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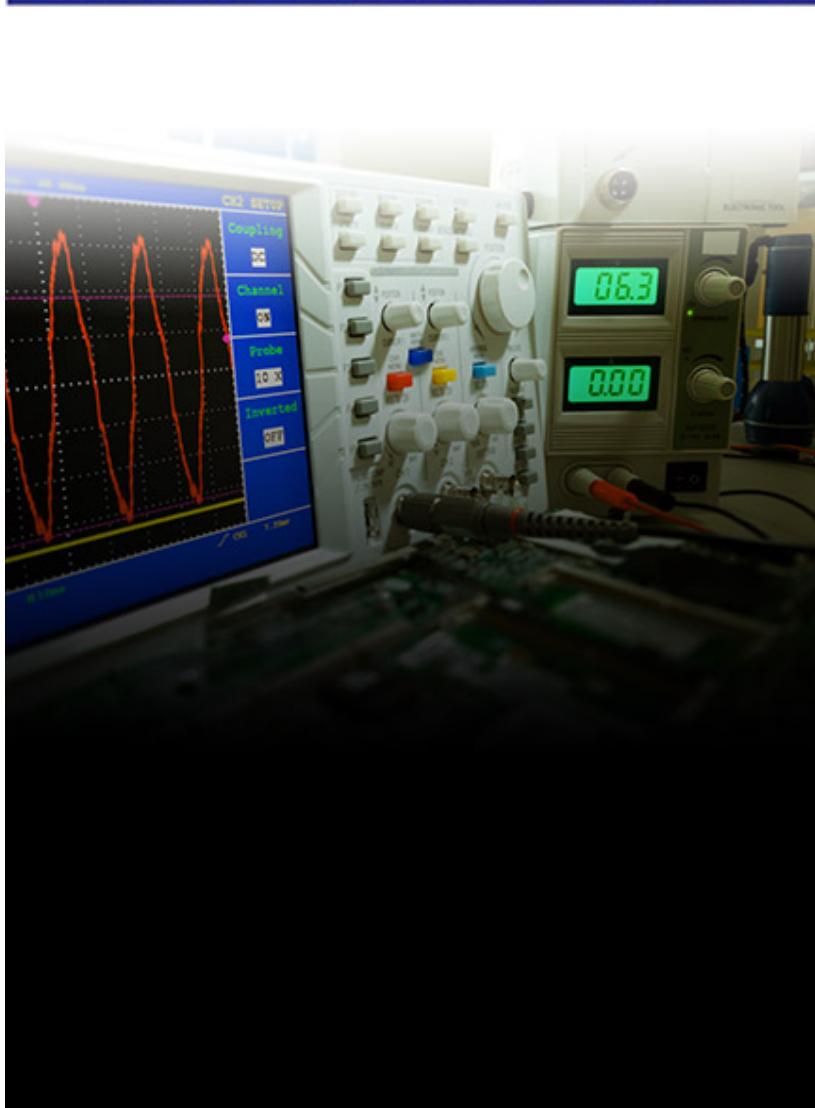
## Microwave Spectroscopy for non-Invasive Biological and Health Sensing

Presented by:

**Katia Grenier**



LAAS-CNRS, High Frequency and Fluidic Microwave Microsystems



# **Microwave spectroscopy for non-invasive biological and health sensing**

**Katia Grenier**

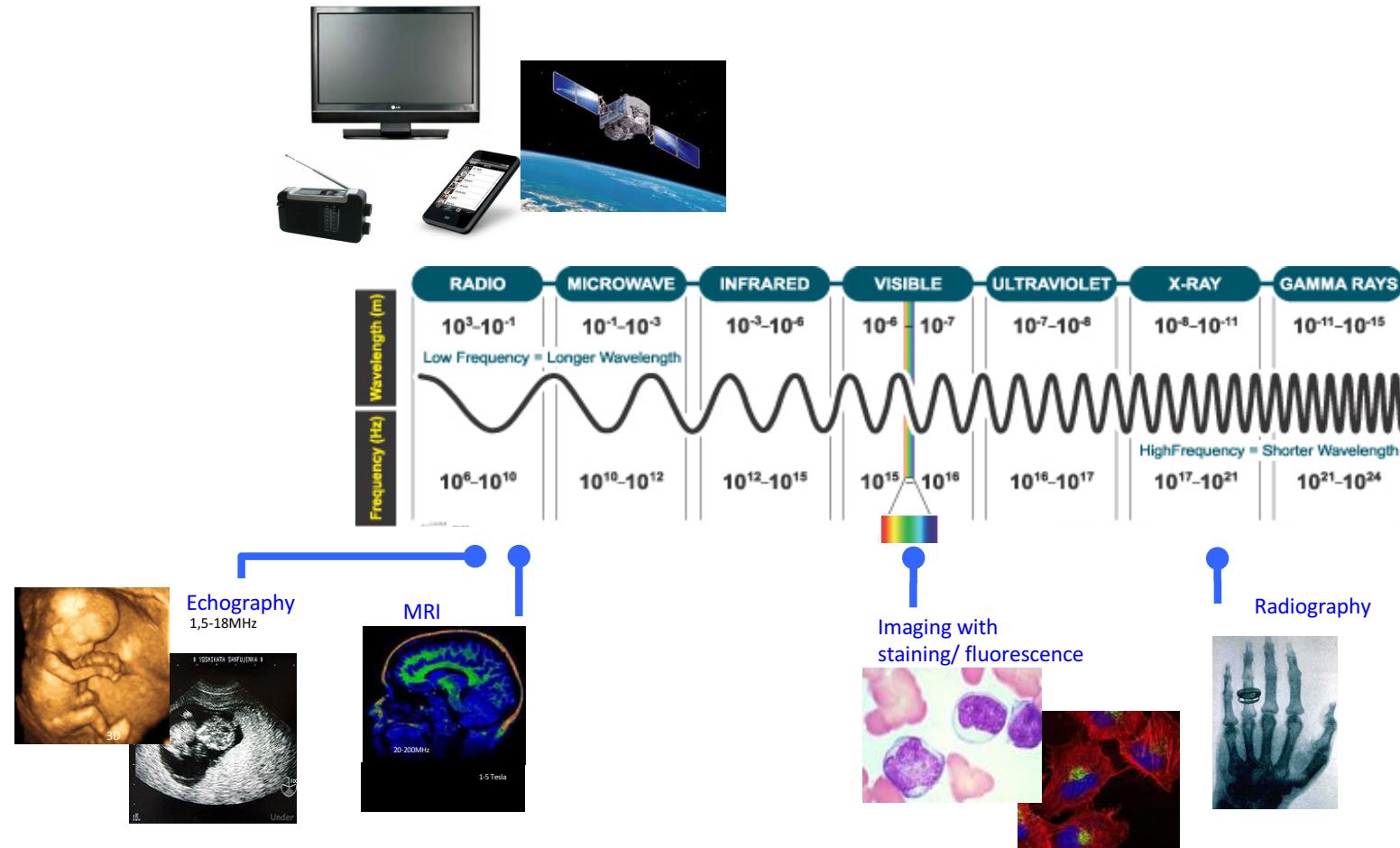
**In collaboration with David Dubuc**

LAAS-CNRS, France



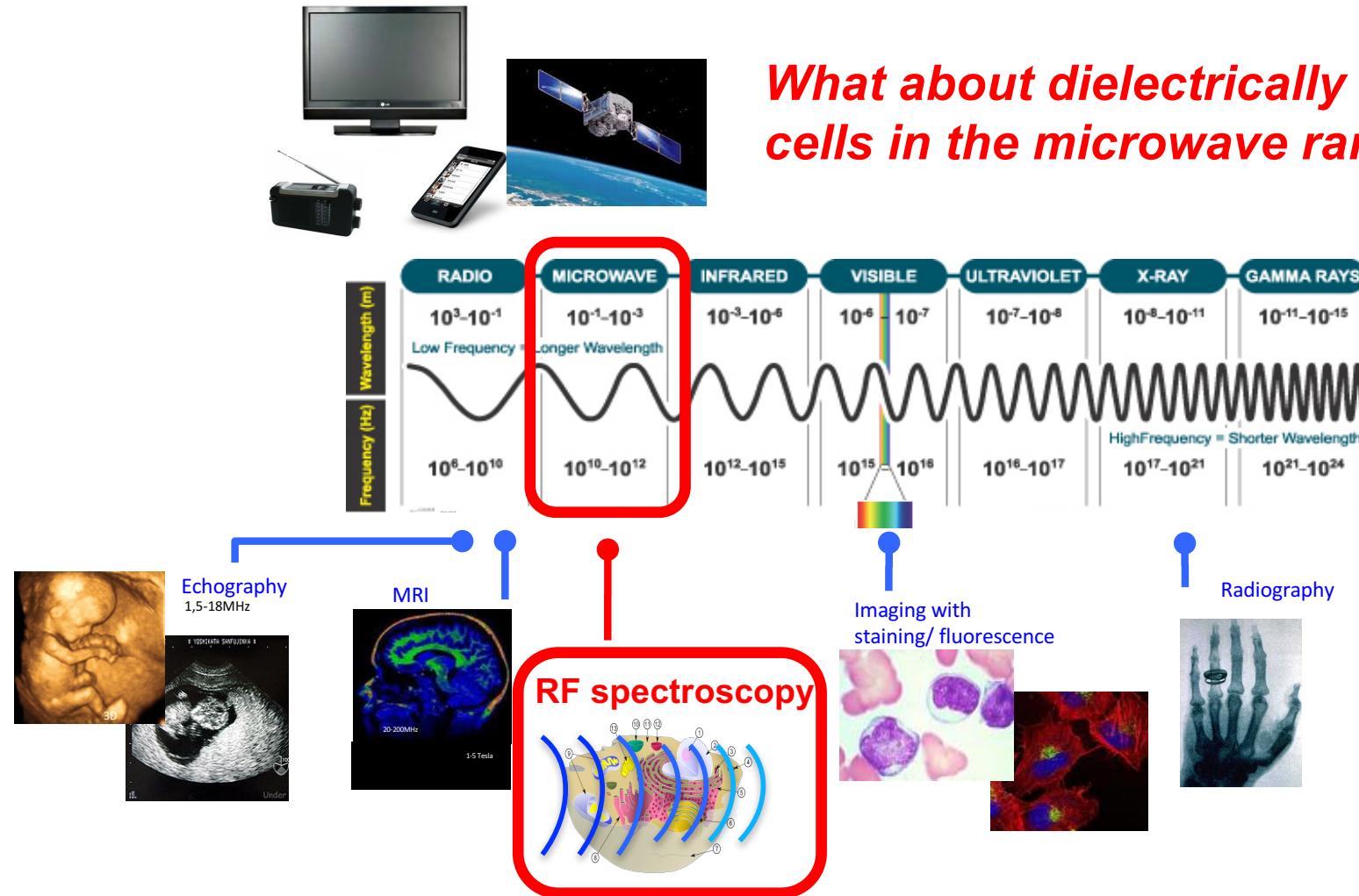
# *Waving the living matter*

## *Imaging*



# *Waving the living matter*

## *Imaging*



# Motivations

## ① Need of dielectric biomaterial characterization

→ complex permittivity measurement

- Mainly done with organs and tissues up to GHz range  
(ex: S. Gabriel *et al.*, *Phys. Med. Biol.* 41, 1996),

without often taking living heterogeneity into account

(ex: strong heterogeneity demonstrated on 85 patient breast tissues due to disparity in adipose tissue content - - Lazebnik *et al*, *Phys. Med. Biol.* 2007 )

- Lack of characterization and modeling at the cellular and molecular levels

→ toward a permittivity library of biomaterials

Cells, DNAs, proteins, biomolecules, virus, bacteria...

# Motivations

## ① Need of dielectric biomaterial characterization

- complex permittivity measurement
- toward a permittivity library of biomaterials

