



# *Creating Nanoparticles with Microfluidizer® High-Shear Fluid Technology*

*Yang Su*

*New Technology Manager  
Microfluidics International Corporation*



# Microfluidics at a Glance

- Microfluidics has been located just outside of Boston, MA for **32 years** serving over **2000** customers worldwide. We have sold **~4,000** processors with localized sales and support in **47 countries**.
- **Microfluidizer**<sup>®</sup> high shear fluid processors can produce nanomaterials with a wide variety of multiphase applications. We have vast experience with process development of many different types of applications/formulations. We pride ourselves in our ability to help our customers get the most out of their materials.
- Microfluidizer Processors are used for R+D and manufacturing of **active pharmaceutical ingredients, vaccines, inkjet inks, coatings, nutraceuticals and cosmetics**.

17 of the top 20 pharma companies  
8 of the top 10 biotech companies  
4 of the top 5 chemical companies

*...innovate with Microfluidics technology*

# What Microfluidics Does Best

- Nanoemulsions
- Cell disruption
- Protein recovery
- Uniform particle size reduction
- Nano/microencapsulation
- Nanodispersions
- Deagglomeration

“The overall satisfaction which we experienced with our laboratory model Microfluidizer processor **eliminated the need** to consider other equipment when it was time to scale up to production capabilities.”  
- Amylin Pharmaceuticals



*M-110P “plug n’ play”  
benchtop lab model*



*M-110EH-30  
pilot scale machine*

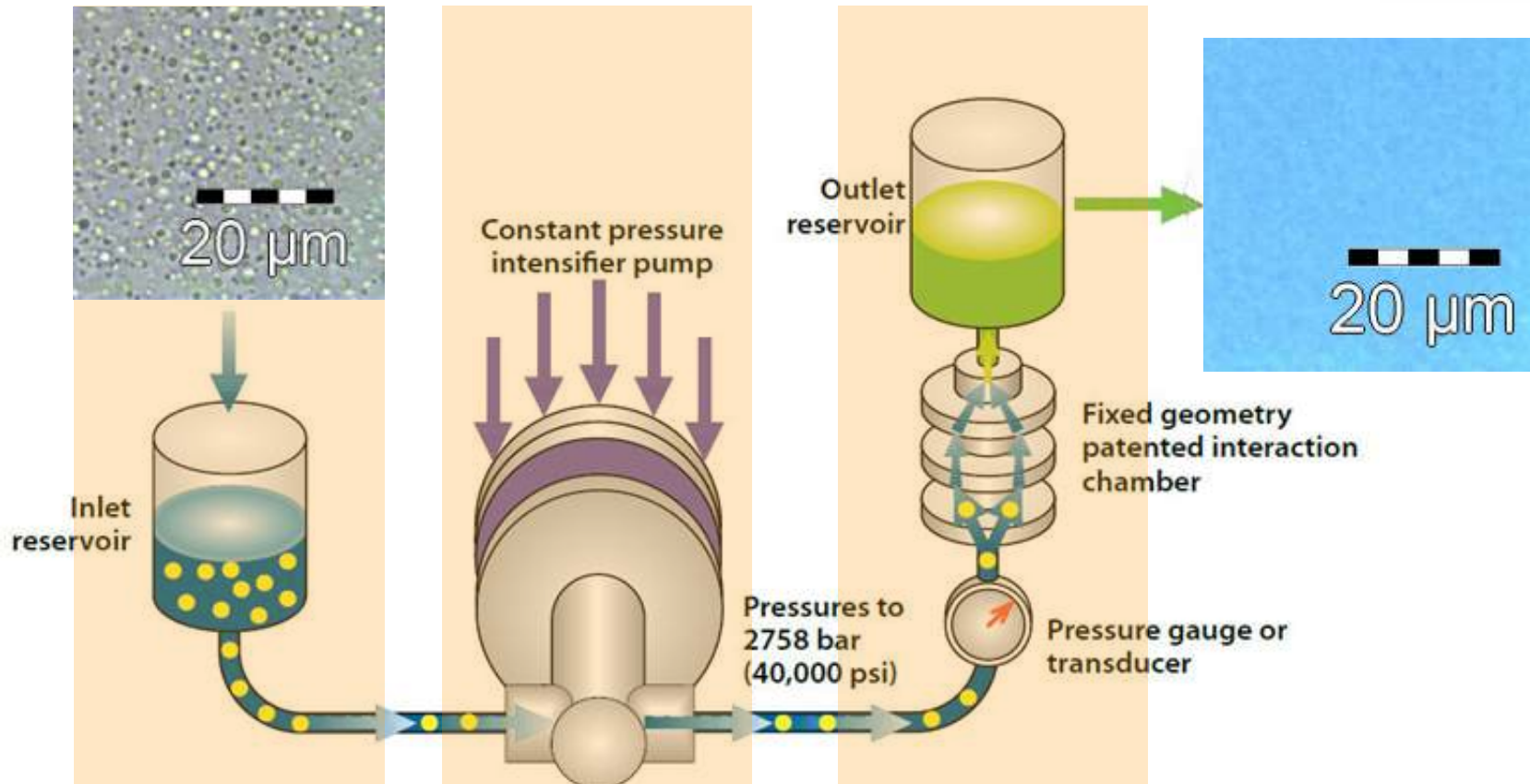


*M-700 series  
production machine*



*Fixed-geometry  
interaction chambers*

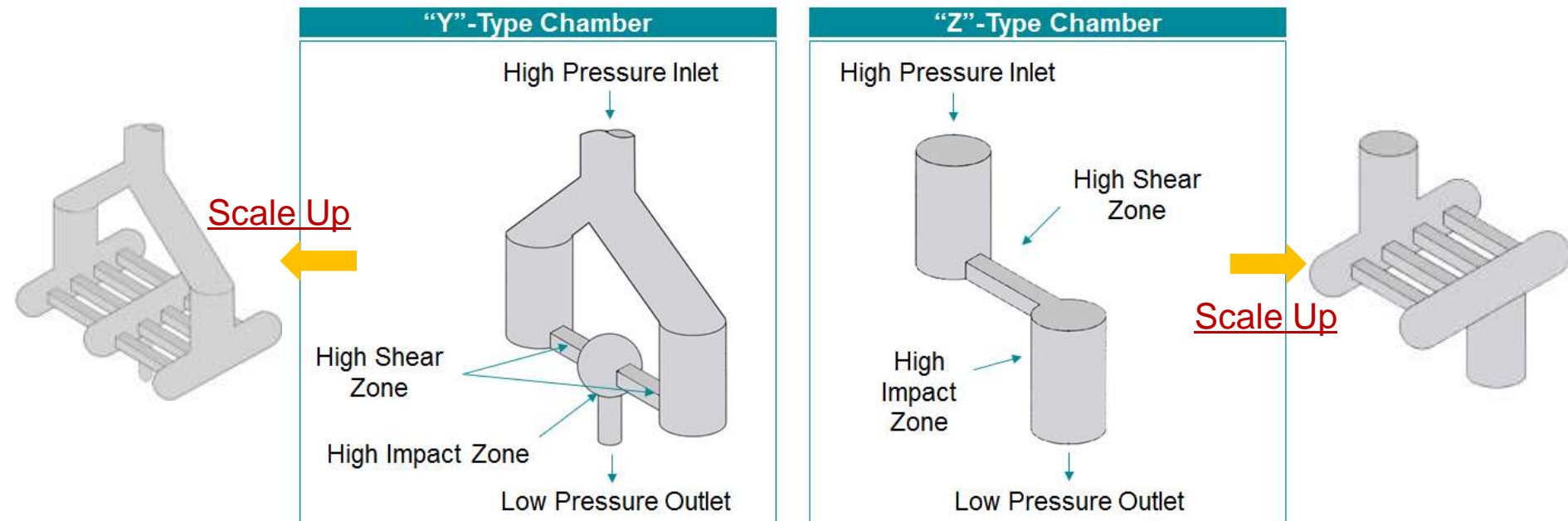
# Microfluidizer<sup>®</sup> Processors & Interaction Chamber (IXC)



- Continuous processing
- Accommodates materials with high solid content
- Can accommodate high viscosities
- Can work in a wide range of temperatures
- High pressure used to deliver particles into the interaction chamber
- Constant pressure pumping system
- Temperature regulated by a heat exchanger
- Lack of moving parts maximizes uptime
- Repeatability and scalable results

# Microfluidizer<sup>®</sup> Processors & Interaction Chamber (IXC)

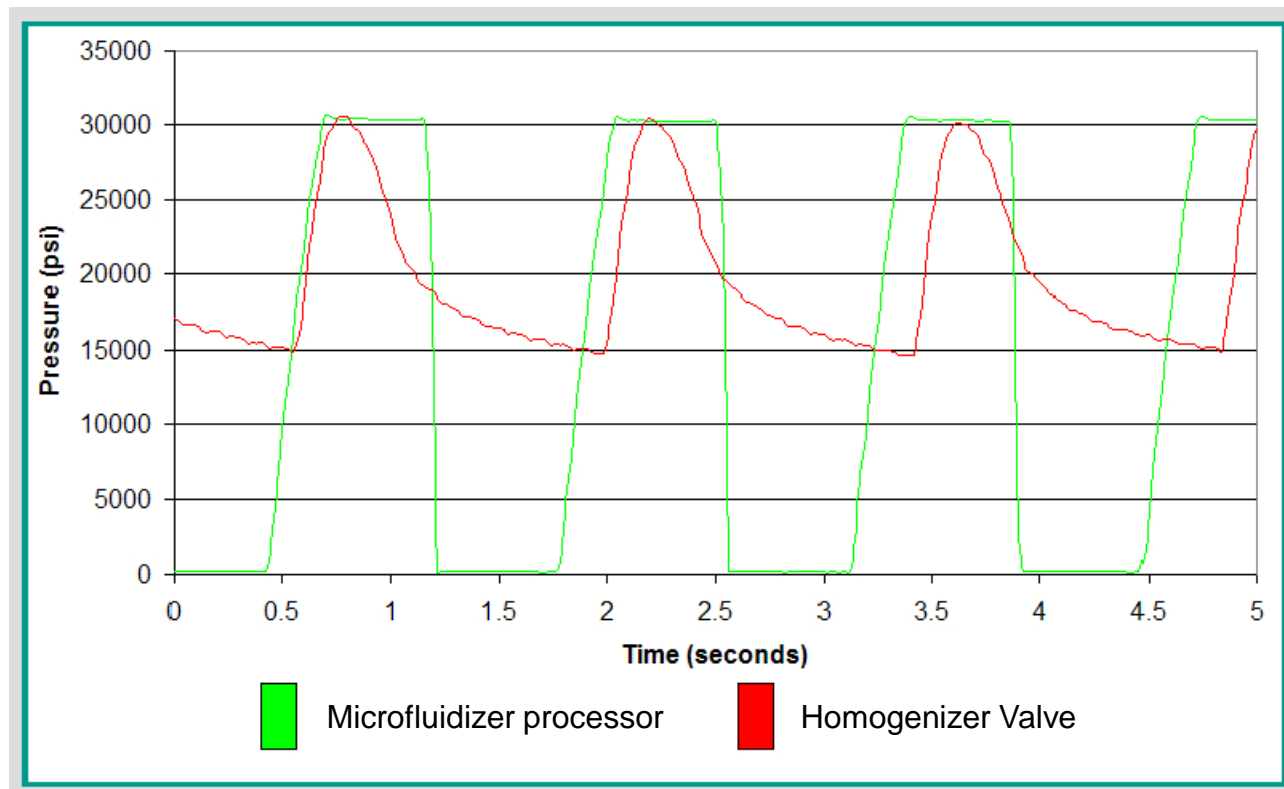
- **Exceptional performance** – Channel velocities over 400 m/s and generate shear rates up to  $10^8 \text{ s}^{-1}$
- **Consistent processing** – Fixed geometry with no moving parts and guaranteed scalability
- **Long-wearing** – Made from diamond or ceramic materials
- **Ease of maintenance** – Clean-in-place and steam-in-place
- **Many options available** – Variable shape and size



