

## ENHANCEMENT OF AQUEOUS SOLUTION AND BIOAVAILABILITY OF POORLY WATER SOLUBLE DRUGS BY SELF EMULSIFYING DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEM

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### ABSTRACT

The Self emulsifying Drug Delivery System (SEDDS) is a Novel Drug Delivery System for Enhancement of water solubility of poorly water soluble drugs. It is isotropic mixture of oil, surfactant, co-surfactant molecules and it also containing co-solvent molecule. It is Drug delivery system is thermodynamically and kinetically stable. The drug delivery system under mild agitation is followed by dilution of aqueous media such as GI fluid and it can form stable O/W emulsion. It is important type of Drug delivery system to maintain the chemical stability as well as solubility of drug product. The Self emulsifying Drug Delivery System (SEDDS) is important application on BCS Class II and Class IV Drugs for improving water Solubility of poorly

water soluble drugs. It is important to prevent the interfacial tension and improving the dissolution as well as absorption rate of drug molecule. It is Novel Drug Delivery System is Applicable for parenteral, Ophthalmic, intranasal and cosmetic drug delivery system.

**KEYWORDS:** Nanoemulsion, Microemulsion, Surfactant, Self-emulsifying system, Improving water solubility, Bioavailability enhancement.

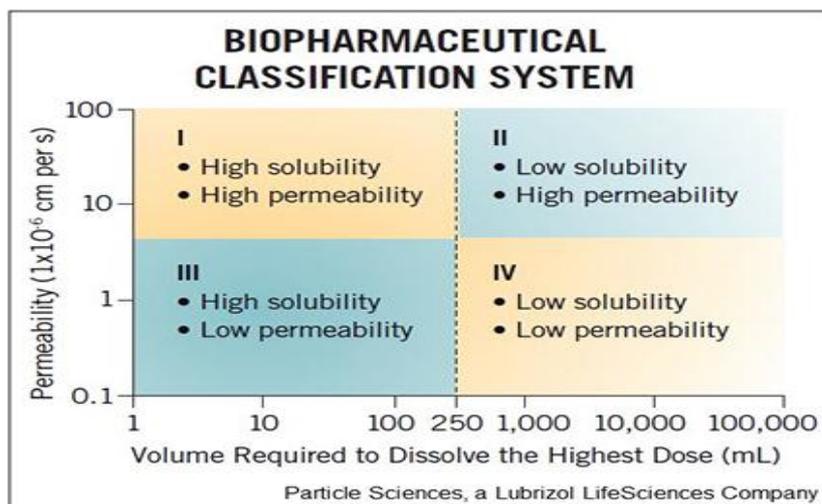
### INTRODUCTION

In the last 2 decades, many tools in drug discovery and screening were rapidly developed. Examples are automated synthesis, combinatorial chemistry, molecular genetics and high-throughput screening (HTS) methodologies. Accordingly, a large number of compounds has been identified as potential drug candidates.<sup>[1-4]</sup> Lipinski *et al.*<sup>[1, 2]</sup> have proposed the “rule of

5” to identify the potential poorly bioavailable drug candidates. Proposed properties of poor bioavailability include: (a) high molecular weight ( $> 500$  D), (b) high lipophilicity ( $\text{Log P} > 5$  or  $\text{MLogP}^1 > 4.15$ ), (c) possession of more than 5 H-bond donors (e.g. NHs and OHs) and (d) possession of more than 10 H-bond acceptors (e.g. Ns and Os). This rule is only valid for drug candidates that are not substrates for active transporters and efflux mechanisms. Poor bioavailability is always originated from poor aqueous solubility (a and b) or poor intestinal permeability (a, c and d).<sup>[5]</sup>

Amidon *et al.*<sup>[6]</sup> have introduced the Biopharmaceutics classification system (BCS). BCS provides a classification of drugs according to their maximum dose solubility, dissolution and permeability into four classes (**Fig. 1**).

Unfortunately, the number of potential drug candidates, especially those with high molecular weight and high Log P, is progressively increasing. Accordingly, the problem of the poor aqueous solubility ( $< 1 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ) has become dominant in the pharmaceutical industry.<sup>[1,2]</sup> Recent studies showed that  $\sim 75\%$  of the drug development candidates are poorly water-soluble. This ratio could be increased to 80-90 % depending on the therapeutic area.<sup>[10,11]</sup> As a result, they may fail to reach the market despite their pharmacological activity. Poorly water-soluble drugs (PWSDs) represent Class II and IV of the BCS<sup>[6]</sup> and could be classified as grease balls and brick dusts.<sup>[12]</sup> Brick dusts have a low to moderate lipophilicity and high melting point ( $> 190^\circ\text{C}$ ) because of their strong, stable lattice structure. Their strong intermolecular bonds hinder their solubility in water. On the other hand, grease balls are highly lipophilic compounds ( $\text{log P} > 4$ ) with lower melting point ( $< 190^\circ\text{C}$ ). They are not able to form bonds with the water molecules.<sup>[13]</sup> Since drugs are absorbed in the dissolved state, several problems are associated with PWSDs such as inter- and intra-patient variability as well as reduced bioavailability. Furthermore, PWSDs dose is always augmented to reach the therapeutic blood level. This leads to local GI tract irritation, toxicity, patient non-compliance, higher costs as well as inefficient treatment.<sup>[14]</sup>



