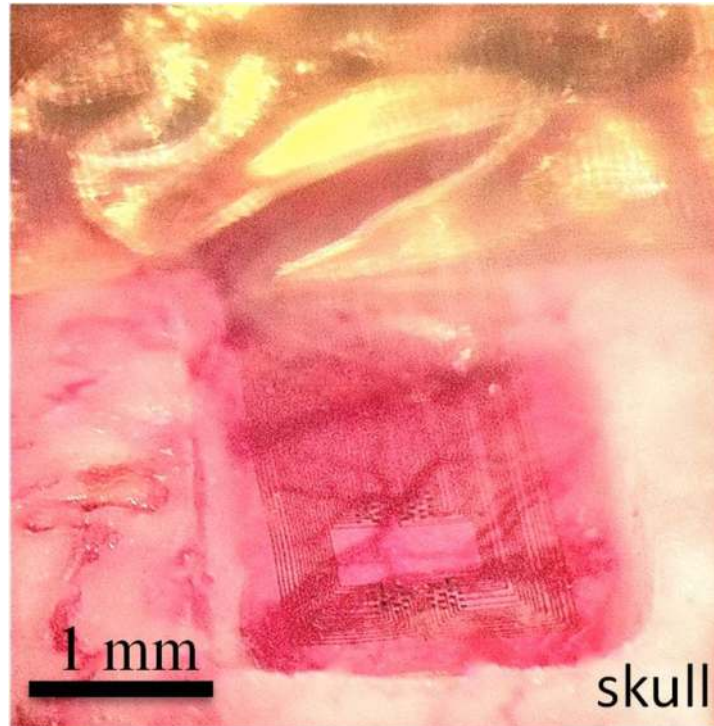


# Organic Electrochemical Transistors



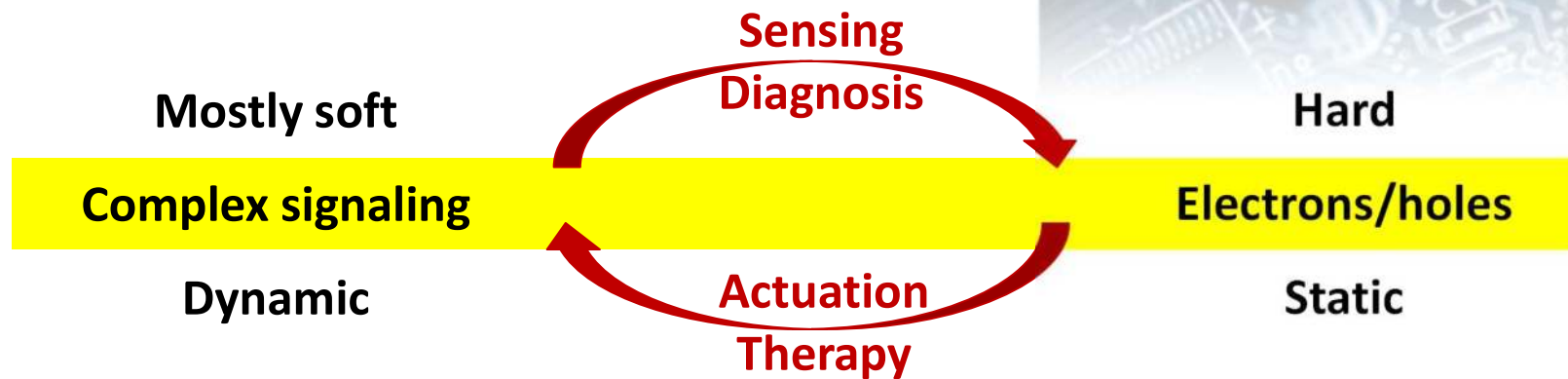
**George Malliaras**

**Electrical Engineering Division, University of Cambridge**

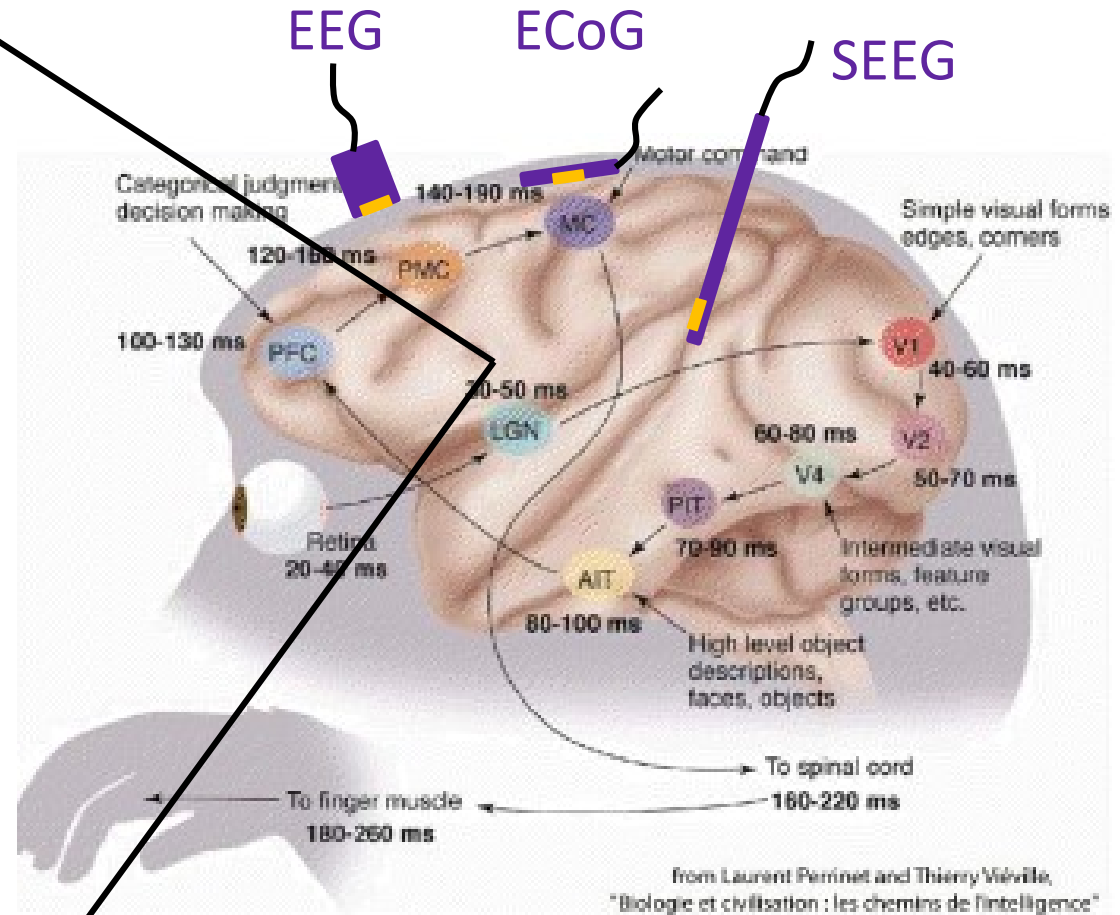
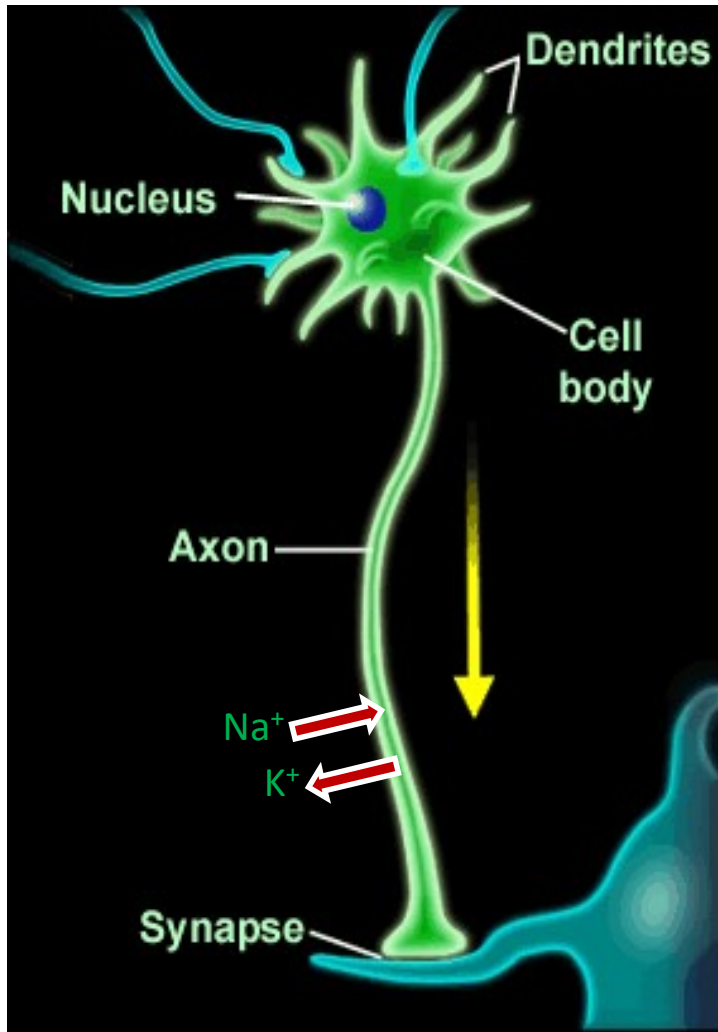
# Outline

- **The organic electrochemical transistor**
- **Applications in neural recordings**
- **How do they work?**
- **Conclusions**

# Bioelectronics: Coupling biology and electronics

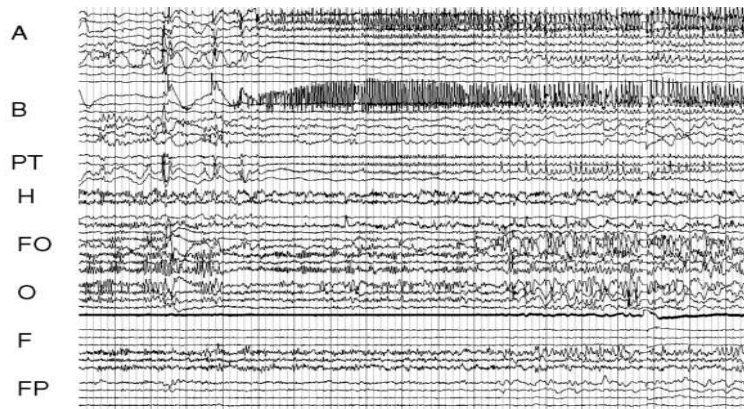


# Importance of neural interfacing



# Electrical recording for epilepsy monitoring

- Affects 1-2% of world population
- Temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE) is most frequent form in adults
- TLE is often drug resistant



