

# AEROSOLTHERAPY: TECHNICAL ISSUES

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## ***INTRODUCTION - BACKGROUND***

- *Modeling & experiments of lung surfactant dynamics (PhD, Warsaw, 1997) - co-operation with MD*
- *Post-doc at Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute (Albuquerque, NM, 1999-2000)*
- *From 2000 - the research continued at WUT*
  - *budget sources (KBN): basic research*
  - *industry (pharmaceutical): engineering solutions and products*

# OUTLINE

- DIVISION OF FUNDAMENTAL PROCESSES  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- AEROSOLTHERAPY

- definition, aims, methods
- technical issues

aerosol  
generation

- *devices (inhalers)*
- *drug formulation*

aerosol  
deposition  
in the lungs  
& interactions

- *modeling*
- *experiments (in vitro)*

aerosol  
measurement  
(quality tests)

- *standards (Pharmacopeia)*
- *alternative methods*

with selected examples from our research

- FUTURE STEPS

## Division of Fundamental Processes and Environmental Protection

Head: prof. *Leon Gradoń*, PhD DSc

- *Laboratory of Dispersed Systems*
- *Laboratory of Engineering Methods in Medicine*

### Areas of research:

- *aerosol and liquid filtration in fibrous filters*  
(A. Podgórski; A. Moskal; A. Bałazy, L. Gradoń)
- *aerosols in medicine: generation (inhalers), deposition and interaction with the lungs*  
(T. Sosnowski, A. Moskal, L. Gradoń, T. Ciach, K. Grzybowski)
- *lung surfactant dynamics and physiological effects*  
(T. Sosnowski, L. Gradoń, M. Pawelec)
- *biomedical materials and devices*  
(T. Ciach)

*regular staff: 5 persons*  
*+ 3 PhD students*



## ***EQUIPMENT: Aerosol generation, identification and filtration***



*MFP2000 system for testing of filter material (PALAS GmbH)*



*wide-range aerosol spectrometer XPS, 10-500 nm (MSP Inc., USA)*



*oil mist generator (PALAS GmbH)*



*light-white aerosol spectrometer WELAS 2100, 0,2-40 µm (PALAS GmbH)*



*laser particle counter (A3 GmbH)*

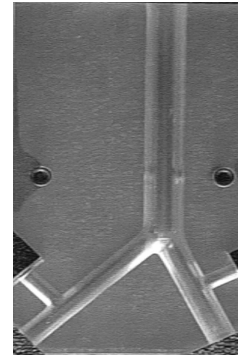


*Electrospray monodisperse aerosol generator (TSI Inc.) 2-500 nm*

# *EQUIPMENT: Medical aerosol testing and deposition studies*



*Artificial Lung Apparatus  
(ALA)*



*Physical models  
of lung geometry*



*Andersen-type  
cascade impactor  
(Copley Sci., UK)*



*Digital flowmeters  
(TSI Inc., USA)*



*Flow calibrator  
(BIOS Inc., USA)*



## *EQUIPMENT: Lung surfactant properties and dynamic surface effects*



*Pulsating Bubble Surfactometer  
(Electronetics Corp, USA)*



*Langmuir-Wilhelmy balance  
Minitrough (KSV, Finland)*



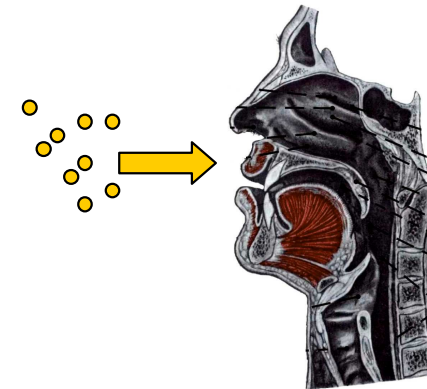
*Needle microtensiometer  
(Kibron, Finland)*



*Bubble-pressure  
DST tensiometer  
(Krüss GmbH)*

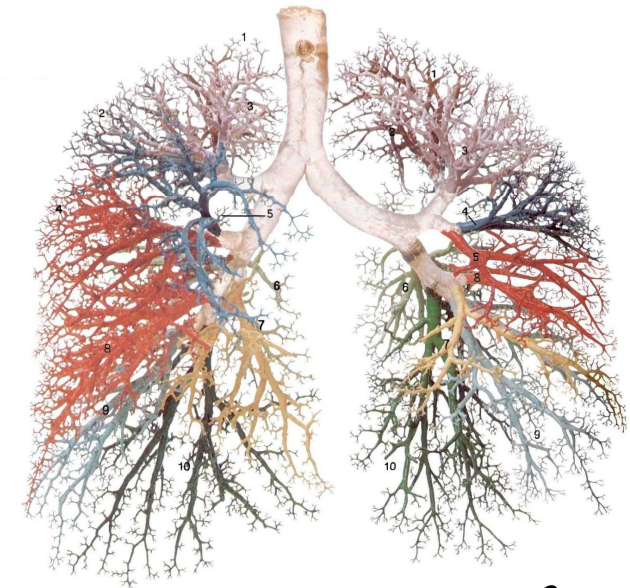
# AEROSOLTHERAPY

(drug delivery by inhalation)



## *Medical aerosols:*

- *drugs for pulmonary diseases (asthma & COPD)*
- *systemic drugs: insulin, vaccines, growth hormone*



*~ 100 m<sup>2</sup>*

## *Advantages:*

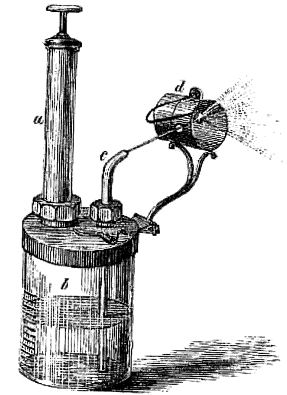
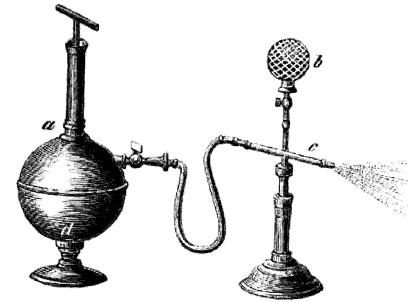
- *ease of use*
- *maximization of the local dose (drug targeting)*
- *minimization of side-effects*

# HISTORY

*India 2000 b.c.: smoke inhalation (Datura stramonium, Atropa belladonna- alkaloids)*  
*Hippocrates: hot vapor inhalation for throat and lung diseases*

*XIXth century:*

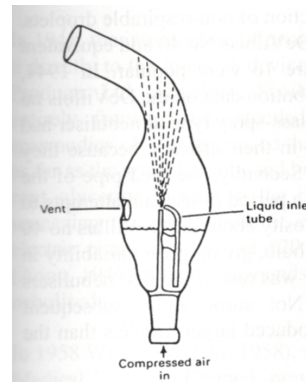
- *first nebulizers (liquid atomizers)*
- *asthma cigarettes (bronchodilation)*



## *Vaporatorium*



## *1930: De Vilbiss nebuliser*



# INHALERS TODAY

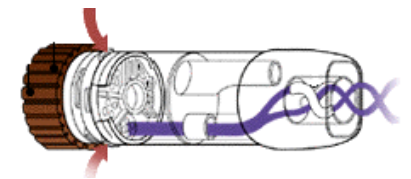
**NEBULIZERS**



**PRESSURIZED  
METERED DOSE  
INHALERS  
(pMDI)  
since 1956**



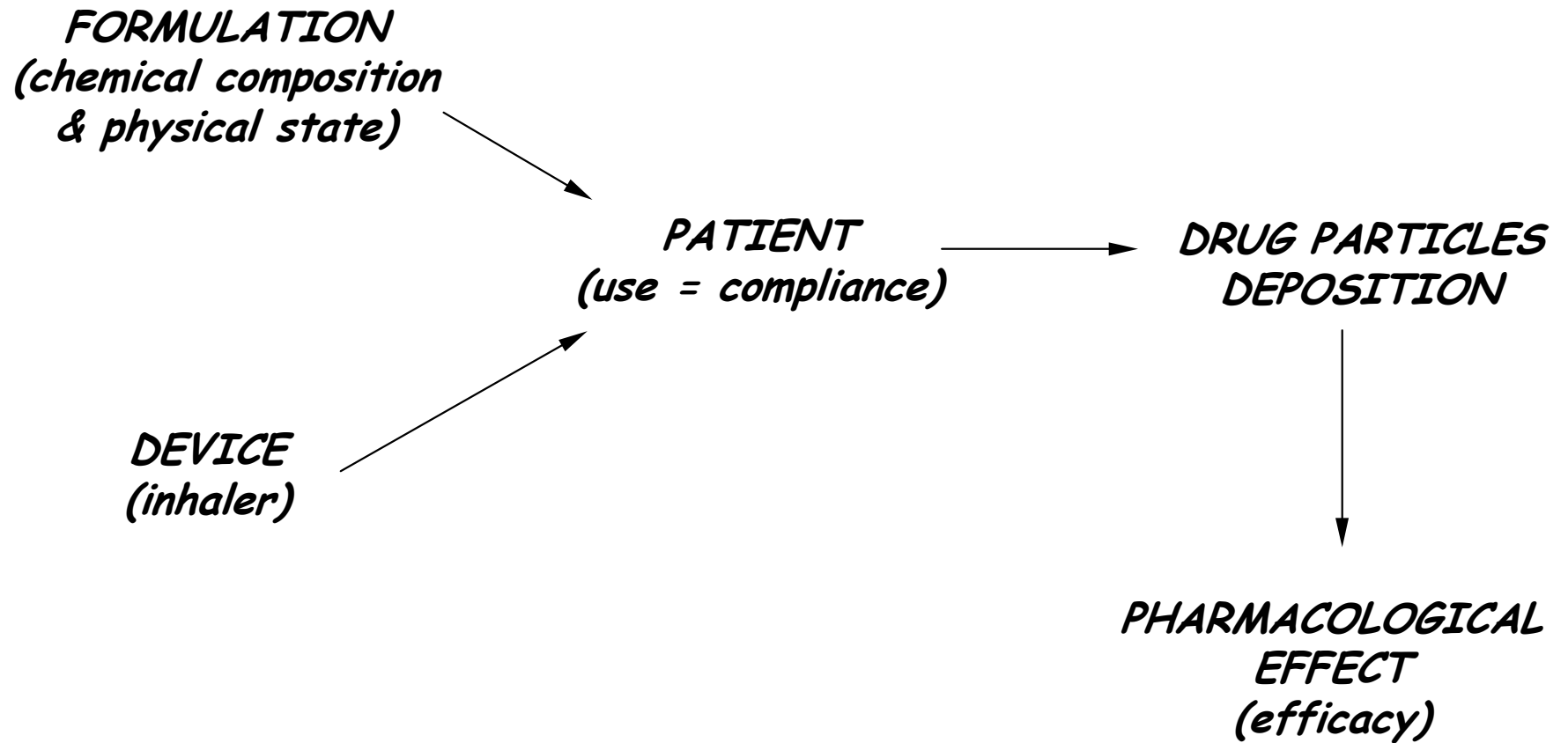
**DRY POWDER  
INHALERS (DPI)  
since 1971**



*Now used by 40% of patients with COPD*

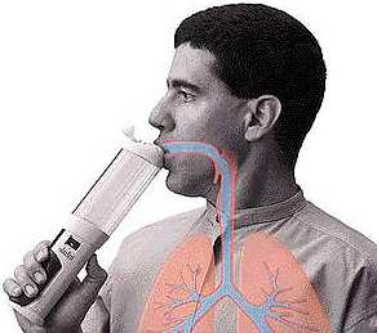
*Only up to 30% of the nominal drug dose is delivered to the lungs  
from inhalers currently available in the market*

# *THERAPEUTIC EFFECT OF AEROSOLTHERAPY*





## TECHNICAL ISSUES:



- *aerosol generation (liquid atomization / powder resuspension)*
- *aerosol flow and deposition in the respiratory system*
- *particle-lung interactions (via pulmonary surfactant)*
- *methods of testing of medical aerosol*

**Question #1** - *what kind of particles is most suitable for inhalation drug delivery ?  
(size, shape, density, morphology, surface properties, etc.)*

**Question #2** - *how to characterize (measure) such particles ?*

**Question #3** - *how to produce them in easy-to-use, cheap and portable devices ?*

**IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT:** *low dose-to-dose variation (= REPRODUCIBILITY)*



## *Question #1*

*Which particles are most suitable for inhalation drug delivery ?*



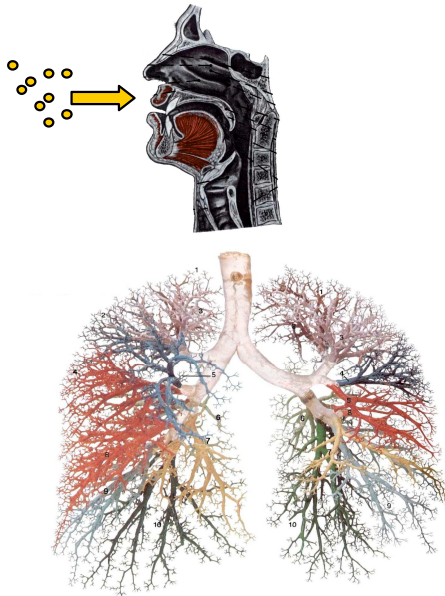
*Knowledge on aerosol behavior in the respiratory tract  
and the local deposition efficiencies*



