



# **From 'Devices' to 'Self-Aware, Bioinspired MicroSystems': What does the future hold for Optical Sensing?**

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**Presented at**

**EUROPTRODE XIII CONFERENCE ON  
OPTICAL CHEMICAL SENSORS AND BIOSENSORS**

**GRAZ, Austria**

**March 20-23, 2016**



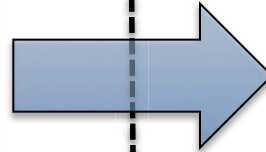


# Single Use vs. Continuous Monitoring



**Chemical Sensors  
& Biosensors**

**Single Use  
Measurements  
and Diagnostics**



**Physical Sensors  
& Transducers**

**Continuous  
Monitoring &  
Sensor  
Networks**

**Can we do long-term in-situ sensing with Chemical  
Sensors & Biosensors**

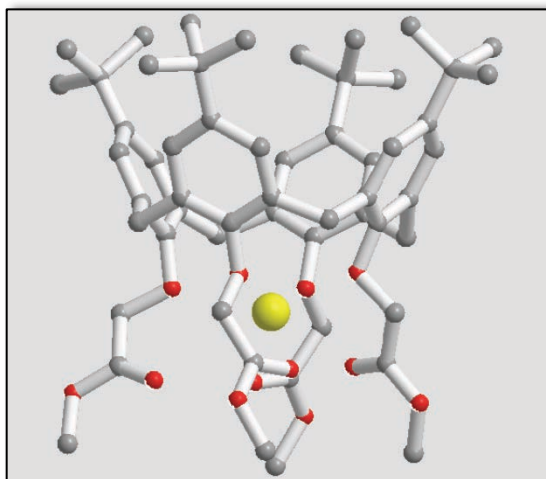
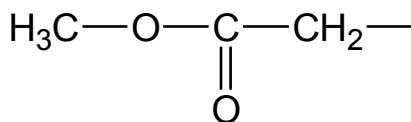
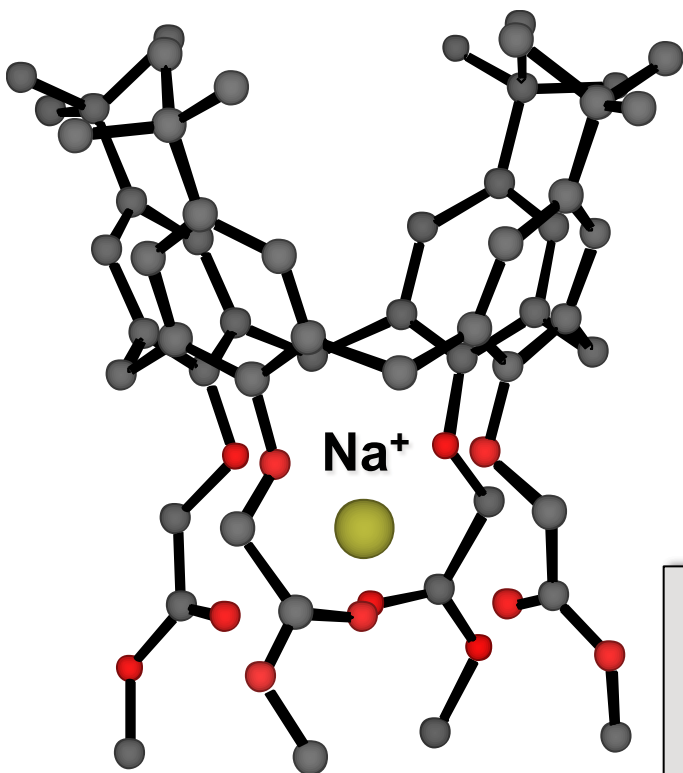




# Calixarene Ionophores – controlling the selectivity

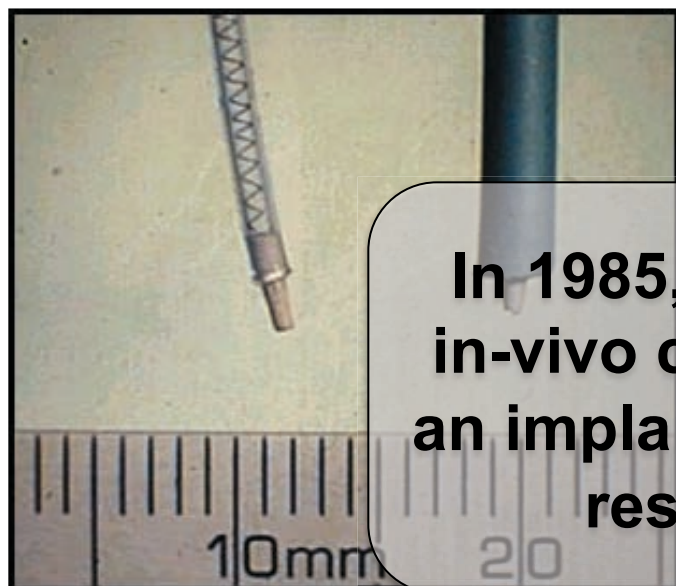


Gyula Svehla





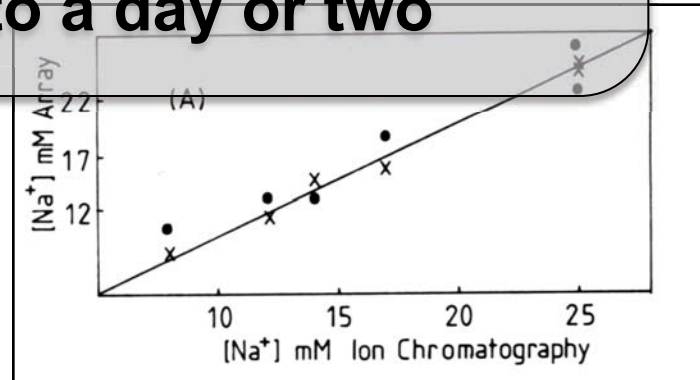
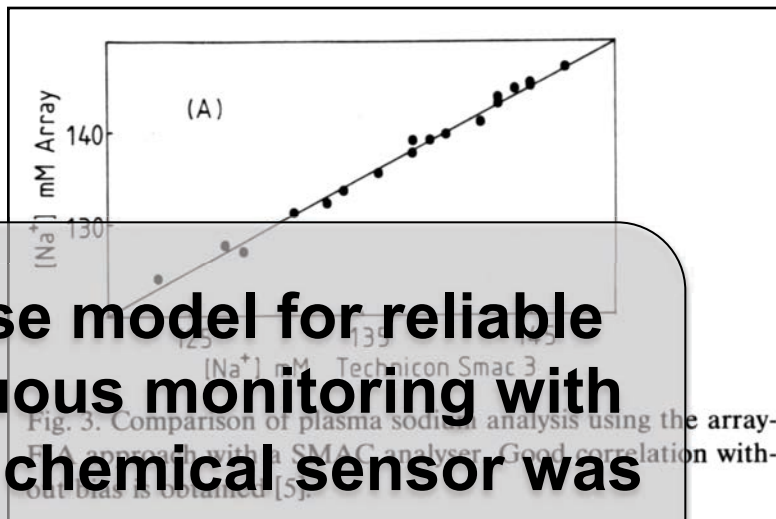
# Blood Analysis; Implantable Sensors



In 1985, the use model for reliable in-vivo continuous monitoring with an implantable chemical sensor was restricted to a day or two

1985: Catheter Electrodes for intensive care – function for 24 hrs

Dr. David Band, St Thomas's Hospital London



*Anal. Chem.*, **64** (1992) 1721-1728.

Ligand (and variations of) used in many clinical analysers for blood  $\text{Na}^+$  profiling

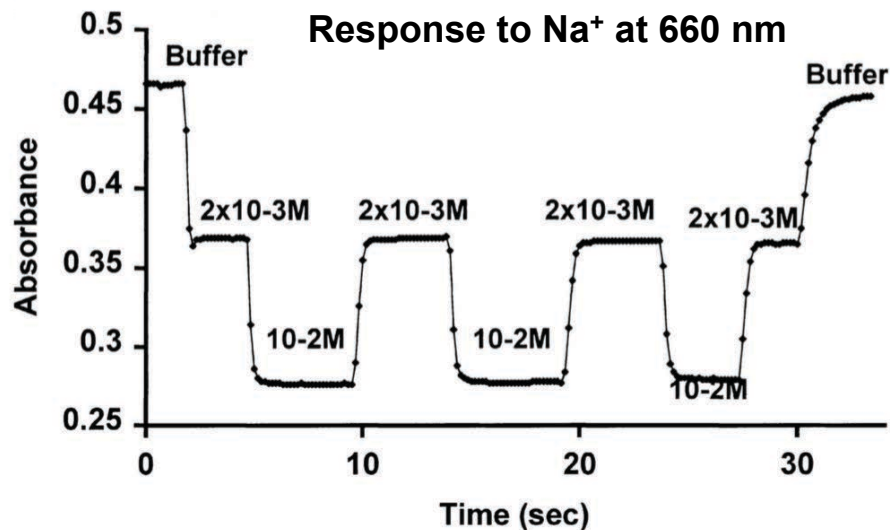
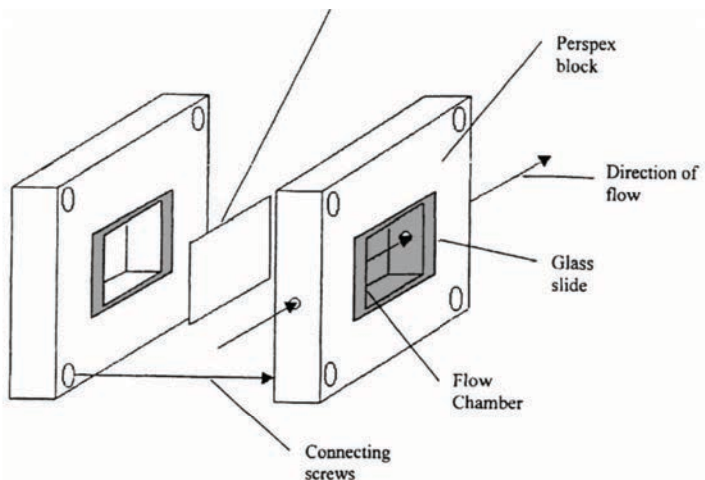
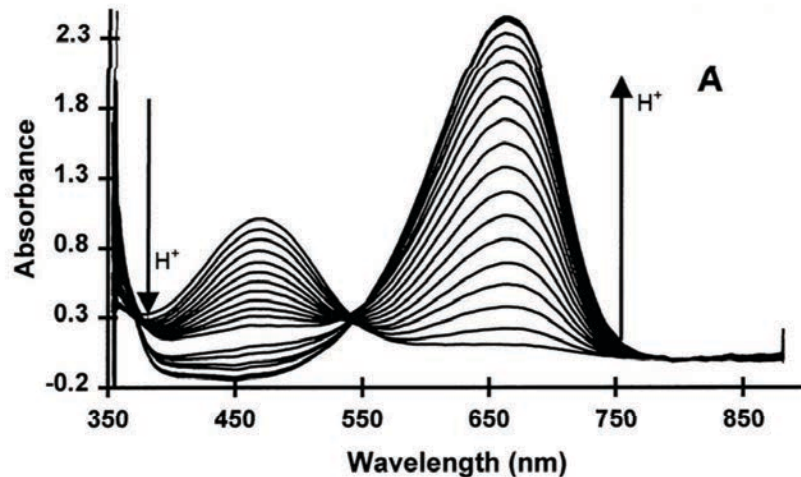
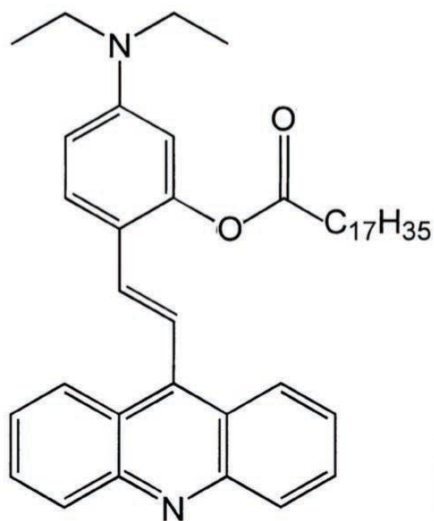
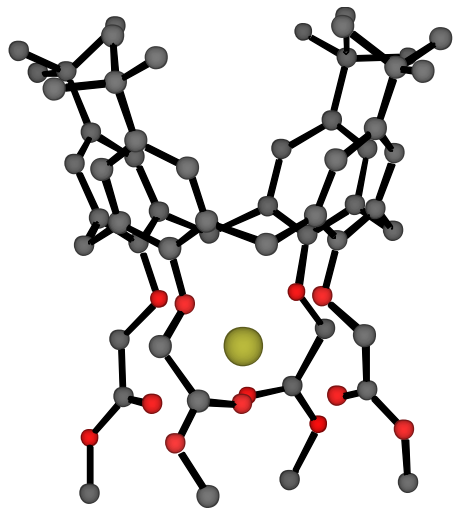




