

Fluorescent sensing probes based on quantum nanodots immersed into nanocellulose hydrogels



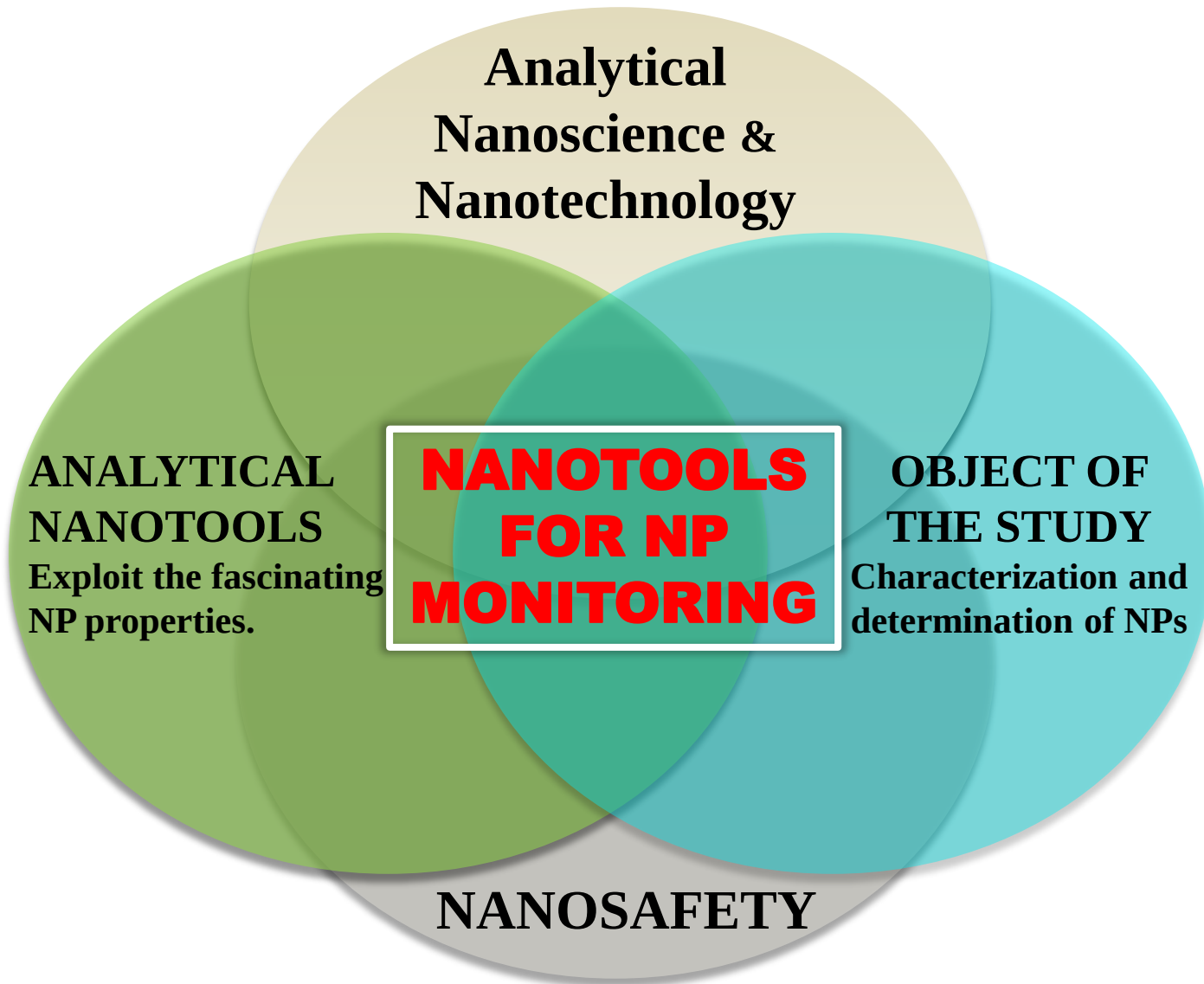
M. LAURA SORIANO DOTOR

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qa2sodom@uco.es





RESEARCH LINES



INDEX

☐ INTRODUCTION

- NANOTECHNOLOGY: BENEFITS AND IMPACTS
- ANALYTICAL NANOSCIENCE & NANOTECHNOLOGY

☐ FLUORESCENT QUANTUM NANODOTS

- TYPES AND APPLICATIONS
- TOXICITY

☐ ANALYTICAL METHODS FOR NANOPARTICLE MONITORING

- SENSORS OF NANOPARTICLES

☐ FINAL REMARKS

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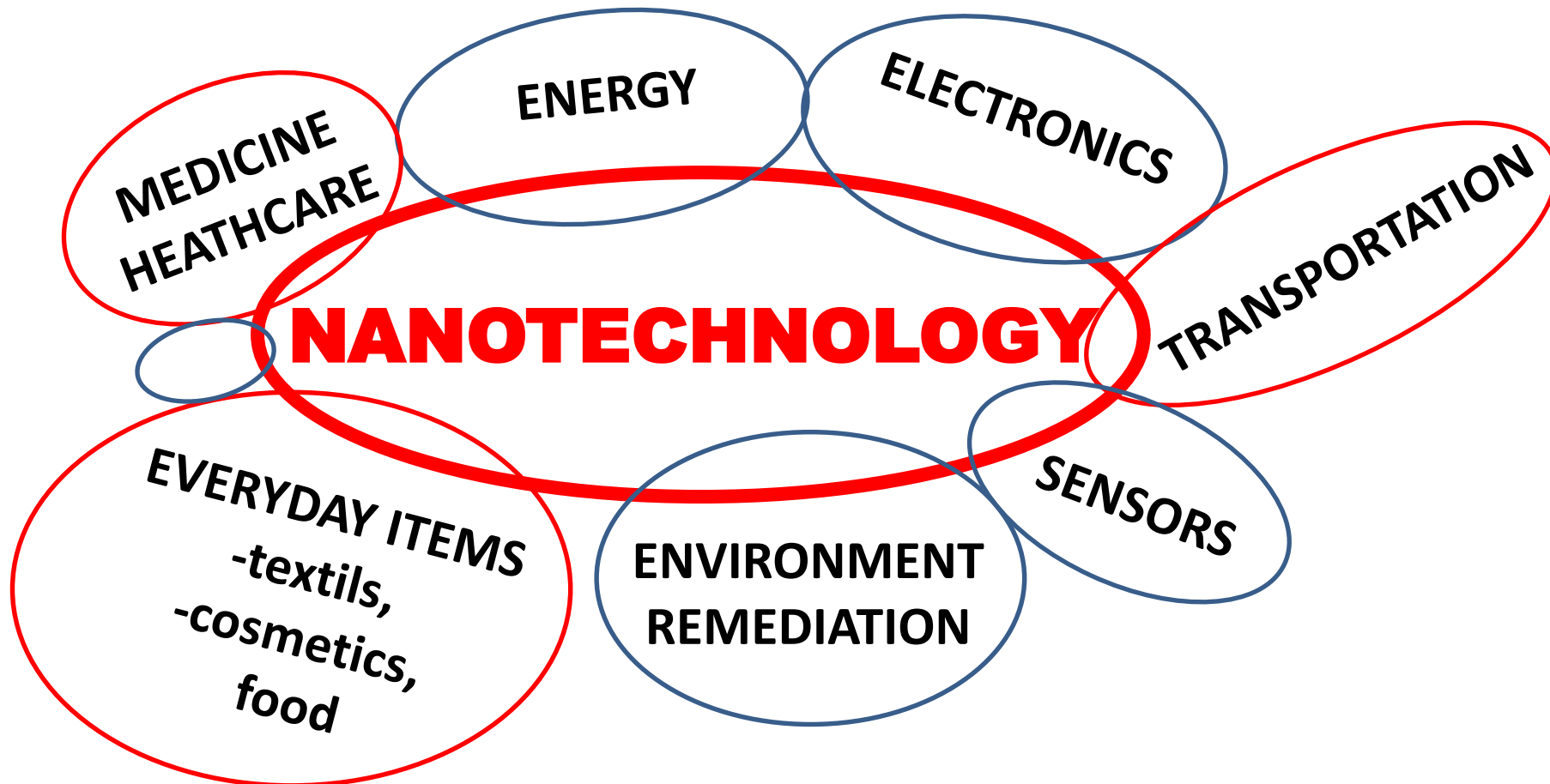
☐ FINAL REMARKS



1a. IMPORTANCE OF NANOTECHNOLOGY

MULTIDISCIPLINAR CHARACTER

•Engineering Nanoparticles are creating new opportunities in a variety of applications to increase the performance of traditional products and develop unique ones in....

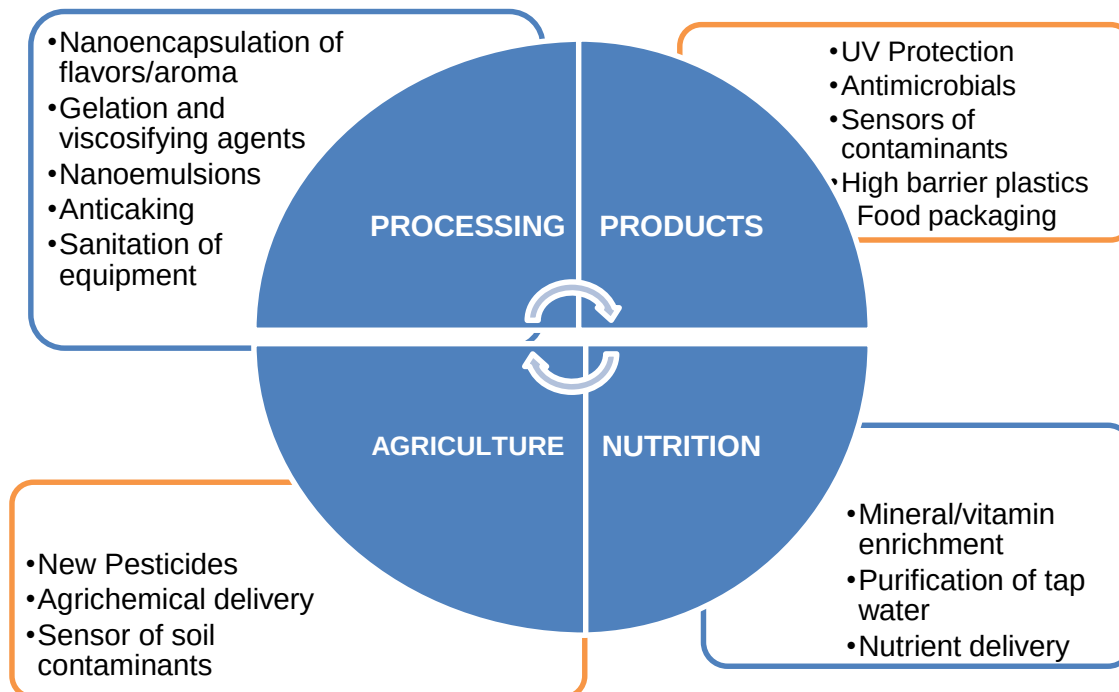




1a. IMPORTANCE OF NANOTECHNOLOGY

EXAMPLES OF THE NANOTECHNOLOGY USES

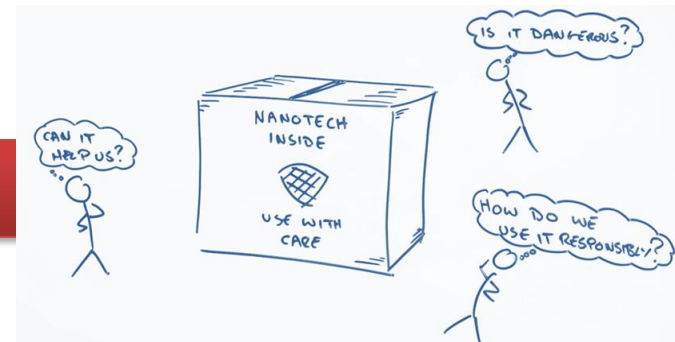
Nanotechnology has applications in all areas of food science, and can transform the entire *agri-food* sector with an increase in agricultural productivity and economic growth for industries.





1b. IMPACTS OF NANOTECHNOLOGY

Exponential increase of NP uses



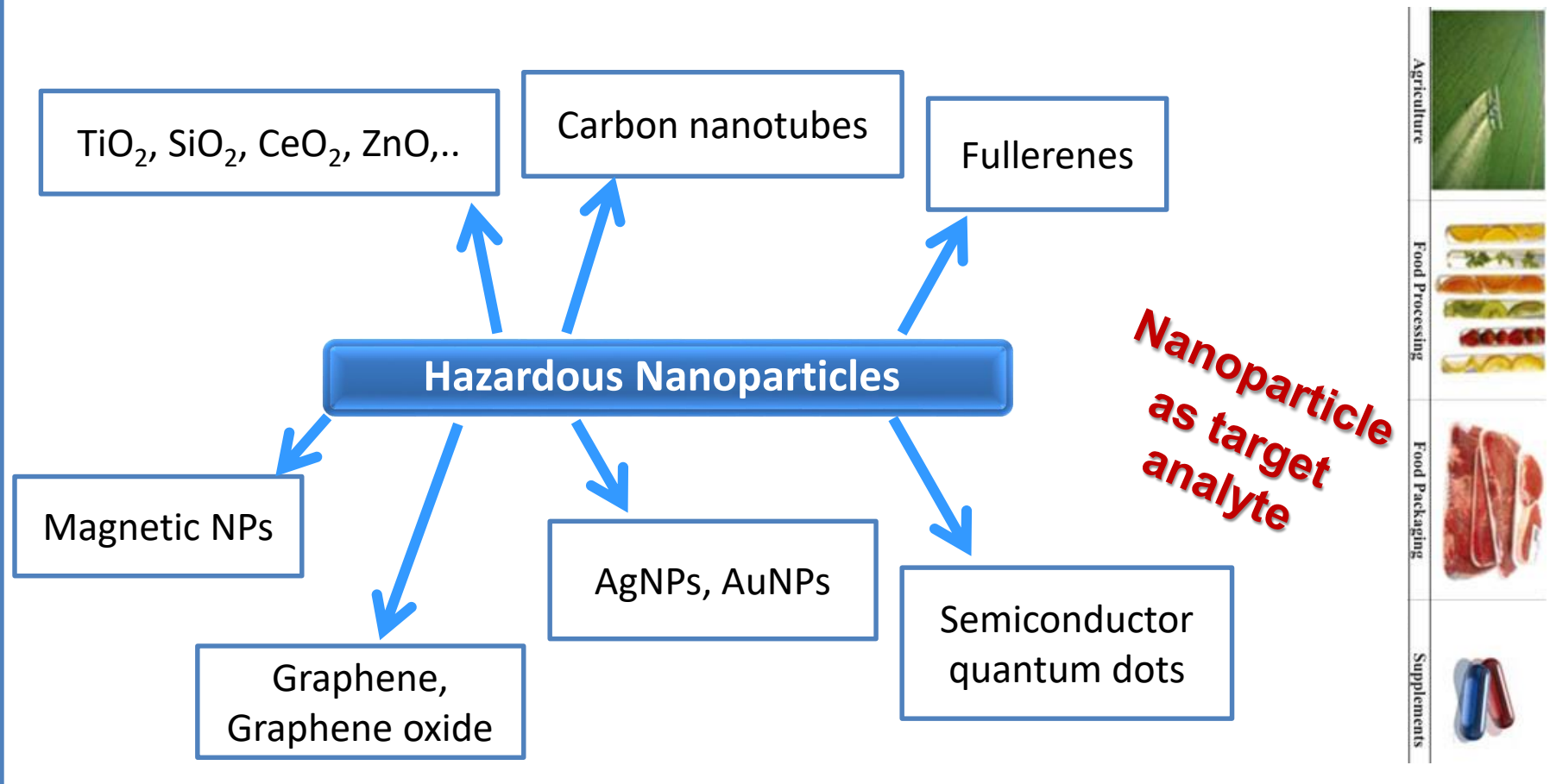
However, nanotoxicological effects are unknown.
Non parallelism in both novel developments and toxicological impact.

