

Heyrovský-Ikovič-Nernst Lecture 2022  
Přírodovědecká fakulta Univerzity Karlovy  
Katedra analytické chemie  
6.12.2022



ulm university universität  
**uulm**

# Unraveling interfacial processes by scanning (electrochemical) probe microscopy

**Christine Kranz**

**Institute of Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry, Ulm University, Germany**

# Facts about Ulm (University)



>10,200 students +++ (T.H.E.) globally among the best 10% of universities (2022)



- Natural Sciences
- Mathematics & Economics
- Engineering, Computer Science and Psychology
- Medicine

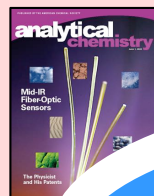
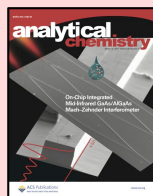






## Spectroscopy

- Thin-film waveguides
- Hollow waveguides
- Integrated photonics
- IR-lab-on-chip
- AFS, AAS, TXRF, ICP-OES

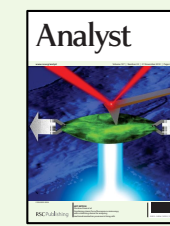
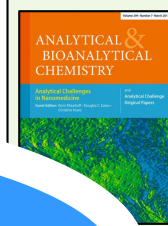


## COMBINING TECHNIQUES

- AFM
- AFM/FM
- SECM/FM
- AFM-SECM
- AFM-IR-ATR
- AFM-EC-IR-ATR

## Electrochemistry

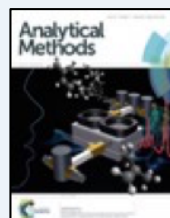
- SECM
- Electrochemical sensors
- Spectroelectrochemistry
- Boron-doped diamond



**Institute of Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry**

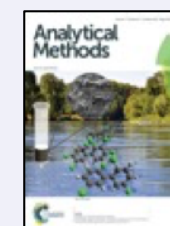
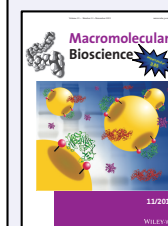
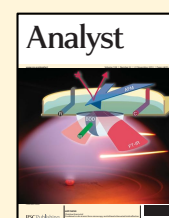
## ANALYZERS

- Mycotoxin analyzer
- Dissolved CO<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub>
- Breath analyzer
- Deep sea spectrometers



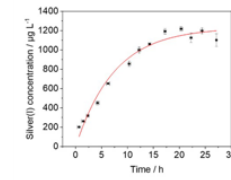
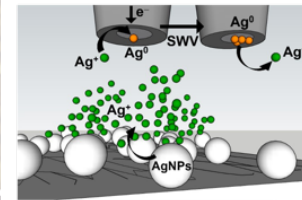
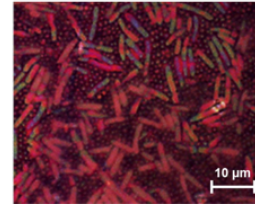
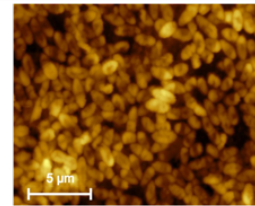
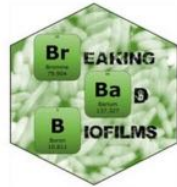
## MATERIALS

- Biomimetic recognition
- Molecular imprints
- Nanoparticles & nanostars
- SPE & enrichment

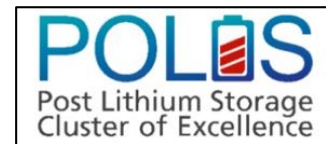
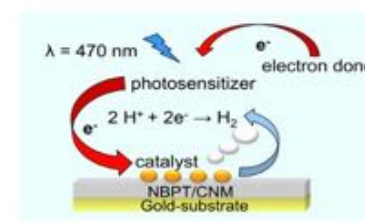
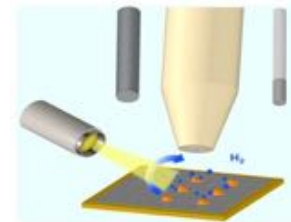




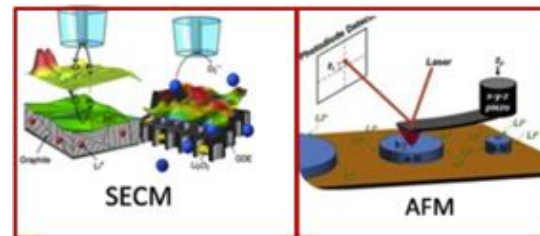
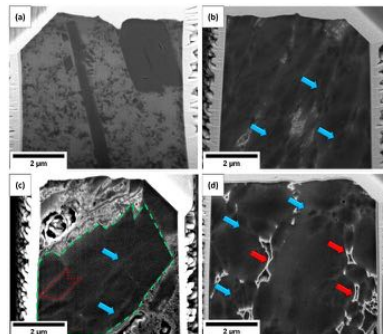
## Break Biofilms



## CataLight SFB/Transregio



Degradation studies  
of polymeric electrode  
materials  
FIB/SEM tomography



Solid/electrolyte interphase (SEI) formation

Electroanalytical techniques always played and play a significant role in Analytical Chemistry



1959: Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to J. Heyrovsky for "his discovery and development of the polarographic methods of analysis".

Heyrovsky published his first results in the journal *Chemické Listy* (Heyrovský, *J. Chem. Listy* 16, 256, **1922**)

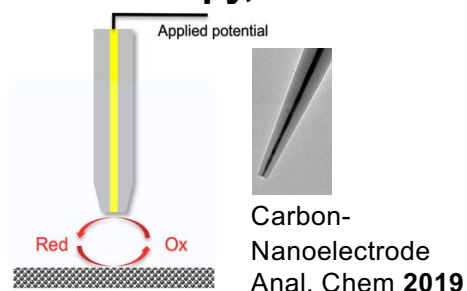
high selectivity

high sensitivity

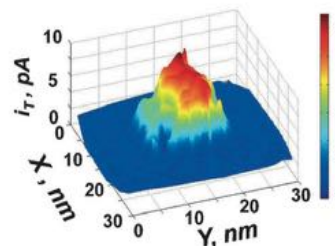
spatial resolution

temporal resolution

Scanning electrochemical Microscopy, SECM

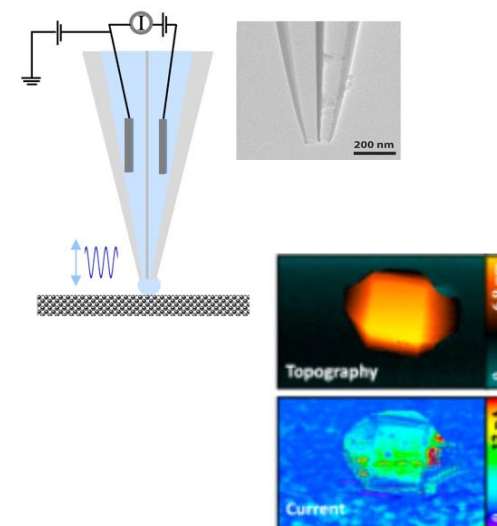


A.J. Bard et al., *Science* **1991**



T. Sun et al., *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**

Scanning electrochemical cell microscopy, SECCM

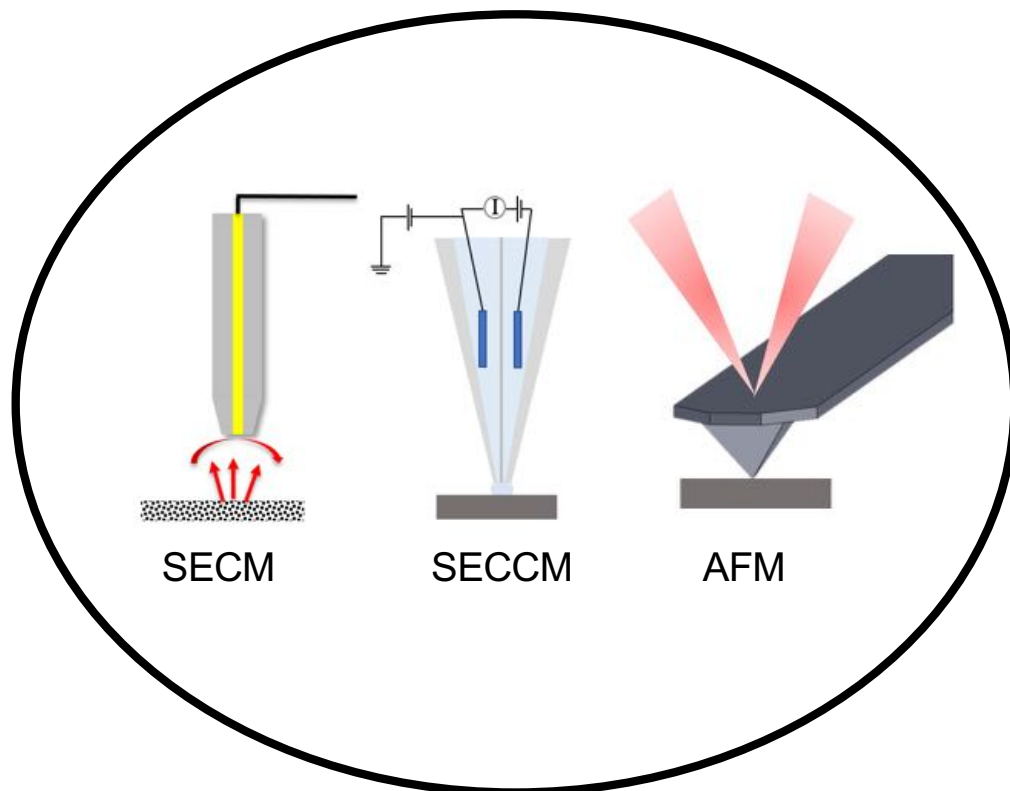


Single-Crystal Boron-Doped Diamond Particle

T. Ando et al., *Anal. Chem.* **2021**



## Miniaturized electrodes



- Enhanced mass transfer
- Reduced ohmic (IR)-drop and reduced capacitive current
- Spatially resolved detection of electroactive molecules
- Measurements in small volumes

Bard, *Anal. Chem.* **1962**

Wightman, *Anal. Chem.* **1980**

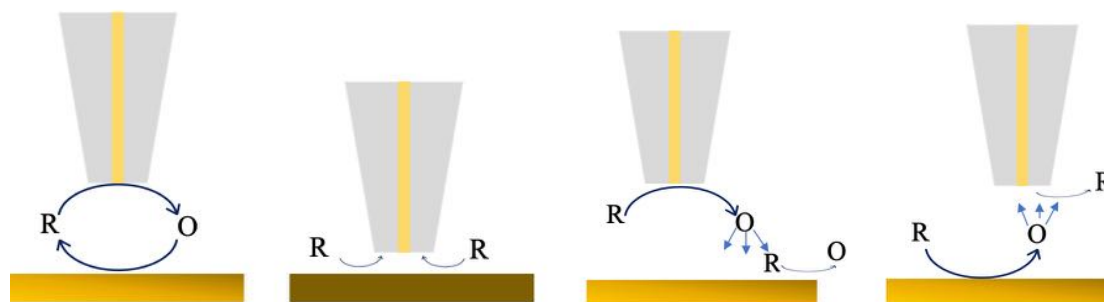
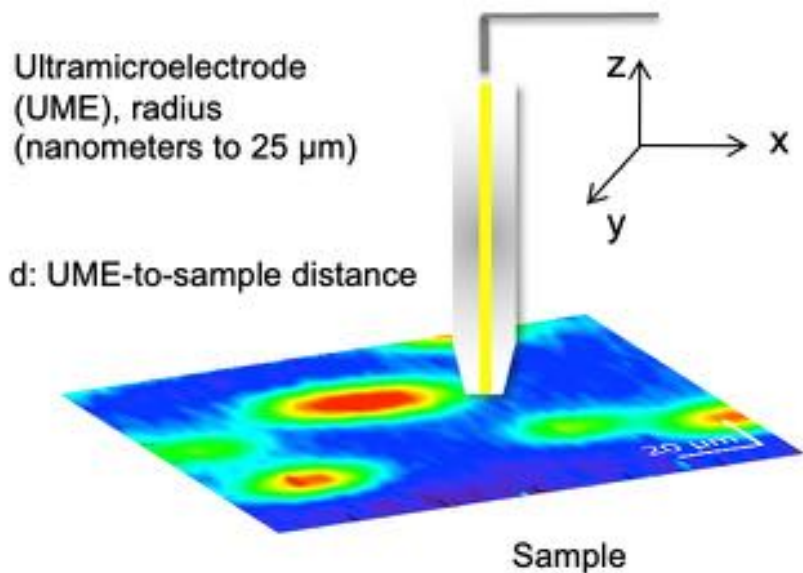
Bond et al., *J. Electroanal. Chem.* **1984**

