



INRAE, because our need for research is greater than ever

Didier Dupont

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science for people, life & earth

INRAe

French national research institute for
agriculture, food & environment



INRAE, because our need
for research is greater than ever

Major global concerns

Climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation (soil, air, water), fossil fuel depletion, pollution, urban population growth, malnutrition...

Tackling scientific challenges related to **agriculture, food production, and the environment** requires an integrated approach:

- Ecological transition
- Sustainable production of healthy food for all
- Complementary uses of bioresources, the bioeconomy
- Biodiversity and adaptive resource management

► A world leader



research institute in the world
specialising in agriculture, food,
and the environment



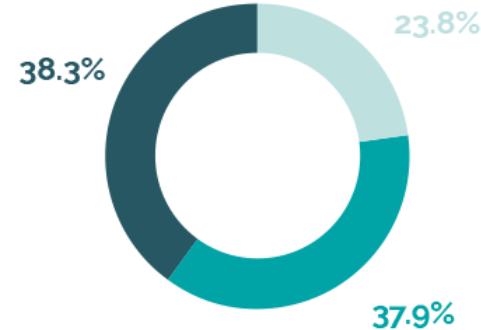
- 3rd in the agricultural sciences***
- 4th in the plant and animal sciences***
- 4th in food science***
- 10th in ecology and the environmental sciences***

*International rank based on scientific publications

Key figures INRAE 2020



2,811
contractual staff
(i.e., full-time positions)



- 1,990 researchers
- 3,165 engineers and assistant engineers
- 3,186 technicians

Budget of more than **€1 billion**
Public subsidies from the French government **78.3%**
➤ External revenue **21.7%**

First research institute to obtain
the certification Equality and Diversity at Work





THE FRENCH INSTITUTE FOR
AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND ENVIRONMENT



01

To facilitate bridges between...



EDUCATION



RESEARCH

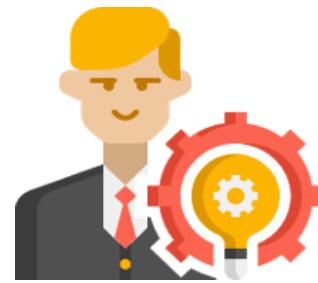


INNOVATION

**... to educate future actors of transitions
at an international level**

04

KEY FIGURES



06

CAMPUSES

14

DEPARTMENTS

310

ASSOCIATE-PROFESSORS

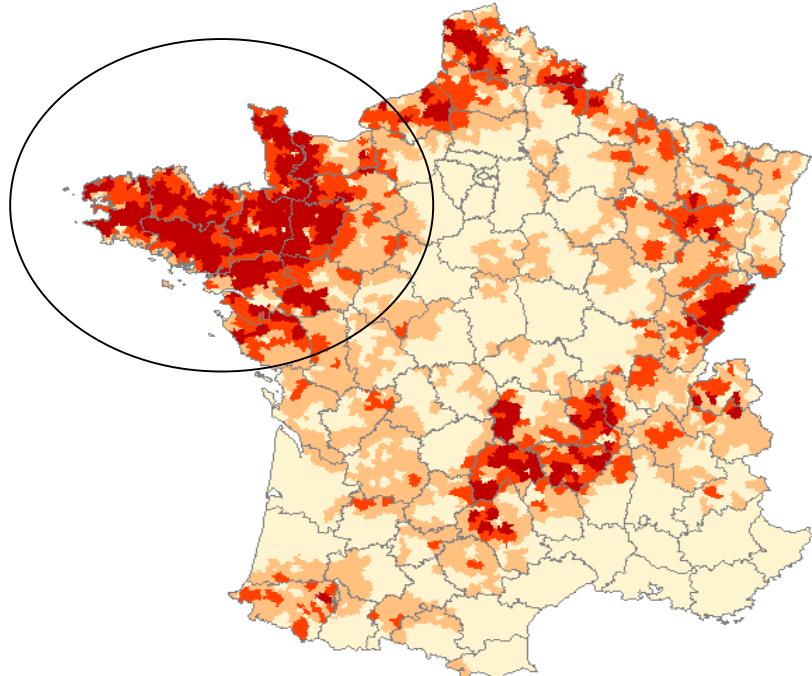
4,700

STUDENTS

Some economic aspects

Milk production in France

(3.7 millions of dairy cows)



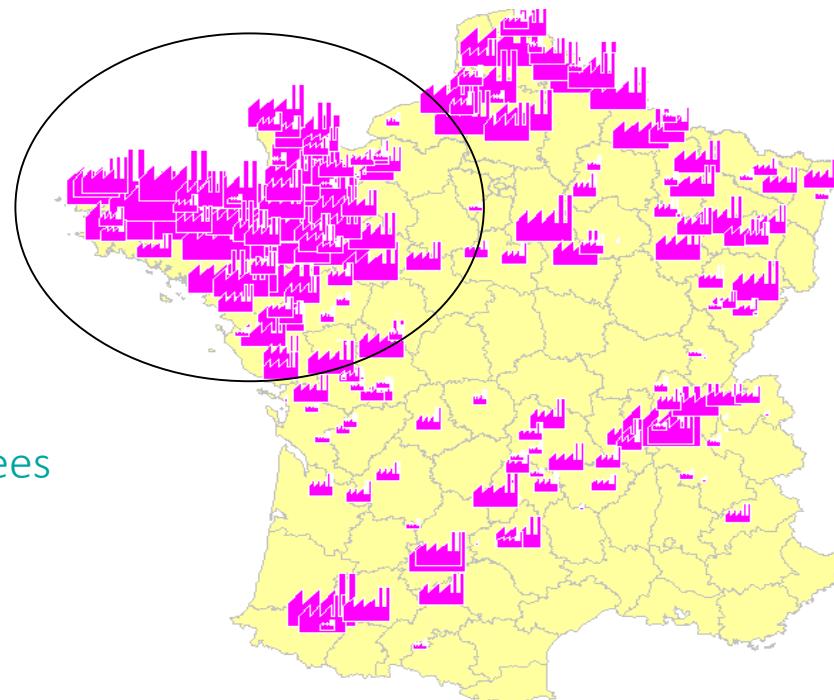
700+ factories
60,000 employees

57,000 dairy farms

23.8 billions of liters

160,000 direct jobs

Treatment & transformation



Source: CNIEL-French Dairy Board (2018)



PEGASE

(Physiology, Environment and Genetics for the Animal and livestock SystEms)

Head: Ludovic Brossard

Deputy Heads: Bénédicte Lebret, Vanessa Lollivier



INRAE



> PEGASE

> Staff

107 permanent staff members

(95 from INRAE, 12 from AO)

47 scientists (CR, DR, EC & IR)

9 support engineers (IE)

51 “technicians” (AIBC)

About 90 non-permanents each year

~165 persons daily

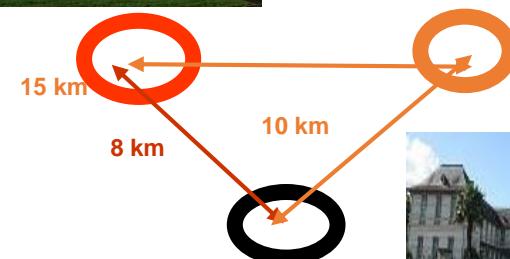
> 3 sites around Rennes (France)

PEGASE research

UE3P- Experimental unit (pigs)



**PEGASE
teaching**



**PEGASE
Experimental unit
(dairy cows and goats)**



Pegase conducts research on animal biology and livestock systems with the ultimate goal to improve the sustainability and the competitiveness of animal production systems

STLO

Milk & Egg Science and Technology

Head



Y. Le Loir

2 Deputy Directors



D. Dupont



T. Croguennec



Departments: MICA, CEPIA, P3AN
Carnot Institute « Qualiment » (since 2016)

140 people

80 tenure staff (34 researchers and professors;
42 technicians and engineers)

~25 Docs and Post-Docs / year

~15 Students (Master)

16 members of R&D dept (private sector)

➤ Our playgrounds

Food and raw materials, milk and egg



- Composition
- Structure
- Quality

But also plant-based matrices

- Protein components
- Quality

Transformation Processes

Mastering the functionalities

- Process management
- Eco-efficiency
- Ecoconception

*Fermentation, heat treatment,
drying, membrane fractionation,
Dairy technology*

Human food



- Digestion
Food matrices

Design of foods safe, secure, adapted to human needs and sustainable

The Dairy Platform

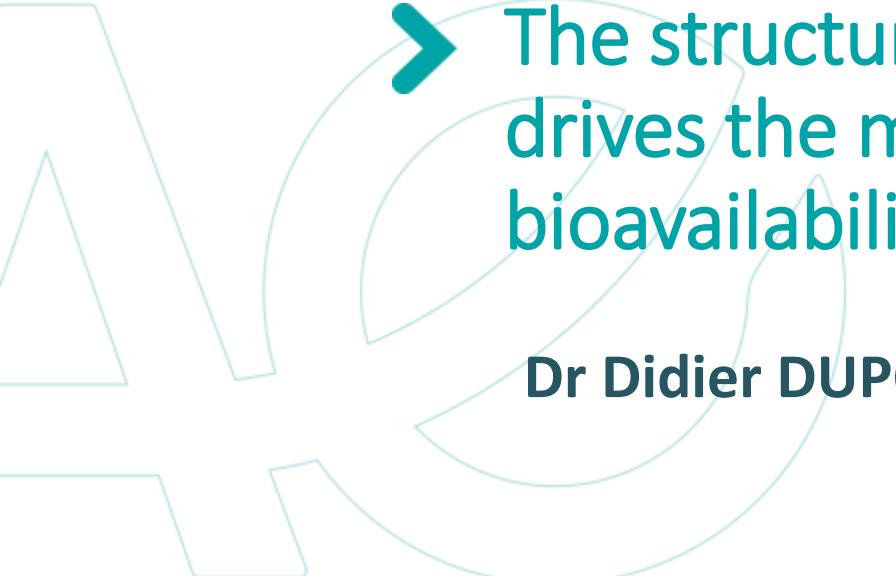
Process in Platform (1000 m²) > whole range of dairy technologies

- Heat treatment (pasteurization to UHT-sterilization)
- Homogenization, cream separation, melting...
- Membrane separation modules :
 - ✓ Microfiltration
 - ✓ Ultrafiltration
 - ✓ Reverse osmosis
- Two cheese production lines (soft- and hard-type cheeses)
- Spray drying facilities: pilot (1-7 kg of water per hour) and semi-industrial (BIONOV) units



The platform uses the analytical facilities as well as the expertise of the STLO research teams





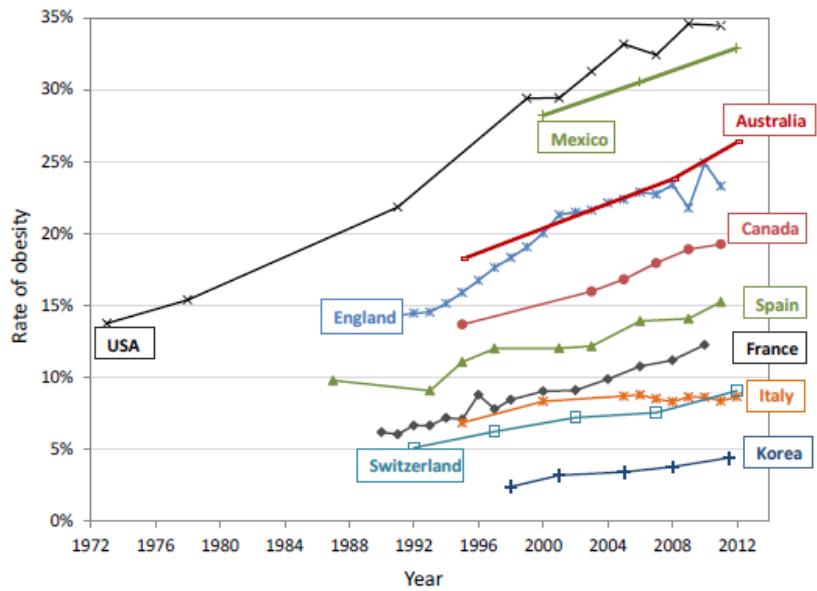
**➤ The structure of dairy products at different length scales
drives the mechanisms of digestion and the nutrient
bioavailability**

