

Table of contents

Chapter 1.	7
1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION. MESOPOROUS SILICA NANOPARTICLES AND NANOMEDICINE.....	9
1.1. MESOPOROUS SILICA NANOPARTICLES.....	9
1.2. SYNTHESIS OF MSN.....	10
1.2.1. MSN synthesis.....	10
1.2.2. MCM-41-type MSN synthesis.....	12
1.2.3. Reaction chemistry.....	13
1.2.4. Surfactant removal.....	14
1.3. FUNCTIONALISATION.....	15
1.3.1. Functionalisation chemistry.....	15
1.3.2. Methods.....	16
1.3.3. Properties and applications.....	17
1.3.4. Doping.....	18
1.4. CHARACTERISATION.....	19
1.4.1. Powder X-ray diffraction.....	19
1.4.2. N ₂ adsorption-desorption.....	21
1.4.3. Electron microscopy.....	23
1.4.4. Dynamic light scattering and related techniques.....	24
1.4.5. Thermogravimetric analysis.....	27
1.4.6. Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy.....	28
1.4.7. Solid state NMR.....	29
1.5. NANOMEDICINE.....	30
1.5.1. Introduction to nanomedicine.....	30
1.5.2. Introduction to nanomaterials.....	31
1.5.3. Nanomaterials requirements and challenges in biomedicine.....	31
1.5.4. Developed nanomaterials in biomedicine.....	34
1.5.5. Mesoporous silica nanoparticles in biomedical applications.....	40
1.5.6. Clinical translation of nanomedicine.....	42
1.6. REFERENCES.....	46
Chapter 2.	59
2. OBJECTIVES.....	61

Chapter 3.	63
3. IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE MCM-41-TYPE MSN FORMATION MECHANISM.....	65
3.1. INTRODUCTION.....	65
3.1.1. Silica templating mechanism.....	65
3.1.2. Nanoparticles formation.....	70
3.1.3. Conclusions and outlook.....	72
3.2. MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	73
3.3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	75
3.3.1. Direct collection of aliquots.....	75
3.3.2. Stirring aliquot collection.....	78
3.3.3. Hydrolysis and condensation time variations.....	80
3.3.4. Quenched collection of aliquots.....	82
3.3.5. Aging and reaction time.....	86
3.4. CONCLUSIONS.....	92
3.5. REFERENCES.....	93
Chapter 4.	99
4. STUDYING DISREGARDED PARAMETERS IN MCM-41-TYPE MSN SYNTHESIS.....	101
4.1. INTRODUCTION.....	101
4.1.1. Main variables controlling the nanoparticles formation.....	101
4.2. MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	105
4.3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	107
4.3.1. The importance of the stirring control.....	107
4.3.2. TEOS addition speed/rate.....	112
4.3.3. Influence of synthesis neutralisation.....	117
4.4. CONCLUSIONS.....	121
4.5. REFERENCES.....	122
Chapter 5.	127
5. THE OBTAINING OF COLLOIDAL MCM-41-TYPE MSN.....	129
5.1. INTRODUCTION.....	129
5.1.1. COLLOIDAL SUSPENSIONS.....	129
5.1.2. Dynamic light scattering (DLS)	134
5.2. THE OBTAINING OF COLLOIDAL MSN: A CRITICAL REVIEW.....	139
5.2.1. MCM-41-type MSN.....	139

5.2.2. Other MSN frameworks.....	141
5.2.3. Conclusions and outlook.....	147
5.3. MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	148
5.4. METHODOLOGY OF CHARACTERISATION OF COLLOIDAL PROPERTIES IN MSN SUSPENSIONS.....	151
5.4.1. Colloidal appearance.....	151
5.4.2. Decantation and fraction weighing.....	152
5.4.3. Dynamic light scattering.....	153
5.4.4. UV light attenuation.....	155
5.4.5. Nanoparticles tracking analysis.....	158
5.4.6. Conclusions and outlook.....	160
5.5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	161
5.5.1. Transition from colloidal to agglomerated samples.....	161
5.5.2. Tuning synthesis parameters and their influence on colloidal stability.....	162
5.5.3. The effect of MSN preparation.....	164
5.5.4. The influence of solvent in colloidal stability.....	165
5.5.5. The influence of MSN concentration in colloidal stability.....	167
5.5.6. Functionalisation and its implications on colloidal stability.....	168
5.6. CONCEPTUAL AND OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF MSN SUSPENDABILITY.....	172
5.6.1. Aggregation by means of chemical bonding.....	172
5.6.2. Sedimentation by physical agglomeration.....	176
5.6.3. From physical interactions to chemical aggregation.....	180
5.6.4. Colloidal MSN manipulation.....	180
5.7. CONCLUSIONS.....	183
5.8. REFERENCES.....	185
Chapter 6.	195
6. THE IMPLICATIONS OF CALCINATION AND SOLVENT EXTRACTION IN MCM-41-TYPE MSN.....	197
6.1. INTRODUCTION.....	197
6.1.1. Surfactant removal of MSN.....	197
6.1.2. Silanol groups in MSN.....	199
6.1.3. Biodegradation of MSN.....	201
6.1.4. Conclusions and outlook.....	203

6.2. MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	204
6.3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	207
6.3.1. Synthesis and surfactant removal.....	207
6.3.2. Surfactant removal efficiency.....	207
6.3.3. Condensation degree and Si-OH on surface.....	211
6.3.4. Mesostructured framework shrinkage.....	213
6.3.5. Colloidal behaviour.....	217
6.3.6. Functionalisation effectiveness.....	218
6.3.7. Biocompatibility of NPs.....	220
6.3.8. Biodegradability of calcined and extracted samples.....	221
6.4. CONCLUSIONS.....	225
6.5. REFERENCES.....	228
Chapter 7.....	235
7. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.....	237