# Macroscopic Through Atomic Characterisations of Bioactive Dental Cements

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# On Yesterday's Show ...

# **Clinical Material Variability**

#### UNMET **~** FUTURE CHALLENGES **~** OPPORTUNITY

# Elasticity of Orthodontic Archwires



K. Tian, B. W. Darvell, *Dent. Mater.* **26**, 821-829 (2010)



# **Clinical Variability**





# So ... WHY CEMENTS? WHY NOW?

#### Phasing-out Hg-Usage in the EU

 more wealthy EU-st ones lagging the furth in phasing-out Hg-am

 most promising alter are unknown by a lar of dental practitioners ~44% in UK)

- Italy is among 5 could (DK,EE,SE,IT,FI) exp have 0% share of Hg in 2025 • FR, PL, RO, UK, CZ users of dental-Hg (0) tonnes)
- Main reasons for col of Hg-amalgams = ccknowledge on GICs !!

Study on the potential for reducing mercury pollution from dental amalgam and batteries

#### **Final report**

European Commission-DG ENV 11 July 2012





80

tal Hg-free materials restorations

# Tooth/Bone Implants & Restorations Highly Invasive / Hg!





# ighly Invasive / Ho Amalgams



### **Composite Restorations**



#### Poor Adhesion / Toxic € € € £££ \$\$\$

#### **Bioactive Glass Ionomer Cements (GIC)**





# Hardness & Poisson's Ratio



Tian KV *et al*, J Mater Sci Mater Med 2012;**23**:677-85.

# Failure at Glass-Polymer Interface...?



# **SEM & TEM Imaging**



# 2 (3?) phases



# Work Ongoing

The glass and polymer components of GICs, in addition to the GIC cement and its setting profile are currently under investigation using the following techniques:

- Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC)
- Coherent THz Spectroscopy (CTHz)
- Neutron Comptom Scattering (NCS)
- Small / Wide Angle Neutron Scattering (SANS/WANS)
- Quasi-Elastic Neutron Scattering (QENS)
- Computational modeling





#### Gold teeth are passé – glassy teeth (and bones!) are now 'in'

KV Tian, C Dobo-Nagy (Semmelweis University, Budapest), DT Bowron, J Mayers, F Fernandez-Alonso (ISIS), JW Nicholson (St. Mary's University), GA Chass (Queen Mary, University of London), GN Greaves (University of Cambridge) Support for research: EPSRC-funded project equipment (EP/H030077/1 and EP/H030077/2).

The historic implantation of foreign materials into the human body is epitomised by dentistry, which continues to be by far its most pervasive example. Successes in dental materials have generated leads in orthopaedics and beyond. However, the rational optimisation and design of tooth and bone replacements remains an unmet challenge. Problems stem from the as-yet unresolved conflict between strength and toughness. Problems of adhesion, biocompatibility, appearance and cost beleaguer materials that do satisfy mechanical thresholds. Glass lonomer Cements (GICs) show promise of resolving this material dichotomy in filling and adhesion applications, complemented by ideal bonding to tooth and bone surfaces. Although the brittleness of these biocompatible composites has confined their use to non-load bearing applications, new evidence signals their potential to match the high toughness of teeth and bones.

Neutron diffraction on Nimrod and scattering on Vesuvio have provided valuable clues as to the factors controlling toughness and strength, through quantitative tracking of changes in structure and dynamics at the atomic and microscopic scales during cementation of GICs.

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> Top: Structure of ion exchange layer between GIC and tooth/bone; polymer (orange), glass (blue) and interface are shown. Bottom: Tomographic image of fractured GIC.





# Summary & Future Prospects

- GICs have been made overly strong (thus brittle) at the expense of toughness
- DSC, Neutron and THz spectroscopies provide effective means for characterising GICs and their setting reactions
- Strong potential for similarly characterising setting and mechanical properties in other cementitous materials

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