Amatore, Fosset, *Anal. Chem.* **1996**

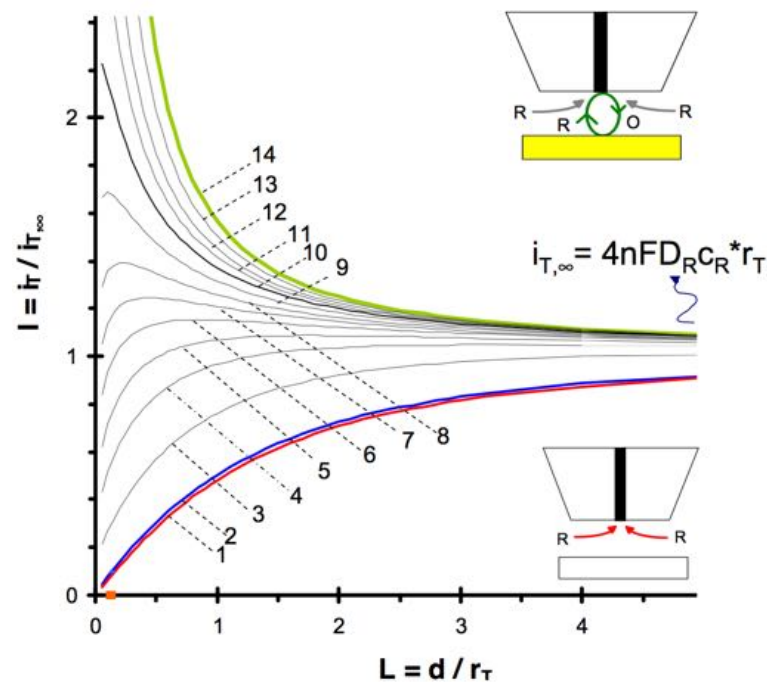
Microelectrodes for measuring local  
oxygen tension  
in animal tissue

Davies et al., *Rev. Sci. Instrum.*, **1942**

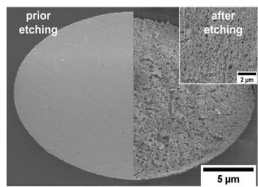
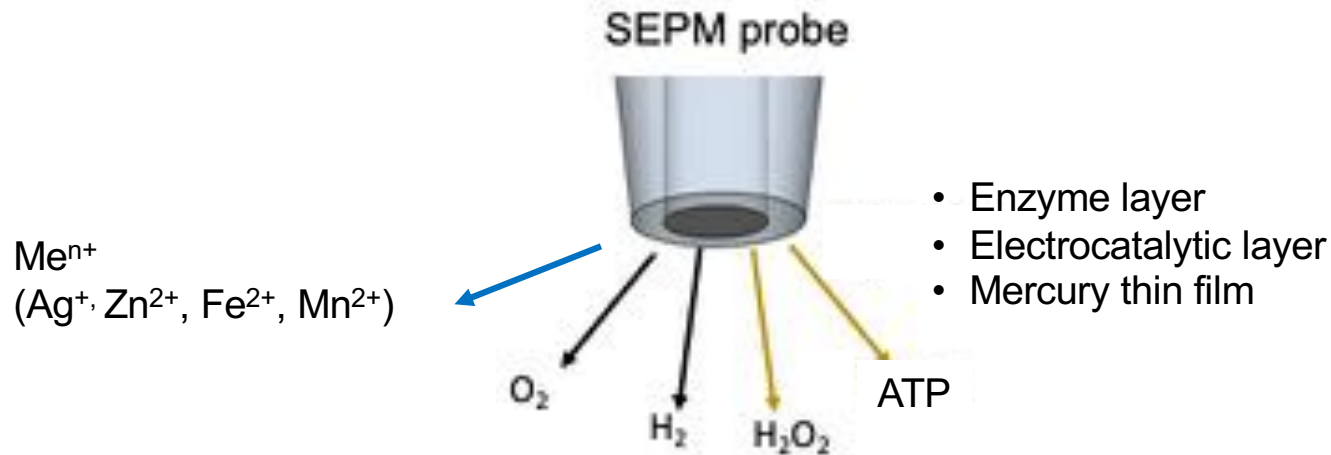




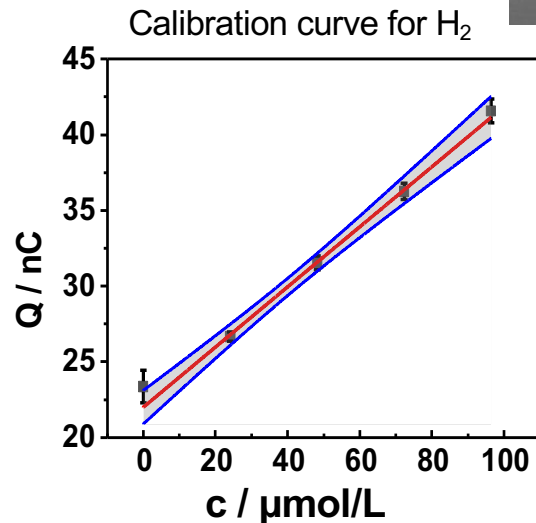
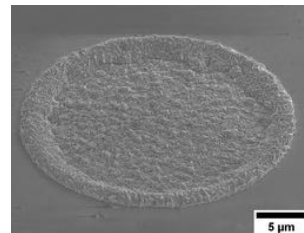
- Voltammetry
- Potentiometry
- Surface modification
- Screening experiments



Curves for different  $\kappa$  values: (1): hindered diffusion; (2): Cornut fit; (3): 0.1; (4): 0.2.....(13): 10; (14): diff. controlled positive feedback (G. Wittstock Summer School on SECM (EPFL 2011)).



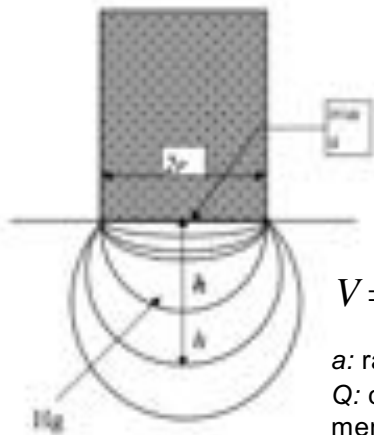
Deposition of Pd-film  
from  $K_2PdCl_4$  solution



- Antimicrobial coatings: silver(i) ion release
- Photocatalysis: *in situ* measurements of water splitting ( $H_2$ ;  $O_2$ )
- *In situ* measurements of signaling molecules (cell measurements)
- Read out for gel electrophoresis



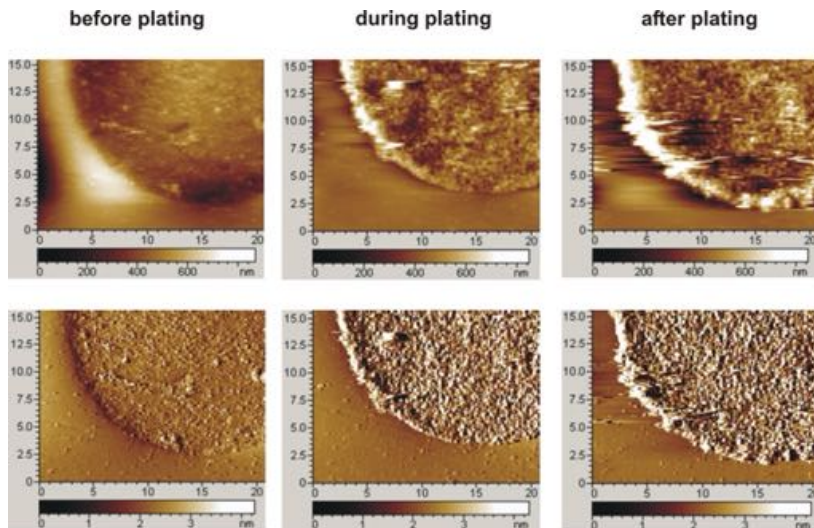
Potentiostatic deposition at -0.1 V vs. SCE from 0.01M  $\text{Hg}_2(\text{NO}_3)_2$  solution (pH 1).



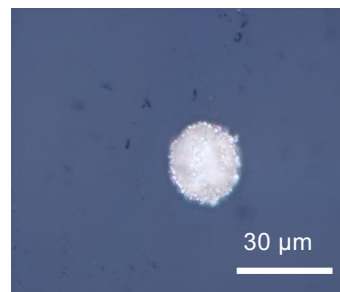
$$V = QM/F\rho_0 = \pi h(3a^2 + h^2)/6$$

$a$ : radius of UME,  $h$ : height of the Hg deposit,  
 $Q$ : charge,  $M$  and  $\rho$ : atomic mass and density of mercury ;  $F$ : Faraday constant

*In situ* AFM imaging



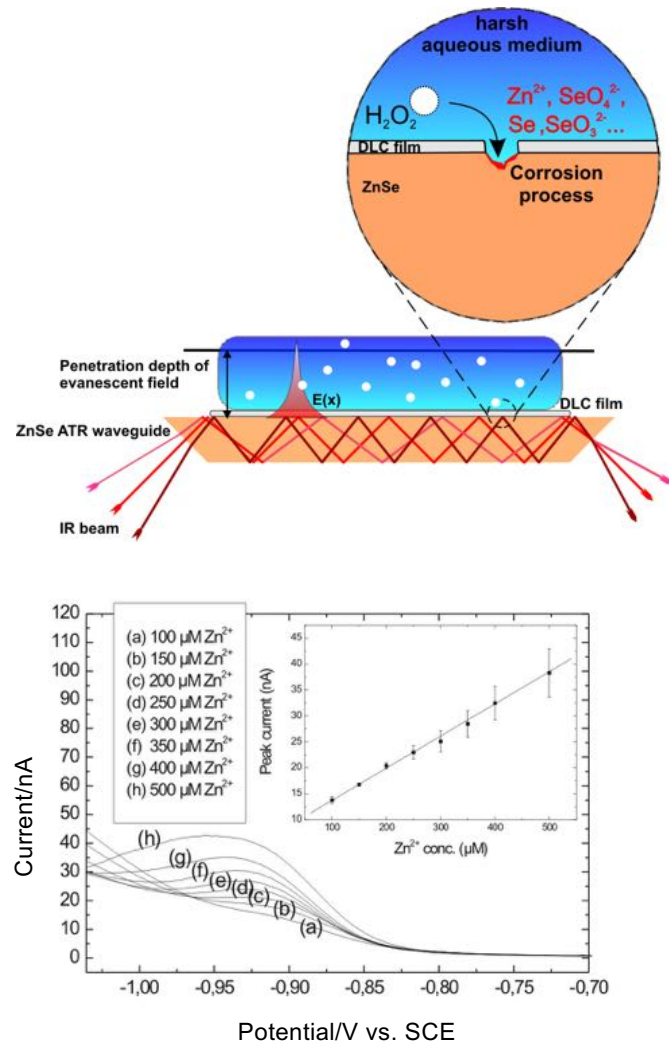
Optical image



- Large cathodic potential window
- Stripping voltammetry for sensitive metal ion detection
- SECM probe for imaging metal dissolution

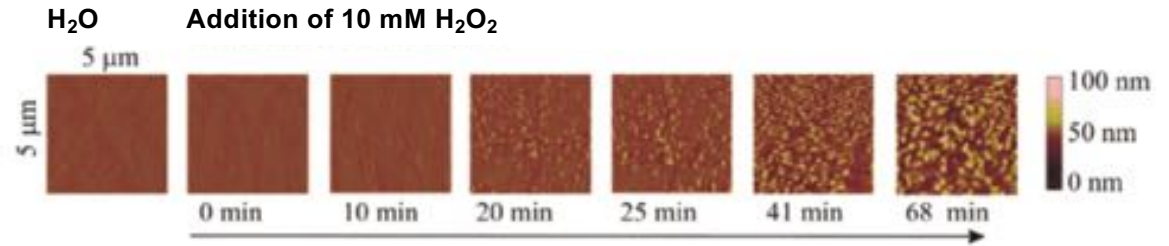
P. J. Brendel, Luther, G. W., III. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **1995**  
 S. Daniele et al., *Electroanalysis* **2003**  
 I. Ciani et al., *Electrochem. Commun.* **2003**  
 M.A. Apuche-Avilis et al., *Anal. Chem.* **2008**  
 J. Mauzeroll et al., *Anal. Chem.* **2003**

## DLC films as corrosion protection for MIR

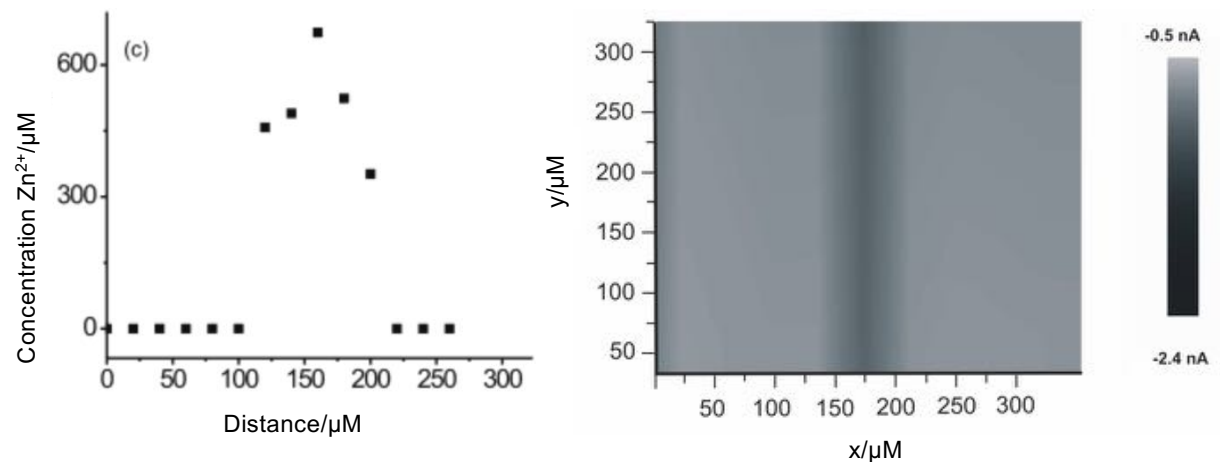
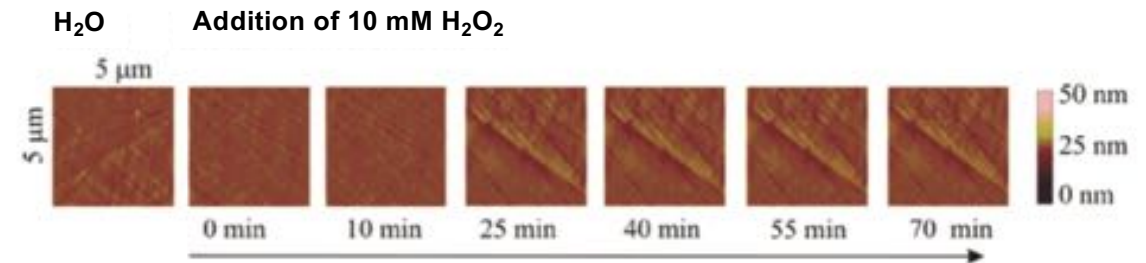


