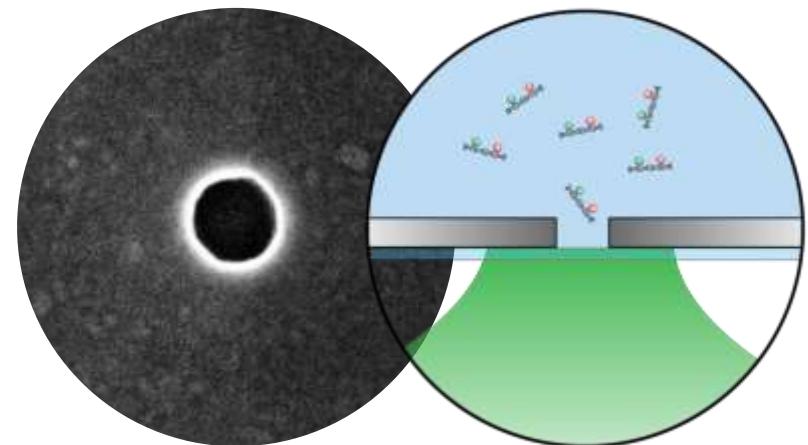


# **Improving single molecule fluorescence detection with zero-mode waveguide metal nanoapertures**

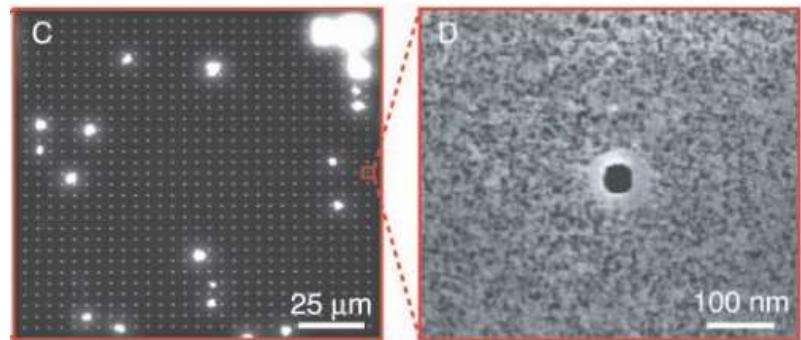
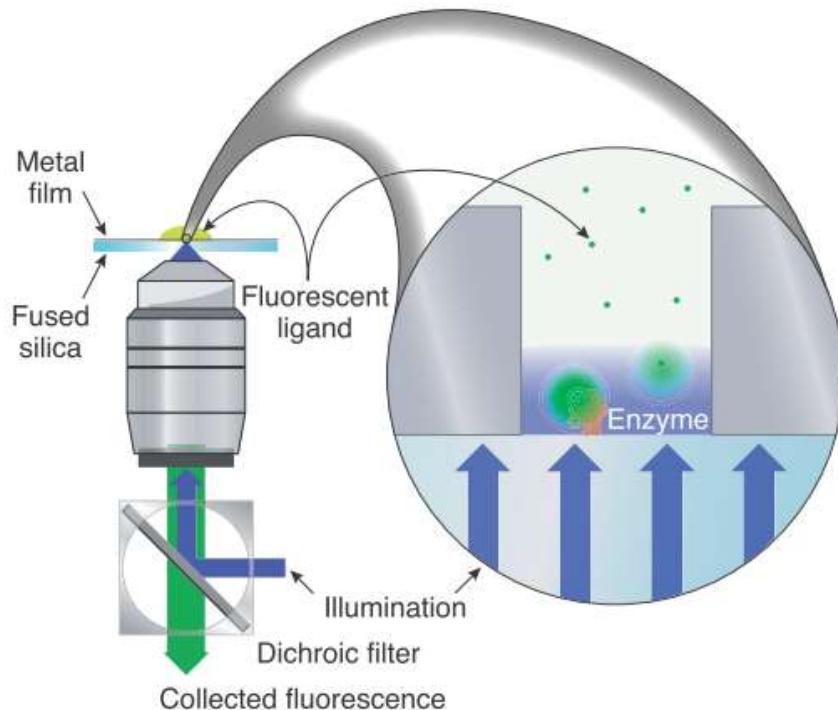
**Jérôme Wenger**



