

Supporting Information: **Design of modular gellan gum hydrogel functionalized with avidin and biotinylated integrin ligands for cell culture applications**

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**S9 Appendix. Microscope images of WI-38 cell culture experiment for counting analysis**

Cell culture experiment details: cell density: 2D = 63 000 cells/cm<sup>2</sup>, 3D = 950 000 cells/mL. NaGG-avd composition: (1) biotin (0.17 mg/mL in 50 mM sodium-phosphate, 100 mM NaCl buffer, pH 7), (2) biotinylated cyclic RGD (cyclo[Arg-Gly-Asp-D-Phe-Lys(Biotin-PEG-PEG)] 0.1 mg/mL in H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.3 µg/mL in final gel), (3) biotinylated human fibronectin (bFn, 2.52 mg/mL, 33 µg/mL in final gel). Cultured in WI-38 medium over 3 days.

Left: light microscope images after encapsulation. Objective 4x

Right: Live/Dead ® stained images after 3 days. Objective 4x

