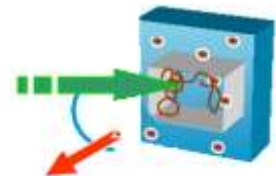
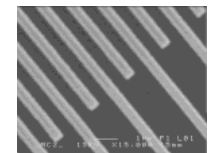
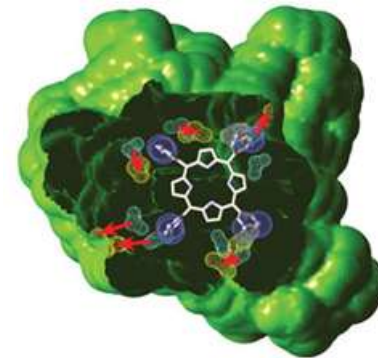


# MOLECULARLY IMPRINTED POLYMERS for CHEMICAL SENSORS

Cristina Rusu - Senior scientist

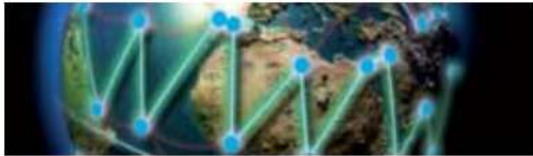


Diaspora workshop “Micro-Nanoelectronics, Micro-Nanosysteme”  
27 Septembrie 2012



## Technology Areas

Broadband Technology



Nanoelectronics



Fiber Optics



Printed Electronics



Sensor Systems



**Imego**  
department

Customer

**sensor solutions**



**Prototypes**

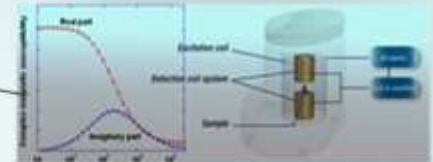
**Data analysis**

**Signal processing**

**Electronics**

**Principles**

**Sensor research**



**Advanced Technology for Demanding Measurements**





**World leading MEMS inertial sensor and system R&D center**

IMUs for  
unmanned  
vehicles (UAV,  
ROV)

High dynamics,  
high bandwidth  
(e.g. crash tests)

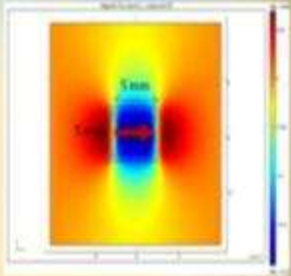
Inertial  
Navigation  
(e.g. personal  
navigation)

World-leading  
MEMS gyro  
systems

Data processing,  
motion  
classification,  
wireless interfaces

MEMS  
accelerometers  
for navigation  
and seismic  
applications

## Magnetic simulation



- Finite Element analysis

## AC susceptometry



- The DynoMag system
- High frequency dynamic AC susceptometry

## Magnetic sensor system



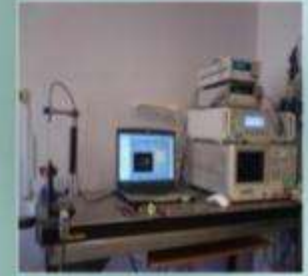
- Traffic detection

## Magnetic analysis



- Static and dynamic characterization
- Magnetic shielded room
- Magnetic consultants and lectures

## Magnetic sensor system



- Field scanning

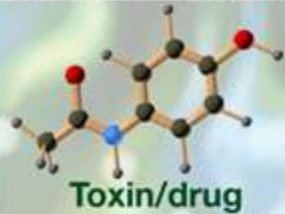
Magnetic field in tesla (T)



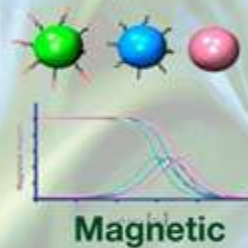
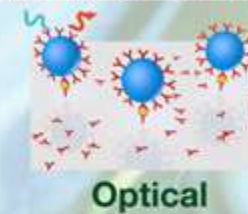