*possible benefits*

*Better dose control  
Safety  
Targeted (dedicated) drug delivery to the lungs  
Economical factors*

# PARTICLE DEPOSITION: *state-of-the-art*

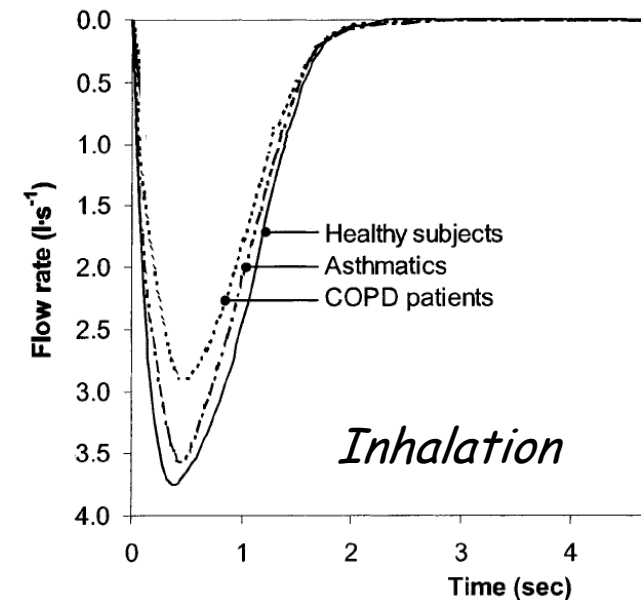
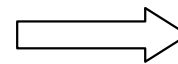


*in vivo: radio-tracer techniques*



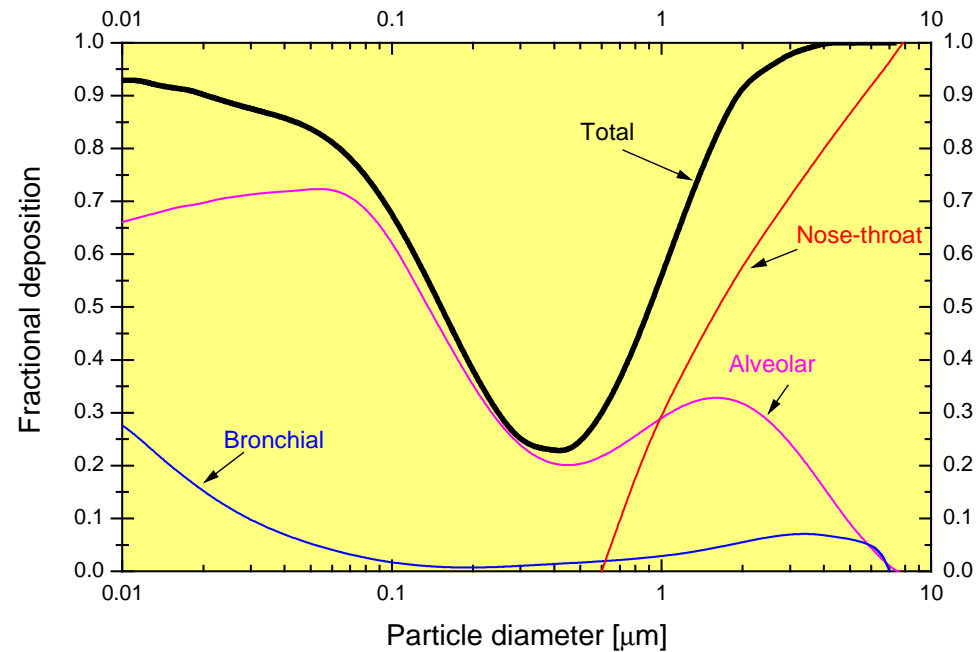
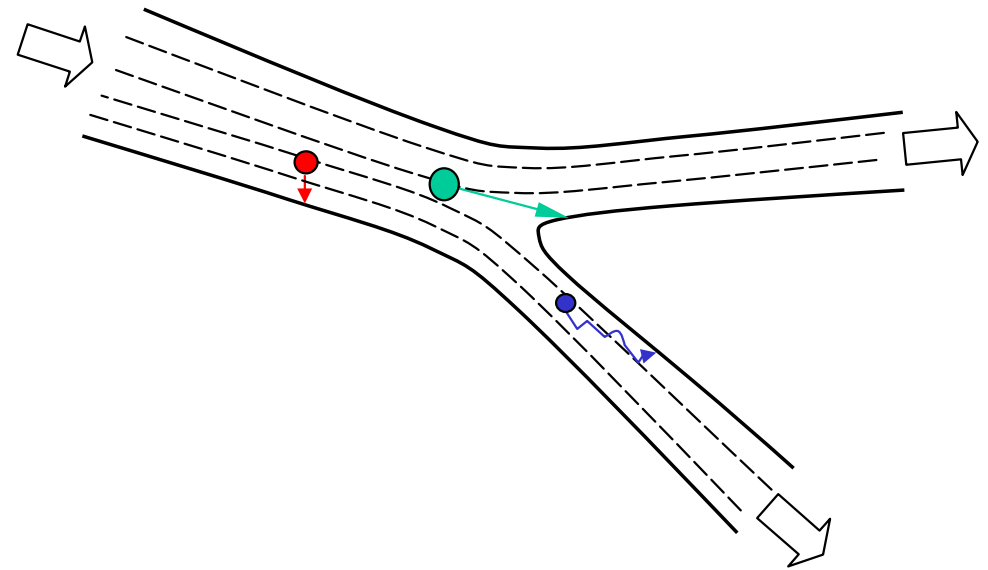
## *Theoretical predictions (modeling):*

- *very complicated geometrical structure*
- *non-steady flow pattern during breathing*
- *intersubject variability in both above factors (age, gender, health status)*

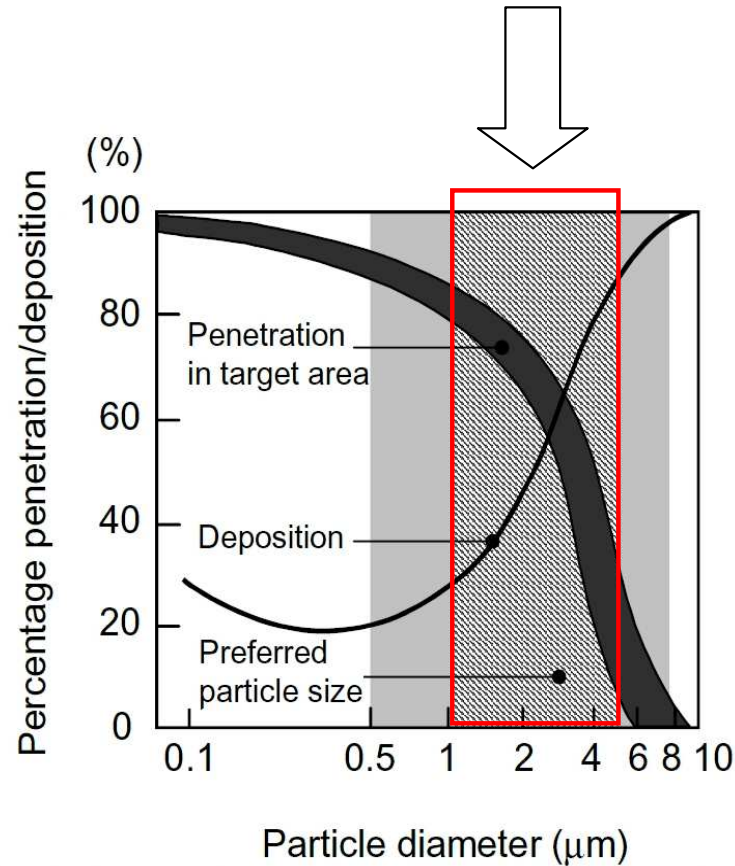


*E.g., NCRP model (1997)*

- lung geometry (morphometry)
- average gas velocities in different generations of tracheobronchial tree
- deposition mechanisms:
  1. *impaction*
  2. *sedimentation*
  3. *diffusion*



## *General conclusions for aerosoltherapy*



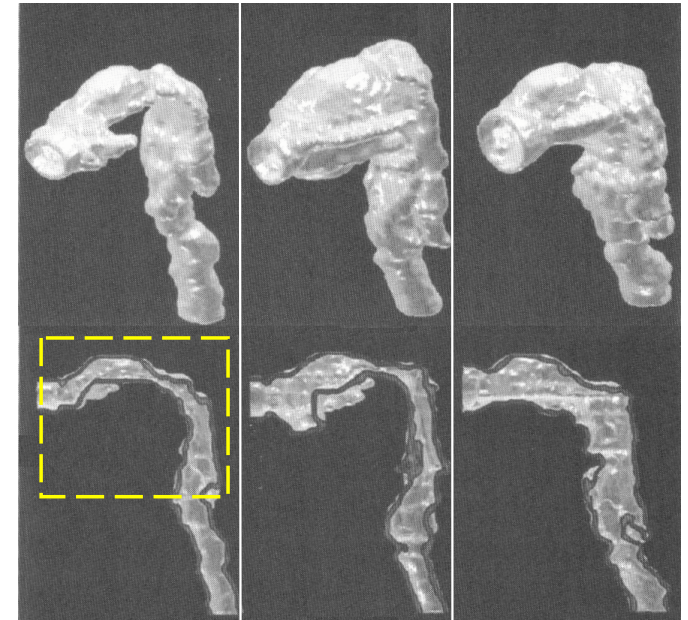
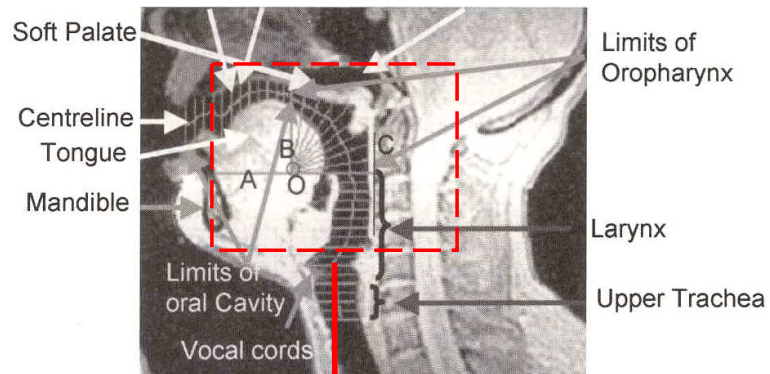
*Possible further steps: refinement of theoretical modeling techniques  
experimental studies in vitro (lung models)*

*Common assumption in CFD modeling - constant flow rate*

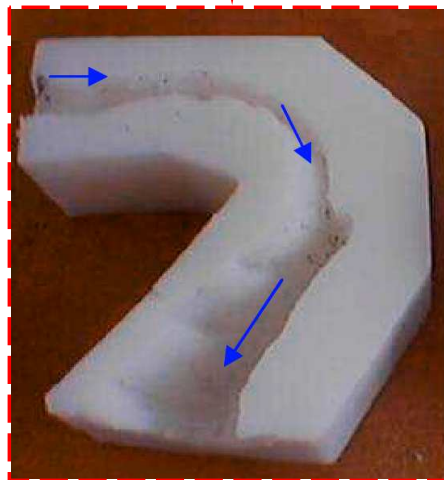
$$V_E = f \times TV \text{ (= minute ventilation)}$$

