

Effect of the Ionic Concentration of Simulated Body Fluid on the Minerals Formed on Crosslinked Elastin-Like Polypeptide Membranes

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SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

This document contains supplemental material related to:

- **Section 1:** Detailed methods
- **Section 2:** Supplemental figures and tables
- **Section 3:** Supplemental references

Section 1: Detailed methods

Determination of the apatite ionic activity products (IP) and degree of supersaturation (S)

An increase in concentration of calcium (Ca) and phosphate (P) ions in the simulated body fluid (SBF) leads to an increase in the apatite ionic activity product (IP) of the SBF.

Formation of hydroxyapatite (HA) from its constituent ions is given by the following equilibrium (1):



The ionic activity product (IP) of HA in an aqueous solution is this given by the following equation (1):

$$\text{IP} = (\gamma_{\text{Ca}^{2+}})^{10} (\gamma_{\text{PO}_4^{3-}})^{10} (\gamma_{\text{OH}^-})^2 [\text{Ca}^{2+}]^{10} [\text{PO}_4^{3-}]^6 [\text{OH}^-]^2, \text{ (ii)}$$

where γ is the activity coefficient, and [] represents ionic concentration.

The activity coefficients were calculated based on the modified Debye-Hückel equation proposed by Davies (2). The IP of each SBF solution is given in Table S1.

The relative degree of supersaturation S with respect to apatite phases was calculating using the following equation (1):

$$S = (\text{IP}/K_{\text{sp}})^{1/n}, \text{ (iii)}$$

where IP is the ionic activity, K_{sp} the solubility product, and n the number of ions in a formula unit (i.e. 18 for apatite). K_{sp} of apatite in water is 5.5×10^{-118} at 37 °C (3).

The degree of supersaturation S of each SBF solution in respect to apatite is given in Table S1.

Determination of the crystallinity index (CI) of the minerals by FTIR

The splitting of the ν_4 PO_4^{3-} band can be used to estimate HA crystallinity index (CI) according to the formula introduced by Shemesh *et al.* (4):

$$\text{CI} = (\text{A}_{602} + \text{A}_{562}) / \text{A}_{588}, (\text{iv})$$

where A_x is the absorbance at wavenumber x (Figure S7)

A higher degree of splitting and therefore a higher CI correspond to more crystalline materials (5).

Ca K-edge Near Edge X-ray absorption fine structure (Ca K-edge NEXAFS) spectroscopy

- **Spectra acquisition**

We used NEXAFS spectroscopy to identify and quantify the Ca-P phases present in the samples. NEXAFS is a synchrotron-based technique that allows analyzing how x-rays are absorbed by an atom at energies near the core-level binding energies of that atom depending on its chemical and physical environment (6). Because crystallinity is not required for NEXAFS measurements, this technique is well suited for analysis of non-crystalline or poorly crystalline phases (6). Also, NEXAFS is more sensitive than traditional spectroscopic techniques, with a detection limit that can be as low as few ppm. Thus, NEXAFS is an excellent tool to analyze and differentiate the Ca-P phases present in calcified ELP₃ membranes.

Ca K-edge spectra were collected in fluorescence mode with energies between 1.7 and 10 keV and with a photon beam spot size of 2 mm x 6 mm. The storage ring energy during data collection was 2.9 GeV and the current around 200 mA. The X-ray beam was monochromated by Si (111) crystals with energy resolution ($\Delta E/E$) of 10^{-4} .

- **Data analysis**

We first selected seven reference compounds (Figure S6). The first one is ELP₃ membranes incubated in 3.8 mM CaCl₂ for 16 days (ELP₃-Ca²⁺). This serves as a model of Ca ions adsorbed on ELP₃. The other five references are Ca species that are known to be present in pathological calcifications: amorphous calcium phosphate (ACP), octacalcium phosphate (OCP), dicalcium phosphate dihydrate (DCPD), hydroxyapatite (HA), carbonated hydroxyapatite (CHA), and β -tricalcium phosphate (β -TCMP) (7-13).

To determine and quantify the Ca-P phases in the ELP₃ samples, we performed linear combination fitting (LCF) analysis using Athena software (Demeter 0.9.20). LCF is justified because the x-ray absorption from different species in a sample is additive (14). The total absorption coefficient calculated by LCF can be written as:

$$M = \sum_i f_i (\text{STD}_i), (v)$$

where M is the least square fit to the sample spectrum, (STD_i) represents the absorption coefficient of the standard reference spectra, and f_i is the fraction of each reference spectrum in the sample spectrum, summed over the number of references, i. Thus, with appropriate standard references, LCF can identify and quantify the fraction of chemical species in an unknown sample (14).

We first performed principal component analysis (PCA) to determine which reference compounds should be excluded for the LCF fitting and thus avoid using an excessive number of standard compounds. PCA results showed that DCPD and β -TCMP were not likely present in the calcified membranes. Thus, we used ELP₃-Ca²⁺, ACP, OCP, HA, and CHA as references for the LCF analysis. We performed LCF using all the possible combinations of the selected reference compounds. We evaluated the quality of the fits using the R-factor: fitting results with R-factor values below 0.02 are considered satisfactory (15). We reported the LCF combination giving the lowest R-factor for each sample analyzed (Table S16).

Section 2: Supplemental figures and tables

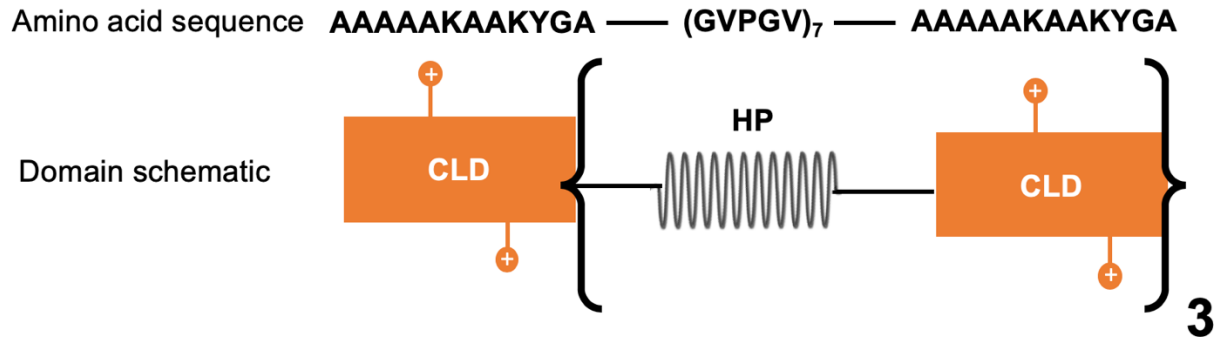


Figure S1. The repeating amino acid sequence and alternating domain architecture of ELP₃. Crosslinking domains (CLD) and hydrophobic domains (HP) are represented as orange rectangles and springs, respectively.

