



# DC and AC Electrokinetics

- Dielectrophoresis
- Electro-osmosis

## References:

- Pohl, H.A., *Dielectrophoresis: The Behavior of Neutral Matter in Nonuniform Electric Fields* (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1978).
- T. B. Jones, *Electromechanics of particles* (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1995).



# Dielectrophoresis (DC Field)

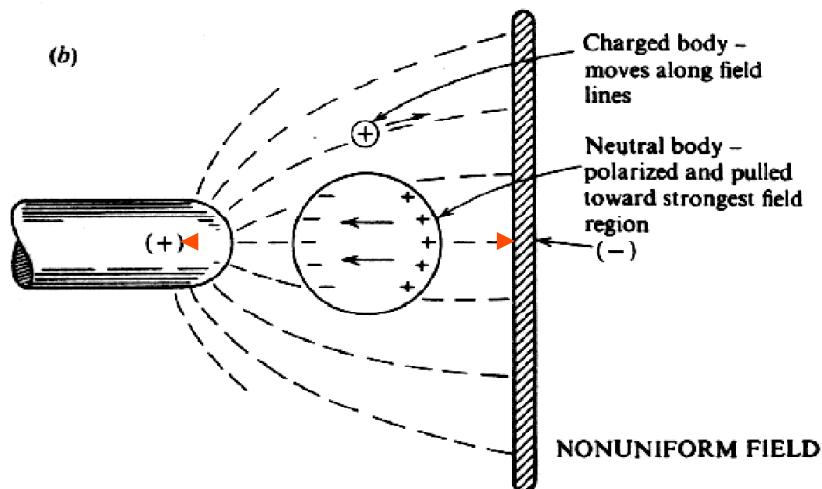
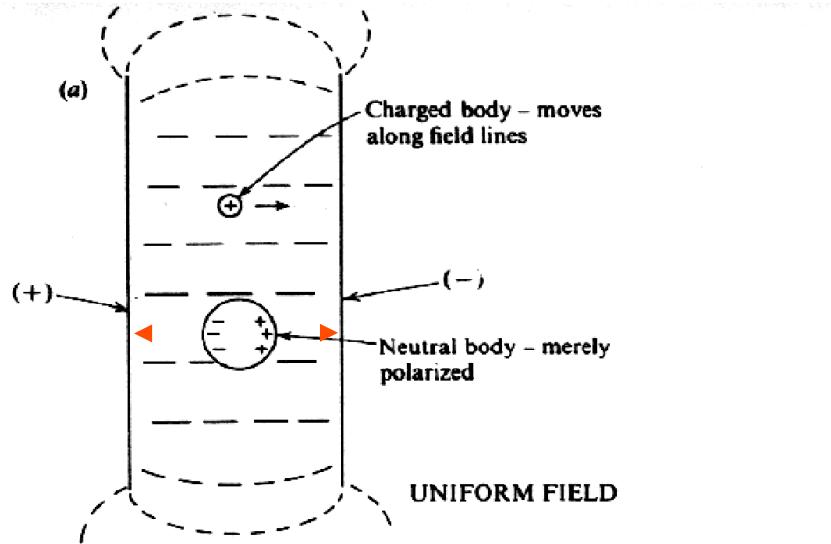


Fig. 2.1. Comparison of behaviors of neutral and charged bodies in (a) a uniform electric field; (b) a nonuniform electric field.

**Uniform DC field:**  
Dielectric (neutral) object stays still

**Non-uniform DC field:**  
Dielectric object moves  
• towards **high-field gradient region (+DEP)**  
• towards **low-field gradient region (-DEP)**

Pohl (1978)



# Dielectrophoresis (AC Field)

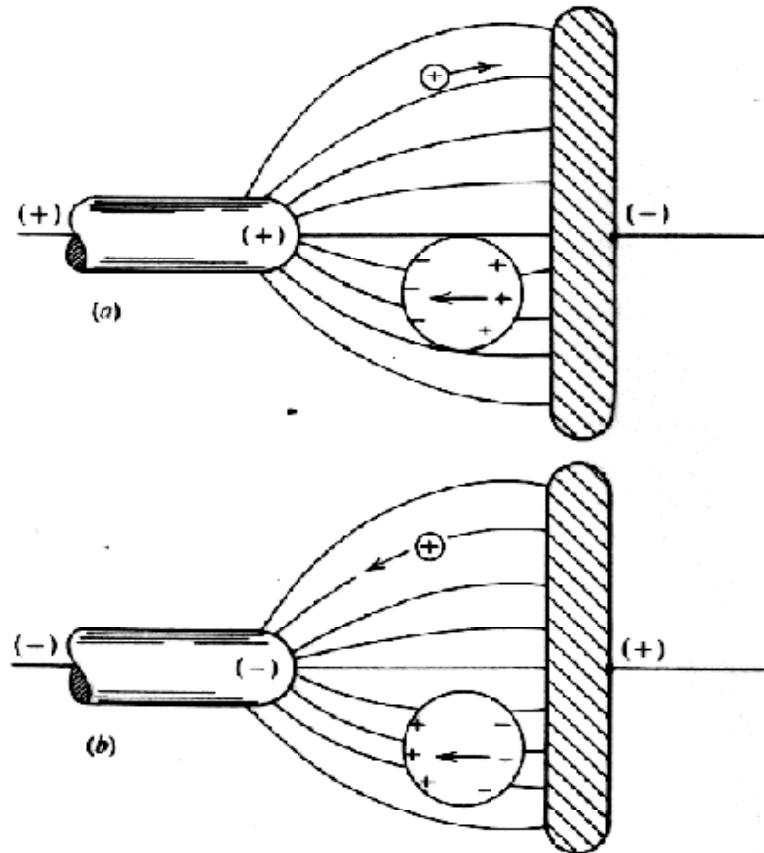


Fig. 2.2. Comparison of behaviors of neutral and charged bodies in an alternating nonuniform electric field.

## In Non-uniform AC Field:

Charged body displays  
no net displacement

Neutral body (dielectric) object  
moves

- towards **high-field gradient region**  
**(+DEP) → trapping!**
- towards **low-field gradient region**  
**(-DEP) → repelling!**



# Dielectrophoresis (DEP)

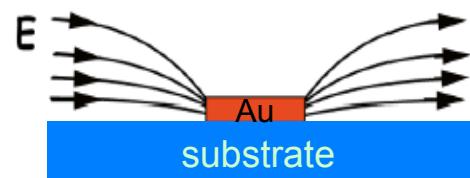
The classical DEP theory states that the dielectrophoretic force arises from the interaction of the induced dipole of a polarizable object and an external **non-uniform** electric field (Pohl 1978).

DEP is a technique which can be used to separate cells or molecules based on the difference in their polarizability.

Potential energy of a dielectric object in an electric field:

$$U = -\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{E} = -\alpha V \mathbf{E}^2$$

a. Metallic trap



(Side view)

Dielectrophoretic force:

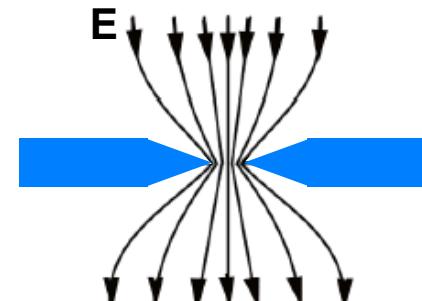
$$\mathbf{F} = -\nabla U \sim E(dE/dy)$$

$$F = 2\pi a^3 \epsilon_m \operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{\epsilon_p^* - \epsilon_m^*}{\epsilon_p^* + 2\epsilon_m^*} \right) \nabla(E^2)$$

Clausius-Mossotti factor

Sphere of radius  $a$ ,  
 $\epsilon_m = 80$  for water

b. Electrodeless trap (EDEP)



(top view)



# Application of DEP in Biology and ...

## – Cells

- ❖ Separation of yeast (Pethig et al, 1994)
- ❖ Cell fission of sea urchin eggs (Marszalek & Tsong, 1995)
- ❖ Cell fussion (Matsuda et al., 1979)

## – Viruses

- ❖ Separation of tobacco mosaic virus and herpes simplex virus (Morgan et al, 1999)

## – DNA

- ❖ Increase resolution of DNA fractionatoin or sequencing
- ❖ Enhance in-situ hybridization

## – Protein

- ❖ Protein capture/preconcentration

## – Latex beads

- ❖ DEP ratchet (Silberzan et al, 1998)

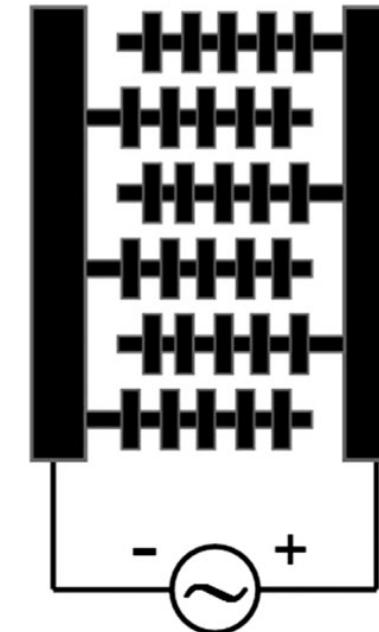


# Typical electrode geometries for MDEP

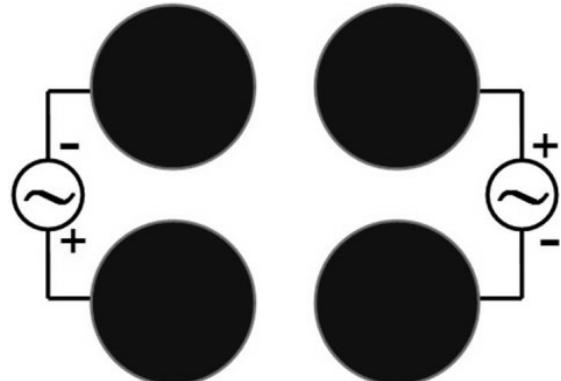
2-D simple gap electrodes



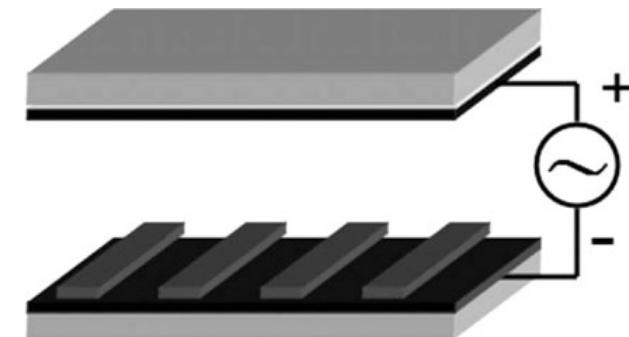
2-D interdigital electrodes



2-D quadruple electrodes

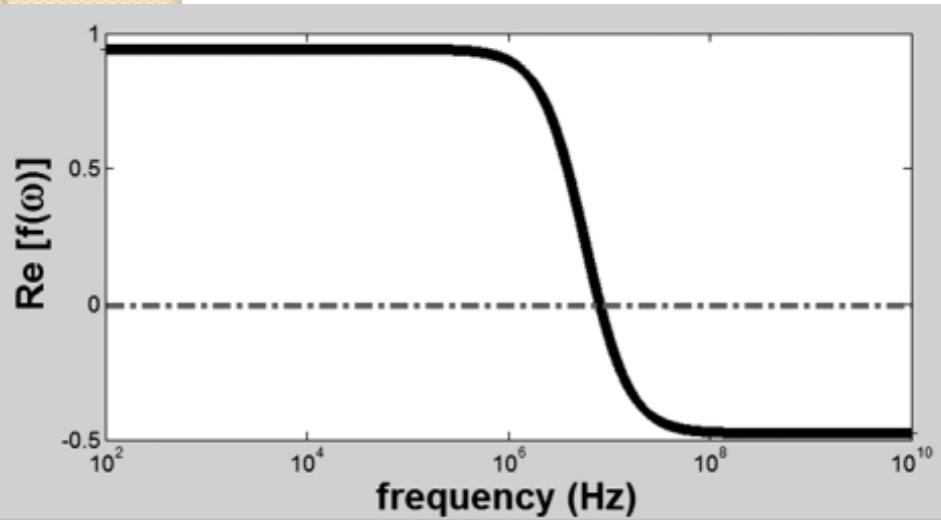


3-D vertical electrodes



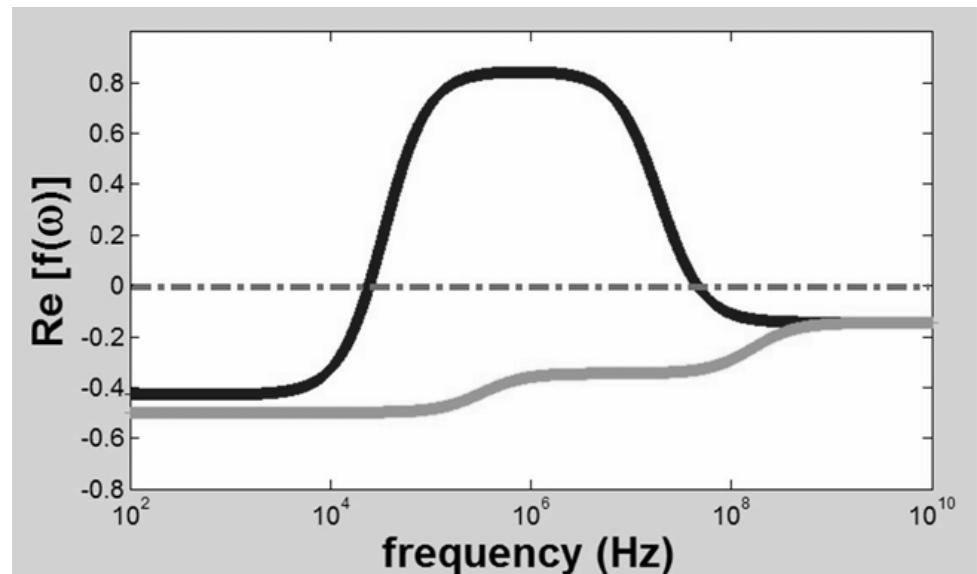


# DEP spectrum



The normalized DEP spectrum of  $\text{Re}[f_{cm}(\omega)]$  as a function of frequency for a homogenous particle.

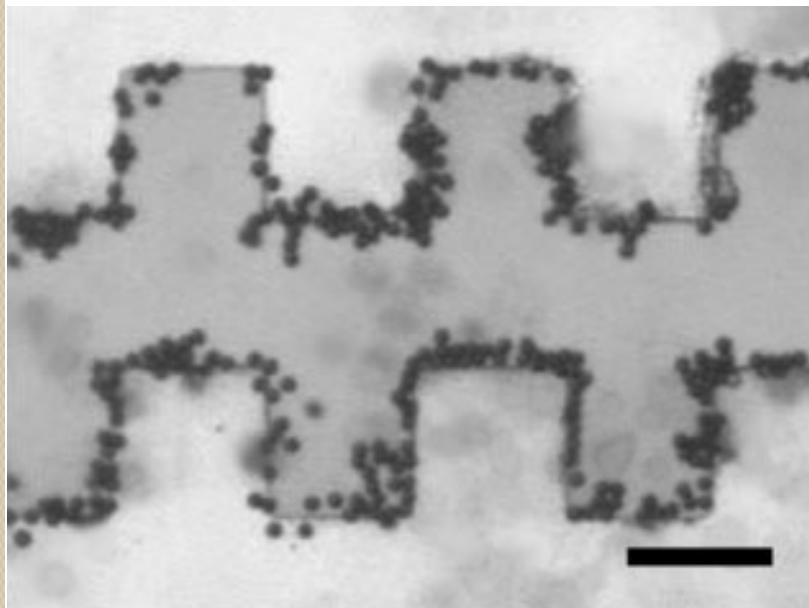
The frequency-dependent DEP spectrum for a mammalian cell using a single-shell model.



