

# What does biofilm have to do with chronic disease, persistent wounds and recurrent infections?

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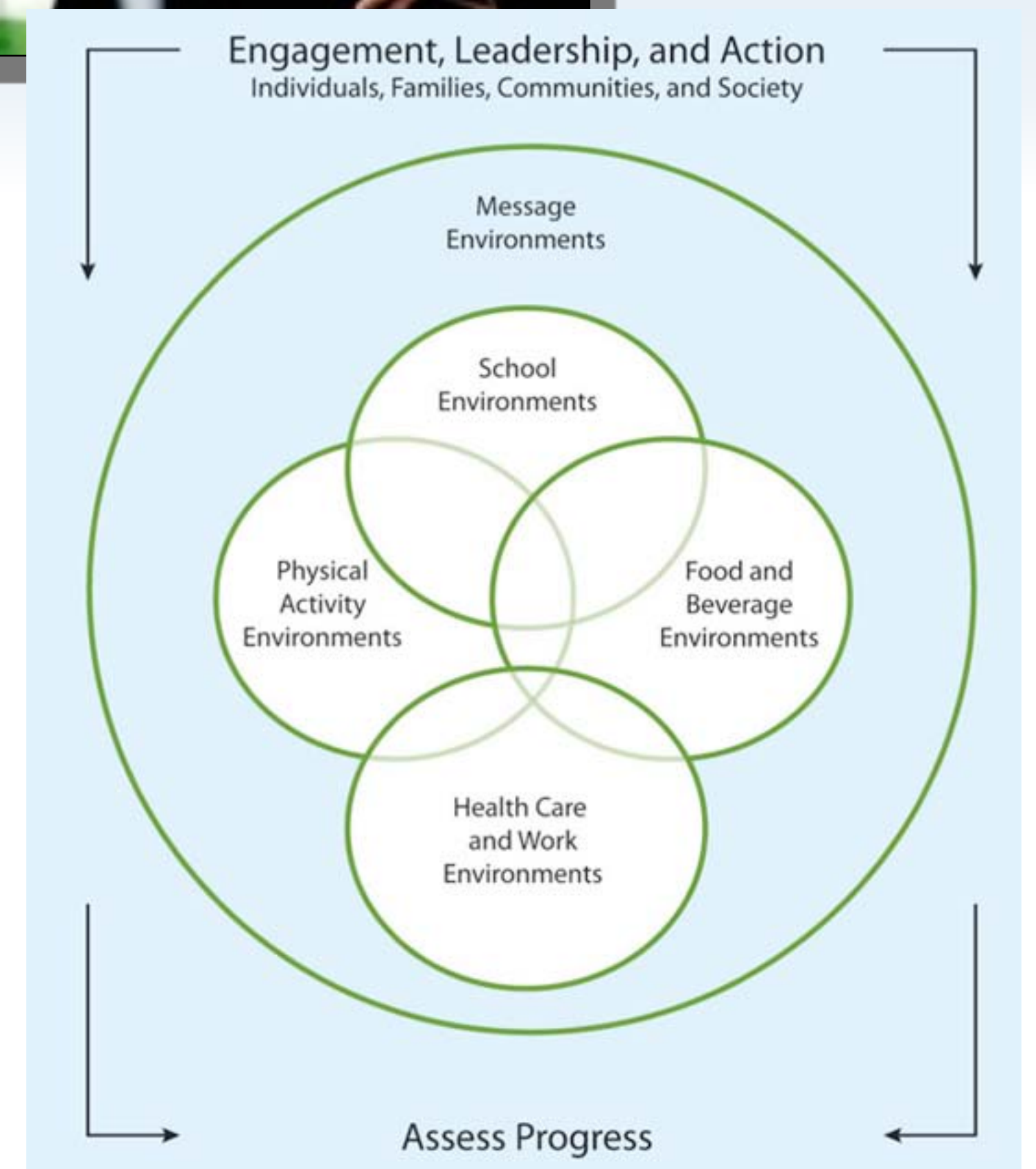
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# Conversation starters!

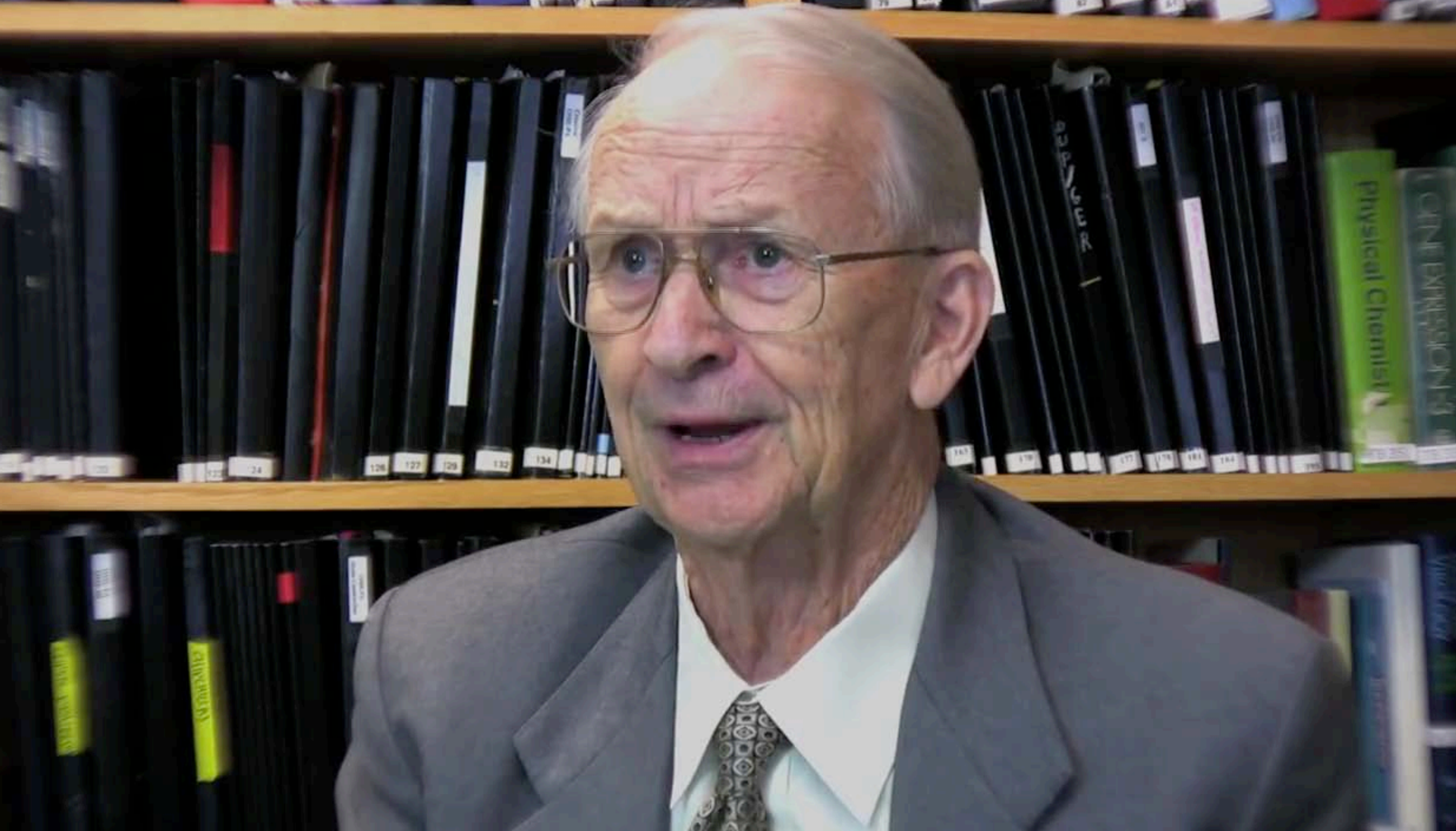
## oral health to general health



- ★ get the facts
- ★ develop positive energy
- ★ create a legitimate spin
- ★ focus on health benefits
- ★ discuss savings - money, time, comfort
- ★ offer reasonable alternatives
- ★ coaching not scolding







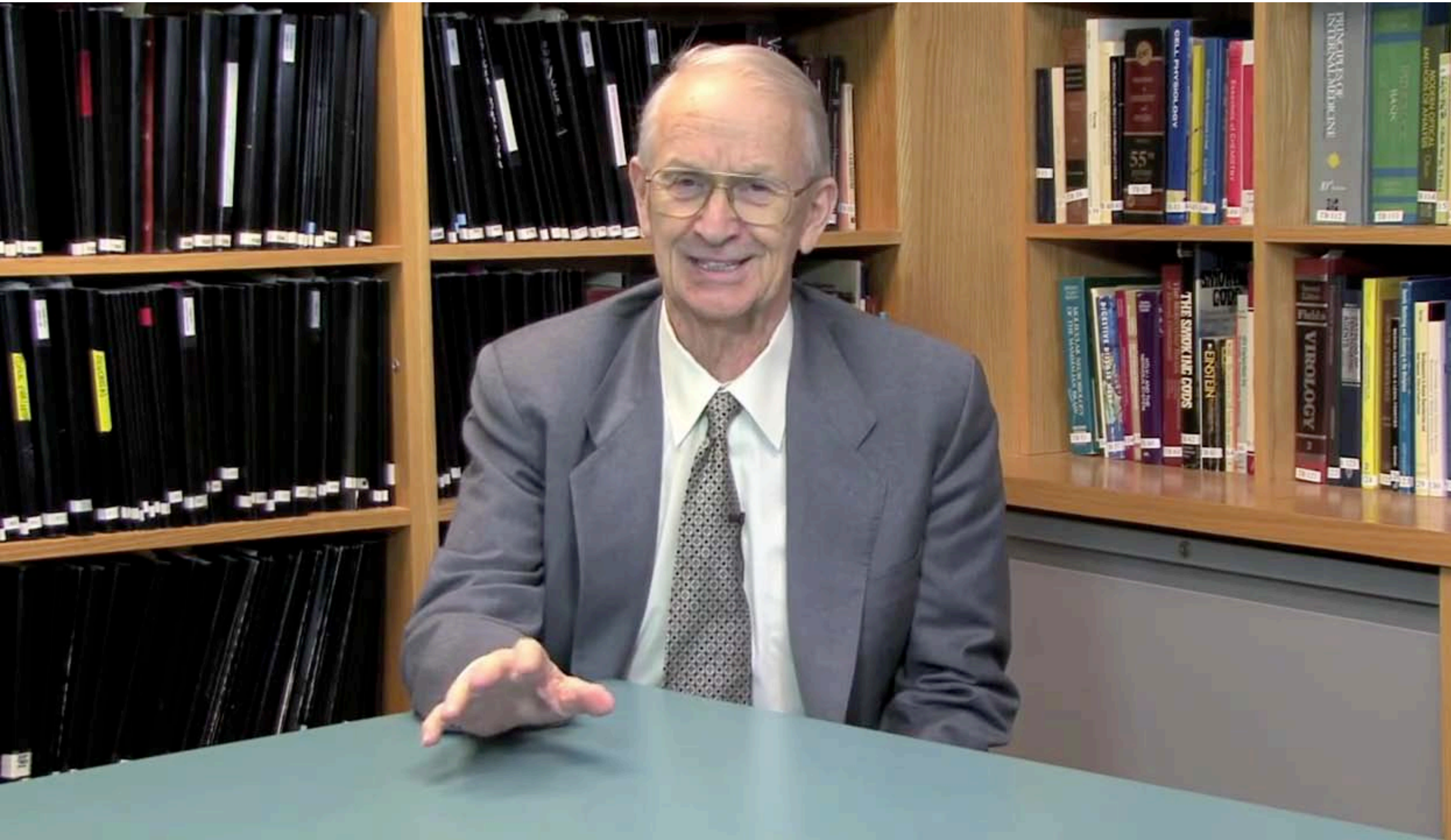
Dr. Bill Costerton - The "Father" of Biofims

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=M\\_DWNFFgHbE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_DWNFFgHbE)



Biofilm basics –  
growing, thriving, surviving





Dr. Bill Costerton - The "Father" of Biofilms

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=M\\_DWNFFgHbE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_DWNFFgHbE)



[Annu Rev Microbiol.](#) 1995;49:711-45.

## **Microbial biofilms.**

[Costerton JW](#), [Lewandowski Z](#), [Caldwell DE](#), [Korber DR](#), [Lappin-Scott HM](#).

### **Source**

Center for Biofilm Engineering, Montana State University, Bozeman 59717, USA.

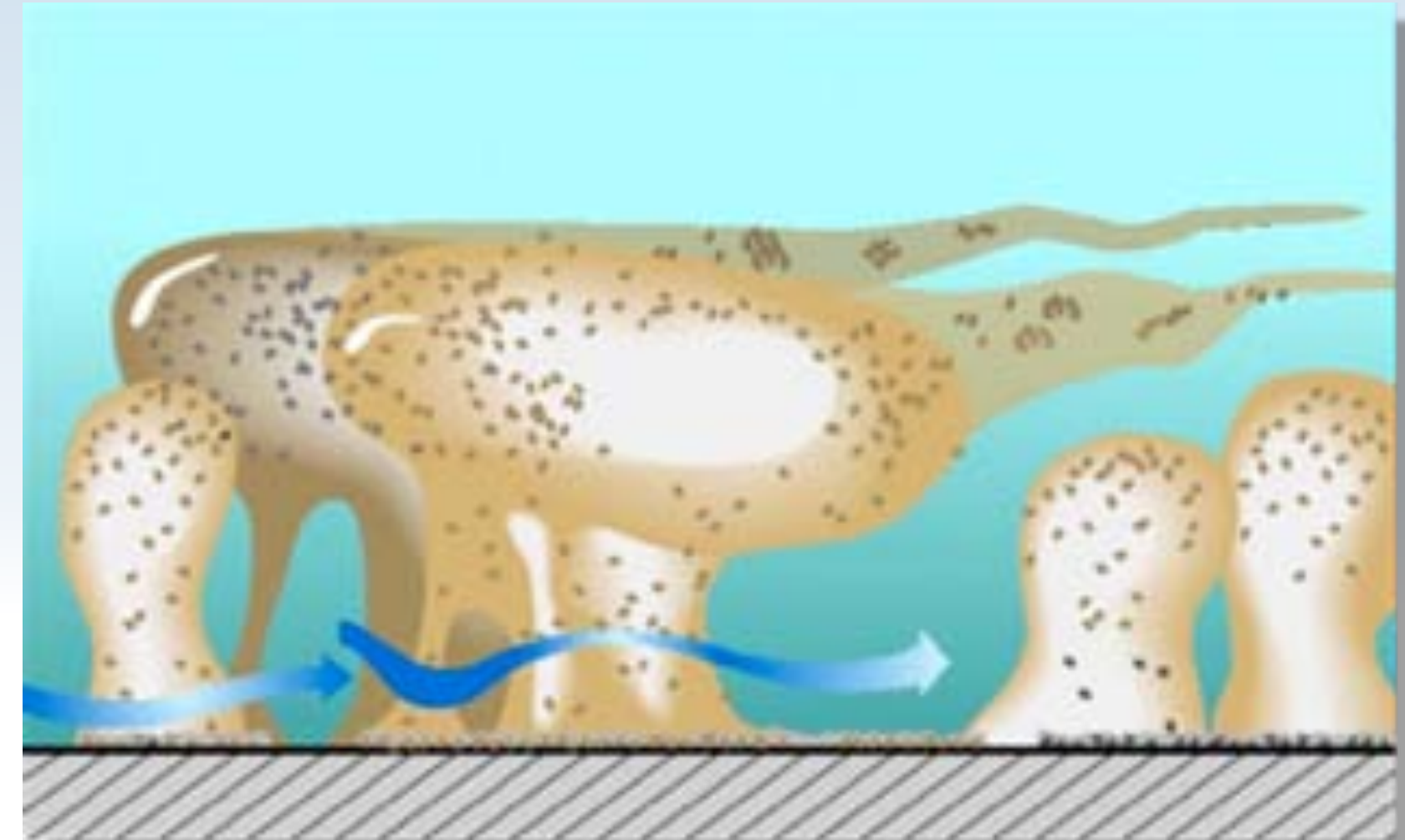
### **Abstract**

Direct observations have clearly shown that biofilm bacteria predominate, numerically and metabolically, in virtually all nutrient-sufficient ecosystems. Therefore, these sessile organisms predominate in most of the environmental, industrial, and medical problems and processes of interest to microbiologists. If biofilm bacteria were simply planktonic cells that had adhered to a surface, this revelation would be unimportant, but they are demonstrably and profoundly different. We first noted that biofilm cells are at least 500 times more resistant to antibacterial agents. Now we have discovered that adhesion triggers the expression of a sigma factor that derepresses a large number of genes so that biofilm cells are clearly phenotypically distinct from their planktonic counterparts. Each biofilm bacterium lives in a customized microniche in a complex microbial community that has primitive homeostasis, a primitive circulatory system, and metabolic cooperativity, and each of these sessile cells reacts to its special environment so that it differs fundamentally from a planktonic cell of the same species.

