

# Tissue Engineering: an overview

# REGENERATIVE MEDICINE and TISSUE ENGINEERING



<http://www.ndep.us/Building-Body-Parts>

# REGENERATIVE MEDICINE...Nature teaches



<http://www.ndep.us/Building-Body-Parts>

# MEDICINA RIGENERATIVA

disciplina innovativa, che si propone di **riparare organi adulti danneggiati** con l'intento di restituire loro l'integrità strutturale e funzionale dell'organo sano



Il traguardo che la medicina rigenerativa si prefigge può essere raggiunto attraverso:

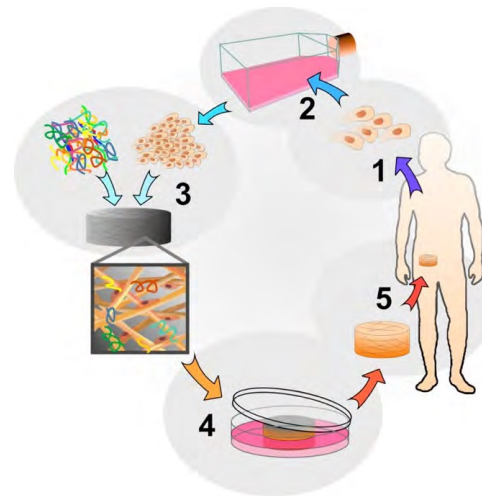
- l'identificazione delle cellule che meglio di altre possono sostituire le cellule colpite dalla malattia, come per esempio le cellule staminali;
- **la ricostruzione del microambiente più adatto capace di ospitare e istruire le cellule rigeneranti (ingegneria dei tessuti)**

# Branca della medicina rigenerativa.



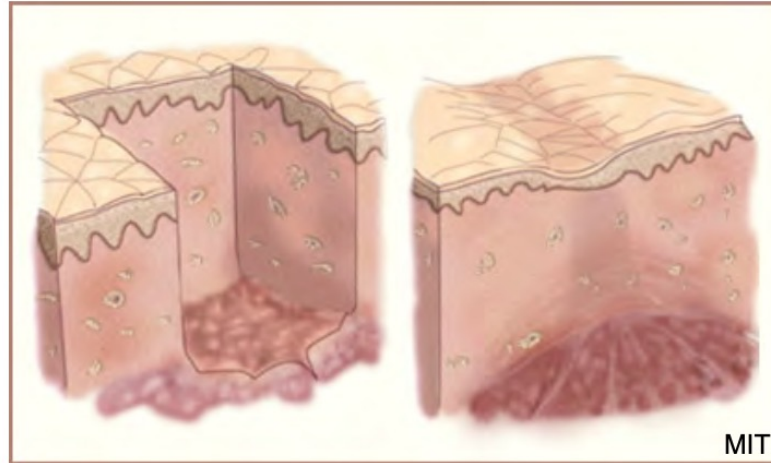
## TISSUE ENGINEERING

È un settore terapeutico interdisciplinare che si riferisce alla pratica di combinare scaffold, cellule e molecole biologicamente attive (assemblare costrutti funzionali) al fine di ricostruire tessuti danneggiati o interi organi.

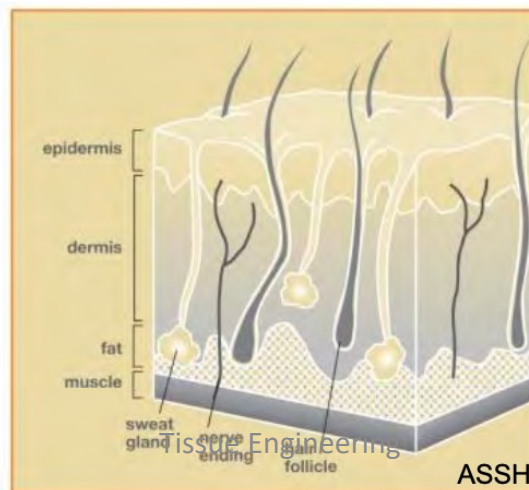


# Repair vs regeneration

**Repair** = reestablishing lost or damaged tissue to ***retain continuity***



**Regeneration** = replacement of lost or damaged tissue with an exact copy so that ***morphology and function are restored***



Tissue Engineering is...

“an **interdisciplinary** field that applies the **principles of engineering and life sciences** towards the development of biological substitutes that **restore, maintain, or improve tissue function or a whole organ**”