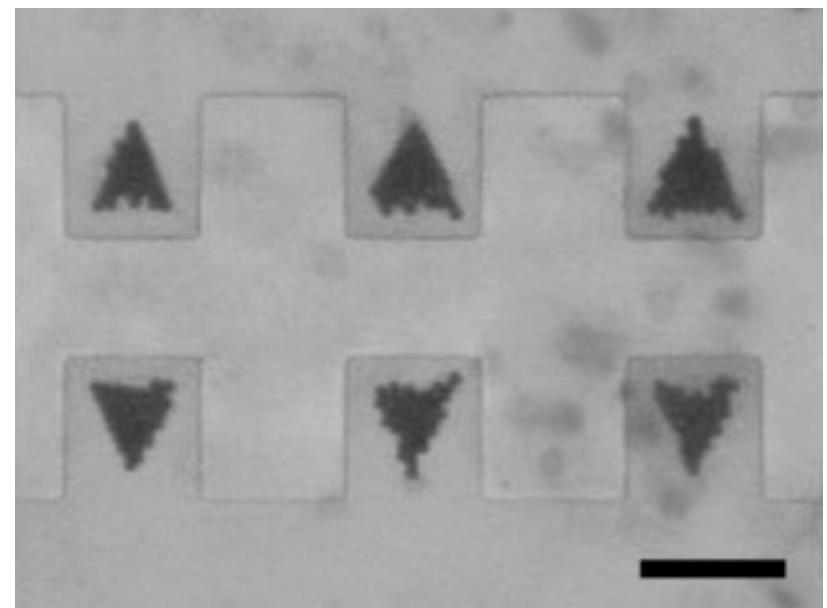


# Typical DEP response for particles

Positive DEP of  $7\text{-}\mu\text{m}$  polystyrene beads



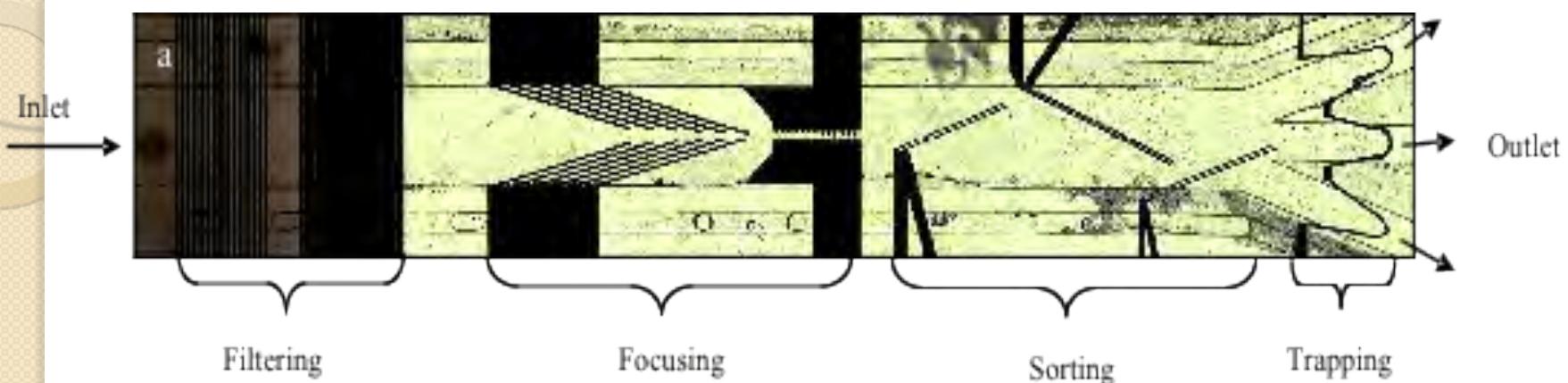
Negative DEP of polystyrene beads



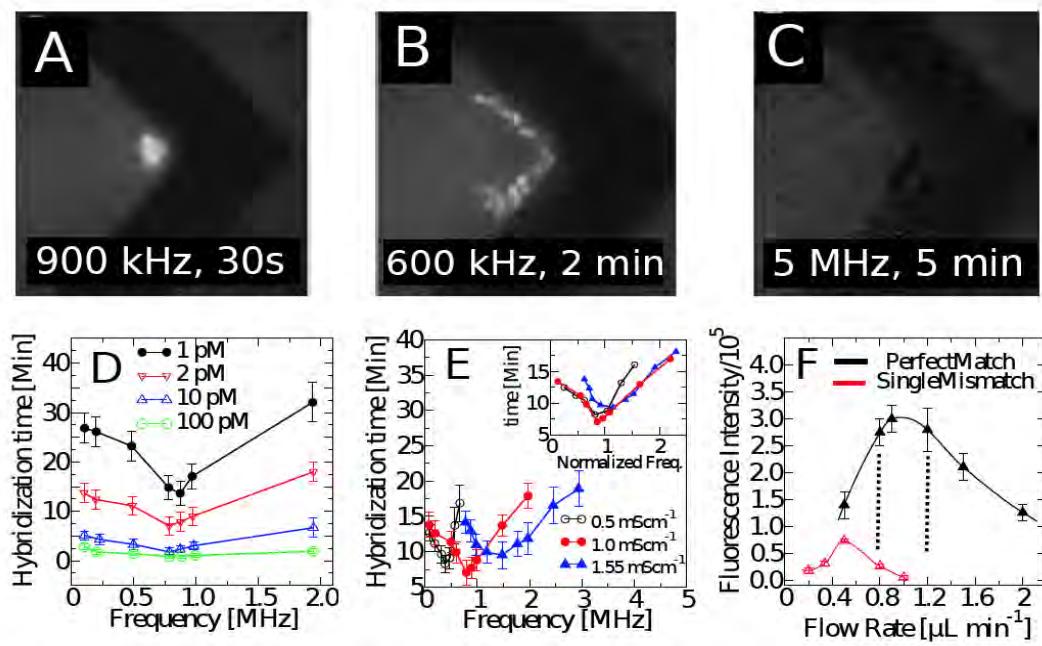
RZ Lin, CT Ho, CH Liu and HY Chang, DEP based-cell patterning for tissue engineering,  
Biotechnol. J. 2006, 1, 949–957



# Shear & DEP enhanced CNT sensor



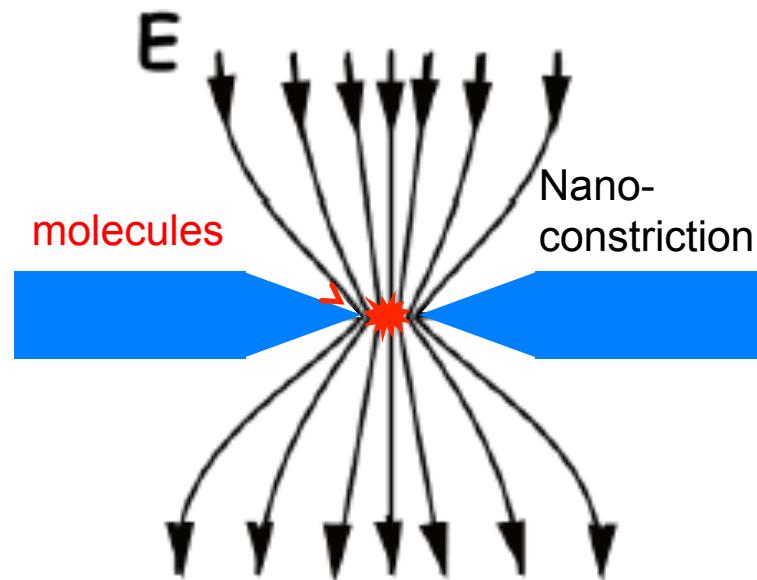
Basuray, S., S. Senapati, et al. (2009). "Shear and AC Field Enhanced Carbon Nanotube Impedance Assay for Rapid, Sensitive and Mismatch-Discriminating DNA Hybridization." *ACS Nano* 3: 1823.





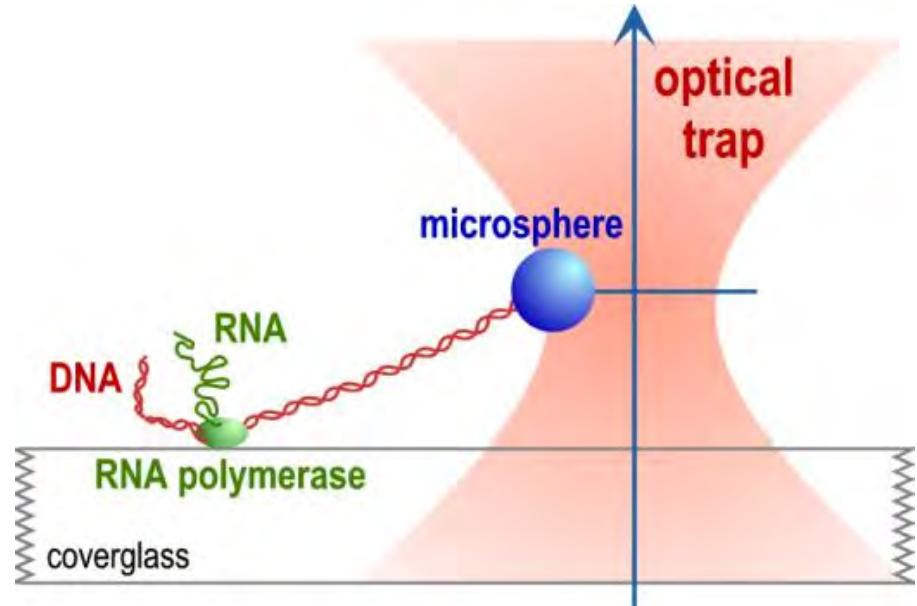
# EDEP Molecular Trap vs. Optical Trap

EDEP molecular trap



Electric field focused  
at the constriction

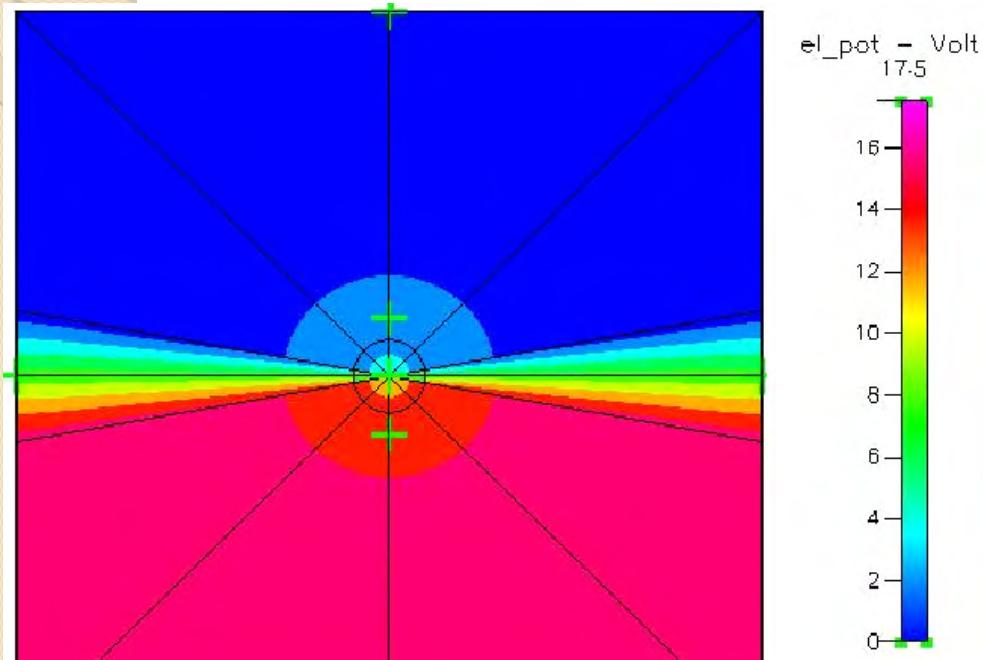
Optical trap



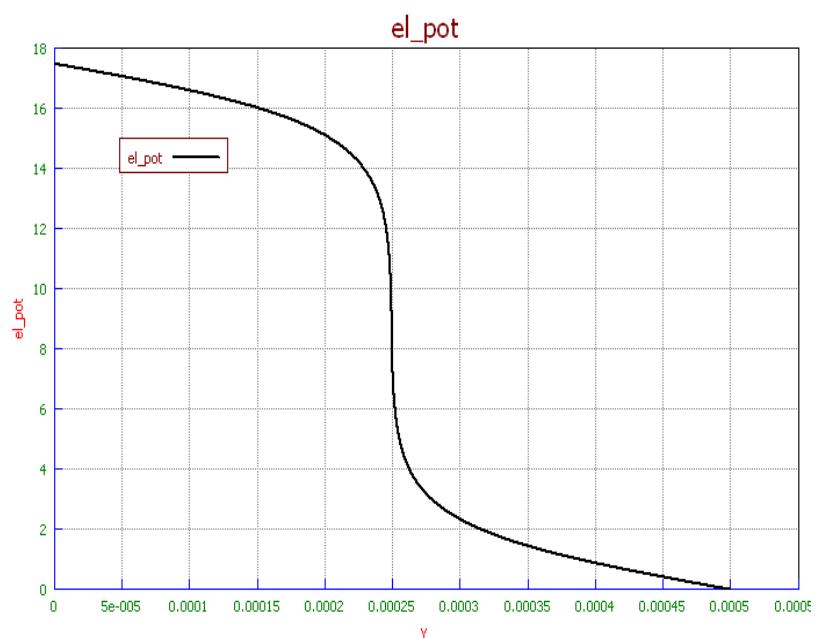
Electric field focused  
at the focal point



# Electric Potential Distribution

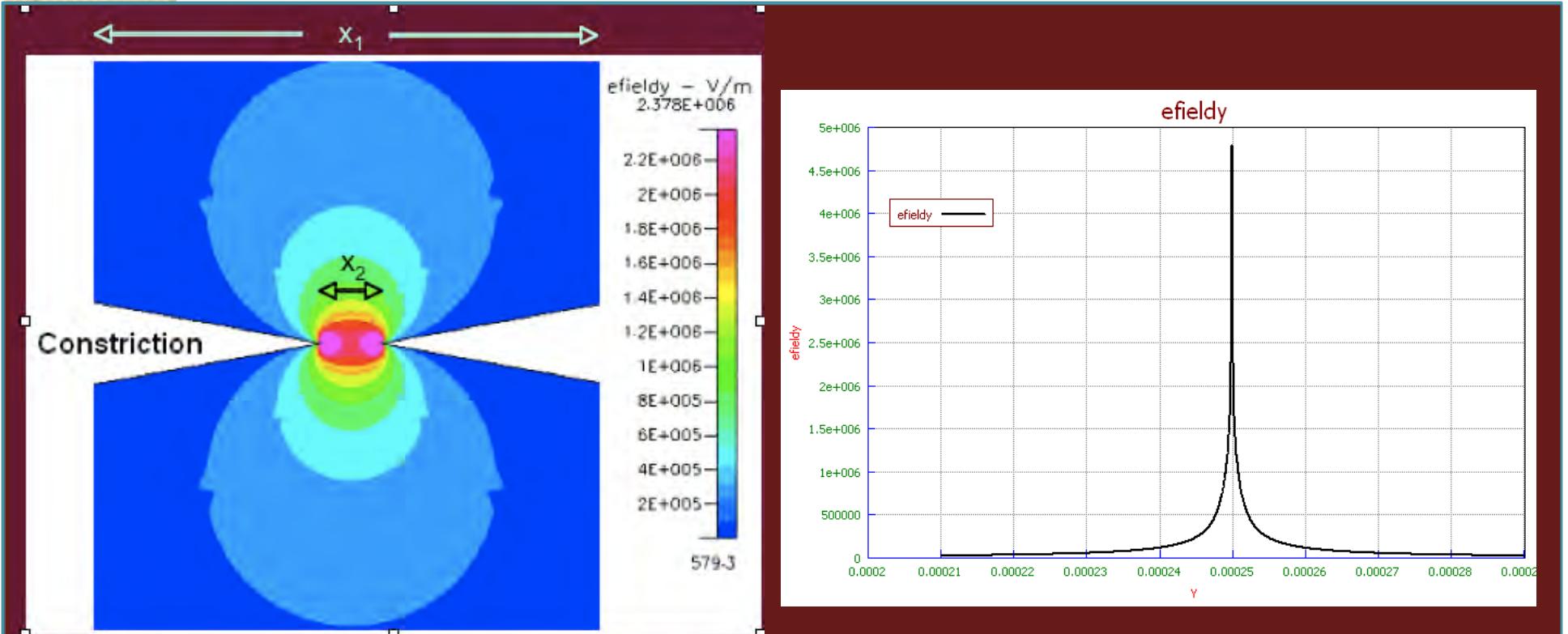


Potential drop mostly occurs at the constriction





# Electric Field Enhancement



Field focusing factor:  $(x_1/x_2)(z_1/z_2)$

For 50  $\mu m$ /50 nm:

