



# Magnetic Particles: Synthesis and Functionalisation

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# Organisation

**Magnetic Core  
Synthesis**

**Talk 1**

**Stabilisation and  
Functionalisation**

**Talk 2**

**Flow Chemistry  
and  
Characterisation**

**Talk 3**



# Part 1: Magnetic Core Synthesis

**L. Van Leuven<sup>1</sup>, T. Vangijzegem<sup>1</sup>, D. Stanicki<sup>1</sup>, S. Laurent<sup>1,2</sup>**

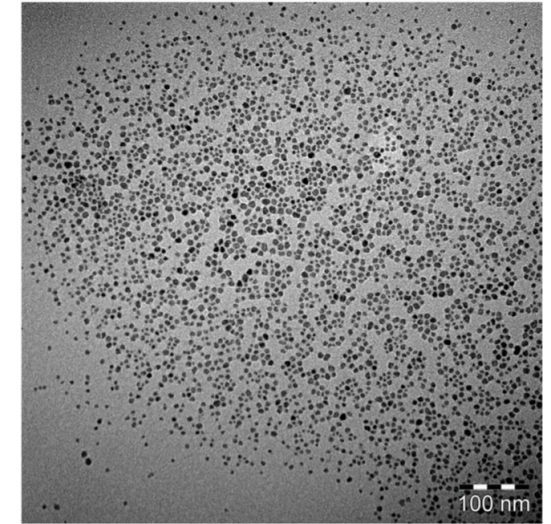
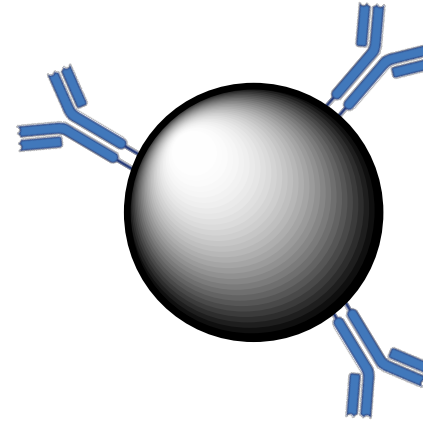
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# Magnetic Nanocarriers

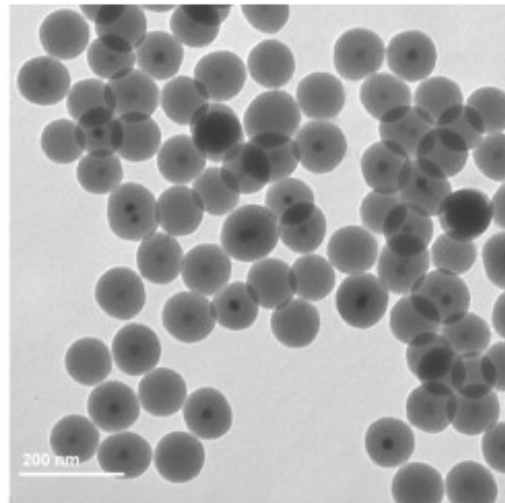
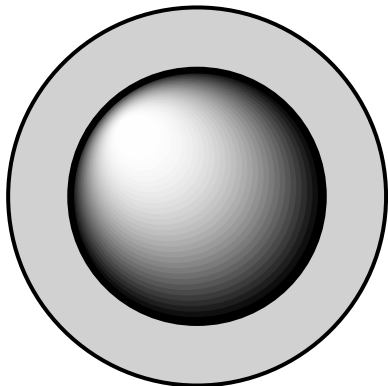
Nanoparticles able to be guided and/or activated by a magnetic field used to transport substances to specific cells or tissues in the body.

Functionalised



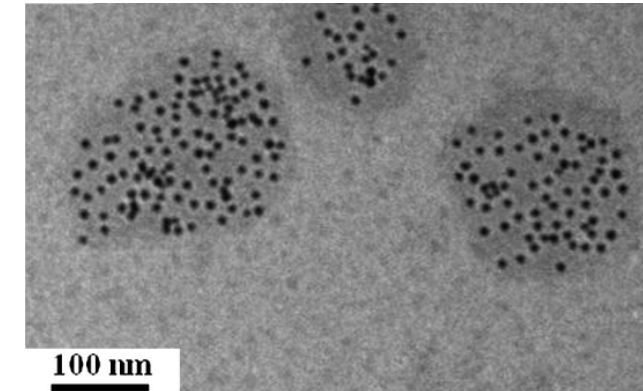
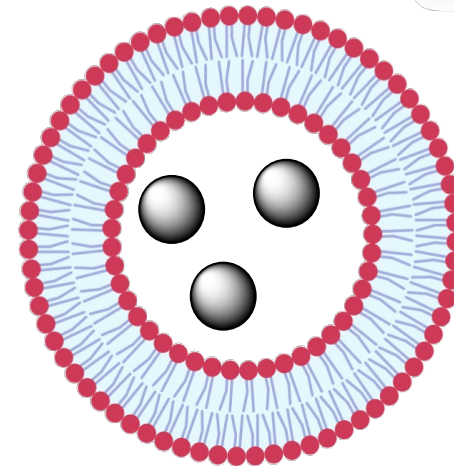
Stanicki *et al.* 2021  
Journal of Material Chemistry B

Core-shell



Jiang *et al.* 2012, Journal of Alloys and Compounds

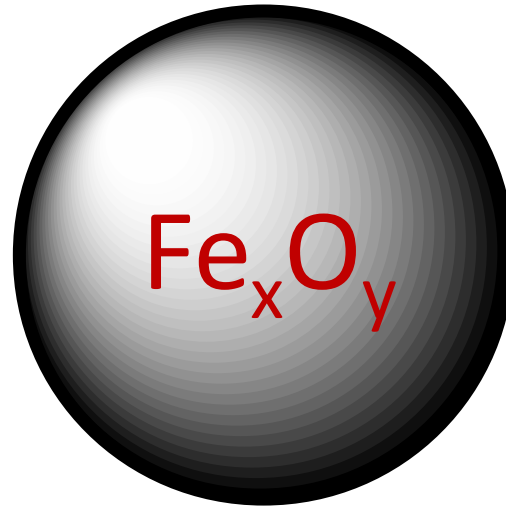
Encapsulated



Won *et al.* 2012  
Journal of Controlled Release

# Iron Oxide Nanoparticles (IONPs)

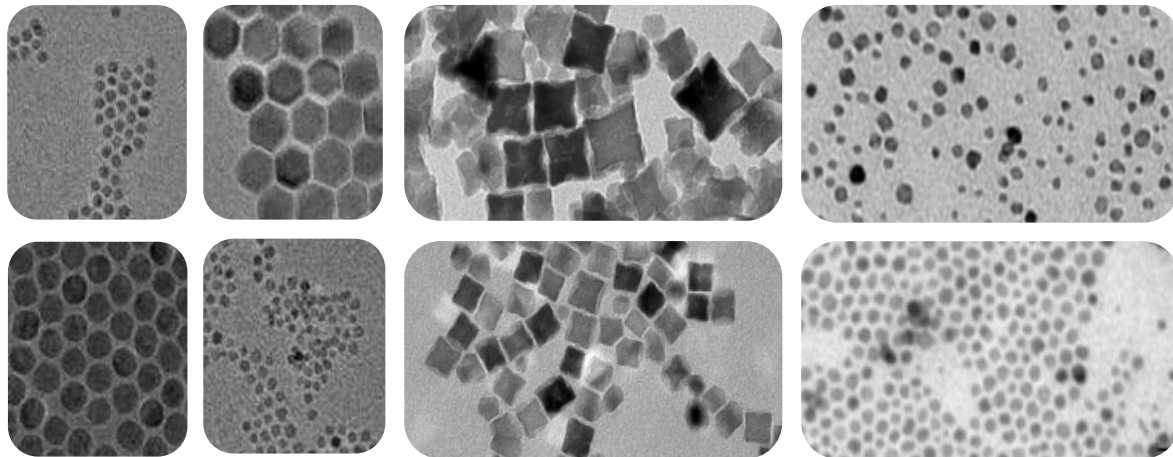
- Nanoparticles: 1 – 100 nm
- Biocompatible



- Magnetic properties:  
ferri-, ferro-, antiferro-magnetism

**IONPs are  
superparamagnetic**

- Variety of shapes:



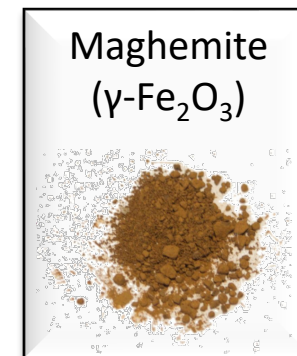
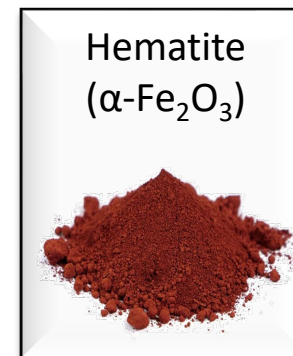
Baaziz *et al.* 2015  
J. Phys. Chem C

Guardia *et al.* 2010  
Langmuir

Belaïd *et al.* 2018  
Nanotechnology

- Phases: 16 pure phases

Most common and stable phases



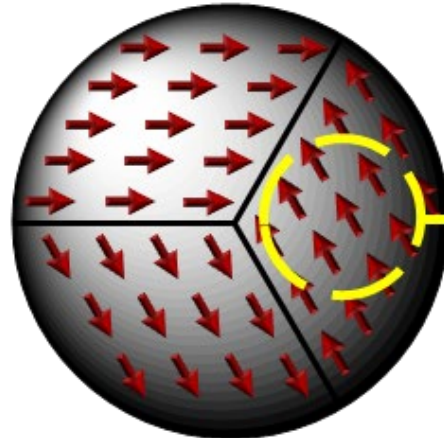
# Superparamagnetism

**Bulk material**

Multiple domains structure

Remanent magnetisation

Hysteresis cycle

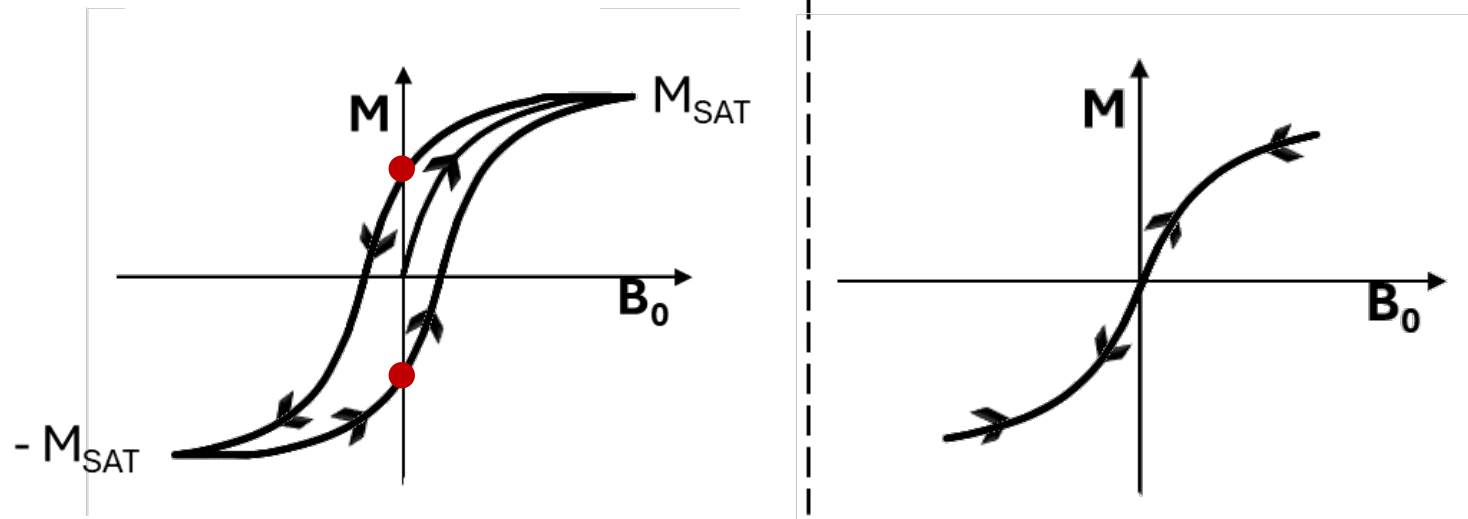


**IONPs**

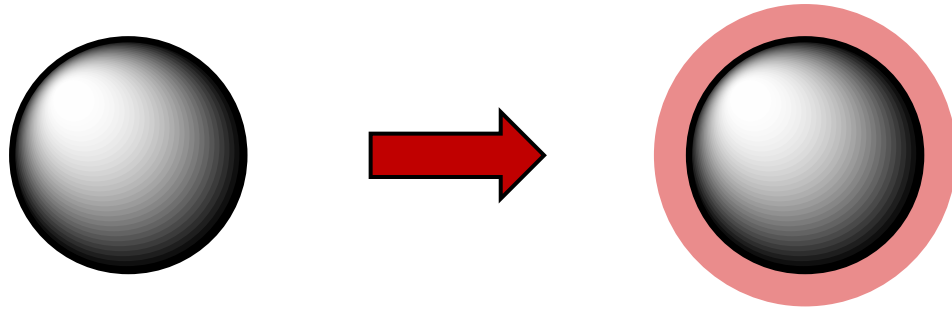
Single-domain structure

No remanent magnetisation

Completely reversible



# Surface Modification



## Stealth

- Limited opsonisation
- Impeded immune system recognition
- Increased half-life time



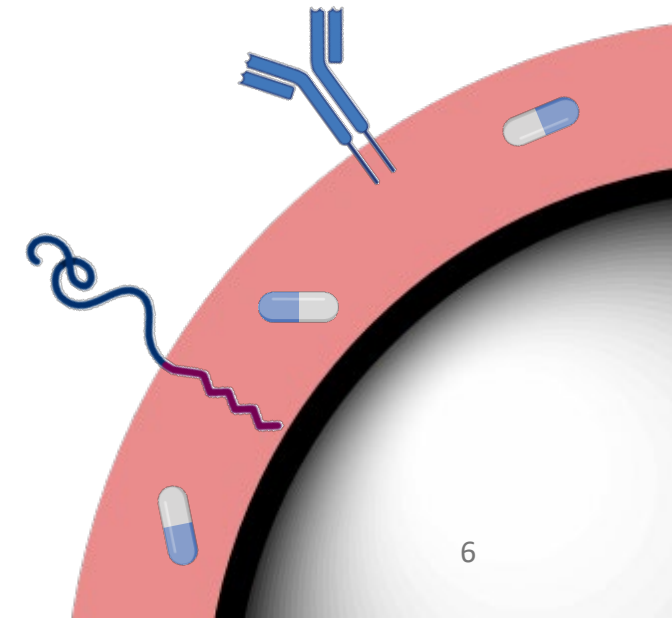
## Stabilisation

- Prevent aggregation
- Diminish oxidation

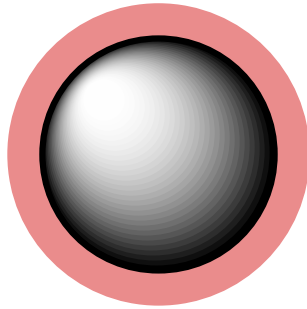


## Functionalisation / Vectorisation

- Specific targeting:
  - Peptides
  - Nanobodies
- Drug loading

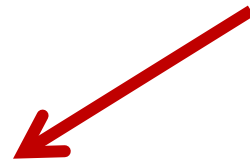
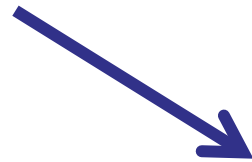


# Applications



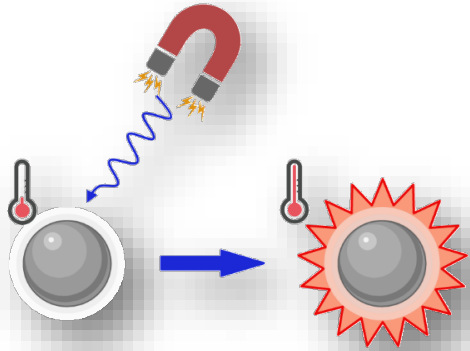
Therapy

Diagnostic

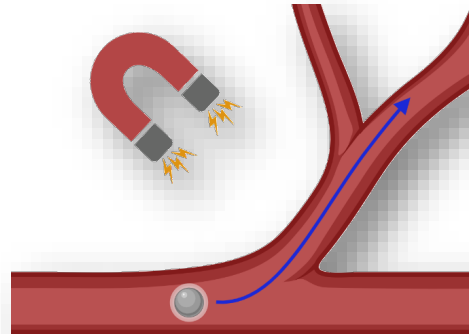


Theranostic

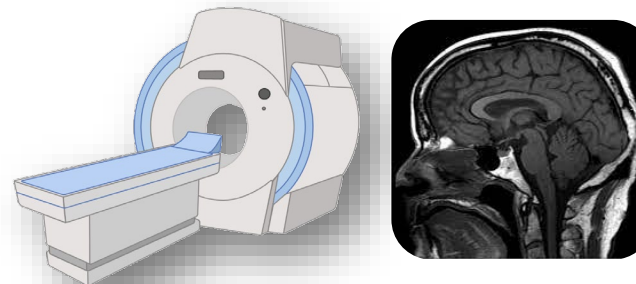
Magnetic Hyperthermia



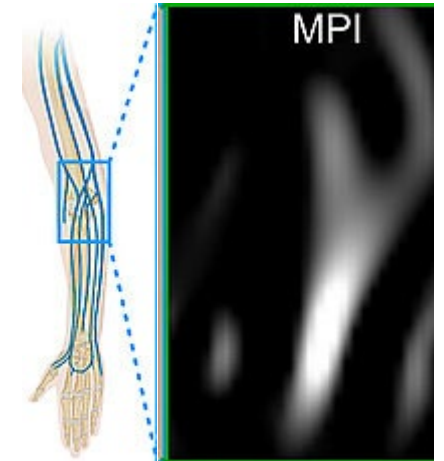
Magnetic Guided Delivery



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

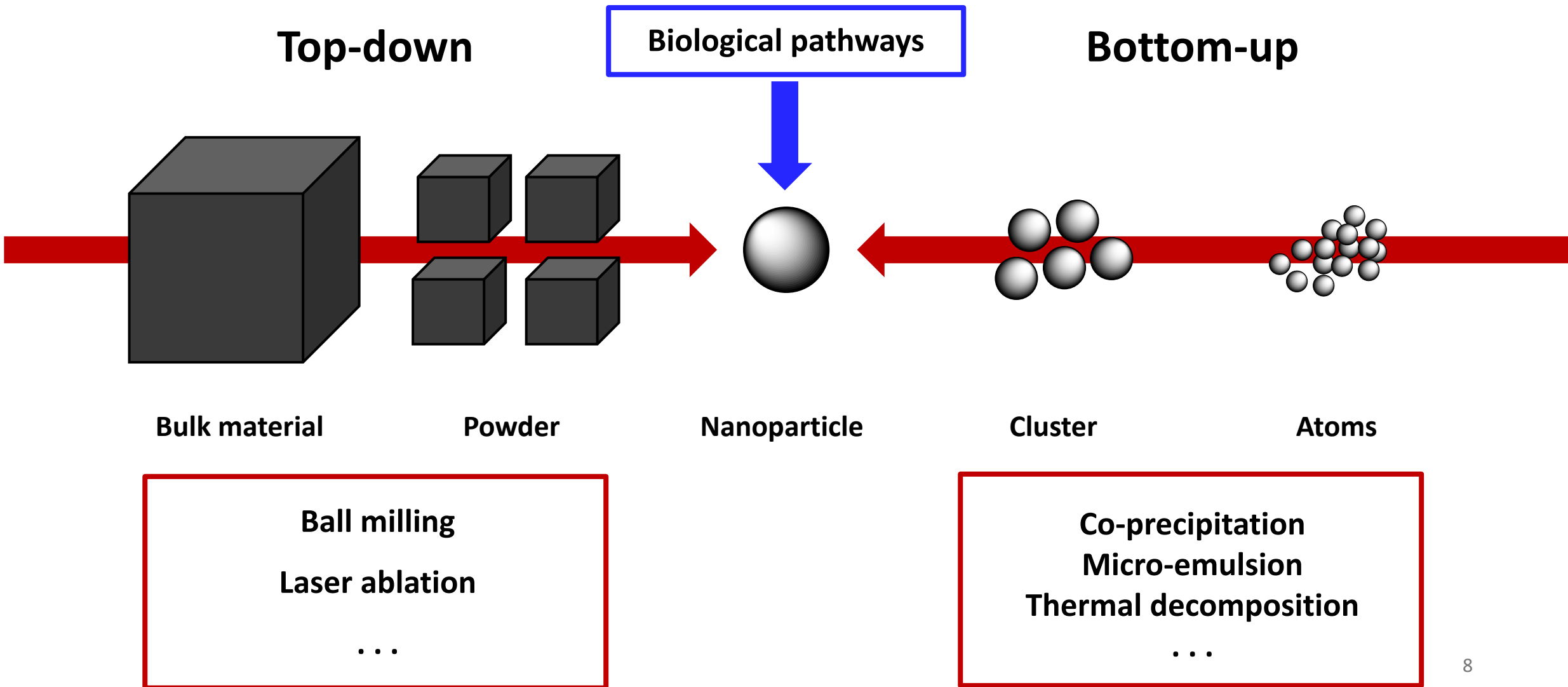


Magnetic Particle Imaging

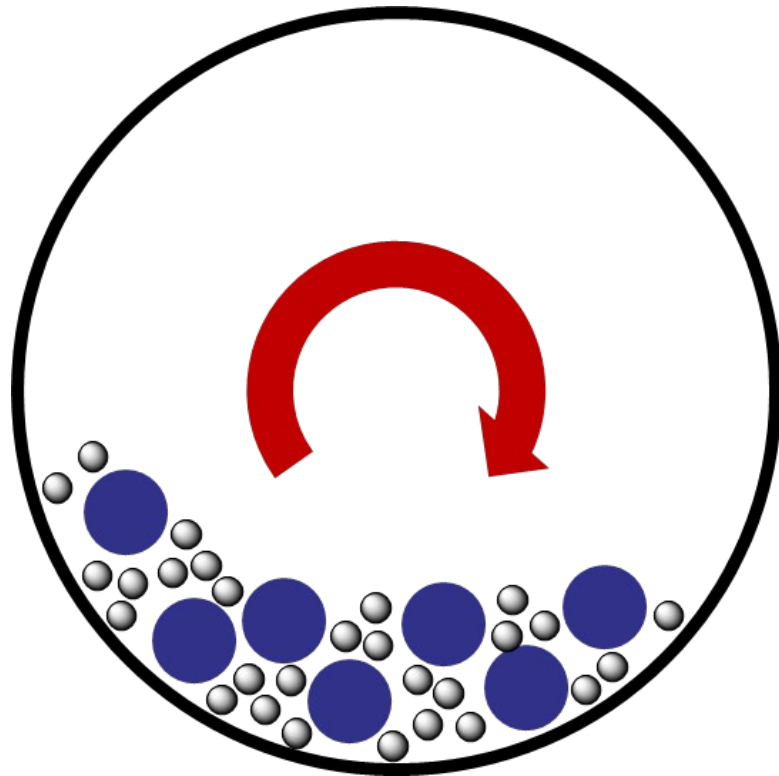


*Vogel et al. 2026*

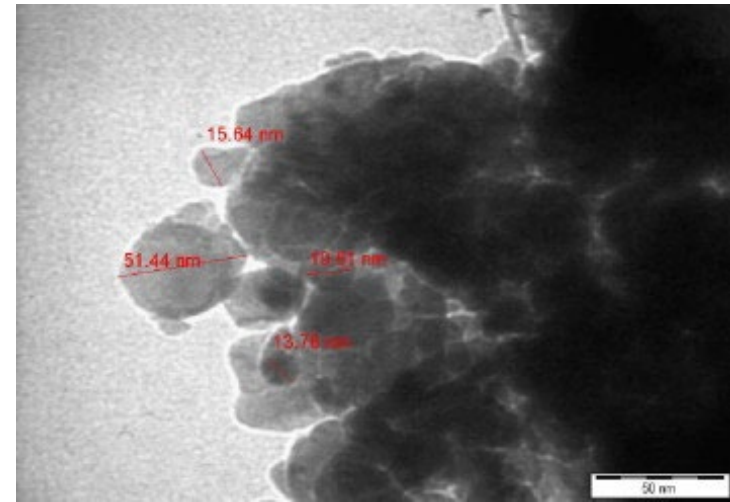
# Magnetic Cores Synthesis



# Ball Milling



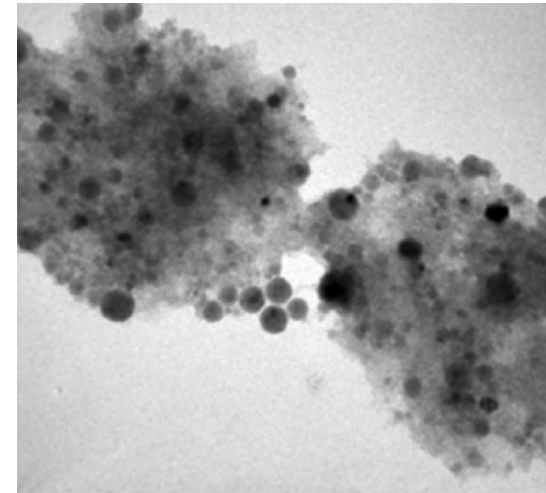
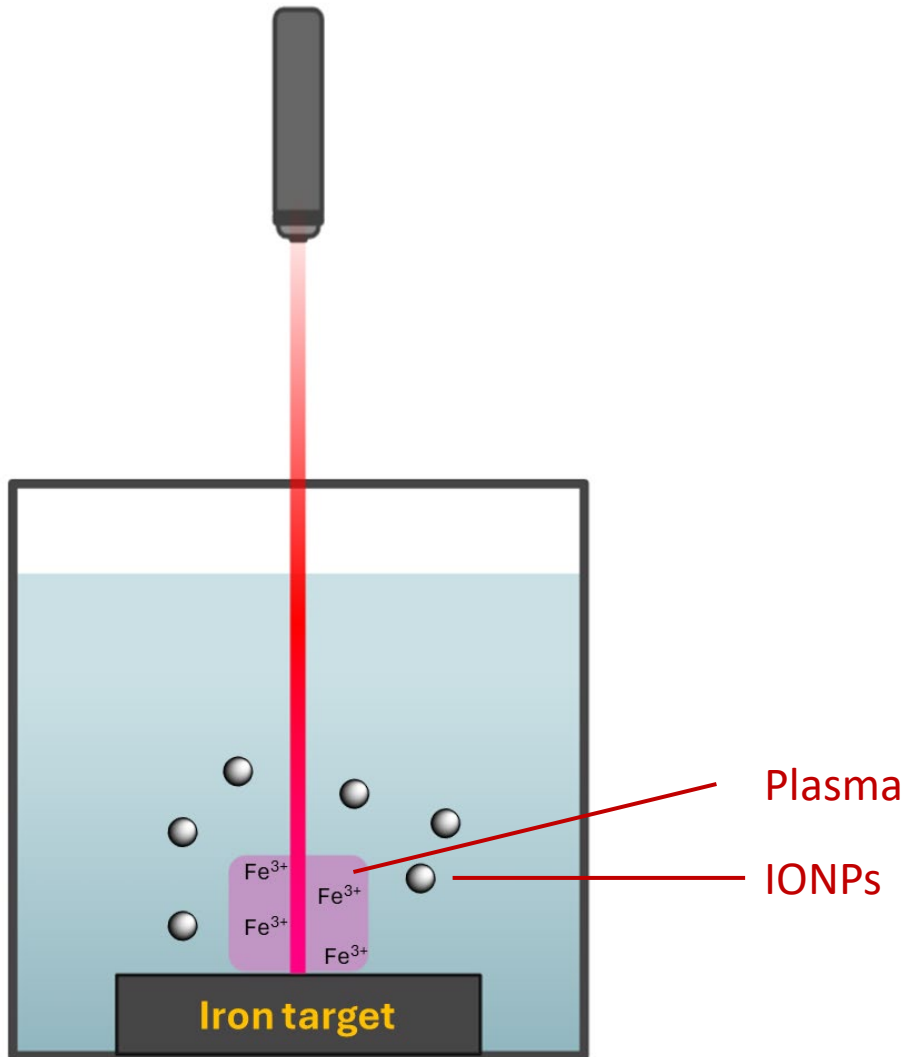
IONPs in powder mainly for material industry



