

# Multifunctional magnetic nanoparticles for biomedical applications

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- Interest of magnetic nanoparticles (MNP) in biomedical applications
- A word about size: what makes the difference?
- The magnetic functionality
- Designing magnetic nanoparticles
- Multifunctional nanoplatform: MRI, magnetic hyperthermia, fluorescence, antibodies, thermometry
- Toxicological results
- Hemocompatibility

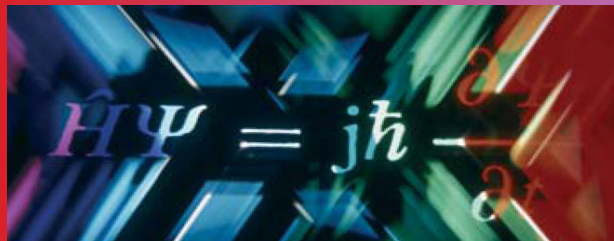
# Interest of Magnetic Nanoparticles in Biomedical Applications

- ✓ Magnetic functionality => magnetic fields penetrate human tissues
- ✓ Strong magnetic moments => can affect relaxation times of nearby protons
- ✓ They obey Coulomb's law => can be controlled at distance
- ✓ They can convert energy into heat from an alternating magnetic field
- ✓ Controllable sizes ( $\geq 100$  nm -  $\leq 10$  nm) and shapes (spheres, needles, beads)

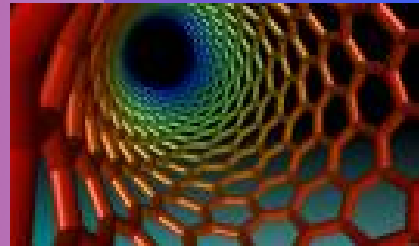
# Is *nano* just a matter of size?

From the physics point of view **Nano-** is the interface separating the atomic from the macroscopic scales

**Atomic World ruled by the laws of Quantum Mechanics**



**NANO  
WORLD**



**Macroscopic World as we perceive it, ruled by Classical Mechanics and Electromagnetism laws**



**In the atomic world there are properties whose critical lengths are at the nano-scale**

# Is *nano* just a matter of size?

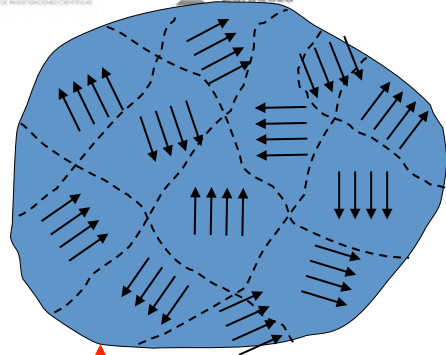
**At the scale below a critical length new properties arise that can give rise to new materials and new applications**

**Critical lengths such as**

- **one electron Fermi wavelength**
- **exciton Bohr radius**
- **single magnetic domain length**

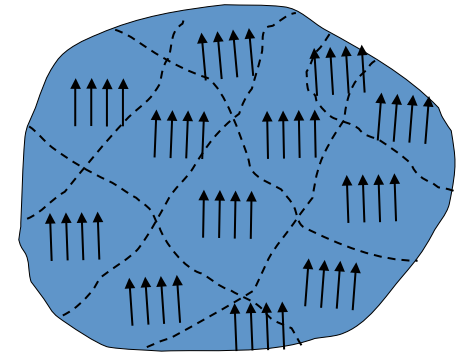
**lead to Quantum Dots and Superparamagnetic particles**

# Magnetic Particles => Multidomain

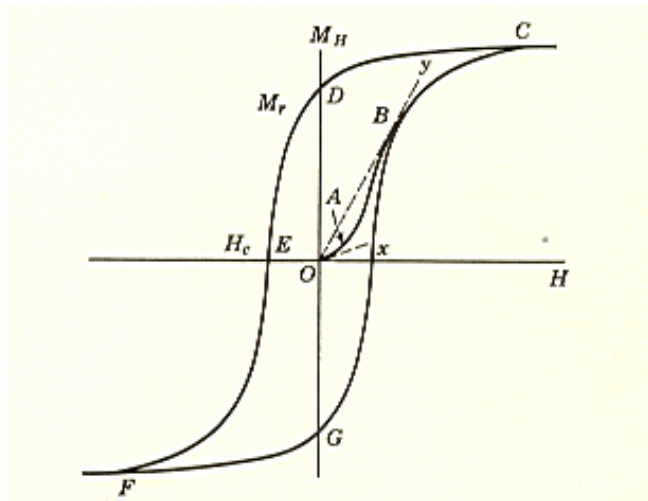


**Magnetic domains**

+ Magnetic field **H**



**Magnetisation**  
 $M = m/V_m$

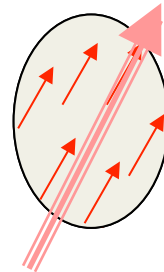


**Hystheresis cycle**

# Single-domain particles => superparamagnets

When the size of a particle is smaller than the minimum allowing the formation of domains ( $\approx 20 - 30$  nm), it becomes single-domain and

**superparamagnetic**



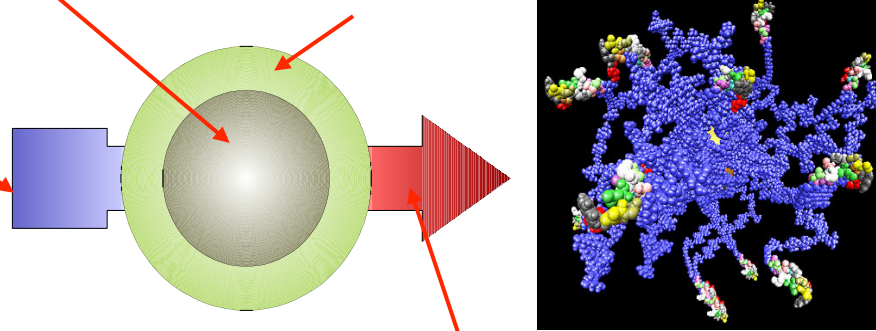
Superparamagnetic particles are hardly attracted by magnets, and the smaller the harder



# The magnetic functionality

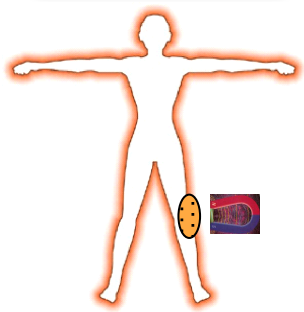
Magnetic nucleus  
 Functionalized tail  
 for therapeutic  
 uses: drugs,  
 enzymes, etc.

Protecting coating, anchoring  
 element

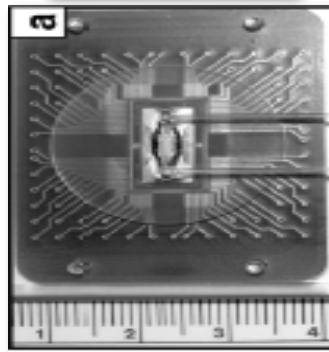


Biological vector

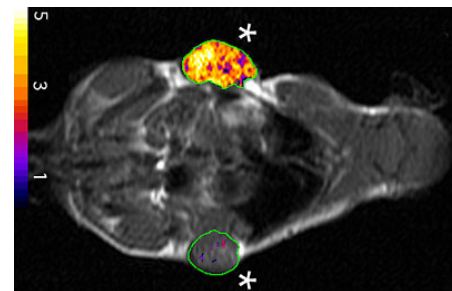
**DRIVING**



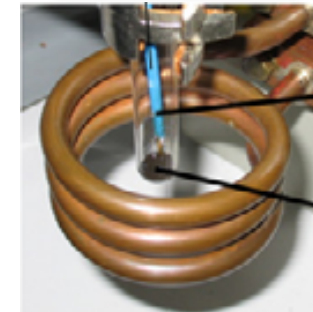
**SENSING**



**IMAGING**

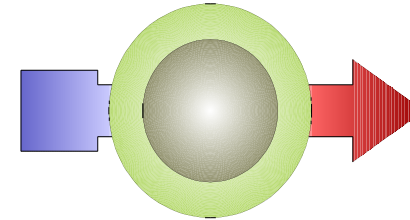
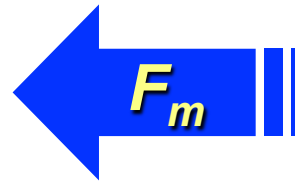
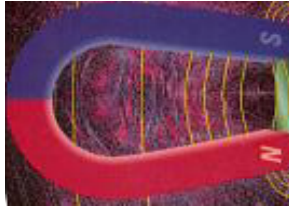


**HEATING**



# Magnetic force-driven applications

**DRIVING**



Magnetic force  $F_m$

$$F_m = (m \cdot \nabla) B$$

A force will be experienced provided there is a field gradient. More intuitively, we can relate  $F_m$  to the differential of the magnetostatic field energy density  $B \cdot H / 2$ :

$$F_m = V_m \Delta \chi \nabla (B \cdot H / 2)$$

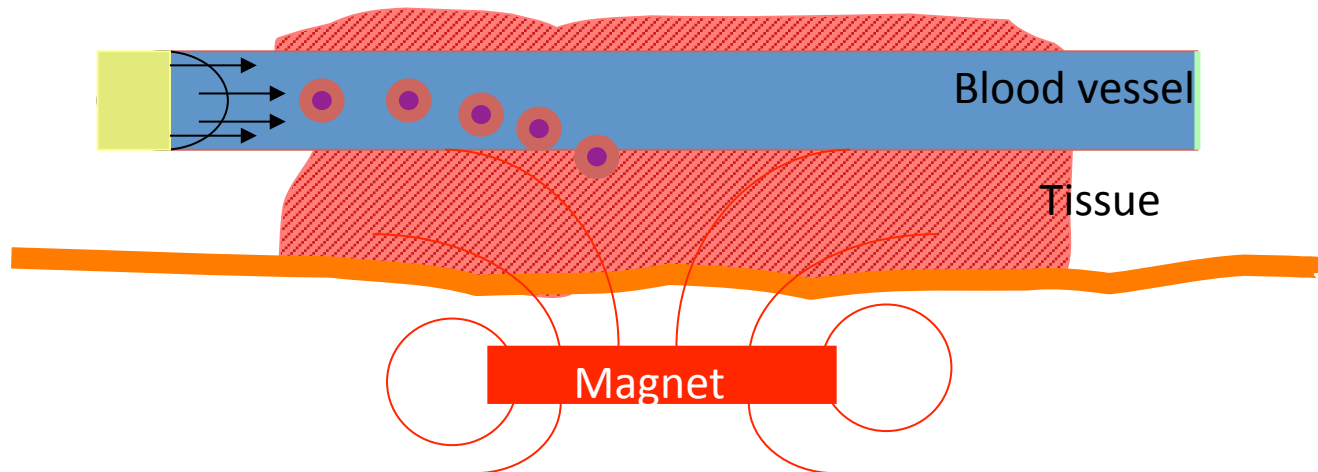
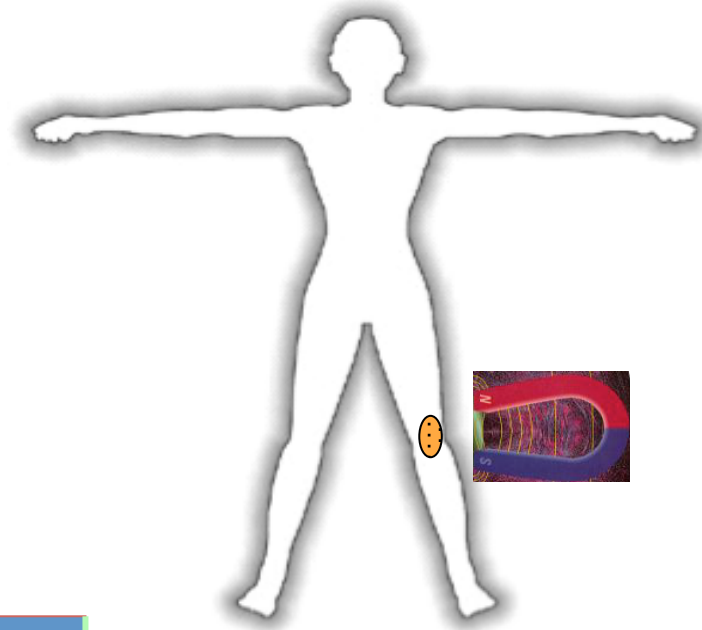
Thus if  $\Delta \chi > 0$ ,  $F_m$  acts in the direction of the steepest ascent of the energy density scalar field.

# Magnetic force- driven applications

**DRIVING**

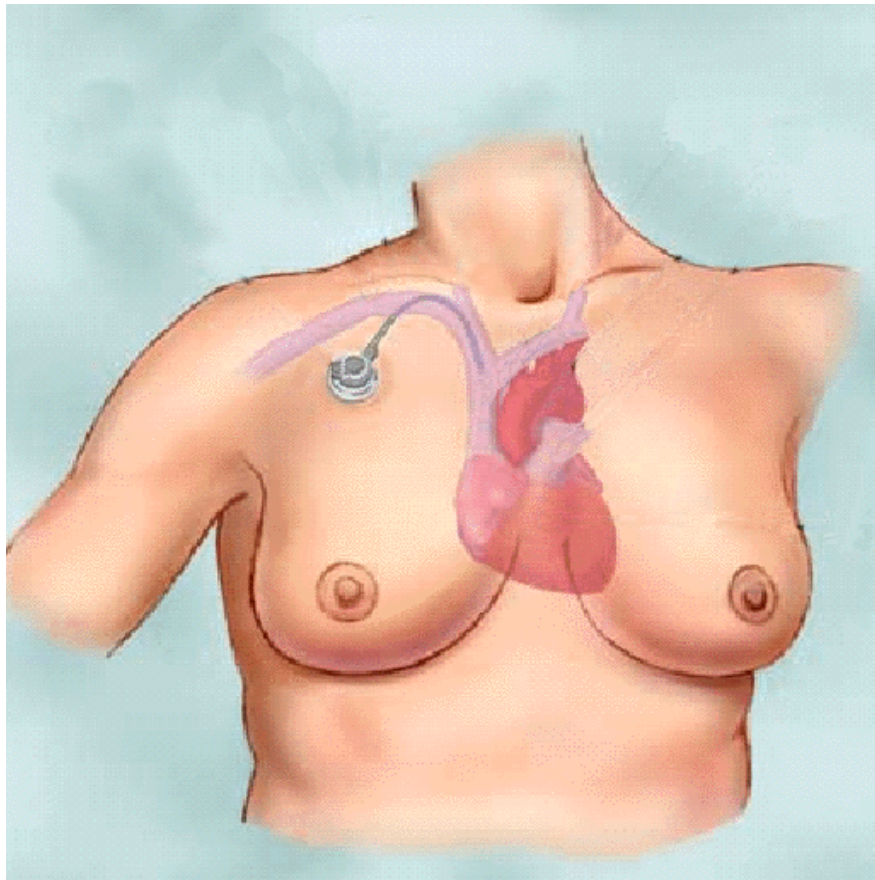
## Targeted drug delivery

i.e. retaining drugs in areas of low blood  
irrigation or easily accessible by  
magnetic forces.

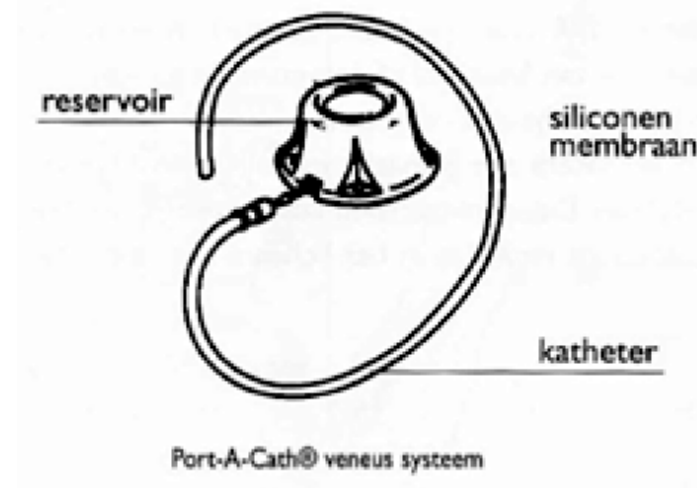


# Nanobolas para el desarrollo de un biosensor

**SENSING**



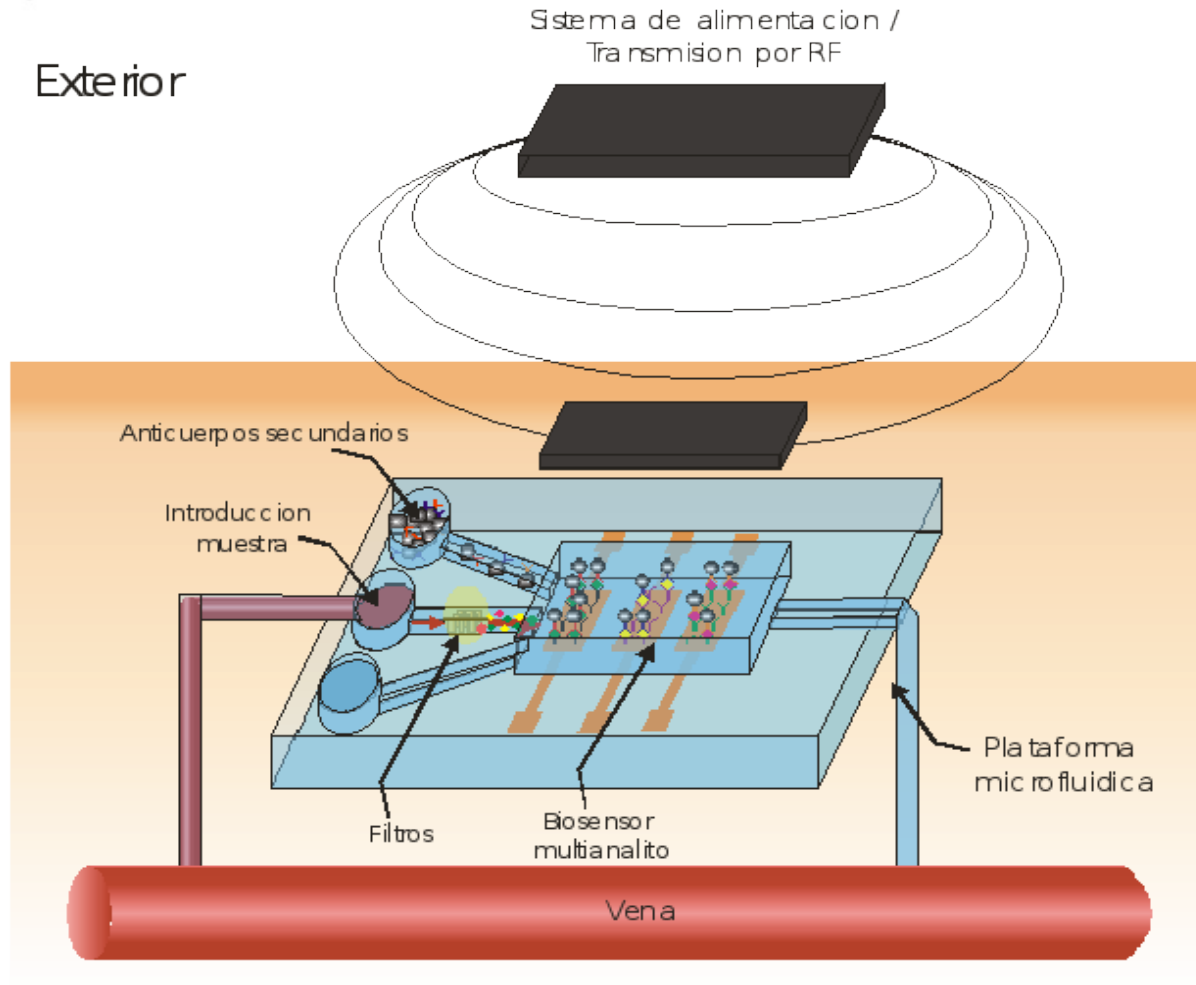
## Esquema de implantación del biosensor



