

## On the Biology (and Related Subjects) From the Point of View of a Magnetic Nanoparticle

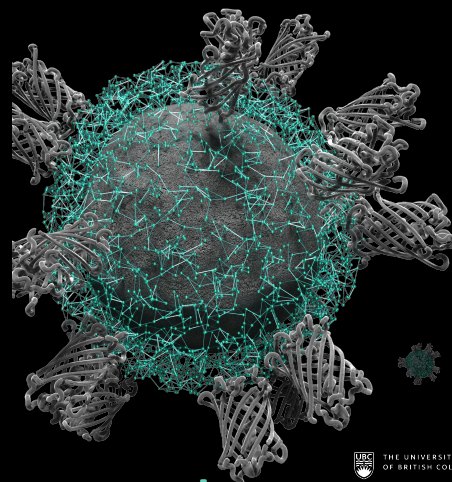
Lucía Gutiérrez



MAGMEET 2024 BARCELONA

14<sup>th</sup>

International Conference on the  
Scientific and Clinical Applications  
of Magnetic Carriers



Barcelona

June 17-21, 2024

Alejandro G. Roca, Lucía Gutiérrez, Puerto Morales, Urs Hafeli

[www.magneticmicrosphere.com](http://www.magneticmicrosphere.com)



## The Nano Odyssey: Understanding Nanoparticles in Biological Systems

-- Biology for non-biologist  
(taught by non-biologist) --

PART 1  
19/6/24

Lucía  
Gutiérrez



MAGMEET 2024 BARCELONA



# Is this tutorial for you?

Are you comfortable with this?

$$\vec{H}_i^{\text{dip}} = \sum_{i \neq j} V_j M_s r_{ij}^{-3} (-\hat{m}_j + 3\hat{r}_{ij}(\hat{m}_j \cdot \hat{r}_{ij}))$$

Yes

**TEAM: Physics**



No

Have you ever worked with cells?

No

**TEAM: Chemistry**



Yes

**TEAM: Bio**

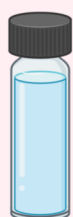


**Congratulations!**  
**You can sleep longer!**



## Interactions of NPs with biological systems

### Part 1: Fluids



Water



Cell culture media

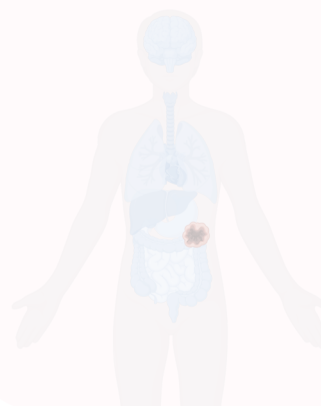


Blood

### Part 2: Cells



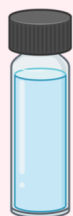
### Part 3: Body



Created with Biorender

## Interactions of NPs with biological systems

### Part 1: Fluids



Water

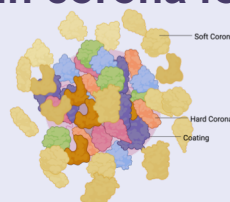


Cell culture media



Blood

### Protein corona formation

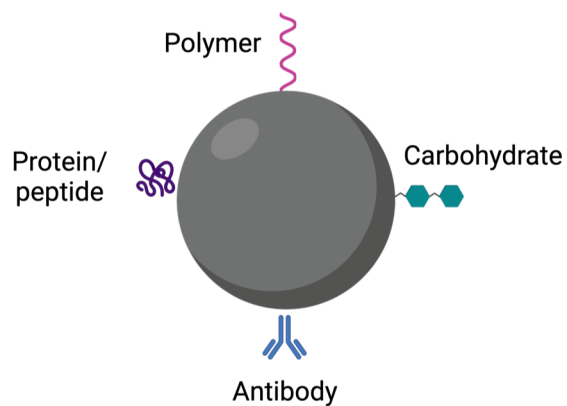


### NPs sterility



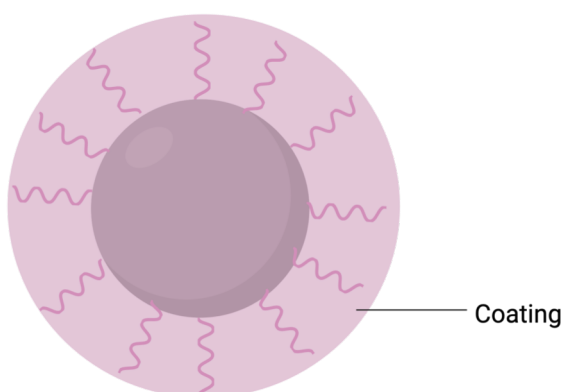
Created with Biorender

## Introduction to the main character: The Magnetic Nanoparticle



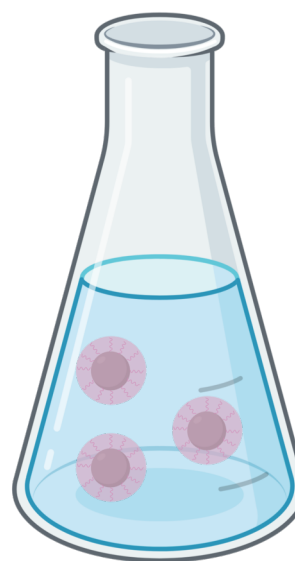
*Created with Biorender*

### NP + coating

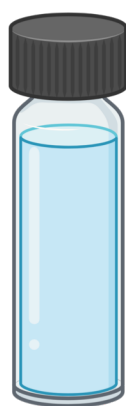


*Created with Biorender*

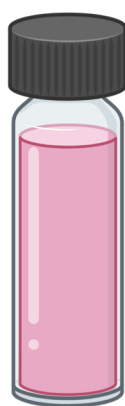
### Synthetic identity



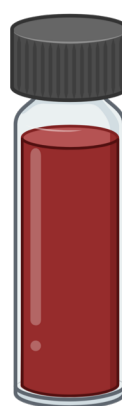
## Fluids



Water



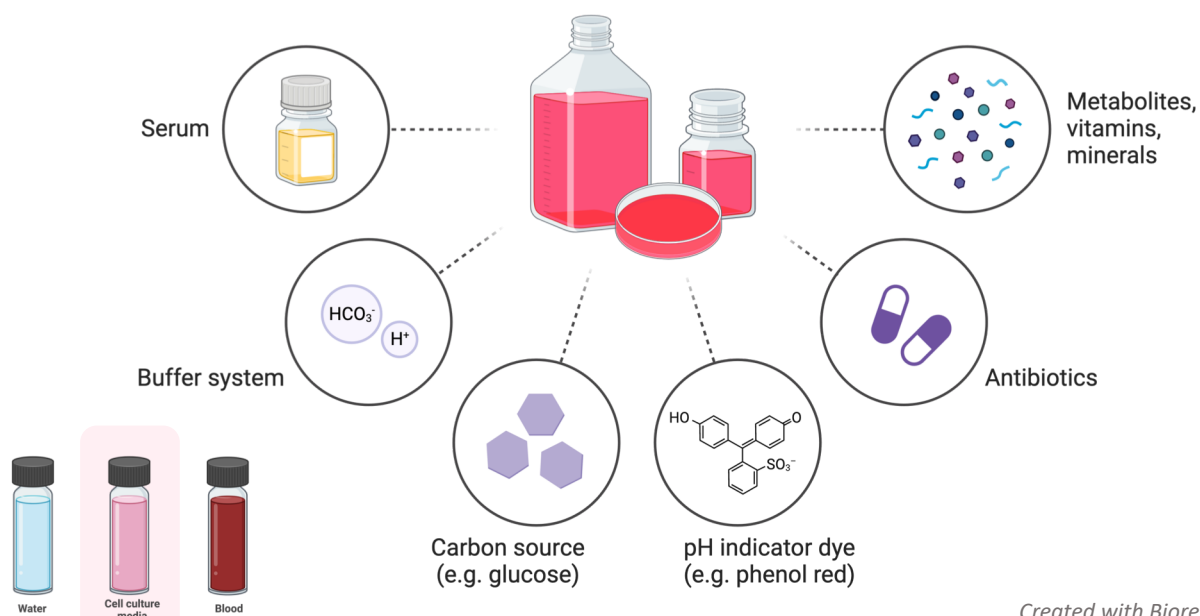
Cell culture media



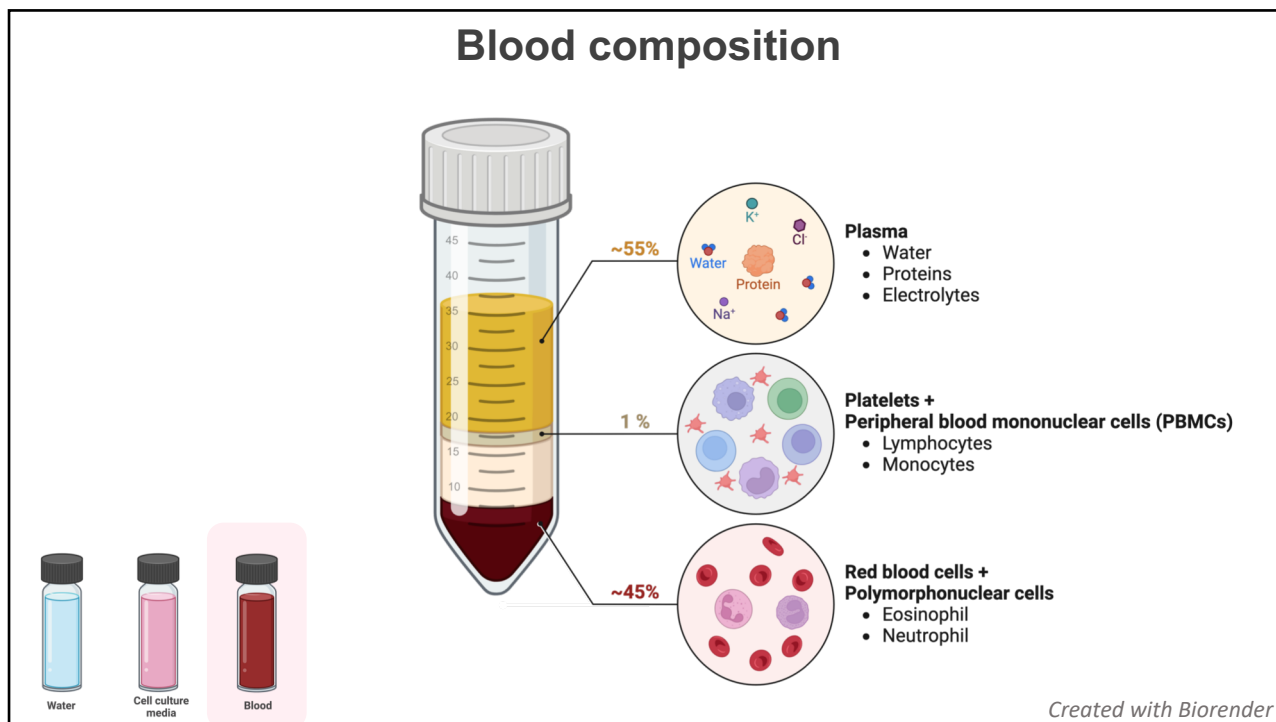
Blood

*Created with Biorender*

## Cell culture media composition



*Created with Biorender*

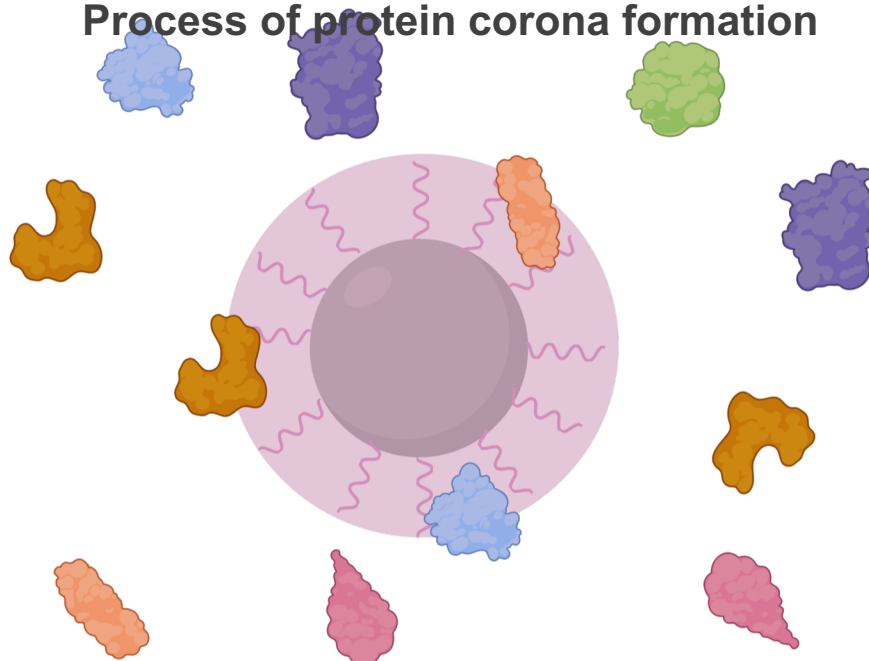


# What will happen to the nanoparticle in this new world?

## Protein corona formation

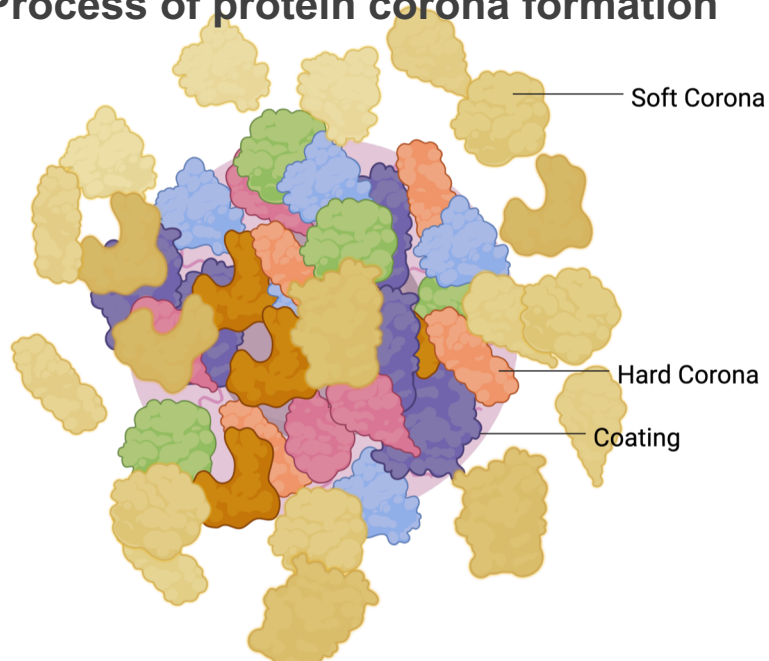


## Process of protein corona formation



Created with Biorender

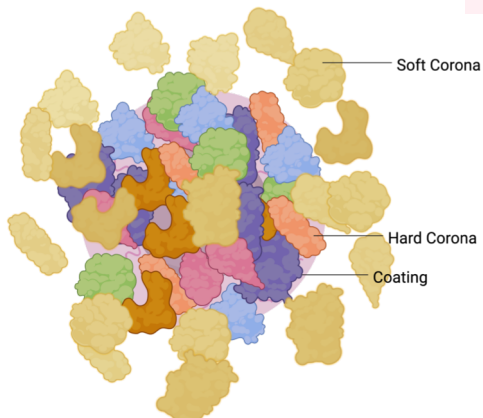
## Process of protein corona formation



Created with Biorender

## Properties of the protein corona

### Dynamic



#### FIRST

- Proteins attach very fast to the surface
- Most abundant proteins (albumin, fibrinogen)

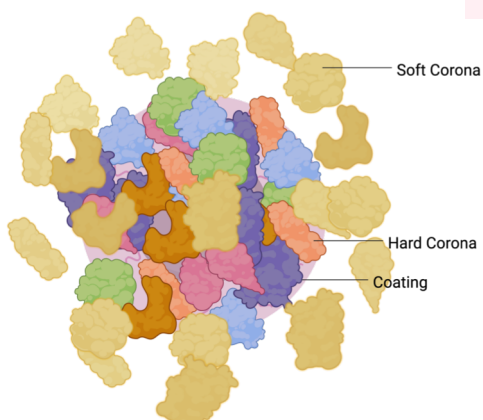
#### THEN

- Less abundant proteins will be bound
- Higher affinity proteins will remain

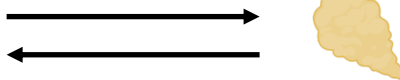
Created with Biorender

## Properties of the protein corona

### Dynamic

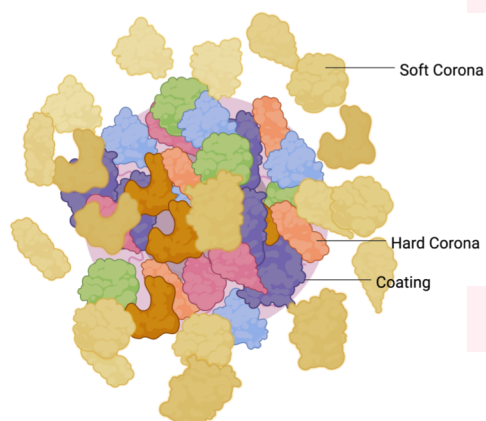


Over time they are replaced by proteins with lower concentration but higher affinity.



Created with Biorender

## Parts of the protein corona



### Hard corona

- Irreversibly bonded proteins

### Soft corona

- Reversible bound

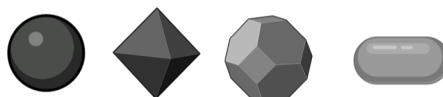
Created with Biorender

## Parameters that affect the protein corona formation

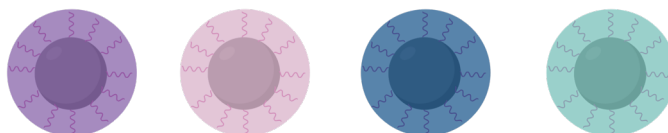
Size



Shape



Coating



Charge

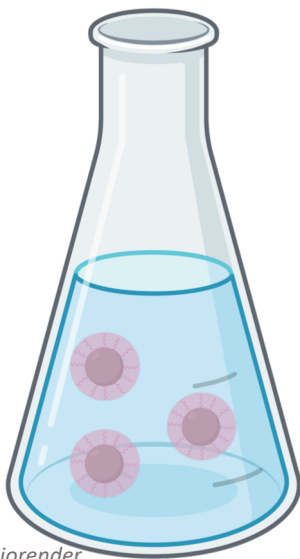
Hydrophobicity

Rugosity

Created with Biorender

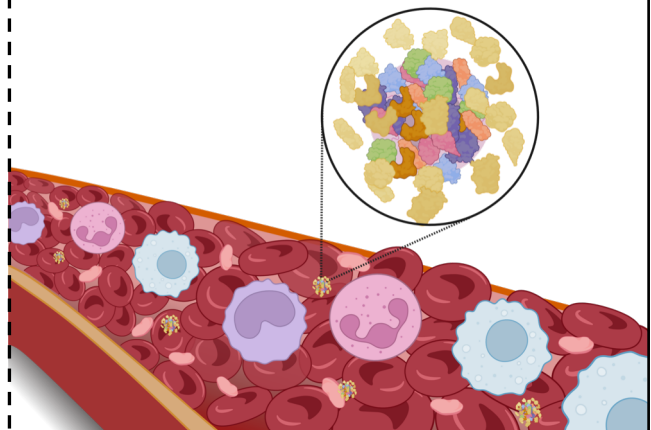
# Why is this important?