$$E \rightarrow 10^3 x$$

$$\nabla(E^2) \rightarrow 10^6 x$$

Field focusing mostly occurs at the (tips of) constriction

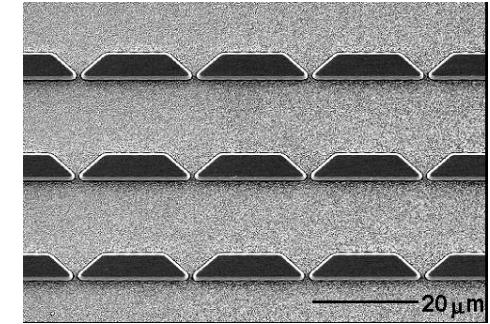
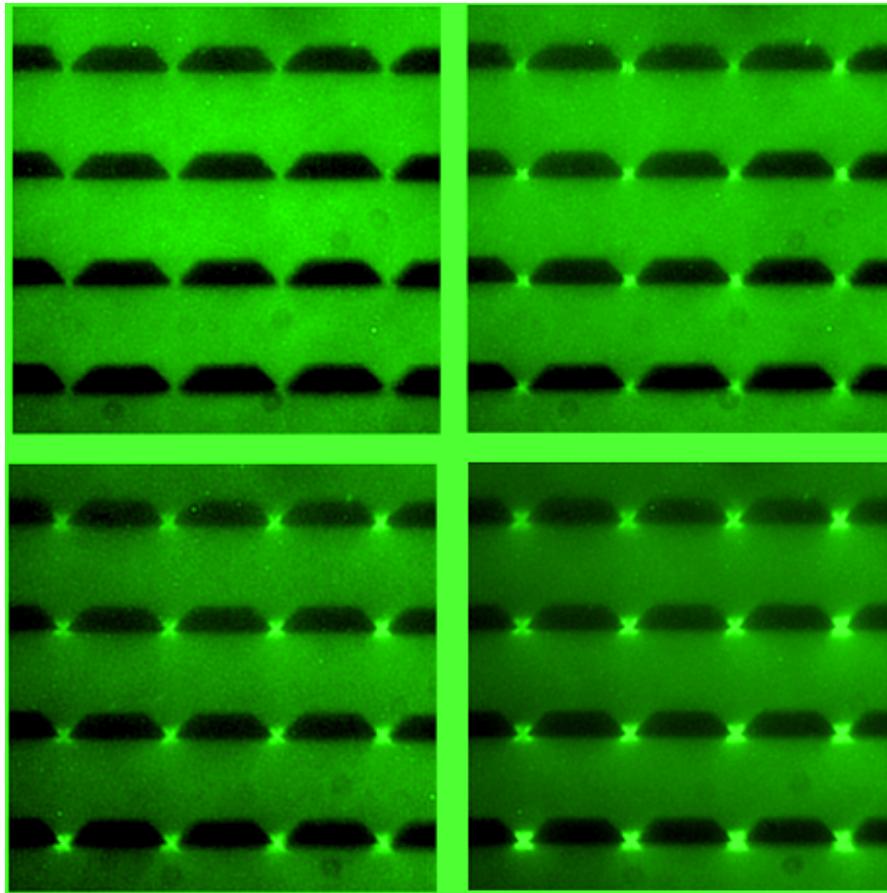


# Electrodeless DEP for DNA concentration

## –Field response at a fixed frequency

368bp, 1000 Hz in 0.5xTBE

▲  
**E**  
▼  
200 Vpp/cm  
1 Vpp/unit cell  
  
800 Vpp/cm  
4 Vpp/unit cell



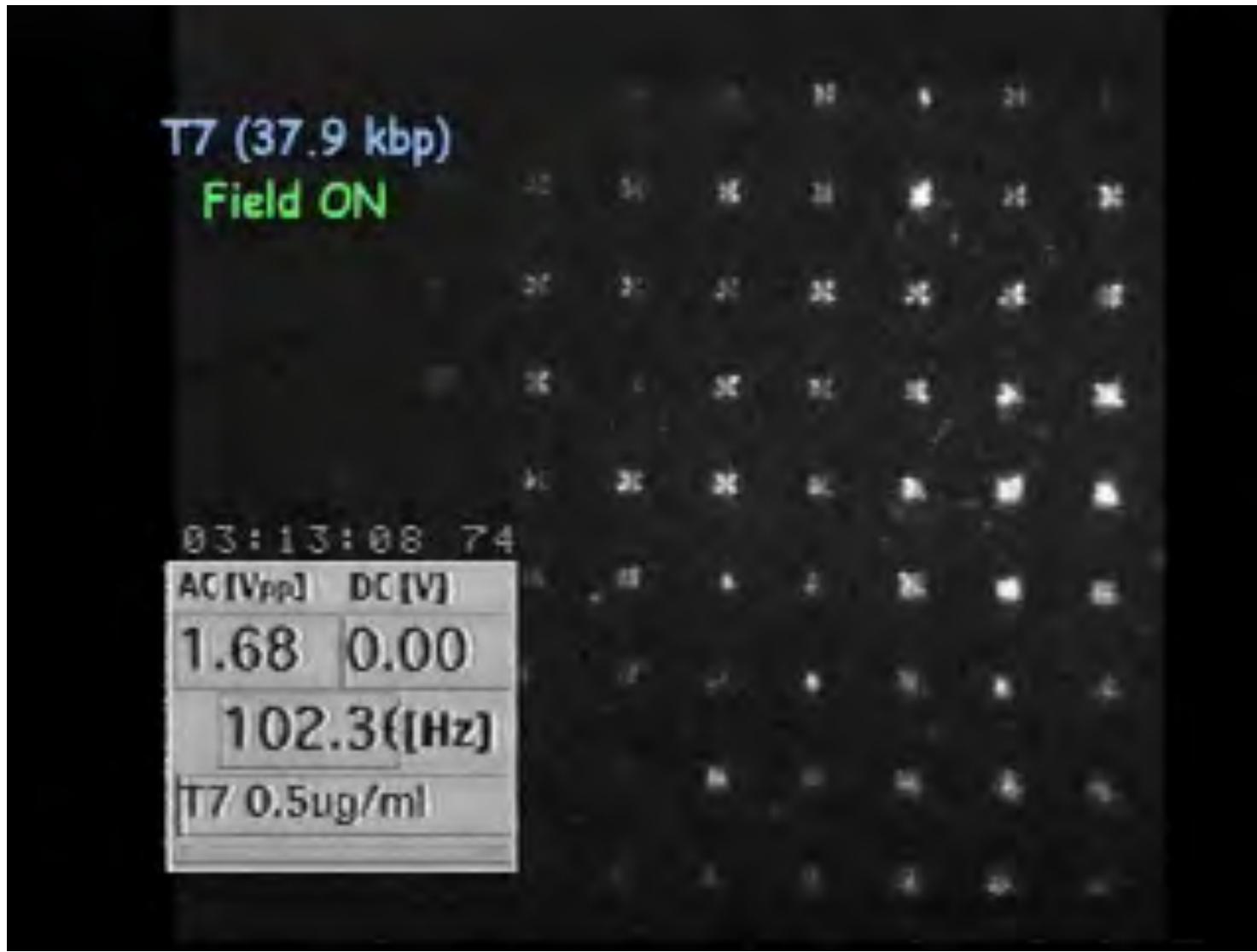
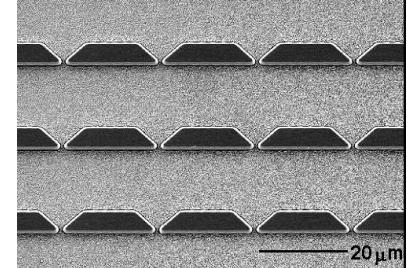
400 Vpp/cm  
2 Vpp/unit cell

1000 Vpp/cm  
5 Vpp/unit cell

*Chou et al., Biophys. J. 83: 2170-2179 (2002)*  
*US Patent # 6,824,664 (2004)*

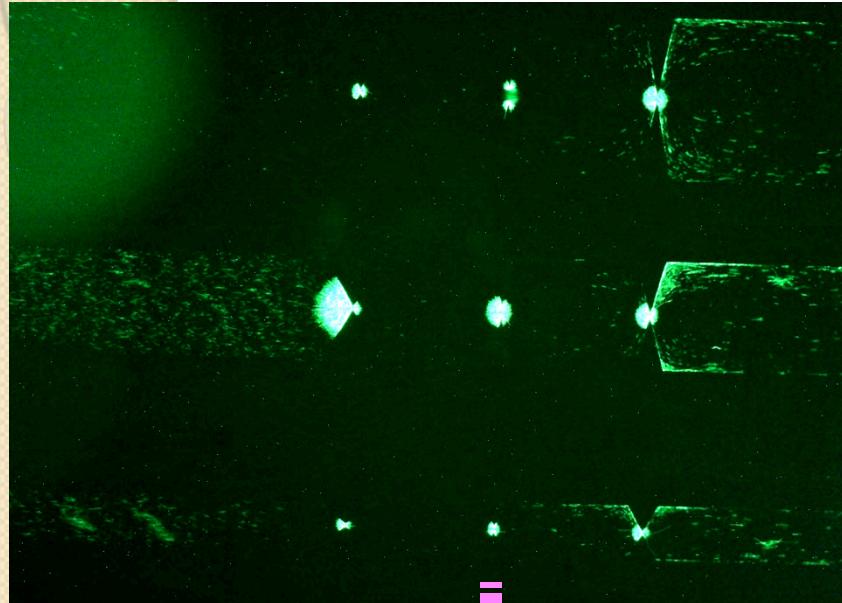


# EDEP-Trapping of DNA (movie)

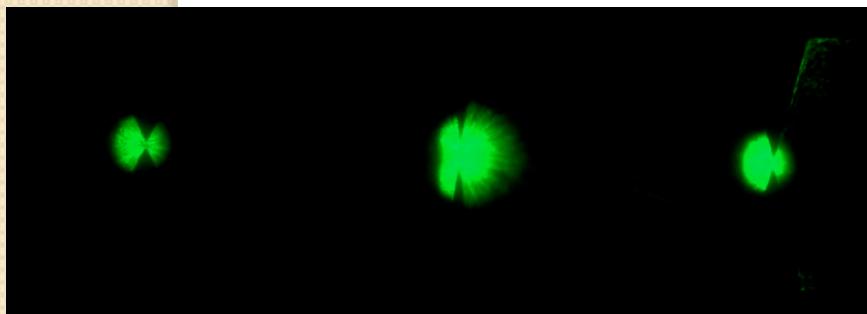




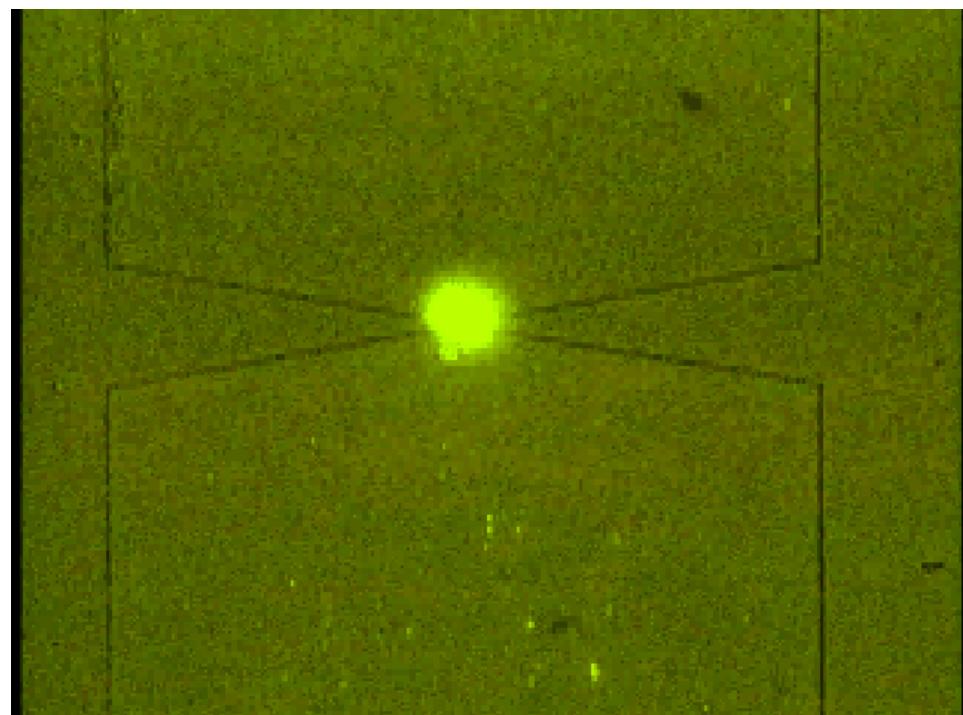
# EDEP Array for Cell *E. coli* Trapping



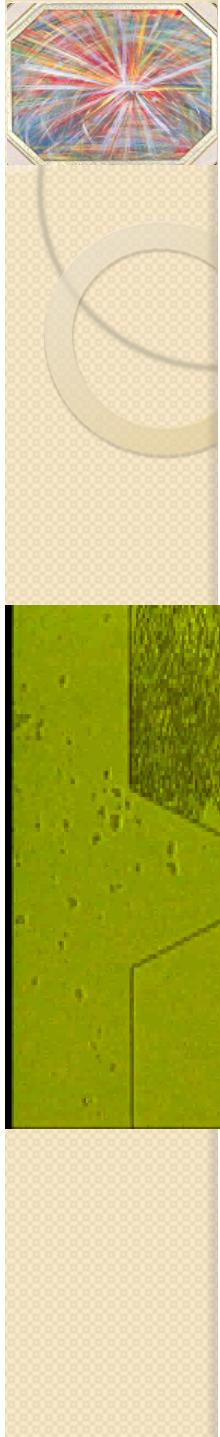
Enrichment  $\sim 10^{3-4}$



4  $\mu\text{m}$  constriction,  
10  $\mu\text{m}$  deep  
50-2 MHz, 100Vpp/cm  
Buffer salt concentration:  
up to 100 mM



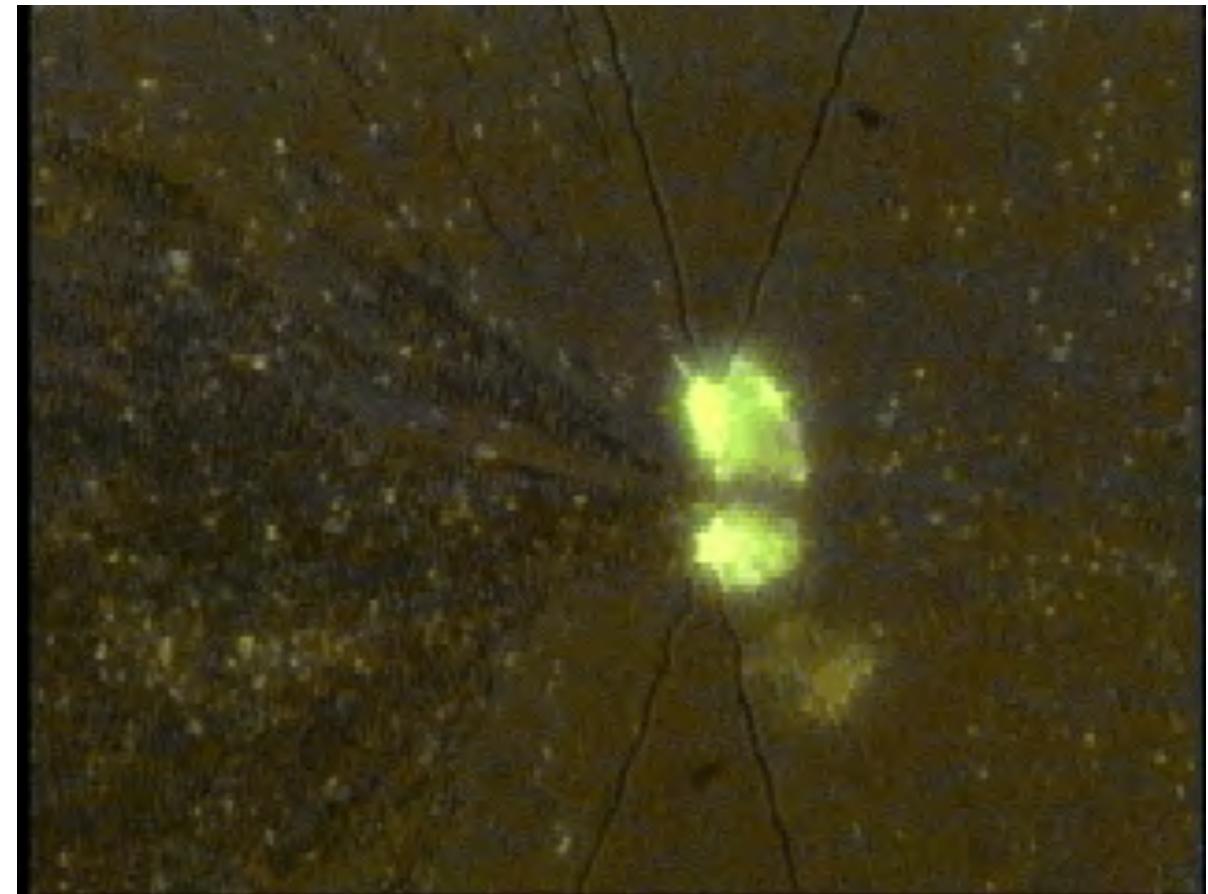
C. F. Chou, F. Zenhausern (2003) IEEE Eng. Med. Biol. Mag. Nov/Dec. 62-67.



