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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ALLERGAN, INC.** [US/US]; 2525 Dupont Drive, T2-7H, Irvine, California 92612 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **LIU, Futian** [CA/US]; 530 La Conner Drive, # 36, Sunnyvale, California 94087 (US). **MANESIS, Nicholas, J.** [US/US]; 2280 Varley Street, Summerland, California 93067 (US). **GORALTCHOUK, Alexei** [CA/US]; 430 Whitman St., Unit40, Goleta, California 93117 (US). **STROUMPOULIS, Dimitrios** [GR/US]; 6616 Abrego Road, Apt 4, Goleta, California 93117 (US).

(74) Agents: **FOX, Linda, A.** et al.; Allergan, Inc., 2525 Dupont Drive, Irvine, California 92612 (US).

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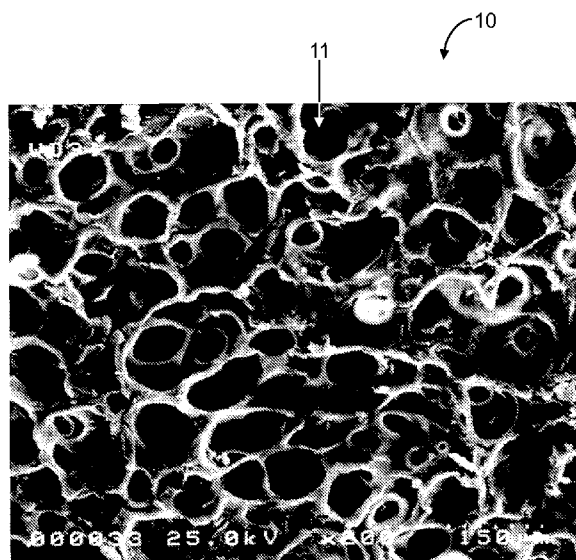
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- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: POROUS MATERIALS, METHODS OF MAKING AND USES



**FIG. 1A**

(57) Abstract: The present specification discloses porous materials, methods of forming such porous materials, biocompatible implantable devices comprising such porous materials, and methods of making such biocompatible implantable devices.



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**POROUS MATERIALS, METHODS OF MAKING AND USES**

Inventors: Futian Liu, Nicholas J. Manesis, Alexei Goraltchouk,  
and Dimitrios Stroumpoulis

**Related Application**

**[0001]** This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/333,120 filed on May 10, 2010 and which is incorporated herein by this specific reference.

**BACKGROUND**

**[0002]** Porous materials are widely used in biomedical, industrial, and household applications. In the biomedical field, porous materials have been used as scaffolds (templates) for tissue engineering/regeneration, wound dressings, drug release matrices, membranes for separations and filtration, sterile filters, artificial kidneys, absorbents, hemostatic devices, and the like. In various industrial and household applications, porous materials have been used as insulating materials, packaging materials, impact absorbers, liquid or gas absorbents, membranes, filters and so forth.

**[0003]** Implantable medical devices frequently induce a foreign body response that results in the formation of an avascular, fibrous capsule around the implant, which limits the performance of the device. For example, formation of these fibrous capsules can result in capsular contracture, the tightening and hardening of the capsule that surrounding implanted device. Capsular contractions not only distort the aesthetic appearance of the surrounding area where the implant is placed, but also cause pain to the individual. Problems with capsular formation and contracture occur in many types of implantable medical devices, such as, *e.g.*, pacemakers, orthopedic joint prosthetics, dura matter substitutes, implantable cardiac defibrillators, tissue expanders, and tissue implants used for prosthetic, reconstructive, or aesthetic purposes, like breast implants, muscle implants, or implants that reduce or prevent scarring. Correction of capsular

contracture may require surgical removal or release of the capsule, or removal and possible replacement of the device itself.

**[0004]** Scar tissue formation in the healing of a wound or surgical incision is also a process involving the formation of fibrous tissue. A visible scar results from this healing process because the fibrous tissue is aligned in one direction. However, it is often aesthetically desirable to prevent scar formation, especially in certain types of plastic surgery.

**[0005]** The biological response to implantable medical devices and wound healing appears dependent on the microarchitecture of the surface of the implants. Implants with smooth surfaces in particular are most susceptible to capsular formation and contracture. One means of reducing capsular formation and contracture has been to texture the surface of an implantable medical device. In these methods, a textured surface is imprinted onto the surface of a device forming “hills” and “valleys” architecture. See, e.g., U.S. Patent 4,960,425, *Textured Surface Prosthesis Implants*; U.S. Patent 5,022,942, *Method of Making Textured Surface Prosthesis Implants*. However, capsular contracture can still occur in implantable medical devices textured in the manner.

**[0006]** As such, there is a continuing need for implantable medical devices manufactured in such a way that the formation of fibrous capsules is reduced or prevented. The present application discloses porous materials, methods of making these porous materials, implantable medical devices comprising such porous materials, and methods of making such implantable medical devices. The porous materials promote cellular ingrowth in and around an implantable medical device and reduce or prevent a foreign body response, such as, e.g., capsular contracture as well as to reduce or prevent scars resulting from wound healing.

**[0007]** Thus, aspects of the present specification disclose a porous material comprising a substantially non-degradable, biocompatible, elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores.

**[0008]** Other aspects of the present specification disclose a method of forming a porous material, the method comprising the steps of: a) fusing porogens to form a porogen scaffold comprising fused porogens; b) coating the porogen scaffold with an elastomer base to form an elastomer coated porogen scaffold; c) curing the elastomer coated porogen scaffold; and d) removing the porogen scaffold, wherein porogen scaffold removal results in a porous material, the porous material comprising a substantially non-degradable, biocompatible, elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores.

**[0009]** Yet other aspects of the present specification disclose a porous material comprising a substantially non-degradable, biocompatible, elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores, wherein the porous material is made by the method comprising the steps of: a) fusing porogens to form a porogen scaffold comprising fused porogens; b) coating the porogen scaffold with an elastomer base to form an elastomer coated porogen scaffold; c) curing the elastomer coated porogen scaffold; and d) removing the porogen scaffold, wherein porogen scaffold removal results in a porous material, the porous material comprising a three-dimensional, substantially non-degradable, biocompatible, elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores.

**[00010]** Still other aspects of the present specification disclose a biocompatible implantable device comprising a layer of porous material. The porous material can be made by the method disclosed in the present specification.

**[00011]** Further aspects of the present specification disclose a method of making a biocompatible implantable device, the method comprising the steps of: a) preparing the surface of a biocompatible implantable device to receive a porous material; b) attaching a porous material to the prepared surface of the biocompatible implantable device. The porous material can be made by the method disclosed in the present specification.

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figures 1A and 1B are scanning electron micrograph images at 200X magnification and at 350X magnification, respectively, of materials in accordance with the invention.

Figures 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D are representations of a top view, side view and cross sectional views, respectively, of biocompatible implantable device including a porous material of the present invention.

Figures 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D are representations of a top view, side view and cross sectional views, respectively, of another biocompatible implantable device, a portion of which includes a porous material of the present invention.

Figures 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D are representations of a top view, side view and cross sectional views, respectively, of yet another biocompatible implantable device, a portion of which includes a porous material of the present invention.

### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

**[00012]** Turning now to Figures 1A and 1B, scanning electron micrograph images at 200x and 350X magnification of a material **10** in accordance with the invention are provided.

**[00013]** As shown, the material **10** is a highly porous material including interconnected cavities, open areas or pores defined by interconnected struts **11**. The highly interconnected pore structure of the material **10** favors tissue ingrowth into the material **10**, e.g., by facilitating cell migration, cell proliferation, cell differentiation, nutrient exchange, and/or waste removal. The interconnected pore structure encourages cell infiltration and growth, which may disrupt the planar arrangement of cells and collagen in capsule formation. Advantageously, the materials of the invention have a highly interconnected porous, open structure that is achieved without sacrificing mechanical strength of the porous material, that is, the material's hardness, tensile strength, elongation, tear strength, abrasion and resistance, are preserved.

**[00014]** Figures 2A-2D illustrate a representative biocompatible implantable device covered with a porous material **10** of the present specification. FIG. 2A is a top view of an implantable device covered with a porous material **10**. FIG. 2B is a side view of an implantable device covered with a porous material **10** to show a bottom **12** of the implantable device **10** and a top **14** of the implantable device **10**. FIG. 2C and 2D illustrate the cross-sectional view of the biocompatible implantable device covered with a porous material **10** to show an implantable device **16**, a porous material layer **20** including an internal surface **22** and an external surface **24**, where the internal surface **22** is attached to an implantable device surface 18. Due to the presence of the porous material on the device there will be a reduction or prevention of the formation of fibrous capsules that can result in capsular contracture or scarring.

**[00015]** Figures 3A-3D illustrate another representative porous material shell **10** of the present specification. FIG. 3A is a top view of a material shell **10**. FIG. 2B is a side view of a material shell **10** to show a bottom **12** of the material shell **10** and a top **14** of the material shell **10**. FIG. 3C is a bottom view of a material shell **10** to show a hole **16** from which a biocompatible implantable device may be subsequently inserted through. FIG. 3D illustrate the cross-sectional view of the material shell **10** to show the hole **16**, an internal surface **20** of the material shell **10** and an external surface **22** of the material shell **10**.

**[00016]** Figures 4A-4D illustrate yet another representative biocompatible implantable device covered with a porous material **10** of the present specification. FIG. 4A is a top view of an implantable device covered with a porous material **10**. FIG. 4B is a side view of an implantable device covered with a porous material **10** to show a bottom **12** of the implantable device **10** and a top **14** of the implantable device **10**. FIG. 4C is a bottom view of a biocompatible implantable device covered with a porous material **10** to show a hole **16** and an implantable device **18**. FIG. 4D illustrates the cross-sectional view of the biocompatible implantable device covered with a porous material **10** to show an implantable device **18**, a porous material layer **20** including an internal surface **22** and an external surface **24**, where the internal surface **22** is

attached to implantable device surface **19**. Due to the presence of the porous material on the device surface of the biocompatible implantable device there will be a reduction or prevention of the formation of fibrous capsules that can result in capsular contracture or scarring.

**[00017]** In one aspect of the invention, porous materials are provided which are useful as components of biocompatible implantable devices, and can achieve preventing or reducing the occurrence of capsular contracture, and/or in reducing or preventing scar formation.

**[00018]** Even further, it is often important to anchor a biocompatible implantable device to the surrounding tissue in order to prevent slippage or unwanted movement. For example, it is important to anchor securely facial and breast implants in position to prevent slippage or any other unwanted movement. As such, the porous material, its application in creating biocompatible implantable devices, and other aspects disclosed herein are useful in anchoring biocompatible implantable devices.

**[00019]** A porous material disclosed in the present specification can be implanted into the soft tissue of an animal, for example, a mammal, for example, a human. Such a porous material may be completely implanted into the soft tissue of an animal body (*i.e.*, the entire material is within the body), or the device may be partially implanted into an animal body (*i.e.*, only part of the material is implanted within an animal body, the remainder of the material being located outside of the animal body). A porous material disclosed in the present specification can also be affixed to one or more soft tissues of an animal, for example, to the skin of an animal body. For example, a strip of porous material can be placed subcutaneously underneath a healing wound or incision to prevent the fibrous tissue from aligning and thereby reducing or preventing scar formation.

**[00020]** The present specification discloses, in part, a porous material comprising a substantially non-degradable, biocompatible, elastomer matrix. As used herein, the term “non-degradable” refers to a material that is not prone to degrading, decomposing,



or breaking down to any substantial or significant degree while implanted in a host. Non-limiting examples of substantial non-degradation include less than 10% degradation of a porous material over a time period measured, less than 5% degradation of a porous material over a time period measured, less than 3% degradation of a porous material over a time period measured, less than 1% degradation of a porous material over a time period measured. As used herein, the term “biocompatible” refers to a material’s ability to perform its intended function, with a desired degree of incorporation in the host, without eliciting any undesirable local or systemic effects in that host.

**[00021]** In an embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores is substantially non-degradable. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores is substantially non-degradable for, *e.g.*, about five years, about ten years, about 15 years, about 20 years, about 25 years, about 30 years, about 35 years, about 40 years, about 45 years, or about 50 years. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores is substantially non-degradable for, *e.g.*, at least five years, at least ten years, at least 15 years, at least 20 years, at least 25 years, at least 30 years, at least 35 years, at least 40 years, at least 45 years, or at least 50 years. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits less than 5% degradation, less than 3% degradation, or less than 1% degradation over for, *e.g.*, about five years, about ten years, about 15 years, about 20 years, about 25 years, about 30 years, about 35 years, about 40 years, about 45 years, or about 50 years. In still other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits less than 5% degradation, less than 3% degradation, or less than 1% degradation over for, *e.g.*, at least five years, at least ten years, at least 15 years, at least 20 years, at least 25 years, at least 30 years, at least 35 years, at least 40 years, at least 45 years, or at least 50 years.

**[00022]** In another embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores is substantially biocompatible. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores is substantially biocompatible for, e.g., at least five years, at least ten years, at least 15 years, at least 20 years, at least 25 years, at least 30 years, at least 35 years, at least 40 years, at least 45 years, or at least 50 years.

**[00023]** As used herein, the term “elastomer” or “elastic polymer” refers to an amorphous polymer that exists above its glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) at ambient temperatures, thereby conferring the property of viscoelasticity so that considerable segmental motion is possible, and includes, without limitation, carbon-based elastomers, silicon-based elastomers, thermoset elastomers, and thermoplastic elastomers. As used herein, the term “ambient temperature” refers to a temperature of about 18 °C to about 22 °C. Elastomers, either naturally-occurring or synthetically-made, comprise monomers commonly made of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and/or silicon which are linked together to form long polymer chains. Elastomers are typically covalently cross-linked to one another, although non-covalently cross-linked elastomers are known. Elastomers may be homopolymers or copolymers, degradable, substantially non-degradable, or non-degradable. Copolymers may be random copolymers, blocked copolymers, graft copolymers, and/or mixtures thereof. Unlike other polymers classes, an elastomer can be stretched many times its original length without breaking by reconfiguring themselves to distribute an applied stress, and the cross-linkages ensure that the elastomers will return to their original configuration when the stress is removed. Elastomers can be a non-medical grade elastomer or a medical grade elastomer. Medical grade elastomers are typically divided into three categories: non implantable, short term implantable and long-term implantable. Exemplary substantially non-degradable and/or non-degradable, biocompatible, elastomers include, without limitation, bromo isobutylene isoprene (BIIR), polybutadiene (BR), chloro isobutylene isoprene (CIIR), polychloroprene (CR), chlorosulphonated polyethylene (CSM), ethylene propylene (EP), ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM), fluorinated hydrocarbon (FKM), fluoro silicone (FVQM), hydrogenated nitrile butadiene (HNBR), polyisoprene (IR), isobutylene isoprene butyl (IIR), methyl vinyl

silicone (MVQ), acrylonitrile butadiene (NBR), polyurethane (PU), styrene butadiene (SBR), styrene ethylene/butylene styrene (SEBS), polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS), polysiloxane (SI), and acrylonitrile butadiene carboxy monomer (XNBR).

**[00024]** The present specification discloses, in part, an elastomer that is a silicon-based elastomer. As used herein, the term “silicon-based elastomer” refers to any silicon containing elastomer, such as, *e.g.*, methyl vinyl silicone, polydimethylsiloxane, or polysiloxane. A silicone-based elastomer can be a high temperature vulcanization (HTV) silicone or a room temperature vulcanization (RTV). A silicon-based elastomer can be a non-medical grade silicon-based elastomer or a medical grade silicon-based elastomer. As used herein, the term “medical grade silicon-based elastomer” refers to a silicon-based elastomer approved by the U.S. Pharmacopedia (USP) as at least Class V. Medical grade silicon-based elastomers are typically divided into three categories: non implantable, short term implantable and long-term implantable.

**[00025]** Thus, in an embodiment, an elastomer is a medical grade elastomer. In aspects of this embodiment, a medical grade elastomer is, *e.g.*, a medical grade carbon-based elastomer, a medical grade silicon-based elastomer, a medical grade thermoset elastomer, or a medical grade thermoplastic elastomer. In other aspects of this embodiment, an elastomer is, *e.g.*, a medical grade, long-term implantable, carbon-based elastomer, a medical grade, long-term implantable, silicon-based elastomer, a medical grade, long-term implantable, thermoset elastomer, or a medical grade, long-term implantable, thermoplastic elastomer. In still other aspects, a medical grade elastomer is, *e.g.*, a medical grade bromo isobutylene isoprene, a medical grade polybutadiene, a medical grade chloro isobutylene isoprene, a medical grade polychloroprene, a medical grade chlorosulphonated polyethylene, a medical grade ethylene propylene, a medical grade ethylene propylene diene monomer, a medical grade fluorinated hydrocarbon, a medical grade fluoro silicone, a medical grade hydrogenated nitrile butadiene, a medical grade polyisoprene, a medical grade isobutylene isoprene butyl, a medical grade methyl vinyl silicone, a medical grade acrylonitrile butadiene, a medical grade polyurethane, a medical grade styrene butadiene, a medical grade styrene ethylene/butylene styrene, a medical grade

polydimethylsiloxane, a medical grade polysiloxane, or a medical grade acrylonitrile butadiene carboxy monomer.

**[00026]** In another embodiment, an elastomer is a silicon-based elastomer. In an aspect of this embodiment, a silicon-based elastomer is a medical grade silicon-based elastomer. In aspects of this embodiment, a medical grade silicon-based elastomer is, *e.g.*, at least a USP Class V silicon-based elastomer, at least a USP Class VI silicon-based elastomer, or USP Class VII silicon-based elastomer. In yet other aspects, a medical grade silicon-based elastomer is a long-term implantable silicon-based elastomer. In yet other aspects, a medical grade silicon-based elastomer is, *e.g.*, a medical grade, long-term implantable, methyl vinyl silicone, a medical grade, long-term implantable, polydimethylsiloxane, or a medical grade, long-term implantable, polysiloxane.

**[00027]** Elastomers have the property of viscoelasticity. Viscoelasticity is the property of materials that exhibit both viscous and elastic characteristics when undergoing deformation. Viscous materials resist shear flow and strain linearly with time when a stress is applied. Elastic materials strain instantaneously when stretched and just as quickly return to their original state once the stress is removed. Viscoelastic materials have elements of both of these properties and, as such, exhibit time dependent strain. A viscoelastic material has the following properties: 1) hysteresis, or memory, is seen in the stress-strain curve; 2) stress relaxation occurs: step constant strain causes decreasing stress; and 3) creep occurs: step constant stress causes increasing strain. The viscoelasticity of elastomers confer a unique set of properties involving elongation, tensile strength, shear strength compressive modulus, and hardness that distinguish elastomers from other classes of polymers.