Dr Didier DUPONT, INRAE, STLO, Rennes, France

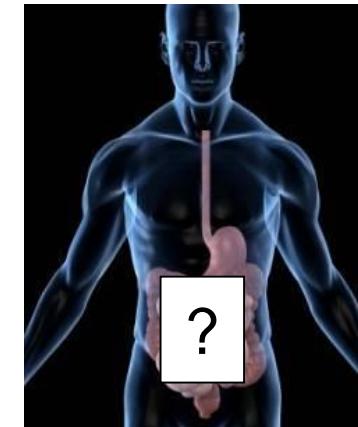


INRAE

Food and human health: the key role of digestion



Diet-related diseases ↑
Prevent these pathologies rather than
cure them



Gut = interface between food and human body

Digestion releases food components that can have a beneficial or a deleterious effect on human health

... but the mechanisms of food disintegration in the gastrointestinal tract remain unclear and the digestive process has been considered as a black box so far

By increasing our knowledge on food digestion, we will increase our knowledge on the effect of food on human health

Models available at INRAE for simulating digestion

Menard et al. 2018, 2023
Wang et al. 2022



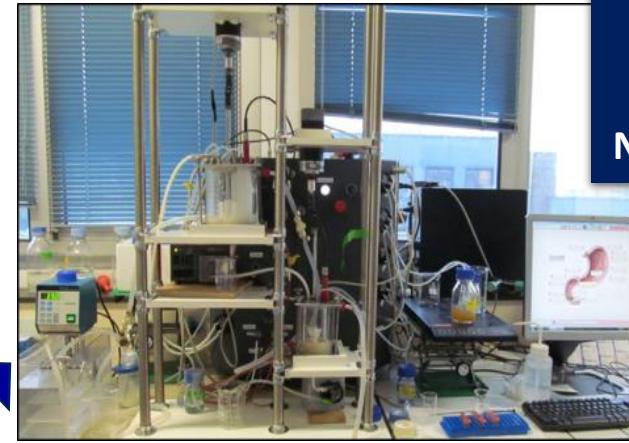
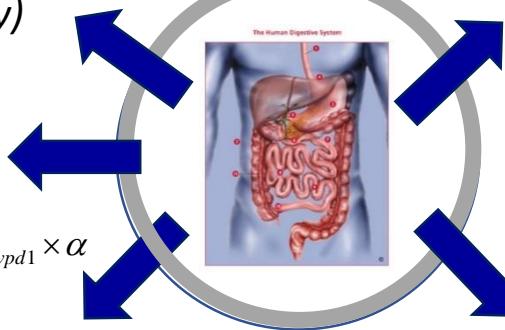
INFOGEST

Le Feunteun et al.
2014, 2020

$$\Phi_{12} = k_{12whey} \times (V_1 - m_{caswpd1} \times \alpha) + k_{12aggr} \times m_{caswpd1} \times \alpha$$

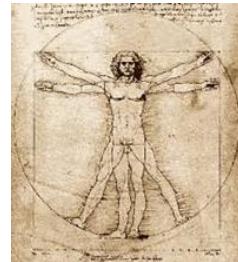
In vitro static models
(infant, adult, elderly)

In silico
models



In vitro dynamic models
(infant, adult, elderly)

De Oliveira et al. 2016
De Oliveira et al. 2017
Buffière et al. 2020
Boulier et al. 2023



Human
models



Animal
models



Lemaire et al. 2021
Nau et al. 2022
Jimenez-Barrios et al. 2023
Charton et al. 2022, 2023

Peng et al. 2021
Halabi et al. 2021
Giribaldi et al. 2021
Chauvet et al. 2023
Nebbia et al. 2022, 2023

NERDT™ : the NEar Real Digestive Tract



STOMACH

Xiao Dong Pro-Health
Smart Digestion
Suzhou University



INRAe

L'INSTITUT
agro Rennes
Angers





The supramolecular structure of caseins affects the kinetics of digestion

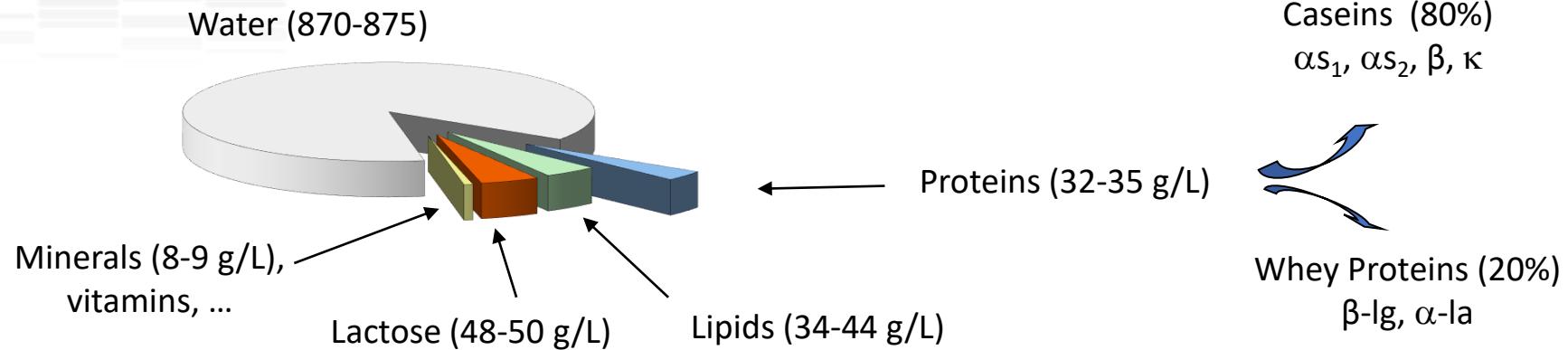


Dupont D.

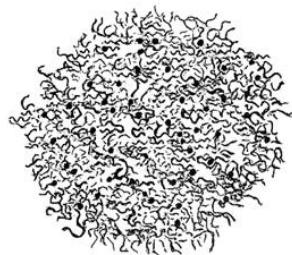
INRAE, Rennes, France



Milk



$\phi \sim 200$ nm
(Holt, 1994)



Casein organized into a supramolecular structure: the **casein micelle (CM)**



$\phi \sim 11$ nm
~15 casein molecules;
(Thomar *et al.* 2013)

Casein can also be extracted after acidification followed by neutralization: the **caseinate (CS)**

Objective

- 1 Investigate gastric emptying of an isoproteic solution of CM and CS (exp. 1)
- 2 Characterize the structure of the resulting chyme and determine if CM and CS are differently metabolized (exp. 2)

Experiment 1 – Determination of Gastric Emptying

96 g of CM or CS
rehydrated in
800 ml of water

+12 g of glucose

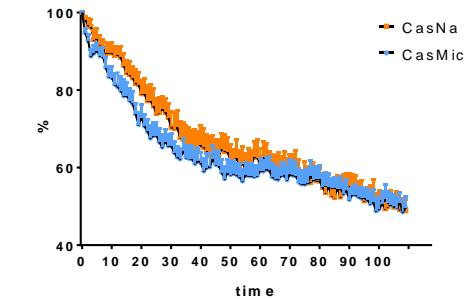
+ ^{99m}Tc -colloidal
(25MBq)



9 pigs (20-25 kg)



γ -scintigraphy over 120 min

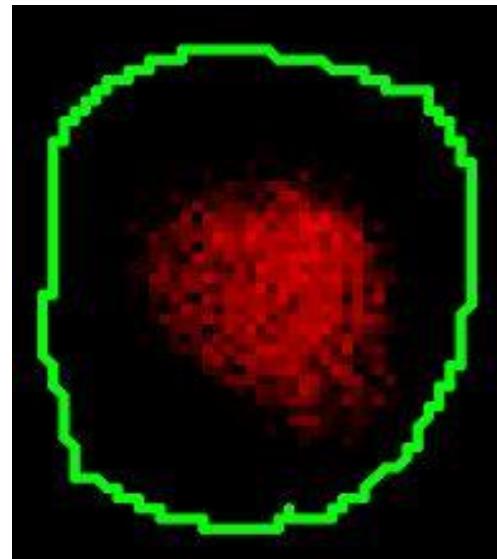


Gastric emptying half-time ($T_{1/2}$) and shape of the curve (β)

But a differential behaviour of CS and CM in the stomach

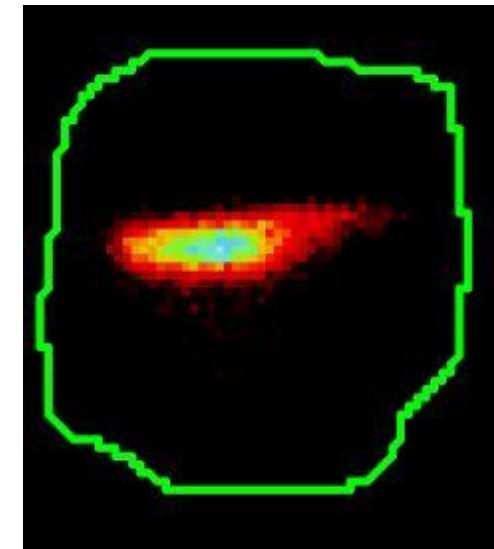
Exemple scintigraphic images at the beginning of gastric emptying (5-10 min after ingestion)

