



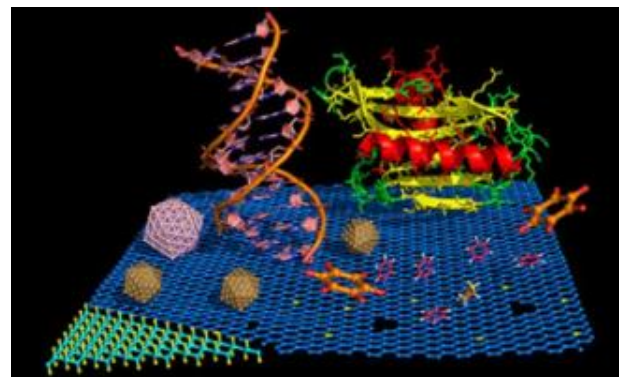
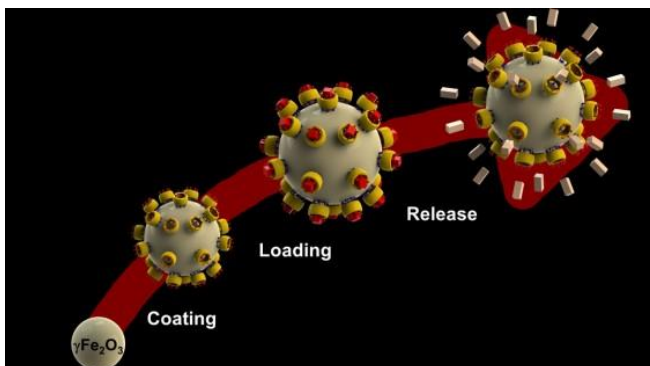
# Nanotechnologies in Diagnostic and Theranostic Applications

**Radek Zbořil**

**Regional Centre of Advanced Technologies and Materials**

**General Director**

**Palacky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic**

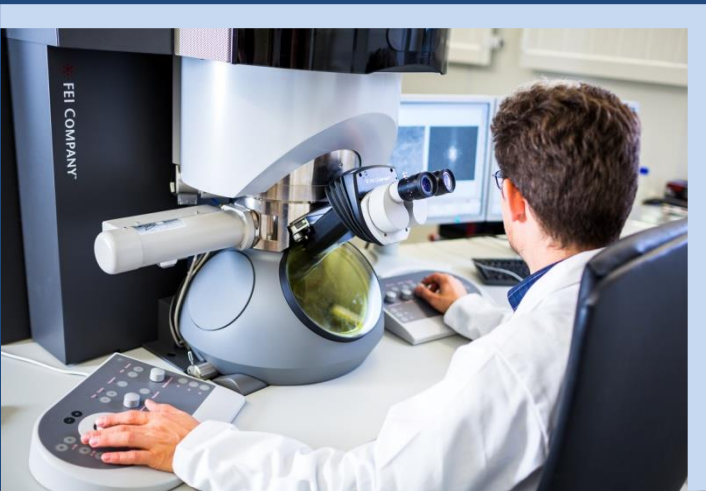




REGIONAL CENTRE  
OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES  
AND MATERIALS

Regionální centrum pokročilých technologií a materiálů

# REGIONAL CENTRE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES AND MATERIALS



## *Nanotechnologies*

*Chemistry, Materials Science*

*Optics*

*Environmental Technologies*

## *Biomedicine*

*Computational Chemistry*



*140 scientists*

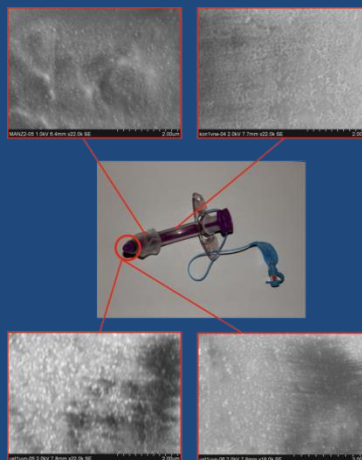
*20 countries*





## Nanosilver Based Antimicrobial Technologies

- Quantification of antibacterial and antifungal activity, toxicity
- Covalent immobilization on solid surfaces, antimicrobial coatings
- Targeted antibacterial action – magnetic nanosilver
  - Synergy with ATB

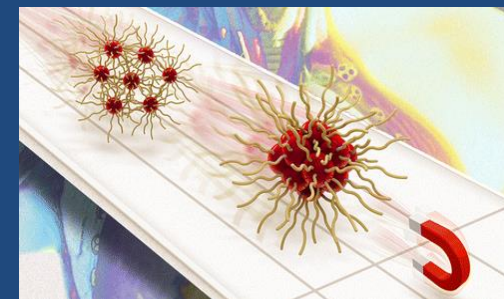


e.g. *Biomaterials* 32 (2011) 4704.

## MRI contrast agents



## Targeted Drug Delivery & Theranostics



### Magnetic iron oxide nanoclusters

e.g. *Chem. Mater.* 26 (2014) 2062.

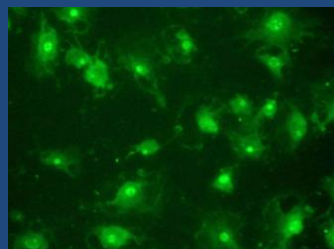
## Magnetic SERS

Magnetic nanosilver used for highly sensitive and selective determination of biosubstances (a new in vitro diagnostics)

## Carbon quantum dots

### Optical imaging and theranostics

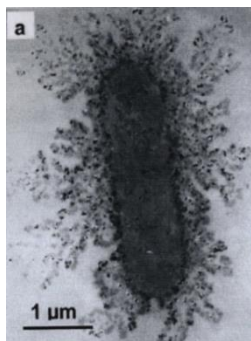
*Chem. Mater* 24 (2012) 6.  
*Carbon* 70 (2014) 279.



*ANAL. CHEM.*, 86 (2014) 2939. *ANAL. CHEM.*, 86 (2014) 11107.

# NANOSILVER in ANTIMICROBIAL TREATMENT

## ANTIBACTERIAL & ANTIFUNGAL ACTION, FUNCTIONALIZATION

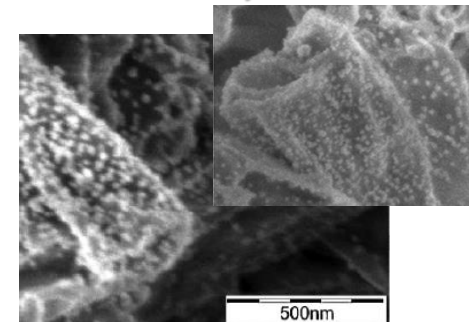


## TOXICITY, SYNERGY WITH ATB, MAGNETIC TARGETING



EST 45 (2011) 4974; EST 47 (2013) 757.  
*Green Chem.* 14 (2012) 2550.

## ANTIMICROBIAL COATINGS, IN VIVO



Patent No. 303502, 2012.