## ② Cells analysis for biological and biomedical applications

### *Traditional techniques:*

- Microscopy with stains or labels
- Laser detection
- Flow cytometry



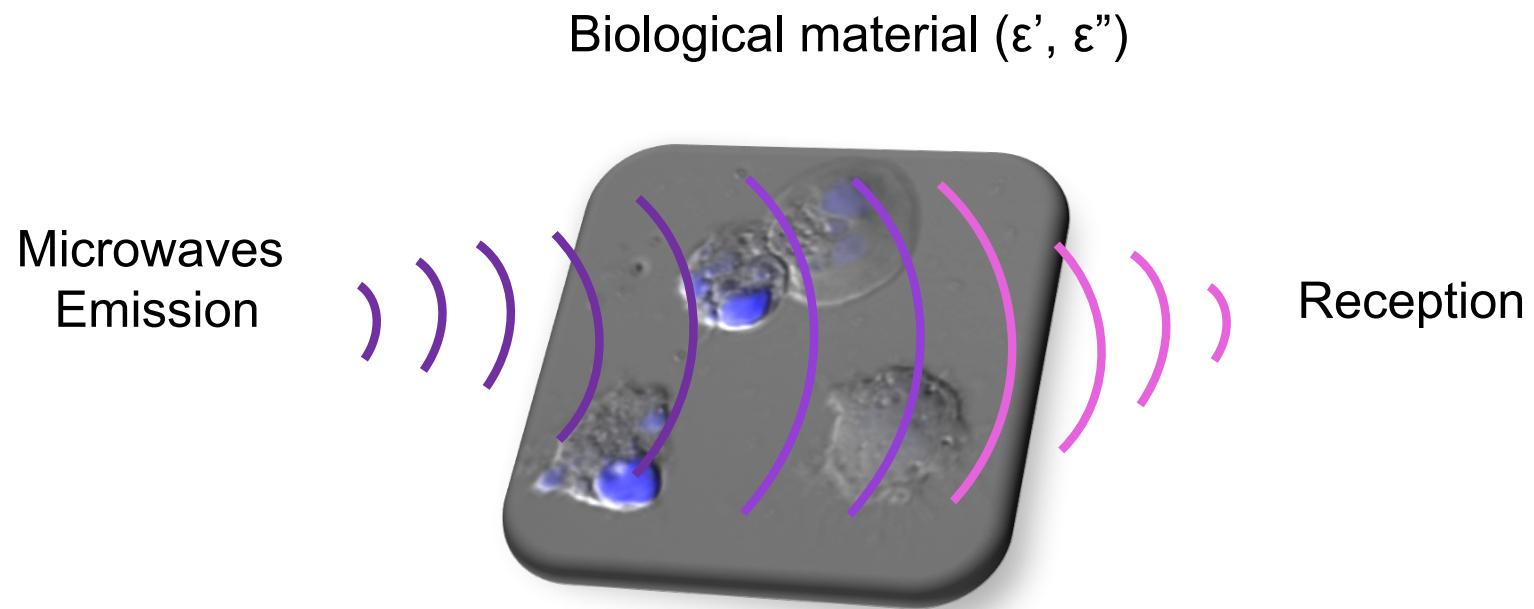
Invasive and toxic for cells  
Destructive  
Time consuming

➔ **Interest in  
noninvasive bio-analysis**

Expected consequences on fundamental knowledge and therapy through:

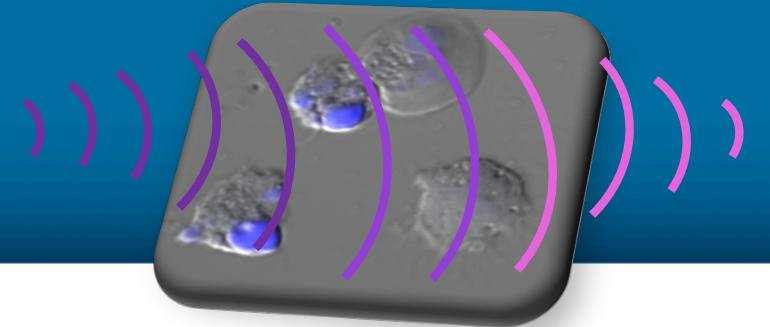
- The diagnostic and prognostic of diseases – treatment efficiency
- Further understanding of biological processes and disease treatments

# Microwave spectroscopy



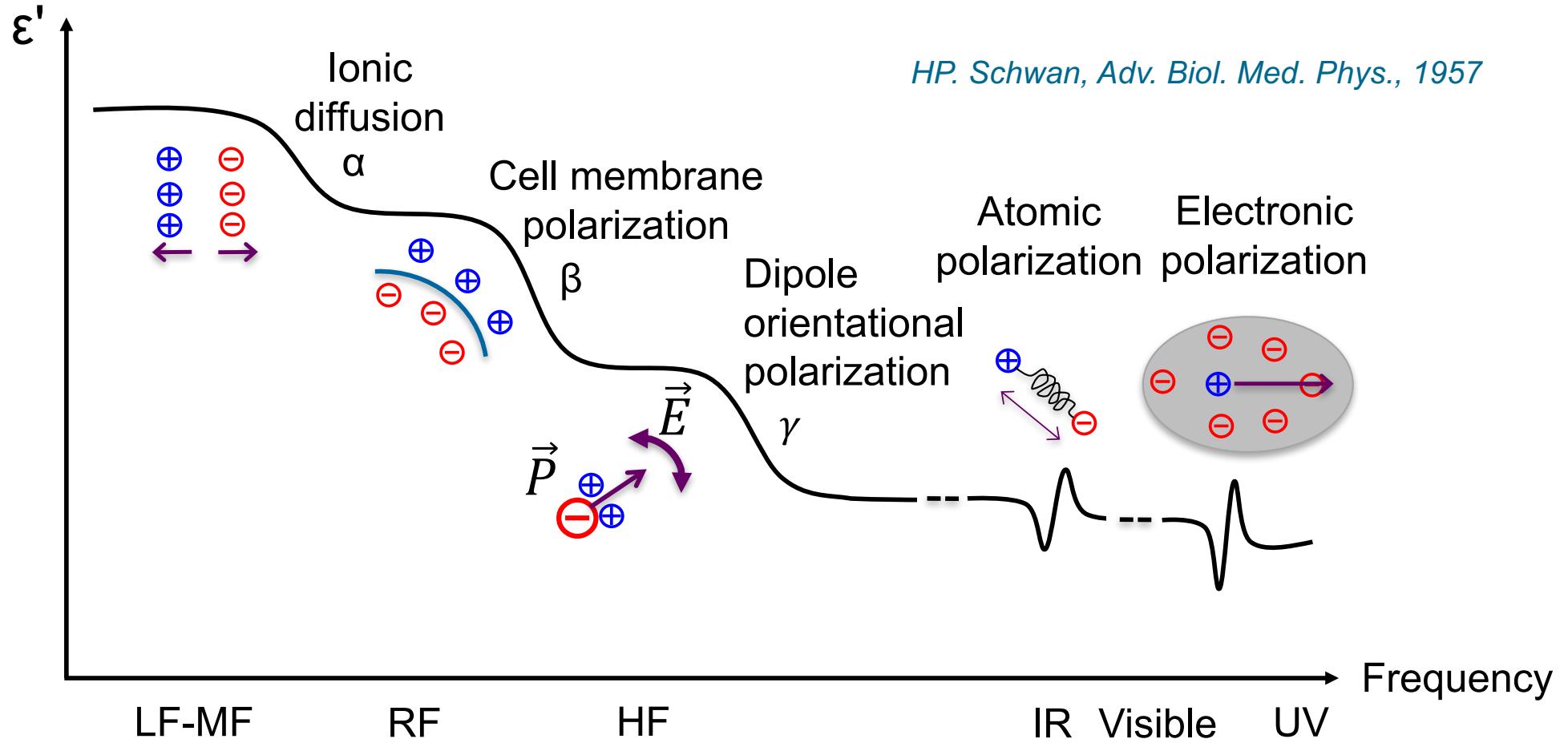
Characterization of a material with its **dielectric properties**

