

# The BV Droplets Down Under: From Model Emulsions to Drug Delivery

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# Windsurfing in the Bristol Channel



Definitely not the Bristol Channel!



Memories of those good old days at Bristol in the late 80's with Brian as your supervisor

Civilised with a high level of decorum



# The BV Birthday – Always a Special Day.....

Kick a few  
students into a  
Mini Bus



Treat him like a King and make him the centre of attention



Feed him a nice big cake



But some students just got a bit too friendly!!





## Novel Monodisperse "Silicone Oil" /Water Emulsions

TIMOTHY MARK OBEY<sup>1</sup> AND BRIAN VINCENT

*School of Chemistry, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1YS, United Kingdom*

Received July 1, 1993; accepted November 3, 1993

The preparation of monodisperse emulsions of "silicone oil" (poly(dimethylsiloxane) (PDMS)) in water has been carried out via the base-catalyzed hydrolysis and polymerization of dimethyldiethoxysilane (DMEDES) in water or water/ethanol mixtures. This method is analogous to the nucleation and growth of colloidal silica particles. The physical properties of the emulsions have been studied using dynamic light scattering and electrophoresis. Characterization of the PDMS phase has been undertaken principally by <sup>29</sup>Si and <sup>1</sup>H NMR, mass spectrometry, and GPC. The results show that in the absence of ethanol the cyclic tetramer octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (D<sub>4</sub>) is the most prominent polymeric species. The ratio of linear to cyclic polymer in the PDMS phase may be altered by changing the amount of alcohol and/or monomer present in the initial reaction mixture. We also report the preparation of aqueous/PDMS emulsions by addition of water to an alcoholic solution of low molecular weight PDMS. © 1994 Academic Press, Inc.

value of  $\gamma^{nd}$  is low enough for this to be the case (remembering that  $\gamma^{nd}$  contains a contribution from the bending free energy, which depends on the droplet radius). However, in certain cases "spontaneous" emulsification may take place even if the *equilibrium* value of  $\gamma^{nd}$  is such that  $\Delta G_{form}$  is positive. This occurs when the *dynamic* value of  $\gamma^{nd}$  decreases transiently to very small values. This feature has been directly observed by Gerbacia and Rosano (1) for interfacial tensions between bulk aqueous/*n*-hexadecane (or benzene) solution, containing surfactant (measured using the Wilhelmy slide technique), on addition of pentanol to either of the bulk liquid phases. In this case the lowering of the dynamic interfacial tension is associated with transfer of the alcohol across the interface.

Vold and Vold (2) have listed similar examples where apparent spontaneous emulsification of two bulk liquid phases may take place under nonequilibrium conditions. Two such examples are:



Colloids and Surfaces

A: Physicochemical and Engineering Aspects 123–124 (1997) 183–193

COLLOIDS  
AND  
SURFACES

A

## Inorganic “silicone oil” microgels

Michael I. Goller, Timothy M. Obey, Declan O.H. Teare, Brian Vincent \*,  
Matthias R. Wegener

*School of Chemistry, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TS, UK*

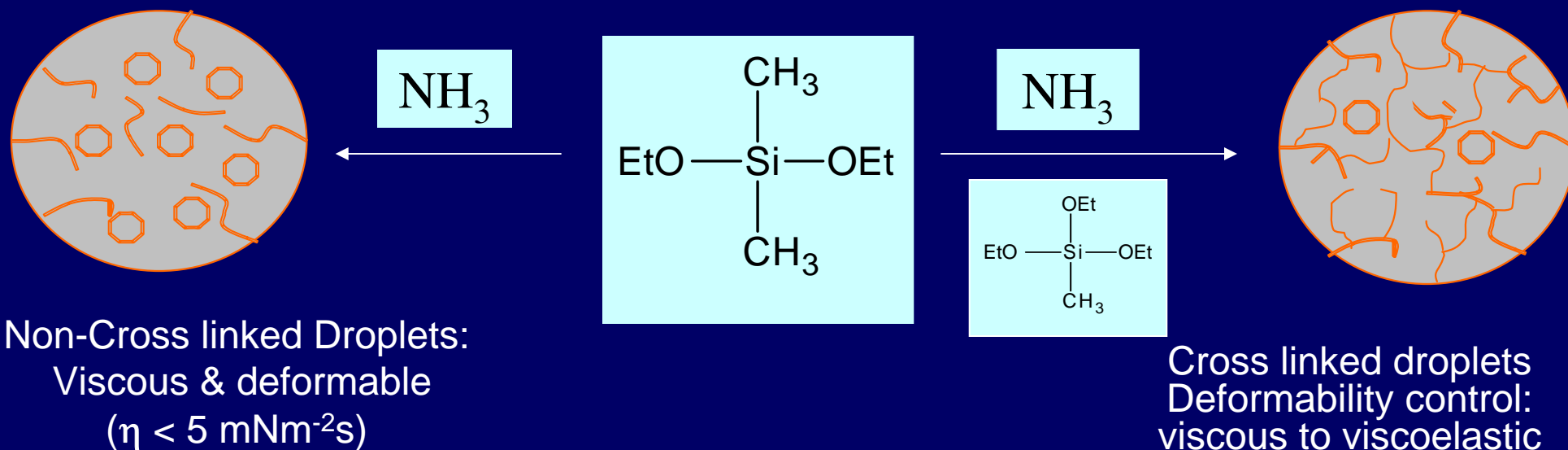
Received 18 July 1996; accepted 26 July 1996

### Abstract

We report investigations into the stability, morphology, internal microstructure and swelling behaviour of polydimethylsiloxane oil-in-water emulsions (1 vol.% monomer; 1 vol.%  $\text{NH}_3$  solution;  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ) prepared using mixtures of difunctional (dimethyldiethoxysilane (DMDES)) and trifunctional silane monomers. Both methyltriethoxysilane (MTES) and 3-aminopropyltriethoxysilane (APTES) are potential cross-linkers owing to their trifunctionality. The addition of MTES leads to major changes in various properties of the PDMS droplets. Transmission electron microscopy was used to observe the transition between liquid droplets ( $[\text{MTES}] < 50 \text{ vol.}\%$ ) and solid particles ( $[\text{MTES}] > 50 \text{ vol.}\%$ ). The particles showed significantly reduced swelling in *n*-heptane in comparison with the liquid droplets. This restriction on swelling indicates the formation of internally cross-linked particles.  $^{29}\text{Si}$  nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and mass spectroscopy demonstrated increased incorporation of trifunctional material in PDMS polymers as the MTES concentration was raised. The chemical structure of the trifunctional monomer was shown to be important, as  $^{29}\text{Si}$  NMR suggests that APTES does not polymerize with DMDES but may reside in the aqueous continuous phase as a cationic oligomer. The presence of ethanol during particle formation causes enhanced particle swelling. The particle size of the swollen particles, however, falls steeply as the concentration of ethanol is reduced. Overall the data suggest the formation of cross-linked microgels at high MTES concentrations. © 1997 Elsevier Science B.V.

*Keywords:* Cross-linking; Emulsions; Microgels; Polydimethylsiloxane; Swelling

# BV's PDMS Droplets



- Highly monodispersed ( $\sim 1\mu\text{m}$  in diameter)
- Emulsifier free, negatively charged with IEP  $\approx$  pH 2.5

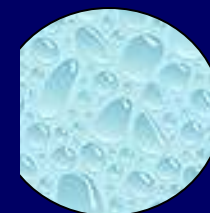
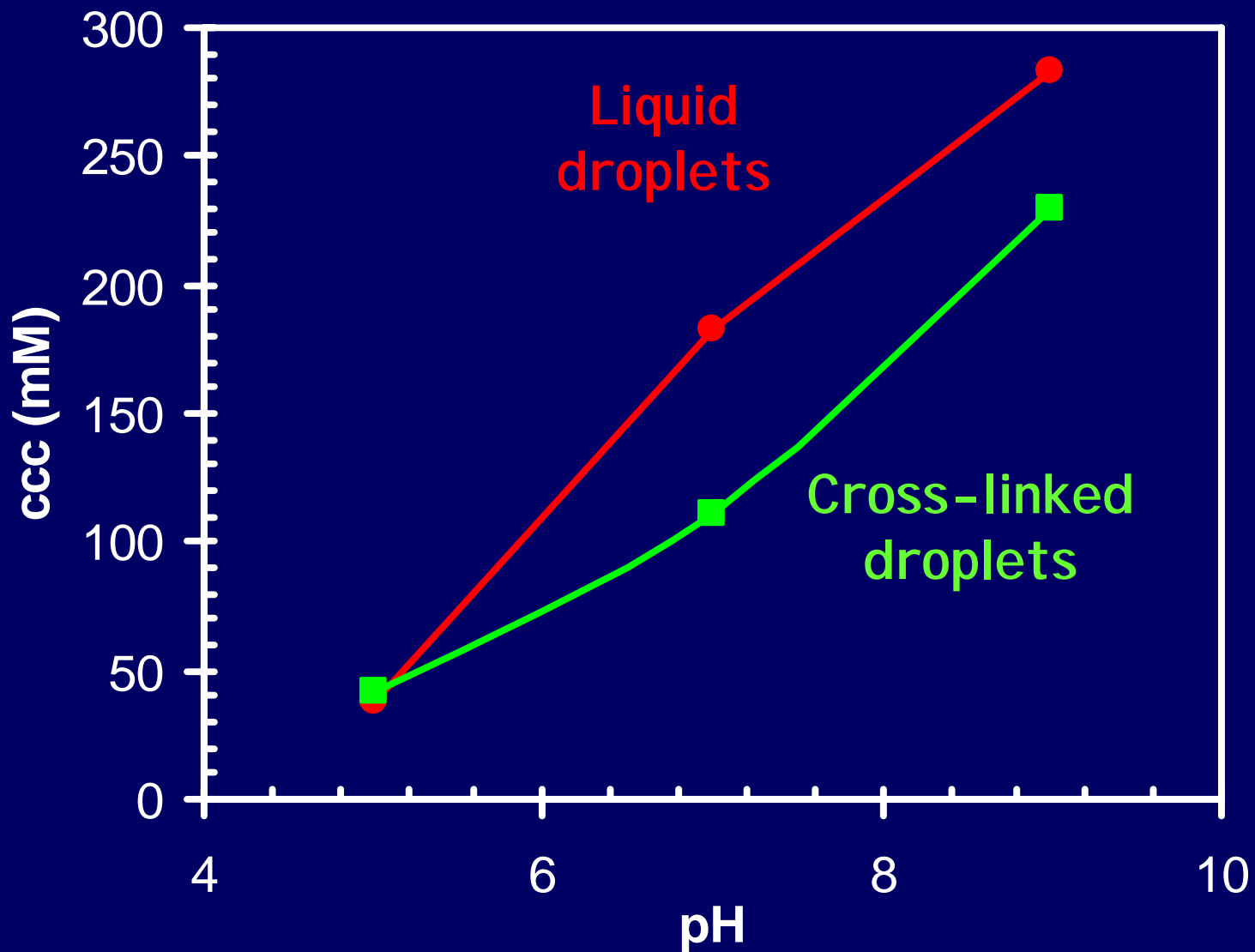
T. M. Obey & B. Vincent, *J. Colloid Interface Sci.*, **163** (1994) 454.

M. I. Goller *et al.*, *Colloids Surf. A.*, **123-124** (1997) 183.

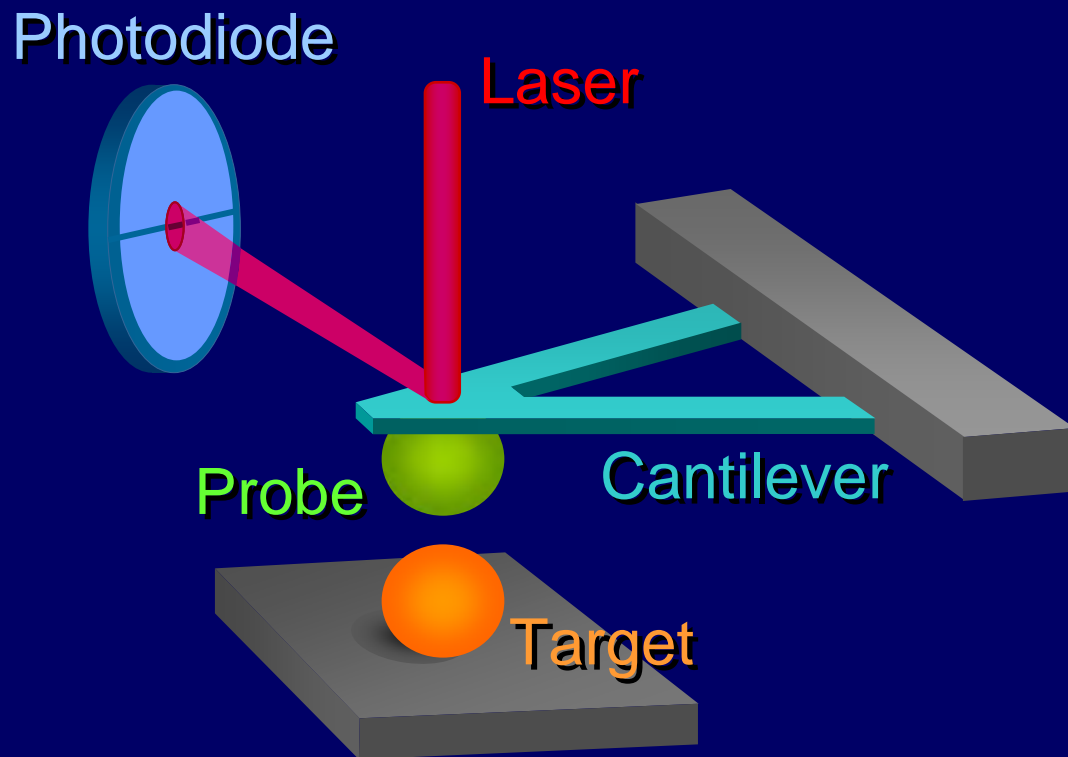
# The BV Droplets – an excellent model colloid with controllable deformability

- Interaction forces of the BV droplets
- Rheological studies on concentrated emulsions of the BV droplets
- Block copolymers at the BV droplet - water interface
- Nanoparticles at the BV droplet - water interface
- Molecular transport across the BV droplet - water interface.

# Deformable BV droplets are more colloidal stable



# Interaction forces on the BV droplets determined using colloid probe atomic force microscopy (AFM)



Potential from PD



Deflection of cantilever

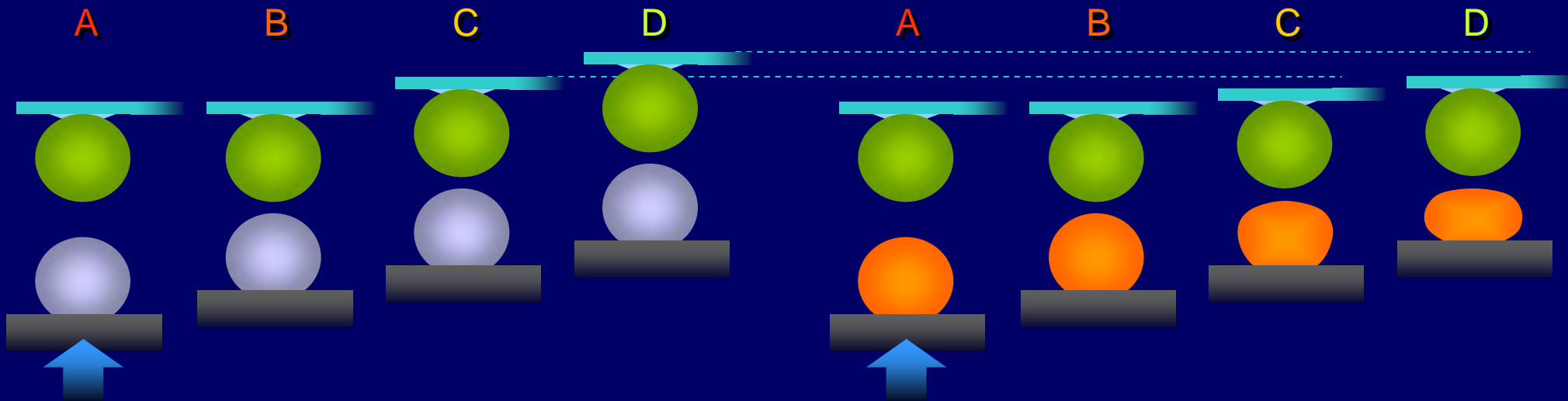
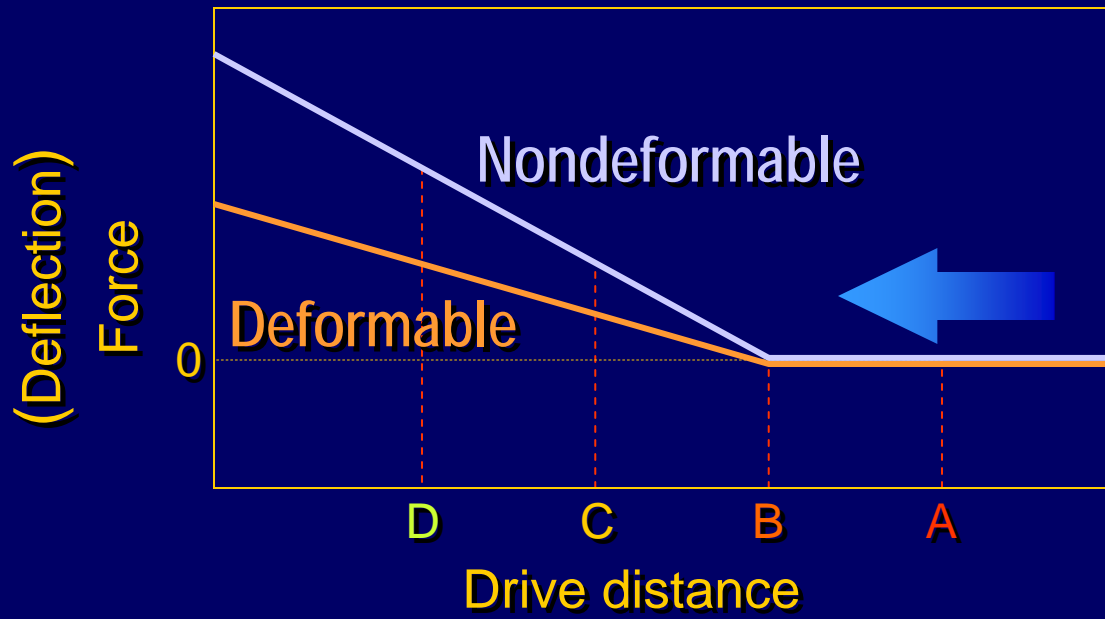


Interdroplet forces

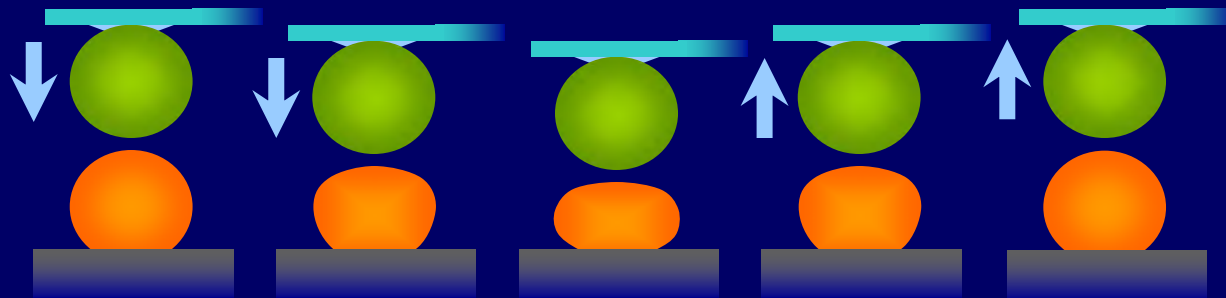
Hooke's Law

$$F = -k_c x$$

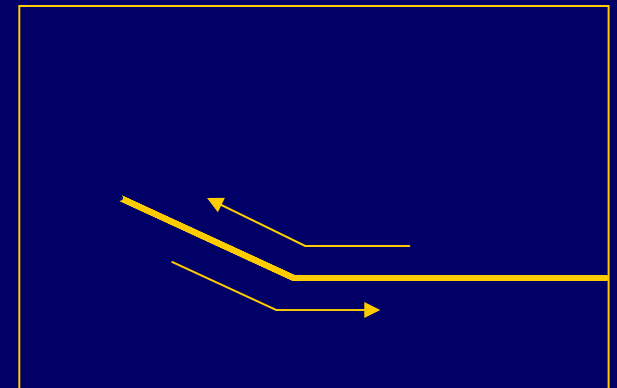
$k_c$ : spring constant of cantilever  
 $x$ : deflection of cantilever



