

# *Nanotechnology in drug delivery*

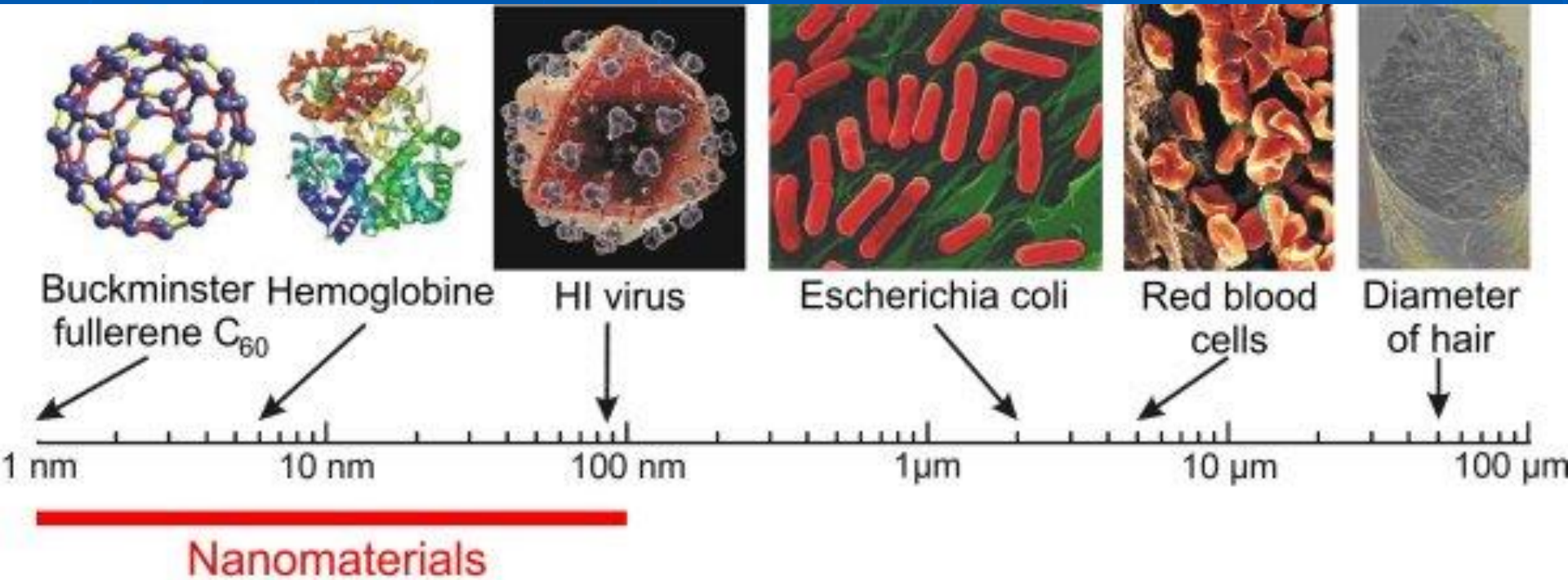
*Dr. Széchenyi Aleksandar*

*University of Pécs, Faculty of Pharmacy*

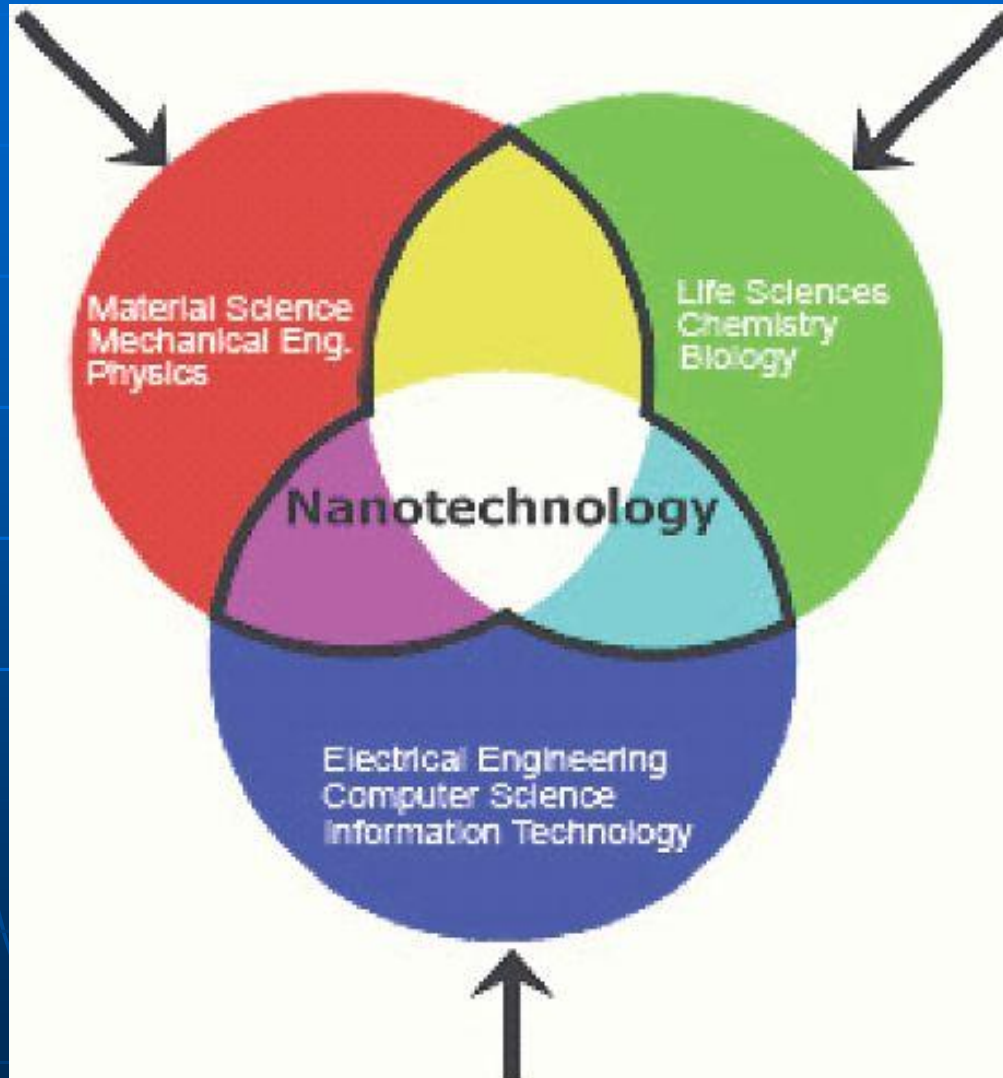
Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology and  
Biopharmacy

# Nanotechnology

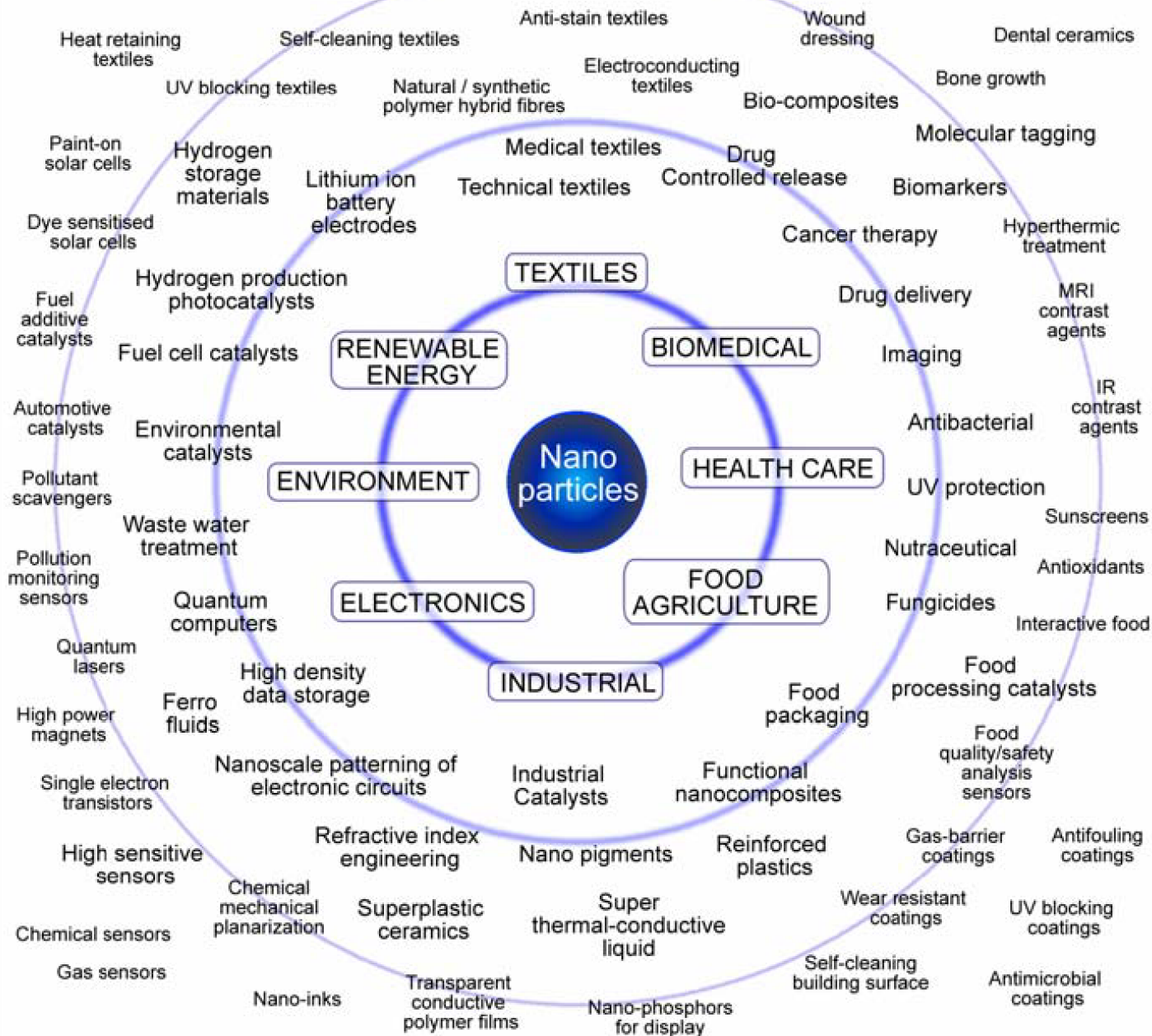
Nanotechnology, a multidisciplinary scientific undertaking, involves creation and utilization of materials, devices, or systems on the nanometer scale



