



# “Inkjet-printing of nanobiosensors with consumer printers”

Giulio Rosati, Massimo Urban, and Arben Merkoçi

[giulio.rosati@icn2.cat](mailto:giulio.rosati@icn2.cat)

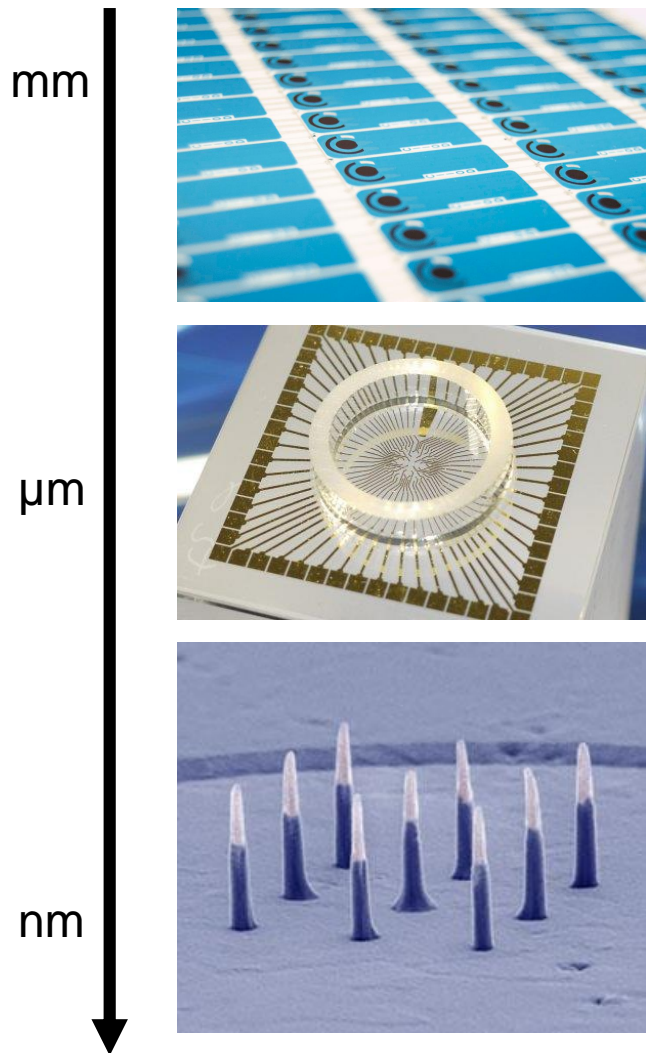
[arben.merkoci@icn2.cat](mailto:arben.merkoci@icn2.cat)



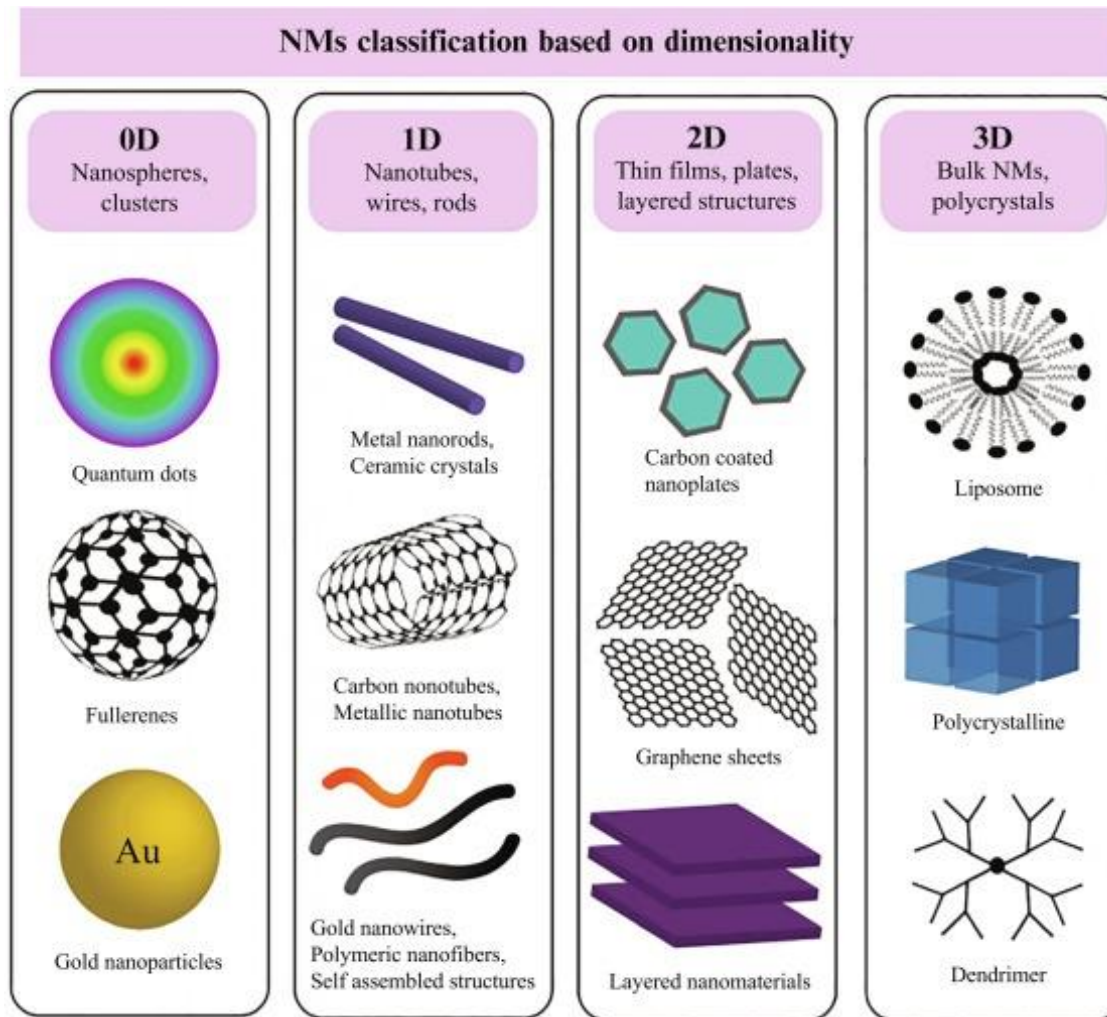
Institut Català  
de Nanociència  
i Nanotecnologia

