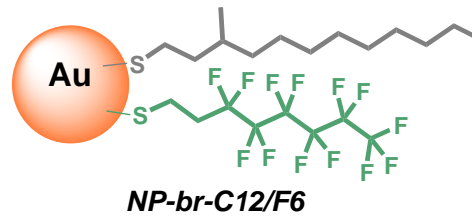
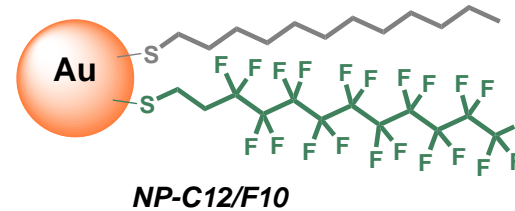
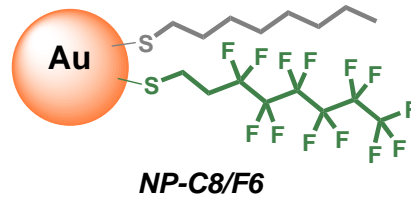


gold nanoparticles protected by H-/F- mixed-monolayers

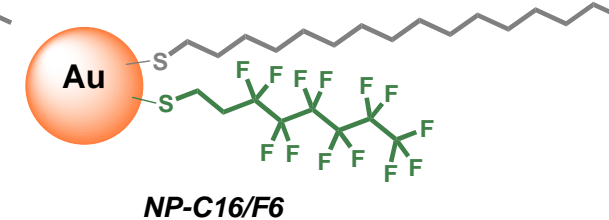
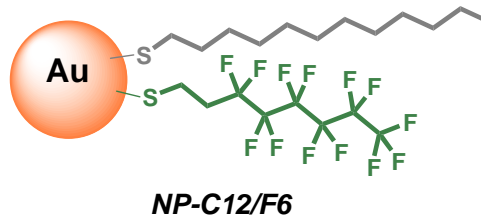
✓ branched ligand



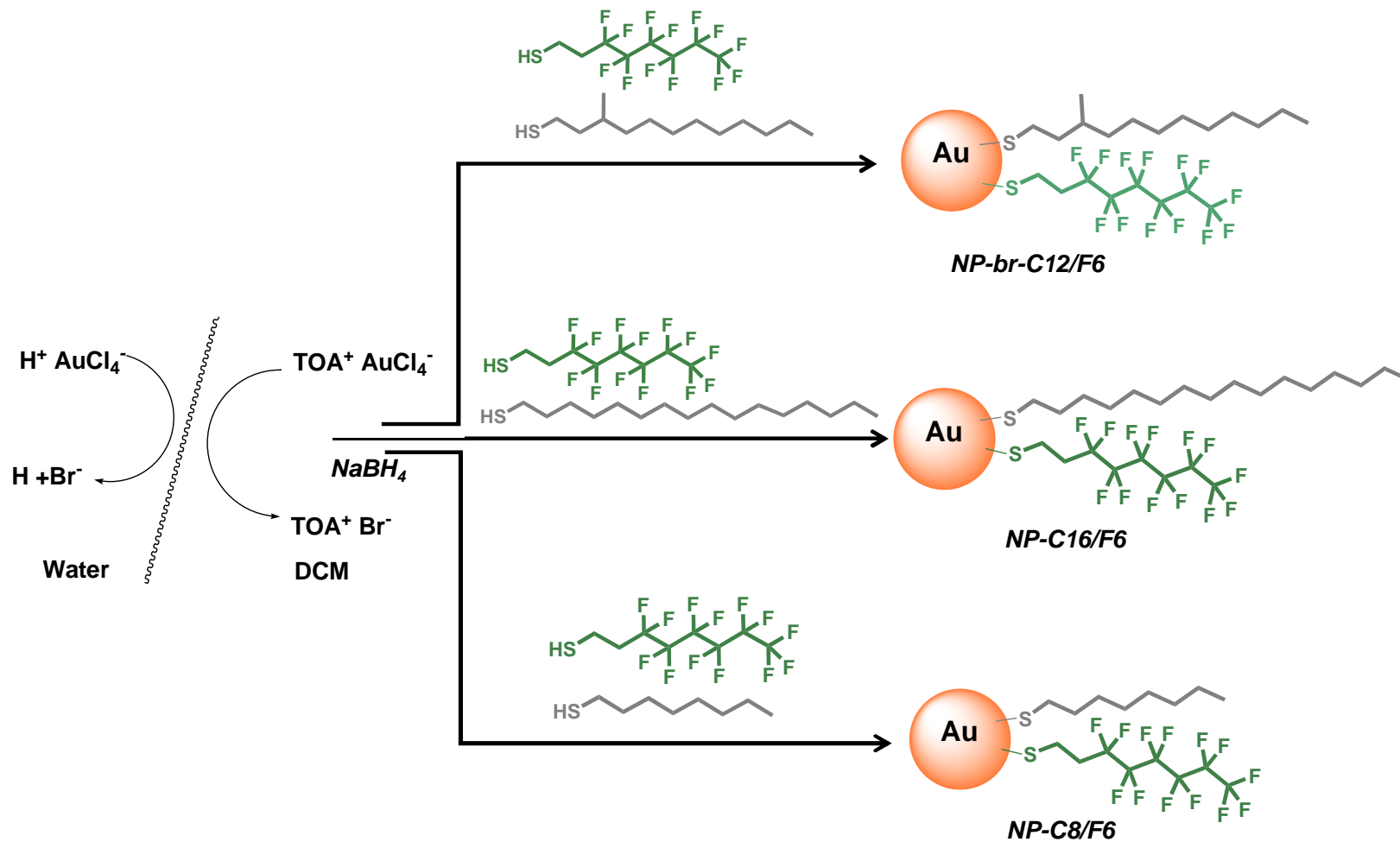
✓ ligands of equal length



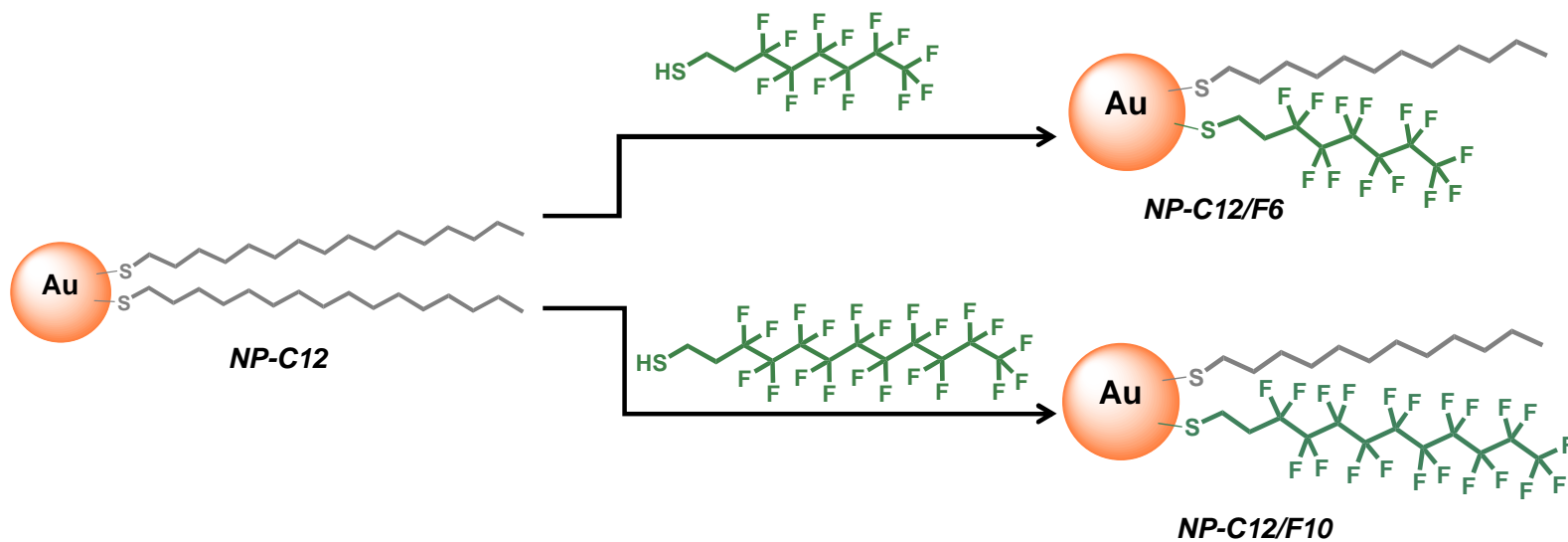
✓ ligands of different length



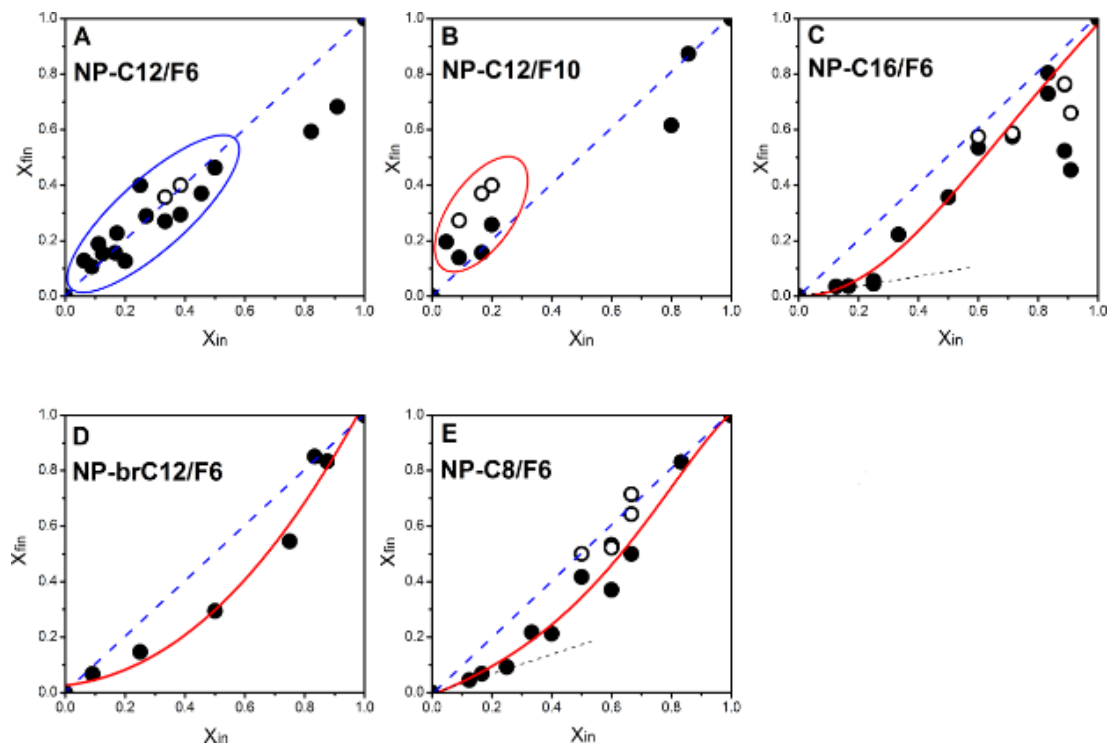
Preparation of MMNPs by direct synthesis