JPC-B 110 (2006) 16248. > 1000 citations

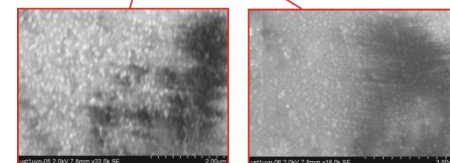
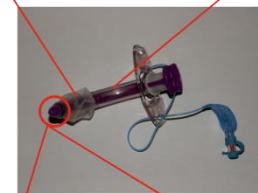
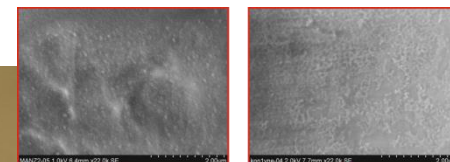
*Biomaterials* 32 (2011) 4704. > 100 citations

*Biomaterials* 30 (2009) 6333. > 300 citations

JPC-C 112 (2008) 5825. > 350 citations

Tracheostomy  
cannulas

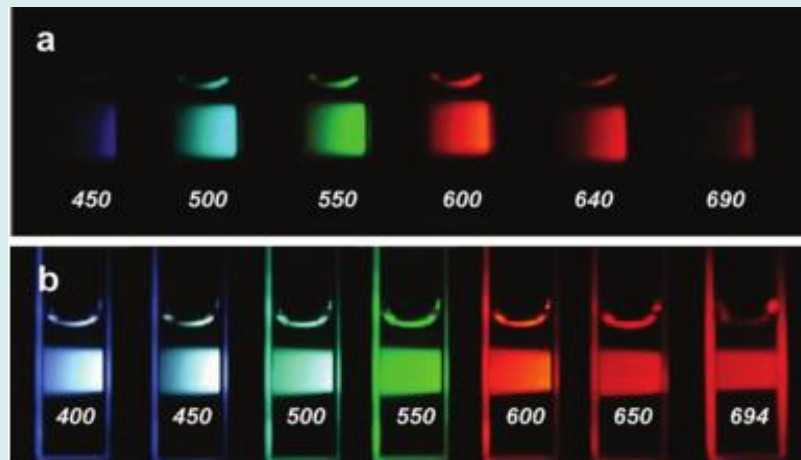
Today use of  
Ag NPs



Clinical trials in  
Prague

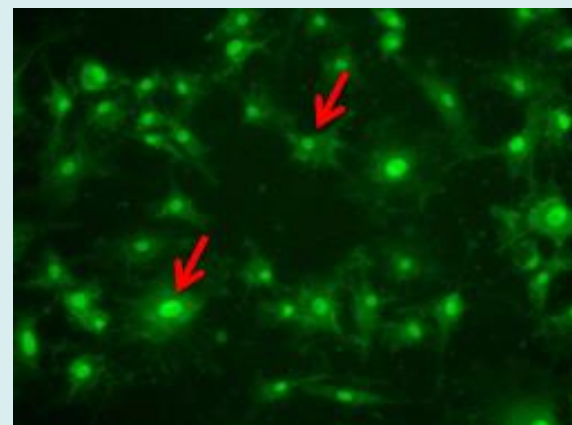
## Properties, advantages:

- Ultrasmall particles < 10 nm
- Graphitic core with various surface functionalities (C,H,N, O nature)
- Large scale production
- Biocompatible nature, low toxicity
- Multi-colour wavelength dependent emission (size, functional groups)
- Resistance to photobleaching
- Easy to functionalize the surface (PEG..)
- Two sources of fluorescence: carbon core, organic surface layer ⇒ controllable PL properties

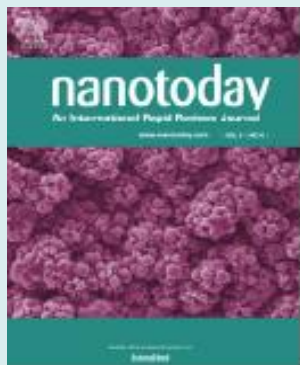


\* *Chem. Mater.* 20 (2008) 4539; *Small* 4 (2008) 455; > 600 citations; *Chem. Mater* 24 (2012) 6; *JACS* 134 (2012) 747; *Carbon* 61 (2013) 640

Selective nucleus vs cytoplasm cell labeling



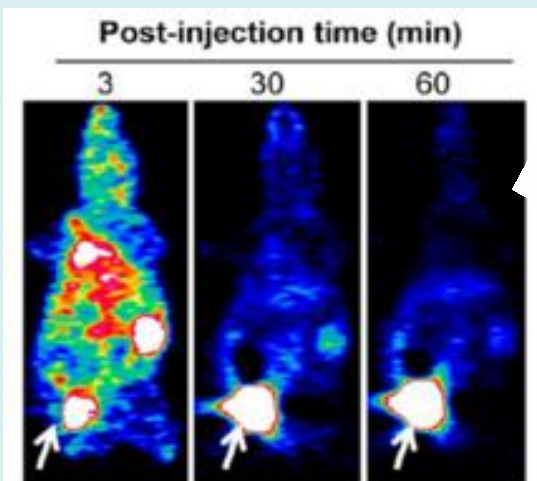
mouse fibroblast NIH/3T3 cells labeled with CDs



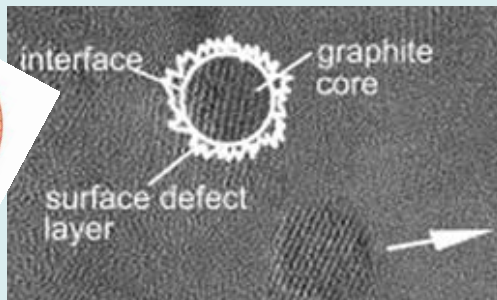
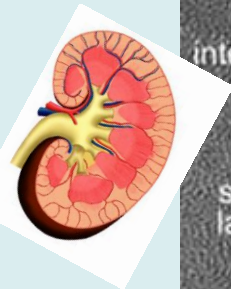
Hola et al. **NANO TODAY** 9 (2014) 590-603.

Georgakilas et al. **CHEMICAL REVIEWS** 115 (2015) 4744–482.

## IN VIVO RENAL EXCRETION



urinary bladder

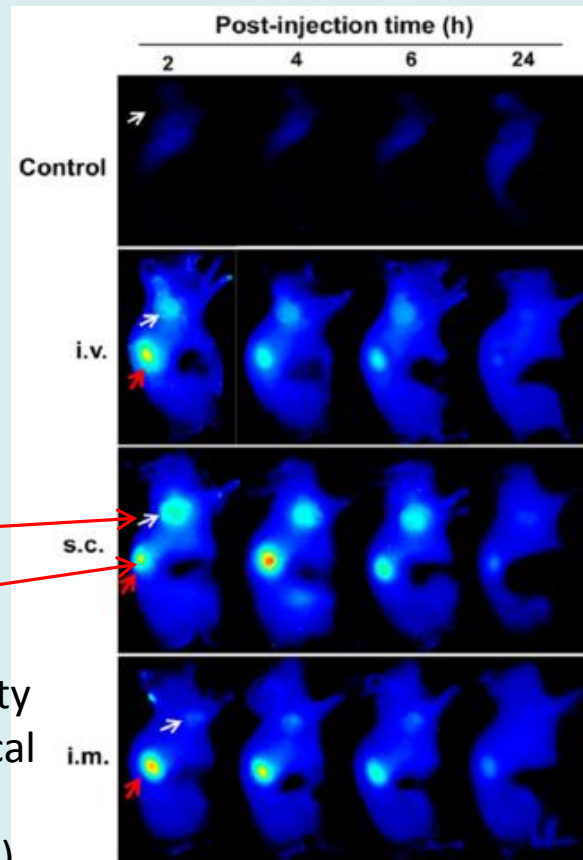


Huang *et al.* *ACS Nano* **2013**, 7, 5684.

Nurunnabi *et al.* *ACS Nano* **2013**, 7, 6858.