# Zero-Mode Waveguides for Single-Molecule Analysis at High Concentrations

Science 2003, 299, 682-686

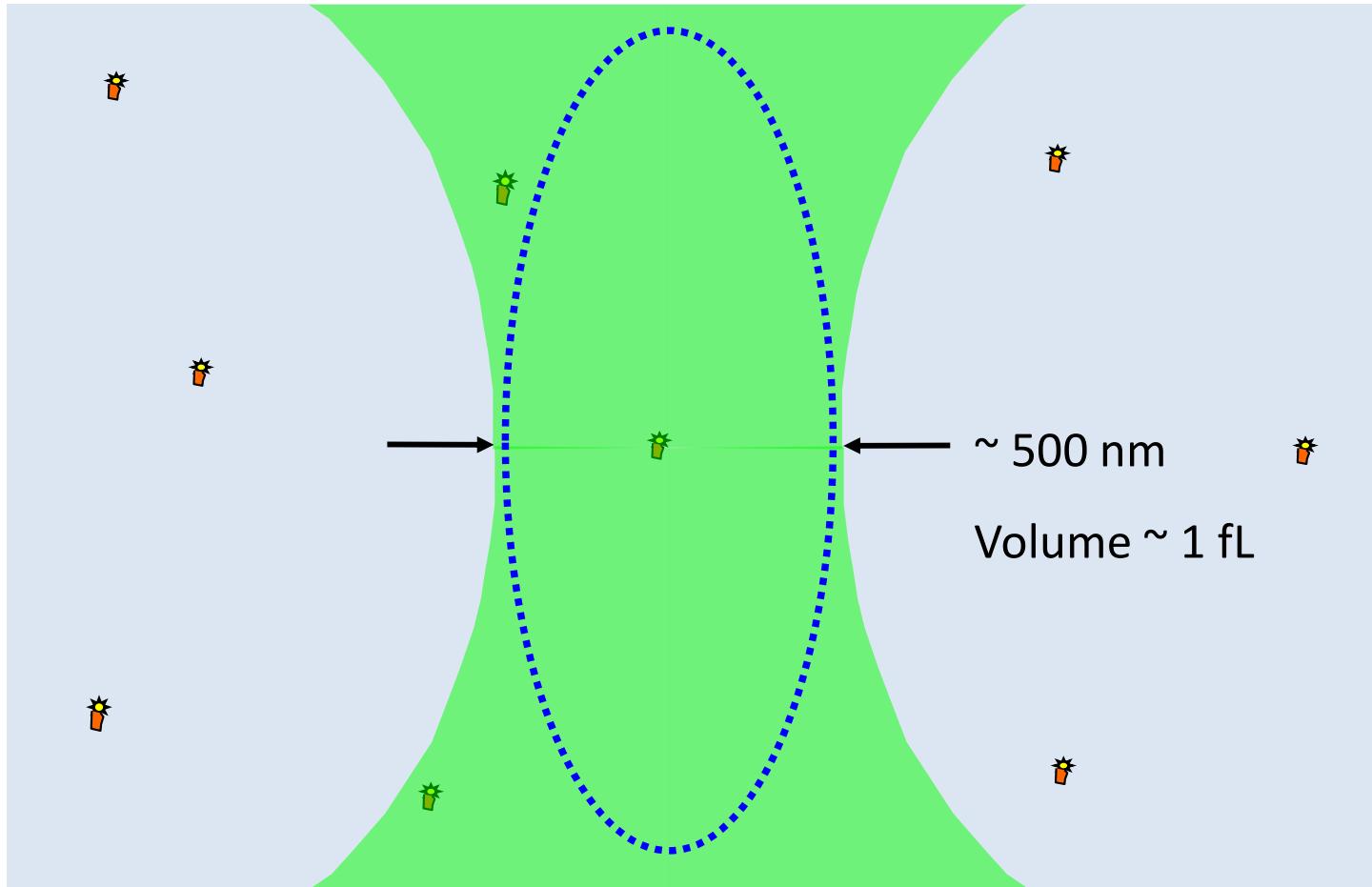
M. J. Levene,<sup>1</sup> J. Kralach,<sup>1,2</sup> S. W. Turner,<sup>1\*</sup> M. Foquet,<sup>1</sup>  
H. G. Craighead,<sup>1</sup> W. W. Webb<sup>1†</sup>



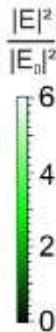
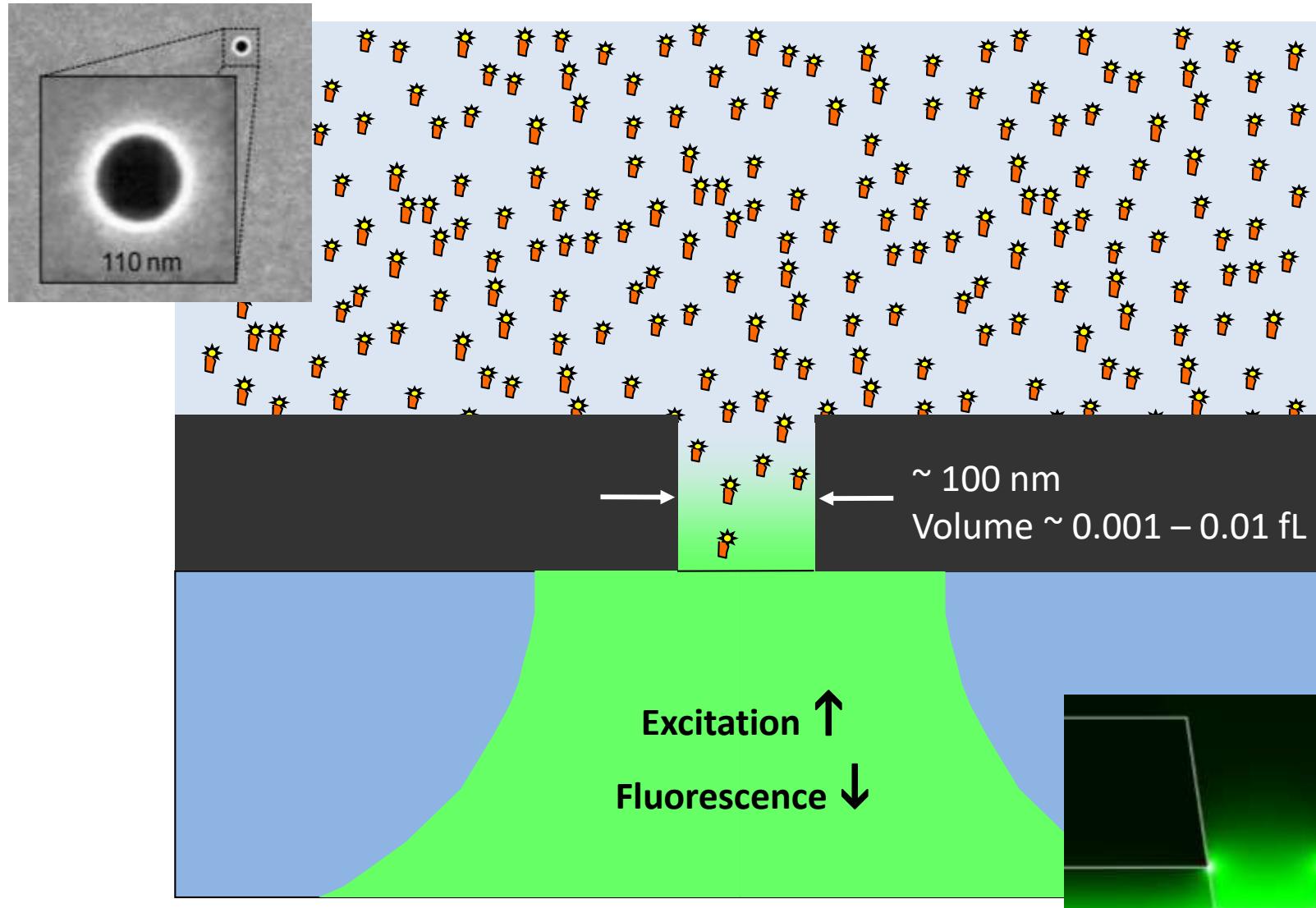
 PACIFIC  
BIOSCIENCES™