# EDEP Array for Cell Separation

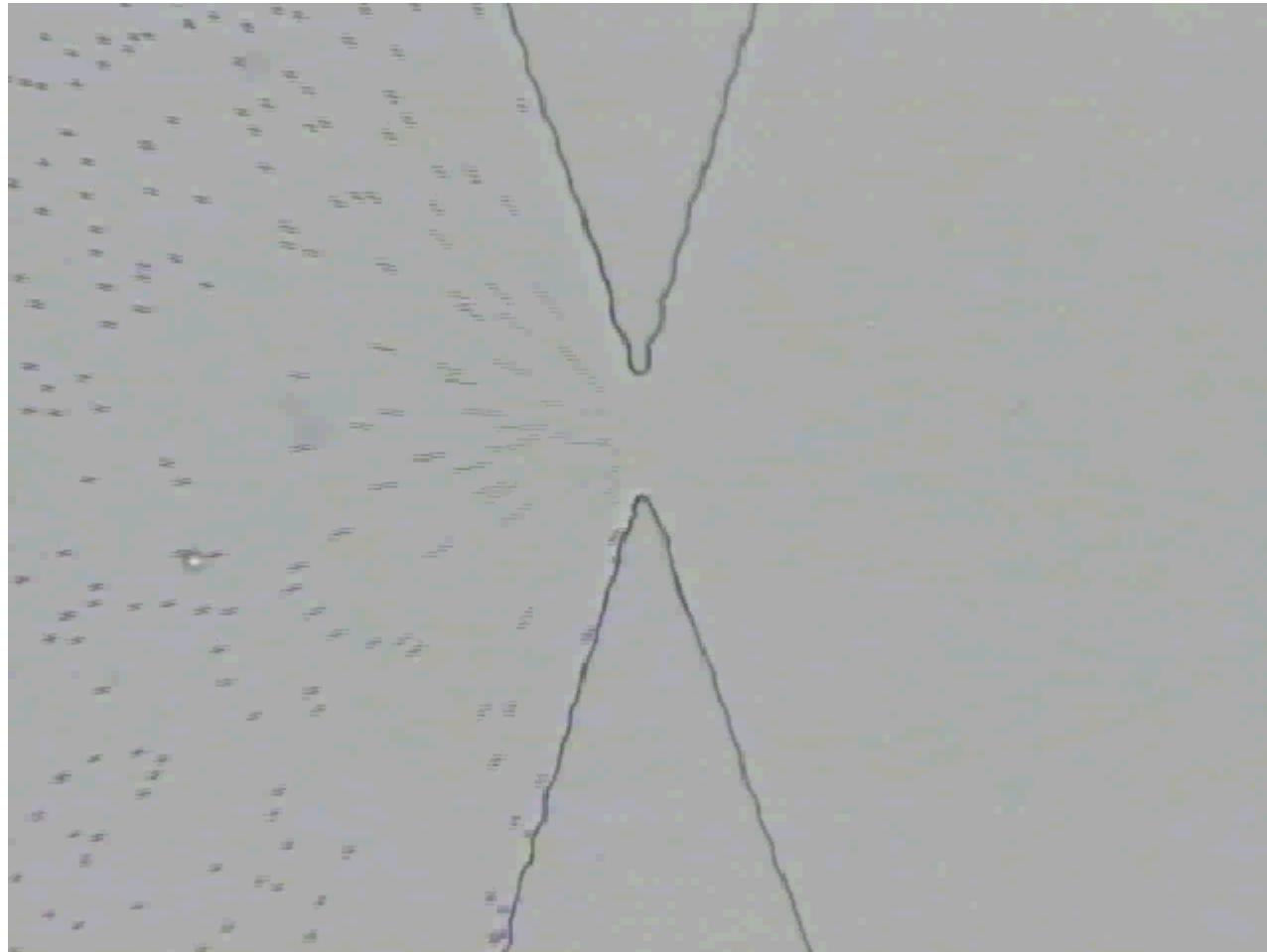
Device: PDMS/glass

RBC (- DEP) and *E. coli* (+ DEP)



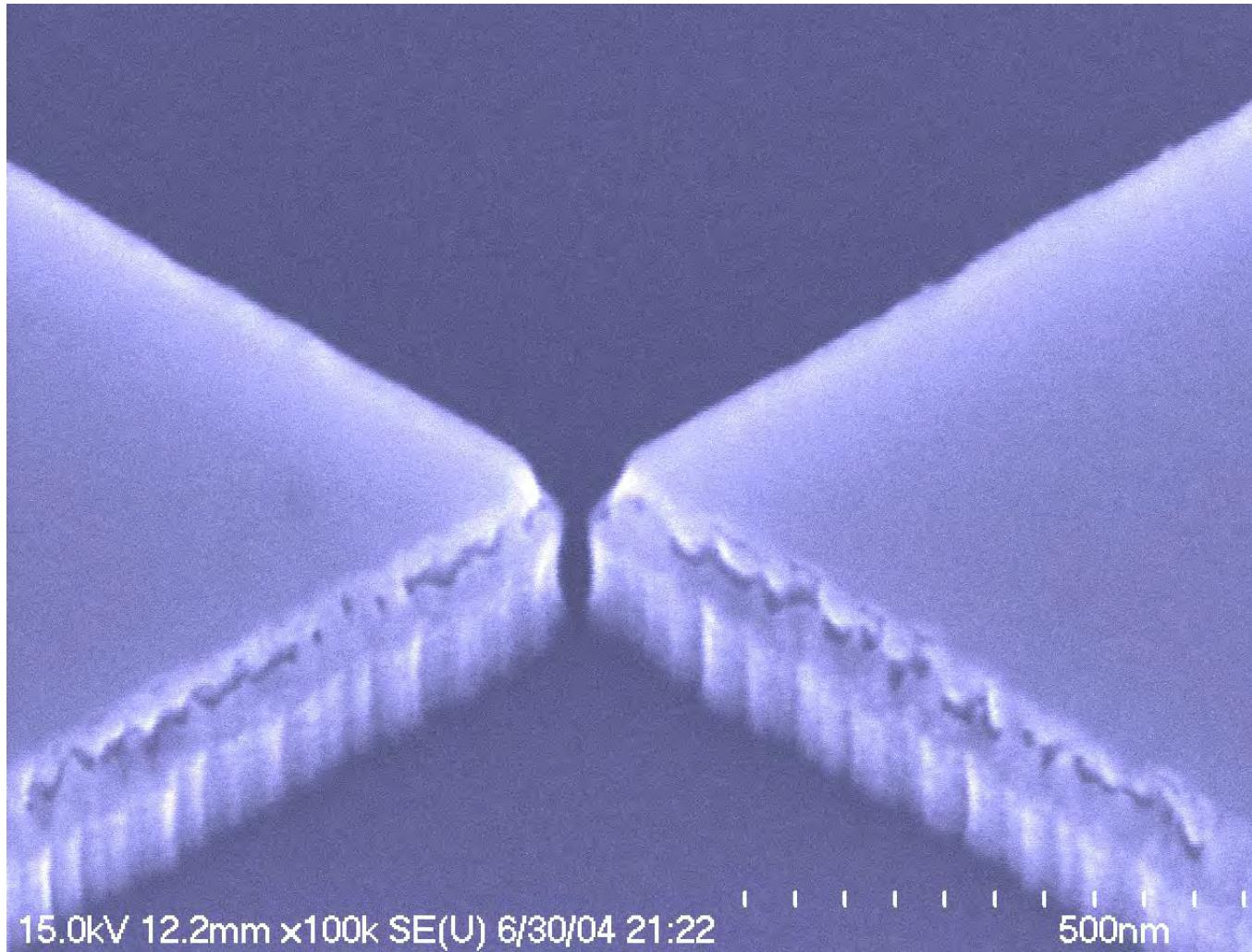


# High field for cell lysing





# Nanoscale protein trap

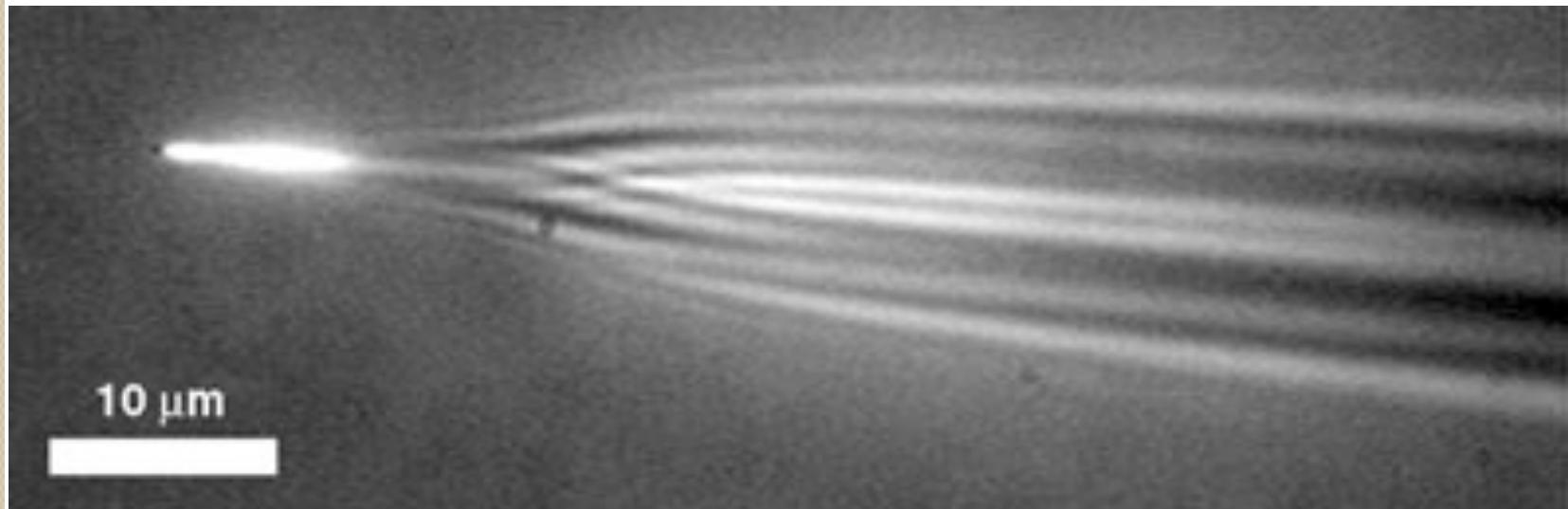


50 nm gap/250 nm deep



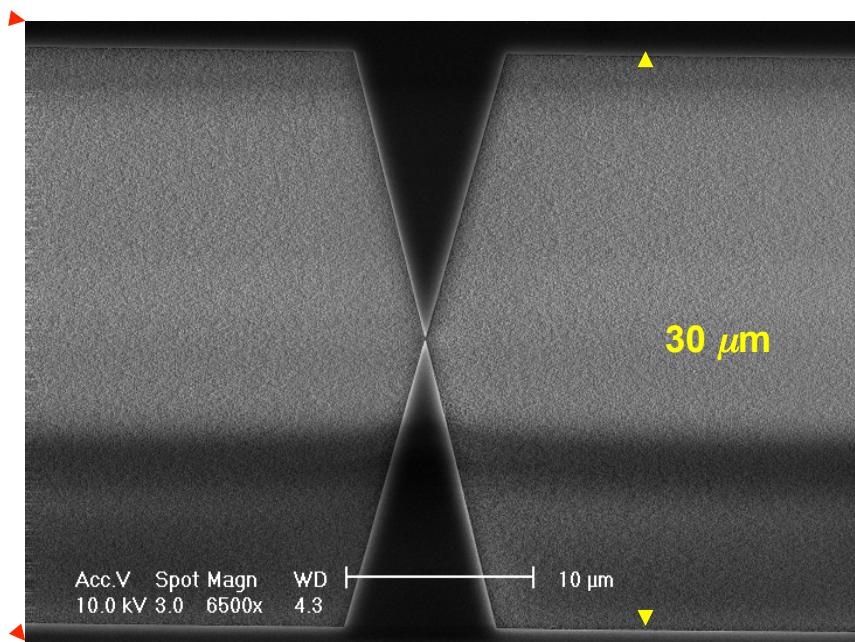
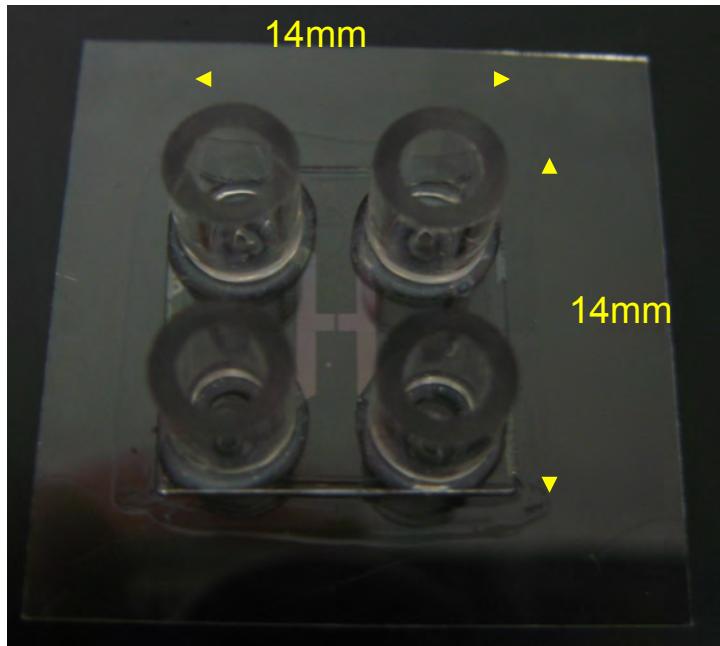
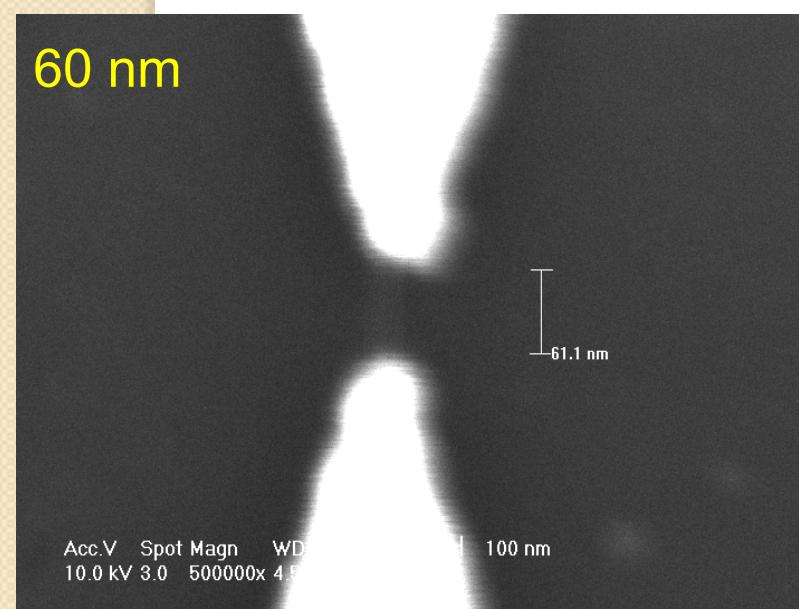
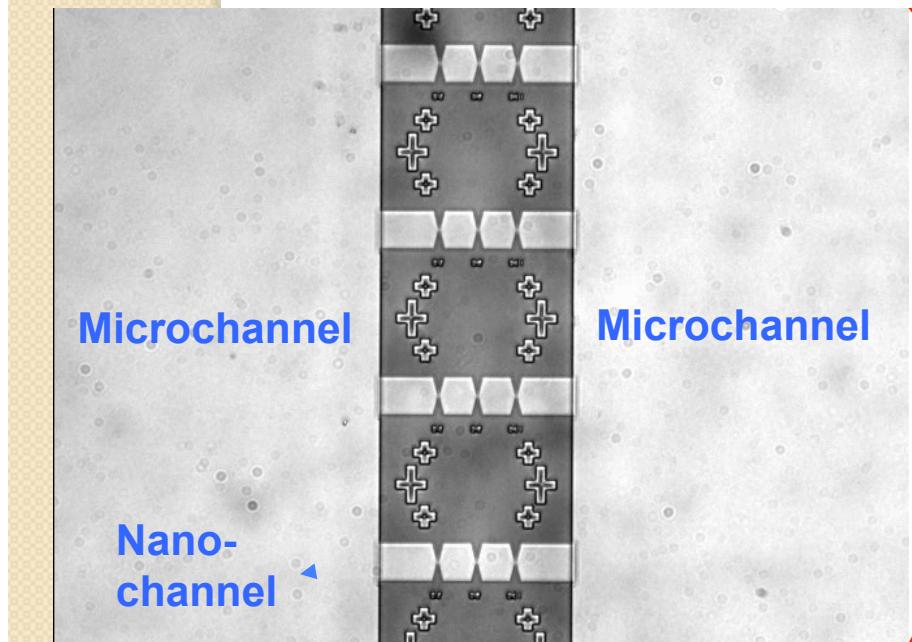
# Protein trapping using nanopipette