Synthesis of MMNPs by ligand exchange



effect of ligands ratio on monolayer composition

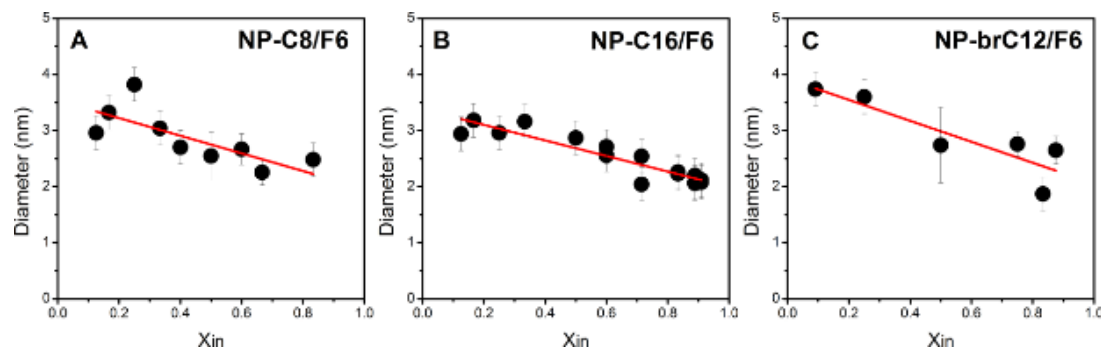


Panel A and B: experimental data of the monolayer compositions for nanoparticles **NP-C12/F6** and **NP-C12/F10**, respectively, as a function of composition of the initial mixture in the place exchange reaction.
Panel C, D, and E: experimental data of the monolayer compositions for nanoparticles **NP-C16/F6**, **NP-brC12/F6**, and **NP-C8/F6**, respectively, as a function of the composition of the initial reaction mixture.
Open circles represent NPs soluble upon addition of fluorinated solvents.

Sologan, M.; Cantarutti, C.; Bidoggia, S.; Polizzi, P.; Pengo, P.; Pasquato, L. *Faraday Discussions* **2016**.

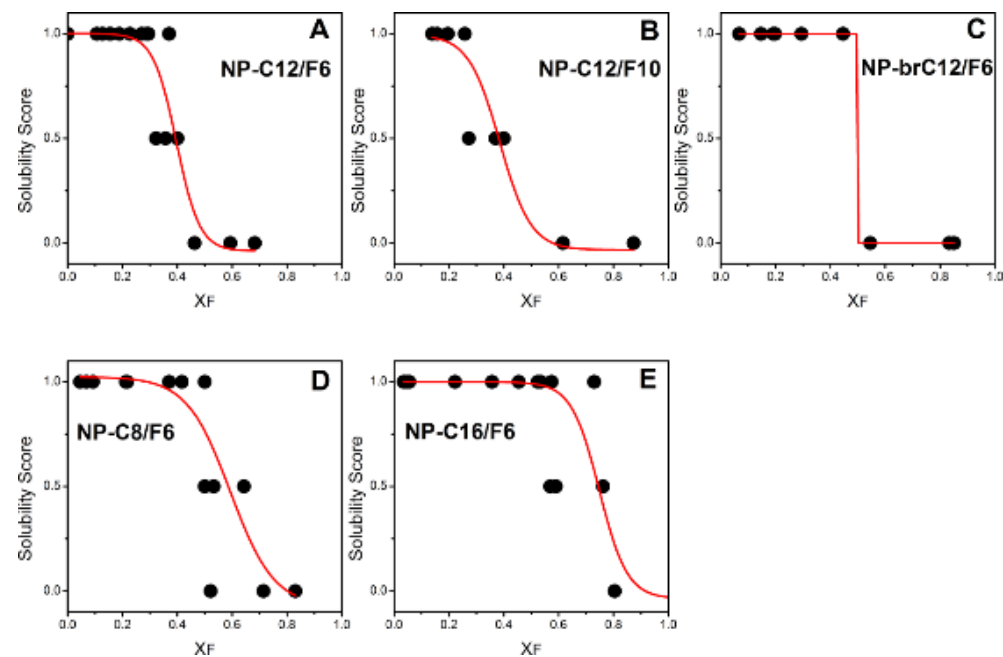
effect of F-ligand amount on NP core size

NPs obtained by direct synthesis



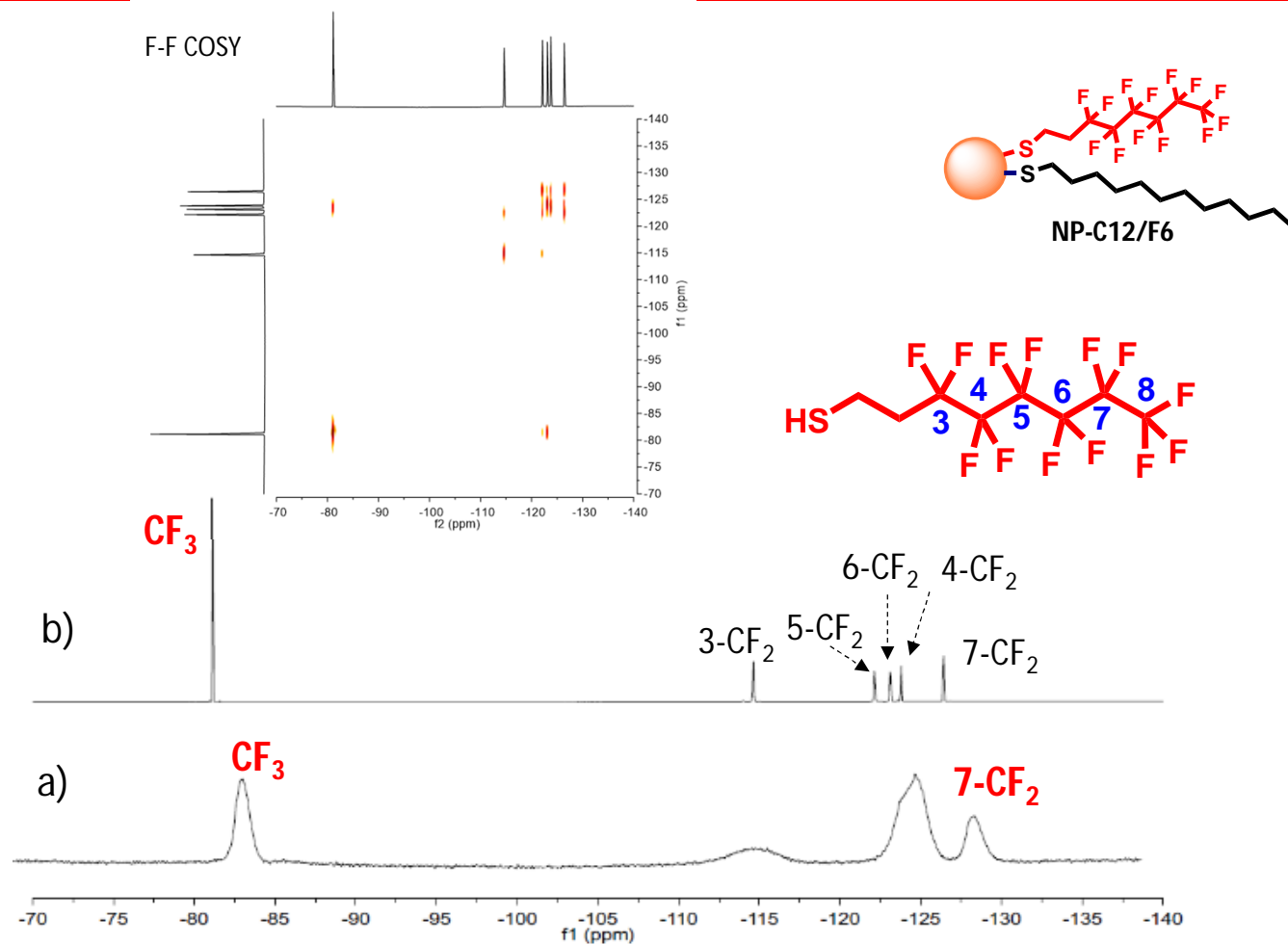
Dependence of the nanoparticles core diameter on the initial molar fraction of the fluorinated ligand. Error bars represent the standard deviation of the average diameter measured from TEM analyses. In the case of multiple preparations with the same initial loading of the fluorinated component, the experimental points represent the average of the diameters and error bars represent their standard deviation.