# Coupling ion complexation to Acridine Dye protonation



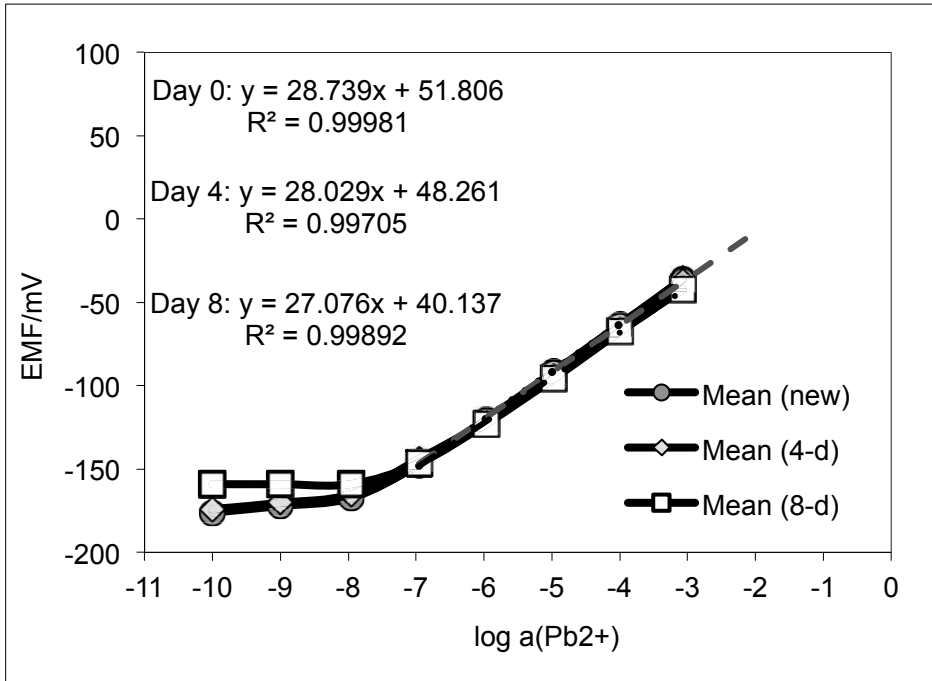
S. O'Neill et al. / *Analytica Chimica Acta* 398 (1999) 1-11



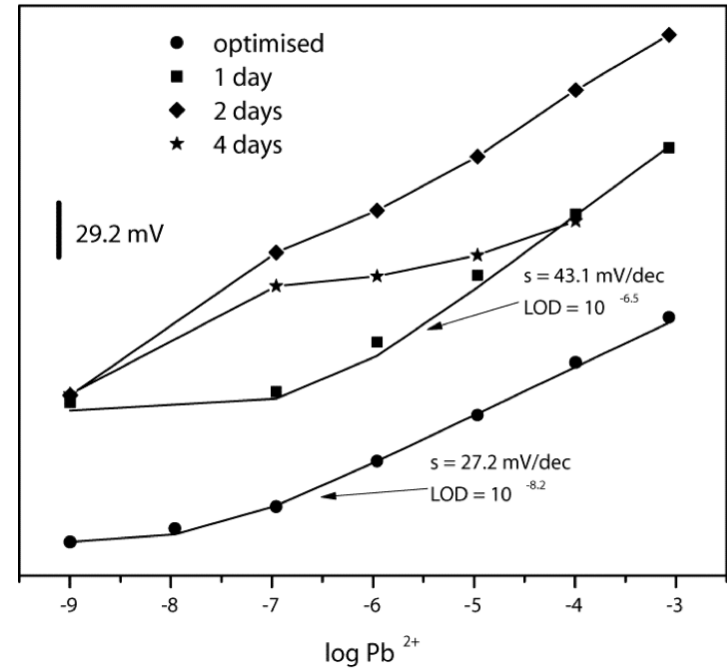


# Change in Electrode Function over Time

See *Electrochimica Acta* 73 (2012) 93–97



stored in  $10^{-9}\text{M Pb}^{2+}$ , pH=4

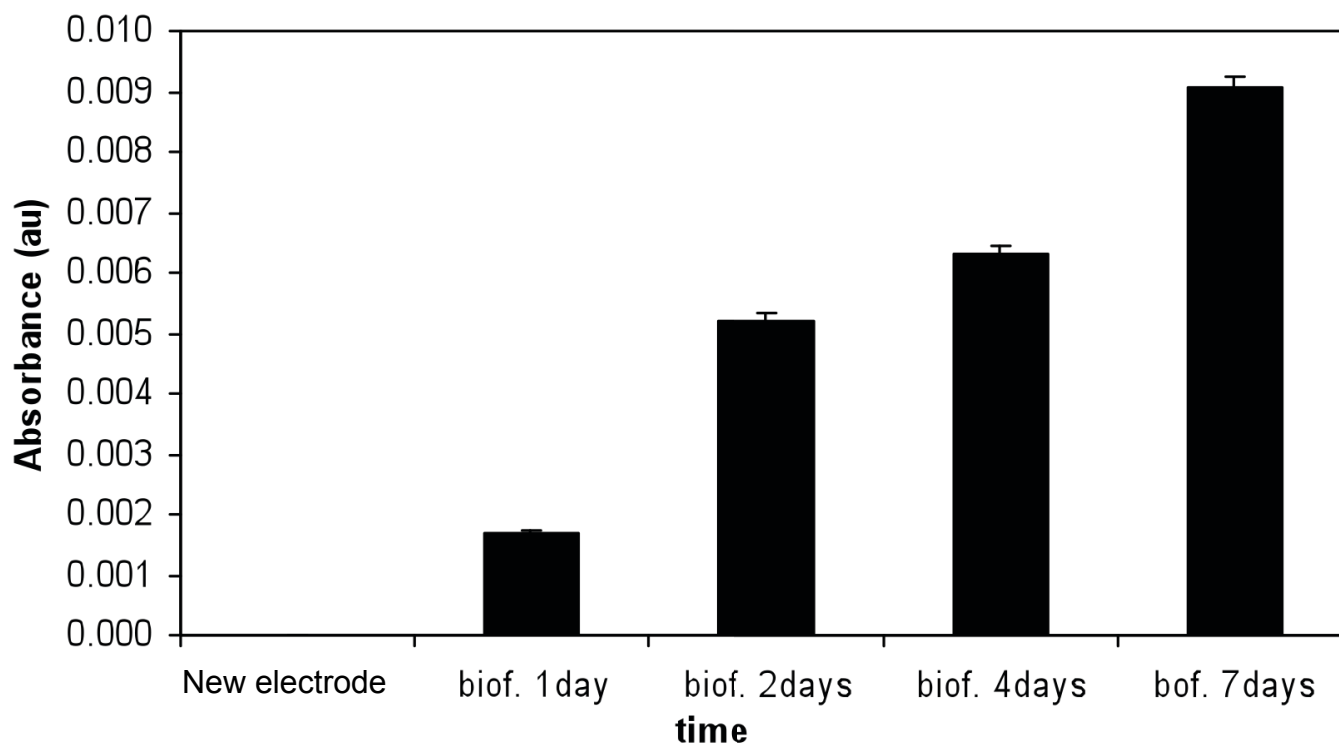


Continuous contact with river water

Conventional PVC-membrane based ISEs



# Biofilm Formation on Sensors

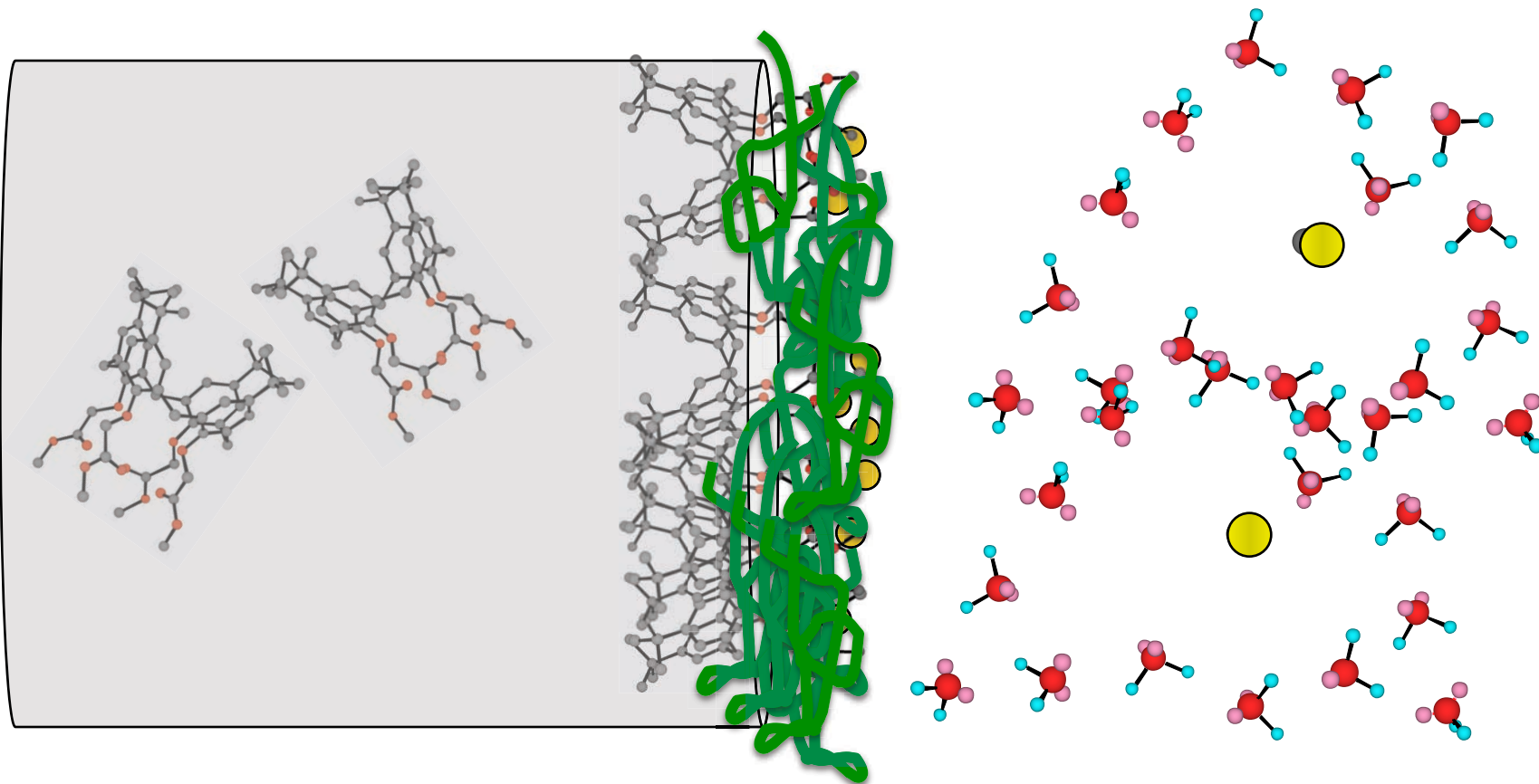


- **Electrodes exposed to local river water (Tolka)**
- **‘Slime test’ shows biofilm formation happens almost immediately and grows rapidly**