CDs size approx. 2-3 nm (17 kDa) with PEG

## SUPERIOR TUMOR UPTAKE

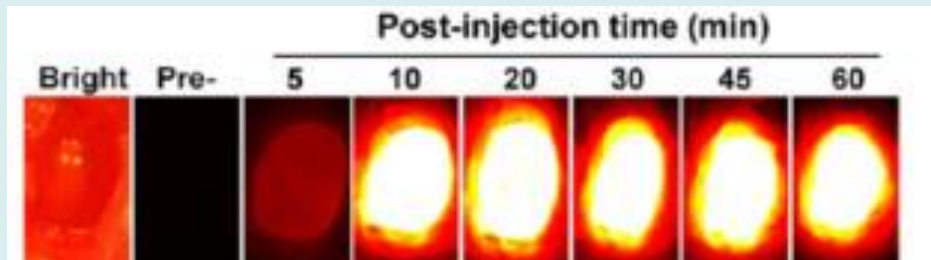


tumor

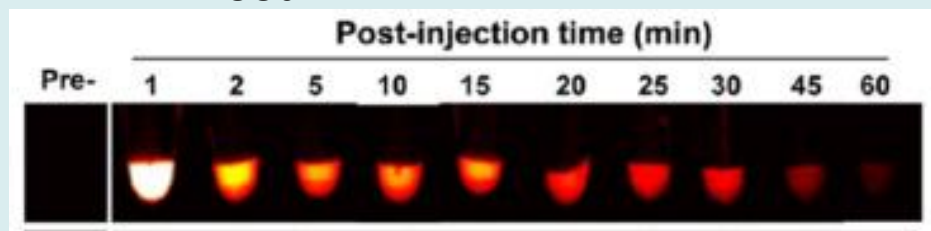
kidney

No acute toxicity  
or morphological  
changes (10  
mg/kg, 22 days)

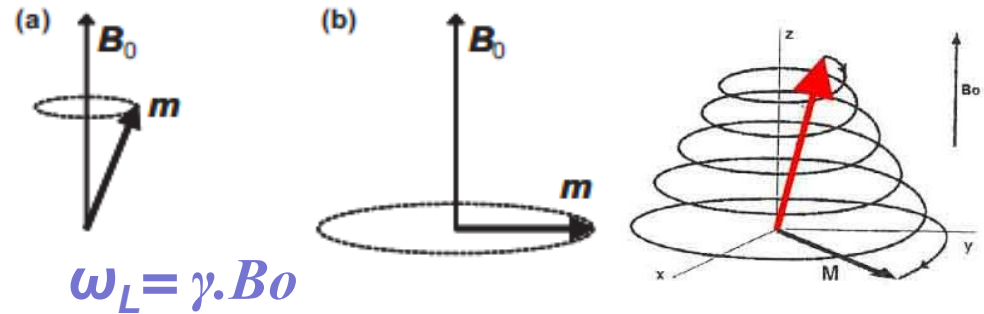
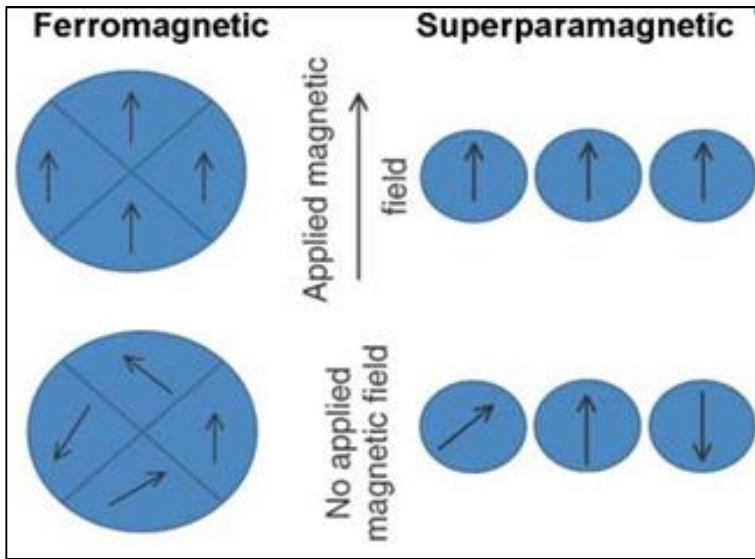
CDs as challenging theranostic agent?  
- Photodynamic therapy/targeted drug  
delivery



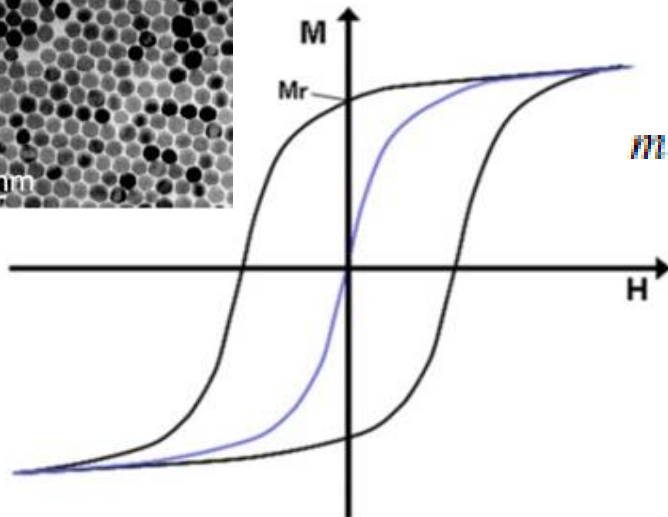
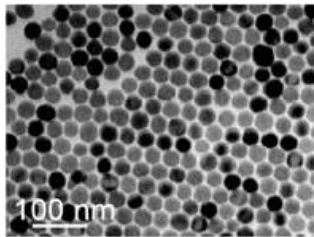
Blood



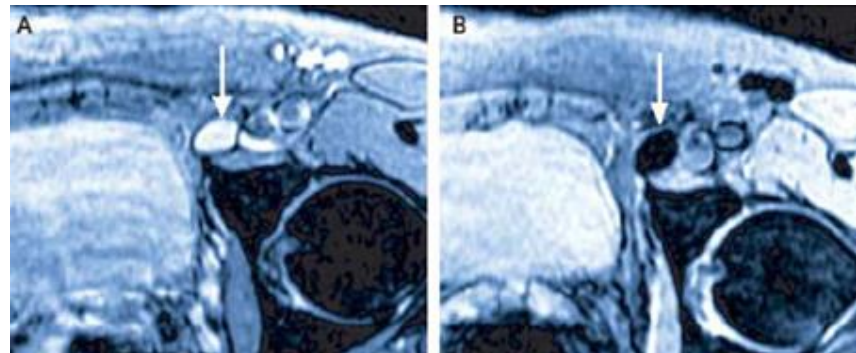
# Superparamagnetic Iron Oxide (SPIO) NPs in MRI



- Based on 1H magnetic moments (spin) precessing around the vector of applied magnetic field ( $B_0$ )
- the radio frequency field ( $B_1$ , MHz, in a pulse sequence) is applied in a plane perpendicular to  $B_0$
- the radio frequency pulse is turned off  $\Rightarrow$  the relaxation of the coherent response is measured
- **SPIO shorten  $T_2$  - transverse (or spin-spin) relaxation times  $T_2 \Rightarrow$  negative contrast agent**



$$m_z = m(1 - e^{-t/T_1}) \quad m_{x,y} = m \sin(\omega_0 t + \phi) e^{-t/T_2}$$

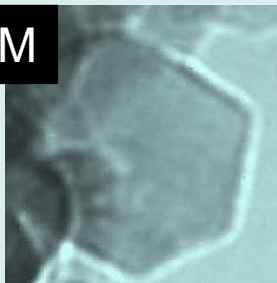


# SPIO/bentonite hybrid as per-oral contrast agent in MRI

## PERORAL MRI AGENT

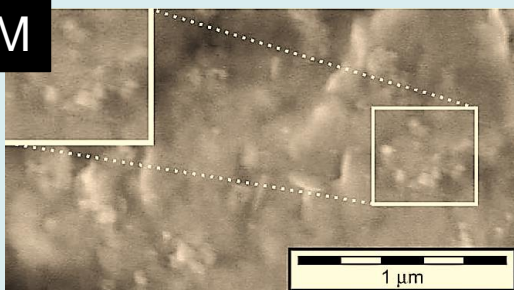
$\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles. One-step thermal decomposition of Fe(II) acetate in air at 400 °C

