

Nanostructured membranes functionalized with graphene oxide

*Enrica Fontananova*¹, Elena Tocci¹, Rund Abu-Zurayk², Valentina Grosso¹, Carmen Meringolo¹, Enrico Drioli¹, Gianluca Di Profio¹*

¹Institute on Membrane Technology of the National Research Council of Italy (ITM-CNR), Via P. Bucci, cubo 17/C, at University of Calabria, 87036 Rende (CS), Italy

²Hamdi Mango Center for Scientific Research, The University of Jordan, 11942 Amman, Jordan

* e.fontananova@itm.cnr.it

Abstract

Graphene oxide (GO) is a promising candidate as membrane material for aqueous separations thanks to the fast water permeation by the low-friction flow of a monolayer of water through 2D-capillaries, combined with size and electrostatic exclusion mechanisms able to increase membrane selectivity and to reduce fouling. This work focus on design and production of high performing and “green” graphene oxide (GO) membranes for desalination and water treatment by two different methods: blending of GO in a polymer solution to produce mixed matrix membranes and deposition of GO on a porous membrane to obtain composite GO membranes. The results evidence improved performance in comparison to traditional polymeric membranes.

Acknowledgment

This work was carried out in the framework of the IDEA project (IDEA-ERANETMED2-72-357)