# What is a “Biofilm”?

A 3-Dimensional “community” of microbes attached to a surface

- Fluid interaction
- Channels / pores
- Complex structure



©1996 Center of Biofilm Engineering, Montana State University-Bozeman

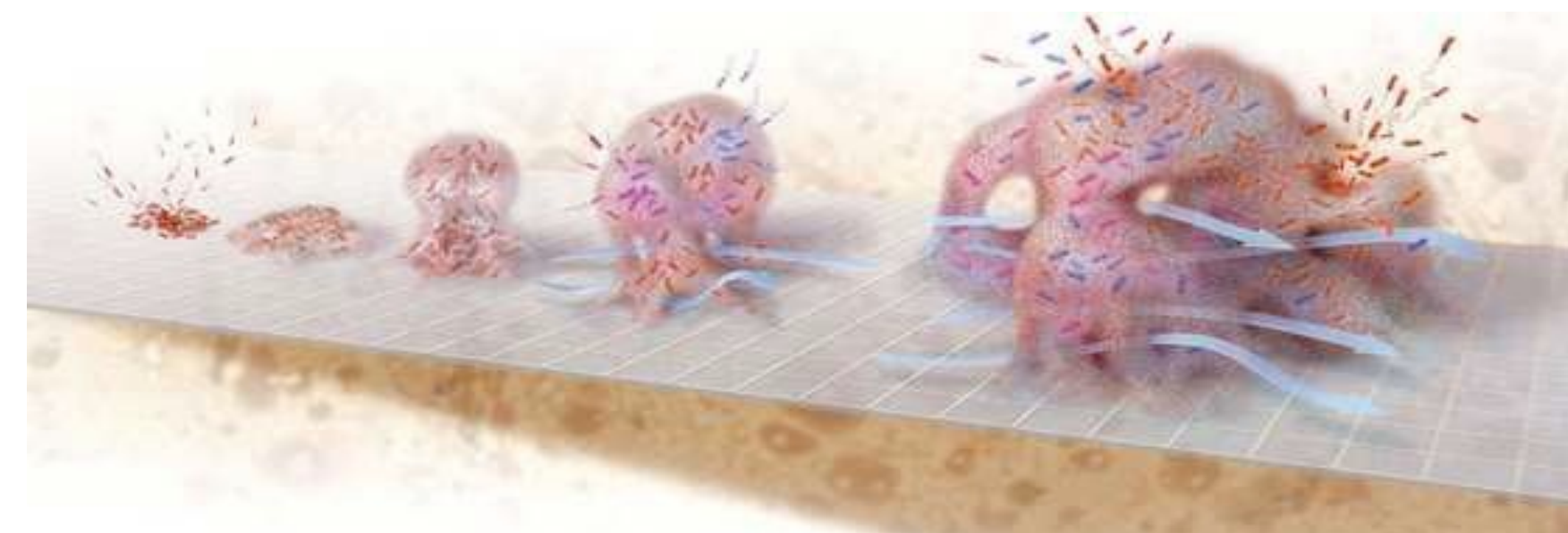
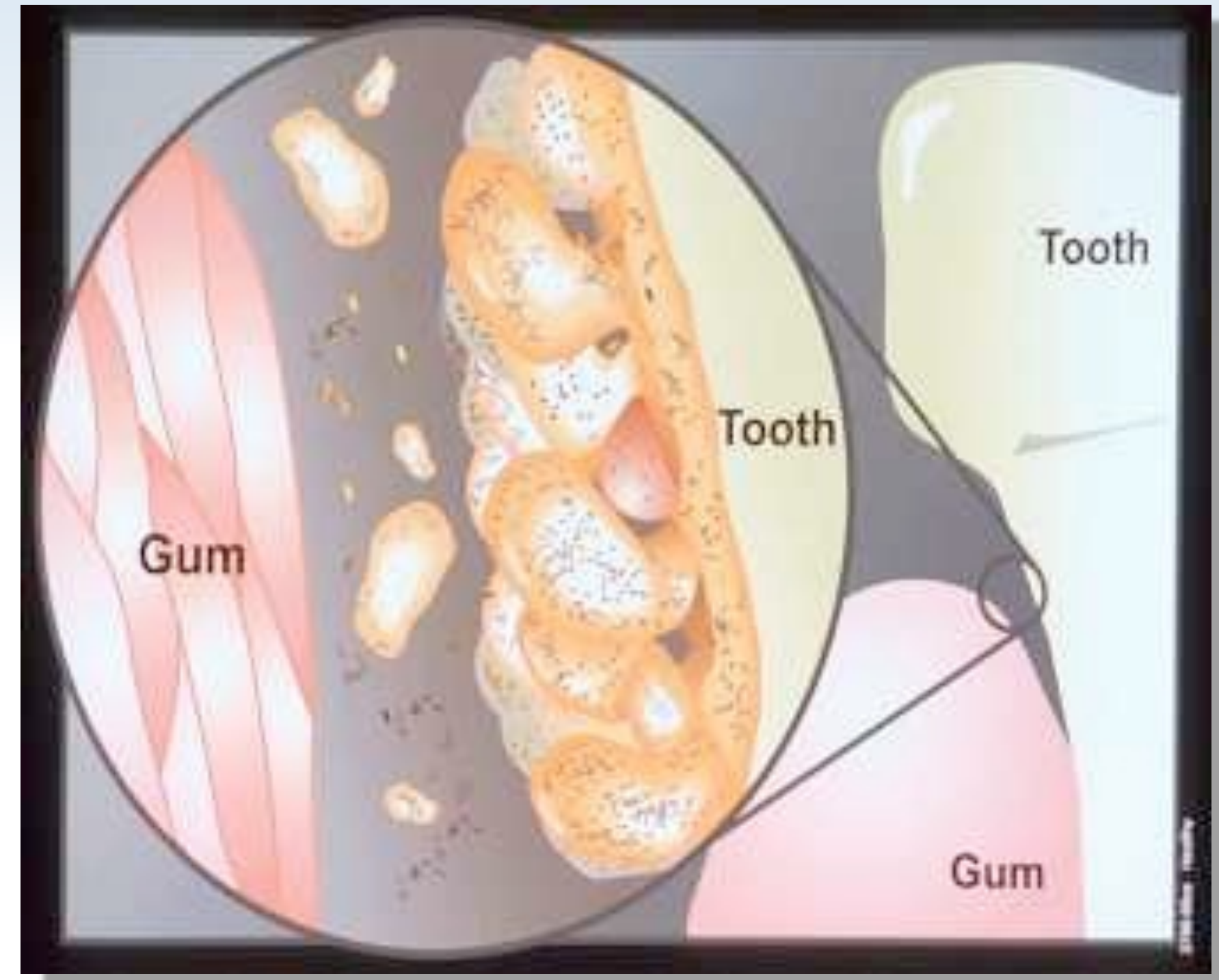


Illustration by Keith Kasnot, *Scientific American*, July 2001



# Plaque biofilms

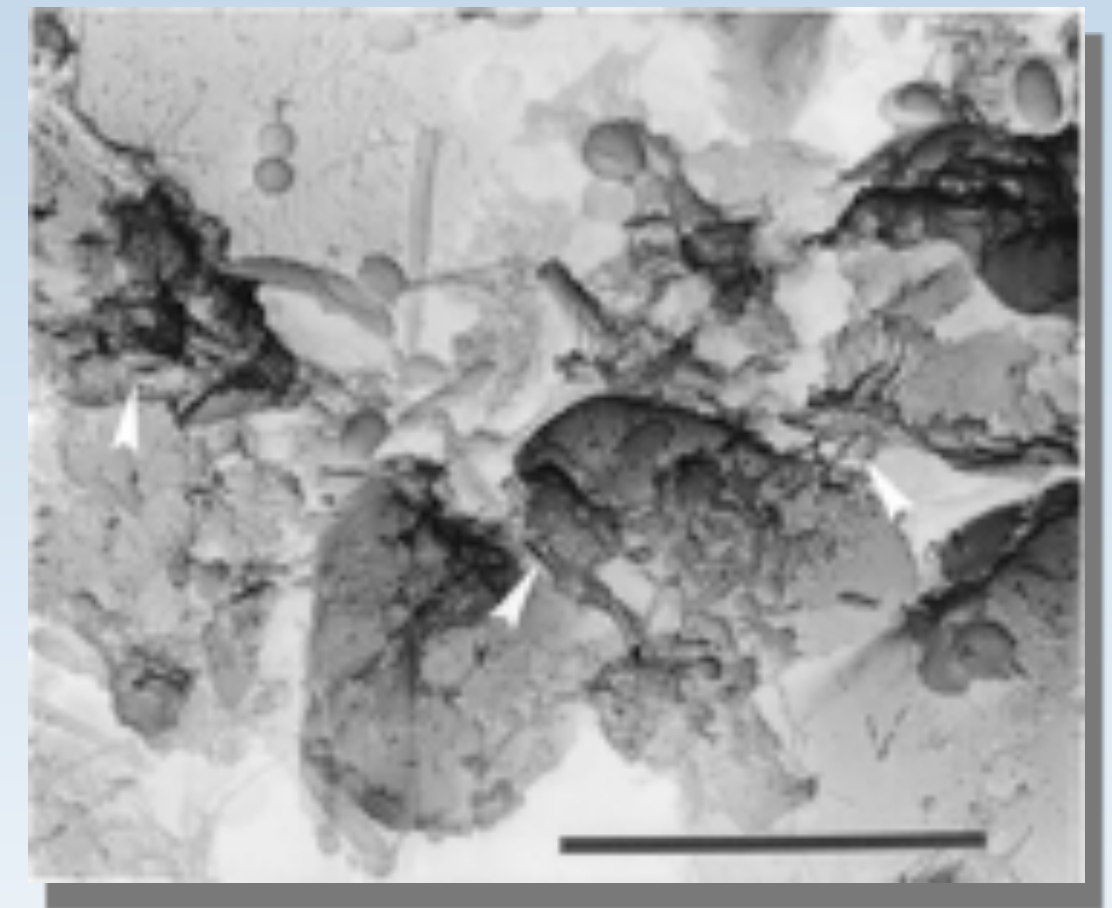
- Complex biofilm
- Hundreds of species
- Adherent to tooth
- Irritates tissue
- Grows / Matures / Calcifies
- Influenced by fluid forces





# Biofilm facts

- ✓ millions of interacting micro-organisms
- ✓ bacteria, spirochetes, protozoa, fungi, viruses
- ✓ properties not seen in isolated micro-organisms
- ✓ rapid regeneration via signaling
- ✓ *tenacious - Difficult to remove mechanically*
- ✓ biofilms - higher adhesion to saliva-coated enamel than planktonic



The biofilm primer. J.W. Costerton 2007

Maddi A, Scannapieco FA. Oral biofilms, oral and periodontal infections, and systemic disease. Am J Dent. 2013 Oct;26(5):249-54.

Wessel SW, Chen Y, et al. forces and composition of planktonic and adhering oral microbiomes. J Dent Res. 2014 Jan;93(1):84-8.

# Forming a biofilm



- ✓ initiated by planktonic bacteria or fragment
- ✓ attaches to appropriate surface (wound, implant)
- ✓ divide - form micro-colonies
- ✓ critical density - release pheromones
- ✓ quorum sensing
- ✓ altered environment - phenotypic alterations in microbes



# Biofilm formation

- ✓ multi species communities
- ✓ EPS - extracellular polysaccharide - slime
- ✓ EPS - polysaccharides, proteins, nucleic acids
- ✓ 80% of the biofilm is EPS
- ✓ 20% of biofilm - microbes encased in EPS matrix
- ✓ *heterogenous, dynamic and recalcitrant to antimicrobials and immune system*

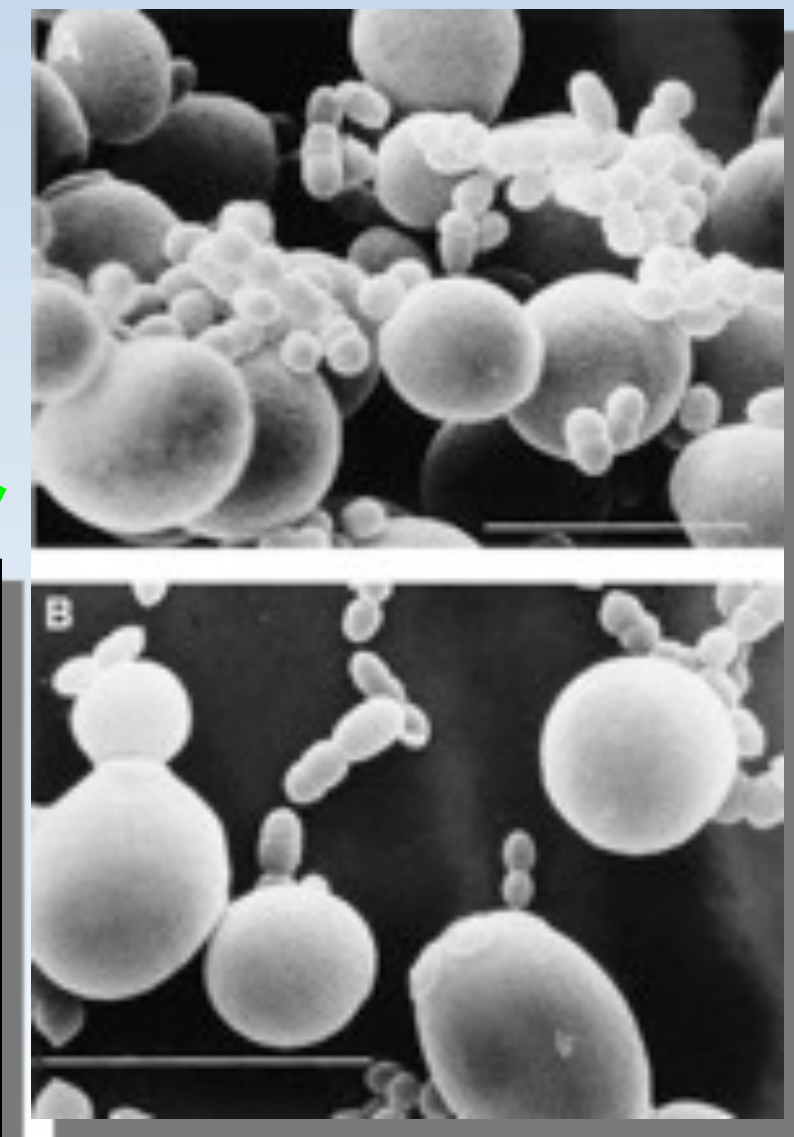
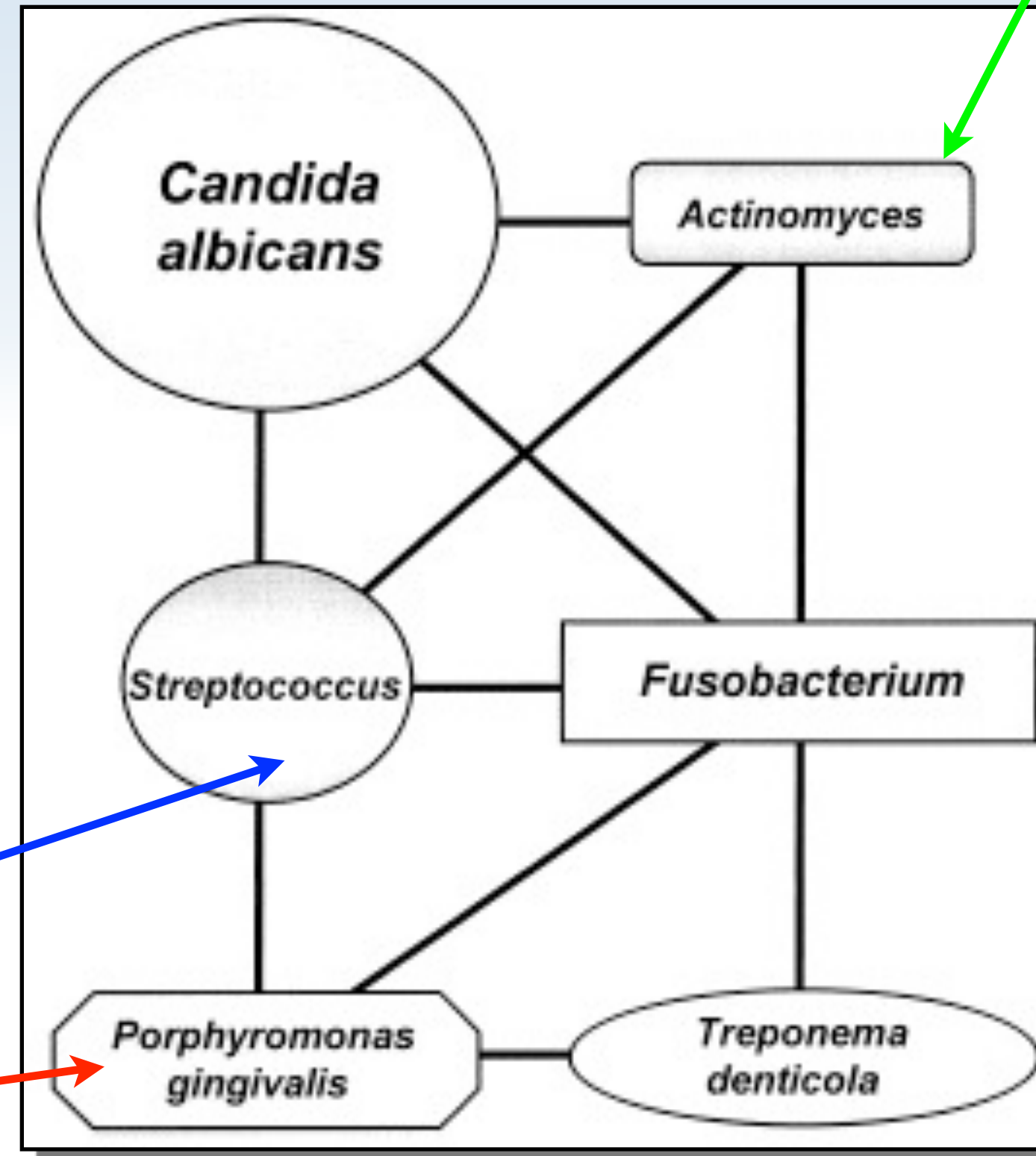


# Mixed biofilm community development -

**Candida albicans**  
(opportunistic fungal pathogen)

- coaggregation
- coadhesion
- modified by pH, nutrient supply, salivary factors

\* Creates a highly acidic pH



Jenkinson HF and Douglas LJ. Interactions between Candida Species and Bacteria in Mixed Infections. [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=pmd&part=A2773#A](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=pmd&part=A2773#A) Accessed 7/25/2009

Falsetta ML I, Klein MI, Symbiotic relationship between Streptococcus mutans and Candida albicans synergizes virulence of plaque biofilms in vivo. Infect Immun. 2014 May;82(5):1968-81.