# *Nanotechnology*



# APPLICATIONS OF NANOPARTICLES



# *Nanotechnology applications*

## 1. Medicine

### 1.1 Diagnostics

### 1.2 Drug delivery

### 1.3 Tissue engineering

## 2. Environment

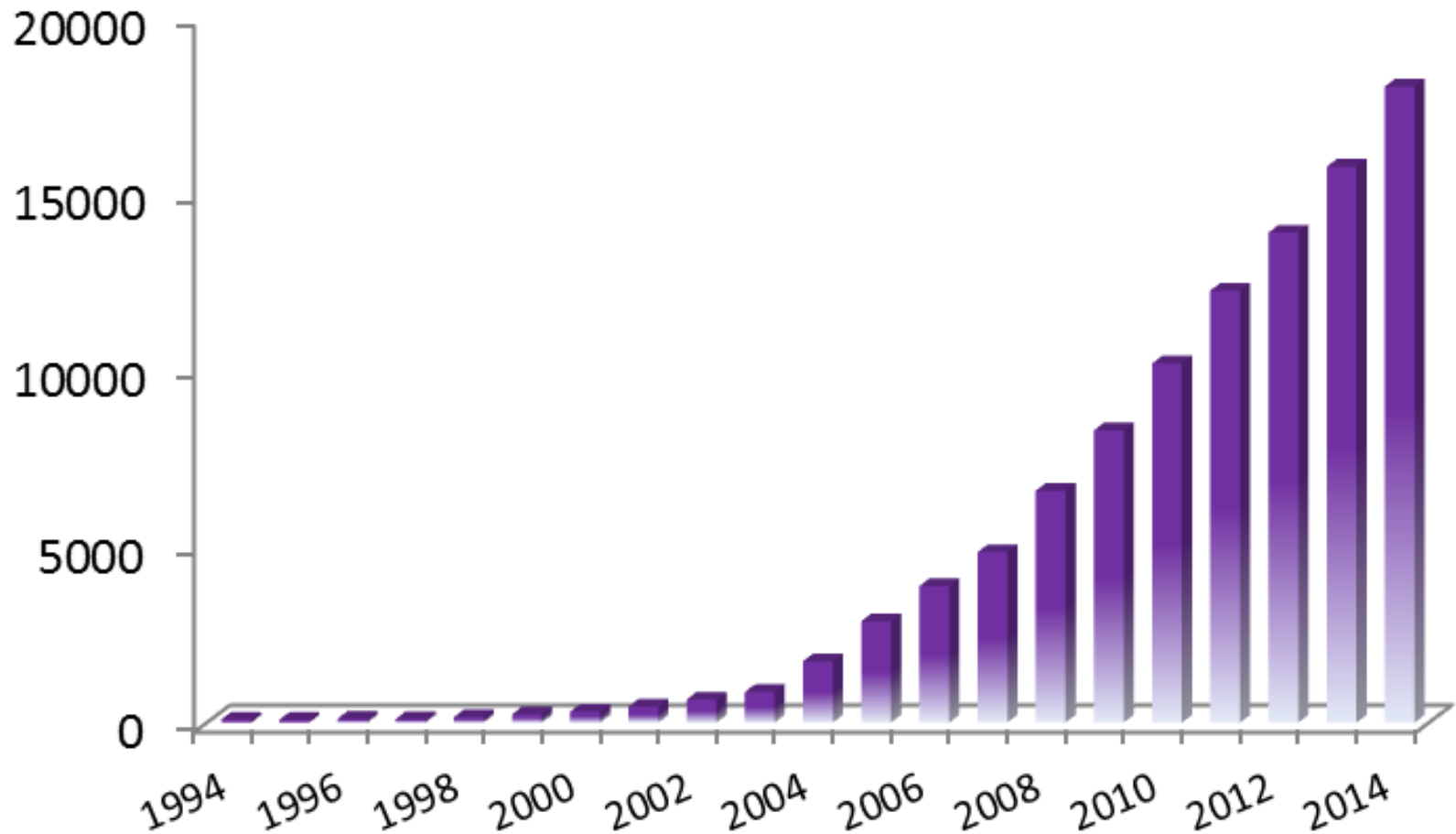
## 3. Energy

## 4. Information and communication

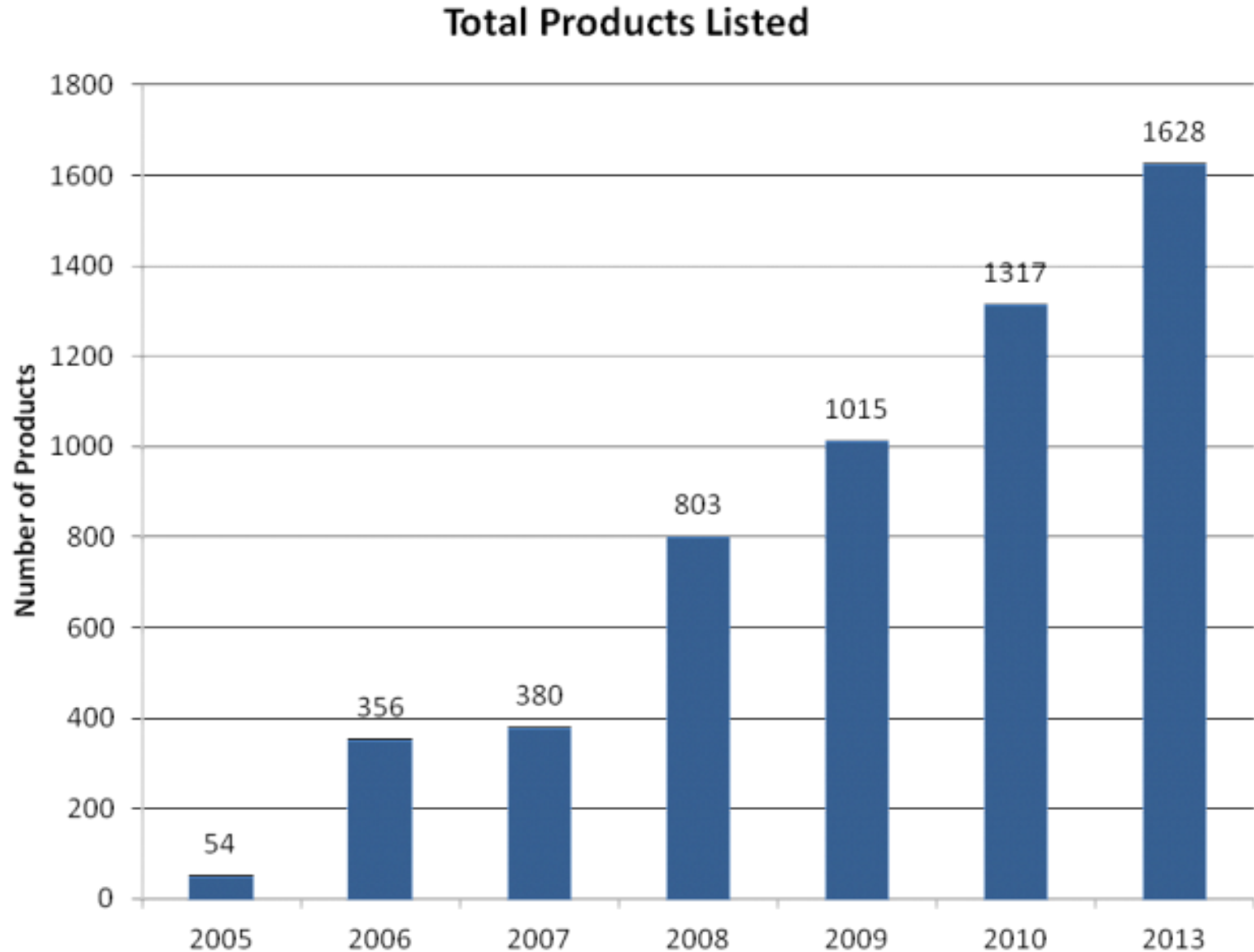
## 5. Heavy Industry

## 6. Consumer goods

## *Number of scientific papers on nanotechnology topics*

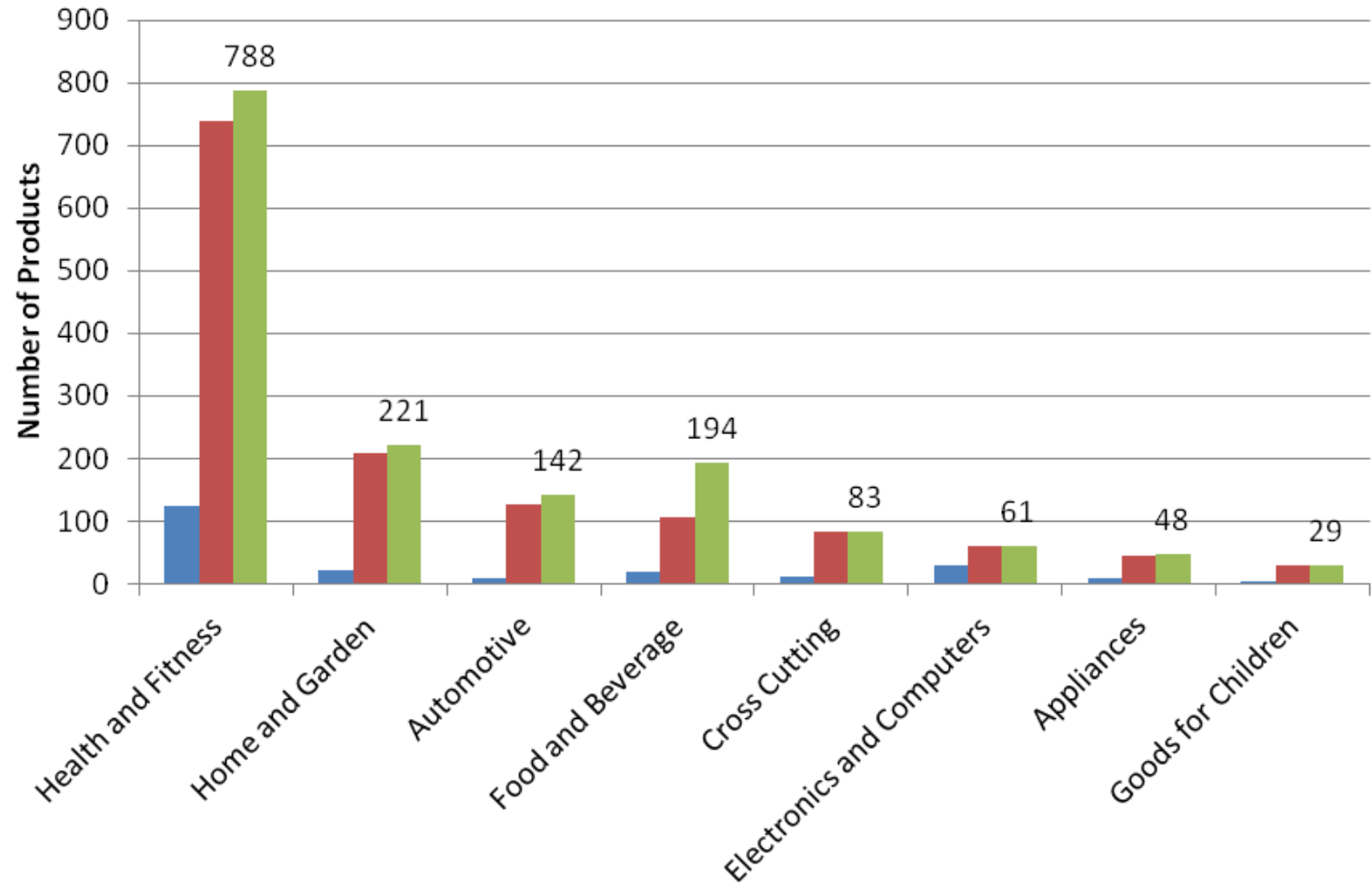


# *Nanotechnology applications*



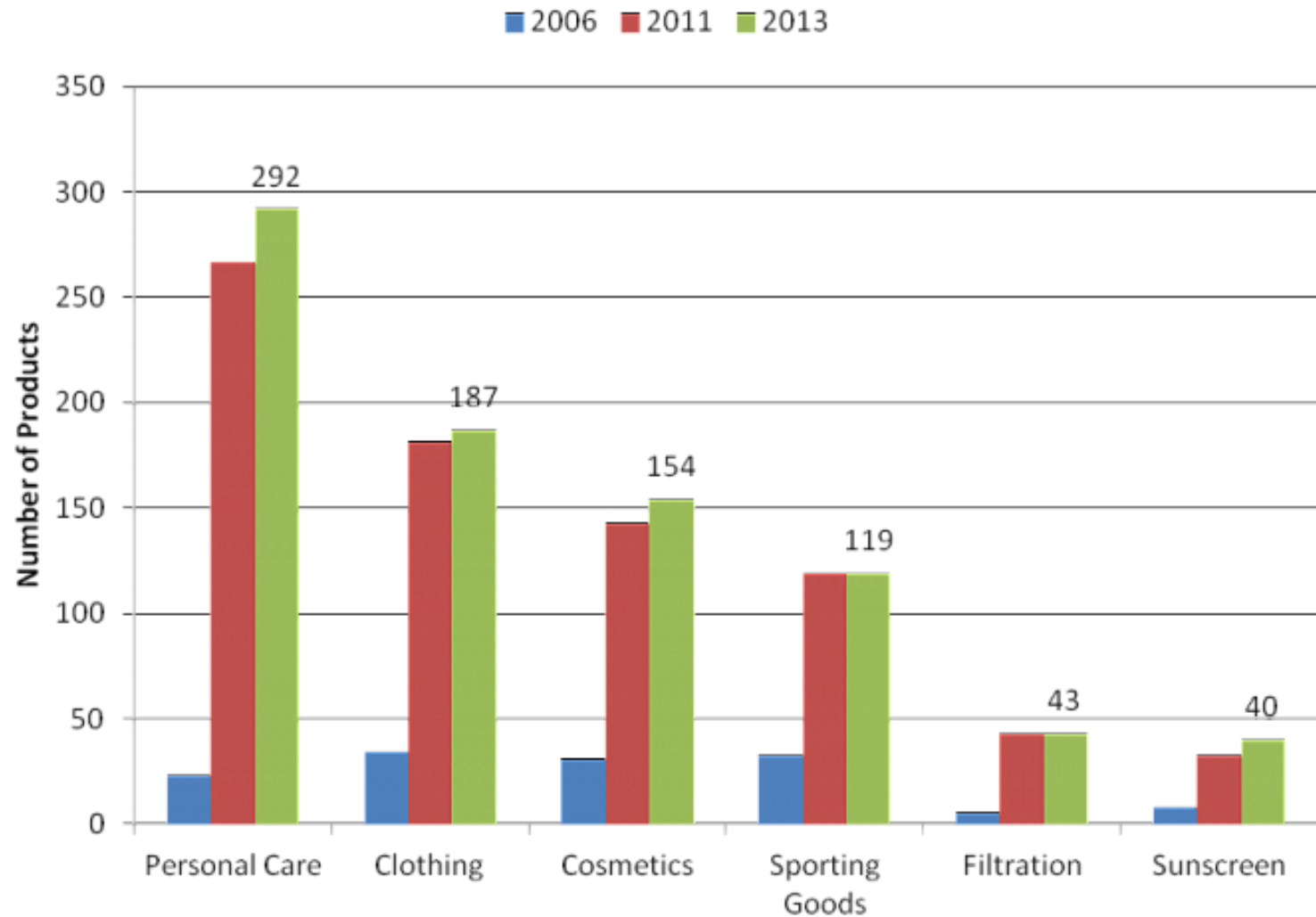
## Product Categories

■ 2006 ■ 2011 ■ 2013

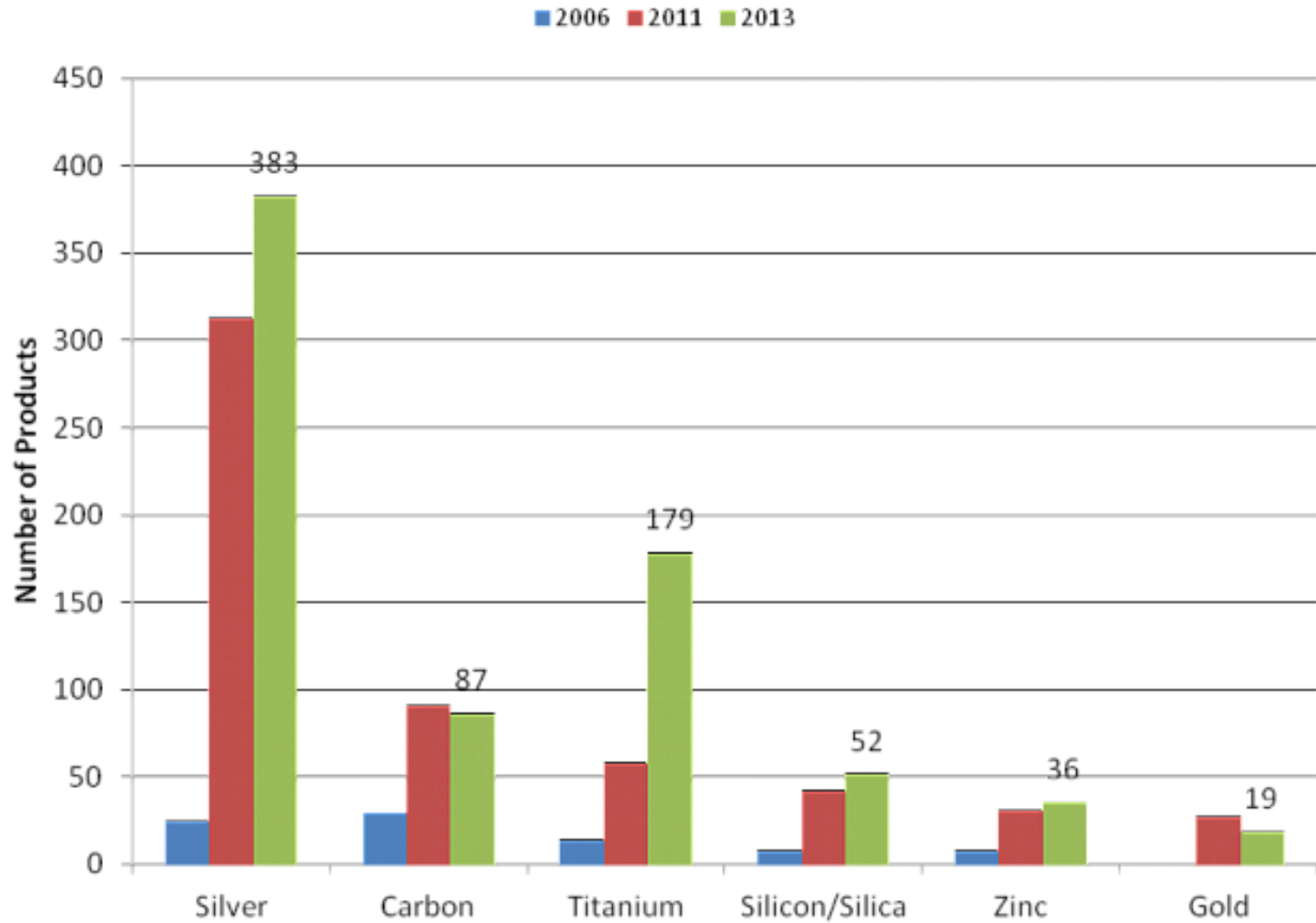




## Health and Fitness Subcategory

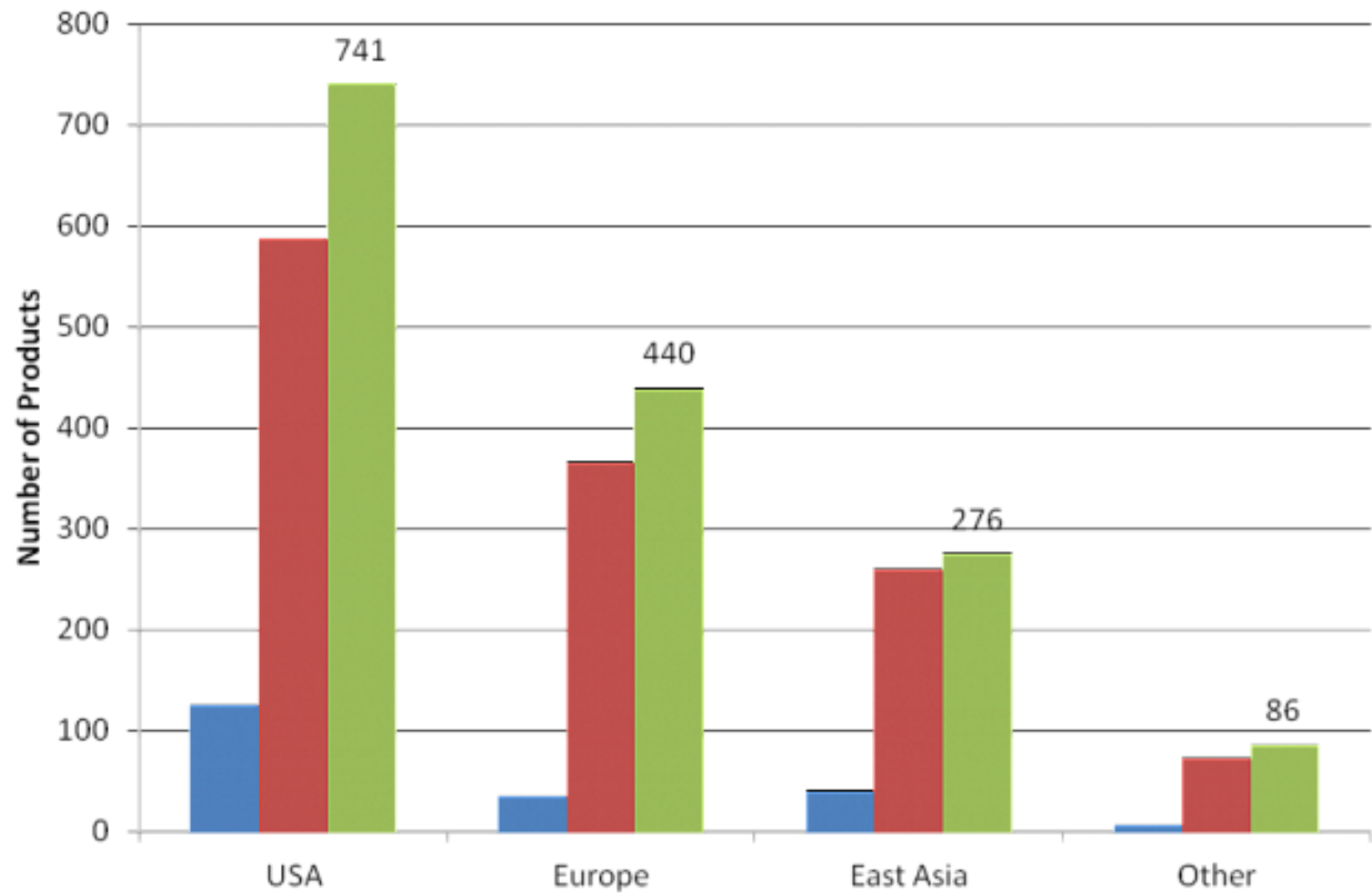


## Major Materials



## Region of Origin

■ 2006 ■ 2011 ■ 2013



# Molecular medicine

A science that seeks to comprehend disease causes and mechanisms at the molecular level, and to apply this basic research to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders.