Arbain *et al.* 2011, Minerals Engineering

- High production rate
- Simple
- Green
- Material easy to obtain
  
- Little control over shape
- Particle aggregation
- Amorphisation

# Laser Ablation



JEOL 1010 Mag: 200 kx 100 nm

Ramirez *et al.* 2025, Scientific Reports

Spherical particles  
Diameter: 30 - 40 nm

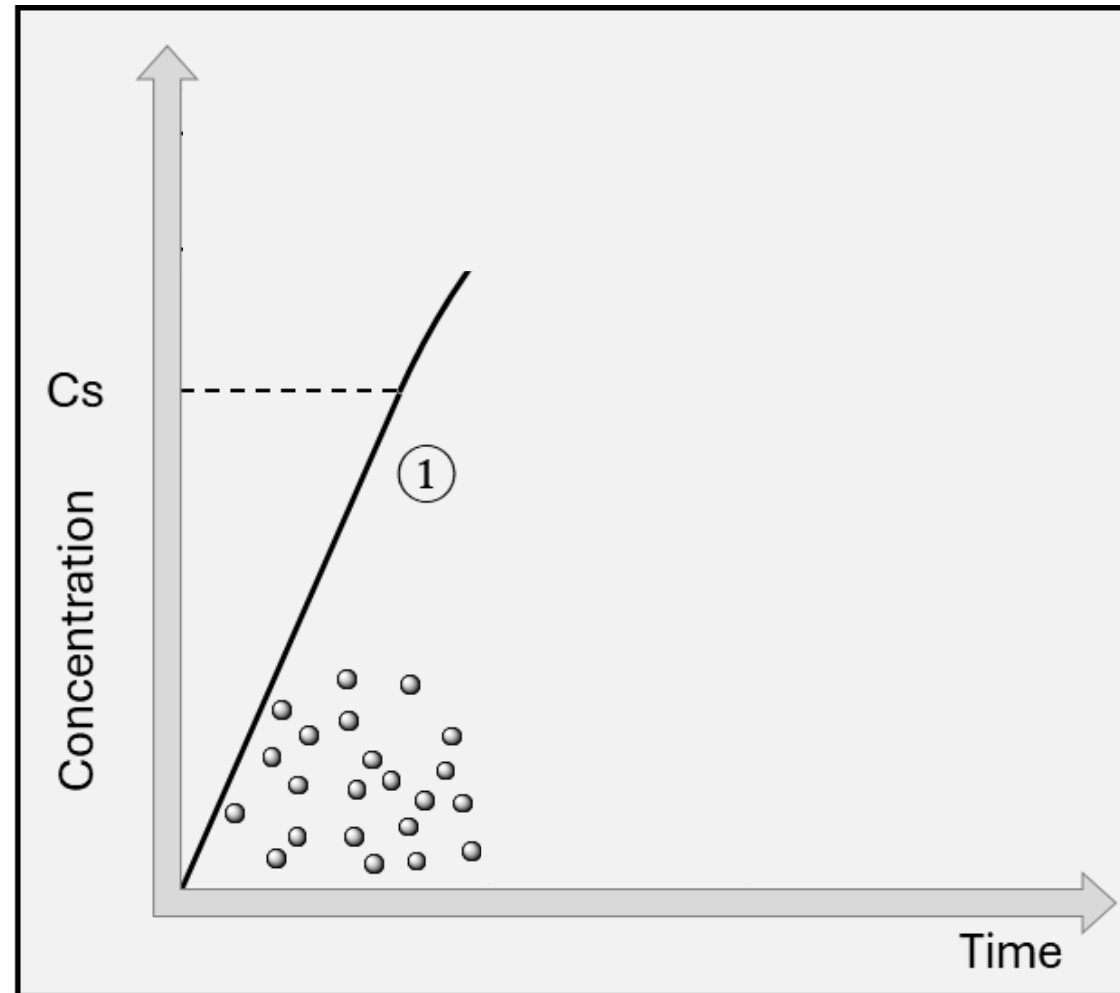


- Great purity
- No ligand or salt
- Control over phase and size



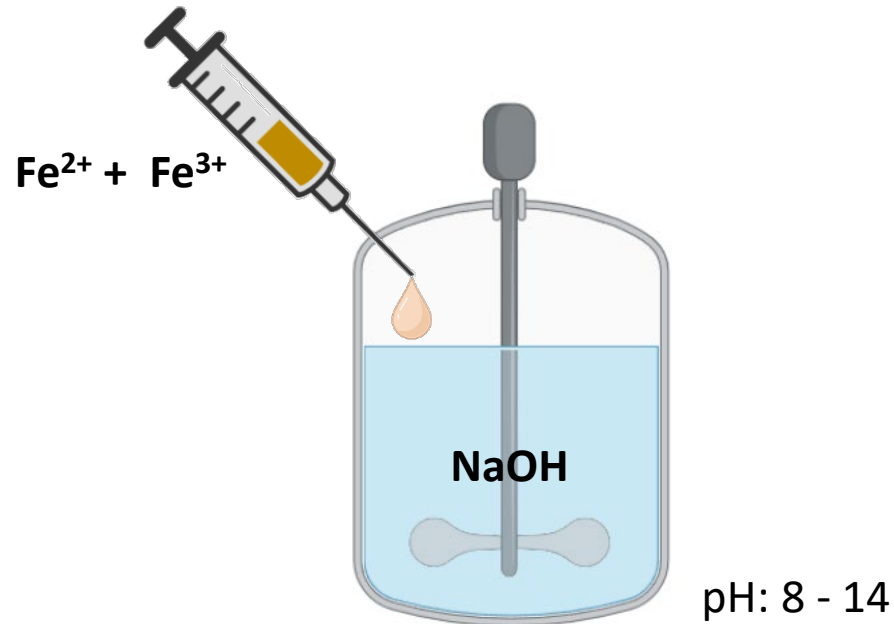
- Sensible to little variation
- Short synthesis
- Not scalable

# Bottom-up Syntheses: LaMer's Model



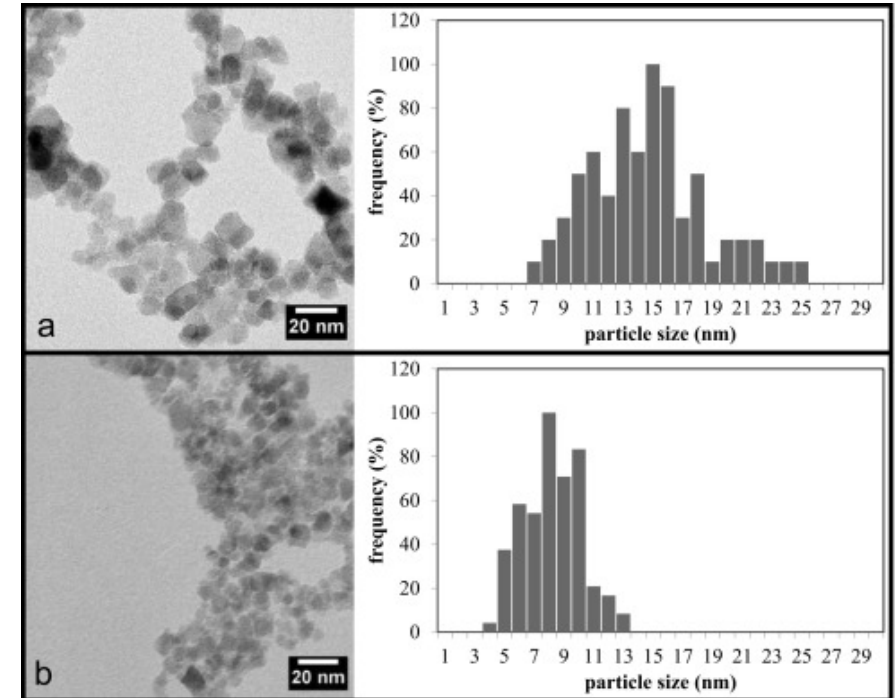
1. Monomers in solution
2. Burst nucleation
3. Growth

# Coprecipitation (Massart Process)



- Easy to implement
- High yields
- Scalable
- Low temperature

**Commercialised particles:  
Sinerem<sup>®</sup> and Endorem<sup>®</sup>**



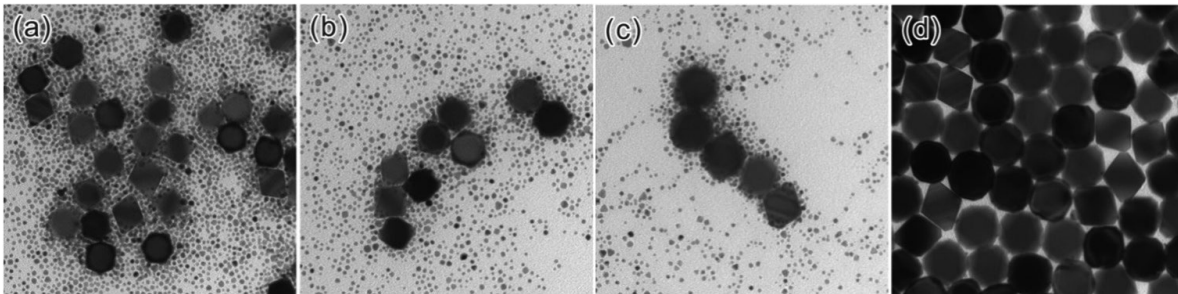
Roth *et al.* 2014, Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials

- Diameter: 3 - 30 nm
- High polydispersity
- Low crystallinity

# Coprecipitation

- Precursor concentration  $\nearrow$   $\rightarrow$  Size  $\nearrow$
- $[\text{OH}^-] / [\text{Fe}] \rightarrow 1.4:1$  Optimal magnetisation
- $[\text{Fe}^{3+}] / [\text{Fe}^{2+}] \searrow \rightarrow$  Magnetisation  $\nearrow$
- $T^\circ \nearrow \rightarrow$  Crystallinity and size  $\nearrow$

## Ostwald Ripening

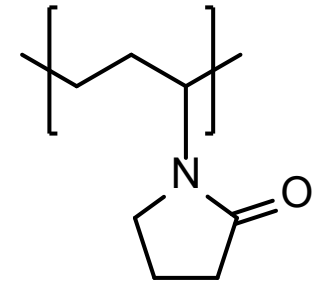


Time  $\rightarrow$

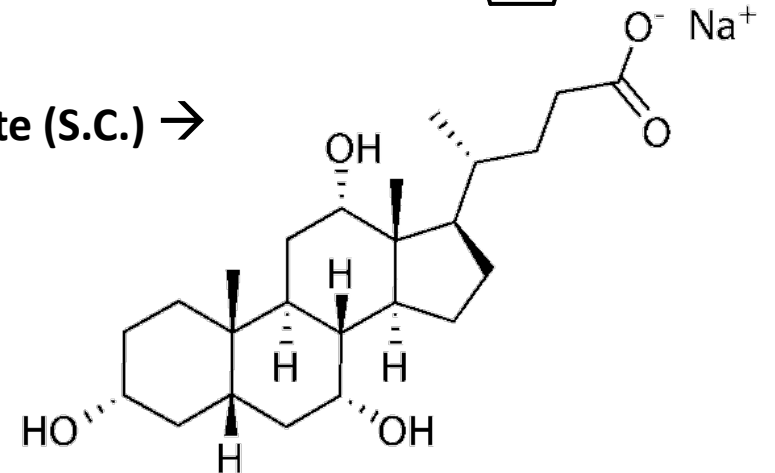
Maria Filippousi *et al.* (2014)

Surfactant effect on magnetic properties

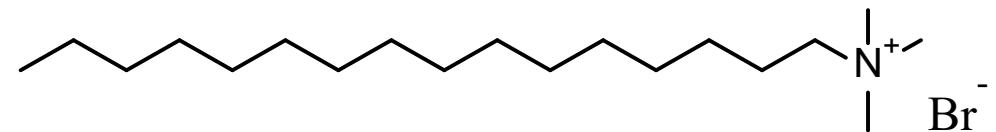
- **Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP)**  
 $\rightarrow$  Non-ionic



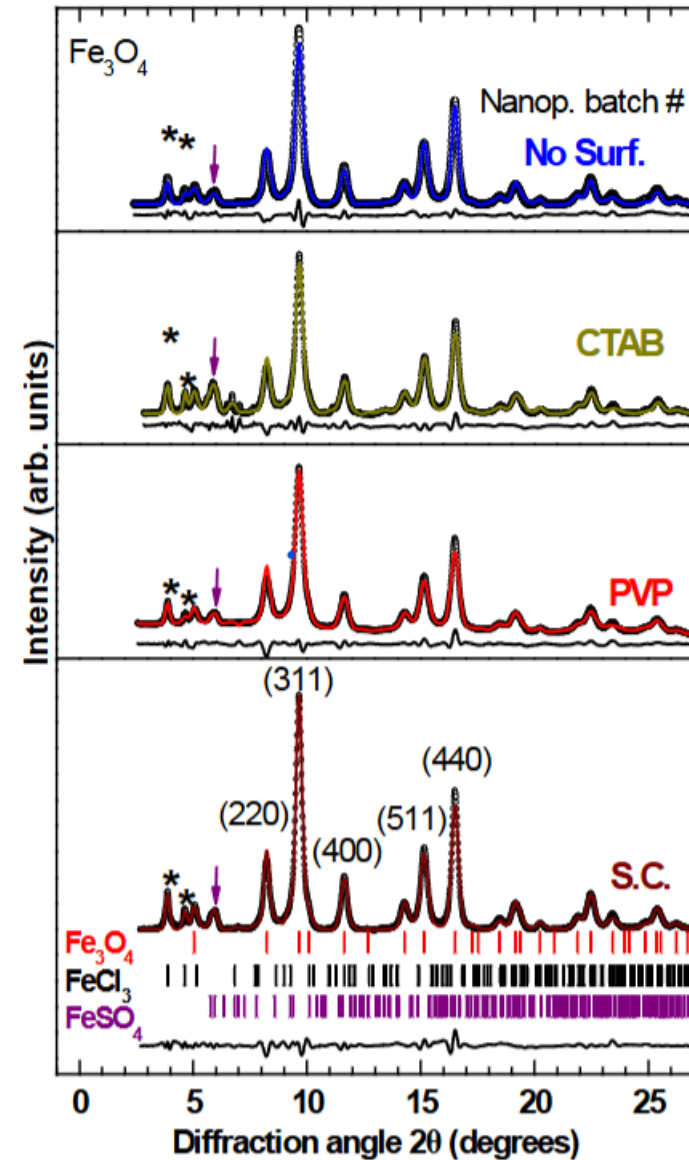
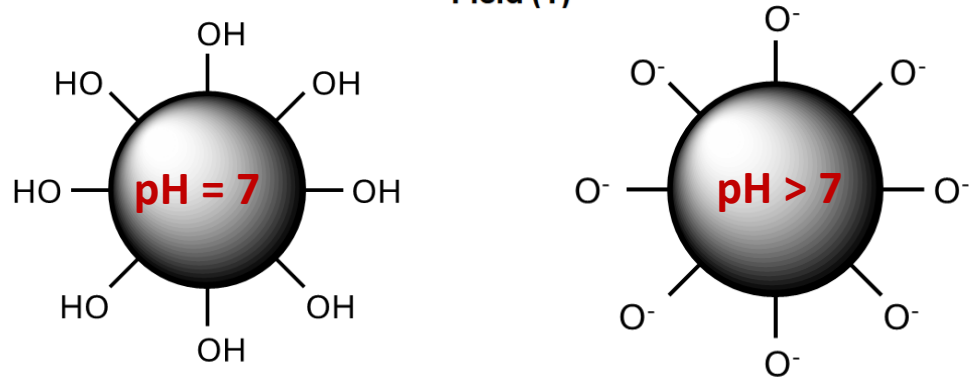
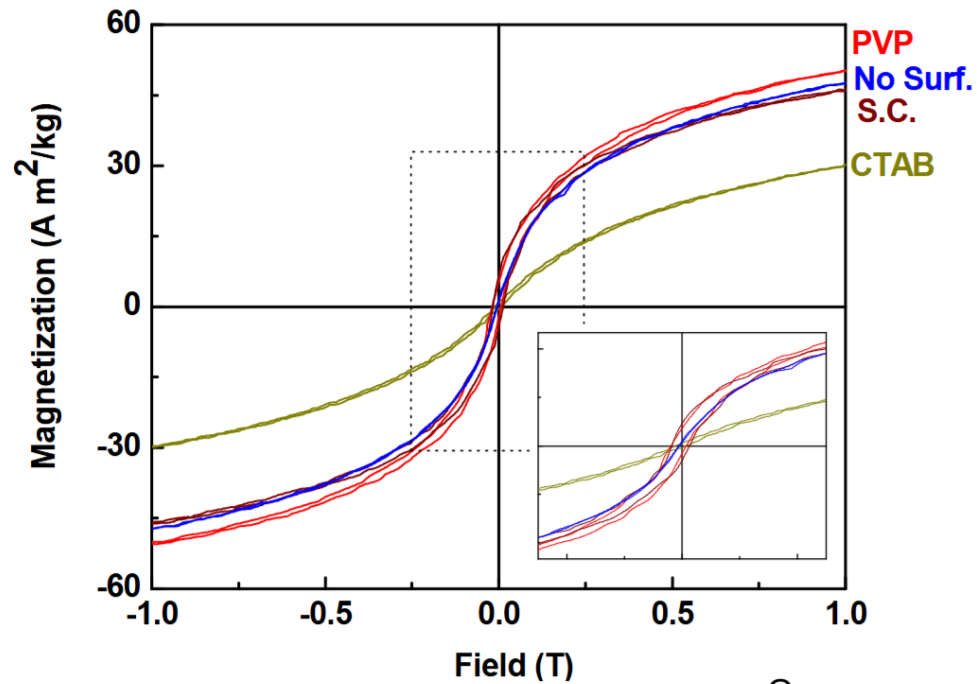
- **Sodium cholate (S.C.)**  $\rightarrow$   
Anionic



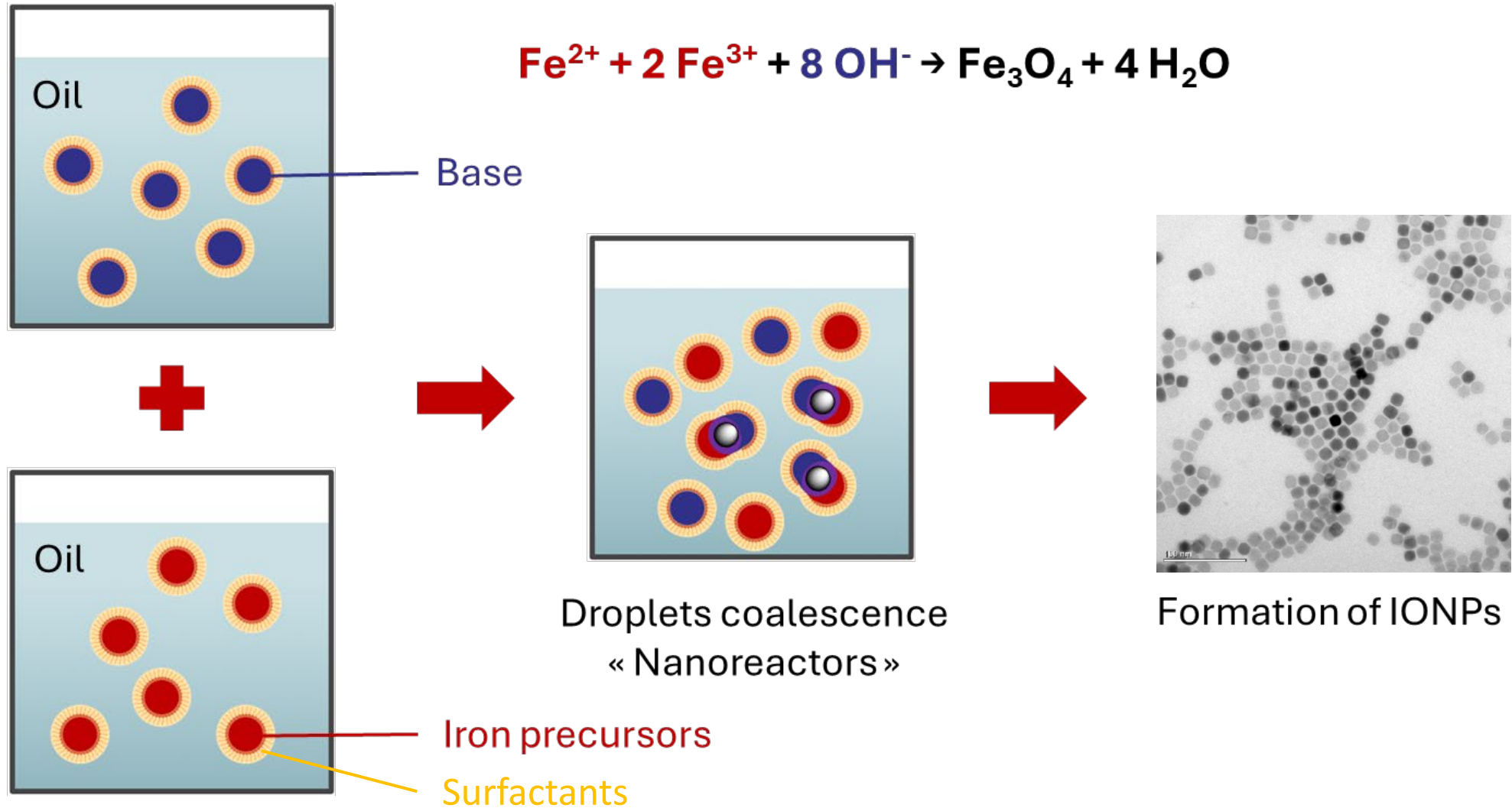
- **Cetrimonium bromide (CTAB)**  
 $\rightarrow$  Cationic



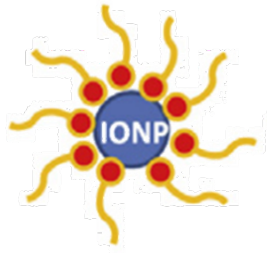
# Coprecipitation



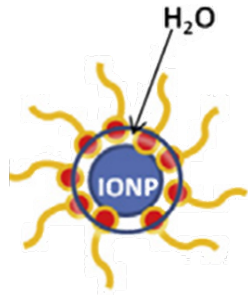
# Microemulsion



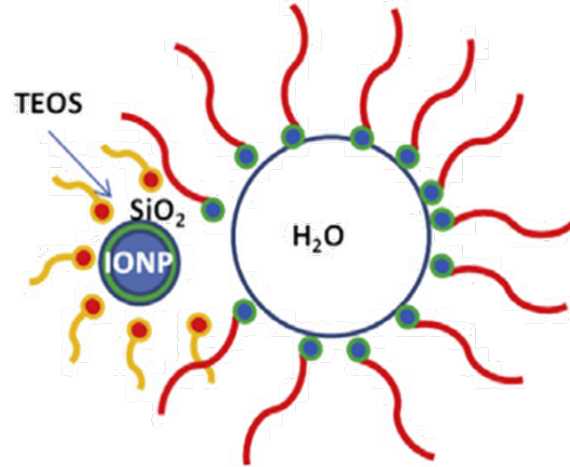
# Microemulsion



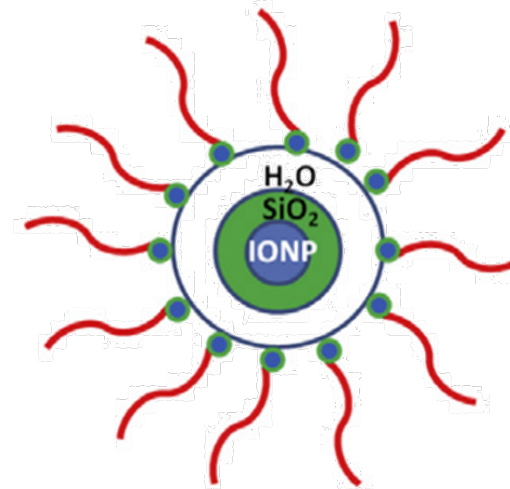
IONPs dispersed in cyclohexane



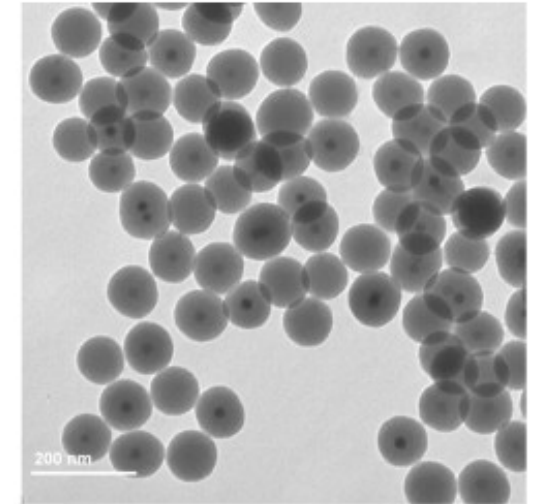
Addition of ammonia and TEOS



Phase transfert



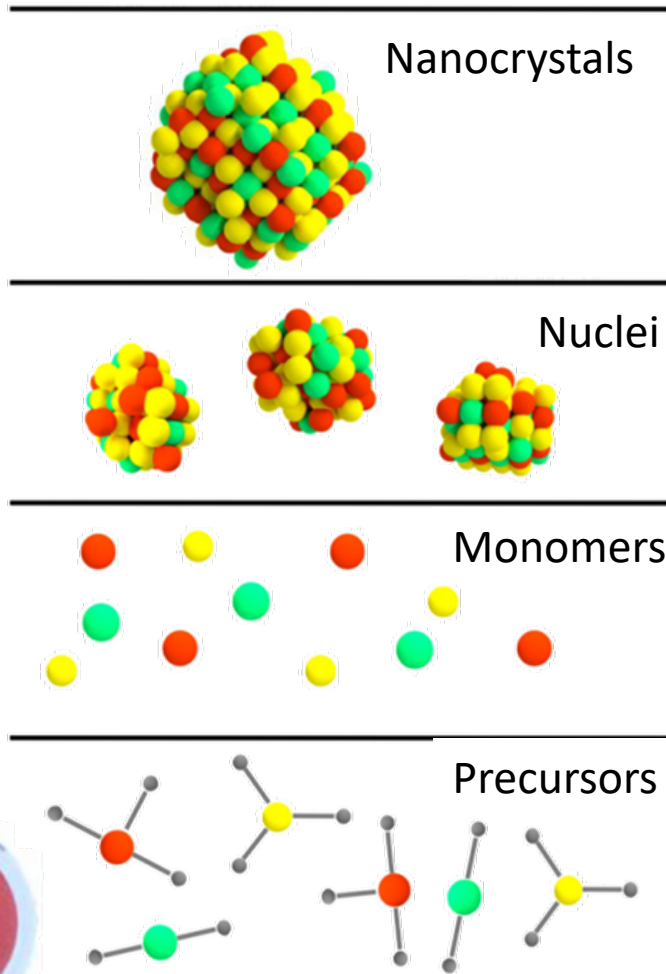
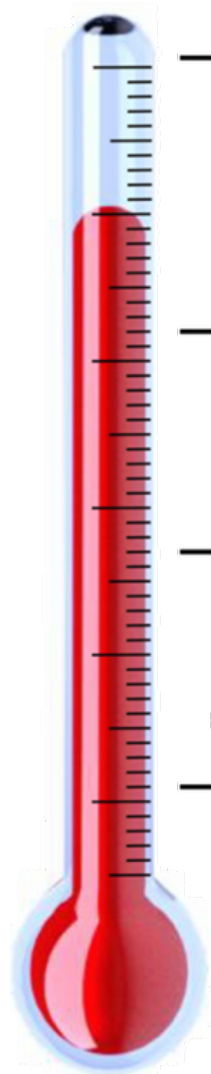
Growth of the silica shell