## From protocols to complete systems

What to detect



How to detect

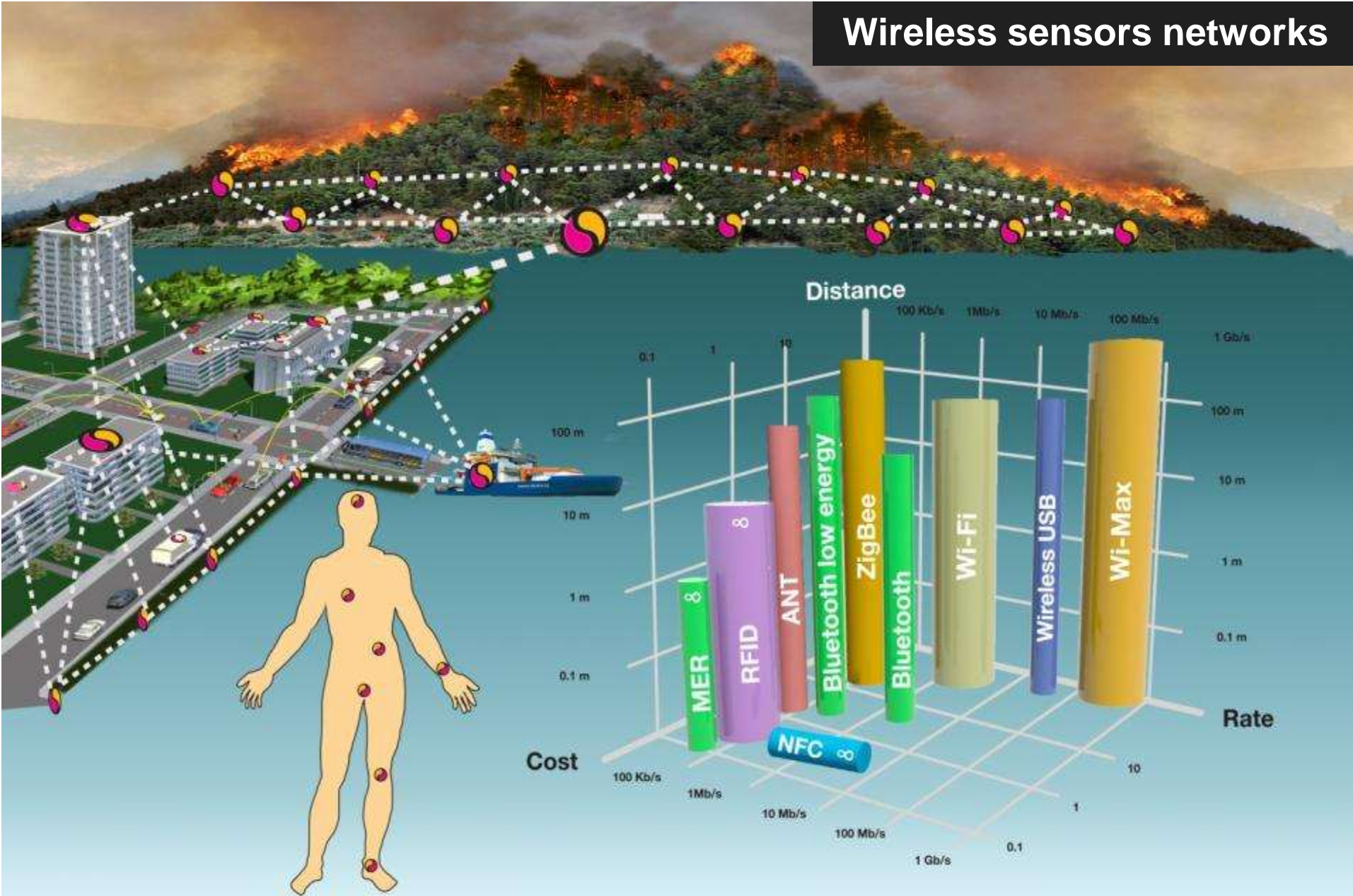


Solution / Prototype



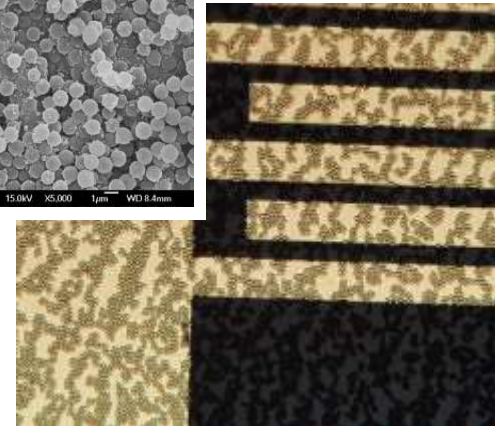
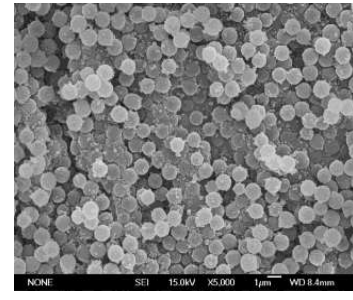
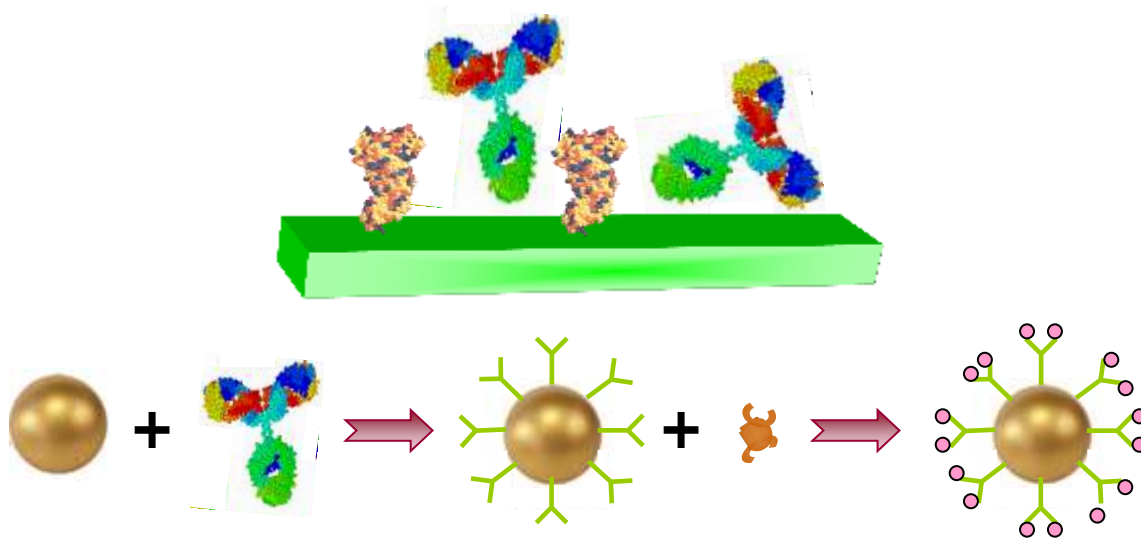