# Electrochemical nanobiosensors

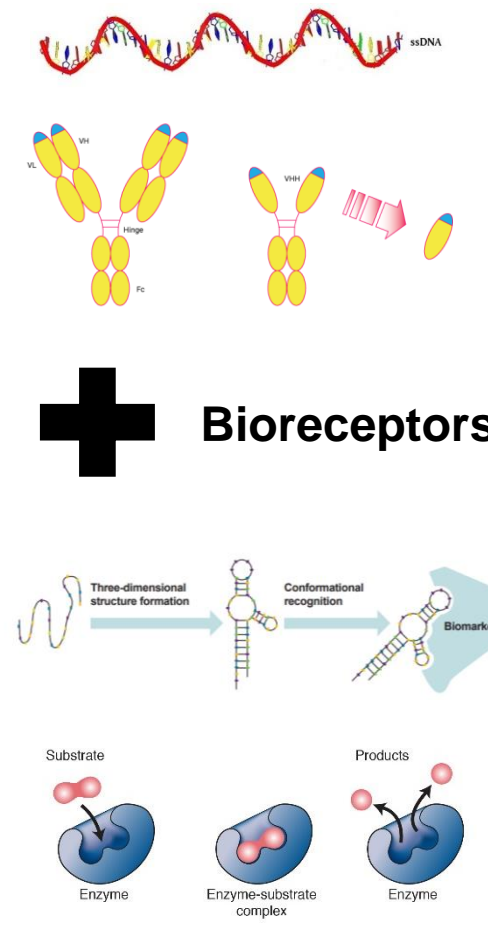
Physical device size



Nanomaterials

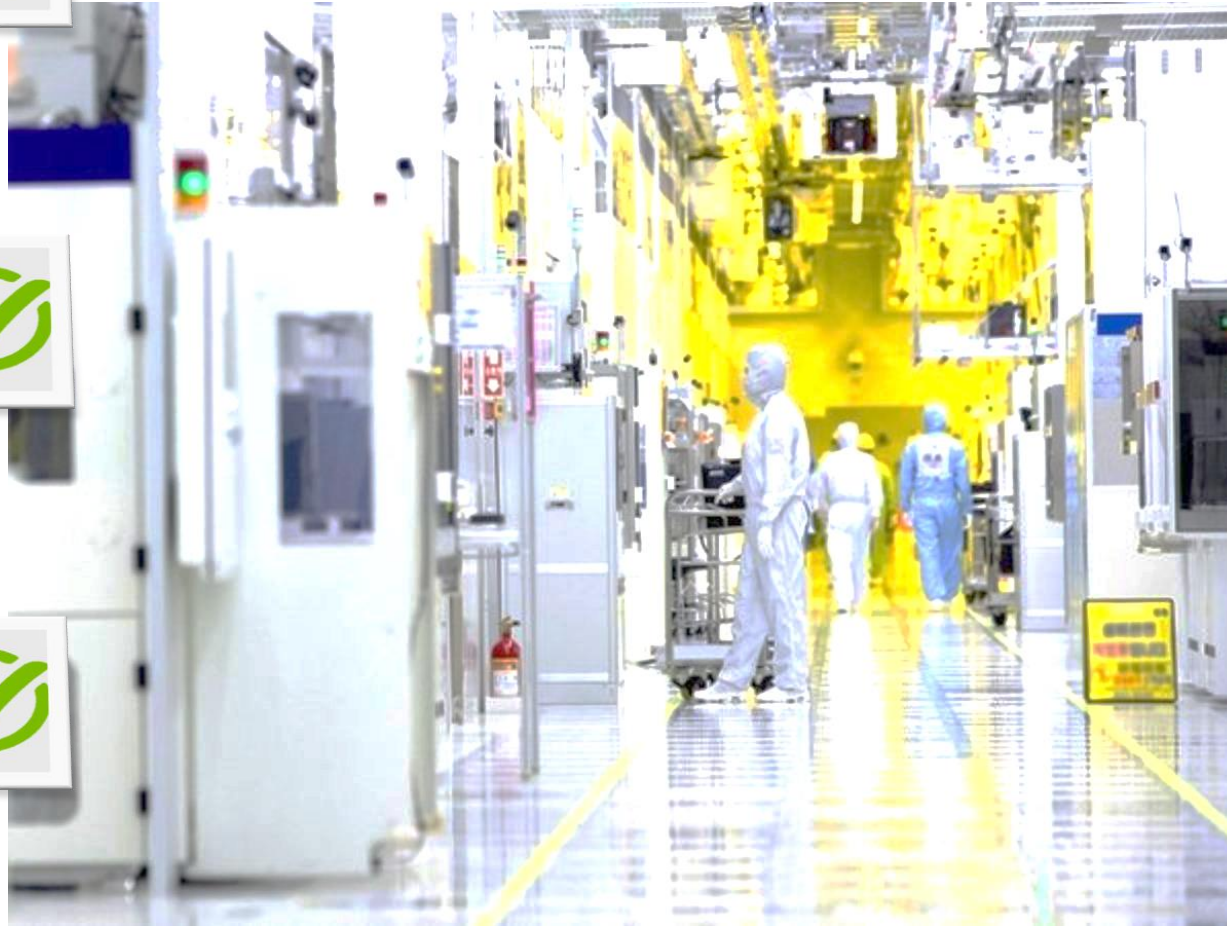
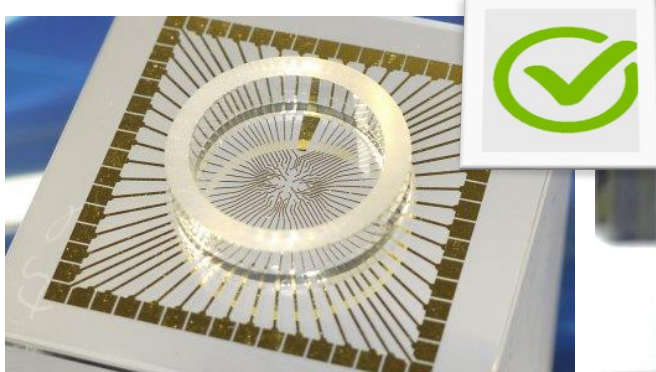


Nanobiotechnology



# Fabrication

## Cleanroom fab



### PROs

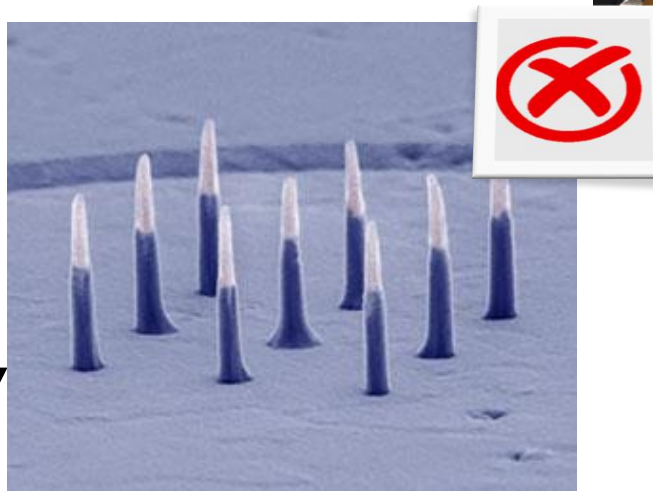
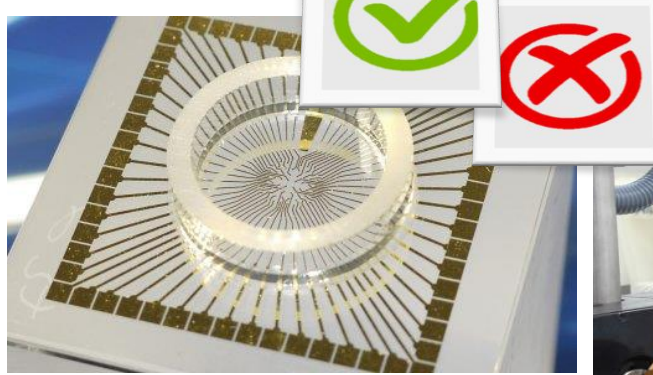
- Highest precision
- Scalable
- Prone to supply chain interruptions
- Expensive

### CONs



# Fabrication

## Centralized printing



### PROs

- Fast/lower costs
- Scalable
- Prone to supply chain interruptions
- Less precise

### CONs



**Is there any other option available?**

# What if we could fabricate them anywhere?

## “Ubiquitous”

Democratic

Need-precise

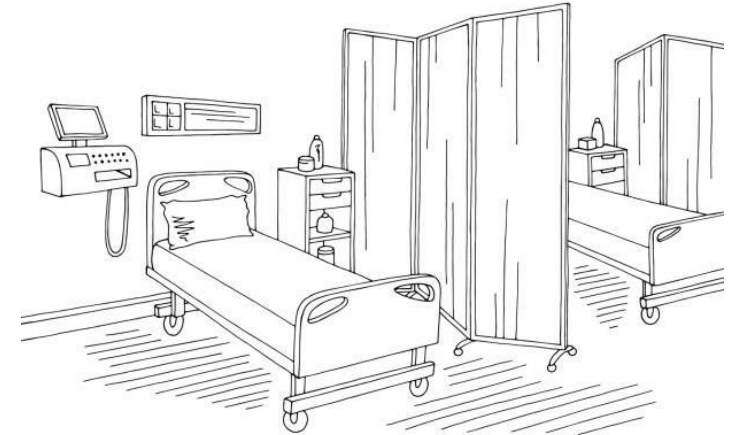


printing

at home



in the lab



at the point of care

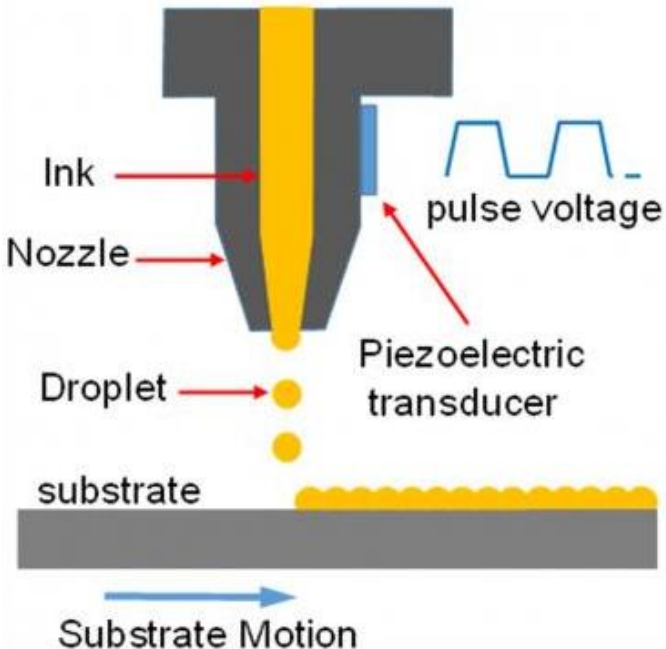


# Inkjet with consumer printers

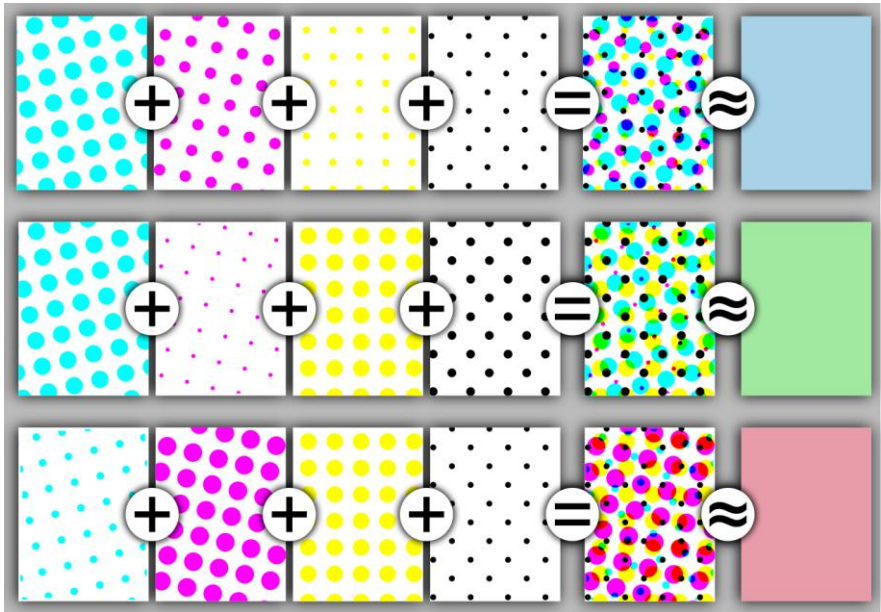
Drop-on-demand system:

- no ink waste
- maskless
- multinozzle – rapid
- low-volume (thin-film)

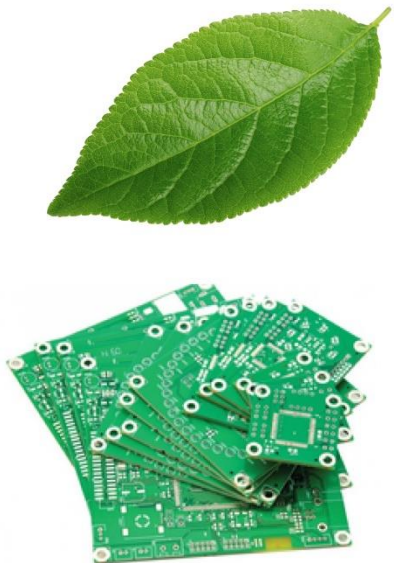
**Multi-color option!**



Many brands available:

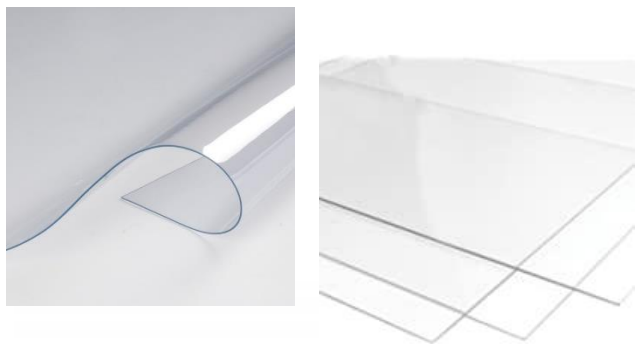


# The printing triad



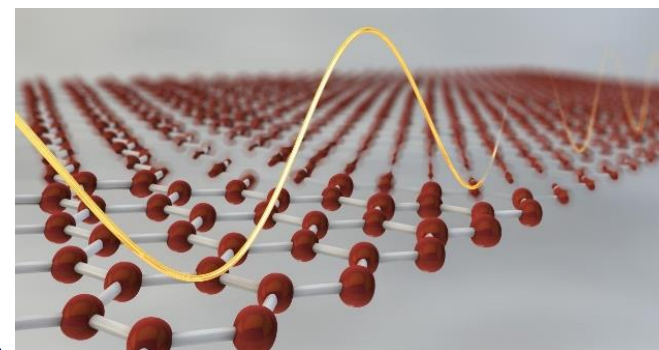
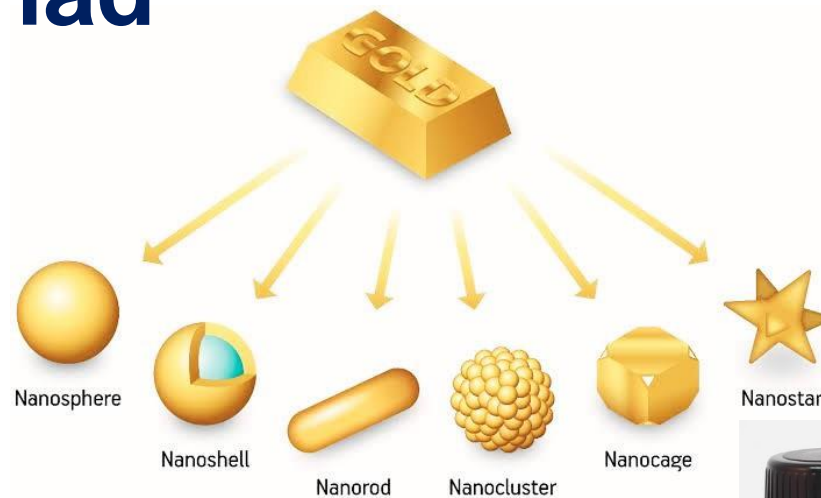
Resolution  
Speed  
XY control/step  
Plate temperature  
Number of inks

## Printers



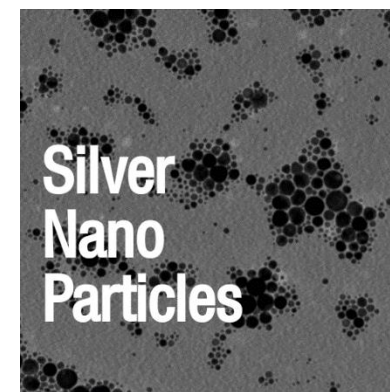
## Substrates

Rigidity  
Flexibility  
Deformability  
Sintering  
Texture



## Inks

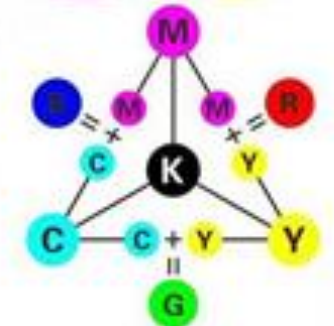
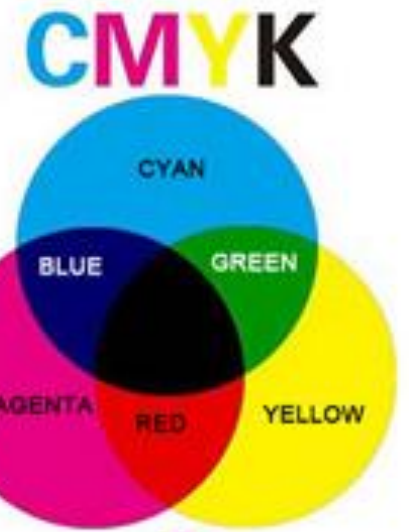
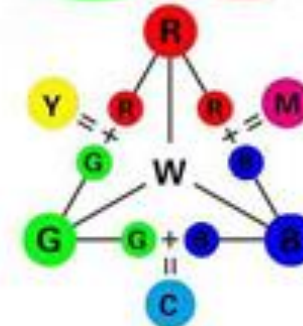
Quantity/price  
Printability  
Clogging  
Stability





# Printing parameters

- Resolution (dots per inch)
- Color management (from RGB to the nozzle)
- Drop volume vs printed drop diameter
- Substrate type selection (glossy, matte, etc.)
- Real line/shapes dimensions vs design



# Substrates



- **Impermeable** (solid, flexible, deformable)
  - **Surface energy control**

- **Priming**

- **Semi-absorbent** (absorbent coating, reduced pore size, etc.)

- **Nanomaterial filtration/accumulation**

- **Solvent separation**

- **Post-print diffusion**

- **Absorbent** (paper, textile, fiber-based, etc.)

- **Single fiber decoration**

- **Nanomaterials penetration**

# Nanoinks

## NMs classification based on dimensionality

0D

Nanospheres,  
clusters



Quantum dots



Fullerenes



Gold nanoparticles

1D

Nanotubes,  
wires, rods



Metal nanorods,  
Ceramic crystals



Carbon nanotubes,  
Metallic nanotubes



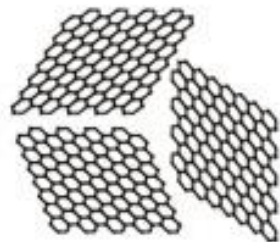
Gold nanowires,  
Polymeric nanofibers,  
Self assembled structures

2D

Thin films, plates,  
layered structures



Carbon coated  
nanoplates



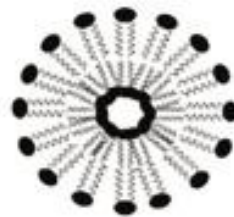
Graphene sheets



Layered nanomaterials

3D

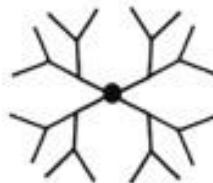
Bulk NMs,  
polycrystals



Liposome



Polycrystalline



Dendrimer

SUSNANO SPRING SCHOOL

## Nanoinks requirements:

- **Dimension** < 500 nm
- Water dispersion (70% water)
- Viscosity: 1-5 thermal; 5-40 piezo (mPa·s or cP)
- Surface tension: 30-60 (mN/m)
- **Stable in solution** (ideally > 6 months)