solubility



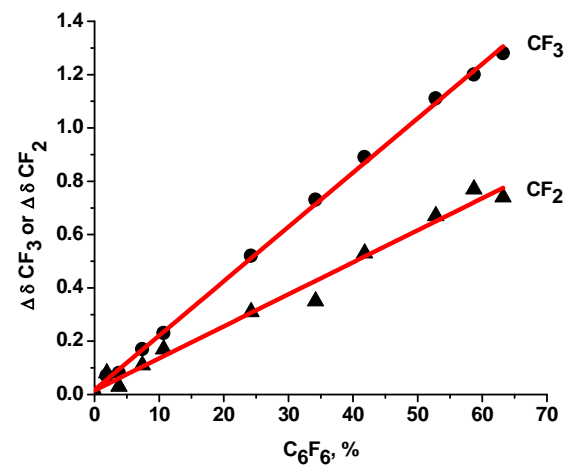
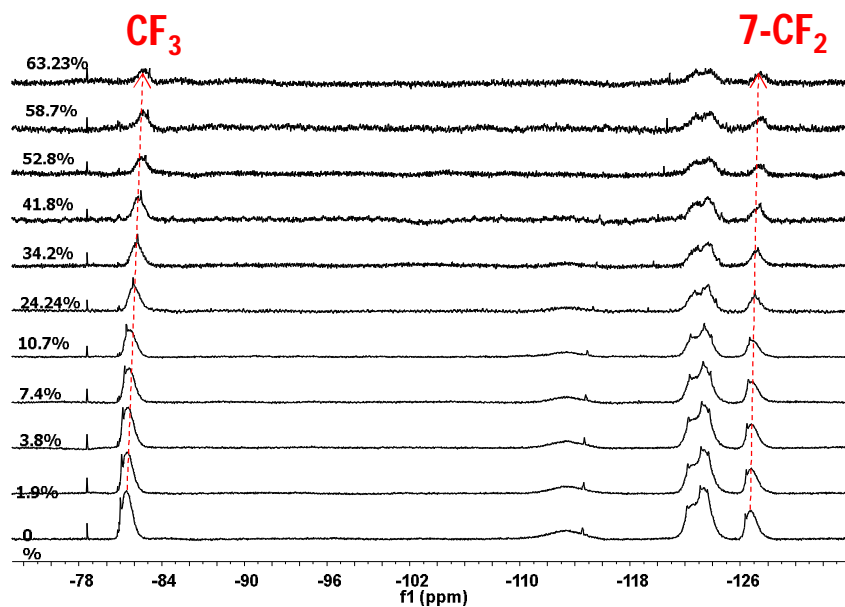
Comparison of the solubility transitions for the MMNPs as a function of the molar fraction of fluorinated component in the monolayer. The solubility is expressed according to the following score: $s_{\text{core}} = 1$ is assigned to the nanoparticles soluble in chloroform. Score = 0.5 is assigned to the nanoparticles soluble in hexane, score = 0 is assigned to the nanoparticles soluble in hexafluorobenzene.

Characterization of gold MMNPs



Characterization of gold MMNPs

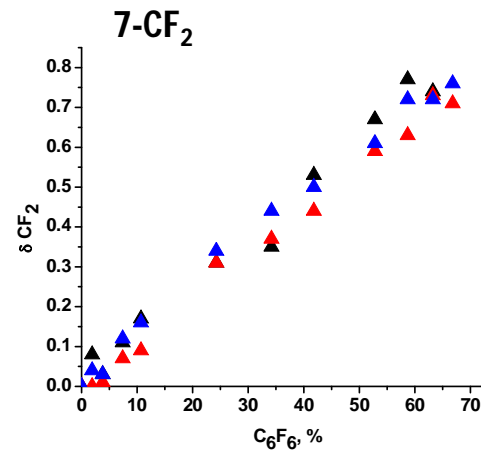
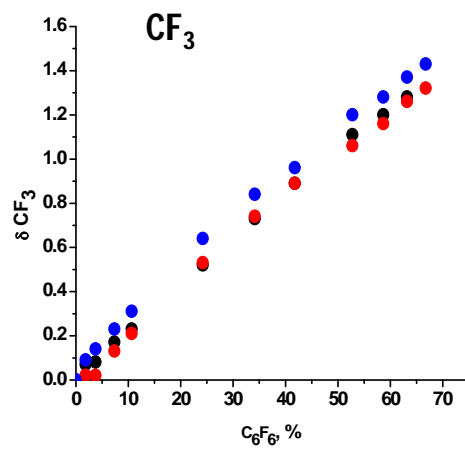
Influence of the solvent composition on the chemical shift of MMNPs



^{19}F NMR spectra of NP-C16/F6, with $X_{\text{F}_6} = 0.357$, at increasing amounts of C_6F_6 .