## Key challenges:

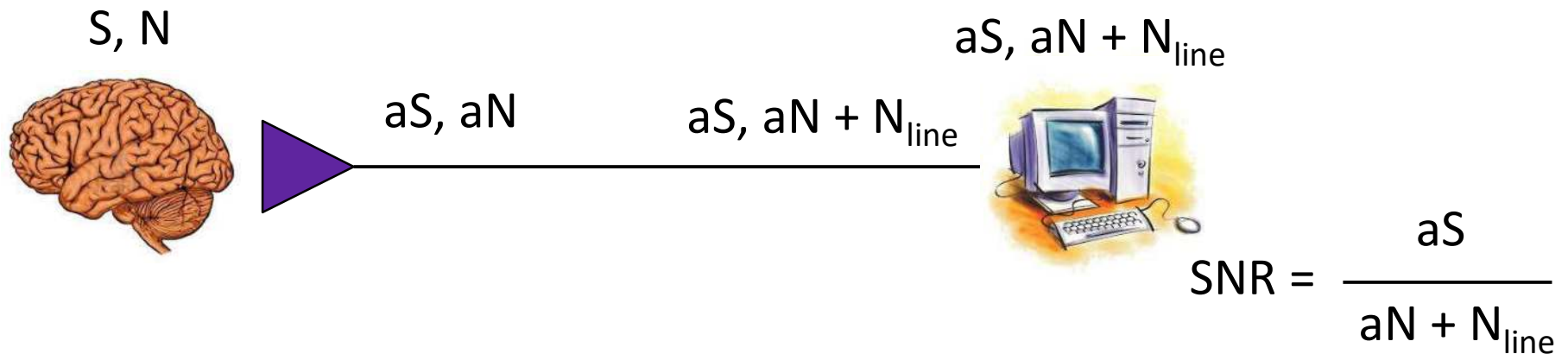
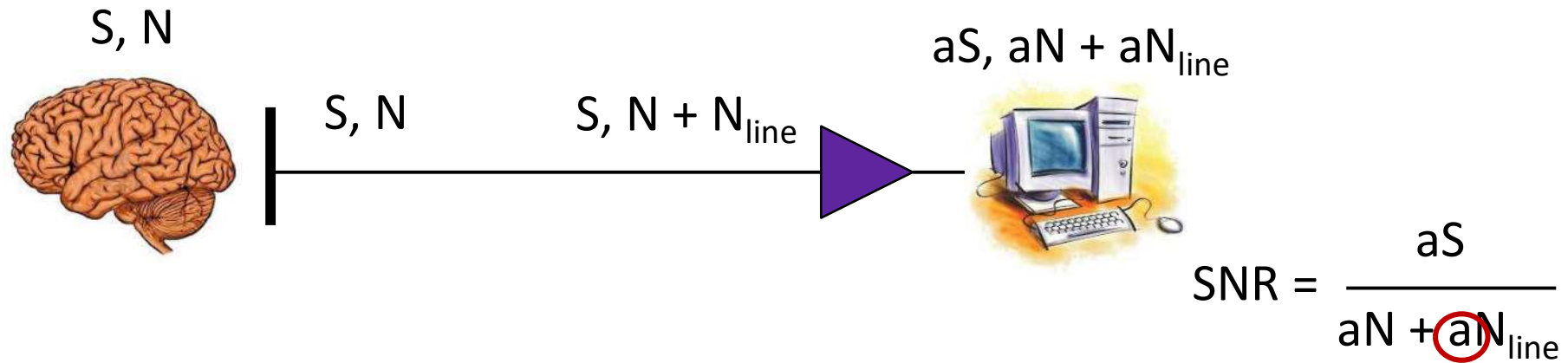
- Improve electrode performance
- Make less invasive recordings

# Brain-Computer Interfaces



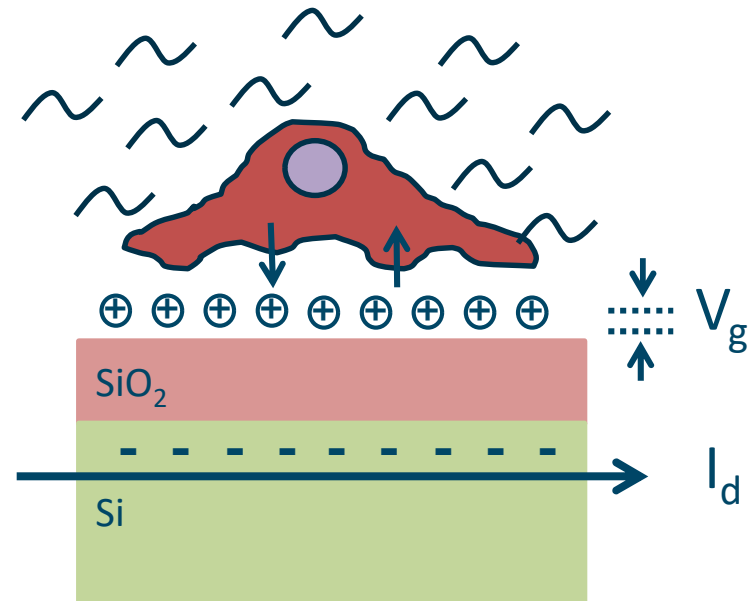
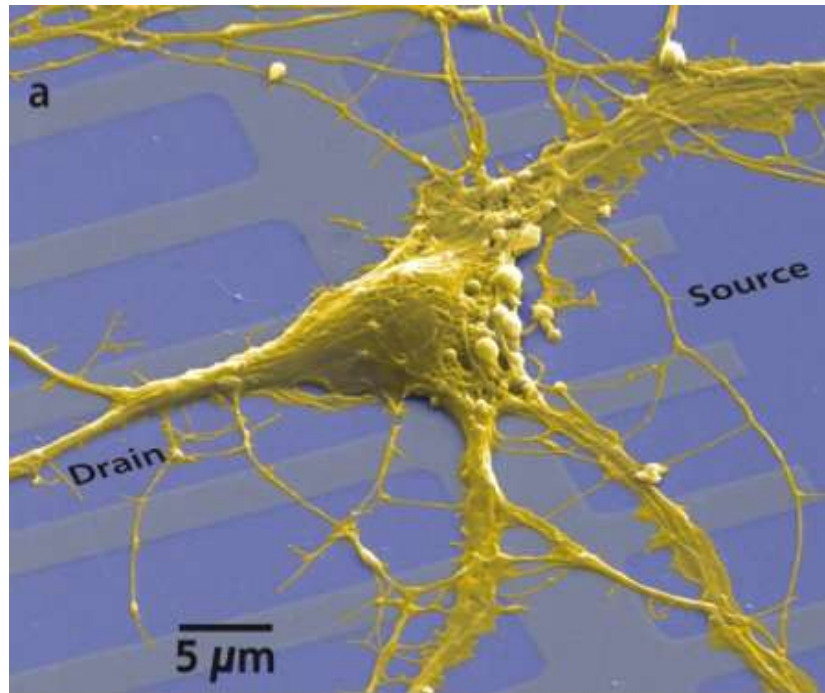
L.R. Hochberg, D. Bacher, B. Jarosiewicz, N.Y. Masse, J.D. Simeral, J. Vogel, S. Haddadin, J. Liu, S.S. Cash, P. van der Smagt, and J. P. Donoghue, *Nature* 485, 372 (2012).

# Transistor vs. electrode



Transistor recordings offer higher SNR

# Recording neural activity with transistors

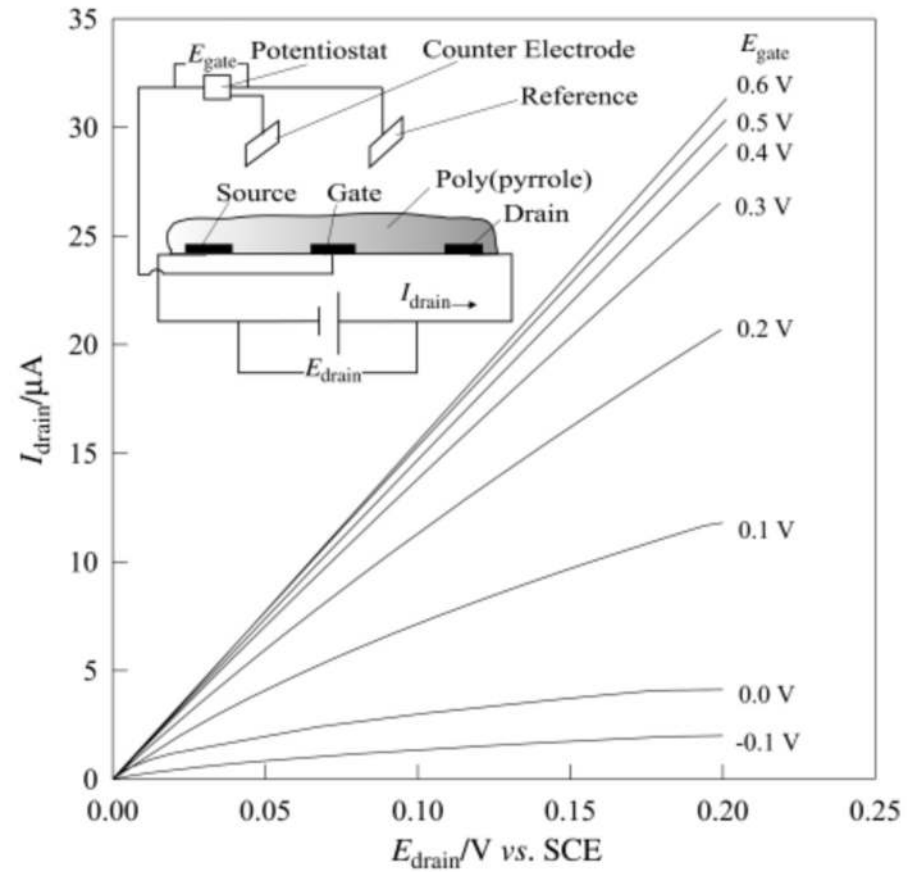


Fromherz group, MPI

Review: M. Voelker and P. Fromherz, *Small* 1, 206 (2005).