**[00028]** The present specification discloses, in part, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores. As used herein, the term “matrix” or “elastomer matrix” is synonymous with “cured elastomer” and refers to a three-dimensional structural framework composed of a substantially non-degradable, biocompatible elastomer in its cured state. As used herein, the term “silicon-based

elastomer matrix” is synonymous with “cured silicon-based elastomer” and refers to a three-dimensional structural framework composed of a substantially non-degradable, biocompatible silicon-based elastomer in its cured state.

**[00029]** A porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits high resistance to deformation. Resistance to deformation is the ability of an elastomeric material to maintain its original form after being exposed to stress, and can be calculated as the original form of the elastomeric material ( $L_0$ ), divided by the form of an elastomeric material after it is released from a stress ( $L_R$ ), and then multiplied by 100.

**[00030]** In an embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits high resistance to deformation. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits resistance to deformation of, *e.g.*, about 100%, about 99%, about 98%, about 97%, about 96%, about 95%, about 94%, about 93%, about 92%, about 91%, about 90%, about 89%, about 88%, about 87%, about 86%, or about 85%. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits resistance to deformation of, *e.g.*, at least 99%, at least 98%, at least 97%, at least 96%, at least 95%, at least 94%, at least 93%, at least 92%, at least 91%, at least 90%, at least 89%, at least 88%, at least 87%, at least 86%, or at least 85%. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits resistance to deformation of, *e.g.*, at most 99%, at most 98%, at most 97%, at most 96%, at most 95%, at most 94%, at most 93%, at most 92%, at most 91%, at most 90%, at most 89%, at most 88%, at most 87%, at most 86%, or at most 85%. In still aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits resistance to deformation of, *e.g.*, about 85% to about 100%, about 87% to about 100%, about 90% to about 100%, about 93% to about 100%, about 95% to about 100%, or about 97% to about 100%.

**[00031]** A porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits high elastic elongation. Elongation is a type of deformation caused when an elastomer stretches under a tensile stress. Deformation is simply a change in shape that anything undergoes under stress. The elongation property of an elastomeric material can be expressed as percent elongation, which is calculated as the length of an elastomer after it is stretched ( $L$ ), divided by the original length of the elastomer ( $L_0$ ), and then multiplied by 100. In addition, this elastic elongation is reversible. Reversible elongation is the ability of an elastomeric material to return to its original length after being release for a tensile stress, and can be calculated as the original length of the elastomeric material ( $L_0$ ), divided by the length of an elastomeric material after it is released from a tensile stress ( $L_R$ ), and then multiplied by 100.

**[00032]** In an embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits high elastic elongation. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits an elastic elongation of, e.g., about 50%, about 80%, about 100%, about 200%, about 300%, about 400%, about 500%, about 600%, about 700%, about 800%, about 900%, about 1000%, about 1100%, about 1200%, about 1300%, about 1400%, about 1500%, about 1600%, about 1700%, about 1800%, about 1900%, or about 2000%. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits an elastic elongation of, e.g., at least 50%, at least 80%, at least 100%, at least 200%, at least 300%, at least 400%, at least 500%, at least 600%, at least 700%, at least 800%, at least 900%, at least 1000%, at least 1100%, at least 1200%, at least 1300%, at least 1400%, at least 1500%, at least 1600%, at least 1700%, at least 1800%, at least 1900%, or at least 2000%. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits an elastic elongation of, e.g., at most 50%, at most 80%, at most 100%, at most 200%, at most 300%, at most 400%, at most 500%, at most 600%, at most 700%, at most 800%, at most 900%, at most 1000%, at most 1100%, at most 1200%, at most 1300%, at most 1400%, at most 1500%, at most 1600%, at most 1700%, at most 1800%, at most

1900%, or at most 2000%. In still aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits an elastic elongation of, e.g., about 50% to about 600%, about 50% to about 700%, about 50% to about 800%, about 50% to about 900%, about 50% to about 1000%, about 80% to about 600%, about 80% to about 700%, about 80% to about 800%, about 80% to about 900%, about 80% to about 1000%, about 100% to about 600%, about 100% to about 700%, about 100% to about 800%, about 100% to about 900%, about 100% to about 1000%, about 200% to about 600%, about 200% to about 700%, about 200% to about 800%, about 200% to about 900%, or about 200% to about 1000%.

**[00033]** In another embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits reversible elongation. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a reversible elastic elongation of, e.g., about 100%, about 99%, about 98%, about 97%, about 96%, about 95%, about 94%, about 93%, about 92%, about 91%, about 90%, about 89%, about 88%, about 87%, about 86%, or about 85%. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a reversible elastic elongation of, e.g., at least 99%, at least 98%, at least 97%, at least 96%, at least 95%, at least 94%, at least 93%, at least 92%, at least 91%, at least 90%, at least 89%, at least 88%, at least 87%, at least 86%, or at least 85%. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a reversible elastic elongation of, e.g., at most 99%, at most 98%, at most 97%, at most 96%, at most 95%, at most 94%, at most 93%, at most 92%, at most 91%, at most 90%, at most 89%, at most 88%, at most 87%, at most 86%, or at most 85%. In still aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a reversible elastic elongation of, e.g., about 85% to about 100%, about 87% to about 100%, about 90% to about 100%, about 93% to about 100%, about 95% to about 100%, or about 97% to about 100%.

**[00034]** A porous material in accordance with some embodiments, comprises an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores and exhibits low elastic modulus. Elastic modulus, or modulus of elasticity, refers to the ability of an elastomeric material to resist deformation, or, conversely, an object's tendency to be non-permanently deformed when a force is applied to it. The elastic modulus of an object is defined as the slope of its stress-strain curve in the elastic deformation region:  $\lambda = \text{stress}/\text{strain}$ , where  $\lambda$  is the elastic modulus in Pascal's; stress is the force causing the deformation divided by the area to which the force is applied; and strain is the ratio of the change caused by the stress to the original state of the object. Specifying how stresses are to be measured, including directions, allows for many types of elastic moduli to be defined. The three primary elastic moduli are tensile modulus, shear modulus, and bulk modulus.

**[00035]** Tensile modulus (E) or Young's modulus is an object's response to linear strain, or the tendency of an object to deform along an axis when opposing forces are applied along that axis. It is defined as the ratio of tensile stress to tensile strain. It is often referred to simply as the elastic modulus. The shear modulus or modulus of rigidity refers to an object's tendency to shear (the deformation of shape at constant volume) when acted upon by opposing forces. It is defined as shear stress over shear strain. The shear modulus is part of the derivation of viscosity. The shear modulus is concerned with the deformation of a solid when it experiences a force parallel to one of its surfaces while its opposite face experiences an opposing force (such as friction). The bulk modulus (K) describes volumetric elasticity or an object's resistance to uniform compression, and is the tendency of an object to deform in all directions when uniformly loaded in all directions. It is defined as volumetric stress over volumetric strain, and is the inverse of compressibility. The bulk modulus is an extension of Young's modulus to three dimensions.

**[00036]** In another embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits low tensile modulus. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a tensile modulus of, e.g., about 0.01 MPa, about 0.02



MPa, about 0.03 MPa, about 0.04 MPa, about 0.05 MPa, about 0.06 MPa, about 0.07 MPa, about 0.08 MPa, about 0.09 MPa, about 0.1 MPa, about 0.15 MPa, about 0.2 MPa, about 0.25 MPa, about 0.3 MPa, about 0.35 MPa, about 0.4 MPa, about 0.45 MPa, about 0.5 MPa, about 0.55 MPa, about 0.6 MPa, about 0.65 MPa, or about 0.7 MPa. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a tensile modulus of, *e.g.*, at most 0.01 MPa, at most 0.02 MPa, at most 0.03 MPa, at most 0.04 MPa, at most 0.05 MPa, at most 0.06 MPa, at most 0.07 MPa, at most 0.08 MPa, at most 0.09 MPa, at most 0.1 MPa, at most 0.15 MPa, at most 0.2 MPa, at most 0.25 MPa, at most 0.3 MPa, at most 0.35 MPa, at most 0.4 MPa, at most 0.45 MPa, at most 0.5 MPa, at most 0.55 MPa, at most 0.6 MPa, at most 0.65 MPa, or at most 0.7 MPa. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a tensile modulus of, *e.g.*, about 0.01 MPa to about 0.1 MPa, about 0.01 MPa to about 0.2 MPa, about 0.01 MPa to about 0.3 MPa, about 0.01 MPa to about 0.4 MPa, about 0.01 MPa to about 0.5 MPa, about 0.01 MPa to about 0.6 MPa, or about 0.01 MPa to about 0.7 MPa.

**[00037]** In another embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits low shear modulus. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a shear modulus of, *e.g.*, about 0.1 MPa, about 0.2 MPa, about 0.3 MPa, about 0.4 MPa, about 0.5 MPa, about 0.6 MPa, about 0.7 MPa, about 0.8 MPa, about 0.9 MPa, about 1 MPa, about 1.5 MPa, about 2 MPa, about 2.5 MPa, or about 3 MPa. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a shear modulus of, *e.g.*, at most 0.1 MPa, at most 0.2 MPa, at most 0.3 MPa, at most 0.4 MPa, at most 0.5 MPa, at most 0.6 MPa, at most 0.7 MPa, at most 0.8 MPa, at most 0.9 MPa, at most 1 MPa, at most 1.5 MPa, at most 2 MPa, at most 2.5 MPa, or at most 3 MPa. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a shear modulus of, *e.g.*, about 0.1 MPa to about 1 MPa, about 0.1 MPa to about 1.5 MPa, about 0.1 MPa to about 2 MPa, about 0.1 MPa to about 2.5 MPa, or about 0.1 MPa to about 3 MPa.

**[00038]** In another embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits low bulk modulus. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a bulk modulus of, *e.g.*, about 0.5 GPa, about 0.6 GPa, about 0.7 GPa, about 0.8 GPa, about 0.9 GPa, about 1 GPa, about 1.5 GPa, about 2 GPa, about 2.5 GPa, about 3 GPa, about 3.5 GPa, about 4 GPa, about 4.5 GPa, or about 5 GPa. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a bulk modulus of, *e.g.*, at most 0.5 GPa, at most 0.6 GPa, at most 0.7 GPa, at most 0.8 GPa, at most 0.9 GPa, at most 1 GPa, at most 1.5 GPa, at most 2 GPa, at most 2.5 GPa, at most 3 GPa, at most 3.5 GPa, at most 4 GPa, at most 4.5 GPa, or at most 5 GPa. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a bulk modulus of, *e.g.*, about 0.5 GPa to about 5 GPa, about 0.5 GPa to about 1 GPa, or about 1 GPa to about 5 GPa.

**[00039]** A porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits high tensile strength relative to other polymer classes. Other polymer classes include any other polymer not classified as an elastomer. Tensile strength has three different definitional points of stress maxima. Yield strength refers to the stress at which material strain changes from elastic deformation to plastic deformation, causing it to deform permanently. Ultimate strength refers to the maximum stress a material can withstand when subjected to tension, compression or shearing. It is the maximum stress on the stress-strain curve. Breaking strength refers to the stress coordinate on the stress-strain curve at the point of rupture, or when the material pulls apart.

**[00040]** In another embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits high yield strength relative to other polymer classes. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a yield strength of, *e.g.*, about 1 MPa, about 5 MPa, about 10 MPa, about 20 MPa, about 30 MPa, about

40 MPa, about 50 MPa, about 60 MPa, about 70 MPa, about 80 MPa, about 90 MPa, about 100 MPa, about 200 MPa, about 300 MPa, about 400 MPa, about 500 MPa, about 600 MPa, about 700 MPa, about 800 MPa, about 900 MPa, about 1000 MPa, about 1500 MPa, or about 2000 MPa. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a yield strength of, e.g., at least 1 MPa, at least 5 MPa, at least 10 MPa, at least 20 MPa, at least 30 MPa, at least 40 MPa, at least 50 MPa, at least 60 MPa, at least 70 MPa, at least 80 MPa, at least 90 MPa, at least 100 MPa, at least 200 MPa, at least 300 MPa, at least 400 MPa, at least 500 MPa, at least 600 MPa, at least 700 MPa, at least 800 MPa, at least 900 MPa, at least 1000 MPa, at least 1500 MPa, or at least 2000 MPa. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a yield strength of, e.g., at most 1 MPa, at most 5 MPa, at most 10 MPa, at most 20 MPa, at most 30 MPa, at most 40 MPa, at most 50 MPa, at most 60 MPa, at most 70 MPa, at most 80 MPa, at most 90 MPa, at most 100 MPa, at most 200 MPa, at most 300 MPa, at most 400 MPa, at most 500 MPa, at most 600 MPa, at most 700 MPa, at most 800 MPa, at most 900 MPa, at most 1000 MPa, at most 1500 MPa, or at most 2000 MPa. In still other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a yield strength of, e.g., about 1 MPa to about 50 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 60 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 70 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 80 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 90 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 100 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 50 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 60 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 70 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 80 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 90 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 100 MPa, about 100 MPa to about 500 MPa, about 300 MPa to about 500 MPa, about 300 MPa to about 1000 MPa, about 500 MPa to about 1000 MPa, about 700 MPa to about 1000 MPa, about 700 MPa to about 1500 MPa, about 1000 MPa to about 1500 MPa, or about 1200 MPa to about 1500 MPa.

**[00041]** In another embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits high ultimate strength relative to other polymer classes. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits an ultimate strength

of, e.g., about 1 MPa, about 5 MPa, about 10 MPa, about 20 MPa, about 30 MPa, about 40 MPa, about 50 MPa, about 60 MPa, about 70 MPa, about 80 MPa, about 90 MPa, about 100 MPa, about 200 MPa, about 300 MPa, about 400 MPa, about 500 MPa, about 600 MPa, about 700 MPa, about 800 MPa, about 900 MPa, about 1000 MPa, about 1500 MPa, or about 2000 MPa. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits an ultimate strength of, e.g., at least 1 MPa, at least 5 MPa, at least 10 MPa, at least 20 MPa, at least 30 MPa, at least 40 MPa, at least 50 MPa, at least 60 MPa, at least 70 MPa, at least 80 MPa, at least 90 MPa, at least 100 MPa, at least 200 MPa, at least 300 MPa, at least 400 MPa, at least 500 MPa, at least 600 MPa, at least 700 MPa, at least 800 MPa, at least 900 MPa, at least 1000 MPa, at least 1500 MPa, or at least 2000 MPa. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits an ultimate strength of, e.g., at most 1 MPa, at most 5 MPa, at most 10 MPa, at most 20 MPa, at most 30 MPa, at most 40 MPa, at most 50 MPa, at most 60 MPa, at most 70 MPa, at most 80 MPa, at most 90 MPa, at most 100 MPa, at most 200 MPa, at most 300 MPa, at most 400 MPa, at most 500 MPa, at most 600 MPa, at most 700 MPa, at most 800 MPa, at most 900 MPa, at most 1000 MPa, at most 1500 MPa, or at most 2000 MPa. In still other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits an ultimate strength of, e.g., about 1 MPa to about 50 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 60 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 70 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 80 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 90 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 100 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 50 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 60 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 70 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 80 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 90 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 100 MPa, about 100 MPa to about 500 MPa, about 300 MPa to about 500 MPa, about 300 MPa to about 1000 MPa, about 500 MPa to about 1000 MPa, about 700 MPa to about 1000 MPa, about 700 MPa to about 1500 MPa, about 1000 MPa to about 1500 MPa, or about 1200 MPa to about 1500 MPa.

**[00042]** In another embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits high breaking strength relative to other polymer classes. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an

elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a breaking strength of, *e.g.*, about 1 MPa, about 5 MPa, about 10 MPa, about 20 MPa, about 30 MPa, about 40 MPa, about 50 MPa, about 60 MPa, about 70 MPa, about 80 MPa, about 90 MPa, about 100 MPa, about 200 MPa, about 300 MPa, about 400 MPa, about 500 MPa, about 600 MPa, about 700 MPa, about 800 MPa, about 900 MPa, about 1000 MPa, about 1500 MPa, or about 2000 MPa. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a breaking strength of, *e.g.*, at least 1 MPa, at least 5 MPa, at least 10 MPa, at least 20 MPa, at least 30 MPa, at least 40 MPa, at least 50 MPa, at least 60 MPa, at least 70 MPa, at least 80 MPa, at least 90 MPa, at least 100 MPa, at least 200 MPa, at least 300 MPa, at least 400 MPa, at least 500 MPa, at least 600 MPa, at least 700 MPa, at least 800 MPa, at least 900 MPa, at least 1000 MPa, at least 1500 MPa, or at least 2000 MPa. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a breaking strength of, *e.g.*, at most 1 MPa, at most 5 MPa, at most 10 MPa, at most 20 MPa, at most 30 MPa, at most 40 MPa, at most 50 MPa, at most 60 MPa, at most 70 MPa, at most 80 MPa, at most 90 MPa, at most 100 MPa, at most 200 MPa, at most 300 MPa, at most 400 MPa, at most 500 MPa, at most 600 MPa, at most 700 MPa, at most 800 MPa, at most 900 MPa, at most 1000 MPa, at most 1500 MPa, or at most 2000 MPa. In still other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a breaking strength of, *e.g.*, about 1 MPa to about 50 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 60 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 70 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 80 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 90 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 100 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 50 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 60 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 70 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 80 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 90 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 100 MPa, about 100 MPa to about 500 MPa, about 300 MPa to about 500 MPa, about 300 MPa to about 1000 MPa, about 500 MPa to about 1000 MPa, about 700 MPa to about 1000 MPa, about 700 MPa to about 1500 MPa, about 1000 MPa to about 1500 MPa, or about 1200 MPa to about 1500 MPa.

**[00043]** A porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits low flexural strength relative to other polymer classes.

Flexural strength, also known as bend strength or modulus of rupture, refers to an object's ability to resist deformation under load and represents the highest stress experienced within the object at its moment of rupture. It is measured in terms of stress.

