

# **Advanced Separations and Detection in Assessment of Quality for Drug Products Containing Nanomaterials**

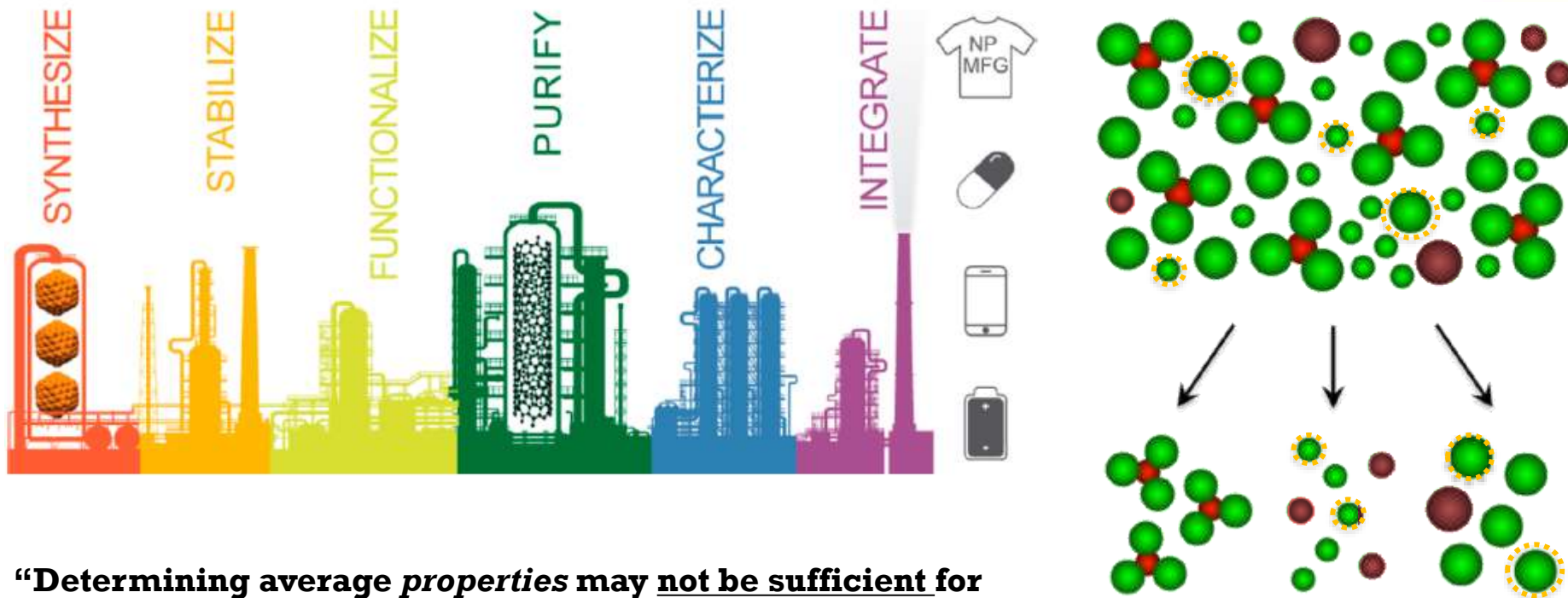
**William C. Smith, Ph.D.**

Research Scientist

Division of Product Quality Research, Office of Testing and Research  
CDER | US FDA

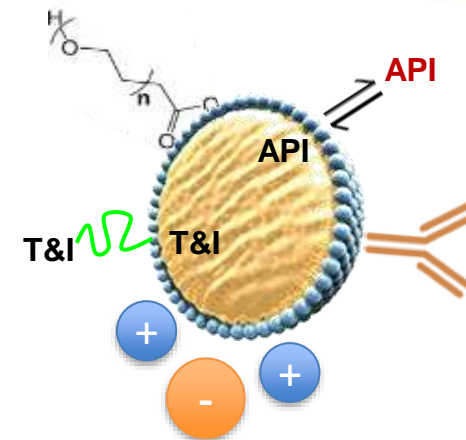
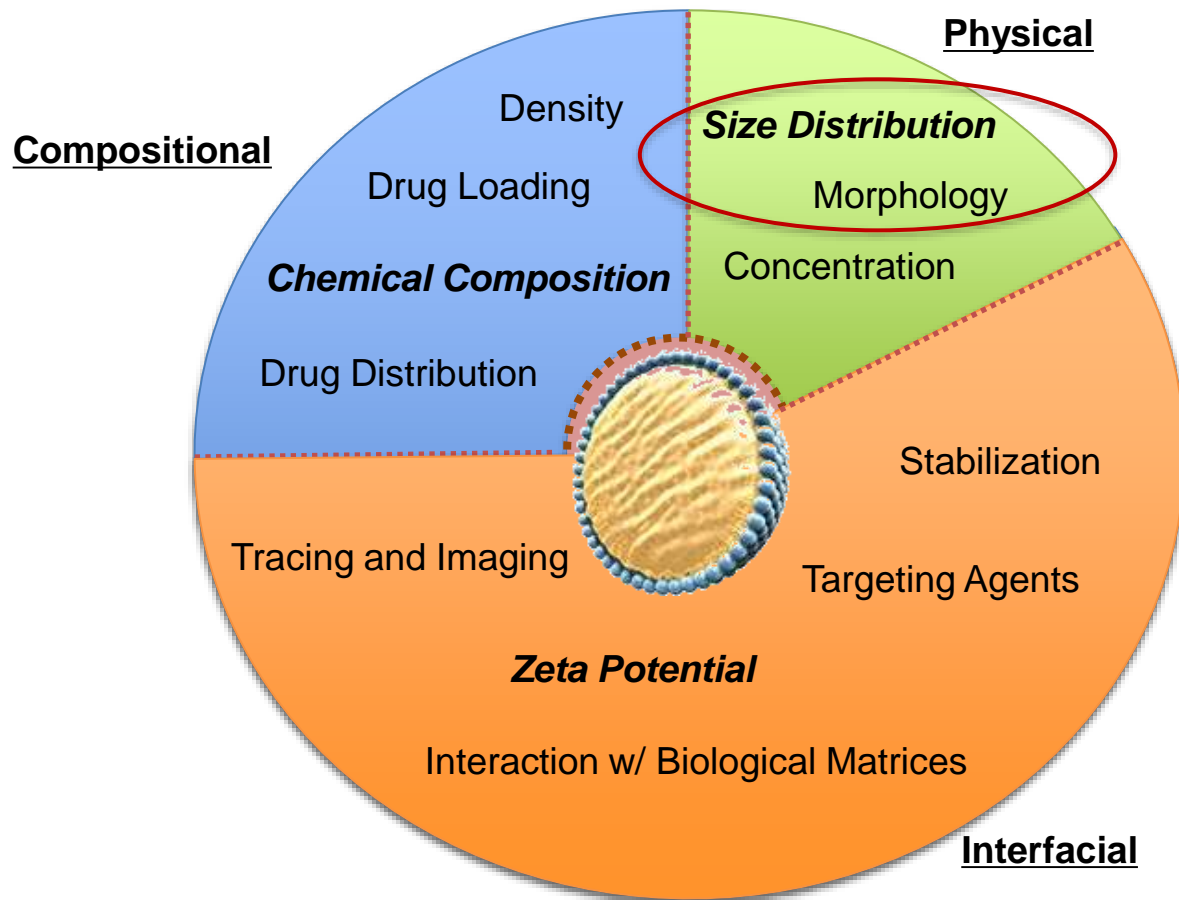
– [2023 NanoDay Symposium: Continuous Manufacturing of Nanomaterials] –  
October 11, 2023

# Complexities of Products Containing Nanomaterials



**“Determining average *properties* may not be sufficient for products with multiple concurrent distributions of properties”**

# When Simple is Complicated...

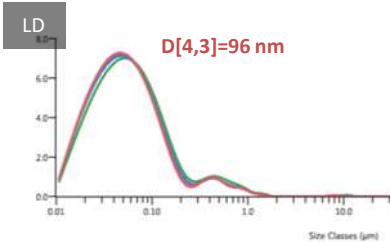
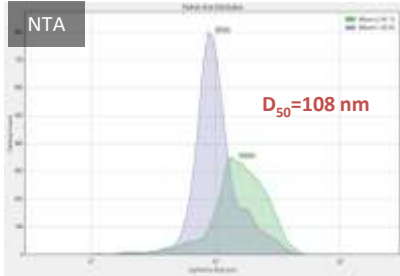
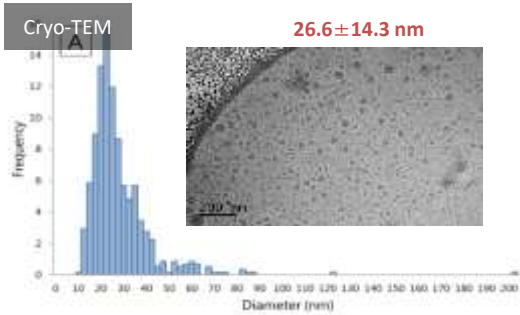
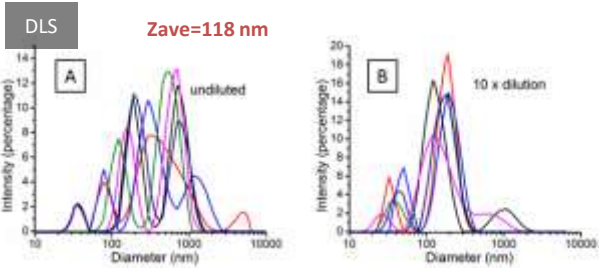