Nanoimpact is one major issue facing the application of nanotechnology in many everyday-items; there are many concerns on the effect of NPs in the human health, and in the environment after their release from those items containing NPs.

Ongoing discussion about how to handle on the **risk-benefit** balance.

1b. IMPACTS OF NANOTECHNOLOGY

AN URGENT NEED TO MONITOR THE EXPOSURE OF CONSUMERS TO NANOPARTICLES



1b. IMPACTS OF NANOTECHNOLOGY

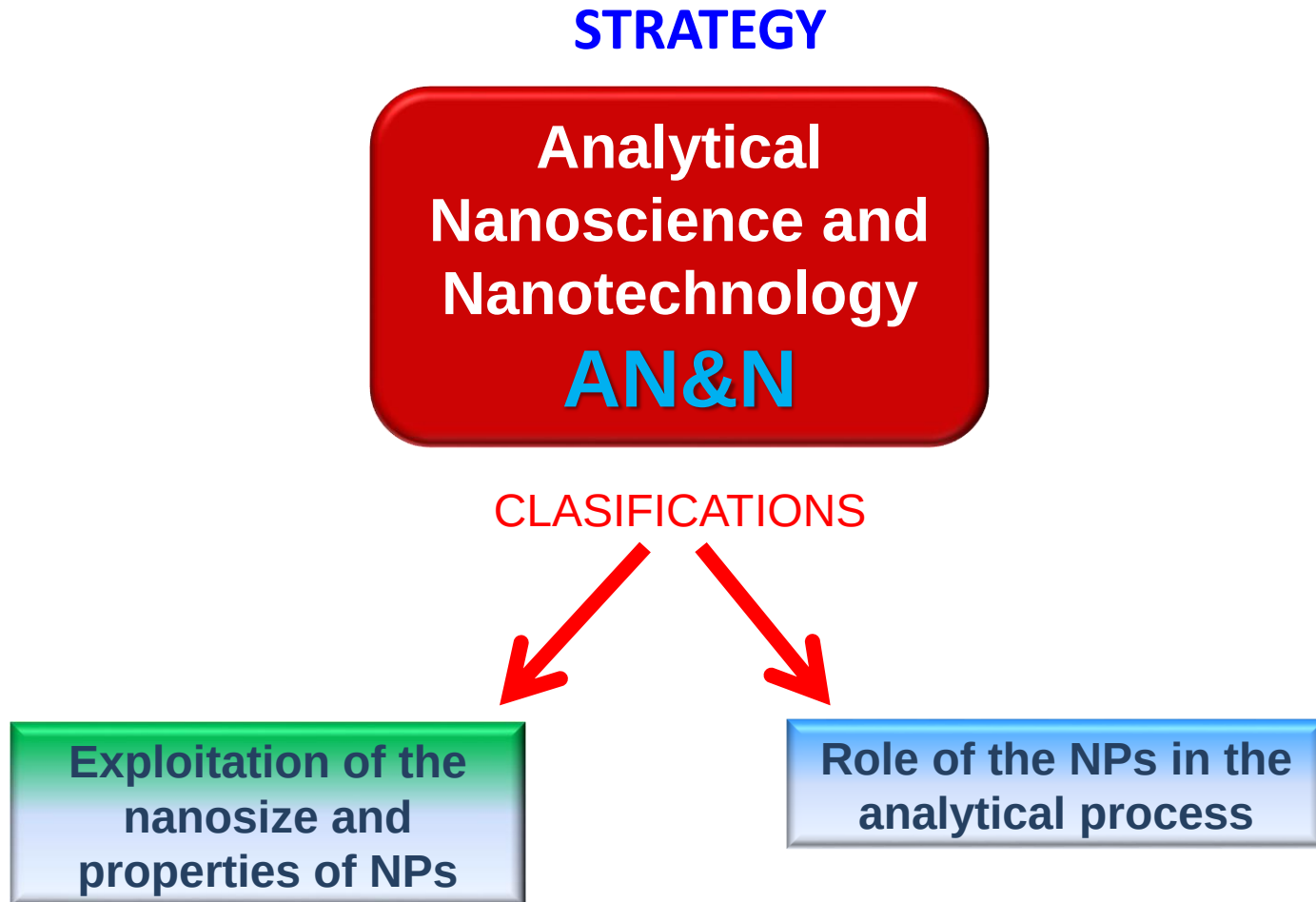
The interdisciplinary projects for monitoring ENPs in food and cosmetics



Ultrasensitive plasmonic detection of single nanoparticles



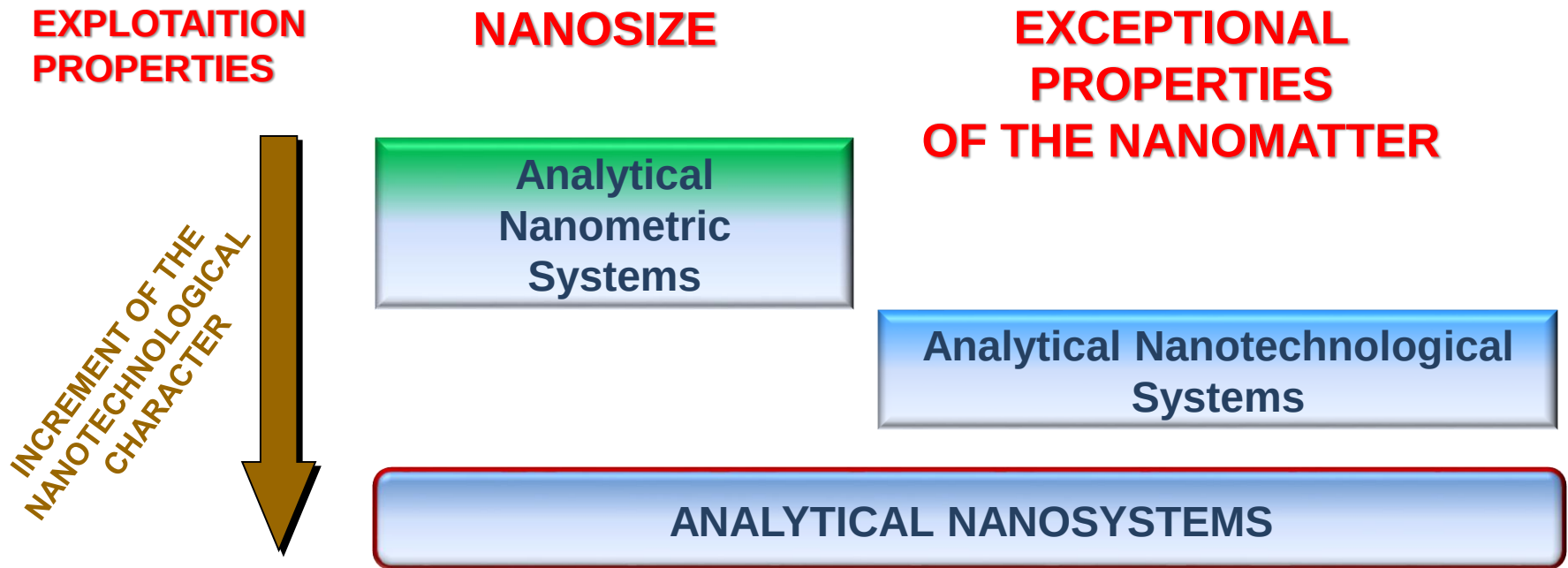
2. Analytical Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (AN&N)





2. Analytical Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (AN&N)

- Classification according to the exploitation of size and the excellent properties of the nanoparticles (NPs)

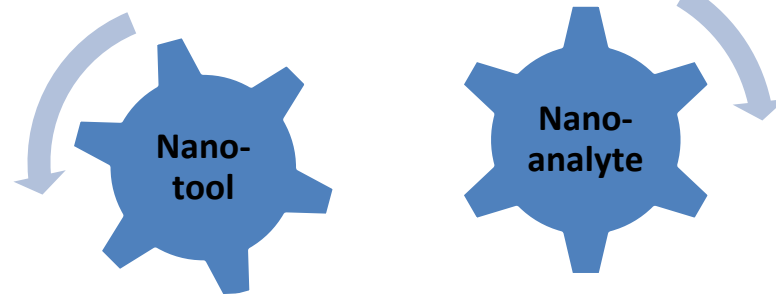




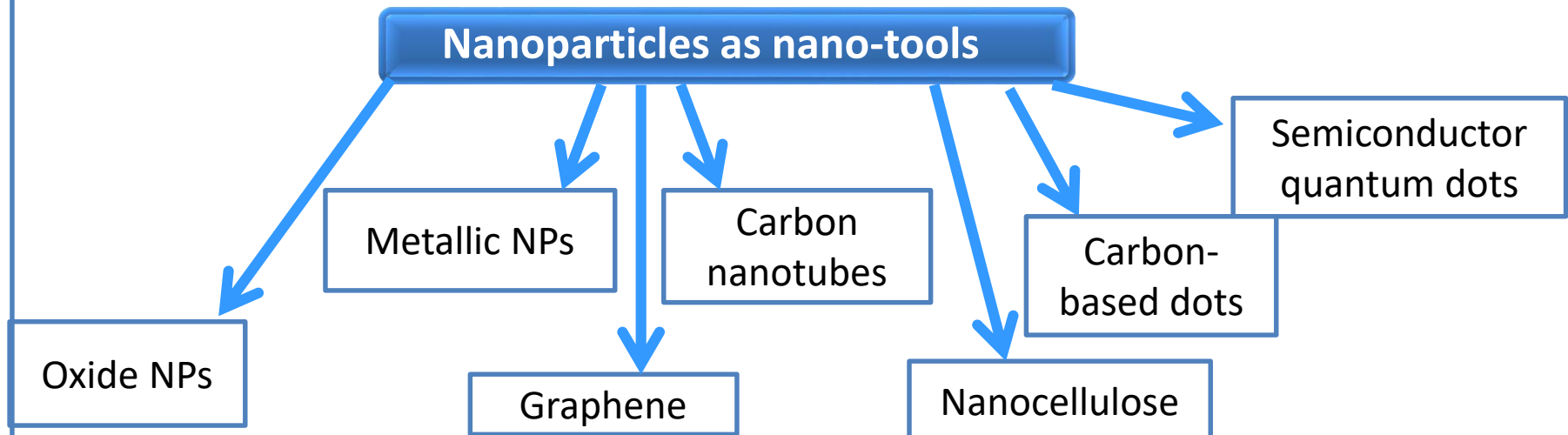
2. Analytical Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (AN&N)