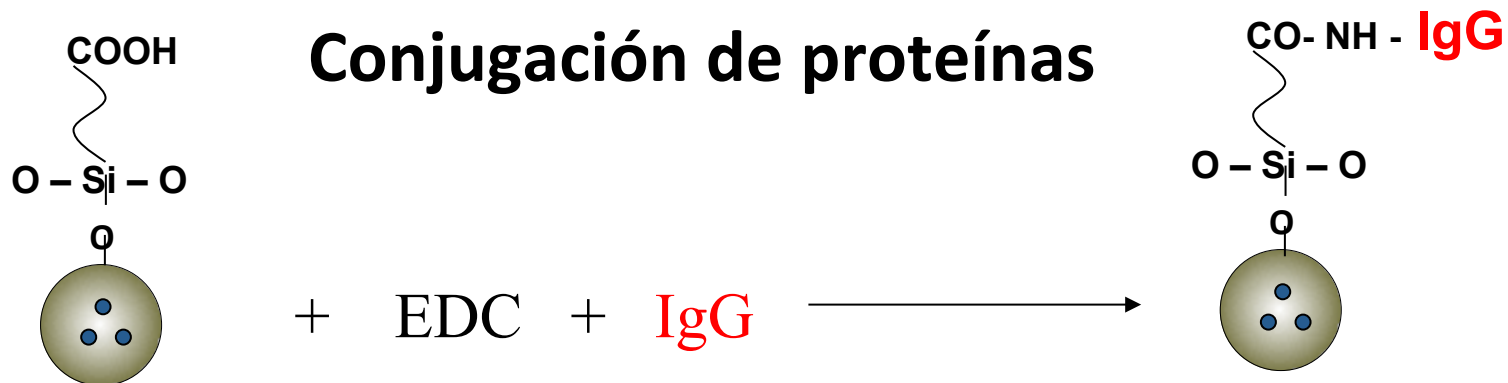
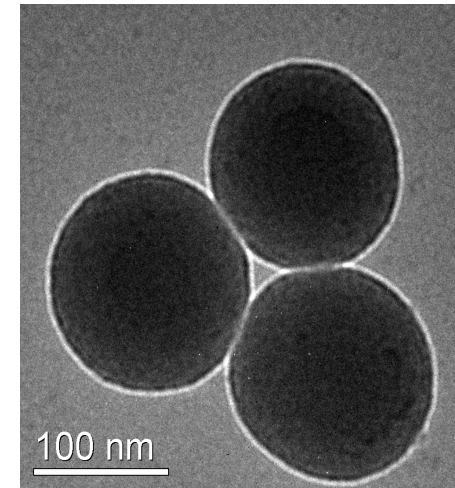
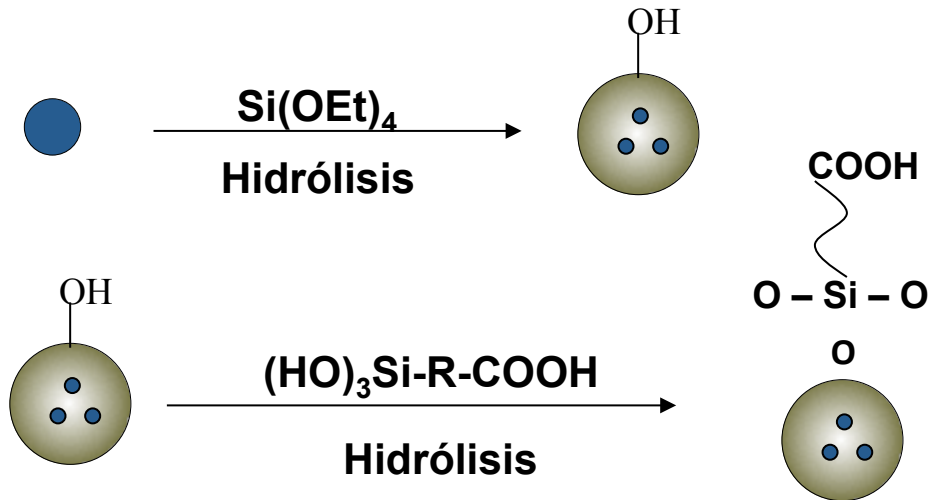
# Nanobolas para el desarrollo de un biosensor

**SENSING**

Exterior

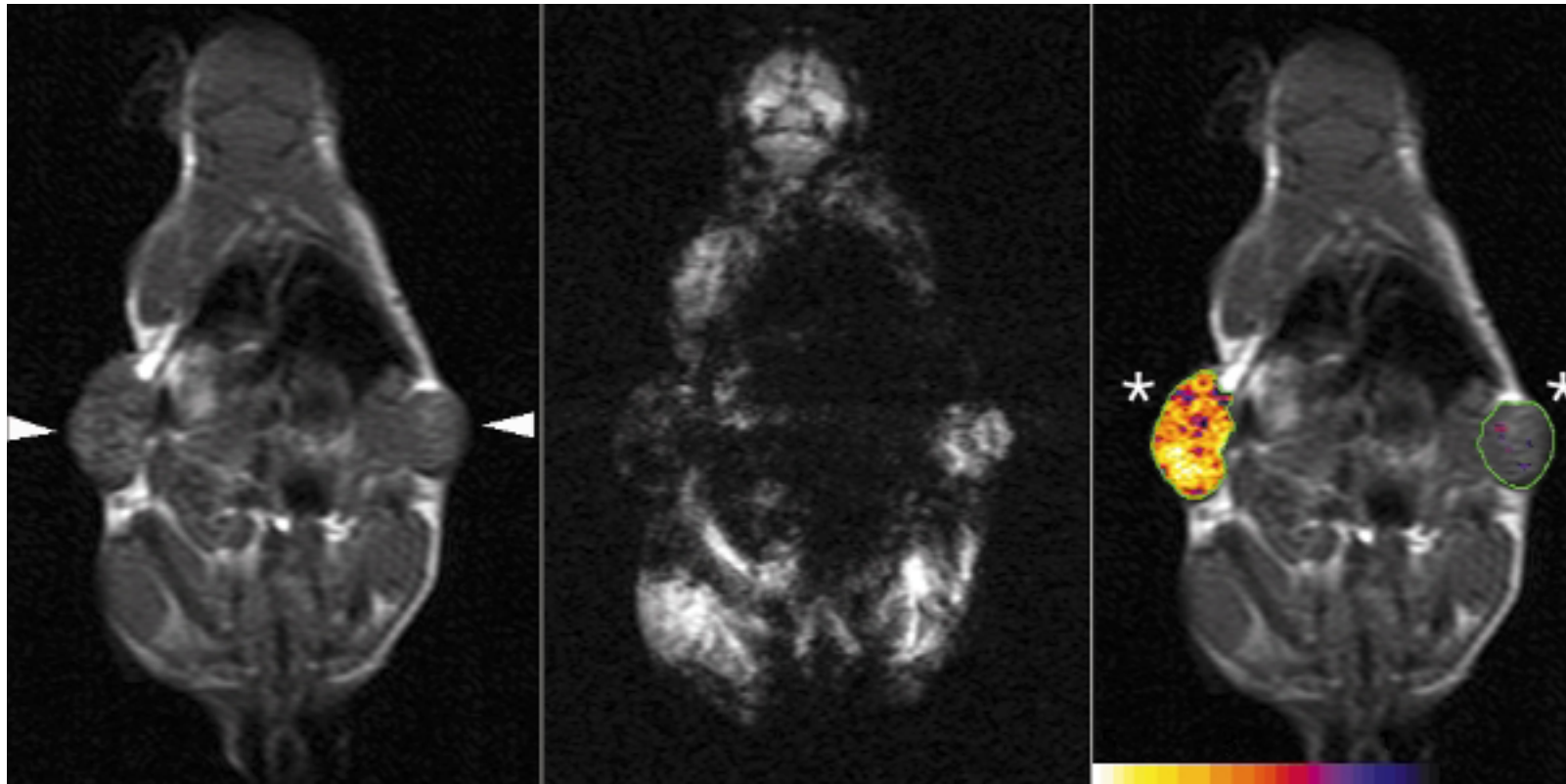


## Funcionalización de nanobolas



# Magnetic nanoparticles as contrast agents for MRI

**IMAGING**



R. Weissleder et al., Nature Med. 6(2000)351

# Magnetic nanoparticles as contrast agents for MRI

**IMAGING**



Typical clinical MRI  
H = 1.5 Tesla

**MRI intensity (and therefore the contrast) depends on:**

**Intrinsic parameters:**

- local proton density  $N(H)$ ,  
(water, fat, ...)
- relaxation times,  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$
- magnetic susceptibility  
differences

**Extrinsic parameters:**

- magnetic field
- timing of the pulse sequences  
(TE, TR)
- contrast agents (CA)



**MRI signal is  $s(t) = N(H) e^{-TE/T2^*} (1 - e^{-TR/T1})$**

**With CA it is possible to change the nuclear  
relaxation times** (more efficient than  
protons' density differences) **and so** to obtain  
**a better image contrast and pathology  
evidence**

# Magnetic nanoparticles as contrast agents for MRI

**IMAGING**

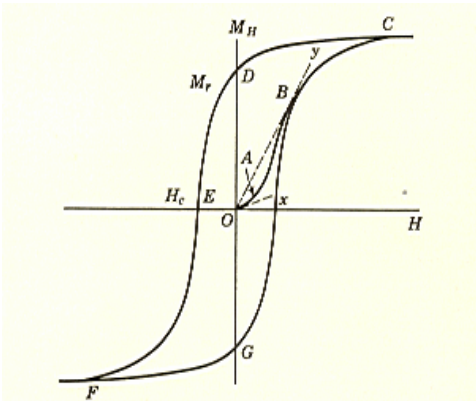
- Huge magnetic moments as compared to Gd chelates
- Proton relaxation is affected by the large magnetic field heterogeneity in the vicinity of the particles
- Can induce >10 fold increase in proton relaxivities
- Shortening of relaxation times, particularly  $T_2$  (*negative contrast*)
- Good spacial resolution, of the order of single cell detection ( $10 - 50 \mu\text{m}^3$ )

# Magnetic heating

**HEATING**

**Magnetic systems can convert energy into heat under the effects of an alternating magnetic field**

- **inductive heating (eddy currents)**
- **hysteresis losses**

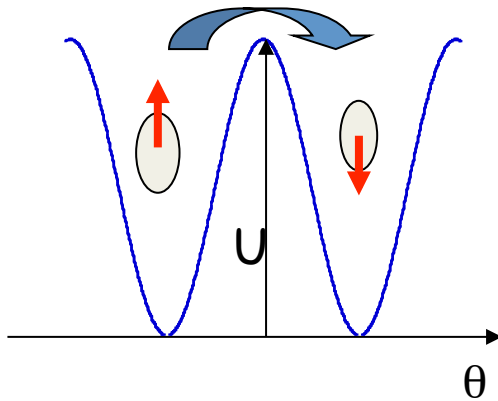


$$P_{FM} = -\mu_0 f \oint H dM$$

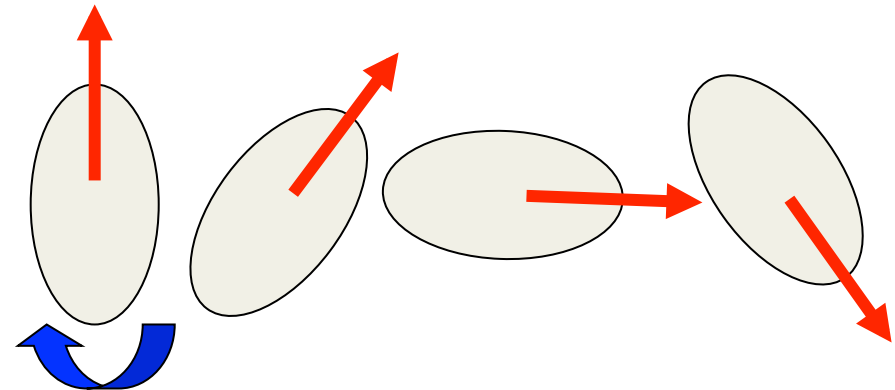


**No relevant at low ac magnetic fields**

## Superparamagnetic particles



**Néel relaxation**



**Rotational Brownian motion**

$$P_{SPM} = -\frac{1}{2} \mu_0 \chi'' \omega H_0^2$$

## Biological limitations

$$50 \text{ kHz} \leq f \leq 1200 \text{ kHz},$$

$$H < 15 \text{ kA/m}$$

$$(H \cdot f)_{\text{max}} = 485 \text{ kHz} \cdot \text{kA/m}$$

$$P_{SPM} = -\frac{1}{2} \mu_0 \chi'' \omega H_0^2$$

After Brezovich [Med. Phys. Monograph **1988** 16 82]

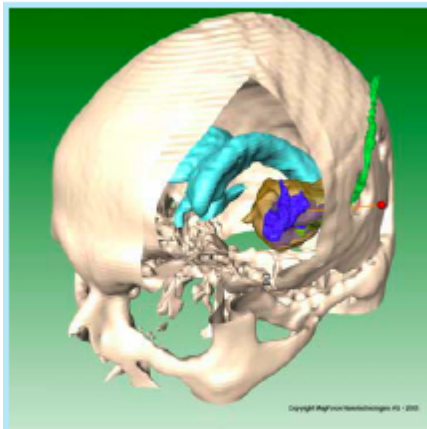
*“test person had a sensation of warmth, but was able to withstand the treatment for more than one hour without major discomfort”*

Standard values for comparative purposes:  $H = 4.85 \text{ kA/m}$ ,  $f = 100 \text{ kHz}$

# Magnetic nanoparticles for heating

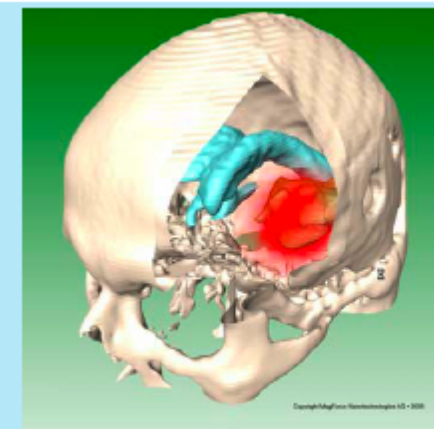
**HEATING**

## Direct injection of MNP into the tumor: clinical phase II



### Clinical Results

Phase I/II (feasibility) Study:  
**Nano-cancer therapy on Glioblastoma**  
(brain tumor trial) [3/2003-12/2004].



- All study patients (14) showed no side effects of the Nano-cancer therapy (2 patients fell asleep during therapy and had to be woken up after the therapy time of 60 min)
- On all study patients therapeutical temperatures of up to and more than 50°C inside the tumor were achieved.
- Indication for a local effectiveness.
- 1 patient in complete remission since 2.5 years.
- Rationale for a study of effectiveness.

Director of Study: Prof. Dr. med. Klaus Maier-Hauff,  
ZE Neurosurgery, Bundeswehrkrankenhaus Berlin

# Magnetic nanoparticles for heating

**HEATING**

**Direct injection of MNP into the tumor: clinical phase II**



# Magnetic nanoparticles for heating

**HEATING**

## Direct injection is

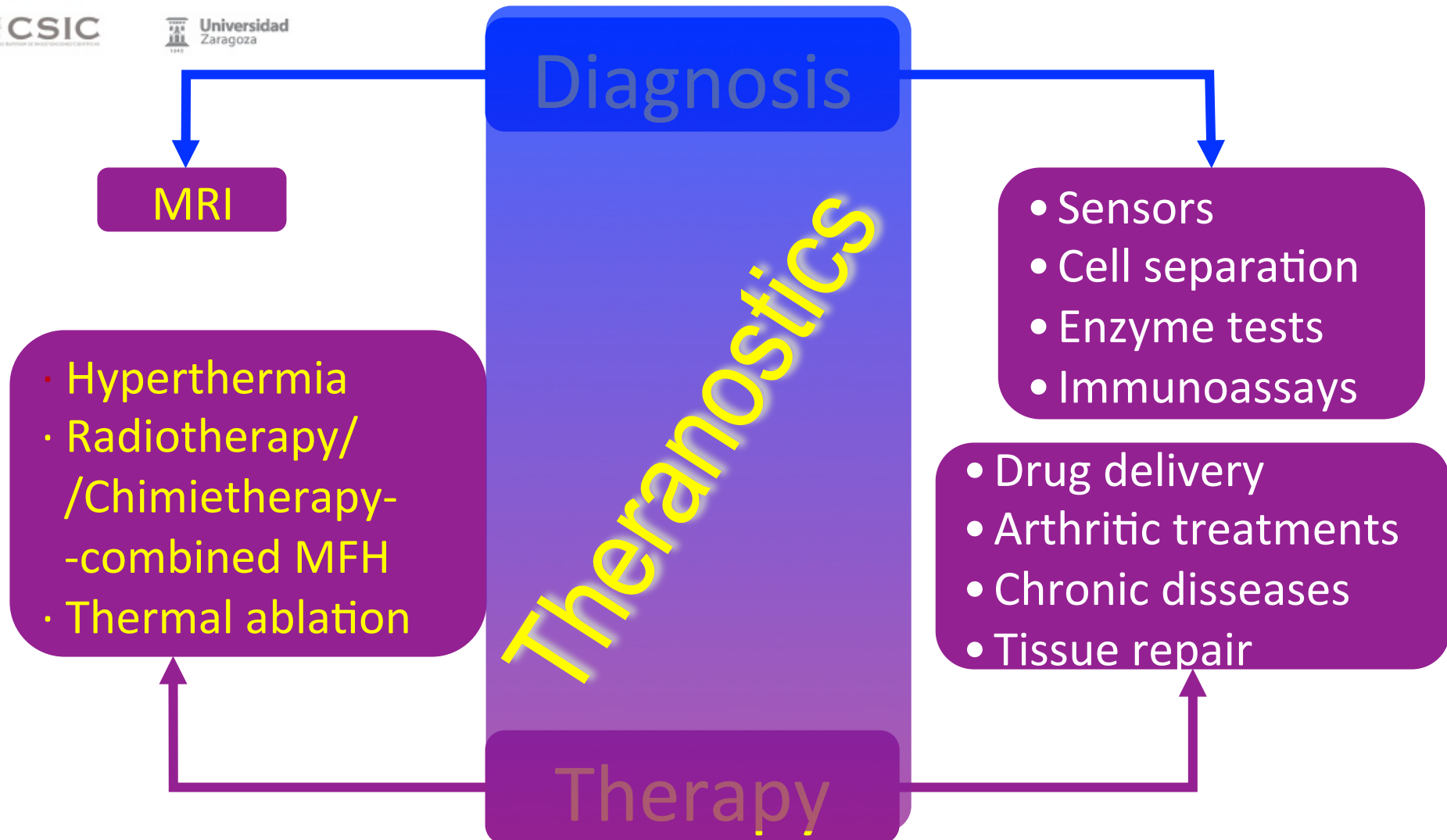
- non-selective
- contaminates healthy tissues
- only valid for large tumors
- good heating efficiency as doses can be very high