SWV (-1.6 V to -0.2 V; scan rate: 5 mV/s; frequency: 40 Hz; amplitude 25 mV) in acetate buffered solution (pH =3); calibration graph (error bars reflect 3 repetitive measurements)

### Bare ZnSe crystal



### DLC-coated ZnSe crystal

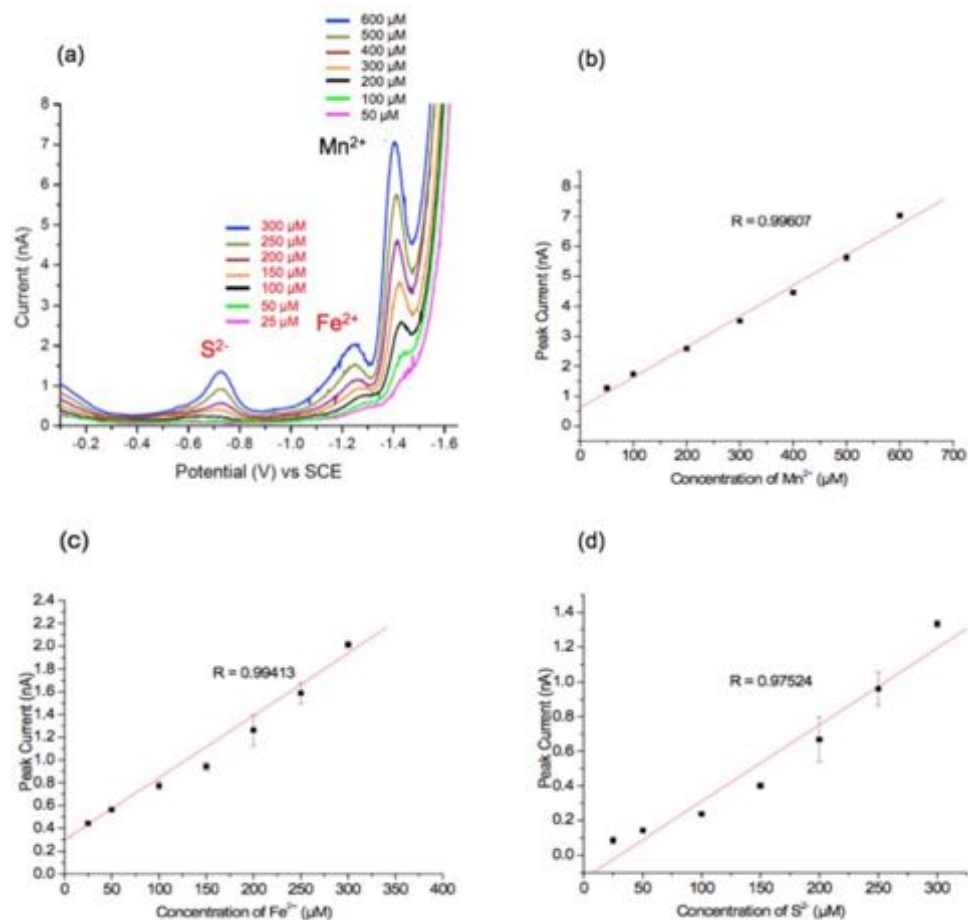


## Microbial metal respiration

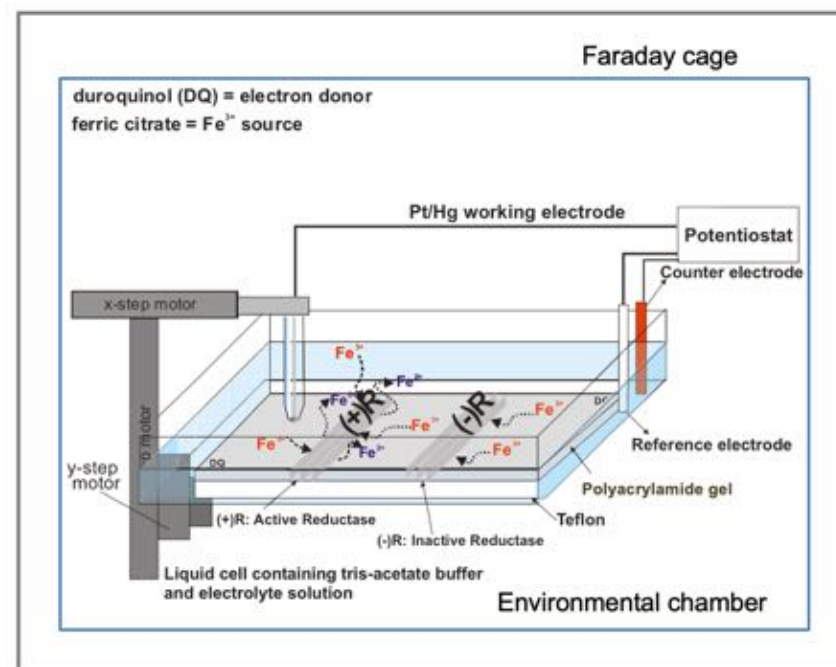
Anaerobic bacteria: *Shewanella oneidensis*

Fe(III) and Mn(IV)-reducing proteins isolated from the outer membrane

Square-wave anodic stripping voltammetry (SWASV)



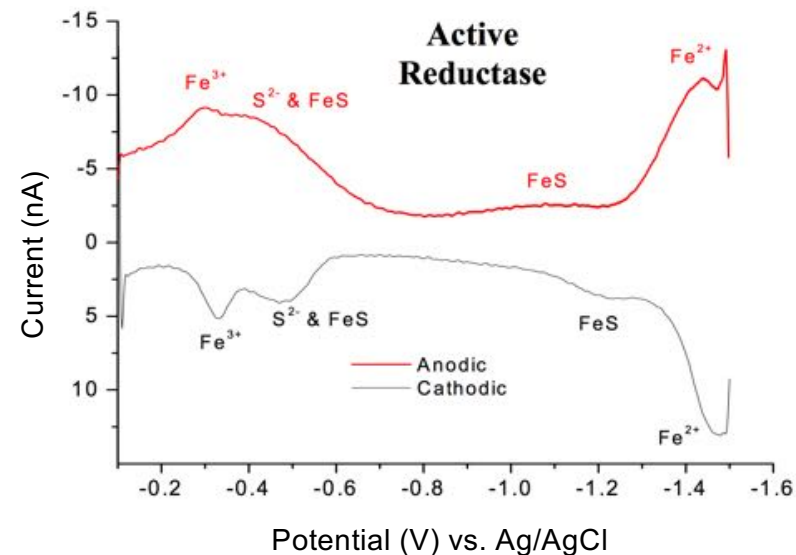
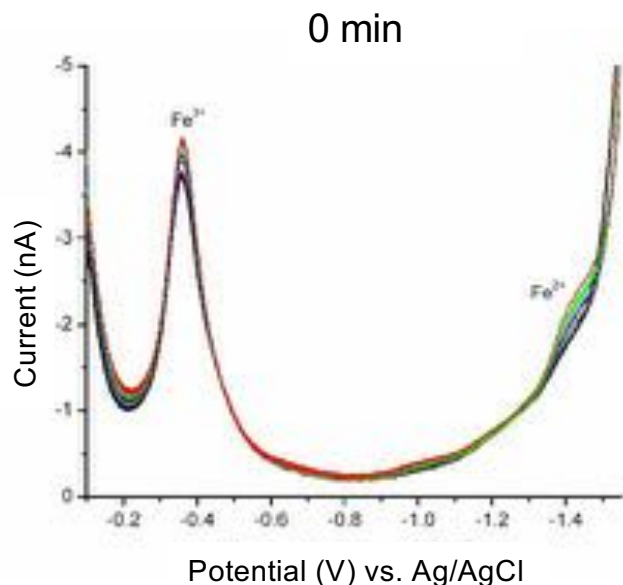
## Set-up



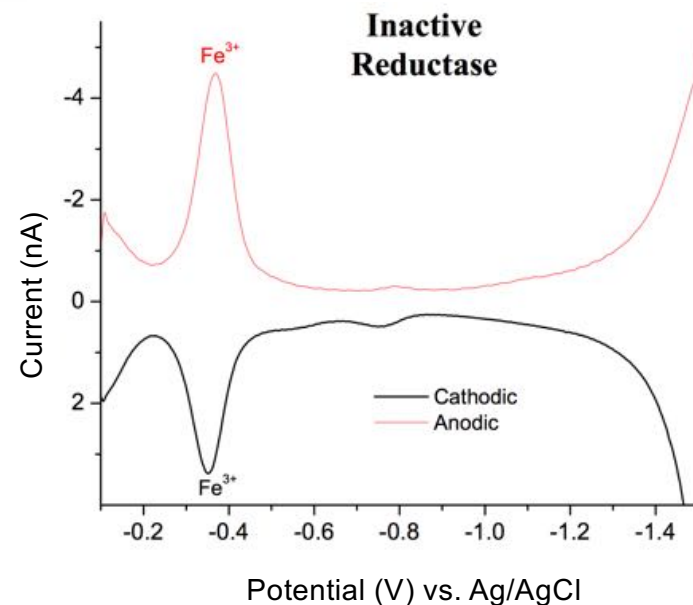
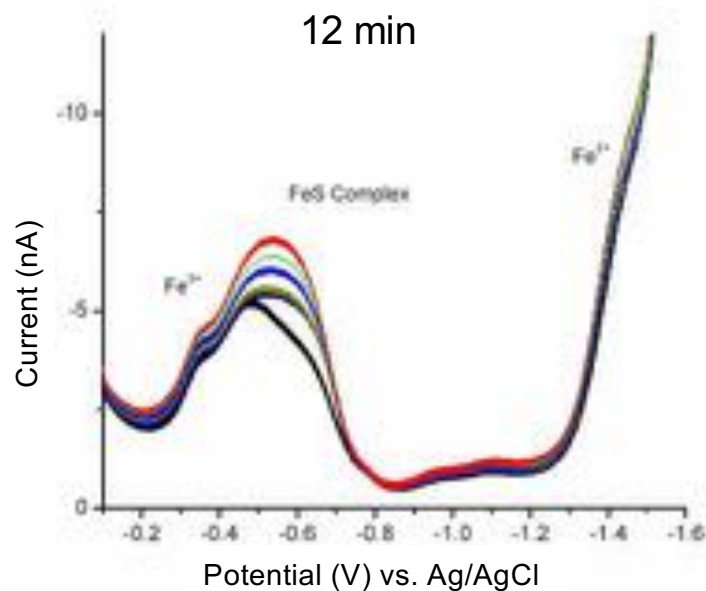
- No staining required

SWV in degassed tris-acetate buffer (pH 7.5) ( $n = 3$ , error bars at lower concentrations are smaller than the symbol size).

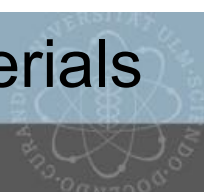
Activity of the protein complex is directly reflected in a decrease of Fe(III) and an increase in Fe(II)



Lower levels of Fe<sup>2+</sup> and sulfur were determined above zones containing **inactive** proteins.