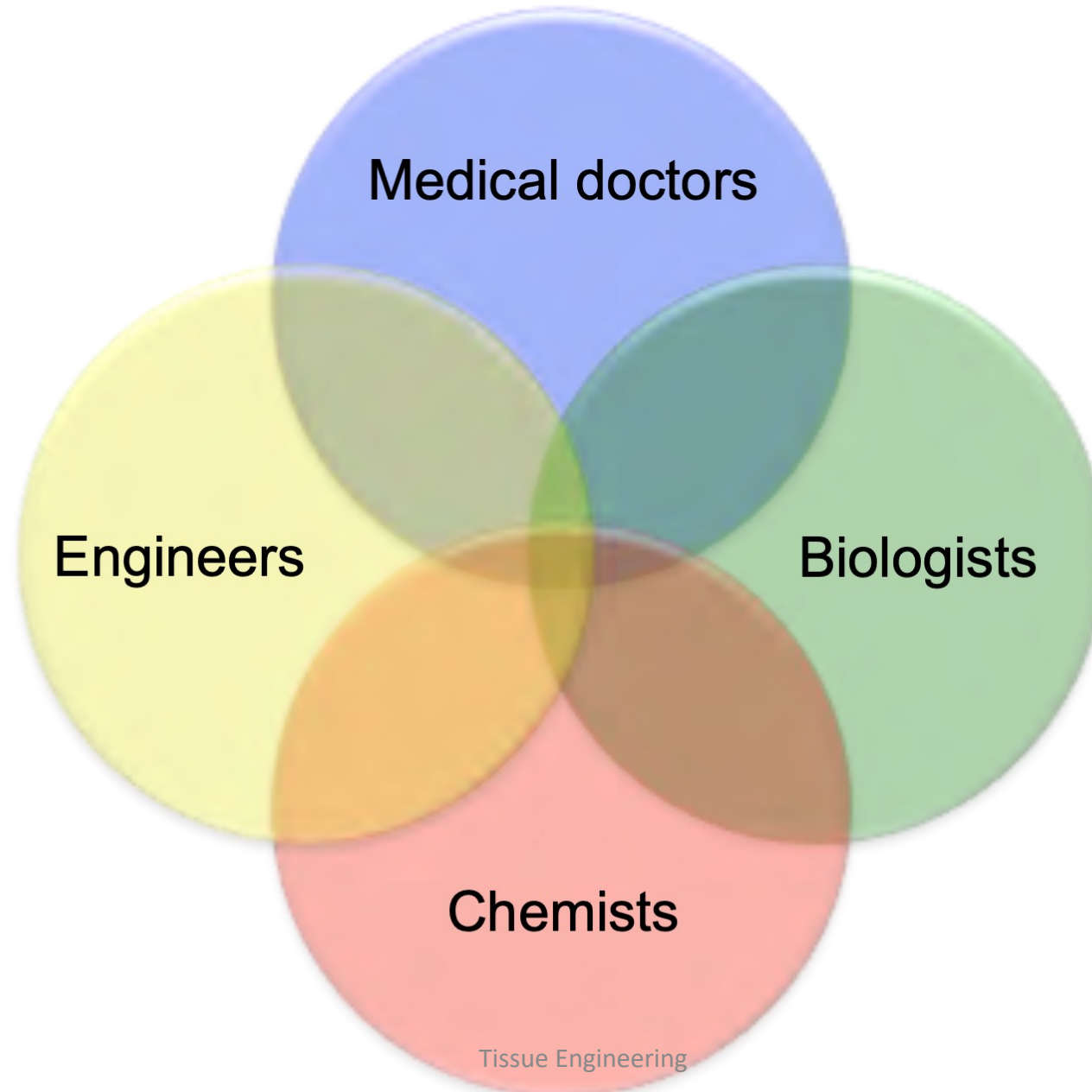
Langer and Vacanti, Science 1993

landmark study from  
1997 that helped  
launched the field



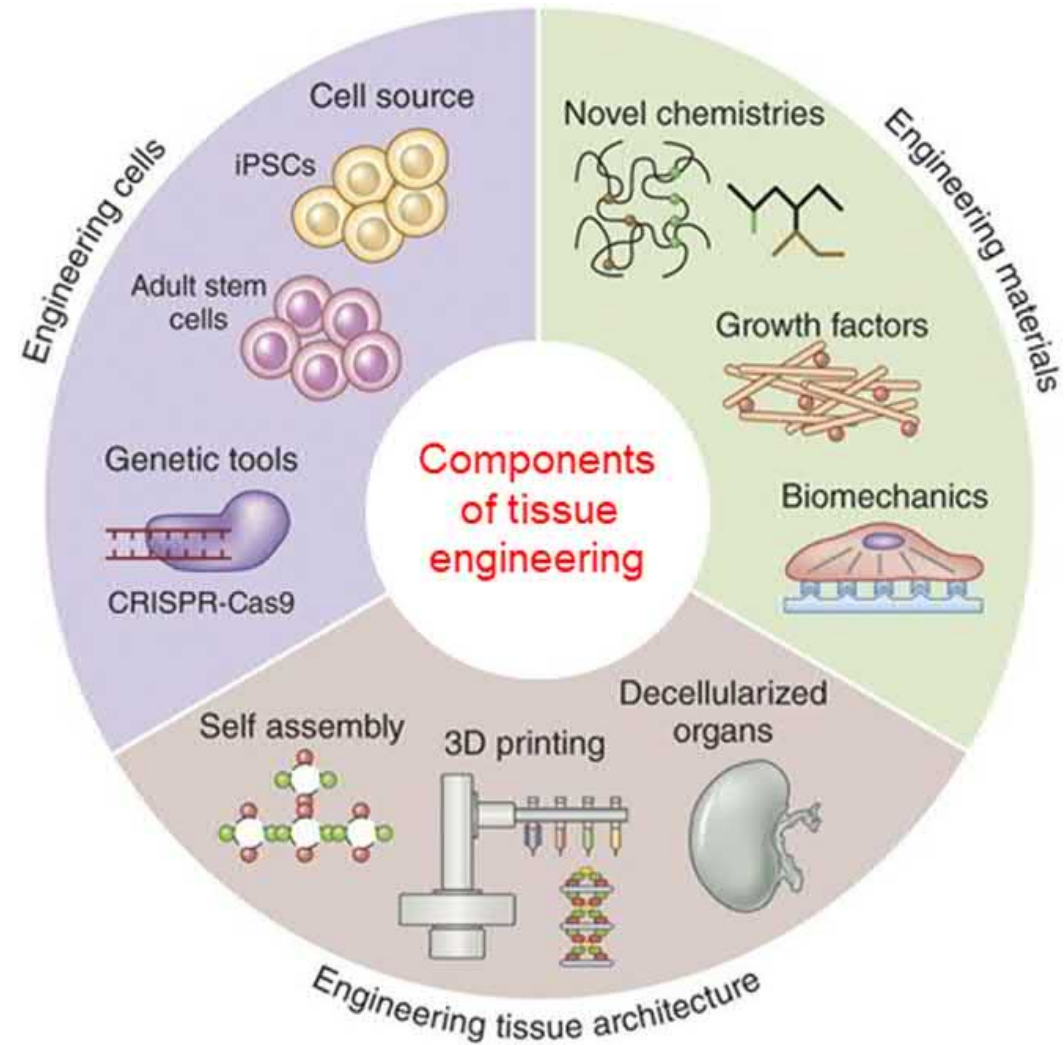
**Interdisciplinary study involving materials science,  
chemistry, biology, and medicine**

