

## 3D artificial heart tissue

*Commonly used acronym: Heart Patch*

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### Contact person

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### Organisation

**Name of the organisation** Ghent University (UGent)

**Department** Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

**Specific Research Group or Service** Medical Cell Biology research group

**Country** Belgium

**Geographical Area** Flemish Region

**Name of the organisation** Ghent University (UGent)

**Department** Research Unit Plasma Technology

**Country** Belgium

**Geographical Area** Flemish Region

**Name of the organisation** Ghent University (UGent)

**Department** Cell Physiology and electrophysiology

**Country** Belgium

**Geographical Area** Flemish Region

**Name of the organisation** Ghent University hospital (UZ Gent)

**Department** Experimental cardiac surgery-cardiocirculatory physiology

**Country** Belgium

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**Name of the organisation** Interuniversitair Micro-Electronica Centrum (IMEC)

**Department** Center for Microsystems Technology

**Country** Belgium

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**Name of the organisation** University of Hasselt (UHasselt)

**Department** Lab of Cardiovascular Physiology

**Country** Belgium

**Geographical Area** Flemish Region

## SCOPE OF THE METHOD

<b>The Method relates to</b>	Human health
<b>The Method is situated in</b>	Basic Research, Translational - Applied Research
<b>Type of method</b>	In vitro - Ex vivo
<b>Specify the type of cells/tissues/organs</b>	3D heart

## DESCRIPTION

### Method keywords

heart model

3D

Human induced Pluripotent Stem Cell

multi electrode array

plasma treatment

### Scientific area keywords

cell biology

Cardiology

cardiac function

Cardiac electrophysiology

## Method description

Current pre-clinical drug safety evaluation methods remain costly, inefficient, and unreliable, with 80–90% of compounds ultimately failing in human trials — often due to poor predictive models and safety concerns. Scaffold-based 3D organ models offer a more promising and physiologically relevant alternative in pre-clinical drug testing. We aim to advance this field by optimizing a 3D artificial heart tissue model seeded with key human cell types—cardiomyocytes, fibroblasts, and endothelial cells. This model of heart patch surpasses current 3D cardiac constructs by incorporating bioinspired scaffolds and electro-mechanical stimulation to enhance cell differentiation and tissue maturity. By leveraging human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), our platform offers a more predictive and human-relevant system for cardiac drug safety and efficacy assessment, helping reduce reliance on *in vivo* animal testing.

## Method status

Still in development

## REFERENCES, ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Coordinated by



Financed by



Vlaanderen  
verbeelding werkt