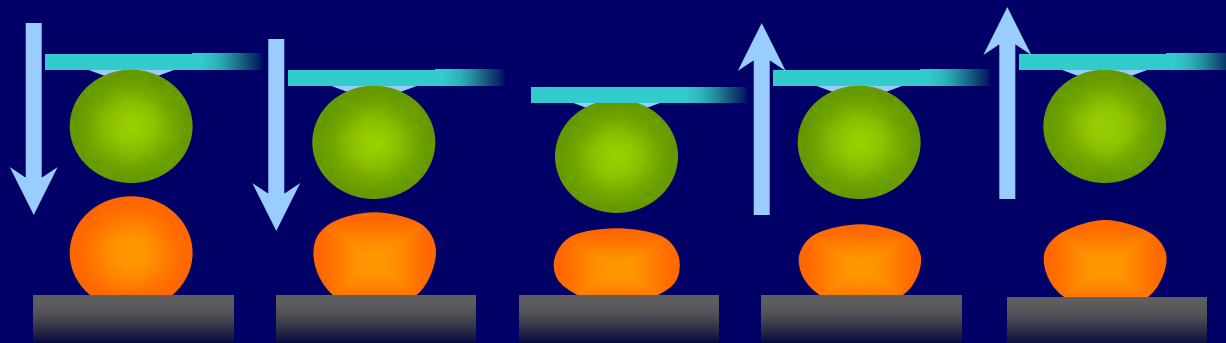
# Approach Rate Dependence



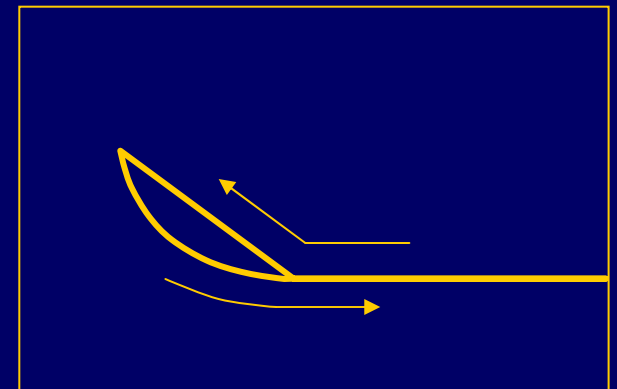
Low rate



Drive distance



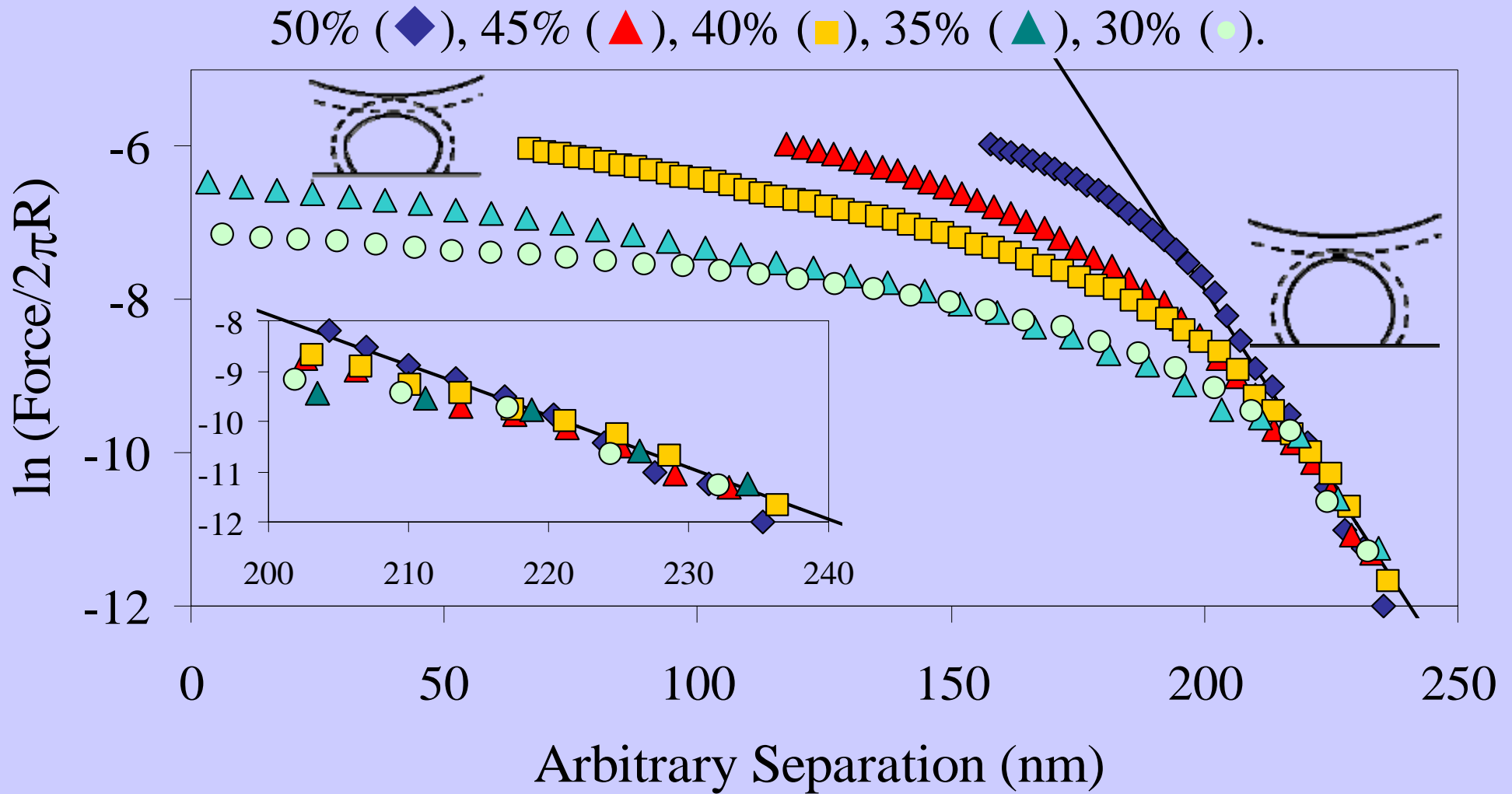
High rate



Drive distance

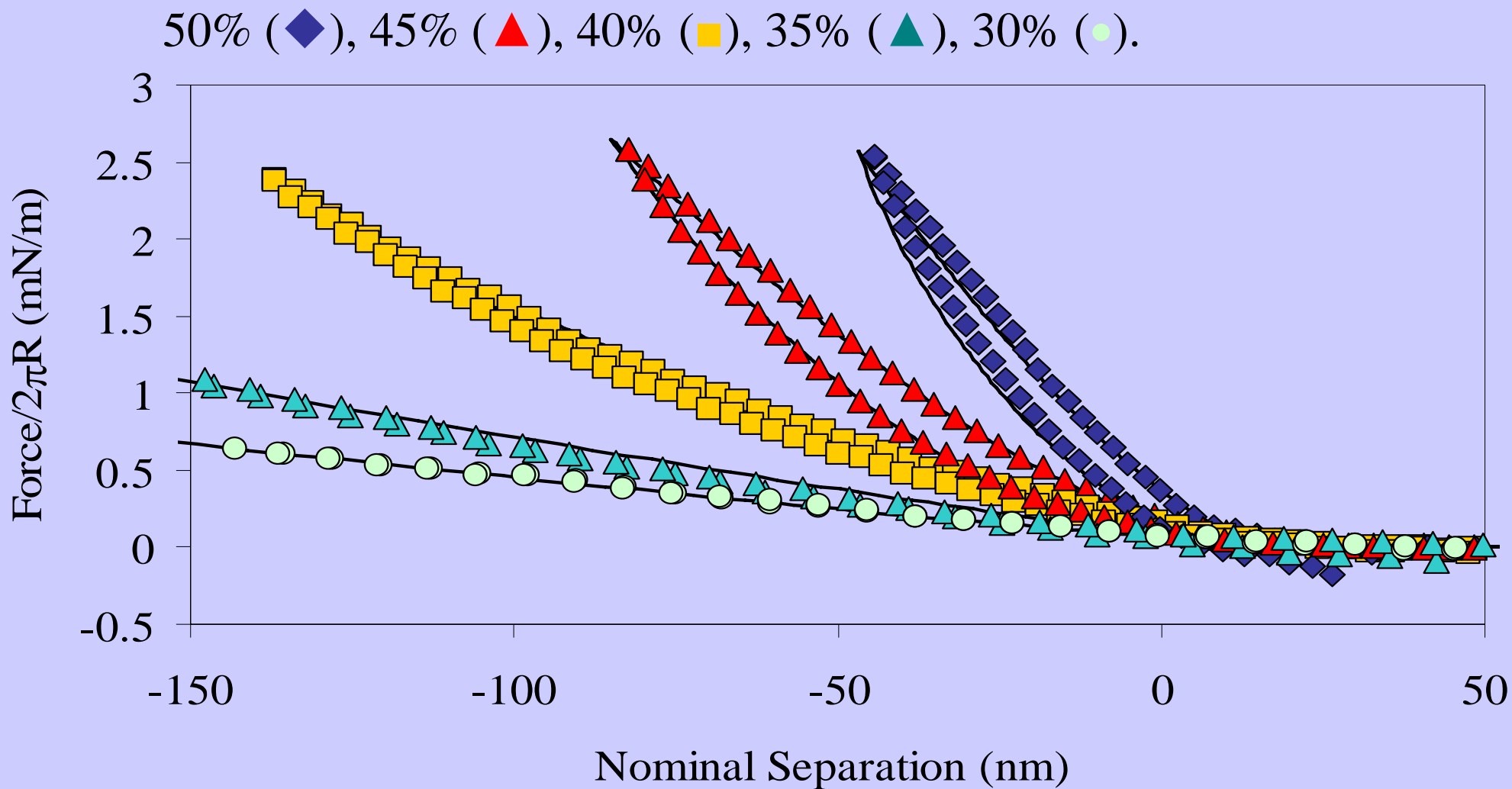


# Interaction Forces between BV Droplets and AFM colloid probe



Gillies and Prestidge, *Langmuir*, 21, 12342-12347, 2005

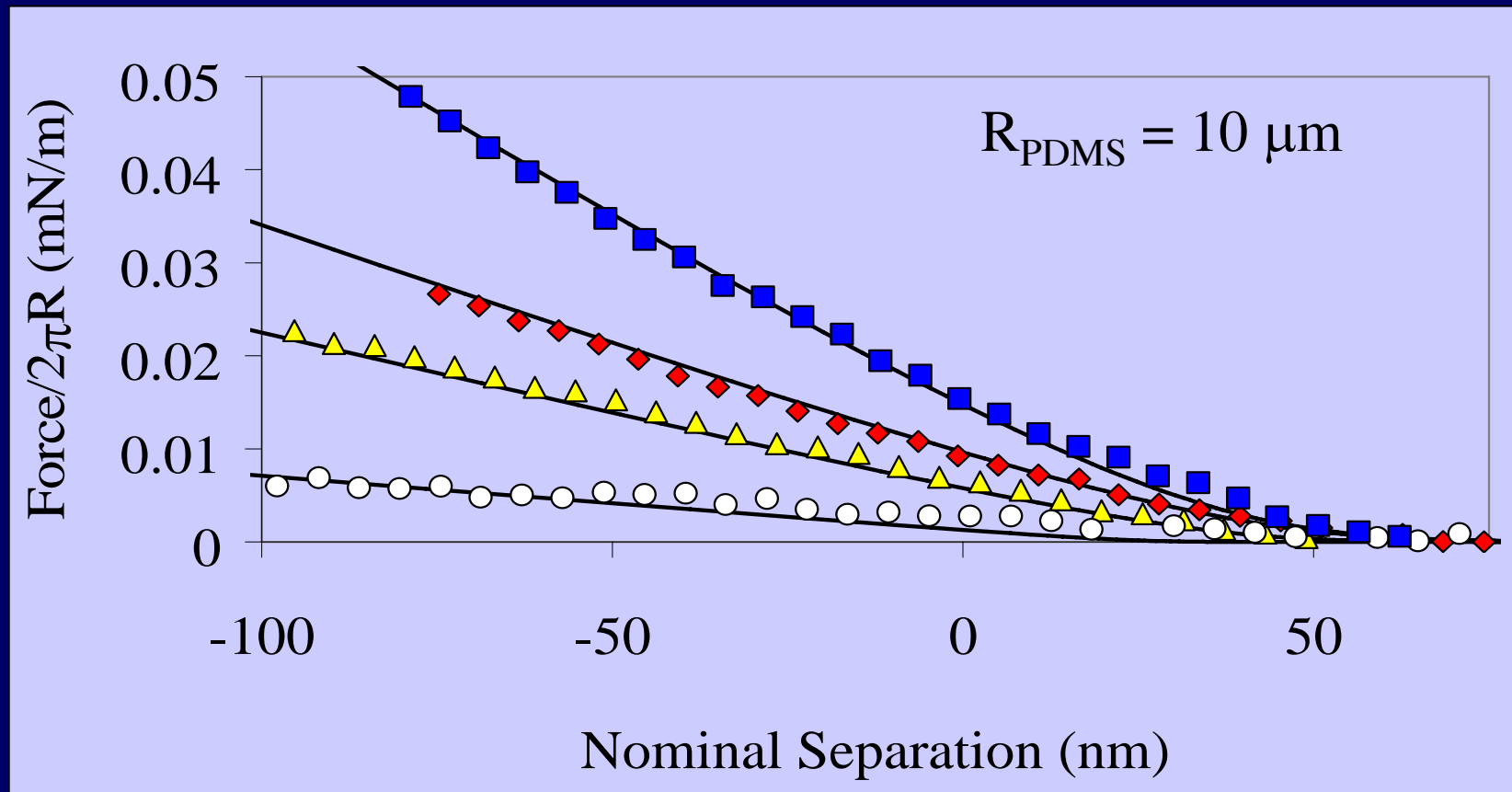
# Deformation & Hysteresis- influence of cross-linking:



Gillies and Prestidge, *Langmuir*, 21, 12342-12347, 2005

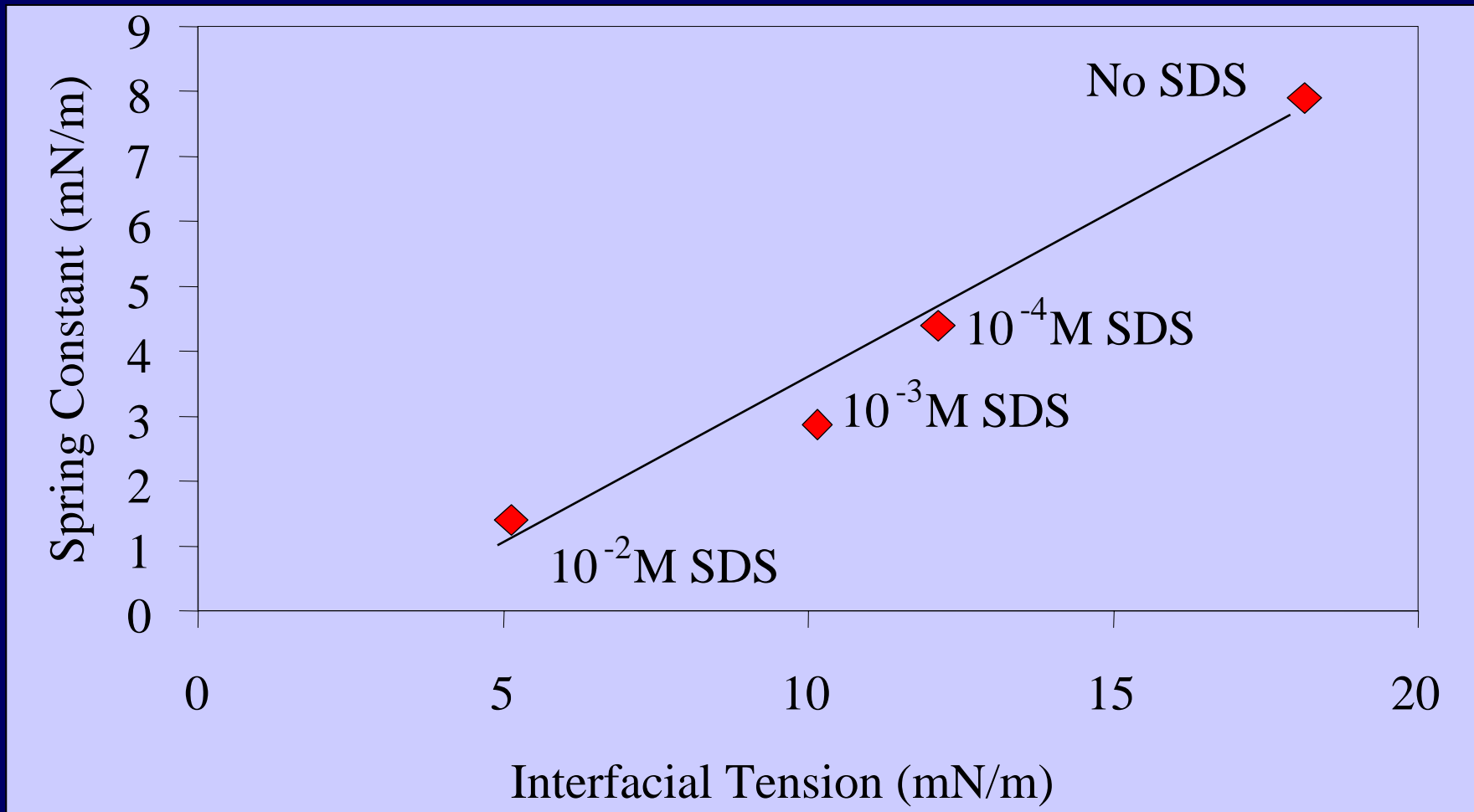
# Liquid-like BV Droplets: Influence of Surfactant (SDS)

(■) No SDS (◆)  $10^{-4}\text{M}$  (▲)  $10^{-3}\text{M}$  (●)  $10^{-2}\text{M}$

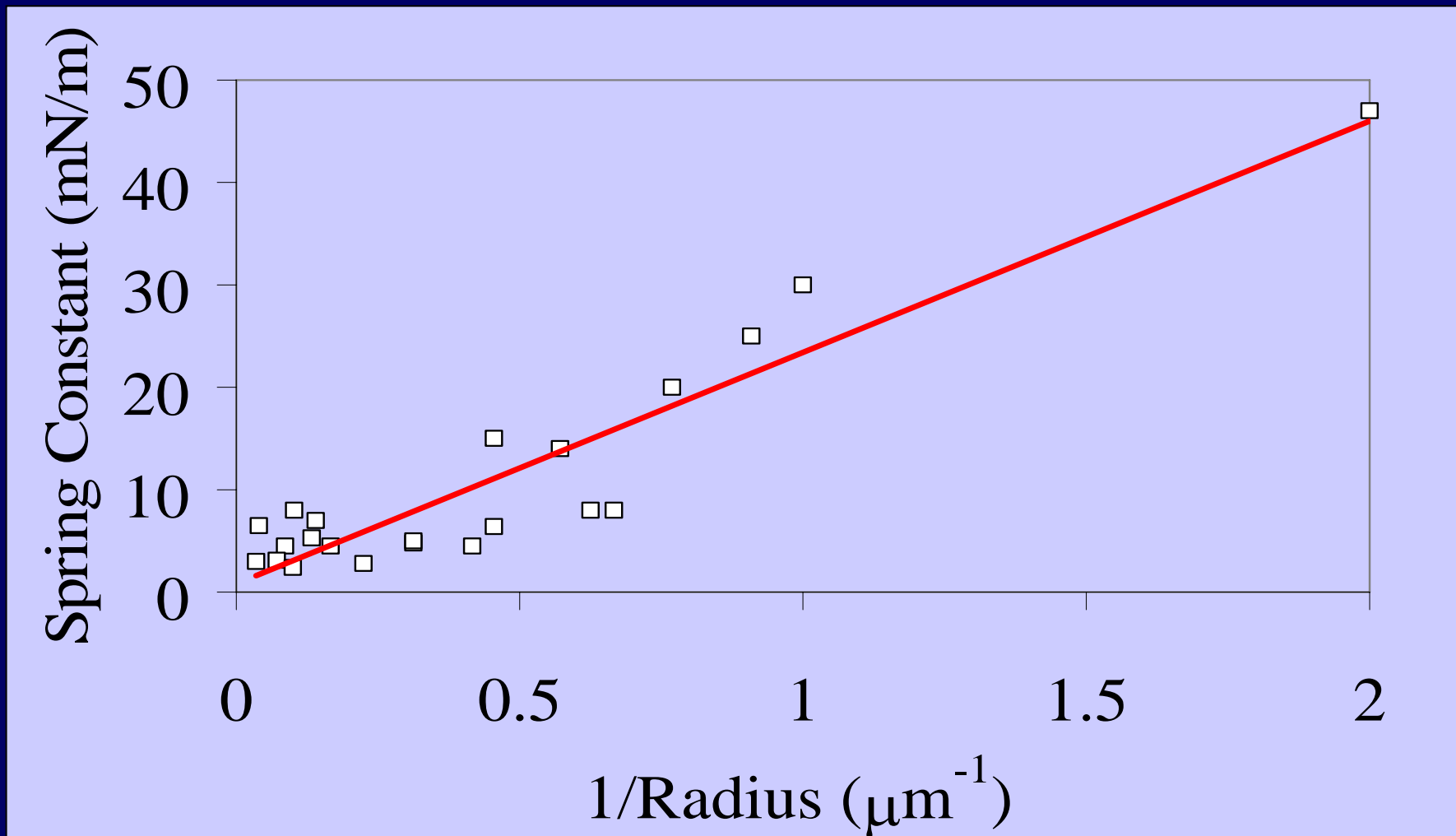


# Spring constant controlled by interfacial tension

$$R_{\text{PDMS}} = 10 \mu\text{m}$$



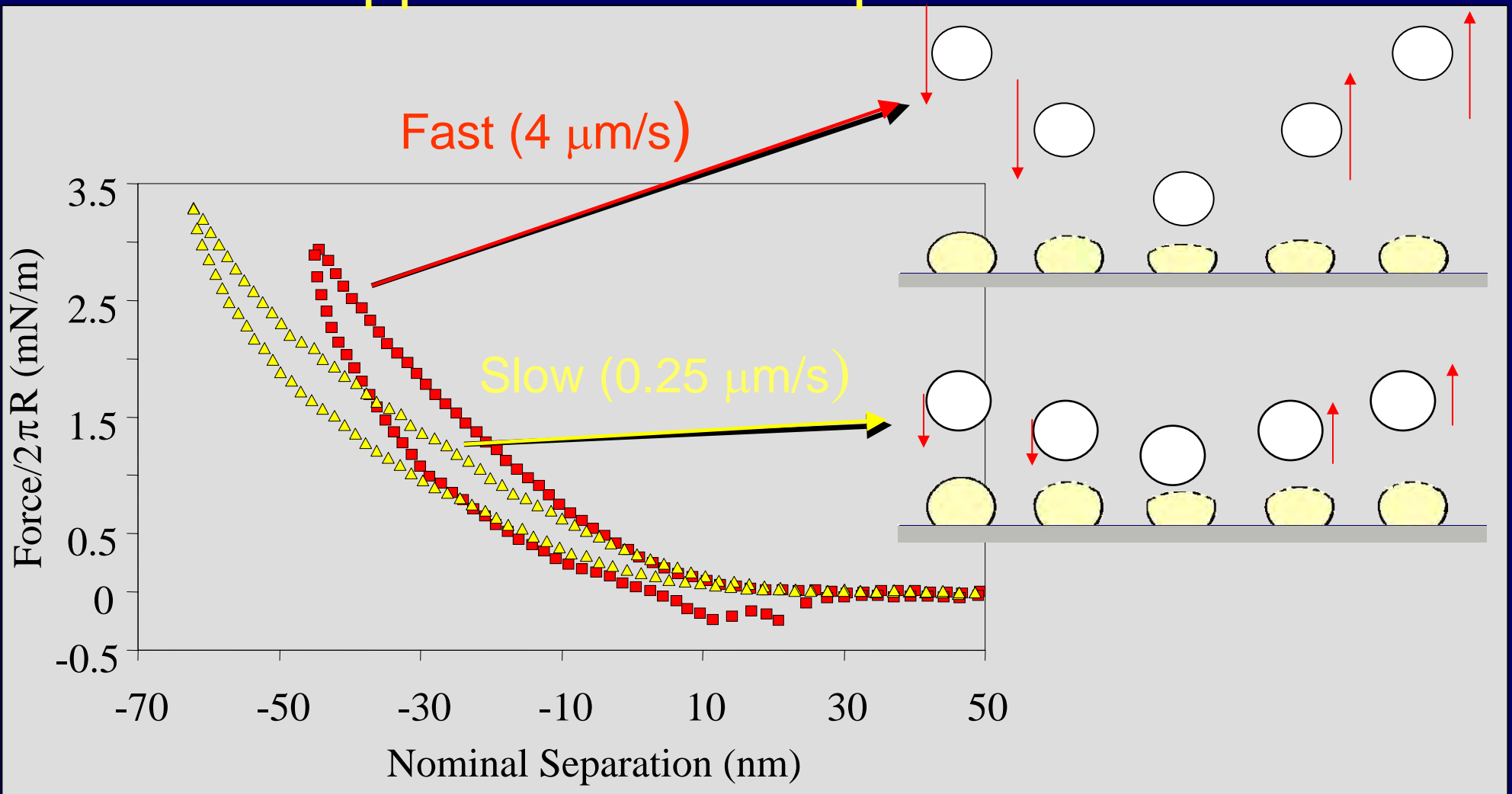
# Liquid-like BV Droplets: Influence of size



