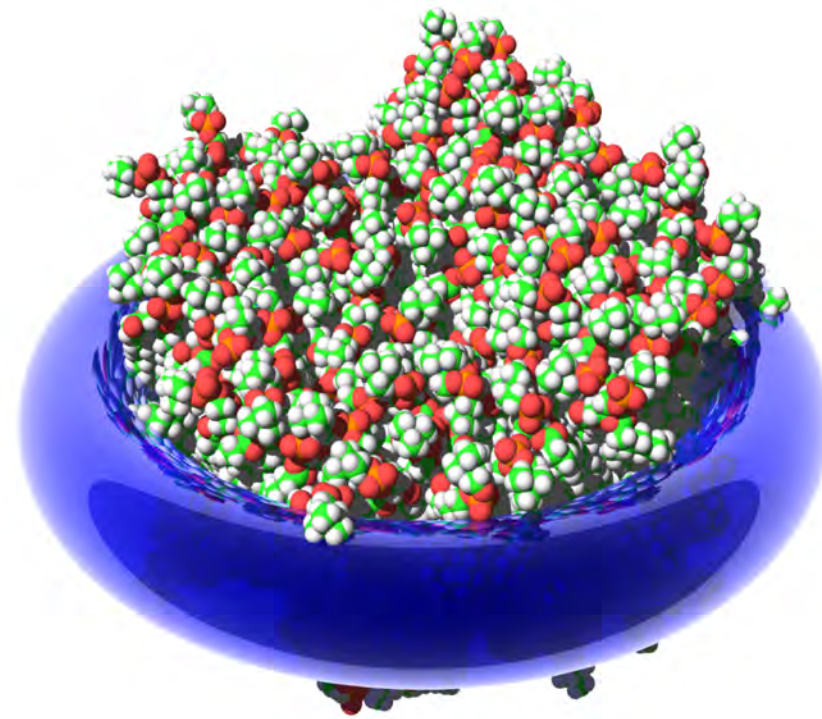
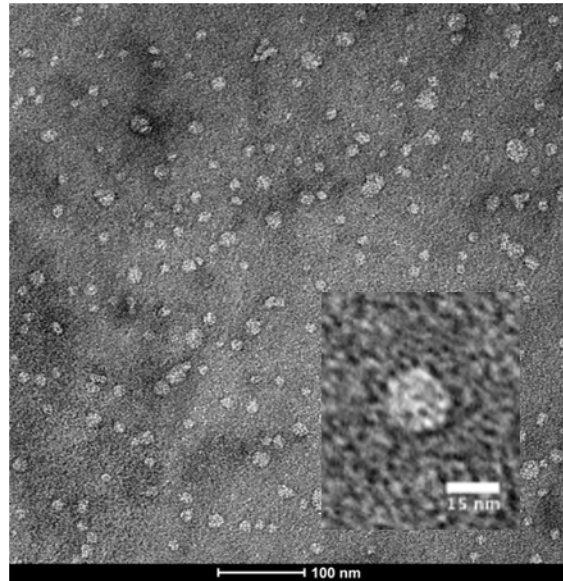


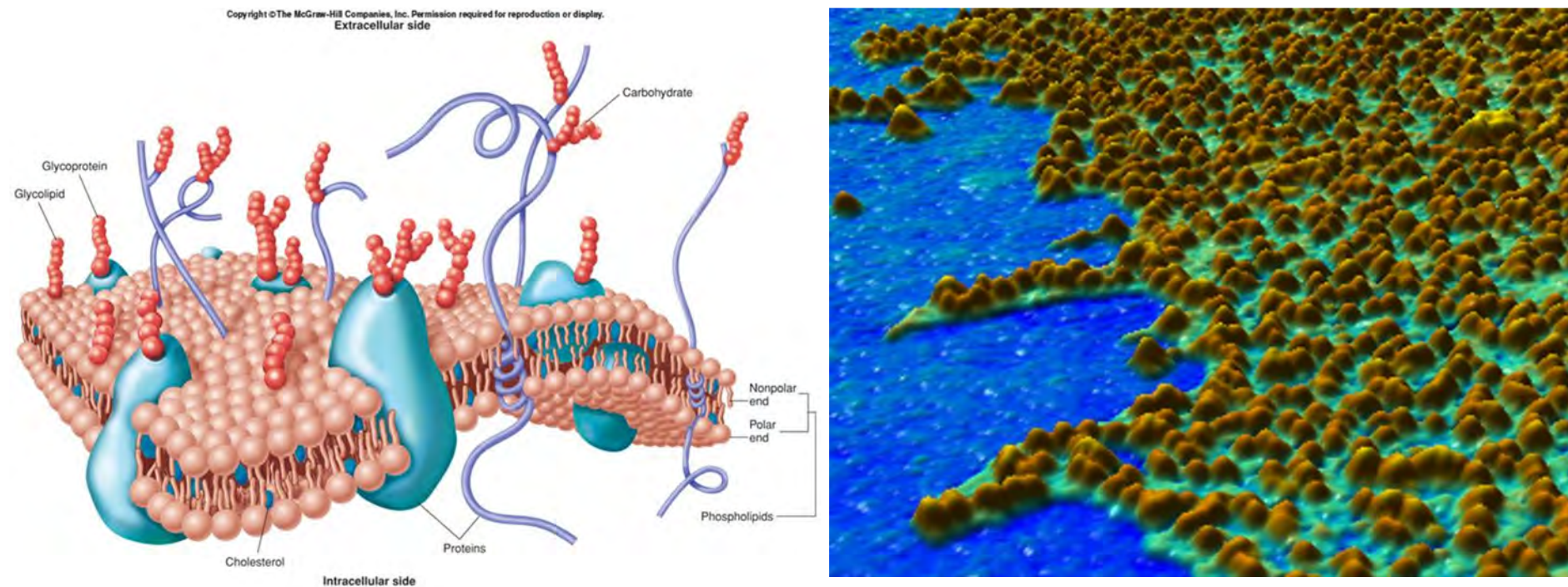
# SMALPs: past glories and future opportunities



*Professor Tim Dafforn*  
University of Birmingham

# Solubilisation of membrane proteins

- MPs are not naturally solvated by water
- MPs are solvated in a structurally specific fashion



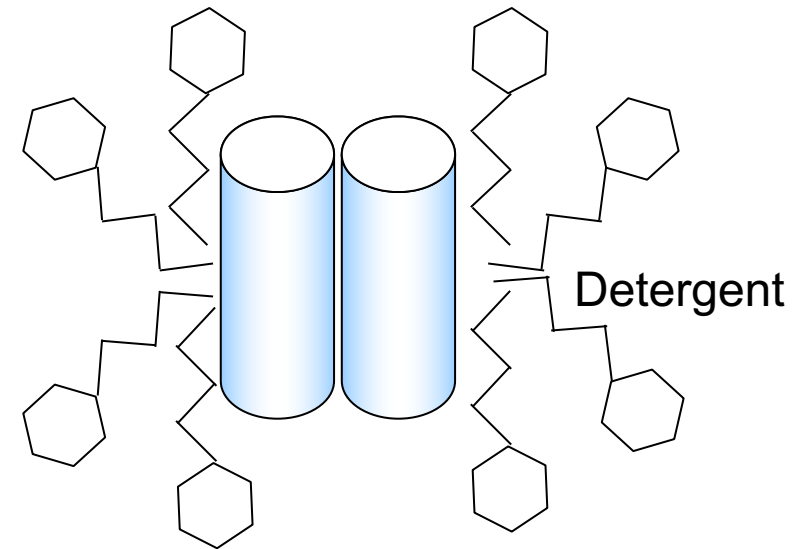
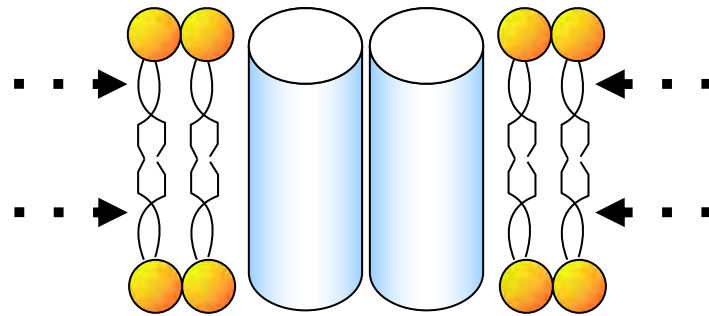
J. Membrane Biol. 180, 205–212 (2001): By H. Schillers, T. Danker, M. Madeja, H. Oberleithner

# **The 3 challenges for membrane protein biologists**

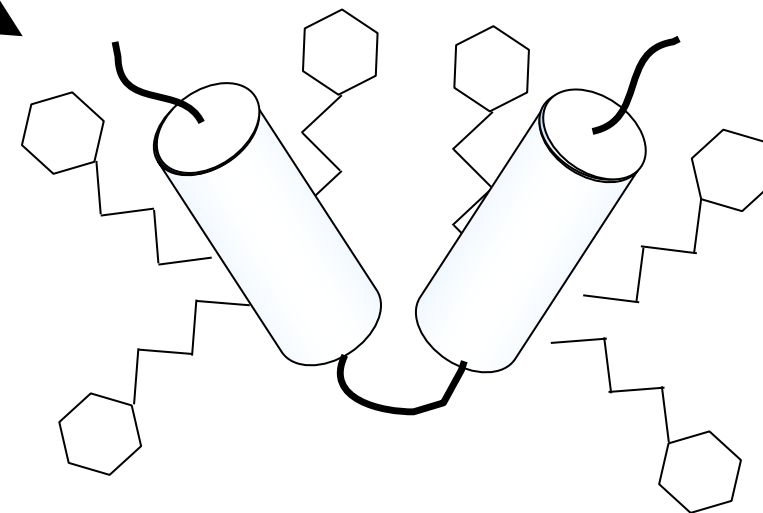
- Purification of target protein
- Stability of target protein
- Downstream analysis (function and structure)