CM



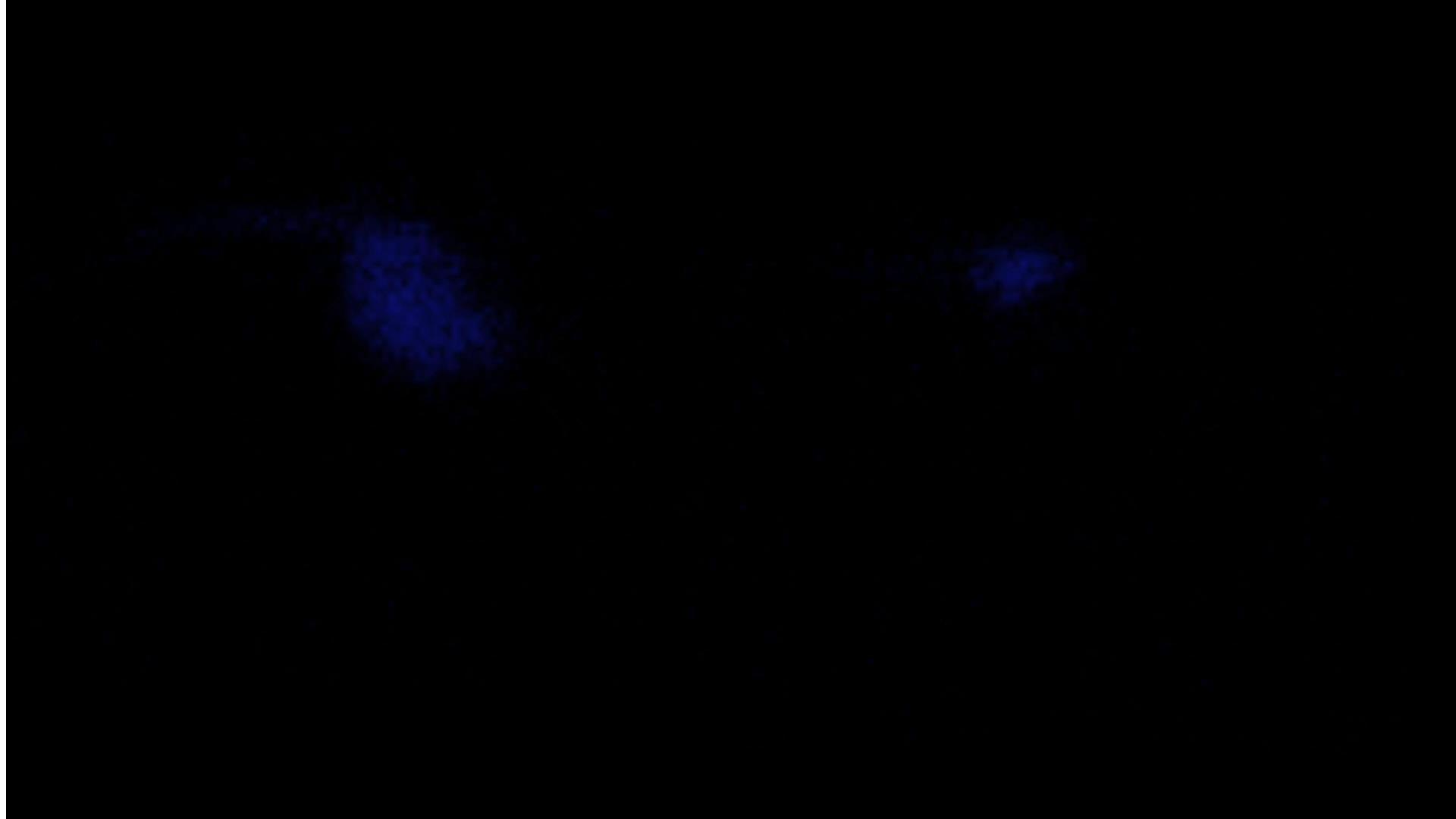
Radioactivity fully fills the stomach

CS



Radioactivity is highly concentrated in the proximal part of the stomach

Gastric emptying



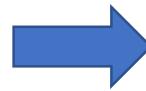
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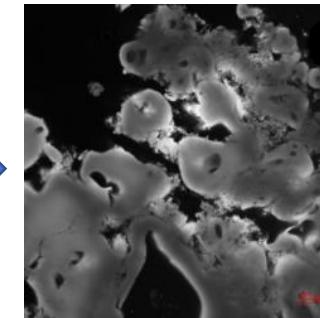
Experiment 2 – Chyme structure and protein metabolism

96 g of CM or
CS rehydrated
in 800 ml of
water

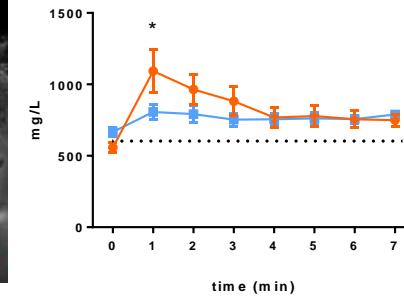
+12 g of
glucose



10 catheterized pigs (20-25 kg)



Characterization of the chyme
structure (slaughtering after 10 min,
n=4)



Free plasma amino acids over 7h
n=6

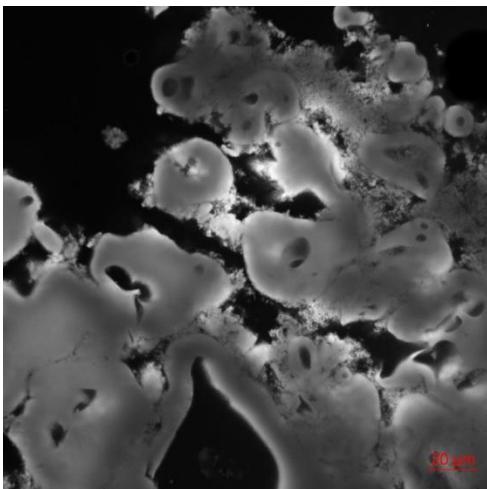
Collection of the stomach contents



CM forms a large coagulum in the stomach whereas CS mainly remains in the liquid form

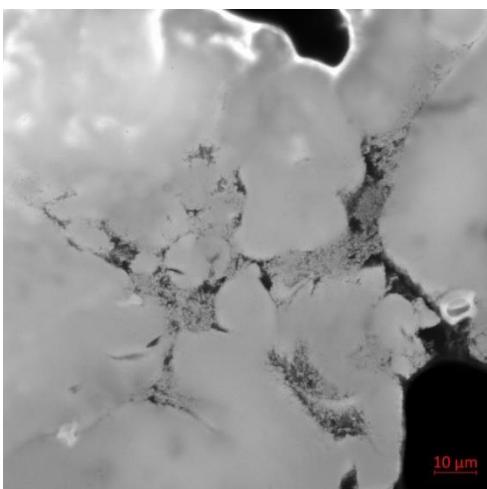
Microstructure of gastric chymes

CM



CM Gels (left) are
compact and dense =

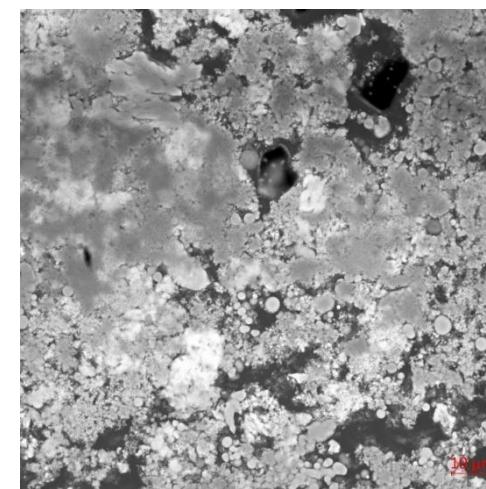
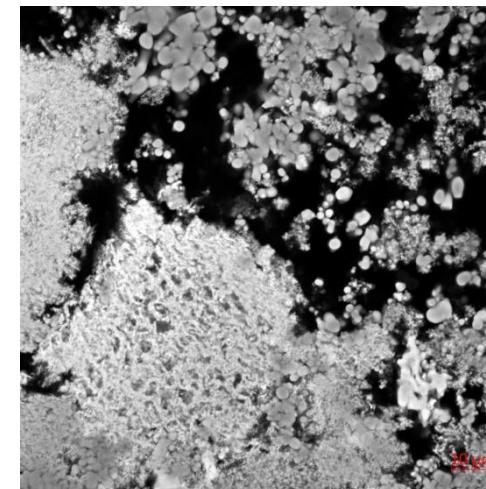
Strong coagulum



CS Gels (right) are an
agglomerate of spherical
particles that can easily
dissociate. The gel have a very
« loose » structure =

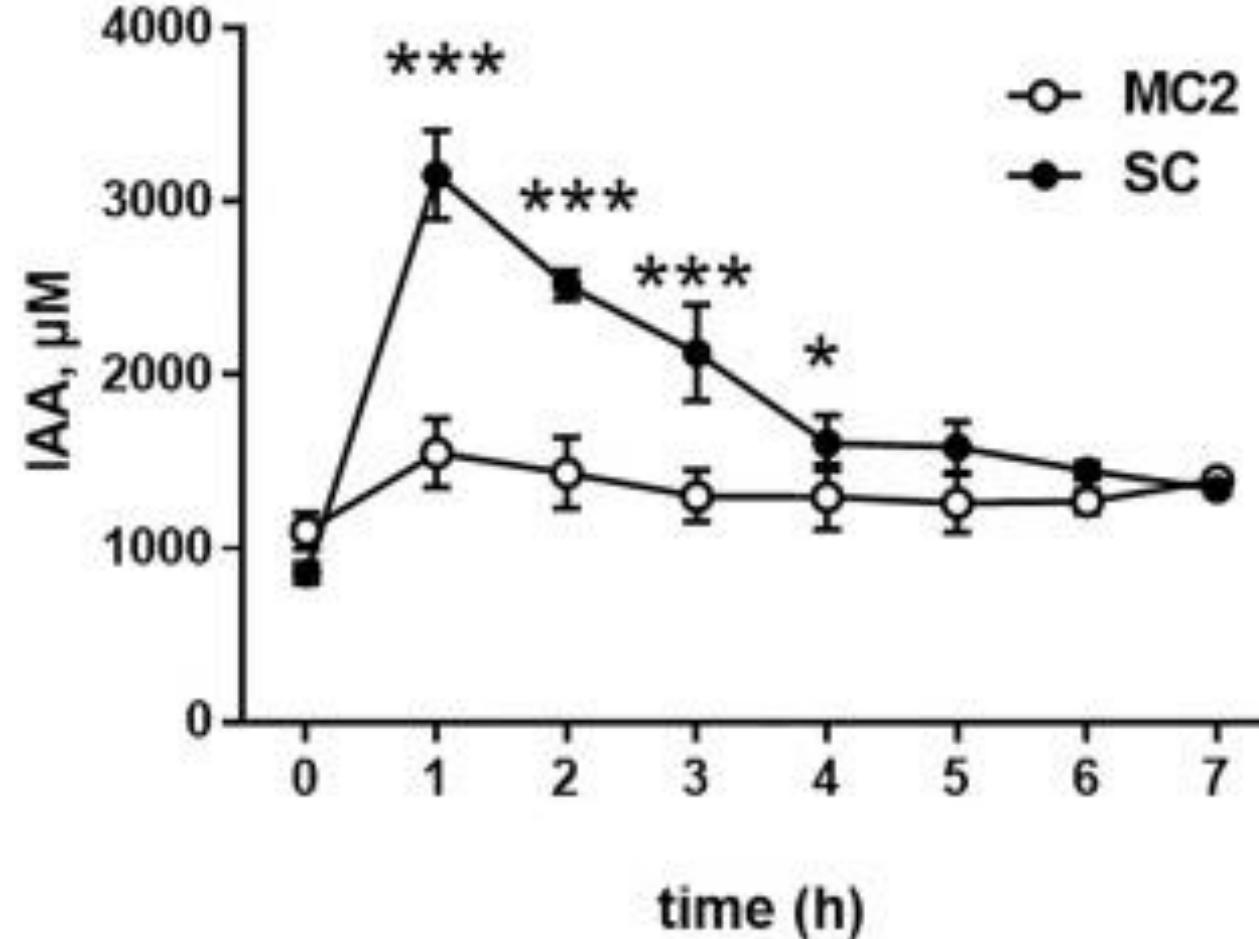
Protein precipitate

CS



Plasma indispensable amino acids

Boulier et al.
Food Chem. 2023



AA peak after 1h for CS whereas the concentration remains stable for CM

CM = slow caseins, CS = fast caseins



The macrostructure of dairy products, as modified by processing, affects the kinetics of protein digestion