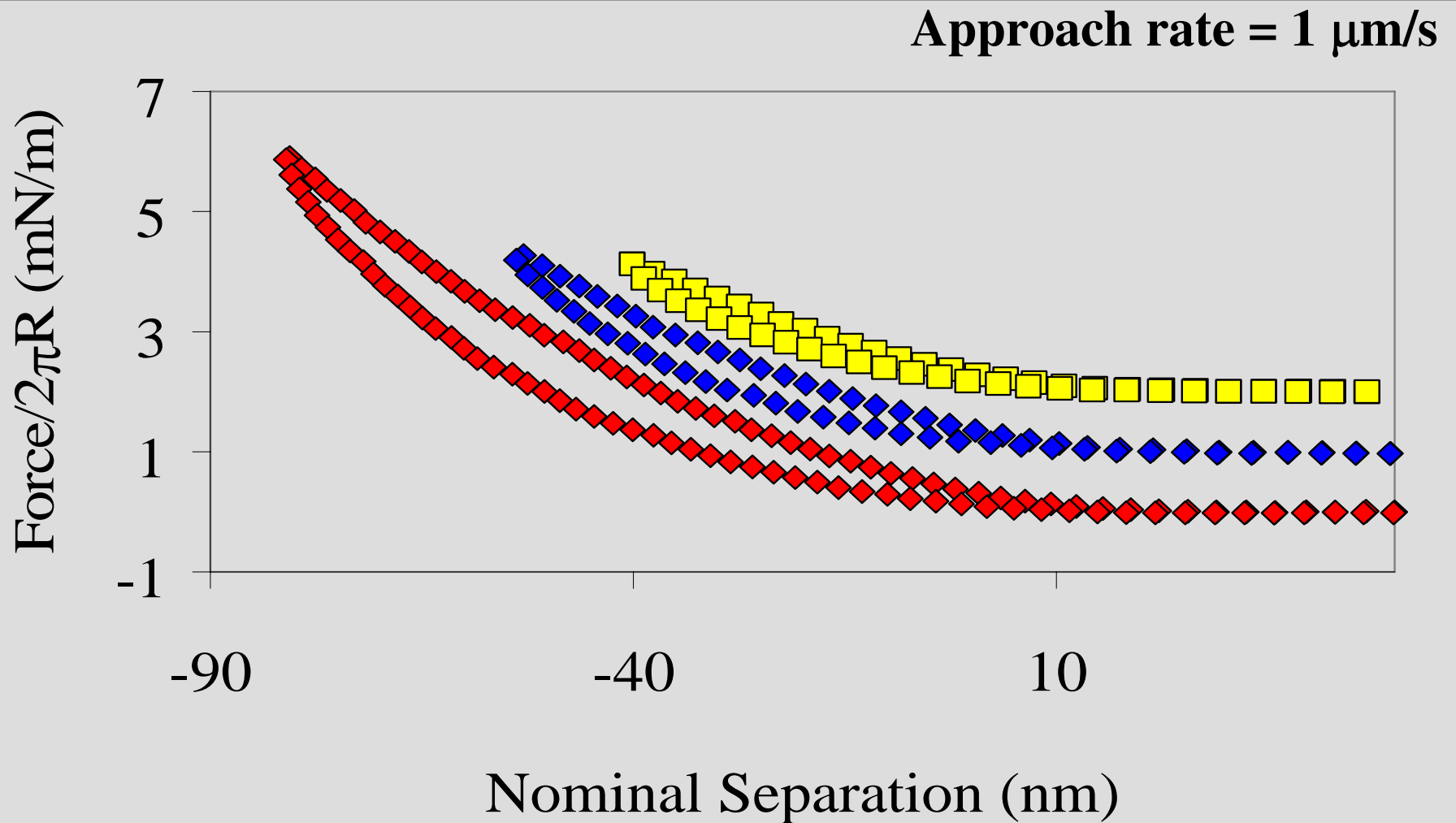
Laplace pressure controls spring constant

GS Gillies, CA Prestidge, *Adv. Colloid Interface Sci*, 108-109, 197-205, 2004.

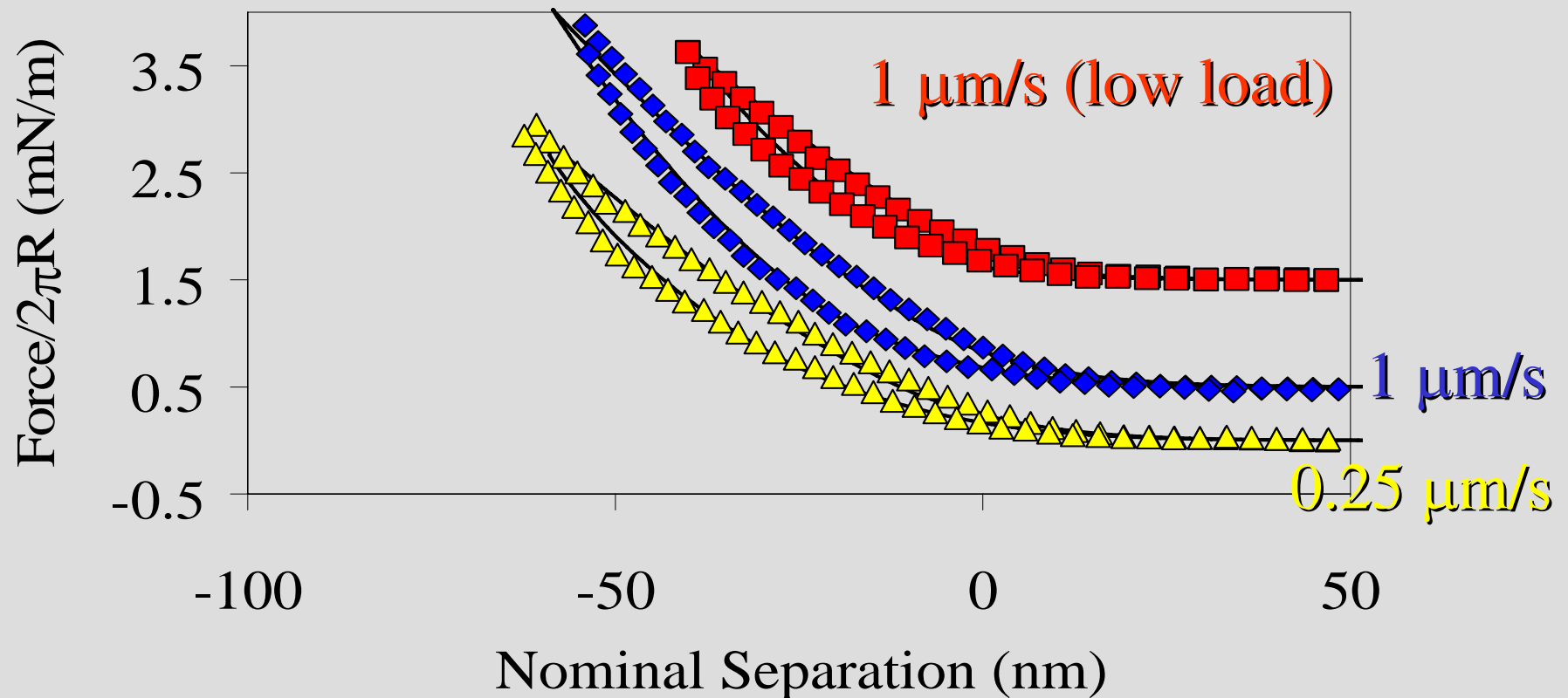
# Cross-linked BV Droplets: Approach Rate Dependence



# Cross-linked BV Droplets: Load Dependence



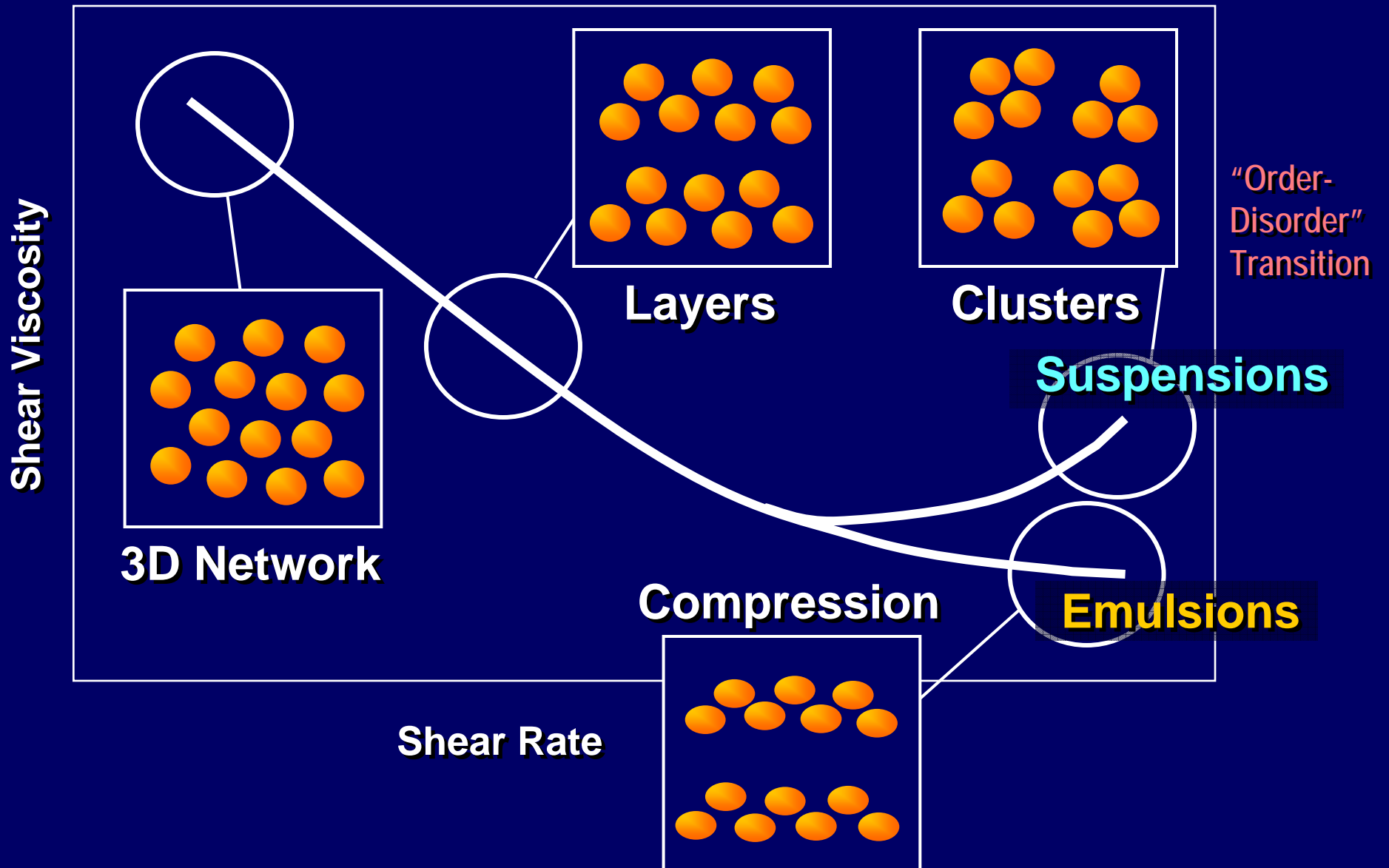
# Nano-Rheology of a BV Droplet



$$E_0 = 1.2 \text{ MPa}, E_\infty = 0.8 \text{ MPa and } \tau = 0.12 \text{ s}$$

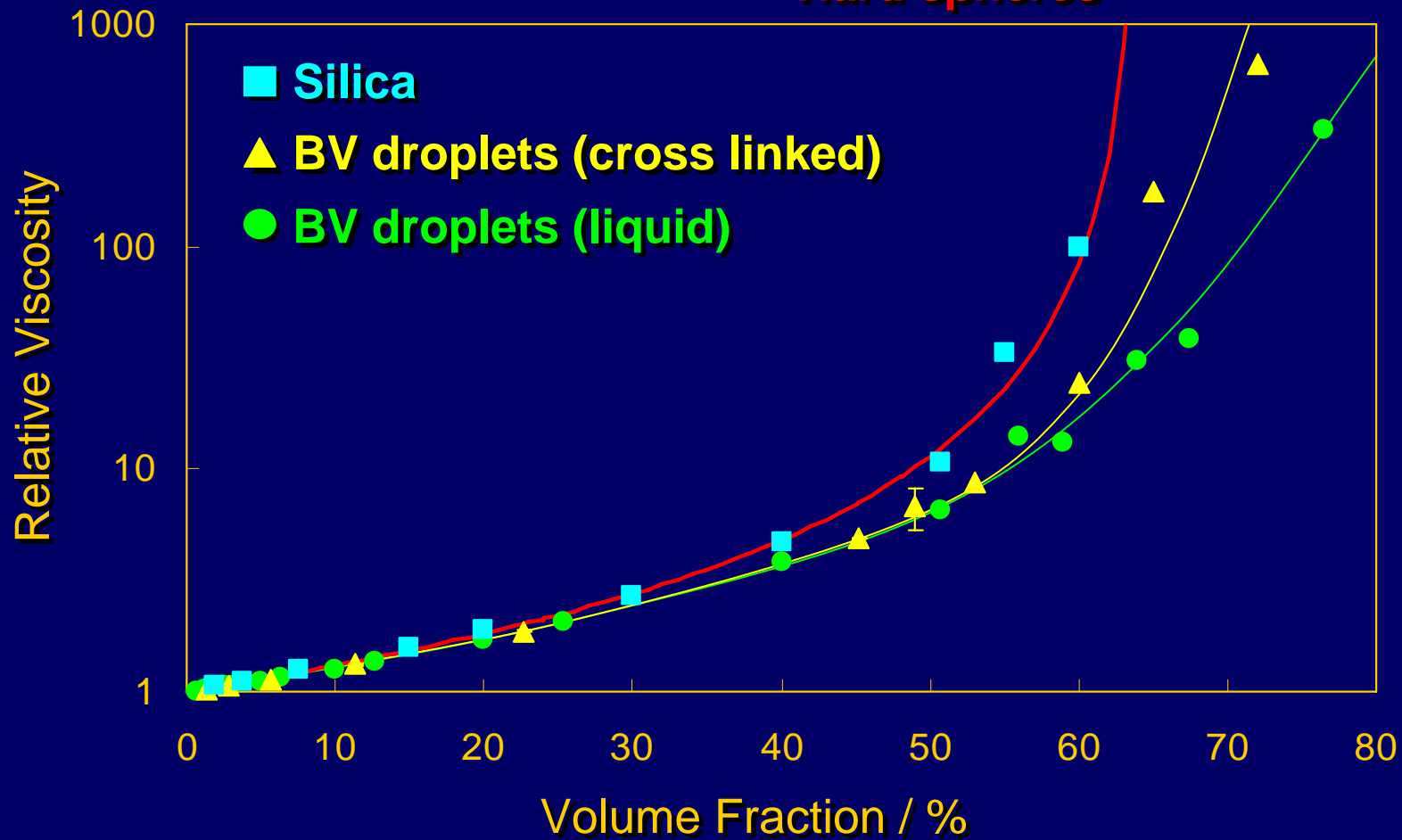


# Rheological studies on concentrated emulsions of the BV droplets



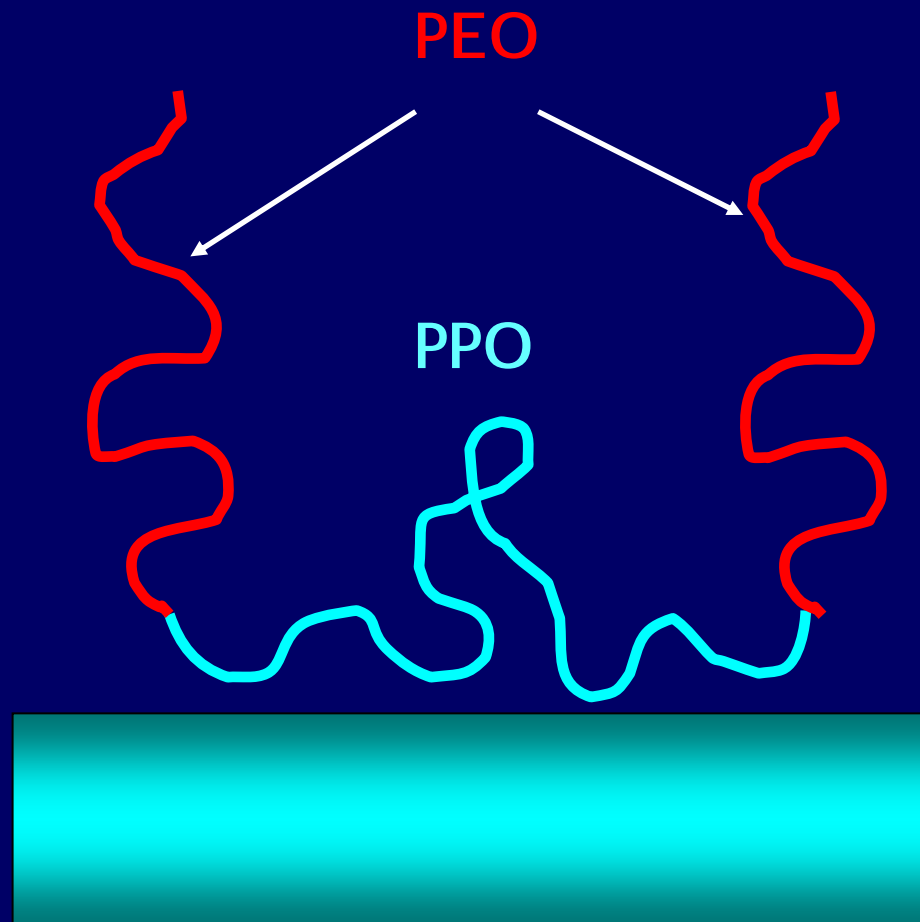
# Viscosity versus volume fraction

Krieger-Dougherty  
Hard spheres

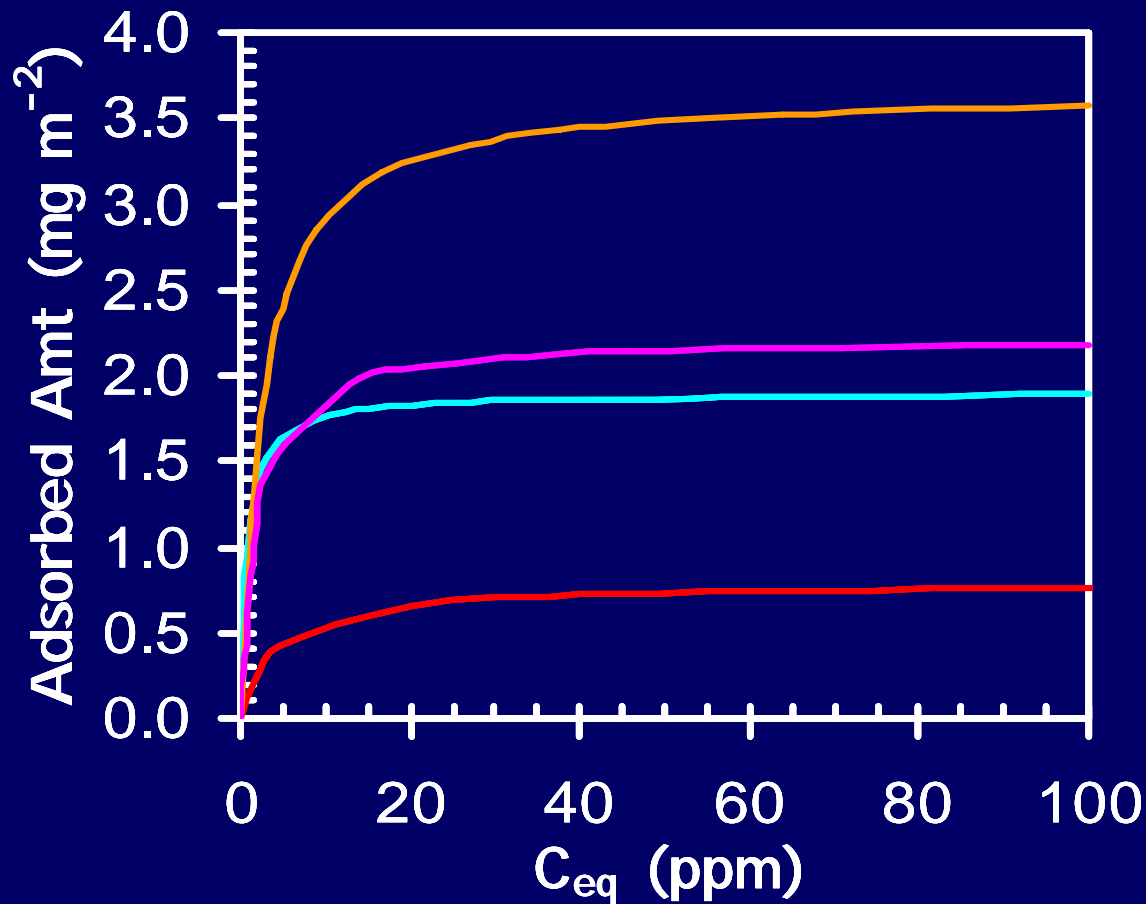


Saiki, Prestidge and Horn, *Colloids and Surfaces A*, 299, 65-72, 2006.