Table S1. Ion concentrations, apatite ionic activity products (IP), and degree of supersaturation (S) of human blood plasma, 1 x, 1.5 x, 2 x, and 3 x simulated body fluid (SBF) solutions.

| Solution | Ion concentration (mM) | | | | | | | | Log IP | S |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|----|
| | Na ⁺ | K ⁺ | Mg ²⁺ | Ca ²⁺ | Cl ⁻ | HCO ₃ ⁻ | HPO ₄ ²⁻ | SO ₄ ²⁻ | | |
| Blood plasma | 142.0 | 5.0 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 103.0 | 27.0 | 1.0 | 0.5 | -96.6 | 14 |
| 1 x SBF | 142.0 | 5.0 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 147.8 | 4.2 | 1.0 | 0.5 | -96.6 | 14 |
| 1.5 x SBF | 211.5 | 7.5 | 2.4 | 3.8 | 228.0 | 6.3 | 1.5 | 0.8 | -93.8 | 20 |
| 2 x SBF | 282.0 | 10.0 | 3.0 | 5.0 | 304.0 | 8.4 | 2.0 | 1.0 | -91.9 | 26 |
| 3 x SBF | 423.0 | 15.0 | 4.8 | 7.6 | 456.0 | 12.6 | 3.0 | 1.6 | -87.5 | 45 |

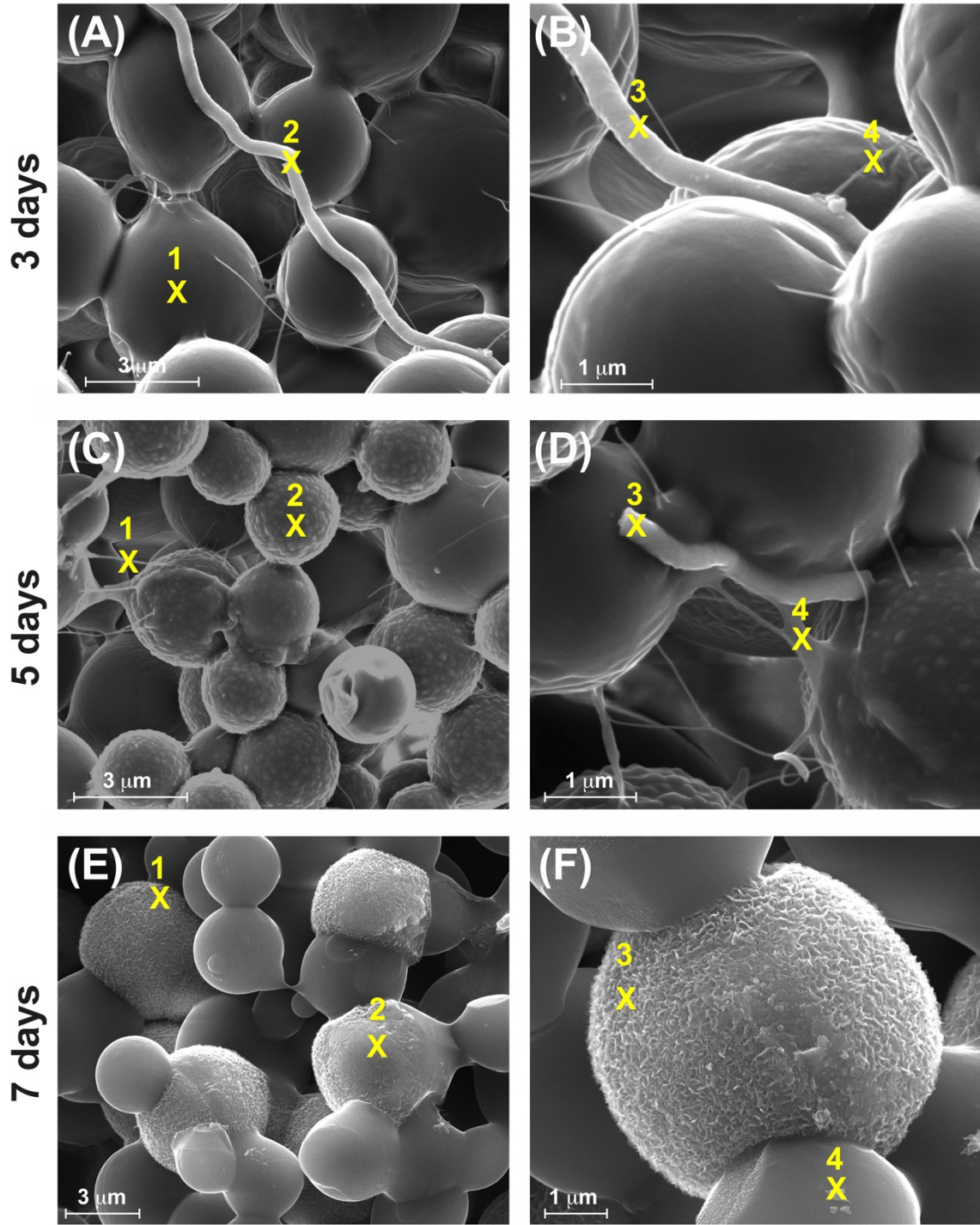


Figure S2. SEM images of ELP₃ membranes after incubation in 1.5 x SBF for (A and B) 3, (C and D) 5, and (E and F) 7 days. The spots marked with “X” on all panels indicate the spots where EDS spectra were collected and they correspond to the data presented in Tables S2 (spots in A, B), S4 (spots in C, D), and S5 (spots in E, F).

Table S2. Relative elemental atomic percentages measured by EDS in ELP₃ membranes incubated in 1.5 x SBF for 3 days. The spots 1-4 are shown in Figures S2A and S2B.

| Spot | C (at%) | O (at%) | N (at%) | Ca (at%) | P (at%) | O/C | N/C | Ca/P | N/Ca |
|------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 67.2 | 17.8 | 15.0 | 0 | 0 | 0.26 | 0.22 | / | / |
| 2 | 64.8 | 21.6 | 12.9 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.33 | 0.20 | 1.3 | 32.3 |
| 3 | 64.4 | 26.3 | 7.4 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 0.41 | 0.11 | 1.4 | 5.7 |
| 4 | 68.1 | 20.8 | 10.4 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.31 | 0.15 | 6.0 | 17.3 |

Table S3. List of Ca-P compounds found in pathological calcifications and their Ca/P atomic ratios (16).

| Name | Formula | Ca/P ratio |
|---|--|--------------|
| Amorphous calcium phosphate (ACP) | $\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ | 1.5 |
| Octacalcium phosphate (OCP) | $\text{Ca}_8\text{H}_2(\text{PO}_4)_6 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ | 1.33 |
| Dicalcium phosphate dihydrate (DCPD) | $\text{Ca}(\text{HPO}_4) \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ | 1.0 |
| Magnesium- substituted β -tricalcium phosphate (β -TCMP) | $\text{Ca}_{18}(\text{Mg})_2\text{H}_2(\text{PO}_4)_{14}$ | 1.29 |
| Hydroxyapatite (HA) | $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$ | 1.67 |
| Carbonated hydroxyapatite (CHA) | $\text{Ca}_{10-p}(\text{PO}_4)_{6-p}(\text{OH})_{2-p}(\text{CO}_3)_p$ ($0 < p < 1$) | > 1.67 |
| Calcium-deficient HA | $\text{Ca}_{10-x}(\text{HPO}_4)_x(\text{PO}_4)_{6-x}(\text{OH})_{2-x}$ ($0 < x < 1$) | $1.3 - 1.67$ |

Stoichiometric apatite is given by the chemical formula $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$, with a Ca/P atomic ratio of 1.67 (16). When apatite forms, both *in vivo* and *in vitro*, some sites for the PO_4^{3-} ion can be partially substituted by CO_3^{2-} and HPO_4^{2-} ions. One substitution of CO_3^{2-} for PO_4^{3-} results in a half Ca and one P deficiencies, thus giving a Ca/P ratio higher than 1.67. On the contrary, one substitution of HPO_4^{2-} for PO_4^{3-} results only in a half Ca deficiency, to give a Ca/P ratio lower than 1.67 (16).