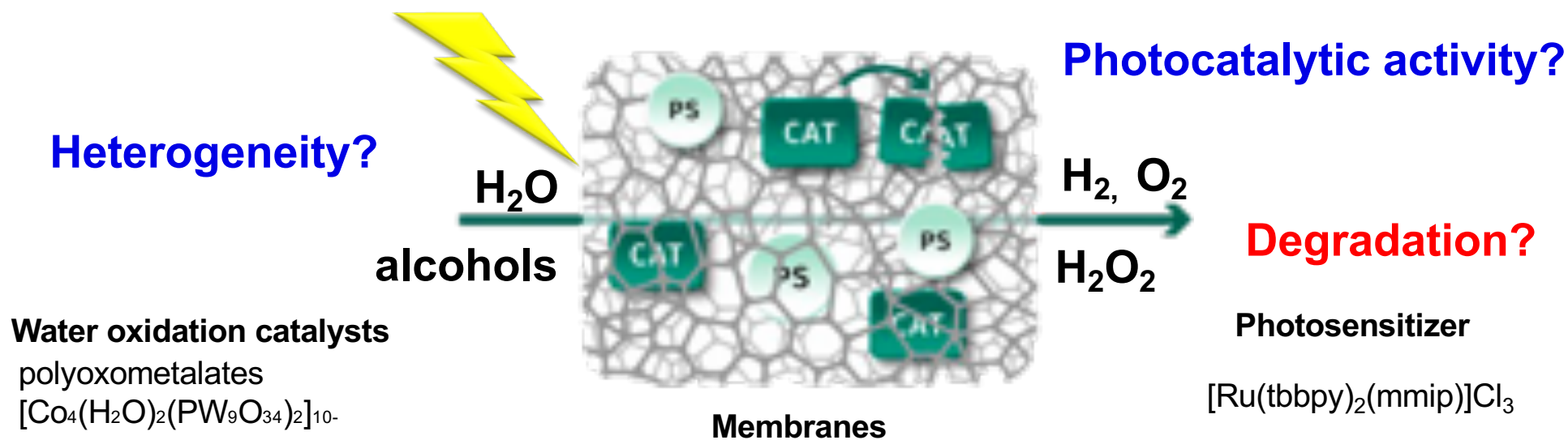




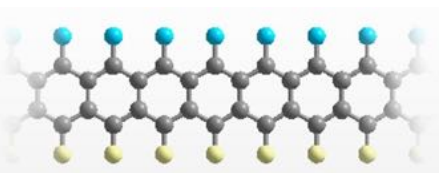


Integration of molecular components into soft matter materials for light-driven catalysis

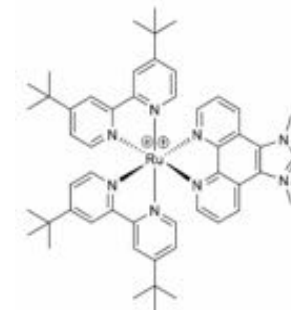
- water oxidation catalysts
- **catalysts for hydrogen evolution reaction**



Nanoporous block copolymers



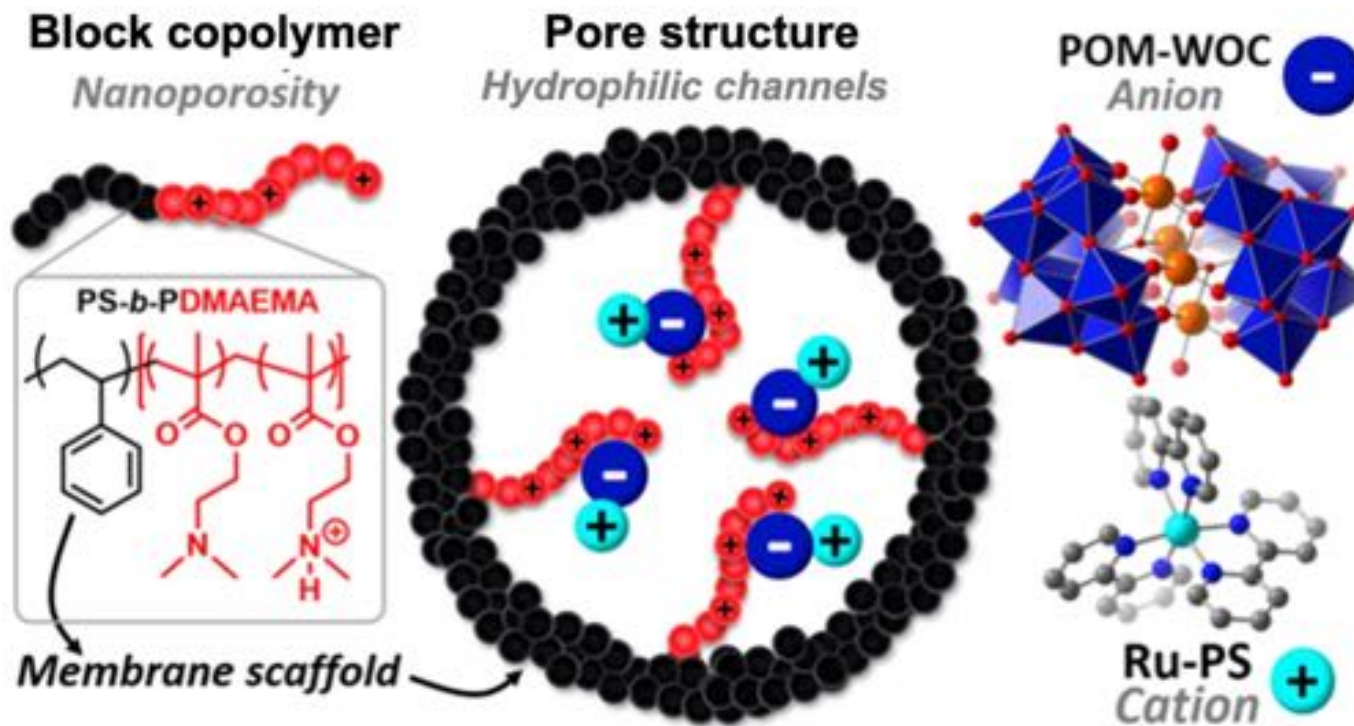
Carbon nanomembrane (CNM)



(tbbpy= 4,4'-di-*tert*-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine;  
mmip = 1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazol[4,5*f*][1,10]phenanthroline)

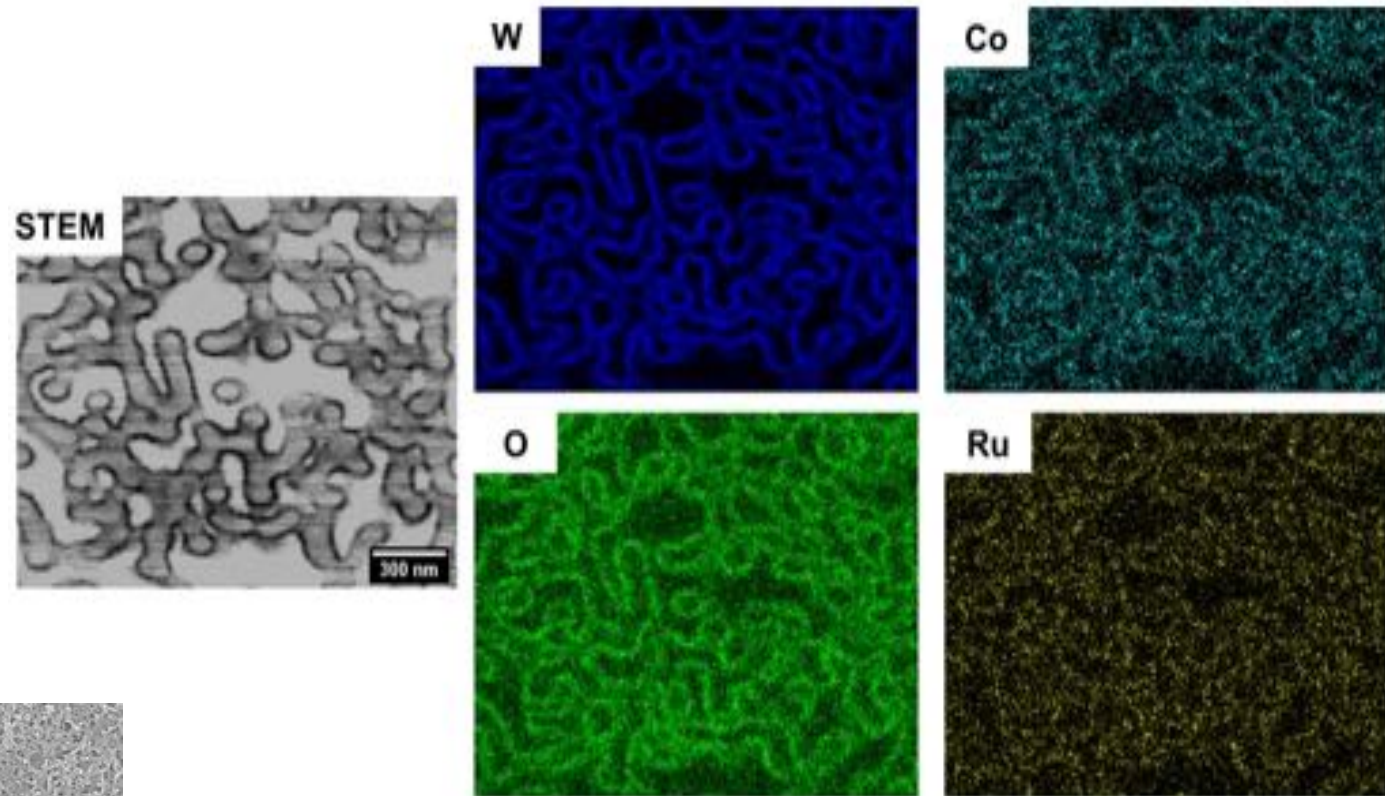


- Nanoporous block copolymer (PS<sub>304</sub>-*b*-PDMAEMA<sub>71</sub>)
- Electrostatic immobilization with WOC  
([Co<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>(PW<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>10-</sup>) and PS ([Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup>)

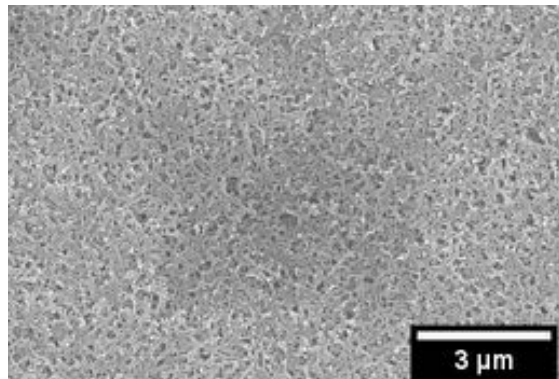




## STEM/EDX mapping of the elemental distribution

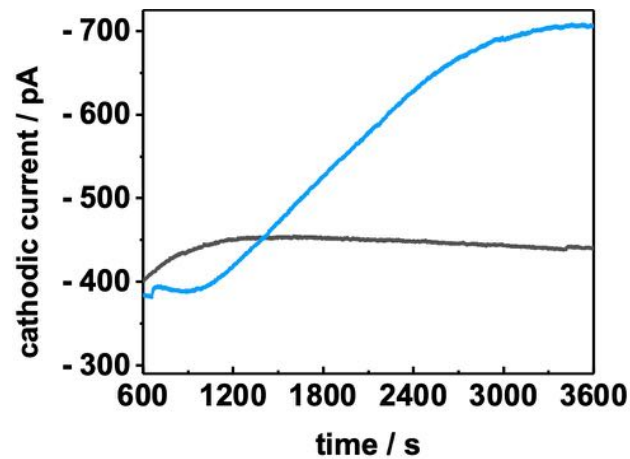
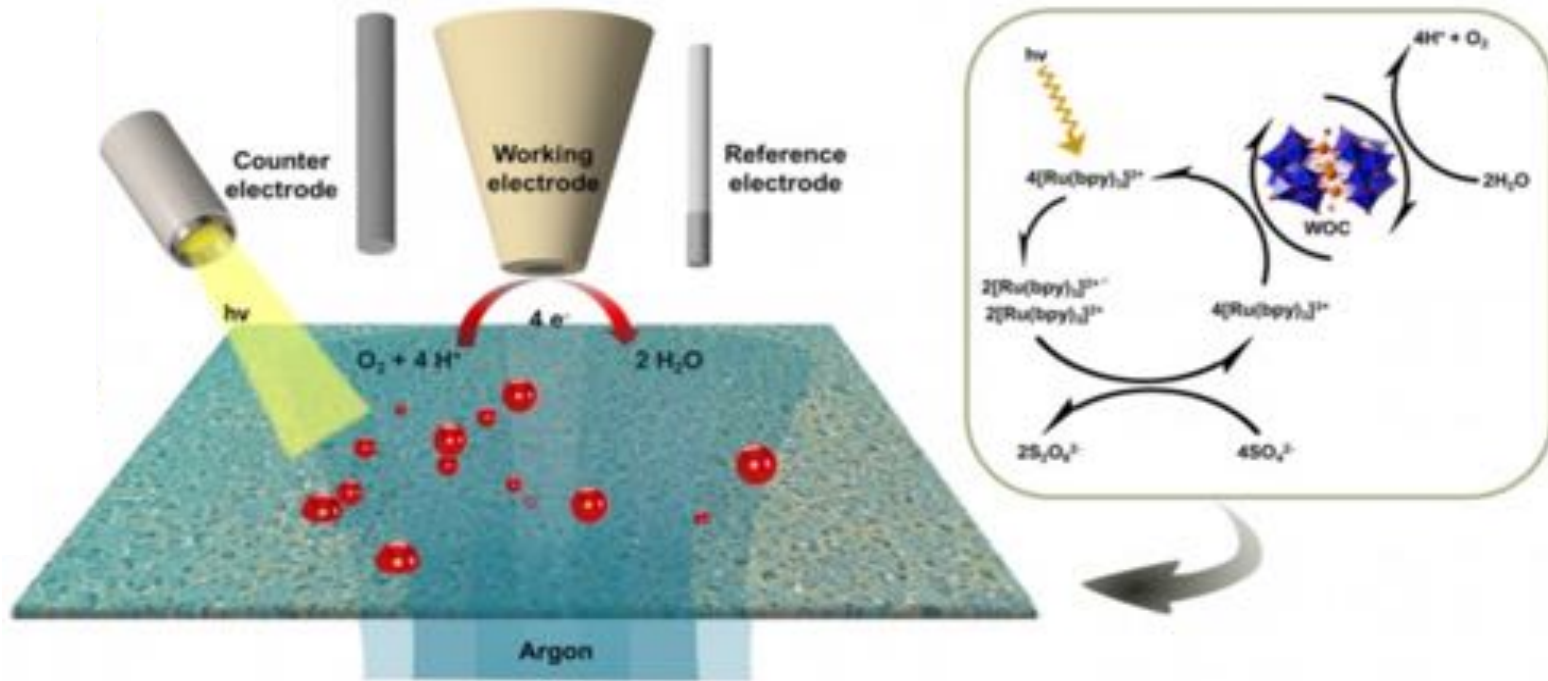


STEM/EDX mapping of the elemental distribution of tungsten (W), cobalt (Co), oxygen (O), and ruthenium (Ru).

