

## New perspectives for soft matter analysis by SIMS

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hybrid materials



(nano) composites

Delcorte et al., 2007

## 2D and 3D Imaging SIMS for organic and hybrid materials





## Secondary ion mass spectrometry



molecular information and localization with µm lateral resolution and nm depth resolution



Fragments for orientation and sequencing
 Molecular imaging (with surface sensitivity)
 Desorption and transfer of intact molecules

## 1. Fragments for orientation and sequencing

Concept: using AA fragments to probe the exposed molecular surface => molecule should be larger than the average sampling depth





A. Delcorte, P. Bertrand and B.J. Garrison J. Phys. Chem. B 2001, 105, 9474-9486

#### Victor

#### Biomolecule orientation: β-lactoglobulin

 $\beta$  -lactoglobulin adsorbed on –CH  $_3$  and –NH  $_2$  terminated self-assembled monolayers

Ion source: 30 keV Bi+



\*NESAC/BIO MVA toolbox; 44 AA peaks; normalized by sum; mean-centered.

V. Lebec,<sup>†,‡</sup> J. Landoulsi,<sup>‡</sup> S. Boujday,<sup>‡</sup> C. Poleunis,<sup>†</sup> C.-M. Pradier,<sup>‡</sup> and A. Delcorte<sup>\*,</sup> J. Phys. Chem. C 2013, 117, 11569–11577

#### Biomolecule orientation: β-lactoglobulin





 $\beta$ -lactoglobulin adsorbed on –CH<sub>3</sub> and –NH<sub>2</sub> terminated self-assembled monolayers



#### Biomolecule orientation: anti-GDH





### Perspective: protein sequencing



Anna M. Kotowska⊚ <sup>1</sup>, Gustavo F. Trindade⊚ <sup>1</sup>, Paula M. Mendes⊚ <sup>2</sup>, Philip M. Williams⊚ <sup>1</sup>, Jonathan W. Aylott⊚ <sup>1</sup>, Alexander G. Shard⊚ <sup>3</sup>, Morgan R. Alexander⊚ <sup>1</sup> & David J. Scurr⊙ <sup>1⊗</sup>



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Applied Surface Science

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/apsusc

Full Length Article

Reactive molecular dynamics simulations of lysozyme desorption under Ar cluster impact

Samuel Bertolini<sup>\*</sup>, Arnaud Delcorte<sup>\*</sup>



#### 20 keV Ar<sub>3000</sub><sup>+</sup>: 6 eV/atom



# 2. Molecular imaging (with surface sensitivity)

#### Lateral and depth resolution



 $C_4H_8NO^+$ .

Ĥ

50 keV Bi



### Endometrium tissue imaging

Multivariate analysis (PCA) on the SIMS images of the tissue cross-sections discriminates endometrium and myometrium



Samples PFA fixated, cryopreserved with sucrose, embedded in carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC), frozen and cryomicrotomed. Sections defreezed for analysis.







#### Endometrium tissue imaging



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#### endometrium and myometrium present different distributions of lipids endometrium

★ Phosphatidyl inositol 38:4 m/z = 885



Information is richer in the negative SIMS

#### myometrium



Sphingomyelin 33:1 mm m/z = 687



## Endometrium tissue imaging





endometrium and myometrium present different distributions of lipids endometrium

#### 12 10 8 6 6 6 4 2 0 0 4 8 12 C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>10</sub>PO<sub>8</sub>-MC: 27; TC: 1.855e+05

### Endometrium tissue imaging

#### Phosphatidyl inositol headgroup m/z= 241

Information is richer in the negative SIMS myometrium



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#### Shadi & Jarek

## An artificial cornea for drug testing





## Optimizing the sample preparation

1.Flash-freezing of the chip
 2.Transfer to precooled sample holder (-110°C)
 3.Keep at low T° through sample analysis

#### Three-Dimensional Mass Spectrometric Imaging of Biological Structures Using a Vacuum-Compatible Microfluidic Device

Wenxiao Guo, Michal Kanski, Wen Liu, Mikołaj Gołuński, Yadong Zhou, Yining Wang, Cuixia Cheng, Yingge Du, Zbigniew Postawa,\* Wei David Wei,\* and Zihua Zhu\*





3. Desorption and transfer of intact molecules

#### Molecular analysis with Ar clusters

6 kDa insulin without special sample preparation (spin-coating on Si)
Ratio molecule/fragment オオオ with Ar<sub>n</sub>+



#### Transferring proteins in vacuo







#### Possibility to desorb larger molecules

MD simulations predict larger protein desorption!

Samuel

65 kDa glucose oxidase molecule on a lysozyme layer adsorbed on gold

45'

15 keV Ar<sub>5000</sub> bombardment (3 eV/atom)



#### Benjamin

#### Deposition of multilayers



#### Deposition of multilayers



V. Delmez, B. Tomasetti et al., ACS Appl. Bio Mater. 2022, 5, 3180–3192.

Thomas

#### Sensitivity enhancement with transferred MALDI matrix



Here the goal is to increase SIMS sensitivity by transferring MALDI matrix in-situ the ToF-SIMS

Sample holder geometry inspired by NPL

M. Lorenz, J. Zhang, A.G. Shard, J.-L. Vorng, P.D. Rakowska, I.S. Gilmore, Anal. Chem. 2021, 93, 3436–3444. 25

#### Signal enhancement with MALDI matrix



## Grey matter

# 11 high mass **lipids** identified

• 200/200μm analyzed zone



30 keV $\text{Bi}_{5}^+$ analysis



#### White matter

24 high mass lipids identified

- 200/200µm analyzed zone



\* α-cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid (CHCA), 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DHB), sinapinic acid (SA)

#### Enhancement of drug signal in the brain

- Gemcitabine, anticancer prodrug, hydrophilic (logP = -1.4)
- Nucleoside analog used as the standard treatment against advanced pancreatic cancer and other solid tumors



- 2µI drops (2-10 g/L) were spotted on brain cross-sections
- Imaging was conducted prior and after CHCA transfer

#### Master thesis Colin Nicolay



CHCA preferentially enhances (M+H)<sup>+</sup>, even with a very small layer thickness (5-10nm) 27

#### Benjamin

## Expansion of a sample µ-volume

-15

-13 -10

![](_page_27_Figure_2.jpeg)

ALSPLOKATONS

## Expansion of a brain µ-volume

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Use of fragments for orientation and sequencing

# Molecular transfer for microanalysis

![](_page_29_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_4.jpeg)

# New opportunities for SIMS Peptide and protein multilayers imaging

![](_page_29_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_0.jpeg)

## surface/delcorte: the research team uci

arnaud.delcorte@uclouvain.be

![](_page_30_Picture_3.jpeg)

## Research staff and postdocs

belspo

<u>PhD students</u> Cedrik Ngnintedem, Benjamin Tomasetti, Shadi Bazazordeh

Mehdi Lakhdar, Laurane Lamouline Souleymane Makadji

Master thesis students

![](_page_30_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_9.jpeg)