- Classification according to the role played by the NPs

The two main
facets of
AN&N



Nanoparticles as nano-tools



SAMPLE PREPARATION

SEPARATION

DETECTION

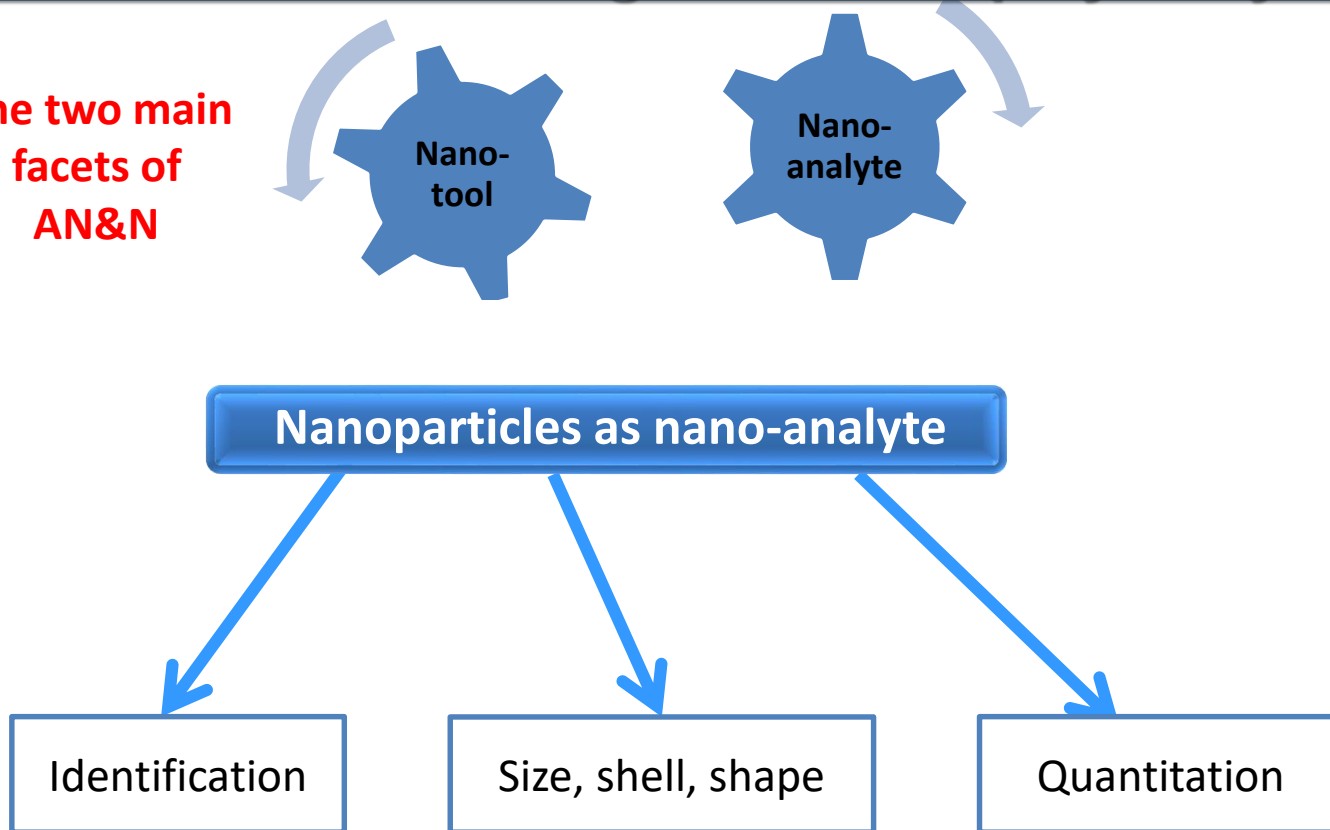
*Analytical
process*



2. Analytical Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (AN&N)

- Classification according to the role played by the NPs

The two main
facets of
AN&N

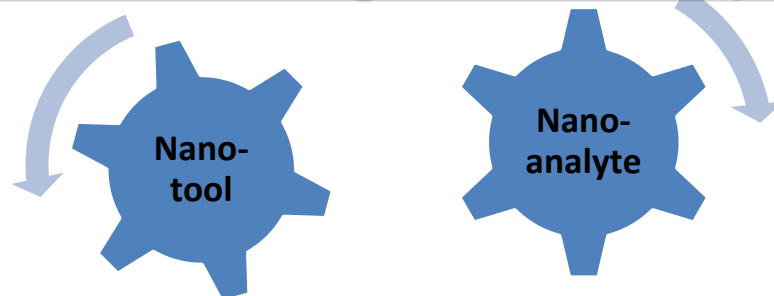




2. Analytical Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (AN&N)

- Classification according to the role played by the NPs

The two main
facets of
AN&N



The Third Way of AN&N

Miguel Valcárcel

In Trends Anal. Chem. 75 (2016) 1–9.

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- TYPES AND APPLICATIONS
- TOXICITY

☐ ANALYTICAL METHODS FOR NANOPARTICLE MONITORING

- SENSORS OF NANOPARTICLES

☐ FINAL REMARKS



1a. Types of quantum nanodots

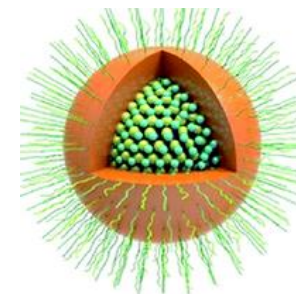
FLUORESCENT QUANTUM NANODOTS

are an exciting new class of fluorescent nanomaterial that can be considered as nanometric spheres with fascinating PL properties, such as emission wavelength sized-dependent and PL tunable depending on their size distribution and changes in their surface caused by different functional groups.

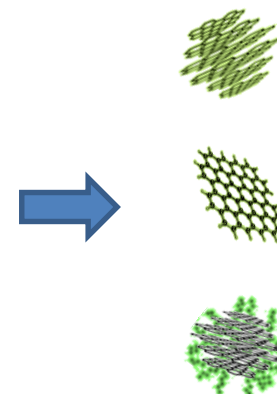
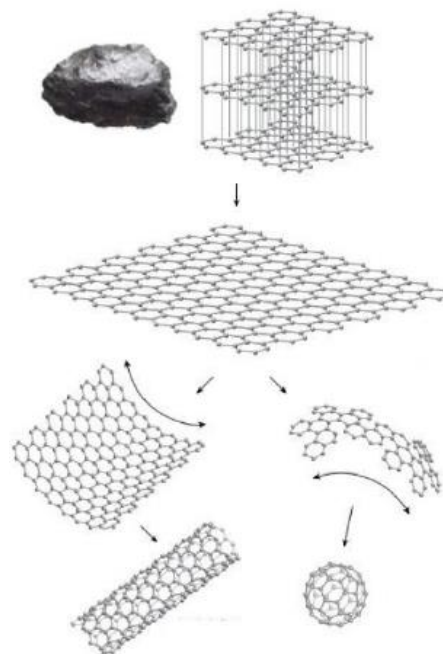
Isn't it incredible all the different things that you find inside a pencil?



FLUORESCENT SEMICONDUCTOR QUANTUM DOTS



FLUORESCENT CARBON-BASED NANODOTS



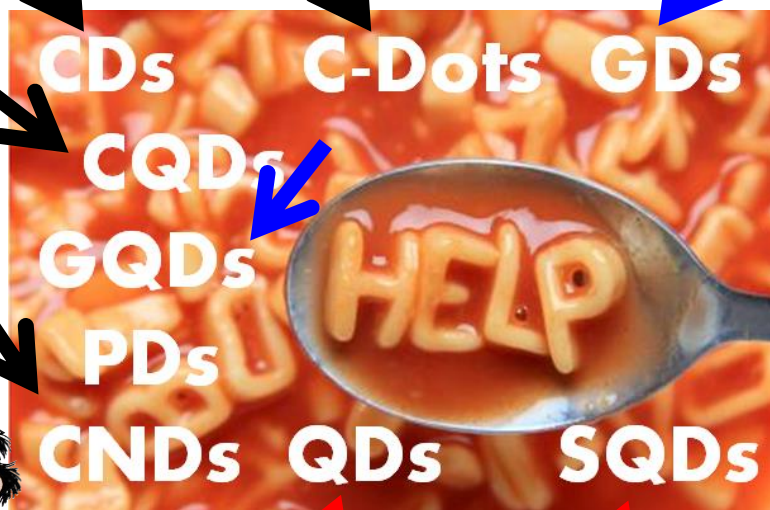


1a. Types of quantum nanodots

FLUORESCENT QUANTUM NANODOTS

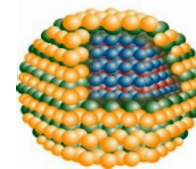
are divided into three main groups:

- i) Semiconductor quantum dots (SQDs) with quasi-spherical shape,
- ii) π -conjugated single sheet referred as graphene quantum dots (GQDs)
- iii) Crystalline spherical carbon quantum dots (CQDs)



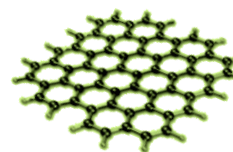
NEED FOR CONSISTENCY IN THE NOMENCLATURE OF FLUORESCENT NANODOTS

Semiconductor quantum dots SQDs

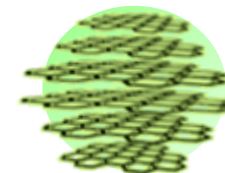


Carbonaceous quantum dots

GQDs



CQDs



A. Cayuela, M.L. Soriano, et. al.,
Chemical Communications, 2016, 56, 1311-1326.



1a. Types of quantum nanoparticles

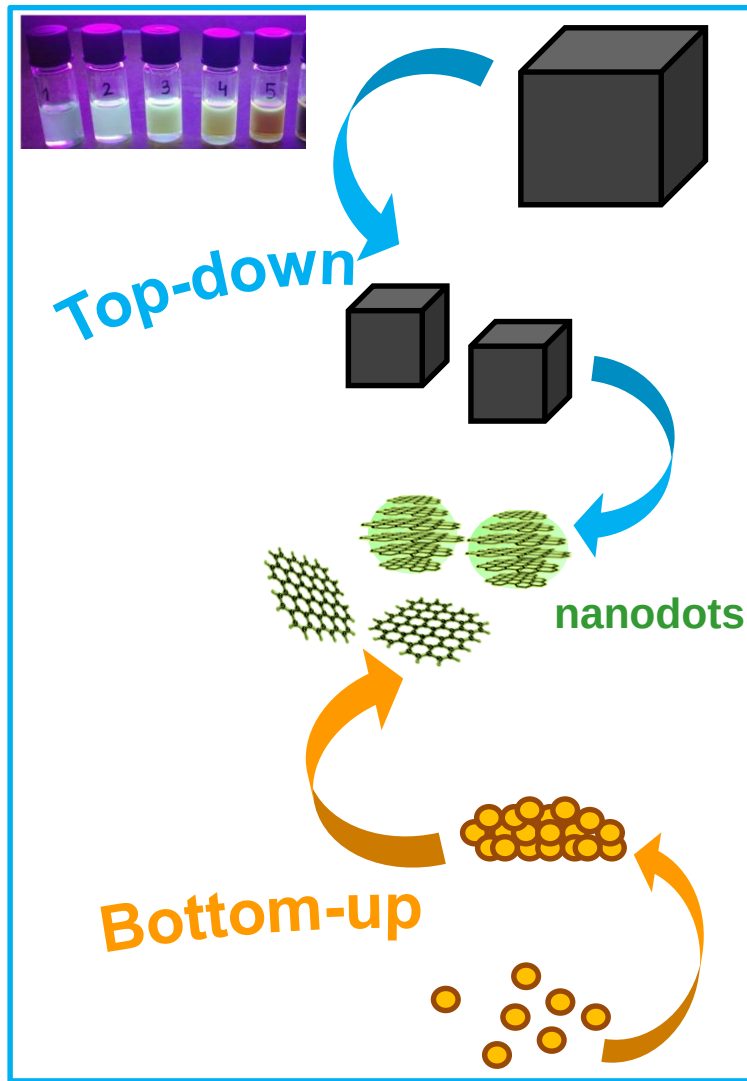
CARBON BASED FLUORESCENT DOTS

can be prepared following two methodologies:

-TOP-DOWN
-BOTTOM-UP

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

- LOW TOXICITY
- BIOCOMPATIBILITY
- EXCELLENT WATER-SOLUBILITY
- ROBUST CHEMICAL INERTNESS
- FACILE SURFACE MODIFICATION
- TUNABLE FLUORESCENCE
- HIGH RESISTANCE TO PHOTOBLEACHING





1a. Types of quantum nanodots

SEMICONDUCTOR QUANTUM DOTS

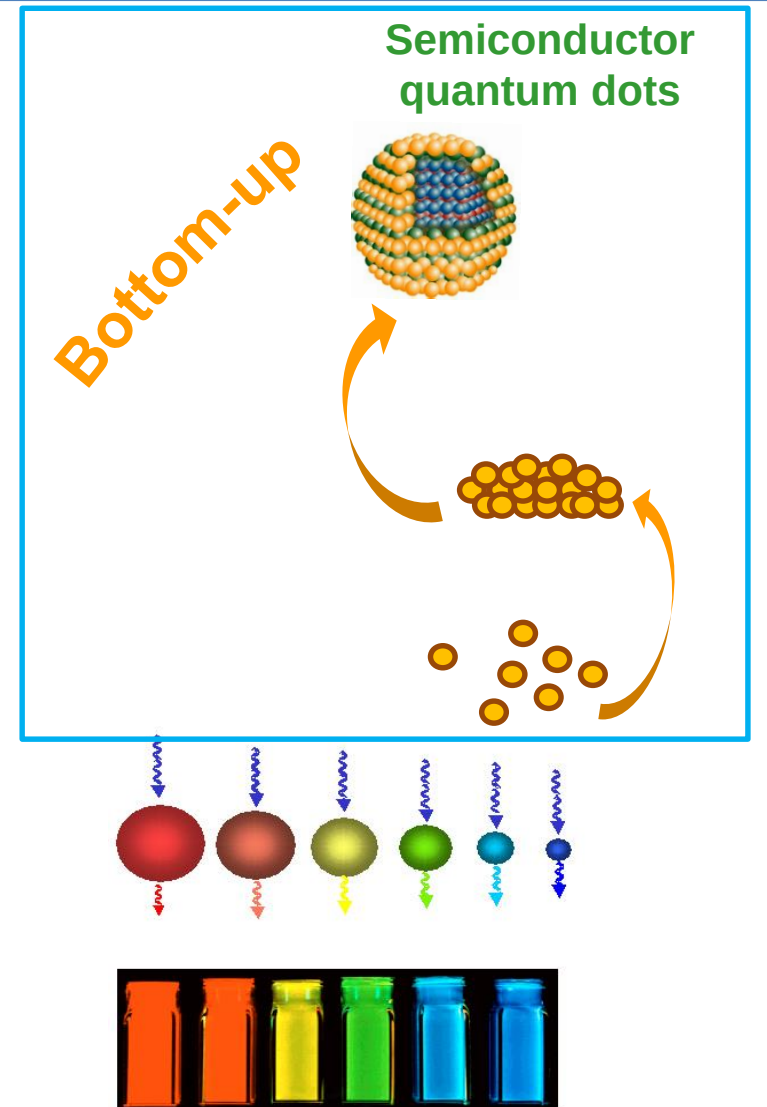
can be prepared following two methodologies:

-BOTTOM-UP

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

- HIGH BRIGHTNESS, SIZE-TUNABLE
- HIGH TOXICITY*
- LOW BIOCOMPATIBILITY DEPENDING ON CORE/SHELL AND SURFACE FUNCTIONALIZATION*
- LOW SOLUBILITY IN WATER*.

* NEED TO EXCHANGE SURFACE LIGANDS WITH MORE POLAR ONES TO MAKE BIOCOMPATIBLE SQDs.