# Tissue engineering is multidisciplinary by necessity

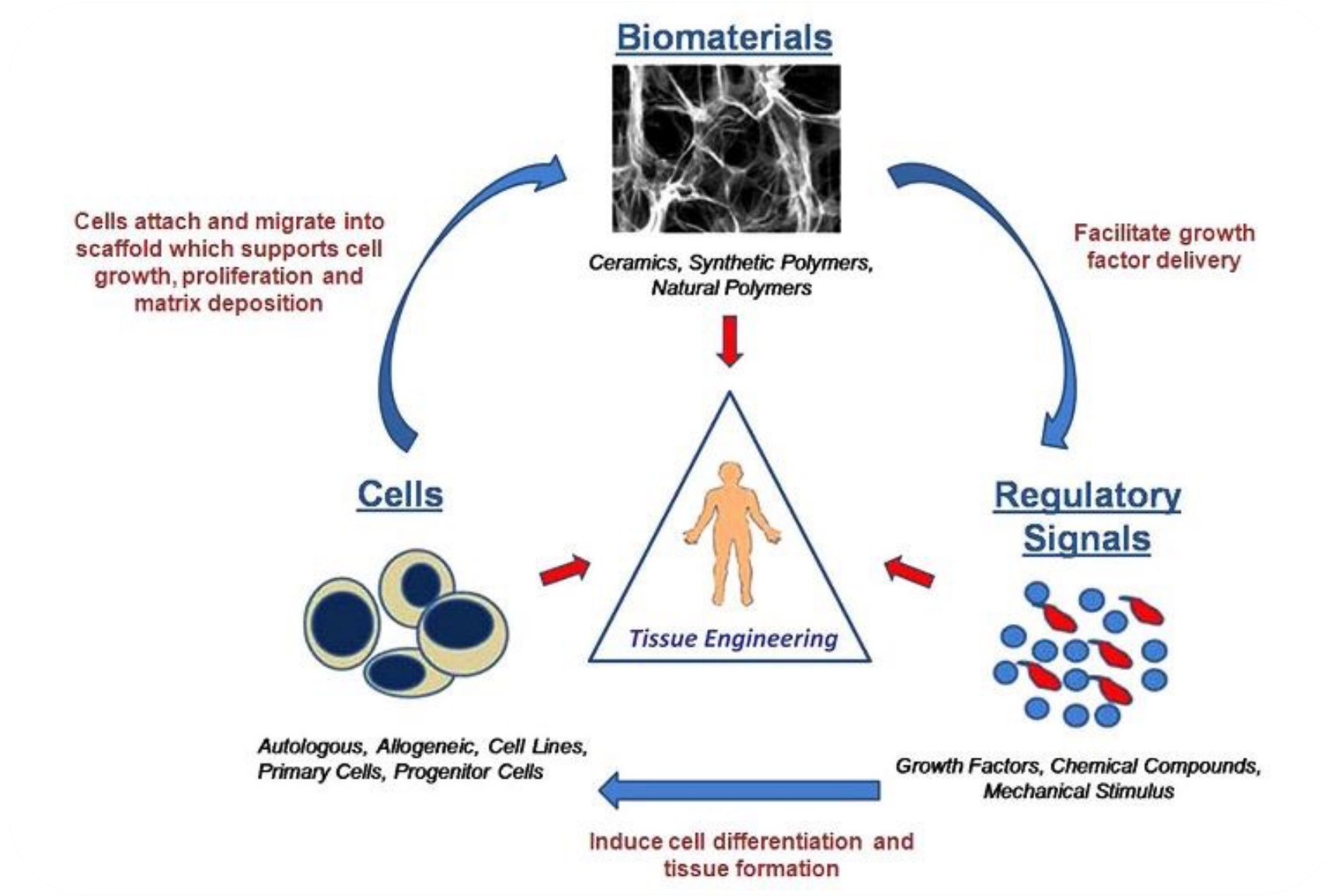




# The tissue engineering paradigm



# Tissue engineering



Mechanical and/or molecular signalling

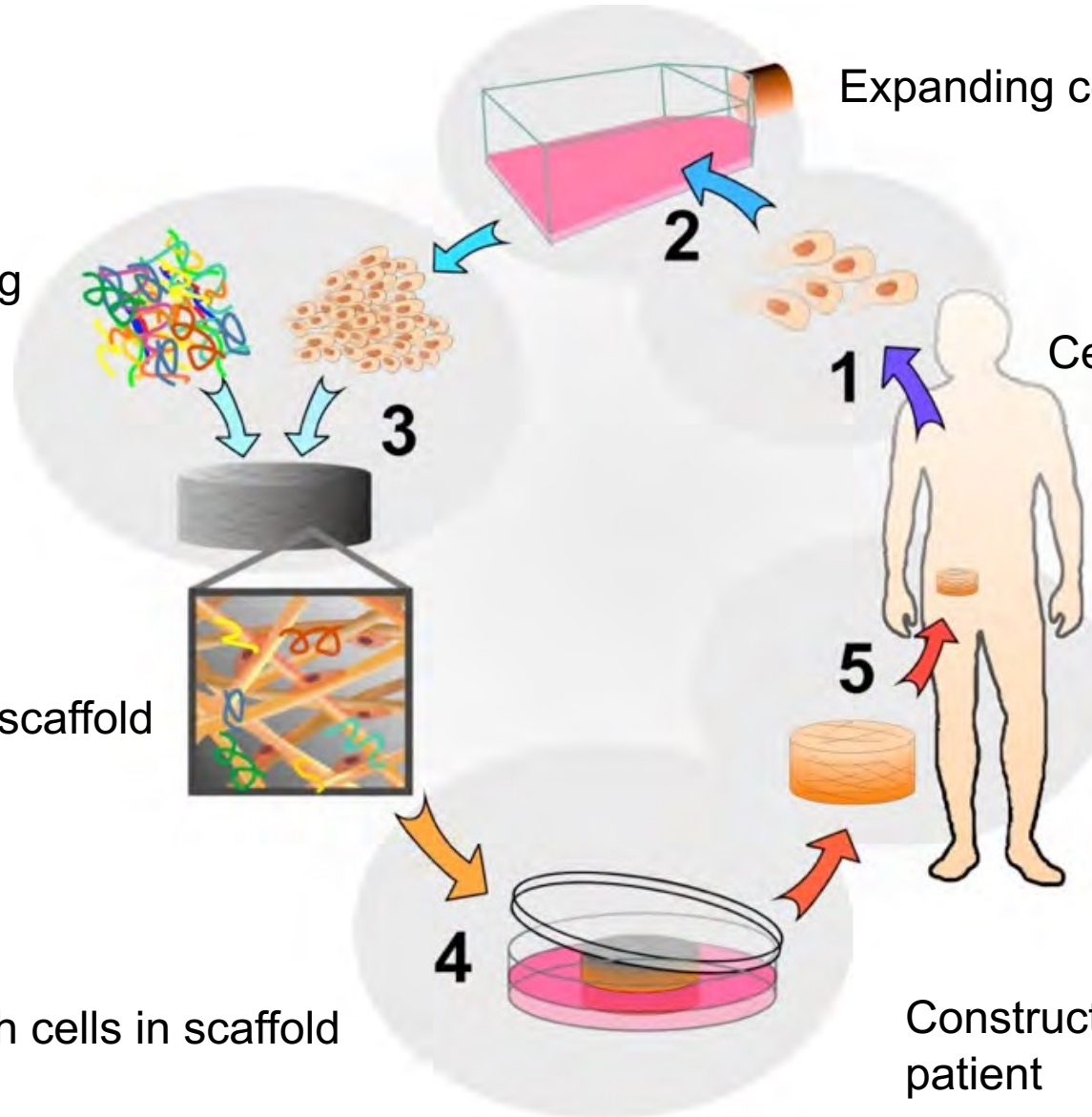
Expanding cells

Cells harvested from patient

