



# NANOANALYTICS OF EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES – Standards for isolation, characterization and reporting

*Shivani Sharma*

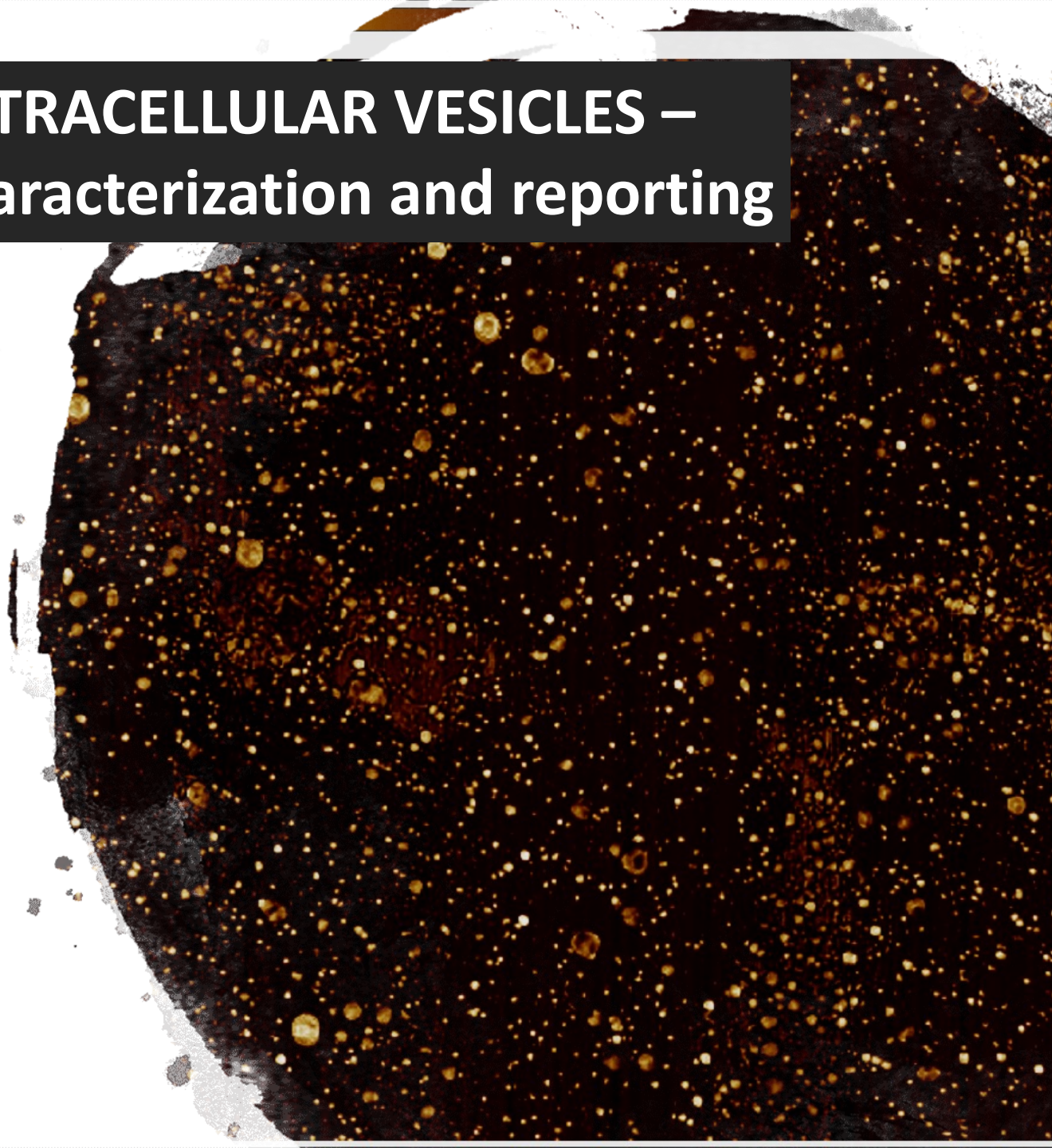


California NANOSystems Institute

University of California, Los Angeles

**NCI NANO-WORKING GROUP**

**May 25, 2017**





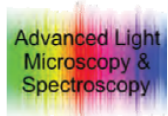


# California NanoSystems Institute CNSI at UCLA

*Our mission is to leverage public and private investment to promote nanoscience research at the interfaces between disciplines, to translate discoveries into knowledge-driven commercial enterprises, and to educate the next generation of scientists and engineers.*



**Advanced Light Microscopy / Spectroscopy Lab**  
<http://alms.cnsi.ucla.edu>




- Confocal & multi-photon fluorescence microscopy
- Super-resolution nanoscale imaging
- Advanced techniques: FCS, FLIM, FRET, FRAP, TCSPC
- Light-sheet 3D microscopy
- Pre-clinical small animal imaging

**Integrated Systems NanoFabrication Cleanroom**  
[www.isnc.cnsi.ucla.edu](http://www.isnc.cnsi.ucla.edu)

**IS(N)C**

- 10,000 sq.ft. of fully-equipped cleanroom space for nanoscale fabrication and characterization
- Electron beam lithography with sub-10 nm resolution
- High-throughput optical lithography with 300-nm resolution
- Fully certified biosuites (BSL-1 and BSL-2)

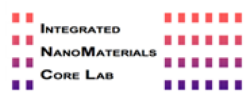
**Electron Imaging Center for NanoMachines**  
[www.eicn.cnsi.ucla.edu](http://www.eicn.cnsi.ucla.edu)



- A Leader in the field of cryoEM
- Study virus structures and infection processes; sub-cellular complexes; engineered nanostructures and devices
- Provides state-of-the-art electron imaging tools
- Develops cutting-edge technology for cryoEM reconstruction

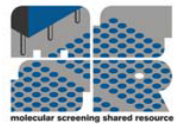


**Integrated NanoMaterials Lab**  
<http://inml.cnsi.ucla.edu>




- Semiconductor nano-materials synthesis & characterization facility
- III-As/Sb and III-N MBE epitaxial growth foundry services
- High quality alloys for electronic / photonic devices
- Integration of dissimilar nanomaterials for novel applications

**Molecular Screening Shared Resource**  
[www.mssr.ucla.edu](http://www.mssr.ucla.edu)



- High Throughput Screening and Drug Discovery
- All plater reader based readouts supported
- High Content Screening (confocal and epifluorescence)
- Functional Genomics (CRISPR, cDNA, shRNA and siRNA)
- FACS sorting for C.Elegans, cell spheroids and tumeroids

**Nano & Pico Characterization Lab**  
<http://nanopicolab.cnsi.ucla.edu>



- State-of-the-art instrumentation for scanning probe microscopy
- Quantitative methods for electrical, magnetic, and mechanical analysis
- Biomaterials and live cell characterization with nanoscale precision
- AFM & STM Imaging and spectroscopy in nearly any environment



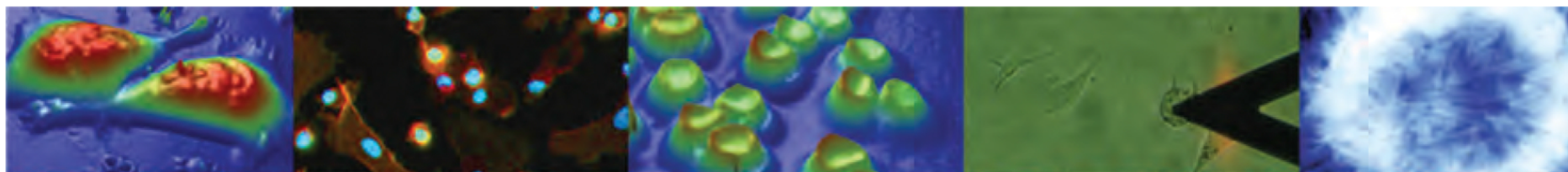
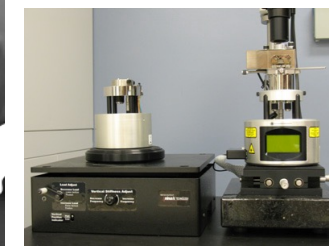
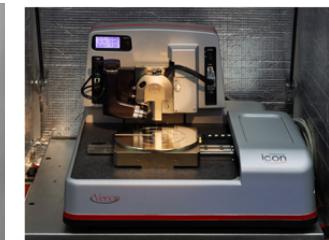
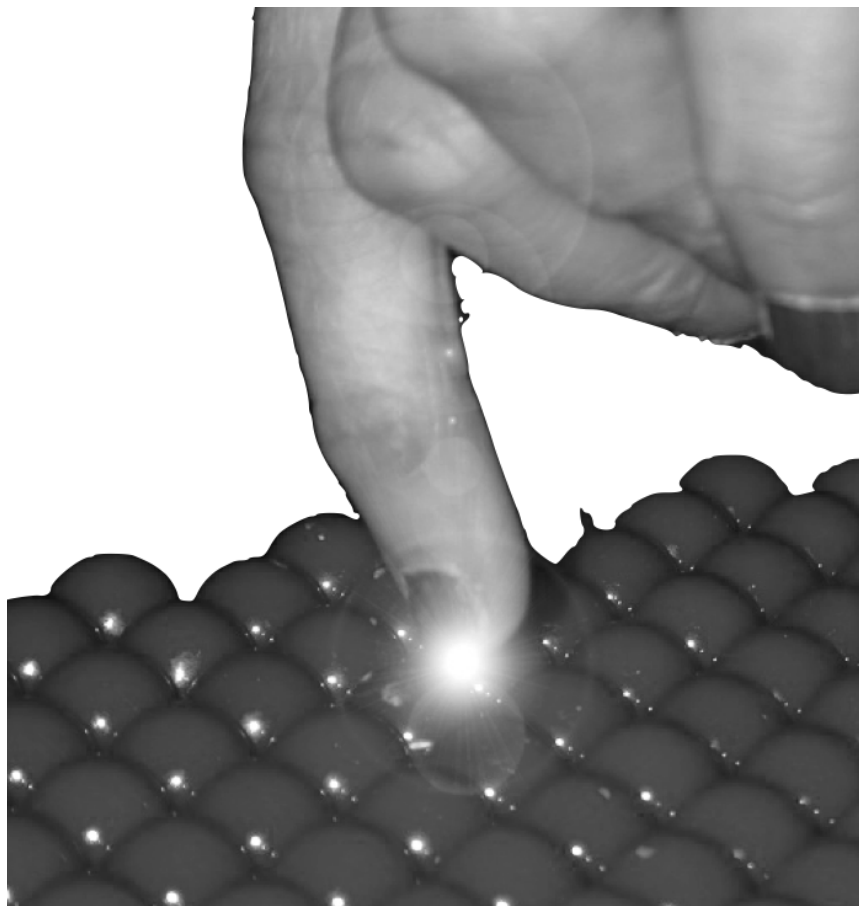
# Scanning Probe Microscopy

Nano & Pico Characterization Laboratory



## At-a-Glance

- Provides state-of-the-art SPM imaging tools
- Nanoscale imaging and spectroscopy in nearly any environment
- In-house instrument and method development
- Quantitative tools for nanomechanical analysis
- Biomaterial and live cell characterization



From atoms



molecules



materials



cells



organisms



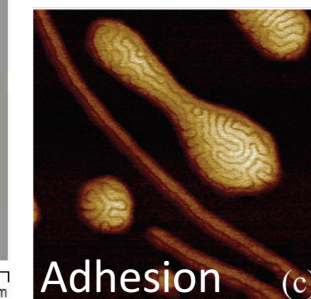
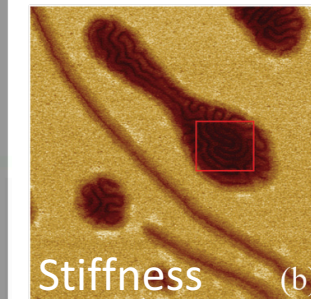
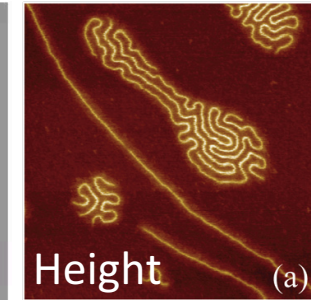
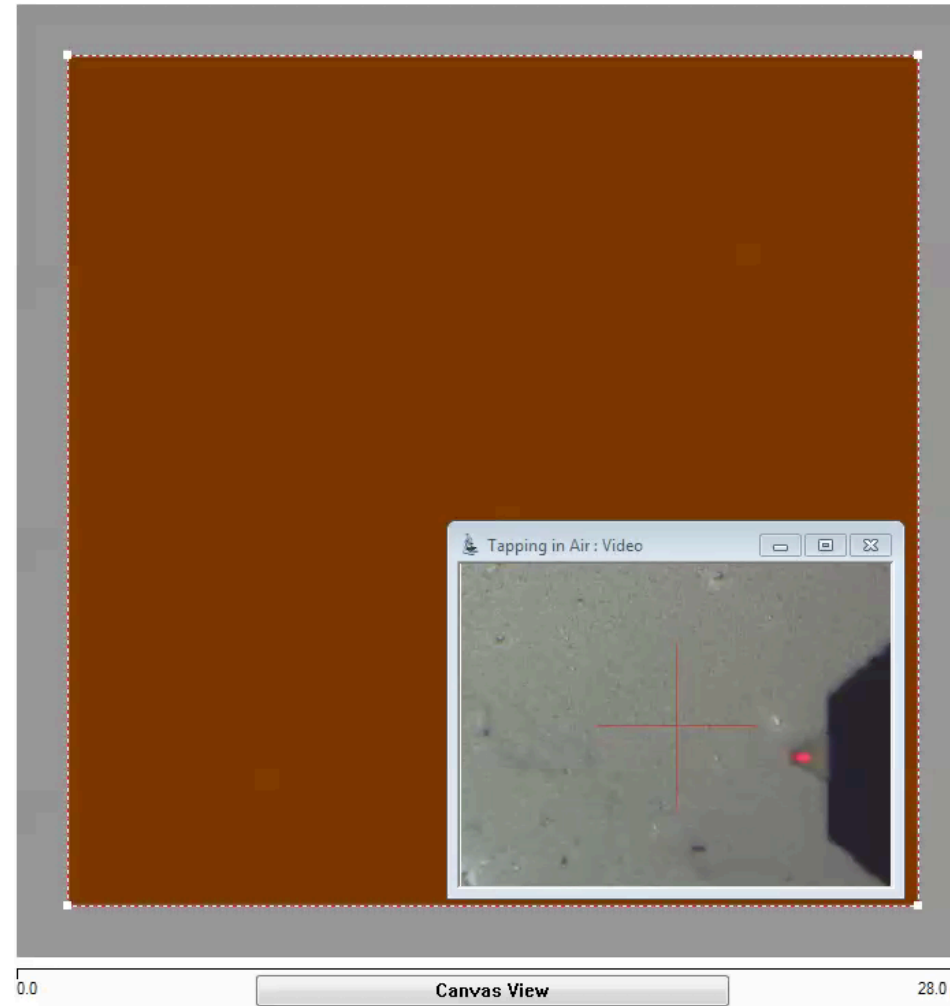
# Scanning Probe Microscopy

Nano & Pico Characterization Laboratory



## At-a-Glance

- Provides state-of-the-art SPM imaging tools
- Nanoscale imaging and spectroscopy in nearly any environment
- In-house instrument and method development
- Quantitative tools for nanomechanical analysis
- Biomaterial and live cell characterization



PeakForce Tapping™ mode provides automatic parameter optimization, high-speed scanning and quantitative nanomechanical mapping