Real time single molecule sequencing

Confocal microscopy    single molecule    sub-nM concentration



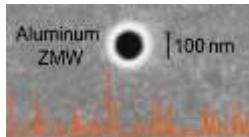
Nanoaperture >100nM concentration single molecule detection



# Fluorescence & metal nanoapertures: what you can do



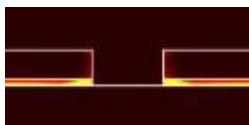
- **Low volume:** single molecule detection at micromolar concentration



- **High signal:** monitor fast dynamics and reduce acquisition time



- **Enhanced FRET:** detect energy transfer at distances > 10 nm

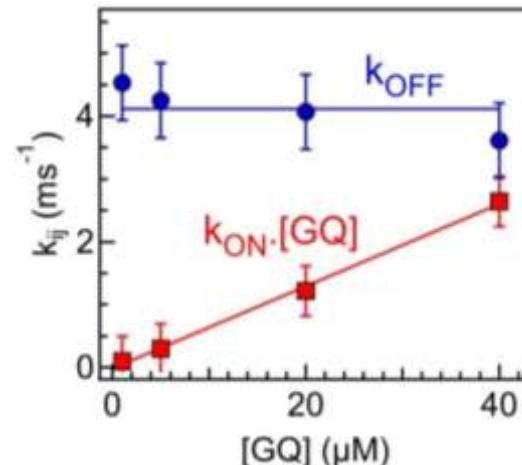
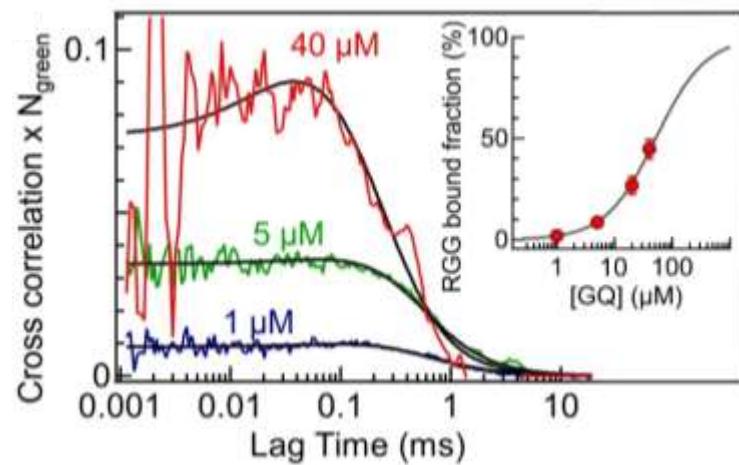
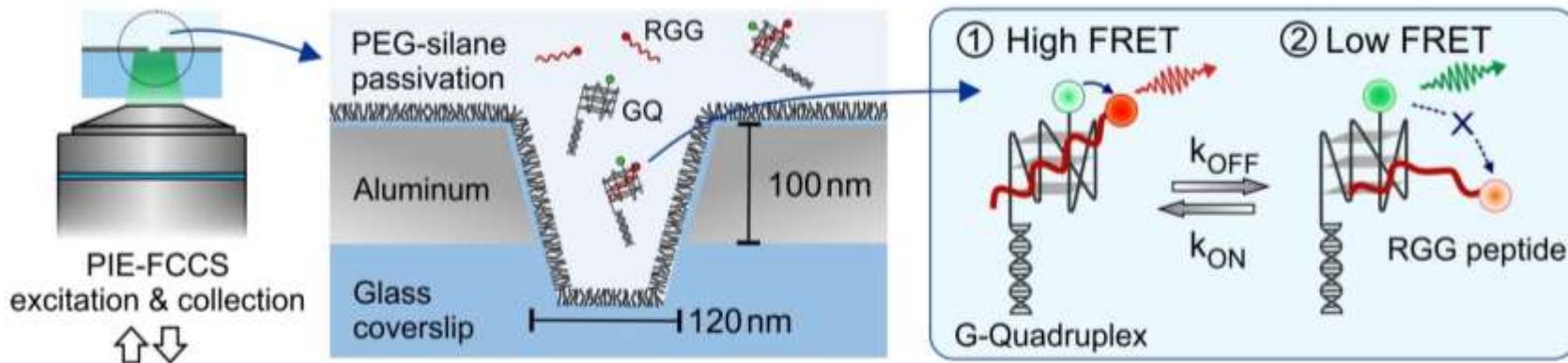


