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# Plasmonic-Based Platforms to Provide Multiple Functionalities from Molecular Sensing to Imaging Diagnosis and Cancer Therapy

Simion Astilean,

Cosmin Farcau, Monica Potara, Sanda Boca-Farcau, Ana Gabudean, Monica Focsan, Timea  
Simon, Cosmin Leordean, Dana Maniu, Monica Baia,

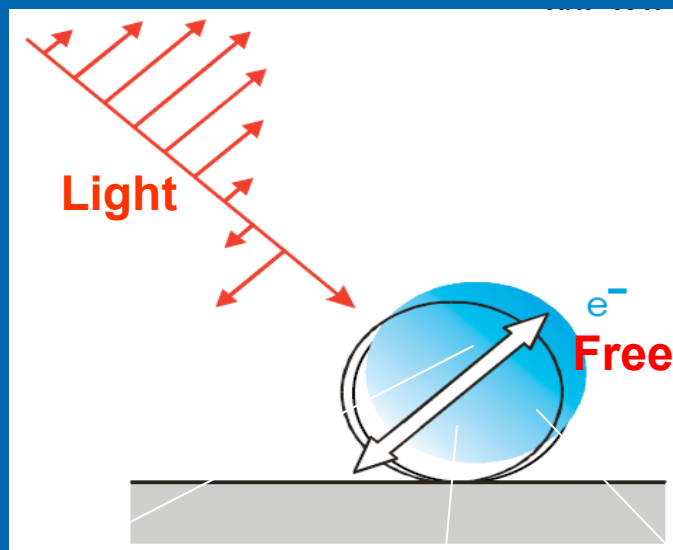
Nanobiophotonics and Laser Microspectroscopy Center,  
Faculty of Physic and Interdisciplinary Research Institute in Bio-Nano-Sciences  
Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

# Outline

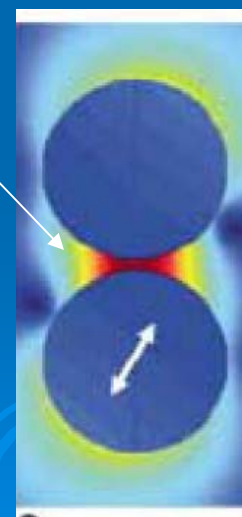
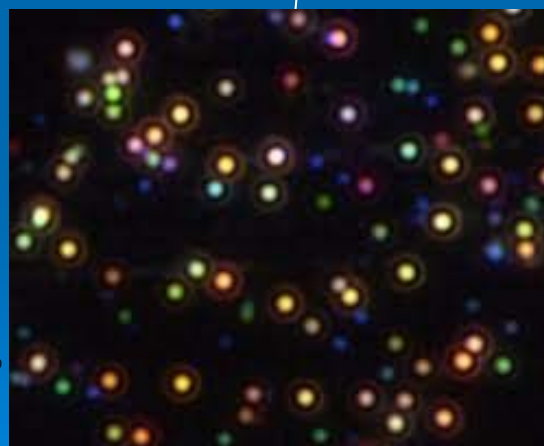
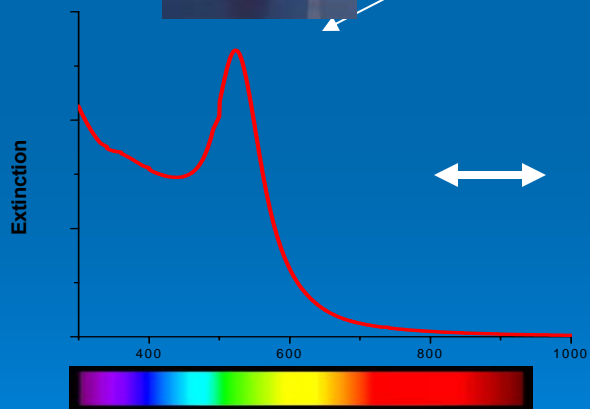
- 1. Surface plasmon resonance
- 2. Fabrication and functionalization of plasmonic and plasmonic-based hybrid nanostructures **using inexpensive, flexible and massively parallel methods.**
- 4. Applications in sensing via plasmon-enhanced spectroscopies: **SERS & MEF, SERS & LSPR; SERS & SEIRA**
- 3. Proof of concept for performing **cell imaging / targeting / cancer therapy by combined photo-thermal / photo-dynamic effects**
- 4. Conclusions



# Surface Plasmon Resonances



Free electrons

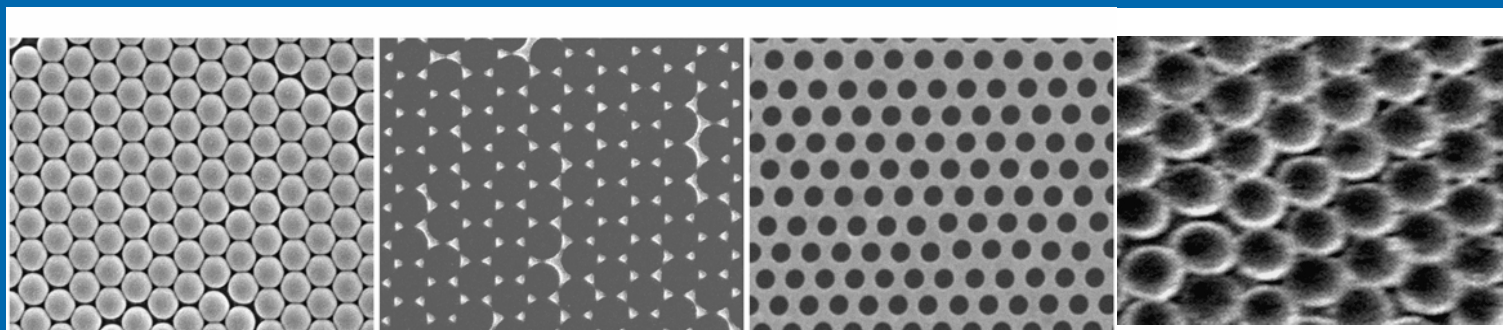


**Resonant Light Absorption**  
extinction coefficient of  $\sim 10^{11} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$