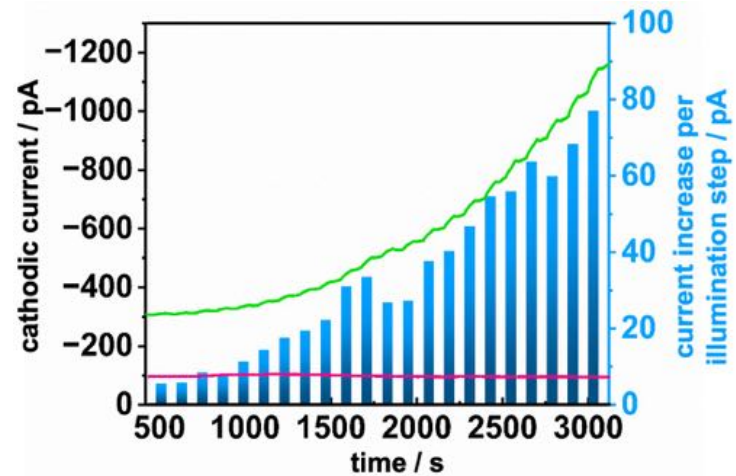


SEM image



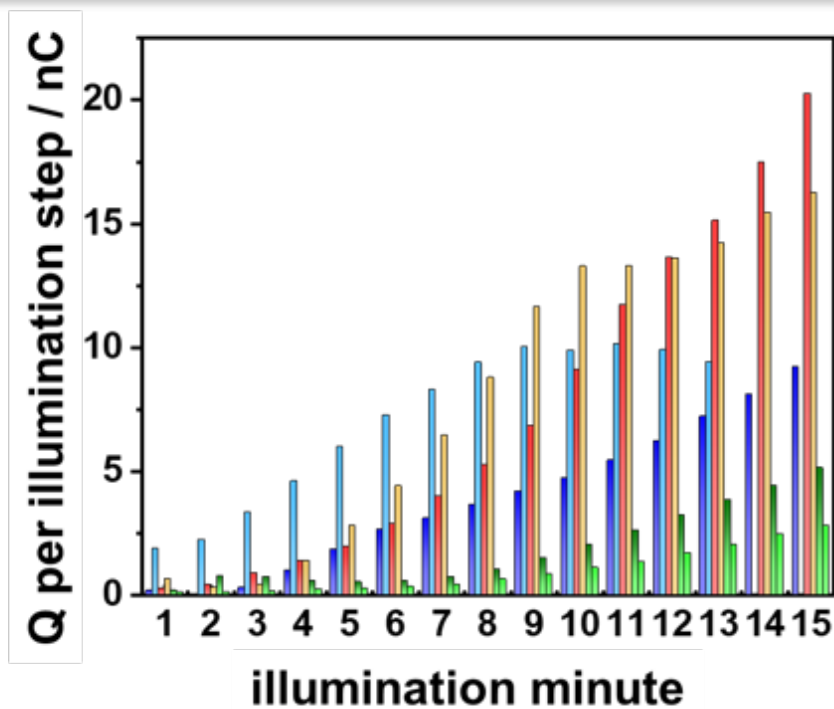


Current response during a) continuously illumination (blue, illumination was started after 660 s) and under dark conditions (grey)

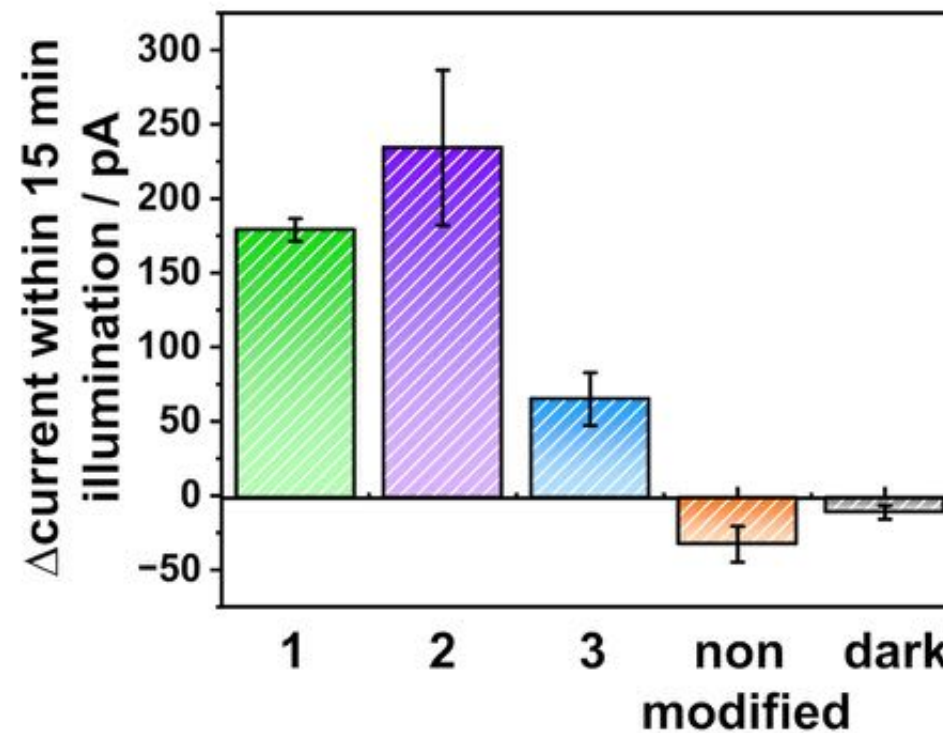


Current response during illumination (pink, illumination was started after 500 s) and under dark conditions (orange)





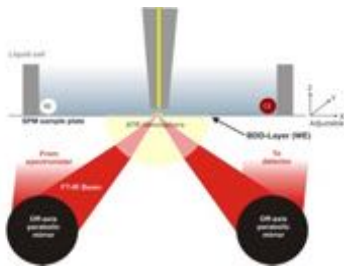
6 individual WOCbranes from two immobilization batches



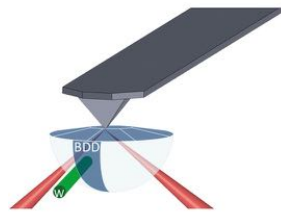
non-mod. membrane (n = 4), WOCbranes batch 1 (green, n = 2); batch 2 (purple, n = 4)

- **Coupling spectroscopy with AFM or SECM**

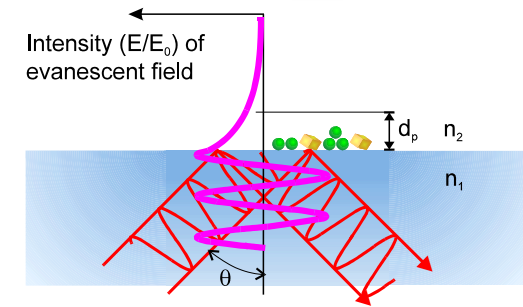
- mid-IR



L. Wang et al., *Anal. Chem.* **2008**



D. Neubauer et al. *Analyst* **2013**



$$d_p = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi \sqrt{n_1^2 \sin^2 \theta - n_2^2}}$$

### ATR crystals

ZnSe

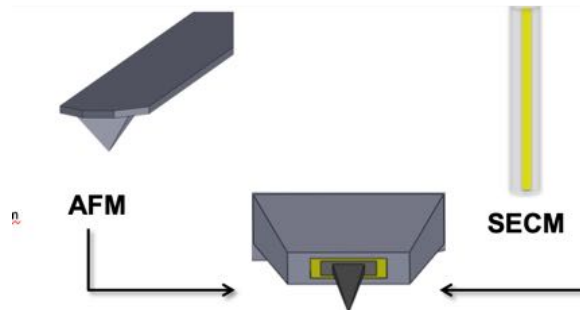
ZnS

Ge

Diamond

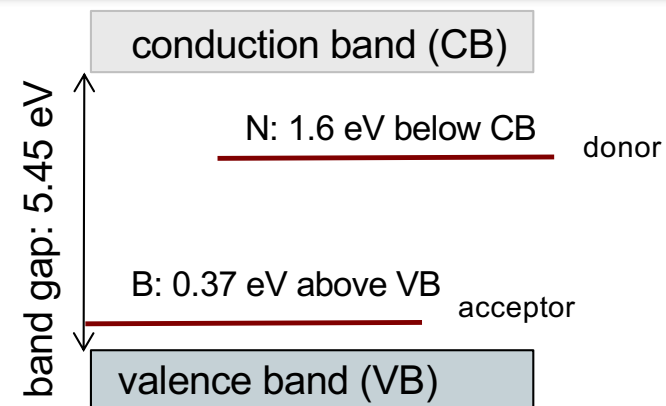
**Boron-doped diamond**

- **AFM-SECM**



## Characteristics

- Large potential window
- **Wide spectroscopic window** (near UV 0.25 – far IR 100  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- Less electrode fouling
- Enhanced chemical and mechanical stability
- Reduced background currents

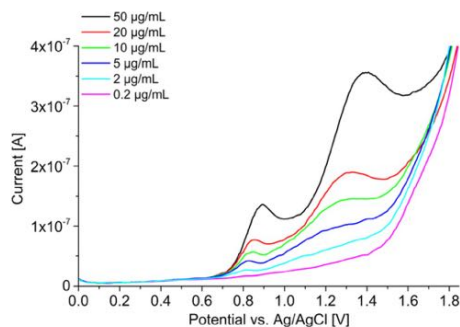


## Thin-film diamond IR-ATR waveguides



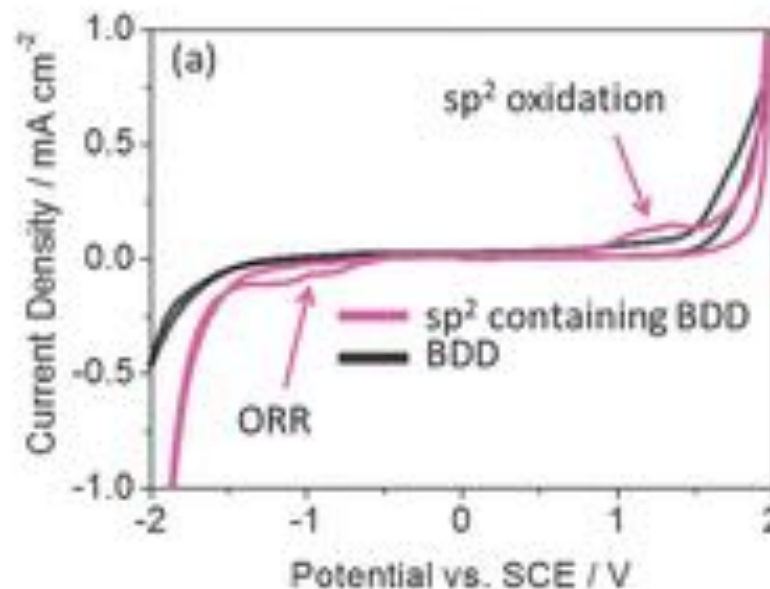
Wang et al., *Anal. Chem.* **2014**  
Haas et al., *ACS Omega* **2018**  
Haas et al., *Analyst* **2018**  
Teuber et al., *under revision*, **2022**