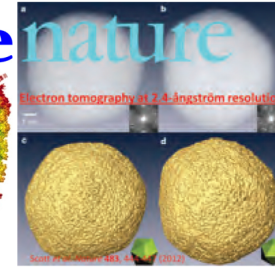
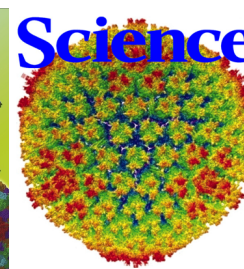
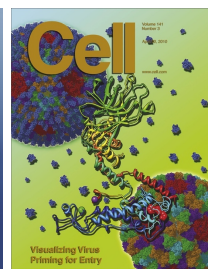
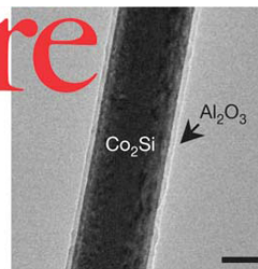
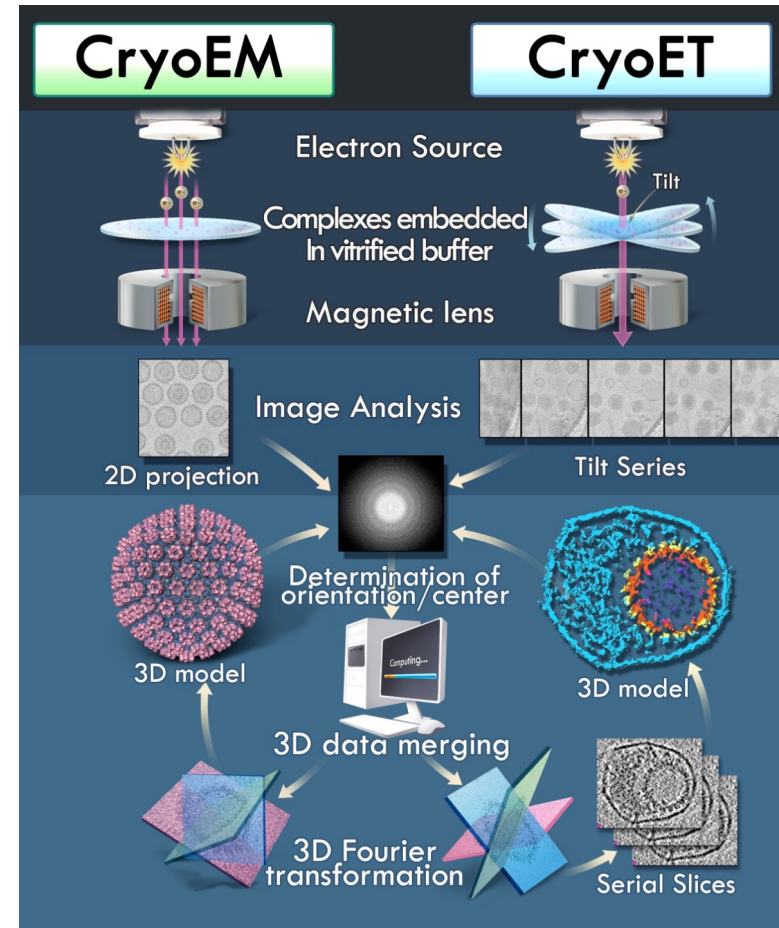
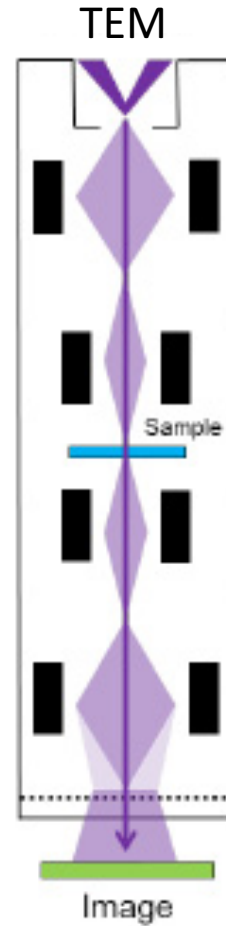
# Electron Microscopy

## Electron Imaging Center for NanoMachines



### At-a-Glance

- Leader in the field of cryoEM
- Provides state-of-the-art Electron Imaging Tools
- Develops cutting-edge technology of cryoEM reconstruction
- Study virus structures and infection processes; important sub-cellular complexes; engineered nanostructures and devices





# Fluorescence Imaging

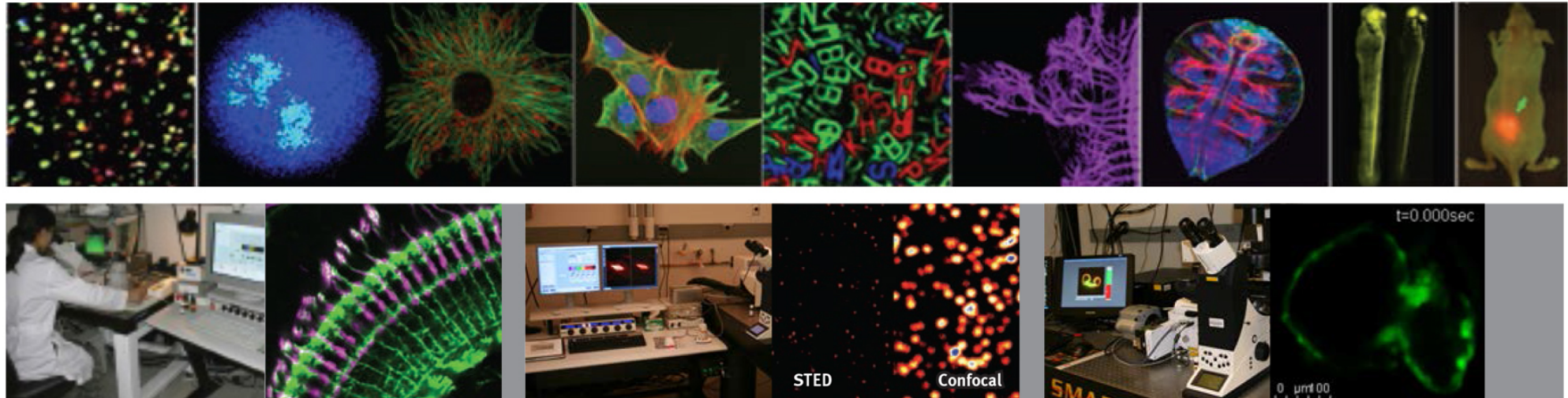
Advanced Light Microscopy/Spectroscopy Laboratory  
and Macro-Scale Imaging Laboratory



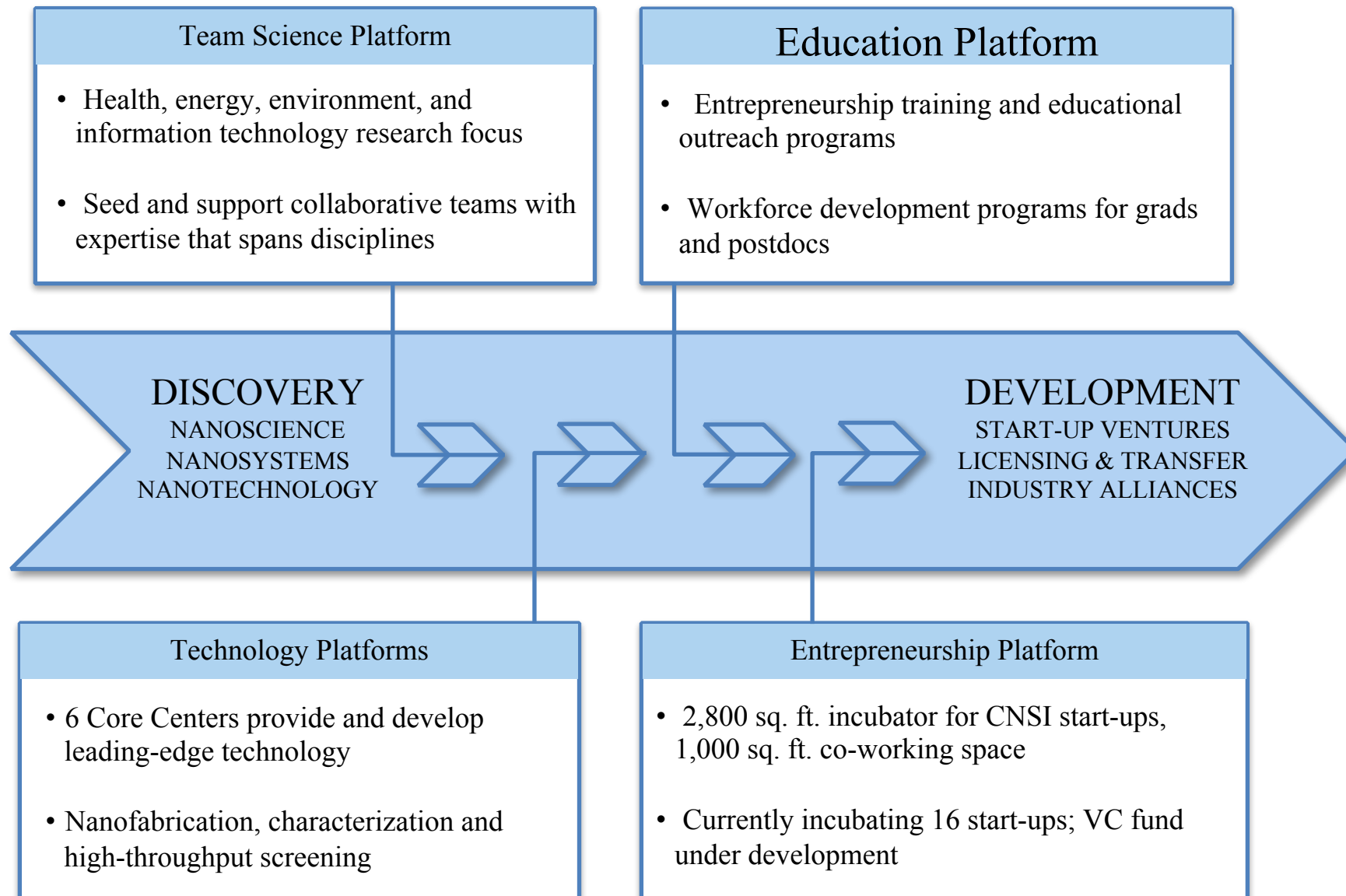
## At-a-Glance

- Fluorescence imaging at all length scales
- Consultation, service and training
- Dissemination and teaching
- Collaborative research and development
- Academic and industrial partnerships
- First super-resolution STED microscopy in the US (sub-70 nm resolution)
- Macromolecules, cellular dynamics and nano-scale characterization of bio-materials
- 10 controlled-environment optical rooms

## Fluorescence imaging at all length scales: from single-molecule detection to *in vivo* small animal imaging



# The CNSI Ecosystem





# OUTLINE

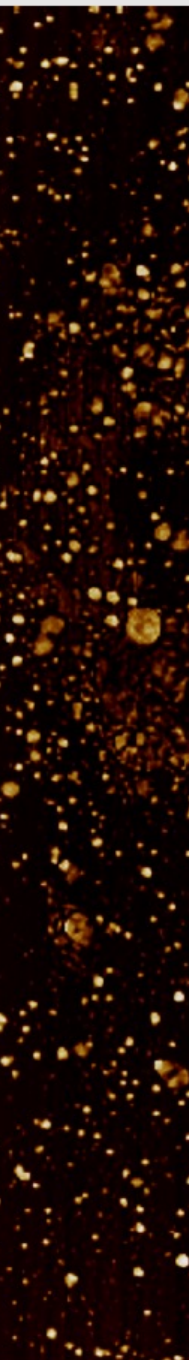
- Brief introduction to EVs and major applications

---

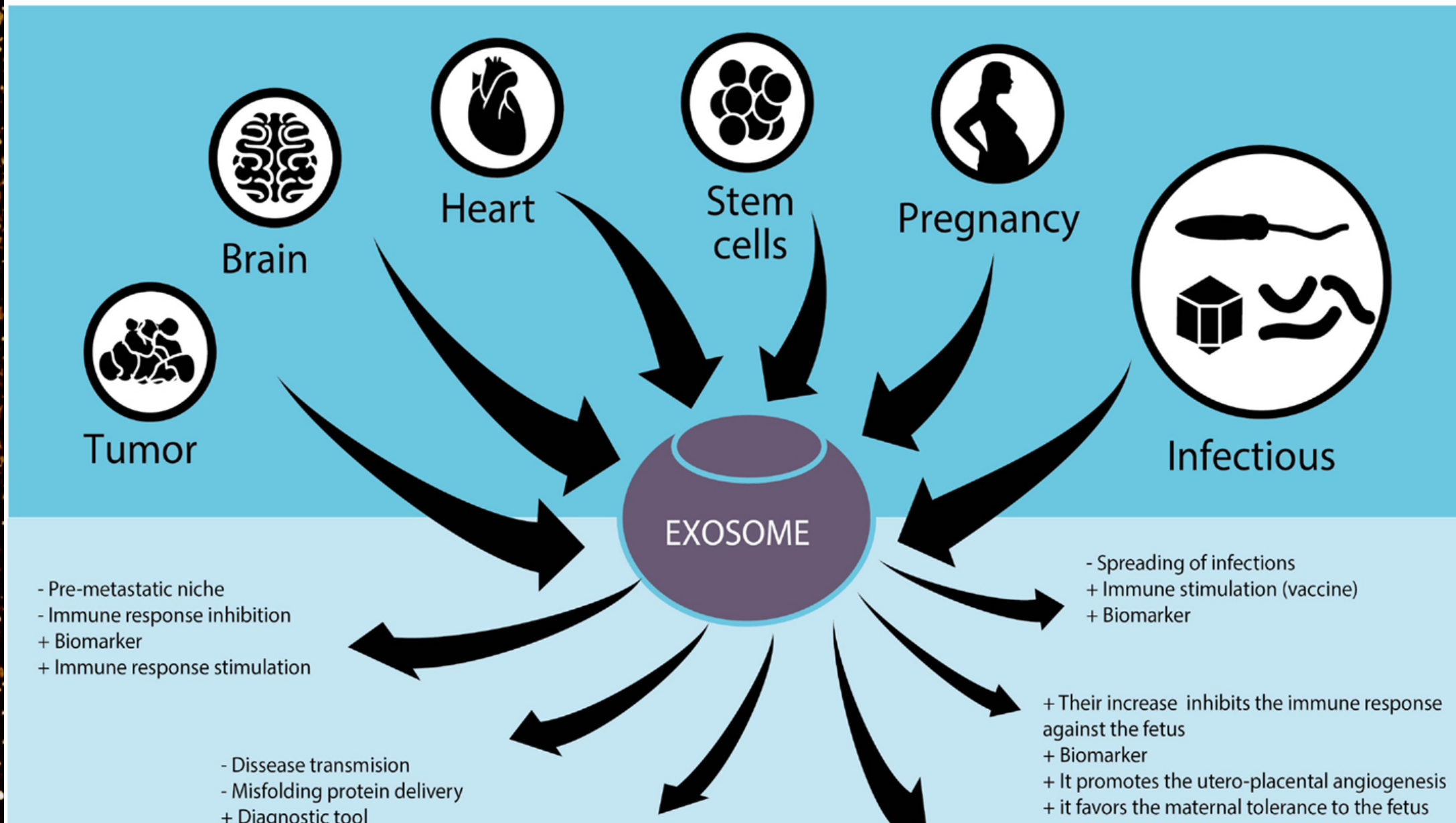
- Correlative techniques - High resolution imaging and characterization of EVs using EM, AFM and Force spectroscopy
- Current challenges- lack of gold standards for isolation and characterization- Minimal Requirements- **ISEV position papers**
- Reporting requirements and transparency of results: **EV-TRACK**
- Characterization needs for nanoscale and heterogeneous EVs- Biology meets nanoanalytics. Example from European Union **METVES**
- Convergence with **ISA\_TAB\_NANO** for Nanotechnology data sharing standards
- Collaborative opportunities at CNSI/UCLA, comments, ideas, critique

# EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES:

- <http://www.the-scientist.com?articles.view/articleNo/30793/title/Exosome-Explosion/>











# EVs: CHARACTERIZATION NEEDS

## Isolation



## Characterization

- Adhesion, buoyancy, charge, size, shape, concentration, monodispersity, Refractive index, stiffness
- **Membrane proteins**