## TEM



← 20 nm →

## SEM



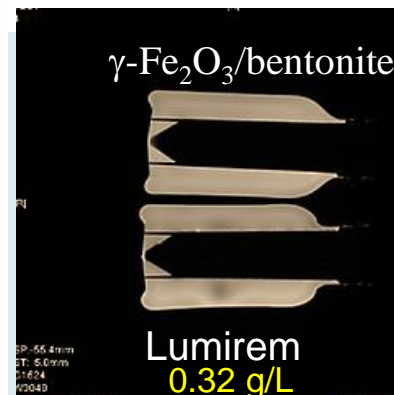
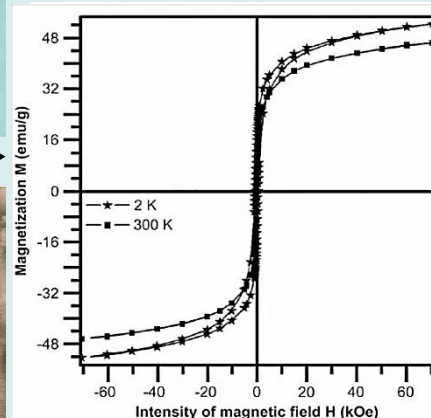
Dispersed in bentonite matrix

## Properties

- ❖ Easy to synthesize
- ❖ Good magnetic moment 40 emu/g (3T)
- ❖ High stability- Low toxicity
- ❖ High negative (T<sub>2</sub>) MRI contrast

**Biomaterials 30,**  
**2855, 2009.**

Patented product - Peroral MRI negative contrast agent for gastrointestinal tract



Lumirem (IT)



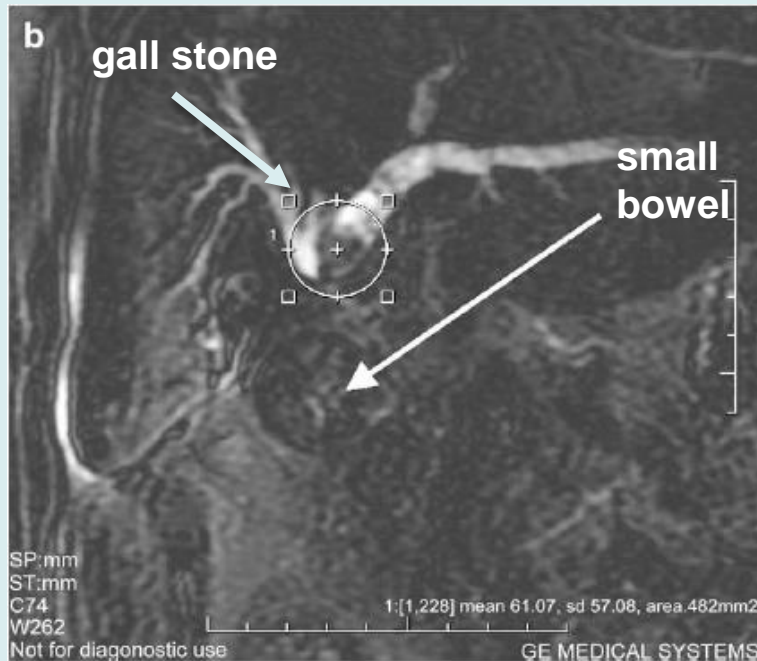
SPIO/bent. (Olomouc)

- 2014-2016
- ❖ **Clinical trials**  
Over 150 patients  
(FN Olomouc,  
Banska Bystrica)
- ❖ **Negotiation** on  
the license  
conditions with  
Biomedica

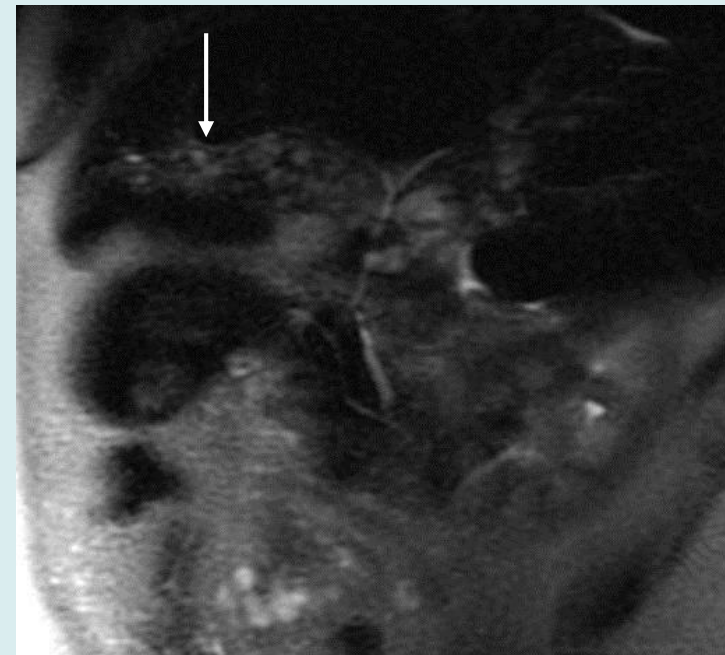
Patent No. 300445



## EXAMPLES FROM CLINICAL TRIALS

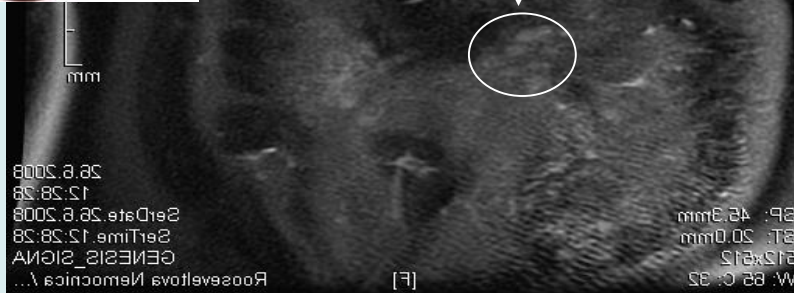
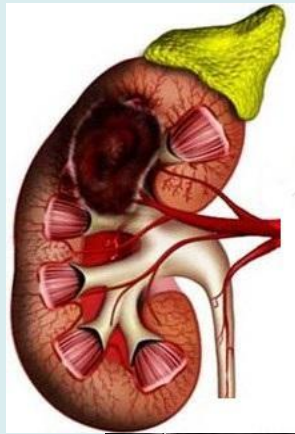


**gall stone in a bile duct**

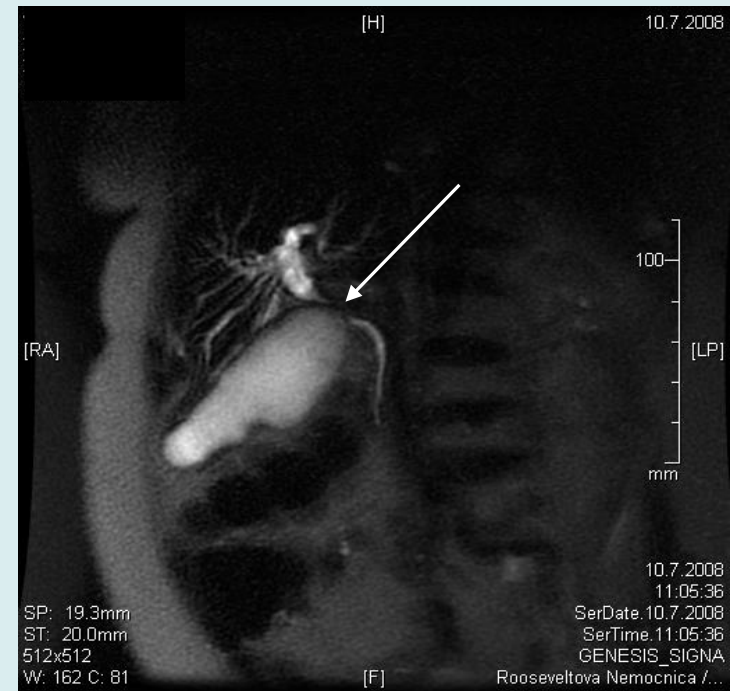


MRCP with the use of negative contrast agent of maghemite/bentonite in small bowel, **numerous extraluminal hyperintense metastases** (arrow)

## EXAMPLES FROM CLINICAL TRIALS



MRCP with experimental oral contrast agent, 65y. man, unknown **Grawitz tumor** of the right kidney, multiple metastases intraperitoneal paraluminal (arrow)



88 y. woman - **malignant stenosis of bile duct**

# SPIO in Targeted Drug Delivery and Magnetic Theranostics



## Key requirements:

- Nano-assemblies facilitating very high structural and colloidal stability and stability in the blood environment
- Minimum non-specific interactions.
- Appropriate drug loading and controlled release kinetics.
- Hydrodynamic size smaller than 200 nm.
- Magnetic crystallites close to superparamagnetic limits for maximum magnetic properties and MRI imaging
- Produced through high yield processes.
- Relatively cost effective process.