**“As nanomaterials become more complex, how do we address the *simple* questions”**

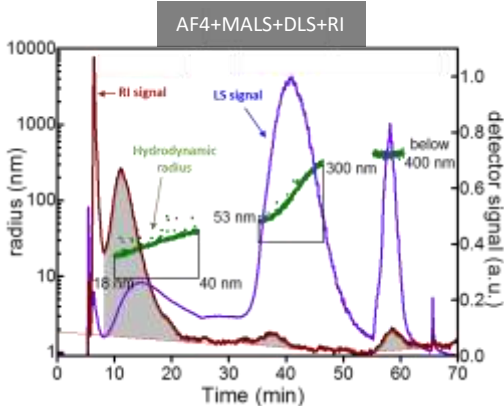
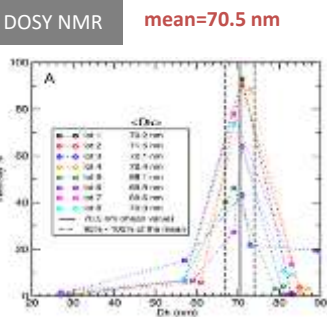
# Complementary Size Measurement (Cyclosporine Ophthalmic Emulsions)



Research results provided pivotal support to the development of PSG and approval of first generics!



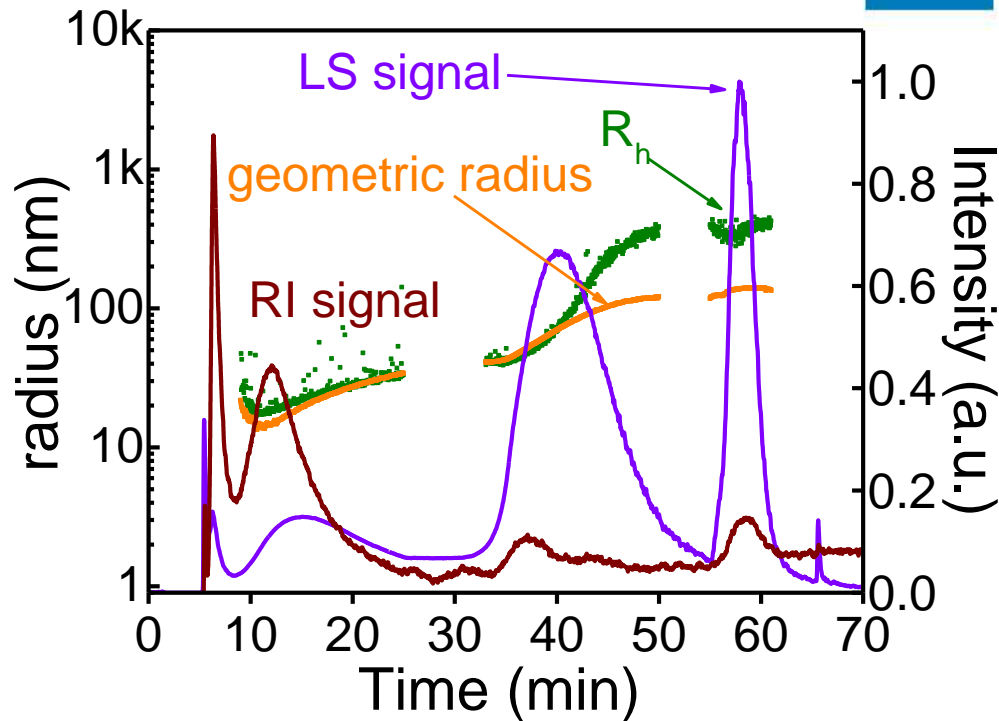
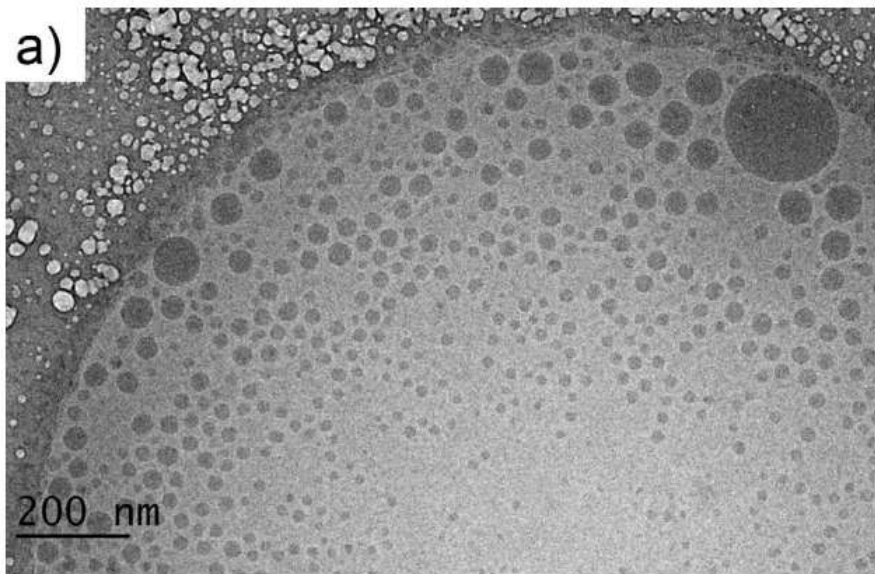
<https://medium.com/betterism/the-blind-men-and-the-elephant-596ec8a72a7d>



P. Petrochenko, N. Pavurala, Y. Wu, S. Y Wong, H. Parhiz, K. Chen, S.M. Patil, H. Qu, P. Buoniconti, A. Mohammad, S. Choi, D. Kozak, M. Ashraf, C.N. Cruz, J. Zheng, X. Xu. Analytical Considerations for Measuring the Globule Size Distribution of Cyclosporine Ophthalmic Emulsions. International Journal of Pharmaceutics (2018). 550(1-2), 229-239.

**1<sup>st</sup>: 30 - 80 nm (87.8%); 2<sup>nd</sup>: 100 - 600 nm (5.3%)**

***First time*** use of AF4 in characterization of a finished drug product to support BE determination.



**Fig. 4.** AF4-MALS fractogram of Restasis® and the hydrodynamic ( $D_h$ ) and geometric size ( $D_g$ ) information. MALS signal at 90° and RI signal are shown.  $D_g$  and  $D_h$  were plotted using the same scale.

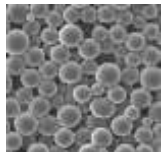


# Separation and Characterization of Complex Products



What sample can I analyze?

## Nanoparticles



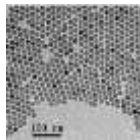
PLGA



Lipid NPs



Liposome



Colloidal Iron



Emulsion

## Biotherapeutics



Therapeutic protein/peptide



Antibody-drug conjugate



Nucleotide



API/Excipient

## Polymers

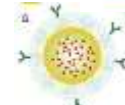
What information can I obtain?



Aggregation status



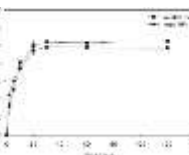
Formulation stability



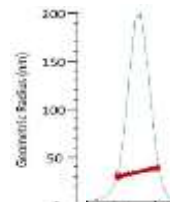
Conjugation efficiency



Drug distribution

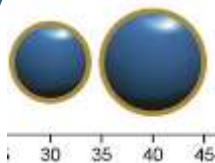


Drug release



Size distribution

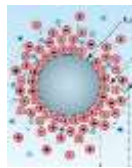
What properties can I determine?