# Wireless sensors networks



# Bio-chemical applications

- Homogeneous assays
- Non-labelled sensing
- Nanoparticles & colloidal solutions
- Biomolecule – surface & receptor – ligand interactions



**Molecularly Imprinted Polymers**



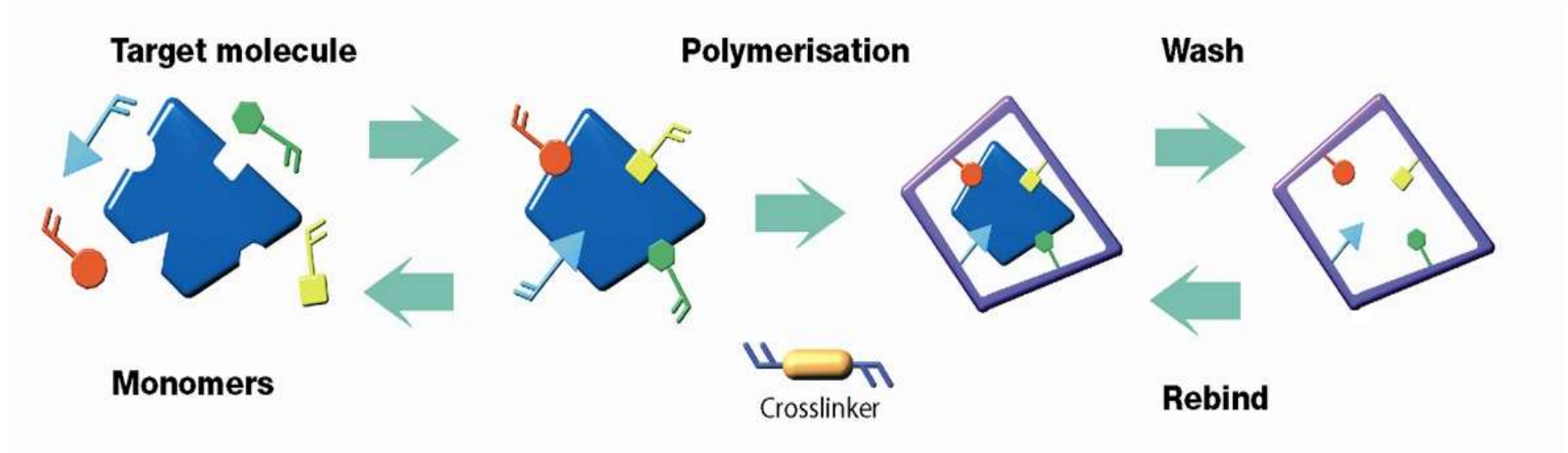
# Why Molecularly Imprinted Polymers?

## Problems Associated with Natural Compounds / Antibodies

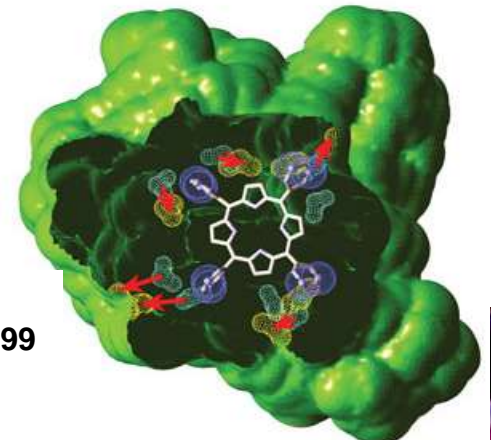
- Low stability of the biomolecules
- High price of enzymes and receptors
- Poor performance in non-aqueous media
- Poor compatibility with micro fabrication technology, resulting in difficulties with design of sensors



# The art of molecular imprinting



- Cross-linked polymer formed around a molecule that acts as a template, template subsequently removed.
- Imprints containing functional groups complementary to those of template are left behind





# Advantages of MIPs

Easily expanded for multiple detection of several analytes or families of chemically similar targets

Cheap industrial-scale production, long shelf-life, robust

Wide range of targets (virtually any compound with molecular weight,  $M_w$ ,  $0,05\text{kDa} < M_w < \text{few kDa}$ )\*

Generic detection scheme is possible for the detection of a range of compounds



# Disadvantages of MIPs

Specificity is lower than for natural antibodies → range of binding energies → requires careful choice of the detection scheme

High non-specificity → requires comparison with the non-imprinted polymer

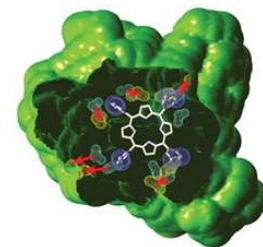
Fairly complex system design

Detection in minutes rather than seconds; target dependant sensitivity





# Application areas of MIPs



## Target molecules

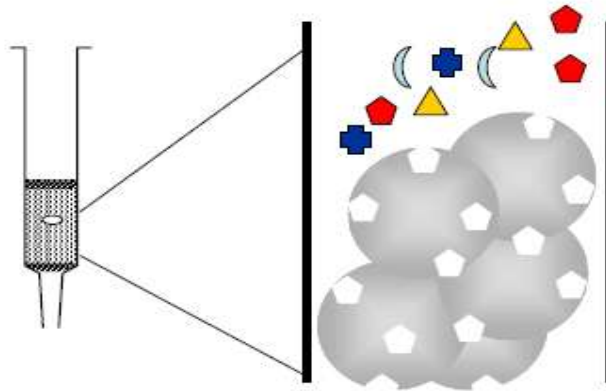
- Toxins, eg., marine toxins
- Narcotics
- Chemical warfare agents
- Explosives
- Peptides
- Pharmaceutical waste
- Tannins, caffeine
- Sugars, (sorbitol, glucose)

