

## Accepted Manuscript

Title: Robocast zirconia-toughened alumina scaffolds: processing, structural characterisation and interaction with human primary osteoblasts

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PII: S0955-2219(17)30570-8  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jeurceramsoc.2017.08.031>  
Reference: JECS 11426

To appear in: *Journal of the European Ceramic Society*

Received date: 27-2-2017  
Revised date: 25-8-2017  
Accepted date: 28-8-2017

Please cite this article as: Stanciuc Ana-Maria, Sprecher Christoph Martin, Adrien Jérôme, Roiban Lucian Ioan, Alini Mauro, Gremillard Laurent, Peroglio Marianna. Robocast zirconia-toughened alumina scaffolds: processing, structural characterisation and interaction with human primary osteoblasts. *Journal of The European Ceramic Society* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jeurceramsoc.2017.08.031>

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**Robocast zirconia-toughened alumina scaffolds: processing, structural characterisation and interaction with human primary osteoblasts**

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**Abstract**

Zirconia-toughened alumina (ZTA) is the gold-standard ceramic in hip arthroplasty, but still lacks direct osseointegration and a metal shell, often coated with a bioactive layer, is currently required. The latter could potentially be replaced by a thinner, architected ZTA layer, thereby allowing for larger acetabular components, with larger range of motion and lower dislocation risk. Robocasting may be an adequate technique to fabricate the architected layer. Therefore, as a first step, this study aimed to produce ZTA scaffolds (3D-ZTA) by robocasting and assess their in vitro response. Shape retention was achieved by using a stable, well-dispersed, high solid loading ink injected in acid pH waterbath. 3D-ZTA exhibit regularly spaced microporous, rough struts and fully interconnected macroporosity. Human primary osteoblasts were

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