1b. Applications of quantum nanodots

**PHOTOSENSITIZERS
OF SINGLET OXYGEN**

**SENSING
PLATFORMS**

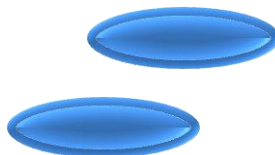
OPTRONICS

PHOTOCATALYSIS

BIOMEDICINE

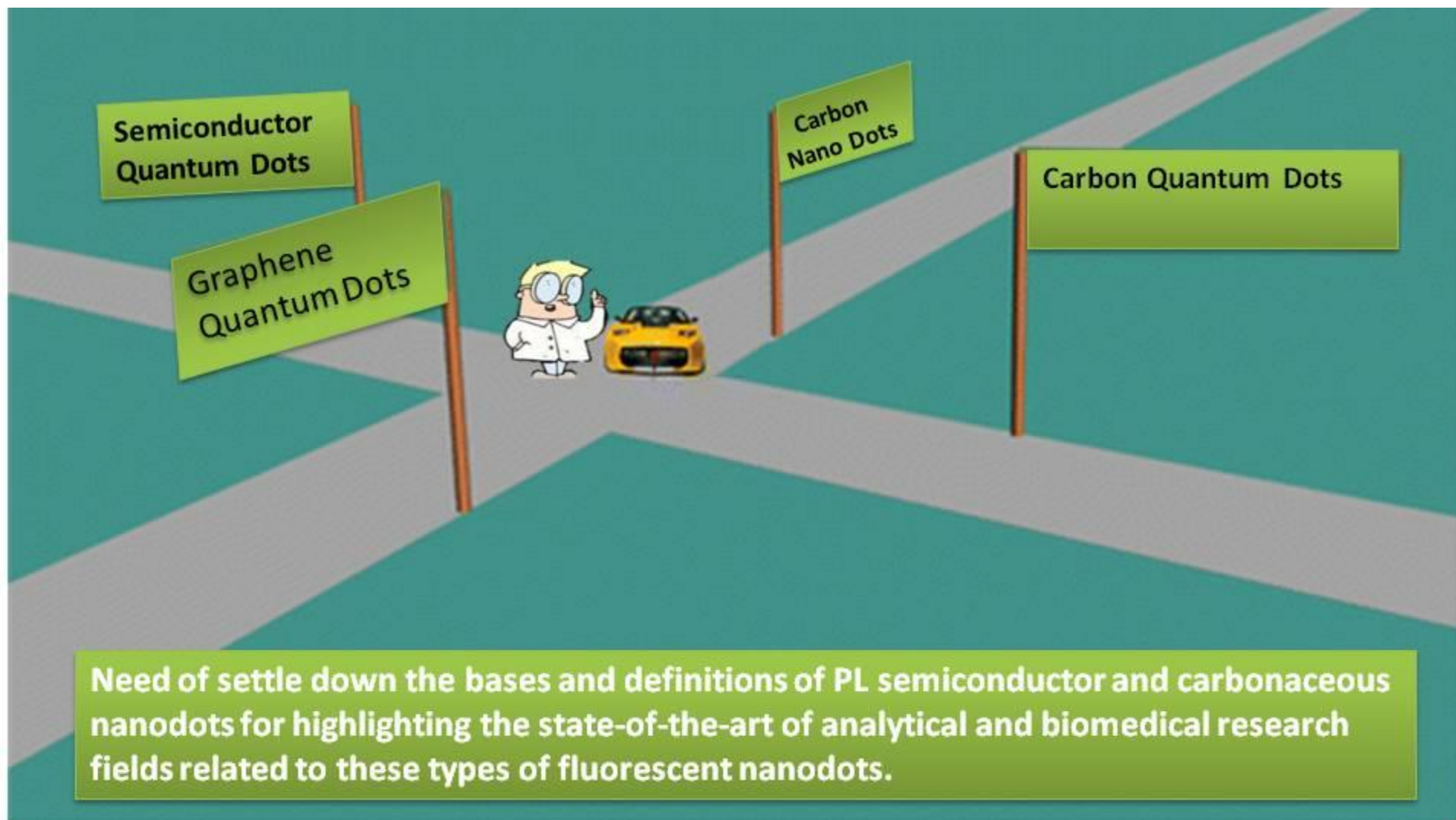
(BIO)IMAGING

DRUG DELIVERY





2. Toxicity of quantum nanodots



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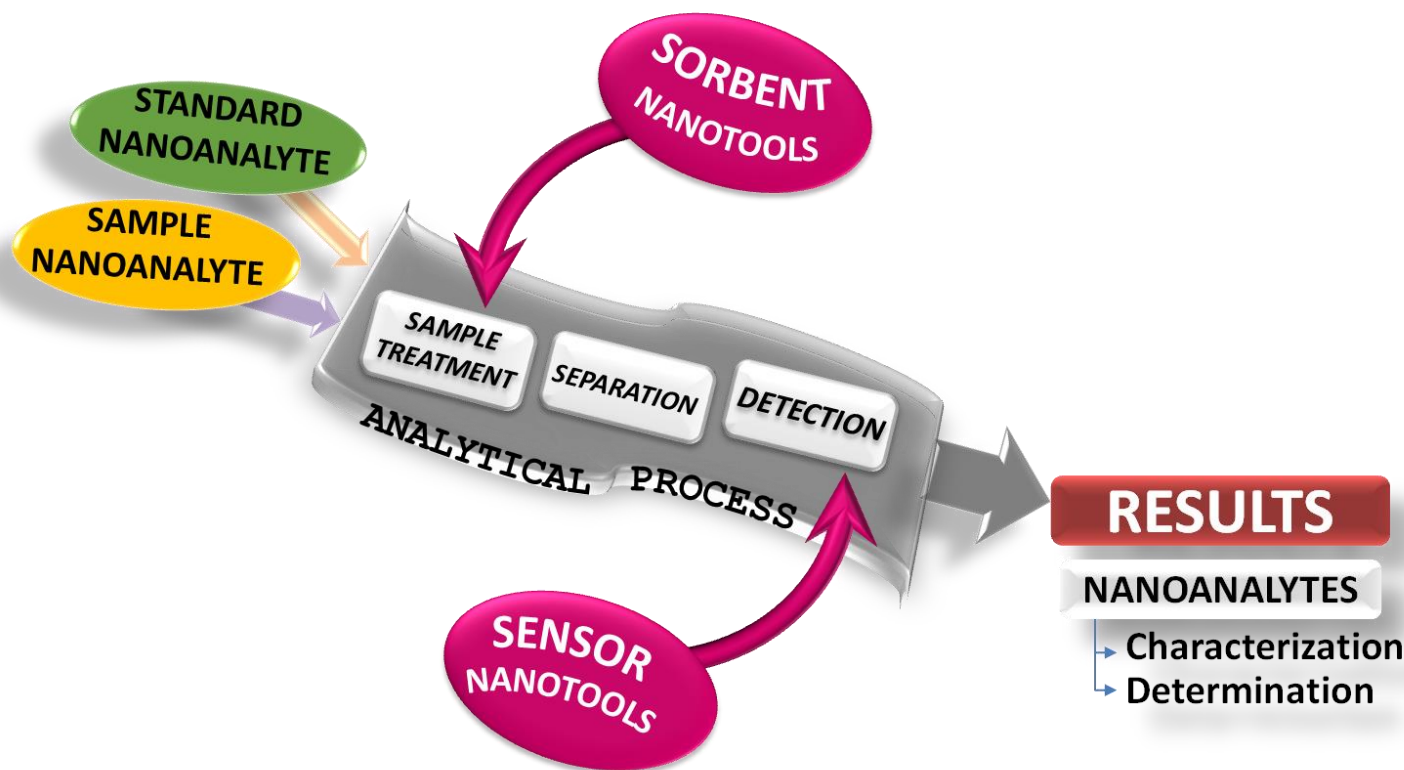
- SENSORS OF NANOPARTICLES

☐ FINAL REMARKS



1. Determination of Nanoparticles

Roles of NPs in the Third Way of the AN&N



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➤ NANOTECHNOLOGY: BENEFITS AND IMPACTS



1. Sensors based on carbonaceous nanodots in aqueous solution

☐ **2. Fluorescent hydrogel sensors based on organic gelators.**



☐ **3. Fluorescent hydrogel sensors based on nanocellulosic fibers as gelators**

➤ SENSORS OF NANOPARTICLES

☐ FINAL REMARKS



1. Determination of Nanoparticles

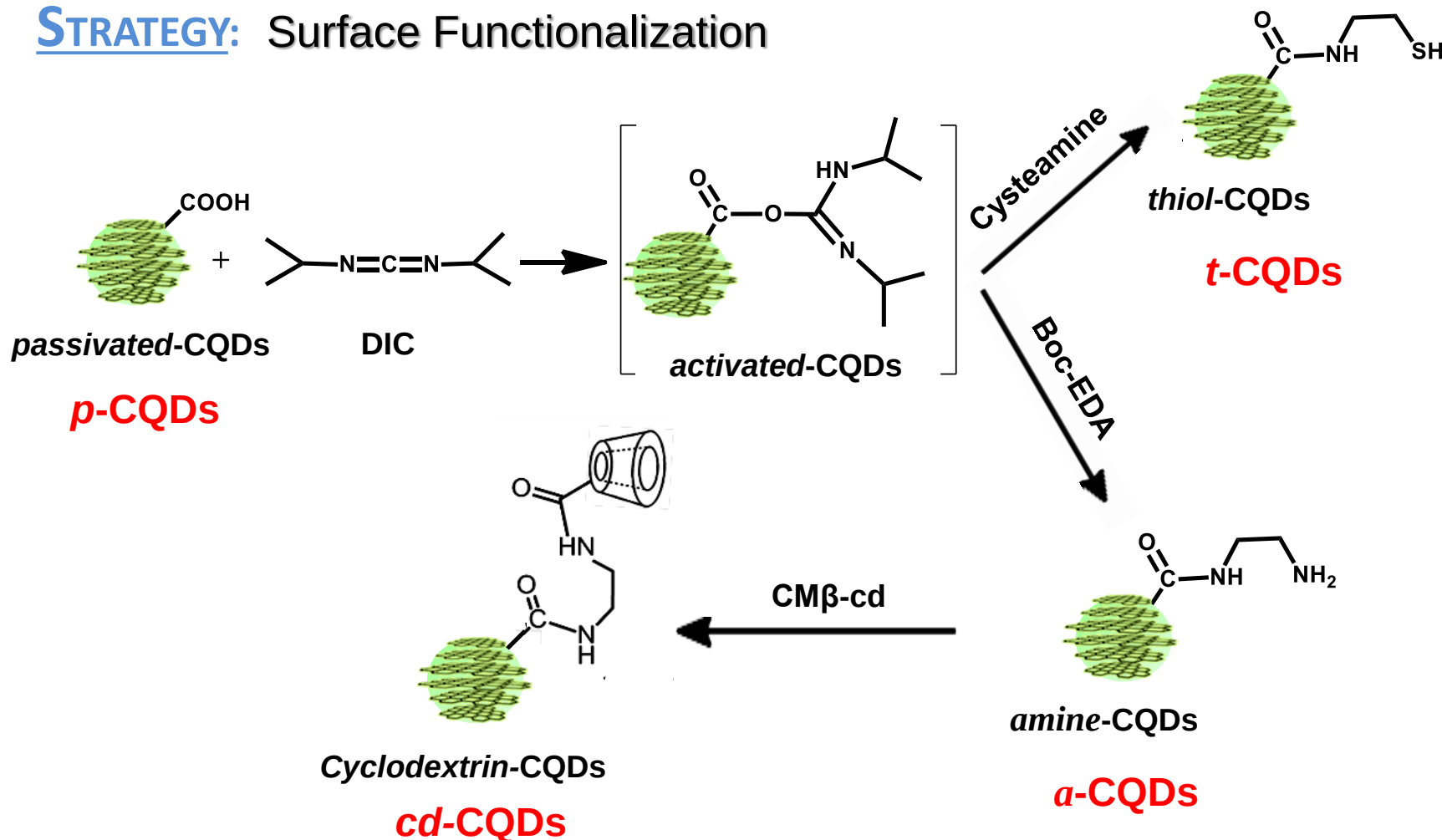
-Nanoparticles (within the Third Way of AN&N)

GQDs	Sensor	GO, TiO2	Environmental	Water
CQDs	Sensor	MWCNTs, C60	Environmental	Water
CQDs	Sensor	AuNPs	Consumer products	Mussels
CQDs	Sensor	AgNPs	Consumer products	Creams
Type	Role	ANALYTE	Type	Matrix
NANOSENSOR			SAMPLES	



1. Determination of Nanoparticles: Design of the nanosensor

STRATEGY: Surface Functionalization

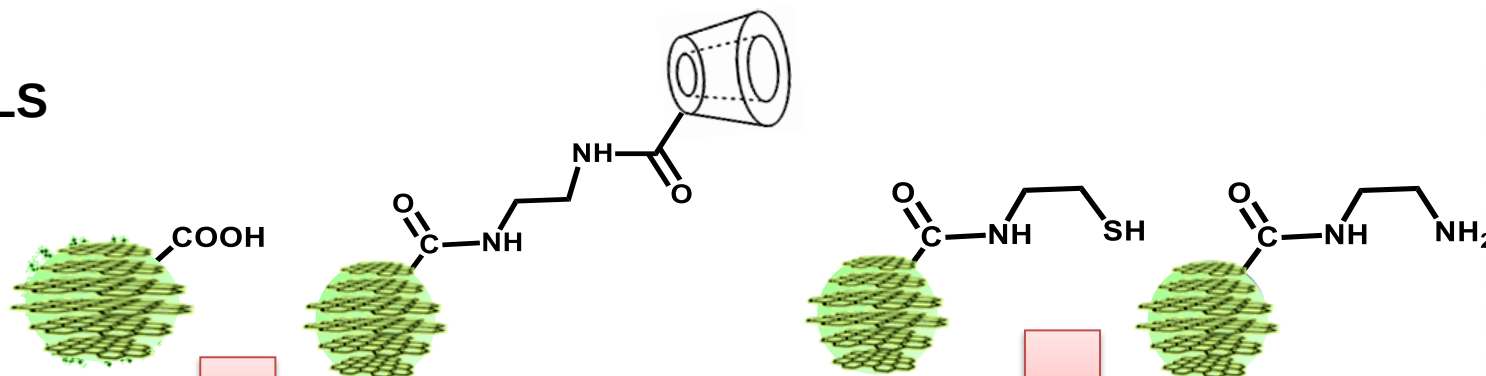




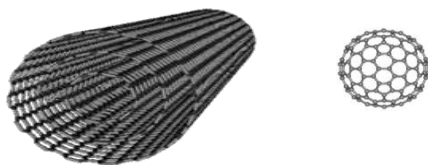
1. Determination of Nanoparticles

SENSORS IN AQUEOUS MEDIA

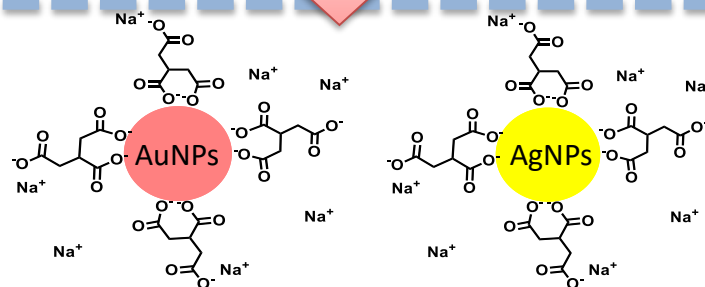
SENSING NANOTOOLS



NANO-ANALYTES



CARBONACEOUS NANOPARTICLES



METALLIC NANOPARTICLES (AuNPs & AgNPs)