# Control of membrane interfacial exchange & binding processes



**Remote, autonomous chemical sensing is a tricky business!**







# Osberstown – 3 week deployment

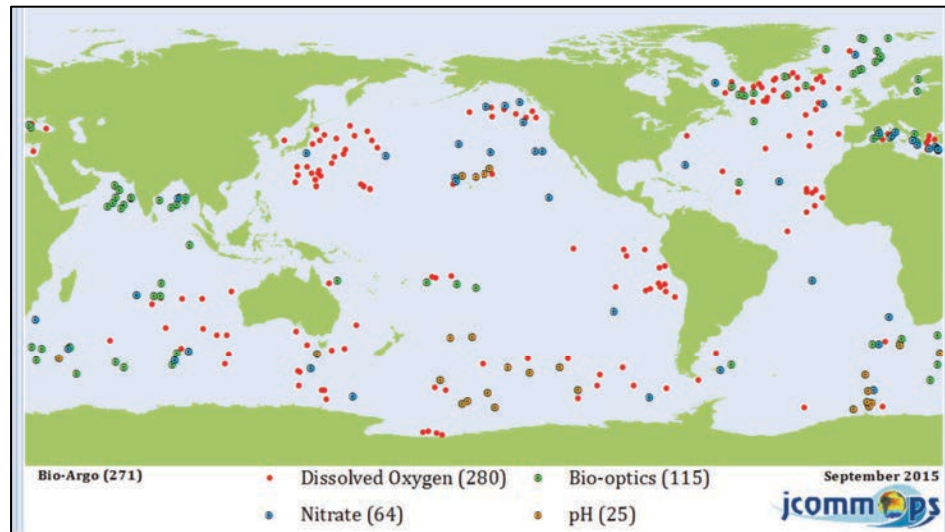
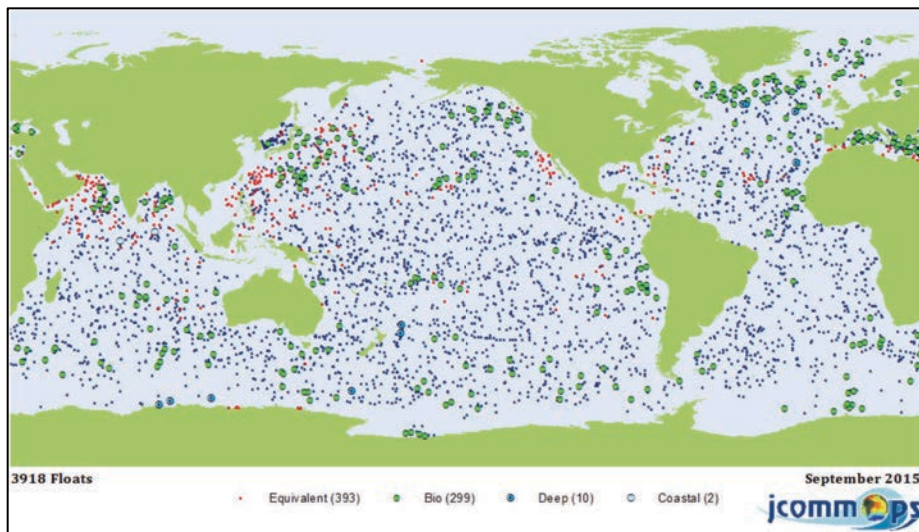


**Biofouling of sensor surfaces is a major challenge for remote chemical sensing – both for the environment and for implantable sensors**





# Argo Project (accessed March 20 2016)



- Ca. 4,000 (3918) floats: temperature and salinity
  - Bio/Chem: Nitrate (64), DO (280), Bio-optics (115), pH (25)
- DO is by Clark Cell (Sea Bird Electronics) or Dynamic fluorescence quenching (Aanderaa)

@€60K ea!

See <https://picasaweb.google.com/JCOMMOPS/ArgoMaps?authuser=0&feat=embedwebsite>

‘calibration of the DO measurements by the SBE sensor remains an important issue for the future’, Argo report ‘Processing Argo OXYGEN data at the DAC level’, September 6, 2009, V. Thierry, D. Gilbert, T. Kobayashi





# pH sensing – wasn't that solved by Nikolskii in the 1930's?

EVENT	DATE
Launch (San Francisco)	September 2013
<b>PHASE 1: Innovation Phase</b>	
Registration opens	January 1, 2014
Early-bird Registration deadline	March 2014
OA Solutions Fair and Kick-Off Event	March 2014



## Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health XPRIZE

**\$2,000,000 up for grabs!**  
Task is to provide a way to do reliable measurements of pH in the ocean environment

**The winner will almost certainly be a reagent based platform, not a conventional chemical sensor**

## OVERVIEW

### Overview

#### The Challenge: Improve Our Understanding of Ocean Acidification

### Competition Guidelines

The Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health XPRIZE is a \$2 million global competition that challenges teams of engineers, scientists and innovators from all over the world to create pH sensor technology that will affordably, accurately and efficiently measure ocean chemistry from its shallowest waters... to its deepest depths.

### Competition Schedule

There are two prize purses available (teams may compete for, and win, both purses):

### Registration Process

A. \$1,000,000 Accuracy award – Performance focused (\$750,000 First Place, \$250,000 Second Place):  
To the teams that navigate the entire competition to produce the most accurate, stable and precise pH sensors under a variety of tests.





# And for nutrients....



## ALLIANCE FOR COASTAL TECHNOLOGIES

SUPPORTING INNOVATION TO BETTER UNDERSTAND, PREDICT AND MANAGE COASTAL, OCEAN AND GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENTS.

- Home
- About
- Tech Database
- Workshops
- Evaluations
- The Sensor
- Contact

### The Challenge

- Register Now
- The Problem
- Timeline
- Awards
- Market Information
- Reports
- Provide Your Input
- Registered Participants - Spring 2015
- Frequent Questions

**Thinking about registering for the Challenge?**

**Info and Q&A webinar**  
12 Feb 2015



## Nutrient Sensor Challenge

### A Water Sensor Market Stimulation Challenge

Federal agencies, the Alliance for Coastal Technologies, and other partners **CHALLENGE YOU** to join the effort to develop affordable, accurate, and reliable nutrient sensors!

**Registration closes March 16, 2015**



### Nutrient Sensor Features

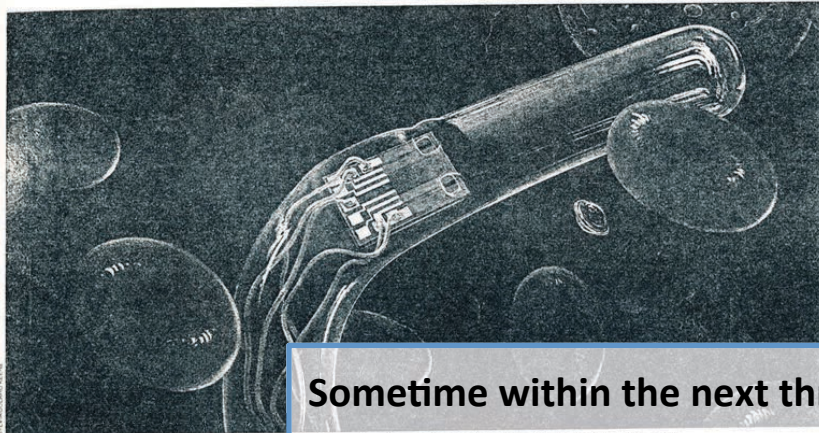
- Measures dissolved nitrate and/or phosphate
- Provides real-time data
- Easy to use
- Less than \$5,000 purchase price
- Unattended deployments for 3 months
- Highly accurate and precise



# The (broken) promise of biosensors.....



## BIOSENSORS THE MATING OF BIOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS

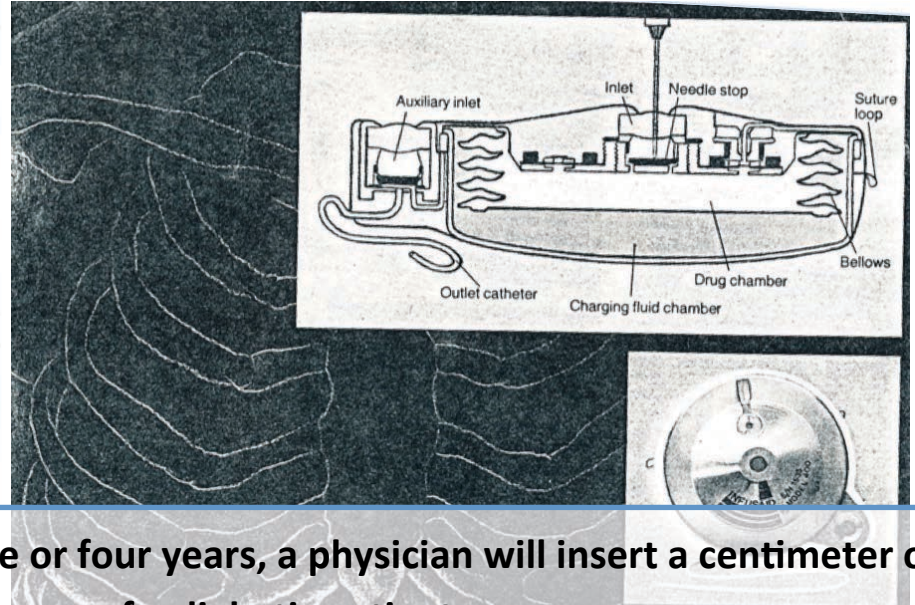


Implanted sensors control the flow of insulin in a diabetic patient. The Utah model is a field-effect transistor.

Sometime within the next three or four years, a physician will insert a centimeter of platinum wire into the bloodstream of a diabetic patient. At its tip will be a barely visible membrane containing a bit of enzyme. Hair-thin wires will lead from the other end of the platinum to an insulin reservoir—a titanium device about the size and shape of a hockey puck—implanted in the patient's abdomen. Within seconds a chemical reaction will begin at the tip of the wire. A few molecules of glucose in the blood will adhere to the membrane and be attacked by the enzyme, forming hydrogen peroxide and another product. The peroxide will migrate to a thin oxide

In medicine and industry, tiny high-speed devices will track a wide range of biological reactions

High Technology, Nov. 1983, 41-49



Sometime within the next three or four years, a physician will insert a centimeter of platinum wire into the bloodstream of a diabetic patient.

At its tip will be a barely visible membrane containing a bit of enzyme.

Hair-thin wires will lead from the other end of the platinum to an insulin reservoir implanted in the patient's abdomen.

Within seconds, a chemical reaction will begin at the tip of the wire.....

.....And (by implication) it will work for years reliably and regulate glucose through feedback to insulin pump





# Abbott Freestyle 'Libre'



The days of routine glucose testing with lancets, test strips and blood are over.<sup>2</sup>

Welcome to flash glucose monitoring!

## How to use the FreeStyle Libre System

The FreeStyle Libre system utilises advanced technology that is easy to use.

### 1 Apply sensor with applicator



- A thin flexible sterile fibre (5mm long) is inserted just below the skin. Most people reported that applying the sensor was painless\*
- The 14-day sensor stays on the back of your upper arm and automatically captures glucose readings day and night.
- The sensor is water resistant and can be worn while bathing, swimming and exercising<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Most people did not feel any discomfort under the skin while wearing the FreeStyle Libre sensor. In a study conducted by Abbott Diabetes Care, 93.4% of patients surveyed (n=30) strongly agree or agree that while wearing the sensor, they did not feel any discomfort under their skin. [29 persons have finished the study; 1 person terminated the study after 3 days due to skin irritations in the area where the sensor touched the skin.]

<sup>7</sup> Sensor is water-resistant: in up to 1 metre (3 feet) of water for a maximum of 30 minutes



- 'Small fibre' used to access interstitial fluid
- Data downloaded at least once every 8 hr via 1s contactless scan (1-4 cm)
- Waterproof to 1 metre
- Replace every 2 weeks





# HYPEwatch: Apple, iWatch & Health Monitoring



Independent.ie

Wednesday 7 May 2014

News Sport Business Woman Entertainment Lifestyle Videos

Independent.ie Business Technology

Apple hiring medical device staff, shares break \$600 mark

May 7<sup>th</sup> 2014

'Over the past year, Apple has snapped up at least half a dozen prominent experts in biomedicine, according to LinkedIn profile changes.

## How will they integrate biosensing with the iWatch.....?

The hiring is in sensor technology, an area Chief Executive Tim Cook singled out last year as primed "to explode."

Industry insiders say the moves telegraph a vision of monitoring everything from blood-sugar levels to nutrition, beyond the fitness-oriented devices now on the market.'

Apple Inc CEO Tim Cook



"This is a very specific play in the bio-sensing space," said Malay Gandhi, chief strategy officer at Rock Health, a San Francisco venture capital firm that has backed prominent wearable-tech startups, such as Augmedix and Spire.





# Google Contact Lens

United States Patent Application 20140107445

Google Smart Contact Lenses Move

Kind Code A1 Liu; Zenghe April 17, 2014

Closer to Reality

• Contact lens use model is 24 hours;

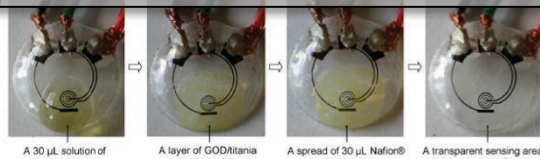
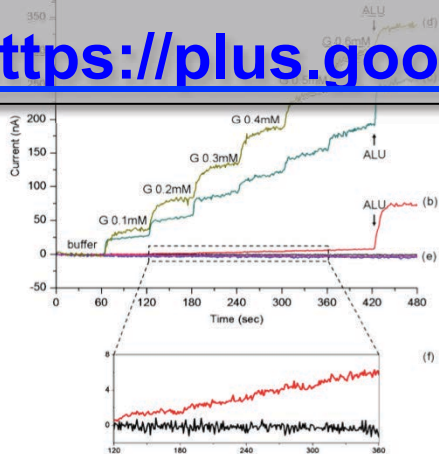
• Leverage Google Glass\*;  
• Novartis now working with Google.