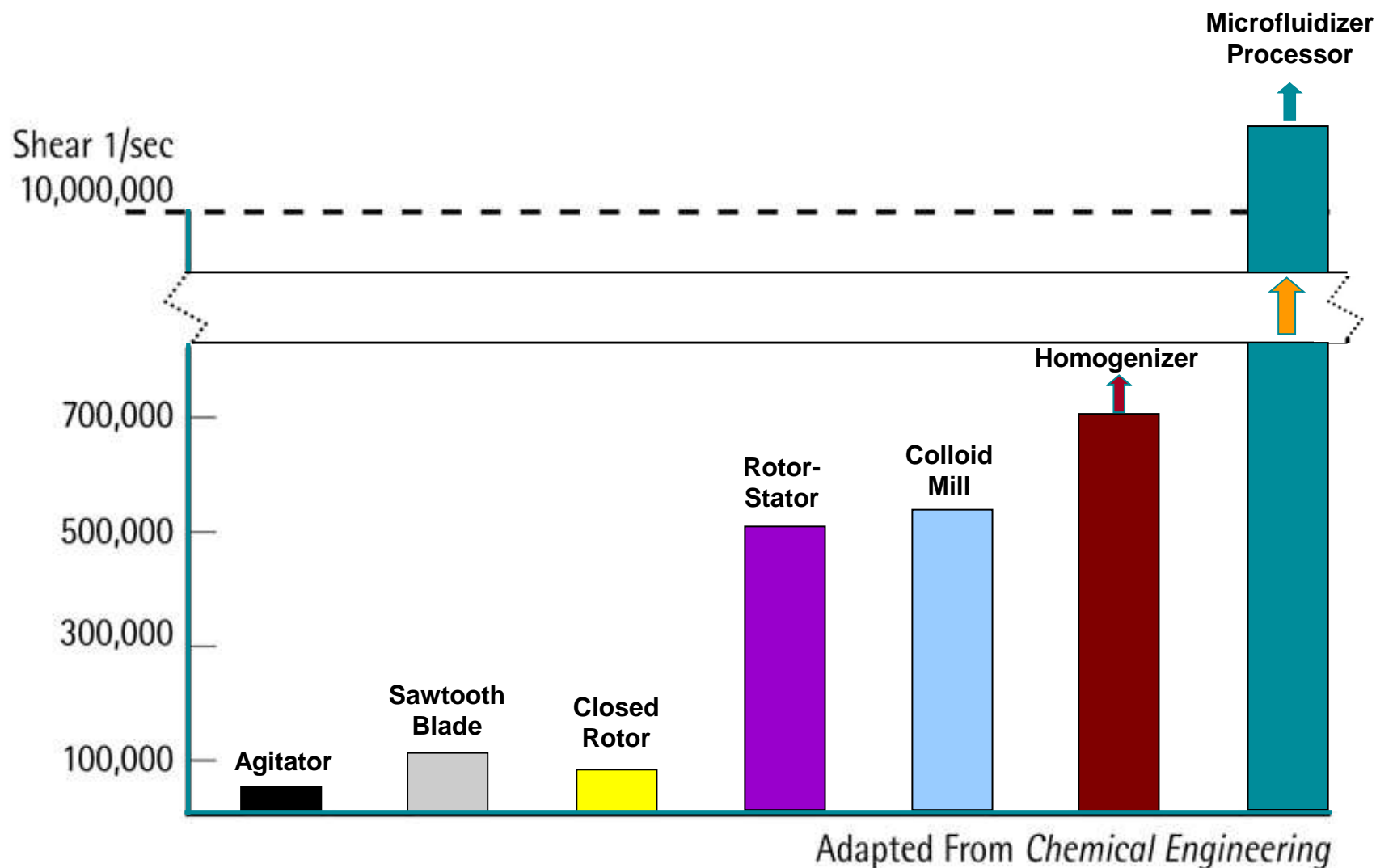


# Constant Pressure and Constant Volume

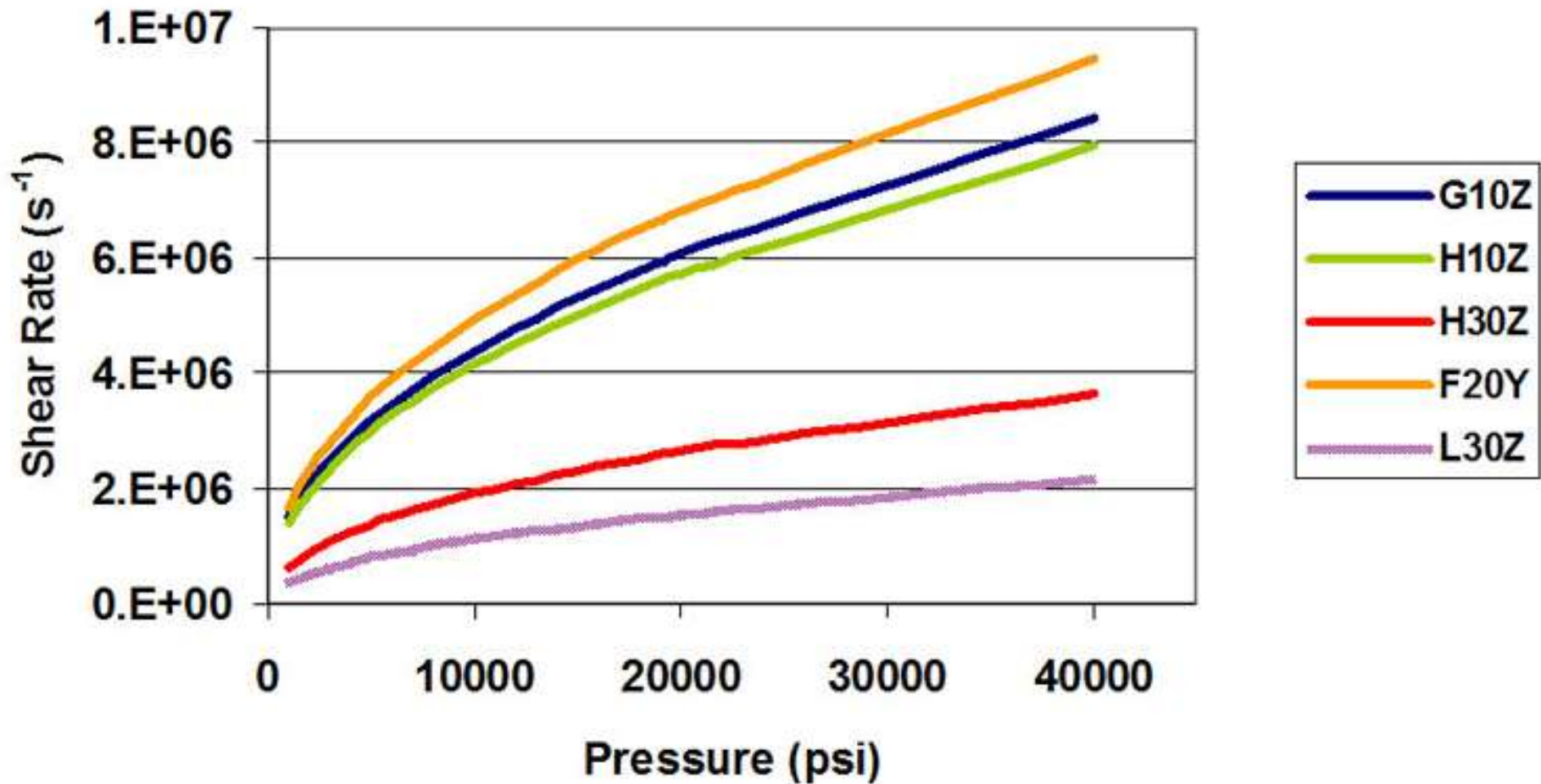
- Virtually all of the product is passed through the Microfluidizer processor at the target pressure.
- Only a small portion of the product is passed through the high pressure homogenizer at the target pressure.