$10^3$ -fold enhancement in seconds



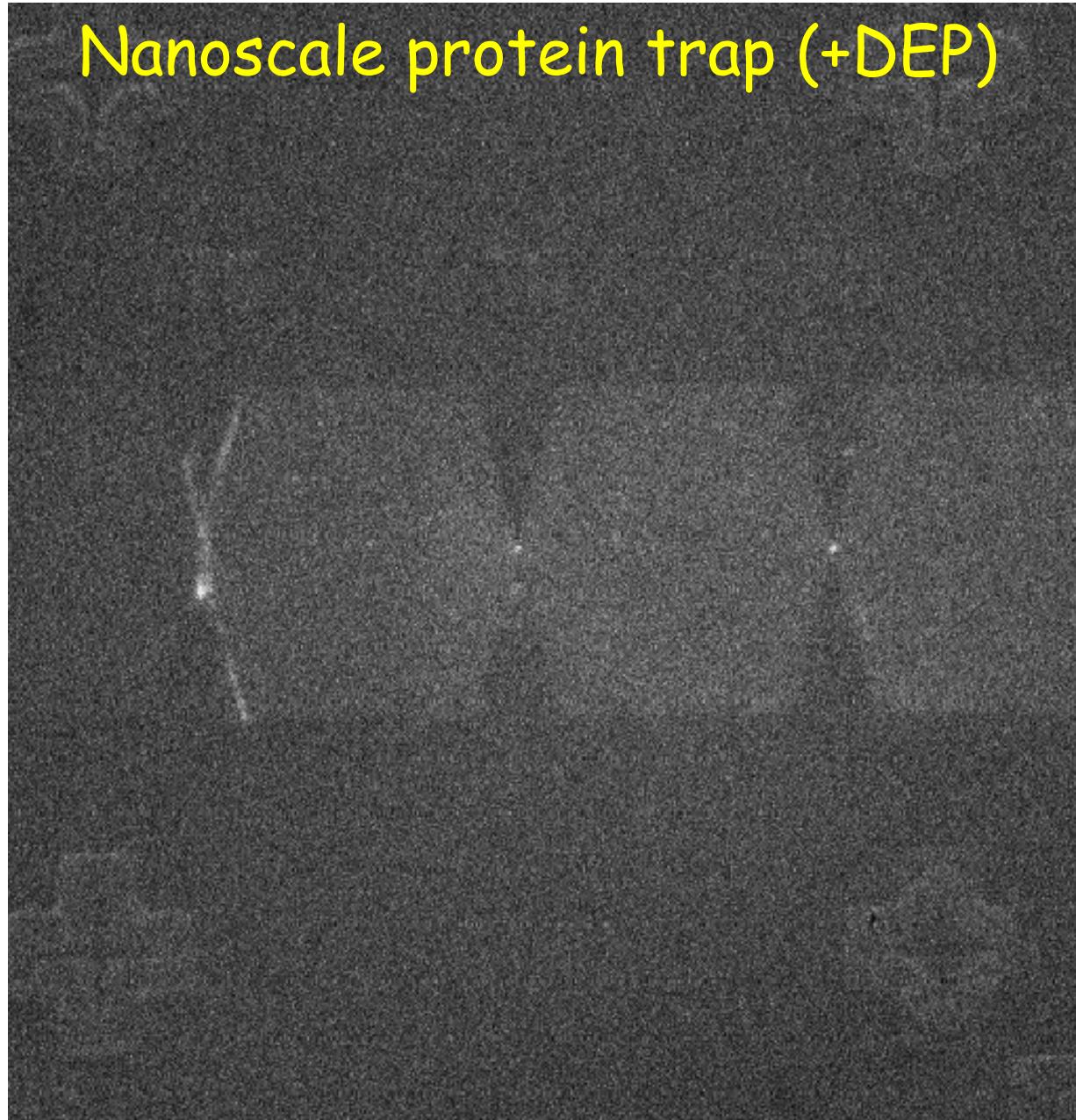
RW Clarke et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 44, 3747 (2005)

# Nanoscale protein trap





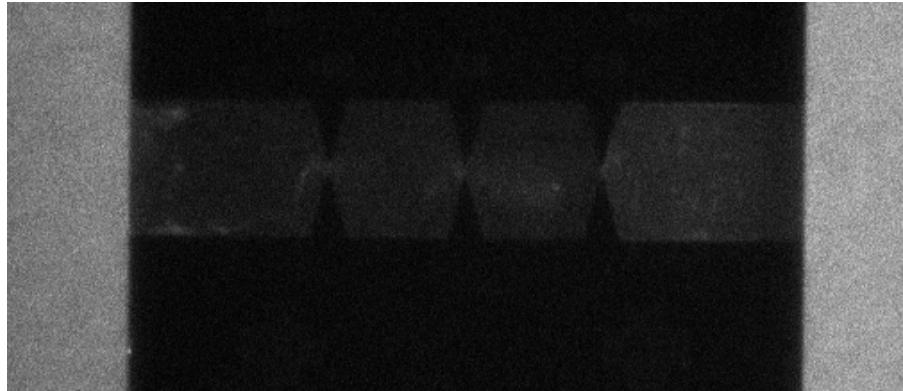
124 nm trap,  
Nanoch:  
227 nm deep



Alexa-488 Streptavidin in PBS, 600V/cm@100 kHz



# Negative DEP for protein enhancement



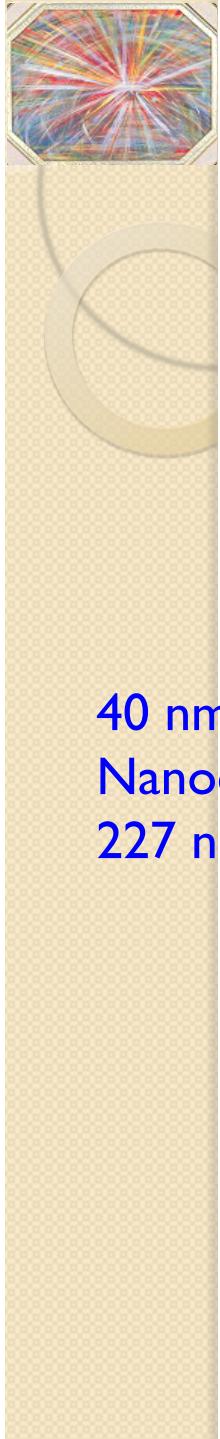
$t = 0 \text{ sec}$



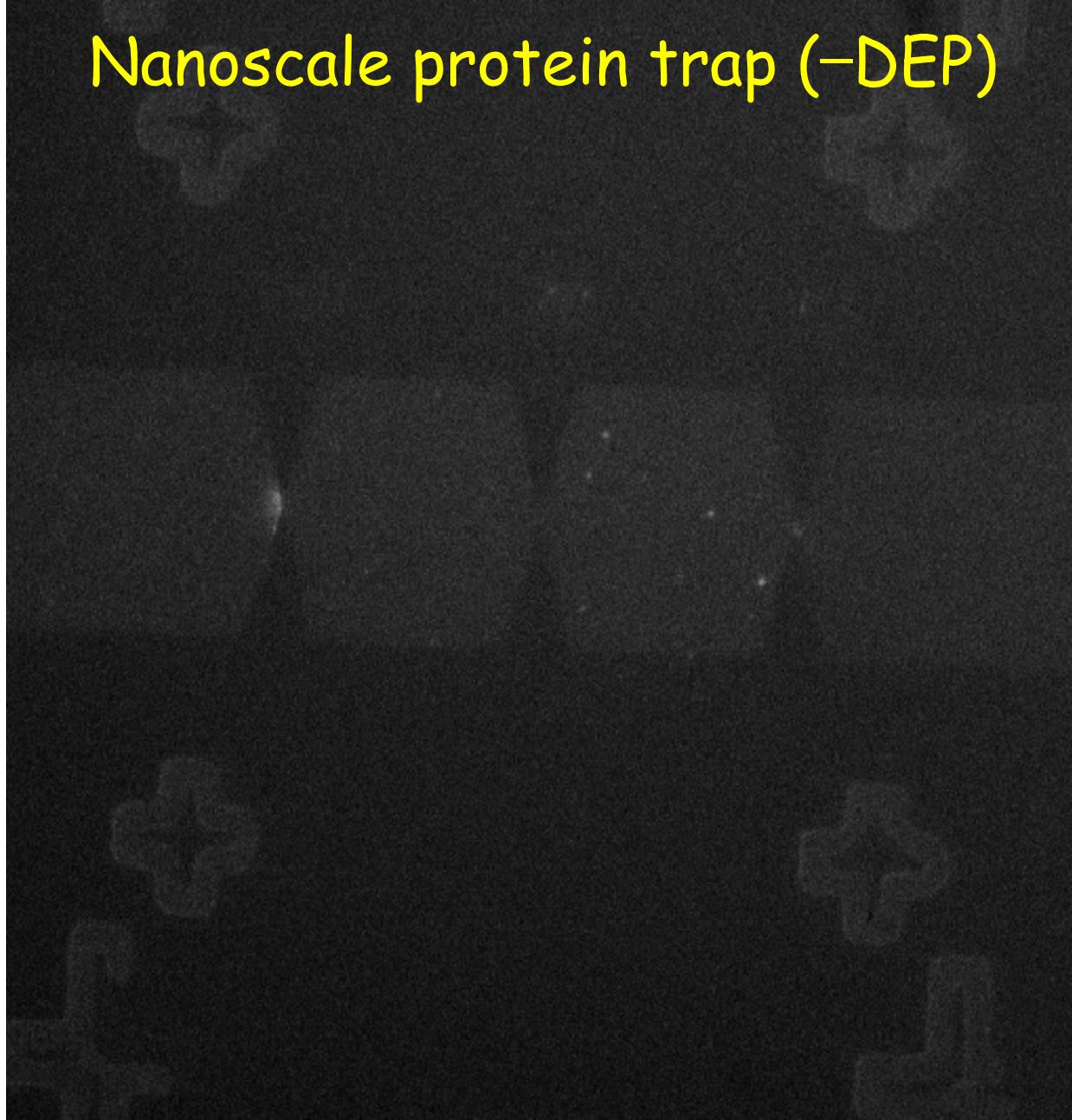
$t = 0.1 \text{ sec}$



$t = 0.8 \text{ sec}$



40 nm trap,  
Nanoch:  
227 nm deep

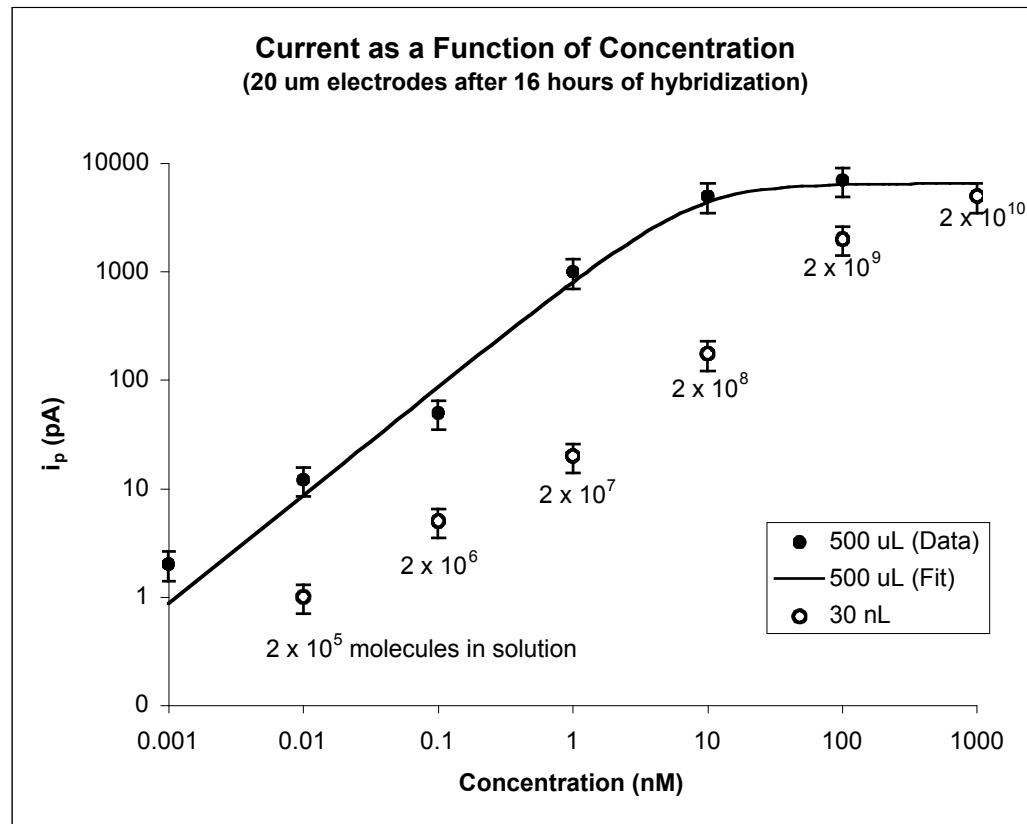


Alexa-488 Streptavidin in PBS, 600V/cm@1 MHz



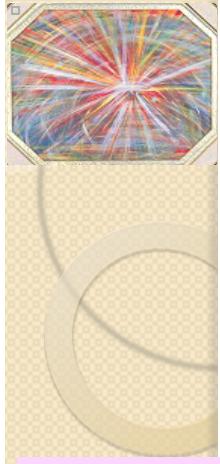
# Why molecular traps?

Titration of detection limit with microelectrodes in microchamber



N. Swami

This data set demonstrates a chief bottleneck for *all* miniaturized sensing methods in general, and surface binding assays in particular. This is associated with the chemical kinetic limits to sensitivity upon miniaturization. → Solution: sample pre-concentration!!