Abstract  
An eye-mountable device includes an electrochemical sensor embedded in a polymeric material configured for mounting in a contact lens. The electrochemical sensor includes a working electrode, a reference electrode, and a reagent that selectively reacts with an

analyte to generate a sensor measurement related to a concentration of the analyte in fluid when the eye-mountable device is exposed.

(Jan 15 2015) see

<https://plus.google.com/+GoogleGlass/posts/9uiwXY42tvc>



*A contact lens with embedded sensor for monitoring tear glucose level, H. F. Yao, A. J. Shum, M. Cowan, I. Lahdesmaki and B. A. Parviz, Biosensors & Bioelectronics, 2011, 26, 3290-3296.*



BY LANCE ULANOFF

1 DAY AGO

the company secured [two patents](#) last week for the cutting edge, biometric sensor technology.

Known among scientists as "Ophthalmic Electrochemical Sensors," these contact lenses will feature flexible electronics that include sensors and an antenna. The sensors are designed to read chemicals in the tear fluid of the wearer's eye and alert her, possibly through a little embedded LED light, when her blood sugar falls to dangerous levels.

SEE ALSO: [7 Incognito Wearables You'd Never Guess Were Gadgets](#)

According to the patent:

"Human tear fluid contains a variety of inorganic electrolytes (e.g., Ca.sup.2+, Mg.sup.2+, Cl.sup.-), organic solutes (e.g., glucose, lactate, etc.), proteins, and lipids. A

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/360331/scitech/technology/google-s-smart-contact-lenses-may-arrive-sooner-than-you-think>







# What is the core issue??

- **Simple, bare chem/biosensors do not function reliably EXCEPT as single shot short-term use devices – regular recalibration required (if they manage to keep functioning)**
- **Sensor surfaces change as soon as they are exposed to the real world – biofouling, interferences, leaching of components....**
- **Current systems work for days (after decades of research)**
- **Implants must work for 10 years! Environmental Sensors are far too expensive**



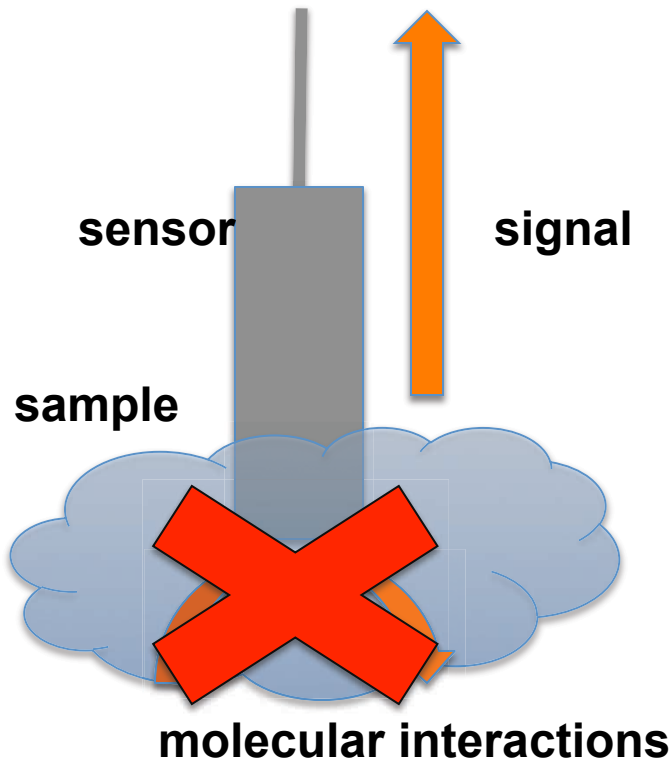


# Direct Sensing vs. Reagent Based LOAC/ufluidics

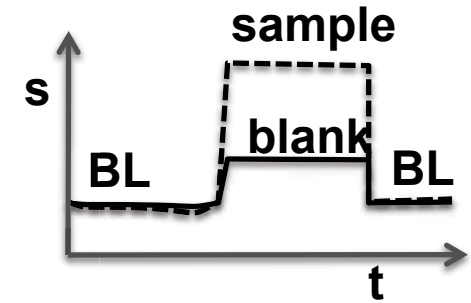
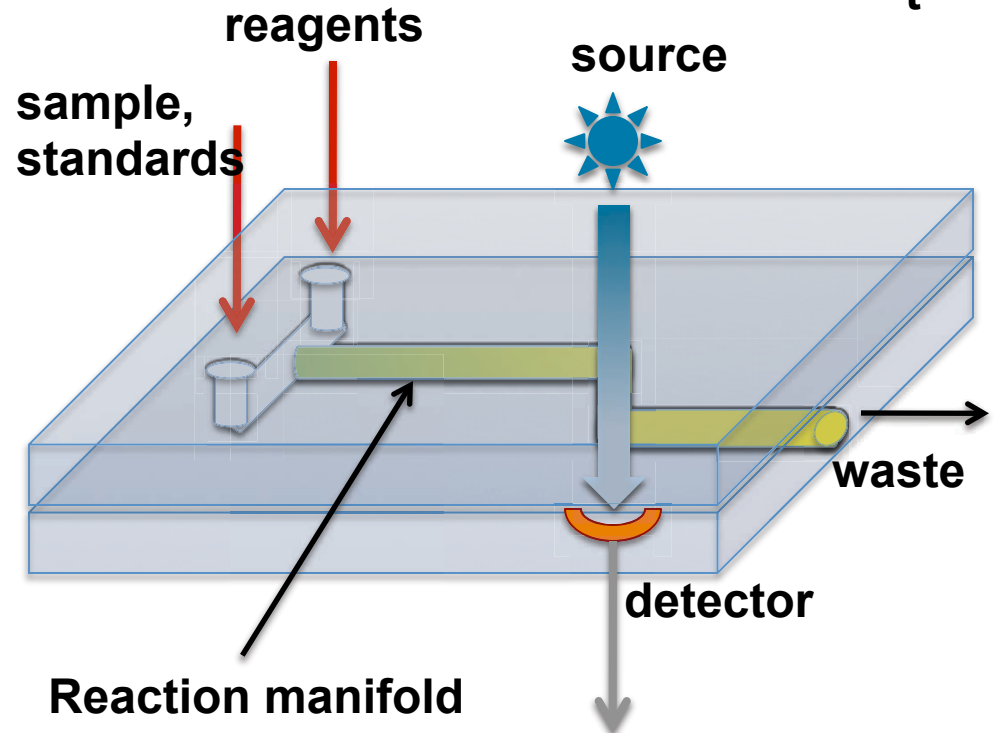


Direct Sensing

outside world



LOAC Analyser





# MicroTAS/Lab on a Chip/Microfluidics



Microfluidics, to date, has been largely focused on the development of science and technology, and on scientific papers, rather than on the solution of problems

Editorial 'Solving Problems', George Whitesides,  
Lab Chip 10 (2010) 2317-2318

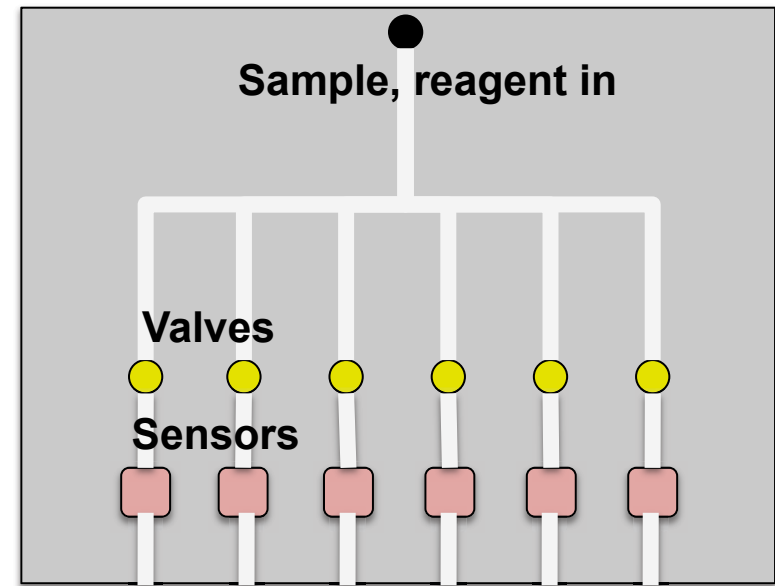




# Extend Period of Use via Multiple short-use Sensors....?



- If each sensor has a functional lifetime of 1 week....
- And these sensors are very reproducible....
- And they are very stable in storage (up to several years)



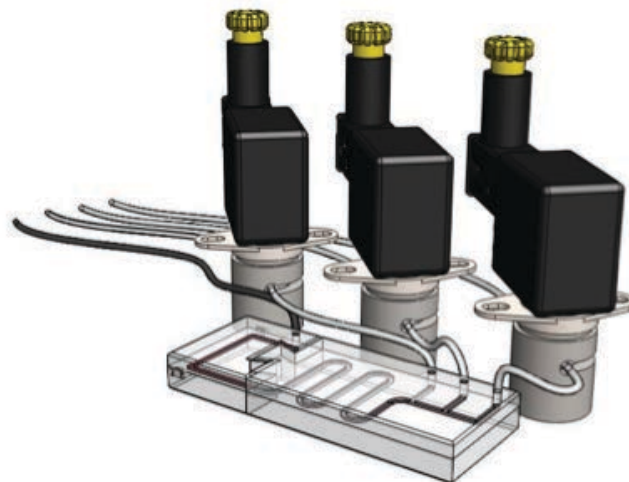
**Then 50 sensors when used sequentially could provide an aggregated in-use lifetime of around 1 year**

**But now we need multiple valves integrated into a fluidic platform to select each sensor in turn**



# How to advance fluid handling in LOC platforms: re-invent valves (and pumps)!

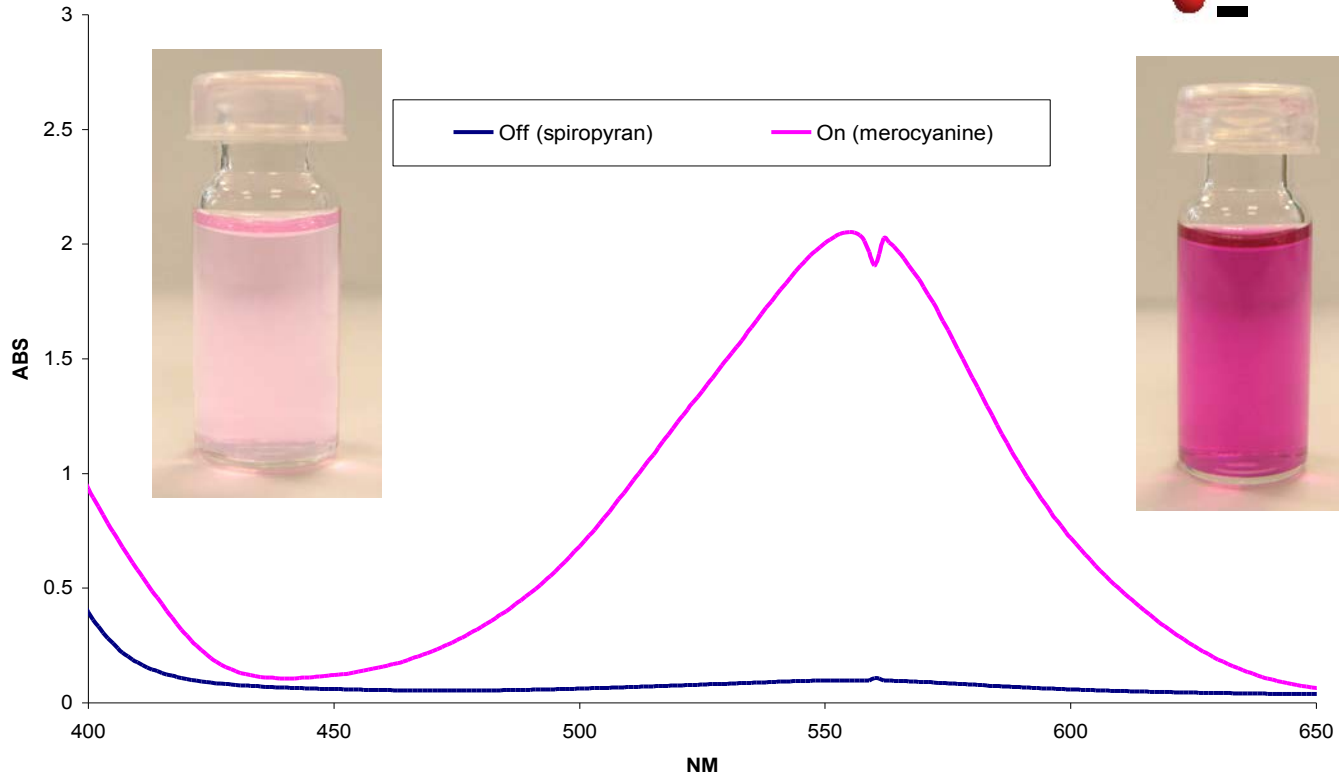
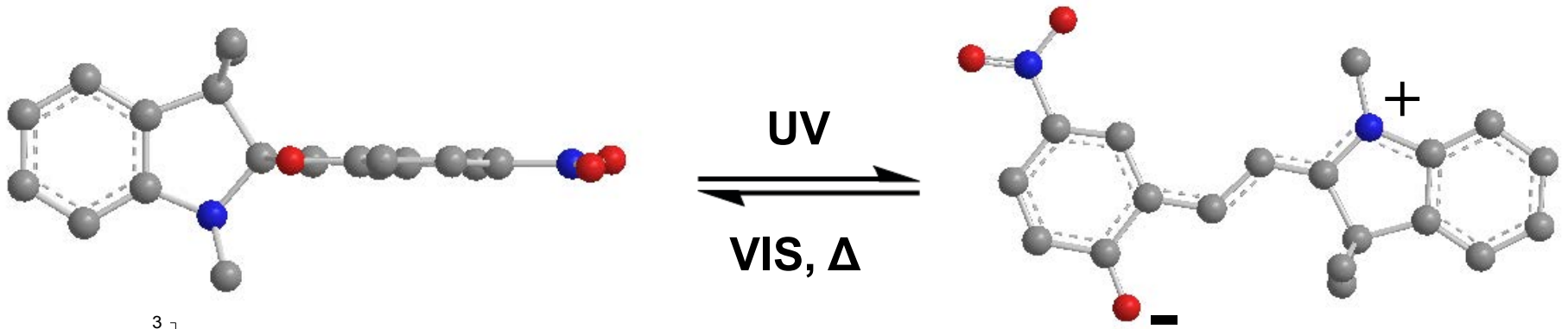
- **Conventional valves cannot be easily scaled down - Located off chip: fluidic interconnects required**
  - Complex fabrication
  - Increased dead volume
  - Mixing effects
- **Based on solenoid action**
  - Large power demand
  - Expensive



