

**University of Birmingham Business Club**  
**Breakfast Briefing**

**‘Innovative surface  
coatings and food  
hygiene’**

**Tuesday 10 October 2017**

**EPSRC**

**Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council**

**B** Business with  
Birmingham

**UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM**

# Innovative Surface Coatings & Hygiene

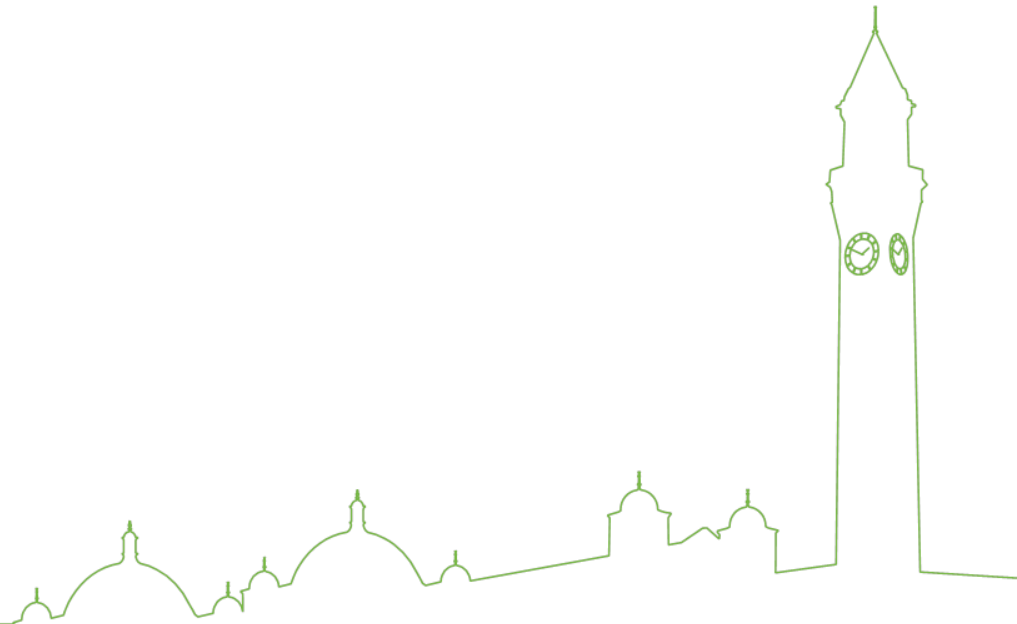
Dr Zhenyu Jason Zhang  
School of Chemical Engineering  
University of Birmingham

[z.j.zhang@bham.ac.uk](mailto:z.j.zhang@bham.ac.uk)