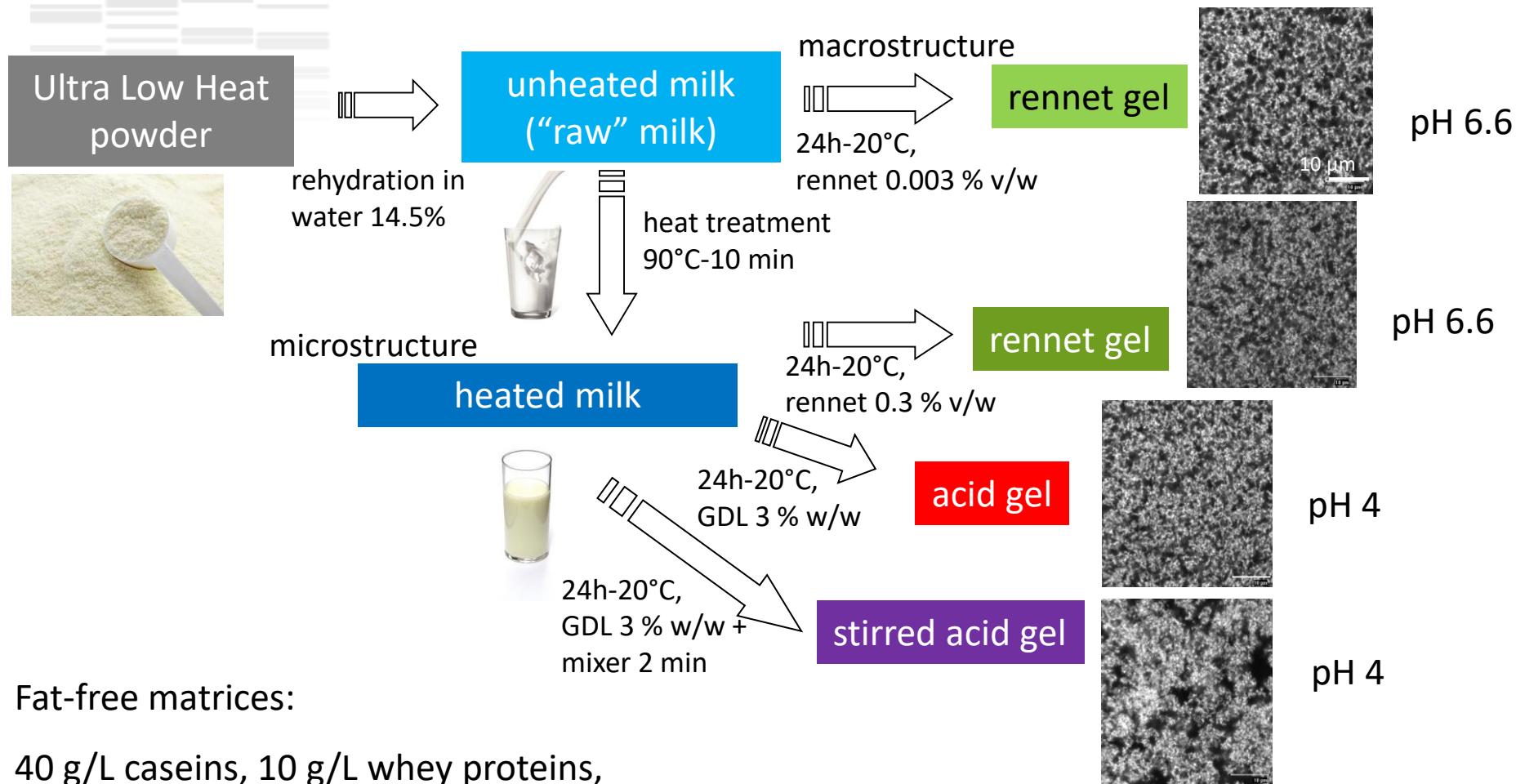


Dupont D.

INRAE, Rennes, France



Comparison of 6 dairy products of identical composition but different structure

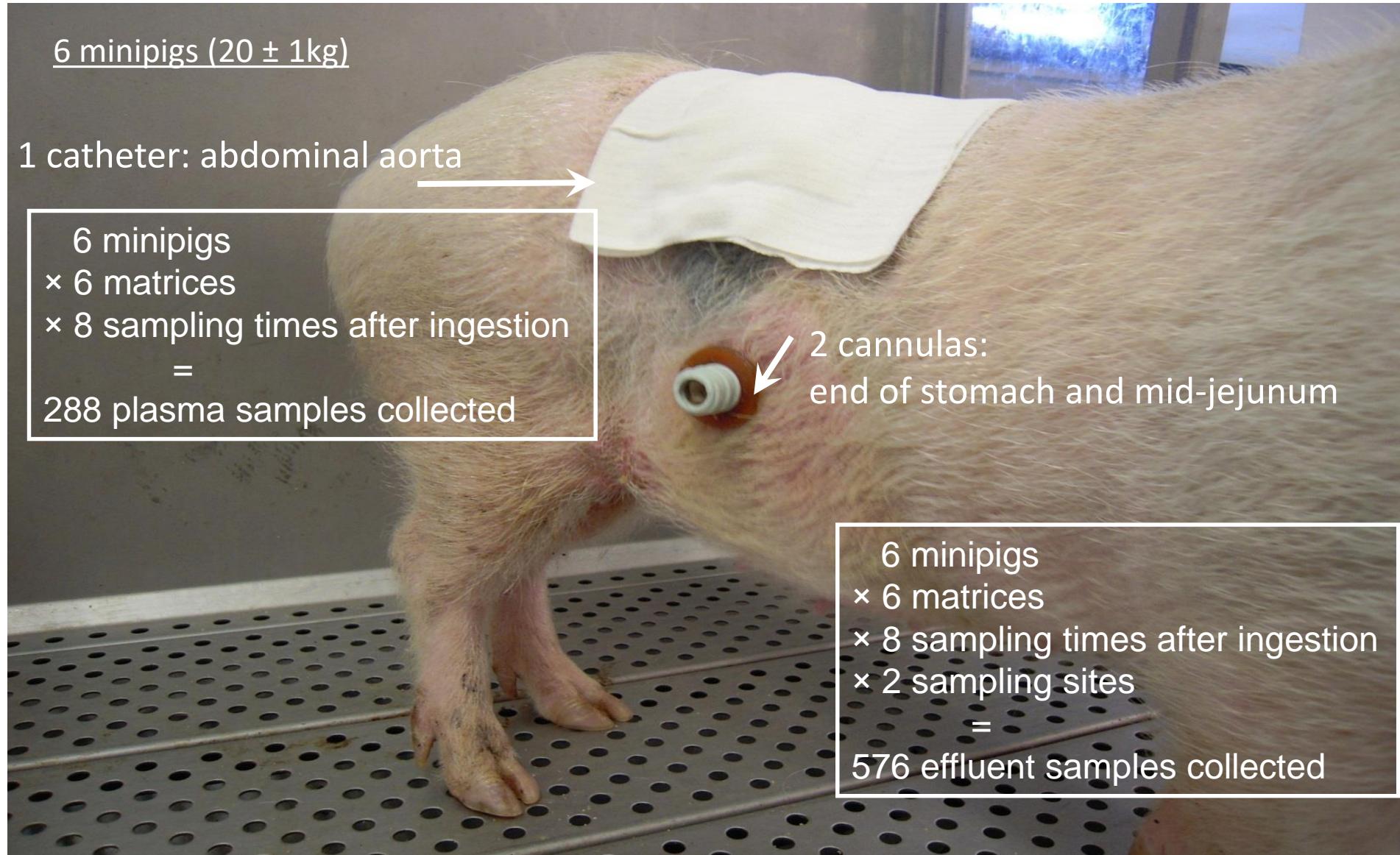


Fat-free matrices:

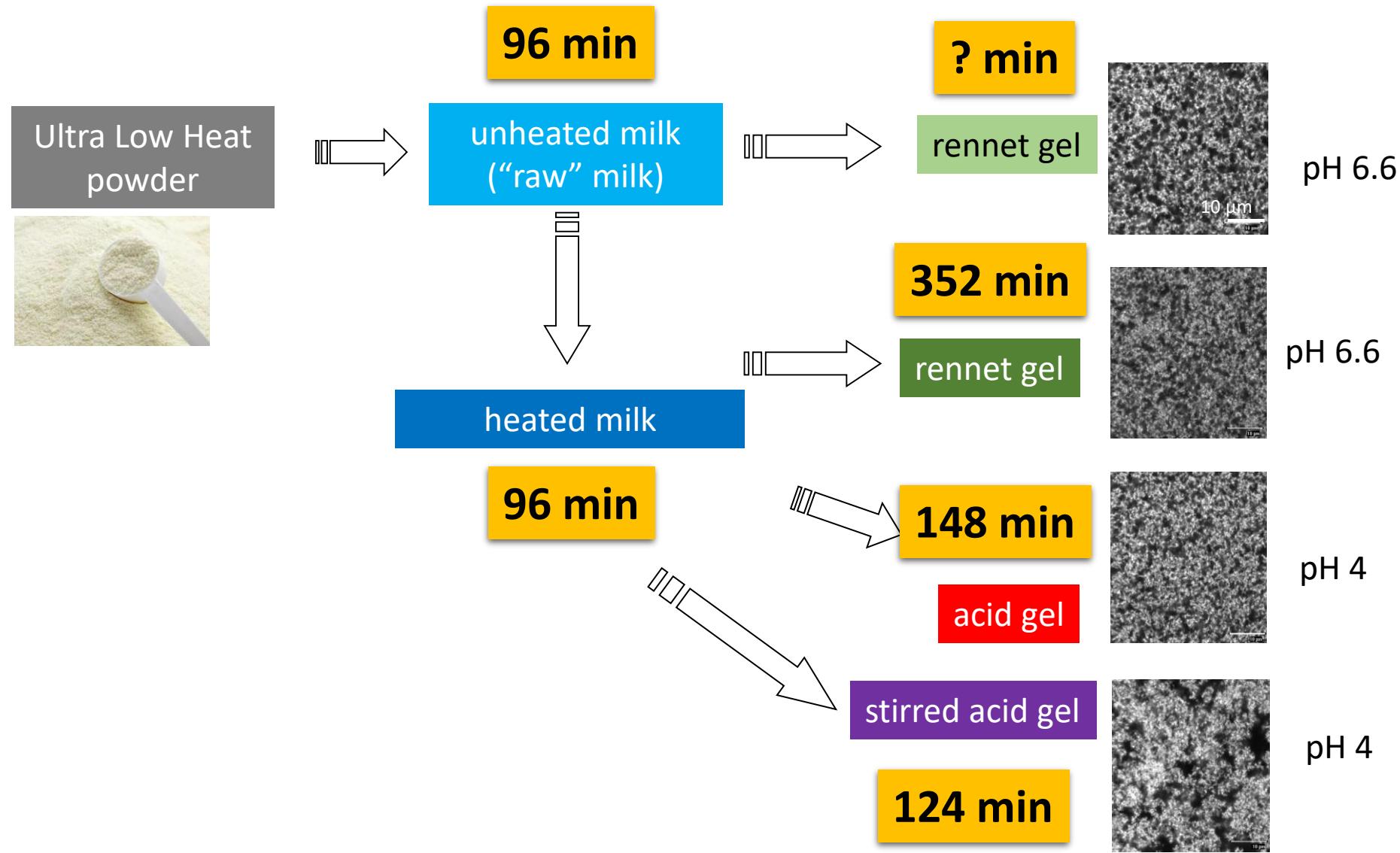
40 g/L caseins, 10 g/L whey proteins,
95 g/L lactose and minerals