**Fig. 1: Biopharmaceutics classification system of drugs (BCS).**

Several strategies have been developed to enhance the water solubility and hereafter the bioavailability of PWSDs. These strategies could be briefly summarized into: (a) Physical modifications such as particle size reduction, optimization of crystal habit, co-crystal formation and solid dispersions. (b) Chemical modifications such as the use of buffers, salt formation and complexation (Cyclodextrins). (c) Miscellaneous methods such as the use of surfactants, co-solvents, hydrotrophy, supercritical fluids and lipid-based drug delivery systems (LBDDS).<sup>[3,4,9,15]</sup>

Lipids represent a large class of compounds that can be classified according to their chemical structures, origin, solubility in organic solvents or biochemical interactions.<sup>[16]</sup> A pioneer in the field of lipid-based systems, Small<sup>[17]</sup>, has introduced a lipid classification system based on lipid/water interactions in bulk water and the behavior of lipids at the air/water interface (**Table 1**).<sup>[19]</sup>

LBDDS bioavailability enhancement is ultimately beneficial in the case of grease balls PWSDs, which have adequate solubility in pharmaceutical lipids ( $\text{Log } P > 4$ ).<sup>[19,20]</sup> Examples of LBDDS include lipid solutions, lipid suspensions, liposomes, liquisolds, solid lipid nanoparticles (SLN), nanostructured lipid carriers (NLC), mixed micelles, nanocapsules, liquid crystalline nanoparticles (LCNP) (e.g. Cubosomes<sup>®</sup>, Flexisomes<sup>®</sup> and Hexosomes<sup>®</sup>), emulsions, nanoemulsions, microemulsions, and self-emulsifying drug delivery systems.<sup>[21,22]</sup>

**Table 1: Lipid classification system proposed by Small.<sup>[17]</sup>**

Class	Bulk interactions with water	Surface interactions with water	Examples
<b>Non-polar</b>	- Insoluble - Crystals or oil	Do not spread to form a monolayer	Cholestanes, benzpyrenes, carotenes, lycopenes and gadusenes
<b>Polar I</b>	- Insoluble, non-swelling - Crystals or oil	Form a stable monolayer	CS, TG, DG, long chain protonated FA, waxes, sterols, oil soluble vitamins and steroidal hormones
<b>Polar II</b>	- Insoluble, swelling - LC	Form a stable monolayer	PL, MG, FA soaps and cerebrosides
<b>Polar IIIA</b>	- Soluble with lyotropic mesomorphism - Crystals or oil → LC → Micelles	Form an unstable monolayer	Lysolecithins and surfactants
<b>Polar IIIB</b>	- Soluble without lyotropic mesomorphism - Crystals or oil → micelles	Form an unstable monolayer	BS and saponins

CS: cholesterol; TG: triglycerides; DG: diglycerides; FA: fatty acids; PL: phospholipids; LC: liquid crystals; BS: bile salts.

LBDDS present and maintain the drug in the solubilized form, in which absorption takes place.<sup>[26,27]</sup> As a result, the rate-limiting step of drug dissolution is eliminated. Furthermore, they can enhance the bioavailability by different mechanisms depending on their type and amounts such as prolongation of the gastric emptying time; stimulation of bile secretion and interaction with bile salts (BS), phospholipids (PL) and cholesterol (CS) mixed micelles; reduction of the first pass metabolism via stimulation of intestinal lymphatic transport for highly lipophilic drugs ( $\log P > 5$ ) and reduction of the enterocyte-based metabolism; modulation of intestinal efflux transporters such as P-glycoprotein; permeation enhancement; as well as generation and maintenance of a metastable supersaturable drug state.<sup>[27-29]</sup> Oral administration of lipids stimulates the secretion of the gastric lipase (HGL) with the consequent secretion of the pancreatic lipase (HPL) and co-lipase from the pancreas along with other esterases such as phospholipase A2 (PLA2), carboxyl ester hydrolase (CEH) and pancreatic lipase related protein 2 (PLRP2).<sup>[30,31]</sup> Most of the lipid excipients are esters.