Table S4. Relative elemental atomic percentages measured by EDS in ELP₃ membranes incubated in 1.5 x SBF for 5 days. The spots 1-4 are shown in Figures S2C and S2D.

| Spot | C (at%) | O (at%) | N (at%) | Ca (at%) | P (at%) | O/C | N/C | Ca/P | N/Ca |
|------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 60.4 | 21.3 | 15.7 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 0.35 | 0.26 | 1.4 | 10.5 |
| 2 | 65.1 | 21.8 | 12.4 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.33 | 0.19 | 6 | 20.7 |
| 3 | 52.8 | 25.4 | 17.7 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 0.48 | 0.34 | 1.6 | 7.1 |
| 4 | 61.2 | 20.9 | 16.7 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.34 | 0.27 | 5 | 16.7 |

Table S5. Relative elemental atomic percentages measured by EDS in ELP₃ membranes incubated in 1.5 x SBF for 7 days. The spots 1-4 are shown in Figures S2E and S2F.

| Spot | C (at%) | O (at%) | N (at%) | Ca (at%) | P (at%) | O/C | N/C | Ca/P | N/Ca |
|------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 30.3 | 46.0 | 6.1 | 10.9 | 6.6 | 1.52 | 0.20 | 1.7 | 0.56 |
| 2 | 33.0 | 48.6 | 3.6 | 9.0 | 5.8 | 1.47 | 0.05 | 1.6 | 0.40 |
| 3 | 40.4 | 40.0 | 3.9 | 9.6 | 6.1 | 0.99 | 0.10 | 1.6 | 0.41 |
| 4 | 67.4 | 17.4 | 13.6 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 0.26 | 0.20 | 4.7 | 9.7 |

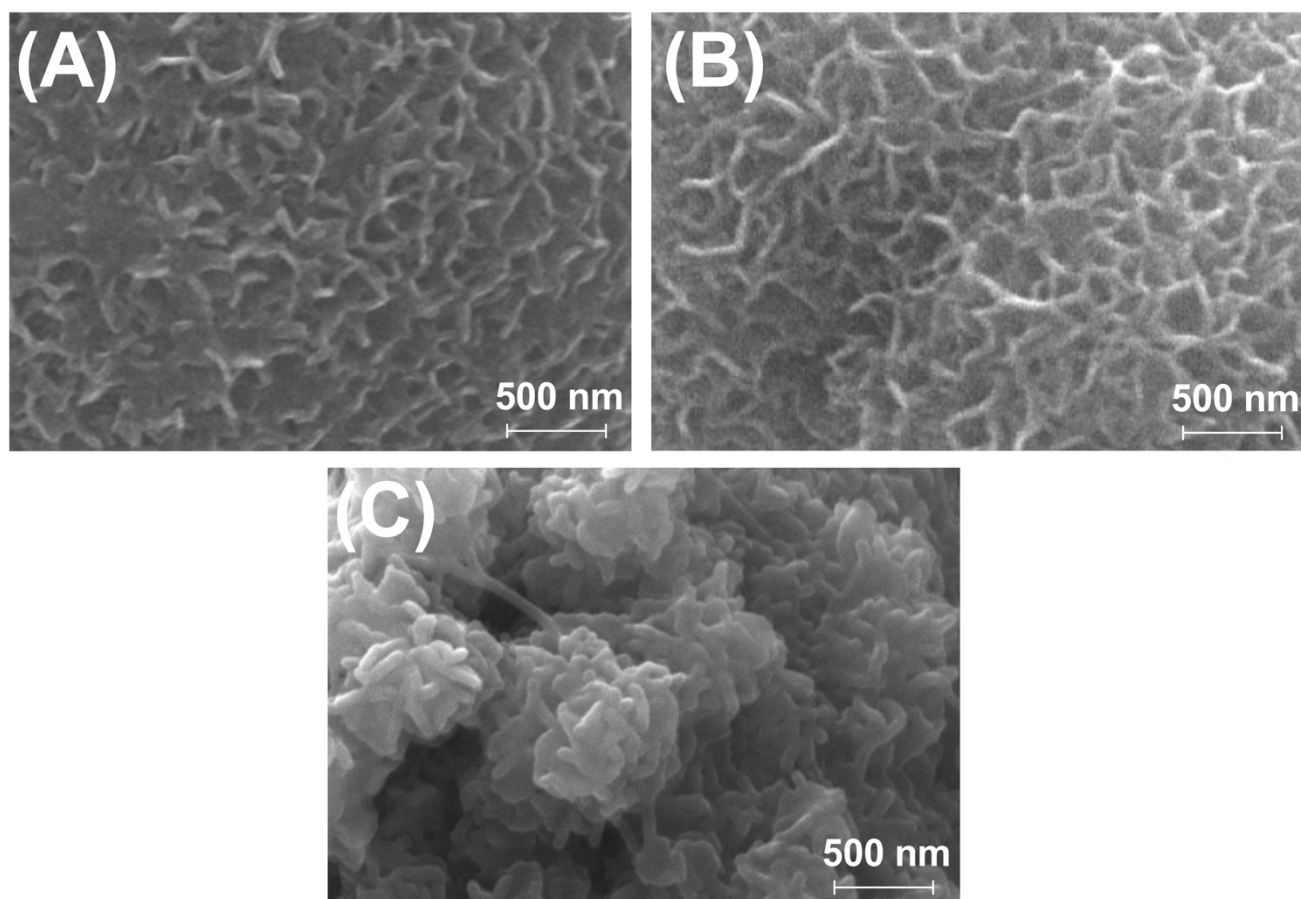


Figure S3. (A - C) Highly magnified nanoscale structures of the minerals after 7 days in (A) 1.5 x, (B) 2 x, (C), 3 x SBF solutions.