Particle size



Molecular mass



Surface charge



Conformation

Asymmetrical Flow FFF



Thermal FFF

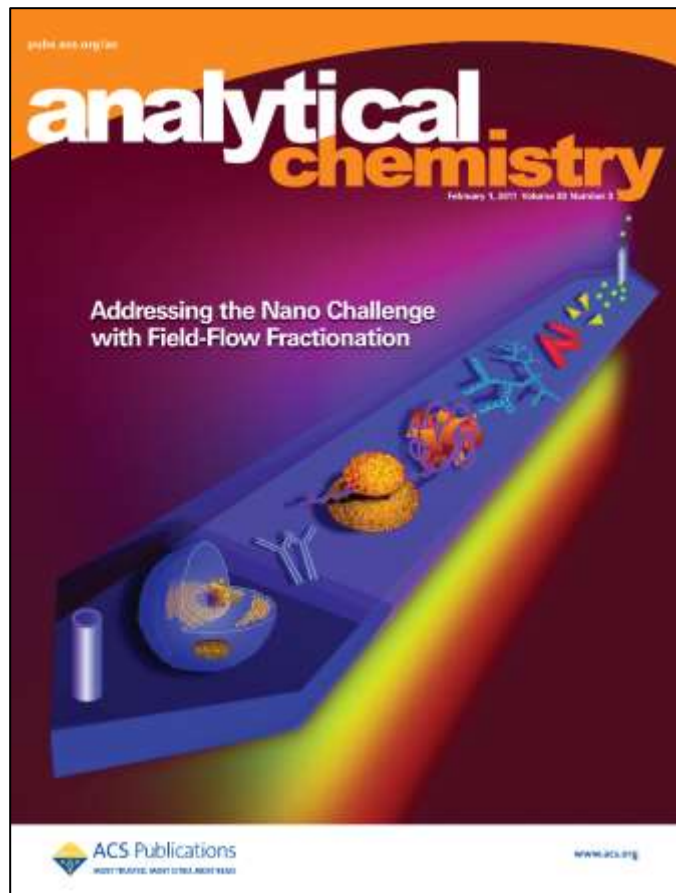


IC & CE

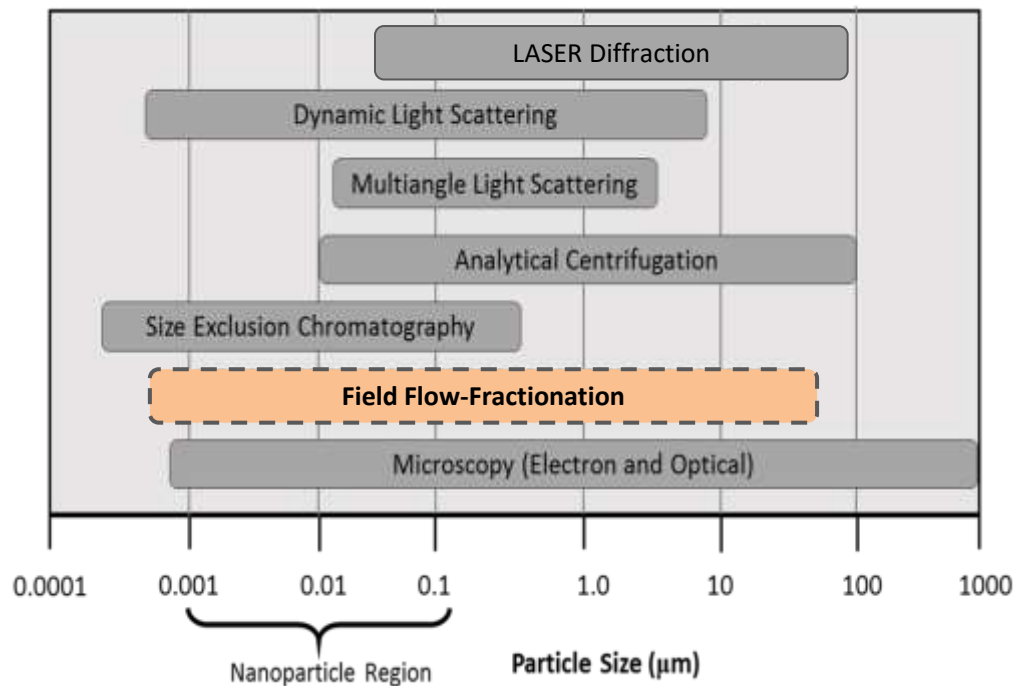


2D chromatography

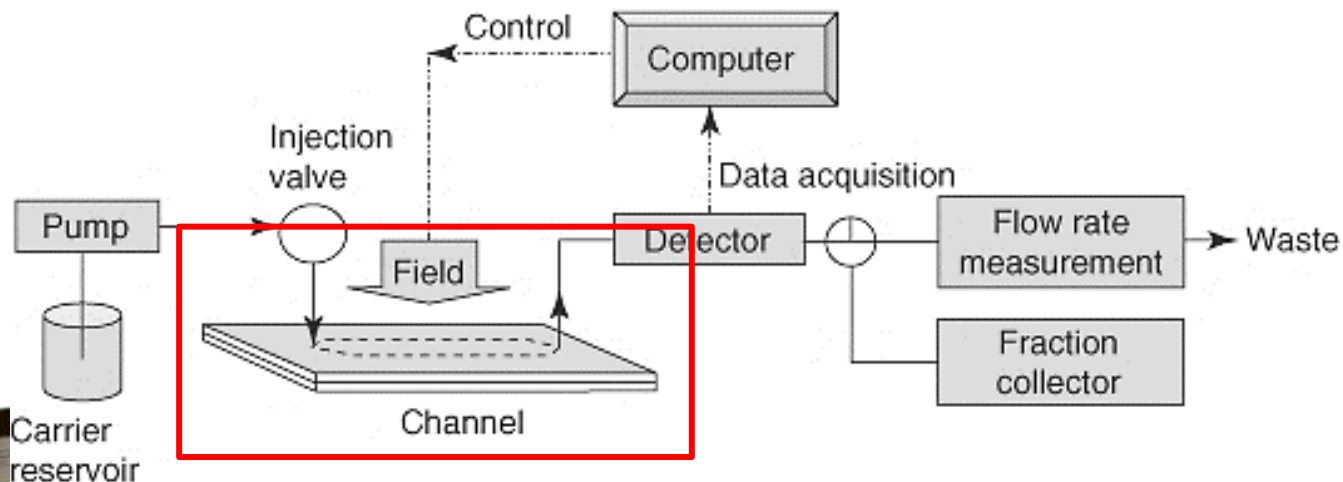
# Field-Flow Fractionation (FFF)



Different “**Fields**” give rise to different FFF separation mechanisms based on a force interacting with an analyte’s physicochemical properties:



# FFF System Assembled with Ancillary Equipment



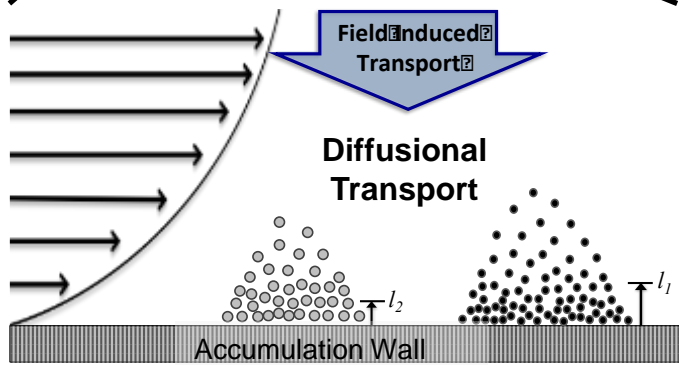
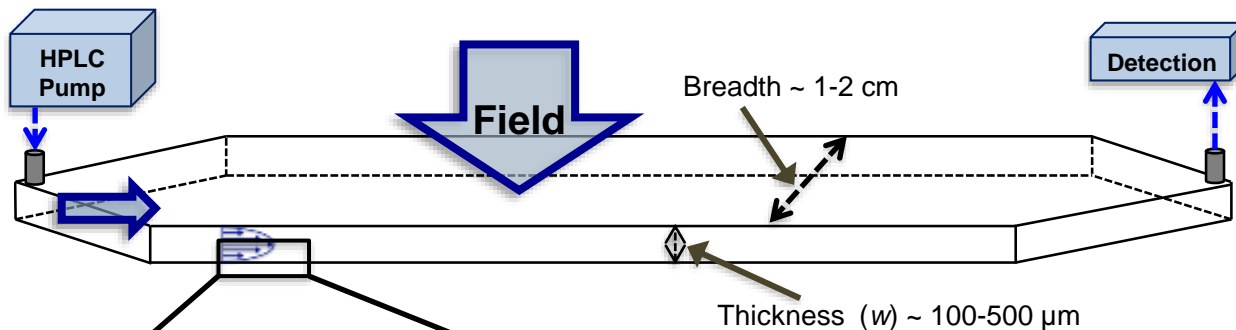
## Detection Options:

Concentration Detection  
Molecular Weight Determination  
Size Determination  
Composition Sensitivity

UV, dRI, ELSD  
MALS, Viscometry  
DLS ( $R_h$ ), MALS ( $R_g$ )  
UV, FL, ICP, MS