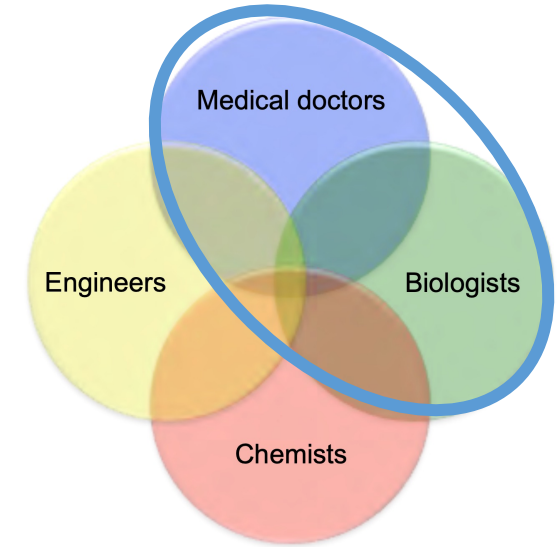
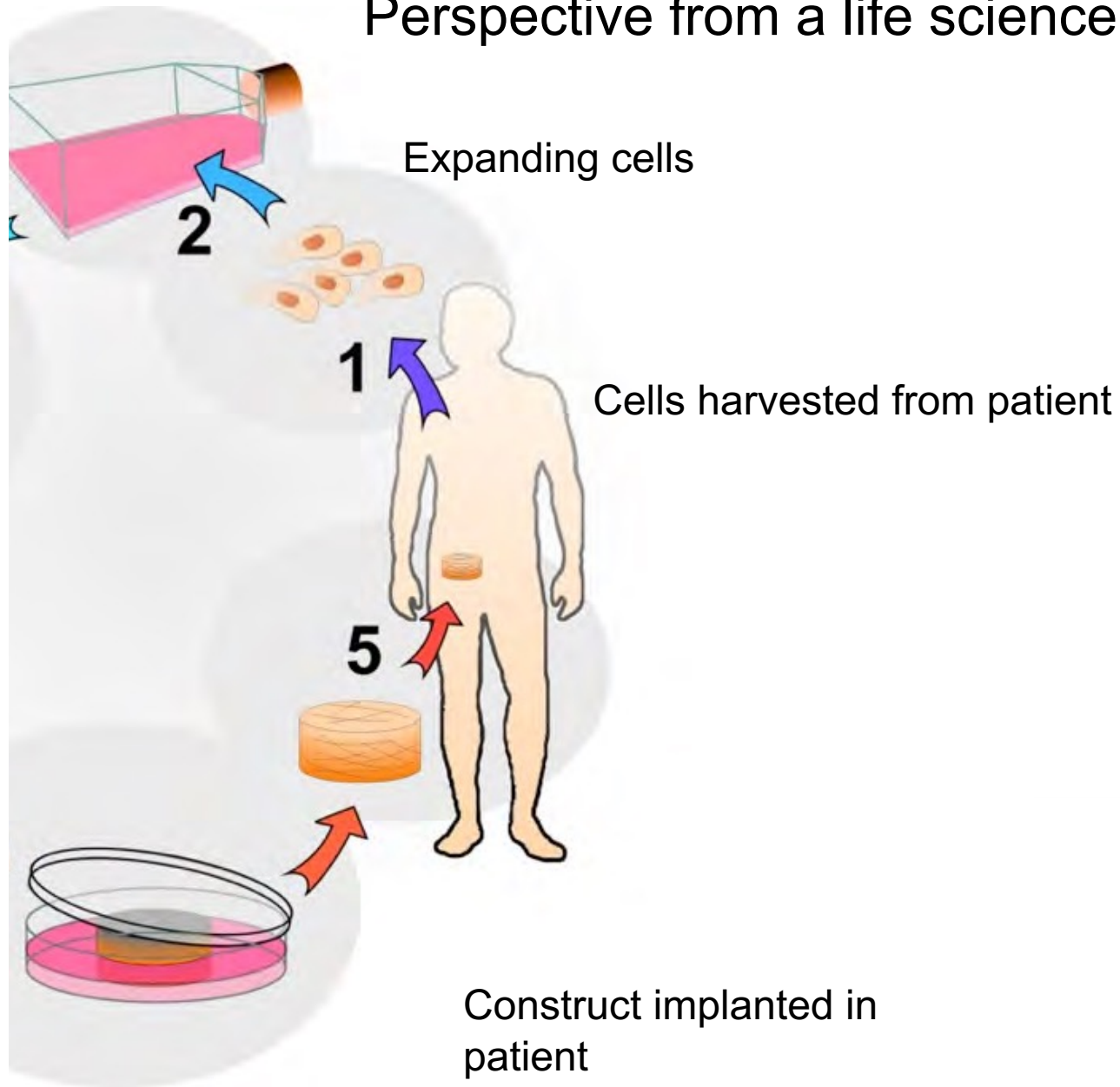
Cells seeded on scaffold

Construct with cells in scaffold cultured

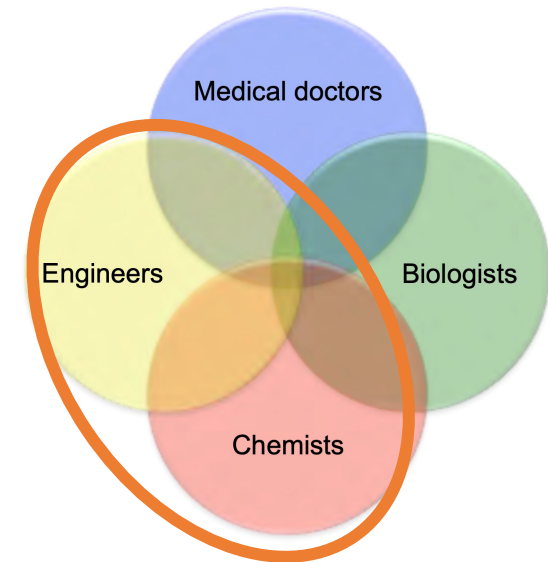
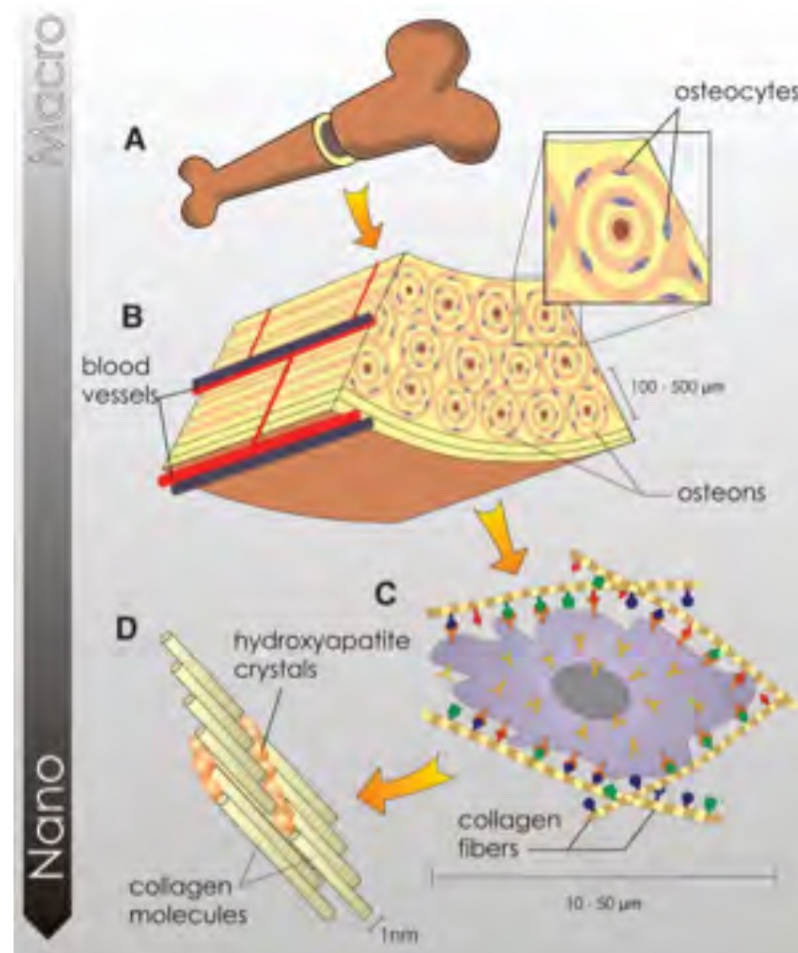
Construct implanted in patient