**Solution: soft-polymer (biomimetic) valves fully integrated into the fluidic system**

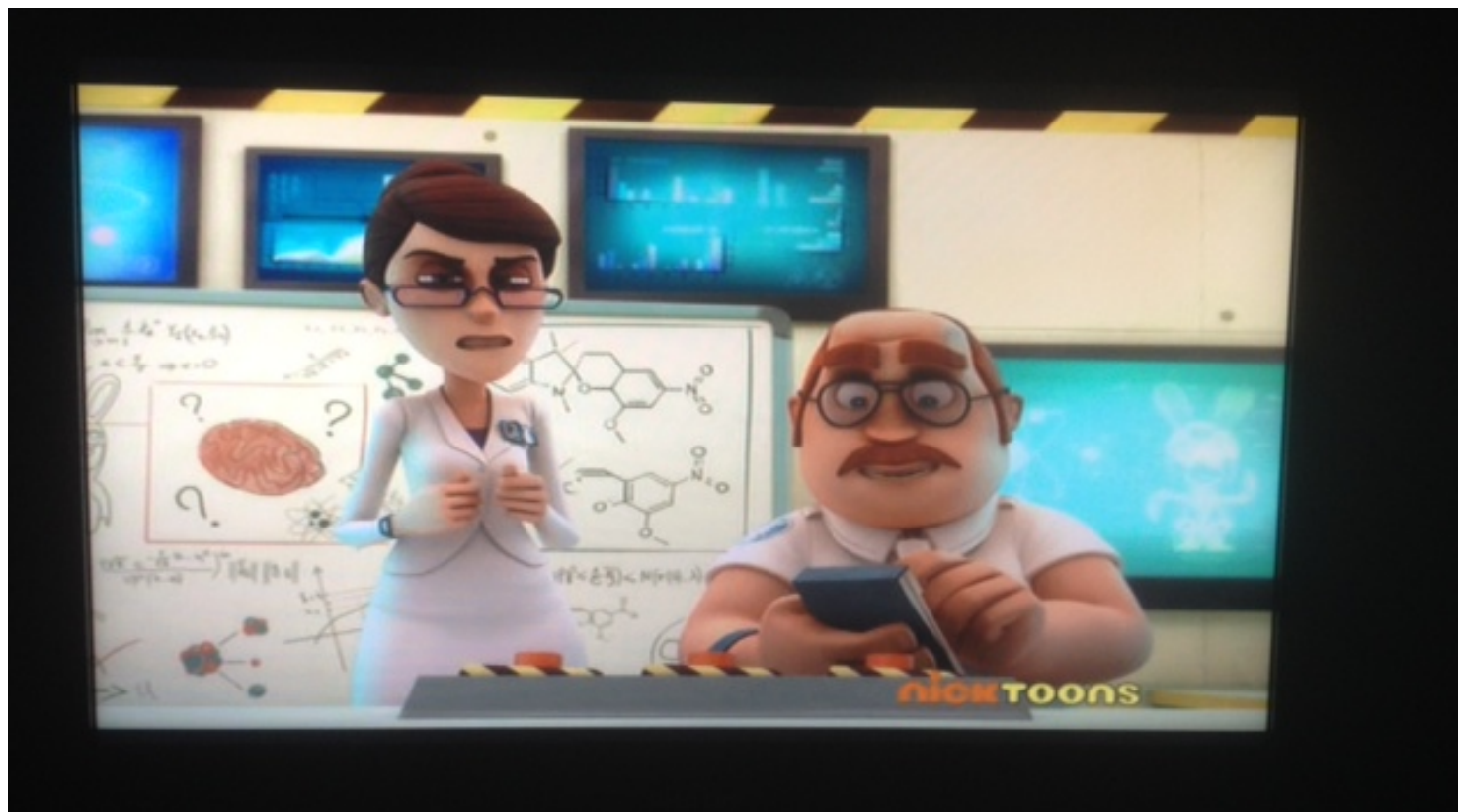


# Photoswitchable Actuators





# Famous Molecule....



**From Prof. Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, TCD School of Chemistry  
Spotted on Nickelodeon Cartoons February 2015**

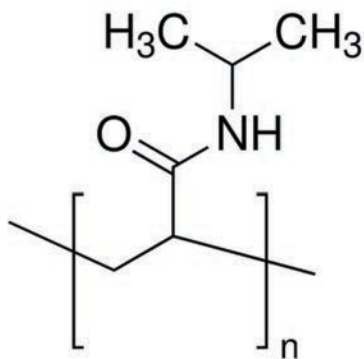




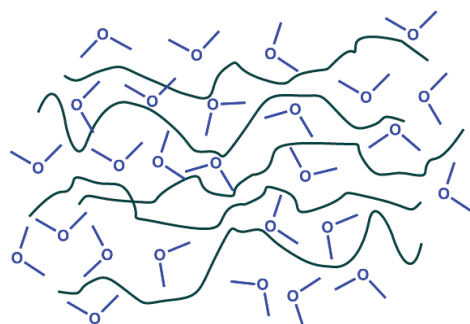
# Poly(*N*-isopropylacrylamide)

- pNIPAAm exhibits inverse solubility upon heating
- This is referred to as the LCST (Lower Critical Solution Temperature)
- Typically this temperature lies between 30-35°C, but the exact temperature is a function of the (macro)molecular microstructure
- Upon reaching the LCST the polymer undergoes a dramatic volume change, as the hydrated polymer chains collapse to a globular structure, expelling the bound water in the process

## pNIPAAm



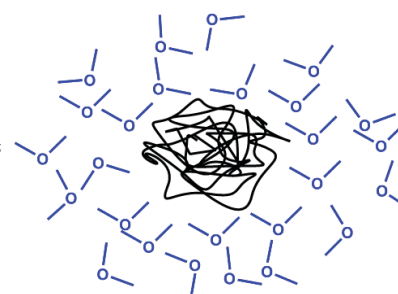
Hydrophilic



Hydrated Polymer Chains



Hydrophobic



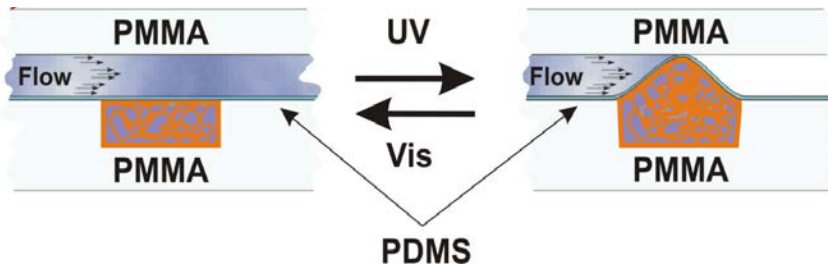
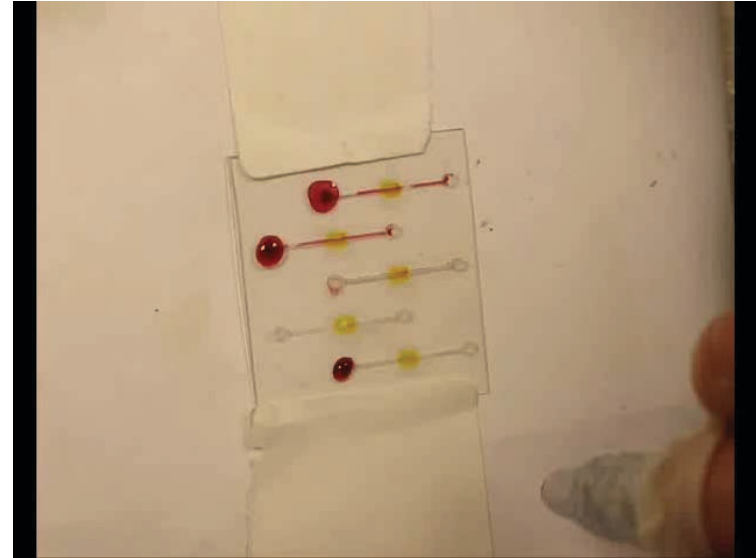
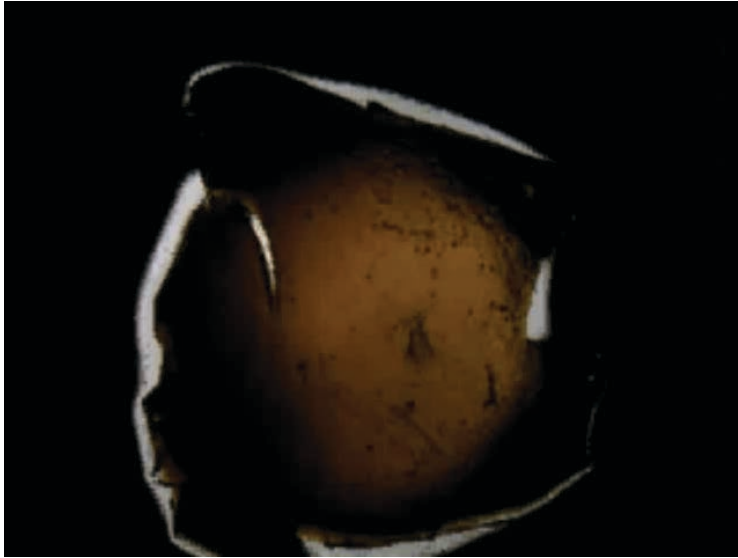
Loss of bound water  
-> polymer collapse



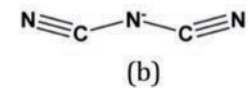
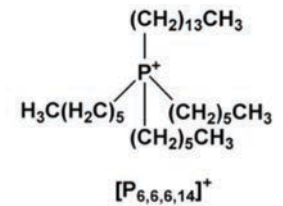
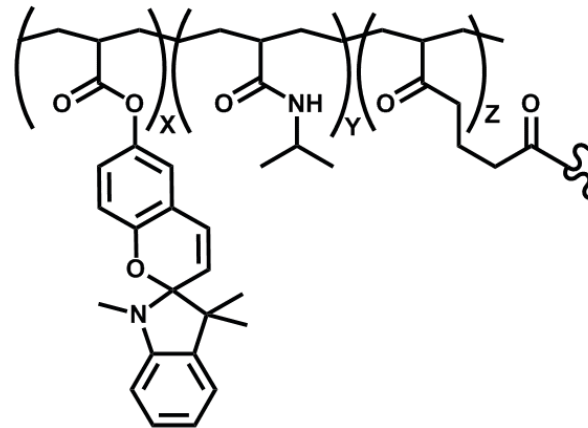