# PARTICLE DEPOSITION IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE RESPIRATORY TRACT

## ORO-PHARYNX



Ehtezazi et al., 2004 - MRI

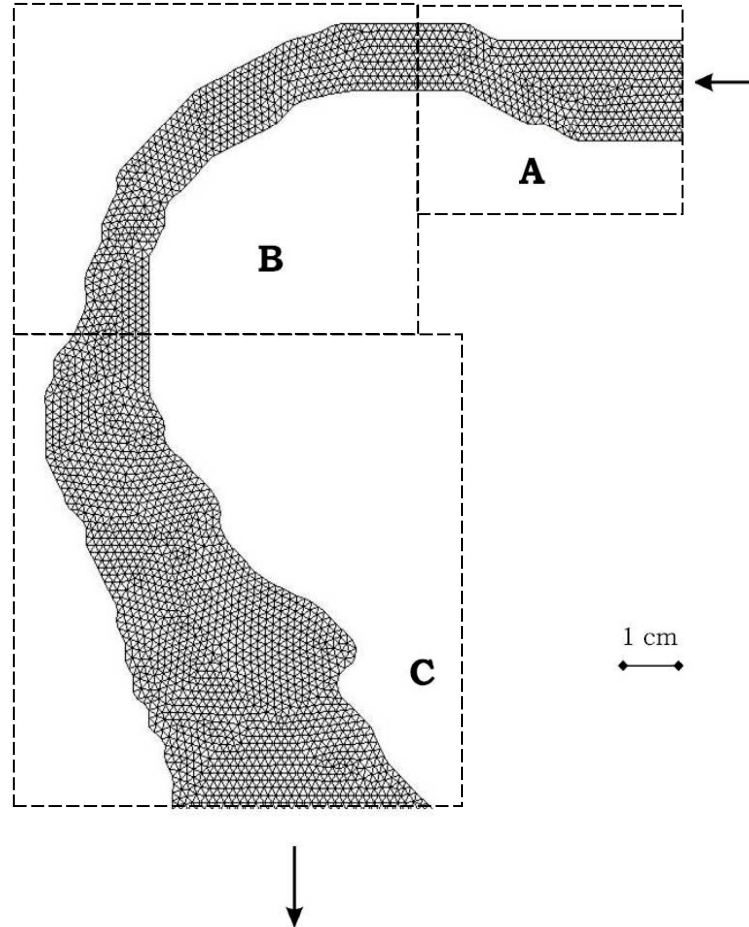


silicone rubber replica cast

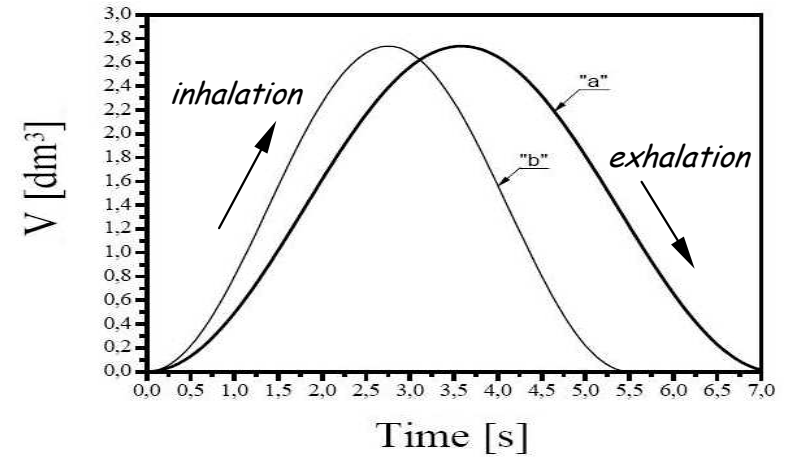


Correct representation !!!

## CFD modeling - Fluent

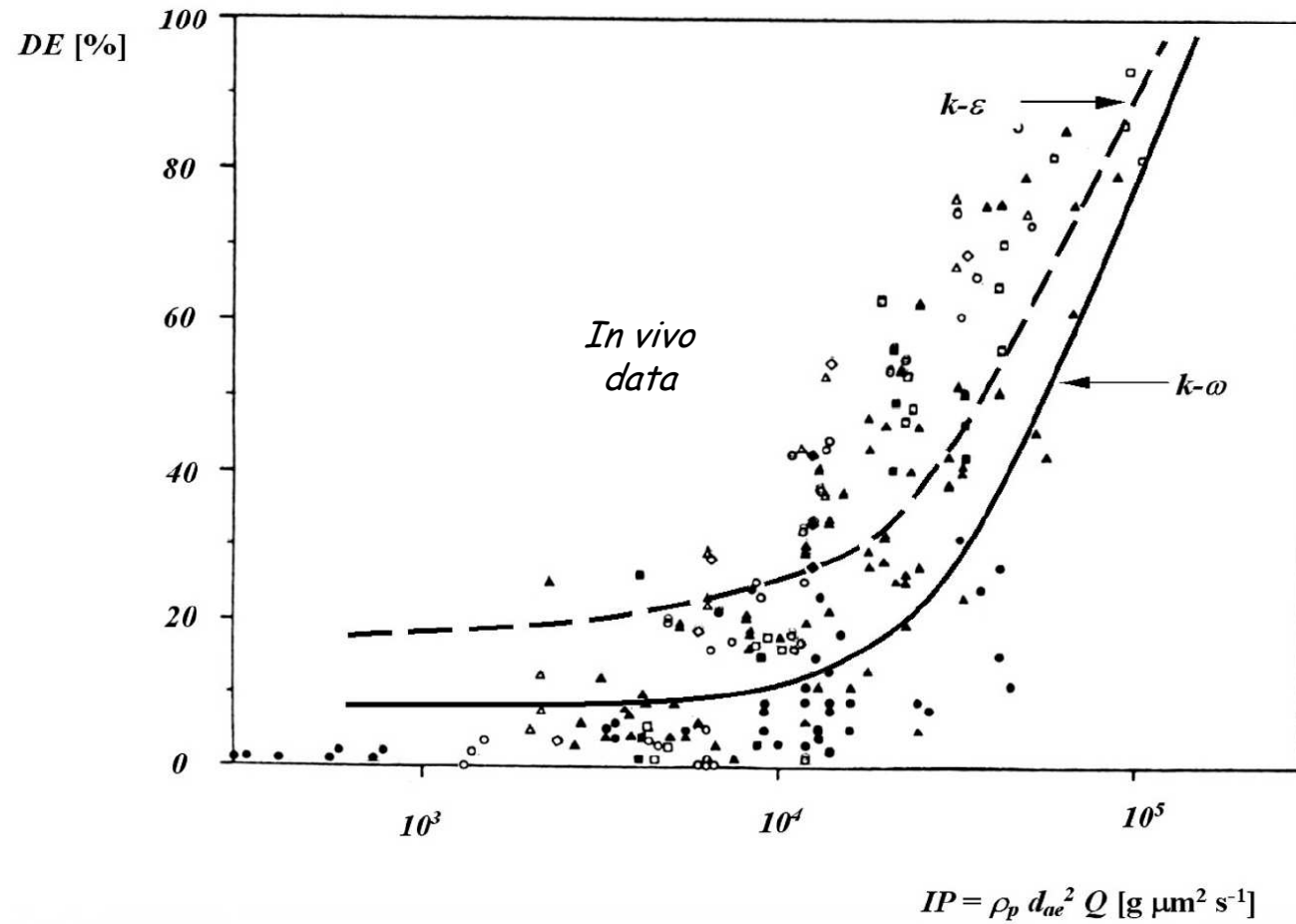


*a - slow inhalation*  
*b - fast inhalation*



- 1. Calculation of temporal airflow field*
- 2. Lagrangian approach (particle tracking) for >1000 separate particles  
 $d_p = 0.3; 1; 3$  and  $10 \mu\text{m}$*
- 3. Brownian diffusion included*
- 4. Neglected: inter-particle interactions, wall rebound, re-emission, electrostatic effects*

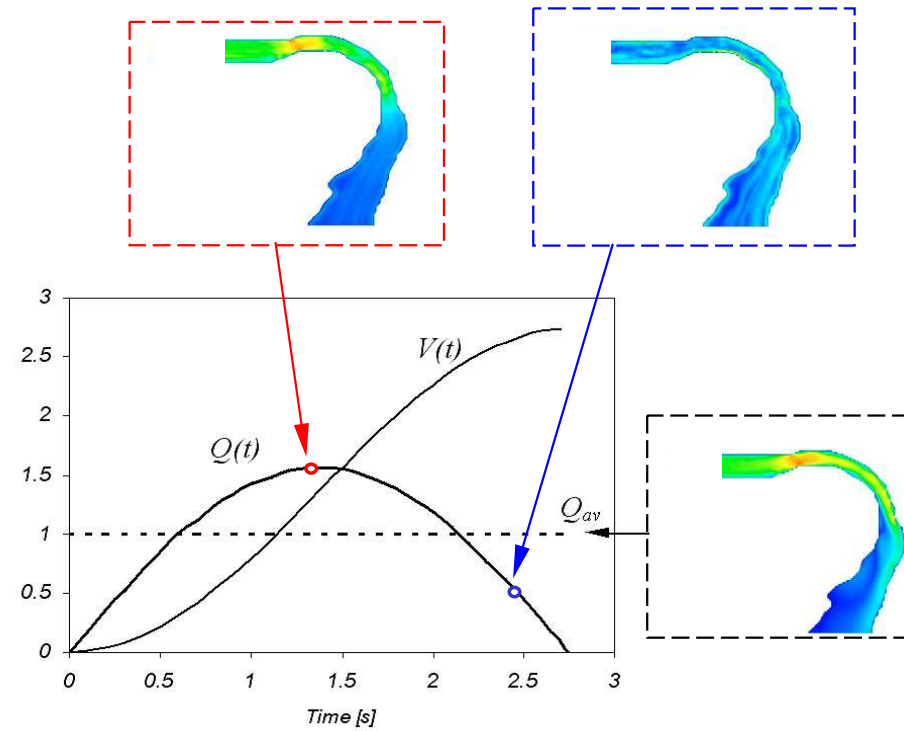
*Problem:*  
*selection of the appropriate*  
*turbulence model ( $k-\varepsilon$ ,  $k-\omega$ , LES)*



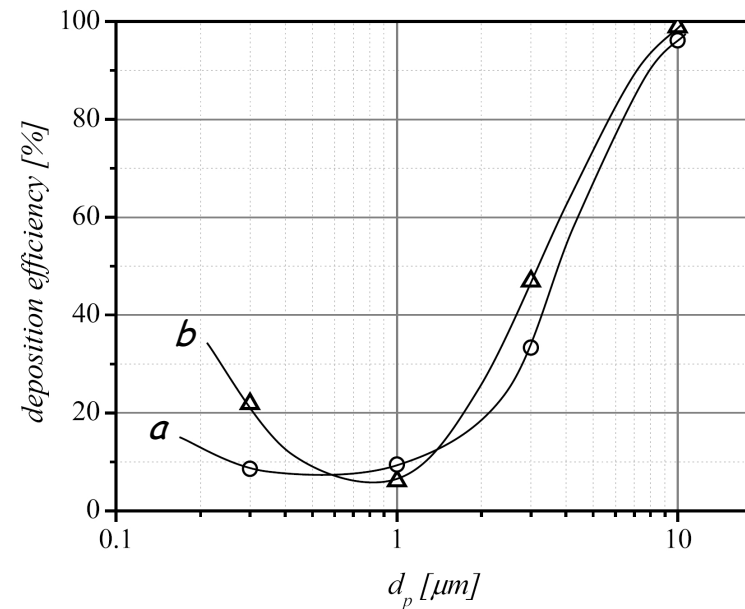


# RESULTS

*Comparison of airflow field  
for non-steady  
and constant flow conditions*

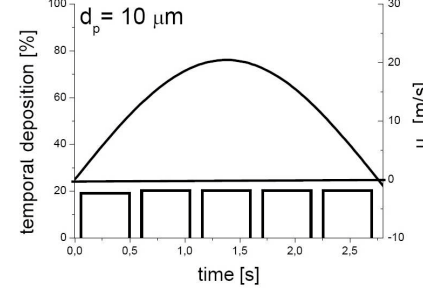
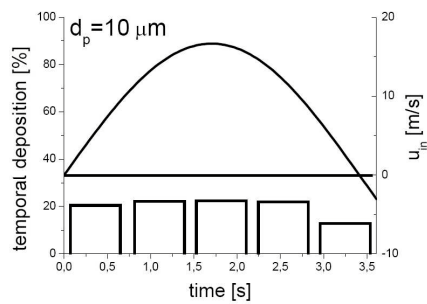
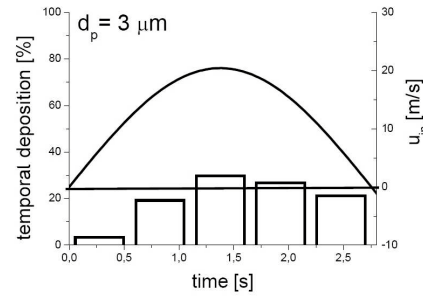
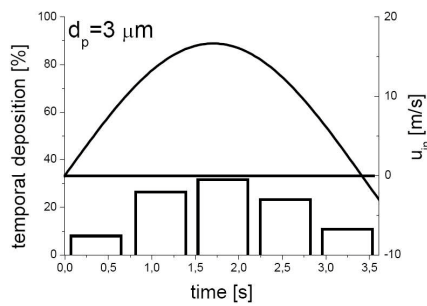
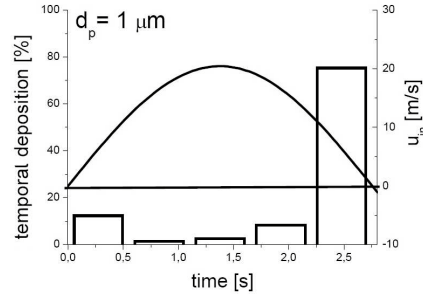
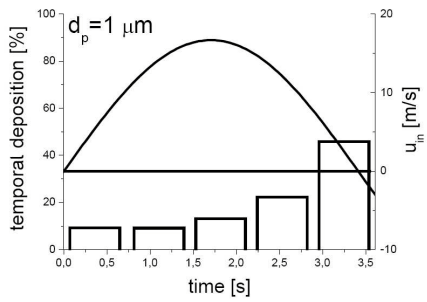
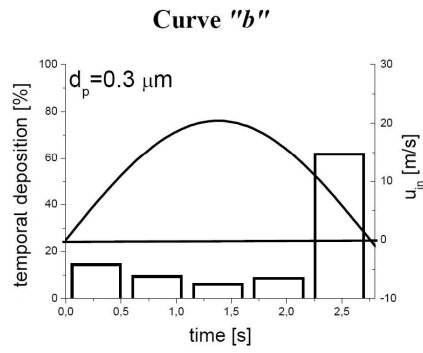
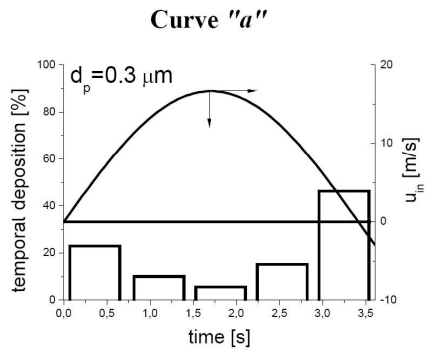