Typical applications in molecular medicine include gene therapy, molecular structural analysis, genetic epidemiology, and molecular and clinical pharmacology.

# Nanomedicine

Nanomedicine is defined as the application of nanotechnology in view of making medical diagnosis or treating or preventing diseases. It exploits the improved and often novel physical chemical and biological properties of materials at nanometre scale

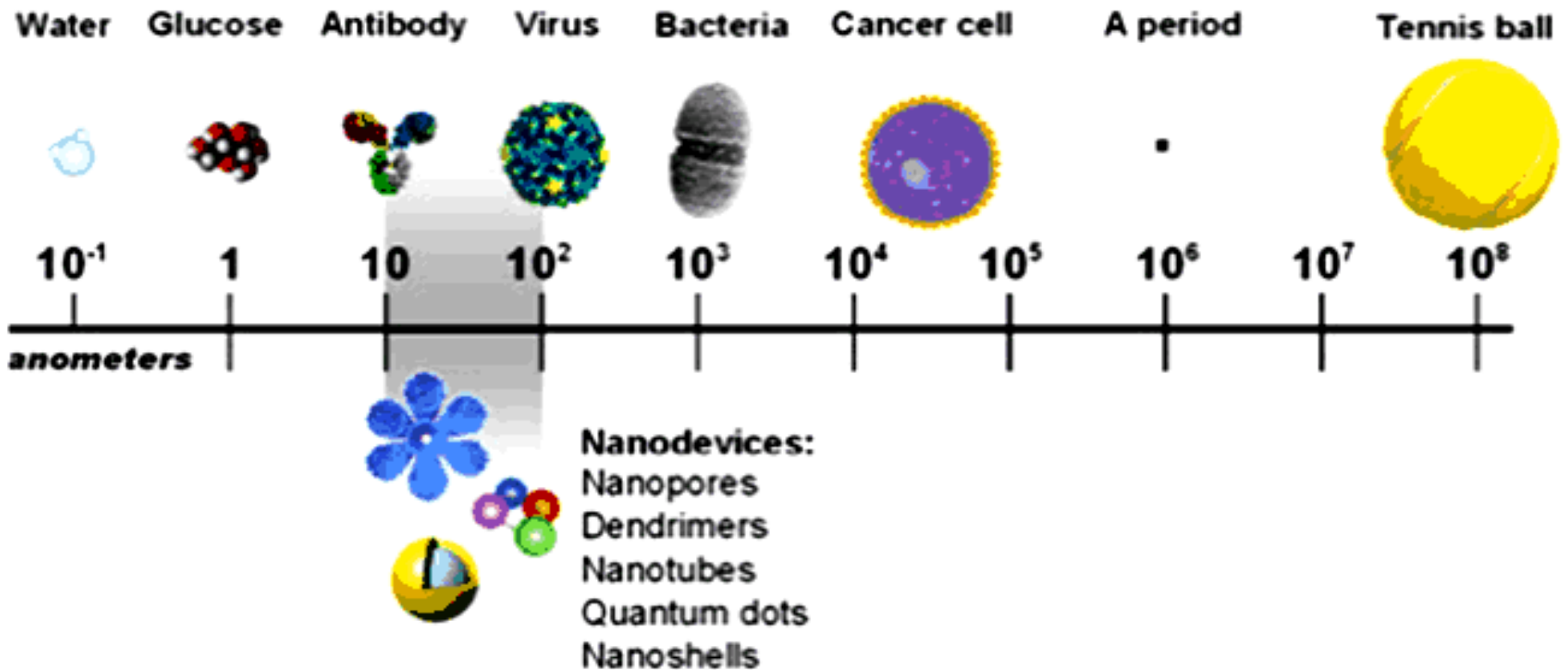
# *Nanotechnology*

**" Nanotechnology is the key to  
optimizing drug delivery"**

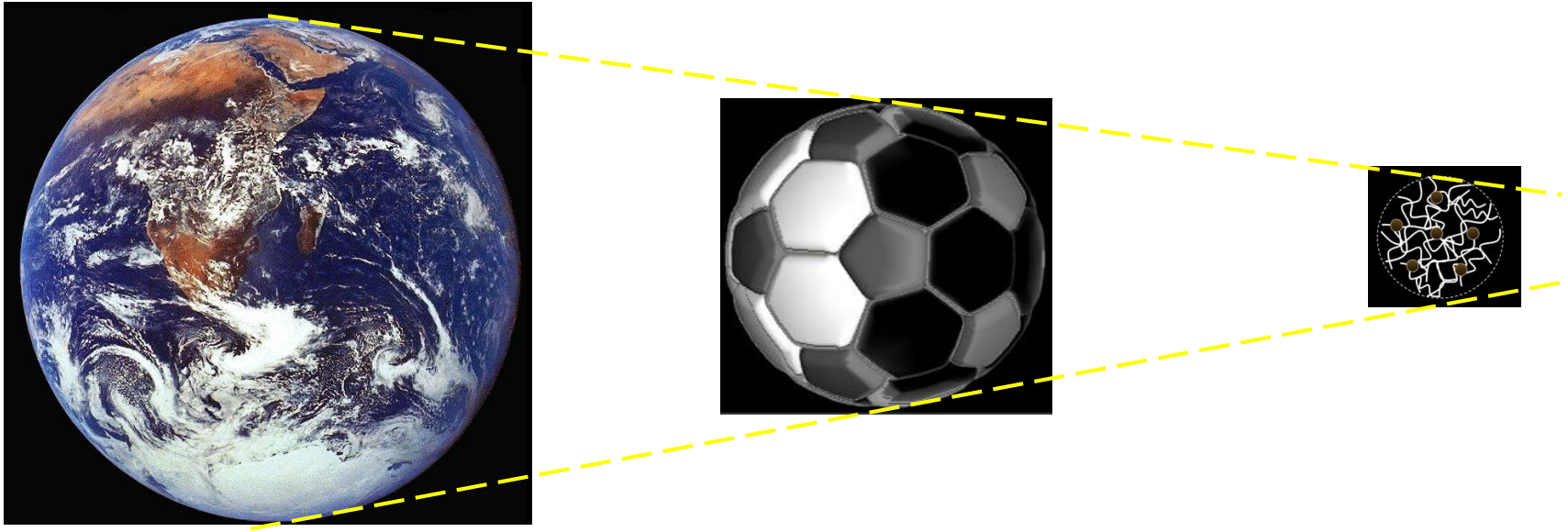
**Dr. Roger Aston,**  
Director of Strategy at pSivida Limited in Australia.

# Nanotechnology

## How much does size matter?



# Nanotechnology



A size of the Earth relates to football as football relates to nanoparticle

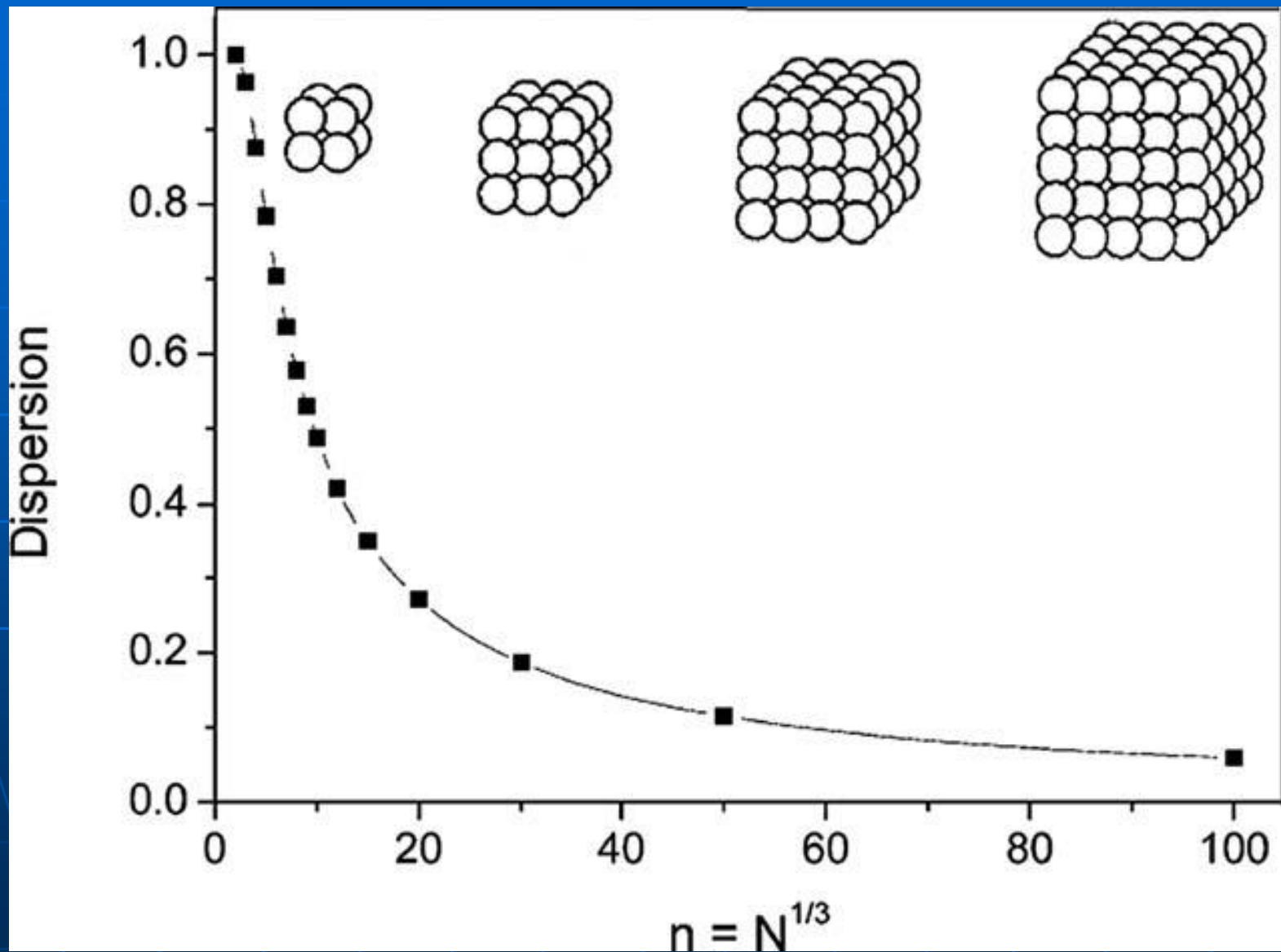


# Size effect on surface/volume ratio

## Dispersion: fraction of atoms at the surface

- The dependence of the surface dispersion is illustrated for a cube of  $n$  atoms along an edge, with the total number of atoms in the cube described as  $N=n^3$ .
- A cube would therefore expose 6 surfaces and 12 edges, with the total number of surface atoms equal to  $6n$  that has been corrected to eliminate double counting of corner atoms.
- For large numbers of atoms in a cube, these corrections become negligible and the dispersion could be scaled as follows:

$$F = \frac{6n^2 - 12n + 8}{n^3} = \frac{6}{N^{1/3}} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{N^{1/3}} + \frac{8}{6N^{2/3}} \right) \approx \frac{6}{N^{1/3}}$$



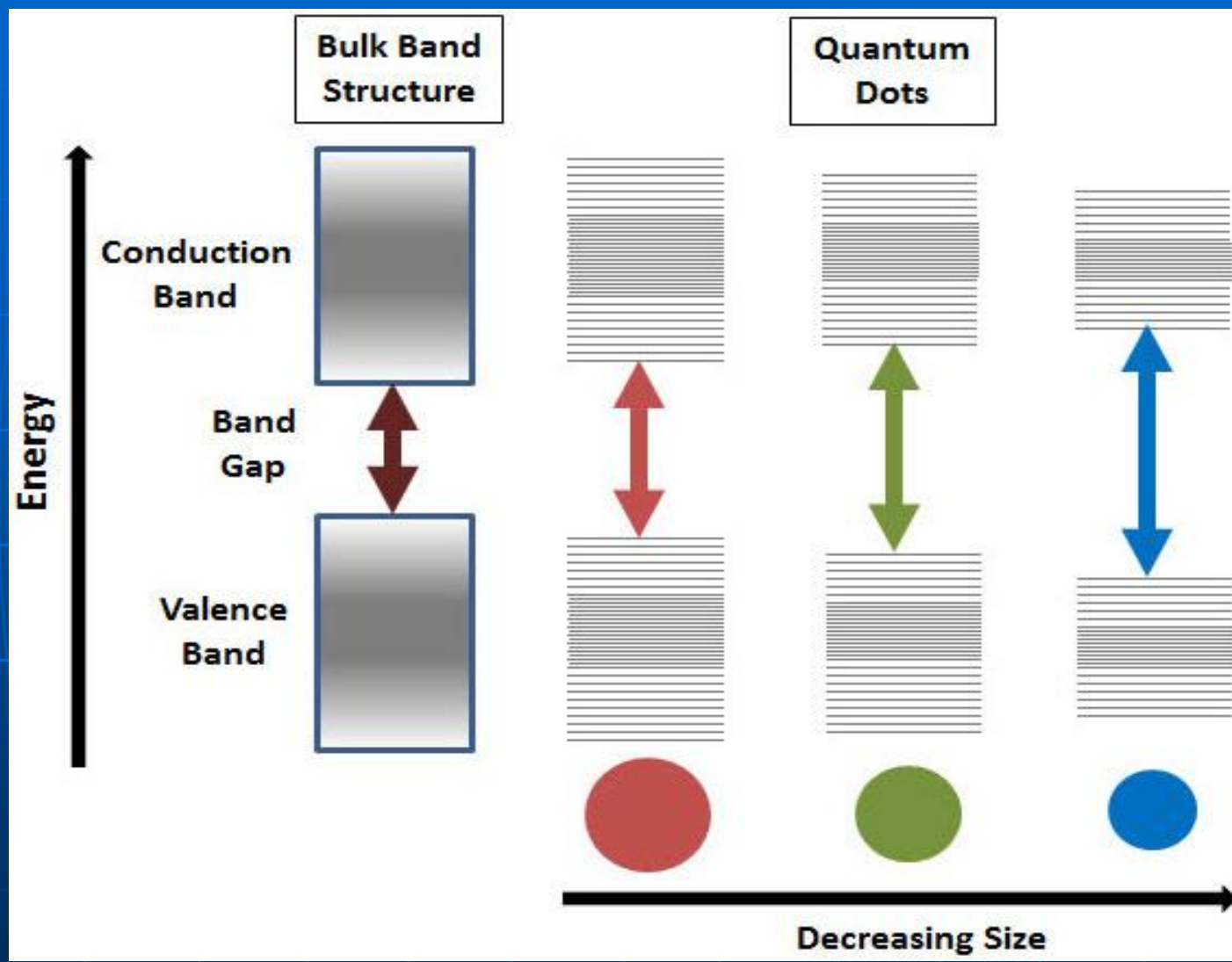
# Quantum Effects

As with most orbital systems, electrons can be found at different (higher and lower) energy levels, and the average spacing of this energy level is known as the Kubo gap,  $\delta$ . By considering the lowest unoccupied energy state of the electronic system of a bulk material, the Fermi energy,  $E_f$ , could be incorporated to describe the Kubo gap:

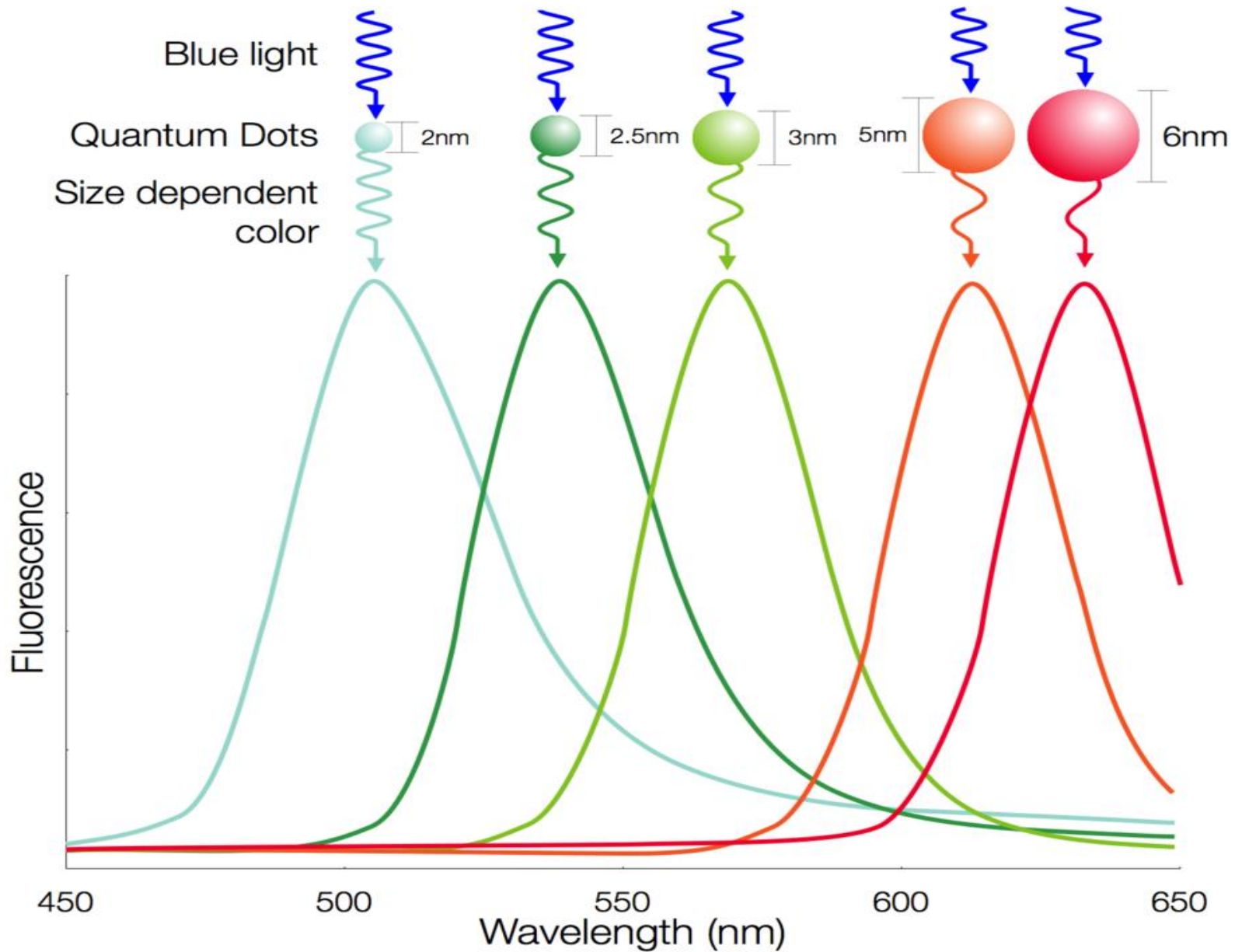
$$\delta = 4E_f/3n$$

where  $n$  is representing the number of valence electrons in the nanosystems.

Due to their small size, the electrons in quantum dots are confined in a small space (quantum box), and when the radii of the semiconductor nanocrystal is smaller than the exciton Bohr radius (exciton Bohr radius is the average distance between the electron in the conduction band and the hole it leaves behind in the valence band), there is quantization of the energy levels according to Pauli's exclusion principle

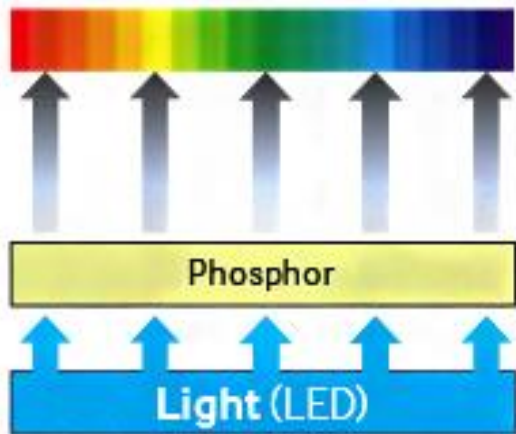


# Quantum Dot Size and Color



16 million colors

Red  $2^8$  x Green  $2^8$  x Blue  $2^8$

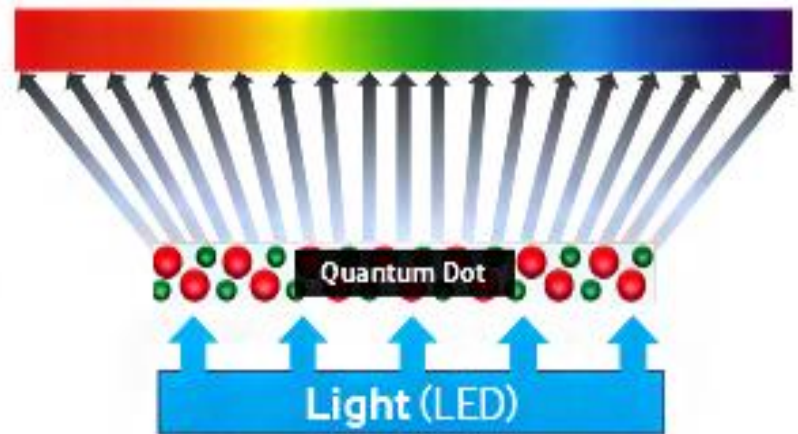


64x more color  
than your average TV

Better light AND  
energy efficiency

1 billion colors

Red  $2^{10}$  x Green  $2^{10}$  x Blue  $2^{10}$



# Nanotechnology in drug delivery

## *How did all begun?*

-*controlled drug delivery systems (DDS)*

1950s, „Spansules”

-*silicon rubber implants* Judah Folkman at Harvard Medical School 1960s

-first company based on DDS concept Alza Corp, 1968

-1970-1980, expand of DDS system

- contraceptive drug-loaded poly(ethylene-co-vinylacetate EVA)

- drug-loaded skin patch for topical application

- glaucoma drug-loaded poly(EVA) sandwich wafer for insertion into the eye

- drug-loaded, degradable microparticles composed of poly[lactic-co-glycolic]acid (PLGA)

1990s rapidly expanding nanotechnology

- 1995, the liposome- doxorubicin product called “Doxil ® ”

first nanocarrier-drug DDS approved for clinical use

## Technologies

Low  
molecular  
weight  
micelles

Liposomes

Niosomes

Solid lipid  
nanospheres

Nanoemulsions

Polymer  
Drug  
Conjugates

Polymersomes

Polymeric  
Nanoparticles

Carbon  
nanotubes

Porous silicon  
nanoparticles

Drug  
nanocrystals

## Pharmaceutical Applications

Biological  
Barriers

Active  
Targeting

Drug  
solubilisation

## Nanomedicines

Cancer  
Chemotherapy  
Agents

Vaccines

Anti-infectives

Gene and  
siRNA  
therapeutics

Peptide,  
protein and  
antibody  
drugs

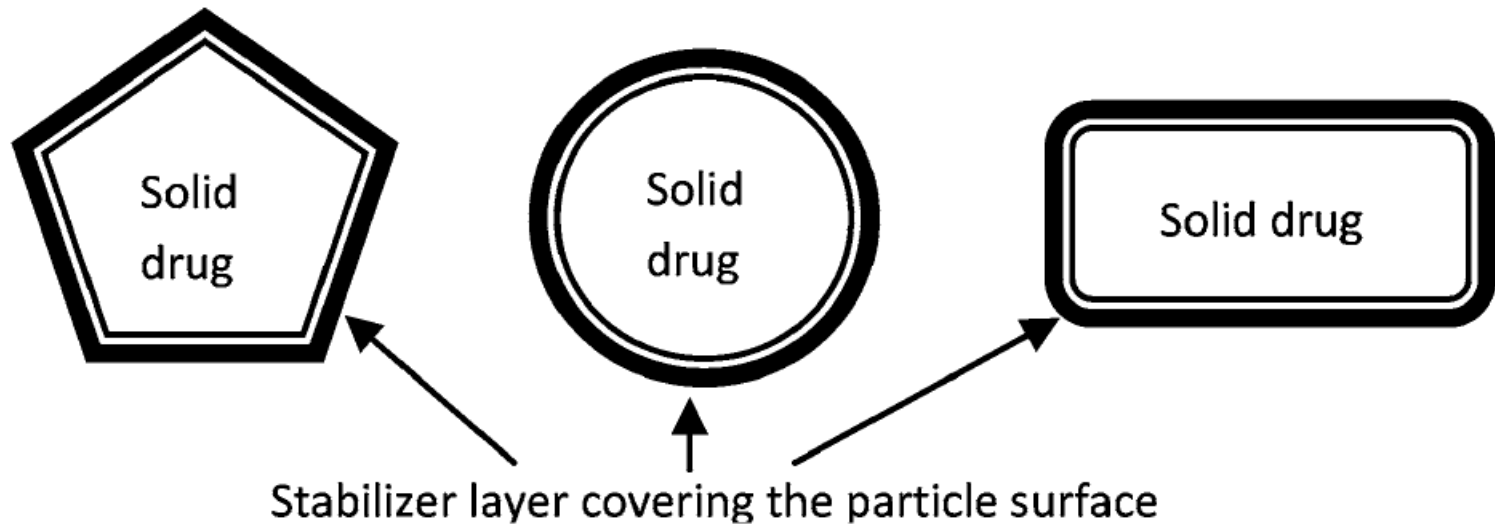
Tissue  
engineering  
scaffolds

Medical  
imaging  
agents



# Drug Nanocrystals

Drug nanocrystals are crystals in the nanometer size range (1–1,000 nm). They contain 100 % drug without any matrix material. Stabilizing agents, such as surfactants or polymers, are located on the surface of the nanocrystals



# Drug Nanocrystals

## Stabilization of Drug Nanocrystals

The most crucial problem with nanosized particles is the low stability of the particles; particles tend to aggregate back to larger structures.

Stabilization can be based on two different mechanisms:

- steric stabilization**

- electrostatic stabilization (charge stabilization)**

**or combination, both steric and electrostatic stabilization**

# Drug Nanocrystals

## Electrostatic stabilization

If pure electrostatic stabilization is utilized, the zeta potential ( $\zeta$ ) of the nanocrystals should be either less than  $-30$  mV or more than  $+30$  mV.

Typical electrostatic stabilizers:

- ionic surfactants
- polyelectrolites (charged polymers)

## Steric stabilization

Typical Steric stabilizers:

- nonionic surfactants
- polymers

# Drug Nanocrystals

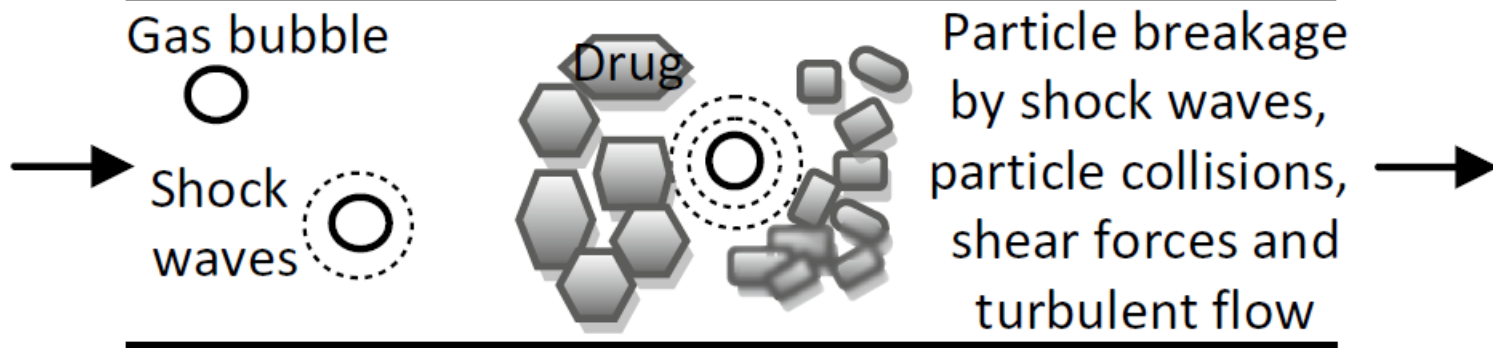
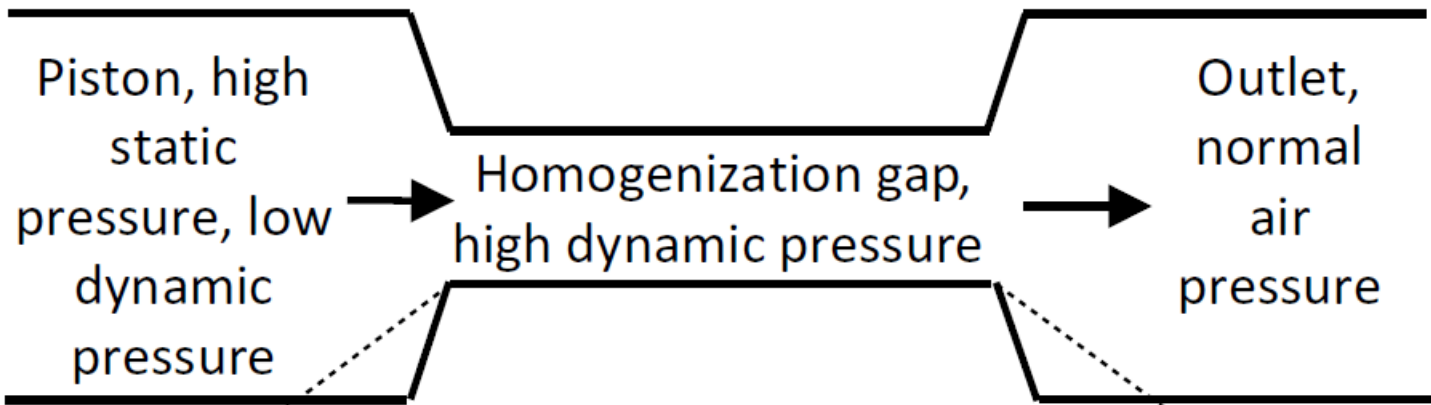
## Nanocrystal Synthesis