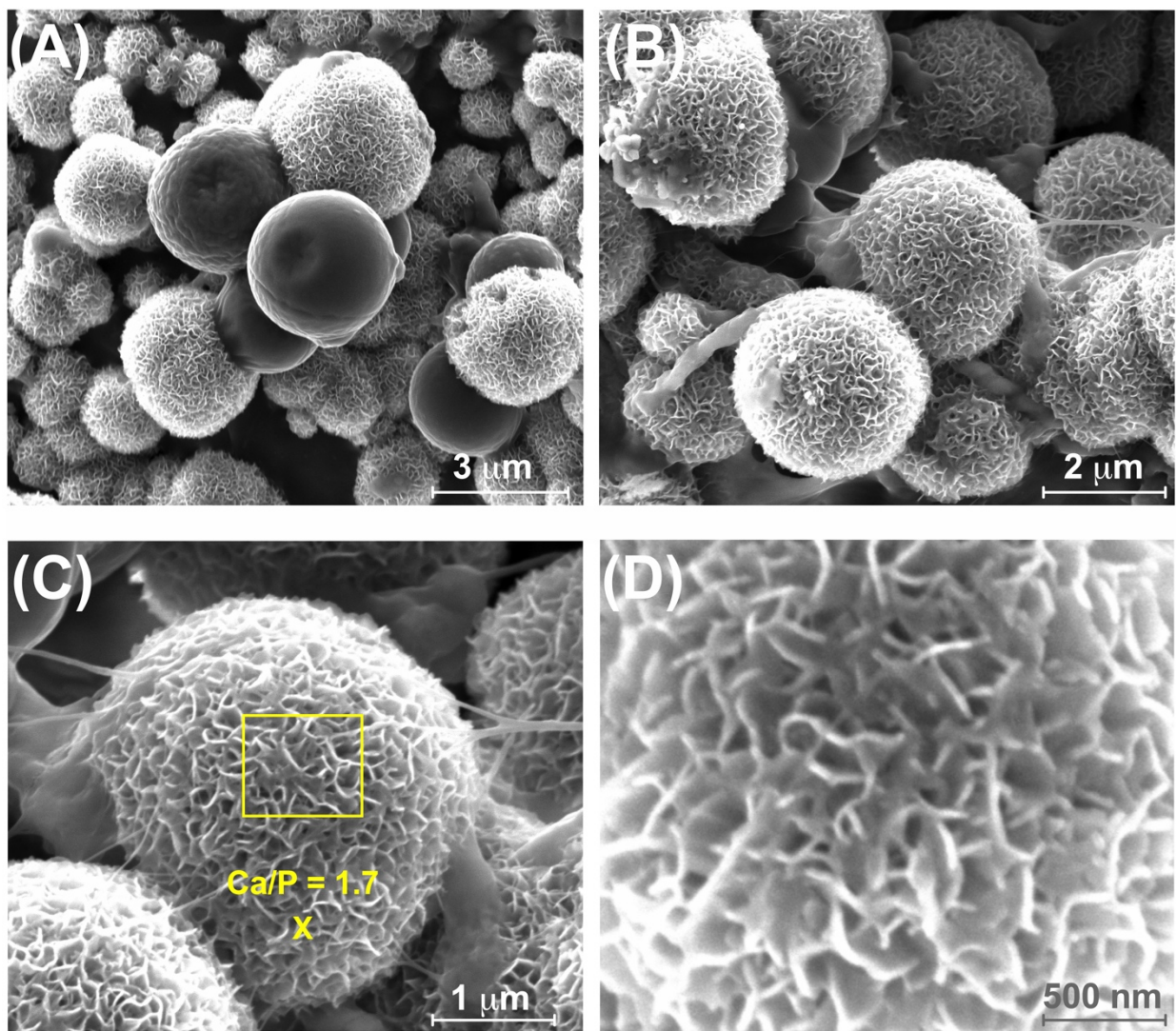


Figure S4. SEM images of ELP₃ membranes after incubation in 1.5 x SBF for 21 days. The Ca/P ratio indicated on **C** is based on elemental atomic percentages obtained by ED and **(D)** is the magnification of the highlighted region in **(C)**.

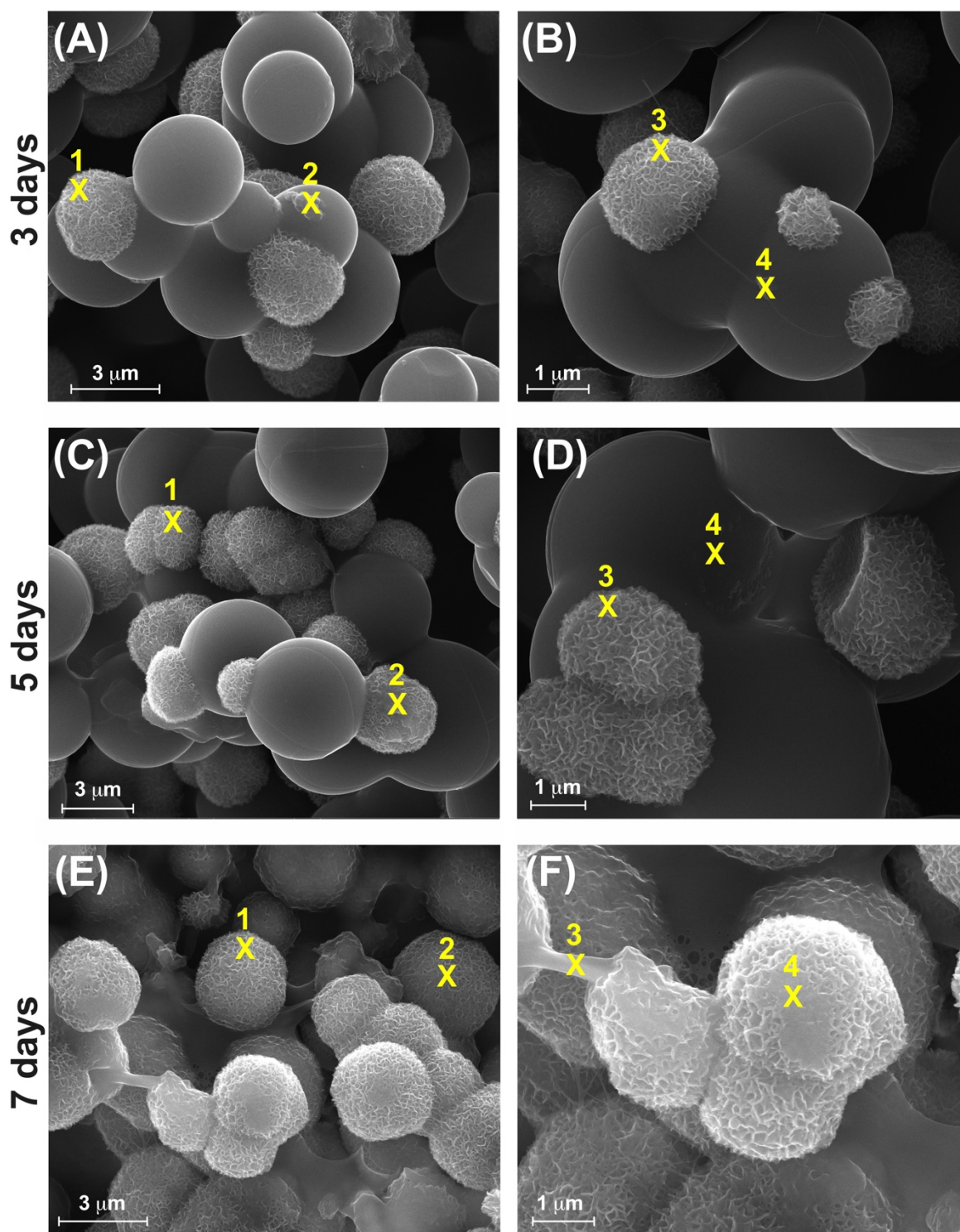


Figure S5. SEM images of ELP₃ membranes after incubation in 2 x SBF for (A and B) 3, (C and D) 5, and (E and F) 7 days. The spots marked with “X” on all panels indicate the spots where EDS spectra were collected and they correspond to the data presented in Tables S6 (spots in A, B), S7 (spots in C, D), and S8 (spots in E, F).