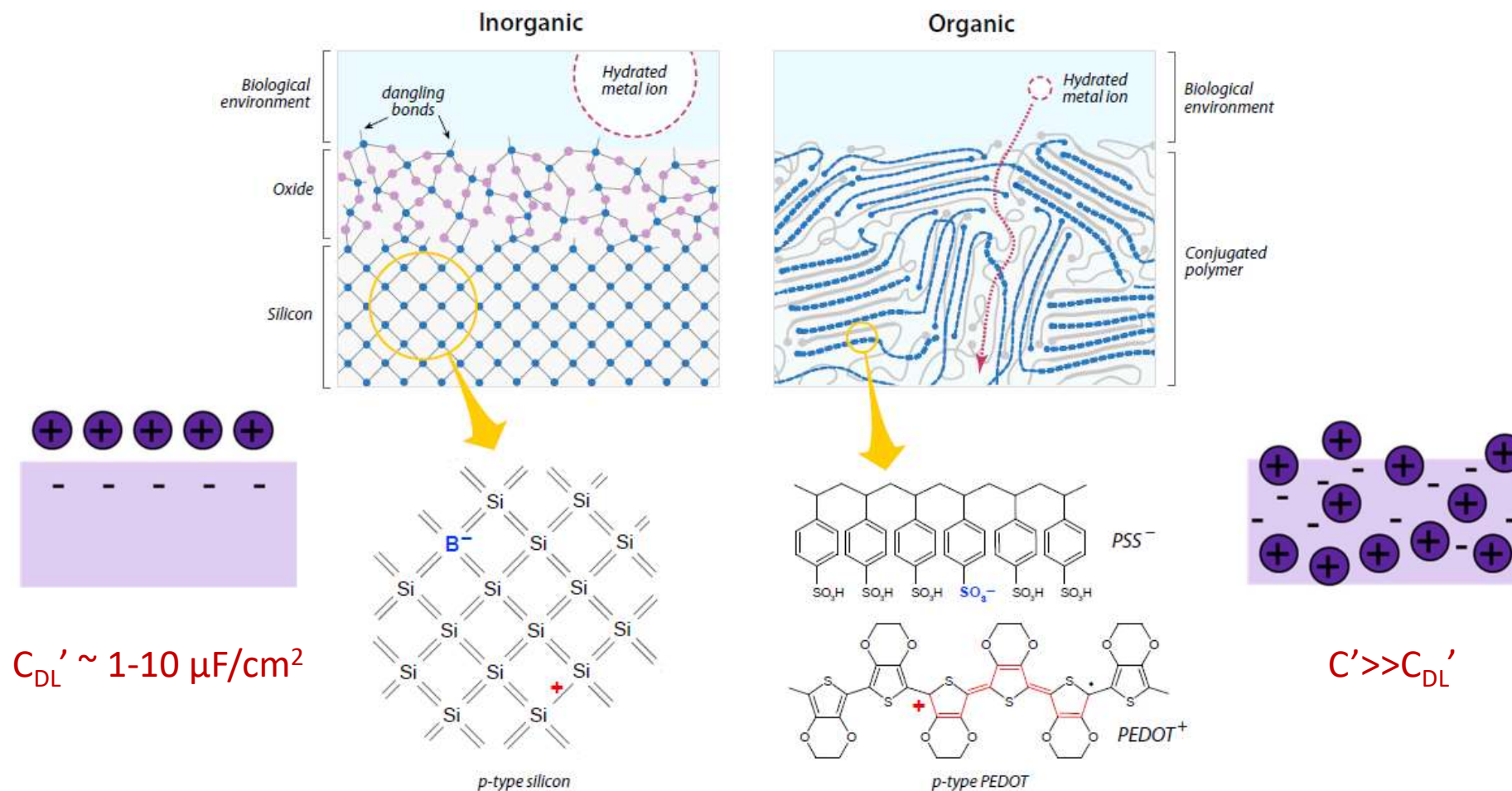


# The organic electrochemical transistor (OECT)



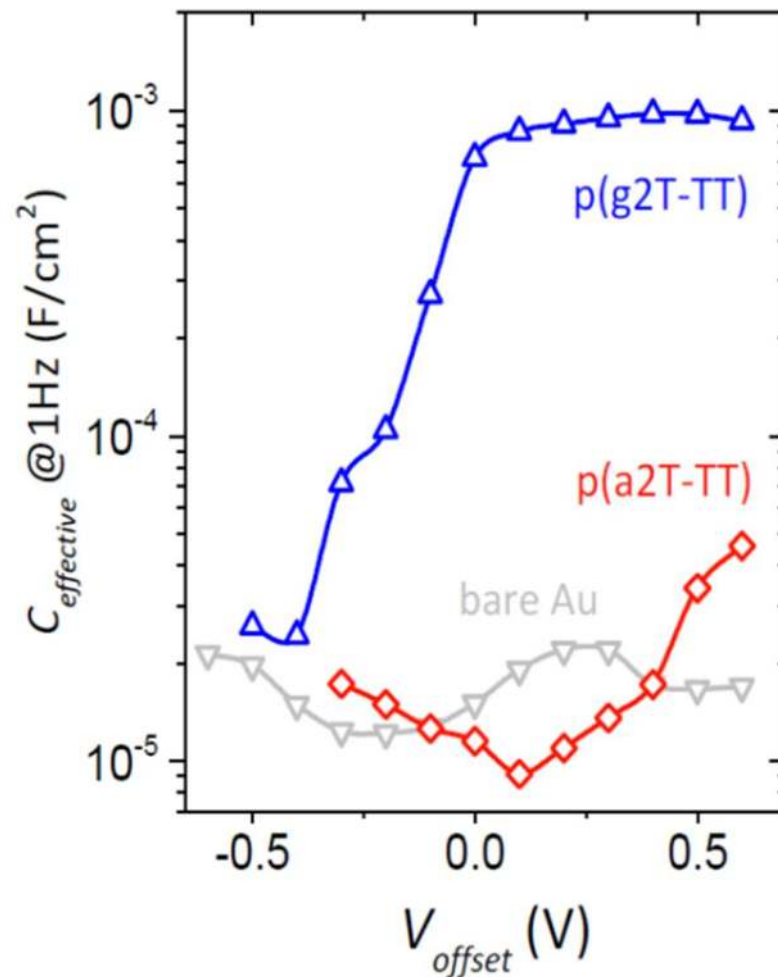
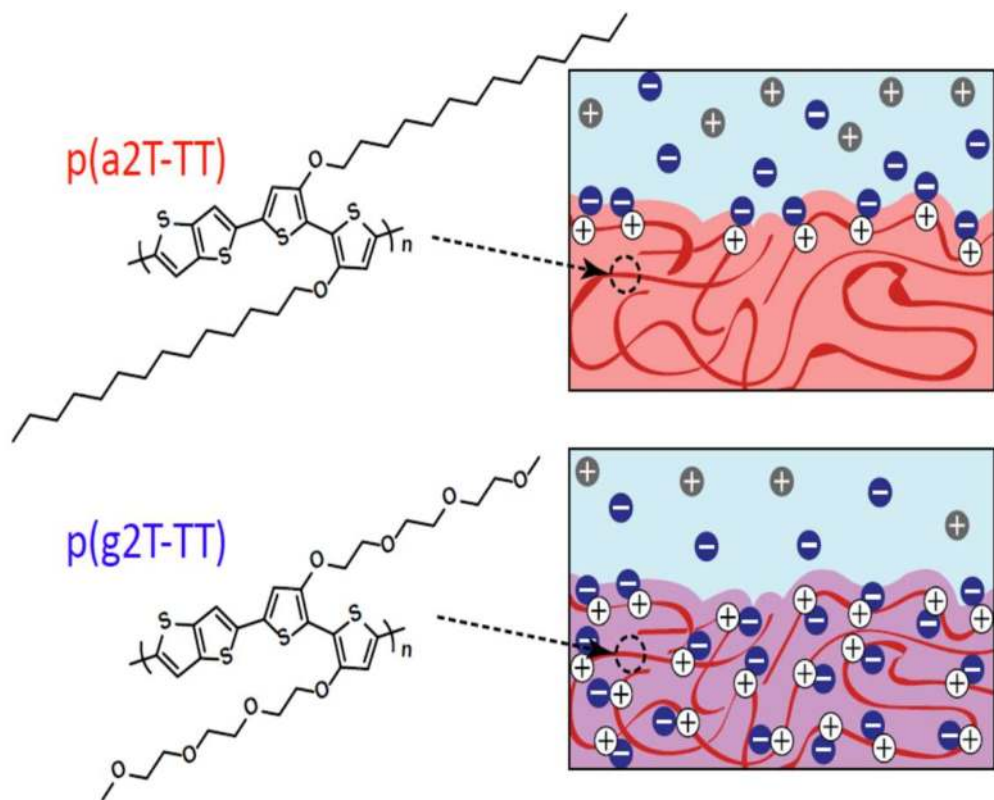
No insulator between channel and electrolyte

# Why organics?



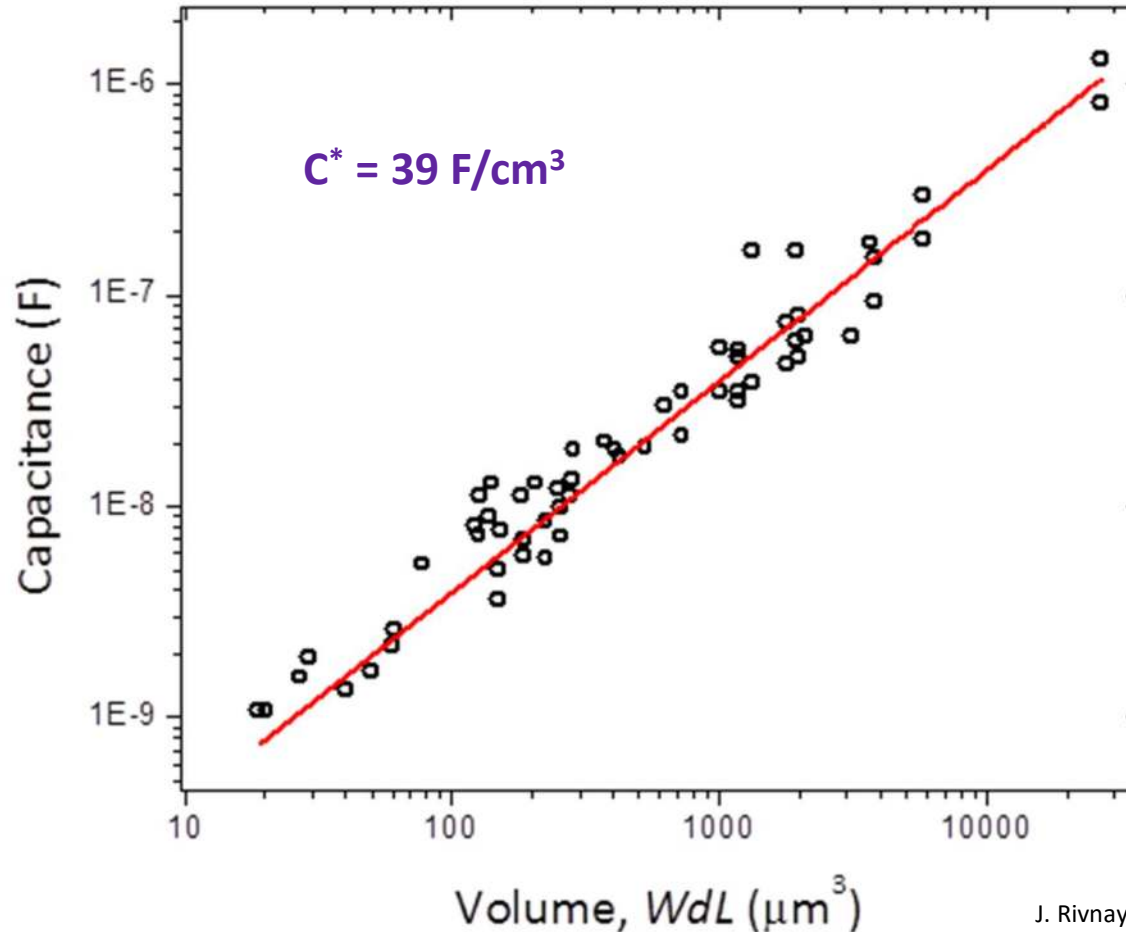
Mixed conductivity leads to novel/state-of-the-art devices

# Molecular engineering of ion injection



w/ Iain McCulloch (Imperial/KAUST), Jonathan Rivnay (Northwestern)  
A. Giovannitti, D.R. Sbircea, S. Inal, C.B. Nielsen, E. Bandiello, D.A. Hanifi, M. Sessolo, G.G. Malliaras, I. McCulloch, J. Rivnay, *PNAS* 113, 12017 (2016).

# Volumetric ion transport in PEDOT:PSS

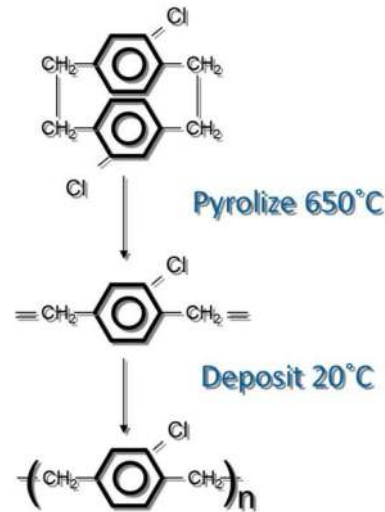


For  $d=130 \text{ nm}$ :  
 $C' \sim 500 \mu\text{F/cm}^2$

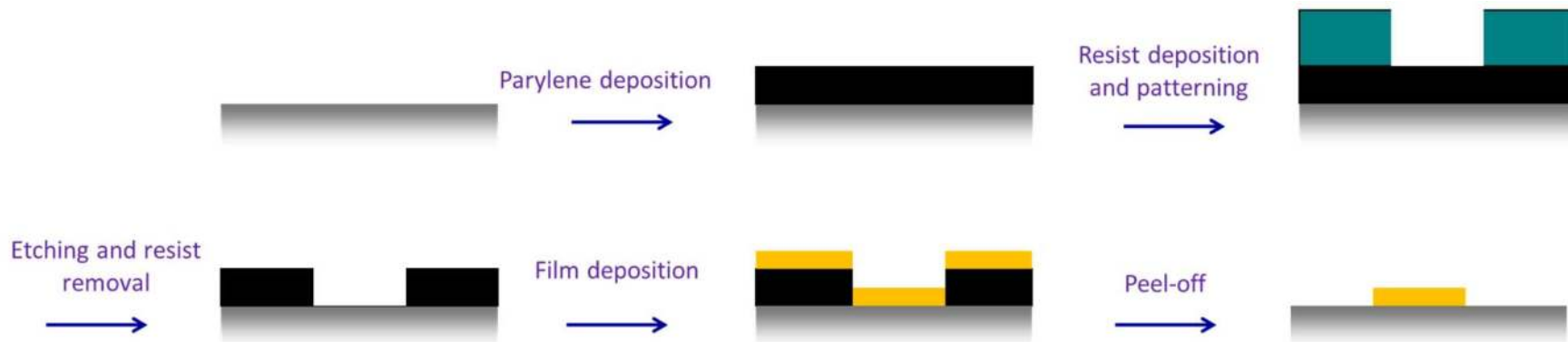
100× larger than  
double layer capacitance

J. Rivnay, P. Leleux, M. Ferro, M. Sessolo, A. Williamson, D.A. Koutsouras, D. Khodagholy, M. Ramuz, X. Strakosas, R.M. Owens, C. Benar, J.-M. Badier, C. Bernard, and G.G. Malliaras, *Science Advances* 1, e1400251 (2015).