**Synthetic identity**

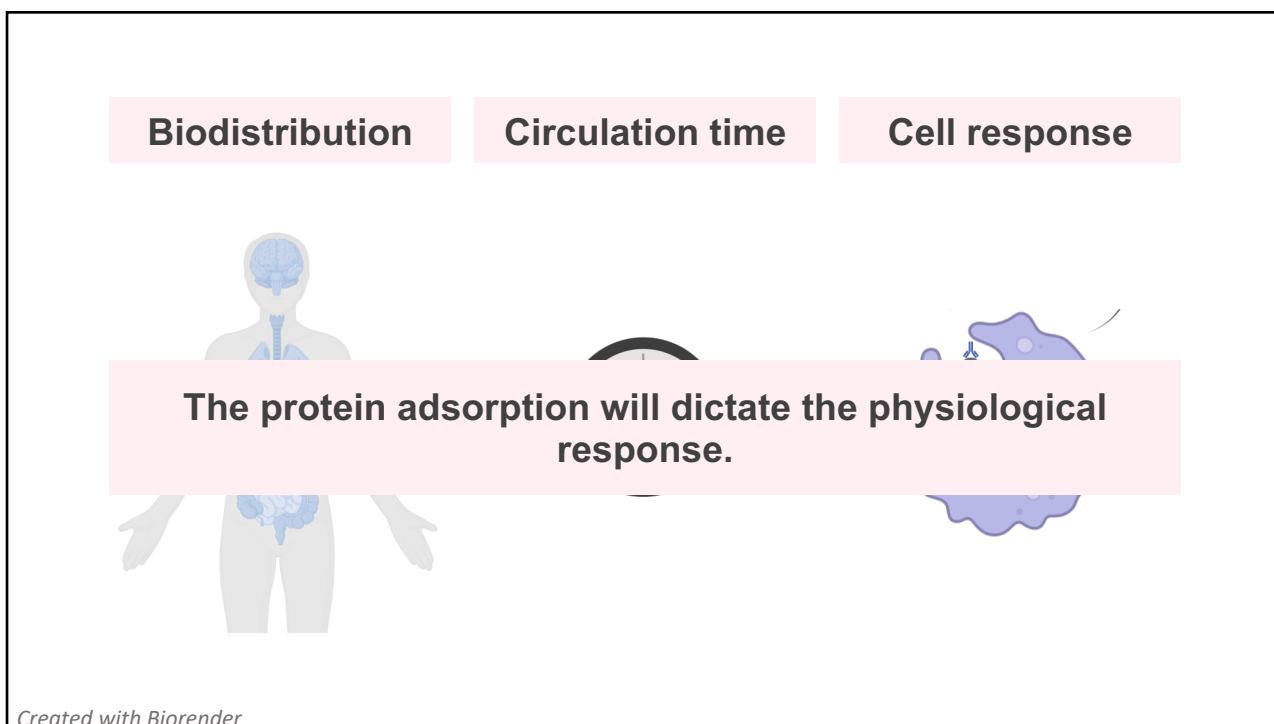
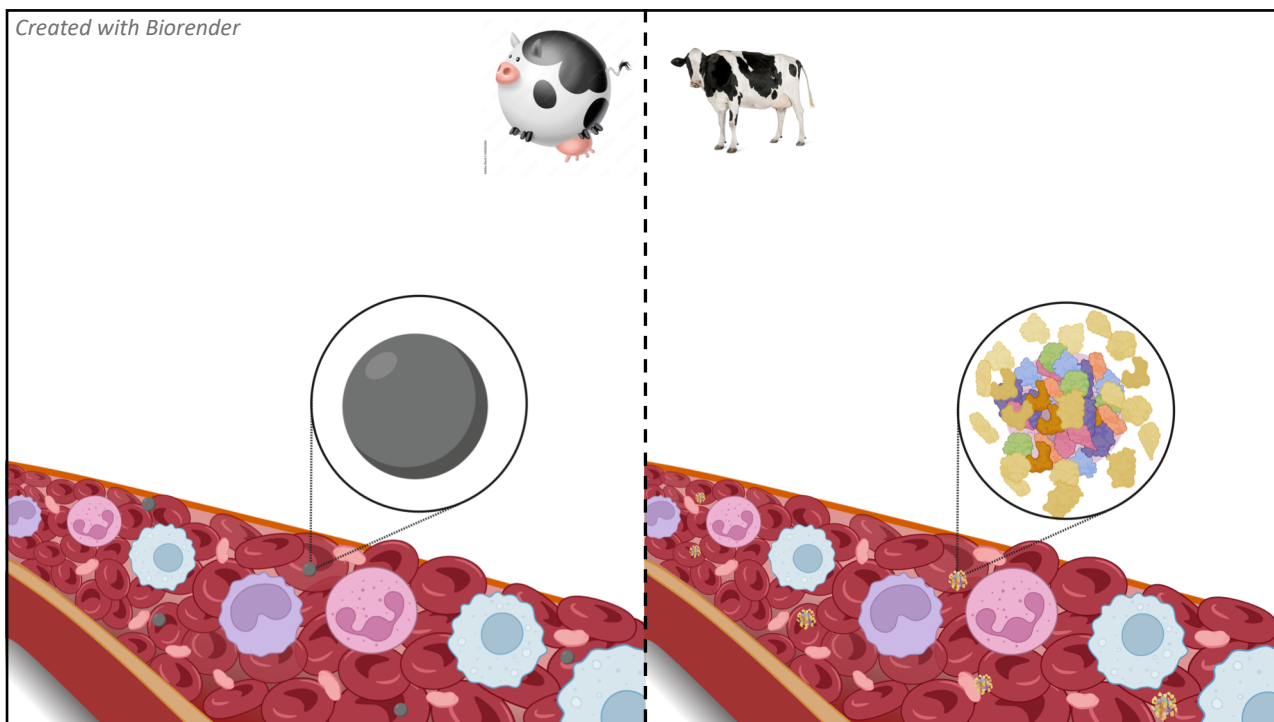


*Created with Biorender*

**Biological identity**

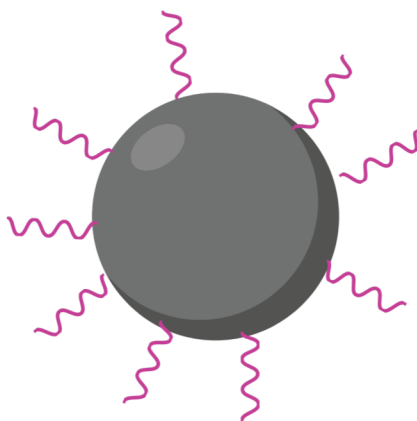




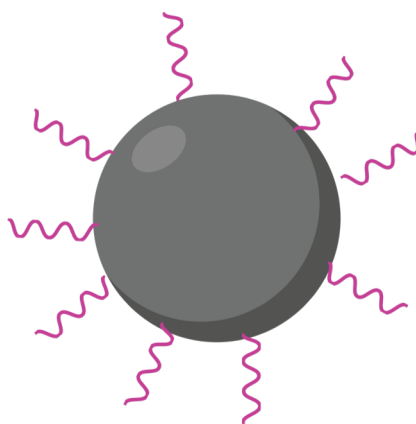
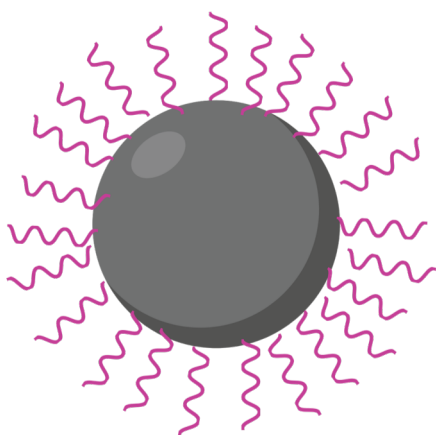


**How to avoid protein binding?**

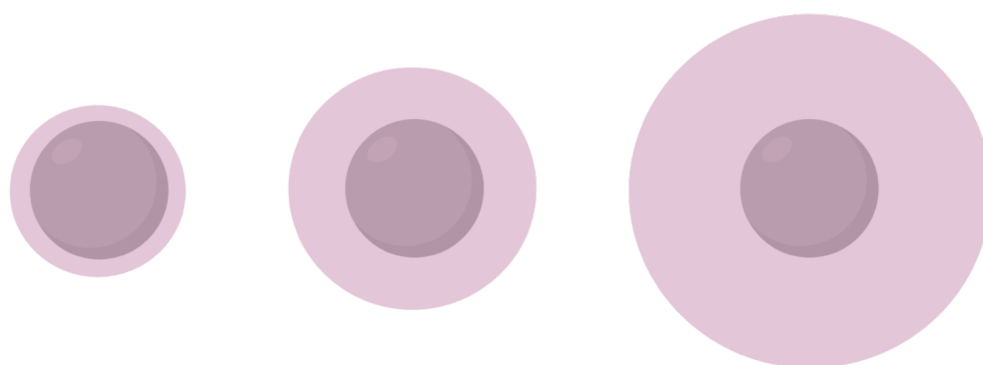
**PEG: Polyethylene glycol**



**PEG Coating: DENSITY**



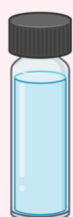
## PEG Coating: MOLECULAR WEIGHT



Circulation time in blood

## SUMMARY

### Part 1: Fluids



Water

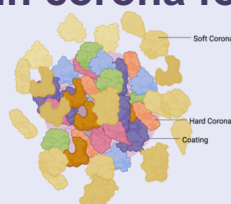


Cell culture media



Blood

### Protein corona formation



1 Hard/Soft Corona

2 Dynamic

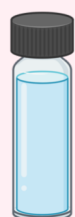
3 Biological identity

4 Coatings

Created with Biorender

## Interactions of NPs with biological systems

### Part 1: Fluids



Water

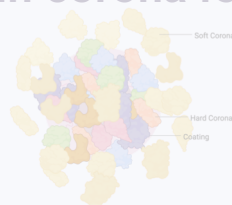


Cell culture media



Blood

### Protein corona formation

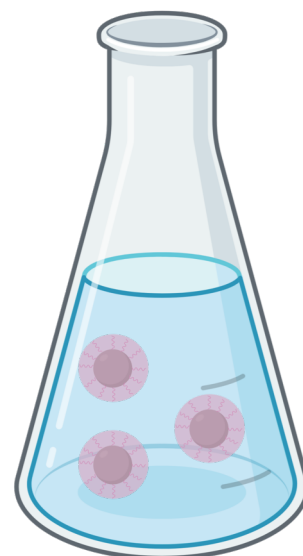


### NPs sterility



Created with Biorender

## Sterility

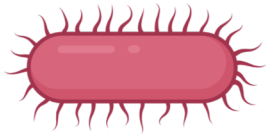


Created with Biorender

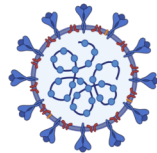


## Sterilization

What to we want to remove?



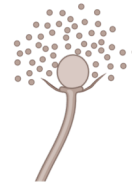
**Bacteria**



**Virus**



**Fungi**



**Spores**



**Prions**

*Created with Biorender*

## Sterilization

How do we remove it?



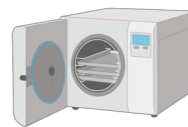
**Heat**



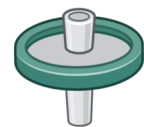
**Chemicals**



**Irradiation**



**High pressure**

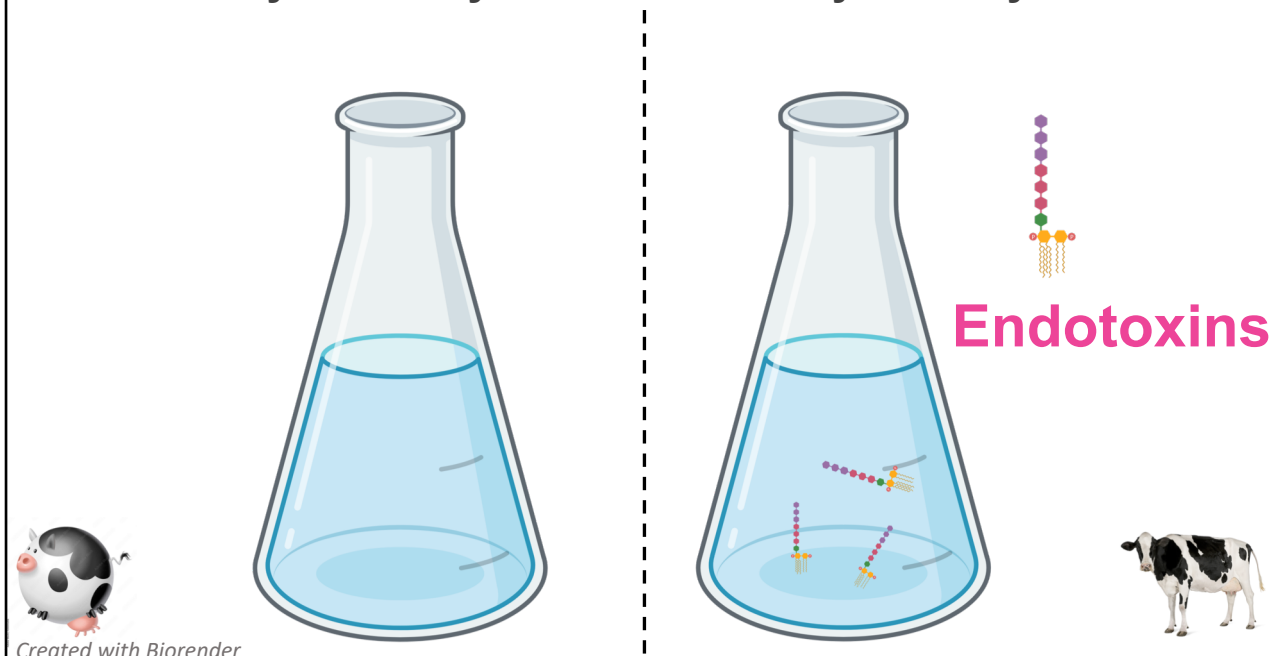


**Filtration**

**But.....**

*Created with Biorender*

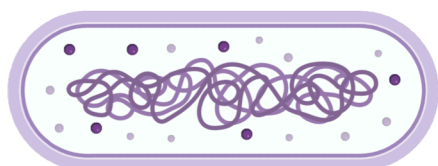
## What you think you have vs what you really have



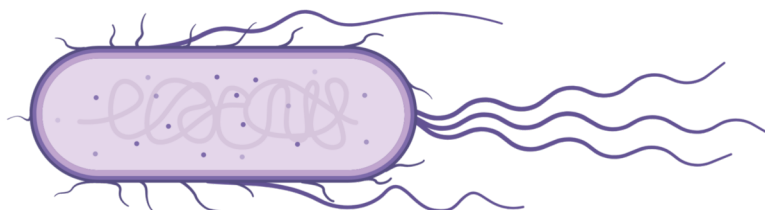
## Where do endotoxins come from?

### Bacteria

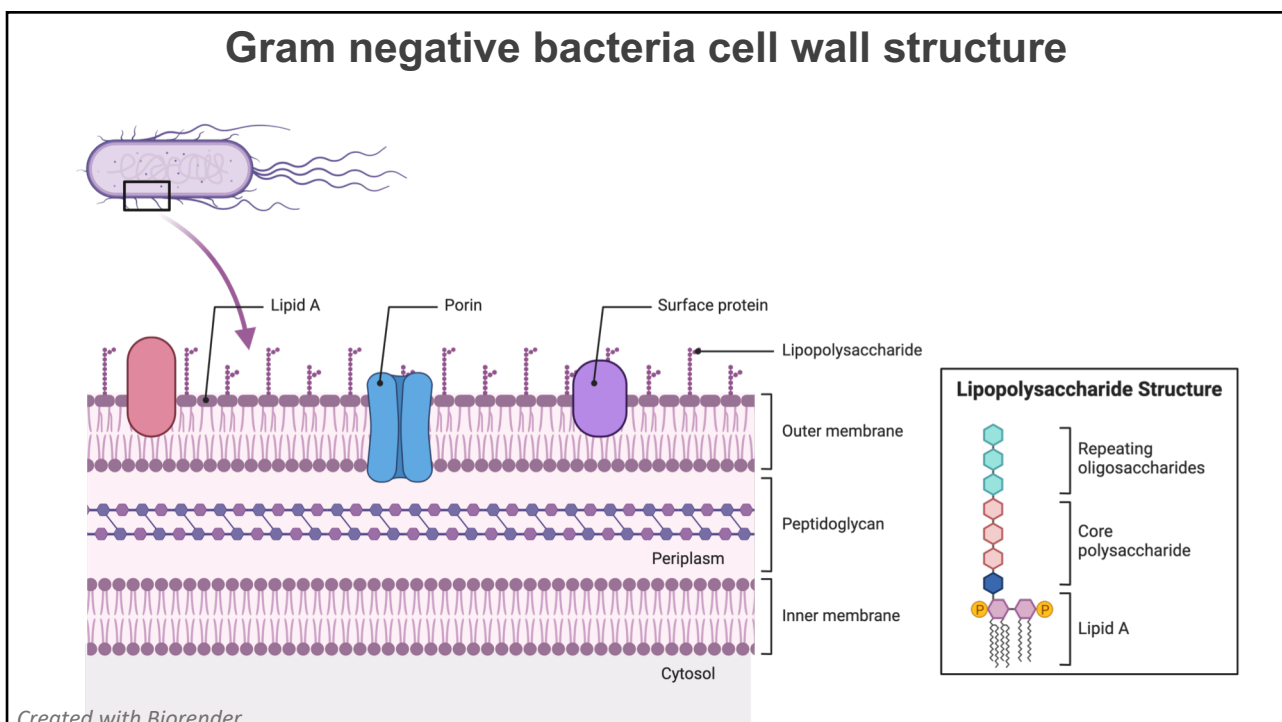
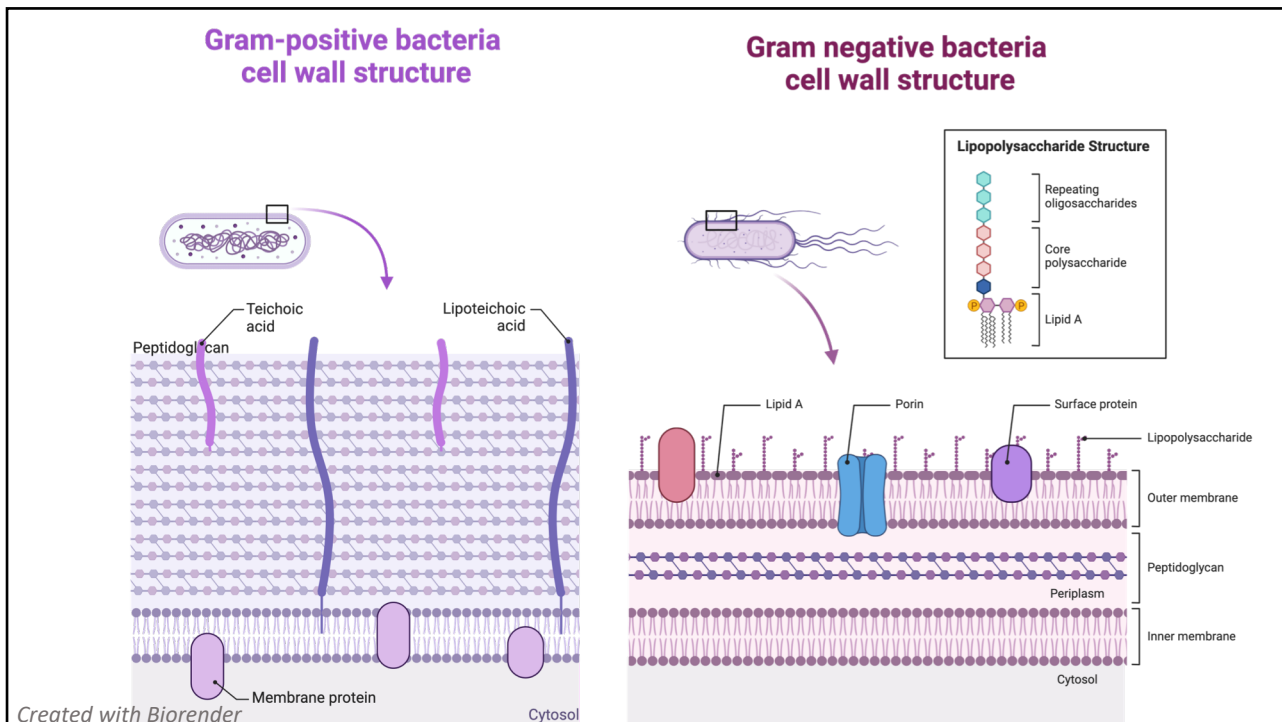
#### Gram-Positive Bacteria

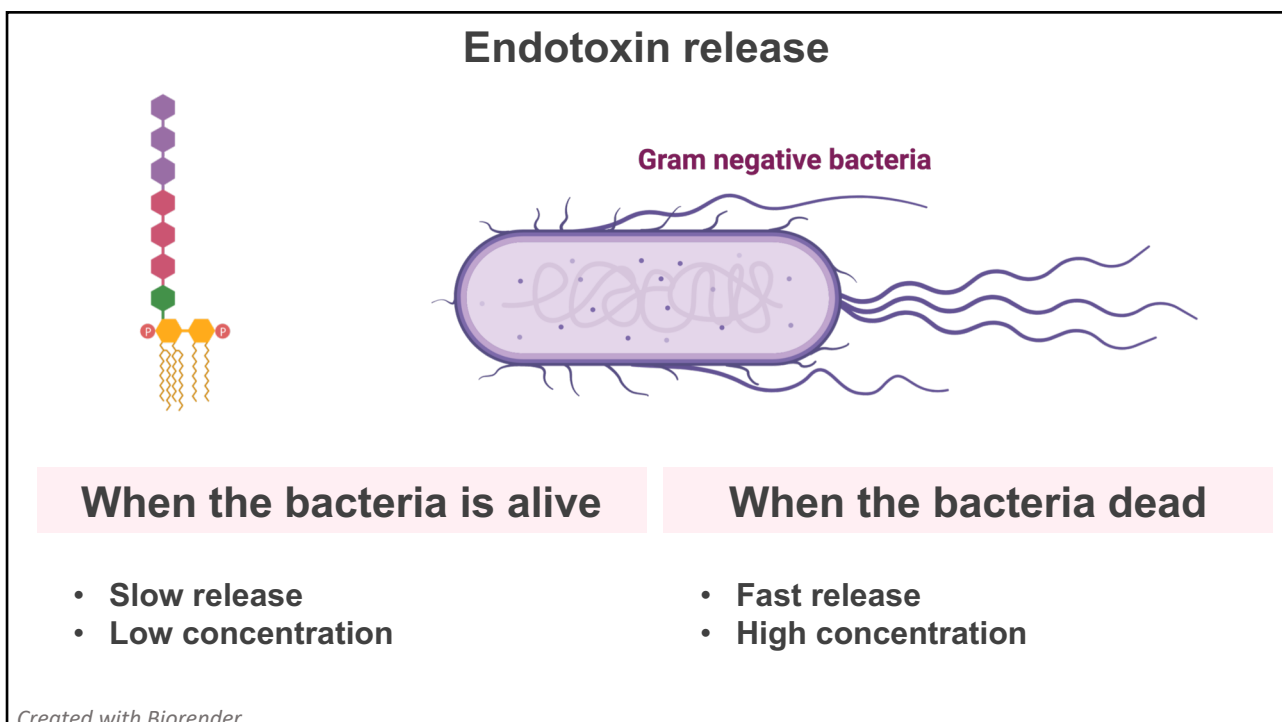
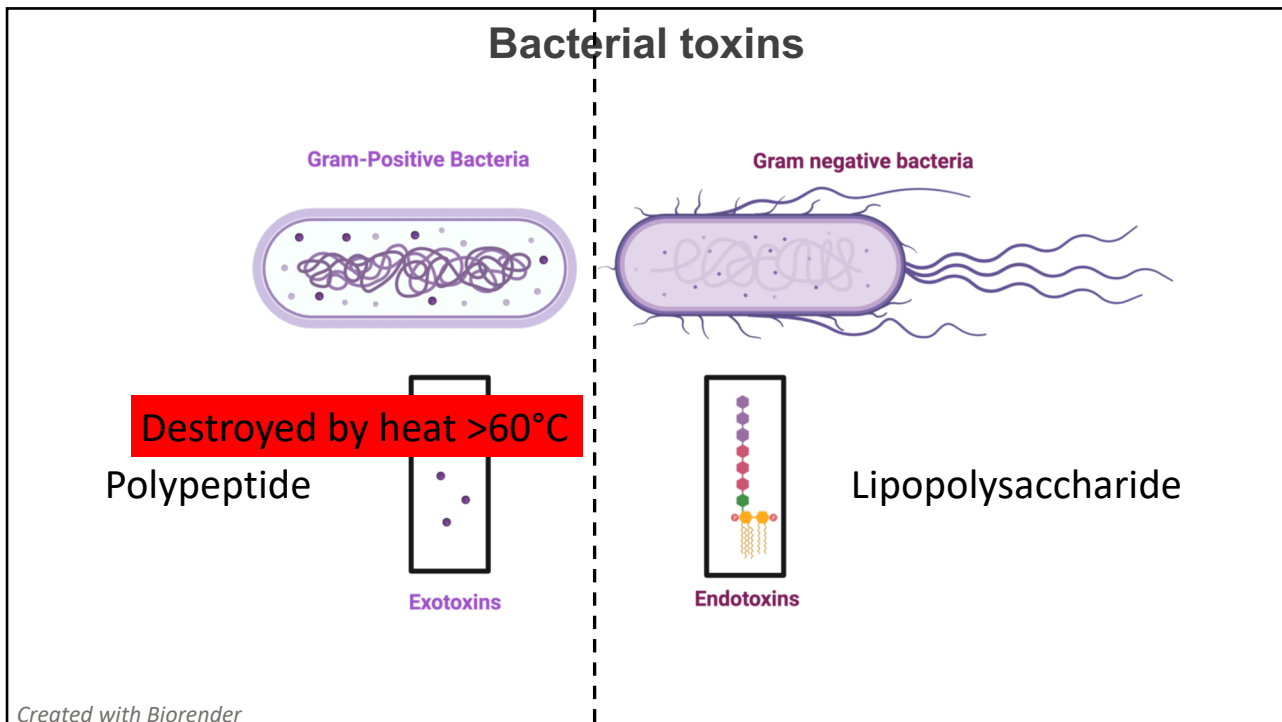