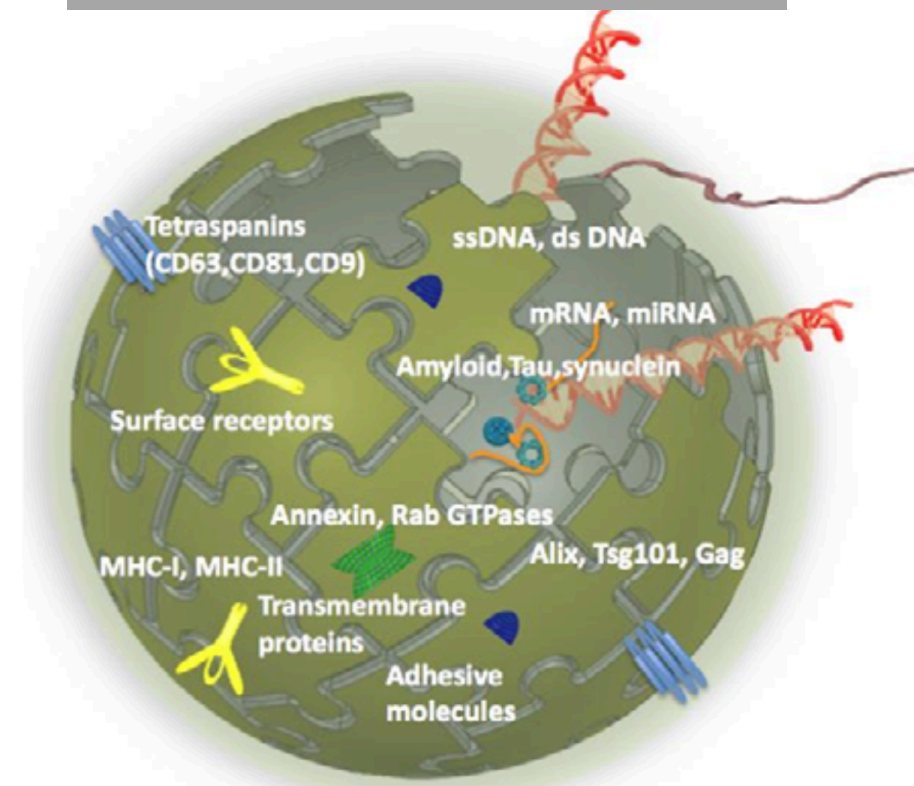
## Applications

- Biomarker discovery
- Exosome engineering
- Drug delivery

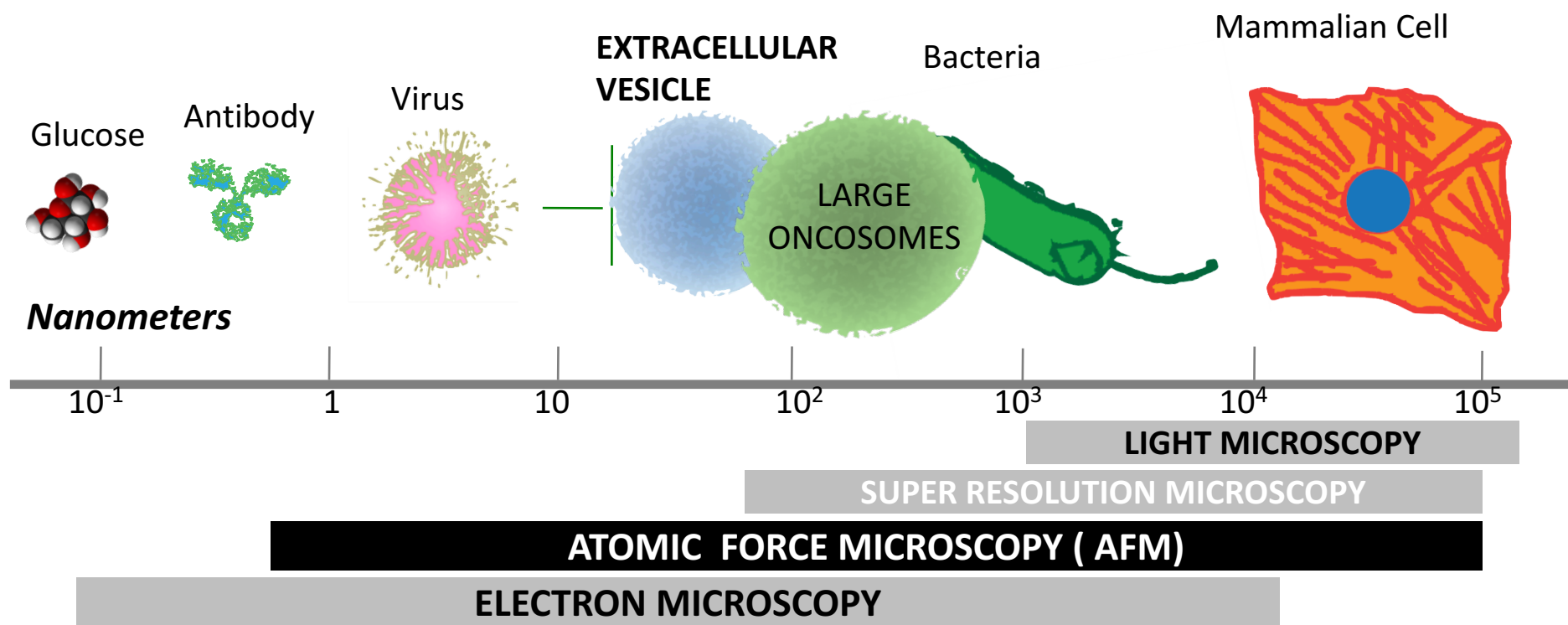
## A nano-jigsaw puzzle

*Khatun et al. Nanomedicine (2016)*

*Sharma et al. J Nanomed Nanotechnol (2015)*



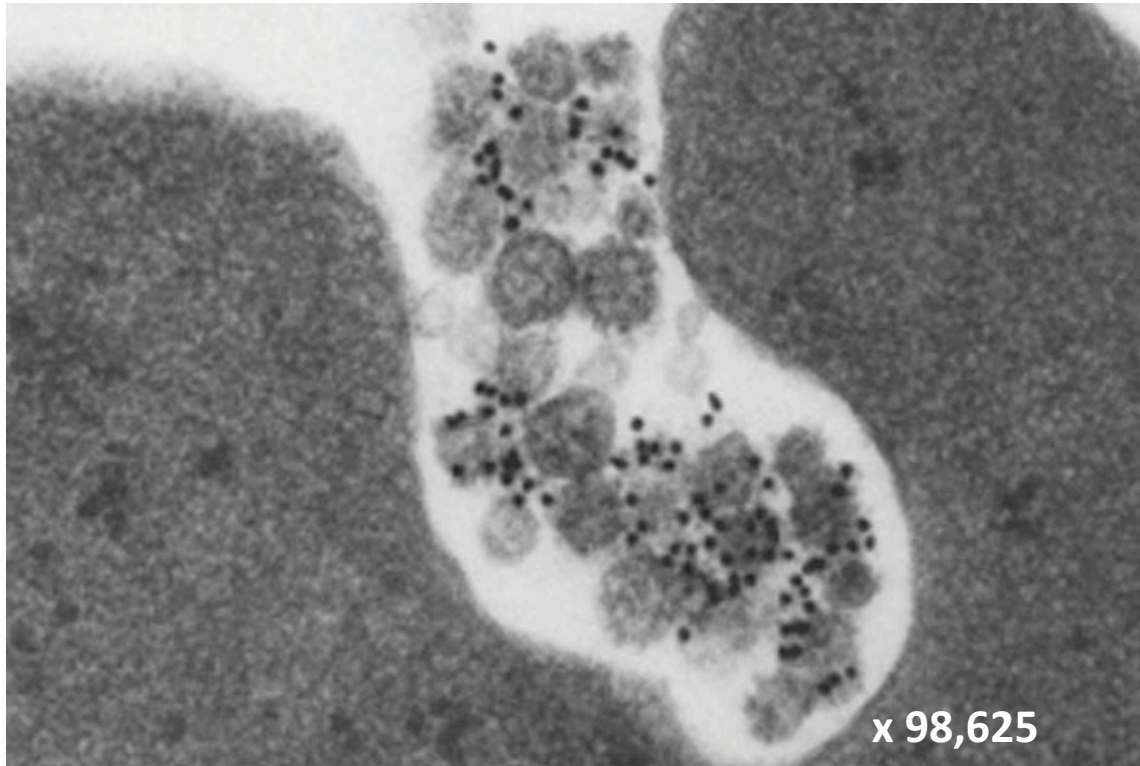
## EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES "SIZE" IN PERSPECTIVE



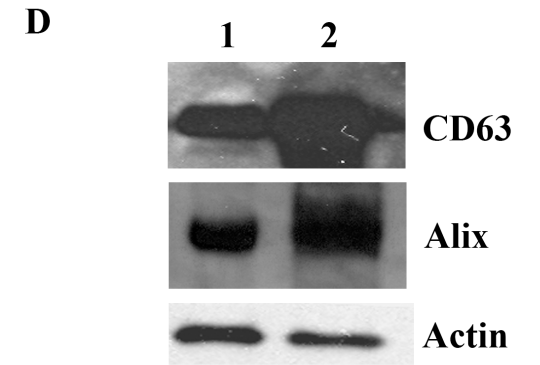
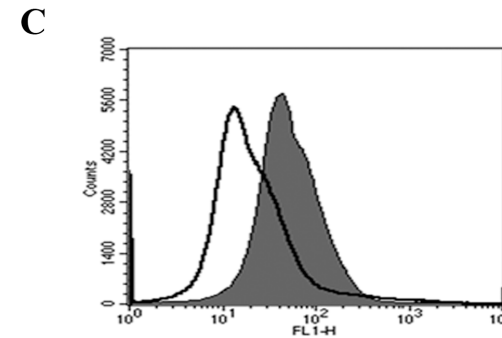
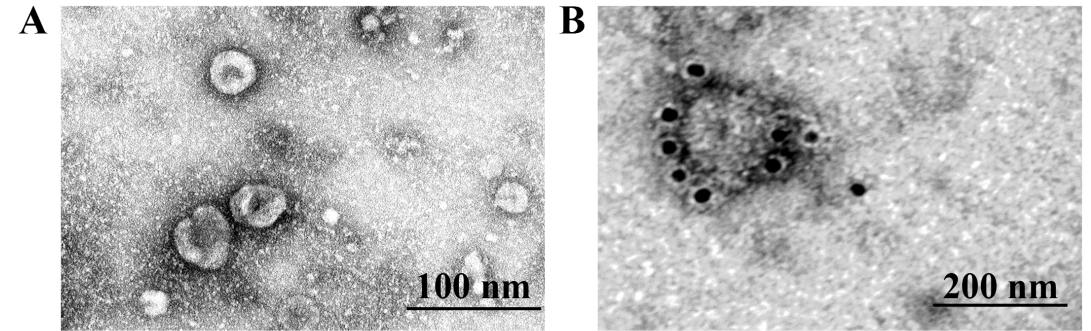
- Different scales provide different *types* of information
- Combine techniques to obtain comprehensive structure/dynamic understanding
- Correlative microscopy aims to overcome inherent limitations of different microscopy techniques



# Electron Microscopic “Cup shaped” Structure of Exosomes



BT Pan et al. J Cell Biol. 1985 Sep;101(3):942-8

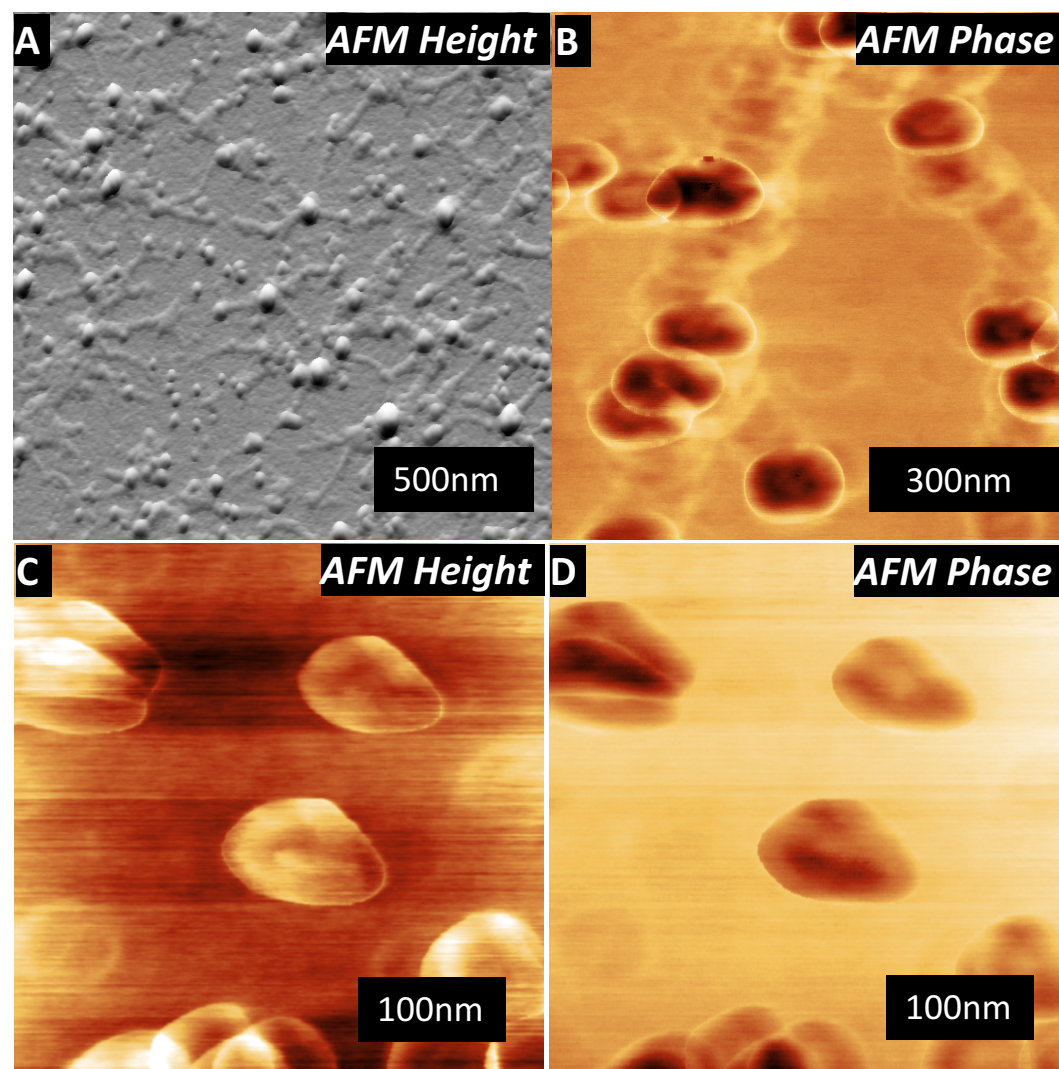


Palanisamy V. et al. PLOS ONE 2010

# Structural-Mechanical Characterization of Nanoparticle Exosomes in Human Saliva, Using Correlative AFM, FESEM, and Force Spectroscopy