Examples are glycerides, PEG esters of fatty acids, polysorbates, PL and CS esters. Ester bonds are generally potential substrates to lipolytic enzymes. Examples of lipid digestion products of different lipid classes are summarized in **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Enzymatic lipolysis of different lipid excipients.**<sup>[31]</sup>

Lipid class	Lipolytic enzyme(s)	Digestion products
Glycerides	HPL > HGL	TG → DG + FA → 2-MAG + FA
	CEH, PLRP2, HGL	2-MAG → FA + glycerol
PEG esters	CEH >> PLRP2 > HGL	PEG DE → PEG ME + FA → PEG + FA
Phospholipids	Phospholipase A2	Phospholipids → Lyso-1-phospholipids + FA
	PLRP2 > CEH	Phospholipids → Lyso-2-phospholipids + FA
Galactolipids	PLRP2 > CEH	DGDG → DGMG + FA
Cholesterol esters	CEH	Cholesterol ester → cholesterol + FA

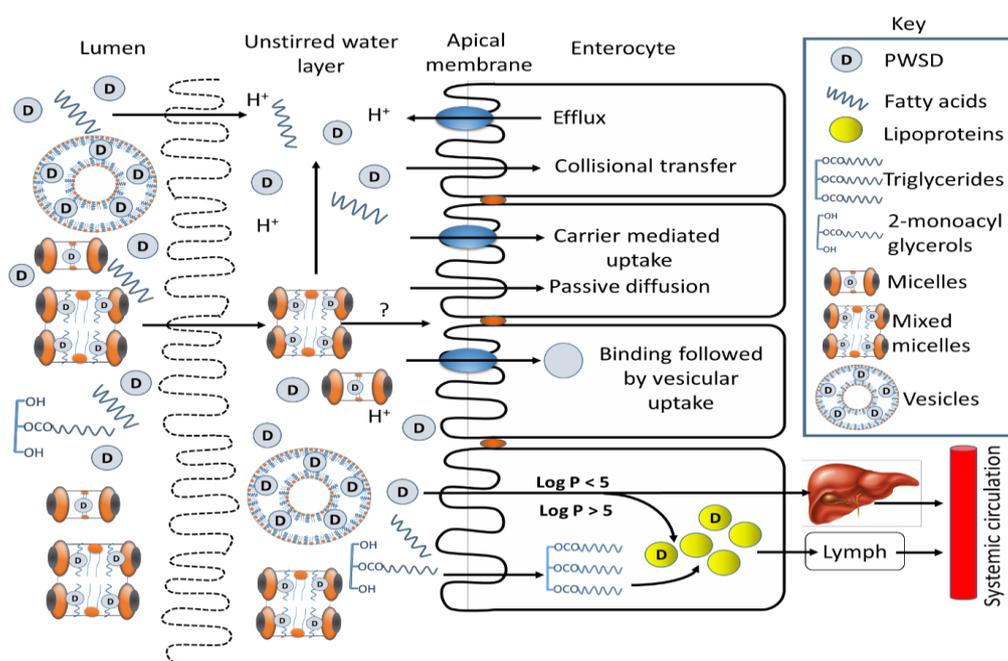
HPL: human pancreatic lipases; HGL: human gastric lipases; HTG: triglycerides; DG: diglycerides; FA: fatty acids; 2-MAG: 2-monoacylglycerols; CEH: carboxyl ester hydrolase; PLRP2: pancreatic lipase-related protein 2; DE: diesters; ME: monoesters; DGDG: digalactosyldiglycerides; and DGMG: digalactosylmonoglycerides.

Lipid digestion usually inaugurates in the stomach by the action of HGL.<sup>[32]</sup> HGL is an acid stable lipase with an optimum activity at pH 3-6 and a maximum activity at pH 5.0-5.4.<sup>[25,30-33]</sup> HGL works on the lipid/water interface. Therefore, the ingested lipids need to be emulsified before being digested. The emulsification is usually achieved by the shear action of the stomach along with the surface active actions of the co-administered amphiphiles and digestion products such as monoglycerides (MG) and dietary proteins.<sup>[31]</sup> In some cases such as incomplete pancreatic function (neonates) or compromised one (cystic fibrosis or chronic alcoholism), gastric lipolysis plays the principal role in the lipid digestion.<sup>[32, 34]</sup> However, in most cases, gastric lipolysis accounts only for 10-25% of the total lipid lipolysis.<sup>[35, 36]</sup>

HPL is produced in the acinar cells of the pancreas and is secreted along with bile under the stimulation of cholecystinin and secretin. HPL is active only above pH 5 with a maximum activity at pH 7.0-7.5.<sup>[33]</sup> Similar to HGL, HPL works on the lipid/water interface. HPL is a regioselective enzyme that hydrolyze only sn-1 or sn-3 positions. On the other hand, HGL can hydrolyze the 3 ester positions.<sup>[33]</sup> Other lipolytic enzymes such as CEH, PLA2 and PLRP2 do not work on the interface. They hydrolyze the lipid excipients in the dispersed micelles or mixed micelles.<sup>[31]</sup> Therefore, they are beneficial in the digestion of various lipid excipients.<sup>[43]</sup> Examples are summarized in **Table 2**.