# Historical Solution

- Detergents used to “solubilise” membrane proteins

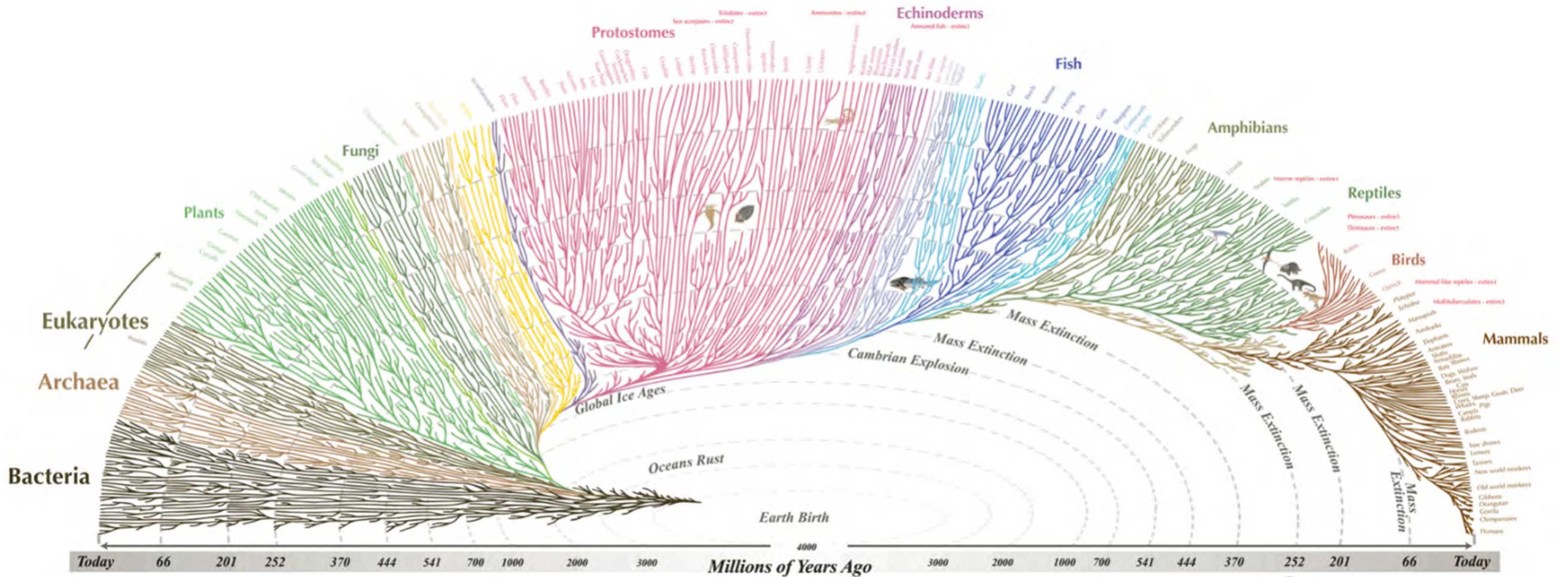


Extensive screening of detergents to optimise yield/purity/function/analysis





# The “evolution” of membrane protein extraction methods

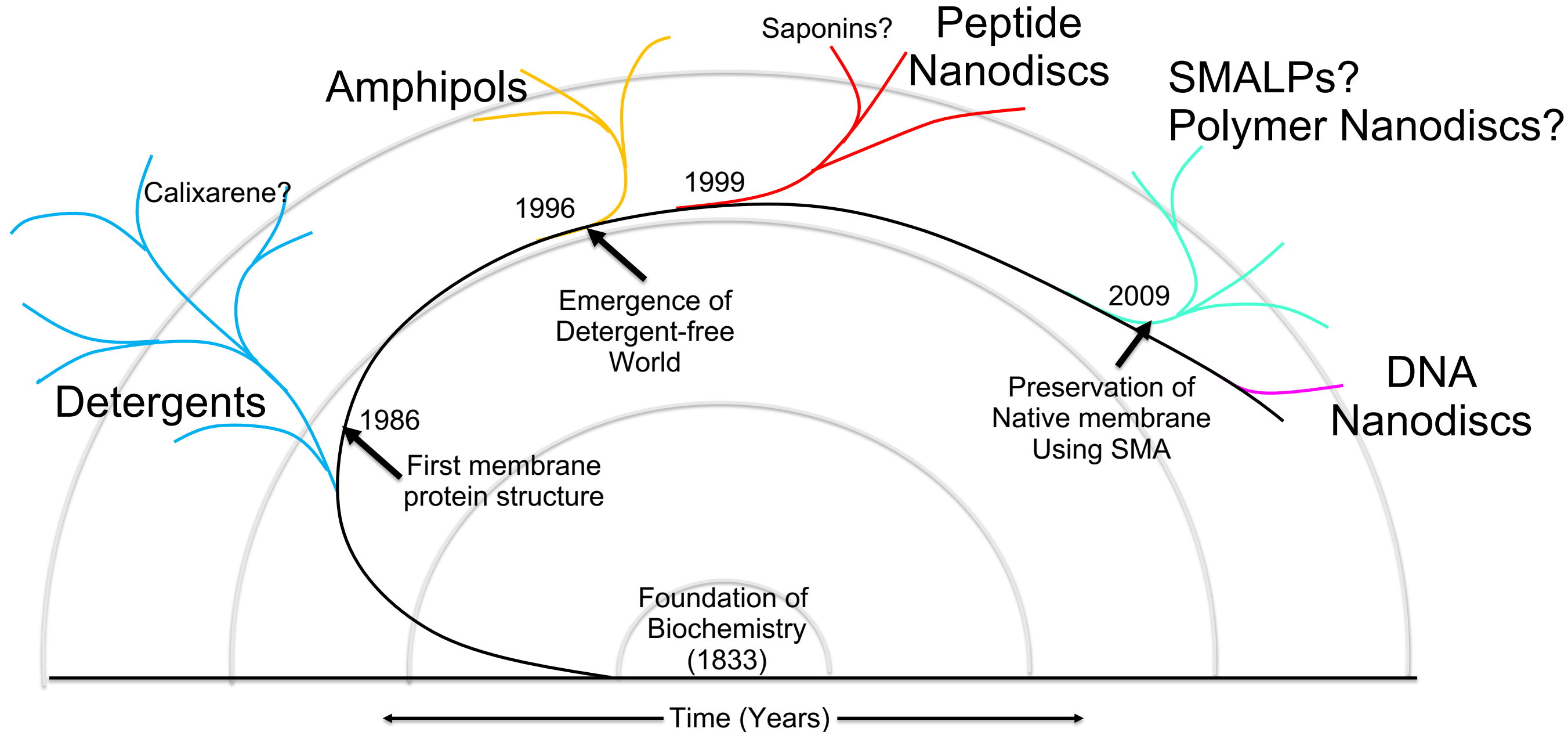


All the major and many of the minor living branches of life are shown on this diagram, but only a few of those that have gone extinct are shown. Example: Dinosaurs - extinct

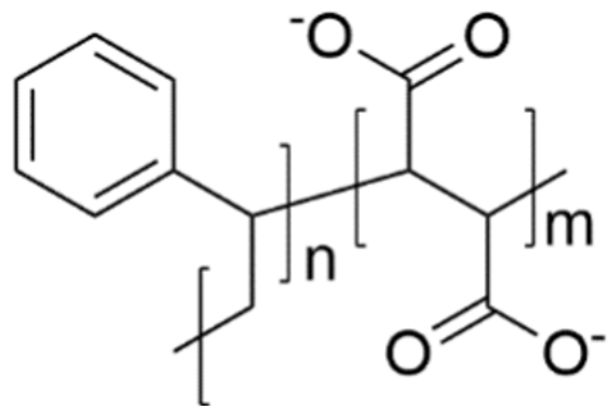


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# The “evolution” of membrane protein extraction methods



# Styrene Maleic Acid



Styrene Maleic Acid  
co-polymer

- 30010 P from Polyscience
- 2.3:1 Styrene to Maleic acid ratio
- Mw 6.5 kDa

# SMALPS in protein purification

Protein In Raw  
membrane



SMA  
Polymer



Centrifugation to  
remove  
insoluble  
material



HisTrap

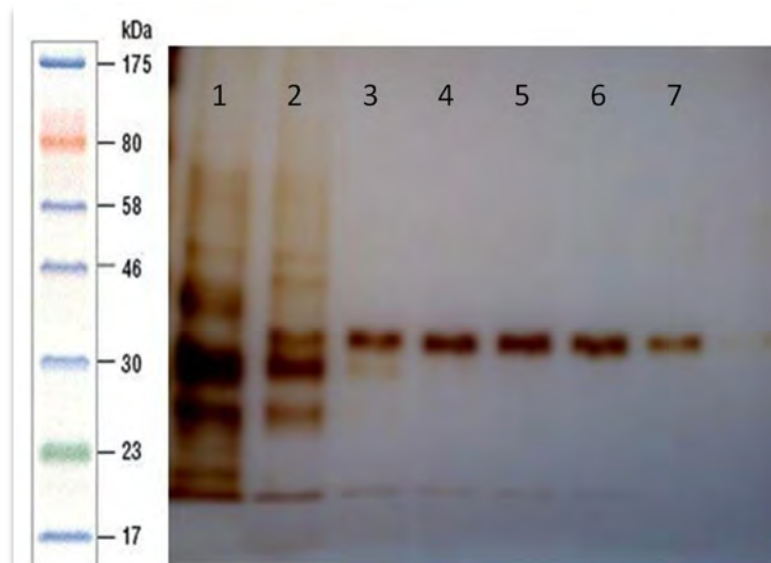
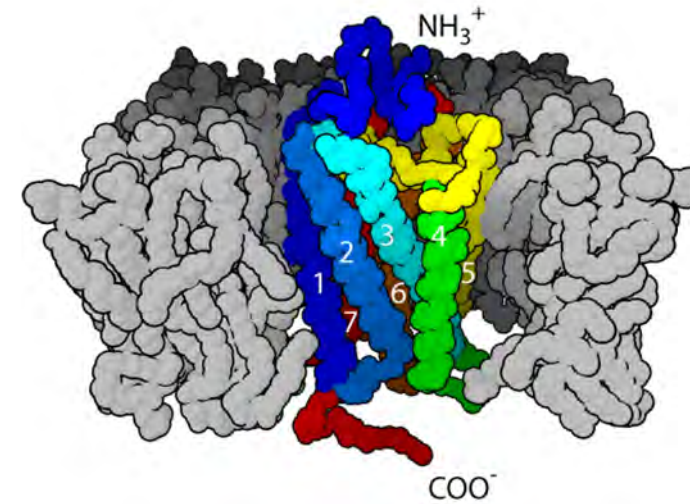


**Note: Load slowly  
with  
low (or no)  
Imidazole**



# Human Class A GPCR: Adenosine 2A Receptor

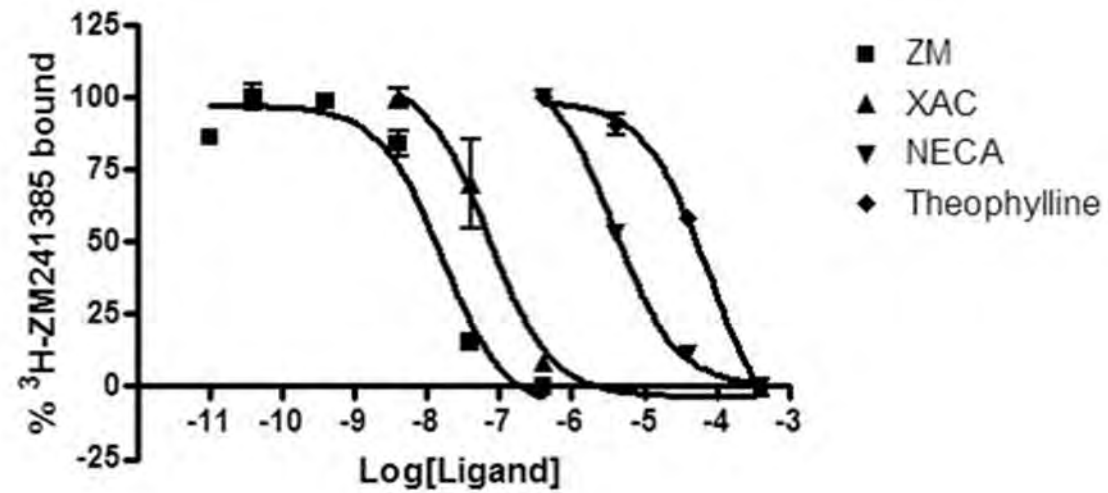
- Adenosine 2A receptor
- Expressed in *Pichia Pastoris*
- >90% yield at extraction stage



Jamshad M  
Biosci. Rep. 2015 Apr 16;35(2).