## Biological vectorisation is

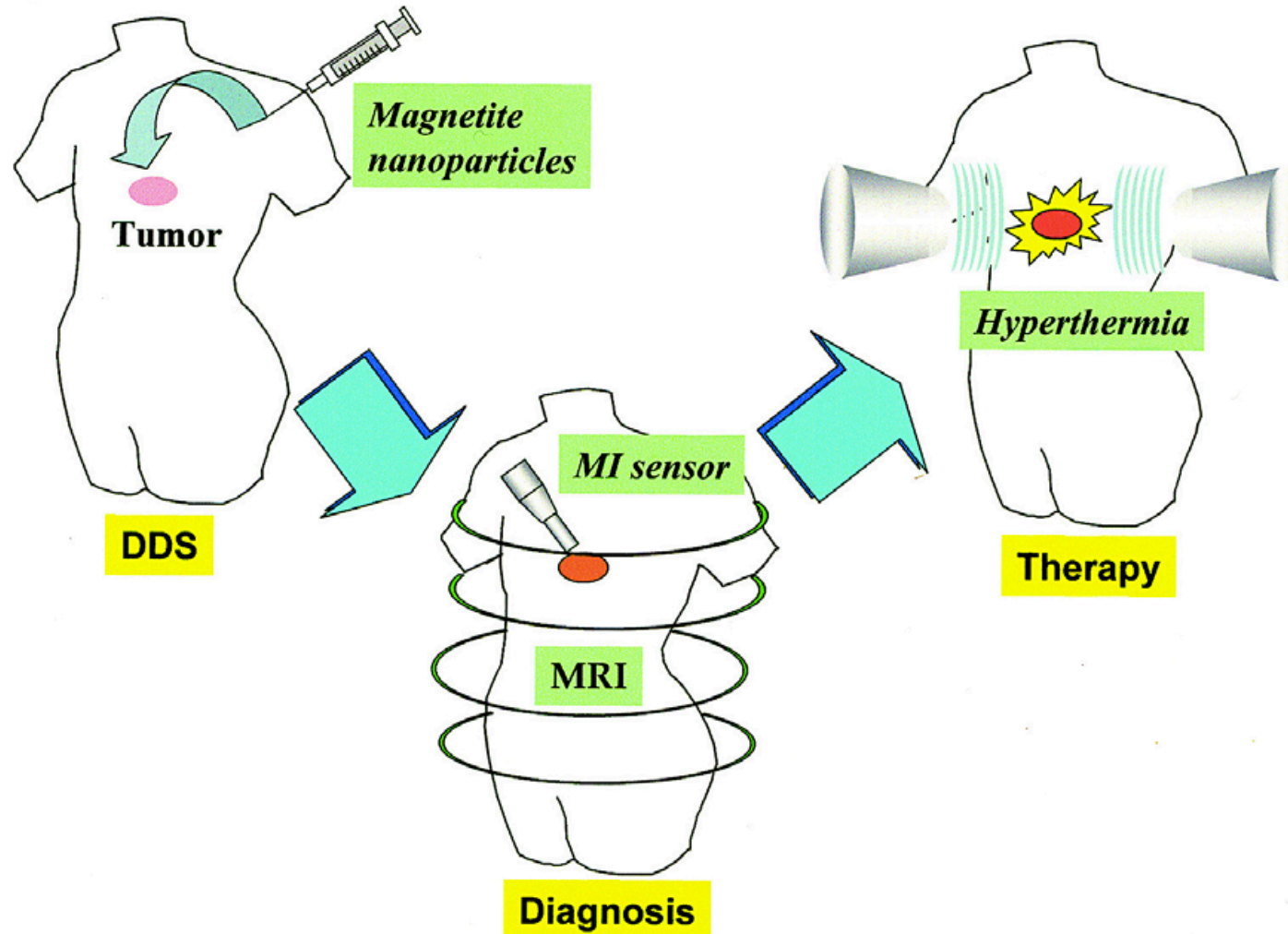
- highly selective (specific therapeutic target)
- heating is very localised
- valid for micro-tumors (preventive)
- heating efficiency is linked to the number of MNP recognising the target



# Biomedical Applications of Magnetic Nanoparticles



# Biomedical Applications of Magnetic Nanoparticles



# Multifunctionality



## Top-down approach

It is the traditional approach: a nanosized material is obtained from a much larger source by grinding or other size-reduction actions.

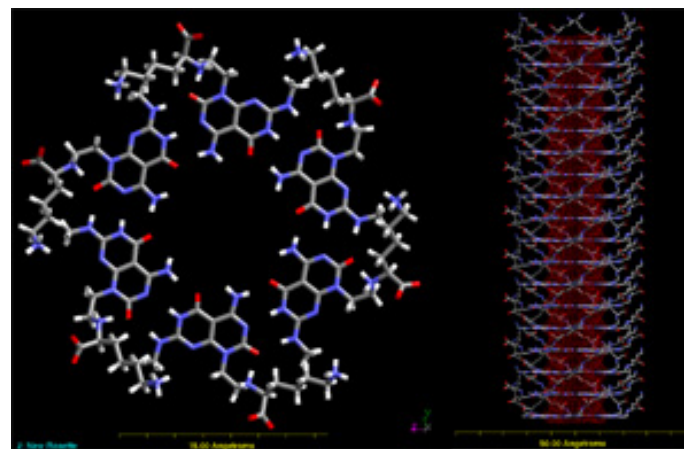


**Top-down approach**

# Fabrication methods

## Bottom-up approach

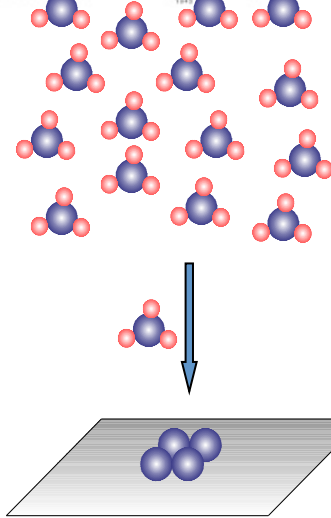
Uses molecules or clusters and self-assemble and self-organised them like in a *Lego* toy to fabricate new materials. In many examples tends to replicate nature developing processes.



**Molecular self-assembling**

# Bottom up preparation routes

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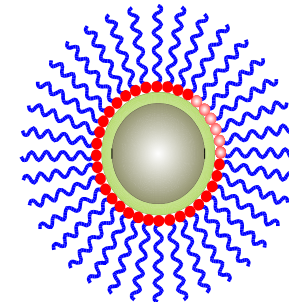
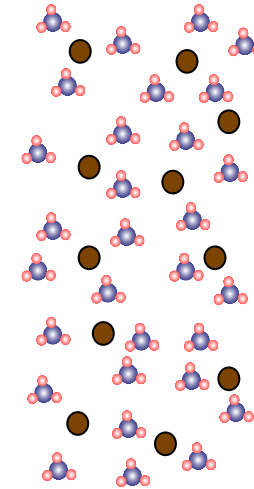
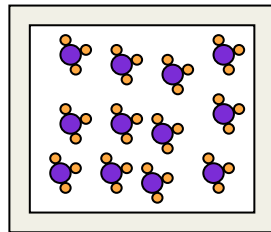
**Controlled slow  
Transport**

**Extensive  
Nucleation**

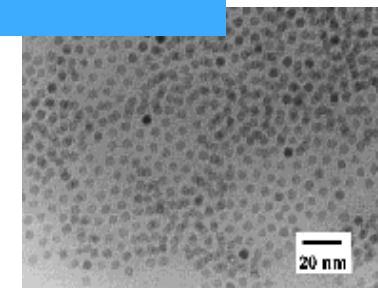
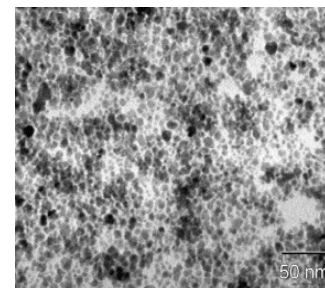
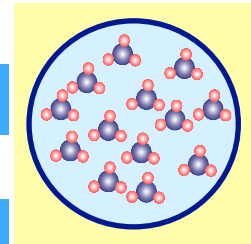
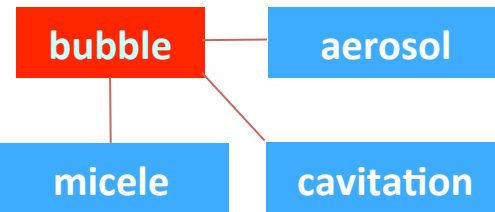
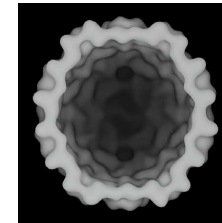
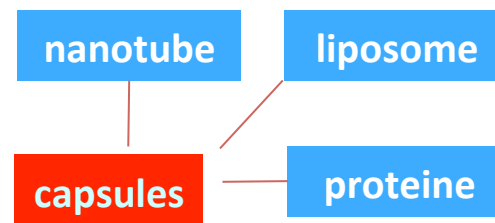
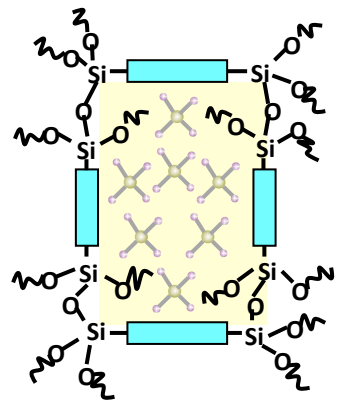
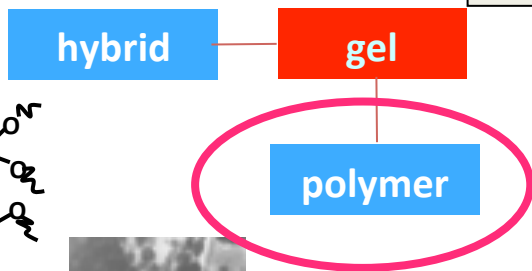
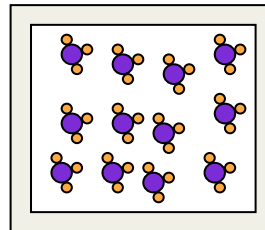
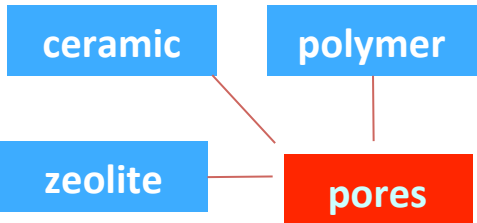
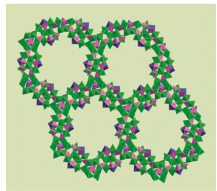
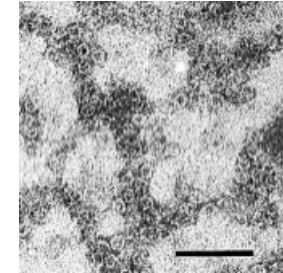
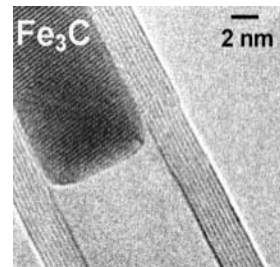
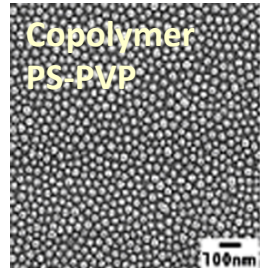
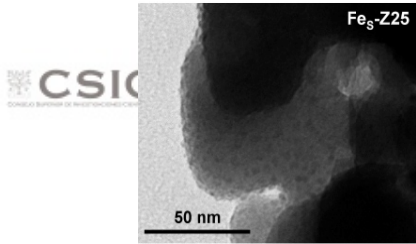
**“Bottom-up”**

**Restricted  
Space**

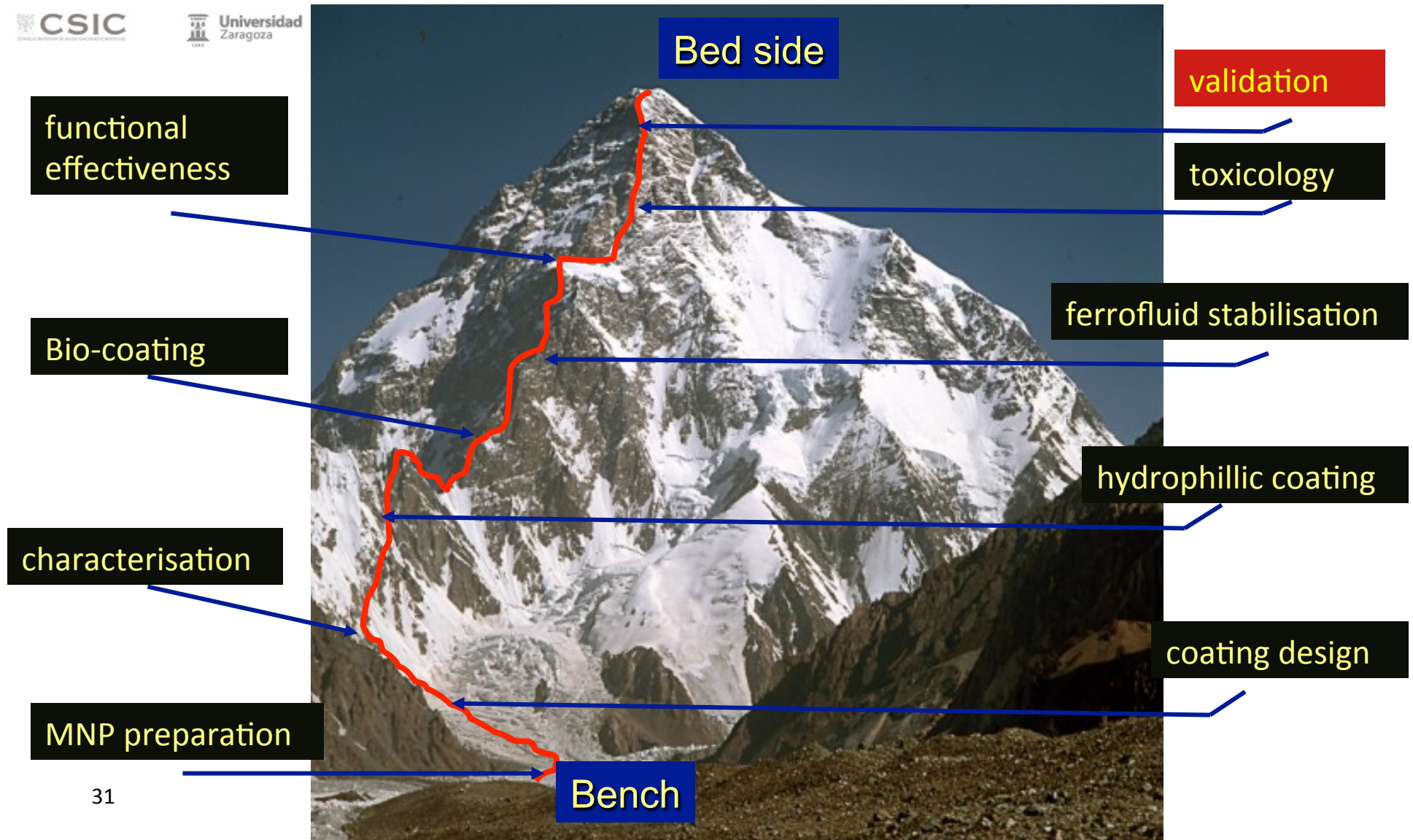
**Growing  
Inhibition**



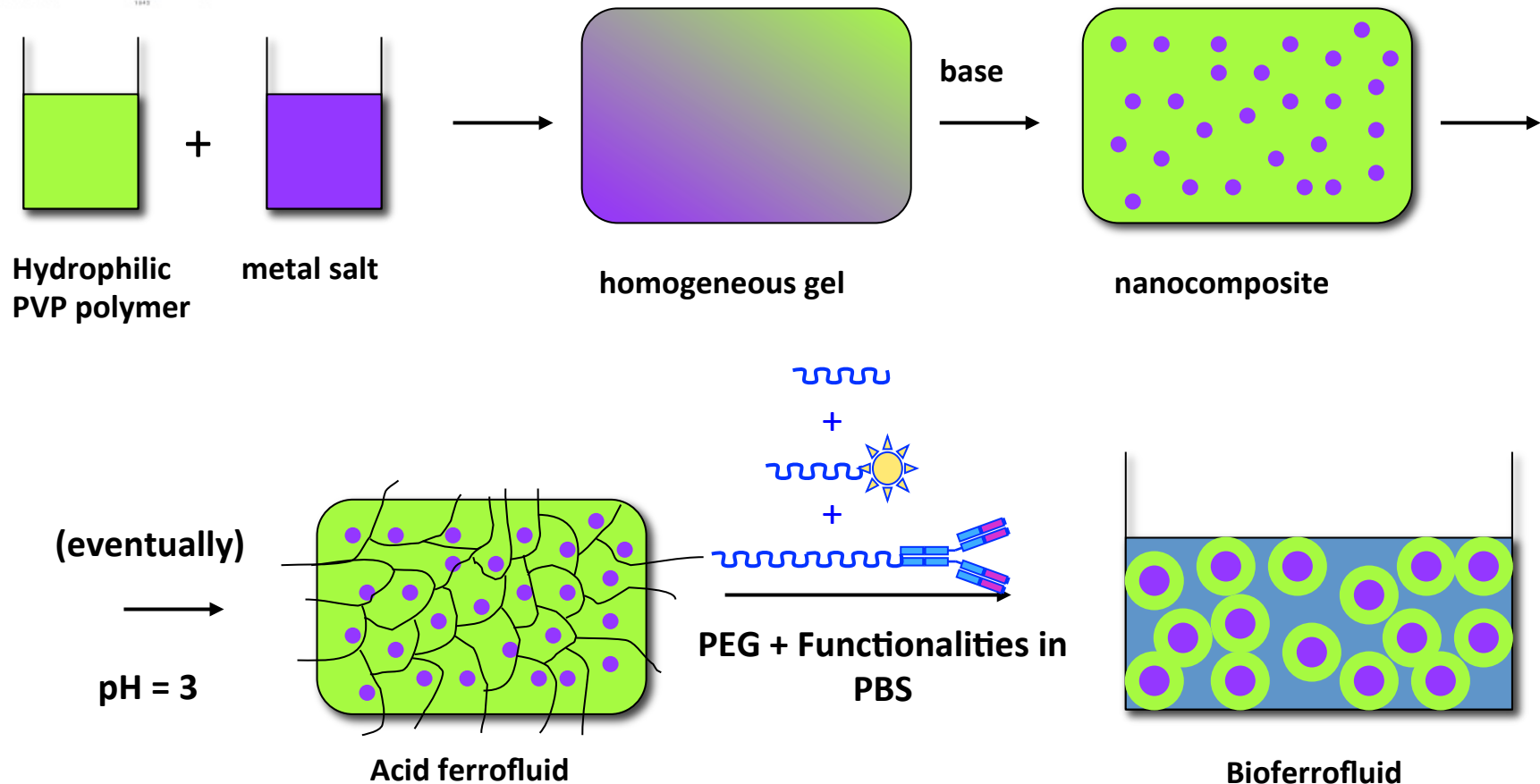
# Restricted space: moulds



# Designing MNP for Biomedical Applications



# Tailoring MNP with polymers



A. Millán and F. Palacio, *Applied Organometallic Chemistry*, **15**, 396-400 (2001)

A. Millán, F. Palacio et al., *Acta Materialia* **55**, 2201-9 (2007)

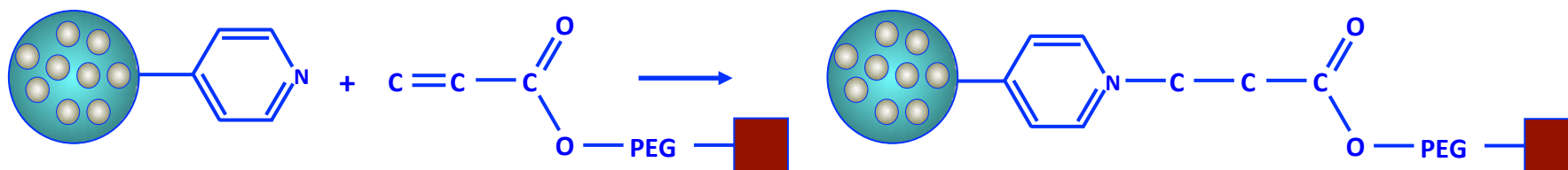
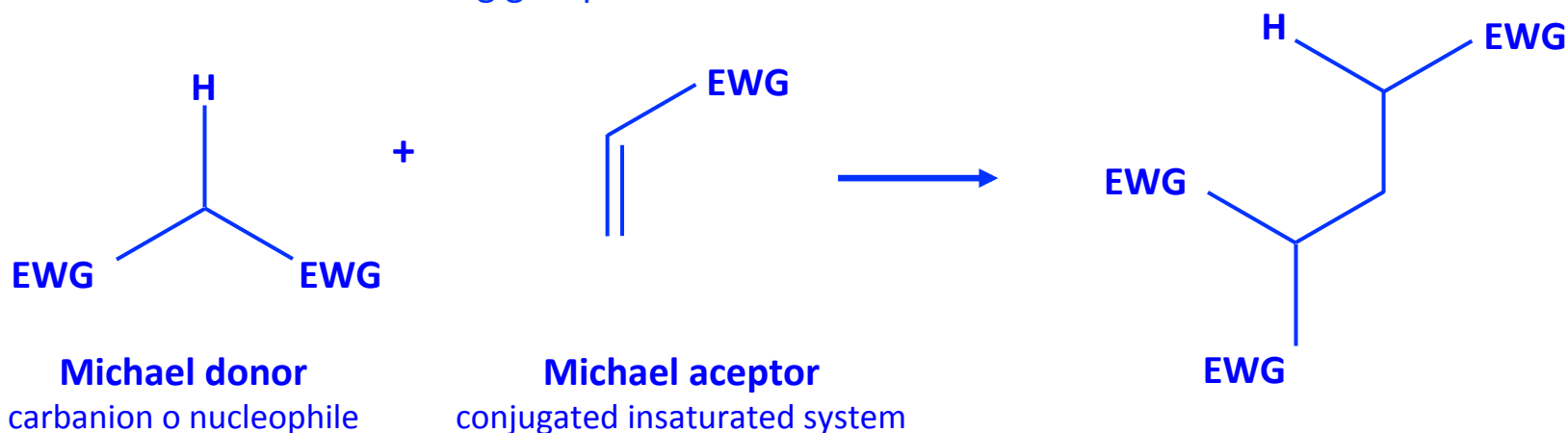
A. Millán, F. Palacio et al., Patent ES2308901B1