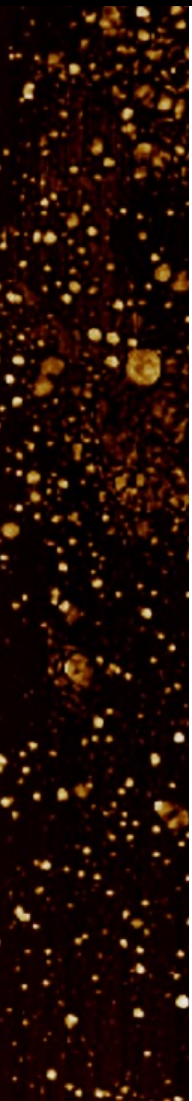
Sharma S. *et al.* ACS Nano 2010

AFM topography and Phase images of human saliva derived exosomes

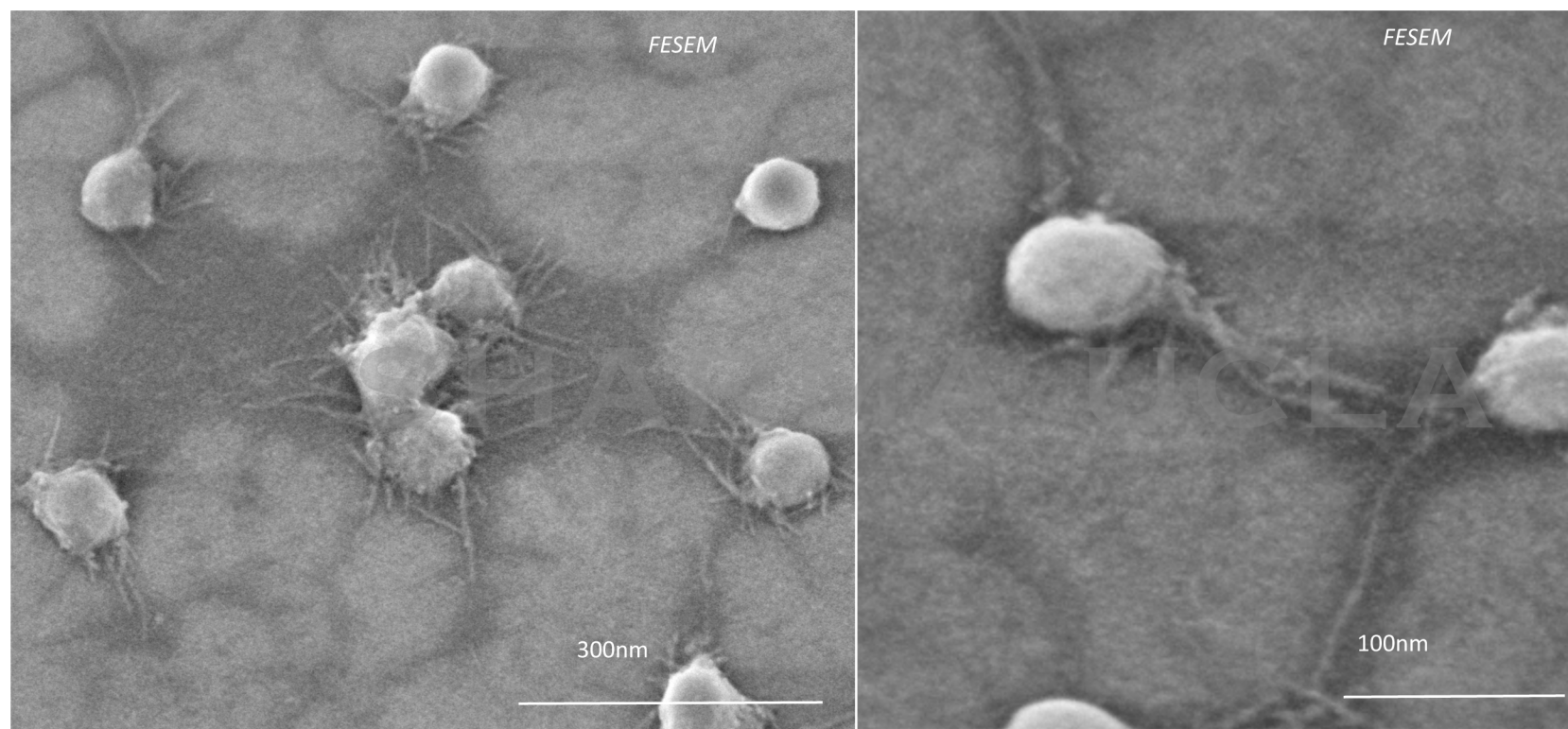




# Structural-Mechanical Characterization of Nanoparticle Exosomes in Human Saliva, Using Correlative AFM, FESEM, and Force Spectroscopy

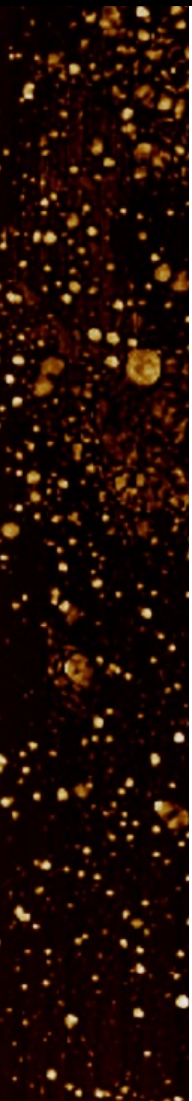


The structure of exosomes- FESEM

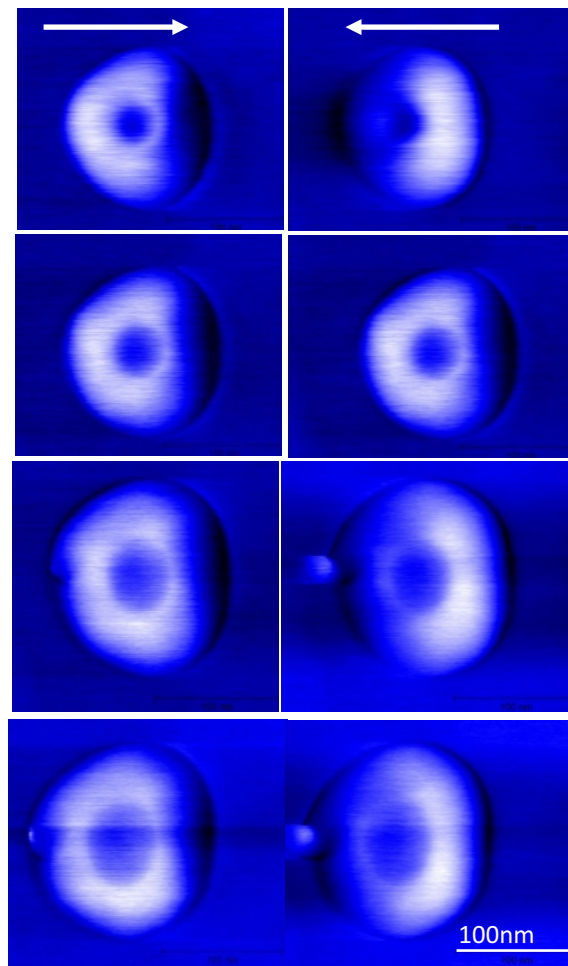


Single isolated vesicles as round bulging structures and inter-vesicular connections

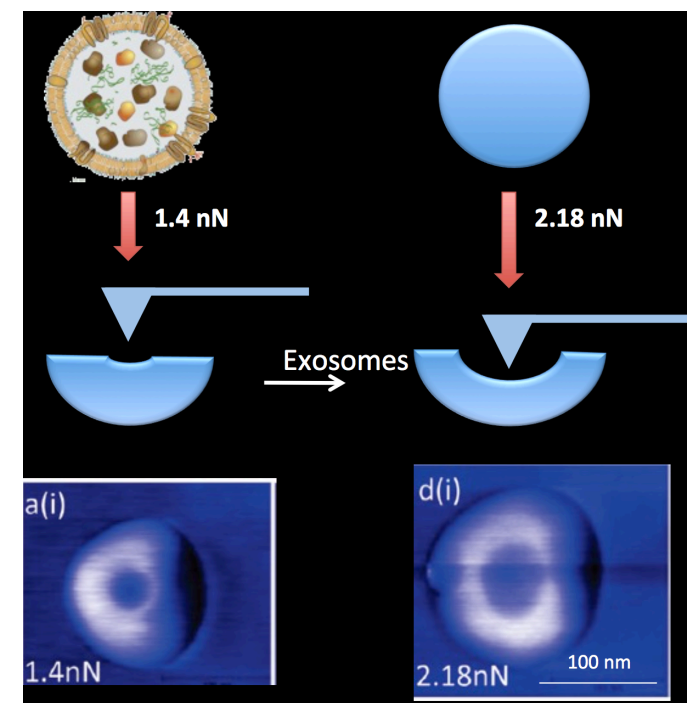
# Structural-Mechanical Characterization of Nanoparticle Exosomes in Human Saliva, Using Correlative AFM, FESEM, and Force Spectroscopy



Increase in exosome size under increasing AFM imaging forces (white arrows show scan direction)

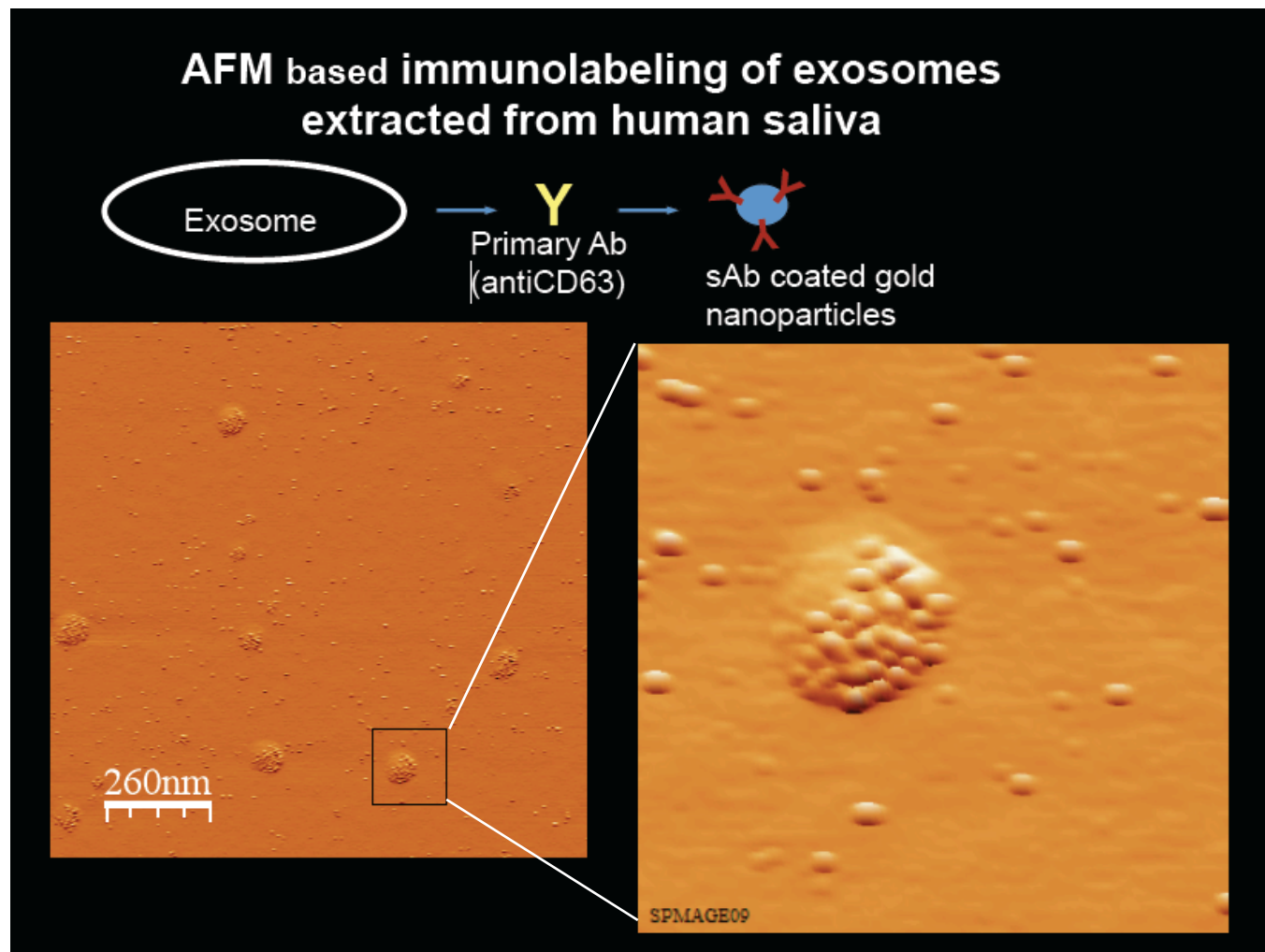
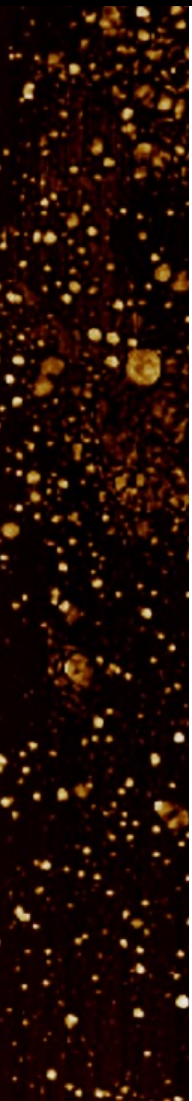


## Mechanical properties of exosomes



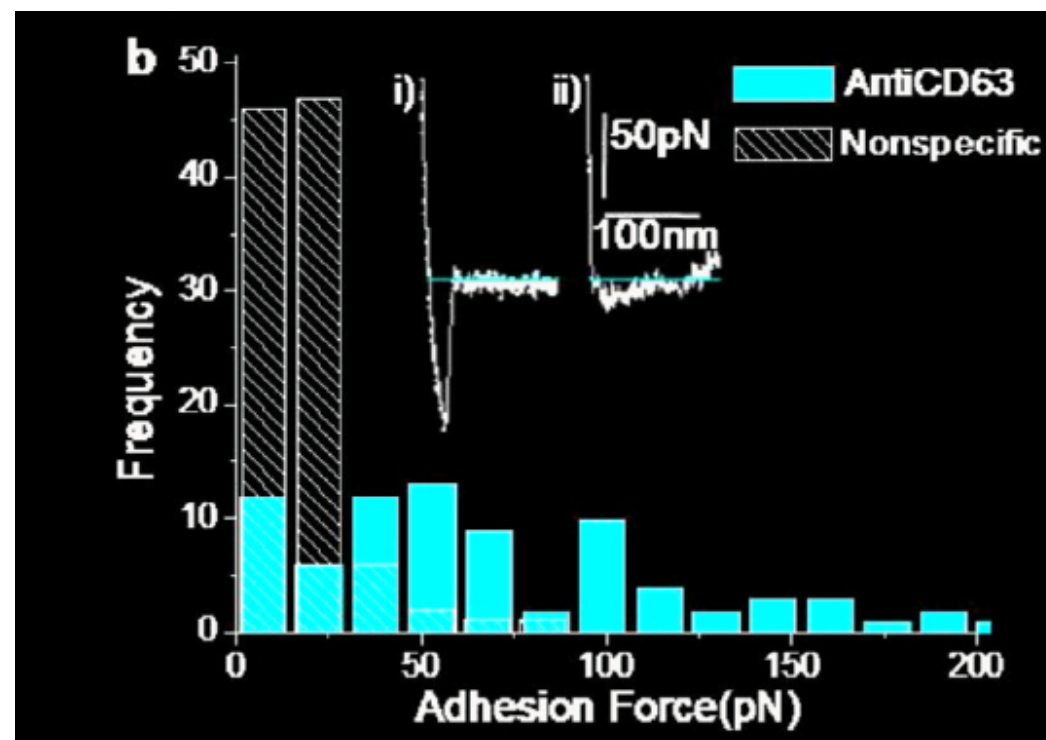
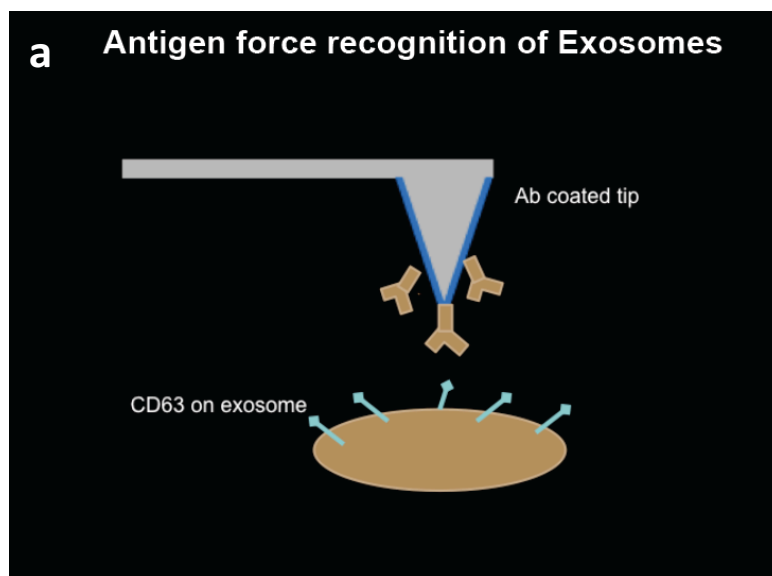