#### Gram negative bacteria



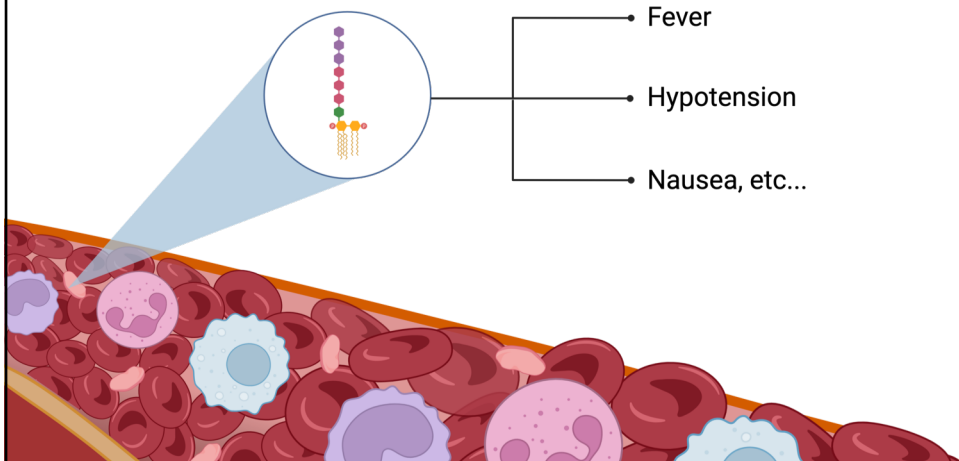
Created with Biorender







## Main problems of endotoxins

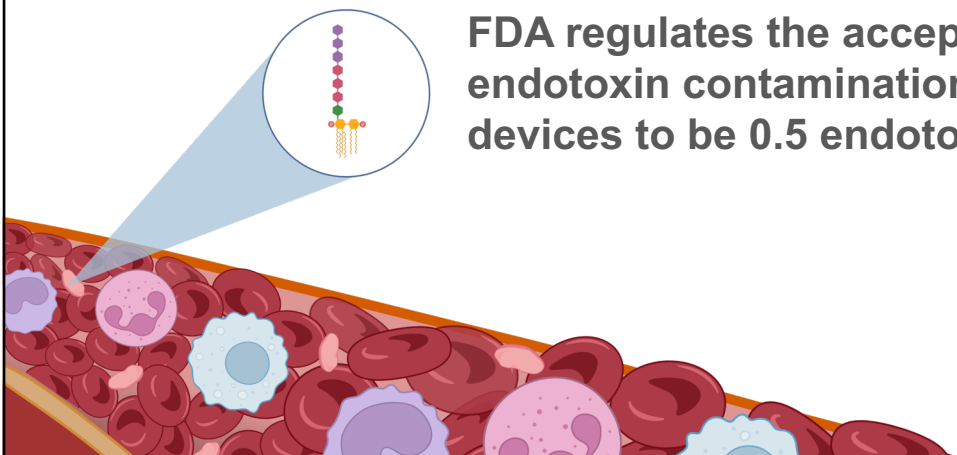


*Created with Biorender*

## Main problems of endotoxins



FDA regulates the acceptable level of endotoxin contamination with medical devices to be 0.5 endotoxin units/ml

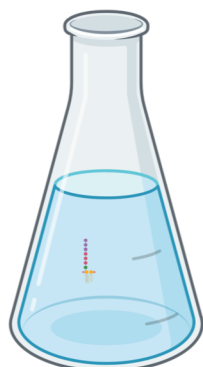


*Created with Biorender*

## Main problem of endotoxins



**“It is difficult to remove endotoxins from products once present.”**



Water soluble



Pass through filters



Heat stable

*Created with Biorender*

## Reccomendations



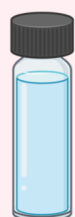
**“It is difficult to remove endotoxins from products once present. It is far better to keep finished products and components relatively endotoxin-free rather than have to remove it once present”**



*Created with Biorender*

## SUMMARY

### Part 1: Fluids



Water



Cell culture media



Blood

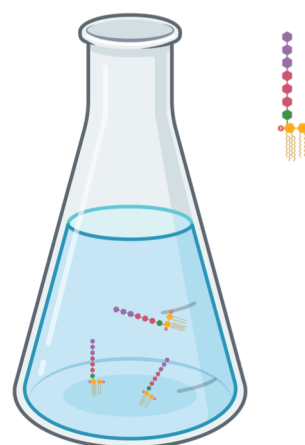
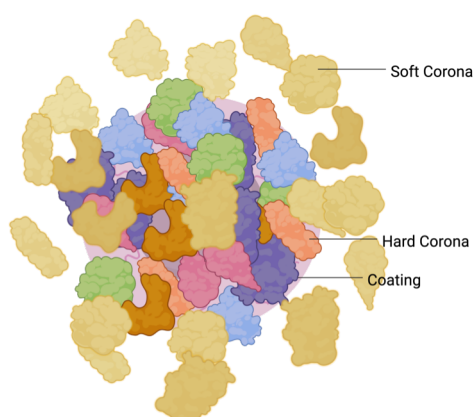
- 1 Sterilization process
- 2 What are endotoxins?
- 3 FDA limitations
- 4 Recommendations

### NPs sterility



Created with Biorender

## Summary of Part 1



Created with Biorender



**Magnetic Dance in the Fluid Realm**  
female voice, poprock, pop

In the bloodstream, they start to roam,  
Magnetic wonders, far from home,  
Iron oxide at their core,  
Navigating fluids, exploring more.  
Magnetic dance, in the fluid realm,

 **Suno**

## TUTORIAL PLAYLIST

### Session 1: Introduction and Interactions at the Fluid Level

## The Nano Odyssey: Understanding Nanoparticles in Biological Systems

-- Biology for non-biologist  
(taught by non-biologist) –

**PART 2**

**Lucía  
Gutiérrez**

**INMA**  
INSTITUTO DE NANOCIENCIA  
Y MATERIALES DE ARAGÓN

 **Bionanosurf**

**MAGMEET 2024 BARCELONA**



## Interactions of NPs with biological systems

### Part 1: Fluids



Water

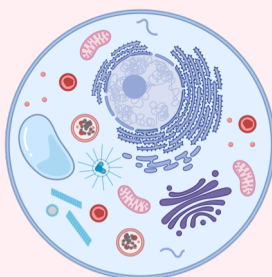


Cell culture media

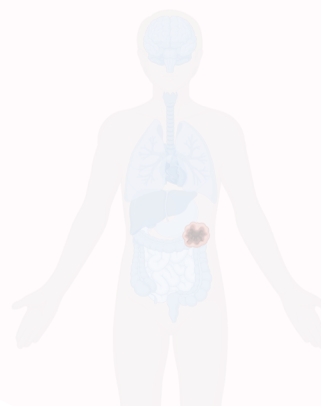


Blood

### Part 2: Cells



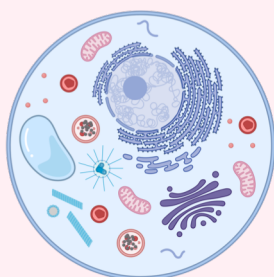
### Part 3: Body



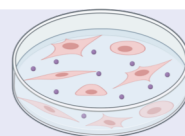
Created with Biorender

## Interactions of NPs with biological systems

### Part 2: Cells



#### Cell culture



#### NP uptake



#### Intracellular NP fate



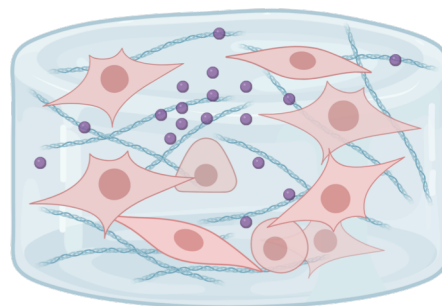
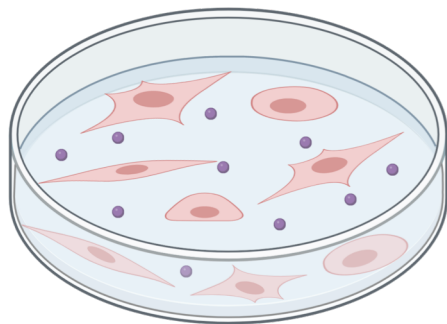
#### Toxicity



Created with Biorender

## Cell culture types

### 2D vs 3D

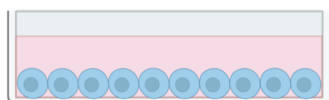


Created with Biorender

## Cell culture types

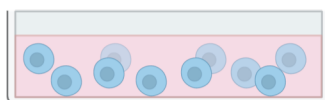
### 2D cell cultures

#### Adherent

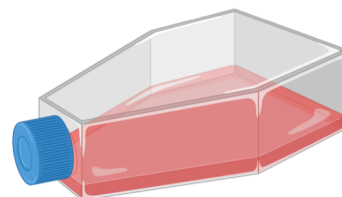


- Cells are attached to solid surface
- Grown as monolayers

#### Suspension



- Cells are free-floating in liquid medium

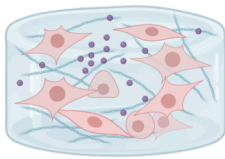


Created with Biorender

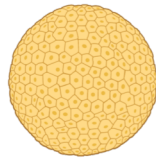
## Cell culture types

### 3D cell cultures

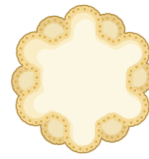
3D matrix



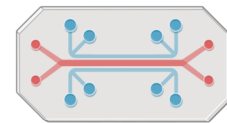
Spheroid



Organoid



Organ-on-chip

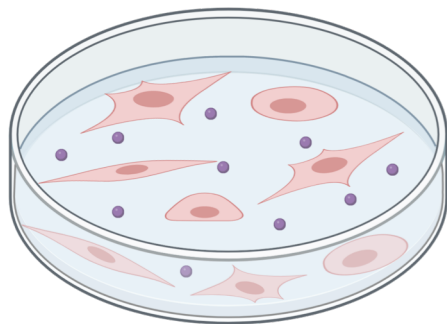


*Created with Biorender*

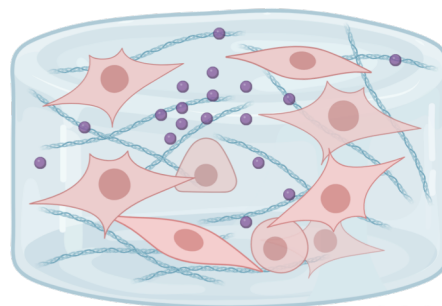
# Why is this important?

## Cell culture types

### 2D vs 3D

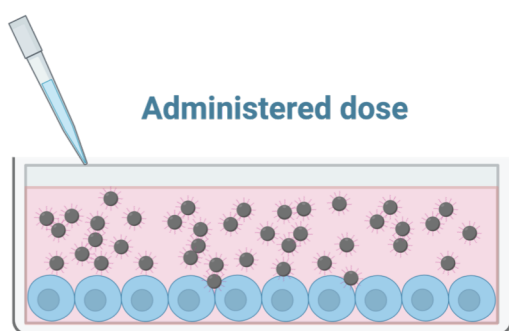


Created with Biorender



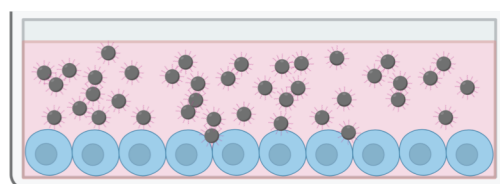
## Cell culture

### What do cells feel?

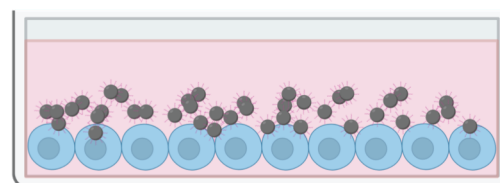


Administered dose

Delivered dose



Delivered dose



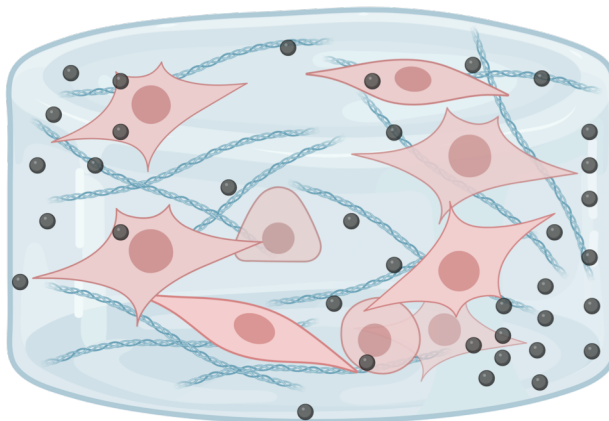
Created with Biorender



## Cell culture

What do cells feel?

Delivered dose

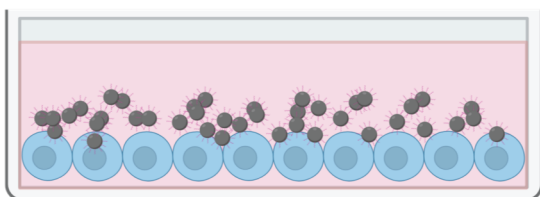


Created with Biorender

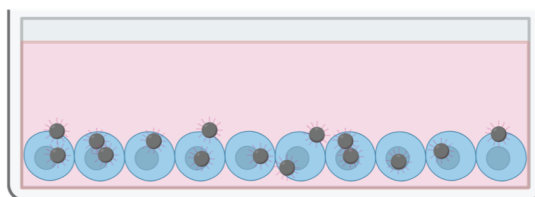
## Cell culture

What do cells feel?

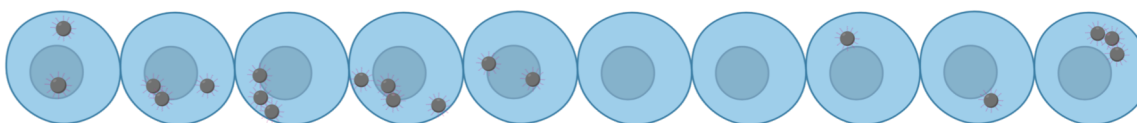
Delivered dose



NPs uptake



Average NP uptake (?)

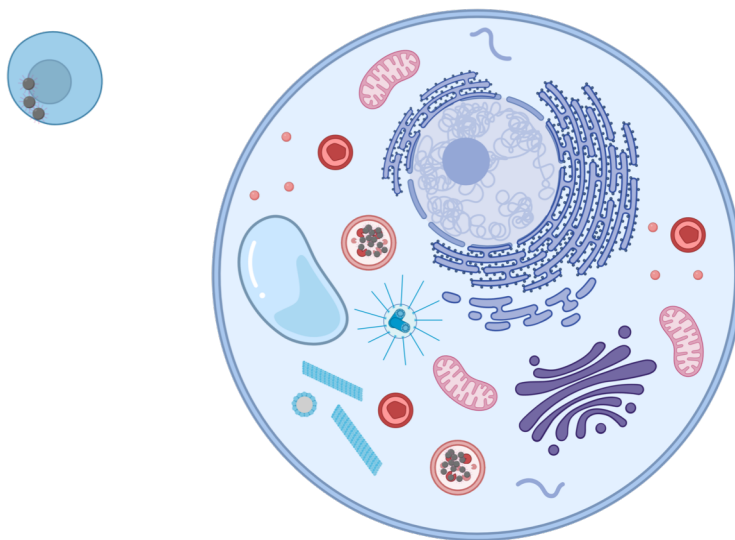


Created with Biorender

# Things we often forget

## Cell culture

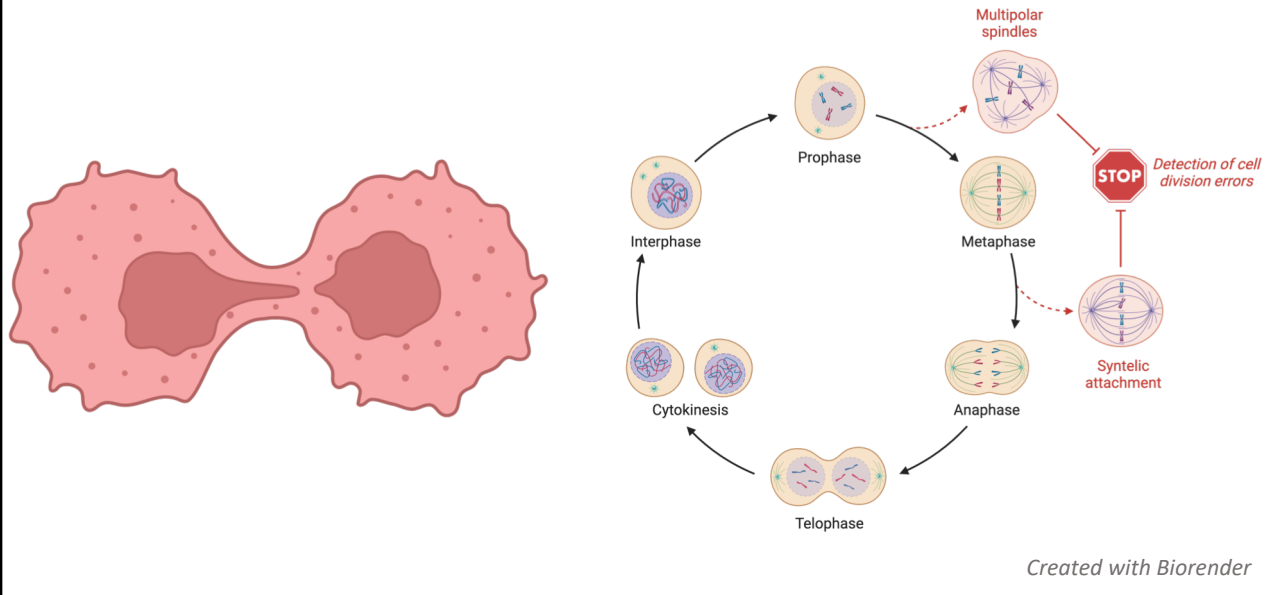
### Average concentration vs Local concentration



Created with Biorender

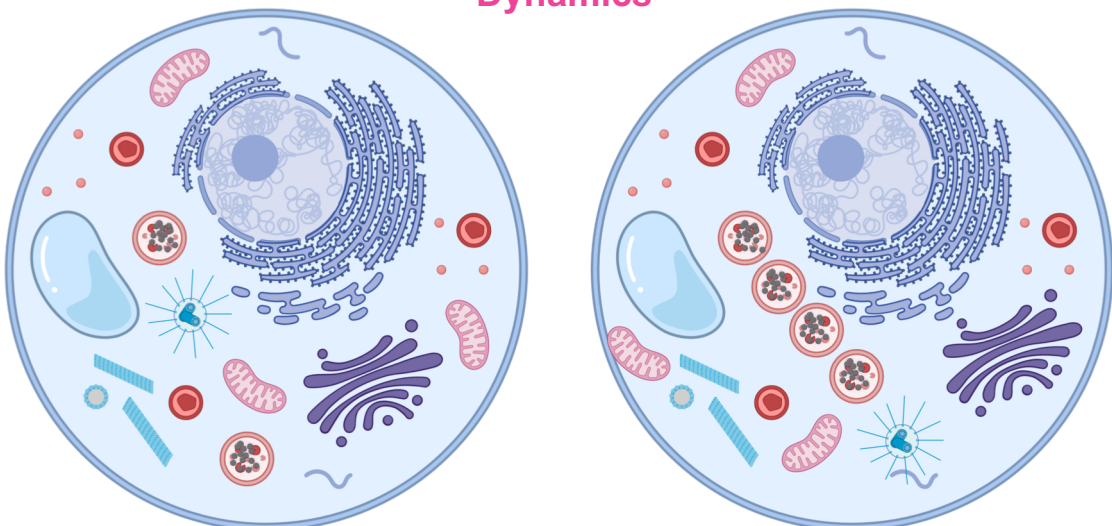
## Things we often forget

### Dynamics



## Things we often forget

### Dynamics

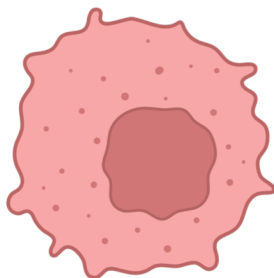


## Things we often forget

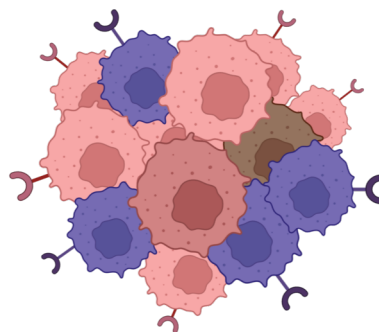
**Healthy cell**



**Tumor cell**



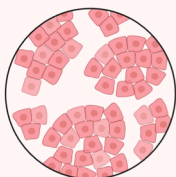
**Tumor heterogeneity**



*Created with Biorender*

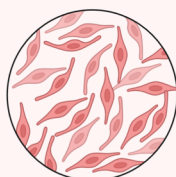
## Things we often forget

**Epithelial**



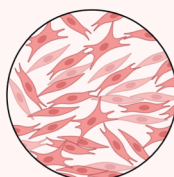
- Squamous, columnar or cuboidal-shaped

**Endothelial**



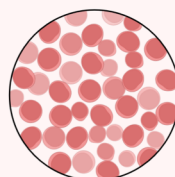
- Rounded outline
- Elongated

**Fibroblast-like**



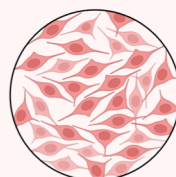
- Spindle-shaped
- Elongated

**Lymphoblast-like**



- Spherical-shaped
- Cells range in size

**Neuronal**

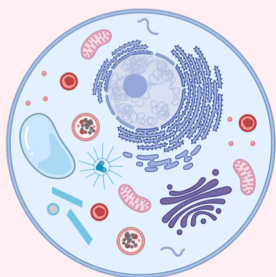


- Round, pyramidal, or spindle-shaped

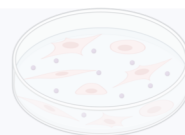
*Created with Biorender*

## Interactions of NPs with biological systems

### Part 2: Cells



Cell culture



NP uptake



Intracellular NP fate



Toxicity



Created with Biorender

## Nanoparticle **entry** into cells

### Mechanisms of NP uptake

**Phagocytosis**

Professional phagocytes

**Pinocytosis**

Many cell types

Macropinocytosis

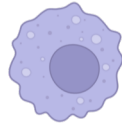
Clathrin-mediated  
endocytosis

Caveolin-mediated  
endocytosis

Others...