## Reduced electrode fouling



Detection of gentamicin sulfate at BDD electrodes

Abt et al., *Electroanalysis* **2016**



J. V. MacPherson *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2015**

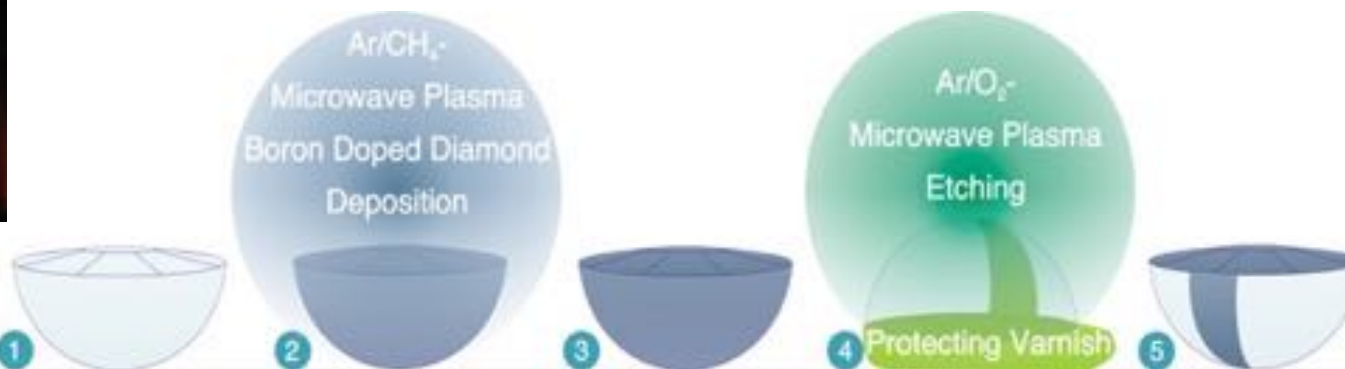


## BDD coating and plasma etching

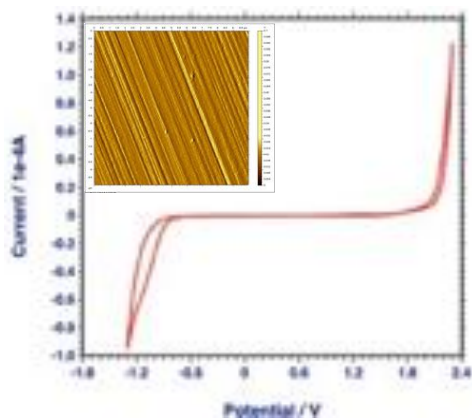


~100 nm BDD

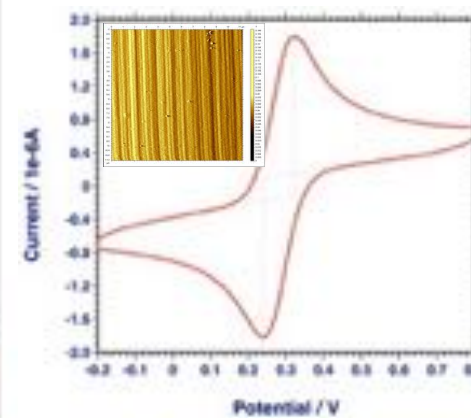
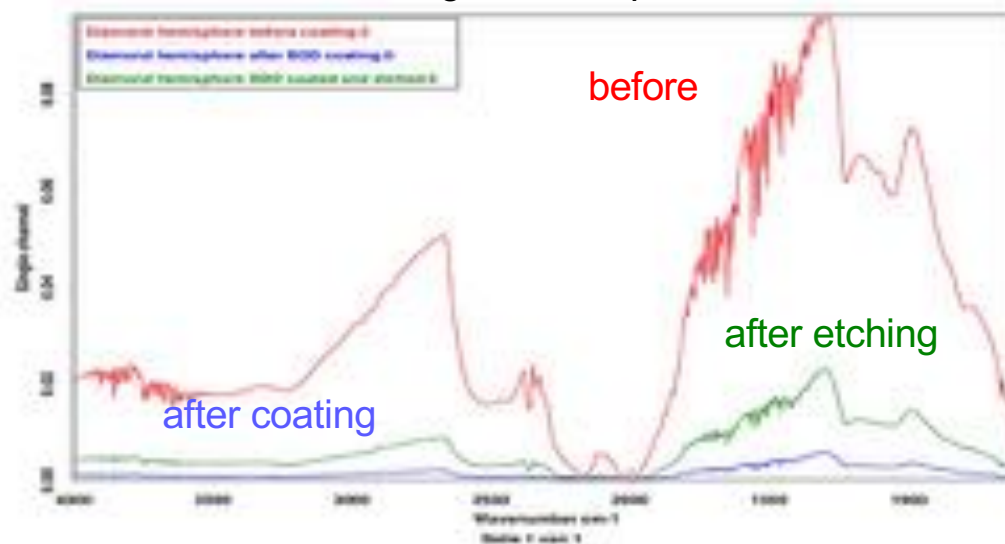
B/N  $\sim 5 \cdot 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$



Single beam spectrum



Potential window

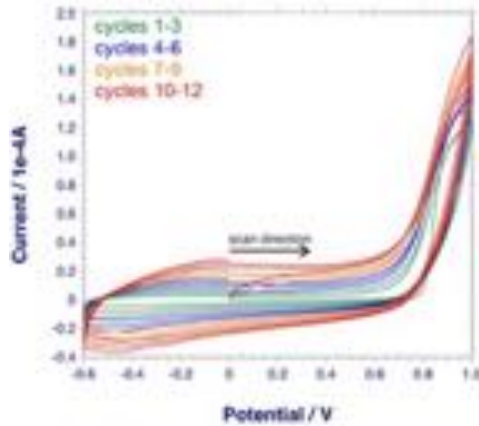


Electrochemical behavior in ferrocyanide solution

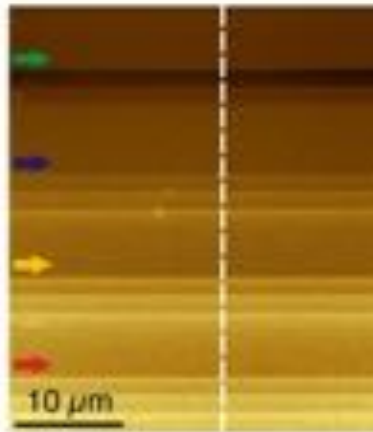
Homoepitaxial growth of BDD (BDD matches exactly the diamond lattice)



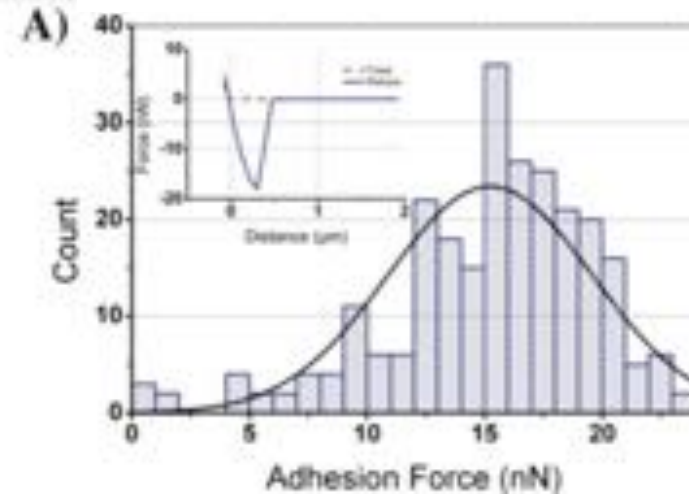
**EC: PEDOT formation**



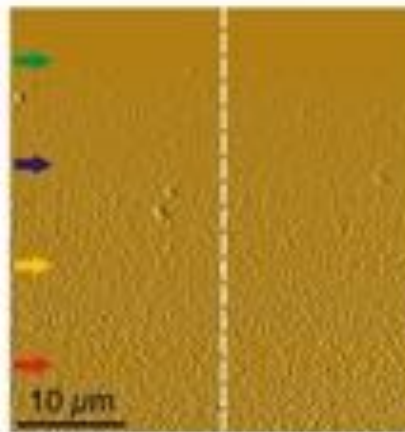
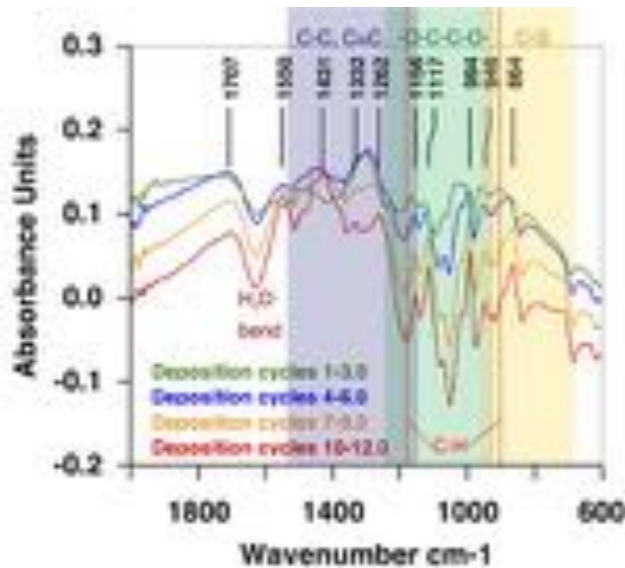
**AFM: change in morphology**



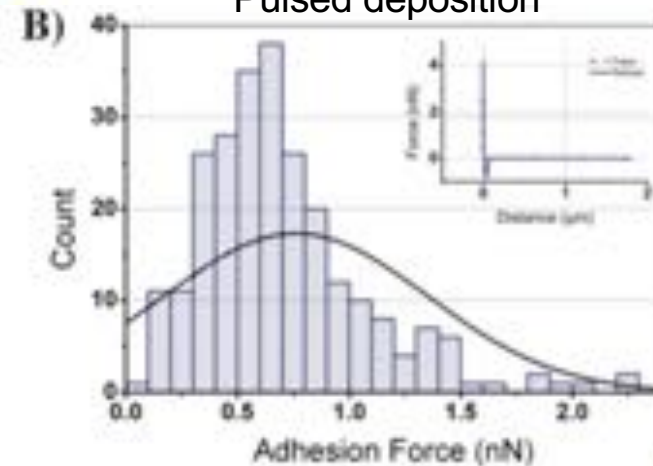
Deposition via cyclic voltammetry



**IR: molecular information**



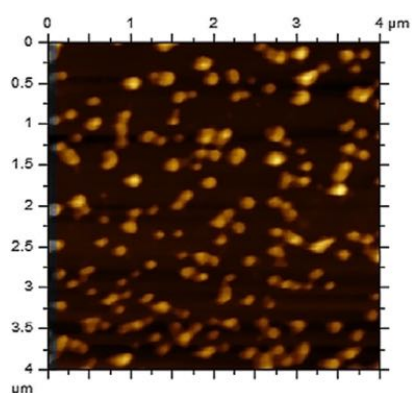
Pulsed deposition



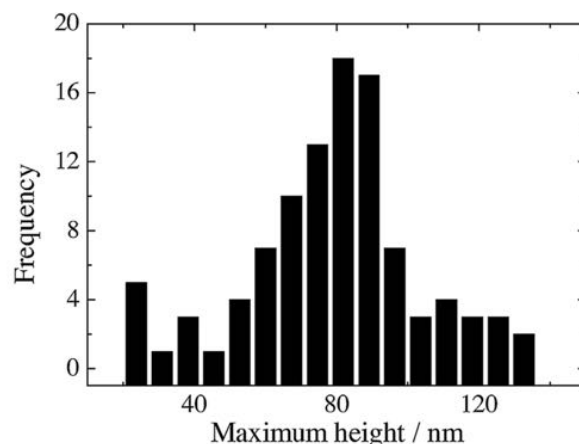
Adhesion force of 16x16 measured force curves (N = 256) Insets show representative force curves

## Electrochemically induced modification of BDD with AuNPs

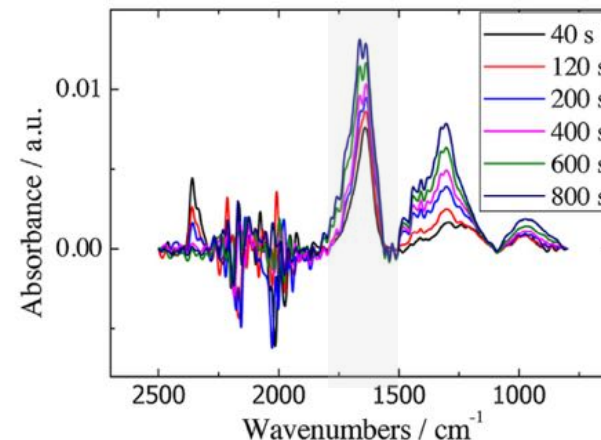
- IR absorption of adsorbed analytes is known to be **enhanced** by the presence of **AuNPs**



AFM image



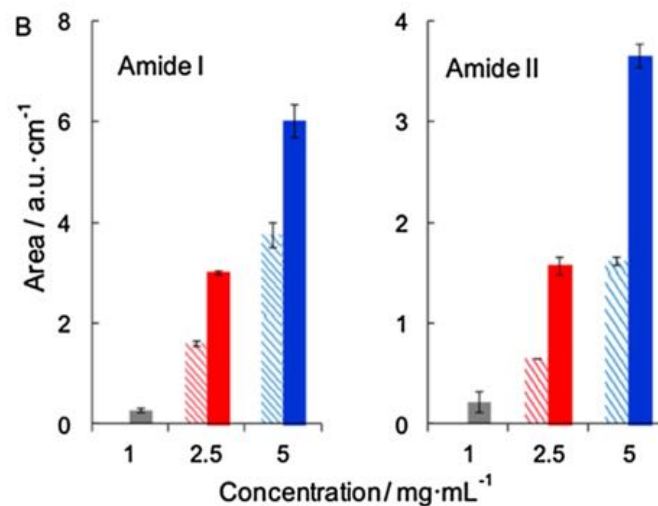
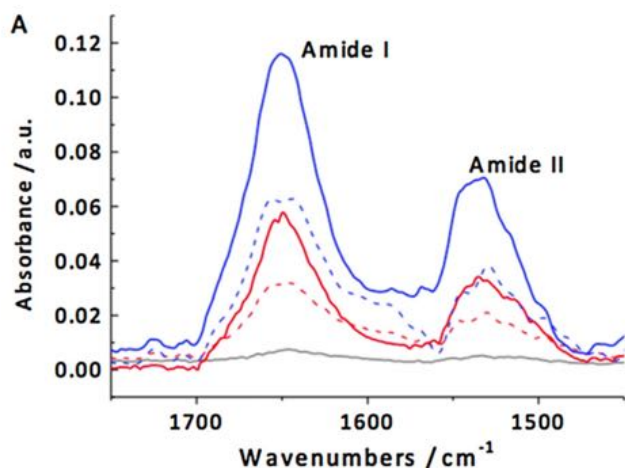
Size distribution of AuNPs



Background subtracted IR-ATR spectra recorded during the synthesis of AuNPs; 1640 cm<sup>-1</sup> water bending

J. Izquierdo et al., *Physica Status Solidi A* 213, 2056, 2016

## Spectroelectrochemical investigation of **globular and fibril BSA** films



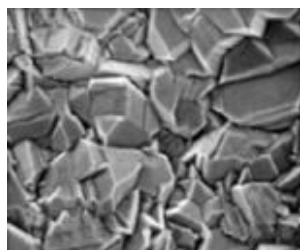
IR absorption signals and (B) average integral values (N=4), corresponding to the amide I and II bands films formed from 1.0 (grey), 2.5 (red) and 5.0 (blue) mg mL<sup>-1</sup> BSA solution. Dashed lines in (A) and dashed filling in (B): the non-modified BDD crystal, solid lines in (A) and solid filling in (B): BDD/APTES/AuNPs surface.