**[00044]** In an embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits low flexural strength relative to other polymer classes. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a flexural strength of, e.g., about 1 MPa, about 5 MPa, about 10 MPa, about 20 MPa, about 30 MPa, about 40 MPa, about 50 MPa, about 60 MPa, about 70 MPa, about 80 MPa, about 90 MPa, about 100 MPa, about 200 MPa, about 300 MPa, about 400 MPa, about 500 MPa, about 600 MPa, about 700 MPa, about 800 MPa, about 900 MPa, about 1000 MPa, about 1500 MPa, or about 2000 MPa. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a flexural strength of, e.g., at least 1 MPa, at least 5 MPa, at least 10 MPa, at least 20 MPa, at least 30 MPa, at least 40 MPa, at least 50 MPa, at least 60 MPa, at least 70 MPa, at least 80 MPa, at least 90 MPa, at least 100 MPa, at least 200 MPa, at least 300 MPa, at least 400 MPa, at least 500 MPa, at least 600 MPa, at least 700 MPa, at least 800 MPa, at least 900 MPa, at least 1000 MPa, at least 1500 MPa, or at least 2000 MPa. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a flexural strength of, e.g., at most 1 MPa, at most 5 MPa, at most 10 MPa, at most 20 MPa, at most 30 MPa, at most 40 MPa, at most 50 MPa, at most 60 MPa, at most 70 MPa, at most 80 MPa, at most 90 MPa, at most 100 MPa, at most 200 MPa, at most 300 MPa, at most 400 MPa, at most 500 MPa, at most 600 MPa, at most 700 MPa, at most 800 MPa, at most 900 MPa, at most 1000 MPa, at most 1500 MPa, or at most 2000 MPa. In still other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a flexural strength of, e.g., about 1 MPa to about 50 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 60 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 70 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 80 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 90 MPa, about 1 MPa to about 100 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 50 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 60

MPa, about 10 MPa to about 70 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 80 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 90 MPa, about 10 MPa to about 100 MPa, about 100 MPa to about 500 MPa, about 300 MPa to about 500 MPa, about 300 MPa to about 1000 MPa, about 500 MPa to about 1000 MPa, about 700 MPa to about 1000 MPa, about 700 MPa to about 1500 MPa, about 1000 MPa to about 1500 MPa, or about 1200 MPa to about 1500 MPa.

**[00045]** A porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits high compressibility. Compressibility refers to the relative volume change in response to a pressure (or mean stress) change, and is the reciprocal of the bulk modulus.

**[00046]** In an embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits high compressibility. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a compressibility of, *e.g.*, about 0.1 kPa, about 0.5 kPa, about 1 kPa, about 5 kPa, about 10 kPa, about 15 kPa, about 20 kPa, about 30 kPa, about 40 kPa, about 50 kPa, about 60 kPa, about 70 kPa, about 80 kPa, about 90 kPa, or about 100 kPa. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a compressibility of, *e.g.*, at least 0.1 kPa, at least 0.5 kPa, at least 1 kPa, at least 5 kPa, at least 10 kPa, at least 15 kPa, at least 20 kPa, at least 30 kPa, at least 40 kPa, at least 50 kPa, at least 60 kPa, at least 70 kPa, at least 80 kPa, at least 90 kPa, or at least 100 kPa. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a compressibility of, *e.g.*, at most 0.1 kPa, at most 0.5 kPa, at most 1 kPa, at most 5 kPa, at most 10 kPa, at most 15 kPa, at most 20 kPa, at most 30 kPa, at most 40 kPa, at most 50 kPa, at most 60 kPa, at most 70 kPa, at most 80 kPa, at most 90 kPa, or at most 100 kPa. In still other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a compressibility of, *e.g.*, about 0.1 kPa to about 100 kPa, about 0.5 kPa to about 100 kPa, about 1 kPa to about 100 kPa, about 5 kPa to about 100 kPa, about 10 kPa to about 100 kPa, about 1 kPa to about 30 kPa, about 1 kPa to about 40 kPa, about 1 kPa to about 50 kPa, or about 1 kPa to about 60 kPa.

**[00047]** A porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits low hardness. Hardness refers to various properties of an object in the solid phase that gives it high resistance to various kinds of shape change when force is applied. Hardness is measured using a durometer and is a unitless value that ranges from zero to 100.

**[00048]** In an embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits low hardness. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a hardness of, *e.g.*, about 5, about 10, about 15, about 20, about 25, about 30, about 35, about 40, about 45, about 50, about 55, or about 60. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a hardness of, *e.g.*, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, or at least 60. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a hardness of, *e.g.*, at most 5, at most 10, at most 15, at most 20, at most 25, at most 30, at most 35, at most 40, at most 45, at most 50, at most 55, or at most 60. In still other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores exhibits a hardness of, *e.g.*, about 5 to about 60, about 10 to about 50, about 15 to about 45, about 20 to about 40, or about 25 to about 35.

**[00049]** A porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having a shape sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores. As such, the pore shape should support aspects of tissue growth such as, *e.g.*, cell migration, cell proliferation, cell differentiation, nutrient exchange, and/or waste removal. Any pore shape is useful with the proviso that the pore shape is sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores. Useful pore shapes include, without limitation, roughly spherical, perfectly spherical, dodecahedrons (such as pentagonal dodecahedrons), and ellipsoids.



**[00050]** A porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having a roundness sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores. As such, the pore roundness should support aspects of tissue growth such as, *e.g.*, cell migration, cell proliferation, cell differentiation, nutrient exchange, and/or waste removal. As used herein, "roundness" is defined as  $(6 \times V)/(\pi \times D^3)$ , where  $V$  is the volume and  $D$  is the diameter. Any pore roundness is useful with the proviso that the pore roundness is sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores.

**[00051]** A porous material comprising an elastomer matrix is formed in such a manner that substantially all the pores in the elastomer matrix have a similar diameter. As used herein, the term "substantially", when used to describe pores, refers to at least 90% of the pores within the elastomer matrix such as, *e.g.*, at least 95% or at least 97% of the pores. As used herein, the term "similar diameter", when used to describe pores, refers to a difference in the diameters of the two pores that is less than about 20% of the larger diameter. As used herein, the term "diameter", when used to describe pores, refers to the longest line segment that can be drawn that connects two points within the pore, regardless of whether the line passes outside the boundary of the pore. Any pore diameter is useful with the proviso that the pore diameter is sufficient to allow tissue growth into the porous material. As such, the pore diameter size should support aspects of tissue growth such as, *e.g.*, cell migration, cell proliferation, cell differentiation, nutrient exchange, and/or waste removal.

**[00052]** A porous material comprising an elastomer matrix is formed in such a manner that the diameter of the connections between pores is sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores. As such, the diameter of the connections between pores should support aspects of tissue growth such as, *e.g.*, cell migration, cell proliferation, cell differentiation, nutrient exchange, and/or waste removal. As used herein, the term "diameter", when describing the connection between pores, refers to the diameter of the cross-section of the connection between two pores in the plane normal to the line connecting the centroids of the two pores, where the plane is chosen

so that the area of the cross-section of the connection is at its minimum value. As used herein, the term "diameter of a cross-section of a connection" refers to the average length of a straight line segment that passes through the center, or centroid (in the case of a connection having a cross-section that lacks a center), of the cross-section of a connection and terminates at the periphery of the cross-section. As used herein, the term "substantially", when used to describe the connections between pores refers to at least 90% of the connections made between each pore comprising the elastomer matrix, such as, *e.g.*, at least 95% or at least 97% of the connections.

**[00053]** Thus, in an embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having a roundness sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having a roundness of, *e.g.*, about 0.1, about 0.2, about 0.3, about 0.4, about 0.5, about 0.6, about 0.7, about 0.8, about 0.9, or about 1.0. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having a roundness of, *e.g.*, at least 0.1, at least 0.2, at least 0.3, at least 0.4, at least 0.5, at least 0.6, at least 0.7, at least 0.8, at least 0.9, or at least 1.0. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having a roundness of, *e.g.*, at most 0.1, at most 0.2, at most 0.3, at most 0.4, at most 0.5, at most 0.6, at most 0.7, at most 0.8, at most 0.9, or at most 1.0. In still other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having a roundness of, *e.g.*, about 0.1 to about 1.0, about 0.2 to about 1.0, about 0.3 to about 1.0, about 0.4 to about 1.0, about 0.5 to about 1.0, about 0.6 to about 1.0, about 0.7 to about 1.0, about 0.8 to about 1.0, about 0.9 to about 1.0, about 0.1 to about 0.9, about 0.2 to about 0.9, about 0.3 to about 0.9, about 0.4 to about 0.9, about 0.5 to about 0.9, about 0.6 to about 0.9, about 0.7 to about 0.9, about 0.8 to about 0.9, about 0.1 to about 0.8, about 0.2 to about 0.8, about 0.3 to about 0.8, about 0.4 to about 0.8, about 0.5 to about 0.8, about 0.6 to about 0.8, about 0.7 to about 0.8, about 0.1 to about 0.7, about 0.2 to about 0.7, about 0.3 to about 0.7, about 0.4 to about 0.7, about 0.5 to about 0.7, about 0.6 to about 0.7, about 0.1 to about 0.6, about 0.2 to about 0.6, about 0.3 to about 0.6, about 0.4 to about 0.6,

about 0.5 to about 0.6, about 0.1 to about 0.5, about 0.2 to about 0.5, about 0.3 to about 0.5, or about 0.4 to about 0.5.

**[00054]** In another embodiment, substantially all pores within a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix have a similar diameter. In aspects of this embodiment, at least 90% of all pores within a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix have a similar diameter, at least 95% of all pores within a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix have a similar diameter, or at least 97% of all pores within a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix have a similar diameter. In another aspect of this embodiment, difference in the diameters of two pores is, *e.g.*, less than about 20% of the larger diameter, less than about 15% of the larger diameter, less than about 10% of the larger diameter, or less than about 5% of the larger diameter.

**[00055]** In another embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having a mean diameter sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having mean pore diameter of, *e.g.*, about 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 75  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 150  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 250  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 350  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 450  $\mu\text{m}$ , or about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ . In other aspects, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having mean pore diameter of, *e.g.*, about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 600  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 700  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 900  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 1500  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 2000  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 2500  $\mu\text{m}$ , or about 3000  $\mu\text{m}$ . In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having mean pore diameter of, *e.g.*, at least 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 75  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 150  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 250  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 350  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 450  $\mu\text{m}$ , or at least 500  $\mu\text{m}$ . In still other aspects, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having mean pore diameter of, *e.g.*, at least 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 600  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 700  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 900  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 1500  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 2000  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 2500  $\mu\text{m}$ , or at least 3000  $\mu\text{m}$ . In further aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having mean pore diameter of, *e.g.*, at

most 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 75  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 150  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 250  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 350  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 450  $\mu\text{m}$ , or at most 500  $\mu\text{m}$ . In yet further aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having mean pore diameter of, *e.g.*, at most 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 600  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 700  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 900  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 1500  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 2000  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 2500  $\mu\text{m}$ , or at most 3000  $\mu\text{m}$ . In still further aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having mean pore diameter in a range from, *e.g.*, about 300  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 600  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 200  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 700  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 100  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 500  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 50  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 75  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 100  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 200  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 300  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 50  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 75  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 100  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 200  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 300  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 50  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 75  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 3000  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 100  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 3000  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 200  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 3000  $\mu\text{m}$ , or about 300  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 3000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**[00056]** In another embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having a mean elastomer strut thickness sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having a mean elastomer strut thickness of, *e.g.*, about 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 30  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 40  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 60  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 70  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 80  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 90  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 110  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 120  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 130  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 140  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 150  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 160  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 170  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 180  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 190  $\mu\text{m}$ , or about 200  $\mu\text{m}$ . In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having a mean elastomer strut thickness of, *e.g.*, at least 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 30  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 40  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 60  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 70  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 80  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 90  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 110  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 120  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 130  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 140  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 150  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 160  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 170  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 180  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 190  $\mu\text{m}$ , or at least 200  $\mu\text{m}$ . In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having a mean elastomer strut thickness of, *e.g.*, at most 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 30  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 40  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 50  $\mu\text{m}$ ,

at most 60  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 70  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 80  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 90  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 110  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 120  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 130  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 140  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 150  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 160  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 170  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 180  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 190  $\mu\text{m}$ , or at most 200  $\mu\text{m}$ . In still aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores having a mean elastomer strut thickness of, *e.g.*, about 50  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 110  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 50  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 120  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 50  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 130  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 50  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 140  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 50  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 150  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 60  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 110  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 60  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 120  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 60  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 130  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 60  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 140  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 70  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 110  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 70  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 120  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 70  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 130  $\mu\text{m}$ , or about 70  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 140  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**[00057]** In another embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores connected to a plurality of other pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix comprises a mean pore connectivity, *e.g.*, about two other pores, about three other pores, about four other pores, about five other pores, about six other pores, about seven other pores, about eight other pores, about nine other pores, about ten other pores, about 11 other pores, or about 12 other pores. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix comprises a mean pore connectivity, *e.g.*, at least two other pores, at least three other pores, at least four other pores, at least five other pores, at least six other pores, at least seven other pores, at least eight other pores, at least nine other pores, at least ten other pores, at least 11 other pores, or at least 12 other pores. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix comprises a mean pore connectivity, *e.g.*, at most two other pores, at least most other pores, at least most other pores, at least most other pores, at most six other pores, at most seven other pores, at most eight other pores, at most nine other pores, at most ten other pores, at most 11 other pores, or at most 12 other pores.

**[00058]** In still other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores connected to, *e.g.*, about two other pores to about 12 other pores, about two other pores to about 11 other pores, about two other pores to about ten other pores, about two other pores to about nine other pores, about two other

pores to about eight other pores, about two other pores to about seven other pores, about two other pores to about six other pores, about two other pores to about five other pores, about three other pores to about 12 other pores, about three other pores to about 11 other pores, about three other pores to about ten other pores, about three other pores to about nine other pores, about three other pores to about eight other pores, about three other pores to about seven other pores, about three other pores to about six other pores, about three other pores to about five other pores, about four other pores to about 12 other pores, about four other pores to about 11 other pores, about four other pores to about ten other pores, about four other pores to about nine other pores, about four other pores to about eight other pores, about four other pores to about seven other pores, about four other pores to about six other pores, about four other pores to about five other pores, about five other pores to about 12 other pores, about five other pores to about 11 other pores, about five other pores to about ten other pores, about five other pores to about nine other pores, about five other pores to about eight other pores, about five other pores to about seven other pores, or about five other pores to about six other pores.

**[00059]** In another embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores where the diameter of the connections between pores is sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores where the diameter of the connections between pores is, *e.g.*, about 10% the mean pore diameter, about 20% the mean pore diameter, about 30% the mean pore diameter, about 40% the mean pore diameter, about 50% the mean pore diameter, about 60% the mean pore diameter, about 70% the mean pore diameter, about 80% the mean pore diameter, or about 90% the mean pore diameter. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores where the diameter of the connections between pores is, *e.g.*, at least 10% the mean pore diameter, at least 20% the mean pore diameter, at least 30% the mean pore diameter, at least 40% the mean pore diameter, at least 50% the mean pore diameter, at least 60% the mean pore diameter, at least 70% the mean pore diameter, at least 80% the mean pore diameter, or at least 90% the mean pore diameter. In yet other aspects of

this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores where the diameter of the connections between pores is, *e.g.*, at most 10% the mean pore diameter, at most 20% the mean pore diameter, at most 30% the mean pore diameter, at most 40% the mean pore diameter, at most 50% the mean pore diameter, at most 60% the mean pore diameter, at most 70% the mean pore diameter, at most 80% the mean pore diameter, or at most 90% the mean pore diameter.

**[00060]** In still other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix includes pores where the diameter of the connections between pores is, *e.g.*, about 10% to about 90% the mean pore diameter, about 15% to about 90% the mean pore diameter, about 20% to about 90% the mean pore diameter, about 25% to about 90% the mean pore diameter, about 30% to about 90% the mean pore diameter, about 35% to about 90% the mean pore diameter, about 40% to about 90% the mean pore diameter, about 10% to about 80% the mean pore diameter, about 15% to about 80% the mean pore diameter, about 20% to about 80% the mean pore diameter, about 25% to about 80% the mean pore diameter, about 30% to about 80% the mean pore diameter, about 35% to about 80% the mean pore diameter, about 40% to about 80% the mean pore diameter, about 10% to about 70% the mean pore diameter, about 15% to about 70% the mean pore diameter, about 20% to about 70% the mean pore diameter, about 25% to about 70% the mean pore diameter, about 30% to about 70% the mean pore diameter, about 35% to about 70% the mean pore diameter, about 40% to about 70% the mean pore diameter, about 10% to about 60% the mean pore diameter, about 15% to about 60% the mean pore diameter, about 20% to about 60% the mean pore diameter, about 25% to about 60% the mean pore diameter, about 30% to about 60% the mean pore diameter, about 35% to about 60% the mean pore diameter, about 40% to about 60% the mean pore diameter, about 10% to about 50% the mean pore diameter, about 15% to about 50% the mean pore diameter, about 20% to about 50% the mean pore diameter, about 25% to about 50% the mean pore diameter, about 30% to about 50% the mean pore diameter, about 10% to about 40% the mean pore diameter, about 15% to about 40% the mean pore diameter, about 20% to about 40% the mean pore diameter, about 25% to about 40% the mean pore diameter, or about 30% to about 40% the mean pore diameter.

**[00061]** The present specification discloses, in part, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores having a porosity that is sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores as disclosed in the present specification. As such, the porosity should support aspects of tissue growth such as, *e.g.*, cell migration, cell proliferation, cell differentiation, nutrient exchange, and/or waste removal. As used herein, the term “porosity” refers to the amount of void space in a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix. As such, the total volume of a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix disclosed in the present specification is based upon the elastomer space and the void space.

**[00062]** Thus, in an embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores has a porosity sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix comprises a porosity of, *e.g.*, about 40% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 50% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 60% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 70% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 80% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, or about 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix comprises a porosity of, *e.g.*, at least 40% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at least 50% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at least 60% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at least 70% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at least 80% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at least 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at least 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, or at least 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix comprises a porosity of, *e.g.*, at most 40% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at most 50% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at most 60% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at most 70% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at most 80% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at most 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at most



95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, or at most 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix comprises a porosity of, e.g., about 40% to about 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 50% to about 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 60% to about 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 70% to about 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 80% to about 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 90% to about 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 40% to about 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 50% to about 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 60% to about 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 70% to about 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 80% to about 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 90% to about 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 40% to about 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 50% to about 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 60% to about 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 70% to about 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, or about 80% to about 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix.

**[00063]** The present specification discloses, in part, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores having a mean open pore value and/or a mean closed pore value that is sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores as disclosed in the present specification. As used herein, the term “mean open pore value” or “mean open pore” refers to the average number of pores that are connected to at least one other pore present in the elastomer matrix. As used herein, the term “mean closed pore value” or “mean closed pore” refers to the average number of pores that are not connected to any other pores present in the elastomer matrix.

