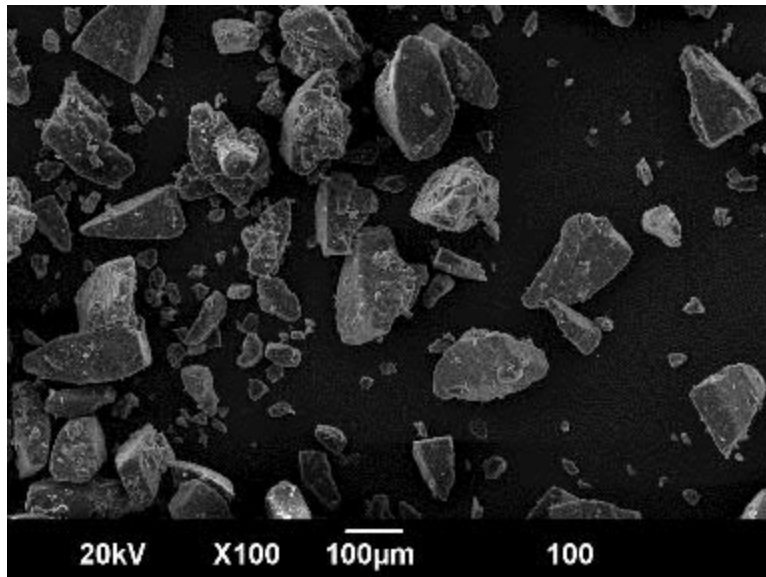
# Deconstructing powder agglomerates and formulation components



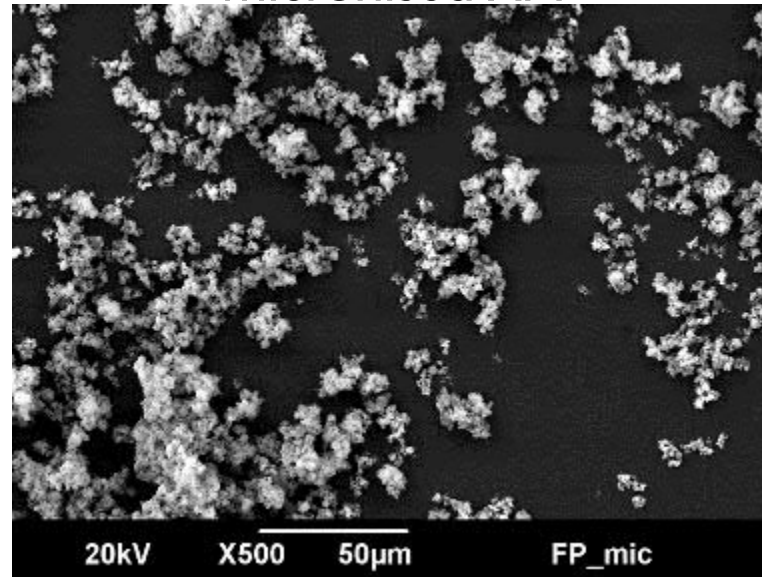
# Characterisation of typical DPI formulated products

## Formulation components in 2 dimensions

Lactose (Carrier)

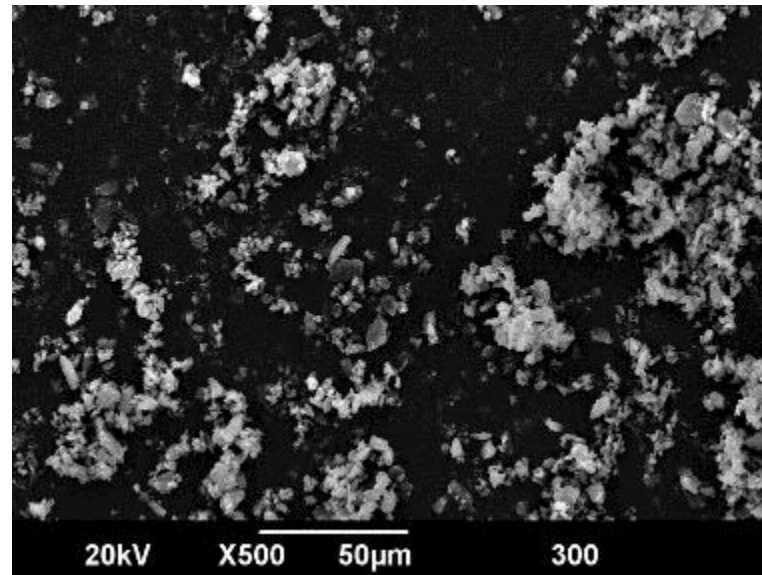


Micronised API



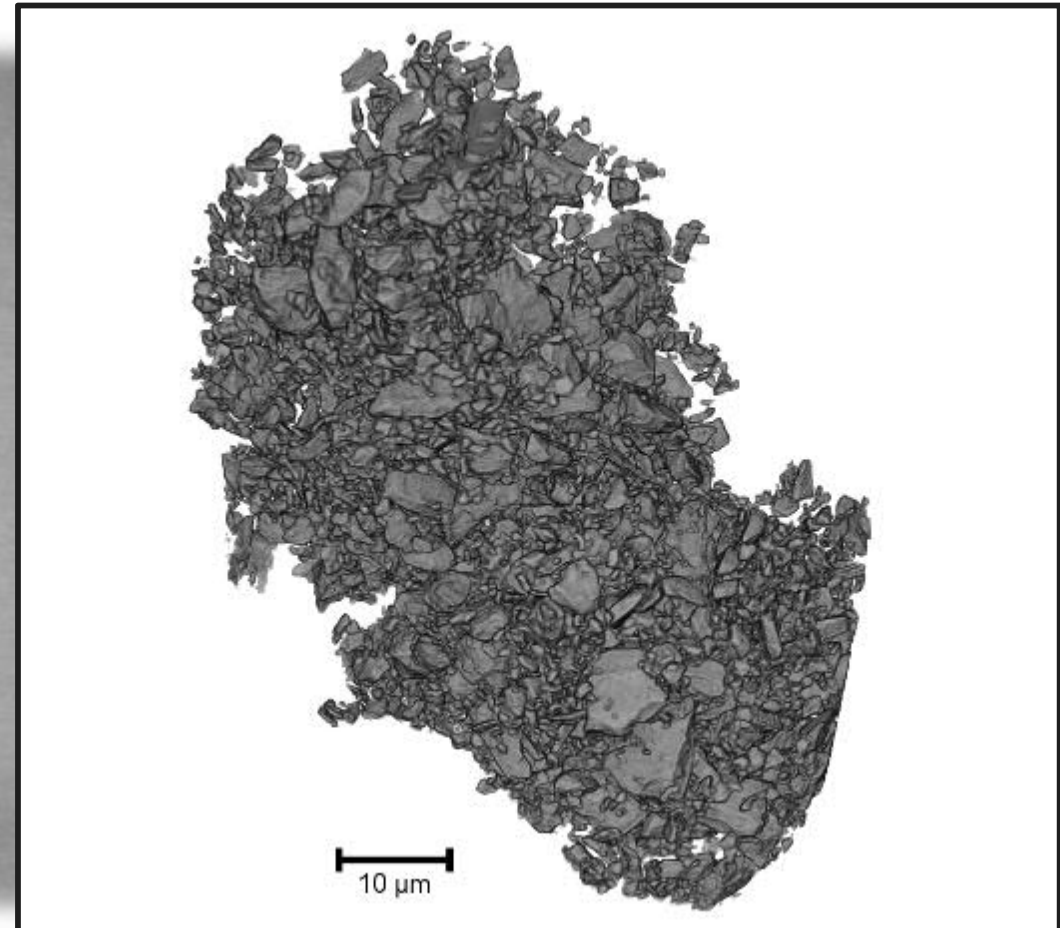
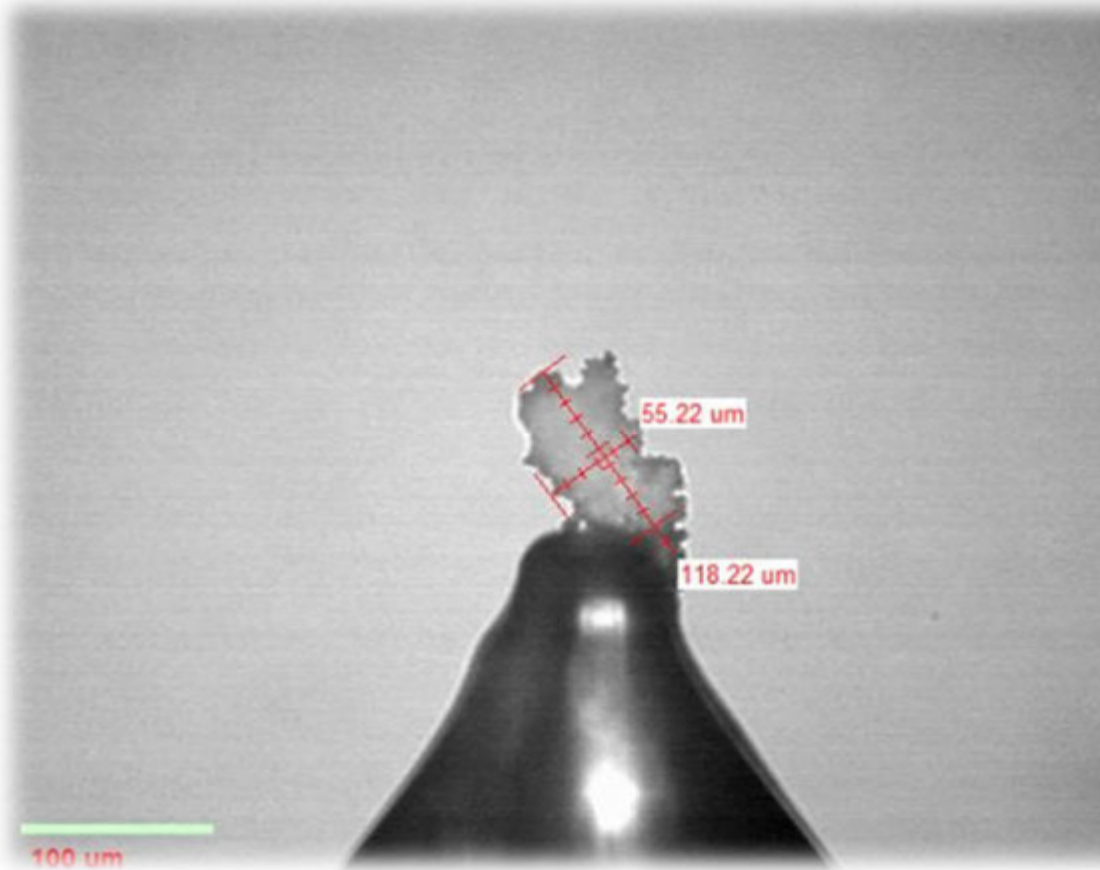
+