# Shear Rates for Various Technologies



# Nominal Shear Rates as a Function of Pressure & Chamber



Data shown for internal diameters vary from 75  $\mu m$  – 300  $\mu m$



# Benefits of Microfluidizer<sup>®</sup> Processors

- **How Microfluidics Technology is Unique**

- > Constant Pressure Processing
- > High Potential Processing Pressures
- > Fixed Geometry Interaction Chambers
- > Multi-Slotted Interaction Chambers

- **Resulting Benefits**

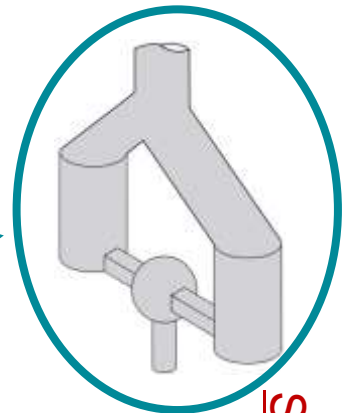
- > Very small particle size potential
- > Very consistent processing resulting in very narrow particle size distributions
- > Guaranteed scale-up from lab scale to production scale

- **cGMP Compliance and CIP/SIP Capabilities**



**LV1**

1 mL hold up volume

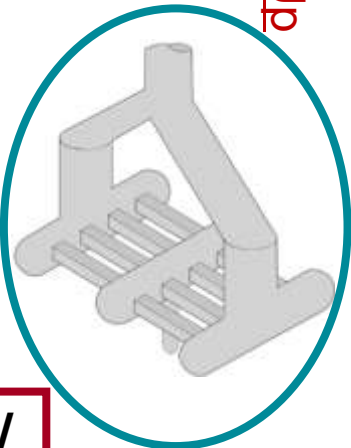


Scale Up



**M7250-20 Pharmaceutical/  
Constant Pressure/SIP**

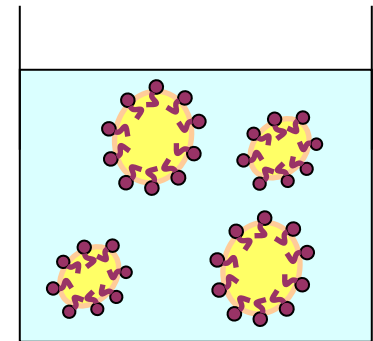
Can process 8 LPM at 1300 bar



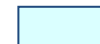
# Nanoemulsion

# Nanoemulsion

- Nano-emulsions are formed when two or more immiscible liquids are mixed and one phase is finely dispersed in the other (s)
  - Oil-in-water
  - Water-in-oil
  - Double emulsions (O/W/O, W/O/W)
- Surfactants stabilize the emulsions by decreasing the surface energy between the immiscible liquids; they can be ionic, polymeric, proteins or solid particles.
- Oil-in-water nanoemulsions are used for delivering water insoluble active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).



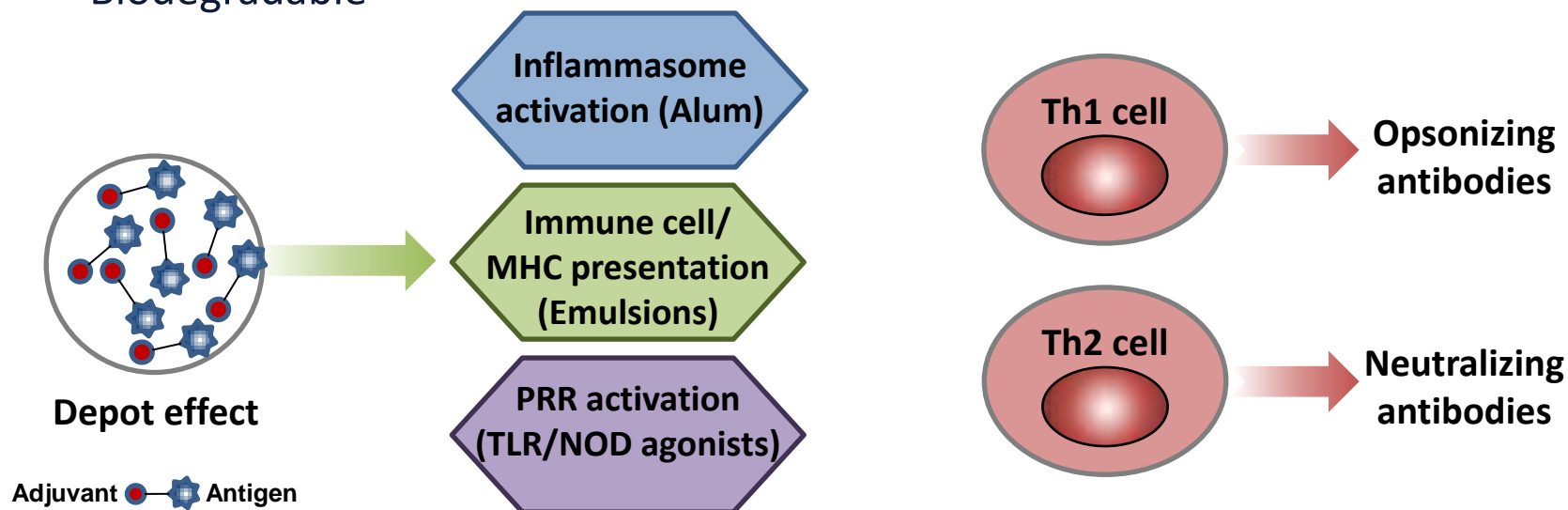
Discrete phase  
surrounded by surfactant



Continuous phase

# Nanoemulsions as Vaccine Adjuvants

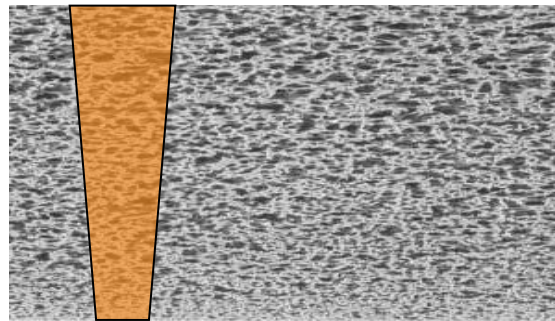
- Vaccines are biological preparations used to improve immunity to a particular disease
- Vaccine adjuvants are materials that enhance the efficacy of vaccines
- Most new vaccine adjuvants are emulsions or liposomes
  - Effective: Enhance both cellular (Th1), humoral (Th2) and major histocompatibility complexes (MHC) responses
  - Well tolerable
  - Biodegradable



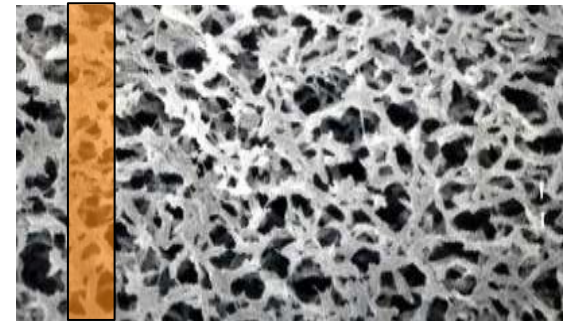
[www.invivogen.com/review-vaccine-adjuvants](http://www.invivogen.com/review-vaccine-adjuvants)

# Nanoemulsion

- Nanoemulsion production challenges:
  - Stability
    - The presence of particles over 1 micron may destabilize the emulsion through Ostwald-ripening
  - Sterilization
    - Removal of bacteria by filtering through a 0.22 micron rated filter
    - Preferred sterilization method in vaccine adjuvants, cancer drugs (injectables)
    - Most particles should be below 0.22 microns so they do not plug the filter