# PEO-PPO-PEO Copolymers at the BV droplet - water interface



# Adsorbed Amount of F108



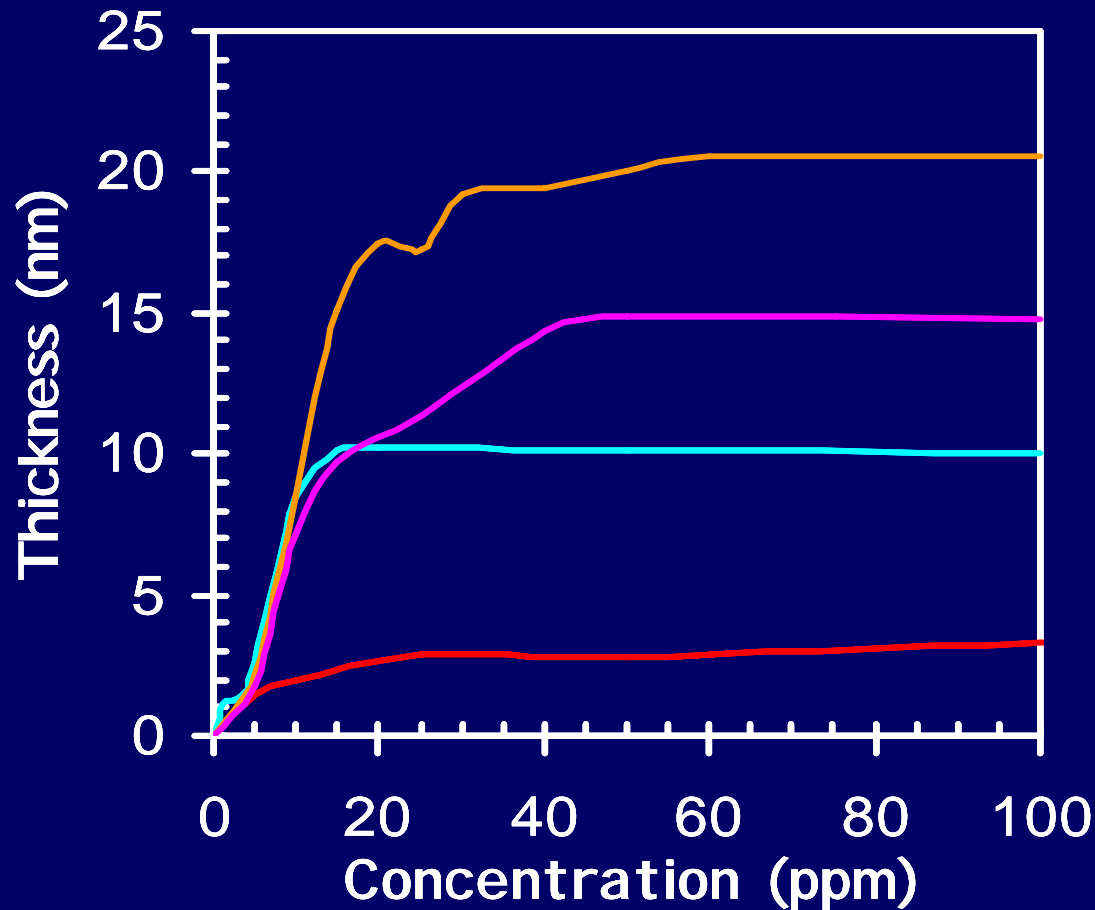
Liquid droplets

Cross-linked droplets

Polystyrene latex

Silica

# Adsorbed Layer Thickness of F108



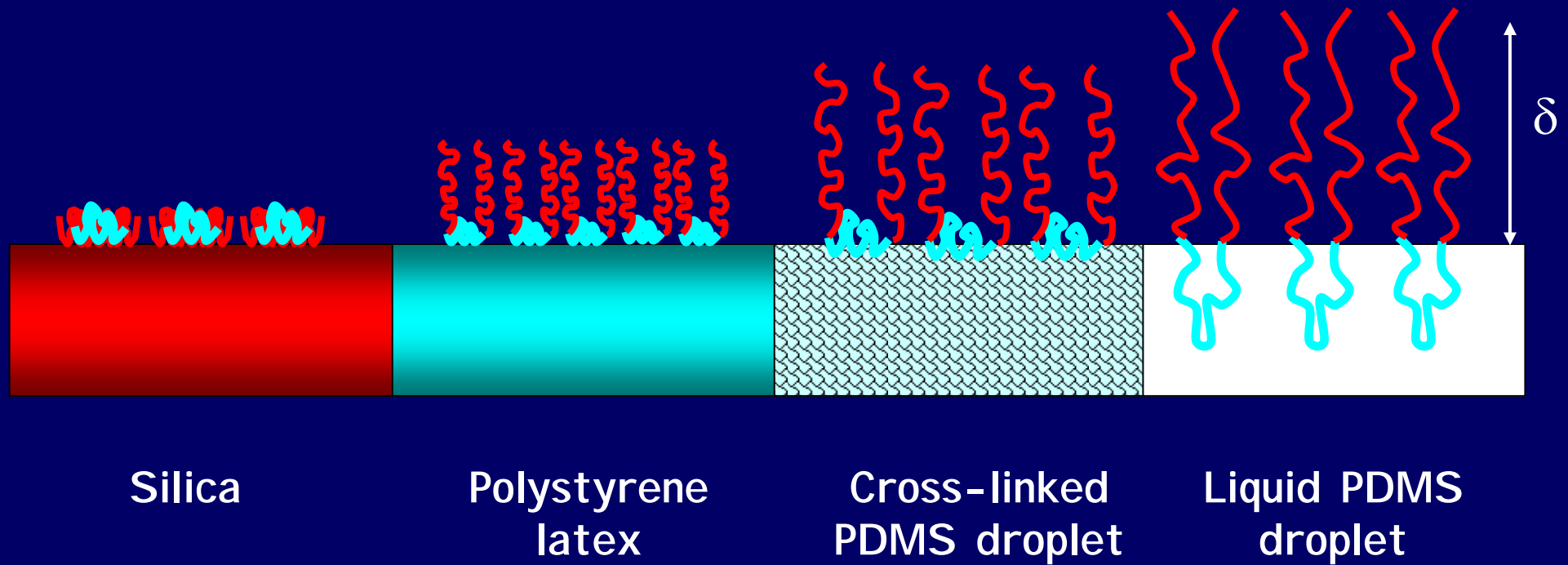
Liquid droplets

Cross-linked droplets

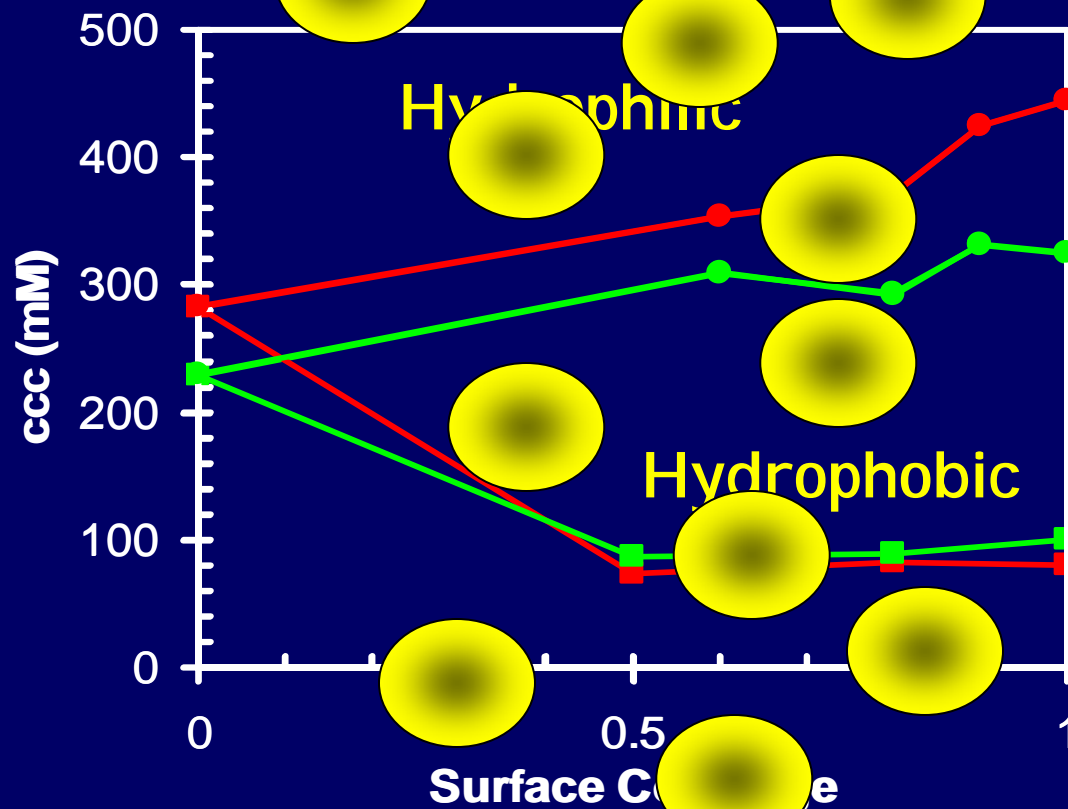
Polystyrene latex

Silica

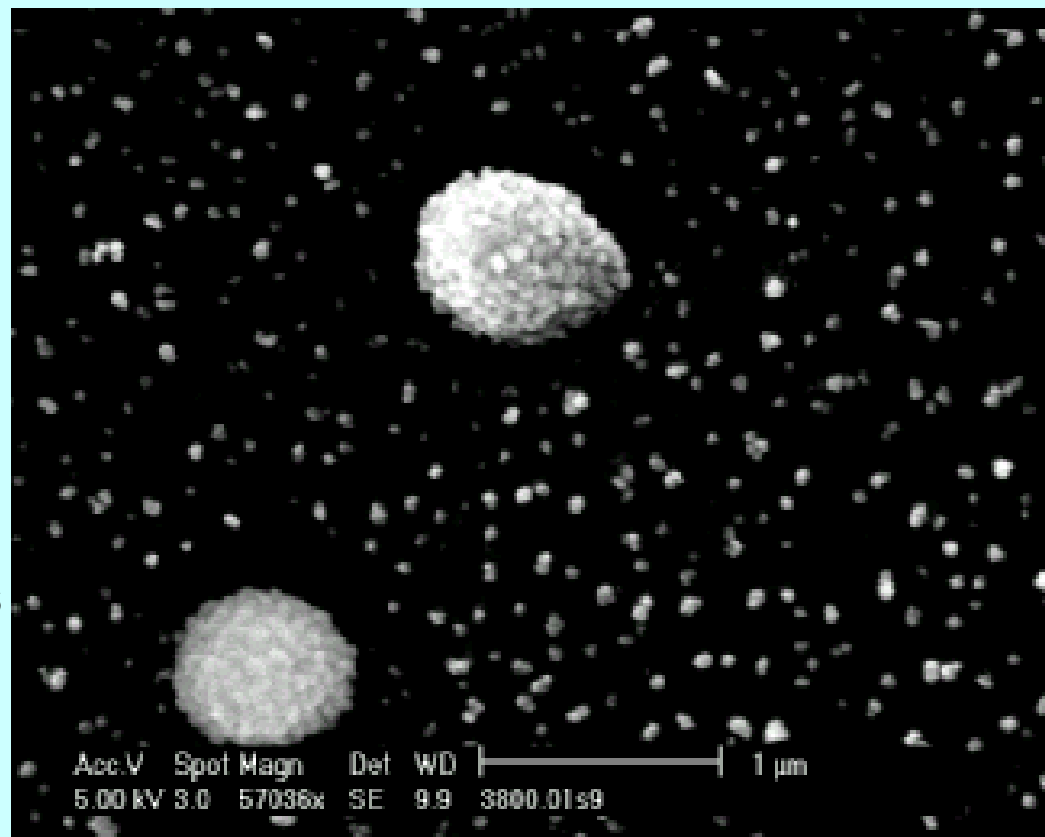
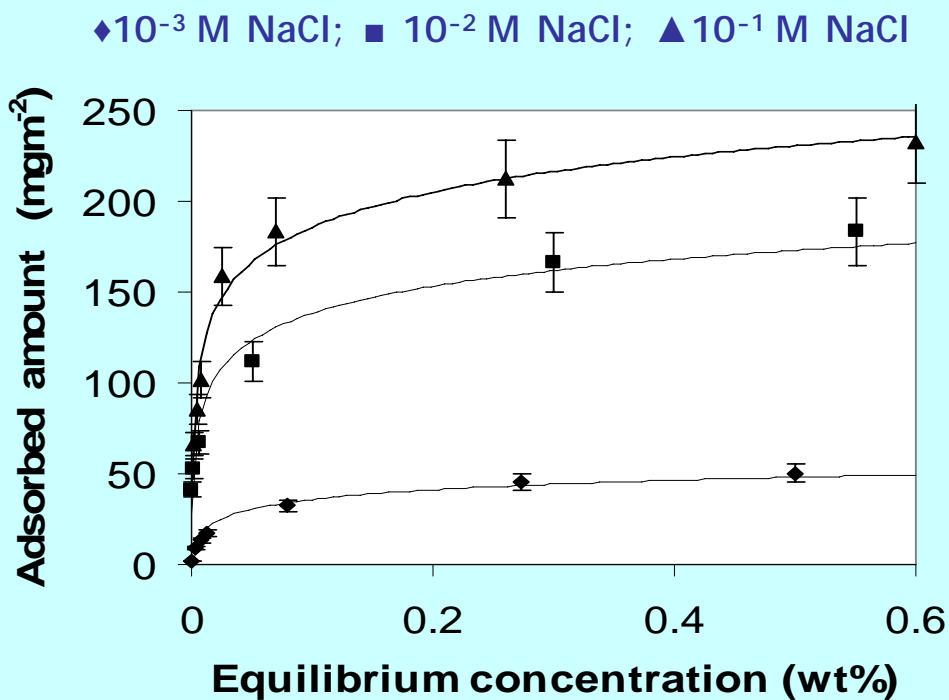
# PEO-PPO-PEO Copolymers



# Nanoparticles at the BV droplet - water interface



# Adsorption of hydrophilic silica nanoparticles to Droplets

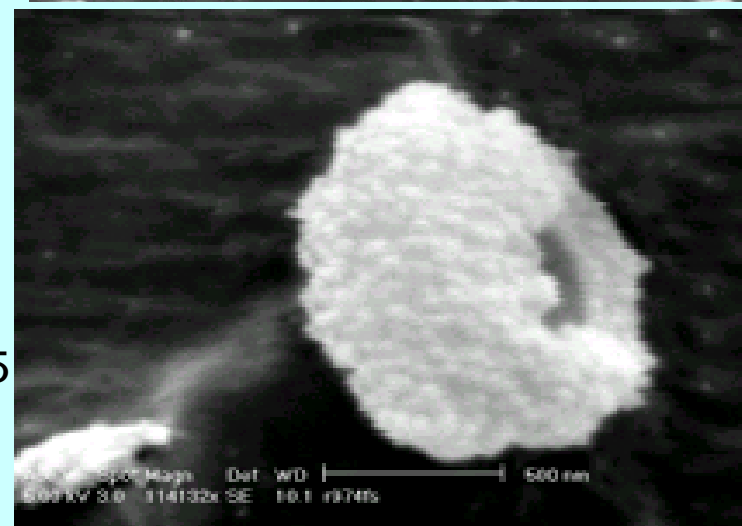
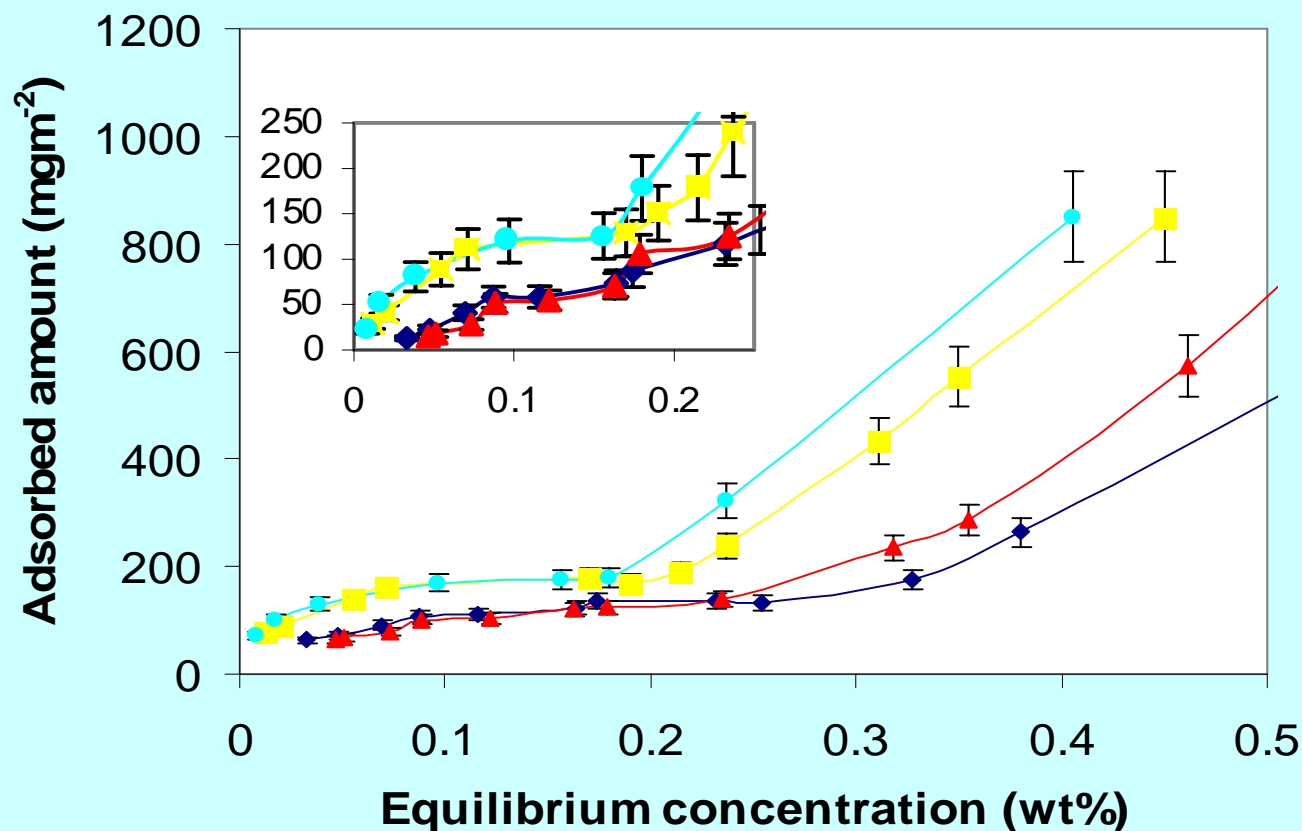


$h = a (1/\theta^{1/2} - 1)$   $h$ - lateral separation  
 $a$ -particle diameter  
 $\theta$ -plateau fraction coverage