- **Pharmaceutical Industry**
- **Food Industry**
- **Veterinary Industries**
- **Doping Laboratories**
- **Monitoring Agencies**
- **etc.**

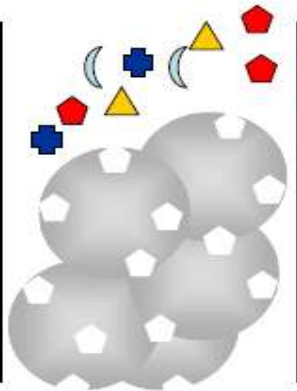


# MIP Application: Selective Phase extraction

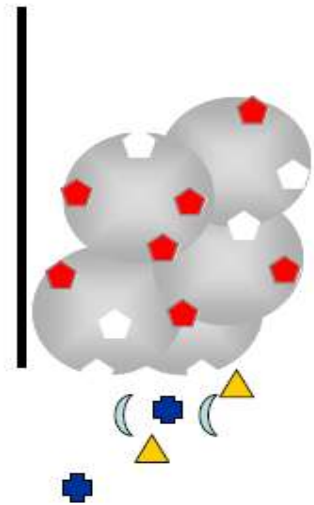
Selective extraction of low levels of target compounds in the presence of a mixture of potentially interfering matrix components.



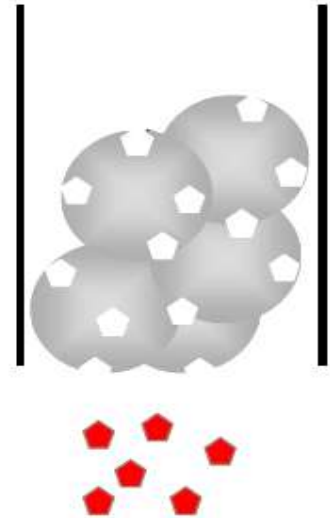
1. Column conditioning



2. Sample Loading



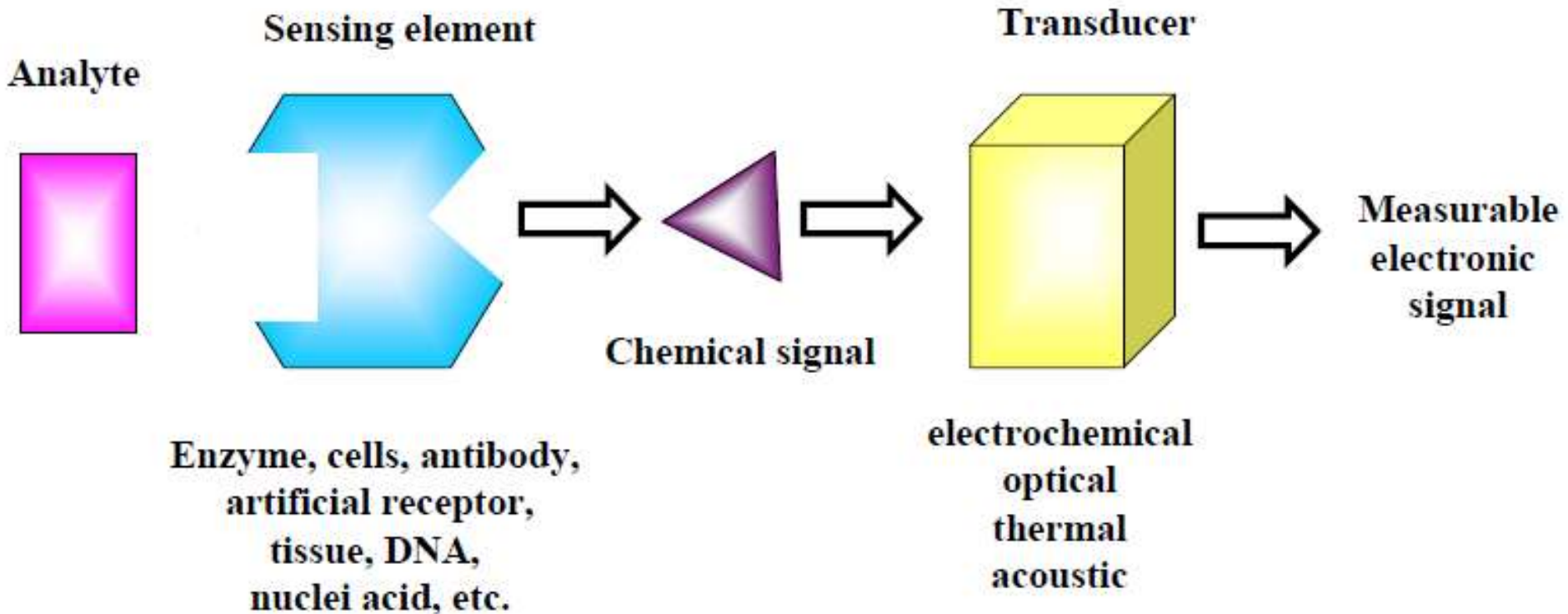
3. Elution of interfering compounds



4. Elution  
Clean and concentrated analyte!



# MIP Application: Sensors



# Our motivation of using MIPs

One of the very few techniques that allows one to detect *specific* contaminations in water / fluid *outside* the laboratory environment