# Perspective from a life science scientist



# Perspective from a materials scientist

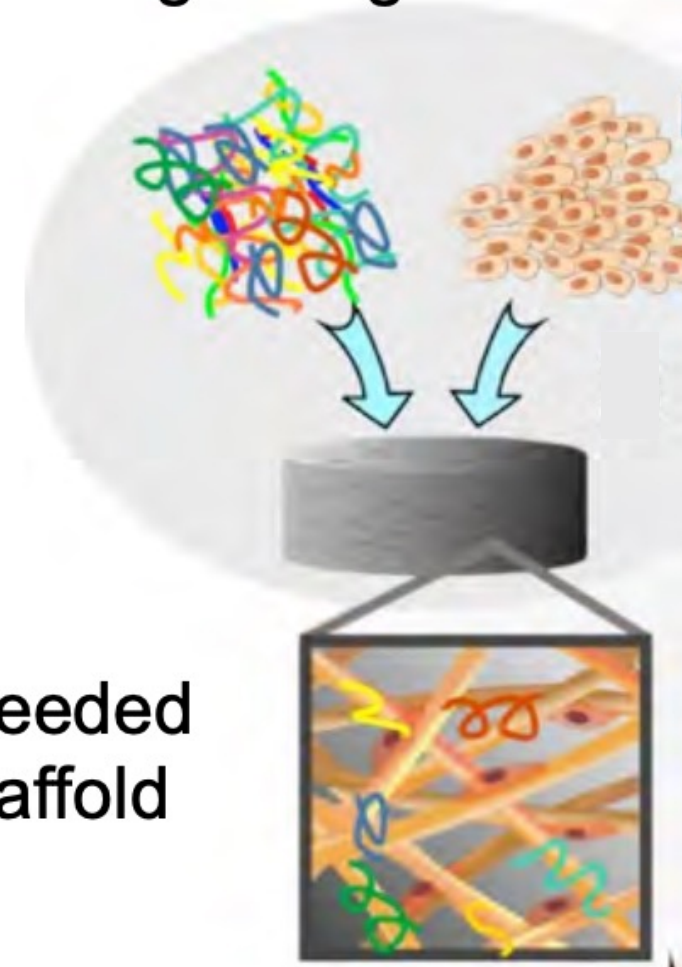


*look at biological tissues as materials*

Can we create biomaterials to stimulate regeneration?

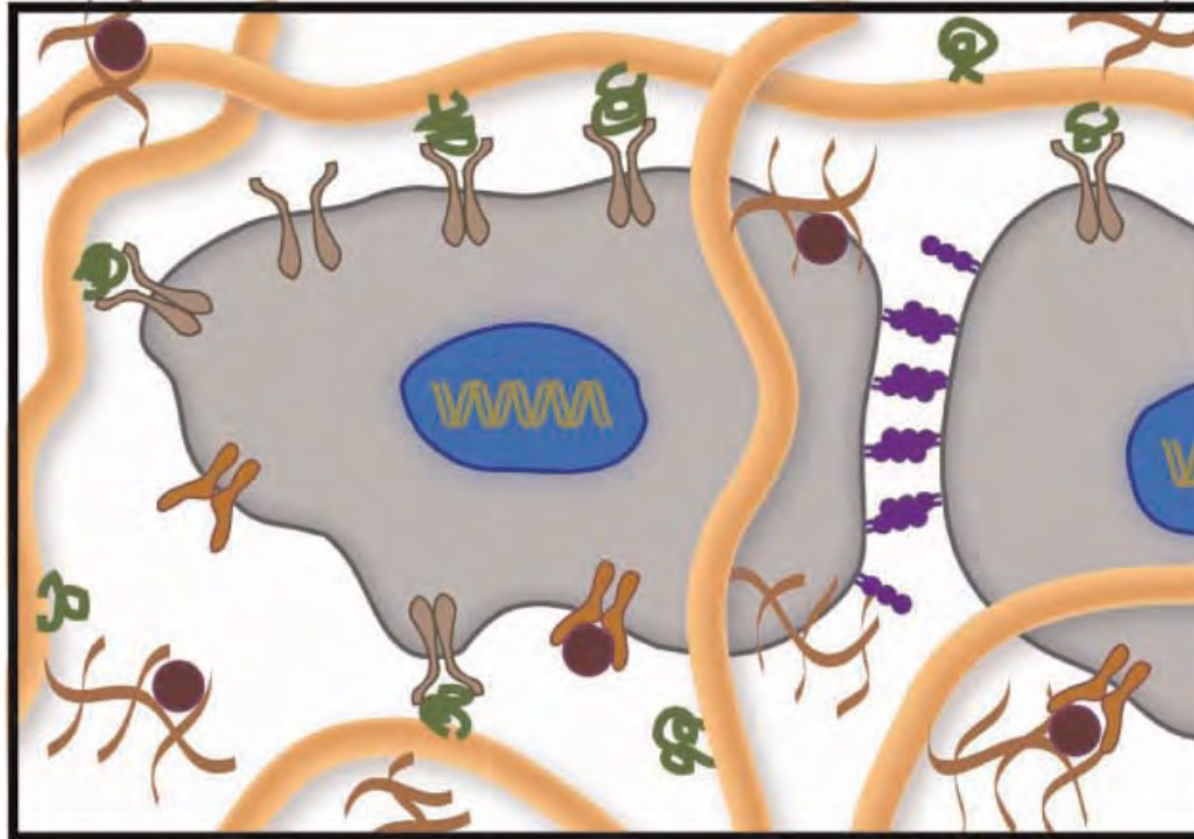
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Mechanical and/or molecular signalling