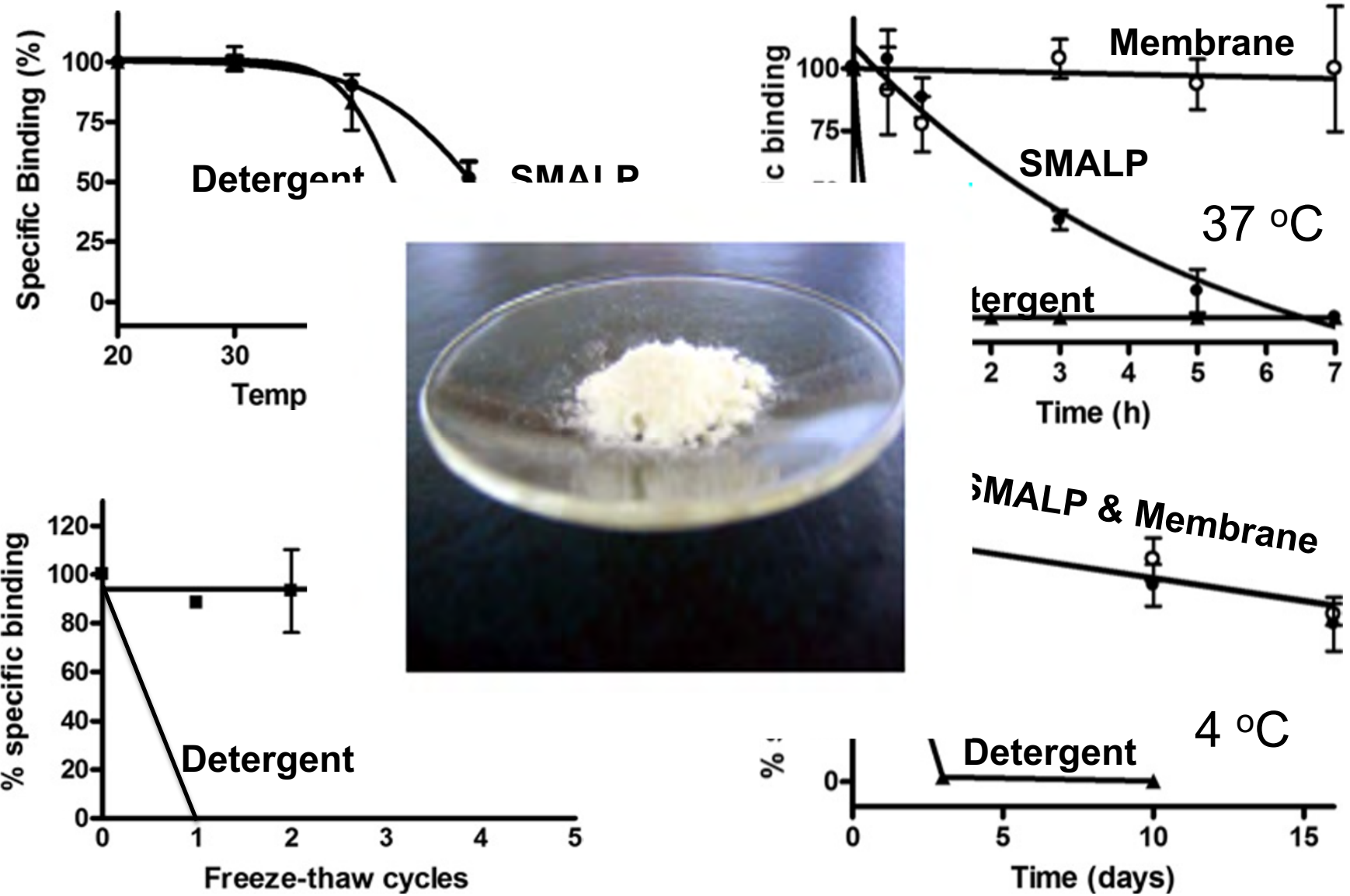
Purification step	Specific binding ( $B_{max}$ , pmol/mg)	Relative yield (%)	Purification (fold)
Solubilised materials	9.6	-	1
IMAC eluate	9300	55	968
Gel filtration eluate	18200	36.7	1895

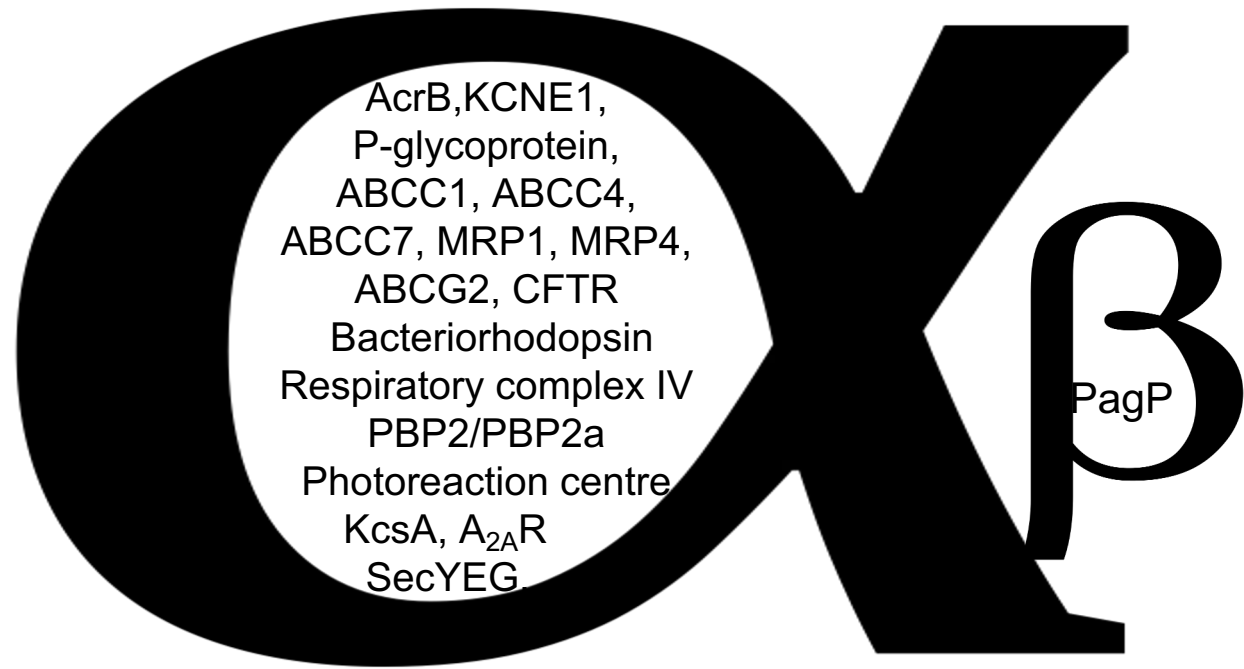
# A<sub>2A</sub>R-SMALP Pharmacology



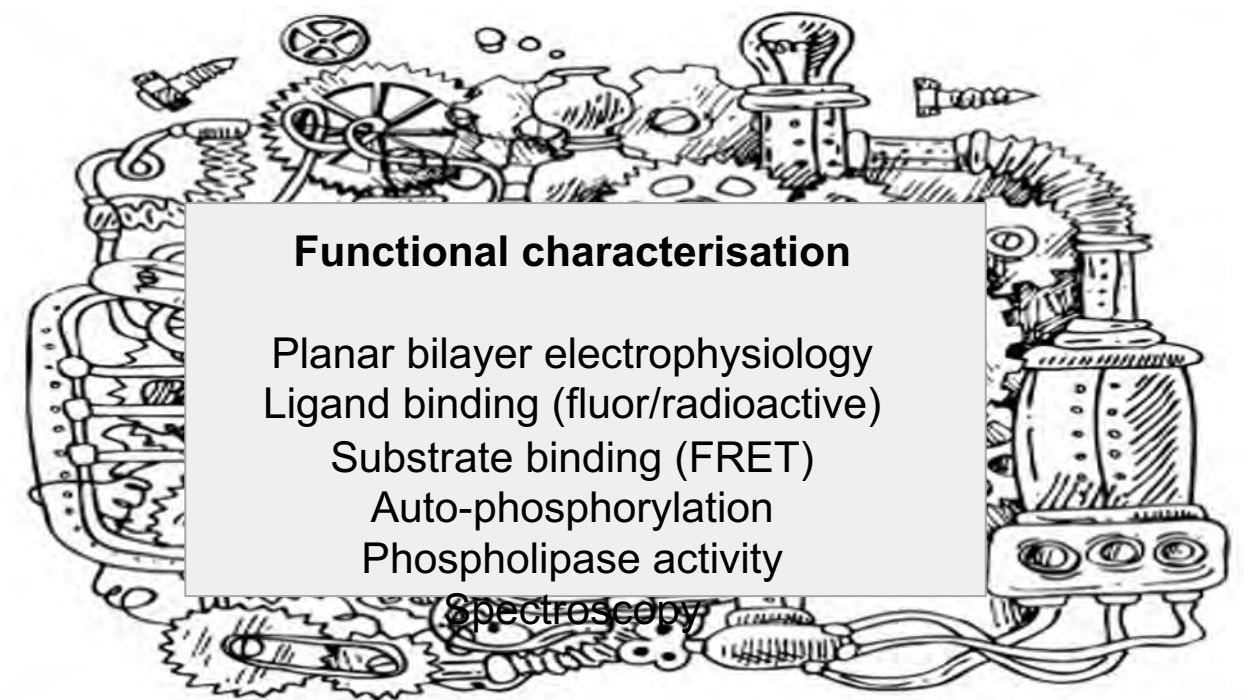
<i>Drug</i>	<i>pKi (SMALP)</i>	<i>pKi (crude, membrane)</i>
<b>ZM241385</b>	<b>7.95 ± 0.45</b>	<b>7.79 ± 0.14</b>
<b>XAC</b>	<b>6.53 ± 0.24</b>	<b>7.16 ± 0.18</b>
<b>NECA</b>	<b>5.66 ± 0.26</b>	<b>5.43 ± 0.10</b>
<b>Theophylline</b>	<b>3.82 ± 0.30</b>	<b>4.13x ± 0.10</b>