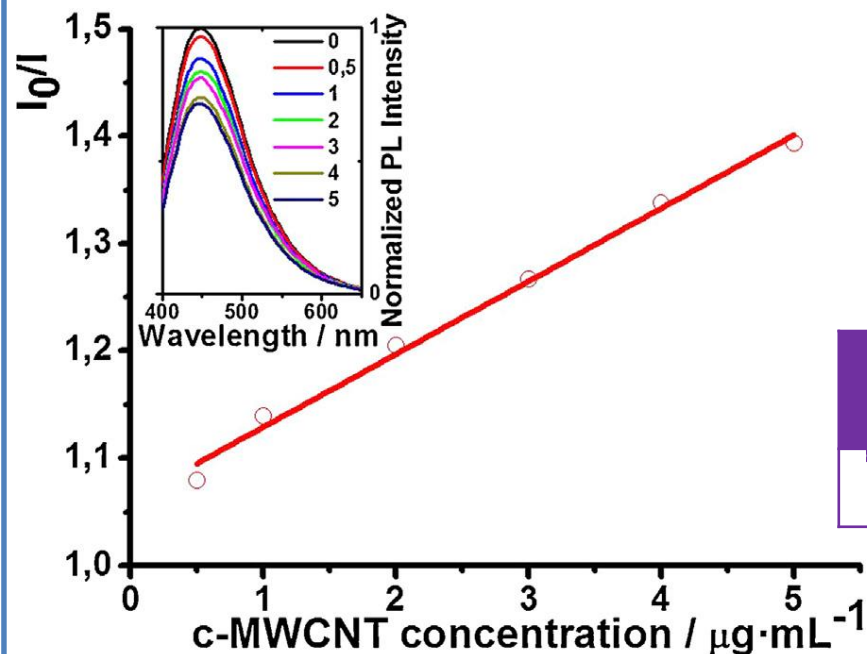
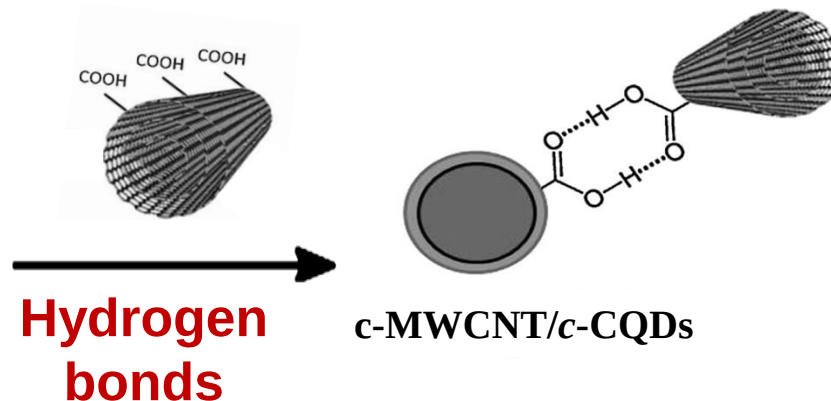


1. Determination of NPs

SENSORS IN AQUEOUS MEDIA

Carbonaceous NPs

Detection of MWCNTs



River water

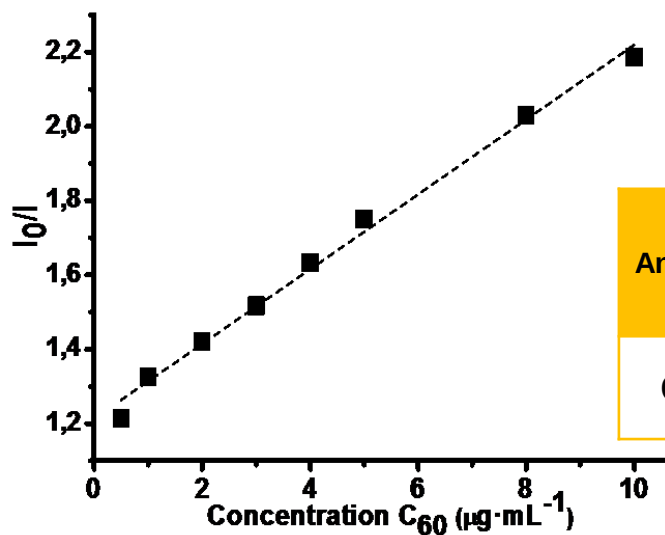
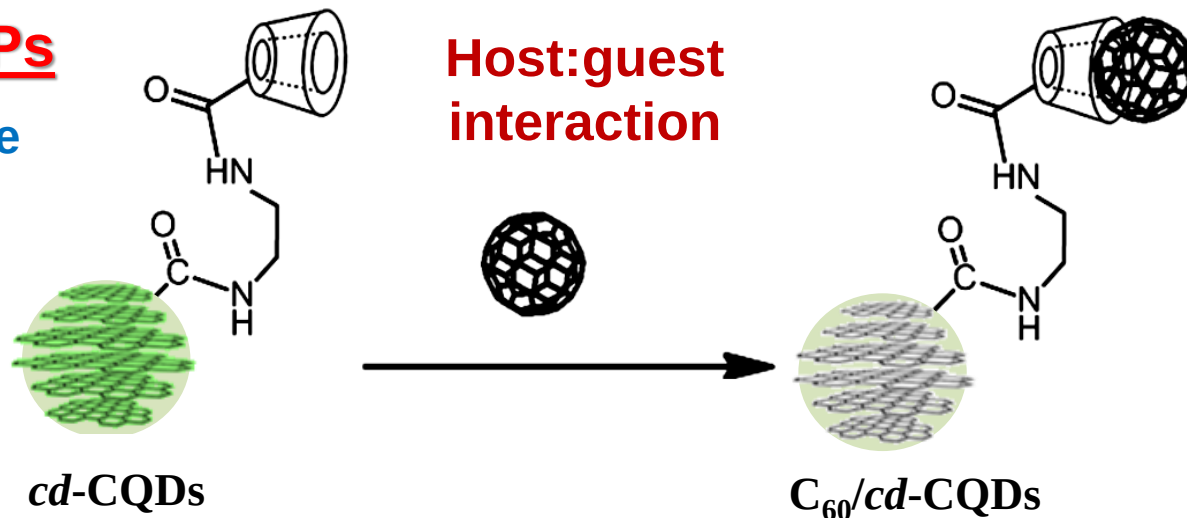
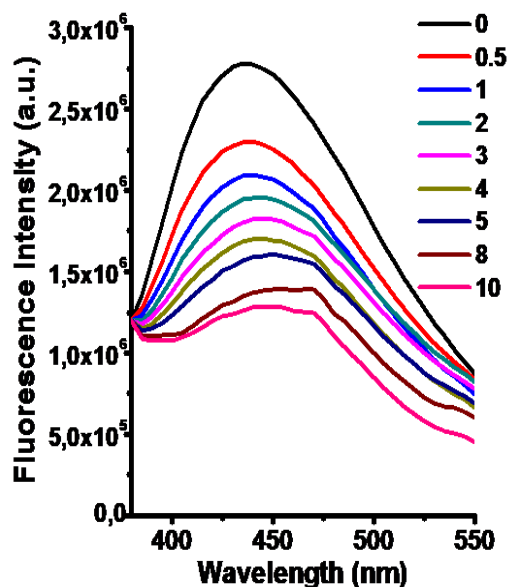
Analyte	LOD ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$)	LOQ ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$)	RSD (%)
c-MWCNTs	0.37	1.25	0.83

1. Determination of NPs

SENSORS IN AQUEOUS MEDIA

Carbonaceous NPs

Detection of fullerene



River water

Analyte	LOD ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$)	LOQ ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$)	RSD (%)
C_{60}	0.525	1.751	6.6

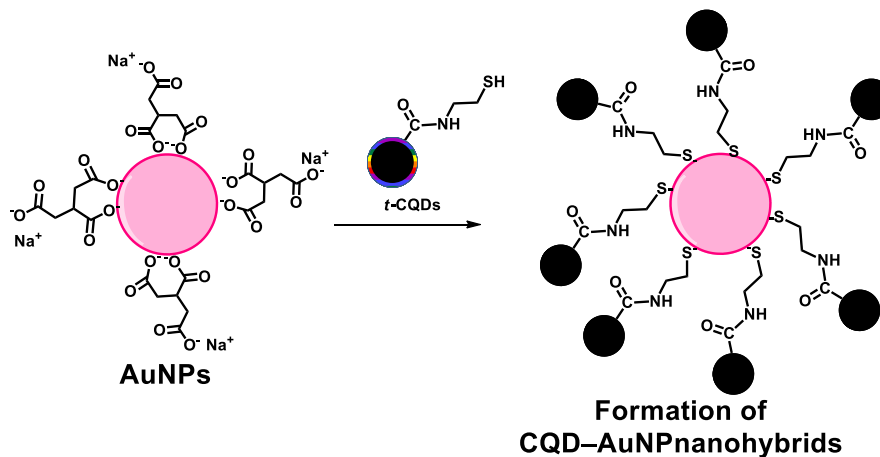
1. Determination of NPs

SENSORS IN AQUEOUS MEDIA

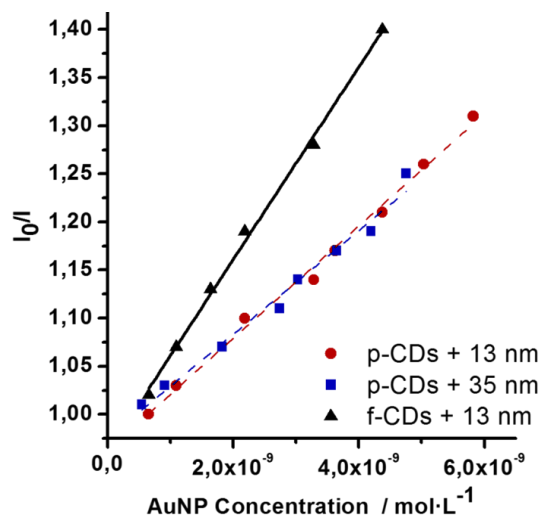
Metallic NPs

Detection of AuNPs

Citrate-capped AuNPs of 13-35 nm.



STATIC QUENCHING MECHANISM elucidated from high-temperature fluorescence measurements and lifetime tests



River water and mussels

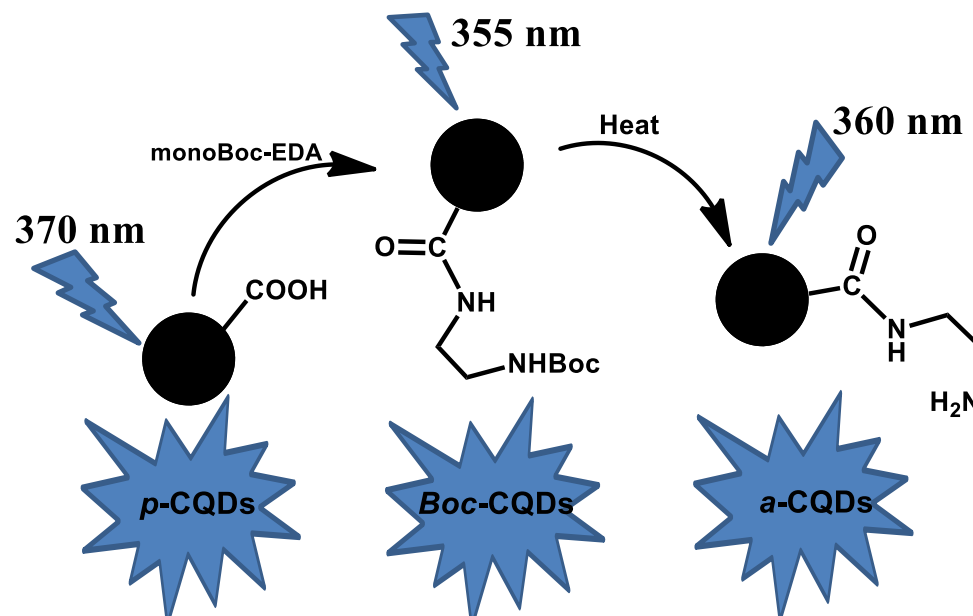
Analyte	LOD (nmol·L ⁻¹)	LOQ (nmol·L ⁻¹)	RSD (%)
AuNPs	0.46	1.52	3.0

1. Determination of NPs

SENSORS IN AQUEOUS MEDIA

Metallic NPs

Detection of AgNPs



EXCELLENT FLUORESCENT SENSOR, BUT...