## Phagocytosis

### Professional phagocytes



Macrophage



Monocytes



Neutrophil



Dendritic cell

### Other types of cells



Fibroblast



Epithelial cell

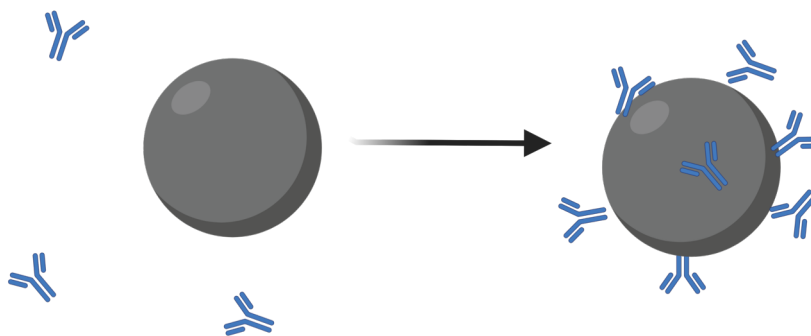


Endothelial cell

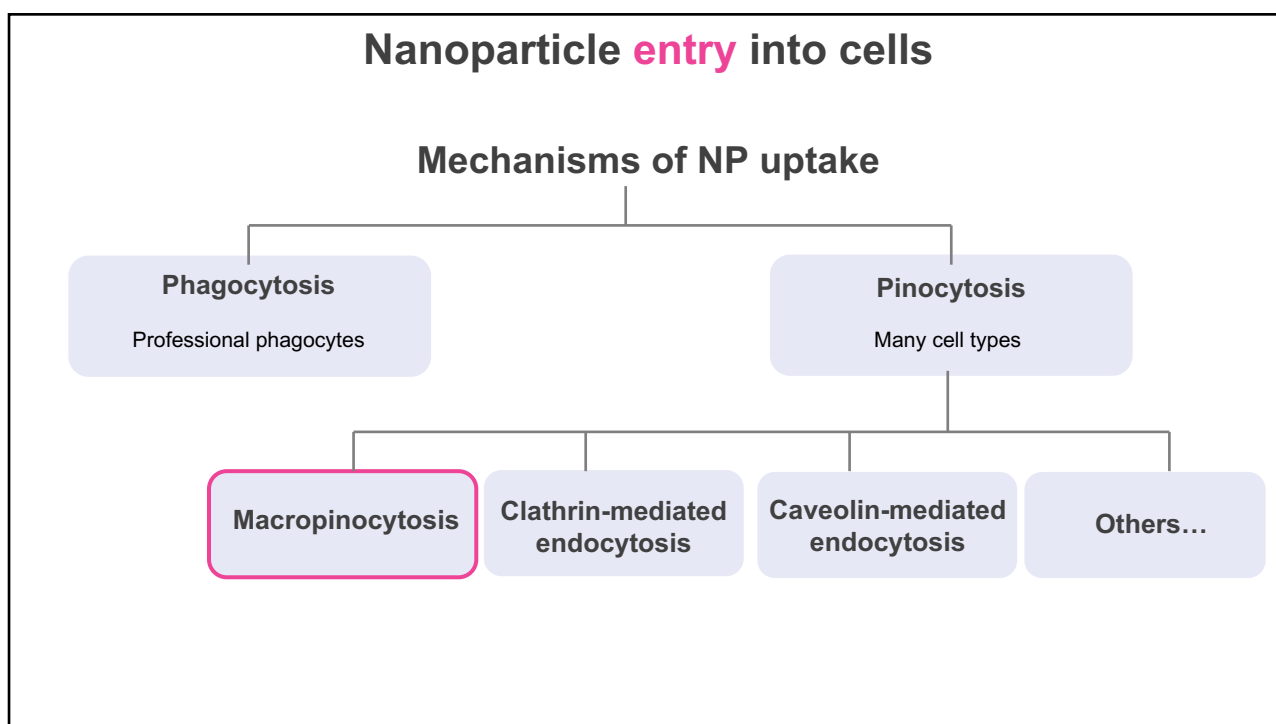
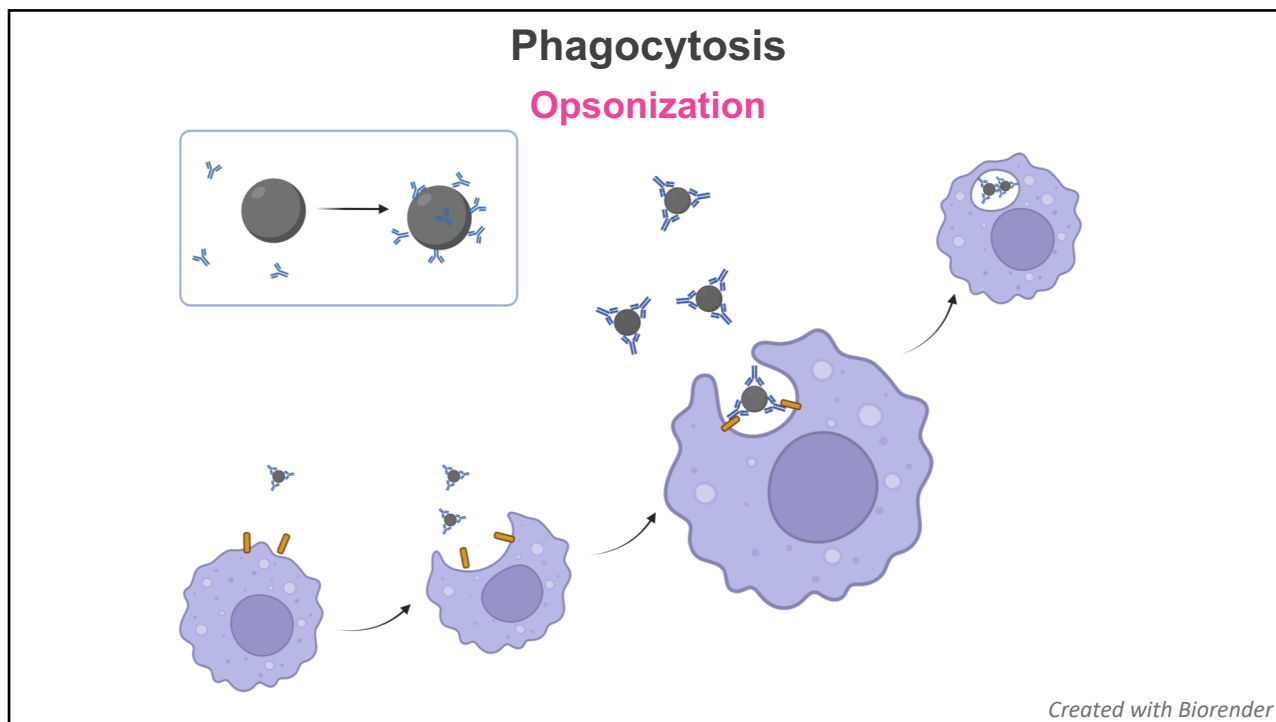
*Created with Biorender*

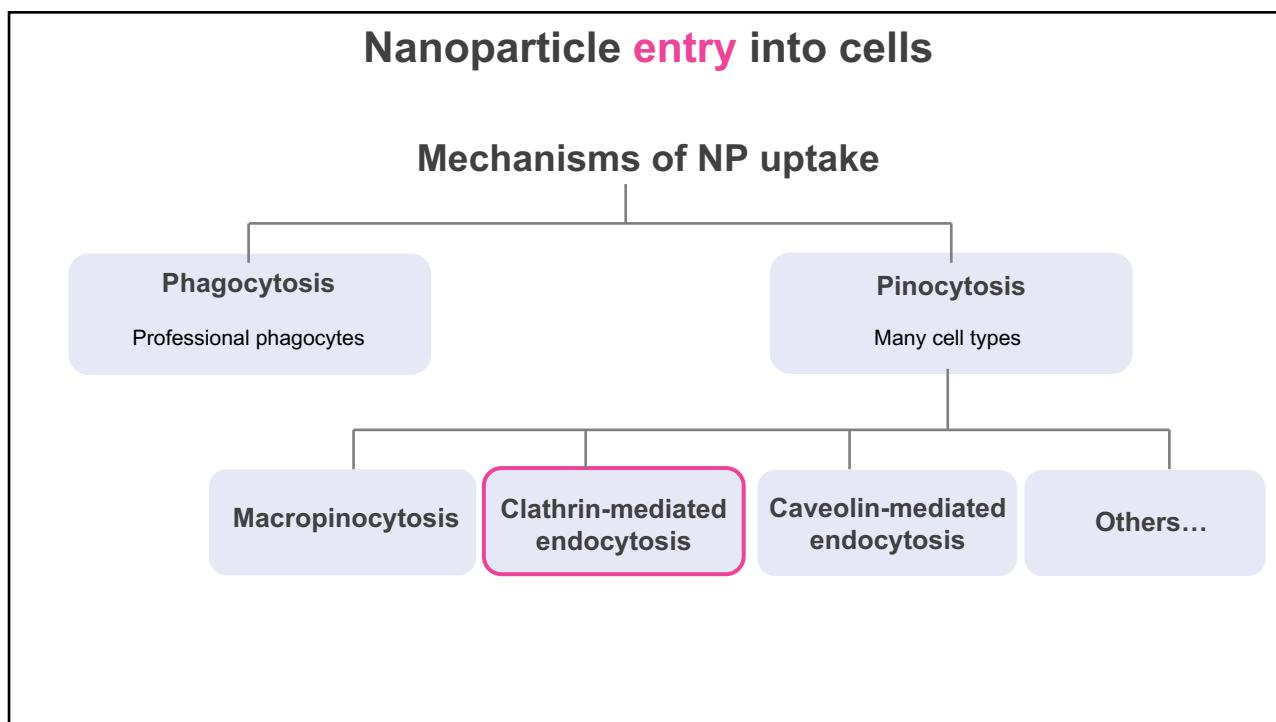
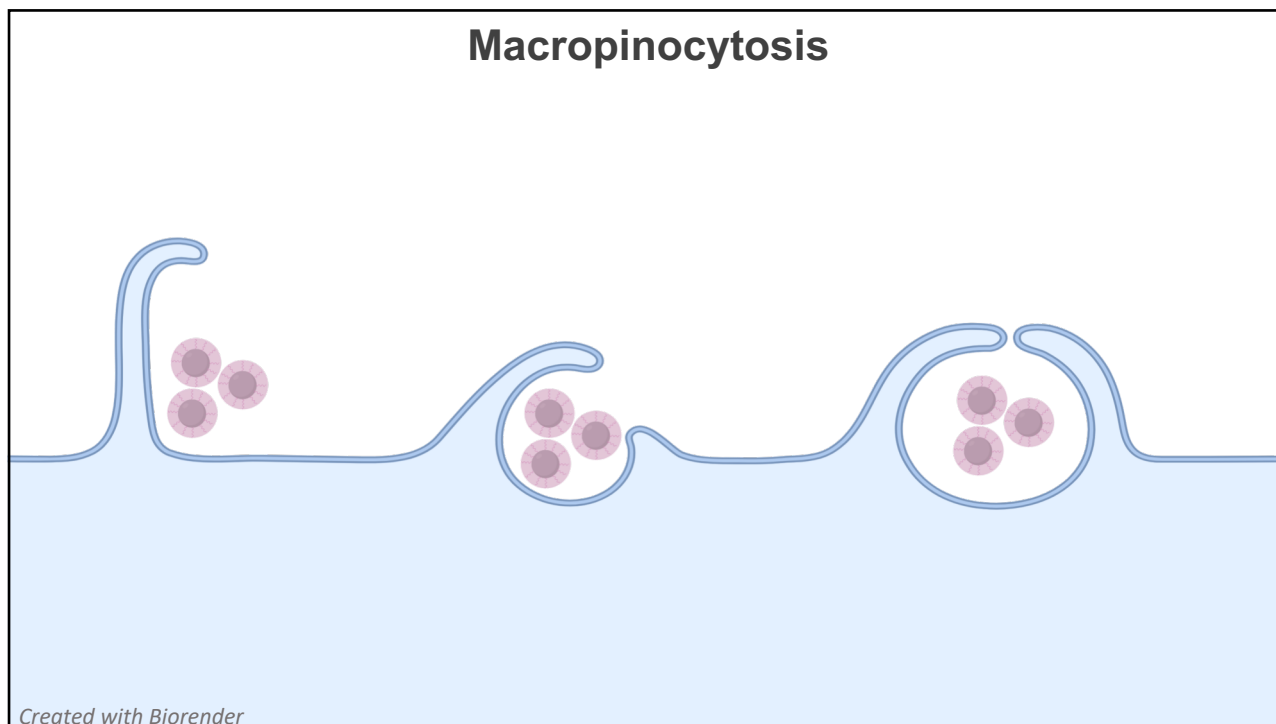
## Phagocytosis