# Photo-actuator polymers as microvalves in microfluidic systems



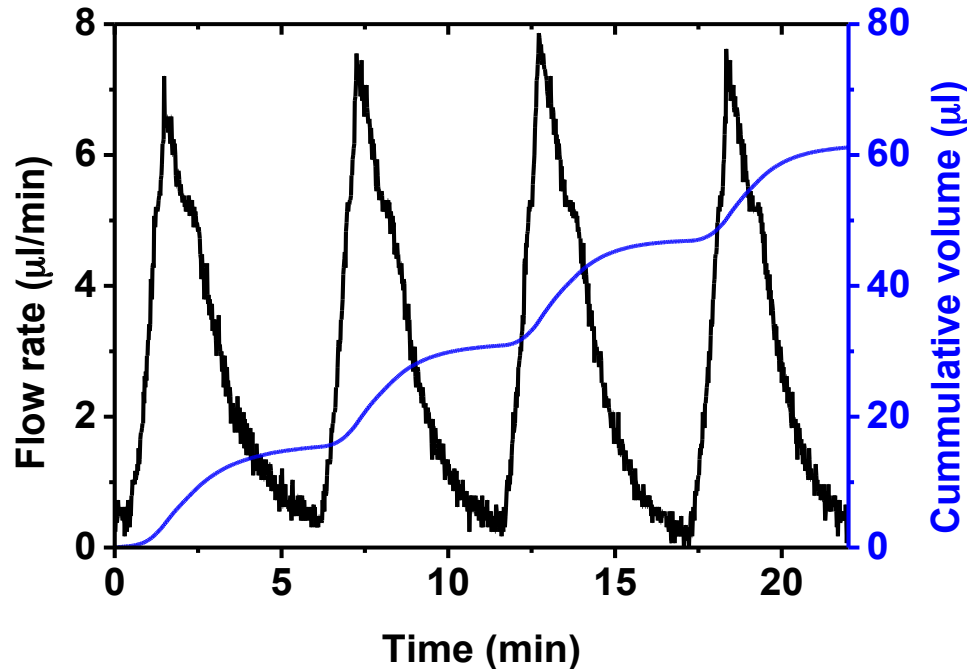
trihexyltetradecylphosphonium dicyanoamide  $[P_{6,6,6,14}]^+[dca]^-$



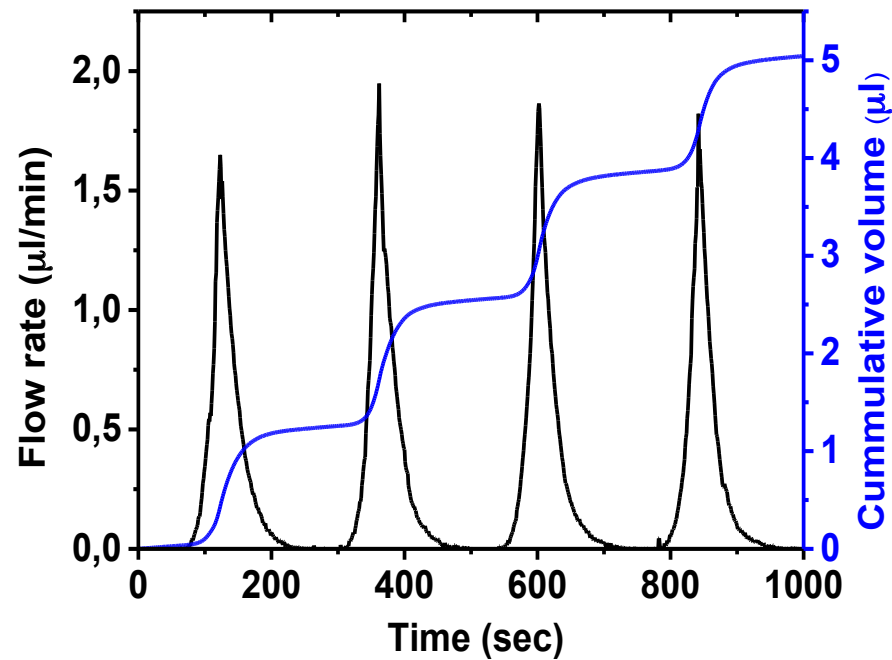
Ionogel-based light-actuated valves for controlling liquid flow in micro-fluidic manifolds, Fernando Benito-Lopez, Robert Byrne, Ana Maria Raduta, Nihal Engin Vrana, Garrett McGuinness, Dermot Diamond, Lab Chip, 10 (2010) 195-201.



# Optimisation of valve dimensions



1.7 mm mask



1.6 mm mask

First example of actuating polymer gels as reusable valves for flow control on minute time scales (> 50 repeat actuations)





# Photocontrol of Surface Features – Channel Surfaces Become ‘Active’



ACS APPLIED MATERIALS & INTERFACES

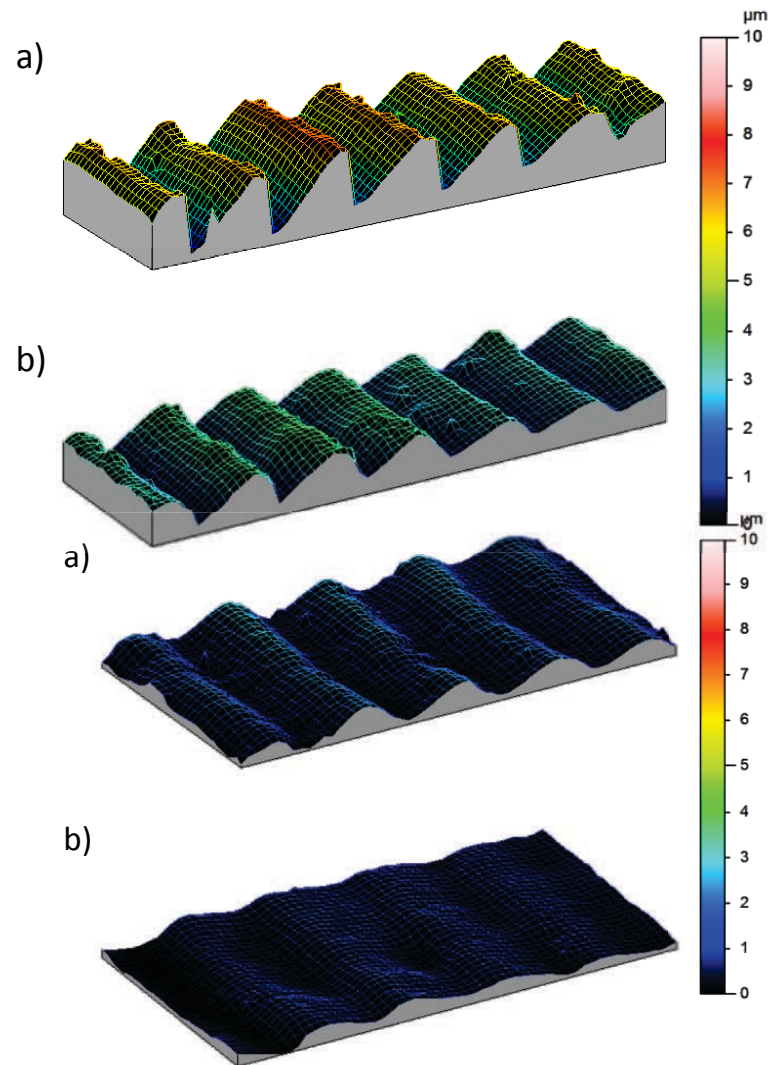
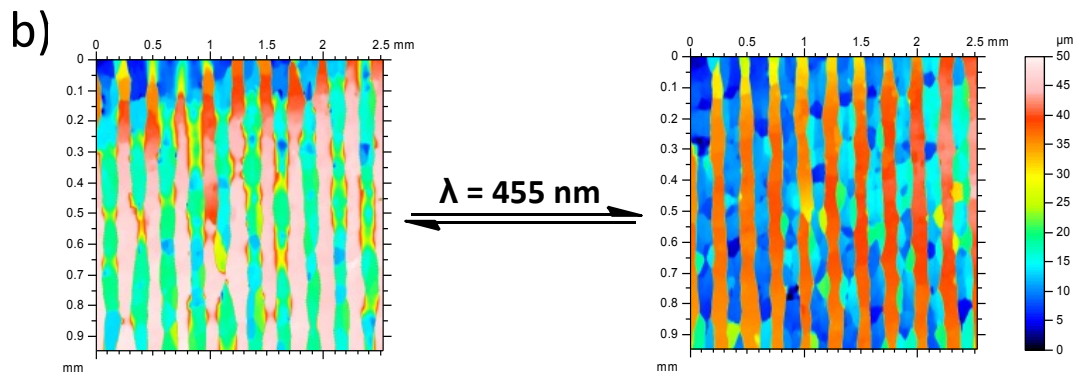
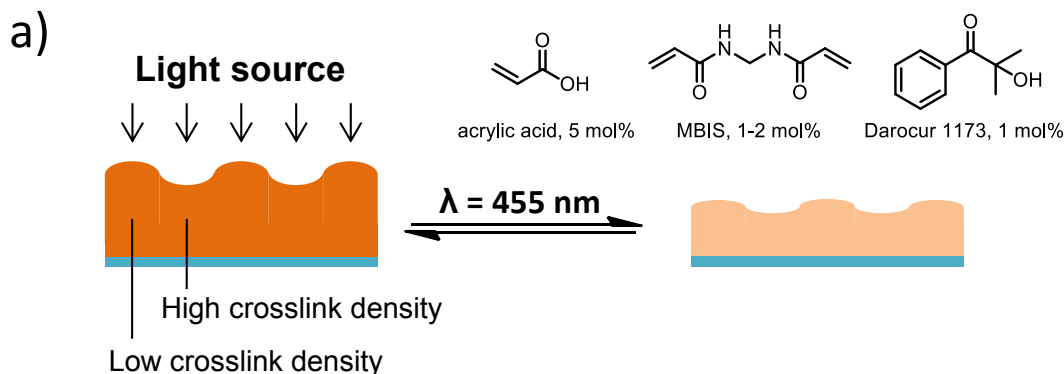
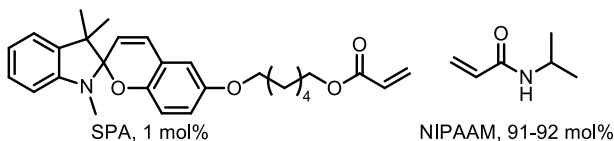
Research Article

www.acsami.org

ACS applied materials & interfaces, 6 (2014) 7268-7274

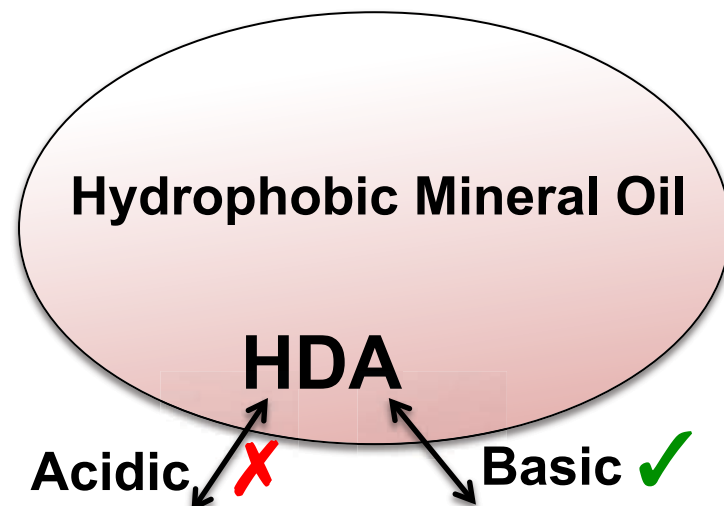
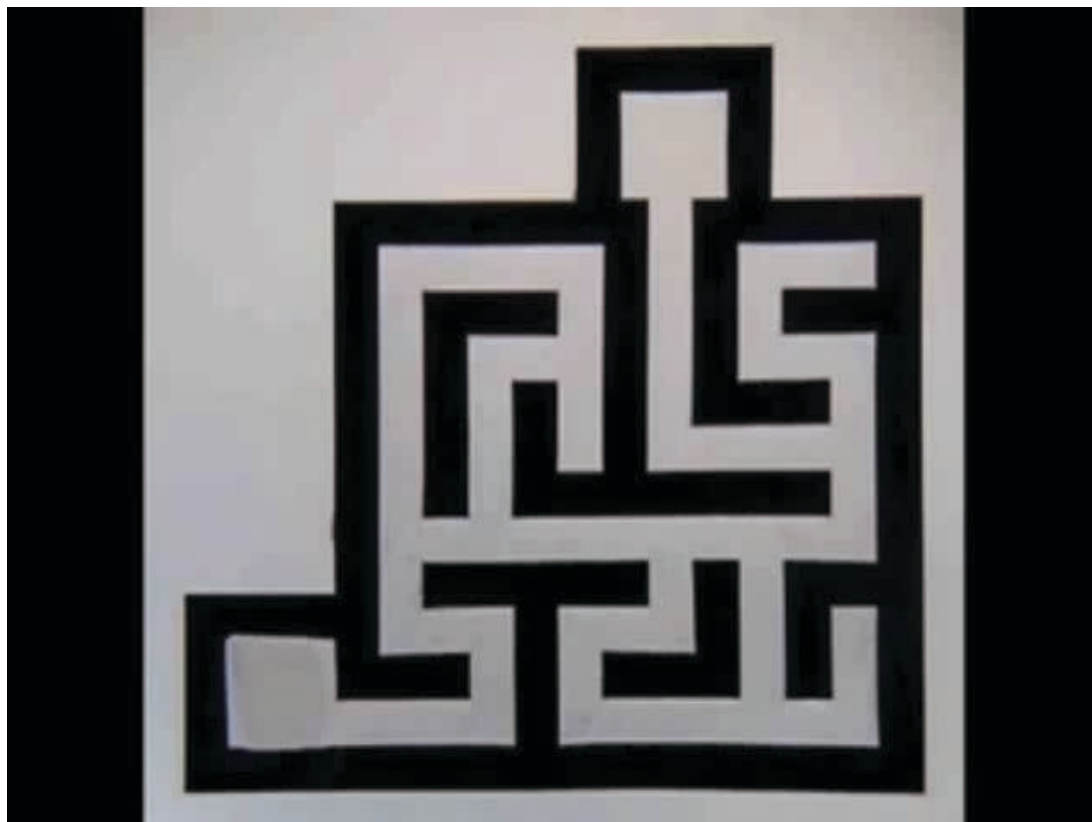
## Photoswitchable Ratchet Surface Topographies Based on Self-Protonating Spiropyran–NIPAAm Hydrogels