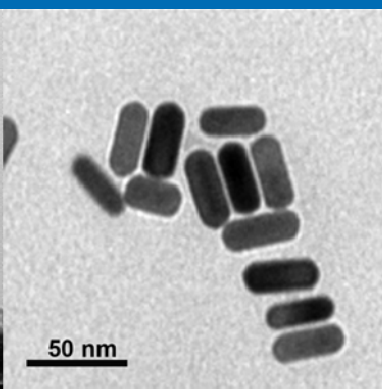
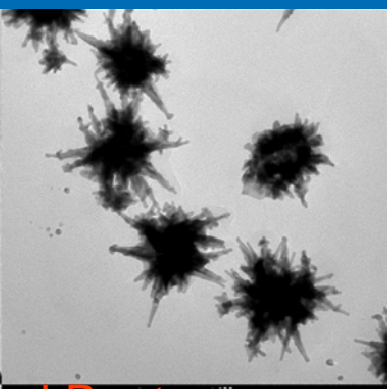
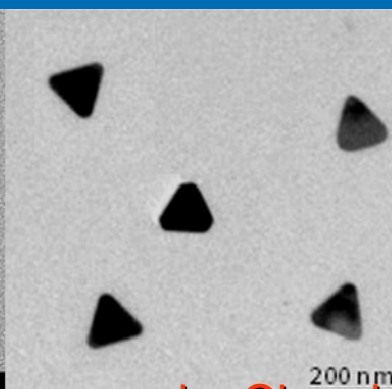
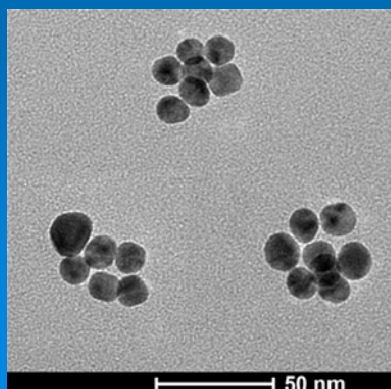
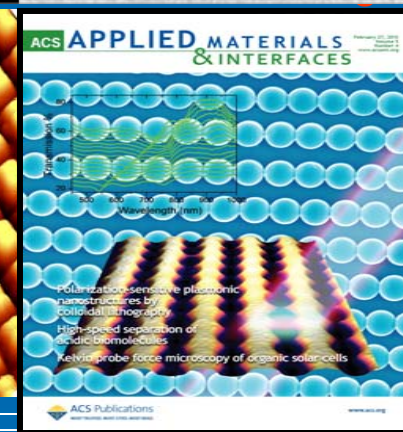
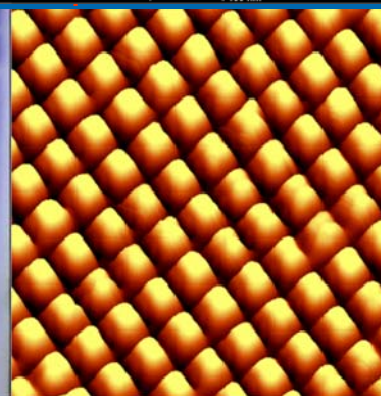
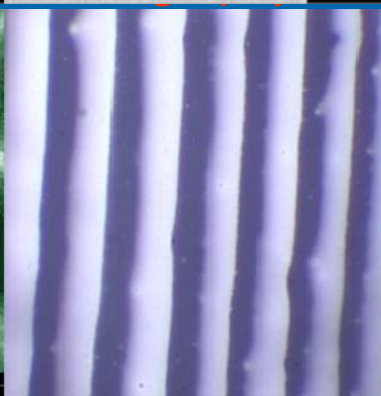
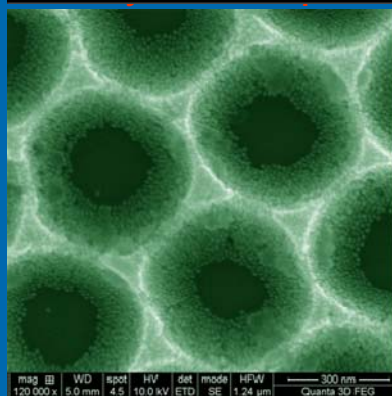
**Resonant Light Scattering**  
 $\sim 10^6$  dye fluorophores

**Enhanced Optical Field**  
 $\sim 10^{3-5}$  times

# Plasmonic nanostructures fabricated in our laboratory



by Nanosphere Lithography & Templated-Assisted Self-Assembling



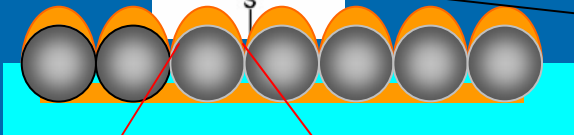
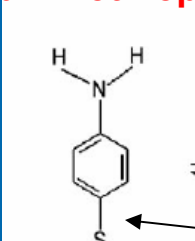
by Chemical Routes

## **Selected applications**

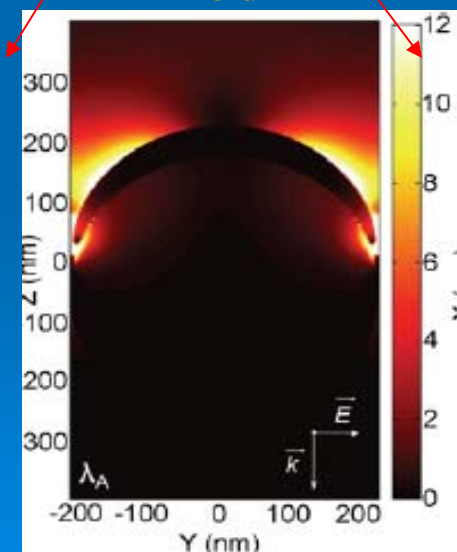


# Mapping the “electromagnetic enhancement” of SERS signal on metal-coated colloidal crystal

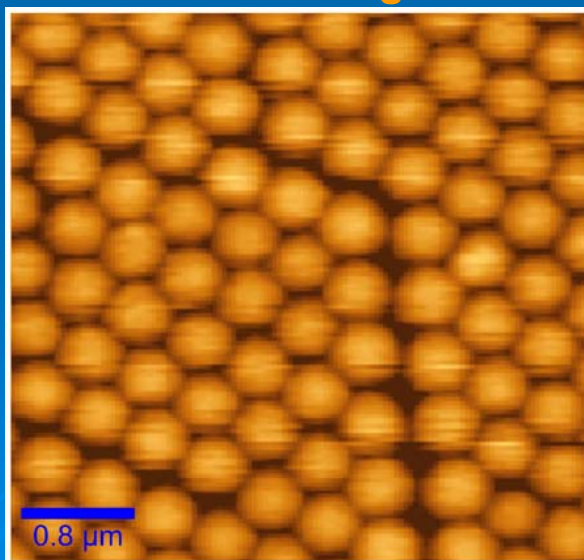
p-aminothiophenol



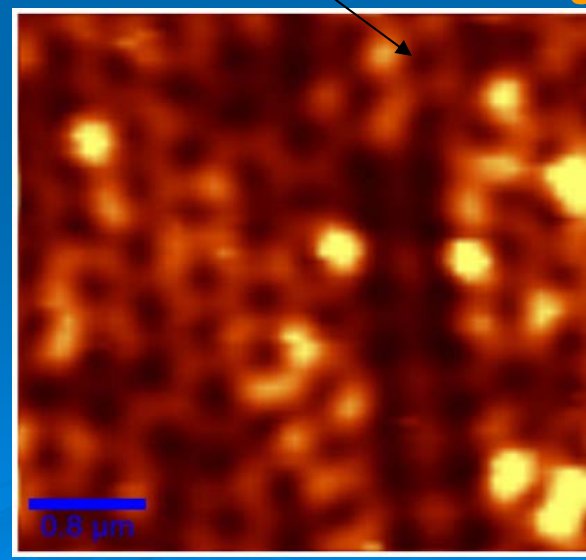
Computed E field



AFM image



SERS Image

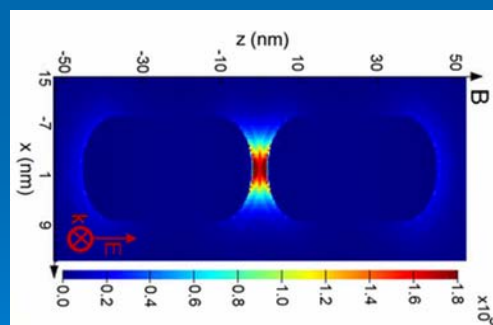
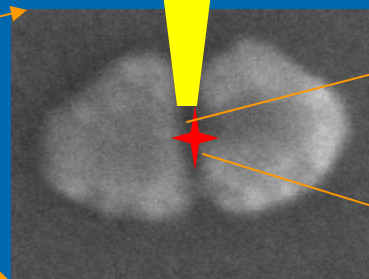
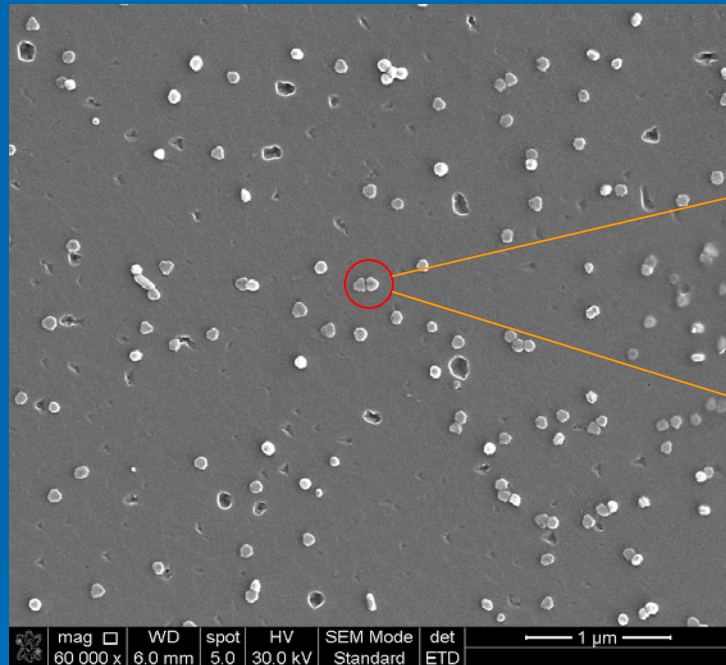