### Opsonization



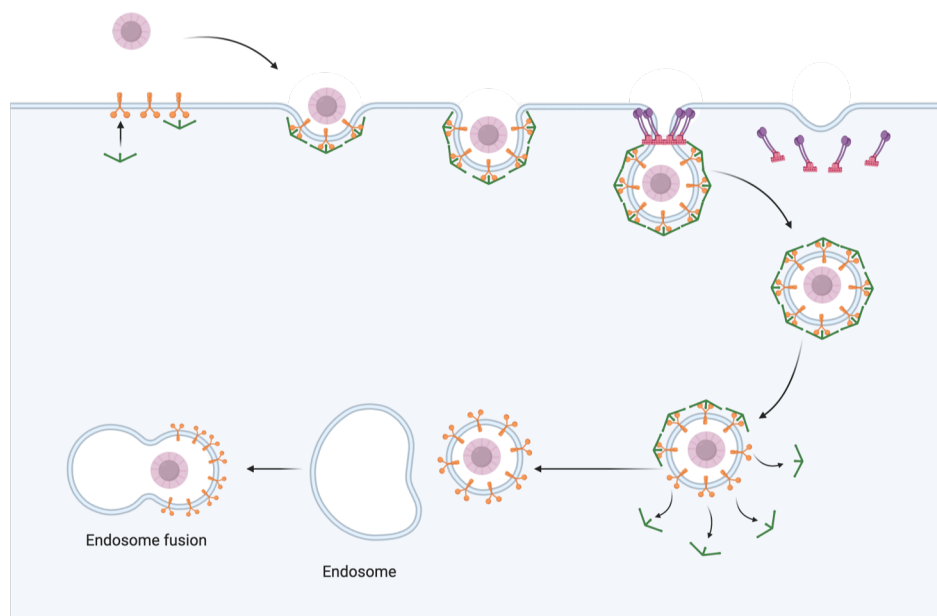
*Created with Biorender*







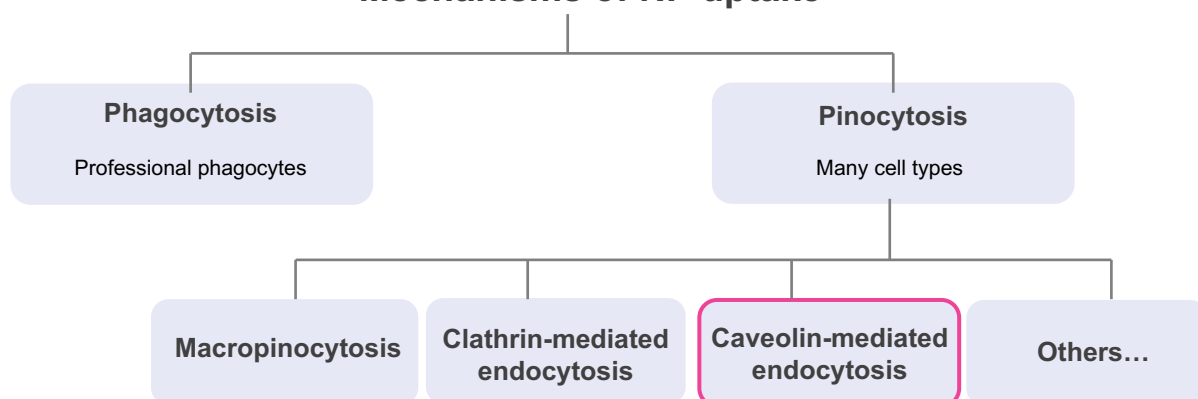
## Clathrin-mediated endocytosis



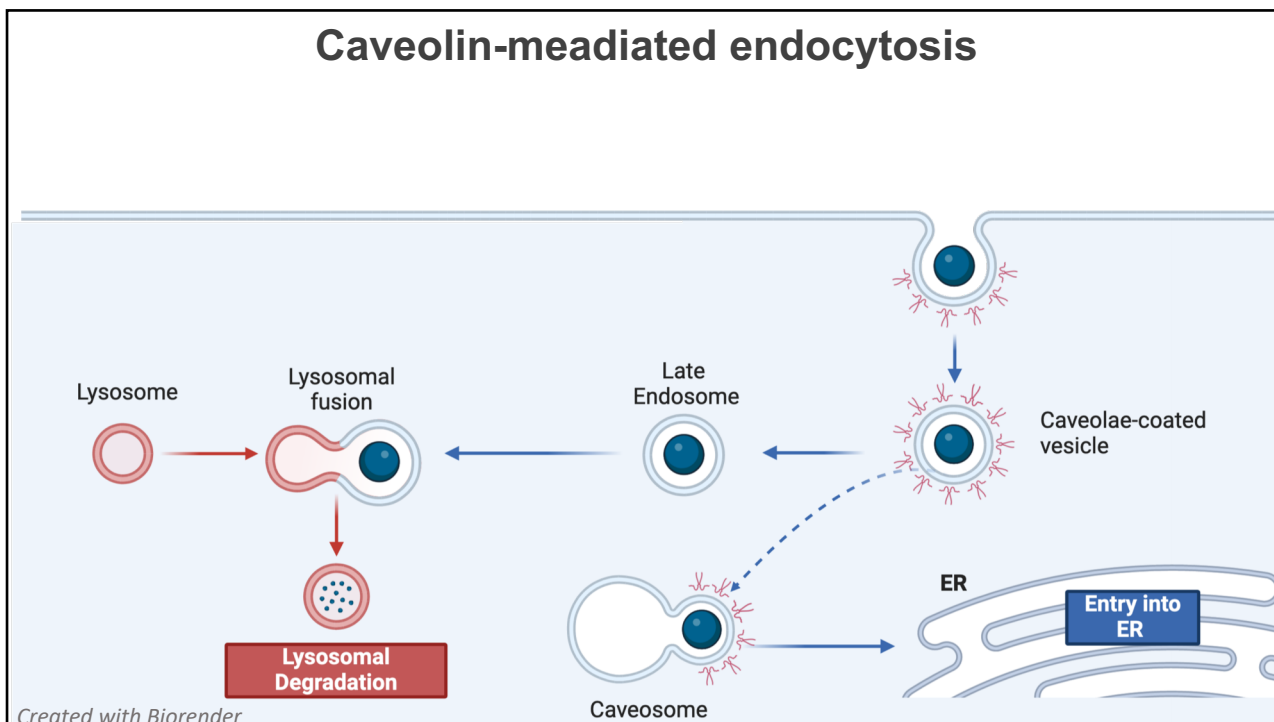
Created with Biorender

## Nanoparticle **entry** into cells

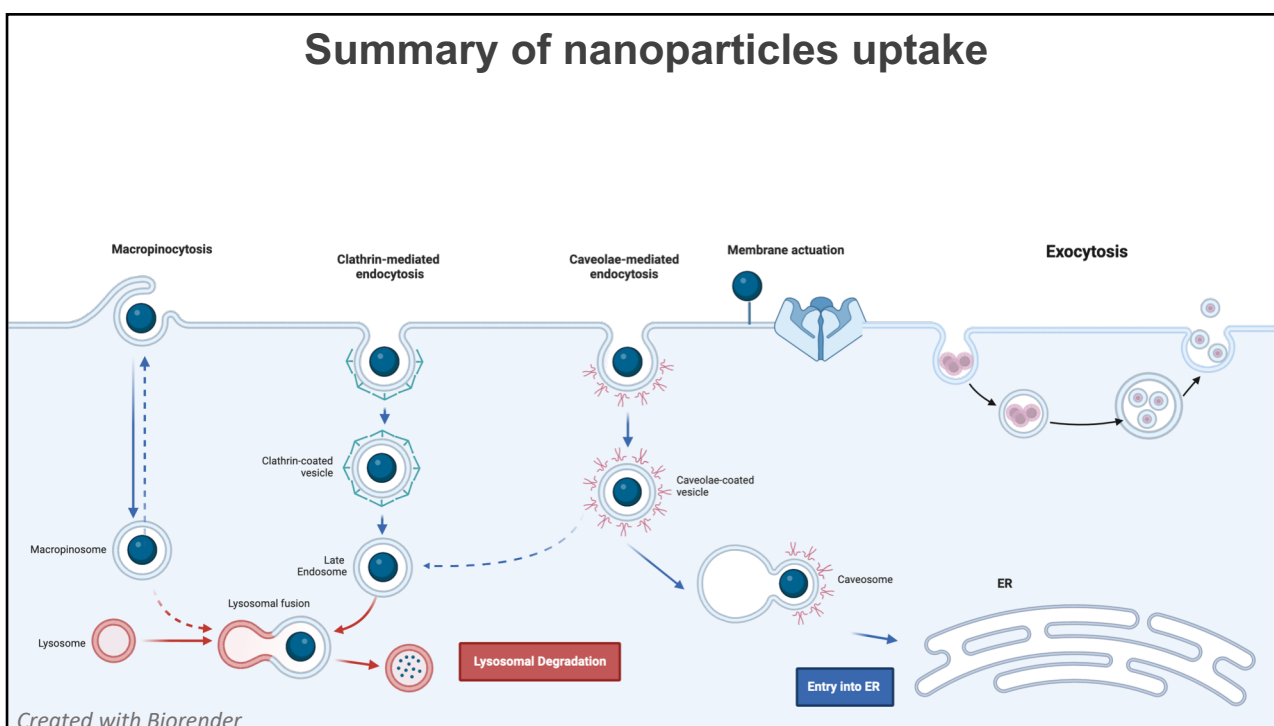
### Mechanisms of NP uptake

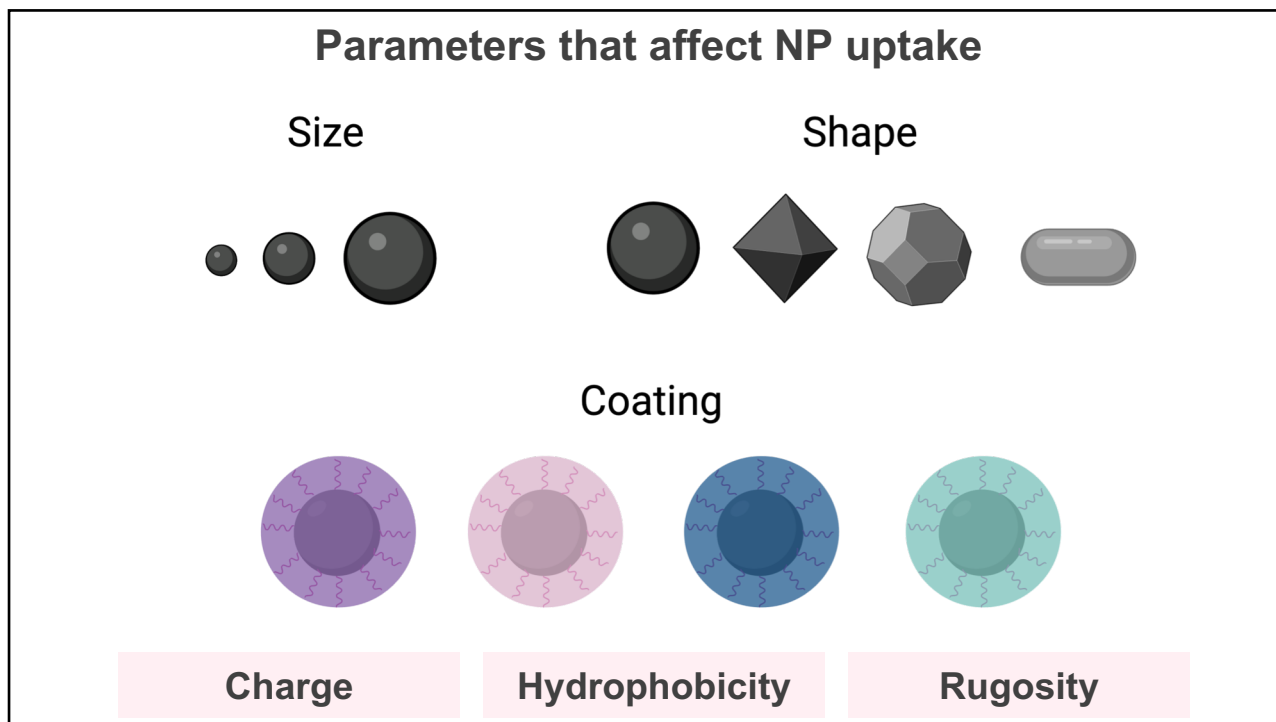


## Caveolin-mediated endocytosis

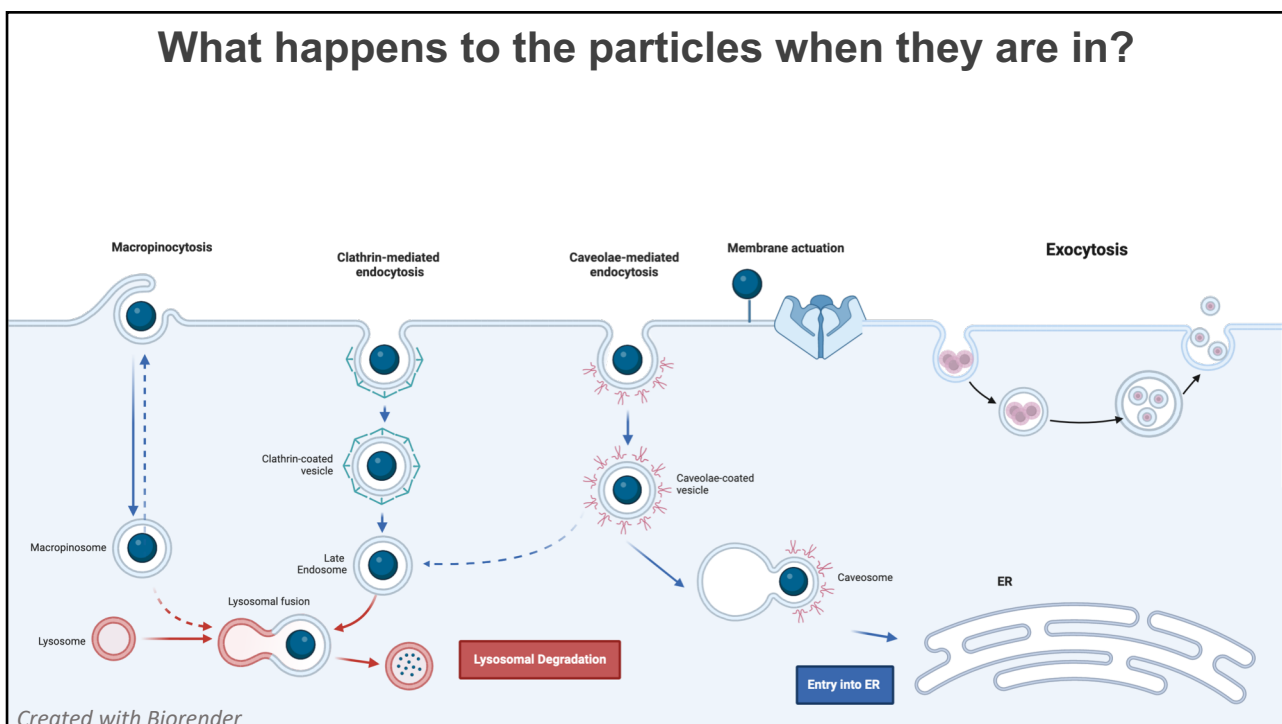
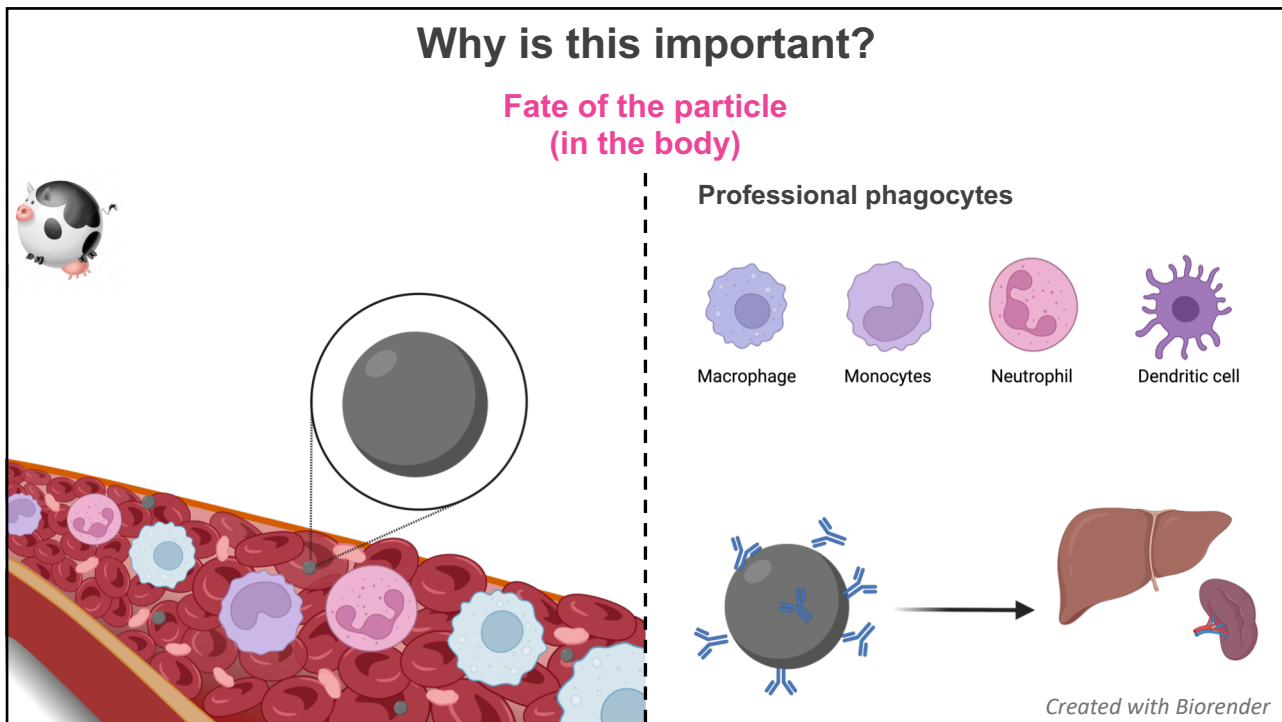


## Summary of nanoparticles uptake



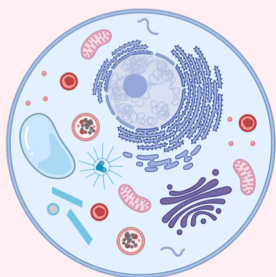


# Why is this important?

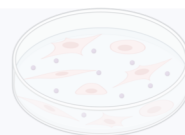


## Interactions of NPs with biological systems

### Part 2: Cells



Cell culture



NP uptake



Intracellular NP fate



Toxicity

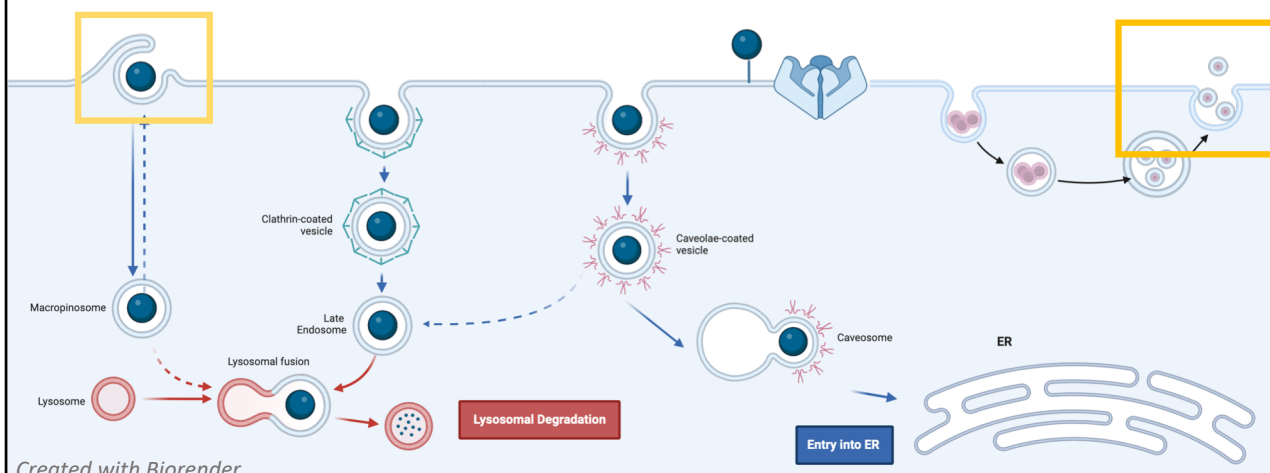


Created with Biorender

## What happens to the particles when they are in?

Exocytosis

Time frame for treatment

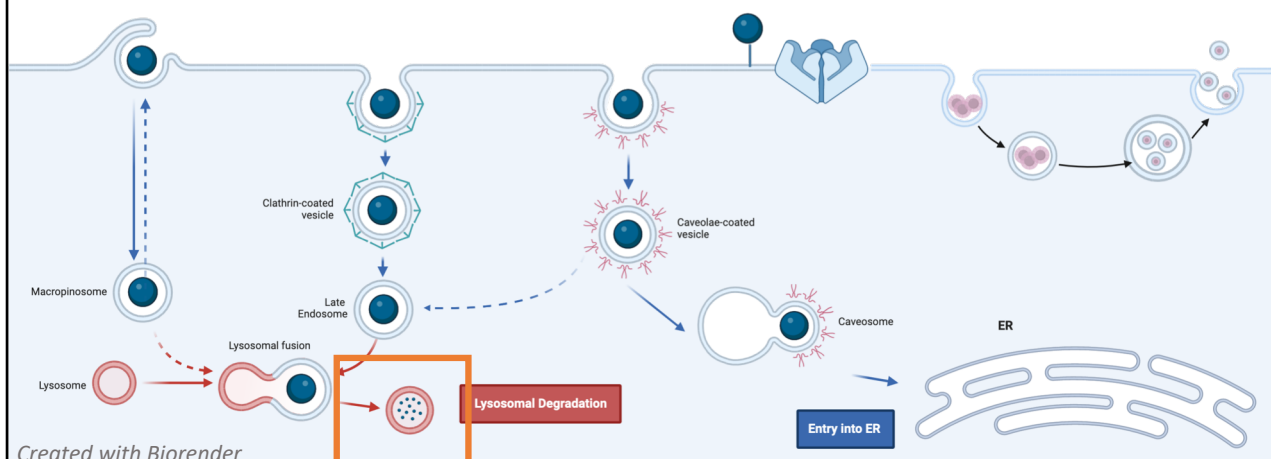


Created with Biorender

## What happens to the particles when they are in?

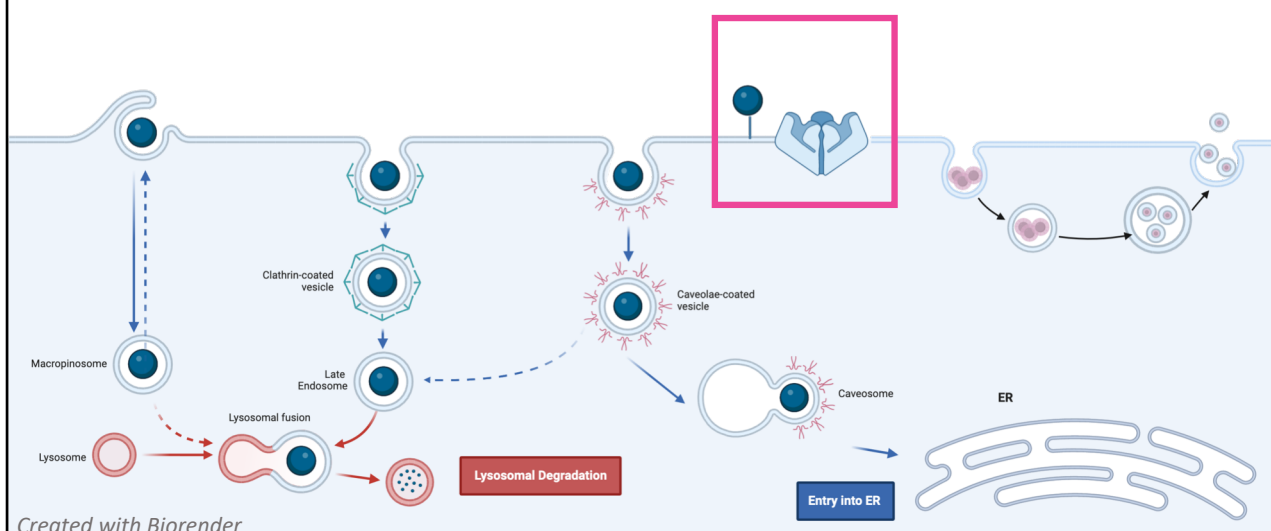
Degradation

Time frame for treatment



## Do we always want them in?

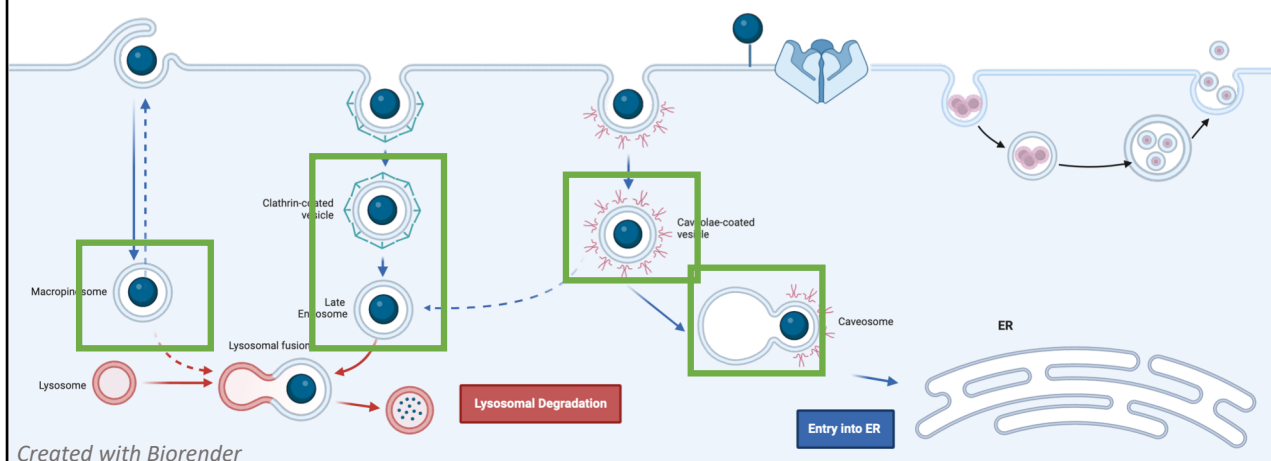
Timeframe for biomedical application



## What happens to the particles when they are in?

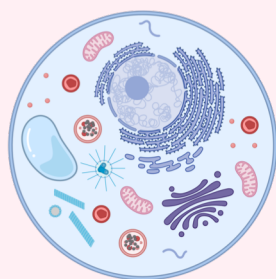
Accumulation

Toxicity

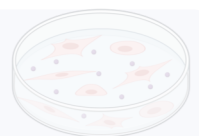


## Interactions of NPs with biological systems

### Part 2: Cells



Cell culture



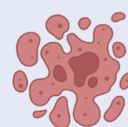
NP uptake



Intracellular NP fate



Toxicity



Created with Biorender

## Toxicity: how do NPs damage cells?

Reactive Oxygen Species

Cytoskeleton Damage

Proinflammatory Markers

Cell Organelle Damage

Cell membrane disruption

DNA Damage

## Toxicity: how do NPs damage cells?

Reactive Oxygen Species



Fenton and Haber-Weiss reactions

ROS can cause severe damage to the DNA, protein, and cells



Peroxide



Hydrogen peroxide



Hydroxyl radical



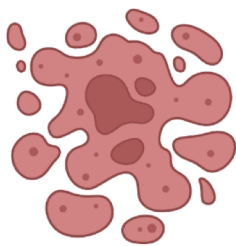
Superoxide

*Created with Biorender*



## Types of cell death

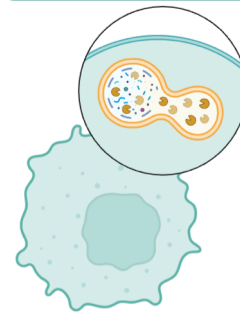
### Apoptosis



### Necrosis



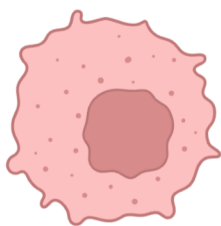
### Autophagy



\*\* There are many other types, but these three are the main ones...