Two main classes:

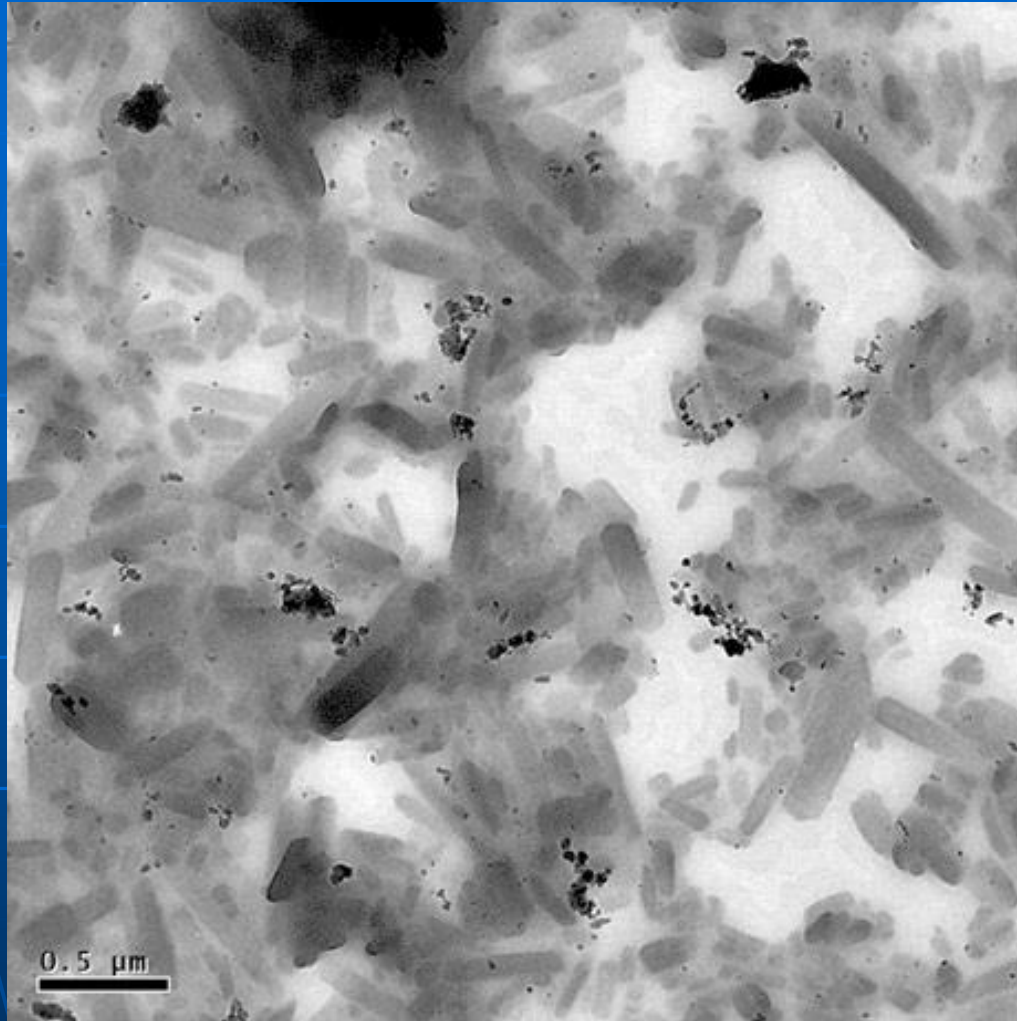
- bottom-up techniques
- top-down techniques

In bottom-up techniques the nanocrystals are formulated by building larger structures from smaller ones, e.g., precipitation from a solution

In top-down methods the starting point is with larger entities and during the process their particle size is diminished, for example, by milling or by high-pressure homogenization



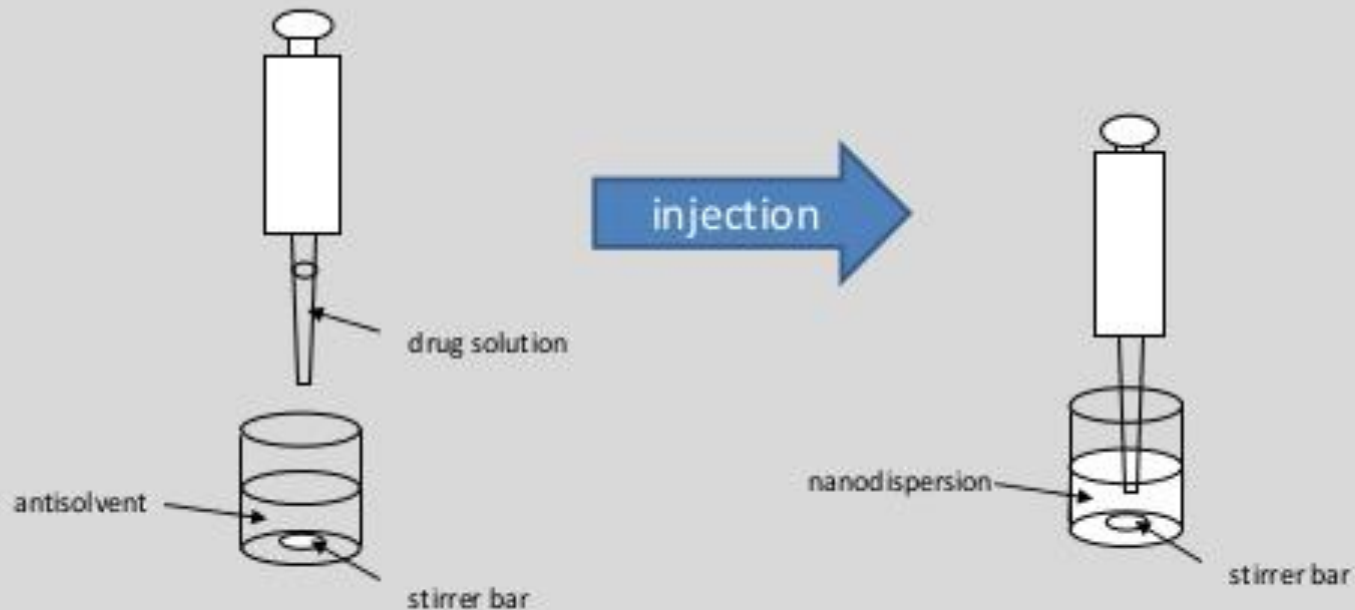
## top-down techniques



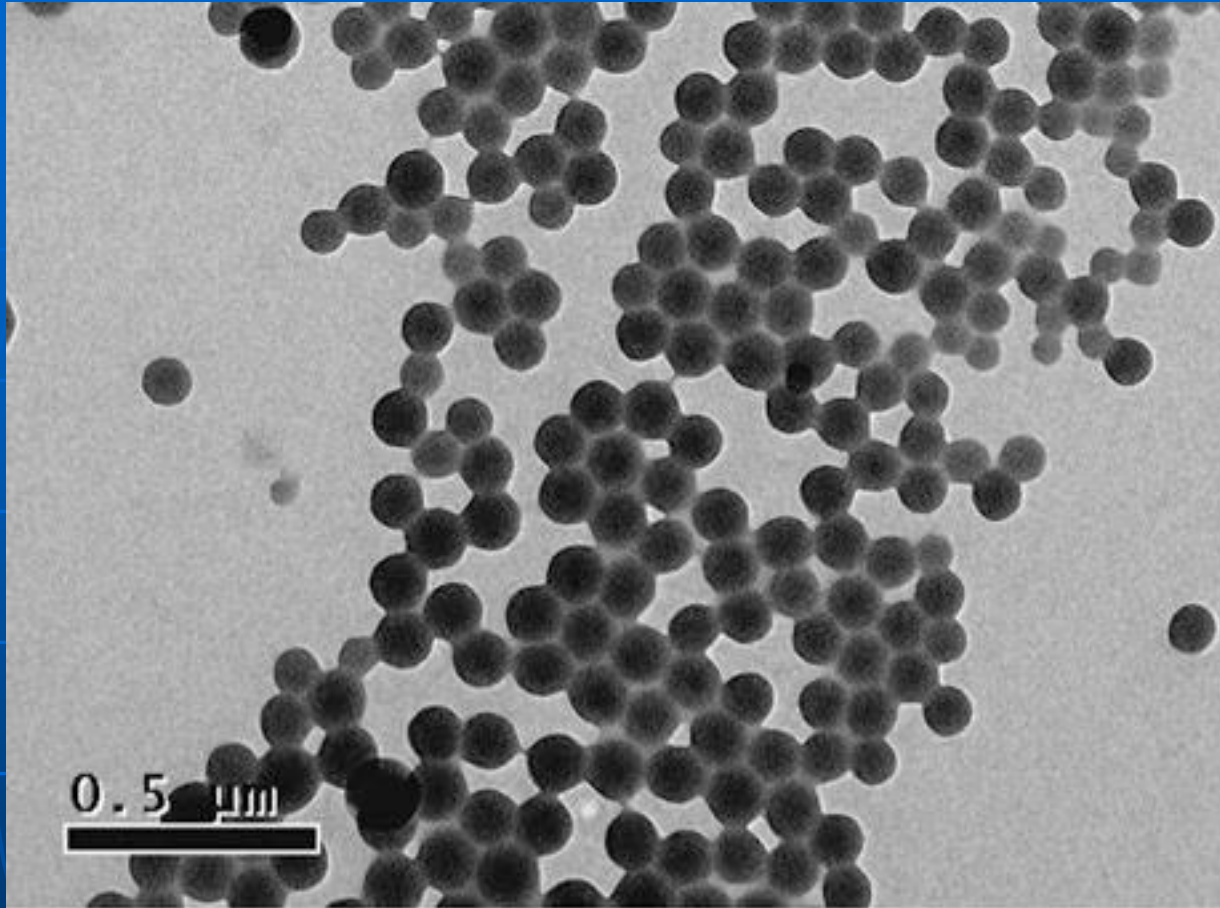
TEM figure of itraconazole nanocrystals prepared by nanomilling. Ethylene oxide/propylene oxide block copolymer (Pluronic F127) was used as a stabilizer and the total milling time was 30 min.

# Antisolvent precipitation method

- The drug solution is mixed with the antisolvent and precipitation occurs immediately
- The solvent (S) is miscible with the antisolvent (AS), but the drug has low solubility in the antisolvent



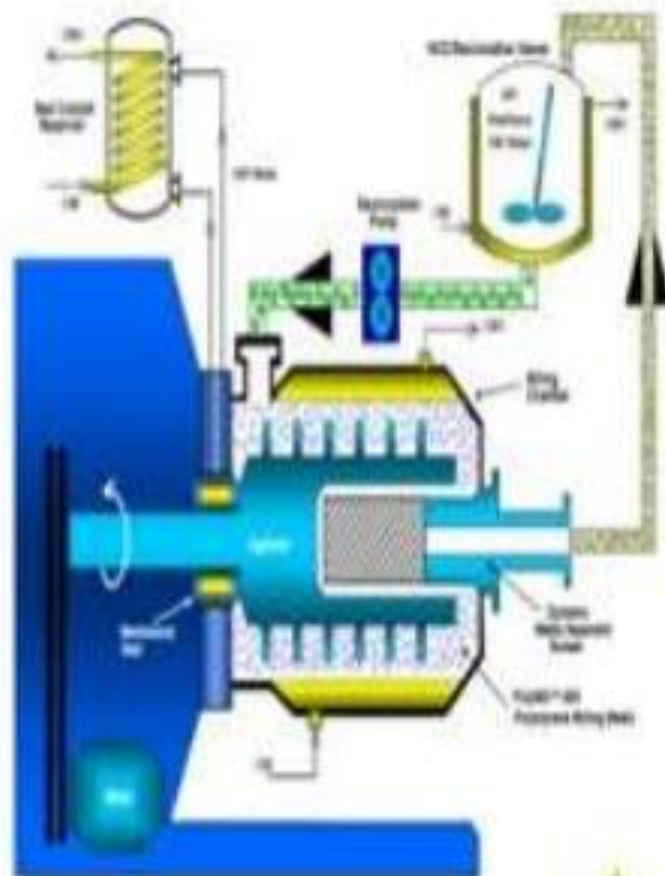
## bottom-up techniques



Transmission electron micrograph (TEM) of itraconazole nanocrystals prepared by antisolvent technology with hydrophobic HFBII as a stabilizer. Particle size is below 100 nm and the size distribution is very narrow, which is typical for bottom-up techniques



## API Processing Elan NanoCrystal® Technology



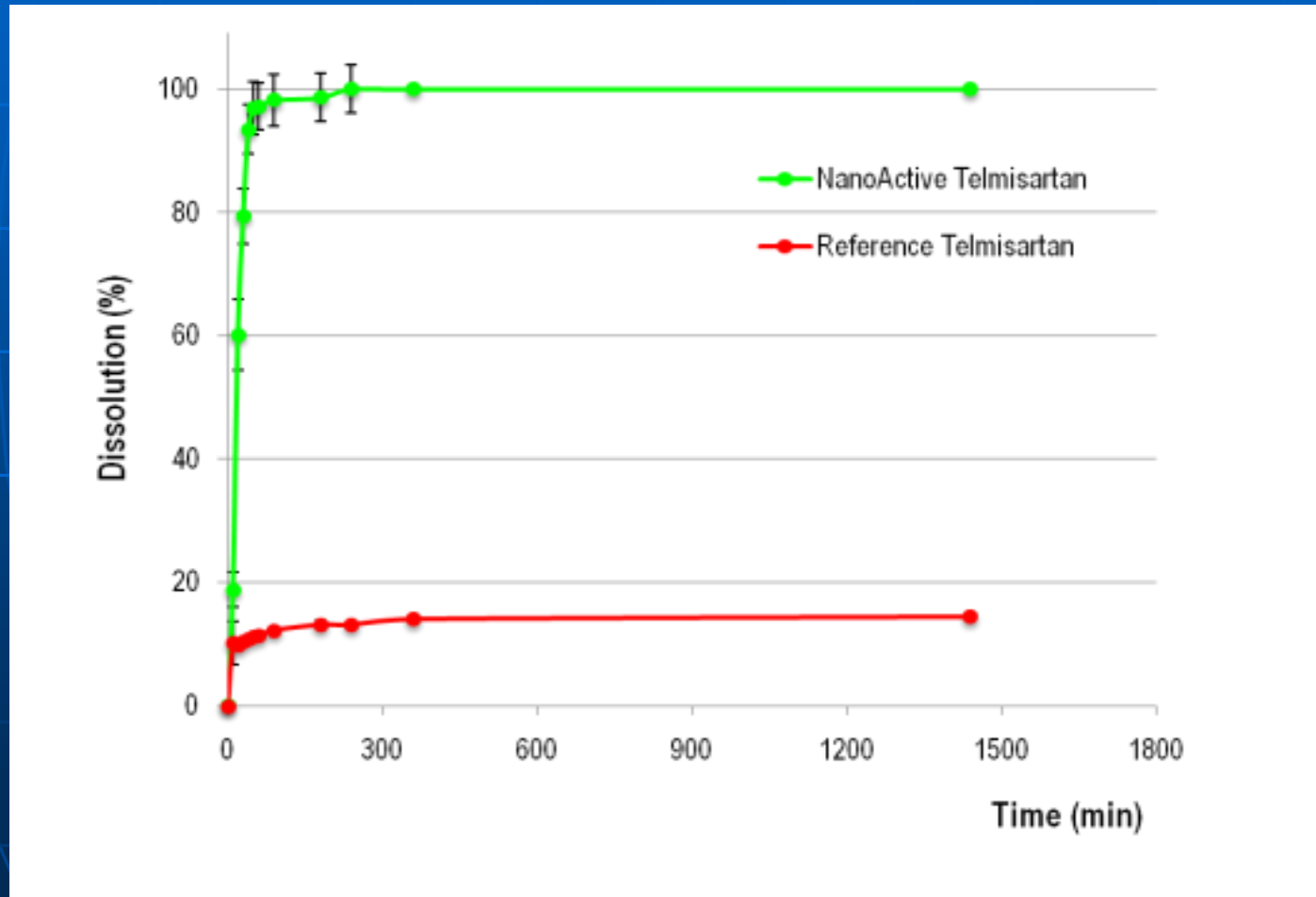
## Combination Technologies

:Nanoedge®  
Technology  
(Microprecipitation™ and High Shear Forces (NANOEDGE™))