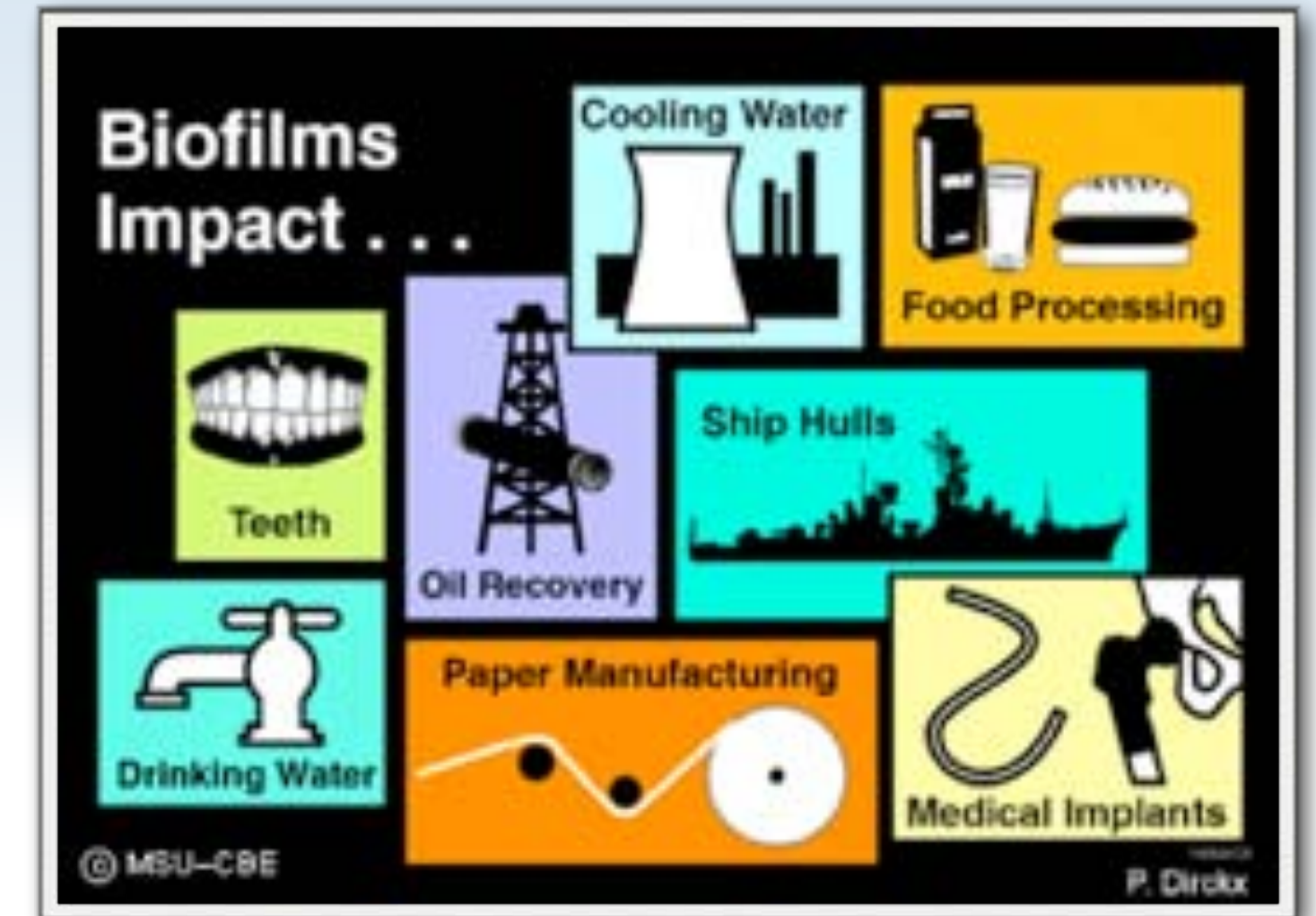


# Biofilm facts / characteristics

✓ Plays a role in otitis media, bacterial endocarditis, cystic fibrosis and Legionnaire's disease, chronic sinusitis, osteomyelitis, catheter infections

✓ **80% infectious diseases**

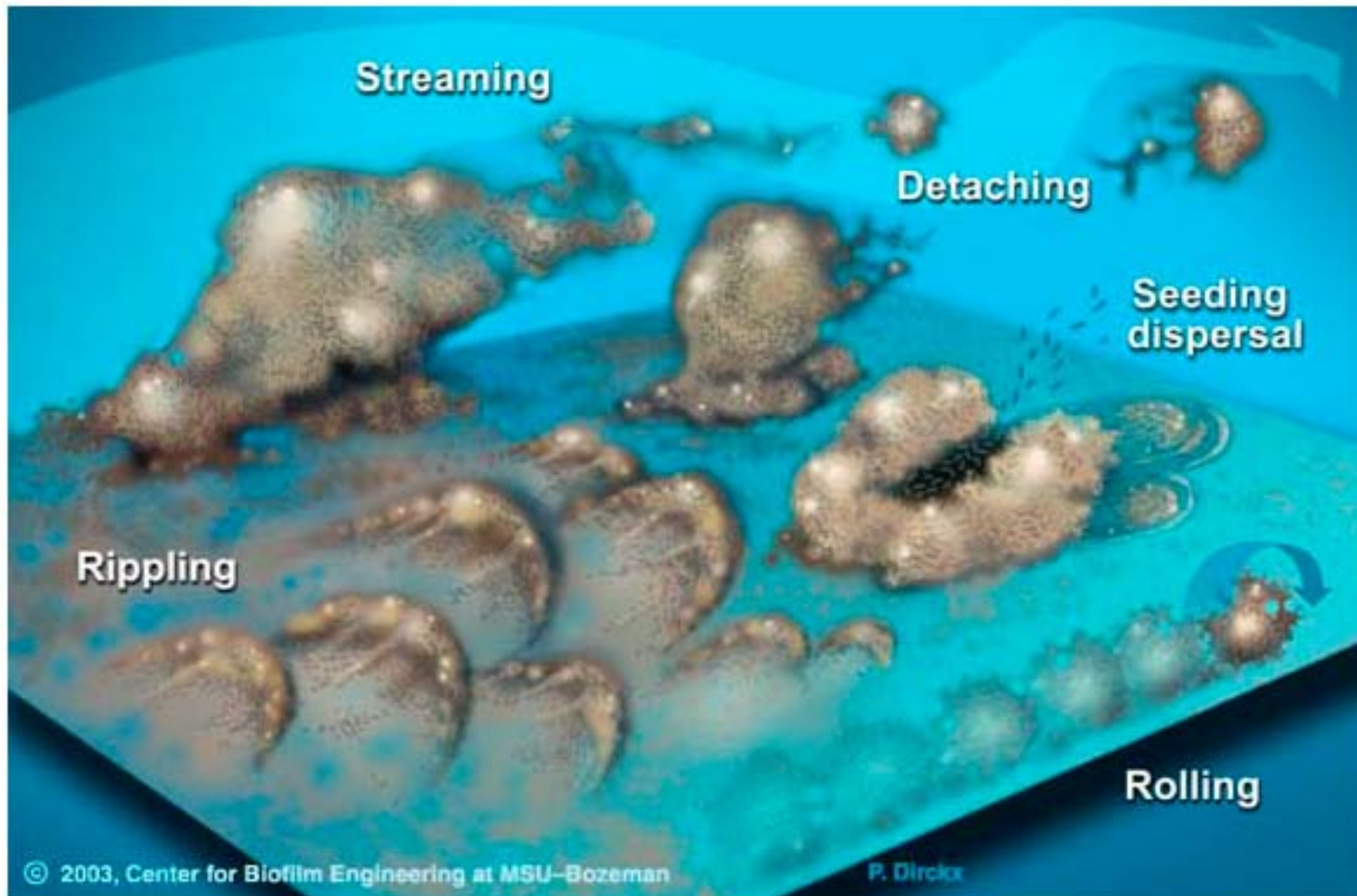
✓ **99% of bacteria in nature - stable, persistent biofilms**



[http://www.erc.montana.edu/biofilmbook/MODULE\\_01/Mod01\\_Blue/Mod01\\_S04\\_Blue.htm](http://www.erc.montana.edu/biofilmbook/MODULE_01/Mod01_Blue/Mod01_S04_Blue.htm) Image accessed 7/25/09

Biofilms in wounds:management strategies. Rhodes DD,Wolcott RD,Percival SL. JWound Care. November 2008.17(11).





All materials have certain properties of elastic solids and viscous fluids. Biofilms appear to show aspects of both solids and liquids—much like slug slime—and fall into a category called "viscoelastic." However, as biofilms collect sediment, or become scaled with rust or calcium deposits, they become less fluid and more like a brittle solid.



## Microbial Biofilms: Sticking Together for Success

Single-celled microbes readily form communities in resilient structures that provide advantages of multicellular organization.

### Waiting to grow

Bacteria can shrink to a spore-like state to wait in water, soil—even rock or tissue—until conditions are right for active growth.

### Changing their spots

Active bacteria will attach to virtually any surface. Within minutes, changes in gene expression transform "swimmers" to "stickers."

### Building houses of slime

Attached bacteria multiply and encase their colonies with a slimy matrix.

### Meeting the challenge

While antimicrobials damage outer cell layers, the biofilm community can survive.

### Finding a niche

Chemical gradients create micro-environments for different microbial species or levels of activity.

### Getting breakfast in bed

Nutrients diffuse into the matrix as they flow by.

"Persisters"

### Sending the right signals

Close proximity of cells facilitates the exchange of molecular signals that regulate behavior.

"Wall formers"

"Dispersers"

### Dividing the labor?

Genetic regulation may allow a degree of differentiation among cells of a single species to serve the community as a whole.

Peg Dirckx, Center for Biofilm Engineering

[http://www.erc.montana.edu/biofilmbook/MODULE\\_01/Mod01\\_Blue/Mod01\\_S04\\_Blue.htm](http://www.erc.montana.edu/biofilmbook/MODULE_01/Mod01_Blue/Mod01_S04_Blue.htm)

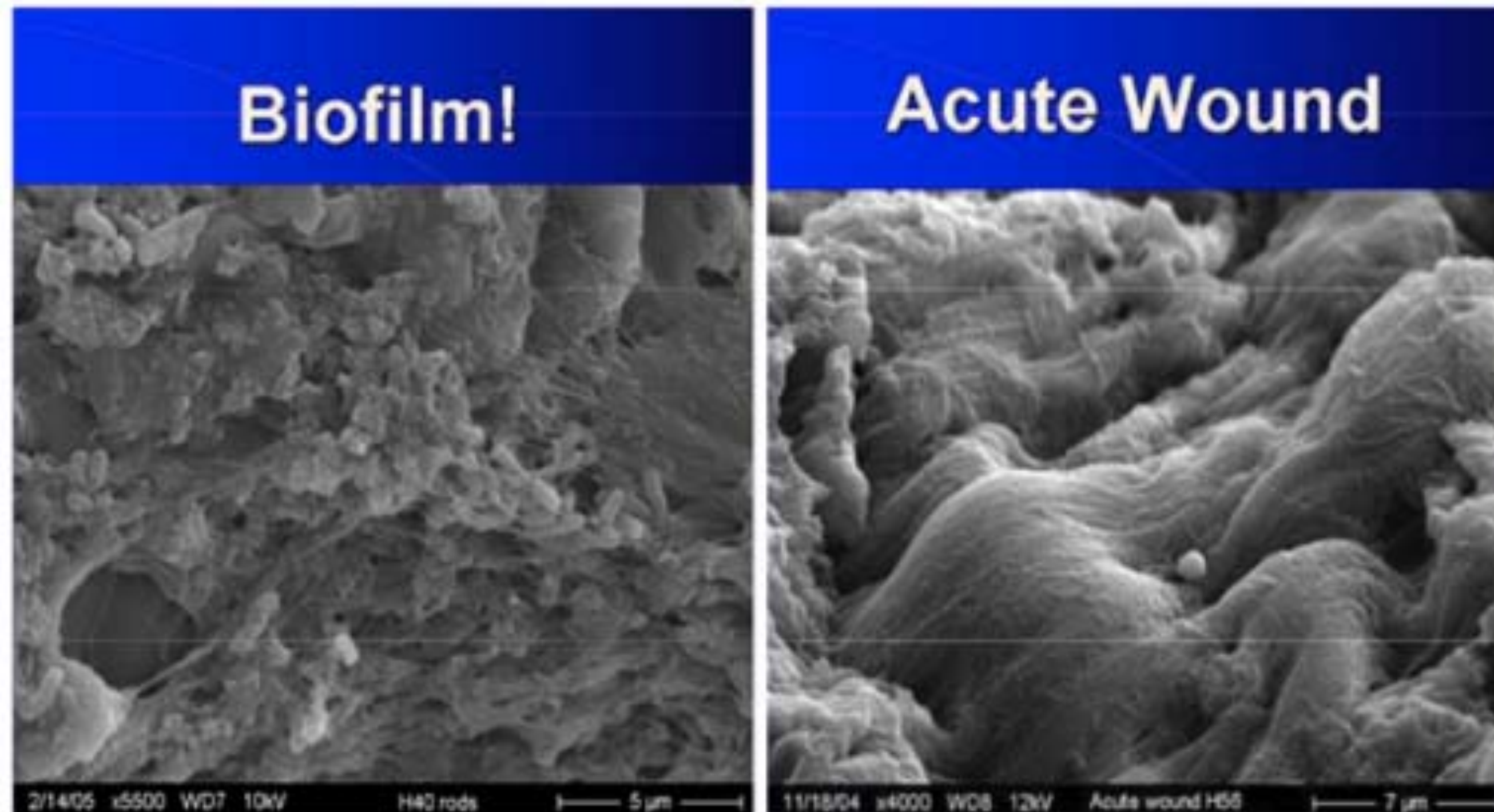
Accessed 7/25/09



Understanding the trouble makers  
– microbial defenses that make it  
hard to treat disease

# Biofilms Identified in 60% of Biopsies of Chronic Wounds but in Only 6% of Acute Wounds

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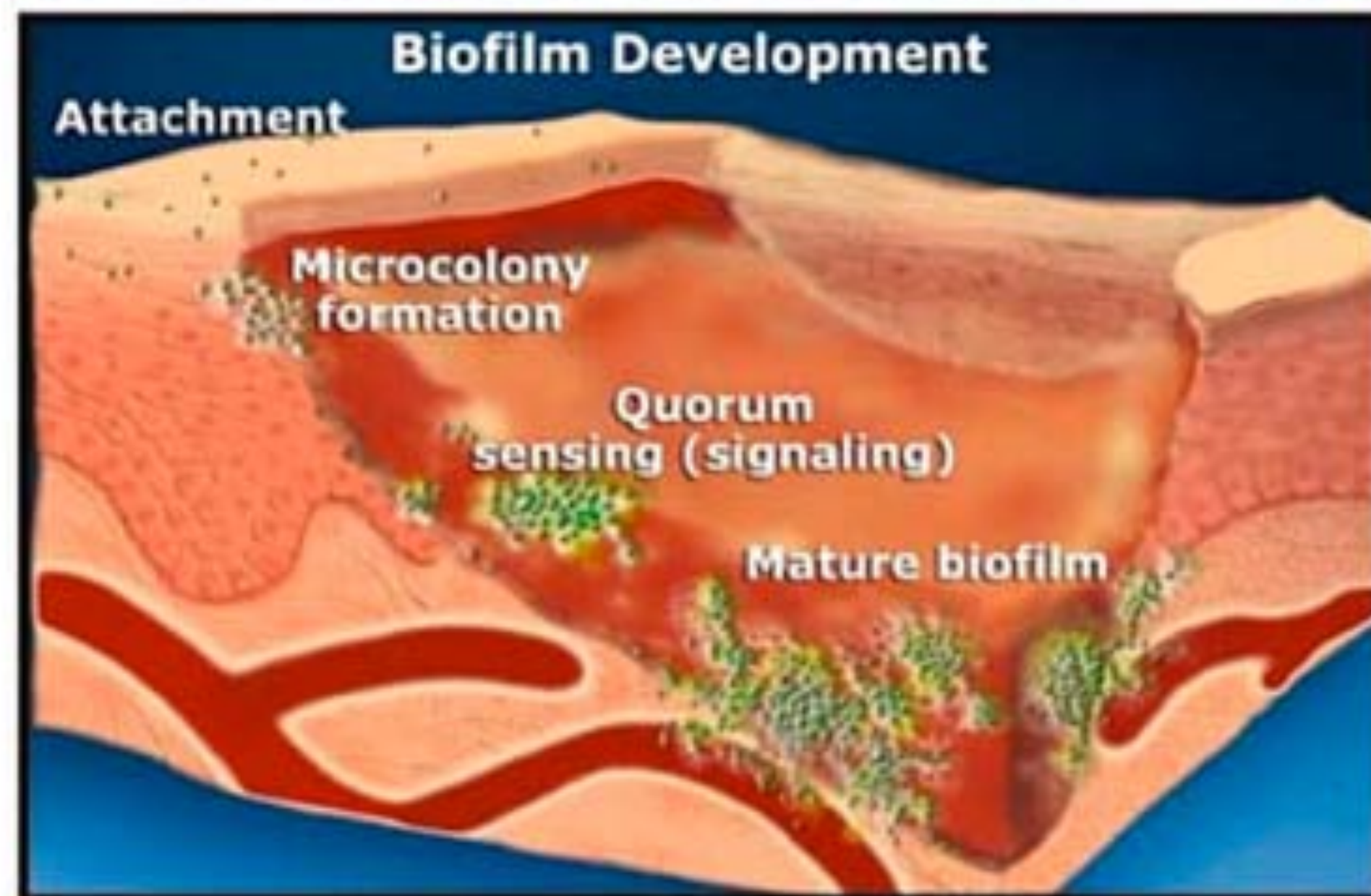


Garth James et al, Wound Repair Regen, 2008

Photographs by Randy Wolcott

<http://www.npuap.org/NPUAP%20Biofilms%202009%20Schultz%20mod%202%20compressed-1.pdf>

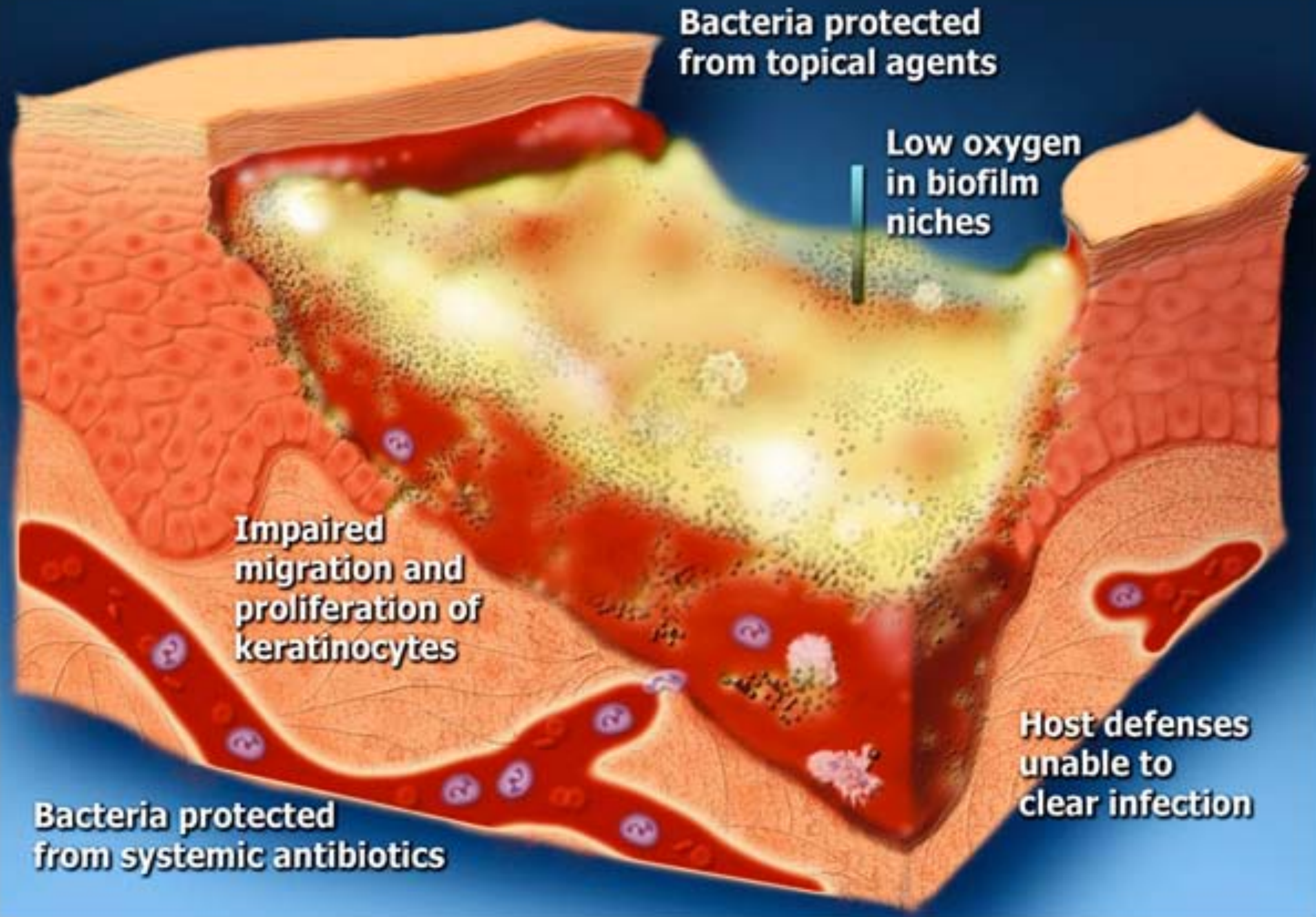




**Fig. 1** A planktonic explanation for surface bacteria involved in wounds is not scientifically valid. Planktonic bacteria quickly form into microcolonies and then mature into formidable **wound biofilm** that evades host defenses and impairs **wound healing**