*Created with Biorender*

## Stages of Apoptosis



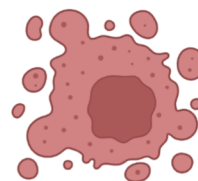
### Stage 1

Non-apoptotic  
cancer cell



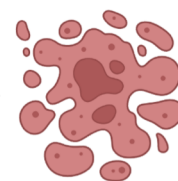
### Stage 2

Cell shrinkage  
and chromatin  
condensation



### Stage 3

Nuclear  
fragmentation  
and membrane  
blebbing

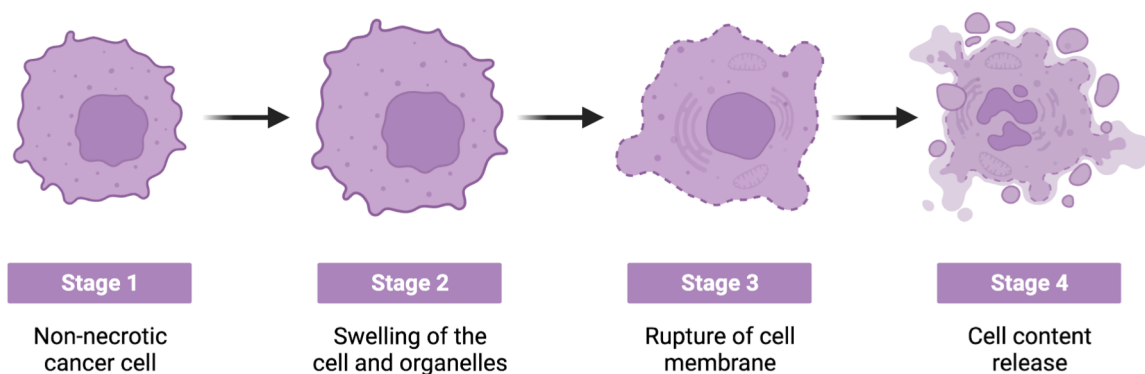


### Stage 4

Apoptotic body  
formation

*Created with Biorender*

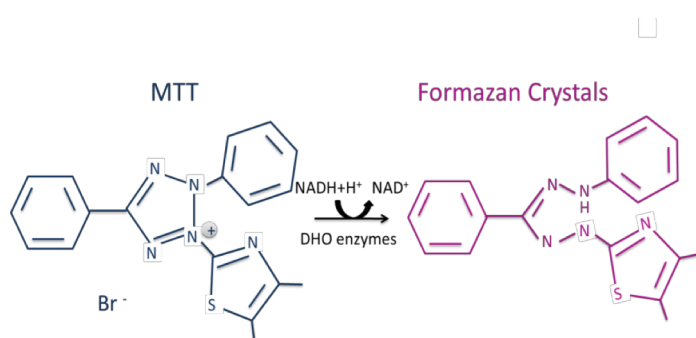
## Stages of Necrosis



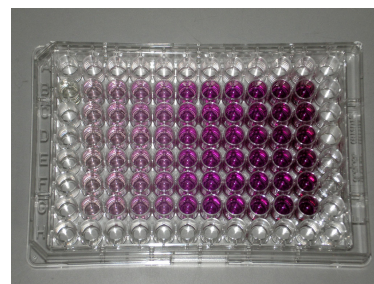
*Created with Biorender*

## Toxicity: how do we measure cell death?

### MTT: Absorbance



Absorbance measurement at 570nm

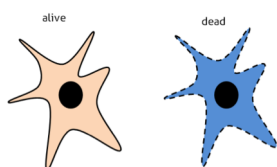


**MTT**- (3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide)

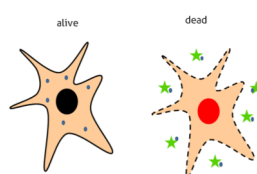
## Toxicity: how do we measure cell death?

### Membrane permeability: Microscopy

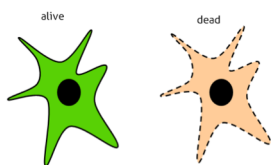
#### Trypan Blue



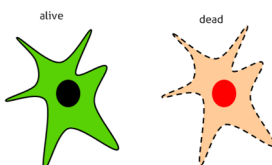
#### Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH)



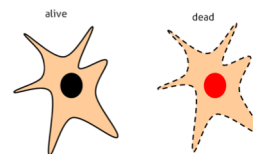
#### Fluorescein diacetate



#### Calcein-AM

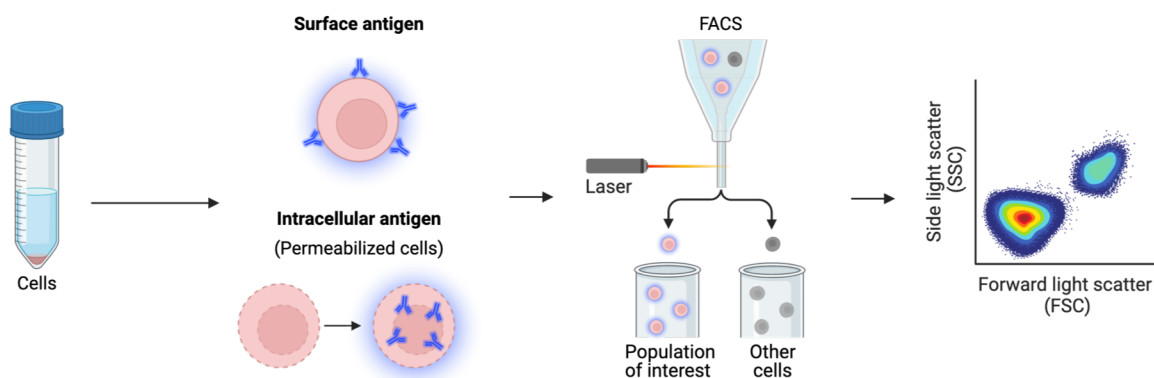


#### Fluorescent DNA intercalants



## Toxicity: how do we measure cell death?

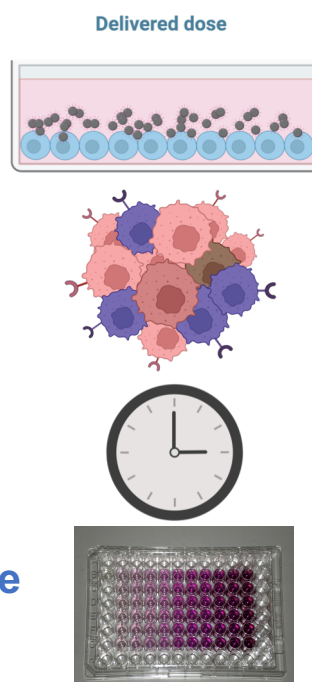
### Flow cytometry



Created with Biorender

## Challenges

- What is the particle concentration?
- How many cell types do we test?
- Timeframe for toxicity studies
- Interferences of the NPs with some of the toxicity tests

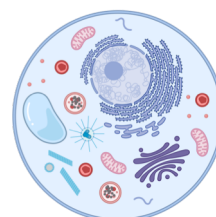


## Summary

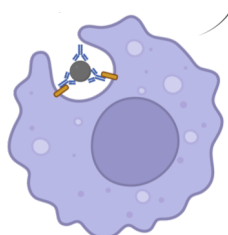
### Cell culture types



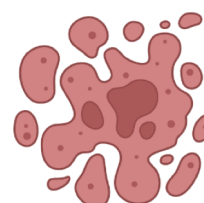
### Intracellular fate of NPs

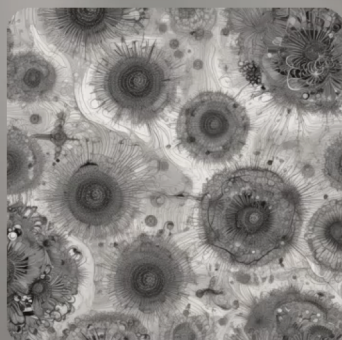


### Mechanisms of cell uptake



### NPs toxicity





## Magnetic Magic Inside the Cell

rock, male voice

Through the membrane, they do pass,  
Endocytosis, happens fast,  
Iron oxide, at the core,  
Entering cells, explore some more.  
Magnetic magic, inside the cell,



## TUTORIAL PLAYLIST Session 2: Interactions at the Cellular Level

## The Nano Odyssey: Understanding Nanoparticles in Biological Systems

-- Biology for non-biologist  
(taught by non-biologist) --

### PART 3

Lucía  
Gutiérrez

INMA  
INSTITUTO DE NANOCIENCIA  
Y MATERIALES DE ARAGÓN  
CSIC



Bionanosurf

MAGMEET 2024 BARCELONA



## Interactions of NPs with biological systems

### Part 1: Fluids



Water



Cell culture media

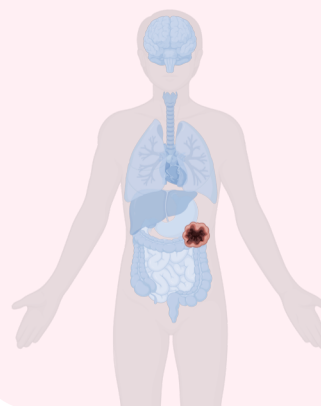


Blood

### Part 2: Cells



### Part 3: Body



Created with Biorender

## Interactions of NPs with biological systems

### Part 3: Body



#### Administration routes

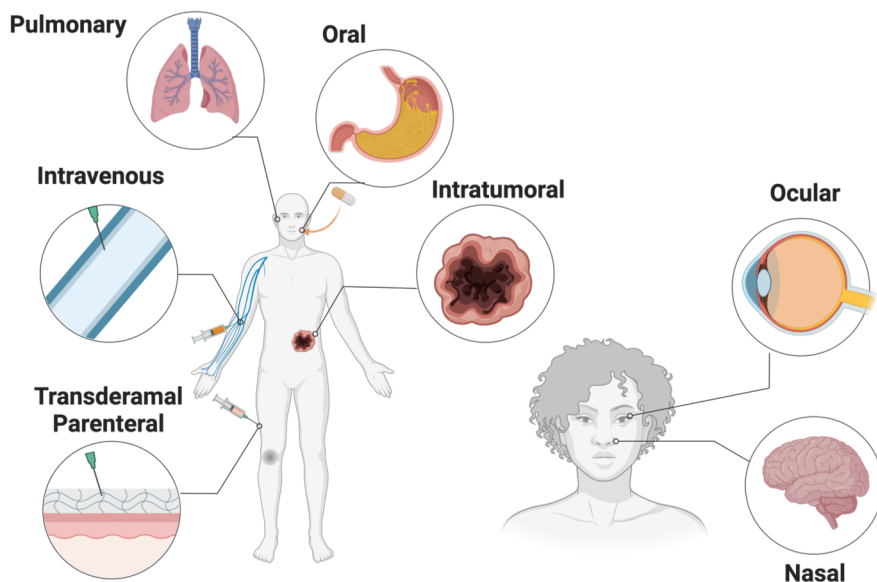
#### Animal models

#### Tracking NPs in the body

Created with Biorender

## Interactions at the Organ and Body Level

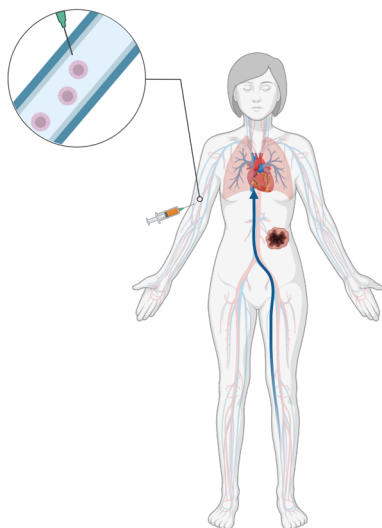
### Administration routes



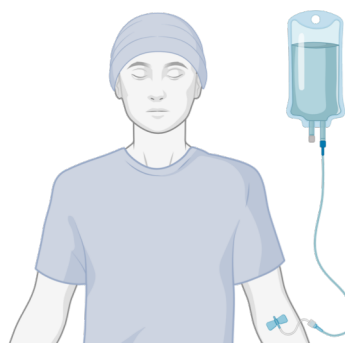
Created with Biorender

## Intravenous administration

### Intravenous

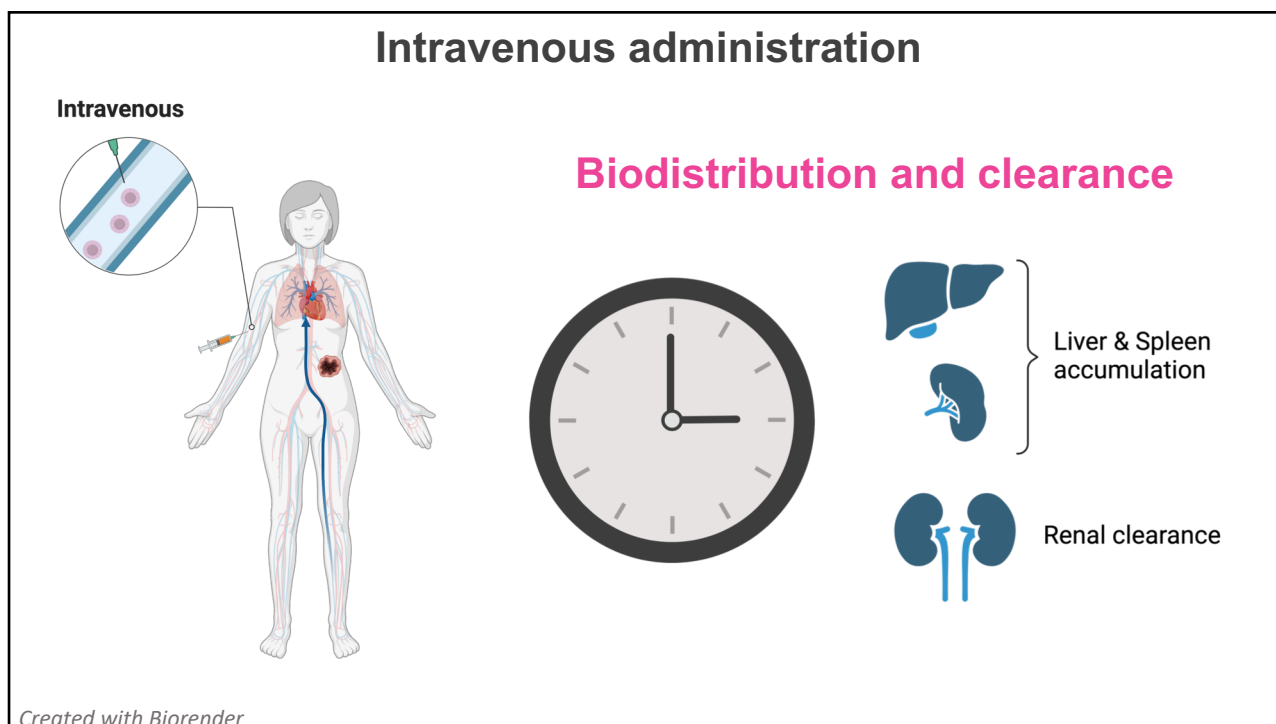
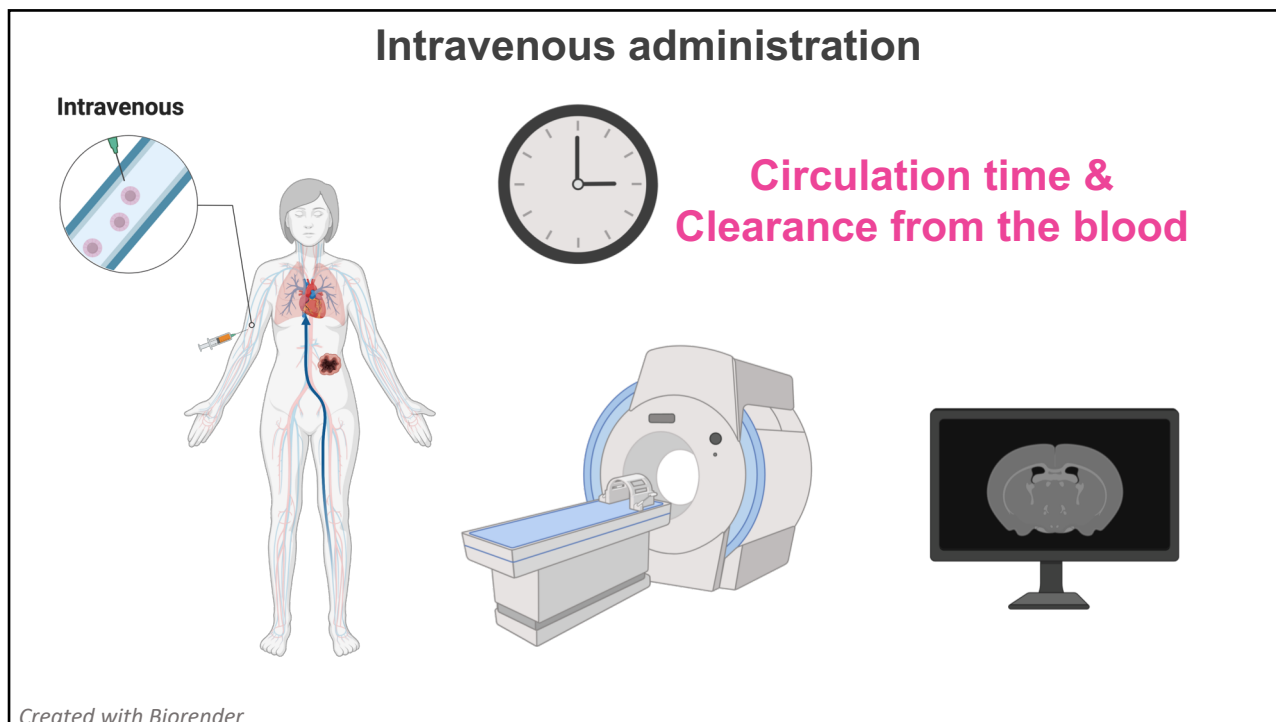


Advantage: easy



Created with Biorender

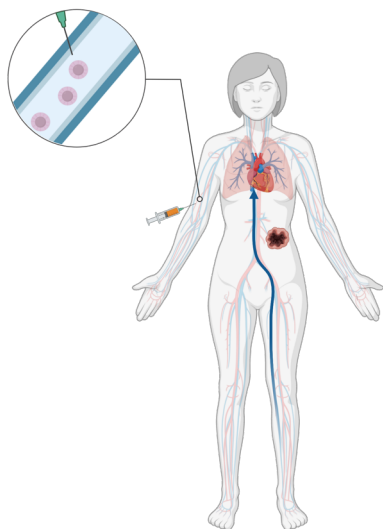






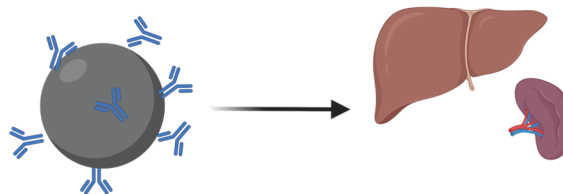
## Intravenous administration

Intravenous



**PROBLEM!**

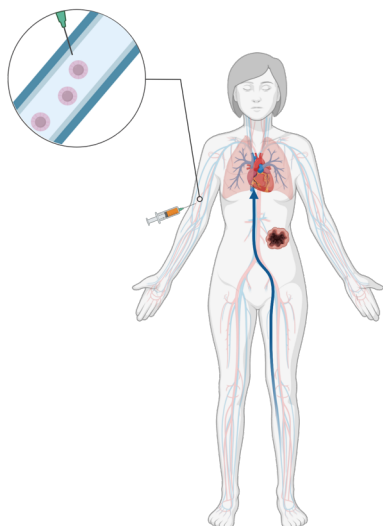
**Particles will mainly be accumulated in the liver and the spleen**