# Adsorption of hydrophobic silica nanoparticles (10<sup>-4</sup> M NaCl)

pH:  $\blacklozenge$  9;  $\blacktriangle$  7;  $\blacksquare$  5;  $\bullet$  4

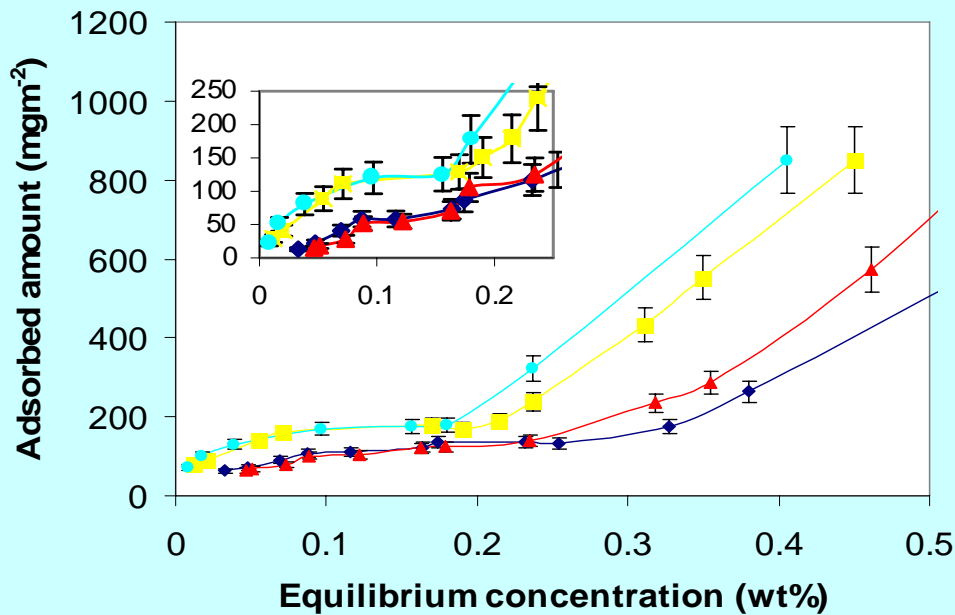


*Simovic & Prestidge, Langmuir 19 (2003) 8364-8370*

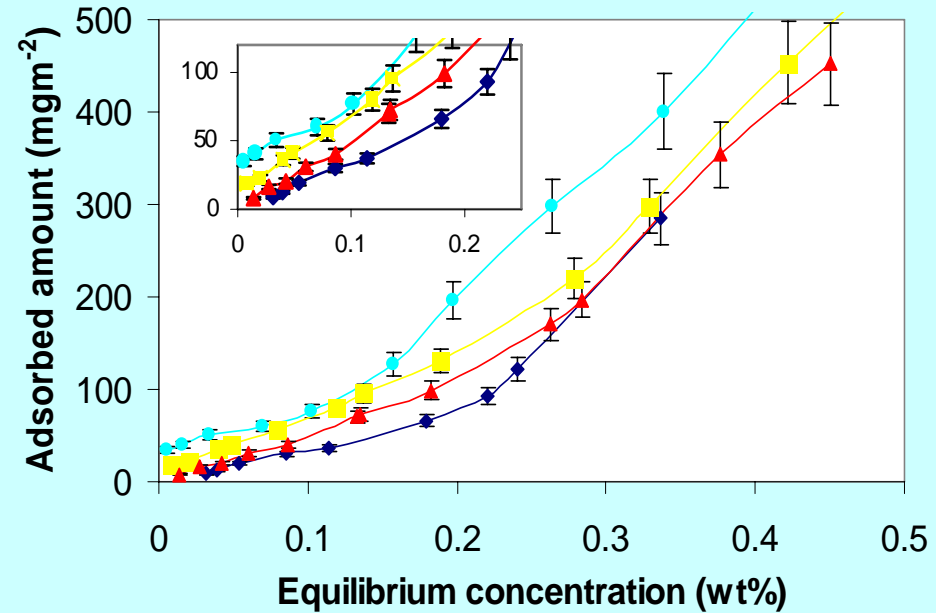
# Adsorption of hydrophobic silica nanoparticles (10<sup>-4</sup> M NaCl)

pH: ♦ 9; ▲ 7; ■ 5; • 4

## Liquid BV Droplets



## Cross-linked BV Droplets



- Multilayer adsorption
- Strong pH dependency
- Adsorption *affinity* is greater for liquid droplets

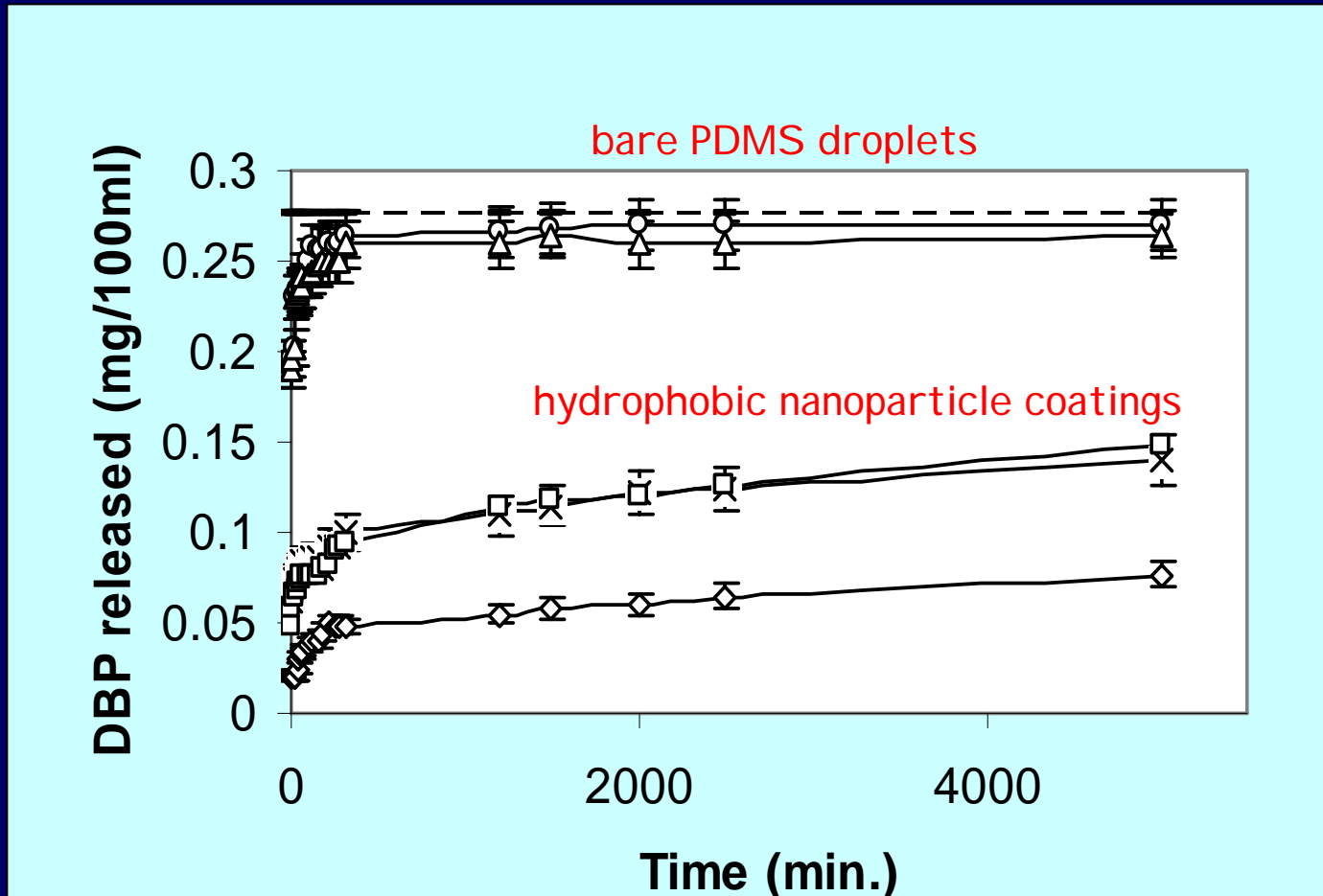
# Molecular transport across the BV droplet-water interface

Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)

USP rotating paddle method  
+ ultracentrifugation  
+ HPLC analysis



## DBL release from BV Droplets: low loading levels – 0.28mg/100ml



Activation Energy

~580 kJmol<sup>-1</sup>

Pluronic F-68

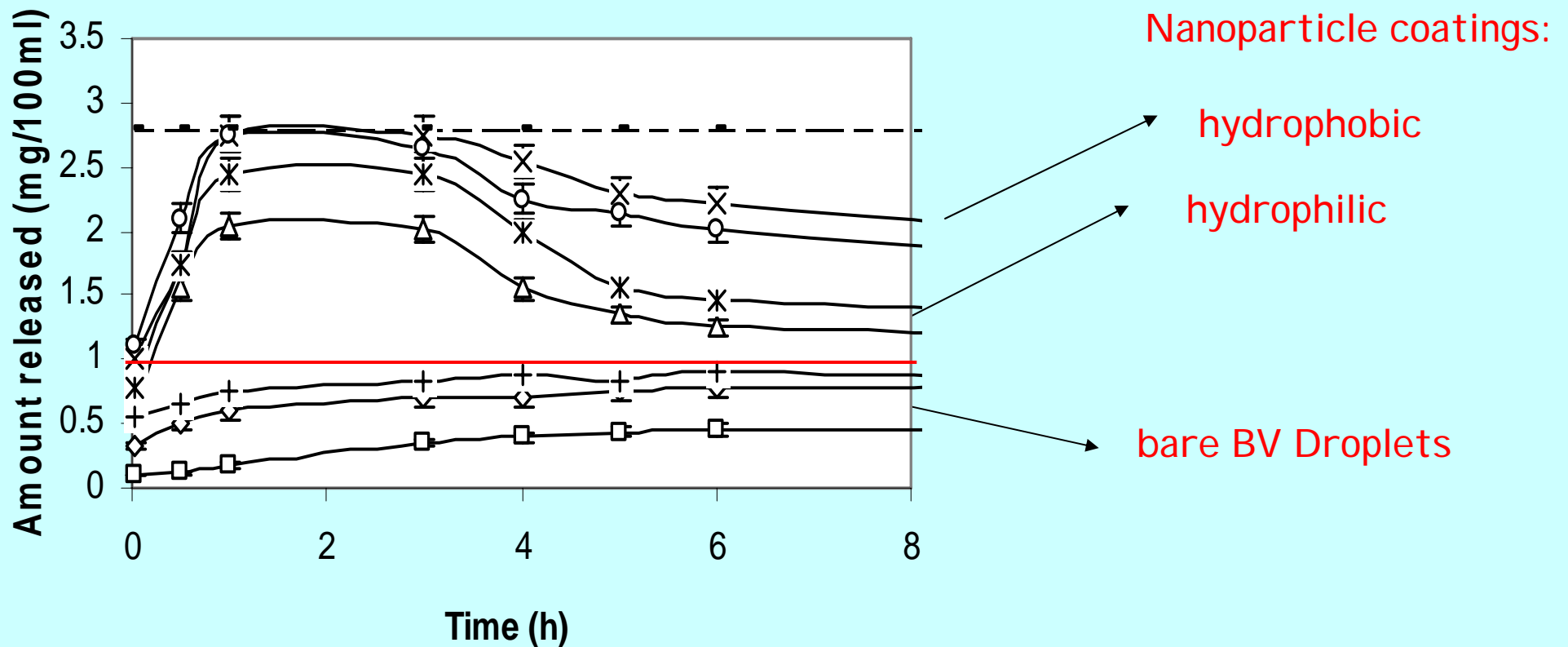
Activation energy for release = 52.8 kJmol<sup>-1</sup>

Washington et al. J. Controlled Release 33 (1995) 383-390

Prestidge & Simovic: *Int. J. Pharmaceutics*, **324**, 92-100, 2006.

*European J. of Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics*, **66**, 39-47 2007

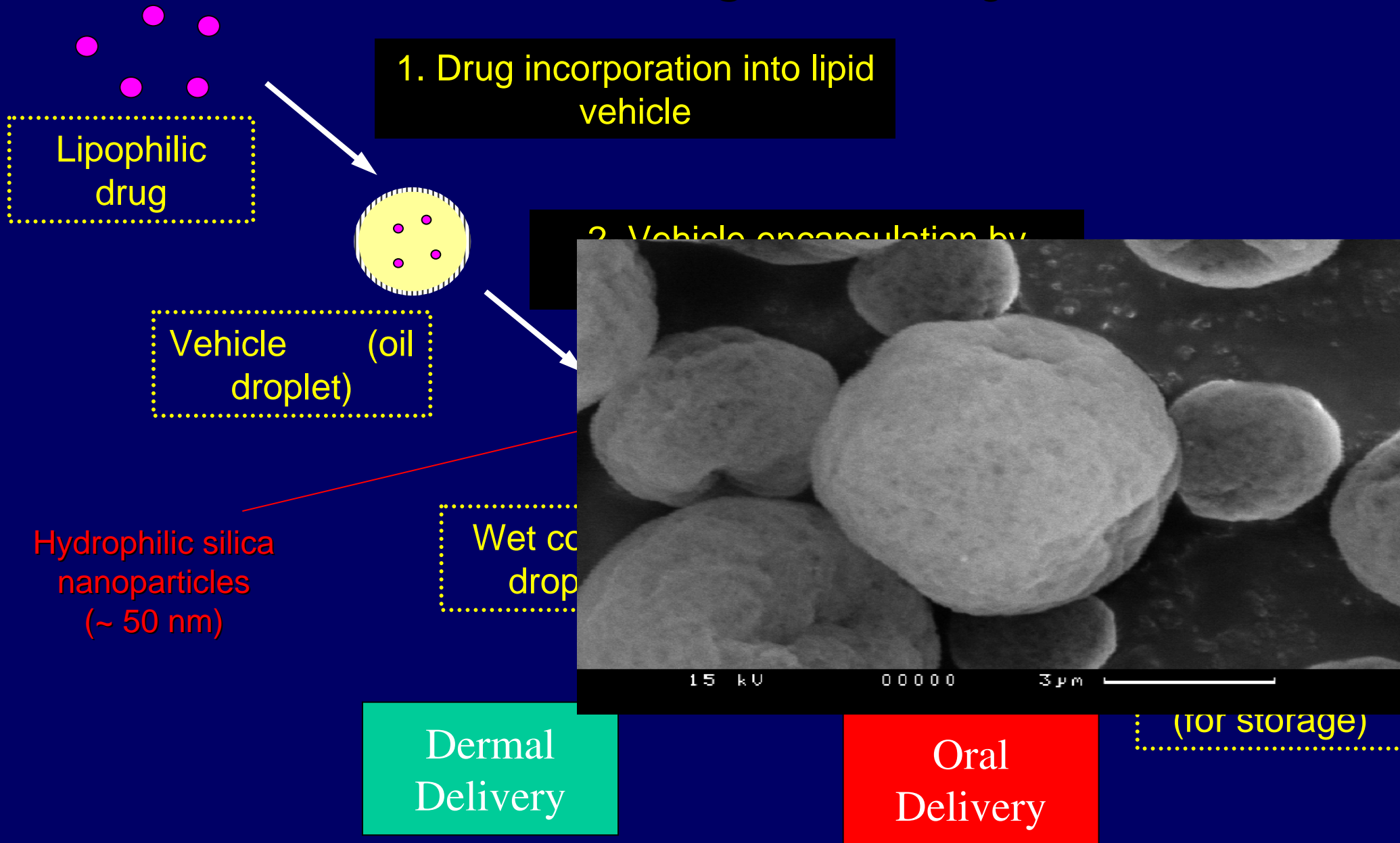
## DBL release from BV Droplets: high loading levels - 2.8mg/100ml



Prestidge & Simovic: *Int. J. Pharmaceutics*, **324**, 92-100, 2006.

*European J. of Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics*, **66**, 39-47 2007

# Towards Drug Delivery

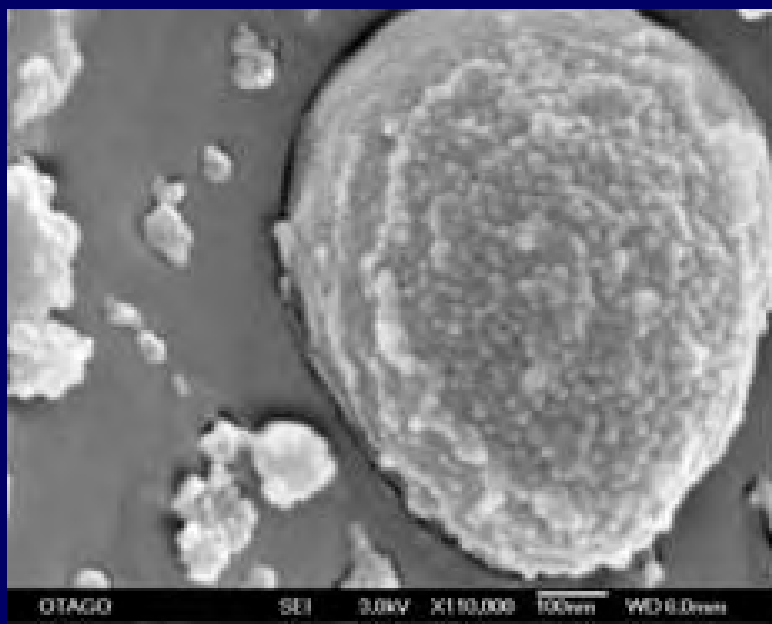
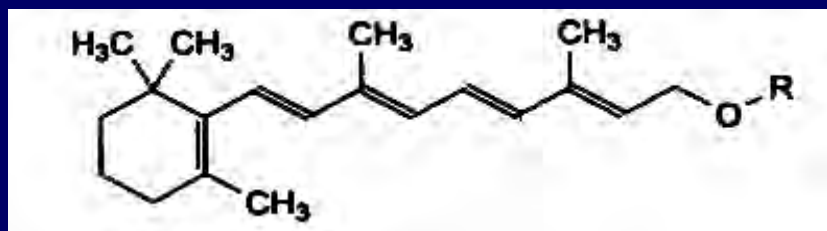


# Improved Photo-stability of Vitamin A in Nanoparticle Coated Emulsions

All-trans Vitamin A  
(Biopotency: 100%)

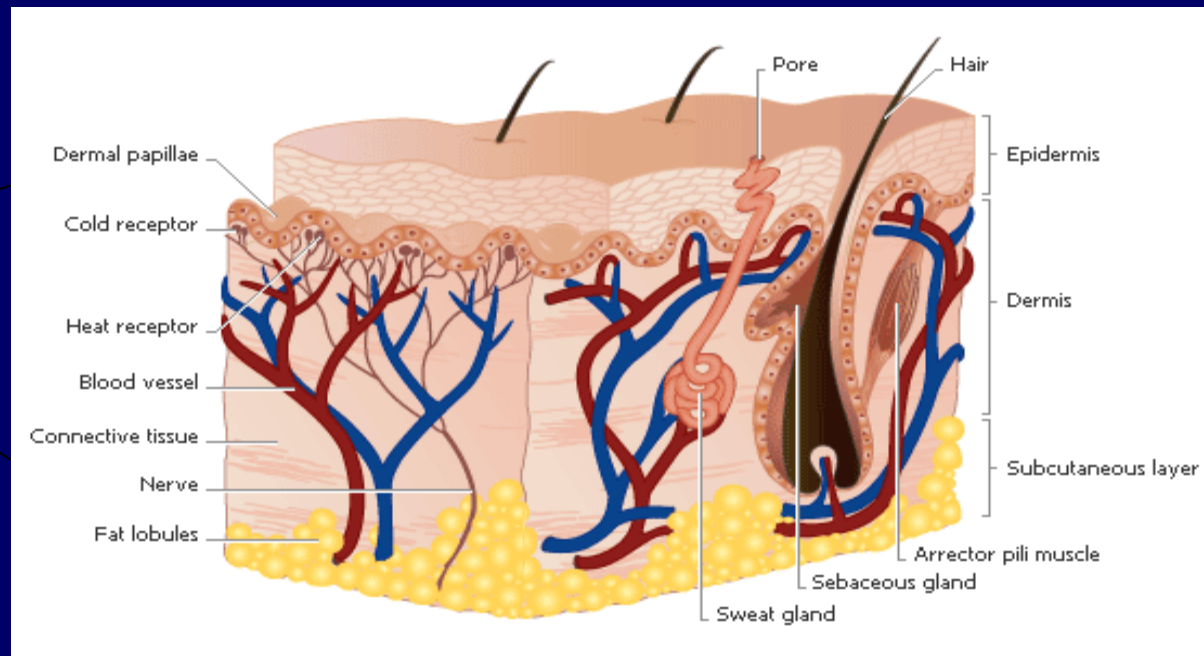
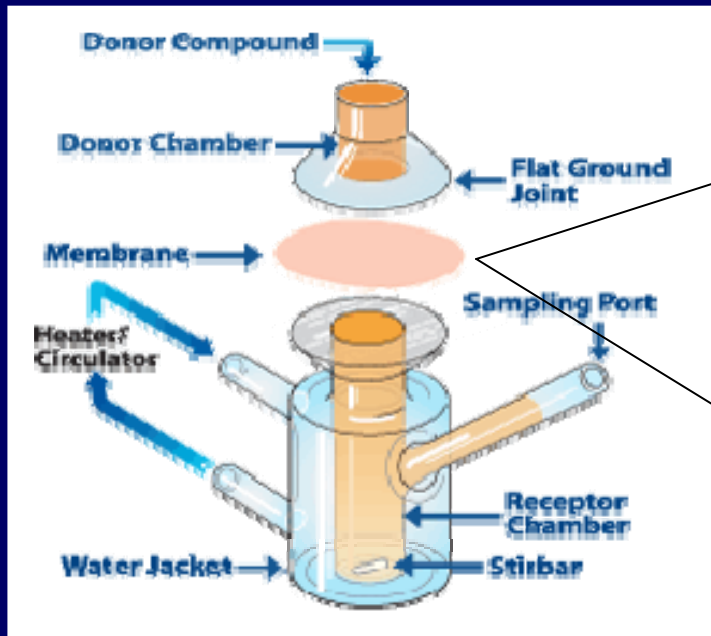
*Isomerisation*  
→  
*UV light*

9-cis Vitamin A  
(Biopotency: 24%)



Formulation	$k, \text{min}^{-1}$ ( $\times 10^4$ )	$t_{1/2}$ (day)
Control Emulsion	13.10	0.37
Nanoparticle coating A	0.91	5.27
Nanoparticle coating B	0.18	26.22