+ marker of the meal transit (Cr^{2+} -EDTA) → Gastric emptying half-time

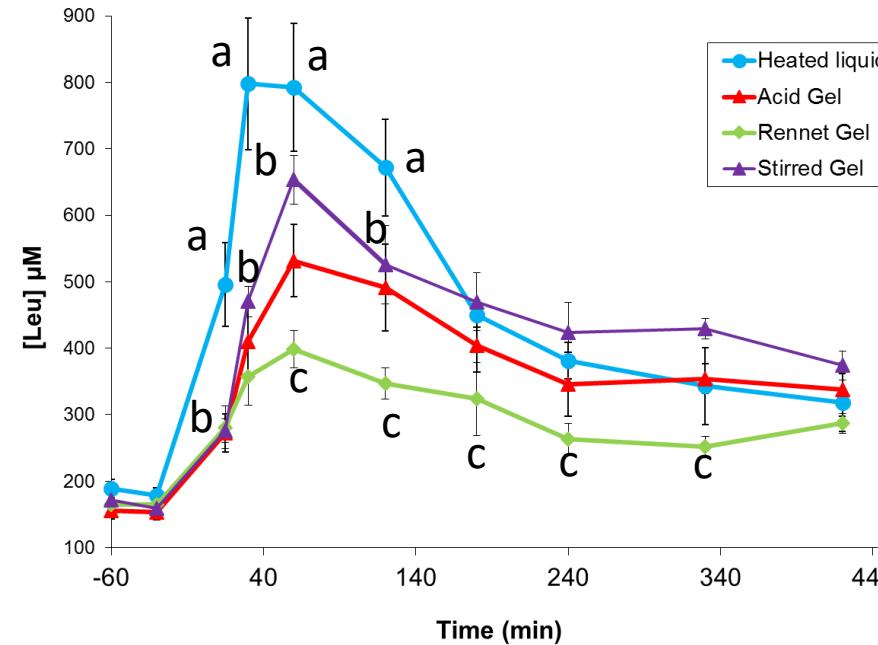
The multi-canulated mini-pigs



Gastric emptying half time



Effect on absorption

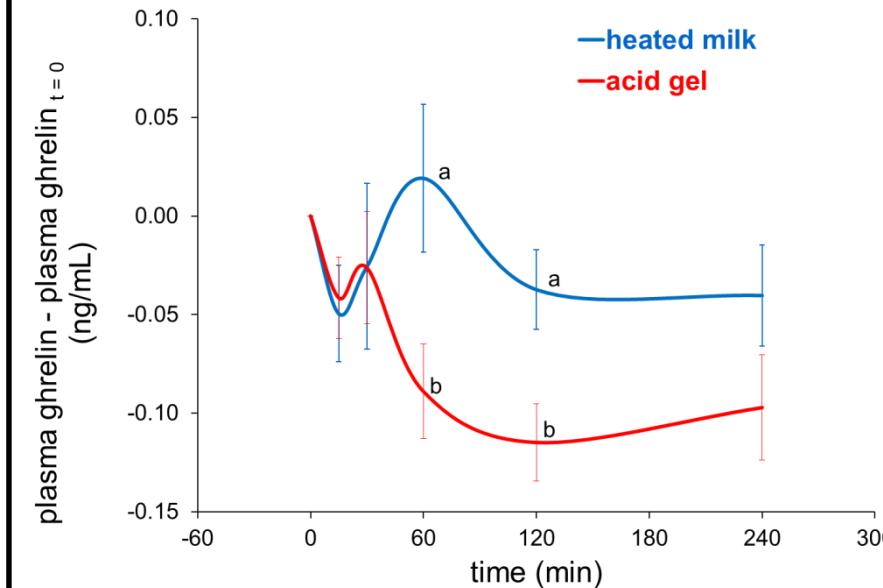


milk gelation:

- delayed proteins transit → delayed AA absorption
- maximal AA concentration in the plasma

Potential effect on satiety

ghrelin (gastrointestinal hormone → appetite stimulation)



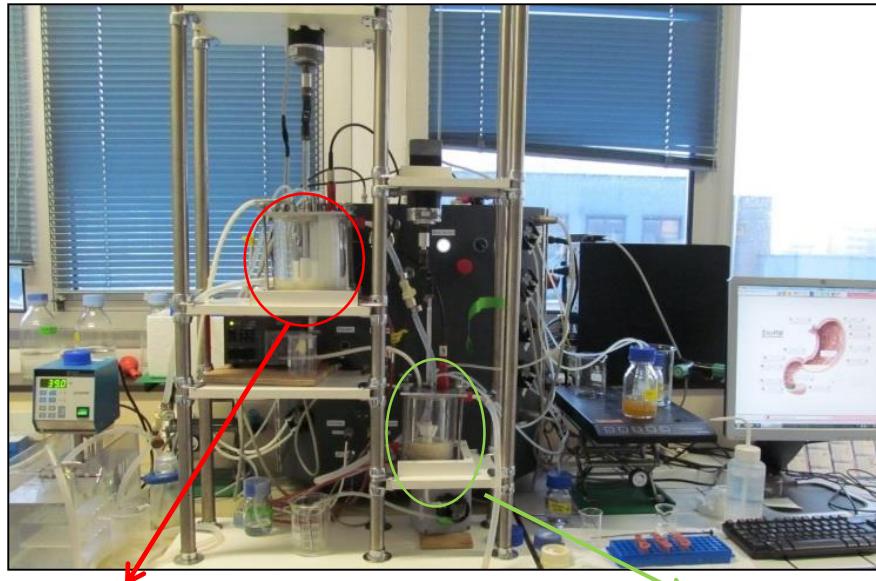
milk gelation:

- postprandial ghrelin concentration =
- satiety ?

Differential behaviour of acid/rennet gels in gastric conditions

- ☞ Acid/Rennet gel: identical composition, similar rheological properties and pore size
- ☞ ≠ Time of residence in the stomach (Acid 148 min /Rennet 352 min)
 - ☞ How can we explain this difference? Dynamic *in vitro* digestion of the 2 gels

Ménard *et al.*
Food Chem 2014

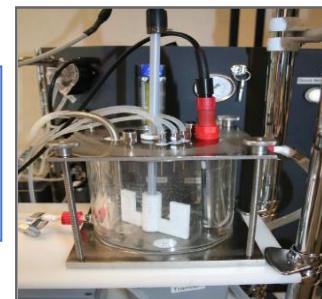


DIDGI®

StoRM® software

Stomach

Small intestine



Emptying :
Elashoff's model



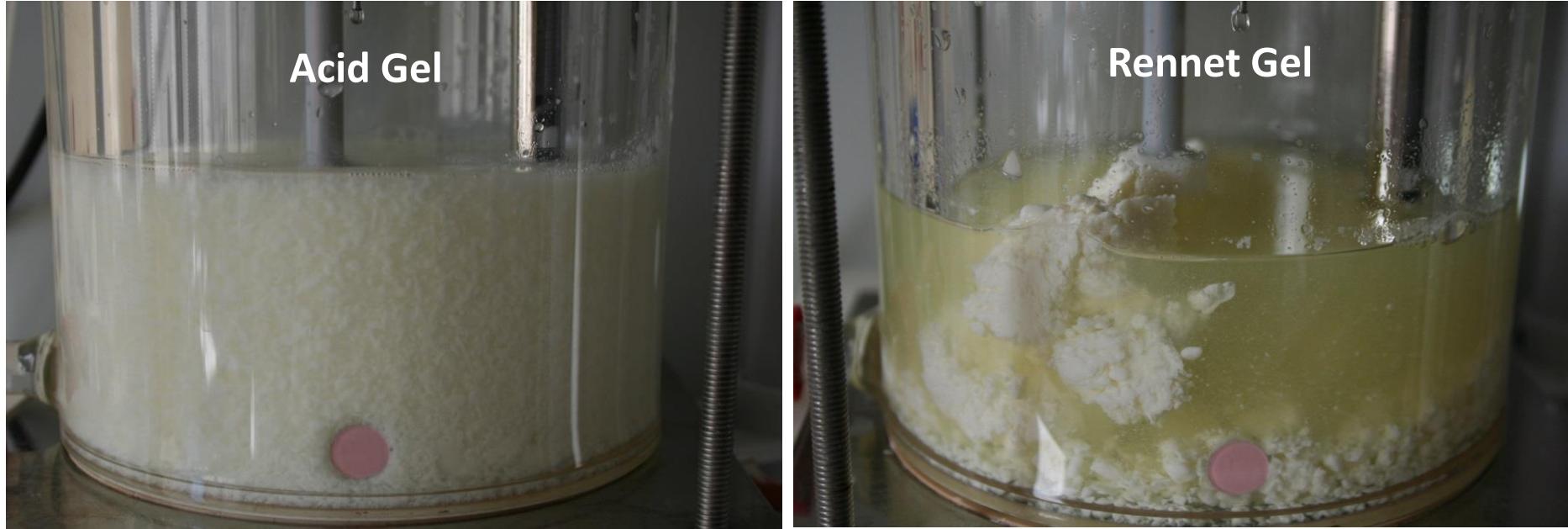
Emptying :
Elashoff's model

- Pepsine
- Gastric lipase
- Simulated gastric fluid
- HCl

- Pancreatin
- Bile
- Simulated intestinal fluid
- NaHCO₃

Behaviour of acid and rennet gels in the stomach during *in vitro* dynamic digestion

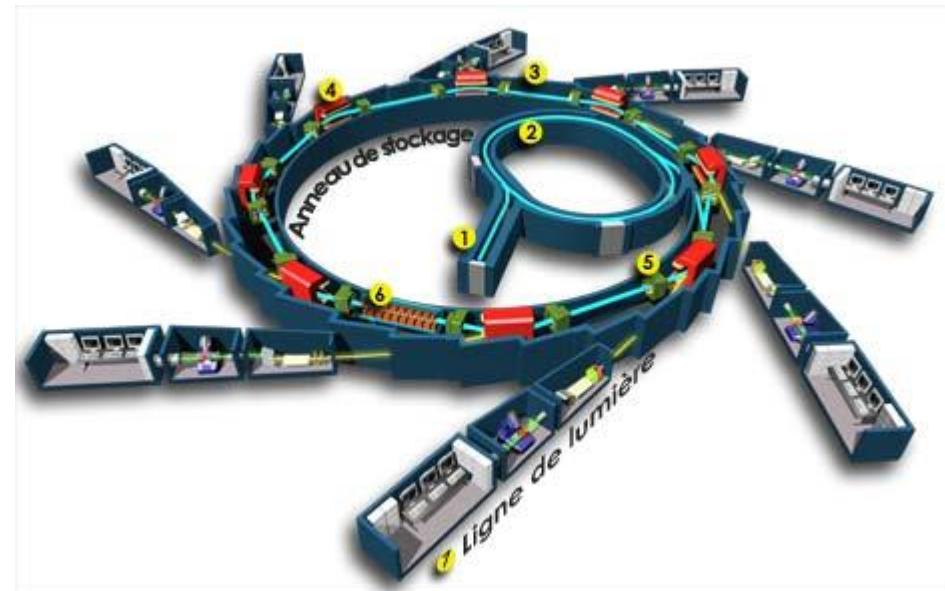
Barbé et al.
Food Chem. 2014



Formation of a strong coagulum with rennet gel → slow down the gastric emptying of caseins
The structure that a food adopts in the stomach is essential to understand its digestion