Table S6. Relative elemental atomic percentages measured by EDS in ELP₃ membranes incubated in 2 x SBF for 3 days. The spots 1-4 are shown in Figures S5A and S5B.

| Spot | C (at%) | O (at%) | N (at%) | Ca (at%) | P (at%) | O/C | N/C | Ca/P | N/Ca |
|------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 36.0 | 44.6 | 3.2 | 9.7 | 6.5 | 1.24 | 0.09 | 1.5 | 0.33 |
| 2 | 61.8 | 17.7 | 18.7 | 1.7 | 0.2 | 0.29 | 0.30 | 8.5 | 11.0 |
| 3 | 67.5 | 19.3 | 6.2 | 4.1 | 2.9 | 0.29 | 0.09 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| 4 | 59.9 | 22.1 | 17.0 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 0.37 | 0.28 | 9.0 | 18.9 |

Table S7. Relative elemental atomic percentages measured by EDS in ELP₃ membranes incubated in 2 x SBF for 5 days. The spots 1-4 are shown in Figures S5C and S5D.

| Spot | C (at%) | O (at%) | N (at%) | Ca (at%) | P (at%) | O/C | N/C | Ca/P | N/Ca |
|------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 45.8 | 38.1 | 1.9 | 7.1 | 4.8 | 0.83 | 0.04 | 1.5 | 0.27 |
| 2 | 52.4 | 30.2 | 11.7 | 3.4 | 2.3 | 0.58 | 0.22 | 1.5 | 3.44 |
| 3 | 27.5 | 51.5 | 5.0 | 9.3 | 6.6 | 1.87 | 0.18 | 1.4 | 0.54 |
| 4 | 60.0 | 23.2 | 15.8 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.39 | 0.26 | 4.0 | 19.8 |

Table S8. Relative elemental atomic percentages measured by EDS in ELP₃ membranes incubated in 2 x SBF for 7 days. The spots 1-4 are shown in Figures S5E and S5F.

| Spot | C (at%) | O (at%) | N (at%) | Ca (at%) | P (at%) | O/C | N/C | Ca/P | N/Ca |
|------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 22.9 | 56.1 | 3.2 | 10.7 | 7.1 | 2.45 | 0.14 | 1.5 | 0.31 |
| 2 | 38.3 | 41.0 | 2.1 | 11.4 | 7.3 | 1.07 | 0.05 | 1.6 | 0.18 |
| 3 | 20.4 | 50.7 | 1.2 | 17.1 | 10.6 | 2.48 | 0.06 | 1.6 | 0.07 |
| 4 | 25.6 | 52.0 | 2.7 | 11.4 | 8.3 | 2.03 | 0.11 | 1.4 | 0.24 |

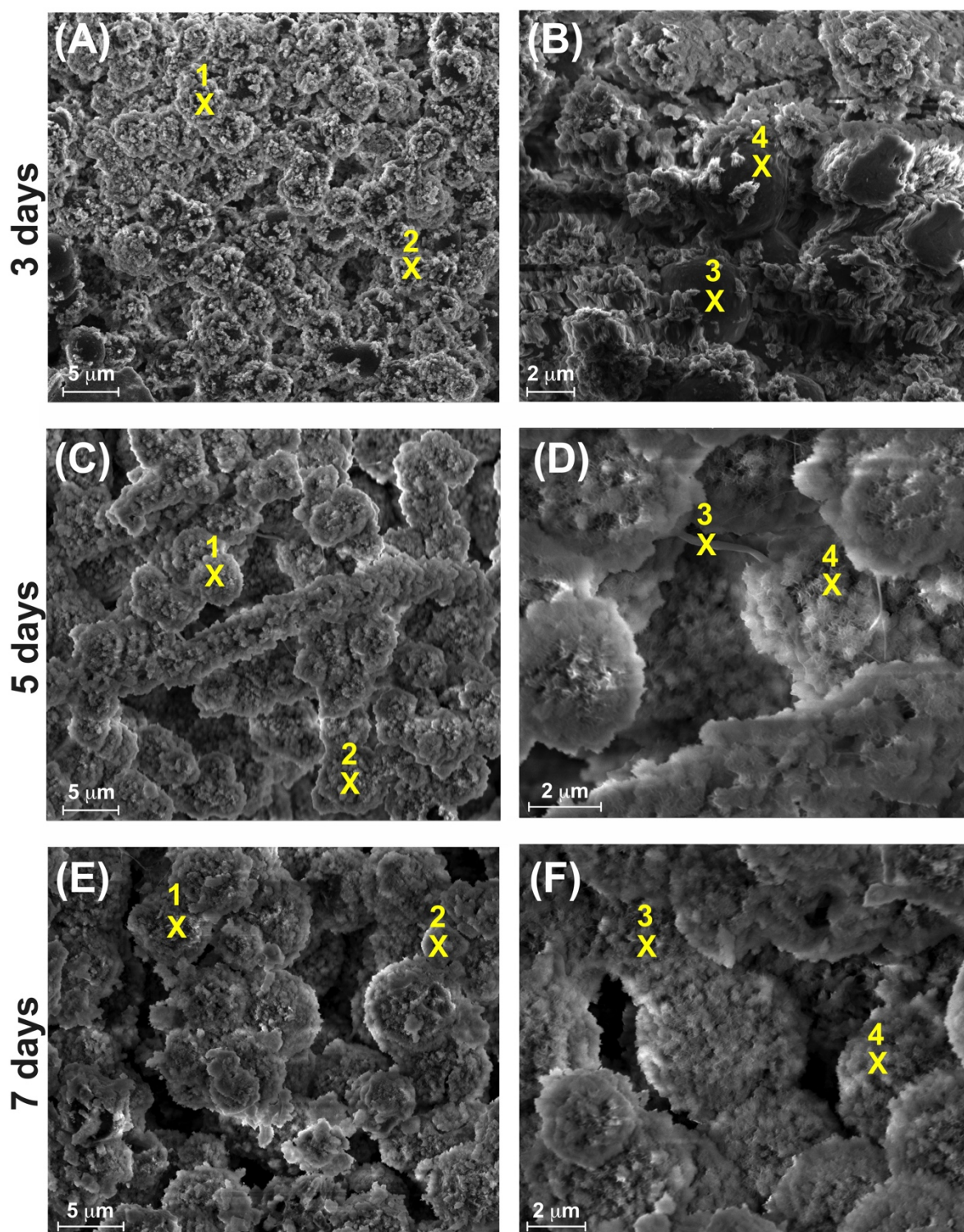


Figure S6. SEM images of ELP₃ membranes after incubation in 3 x SBF for (A and B) 3, (C and D) 5, and (E and F) 7 days. The spots marked with “X” on all panels indicate the spots where EDS spectra were collected and they correspond to the data presented in Tables S9 (spots in A, B), S10 (spots in C, D), and S11 (spots in E, F).

Table S9. Relative elemental atomic percentages measured by EDS in ELP₃ membranes incubated in 3 x SBF for 3 days. The spots 1-4 are shown in Figures S6A and S6B.

| Spot | C (at%) | O (at%) | N (at%) | Ca (at%) | P (at%) | O/C | N/C | Ca/P | N/Ca |
|------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 21.4 | 57.6 | 1.8 | 10.7 | 8.3 | 2.69 | 0.08 | 1.3 | 0.17 |
| 2 | 35.7 | 45.0 | 1.2 | 8.2 | 5.9 | 1.26 | 0.03 | 1.4 | 0.15 |
| 3 | 51.9 | 28.8 | 6.0 | 11.4 | 1.8 | 2.69 | 0.12 | 6.3 | 0.52 |
| 4 | 48.8 | 33.4 | 2.2 | 15.7 | 0.1 | 0.68 | 0.05 | 157 | 0.14 |

Table S10. Relative elemental atomic percentages measured by EDS in ELP₃ membranes incubated in 3 x SBF for 5 days. The spots 1-4 are shown in Figures S6C and S6D.

| Spot | C (at%) | O (at%) | N (at%) | Ca (at%) | P (at%) | O/C | N/C | Ca/P | N/Ca |
|------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 13.4 | 59.5 | 2.9 | 13.3 | 10.0 | 4.44 | 0.22 | 1.3 | 0.22 |
| 2 | 17.2 | 55.7 | 3.2 | 13.3 | 10.6 | 3.24 | 0.19 | 1.3 | 0.24 |
| 3 | 11.5 | 38.4 | 2.2 | 30.6 | 17.3 | 3.34 | 0.19 | 1.8 | 0.07 |
| 4 | 15.5 | 57.0 | 4.7 | 13.7 | 9.1 | 3.68 | 0.30 | 1.5 | 0.34 |