**[00064]** Thus, in an embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores has a mean open pore value sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix has a mean open pore

value of, *e.g.*, about 70%, about 75%, about 80%, about 85%, about 90%, about 95%, or about 97%. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix comprises a mean open pore value of, *e.g.*, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, at least 95%, or at least 97%. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix has a mean open pore value of, *e.g.*, at most 70%, at most 75%, at most 80%, at most 85%, at most 90%, at most 95%, or at most 97%. In still aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix has a mean open pore value of, *e.g.*, about 70% to about 90%, about 75% to about 90%, about 80% to about 90%, about 85% to about 90%, about 70% to about 95%, about 75% to about 95%, about 80% to about 95%, about 85% to about 95%, about 90% to about 95%, about 70% to about 97%, about 75% to about 97%, about 80% to about 97%, about 85% to about 97%, or about 90% to about 97%.

**[00065]** In another embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores has a mean closed pore value sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix has a mean closed pore value of, *e.g.*, about 5%, about 10%, about 15%, or about 20%. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix has a mean closed pore value of, *e.g.*, about 5% or less, about 10% or less, about 15% or less, or about 20% or less. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix has a mean closed pore value of, *e.g.*, about 5% to about 10%, about 5% to about 15%, or about 5% to about 20%.

**[00066]** The present specification discloses, in part, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores having a void space that is sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores. As such, the void space should support aspects of tissue growth such as, *e.g.*, cell migration, cell proliferation, cell differentiation, nutrient exchange, and/or waste removal. As used herein, the term “void space” refers to actual or physical space in a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix. As such, the total volume of a porous material

comprising an elastomer matrix disclosed in the present specification is based upon the elastomer space and the void space.

**[00067]** Thus, in an embodiment, an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores has a void volume sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix comprises a void space of, *e.g.*, about 50% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 60% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 70% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 80% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, or about 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix comprises a void space of, *e.g.*, at least 50% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at least 60% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at least 70% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at least 80% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at least 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at least 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, or at least 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix comprises a void space of, *e.g.*, at most 50% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at most 60% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at most 70% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at most 80% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at most 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, at most 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, or at most 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix comprises a void space of, *e.g.*, about 50% to about 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 60% to about 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 70% to about 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 80% to about 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 90% to about 97% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 50% to about 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 60% to about 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 70% to about 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 80% to about 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix,

about 90% to about 95% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 50% to about 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 60% to about 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, about 70% to about 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix, or about 80% to about 90% of the total volume of an elastomer matrix.

**[00068]** The present specification discloses, in part, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores allowing substantial tissue growth into the interconnected pores in a time sufficient to reduce or prevent formation of fibrous capsules that can result in capsular contracture or scarring.

**[00069]** Thus, in an embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores allows tissue growth into the interconnected pores in a time sufficient to reduce or prevent formation of fibrous capsules that can result in capsular contracture or scarring. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores allows tissue growth into the interconnected pores sufficient to reduce or prevent formation of fibrous capsules in, e.g., about 2 days after implantation, about 3 days after implantation, about 4 days after implantation, about 5 days after implantation, about 6 days after implantation, about 7 days, about 2 weeks after implantation, about 3 weeks after implantation, or about 4 weeks after implantation. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores allows tissue growth into the interconnected pores sufficient to reduce or prevent formation of fibrous capsules in, e.g., at least 2 days after implantation, at least 3 days after implantation, at least 4 days after implantation, at least 5 days after implantation, at least 6 days after implantation, at least 7 days, at least 2 weeks after implantation, at least 3 weeks after implantation, or at least 4 weeks after implantation. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores allows tissue growth into the interconnected pores sufficient to reduce or prevent formation of fibrous capsules in, e.g., at most 2 days after implantation, at most 3 days after implantation, at most 4 days after implantation, at most 5 days after implantation,

at most 6 days after implantation, at most 7 days, at most 2 weeks after implantation, at most 3 weeks after implantation, or at most 4 weeks after implantation. In still other aspects of this embodiment, a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores allows tissue growth into the interconnected pores sufficient to reduce or prevent formation of fibrous capsules in, *e.g.*, about 2 days to about 4 days after implantation, about 2 days to about 5 days after implantation, about 2 days to about 6 days after implantation, about 2 days to about 7 days after implantation, about 1 week to about 2 weeks after implantation, about 1 week to about 3 weeks after implantation, or about 1 week to about 4 weeks after implantation.

**[00070]** A porous material comprising an elastomer matrix generally has a low level of microporosity. As used herein, the term "microporosity" refers to a measure of the presence of small micropores within a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix itself (as opposed to the pores defined by an elastomer matrix). In some embodiments, all or substantially all of the micropores in a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix are between about 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  and about 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , such as between about 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  and about 3  $\mu\text{m}$  or between about 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  and about 2  $\mu\text{m}$ . The term "low level of microporosity" means that micropores represent less than 2% of the volume of a porous material comprising an elastomer matrix, as measured by measuring the percentage void space in a cross-section through an elastomer matrix.

**[00071]** The shape, roundness, and diameter of pores, the connections between pores, the total volume of the porous material, the void volume, and the elastomer matrix volume can all be assessed using scanning electron microscopy. See, *e.g.*, FIG. 1A and 1B.

**[00072]** The present specification discloses in part, methods of making a porous material disclosed in the present specification.

**[00073]** In one aspect, a method of making a porous material comprises the steps of a) fusing porogens to form a porogen scaffold; b) coating the porogen scaffold with an elastomer base to form an elastomer coated porogen scaffold; c) curing the

elastomer coated porogen scaffold; and d) removing the porogen scaffold, wherein porogen scaffold removal results in a porous material, the porous material comprising a substantially non-degradable, biocompatible, an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores.

**[00074]** In another aspect, a method of making a porous material comprises the steps of a) packing porogens into a mold; b) fusing porogens to form a porogen scaffold; c) coating the porogen scaffold with an elastomer base to form an elastomer coated porogen scaffold; d) curing the elastomer coated porogen scaffold; and e) removing the porogen scaffold, wherein porogen scaffold removal results in a porous material, the porous material comprising a substantially non-degradable, biocompatible, an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores.

**[00075]** As used herein, the term “elastomer base” is synonymous with “uncured elastomer” and refers to an elastomer disclosed in the present specification that is in its uncured state. As used herein, the term “silicon-based elastomer base” is synonymous with “uncured silicon-based elastomer” and refers to a silicon-based elastomer disclosed in the present specification that is in its uncured state.

**[00076]** As used herein, the term "porogens" refers to any structures that can be used to create a porogen scaffold that is removable after an elastomer matrix is formed under conditions that do not destroy the elastomer matrix. Porogens can be made of any material having a glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) or melting temperature ( $T_m$ ) from about 30 °C to about 100 °C. In addition, porogens useful to practice aspects of the present specification should be soluble in hydrophilic solvents such as, *e.g.*, water, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), methylene chloride, chloroform, and acetone. However, porogens useful to practice aspects of the present specification should not be soluble in aromatic solvents like xylene, chlorinated solvents like dichloromethane, or any other solvent used to disperse uncured elastomer. Exemplary porogens suitable for use in the methods disclosed in the present specification, include, without limitation, salts, such as, *e.g.*, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, sodium fluoride, potassium fluoride, sodium iodide, sodium nitrate, sodium sulfate, sodium iodate, and/or mixtures thereof;

sugars and/or its derivatives, such as, e.g., glucose, fructose, sucrose, lactose, maltose, saccharin, and/or mixtures thereof; polysaccharides and their derivatives, such as, e.g., cellulose and hydroxyethylcellulose; waxes, such as, e.g., paraffin, beeswax, and/or mixtures thereof; other water soluble chemicals, such as, e.g., sodium hydroxide; naphthalene; polymers, such as, e.g., poly(alkylene oxide), poly(acrylamide), poly(acrylic acid), poly(acrylamide-co-acrylic acid), poly(acrylamide-co-diallyldimethylammonium chloride), polyacrylonitrile, poly(allylamine), poly(amide), poly(anhydride), poly(butylene), poly( $\epsilon$ -caprolactone), poly(carbonate), poly(ester), poly(etheretherketone), poly(ethersulphone), poly(ethylene), poly(ethylene alcohol), poly(ethylenimine), poly(ethylene glycol), poly(ethylene oxide), poly(glycolide) ((like poly(glycolic acid))), poly(hydroxy butyrate), poly(hydroxyethylmethacrylate), poly(hydroxypropylmethacrylate), poly(hydroxystyrene), poly(imide), poly(lactide)((like poly(L-lactic acid) and poly(D,L-lactic acid))), poly(lactide-co-glycolide), poly(lysine), poly(methacrylate), poly(methylmethacrylate), poly(orthoester), poly(phenylene oxide), poly(phosphazene), poly(phosphoester), poly(propylene fumarate), poly(propylene), poly(propylene glycol), poly(propylene oxide), poly(styrene), poly(sulfone), poly(tetrafluoroethylene), poly(vinylacetate), poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(vinylchloride), poly(vinylidene fluoride), poly(vinyl pyrrolidone), poly(urethane), any copolymer thereof (like poly(ethylene oxide) poly(propylene oxide) copolymers (poloxamers), poly(vinyl alcohol-co-ethylene), poly(styrene-co-allyl alcohol, and poly(ethylene)-block-poly(ethylene glycol), and/or any mixtures thereof; as well as alginate, chitin, chitosan, collagen, dextran, gelatin, hyaluronic acid, pectin, and/or mixtures thereof. Methods for making porogens are well known in the art and non-limiting examples of such methods are described in, e.g., Peter X. Ma, *Reverse Fabrication of Porous Materials*, US 2002/00056000; P. X. Ma and G. Wei, Particle-Containing Complex Porous Materials, U.S. 2006/0246121; and F. Liu, et al., *Porogen Compositions, Methods of Making and Uses*, Attorney Docket 18709PROV (BRE); each of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Porogens are also commercially available from, e.g., Polyscience Inc. (Warrington, PA).

**[00077]** Porogens have a shape sufficient to allow formation of a porogen scaffold useful in making an elastomer matrix as disclosed in the present specification. Any

porogen shape is useful with the proviso that the porogen shape is sufficient to allow formation of a porogen scaffold useful in making an elastomer matrix as disclosed in the present specification. Useful porogen shapes include, without limitation, roughly spherical, perfectly spherical, ellipsoidal, polyhedral, triangular, pyramidal, quadrilateral like squares, rectangles, parallelograms, trapezoids, rhombus and kites, and other types of polygonal shapes.

**[00078]** In an embodiment, porogens have a shape sufficient to allow formation of a porogen scaffold useful in making an elastomer matrix that allows tissue growth within its array of interconnected of pores. In aspects of this embodiment, porogens have a shape that is roughly spherical, perfectly spherical, ellipsoidal, polyhedral, triangular, pyramidal, quadrilateral, or polygonal.

**[00079]** Porogens have a roundness sufficient to allow formation of a porogen scaffold useful in making an elastomer matrix as disclosed in the present specification. As used herein, "roundness" is defined as  $(6 \times V)/(\pi \times D^3)$ , where V is the volume and D is the diameter. Any porogen roundness is useful with the proviso that the porogen roundness is sufficient to allow formation of a porogen scaffold useful in making an elastomer matrix as disclosed in the present specification.

**[00080]** In an embodiment, porogens has a roundness sufficient to allow formation of a porogen scaffold useful in making an elastomer matrix that allows tissue growth within its array of interconnected of pores. In aspects of this embodiment, porogens have a mean roundness of, e.g., about 0.1, about 0.2, about 0.3, about 0.4, about 0.5, about 0.6, about 0.7, about 0.8, about 0.9, or about 1.0. In other aspects of this embodiment, porogens have a mean roundness of, e.g., at least 0.1, at least 0.2, at least 0.3, at least 0.4, at least 0.5, at least 0.6, at least 0.7, at least 0.8, at least 0.9, or at least 1.0. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, porogens have a mean roundness of, e.g., at most 0.1, at most 0.2, at most 0.3, at most 0.4, at most 0.5, at most 0.6, at most 0.7, at most 0.8, at most 0.9, or at most 1.0. In still other aspects of this embodiment, have a mean roundness of, e.g., about 0.1 to about 1.0, about 0.2 to about 1.0, about 0.3 to about 1.0, about 0.4 to about 1.0, about 0.5 to about 1.0, about



0.6 to about 1.0, about 0.7 to about 1.0, about 0.8 to about 1.0, about 0.9 to about 1.0, about 0.1 to about 0.9, about 0.2 to about 0.9, about 0.3 to about 0.9, about 0.4 to about 0.9, about 0.5 to about 0.9, about 0.6 to about 0.9, about 0.7 to about 0.9, about 0.8 to about 0.9, about 0.1 to about 0.8, about 0.2 to about 0.8, about 0.3 to about 0.8, about 0.4 to about 0.8, about 0.5 to about 0.8, about 0.6 to about 0.8, about 0.7 to about 0.8, about 0.1 to about 0.7, about 0.2 to about 0.7, about 0.3 to about 0.7, about 0.4 to about 0.7, about 0.5 to about 0.7, about 0.6 to about 0.7, about 0.1 to about 0.6, about 0.2 to about 0.6, about 0.3 to about 0.6, about 0.4 to about 0.6, about 0.5 to about 0.6, about 0.1 to about 0.5, about 0.2 to about 0.5, about 0.3 to about 0.5, or about 0.4 to about 0.5.

**[00081]** The present specification discloses, in part, packing porogens into a mold prior to fusion. Any mold shape may be used for packing the porogens. As a non-limiting example, a mold shape can be a shell that outlines the contours an implantable device, such as, *e.g.*, a shell for a breast implant, or a shell for a muscle implant. As another non-limiting example, the mold shape can be one that forms sheets. Such sheets can be made in a wide variety of proportions based on the needed application. For example, the sheets can be made in a size slightly bigger than an implantable device so that there is sufficient material to cover the device and allow for trimming of the excess. As another example, the sheets can be produced as a continuous roll that allows a person skilled in the art to take only the desired amount for an application, such as, *e.g.*, creating strips having a textured surface for control of scar formation. The porogens may be packed into a mold using ultrasonic agitation, mechanical agitation, or any other suitable method for obtaining a closely packed array of porogens.

**[00082]** In an embodiment, porogens are packed into a mold. In an aspect of this embodiment, porogens are packed into a mold in a manner suitable for obtaining a closely packed array of porogens. In other aspects of this embodiment, porogens are packed into a mold using sonic agitation or mechanical agitation.

**[00083]** The present specification discloses, in part, fusing porogens to form a porogen scaffold. Fusing porogens to each other to form a porogen scaffold can be

accomplished by any suitable means, with the proviso that the resulting porogen scaffold is useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores as disclosed in the present specification. As non-limiting examples, porogen fusing can be accomplished by thermal treating or chemical solvent treating.

**[00084]** Thermal treating of porogens can be at any temperature or range of temperatures for any length of time or times with the proviso that the thermal treatment fuses the porogens to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores as disclosed in the present specification. A non-limiting example of a thermal treatment useful to fuse porogens to form a porogens scaffold is by sintering. Typically, the sintering temperature is higher than the glass transition temperature or melting temperature of the porogens, such as between about 5 °C to about 50 °C higher than the glass transition temperature or melting temperature of the porogens. Any temperature can be used in a thermal treatment with the proviso that the temperature is sufficient to cause fusion of the porogens. As a non-limiting example, the thermal treatment can be from about 30 °C to about 250 °C. Increasing the duration of the sintering step at a given temperature increases the connection size; increasing the sintering temperature increases the growth rate of the connections. Any sintering time can be used in a thermal treatment with the proviso that the time is sufficient to cause fusion of the porogens. Suitable sintering times are generally from about 0.5 hours to about 48 hours.

**[00085]** Chemical solvent treatment useful to fuse porogens to form a porogen scaffold is by partially dissolving the porogens by treatment with a suitable solvent. Chemical solvent treating of porogens can be done using any chemical solvent or solvents for any length of time or times with the proviso that the chemical solvent treatment fuses the porogens to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores as disclosed in the present specification.

**[00086]** Thus, in an embodiment, a thermal treatment is one sufficient to fuse the porogens to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an

array of interconnected pores. In another embodiment, the thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens at a first temperature for a first time, where the treatment temperature and time is sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores.

**[00087]** In other aspects of this embodiment, the thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens for a time at, *e.g.*, about 5 °C higher, about 10 °C higher, about 15 °C higher, about 20 °C higher, about 25 °C higher, about 30 °C higher, about 35 °C higher, about 40 °C higher, about 45 °C higher, or about 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, where the treatment temperature and time is sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, the thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens for a time at, *e.g.*, at least 5 °C higher, at least 10 °C higher, at least 15 °C higher, at least 20 °C higher, at least 25 °C higher, at least 30 °C higher, at least 35 °C higher, at least 40 °C higher, at least 45 °C higher, or at least 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, where the treatment temperature and time is sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores. In still other aspects of this embodiment, the thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens for a time at, *e.g.*, at most 5 °C higher, at most 10 °C higher, at most 15 °C higher, at most 20 °C higher, at most 25 °C higher, at most 30 °C higher, at most 35 °C higher, at most 40 °C higher, at most 45 °C higher, or at most 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, where the treatment temperature and time is sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores. In further aspects of this embodiment, the thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens for a time at, *e.g.*, about 5 °C higher to about 10 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 15 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 20 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 25 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 30 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 35 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 40 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 45 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 50 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 15 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 20 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 25 °C

higher, about 10 °C higher to about 30 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 35 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 40 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 45 °C higher, or about 10 °C higher to about 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, where the treatment temperature and time is sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores.

**[00088]** In another aspect of this embodiment, thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens at about 30 °C to about 75 °C for about 15 minutes to about 45 minutes, where the treatment temperature and time is sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores.

**[00089]** In yet another embodiment, thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens at a plurality of temperatures for a plurality of times, where the treatment temperatures and times are sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores.