# DEP applications on DNA/protein sensors

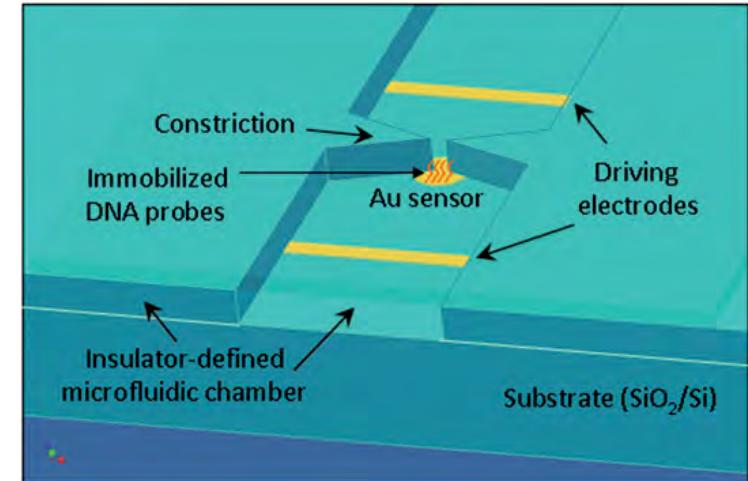
## Hybridization kinetics enhancement by sample preconcentration

Second order kinetics:  $Ct_{1/2} = I/k$

$C$  = probe concentration (moles/liter)

$k$  = Rate constant

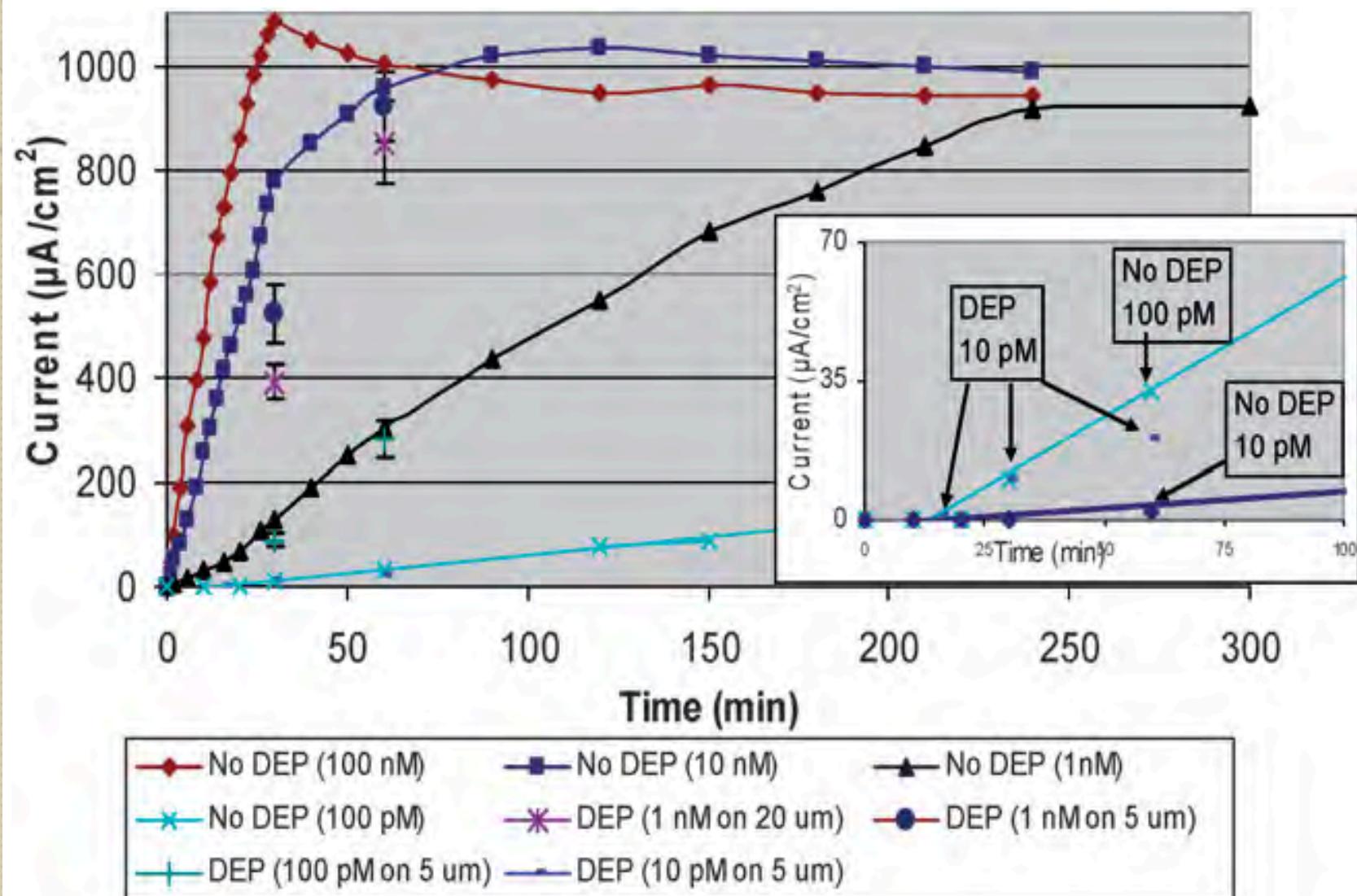
$t_{1/2}$  = the time in seconds it takes for a probe of given concentration to reach 50% annealed.



Concentration enhancement	Annealing time of hybridization		
	50%	75%	95%
1x	10 hrs	30 hrs	100 hrs
100x	6 min	18 min	60 min
1000x	36 sec	1.8 min	6 min



# Enhanced DNA sensor kinetics



Swami, N., C.F. Chou, et al. (2009). "Enhancing DNA Hybridization Kinetics through Constriction-Based Dielectrophoresis." *Lab on a Chip* 9: 3212-3220.

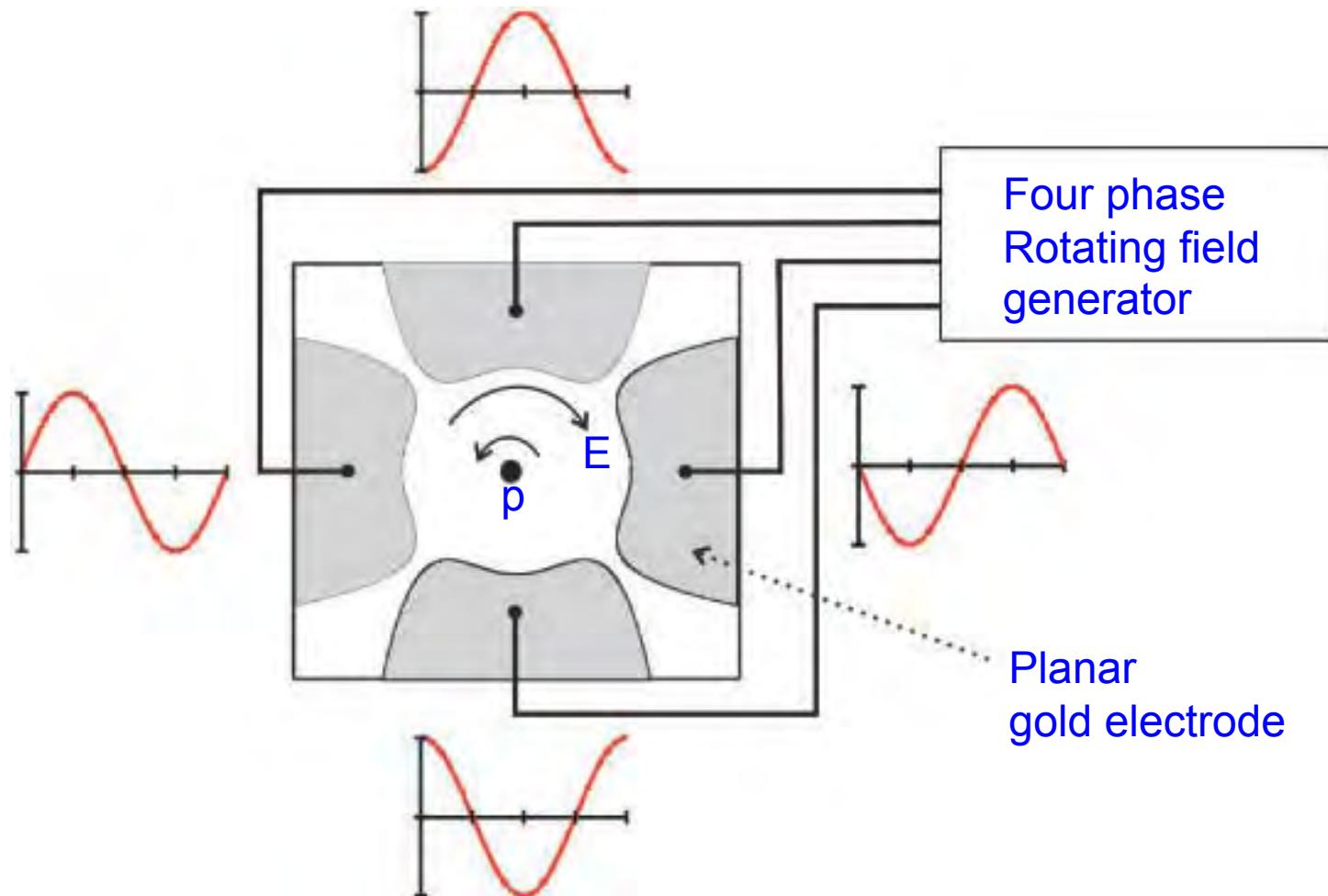


## **Phenomena associated with DEP:**

- Electrorotation and traveling wave DEP (TWDEP)
- Field-flow fractionation DEP (FFF-DEP)
- Multiple-frequency DEP (MFDEP)



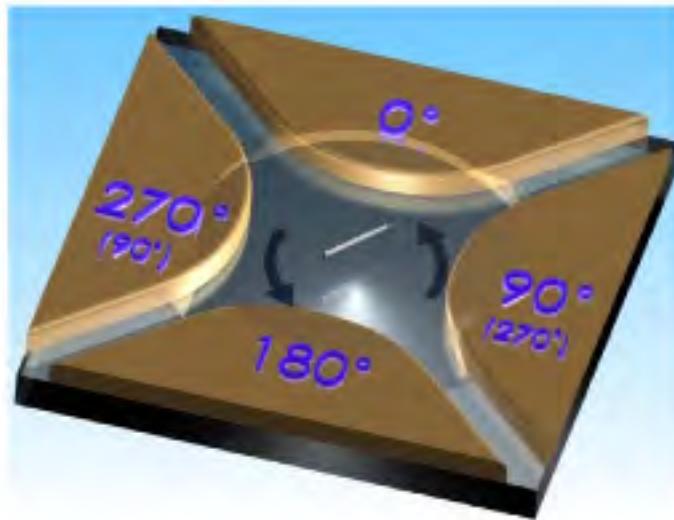
# Electrorotation and traveling wave DEP



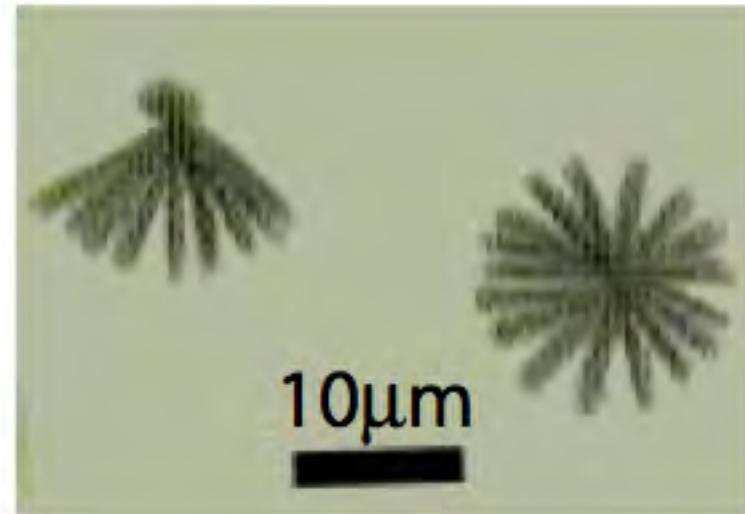


# Controllable High-Speed Rotation of Nanowires

(a)



(b)



JHU

Nanowire motor

10 V, 20 kHz

00:00.00

JHU

Au nanowire

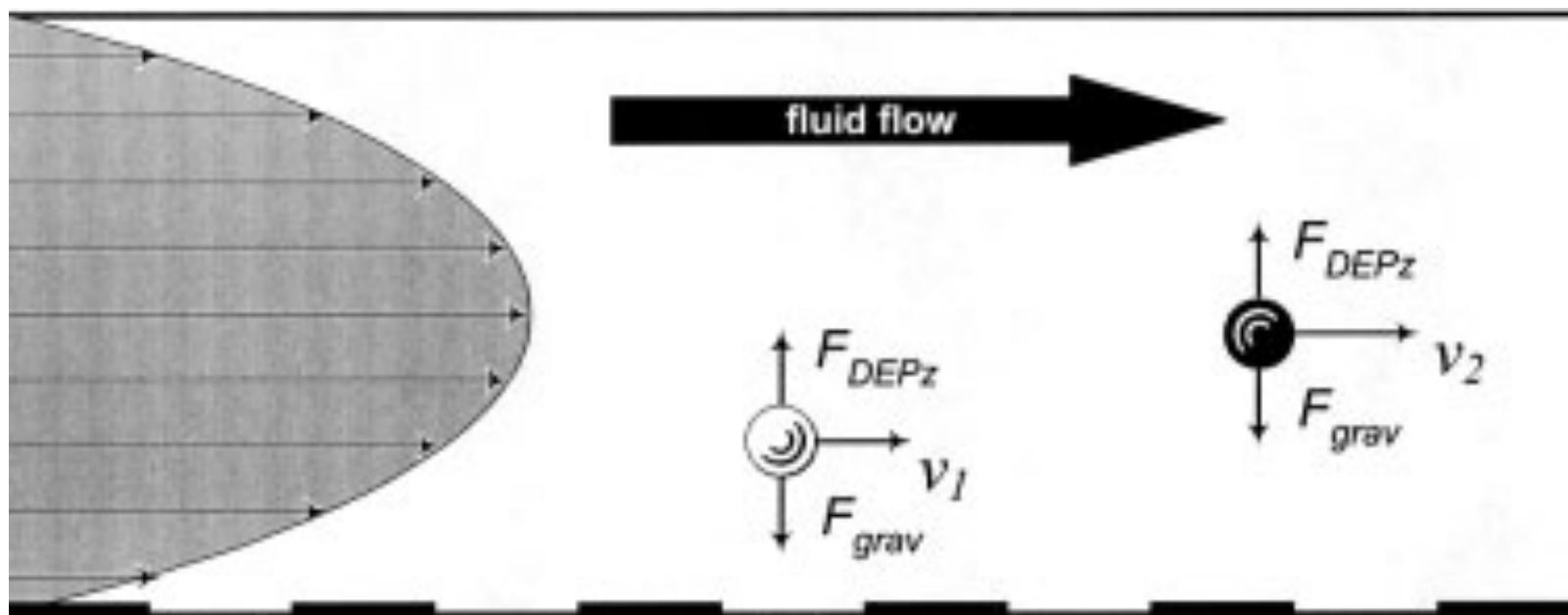
5 V, 5 kHz

00:00.00

D. L. Fan, F. Q. Zhu, R. C. Cammarata, C. L. Chien, *PRL* 94, 247208 (2005)



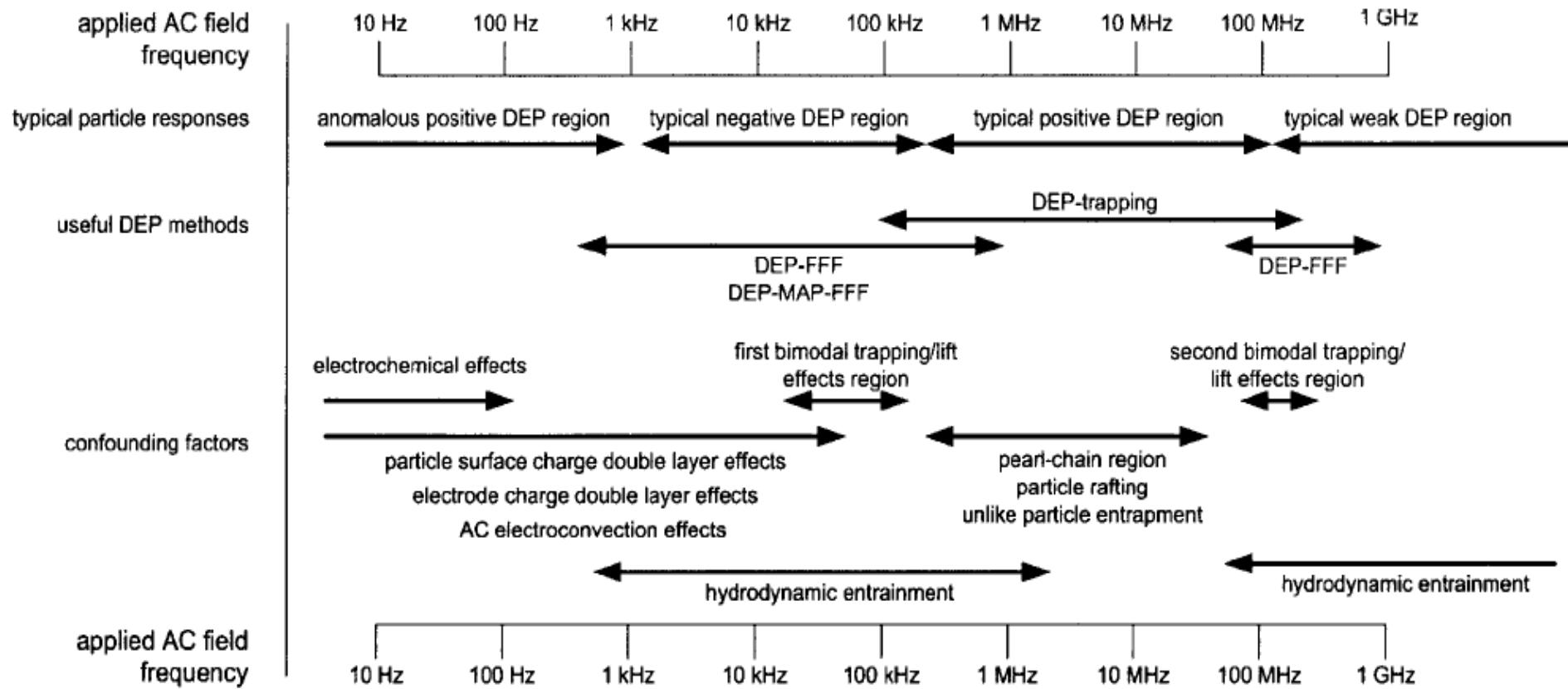
# Principle of hyperlayer DEP-FFF



PRC Gascoyne & J Vykoukal, "Particle separation by dielectrophoresis"  
*Electrophoresis* 2002, 23, 1973–1983.