A. Lopez-Lorente et al., *Vib. Spectrosc.* 91, 147, 2017



*Diamonds are a ~~girl's~~ best friend ...*

*(spectro)electrochemist's*



<http://www.clipartbest.com/clipart-di87M48ie>

analytical  
chemistry

Article  
pubs.acs.org/ic

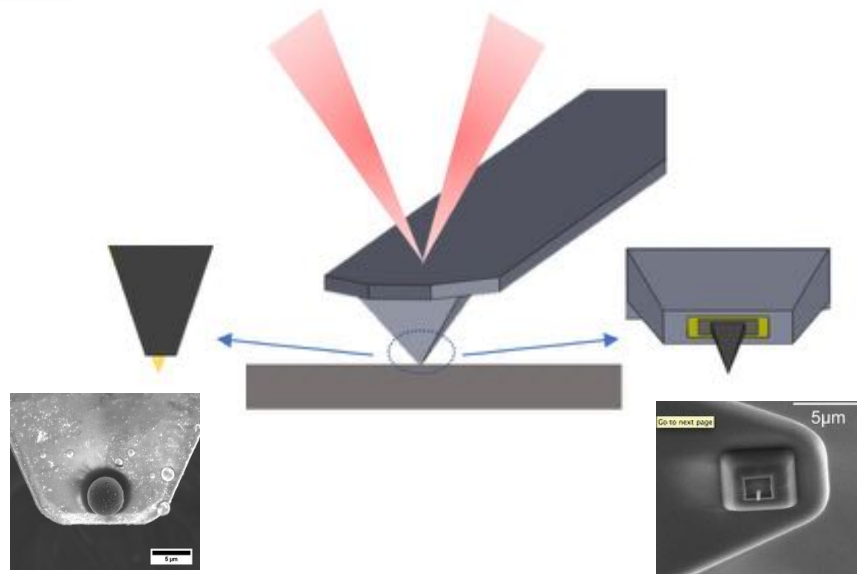
### Diamonds Are a Spectroscopist's Best Friend: Thin-Film Diamond Mid-Infrared Waveguides for Advanced Chemical Sensors/Biosensors

Xiaofeng Wang,<sup>†</sup> Mikael Karlsson,<sup>‡</sup> Pontus Forsberg,<sup>‡</sup> Markus Sieger,<sup>†</sup> Fredrik Nikolajeff,<sup>‡</sup>  
Lars Österlund,<sup>\*,§,¶</sup> and Boris Mizakoff<sup>\*,†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Institute of Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry, University of Ulm, Albert-Einstein-Allee 11, 89075 Ulm, Germany

<sup>‡</sup>Department of Engineering Sciences, Uppsala University, Box 534, SE-75121 Uppsala, Sweden

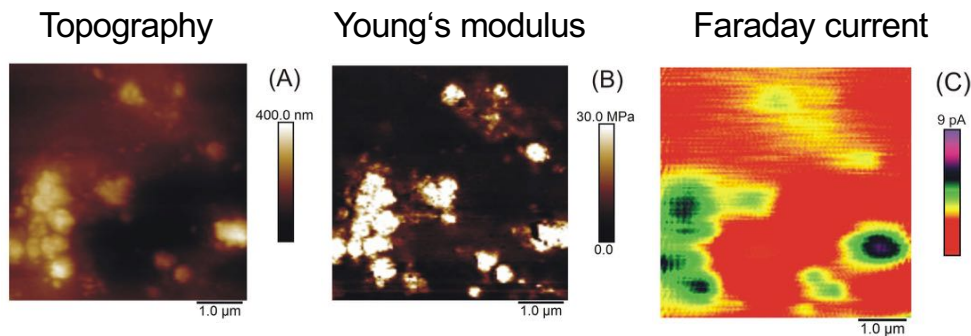
<sup>§</sup>Molecular Fingerprint Sweden AB, Ekolnstrången 130, SE-756 55 Uppsala, Sweden



P. Unwin, J. Macpherson *Anal. Chem.* **2000**  
 C. Kranz et al., *Anal. Chem.* **2001**  
 J. Abbou et al., *Anal. Chem.* **2002**

- ✓ offers combined mapping of nanomechanical and (electro)chemical properties
- ✓ at least for the AFM part ISO norms are available
- ✓ issues with artifacts are well described for AFM
- ✓ spatial resolution in SECM significantly increased
- ✓ ONE probe with two functionalities

## Soft conductive PDMS electrodes

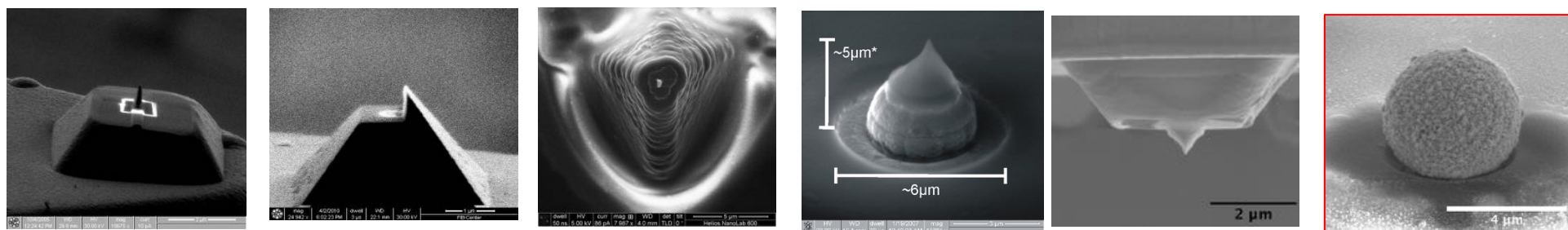


S. K. Guin et al., *Chem. Asian J.* **2017**





- Microfabricated AFM probes with integrated electrode
- Silicon nitride cantilevers with force constants in the range of 0.8- 2 N/m
- Recessed electrode → modification with sensing layers
- No lift mode needed

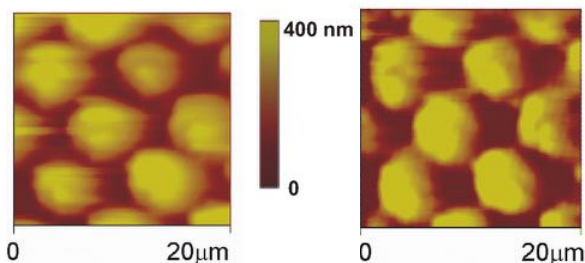


Frame electrode    Nanodisc electrode    BDD ring electrode    Ring electrode    Conical electrode    Colloidal electrode

## Enzyme activity

Topography

SECM

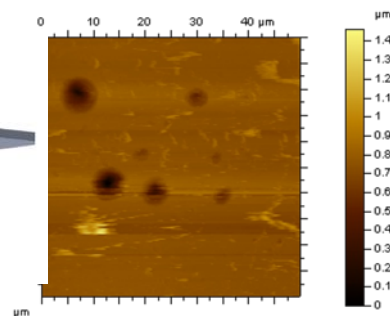
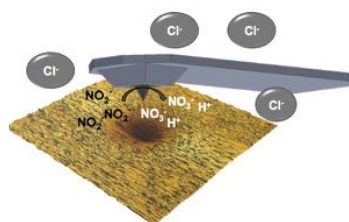


GOD containing polymer spots

A. Kueng et al., *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2003;

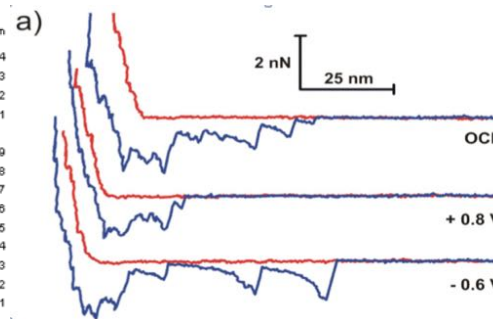
## Corrosion studies

Simultaneously induced corrosion and imaging



J. Izquierdo, et al, *ChemElectroChem* 2015;

## Force spectroscopy under potential control

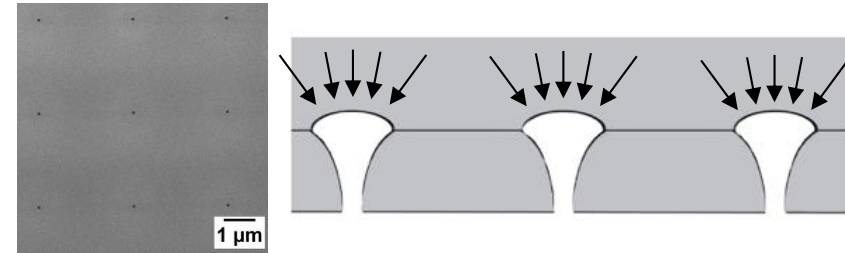
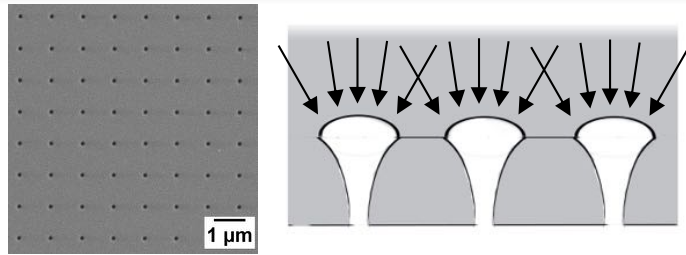


P. Knittel et al., *Nanoscale* 2016

# Nanopore diffusion

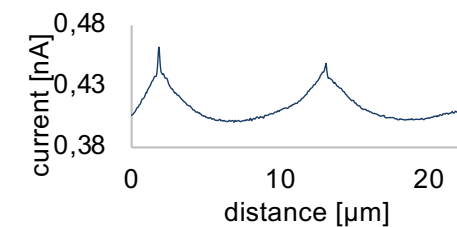
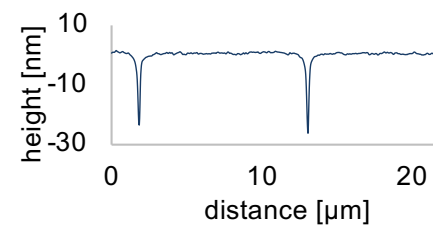
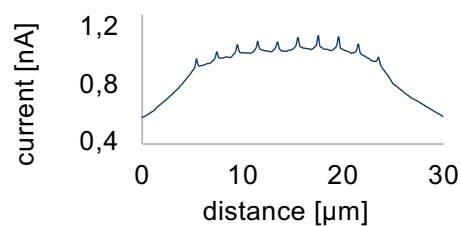
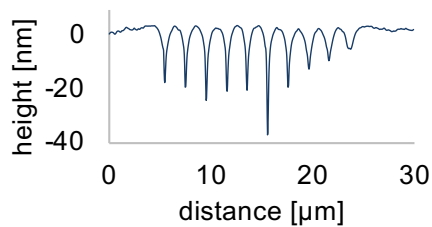
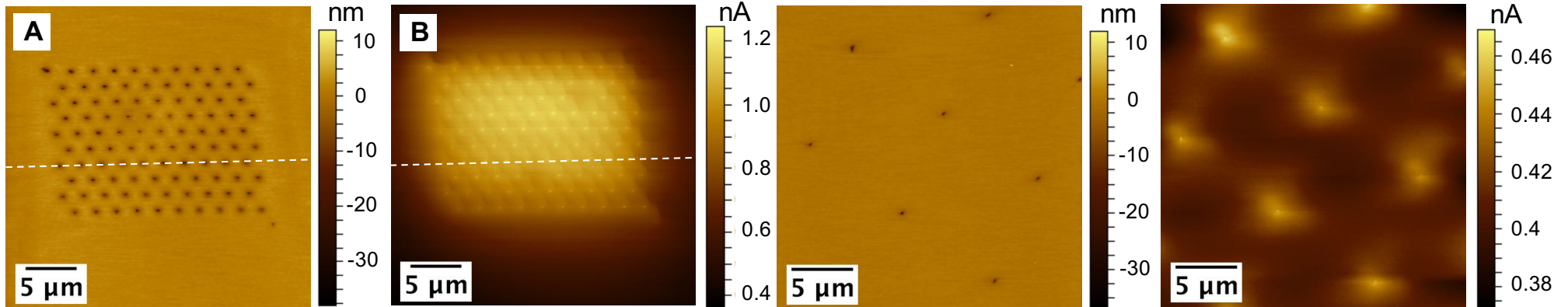
Overlapping diffusion profiles