# Structural-Mechanical Characterization of Nanoparticle Exosomes in Human Saliva, Using Correlative AFM, FESEM, and Force Spectroscopy



# Structural-Mechanical Characterization of Nanoparticle Exosomes in Human Saliva, Using Correlative AFM, FESEM, and Force Spectroscopy

Force spectroscopy to quantitatively map Exosome surface receptor density

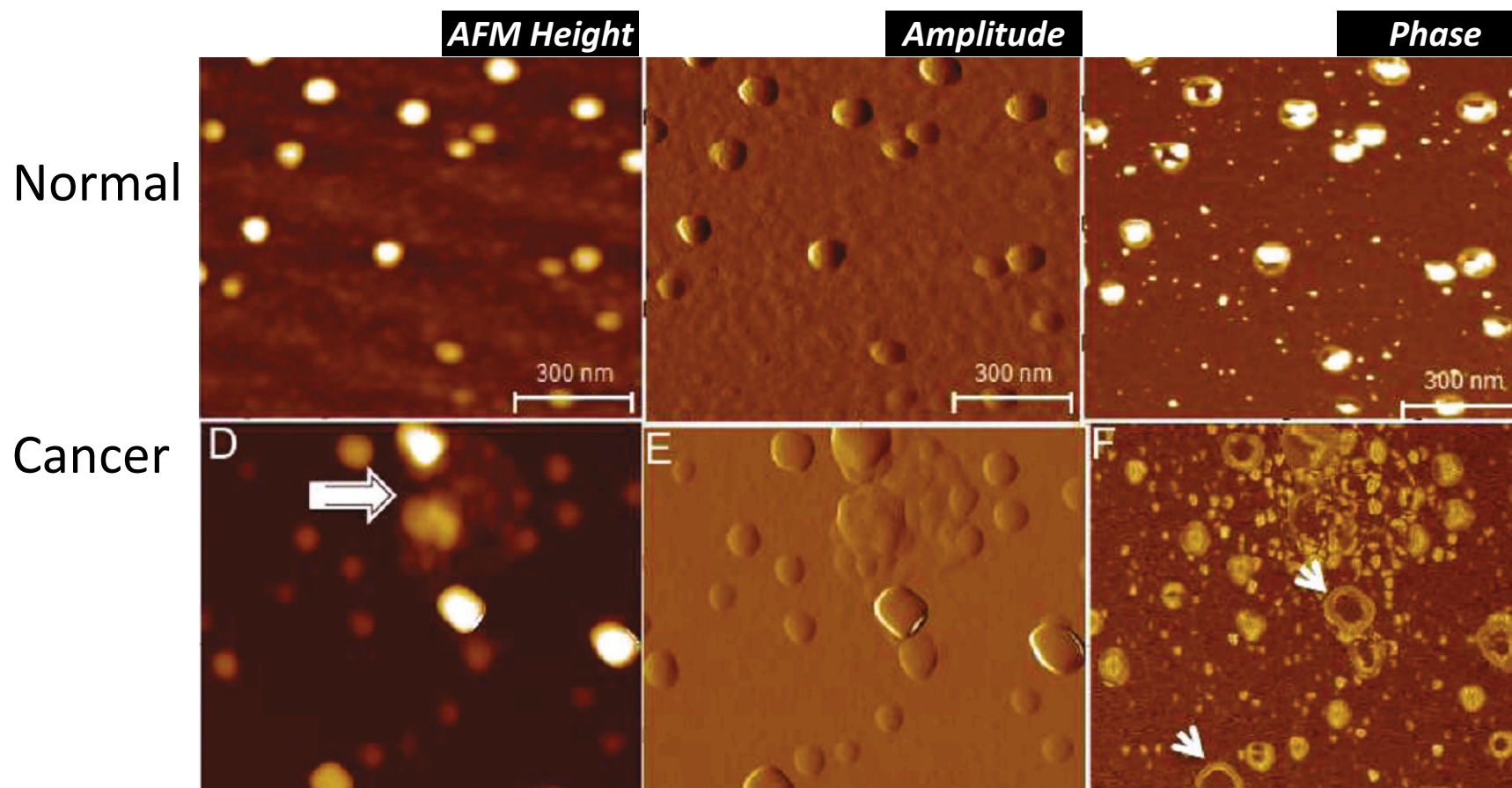




# Quantitative Nanostructural and Single-Molecule Force Spectroscopy Biomolecular Analysis of Human-Saliva-Derived Exosomes

Sharma S. *et al.* Langmuir 2011

Cancer exosome populations significantly increased in saliva and display irregular morphologies, increased vesicle size, and higher inter-vesicular aggregation



# AFM analysis of exosomes

Table 1. Patient History and Histopathology versus Saliva Exosome Characteristics

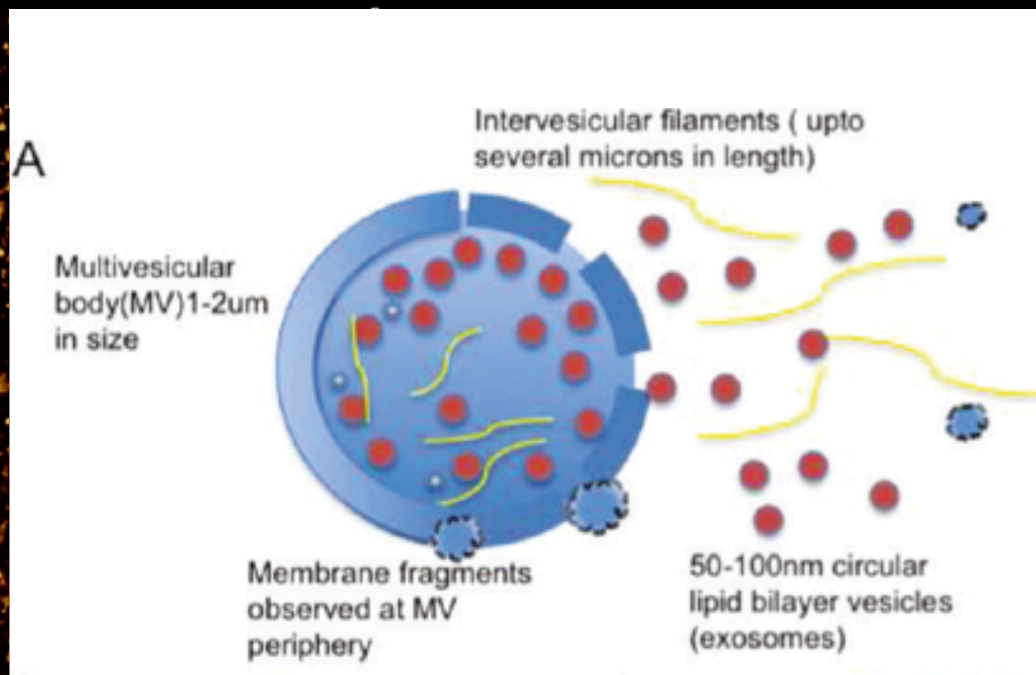
case no.	stage- histological grade <sup>a</sup>	size (nm) <sup>b</sup>	counts/64 $\mu\text{m}^2$	vesicle morphology	MVs <sup>e</sup>	treatment
1	4a	77.0 $\pm$ 3.7	345	IR <sup>c</sup>	++	chemotherapy
2	4a	138.6 $\pm$ 6.8	342	IR	—	chemotherapy
3	4a	102.7 $\pm$ 6.7	414	IR	+	chemotherapy + surgery
4	1	92.5 $\pm$ 4.6	242	IR	—	surgery
5	4a	NA <sup>f</sup>	Na	NA	NA	chemotherapy
6	2	80.9 $\pm$ 6.1	268	IR	—	surgery
7	normal	62.3 $\pm$ 3.4	128	R <sup>d</sup>	—	none
8	normal	67.4 $\pm$ 2.6	137	R	—	none
9	normal	66.4 $\pm$ 3.6	96	R	—	none
10	normal	67.4 $\pm$ 2.9	193	R	—	none
11	normal	71.6 $\pm$ 1.7	126	R	—	none

<sup>a</sup> Grades 1–4 and a–c indicates less advanced to more advanced stages and types of cancer. <sup>b</sup> Mean  $\pm$  SEM. <sup>c</sup> Irregular. <sup>d</sup> Regular circular. <sup>e</sup> Multivesicular bodies. <sup>f</sup> Not used for analysis because of sample serum contamination. Normal and cancer samples studied consisted of sex (males) and age (between 54 and 75 years) matched.

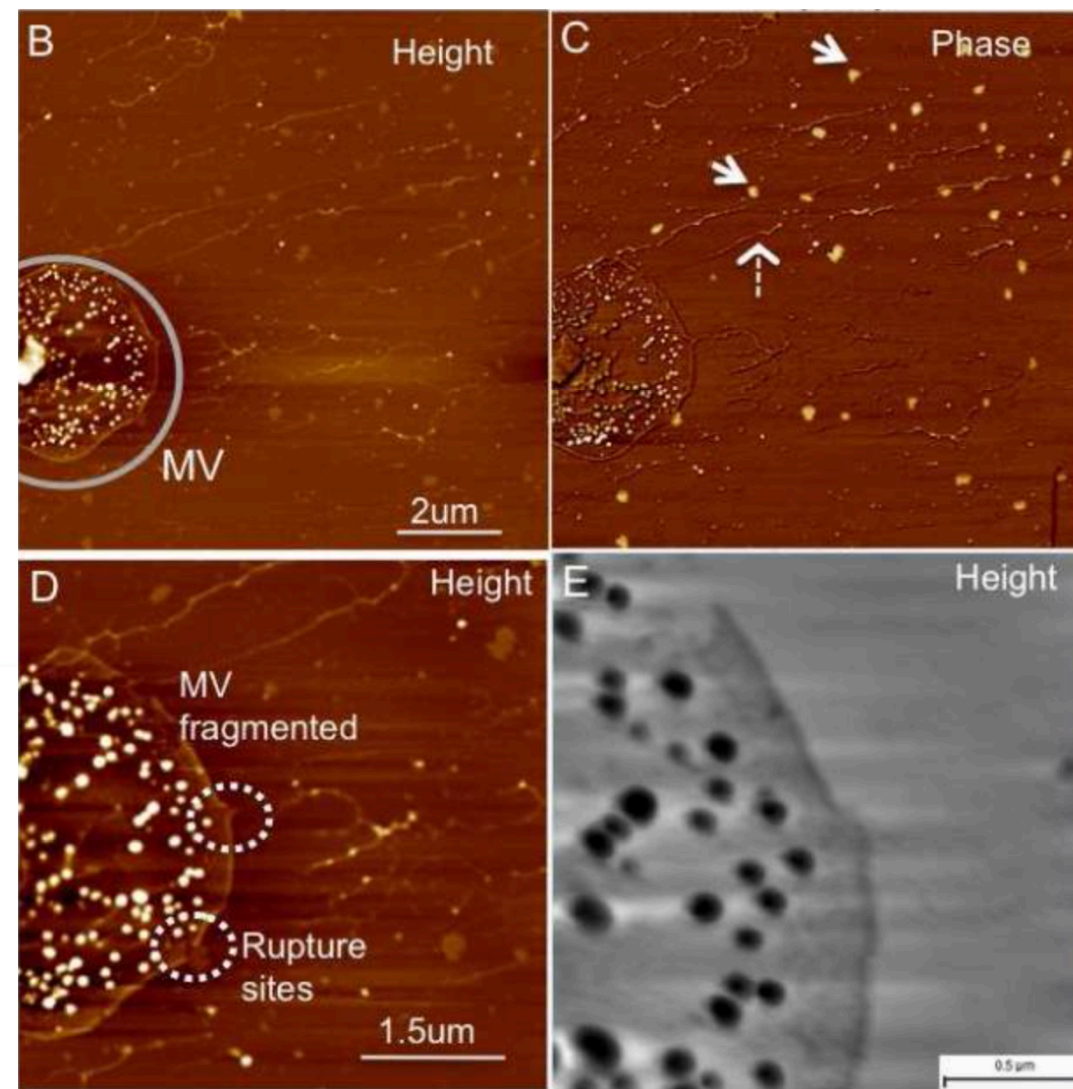
The presence of increased exosome counts and irregular morphology in cancer saliva samples was observed irrespective of whether they solely received chemotherapy, surgery or both



# Quantitative Nanostructural and Single-Molecule Force Spectroscopy Biomolecular Analysis of Human-Saliva-Derived Exosomes



**Release of exosomes from multi-vesicular bodies (MVs) seen in oral cancer patient salivary exosomes**



JOURNAL  
OF  
THE ROYAL  
SOCIETY  
**Interface**

[rsif.royalsocietypublishing.org](http://rsif.royalsocietypublishing.org)

Research



**Cite this article:** Sharma S, Das K, Woo J-R, Gimzewski JK. 2014 Nanofilaments on glioblastoma exosomes revealed by peak force microscopy. *J. R. Soc. Interface* **11**: 20131150. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsif.2013.1150>

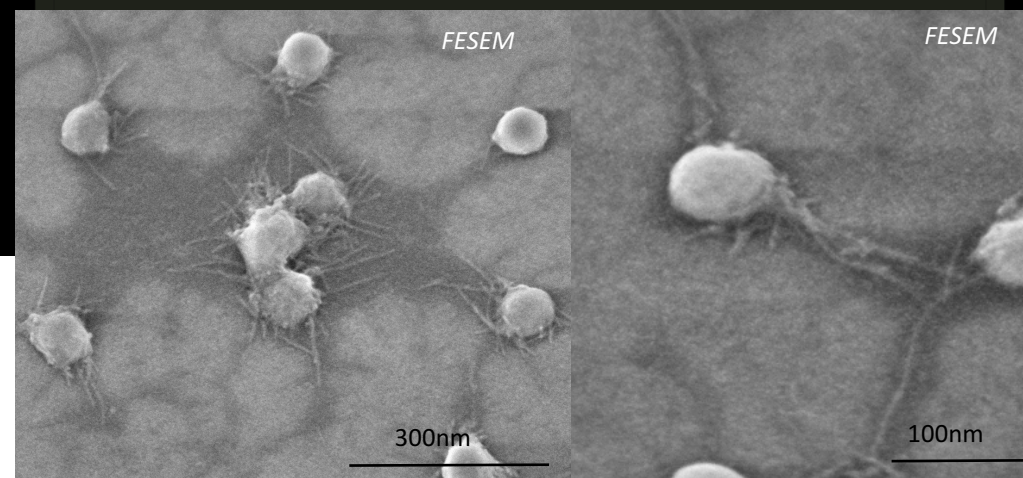
## Nanofilaments on glioblastoma exosomes revealed by peak force microscopy

Shivani Sharma<sup>1,2</sup>, Kingshuk Das<sup>3</sup>, JungReem Woo<sup>1</sup>  
and James K. Gimzewski<sup>1,2,4,5,6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, <sup>2</sup>California NanoSystems Institute, <sup>3</sup>Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, and <sup>4</sup>Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA

<sup>5</sup>International Center for Materials Nanoarchitectonics Satellite (MANA), National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS), Tsukuba, Japan

<sup>6</sup>Centre for Nanoscience and Quantum Information, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK