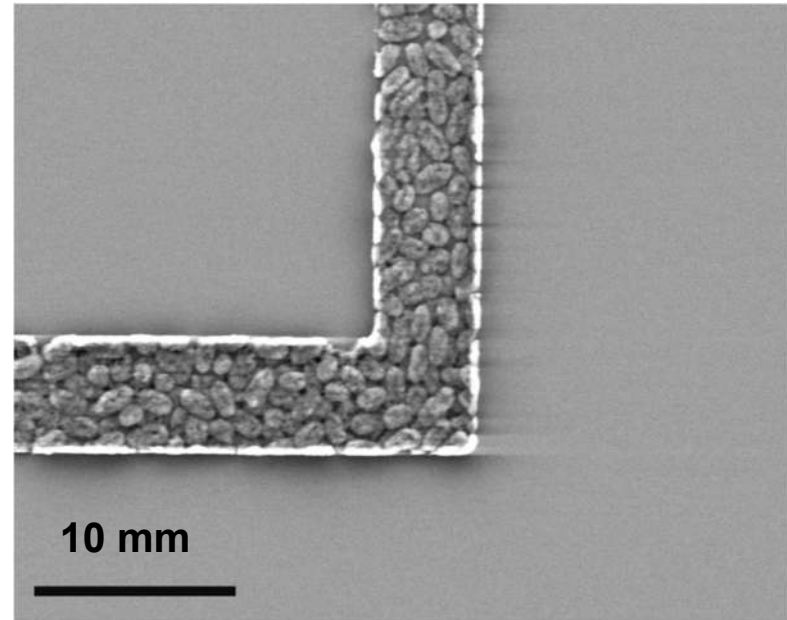
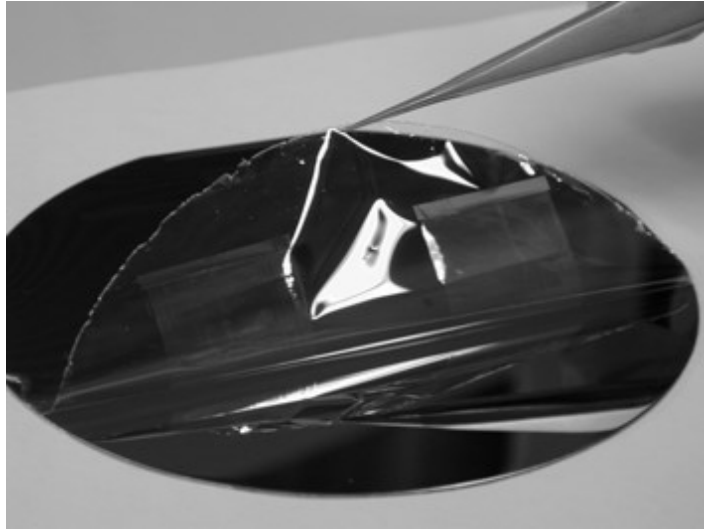
# Lithographic fabrication using parylene-C



- CVD polymer
- Conformal
- Chemically inert



# Lithographic fabrication using parylene-C

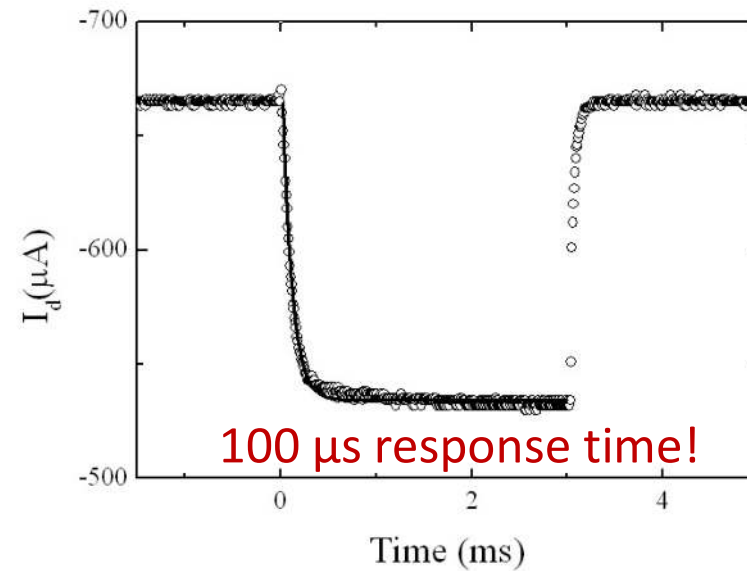
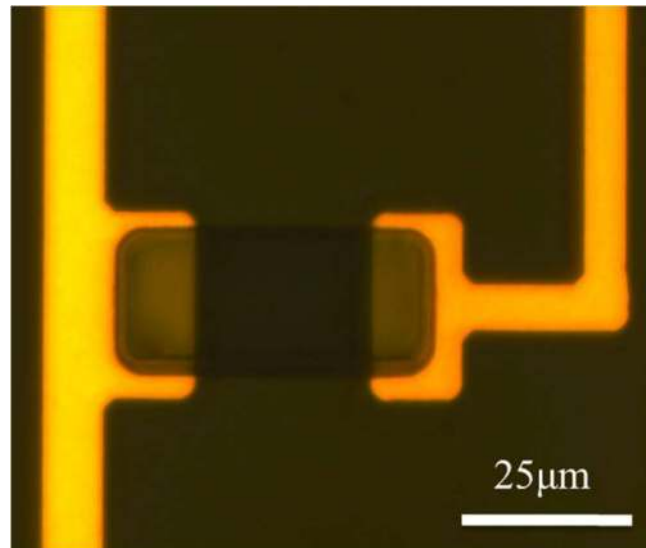
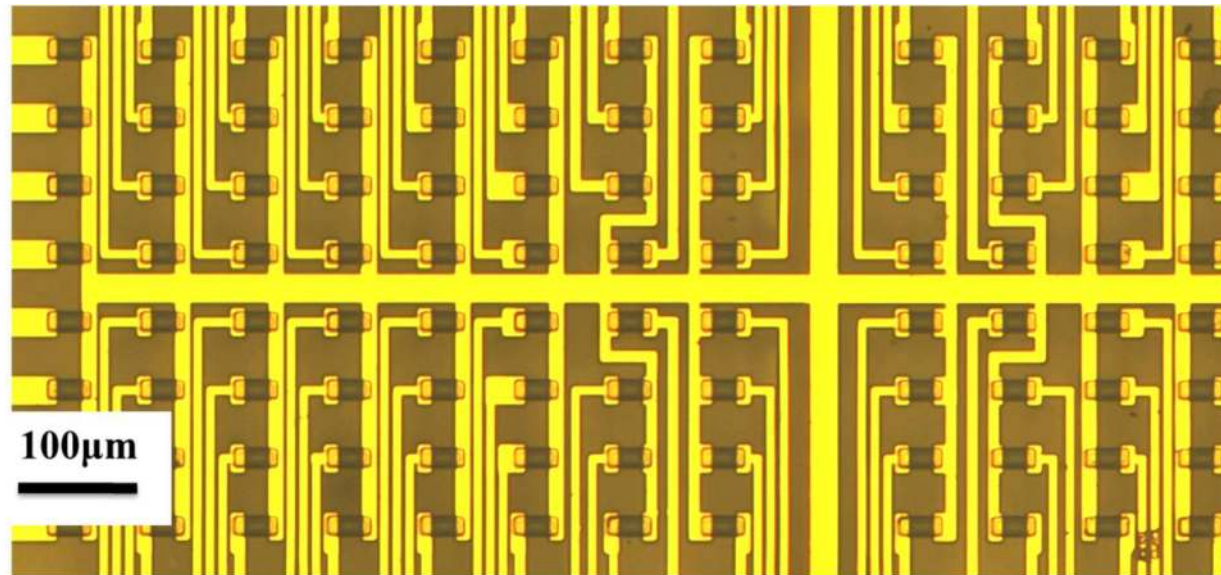


E. Coli

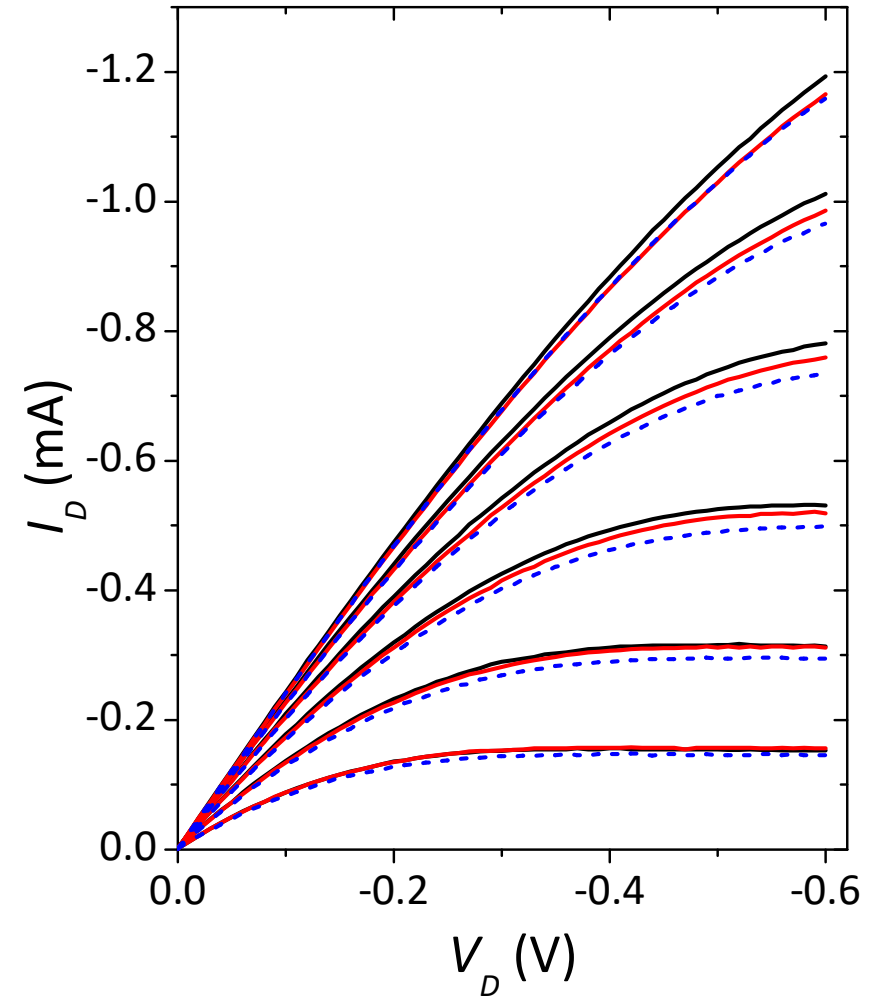
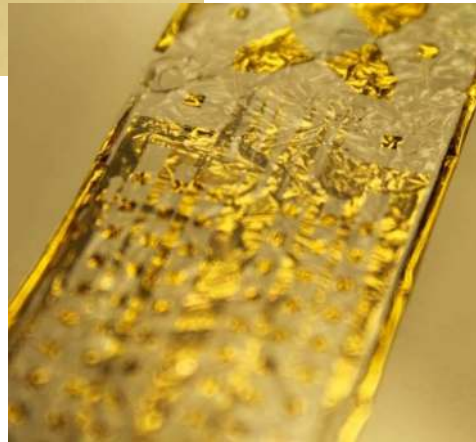
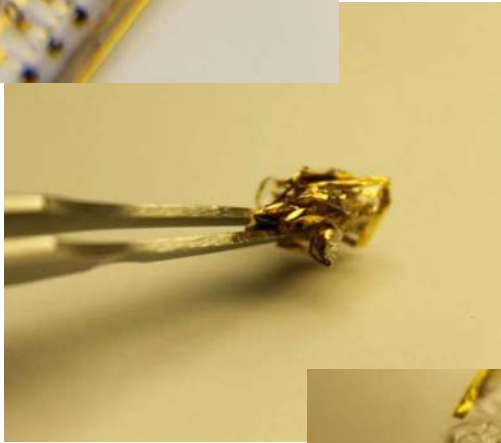
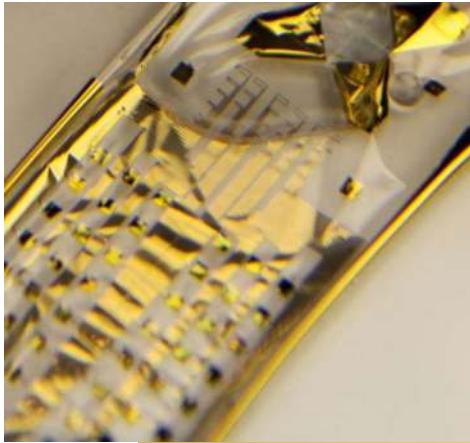
Slide courtesy of Rob Ilic (CNF)