The interaction of the lipids with the bile mixed micelles plays a crucial role in the lipid lipolysis process as well as the biofate of the accompanied PWSDs. Lipid/bile interactions vary from the adsorption of BS on the lipid/water interface of the less polar lipids droplets

(TG and DG) to the formation of various colloidal structures such as micelles, mixed micelles and vesicles (**Fig. 2**) with more polar lipids (2-MAG and FA).<sup>[46]</sup> Furthermore, BS clean the lipid/water interface by displacing other amphiphiles such as proteins and incorporating of the digestion products, especially long chain 2-MAG and FA, into their mixed micelles. Otherwise, accumulation of the digestion products at the interface would inhibit the action of HPL.<sup>[31,47]</sup> On the other hand, the digestion products of medium chain lipids are more polar and do not need the action of BS to be dispersed in the aqueous media.



**Fig. 2: Schematic representation of different mechanism of lipids and drugs absorption as well as lipid-mediated bioavailability enhancement.**<sup>[27]</sup>

The biofate of the PWSDs is strongly dependent on the LBDDS dispersion pattern, digestion as well as the interaction of their dispersions and digestion products with the bile mixed micelles rather than the properties of the LBDDS themselves.<sup>[25,27]</sup> During lipid dilution and digestion several liquid crystalline (LC) and colloidal phases might occur that have different PWSDs solubilization capacity.<sup>[46]</sup> The incorporation of the digestion products into the bile mixed micelles strongly increases their PWSDs solubilization capacity. However, this increase is dependent on the FA chain length (long chain > medium chain), the nature of the colloidal dispersions (vesicles > micelles) and the phase behavior of the digestion products (cubic phases > lamellar phases > colloidal phases) as well as the PWSDs lipophilicity.<sup>[48, 49]</sup> However, some exceptions were also reported.<sup>[25]</sup> Furthermore, the incorporation of PWSDs, FA and 2-MAG into the bile mixed micelles enhances their mass

transfer along the unstirred water layer (UWL).<sup>[50,51]</sup> (UWL) represents the physical barrier between the bulk fluids in the intestinal lumen and the apical membrane of the enterocyte, where the absorption takes place (**Fig. 2**). UWL has an aqueous acidic microenvironment.<sup>[52]</sup> Therefore, protonated FA and PWSDs are slowly diffused through it. On the other hand, micelles have higher solubility in the UWL. However, it seems that micelles do not be absorbed intact into the enterocyte<sup>[53]</sup> as the acidic microenvironment within the UWL accelerates its dissociation.<sup>[54]</sup> The absorption of the PWSDs and lipids (FA and 2- MAG) into the enterocyte could occur by passive diffusion or carrier-mediated uptake. Furthermore, colloidal structures could be also absorbed by collisional transfer as well as carrier- or vesicular- mediated uptake (**Fig. 2**). However, the absorbed PWSDs and FA could suffer from the action of the efflux transporters that efflux them back into the UWL.<sup>[27]</sup>

The absorbed lipid digestion products could be directly transported into the portal circulation with a subsequent first pass metabolism. Alternatively, FA and 2-MAG are re-esterified in the endothelial reticulum into TG that constitutes along with CS esters the hydrophobic core of lipoproteins such as chylomicrons and very low-density lipoproteins (VLDL) (**Fig. 2** bottom). After exocytosis into the interstitial spaces, lipoproteins are selectively taken up by the lymphatic system rather than the blood vessels. The transport of FA into the portal circulation or the lymph may depend on its chain length, degree of unsaturation as well as the class of the administrated lipids. However, in some cases contradictory data are reported.<sup>[56]</sup> Based on their number of carbon atoms, FA could be classified as short (4-6), medium (8- 12), long (14-18) or very long chain (20-24).<sup>[57]</sup> In most cases, short and medium chain FA are directly transported to the portal circulation while long chain FA are usually involved in the lipoproteins synthesis. Furthermore, increasing the degree of FA unsaturation was found to promote their lymphatic uptake.<sup>[58]</sup> Highly lipophilic absorbed PWSDs (Log P > 5 and TG solubility > 50 mg/g) might be incorporated into lipoproteins (**Fig. 2** bottom).<sup>[59]</sup> The transportation of PWSDs along the lymphatic system offers some advantages such as the avoidance of the first pass metabolism, reduction of the enterocyte metabolism<sup>[60]</sup> and the possible drug targeting (in the case of anticancers and immunomodulators).<sup>[61]</sup> However, high PWSD concentration in the lymphatic system may cause local toxicity.<sup>[27]</sup>

Vast varieties of possible lipid excipient combinations are available. Therefore, a classification system was developed to stratify lipid-based formulations into those that could display similar *in vivo* performance. Pouton<sup>[9,19]</sup> has established the lipid formulation

classification system (LFCS). He itemized LBDDS into five categories (**Table 3**) based on their composition and the possible impact of dilution and digestion on the biofate of the lipid carrier and the drug. Class I formulations are the most lipophilic and are generally regarded as safe. This might introduce a variability and food dependency. On the other hand, Class IV formulations are oil-free and rather polar systems based on surfactants and co-solvents. In general, they are less sensitive towards digestion but more sensitive towards dilution.<sup>[62]</sup>