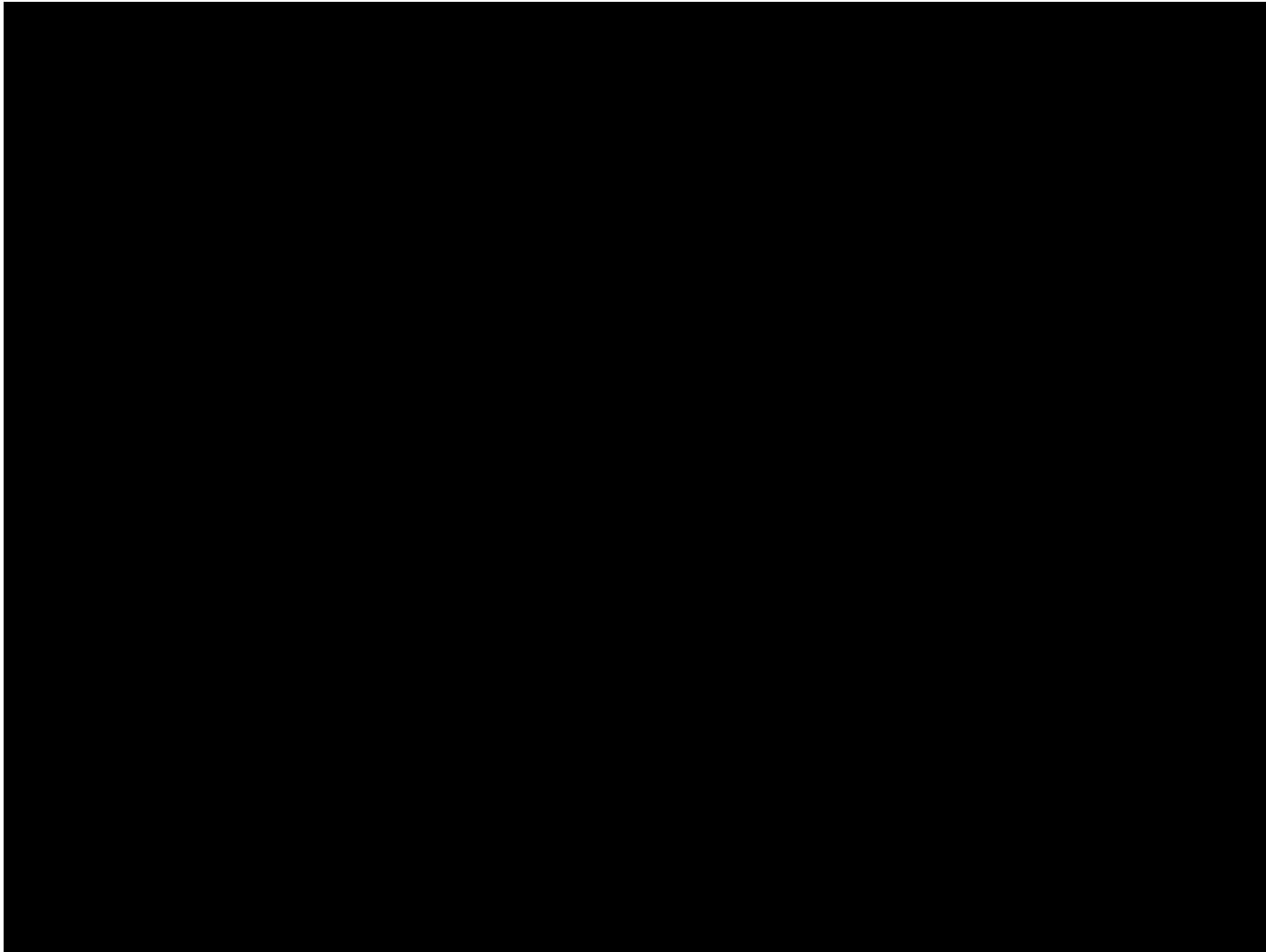
# Guide to frequency bands for various DEP phenomena



PRC Gascoyne & J Vykoukal, "Particle separation by dielectrophoresis"  
*Electrophoresis* 2002, 23, 1973–1983.



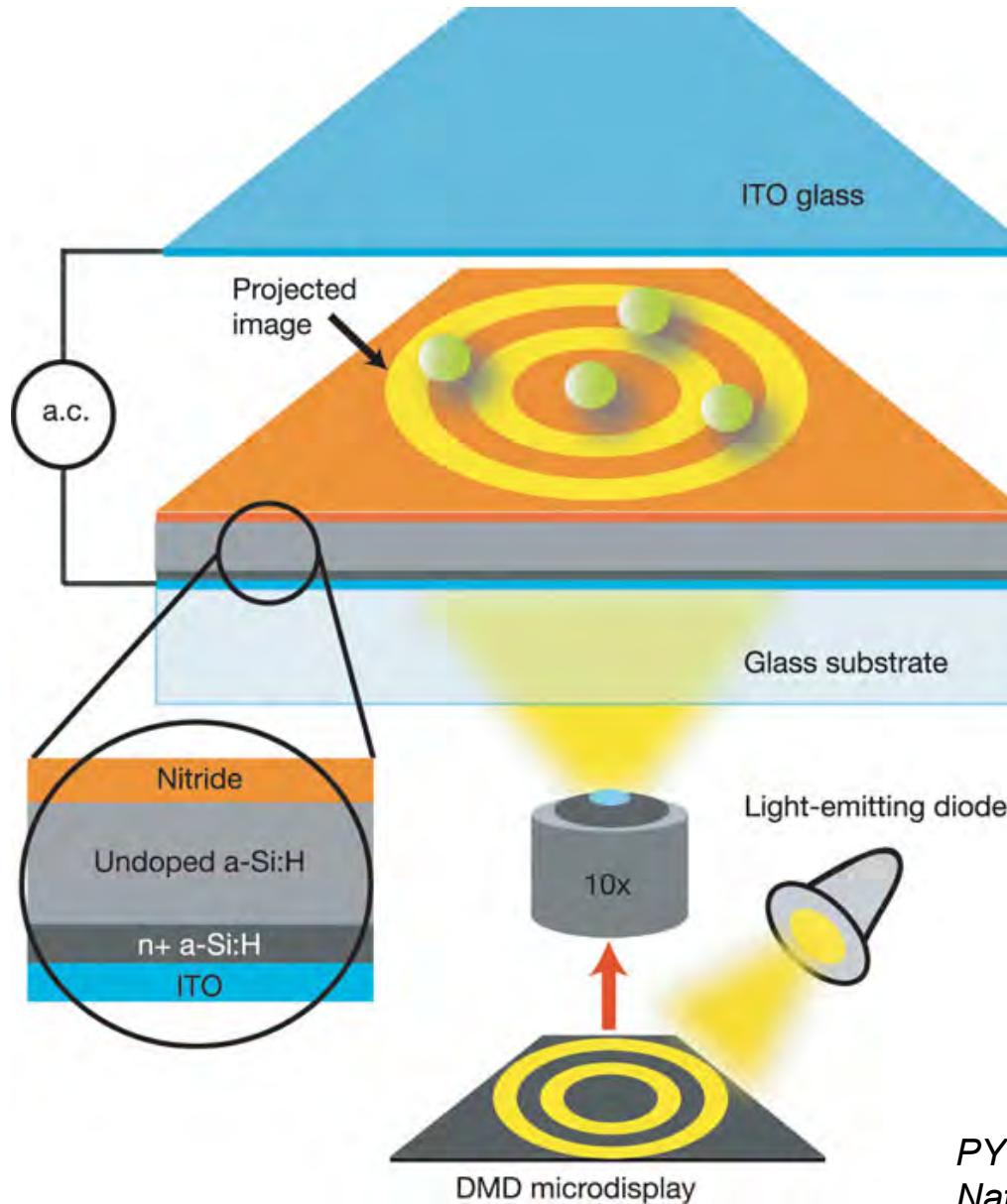
# Electrokinetic Instability in a Cross Shaped Microchannel



J. Santiago's Group@Stanford U.



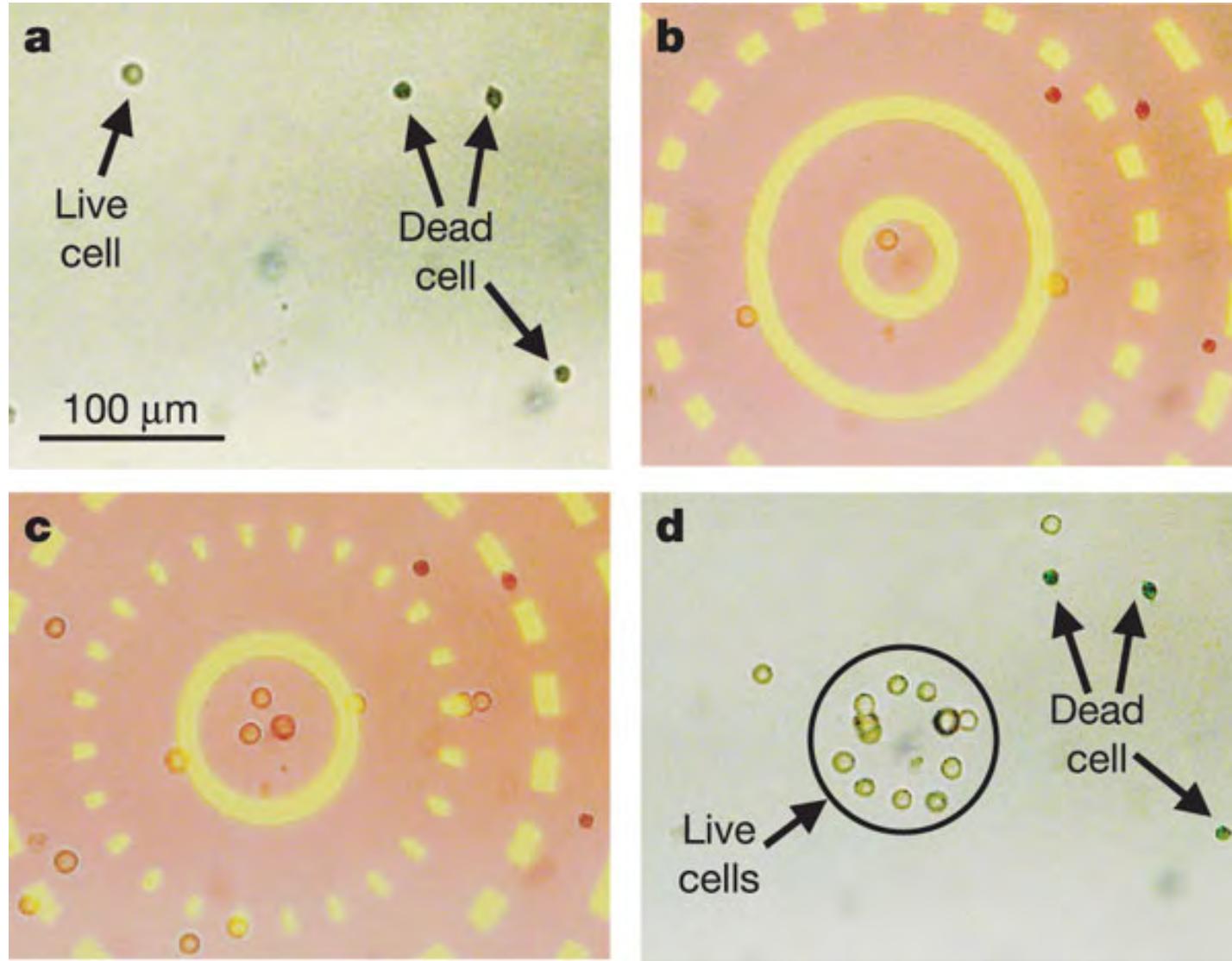
# Optoelectronic tweezers



PY Chiou, AT Ohta, MC Wu,  
*Nature* 436, 370-372 (2005)



# Optoelectronic tweezers—cell sorting



PY Chiou, AT Ohta, MC Wu, *Nature* 436, 370-372 (2005)

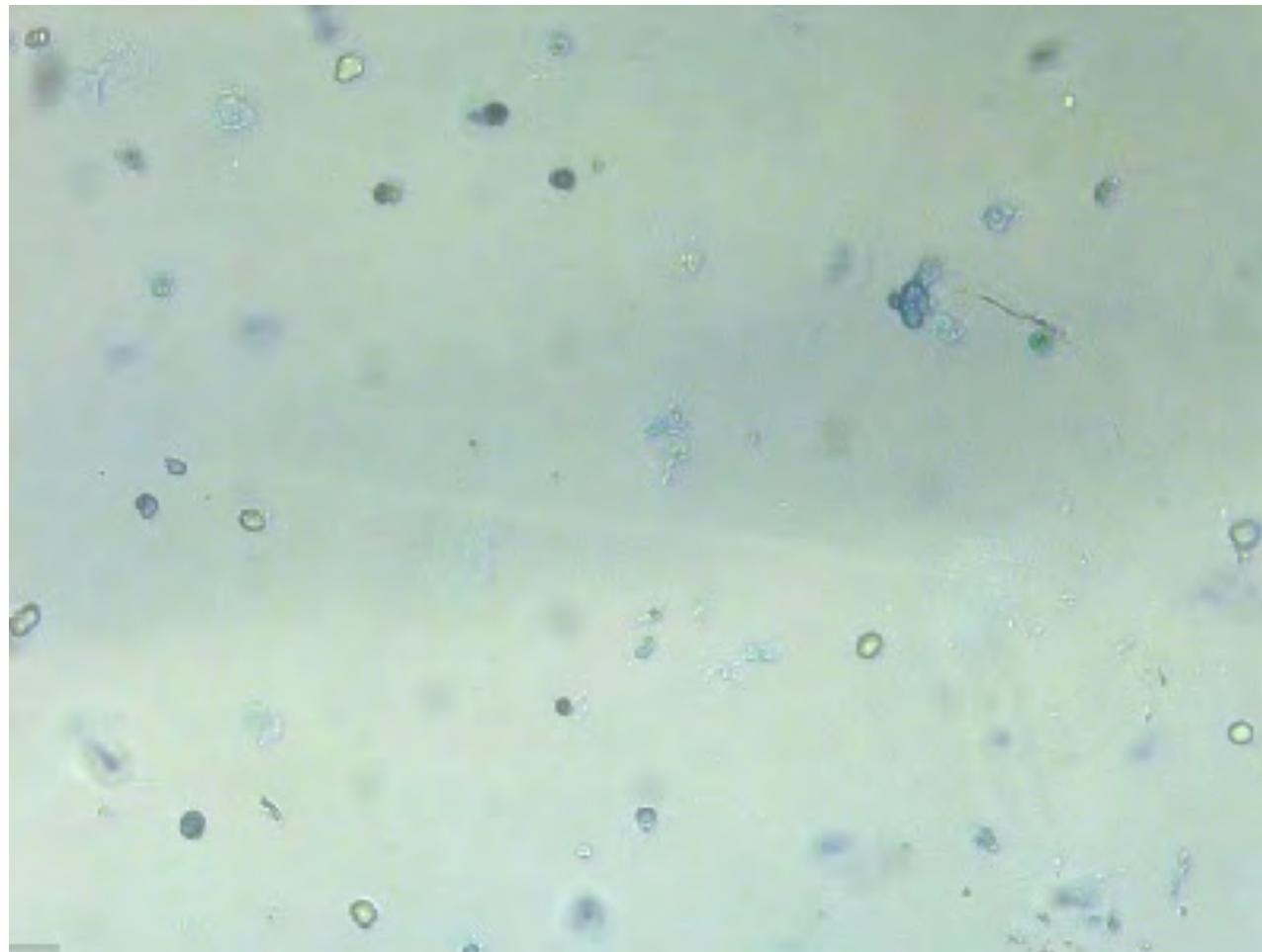


# Optoelectronic tweezers

## Cell sorting—live & dead cells

The selective concentration of live human B cells is accomplished using positive OET