- **Temperature control:** perform fast submillisecond heating cycles

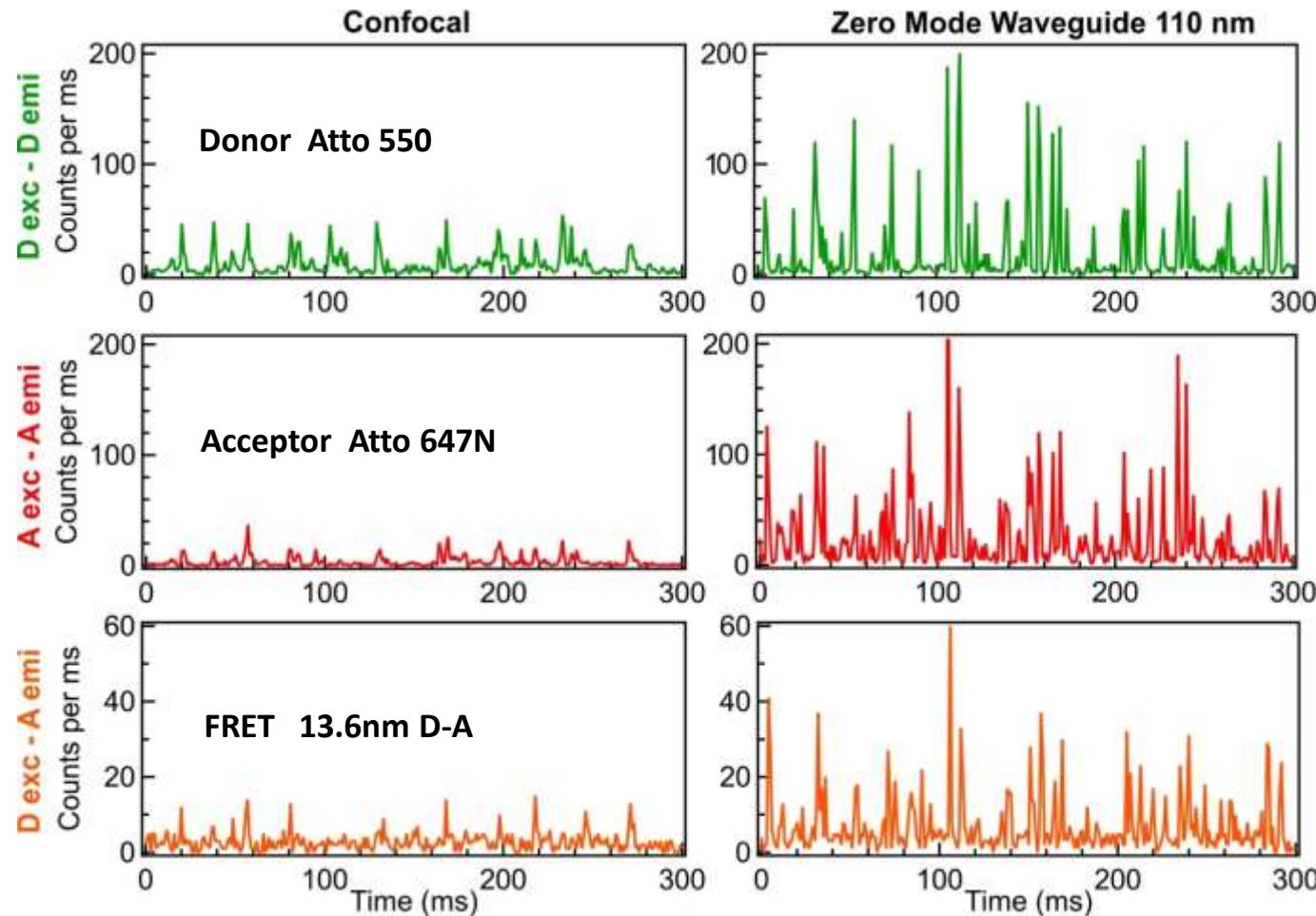


- **Label-free:** detect the intrinsic UV autofluorescence of a protein

# Low volume: single molecule at micromolar concentration



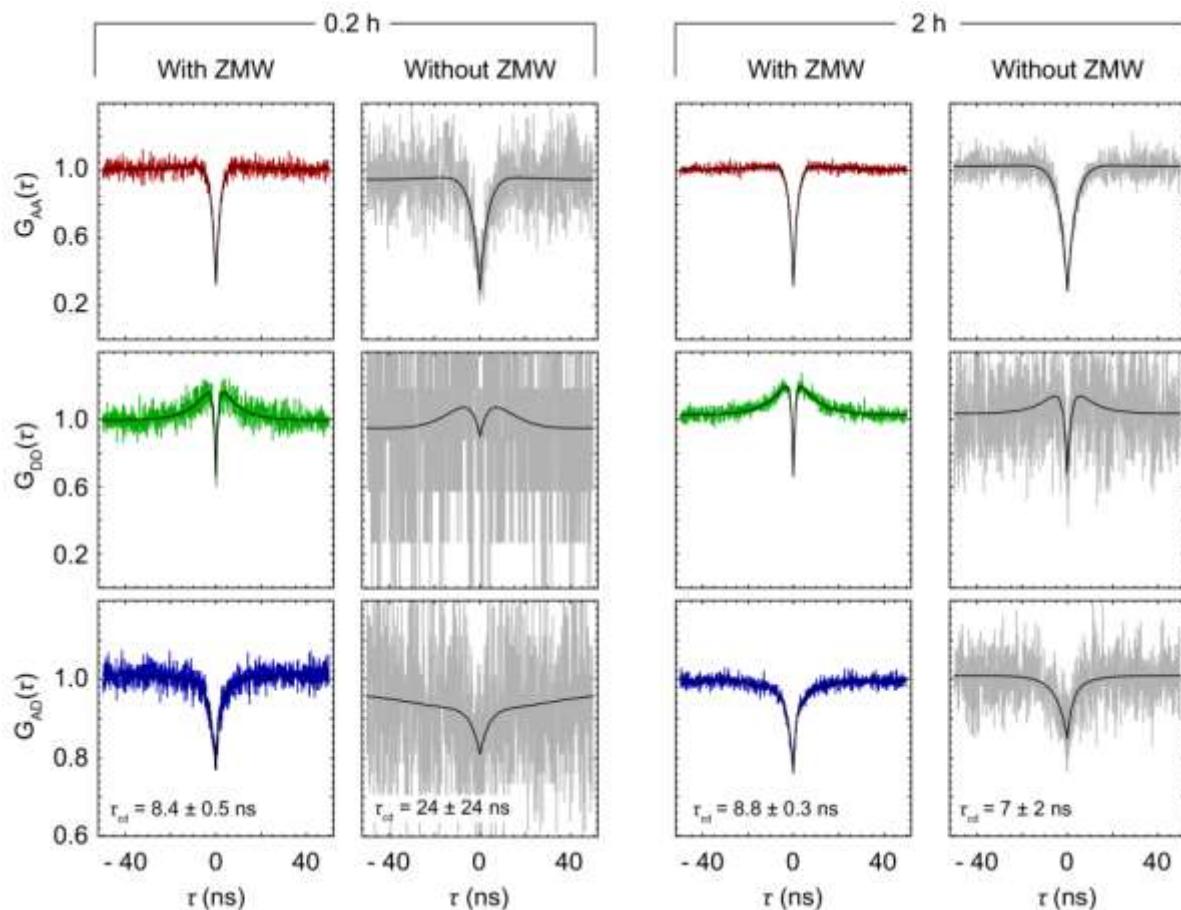
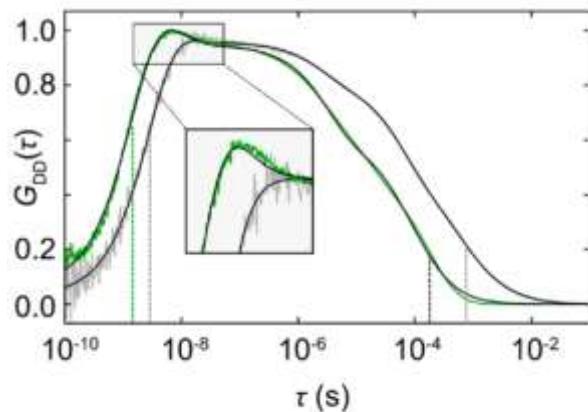
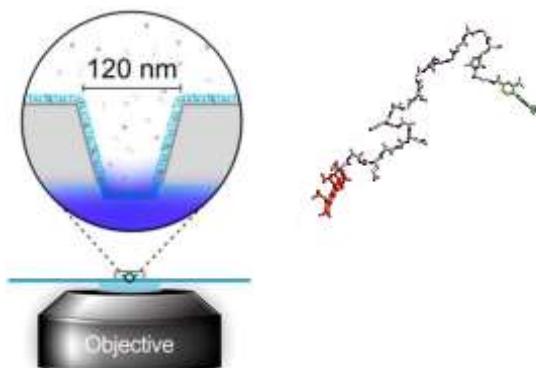
## High signal: monitor fast dynamics and reduce acquisition time