# MIP-based sensors: Transductions

- Volume changes upon imprint adsorption (swelling / shrinkage)  
Changes of charge state  $\Rightarrow$  **surface assay (QCMD, interdigital electrodes)**
- Changes of charge states upon analyte binding  $\Rightarrow$  Reaction induced aggregation  $\Rightarrow$  **homogeneous assay (PCS, Z-potential light scattering)**
- Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy  $\Rightarrow$  **surface assay, interdigital electrodes**

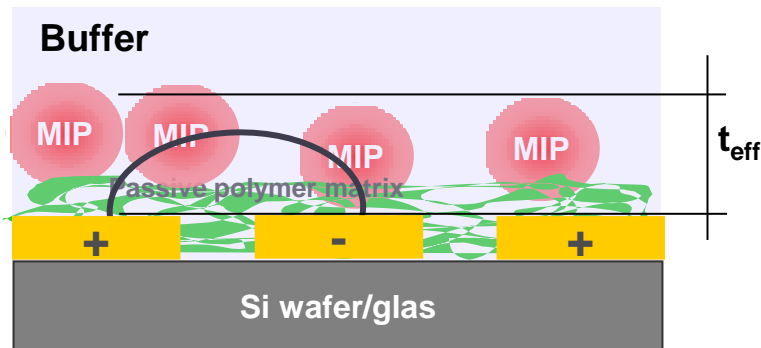




# MIP- based sensor: detection by impedance spectroscopy (IS)



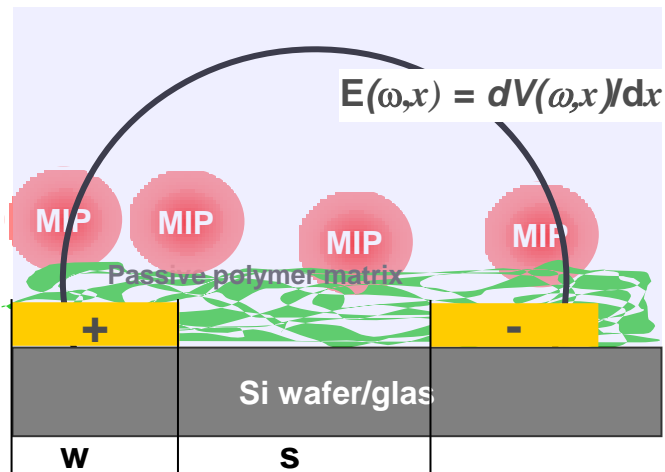
**Impedance:** Apply constant AC-voltage of different frequencies;  
Measure AC - current amplitude and phase at each frequency.  
Plot imaginary part of impedance ( $\text{Im}Z$ ) vs. its real part ( $\text{Re}Z$ )



$$C = Q(\omega)/V(\omega) = f(t, w, s, V, \epsilon) \times (\epsilon_0 \epsilon_r A)/d$$

$$I(\omega) = \int Q dt$$

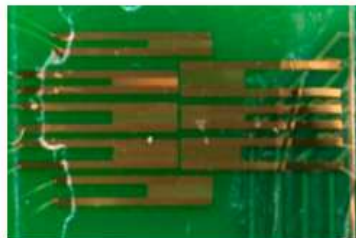
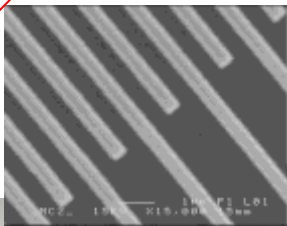
$$\Rightarrow \text{measure } Z(\omega) = \text{Re } Z(\omega) + \text{Im } Z(\omega)$$



Microelectrodes = allows to vary penetration depth of the electric field inside the fluid