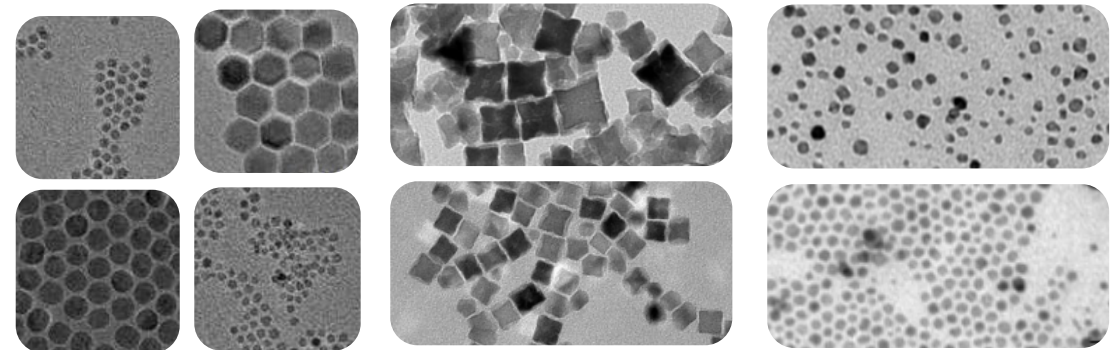
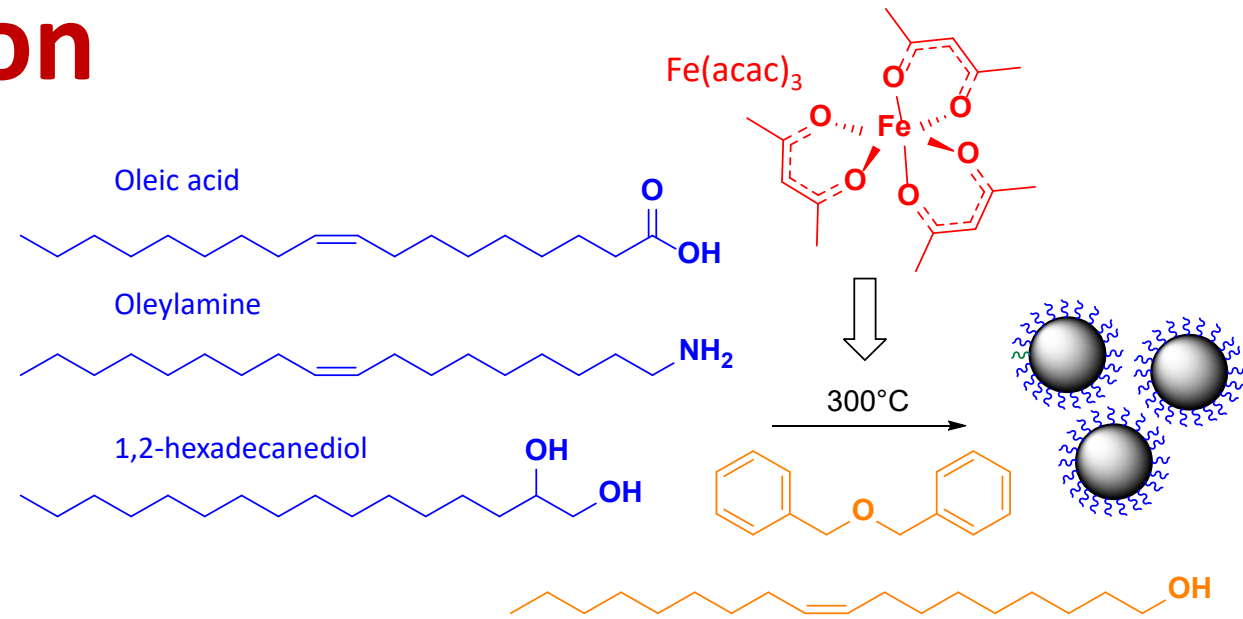
- Precise size control
- Narrow distribution
- Core-shell structure achievable

- High quantity of organic solvent
- Difficult to purify
- Reduced yield
- Not scalable

# Thermal Decomposition



Van Embden et al. 2015  
Chemistry of Materials



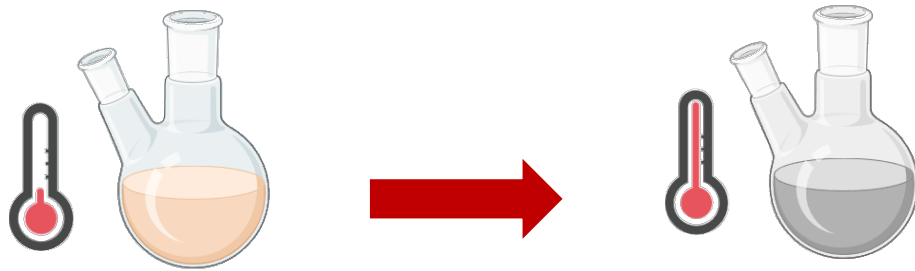
Baaziz et al. 2015  
J. Phys. Chem C

Guardia et al. 2010  
Langmuir

Belaïd et al. 2018  
Nanotechnology

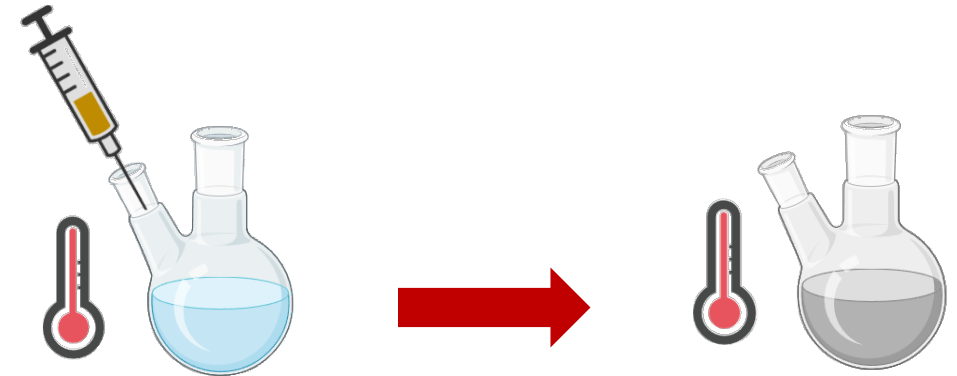


# Heat-up vs Hot Injection



## Slow Heating

- Easy and safe to implement
- Reproducible
- Versatility



## Rapid injection

- Nucleation and growth separated
- Greater control over size
- Monodisperse particles



- Size and shape control
- Low size distribution
- High crystallinity and magnetisation
- Mixed ferrites



- High temperature → Risks
- Hydrophobic particles
- More purifications steps
- More solvent

# Comparison

## Co-precipitation

- High quantity
- Easy set-up
- Low crystallinity
- High polydispersity

## Microemulsion

- Specific small size
- Core/shell structure
- Small yields
- Large amount of solvents

## Thermal decomposition

- High crystallinity
- Variety of particles
- High temperature → Risks
- Hydrophobic particles

### Other methods

➤ Sol-gel

➤ Sonolysis

➤ Electrochemistry

➤ Vapor

➤ ...

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# Magnetic Particles: Synthesis and Functionalisation

## Part 2: Stabilisation and Functionalisation

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# Particle Stability

IONPs are innately instable

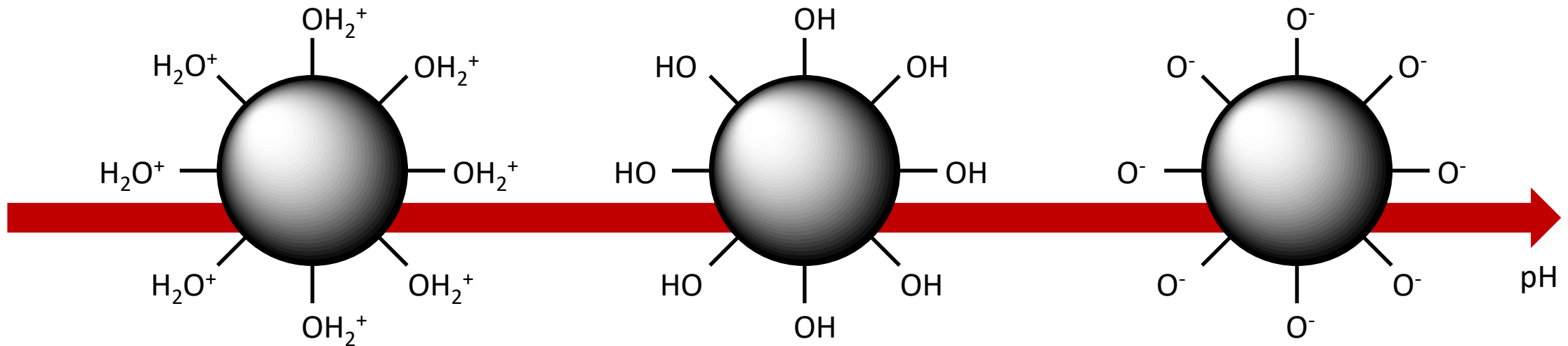
- High surface to volume ratio
- Van Der Waals forces
- Magnetic dipole interaction



➔ Aggregation and precipitation



Depends on pH and ionic strength



# Particle Stabilisation

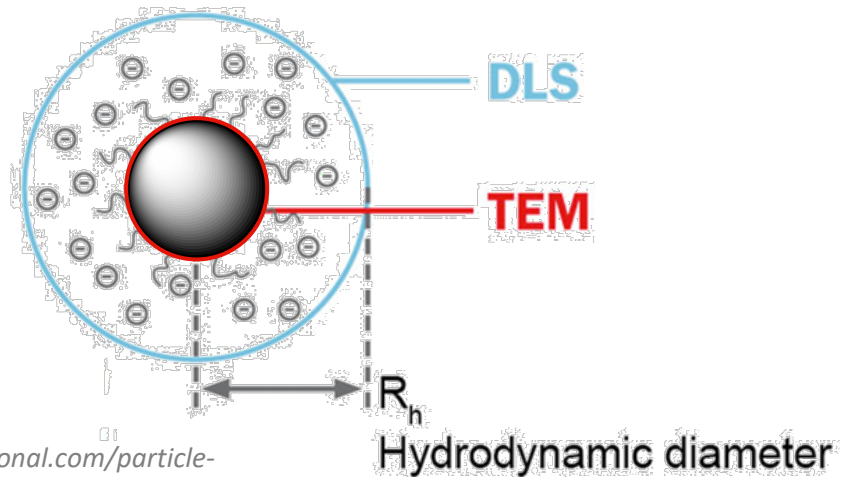
Prevent aggregation

Reduce oxidation

➔ Preservation of the magnetic properties

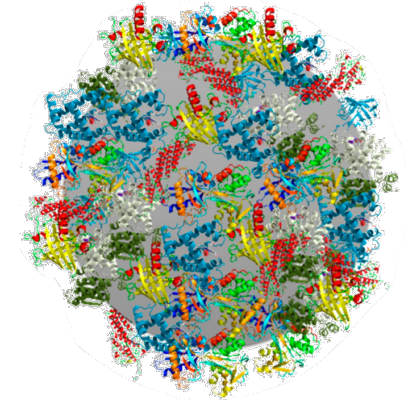
Control of the hydrodynamic diameter

➔ Diameter perceived by cells

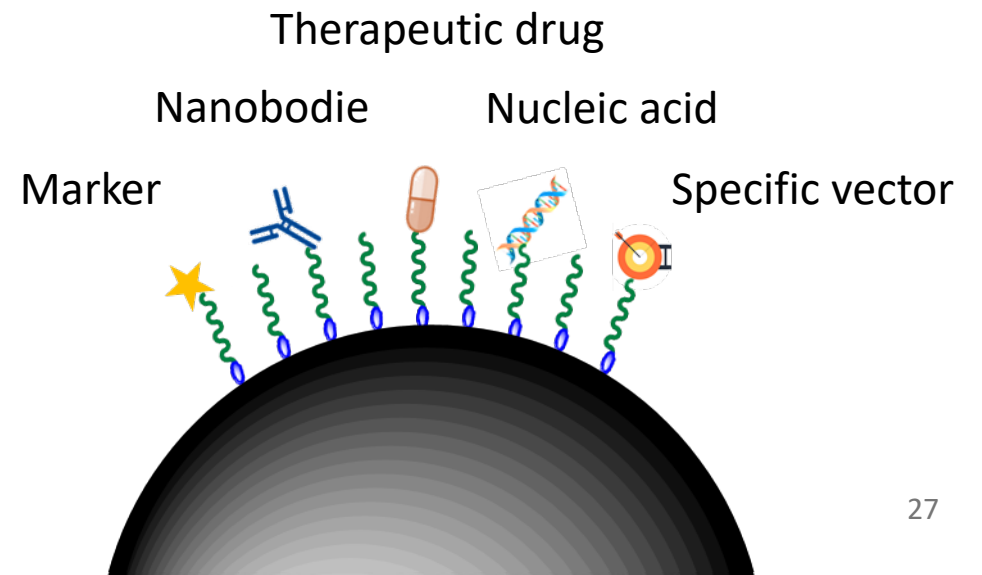


Stealth

➔ Prevent opsonisation and immune system recognition



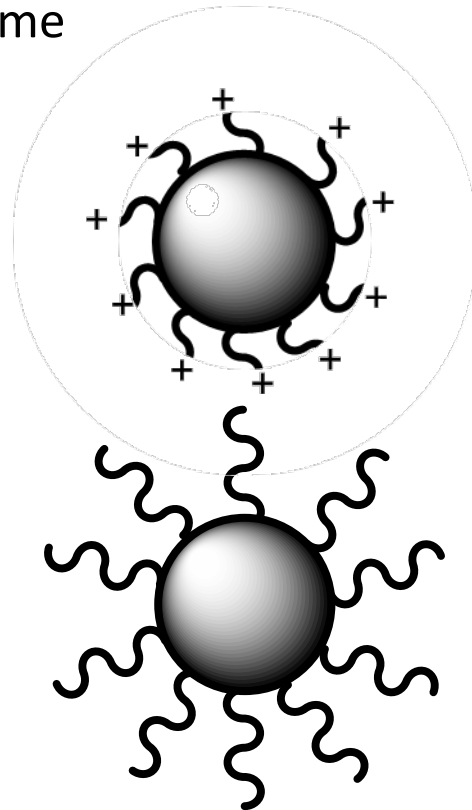
Basis for functionalisation



# Stabilisation Methods

## Ligand Addition

- Easy to implement
- Increase circulation time

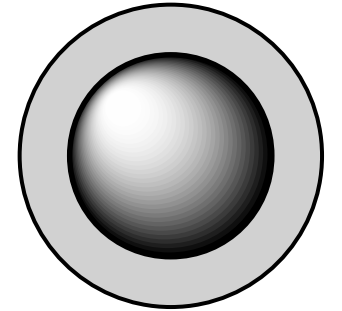


Electrostatic repulsion

Steric repulsion

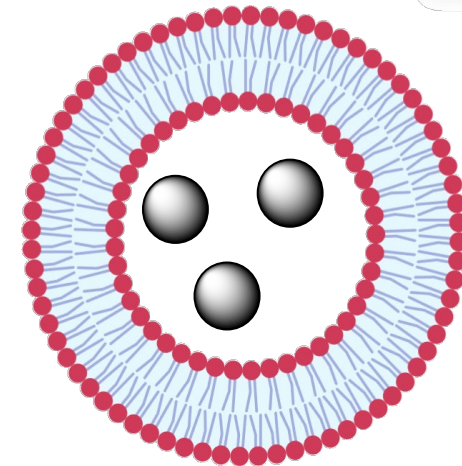
## Inorganic coating

- Protect iron oxide core
- Gold or silica



## Encapsulation

- Liposomes or micelles
- Complex nanocarriers
- High drug loading potential

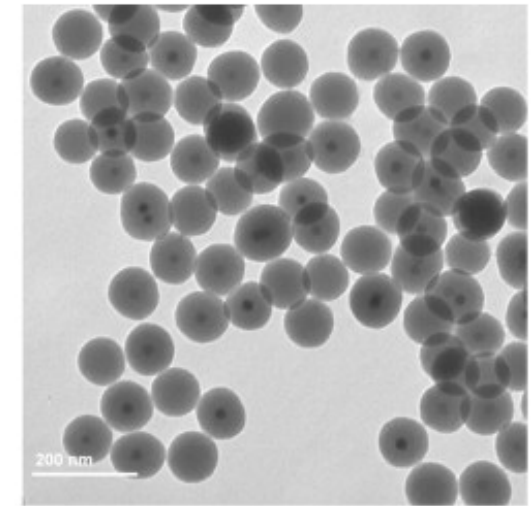
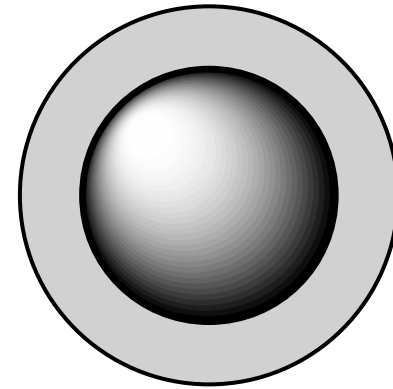
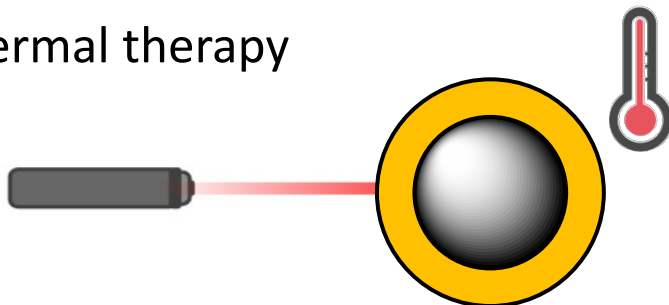


# Core-Shell Structure

- Protective layer for the iron oxide core
- Surface easy to modify
- Obtained by microemulsion
- Hinder water access

## Gold ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@Au$ )

- ROS formation  $\rightarrow$  reduced toxicity
- Plasmonic resonance
- Photothermal therapy



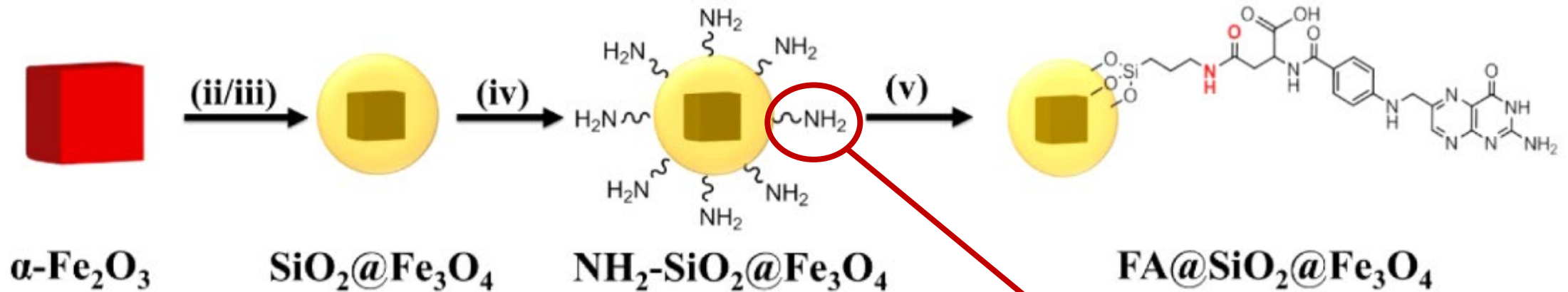
Jiang et al. 2012  
Journal of Alloys and Compounds

## Silica ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@SiO_2$ )

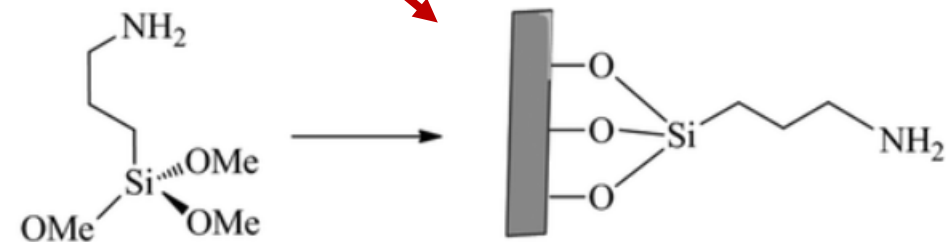
- Mostly inert in the body
- Possibility to design complex nanocarriers
- **Ferumoxsil®**: Oral administration of MRI contrast agent for bowel imaging.

# Core-shell Structure

- Grafting of folic acid (FA) as a targeting agent for cancer cells



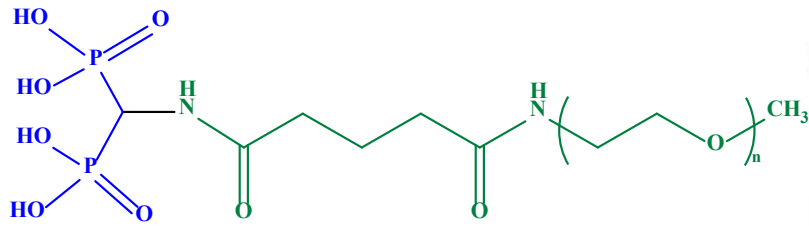
- Iron oxide as MRI contrast agent
- Silica shell:
  - Prevent aggregation
  - Increase colloidal stability
  - Tunable surface



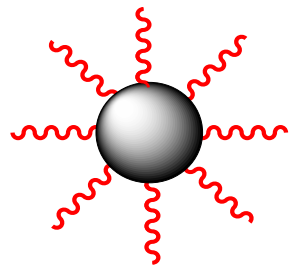
(3-aminopropyl)trimethoxysilane (APTMS)



# Ligand Exchange Protocol



Hydrophilic ligand (BP-mPEG)



Oleic acid covered particle (hydrophobic)

Ligand BP-mPEG (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)



IONPs (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)



Agitation N<sub>2</sub>, r.t.

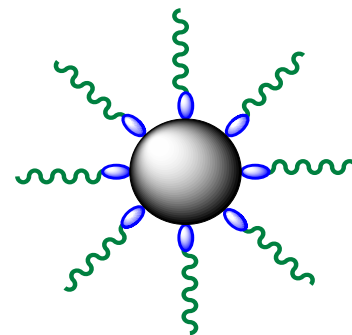


1. MeOH  
2. Extraction ether (3x)

Hydrophobic ligand



Water dispersion

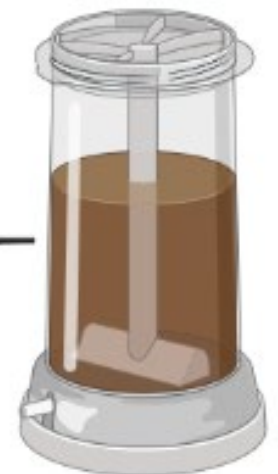


Hydrophilic particle



UF

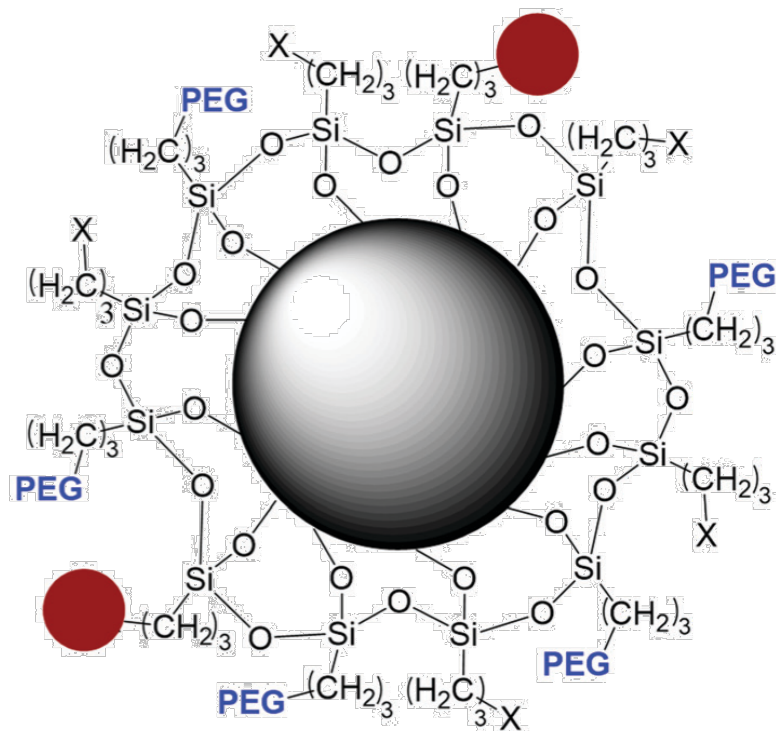
Excess of ligand (BP-mPEG)



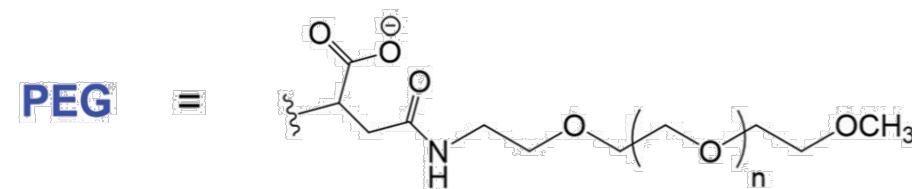
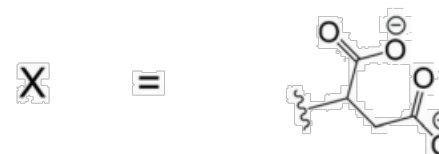
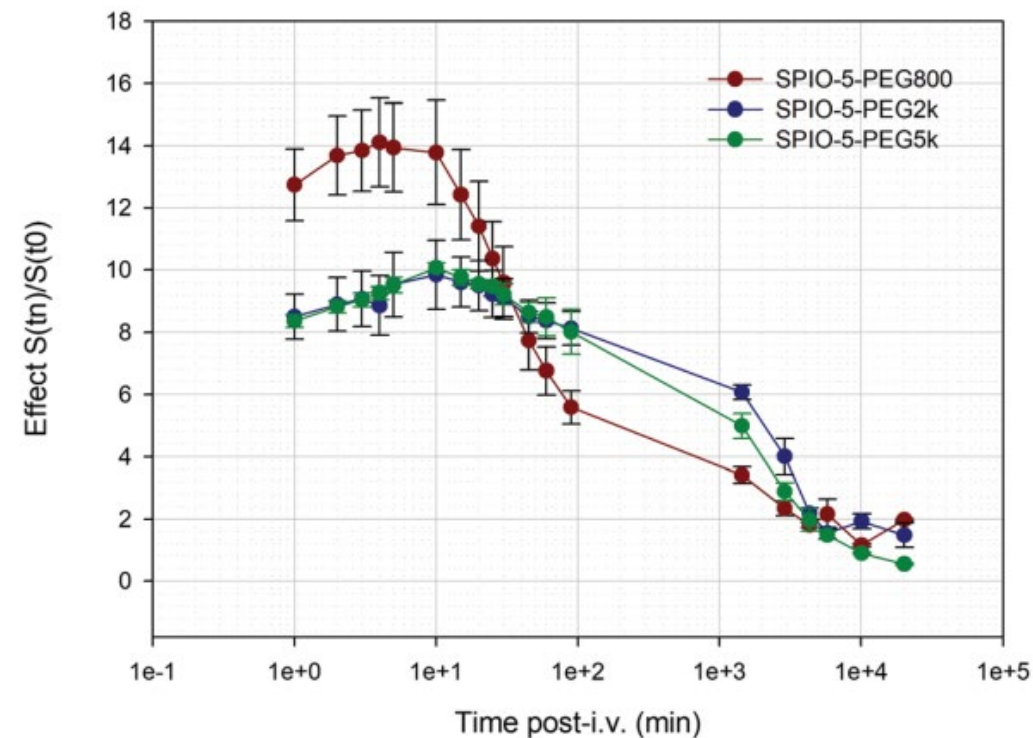
# PEG Coating

Circulation time is a key parameter

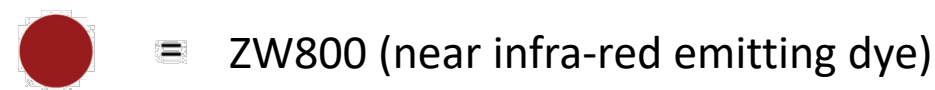
→ Influenced by the length of the PEG chain



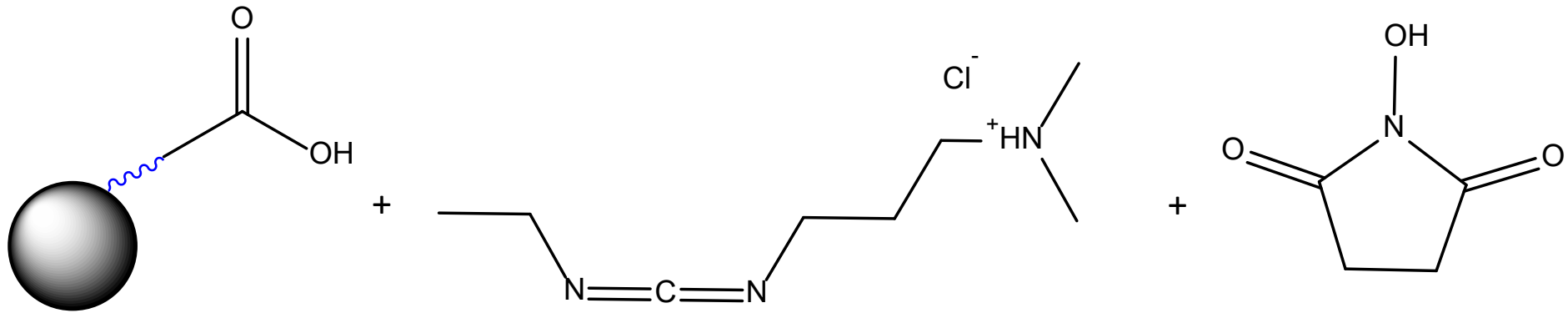
Bimodal IONPs: MRI and fluorescence imaging