8x Atto550 donor brightness enhancement

12x Atto647N acceptor brightness enhancement

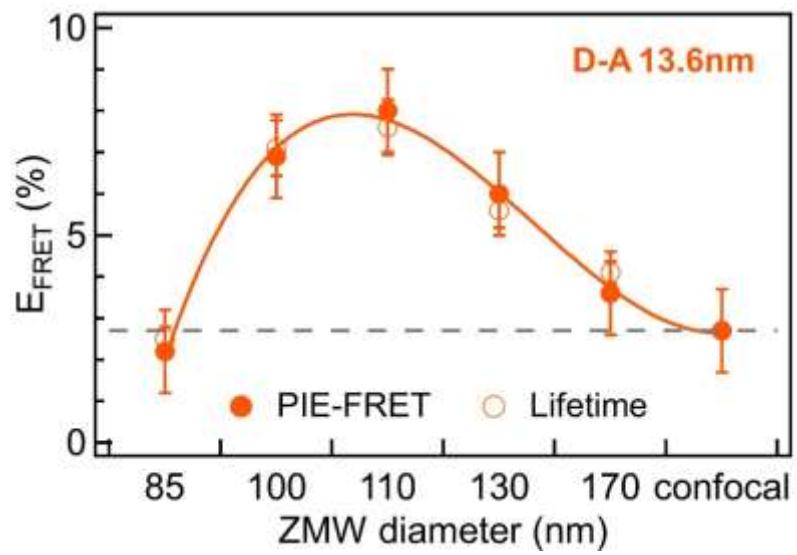
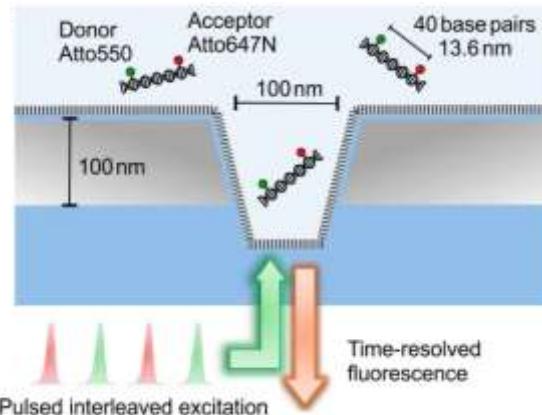
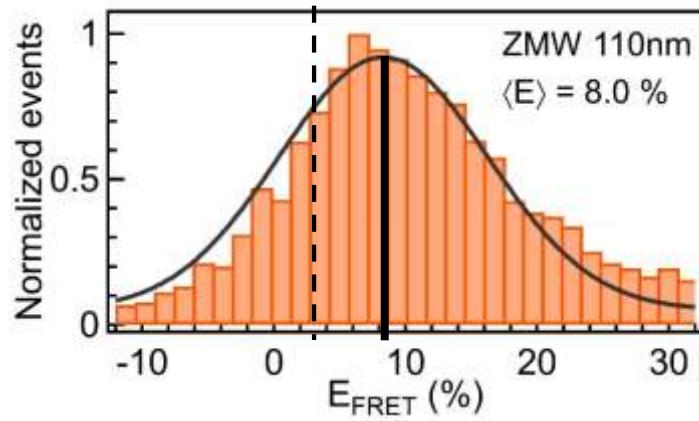
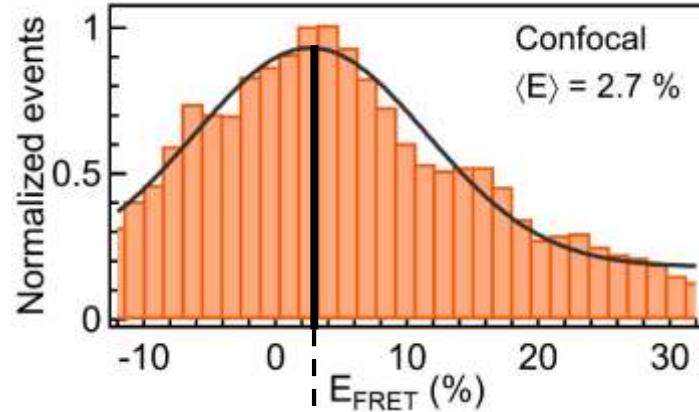
# High signal: monitor fast dynamics and reduce acquisition time



