

# TechBriefs

## Savannah River National Laboratory

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### At a glance

- > Extends life of restorative fillings
- > Stops growth of certain bacteria
- > Potential use in other medical ointments, bandages, etc.
- > U.S. Patent 8,545,820

### Contact Information

**Dale Haas**

**Commercialization Manager**

Savannah River National Laboratory  
Bldg. 773-41A, Room 238  
Aiken, SC 29808

Phone: 803.725.4185

FAX: 803.725.4988

E-mail: [dale.haas@srnl.doe.gov](mailto:dale.haas@srnl.doe.gov)



## Use of Titanium-Based Materials as Bactericides

Working with the University of Washington School of Dentistry, new materials containing titanium and a small amount of other metals can stop the growth of certain bacteria.

### Background

The metal ion suppression of bacterial growth is well known. However, levels of the anti-bacterial metal ions required to achieve a therapeutic reduction in bacteria growth are typically at a level that will produce undesirable side effects in mammals. The use of metal ions to control bacterial infections remains of interest as drug-resistant bacteria are becoming increasingly common and dangerous to human health. This technology provides a safe and effective metal-titanate bacterial inhibitors.



### How it works

Results show unequivocally that metal-titanate compounds inhibit planktonic bacterial growth and the titanates enhance the ability of metal ions to inhibit growth, pending specific conditions. By themselves, sodium titanates (MST or APT) have no effect on planktonic growth of several oral bacterial species, but that inhibition of growth is possible when metal titanates are loaded onto the Monosodium Titanate (MST) or Amorphous peroxy-titanate (APT).

Working with researchers at the University of Washington (UW) School of Dentistry, these materials have been shown to limit the growths of bacteria commonly found in the mouth. It is believed that oral bacteria, which come into contact with restorative fillings, attack the weak link between the tooth and the filling resulting in cavities and the need to replace the filling prematurely. Based on tests it is believed that the titanate/metal materials may be an effective additive to extend the life of restorative fillings. Currently the UW researchers are testing this idea with volunteers using a material that contains titanium and a small amount of gold prepared at SRNL.



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### Technology transfer

The Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) is the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) applied research and development laboratory at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

With its wide spectrum and expertise in areas such as homeland security, hydrogen technology, materials, sensors, and environmental science, SRNL's cutting edge technology delivers high dividends to its customers.

The management and operating contractor for SRS and SRNL is Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC. SRNS is responsible for transferring its technologies to the private sector so that these technologies may have the collateral benefit of enhancing U.S. economic competitiveness.

### Stage of development

This technology is in early stage research and development with ongoing testing and experimentation underway. Metal ions having an ability to suppress bacterial growth have the potential to be utilized with the titanate delivery system by incorporating into traditional medical ointments, bandages, implantable biomaterials, coatings on invasive apparatuses such as catheters, shunts, and similar devices to prevent or limit bacterial infections. The metal-loaded titanates are believed to be compatible with traditional antibiotic ointments and creams, and may be incorporated as coatings on surgical suture material to help suppress growth and/or formation of bacterial infections.

The patent discloses that a solid-phase titanate material containing a metal ion such as gold(III), platinum(II), platinum(IV), and palladium(II) can serve as an effective antibiotic against a variety of oral-based bacteria. Growth inhibition ranged from 15 to 100% depending on the metal ion and bacterial species involved. Furthermore, in specific cases, the titanates inhibited bacterial growth 5- to 375-fold versus metal ions alone, suggesting that titanates enhanced metal-bacteria interactions. Thus, the materials could be used as part of a mouthwash, toothpaste, oral rinse, or oral gel to assist in reducing the frequency or progression of caries, for treating bacterial-associated periodontal disease, and for preventing endodontic infections.

### Partnering opportunities

SRNS invites interested companies with proven capabilities in this area of expertise to develop commercial applications for this process under a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) or licensing agreement. Interested companies will be requested to submit a business plan setting forth company qualifications, strategies, activities, and milestones for commercializing this invention. Qualifications should include past experience at bringing similar products to market, reasonable schedule for product launch, sufficient manufacturing capacity, established distribution networks, and evidence of sufficient financial resources for product development and launch.

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