# GPCR Stability





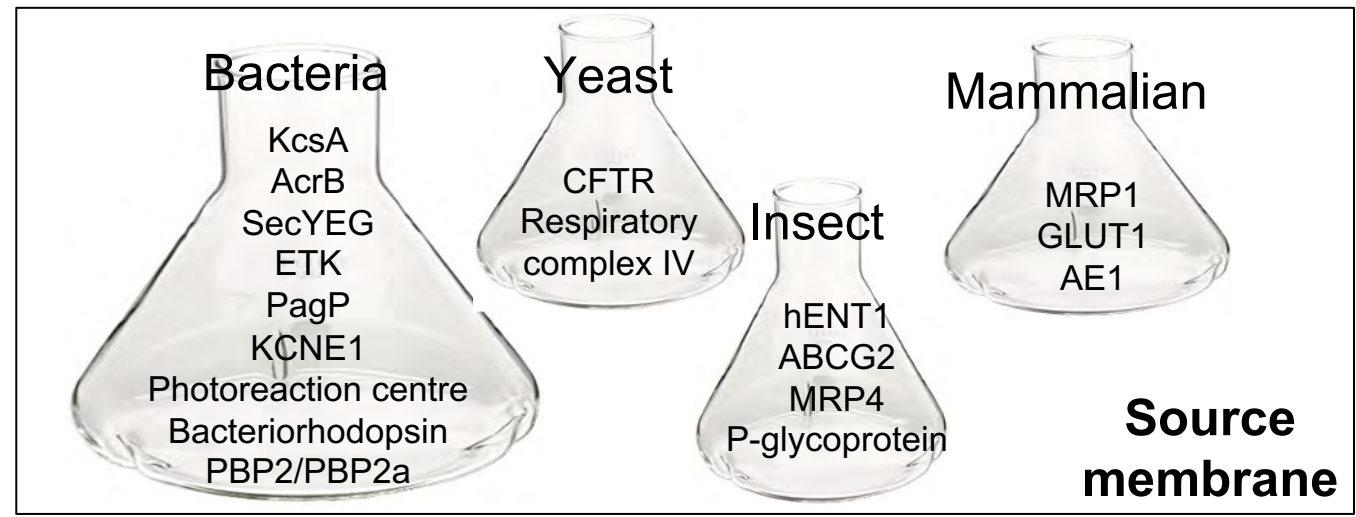
**Type of membrane spanning domain**



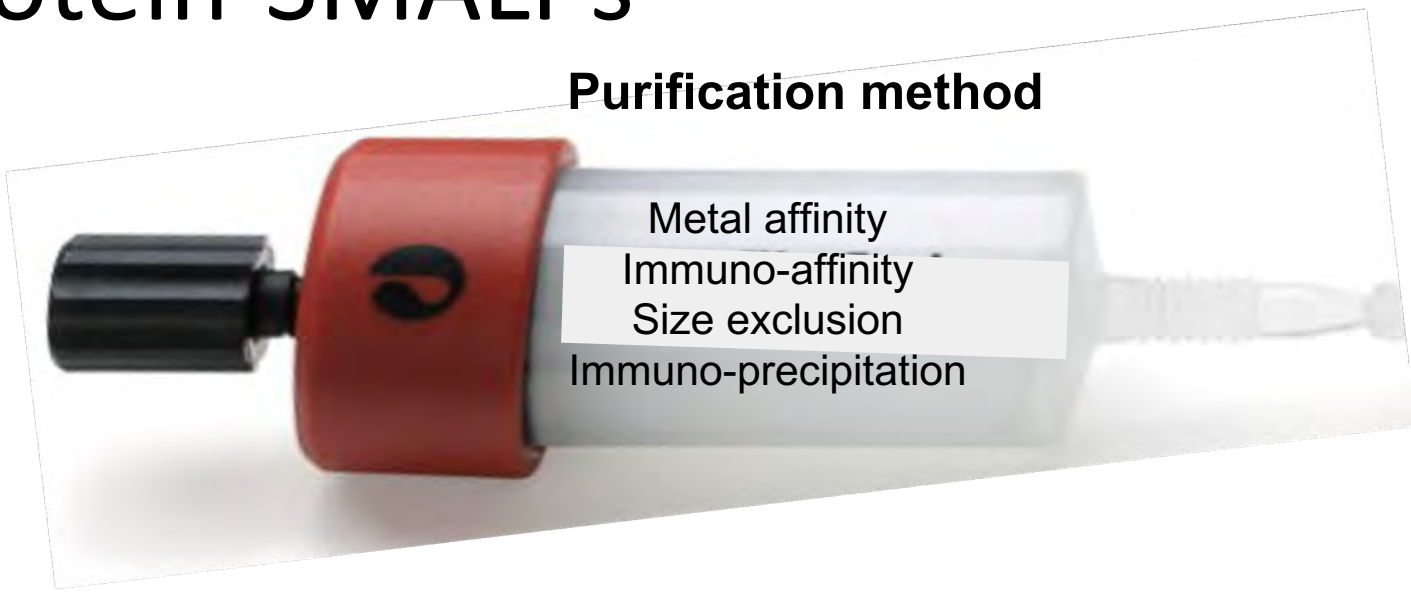
**Functional characterisation**

- Planar bilayer electrophysiology
- Ligand binding (fluor/radioactive)
- Substrate binding (FRET)
- Auto-phosphorylation
- Phospholipase activity
- Spectroscopy

# Diversity of protein-SMALPs



**Source membrane**

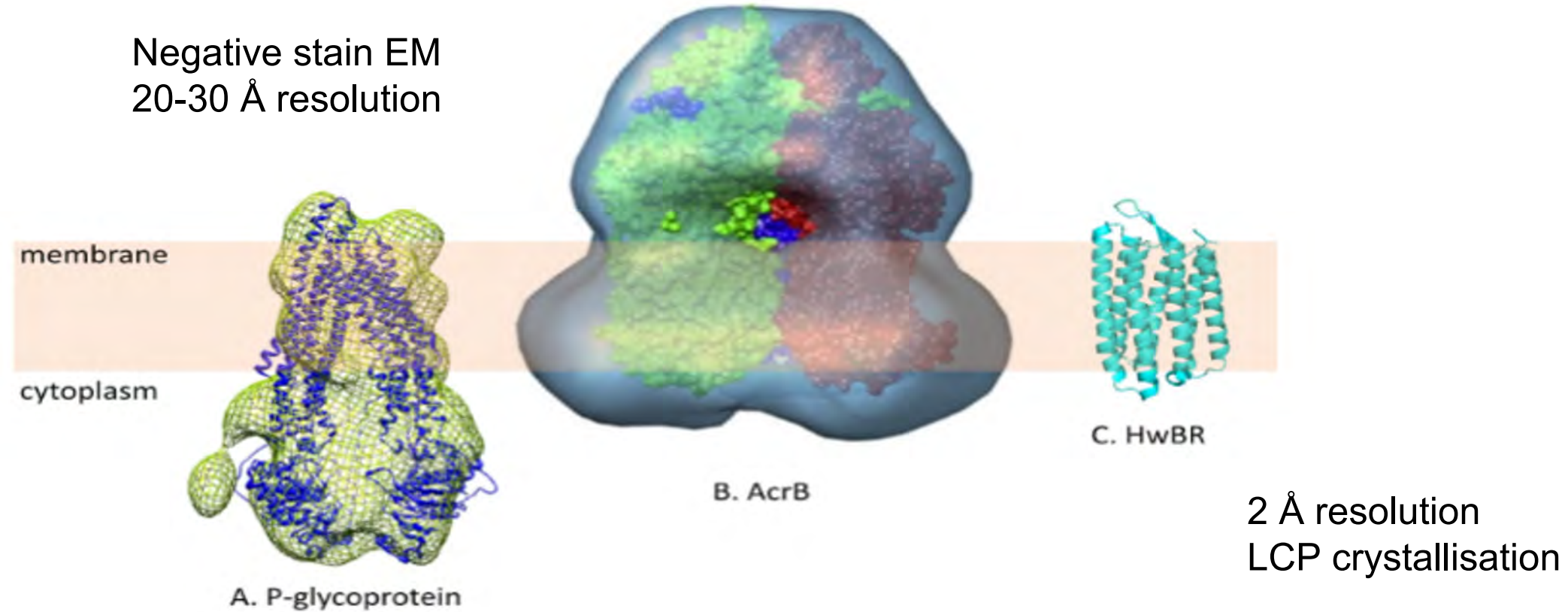


**Purification method**

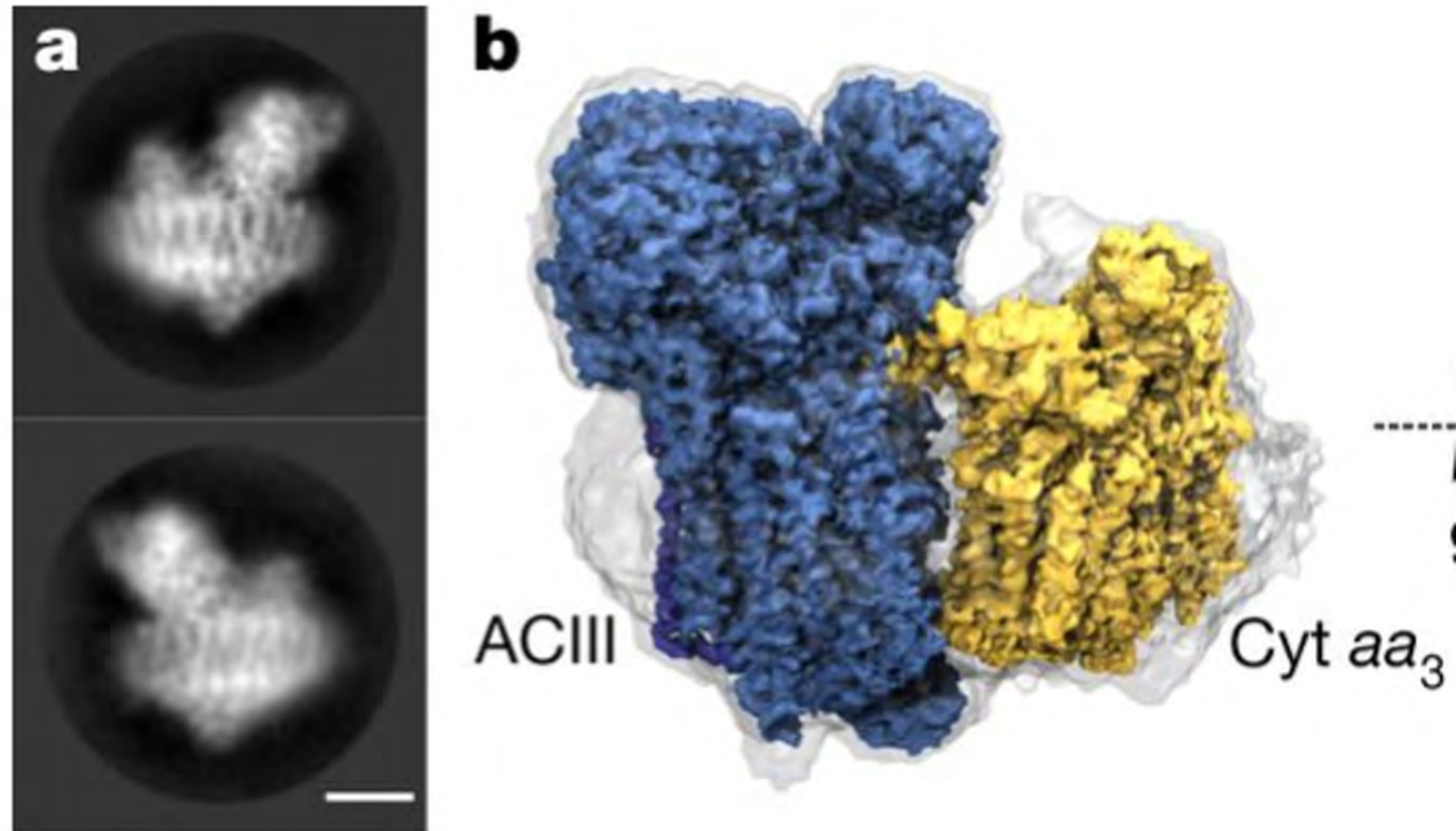
- Metal affinity
- Immuno-affinity
- Size exclusion
- Immuno-precipitation



