

## Author Contributions

Michael Porter, Asher Preska Steinberg, and Rustem F. Ismagilov. 2019. "Interplay of motility and polymer-driven depletion forces in the initial stages of bacterial aggregation." *Soft Matter*. 15: **7071-7079**.

### SI

Contributions of non-corresponding authors

M.P.

1. Designed experiments, interpreted results, and analyzed data
2. Optimized aggregation measuring experiment for bacteria
3. Performed experiments to generate all data for figures 2, 3, 4, S1, and S2
4. Drew schematic in figure 1 and obtained images for figure 1
5. Performed numerical calculations for figure 3 using code adapted from A.P.S.
6. Contributed to writing abstract, introduction, results/discussion, and conclusion sections of the manuscript
7. Contributed to writing of supplemental information

A.P.S.

1. Contributed to experimental design, interpretation of results, and analysis of data.
2. Contributed to adaptation of image analysis pipeline for use in this system.
3. Co-developed numerical methods and contributed to adaptation of theory for use in figure 3.
4. Contributed to writing abstract, introduction, results/discussion, and conclusion sections of the manuscript.
5. Contributed to writing of supplemental information.