*Overall deposition efficiency  
during inhalation*

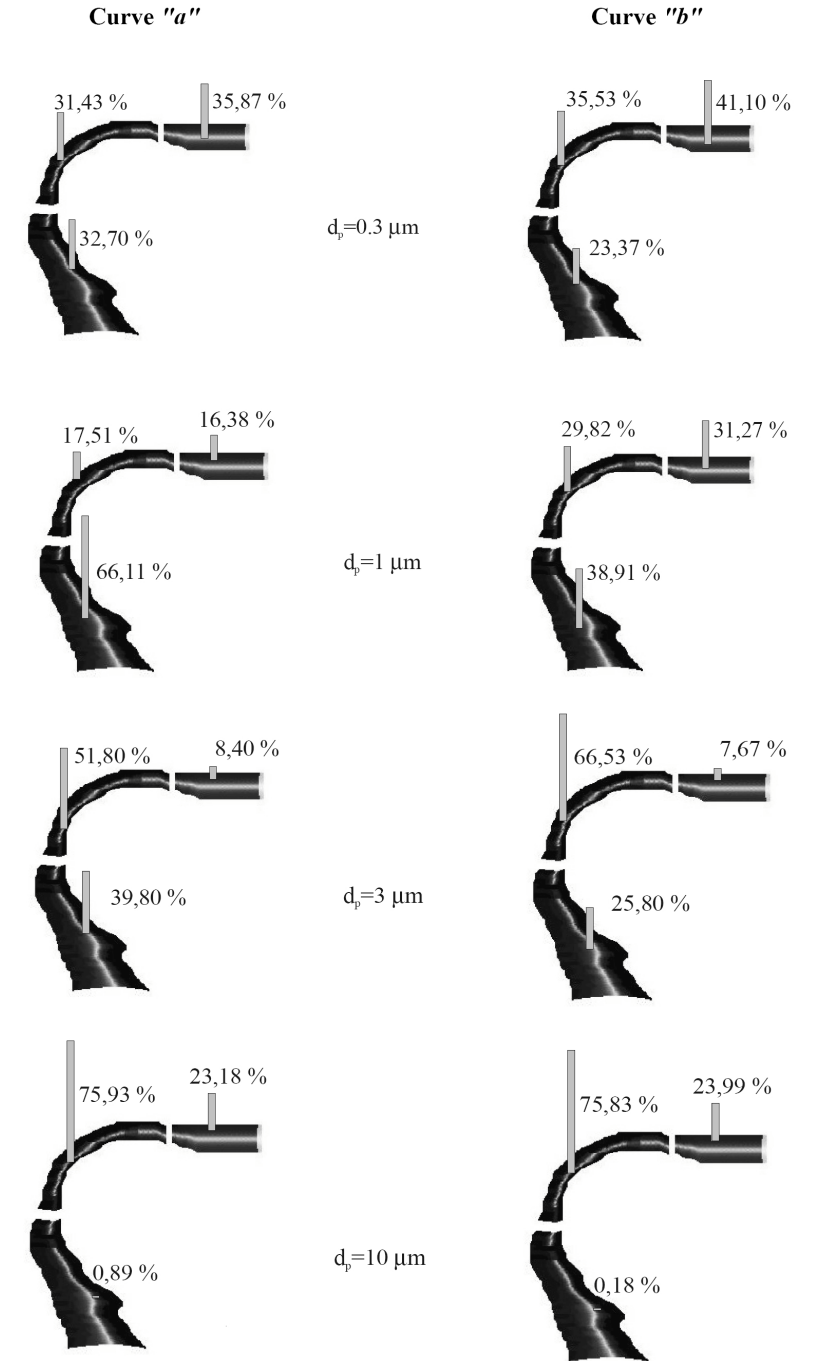




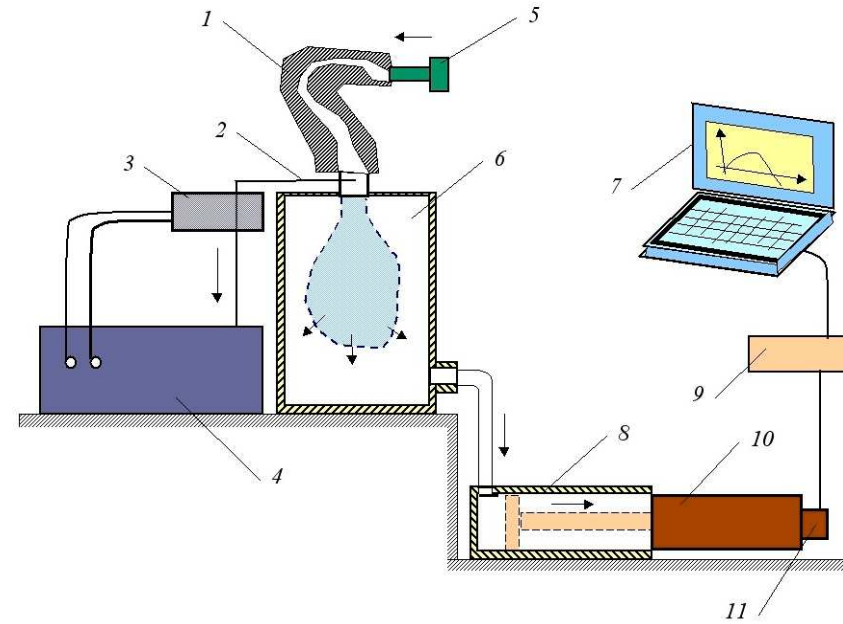
# Temporal distribution of deposition



# Spatial distribution of deposition

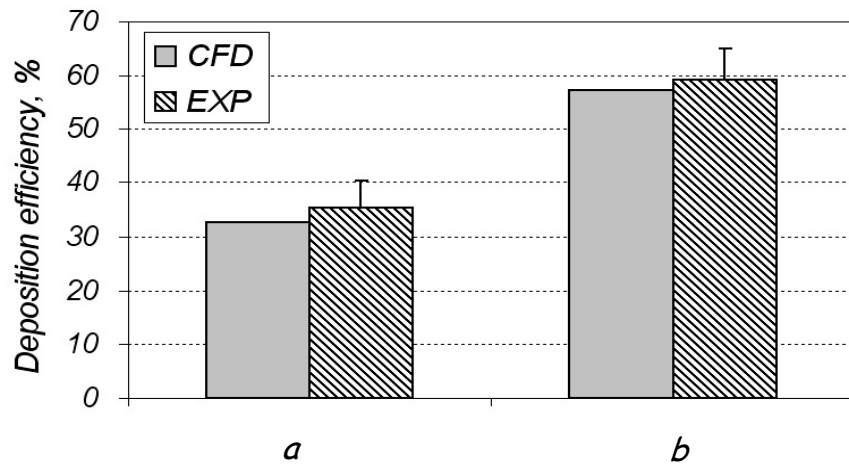


# EXPERIMENTS

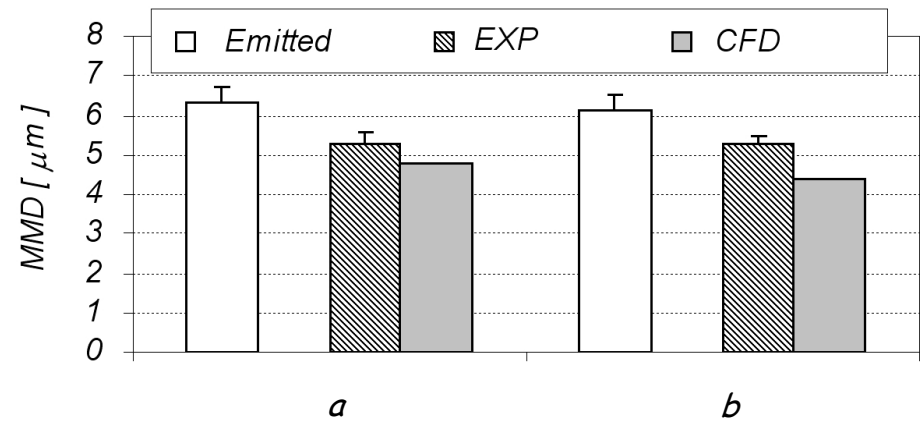


*Artificial Lung Apparatus (ALA)*

**Total deposition of polydispersed aerosol**



**Change in particle size distribution of aerosol passing the cast**



## Modeling and experimental studies of particle deposition in the oro-pharynx

### **CONCLUSIONS:**

*CFD with realistic flow pattern reveals dynamic effects during aerosol flow and deposition in the airways, which are overlooked if constant flow is assumed*

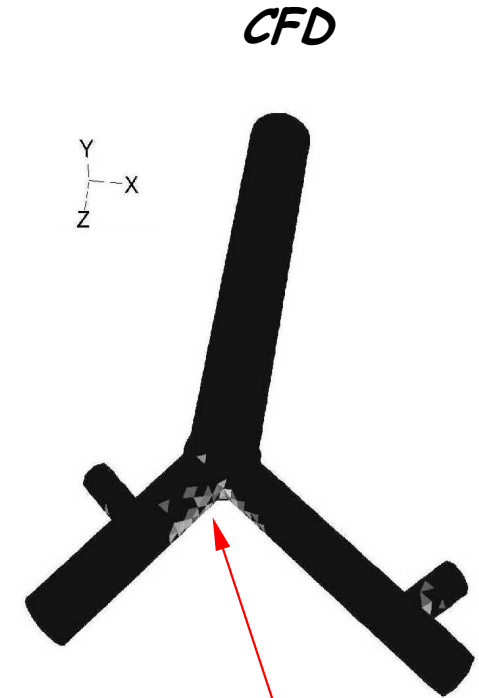
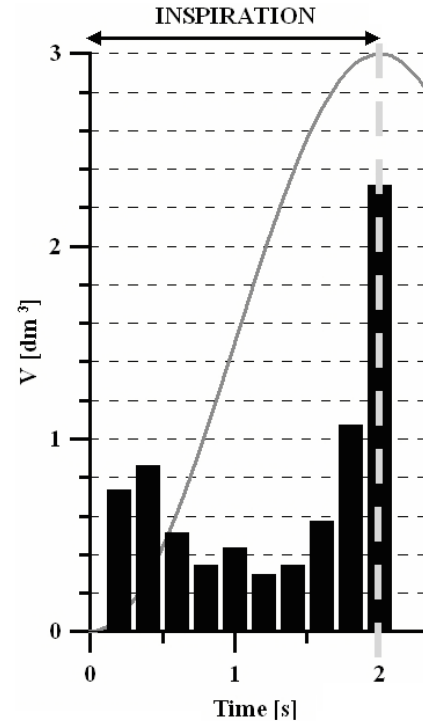
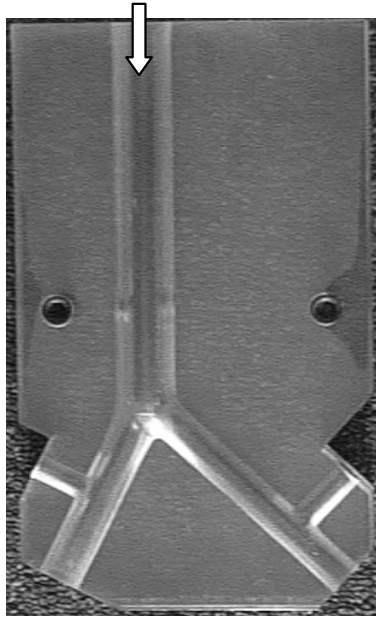
*Influence of variations in breathing pattern on the local particle deposition in the mouth and throat is possible*