# Pros & cons



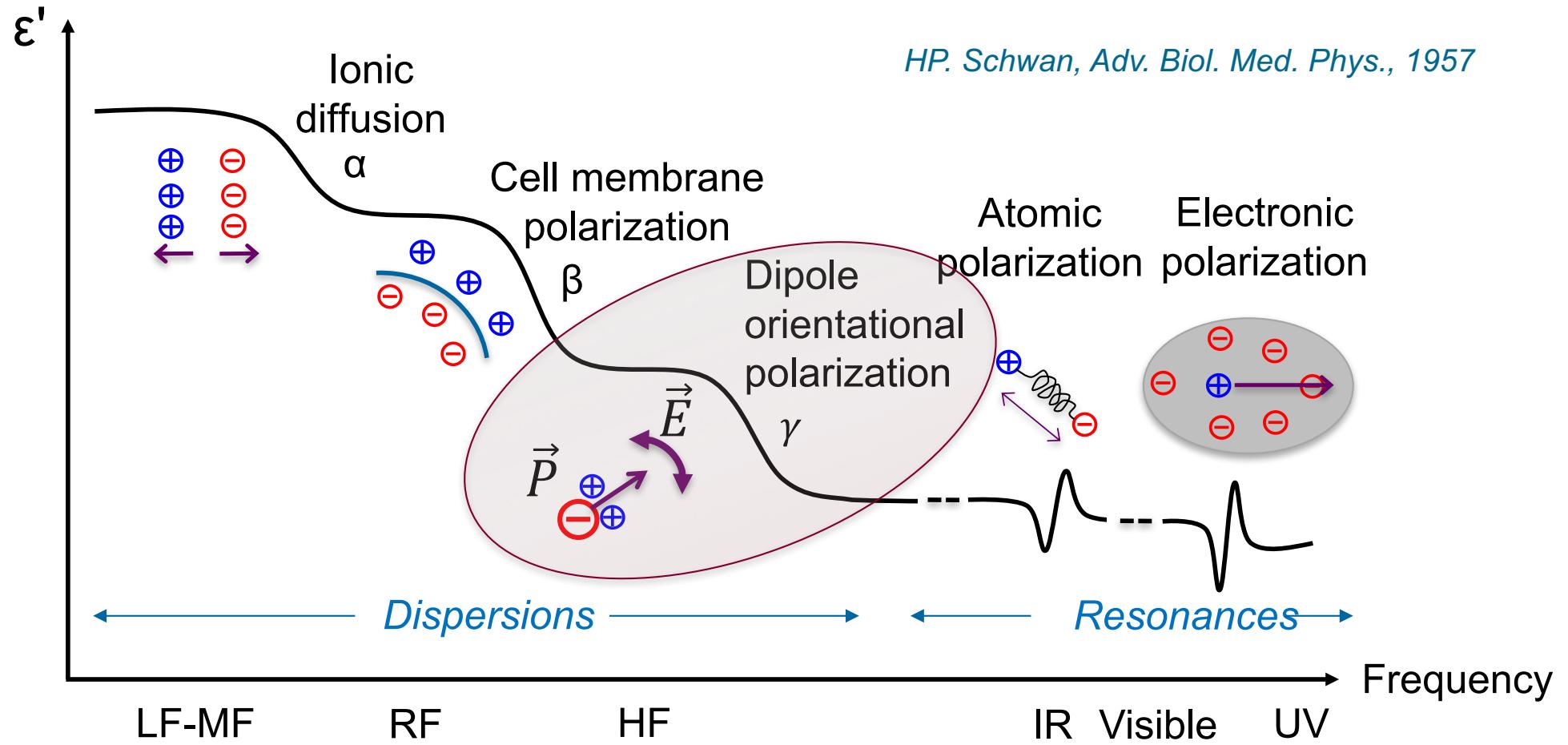
- Pros:**
- *Dielectric spectroscopy*
    - Non destructive technique to probe various materials (solids, liquids, gaz)
    - No contact, no labeling
    - Non invasive for the cells
    - Volume interaction with realistic cellular environment (culture medium)
    - Fast and in quasi real time (millisec, even less)
    - “Specificity” of the *dielectric spectra*
  - *Micro-nano technologies*
    - Compatible with cells size and low liquid volumes ( $\mu\text{l}$ ,  $\text{nl}$  and below)
  - *In the microwave and millimeterwave ranges*
    - INTRACELLULAR investigations
- Cons:**
- global measurement of cells
  - Under development : capabilities and limitations have to be defined

# EM waves interaction with biomaterials



- Biomaterials may be EM described with their **dielectric properties**, which may be obtained from their measured complex relative permittivity
- Specific signature for each biological elements

# EM waves interaction with biomaterials



# ① Water molecule, natural marker of microwave spectroscopy



- *Polar molecule with network structuration*
- *Affinity with other molecules/particles*
- *With a dielectric signature*

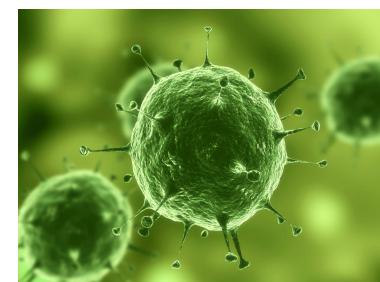
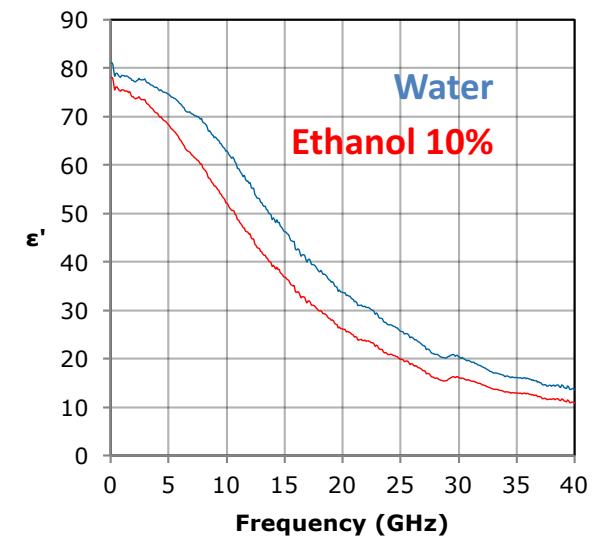
Modification of the molecular network