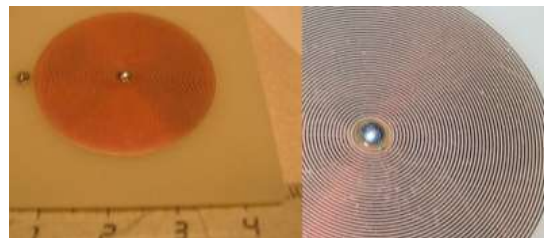


# MIP-based sensor – IS setup

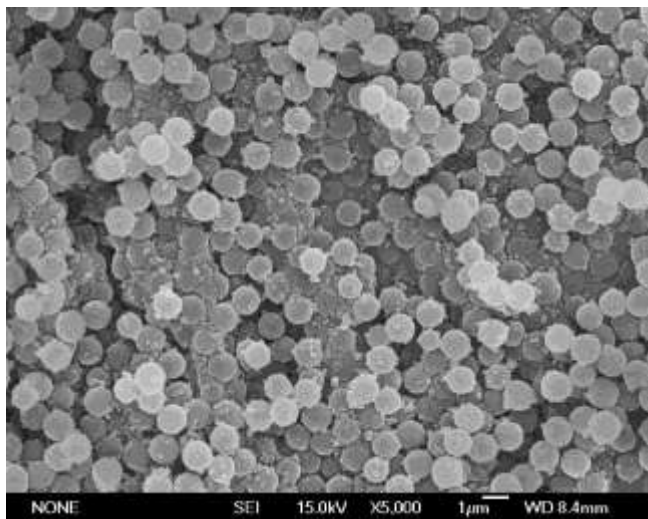


10 mm

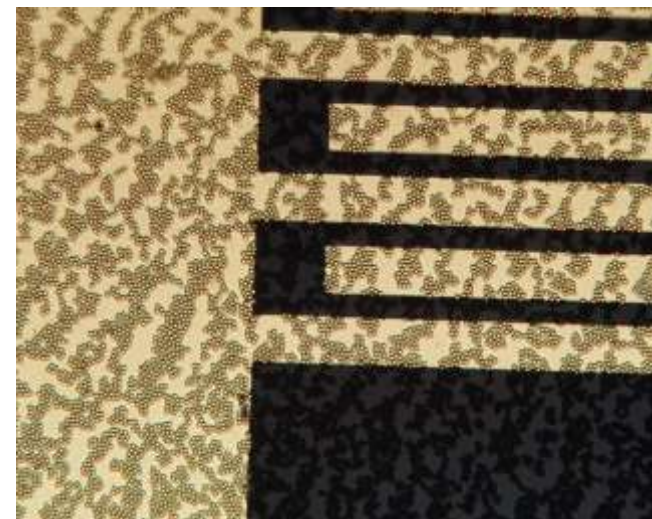
**Interdigital  
electrodes**



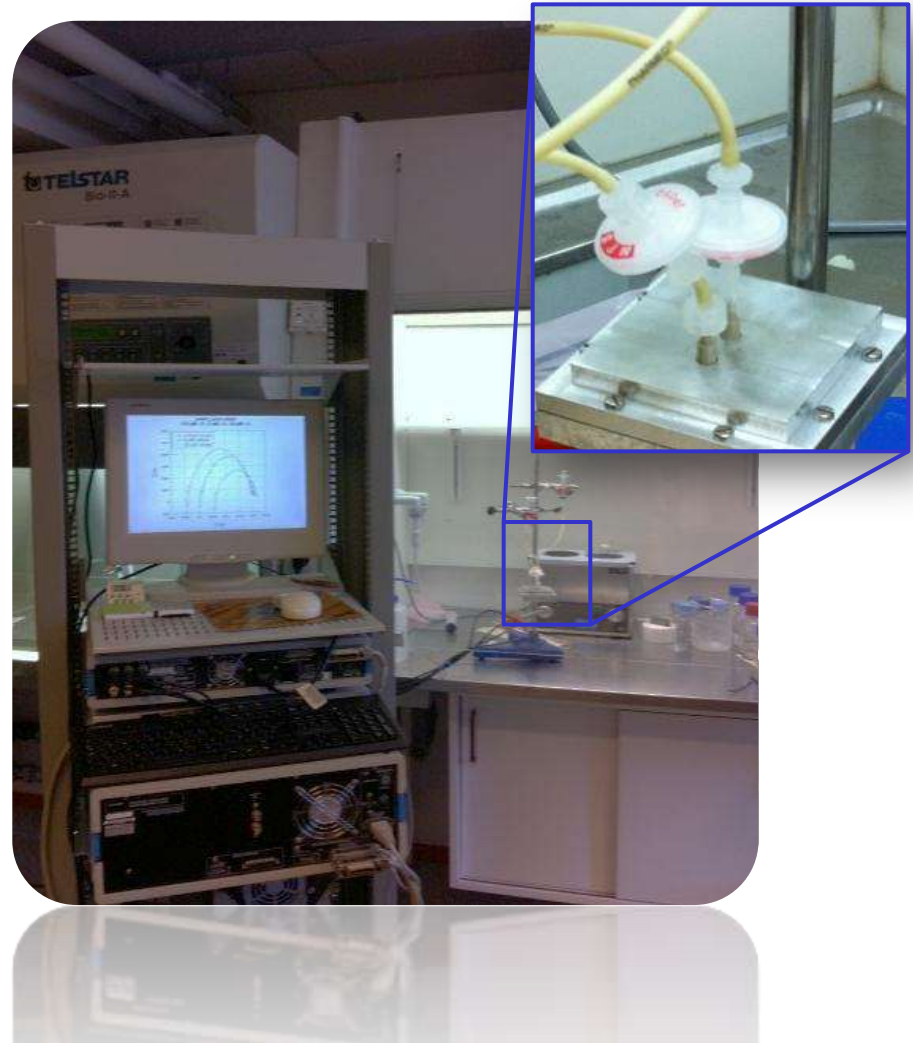
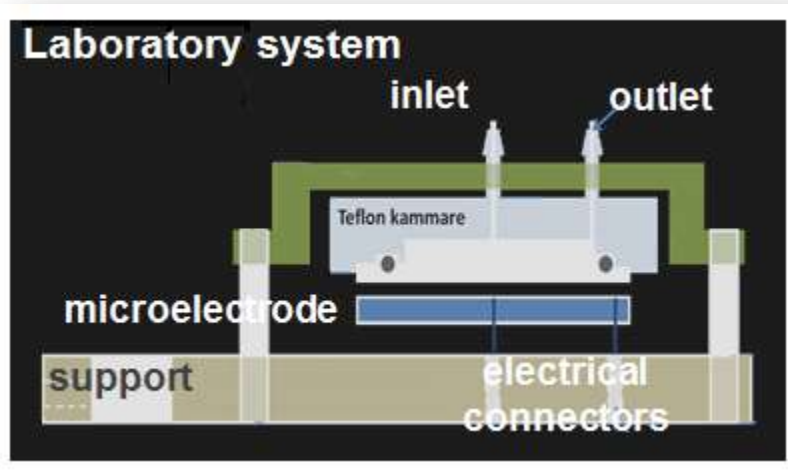
**Planar coil  
electrode**