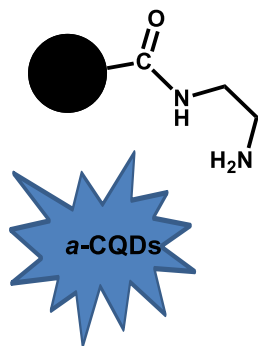
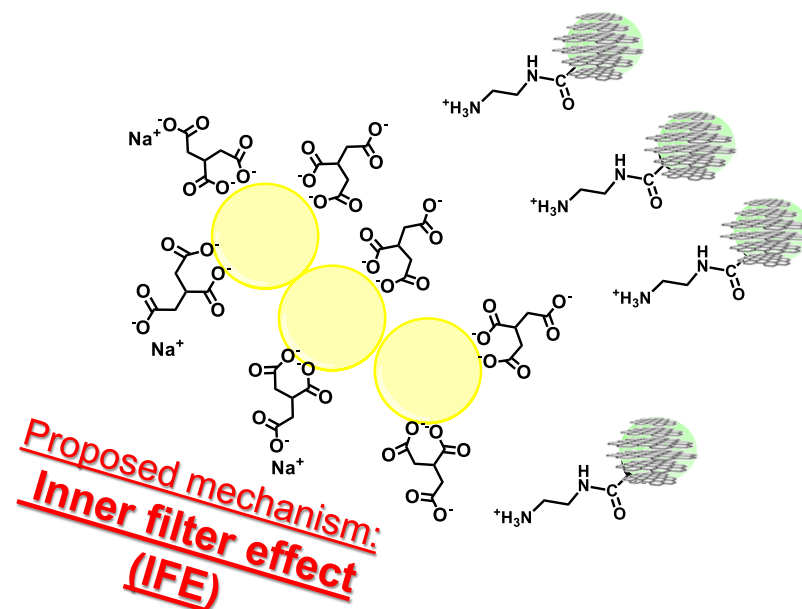
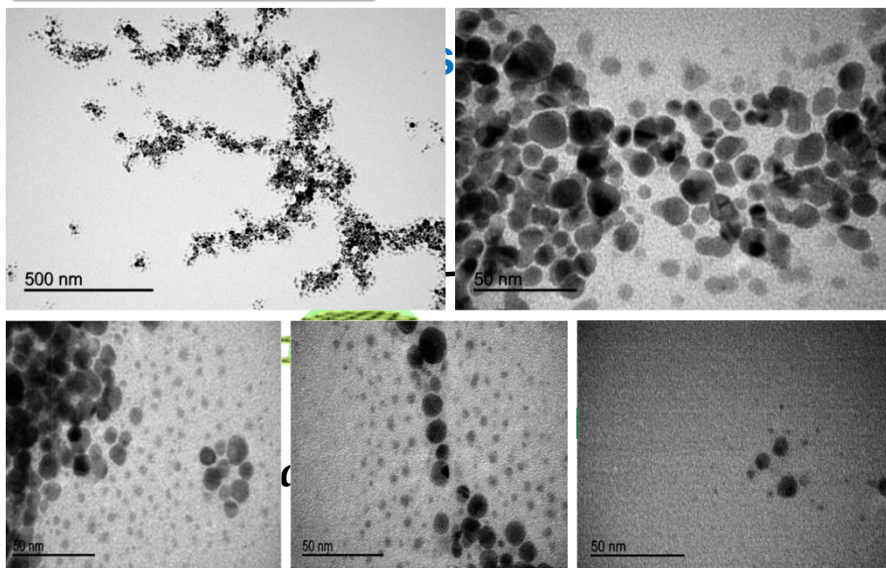
SELECTIVITY FOR SILVER NANOPARTICLES ?



1. Determination of NPs

SENSORS IN AQUEOUS MEDIA

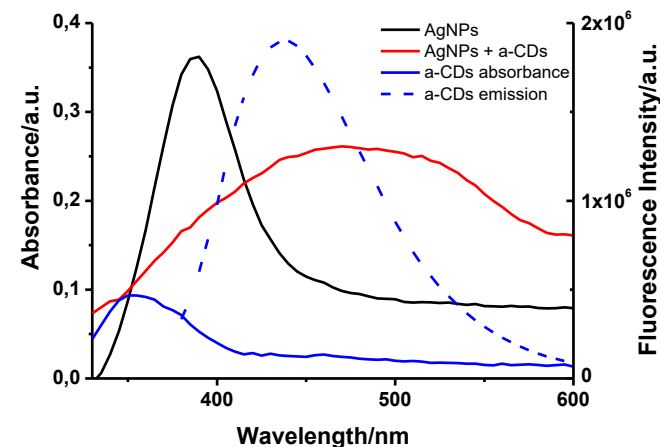
Metallic NPs



Are a-CQDs selective towards AgNPs??

a-CQDs exhibit selectivity towards citrate-coated AgNPs. No effect was observed in case of PVP-coated AgNPs.

Due to this PVP protecting layer, stable AgNPs-containing aqueous dispersion remained unchanged and thus aggregation does not occur.





1. Determination of NPs

SENSORS IN AQUEOUS MEDIA

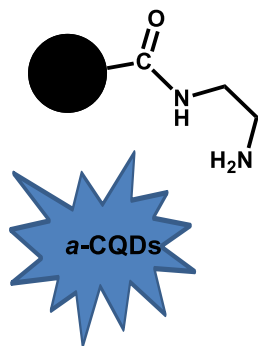
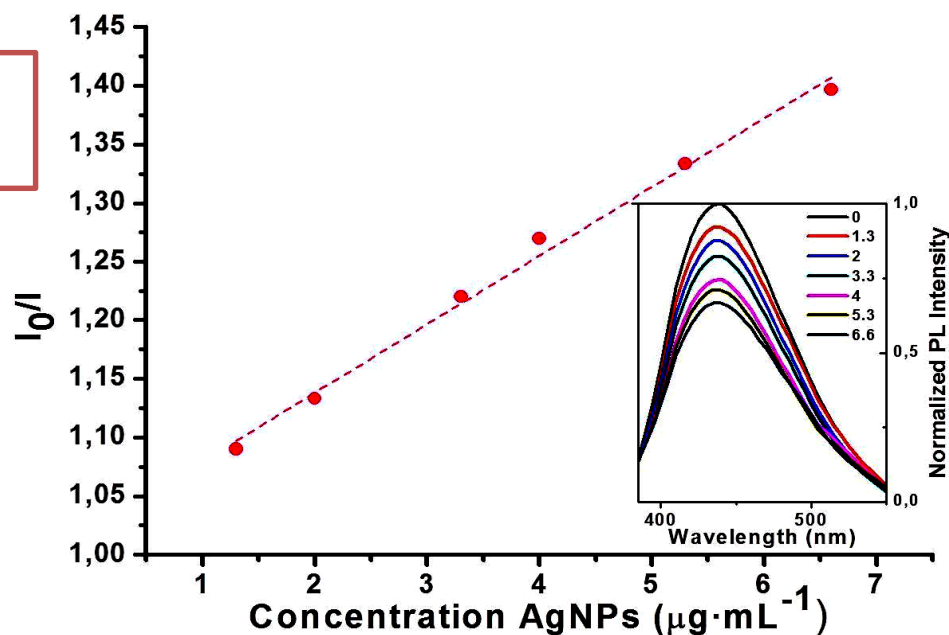
Metallic NPs

Detection of AgNPs

Citrate-capped AgNPs.

LOD and LOQ of 0.50 and 1.68 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$, respectively.

Cosmetic
creams



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 ☐ 2. Fluorescent hydrogel sensors based on organic gelators.

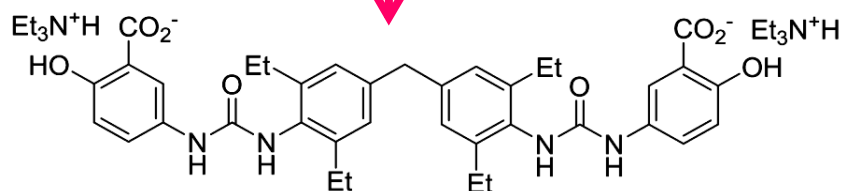
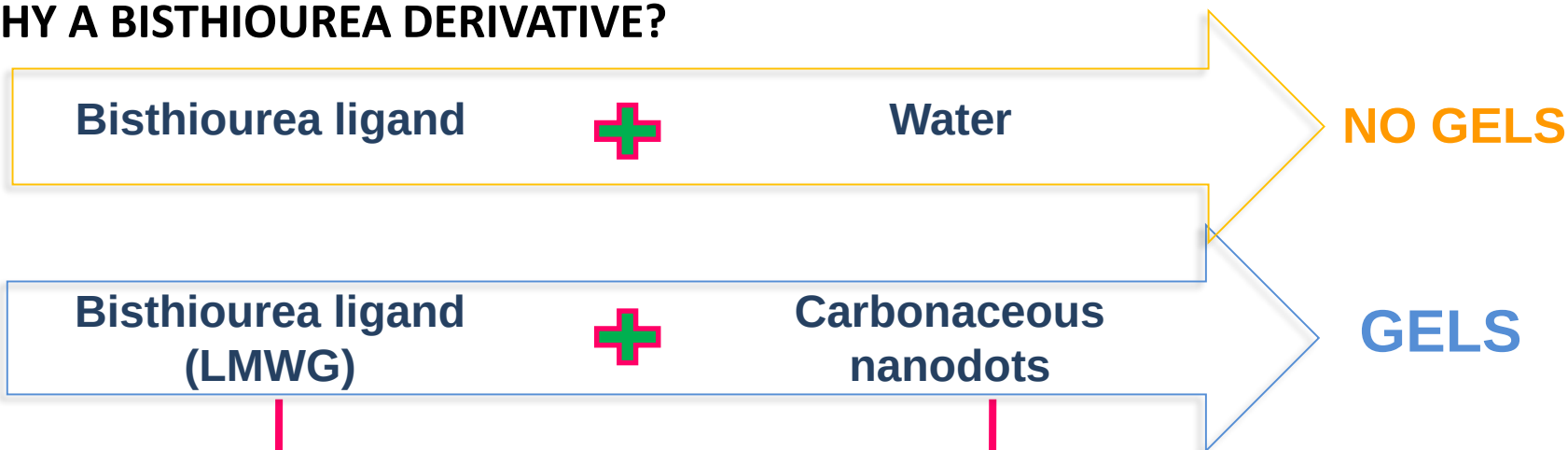
☐ 3. Fluorescent hydrogel sensors based on nanocellulosic fibers as gelators

➤ SENSORS OF NANOPARTICLES

☐ FINAL REMARKS

HYDROGEL SENSORS

WHY A BISTHIOUREA DERIVATIVE?



Hydrophilic Carbon (Quantum) Dots

Bottom-up

Cellulose-CQDs

c-CQDs

Top-down

p-CQDs

t-CQDs

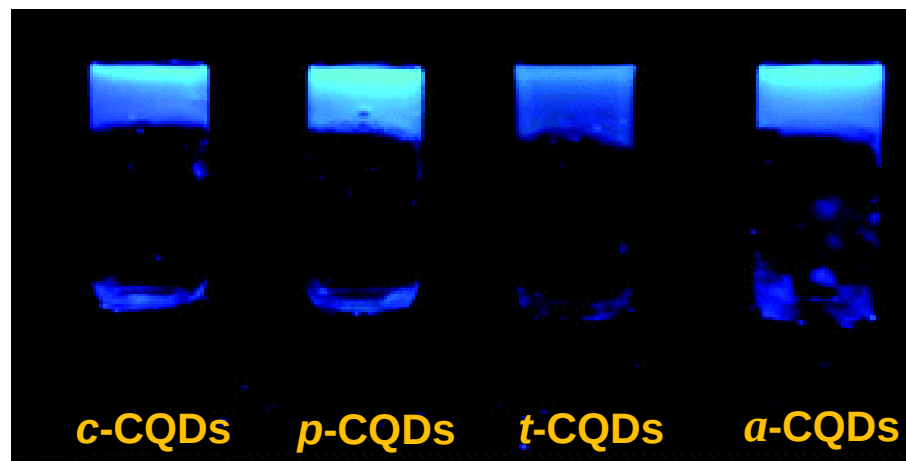
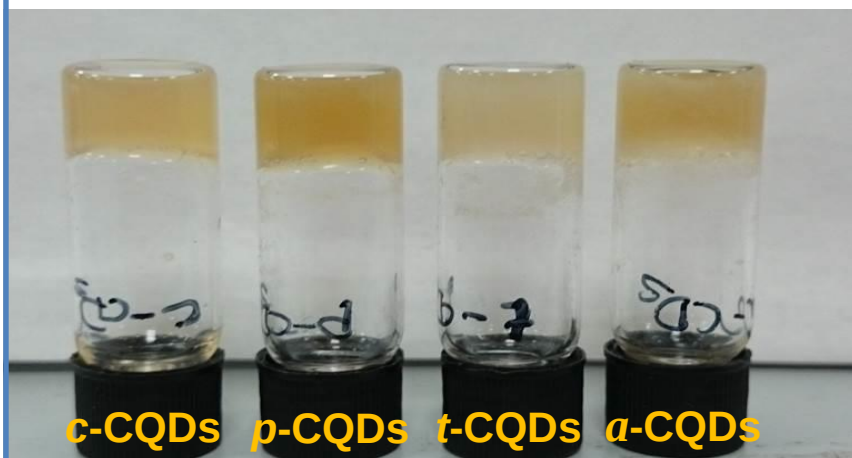
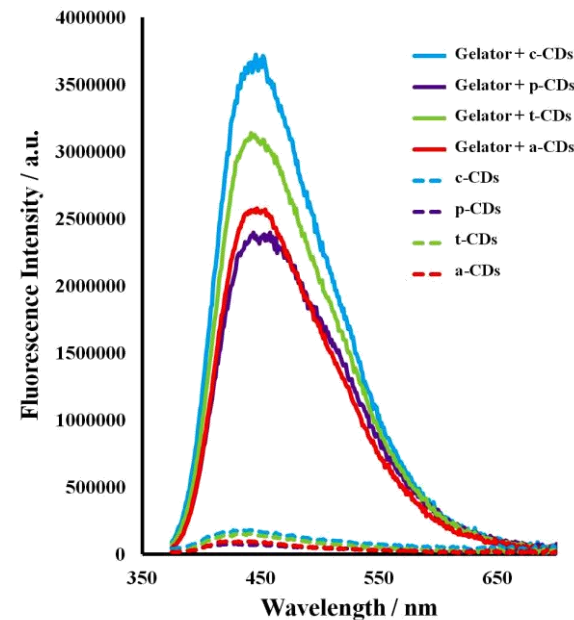
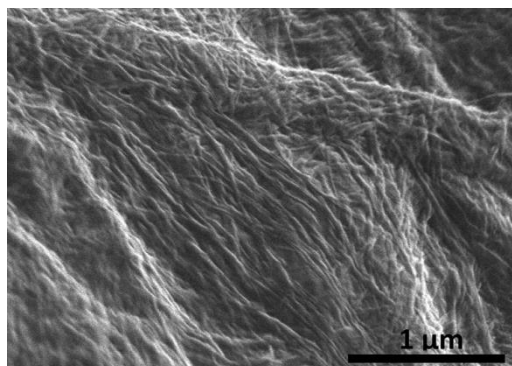
***a*-CQDs**