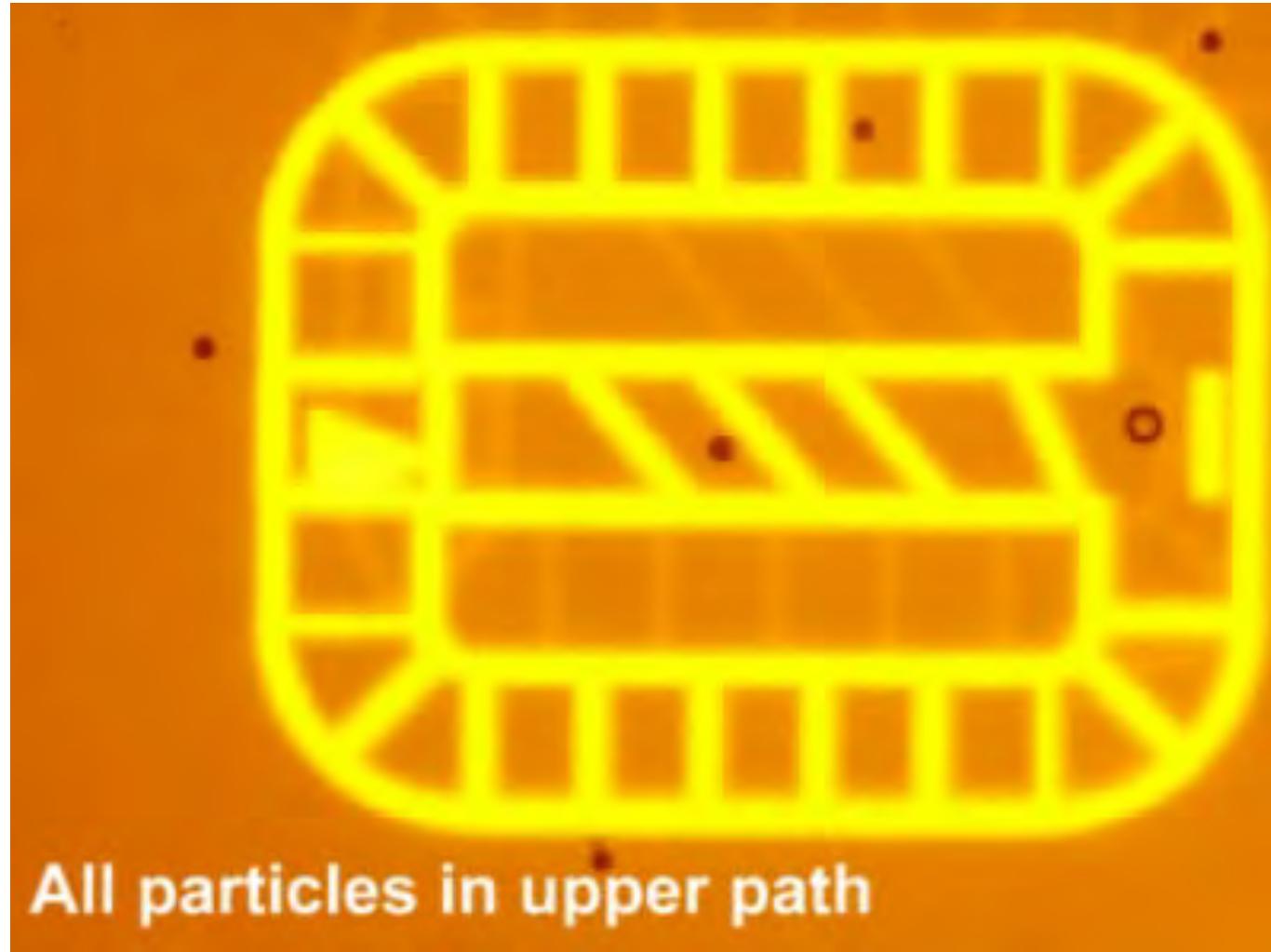
(Movie)



PY Chiou, AT Ohta, MC Wu, *Nature* 436, 370-372 (2005)



# Integrated virtual optical machine

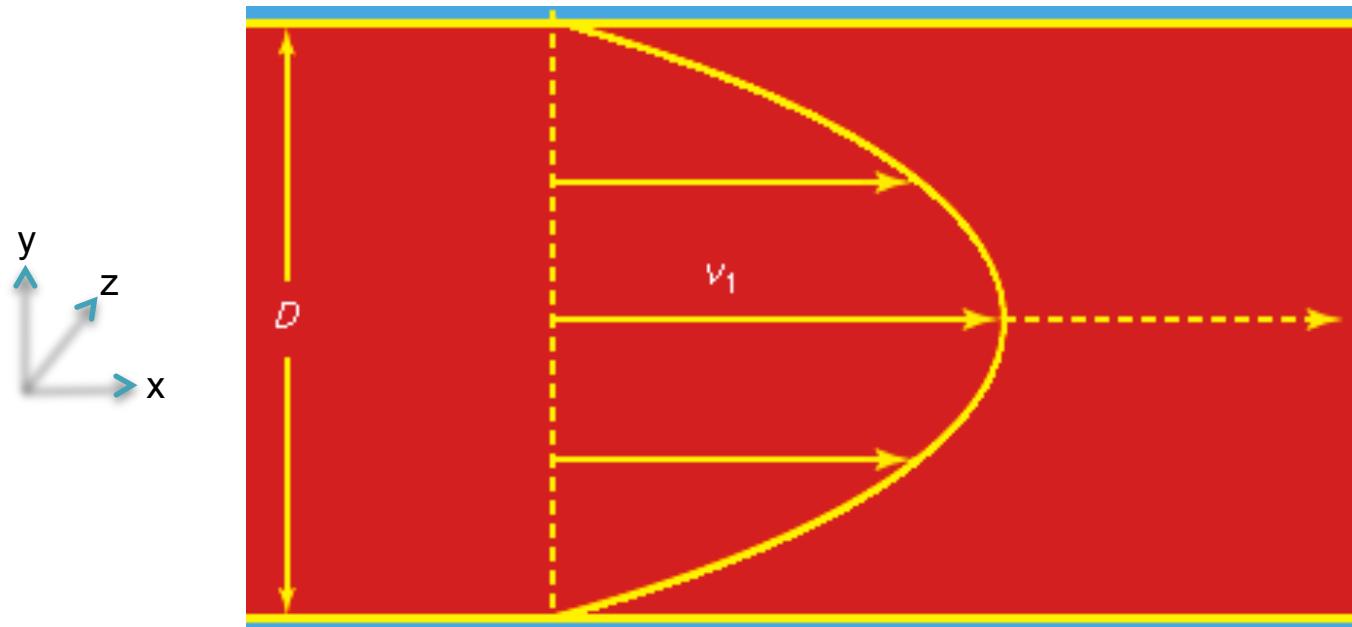


PY Chiou, AT Ohta, MC Wu, *Nature* 436, 370-372 (2005)



# Poiseuille Flow (parabolic)

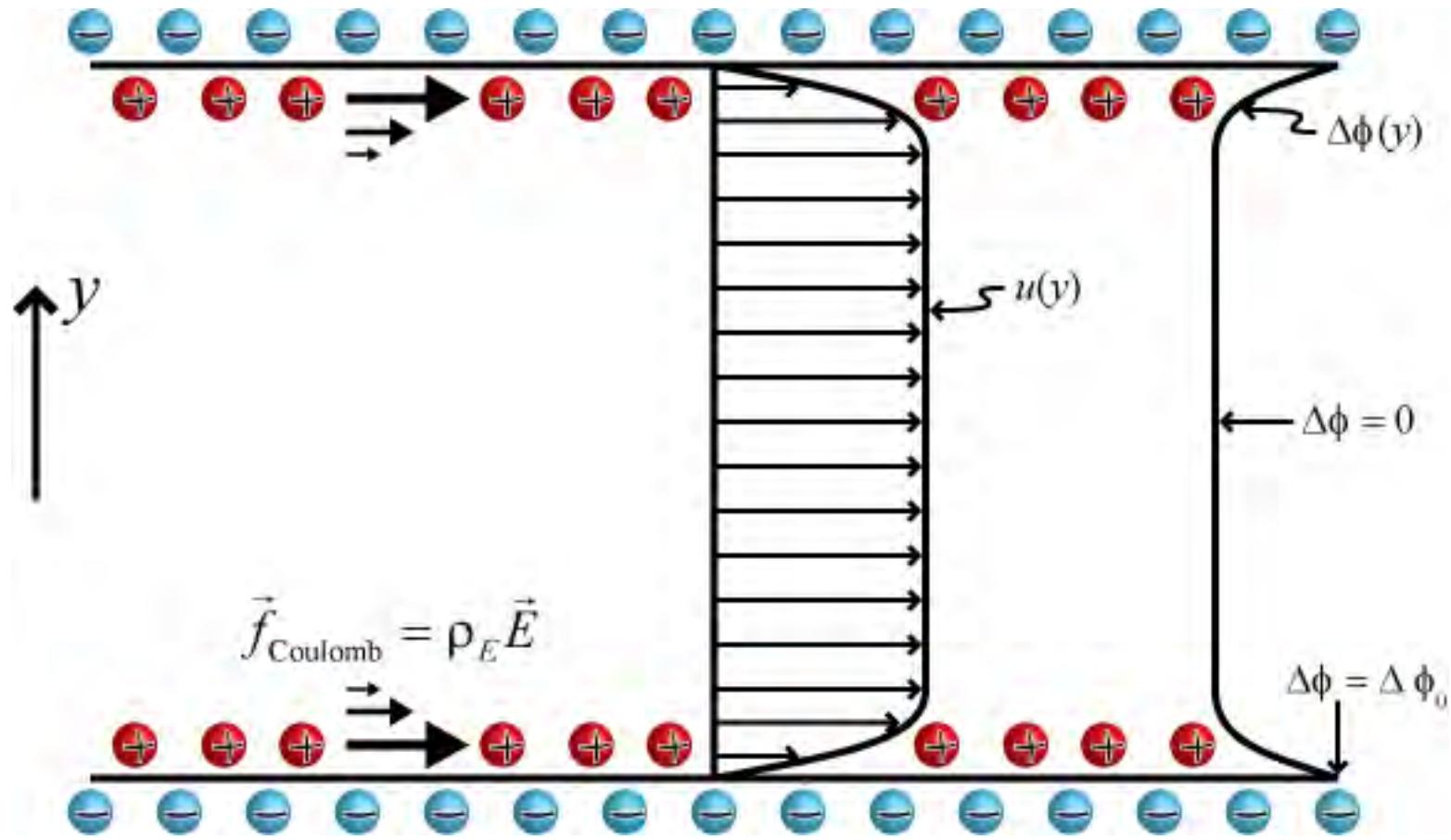
$$v_x(y) = \frac{1}{2\eta} \frac{\Delta p}{l_x} [(a/2)^2 - y^2]$$





# Electrical double layer and electroosmotic flow

“Plug flow”



$$F_{\text{DEP}} = 2\pi r_p^3 \varepsilon_m Re(f_{\text{CM}}) \nabla E^2$$

$$F_{\text{EK}} = -6\pi\eta r_p \mu_{\text{EK}} E$$



# Electroosmosis flow

*Electroosmotic mobility:*

$$\vec{v}_{\text{Surface,wall}} = \mu_{EO} \vec{E}_{\text{ext,wall}}$$

WALL MATERIAL	SOLUTION	$\mu_{EO}$
glass	pH7, 1 mM NaCl	$3 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2/\text{V s}$
glass	pH5, 1 mM NaCl	$1 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2/\text{V s}$
silicon	pH7, 1 mM NaCl	$3 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2/\text{V s}$
poly(dimethylsiloxane)	pH7, 1 mM NaCl	$1.5 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2/\text{V s}$
polycarbonate	pH7, 1 mM NaCl	$2 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2/\text{V s}$

$$\mu_{EO} = -\frac{\epsilon \phi_o}{\eta}$$

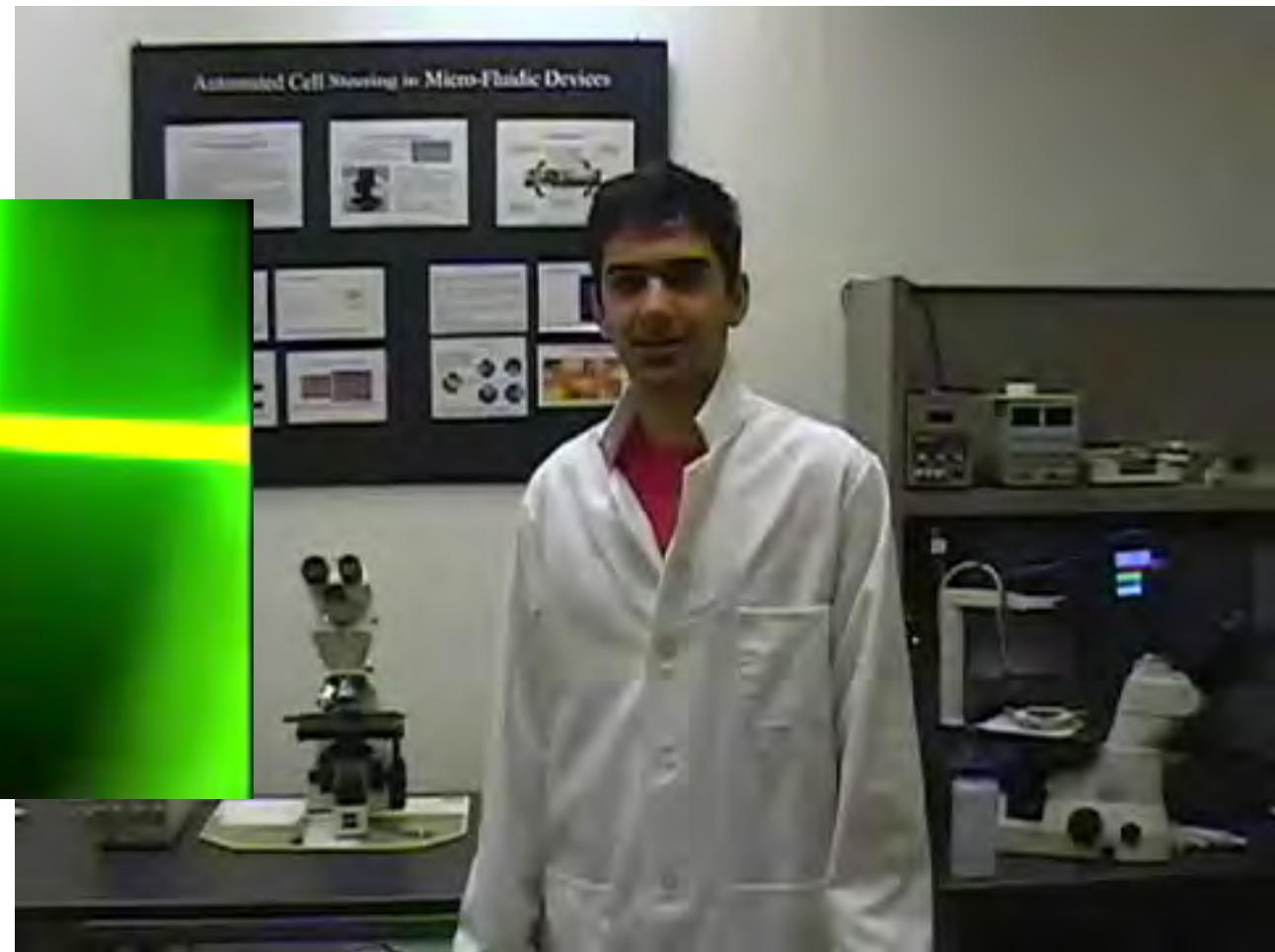
*Electrokinetic potential or zeta potential:*

$$\zeta = -\frac{\mu_{EO} \eta_{bulk}}{\epsilon_{bulk}}$$

$\zeta$  is an experimentally observed quantity that has units of volts. If the fluid has uniform  $\epsilon$  and  $\eta$ , then the measured  $\zeta$  is equal to  $\phi_o$ . If the fluid permittivity or viscosity vary in the electrical double layer, then a different integral analysis must be performed to relate  $\zeta$  to  $\phi_o$ .



# Steering of particles by Electroosmotic Actuation



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmh6yyowY\\_g&NR=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmh6yyowY_g&NR=1)