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PII: S0376-7388(18)30608-2

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.memsci.2018.05.028 DOI:

MEMSCI16168 Reference:

To appear in: Journal of Membrane Science

Received date: 6 March 2018 Revised date: 16 May 2018 Accepted date: 17 May 2018

Cite this article as: Nurshaun Sreedhar, Navya Thomas, Oraib Al-Ketan, Reza Rowshan, Hector H. Hernandez, Rashid K. Abu Al-Rub and Hassan Arafat, Mass transfer analysis of ultrafiltration using spacers based on triply periodic minimal surfaces: Effects of spacer design, directionality and voidage, Journal of Membrane Science, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.memsci.2018.05.028

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Mass transfer analysis of ultrafiltration using spacers based on triply periodic minimal surfaces: Effects of spacer design, directionality and voidage

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Abstract

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An ideal feed spacer balances high flux and low pressure drop while minimizing fouling. In this work, several feed spacer with complex triply periodic minimal surface (TPMS) geometries were designed and fabricated using additive manufacturing (AM) processing. AM technology was employed to vary the voidage and directionality of the spacers. The fabricated spacers were tested to determine their impact on mass transfer, pressure drop and critical flux in a flat-sheet ultrafiltration (UF) setup for protein separation in aqueous medium. Dimensionless numbers

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