Claims:

1. A method of manufacturing a drug delivery therapeutic device implantable in an eye for prolonged treatment, the method comprising:

performing a non-destructive test on at least one porous structure, the non-destructive test selected from the group consisting of a gas flow rate test, a bubble point test, and a pressure decay test, wherein the at least one porous structure has a pre-formed shape, the at least one porous structure being part of a device having a refillable reservoir for containing at least one therapeutic agent with the at least one rigid porous structure coupled to the device in fluid communication with the reservoir, the rigid porous structure having a plurality of interconnecting channels and coupled to a distal portion of the reservoir; obtaining from the non-destructive test at least one performance result for the at least one porous structure;

measuring a diffusion rate of a molecule according to passive, concentration-gradient driven molecular diffusion to obtain a measured diffusion rate, wherein the molecule diffuses through a porous structure, the porous structure being the at least one porous structure or at least another porous structure; and

correlating the at least one performance result of the at least one porous structure to the measured diffusion rate so as to form a correlation used to predict a measured diffusion rate of the molecule through at least a second porous structure.

2. The method as in claim 1, further comprising:

performing the non-destructive test on the at least a second porous structure;

obtaining from the non-destructive test at least one performance result for the at least a second porous structure; and

predicting, based on the correlation, the measured diffusion rate of the molecule through the at least a second porous structure to obtain a predicted diffusion rate.

3. The method as in claim 2, further comprising identifying the at least a second porous structure as suitable for assembly with the therapeutic device.

4. The method as in claim 2, wherein the predicted diffusion rate corresponds to the diffusion rate of the through the at least one porous structure.

5. The method as in claim 2, further comprising measuring a diffusion rate of a molecule through the at

least a second porous structure to obtain a second measured diffusion rate and comparing the second measured diffusion rate to the predicted diffusion rate.

6. The method as in claim 5, wherein measuring is performed prior to manufacturing the device with the second porous structure.

7. The method as in claim 5, wherein measuring is performed after manufacturing the device with the second porous structure.

8. The method as in claim 2, further comprising manufacturing the therapeutic device with the second porous structure without measuring a diffusion rate of a molecule through the at least a second porous structure and comparing to the predicted diffusion rate.

9. The method as in claim 1, wherein the non-destructive test is performed on the at least one porous structure prior to assembling the at least one porous structure with the therapeutic device.

10. The method as in claim 1, wherein the non-destructive test is performed on the at least one porous structure after at least partially assembling the at least one porous structure with the therapeutic device.

11. The method as in claim 10, wherein the at least partially assembled therapeutic device includes the therapeutic agent contained in the reservoir.

12. The method as in claim 1, wherein the non-destructive test is performed as a quality control inspection test upon receipt of the at least one porous structure from a manufacturer.

13. The method as in claim 1, wherein the non-destructive test is performed as a quality control inspection test after final assembly of the therapeutic device.

14. The method as in claim 1, wherein the non-destructive test is a test that does not involve drug release through the at least one porous structure.

15. A therapeutic device manufactured according to the method of claim 1.

16. The method as in claim 1, wherein the at least one porous structure is a rigid porous structure manufactured from sintered grains of material including metal, ceramic, glass or plastic.

17. The method as in claim 1, wherein performing the non-destructive test comprises exposing the at

least one porous structure to a gas.

18. A method of manufacturing a drug delivery device for prolonged treatment, the method comprising:

performing a non-destructive test on a first rigid porous structure, the non-destructive test selected from the group consisting of a gas flow rate test, a bubble point test, and a pressure decay test, the first rigid porous structure being part of a device having a refillable reservoir for containing at least one therapeutic agent with the first rigid porous structure coupled to the device in fluid communication with the reservoir, the first rigid porous structure having a plurality of interconnecting channels and coupled to a distal portion of the reservoir;

obtaining from the non-destructive test at least one performance result for the first rigid porous structure;

measuring a diffusion rate of a molecule according to passive, concentration-gradient driven molecular diffusion through the first rigid porous structure to obtain a measured diffusion rate; and correlating the at least one performance result of the first rigid porous structure to the measured diffusion rate so as to form a correlation used to predict a measured diffusion rate of the molecule through at least a second porous structure.