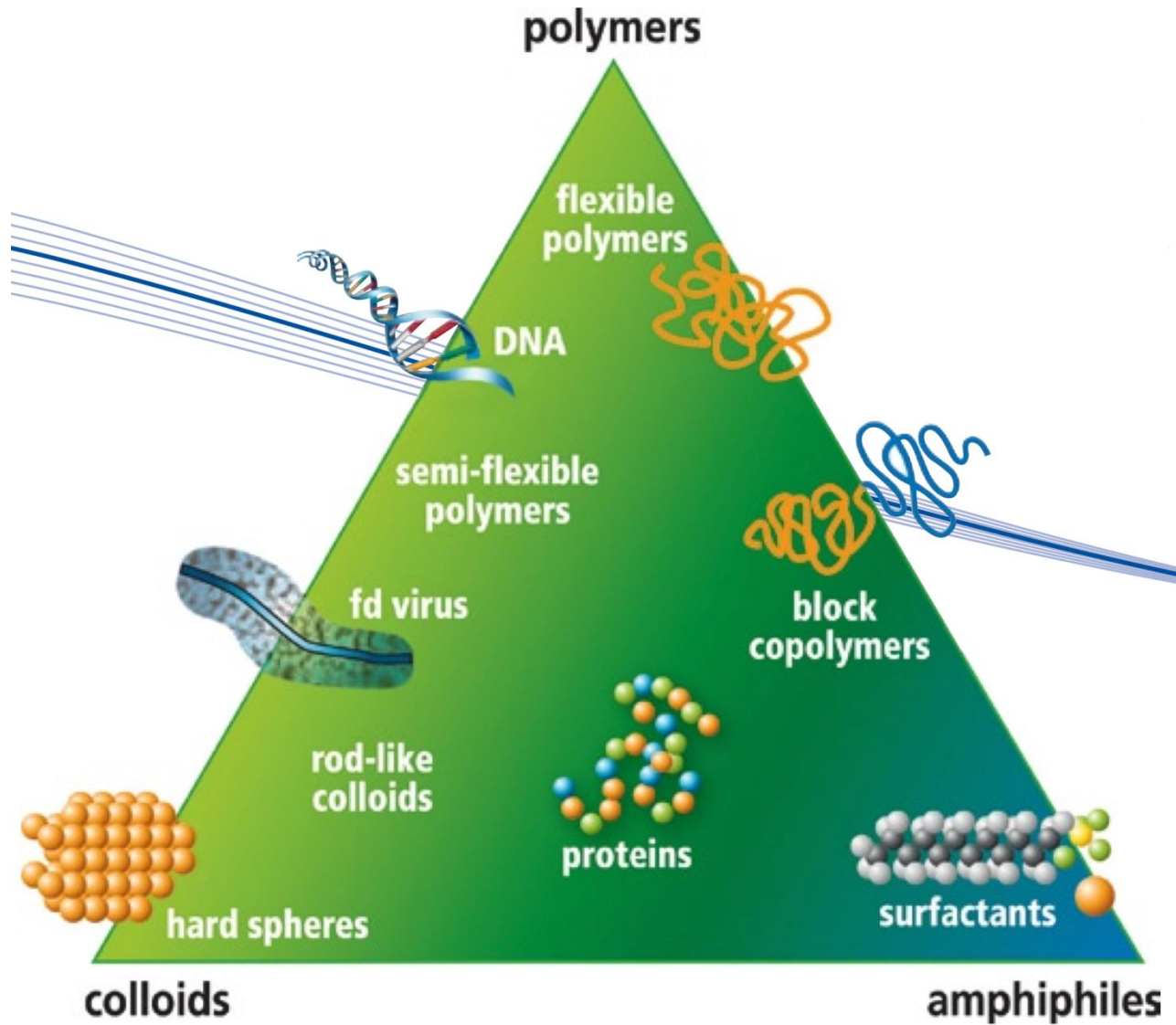


# Outline

- Overview
- Surface coating strategies
- Antimicrobial surface coating
- Our approaches
  - Design
  - Testing



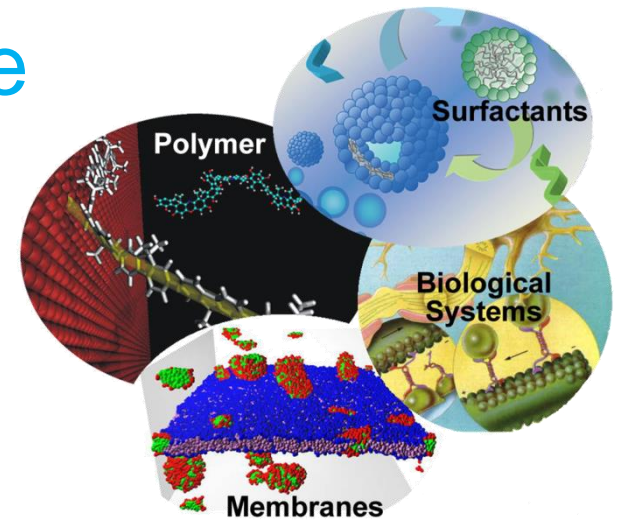
# What I am interested



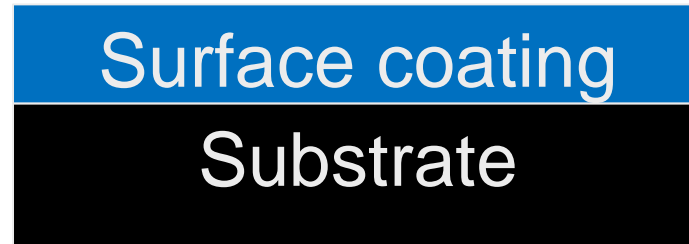
# Why am I interested in

## Soft matter at surface/interface

- Surface functionalization / coating
- Colloidal stabilization
- Lubrication
- Detergents
- Fouling/Cleaning
- Biomaterials
- Drug delivery
- Cell mechanics
- etc.

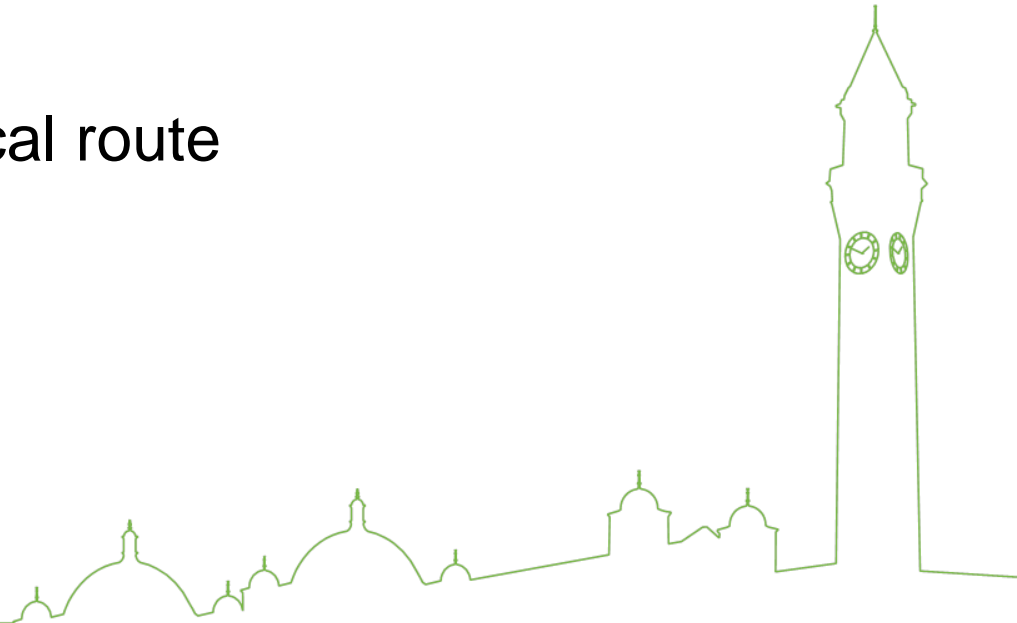


# Surface coating strategies



Surface  
Coating  
Interface

- Vapour deposition
- Chemical & electrochemical route
- Spraying
- Roller coating
- Physical coating

