

E. Aubrey Woodroof, Ph.D. (biochemistry), M.B.A., is an innovative researcher with a track record of success in designing and bringing to market biologic dressings for the treatment of burn patients and others with open wounds. Dr. Woodroof was the developer of Biobrane®, the first widely used collagen based bilaminate skin substitute. That membrane consisted of an inner layer (dermal analogue) of Type I porcine collagen gel which permitted ingrowth of host tissue to effect biologic union with the wound bed and an outer layer (epidermal analogue) of silastic that permitted transmission of water vapor to prevent sub-membrane formation of seroma and fluid collections and also served as a barrier to microorganisms and minor trauma. That membrane rapidly became the most commonly used skin substitute for temporary coverage of open wounds ranging from burns to defects in tissue caused by mechanical trauma and wounds produced by exfoliative skin diseases.

In recent years Dr. Woodroof has returned to the laboratory to develop second and now third generation collagen-based skin substitutes. He has designed a series of membranes in which pharmacologic agents are added to the collagen gel in the dermal analogue in order to reduce wound inflammation, promote vascularization and accelerate healing and has modified the epidermal analogue to enhance fluid transmission, further reduce sub-membrane fluid collection, and decrease hyperpigmentation and later scarring of the healed wound. Dr. Woodroof's extensive experience and knowledge of skin substitutes and his use of state-of-the-art evaluation technology ensure optimum development of the new membranes which is anticipated to increase their effectiveness and expand indications for their use.

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