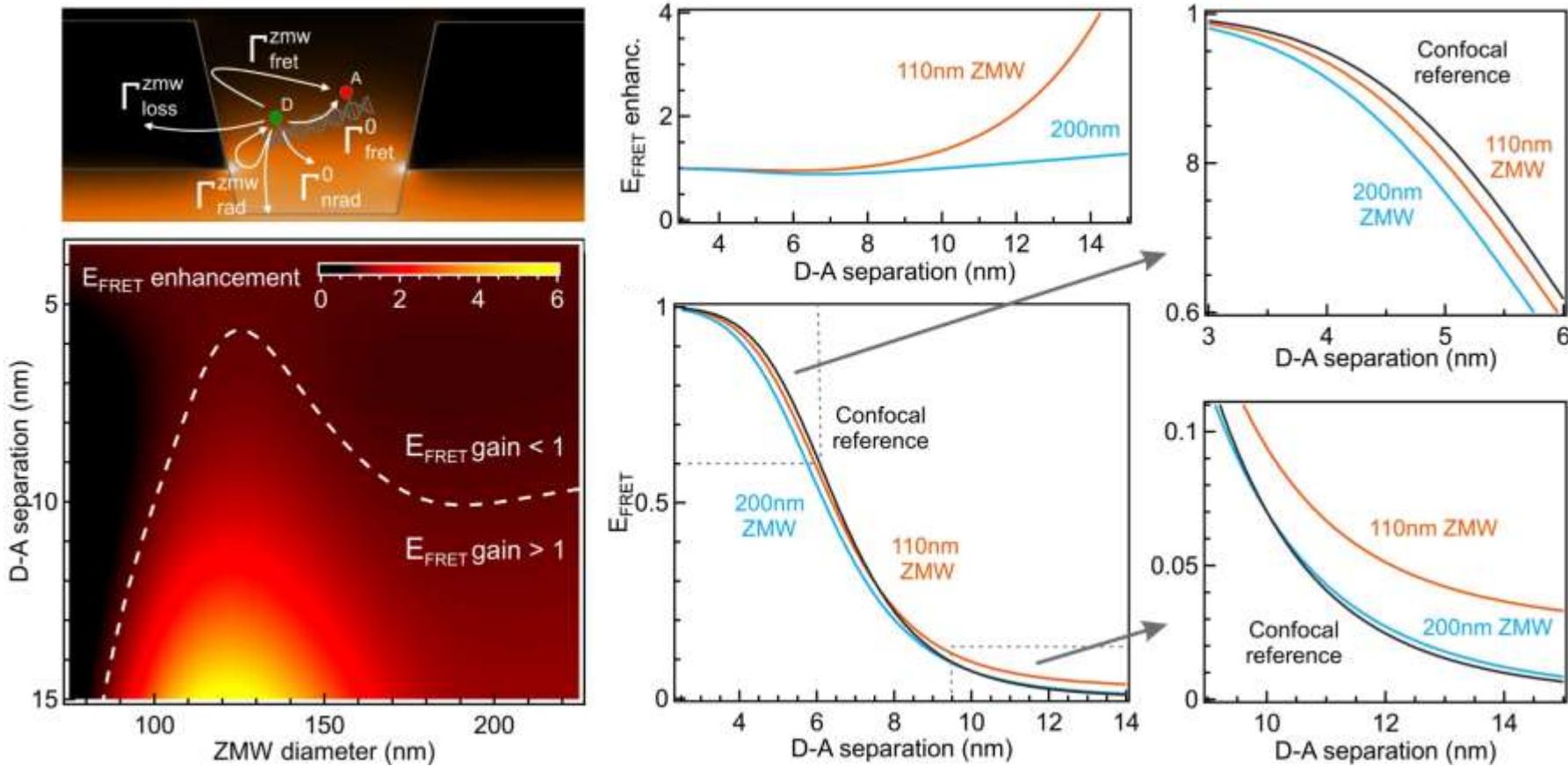
Collab Ben Schuler  
Zurich Univ.

Nüesch et al, JACS 2022, 144, 52-56

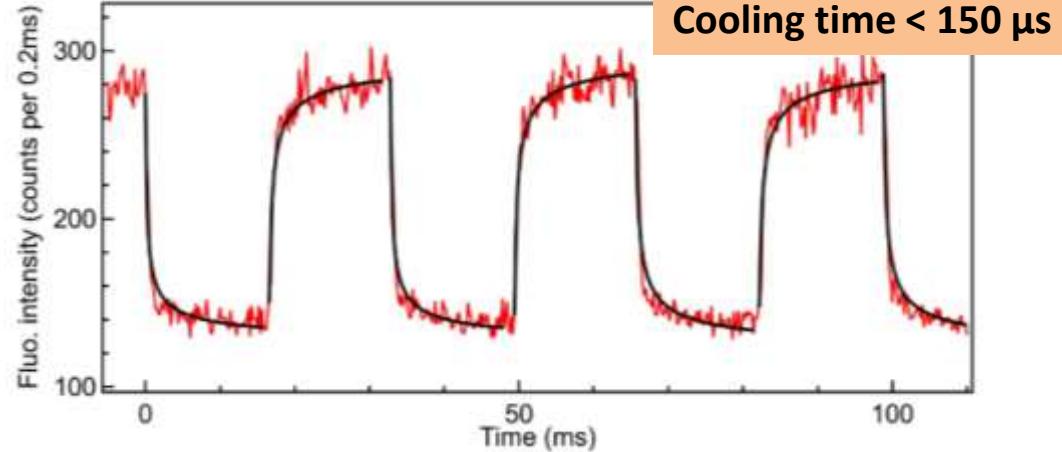
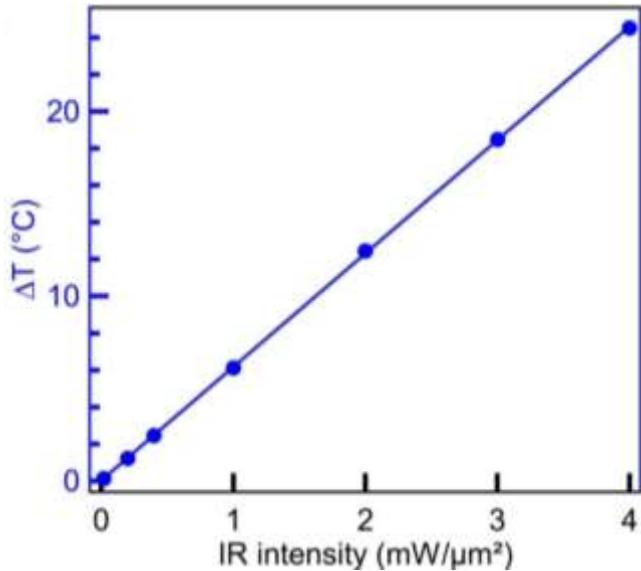
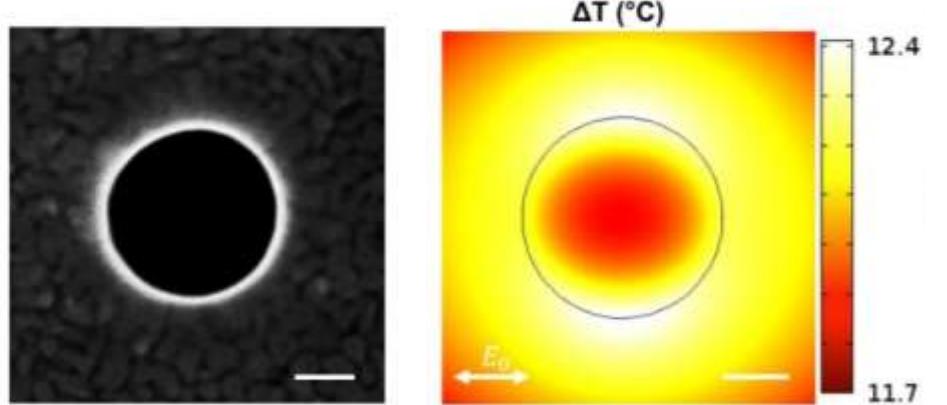
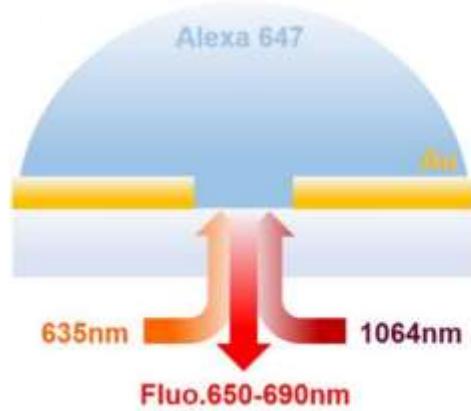
# Enhanced FRET: detect energy transfer at distances > 10 nm