*Proper prediction of aerosol deposition in the oro-pharynx is important:*

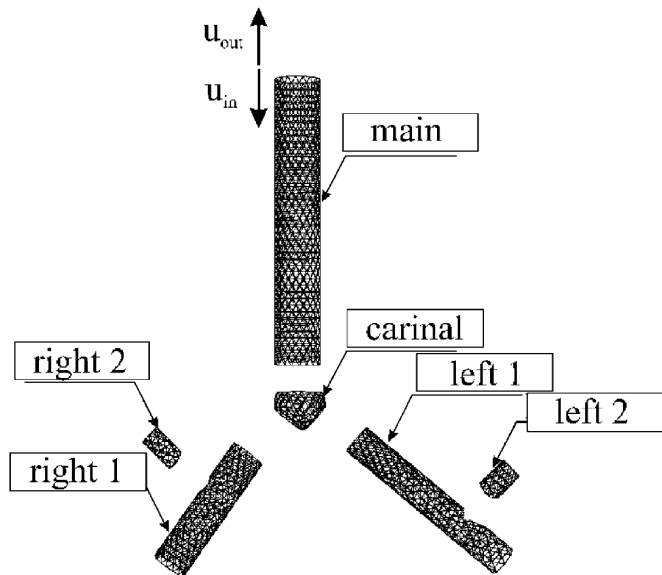
- local deposition in this region is responsible for several adverse effects of inhaled aerosol drug (irritation, mycosis)*
- total deposition determines the undesired systemic absorption (from drug ingestion), but also the bioavailability of the drug in the lungs*

*Broadening the knowledge of aerosol behavior in the respiratory system ⇒ better design of drug particles for inhalation*

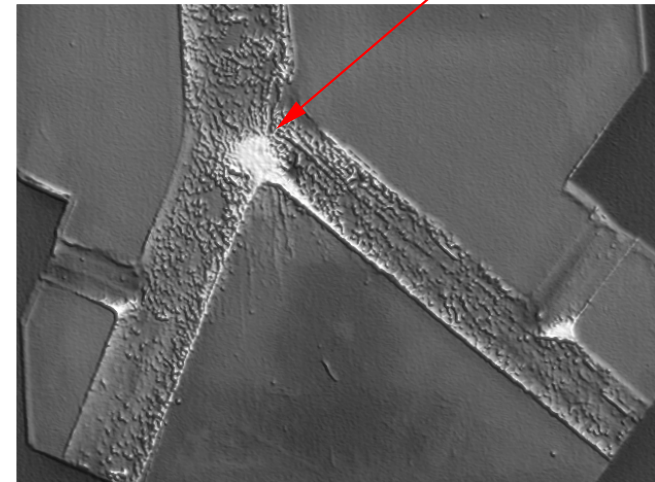
# TRACHEA AND MAIN BRONCHI



"Hot-spot"



Experiment



## **Question #2**

*how to characterize pharmaceutical aerosols ?*



*European Pharmacopeia, United States Pharmacopeia (USP)*

- *reproducibility of drug Metered Dose (MD) and Emitted Dose (ED)*
- *particle size distribution: Fine Particle Dose (FPD) and Fine Particle Fraction (FPF)*

*ED = out-of-device dose of active substance [ $\mu\text{g}$ ]*

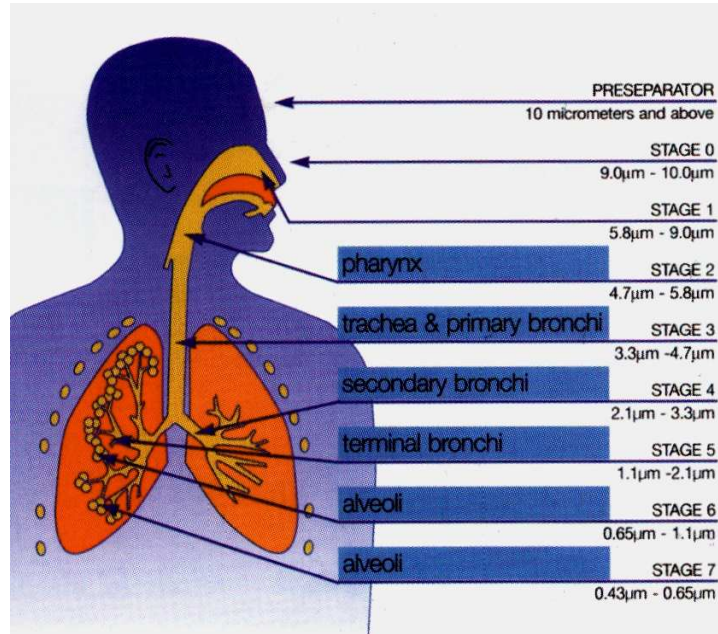
*FPD = mass of particles  $< 5 \mu\text{m}$*

*FPF = FPD/ED*

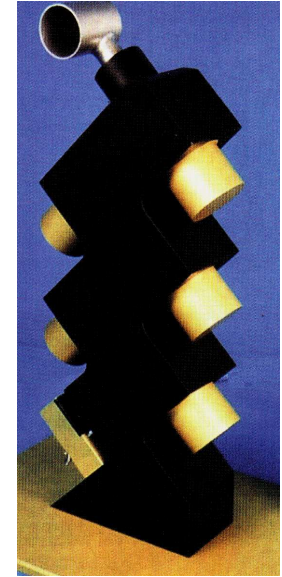
- *GLP (Good Laboratory Practice)*
- *Impactors @ Standard conditions: 28,3 LPM, for powder inhalers: 60 and 90 LPM*



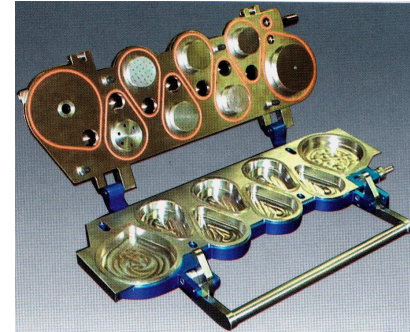
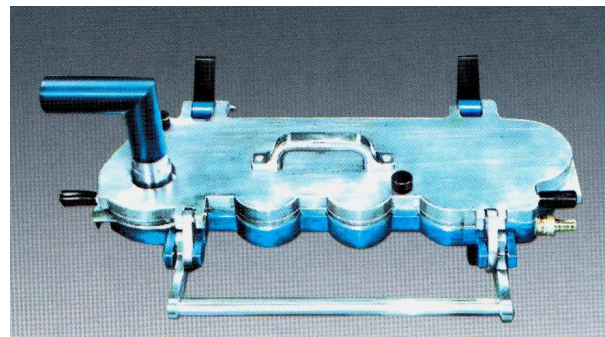
## Andersen Cascade Impactor (8-stages)



## Marple-Miller Impactor (5-stages)



## Next Generation Impactor (8-stages)



+ analytical assays (HPLC, spectrophotometry)

### *Question #3*

*How to produce the required particles in easy-to-use, cheap and portable devices ?*



*Knowledge on mechanisms of aerosol formation and size control*



*possible benefits*

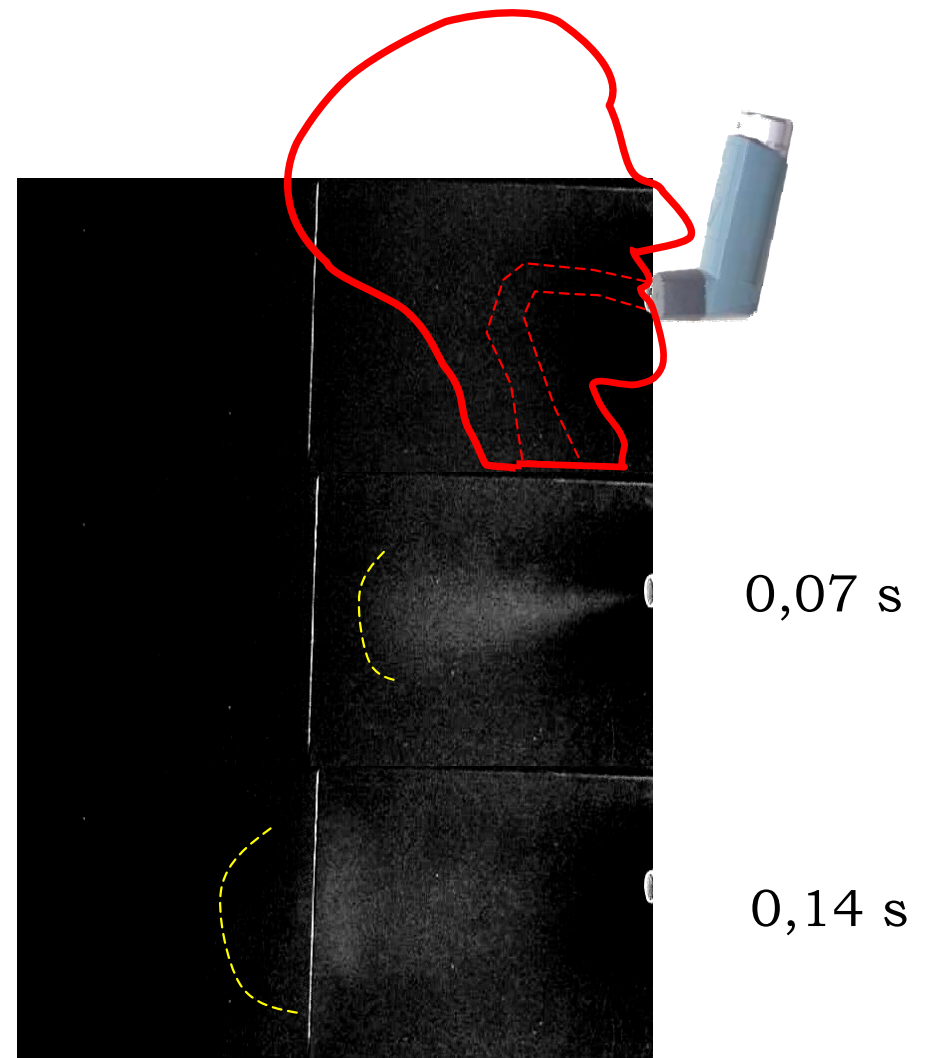
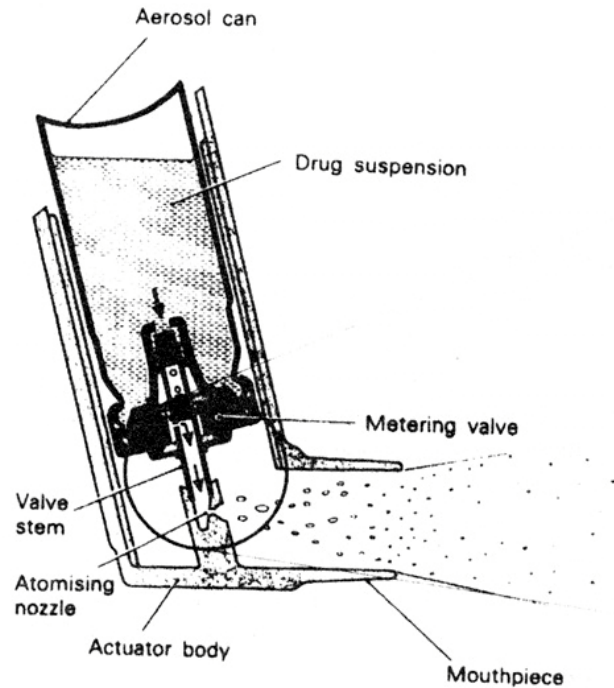
*Better dose control*

*Safety*

*Targeted (dedicated) drug delivery to the lungs*

*Economical factors*

## PRESSURIZED METERED DOSE INHALERS (pMDI)



### Benefits:

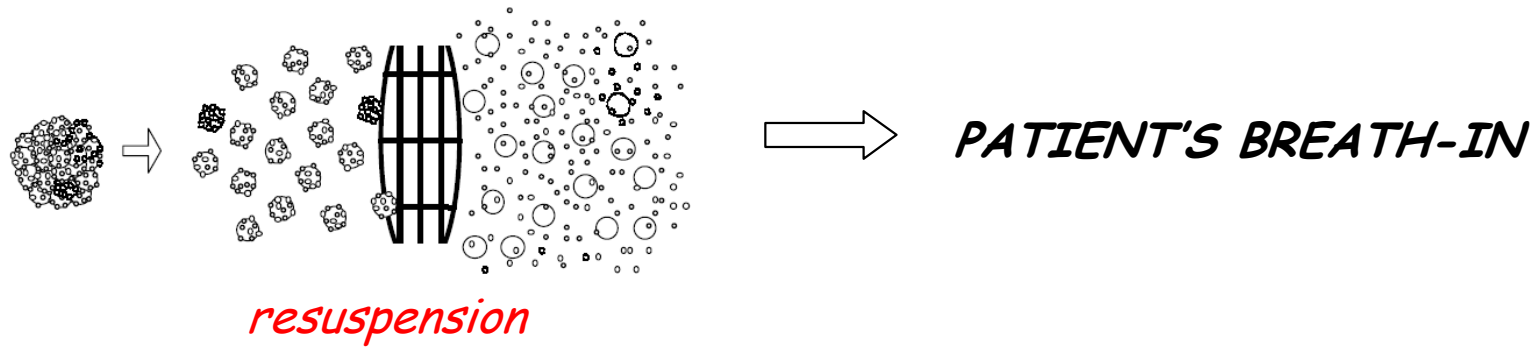
- portable
- easy to operate
- controlled dose