# Tailoring MNP with polymers

## An easy route for functionalisation: Michael reaction

**EWG:** electron withdrawing group



 **Physical or biological functionality**

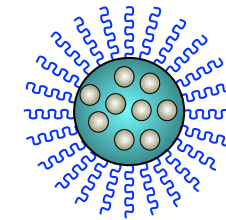
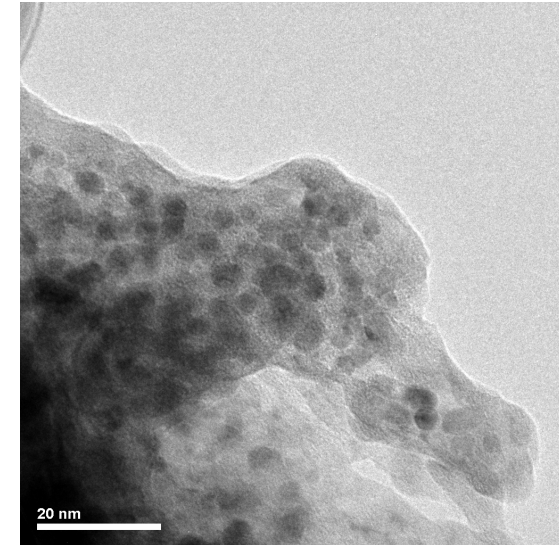
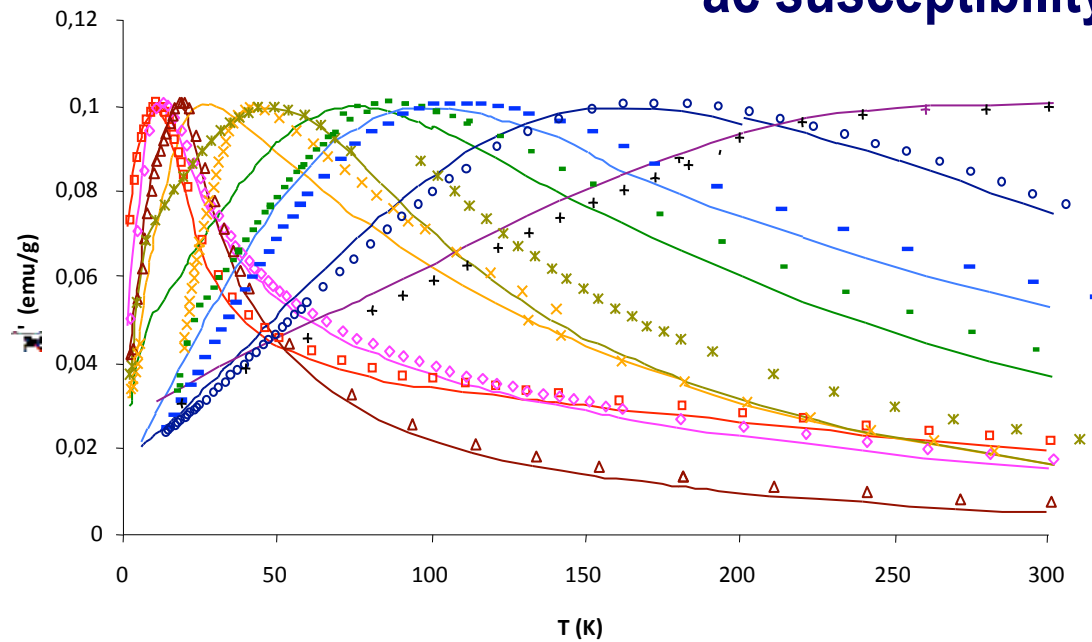
# Tailoring MNP with polymers

## Adjustable Size

Magnetic nucleus  
3 nm  $\rightarrow$  25 nm

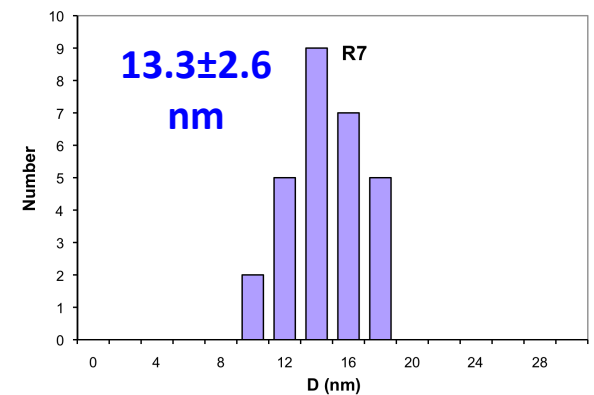
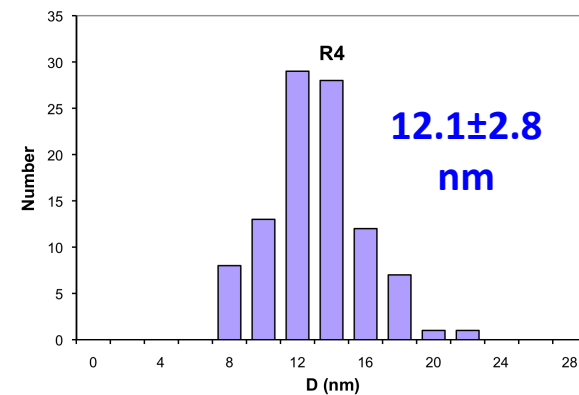
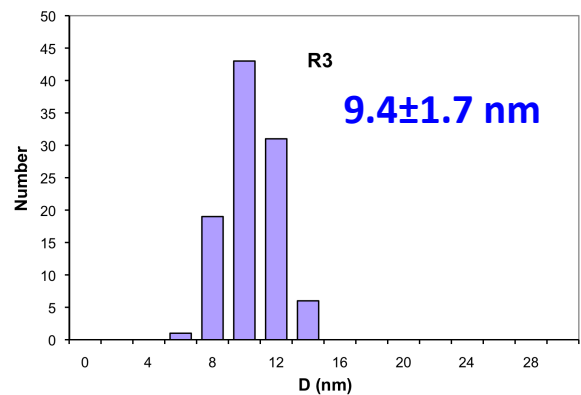
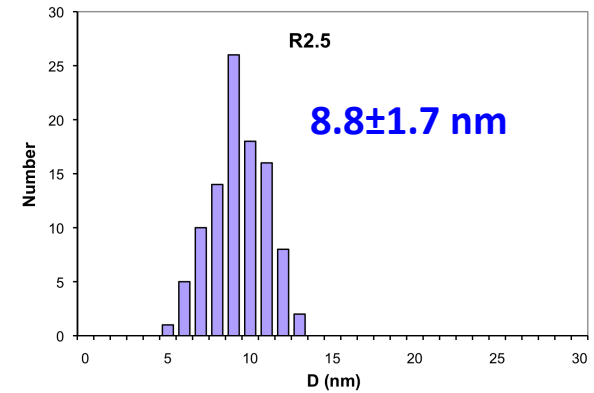
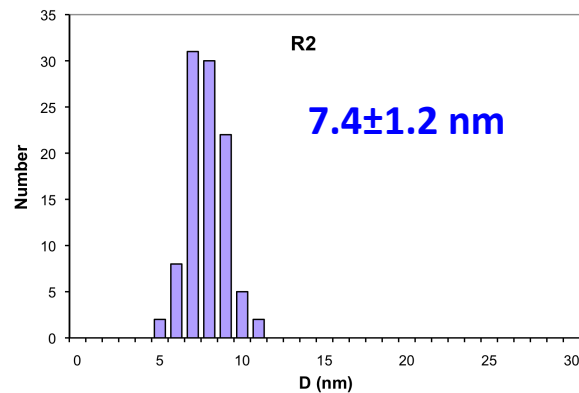
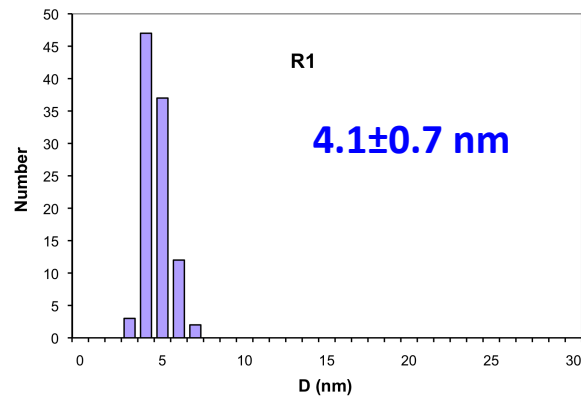


## ac susceptibility



# Tailoring MNP with polymers

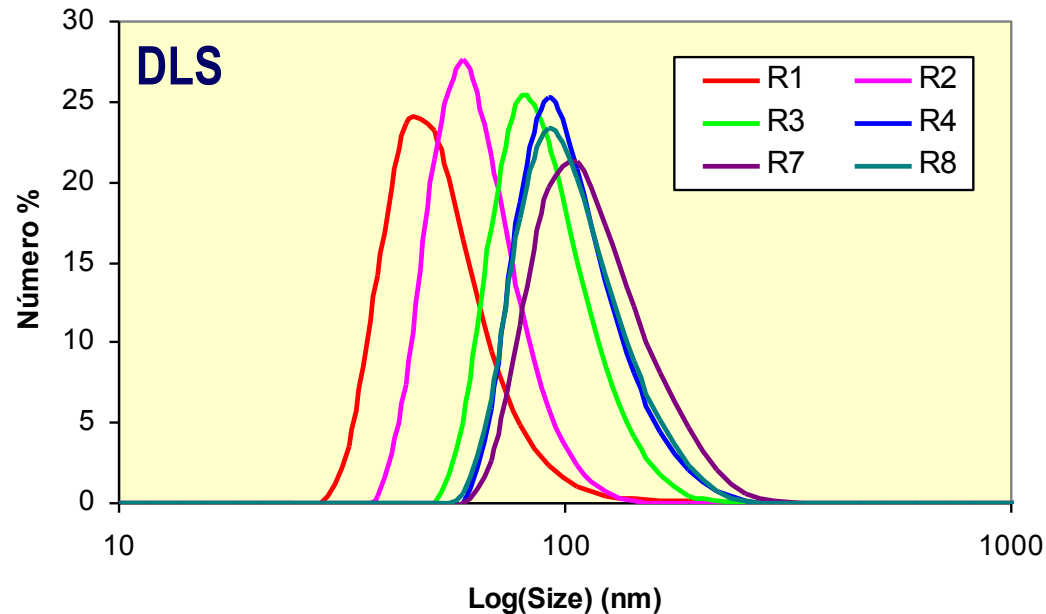
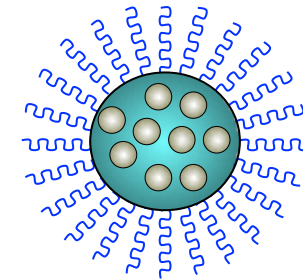
TEM size distribution of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  particles in a series of Ferrofluid samples in PBS. Same composition, but different  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  content



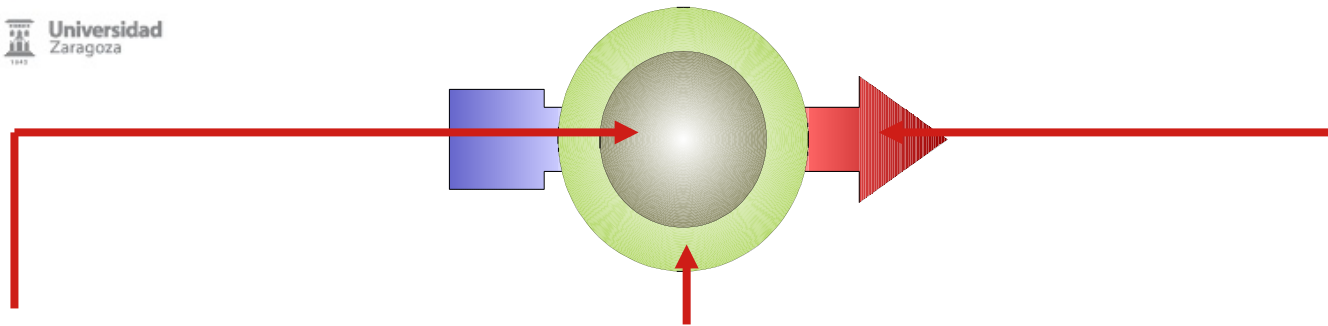
# Tailoring MNP with polymers

## Adjustable Size

Hydrodynamic size  
30 nm → 150 nm



# Multifunctional MNP for Biomedical Applications



## Magnetic core

- composition (e.g., magnetic anisotropy)
- doping (e.g., radio-isotopes)
- size
- size dispersion
- **biocompatibility**
- **no core is also possible**

## Protective coating

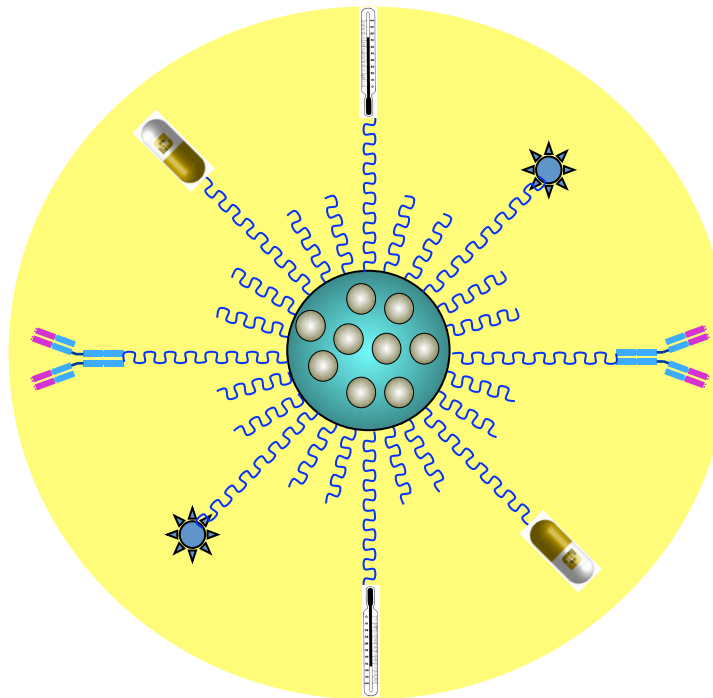
- core protection
- efficient coating
- protection against macrophagous
- anchoring groups and access
- hydrophilic
- dispersion stability at pH=7.4
- **blood stability**
- **biocompatibility**









## Anchoring tails

- **Access to anchoring elements**
- multiple anchoring
- selectivity (therapeutic tarjets)
- **blood stability**
- luminescent groups
- antibodies
- therapeutic drugs
- thermometer

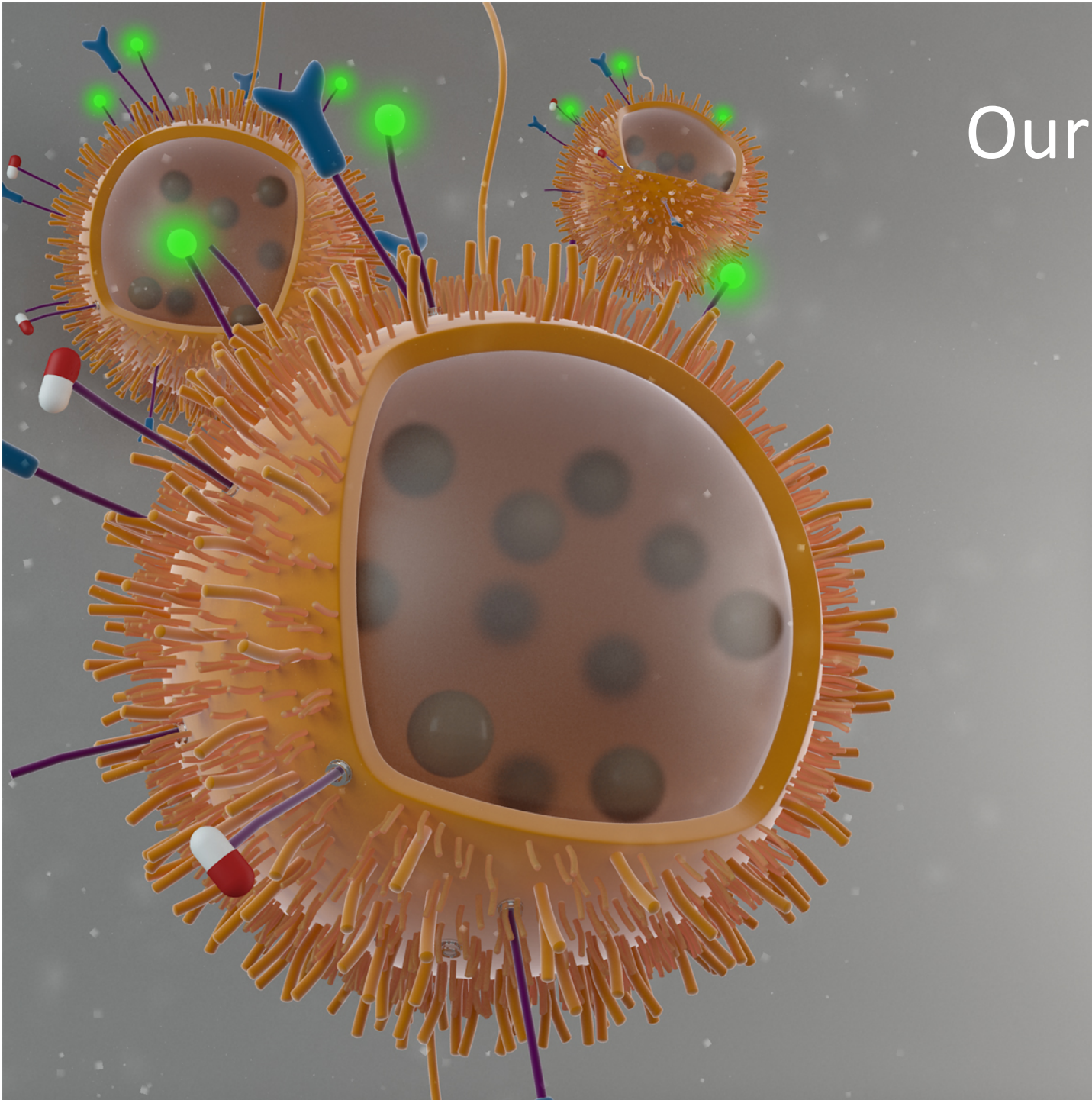
# Tailoring MNP with polymers

## Multifunctional nanoplatform

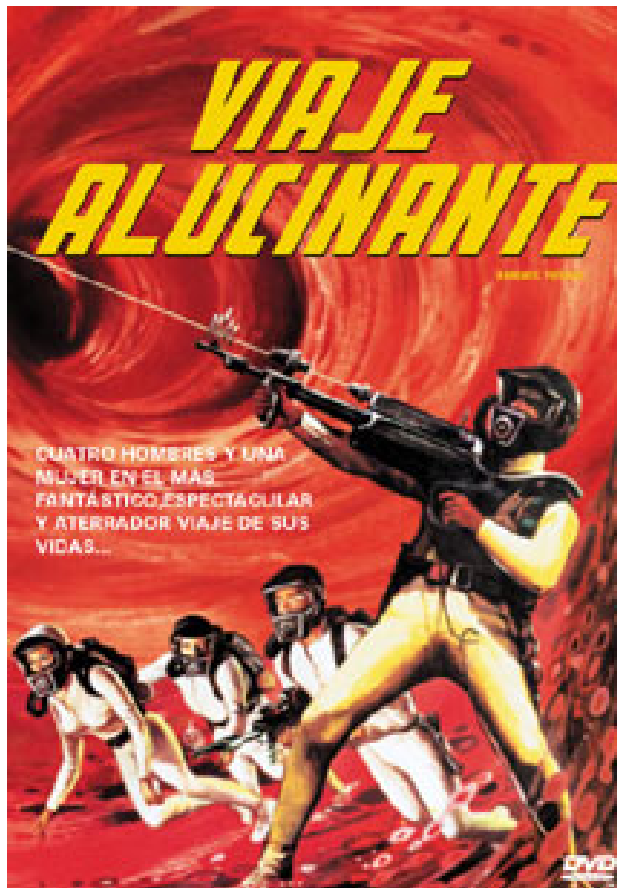


-  Magnetic particle ( $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ )
-  Hydrophobic polymer
-  Short hydrophilic group (PEG)
-  Large hydrophilic group (PEG)
-  Fluorescent marker
-  Antibody
-  Molecular Thermometer
-  Drug