Various architectures of magnetic hybrid nano-assemblies, ascribing different attributes to the final theranostics.

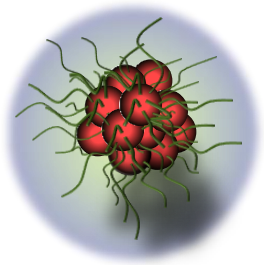
**CHEMICAL  
REVIEWS**

Review

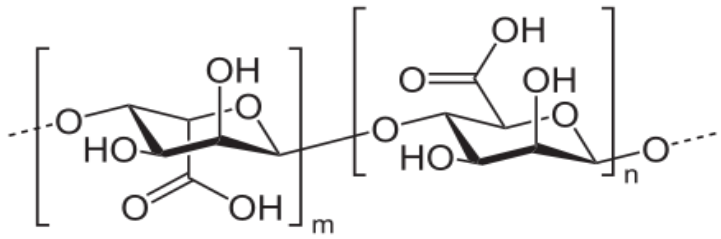
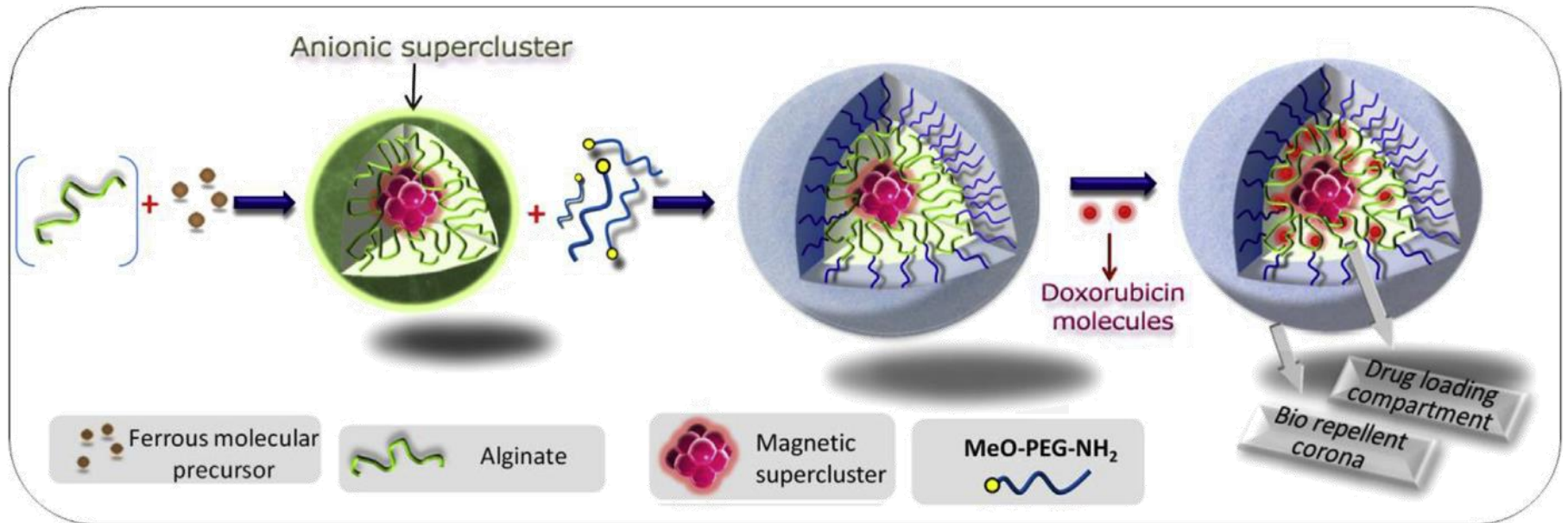
[pubs.acs.org/CR](https://pubs.acs.org/CR)

**Targeted Drug Delivery with Polymers and Magnetic Nanoparticles: Covalent and Noncovalent Approaches, Release Control, and Clinical Studies**

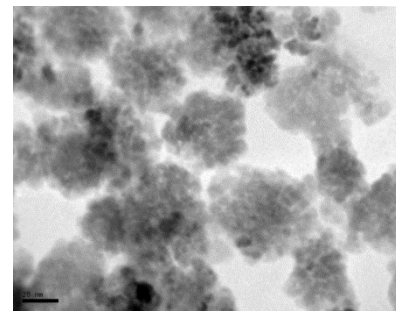
Karel Ulbrich,<sup>†,§</sup> Kateřina Holá,<sup>‡,§</sup> Vladimír Šubr,<sup>†</sup> Aristides Bakandritsos,<sup>‡</sup> Jiří Tuček,<sup>‡</sup> and Radek Zbořil<sup>\*,‡</sup>



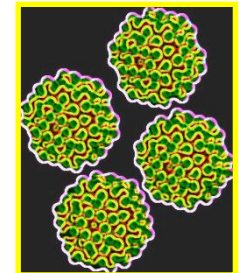
# SPIO based theranostics in RCPTM with condensed nanoclusters „coNCs“