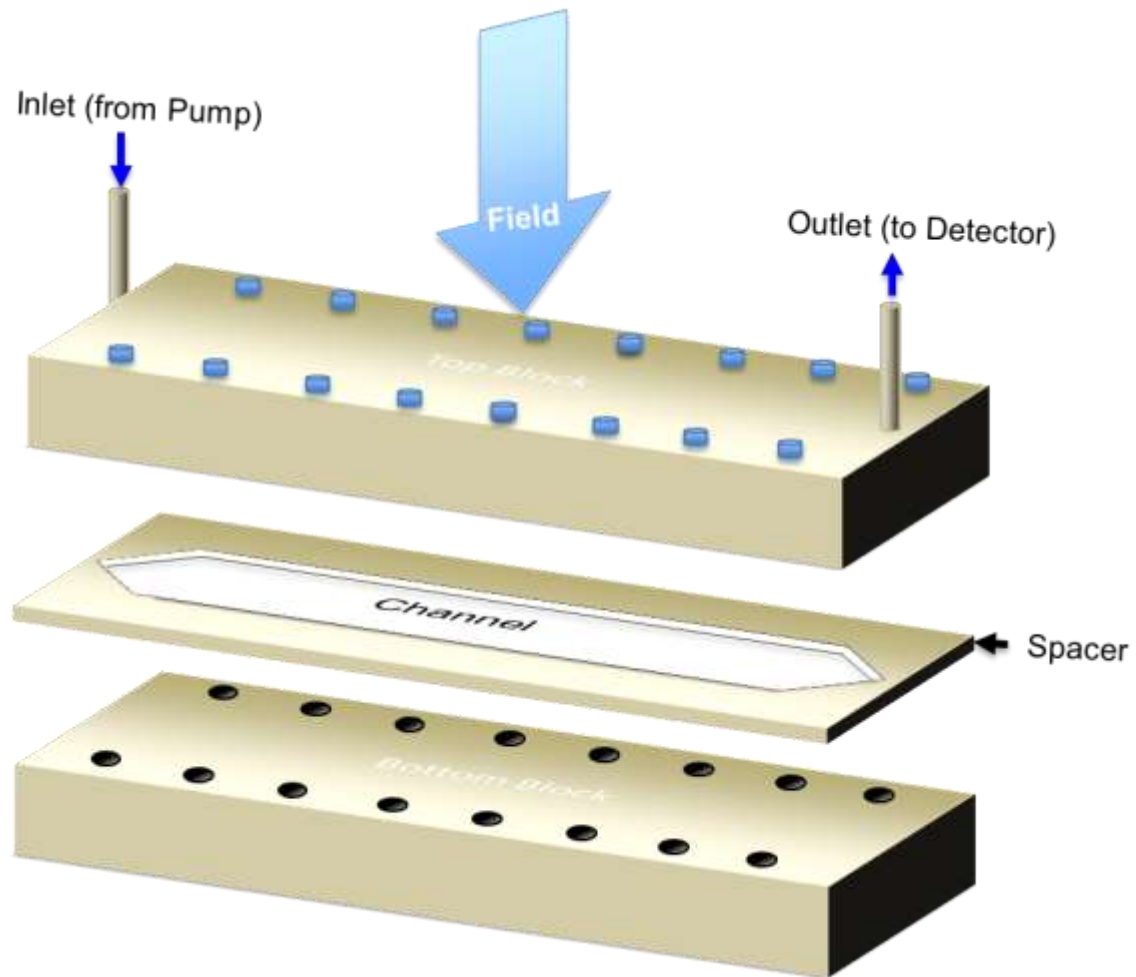
# Field-Flow Fractionation Separation Basics



## Origins of Retention

$$\frac{t_r}{t^0} = \frac{w}{6l} = \frac{|F|w}{6kT}$$

# Advantages of FFF Open Channel



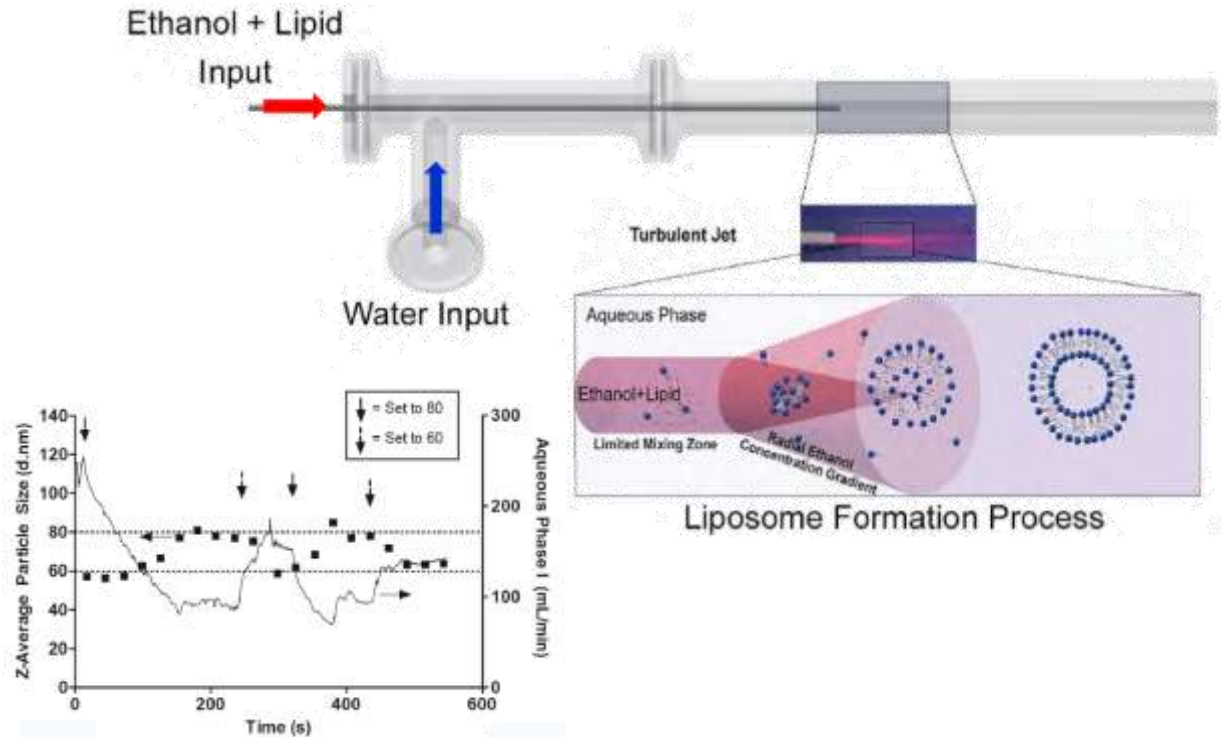
## Design Benefits

- Low shear stress
- Minimal sample prep
- Wide analyte size range
  - (0.001 - 70  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- Choice of carrier fluids
- Limited sample loss
- ng to mg Quantities