# But there is a hidden actor....

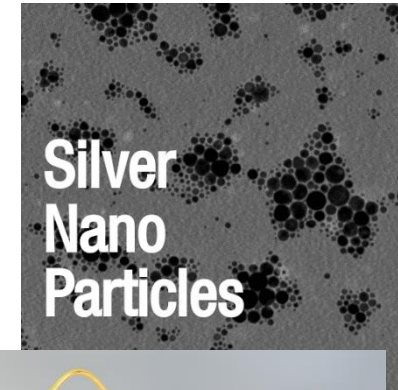
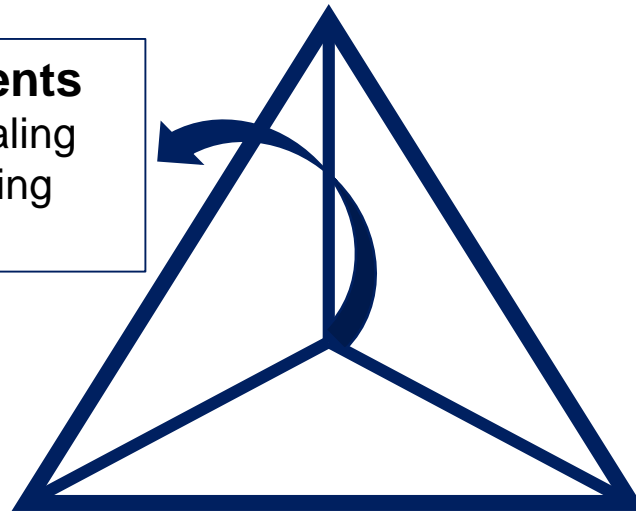


Resolution  
Speed  
XY control/step  
Plate temperature  
Number of inks

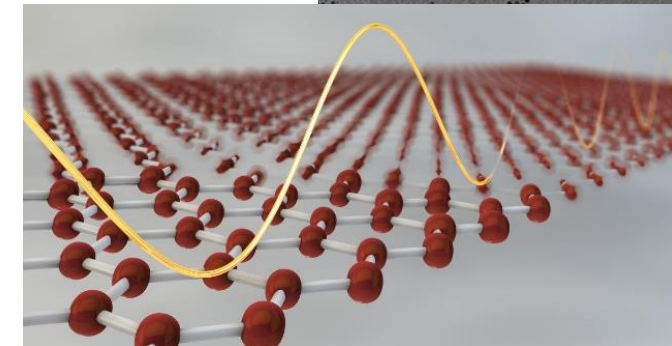
## Printers

### Post-treatments

Thermal annealing  
Optical sintering  
Others



Silver  
Nano  
Particles

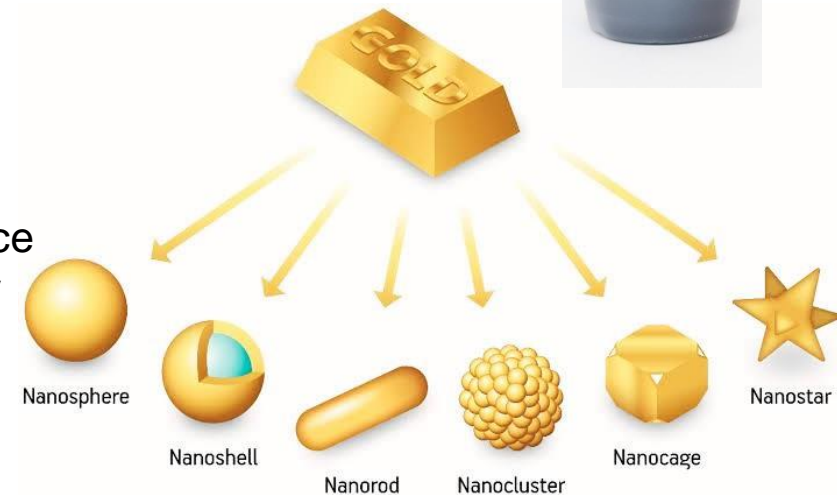


## Substrates

Rigidity  
Flexibility  
Deformability  
Sintering  
Texture

## Inks

Quantity/price  
Printability  
Clogging  
Stability





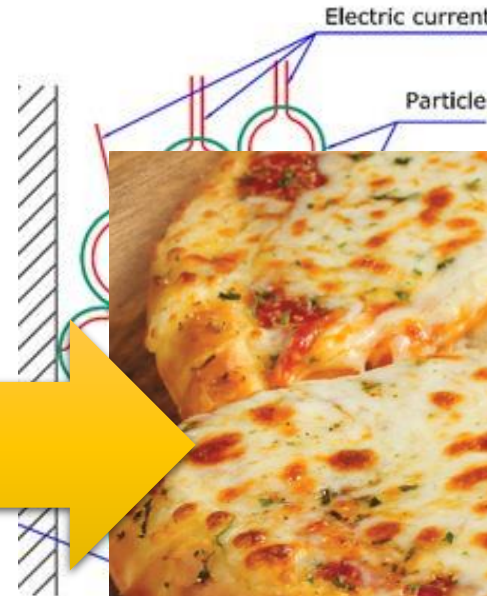
# The hidden actor: post-treatments

Thermal

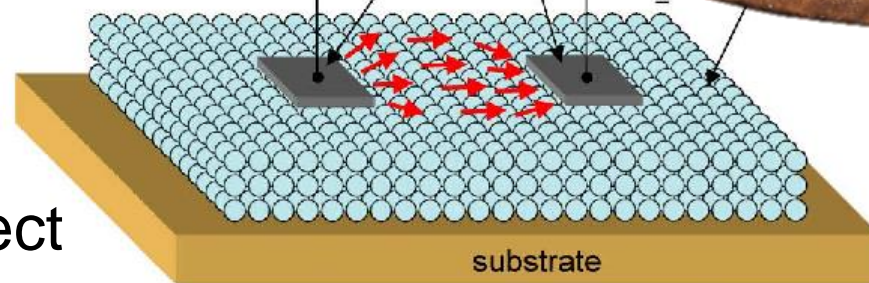
Optical

Electrical

Microwaves, plasma,  
etc.



$R_s$



Joule effect

substrate



# The hidden actor: post-treatments

...and strategies to “avoid” them (engineered substrates)



EPSON XP15000

+

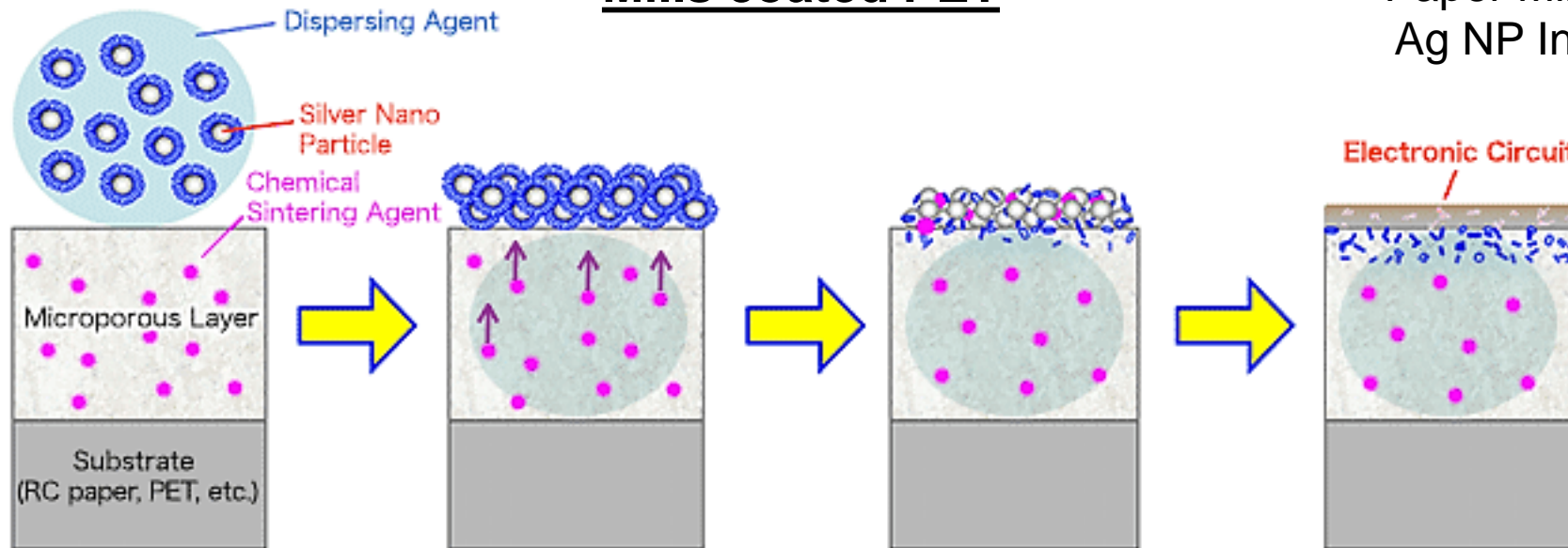


Mitsubishi paper  
Mills coated PET

+



Mitsubishi  
Paper Mills  
Ag NP Ink



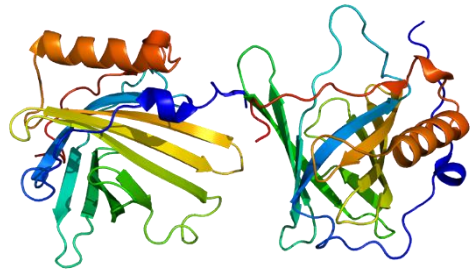


# Are these AgNP devices really working?

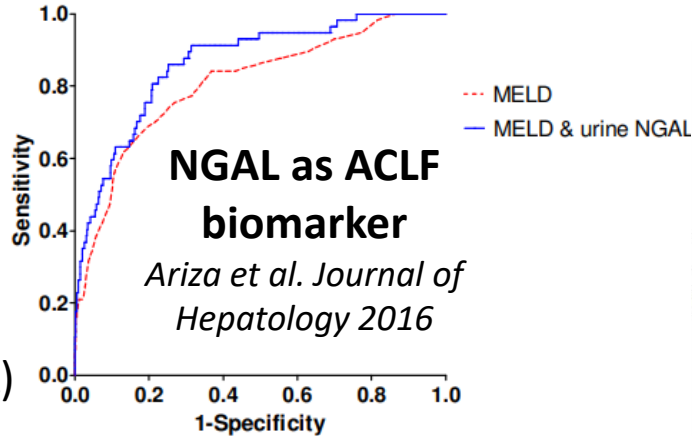
## NGAL detection for acute-on-chronic liver failure



