

Project # E-18-640 MOD # REV # 0  
Contract # 5 R01 DE07754-02 OCA file # Status A  
Contract entity GTRC Prime contract #  
PDPI MAREK M I ( DR.  
SSN 259-84-5914 Unit MAT ENGR Phone ( ) -  
Project unit MAT ENGR Unit code 02.010.112  
Sponsor/Division DHHS/PHS/NIH / NATL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH  
Sponsor#/division # 108 / 001  
Type of document GRANT  
Award period: from 87 / 08 / 01 to 88 / 07 / 31 (perf) 88 / 10 / 31 (rpts)  
Sponsor amount New this change Total to date  
Contract value \$ 140041 140041  
Funded \$ 140041 140041  
Cost sharing # Cost sharing \$  
Does subcontracting plan apply? (Y/N) N

Title -  
DISSOLUTION OF MERCURY FROM DENTAL AMALGAMS

CTR project # R6363-0A0 CTR cost sharing #

Are there existing subprojects? (Y/N) N

Is this a subproject? (Y/N) N Main project #

Continuation of project # E-18-626 Type of research RES

Coproject director name

SSN - - Unit

Coproject director name

SSN - - Unit

#### PROJECT ADMINISTRATION DATA

Administrative data OCA contact E. FAITH GLEASON PAD CO EFG 894-4820  
Sponsor technical contact Sponsor issuing office  
WILLIAM E. ROGERS, JR. PH.D. ROBERT GINSBURG  
( 301 ) 406 - 7884 ( 301 ) 496 - 7437  
CHIEF, CARIES AND RESTORATIVE GRANTS MANAGEMENT OFFICER  
MATERIALS RESEARCH BRANCH, NIDR EXTRAMURALS PROGRAMS, NIDR  
BETHESDA, MD 20892 BETHESDA, MD 20892  
Security class (U,C,S,TS) ONR resident rep. is ACO (Y/N) N  
Defense priority rating  
supplemental sheet  
Equipment title vests with Sponsor GIT X Comment follows - NONE

Admin comments -

INITIATION. 02 YEAR OF CONTINUING GRANT APPROVED FOR 3 YEARS.



SPONSORED PROJECT TERMINATION/CLOSEOUT SHEETDate 10/26/88Project No. E-18-640 / R6363-OA0School/~~Lab~~ Mat. Engr.Includes Subproject No.(s) N/AProject Director(s) M. I. MarekGTRC/~~CDT~~Sponsor DHHS/PHS/NIH/National Institute of HealthTitle Dissolution of Mercury From Dental AmalgamsEffective Completion Date: 7/31/88 (Performance) 10/31/88 (Reports)

## Grant/Contract Closeout Actions Remaining:

- ☐ None
- ☒ Final Invoice or Copy of Last Invoice Serving as Final
- ☐ Release and Assignment
- ☐ Final Report of Inventions and/or Subcontract:  
Patent and Subcontract Questionnaire  
sent to Project Director ☐
- ☐ Govt. Property Inventory & Related Certificate
- ☐ Classified Material Certificate
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Continues Project No. E-18-626Continued by Project No. E-18-656

## COPIES TO:

Project Director  
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~~Facilities Management~~ ~~XXX~~  
~~Library~~  
GTRC  
Project File  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |                               |                     |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| SECTION IV<br>PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY  |  | GRANT NUMBER<br>DE07754-03    |                     |
| PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OR PROGRAM DIRECTOR<br>MAREK, MIROSLAV I.   |  | PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT |                     |
| APPLICANT ORGANIZATION Ga Tech Research Corp.<br>Georgia Institute of Technology   |  | FROM<br>08/01/87              | THROUGH<br>07/31/88 |
| TITLE OF PROJECT (Repeat title shown in item 1 on first page)<br>DISSOLUTION OF MERCURY FROM DENTAL AMALGAMS<br>(SEE INSTRUCTIONS) |  |                               |                     |

1. Summary of research plans for the next year of support

There has been no change in the objectives, specific aims, and experimental design and methods from those originally proposed.

2. Studies performed

While the emphasis in the first year was on the determination of the general mechanism of mercury dissolution, in the second year the program has been focused on the development and application of appropriate methods for the determination of the kinetics of mercury dissolution. The experimental approach has been to determine the changes in the mercury concentration in a fixed volume of the solution to which the specimens were exposed. The determination was performed by Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry (AAS) using a cold-vapor techniques. The concentration changes were analyzed theoretically and experimentally, taking into account the fact that the rate of dissolution changes with time, and that the rate also is a function of the concentration of mercury in the solution. The objectives were accomplished by making sequential exposures into fresh volumes of the solution with little time between exposures and without exposing the specimens to air or other electrolytes between the exposures. The concentration data were processed using a nonlinear regression based on a theoretical model; the effect of mercury concentration was theoretically derived, while the change of the dissolution rate with time was modeled using the experimental data. The results of this procedure are the rate constants which then can be used to evaluate the effects of any variable.

The methodology was applied in a study of the effect of the composition of the gamma-1 phase of dental amalgam on the kinetics of mercury dissolution. Two sets of specimens were prepared, one set containing only Hg and Ag in different proportions within the range possible in dental amalgam (68 to 71.5 w.% Hg); specimens of the other set contained a fixed amount of Hg (68 w.%) and varying amounts of Sn within the range reported for dental amalgam (up to 1.5 w.% Sn). The specimens were exposed to synthetic saliva at 37°C in a special cell designed for the sequential exposures. The results show that the Hg/Ag ratio had little influence on the Hg dissolution rate, except for a sharp increase in the rate when the phase boundary with Hg was approached. The effect of tin was substantial; increasing the percentage of tin decreased the dissolution rate and also decreased the time constant for the dissolution rate change, so that the rate dropped more sharply. The effects were attributed to the formation of a tin oxide surface film which slows down the dissolution of mercury. The results explain the sharp increases in mercury release after chewing; the abrasion involved destroys the tin oxide film which is then reformed. The results also confirmed that tin must be dissolved in the gamma-1 phase rather than present in tin-rich precipitates.

MAREK, MIROSLAV I.

Ga Tech Research Corp.  
Georgia Institute of Technology

08/01/87

07/31/88

#### DISSOLUTION OF MERCURY FROM DENTAL AMALGAMS

Another part of the study concerns the form in which mercury enters the solution, ionic or atomic (nonionized), and the relative quantities if both forms participate. The form is very important for the effect of the electrode potential, and therefore for the effects of galvanic and other corrosion cells. To determine the form of dissolving mercury a special cell system was designed which allows the solution to be analyzed by AAS either for atomic mercury only, or for total mercury. The amount of ionic mercury is then determined as the difference between the two data. This study is now in progress; the first results have indicated that at lower electrode potentials most of the dissolving mercury is in the atomic form, and that the amount of ionic mercury increases with the potential.

The methodology developed to date will be applied in the third year to evaluate the effects of different corrosion cells, temperature, and abrasion.

#### 3. Human subjects

Not applicable - no human subjects involved.

#### 4. Vertebrate animals

Not applicable - no vertebrate animals involved.

#### 5. Publications

M. Marek: "Mercury Dissolution from the Gamma-1 Phase of Dental Amalgam." IADR/DMG Microfilm, 66th General Session of the International Association for Dental Research, March 9-13, 1988, Montreal, PQ, Canada.