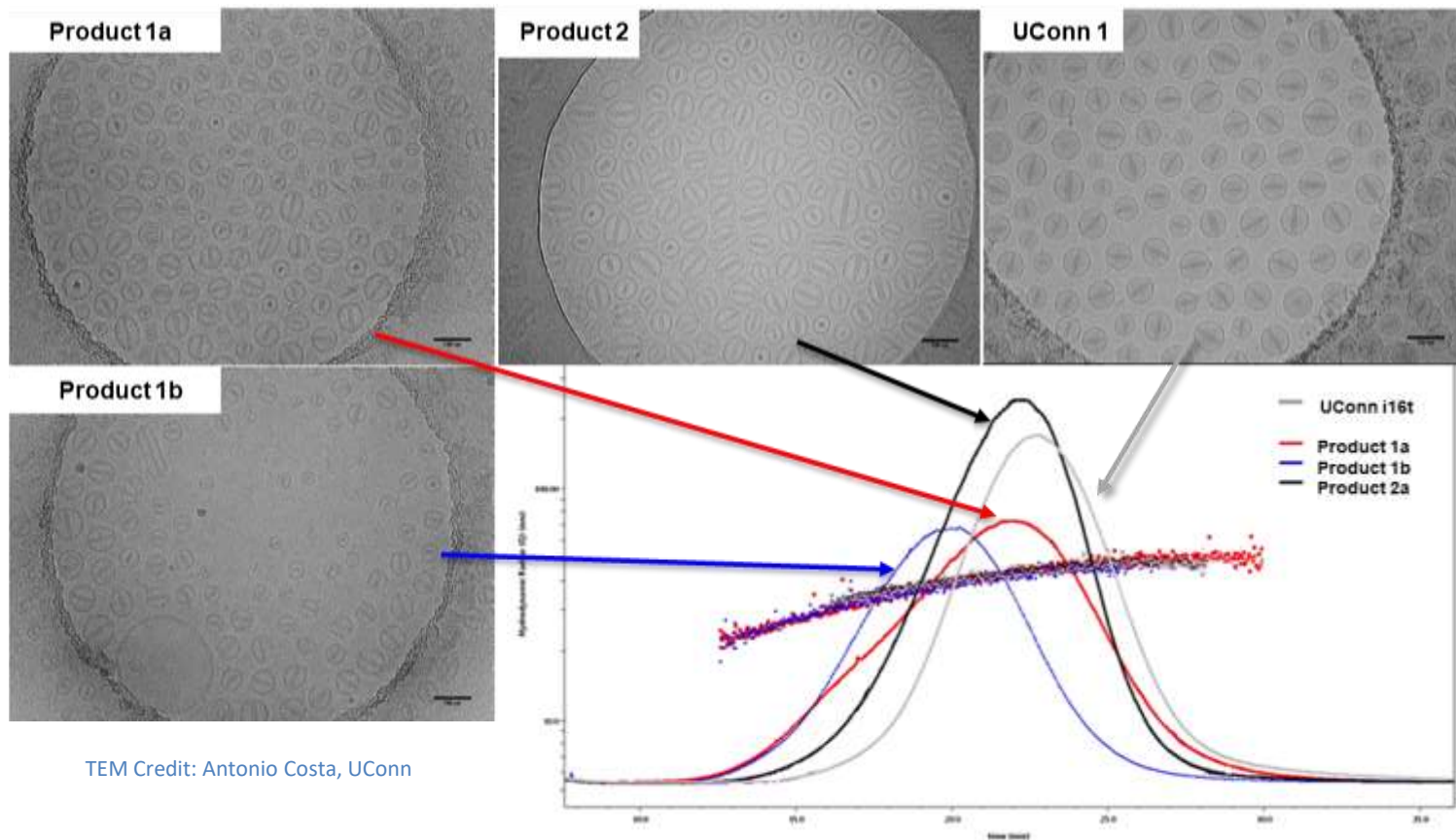
**U.S. FOOD & DRUG**  
ADMINISTRATION

# Assessing morphological variability in liposomal drug products using field-flow fractionation



➤ **Control of particle size distribution, drug loading, and shape**

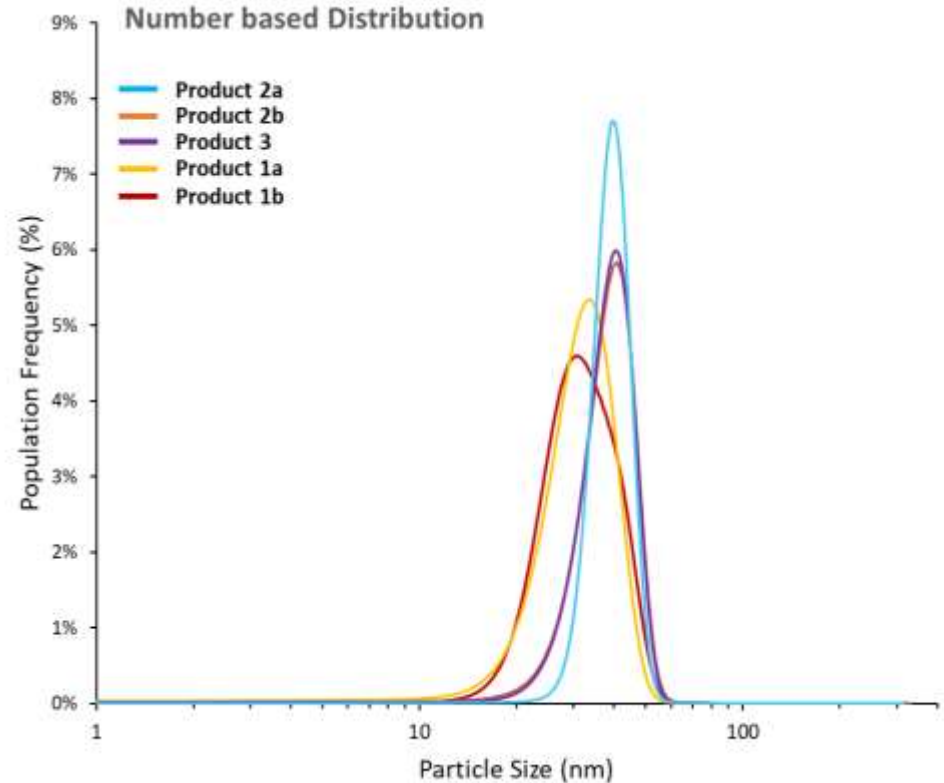
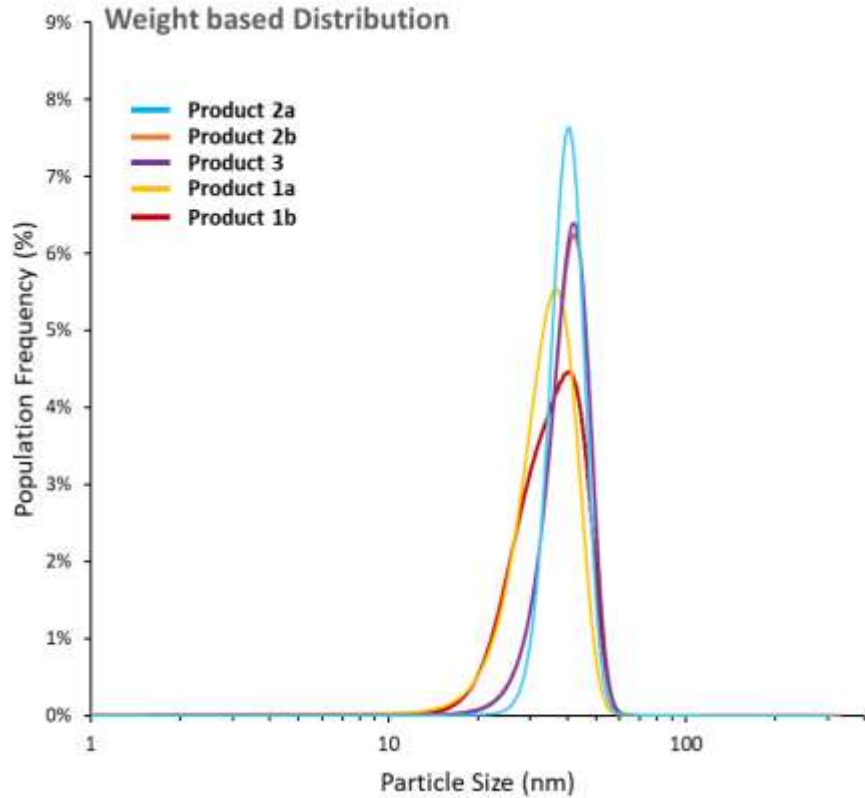
# Doxxorubicin Liposome Polydispersity



TEM Credit: Antonio Costa, UConn

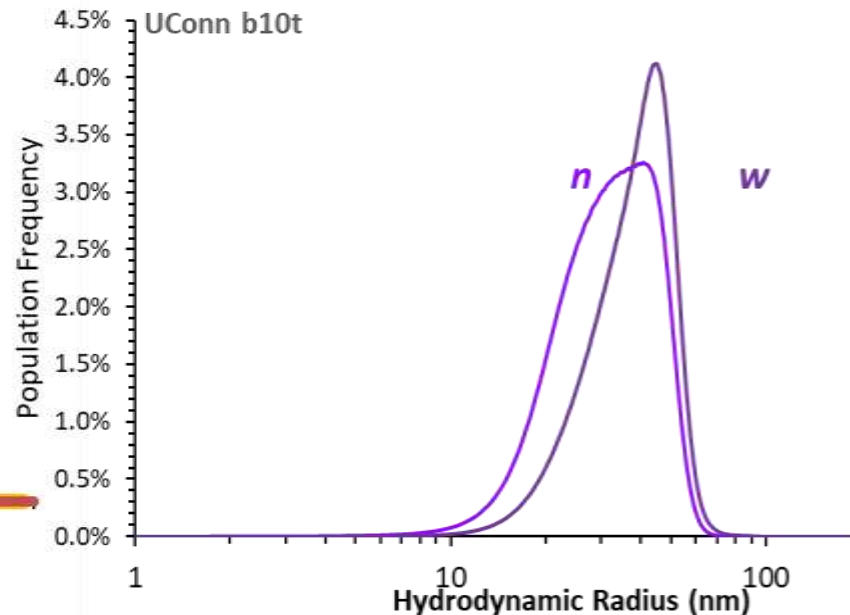
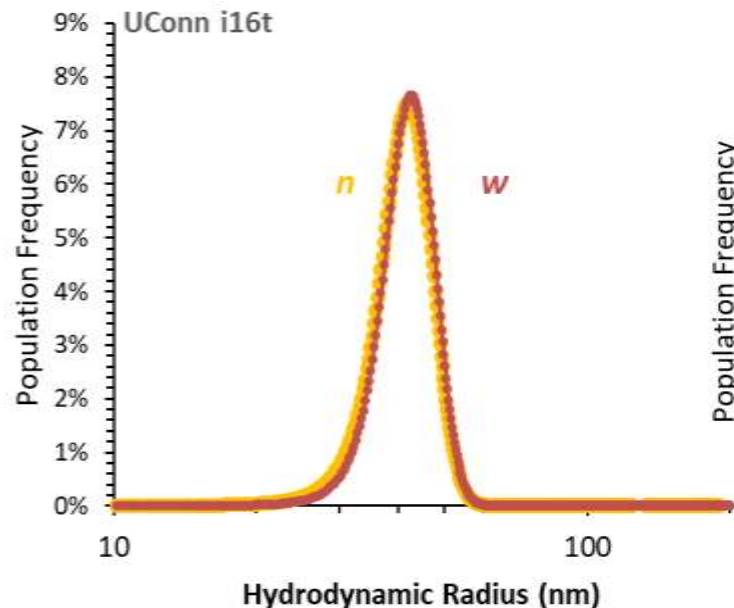


# Determining Liposomal Particle Size Distribution



\*Particle Size as hydrodynamic radius ( $R_h$ ) from online DLS

# Determining Liposomal Particle Size Distribution

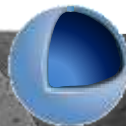
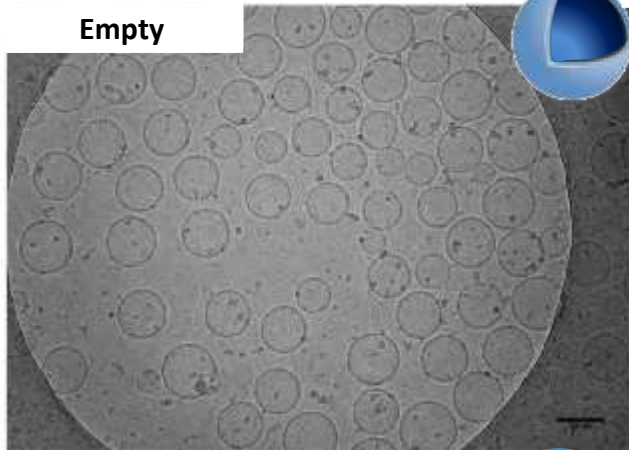


| ID   | Zavg<br>(r.nm) | PDI<br>(DLS) | rh(Q)n<br>(nm) | rh(Q)w<br>(nm) | PDI <sub>n</sub> | PDI <sub>w</sub> |
|------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| b10t | 43.4           | 0.061        | 36.8           | 45.7           | 0.101            | 0.064            |
| i16t | 43.7           | 0.017        | 41.4           | 42.9           | 0.016            | 0.015            |