C Farcau and S Astilean, *J. Phys. Chem. C*, 114, 11717–11722 (2010)

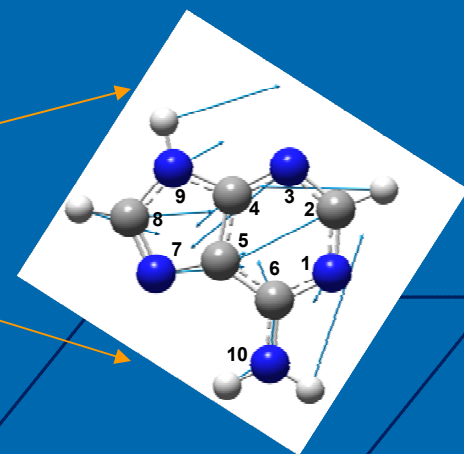
C. Farcau, M. Gilan, E. Vinteler, and S. Astilean, *Appl. Phys. B* 106:849–856 (2012)

# Single-molecule detection *via* SERS

## Chitosan-entrapped plasmonic nanoparticles

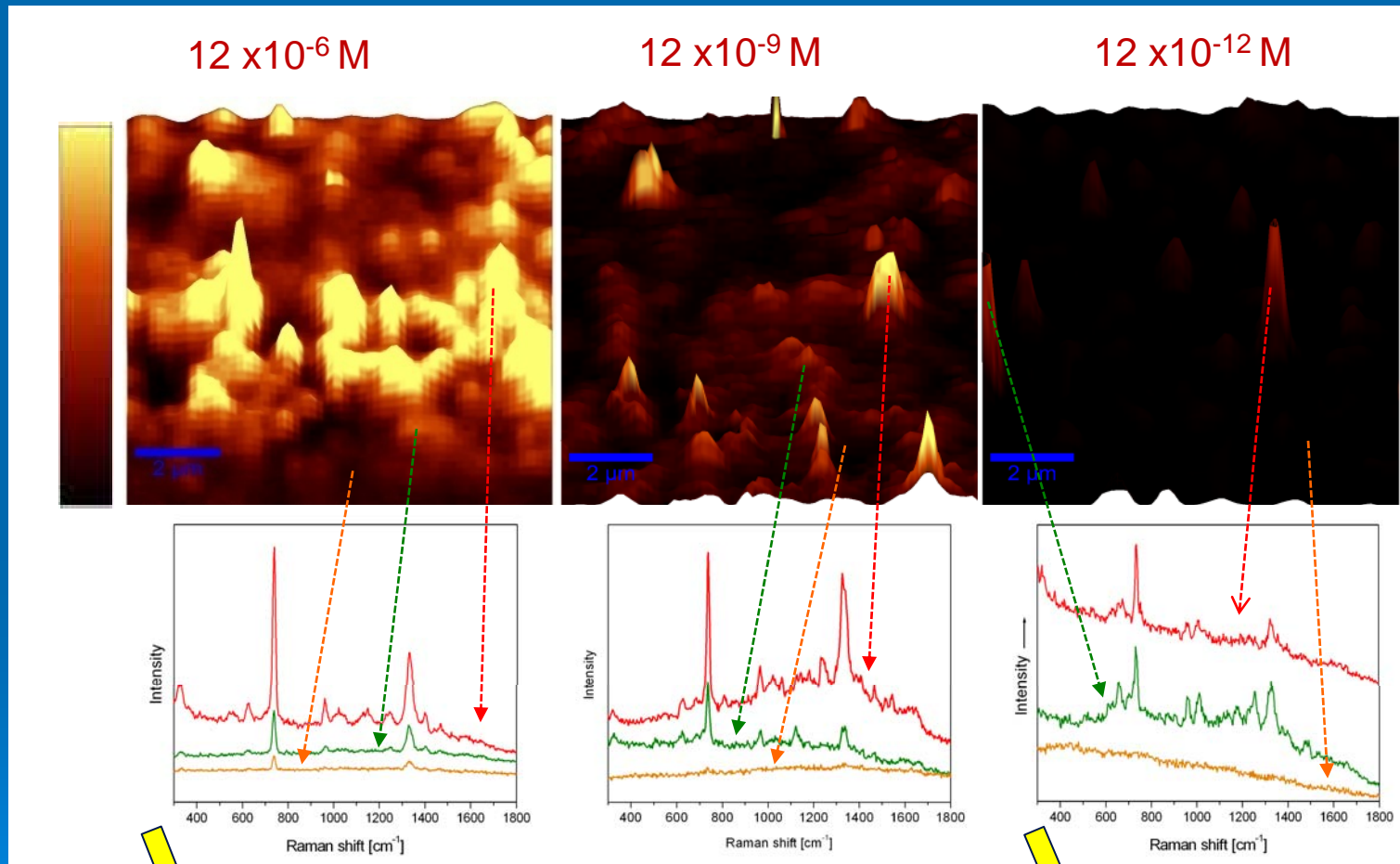


## SERS spectrum of analyte molecule



Potara Monica, Baia Monica, Farcau Cosmin, Simion Astilean, Nanotechnology, Vol: 23 (5) Paper no 055501 (2012)  
(highlighted at <http://iopscience.iop.org/0957-4484/labtalk-article/48366>)

# Single-molecule (adenine) SERS Imaging

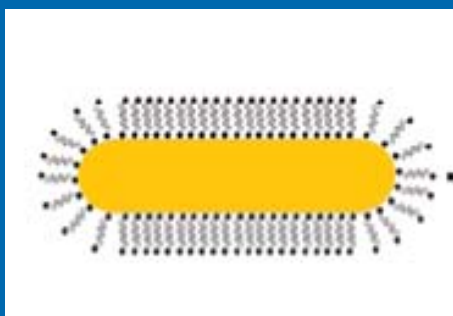


SERS signal over the whole film surface

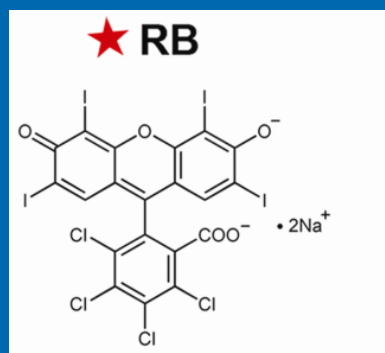
The SERS signal is highly localized



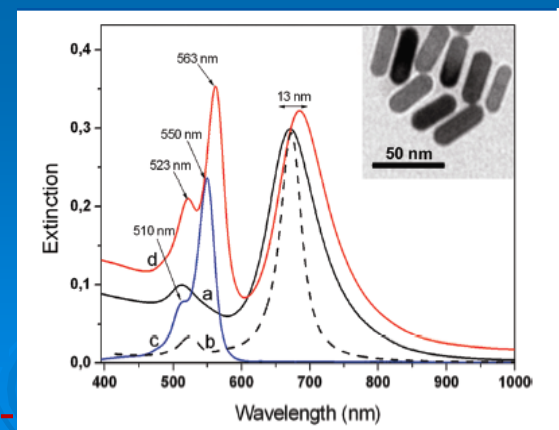
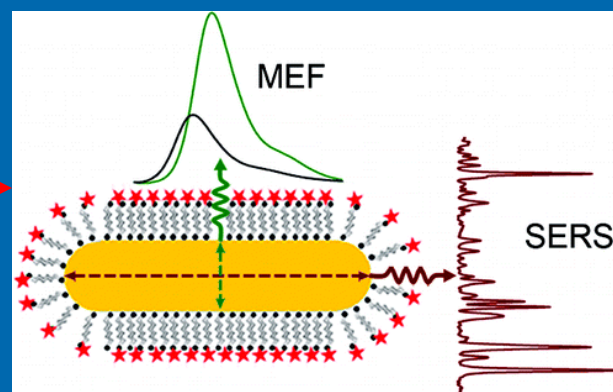
# Gold Nanorods Performing as Multi-Modal Enhancers via MEF, SERS / SERRS