# Structural biology of protein-SMALPs

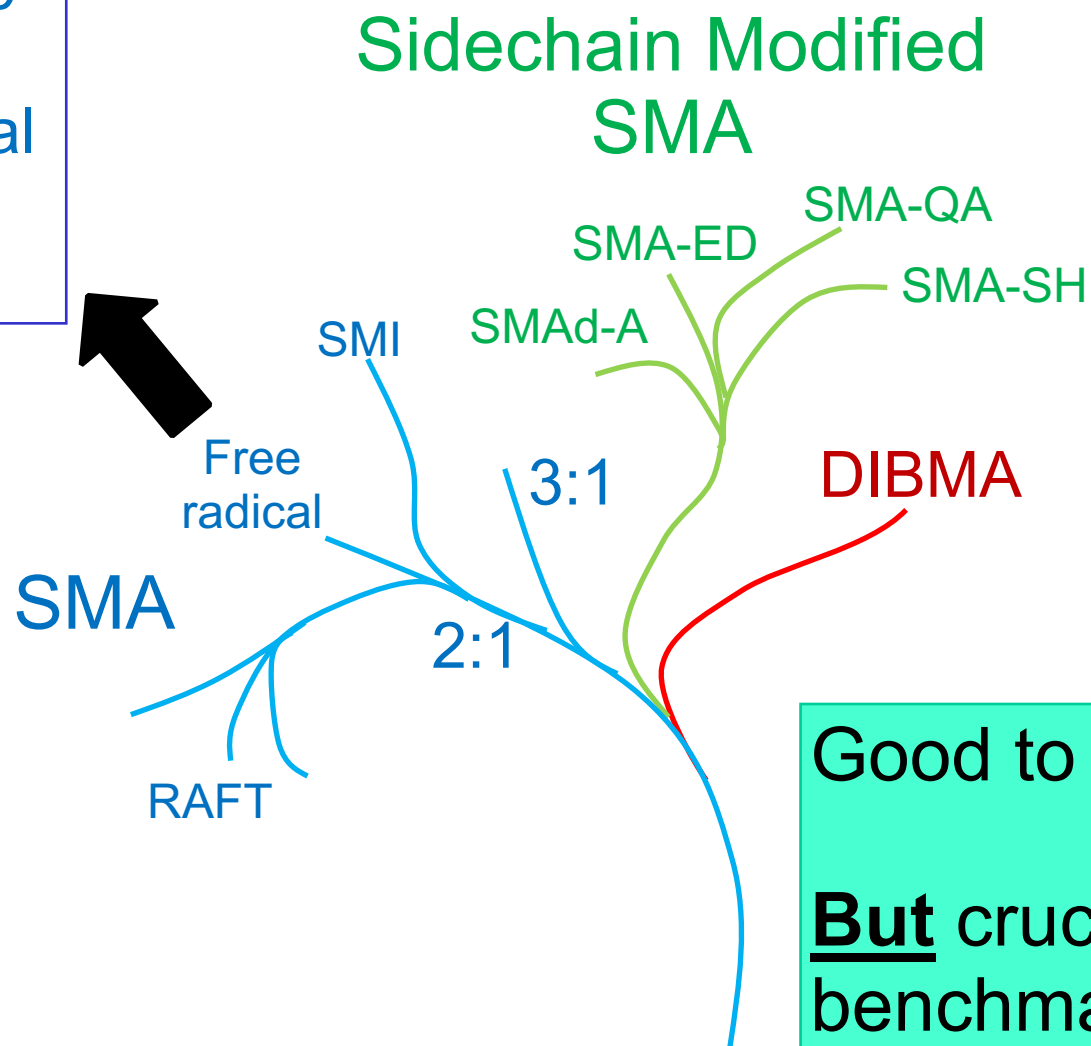


# Structural biology of protein-SMALPs



# Rapid evolution of polymer nanodiscs

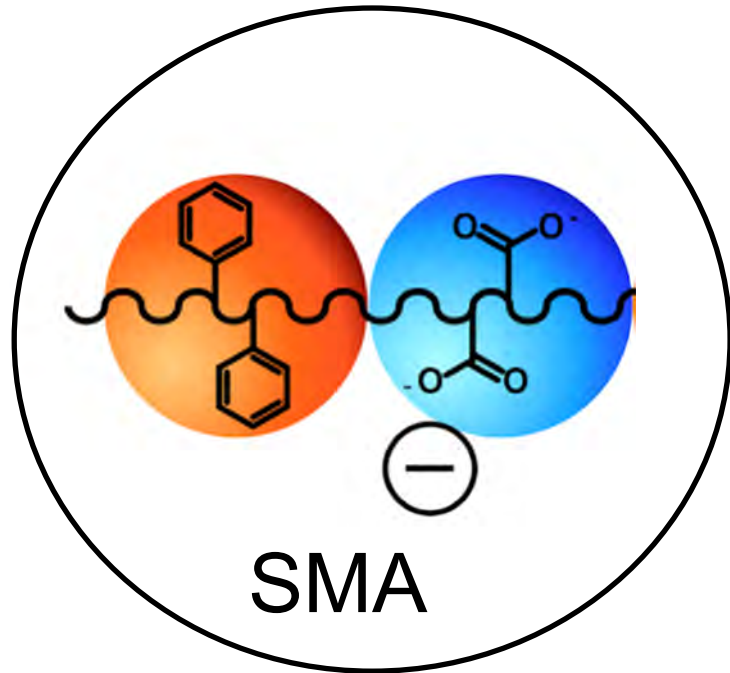
Xiran 30010  
2:1 S:MA  
Free Radical  
CSTR  
6 KDa



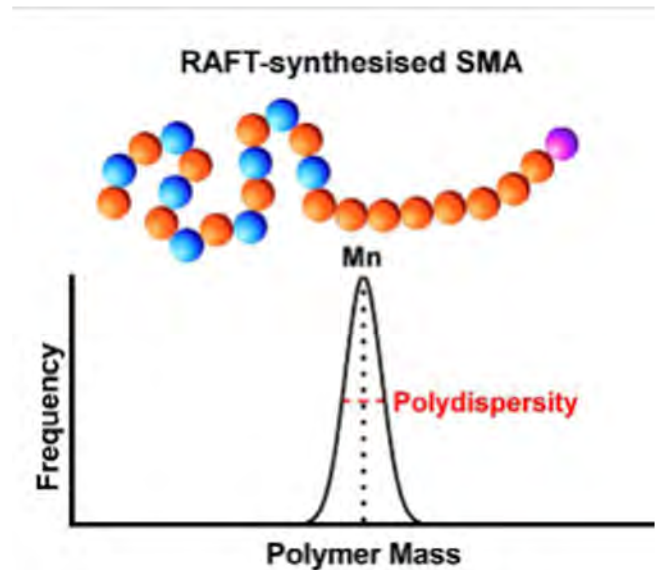
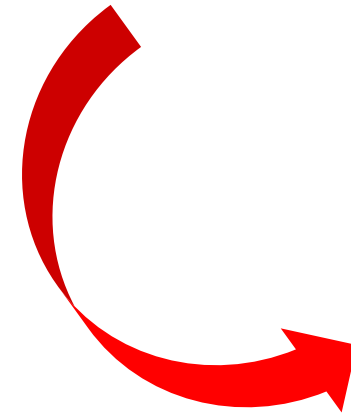
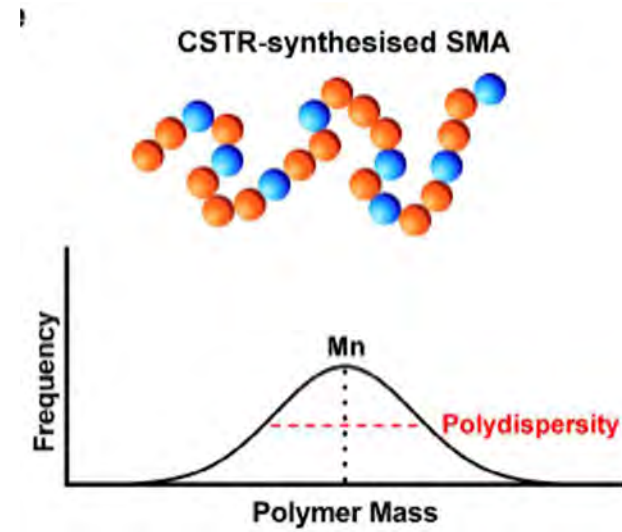
Good to see diversity...

**But** crucial that performance is benchmarked

# Rapid evolution of polymer nanodiscs



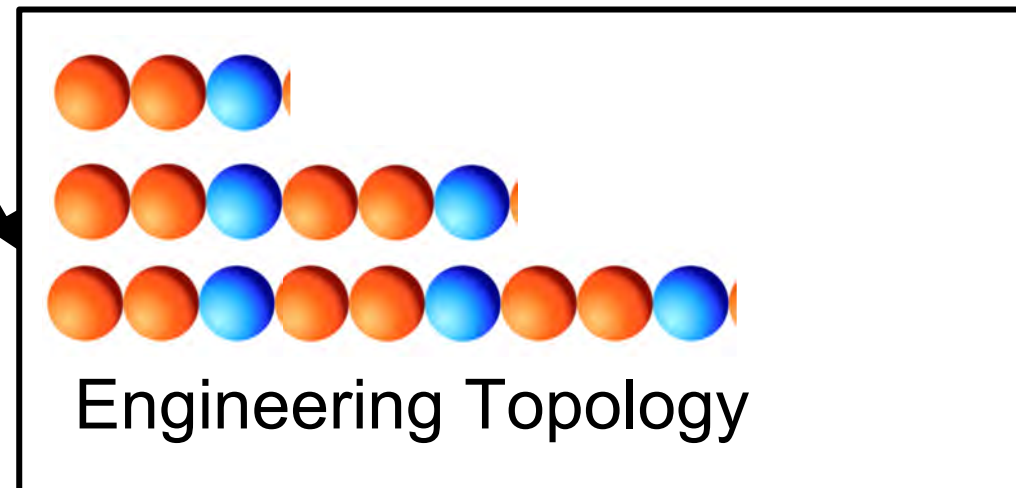
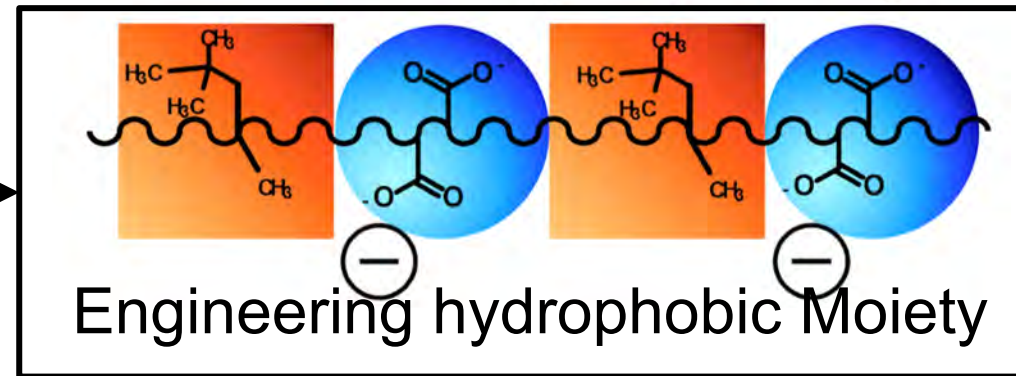
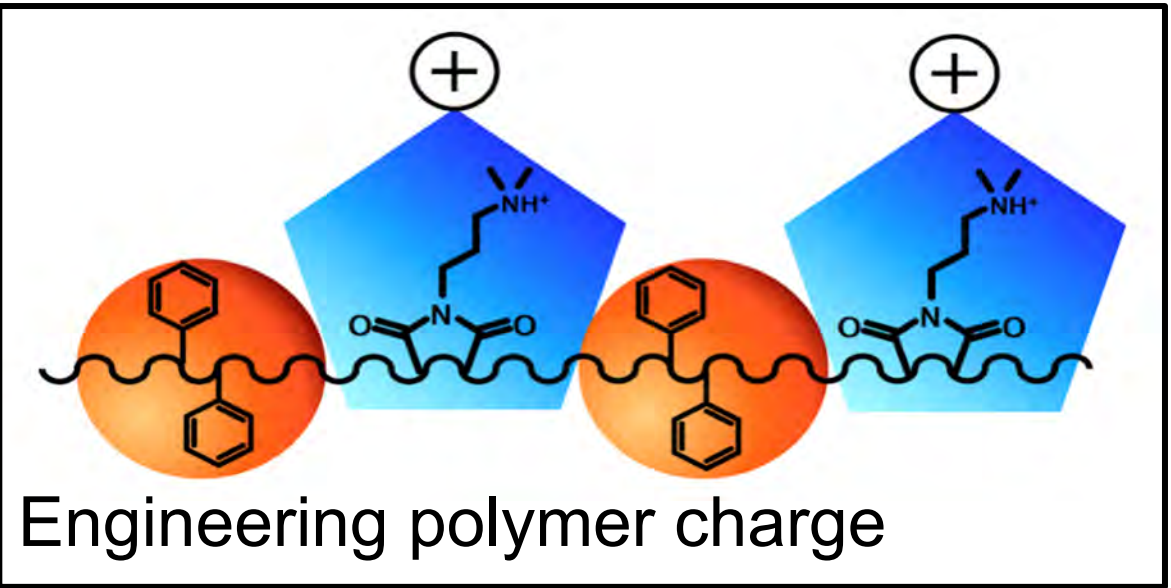
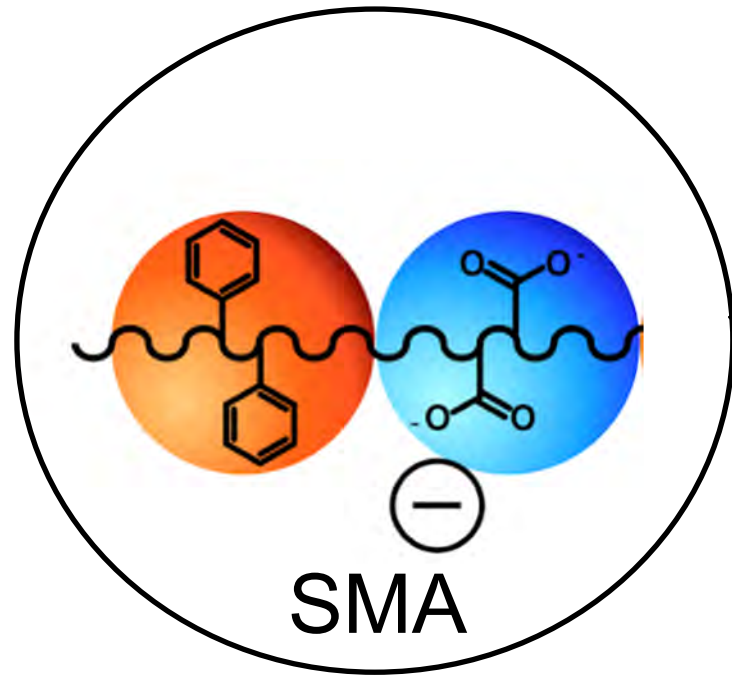
Polydispersity  
pH sensitivity  
Some targets missed?  
Cation sensitivity