Alginic Acid biopolymer



~25 SPIOs/cluster

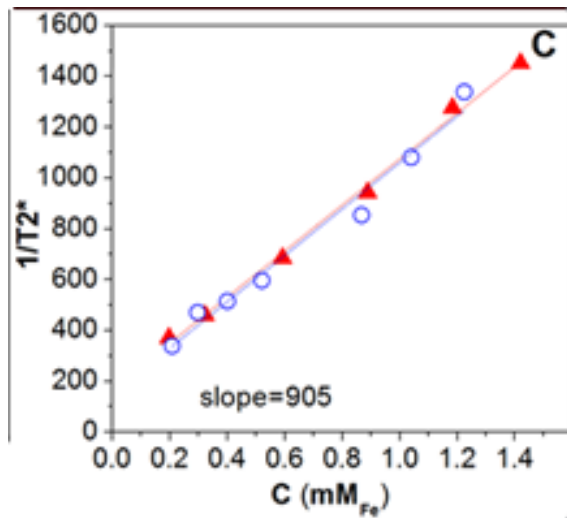
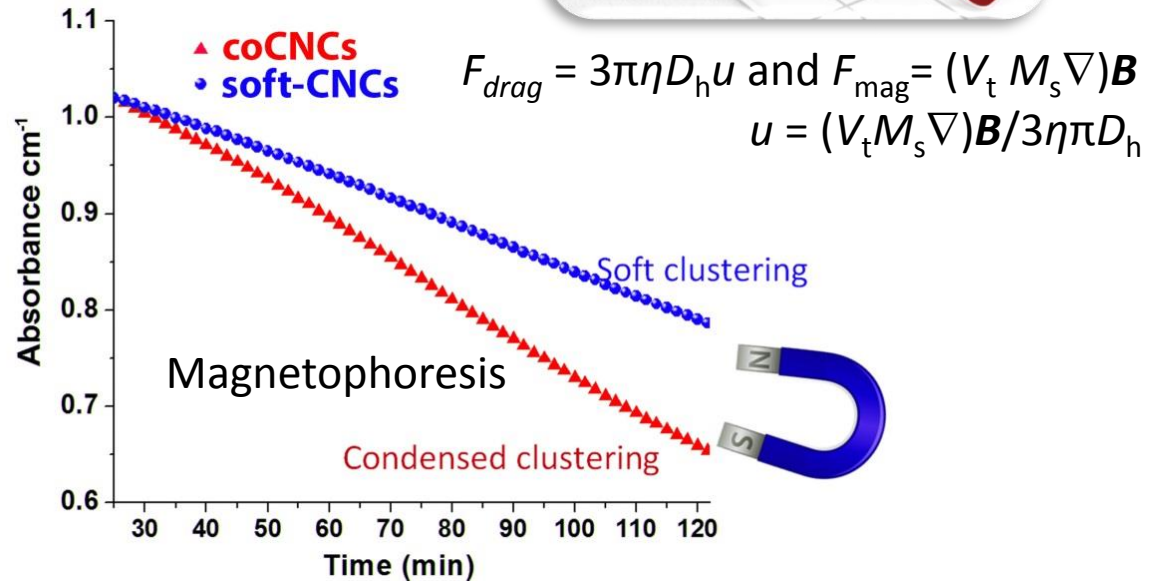
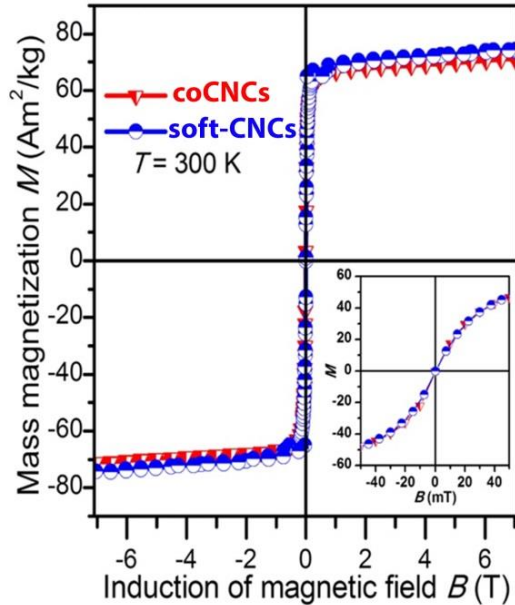
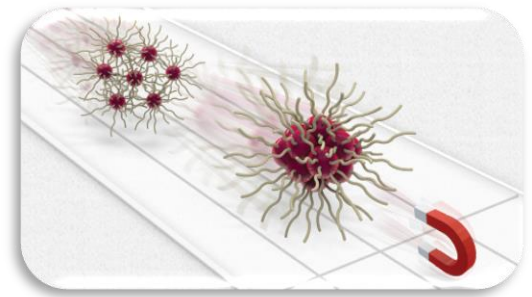


A. Bakandritsos et al *Small*, **2012**, 8, 2381–2393.

G. Zoppellaro et al. *Chem. Mater.*, 2014, **26**, 2062–2074.

Y. Sarigiannis, et al. *Biomaterials*, **2016**, 91, 128–139.

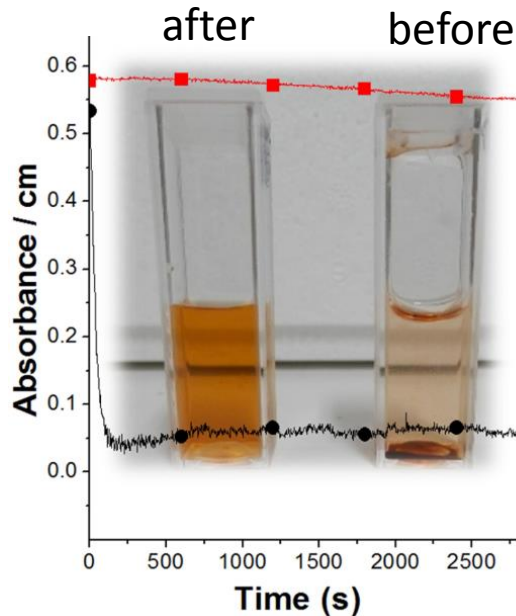
# coNCs theranostics - superior magnetic characteristics



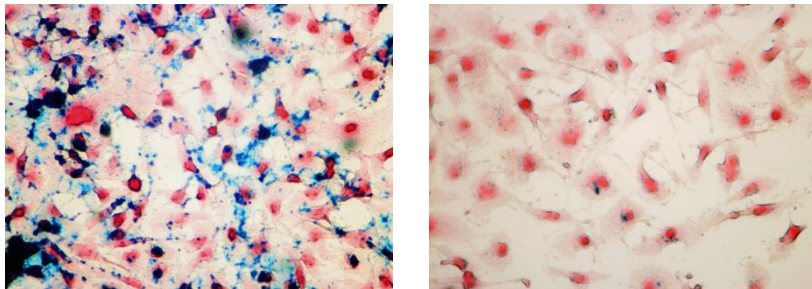
- **higher magnetophoretic response** compared to softNCs  
 $\Rightarrow$  **better manipulation with EMF**
- High saturation magnetization, **still perfect SP behavior**
  - coNCs display large transverse relaxivities  $\Rightarrow$  top relaxivity considering the size of assembly  $\Rightarrow$  **excellent MRI properties**
    - $r_2 = 400 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ mM}^{-1} \text{ Fe}$
    - $r_2^* = 900 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ mM}^{-1} \text{ Fe}$

# coNCs theranostics - superior bio-characteristics

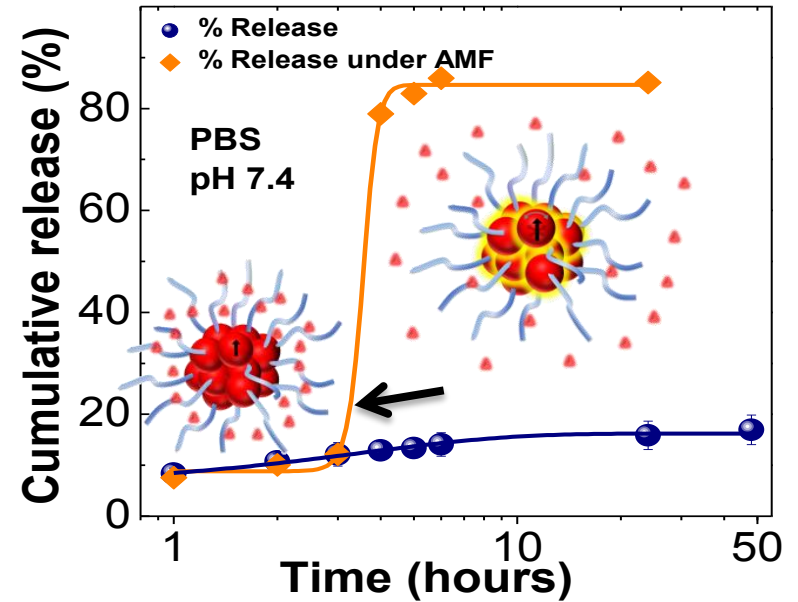
High drug loading (15%wt) and excellent colloidal stability after PEGylation (both in physiological solution and in human blood plasma)



Prevention of non-specific cell-particle interactions (cell uptake) due to secondary PEGylation