Jelle E. Stumpel,<sup>†</sup> Bartosz Ziolkowski,<sup>‡</sup> Larisa Florea,<sup>‡</sup> Dermot Diamond,<sup>‡</sup> Dirk J. Broer,<sup>\*,†,§</sup> and Albertus P. H. J. Schenning<sup>\*,†,§</sup>





# Chemotactic Systems



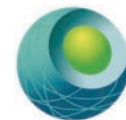
In a pH gradient,  $\text{DA}^-$  is preferentially transferred to the aqueous phase at the more basic side of the drop.

Published on Web 11/01/2010 (speed  $\sim x4$ ): channels filled with KOH (pH 12.0-12.3 + surfactant; agarose gel soaked in HCl (pH 1.2) sets up the pH gradient; droplets of mineral oil or DCM containing 20-60% 2-hexyldecanoic acid + dye. Droplet speed ca. 1-10 mm/s; movement caused by convective flows arising from concentration gradient of HDA at droplet-air interface (greater concentration of  $\text{DA}^-$  towards higher pH side);  $\text{HDA} \leftrightarrow \text{H}^+ + \text{DA}^-$

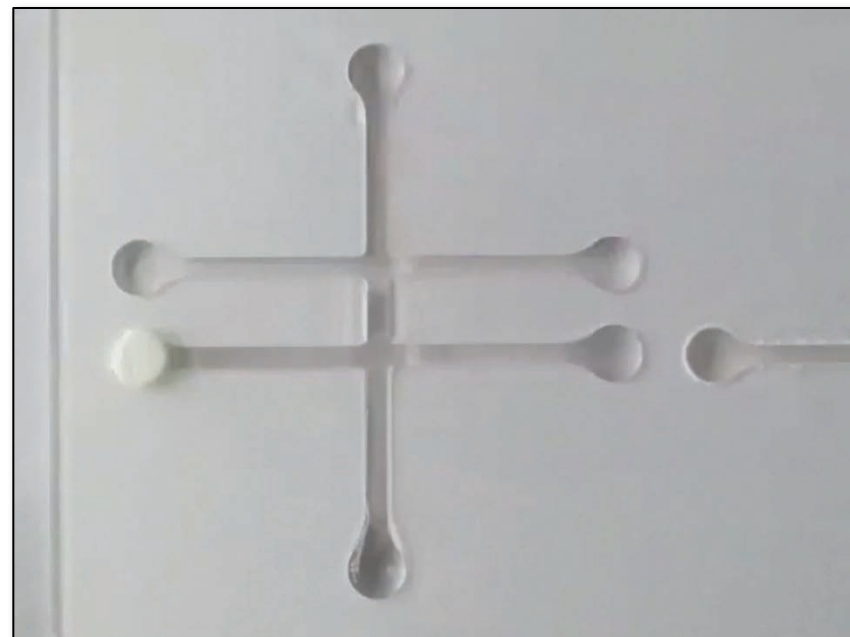
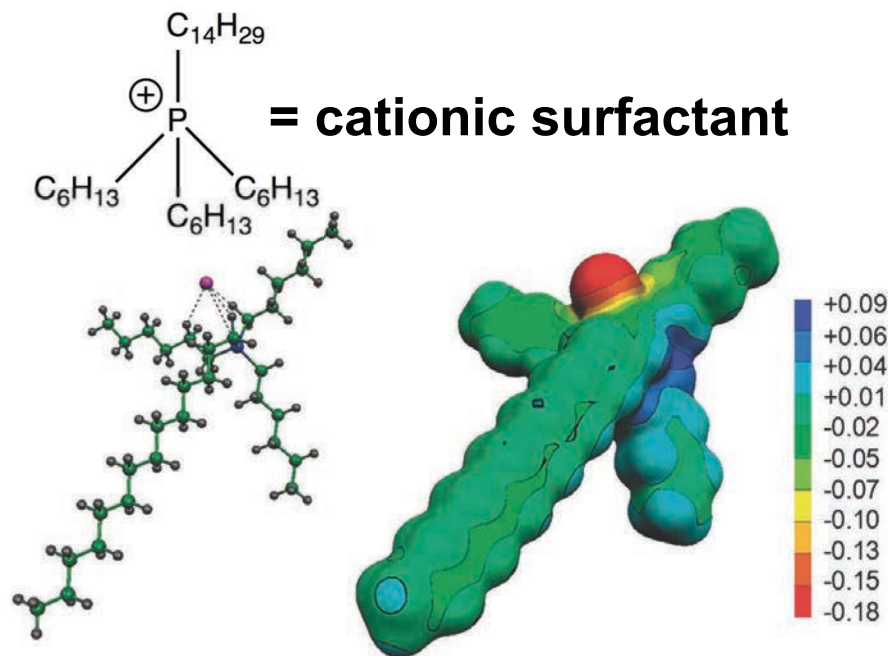
**Maze Solving by Chemotactic Droplets;** Istvan Lagzi, Siowling Soh, Paul J. Wesson, Kevin P. Browne, and Bartosz A. Grzybowski; *J. AM. CHEM. SOC.* 2010, 132, 1198–1199

Fuerstman, M. J.; Deschatelets, P.; Kane, R.; Schwartz, A.; Kenis, P. J. A.; Deutch, J. M.; Whitesides, G. M. *Langmuir* 2003, 19, 4714.





# We can do the same with IL Droplets



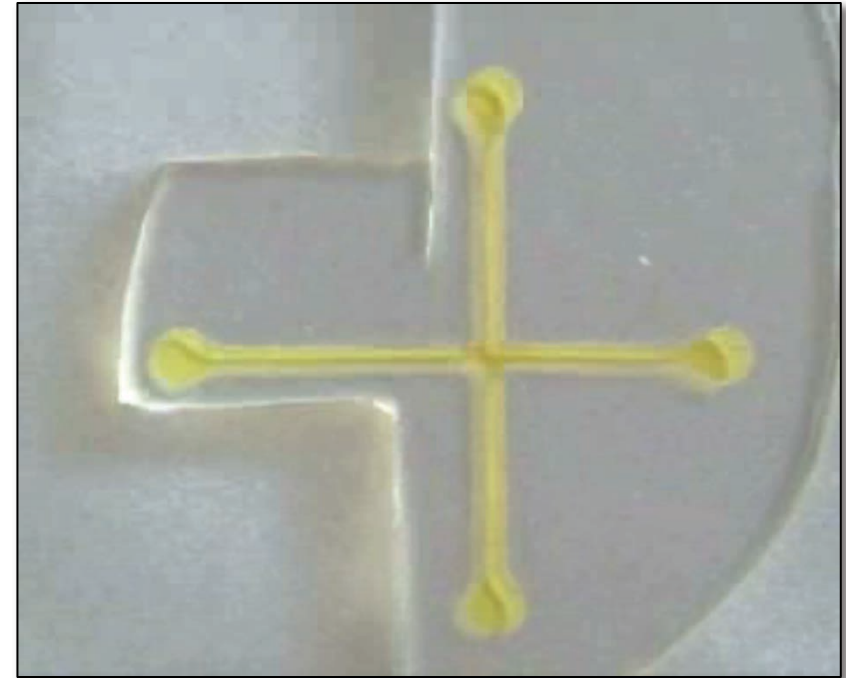
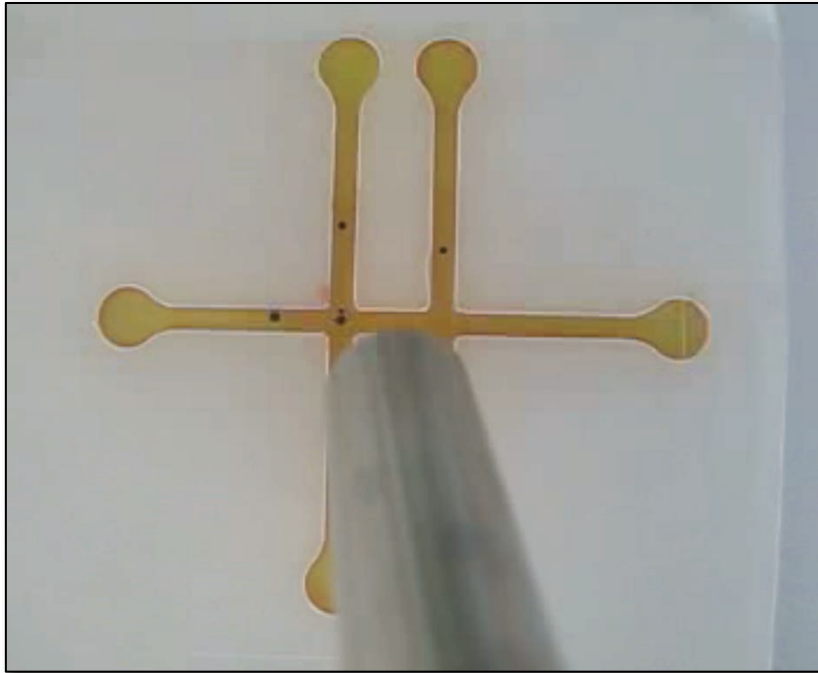
**Trihexyl(tetradecyl)phosphonium chloride ( $[\text{P}_{6,6,6,14}][\text{Cl}]$ ) droplets with a small amount of 1-(methylamino)anthraquinone red dye for visualization. The droplets spontaneously follow the gradient of the  $\text{Cl}^-$  ion which is created using a polyacrylamide gel pad soaked in  $10^{-2}$  M HCl; A small amount of NaCl crystals can also be used to drive droplet movement.**

*Self-propelled chemotactic ionic liquid droplets*, W. Francis, C. Fay, L. Florea, D. Diamond, *Chemical Communications*, 51 (2015) 2342-2344.

*Electronic structure calculations and physicochemical experiments quantify the competitive liquid ion association and probe stabilisation effects for nitrobenzospiropyran in phosphonium-based ionic liquids*, D. Thompson et al., *Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics*, 2011, 13, 6156-6168.