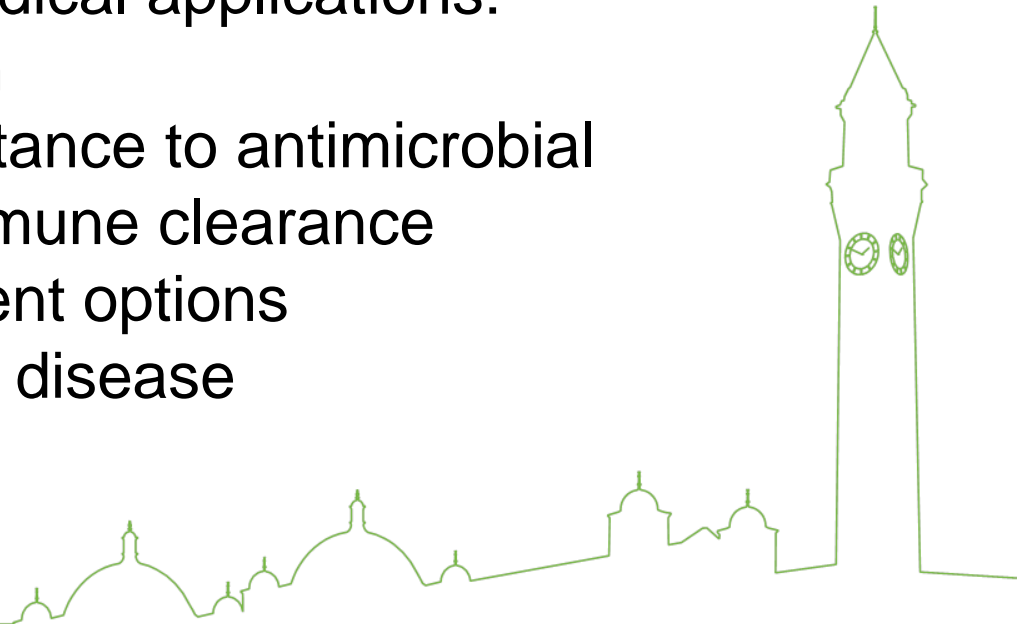


# Antimicrobial surface coating

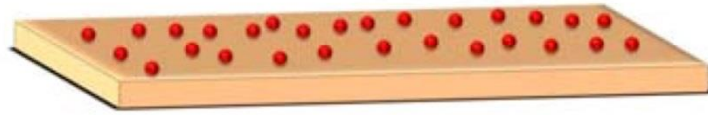
- Medical device
- Consumer goods
- Food packaging

Implications in medical applications:

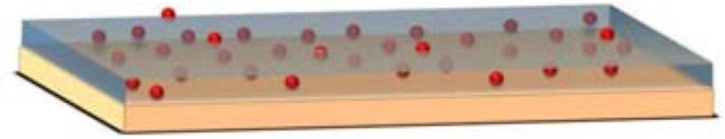
- Biofilm infection
- Increased resistance to antimicrobial therapy and immune clearance
- Limiting treatment options
- Life threatening disease



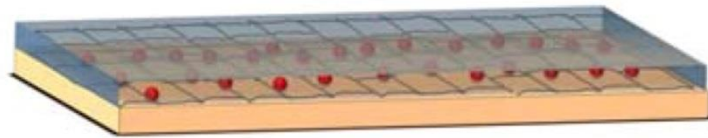
# Development - concept



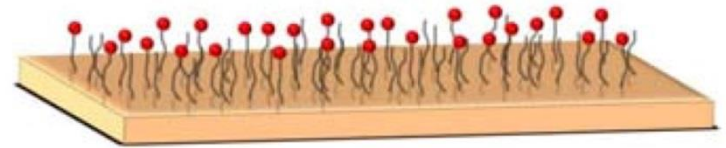
Surface immobilized antimicrobials



Antimicrobial releasing surface coating



Hydrogel contained antimicrobials



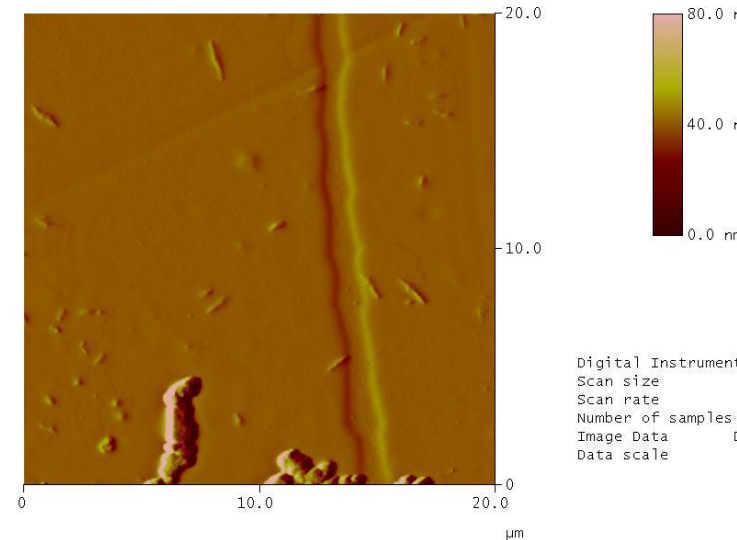
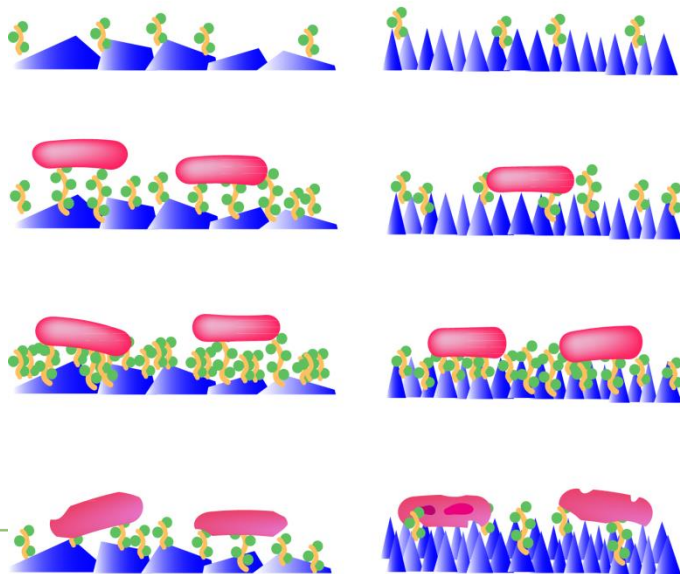
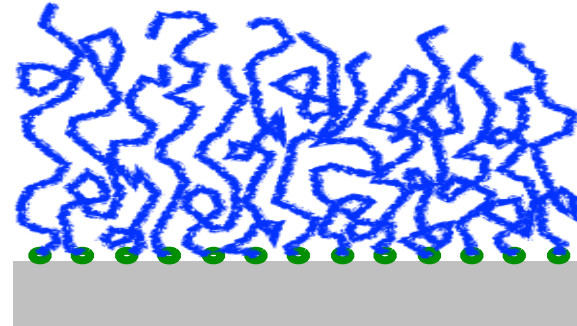
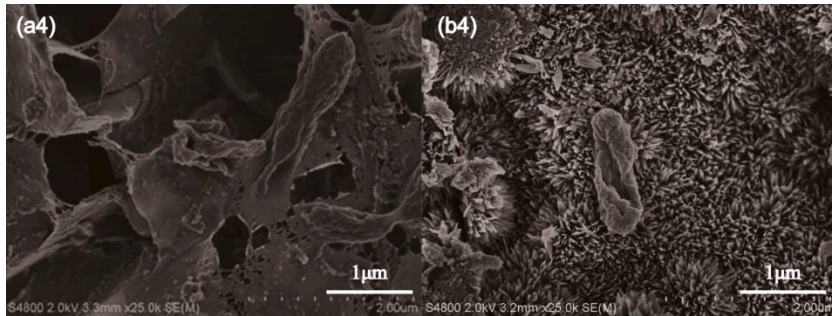
Surface tethered antimicrobials