→ Change of the microwave dielectric spectra

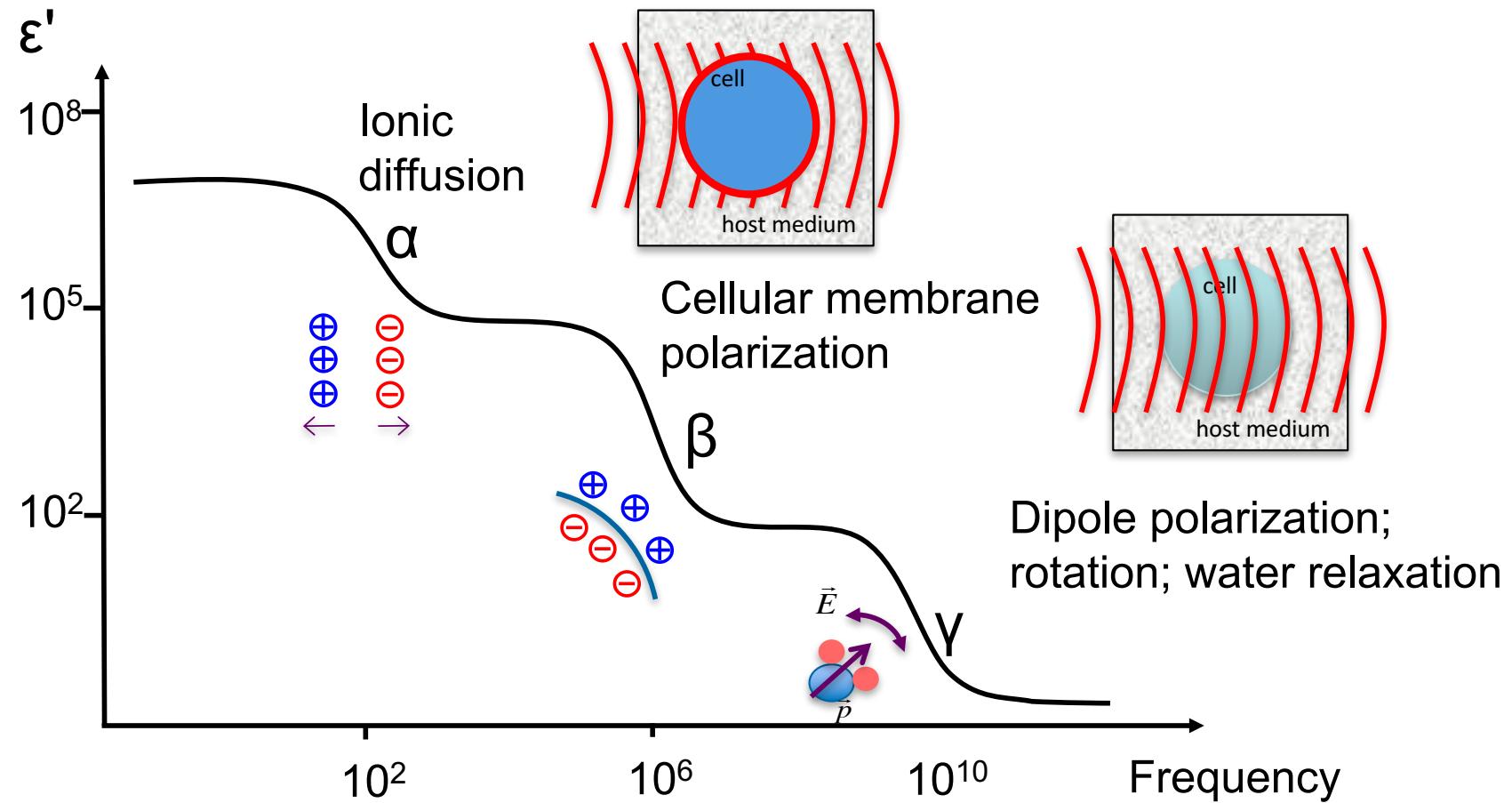
*Water: abundant constituent of the living*

Involved in many bio-mechanisms

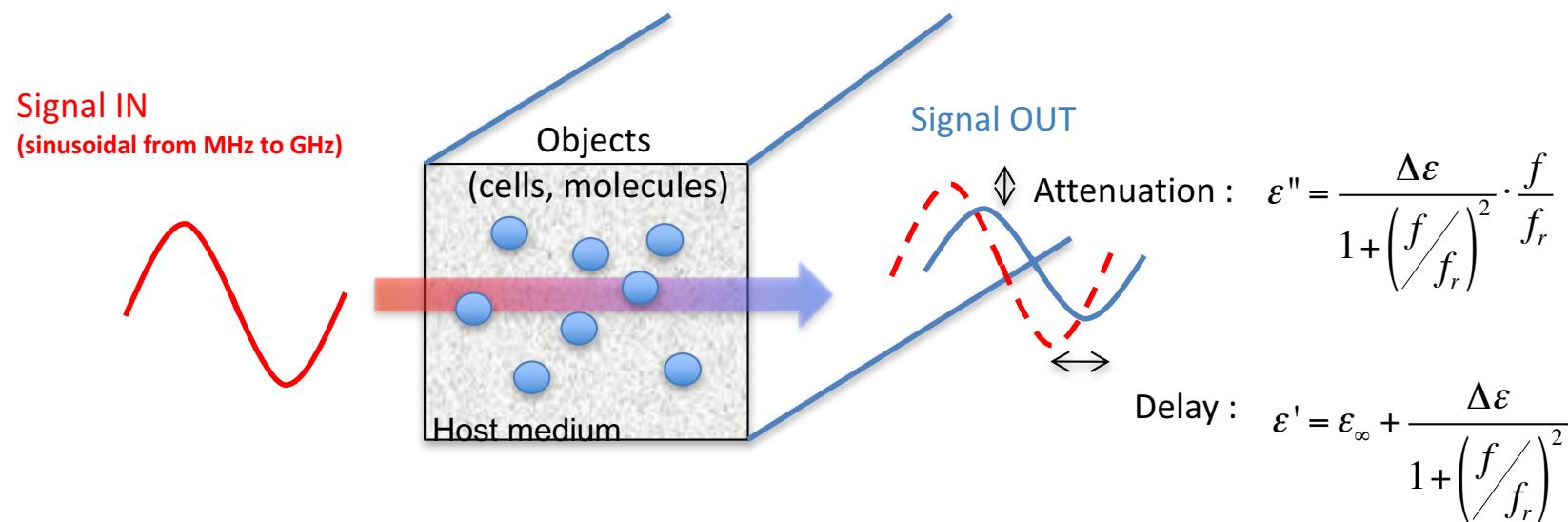
Relaxation ~ 20 GHz at ambient



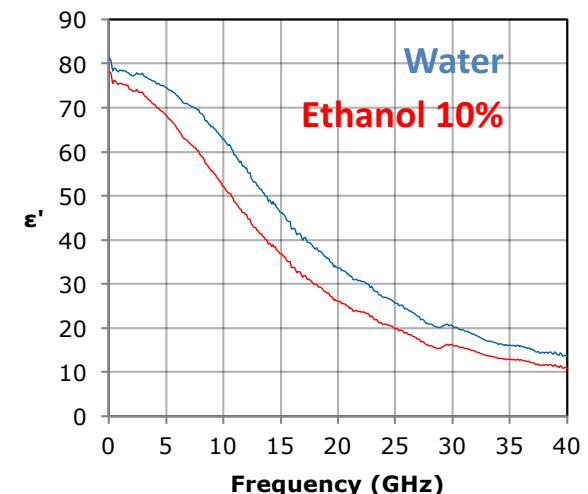
## ② Access to intracellular dielectric activity



