



Mechanical Properties and Cell Response of Polyelectrolyte Complexes and Thin Films

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Polyelectrolyte complexes can be viewed as gels which are heavily physically crosslinked by ion pairing. Their mechanical properties show elastic as well as viscous responses, especially when the complex also contains micropores. (Photo)chemical crosslinking, in addition to the intrinsic ion pairing, makes these materials even tougher. In this talk, I will describe the quantitative relationship between ion pair crosslink density and mechanical properties of both ultrathin films, made by the “multilayer” process, and larger pieces of polyelectrolyte complex. Toxicity tests show minimal cytotoxicity of the polymer components when they are combined in complexes. The response of cells cultured on these biocompatible materials will be presented.

You are welcome to meet Pr. Joe Schlenoff, do not hesitate to contact Pr. Schaaf (pierre.schaaf@ics-cnrs.unistra.fr).