# Polymer Architecture

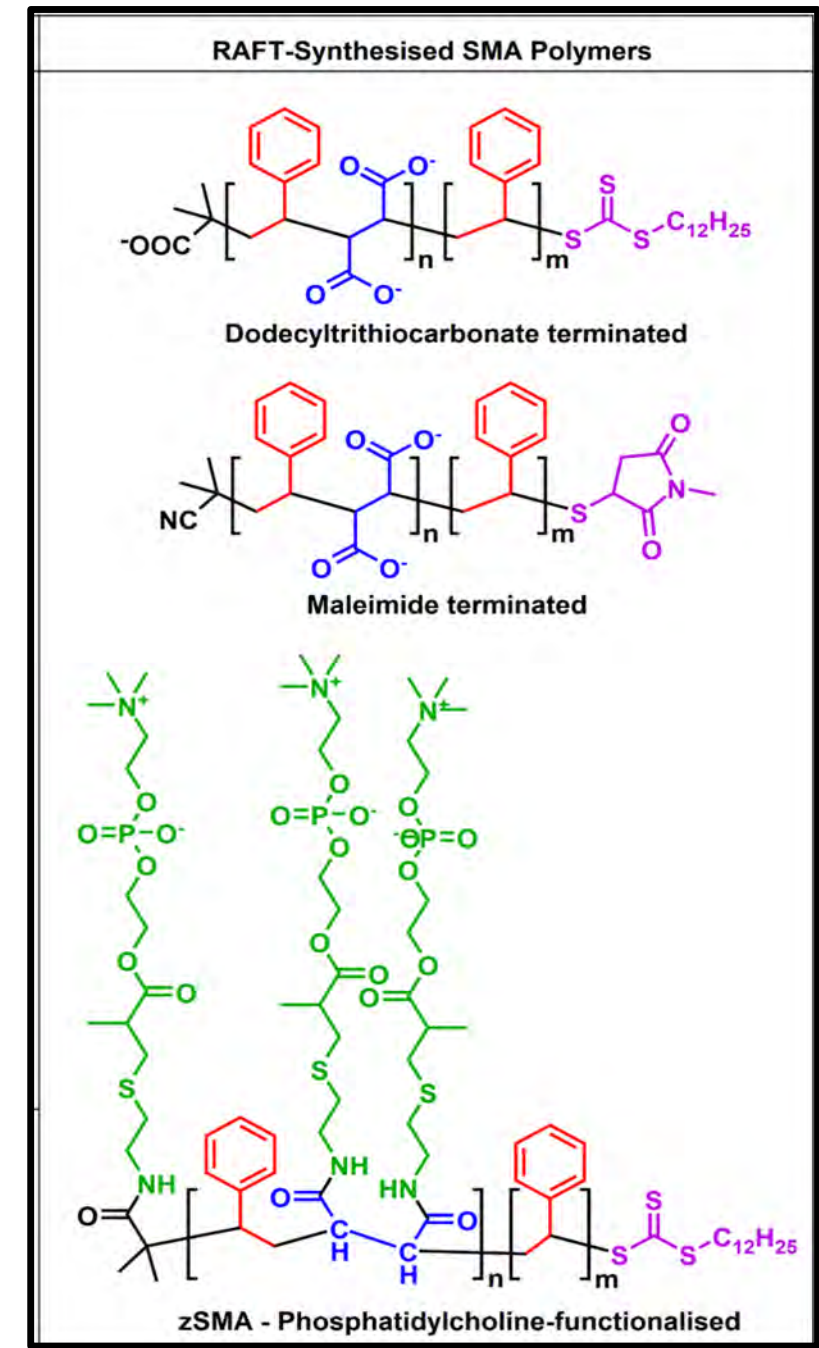
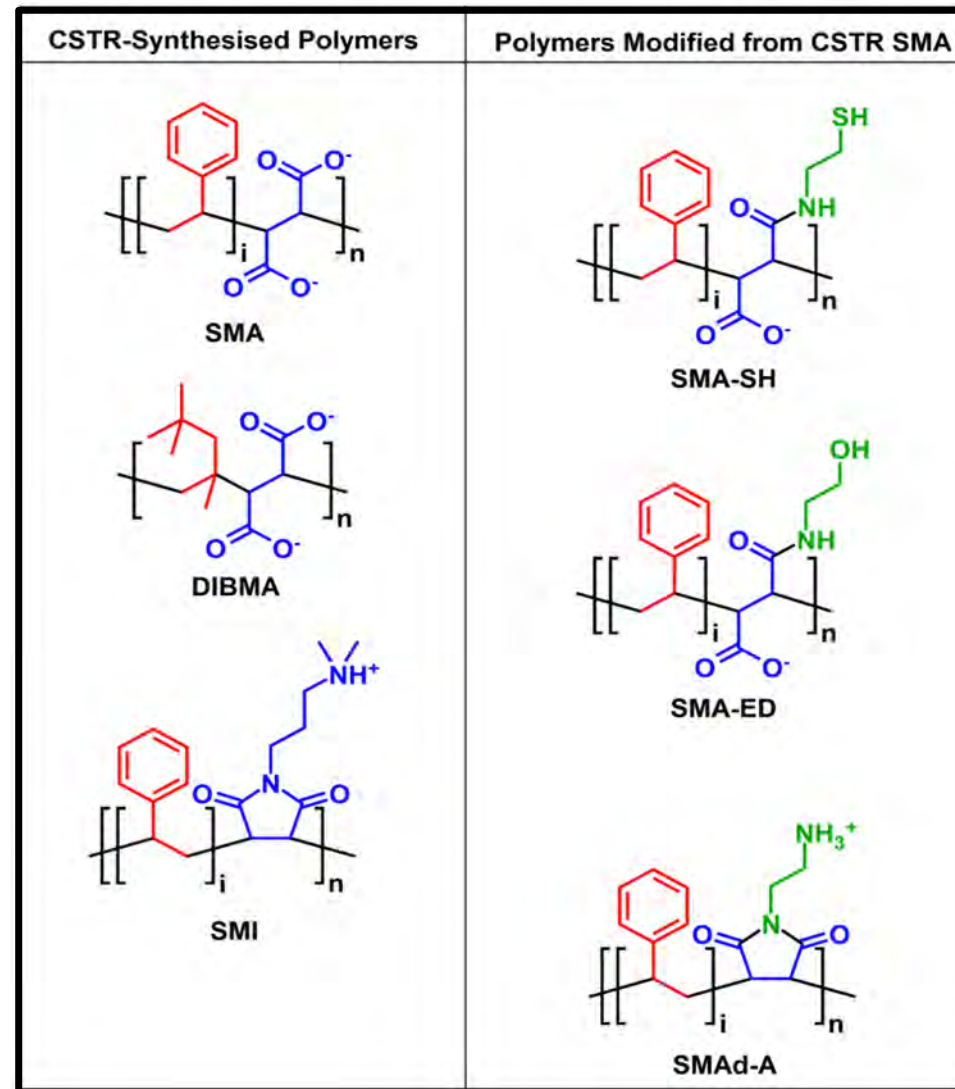
## What can we change?



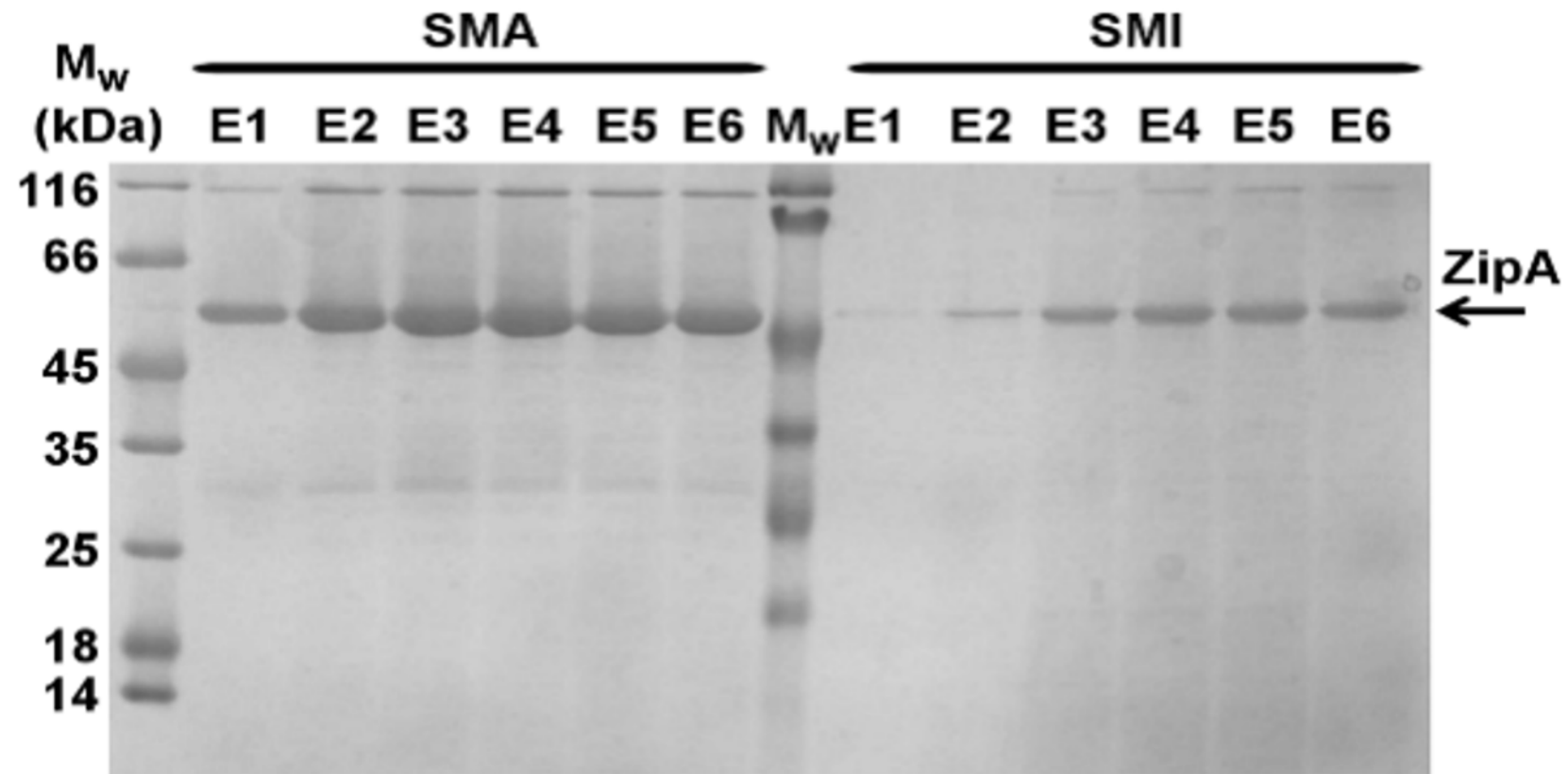
# Polymer Architecture

## What can we change?

- Hydrophobic group
- Hydrophilic group
- Functionalisation of hydrophilic group
- RAFT agent termination