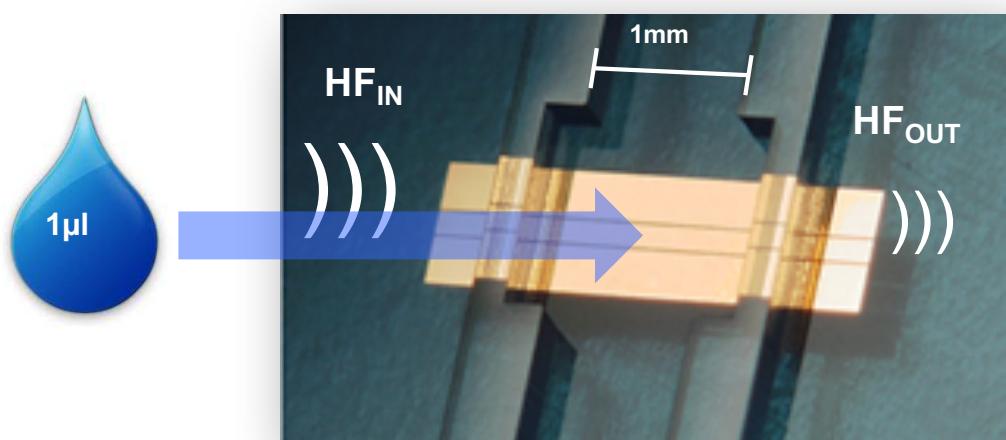
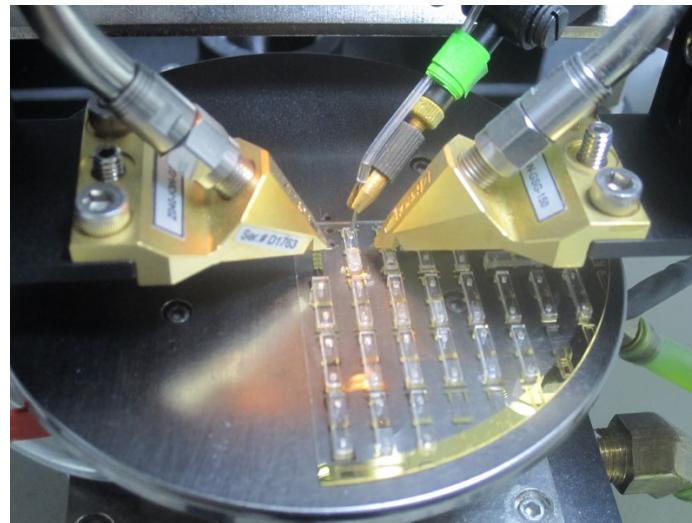
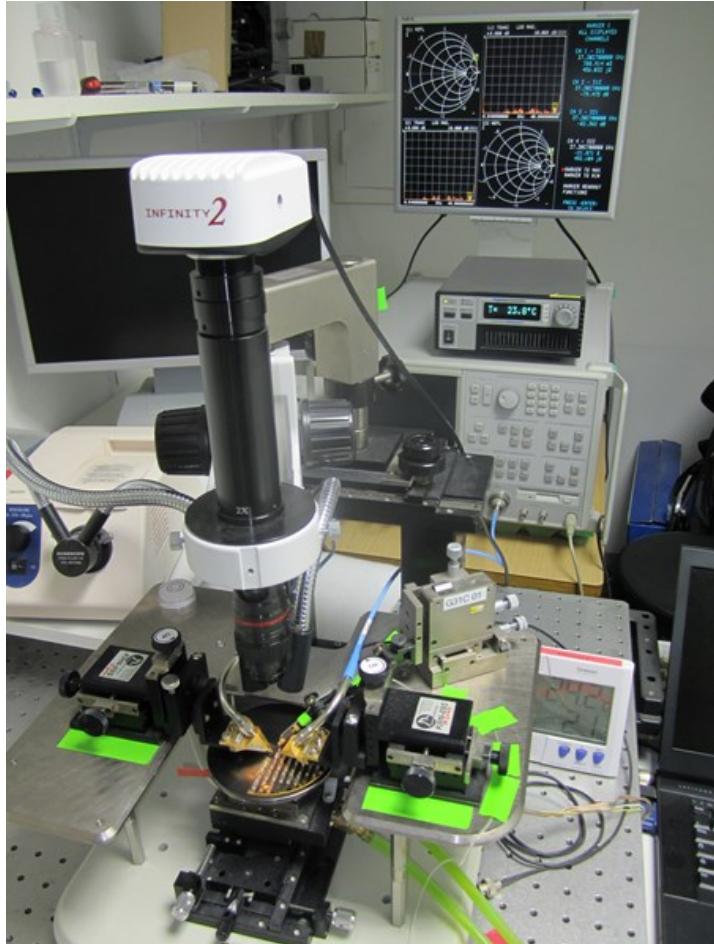
# Dielectric readouts



- both  $\epsilon'$  and  $\epsilon''$  are readouts of *scanning frequency, dipolar moment, physical parameters (size of objects, viscosity), temperature*



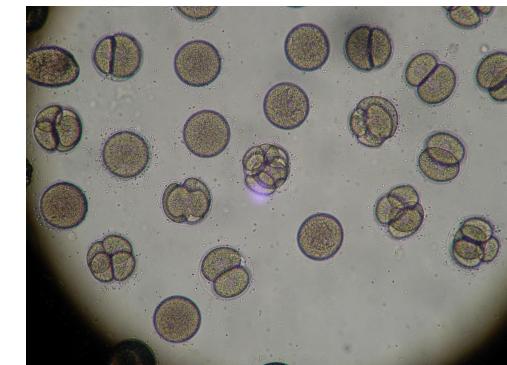
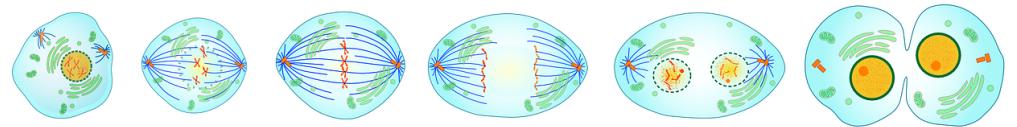
# Microwave measurement setup