# Our particles



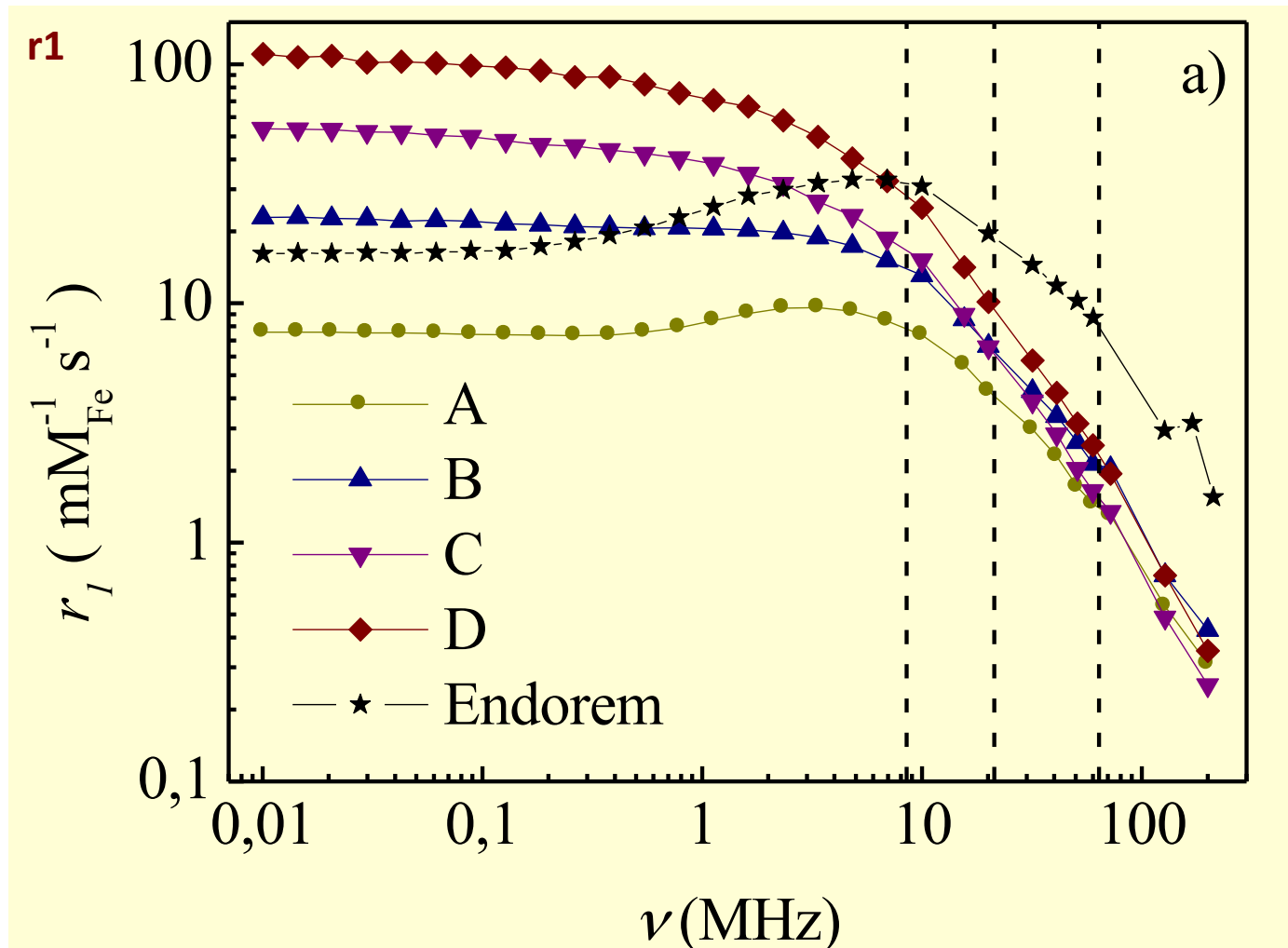
Richard Fleischer, 1966, con Stephen  
Boyd, Raquel Welch, ...



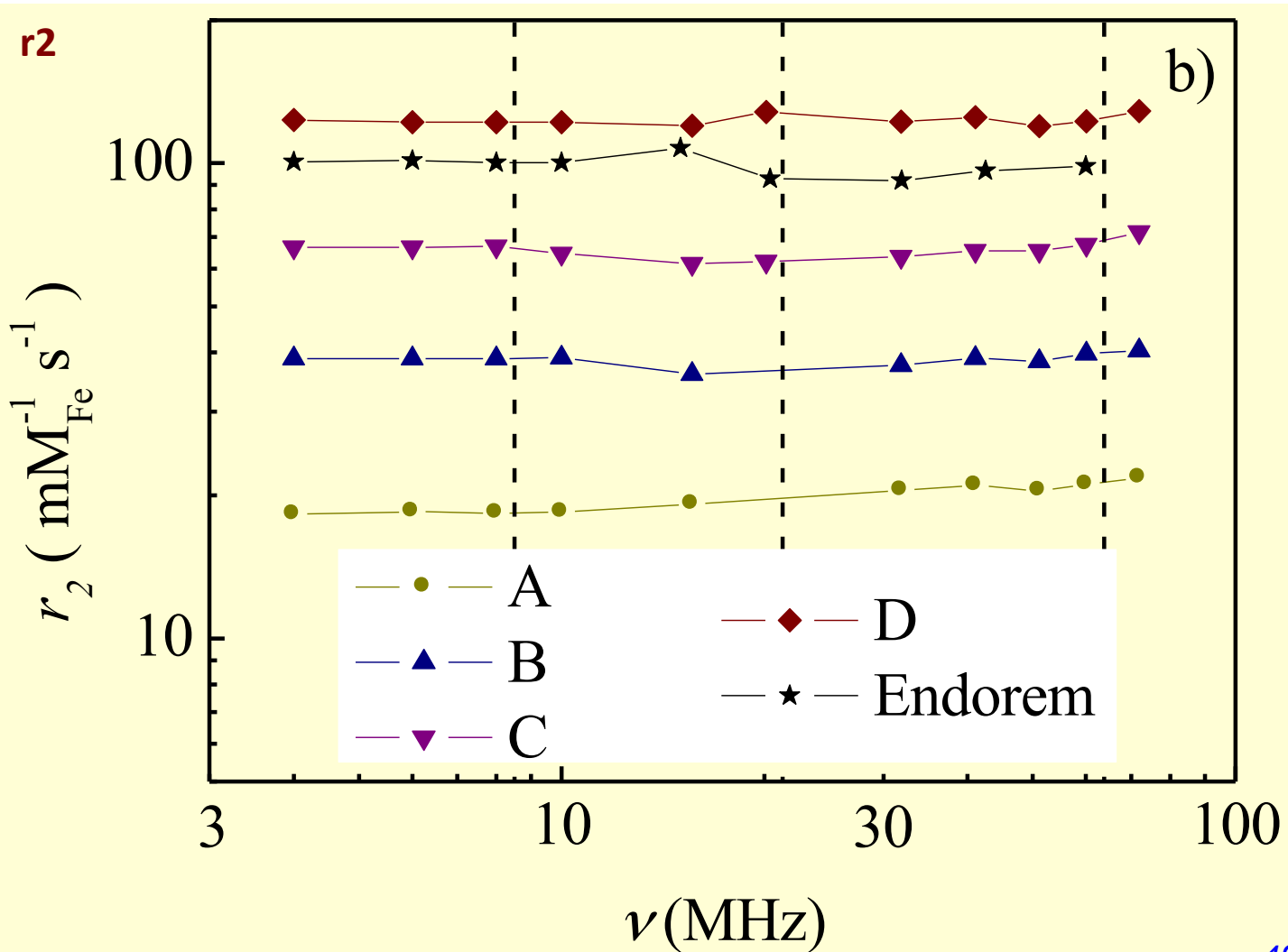


0.2 0.5 1.5 T

A = 7.4 nm  
 B = 8.6 nm  
 C = 10.8 nm  
 D = 15 nm

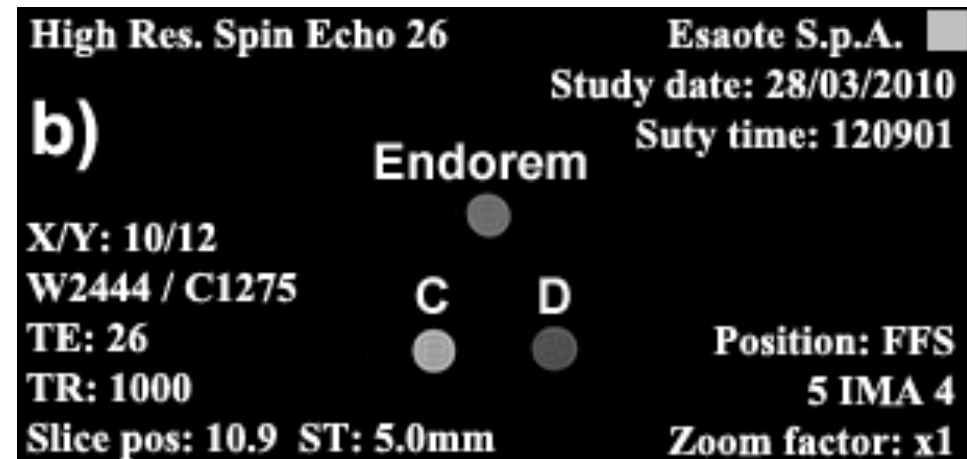
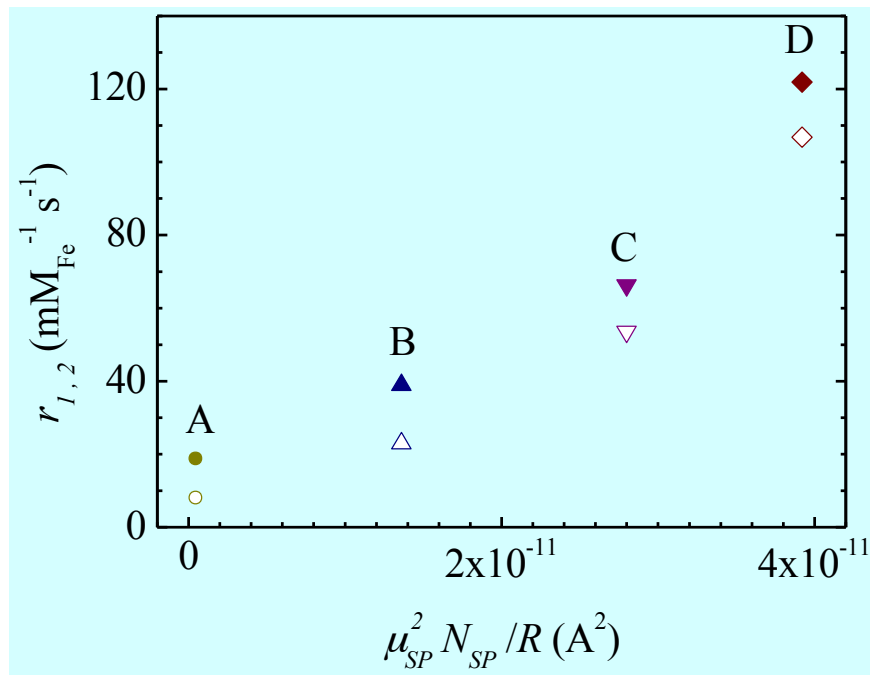


A = 7.4 nm  
 B = 8.6 nm  
 C = 10.8 nm  
 D = 15 nm



$r_{1,2}$  dependence with size

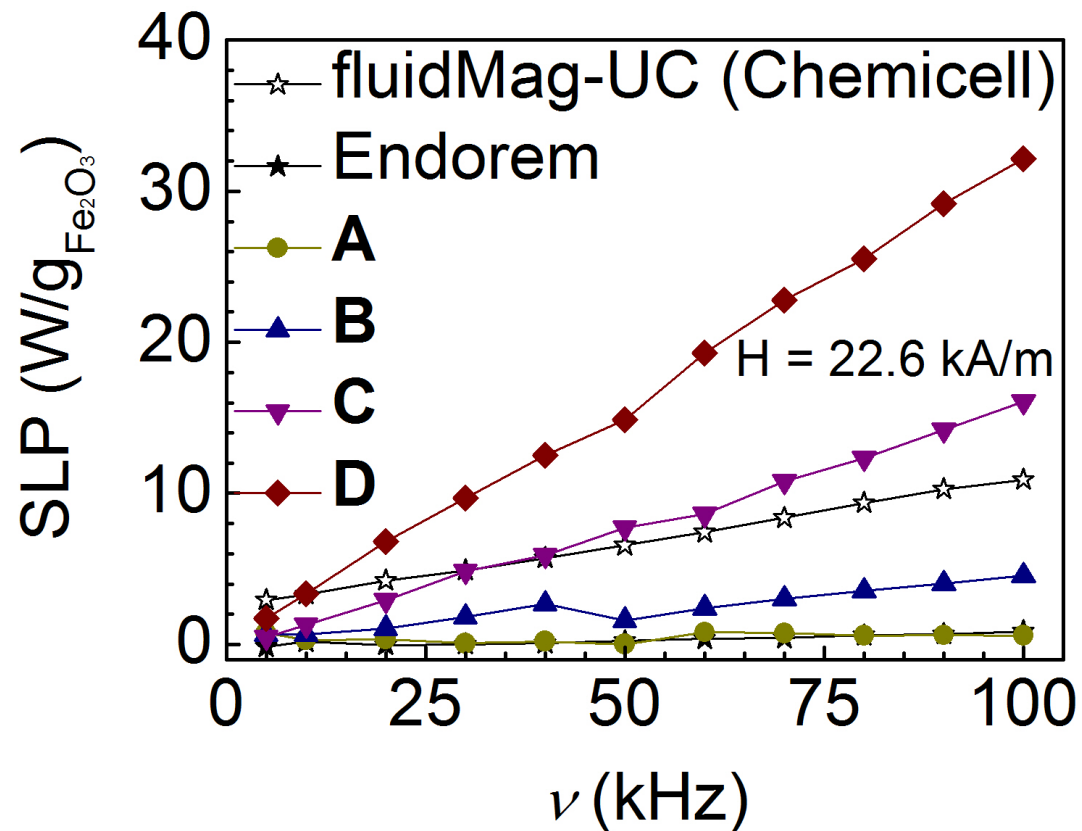
MRI imagens



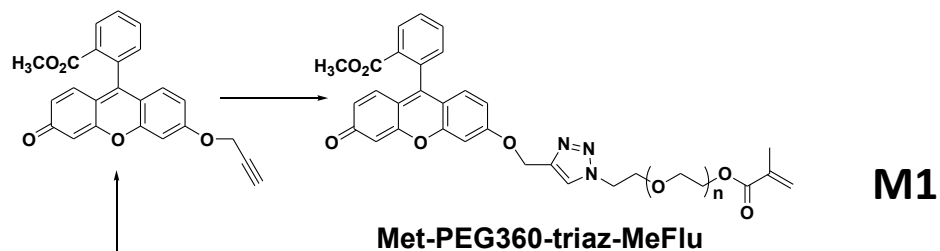
H. Amiri, et al., Magn. Res. in Medicine, (2011), DOI: 10.1002/mrm.22959

# *MNP-based Hyperthermia*

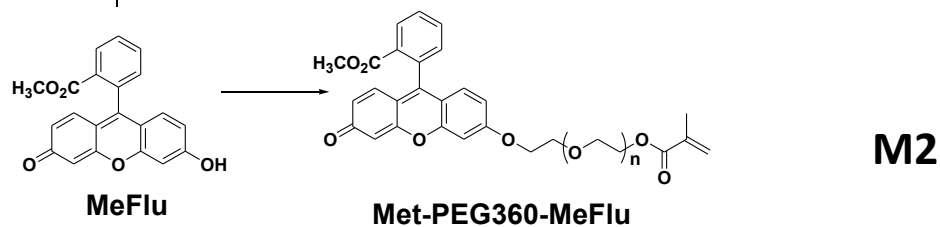
Specific Loss Power of particles of 10.8 and 15 nm as compared with commercial products.