# Controlling Droplet Movement in Channels using Light



- We use light to create a localised pH gradient via soluble photoacid
- This disrupts an ion pair at the droplet interface; Surfactant is expelled and movement of the droplet occurs
- Droplets can be used for sensing and transport & release of active components

*Photo-Chemopropulsion - Light-Stimulated Movement of Microdroplets, L. Florea, K. Wagner, P. Wagner, G.G. Wallace, F. Benito-Lopez, D.L. Officer, D. Diamond, Advanced Materials, 26 (2014) 7339-7345.*



# Multi-Functional Bio-Inspired Fluidics!

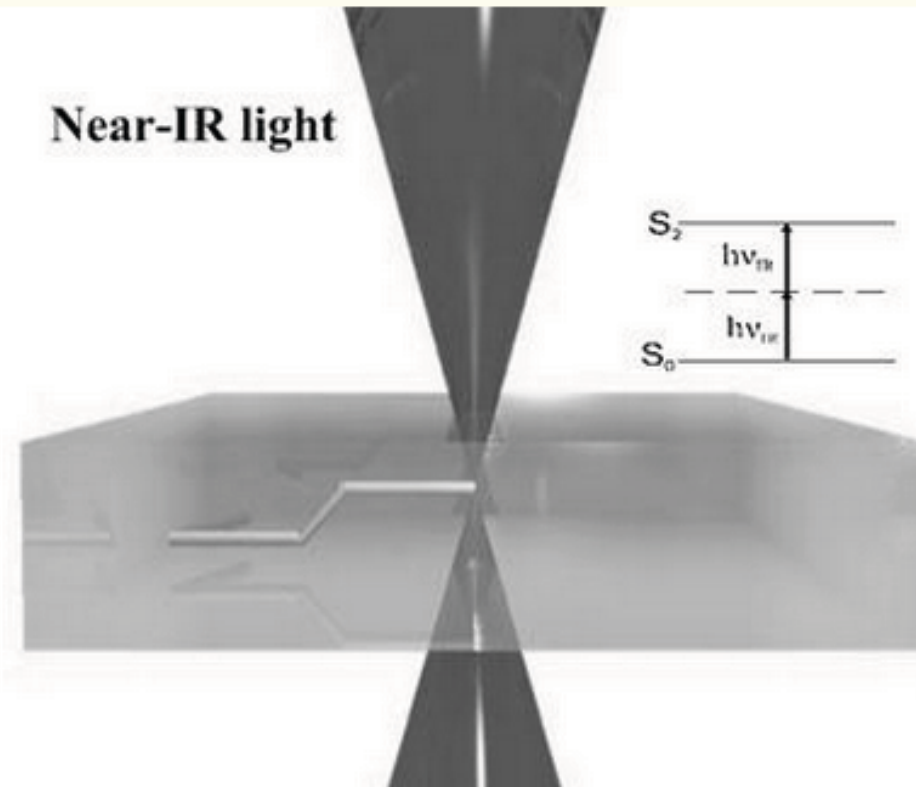
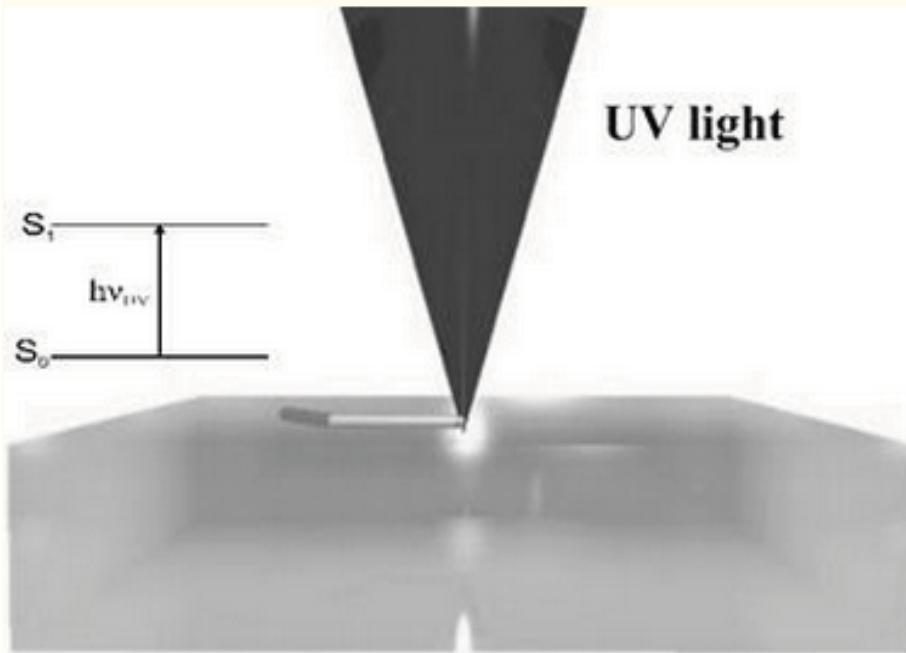
- **At present, the fluidic system's function is to;**
  - Transport reagents, samples, standards to the detector
  - Perform relatively simple (but important) tasks like cleaning, mixing
  - Switching between samples, standards, cleaning solutions
- **In the future, the fluidic system will perform much more sophisticated 'bioinspired' functions**
  - System diagnostics, leak/damage detection
  - Self-repair capability
  - Switchable behaviour (e.g. surface roughness, binding/release),
- **These functions will be inherent to the channels and integrated with circulating smart micro/nano-vehicles**
  - Spontaneously move under an external stimulus (e.g. chemical, thermal gradient) to preferred locations



# 2-Photon Polymerisation

## Stereolithography

## Two-photon polymerisation



- Single photon absorption
- 2D patterns

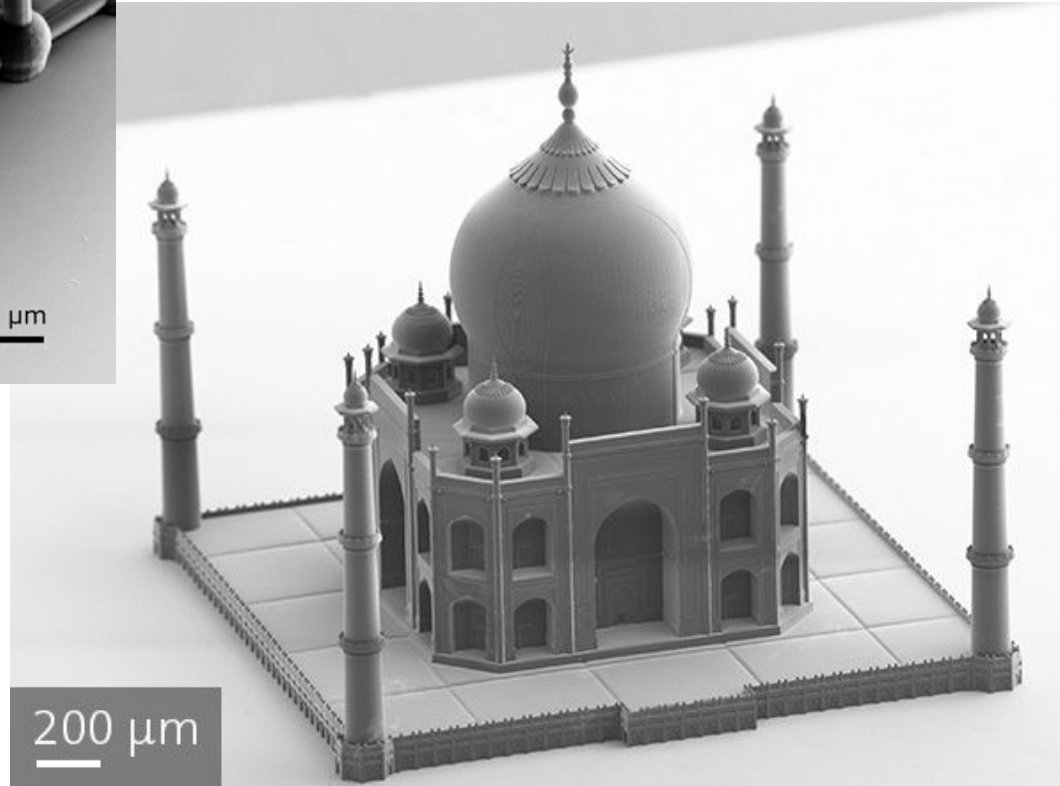
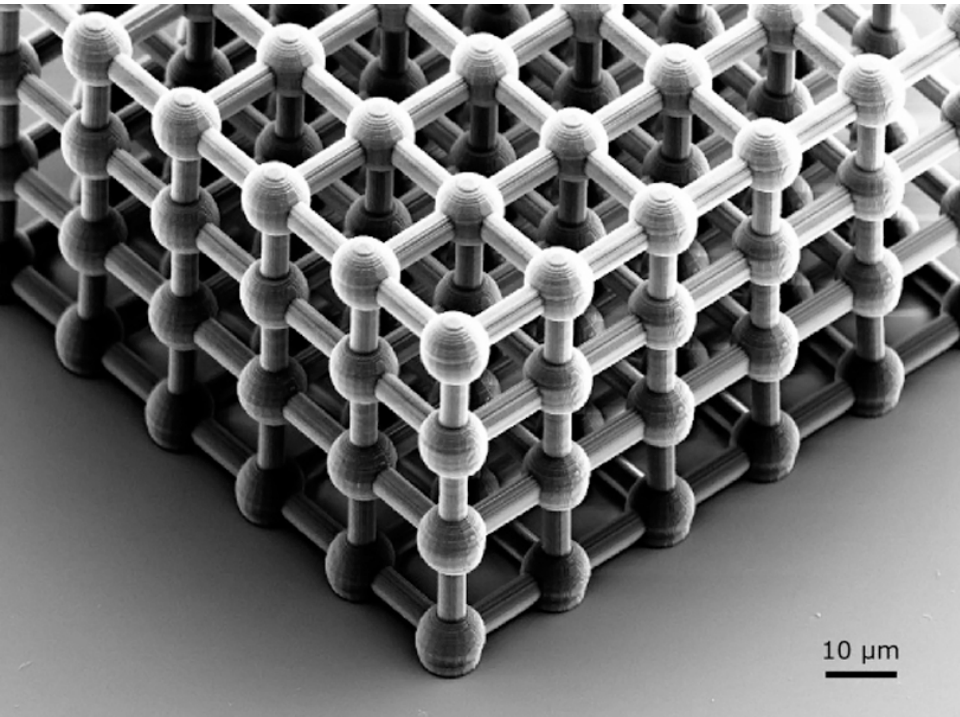
- Two photon absorption
- 3D structures







# 2-Photon Polymerisation



<http://www.nanoscribe.de/>





# Near Term Goals (5Years)

## Data and Information; IOT

Outside: On-Body

Inside: Implants/In-vivo

Smart Bandages

Smart Stents

Self-Aware Transplants

Sensorised Contact Lens

## Devices and Platforms

platforms

Platforms and

Sensorised Splints/dentures

patches/watches

Implants

Post-Operative IC (days)

Smart Textiles/Clothing

Medium term Convalescence (weeks)

## MATERIALS

Physics Chemistry Biology Engineering  
(photonics, electronics, fluidics, 4D materials)





# Time of **EXCITING OPPORTUNITY!**



- **New materials with exciting characteristics and unsurpassed potential...**
- **Combine with emerging technologies and techniques for exquisite control of 3D morphology**
- **And greatly improved methods for characterisation of structure and activity**
- **Learn from nature – e.g. more sophisticated circulation systems for ‘self-aware’ sensing devices!**

**IOT will increasingly integrate chem/bio information related to health, environment, food/agri, security....**





# FET Programme – 2018-2020 and beyond



- **Flagships in ‘Graphene’ and ‘The Brain’**

See

[www.graphene-flagship.eu](http://www.graphene-flagship.eu)

<http://humanbrainproject.eu>

- Do you think these are good topics?
- Are they producing value for money? Is it too soon to say?
- Are flagships needed?

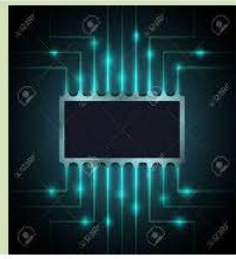
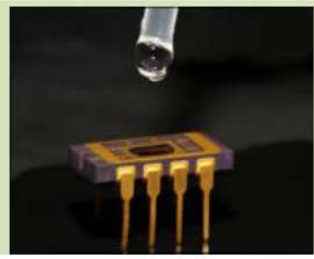
Open call for input and opinions:

<https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/content/fet-proactive>

<https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/content/fet-flagships>

<https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/blog/help-us-shape-future-horizon-2020>

- What themes should be the focus of the calls?
  - What proportion of the budget should be allocated?
- **FETopen**
    - Very popular but hugely over-subscribed: success rates around 1%
    - How can this be improved?



## The European Sensor Systems Cluster (ESSC)

**Information Session Eurotrode Conference Tuesday 17.15**

# European Sensor Systems Cluster - *ESSC*

## Vision, Objectives, History and Roadmap

**Dermot Diamond – Chair WG1  
Environmental Sensing**

[dermot.diamond@dcu.ie](mailto:dermot.diamond@dcu.ie)

Dublin City University, Ireland

**Torsten Mayr – Chair WG4  
Monitoring Industrial  
Processes**

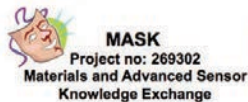
[torsten.mayr@tugraz.at](mailto:torsten.mayr@tugraz.at)

Graz University of Technology





Thanks for the invite!



COMMON SENSE  
MARINE SENSORS - MARINE MONITORING