AMF triggered drug release

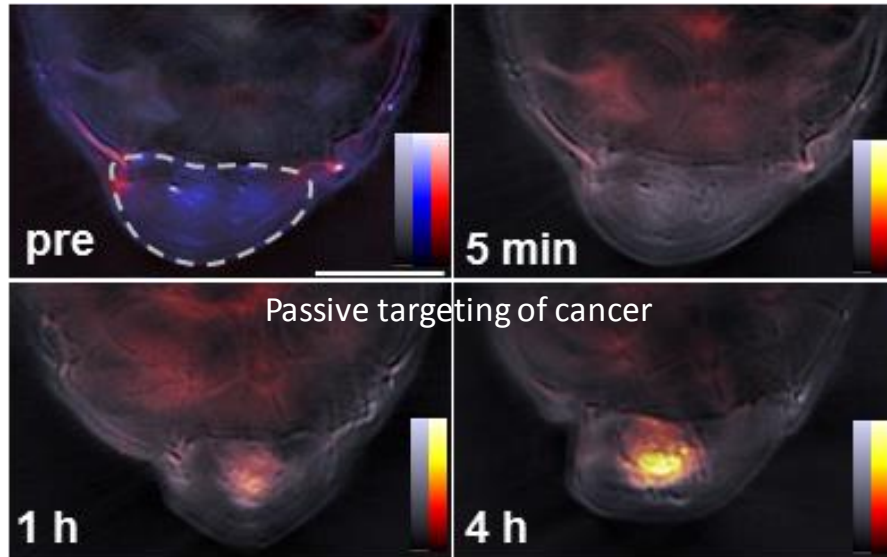


Improved biodistribution due to PEGylation and hydrodynamic diameter below 100 nm:

SPIO is not concentrated in the liver  $\Rightarrow$  better targeting to the cancer

# coNCs theranostics – in vivo imaging/targeting breast cancer; passive versus active targeting

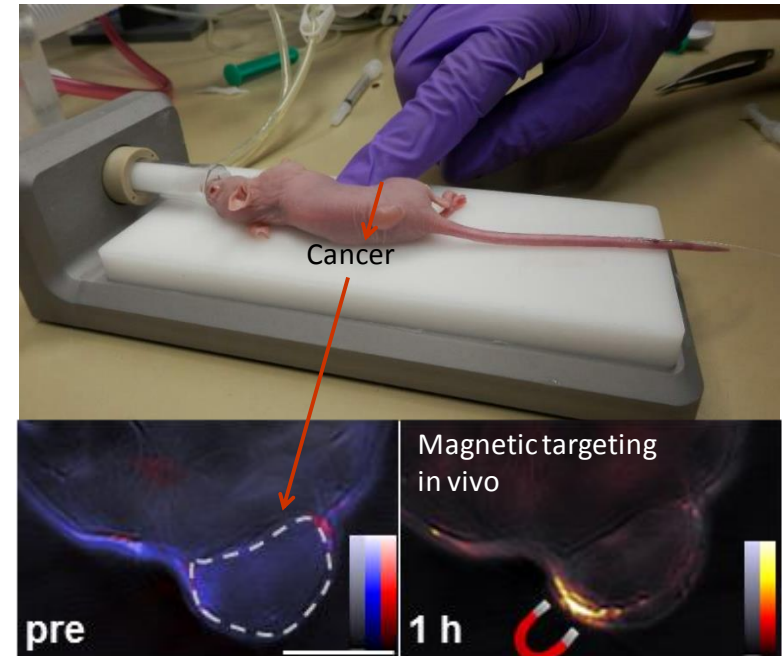
In vivo imaging through Multispectral Optoacoustic Tomography, based on absorbance of the magnetic cores solely within the NIR transparent spectral window of the tissue.



coNCs **passively target** the tumor area (4T1 xenografts), after tail vein intravenous administration due to EPR effect.

**Notes:** **Magnetic species – yellow color**  
Deoxygenated blood – blue  
(hypoxic conditions in tumor tissue)  
Oxygenated blood - red

Y. Sarigiannis et al. *Biomaterials*, **2016**, 91, 128–139.



**Active targeting** - Theranostic agent responds very effectively to EMF  $\Rightarrow$  all detected particles are concentrated at the nursing vessel of the tumour after their tail injection - the local concentration of the drug is higher and able to reach normally unreachable areas of the tumourous tissue



## All colleagues from RCPTM



M. Kolář, M. Heřman  
**Antimicrobial testing, MRI**



J. Konvalinka, P. Cígler  
**Carbon dots, nanodiamonds**



A. Bakandritsos  
**Targeted drug delivery**



F. Besenbacher, M. Dong  
**Interactions with 2D**



P. Carretta, A. Lascialfari  
**MRI - theory**



V. Georgakilas, D. Petridis  
**Graphene functionalization**



R. Varma  
**Toxicity of NPs, nanocatalysis**



F. Vianello  
**Biosensors**



A. Rogach  
**Hybrids with quantum dots**



AB Bourlinos, M. Karakassides  
**Carbon hybrids**



EP. Giannelis, M. Krysman,  
**Carbon dots**



S. Ohkoshi  
**Magnetic nanoparticles**



A. Gedanken  
**Antimicrobial NPs**



R. Stollberger, C. Divoki  
**MRI-applications**

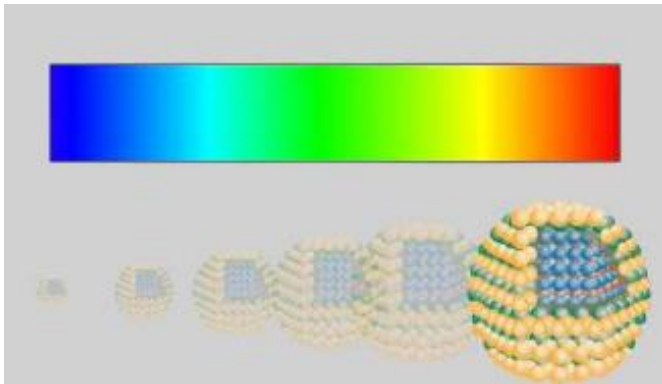




# New challenges in nanomedicine – quantum dots?

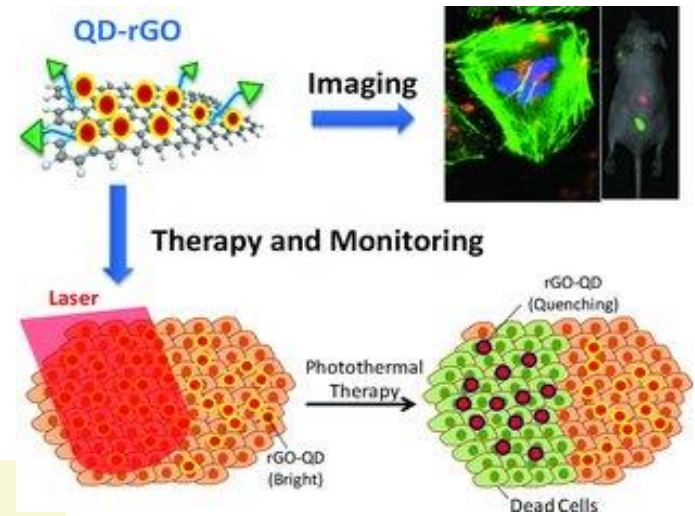


QDs - nanocrystals of semiconductor materials, such as CdSe, CdTe, in which electron-hole pairs can be created and confined. When the QDs are exposed to light, electron-hole pairs are excited and fluoresce. The frequency of emitted light increases as the size of the quantum dot decreases  $\Rightarrow$  **tunable PL**