- Two major strategies
  - Anti-adhesive: polymer, hydrogel, superhydrophobic
  - Bactericide: antimicrobial peptides, antibiotics, chitosan, etc.
- Multi-functional coating
- Application dependent
- Expectation



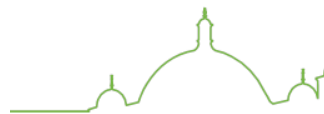
# Surface modification – chemical routes

- Polyelectrolyte layer
- Inorganic film



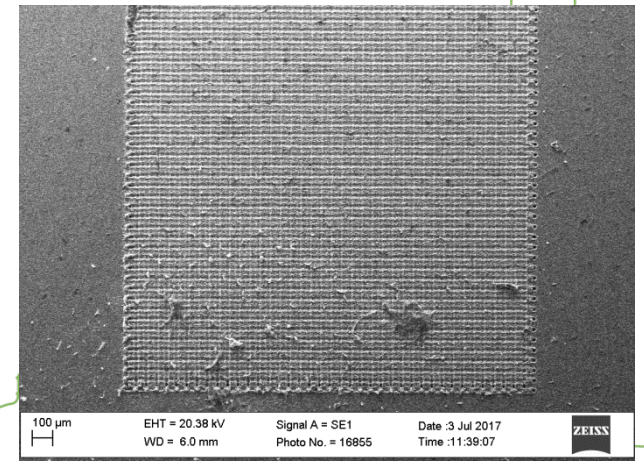
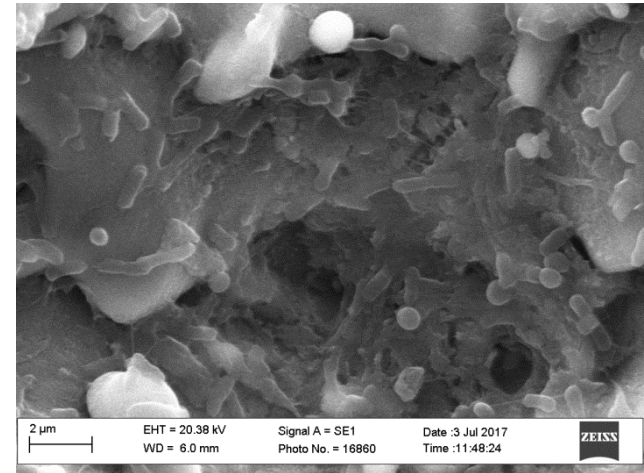
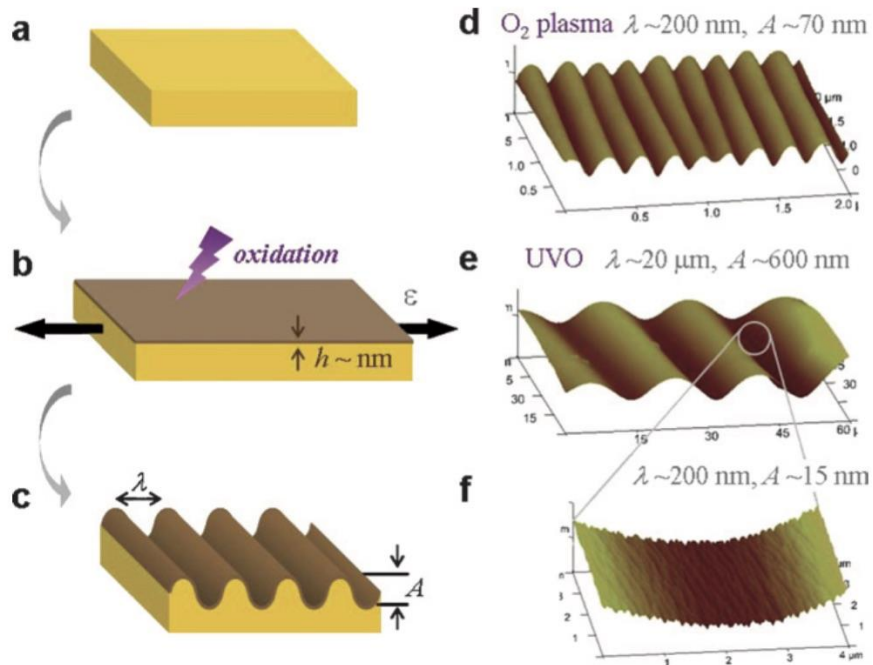
Digital Instrument  
Scan size  
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Data scale