Asymmetric

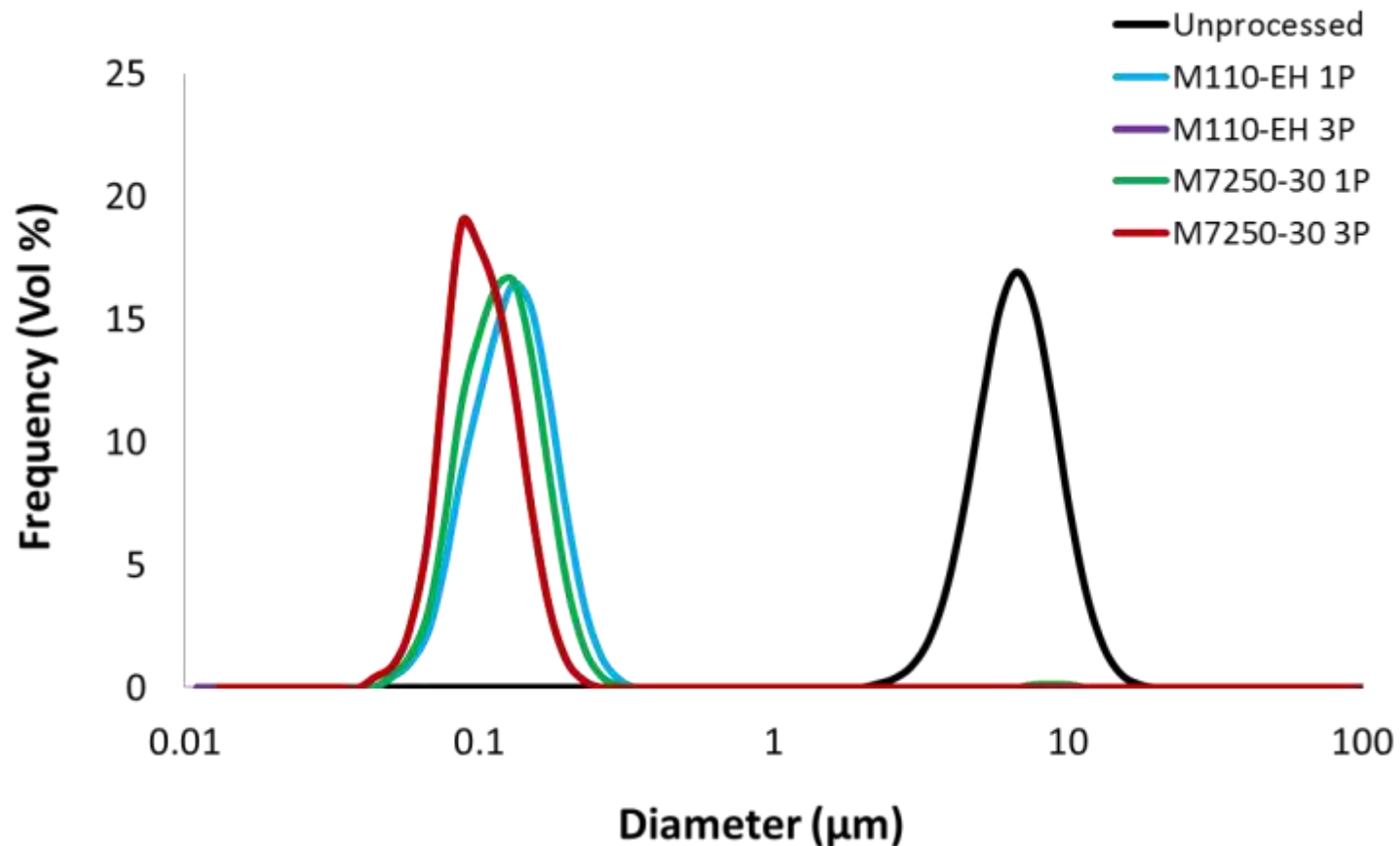


Symmetric

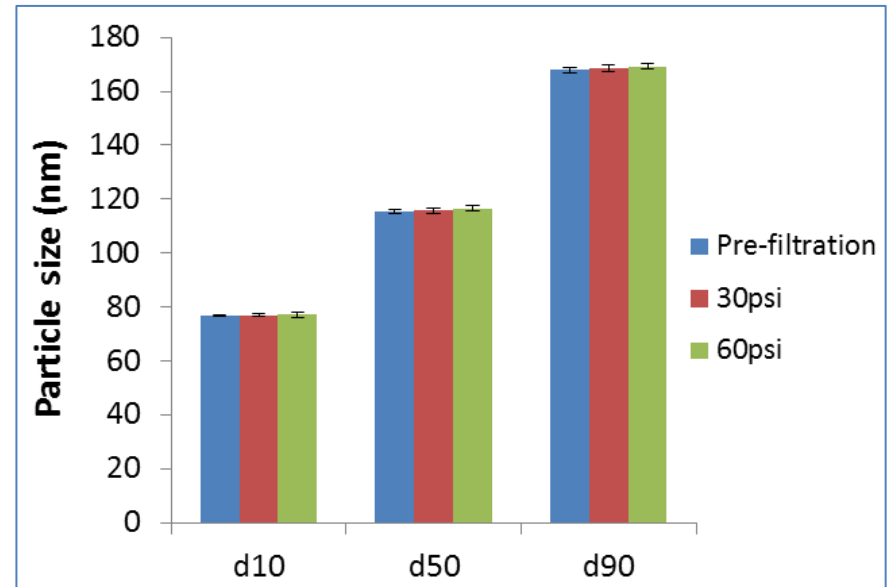
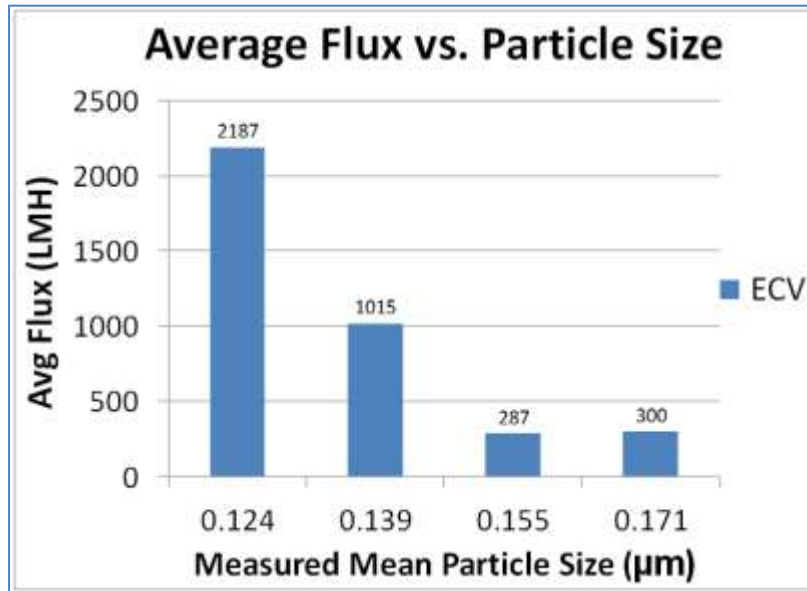


# Nanoemulsion – Vaccine Adjuvant Nanoemulsion

- Nanoemulsions are promising new vaccine adjuvants
- Squalane Emulsion



# Nanoemulsion – Vaccine Adjuvant Nanoemulsion

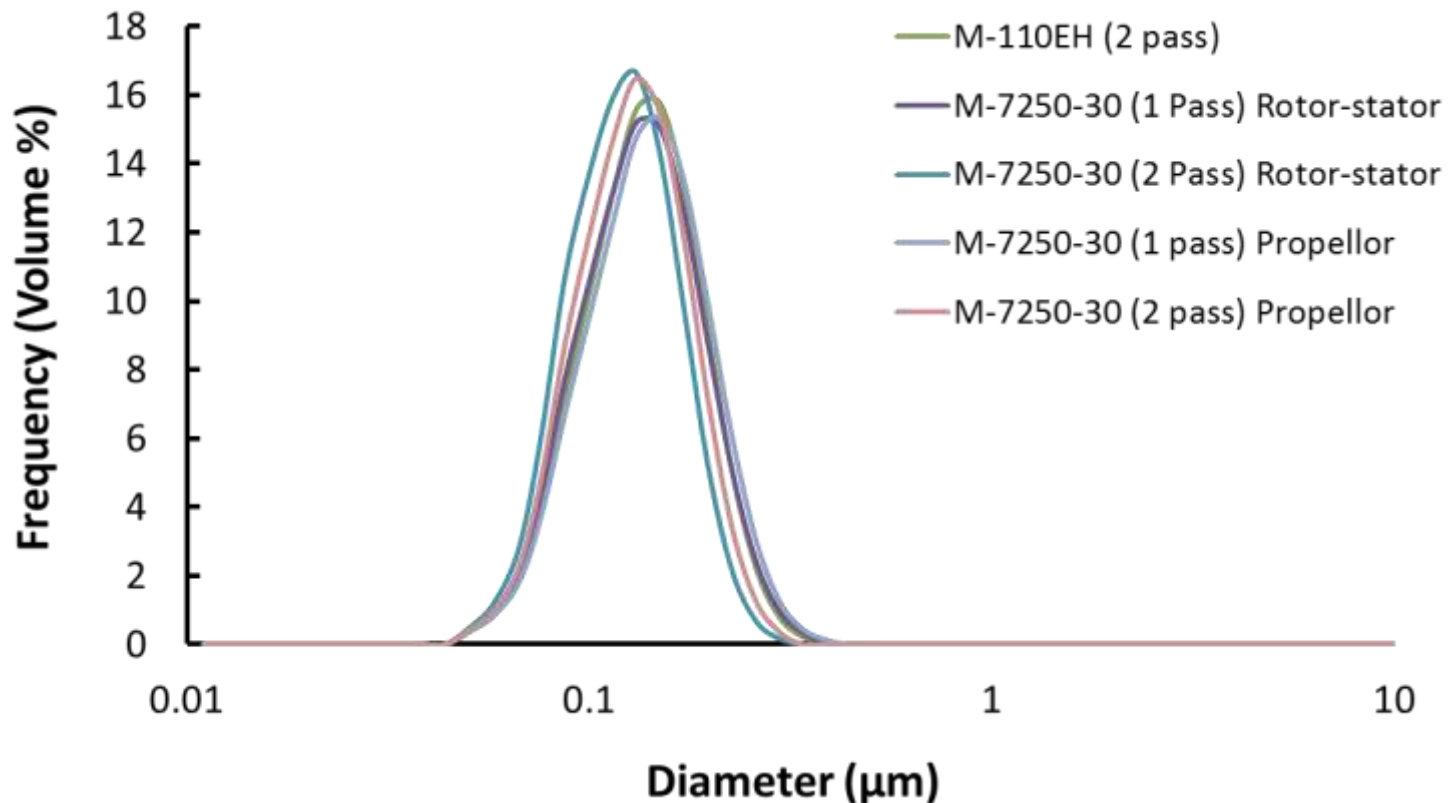


Collaboration with Pall Life Sciences



# Nanoemulsion – Ocular Nanoemulsion

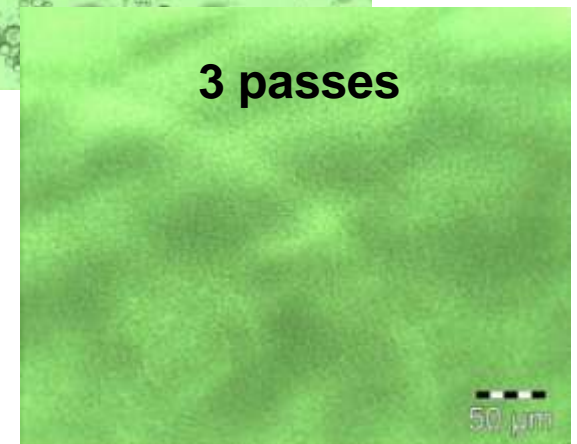
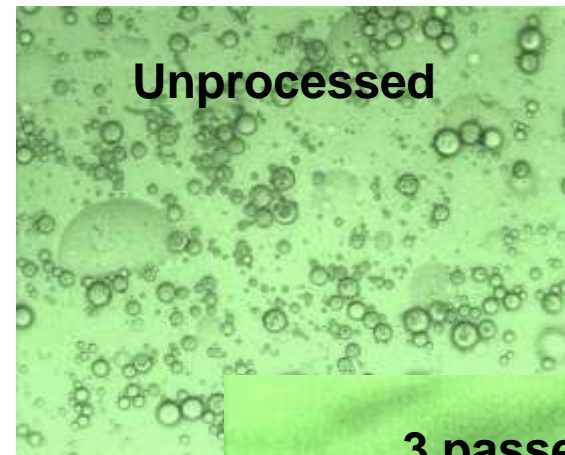
- An ophthalmic nanoemulsion used to treat dry eyes
- Castor oil in water nanoemulsion



# Nanoemulsion – Anesthesia Nanoemulsion

- Used for induction and maintenance of anesthesia
- Soybean oil in water nanoemulsion

Pressure (psi)	# Passes	Particle Size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )		
		D10	d50	d90
Unprocessed	0	0.954	13.678	24.201
20,000	1	0.200	0.290	0.401
	2	0.187	0.247	0.323
	3	0.134	0.181	0.244



# Cell Disruption



# Cell Disruption

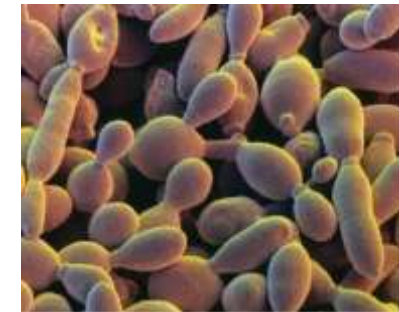
- The generation of important enzymes, proteins and other products from microbes has been developed and used for the last 40 years
- Cell rupture is required any time that products from cell sources must be removed from inside the cell
- Recover the most product
  - Rupture the highest percentage of cells
  - Minimize the potential for denaturing the protein (Shear, Temperature, etc.)
- Microfluidizer is a well known “Technology” within the biotech industry