Table S11. Relative elemental atomic percentages measured by EDS in ELP₃ membranes incubated in 3 x SBF for 7 days. The spots 1-4 are shown in Figures S6E and S6F.

| Spot | C (at%) | O (at%) | N (at%) | Ca (at%) | P (at%) | O/C | N/C | Ca/P | N/Ca |
|------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 18.4 | 43.0 | 3.1 | 21.3 | 14.2 | 2.34 | 0.17 | 1.5 | 0.15 |
| 2 | 6.4 | 44.7 | 0.7 | 29.1 | 19.2 | 6.98 | 0.11 | 1.5 | 0.02 |
| 3 | 15.9 | 55.2 | 1.4 | 16.6 | 11.0 | 3.47 | 0.09 | 1.5 | 0.08 |
| 4 | 17.8 | 46.8 | 2.5 | 20.1 | 12.9 | 2.63 | 0.14 | 1.6 | 0.12 |

Table S12. Relative atomic percent of C, O, N, Ca, and P, and Ca/P and N/Ca ratios on ELP₃ membranes after incubation in 1.5 x, 2 x, and 3 x SBF, measured by XPS survey. No other elements were detected.

| SBF solution | Time point (days) | C (at%) | O (at%) | N (at%) | Ca (at%) | P (at%) | Ca/P | N/Ca |
|--------------|-------------------|---------|---------|-----------|------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| / | 0 | 68 ± 3 | 19 ± 3 | 13 ± 1 | N | N | / | / |
| 1.5 x SBF | 3 | 67 ± 2 | 22 ± 3 | 11 ± 1 | 0.3 ± 0.1 ^{*** +++} | 0.2 ± 0.1 | 1.5 ± 0.2 | 37 ± 8 |
| | 5 | 67 ± 1 | 21 ± 2 | 11 ± 1 | 0.7 ± 0.1 ^{*** +++} | 0.5 ± 0.1 | 1.5 ± 0.1 | 17 ± 3 |
| | 7 | 66 ± 4 | 21 ± 2 | 11 ± 2 | 1.6 ± 0.2 ^{*** +++} | 0.9 ± 0.2 | 1.7 ± 0.1 | 7 ± 2 |
| | 21 | 59 ± 3 | 23 ± 3 | 10 ± 1 | 4.8 ± 0.8 | 3.0 ± 0.9 | 1.8 ± 0.3 | 2.2 ± 0.6 |
| 2 x SBF | 3 | 65 ± 2 | 20 ± 3 | 9 ± 2 | 3 ± 0.7 ^{***} | 2.1 ± 0.4 | 1.4 ± 0.1 | 3.0 ± 1.0 |
| | 5 | 52 ± 4 | 30 ± 2 | 8 ± 2 | 5.8 ± 0.8 ^{*** †} | 3.9 ± 0.7 | 1.5 ± 0.1 | 1.4 ± 0.6 |
| | 7 | 30 ± 3 | 49 ± 2 | 5 ± 1 | 9.8 ± 0.6 ^{*** †} | 6.4 ± 0.5 | 1.5 ± 0.1 | 0.6 ± 0.2 |
| 3 x SBF | 3 | 55 ± 5 | 30 ± 4 | 8 ± 2 | 4.2 ± 0.9 ⁺⁺⁺ | 2.8 ± 0.8 | 1.5 ± 0.1 | 1.9 ± 0.7 |
| | 5 | 24 ± 3 | 47 ± 2 | 1.7 ± 0.5 | 15.4 ± 0.8 ^{+++ †} | 10.6 ± 0.7 | 1.5 ± 0.2 | 0.1 ± 0 |
| | 7 | 22 ± 3 | 46 ± 3 | 1.5 ± 0.5 | 18 ± 1 ^{+++ †} | 11.8 ± 0.6 | 1.5 ± 0.2 | 0.1 ± 0 |

* indicates significant differences between samples incubated in 1.5 x and 2 x SBF with * = P<0.02, ** = P<0.001, *** = P<0.0005.

+ indicates significant difference between samples incubated in 1.5 x and 3 x SBF with ++ = P< 0.005, +++ = P< 0.0001.

† indicates significant differences between samples incubated in 2 x and 3 x SBF with †† = P< 0.005, and ††† = P< 0.0001. Three samples per condition were analyzed.

Table S13. FTIR peak assignments for calcified ELP₃ membranes and HA.

| Peak (cm ⁻¹) | Calcified ELP ₃ membrane | HA | References |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|------------------------|
| ν OH | 3290-3300 | 3300 | |
| ν N-H | 2958-2964 | | |
| ν_{as} CH ₂ | 2926-2929 | | |
| ν_s CH ₂ | 2865-2868 | | |
| ν C=O (amide I) | 1638-1642 | | (17), (18), (19) |
| ν C-N, δ N-H (amide II) | 1535-1540 | | (17), (18), (19) |
| δ CH ₂ | 1443-1451 | | (20) |
| δ CH ₃ | 1365-1372 | | (17), (19), (20) |
| δ C-H (amide III) | 1232-1236 | | (17) |
| ν_3 PO ₄ ³⁻ | 1109-1110 | 1091 | (18), (21), (22), (23) |
| ν_3 PO ₄ ³⁻ | 1027-1031 | 1031 | (18), (21), (22), (23) |
| ν_1 PO ₄ ³⁻ | 960-963 | 962 | (18), (21), (22), (23) |
| ν_2 CO ₃ ²⁻ | 864-867 | | (18), (21), (22), (24) |
| ν_4 PO ₄ ³⁻ | 600-602 | 602 | |
| ν_4 PO ₄ ³⁻ | 561-563 | 564 | |

ν_{as} : antisymmetric stretching; ν_s : symmetric stretching; δ : bending

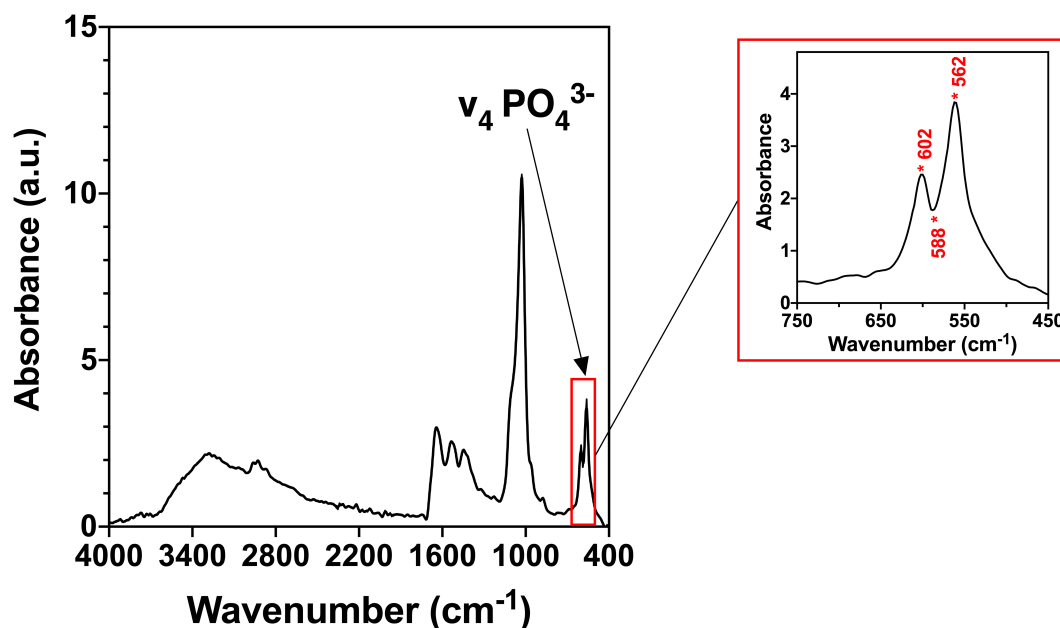


Figure S7. Representative FTIR spectrum of calcified ELP3 membraned incubated in 1.5 x SBF for 21 days showing the degenerated v_4 phosphate band used in Shemesh's method to determine the mineral crystallinity (4).