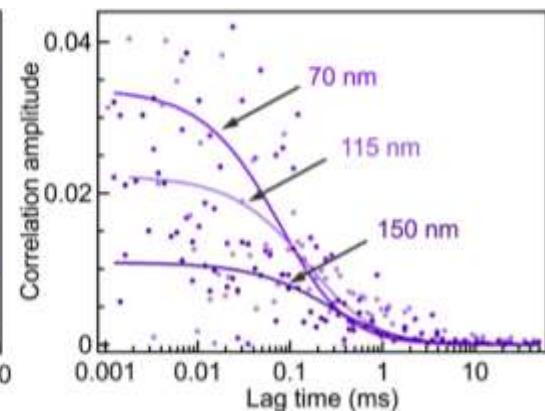
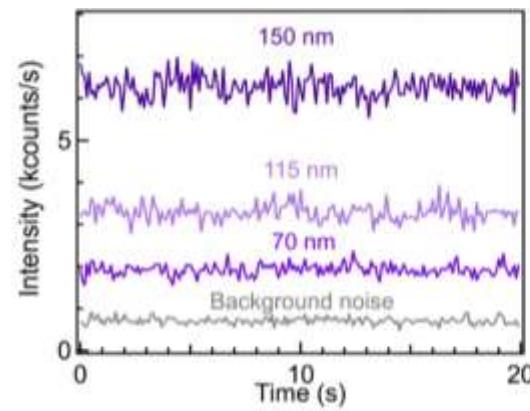
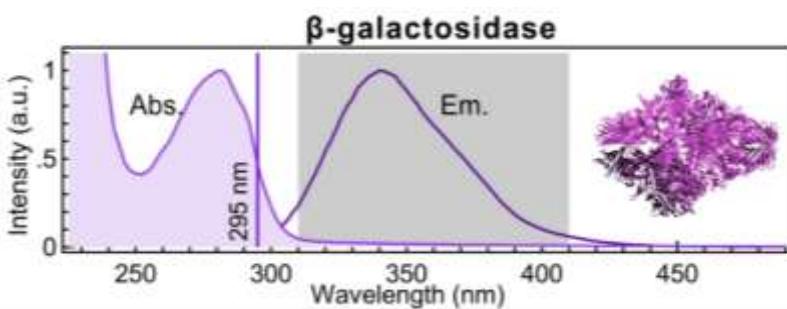
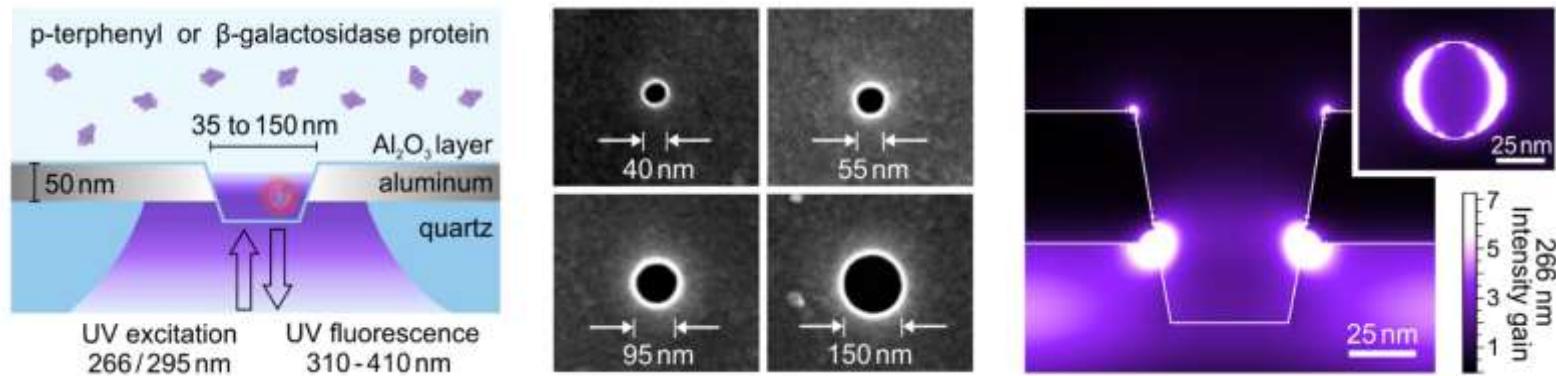
# Enhanced FRET: detect energy transfer at distances > 10 nm