Individual diffusion profiles



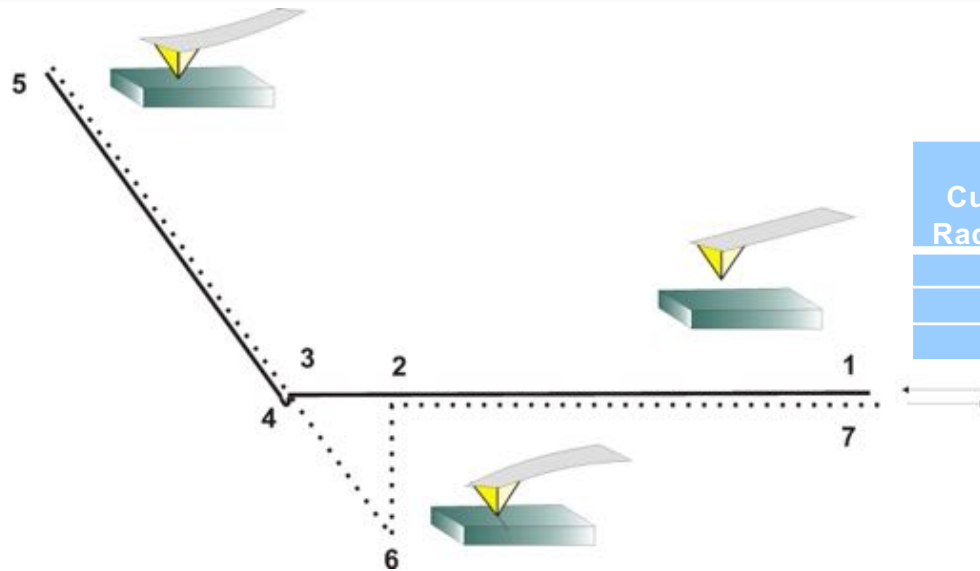
$$\text{Ratio: } r_{\text{distance}}/r_{\text{Pore radius}} = 21$$

$$\text{Ratio: } r_{\text{distance}}/r_{\text{Pore radius}} = 91$$



Collaboration: Damien Arrigan, Curtin University Perth

$$p = \frac{F}{2\pi r^2}$$



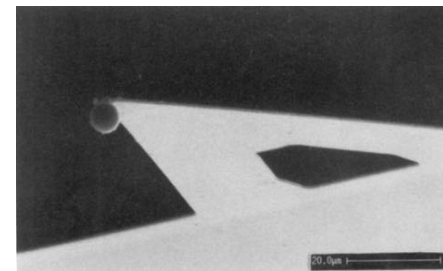
Tip Curvature Radius / nm	Contact Area / nm <sup>2</sup>	Pressure / kPa for Applied Force		
		0.1 nN	2 nN	5 nN
2	25,13	3978,874	79577,472	198943,679
20	2513,27	39,789	795,775	1989,437
2500	39269908,17	0,003	0,051	0,127

### Derjaguin-Muller-Toporov (DMT) model

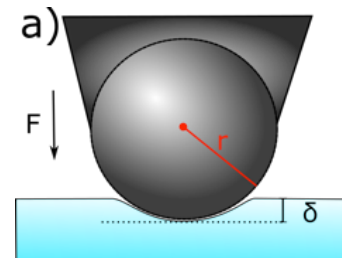
$$F - F_{adh} = \frac{4}{3} E^* \sqrt{r \cdot \delta^3}$$

$$E^* = \left[ \frac{1-\nu_s^2}{E_s} + \frac{1-\nu_{tip}^2}{E_{tip}} \right]^{-1}$$

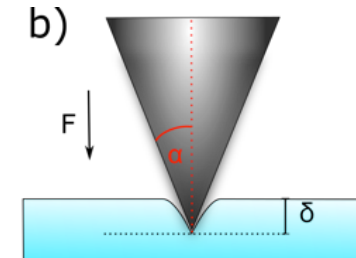
$F_{adh}$  is the recorded adhesion force,  $E^*$  the reduced **Young's modulus** as,  $r$  the tip curvature radius,  $\nu_s$  and  $\nu_{tip}$  are the Poisson ratio of the sample and the tip, and  $\delta$  the indentation



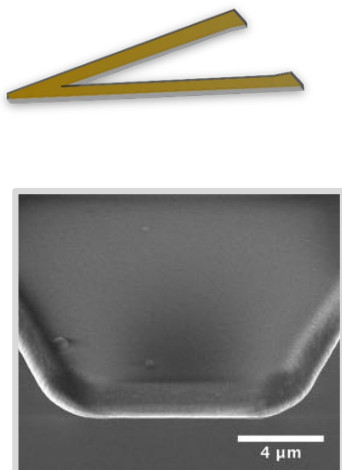
Hertz model



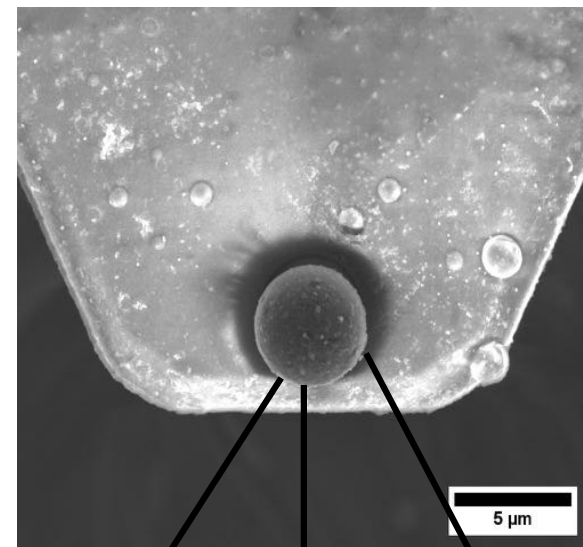
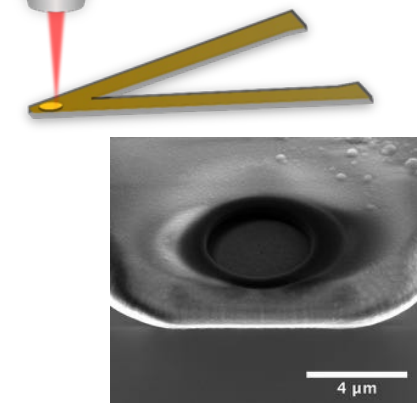
Sneddon model



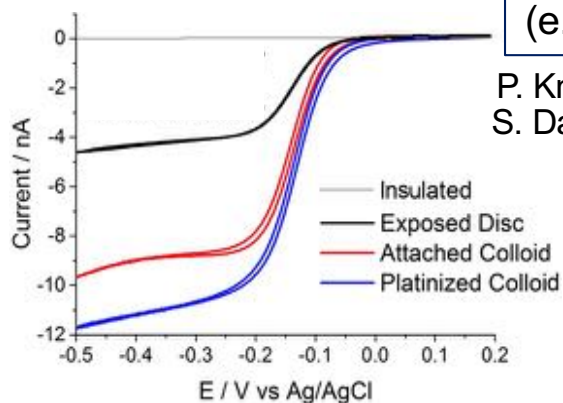
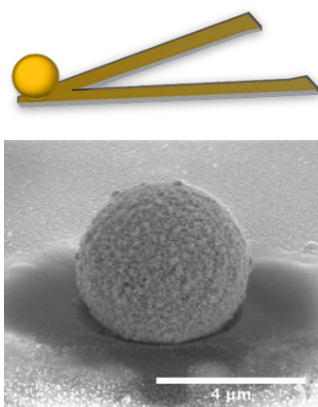
Tip-less Au-coated and insulated SiN cantilever



Exposure of recessed gold electrode



Attachment of Au-colloid via a UV-curable glue



Colloidal polymer coated AFM-SECM probe (e.g., PEDOT, PDA)

P. Knittel et al., *Nanoscale* 2016  
S. Daboss et al., *Anal. Chem.* 2020

Colloidal **Prussian blue** coated AFM-SECM probe  
Colloidal **Pt black** coated AFM-SECM probe

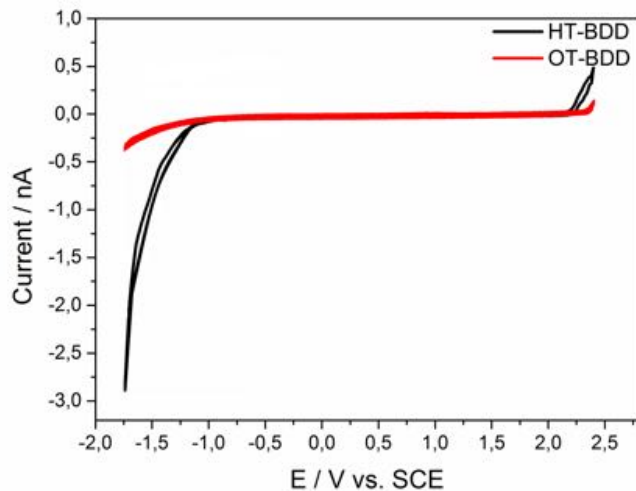
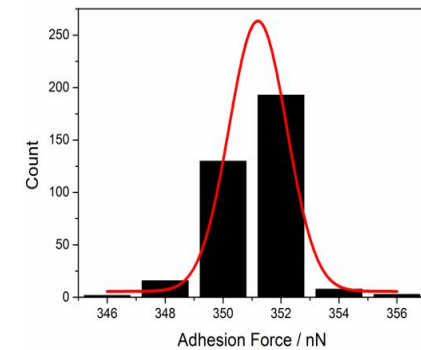
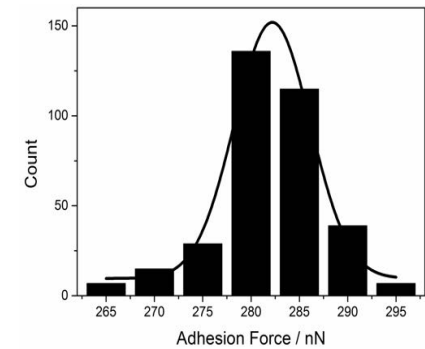
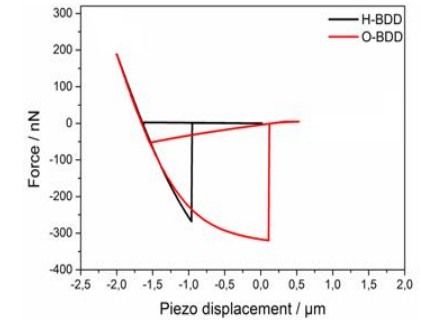
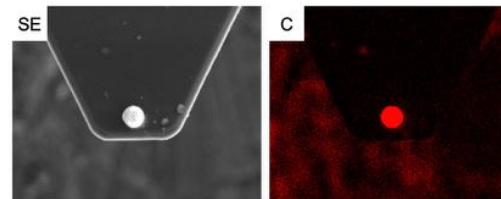
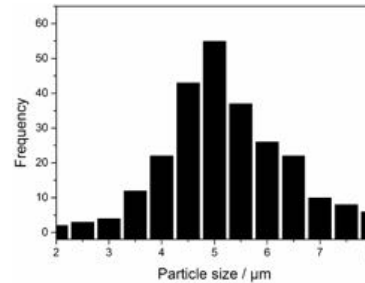
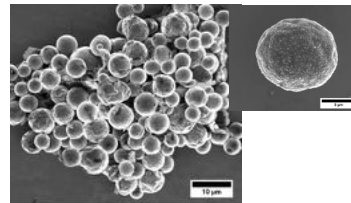
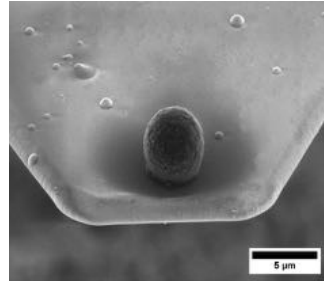
Colloidal boron-doped diamond AFM-SECM probe

S. Daboss et al., *Small* 2019



- Low force constants (silicon nitride cantilever)
- Control of surface termination
- Physical and chemical inert probe
- Large potential window

$$k = 0.85 \pm 0.04 \text{ N}\cdot\text{m}^{-1} \text{ (n = 5)}$$



H-terminated (black) and O-terminated (red) BDD-AFM-SECM probe (0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, scan rate 100 mV/s).

## Collaborators



Tom Philipp



Krishnaveni Palanisamy



Dr. Sven Daboss



Jan Romer



Andreas Hellmann



Dr. Gregor Neusser



Julian Kund



Giada Caniglia



Eva Oswald

### Alumni:

Douglas Rudolph

Charlotte Ziller

Dr. Elena Hecht

Dr. Angelika Kueng

Dr. Angelika Holzinger

Dr. Peter Knittel

Dr. Andreas Hartmann

Dr. Bärbel Abt

Dr. Daniel Neugebauer

Dr. Javier Izquierdo



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German Research Foundation (DFG),  
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M. Elnagar, R. Beranek  
Institute of Electrochemistry, Ulm University

C. Read, U. Rupp, P. Walther  
Central Facility of Electron Microscopy, UUIm

I. Trentin, M. Langer, C. Streb  
Institute of Inorganic Chemistry I, Ulm University

J.-H. Kruse, F. Schacher  
Institute of Organic Chemistry and  
Macromolecular Chemistry, Friedrich Schiller University  
Jena

A. Pasquarelli,  
Institute of Electron Devices and Circuits, Ulm University

T. J. DiChristina & co-workers  
School of Biology,  
Georgia Institute of Technology

D. W. M. Arrigan & co-workers  
Curtin University

FIBCenter @ IABC, UUIm



# 19th International Conference on Electroanalysis **ESEAC 2024**

**Organizers: Fred Lisdat (Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau)  
Christine Kranz (Ulm University)**





# 19th International Conference on Electroanalysis **ESEAC 2024**

**Organizers: Fred Lisdat, Christine Kranz**

Topics:

- Electroanalytical systems
- Sensor and biosensor developments and applications
- Fundamental studies on electrochemical conversions
- Photoelectrochemical systems
- Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy
- Hybrid methods for studying electrochemical systems
- Electroanalytic studies on (bio)corrosion
- In vivo electroanalysis
- Electroanalysis from the nano- to the macroscale