**Table 3: Lipid formulation classification system (LFCS) proposed by Pouton<sup>[9]</sup> showing the typical compositions and the properties of the LBDDS.**

Excipient	Content in the formulation (% m/m)				
	Class I	Class II	Class IIIA	Class IIIB	Class IV
<b>Oils: MG, DG and TG</b>	100	40-80	40-80	> 20	—
<b>Water-insoluble surfactants (HLB &lt; 12)</b>	—	20-60	—	—	0-20
<b>Water-soluble surfactants (HLB &gt; 12)</b>	—	—	20-40	20-50	30-80
<b>Hydrophilic co-solvents</b>	—	—	0-40	20-50	0-50
<b>Lipophilicity</b>					
<b>Dispersibility</b>					
<b>Digestibility</b>					
<b>Effect of dilution</b>					

Self-emulsifying drug delivery systems represent class II and class III of the LFCS. They are composed of two or more ingredients, which provide the self-emulsifying properties: more hydrophilic amphiphiles, more lipophilic amphiphiles and sometimes co-solvents or precipitation inhibitors. Upon mild agitation and dilution in the GI fluids, these systems transform into oil in water (O/W) emulsions (SEDDS), double emulsions (SDEDDS), microemulsions (SMEDDS) or nanoemulsions (SNEDDS).<sup>[15,63]</sup> Microemulsions are thermodynamically stable while nanoemulsions are only kinetically stable. However, in most of the literatures, SNEDDS and SMEDDS are usually subjectively assigned to formulations that provide fine colloidal dispersions.<sup>[23,64]</sup>

Self-emulsification increases the bioavailability by the circumvention of drug crystal

dissolution, which is often insufficient and highly variable for the PWSDs.<sup>[65]</sup> Compared to the conventional emulsions, SNEDDS are water-free systems. Accordingly, they have better physical and chemical stability. SNEDDS have high patient compliance and palatability as they are always formulated as capsules or tablets. Food has minor effect on drug absorption from SEDDS compared to other LBDDS. Other advantages include the ease of manufacture and scale-up as well as quick onset of action.<sup>[19]</sup> In addition, being a mixture of more lipophilic and more hydrophilic amphiphiles, SEDDS offer high solubilization capacity to a wide spectrum of PWSDs with different degrees of lipophilicity compared to other LBDDS.<sup>[66]</sup>

SEDDS are not only restricted for the oral use.<sup>[68-71]</sup> Self-emulsifying suppositories<sup>[72]</sup>, intraurethral liquid formulations<sup>[73]</sup>, injections<sup>[74]</sup>, implants<sup>[75]</sup>, transdermal<sup>[76]</sup> and ocular systems<sup>[77]</sup> were also reported.

The mechanism of the self-emulsification process is still not clear. However, Reiss<sup>[78]</sup> have suggested that self-emulsification occurs when the entropy change in the favor of dispersion is higher than the energy required to increase the surface area of the dispersion. The free energy of an emulsion is a function of the energy required to create a new surface between the oil and water phases that could be described by the following equation:

$$\Delta G = \sum N \pi r^2 \sigma$$

Where **G** is the free energy associated with the process, **N** is the number of droplets, **r** is the radius of the droplets and  $\sigma$  is the interfacial energy. The free energy of mixing is ignored.

Crude emulsions are not thermodynamically stable. Therefore, oil and water phases have a high tendency to separate in order to reduce the interfacial energy. The presence of the more hydrophilic amphiphiles stabilizes the interface and reduces the interfacial free energy by formation of a monolayer around the oil droplets. In the case of the SNEDDS, the free energy required to form the emulsion is very small and could be positive or negative.

Therefore, the emulsification process takes place spontaneously.<sup>[69]</sup> The easiness of the emulsification was proposed to be related to the ease of water penetration into the various LC or gel phases formed on the surface of the droplets.<sup>[21]</sup> The interface between the oil and the aqueous continuous phase is formed upon addition of the oil/hydrophilic amphiphiles mixture to the water. Water penetrates then into the interface and is solubilized in the oil phase. The extent of water penetration is dependent on its solubilization limit close to the interface.<sup>[79]</sup>

Further aqueous penetration leads to the dispersion of the LC phase. Finally, oil droplets surrounded by LC interface are formed. The extent of the LC interface depends on the hydrophilic amphiphile concentration in the mixture.<sup>[21,66, 80, 81]</sup>

Several lipid excipients could be formulated as SNEDDS.<sup>[24,28,82]</sup> Based on their polarity, HLB and interaction with the aqueous media, they could be classified as more lipophilic amphiphiles (Polar lipids I and II) and more hydrophilic amphiphiles (Polar lipids IIIa).