Soleil is a particle (electron) accelerator that produces the synchrotron radiation, an extremely powerful source of light that permits exploration of inert or living matter



DISCO is a VUV to visible beamline dedicated to biochemistry, chemistry and cell biology. The spectral region is optimized between 60 and 700 nm with conservation of the natural polarization of the light

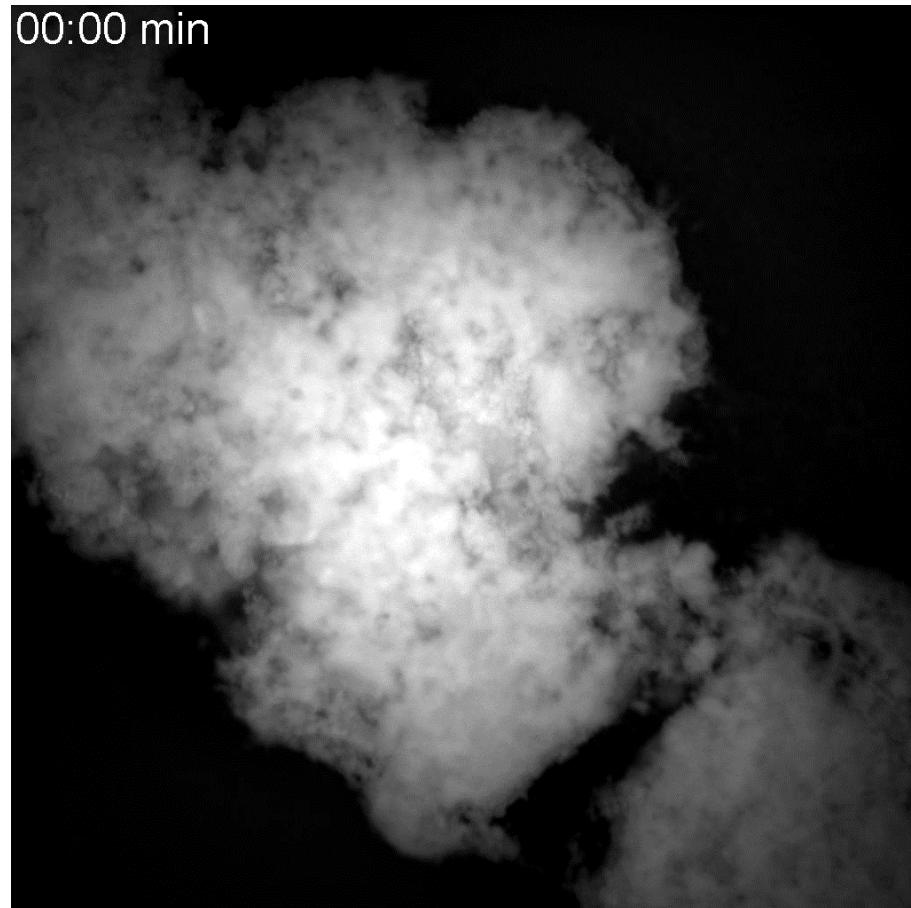
 Allow the imaging of protein intrinsic fluorescence with a UV microscope
Titre de la présentation
Date / information / nom de l'auteur



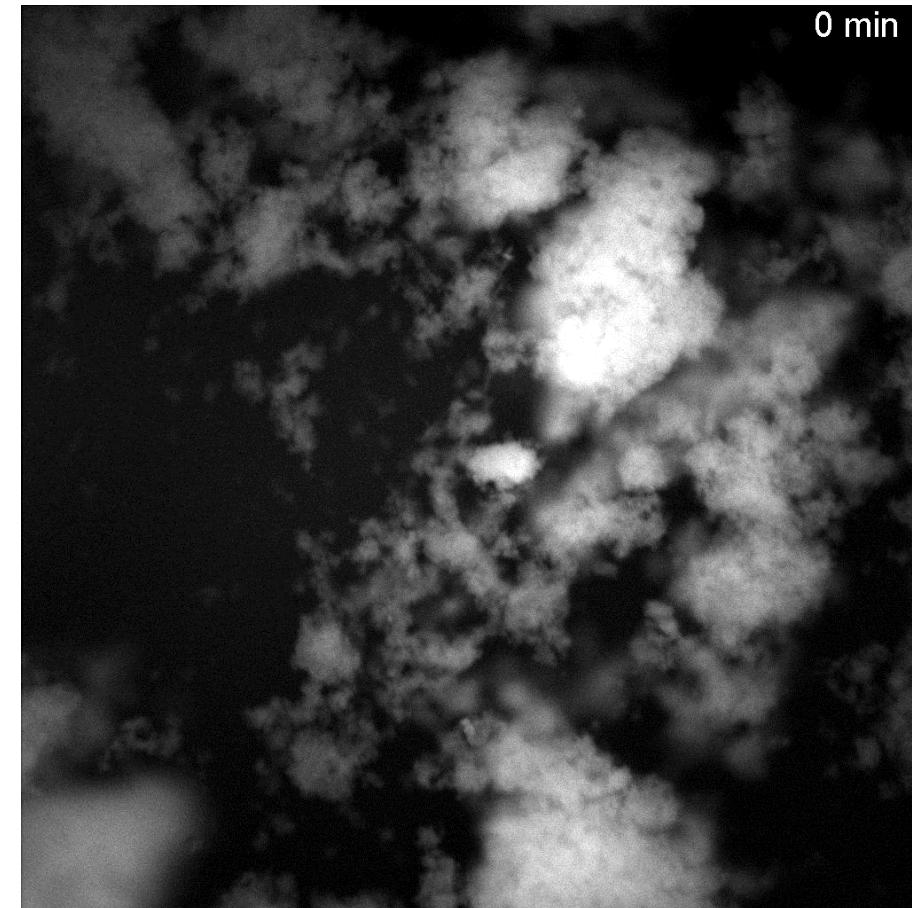
Kinetics of gel particles disintegration

Floury et al.
Food Chem. 2018

00:00 min

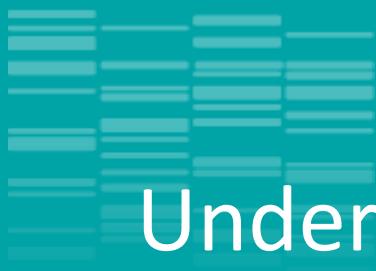


0 min



Rennet Gel

Acid Gel



Understanding human milk digestion to design new infant formulas that will have the same behaviour in the GI tract



Deglaire A., Menard O., De Oliveira S., Bourlieu C.
& Dupont D.

INRAE, Rennes, France



Human milk / Infant Formula

Lipid globule structure

Human milk



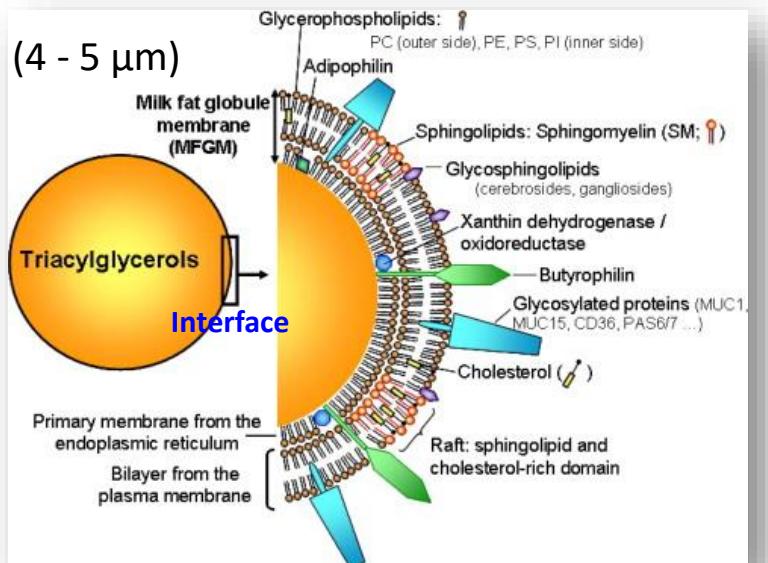
Bovine milk



Infant Formula

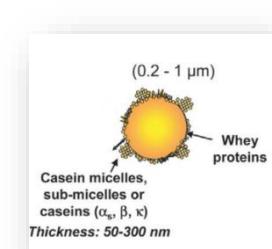


Native milk fat globule



(Lopez, 2010)

Lipid droplets

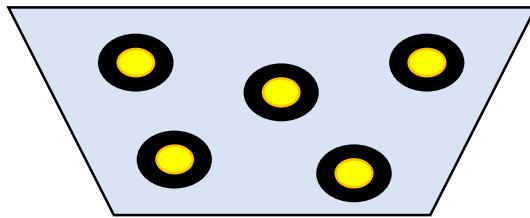


(0,2 - 1 µm)

(Lopez and Briard-Bion, 2007)

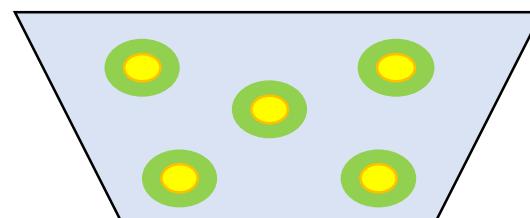
Infant formulas: can we create lipid structures biomimetic on the native fat globule?

Formula T1



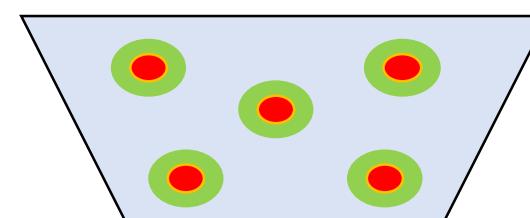
Interface 100 % Proteins
100% vegetable oil