# Cell Disruption

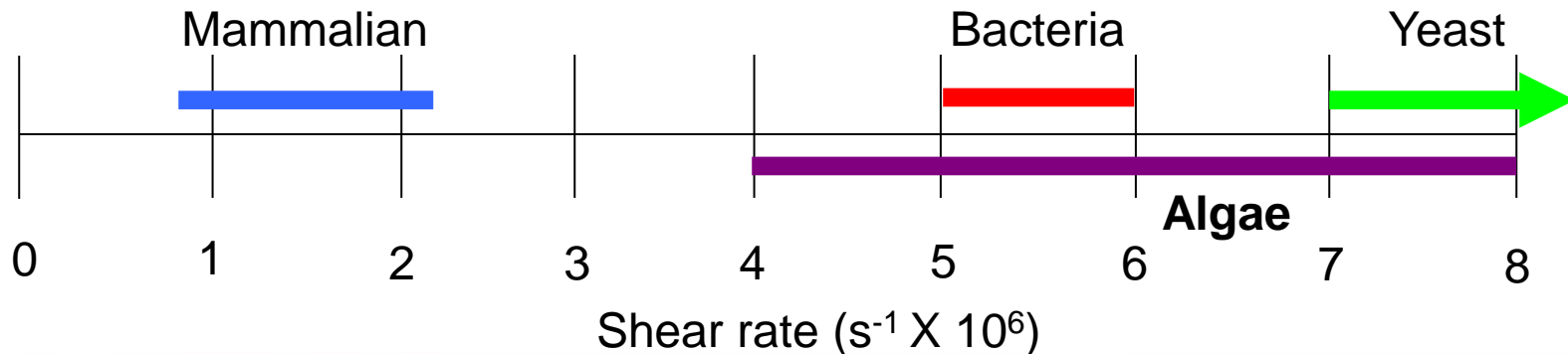
- Bacterial cells are the most commonly used cells for production of simple proteins
  - Usually only require 1P on a Microfluidizer® to achieve >90% rupture efficiency
- Yeast cells have the benefit of creating complex proteins
  - Among the hardest to rupture: high shear and multiple passes



Source: NIAID, NIH



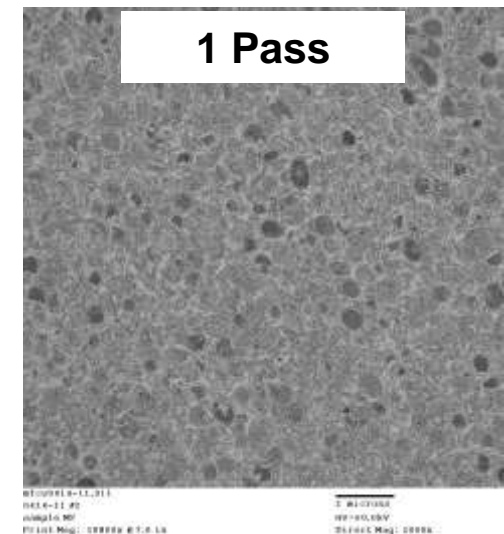
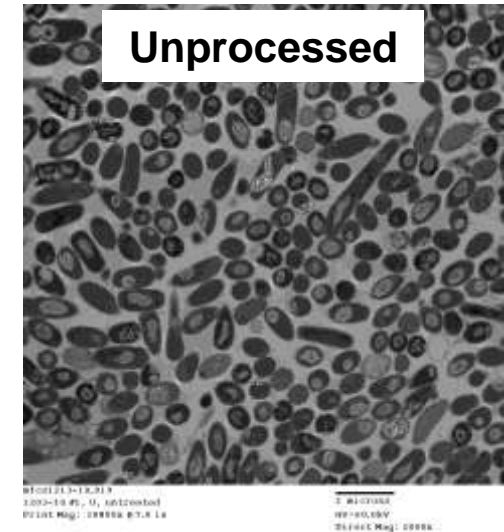
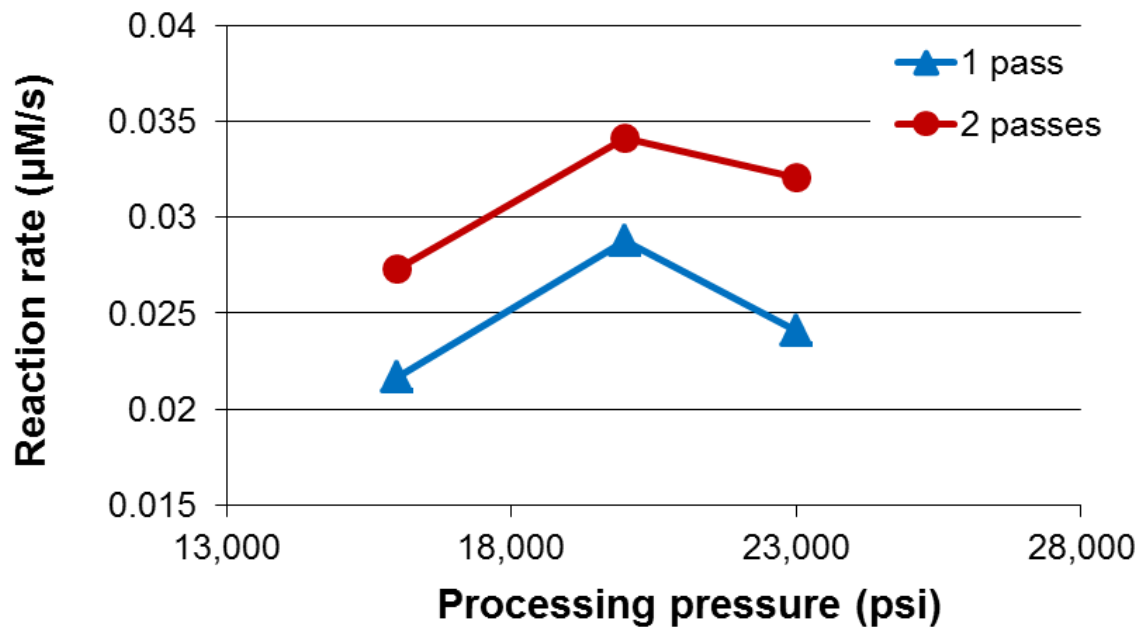
Source: Johns Hopkins Univ.



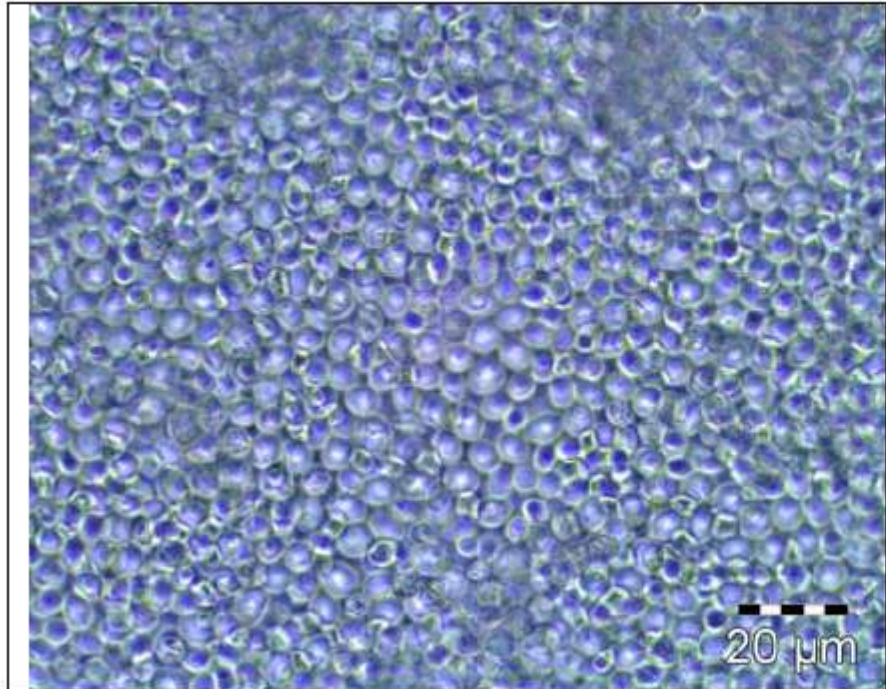
# Cell Disruption – *E.coli*

- Optimization of *Escherichia coli* W3110 pTrcHisB:opd cell disruption and Organophosphate Hydrolase recovery
- Grow cells in a 2L bioreactor
- Rupture cells at various conditions:
  - 1 and 2 passes
  - Three different pressures
- Enzyme activity assay after IMCA purification
  - Determines activity of target enzyme vs. Bradford assay which determines total protein recovery
- TEM analysis of cells before and after rupturing

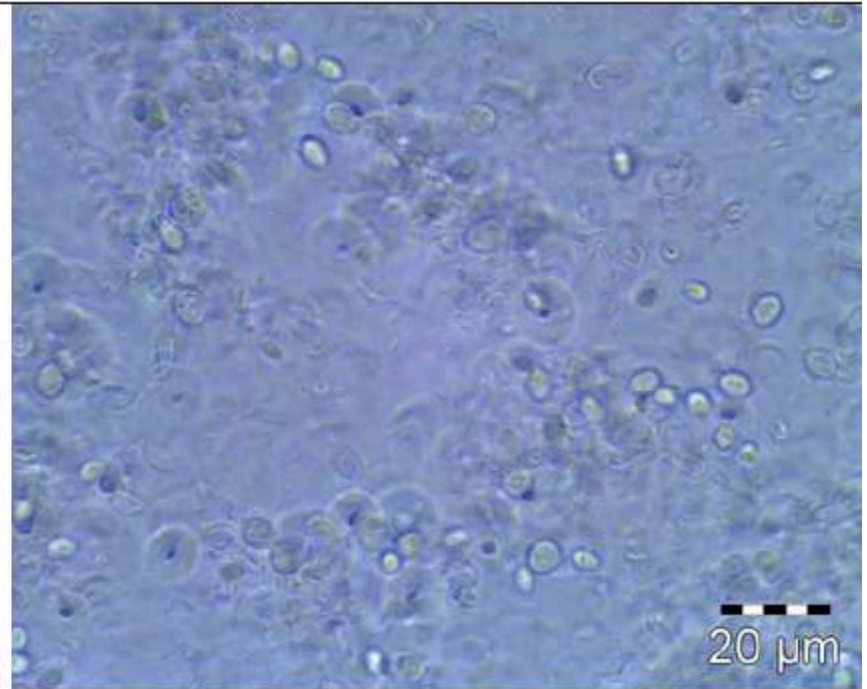
# Cell Disruption – *E.coli*



# Cell Disruption – Yeast (*Pichia Pastoris*)



Unprocessed 5% Yeast



1 Pass on Microfluidizer Processor

**Process conditions:** 1 pass 30,000 psi (2070 bar)

**Chamber:** H10Z (100 microns)

**Shear rate:**  $6.94 \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$



# Cell Disruption – Yeast (*S. pombe*)

## Process conditions:

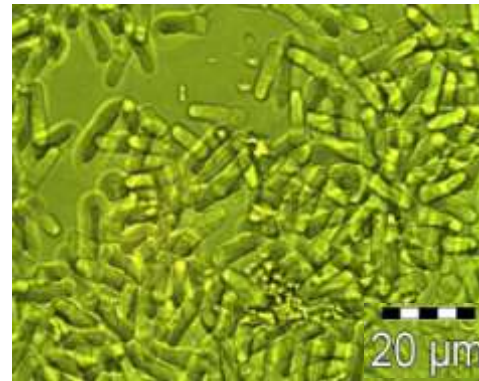
30,000 psi (2070 bar)