Table S14. Experimental mineral crystallinity indexes (CI) measured in calcified ELP₃ membranes and HA based on the FTIR v_4 vibration peaks.

| SBF solution | Time point (days) | CI |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1.5 x SBF | 7 | $3.3 \pm 0.1^{*+##}$ |
| | 21 | $4.2 \pm 0.2^{##}$ |
| 2 x SBF | 7 | $2.6 \pm 0.2^{*}$ |
| 3 x SBF | 7 | $2.6 \pm 0.1^{+}$ |
| HA | / | 5.6 ± 0.3 |

* indicates significant differences between samples incubated in 1.5 x and 2 x SBF for 7 days with $P < 0.05$.

+ indicates significant difference between samples incubated in 1.5 x and 3 x SBF for 7 days with $P < 0.05$.

indicates significant differences between samples incubated in 1.5 x SBF for 7 and 21 days with $P < 0.02$.

Three samples per condition were analyzed.

Table S15. Experimental XRD FWHM values of the peak corresponding to the planes (211), (121), and (202) in ELP₃ membranes incubated in 1.5 x SBF for 7 and 21 days, and in 2 x SBF and 3 x SBF for 7 days.

| SBF solution | Time point (days) | XRD FWHM |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.5 x SBF | 7 | $1.2 \pm 0.1^{*+ \#}$ |
| | 21 | $0.7 \pm 0.2^{\#}$ |
| 2 x SBF | 7 | $1.8 \pm 0.2^{*}$ |
| 3 x SBF | 7 | $1.9 \pm 0.2^{+}$ |

* indicates significant differences between samples incubated in 1.5 x and 2 x SBF for 7 days with $P < 0.05$.

++ indicates significant difference between samples incubated in 1.5 x and 3 x SBF for 7 days with $P < 0.05$.

indicates significant differences between samples incubated in 1.5 x SBF for 7 and 21 days with $P < 0.05$.
Three samples per condition were analyzed.

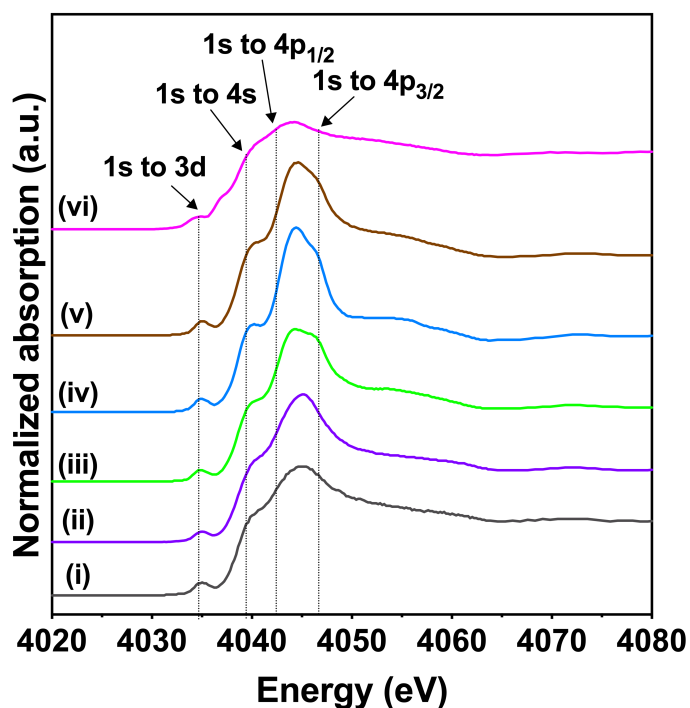


Figure S8. Representative Ca K-edge NEXAFS reference spectra of (i) ELP₃-Ca²⁺, (ii) ACP, (iii) DCPD, (iv) OCP, (v) HA, (vi) CHA, and (vii) β-TCMP.

Table S16. Percentages of ELP₃-Ca²⁺, ACP, OCP, HA, and CHA in ELP₃ membranes incubated in 1.5 x, 2 x, and 3 x SBF solutions determined by LCF using Ca K-edge NEXAFS spectra of reference samples, and R-factors of the LCF.

| SBF solution | Time point (days) | ELP ₃ -Ca ²⁺ (%) | ACP (%) | OCP (%) | HA (%) | CHA (%) | R-factor |
|--------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| 1.5 x SBF | 3 | 30 ± 5 | 27 ± 7* ⁺⁺ | 21 ± 5 ⁺⁺ | 15 ± 5 ^{**++} | 7 ± 2 | 0.007 ± 0.003 |
| | 5 | 24 ± 4 ⁺⁺⁺ | 19 ± 3 ^{**++} | 20 ± 6 ⁺⁺ | 19 ± 3 ^{**+++} | 10 ± 4 | 0.003 ± 0.001 |
| | 7 | 20 ± 4 ^{*****} | 16 ± 3 ^{***++} | 17 ± 3 ^{*+++} | 33 ± 3 ^{**+++} | 14 ± 5* | 0.005 ± 0.002 |
| | 21 | 0 | 10 ± 3 | 10 ± 2 | 51 ± 6 | 29 ± 2 | 0.0003 ± 0.0001 |
| 2 x SBF | 3 | 26 ± 4 | 11 ± 2* | 14 ± 3 | 39 ± 6 ^{**} | 10 ± 4 | 0.005 ± 0.0002 |
| | 5 | 20 ± 4 ^{†††} | 9 ± 3 ^{**} | 14 ± 4 | 42 ± 5 ^{**††} | 15 ± 3 | 0.0002 ± 0.0001 |
| | 7 | 0 ^{***} | 0 ^{***} | 7 ± 3 ^{*†} | 68 ± 5 ^{**†} | 25 ± 5* | 0.003 ± 0.001 |
| 3 x SBF | 3 | 25 ± 4 | 9 ± 3 ⁺⁺ | 10 ± 5 ⁺⁺ | 46 ± 3 ⁺⁺ | 10 ± 4 | 0.002 ± 0.0005 |
| | 5 | 0 ^{+++†††} | 4 ± 1 ⁺⁺ | 7 ± 3 ⁺⁺ | 75 ± 4 ^{+++††} | 14 ± 3 | 0.0004 ± 0.0001 |
| | 7 | 0 ⁺⁺⁺ | 0 ⁺⁺⁺ | 0 [†] | 84 ± 6 [†] | 16 ± 5 | 0.0004 ± 0.0001 |

* indicates significant differences between samples incubated in 1.5 x and 2 x SBF with * = P<0.05, ** = P<0.005, ***=P<0.0001.

+ indicates significant difference between samples incubated in 1.5 x and 3 x SBF with ++ = P< 0.005, +++ = P< 0.0001.