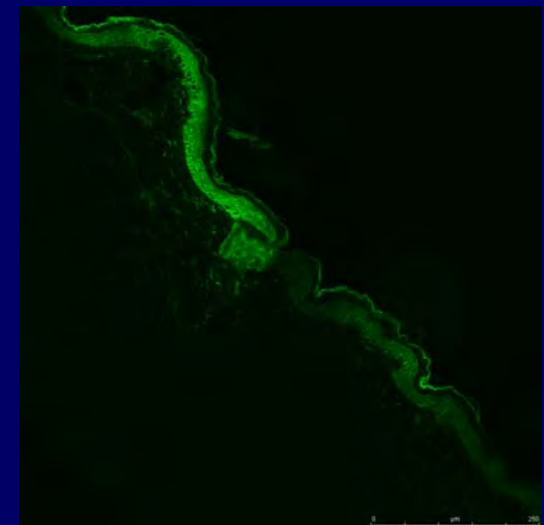
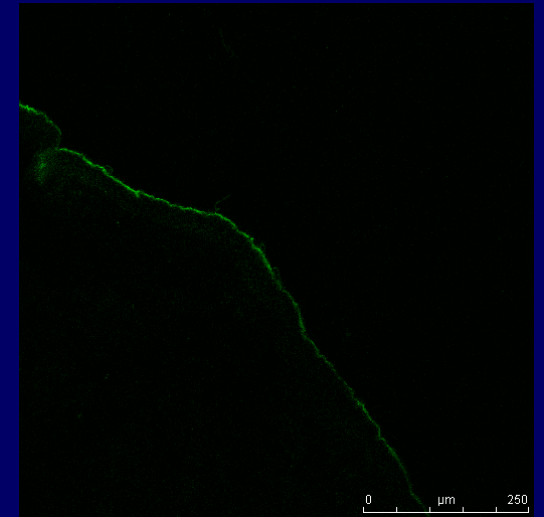
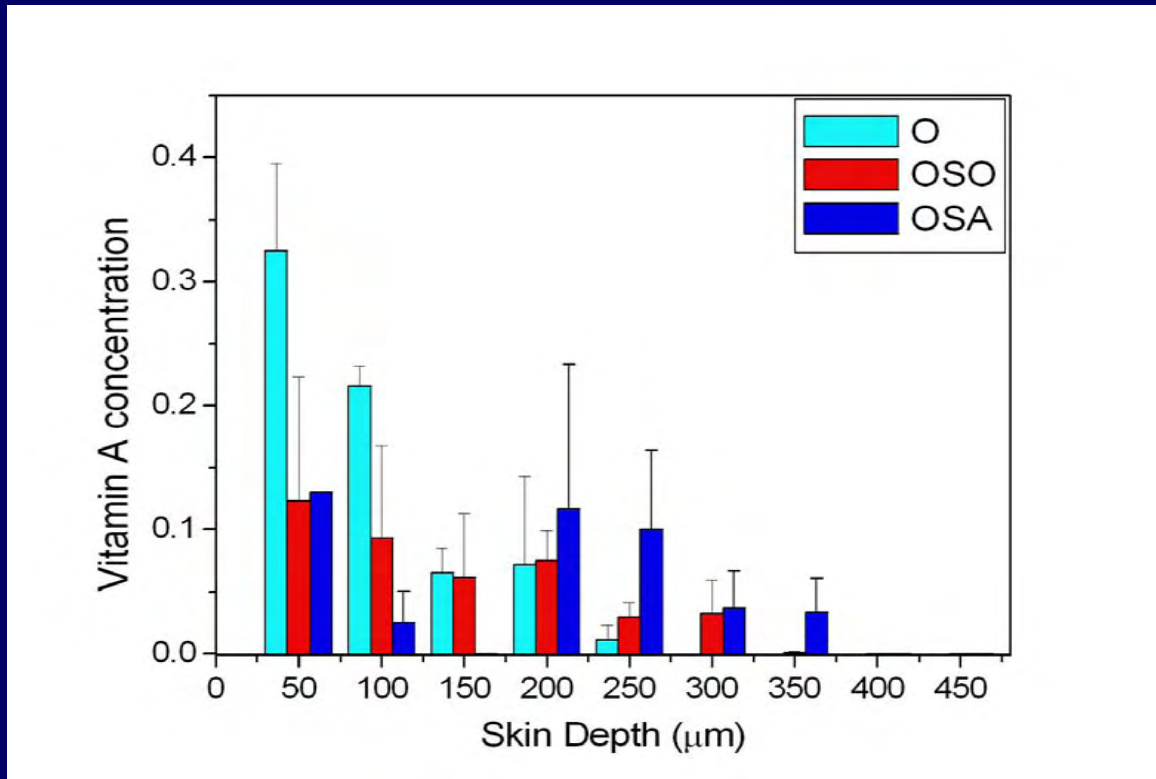
# Delivery to the skin



Schematic of a Static Franz Diffusion Cell

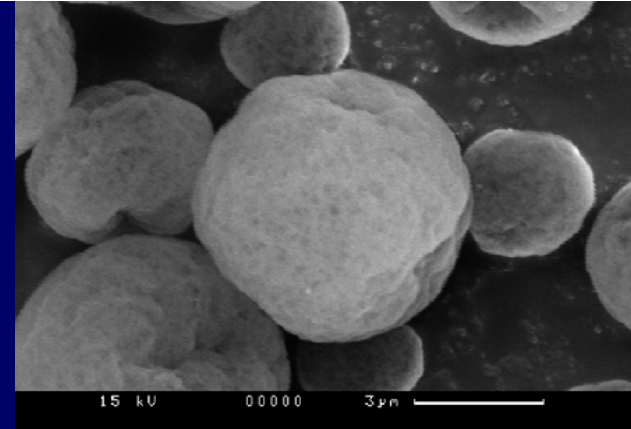


# Nanoparticle coated droplets improve the skin penetration of Vitamin A



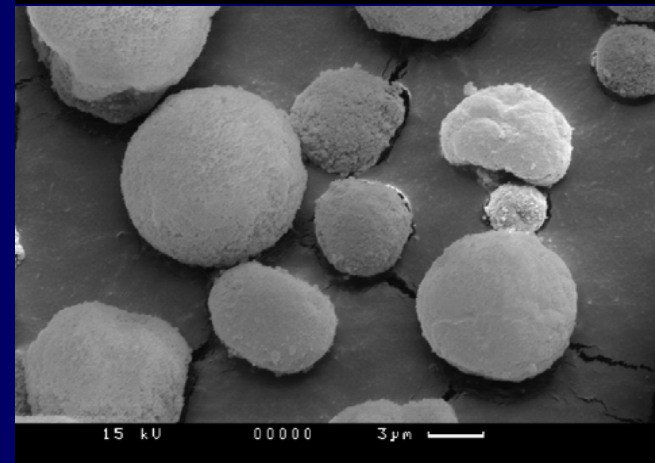
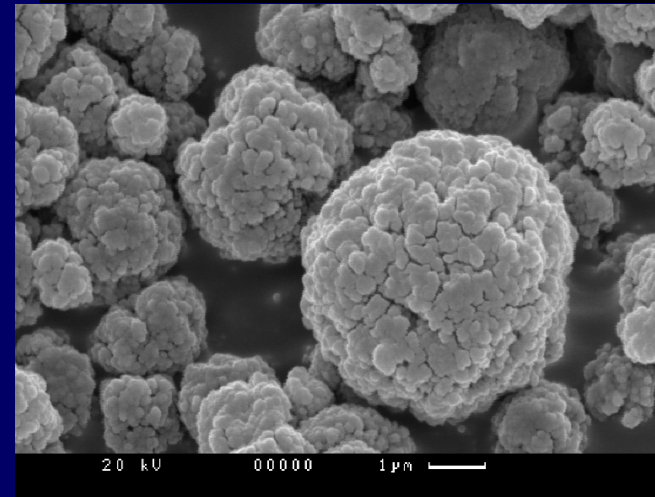
# Dry capsules for oral delivery:

- Spray drying
- Freeze-drying
- Phase coacervation

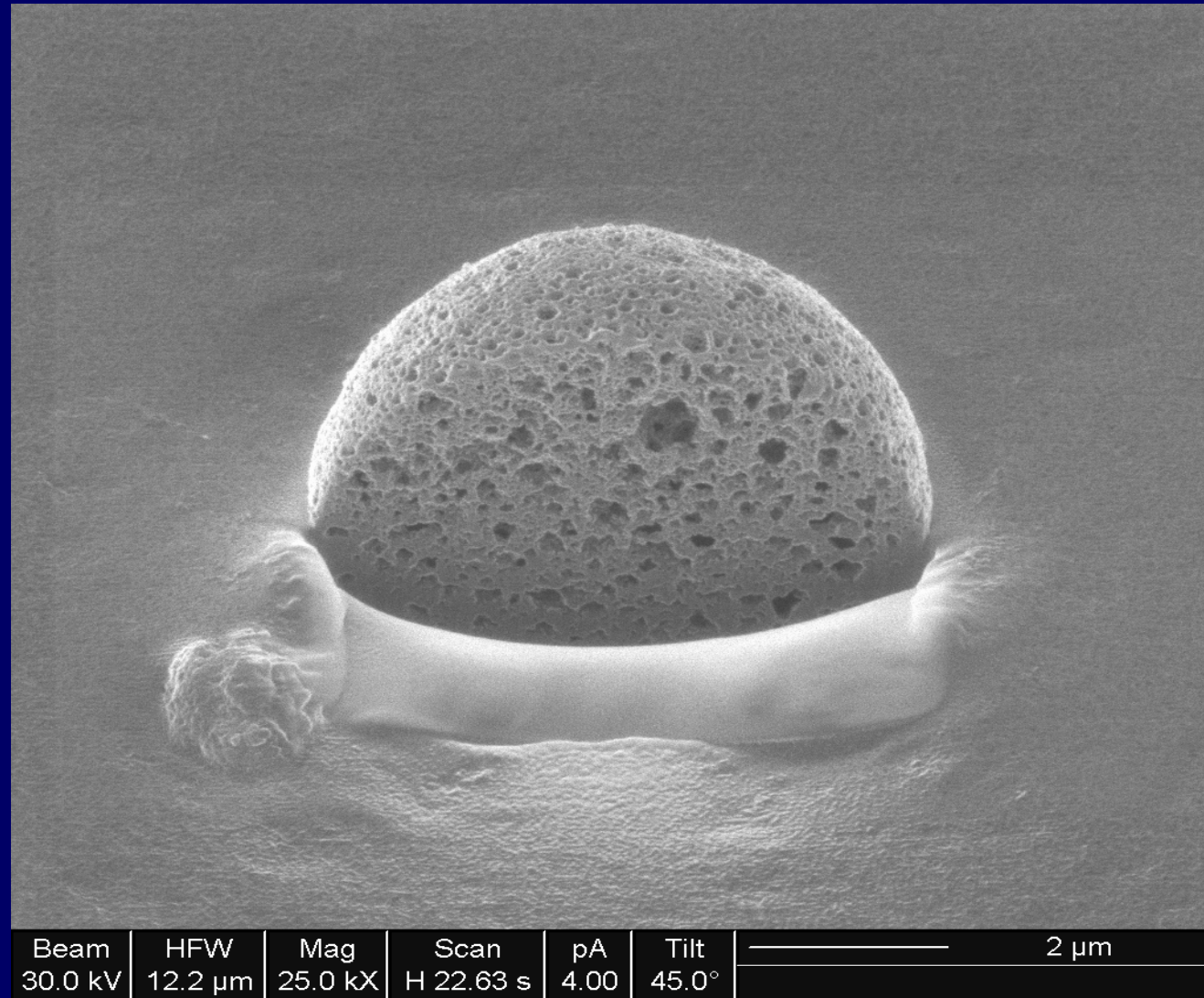


## Drying method + formulation composition controls:

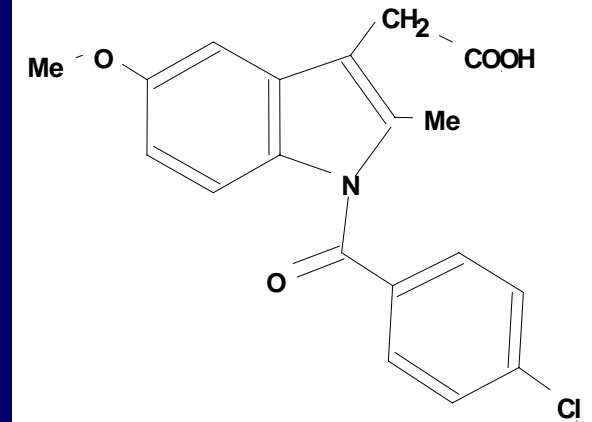
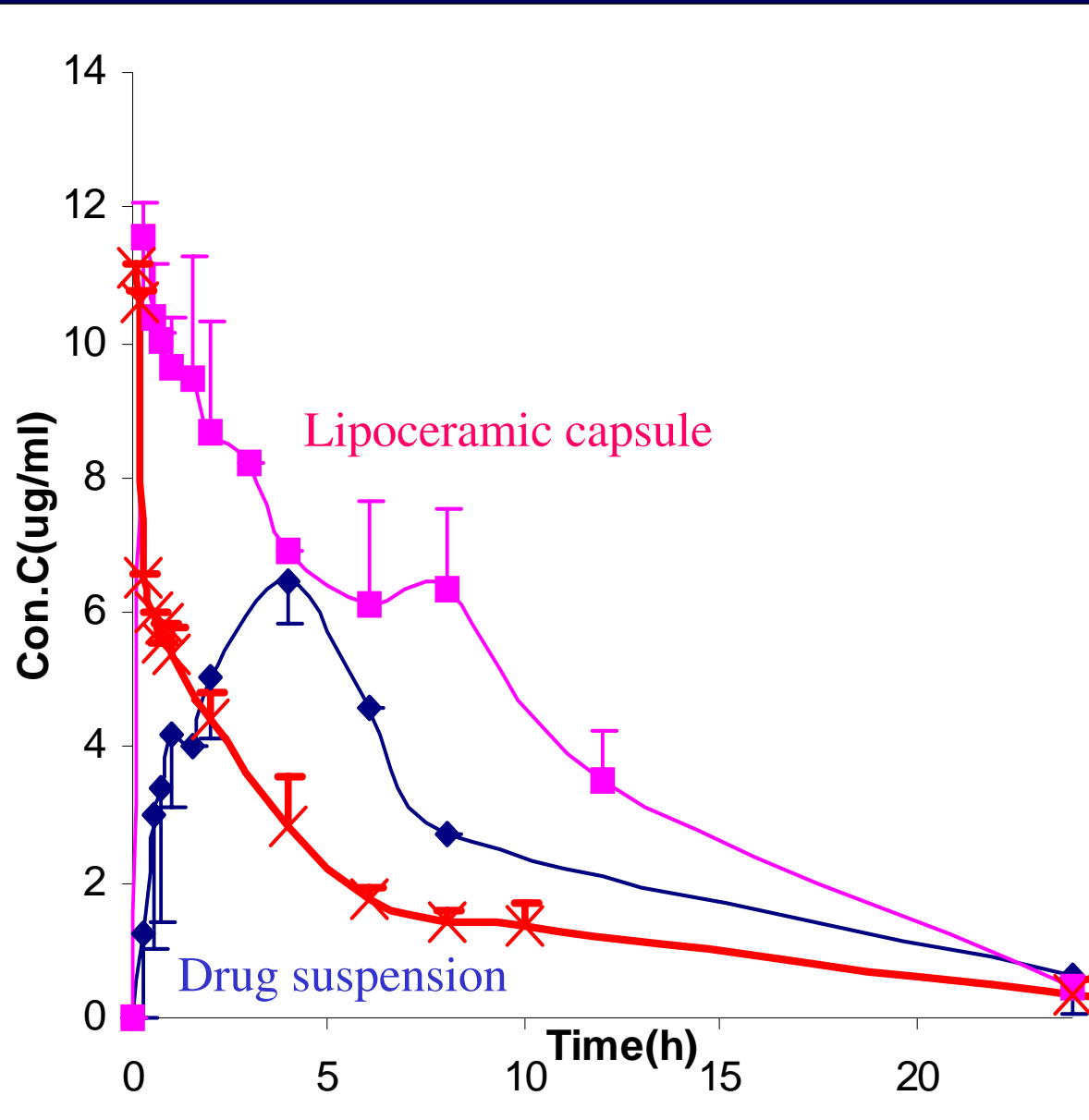
- Structure
- Stability
- Delivery characteristics



# Internal structure of capsules is controllable and facilitates capsule performance

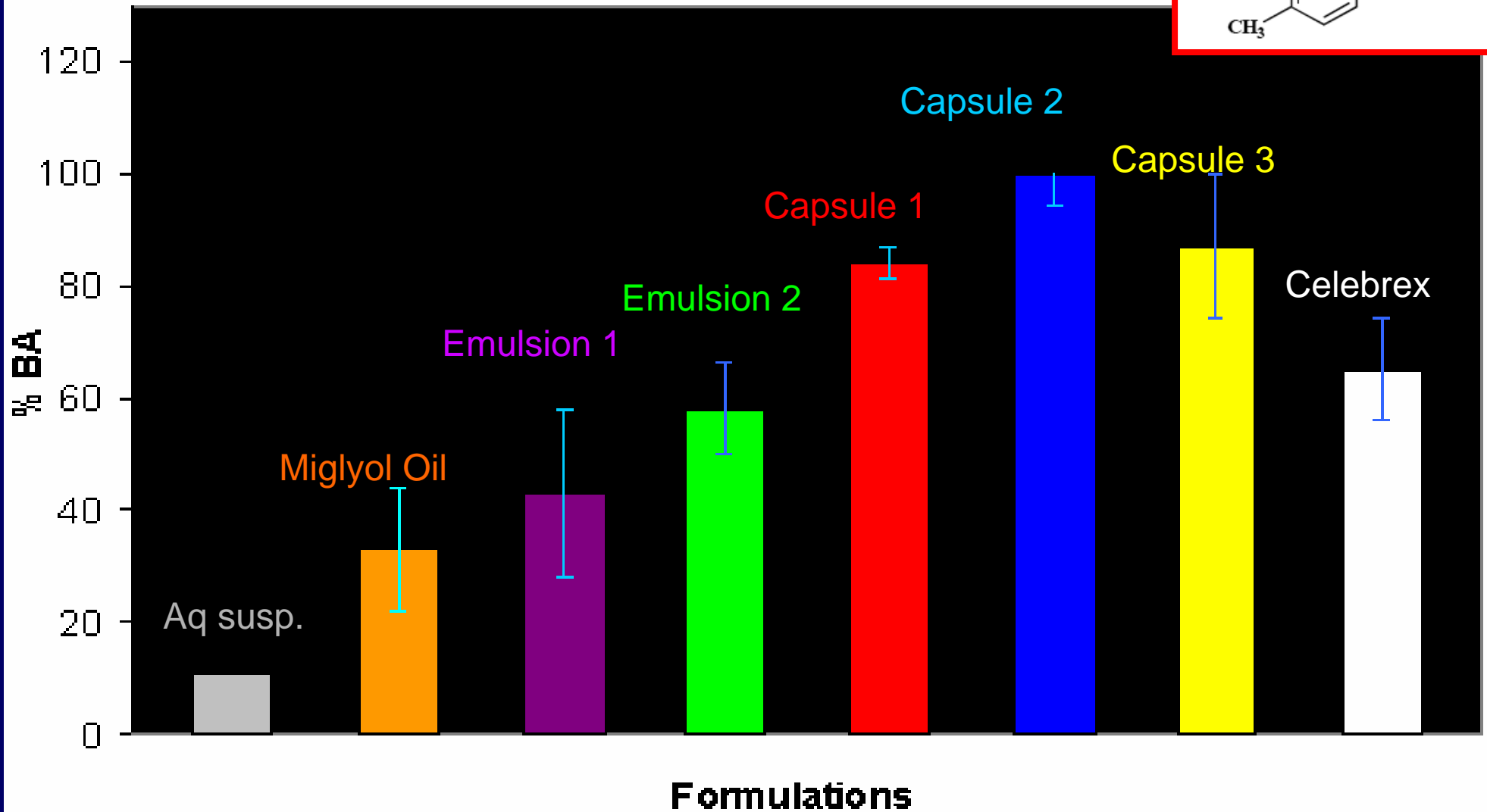
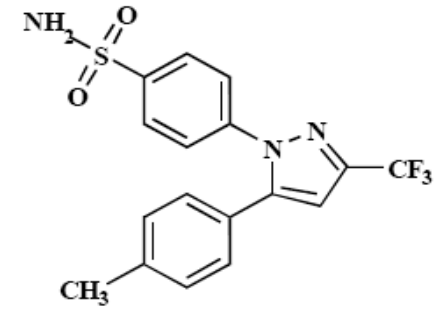


**In vivo studies:** improved oral delivery of poorly soluble drugs, e.g. indomethacin

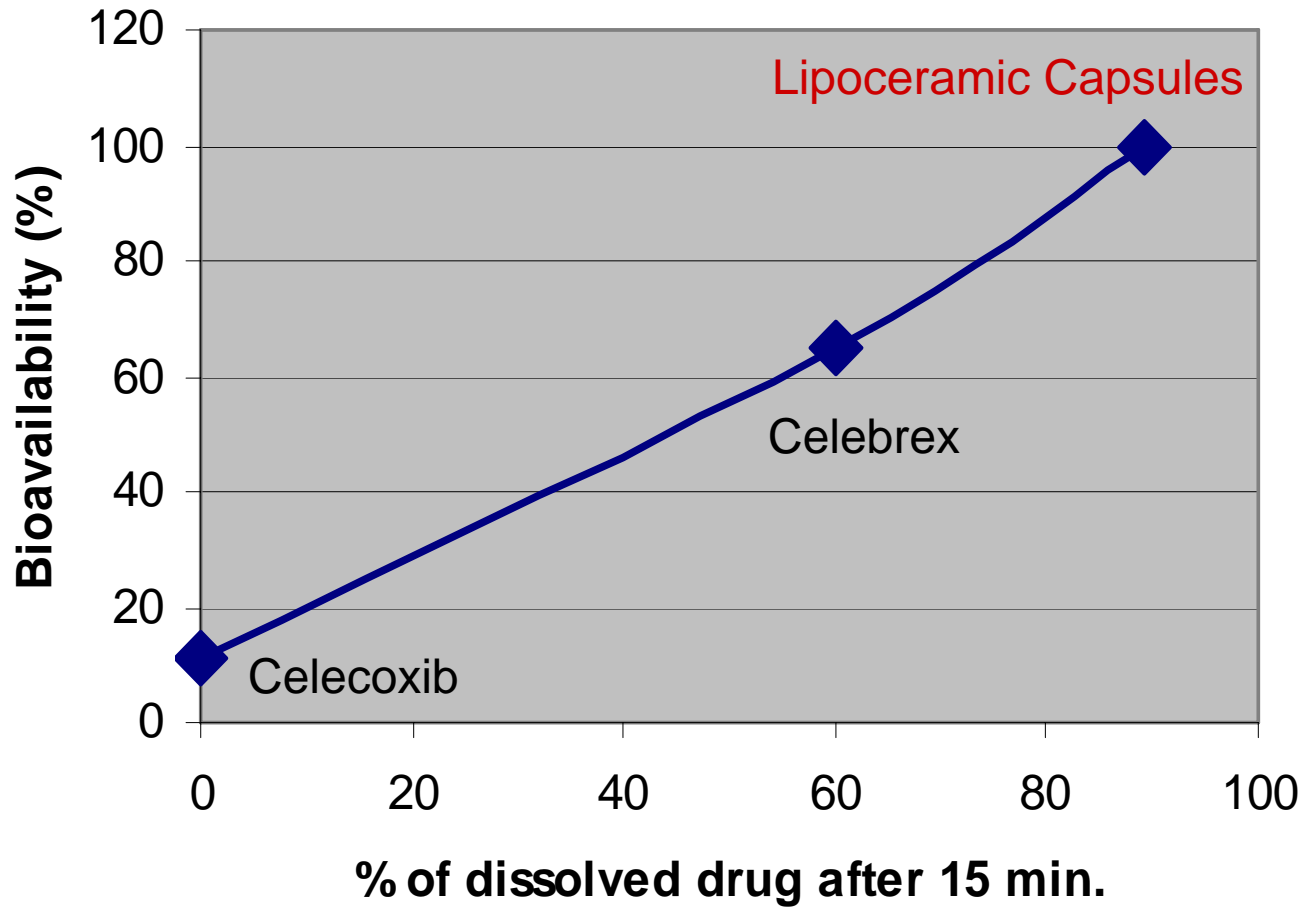


- Increased bioavailability
- Faster action

# *In vivo* Bioavailability of Celecoxib

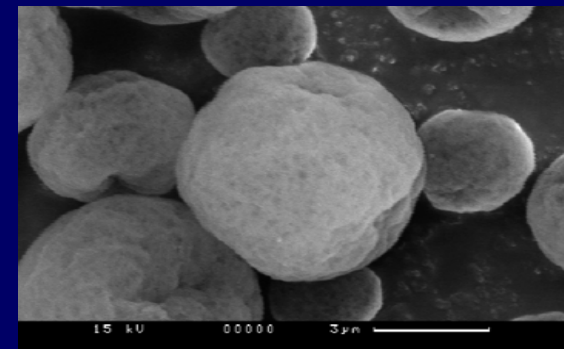


## In-vitro / In-vivo Correlation



# Concluding Remarks

- BV's monodispersed silicone emulsions are an excellent model colloid
- Investigations of the BV droplets have improved understanding of emulsion interfaces
- The BV droplets have inspired the development of new drug delivery systems based on emulsions and nanoparticles