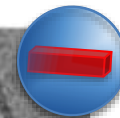
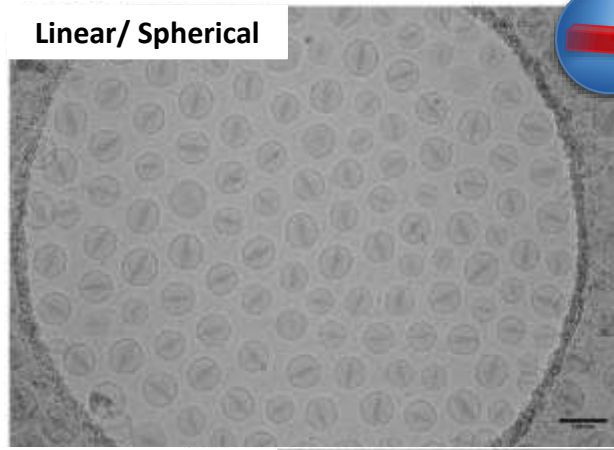
# Controlled Doxorubicin Liposome Morphology



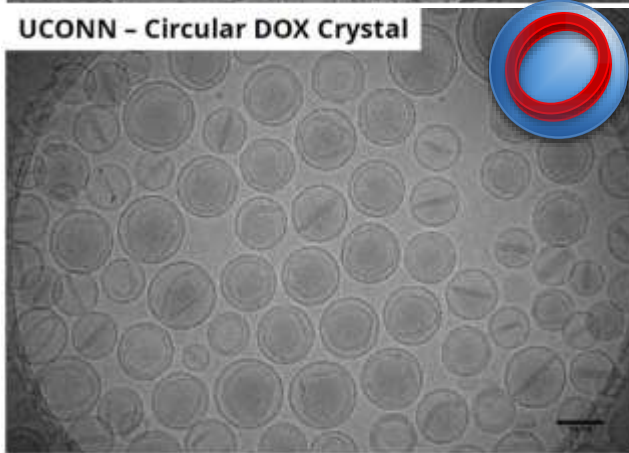
Empty



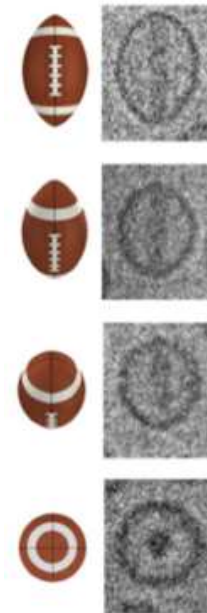
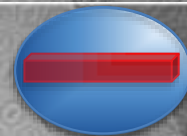
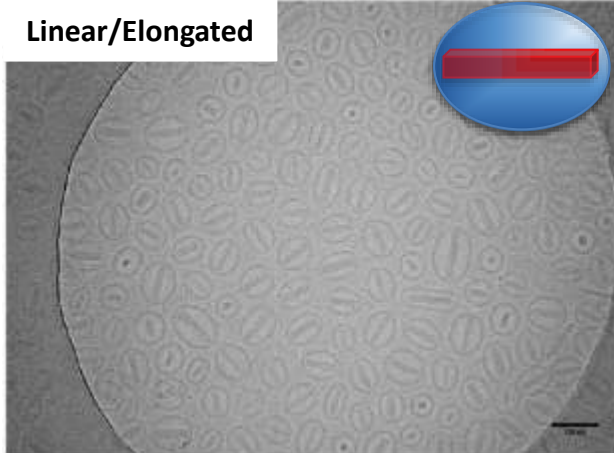
Linear/ Spherical



UCONN - Circular DOX Crystal

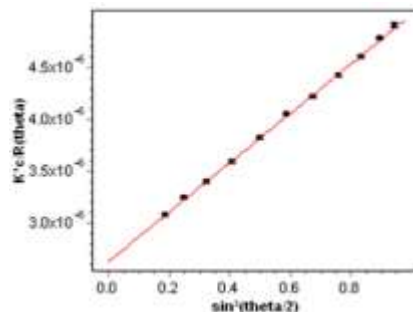
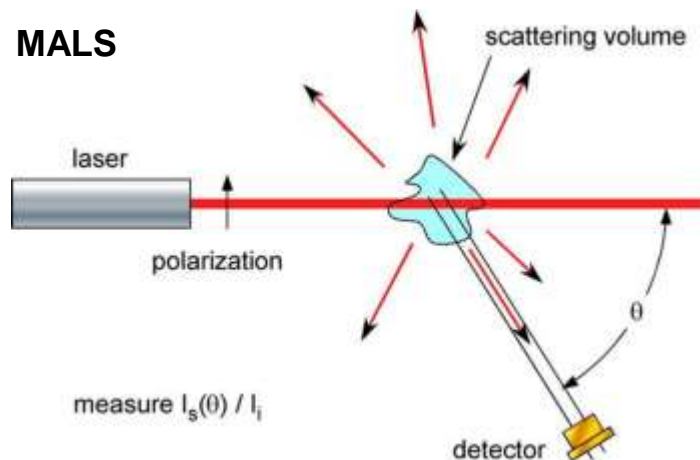


Linear/Elongated



# Light Scattering for Particle Size and Shape

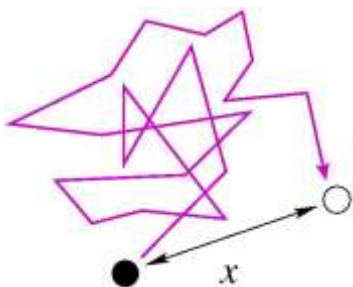
## MALS



$$\frac{K^*c}{R(\theta)} = \frac{1}{MP(\theta)} + 2A_2c$$

$$P(\theta) = 1 - \frac{16\pi^2 n_0^2}{3\lambda_0^2} \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \langle r_g^2 \rangle + \dots$$

## DLS



Stokes - Einstein Relation

$$D_t = \frac{kT}{6\pi\eta R_h}$$

| "true" $r_{rms}$ of sphere            |    |     |     |
|---------------------------------------|----|-----|-----|
| 25                                    | 50 | 100 | 150 |
| % relative error in measured quantity |    |     |     |

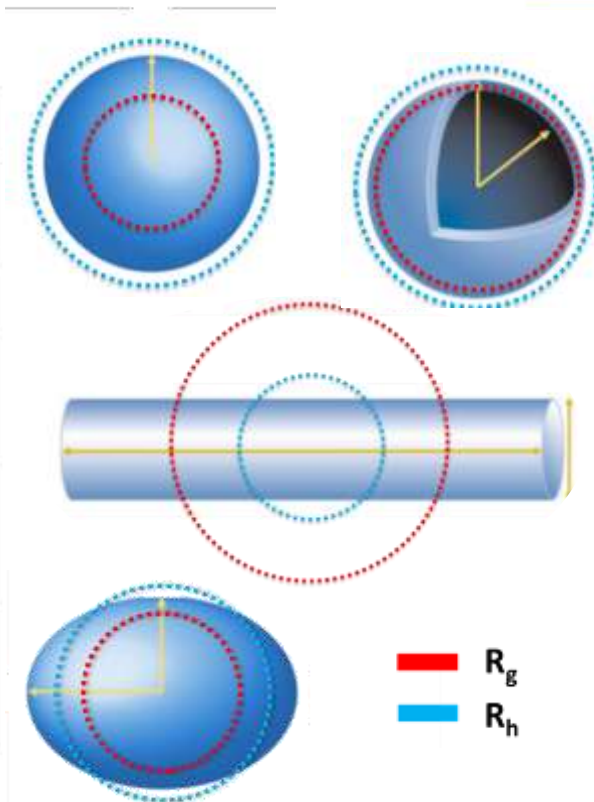
| method | order of polynome fit | $M_w$ | $r_{rms,m}$ | $M_w$ | $r_{rms,m}$ | $M_w$ | $r_{rms,m}$ | $M_w$ | $r_{rms,m}$ |
|--------|-----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| Debye  | 1                     | 0.0   | -1.7        | -0.6  | -4.8        | -7.0  | -21.1       | -8.6  | -21.8       |
|        | 2                     | 0.0   | 0.0         | 0.0   | -0.3        | -0.7  | -3.5        | -0.9  | -3.9        |
|        | 3                     | 0.0   | 0.0         | 0.0   | 0.0         | 0.0   | -0.4        | -0.1  | -0.4        |
| Zimm   | 1                     | 0.1   | 2.4         | 1.0   | 10.7        | 44.1  | 86.6        | 68.3  | 108.0       |
|        | 2                     | 0.0   | 0.0         | 0.0   | -1.0        | -5.7  | -38.1       | -7.8  | -47.6       |
|        | 3                     | 0.0   | 0.0         | 0.0   | 0.1         | 1.0   | 8.1         | 1.5   | 10.6        |
| Berry  | 1                     | 0.0   | 1.4         | 0.5   | 5.7         | 13.8  | 31.3        | 18.5  | 34.9        |
|        | 2                     | 0.0   | 0.0         | 0.0   | -0.3        | -1.5  | -8.6        | -2.1  | -10.2       |
|        | 3                     | 0.0   | 0.0         | 0.0   | 0.0         | 0.2   | 1.5         | 0.3   | 1.9         |