### Drawbacks:

- high speed = high throat deposition
- need of coordination
- low lung deposition (<20%)
- CFC (now: HFA - need of reformulation)



# DRY POWDER INHALERS (DPI)

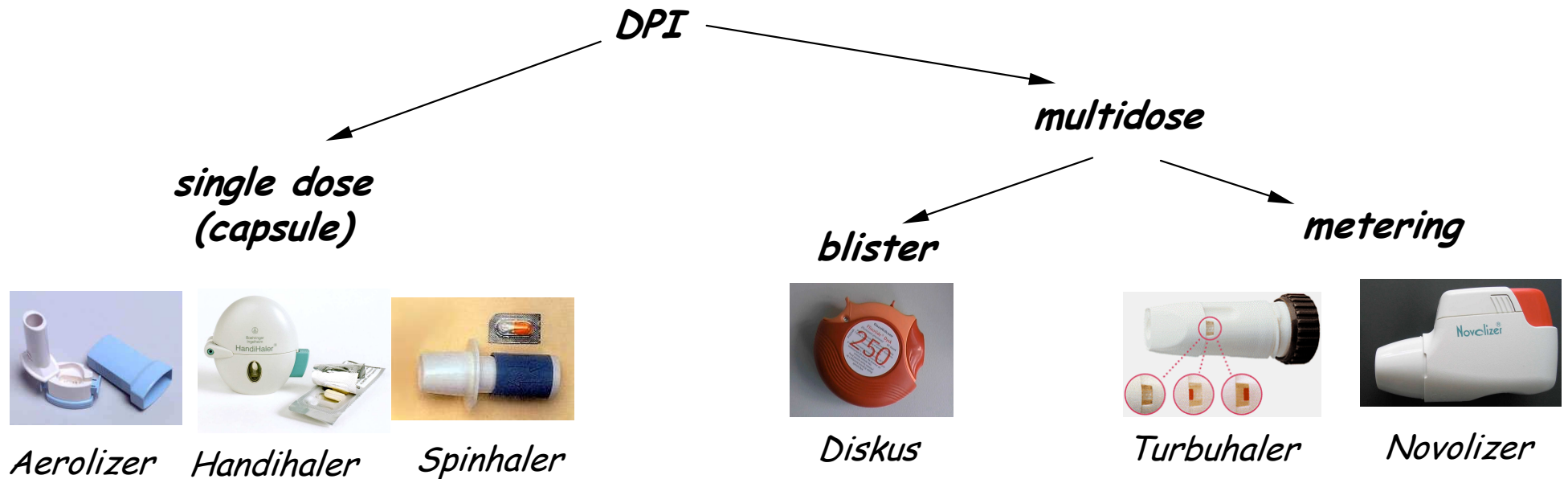


## Benefits:

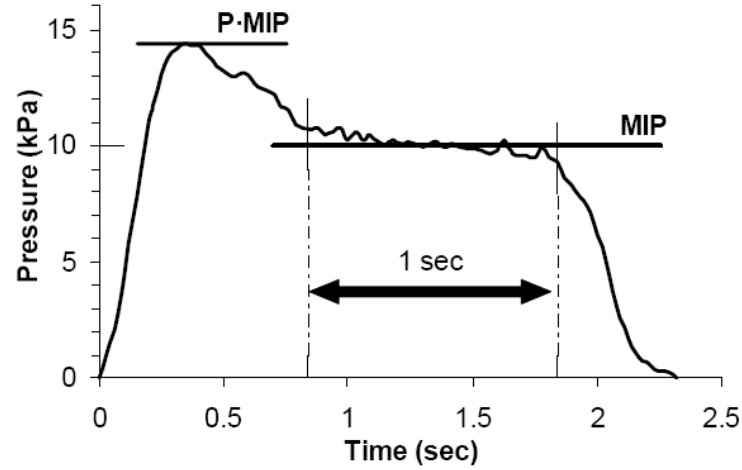
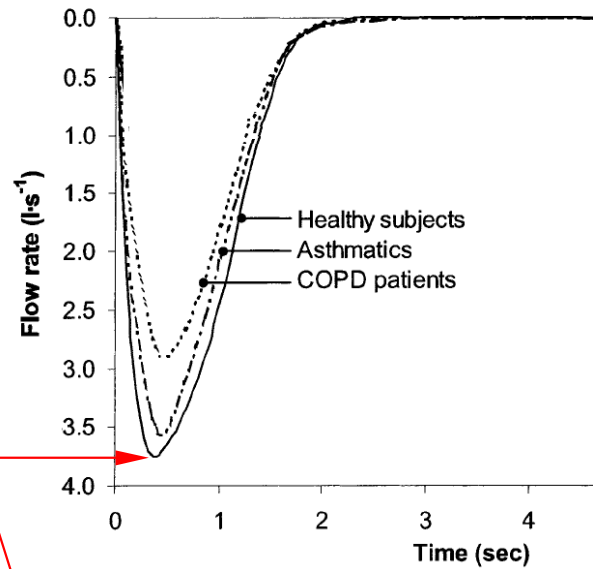
- portable
- self-coordination

## Drawbacks:

- airflow-dependent dose and PSD
- sensitivity to moisture



# LIMITATIONS

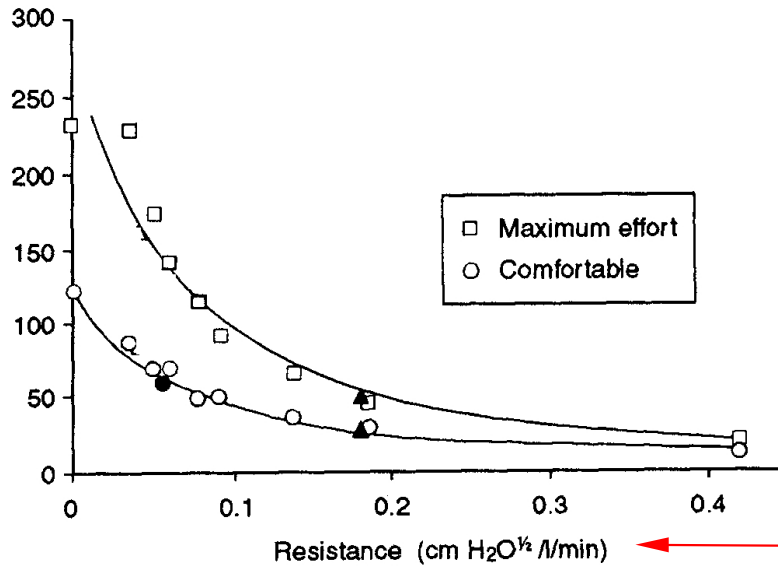


Healthy:  
 MIP = 10 kPa  
 PMIP = 15 kPa

COPD:  
 MIP < 7 kPa  
 PMIP < 10 kPa

MIP - maximal inspiratory pressure (1 sec.)  
 PMIP - peak maximal inspiratory pressure  
 PIFR - peak inspiratory flow rate

Peak inspiratory flowrate (l/min)

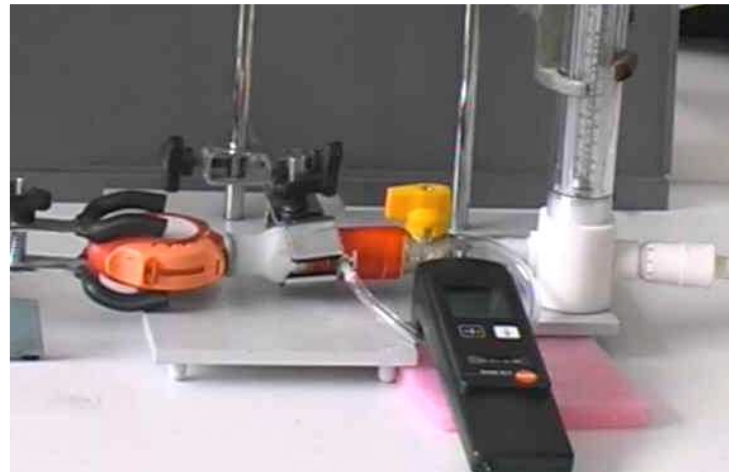
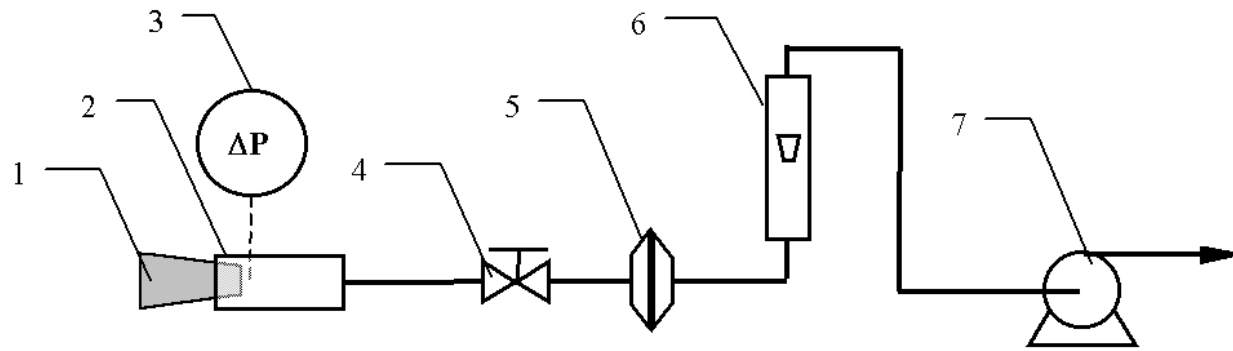


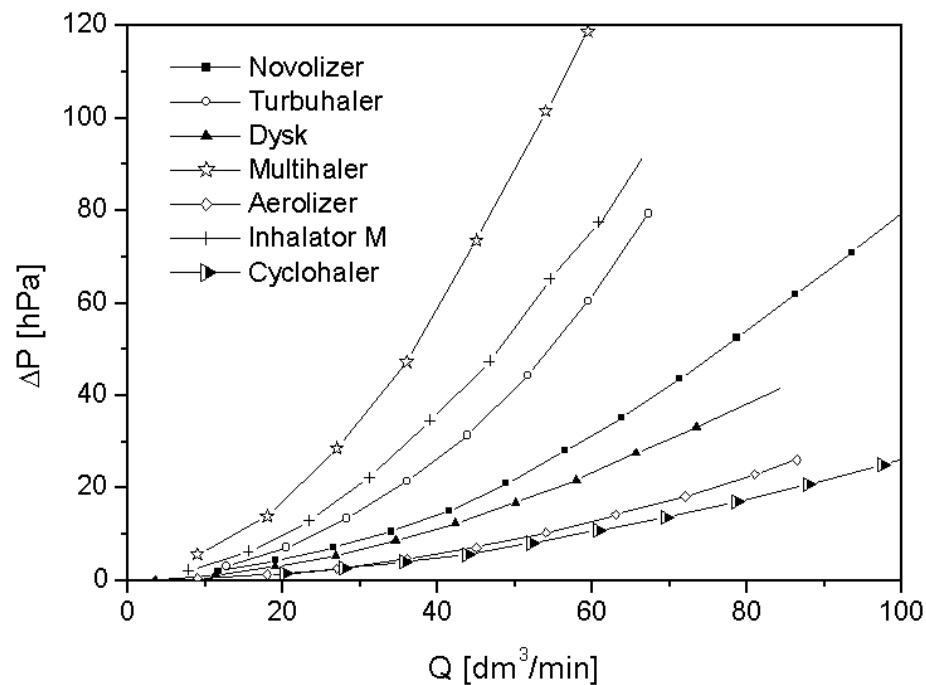
(inhaler) resistance to airflow

$$R_D [hPa^{1/2} dm^{-3} min]$$

$$\sqrt{\Delta P} = R_D Q$$

# $R_D$ measurement





*Low resistance*

*Medium resistance*

*Hogh resistance*

Typ inhalatora	$R_D$ [hPa <sup>1/2</sup> dm <sup>-3</sup> min]
Cyclohaler	0,049
Aerolizer	0,058
Dysk	0,076
Novolizer	0,086
Turbuhaler	0,130
Inhalator M	0,140
Multihaler	0,172

Sosnowski, Gradoń (2004)

*Different resistance - appropriate selection of the inhaler for the given patient*