Formula T2

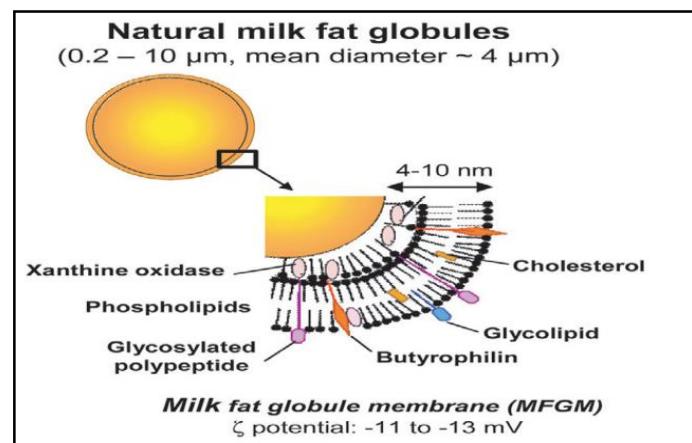


Interface 100 % phospholipids
100% vegetable oil

Formula T3

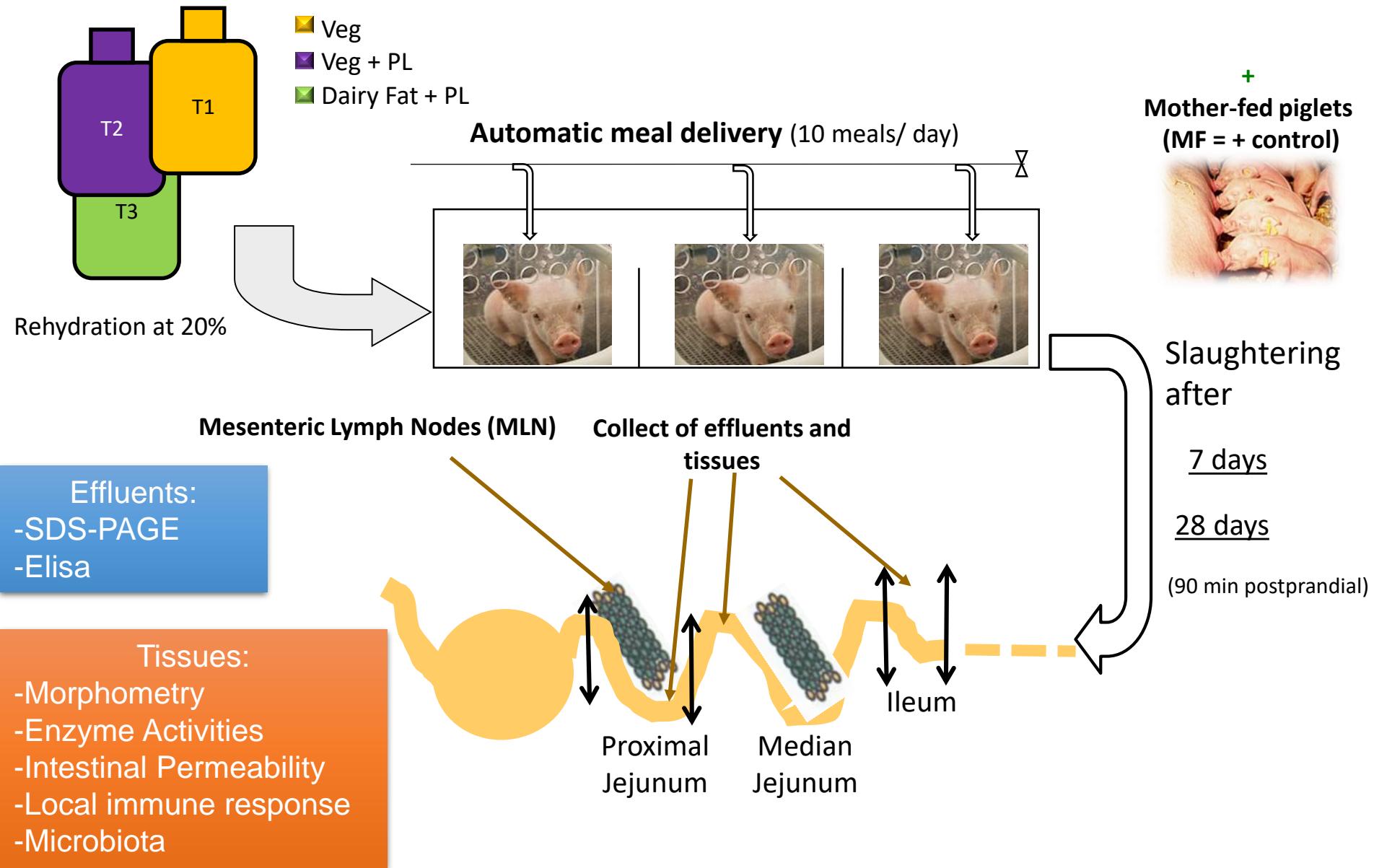


Interface 100 % phospholipides
40% vegetable oil + 60% milk fat



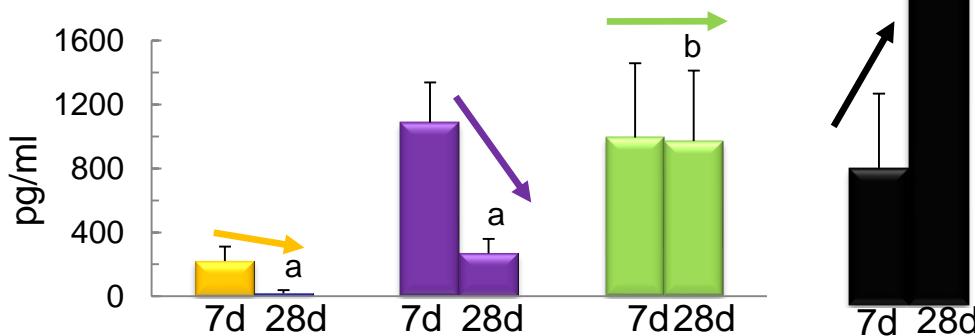
Lopez, (2007)

Can the composition of infant formula modulate the physiological response of the neonate?

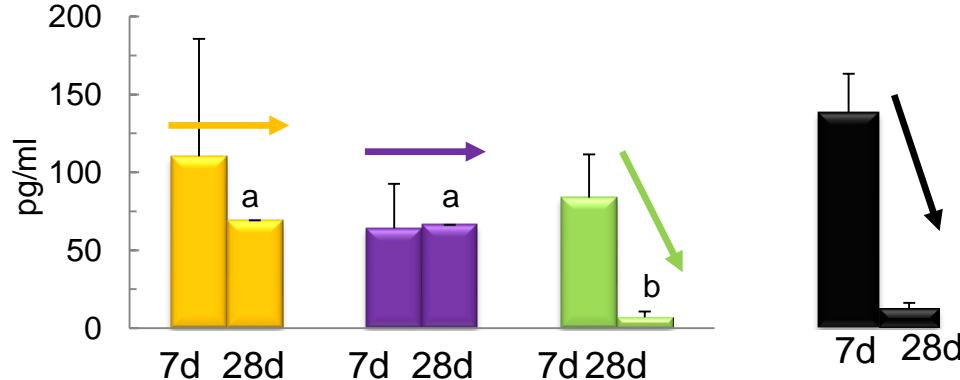


Secretory activity of MLN

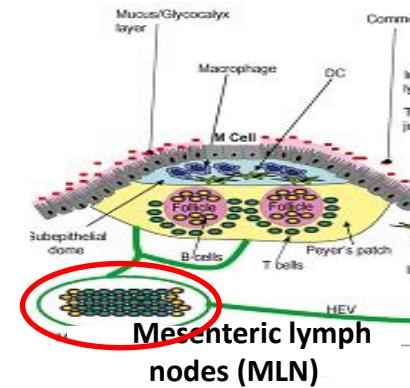
Interferon- γ (Th1 pro-inflammatory)



Interleukine-10 (Th2 anti-inflammatory)



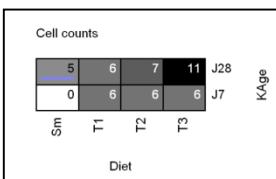
- Veg
- Veg + PL
- Dairy Fat + PL
- Porcelets SM



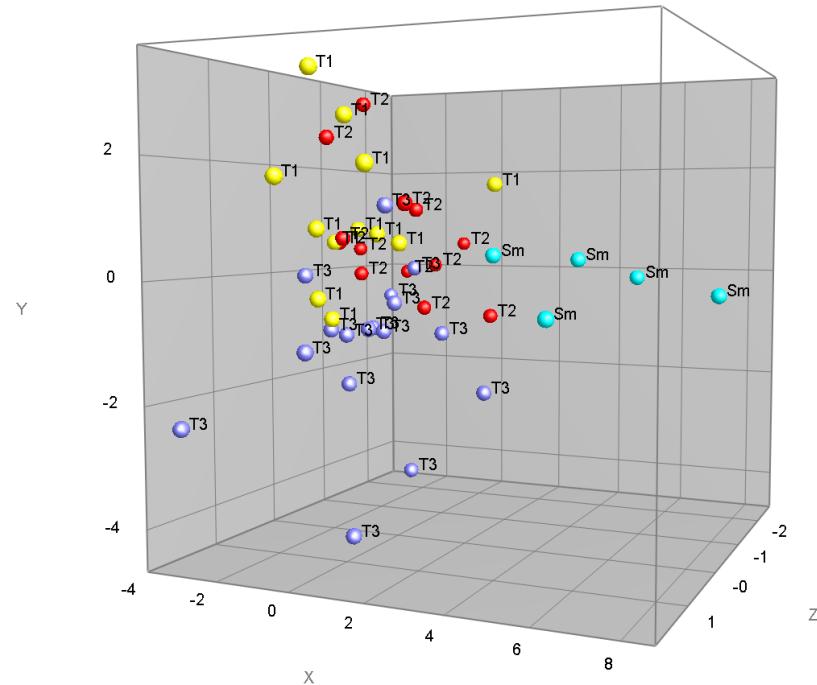
Milk lipids → maturation of the piglet's immune system more similar than with sow's milk

Le Huerou et al.
Eur J Nutr 2018

Microbiota by DHPLC

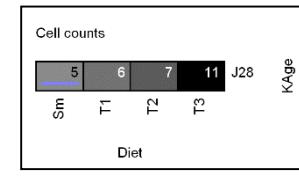


D7 & D28

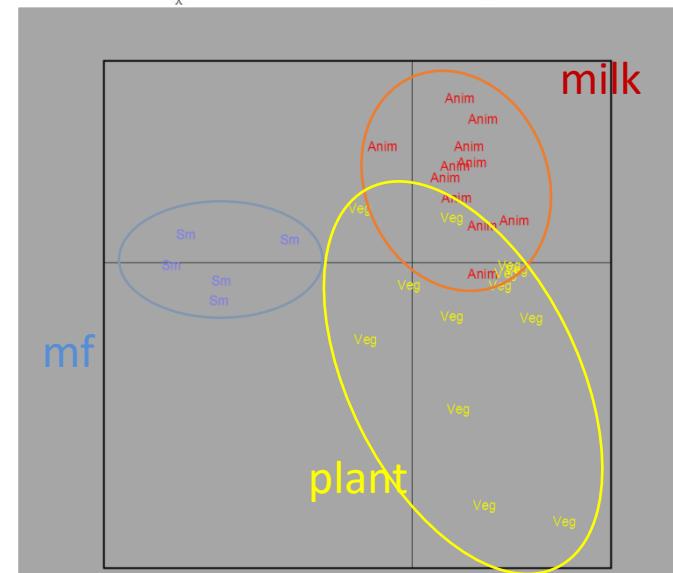
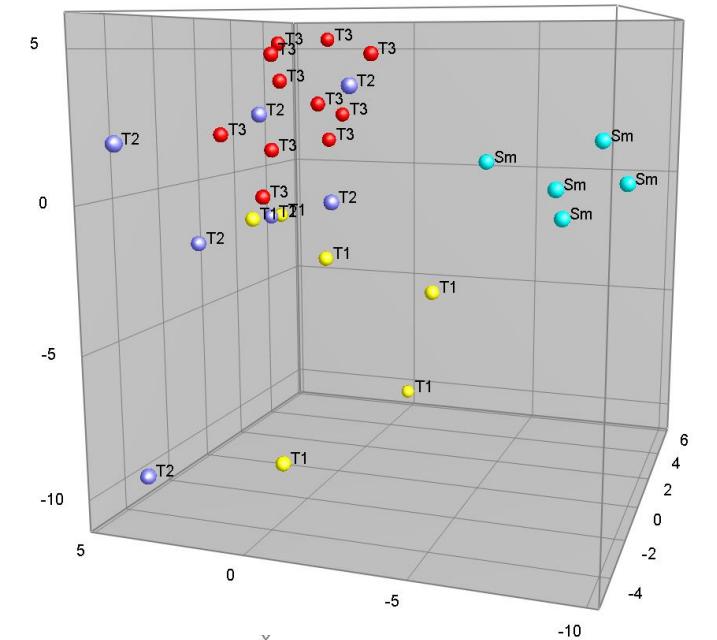