† indicates significant differences between samples incubated in 2 x and 3 x SBF with † = P< 0.05, †† = P< 0.005, and ††† = P< 0.0001.

Three samples per condition were analyzed.

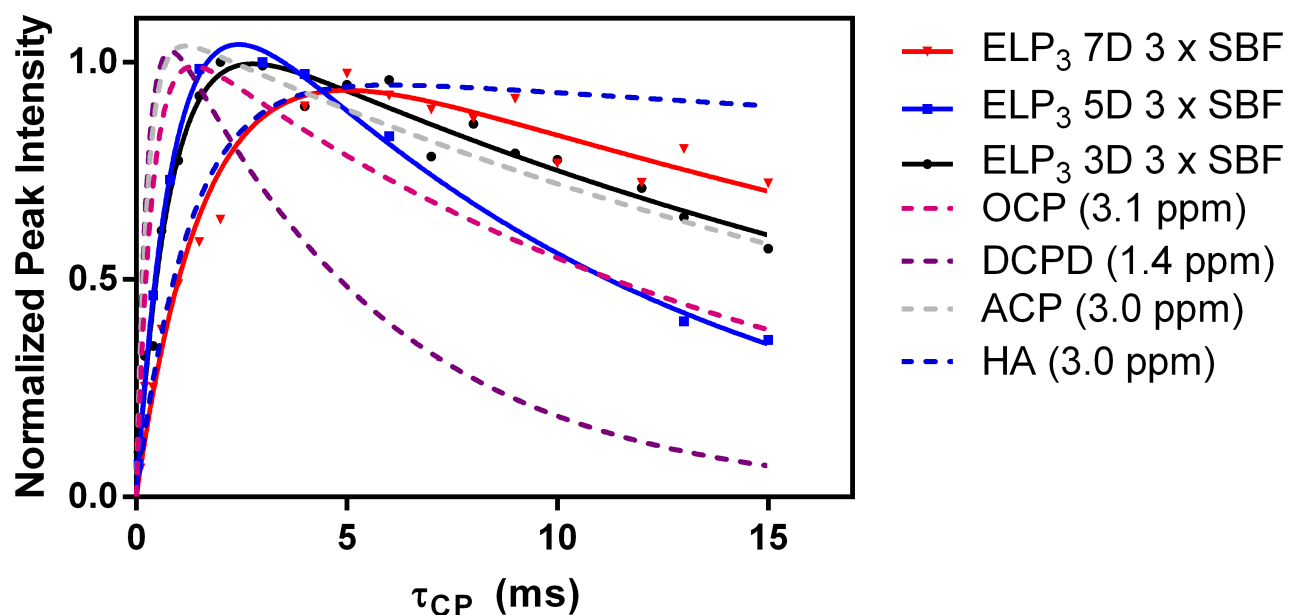


Figure S9. Integrated ^{31}P peak intensities are plotted as a function of ^1H - ^{31}P CP contact time (τ_{CP}), for ELP₃ membranes incubated in 3 x SBF and for Ca-P standard compounds. Lines represent the best fits obtained for each data set using Eq. 1, and were used to calculate the parameters T_{CP} and T^1_{ρ} , shown in Table 1.

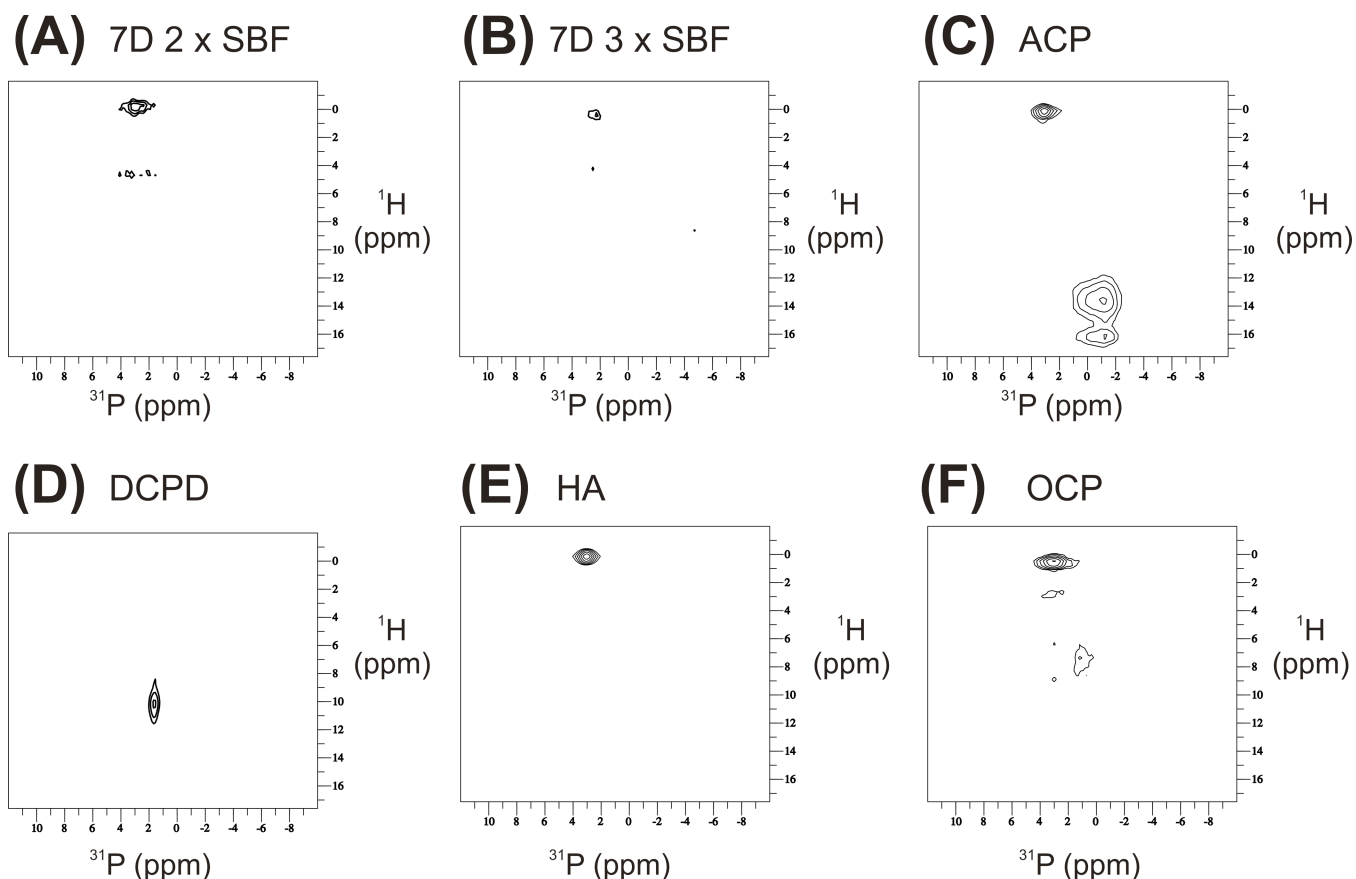


Figure S10. ^1H - ^{31}P HETCOR spectra recorded at 10 kHz MAS for ELP_3 membranes and Ca-P reference compounds. 2D spectra are shown for samples incubated in (A) 2 x SBF for 7 days, (B) 3 x SBF for 7 days, as well as for ACP (C), DCPD (D), HA (E), and OCP (F). Each spectrum is plotted at approximately the same level above the noise, such that variations in peak intensity are representative of the signal to noise ratios in each sample.

Section 3: Supplemental references

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