R. Ilic and H.G. Craighead, *Biomedical Microdevices* **2**, 317 (2000).

# Microfabricated OECTs

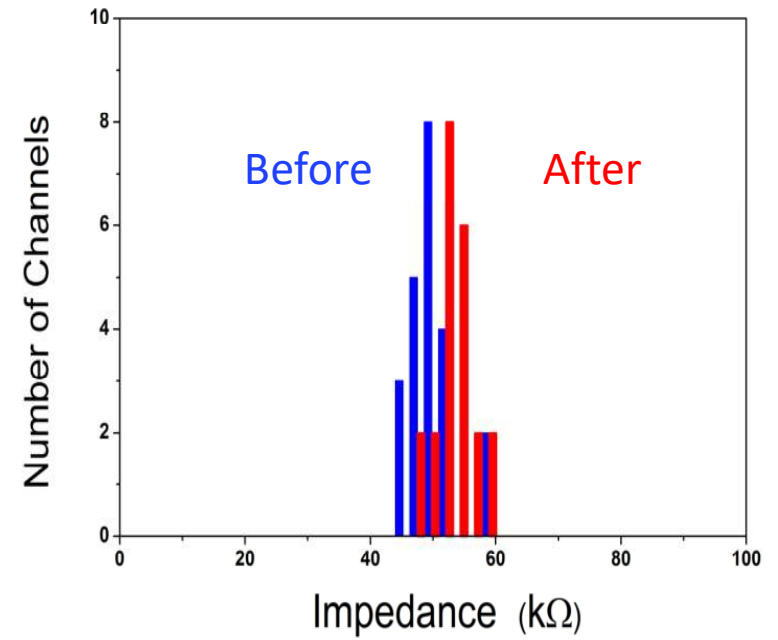
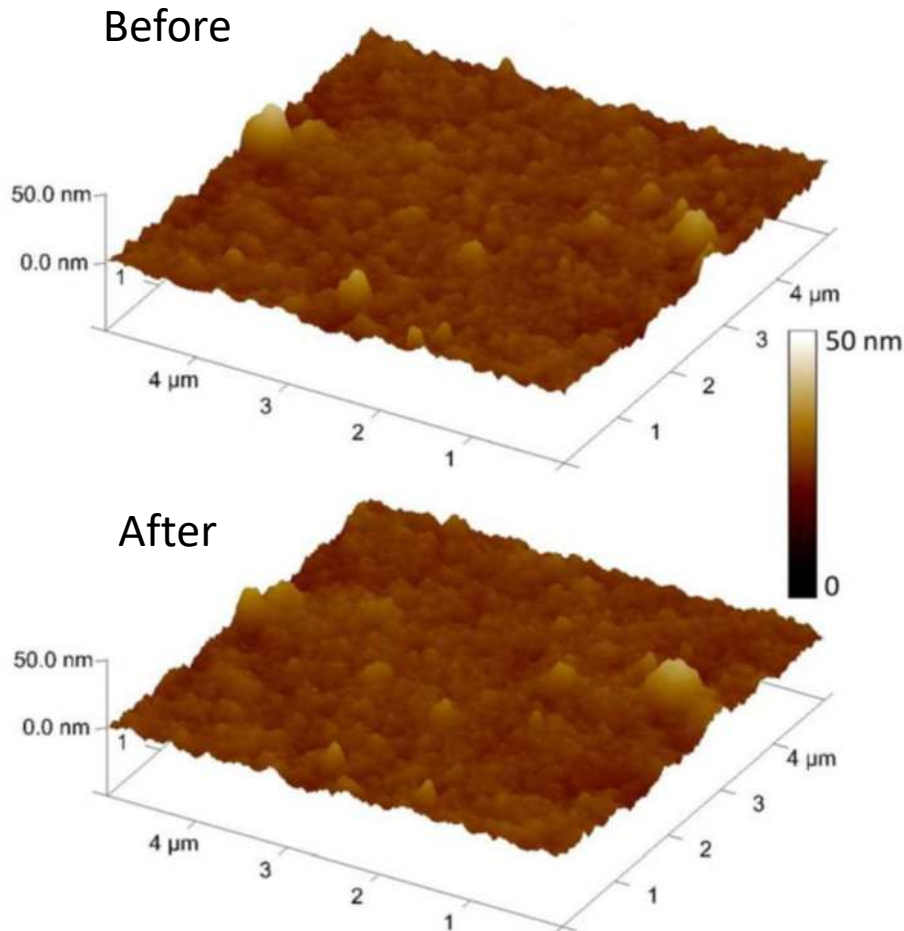


# Integration with flexible substrates





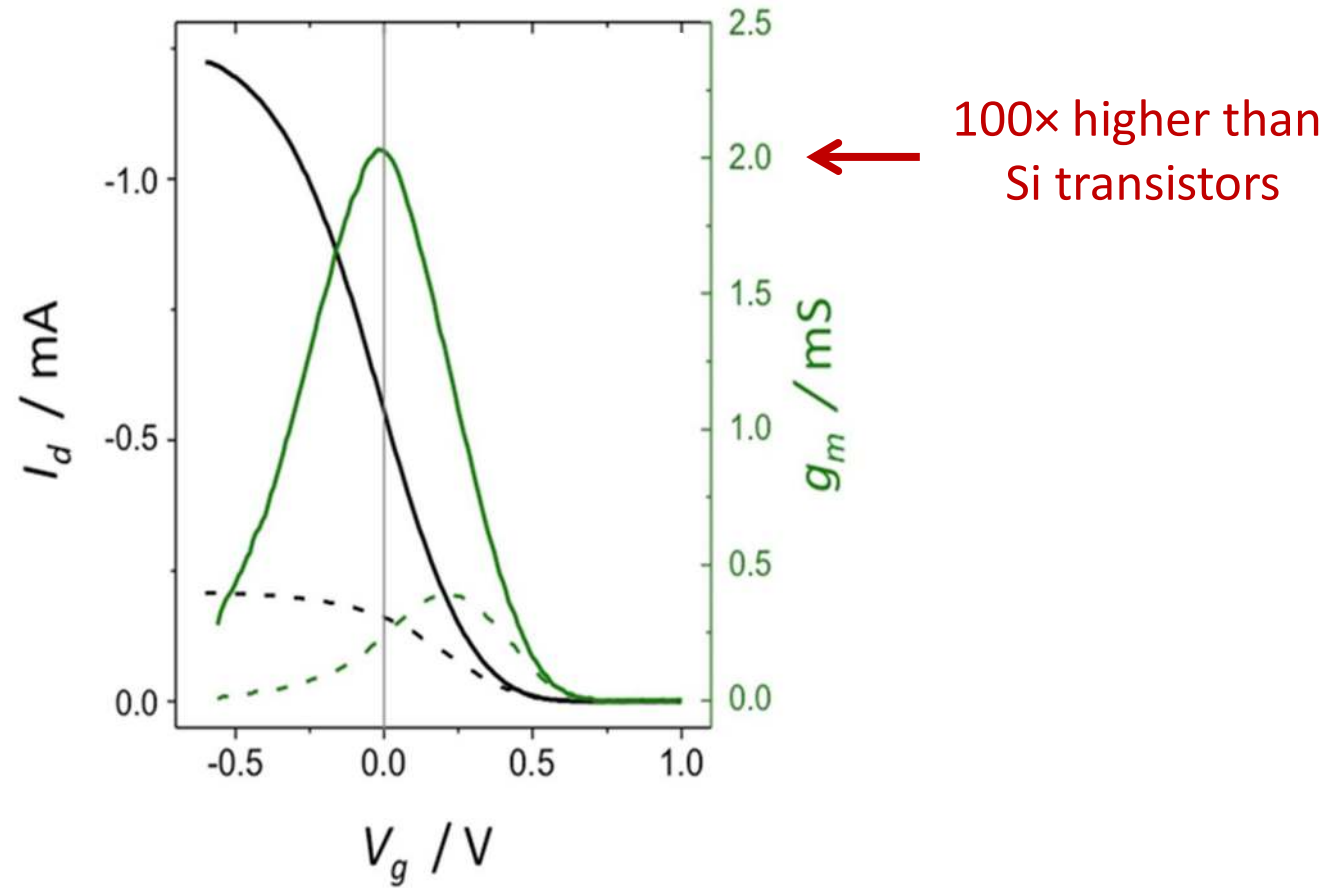
# Autoclave sterilisation



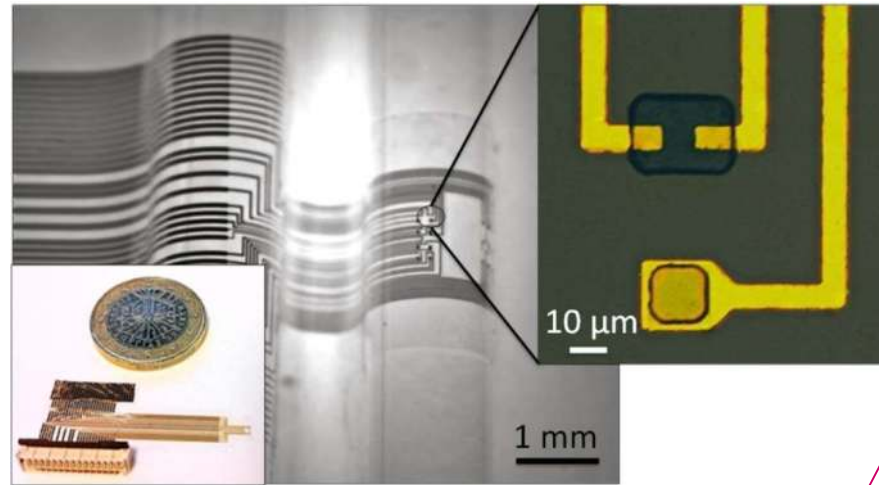
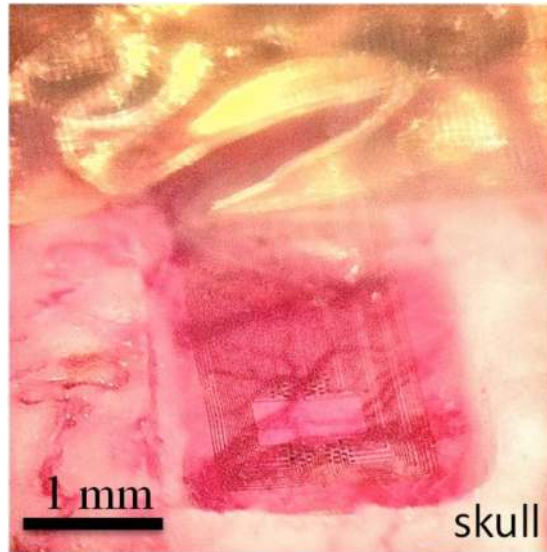
w/ Christophe Bernard (INSERM), Shadi Dayeh (UCSD)

I. Uguz, M. Ganji, A. Hama, A. Tanaka, S. Inal, A. Youssef, R.M. Owens, S. Dayeh, and G.G. Malliaras, Adv. Healthcare Mater. 5, 3094 (2016).