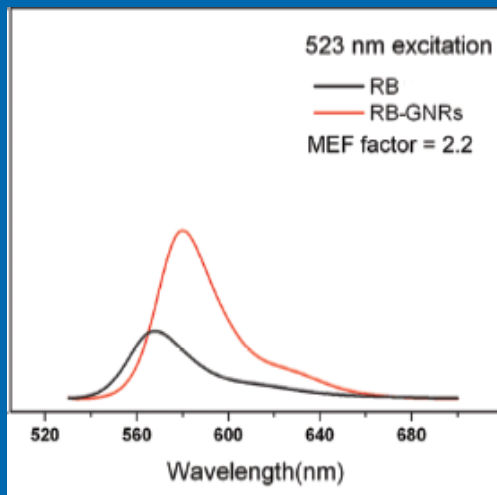
Gold nanorod



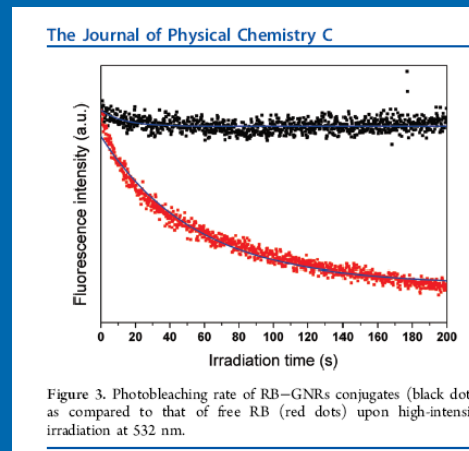
Rose Bengal  
(Photosensitizer  
with low fluorescence  
quantum yield of 0.02)



# Metal-Enhanced Fluorescence



Steady-state fluorescence



Photobleaching

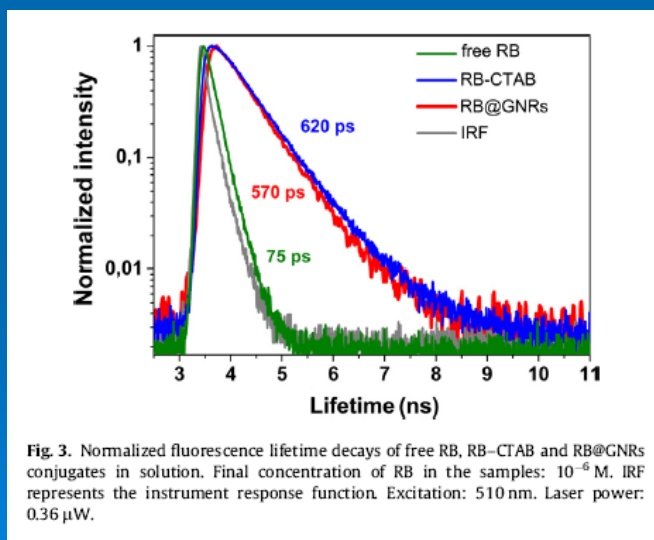
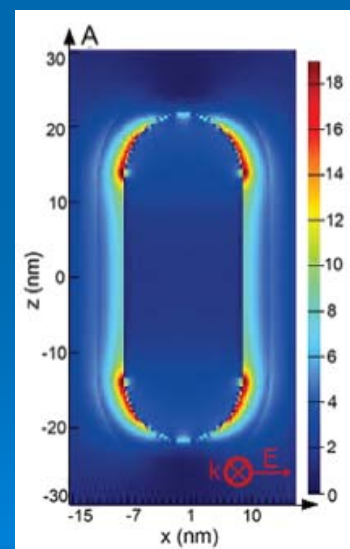


Fig. 3. Normalized fluorescence lifetime decays of free RB, RB-CTAB and RB@GNRs conjugates in solution. Final concentration of RB in the samples:  $10^{-6}$  M. IRF represents the instrument response function. Excitation: 510 nm. Laser power:  $0.36 \mu\text{W}$ .

Fluorescence lifetime



FDTD simulation

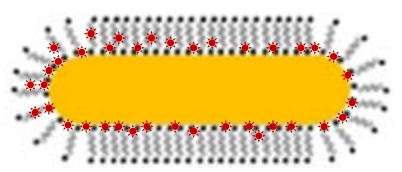
A. M. Gabudean, M. Focsan and S. Astilean, *J. Phys. Chem. C*, 2012, 116, 12240–12249.

A.-M. Gabudean et al. / *Journal of Molecular Structure* 1073 (2014) 97–101

# Detoxification of gold nanorods and SERS tagging

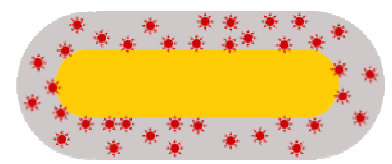


CTAB - coated AuNRs

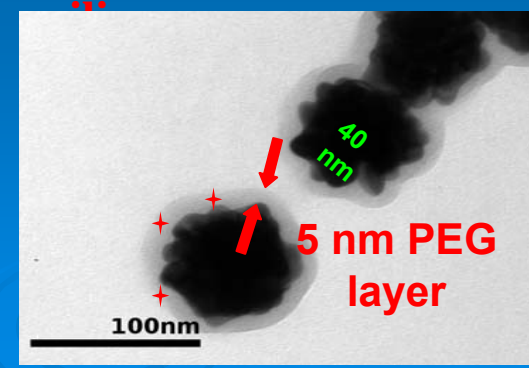
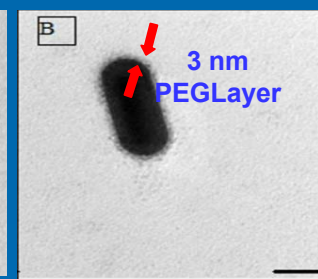
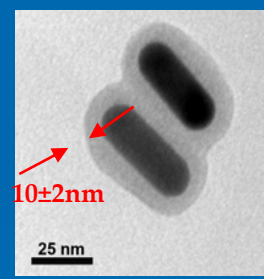
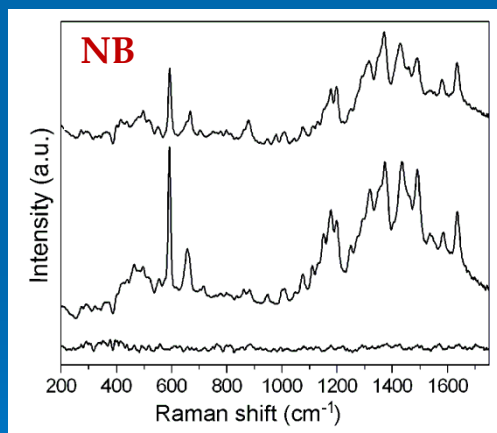
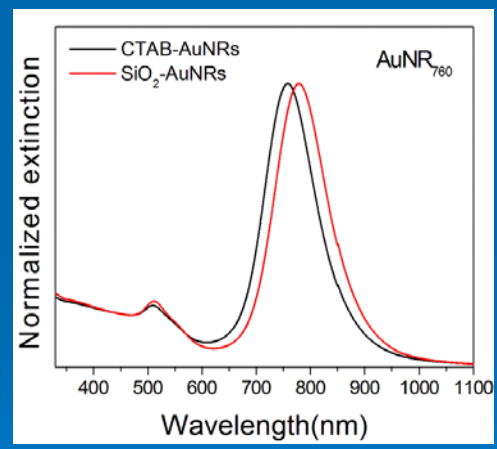