More lipophilic amphiphiles are mostly referred to as oils or fats depending on their physical states at room temperature. They usually offer high PWSOs solubility compared to the more hydrophilic ones. Pharmaceutical lipids could be of natural (**Table 4**), semi synthetic or synthetic origin (**Table 5**). Based on their chain length, medium and long chain lipids are the commonly used oil part of the SEDDS. Short chain lipids are commonly used as co-surfactants to enhance the film flexibility at the interface and to promote nanoemulsions formation. Very long chain lipids are scarcely used in the SEDDS formulations.<sup>[15,28, 66]</sup>

**Table 5: Examples of the commonly used natural lipids in the formulation of SNEDDS. The exact fatty acids composition is tabulated in.**<sup>[28, 83]</sup>

	<b>Examples</b>
<b>Long chain lipids</b>	Apricot kernel, Canola, Castor, Corn, Olive, Palm, Peanut, Safflower, Sesame, Soybean and Sunflower oils
<b>Medium chain lipids</b>	Coconut and Palm kernel oils

More lipophilic amphiphiles are generally regarded as safe. They are mostly composed of a mixture of TG and partial glycerides of FA. Furthermore, propylene glycols, PEG and sorbitan esters of FA as well as free FA (e.g. oleic acid) are commonly used as lipophilic amphiphiles. The solubility of PWSOs in a particular lipid is dependent on the effective ester molar concentration of the lipids.<sup>[84]</sup> Therefore, the same mass of the medium chain lipids usually afford higher PWSOs solubilization power than long chain ones.<sup>[20]</sup> Furthermore, depending on their chain length, lipids may have different biofate. The transport through lymphatic circulation, in the most reported cases, is dependent on the lipid chain length (long > medium > short) and the degree of unsaturation.<sup>[85]</sup> Therefore, the accompanied PWSOs transport through lymphatic system might be enhanced and the first pass metabolism could be reduced when they are incorporated in long chain glycerides. However, the lymphatic transport is also dependent on PWSOs lipid solubility (> 50 mg/g) and lipophilicity (log P > 5). On the other hand, medium chain lipids are usually transported through portal veins to the

systematic circulation. Therefore, the accompanied PWSDs could extensively suffer from the first pass metabolism.<sup>[86,87]</sup>

More hydrophilic amphiphiles are incorporated to promote the dispersibility of the accompanied more lipophilic ones through the reduction of the interfacial tension. They are usually referred to as surfactants. As surfactants can fluidize or solubilize biological membranes, their toxicity must be greatly considered. The toxicity of surfactants is in this order: cationic > anionic > non-ionic. Esters are considered less toxic than ethers. Furthermore, bulky surfactants are deemed to be less toxic than those with single chain.<sup>[20]</sup> Therefore, non-ionic, bulk, FA ester polymers are the most commonly used hydrophilic amphiphiles in the formulation of SNEDDS (**Table 6**). Furthermore, the HLB value of the surfactant is very important for the self-nanoemulsifying process. To ensure adequate fast dispersibility, surfactants with higher HLB values (> 12) are normally used.<sup>[66]</sup>

Miscellaneous excipients such as co-solvents, precipitation inhibitors and antioxidant might be used to improve the SNEDDS performance, PWSD load and the shelf-life stability. Examples are summarized in (**Table 7**). Co-solvents can increase the SNEDDS drug solubilization power. However, the relationship between the drug solubility and the co-solvents concentration is nearly logarithmic. Therefore, the use of co-solvents carries a high risk of PWSDs precipitation upon dilution in the GI fluids.<sup>[9,19]</sup> Furthermore, co-solvents, especially the volatile ones, have an adverse impact on the capsule shelf-life stability,<sup>[4,20,88,89]</sup> SNEDDS should not only be able to solubilize PWSDs, but also to maintain drug solubilization throughout the GI tract.<sup>[64]</sup> Due to its higher co-solvents content, SNEDDS carry a high risk of drug precipitation upon dilution into the GI fluids.<sup>[19]</sup>

**Table 6: Examples of the commonly used semisynthetic and synthetic more lipophilic amphiphiles in the formulation of SNEDDS.**<sup>[24,28,82]</sup>

Excipient name	HLB	Description	Supplier
<b>Medium chain glycerides</b>			
Capmul <sup>®</sup> MCM	5.5	C8/C10 MG [58 % MG, 36 % DG, 5 % TG; 80 % C8, 20 % C10]	Abitec
Capmul <sup>®</sup> MCM C10	5-6	C8/C10 MG [> 45 % MG; > 45 % C10]	Abitec
Capmul <sup>®</sup> MCM C8	5-6	C8/C10 MG [68 % MG, 27 % DG, 3 % TG; > 95 % C8, 3 % C10]	Abitec
Captex <sup>®</sup> 355	1	C8/C10 TG	Abitec
Imwitor <sup>®</sup> 742	3-4	C8/C10 MG/DG/TG [45-55 % MG]	Sasol
Imwitor <sup>®</sup> 928	-	C12 MG/DG/TG of saturated FA [40% MG]	Sasol