Massimo Urban

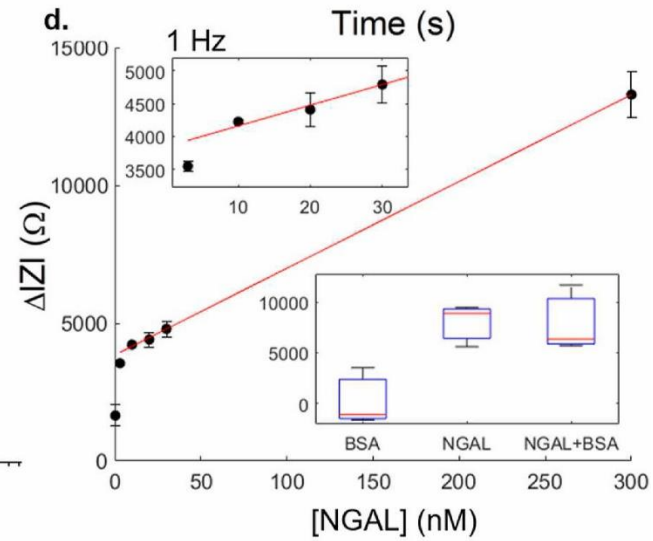
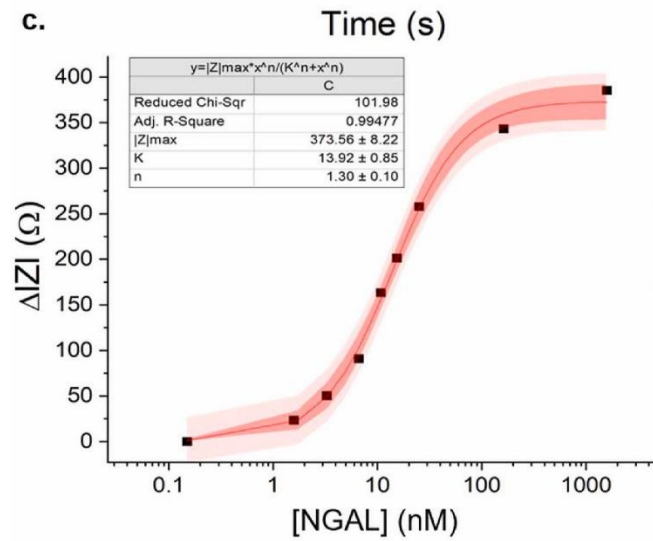
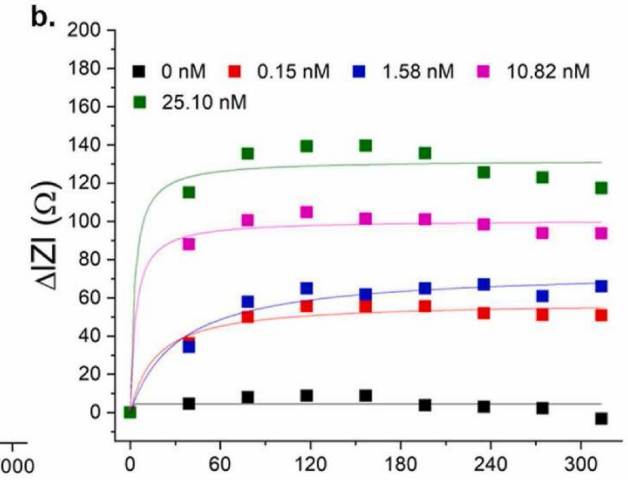
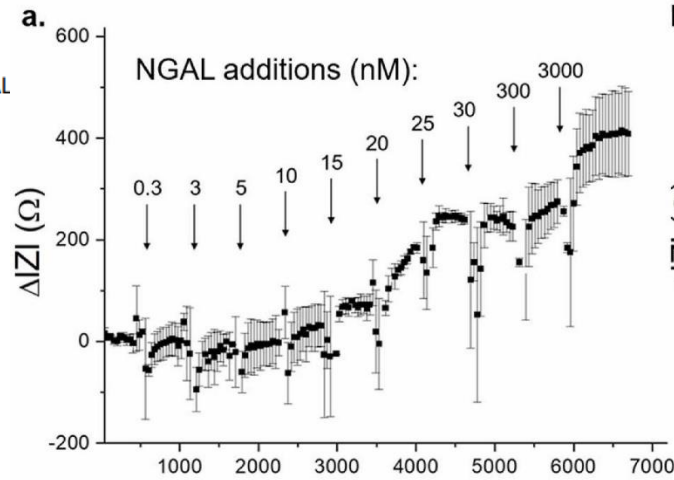
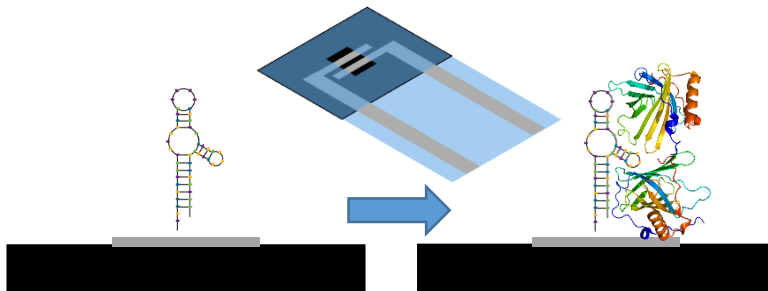


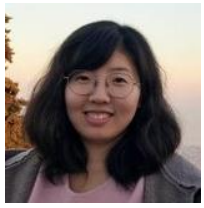
Neutrophil gelatinase associated lipocalin (NGAL)



This study received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 825694.