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# Surface modification – physical routes

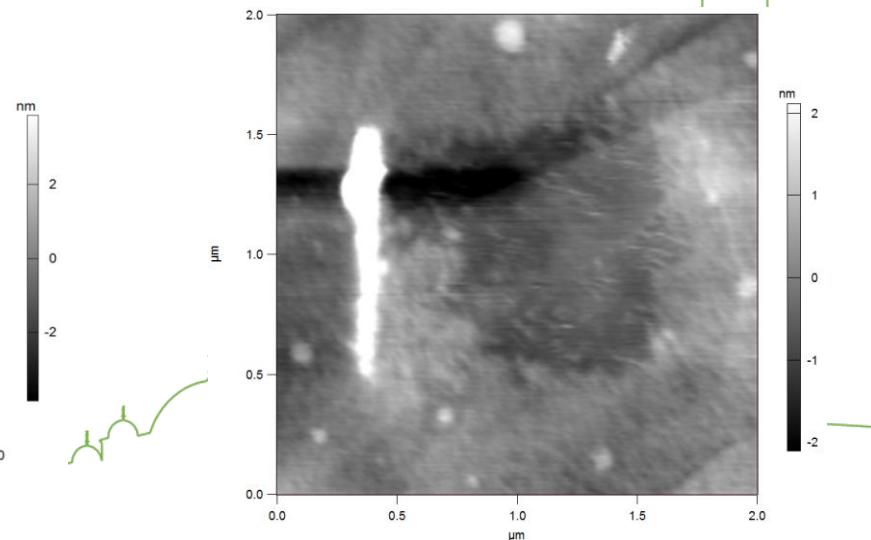
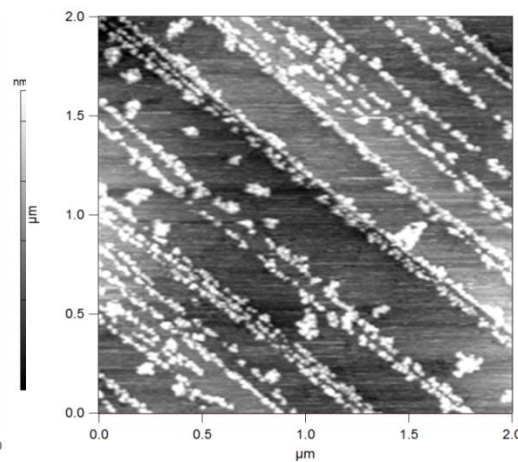
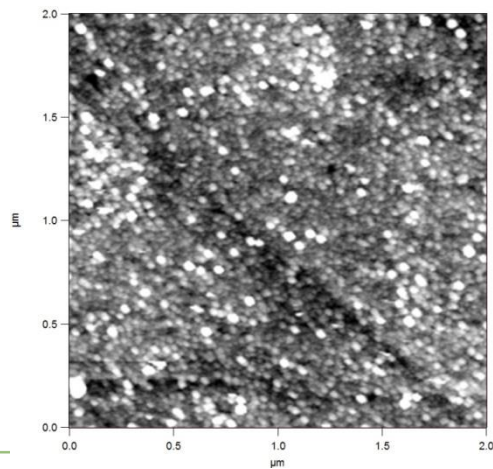
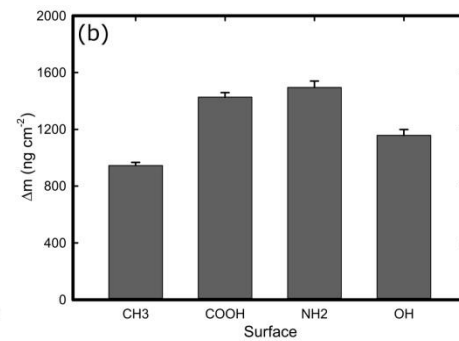
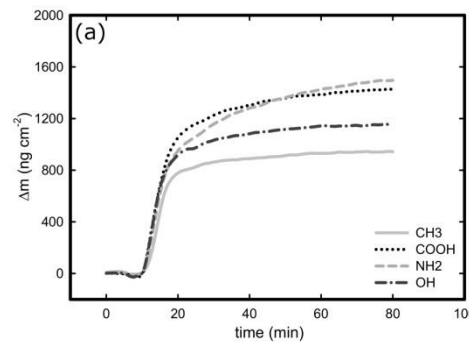
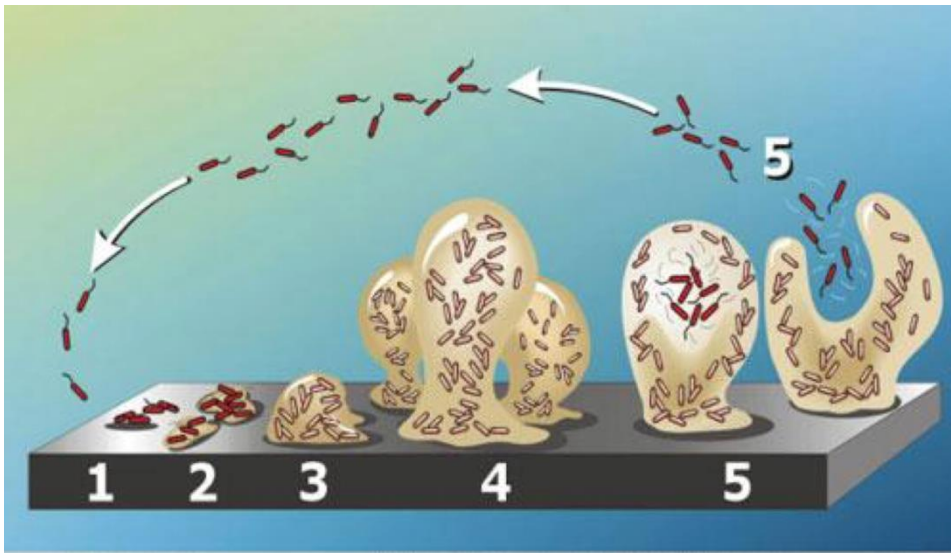
- Organic film
- Precision machining