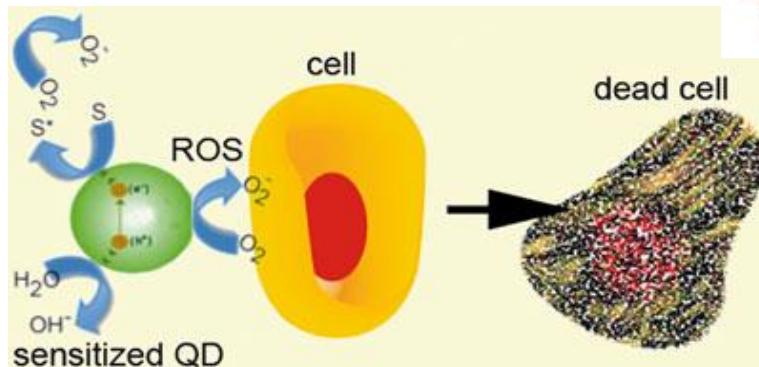


**Bioimaging**

**Photodynamic/  
photothermal  
therapy**



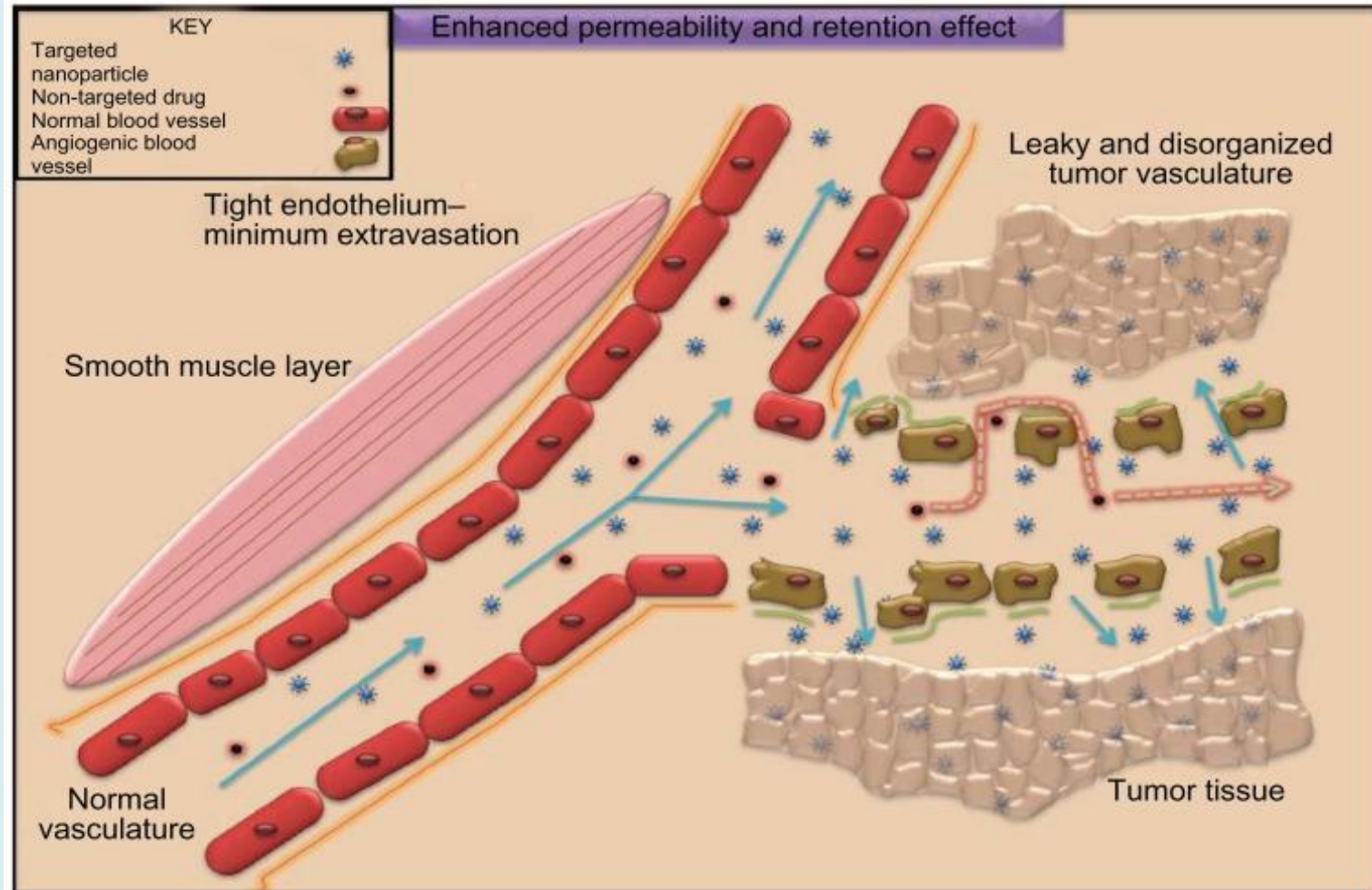
**Drug delivery**



Problems:

- Biodistribution
- Toxicity (heavy metals)

# Targeted drug delivery – EPR passive targeting



EPR effect operating in tumor milieu permitting accumulation of NPs in cancer cells. Blood vessels in tumor tissue have defective architecture with gaps as large as 200–1000 nm allowing NPs to extravasate and accumulate inside the tumor tissue. The retention time of drugs packed in nanoparticles is ten times higher than that of unpacked

## Drug delivery

- C-dots + PEG
- Doxorubicin loading + pH release
- FRET (Fluorescence Resonance Energy Transfer) monitoring of drug release

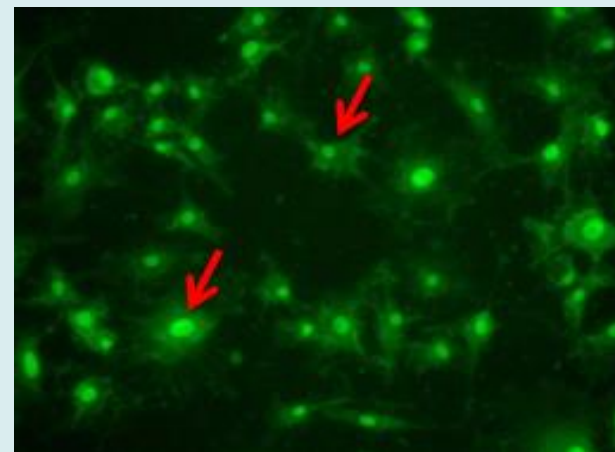


Red emission, selective labeling of cell nucleus/ cytoplasm; superior uptake by cancer cells – effect of surface charge



## Thermodynamic therapy - ROS generation

- under irradiation by blue/green lamp: ROS generation
- no toxicity for normal cells



Tang. et al. *Adv. Mater.* **2013**, 25, 6569–6574.

Markovic, et al. *Biomaterials* **2012**, 33, 7084–7092.

Christensen, et al. *J. Biomed. Nanotechnol.* **2011**, 7, 667–676.

mouse fibroblast NIH/3T3 cells labeled with CDs

*Bourlinos et al. Chem. Mater* 24 (2012) 6.



**In vitro** optoacoustic studies were performed in a tissue mimicking phantom obtained using cylindrical phantoms of 2 cm diameter. They were prepared using a gel made from distilled water, containing Agar (Sigma-Aldrich) for jellification (1.3% w/w) and an intralipid 20% emulsion (Sigma-Aldrich) for light diffusion (6% v/v), resulting in a gel presenting a reduced scattering coefficient of  $m^{-1} \times 10 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and no specific absorbance as to allow precise estimation of light energy deposition. A 3 mm diameter straw, transparent for near infra-red light and ultrasound waves, was filed with the sample solution and included close to the center of the tissue mimicking phantom, alongside with a similar straw filed with India Black Ink (OD: 0.3) as a reference. MSOT acquisition was then performed using illumination wavelengths in 5 nm steps between 680 and 900 nm for the spectral experiments.

**Animal experiments:** All animal experiments were performed in accordance to the institutional guidelines and approved by the government of Upper Bavaria (Germany). A xenograft tumour model was employed using 4T1 murine breast cancer cells. 8 weeks old adult female athymic nude-Foxn1 nude mice (Harlan, Germany) were inoculated subcutaneously in the middle of the back in the region for the upper pelvis with  $1.5 \times 10^6$  4T1 (CRL-2539) cells in 50 mL PBS. Animals were imaged in the MSOT system once the tumour reached a size of 8 mm diameter. Acquisition was performed using 20 averages per position in 1 mm steps throughout the tumour using 680, 710, 740, 770, 800, 830, 860 and 890 nm as illumination wavelengths, at different time points after injection of the nanoparticles (before, 5 min, 1 h and 4 h after injection). When the use of a magnet was required, a cylindrical Nd-Fe-B magnet (dimensions: diameter  $\frac{1}{4}$  20 mm, thickness  $\frac{1}{4}$  10 mm) was used and applied directly on the tumor during injection. During image acquisition, the magnet was removed.