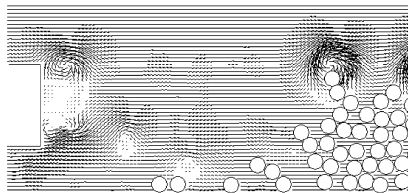
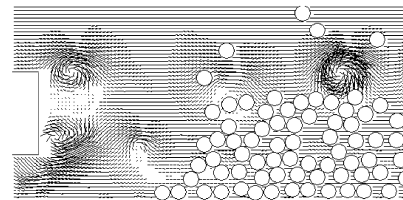
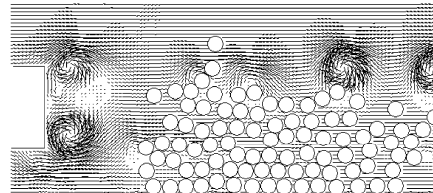
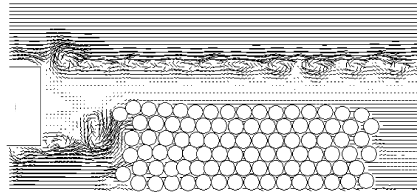
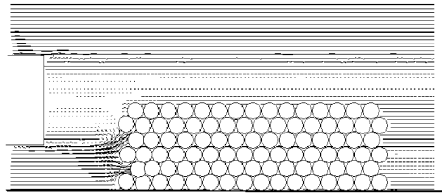
*Research towards a low-resistant, effective design*

# POWDER RESUSPENSION STUDIES

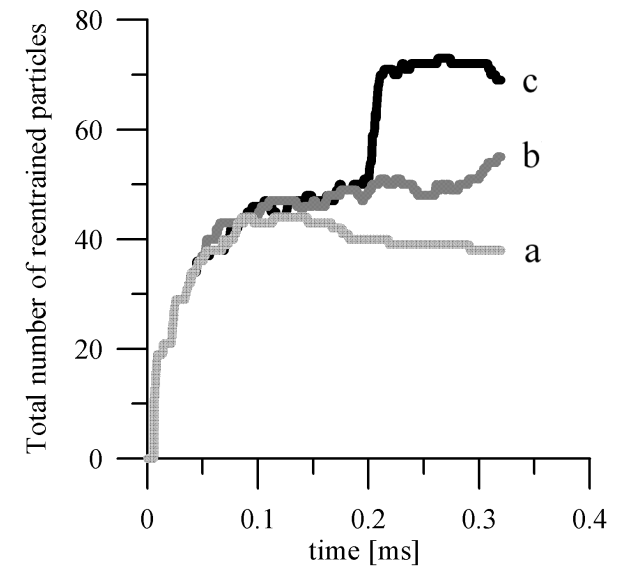
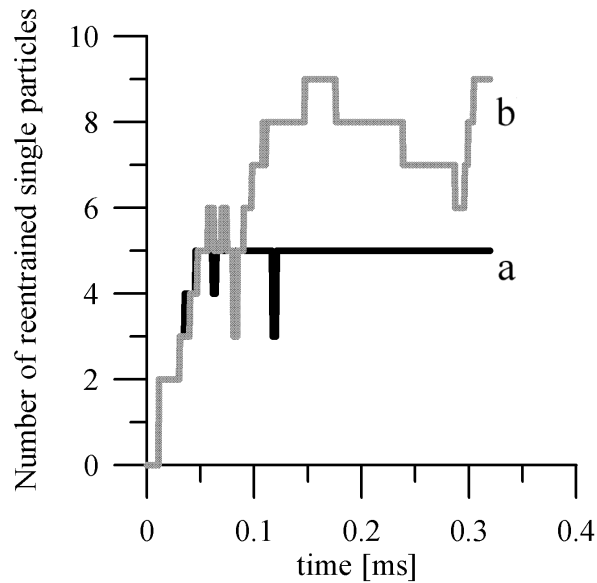
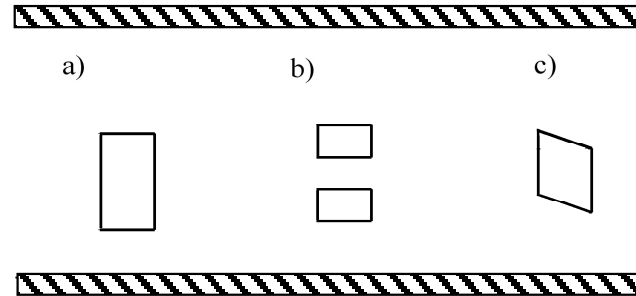


# inhaler design

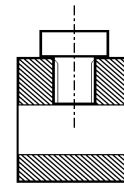
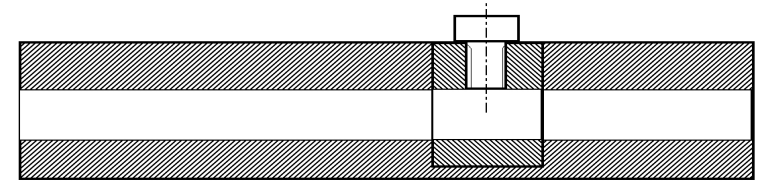
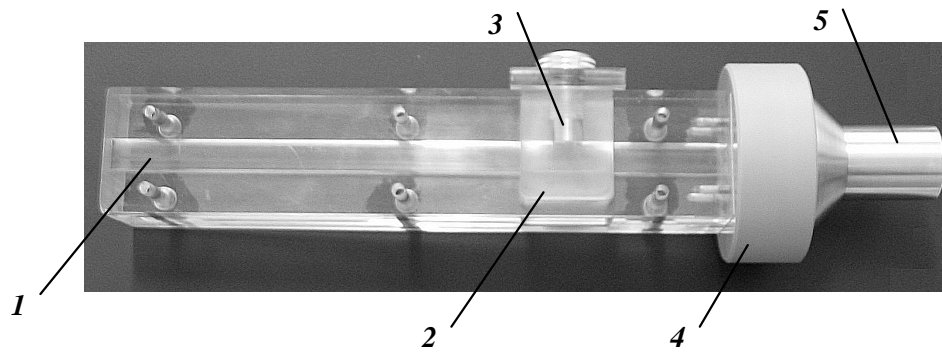
## TURBULENCE PROMOTERS - basic analysis



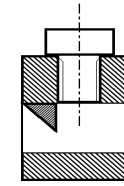
## Influence of the promoters' shape



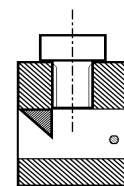
# Real macroscopic system



a

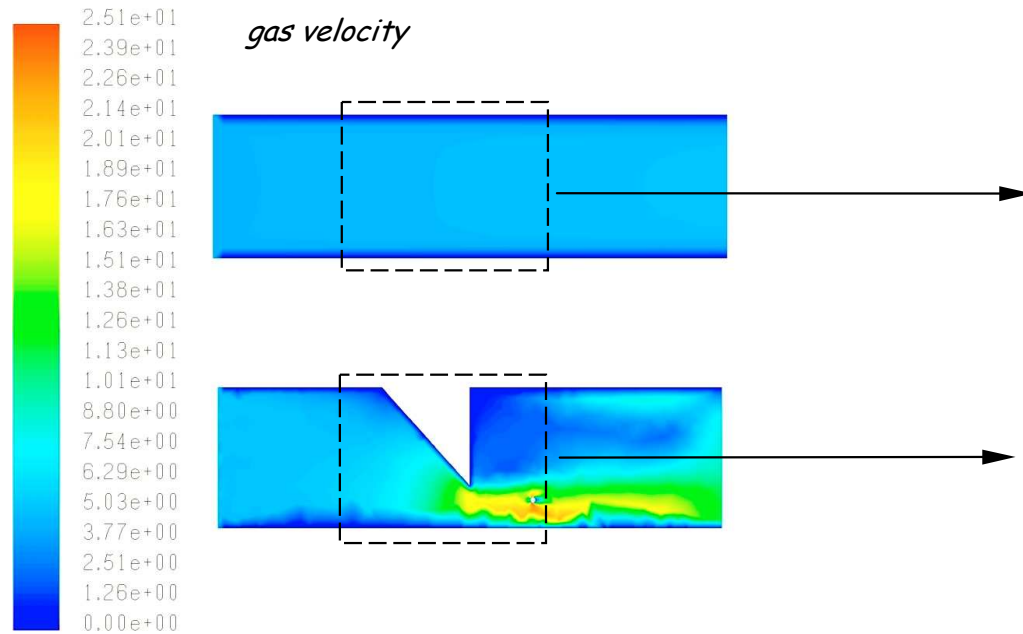


b

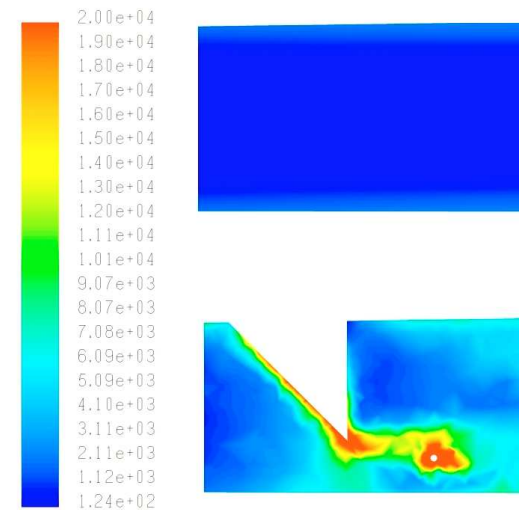


c

# CFD modeling



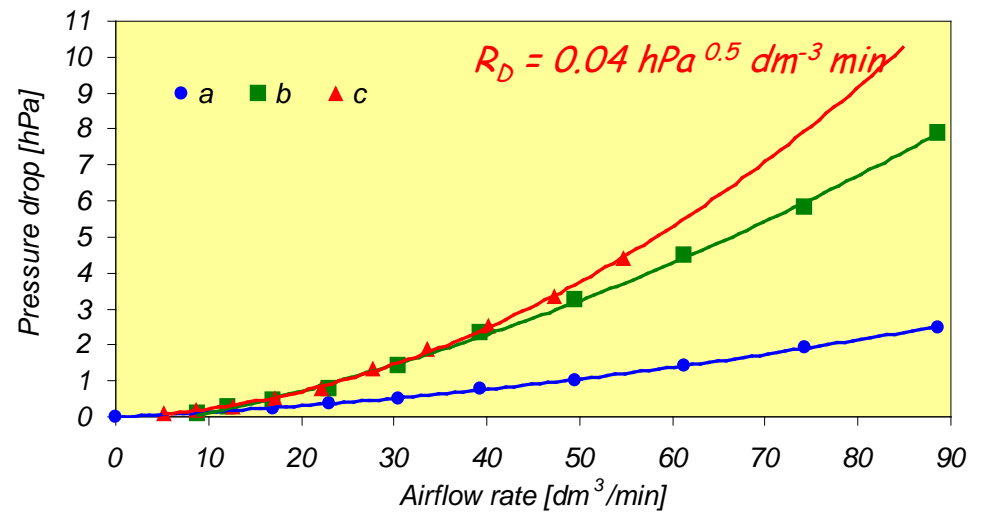
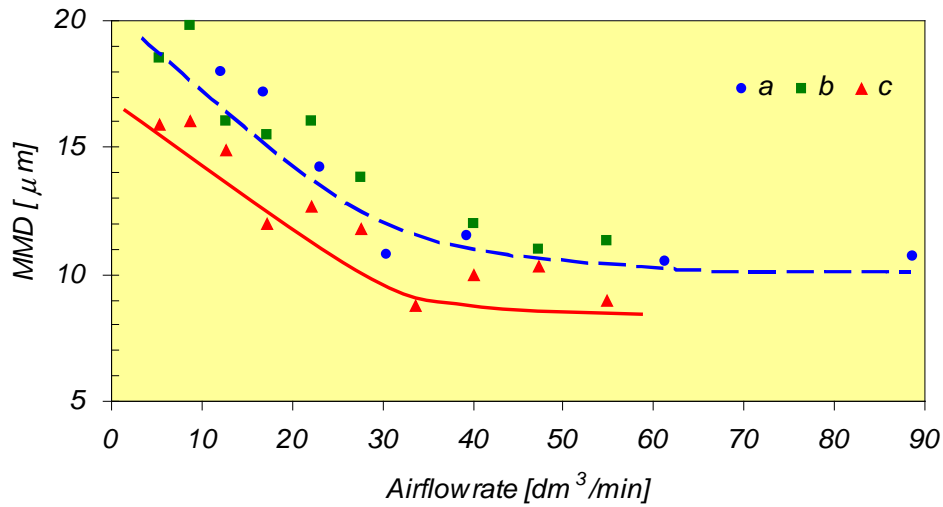
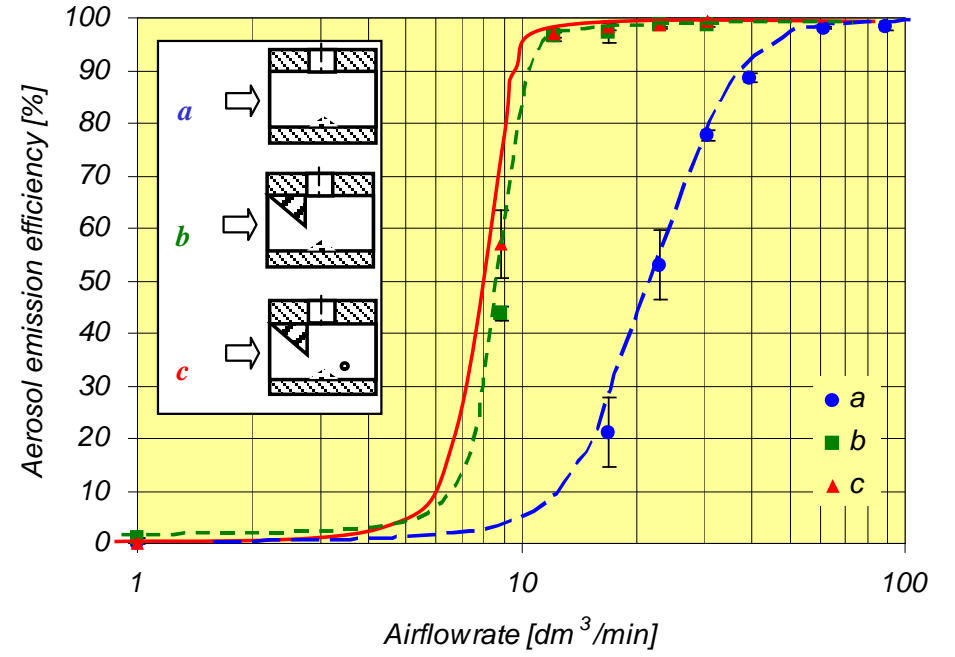
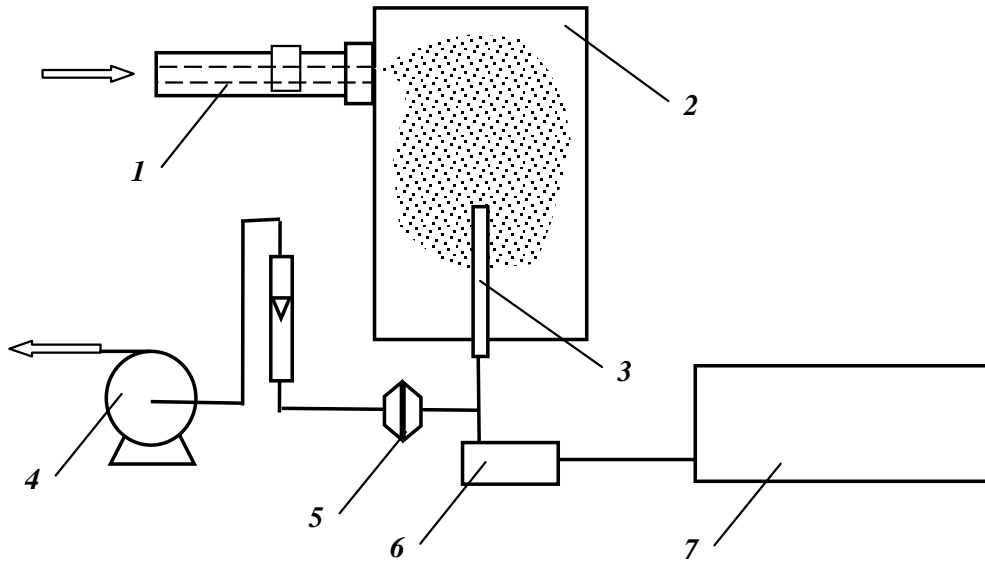
# shear rate