# Testing – initial stage

## Protein adsorption

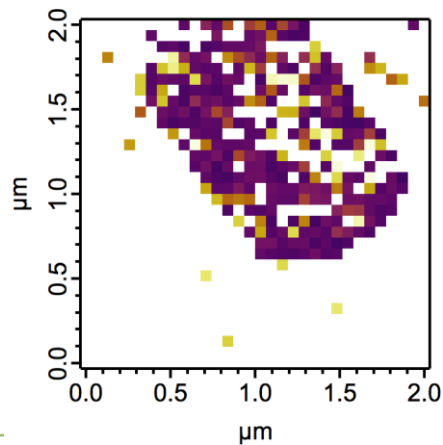
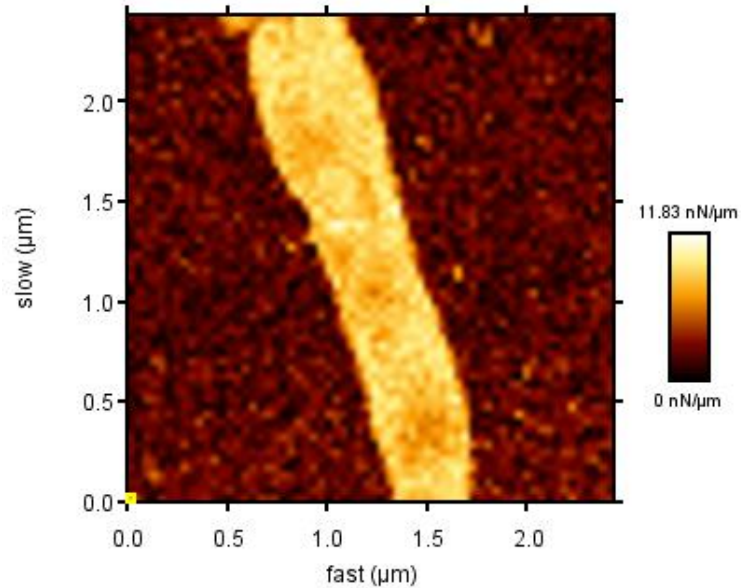
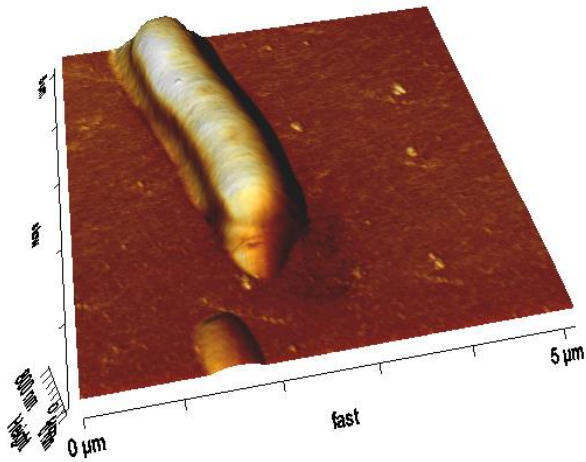
- Adsorption kinetics
- Adsorption amount
- Distribution on surfaces
- Response to environment
- Removal force required



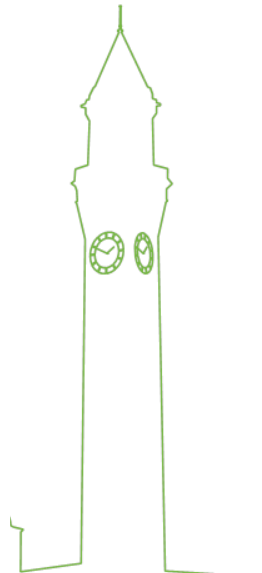
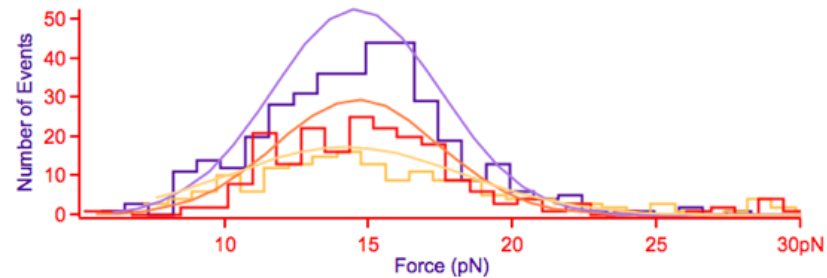