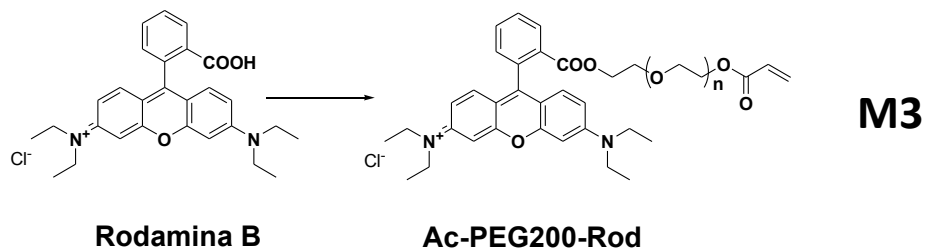
## Synthesis of fluorescent groups



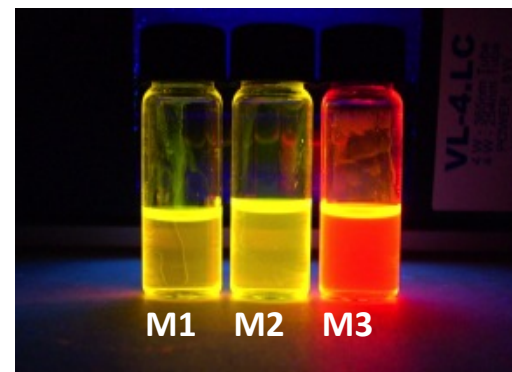
**M1**



**M2**

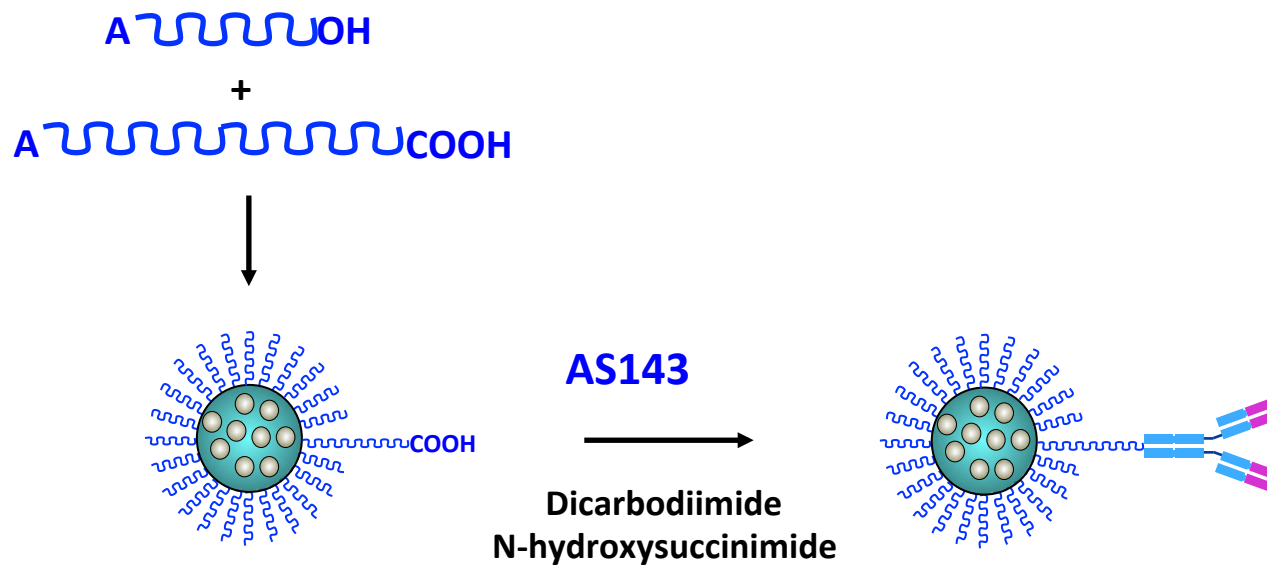


**M3**



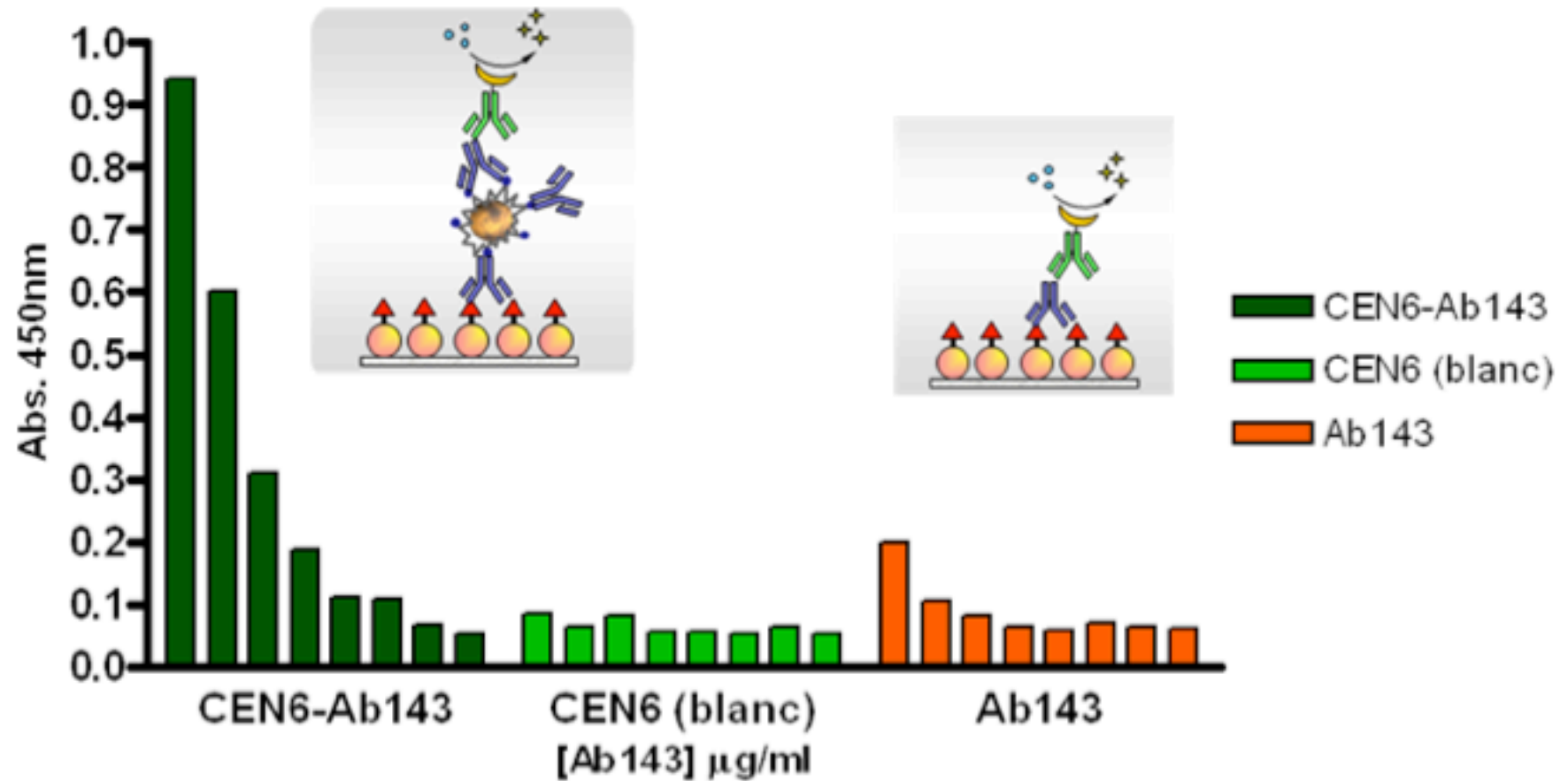
$c: 5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ M}$  (diclorometano)

**Antibody: AS143 (anti Methylboldenone androgenic anabolic steroid)**



# Multifunctional nanoplatform

**Antibody: AS143 (anti Methylboldenone androgenic anabolic steroid)**

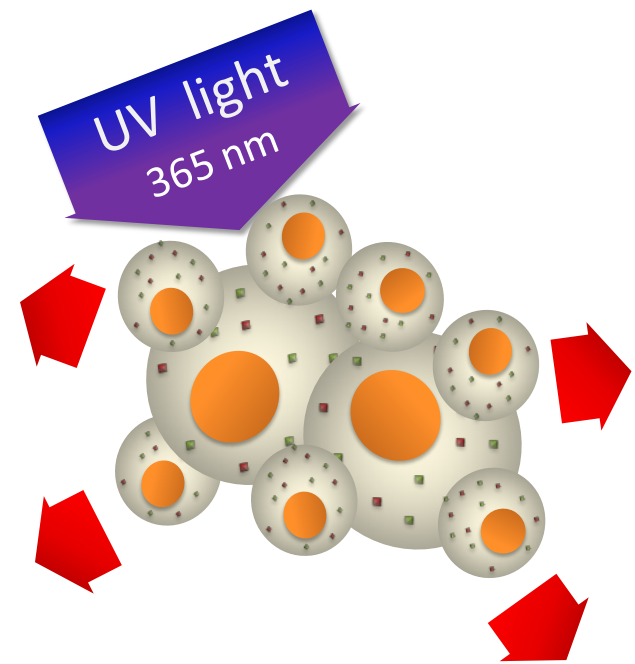
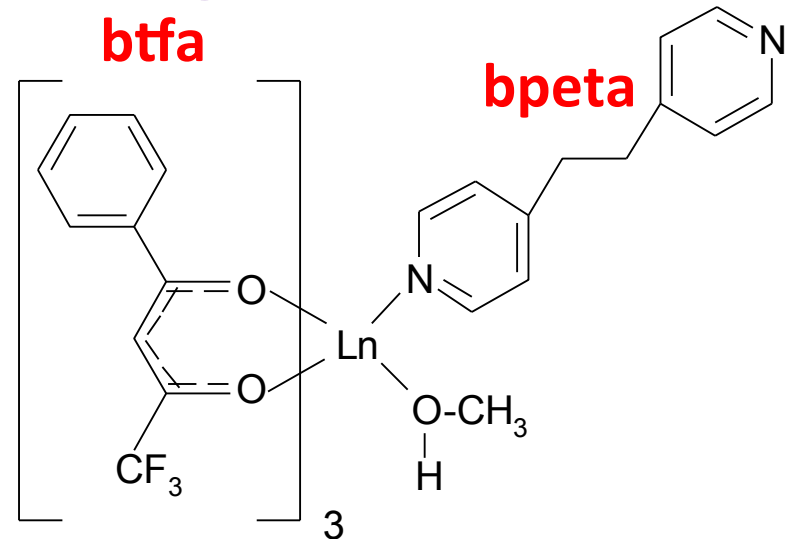


# Thermometer design

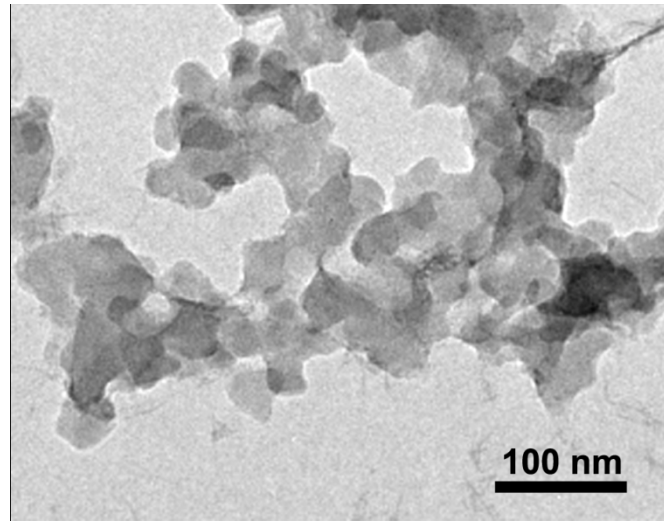
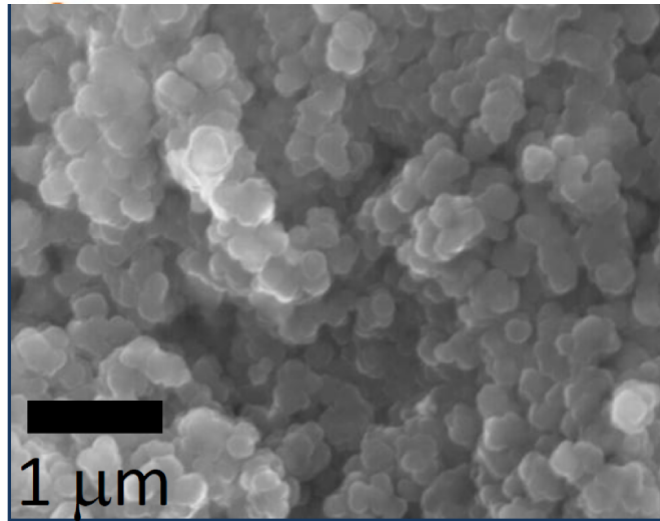
- $[\text{Ln}(\text{btfa})_3(\text{MeOH})(\text{bpeta})]$  (Ln=Eu & Tb)  
β-diketonates

- Organic-inorganic hybrid NPs formed by a maghemite ( $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ) magnetic core coated with a tetraethyl orthosilicate/aminopropyltriethoxysilane (**TEOS/APTES**) organosilica shell (modified Stöber method)

- Eu/Tb co-doped NPs with Eu:Tb ratios of 2:1 (**NP3-2.1**), 1:1 (**NP3-1.1**), 1:2 (**NP3-1.2**), 1:3 (**NP3-1.3**) and 1:10 (**NP3-1.10**)



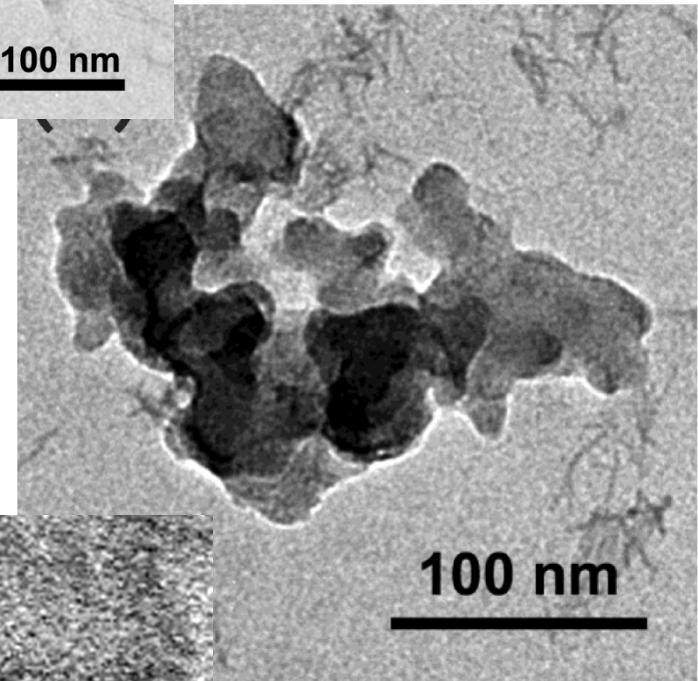




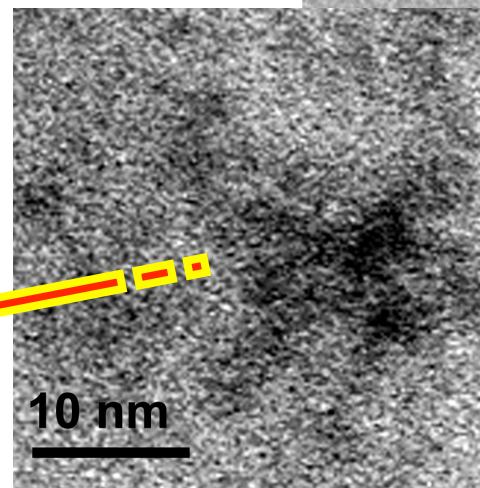
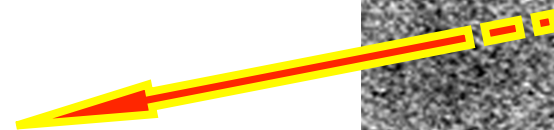
## SEM & TEM

- High contrast: **Eu<sup>3+</sup>/Tb<sup>3+</sup>**
- Low contrast: **APTES/TEOS**

- NPs aggregation occurs during evaporation of the dispersions



- **γ-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**

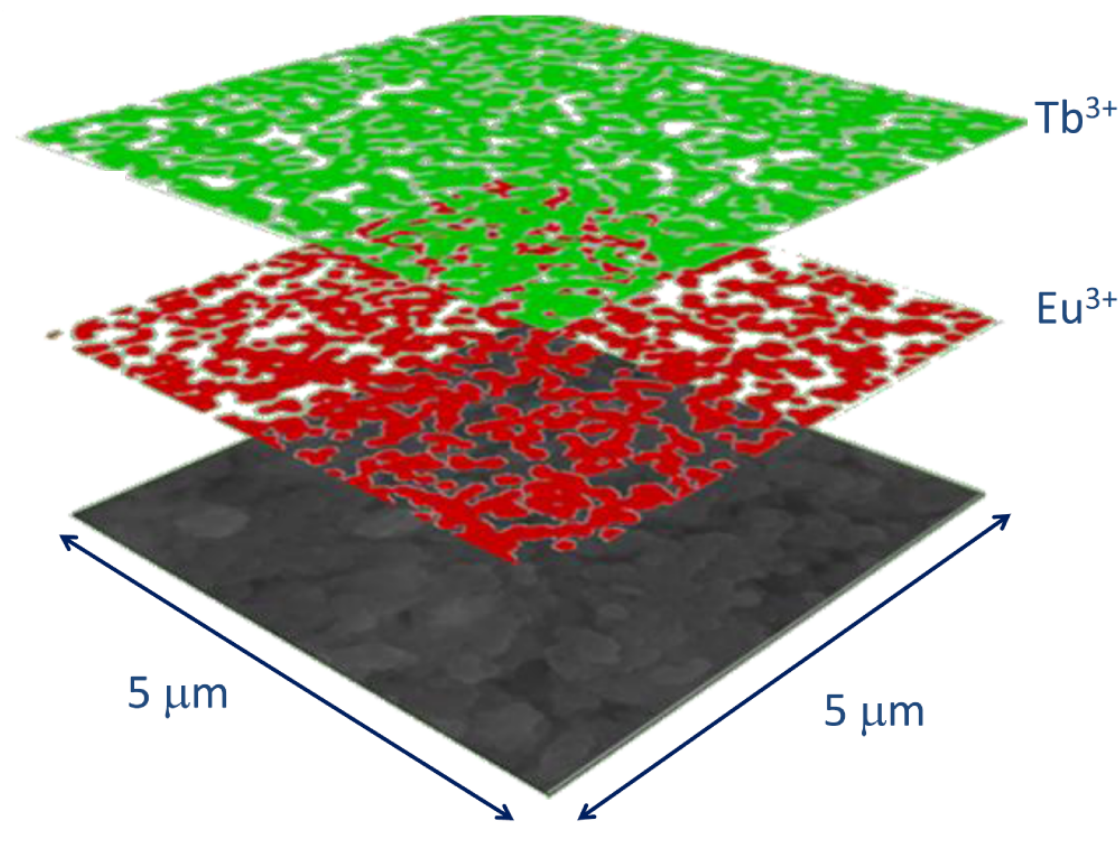


EDS mappings show  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$   
and  $\text{Tb}^{3+}$  distributions with  
contours and shapes  
similar to those of the NPs

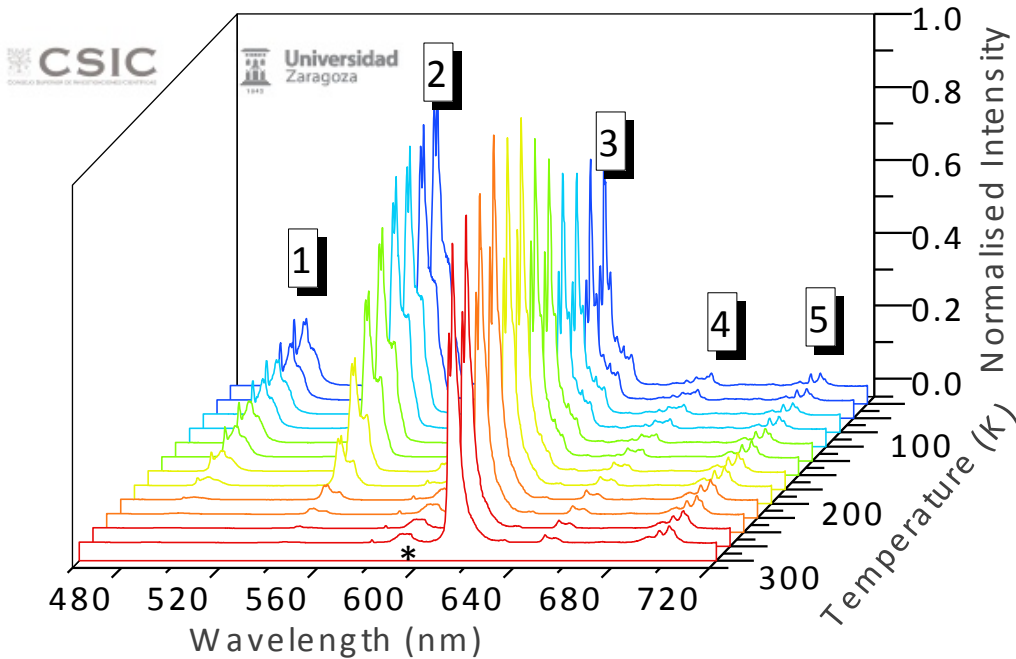


The NPs  
contain both  
 $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Tb}^{3+}$