With  $n \sim 18, 45$  or  $113$

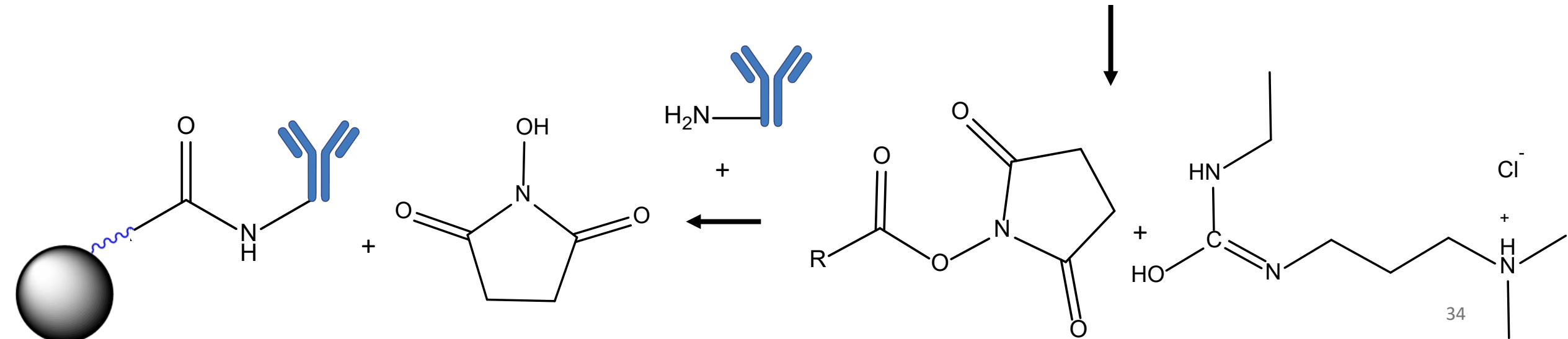


# EDC/NHS Coupling

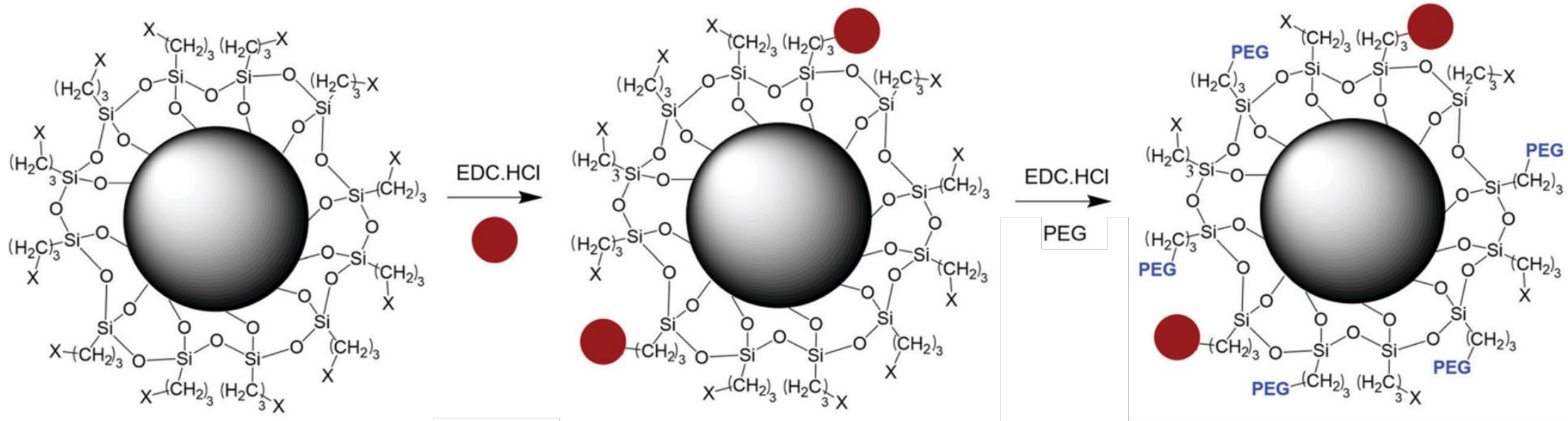


1-Ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide  
(EDC)

N-Hydroxysuccinimide  
(NHS)

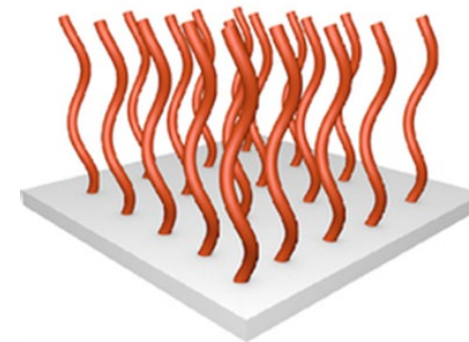


# EDC/NHS Coupling

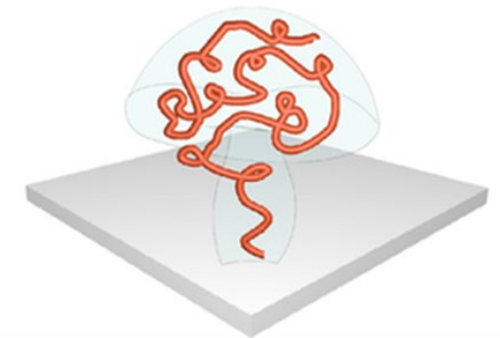


## EDC/NHS Coupling

- Easy to implement
- Work on almost every primary amine
- Poor selectivity → Potential side reaction
- Need of carboxylic acid groups



Brush



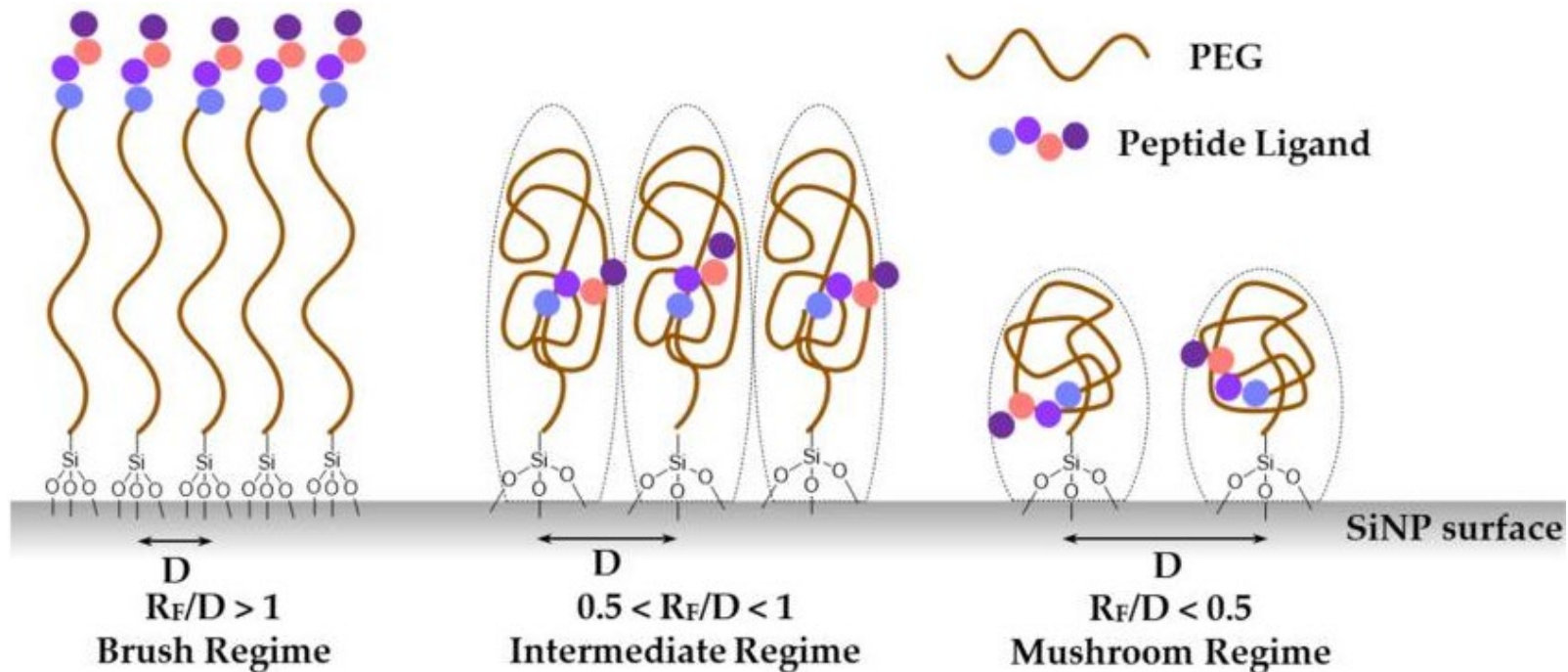
Mushroom

# Vector Location

## Conformational regime

- Density of grating  $\rightarrow$  Distance between anchoring point (D)
- Length of the polymer  $\rightarrow$  Length of the monomer ( $\alpha$ )  $\times$  degree of polymerization (N)

$\rightarrow$  Flory radius :  $R_f = \alpha \times N^{3/5}$

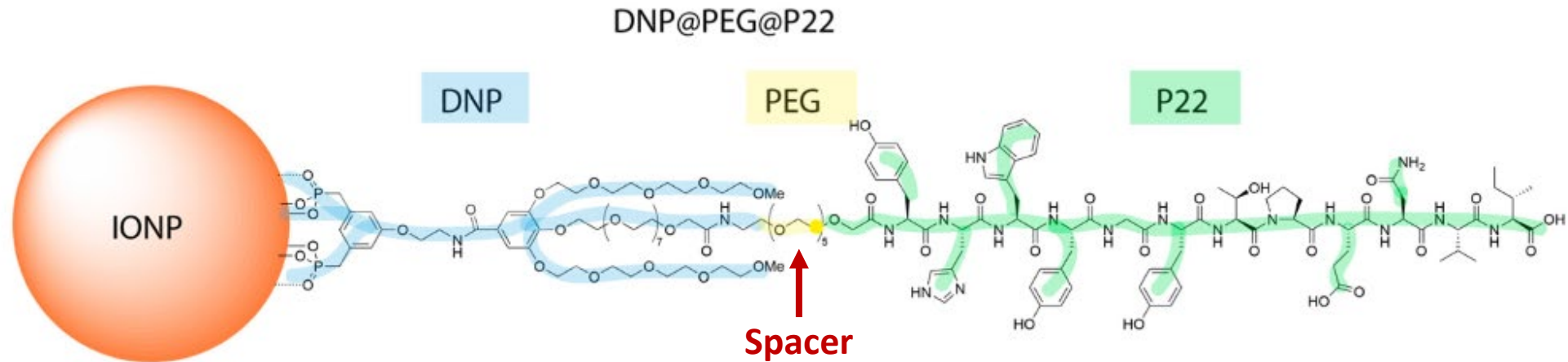


Vector can be buried into  
the polymer layer



Reduction of availability

# Addition of Spacers



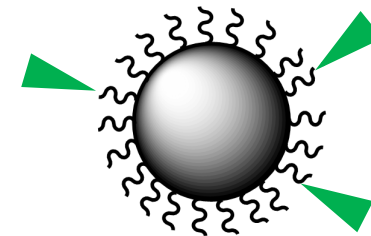
Nano-object for photothermal therapy of breast cancer

Without spacer: internalisation  $\sim$  5% - 7%

Addition of spacer: prevention of peptide burying  
➔ Increase of the internalisation

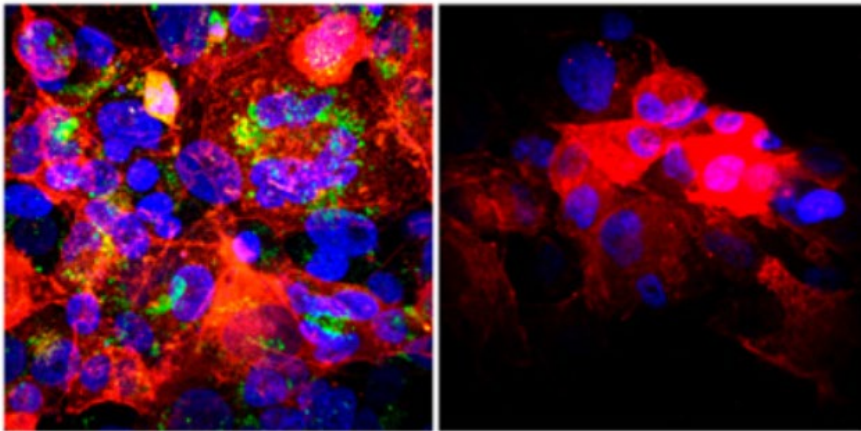
Coupled by EDC/NHS

DNP-COOH + NH<sub>2</sub>-PEG(6)-P22



# Addition of Spacers

## Confocal microscopy



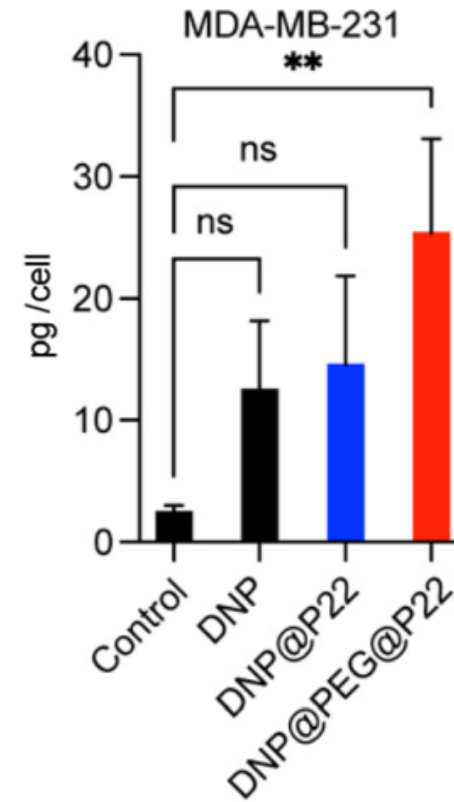
DNP@PEG@P22

DNP

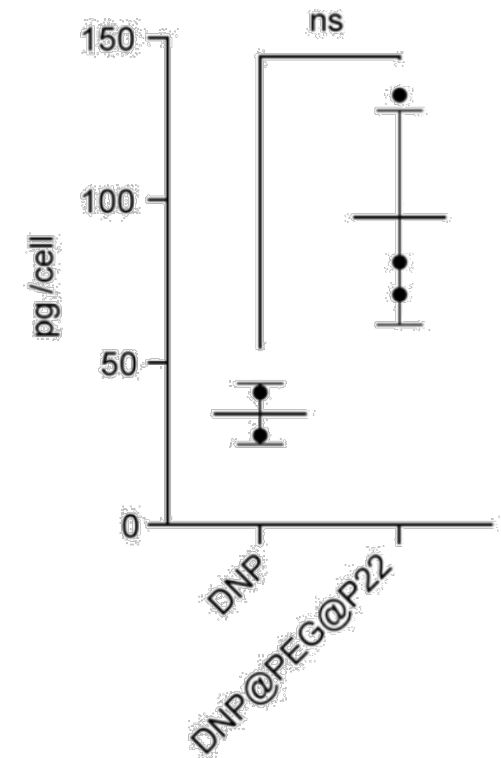
- Dapi: Nuclei
- Alexa Fluor™ 532 Phalloidin: Actin
- Alexa488: DNPs

## Iron uptake

### Prussian blue staining



### ICP-MS

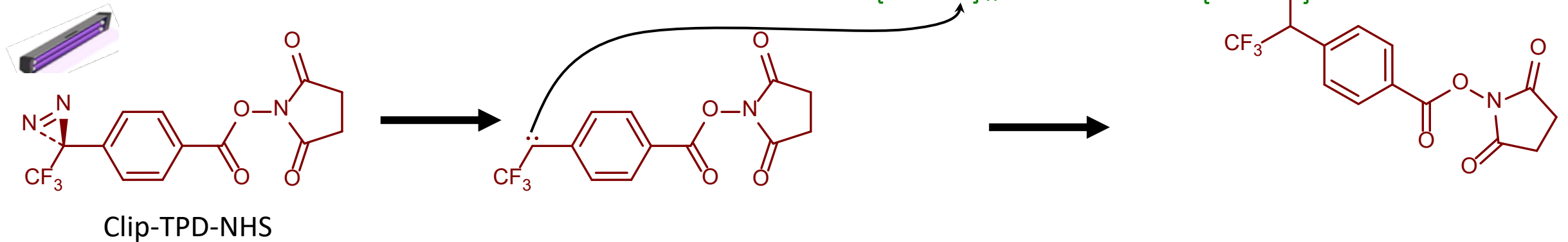


- Iron uptake increased significantly
- IC50 dropped from 16  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  to 6  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$

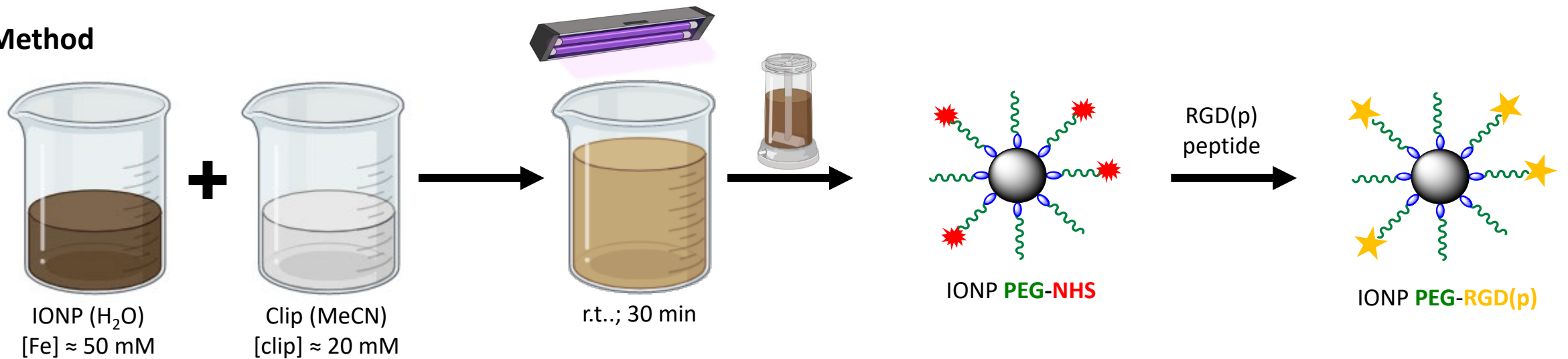
# Photochemistry

## Modification of grafted PEG by photochemistry

→ Target the external corona of the particle

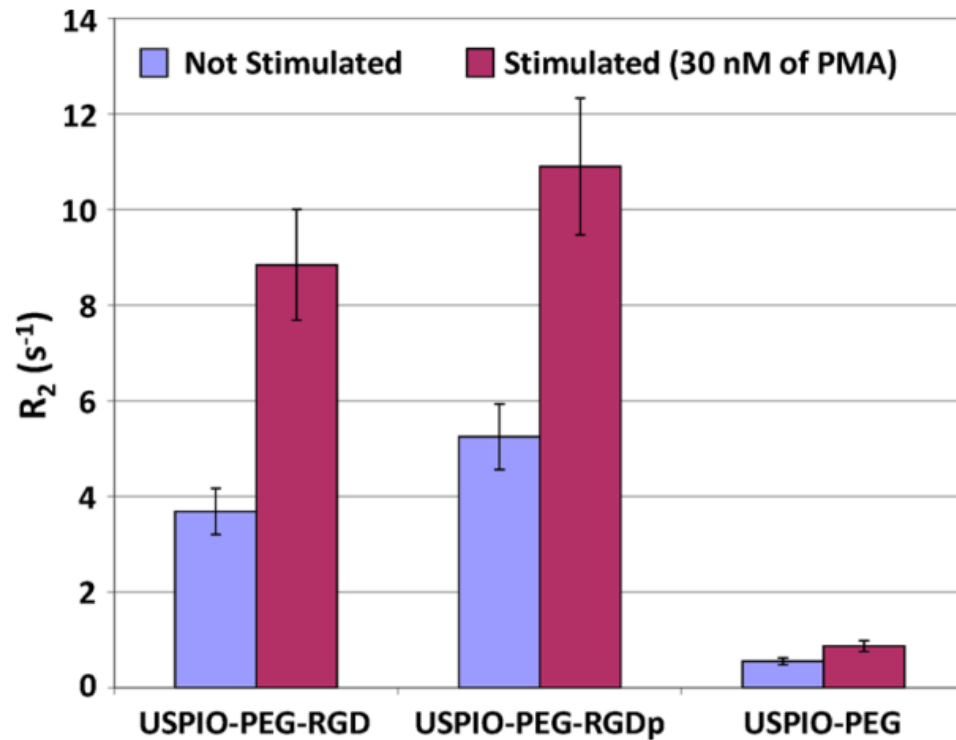


## Method



# Clip Grafting by Photochemistry

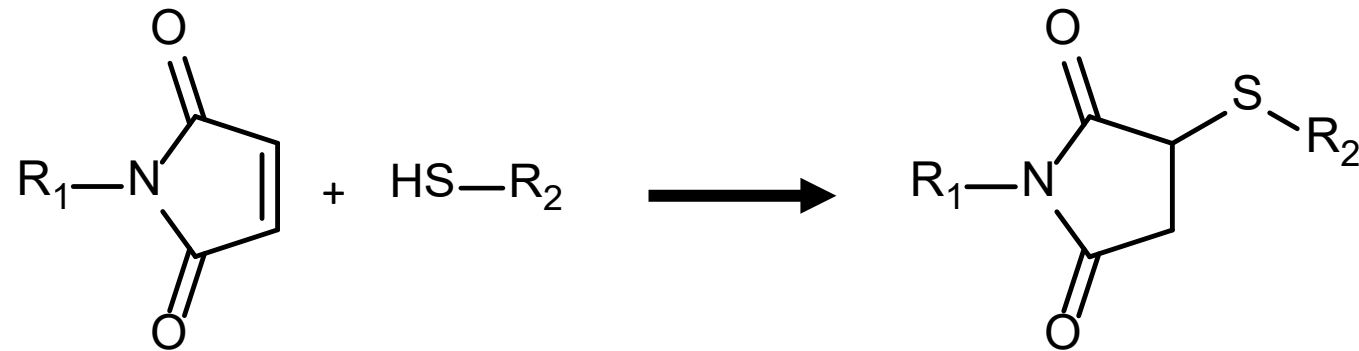
Transverse relaxation time ( $R_2$ ) in Jurkat cells



- Easy set up
- Grafting of a targeting peptide on external corona
- Particles properties are preserved
- Increased cellular internalisation
- Versatile technique: Different reactive groups can be added
- Suitable for different applications

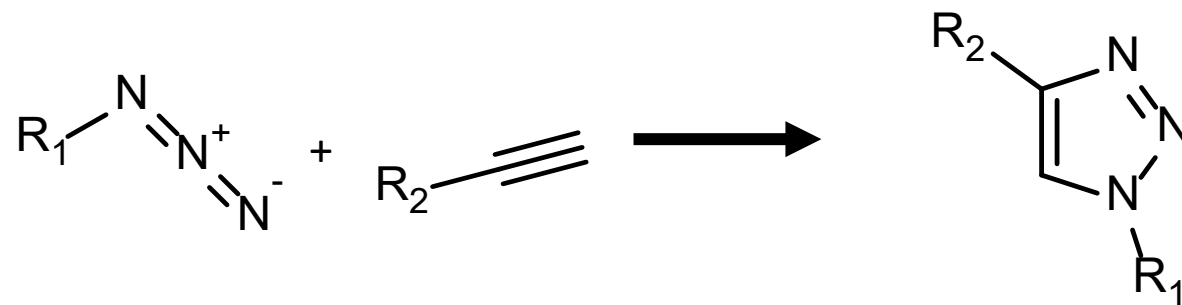
# Other Coupling

## Maleimide/Thiols



- Specificity
- Proteins containing cysteine
- PEG-maleimide

## Click Chemistry

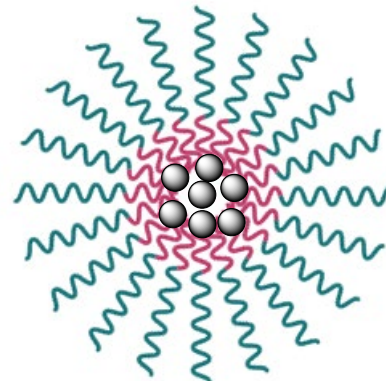


- More specificity
- Modified proteins
- PEG-Azide

# Encapsulation

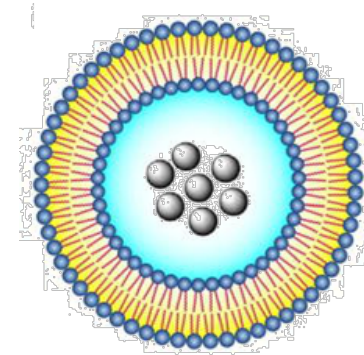
- Work with hydrophilic or hydrophobic particles
- Stealth and prolonged circulation
- Liposomes: Double loading
  - ↳ Particles and drug
- Magnetically controlled delivery
- Same vectorisation methods can be applied

## Micelles

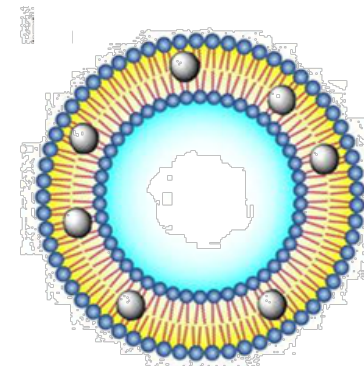


## Liposomes / Polymersomes

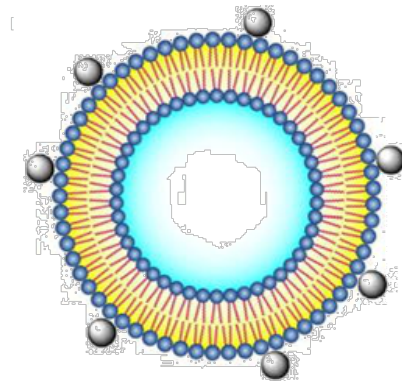
Hydrophilic IONPs  
in aqueous core



Hydrophobic IONPs  
in the organic layer



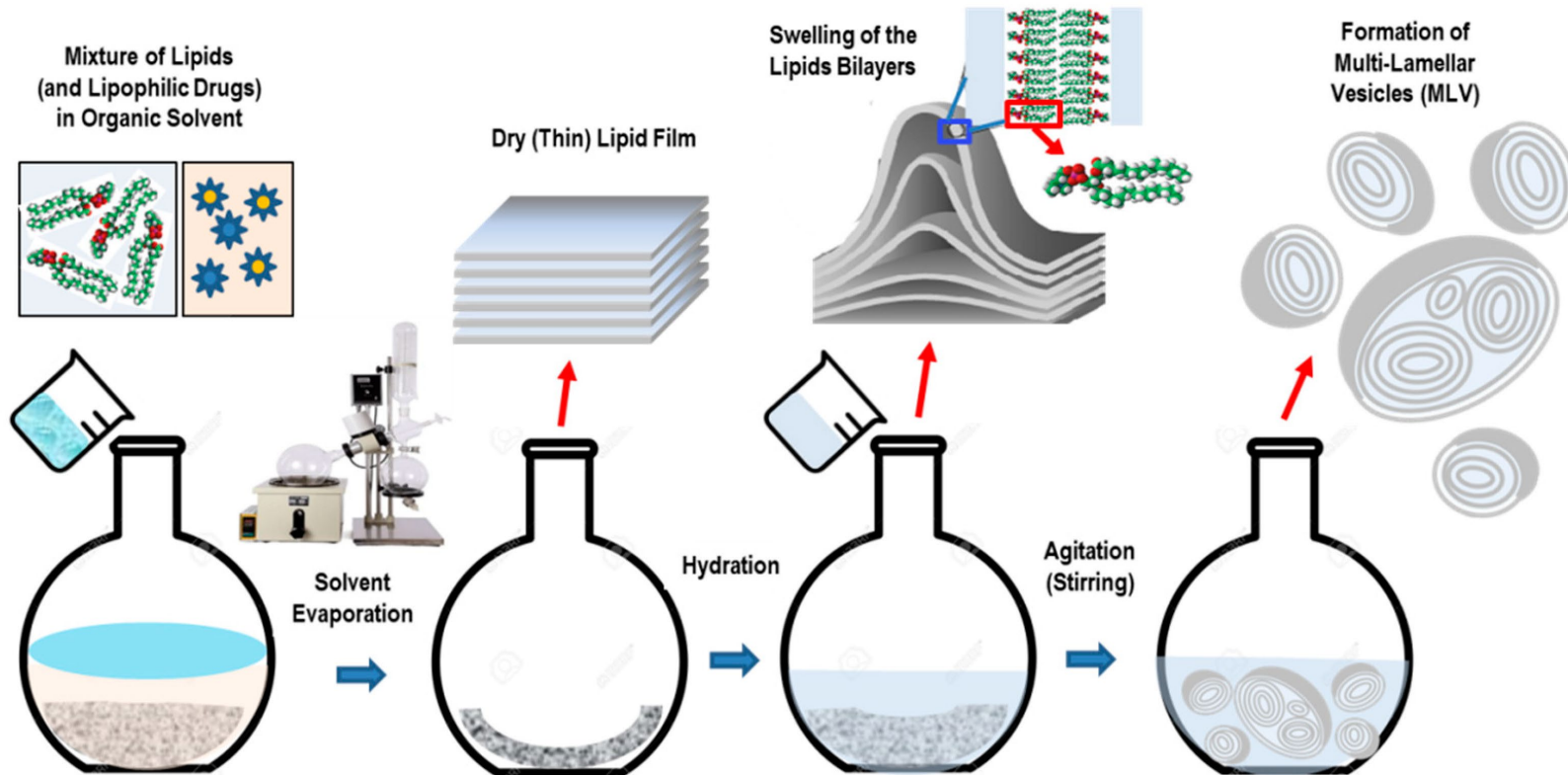
Bonding of IONPs  
on the surface





# Preparation Methods

- Thin film hydration (Bangham method)