# Characteristics of OECTs



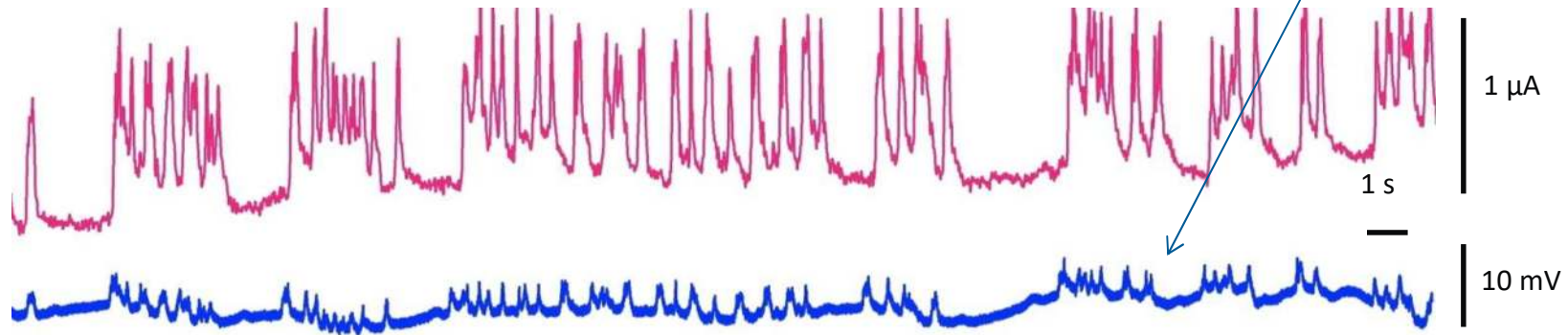
# In vivo recordings using transistors



SNR = 52.7 dB

SNR = 30.2 dB

Transistor



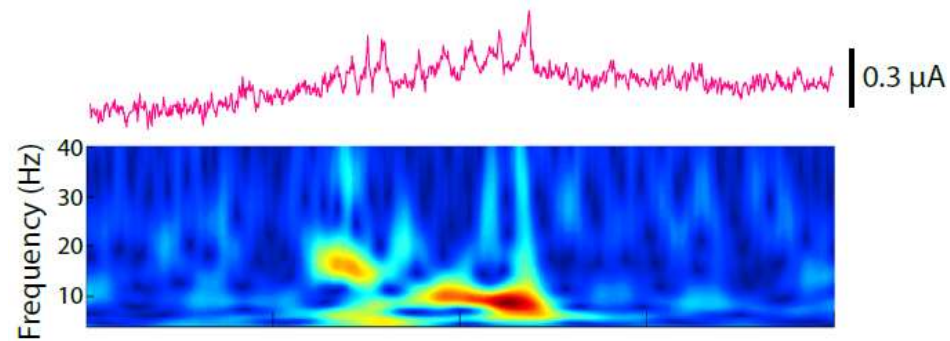
Electrode

w/ Christophe Bernard (INSERM)

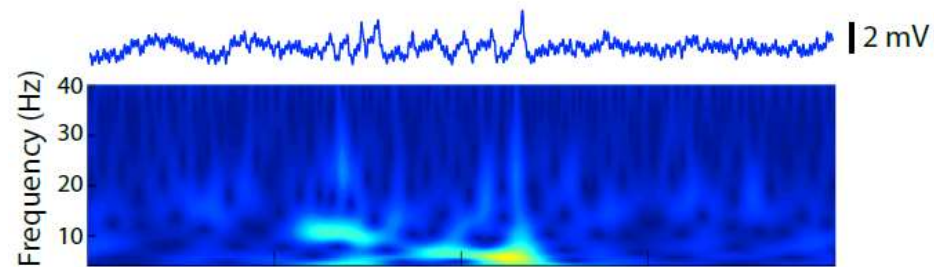
D. Khodagholy, T. Doublet, P. Quilichini, M. Gurfinkel, P. Leleux, A. Ghestem, E. Ismailova, T. Herve, S. Sanaur, C. Bernard, and G.G. Malliaras, *Nature Comm.* 4, 1575 (2013).

# Transistors enable less invasive recordings

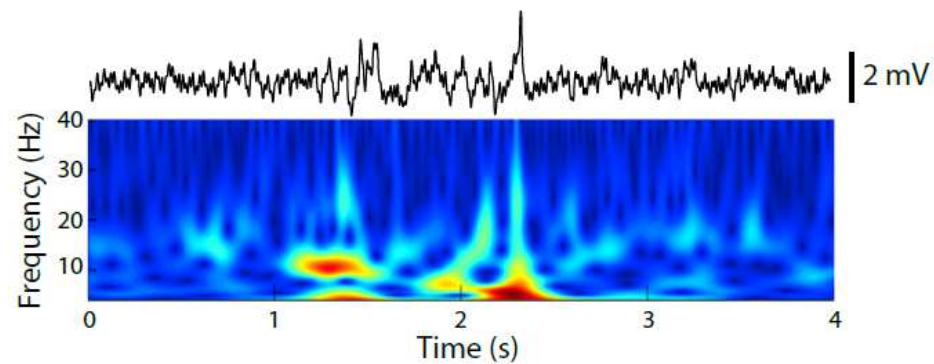
Transistor



Surface  
electrode



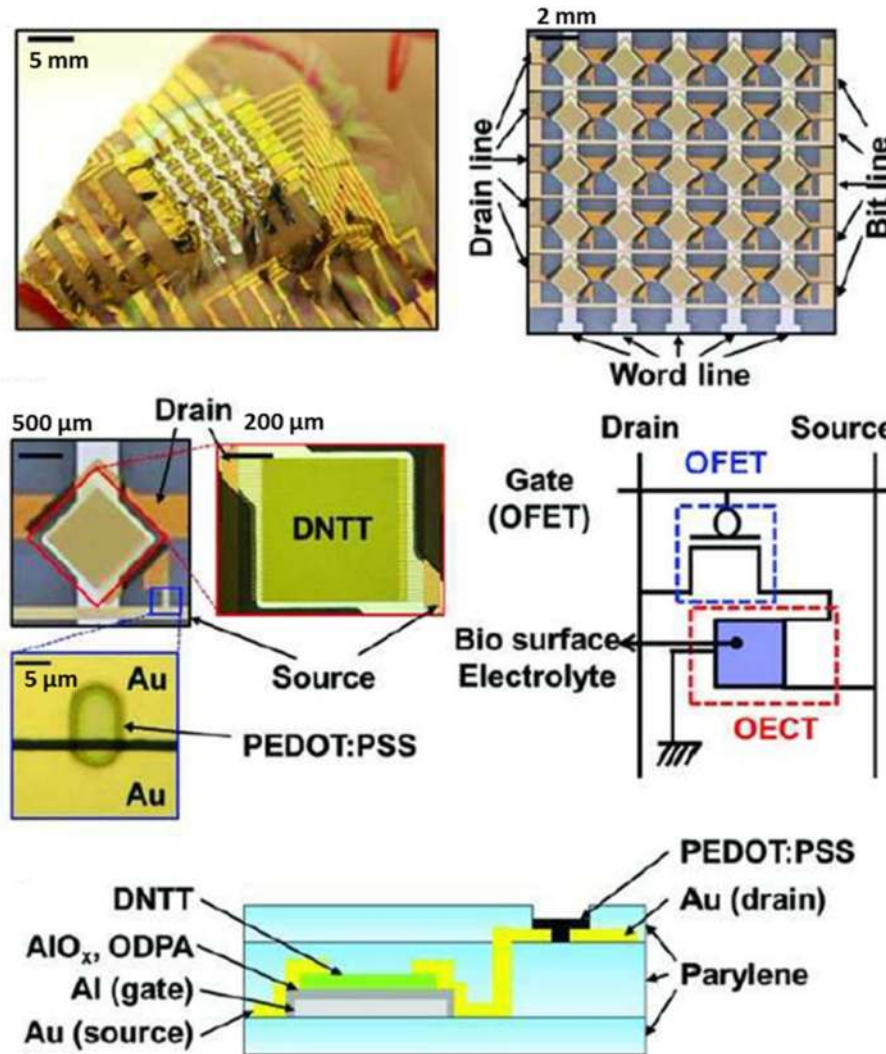
Depth  
electrode



w/ Christophe Bernard (INSERM)

D. Khodagholy, T. Doublet, P. Quilichini, M. Gurfinkel, P. Leleux, A. Ghestem, E. Ismailova, T. Herve, S. Sanaur, C. Bernard, and G.G. Malliaras, *Nature Comm.* 4, 1575 (2013).

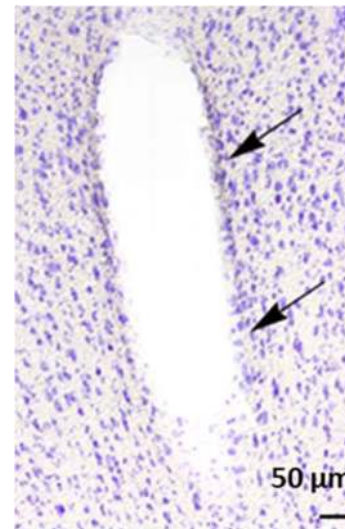
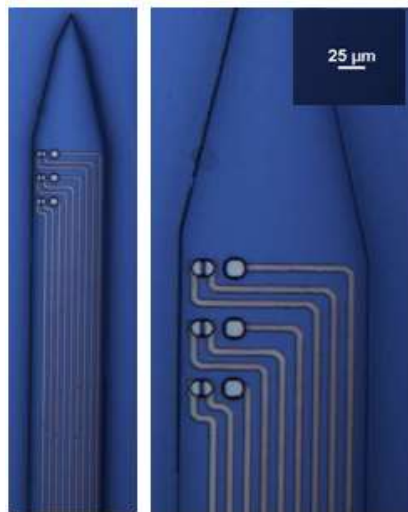
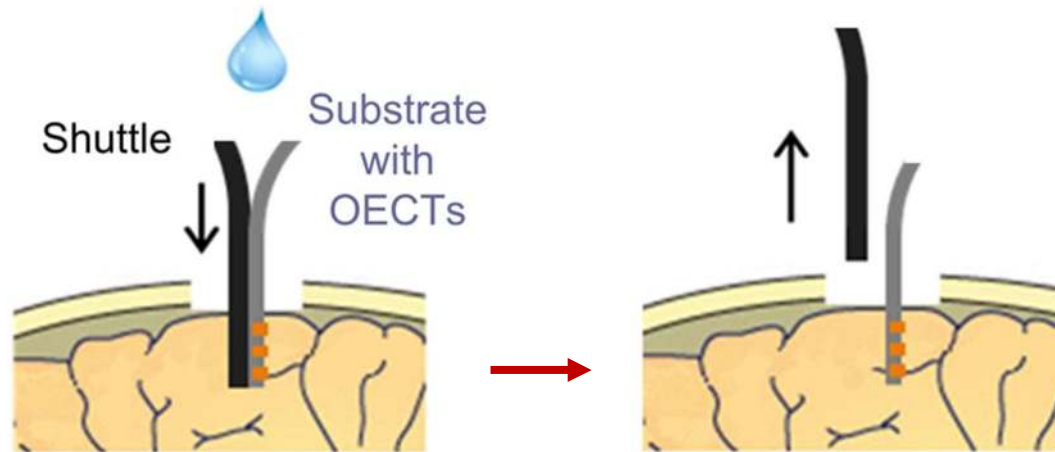
# Multiplexed arrays for massive recordings



w/ Takao Someya (Tokyo)

- W. Lee, D. Kim, J. Rivnay, N. Matsuhisa, T. Lonjaret, T. Yokota, H. Yawo, M. Sekino, G. Malliaras, T. Someya, *Adv. Mater.* 28, 9722 (2016).
- W. Lee, D. Kim, N. Matsuhisa, M. Nagase, M. Sekino, G.G. Malliaras, T. Yokota, and T. Someya, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 114, 10554 (2017).
- W. Lee, S. Kobayashi, M. Nagase, Y. Jimbo, I. Saito, Y. Inoue, T. Yambe, M. Sekino, G.G. Malliaras, T. Yokota, M. Tanaka and T. Someya, *Sci. Adv.* 4, eaau2426 (2018).