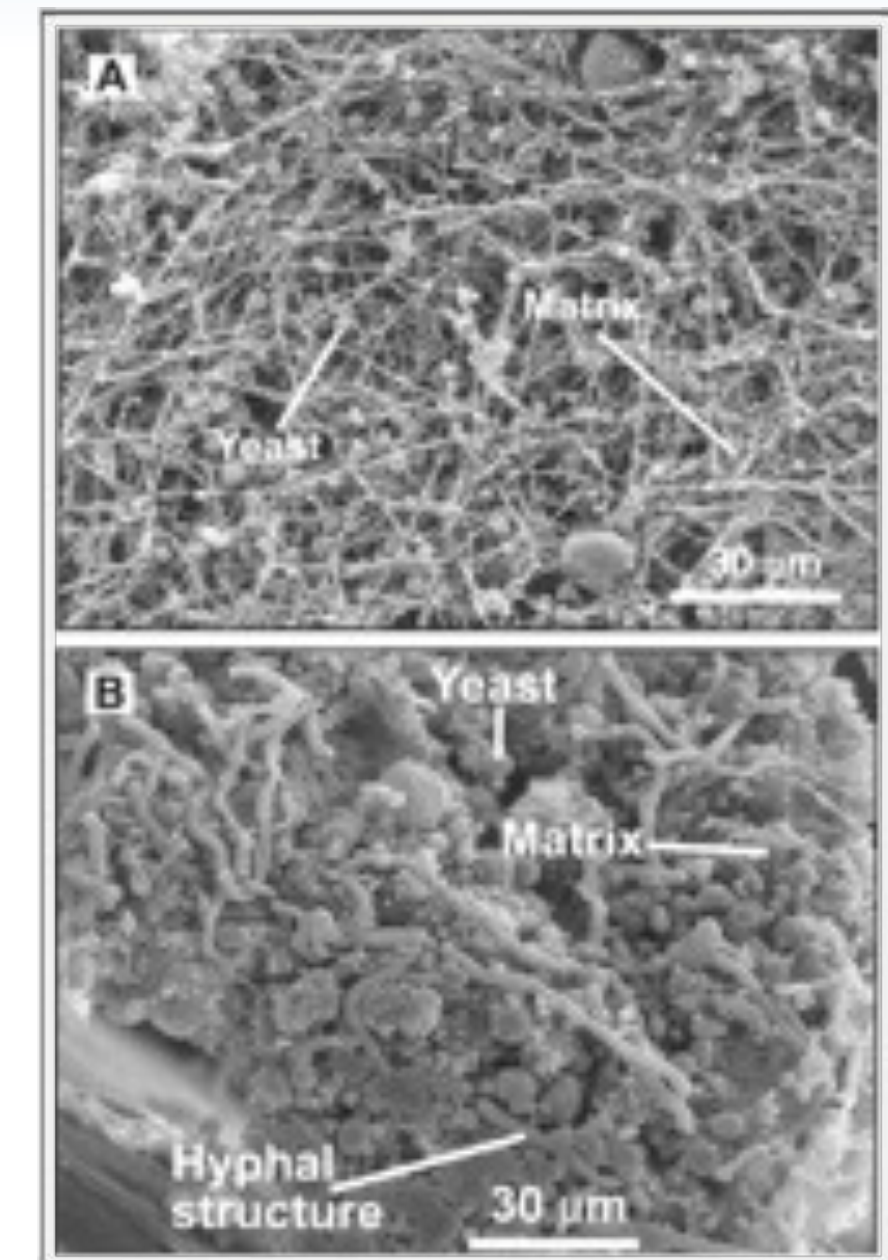
# Bacterial biofilm is a major barrier to wound healing





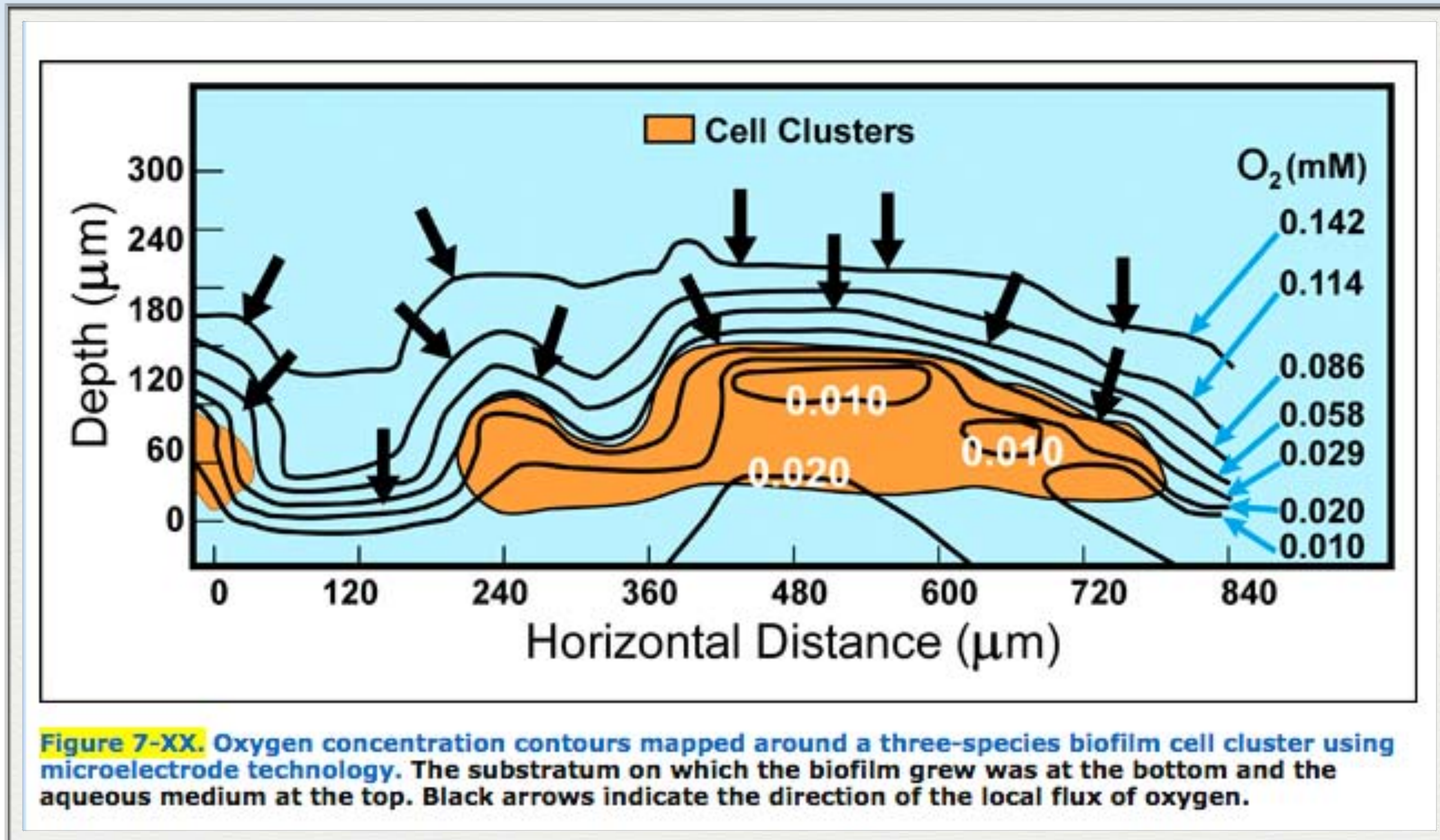
# Biofilm layers

- ★ surface microbes - most active -like planktonic
- ★ surface most susceptible to antimicrobials/host defenses
- ★ deeper layers sheltered
- ★ less metabolically active
- ★ more resistant to antimicrobial therapies
- ★ can reconstitute biofilm (persisters)





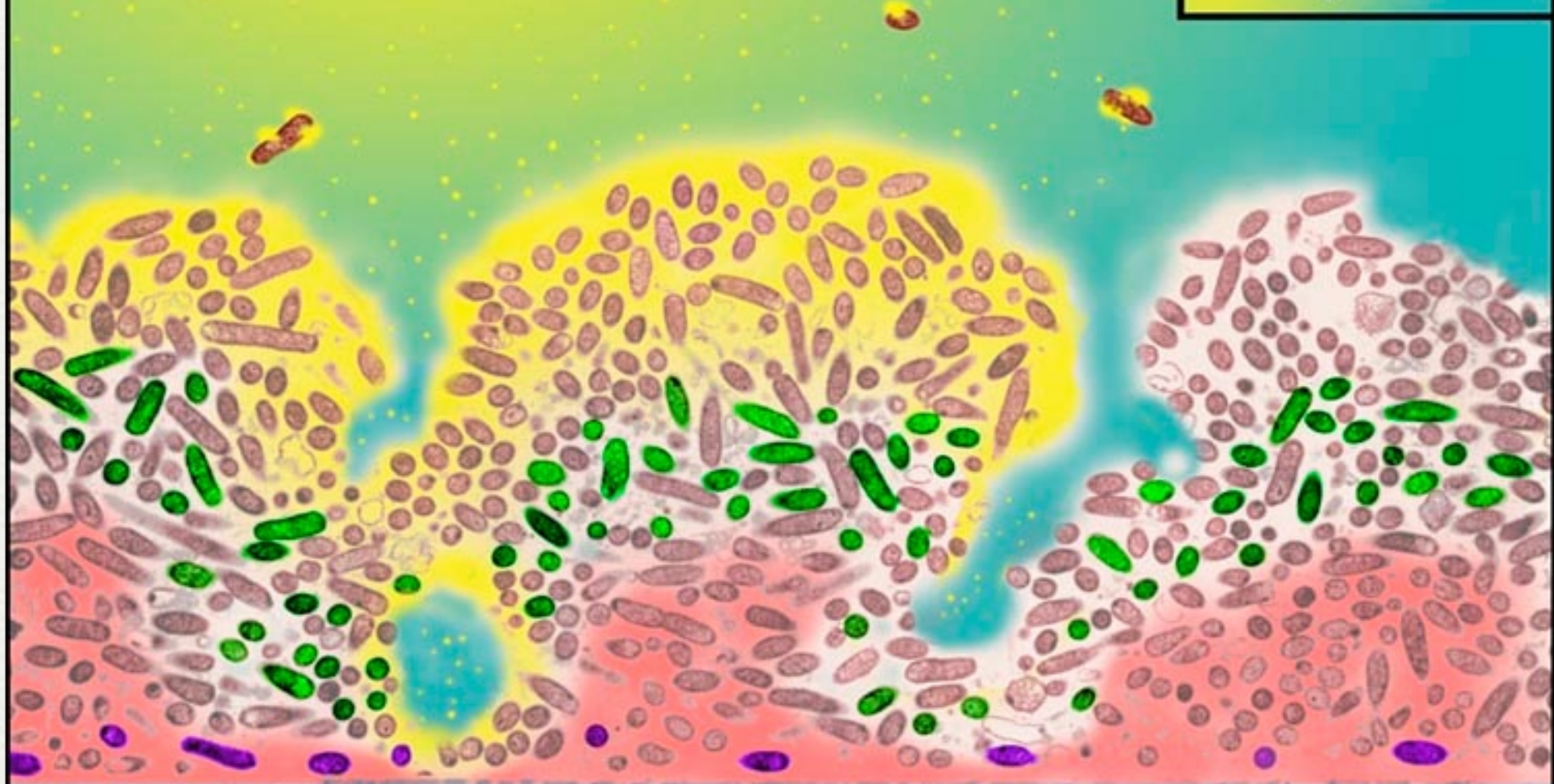
# pH and oxygen levels vary in biofilms





# Mechanisms of Biofilm Tolerance

Antimicrobial  
Depletion



P. Dirckx 01

**Slow  
Penetration**

**Stress  
Response**

**Altered  
Microenvironment**

**Persisters**

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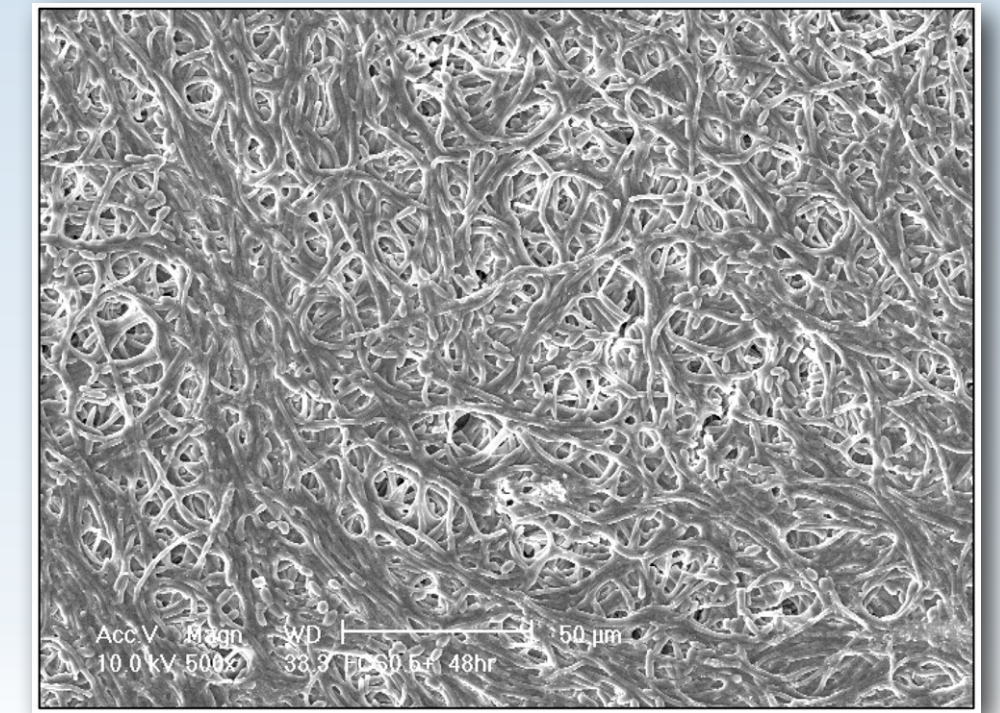


Biofilm survival -  
making inflammation a lifestyle



# Biofilm – strategies for survival

- attach within minutes
- 2-4 hours - strongly attached micro-colonies
- 6-12 hours - develop initial EPS
- increasingly tolerant to antibiotics, antiseptics, disinfectants
- 2-4 days - fully mature biofilm
- now highly resistant to biocides / shedding planktonic bacteria
- rapidly recover from mechanical disruption
- reform mature biofilms within 24 hours



48 hour old *Candida Albicans*  
on denture acrylic



# Periodontitis

- ▶ requires susceptible host
- ▶ dysbiotic microbial communities
- ▶ inflammophilic
- ▶ inflammation-provides nutrients
- ▶ fosters growth of dysbiotic communities
- ▶ selects for certain pathogens
- ▶ dysbiosis and inflammation support each other

**control of inflammation is critical**

# Inflammation



Hajishengallis G. Immunomicrobial pathogenesis of periodontitis: keystones, pathobionts, and host response. *Immunol.* 2014 Jan;35(1):3-11.

Hajishengallis G. The inflammophilic character of the periodontitis-associated microbiota. *Mol Oral Microbiol.* 2014 Jun 26.



Dry mouth – a biofilm  
paradise



# Salivary dysfunction – etiology and contributing factors



- dehydration
- stress
- smoking
- systemic disease
- recreational drugs
- chronic renal failure
- autoimmune disorders
- asthma
- mouth breathing
- during exercise
- sleep apnea
- C-Pap machines
- salivary gland pathology
- radiation treatment
- hormone imbalance
- laxative/diuretic abuse
- pharmaceutical and OTC medications (over 1,800 meds)



# Insufficient saliva – Oral Desert Storm



- changes can be subtle
- often unnoticed until 50% decrease
- sets the stage for demineralization
- pH decreases

Takahashi N, Nyvad B. Caries ecology revisited: Microbial dynamics and the caries process. *Caries Res.* 2008;42(6):409-18.

Saliva and the Control of Its Secretion. Ekberg (ed.), *Dysphagia, Medical Radiology. Diagnostic Imaging*, Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2012  
Graham I, Mount WH. (2005). *Preservation and restoration of tooth structure*. 2nd Edition. Queensland, Australia: Knowledge Books and Software.