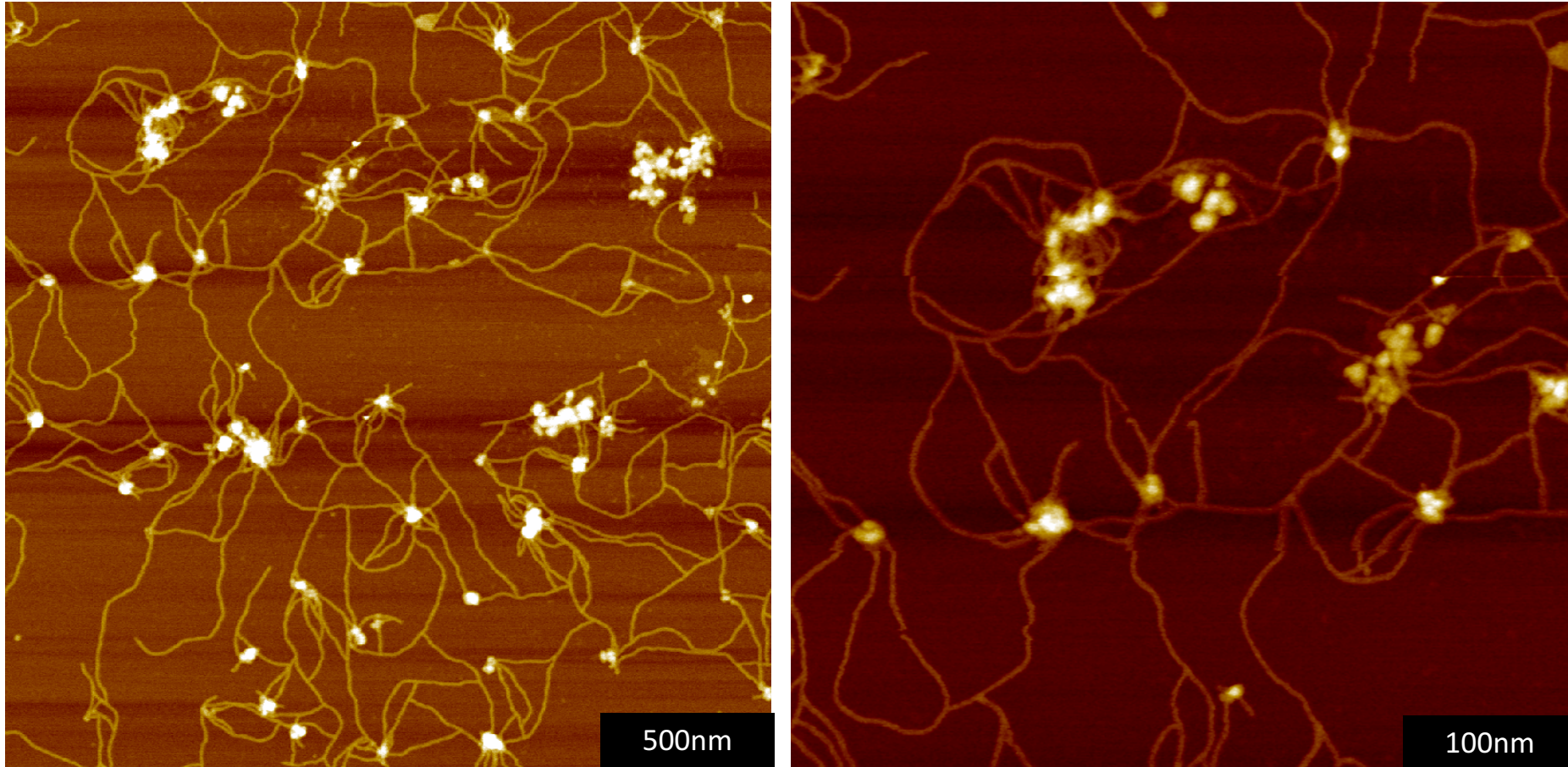
Peak force AFM of exosomes motivated by our earlier FESEM observation



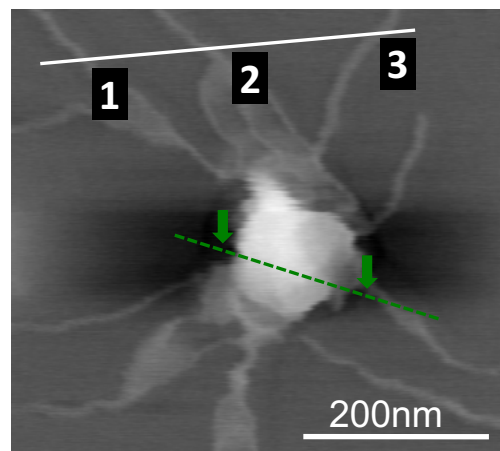
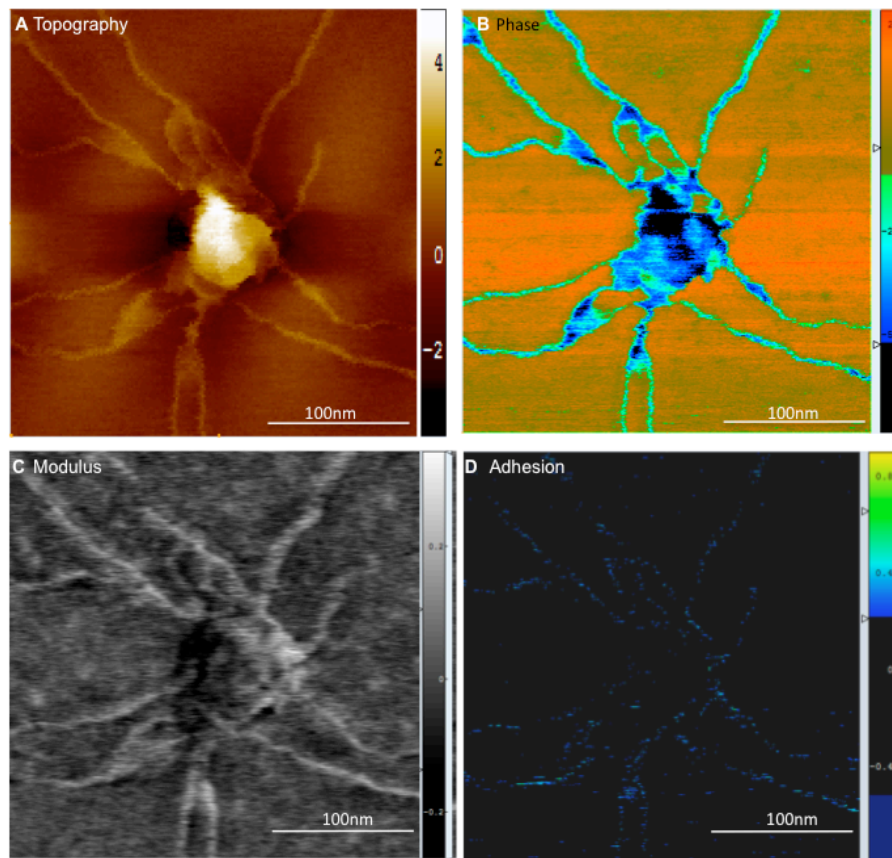


Sharma S. *et al.* J.R. Interface 2014

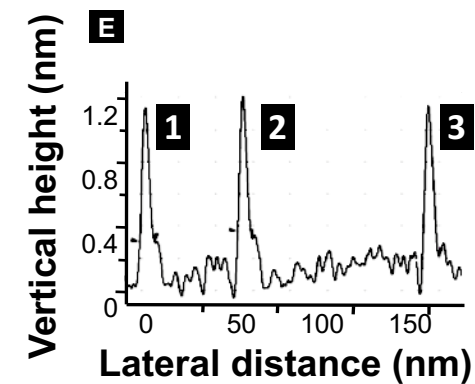
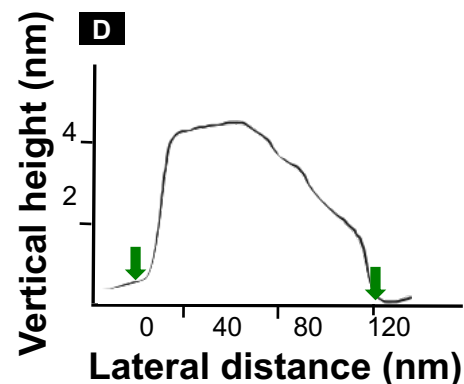
## PeakForce imaging of U87 exosomes



Results were confirmed by imaging samples obtained from two independent and commonly used isolations, with and without sucrose gradient purification.



Cross section heights: EV and filaments

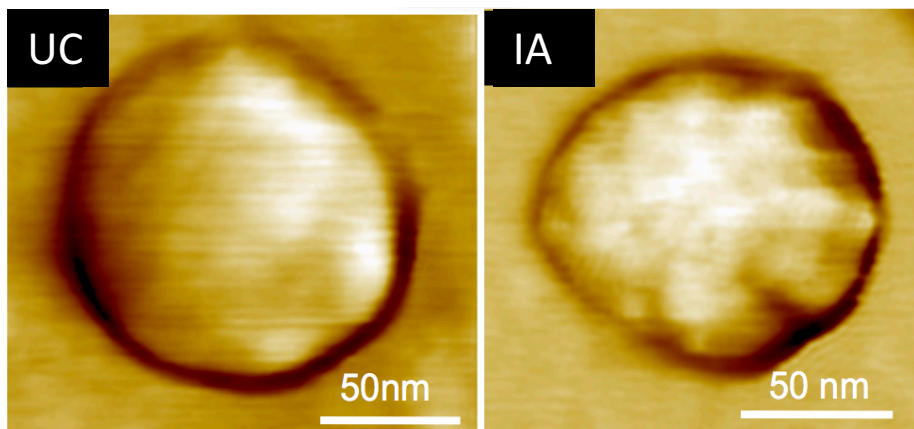
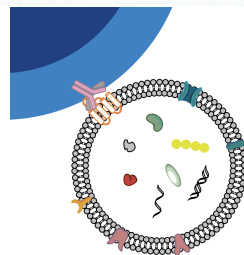




# The Role of Isolation Methods on a Nanoscale Surface Structure and Its Effect on the Size of Exosomes

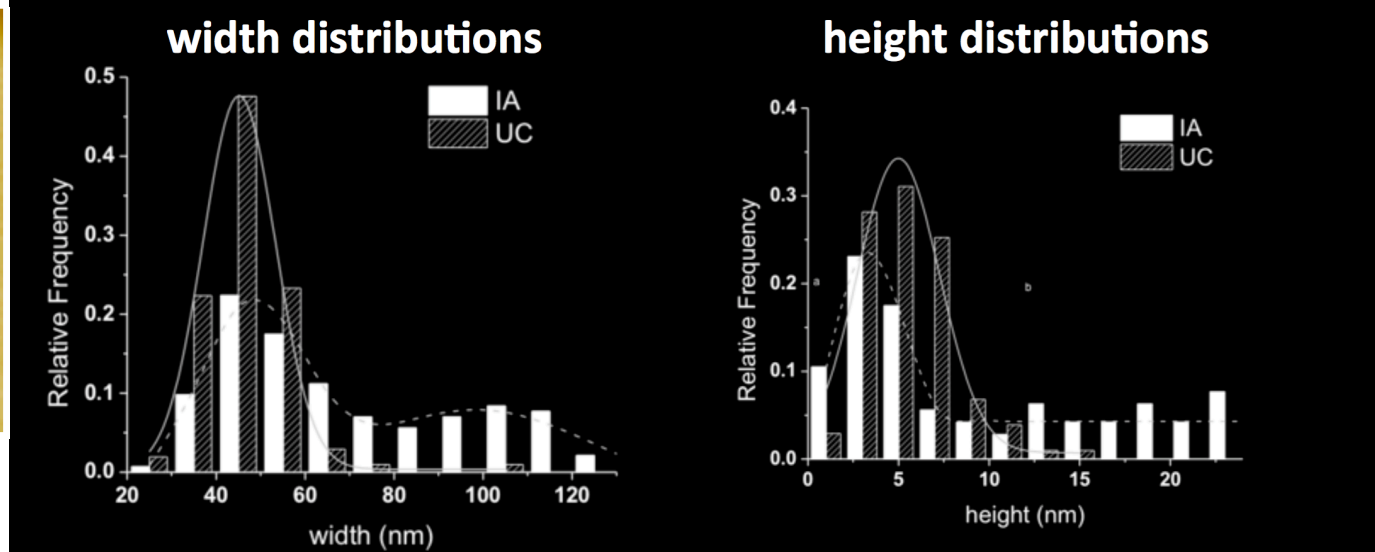
JOURNAL OF CIRCULATING BIOMARKERS

Woo J. *et al.* 2016



Immune Affinity (IA) isolation method shows greater roughness of EVs

## The size distributions of exosomes depending on isolation methods





**James Gimzewski**



**Jung-Reem Woo**



**Shivani Sharma**



**Kingshuk Das**



**Haider Rasool**



**David T W Wong DMD**



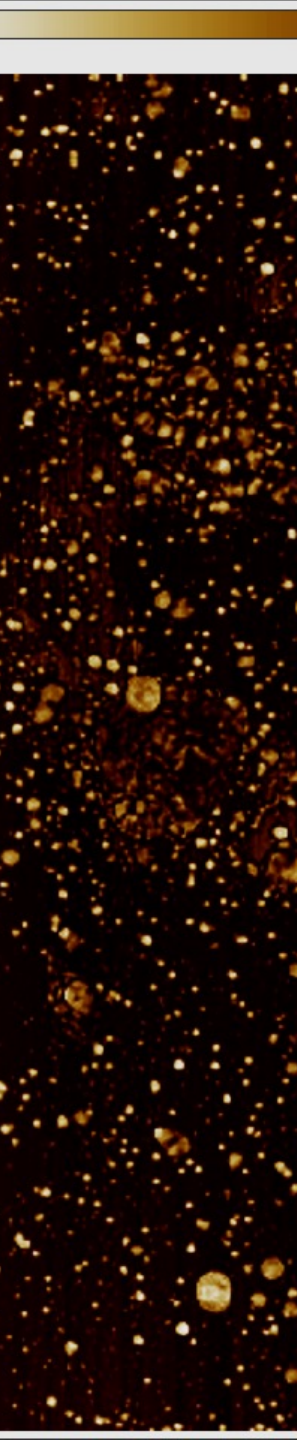
**V Palanisamy**



**Michael LeClaire**

Thanks also to FEI for FESEM -Michael Schmidt & Cliff Mathisen  
*Laurent Bentolila* Advanced Microscopy Lab, CNSI, UCLA





Extracellular vesicles are amazing BIOfunctional NANOparticles  
Nano at its best (or worst)

## Current challenges-

JOURNAL OF EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES

# The need for nanoscale characterization of Extracellular vesicles

AN ISEV POSITION PAPER

## Standardization of sample collection, isolation and analysis methods in extracellular vesicle research

Kenneth W. Witwer<sup>1\*</sup>, Edit I. Buzás<sup>2</sup>, Lynne T. Bemis<sup>3</sup>, Adriana Bora<sup>4</sup>, Cecilia Lässer<sup>5</sup>, Jan Lötvall<sup>5</sup>, Esther N. Nolte-<sup>t</sup> Hoen<sup>6</sup>, Melissa G. Piper<sup>7</sup>, Sarada Sivaraman<sup>8</sup>, Johan Skog<sup>9</sup>, Clotilde Théry<sup>10,11</sup>, Marca H. Wauben<sup>6</sup> and Fred Hochberg<sup>8</sup>

discussion of EV isolation and analysis at that meeting. The conclusions of the round table are supplemented with a review of published materials and our experience. Controversies and outstanding questions are identified that may inform future research and funding priorities. While we emphasize the need for standardization of specimen handling, appropriate normative controls, and isolation and analysis techniques to facilitate comparison of results, we also recognize that continual development and evaluation of techniques will be necessary as new knowledge is amassed. On many points, consensus has not yet been achieved and must be built through the reporting of well-controlled experiments.

extracellular vesicles (EV) has highlighted and therapeutic targets. These findings technology, prompting expanded interest in the understanding of EV subtypes, biogenesis, uses that can be harnessed to address the workshop of the International Society for as part of the “ISEV Research Seminar:”, 6 round-table discussions were held to V, purification and analysis of associated intervention. This article arises from the





## Obstacles and opportunities in the functional analysis of extracellular vesicle RNA – an ISEV position paper

### ABSTRACT

The release of RNA-containing extracellular vesicles (EV) into the extracellular milieu has been demonstrated in a multitude of different *in vitro* cell systems and in a variety of body fluids. RNA-containing EV are in the limelight for their capacity to communicate genetically encoded messages to other cells, their suitability as candidate biomarkers for diseases, and their use as therapeutic agents. Although EV-RNA has attracted enormous interest from basic researchers, clinicians, and industry, we currently have limited knowledge on which mechanisms drive and regulate RNA incorporation into EV and on how RNA-encoded messages affect signalling processes in EV-targeted cells. Moreover, EV-RNA research faces various technical challenges, such as standardisation of EV isolation methods, optimisation of methodologies to isolate and characterise minute quantities of RNA found in EV, and development of approaches to demonstrate functional transfer of EV-RNA *in vivo*. These topics were discussed at the 2015 EV-RNA workshop of the International Society for Extracellular Vesicles. This position paper was written by the participants of the workshop not only to give an overview of the current state of knowledge in the field, but also to clarify that our incomplete knowledge – of the nature of EV(-RNA)s and of how to effectively and reliably study them – currently prohibits the implementation of gold standards in EV-RNA research. In addition, this paper creates awareness of possibilities and limitations of currently used strategies to investigate EV-RNA and calls for caution in interpretation of the obtained data.