## EDS mappings

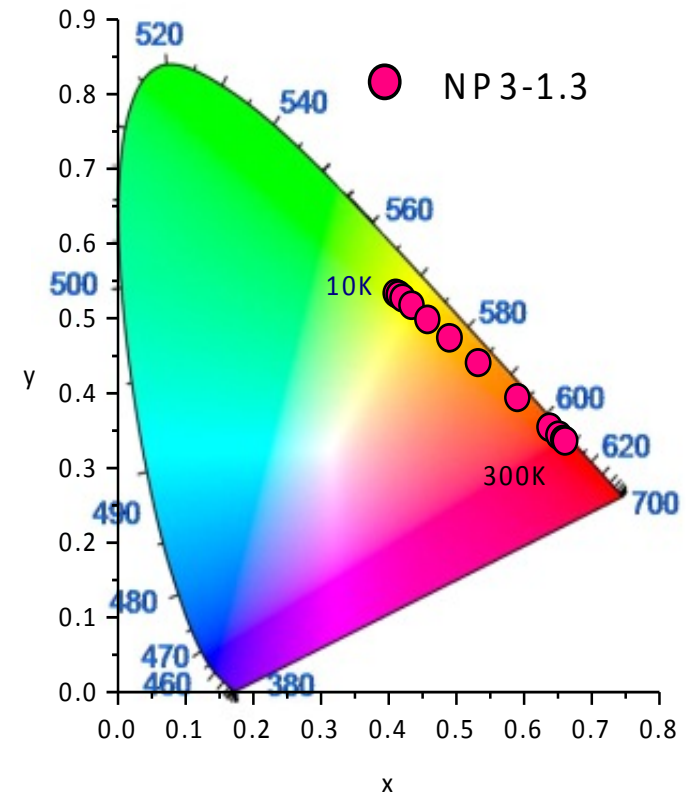


# Photolumuminescence

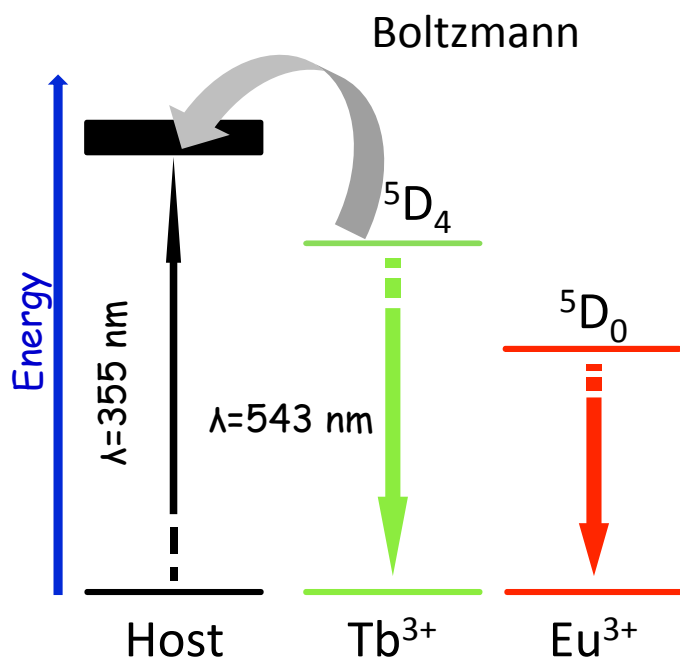


- **1 & 2:**  $^5D_4 \rightarrow ^7F_{6,5}$  ( $\text{Tb}^{3+}$ )
- **3, 4 & 5:**  $^5D_0 \rightarrow ^7F_{2-4}$  ( $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ )
- Area marked with an asterisk:  
 $\text{Eu}^{3+}/\text{Tb}^{3+}$  ( $^5D_0 \rightarrow ^7F_{0,1}$ )/( $^5D_4 \rightarrow ^7F_4$ )  
overlapping

Commission Internationale d'Éclairage (CIE) (x,y) color coordinates illustrates the dependence on T:



# *Eu/Tb luminescent nanothermometer*



- **Host rational design**; an excited triplet with energy above that of the  $Tb^{3+} {}^5D_4$  state, thus warranting the occurrence of thermally-driven  ${}^5D_4 \rightarrow$  host energy transfer
- $\Delta E$  between that triplet state and the  $Eu^{3+} {}^5D_0$  emitting level is too large to permit thermally-driven depopulation
- The Tb/Eu relative intensity guarantees **absolute measurement of temperature**
- **The self-calibration** (relative intensities) overcomes the well-known drawbacks of intensity-based measurements (*e.g.* sensor concentration and drifts of the lamp and detectors)

**Adv. Mater.**, 2010, 22, 4499; **New J. Chem.**, 2011, 35, 1177  
Spain Patent P200930367, 2009; PCT/ES2010/070430

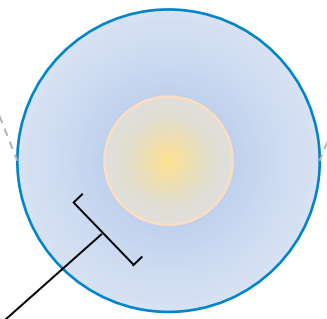
liquid N<sub>2</sub>



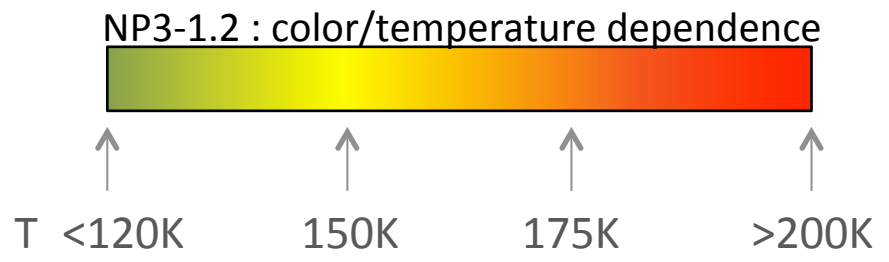
TOP view



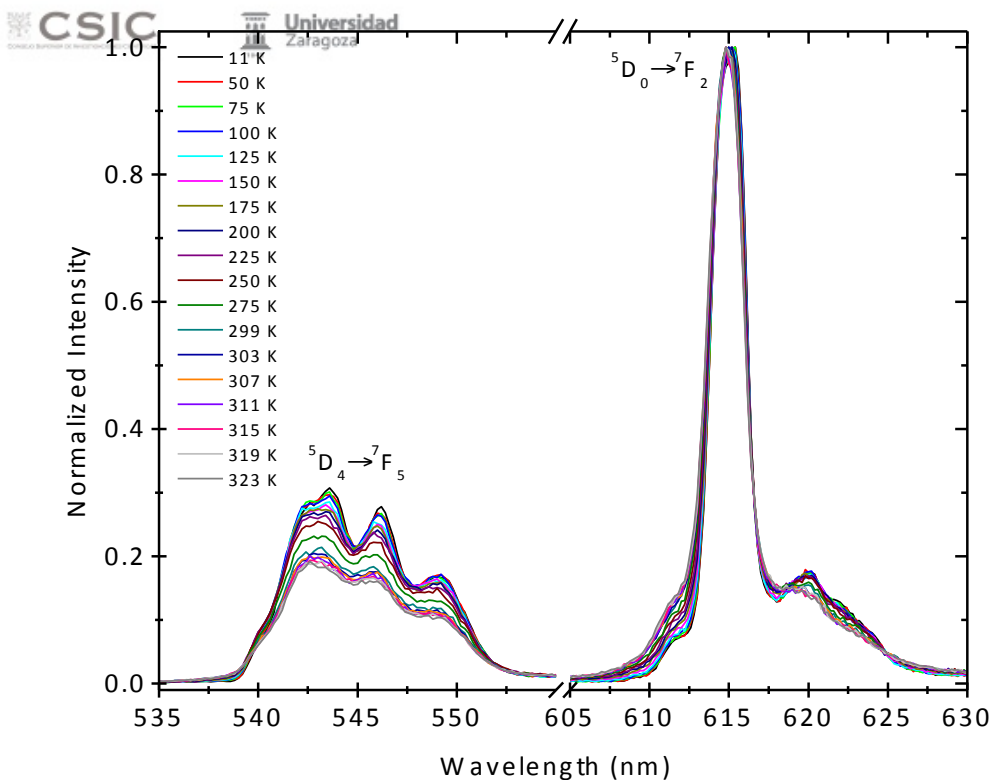
UV  
365 nm



**NP3-1.2**  
(1 cm radius)



## Emission spectra



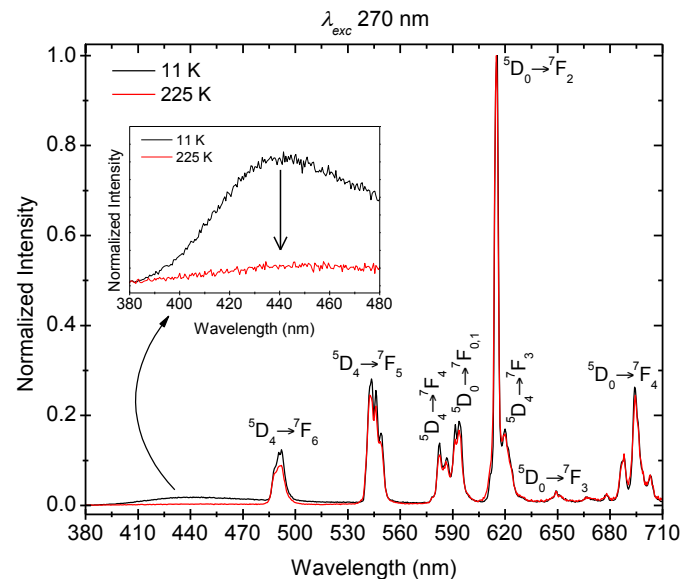
**M3 = FF6@MPEGA+PEGAacac@**

**Eu<sub>0.25</sub>Tb<sub>0.75</sub>@DPA**

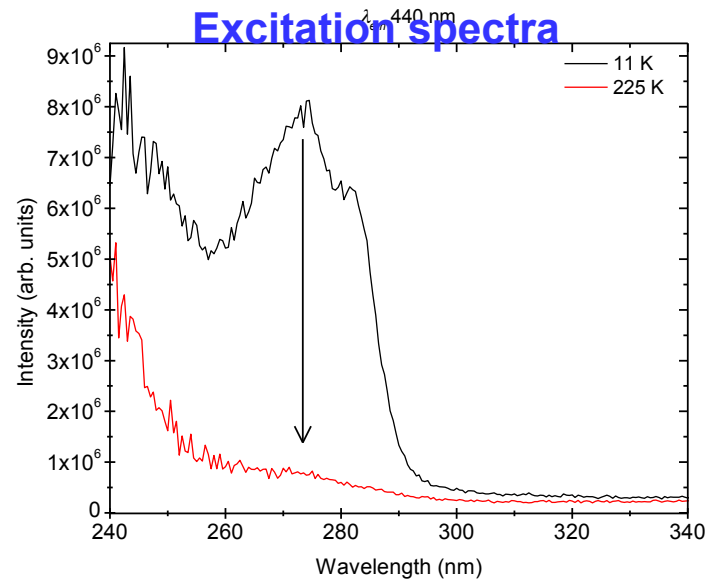
Solid

**Dialyzed Sample**

## Emission spectra



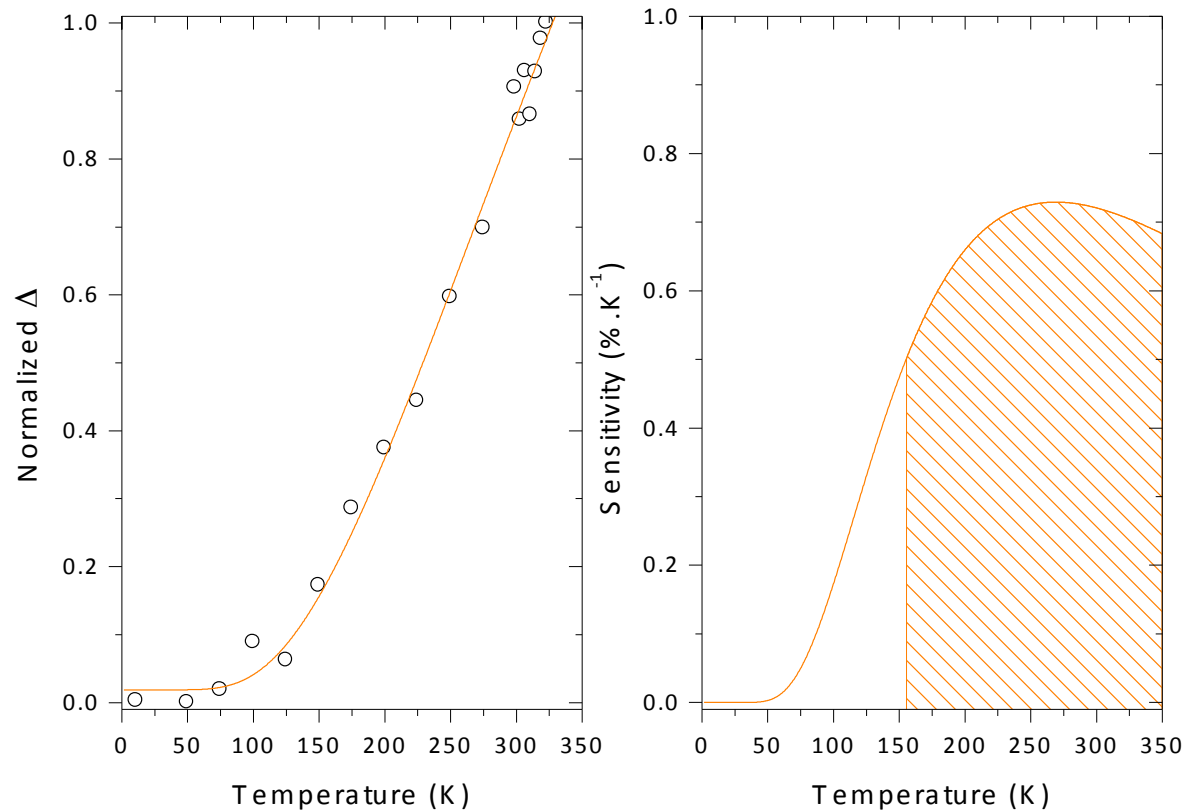
## Excitation spectra



**M3 = FF6@MPEGA+PEGAacac@Eu<sub>0.25</sub>Tb<sub>0.75</sub>@DPA**

Solid

Relative Sensitivity and Temperature Range of Operation



- The  $\Delta$  parameter presents a temperature dependence almost linear in the temperature range 150-350K.
- The maximum sensitivity is 0.73  $\%.K^{-1}$  at 270 K and the sensitivity is above 0.5  $\%.K^{-1}$  for temperatures  $T > 150K$

# Cytotoxicity

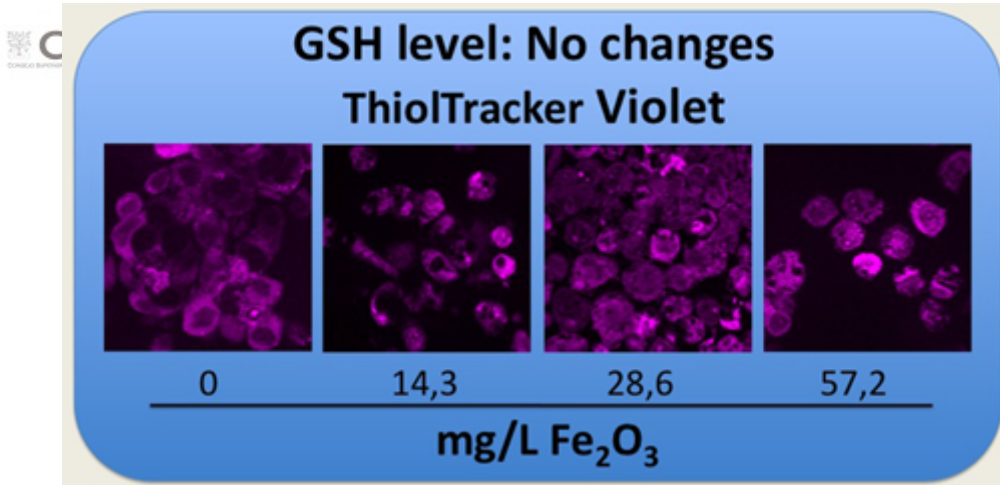
A close-up photograph of a 96-well microplate. A clear plastic pipette tip is positioned over well B3, dispensing a pink liquid. Wells B2, B3, and B4 in the row above are also filled with the pink liquid. The plate has a grid of wells, with labels B2, B3, and B4 visible on the bottom row. The background is a light blue gradient.

**Lamiaa M.A. Ali**  
**Prof. Victor Sorribas**  
**Dept. of Toxicology**

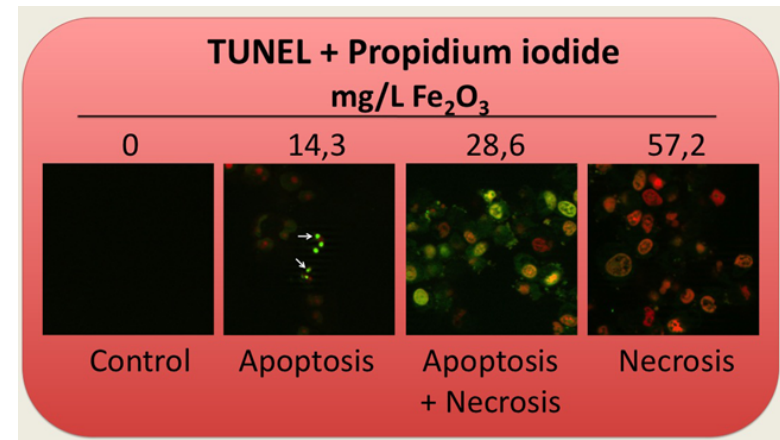


# Cytotoxicity

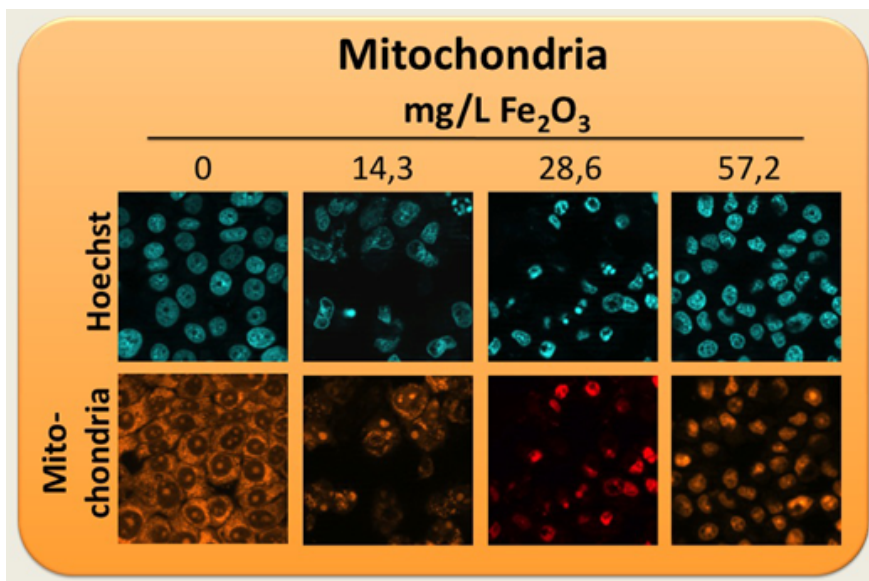
**No oxidative stress**



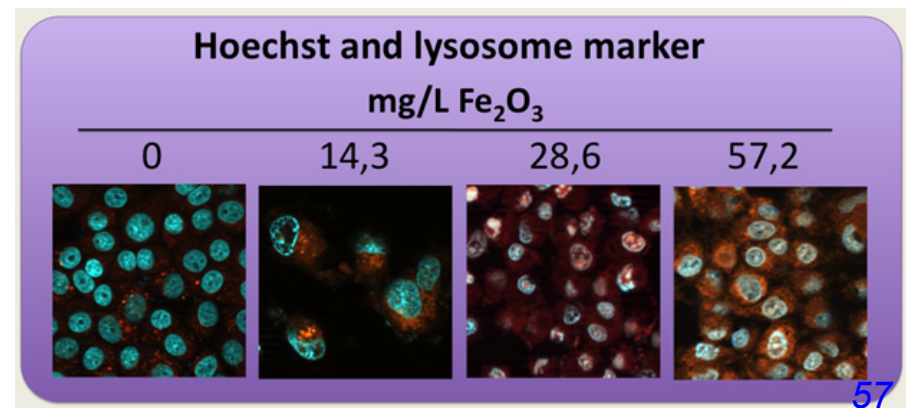
**Apoptosis and necrosis at higher concentration**



**Mitochondria are not affected**

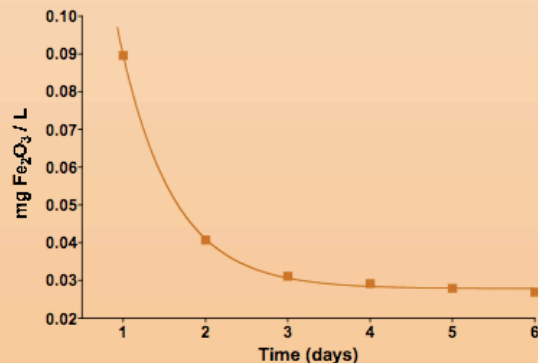
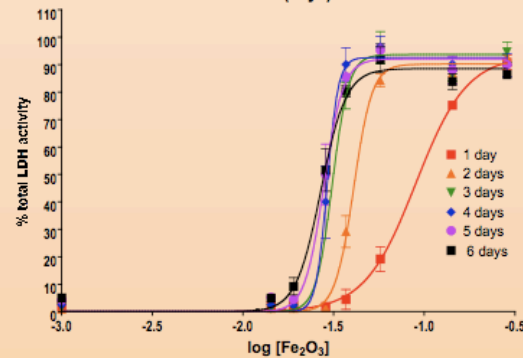
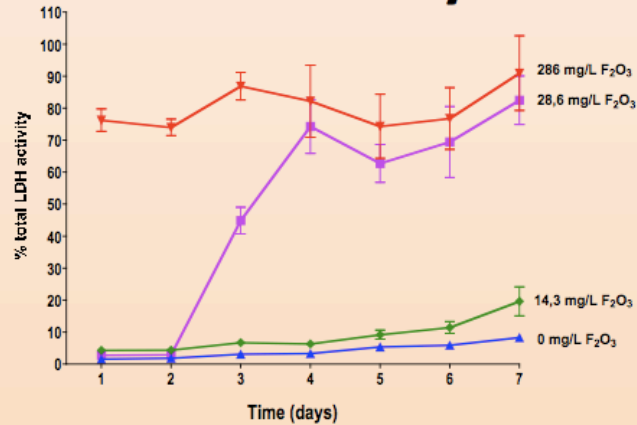


**Lysosomes are enlarged or proliferate**





## Cytotoxicity: LDH activity



# Cytotoxicity

Activity of cytosolic **lactate dehydrogenase** in culture medium of OK cells incubated with nanoparticles at different concentrations and times.