Micronised lactose



# Nano-scale XRM with Zeiss Ultra

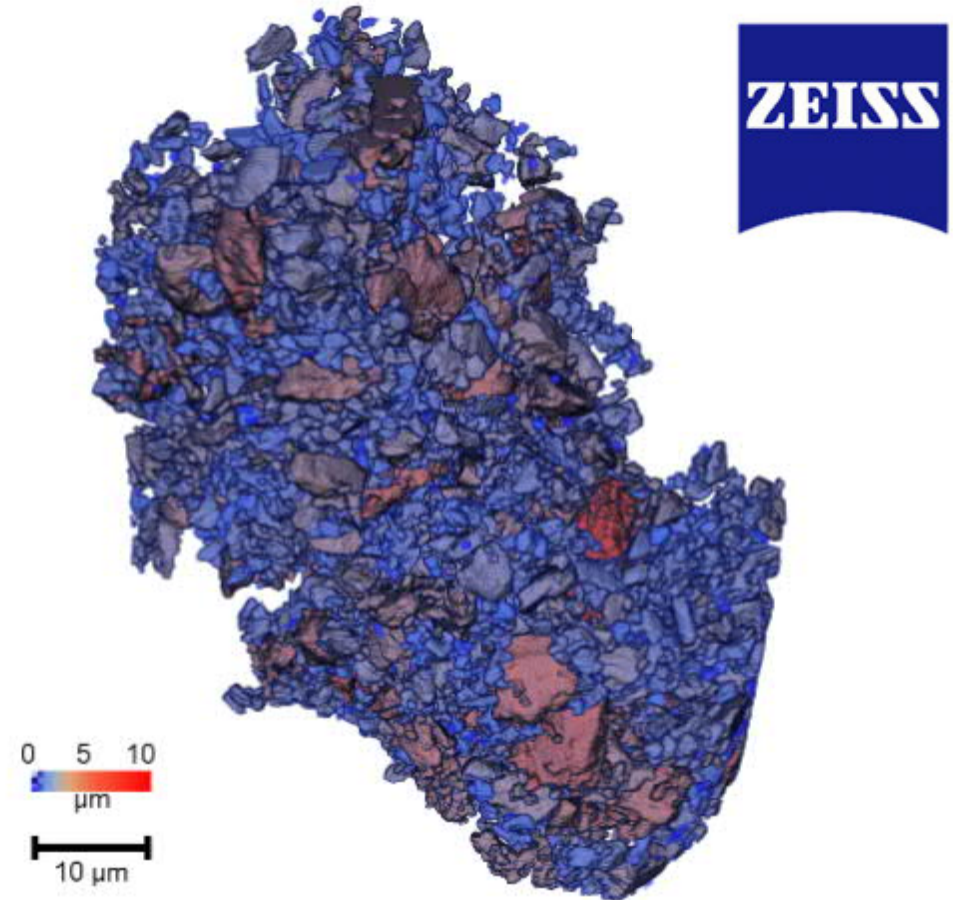
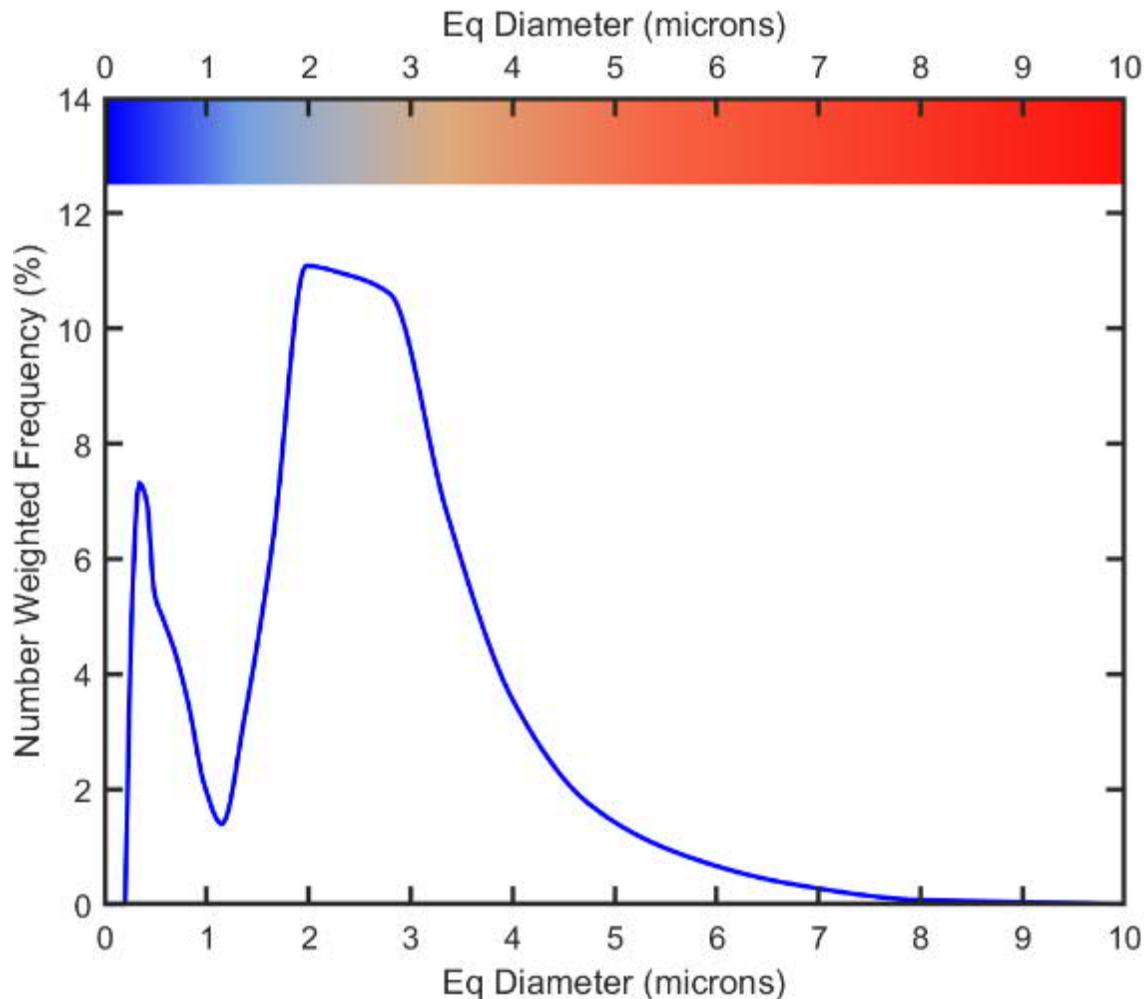
## Deconstructing the agglomerates found in powders



Parmesh Gajjar, Hrishikesh Bale et al., Digital RDD 2020 – Unlocking the Microstructure of Inhalation Blends Using X-Ray Microscopy

