surface area and increases the efficiency of functional materials that are dispersed within the aerogel. The aerogel can be formed in any shape and can provide structural properties to the mouthpiece.

Smoking articles according to the present disclosure include a mouthpiece including an organic aerogel forming an open pore structure. The aerogel can form the physical structure of the mouthpiece filter element or can be in the form of a plurality of aerogel particles dispersed in a mouthpiece filter element. In many embodiments, the aerogel forms the physical structure of the mouthpiece filter element. The aerogel provides the structural properties that provide the customary firmness found in mouthpieces (such as mouthpiece filter elements).

Thus, one aspect of the disclosure relates to a smoking article comprising a mouthpiece, the mouthpiece comprising an open pore structure converted from an organic gel and a functional material dispersed in the open pore structure.

Another aspect of the disclosure relates to a method comprising: combining a functional material with a gelling agent and solvent to from a gel; removing the solvent from the gel to form an organic aerogel; and disposing the organic aerogel in a smoking article mouthpiece.

The term "open pore structure" refers to a structure that includes a network or matrix defining interconnected voids or pores. An aerosol, gas, or vapour can pass through the open pore structure via the interconnected voids or pores of the aerogel. In many embodiments, the voids or pores have an average size of less than 500 micrometres, or less than 250 micrometres, or less than 100 micrometres. The size of the voids or pores can be determined by cutting through a particle or a portion of a monolithic element of the open pore structure and measuring the largest cross-sectional dimension of each of the voids or pores. The average size of the voids or pores is the arithmetic mean of these measurements. This open pore structure allows air or tobacco smoke to flow through the aerogel structure. The pore size of the open pore structure can be chosen to provide a resistance to draw that is similar to a resistance to draw of a conventional smoking article. In many embodiments the mouthpiece or mouthpiece filter including an aerogel or open pore structure has a resistance to draw in a range from about 50 to 120 mm H_2O or from about 60 to 100 mm H_2O. Thus the smoking experience for conventional smoking articles described herein may be comparable to conventional smoking articles.

The term "organic aerogel" refers to an aerogel preferably comprising at least about 75% by weight, more preferably at least 90% by weight, even more preferably consisting

essentially of, or most preferably consisting of, organic compounds. Organic compounds include any compounds commonly referred to as organic, for example those falling under the IUPAC nomenclature of organic chemistry (commonly referred to as the "Blue Book"). Examples include polymers, sugars, proteins, cellulosic material and the like.

This is in contrast to other materials, such as activated carbon materials, which are generally not considered organic compounds. For example, some materials (including some