*Created with Biorender*

## Intravenous administration

Intravenous



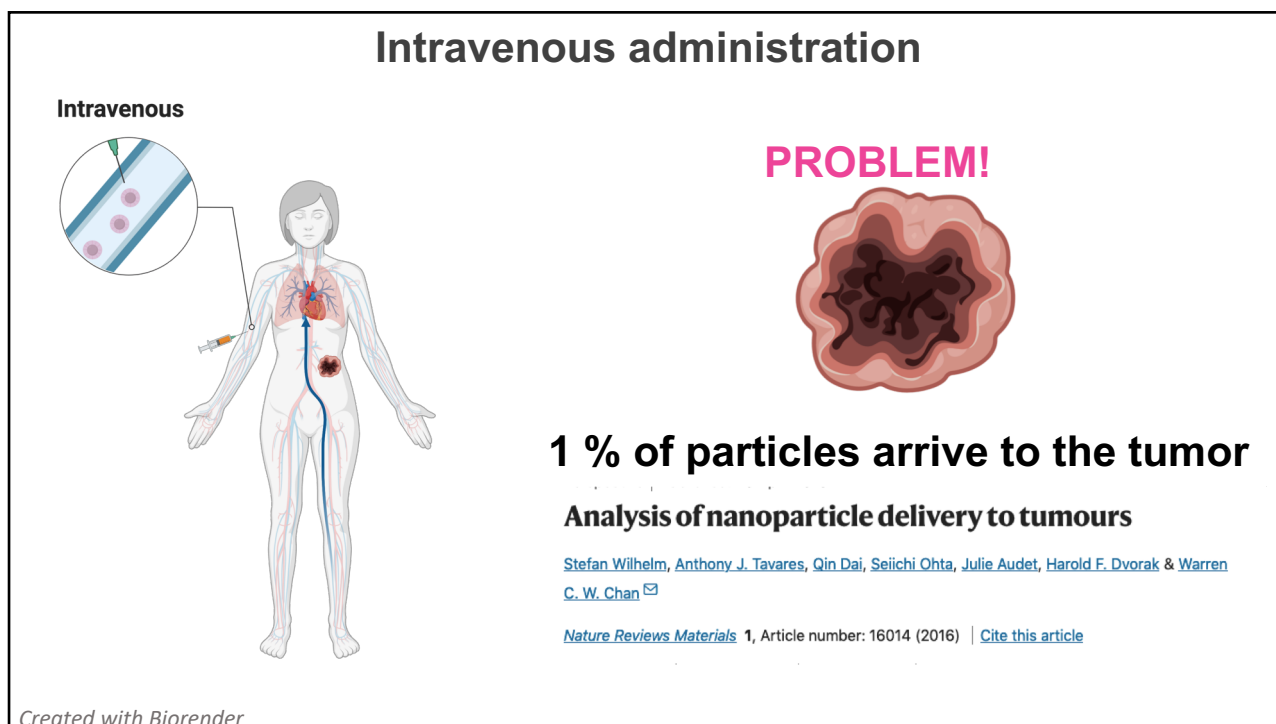
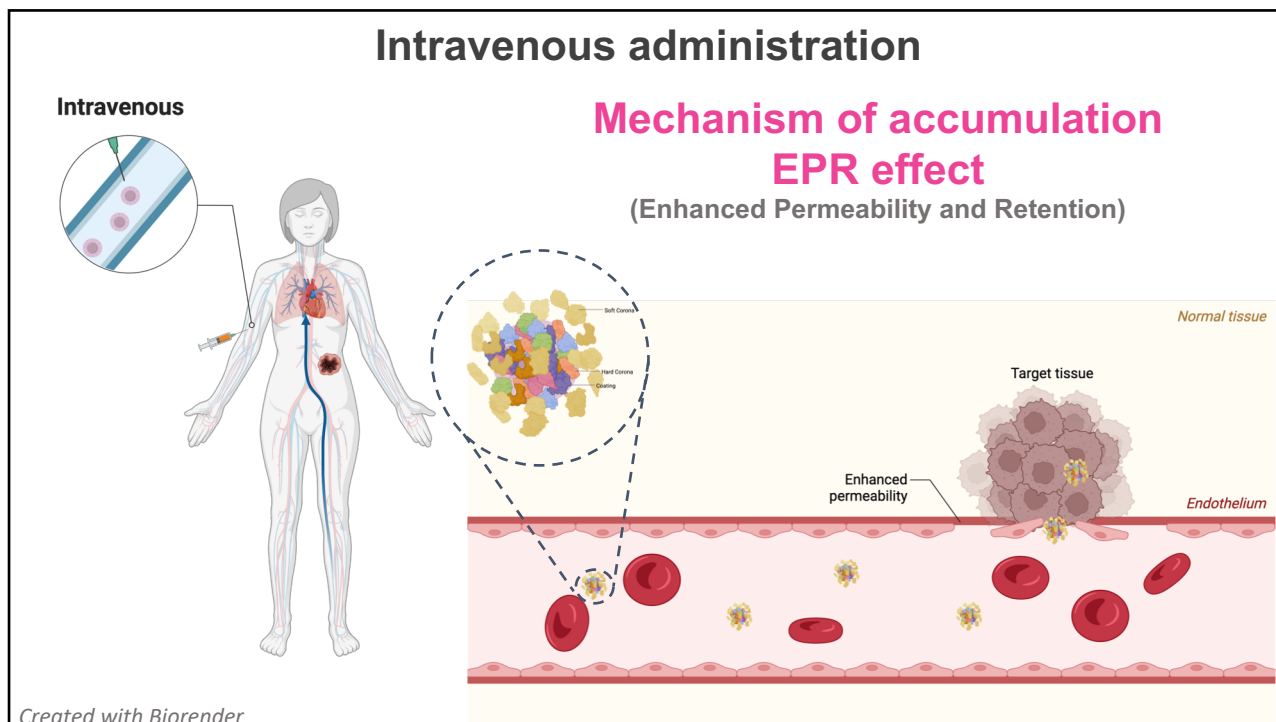
**PROBLEM!**

**Small particles (< 5nm) will be eliminated through the kidneys**



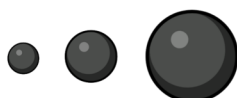
Renal clearance

*Created with Biorender*

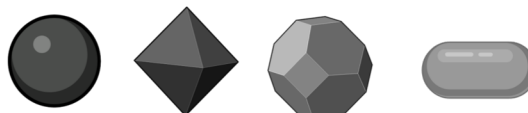


## Parameters that affect the biodistribution

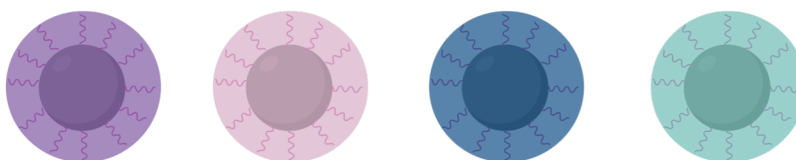
Size



Shape



Coating



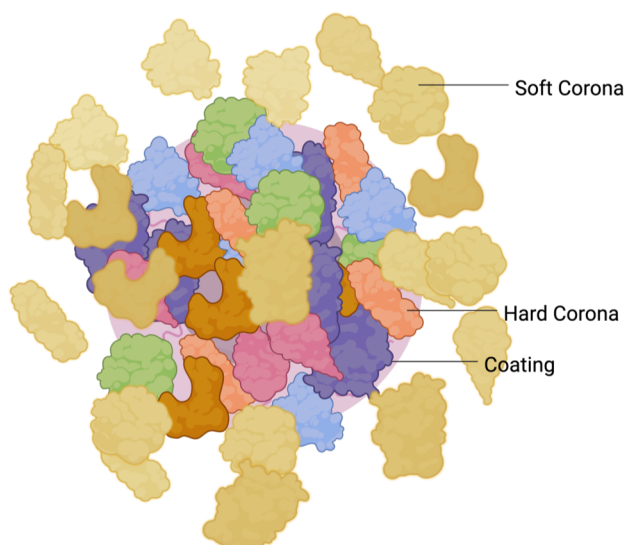
Charge

Hydrophobicity

Rugosity

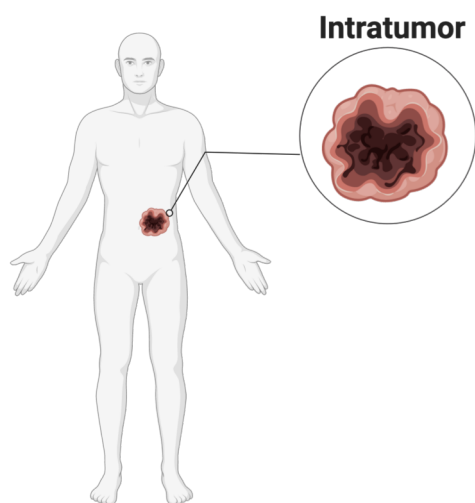
## Parameters that affect the biodistribution

### Protein Corona



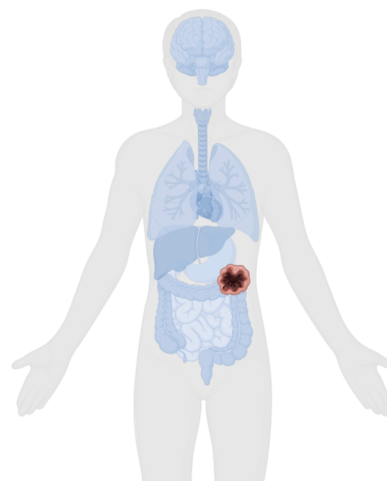
Created with Biorender

## Intratumor administration



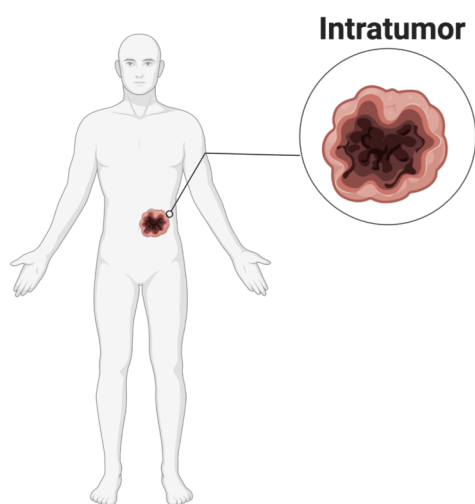
### Advantage

No other organs are affected



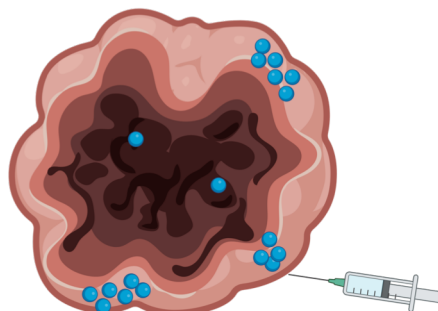
Created with Biorender

## Intratumor administration



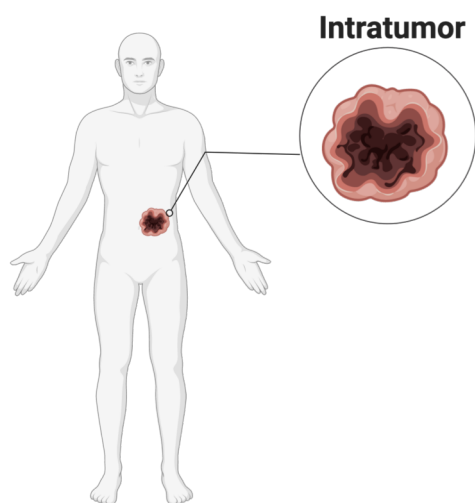
### Advantage

Larger dose delivered to the target area



Created with Biorender

## Intratumor administration



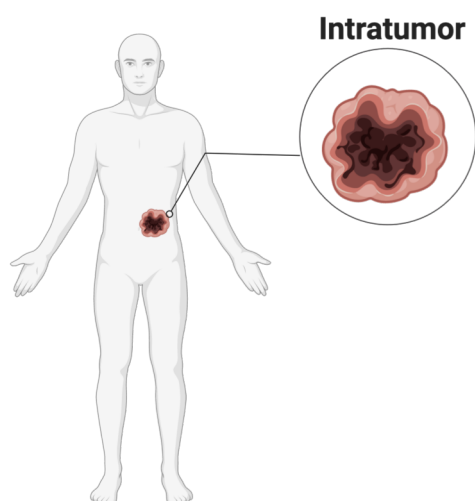
**PROBLEM!**

**Need of surgery (?)**



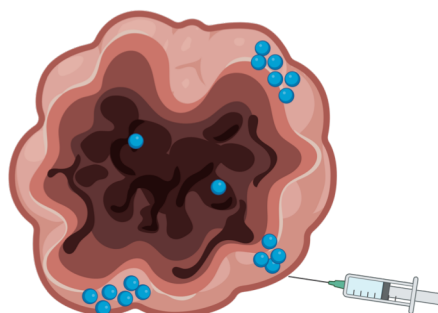
*Created with Biorender*

## Intratumor administration



**PROBLEM!**

**Heterogeneous  
distribution**



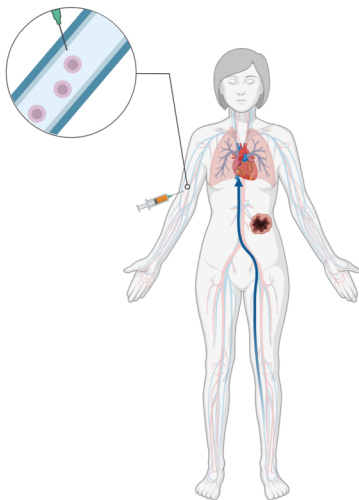
*Created with Biorender*

# Why is this important?

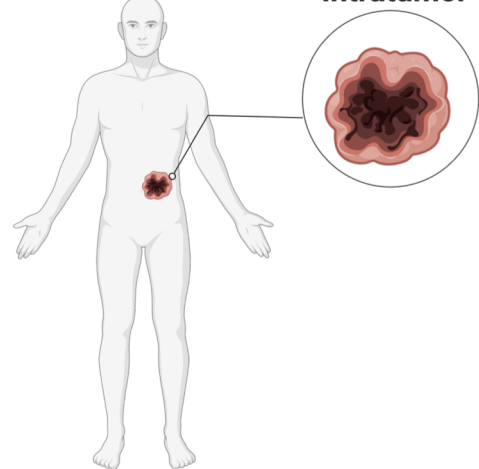
## Why is this important?

Route selection to achieve the desired amount of NPs at the target area

Intravenous



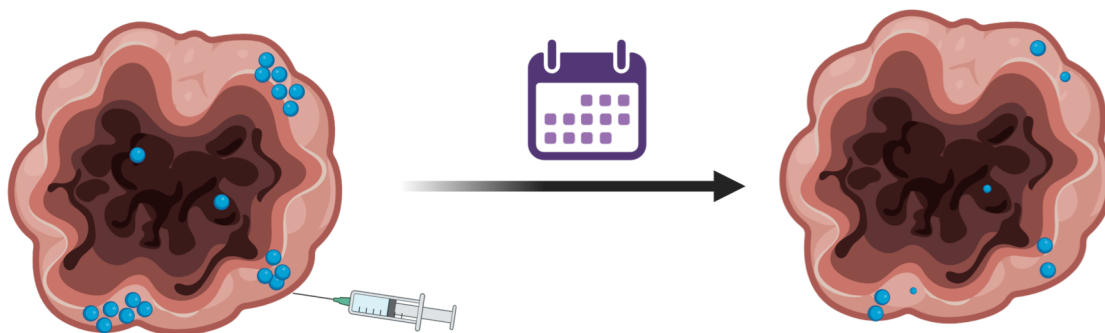
Intratumor



Created with Biorender

### Why is this important?

The amount of particles that reach the tissue determines the degradation speed

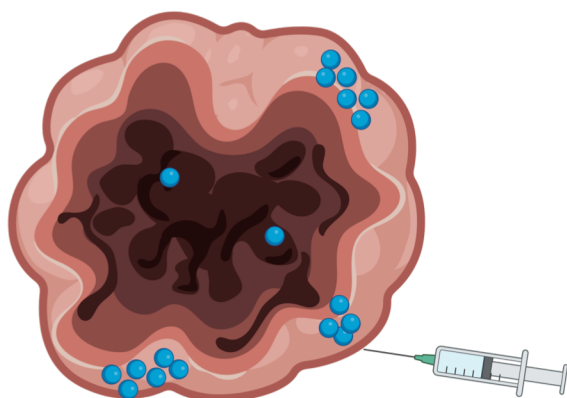


Need of repeated treatments?

*Created with Biorender*

### Why is this important?

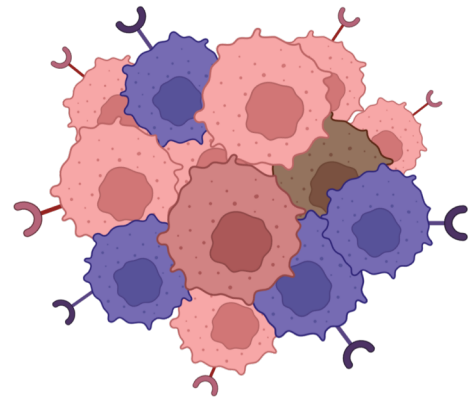
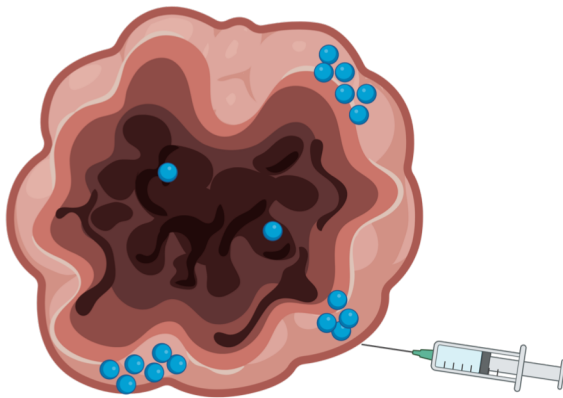
Heterogeneous distribution: heat gradients or treatment gradients



*Created with Biorender*

Why is this important?

Heterogeneous distribution: Untreated cells



Resistance?

