

Gradually softening hydrogels for modeling hepatic stellate cell behavior during fibrosis regression

Steven R. Caliari¹, Maryna Perepelyuk², Elizabeth M. Soulas¹, Gi Yun Lee¹, Rebecca G. Wells²,
Jason A. Burdick¹

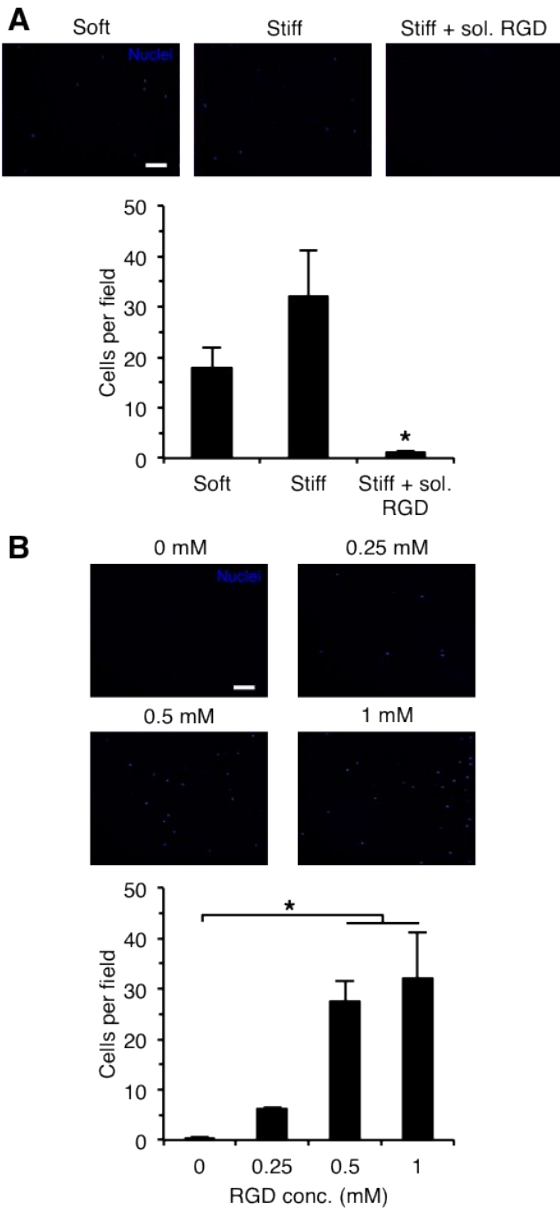
¹ Department of Bioengineering
² Department of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Corresponding Authors:

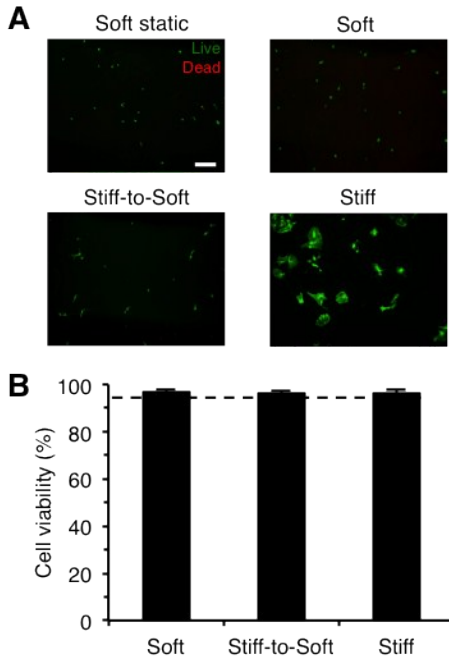
J.A. Burdick
Department of Bioengineering
University of Pennsylvania
240 Skirkanich Hall
210 S. 33rd St.
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Phone: (215) 898-8537
Fax: (215) 573-2071
email: burdick2@seas.upenn.edu

Rebecca G. Wells, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine (Gastroenterology) and
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
905 BRB/6160
421 Curie Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Tel: (215) 573-1860
Fax: (215) 573-2024
email: rgwells@mail.med.upenn.edu

Supplemental Figures



Supplemental Figure 1. Hepatic stellate cell attachment to hyaluronic acid hydrogels is mediated by tethered RGD. (A) Stellate cell attachment to soft and stiff HA hydrogels (1 mM covalently-tethered RGD, with or without 1 mM soluble RGD added to culture media). (B) Stellate cell attachment to stiff hydrogels with varying levels of covalently-attached RGD peptide (0, 0.25, 0.5, and 1 mM). *Blue*: nuclei. *: $P < 0.05$. Scale bars: 500 μ m.



Supplemental Figure 2. Hepatic stellate cells on HA hydrogels are viable. (A) Representative images and (B) quantification of viability for stellate cells cultured for 21 days total on soft hydrogels (soft static, dashed lines) or 7 day mechanically primed stellate cells cultured for an additional 14 days on soft, stiff, or stiff-to-soft hydrogels. *Green*: live cells, *Red*: dead cells. (*Dashed lines*: soft static control). Scale bar: 500 μm .