## Chamber:

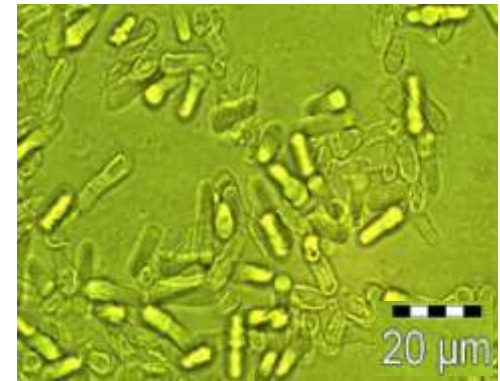
G10Z (87 microns)

## Shear rate per pass:

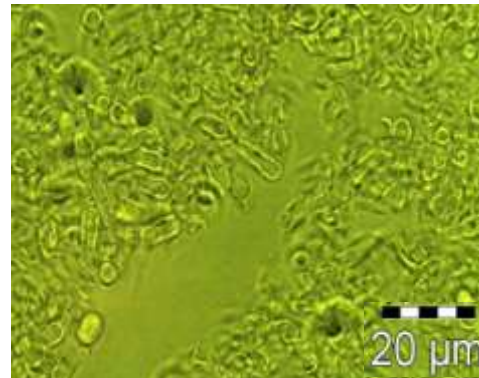
$7.37 \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$



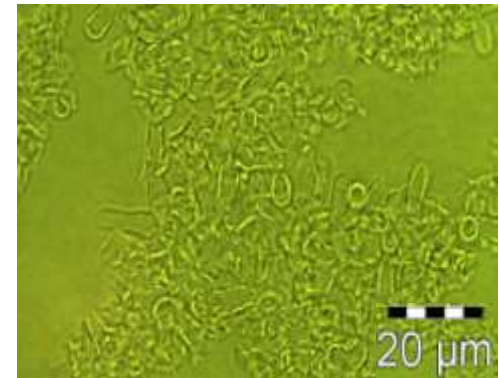
Unprocessed



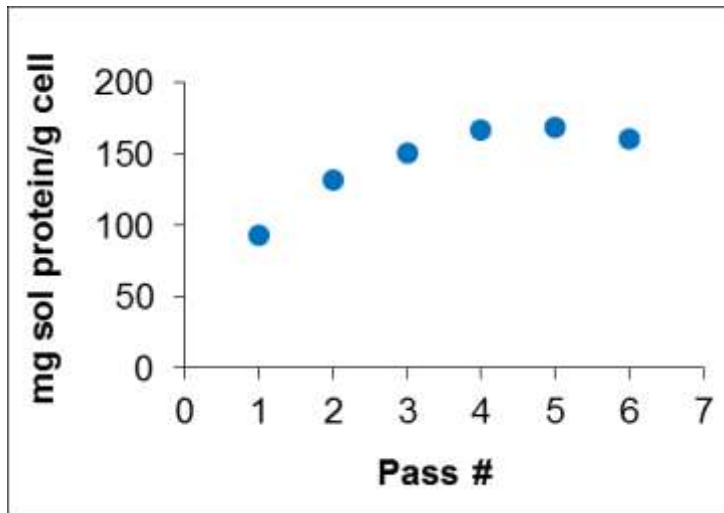
1 pass ~60% lysis



5 passes ~95% lysis



10 passes ~99% lysis



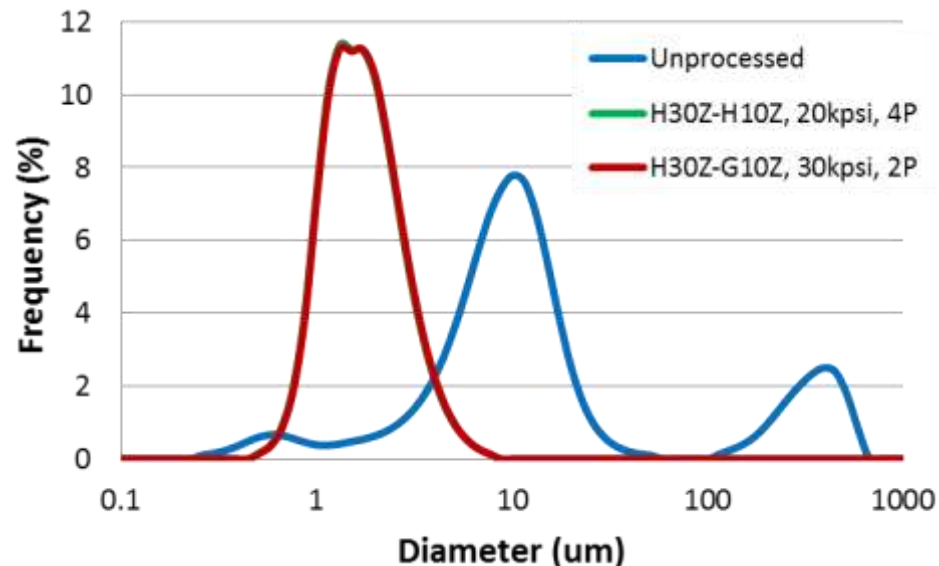
# Size Reduction of Solid API Suspension

# Size Reduction of Solid API Suspension

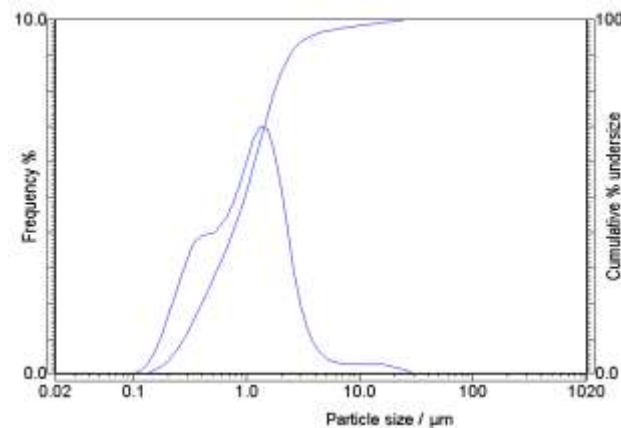
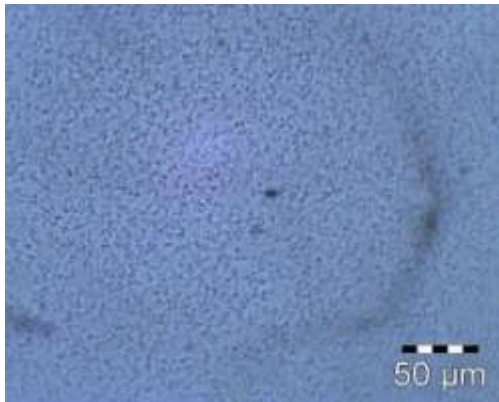
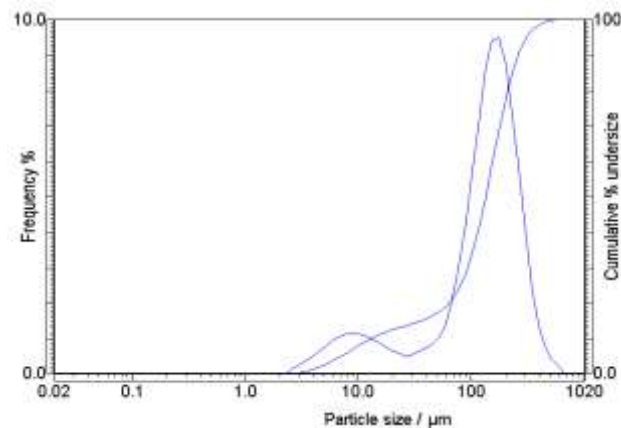
- Many new APIs are “poorly water soluble”
- Typical time that actives will stay in the body are 12-18 hours.
- In order to achieve therapeutic doses, large quantities of active must be administered.
- Active ingredients that are not dissolved are typically removed by the liver
- Particle size and size distribution reduction
  - Does not change the solubility
  - Changes (increases) surface area, which greatly affect the dissolution rate and in most cases the bioavailability

# Size Reduction of Solid API Suspension – Atovaquone

- Used to treat many conditions including
  - > Malaria
  - > Toxoplasmosis
  - > Babesia
  - > Pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP)
- Generally used in combination with other drugs
  - > Proguanil
  - > Azithromycin
- It prevents the electron transport of enzymes