NB-AuNRs

Silica coating

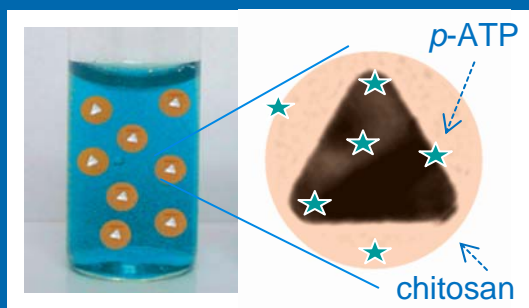


SiO<sub>2</sub>- coated NB-AuNRs

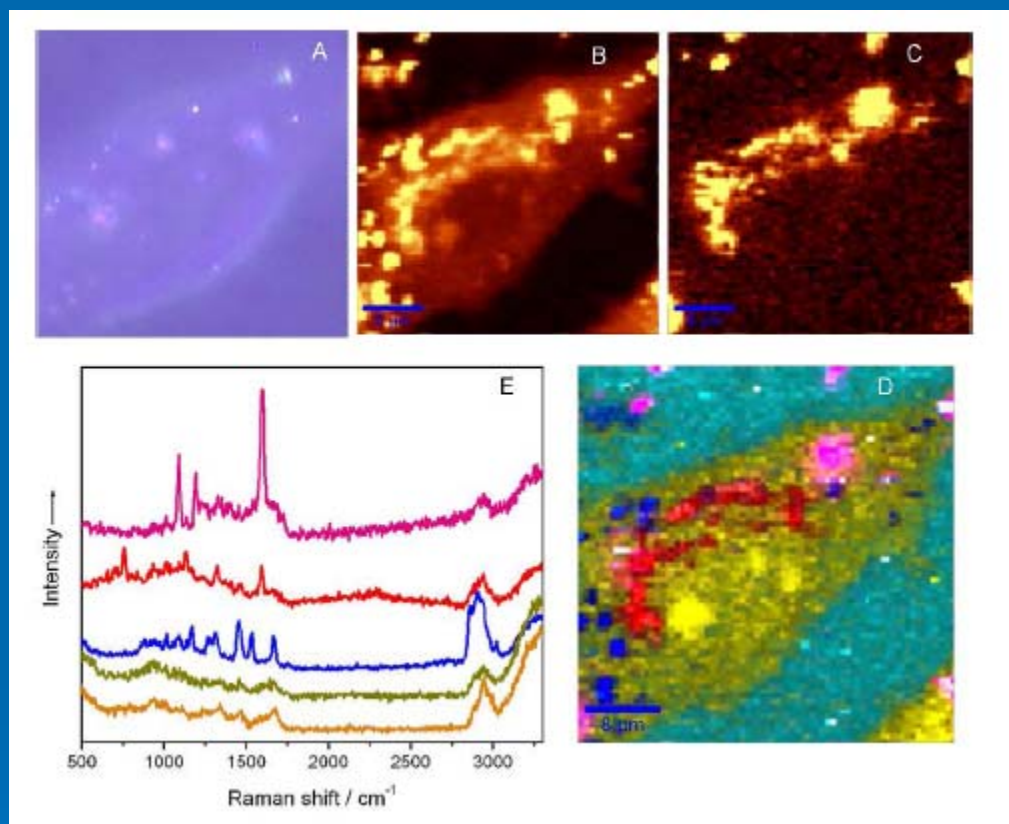


1. S. C. Boca, S. Astilean, Nanotechnology 21, 235601 (2010)
2. A. Gabudean, S. Astilean, Nanotechnology 23 (2012) 485706

# Raman and SERS imaging of human lung carcinoma cell A549



*p*-ATP labeled chitosan-coated triangular silver nanoparticles



Mitochondria –blue

Cell body –dark yellow

SERS nanotags\$ red and pink

Nucleoli –yellow

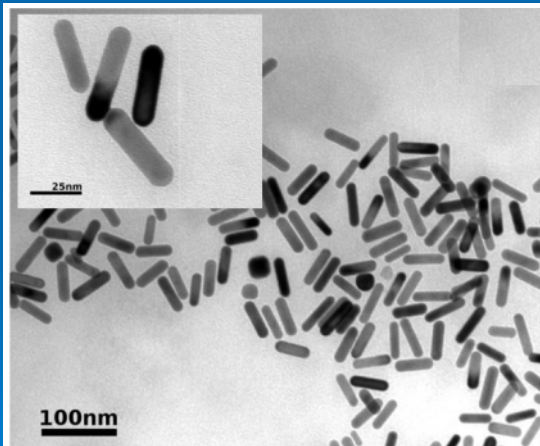
M. Potara, S. Boca, E. Licarete, A. Damert, M. C. Alupeii, M. T. Chiriac, O. Popescu, U. Schmidt, S. Astilean, *Nanoscale* 5, 6013–6022, 2013

# Plasmon mediated photothermal therapy

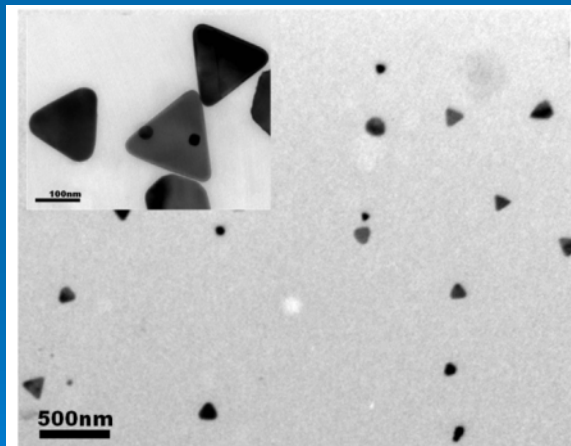
## Cell types used in our experiments:

- Human Embryonic Kidney (healthy)
- Human Lung Cancer Cells (tumoral)

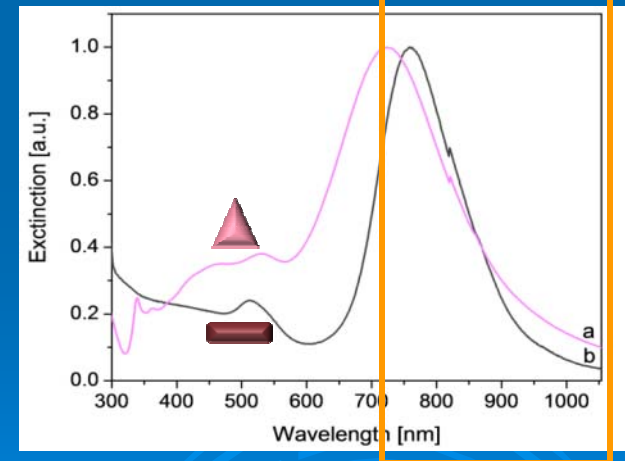
## Nanoparticles used in our experiments