**[00090]** In aspects of this embodiment, thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens at a first temperature for a first time, and then heating the porogens at a second temperature for a second time, where the treatment temperatures and times are sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores, and where the first and second temperatures are different. In other aspects of this embodiment, the thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens for a first time at, e.g., about 5 °C higher, about 10 °C higher, about 15 °C higher, about 20 °C higher, about 25 °C higher, about 30 °C higher, about 35 °C higher, about 40 °C higher, about 45 °C higher, or about 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, then heating the porogens for a second time at, e.g., about 5 °C higher, about 10 °C higher, about 15 °C higher, about 20 °C higher, about 25 °C higher, about 30 °C higher, about 35 °C higher, about 40 °C higher, about 45 °C higher, or about 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, where the treatment temperatures and times are sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix

defining an array of interconnected pores, and where the first and second temperatures are different. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, the thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens for a first time at, e.g., at least 5 °C higher, at least 10 °C higher, at least 15 °C higher, at least 20 °C higher, at least 25 °C higher, at least 30 °C higher, at least 35 °C higher, at least 40 °C higher, at least 45 °C higher, or at least 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, then heating the porogens for a second time at, e.g., at least 5 °C higher, at least 10 °C higher, at least 15 °C higher, at least 20 °C higher, at least 25 °C higher, at least 30 °C higher, at least 35 °C higher, at least 40 °C higher, at least 45 °C higher, or at least 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, where the treatment temperatures and times are sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores, and where the first and second temperatures are different. In still other aspects of this embodiment, the thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens for a first time at, e.g., at most 5 °C higher, at most 10 °C higher, at most 15 °C higher, at most 20 °C higher, at most 25 °C higher, at most 30 °C higher, at most 35 °C higher, at most 40 °C higher, at most 45 °C higher, or at most 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, then heating the porogens for a second time at, e.g., at most 5 °C higher, at most 10 °C higher, at most 15 °C higher, at most 20 °C higher, at most 25 °C higher, at most 30 °C higher, at most 35 °C higher, at most 40 °C higher, at most 45 °C higher, or at most 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, where the treatment temperatures and times are sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores, and where the first and second temperatures are different.

**[00091]** In further aspects of this embodiment, the thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens for a first time at, e.g., about 5 °C higher to about 10 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 15 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 20 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 25 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 30 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 35 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 40 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 45 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 50 °C higher, about 10 °C

higher to about 15 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 20 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 25 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 30 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 35 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 40 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 45 °C higher, or about 10 °C higher to about 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, then heating the porogens for a second time at, e.g., about 5 °C higher to about 10 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 15 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 20 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 25 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 30 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 35 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 40 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 45 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 50 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 15 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 20 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 25 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 30 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 35 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 40 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 45 °C higher, or about 10 °C higher to about 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, where the treatment temperatures and times are sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores, and where the first and second temperatures are different.

**[00092]** In other aspects of this embodiment, thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens at a first temperature for a first time, heating the porogens at a second temperature for a second time, and then heating the porogens at a third temperature at a third time, where the treatment temperatures and times are sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores, and where the first temperature is different from the second temperature and the second temperature is different from the third temperature.

**[00093]** In other aspects of this embodiment, the thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens for a first time at, e.g., about 5 °C higher, about 10 °C higher, about 15 °C higher, about 20 °C higher, about 25 °C higher, about 30 °C higher, about 35 °C higher, about 40 °C higher, about 45 °C higher, or about 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, then heating the

porogens for a second time at, e.g., about 5 °C higher, about 10 °C higher, about 15 °C higher, about 20 °C higher, about 25 °C higher, about 30 °C higher, about 35 °C higher, about 40 °C higher, about 45 °C higher, or about 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, then heating the porogens for a third time at, e.g., about 5 °C higher, about 10 °C higher, about 15 °C higher, about 20 °C higher, about 25 °C higher, about 30 °C higher, about 35 °C higher, about 40 °C higher, about 45 °C higher, or about 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, where the treatment temperatures and times are sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores, and where the first temperature is different from the second temperature and the second temperature is different from the third temperature. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, the thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens for a first time at, e.g., at least 5 °C higher, at least 10 °C higher, at least 15 °C higher, at least 20 °C higher, at least 25 °C higher, at least 30 °C higher, at least 35 °C higher, at least 40 °C higher, at least 45 °C higher, or at least 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, then heating the porogens for a second time at, e.g., at least 5 °C higher, at least 10 °C higher, at least 15 °C higher, at least 20 °C higher, at least 25 °C higher, at least 30 °C higher, at least 35 °C higher, at least 40 °C higher, at least 45 °C higher, or at least 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, then heating the porogens for a third time at, e.g., at least 5 °C higher, at least 10 °C higher, at least 15 °C higher, at least 20 °C higher, at least 25 °C higher, at least 30 °C higher, at least 35 °C higher, at least 40 °C higher, at least 45 °C higher, or at least 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, where the treatment temperatures and times are sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores, and where the first temperature is different from the second temperature and the second temperature is different from the third temperature. In still other aspects of this embodiment, the thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens for a first time at, e.g., at most 5 °C higher, at most 10 °C higher, at most 15 °C higher, at most 20 °C higher, at most 25 °C higher, at most 30 °C higher, at most 35 °C higher, at most 40 °C higher, at most 45 °C higher, or at most 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or

glass transition temperature of the porogens, then heating the porogens for a second time at, e.g., at most 5 °C higher, at most 10 °C higher, at most 15 °C higher, at most 20 °C higher, at most 25 °C higher, at most 30 °C higher, at most 35 °C higher, at most 40 °C higher, at most 45 °C higher, or at most 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, then heating the porogens for a third time at, e.g., at most 5 °C higher, at most 10 °C higher, at most 15 °C higher, at most 20 °C higher, at most 25 °C higher, at most 30 °C higher, at most 35 °C higher, at most 40 °C higher, at most 45 °C higher, or at most 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, where the treatment temperatures and times are sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores, and where the first temperature is different from the second temperature and the second temperature is different from the third temperature.

**[00094]** In further aspects of this embodiment, the thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens for a first time at, e.g., about 5 °C higher to about 10 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 15 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 20 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 25 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 30 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 35 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 40 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 45 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 50 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 15 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 20 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 25 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 30 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 35 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 40 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 45 °C higher, or about 10 °C higher to about 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, then heating the porogens for a second time at, e.g., about 5 °C higher to about 10 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 15 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 20 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 25 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 30 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 35 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 40 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 45 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 50 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 15 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 20 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 25 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 30 °C higher, about 10 °C



higher to about 35 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 40 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 45 °C higher, or about 10 °C higher to about 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, then heating the porogens for a third time at, e.g., about 5 °C higher to about 10 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 15 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 20 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 25 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 30 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 35 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 40 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 45 °C higher, about 5 °C higher to about 50 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 15 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 20 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 25 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 30 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 35 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 40 °C higher, about 10 °C higher to about 45 °C higher, or about 10 °C higher to about 50 °C higher than the melting temperature or glass transition temperature of the porogens, where the treatment temperatures and times are sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores, and where the first temperature is different from the second temperature and the second temperature is different from the third temperature.

**[00095]** In yet other aspect of this embodiment, thermal treatment comprises heating the porogens at about 60 °C to about 75 °C for about 15 minutes to about 45 minutes, at about 140 °C to about 160 °C for about 60 minutes to about 120 minutes, and then at about 160 °C to about 170 °C for about 15 minutes to about 45 minutes, where the treatment temperatures and times are sufficient to form a porogen scaffold useful to make an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores, and where the first temperature is different from the second temperature and the second temperature is different from the third temperature.

**[00096]** The present specification discloses, in part, methods of forming a material from a porogen scaffold. As used herein, the term “porogen scaffold” refers to a three-dimensional structural framework composed of fused porogens that serves as the negative replica of the elastomer matrix defining an interconnected array or pores as disclosed in the present specification.

**[00097]** In some embodiments, the porogen scaffold is formed in such a manner that substantially all the porogens in the porogen scaffold is fused to at least one other porogen in the scaffold. As used herein, the term “substantially”, when used to describe fused porogen, refers to at least 90% of the porogen comprising the porogen scaffold are fused, such as, *e.g.*, at least 95% of the porogens are fused or at least 97% of the porogen are fused.

**[00098]** The porogen scaffold is formed in such a manner that the diameter of the connections between each fused porogen is sufficient to allow formation of a porogen scaffold useful in making an elastomer matrix as disclosed in the present specification. As used herein, the term “diameter”, when describing the connection between fused porogens, refers to the diameter of the cross-section of the connection between two fused porogens in the plane normal to the line connecting the centroids of the two fused porogens, where the plane is chosen so that the area of the cross-section of the connection is at its minimum value. As used herein, the term “diameter of a cross-section of a connection” refers to the average length of a straight-line segment that passes through the center, or centroid (in the case of a connection having a cross-section that lacks a center), of the cross-section of a connection and terminates at the periphery of the cross-section. As used herein, the term “substantially”, when used to describe the connections between fused porogens refers to at least 90% of the fused porogens comprising the porogen scaffold make connections between each other, such as, *e.g.*, at least 95% of the fused porogens make connections between each other or at least 97% of the fused porogens make connections between each other.

**[00099]** In an embodiment, a porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens where substantially all the fused porogens have a similar diameter. In aspects of this embodiment, at least 90% of all the fused porogens have a similar diameter, at least 95% of all the fused porogens have a similar diameter, or at least 97% of all the fused porogens have a similar diameter. In another aspect of this embodiment, difference in the diameters of two fused porogens is, *e.g.*, less than about 20% of the larger diameter, less than about 15% of the larger diameter, less than about 10% of the larger

diameter, or less than about 5% of the larger diameter. As used herein, the term "similar diameter", when used to describe fused porogen, refers to a difference in the diameters of the two fused porogen that is less than about 20% of the larger diameter. As used herein, the term "diameter", when used to describe fused porogen, refers to the longest line segment that can be drawn that connects two points within the fused porogen, regardless of whether the line passes outside the boundary of the fused porogen. Any fused porogen diameter is useful with the proviso that the fused porogen diameter is sufficient to allow formation of a porogen scaffold useful in making an elastomer matrix as disclosed in the present specification.

**[000100]** In another embodiment, a porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens have a mean diameter sufficient to allow tissue growth into the array of interconnected porogens. In aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens comprising mean fused porogen diameter of, *e.g.*, about 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 75  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 150  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 250  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 350  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 450  $\mu\text{m}$ , or about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ . In other aspects, a porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens comprising mean fused porogen diameter of, *e.g.*, about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 600  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 700  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 900  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 1500  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 2000  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 2500  $\mu\text{m}$ , or about 3000  $\mu\text{m}$ . In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens comprising mean fused porogen diameter of, *e.g.*, at least 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 75  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 150  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 250  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 350  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 450  $\mu\text{m}$ , or at least 500  $\mu\text{m}$ . In still other aspects, an elastomer matrix comprises fused porogens comprising mean fused porogen diameter of, *e.g.*, at least 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 600  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 700  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 900  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 1500  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 2000  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 2500  $\mu\text{m}$ , or at least 3000  $\mu\text{m}$ . In further aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens comprising mean fused porogen diameter of, *e.g.*, at most 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 75  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 150  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 250  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 350  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 450  $\mu\text{m}$ , or at most 500  $\mu\text{m}$ . In yet further aspects of this embodiment, an elastomer matrix comprises fused porogens comprising mean fused porogen diameter of, *e.g.*, at most 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 600  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 700

μm, at most 800 μm, at most 900 μm, at most 1000 μm, at most 1500 μm, at most 2000 μm, at most 2500 μm, or at most 3000 μm. In still further aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens comprising mean fused porogen diameter in a range from, *e.g.*, about 300 μm to about 600 μm, about 200 μm to about 700 μm, about 100 μm to about 800 μm, about 500 μm to about 800 μm, about 50 μm to about 500 μm, about 75 μm to about 500 μm, about 100 μm to about 500 μm, about 200 μm to about 500 μm, about 300 μm to about 500 μm, about 50 μm to about 1000 μm, about 75 μm to about 1000 μm, about 100 μm to about 1000 μm, about 200 μm to about 1000 μm, about 300 μm to about 1000 μm, about 50 μm to about 1000 μm, about 75 μm to about 3000 μm, about 100 μm to about 3000 μm, about 200 μm to about 3000 μm, or about 300 μm to about 3000 μm.

**[000101]** In another embodiment, a porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens connected to a plurality of other porogens. In aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold comprises a mean fused porogen connectivity, *e.g.*, about two other fused porogens, about three other fused porogens, about four other fused porogens, about five other fused porogens, about six other fused porogens, about seven other fused porogens, about eight other fused porogens, about nine other fused porogens, about ten other fused porogens, about 11 other fused porogens, or about 12 other fused porogens. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold comprises a mean fused porogen connectivity, *e.g.*, at least two other fused porogens, at least three other fused porogens, at least four other fused porogens, at least five other fused porogens, at least six other fused porogens, at least seven other fused porogens, at least eight other fused porogens, at least nine other fused porogens, at least ten other fused porogens, at least 11 other fused porogens, or at least 12 other fused porogens. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold comprises a mean fused porogen connectivity, *e.g.*, at most two other fused porogens, at most three other fused porogens, at most four other fused porogens, at most five other fused porogens, at most six other fused porogens, at most seven other fused porogens, at most eight other fused porogens, at most nine other fused porogens, at most ten other fused porogens, at most 11 other fused porogens, or at most 12 other fused porogens.

**[000102]** In still other aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens connected to, *e.g.*, about two other fused porogens to about 12 other fused porogens, about two other fused porogens to about 11 other fused porogens, about two other fused porogens to about ten other fused porogens, about two other fused porogens to about nine other fused porogens, about two other fused porogens to about eight other fused porogens, about two other fused porogens to about seven other fused porogens, about two other fused porogens to about six other fused porogens, about two other fused porogens to about five other fused porogens, about three other fused porogens to about 12 other fused porogens, about three other fused porogens to about 11 other fused porogens, about three other fused porogens to about ten other fused porogens, about three other fused porogens to about nine other fused porogens, about three other fused porogens to about eight other fused porogens, about three other fused porogens to about seven other fused porogens, about three other fused porogens to about six other fused porogens, about three other fused porogens to about five other fused porogens, about four other fused porogens to about 12 other fused porogens, about four other fused porogens to about 11 other fused porogens, about four other fused porogens to about ten other fused porogens, about four other fused porogens to about nine other fused porogens, about four other fused porogens to about eight other fused porogens, about four other fused porogens to about seven other fused porogens, about four other fused porogens to about six other fused porogens, about four other fused porogens to about five other fused porogens, about five other fused porogens to about 12 other fused porogens, about five other fused porogens to about 11 other fused porogens, about five other fused porogens to about ten other fused porogens, about five other fused porogens to about nine other fused porogens, about five other fused porogens to about eight other fused porogens, about five other fused porogens to about seven other fused porogens, or about five other fused porogens to about six other fused porogens.

**[000103]** In another embodiment, a porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens where the diameter of the connections between the fused porogens is sufficient to allow formation of a porogen scaffold useful in making an elastomer matrix that allows tissue growth within its array of interconnected of pores. In aspects of this embodiment, the

porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens where the diameter of the connections between the fused porogens is, e.g., about 10% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 20% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 30% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 40% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 50% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 60% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 70% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 80% the mean fused porogen diameter, or about 90% the mean fused porogen diameter. In other aspects of this embodiment, the porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens where the diameter of the connections between the fused porogens is, e.g., at least 10% the mean fused porogen diameter, at least 20% the mean fused porogen diameter, at least 30% the mean fused porogen diameter, at least 40% the mean fused porogen diameter, at least 50% the mean fused porogen diameter, at least 60% the mean fused porogen diameter, at least 70% the mean fused porogen diameter, at least 80% the mean fused porogen diameter, or at least 90% the mean fused porogen diameter. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, the porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens where the diameter of the connections between the fused porogens is, e.g., at most 10% the mean fused porogen diameter, at most 20% the mean fused porogen diameter, at most 30% the mean fused porogen diameter, at most 40% the mean fused porogen diameter, at most 50% the mean fused porogen diameter, at most 60% the mean fused porogen diameter, at most 70% the mean fused porogen diameter, at most 80% the mean fused porogen diameter, or at most 90% the mean fused porogen diameter.

**[000104]** In still other aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold comprises fused porogens where the diameter of the connections between the fused porogens is, e.g., about 10% to about 90% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 15% to about 90% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 20% to about 90% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 25% to about 90% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 30% to about 90% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 35% to about 90% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 40% to about 90% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 10% to about 80% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 15% to about 80% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 20% to about 80% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 25% to about 80% the mean fused porogen diameter, about

30% to about 80% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 35% to about 80% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 40% to about 80% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 10% to about 70% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 15% to about 70% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 20% to about 70% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 25% to about 70% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 30% to about 70% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 35% to about 70% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 40% to about 70% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 10% to about 60% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 15% to about 60% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 20% to about 60% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 25% to about 60% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 30% to about 60% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 35% to about 60% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 40% to about 60% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 10% to about 50% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 15% to about 50% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 20% to about 50% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 25% to about 50% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 30% to about 50% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 10% to about 40% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 15% to about 40% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 20% to about 40% the mean fused porogen diameter, about 25% to about 40% the mean fused porogen diameter, or about 30% to about 40% the mean fused porogen diameter.

**[000105]** The present specification discloses, in part, coating the porogen scaffold with an elastomer base to form an elastomer coated porogen scaffold. Suitable elastomer bases are as described above. Coating the porogen scaffold with an elastomer base can be accomplished by any suitable means, including, without limitation, mechanical application such as, *e.g.*, dipping, spraying, knifing, curtaining, brushing, or vapor deposition, thermal application, adhering application, chemical bonding, self-assembling, molecular entrapment, and/or any combination thereof. The elastomer base is applied to the porogen scaffold in such a manner as to coat the porogen scaffold with the desired thickness of elastomer. Removal of excess elastomer base can be accomplished by any suitable means, including, without limitation, gravity-

based filtering or sieving, vacuum-based filtering or sieving, blowing, and/or any combination thereof.

**[000106]** Thus, in an embodiment, the thickness of an elastomer base applied to a porogen scaffold is sufficient to allow formation of an elastomer matrix that allows tissue growth within its array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, the thickness of an elastomer base applied to the porogen scaffold is, *e.g.*, about 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 4  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 6  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 7  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 8  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 9  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 30  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 40  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 60  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 70  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 80  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 90  $\mu\text{m}$ , or about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ . In other aspects of this embodiment, the thickness of an elastomer applied to a porogen scaffold is, *e.g.*, at least 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 4  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 6  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 7  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 8  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 9  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 30  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 40  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 60  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 70  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 80  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 90  $\mu\text{m}$ , or at least 100  $\mu\text{m}$ . In yet other aspects of this embodiment, the thickness of an elastomer base applied to a porogen scaffold is, *e.g.*, at most 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 4  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 6  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 7  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 8  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 9  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 30  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 40  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 60  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 70  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 80  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 90  $\mu\text{m}$ , or at most 100  $\mu\text{m}$ . In still other aspects of this embodiment, the thickness of an elastomer base applied to a porogen scaffold is, *e.g.*, about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 25  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 75  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 25  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , or about 50  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**[000107]** The present specification discloses, in part, devolitalizing an elastomer coated porogen scaffold. As used herein, the term “devolitalizing” or “devolitalization” refers to a process that removes volatile components from the elastomer coated porogen scaffold. Devolitalization of the elastomer coated porogen scaffold can be accomplished by any suitable means that substantially all the volatile components removed from the elastomer coated porogen scaffold. Non-limiting examples of



devolitalizing procedures include evaporation, freeze-drying, sublimation, extraction, and/or any combination thereof.