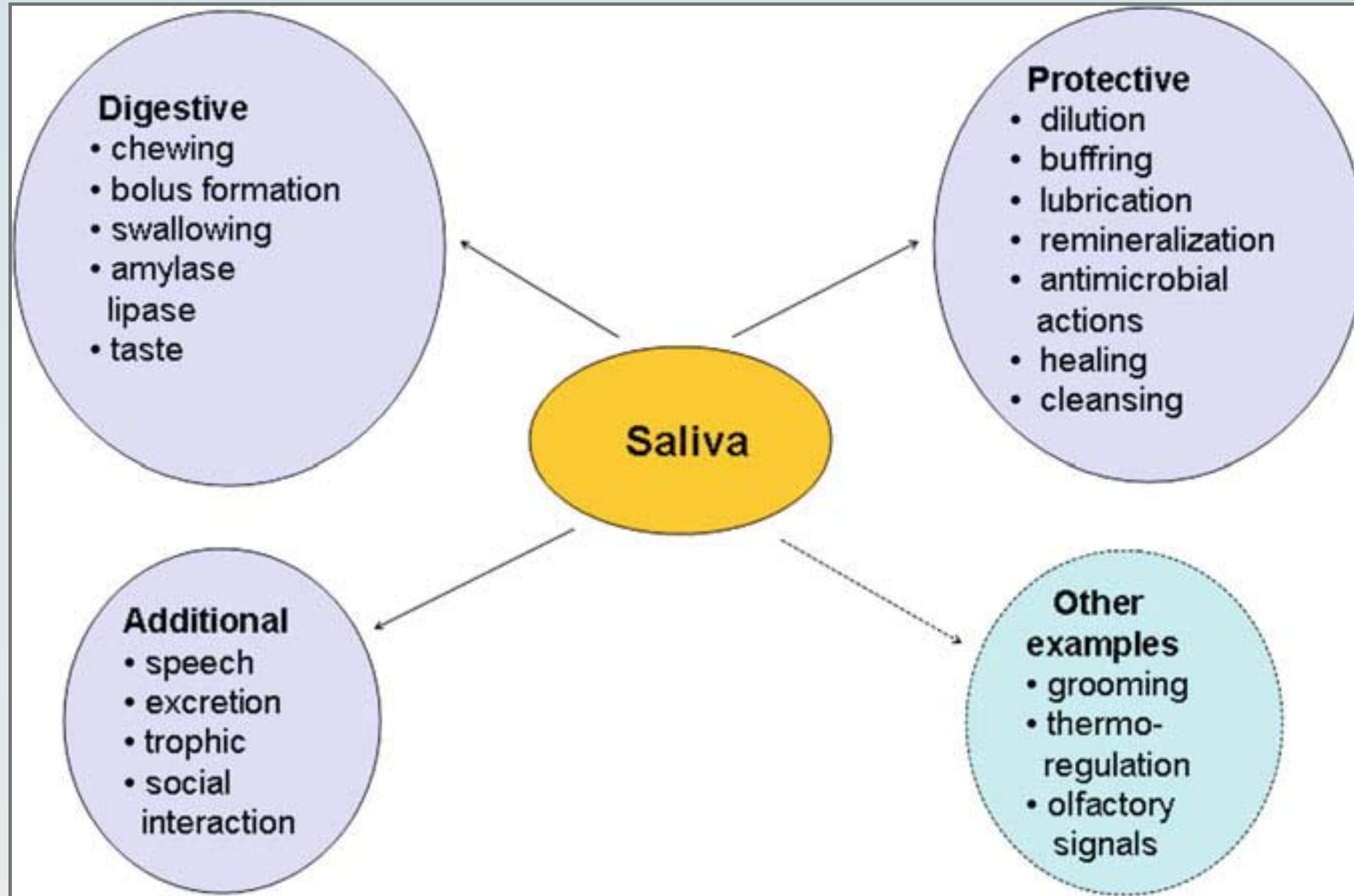
# Insufficient saliva – Oral Desert Storm



- acidogenic bacteria numbers increase
- buffering capacity decreases
- aciduric bacteria thrive
- plaque biofilm becomes very sticky



# Saliva - The magic fluid



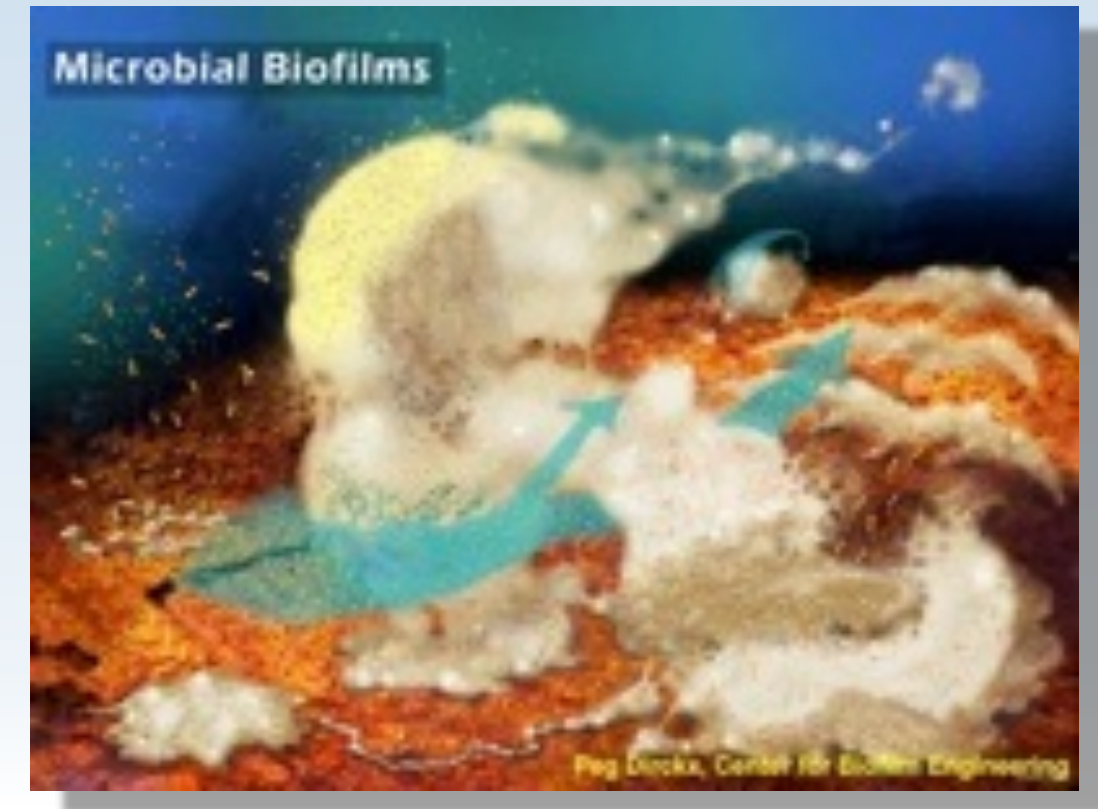


New ideas – about  
caries biofilm



# Oral microflora

## How fast does it grow?



- 1 mg plaque = 100,000,000 microbes
- Whole mouth = 20,000,000,000 microbes - at any given time
- 1 liter of saliva swallowed daily - 100 billion microbes
- Oral bacteria double every 4.8 hours!

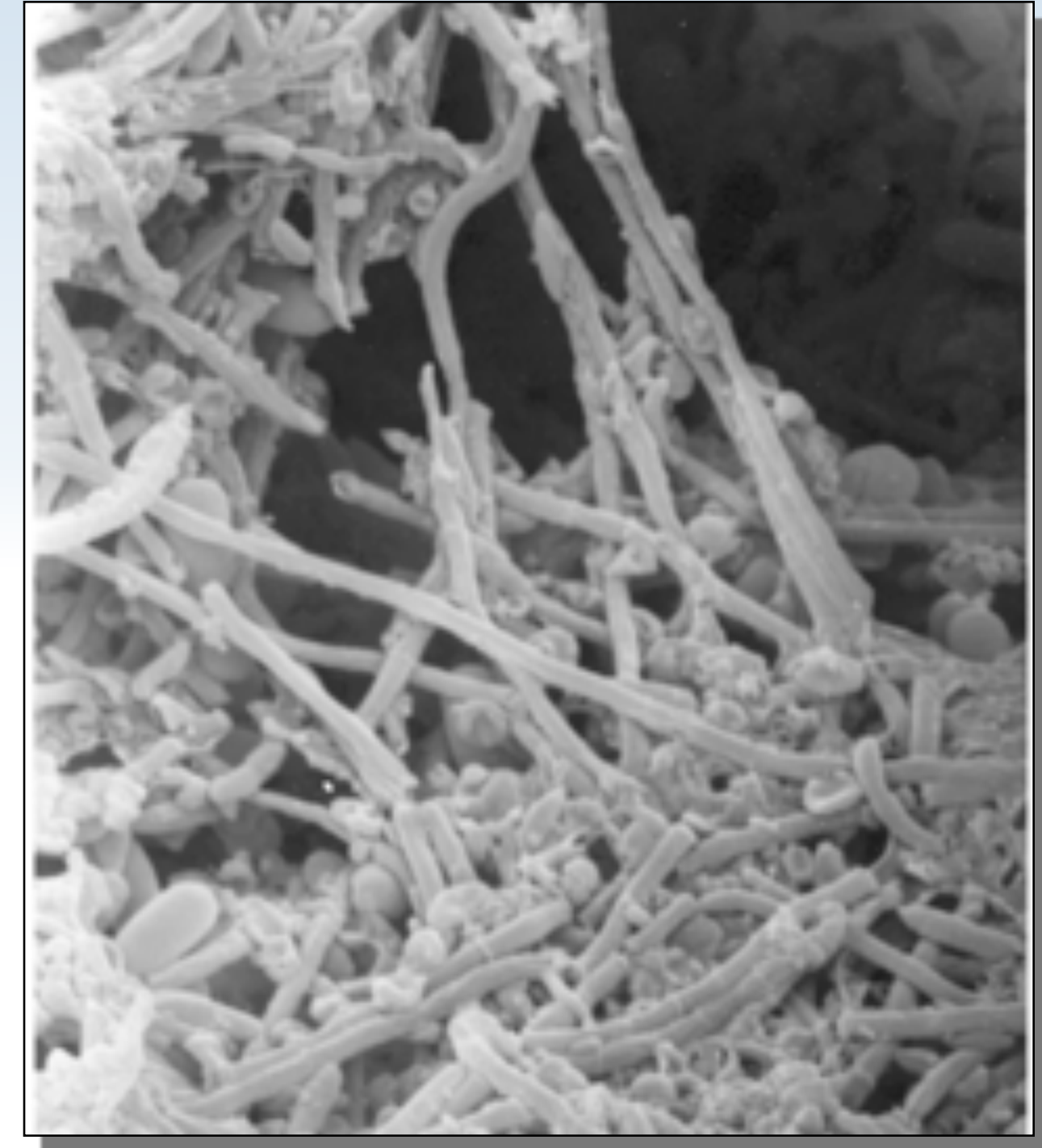


# New news about caries biofilm

Strep mutans not the only organism -

***Different microbes colonize***

- white spots
- dentin lesions
- root caries
- primary and secondary dentition
- specific tooth surfaces

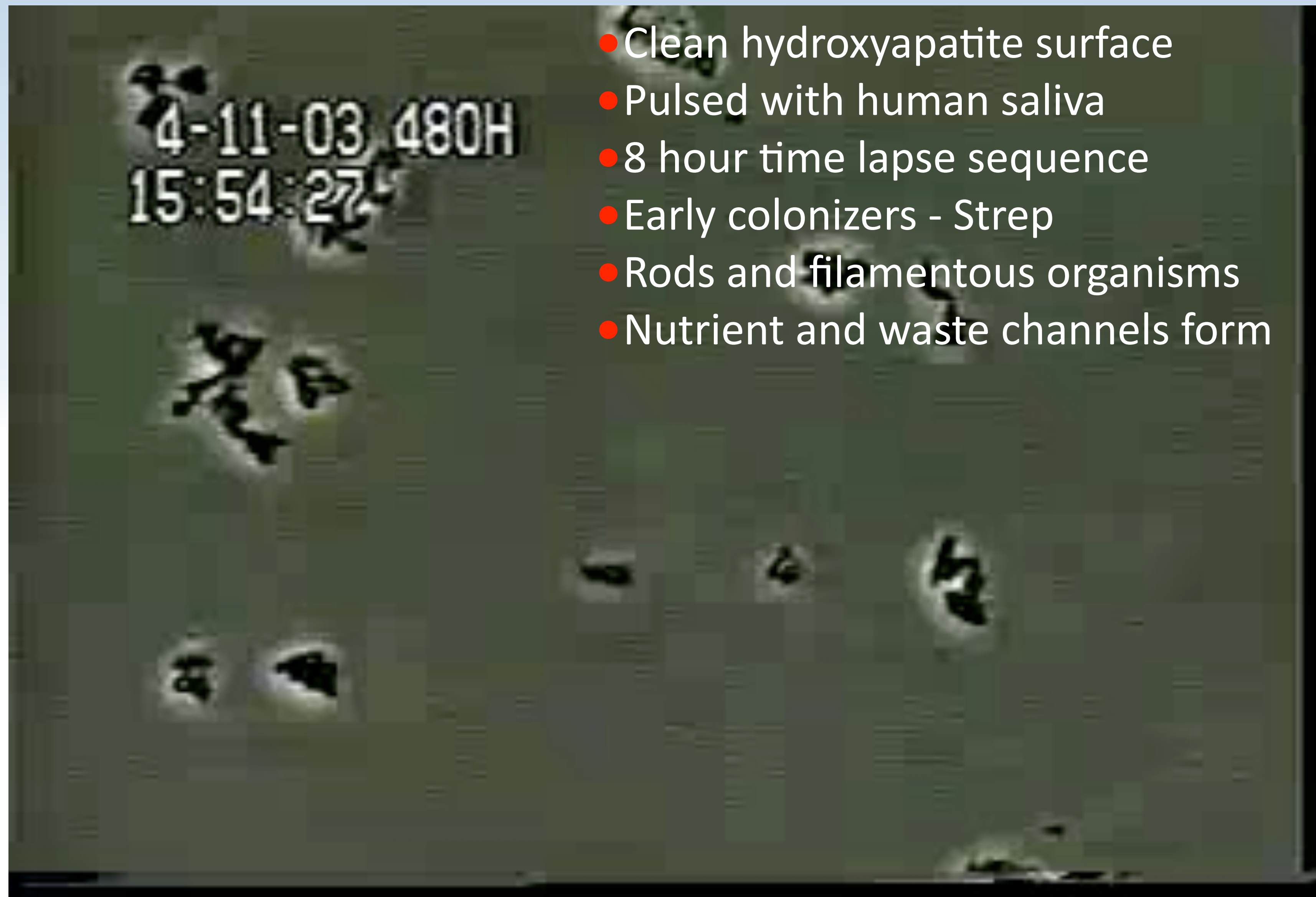


Asa JA, Griffen AL, et al. Bacteria of dental caries in primary and permanent teeth in children and young adults. J of Clin Microbiol. April 2008. 46(4):1407-17.

Microarray analysis of the microflora of root caries in elderly. Preza D, Olden I, et al. Eur J Clin Infect Dis. May 2009. 28(5).

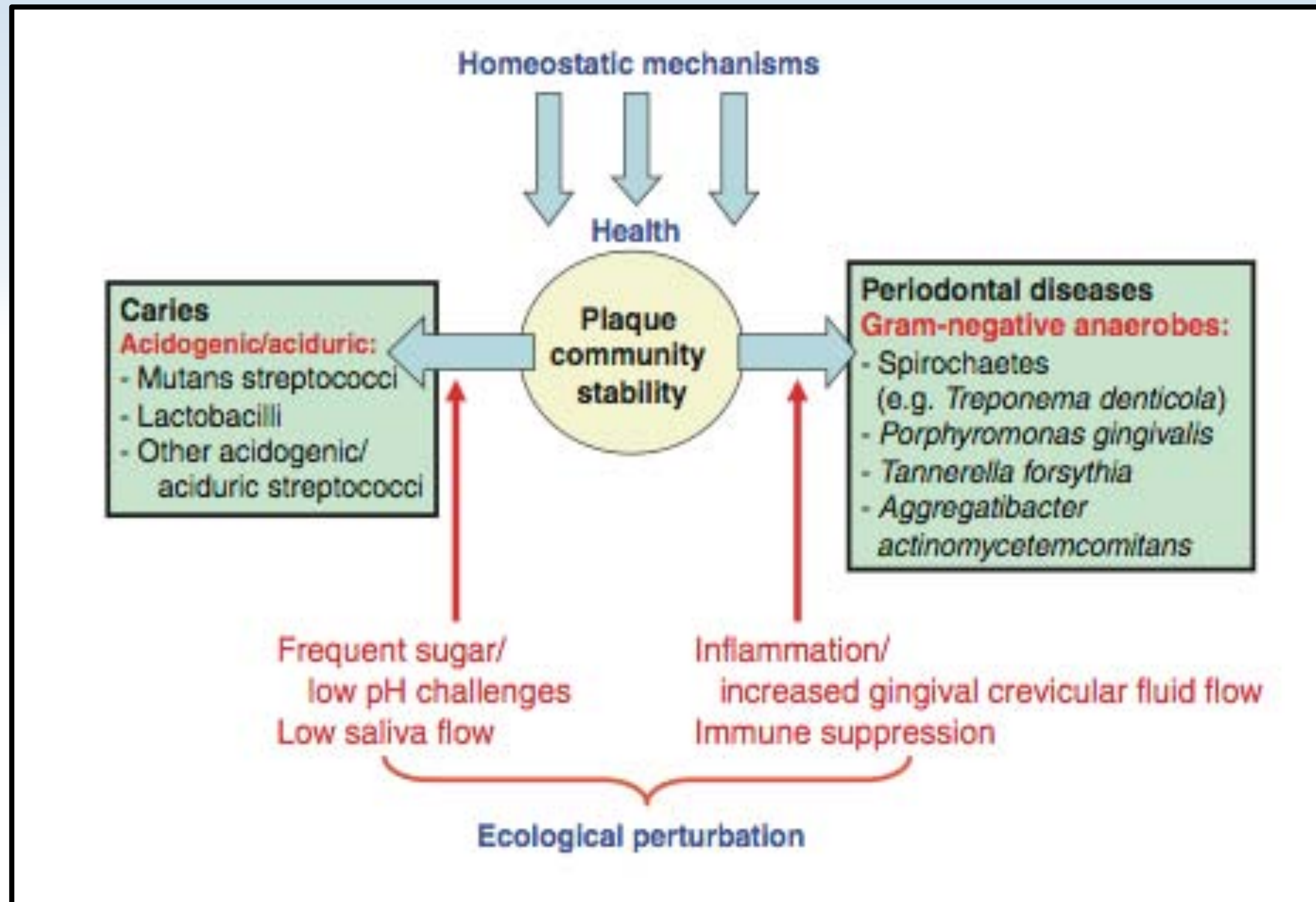
Cavalcanti YW, Bertolini MM, et al. A three-species biofilm model for the evaluation of enamel and dentin demineralization. Biofouling. 2014;30(5):579-88.