length: 50 nm  
diameter: 14 nm



edge length: 120 nm  
height: 11 nm

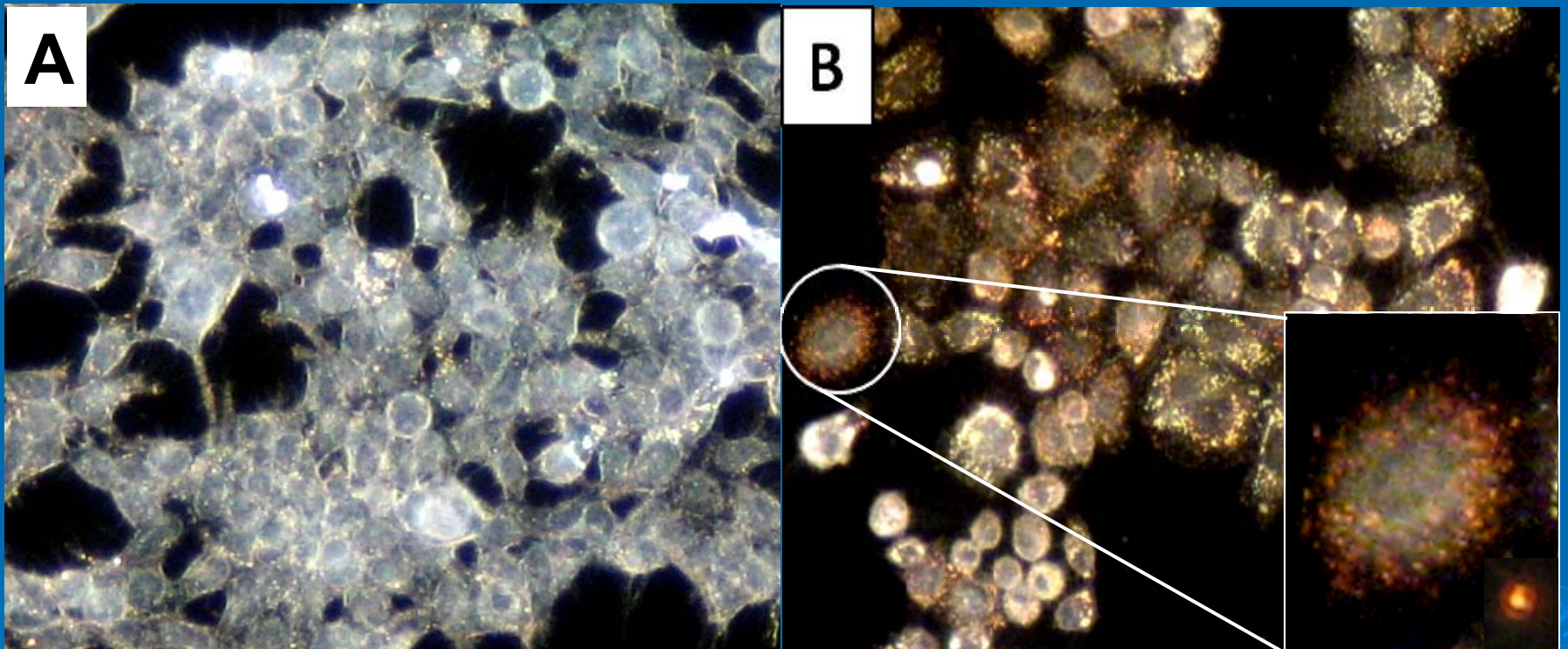


Biomedical spectral window

**S. C. Boca, S. Astilean Nanotechnology 2010, 21, 235601.**

M. Potara, A. M. Gabudean, S. Astilean, J. Mater. Chem. 2011, 21, 3625.

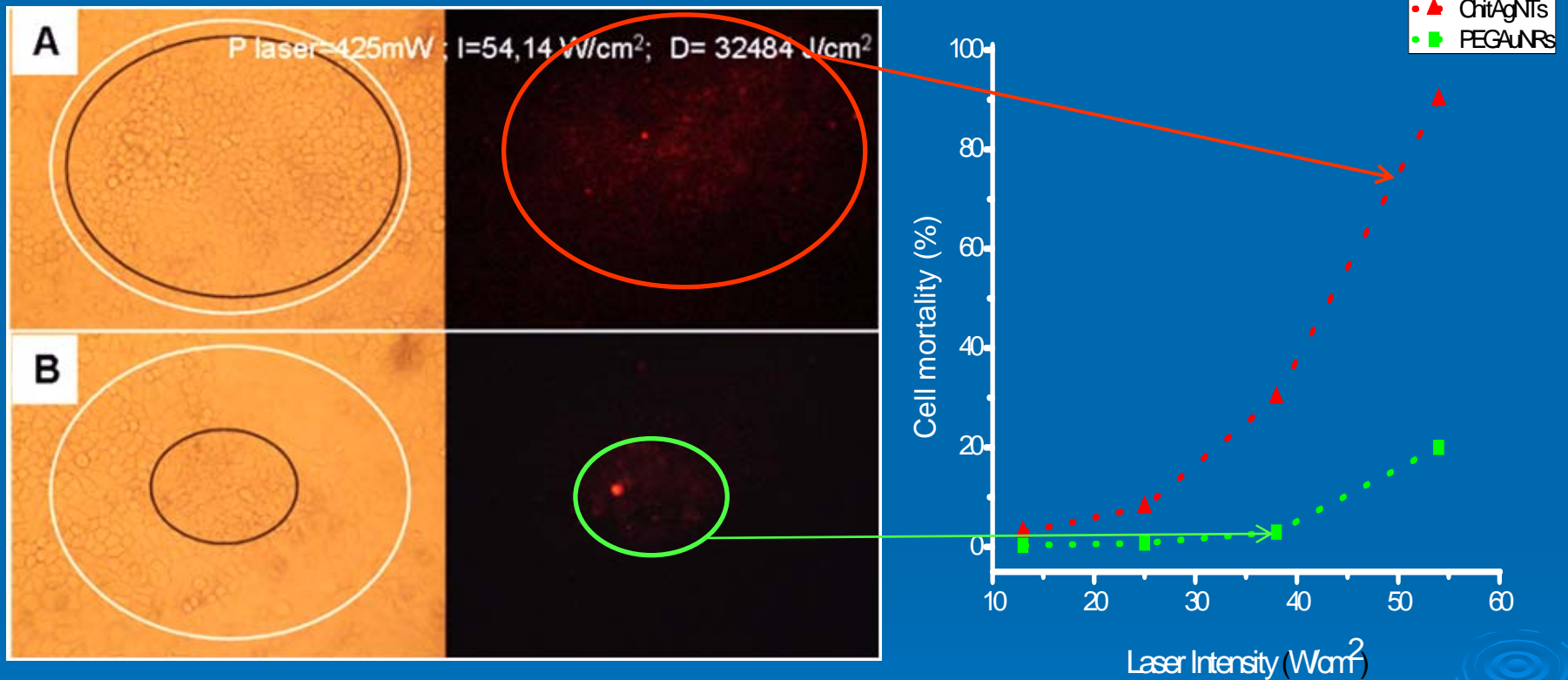
# Assesment of nanoparticles uptake by cells (dark field microscopy imaging)



Cells without nanoparticles

Rod shaped gold nanoparticles  
inside cells scatter **red** light

# Plasmon mediated photothermal therapy of cancer cells



⇒ Cell mortality dependence on laser intensity

⇒ higher efficiency of **Chit-AgNTs** than PEG-AuNRs: -Density  
-Morphology  
-Silver thermal conductivity

S. C. Boca, M. Potara, A.-M. Gabudean, A. Juhem, P. L. Baldeck, S. Astilean,  
*Cancer Letters* . Vol. 311(2):131-40, (2011 Dec. 8).

# Perspective

molecular  
pharmaceutics

Article

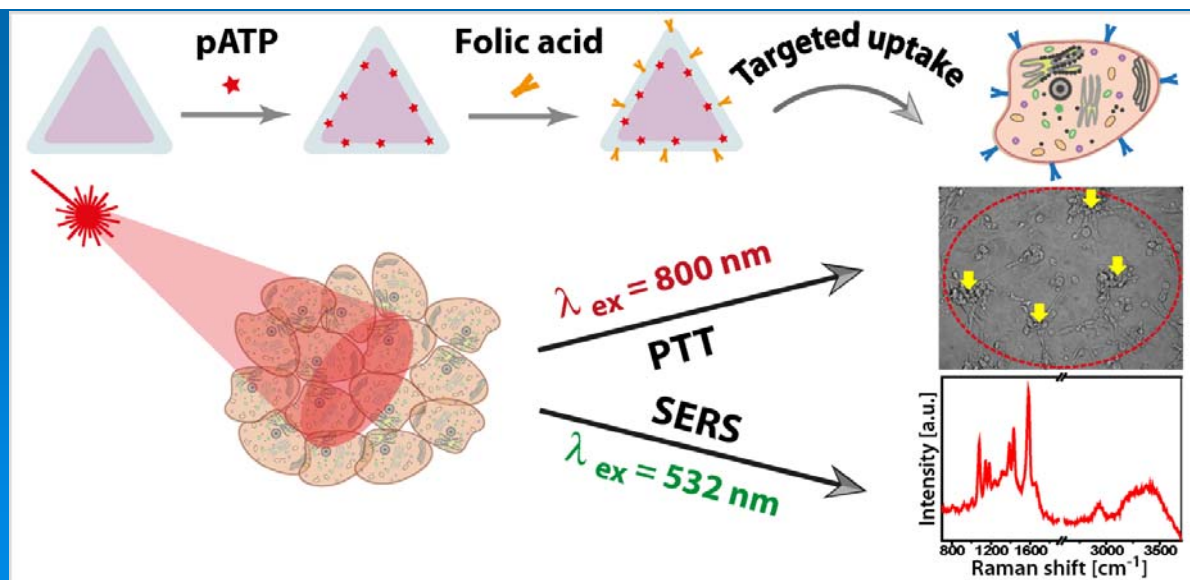
## Folic Acid-Conjugated, SERS-Labeled Silver Nanotriangles for Multimodal Detection and Targeted Photothermal Treatment on Human Ovarian Cancer Cells