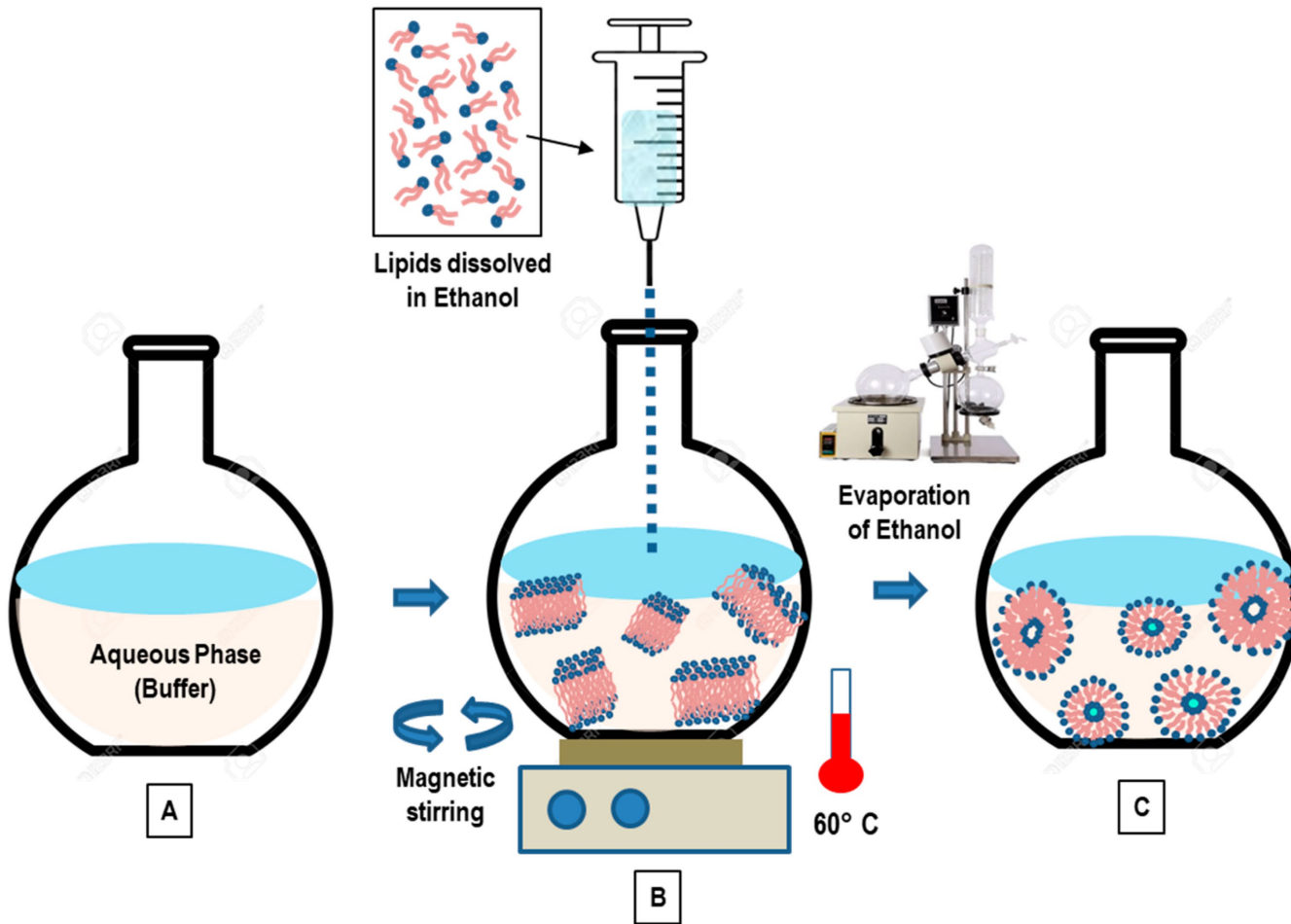
- Simplicity
- Versatility; wide range of compounds
- Suitable for hydrophilic and hydrophobic substances
- Traces of organic solvent
- Low productivity → not scalable
- High polydispersity
- Less efficient for hydrophilic compound encapsulation



# Preparation Methods



- **Ethanol injection**



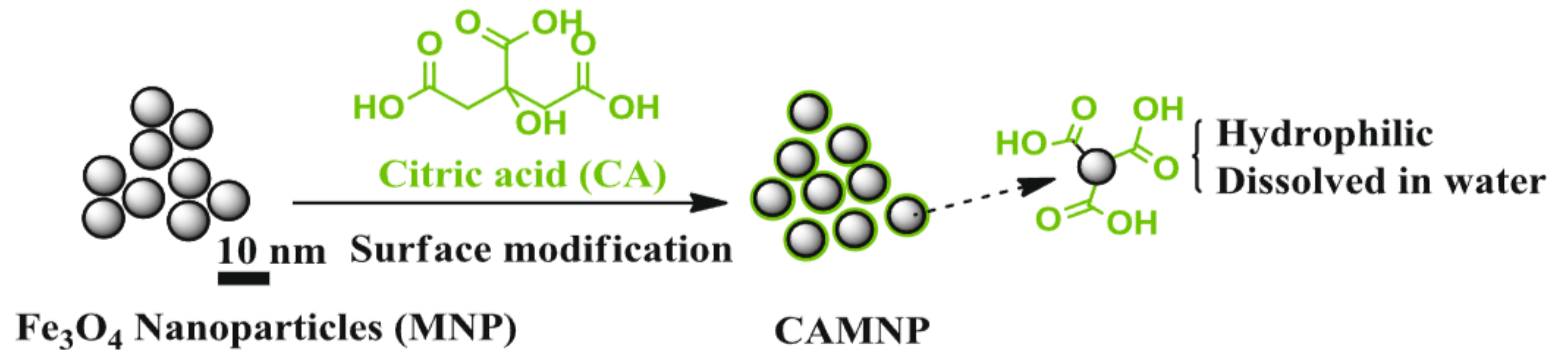
- Fast and reproducible
- Mild solvent
- Scalability
- Unilamellar vesicles



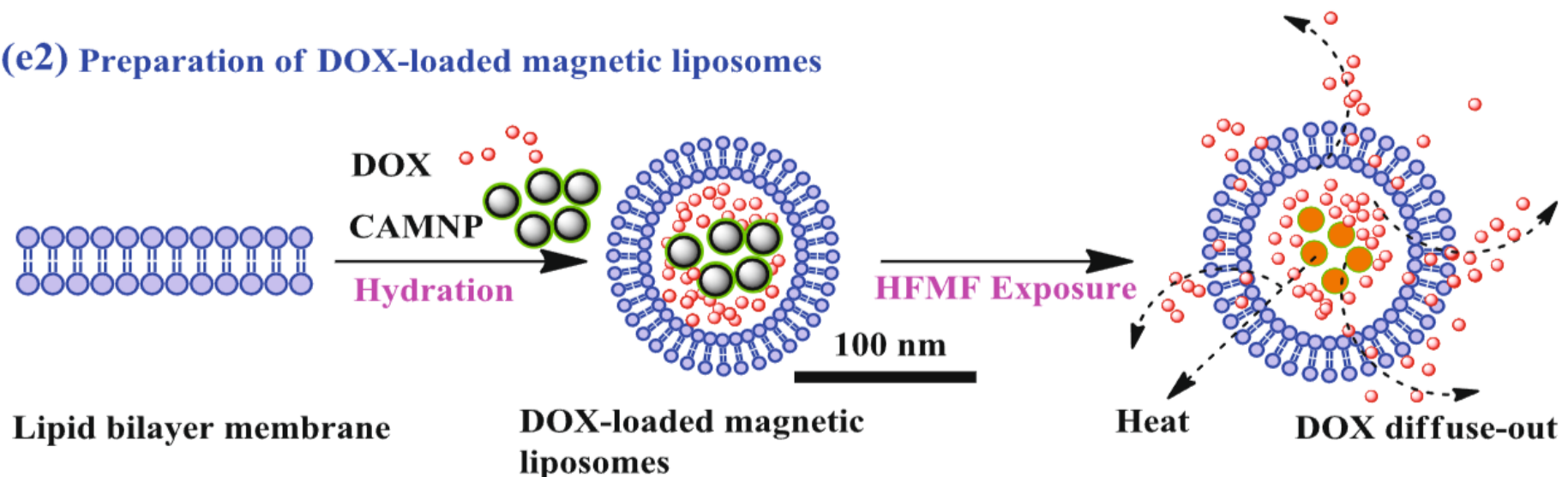
- Traces of ethanol
- Low liposome concentration
- Risk of denaturation for proteins
- Strict parameter control

# Magnetoliposomes Application

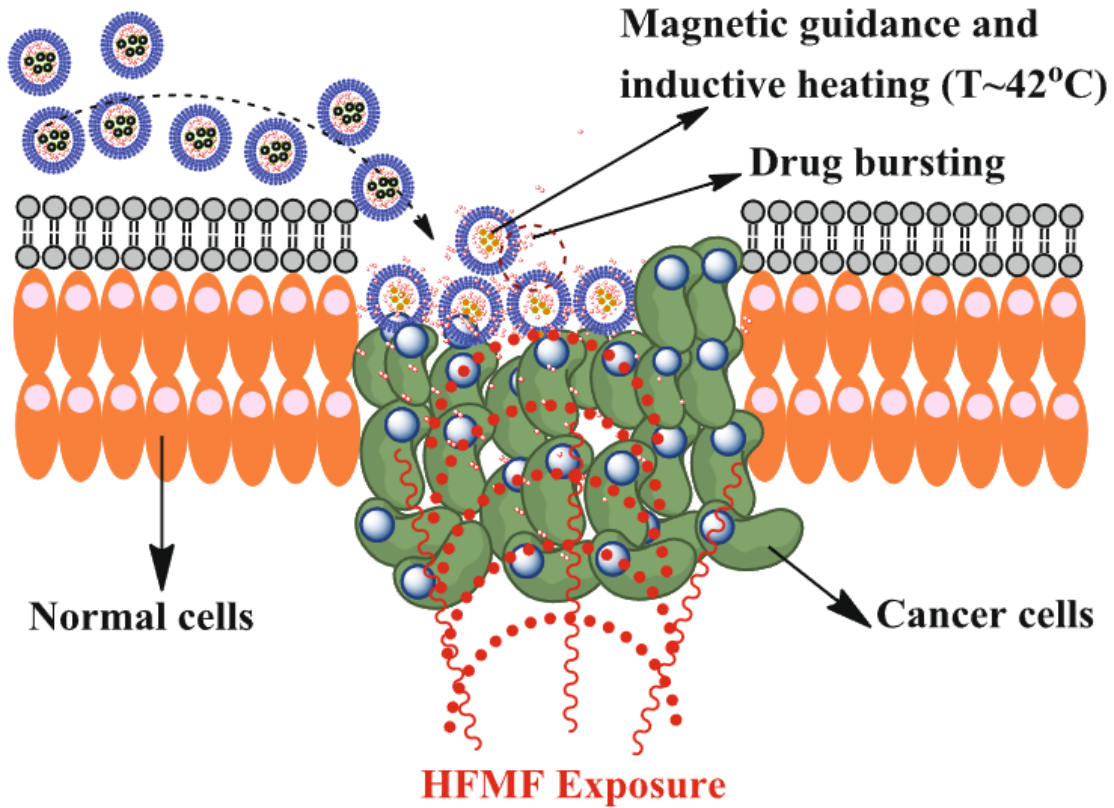
## (e1) Preparation of citric acid-coated magnetite nanoparticles (CAMNP)



## (e2) Preparation of DOX-loaded magnetic liposomes

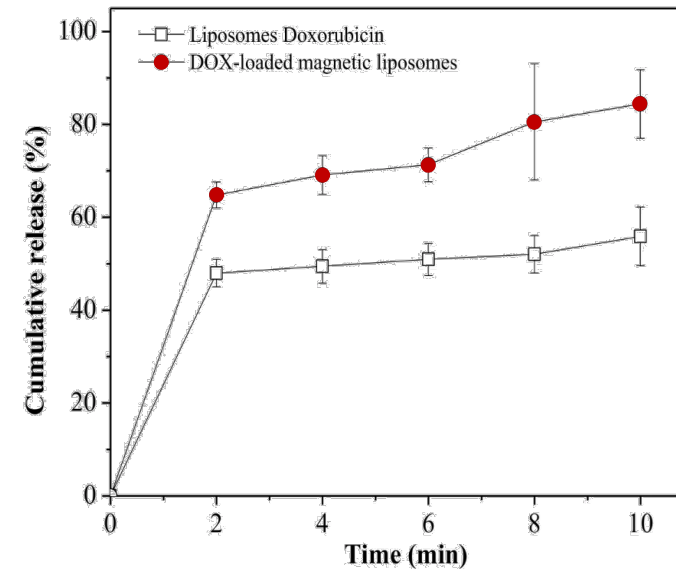
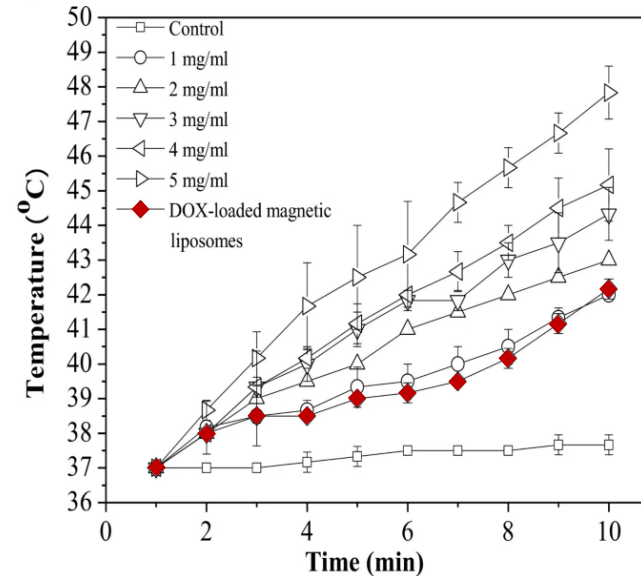


# Magnetoliposomes Application



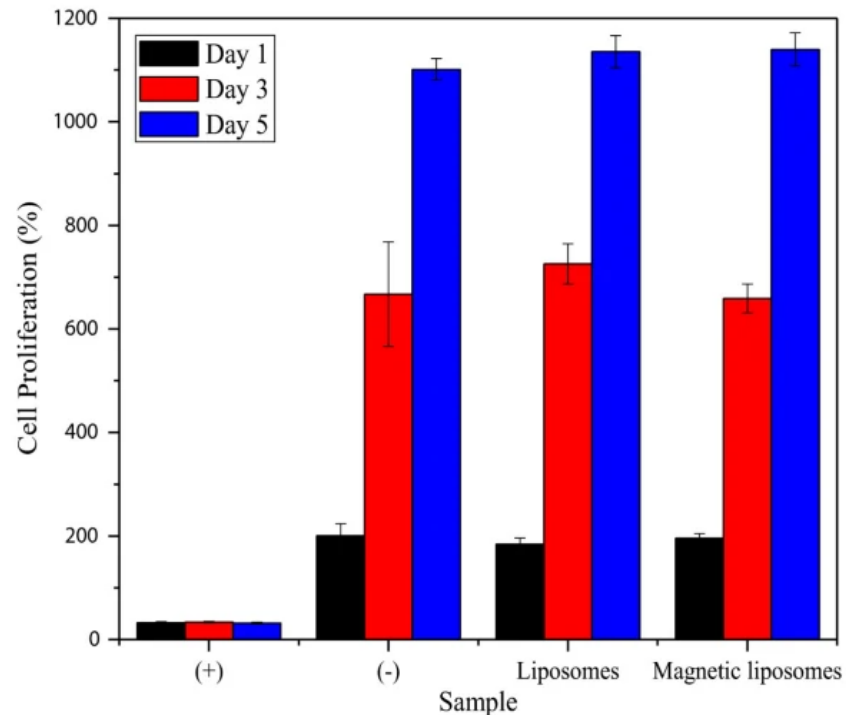
## DOX-loaded magnetoliposomes

- Magnetically guided drug carrier
- Enhanced controlled release
- Photothermic effect



# Magnetoliposomes Application

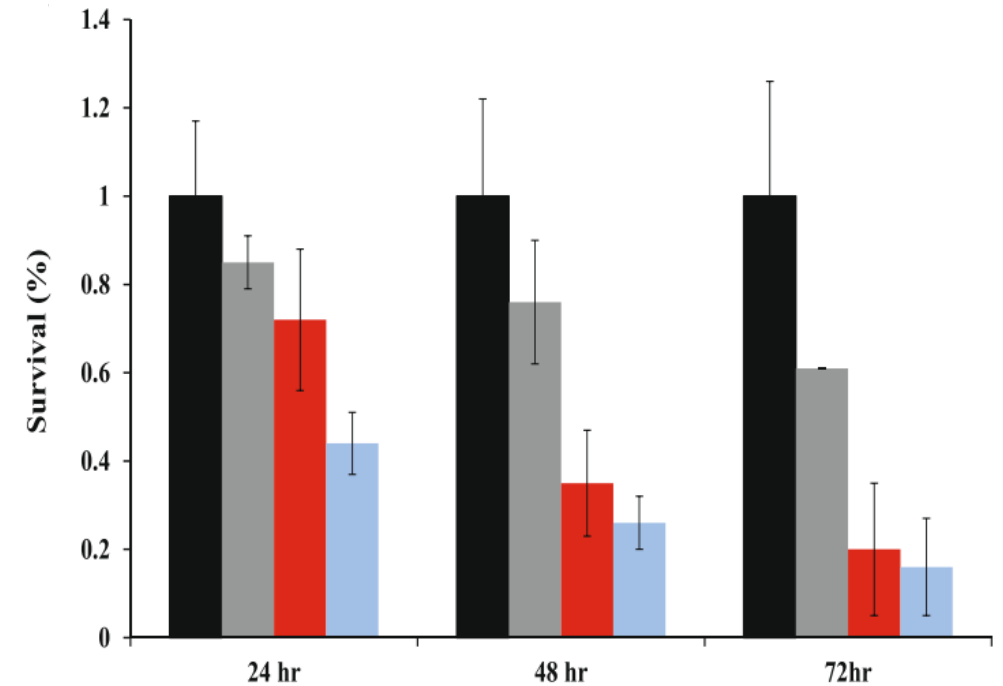
MTT assays on murine fibroblast healthy cells (L-929)



(+) Cells treated with DMSO

(-) Cells treated with medium only

MTT assay on murine colon carcinoma cells (CT-26)



■ Liposomes

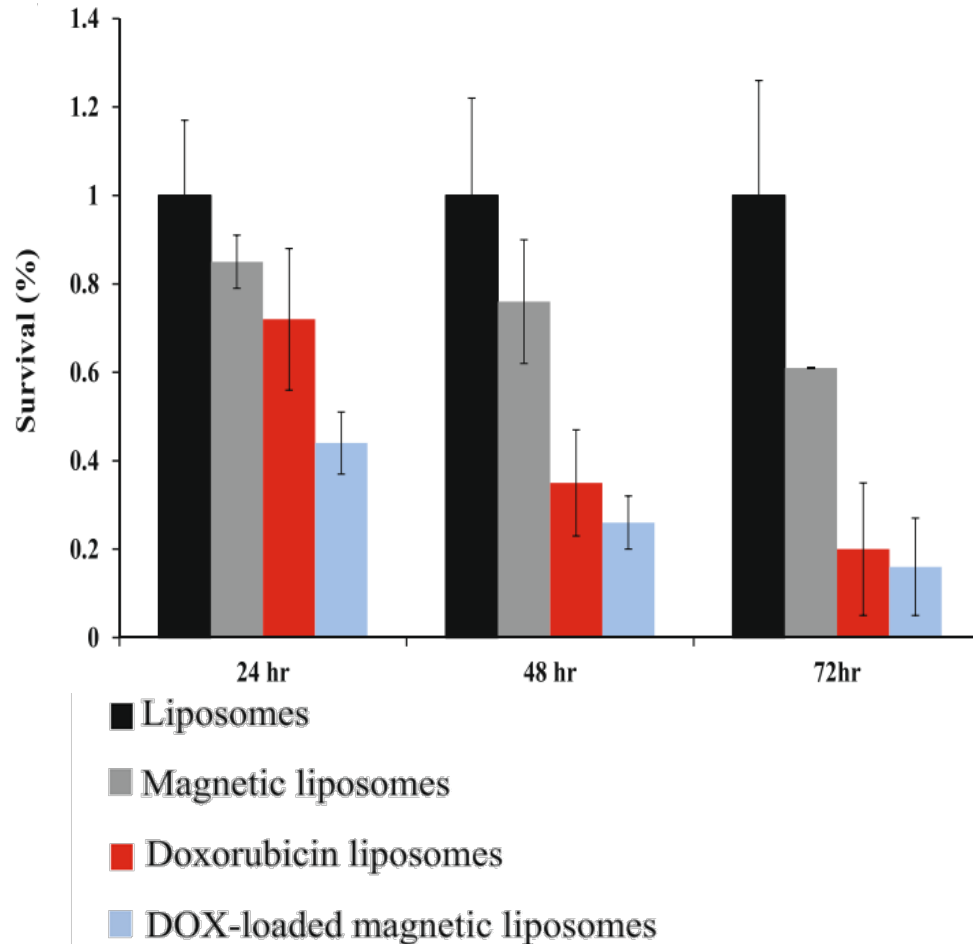
■ Magnetic liposomes

■ Doxorubicin liposomes

■ DOX-loaded magnetic liposomes

# Magnetoliposomes Application

MTT assay on murine colon carcinoma cells (CT-26)



## DOX-loaded magnetoliposomes

- Great biocompatibility
- Controlled burst release: 40% → 80%
- Heating capacity: 42°C in 10 min
- Cell killing efficiency: 56% in 24h
- Synergetic treatment:
  - Hyperthermia: 15% killing
  - Chemotherapy: 38% killing

Heat from hyperthermia increases blood flow

➔ Increase DOX uptake

# Conclusions

## Stabilisation

### Inorganic Coating

- Protect magnetic core
- Combination of material properties

### Ligand Addition

- Versatility of ligand
- Structure modulation

### Encapsulation

- Drug targeted delivery
- Great biocompatibility

## Vectorisation

- EDC/NHS coupling
- Photochemistry

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# Magnetic Particles: Synthesis and Functionalisation

## Part 3: Flow Chemistry and Characterisations

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<sup>1</sup>General, Organic and Biomedical Chemistry Unit, NMR and Molecular Imaging Laboratory,  
University of Mons, 7000 Mons, Belgium

<sup>2</sup>CMMI – Center for Microscopy and Molecular Imaging, 6041 Gosselies, Belgium

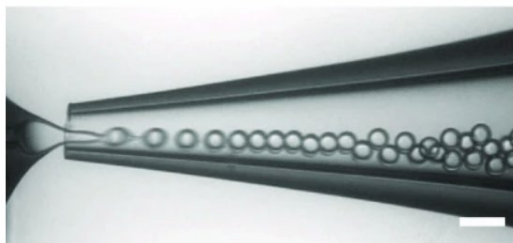
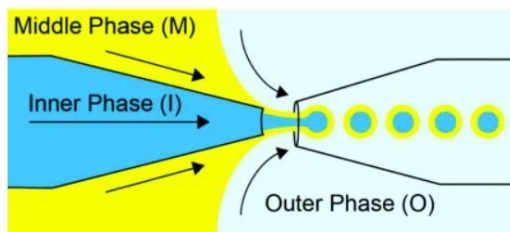
# Flow Chemistry

Flow chemistry refers to an automated chemical process that operates continuously, using a constant flow of reactants or solvents.

Developed in 1876 for the industrial synthesis of sulfuric acid.