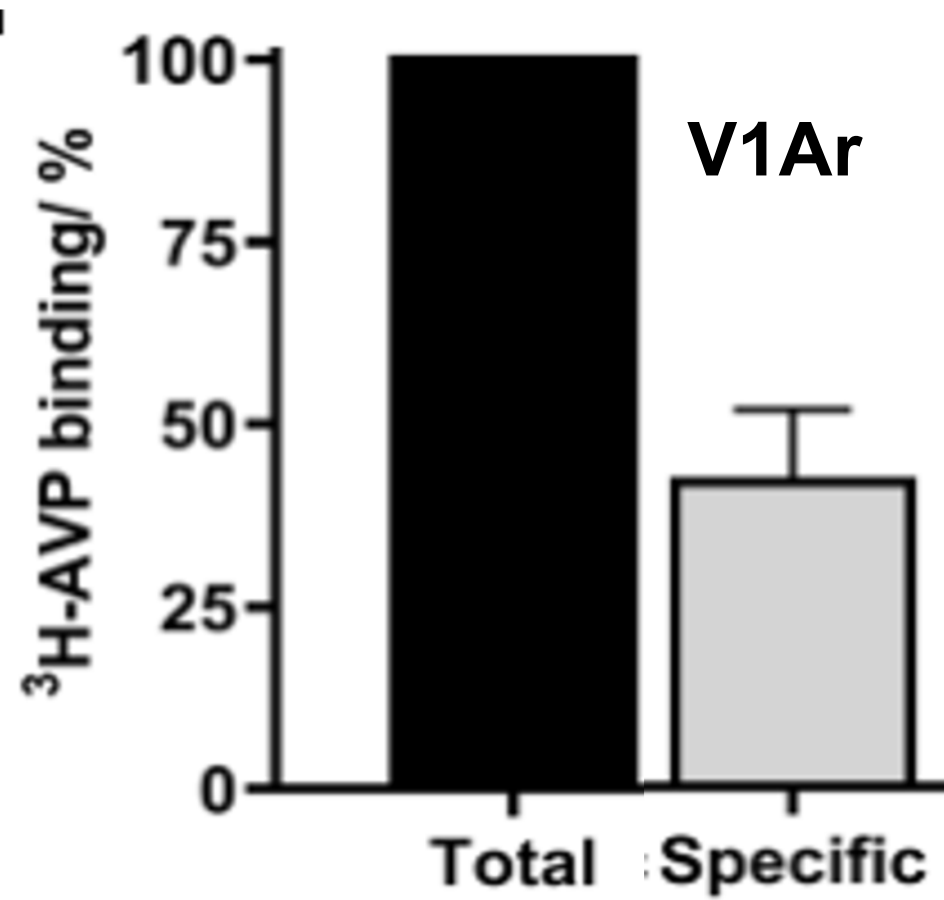
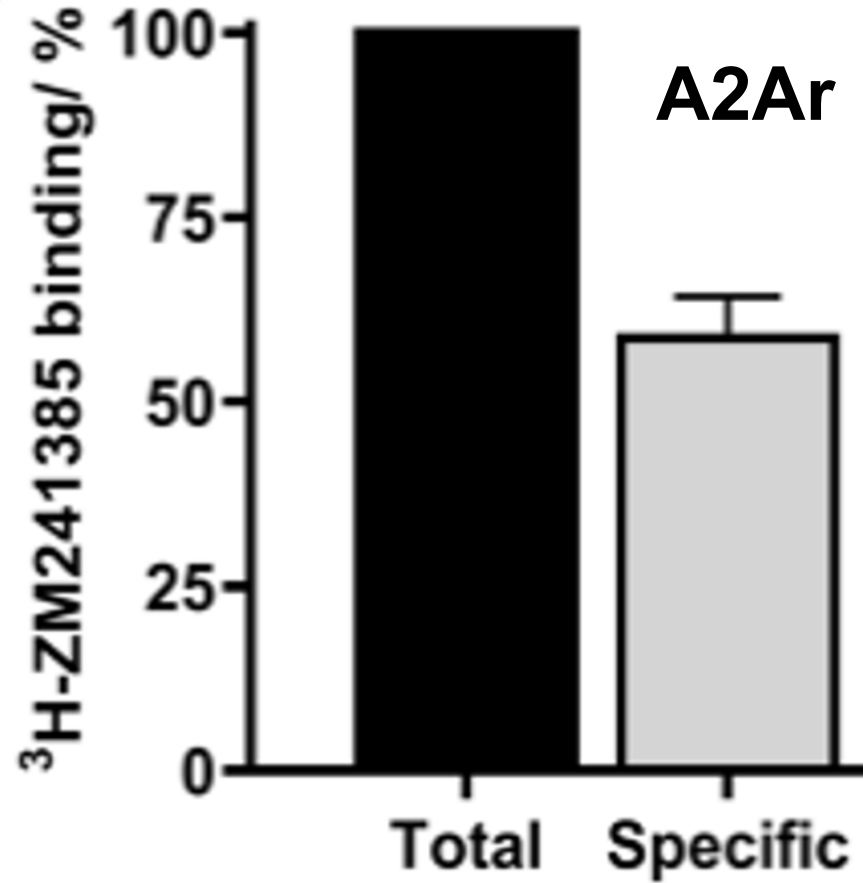