# Nano-scale measurements of micronized lactose

## Non-destructive determination of agglomerate properties



Accurate determination of porosity:  
LH300: 71.1% ± 0.7%

## Realistic inhalation blends

Excipient: Lactohale 100

Drug: Micronised Fluticasone Propionate

Mixing: Picomix® high shear mixer module, 1000 rpm, 2 min

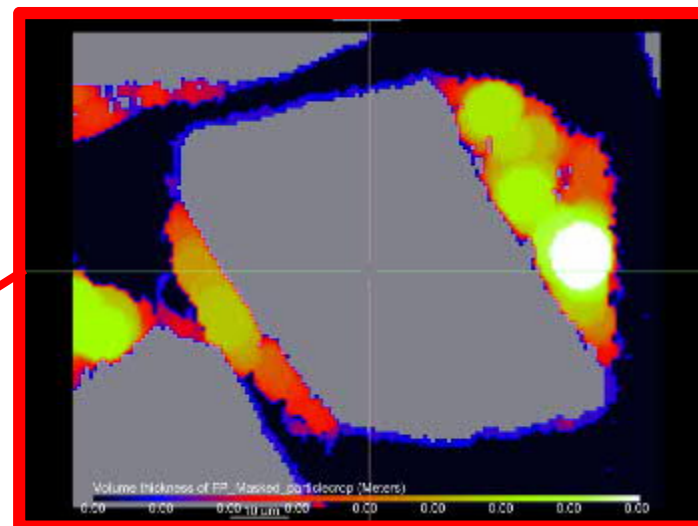
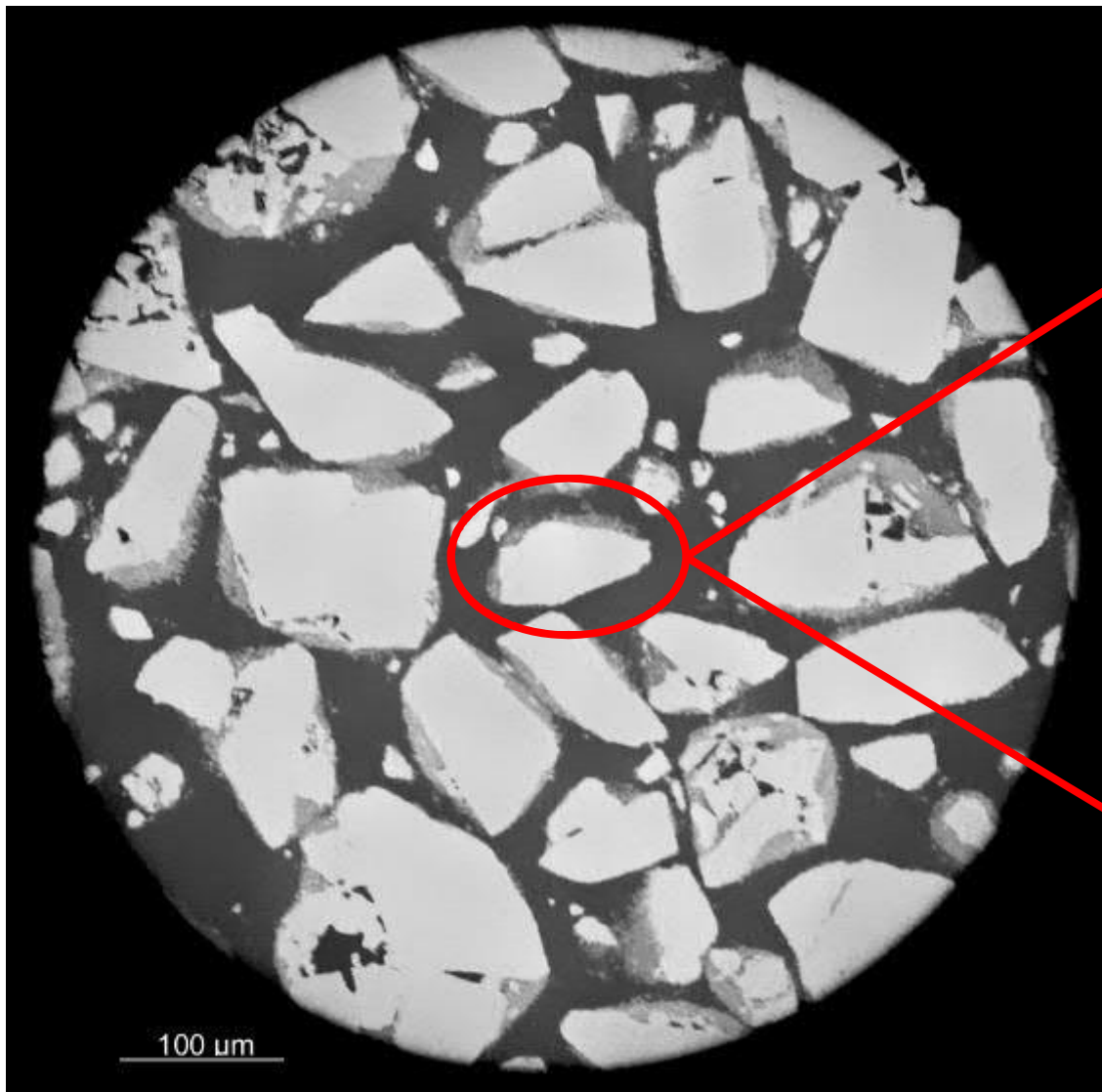
Ratio: 10% w/w of API

# Deconstructing agglomerates in inhalation powders

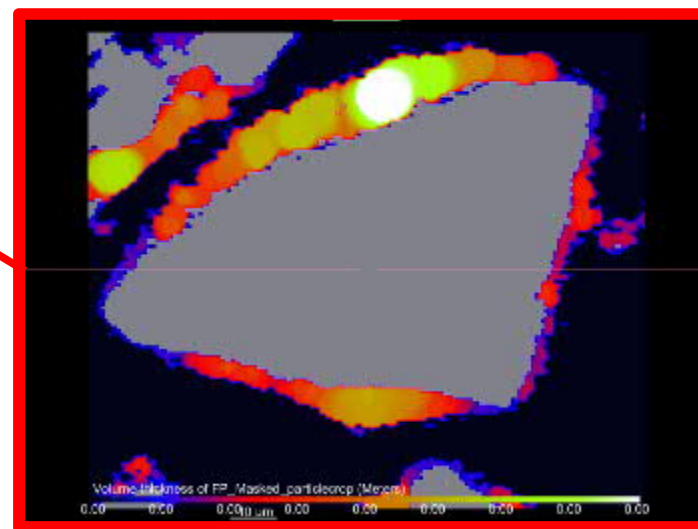


Engineering and  
Physical Sciences  
Research Council

## Measuring the location of the micronized agglomerates/particles



Differential  
coating on  
different  
facets



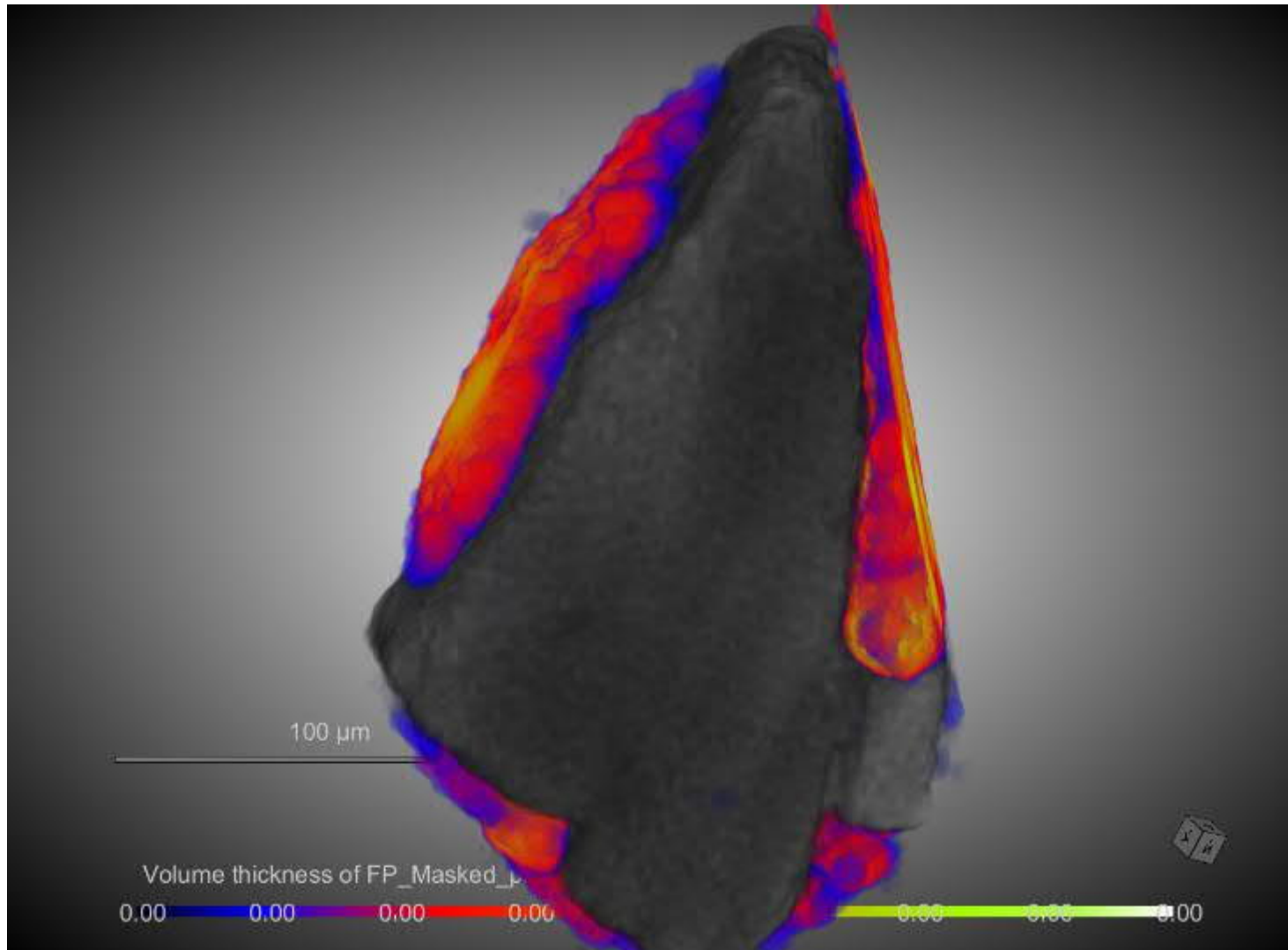
(Slightly  
different slices  
of same  
particle in  
zoomed in  
section  
shown)