Characterization of gold MMNPs

Influence of the solvent composition on the chemical shift of MMNPs

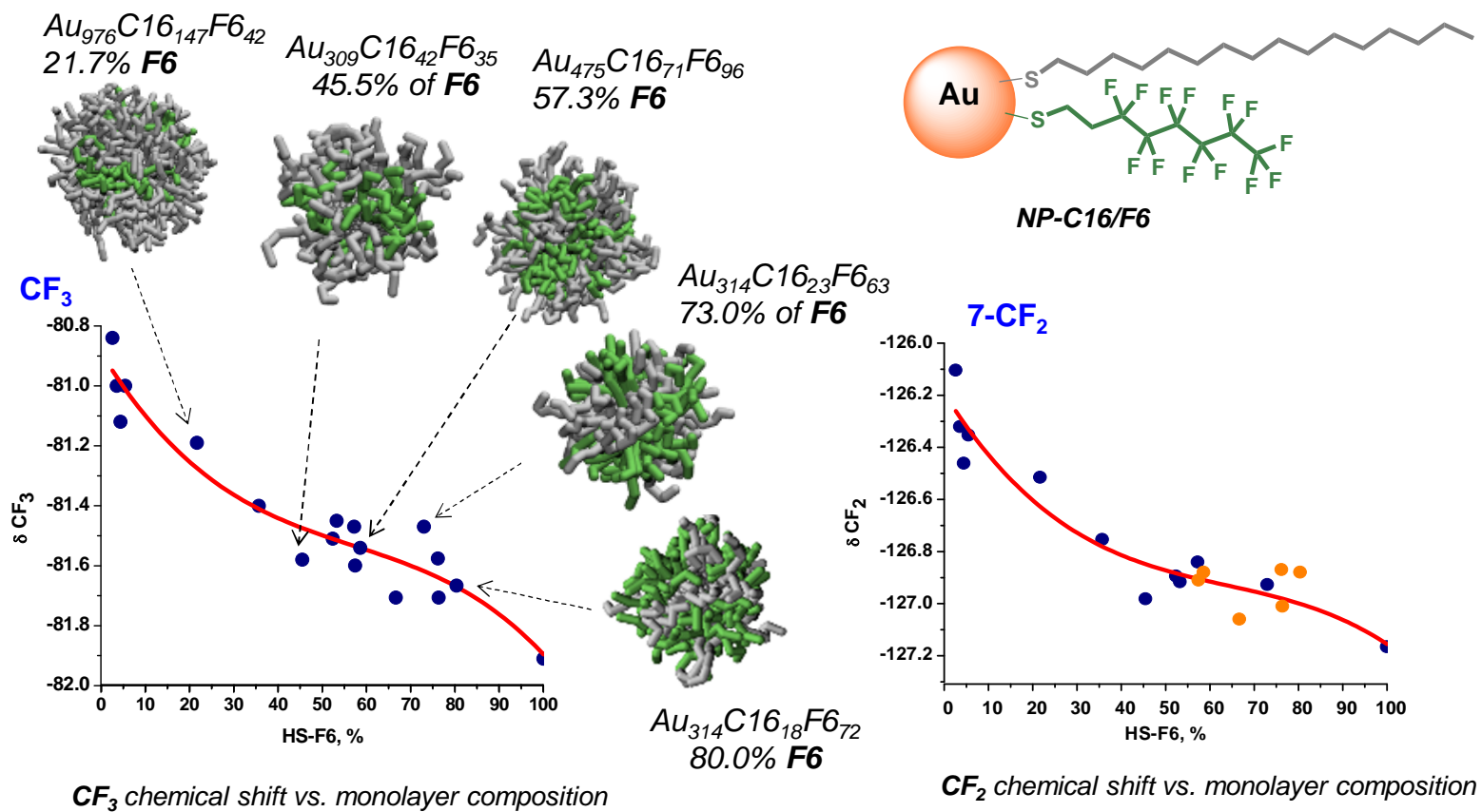


NP-C16/F6, $X_{\text{F}_6} = 0.217$

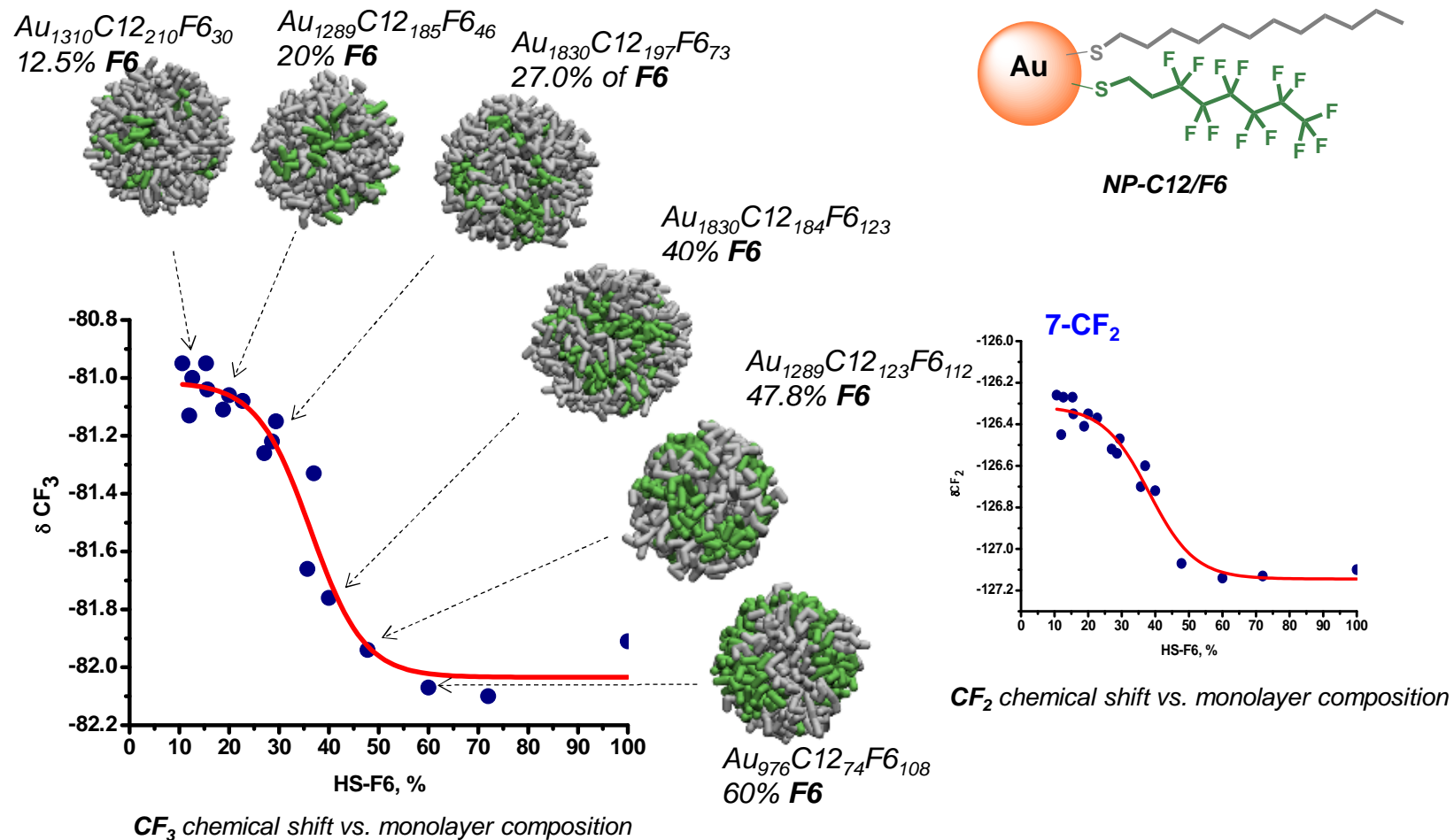
NP-C16/F6, $X_{\text{F}_6} = 0.357$

NP-C16/F6, $X_{\text{F}_6} = 0.573$

gold NPs protected by ligands of different length

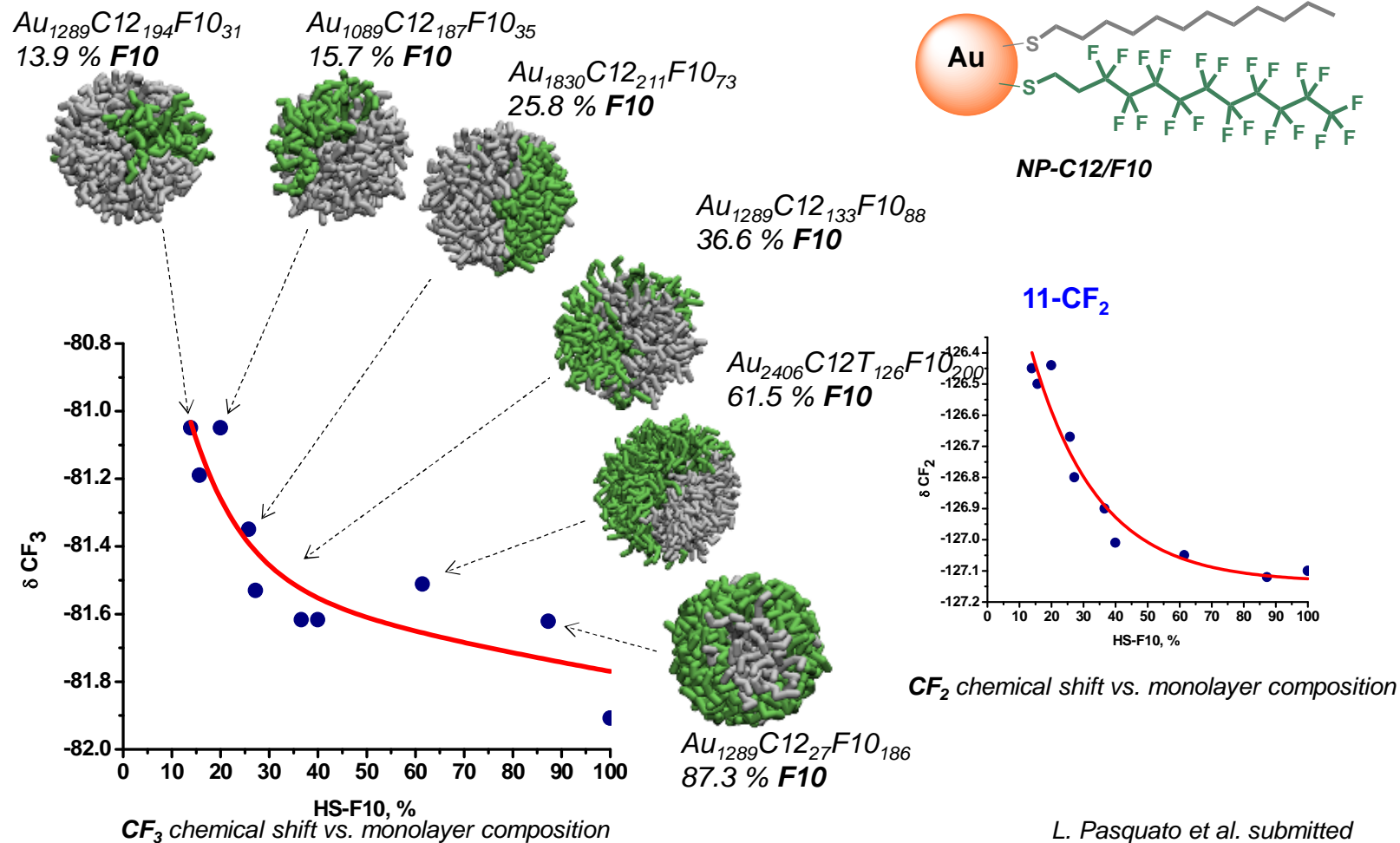


gold NPs protected by ligands of different length



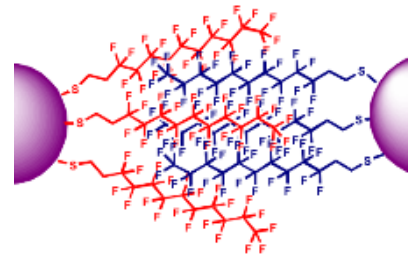
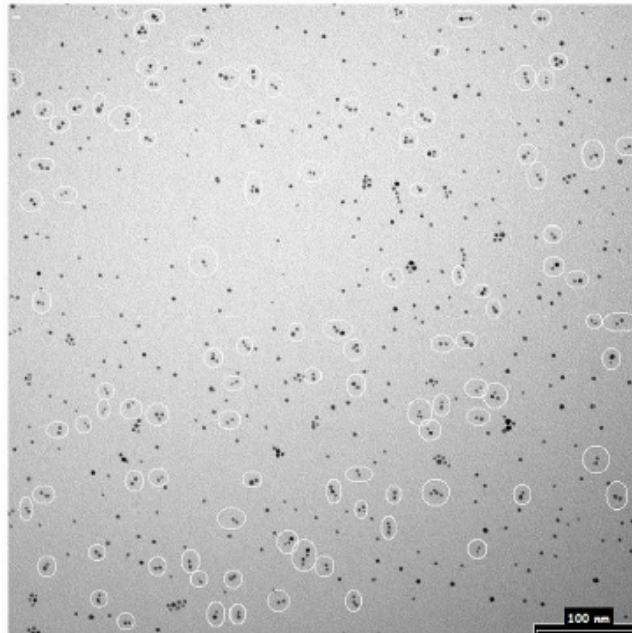
L. Pasquato et al. submitted

gold NPs protected by ligands of equal length



Au-NPs C12/F10 mixed monolayers

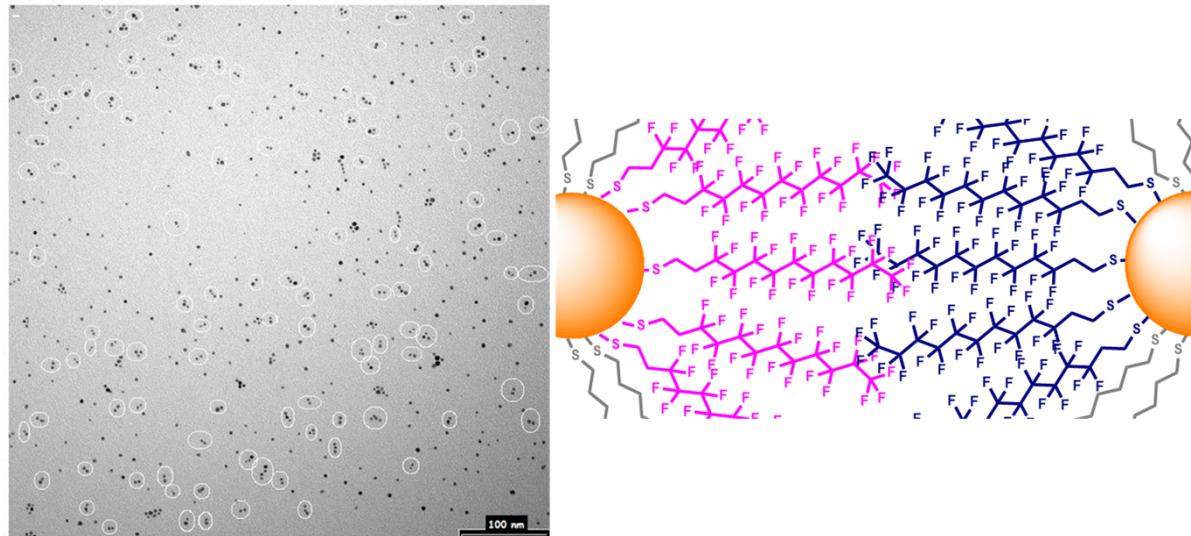
Tendency to form dimers...