# SMI: A Positively Charged Polymer



# SMILPs and GPCRs

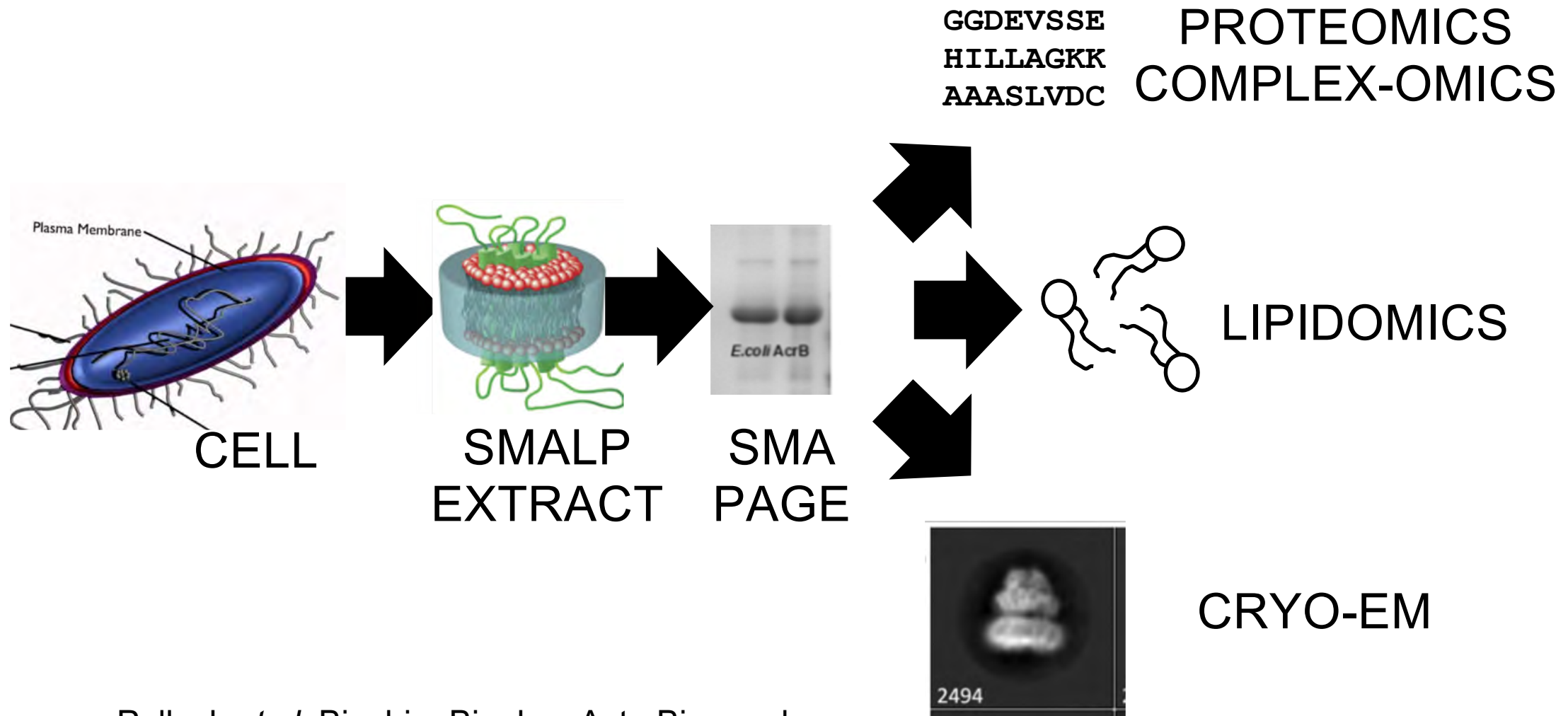
**C**



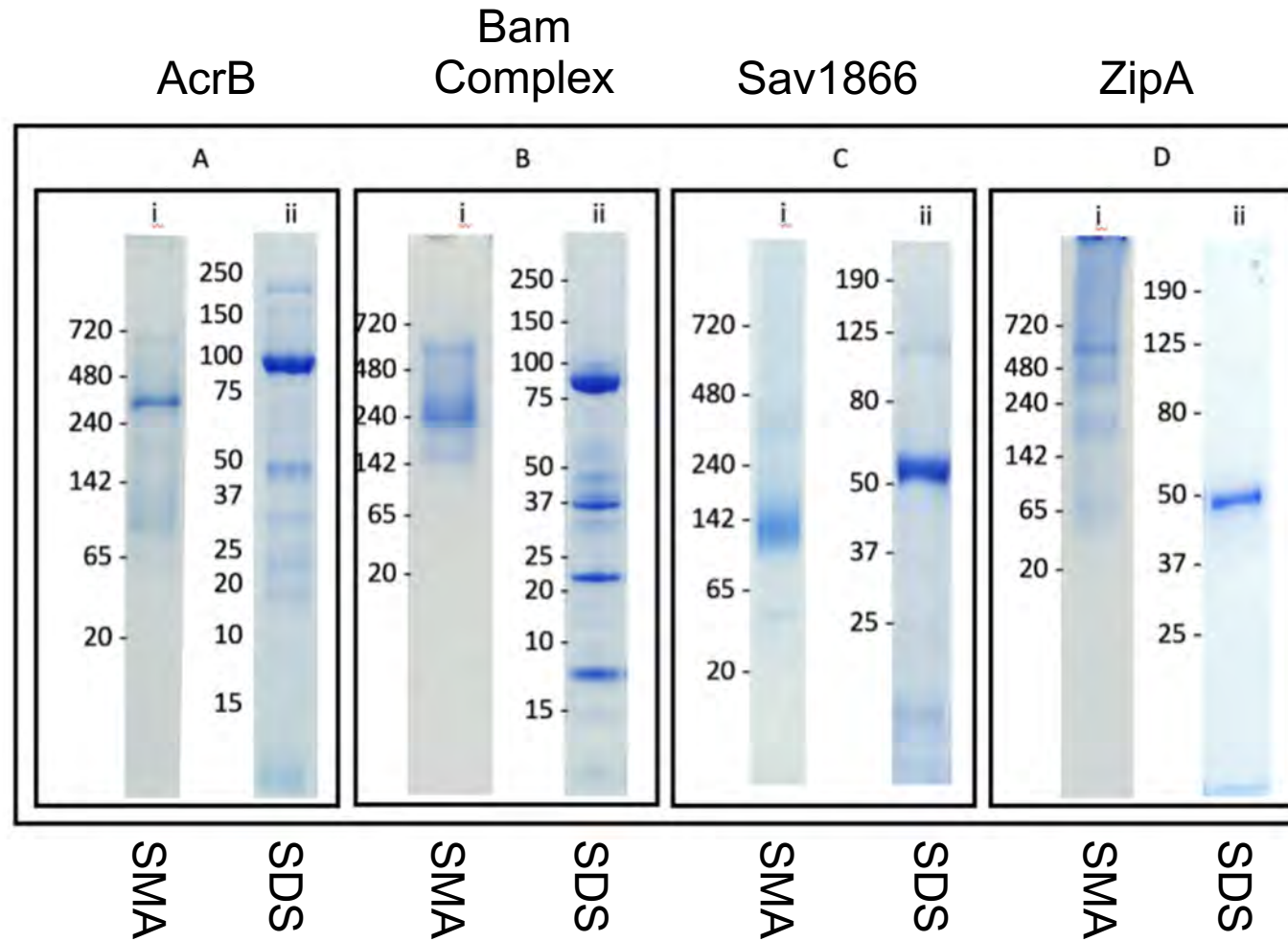


**“That’s all well and good but I have very  
little protein” *anon***

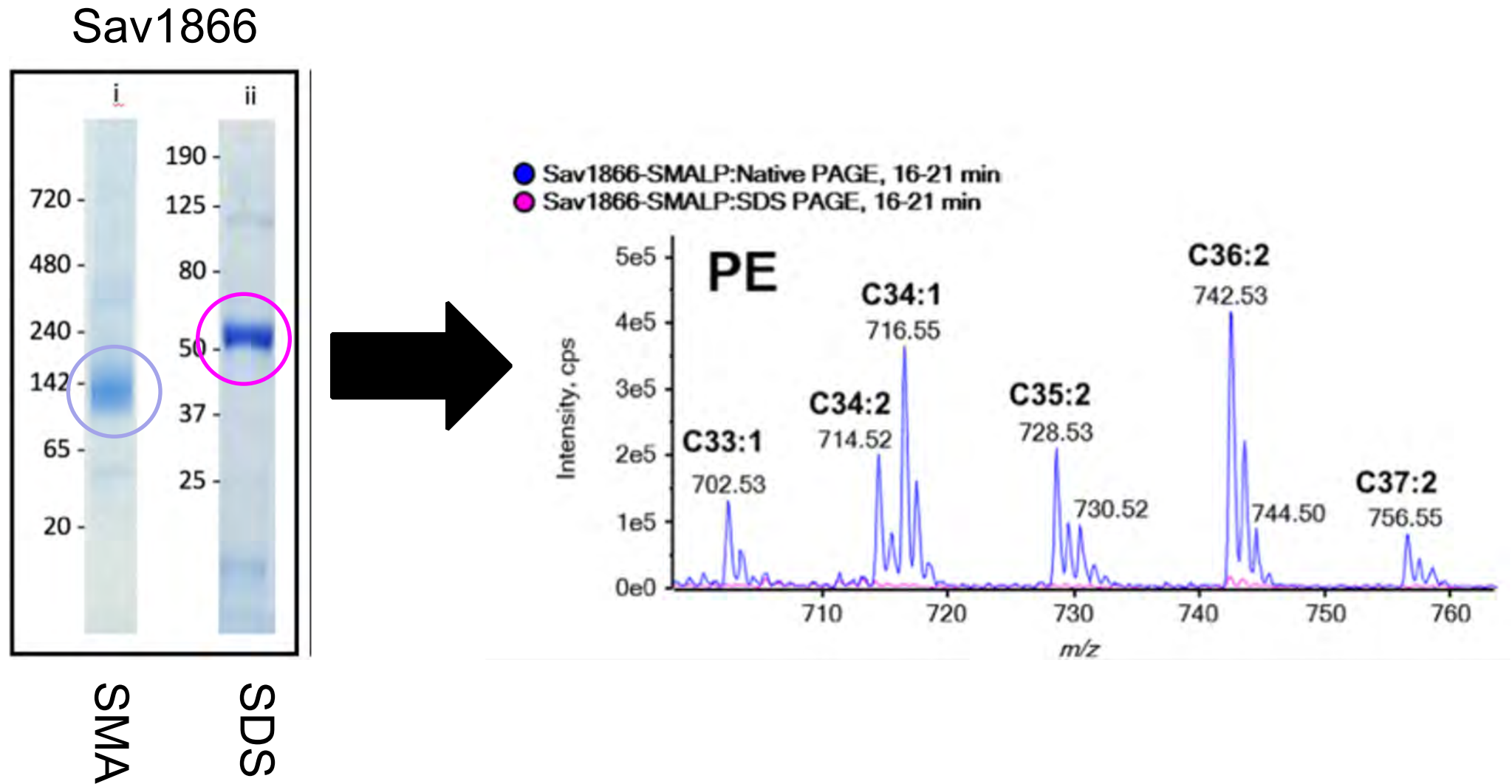
# Membrane protein research in **Miniature** SMA-PAGE



# SMA-PAGE separation



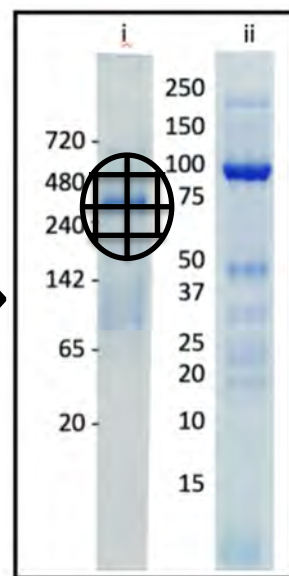
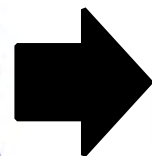
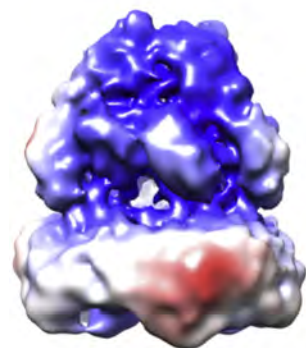
# Targeted Lipidomics from SMA-PAGE



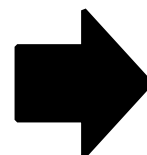
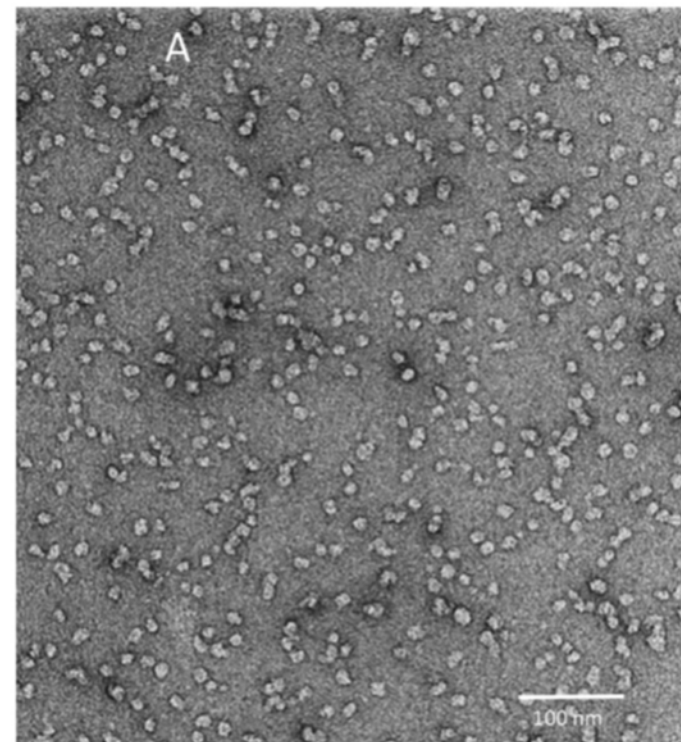
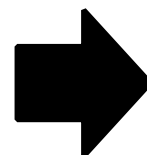
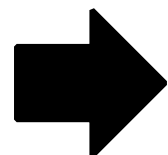
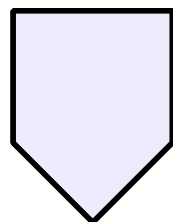


# SMA-PAGE to EM: Gel-2-Grid

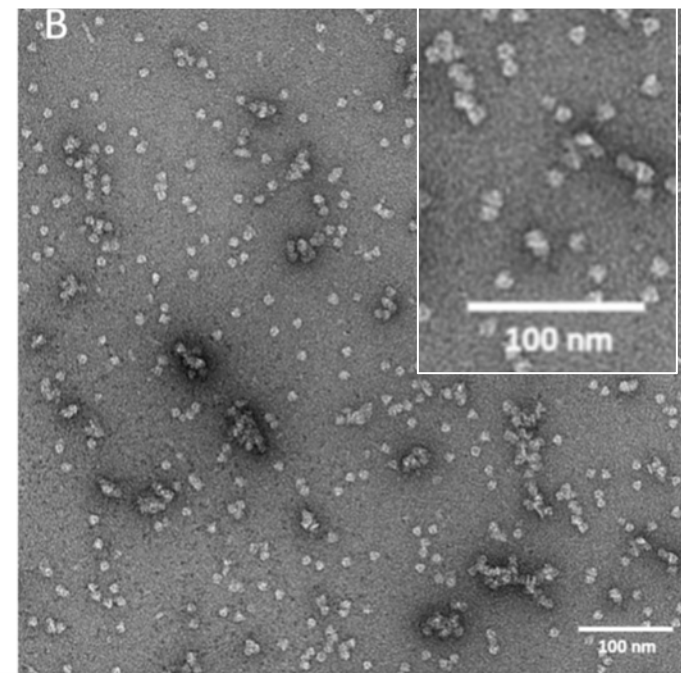
Route A



SMA-PAGE  
Of AcrB



Route B



Thanks

## **University of Birmingham**

Yu-pin Lin

Sarah Lee

Tim Knowles

Michael Overduin

Naomi Pollock

Mohammed Jamshad

Rosemary Parslow

Steve Hall

Zoe Stroud

Mark Wheatley

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## **University of Aston**

David Poyner

Alice Rothnie

Roslyn Bill

## **University of Warwick**

Ian Hands-Portman

David Roper

Corinne Smith

## **University of Stellenbosch**

Bert Klumperman

## **University of Leeds**

Vincent Postis

Stephen Muench

Steve Baldwin

## **Malvern Cosmeceutics**

**Ltd**

Steve Tong