# Deconstructing agglomerates in inhalation powders



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Physical Sciences  
Research Council

## Measuring the location of the micronized agglomerates/particles



University of  
Hertfordshire **UH**

Parmesh Gajjar, Hrishikesh Bale et al., Digital RDD 2020 –  
Unlocking the Microstructure of Inhalation Blends Using X-Ray  
Microscopy

Darragh Murnane | Future Formulation IV | Deconstructing Powder Agglomerates |



# Deconstructing agglomerates in inhalation powders

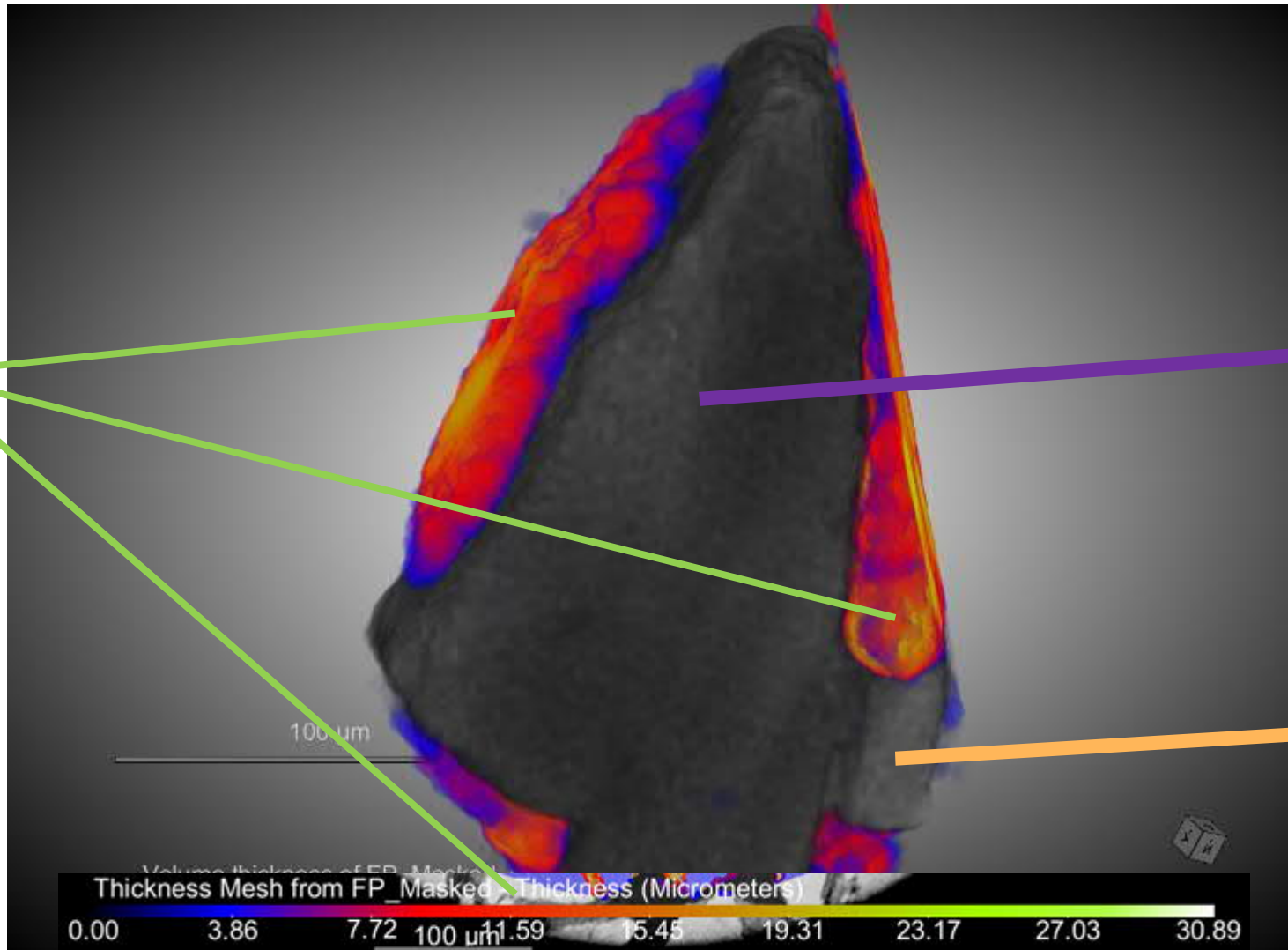


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## Measuring the location of the micronized agglomerates/particles



Significant  
amounts of  
mFP on  
these  
facets



Less mFP  
on this  
facet

Smaller  
lactose  
particle

Is it possible to identify to which particle surfaces the drug particles adhere in a formulation?

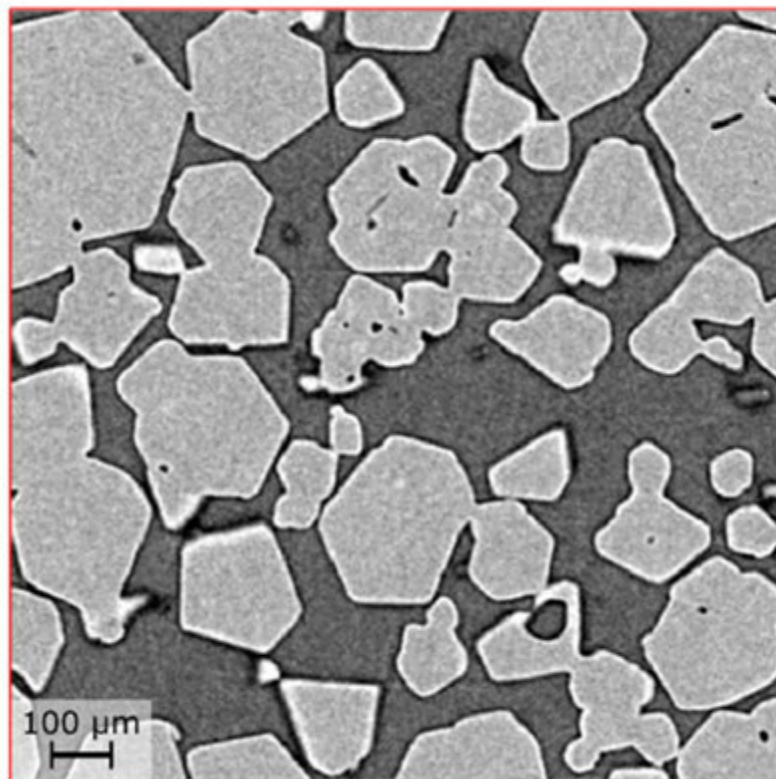


# Direct measurement of powder crystallography

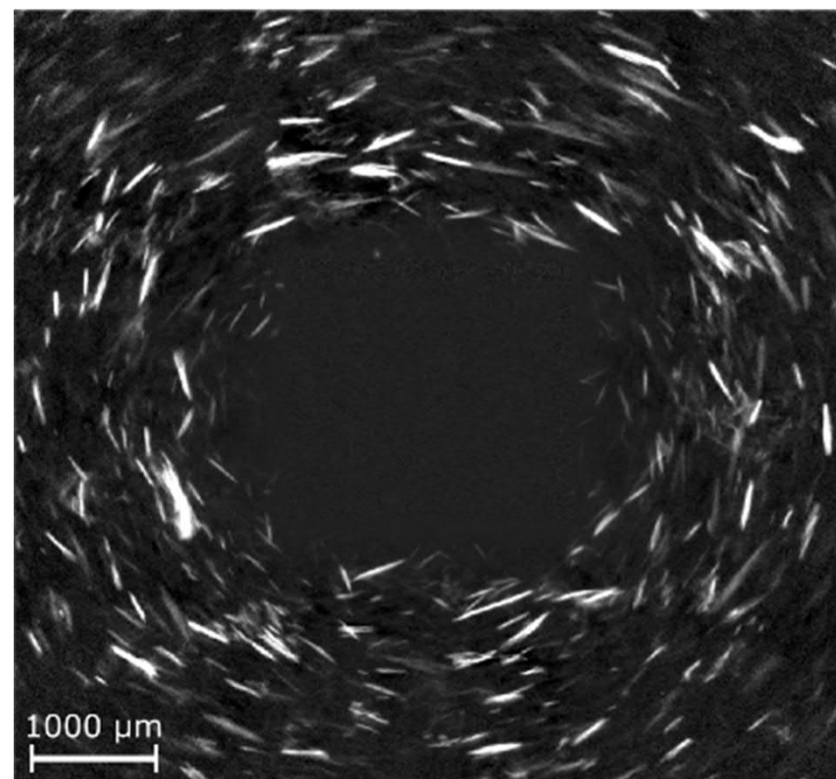


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## Laboratory diffraction contrast tomography Xray Microscopy