2. Gel formation

HYDROGEL SENSORS

LMWG + CQDs + Ionic liquid (BMIM-BF₄)
1%wt 500μL 2%v/v

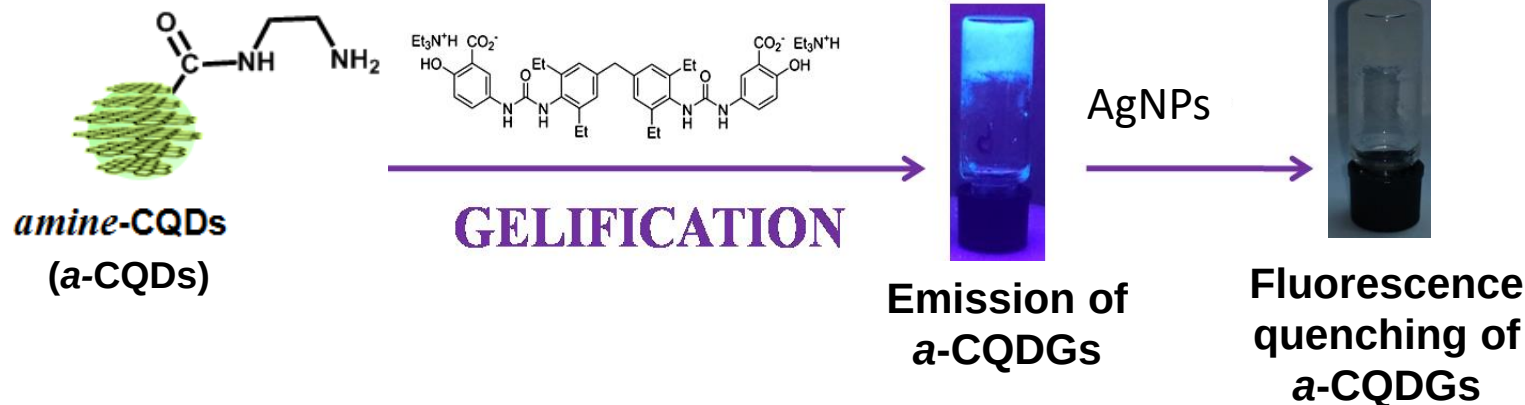




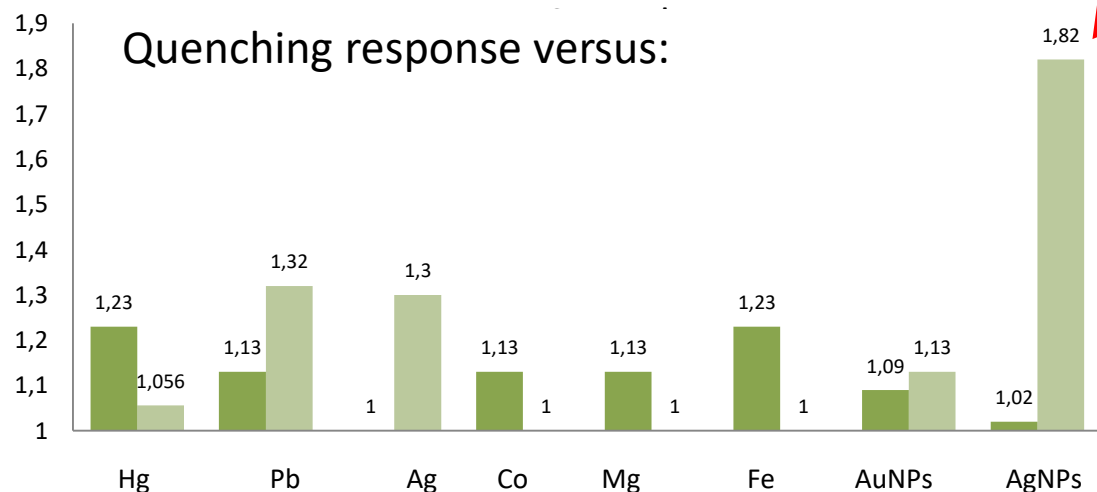
2. Gel formation

HYDROGEL SENSORS

α -CQDGs for AgNPs determination



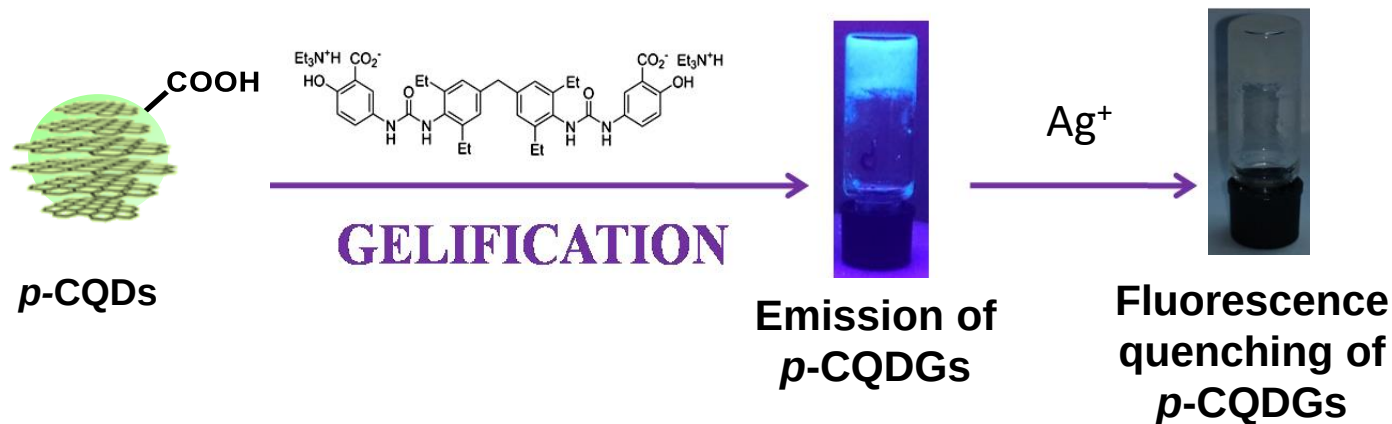
α -CQD solution
 α -CQD Gels



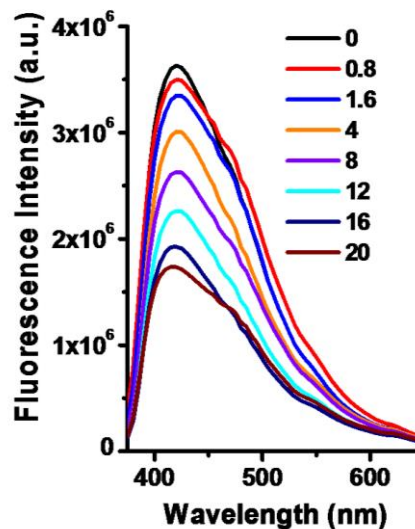
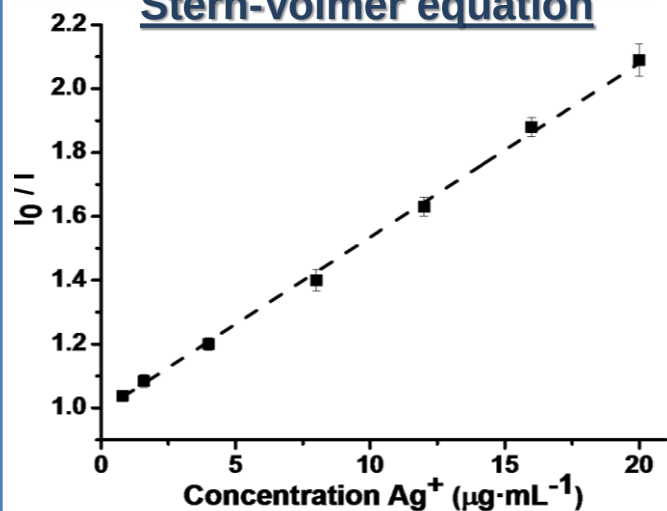
2. Gel formation

HYDROGEL SENSORS

p-CQDGs for Ag^+ determination (quantification of Ag^+ ion release of AgNPs)



Stern-Volmer equation



River water

Analyte	LOD ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$)	LOQ ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$)	RSD (%)
Ag^+	0.55	1.83	4.91

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➤ SENSORS OF NANOPARTICLES

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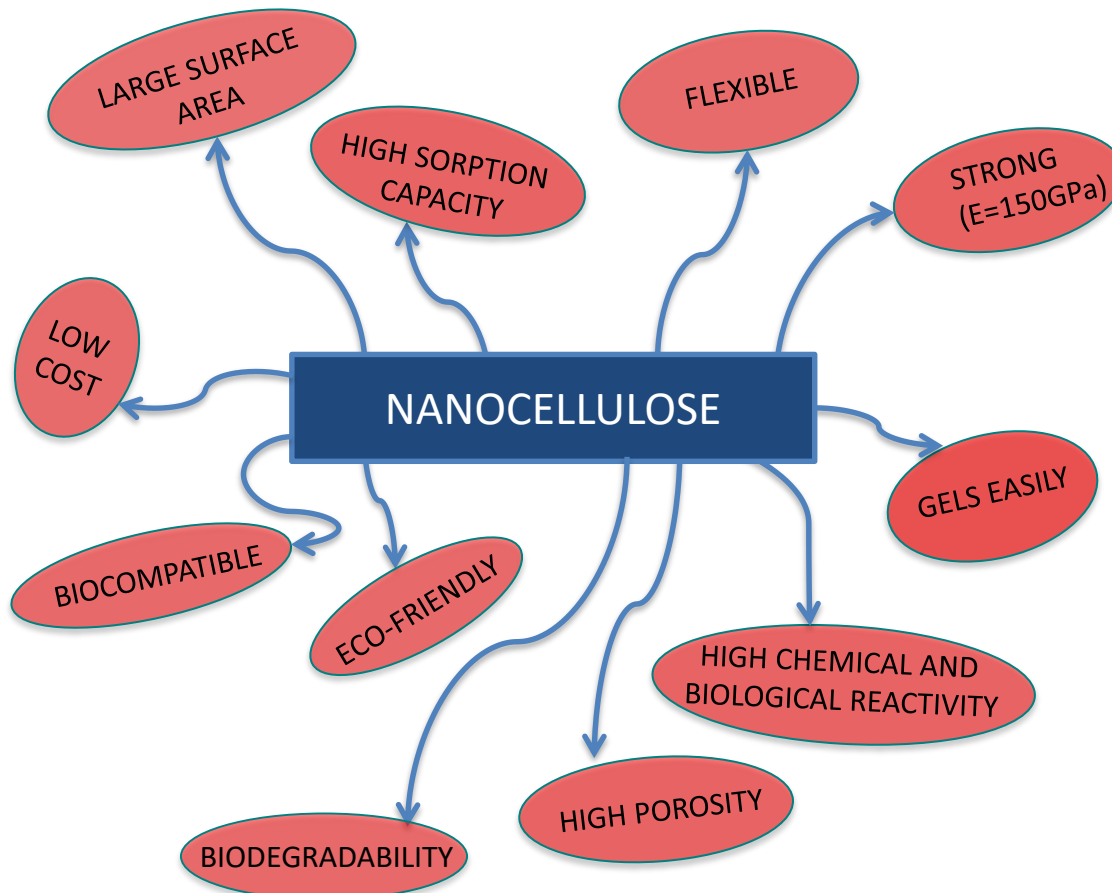


2. Gel formation

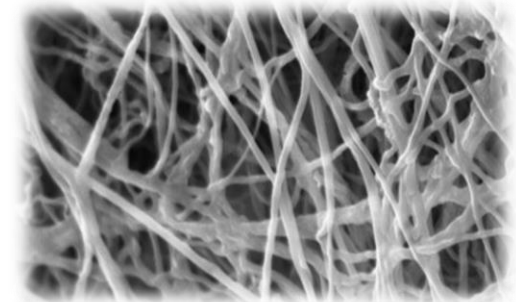
HYDROGEL SENSORS

STRATEGY: USE **NANOCELLULOSE** AS THE GELATOR

Why NC?



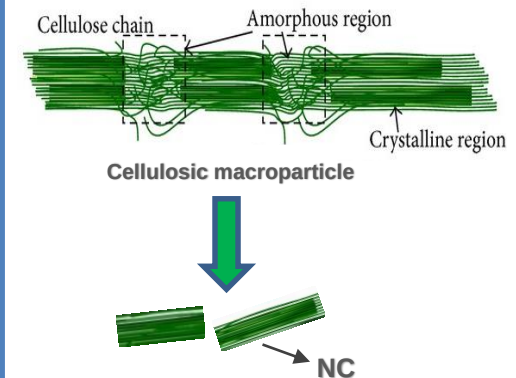
Cellulose
Nanofibrils



Length: 100-3000 nm

Diameter: 10-100 nm

SYNTHESIS: TOP-DOWN



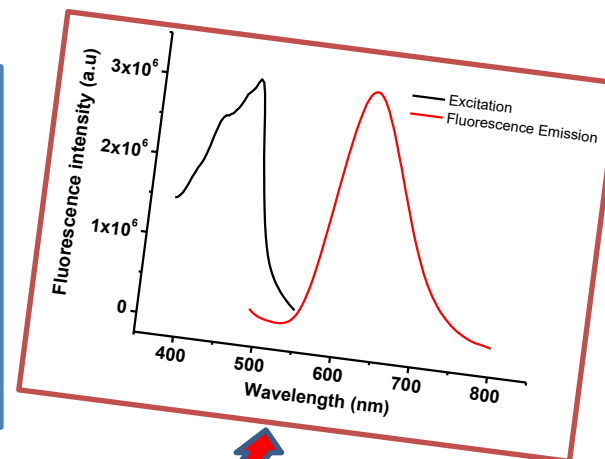
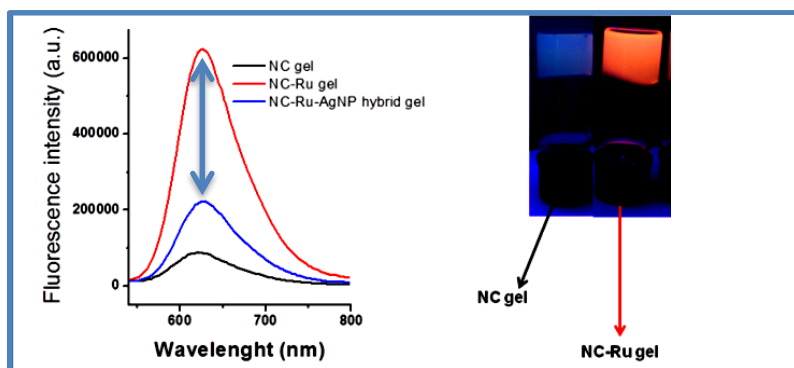
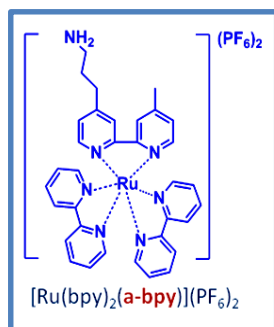