Labrafac <sup>®</sup> CM 10	10	PEG C8/C10 glycerides [50 % C8, 50 % C10]	Gattefossé
Labrafacv Lipophile WL 1349	2	C8/C10 TG [50-80 % C8, 20-50 % C10]	Gattefossé
Miglyol <sup>®</sup> 810	-	C8/C10 TG [65-80 % C8, 20-35 % C10]	Sasol
Miglyol <sup>®</sup> 812	-	C8/C10 TG [50-65 % C8, 30-45 % C10]	Sasol
Miglyol <sup>®</sup> 818	-	C8/C10/C18:2 TG [45-65 % C8, 30-45 % C10, 2-5 % C18:2]	Sasol
<b>Long chain glycerides</b>			
Cithrol <sup>®</sup> GMS 40	3-5	C18 MG and DG	Croda
Maisine <sup>®</sup> 35-1	4	C18:1/ C18/ C16 MG [> 50 % C18, 10-35 % C18:1, < 6 % C18, 4-20 % C16]	Gattefossé
Myverol <sup>®</sup> 18-92	3.7	Distilled sunflower oil MG [7 % C16, 4.5 % C18, 18.7 % C18:1, 67.5 % C18:2]	Eastman
Peceol <sup>®</sup>	3.3	C18:1/ C18:2/ C18/ C16 MG [> 60 % C18:1, < 35 % C18:2, < 6 % C18, < 12 % C16]	Gattefossé
Plurol oleique <sup>®</sup> CC 497	6	Polyglyceryl-3 dioleate	Gattefossé
Plurol <sup>®</sup> Diisostearate	4.5	Polyglyceryl-3 diisostearate	Gattefossé
Soybean oil	-	C18:1/C18:2 TG	Central Soya
<b>Propylene glycol esters</b>			
Capmul <sup>®</sup> PG-12	4-5	C12 ME of propylene glycol	Abitec
Capmul <sup>®</sup> PG-8	6-7	C8 ME of propylene glycol	Abitec
Capryol <sup>®</sup> 90	6	C8 ME of propylene glycol [> 90 % ME of C8]	Gattefossé
Capryol <sup>®</sup> PGMC 90	5	C8 ME of propylene glycol [> 60 % ME, > 90 % C8]	Gattefossé
Captex <sup>®</sup> 200	-	C8/C10 DE of propylene glycol	Abitec
Captex <sup>®</sup> 200 P	2	C8/C10 DE of propylene glycol	Abitec
Labrafac <sup>®</sup> PG	2	C8/C10 DE of propylene glycol	Gattefossé
Lauroglycol <sup>®</sup> 90	5	C12 ME of propylene glycol [> 90 % ME, > 95 % C12]	Gattefossé
Lauroglycol <sup>®</sup> FCC	4	C12 ME/DE of propylene glycol [45-70 % ME, 30- 55 % DE; > 95 % C12]	Gattefossé
Miglyol <sup>®</sup> 840	-	C8/C10 DE of propylene glycols	Sasol
<b>PEG glycerides</b>			
Labrafil <sup>®</sup> M 1944 CS	4	C18:1 PEG-6 glycerides [58-68 % C18:1, 22-32 % C18:2]	Gattefossé
Labrafil <sup>®</sup> M 2125 CS	4	C18:2 PEG-6 glycerides [24-34 % C18:1, 53-63 % C18:2]	Gattefossé
Labrafil <sup>®</sup> M 2130 CS	4	C12 PEG-6 glycerides	Gattefossé
Labrafil <sup>®</sup> WL 2609 BS	6	C18:2 PEG glycerides [24-34 % C18:1, 53-63 % C18:2]	Gattefossé
Tagat <sup>®</sup> TO	11.3	C18:1 PEG-25 TG	Evonik
<b>Sorbitan esters</b>			
Span <sup>®</sup> 20	9	C12 sorbitan ME	Croda
Span <sup>®</sup> 60	5	C18 sorbitan ME	Croda
Span <sup>®</sup> 80	4	C18:1 sorbitan ME	Croda
Tween <sup>®</sup> 85	11	PEG-20 C18:1 sorbitan TE	Croda
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
Centrophase <sup>®</sup> 31	4	60 % liquid lecithin, 40 % soybean oil; molecular weight = 800	Central Soya
Cithrol <sup>®</sup> GMO 50	2.8	Glyceryl oleate: propylene glycol (90:10)	Croda

**Table 7: Examples of the commonly used more hydrophilic amphiphiles in the formulation of SNEDDS (adapted from<sup>[24, 28, 82]</sup>).**