# Acknowledgements

Dr Graeme Gillies (AFM studies)

Dr Yasushi Saiki (rheology studies)

Dr Tim Barnes (polymer interaction)

Dr Spomenka Simovic (nanoparticle interaction)

Angel Tan (oral delivery)

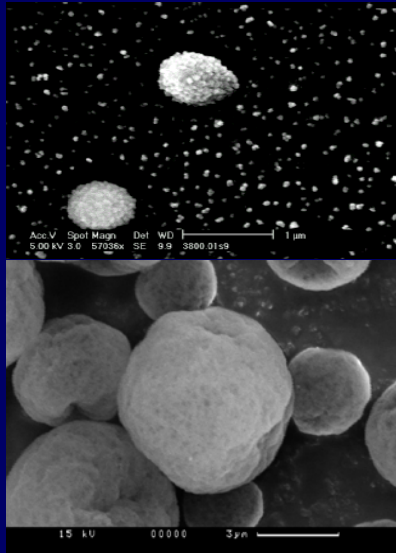
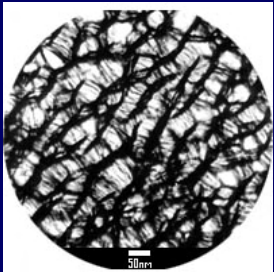
Nasrin Eskandar (dermal delivery)



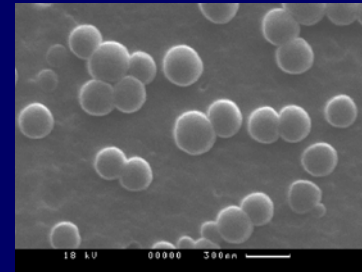


# Nano-structured Drug Delivery Systems at the Wark

## Mesoporous Particles



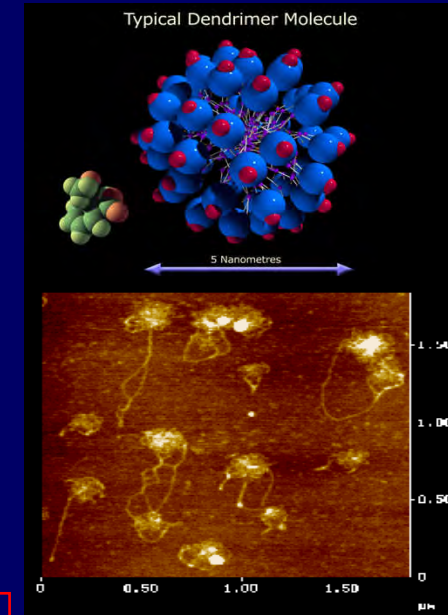
## Liposomes



## Emulsions + Micro/Nano Capsules

## Nanoparticles

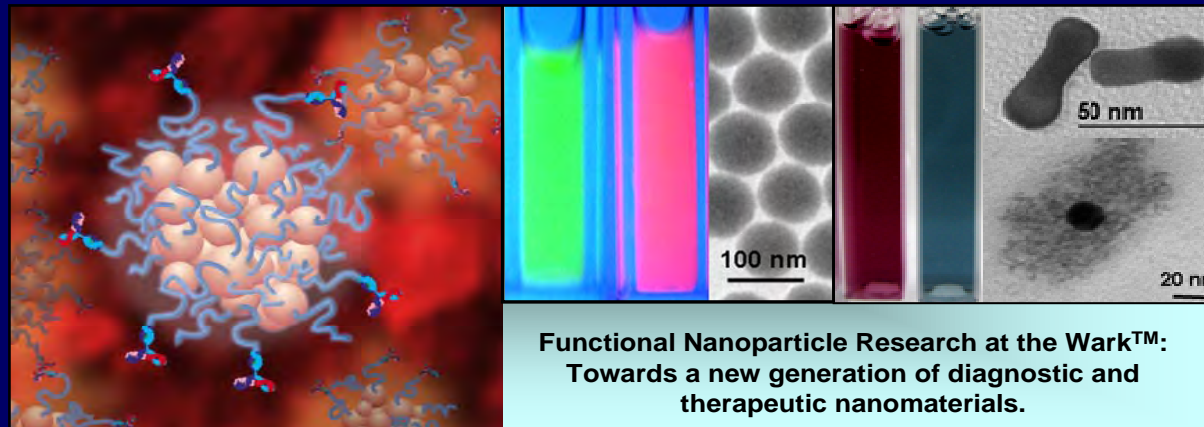
## Dendrimers



## DNA-lipids

- Drug encapsulation
- Formulation stability
- Controlled release
- Improving bioavailability

- Controlled circulation
- Targeted delivery

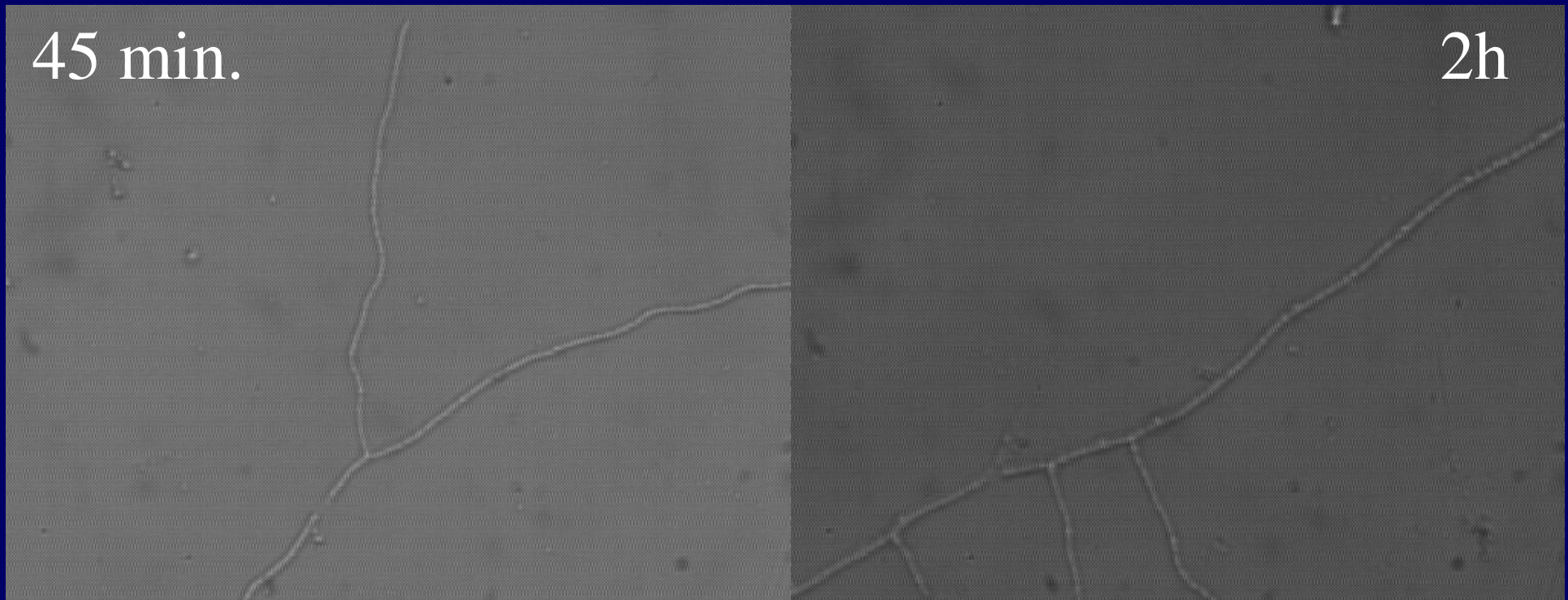


Functional Nanoparticle Research at the Wark™:  
Towards a new generation of diagnostic and therapeutic nanomaterials.



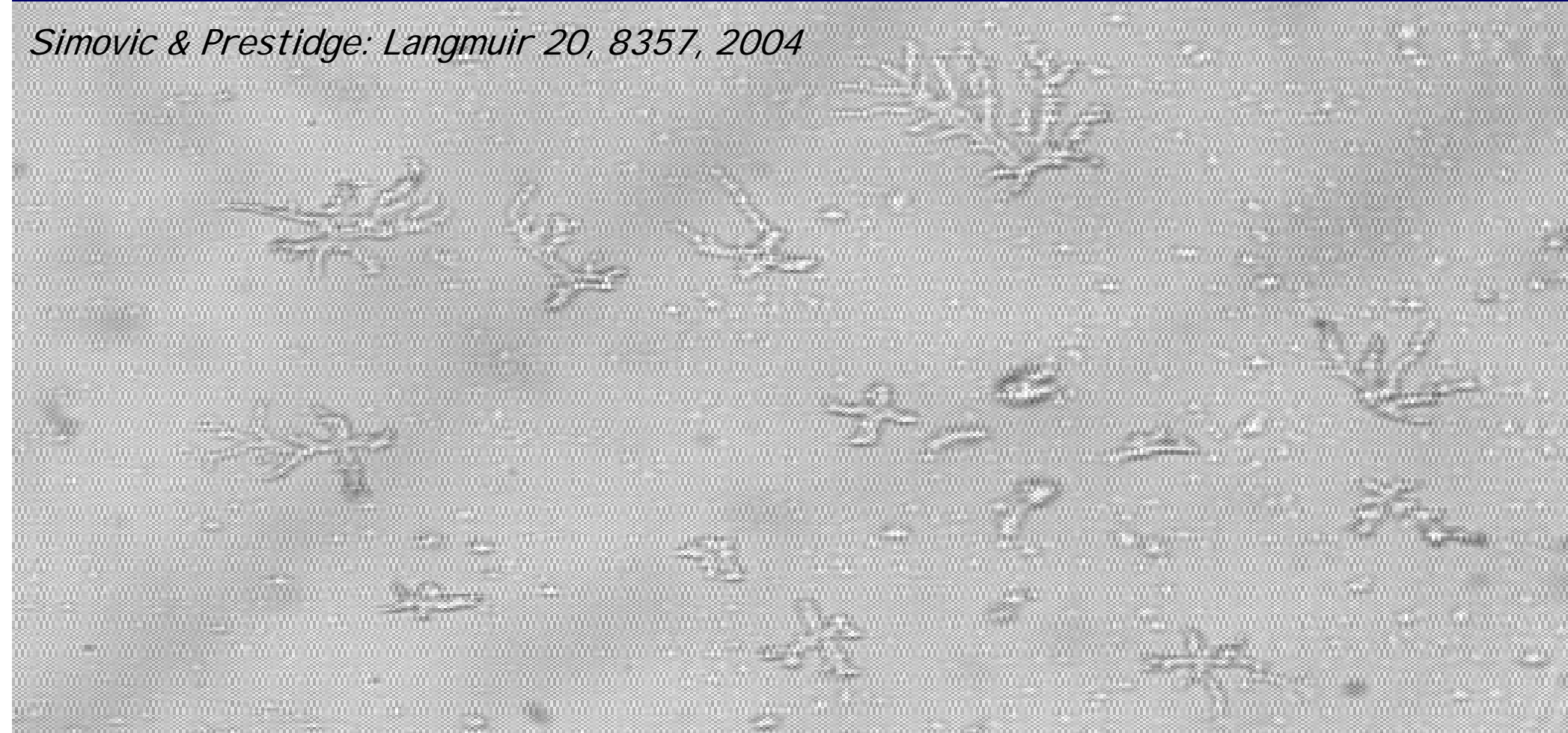
# Hydrophobic nanoparticles: restricted (limited) coalescence

Initial interfacial coverage in the range 0.7 and 0.9: **chain structures**



# Initial interfacial coverage of hydrophobic nanoparticles of $\sim 0.6$ : dendritic structures

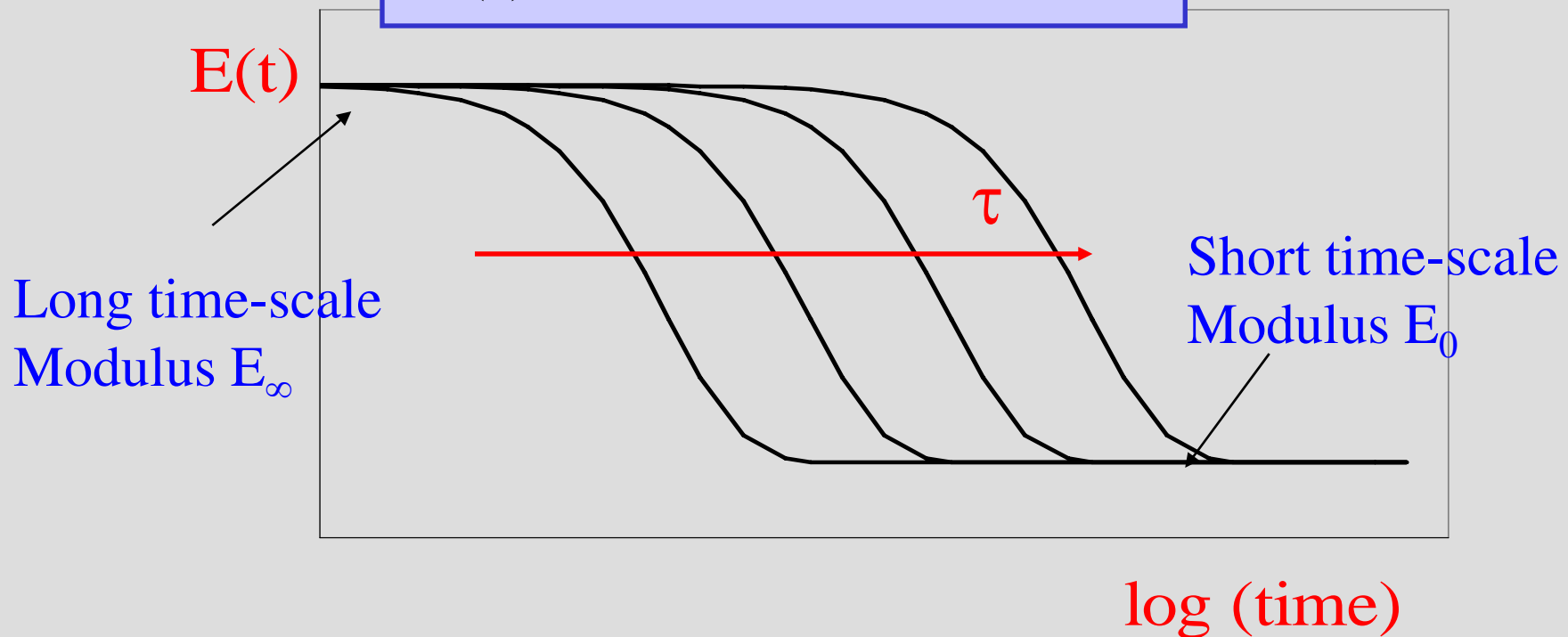
*Simovic & Prestidge: Langmuir 20, 8357, 2004*



# Data Analysis: Nano-Rheology

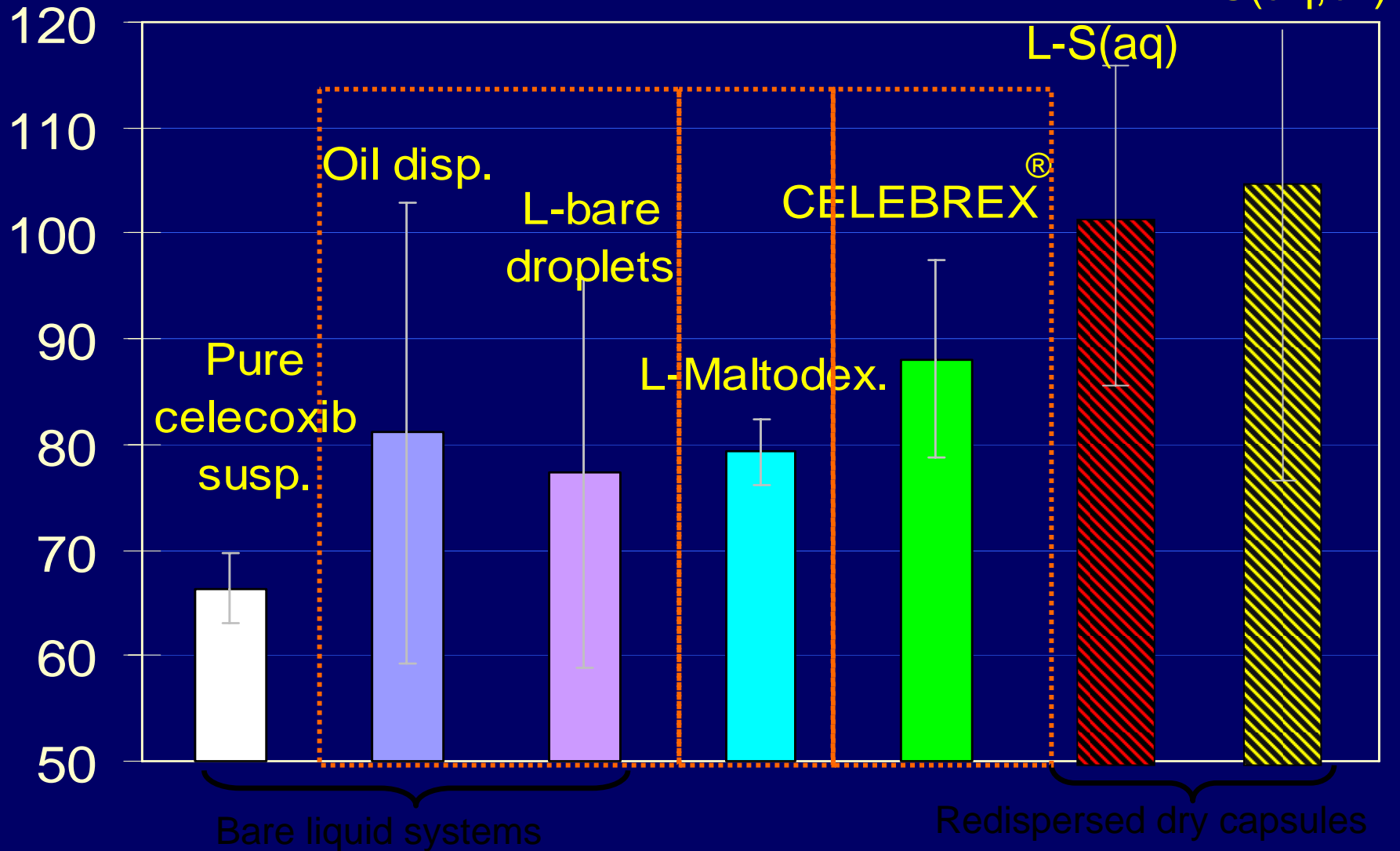
Viscoelasticity of a Sphere (Attard, *Phys. Rev. E*, 2001)

$$\frac{1}{E(t)} = \frac{1}{E_\infty} + \frac{E_\infty - E_0}{E_0 E_\infty} e^{-t/\tau}$$



