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SIZE MATTERS: ASSESSMENT OF A LARGER PORE HOLLOW FIBER TO REDUCE PRODUCT RETENTION IN PERFUSION

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Traditionally, perfusion processes using either TFF or ATF technologies have utilized hollow fibers made from polymers such as polyethersulfone (PES) or polysulfone (PS) for cell retention. The pore sizes on these hollow fibers range from several hundred kD to a few μm . However, despite the relatively large size of the pores compared to that of the product, retention of product across the hollow fiber over time is a known and common problem in perfusion. Particle size analysis demonstrated accumulation of particles around 100nm in diameter, which are unable to pass through a typical 0.2 μm PES membrane. As these particles are on the same order of size as the pores on traditional hollow fibers, the question was asked if increasing the pore size could alleviate the product retention phenomenon. A hollow fiber with a larger pore size dramatically improved product retention across the membrane with little change in cell clarification. Both TFF and ATF modes were explored. A comparison of performance differences between different sized hollow fibers used in perfusion will be presented.