**[000108]** In an embodiment, an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is devolitalized at a single temperature for a time sufficient to allow the evaporation of substantially all volatile components from the elastomer coated porogen scaffold. In an aspect of this embodiment, an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is devolitalized at ambient temperature for about 1 minute to about 5 minutes. In another aspect of this embodiment, an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is devolitalized at ambient temperature for about 45 minutes to about 75 minutes. In yet another aspect of this embodiment, an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is devolitalized at ambient temperature for about 90 minutes to about 150 minutes. In another aspect of this embodiment, an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is devolitalized at about 18°C to about 22°C for about 1 minute to about 5 minutes. In yet another aspect of this embodiment, an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is devolitalized at about 18°C to about 22°C for about 45 minutes to about 75 minutes. In still another aspect of this embodiment, an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is devolitalized at about 18°C to about 22°C for about 90 minutes to about 150 minutes.

**[000109]** The present specification discloses, in part, curing an elastomer coated porogen scaffold. As used herein, the term “curing” is synonymous with “setting” or “vulcanizing” and refers to a process that exposes the chains of a polymer to a element which activates a phase change in the polymer to a more stable state, such as, *e.g.*, by physically or chemically cross-linked polymer chains to one another. Non-limiting examples of curing include thermal curing, chemical curing, catalyst curing, radiation curing, and physical curing. Curing of an elastomer coated porogen scaffold can be accomplished under any condition for any length of time with the proviso that the curing forms an elastomer matrix sufficient to allow tissue growth within its array of interconnected of pores as disclosed in the present specification.

**[000110]** Thus, in an embodiment, curing an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is by thermal curing, chemical curing, catalyst curing, radiation curing, or physical curing.

In another embodiment, curing an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is at a single time, where the curing time is sufficient to form an elastomer matrix sufficient to allow tissue growth within its array of interconnected of pores.

**[000111]** In another embodiment, curing an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is at a single temperature for a single time, where the curing temperature and time is sufficient to form an elastomer matrix sufficient to allow tissue growth within its array of interconnected of pores. In an aspect of this embodiment, curing an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is at a first temperature for a first time, where the curing temperature and time is sufficient to form an elastomer matrix sufficient to allow tissue growth within its array of interconnected of pores. In another aspect of this embodiment, curing an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is at about 80 °C to about 130 °C for about 5 minutes to about 24 hours, where the curing temperature and time is sufficient to form an elastomer matrix sufficient to allow tissue growth within its array of interconnected of pores.

**[000112]** In yet another embodiment, curing an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is at a plurality of temperatures for a plurality of times, where the curing temperatures and times are sufficient to form an elastomer matrix sufficient to allow tissue growth within its array of interconnected of pores. In an aspect of this embodiment, curing an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is at a first temperature for a first time, and then a second temperature for a second time, where the curing temperatures and times are sufficient to form an elastomer matrix sufficient to allow tissue growth within its array of interconnected of pores, and where the first and second temperatures are different. In yet another aspect, curing an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is at a first temperature for a first time, then a second temperature for a second time, and then a third temperature for a third time, where the curing temperatures and times are sufficient to form an elastomer matrix sufficient to allow tissue growth within its array of interconnected of pores, and where the first, second, and third temperatures are different. In still other aspect of this embodiment, curing an elastomer coated porogen scaffold is at about 60 °C to about 75 °C for about 15 minutes to about 45 minutes, and then at about 120 °C to about 130 °C for about 60 minutes to about 90 minutes, where

the curing temperatures and times are sufficient to form an elastomer matrix sufficient to allow tissue growth within its array of interconnected of pores.

**[000113]** The present specification discloses, in part, removing a porogen scaffold from a cured elastomer. Removal of the porogen scaffold can be accomplished by any suitable means, with the proviso that the resulting porous material comprises a substantially non-degradable, biocompatible, elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores useful in allowing substantial tissue growth into the interconnected pores in a time sufficient to reduce or prevent formation of fibrous capsules that can result in capsular contracture or scarring. As such, the resulting elastomer matrix should support aspects of tissue growth such as, *e.g.*, cell migration, cell proliferation, cell differentiation, nutrient exchange, and/or waste removal. Non-limiting examples of porogen removal include solvent extraction, thermal decomposition extraction, degradation extraction, mechanical extraction, and/or any combination thereof. The resulting porous material comprising a substantially non-degradable, biocompatible, an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores is as described above in the present specification. In extraction methods requiring exposure to another solution, such as, *e.g.*, solvent extraction, the extraction can incorporate a plurality of solution changes over time to facilitate removal of the porogen scaffold. Non-limiting examples of solvents useful for solvent extraction include water, methylene chloride, acetic acid, formic acid, pyridine, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylsulfoxide, dioxane, benzene, and/or mixtures thereof. A mixed solvent can be in a ratio of higher than about 1:1, first solvent to second solvent or lower than about 1:1, first solvent to second solvent.

**[000114]** In an embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by extraction, where the extraction removes substantially all the porogen scaffold leaving an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, about 75% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% of the porogen scaffold, about 90% of the porogen scaffold, or about 95% of the porogen scaffold. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, at least 75% of the porogen scaffold, at least 80% of the

porogen scaffold, at least 85% of the porogen scaffold, at least 90% of the porogen scaffold, or at least 95% of the porogen scaffold. In aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, about 75% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 75% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, about 75% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, or about 85% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold. In an aspect, a porogen scaffold is removed by a solvent extraction, a thermal decomposition extraction, a degradation extraction, a mechanical extraction, and/or any combination thereof

**[000115]** In another embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by solvent extraction, where the extraction removes substantially all the porogen scaffold leaving an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by solvent extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, about 75% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% of the porogen scaffold, about 90% of the porogen scaffold, or about 95% of the porogen scaffold. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by solvent extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, at least 75% of the porogen scaffold, at least 80% of the porogen scaffold, at least 85% of the porogen scaffold, at least 90% of the porogen scaffold, or at least 95% of the porogen scaffold. In aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by solvent extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, about 75% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 75% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, about 75% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, or about 85% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold.

**[000116]** In yet another embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by thermal decomposition extraction, where the extraction removes substantially all the porogen

scaffold leaving an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by thermal extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, about 75% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% of the porogen scaffold, about 90% of the porogen scaffold, or about 95% of the porogen scaffold. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by thermal extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, at least 75% of the porogen scaffold, at least 80% of the porogen scaffold, at least 85% of the porogen scaffold, at least 90% of the porogen scaffold, or at least 95% of the porogen scaffold. In aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by thermal extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, about 75% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 75% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, about 75% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, or about 85% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold.

**[000117]** In still another embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by degradation extraction, where the extraction removes substantially all the porogen scaffold leaving an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by degradation extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, about 75% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% of the porogen scaffold, about 90% of the porogen scaffold, or about 95% of the porogen scaffold. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by degradation extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, at least 75% of the porogen scaffold, at least 80% of the porogen scaffold, at least 85% of the porogen scaffold, at least 90% of the porogen scaffold, or at least 95% of the porogen scaffold. In aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by degradation extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, about 75% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 75% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, about 75% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 100% of the

porogen scaffold, about 85% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, or about 85% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold.

**[000118]** In still another embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by mechanical extraction, where the extraction removes substantially all the porogen scaffold leaving an elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores. In aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by mechanical extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, about 75% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% of the porogen scaffold, about 90% of the porogen scaffold, or about 95% of the porogen scaffold. In other aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by mechanical extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, at least 75% of the porogen scaffold, at least 80% of the porogen scaffold, at least 85% of the porogen scaffold, at least 90% of the porogen scaffold, or at least 95% of the porogen scaffold. In aspects of this embodiment, a porogen scaffold is removed by mechanical extraction, where the extraction removes, *e.g.*, about 75% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 75% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, about 75% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, about 80% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% to about 90% of the porogen scaffold, about 85% to about 95% of the porogen scaffold, or about 85% to about 100% of the porogen scaffold.

**[000119]** The present specification discloses in part, biocompatible implantable device comprising a layer of porous material as disclosed in the present specification, wherein the porous material covers a surface of the device. See, *e.g.*, FIG. 2 and FIG. 4. As used herein, the term “implantable” refers to any material that can be embedded into, or attached to, tissue, muscle, organ or any other part of an animal body. As used herein, the term “animal” includes all mammals including a human. A biocompatible implantable device is synonymous with “medical device”, “biomedical device”, “implantable medical device” or “implantable biomedical device” and includes, without limitation, pacemakers, dura matter substitutes, implantable cardiac defibrillators, tissue expanders, and tissue implants used for prosthetic, reconstructive, or aesthetic purposes, like breast implants, muscle implants or implants that reduce or prevent

scarring. Examples of biocompatible implantable devices that the porous material disclosed in the present specification can be attached to are described in, e.g., Schuessler, *Rotational Molding System for Medical Articles*, U.S. Patent 7,628,604; Smith, *Mastopexy Stabilization Apparatus and Method*, U.S. Patent 7,081,135; Knisley, *Inflatable Prosthetic Device*, U.S. Patent 6,936,068; Falcon, *Reinforced Radius Mammary Prostheses and Soft Tissue Expanders*, U.S. 6,605,116; Schuessler, *Rotational Molding of Medical Articles*, U.S. Patent 6,602,452; Murphy, *Seamless Breast Prosthesis*, U.S. Patent 6,074,421; Knowlton, *Segmental Breast Expander For Use in Breast Reconstruction*, U.S. Patent 6,071,309; VanBeek, *Mechanical Tissue Expander*, U.S. Patent 5,882,353; Hunter, *Soft Tissue Implants and Anti-Scarring Agents*, Schuessler, *Self-Sealing Shell For Inflatable Prostheses*, U.S. Patent Publication 2010/0049317; U.S. 2009/0214652; Schraga, *Medical Implant Containing Detection Enhancing Agent and Method For Detecting Content Leakage*, U.S. Patent Publication 2009/0157180; Schuessler, *All-Barrier Elastomeric Gel-Filled Breast Prosthesis*, U.S. Patent Publication 2009/0030515; Connell, *Differential Tissue Expander Implant*, U.S. Patent Publication 2007/0233273; and Hunter, *Medical implants and Anti-Scarring Agents*, U.S. Patent Publication 2006/0147492; Van Epps, *Soft Filled Prosthesis Shell with Discrete Fixation Surfaces*, International Patent Publication WO/2010/019761; Schuessler, *Self Sealing Shell for Inflatable Prosthesis*, International Patent Publication WO/2010/022130; Yacoub, *Prosthesis Implant Shell*, International Application No. PCT/US09/61045, each of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

**[000120]** A biocompatible implantable device disclosed in the present specification can be implanted into the soft tissue of an animal during the normal operation of the device. Such implantable devices may be completely implanted into the soft tissue of an animal body (*i.e.*, the entire device is implanted within the body), or the device may be partially implanted into an animal body (*i.e.*, only part of the device is implanted within an animal body, the remainder of the device being located outside of the animal body). A biocompatible implantable device disclosed in the present specification can also be affixed to soft tissue of an animal during the normal operation of the medical device. Such devices are typically affixed to the skin of an animal body.

**[000121]** The present specification discloses, in part, a porous material that covers a surface of the biocompatible implantable device. Any of the porous materials disclosed in the present specification can be used as the porous material covering a surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In general, the surface of a biocompatible implantable device is one exposed to the surrounding tissue of an animal in a manner that promotes tissue growth, and/or reduces or prevents formation of fibrous capsules that can result in capsular contracture or scarring.

**[000122]** Thus, in an embodiment, a porous material covers the entire surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In another embodiment, a porous material covers a portion of a surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material covers to a front surface of a biocompatible implantable device or a back surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In other aspects, a porous material covers only to, *e.g.*, about 20%, about 30%, about 40%, about 50%, about 60%, about 70% about 80% or about 90% of the entire surface of a biocompatible implantable device, a front surface of a biocompatible implantable device, or a back surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In yet other aspects, a porous material is applied only to, *e.g.*, at least 20%, at least 30%, at least 40%, at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70% at least 80% or at least 90% of the entire surface of a biocompatible implantable device, a front surface of a biocompatible implantable device, or a back surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In still other aspects, a porous material is applied only to, *e.g.*, at most 20%, at most 30%, at most 40%, at most 50%, at most 60%, at most 70% at most 80% or at most 90% of the entire surface of a biocompatible implantable device, a front surface of a biocompatible implantable device, or a back surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In further aspects, a porous material is applied only to, *e.g.*, about 20% to about 100%, about 30% to about 100%, about 40% to about 100%, about 50% to about 100%, about 60% to about 100%, about 70% to about 100%, about 80% to about 100%, or about 90% to about 100% of the entire surface of a biocompatible implantable device, a front surface of a biocompatible implantable device, or a back surface of a biocompatible implantable device.



**[000123]** The layer of porous material covering a biocompatible implantable device can be of any thickness with the proviso that the material thickness allows tissue growth within the array of interconnected pores of an elastomer matrix in a manner sufficient to reduce or prevent formation of fibrous capsules that can result in capsular contracture or scarring.

**[000124]** Thus, in an embodiment, a layer of porous material covering a biocompatible implantable device is of a thickness that allows tissue growth within the array of interconnected pores of an elastomer matrix in a manner sufficient to reduce or prevent formation of fibrous capsules that can result in capsular contracture or scarring. In aspects of this embodiment, a layer porous material covering a biocompatible implantable device comprises a thickness of, *e.g.*, about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 600  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 700  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 900  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 1 mm, about 2 mm, about 3 mm, about 4 mm, about 5 mm, about 6 mm, about 7 mm, about 8 mm, about 9 mm, or about 10 mm. In other aspects of this embodiment, a layer porous material covering a biocompatible implantable device comprises a thickness of, *e.g.*, at least 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 600  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 700  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 900  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 1 mm, at least 2 mm, at least 3 mm, at least 4 mm, at least 5 mm, at least 6 mm, at least 7 mm, at least 8 mm, at least 9 mm, or at least 10 mm. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a layer porous material covering a biocompatible implantable device comprises a thickness of, *e.g.*, at most 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 600  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 700  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 900  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 1 mm, at most 2 mm, at most 3 mm, at most 4 mm, at most 5 mm, at most 6 mm, at most 7 mm, at most 8 mm, at most 9 mm, or at most 10 mm. In still other aspects of this embodiment, a layer porous material covering a biocompatible implantable device comprises a thickness of, *e.g.*, about 100  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 100  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 1 mm, about 100  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 5 mm, about 500  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 1 mm, about 500  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 2 mm, about 500  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 3 mm, about 500  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 4 mm, about 500  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 5 mm, about 1 mm

to about 2 mm, about 1 mm to about 3 mm, about 1 mm to about 4 mm, about 1 mm to about 5 mm, or about 1.5 mm to about 3.5 mm.

**[000125]** The present specification discloses in part, a method for making biocompatible implantable device comprising a porous material. In an aspect, a method for making biocompatible implantable device comprises the step of attaching a porous material to the surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In another aspect, a method for making biocompatible implantable device comprises the steps of a) preparing a surface of a biocompatible implantable device to receive porous material; b) attaching a porous material to the prepared surface of the device. Any of the porous materials disclosed in the present specification can be used as the porous material attached to a surface of a biocompatible implantable device.

**[000126]** The present specification discloses, in part, preparing a surface of a biocompatible implantable device to receive porous material. Preparing a surface of a biocompatible implantable device to receive porous material can be accomplished by any technique that does not destroy the desired properties of the porous material or the biocompatible implantable device. As a non-limiting example, a surface of a biocompatible implantable device can be prepared by applying a bonding substance. Non-limiting examples of bonding substances include silicone adhesives, such as, *e.g.*, RTV silicone and HTV silicone. The bonding substance is applied to the surface of a biocompatible implantable device, the porous material, or both, using any method known in the art, such as, *e.g.*, cast coating, spray coating, dip coating, curtain coating, knife coating, brush coating, vapor deposition coating, and the like.

**[000127]** The present specification discloses, in part, attaching a porous material to a surface of a biocompatible implantable device. The porous material can be attached to the entire surface of the device, or only to portions of the surface of the device. As a non-limiting example, porous material is attached only to the front surface of the device or only the back surface of the device. Attachment of a porous material to a surface of a biocompatible implantable device can be accomplished by any technique that does

not destroy the desired properties of the porous material or the biocompatible implantable device.

**[000128]** For example, attachment can occur by adhering an already formed porous material onto a surface of a biocompatible implantable device using methods known in the art, such as, e.g., gluing, bonding, melting. For instance, a dispersion of silicone is applied as an adhesive onto a surface of a biocompatible implantable device, a porous material sheet, or both, and then the two materials are placed together in a manner that allows the adhesive to attached the porous material to the surface of the device in such a way that there are no wrinkles on the surface of the device. The silicone adhesive is allowed to cure and then the excess material is cut off creating a uniform seam around the device. This process results in a biocompatible implantable device comprising a porous material disclosed in the present specification. Examples 2 and 4 illustrate method of this type of attachment.

**[000129]** Alternatively, attachment can occur by forming the porous material directly onto a surface of a biocompatible implantable device using methods known in the art, such as, e.g., cast coating, spray coating, dip coating, curtain coating, knife coating, brush coating, vapor deposition coating, and the like.

**[000130]** Regardless of the method of attachment, the porous material can be applied to the entire surface of a biocompatible implantable device, or only to portions of the surface of a biocompatible implantable device. As a non-limiting example, porous material is applied only to the front surface of a biocompatible implantable device or only the back surface of a biocompatible implantable device.

**[000131]** Thus, in an embodiment, a porous material is attached to a surface of a biocompatible implantable device by bonding a porous material to a surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material is attached to a surface of a biocompatible implantable device by gluing, bonding, or melting the porous material to a surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In another embodiment, a porous material is attached to a surface of a biocompatible

implantable device by forming the porous material onto a surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material is attached to a surface of a biocompatible implantable device by cast coating, spray coating, dip coating, curtain coating, knife coating, brush coating, or vapor deposition coating.