2. Gel formation

HYDROGEL SENSORS

NC hydrogels based on Ruthenium(II)-bpy complex for AgNPs determination

Fluorophore & photosensitizer



- PREPARATION OF A SENSOR BASED ON NC AS GELATOR & Ru(II) COMPLEX AS PHOTSENSITIZER
 - ENHANCEMENT OF THE PHOTOLUMINESCENT PROPERTIES LIQUID-GEL TRANSITION
- METHOD VALIDATED BY THE GOOD RECOVERIES IN DEODORANT AND SOCKS WITH NANOSILVER

2. Gel formation

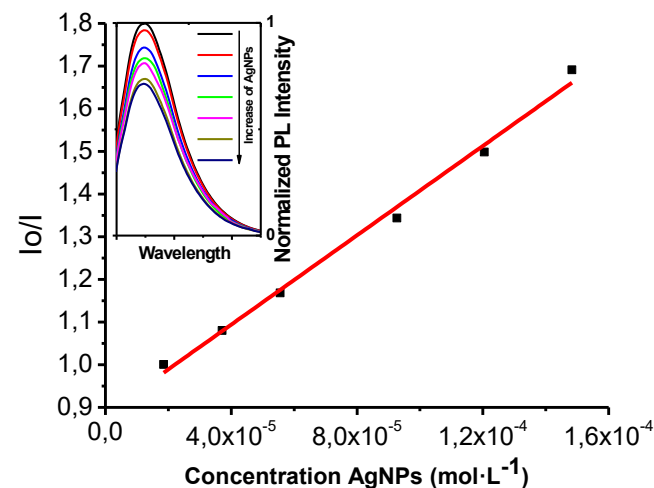
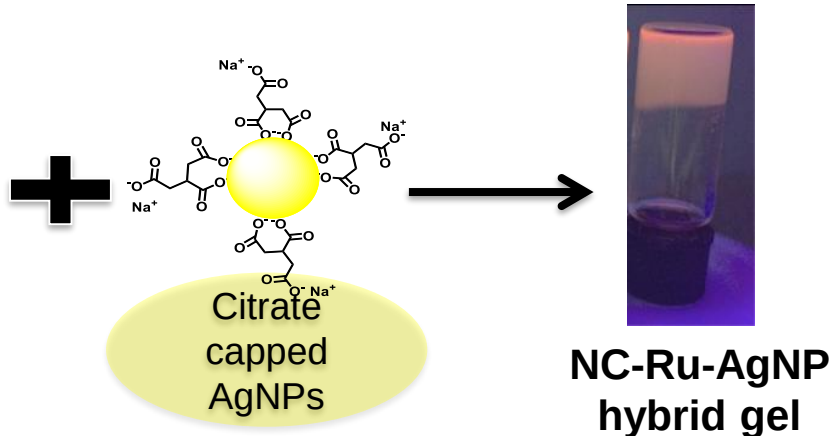
HYDROGEL SENSORS

NC hydrogels based on Ruthenium(II)-bpy complex for AgNPs determination

Analysis of the photoluminescence quenching of hydrogels by the Stern-Volmer eq.
(taking into account the dilution effects)



NC-Ru gel



Figures of merit

Linear range (mol L^{-1})	R^2	LOD (mol L^{-1})	LOQ (mol L^{-1})	Recovery (%)	Reproducibility (RSD %)
$1.85 \cdot 10^{-5} - 1.48 \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.995	$1.11 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$3.66 \cdot 10^{-5}$	83.7-94.2	2.46

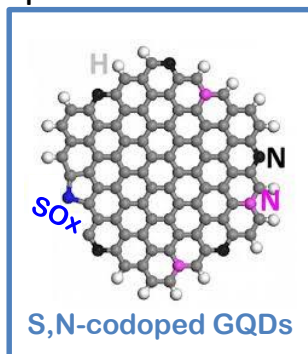


2. Gel formation

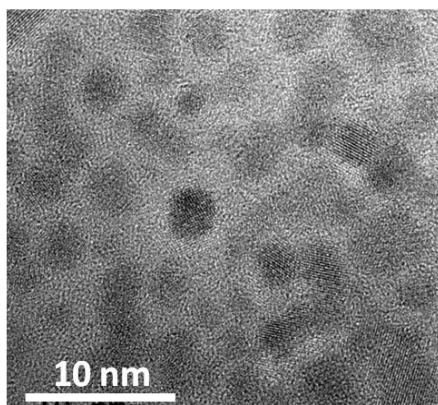
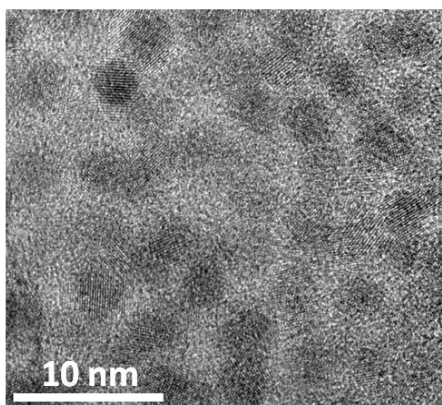
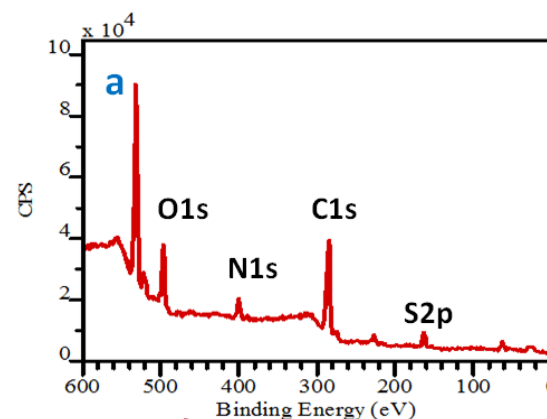
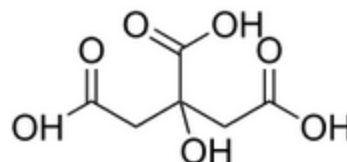
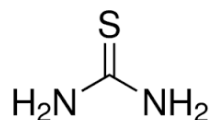
HYDROGEL SENSORS

NC hydrogels based on GRAPHENE QUANTUM DOTS for analytical applications

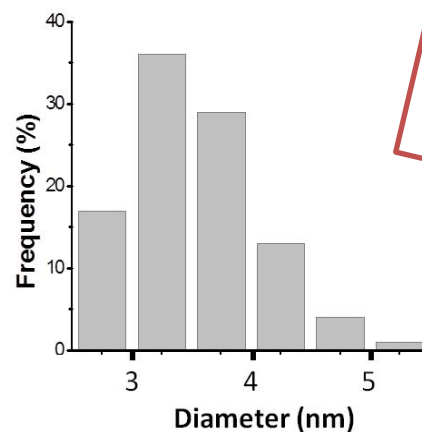
Fluorophore & photosensitizer



Synthesis: Bottom-up strategy using as precursors



3.52 ± 0.5 nm



The **blue fluorescence** attributed to the ordered sp^2 clusters within the sp^3 C-O matrix.

Fluorescence emission: 439 nm when excited at 376 nm.

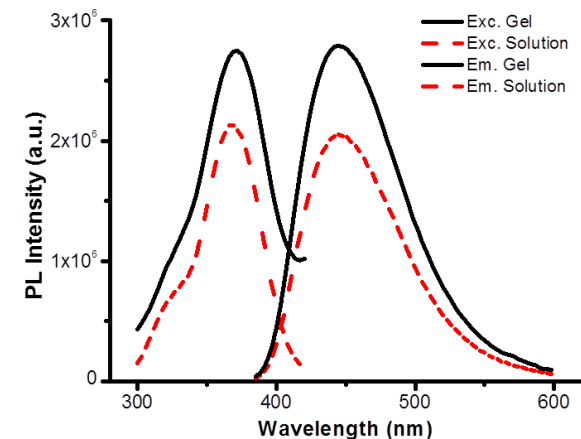
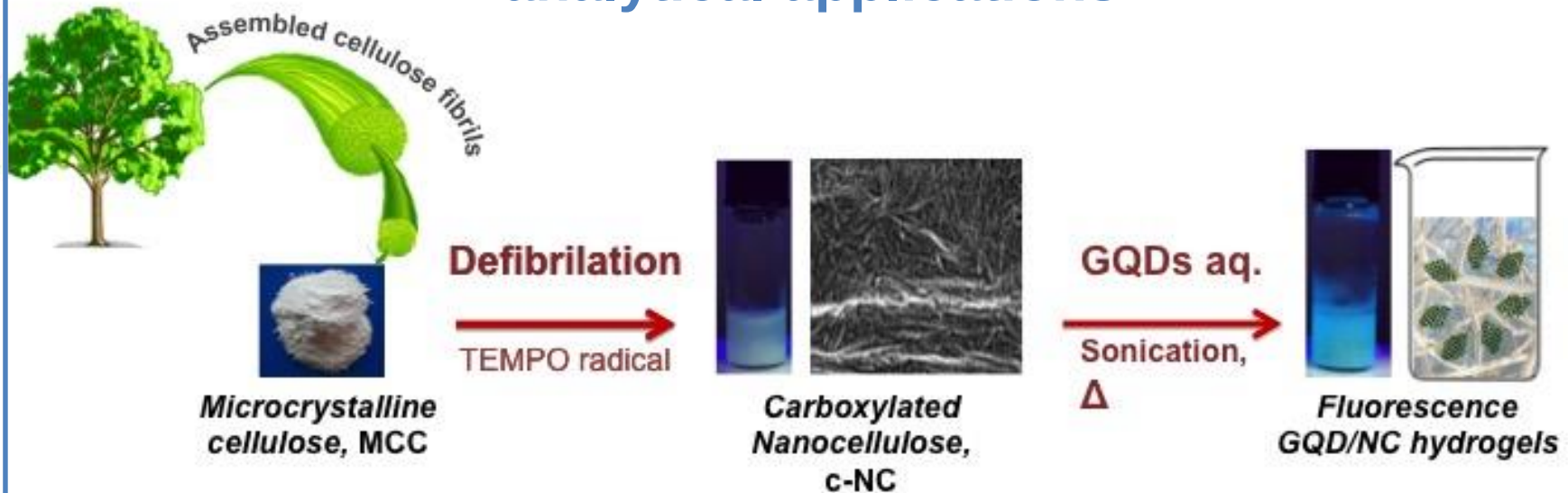
PL quantum yield was of 30%



2. Gel formation

HYDROGEL SENSORS

NC hydrogels based on GRAPHENE QUANTUM DOTS for analytical applications

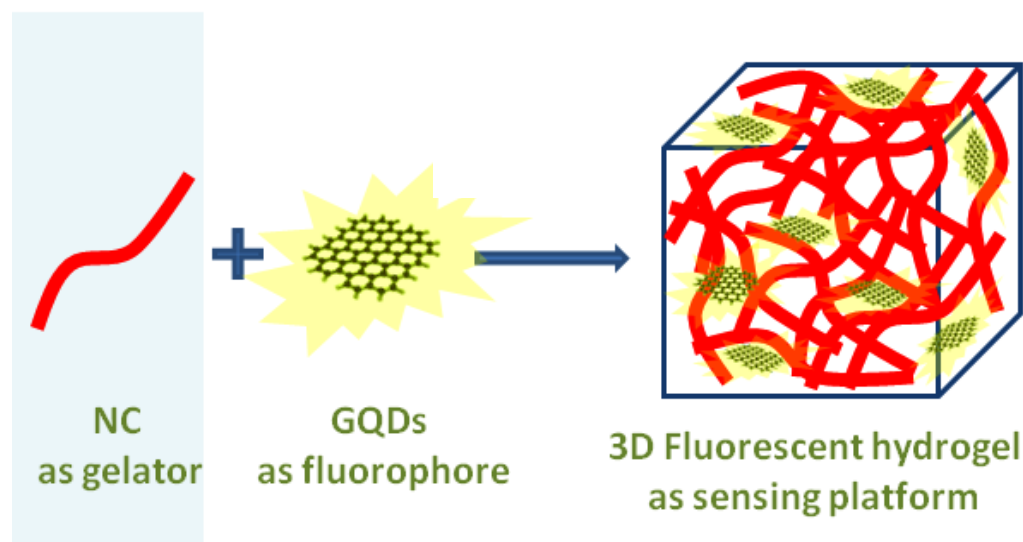




2. Gel formation

HYDROGEL SENSORS

NC hydrogels based on GRAPHENE QUANTUM DOTS for analytical applications



Is this sensing platform suitable for detection of pesticides ?

Evaluation of fungicide (chlorophenols), herbicides (linuron, atrazine) and antimicrobial nanoparticles (AuNPs); only response to chlorophenols was found.

INDEX

☐ INTRODUCTION

- NANOTECHNOLOGY: BENEFITS AND IMPACTS
- ANALYTICAL NANOSCIENCE & NANOTECHNOLOGY

☐ FLUORESCENT QUANTUM NANODOTS

- TYPES AND APPLICATIONS
- TOXICITY

☐ ANALYTICAL METHODS FOR NANOPARTICLE MONITORING

- SENSORS OF NANOPARTICLES



☐ **FINAL REMARKS**



1. Conclusions

1

Comparison of toxicity of a variety of quantum nanodots in cells

2

Design of carbonaceous quantum dots: functionalization strategies.

3

Preparation of a variety of well-defined self-assembling hydrogels, varying the gelator and the fluorophore.

4

Analytical applications: sensors in aqueous solution and gel media.

5

Analytical methods for NP determination in environmental samples and cosmetics.



1. Future trends

- New applications for the fluorescent hydrogels.

Stabilization of fragile systems into such hydrogels

Novel tools in bioimaging and drug delivery

Hydrogels as sensors of drugs & biomarkers

Self-healing and sensing in one concept



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