

Title: **Microfluidic-based bottom-up assembly of nanocellulose fibres**

Student: Cesc Vidal Vilaseca

Date: January 2022

Supervisor/s: Dr. Josep Puigmartí-Luis

Dr. Michele Mattera

Dra. Yonca Belce

Departament de Química Física

Dra. Anna Laromaine Sagué

Group of Nanoparticles & Nanocomposites (ICMAB-CSIC)

Aligned bacterial cellulose nanofibers (BCN) have been produced, as reported in literature, in static conditions (BCN-SC) using *Komagateibacter xylinus* bacteria, but one of the drawbacks of this approach, is their limited length as defined by the experimental conditions used in this method. The aim of this study is to develop a method to overcome this limitation and to enable the continuous production of longer aligned BCN using a microfluidic (MF) approach, hereafter called BCN-MF fibres. To do so, a microfluidic device is designed using 3D modelling and 3D printed by Stereolithography (SLA), once cellulose-producing bacteria were incorporated inside the microfluidic device, the whole process is optimized, and production of fibres is obtained. The BCN-MF fibres were characterized by optical microscopy and scanning electron microscopy (SEM), moreover the use of polarized light microscopy showed that those fibres are aligned. To conclude, BCN-MF fibres show the same alignment as BCN-SC fibres, meaning that this new method can produce similar but longer fibres thanks to the continuous-flow approach.