## Reporting requirements and transparency of results: EV-TRACK



NATURE METHODS | COMMENTARY



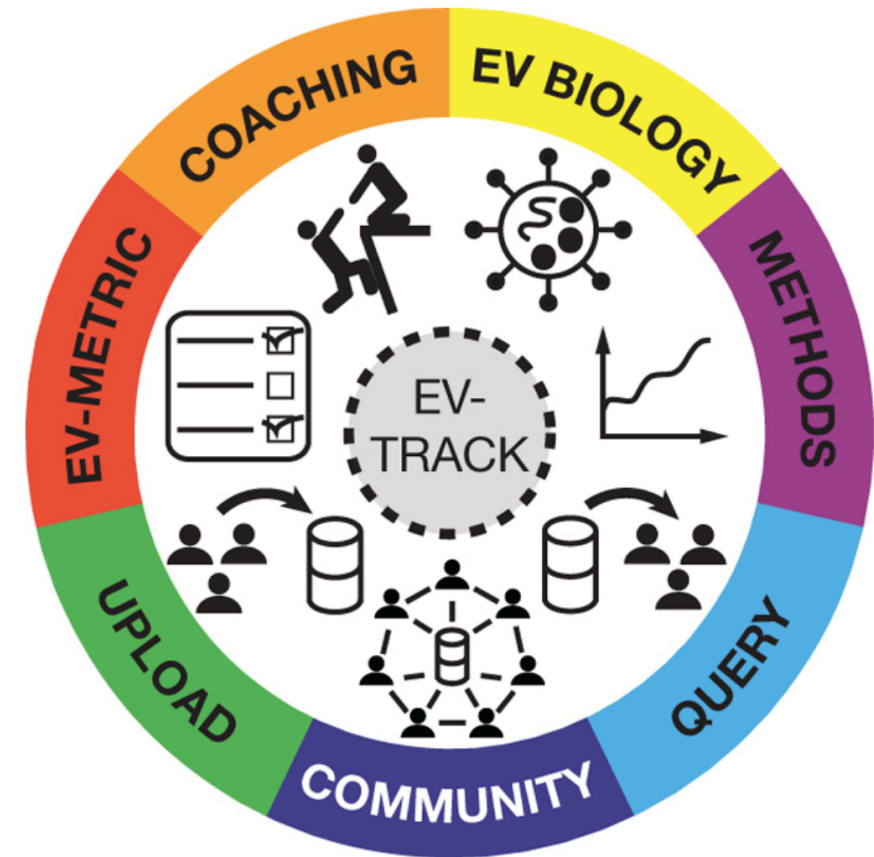
### EV-TRACK: transparent reporting and centralizing knowledge in extracellular vesicle research

**EV-TRACK Consortium, Jan Van Deun, Pieter Mestdagh, Patrizia Agostinis, Özden Akay, Sushma Anand, Jasper Anckaert, Zoraida Andreu Martinez, Tine Baetens, Els Beghein, Laurence Bertier, Geert Berx, Janneke Boere, Stephanie Boukouris, Michel Bremer, Dominik Buschmann, James B Byrd, Clara Casert, Lesley Cheng, Anna Cmoch, Delphine Daveloose, Eva De Smedt, Seyma Demirsoy, Victoria Depoorter, Bert Dhondt <sup>+</sup> *et al.***

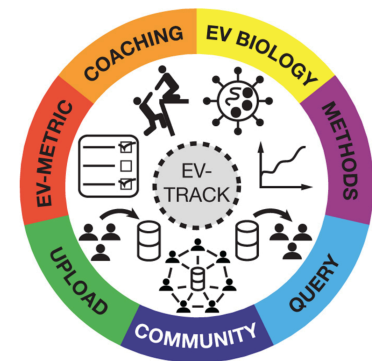
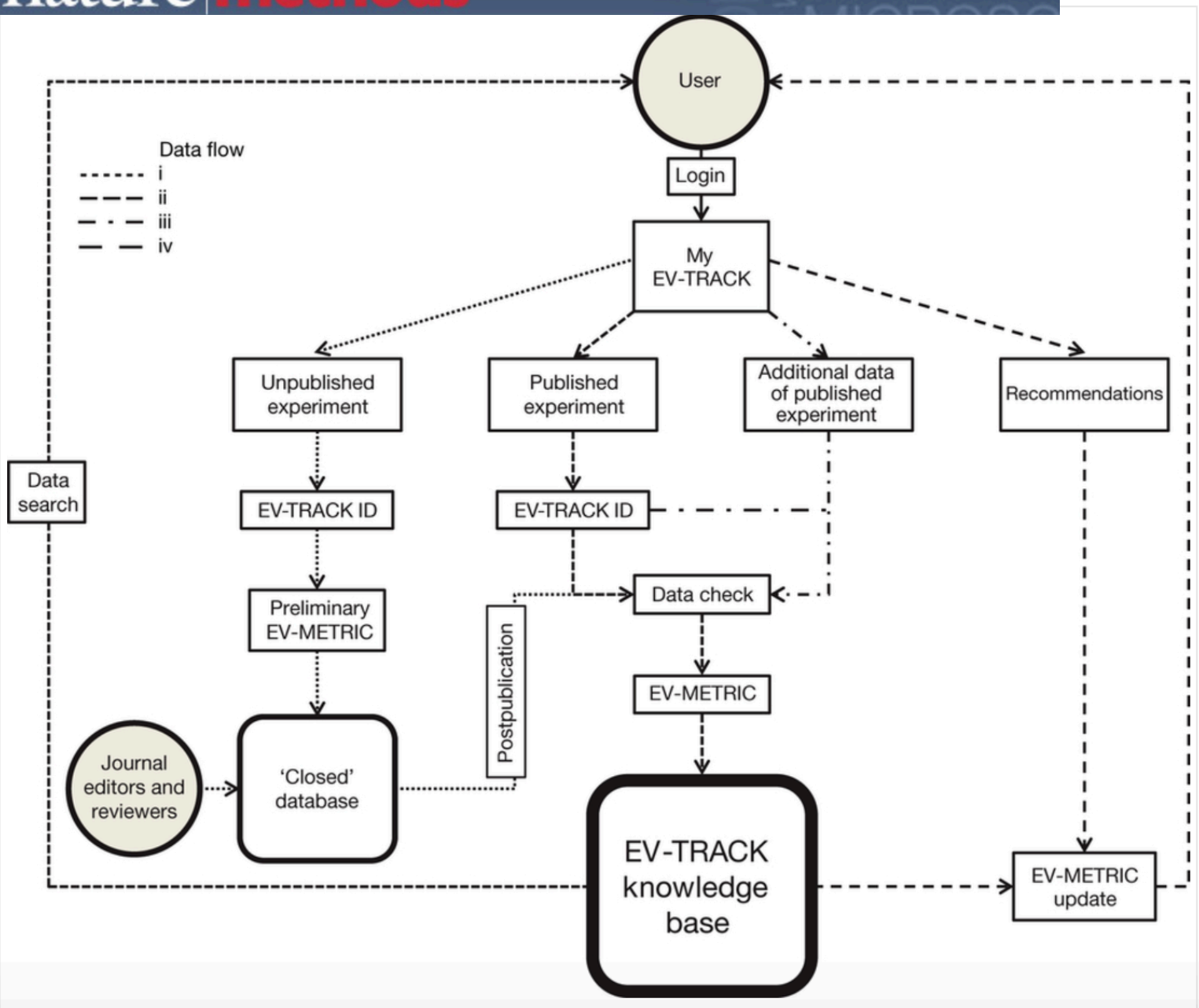
[Affiliations](#) | [Contributions](#) | [Corresponding author](#)

*Nature Methods* **14**, 228–232 (2017) | doi:10.1038/nmeth.4185

Published online 28 February 2017

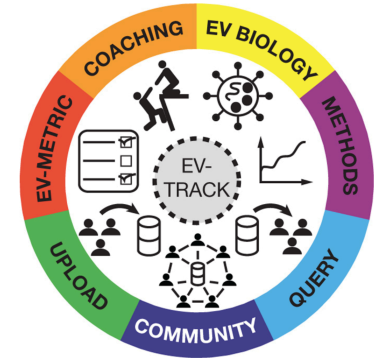
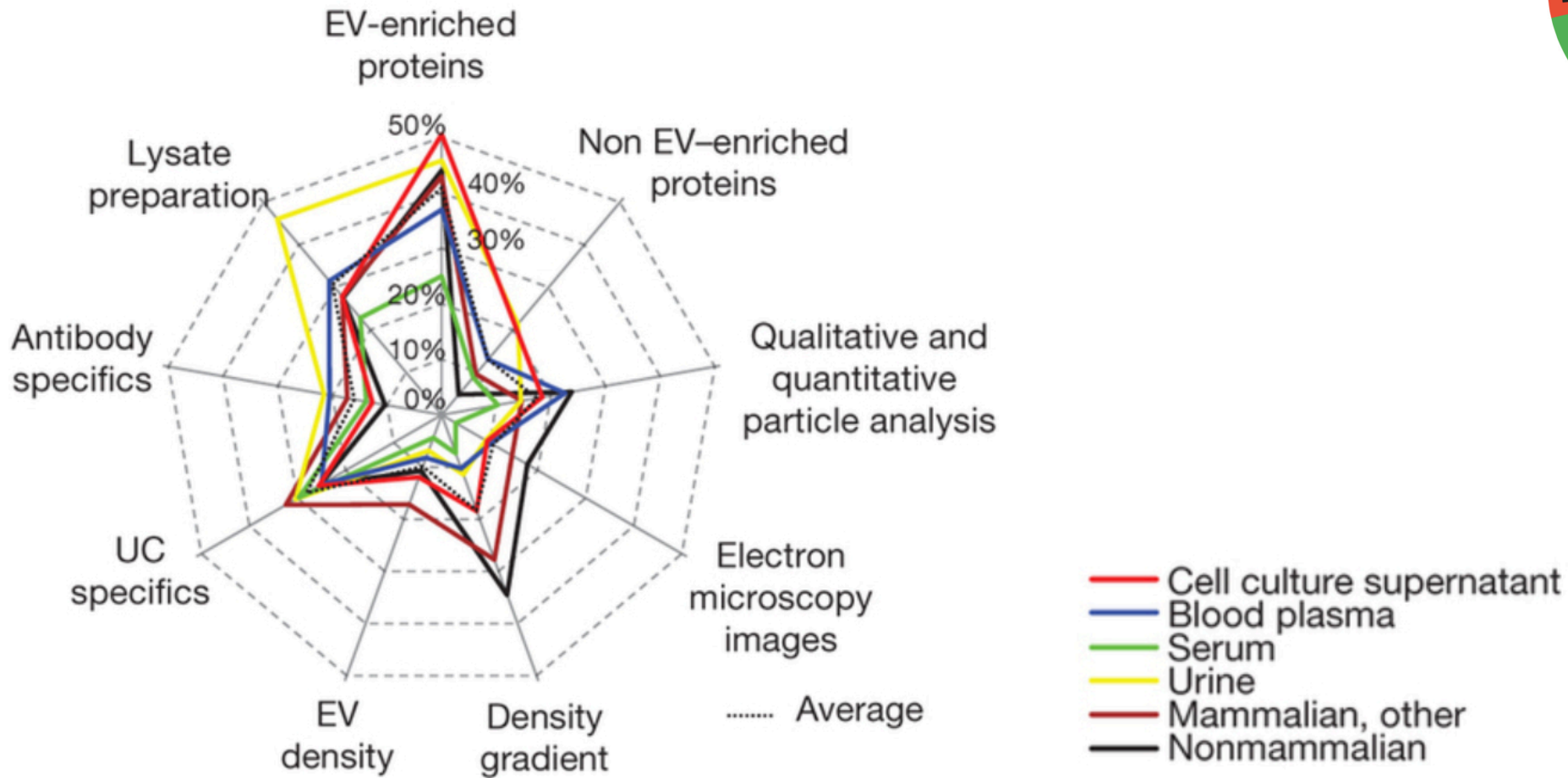






Flowchart demonstrating four different data flows available to registered EV-TRACK users

Percentage of experiments that adhere to EV metric parameters for various bio-fluids







[Home](#)

[News](#)

[Project summary](#)

[Output](#)

[People](#)

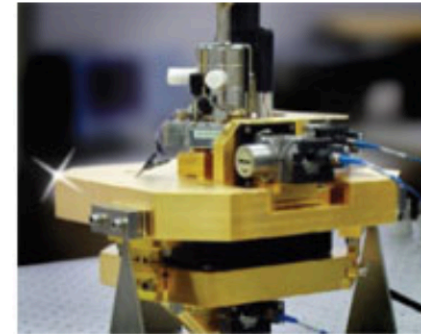
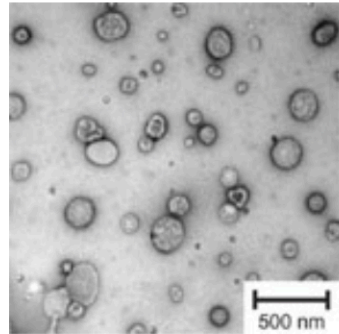
[Events](#)

[Contact](#)

[Links](#)

## Metrological characterisation of micro-vesicles from body fluids

Welcome to the website of [European Metrology Research Programme \(EMRP\)](#) Joint Research Project (JRP) HLT02: Metrological characterisation of micro-vesicles from body fluids as non-invasive diagnostic biomarkers (METVES).



