



Cell Encapsulation Technology and Therapeutics (Tissue Engineering)

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The concept of using encapsulation for the immunoprotection of transplanted cells was introduced for the first time in the 1960s. "[Microencapsulated cells] might be protected from destruction and from participation in immunological processes, while the enclosing membrane would be permeable to small molecules of specific cellular product which could then enter the general extracellular compartment of the recipient. For instance, encapsulated endocrine cells might survive and maintain an effective supply of hormone." (Chang, Ph.D. Thesis, McGill University, 1965; Chang et al., Can J Physiol Pharmacol 44:115-128, 1966). We asked Connaught Laboratories, Ltd., in Toronto to put this concept into practice. In 1980, Lim and Sun from Connaught Laboratories reported on the successful implantation of poly-L-lysine-alginate encapsulated rat islets into a foreign host. [Lim and Sun, Science 210:908-909, 1980]. Now many groups around the world are making tremendous progress in the encapsulation of a multitude of cell types. Kiihtreiber, Lanza, and Chick have invited many cell encapsulation groups from around the world to contribute to this book. The result is a very useful reference book in this rapidly growing area. With so many excellent authors describing in detail the different areas of cell encapsulation, my role here will be to briefly discuss a few points.

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About the Author

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