Sanda Boca-Farcau, Monica Potara, Timea Simon, Aurelie Juhem, Patrice Baldeck, and Simion Astilean

*Mol. Pharmaceutics*, Just Accepted Manuscript • Publication Date (Web): 04 Dec 2013

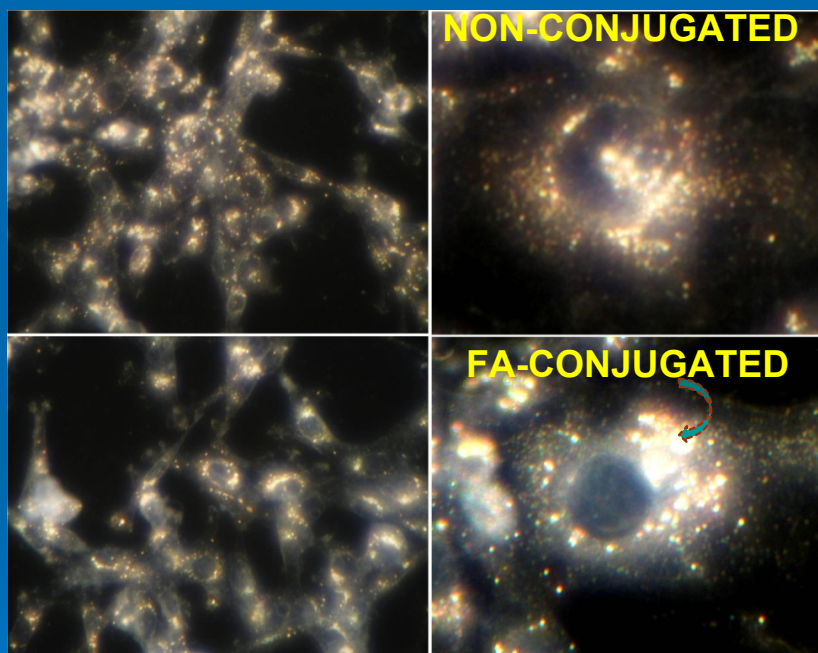
Downloaded from <http://pubs.acs.org> on December 4, 2013

Just Accepted



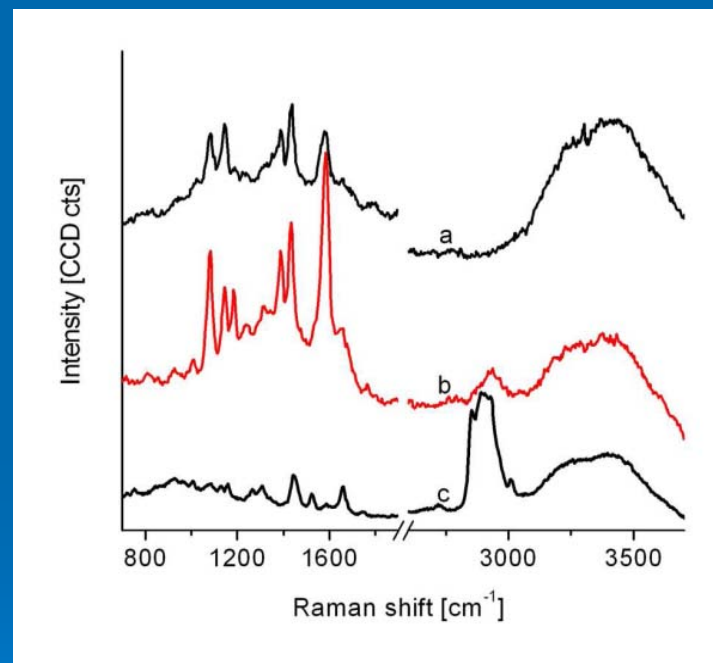


Nanoparticles can be detected inside cells by  
Dark field microscopy imaging



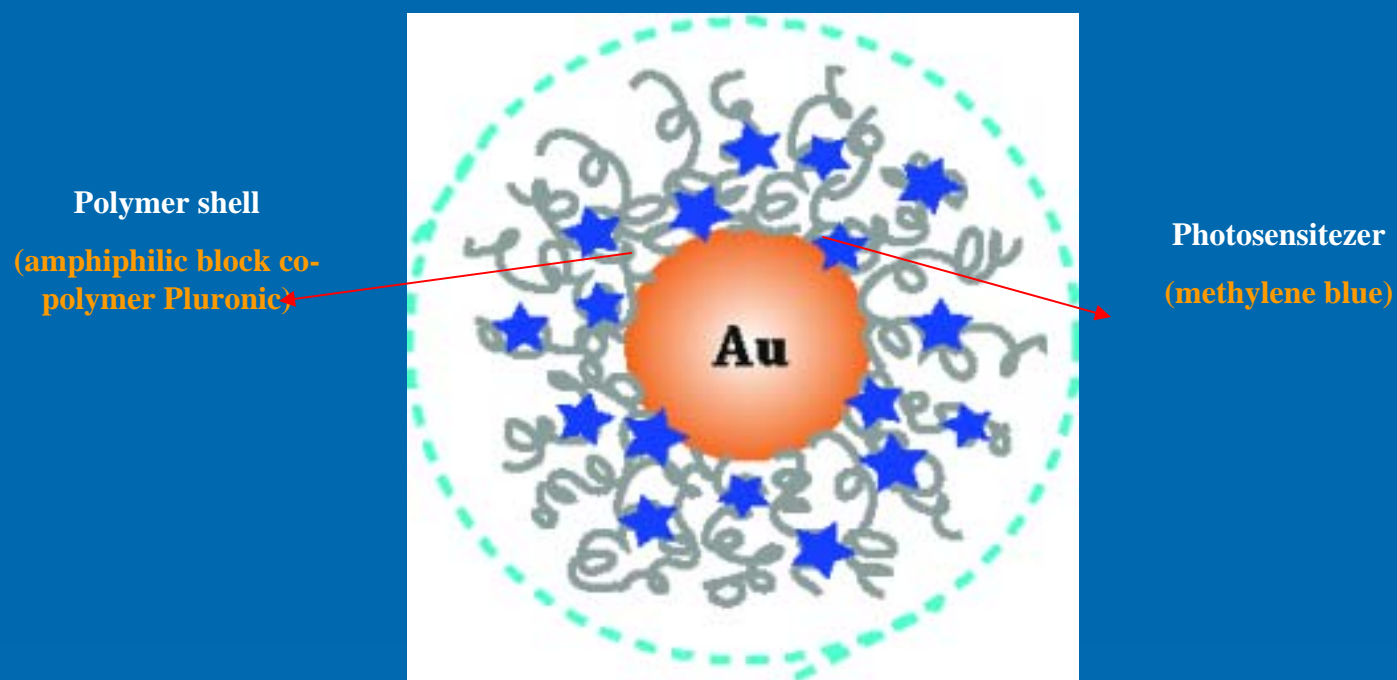
=> folic acid-pATP-Chit-AgNTs nanoparticles are **better internalized** and **specifically localized** inside cells than non-conjugated nanoparticles.