Absorption Mask

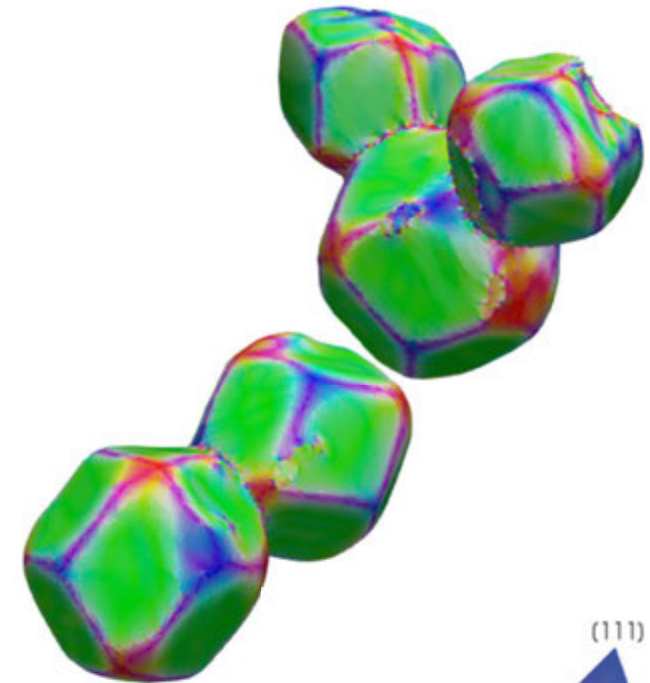


Diffraction Spots

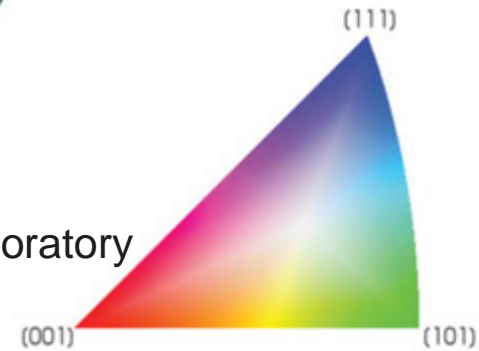
Hrishikesh Bale, Jun Sun, et al. Digital RDD 2020 Poster - Laboratory Diffraction Contrast Tomography

# Laboratory diffraction contrast tomography

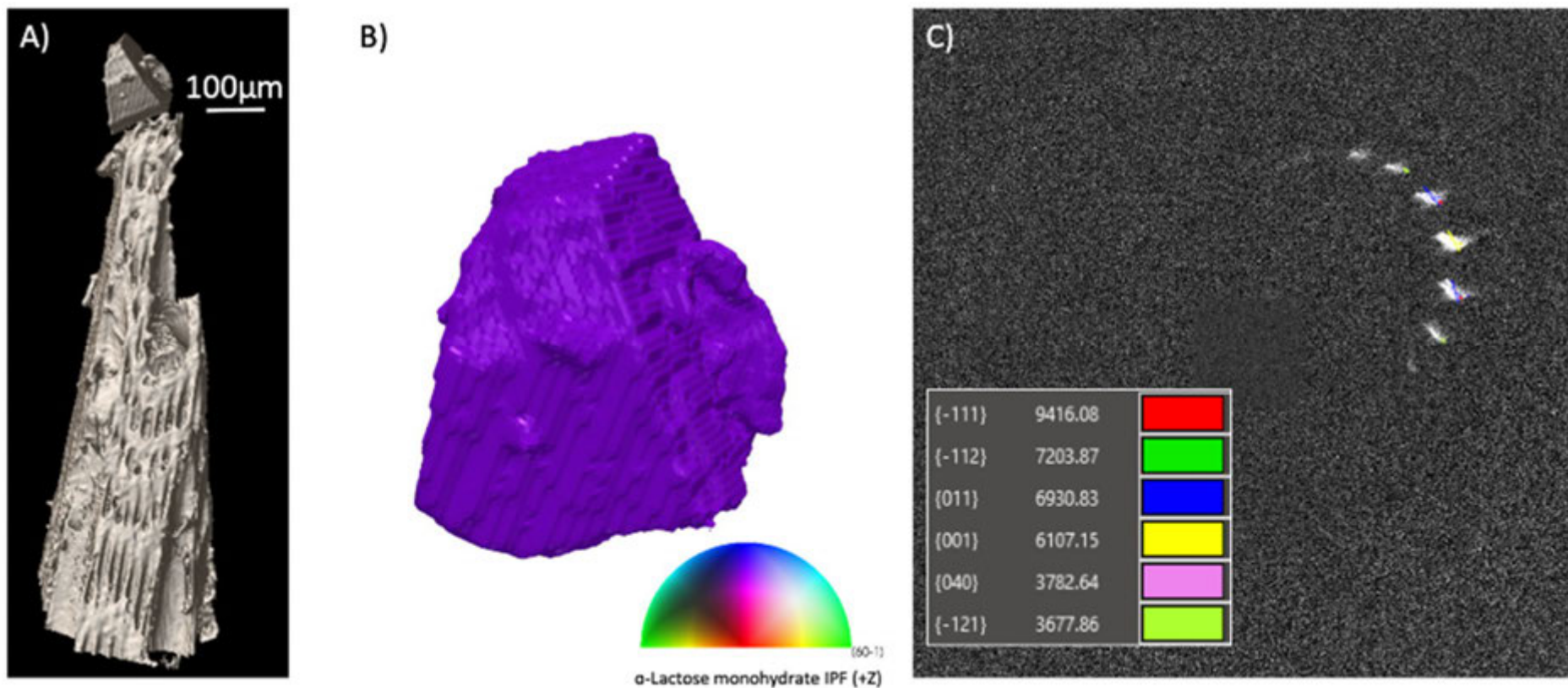
## Hexamine as a model power



Hrishikesh Bale, Jun Sun, et al. Digital RDD 2020 Poster - Laboratory Diffraction Contrast Tomography



# Laboratory diffraction contrast tomography $\alpha$ -Lactose Monohydrate

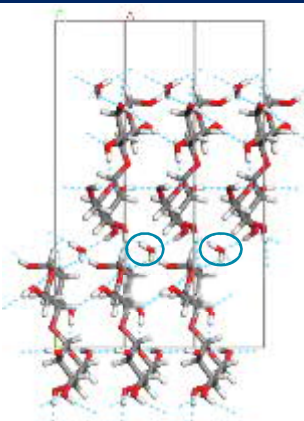


Hrishikesh Bale, Jun Sun, et al. Digital RDD 2020 Poster - Laboratory  
Diffraction Contrast Tomography

Is it possible to identify cohesive or adhesive force balances within those formulations?

# Crystallographic structure particle property predictions

## $\alpha$ -Lactose Monohydrate

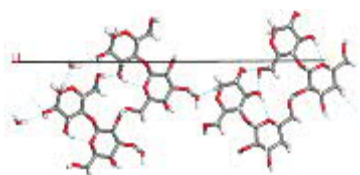


C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>11</sub>.H<sub>2</sub>O  
LACTOS11

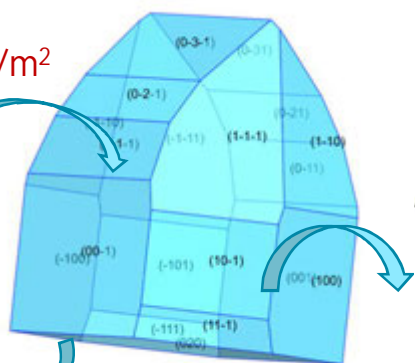
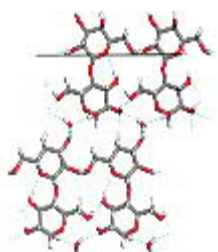
$a = 4.78$ ;  $b = 21.54$ ;  $c = 7.76$   
 $\beta = 105.91^\circ$ ;  $V = 768.8$

Face {hkl}	$E_{att}$ (kcal/mol)	Dispersive SE (mJ/m <sup>2</sup> )	Total SE (mJ/m <sup>2</sup> )
{020}	-13.64	71.64	82.90
{001}	-16.79	70.96	82.59
{01-1}	-20.4	83.81	96.73
{02-1}	-23.87	80.82	92.64
{031}	-27.07	77.87	89.54
{100}	-20.67	55.39	63.83
{1-10}	-22.14	58.21	66.97
{10-1}	-20.37	51.61	58.26
{1-20}	-23.96	59.32	68.23