**[000132]** In another embodiment, a porous material is applied to the entire surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In another embodiment, a porous material is applied to a portion of a surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In aspects of this embodiment, a porous material is applied to a front surface of a biocompatible implantable device or a back surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In other aspects, a porous material is applied only to, *e.g.*, about 20%, about 30%, about 40%, about 50%, about 60%, about 70% about 80% or about 90% of the entire surface of a biocompatible implantable device, a front surface of a biocompatible implantable device, or a back surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In yet other aspects, a porous material is applied only to, *e.g.*, at least 20%, at least 30%, at least 40%, at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70% at least 80% or at least 90% of the entire surface of a biocompatible implantable device, a front surface of a biocompatible implantable device, or a back surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In still other aspects, a porous material is applied only to, *e.g.*, at most 20%, at most 30%, at most 40%, at most 50%, at most 60%, at most 70% at most 80% or at most 90% of the entire surface of a biocompatible implantable device, a front surface of a biocompatible implantable device, or a back surface of a biocompatible implantable device. In further aspects, a porous material is applied only to, *e.g.*, about 20% to about 100%, about 30% to about 100%, about 40% to about 100%, about 50% to about 100%, about 60% to about 100%, about 70% to about 100%, about 80% to about 100%, or about 90% to about 100% of the entire surface of a biocompatible implantable device, a front surface of a biocompatible implantable device, or a back surface of a biocompatible implantable device.

**[000133]** The layer of porous material applied to a biocompatible implantable device can be of any thickness with the proviso that the material thickness allows tissue growth within the array of interconnected of pores of an elastomer matrix in a manner

sufficient to reduce or prevent formation of fibrous capsules that can result in capsular contracture or scarring.

Thus, in an embodiment, a layer of porous material applied to a biocompatible implantable device is of a thickness that allows tissue growth within the array of interconnected pores of an elastomer matrix in a manner sufficient to reduce or prevent formation of fibrous capsules that can result in capsular contracture or scarring. In aspects of this embodiment, a layer porous material applied to a biocompatible implantable device comprises a thickness of, *e.g.*, about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 600  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 700  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 900  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 1 mm, about 2 mm, about 3 mm, about 4 mm, about 5 mm, about 6 mm, about 7 mm, about 8 mm, about 9 mm, or about 10 mm. In other aspects of this embodiment, a layer porous material applied to a biocompatible implantable device comprises a thickness of, *e.g.*, at least 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 600  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 700  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 900  $\mu\text{m}$ , at least 1 mm, at least 2 mm, at least 3 mm, at least 4 mm, at least 5 mm, at least 6 mm, at least 7 mm, at least 8 mm, at least 9 mm, or at least 10 mm. In yet other aspects of this embodiment, a layer porous material applied to a biocompatible implantable device comprises a thickness of, *e.g.*, at most 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 600  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 700  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 900  $\mu\text{m}$ , at most 1 mm, at most 2 mm, at most 3 mm, at most 4 mm, at most 5 mm, at most 6 mm, at most 7 mm, at most 8 mm, at most 9 mm, or at most 10 mm. In still other aspects of this embodiment, a layer porous material applied to a biocompatible implantable device comprises a thickness of, *e.g.*, about 100  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , about 100  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 1 mm, about 100  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 5 mm, about 500  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 1 mm, about 500  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 2 mm, about 500  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 3 mm, about 500  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 4 mm, about 500  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 5 mm, about 1 mm to about 2 mm, about 1 mm to about 3 mm, about 1 mm to about 4 mm, about 1 mm to about 5 mm, or about 1.5 mm to about 3.5 mm. 13.

In one aspect of the present invention, a breast implant is provided, the implant comprising an inflatable elastomeric shell, a portion of which is a material made by one

of the processes of the present invention described elsewhere herein. For example, the material may be made by the steps of a) fusing porogens to form a porogen scaffold comprising fused porogens; b) coating the porogen scaffold with an elastomer base to form an elastomer coated porogen scaffold; c) curing the elastomer coated porogen scaffold; and d) removing the porogen scaffold, wherein porogen scaffold removal results in a said material.

## **EXAMPLES**

**[000134]** The following examples illustrate representative embodiments now contemplated, but should not be construed to limit the disclosed porous materials, methods of forming such porous materials, biocompatible implantable devices comprising such porous materials, and methods of making such biocompatible implantable devices.

### **Example 1**

#### **A method of making a porous material sheet**

**[000135]** This example illustrates how to make a sheet of porous material disclosed in the present specification. It is illustrated in Figure 5.

**[000136]** To form a porogen scaffold, an appropriate amount of PLGA (50/50) porogens (300  $\mu$ m diameter) is mixed with a suitable amount of hexane and is poured into a about 20 cm x 20 cm square mold coated with a non-stick surface. The mixture is heated at 60 °C for 5 minutes allowing the porogens to fuse. Excessive hexanes are then removed by evaporation at room temperature. A 30 cm x 30 cm x 2 mm porogen scaffold is obtained.

**[000137]** To coat the porogen scaffold with an elastomer base, an appropriate amount of 35% (w/w) silicon in xylene (MED 6400; NuSil Technology LLC, Carpinteria, CA) is added to the porogen scaffold and is incubated for 2 hours at an ambient temperature of about 18 °C to about 22 °C.

**[000138]** To cure an elastomer coated porogen scaffold, the silicone coated PLGA scaffold is placed into an oven and is heated at a temperature of 126 °C for 85 minutes.

**[000139]** To remove a porogen scaffold from the cured elastomer, the cured elastomer/porogen scaffold is immersed in methylene chloride. After 30 minutes, the methylene chloride is removed and fresh methylene chloride is added. After 30 minutes, the methylene chloride is removed and the resulting 30 cm x 30 cm x 1.5 mm sheet of porous material is air dried at an ambient temperature of about 18 °C to about 22 °C. This process results in a porous material sheet as disclosed in the present specification.

**[000140]** A sample from the sheet of porous material can be characterized by microCT analysis and/or scanning electron microscopy (SEM).

## **Example 2**

### **A method of making a biocompatible implantable device comprising a porous material**

**[000141]** This example illustrates how to make a biocompatible implantable device comprising a porous material disclosed in the present specification.

**[000142]** Sheets of porous material comprising an elastomer matrix defining an interconnected array of pores is obtained as described in Example 1.

**[000143]** To attach a porous material to a biocompatible implantable device, a first porous material sheet is coated with a thin layer of silicone and then placed in the bottom cavity of a mold, adhesive side up. A biocompatible implantable device is then placed on top of the material surface coated with the adhesive. A second porous material sheet is then coated with a thin layer of silicone and applied to the uncovered surface of the biocompatible implantable device. The top piece of the mold cavity is then fixed in place pressing the two material sheets together creating a uniform

interface. The silicone adhesive is allowed to cure by placing the covered device into an oven and heated at a temperature of 126 °C for 85 minutes. After curing, excess material is trimmed off creating a uniform seam around the biocompatible implantable device. This process results in a biocompatible implantable device comprising a porous material as disclosed in the present specification. See, e.g., FIG. 2A.

**[000144]** Alternatively, the porous material can be laminated onto a biocompatible implantable device while the device is still on a mandrel. In this process, a first porous material sheet is coated with a thin layer of silicone and then draped over the device on the mandrel in such a way that there are no wrinkles on the surface. After curing the silicone adhesive, as described above, another coating of silicone is applied to the uncovered surface of the biocompatible implantable device and a second porous material is stretched up to cover the back of the device. After curing the silicone adhesive, as described above, the biocompatible implantable device is then taken off the mandrel and the excess porous material is trimmed to create a uniform seam around the device. This process results in a biocompatible implantable device comprising a porous material as disclosed in the present specification.

### **Example 3**

#### **A method of making a porous material shell**

**[000145]** This example illustrates how to make a porous material shell disclosed in the present specification.

**[000146]** To form a porogen scaffold, an appropriate amount of PLGA (50/50) porogens (300 µm diameter) is mixed with a suitable amount of hexane and is poured into a mold in the shape of a breast implant shell. The mold is mechanically agitated to pack firmly the mixture. The thickness of the shell is controlled based upon the design of the shell mold. The firmly packed porogens is heated at 60 °C for 5 minutes to allow the porogens to fuse. Excessive hexanes are then removed by evaporation at room temperature. A porogen scaffold in the shape of a breast implant shell is obtained.



**[000147]** To coat the porogen scaffold with an elastomer base, an appropriate amount of 35% (w/w) silicon in xylene (MED 6400; NuSil Technology LLC, Carpinteria, CA) is added to the porogen scaffold and is incubated for 2 hours at an ambient temperature of about 18 °C to about 22 °C.

**[000148]** To cure an elastomer coated porogen scaffold, the silicone coated PLGA scaffold is placed into an oven and is heated at a temperature of 126 °C for 85 minutes. After treating, the shell mold is dismantled and the cured elastomer coated porogen scaffold is removed.

**[000149]** To remove a porogen scaffold from the cured elastomer shell, the cured elastomer/porogen scaffold is immersed in methylene chloride. After 30 minutes, the methylene chloride is removed and fresh methylene chloride is added. After 30 minutes, the methylene chloride is removed and the resulting breast implant shell of porous material is air dried at an ambient temperature of about 18 °C to about 22 °C. This process results in a porous material shell as disclosed in the present specification. See, e.g., FIG. 3A.

**[000150]** A sample from the sheet of porous material can be characterized by microCT analysis and/or scanning electron microscopy (SEM).

#### **Example 4**

##### **A method of making a biocompatible implantable device comprising a porous material**

**[000151]** This example illustrates how to make a biocompatible implantable device comprising a porous material disclosed in the present specification.

**[000152]** A porous material shell comprising an elastomer matrix defining an interconnected array of pores is obtained as described in Example 3A.

**[000153]** To attach the porous material shell to a biocompatible implantable device, the surface of the device is coated with a thin layer of silicone. The material shell is then placed over the adhesive coated device in a manner that ensures no wrinkles in the material form. The silicone adhesive is allowed to cure by placing the covered device into an oven and heating at a temperature of 126 °C for 85 minutes. After curing, excess material is trimmed off creating a uniform seam around the biocompatible implantable device. This process results in a biocompatible implantable device comprising a porous material as disclosed in the present specification. See, *e.g.*, FIG. 4A.

### **Example 5**

#### **A method of making a biocompatible porous material**

0.5 g of PLGA (50/50) microspheres (poly (DL-lactic acid-co-glycolic acid) at a size of 50 µm was mixed with 5 ml of hexanes in a 5 ml PPE plastic cup. The mixture was heated at 60° C to allow the microspheres to fuse. Hexanes were evaporated during this heating process. A thin paste of 3D microsphere matrix was thus prepared.

To the 3D microsphere matrix was added 0.5 ml of NuSil MED6400 (silicone elastomer) which was premixed with MED6400 A and MED6400 B. After 2 hours, the 3D microsphere-silicone composite was cured at 75° C for 30 minutes, 150 ° C for two hours and last at 165 ° C for 30 minutes. The paste was peeled from the cup and put in a 10 ml vial. About 5 ml methylene chloride was added to the vial. The mixture was agitated with an automated shaker. After 30 minutes, methylene chloride was poured, another 5 ml of fresh methylene chloride was added, At last, methylene chloride was removed. The paste was air dried. The sample was characterized by scanning electron microscopy as shown in Fig. 1B at X350.

### **Example 6**

#### **A method of making a biocompatible porous material**

First, instead of mixing with hexanes as in Example 5, 0.5 g of PLGA (50/50) microspheres (poly (DL-lactic acid-co-glycolic acid) at a size of 50  $\mu\text{m}$  was initially mixed with 0.5 ml of NuSil MED6400 (silicone elastomer). The mixture was filtered through a 43  $\mu\text{m}$  sieve. Excess silicone elastomer was removed. The wet paste was placed into an oven and cured at a temperature of 75°C for 30 minutes, 150°C for 2 hours and 165°C for 30 minutes. The heated, cured composition was treated with copious methylene chloride. The final silicone matrix was air dried. The sample was characterized by scanning electron microscopy as shown in Fig. 1A at magnification X200.

**[000154]** In closing, it is to be understood that although aspects of the present specification have been described with reference to the various embodiments, one skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the specific examples disclosed are only illustrative of the principles of the subject matter disclosed in the present specification. Therefore, it should be understood that the disclosed subject matter is in no way limited to a particular methodology, protocol, and/or reagent, etc., described herein. As such, various modifications or changes to or alternative configurations of the disclosed subject matter can be made in accordance with the teachings herein without departing from the spirit of the present specification. Lastly, the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to limit the scope of the present invention, which is defined solely by the claims. Accordingly, the present invention is not limited to that precisely as shown and described.

**[000155]** Certain embodiments of this invention are described herein, including the best mode known to the inventors for carrying out the invention. Of course, variations on these described embodiments will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art upon reading the foregoing description. The inventor expects skilled artisans to employ such variations as appropriate, and the inventors intend for the invention to be practiced otherwise than specifically described herein. Accordingly, this invention includes all modifications and equivalents of the subject matter recited in the claims appended hereto as permitted by applicable law. Moreover, any combination of the

above-described elements in all possible variations thereof is encompassed by the invention unless otherwise indicated herein or otherwise clearly contradicted by context.

**[000156]** Groupings of alternative elements or embodiments of the invention disclosed herein are not to be construed as limitations. Each group member may be referred to and claimed individually or in any combination with other members of the group or other elements found herein. It is anticipated that one or more members of a group may be included in, or deleted from, a group for reasons of convenience and/or patentability. When any such inclusion or deletion occurs, the specification is deemed to contain the group as modified thus fulfilling the written description of all Markush groups used in the appended claims.

**[000157]** Unless otherwise indicated, all numbers expressing quantities of ingredients, properties such as molecular weight, reaction conditions, and so forth used in the specification and claims are to be understood as being modified in all instances by the term “about.” As used herein, the term “about” means that the item, parameter or term so qualified encompasses a range of plus or minus ten percent above and below the value of the stated item, parameter or term. Accordingly, unless indicated to the contrary, the numerical parameters set forth in the specification and attached claims are approximations that may vary depending upon the desired properties sought to be obtained by the present invention. At the very least, and not as an attempt to limit the application of the doctrine of equivalents to the scope of the claims, each numerical parameter should at least be construed in light of the number of reported significant digits and by applying ordinary rounding techniques. Notwithstanding that the numerical ranges and parameters setting forth the broad scope of the invention are approximations, the numerical values set forth in the specific examples are reported as precisely as possible. Any numerical value, however, inherently contains certain errors necessarily resulting from the standard deviation found in their respective testing measurements.

**[000158]** The terms “a,” “an,” “the” and similar referents used in the context of describing the invention (especially in the context of the following claims) are to be

construed to cover both the singular and the plural, unless otherwise indicated herein or clearly contradicted by context. Recitation of ranges of values herein is merely intended to serve as a shorthand method of referring individually to each separate value falling within the range. Unless otherwise indicated herein, each individual value is incorporated into the specification as if it were individually recited herein. All methods described herein can be performed in any suitable order unless otherwise indicated herein or otherwise clearly contradicted by context. The use of any and all examples, or exemplary language (e.g., “such as”) provided herein is intended merely to better illuminate the invention and does not pose a limitation on the scope of the invention otherwise claimed. No language in the specification should be construed as indicating any non-claimed element essential to the practice of the invention.

**[000159]** Specific embodiments disclosed herein may be further limited in the claims using consisting of or consisting essentially of language. When used in the claims, whether as filed or added per amendment, the transition term “consisting of” excludes any element, step, or ingredient not specified in the claims. The transition term “consisting essentially of” limits the scope of a claim to the specified materials or steps and those that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristic(s). Embodiments of the invention so claimed are inherently or expressly described and enabled herein.

**[000160]** All patents, patent publications, and other publications referenced and identified in the present specification are individually and expressly incorporated herein by reference in their entirety for the purpose of describing and disclosing, for example, the methodologies described in such publications that might be used in connection with the present invention. These publications are provided solely for their disclosure prior to the filing date of the present application. Nothing in this regard should be construed as an admission that the inventors are not entitled to antedate such disclosure by virtue of prior invention or for any other reason. All statements as to the date or representation as to the contents of these documents is based on the information available to the applicants and does not constitute any admission as to the correctness of the dates or contents of these documents.

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed:

1. A porous material comprising a substantially non-degradable, biocompatible elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores, the matrix made by the steps of
  - a) fusing porogens to form a porogen scaffold comprising fused porogens;
  - b) coating the porogen scaffold with an elastomer base to form an elastomer coated porogen scaffold;
  - c) curing the elastomer coated porogen scaffold; and
  - d) removing the porogen scaffold, wherein porogen scaffold removal results in a porous material, the porous material comprising a substantially non-degradable, biocompatible, elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores.
2. The porous material of claim 1 having a porosity of at least 40% and wherein the material exhibits an elastic elongation of at least 80.
3. The porous material of Claim 1, wherein the elastomer matrix comprises a silicone-based elastomer.
4. The porous material of Claim 1, wherein the material exhibits an ultimate strength of at least 1 MPa.
5. The porous material of Claim 1, wherein the material exhibits a flexural strength of at most 50 MPa.
6. The porous material of Claim 1, wherein the material exhibits a compressibility of at most 30 kPa.
7. A biocompatible implantable device comprising a layer of porous material of claim 1.

8. The biocompatible implantable device of Claim 7, wherein the device is a breast implant.
9. A porous material made by a process comprising the steps of:
- a) fusing porogens to form a porogen scaffold comprising fused porogens; wherein substantially all the fused porogens are each connected to at least two other fused porogens, and wherein the diameter of substantially all the connections between each fused porogen is between about 15% to about 99% of the mean porogen diameter;
  - b) coating the porogen scaffold with an elastomer base to form an elastomer coated porogen scaffold;
  - c) curing the elastomer coated porogen scaffold; and
  - d) removing the porogen scaffold from the cured elastomer, wherein porogen scaffold removal results in a porous material, the porous material comprising a three-dimensional, substantially non-degradable, biocompatible, elastomer matrix defining an array of interconnected pores.
10. The porous material of claim 9, wherein the step of forming a porogen scaffold comprises mixing a suitable amount of polylactide-co-glycolide (PLGA) porogens or polycaprolactone porogens with a suitable amount of hexane and heating the mixture to allow the porogens to fuse and the hexane to evaporate.
11. The porous material of claim 9 wherein the step of removing the porogen scaffold from the cured elastomer comprises contacting the cured elastomer/porogen scaffold with methylene chloride, chloroform, tetrahydrofuran, or acetone.
12. A biocompatible implantable device comprising a layer of porous material of claim 11.
13. A breast implant comprising:

an inflatable elastomeric shell, a portion of which is a material made by the steps of

- a) fusing porogens to form a porogen scaffold comprising fused porogens;
- b) coating the porogen scaffold with an elastomer base to form an elastomer coated porogen scaffold;
- c) curing the elastomer coated porogen scaffold; and
- d) removing the porogen scaffold, wherein porogen scaffold removal results in a said material.



