

Zeinab (Niloofer) Tahmasebi Birgani

Date of birth: July 16th, 1985

Gender: Female

Nationality: Dutch-Iranian

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1. Appointments

• **Principal investigator (2022 –)**

Department of Instructive Biomaterials Engineering, MERLN Institute for Technology-Inspired Regenerative Medicine, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Research: Biomaterials-based bottom-up tissue engineering, micron-sized designer biomaterials, miniaturized *in vitro* models based on cell-only and hybrid cell-biomaterial spheroidal assemblies, organoids and bioinspired organs-on-chips, and instructive biointerfaces

• **Postdoctoral researcher (2018 – 2022)**

Department of Instructive Biomaterials Engineering, MERLN Institute for Technology-Inspired Regenerative Medicine, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Research: Micron-sized designer biomaterials for bottom-up tissue engineering, hybrid cell-microbiomaterial spheroidal assemblies

• **Biomedical Engineer/R&D Team leader (2015 – 2018)**

Materiomics B.V., Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Research: High-throughput screening of computationally optimized surface topography modifications for cell culture platforms and implants

2. Education

• **PhD in Tissue Regeneration (2010 – 2015)**

Department of Tissue Regeneration, University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands.

Thesis: Bioinorganics: Synthetic growth factors for bone regeneration

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Pamela Habibović and Prof. Dr. Clemens van Blitterswijk

• **Master in Biomedical Engineering - Biomaterials (2007 – 2009)**

Faculty of Biomedical Engineering, Amirkabir University of Technology, Tehran, Iran.

Thesis: Preparation, characterization and blood coagulation properties of anionic clays

• **Bachelor in Biomedical Engineering - Biomaterials (2003 – 2007)**

Faculty of Biomedical Engineering, Amirkabir University of Technology, Tehran, Iran.

Thesis: Tricomponent nanocomposites scaffold of hydroxyapatite-alumina-silicon carbide for use in bone tissue engineering

3. Academic achievements (publications, funding and awards, supervision and teaching)

- +25 peer-reviewed publications in recognized journals in biomaterials and regenerative medicine fields, h-index: 16, i10-index: 20, total citation > 900 (<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=NF656rwAAAAJ&hl=en>)
- Contribution to +25 Dutch and international conferences in the field of biomaterials, (bio)interfaces and regenerative medicine
- +2.3 M€ in internal and external funding, and attracted scholarships for scientific staff, research and purchasing equipment (2020 –)
- Awardee of the Incentive Grant for Women in STEM of Dutch Research Council (NWO) (2020)
- Awardee of the Maastricht Young Academy Interdisciplinary Grant (2022)
- Supervision of 4 PhDs, 1 postdoc and 1 research technician, and co-supervision of 5 PhDs and 1 postdoc (2018 –)
- Contribution to 6 courses (on the topics of (bio)materials engineering and regenerative medicine) at bachelor and master levels as course coordinator, lecturer or tutor (2018 –)

4. Memberships and other activities

- Member of the European Society of Biomaterials (ESB) (2018 –), co-organizer/co-chair, Symposium on 'Hybrid cell/microbiomaterial 3D assemblies', 31st Annual conference of the European Society for Biomaterials (ESB 2021) and member of abstract reviewing/evaluation team, 32nd Annual Conference of the European Society for Biomaterials (ESB 2022)
- Faculty member and member of the outreach committee, Materials-Driven Regeneration (MDR) Gravitation Program Funded by the Dutch Research Council (2022 –)
- Project PI within the Regenerative Medicine Crossing Borders (RegMED XB) program, Cardiovascular moonshot and Samenwerkende GezondheidsFondsen (SGF) – Expansion Technologies (2022–)
- Member of the outreach committee and chair of the council of the MERLN Institute

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