

# Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Motivation . . . . .	2
1.2. Structure of this thesis . . . . .	5
<b>2. Literature review and fundamentals</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1. Fluid dynamic analysis in membrane science . . . . .	10
2.1.1. Limitations in pressure-driven membrane processes . . . . .	10
2.1.2. Methods to enhance mass transfer in pressure-driven membrane processes . . . . .	12
2.1.3. The problem with CFD analysis in membrane science . . . . .	16
2.1.4. Non-invasive analysis tools for membrane processes . . . . .	17
2.2. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) . . . . .	21
2.2.1. Basics of NMR . . . . .	21
2.2.2. NMR imaging and velocimetry . . . . .	26
2.2.3. Magnetic resonance imaging in this thesis . . . . .	34
2.2.4. Data processing using Matlab . . . . .	36
2.2.5. Tube flow measurements for validation . . . . .	37
2.3. Computational Fluid Dynamics . . . . .	38
2.3.1. Geometry modelling . . . . .	39
2.3.2. Governing equations and boundary conditions in laminar flows . . . . .	39
2.3.3. Mesh and grid convergence index . . . . .	40
<b>3. Flow and filtration imaging of single use sterile membrane filters</b>	<b>43</b>
3.1. Introduction . . . . .	44

## Contents

3.2. Materials and methods . . . . .	45
3.2.1. Dead-end filtration module . . . . .	45
3.2.2. Model suspension . . . . .	46
3.2.3. Experimental setup and filtration procedure . . . . .	47
3.2.4. NMR imaging . . . . .	48
3.2.5. Calculations used for flow analysis . . . . .	49
3.3. Results and discussion . . . . .	52
3.3.1. Interior structure of the sterile membrane filter . . . . .	54
3.3.2. Influence of module design on filtration performance . . . . .	54
3.3.3. Locally resolved flux shows the active membrane area . . . . .	58
3.3.4. Impact of silica particles on cake layer evolution and permeation . . . . .	60
3.3.5. Influence of drag and gravitational force on particle deposition . . . . .	64
3.4. Conclusion . . . . .	67
<b>4. Header design determines dialysis module properties</b>	<b>69</b>
4.1. Introduction . . . . .	70
4.2. Materials and methods . . . . .	73
4.2.1. Polyflux 2H and end cap design . . . . .	73
4.2.2. Filtration experiments and UV vis analysis . . . . .	75
4.2.3. Flow-MRI experiments . . . . .	76
4.3. Results and discussion . . . . .	77
4.3.1. Flow distribution in the original and redesigned end cap . . . . .	77
4.3.2. Enhanced HPTS dye uptake . . . . .	82
4.3.3. Flow distribution optimization based on CFD simulations . . . . .	83
4.4. Conclusion . . . . .	85

<b>5. Flow-MRI analysis of tubular membranes</b>	<b>87</b>
5.1. Fouling minimization at membranes having a 3D surface topology . . . . .	88
5.1.1. Introduction . . . . .	88
5.1.2. Materials and methods . . . . .	89
5.1.3. Results and discussion . . . . .	96
5.1.4. Conclusion . . . . .	110
5.2. Shell flow development in tubular membrane modules	112
5.2.1. Introduction . . . . .	112
5.2.2. Results . . . . .	112
5.2.3. Conclusion . . . . .	118
<b>6. The effectiveness of backwashing in multi-bore fibers</b>	<b>119</b>
6.1. Introduction . . . . .	120
6.2. Materials and methods . . . . .	122
6.2.1. Multi-bore membrane . . . . .	122
6.2.2. Filtration and backwashing procedure . . . . .	122
6.2.3. Flow-MRI procedure and data processing . . . . .	124
6.3. Results and discussion . . . . .	125
6.3.1. Uneven flow distribution and transport paths during filtration and backwashing . . . . .	125
6.3.2. Cleaning effectiveness is a function of backwashing flux and position . . . . .	131
6.3.3. Flux orientation determines the deposition of silica particles in cross-flow filtration . . . . .	136
6.4. Conclusion . . . . .	137
<b>7. 3D MRI velocimetry of 3D-printed staggered herringbone mixers</b>	<b>139</b>
7.1. Introduction . . . . .	140

## Contents

7.2. Materials and methods . . . . .	142
7.2.1. 3D printed staggered herringbone mixer . . .	142
7.2.2. Magnetic resonance imaging . . . . .	143
7.2.3. COMSOL physics . . . . .	146
7.2.4. Shear rate calculations from MRI data . . . .	148
7.3. Results . . . . .	150
7.3.1. Velocity vector maps . . . . .	150
7.3.2. High velocities perpendicular to the mean di- rection of flow . . . . .	152
7.3.3. Shear stress profiles derived from MRI mea- surements . . . . .	155
7.4. Conclusion . . . . .	157
<b>8. Conclusion and perspective</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>A. Appendix</b>	<b>165</b>
A.1. More details on the sterile membrane module . . . .	165
A.1.1. Influence of gravity: bottom-up filtration . . .	165
A.2. More details on the helix membrane filtration . . . .	168
A.2.1. NMR parameters for pure water and microgel filtration . . . . .	168
A.2.2. Pressure stepping . . . . .	169
A.3. More details on the multi-bore membrane filtration .	170
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>171</b>