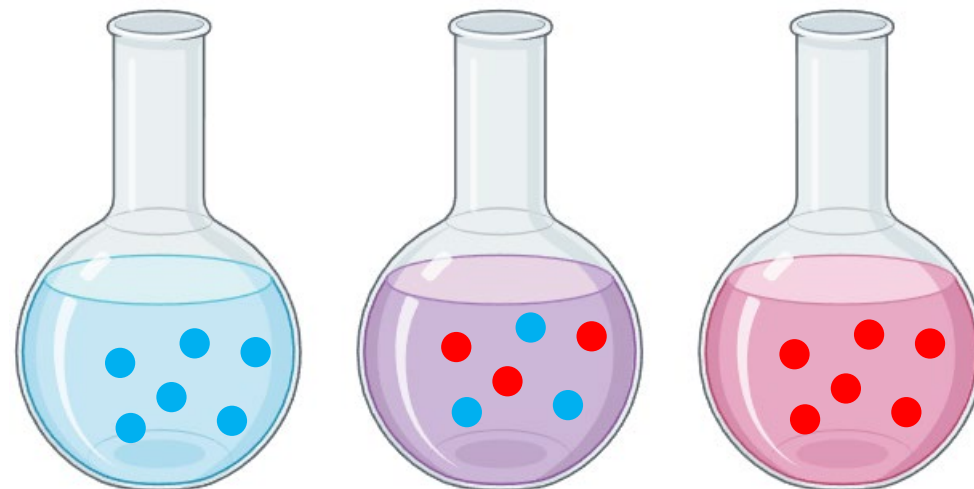
Mainly used for organic synthesis

- Particle synthesis
- Particle functionalisation → Photochemistry
- Liposome/polymersome formation



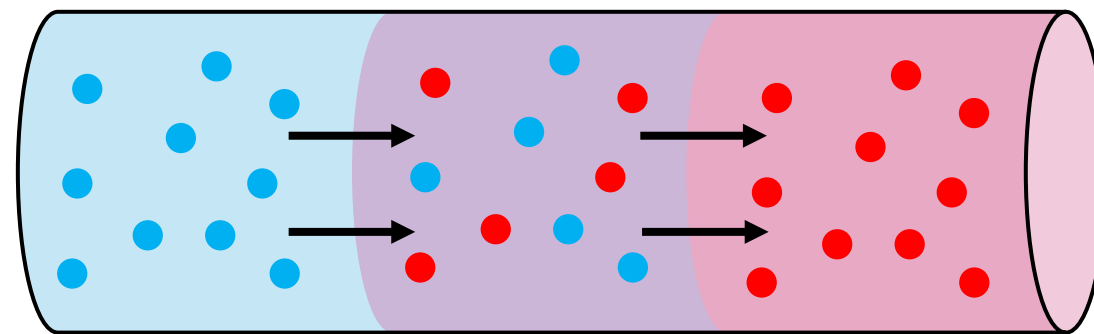
O'Callaghan *et al.* 2024, The European Physical Journal E

Batch reactor



Time

Flow reactor



Time

# Flow Chemistry

## Basic principles of flow chemistry

- Pumps and reagent feeding
- Mixing
- Heat transfer
- Pressure control

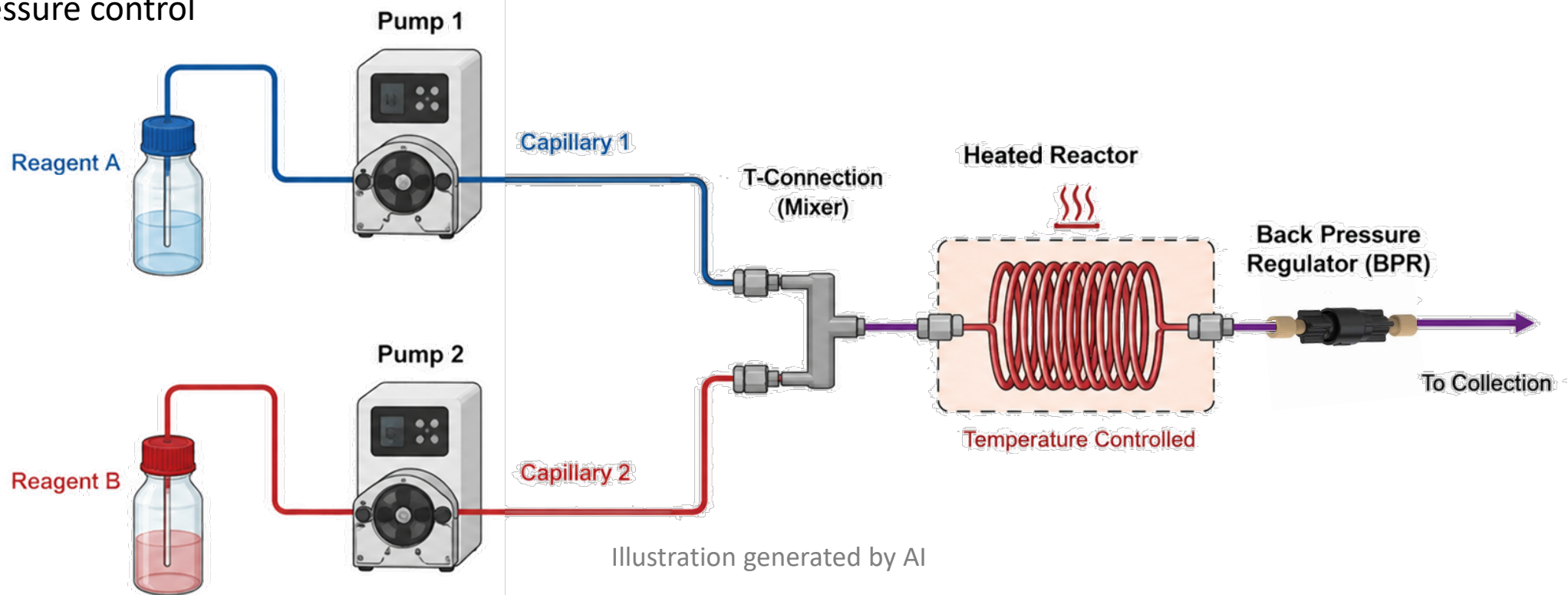
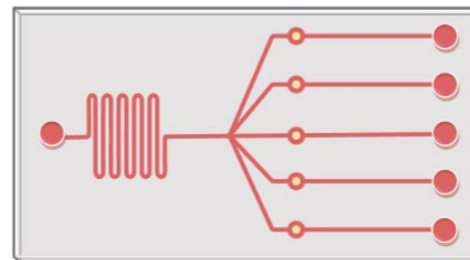
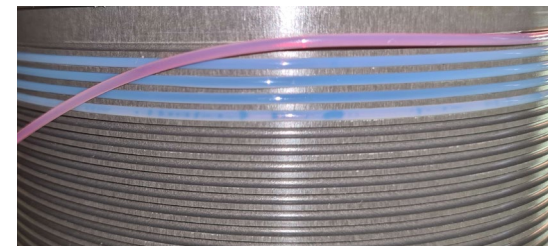


Illustration generated by AI

### Microfluidic Reactor



### Millifluidic Reactor



# Flow Chemistry

## Basic principles of flow chemistry

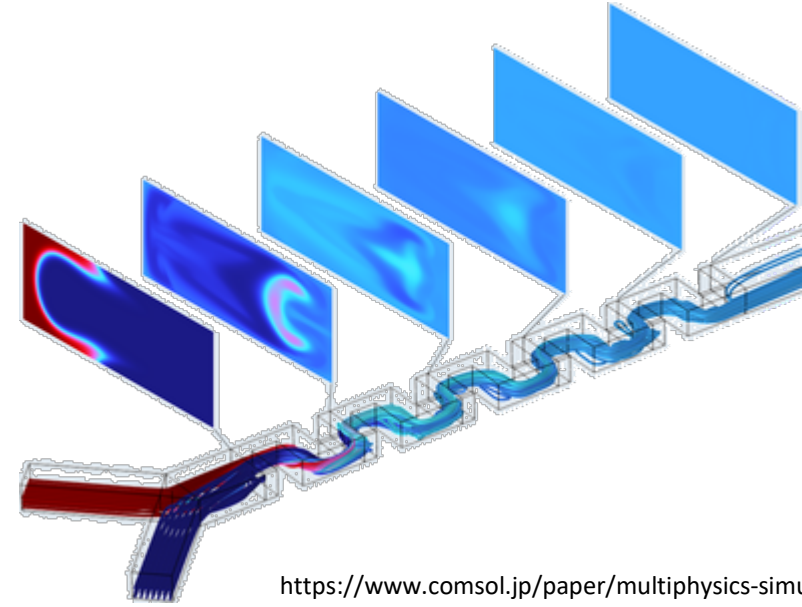
- Pumps and reagent feeding
- Mixing
- Heat transfer
- Pressure control

Residence time:  $\tau = \frac{V}{Q}$

Where:

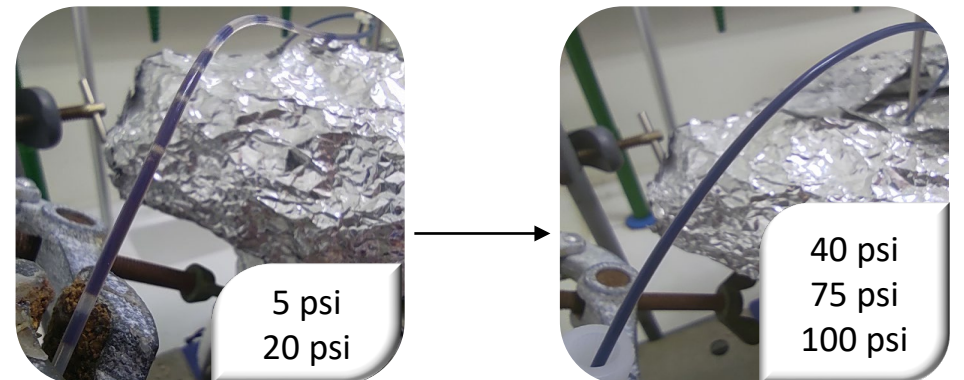
- $\tau$  = residence time
- $V$  = reactor volume
- $Q$  = volumetric flow rate

## Mixing



<https://www.comsol.jp/paper/multiphysics-simulation-of-chaotic-mixing-in-microfluidic-devices-136052>

## Pressure regulation



# Advantages of Flow Chemistry

## Smaller reactor size

➔ Higher surface to volume ratio

## Improved safety

- Smaller reaction volumes
- Better control of hazardous reactions

## Better heat transfer

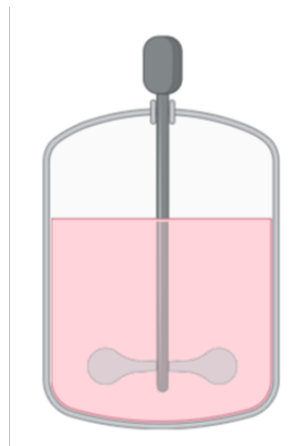
- Efficient temperature control
- Reduced hot spots
- Faster mixing

## Higher reproducibility

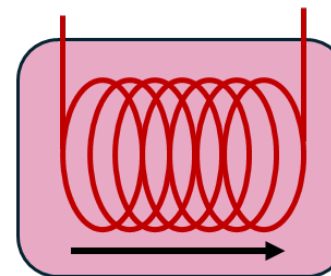
- Precise control of reaction conditions
- Consistent product quality

## Process intensification

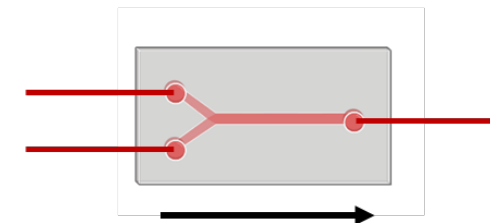
- Faster reactions
- Higher yields/selectivity
- Easier automation



L - mL



mL -  $\mu$ L



$\mu$ L - nL



## Scalability

- Scale-up through “numbering-up”
- Easier industrial production

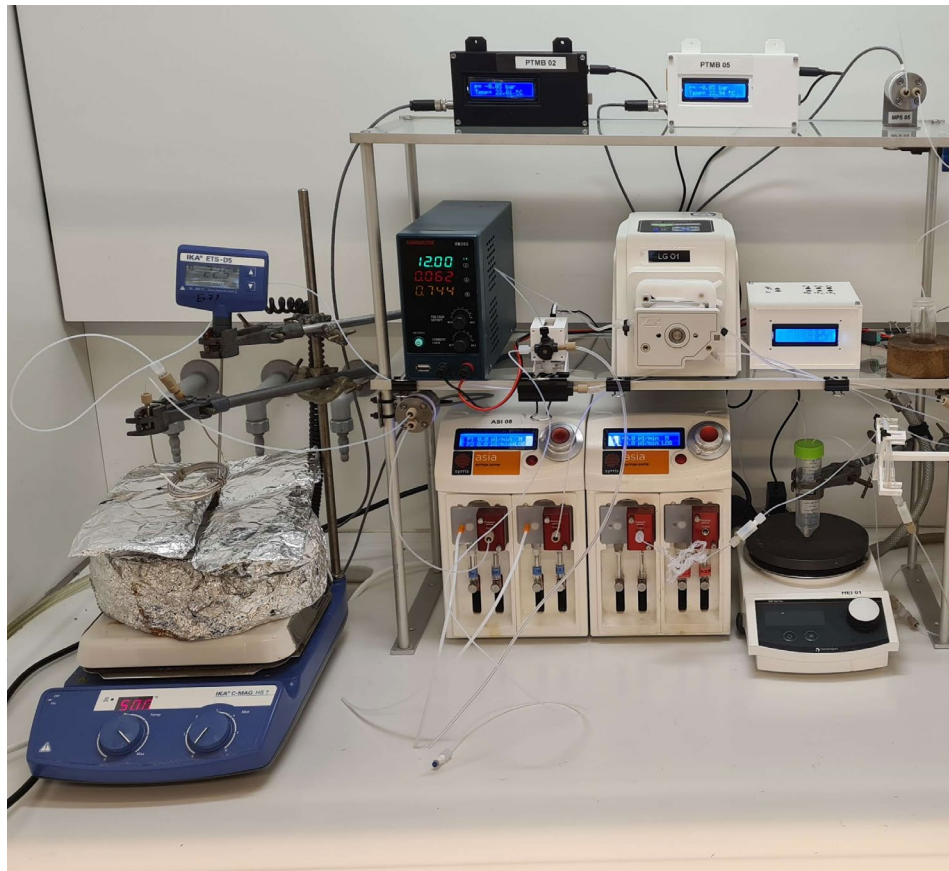
## Green chemistry

- Reduced solvent consumption
- Lower energy demand

# Disadvantages and Limitations

## Convolutd set-up

➔ Many things can go wrong



## High initial cost

- Specialized equipment
- Pumps, pressure regulators, microreactors

## Risk of clogging

- Solid formation can block channels
- Problematic for heterogeneous reactions

## Complex system

- Requires engineering knowledge
- More difficult optimization

## Limited reaction types

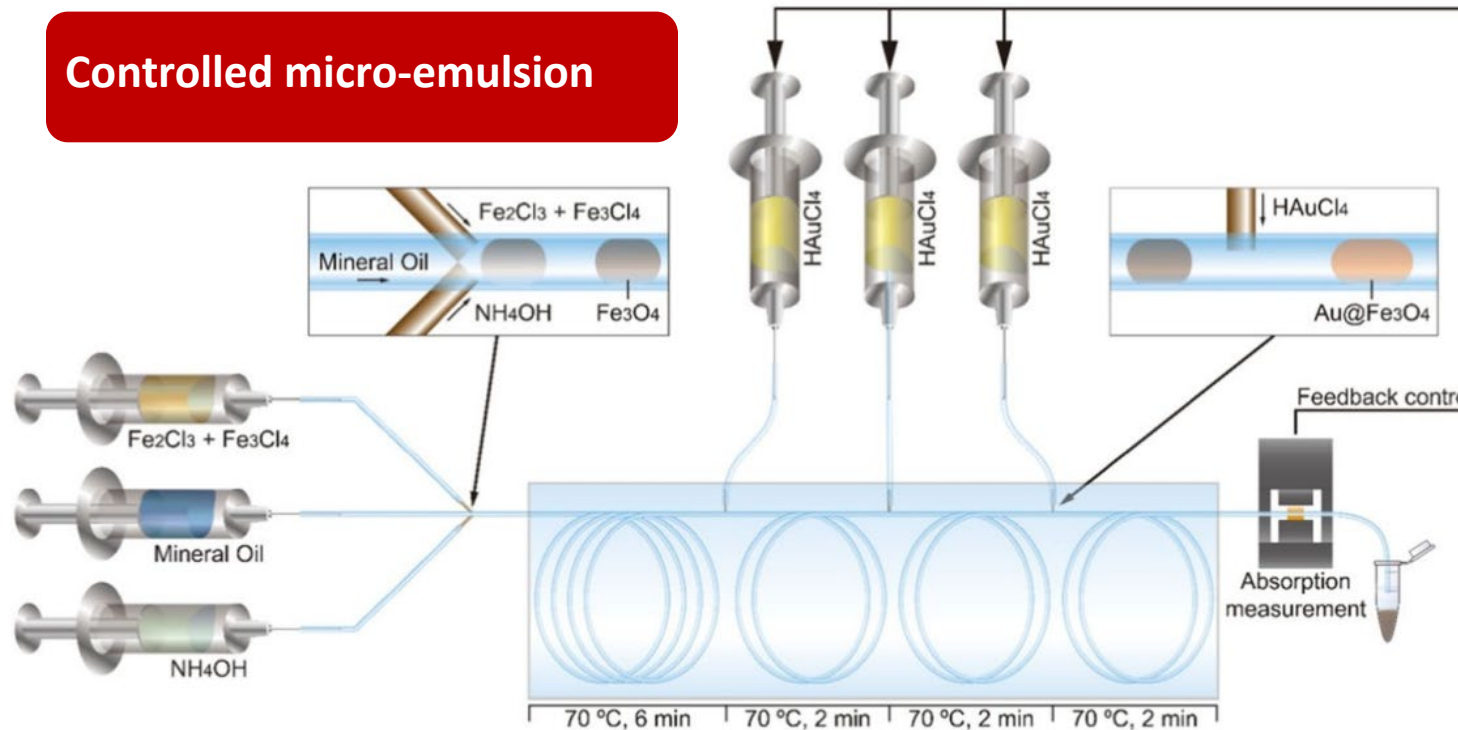
- Some reactions are easier in batch
- Difficulties with highly viscous mixtures

## Cleaning and maintenance

- Fouling
- Reactor cleaning challenges

# Applications: Core-shell Particles

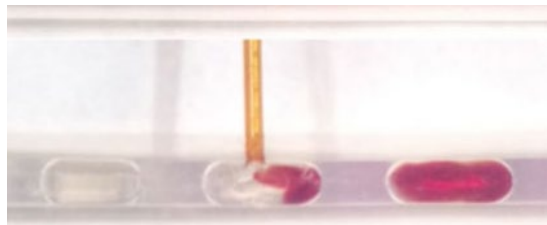
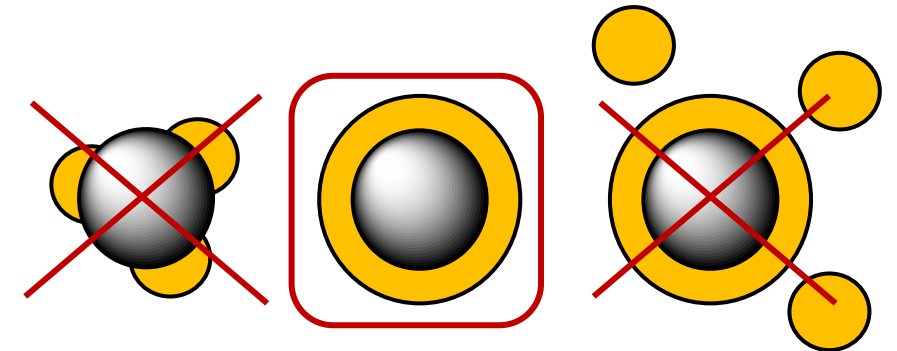
## Controlled micro-emulsion



## Theranostic application

- MRI contrast agent
- Photothermal therapy

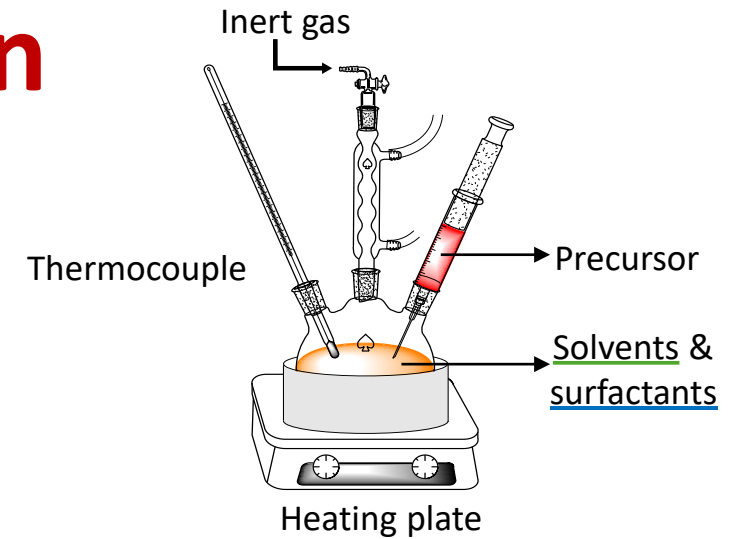
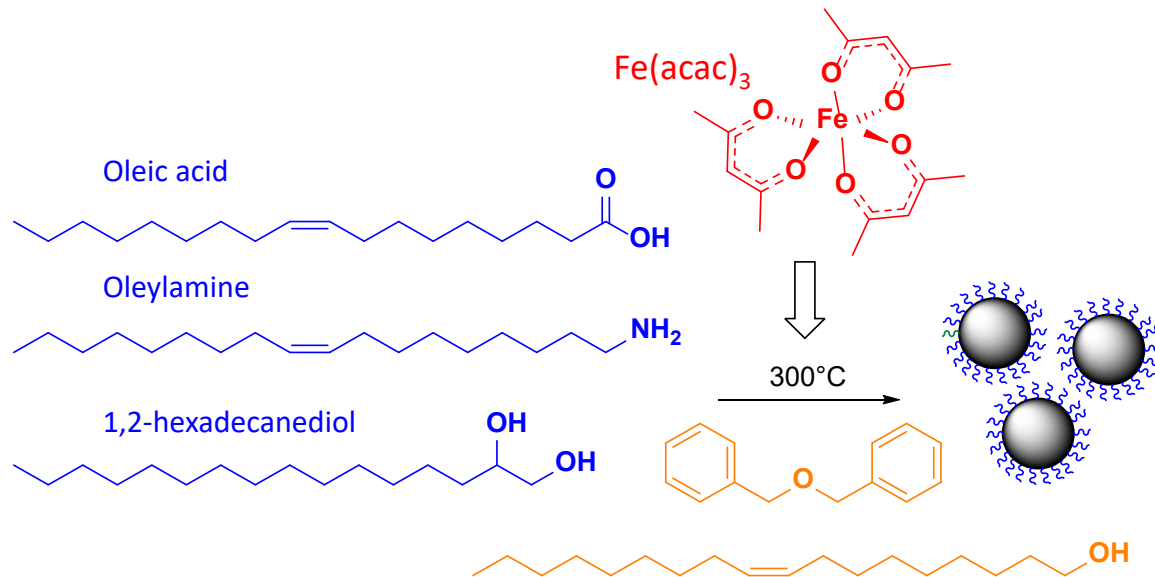
Use of the « Simplex » algorithm to find the **optimal** flow rates



## Formation of a gold shell

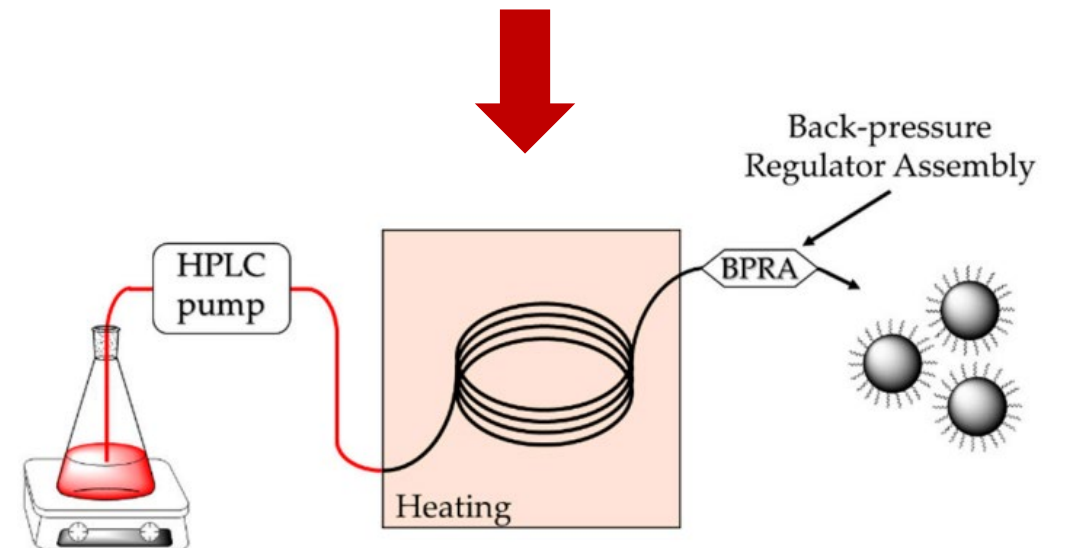
- Optimal condition reached in 30 min
- Simple set-up
- Great replicability
- Iron core 5.8 nm – Gold shell 3.5 nm

# Flow Thermal Decomposition



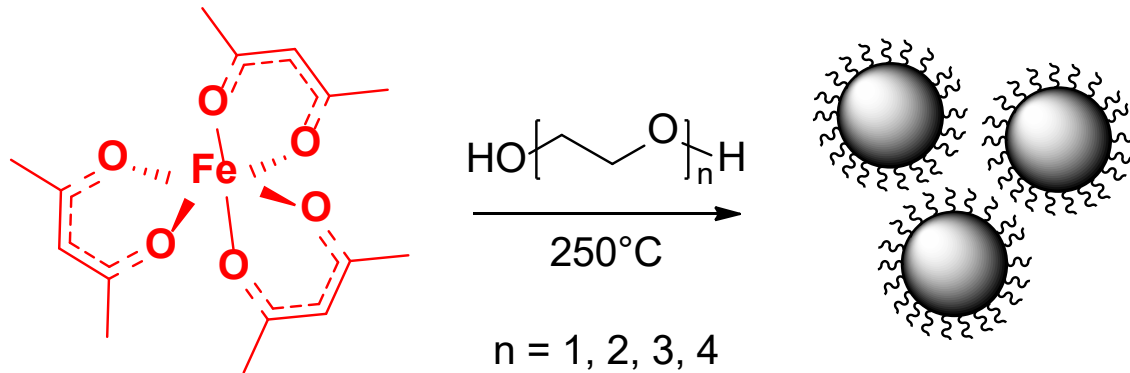
## Issues

- ~~Low safety~~
- ~~Low scalability potential~~
- Hydrophobic coating



# Thermal Decomposition in Polyol Medium

## Polyol Medium



### Issues

- ~~Low safety~~
- ~~Low scalability potential~~
- ~~Hydrophobic coating~~

## The solvent plays three roles:

- High boiling point solvent
- Reducing agent
- Stabiliser

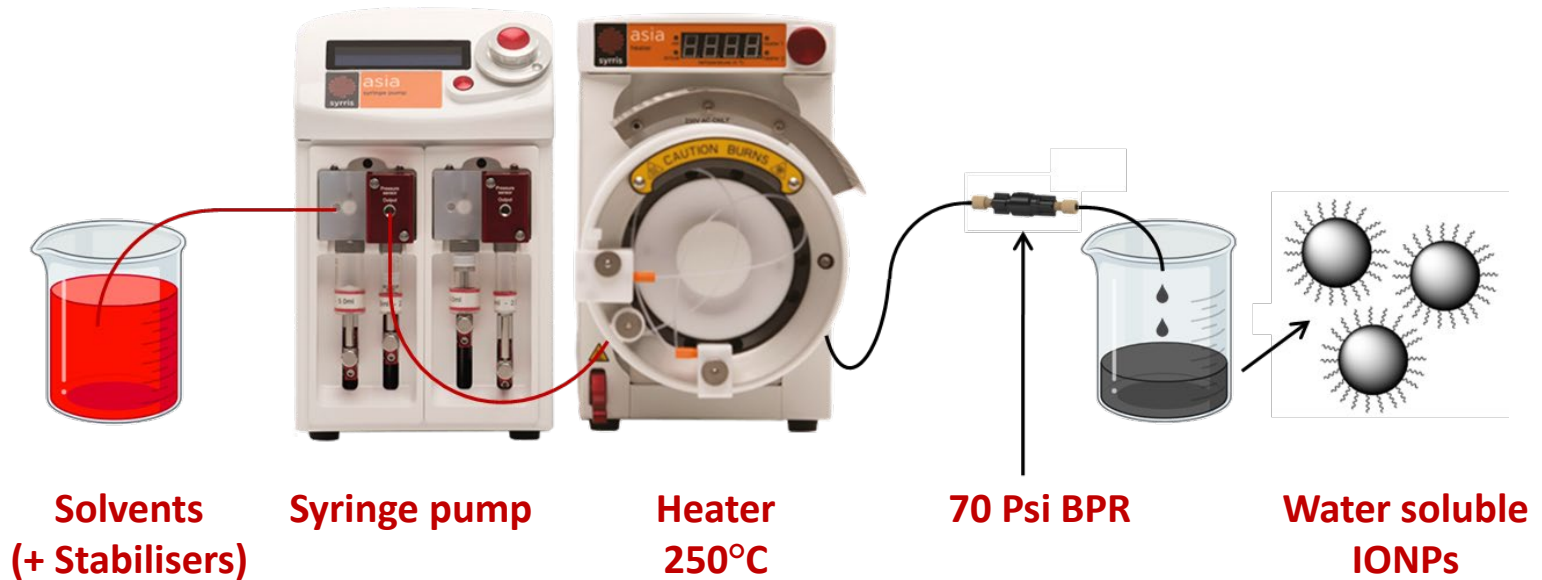
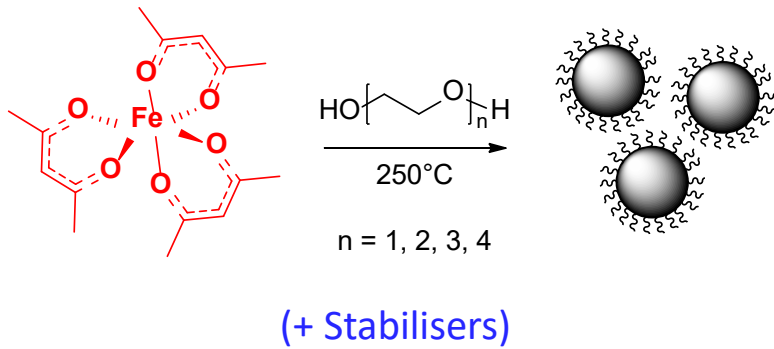
## Hydrophilic particles

➔ Less solvent for purification

Greener process

Still needs stabilisation post synthesis

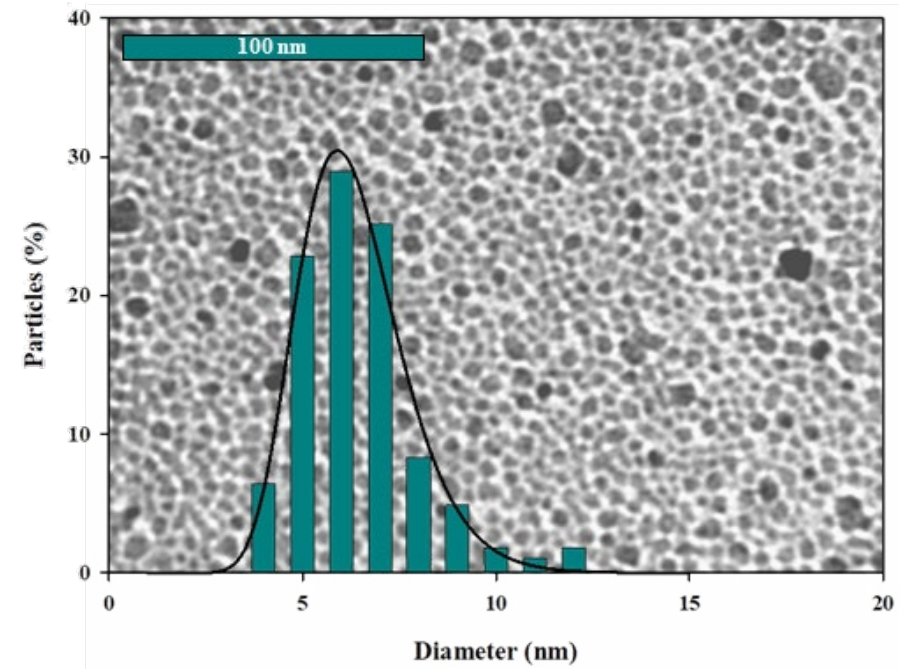
# Thesis Project



## Optimal flow parameters:

- Temperature: 250 °C
- PTFE Tubing: - Length : 1 m  
- Internal diameter: 1 mm  
- Volume: 0.48 mL
- Flowrate: 1 mL.min<sup>-1</sup>