# Testing – individual cell

*Escherichia coli*

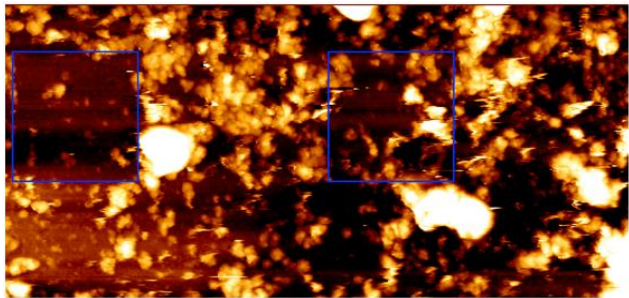
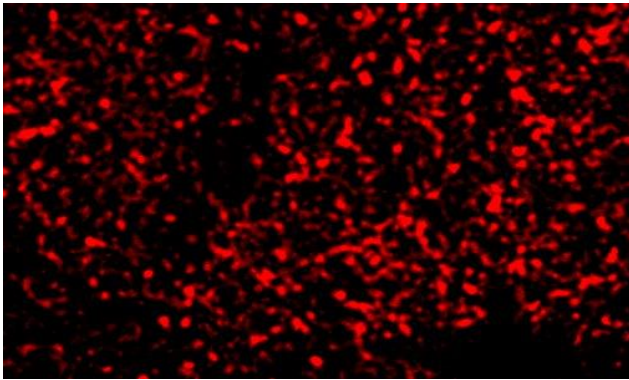


*Pseudomonas putida*

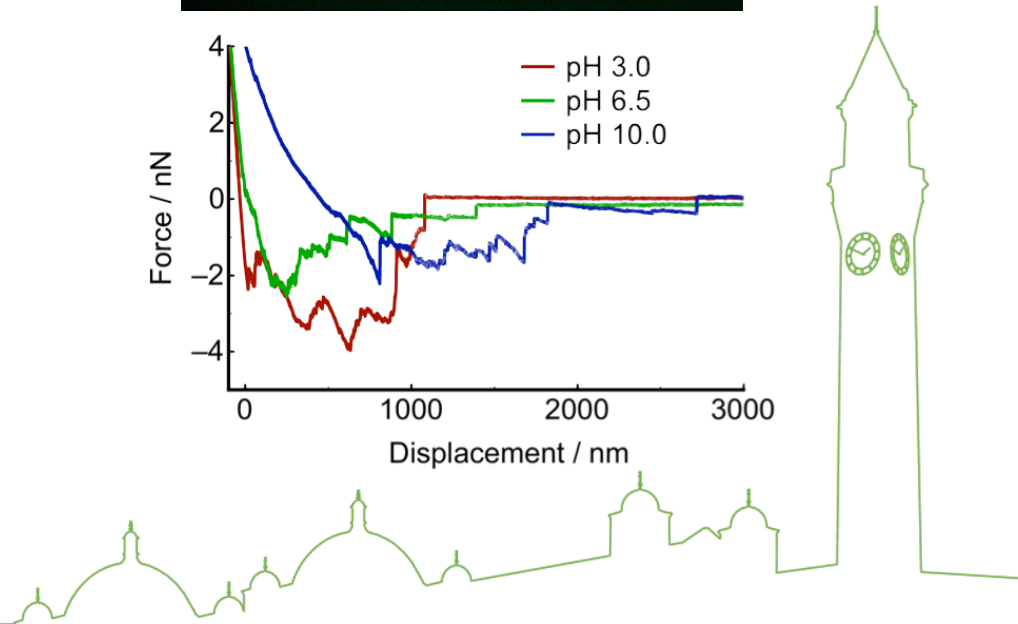
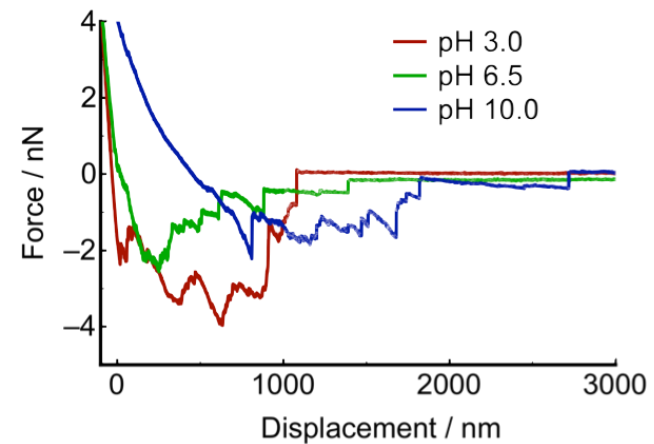
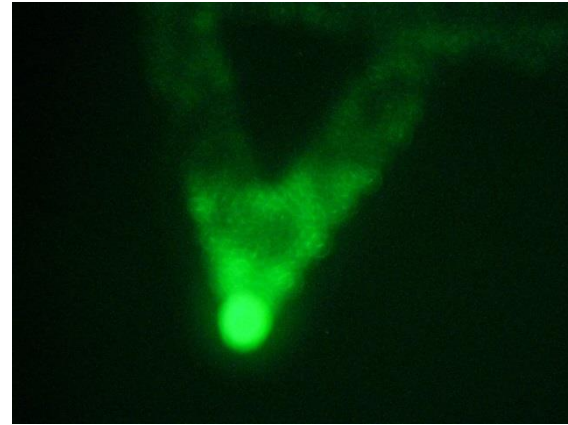