**MIP particles  
sizes 170 nm –  
few  $\mu\text{m}$   
(Lund University)**



# MIP-based sensor – IS setup

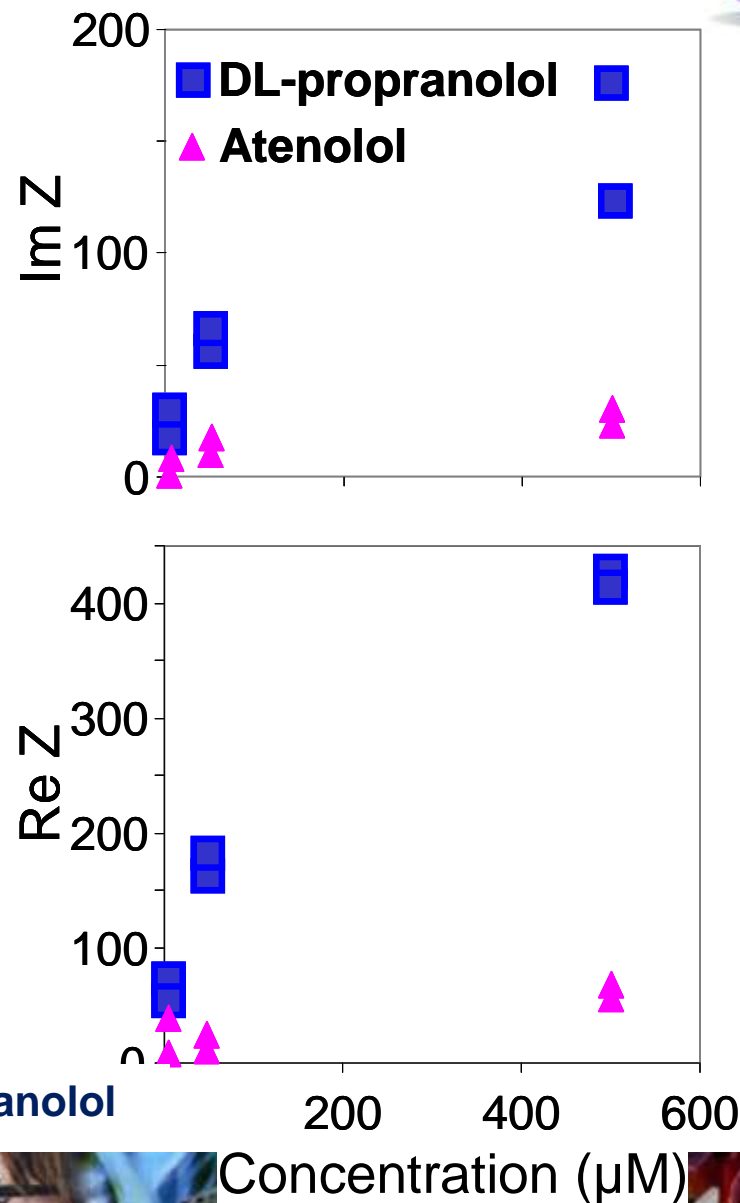




# MIP imprinted against propranolol - IS



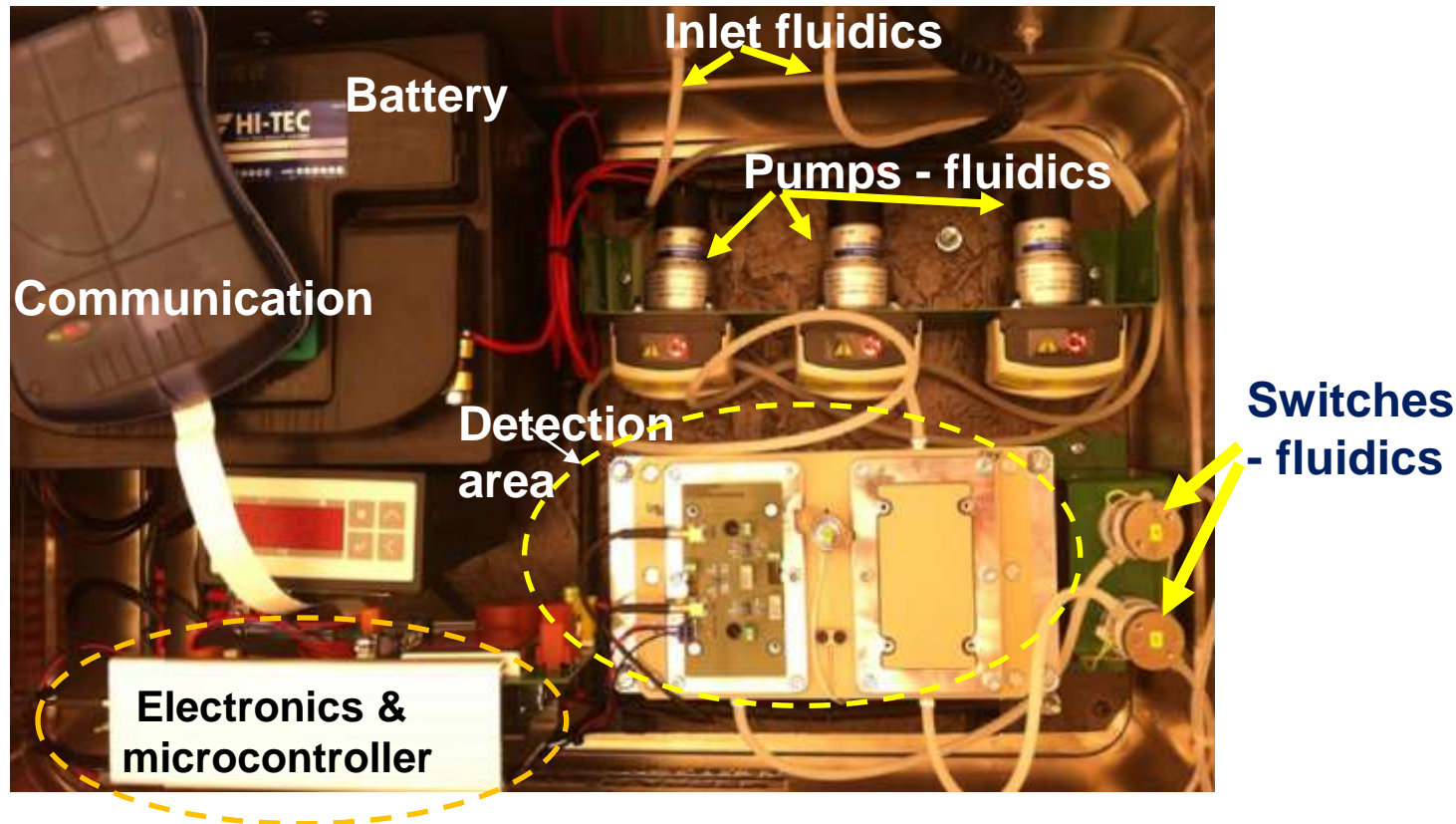
Interdigitated finger electrode  
lowest concentration detected  $\approx 10\mu\text{M}$



