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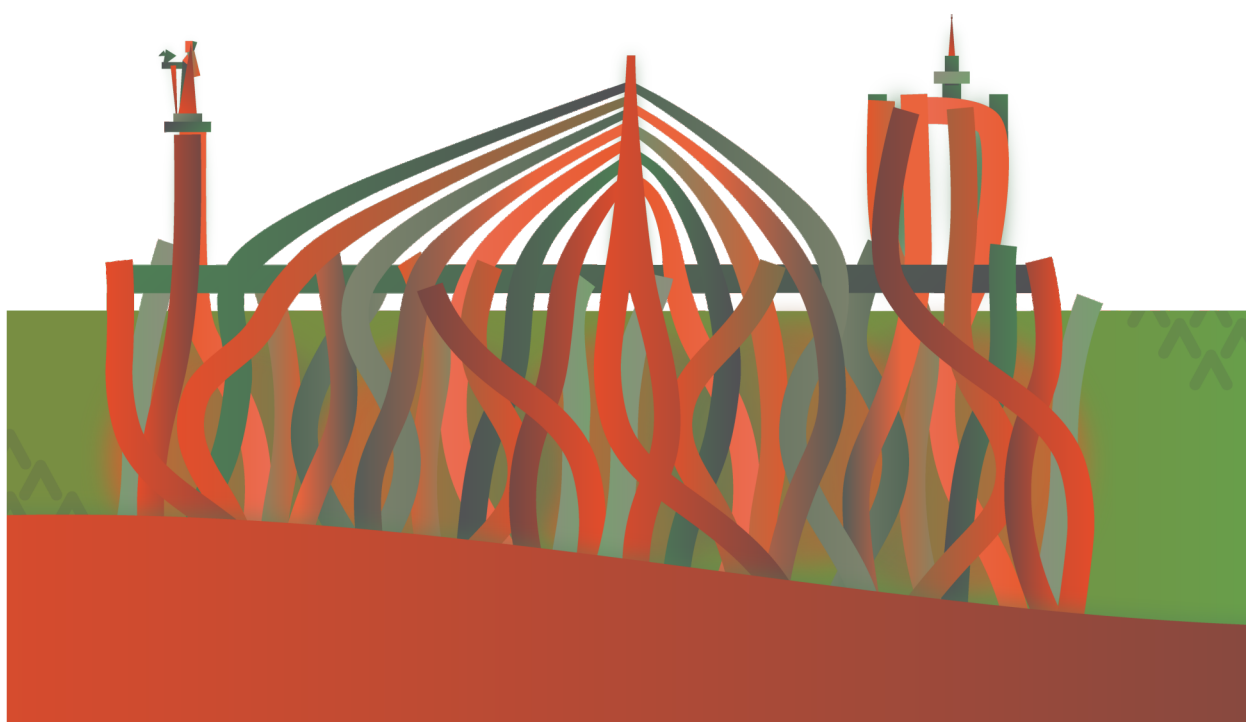
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**Innovative biomaterials
for novel medical devices
Conference 2024**



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Characterisation of strontium-substituted hydroxyapatite as potential biomedical material

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INTRODUCTION: Owing to its similarity to the inorganic part of the natural bone, excellent bioactivity, biocompatibility, and ability to stimulate the osteoconductive process, synthetic hydroxyapatite (HAP) is very often the material of choice for biomedical applications. Diverse ions can be found as substitutes within natural bone structures, each playing a distinct and crucial role in the physiological processes governing the lifecycle of bones [1]. Among them, strontium ion has a very important role for the acceleration of osteogenesis and the inhibition of osteoclasts activity [2]. Current research aims to provide physico-chemical characterization of synthesized HAP and strontium substituted HAP (Sr-HAP) powders obtained by varying strontium concentration (10, 20 and 40 mol.%) in the starting solutions.

EXPERIMENTAL: HAP powder was synthesized by wet chemical precipitation, using aqueous solutions of $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (Merck, p.a.) and $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$ (Sigma-Aldrich, $\geq 99\%$). By adding NH_4OH (CENTROHEM, p.a.), pH value was adjusted to 10. The obtained precipitate was heated up to 90°C . The same procedure was followed for Sr-HAP powder syntheses, by adding $\text{Sr}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ (Sigma-Aldrich $\geq 99.0\%$) and maintaining the $(\text{Ca} + \text{Sr})/\text{P}$ ratio at 1.67 in the mixed $\text{Ca}^{2+}/\text{Sr}^{2+}$ solution. Synthesized powders were characterised by FTIR spectroscopy (Nicolet IS-10, Thermo Fisher Scientific), XRD analysis (Philips PW 1710, Philips, The Netherlands), TG analysis (Netzsch STA 449 F5 Jupiter instrument), and FE-SEM analysis (JSM-7001F, JEOL Ltd, Japan).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: FTIR spectra revealed the presence of carbonate-substituted hydroxyapatite in both pure and Sr-substituted HAP powders. The powders showed a granular, homogeneous morphology without the Sr separation. XRD analysis revealed that the amount of incorporated Sr in the HAP structure increased with increased Sr concentration in the starting solutions. Thermal stability of the Sr-HAP powders decreased with increased Sr concentration.

CONCLUSIONS: Physico-chemical characteristics of Sr-HAP powders are directly dependent on Sr ion concentration in powders.

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