

M. Stoddart: Normally an increase in serum concentration is associated with an increase in final GAG content, whereas in this work that does not seem to be the case. Can you offer any suggestions as to why 2% autologous serum results in the same GAG/DNA as 10% autologous serum?

Authors: The literature in this field is quite controversial; therefore it is not really obvious whether a higher percentage of serum during the 3D culture of chondrocytes

is associated with an enhanced extent of chondrogenesis. Indeed, some groups claim that absence of serum in high density cultures supports more efficient chondrocyte redifferentiation. Moreover, it must be highlighted that in our experiments the effect of using different percentages of serum, at least during the expansion phase, is masked by the use of growth factors in the medium, which – as mentioned in the discussion with S. Grad – apparently reduce chondrocyte dependence from serum.