TEM image of NP-C12/F10, ratio 1.5:1, c = 10 ng/mL in CHCl₃

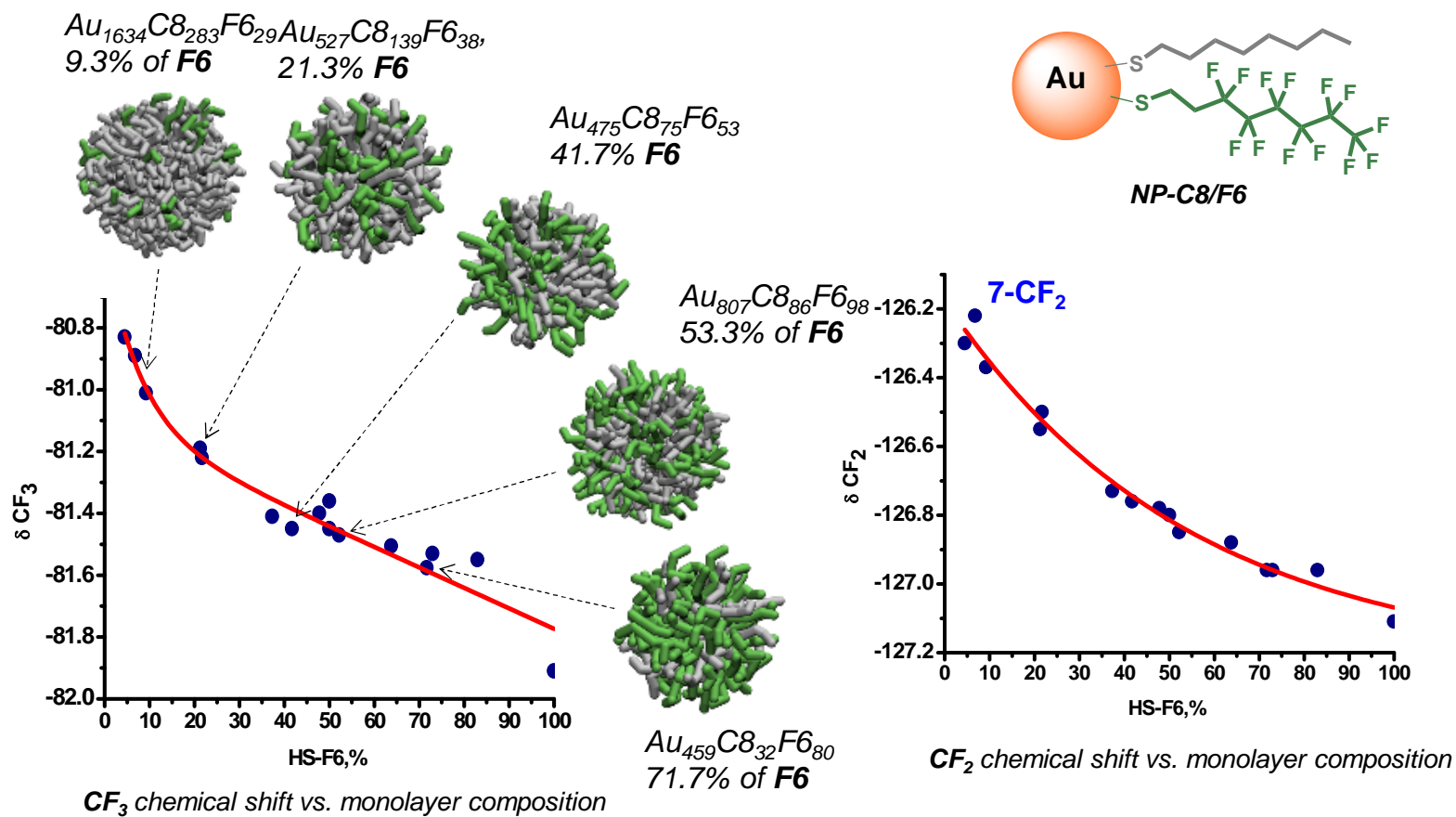
Au-NPs C12/F10 mixed monolayers

Tendency to form dimers...

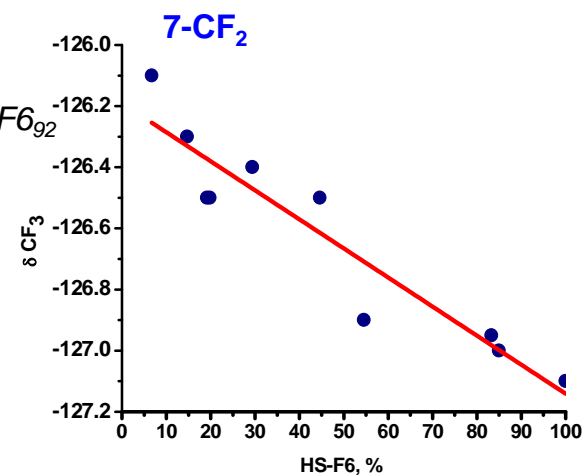
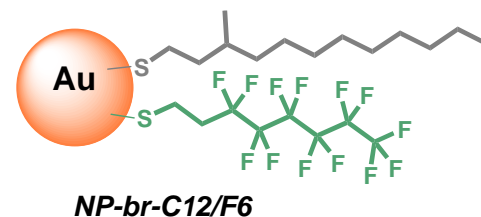
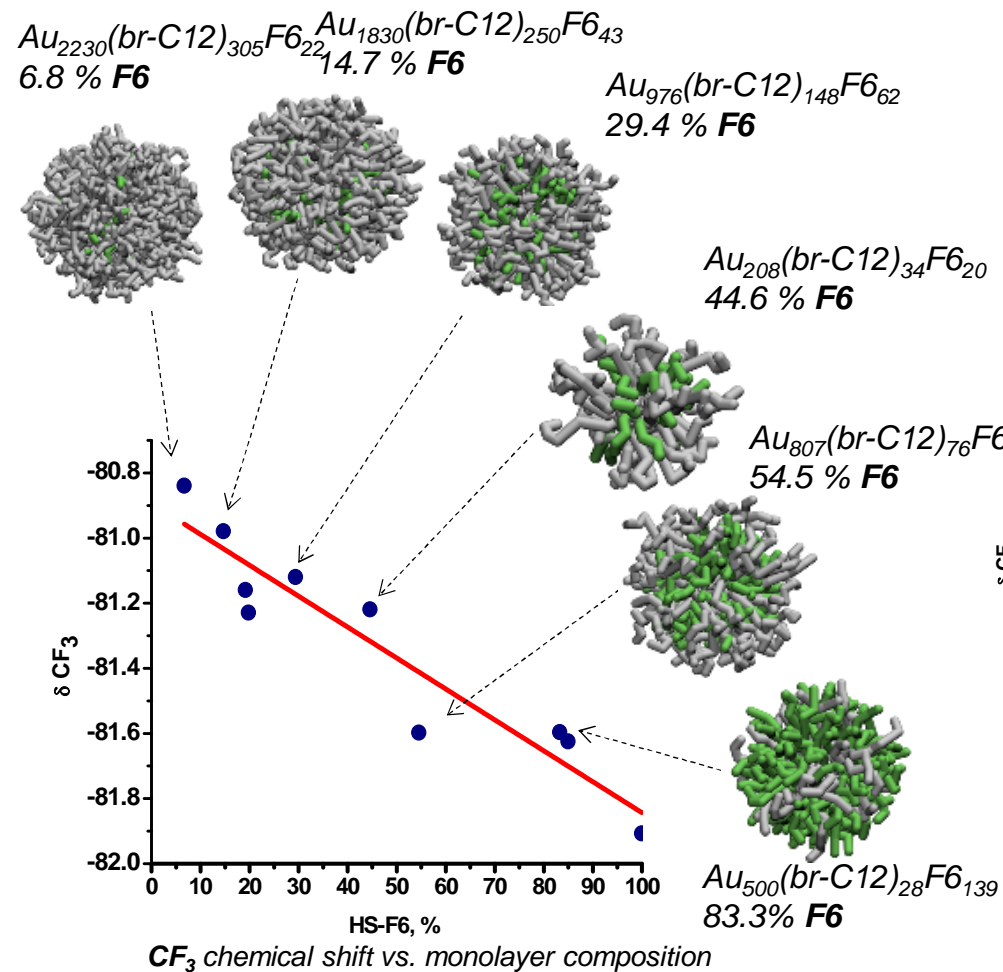


TEM image of NP-C12/F10, ratio 1.5:1, $c = 10 \text{ ng/mL}$ in CHCl_3

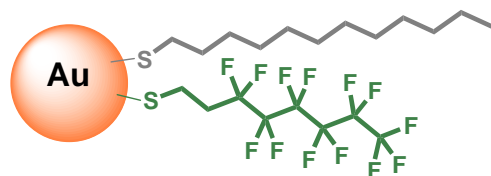
gold NPs protected by ligands of equal length



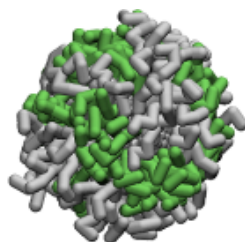
gold NPs protected by branched ligands



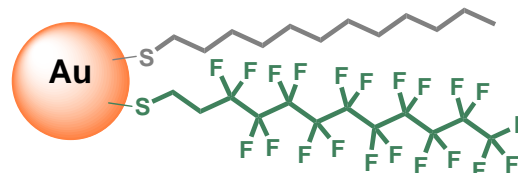
gold NPs protected by H/F ligands of different length and size



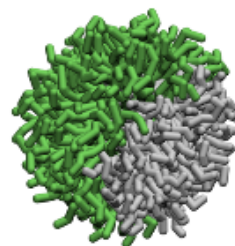
NP-C12/F6



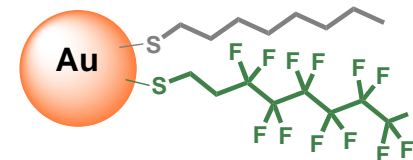
$\text{Au}_{1289}\text{C12}_{123}\text{F6}_{112}$
47.8% F6



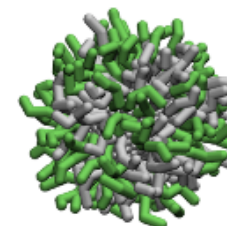
NP-C12/F10



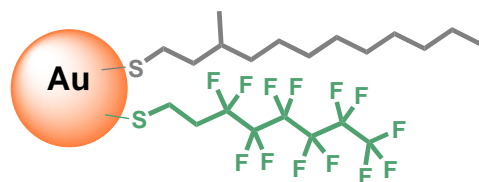
$\text{Au}_{2406}\text{C12}_{126}\text{F10}_{200}$
61.5% F10