IDE AgNP label-free impedance-based device





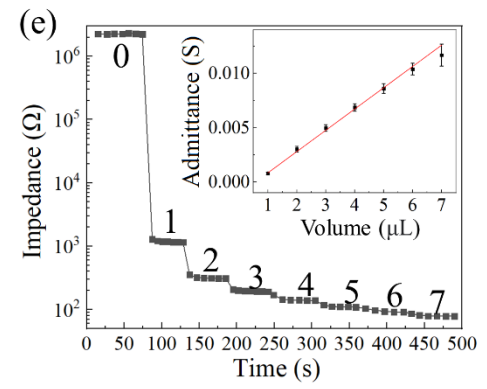
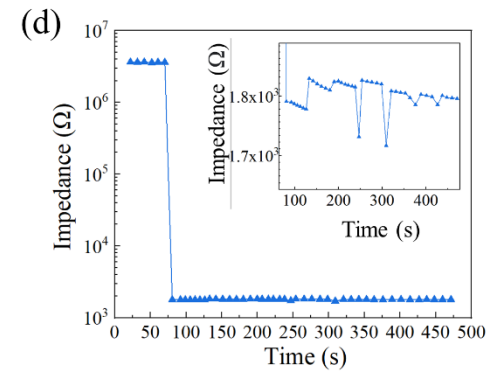
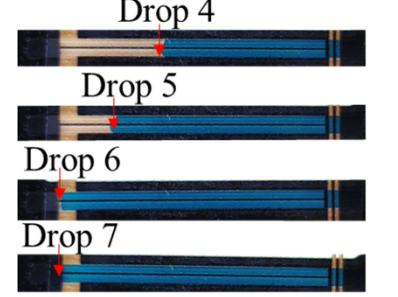
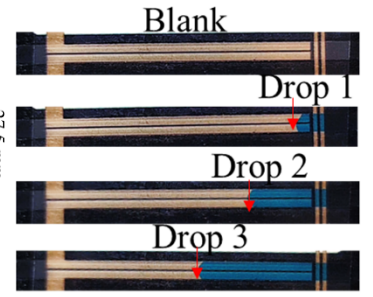
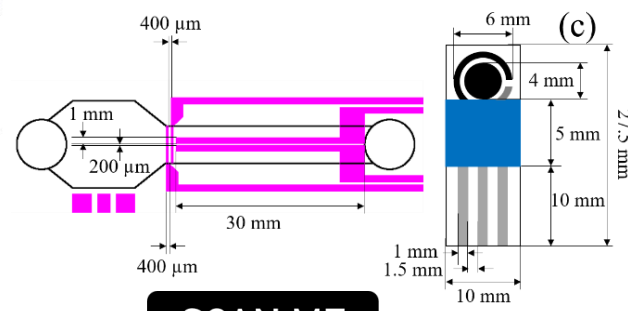
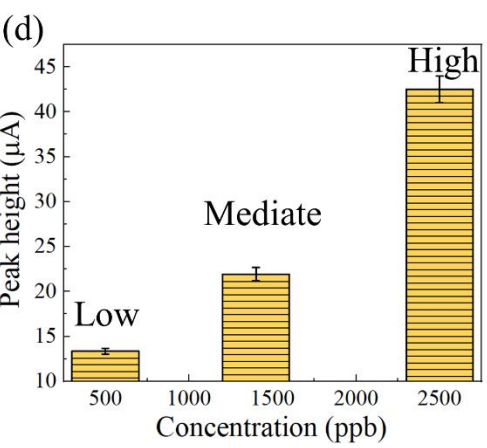
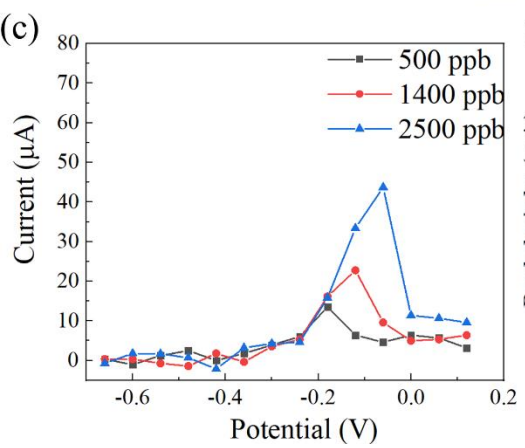
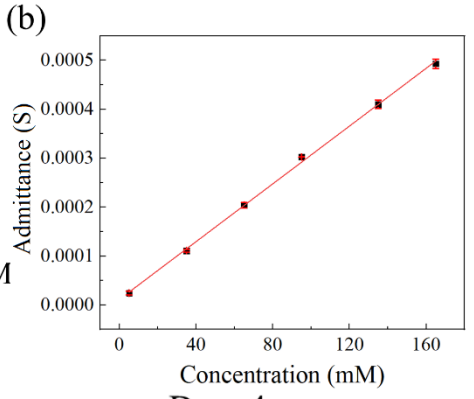
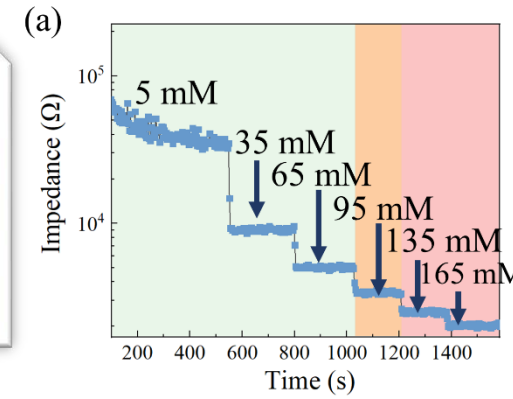
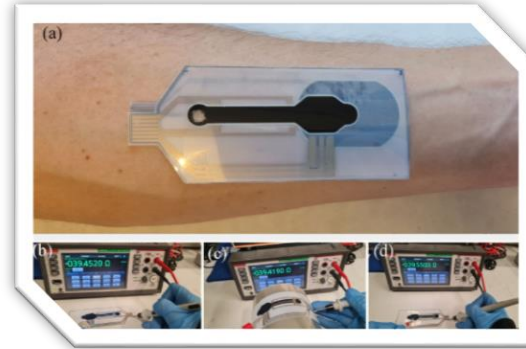
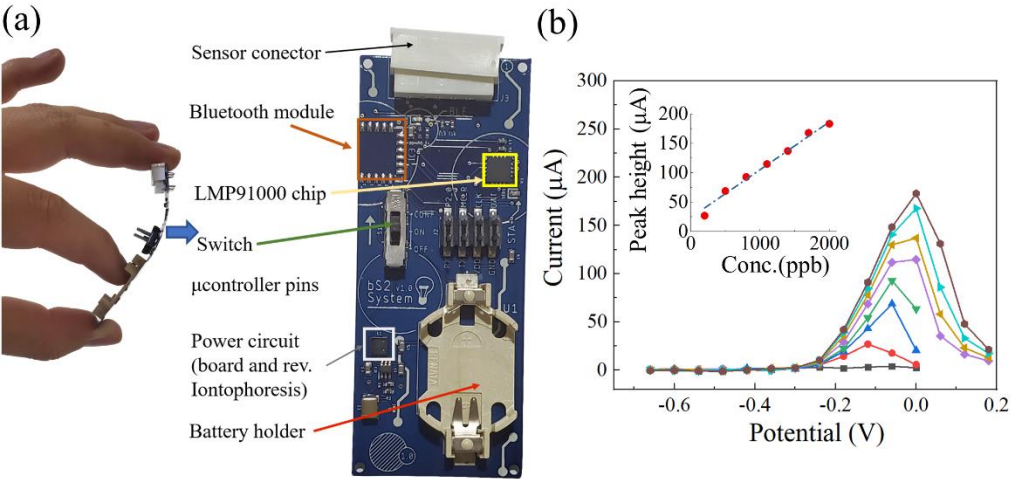
Qiuyue Yang

# Are these AgNP devices really working?

## Wearables for heavy metals detection in sweat



Vernalyn Abarintos



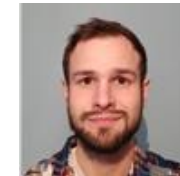


SCAN ME

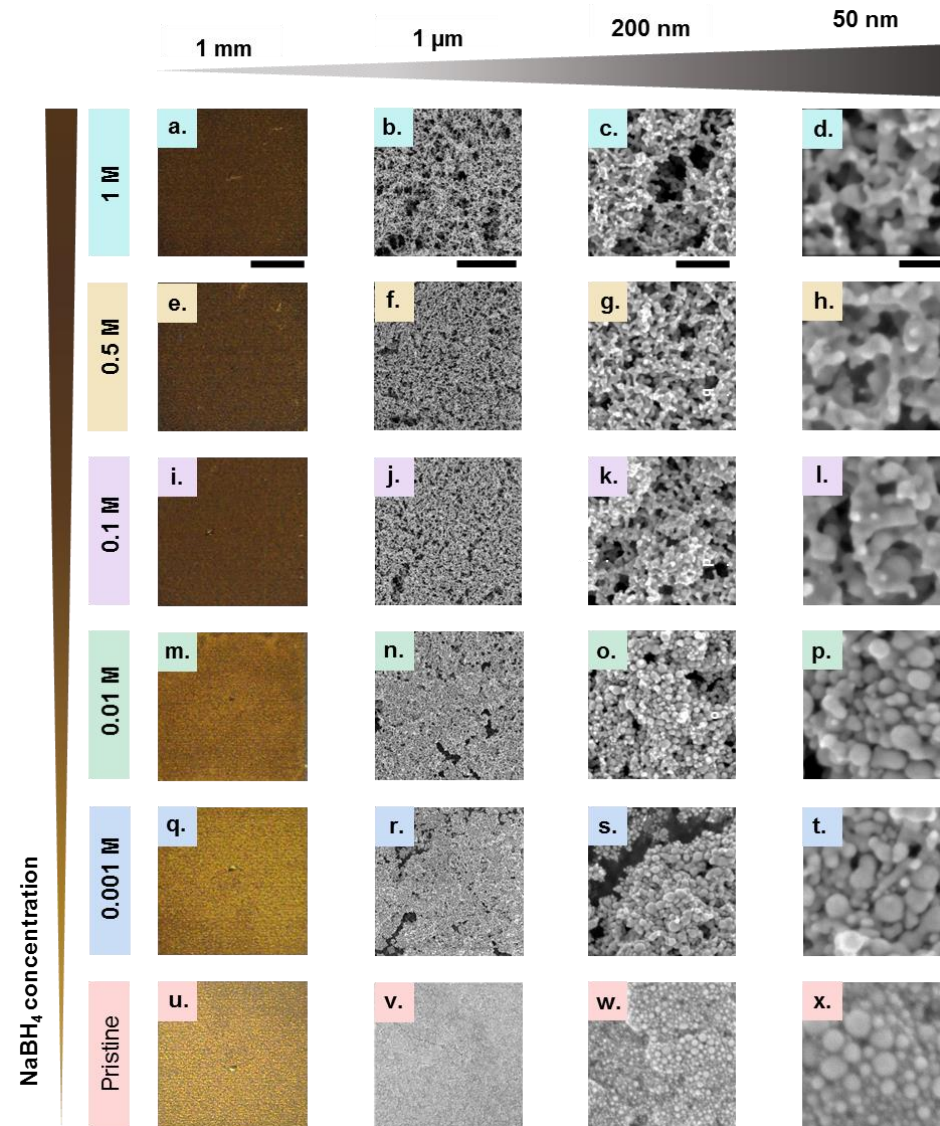
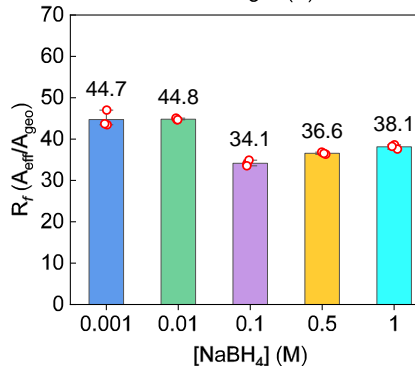
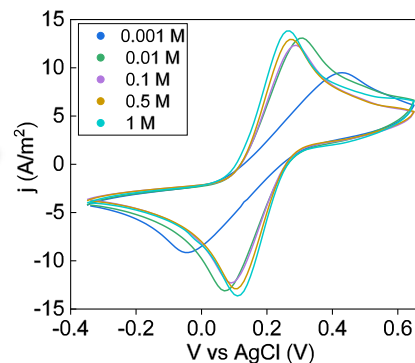
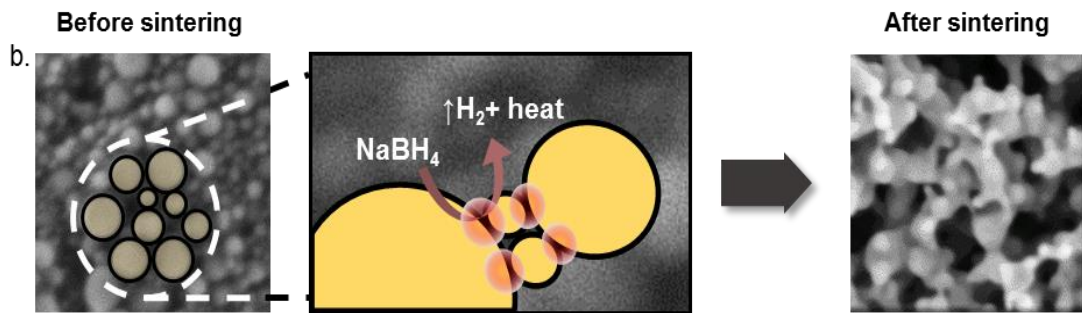
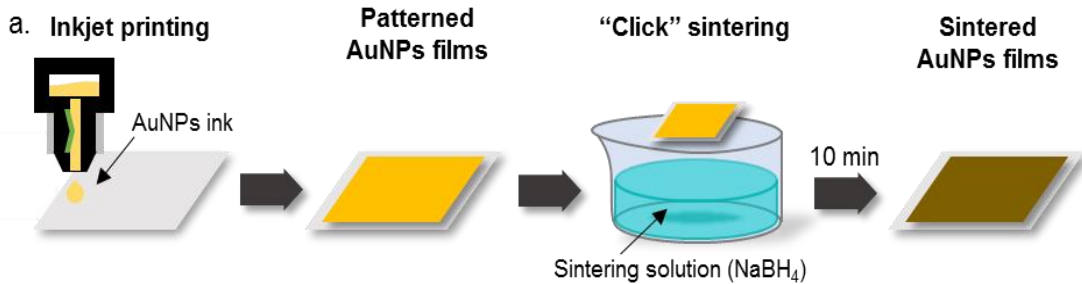