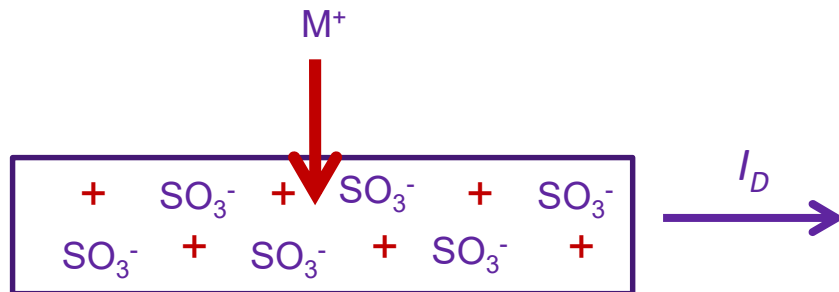
# Insertion in the brain using removable shuttles



w/ Christophe Bernard (INSERM)

A. Williamson, M. Ferro, P. Leleux, E. Ismailova, A. Kaszas, T. Doublet, P. Quilichini, J. Rivnay, B. Rózsa, G. Katona, C. Bernard, and G. G. Malliaras, *Adv. Mater.* 27, 4405 (2015).

# Model



$$I_D = W \cdot d \cdot e \cdot \mu \cdot p(x) \cdot [dV(x)/dx]$$

$$p(x) = \text{SO}_3^- - M^+(x)$$

$$M^+(x) = (C^*/e) \cdot [V_G - V(x)]$$

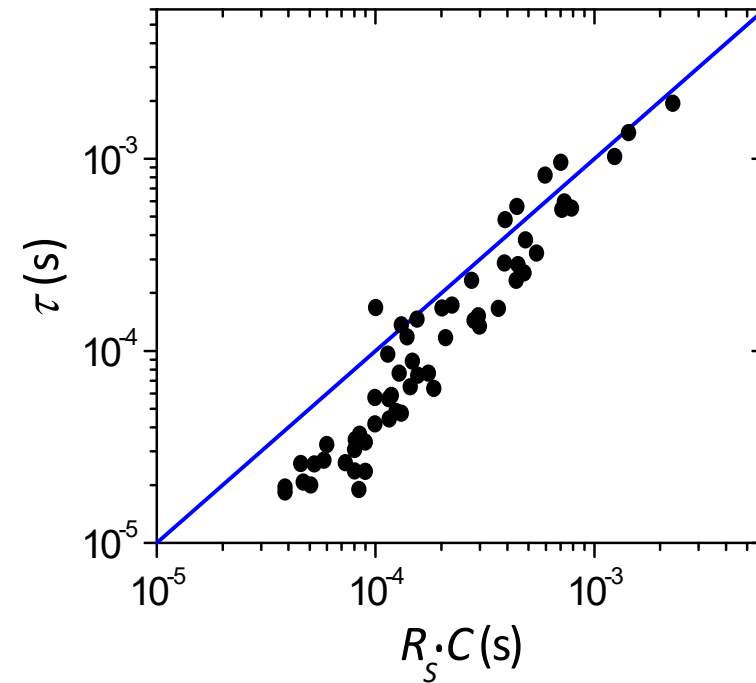
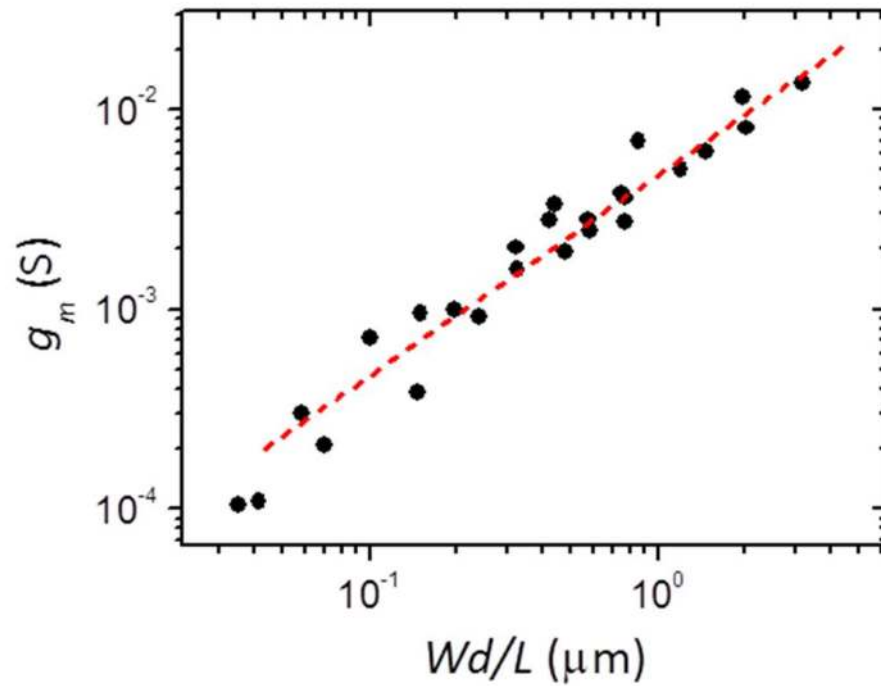
Integrating  $I_d$  over the length of the channel:

$$I_D = (W \cdot d / L) \cdot \mu \cdot C^* \cdot [V_T - V_G + V_D / 2] \cdot V_D$$

$$V_T = e \cdot \text{SO}_3^- / C^*$$

$$I_D^{\text{SAT}} = [W / (2 \cdot L)] \cdot d \cdot \mu \cdot C^* \cdot [V_T - V_G]^2$$

# Scaling with geometry

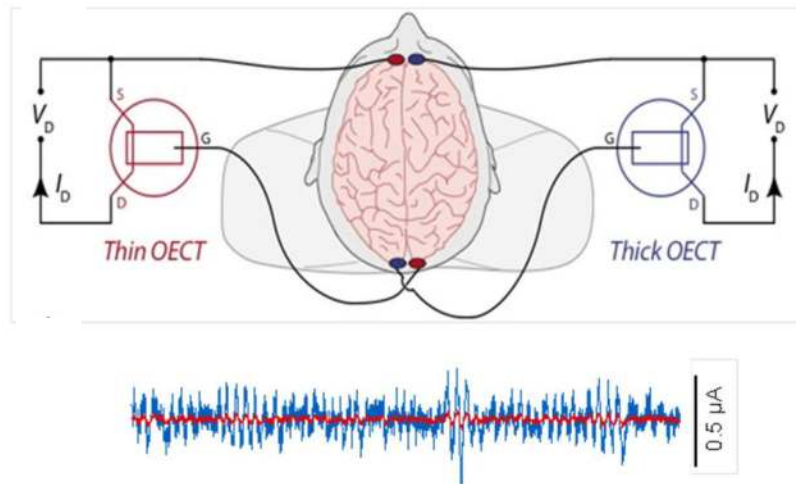


$$g_m^{SAT} = (W \cdot d/L) \cdot \mu \cdot C^* \cdot (V_T - V_G)$$

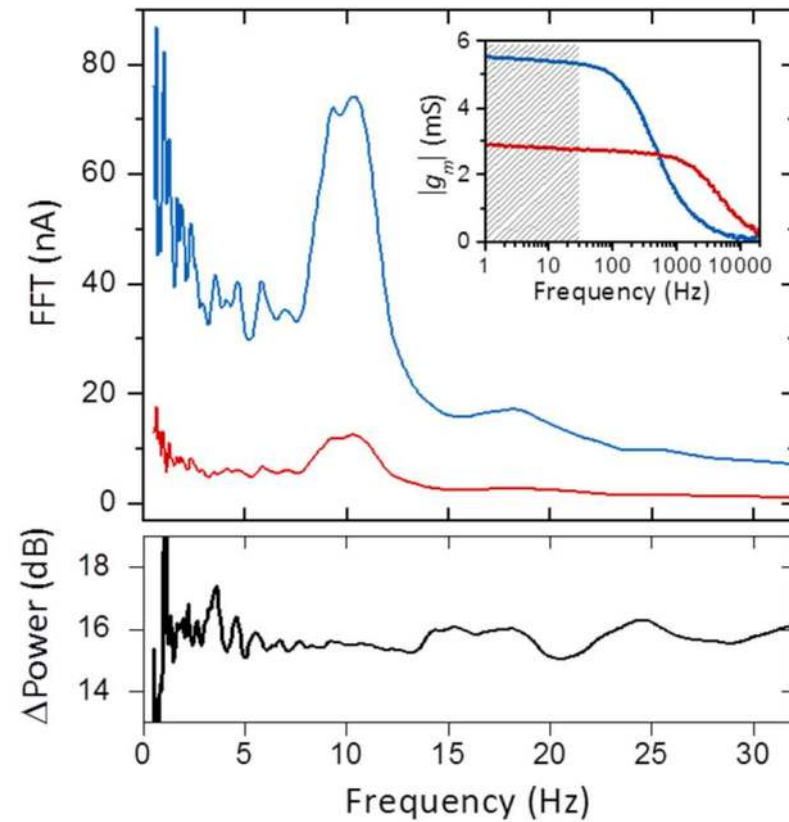
J. Rivnay, P. Leleux, M. Ferro, M. Sessolo, A. Williamson, D.A. Koutsouras, D. Khodagholy, M. Ramuz, X. Strakosas, R.M. Owens, C. Benar, J.-M. Badiar, C. Bernard, and G.G. Malliaras, SCIENCE Advances1, e1400251 (2015).