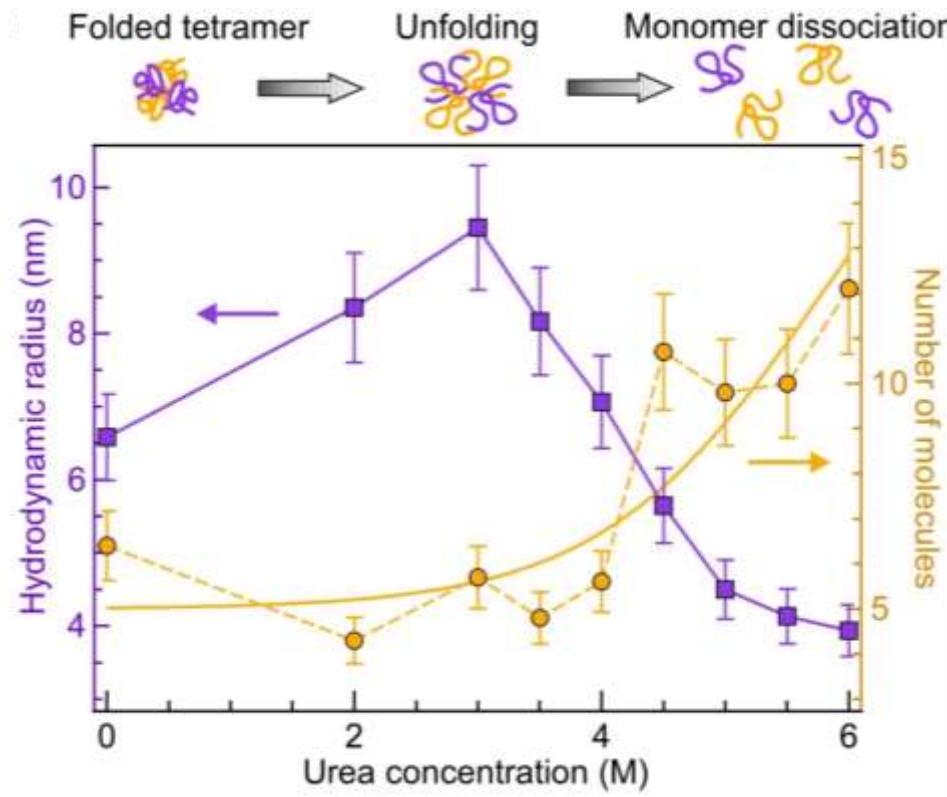
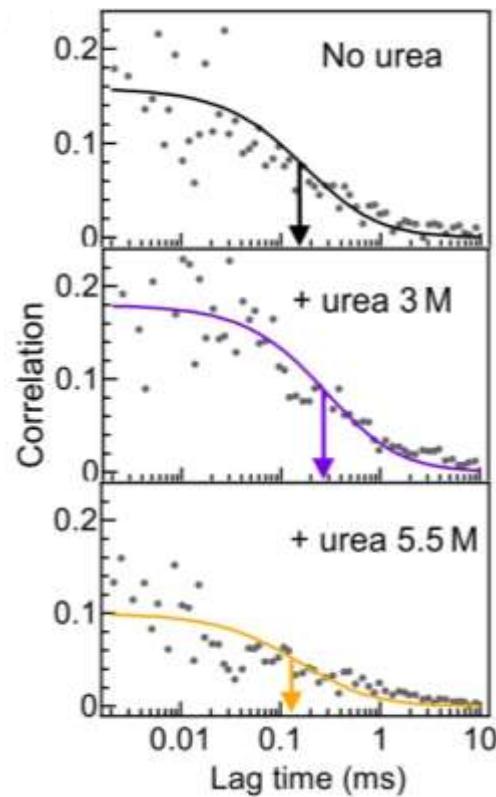
## Temperature control: perform fast submillisecond heating cycles



# Label-free: detect the intrinsic UV autofluorescence of a protein

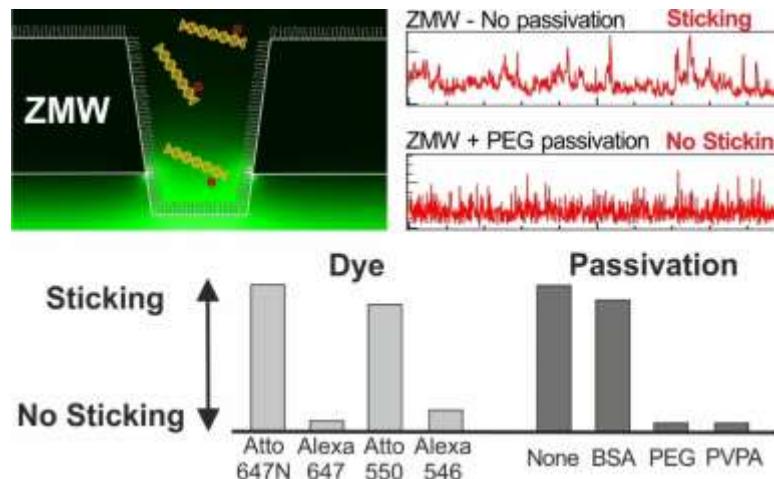


# Label-free: detect the intrinsic UV autofluorescence of a protein



# Troubleshooting tips

- **Fabrication:** focused ion beam, ebeam lithography, nanosphere litho.
- **Metal choice:** aluminum for broadband visible, gold for red and near-IR
- **Biomolecules sticking:** minimize with PEG surface passivation, depends on fluorophore
- **Reusability:** several weeks OK after UV-ozone or low-power plasma cleaning

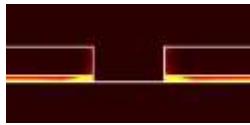
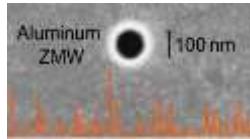


Patra et al, Sci. Rep. 2020, 10:5235

# Conclusions: what nanoapertures ZMWs can do for you



- **Low volume:** single molecule detection at micromolar concentration
- **High signal:** monitor fast dynamics and reduce acquisition time
- **Enhanced FRET:** detect energy transfer at distances > 10 nm
- **Temperature control:** perform fast submillisecond heating cycles
- **Label-free:** detect the intrinsic UV autofluorescence of a protein



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