# The hidden actor: post treatments

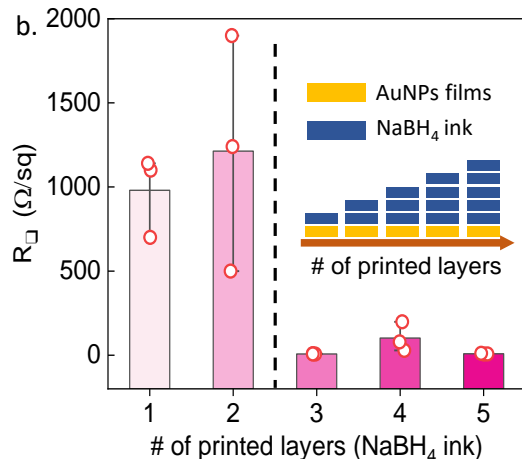
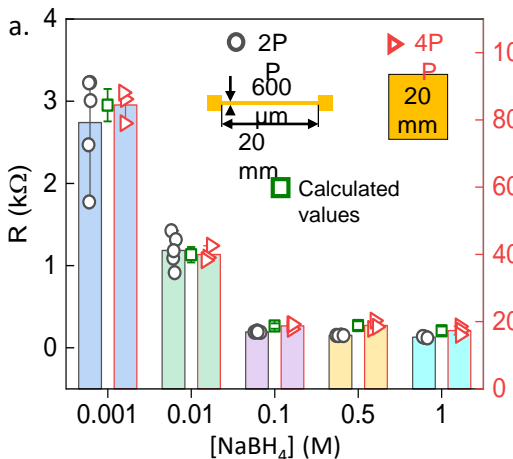
## ...and strategies to “avoid” them (click sintering)



Massimo Urban



Unique control of nanoporosity, the conductivity, and the electrochemical characteristics.





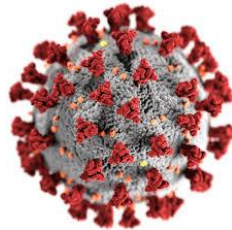
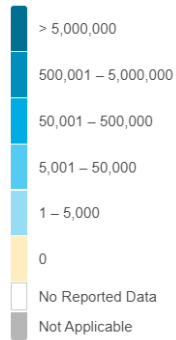
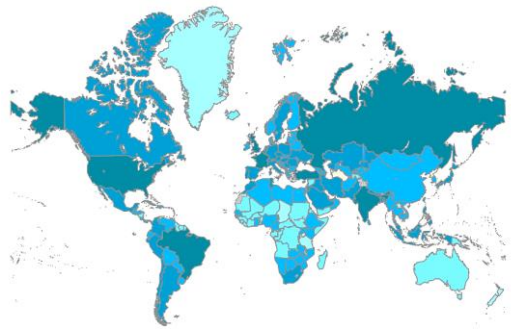
SCAN ME



# Are these AuNP devices really working?

## Proteins and RNA detection for virus and bacteria

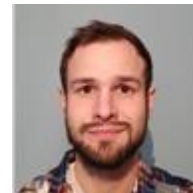
### COVID19 genes multiplexed detection on a single electrode



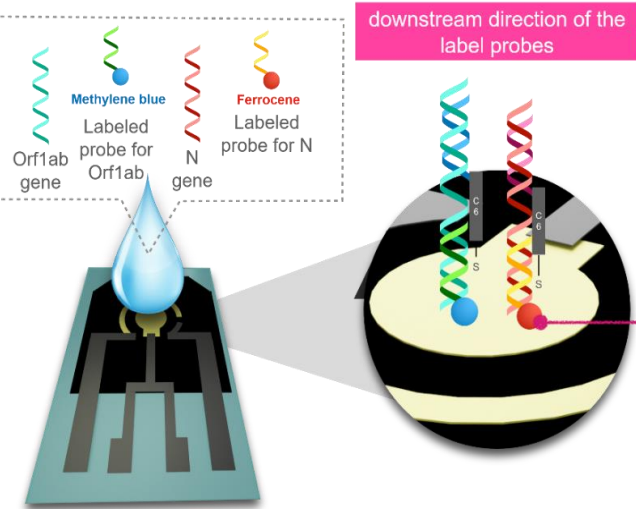
Marianna Rossetti



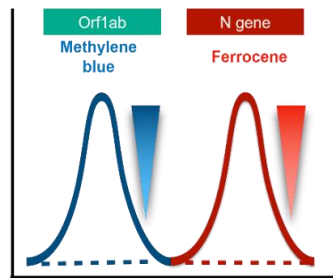
Chawin Srimsomwat



Massimo Urban



downstream direction of the label probes



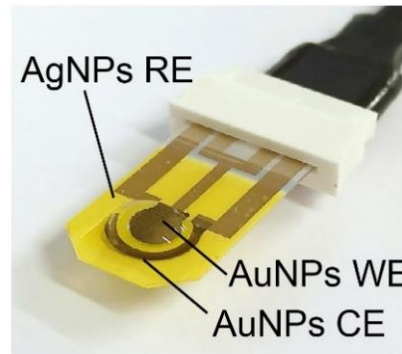
INKJET-PRINTED GOLD ELECTRODE

A ONE-STEP SANDWICH HYBRIDIZATION

SIMULTANEOUS DETECTION

Rossetti et al. Bios. And Bioel. 2024

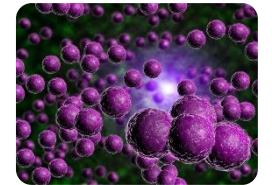
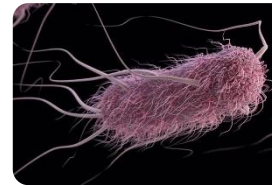
### Click-sintered AuNP and AgNP inkjet devices



SUSNANO SPRING SCHOOL

Results presented at the 33rd Anniversary World Conference on Biosensors (Seul, Korea)

### E.Coli and S.Aureus genes detection with a CRISPR-based electrochemical system



Angela Gilda Carota



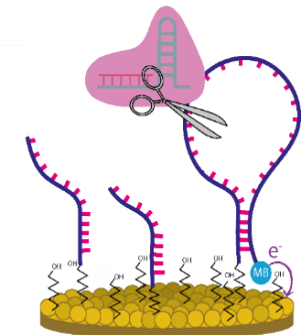
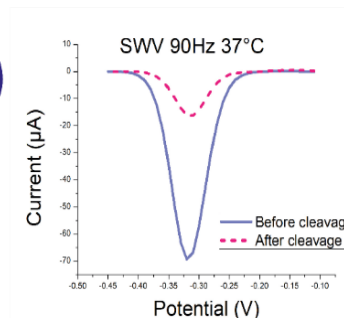
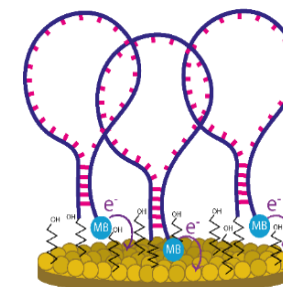
Andrea Bonini



Prof. Fabio Di Francesco



Marianna Rossetti



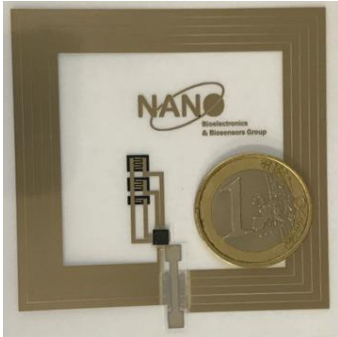
# How can we make these devices more impactful?