# Ecological shifts in dental plaque





Biofilms – complicated,  
real life situations



# Characteristics of biofilm infections

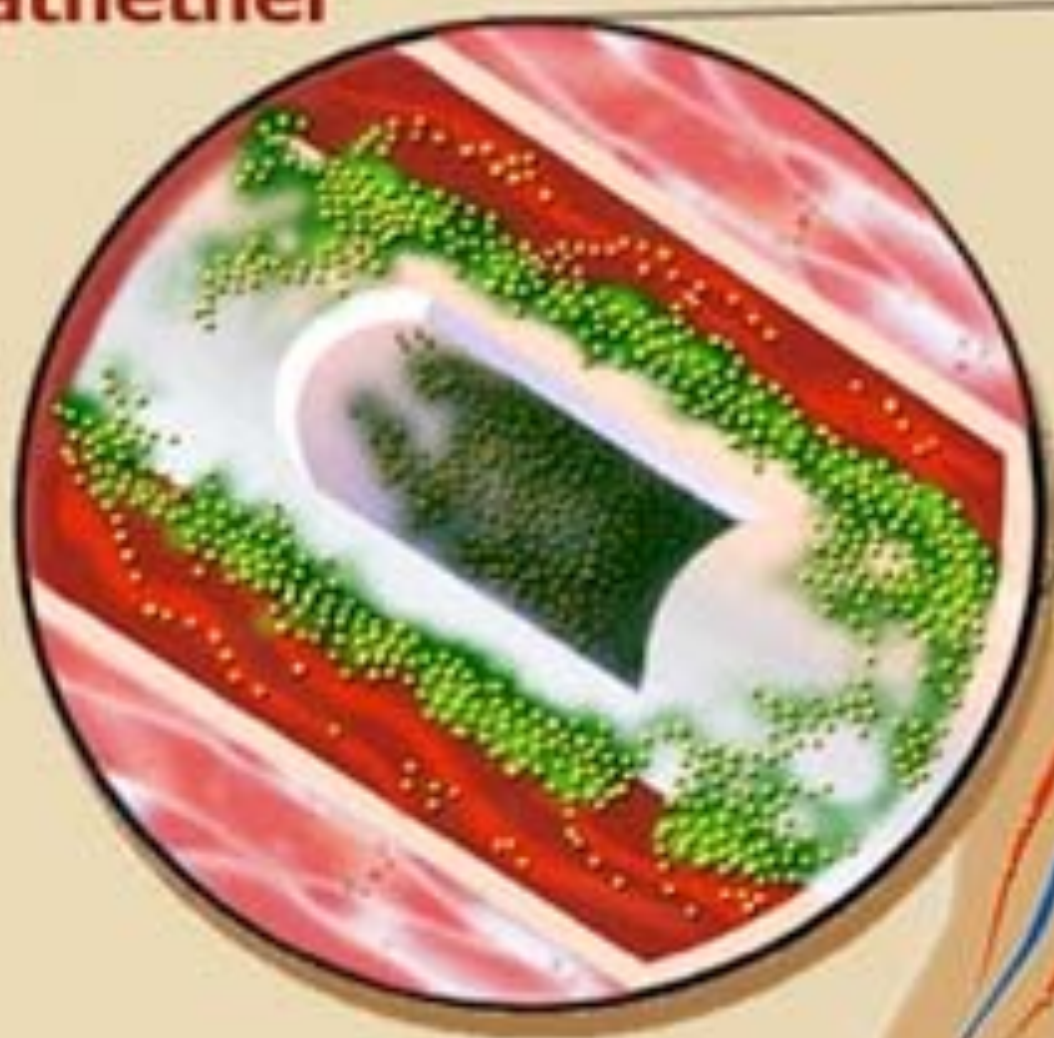
CHARACTERISTIC	CYSTIC FIBROSIS	PERIODONTITIS	CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER INFECTION	CHRONIC WOUNDS
<b>Form preferentially on foreign bodies, dead or damaged tissue</b>	The genetic defect in the chloride ion channel predisposes the lung to infection	The tooth surface is not as well-defended as are vascularized tissues	Indwelling plastic and metal surfaces are very vulnerable to microbial colonization	Necrotic tissue could provide nidus for biofilm formation
<b>Slow to develop</b>	Persistent infection takes years to establish	Typically manifests gradually, later in life	Symptoms may take weeks to manifest	Symptoms such as pain, exudate and size wax and wane over weeks to months
<b>Respond poorly or only temporarily to antibiotics</b>	Lung is never cleared of bacteria despite aggressive chemotherapy	Tetracycline, antiseptic mouthwashes have little efficacy	Preferred therapy is removal of the infected catheter	Marginal response to antibiotics; may deteriorate when antibiotics are stopped
<b>Collateral damage to neighboring healthy tissue</b>	Massive neutrophil invasion contributes to gradual loss of lung function	Host responses and bacterial virulence factors lead to progressive bone loss; teeth fall out	Infection may disseminate to blood and other locations in body	Normal healing process of cell differentiation and migration is arrested



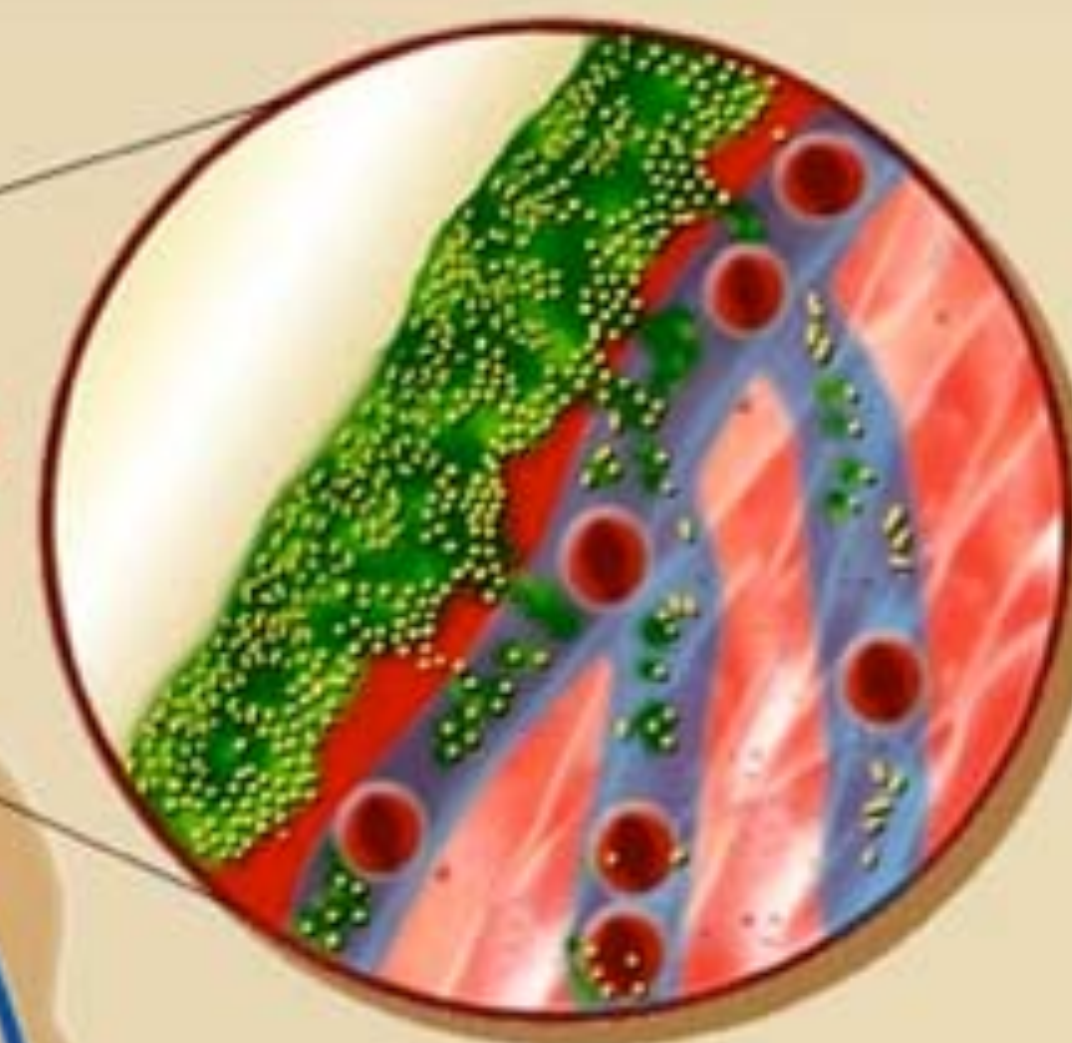
# Sites of **Primary** and **Secondary** Biofilm Infection

**SITES OF  
PRIMARY  
INFECTION:**

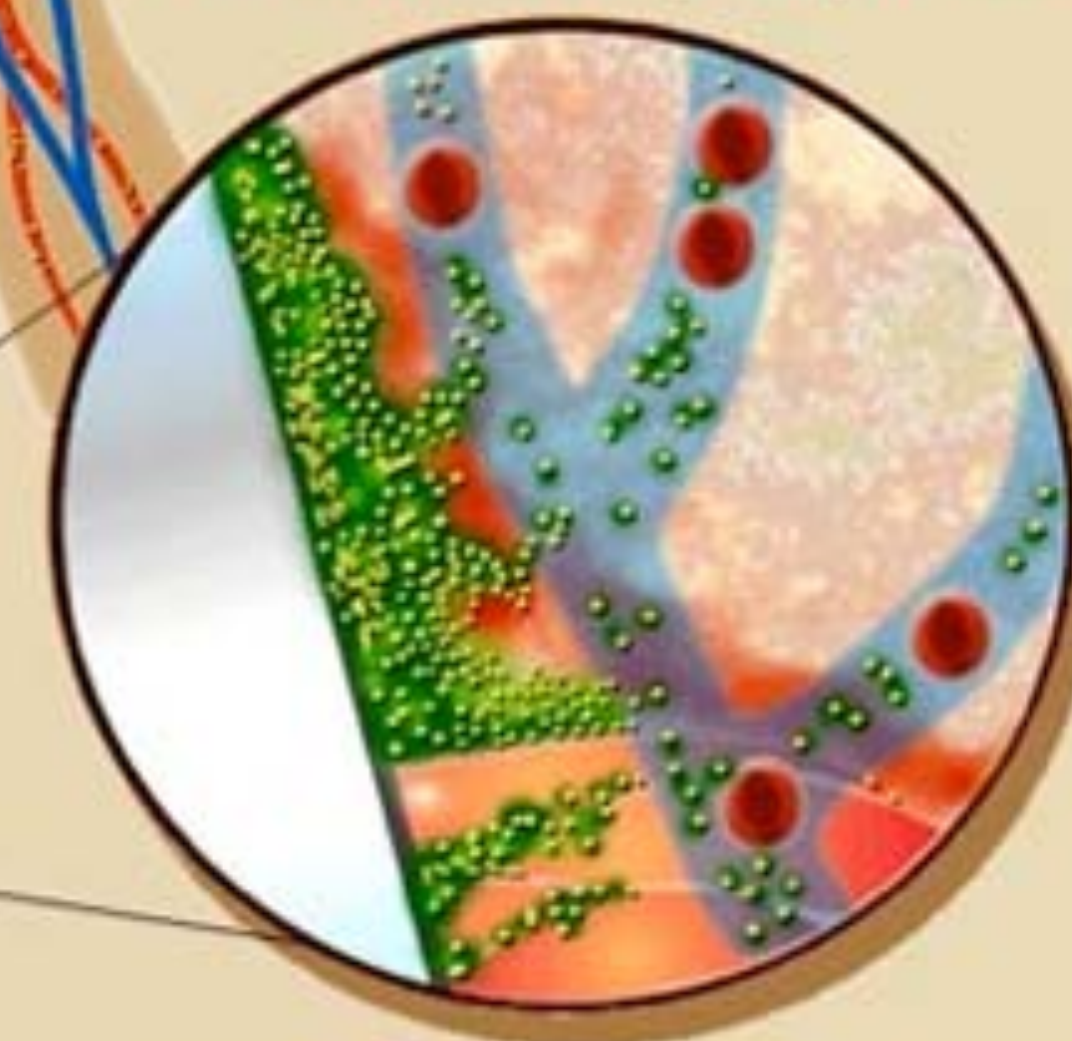
**Subvenous  
catheter**



**Mouth**



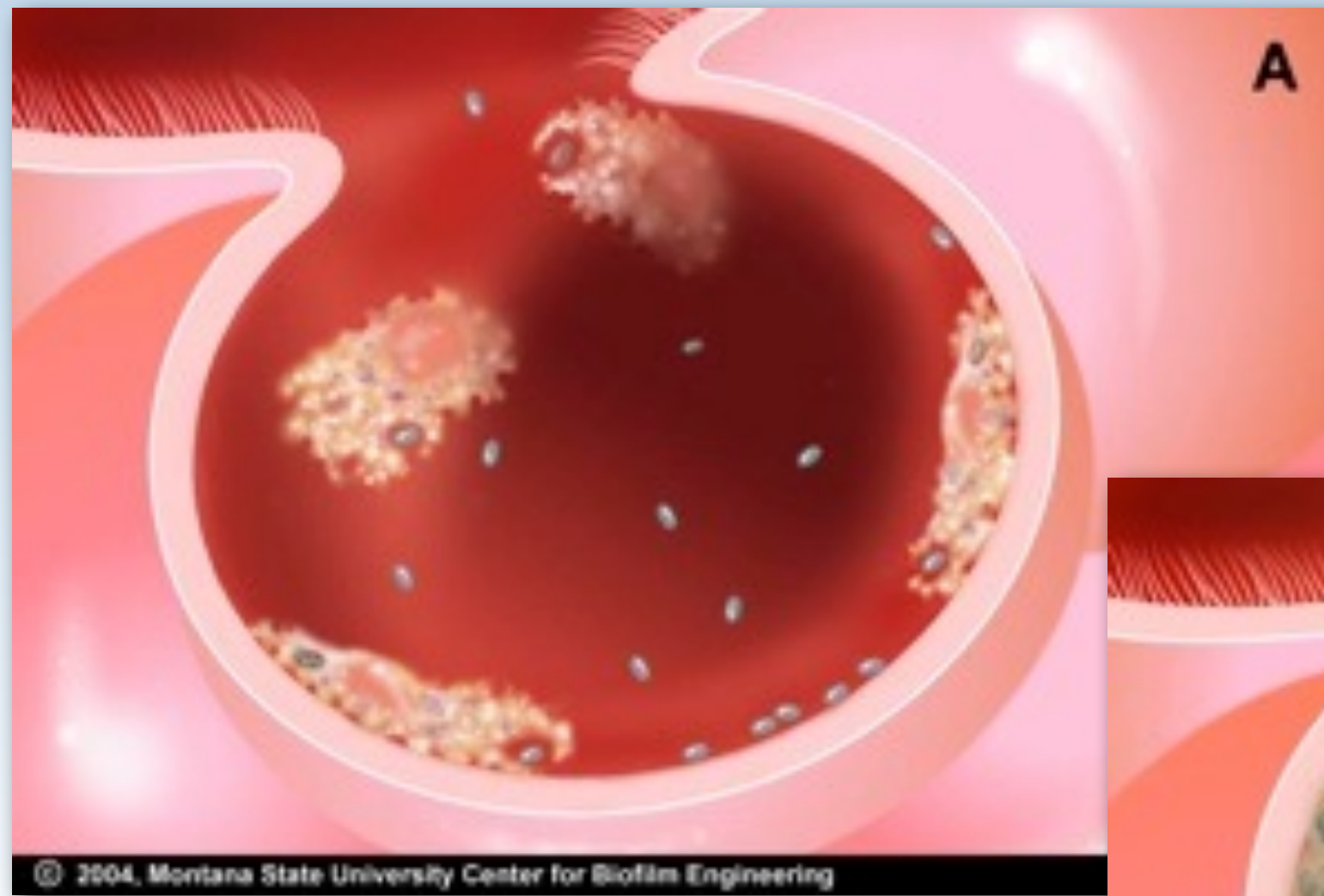
**Artificial hip implant**



P. Dirckx



# Health implications Aspirated biofilm



## Health Implications of Aspirating Biofilm Fragments

(Above) People with strong immune systems in normal circumstances are protected from infection by inhaled bacteria because single bacteria are readily phagocytized by activated white cells in alveoli of the lung.

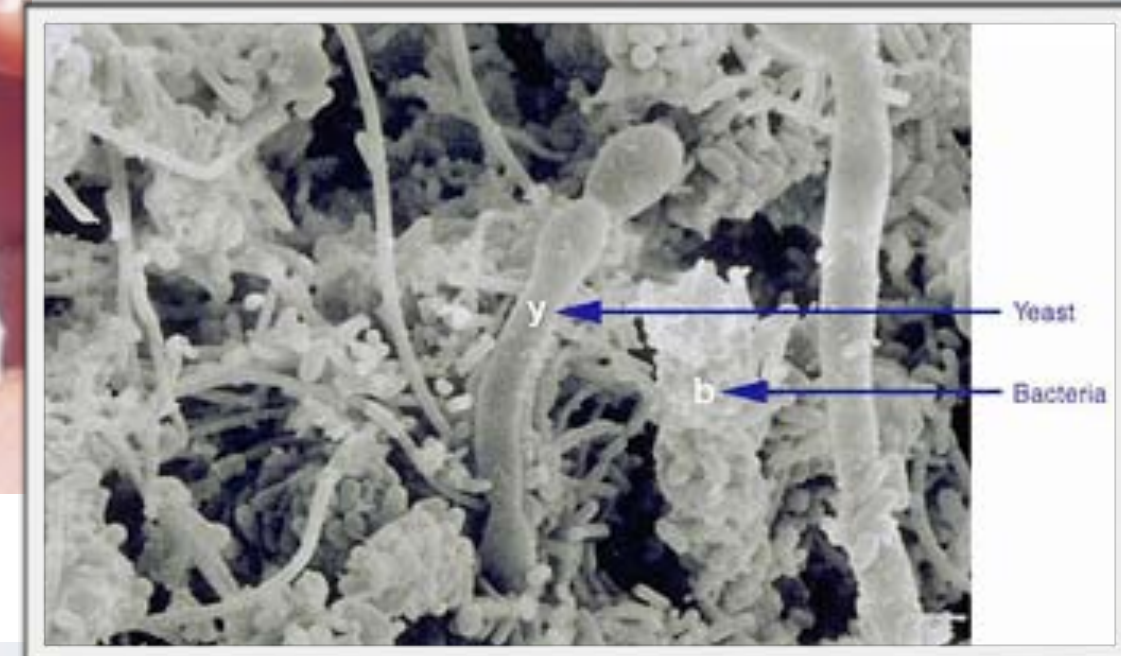
(Below) If biofilm fragments are inhaled or aspirated in environments like hospital wards, "sick" buildings or space vehicles, these slimy aggregates are not cleared by phagocytosis. Mild or severe infection can ensue. Such biofilm aggregates were implicated in the sometimes fatal cases of Legionnaire's disease, emanating from hotel air conditioning and ventilation systems.