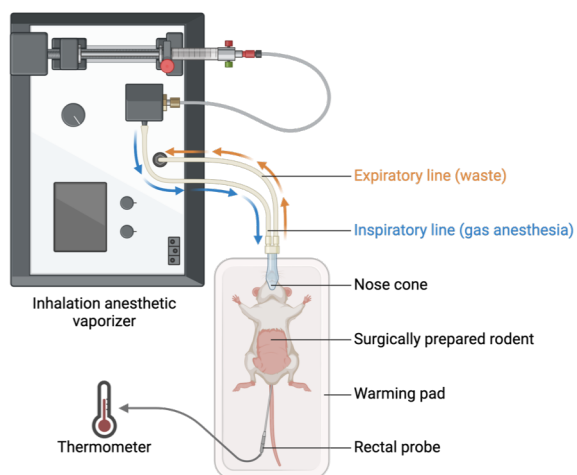
*Created with Biorender*

Things we often forget



## Parameters that affect the biodistribution

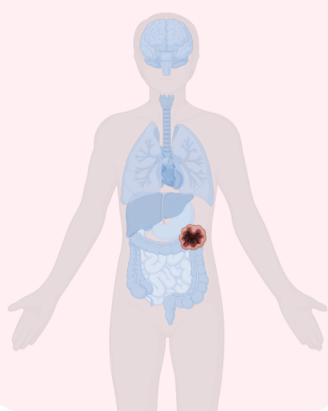
### Anesthesia



Created with Biorender

## Interactions of NPs with biological systems

### Part 3: Body



Administration routes

Animal models

Tracking NPs in the body

Created with Biorender

## Animal models

### Immunodeficient /immunocompetent



Immunocompetent mouse



Immunodeficient mouse

*Created with Biorender*

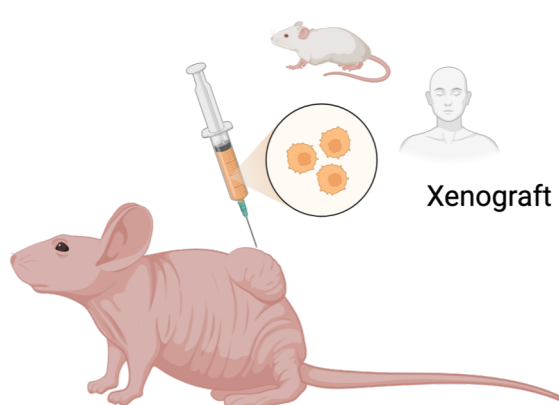
## Animal models

### Xenograft /allograft

Allograft



Immunocompetent mouse



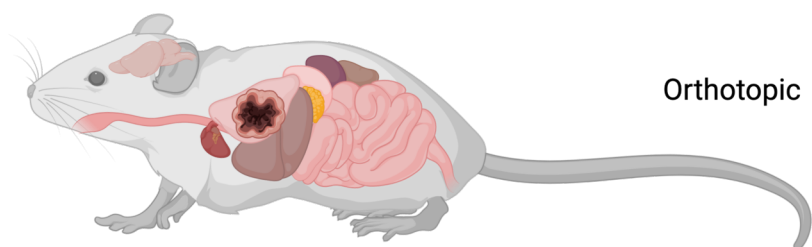
Immunodeficient mouse

Xenograft

*Created with Biorender*

## Animal models

### Orthotopic /heterotopic



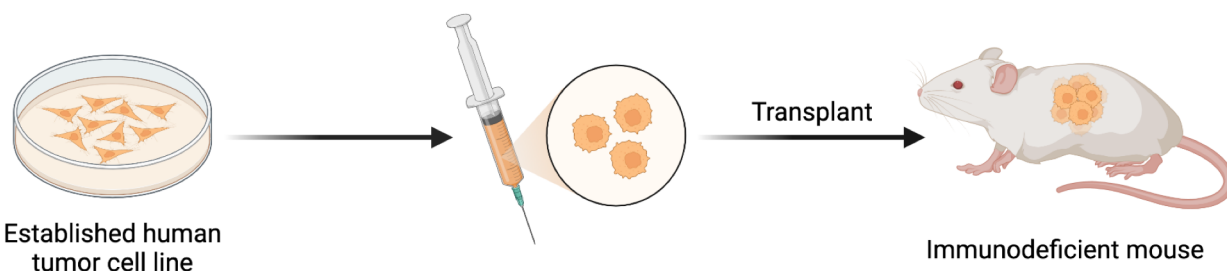
Orthotopic



Heterotopic

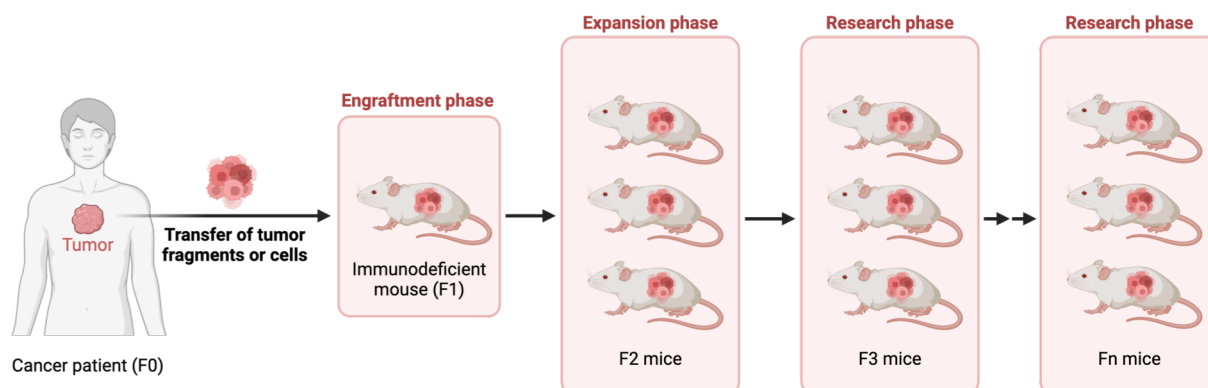
Created with Biorender

## Cell Line-Derived Xenograft Models



Created with Biorender

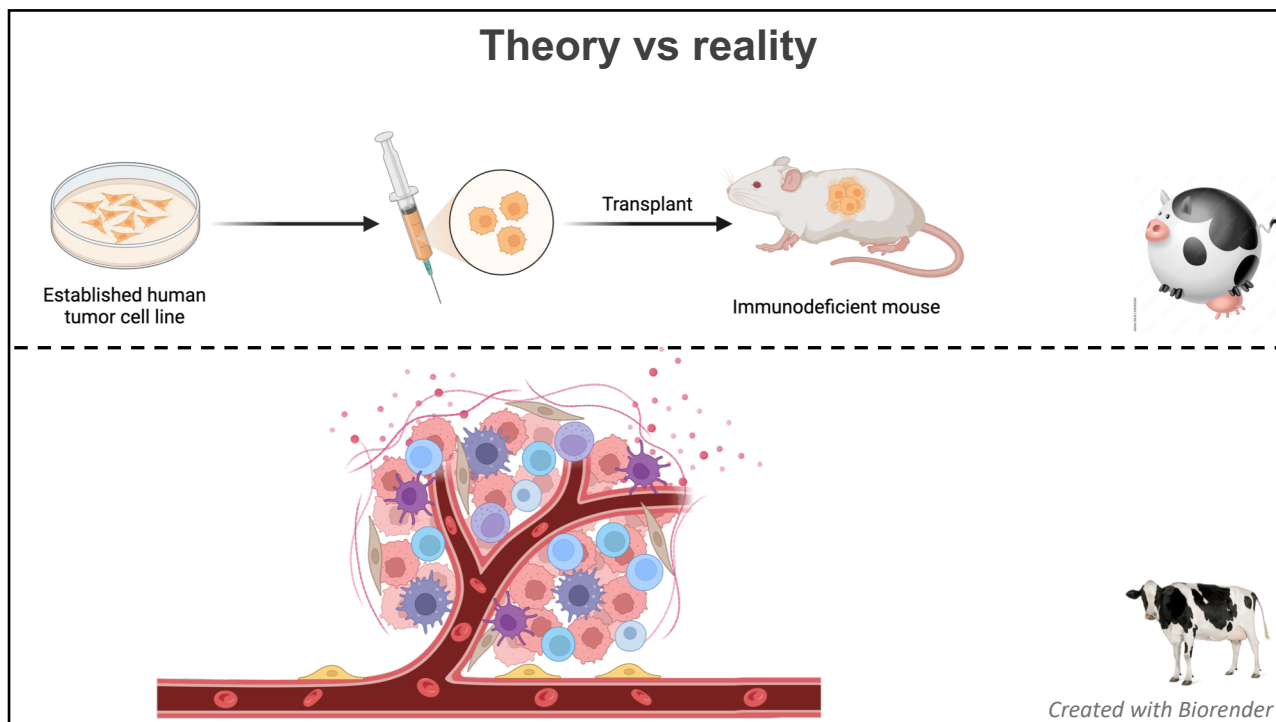
## Patient-Derived Xenograft (PDX) Models



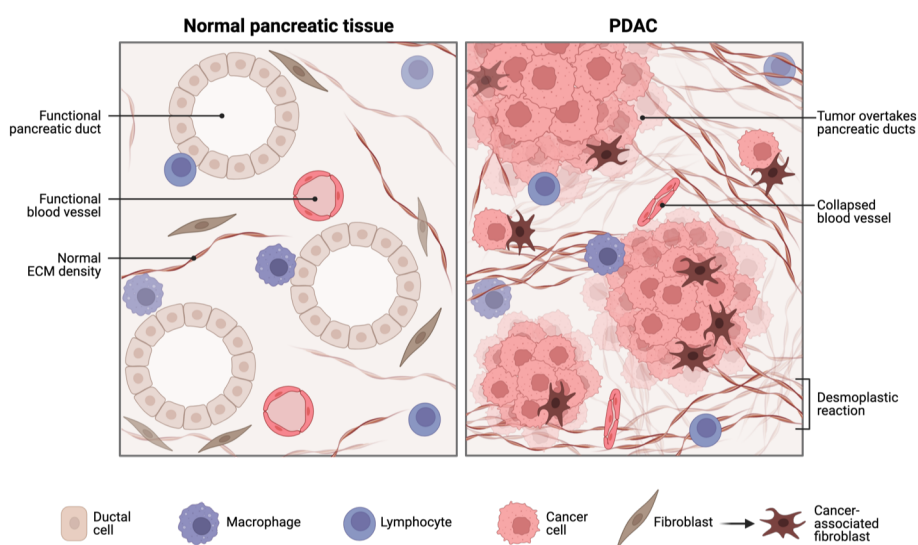
*Created with Biorender*

# Why is this important?

## Theory vs reality

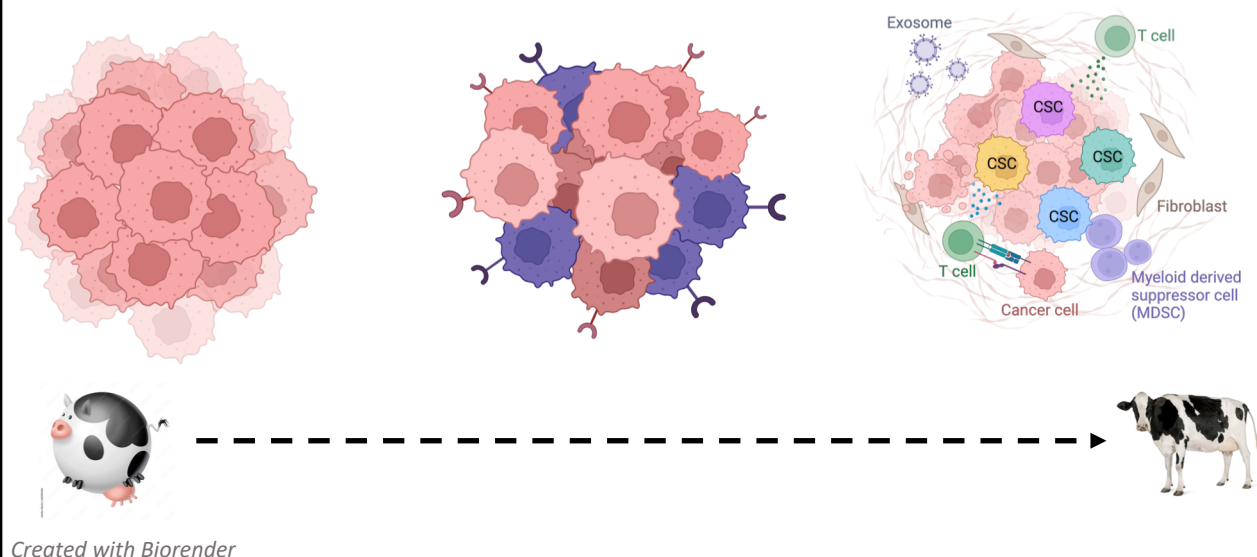


## Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC)



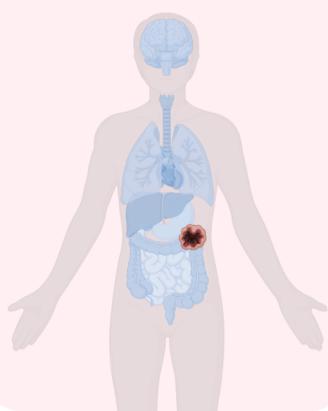
Created with Biorender

## Theory vs reality: IMMUNE RESPONSE



## Interactions of NPs with biological systems

### Part 3: Body



Administration routes

Animal models

Tracking NPs in the body

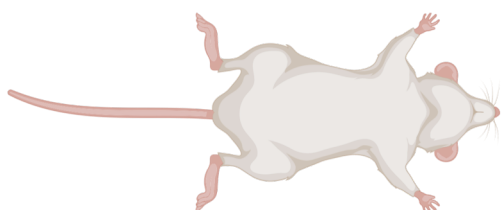
Created with Biorender

## Techniques to track NPs in the body



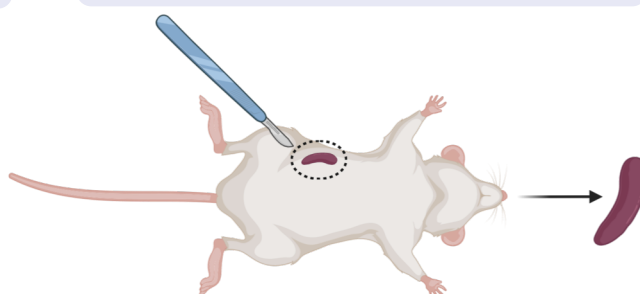
## Techniques to track NPs in the body

**In vivo**



- More expensive
- Hospital type facilities

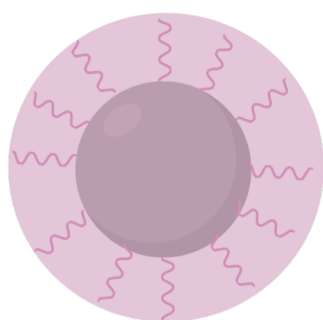
**Ex vivo**



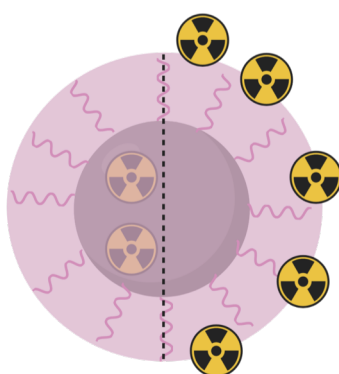
- Sacrifice of animals

## Techniques to track NPs in the body

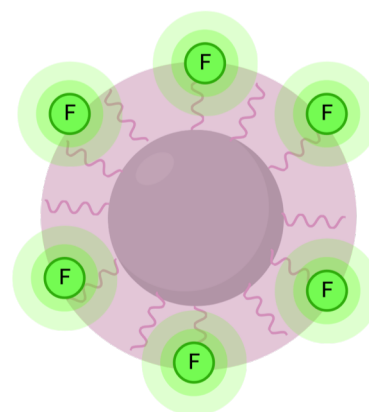
**NPs**



**Modified NPs**



**Radionuclide**

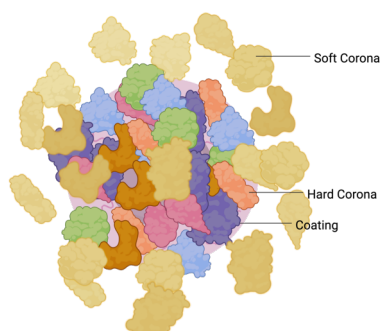


**Fluorophore**

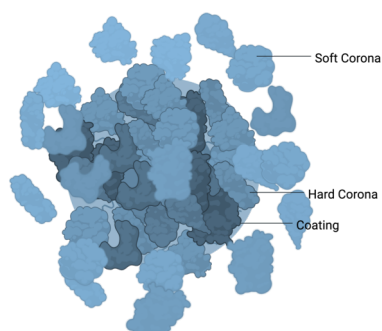
*Created with Biorender*

## Techniques to track NPs in the body

**NPs**



**Modified NPs**



*Created with Biorender*

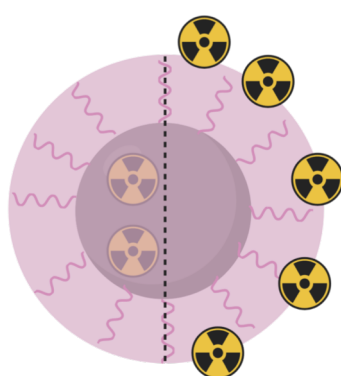


## Techniques to track NPs in the body

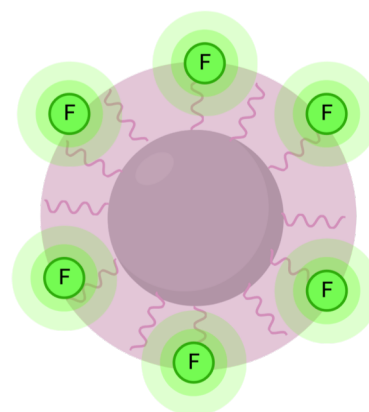
What are we  
really  
measuring?

Leakage?

### Modified NPs



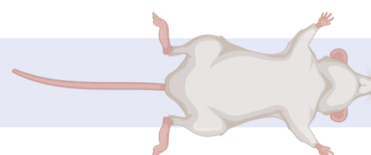
Radionuclide



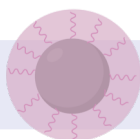
Fluorophore

*Created with Biorender*

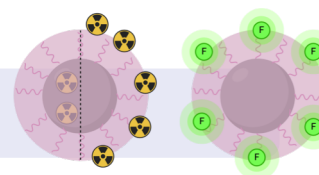
## Tracking NPs In vivo



NPs



Modified NPs



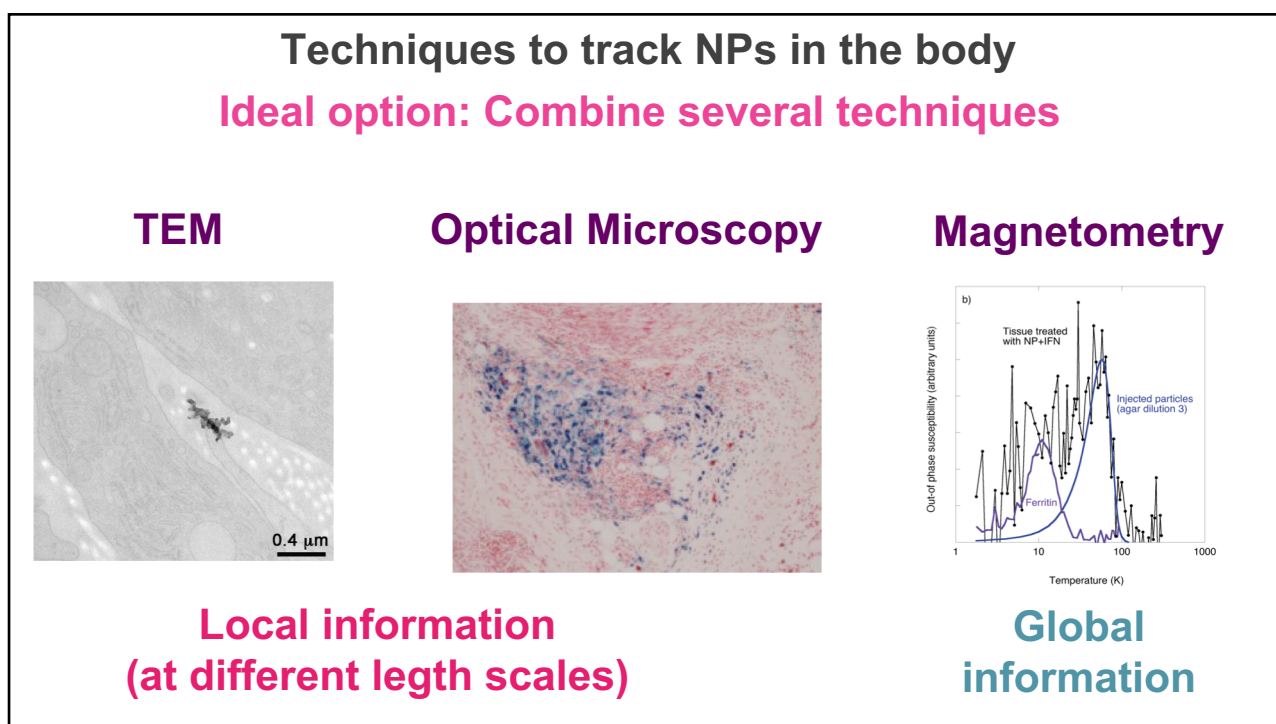
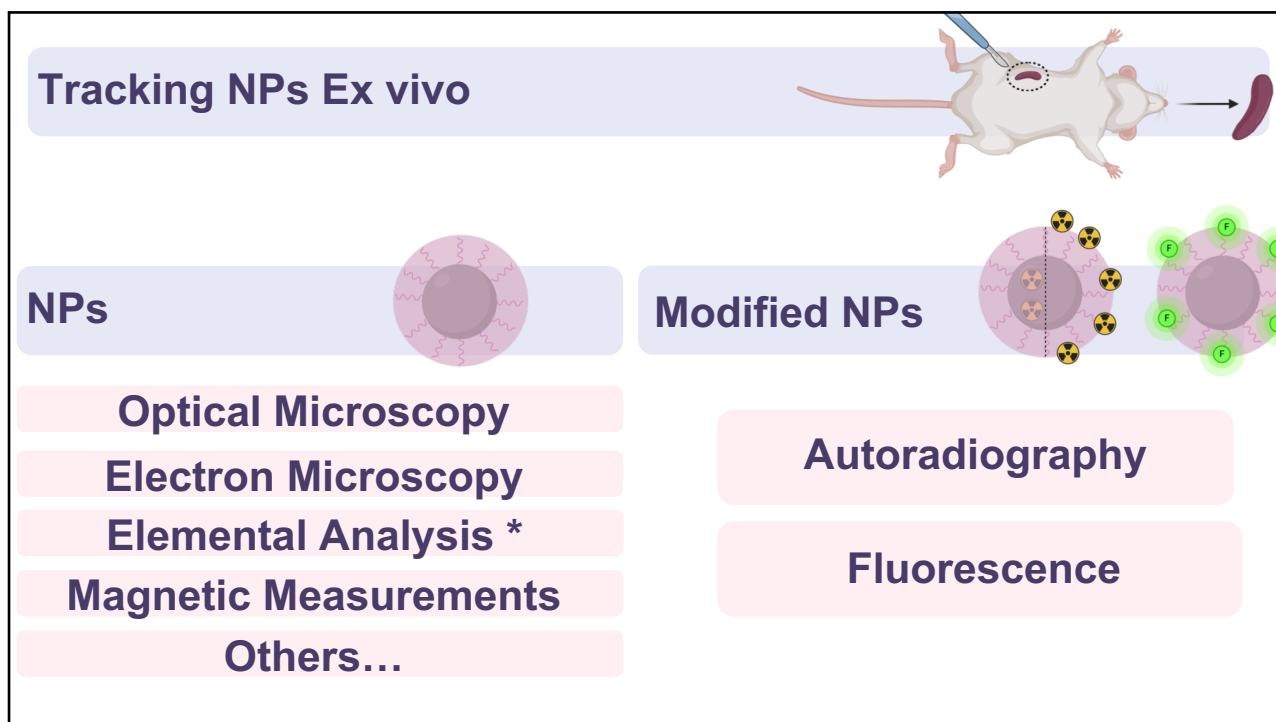
MRI

MPI

PET

SPECT

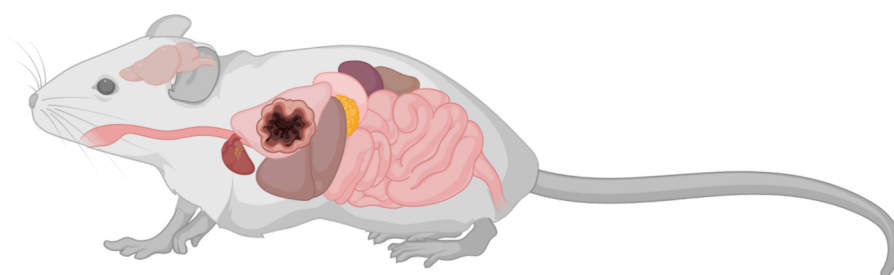
Fluorescence



# Why is this important?

## Why is this important?

### Biodistribution



### Degradation

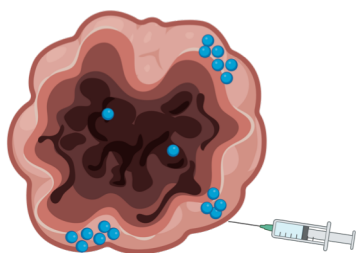


- Are the particles where I want them to be?
- How long do they remain the same?

*Created with Biorender*

## Summary

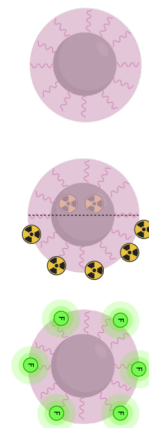
### Administration routes



### Animal models



### Tracking particles



Created with Biorender



### Magnetic Marvels in the Body's Flow

80s, rock

Through the organs, they traverse,

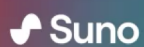
Magnetic fields, their guiding verse,

Liver, spleen, and kidneys too,

Brain barriers, they break through.

Magnetic marvels, in the body's flow,

Iron oxide, where do they go?



## TUTORIAL PLAYLIST

### Session3: Interactions at the Organ and Body Level

**Thank you !**

You can contact me at [lu@unizar.es](mailto:lu@unizar.es)