# Which constraints induced by measuring living materials?

**Living material is:**

- constantly **changing** ; cell replication
- **in a liquid environment** rich in ions and nutrients, which is progressively consumed by the cells
- **Heterogeneous**
- May vary in temperature



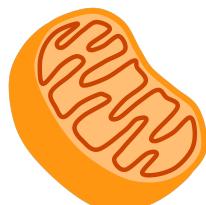
All cells from the same cell line won't react and live exactly the same, but similarly

**Strong measurements care have to be taken!**

**Repeatability is mandatory!**

# Biological complexity

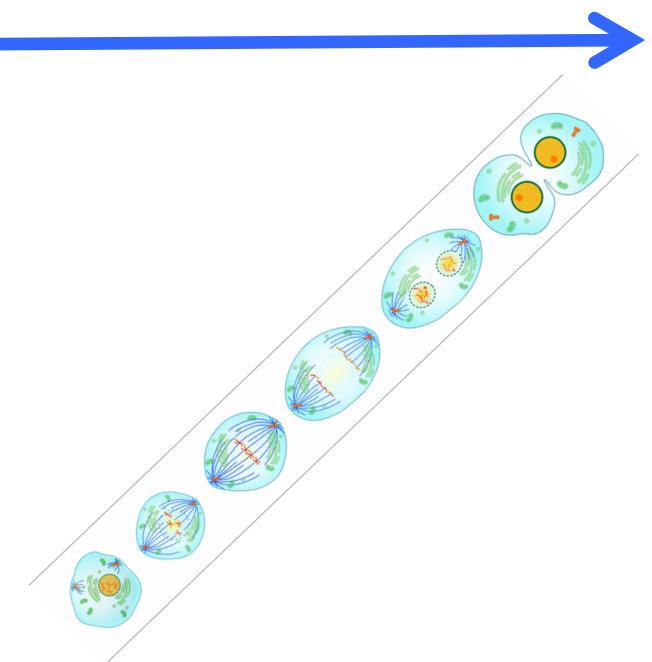
1-Biomolecules and supramolecular complexes



2-Live normal & cancer cells

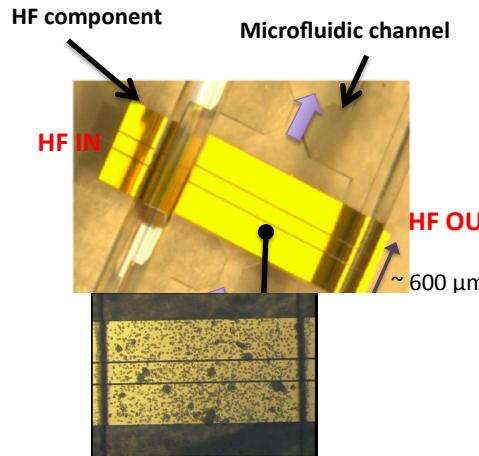


3-Biological mechanisms

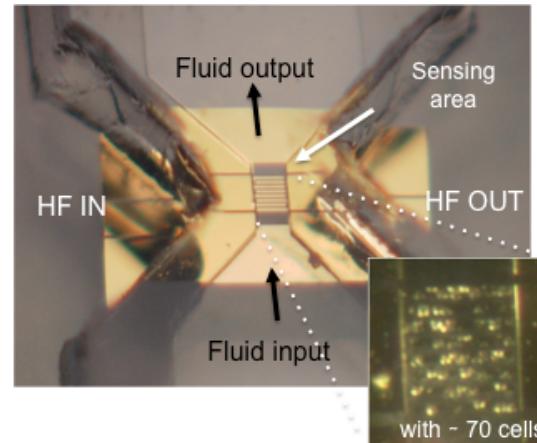


► Where microwave biosensing may be relevant?