Cells seeded on scaffold

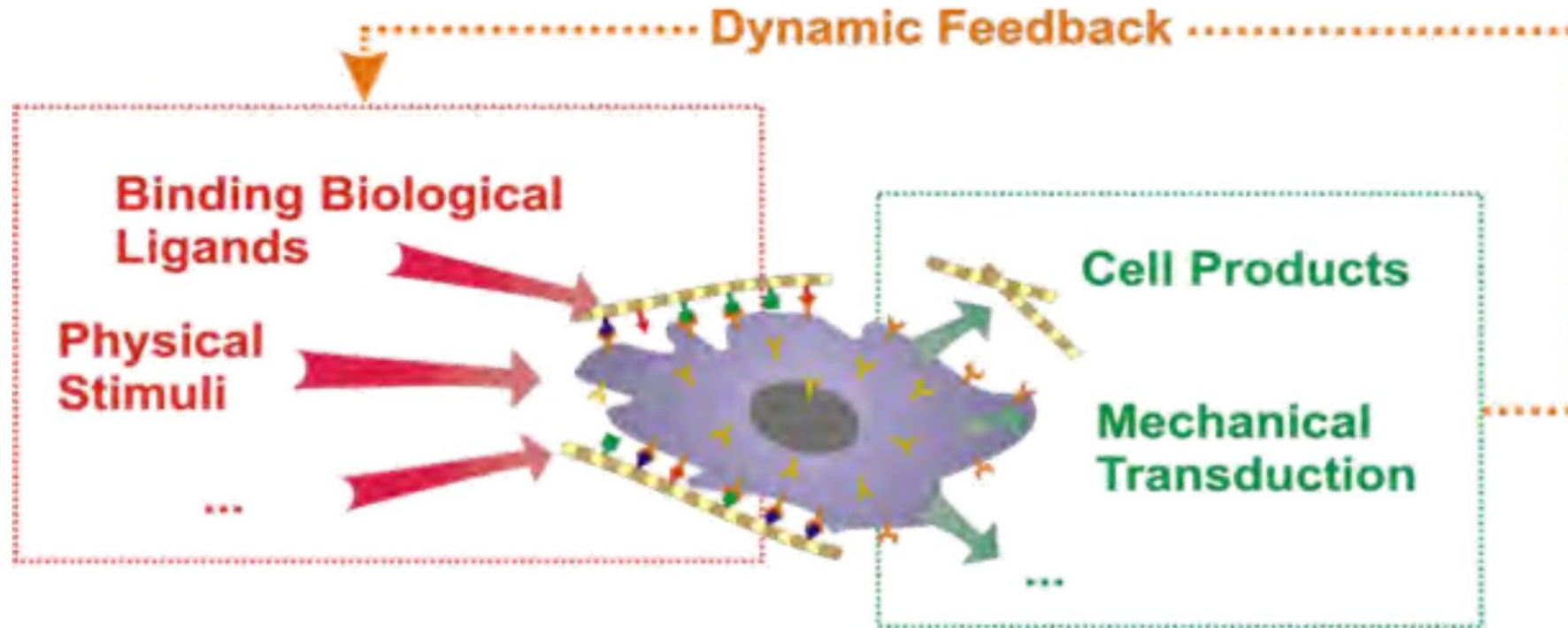
# Extracellular matrix (ECM): home for cells



Tibbitt & Anseth, *Biotech & Bioeng* 2009

- composed of many cross-linked proteins and biopolymers
- provides mechanical support
- regulates biological functions such as cell adhesion, proliferation, migration, differentiation, etc.