\* The scattering species is assumed to be a compact sphere. Extrapolation based on 16 points in the angular interval 14–163°

# Shape Factor ( $\rho$ ) from Light Scattering

Table 1. Some representative shape factor values

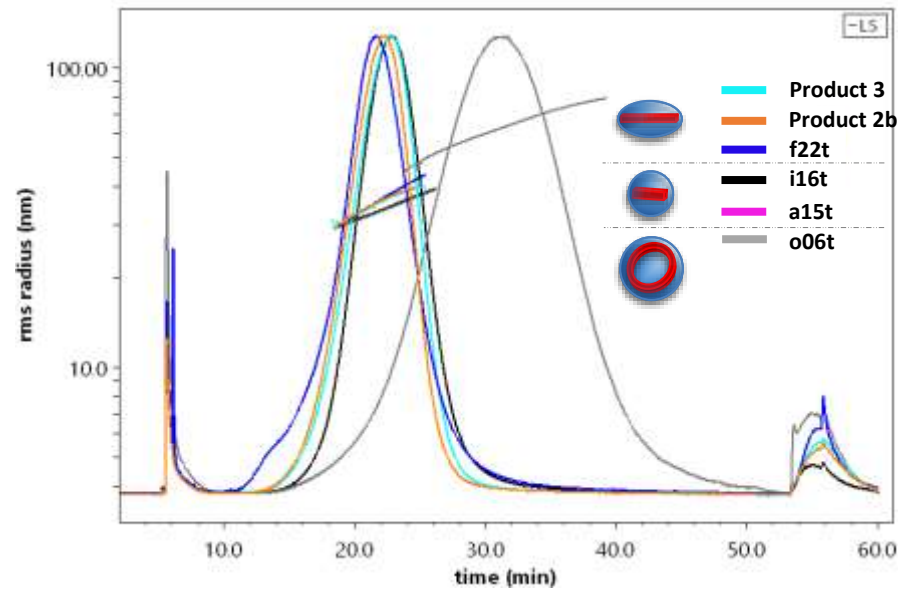
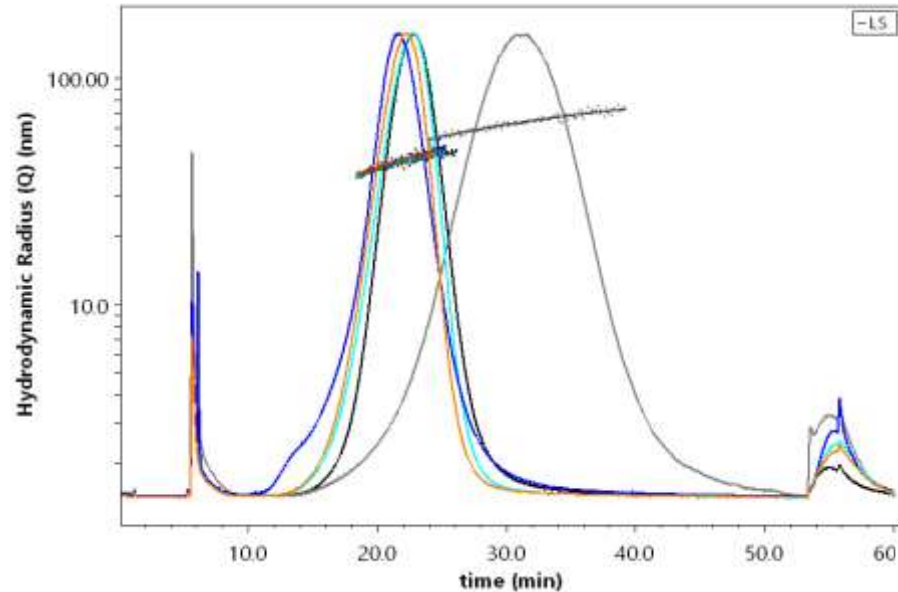
| Structure  | $R_g$   | $R_h$  | Shape factor   |
|--|---|--|--|
| Uniform sphere with radius $R$   | $R \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}}$  | $R$  | 0.77   |
| Hollow sphere with radius $R$  | $R$   | $R$  | 1  |
| Spherical shell,<br>$p$ = ratio of inner radius $r_i$ to<br>outer radius $R$ | $R \sqrt{\frac{3}{5} \frac{1-p^5}{1-p^3}}$ <sup>20</sup>        | $R$  | $p = 0.5 \rightarrow \rho = 0.82$<br>$p = 0.9 \rightarrow \rho = 0.95$ |
| Uniform rod,<br>$p$ = length / diameter = $L/d$                              | $\frac{L}{2} \sqrt{\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2p^2}}$ <sup>21</sup> | $\frac{L/2}{\ln(p) + 0.312 + \frac{0.565}{p} - \frac{0.1}{p^2}}$ <sup>21</sup> | $p = 2 \rightarrow \rho = 0.85$<br>$p = 10 \rightarrow \rho = 1.55$    |
| Uniform prolate ellipsoid,<br>$p$ = axial ratio $b:a$                        | $b \sqrt{\frac{1+2/p^2}{5}}$ <sup>22</sup>                      | $\frac{b \sqrt{1-\frac{1}{p^2}}}{\ln(p + \sqrt{p^2-1})}$ <sup>23</sup>         | $p = 2 \rightarrow \rho = 0.83$<br>$p = 10 \rightarrow \rho = 1.36$    |





# Doxorubicin Liposomes $R_h$ and $R_g$

LS Model: Berry 2<sup>nd</sup> Order

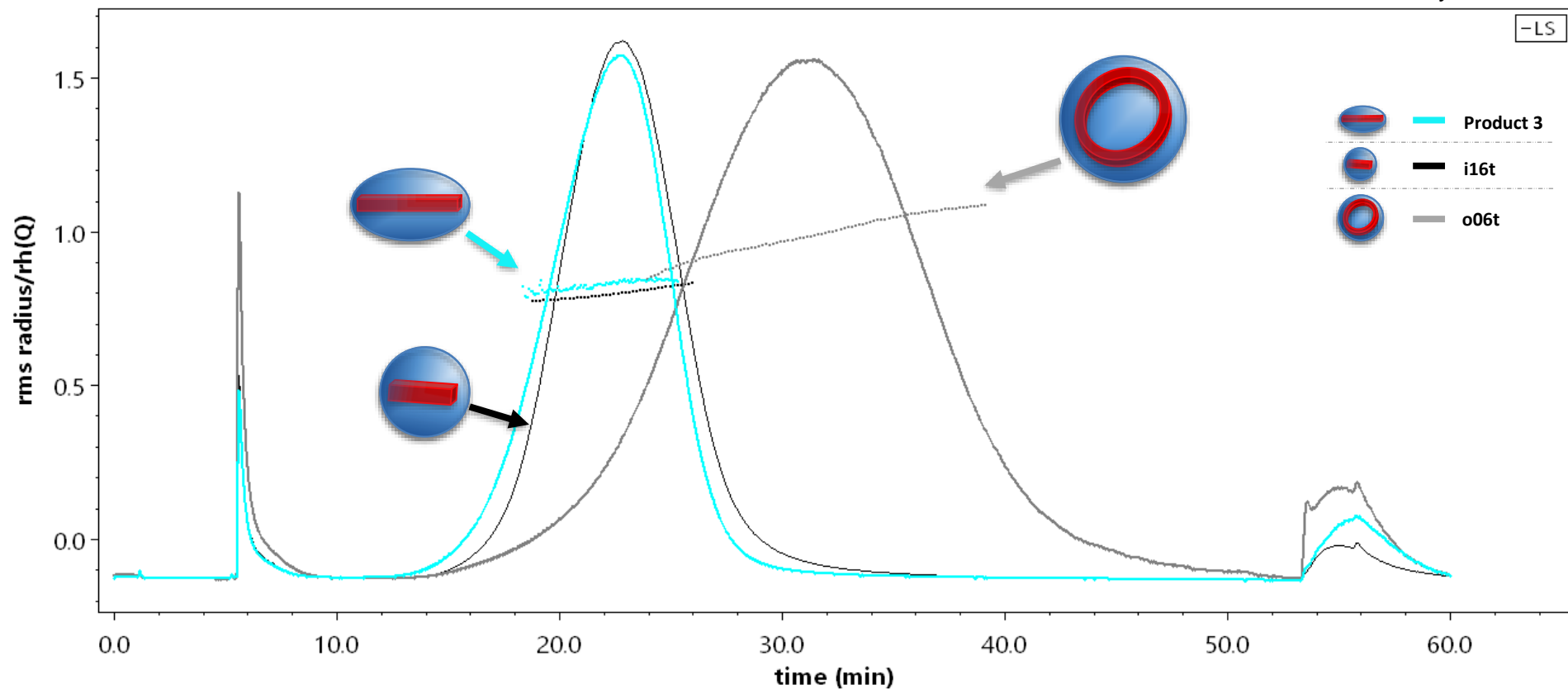


➤ Slight variation in  $R_g$  values at equivalent retention times for elongated/spherical mixtures 19