The composition/structure of the infant formula « orientates » the microbiota

More Proteobacteria with milk fat /
More Firmicutes with plant oil

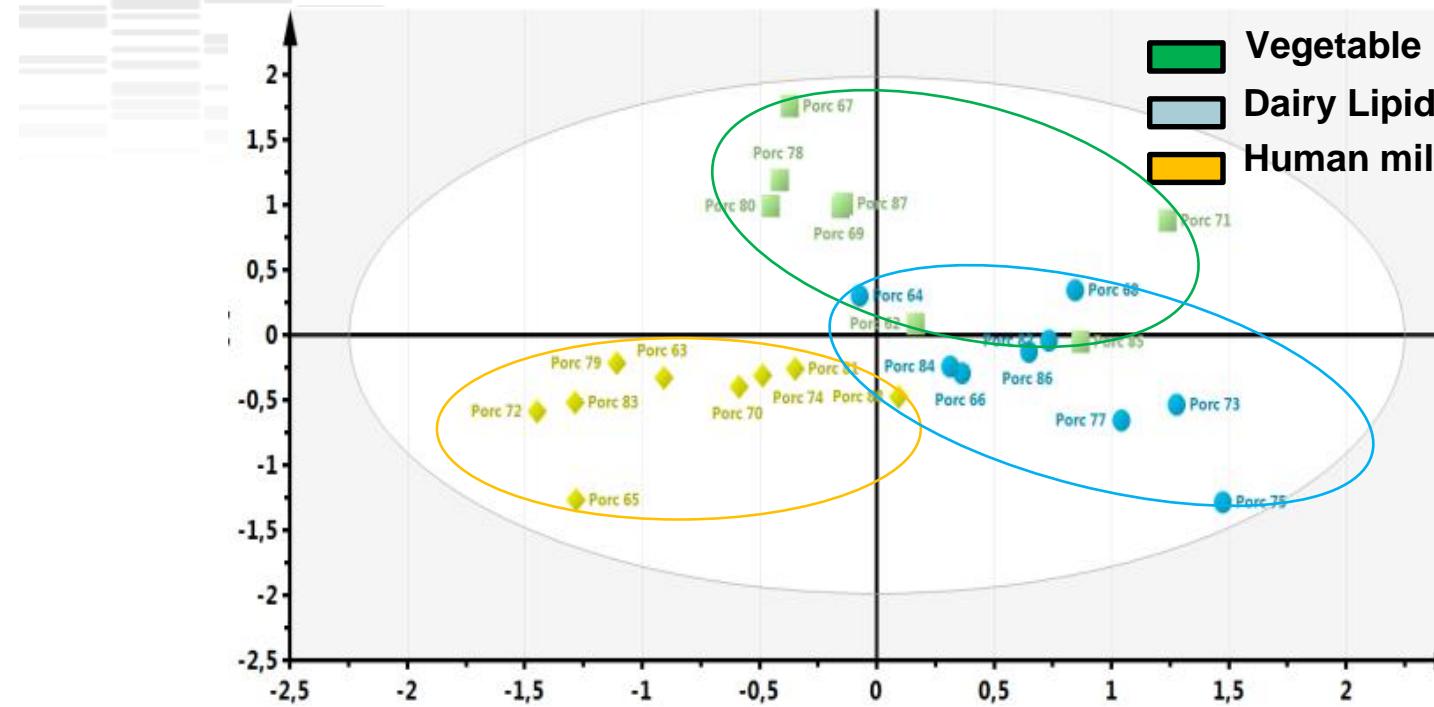


D28



What happens when they become older (140 d)?

Lemaire *et al.*
Under publication



Some differences remain in:

- * the microbiota composition
- * the metabolome of the feces with 5 discriminating metabolites (including propionate)
- * the immune system with a reduced susceptibility to inflammation with milk lipids
(lower TNF α and IL8 with dairy lipids)

Conclusion

The structure/composition of dairy products regulate the kinetics of protein digestion and the release of amino acids in the bloodstream

Gastric emptying rate will highly depend on the structure that the product will adopt in the stomach cavity.

Understanding the mechanisms of food particle breakdown in the stomach is critical to understand of foods are metabolized

Being able to design food structures for controlling the kinetics of hydrolysis of macronutrients will allow to obtain food particularly adapted to specific population



➤ The Bioactivity & Nutrition team at INRAE-STLO Rennes

Head

Didier DUPONT - Senior Scientist

Scientists

Amélie DEGLAIRE – Lecturer

Juliane FLOURY – Lecturer

Catherine GUERIN - Lecturer

Steven LE FEUNTEUN – Senior Scientist

Joëlle LEONIL – Senior Scientist

Martine MORZEL – Senior Scientist

Françoise NAU – Professor

Frédérique PEDRONO – Lecturer

Xiaoxi YU – Post-doc

Guilherme FURTADO – Post-doc



PhD students

Yohan REYNAUD (2016-2019)

Amira HALABI (2017-2020)

Jun WANG (2018-2021)

Lea SALLELES (2018-2021)

Elise CHARTON (2019-2022)

Lucile CHAUVET (2019-2022)

Ousmane SUWAREH (2019-2022)

Technicians

Gwenaële HENRY

Yann LE GOUAR

Nathalie MONTHEAN

Engineers

Julien JARDIN

Olivia MENARD

Jordane OSSEMOND

Masters students

Improving health properties of food by sharing our knowledge on the digestive process

International Research Network

Dr. Didier DUPONT, Senior Scientist, INRAE, France





Scientific objectives

- Compare the existing digestion models, harmonize the methodologies and propose guidelines for performing experiments
- Validate *in vitro* models towards *in vivo* data (animal and/or human) and develop *in silico* approaches. Develop new models of digestion for specific populations (infant, elderly)
- Identify the beneficial/deleterious components that are released in the gut during food digestion
- Determine the effect of the matrix structure on the bioavailability of food nutrients and bioactive molecules

But these goals can only be reached by...

- Gathering scientists from different disciplines (food science, nutrition, gastroenterology, immunology...) to share and improve our knowledge on food digestion



Tech Univ Denmark Univ Aarhus Univ Copenhagen MTT Univ Oulu Univ Eastern Finland
Norwegian Univ Life Sci Chalmers Univ Tech VTT Nofima Riga Stradin Univ Univ Ljubljana
Univ Zagreb

NIZO

TNO

Lund Univ

Iceland

Rothamsted Res

Wageningen UR

Anabio

Teagasc Univ

Reading

Univ College Cork

James Hutton Inst

Cent Rech Lippmann

Univ Birmingham

Univ Ghent

Agroscope Posieux

Inst Food Res

Agrocampus Ouest

Leatherhead Food Res

ACW

FiBL

Univ Greifswald

IRD

Univ Sevilla

INRA

Univ Valencia

AgroParisTech

Max Rubner-Institut

Univ Murcia

CNR Univ Basque County

CSIC

CTCPA Univ Granada

NIH Ricardo Jorge

Port Univ Alto Douro

ITQB

Milan State Univ

CONICET

FEM Univ Bologna

Univ Buenos Aires

CNR Univ Roma

Soochow Univ

Univ Milan

Deakin Univ

Univ Naples

Univ Queensland

Agric Univ Tirana

Univ Medellin

Ege Univ

Albacete Univ

Univ California Davis

Plant Food Res

Riddett Inst

Montenegro Univ

Pom Med Univ

Univ California Davis

New Zealand

Univ California Davis

Industry involvement

~ 60 private companies are following INFOGEST





INFOGEST



Chair
Didier Dupont - France
didier.dupont@inrae.fr

Vice-chair
Alan Mackie - UK

www.cost-infogest.eu

In vitro
models of
digestion
WG1

Food
interaction –
meal digestion
WG2

Absorption
models
WG3

Digestive
lipases and
lipid digestion
WG4

Digestive
amylases and
starch
digestion
WG5

In silico
models of
digestion
WG6

Imaging
Technologies
applied to
digestion
WG7



Isidra Recio



Pasquale Ferranti



Linda Giblin



Frederic Carriere



Daniela Freitas



Steven Le Feunteun



Paul Smeets



Andre
Brodkorb



Lotti Egger



Uri Lesmes



Brigitte Graf



Marion Letisse



Leslie Couedelo



Choi-Hong Lan



Luca Marciani

Some output – A consensus static in vitro digestion model

Oral phase

Mix 1:1 with Simulated Salivary Fluid (SSF)
salivary amylase (75 U/mL)
2 min, pH 7



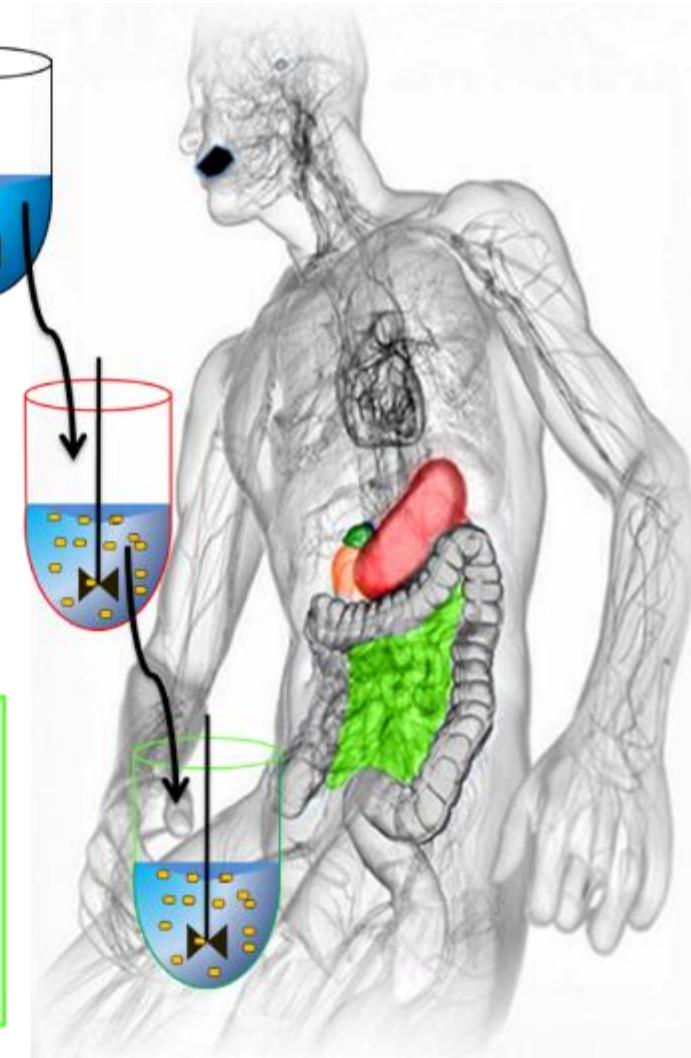
Gastric Phase

Mix 1:1 with Simulated Gastric Fluid (SGF)
Pepsin (2000 U/mL)
2h, pH 3



Intestinal Phase

Mix 1:1 with Simulated Intestinal Fluid (SIF)
Enzymes
Pancreatin (based on trypsin 100 U/mL) or
Pure enzymes
Bile (10mM)
2h, pH 7



Minekus et al. 2014
Food & Function
~3000 citations
Highly Cited

Brodkorb et al. 2019
Nature Protocols
~1150 citations
Highly Cited



Training schools in Oslo, Granada, Madrid
(2) and Santiago



INFOGEST
International Conference
Porto, Portugal
2024

We are pleased to announce the next
8th International Conference on Food Digestion



in Porto, Portugal, 9-11 April 2024