# Oral appliances

- ★ surface roughness
- ★ Strep and Candida both adhered
- ★ even small scratches reduce cleansability
- ★ retained microorganisms proliferate when appliance is reinserted





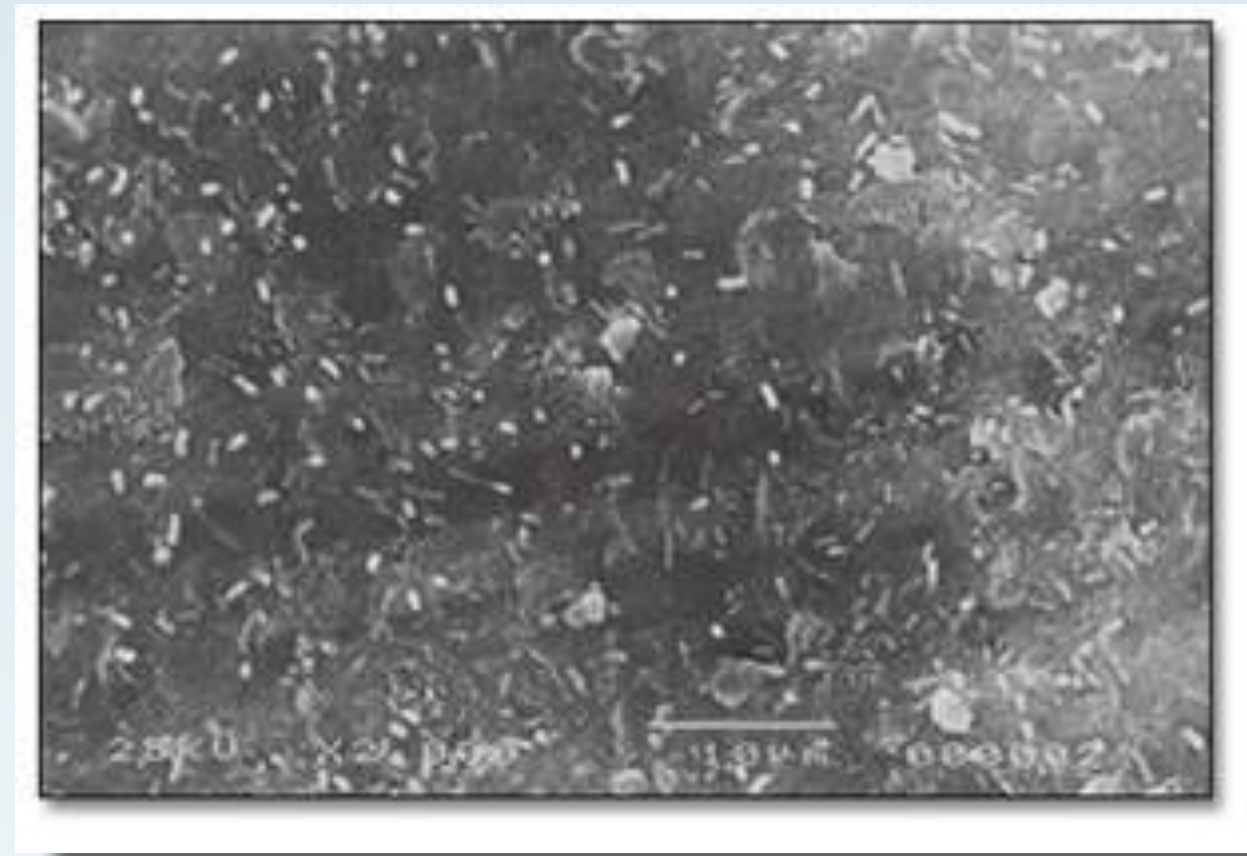
# Health history clues

- medications - poly pharmacy
  - antibiotics - prolonged use compromise intestinal flora
- acid reducers - alter intestinal tract pH

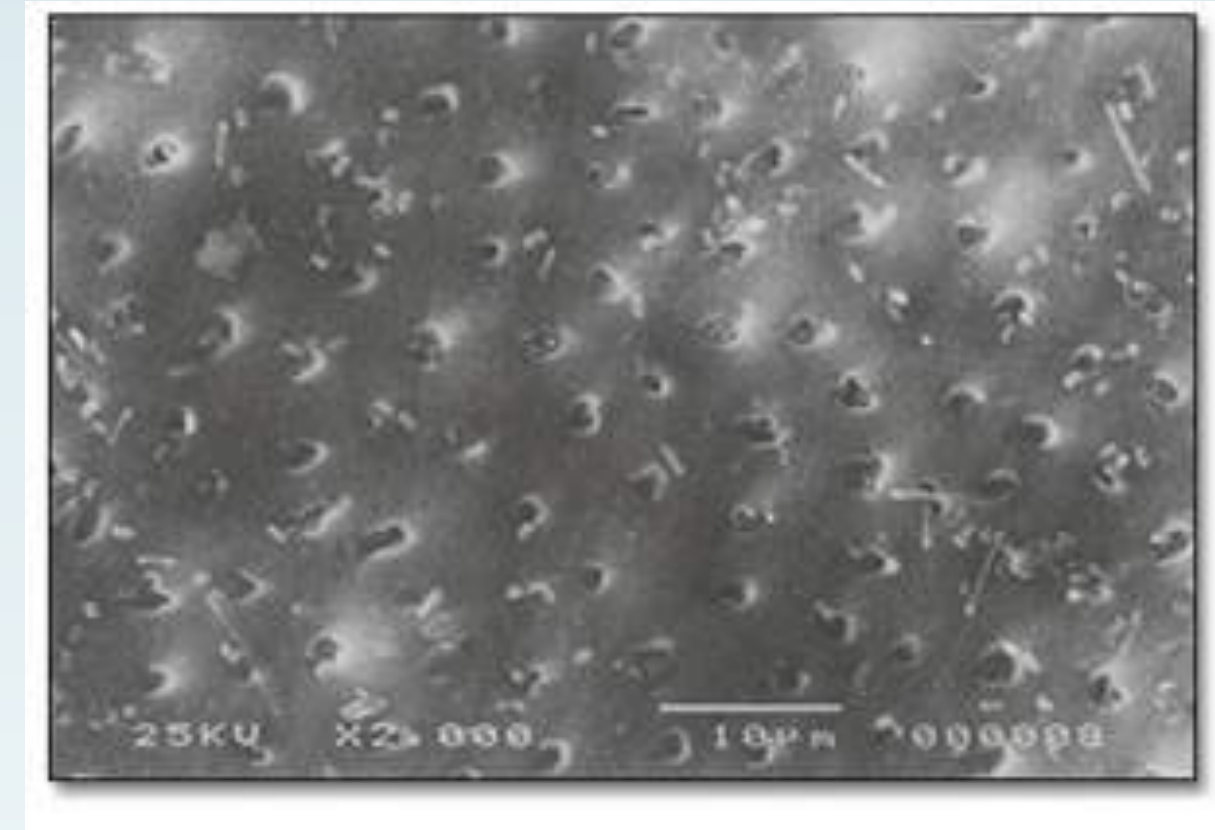




# Structural differences between sensitive and non-sensitive dentin\*



Non-sensitive



Sensitive

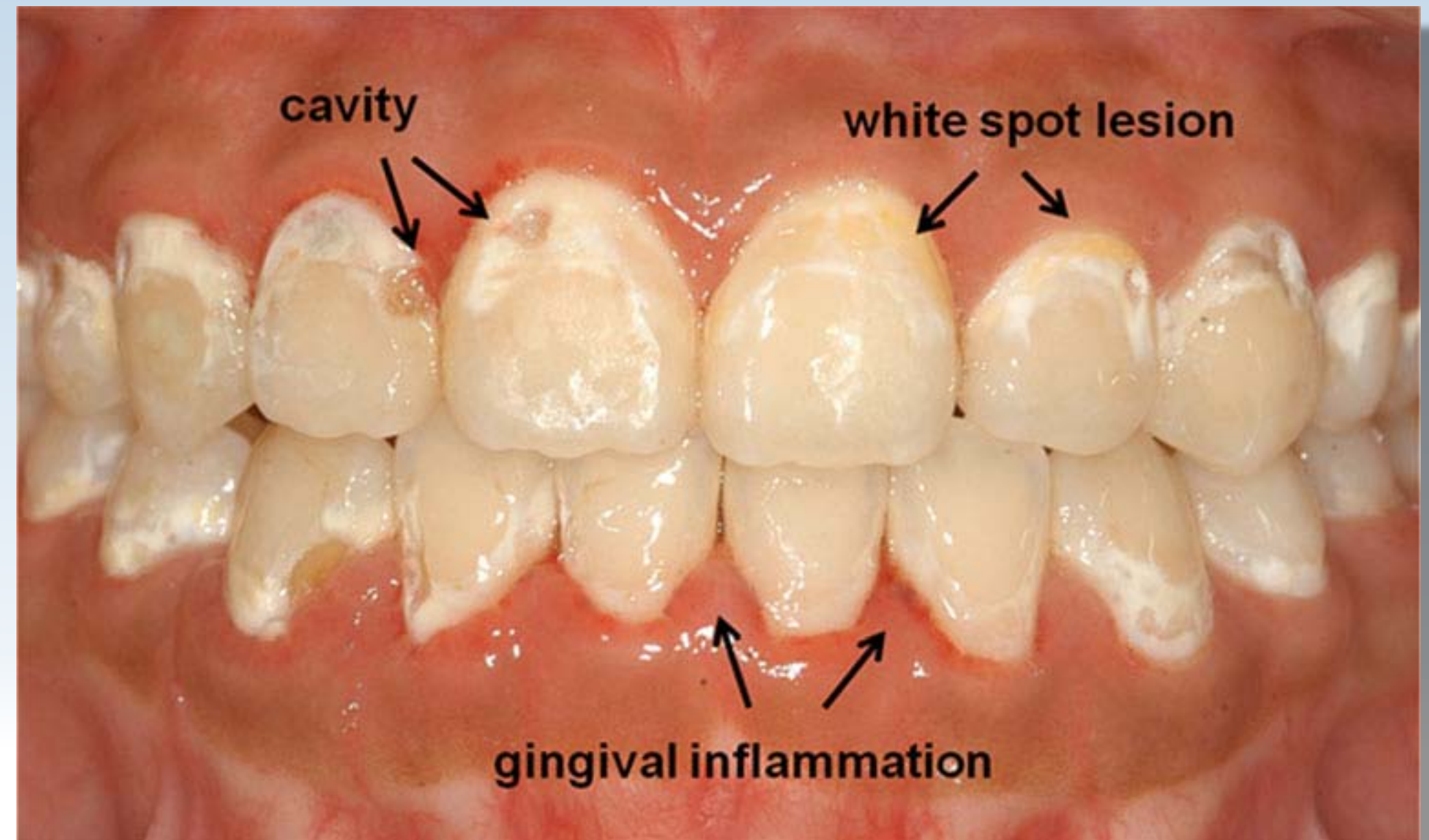
No of open tubules	x	8 x
Diameter of tubules	0.43	0.83
Fluid Flow (Poisseuille's law)	y	16 y

\*Absi *et al*, *J Clin Periodont* 1987; pictures from <http://www.thejcdp.com>, Sept 2006



# Effective home care – mechanical and chemical

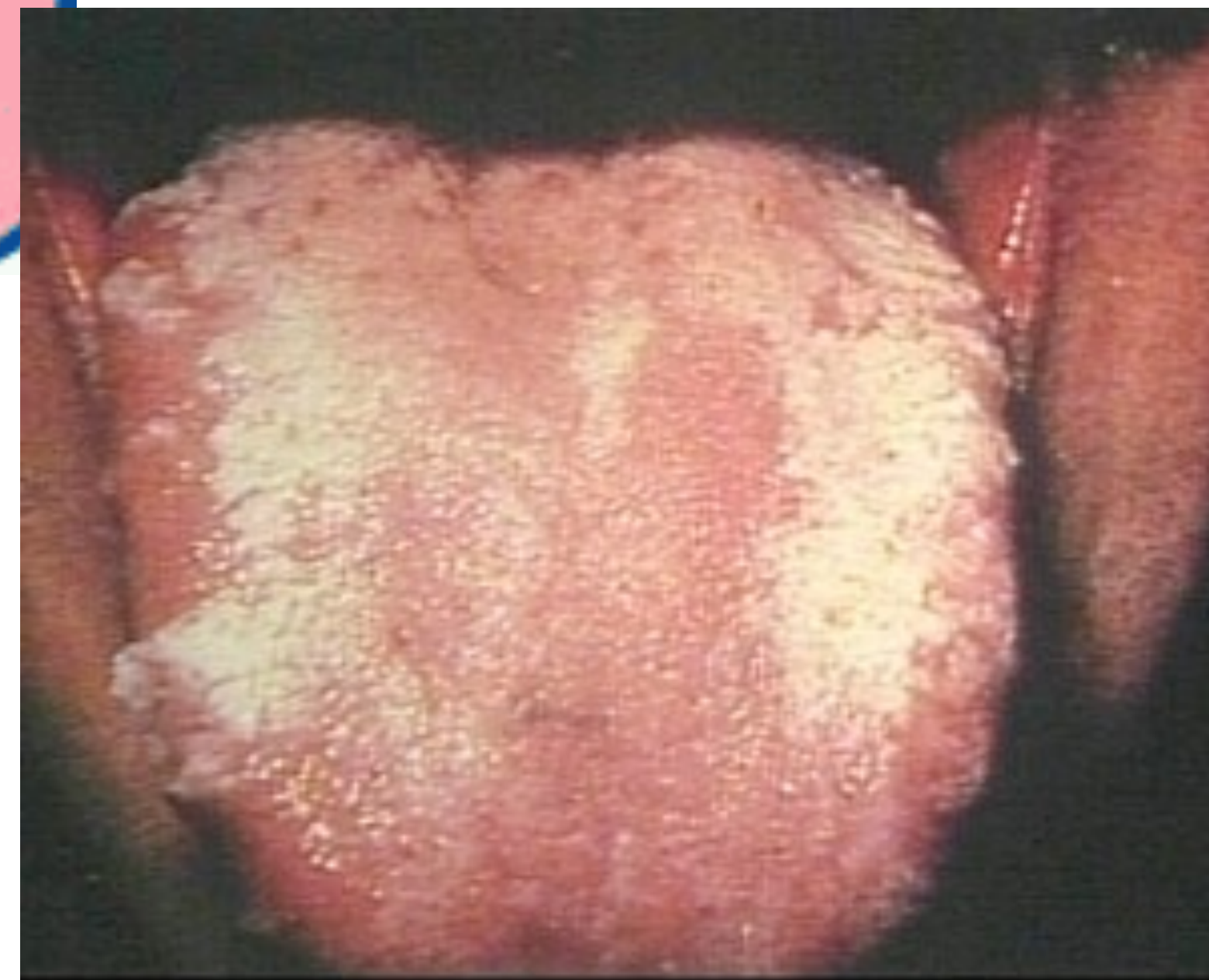
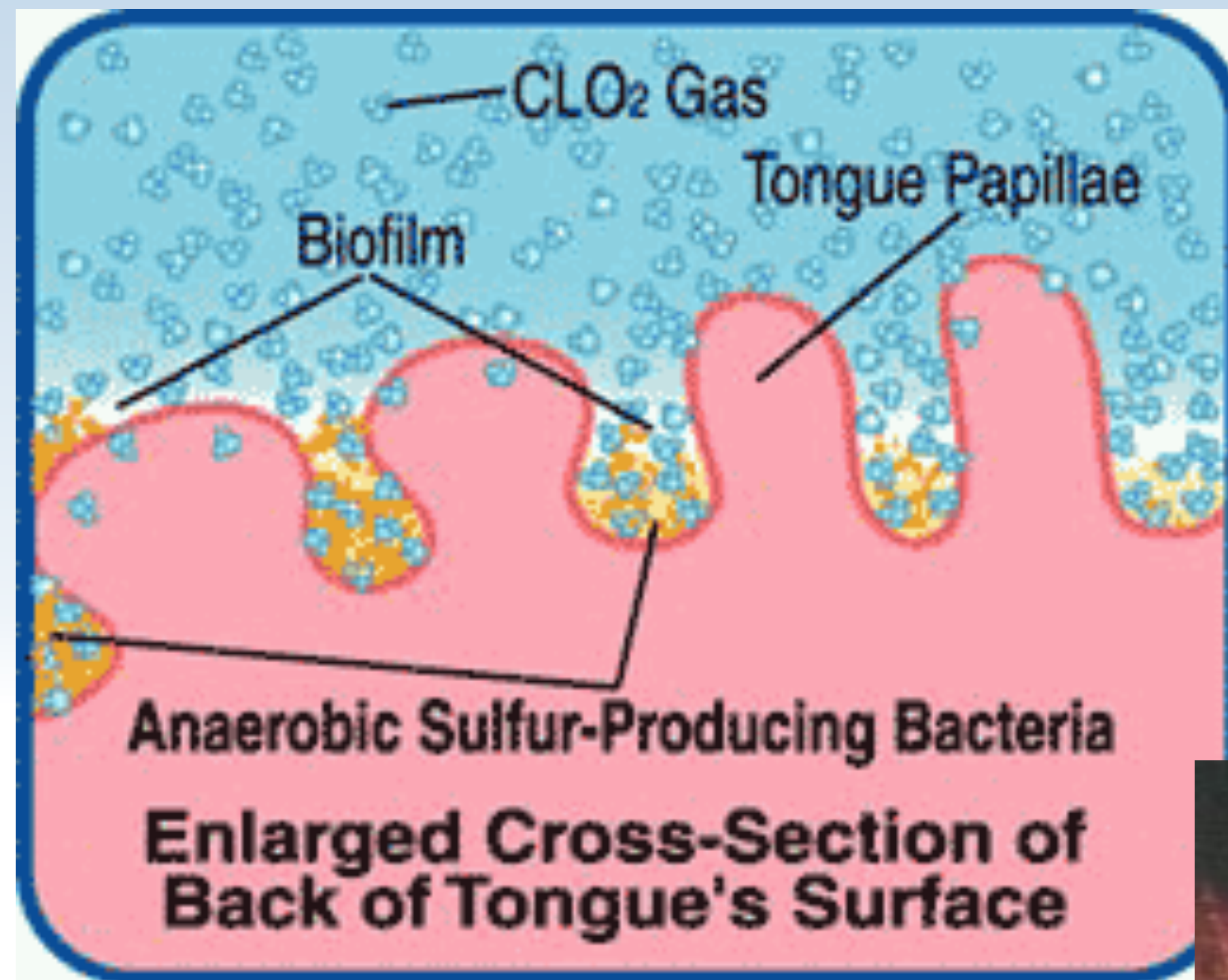
*Goal is to reduce pathogenicity,  
disrupt biofilm, stimulate salivary flow  
and increase pH*



- brushing - power and manual
- site specific activities – interdental devices, floss
- irrigation
- therapeutic rinses and paste
- xylytol – gum, mints, wipes, spray



# Tongue







# Getting national press



Slots J, Jorgensen MG. Efficient antimicrobial treatment in periodontal maintenance care. JADA, Vol.131, September 2000

Rupesh S, Winnier J, et al. The comparative evaluation of the effects of tongue cleaning on salivary levels of mutans streptococci in children. Int J Dent Hyg. 2011 Jul 29.