{0-31}  
Surface Energy (SE): 84.21 mJ/m<sup>2</sup>



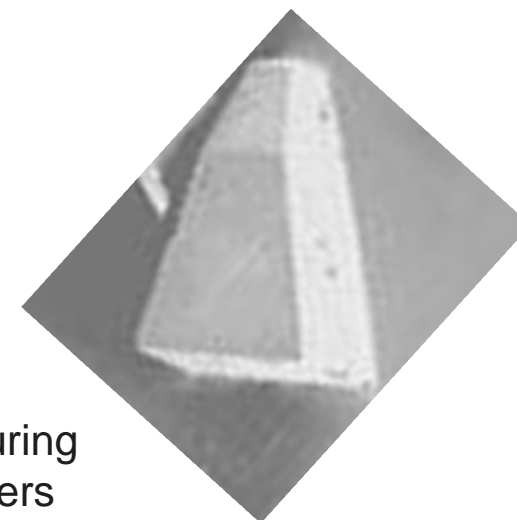
{020}: 77.96 mJ/m<sup>2</sup>



{100}: 59.1 mJ/m<sup>2</sup>



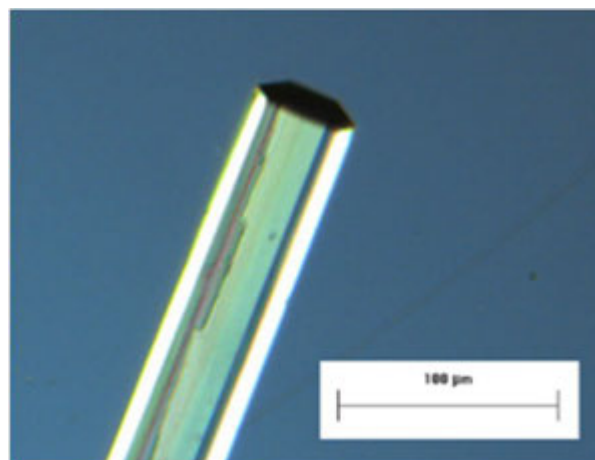
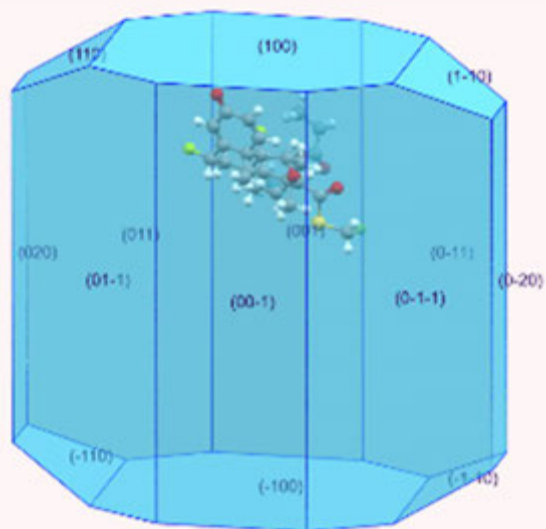
**Calculated SE for LMH: 73.69 mJ/m<sup>2</sup> (Dispersive: 64 mJ/m<sup>2</sup>)**



Styliari, Nguyen et al. Digital RDD 2020 Poster - On Measuring the Specific Surface Area of inhalation-grade lactose powders

# Crystallographic structure particle property predictions

## Fluticasone propionate

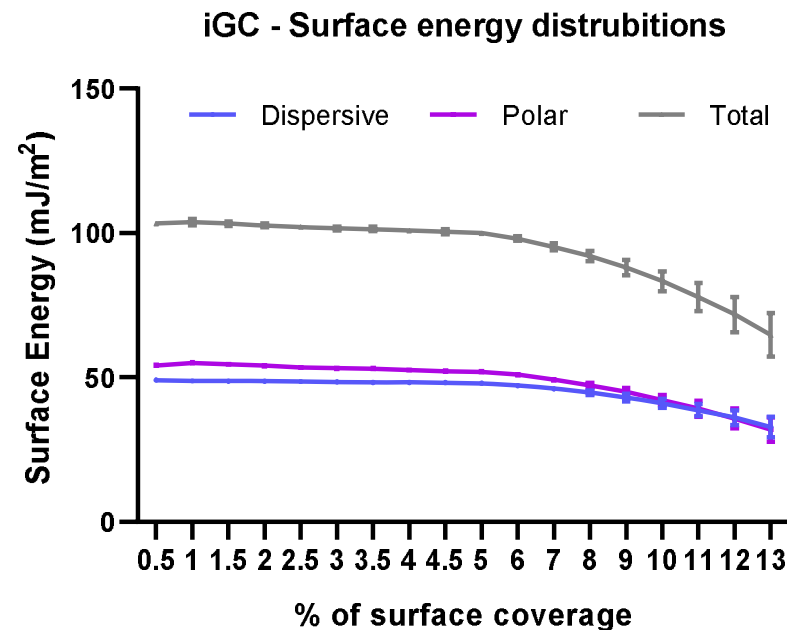
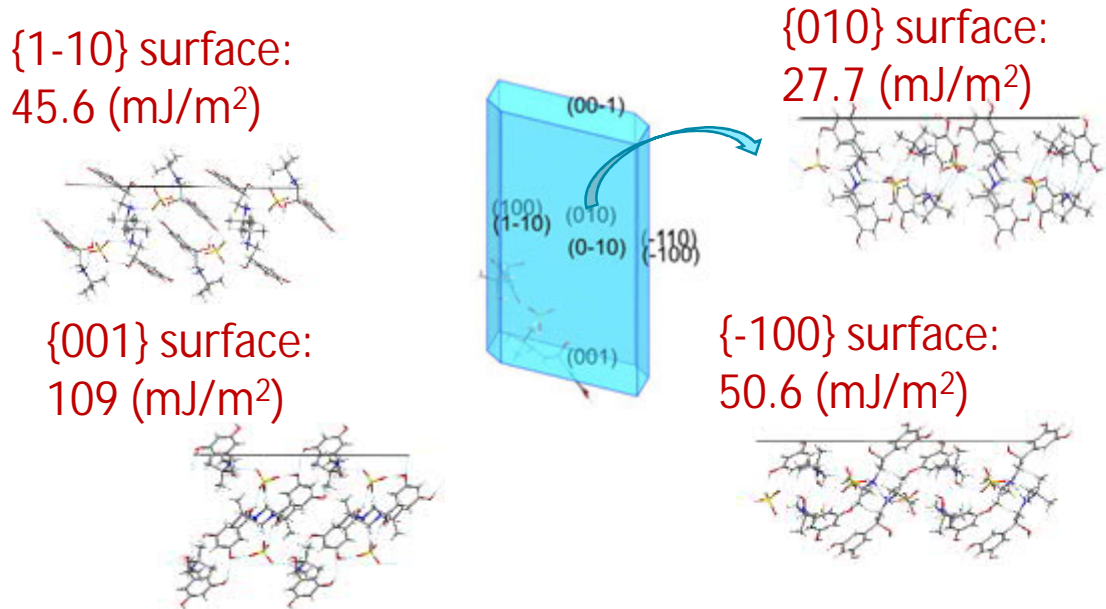


Face {hkl}	Surface Area (%)	Total SE (mJ/m <sup>2</sup> )
{011}	22.3	9.63
{0-11}	22.3	9.63
{100}	23.0	10.83
{001}	17.1	11.38

Vivian Walter Barron, Robert B Hammond et al., Digital RDD 2020 Poster on the Podium – Modelling Intermolecular Interactions between Solid and Liquid Components of pMDI Suspension Formulations

# Crystallographic structure particle property predictions

Terbutaline Sulphate: Nguyen, et al., CrystEngComm. 2020 In Press



Surface energy	Dispersive SE (mJ/m <sup>2</sup> )	Total SE (mJ/m <sup>2</sup> )
Surface energy (weighting % surface area)	28.27	48.2
Igc Surface energy surface coverage [0.05-0.8]	49.1 – 44.7	103.3 – 92.1

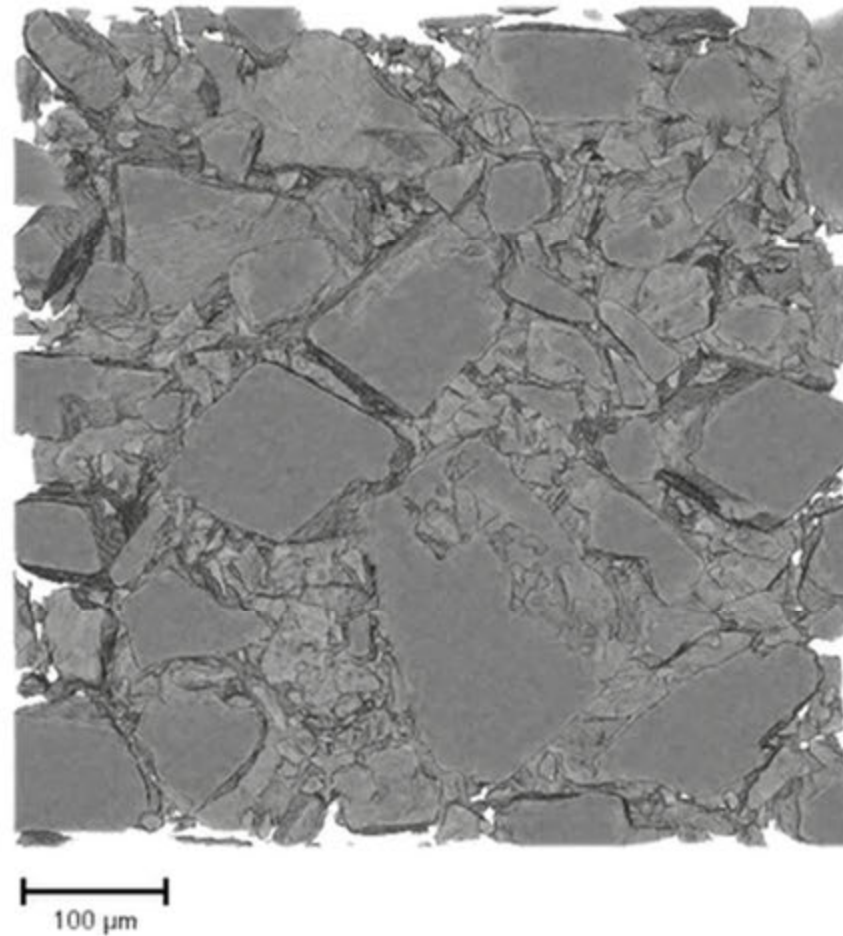
Nguyen, Hammond et al. Digital RDD 2020 Poster - Molecular Synthon Modelling of Inhalation Pharmaceuticals: A Digital Approach to Understanding and Engineering Particle Surface Interactions