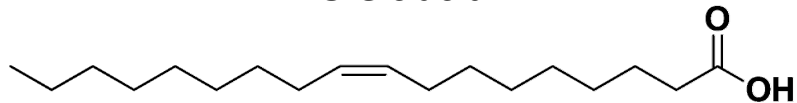
➔ Residence time: 48 s



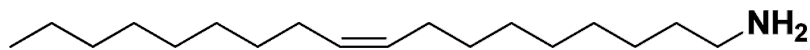
# Stabilisers Influence on IONPs Properties

## Classical thermal decomposition

Oleic acid

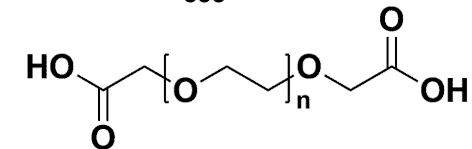


Oleylamine

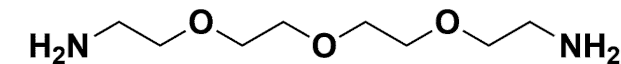


## Polyol medium

PEG<sub>600</sub>-diacid

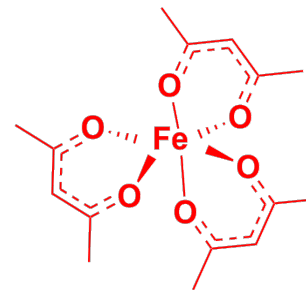


Diamino tetraethylene glycol (TREG-NH<sub>2</sub>)



### Unchanged parameters:

- Solvent: Tetraethylene glycol (TREG)
- Precursor: Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> 50 mM
- T°: 250 °C
- Tubing: Length = 1 m  
Internal diameter = 1 mm
- Flowrate: 1 mL.min<sup>-1</sup>



Residence time: 48 s

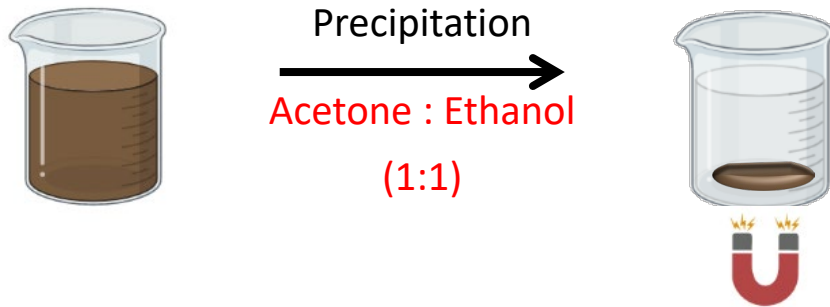
### Modified parameters:

- Nature of stabiliser
- Iron to stabiliser molar ratio  
1:0, 1:1, 1:2, 1:3

**Particle stabilisation**

# Ligand Exchange

After synthesis in classical medium



Dichloromethane  
Ligand addition



Solvent evaporation

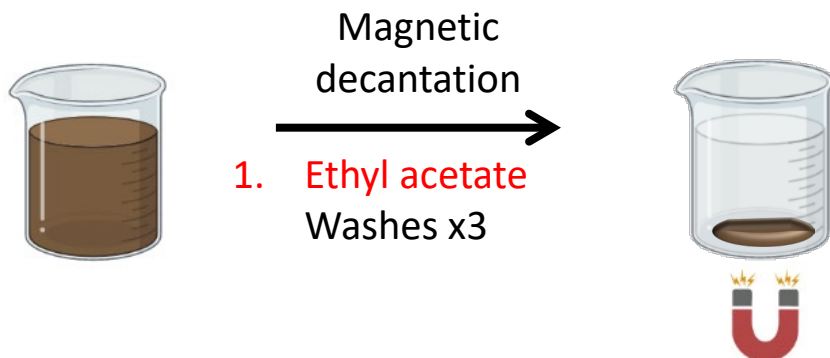
1. Methanol
  2. Diethyl ether
- Washes x3



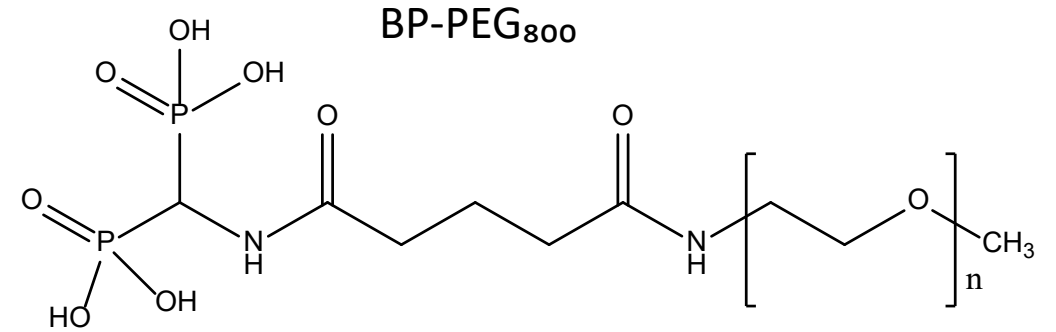
Water redispersion



After synthesis in polyol medium



Water redispersion  
(pH 2,5)  
Stabilisation  
Ligand addition



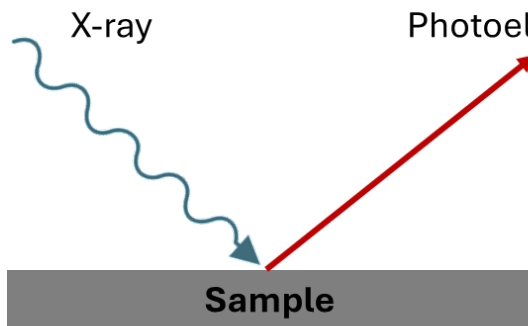
- Less steps
- Less organic solvents used

# Surface Analyses

IONPs are magnetic and dark

- No classical NMR measurement
- Light absorption → No UV-Vis measurement

## X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS)



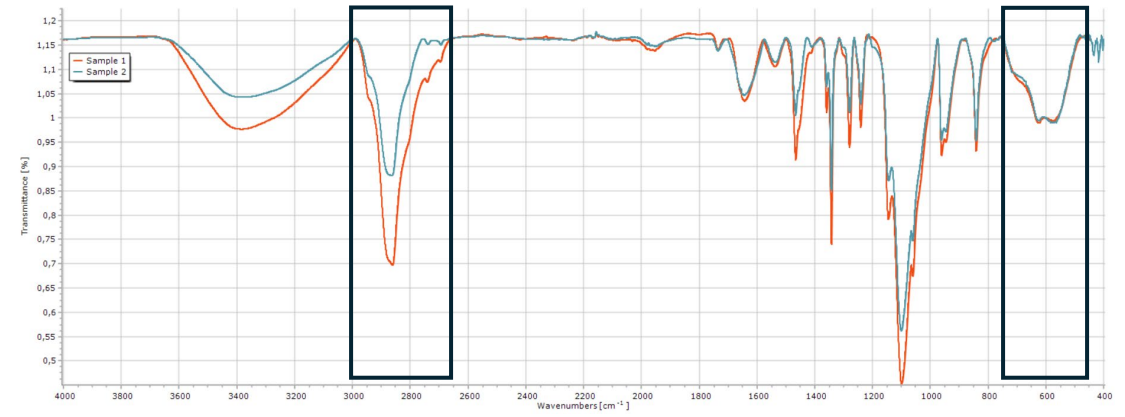
$$E_B = h\nu - E_K - \phi$$

Where:

- $E_B$ : binding energy,
- $h\nu$ : X-ray energy,
- $E_K$ : kinetic energy,
- $\phi$ : work function

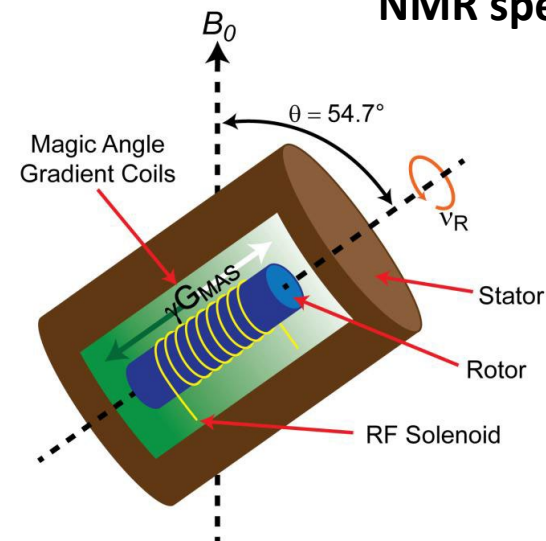
- Elemental composition
- Oxidation state

## Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy



- Compound identification
- Semi-quantitative measurements

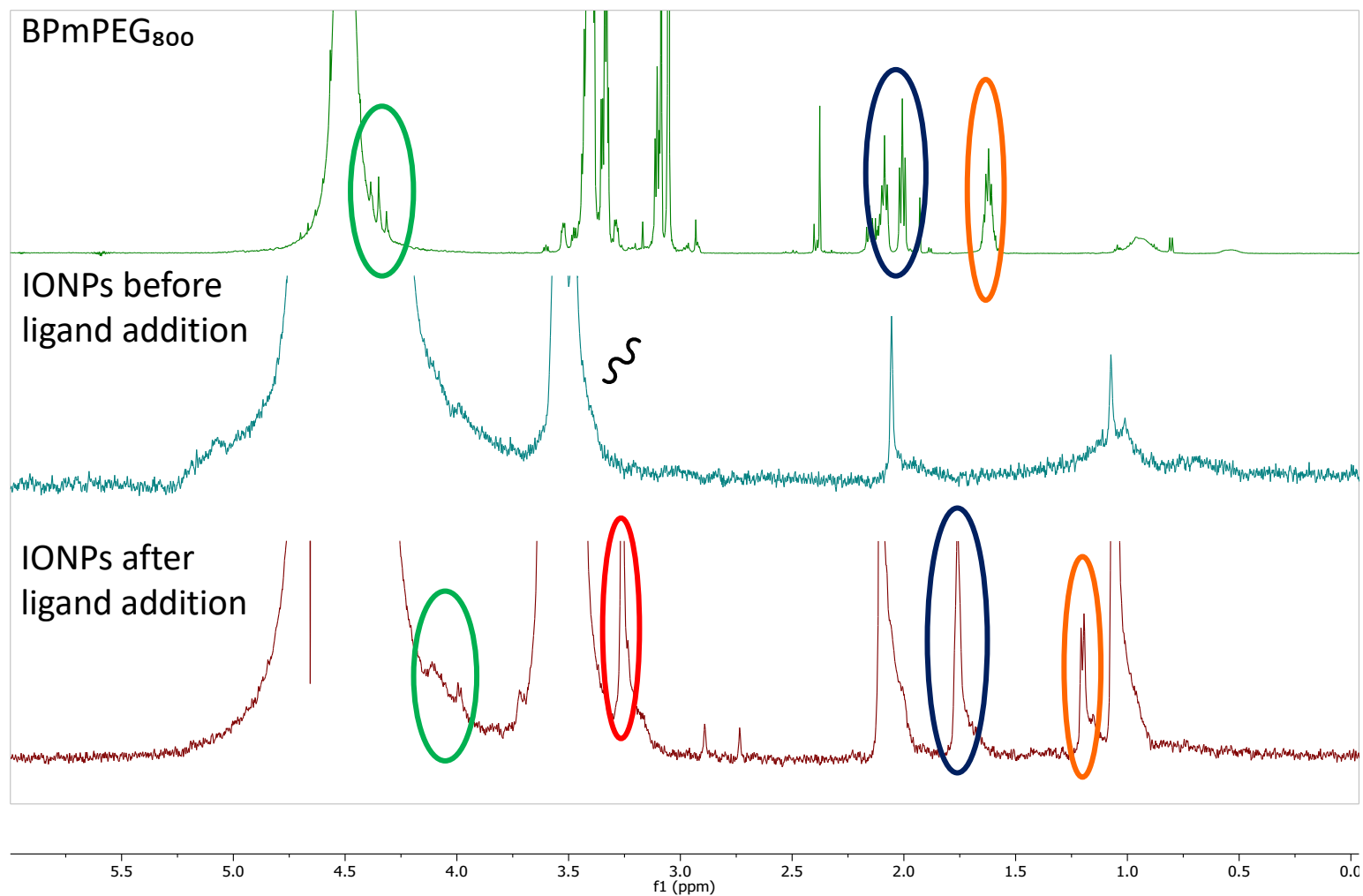
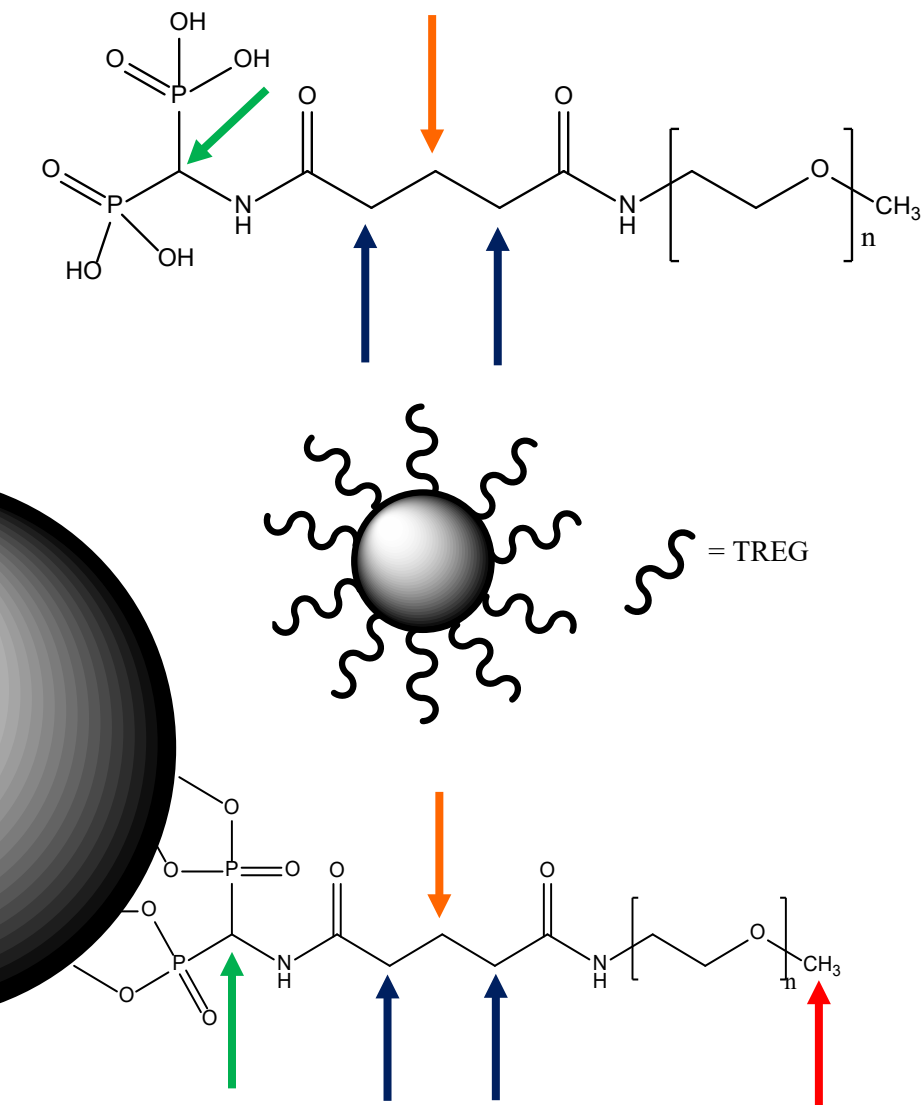
## High resolution magic angle spinning (HR-MAS) NMR spectroscopy



Magic angle:  $54.7^\circ$   
 Angular dependence term  
 $3 \cos^2 \theta - 1 = 0$

Suppression of anisotropy due to magnetic susceptibility differences

# HR-MAS NMR Spectroscopy



# Size and Shape Characterisations

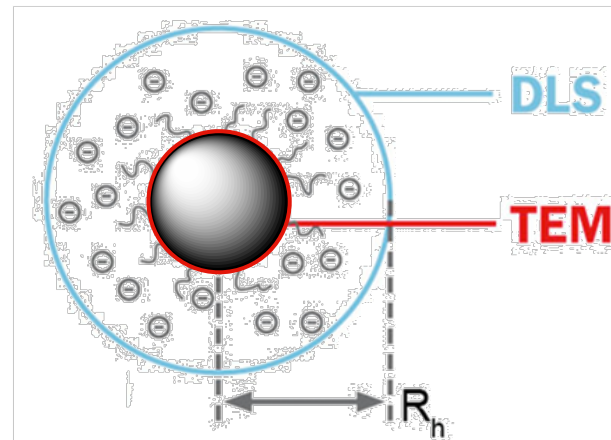
## Dynamic light scattering (DLS)

- Based on Brownian motion
  - Large particles move slowly
  - Small particles move fast

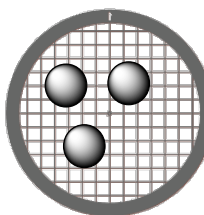
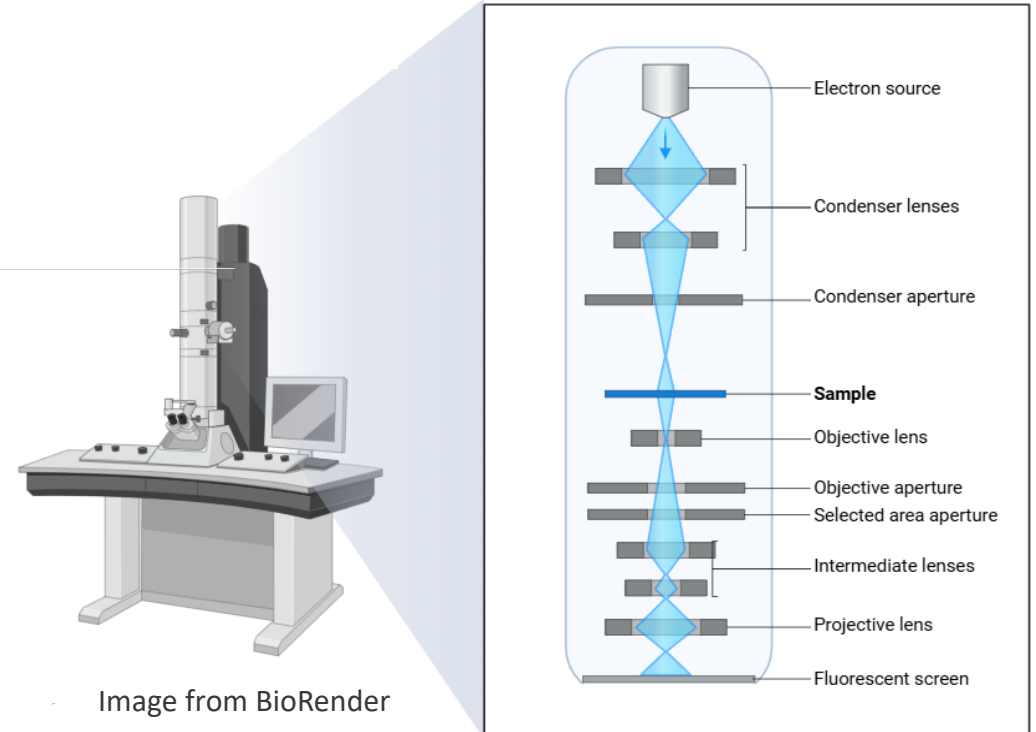
$$D = \frac{k_B T}{6\pi\eta R_H}$$

Where :

- $D$ : diffusion coefficient,
- $R_H$ : hydrodynamic radius,
- $\eta$ : viscosity,
- $T$ : temperature.



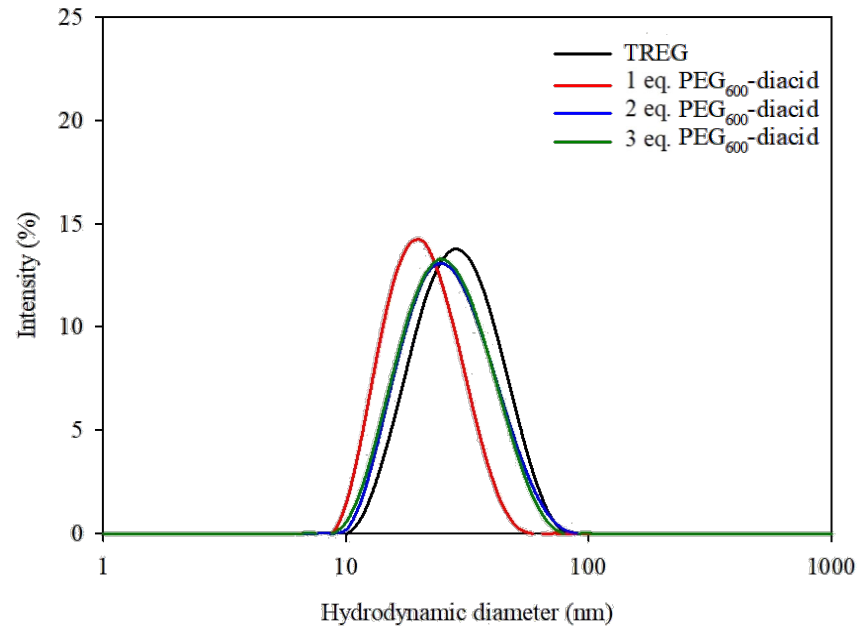
## Transmission electron microscopy



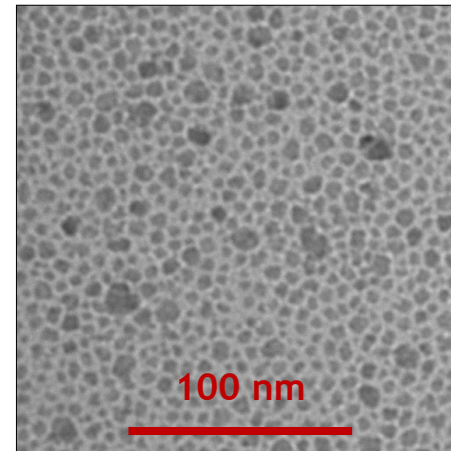
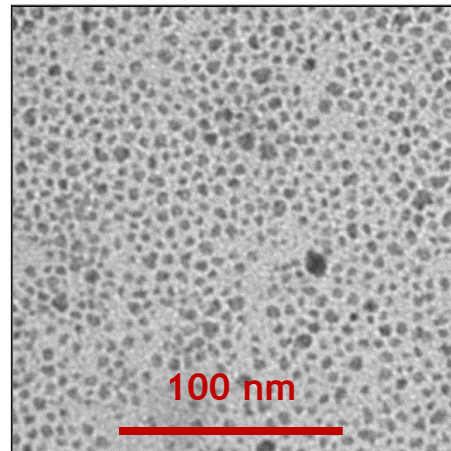
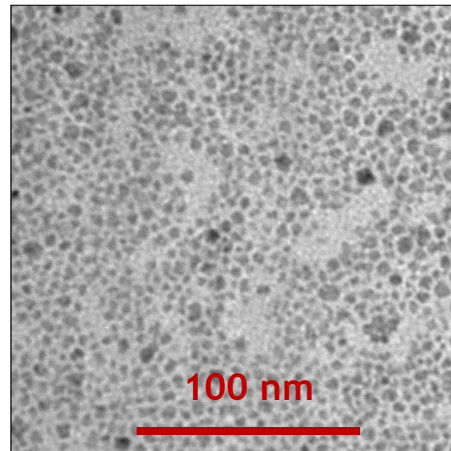
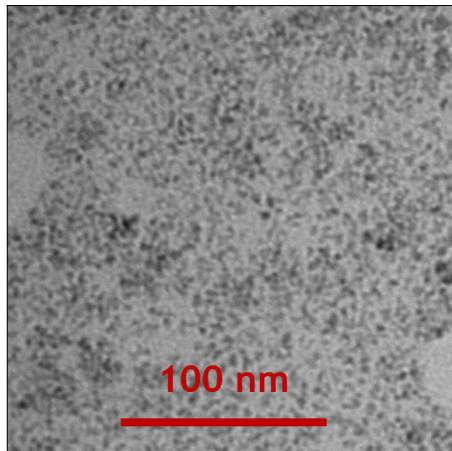
- 2D images of sample
- Great resolution (down to 1 Å)

- Hydrodynamic diameter
- Size distribution
- Polydispersity

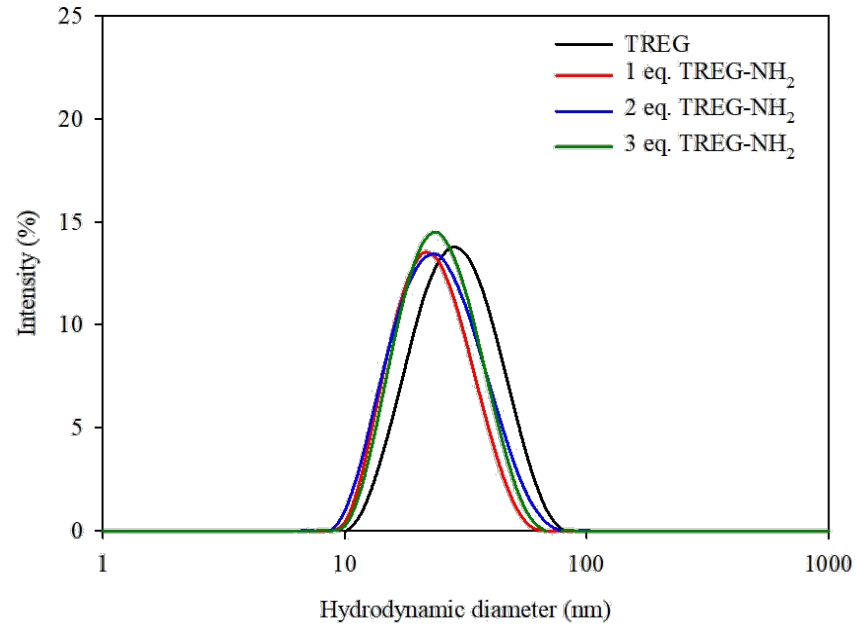
# PEG<sub>600</sub>-diacid: Morphology



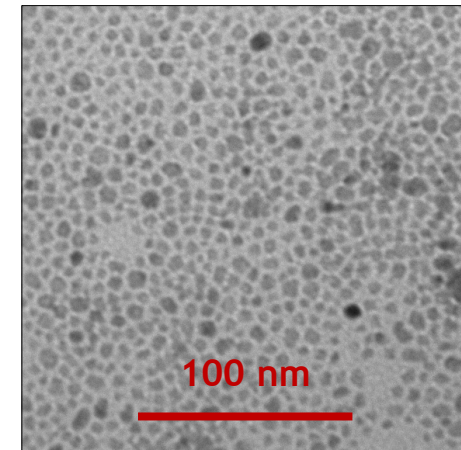
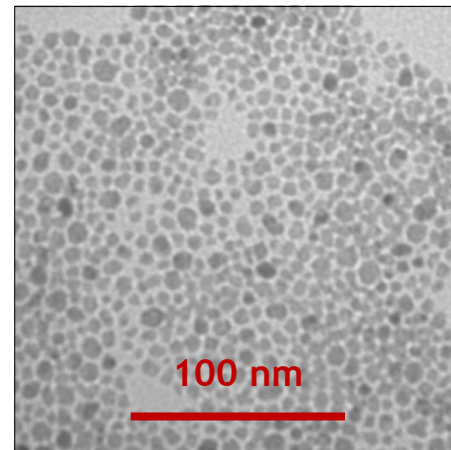
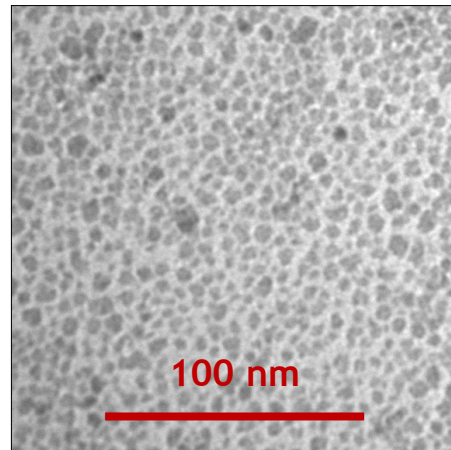
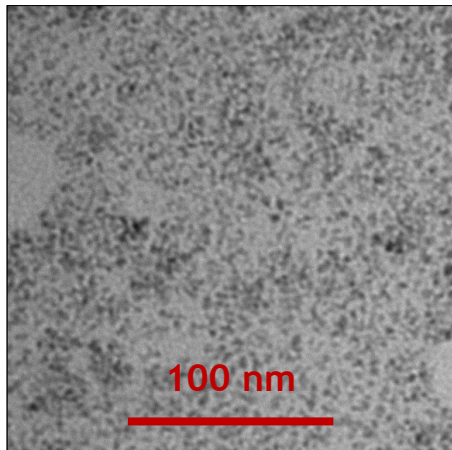
# Eq. PEG <sub>600</sub> -diacid	D <sub>TEM</sub> (nm)	PDI
0	4.4 ± 0.9	1.15
1	5.4 ± 1.3	1.18
2	6.0 ± 1.3	1.16
3	7.0 ± 1.6	1.16