# Designing materials to mimic ECM to regenerate tissues

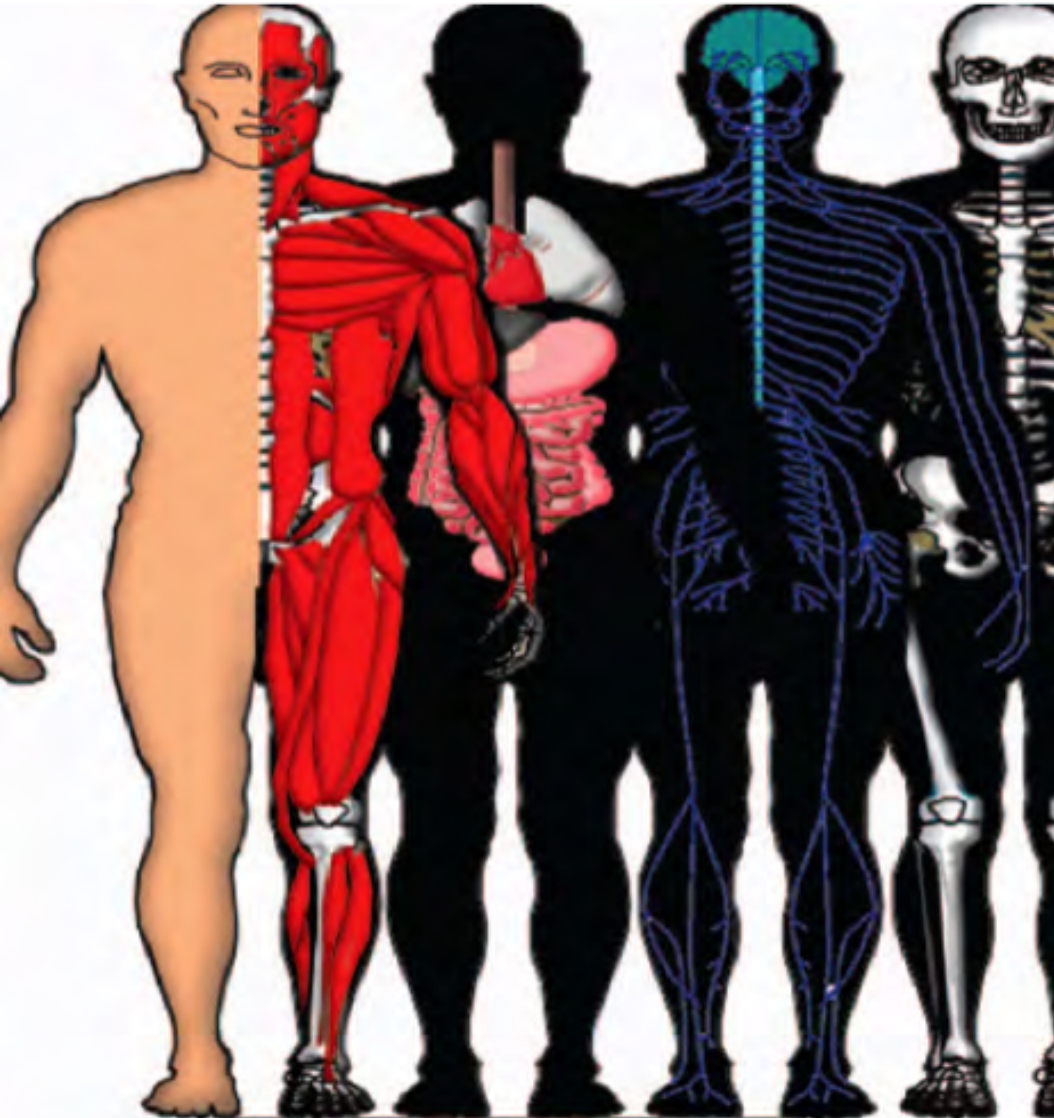


- take what we learn from nature to create **biomimetic materials** that can “jumpstart” regeneration
- apply principles and techniques from **materials science and engineering** to design systems and help understand biological processes

Can we mimic the ECM of biological tissues to **direct the body to heal itself?**

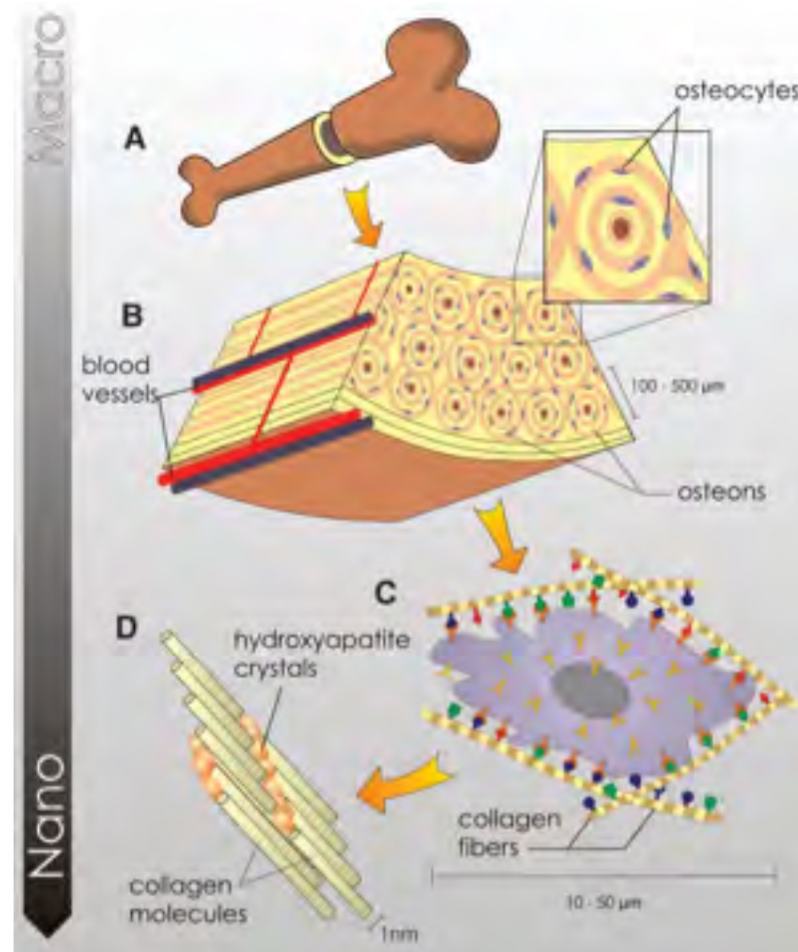


# Tailoring biomaterials to the specific tissue



- tissue type
- biochemical and mechanical functions
- size and scale of defect
- age of the patient
- disease conditions
- etc...

# Biological tissues are complex



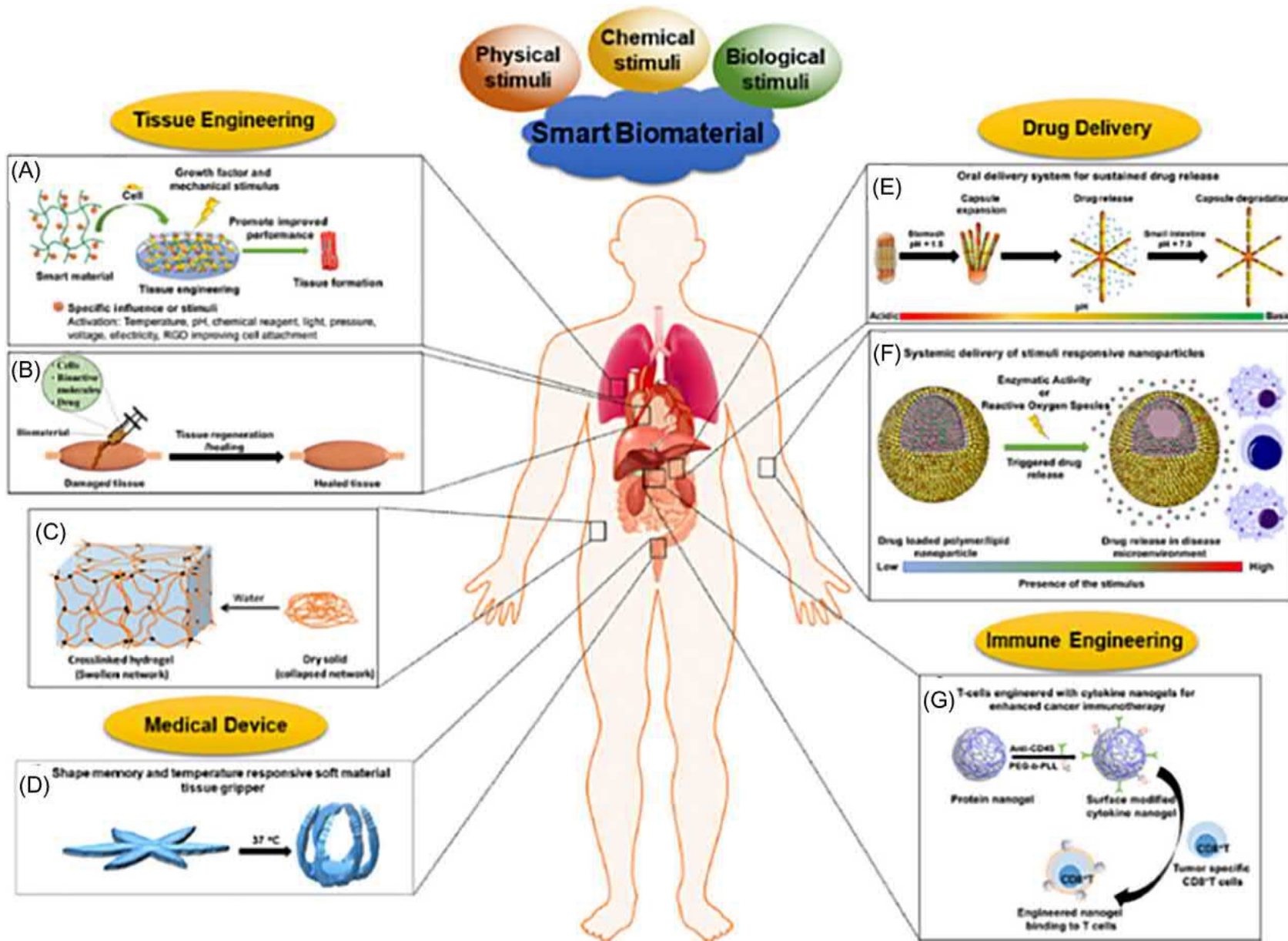
tissue composition and organization leads to biological function