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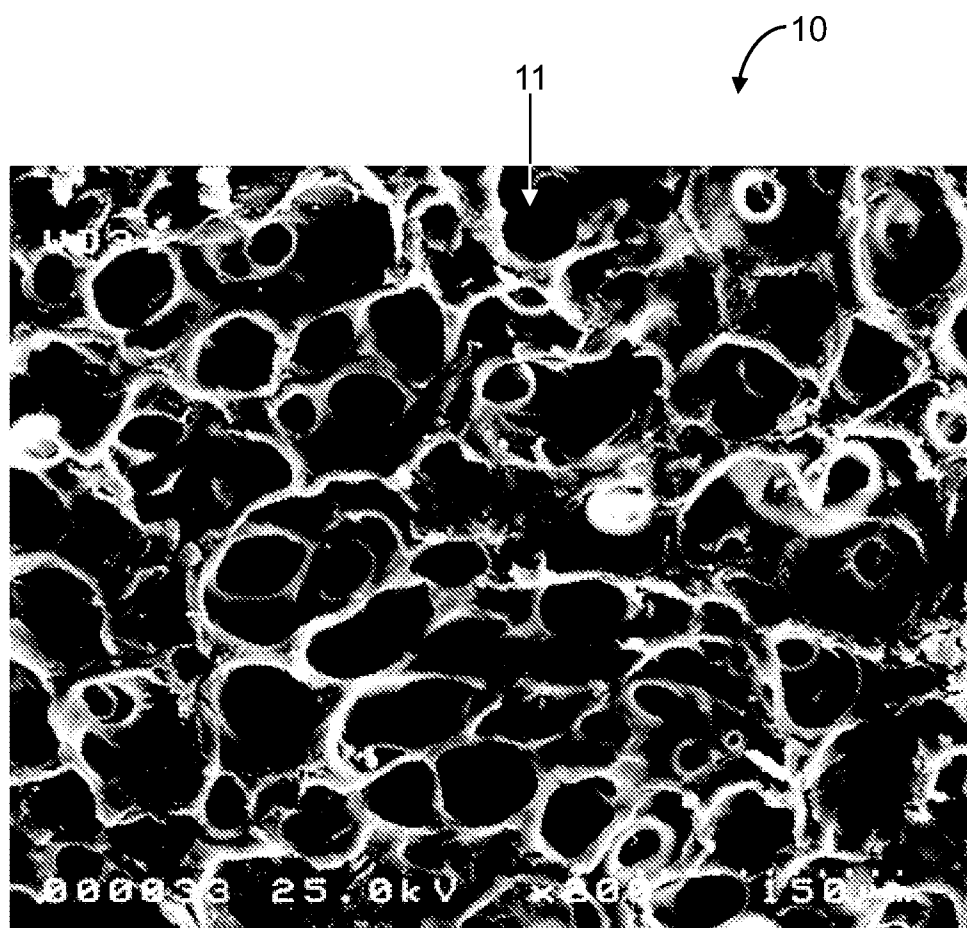


FIG. 1A

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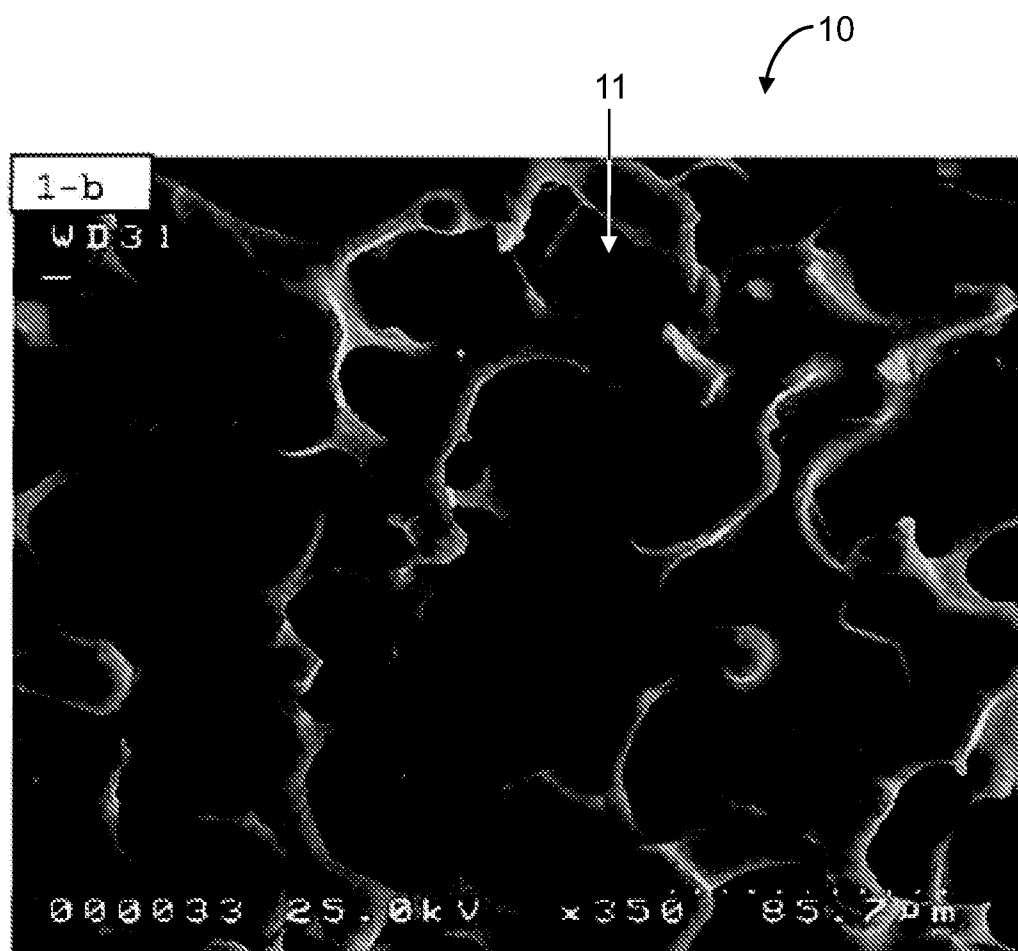
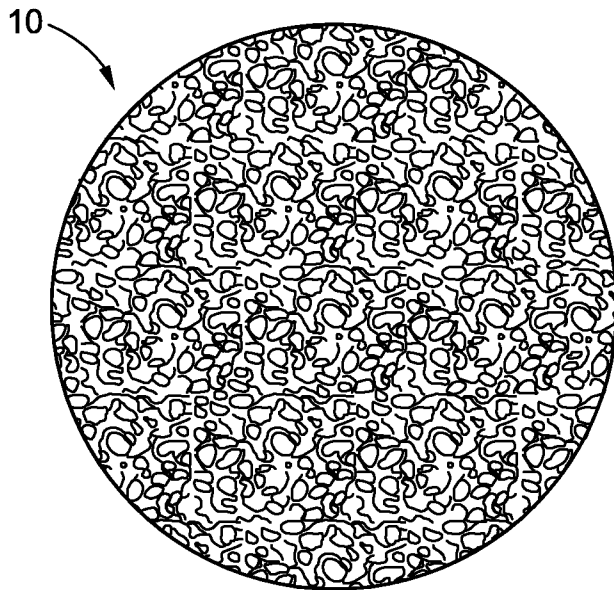
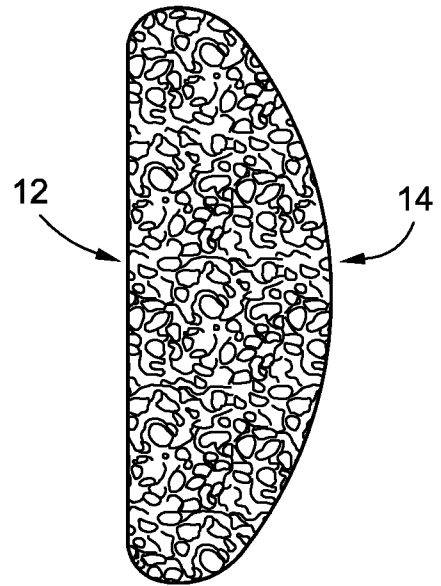


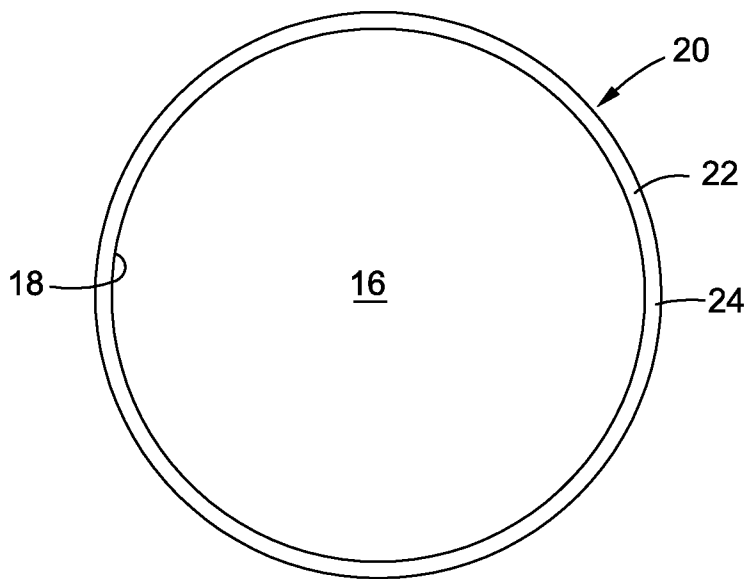
FIG. 1B



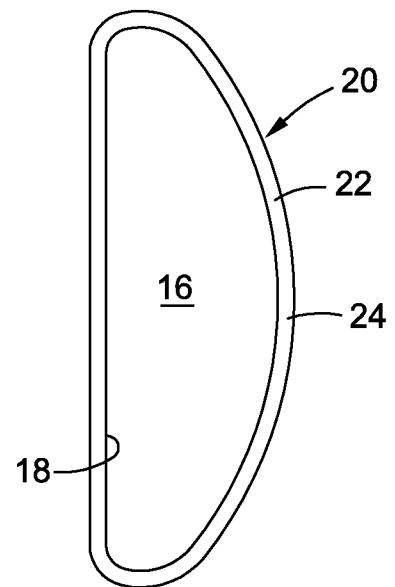
**FIG. 2A**



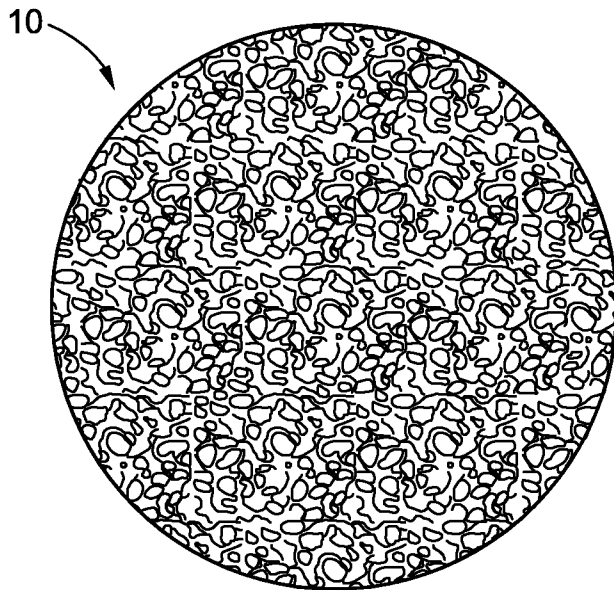
**FIG. 2B**



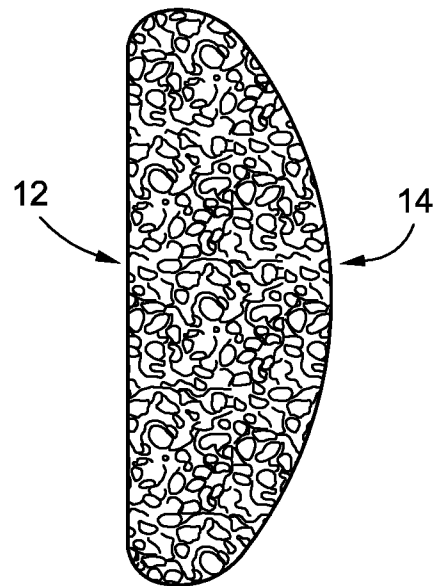
**FIG. 2C**



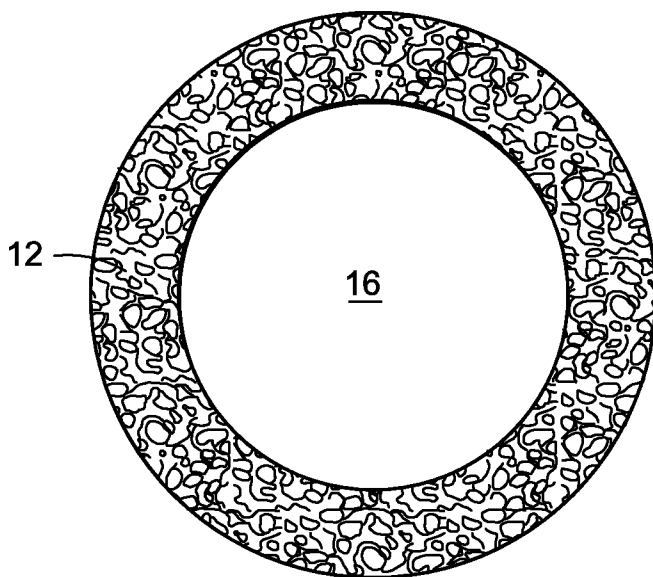
**FIG. 2D**



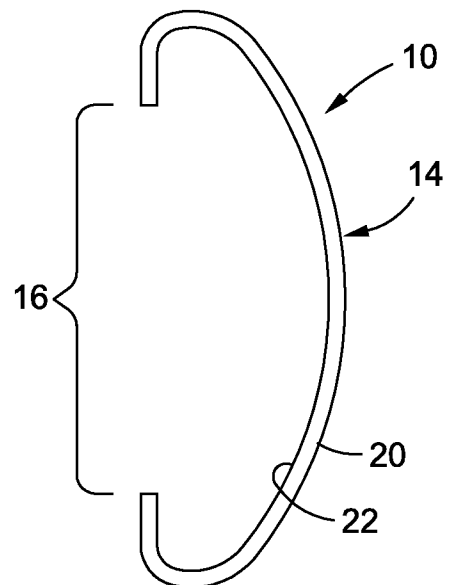
**FIG. 3A**



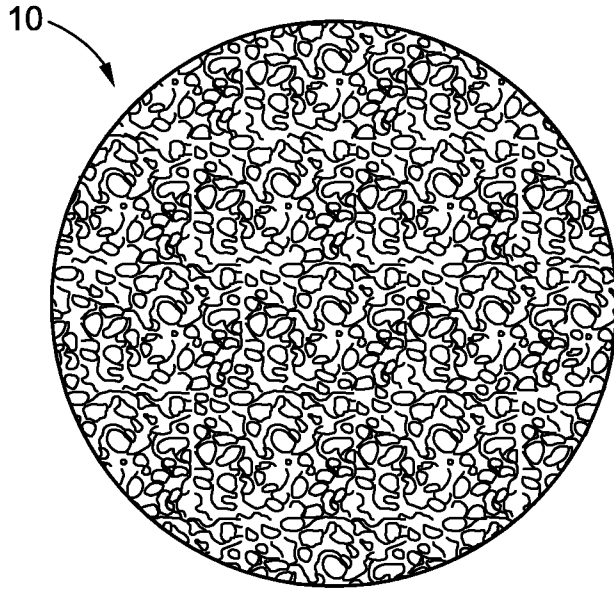
**FIG. 3B**



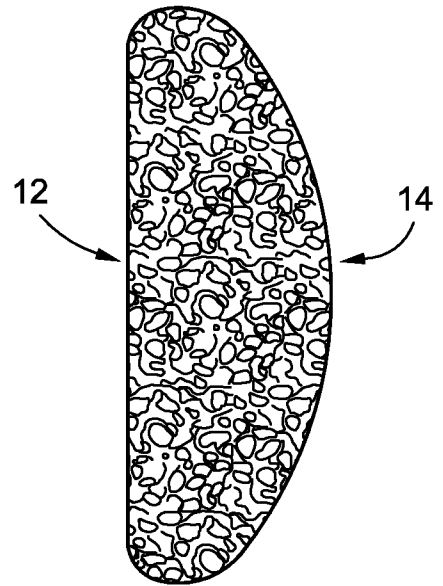
**FIG. 3C**



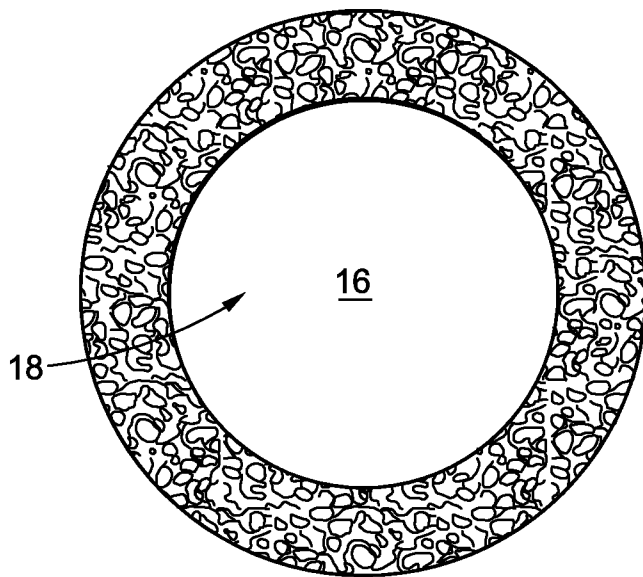
**FIG. 3D**



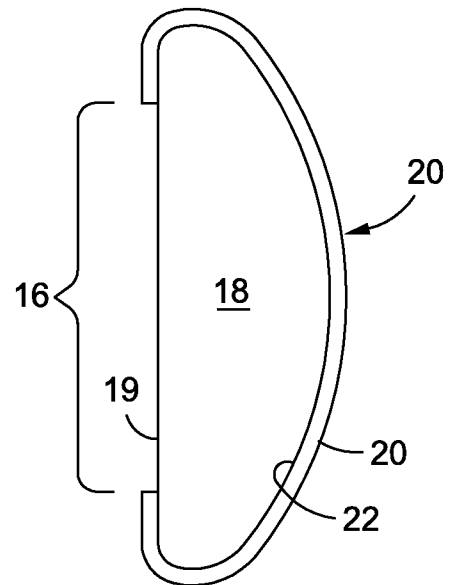
**FIG. 4A**



**FIG. 4B**



**FIG. 4C**



**FIG. 4D**