Excipient name (former name)	HLB	Description	Supplier
Acconon <sup>®</sup> C-44	13-14	PEG-32 C12 glycerides	Abitec
Acconon <sup>®</sup> CC-6	12.5	PEG-6 C8/C10 glycerides	Abitec
Acconon <sup>®</sup> MC8-2	14-15	PEG-6 C8/C10 glycerides	Abitec
Gelucire <sup>®</sup> 44/14	14	PEG-32 C12 glycerides	Gattefossé
Gelucire <sup>®</sup> 50/13	13	PEG-32 C18/C16 glycerides	Gattefossé
Kolliphor <sup>®</sup> EL (Cremophor <sup>®</sup> EL)	13.5	PEG-35 castor oil	BASF
Kolliphor <sup>®</sup> HS 15 (Solutol <sup>®</sup> HS 15)	14-16	PEG-15 esters of 12-hydroxystearic acid	BASF
Kolliphor <sup>®</sup> P188 (Lutrol <sup>®</sup> F68)	29	Poloxamer 188	BASF
Kolliphor <sup>®</sup> RH 40 (Cremophore <sup>®</sup> RH40)	14-16	PEG-40 hydrogenated castor oil (C16/C18)	BASF
Kolliphor <sup>®</sup> TPGS	13.2	D- $\alpha$ -tocopheryl PEG-1000 succinate	BASF
Labrasol <sup>®</sup>	14	PEG-8 C8/C10 glycerides	Gattefossé
Tween <sup>®</sup> 20	16	PEG-20 C12 sorbitan ME	Croda
Tween <sup>®</sup> 60	15	PEG-20 C18 sorbitan ME	Croda
Tween <sup>®</sup> 80	15	PEG-20 C18:1 sorbitan ME	Croda

Therefore, supersaturable SEDDS were developed. They contain precipitation inhibitors in order to generate and maintain a metastable drug supersaturation state. Furthermore, they improve the toxicity/safety profile of the SEDDS by reducing the amounts of the used surfactants.<sup>[28,29,90,91]</sup> Antioxidants could be incorporated in the SEDDS to increase the shelf-life stability by protecting the unsaturated lipids or the PWSDs against oxidations.<sup>[20]</sup>

SEDDS can be formulated as liquid, semisolid or solid dosage forms.<sup>[21]</sup> The liquid and semisolid SEDDS are usually filled in soft or hard gelatin capsules while the solid ones are compressed into tablets or filled as freely flowable powders or pellets into hard gelatin capsules. Recently, several novel approaches and patented techniques have been evaluated for the formulation of the SNEDDS.<sup>[21,68]</sup> Examples are: self-emulsifying osmotic pumps<sup>[68]</sup>, gastroretentive SEDDS<sup>[93]</sup>, mucoadhesive SEDDS<sup>[94]</sup>, eutectic SEDDS<sup>[95,96]</sup>, self-emulsifying phospholipids suspension<sup>[97,98]</sup>, self-emulsifying supersaturable systems<sup>[98]</sup>, carbon nanotubes-based SEDDS<sup>[101]</sup>, cationic SEDDS<sup>[102]</sup>, polymeric SEDDS<sup>[103]</sup>, self-emulsifying glasses<sup>[104, 105]</sup> and self-double emulsifying drug delivery systems (SDED DS).<sup>[63,106]</sup>

**Table 8: Examples of the miscellaneous excipients used in the formulation Snedds.** [20,29,62,99,100,107,108]

Excipients class	Examples
<b>Co-solvents</b>	
Diethylene glycol monoethyl ether	Transcutol® HP, Transcutol® P
Organic solvents	Ethanol, Glycerin, Polypylene glycol, Polyethylene glycol
<b>Precipitation inhibitors</b>	
Water-soluble cellulosic polymers	Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose (HPMC), Methylcellulose (MC), Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose Phthalate (HPMCP), Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose Acetate Succinate (HPMCAS), Sodium Carboxymethylcellulose (NaCMC)
Water-soluble Polyvinylpyrrolidone	Povidone (PVP)
Block co-polymers	Ploxamers (Pluronic® F68, Pluronic® F127)
Graft co-polymers	Soluplus®
<b>Antioxidants</b>	
Natural	$\alpha$ -Tocopherol, $\beta$ -Carotene
Synthetic	Butylated Hydroxytoluene (BHT), Butylated Hydroxyanisole (BHA), <i>tert</i> -Butylhydroquinone (TBHQ), Propyl Gallate (PG)

S-SNEDDS were formulated as pellets<sup>[112,113]</sup>, conventional tablets<sup>[114]</sup>, bilayer tablets<sup>[115]</sup>, effervescent tablets<sup>[116]</sup>, orodispersible tablets<sup>[117]</sup>, capsules<sup>[118]</sup>, tablet-loaded pulsatile capsules<sup>[119]</sup>, osmotic pumps<sup>[68, 92]</sup>, microparticles<sup>[120]</sup>, nanoparticles<sup>[121]</sup>, mouth dissolving films<sup>[122]</sup>, beads<sup>[123]</sup>, lipid matrices<sup>[124]</sup> and self-emulsifying glasses.<sup>[104,105]</sup> Several approaches were evaluated for the manufacture of the S-SNEDDS.<sup>[65,68,69,71,125]</sup> These approaches could be summarized into: (a) The use of solid or semisolid lipids, (b) Incorporation of polymeric excipients/amphiphiles, (c) Lyophilization, (d) Extrusion/spheronization, (e) Adsorption onto solid carrier, (f) Liquisolid technique, (g) Fluid bed coating.

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