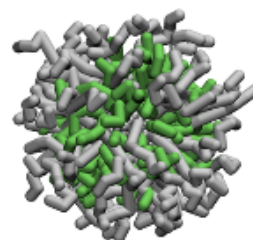
NP-C8/F6



$\text{Au}_{807}\text{C8}_{86}\text{F6}_{98}$
53.3% of F6



NP-br-C12/F6



$\text{Au}_{807}(\text{br-C12})_{76}\text{F6}_{92}$
54.5% F6

^{19}F - ^1H HOESY experiments

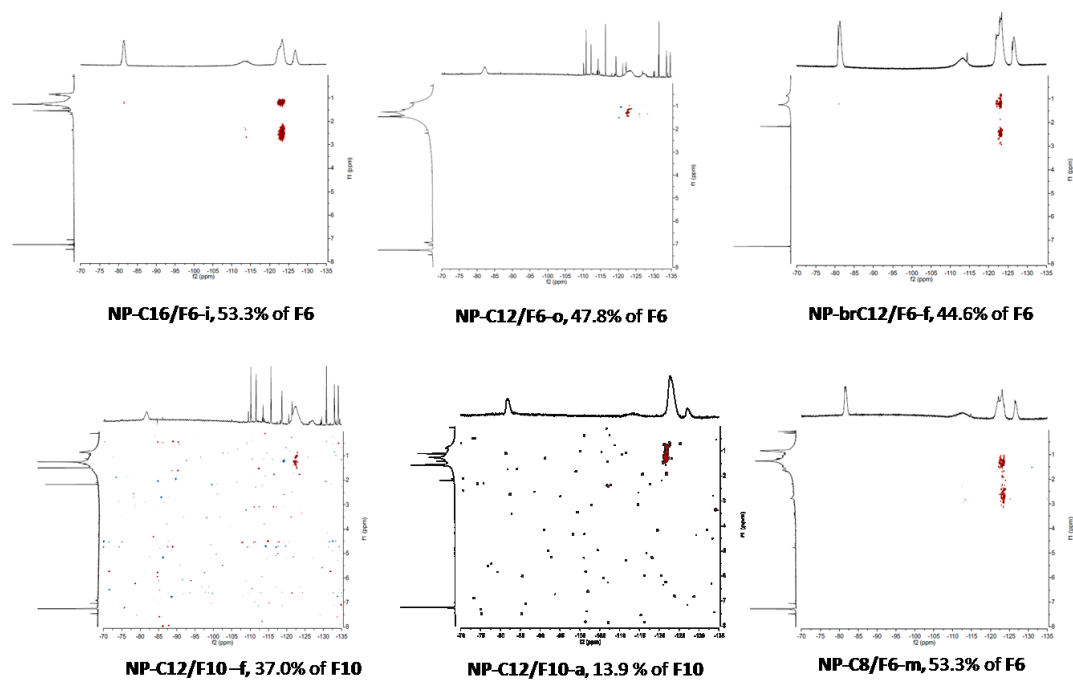
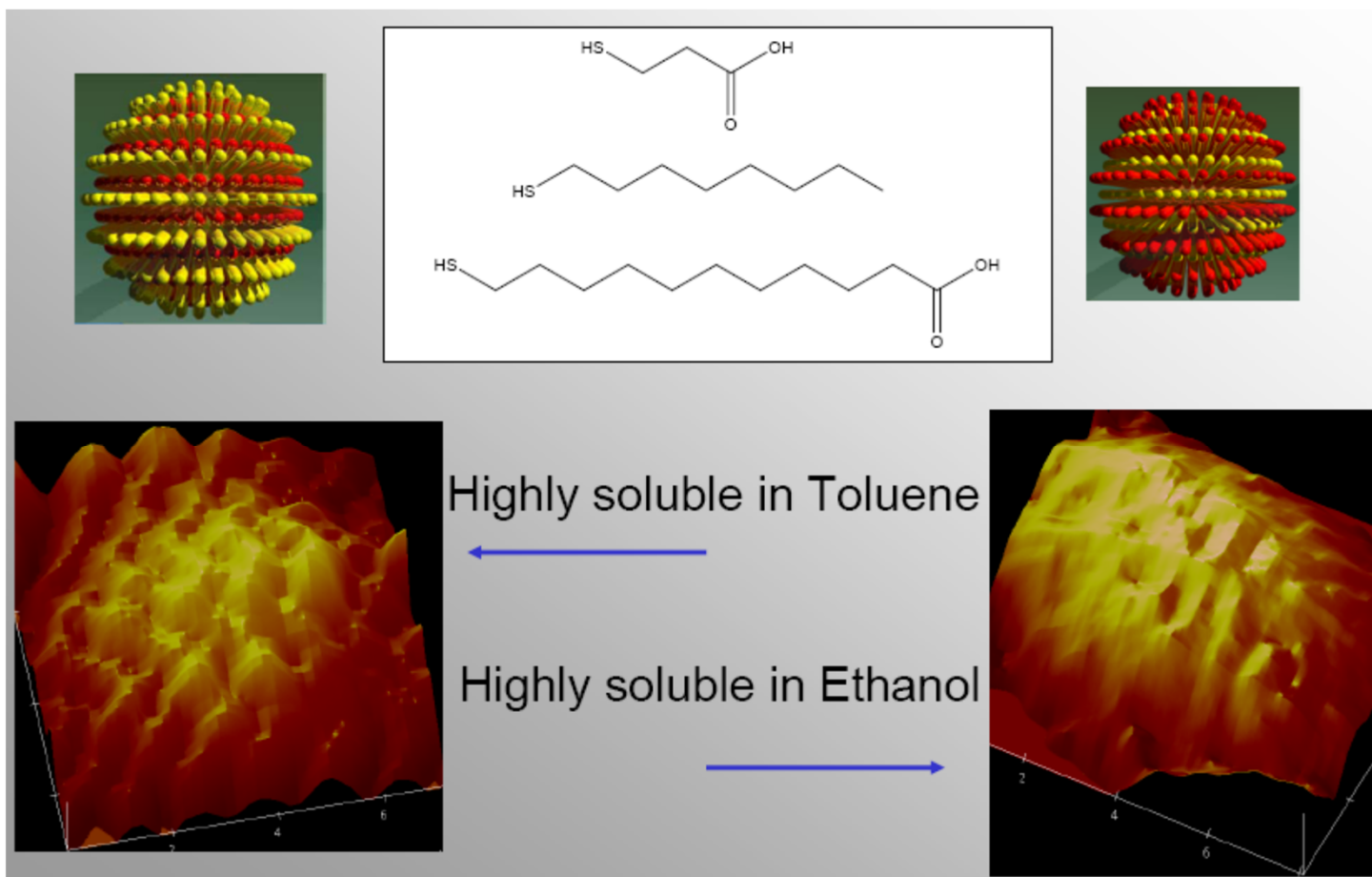


Figure S7. ^{19}F - ^1H HOESY (470.08 MHz, CDCl_3) spectra of **NP-C16/F6-i**, **NP-C12/F6-o**, **NP-brC12/F6-f**, **NP-C12/F10-f**, **NP-C12/F10-a** and **NP-C8/F6-m**. For the experiment with **NP-C12/F10-f** a mixture of $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{C}_6\text{F}_6$ 4:1 was used as solvent.