Atenolol is chemically very similar to propranolol



# MIP – field instrument



**Top-view MIP system including detection system, fluidics, power supply, communication**



# MIP imprinted against propranolol – optical detection

Size changes and agglomeration of MIP - propranolol upon target adsorption measured using *dynamic light scattering*.

Particle translational motion

⇒ Translational relaxation time,  $\tau$

⇒ Particle size distribution

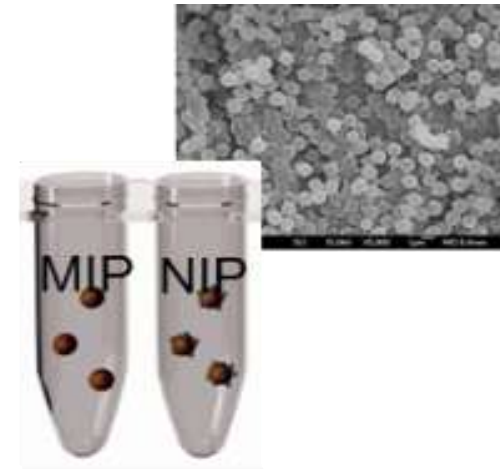
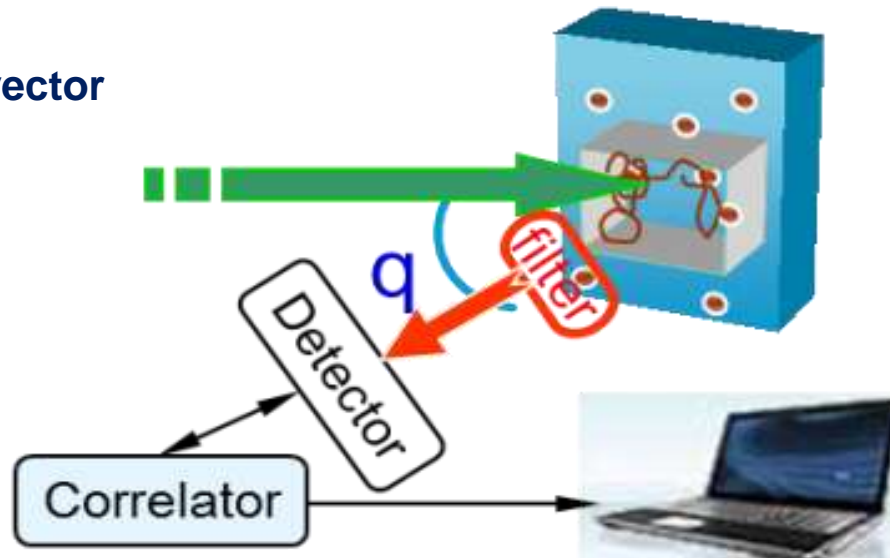
$$\tau = \frac{6\pi\eta}{k_B T q^2} r$$

$\eta$  – solvent viscosity

$T$  – temperature

$q$  – scattering wave vector

$r$  – particle radius





# CONCLUSIONS – Present & Future

- ☺ MIP-based sensing = quantitative detection
- ☹ Sample deposition ⇔ method of MIP manufacturing
- ☹ MIP / NIP signal analysis ⇔ MIP / NIP theory & modelling
- ☺ Optical detection seems 'easier'
- ☺ NIP utilization ⇔ reduced false positive / negative

## Field measurement system

- ⇔ Portable, low power
- ⇔ *Pre-concentration* of sample
- ⇔ Reliable



# Mulumesc pentru atentie

## Acknowledgement

***Andrea Astalan, Kristina Fogel, Anatol Krozer, Christer Johansson  
Fredrik Ahrentorp, Torbjörn Pettersson, John Roswell***

EU-FP7 Emergency Support System      [www.ess-project.eu](http://www.ess-project.eu)

EU-FP7 Total Airport Security System      [www.tass-project.eu](http://www.tass-project.eu)

**cristina.rusu@imego.com**