*Human blood contains numerous cell-derived microvesicles (left). METVES combines state-of-the-art clinical and biochemical knowledge with advanced metrological techniques (center, right) to quantify - for the first time - clinically relevant properties of microvesicles as novel biomarkers of disease, thereby enabling earlier detection of common diseases, improving healthcare, and reducing the costs of health care.*

# Biological reference materials for extracellular vesicle studies

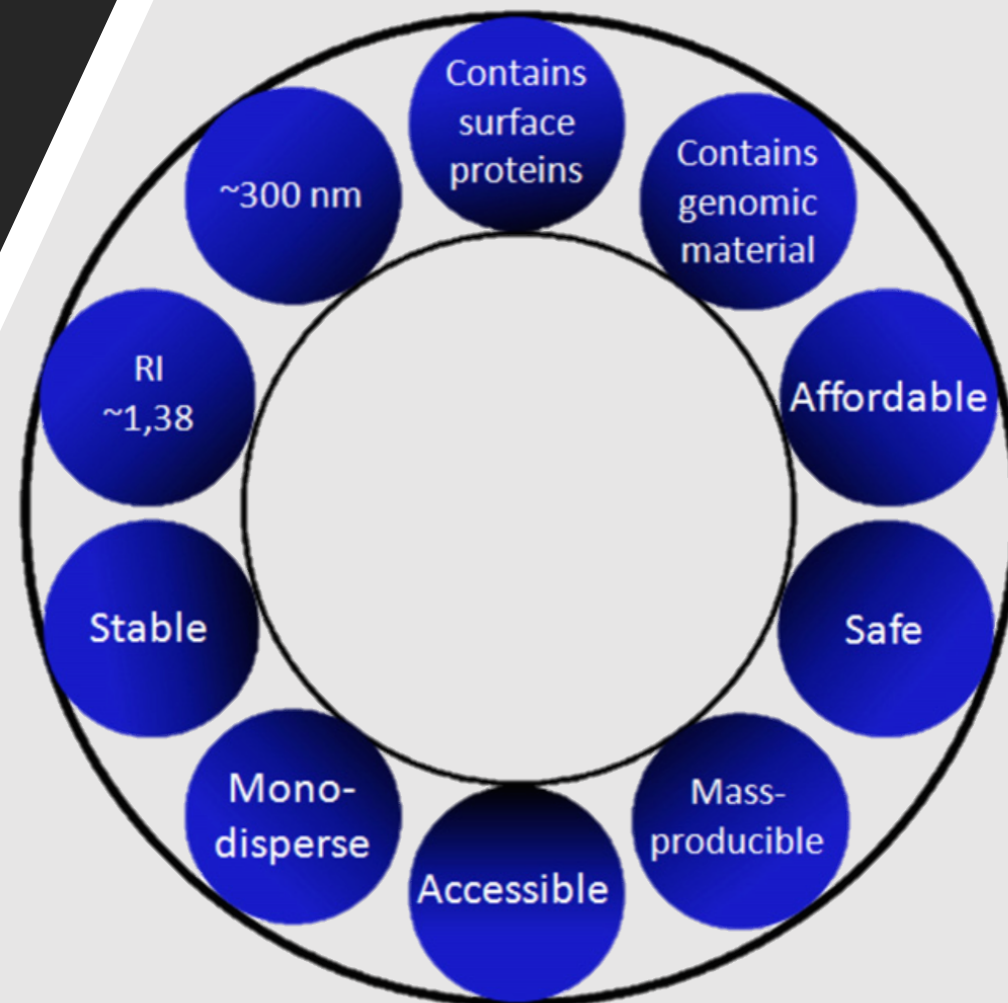


Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

European Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ejps](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ejps)

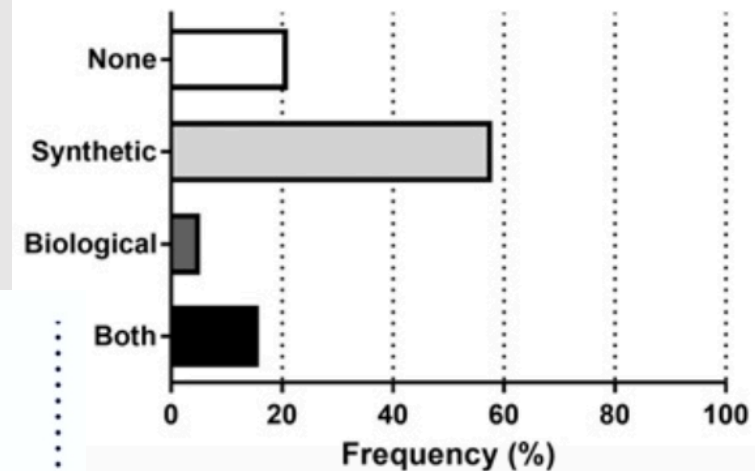
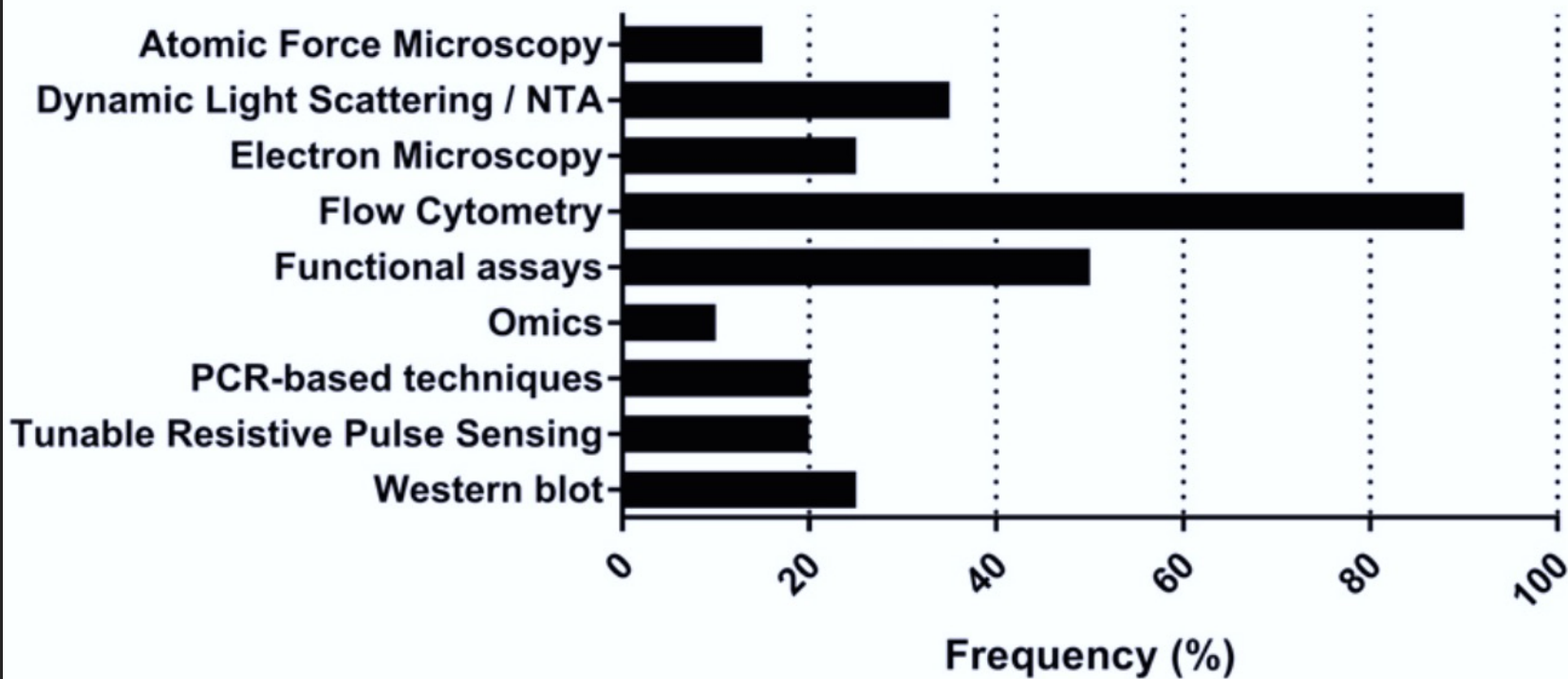
OPTIMAL PROPERTIES FOR  
BIOLOGICAL REFERENCE  
MATERIAL FOR EV STUDIES





# Biological reference materials for extracellular vesicle studies

## CURRENT CHARACTERIZATION TECHNIQUES AND REFERENCE STANDARDS FOR EVs

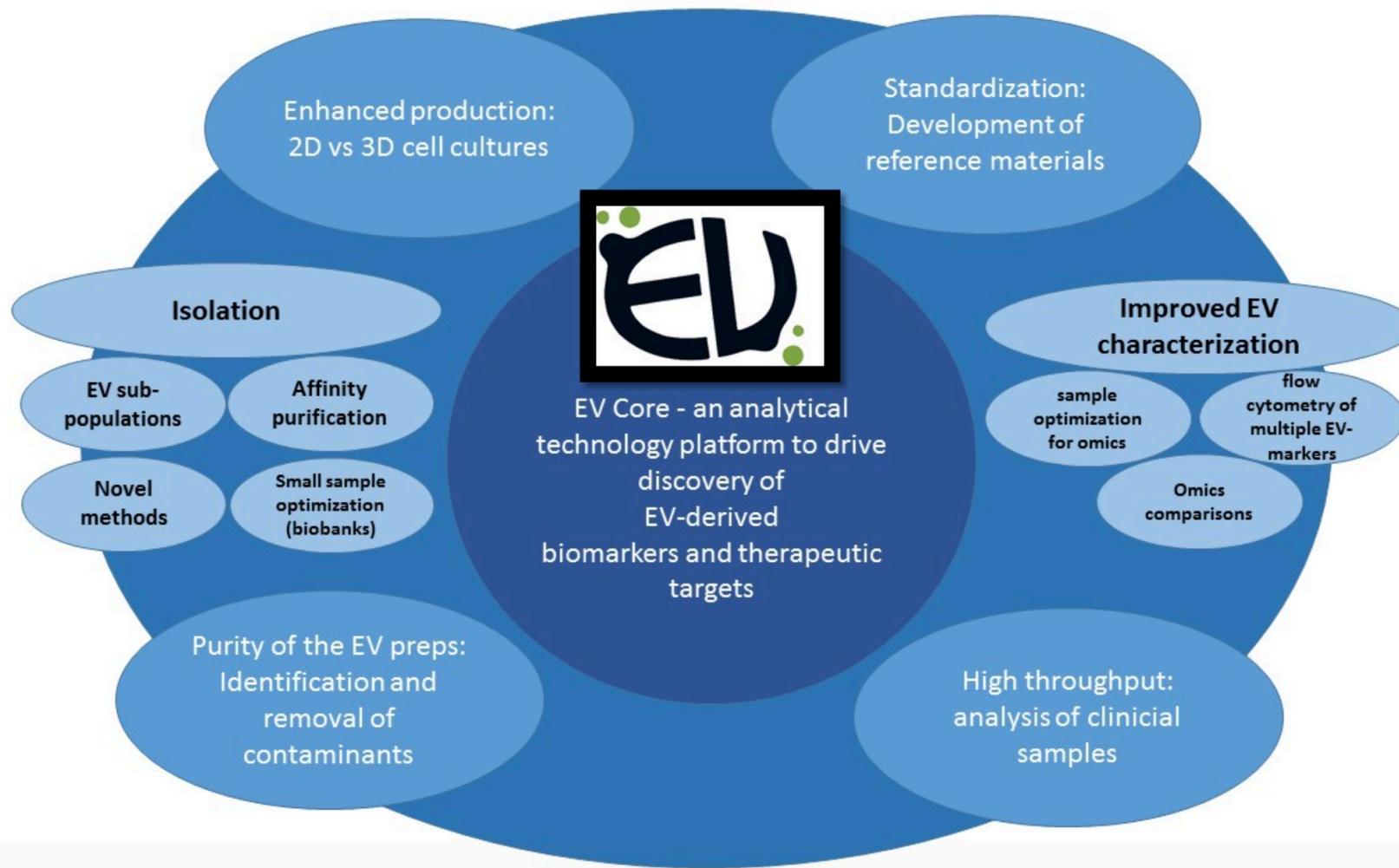


## EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES

Small in size, big in action

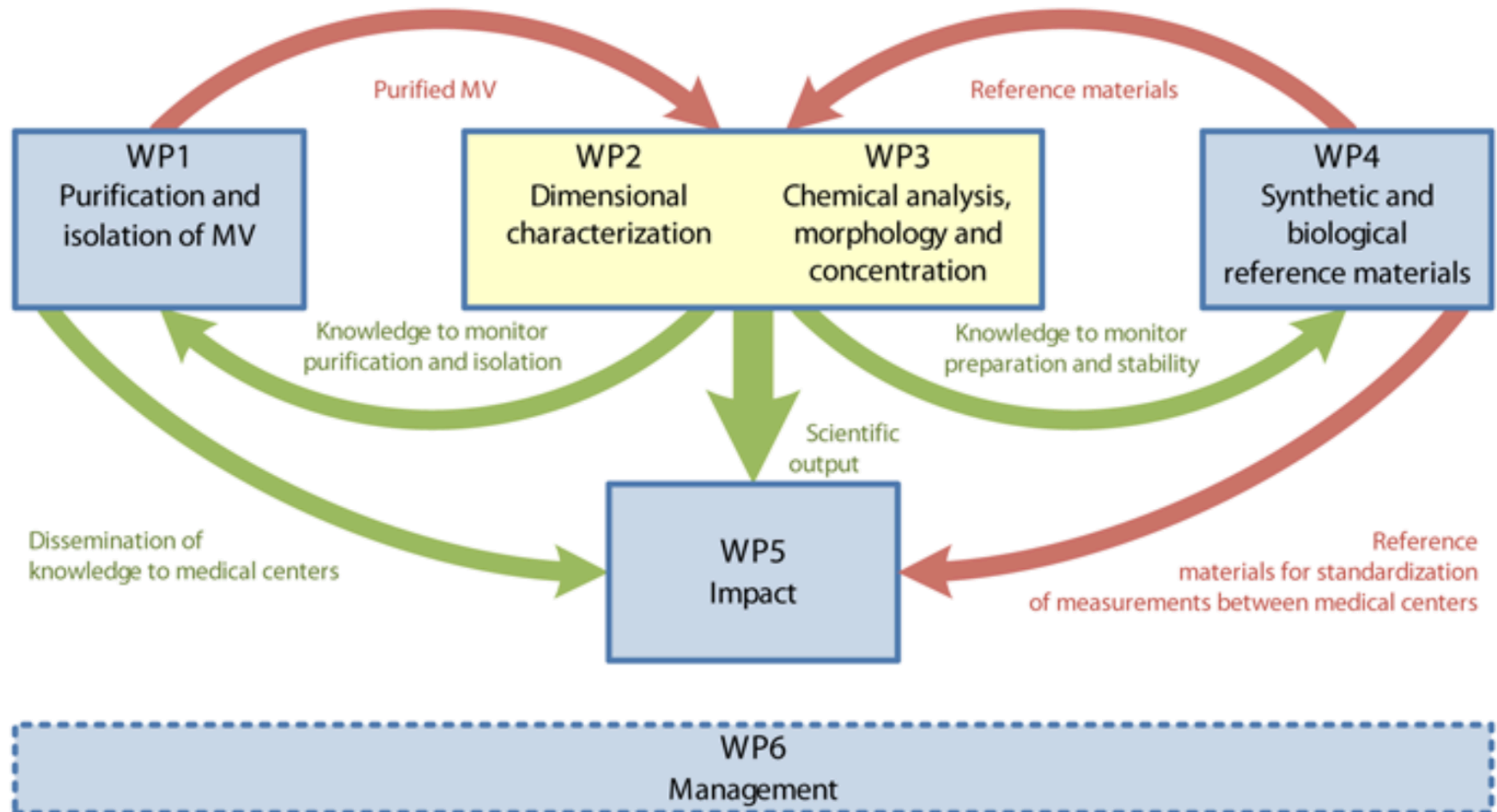


UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI





# Metves.eu



Flowchart showing the relation between Work Packages (WPs) of Joint Research Project (JRP) HLT02. Red arrows depict the transport of samples, whereas green arrows depict the knowledge flow between WPs.



# Conclusions

- EVs are emerging as novel class of disease biomarkers and drug delivery agents
- To utilize this potential, standardization of isolation and extensive physiochemical and biological characterization of EVs at the single vesicle and population levels; and reporting of results for different applications is a priority
- Search for biological reference material for EVs
- Convergence of biology and nanoanalytics is needed
- Exploring ISA\_TAB\_NANO



Exploring  
ISA\_TAB\_NANO  
for EV data  
sharing

**EV CHARACTERIZATION AND FUNCTIONAL DATA**

Microscopy data: AFM, EM, STED

Particle tracking/scattering: NTA, DLS

Flow cytometry/ NanoFACS

Functional Assays

Proteomic/genomic/lipidiomic

Western blot