Improving saliva,  
neutralizing acids

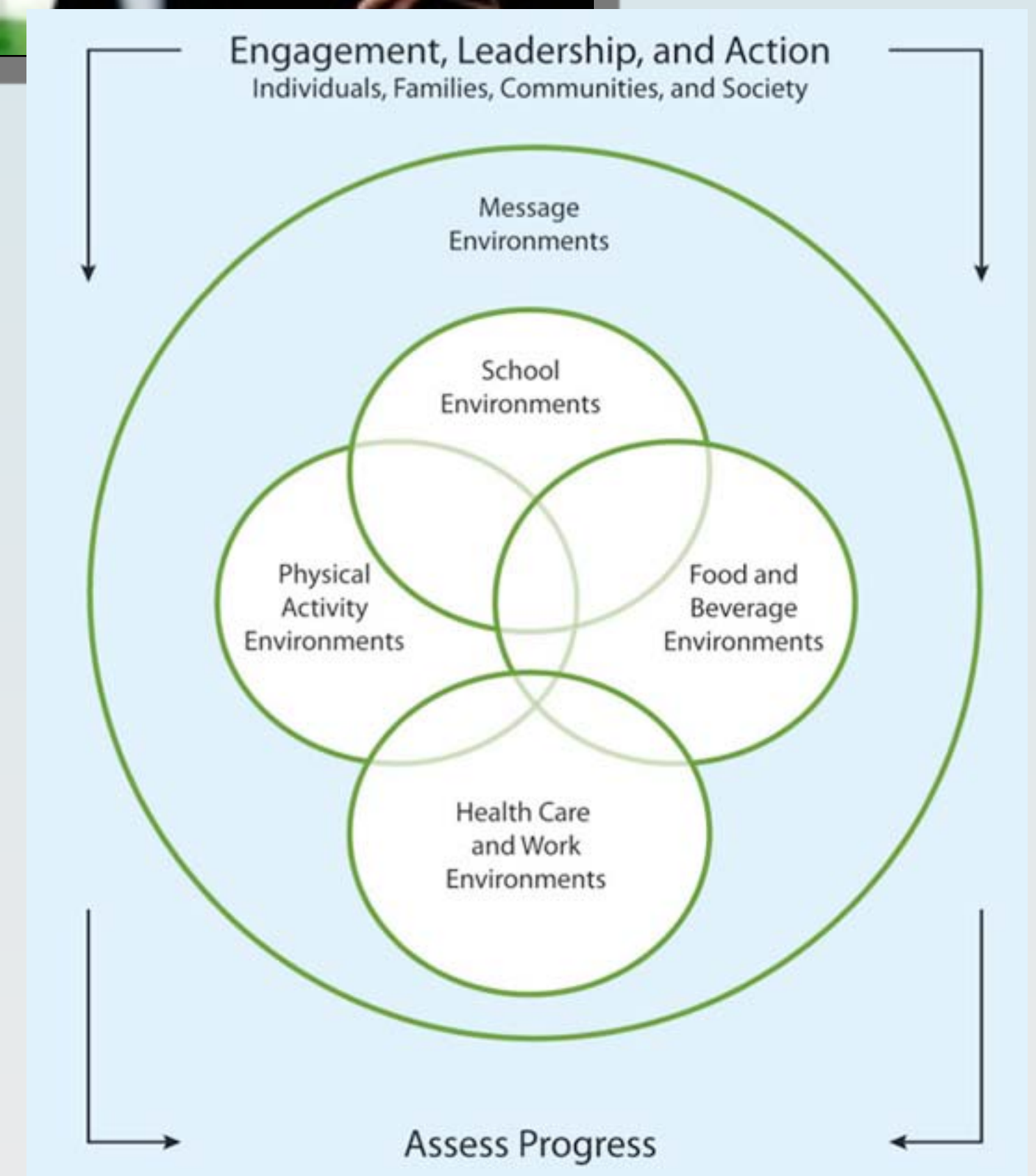


# Conversation starters!

## oral health to general health



- ★ Get the facts
- ★ Develop positive energy
- ★ Create a legitimate spin
- ★ Focus on health benefits
- ★ Discuss savings - money, time, comfort
- ★ Offer reasonable alternatives
- ★ Coaching not scolding

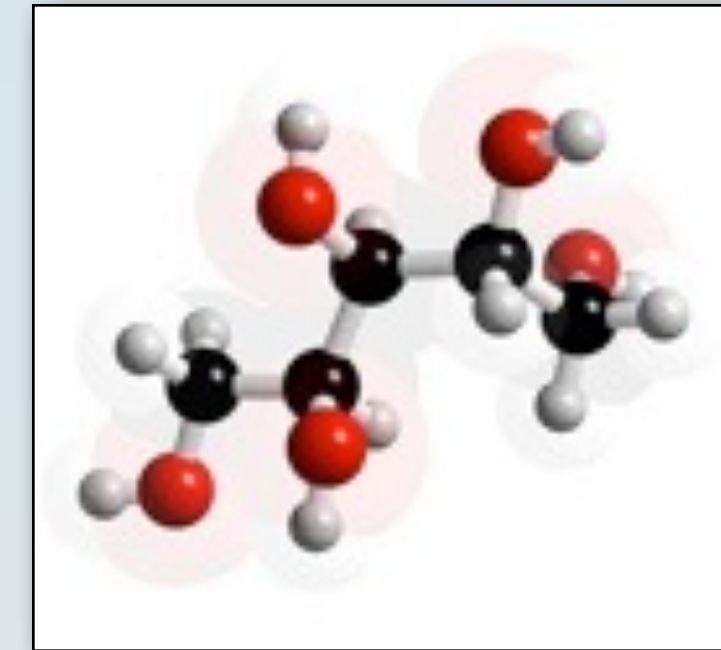




# The magic of xylitol

xylitol.org

- interferes with Strep Mutans metabolism
- disrupts biofilm integrity
- promotes neutral pH
- stimulates saliva flow
- shifts equilibrium to enhance remineralization
- increases available calcium and phosphate



*Can be fatal to dogs and ferrets*

*Avoid fructose for up to one hour after use*

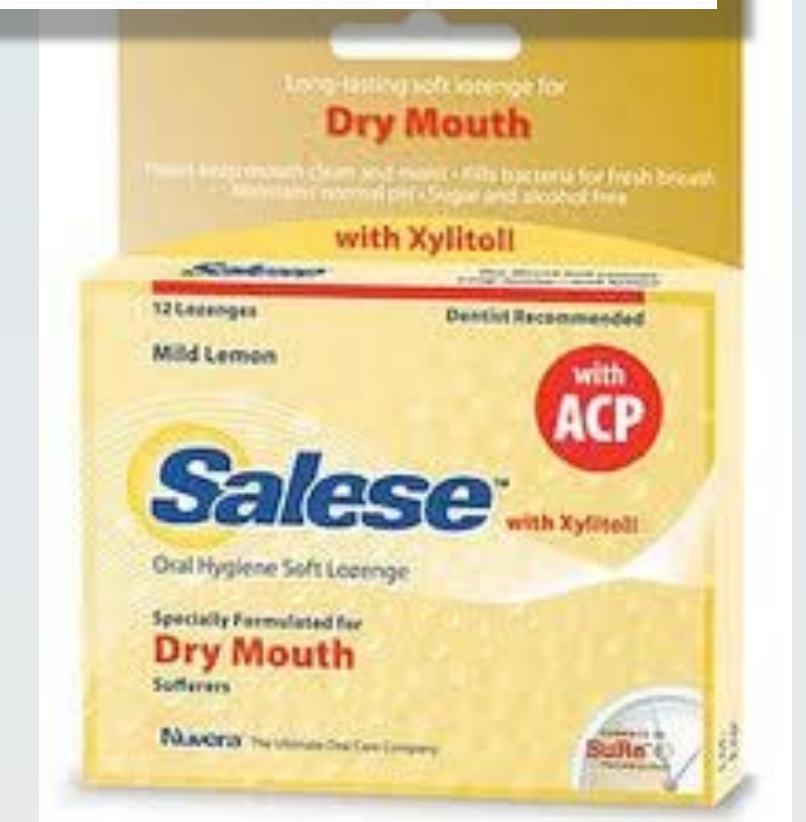
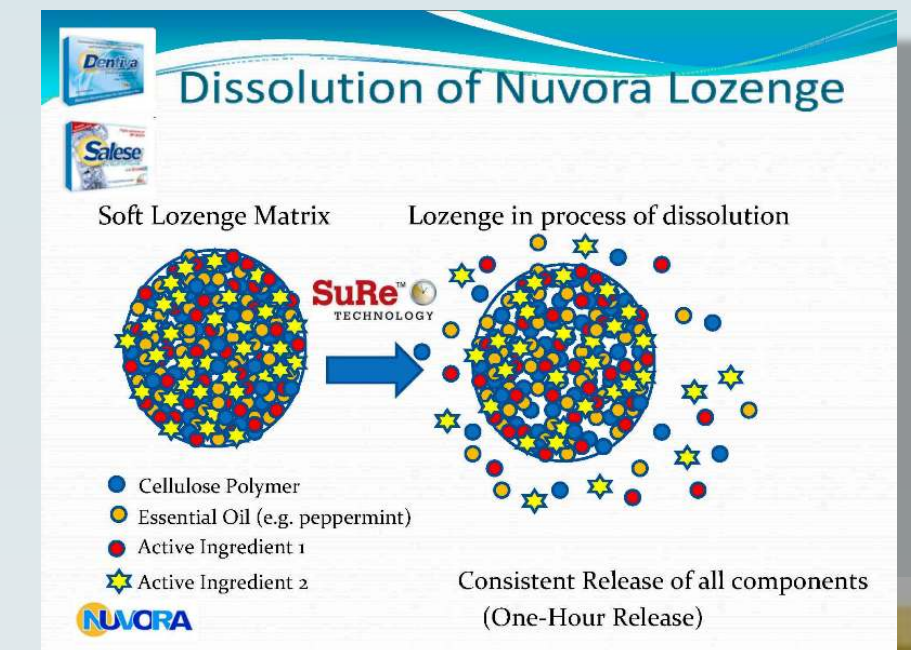
Policy on the use of xylitol in caries prevention. American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry - Oral health policies – Adopted 2006.

Ribelles Llop M, Guinot Jimeno F, et al. Effects of xylitol chewing gum on salivary flow rate, pH, buffering capacity and presence of Streptococcus mutans in saliva. Eur J Paediatr Dent. 2010 Mar;11(1):9-14.

Burt BA. The use of sorbitol- and xylitol-sweetened chewing gum in caries control. J Am Dent Assoc. 2006 Feb;137(2):190-6.



# Novel xylitol products





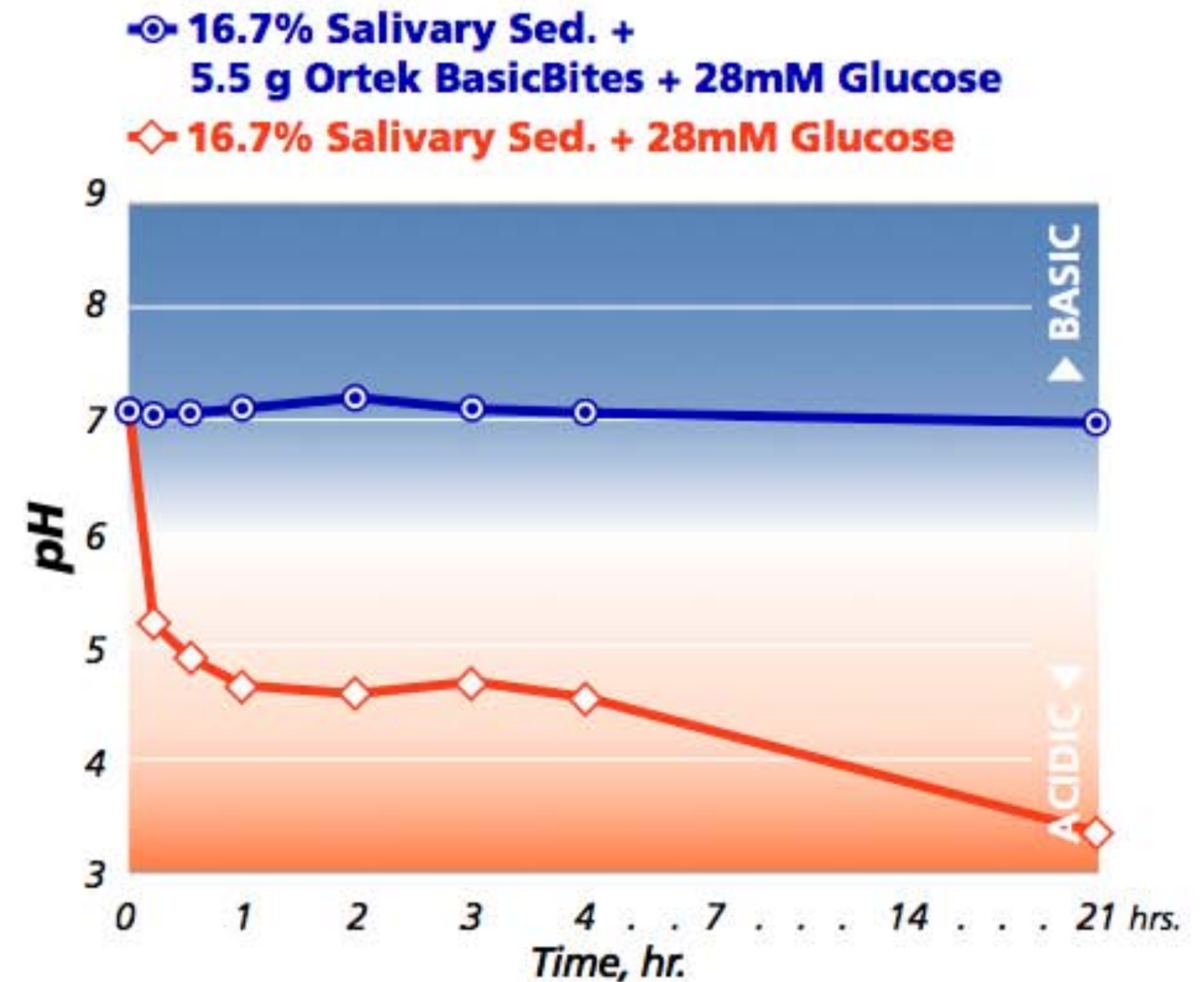
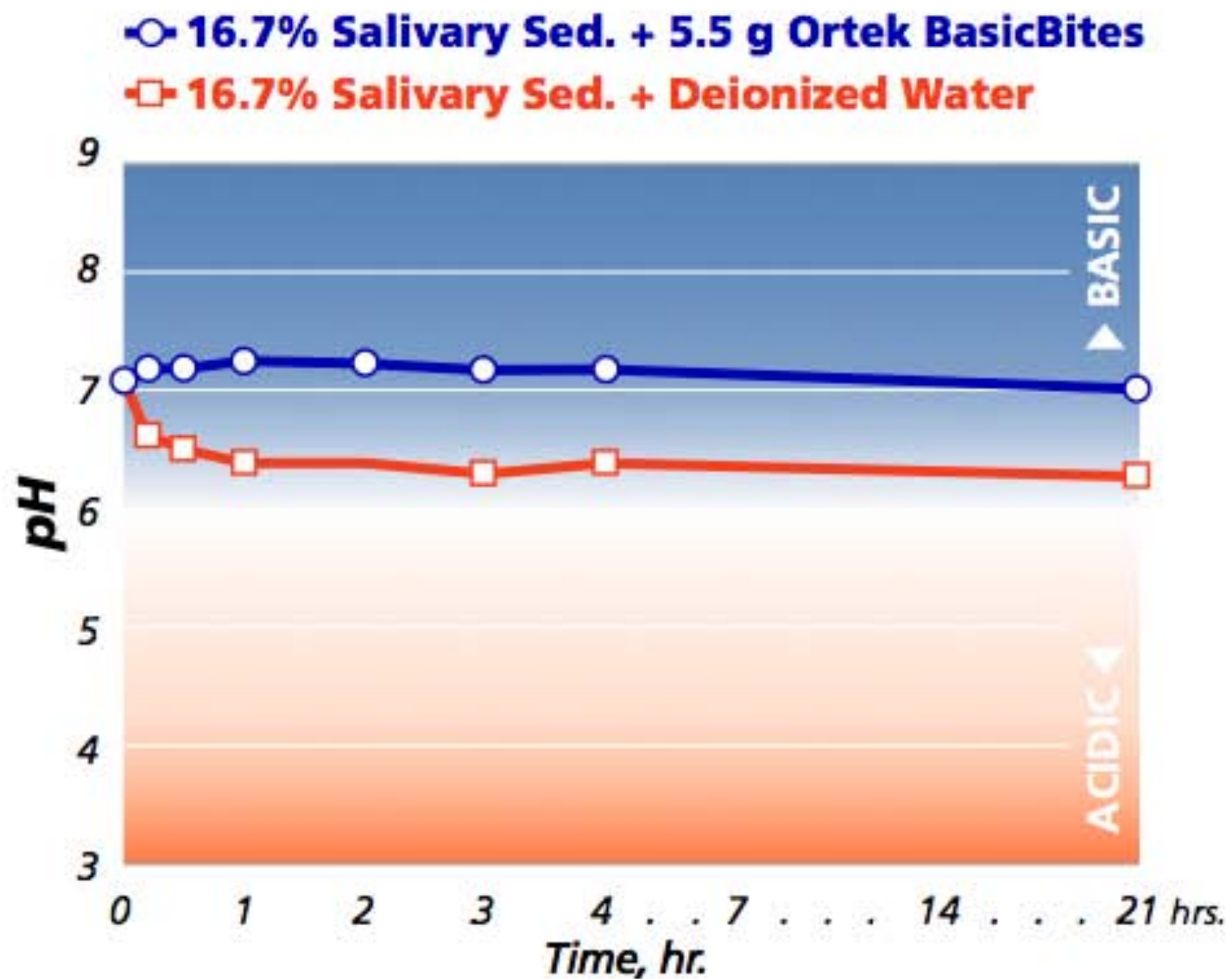
# Arginine - mode of action

- exogenous source of arginine - toothpaste
- enhances alkaline pH in saliva and plaque
- 4 weeks - arginine toothpaste
- alkali production higher - plaque samples caries active (CA) subjects
- CA subjects - shift in bacterial composition - healthier





# Arginine bicarbonate calcium carbonate – keeping saliva neutral





# Understanding biofilm – impacting lives





The Dental-Systemic Link: Managing Biofilms and Getting Well - Jeffrey Corbett, DDS Lynnfield,MA  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGWKbroDh78>



# Medical biofilm based wound care

- Debridement- frequent and aggressive
- Selective biocides  
Silver, Iodosorb, Hydrofera Blue
- Antibiofilm agents  
Lactoferrin, Xylitol, Farnasol  
Plant Products, Fatty Acid Gel
- Antibiotics (25-32% effective)  
Adjunct  
Strong and long



Multiple Concurrent Strategies



# Wound healing anti-biofilm agents



7-26-04



1-13-05



5-25-05



# Wound healing antimicrobial agents



- ionic silver - minute concentrations / broad spectrum / used in dressings
- iodine - prevents wound infection / aids healing / povidone iodine preferred
- medicinal honey antibacterial activity

Rhodes DD, Wolcott RD, Percival SL. J Biofilms in wounds:management strategies. Wound Care. November 2008.17(11).

Percival SL, Cutting KF, Williams D(2010) Biofilms: possible strategies for suppression in chronic wounds. Nursing Standard Supplement.



# Wound healing anti-biofilm strategies



- lactoferrin - bacteriocidal / block surface attachment / works with PMNs /binds iron even at a low pH
- xylitol - interferes with biofilm formation
- enzymes - Dispersin B - causes biofilm detachment
- gallium, EDTA, hyperbaric oxygen, bacteriophages, glucose oxidase, pulsed electric fields
- ultrasound / ultrasonics
- no more amputations

Rhodes DD, Wolcott RD, Percival SL. J Biofilms in wounds:management strategies. Wound Care. November 2008.17(11).

Percival SL, Cutting KF, Williams D(2010) Biofilms: possible strategies for suppression in chronic wounds. Nursing Standard Supplement.





Dr. Bill Costerton - The "Father" of Biofilms

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbLFOUHvAJg>



# What do we owe our patients?

- Current, in-depth health history
- Assess a patient's total needs
- Tell them the truth
- Provide all options
- Patients must make the final choice
- Current scientific information
- Understand technology





# What's the take home message?

## Understand.....

- Biofilms are complex
- Mother Nature rules
- Better health is possible
- Take responsibility for your role
- New information about biofilms emerges every day