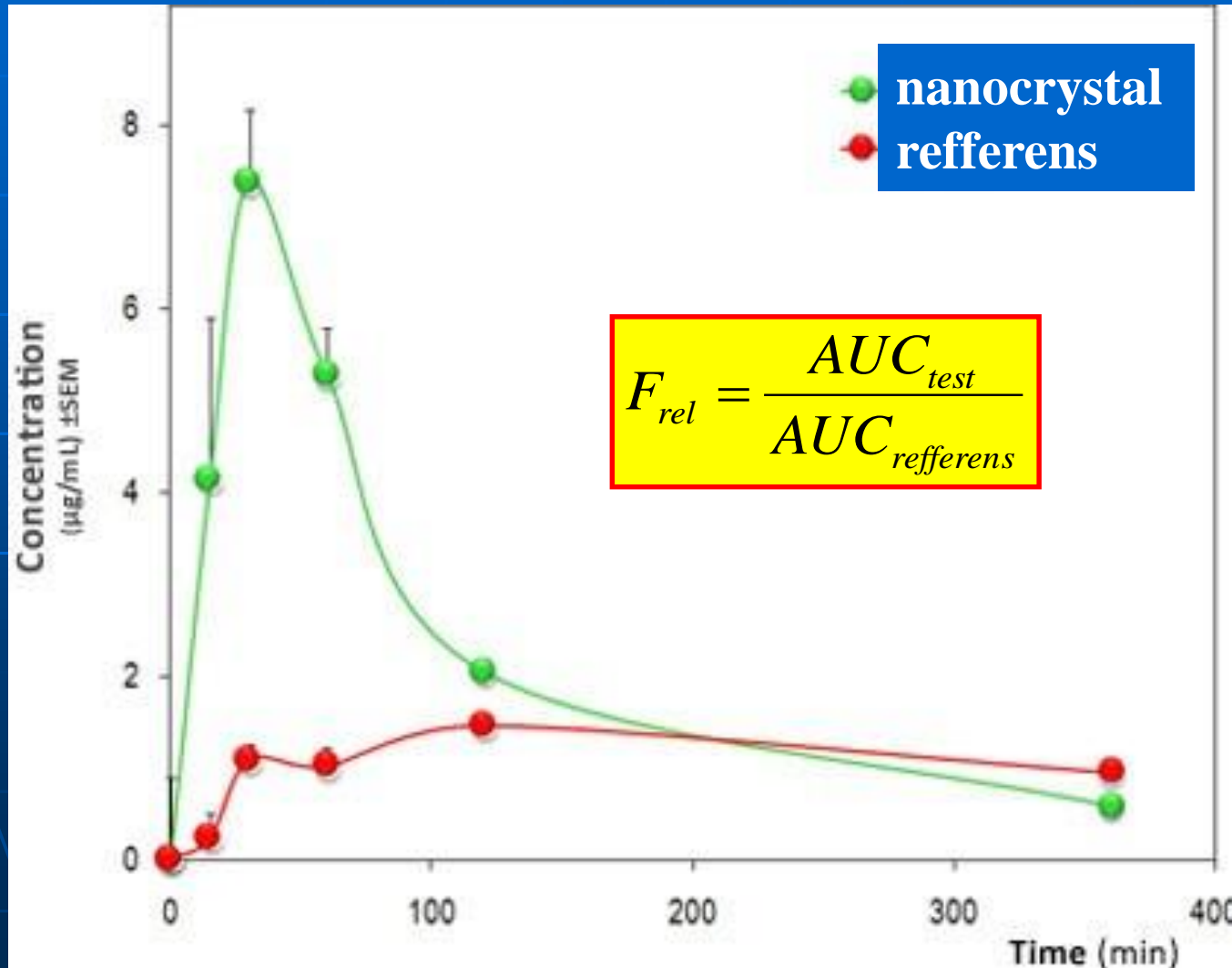
## Nanopure® Technology

# Drug Nanocrystals

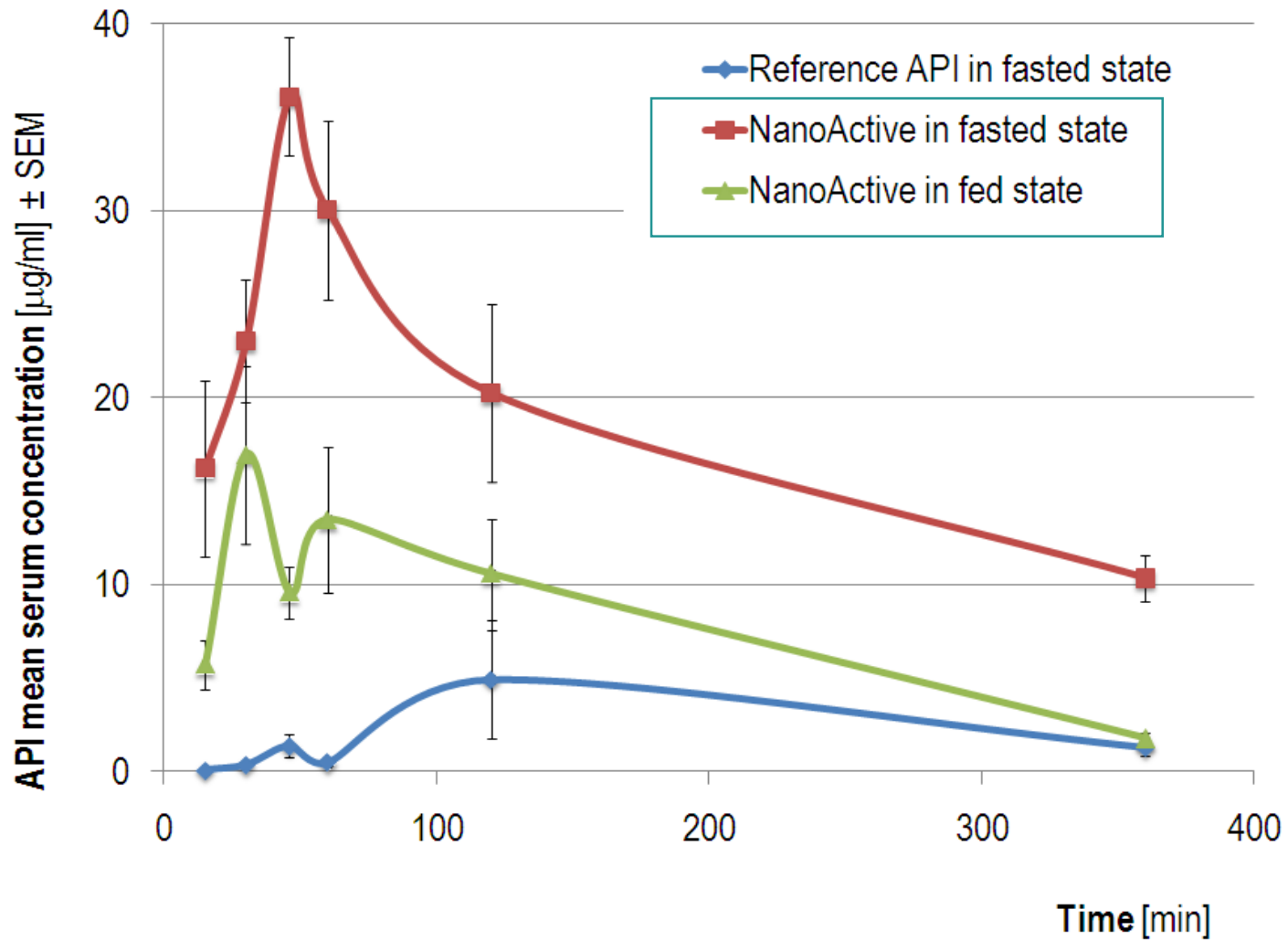
## Benefits of Drug Nanocrystals



# Enhanced bioavailability



# Enhanced bioavailability



## Technologies

Low  
molecular  
weight  
micelles

Liposomes

Niosomes

Solid lipid  
nanospheres

Nanoemulsions

Polymer  
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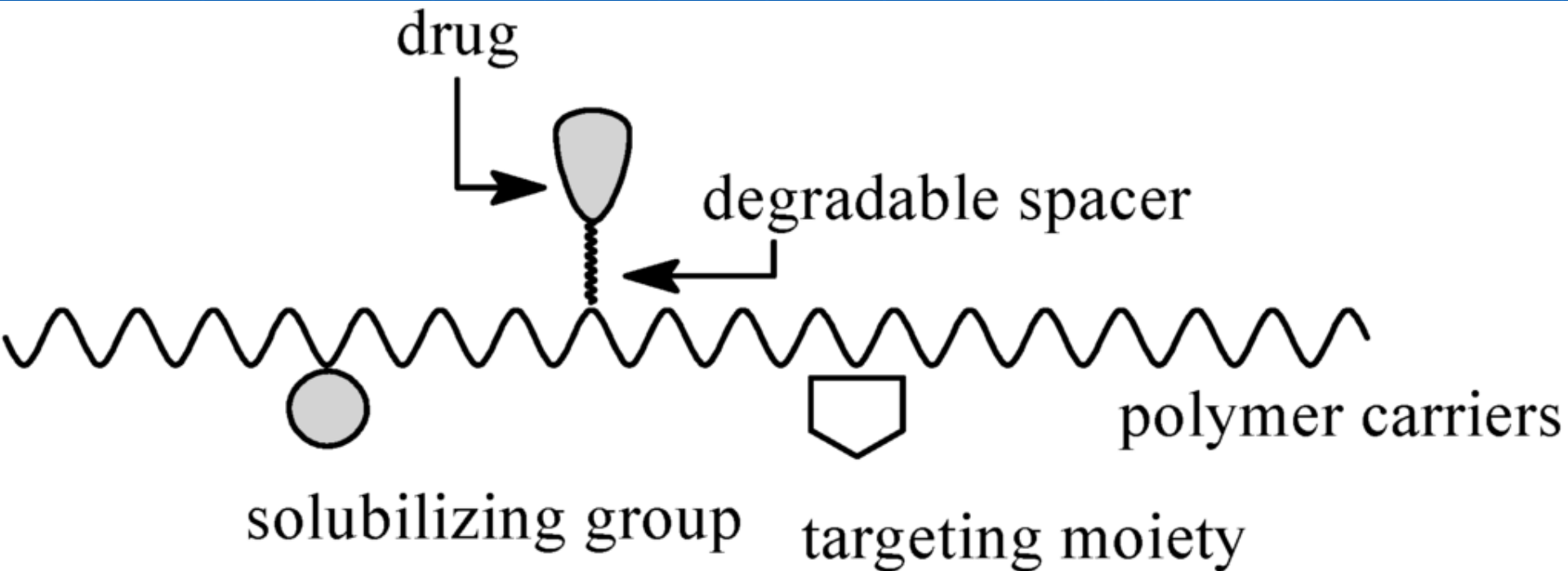
Peptide,  
protein and  
antibody  
drugs

Tissue  
engineering  
scaffolds

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imaging  
agents

# Polymer-Drug Conjugates

Polymer-drug conjugates are nanosized drug delivery systems, which comprise several drug molecules *covalently* attached to the polymer via a biodegradable linker

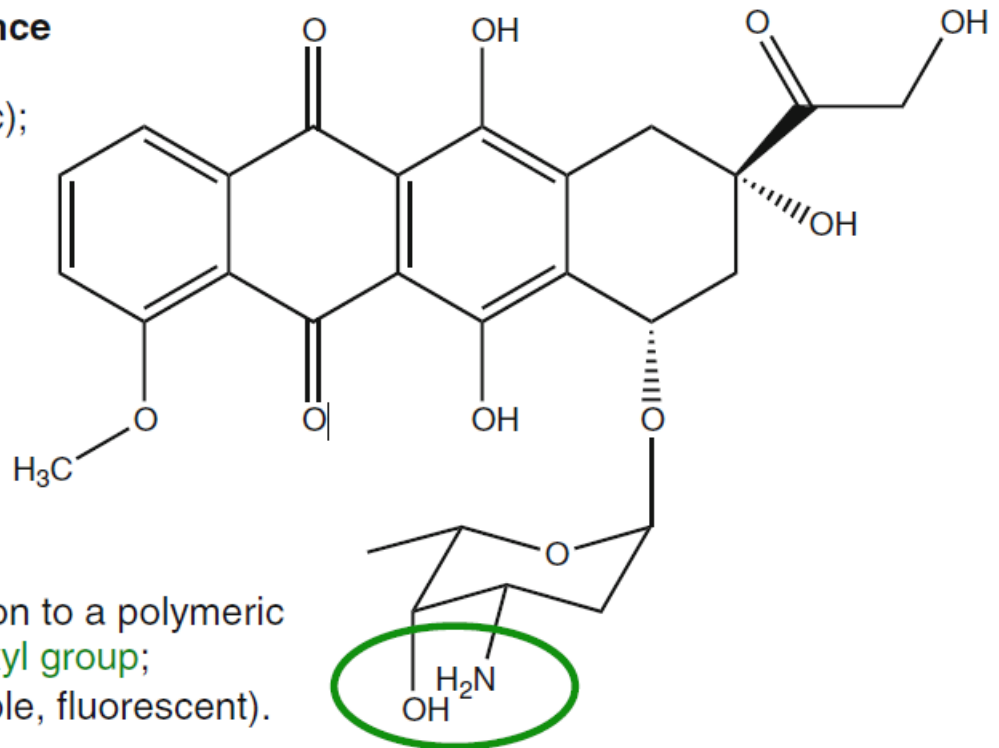


## Benefits of Polymer-drug conjugates :

- *Prolonged circulation time of the drug.*
- *Restricted body distribution .*
- *Selective drug release.*

### Therapeutic applications and performance

- Used in cancer treatment;
- Non-selective (doxorubicin is cardiotoxic);
- Potent.



### Chemical features

- Functional group(s) that allow conjugation to a polymeric carrier: **primary amino group and hydroxyl group**;
- Detectable for characterization (UV visible, fluorescent).