# TREG-NH<sub>2</sub>: Morphology

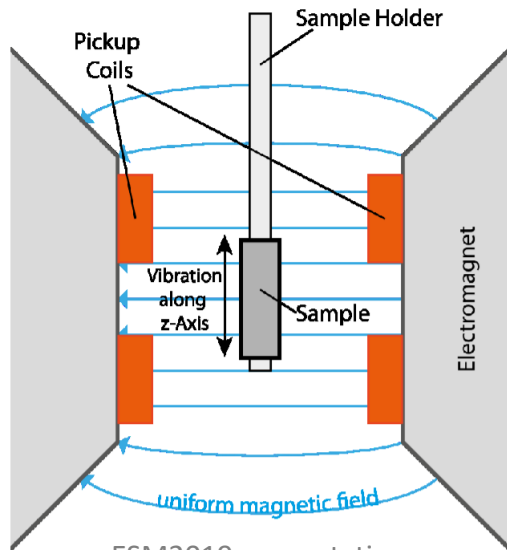


# Eq. TREG-NH <sub>2</sub>	D <sub>TEM</sub> (nm)	PDI
0	4.4 ± 0.9	1.15
1	5.3 ± 1.3	1.24
2	5.5 ± 1.2	1.15
3	5.6 ± 1.1	1.12



# Magnetic Properties

## Vibrating Sample Magnetometry (VSM)



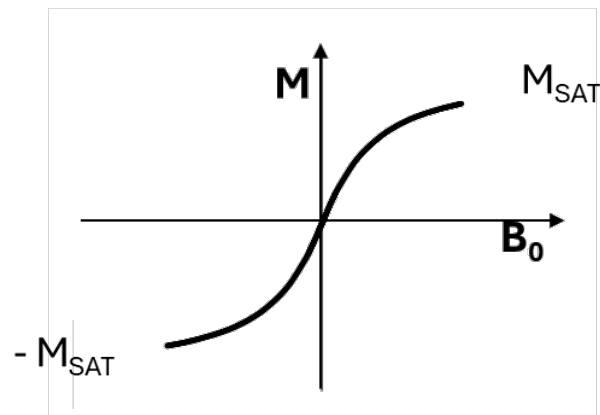
ESM2019 presentation

Based on Faraday's law:

Sample movement

➔ Induced electrical current

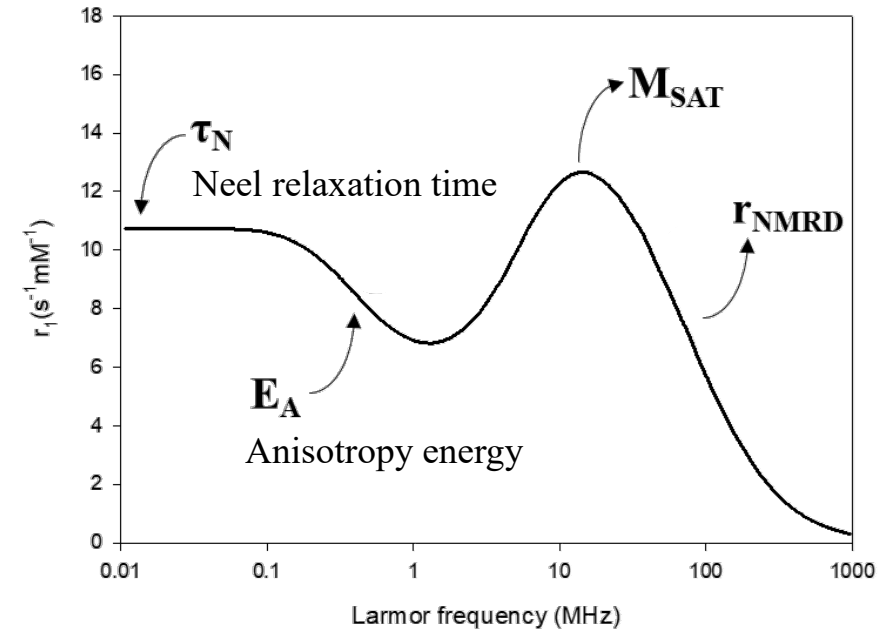
➔ Proportional to magnetisation



- Confirm superparamagnetic behaviour
- Saturation magnetisation

## Nuclear magnetic relaxation dispersion profiles (NMRD profiles)

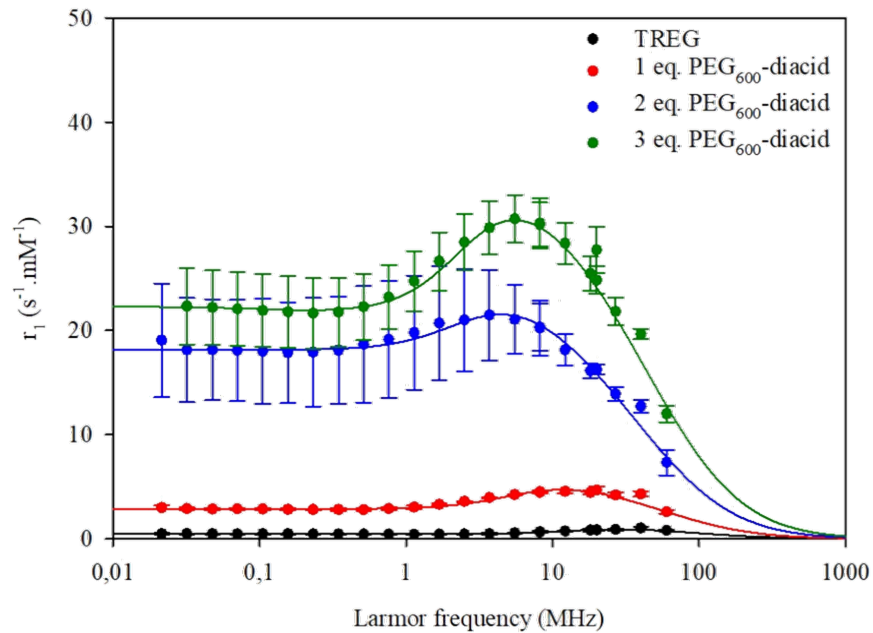
Longitudinal relaxivity at different fields



- Fitting gives access to multiple parameters
- Sensitive to particles properties and aggregation
  - ➔ Synthesis replicability

# Relaxometry: NMRD Profiles

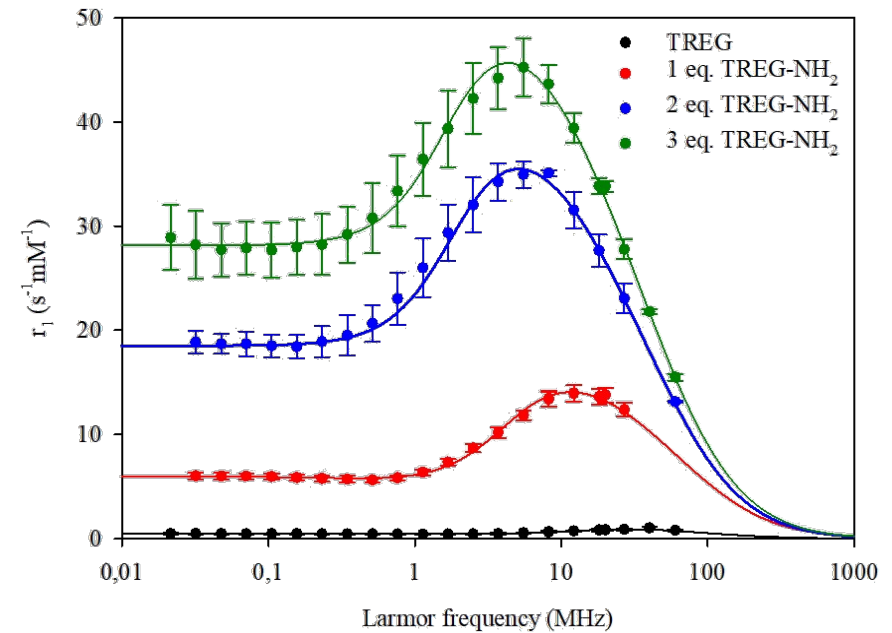
## PEG-diacid



$M_S^{NMRD}$   
(A.m<sup>2</sup>.kg<sup>-1</sup><sub>Fe</sub>)

TREG	12.5
1 eq. PEG <sub>600</sub> -diacid	21.2
2 eq. PEG <sub>600</sub> -diacid	36.3
3 eq. PEG <sub>600</sub> -diacid	38.9

## TREG-NH<sub>2</sub>

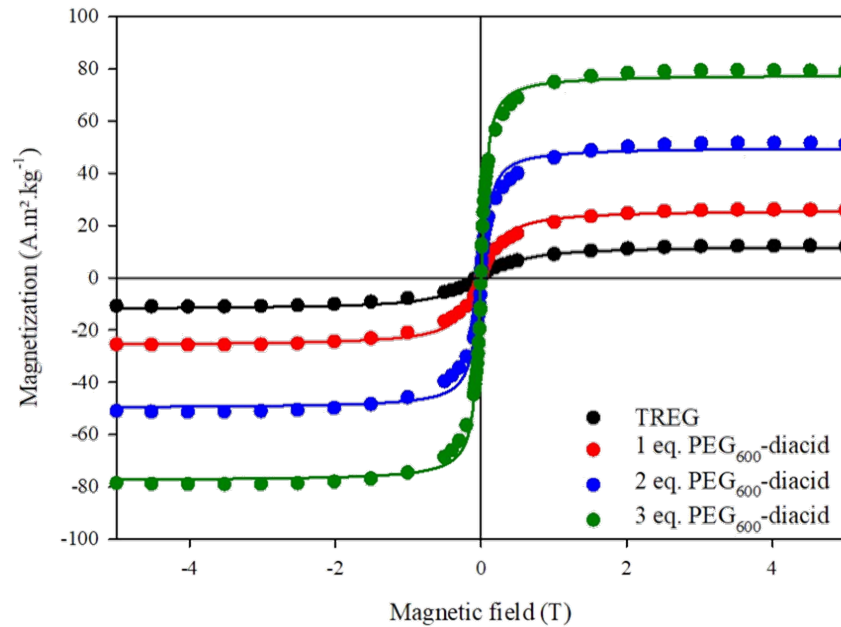


$M_S^{NMRD}$   
(A.m<sup>2</sup>.kg<sup>-1</sup><sub>Fe</sub>)

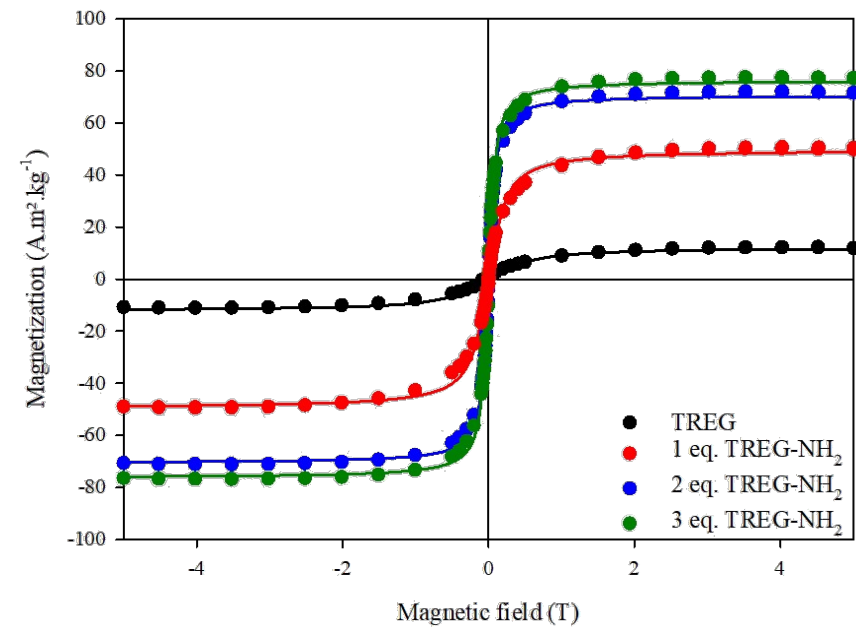
TREG	12.5
1 eq. TREG-NH <sub>2</sub>	38.5
2 eq. TREG-NH <sub>2</sub>	46.3
3 eq. TREG-NH <sub>2</sub>	50.6

# Vibrating Sample Magnetometry (VSM)

PEG-diacid



TREG-NH<sub>2</sub>



Steady increase

$M_S^{VSM}$   
(A.m<sup>2</sup>.kg<sup>-1</sup><sub>Fe</sub>)

TREG	12.2
1 eq. PEG <sub>600</sub> -diacid	26.1
2 eq. PEG <sub>600</sub> -diacid	50.0
3 eq. PEG <sub>600</sub> -diacid	77.8

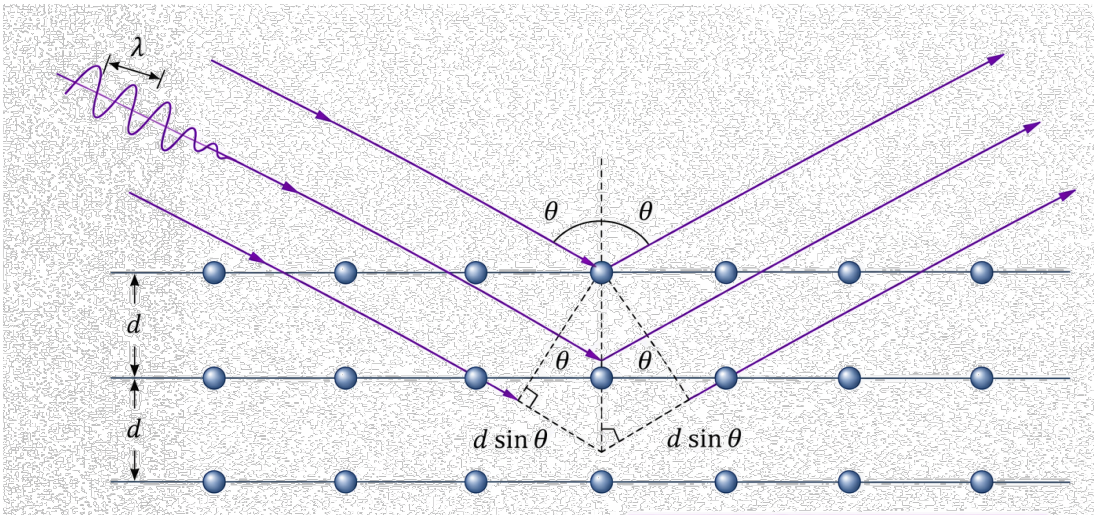
Plateau

$M_S^{VSM}$   
(A.m<sup>2</sup>.kg<sup>-1</sup><sub>Fe</sub>)

TREG	12.2
1 eq. TREG-NH <sub>2</sub>	49.8
2 eq. TREG-NH <sub>2</sub>	79.7
3 eq. TREG-NH <sub>2</sub>	82.5

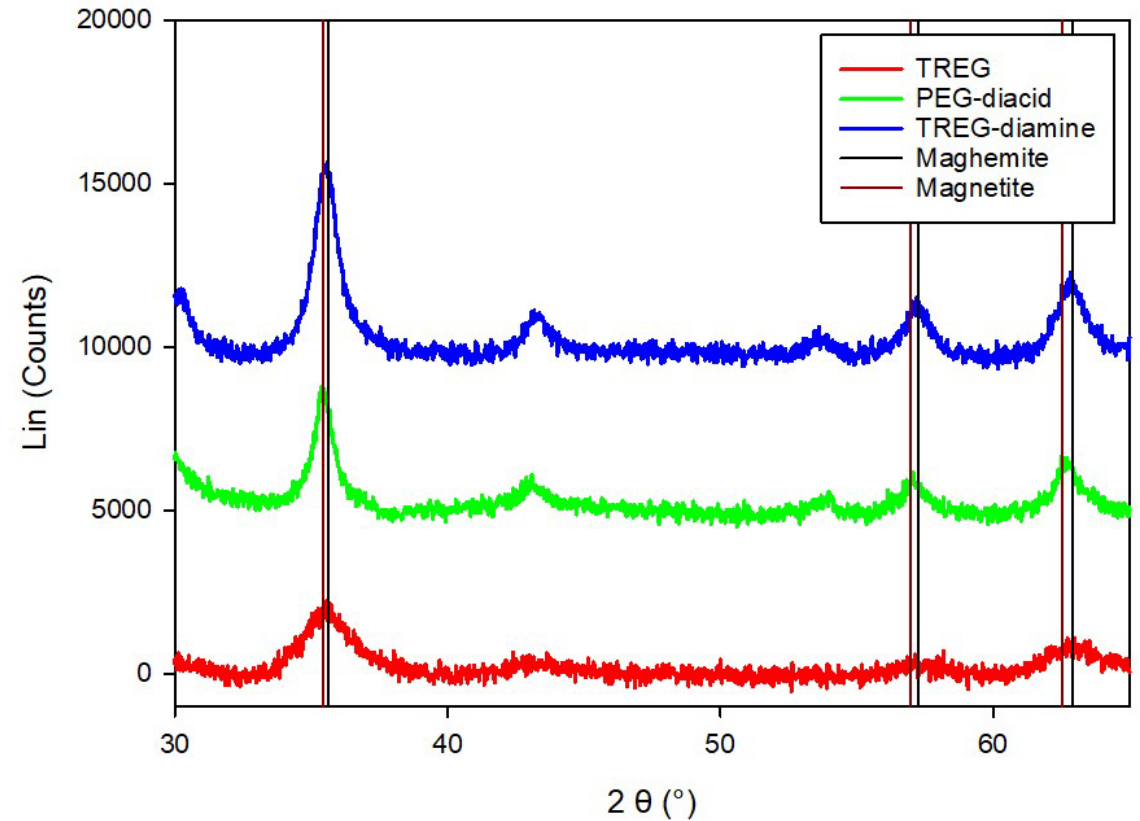
# Crystalline Phase

## X-ray diffraction



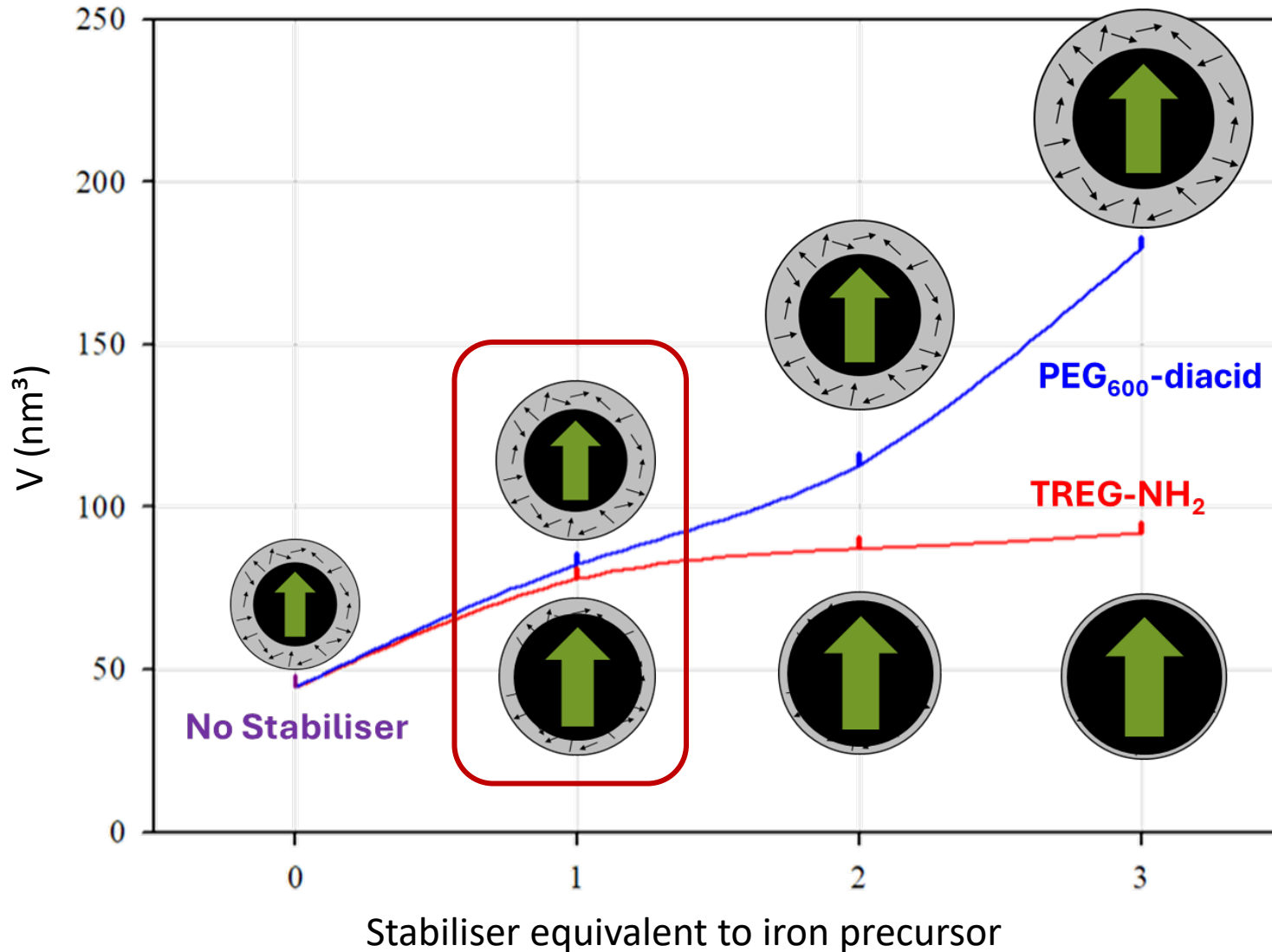
$$\text{Bragg's law: } n\lambda = 2d \sin\theta$$

- Peaks position  
→ Crystalline structure
- Full width at half maximum  
→ Crystallite size



- PEG-diacid: Smaller crystallite  
Closer to magnetite
- TREG-NH<sub>2</sub>: Larger crystallite  
Closer to  
maghemite

# Influence on Particle Growth



At 1 eq

Same shape

Similar size

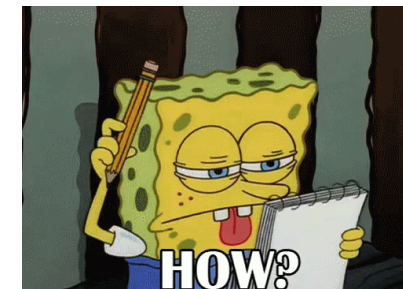
5.4 nm  $\approx$  5.3 nm

Different  $M_{\text{sat}}$

26.1  $\text{A}\cdot\text{m}^2\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  < 49.8  $\text{A}\cdot\text{m}^2\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$

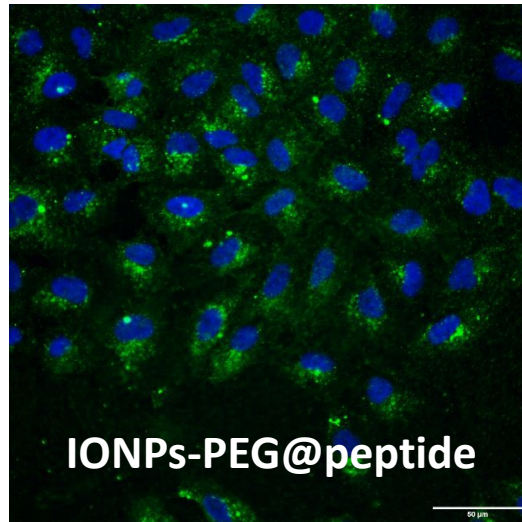
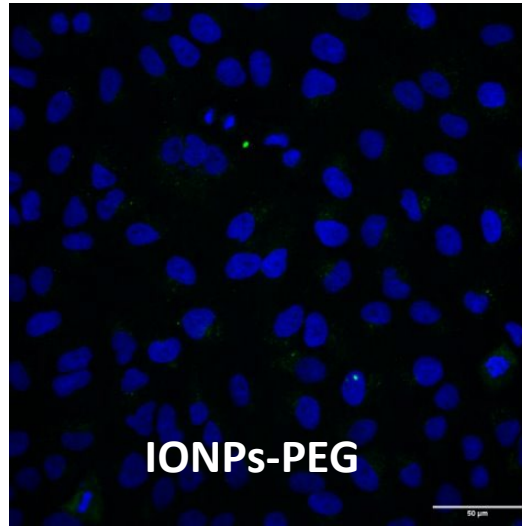
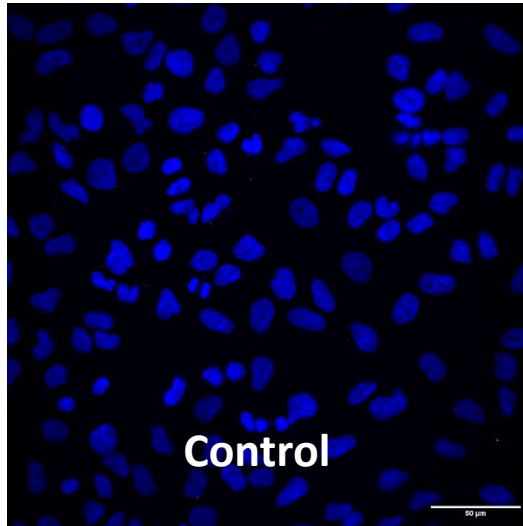
Nature of stabiliser influences:

- Crystallinity
- Iron oxide phase



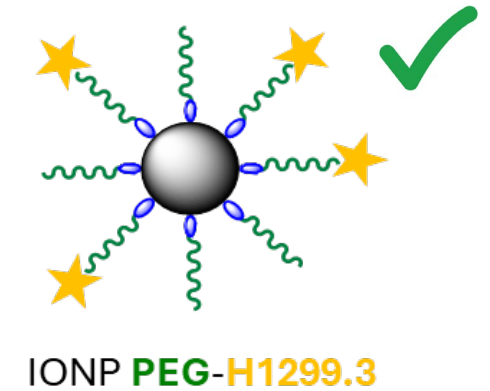
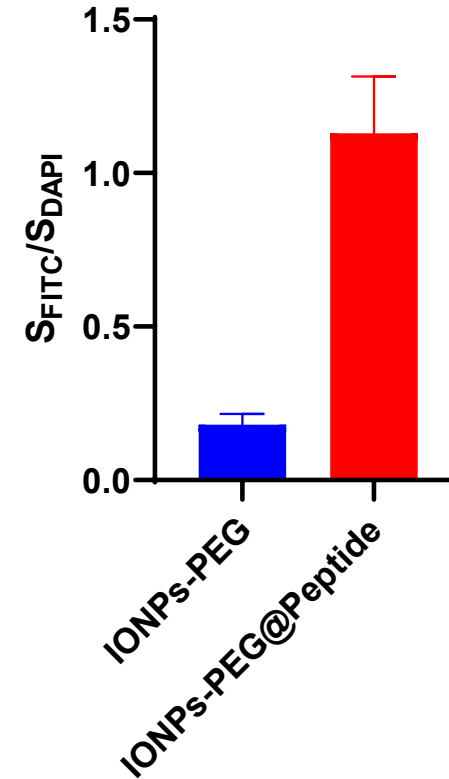


# Internalisation Tests



## Markers

- Dapi: Nuclei
- FITC: IONPs



- Increase of the internalisation
- Indirect proof of peptide grafting

# Conclusions

## Flow Chemistry

- Finer parameter control
- Increased reproducibility
- Automatisations
- Greener process
- Wide range of application
  
- Complex set-up
- Set-up specific to a reaction
- Cleaning and maintenance

## Characterisations

### Morphology

- DLS: Hydrodynamic diameter
- TEM: Core diameter and shape

### Crystalline phase

- XRD: IONPs phase and crystallite size

### Magnetic properties

- VSM: Saturation magnetisation
- NMRD profile: Reproducibility

### Surface analyses

- FTIR: Chemical functions
- XPS: Elemental composition
- HR-MAS: NMR at solid liquid interface

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**Thank you for your attention !**