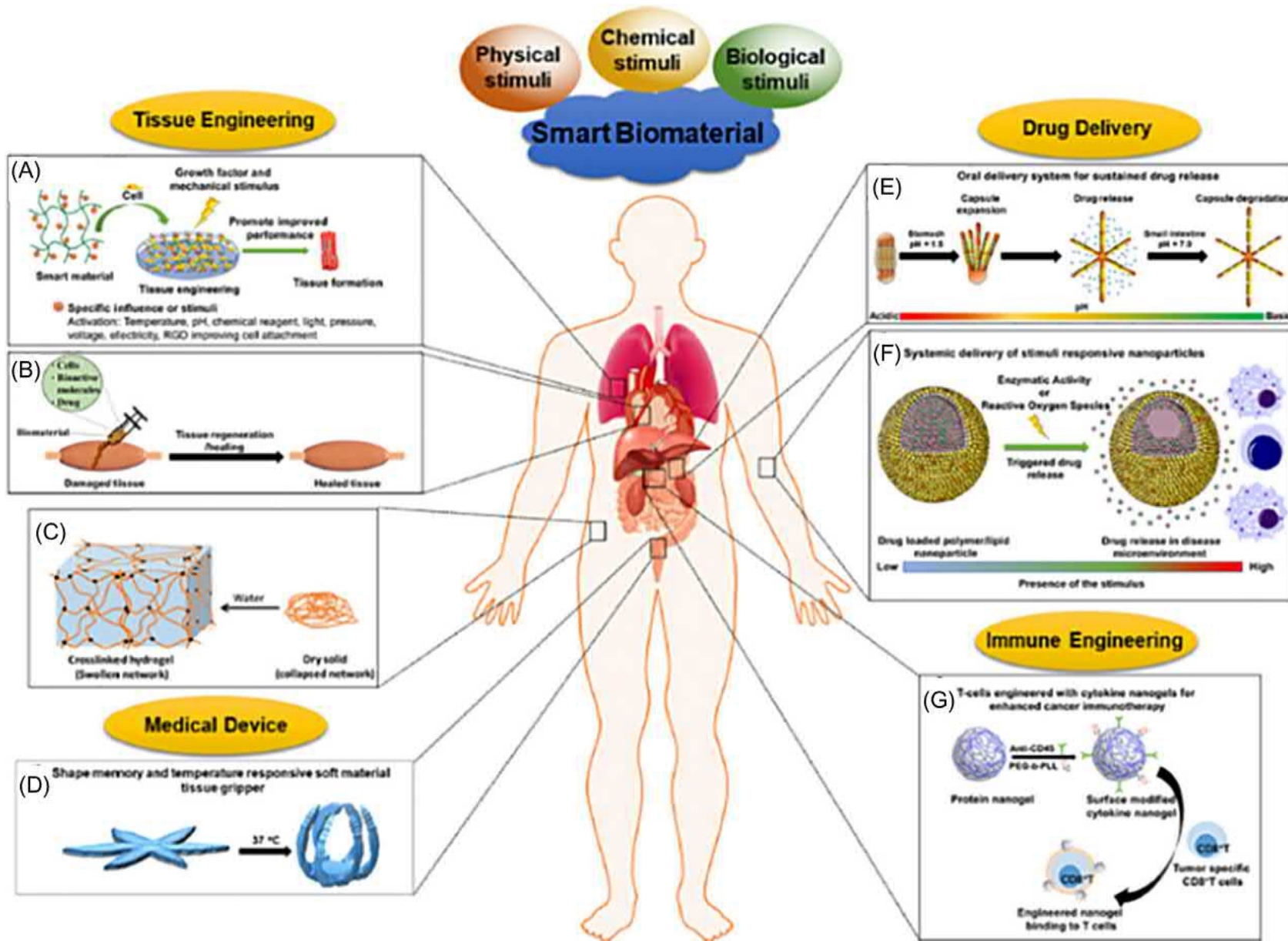
Can we design synthetic biomaterials that **regenerate functional native-like tissues**?

# TISSUE ENGINEERING: Regulatory signals

## GROWTH AND DIFFERENTIATION FACTORS

Growth Factor	Most representative function
Platelet-derived growth factor	Chemotaxis, inducing cells to migrate to the wound bed. <sup>1</sup>
Transforming growth factor- $\beta$	Cell proliferation inhibition, increase in synthesis of extracellular matrix and inhibition of its degradation; it favors neutrophil and monocyte chemotaxis, <sup>6</sup> although its specific action also depends on the cell environment.
Bone morphogenetic proteins	Repair of epidermis in more superficial layers of skin and inhibition of keratinocyte proliferation in deeper layers. <sup>65</sup>
Fibroblast growth factor	Mitogenic for endothelial cells, fibroblasts, chondroblasts, and osteoblasts <sup>7</sup> ; it favors angiogenesis.
Epidermal growth factor	Proliferation and mobility of fibroblasts and keratinocytes. <sup>66</sup>
Vascular endothelial growth factor	Angiogenesis and increase in capillary permeability. <sup>67</sup>
Insulin-like growth factor	Favoring reepithelization and production of granulation tissue. <sup>30</sup>
Interleukins	General proinflammatory function, regulation of immunological cell growth and/or differentiation. <sup>68</sup>





# THE LONG WAY TO GO