## polyglutamic acid (PGA)

### Physico-chemical characteristics

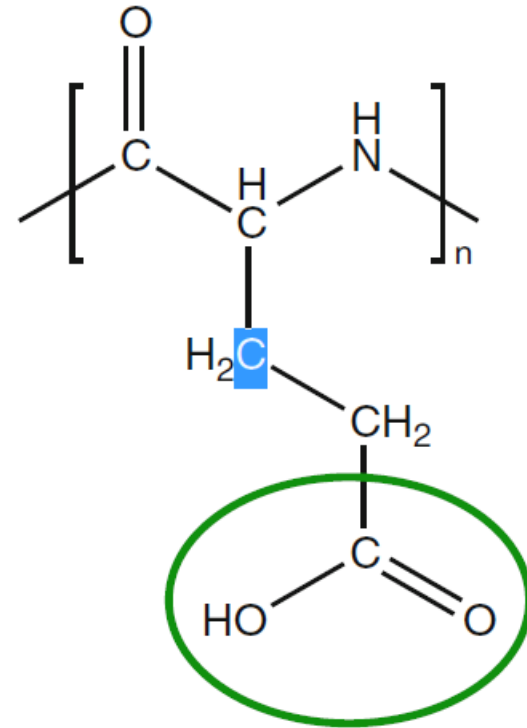
- Solubility in water;
- High molecular weight;

### Biological behaviour

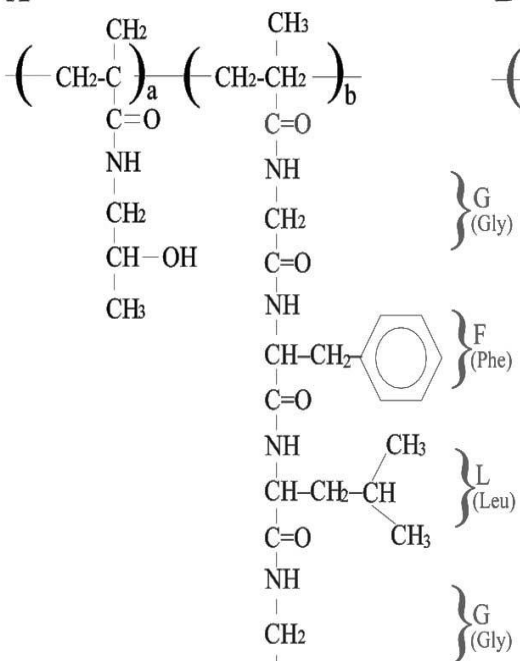
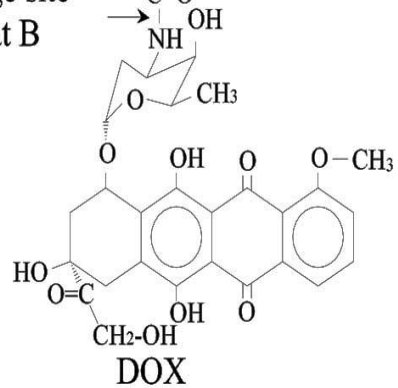
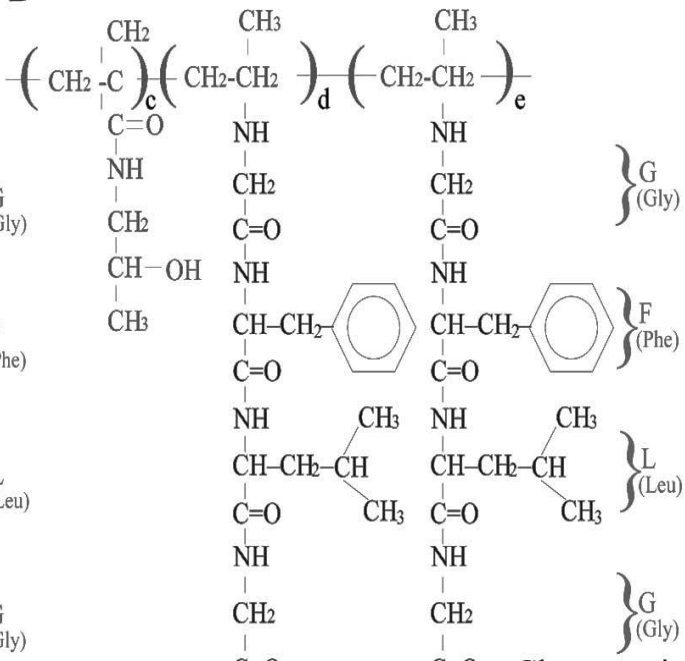
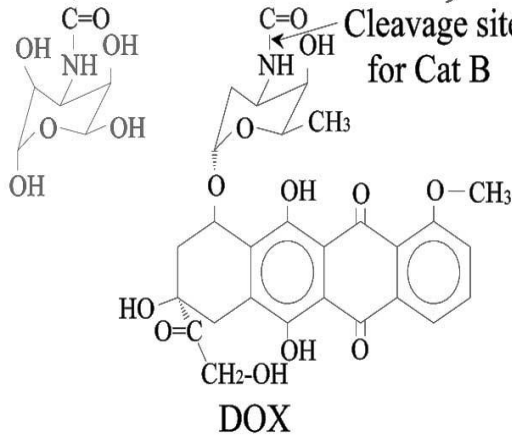
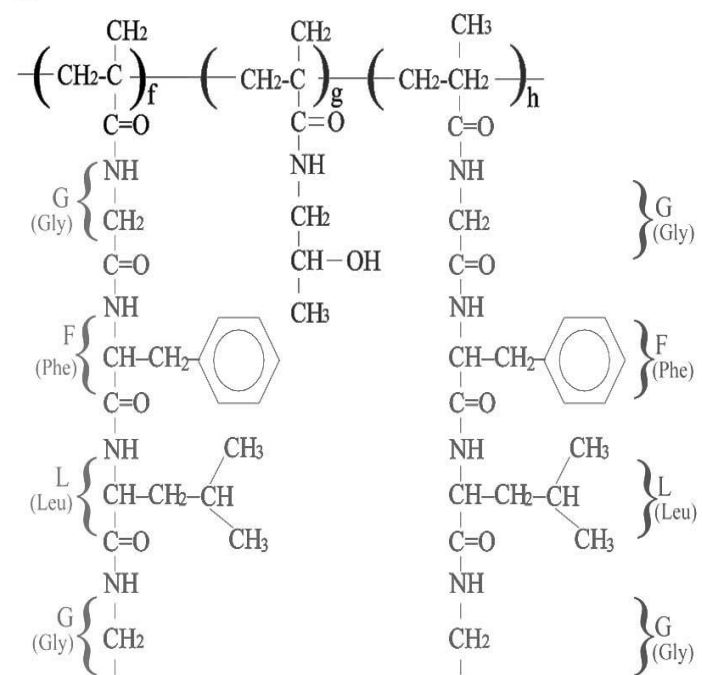
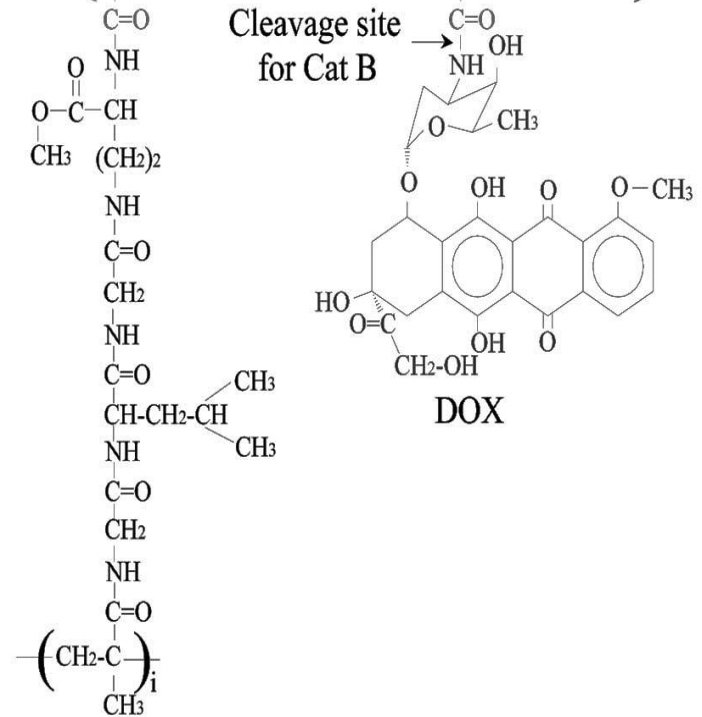
- Biodegradability: breaks down into smaller fragments in the body;
- Non toxic;
- Non immunogenic.

### Chemical structure

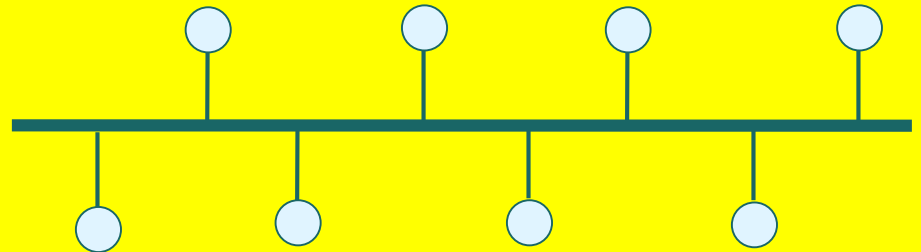
Conjugation sites: one **carboxyl group** per monomer (high loading capacity).





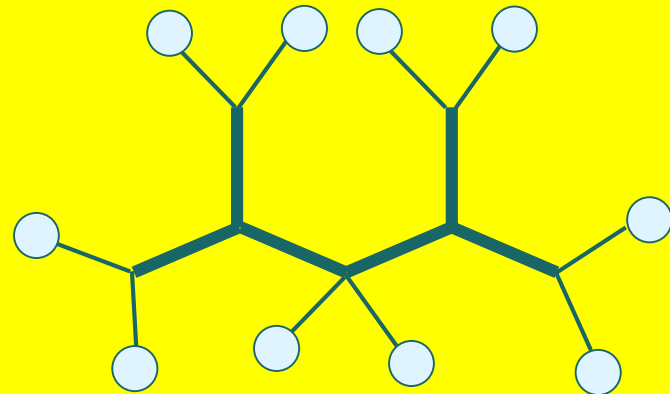
**A**Cleavage site  
for Cat B**B**Cleavage site  
for Cat B**C**Cleavage site  
for Cat B

**a.) Linear**



**a.**

**b.) Branched**

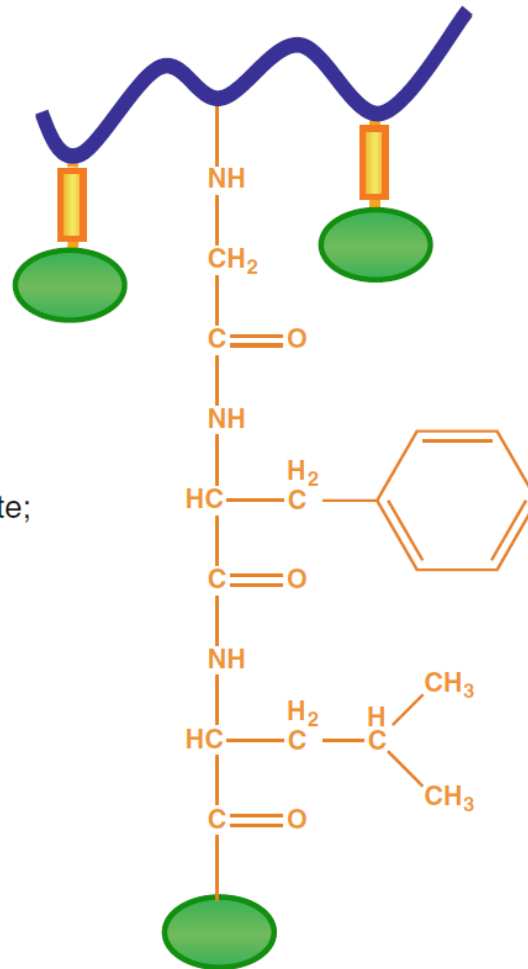


**b.**

Polymer

Linker

Drug

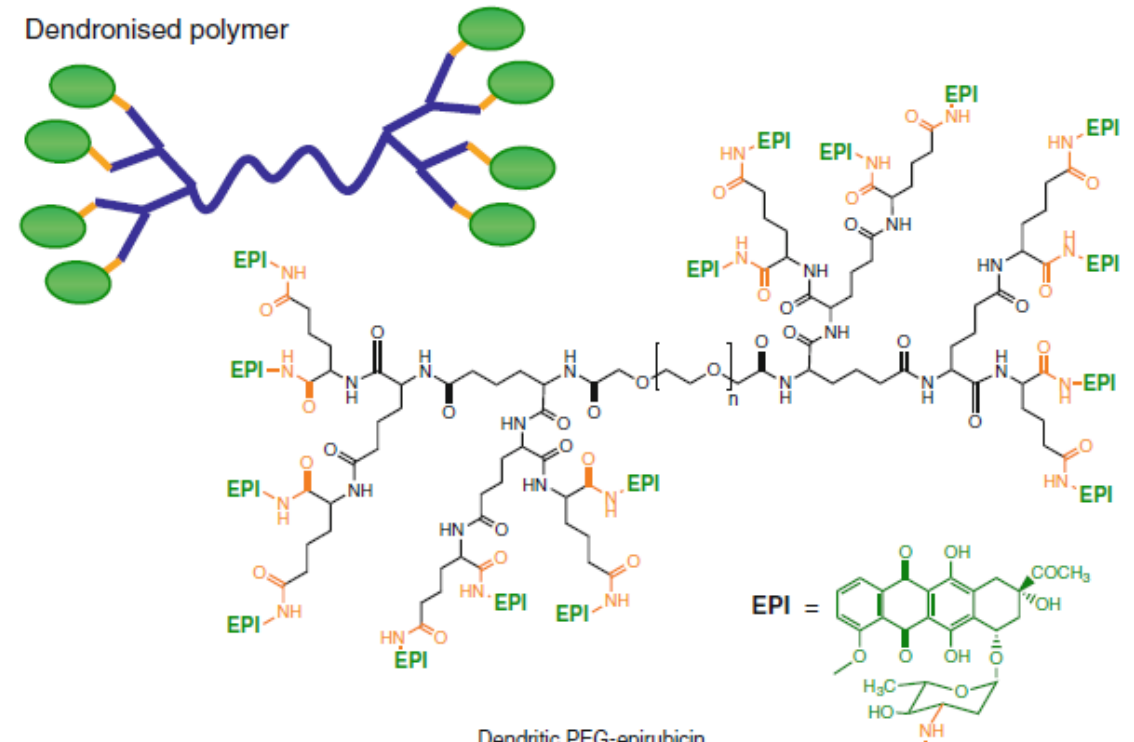
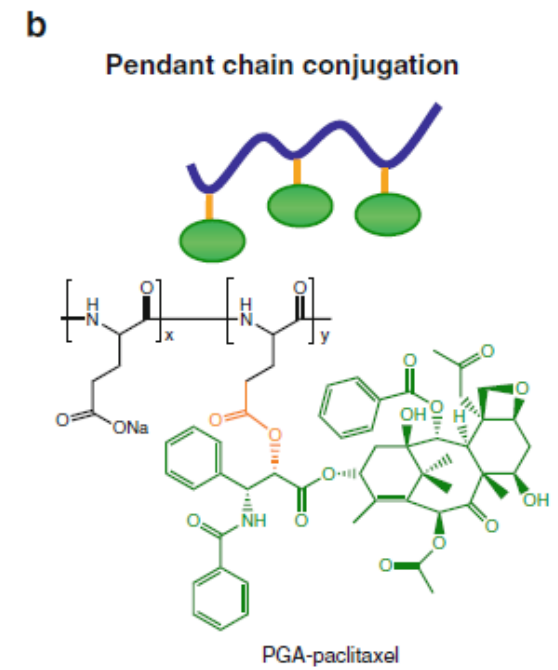
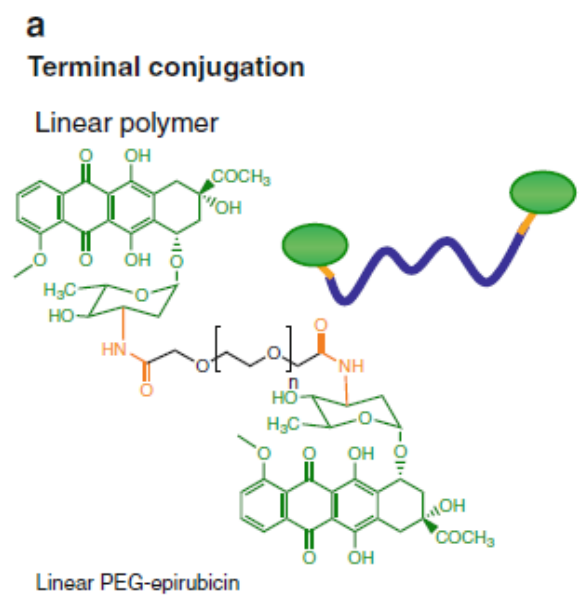


**Biological behaviour:**

- Degradable at the target site;
- Stable in blood.