# Size Reduction of Solid API Suspension – High Blood Pressure Drug



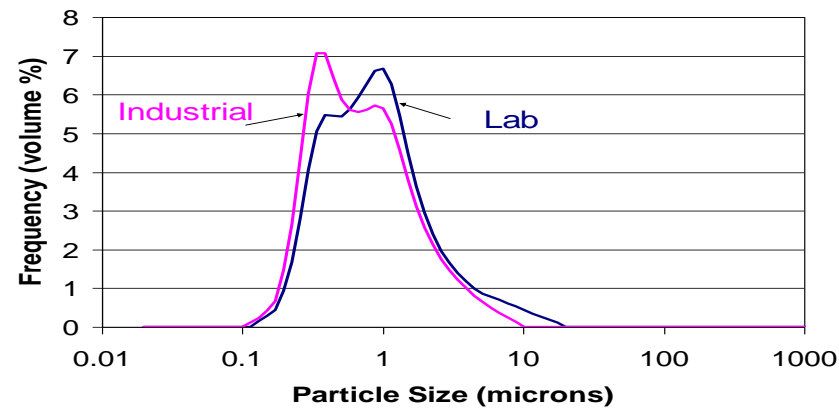
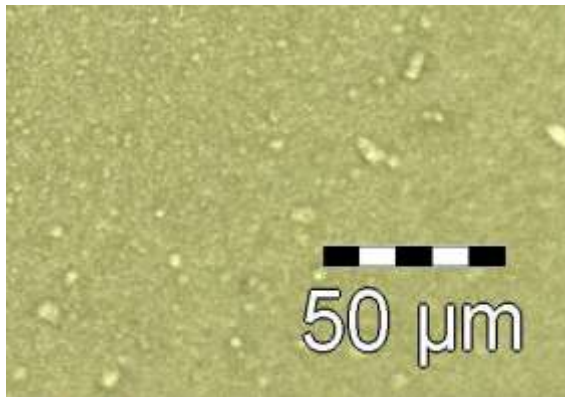
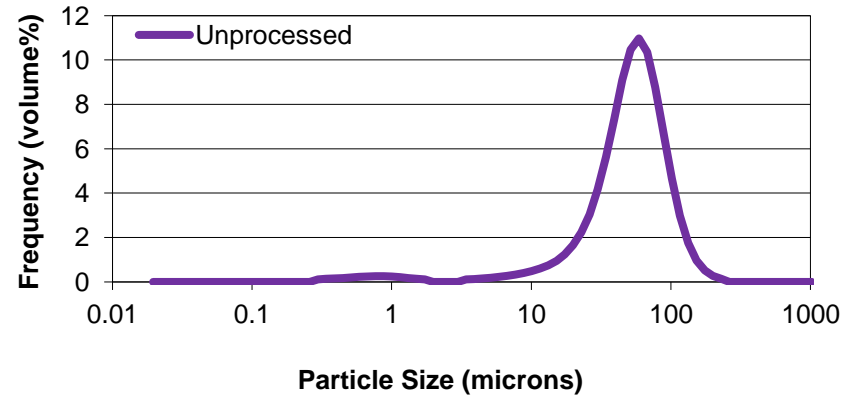
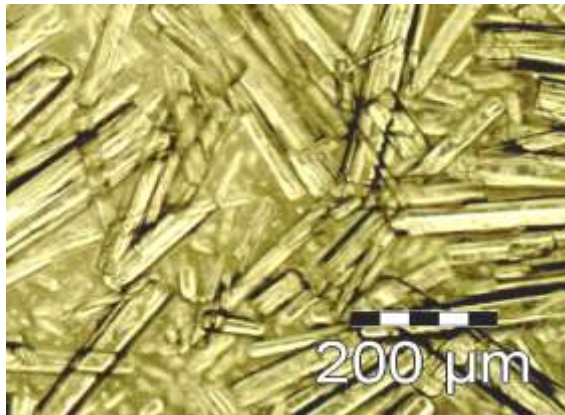
**1 pass**



Median particle size (D50) after 1 pass: **955 nm**



# Size Reduction of Solid API Suspension – Epilepsy Drug

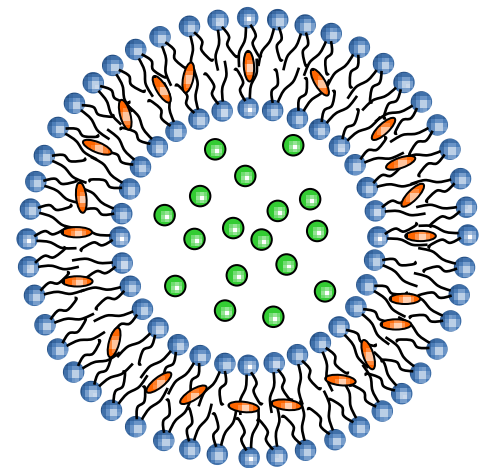


- Median particle size (D50) with **lab** machine: **773 nm**
- Median particle size (D50) with **production** machine: **614 nm**

# Liposome

# Liposome

- Liposomes are spherical lipid vesicles with a bi-layered membrane structure
- Can encapsulate either hydrophobic or hydrophilic active, or both
- One of the most successful delivery systems currently in clinical use



- Hydrophobic active
- Hydrophilic active



# Liposome – Liposomal Active for the Treatment of Cancer

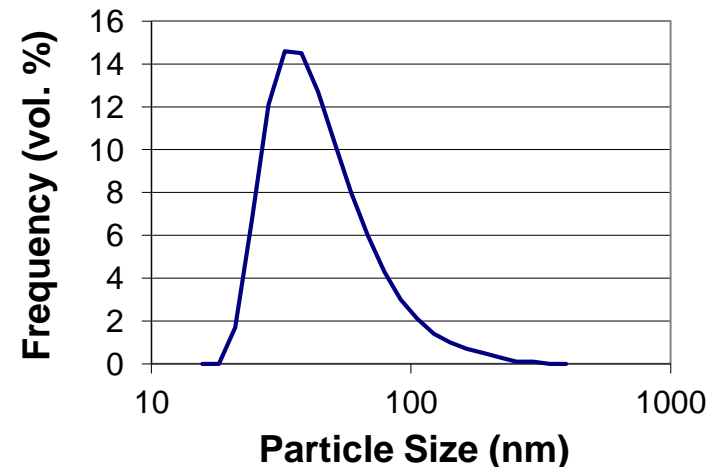
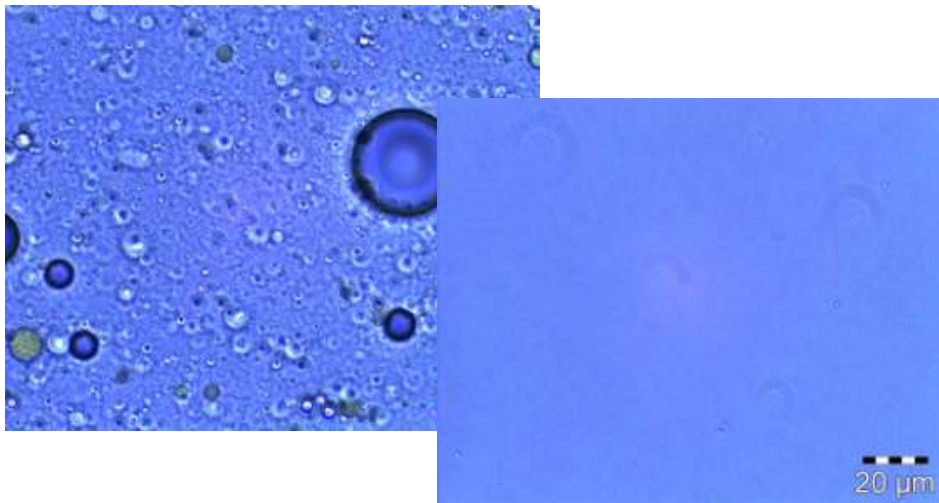
Company: A large US based pharmaceutical company

Application: Treatment of carcinomas

Material: A poorly water soluble active pharmaceutical ingredient with a melting point of  $< 60^{\circ}\text{C}$

Goal: To analyze various processing conditions and formulations to produce liposomal formulations of the active in the range of 50 nm to 150 nm.

Results:

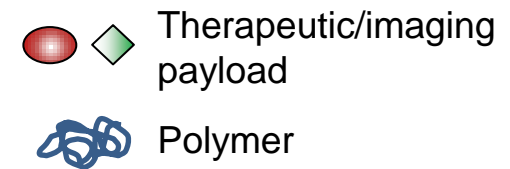
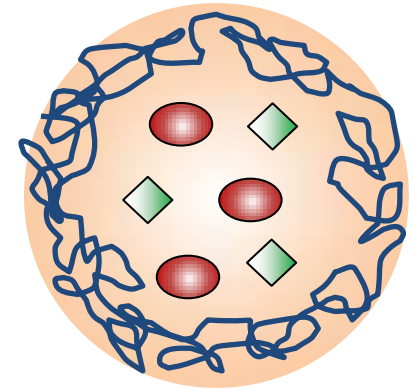


# Polymer Nano-Suspensions

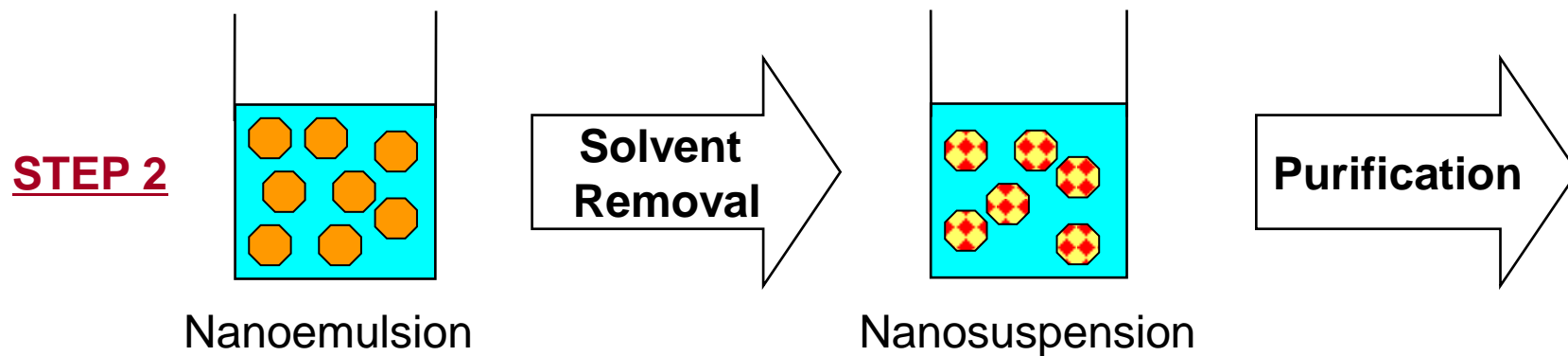
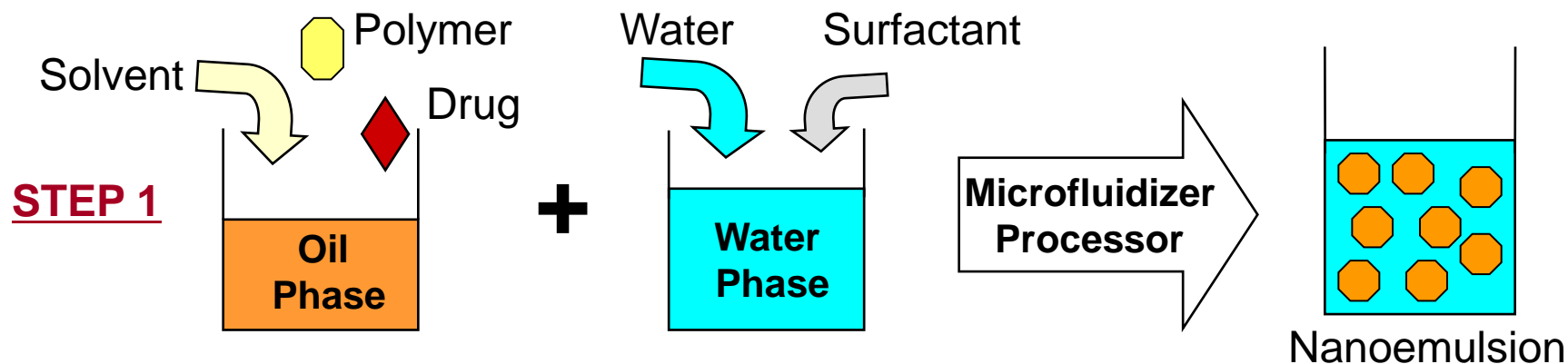