# Bioavailability

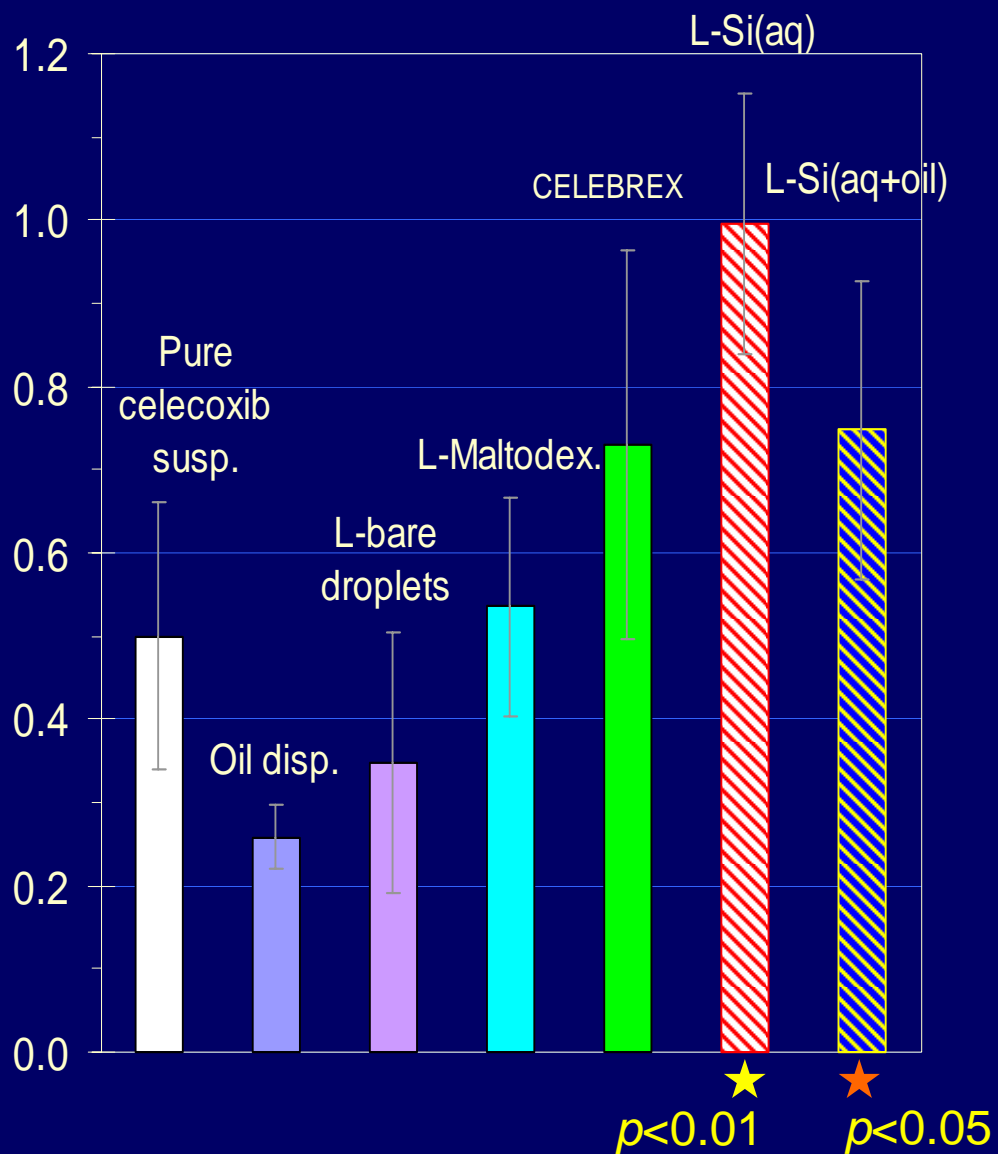
Absolute F (%)



## Celecoxib formulations

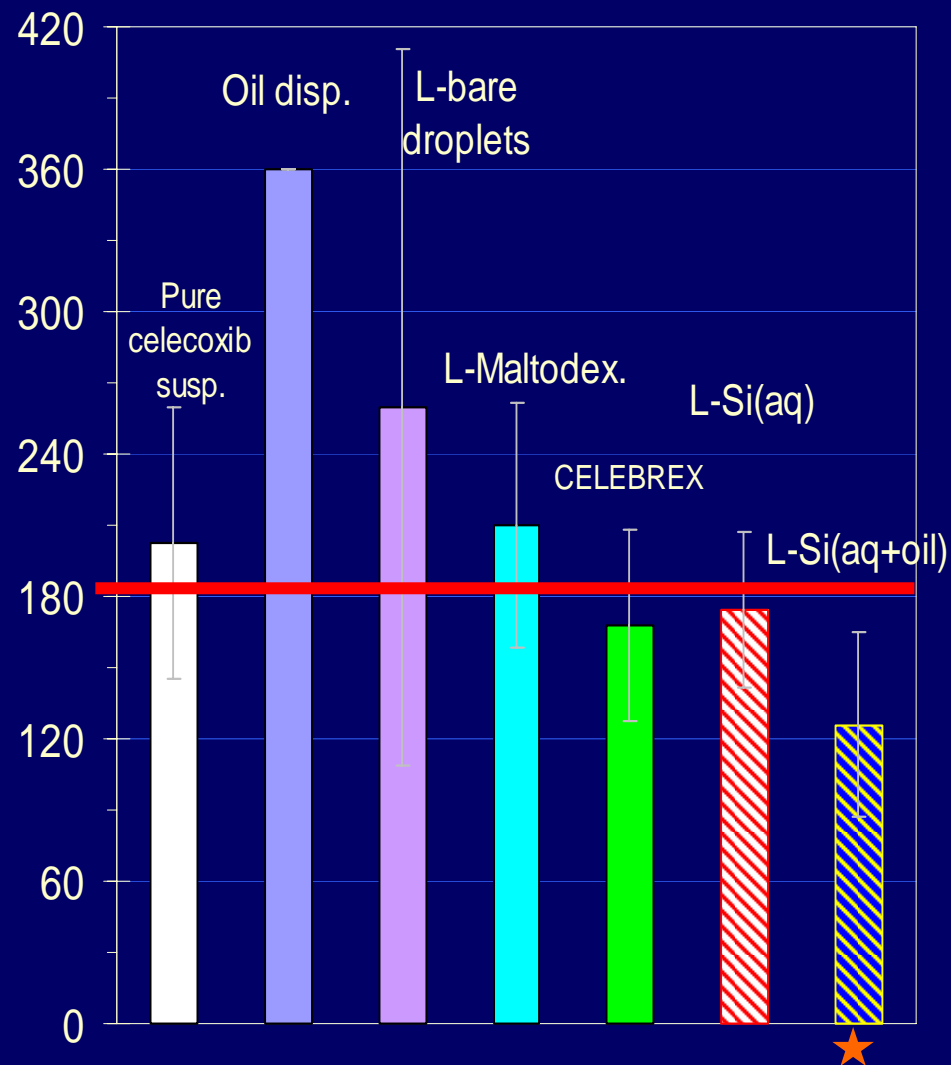
(n ≥ 3; One-way ANOVA:  $p < 0.1$ )

$C_{max}$  ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )



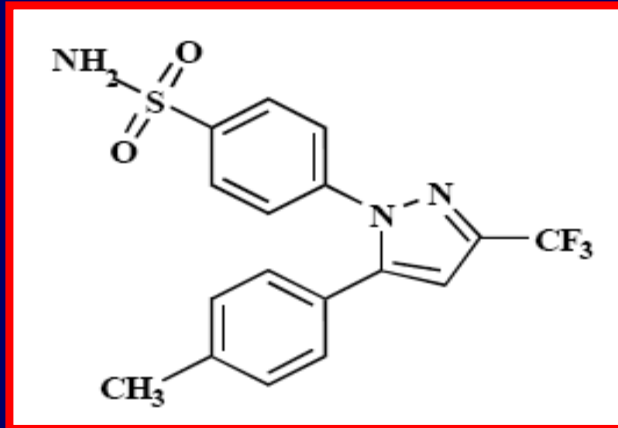
Celecoxib formulations

$T_{max}$  (min)



Celecoxib formulations

## Model Drug: Celecoxib (BCS Class II drug)



### Indications:

Anti-inflammatory drug  
→ primarily for  
rheumatoid arthritis &  
osteoarthritis

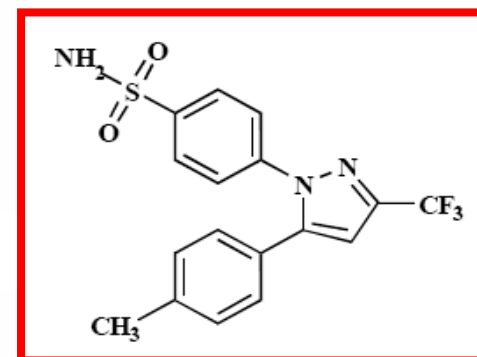
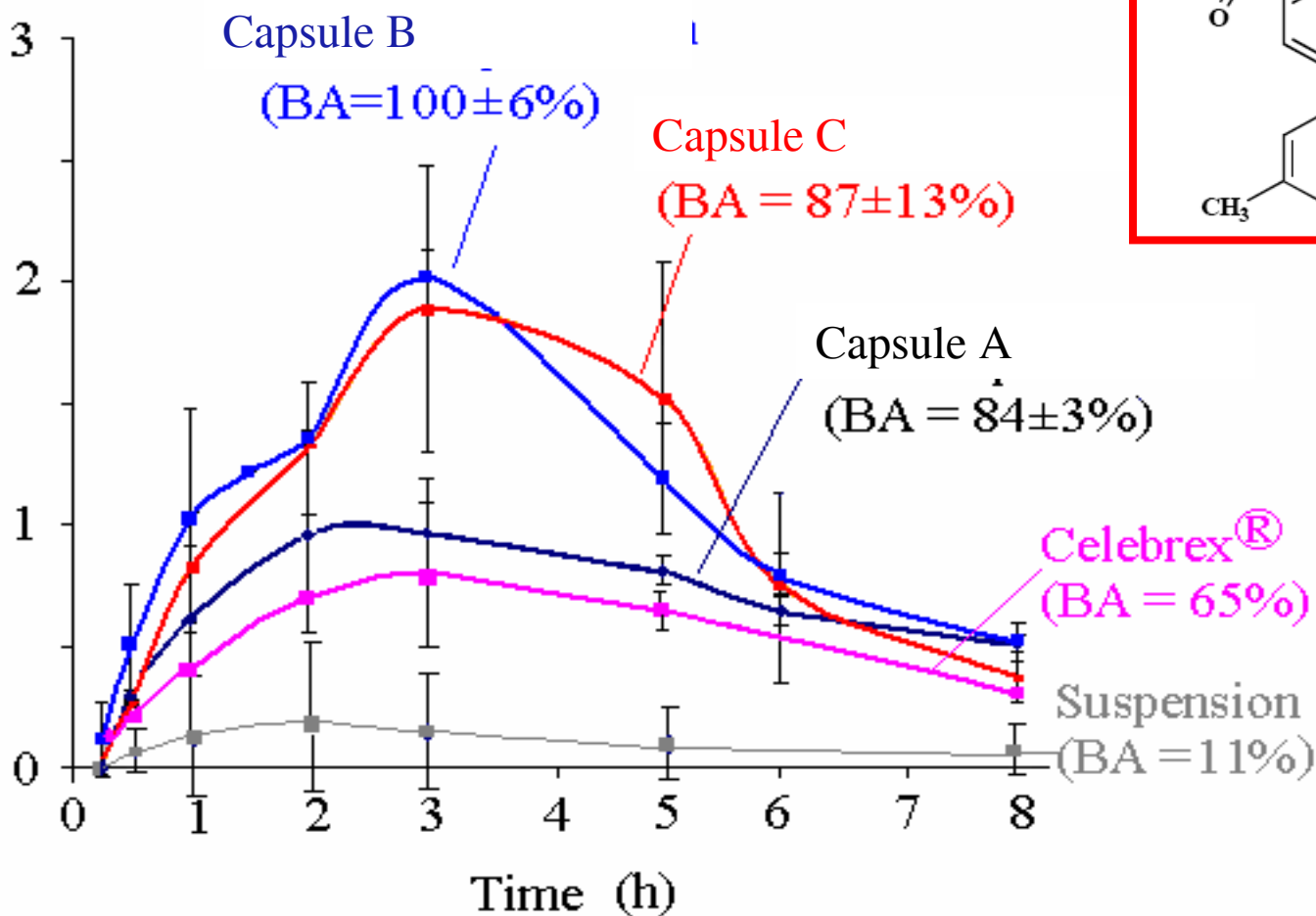
Celecoxib properties	Pharmaceutical limitations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Hydrophobic (<math>\log P \approx 3.5</math>)</li><li>▶ Low solubility (7 <math>\mu\text{g/ml}</math>)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Incomplete &amp; variable absorption;</li><li>Excessive dose-dumping;</li><li>No liquid formulation exists</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ High <math>T_{\max}</math> (3 h)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Slow onset of action (pain relieving)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Cohesiveness; Low bulk density &amp; compressibility; Poor flow properties</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Difficult processing into solid dosage forms (tablets)</li></ul>



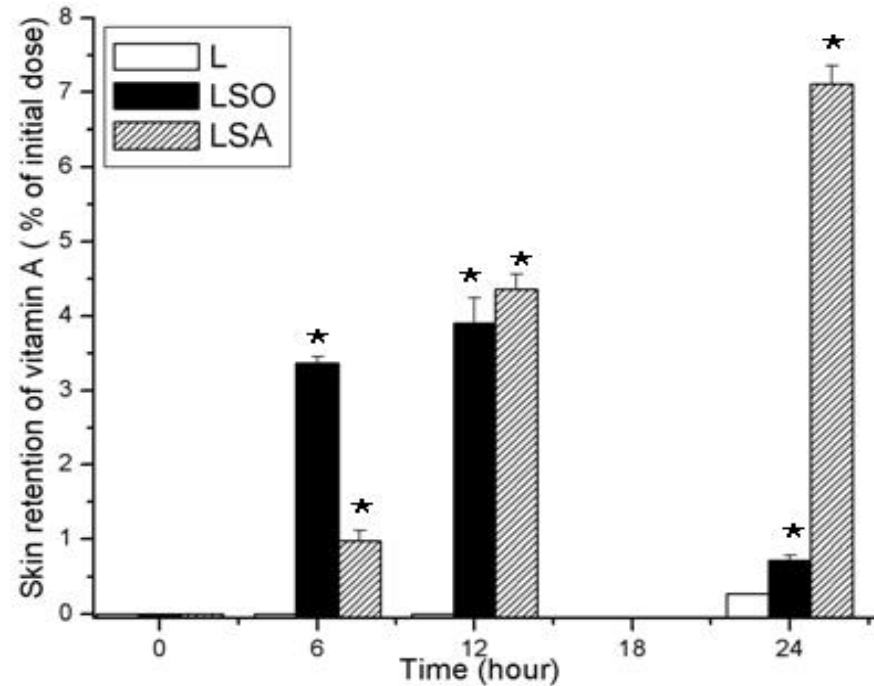
# Celecoxib Pharmacokinetics: Bioavailability in Orally Dosed Rats

Subject: fasted male Sprague-Dawley rats

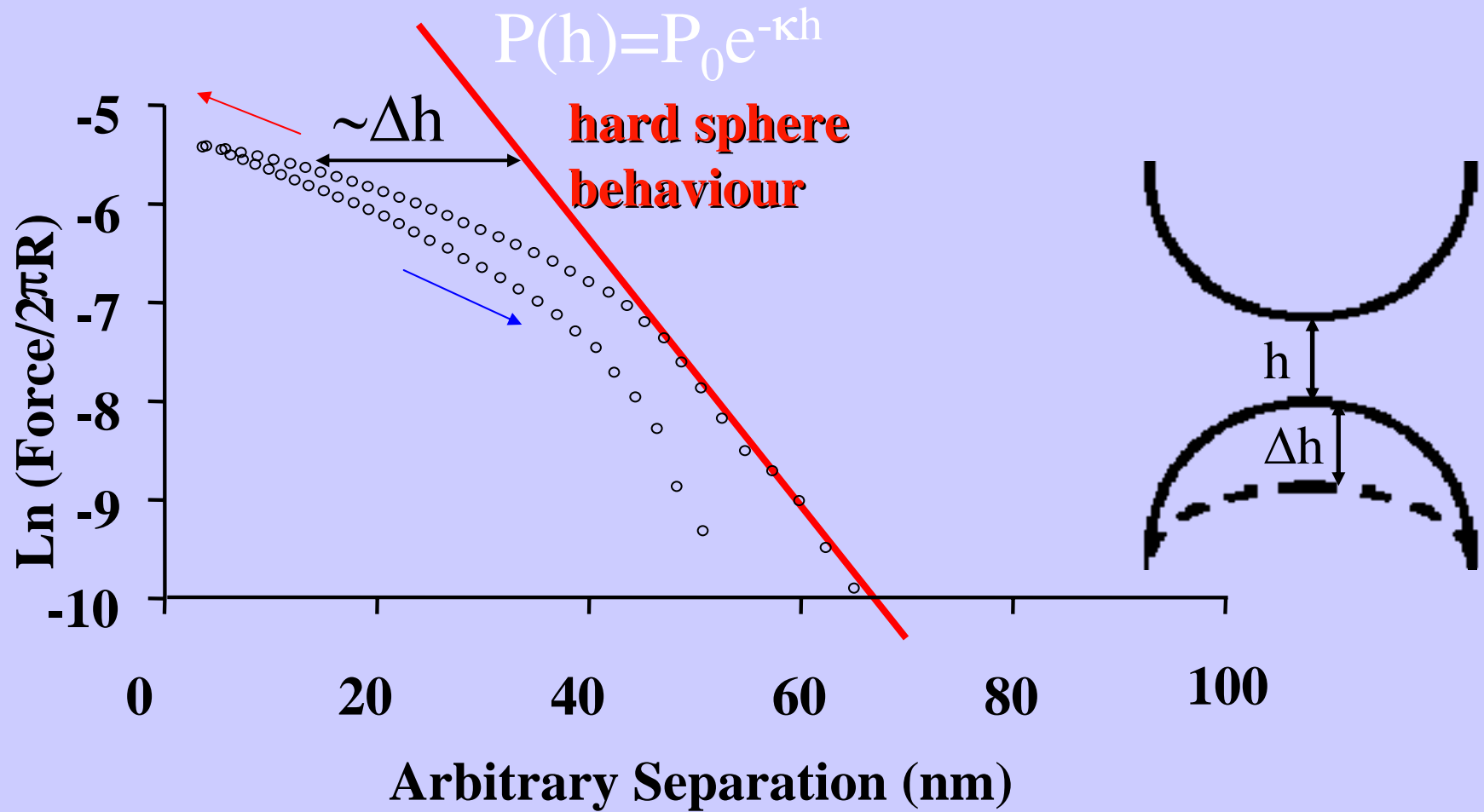
Plasma [C<sub>x</sub>b] (μg/ml)



# Ex-vivo delivery of Vitamin A to abdominal pig skin: Nanoparticle coatings facilitate better skin delivery from emulsions

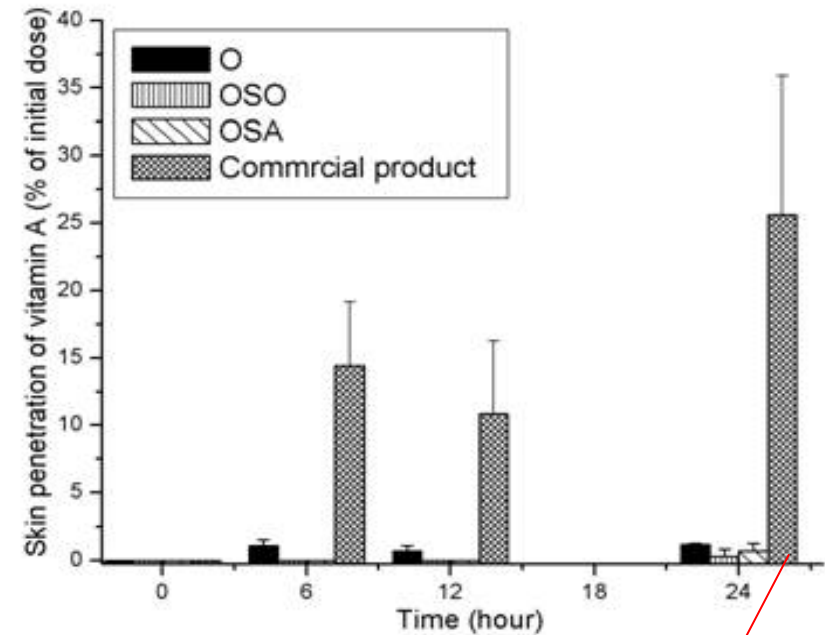
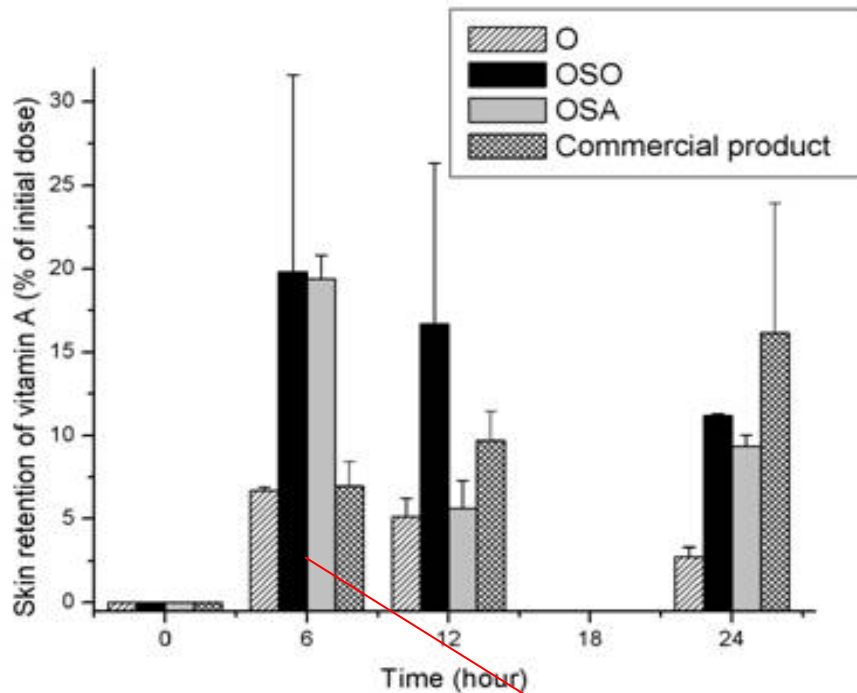


# Crosslinked BV Droplets and a Silica Sphere



# Nanoparticle coated emulsions facilitate better skin retention and less penetration of vitamin A in comparison with commercial products.

Topical delivery of vitamin A to upper layers of skin with minimum transport across the skin and minimal systemic exposure.



Skin layers

