Supplementary Information

Heterogeneous and self-organizing mineralization of bone matrix promoted by hydroxyapatite nanoparticles

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Fig. 1 SI: nHAP particles characterization
X Ray Diffraction pattern of externally supplied nHap particle indicating their polycrystalline nature; the red marker indicate the peak position of the Ca$_5$(PO$_4$)$_3$(OH) structure with P63/m symmetry. In the inset we show representative TEM images of nHap at 20.000X (A) magnification. Scale bars represent 500 nm.
Figure 2 SI: Differentiation and bio-mineralization of hBM-MSCs. (a) Alkaline phosphatase (blue) and mineral deposition (black) staining of Ctrl-8, nHap-8, Ctrl-28 and nHap-28 samples of hBM-MSCs. (b) Quantitative evaluation of deposited Ca performed by Calcium–cresolphthalein complexone method as reported in material and methods section. Bars represent mean and SEM of three experiments. Statistical analysis was performed against control (***p<0.001; n=3).
Figure 3 SI: Experimental setup for simultaneous Scanning X ray Diffraction and Fluorescence measurements.

Layout of experimental setup adopted for high-resolution synchrotron scanning X-ray micro-diffraction. The monochromatic X-ray beam is focused on a 2x2 $\mu$m$^2$ spot on the sample. A single X-ray diffraction frame and a single X ray fluorescence pattern are collected at each $(y, z)$ position. In this way, we build maps of hydroxyapatite nanocrystals and Calcium by scanning the sample with a step of 2 $\mu$m in both horizontal and vertical direction.
Figure 4 SI: 2D SAXS Frames and Background subtraction

(a) Typical 2D SAXS pattern of thermanox support showing the preferred orientations. (b) Radially and (c) azimuthally integrated SAXS profiles, I(q) and I(Φ). We get the preferred orientations indicated by the two peaks at about 100° and 280° in I(Φ). (d) Typical 2D SAXS patterns with thermanox subtracton in four different point of a nhap-28 sample. SAXS profiles extracted from (e) radial and (f) azimuthal integration of 2D SAXS patterns 1, 2, 3 and 4 in (d) and normalized for the incident flux. In 1 we do not have any appreciable signal. The 2 indicates a poorly mineralized 2x2 area where we can observe preferred orientations consistent with the thermanox orientation. This orientation disappears as the mineralization increases, in 3 and 4.
Figure 5 SI: deposition of extracellular matrix proteins during differentiation.
hBM-MSCs immunostaining of osteocalcin and decorin deposited in Ctrl-8, Ctrl-28, nHap-8 and nHap-28. hBMSCs were seeded and incubated without/with nHap suspension for 8 and 28 days, respectively. At the end of each incubation time, cells were fixed and immunostained against bone proteins as indicated in Materials and Methods section. Nuclei were counterstained with Hoechst 33342 (blue) and the extracellular deposits of bone proteins like osteocalcin and decorin were probed with a fluorescent secondary antibody (green). The bar corresponds to 50 µm.
Figure 6 SI: Typical spatial distribution of Ca in differentiated human stem cells to osteoblasts.

(a) Map of the integrated area of the Ca peaks (shown in Figure 3c) indicating the Calcium content in the nHap-28 sample. The map appears quite similar to the Q map measured in the same sample ROI shown in Figure 4. Indeed, we find a high correlation coefficient between the Q and Ca maps, equal to 0.88 (b) Probability Density Function of the Calcium content, showing a power law behavior with exponent equal to 2.0 ± 0.6. (c) Semilogaritmic scatter plot of the Q intensity vs. Ca content, indicating the high correlation between the Q SAXS signal and the Ca content.
### Table I SI: Primers used for qrtPCR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gene</th>
<th>Forward primer</th>
<th>Reverse primer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>5'- ACCTCGTTGACACCTGGAAG - 3'</td>
<td>5'- CCACCATCTCGGAGAGTGAC - 3'</td>
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<tr>
<td>IBSP</td>
<td>5'- GGGCAGTAGTGACTCATCCG - 3'</td>
<td>5'- TCAGCCTCAGAGTCTTCTTC - 3'</td>
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<td>OCN</td>
<td>5'- GGCAGCGAGGAGTGAAGAG - 3'</td>
<td>5'- CTGGAGAGGAGCAGAAGCTGG - 3'</td>
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<td>DCN</td>
<td>5'- CGAGTGCTCCAGTGCTCTGA - 3'</td>
<td>5'- AAAGCCCCATTTTCAATTCC - 3'</td>
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<tr>
<td>18S</td>
<td>5'- GTAACCCGTTGAACCCATT - 3'</td>
<td>5'- CCATCCAAATCGGTAGTAGCG - 3'</td>
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