# Reconstructing inhalation blends of powder agglomerates



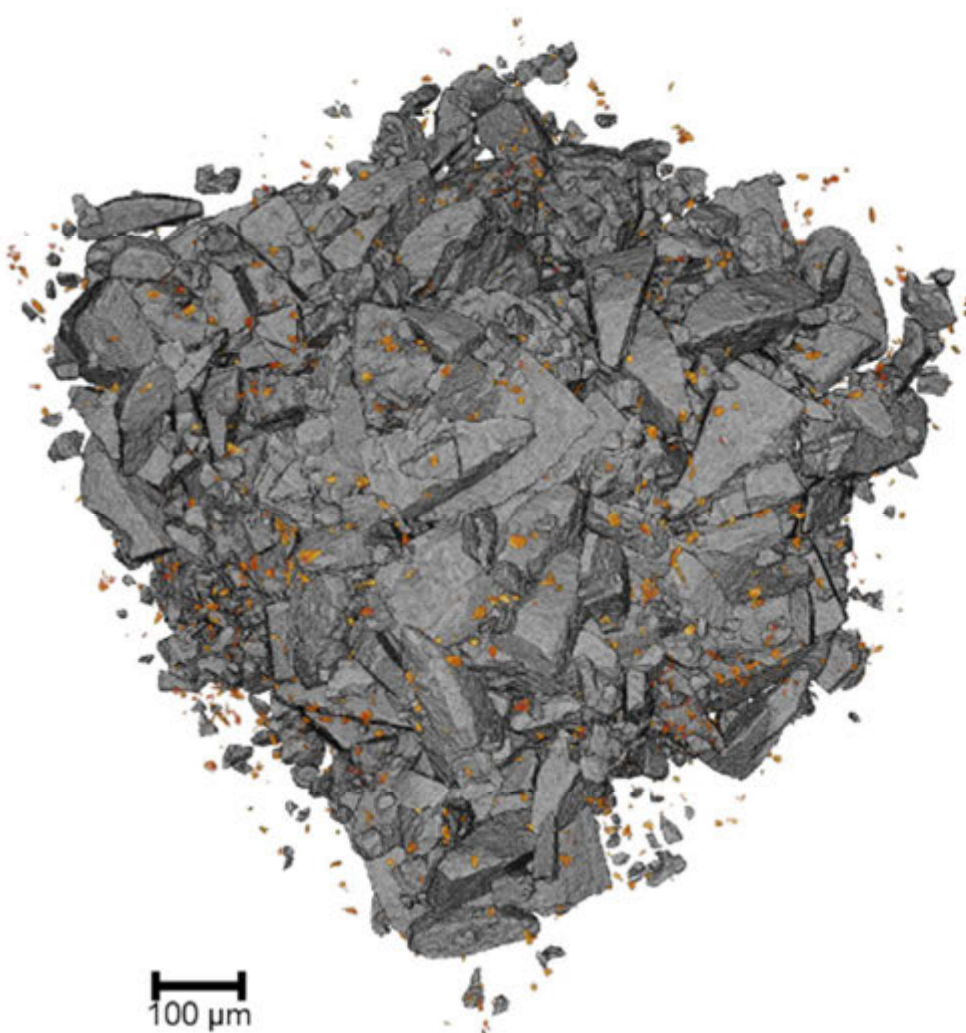
# Reconstructing agglomerative inhalation powders