Nanoparticles can be detected inside cells by  
SERS spectroscopy



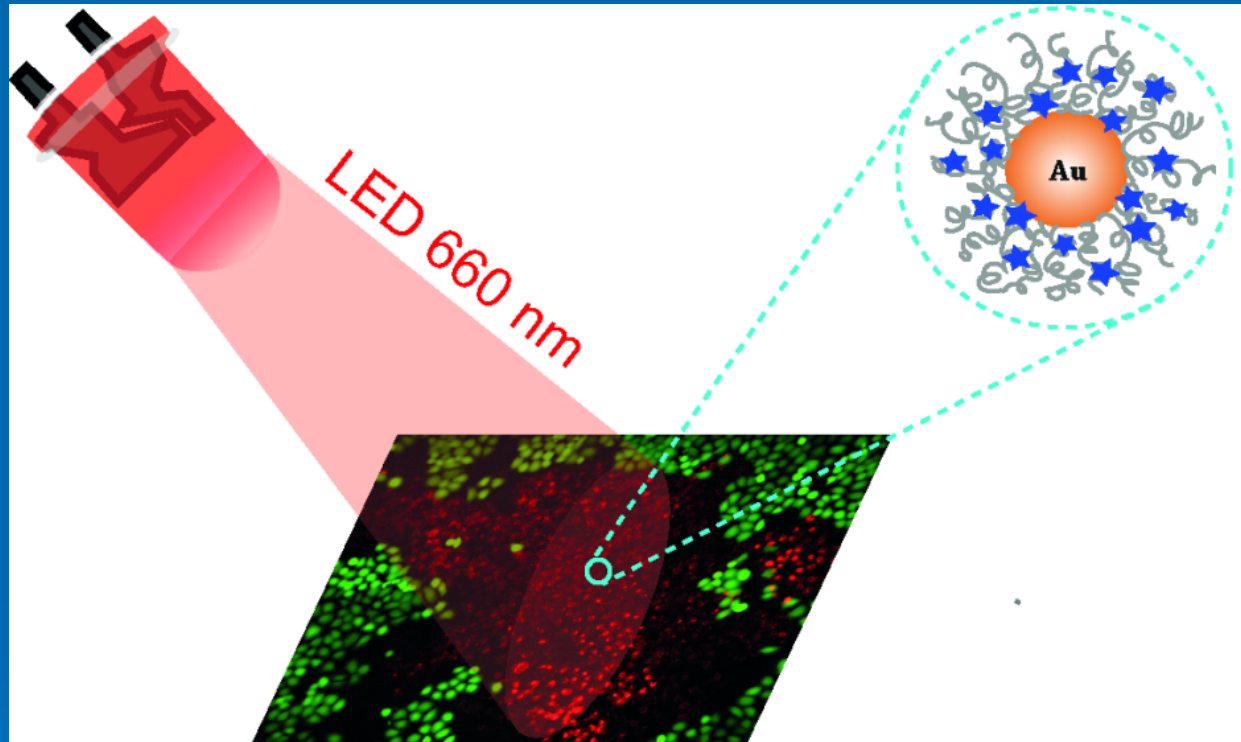
=> SERS spectrum of Raman-labeled, folic acid-conjugated chit-AgNTs inside living cells (red) presents the characteristic peaks of pATP reporter molecule

## Plasmon-assisted photodynamic therapy (PDT)

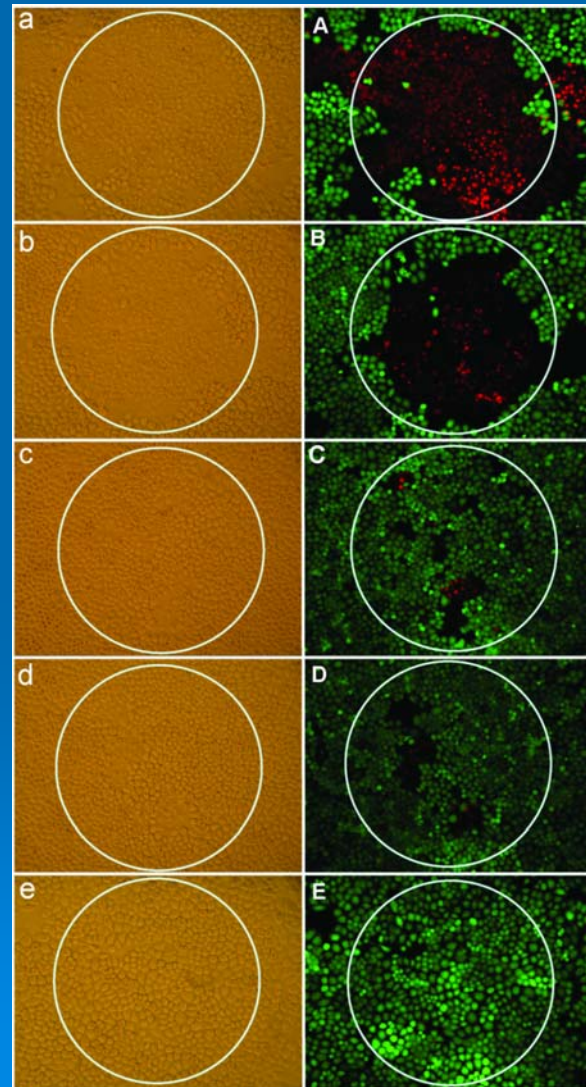


- synergistic treatment by combination plasmonic hyperthermia with PDT
- plasmonic nanoparticles *reduce the photobleaching rate of photosensitizer*
- increase the triplet yield of photosensitizer, *enhancing singlet oxygen generation*
- polymer shell protects the photosensitizer from *enzymatic reduction*

# LED-activated methylene blue-loaded Pluronic-nanogold hybrids (Au-PF127-MB)



Fluorescence microscopy illustrating the destruction of human lung carcinoma cells (HTB 177) loaded with Au-PF127-MB upon irradiation with LED.



780 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>

640 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>

520 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>

425 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>

780 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>  
(control sample)

# Acknowledgement

## Financial support:

1. Babes-Bolyai University
2. Project CEEEX 71 /2006 (ANCS)
3. Project IDEI 407 / 2007 (CNCSIS)
4. Project IDEI COMPLEXE 129/ 2008 (CNCSIS)
5. Project IDEI COMPLEXE 312 / 2008 (CNCSIS)

## Collaboration:

**Prof Octavian Popescu** and collab., Molecular Biology Center, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

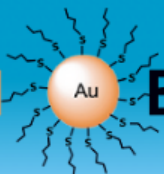
**Dr Patrice L. Baldeck** and collab., Laboratoire de Spectrométrie Physique, Grenoble

**Prof Marc Lamy de la Chapelle** and collab., CSPBAT, Université Paris 13, France

# Nanobiophotonics Group

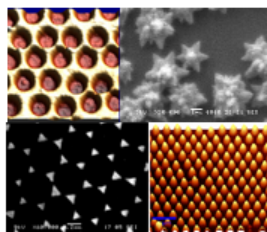


(<http://nano.uphero.com>)



## Welcome.

The *Center for Nanobiophotonics And Laser Microspectroscopy* develops an interdisciplinary research focused on the fabrication and biofunctionalization of noble metal, semiconductor and polymer nanoparticles and hybrid nanostructures that perform novel function in nanophotonics and plasmonics with the aim of enabling novel spectroscopic and plasmonic-oriented applications. Noble-metal nanostructures (Ag, Au) exhibit strong interaction with the visible light due to the excitation of collective electron oscillations (localized surface plasmons) and, on the other hand, can bind specifically to many biological entities (biomolecules, proteins, cells, bacteria).



Currently, we study the interactions between nanostructures and biological entities with standard optical spectroscopy (uv-visible, Raman, fluorescence) and advanced methods based on scanning confocal Raman microscopy, surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS), surface-enhanced IR absorption (SEIRA), confocal reflectivity and fluorescence, localized surface plasmon resonances (LSPR), dark-field microscopy in combination with Atomic Force Microscopy AFM.

We offer technical characterization of materials by Raman, fluorescence, and reflectivity with high performance instrumentation based on confocal Raman microscope (Alpha 300, three excitation wavelengths at 532 nm, 633 nm and 785 nm, detection between 100 - 3500 wavenumbers and lateral resolution better than  $\sim 250$  nm) which is integrated with an atomic force microscope (AFM) of high spatial resolution and different operation modes. For more details concerning our infrastructure visit our [Laboratory](#) section. We are able to characterize, identify and image non-destructively chemical components and their molecular structure existing in heterogeneous materials, thin inorganic films, polymers, semiconductors, glasses, etc. in nanotechnology, life science, geology, pharmaceutical and food industry.

Additionally, we provide a large variety of nanostructured substrates (highly organized, regular arrays of noble-metal nanoparticles and films) with distinct optical properties and bio-chemical functionalities to operate as optical probe in bio- and chemical- sensing platform in the field of molecular biology, medicine and environment monitoring.