# Testing - biofilm

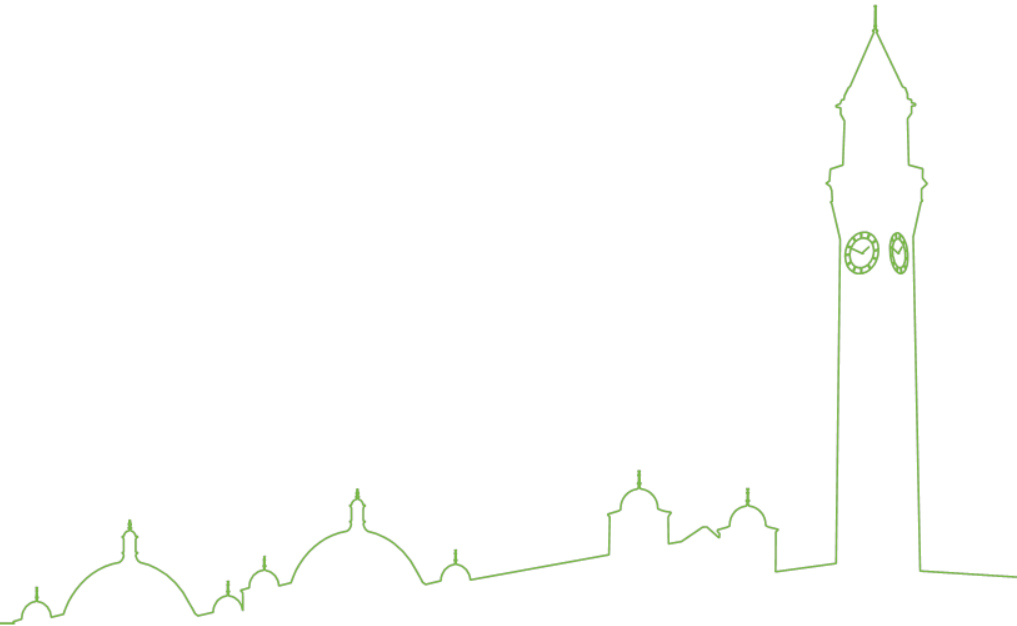
*Enterococcus faecalis*



*Rhodococcus sp.*



Thank you!



And now  
Pitches

# Dr Felicity de Cogan

*Royal Academy of Engineering  
Enterprise Fellowship*

Institute of Microbiology and  
Infection

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@NitroPep



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



# + NitroPep



ROYAL  
ACADEMY OF  
**ENGINEERING**



# + NitroPep



# The Problem

*What is growing on the surfaces **you** touch everyday?*



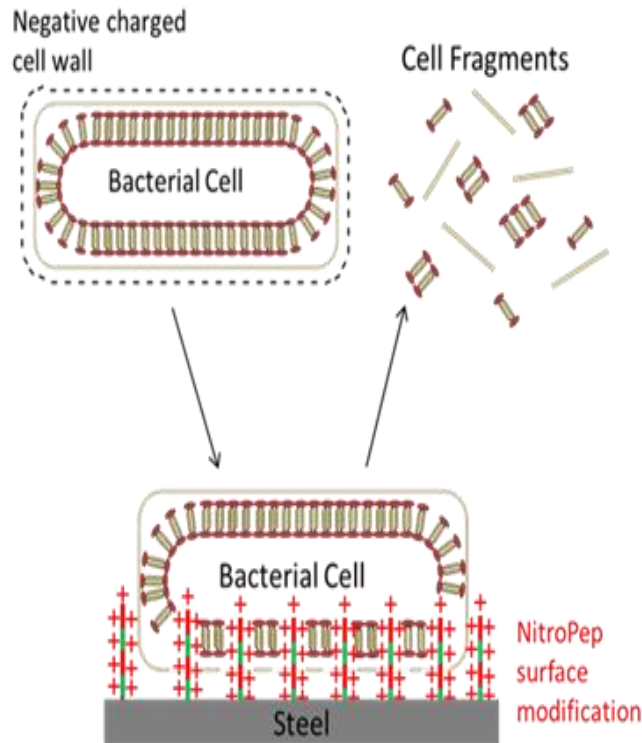
Micrococcus

MRSA

Pseudomonas  
aeruginosa

N<sup>+</sup>itroPep

# The Solution



- Durable, non-toxic and efficacious.
- Significantly reduces bacteria number in laboratory tests.
- Greater than 99 % effective in trials with potential customers

N<sup>+</sup>itroPep

# Trials



Queen Elizabeth Hospital  
Trial – NitroPep surface  
modification showed  
greater than 99 % efficacy



N<sup>+</sup>itroPep

# What We Need!

Innovative companies who are looking for disruptive technologies in the market

Sales representatives with expertise in the healthcare market, especially the NHS.

The logo for NitroPep features the word "NitroPep" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter "i" in "Nitro" is replaced by a stylized medical cross symbol, which consists of a vertical line with a horizontal bar at the top and a small circle in the center.

# How to get in touch

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@FelicitydeCogan

N<sup>+</sup><sub>1</sub>troPep

Next...

# Firm performance and wage setting

Anne Green

Professor of Regional Economic Development

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0121 414 9666

# Firm performance and wage setting

Funded by the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** *City-REDI* is investigating the *hospitality, retail* and *manufacturing* sectors with regard to the following:

- What metrics do you use to measure firm performance?
- What approaches are you using to increase productivity?
- What factors do you consider when setting wages?
- (How) do workers gain from productivity increases?

☐ *Up to an hour* of your time for a discussion

☐ **Confidentiality and anonymity guaranteed**

**What this is for –**

Research to inform and influence policy



Next...

# A.T.E.T.A

## Opportunities - Future Energy Systems

David Terry  
Business Engagement Manager  
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07973 984485



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund



# ATETA

## **What we do**

Business support for energy technology companies and energy users

## **What we offer**

Multi disciplinary team – smart grid and electrical systems, thermal energy material and storage, bio-energy generation

## **What we need**

- Free service to all SME businesses in Birmingham, Bromsgrove, Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Redditch, Solihull Tamworth and Wyre Forest

## **Our USP**

Take advantage of opportunities in a changing energy market place. Access expertise and facilities in a World leading Energy institute

# ENERGYCAPITAL

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**ERA** ENERGY  
RESEARCH  
ACCELERATOR

---

At the forefront of energy transformation

**CATAPULT**  
Energy Systems



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund

# Get in touch...

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**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund

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Thank you to our  
speakers and for  
your attention

B