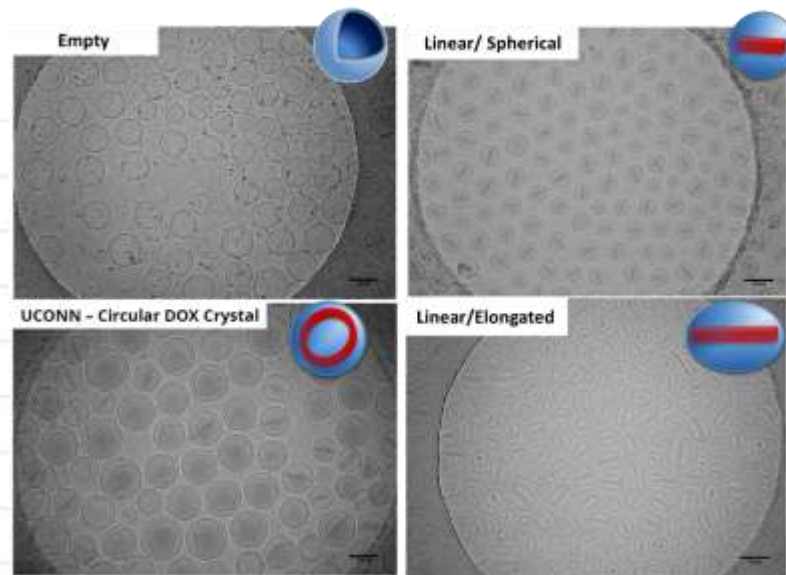
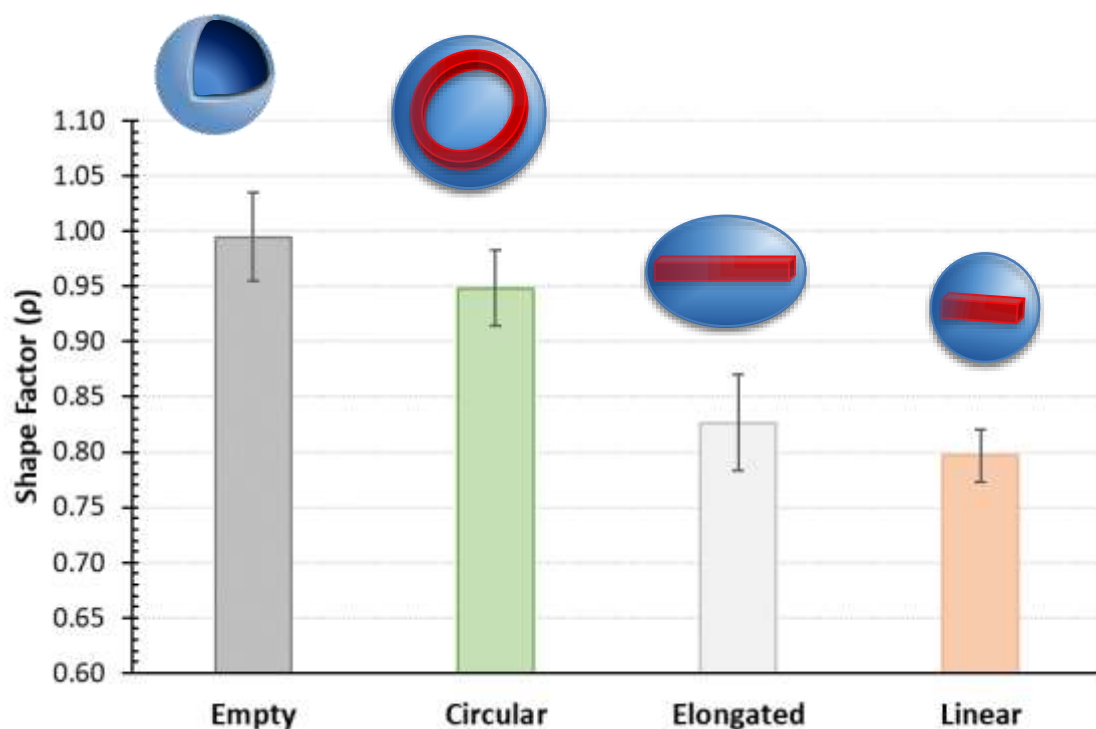
# Doxxorubicin Liposomes Shape Factors



LS Model: Berry 2<sup>nd</sup> Order



# Doxorubicin Liposome Morphologies



|                   | Shape Factor      |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Empty</i>      | $0.99_5 \pm 0.03$ |
| <i>Elongated*</i> | $0.83_4 \pm 0.04$ |
| <i>Circular</i>   | $0.94_8 \pm 0.03$ |
| <i>Linear</i>     | $0.79_7 \pm 0.02$ |

➤ When is elongation elongated enough?

- ❑ Continuous manufacturing provides the ability to produce liposomal samples of ***controlled*** size, shape, and polydispersity
  
- ❑ Future directions: Orthogonal methodologies for fractionated samples to assess morphological polydispersity: RMM, Cryo-TEM, etc.
  
- ❑ Further studies are essential to evaluate appropriateness of shape factor analysis as a rapid screening method
  - ❑ Comparisons of LS Models



## NCL Method PCC-19

### Asymmetric-Flow Field-Flow Fractionation

Nanotechnology Characterization Laboratory  
Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research  
Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc.  
Frederick, MD 21702  
(301) 846-6939  
[ncl@mail.nih.gov](mailto:ncl@mail.nih.gov)  
<https://ncl.cancer.gov>



## Analysis of Nano-Objects using Field Flow Fractionation

### Interlaboratory Comparison Protocol – Asymmetrical-Flow Field Flow Fractionation

This document contains information necessary to perform measurements and report results as a participant in the interlaboratory comparison for ISO Technical Specification 21362. It is designed to generate data necessary to establish baseline precision and reproducibility for asymmetrical-flow field flow fractionation with multiple detectors. This study is conducted under the auspices of VAMAS Technical Working Area 34.

EUNCL-PCC-022



## FFF-MALS method development and measurements of size and molecular weight

*Measurement of particle size distribution of protein binding, of mean molecular weight of polymeric NP components, study of batch to batch reproducibility, and study of release of free coating from NP surface by FFF-MALS*



# Standardization Efforts for Nanomaterial Analysis



- [FFF: Addressing the Nano-Challenge](#)
- [Asymmetric Flow Field Flow Fractionation for the Characterization of Globule Size Distribution in Complex Formulations: A Cyclosporine Ophthalmic Emulsion Case](#)
- [Nanoparticle Manufacturing – Heterogeneity through Processes to Products](#)
- [Liposome formation using a coaxial turbulent jet in co-flow](#)
- [Orthogonal and complementary measurements of properties of drug products containing nanomaterials](#)
- [Physical characterization of liposomal drug formulations using multidetector asymmetrical-flow field flow fractionation](#)
- [Improved multidetector asymmetrical –flow field flow fractionation method for particle sizing and concentration measurements of lipid-based nanocarriers for RNA delivery](#)
- [ISO TS21362 Nanotechnologies — Analysis of nano-objects using asymmetrical-flow and centrifugal field-flow fractionation](#)
- [NCL Method PCC-19: Asymmetric-Flow Field-Flow Fractionation](#)
- [EUNCL-PCC-022 FFF-MALS method development and measurement of size and molecular weight](#)
- [ASTM E3323-22: Standard Test Method for Lipid Quantitation in Liposomal Formulations Using High Performance Liquid Chromatography \(HPLC\) with an Evaporative Light-Scattering Detector \(ELSD\)](#)
- [ASTM E3324-22: Standard Test Method for Lipid Quantitation in Liposomal Formulations Using Ultra-High-Performance Liquid Chromatography \(UHPLC\) with Triple Quadrupole Mass Spectrometry \(TQMS\)](#)
- [ASTM E3297-21: Standard Test Method for Lipid Quantitation in Liposomal Formulations Using High Performance Liquid Chromatography \(HPLC\) with a Charged Aerosol Detector \(CAD\)](#)

# Acknowledgements



## FDA Collaborators:

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Hailing Zhang

Anil Patri

Sanghamitra Majumdar

Goutam Pauli



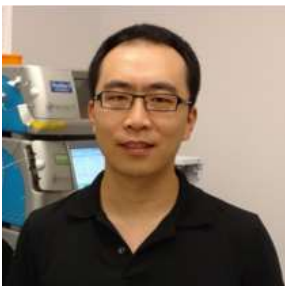
Dr. Antonio Costa



Dr. Diane Burgess



Dr. Gowtham Yenduri



Haiou Qu



Xiaoming Xu

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- ORISE
- Critical Path
- Regulatory Science Research
- NanoCORES
- GDUFA

# Questions?

**William C. Smith, Ph.D.**

Research Scientist

Division of Product Quality Research, Office of Testing and Research

CDER | US FDA