# Polymeric Nanoparticles

- Combination drug products
- Drug and resistance modulator
- Drug and energy delivery (heat, light, and sound)
- Drug and imaging agent



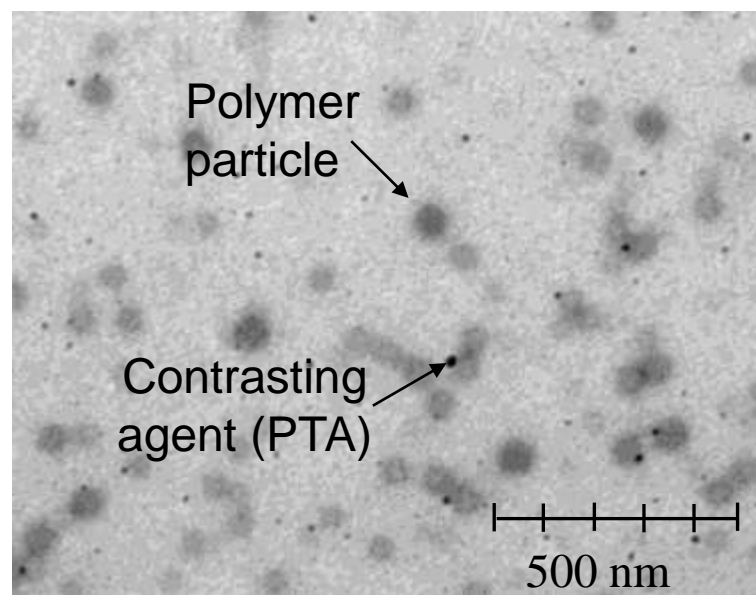
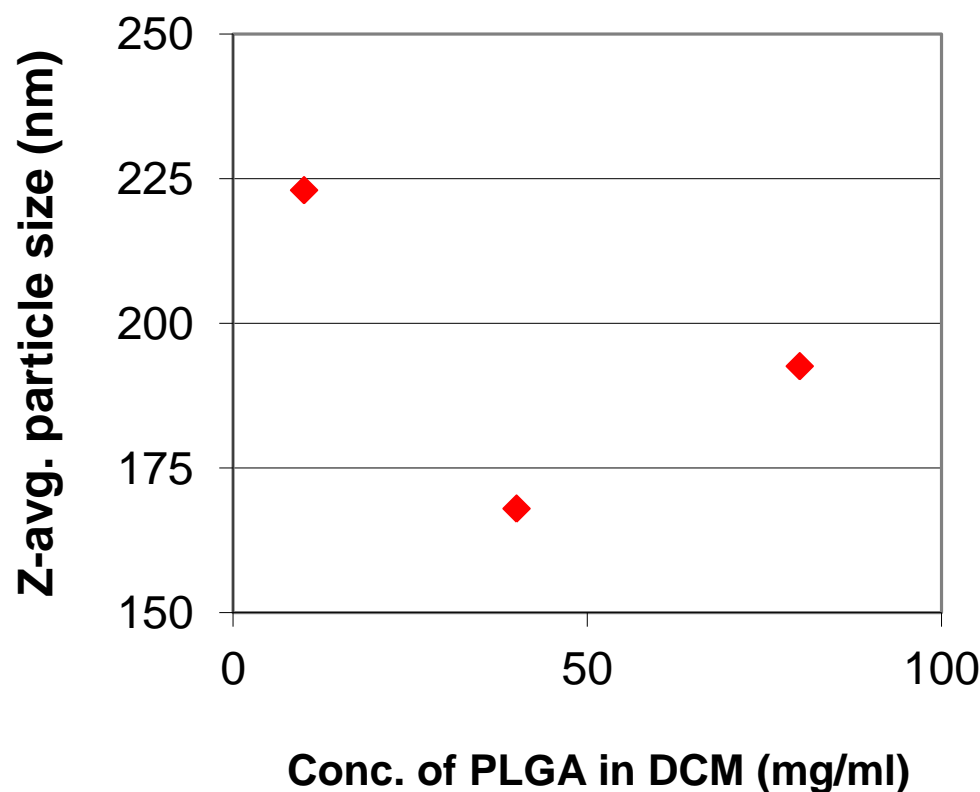
# Polymer Nanoparticles – Emulsion Evaporation Method



- Solvent is **not** miscible with water
- Post processing is **critical** and includes removal of solvent and the formation of nanosuspensions

# Polymer Nanoparticles – Emulsion Evaporation Method

- Polymer/solvent/non-solvent system: poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid (PLGA) / dichloromethane (DCM) / D.I. water
- Processed with M-110EH for 1 pass at 10,000psi (70 Mpa)



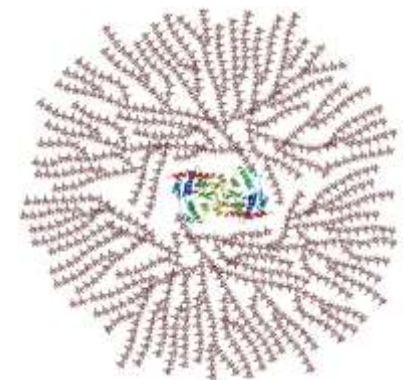
TEM images were taken to verify particle size

T. Panagiotou, S.M. Mesite, J.M. Bernard, K.J. Chomistek and R.J. Fisher, NSTI-Nanotech 2008, ISBN 978-1-4200-8503-7 Vol.1

# Polysaccharide Molecular Weight Reduction

# Polysaccharide Uses in Pharmaceuticals

- Polysaccharides are utilized in many pharmaceutical applications
  - Biocompatible and biodegradable in the body
  - Naturally broken down to building blocks, allowing for drug release without inflammatory immune response
- Polysaccharides have diverse molecular weights (MW) and structures
  - Hydrophilic groups enable bond formation with tissues and mucosal membranes, and extended circulation in blood
    - increased probability of targeting of tumors
  - Hydrophobic groups also prevalent on polymer backbone
    - good carriers for water-insoluble drugs
  - **Low MW polysaccharides show positive Zeta potential and higher solubility at a neutral pH**

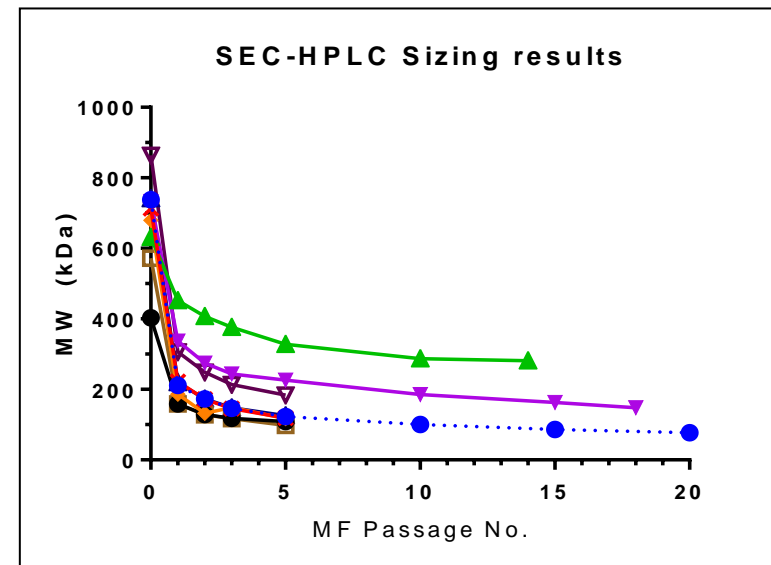


Exercise physiology: energy, nutrition, and human performance. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 2006

# Polysaccharide MW Reduction

- Material: Polysaccharide vaccine recently developed to enhance production of type-specific antibodies against pneumococcus in high-risk patients
- Goal: Reduce molecular weight of the polysaccharide to below 250 kDa
- The LV1 was utilized to process polysaccharide formulations

➤ Results indicate that the MW of 7 out of 8 of the polysaccharides were reduced below the targeted MW using the Microfluidizer®





# Summary

- Microfluidizer high shear fluid processors can produce nanomaterials with a wide variety of multiphase applications
- Through the demonstrated case studies, Microfluidizer™ technology has been proven to:
  - Be superior to conventional technology.
  - Be very efficient and reliable.
  - Offer precise, repeatable and scalable results.
- For biopharma industry, production Microfluidizers® are designed for compliance with cGMP and are capable of CIP/SIP operations.

# Any Questions?



*I will be happy to address any questions*

Yang Su  
Microfluidics International Corporation  
617.969.5452 x 320  
ysu@idexcorp.com

## Learn More

Visit [www.microfluidicscorp.com](http://www.microfluidicscorp.com) to view our complete technology capabilities, or submit a sample for Proof of Concept testing

## Tiny Particles, Big Results