a

c

# Experiments



Low-resistant DPI:  $0.05 \text{ hPa}^{0.5} \text{ dm}^3 \text{ min}$

## Modeling and experiments on particle resuspension from a powder layer

### **CONCLUSIONS:**

*Flow arrangement around the powder layer is important for particles' re-entrainment (lifting-up) and de-aggregation (break-up of clusters), which may occur in two separate steps*

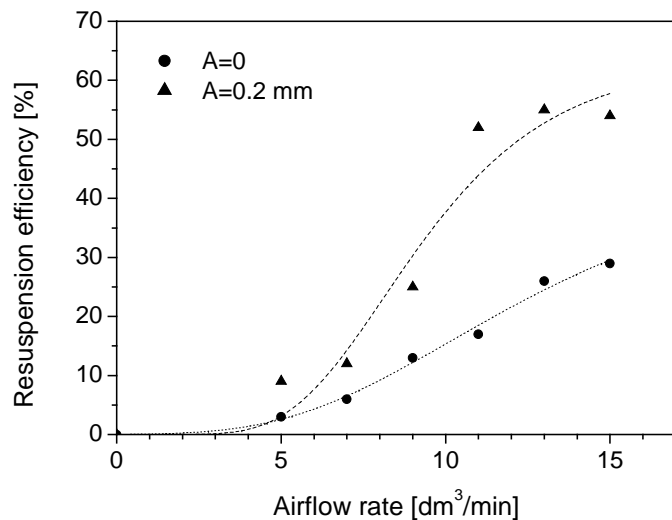
*Turbulence promoters improve powder resuspension, but simultaneously lead to increased flow resistance*

*Optimization is required to make the design applicable in real DPIs.*



# Other concepts to improve powder resuspension and lung deposition:

## - vibrations



Grzybowski, K., Gradoń, L. *Inż. Chem Proc.* (2004)

## - multidirectional air streams

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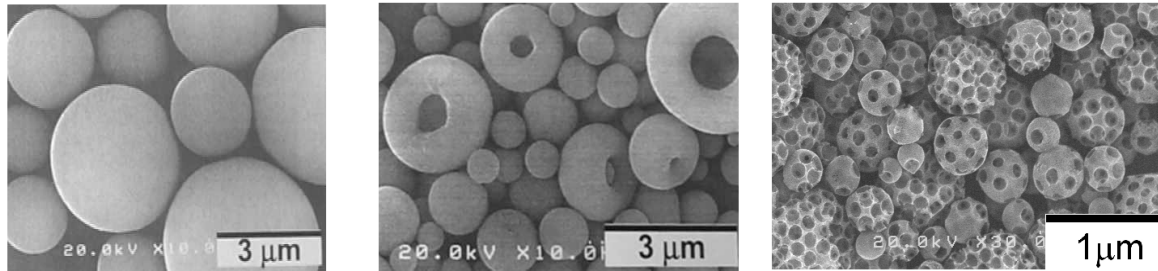
(54) Title: POWDER INHALER

(57) Abstract: The invention consists of a powder inhaler for administering medications. The inhaler, according to the invention, has a chamber with a mechanism for opening the medication capsule and an aerodynamic chamber in which the medication particles are separated from the carrier capsules. In the aerodynamic chamber, on the opposite side to the mouthpiece opening, there are air inlet ducts which form a multidirectional system of air ducts. The air ducts are shaped in a way which makes the air that flows through them create at least three streams. Due to the intersecting of the air streams the air flow is strongly turbulent even if low speeds are involved. Consequently the separation of the active substance particles from the carrier surface is very effective.

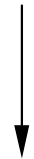
WO 2006/033584 A1

Gradoń, L., Sosnowski, T.R., Moskal, A., Powder inhaler. European Patent Application PCT/PL2005/000059 (2006)

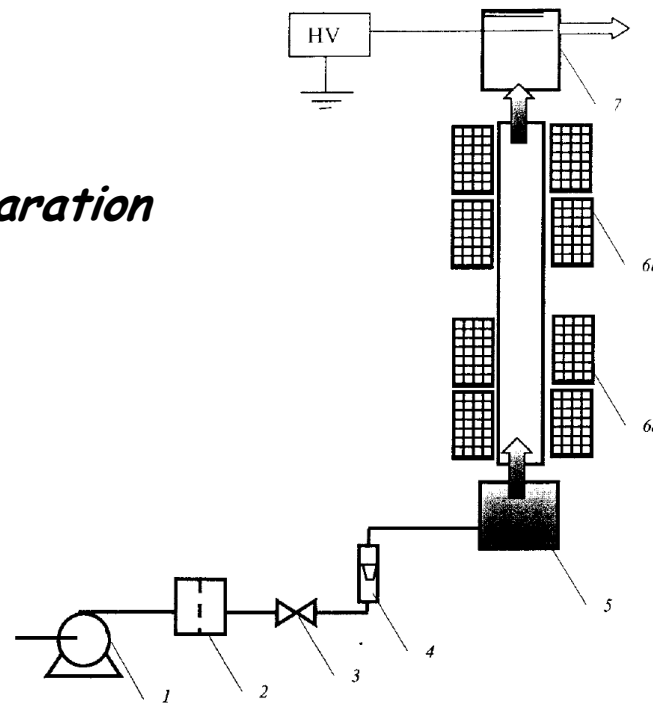
**- change of particle morphology and surface properties (particle engineering)**



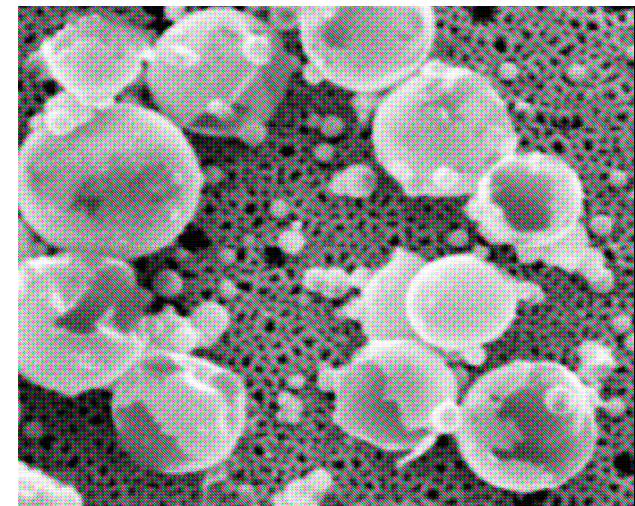
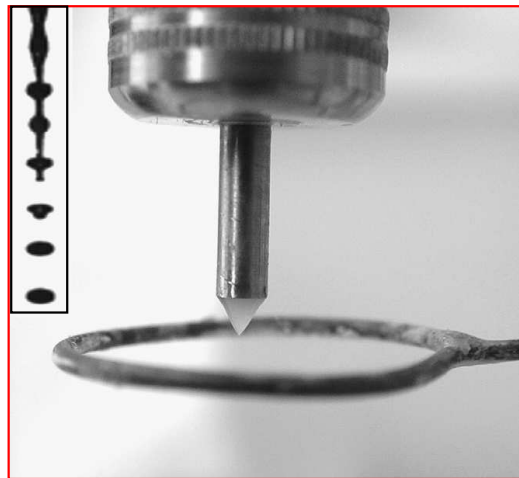
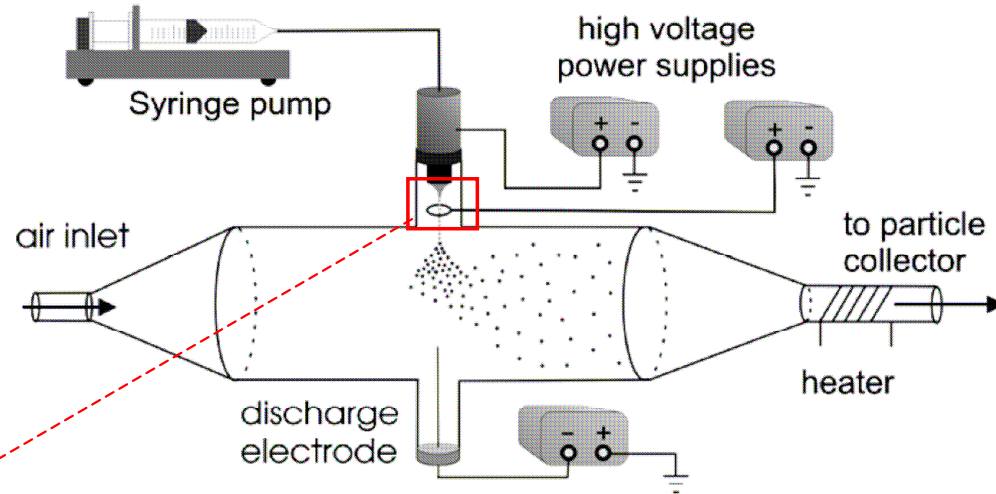
Sosnowski T.R., Gradoń L., Iskandar F., Okuyama K.  
*In: Optimization of aerosol drug delivery.*  
Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 2003



***Novel techniques of particle preparation are required:***



# *Electro-HydroDynamic Atomization (EHDA)*



*Hollow particles (~1  $\mu\text{m}$ )*

## **CONCLUSIONS**

- *Several technical issues of aerosoltherapy need to be solved to improve the therapeutic effect of inhaled particles by proper adjustment of quality of aerosol emitted from inhalers*
- *A better understanding of particles dynamics is the essential factor in designing and effective application of inhalers in targeted drug delivery with minimized side-effects*

**ENGINEERING  
PROBLEMS**

## **FUTURE STEPS**

- *Deposition modeling for different breathing pattern (asthmatic, restrictive diseases, children of different age, ventilation-supported patients, etc.)*
- *Particle-particle interactions during aerosol flow in the inhaler and in the airways (coagulation & break-up)*
- *Novel solutions of inhalers (active devices, adaptive delivery, etc.)*
- *Novel particle types (e.g., structural) and their generation techniques -PARTICLE ENGINEERING*