## The power of multi-scale correlative x-ray microscopy

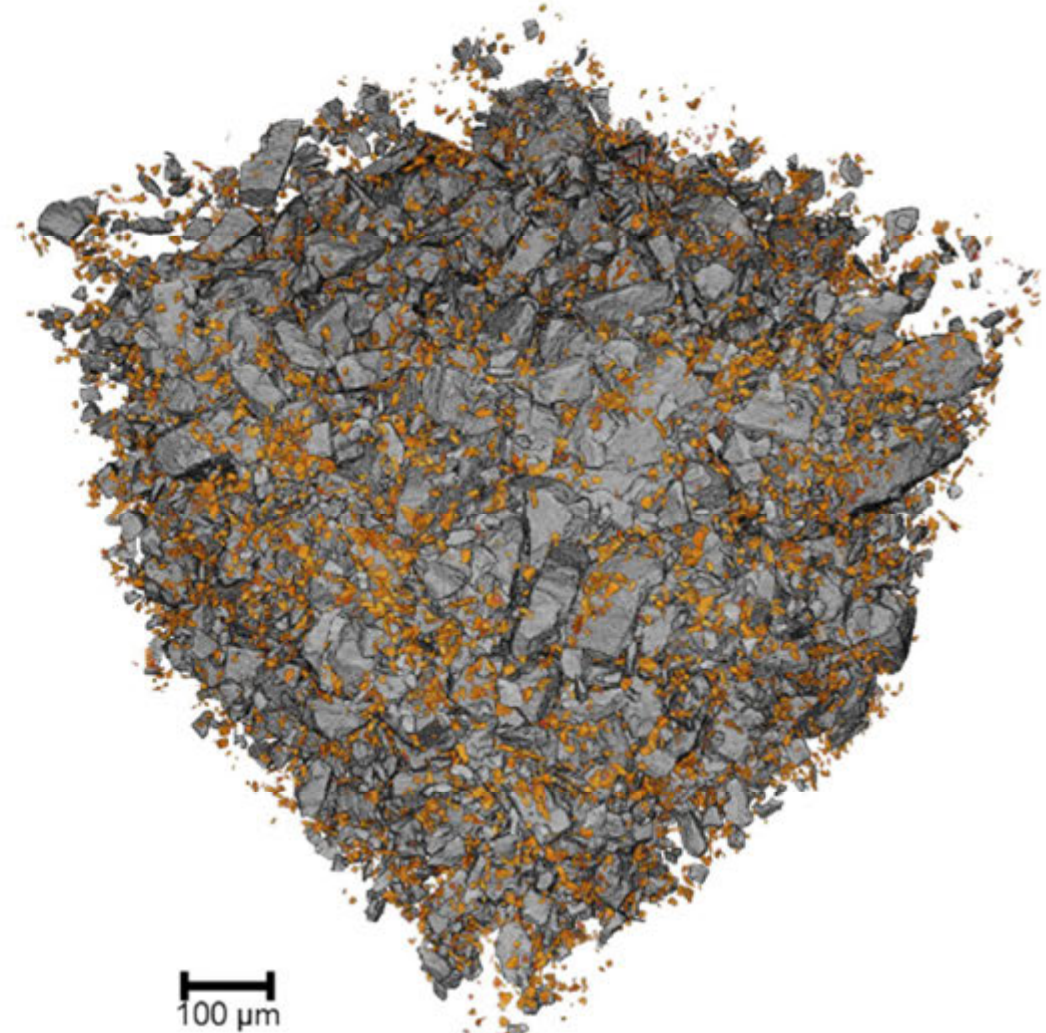


# Reconstructing agglomerative inhalation powders

## Identification of powder microstructure and processing



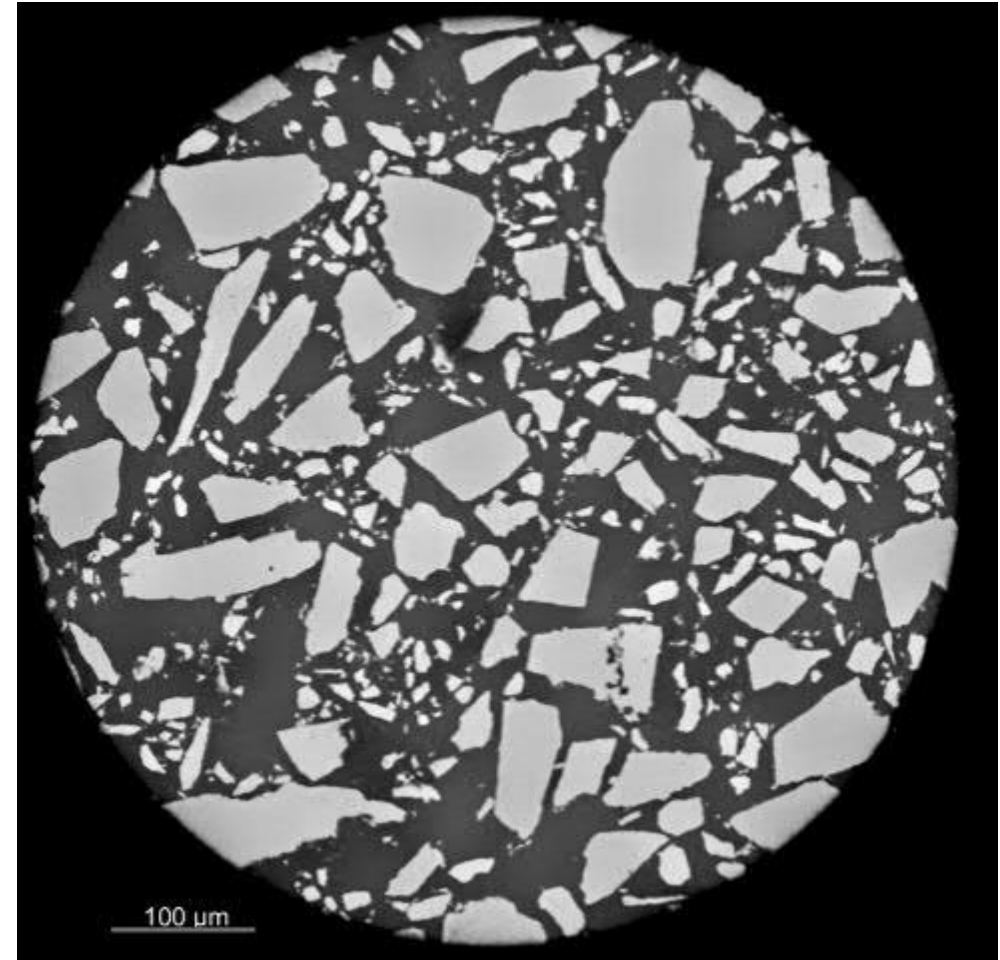
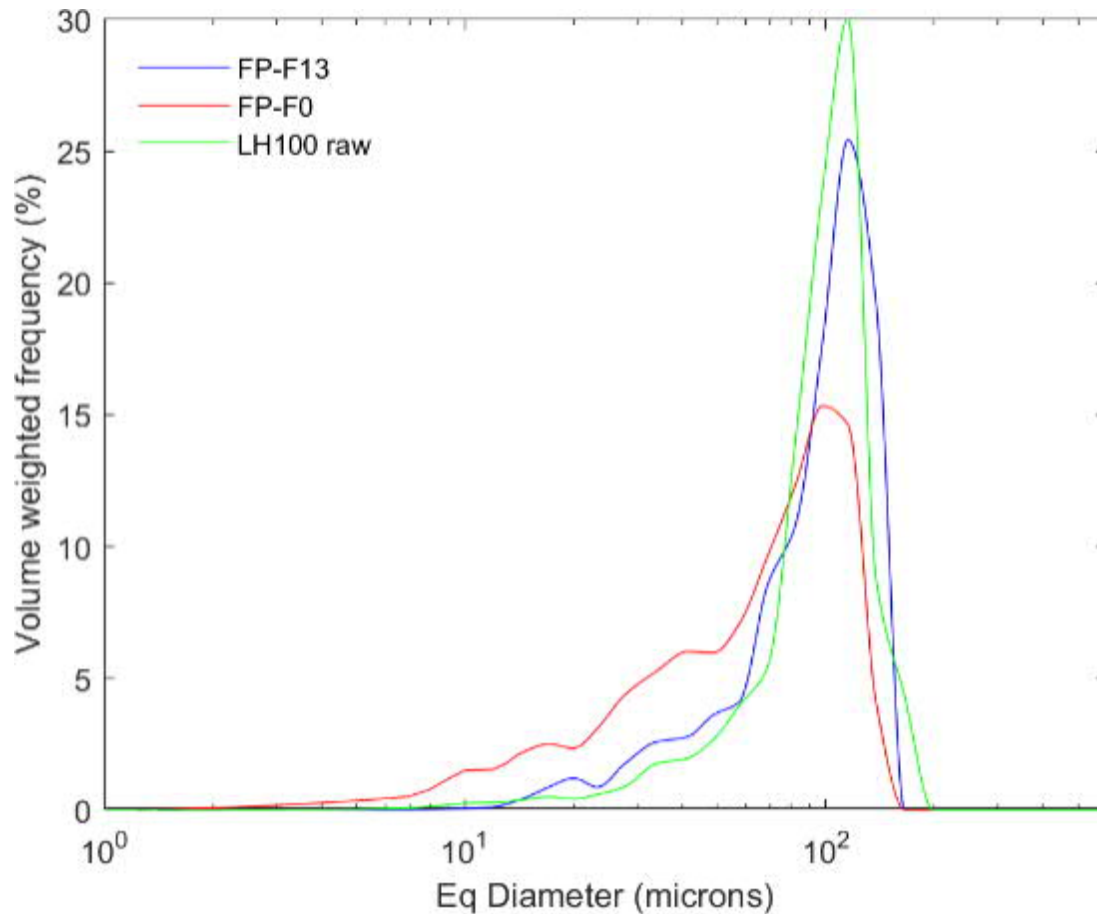
Lactohale 100:  $9426 \pm 559$  fines per  $\text{mm}^3$



Lactohale 200:  $66458 \pm 6033$  fines per  $\text{mm}^3$

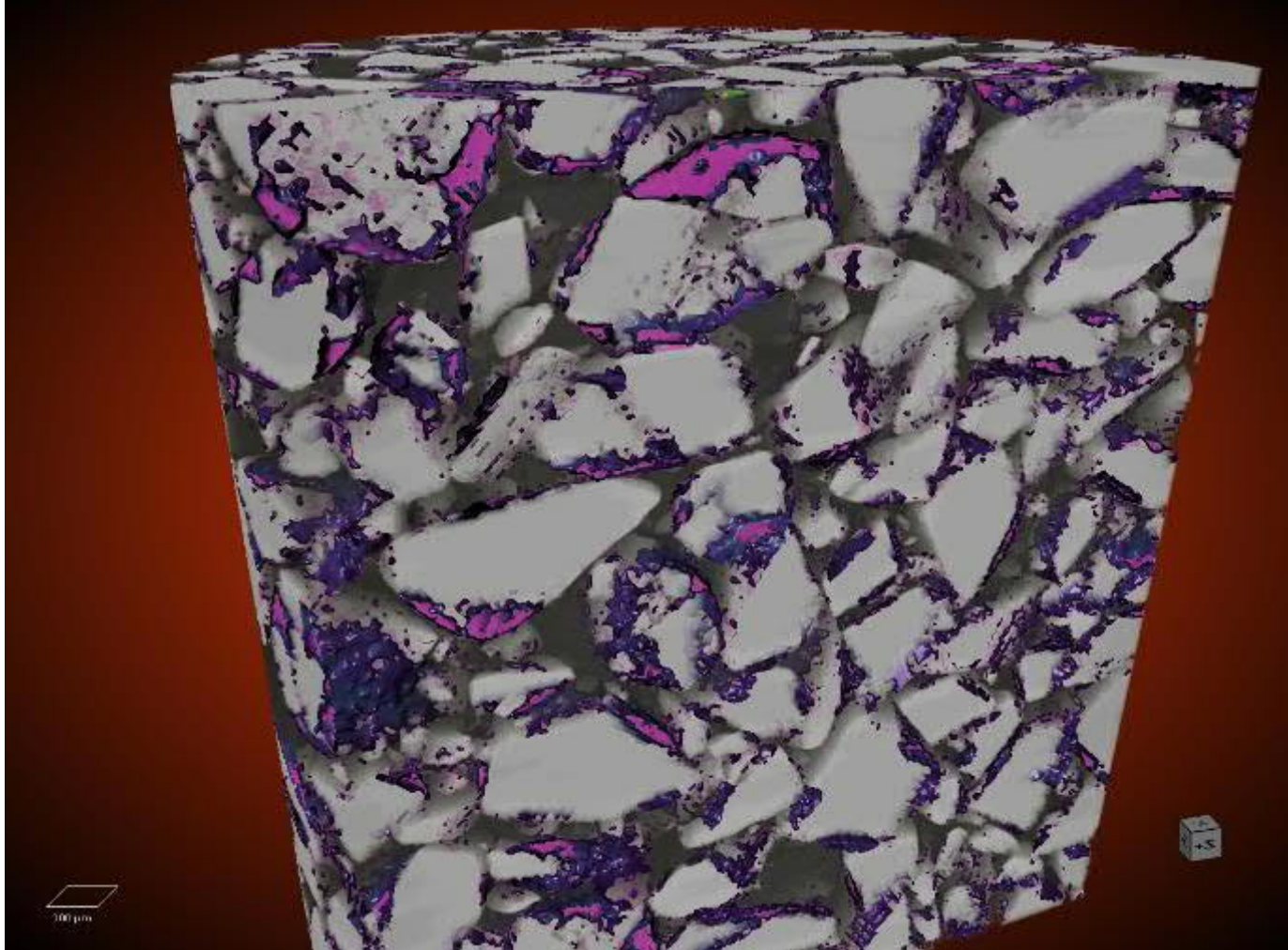
# Reconstructing agglomerative inhalation powders

## Characterising the impact of high shear blending with micronized API



# Reconstructing agglomerated powder blends

## Is this what we mean by the Q3 microstructure?



Lactohale 100 + Fluticasone Propionate (10% w/w ratio)

# Acknowledgements

## The research team and partners



Engineering and  
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Hertfordshire **UH**



Ioanna Danai  
Styliari

Darragh  
Murnane

MANCHESTER  
1824  
The University of Manchester



Parmesh Gajjar

Philip Withers

Timothy Burnett

UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



Xizhong Chen

James Elliott

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



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Kevin Roberts

Robert Hammond

UC  
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Digby Symons



# Acknowledgements

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