mixed-monolayer properties

tuning the surface chemistry

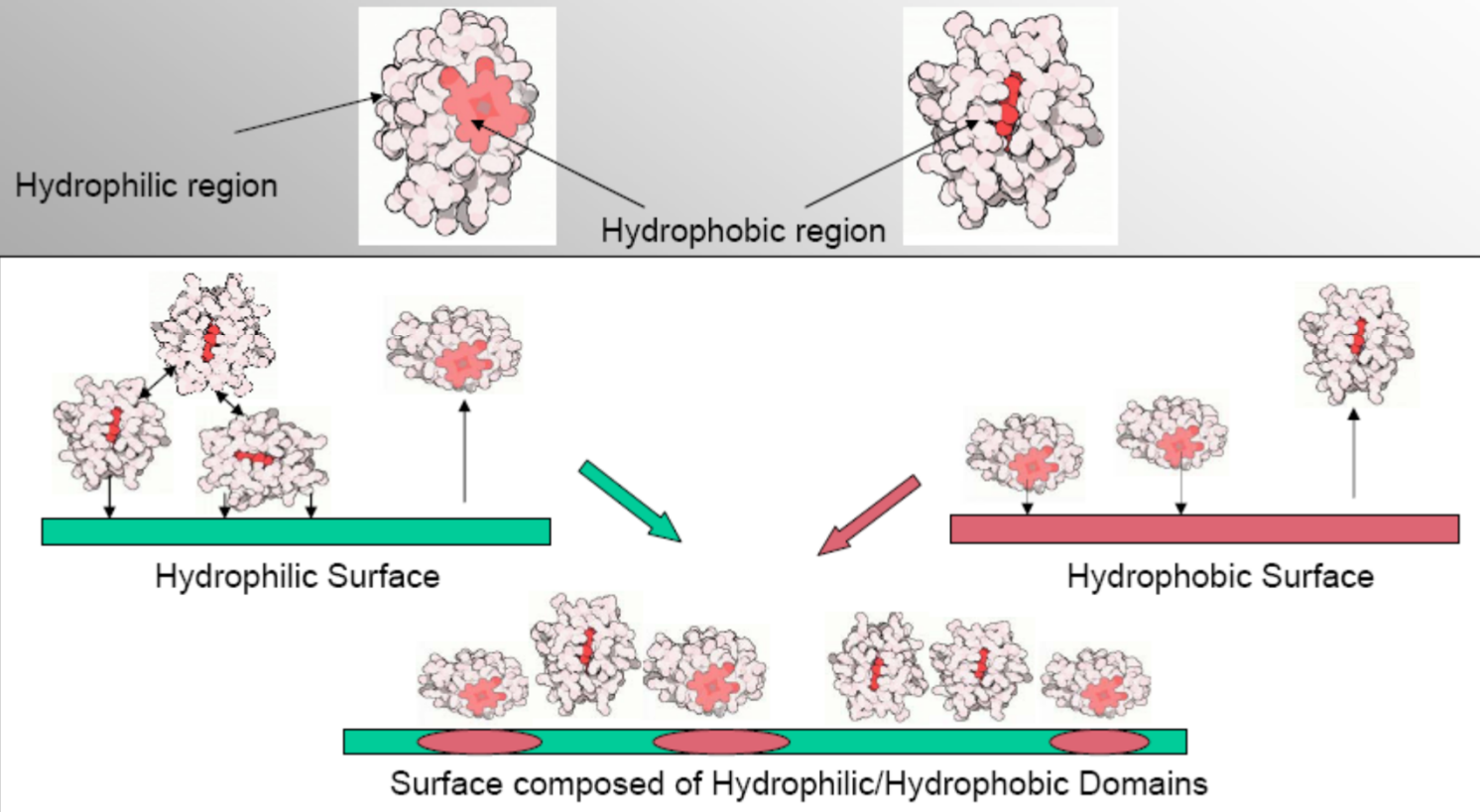


protein nonspecific absorption

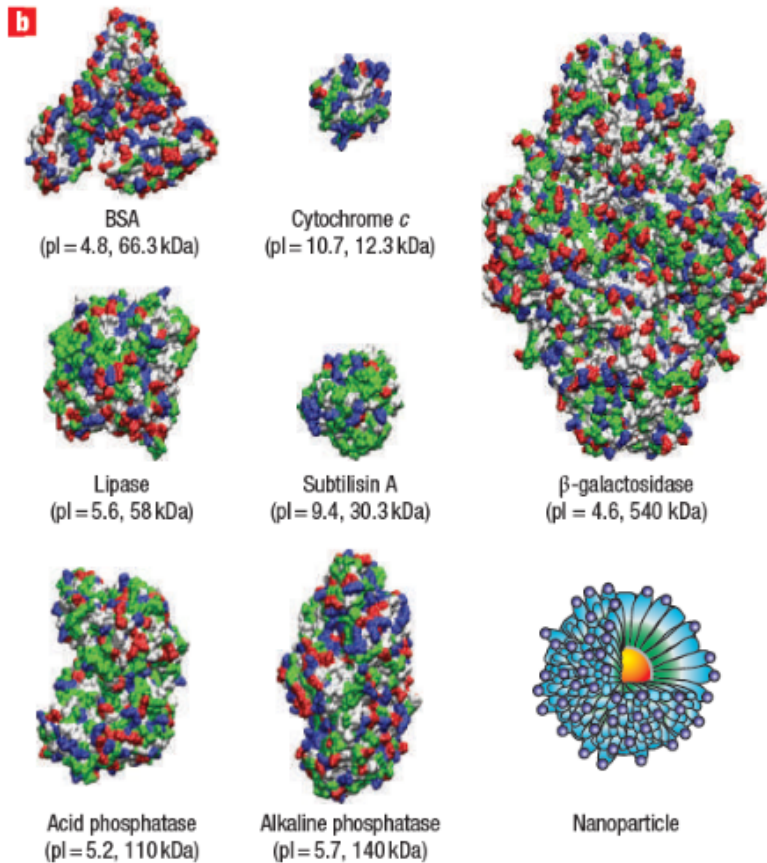
Proteins can assume a few possible conformations as determined by molecular structure

1) Maximizes exposure of hydrophobic region

2) Minimizes exposure of hydrophobic region

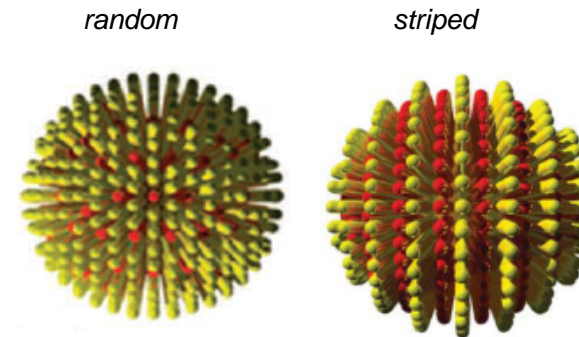


Surface properties of proteins



Colour scheme for the proteins: nonpolar residues (grey), basic residues (blue), acidic residues (red) and polar residues (green).

the mechanism of membrane penetration and toxicity depend on surface structure



A. Verma et al. Nature Mater. 2008
S. Sabella et al. Nanoscale 2014

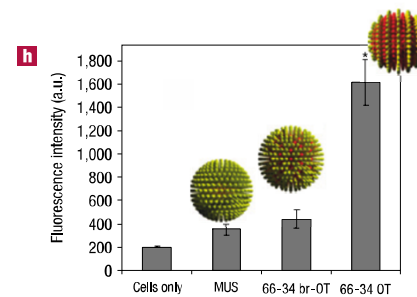
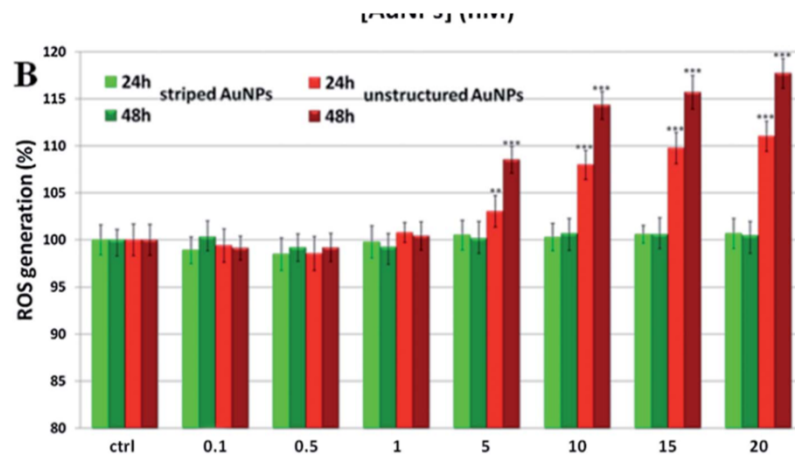
C.-C. You et al. Nature Nanotech. 2007

Effect of the NP surface morphology on cellular uptake and toxicity

Surface-structure-regulated cell-membrane penetration by monolayer-protected nanoparticles

AYUSH VERMA¹, OKTAY UZUN¹, YUHUA HU², YING HU¹, HEE-SUN HAN³, NICKI WATSON⁴, SUELIN CHEN¹, DARRELL J. IRVINE^{1,5*} AND FRANCESCO STELLACCI^{1*}

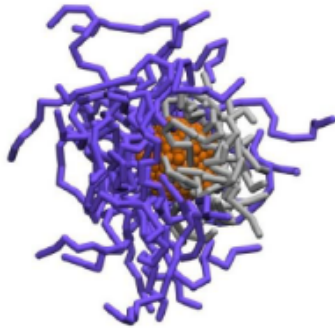
Nature Mater. 2008



S. Sabella et al. *Nanoscale*, 2014, 6, 7052

Interaction of Nanoparticles with cells/membranes

project SINFONIA with P. Posocco

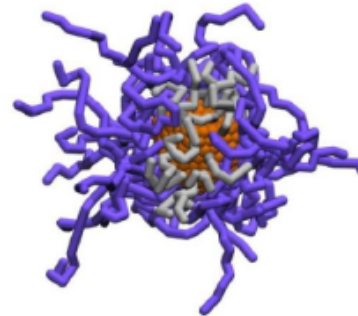


NP-C8TEG/F8PEG

Janus

size: 1.6 nm

$\text{Au}_{140}(\text{C8TEG})_{24}(\text{F8PEG})_{32}$ ratio 1/1.3



NP-C8TEG/F8PEG

Striped

size: 1.9 nm

$\text{Au}_{260}(\text{C8TEG})_{20}(\text{F8PEG})_{36}$ ratio 1:2

biological studies

credits to: Alessandro Tossi

Sabrina Pacor

Milena Guida

computational studies

credits to: Paola Posocco

Domenico Marson

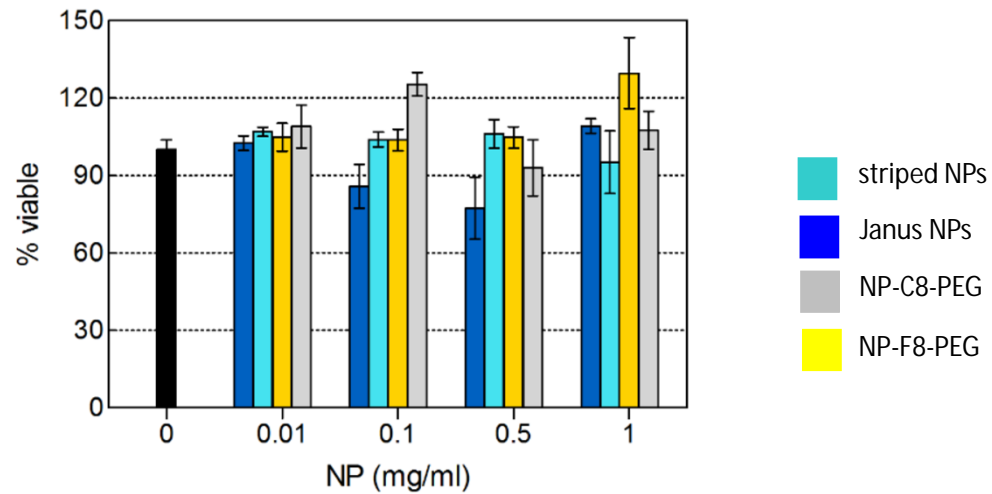
Silvia Boccardo

by comparison homoligand NPs: **NP-C8PEG** and **NP-F8PEG**

Citotoxicity: MTT test

MEC-1 cells, complete medium, 24h

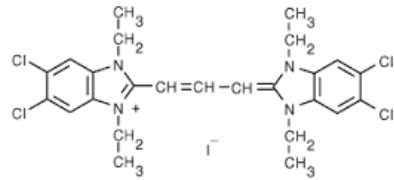
credits to: Alessandro Tossi
Sabrina Pacor
Milena Guida



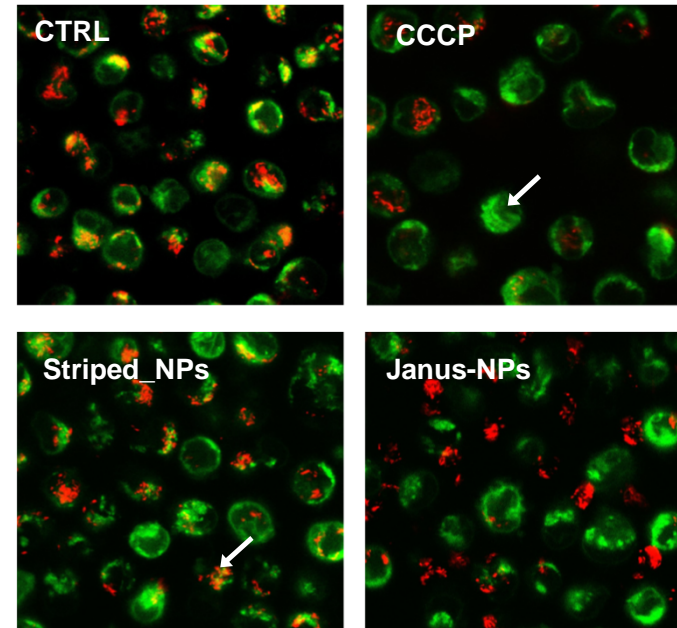
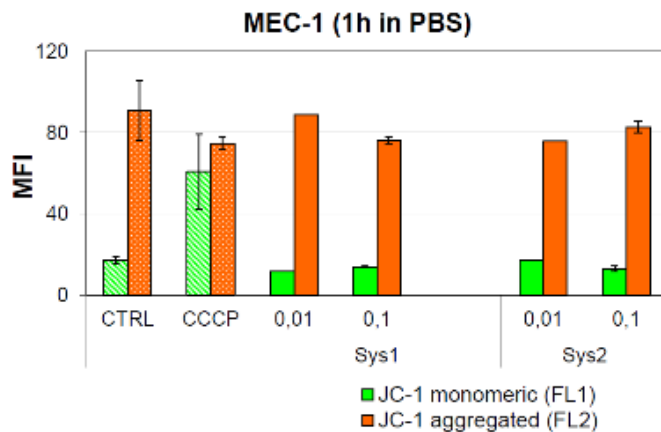
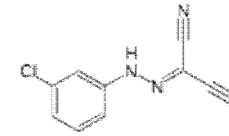
Cytotoxicity of NPs treated cells. MEC-1 cells viability, evaluated by MTT assay, after 24h treatment with the NPs concentrations indicated on x-axes; data are expressed as mean \pm SEM of the measured O.D. of experiments repeated at least three times and performed at least in triplicate.