# High transconductance means high SNR

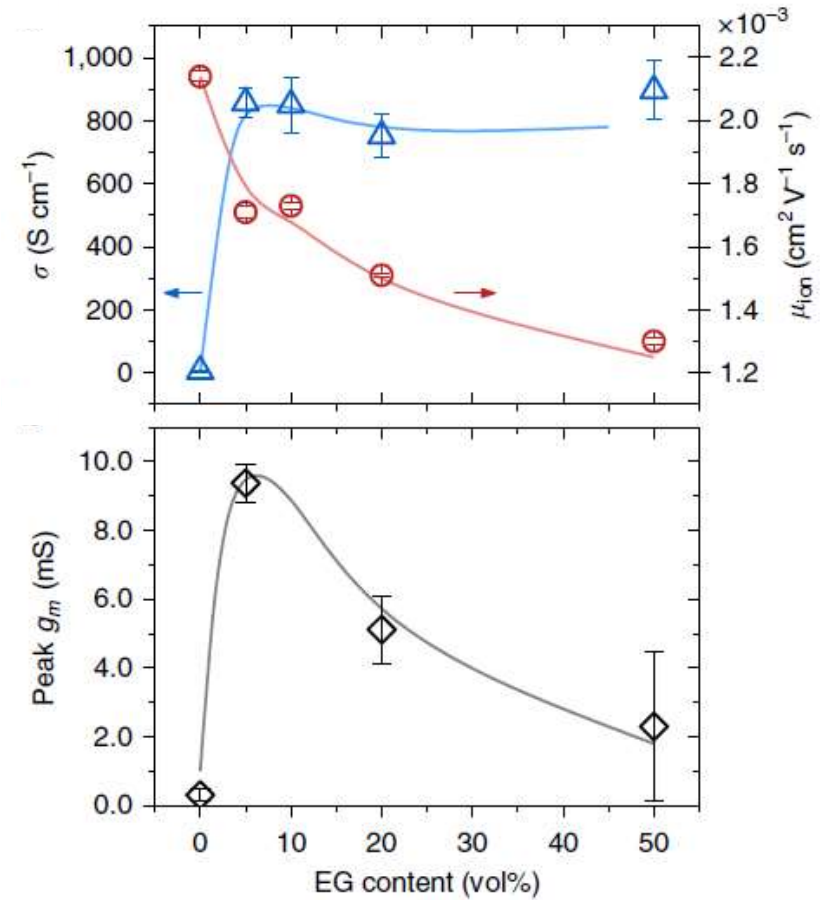
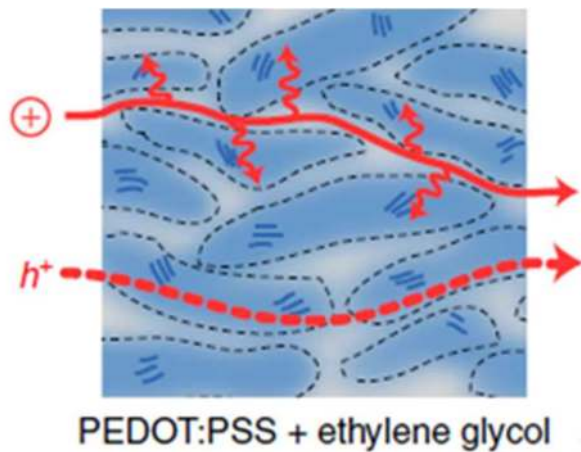
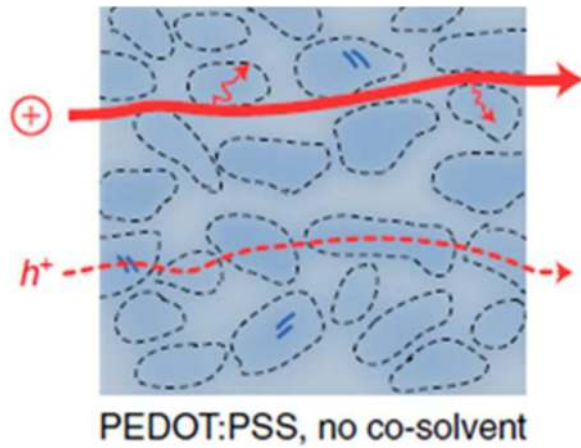


J. Rivnay, P. Leleux, M. Ferro, M. Sessolo, A. Williamson, D.A. Koutsouras, D. Khodagholy, M. Ramuz, X. Strakosas, R.M. Owens, C. Benar, J.-M. Badier, C. Bernard, and G.G. Malliaras, *SCIENCE Advances* 1, e1400251 (2015).

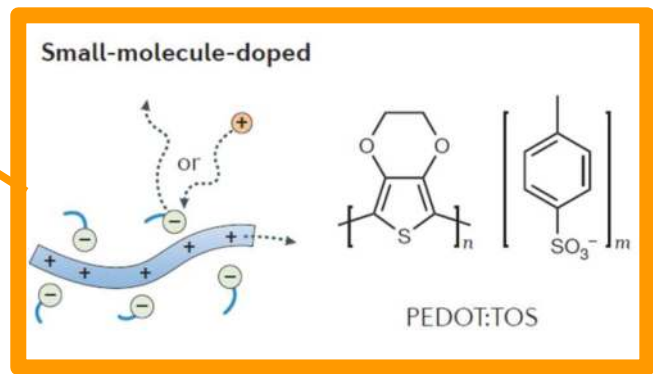
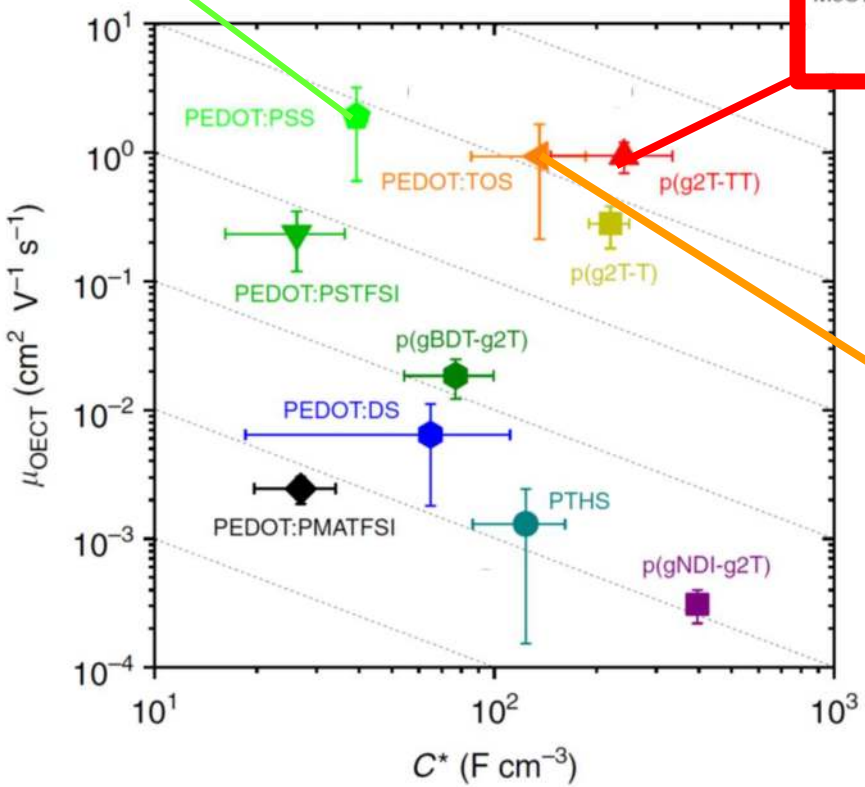
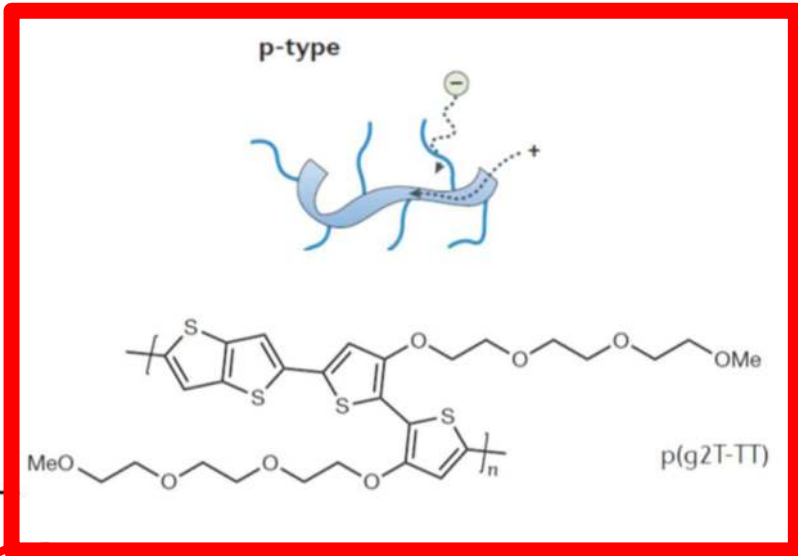
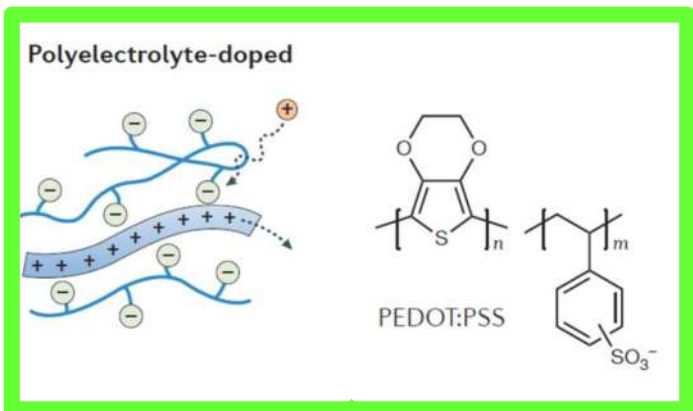


w/ Christian Benar, Jean-Michel Badier (INSERM)

# Optimizing by means of materials processing



# $\mu \cdot C^*$ of different materials



# Conclusions

- **Organic electrochemical transistors leverage volumetric ions transport to yield high transconductance.**
- **They are amplifying transducers that yield better signal-to-noise ratio recordings than electrodes. They allow to look deeper in the brain.**
- **PEDOT:PSS is a champion material as it offers high hole mobility coupled with facile ion injection and transport. Better materials require:**
  - High electronic carrier mobility
  - High volumetric capacitance
- **A winning strategy: efficient  $\pi$ -conjugated backbones with hydrophilic side chains**

Recent review:

J. Rivnay, S. Inal, A. Salleo, R.M. Owens, M. Berggren, and G.G. Malliaras, "Organic electrochemical transistors", Nature Rev. Mater. 3, 17086 (2018).

# Acknowledgements

**Co-leader: Damiano Barone**

Vincenzo Curto  
Chris Proctor  
Alexandra Rutz  
Alej Carnicer-Lombarte  
Sanggil Han  
Chen Jiang  
Johannes Jurke  
Anastasios Polyrvas  
Tanya Mangoma  
Amy Rochford  
Shao-Tuan Chen  
Ben Woodington  
Sagnik Middya  
Tobias Naegele  
Elise Jenkins  
Santiago Velasco-Bosom  
Yi-Lin Yu  
De-Shaine Murray  
Will Halfpenny  
Louise Aumont  
Roberto Pezone  
Shunsuke Yamamoto  
Menglun Zhang  
Iasonas Triantis  
Eleftheria Batagianni  
Theana Johnson



**University of Cambridge**

Roisin Owens (Chemical Engineering)  
Gabi Kaminski (Chemical Engineering)  
David Fairen-Jimenez (Chemical Engineering)  
Ronan Daly (Institute for Manufacturing)  
Oren Scherman (Melville Laboratory)  
Clare Grey (Chemistry)  
Jenny Morton (PDN)  
Manohar Bance (Clinical Neurosciences)  
Stephen Price (Clinical Neurosciences)  
Michael Lee (Medicine)  
Richard Gilbertson (Oncology)

**Other Collaborators**

Mary Donahue, Rodney O'Connor (Mines St Etienne)  
Adam Williamson, Christophe Bernard (Aix Marseille)  
Sahika Inal, Iain McCulloch (KAUST)  
Daniel Simon, Magnus Berggren (Linköping University)  
Jonathan Rivnay (Northwestern University)  
Dion Khodagholy (Columbia University)  
Takao Someya (University of Tokyo)  
David Martin (University of Delaware)  
Robert McLeod (University of Colorado)  
Martyn Boutelle (Imperial College London)  
David Mecerreyes (University of Basque Country)