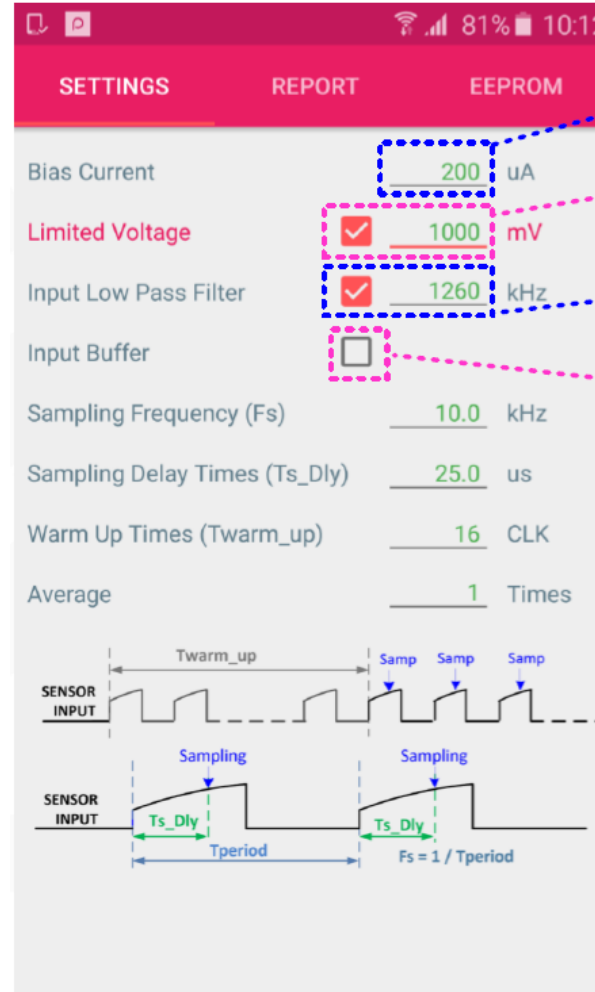
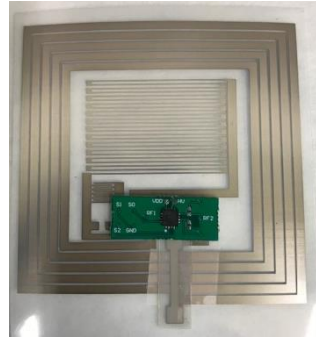
Gabriel Maroli

## NFC antennas and chips for battery-less wireless smartphone systems

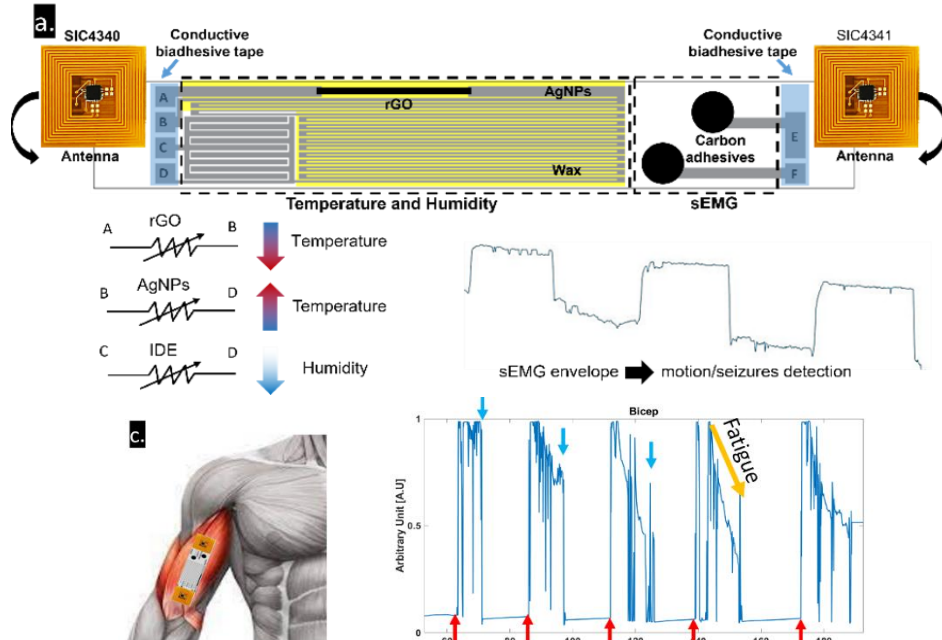
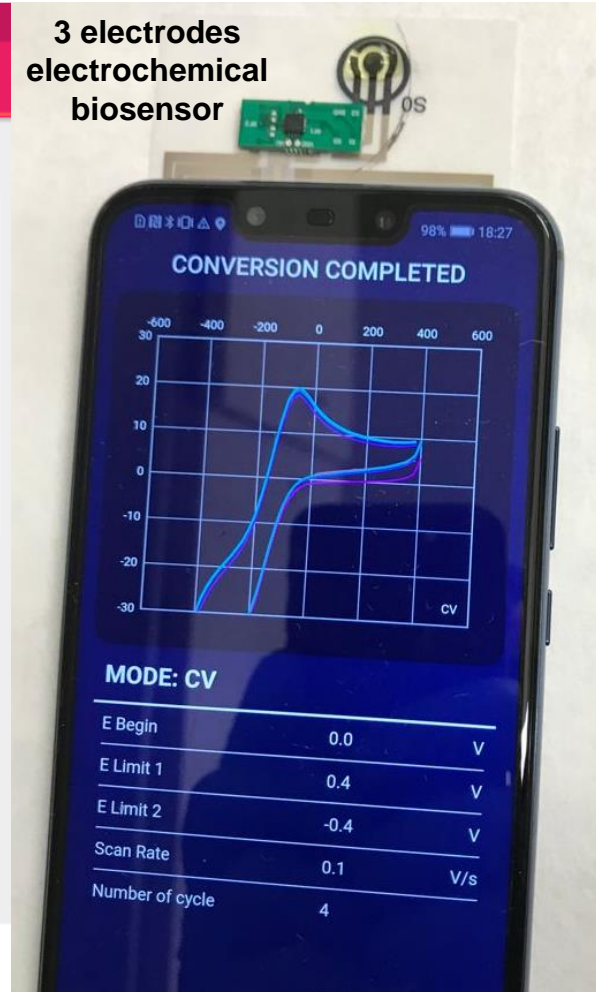
3 channels IDE



Temperature and humidity sensors

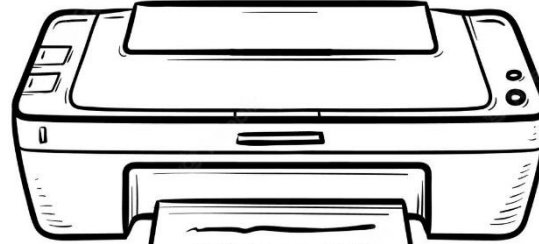


3 electrodes electrochemical biosensor



# Conclusions

Ubiquitous



Democratic

Need-precise

**Consumer printers** have potential for the controlled and scaled fabrication of biosensing devices

printing

**Proper knowledge** and appropriate reverse engineering of the printers allow obtaining important features

NFC antennas, smartphone readout, and simple DIY microfluidics combined with inkjet printed devices are the basis of a **paradigm change** taking the **fabrication out of the company, to the people**



# Acknowledgments



Massimo  
Urban



Gabriel  
Maroli



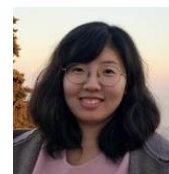
Angela Gilda  
Carota



Dr. Andrea  
Bonini



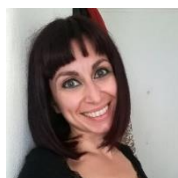
Dr. Chawin  
Srimsonwat



Dr. Qiuyue  
Yang



Vernalyn  
Abarintos



Dr. Marianna  
Rossetti



Prof. Arben  
Merkoçi



Prof. Fabio Di  
Francesco

## Thanks for your attention!

**Nanobioelectronics & Biosensors Group**

<http://www.nanobiosensors.org/>

**Contact us:**

[giulio.rosati@icn2.cat](mailto:giulio.rosati@icn2.cat)

[arben.merkoci@icn2.cat](mailto:arben.merkoci@icn2.cat)



SUSNANO SPRING SCHOOL



<https://microb-predict.eu/>

Emerging Printed Electronics  
Research Infrastructure  
(EMERGE)