Mitochondrial activity

evaluation of apoptotic damage to mitochondrial functionality



JC-1 mitochondrial potential sensor

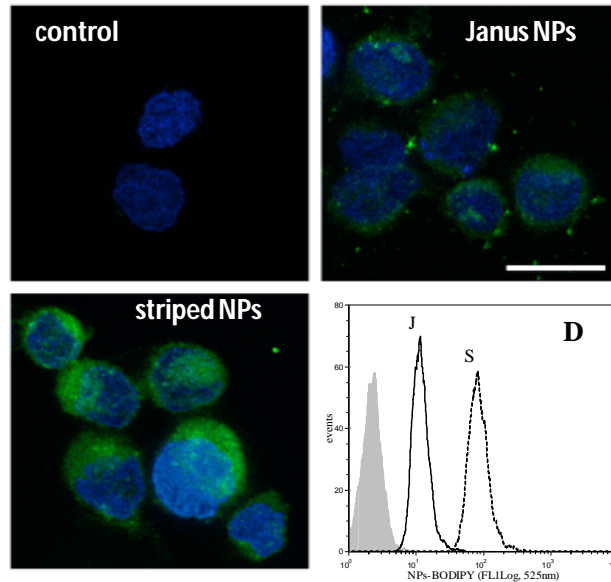


Flow cytometry: Striped- and Janus- GNP did not cause mitochondrial damage as indicated by the orange fluorescence of treated cells with respect to untreated controls.

Confocal microscopy: only the positive control CCCP caused disaggregation, conc. 0.1 mg/ml.

GNPs do not cause mitochondrial damage

cell internalization of NPs



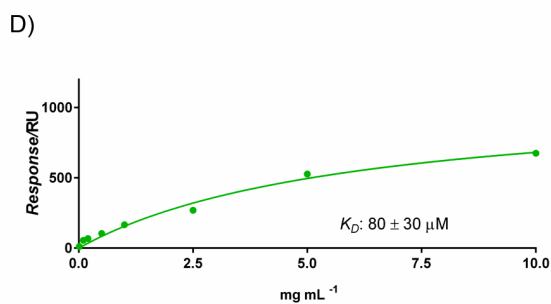
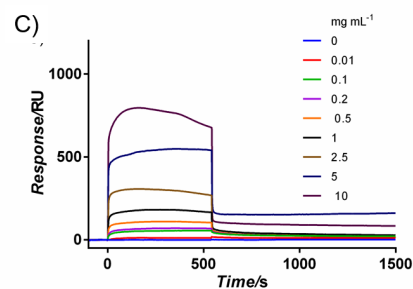
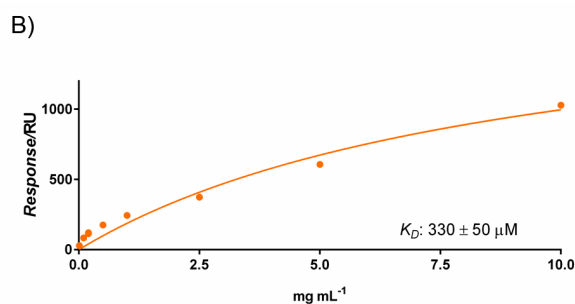
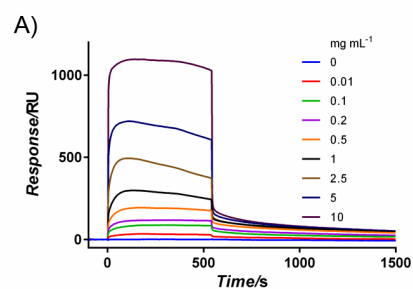
Janus and striped NPs cross the plasma membrane and reach the cytoplasm

internalization is favoured by the stripe-like morphology of the monolayer.

MEC-1 cells treated with **BODIPY-tagged NPs**. **A)** Confocal images of control cells, **B)** cells treated with 1 mg/ml Janus NP and **C)** cells treated with 0,1 mg/ml striped, for 60 min prior to counterstaining nuclei with Hoechst d. Panel **D)** represents the flow cytometric overlay of green fluorescence emitted from untreated (grey peak) and BODIPY-NP treated cells, 1mg/ml Janus (J) and 0,1 mg/ml striped (S).

SPR Experiments – binding NPs-model membranes

The sensor surface is dextran coated, chip L1
Liposomes of DOPC



Nanoparticles	$K_{\text{diss}}, \mu\text{M}$
NP-stripped	80 ± 28
NP-Janus	330 ± 50
NP-F8-PEG	60 ± 50
NP-C8-PEG	118 ± 50

Computational studies of NP-membrane interaction by MARTINI mapping

credits to: Paola Posocco
Domenico Marson

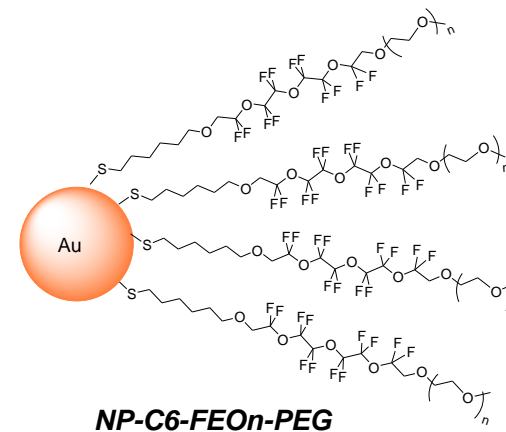
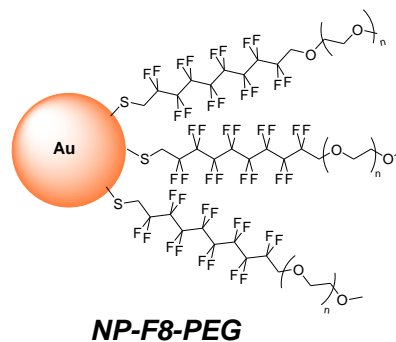
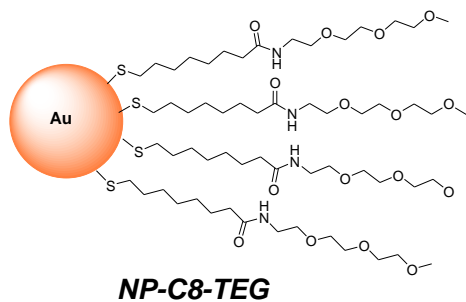
Nanoparticle/ composition	ΔG_{adh} [kcal/mol]	$N_{contacts}$	% contacts non-PEG component	% contacts PEG component
NP-Striped	-38.9 ± 1.0	25 ± 1	37	63
NP-Janus	-28.6 ± 1.5	21 ± 2	41	59
NP-F8-PEG	-51.0 ± 1.2	32 ± 2	27	73
NP-C8-PEG	-44.1 ± 0.8	31 ± 2	28	72

Detachment of NP from the membrane by «umbrella sampling»

gold nanoparticles protected by amphiphilic fluorinated ligands

steric effect?

	$a(N)/G$	$a(2H_p)/G$	g-factor	d core	K_{eq}/M^{-1}
Water	16.25	10.14	2.0056	-	-
NP-C8-TEG	15.67	8.97	2.0057	1.6 nm	104
NP-F8-PEG	15.46	8.68	2.0057	2.7 nm	176
NP-C6-FEOn-PEG	15.45	8.65	2.0057	1.4 nm	593



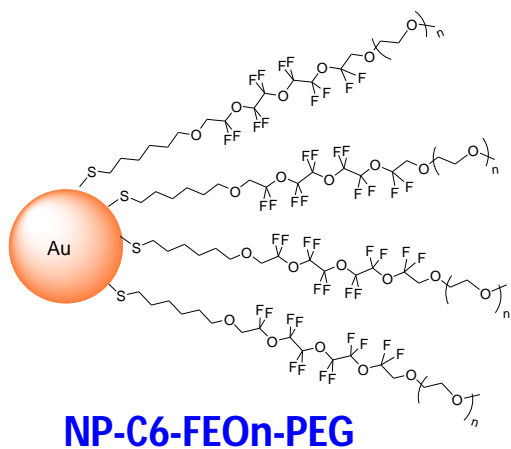
K_{eq}

drug loading - *H*- vs. *F*-monolayer

- desolvation energy
- hydrophobic interactions
- halogen bonds

	K_{eq} / M^{-1}	K_{eq} / M^{-1}	$K_{eq}(F)/K_{eq}(H)$
NP-C8-TEG	2.2	4	1.8
NP-F8-PEG	5.7	29	5.1
NP-FEO _n -PEG	16	100	6.2

CC(C)(O)N(O)Cc1ccc(C)cc1 CC(C)(O)N(O)Cc1ccc(C(F)(F)F)cc1



	K_{eq} / M^{-1}	$K_{eq}(F)/K_{eq}(H)$
<chem>CC(C)(O)N(O)Cc1ccccc1</chem>	6.2	12.9
<chem>CC(C)(O)N(O)Cc1c(F)c(F)c(F)c1</chem>	80	
<chem>CC(C)(O)N(O)Cc1ccc(C)cc1</chem>	16	6.25
<chem>CC(C)(O)N(O)Cc1ccc(C(F)(F)F)cc1</chem>	100	