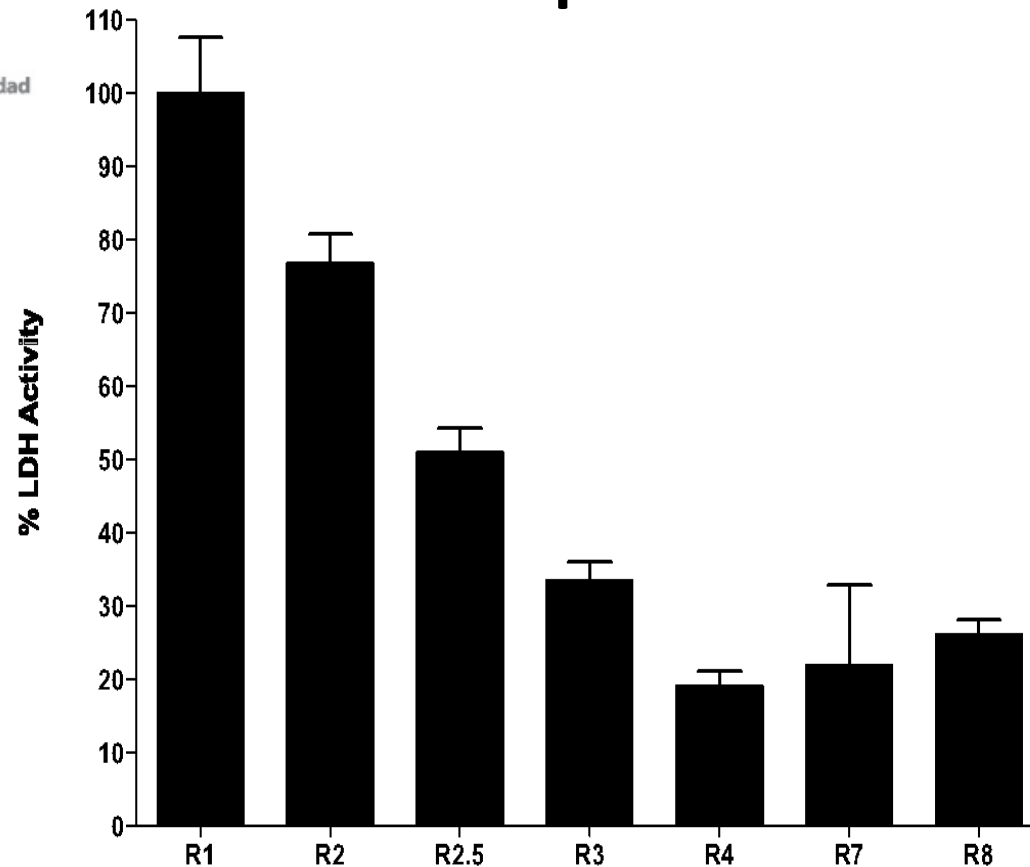
This activity indicates that cell membrane has broken and intracellular content has leaked.

**Top:** Four time courses with different concentrations of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. **14.3 mg/ml is not toxic, and 28.6 mg/ml only after 3 days.**

**Center:** Dose-responses at different days. Lethal mean concentrations (LC<sub>50</sub>) are calculated for each curve.

**Bottom:** Representation of LC<sub>50</sub> evolution with the time, showing that the LC<sub>50</sub> diminishes with time, ie. **the effect is accumulative.**

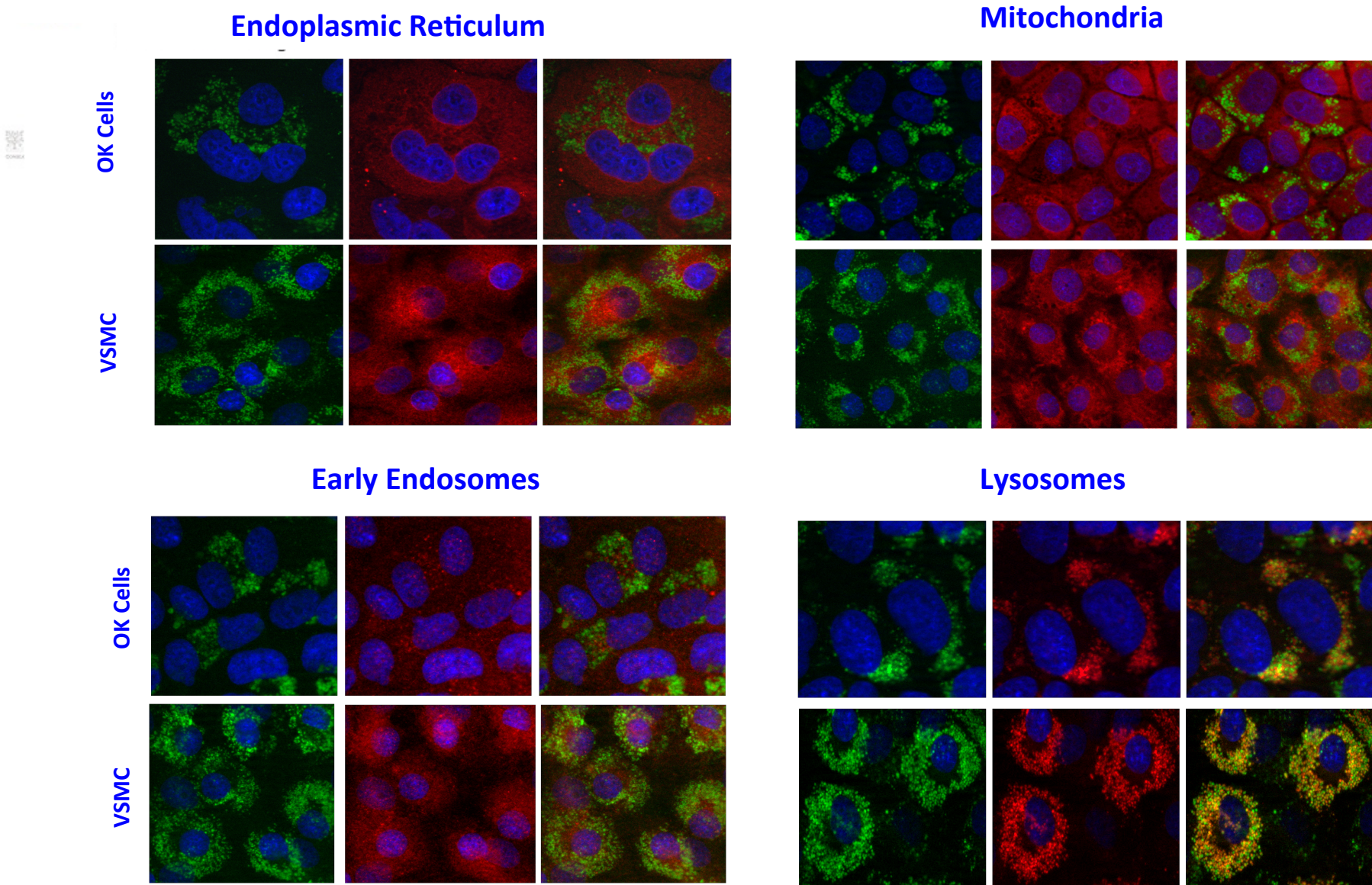
## Size dependence



Effect of the nanoparticle diameter on the OK cell death after 7 days of incubation with 0.01 g/l  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

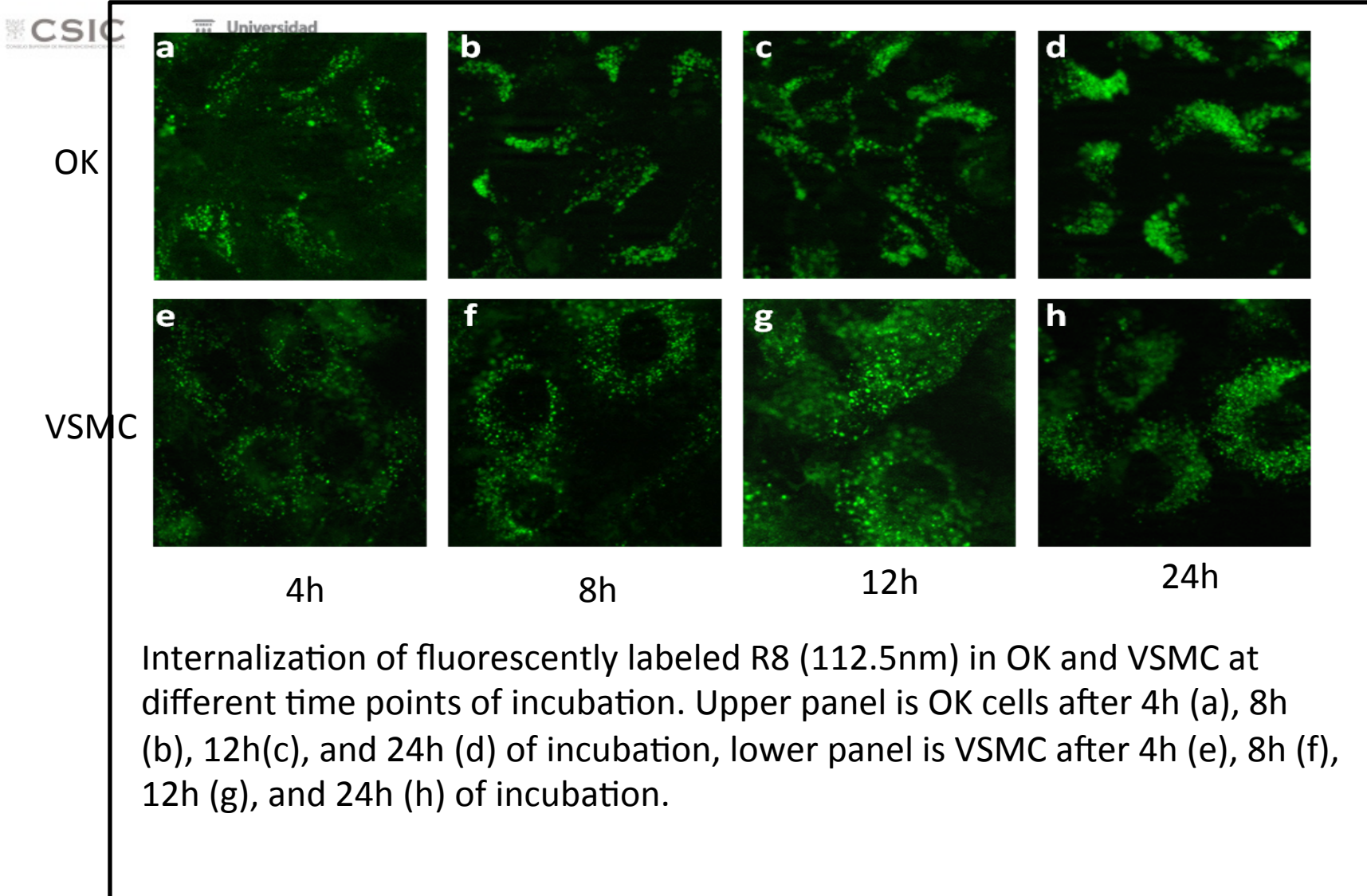
**Toxicity is inversely proportional to diameter of the MNPs**

# Subcellular localization of fluorescent nanoparticles: LYSOSOMES.



The only location of SPIONS in cells are the lysosomes.

# Uptake kinetics



**Intraperitoneal injection shows**  
**No significant effects after 1 month.**  
**No damage in organs**

**Intravenous injection of 5XEndorem shows after 10 days no excess**  
**of iron in a variety of tissues neither anomalies in the pathologic**  
**anatomy inspection.**

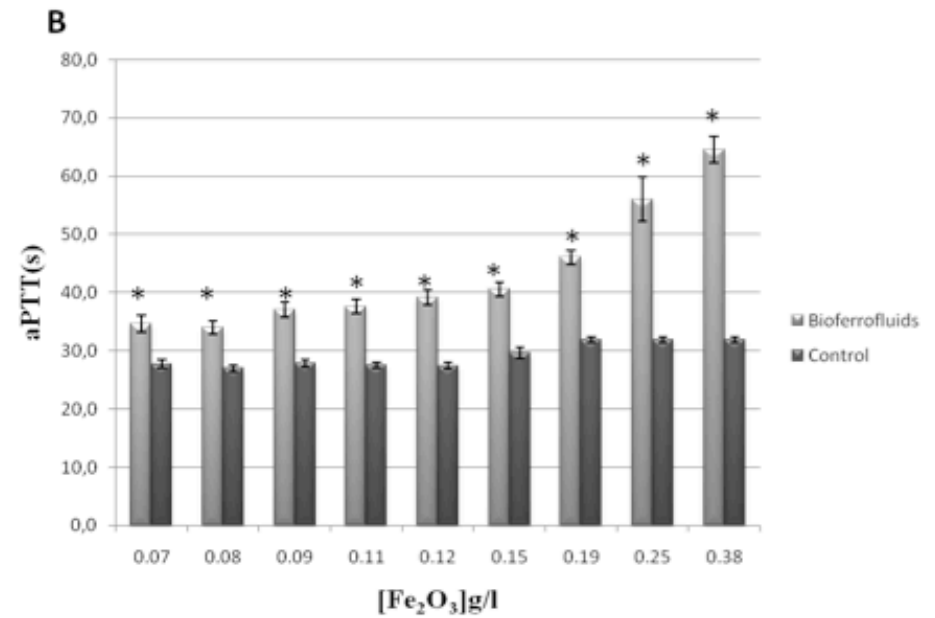
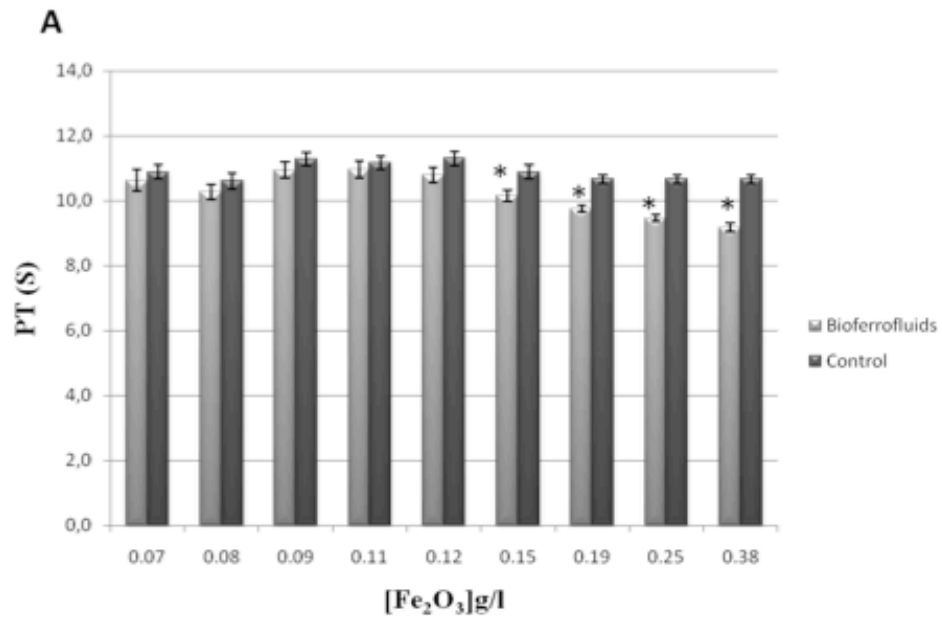
**Zn-doped modified particles and same doses lead to the same**  
**results**



A microscopic view of numerous red blood cells, which are biconcave discs, scattered across a dark green, textured background. The cells are rendered in shades of red and orange, with some appearing more brightly lit than others, creating a sense of depth and movement.

# Hematotoxicity

M. Gutiérrez, R. Cornudella, J. A. Moreno  
*Faculty of Medicine , Dept. of Haematology*



The effect of bioferrofluids on: (A) the prothrombin time (PT) in seconds, (B) the activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT) in seconds



- No changes in Prothrombine Time (PT) observed.
- Activated partial Thromboplastine Time (aPTT) increases with the concentration of MNPs.
- Combine PT and aPTT results indicate that the bioferrofluids act as non- specific inhibitor / anticoagulant circulating agent for coagulation process.
- While PEG component does not seem to have any effect on the coagulation process, the coating copolymer P4VP-g-PEG shows strong anticoagulant behaviour indicating that P4VP is at the origin of the effect.
- These effect may not appear in vivo

## Complete blood picture ( CBC)

- There is no significant changes in CBC between test and control in :
- Erythrocyte count
- Leukocyte count
- Hemoglobin
- Platelets

## Plasmatic viscosity

Our nanoparticles does not show any change the plasmatic viscosity.

# M4 Group

(**M**ultifunctional **M**agnetic **M**olecular **M**aterials)



# Credits

Alessandro Lascialfari, H. Amiri,  
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Pasquina Marzola

Julian Carrey and Marc Raspaud

P. Marco, JP Salvador, G. Colom

Manuel Fuentes

Antonio Díez, Pilar Sepúlveda

Belinda Sánchez

*University of Pavia*

*University of Verona*

*INSA – Toulouse*

*IQAC-CSIC Barcelona*

*Cancer Institute*

*University of Salamanca*

*Centro de Investigación  
Príncipe Felipe, Valencia*

*Centro de Inmunología  
La Habana (Cuba)*



- **CONSOLIDER** - MAT2007-61621
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- Action PT2009-0131
- MAT2011-25991



Programa CENIT - Ingenio 2010  
Industrial Consortium



European Network  
of Excellence, 6FP



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