Types of conjugation according to the position of the conjugation site within the polymer chain. The drug can be attached to the polymer through:

- ( a ) its terminal groups;
- ( b ) its side chains



# Targeting group is an optional component in a polymer-drug conjugate designed

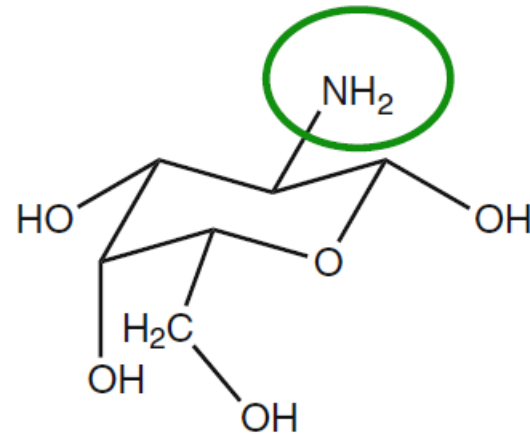
galactosamine

## Biological behaviour:

Tissue-specific (binds selectively to the hepatocyte galactose receptor, liver-specific);

## Chemical features

Functional group that allows conjugation to a polymeric carrier (**primary amino group**).



Galactosamine is an amino sugar able to bind selectively to the hepatocyte galactose receptor, a liver-specific receptor (Ashwell and Harford 1982).

Galactosamine was covalently bound to an HPMA copolymer-doxorubicin conjugate designed for the treatment of liver cancer (Seymour et al. 1991)

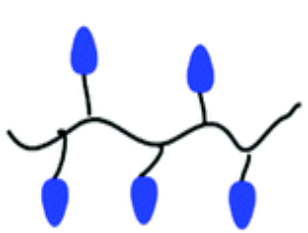
**N-(2-hydroxypropyl)methacrylamide**

# Combination Therapy

Many diseases (e.g. cancer and HIV) are treated with cocktails of drugs rather than with a single therapeutic agent. The overall aim of this type of therapeutic regimen (combination therapy) is to maximise efficacy while decreasing toxicity.

Conjugate	Type of combination	Reference
HPMA copolymer-doxorubicin-aminoglutethimide	Chemotherapy; Endocrine therapy	Vicent et al. (2005), Greco et al. (2007)
PEG-NO-epirubicin	Chemotherapy; cardioprotective agent.	Pasut et al. (2009), Santucci et al. (2006)
HPMA copolymer-TNP470-alendronate	Antiangiogenic agent; bisphosphonate drug.	Segal et al. (2009)
HPMA copolymer-paclitaxel-alendronate	Chemotherapy; biphosphonate drug.	Miller et al. (2011)
HPMA copolymer-doxorubicin-dexamethasone	Chemotherapy; anti-inflammatory and anti-proliferative agent	Kostkova et al. (2011)
PEG-paclitaxel-alendronate	Chemotherapy; biphosphonate drug.	Clementi et al. (2011)

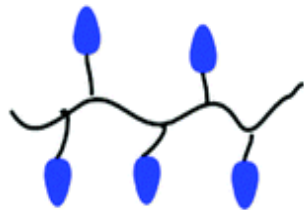
# Combination Therapy



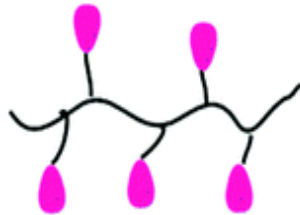
+



Type 1



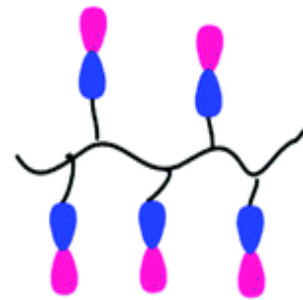
+



Type 2



Type 3




Type 4

 Polymer

 Drug A

 Drug B

 Tandem drug of A and B

## Technologies

Low  
molecular  
weight  
micelles

Liposomes

Niosomes

Solid lipid  
nanospheres

Nanoemulsions

Polymer  
Drug  
Conjugates

Polymersomes

Polymeric  
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Carbon  
nanotubes

Porous silicon  
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Drug  
nanocrystals

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Biological  
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## Nanomedicines

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Peptide,  
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agents



# Nanoemulsions

Nanoemulsions are nano-sized oil-in-water or water-in-oil emulsions with a number of applications in biomedicine. Nanoemulsions are highly versatile systems, in terms of composition and physicochemical properties, which can be tailor-made using simple and mild technologies to associate a great variety of drugs and fulfil the requirements for a wide range of pharmaceutical applications.

Emulsions are mixtures of two immiscible phases, wherein an emulsifier (surfactant) is added in the continuous or external phase to stabilise the dispersed droplets (internal phase).

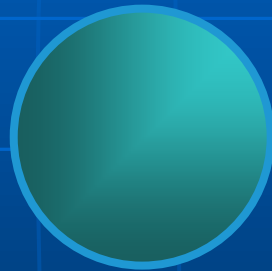
Emulsions are classified as:

- oil-in-water (O/W),
- water-in-oil (W/O),

Emulsions can be further classified depending on droplet size into:

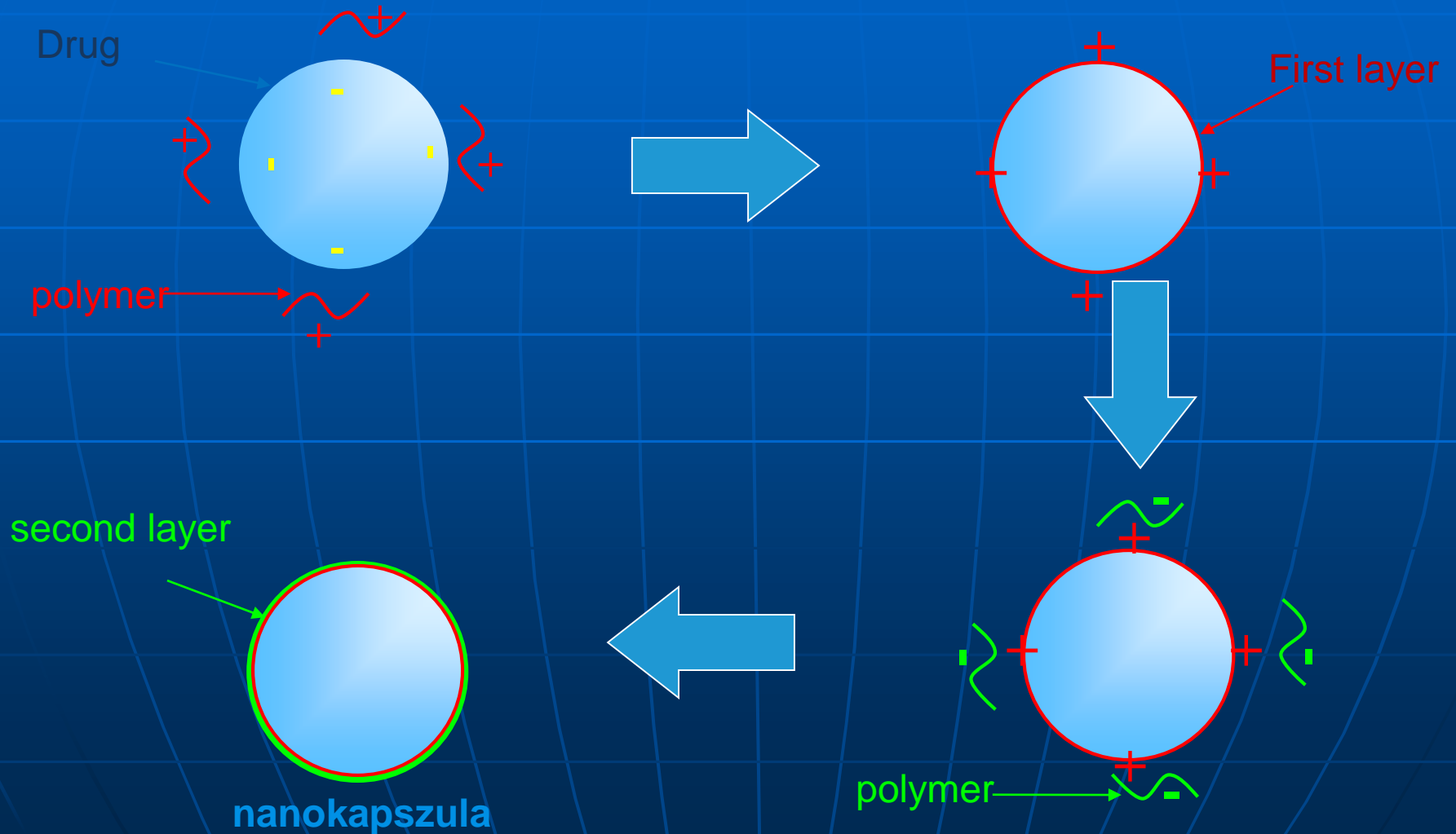
- coarse emulsions
- microemulsions (thermodynamically stable emulsions)
- nanoemulsions. (10–300 nm) (thermodynamically unstable emulsions)

Polymer-coated nanoemulsions,  
otherwise known as nanocapsules

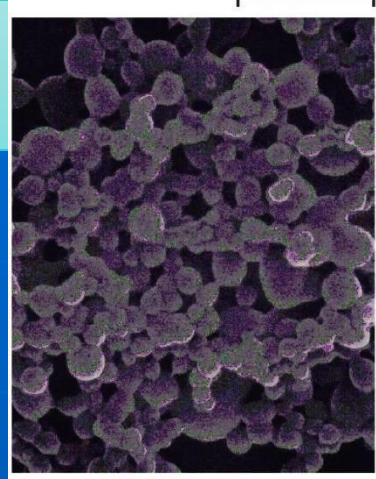


# Nanocapsules

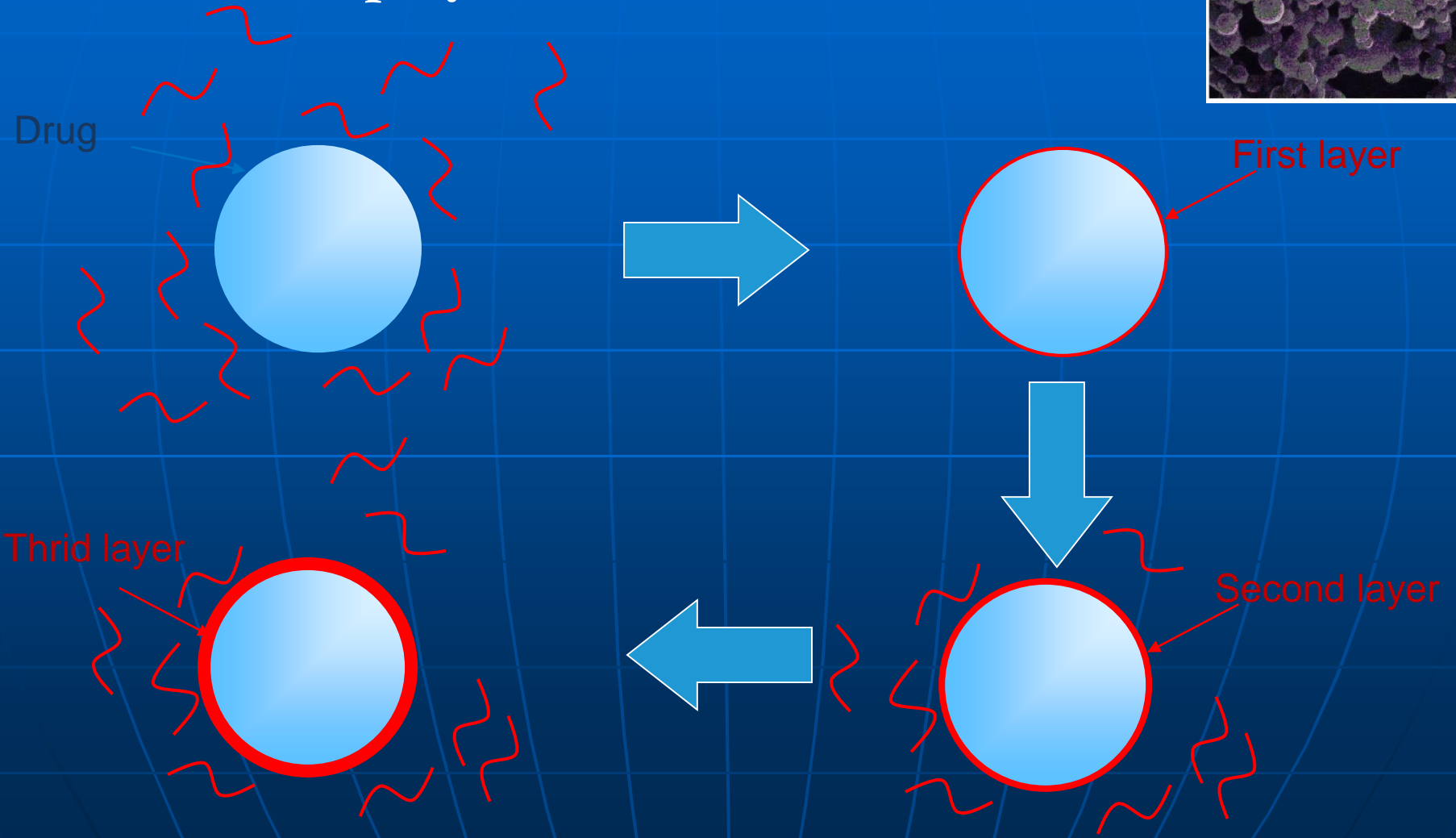
## ● Electrostatic interactions



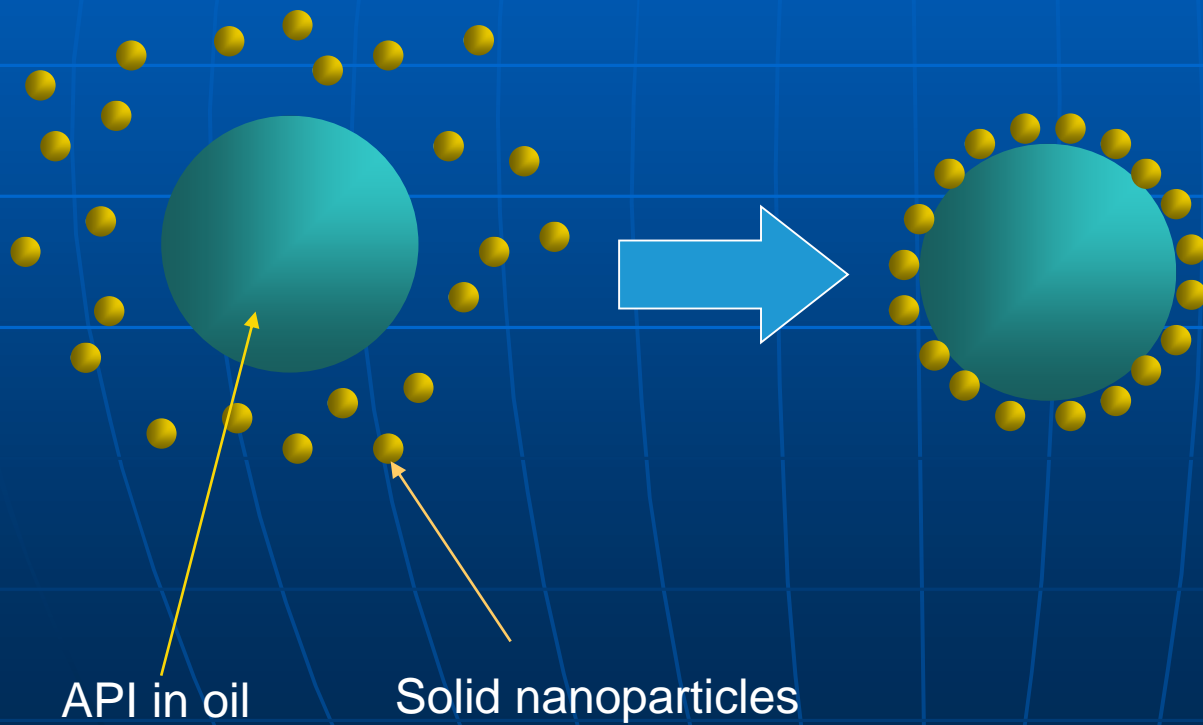
# Nanocapsules



## ● Surface polymerization



# Pickering emulsions



# Pickering emulsions