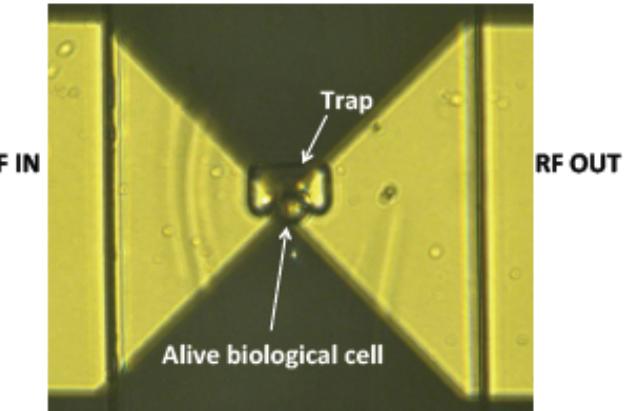
# Microwave & Microfluidic biosensors



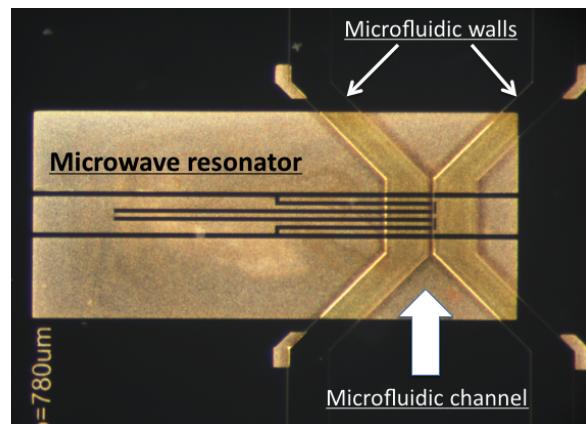
Grenier et. al., IEEE T-MTT 2009



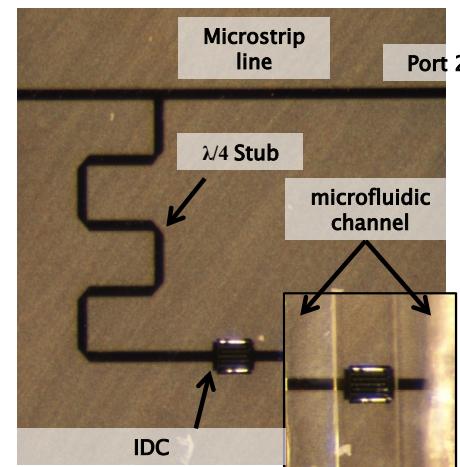
T. Chen et al, IEEE T-MTT Dec. 2012



T. Chen et al, IEEE IMS 2013

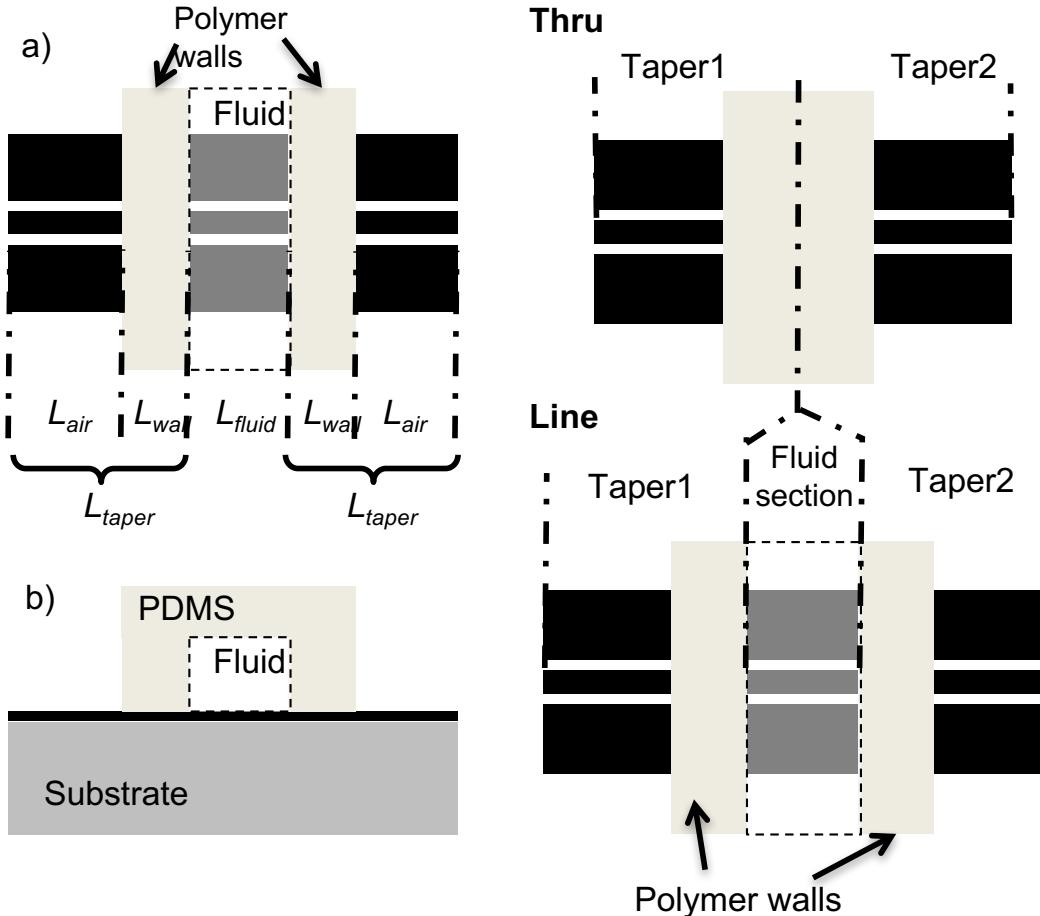


Chretiennot et al IEEE T-MTT-13 & EuMW 2013



Chretiennot et al IEEE IMS2014

# De-embedding technique



K. Grenier et al., IEEE T-MTT 2009

$$T_{thru} = T_{taper1} \cdot T_{taper2}$$

$$T_{line} = T_{taper1} \cdot T_{fluid} \cdot T_{taper2}$$

$$T_{line} \cdot T_{thru}^{-1} = T_{taper1} \cdot T_{fluid} \cdot T_{taper2}^{-1}$$

$$\text{Trace}(T_{line} \cdot T_{thru}^{-1}) = \text{Trace}(T_{fluid})$$

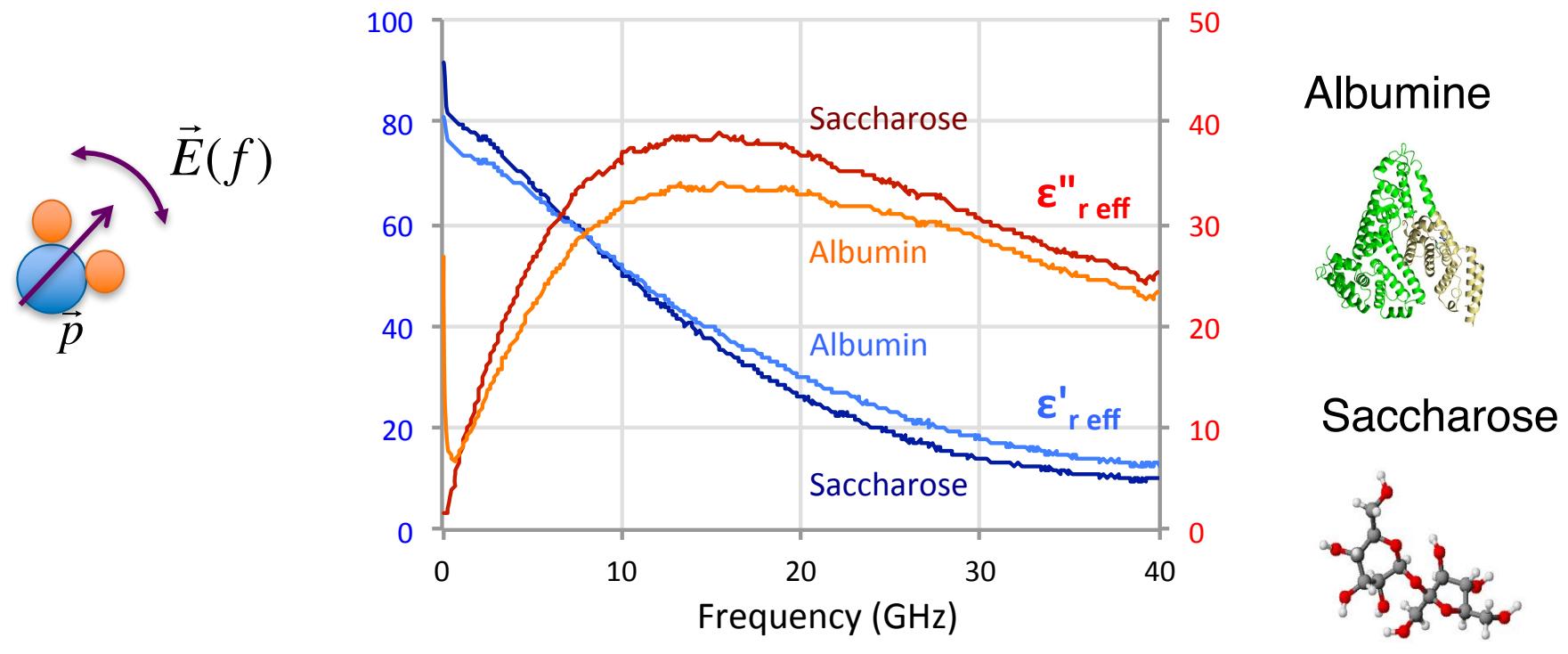
$$T_{fluid} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{-\gamma L_{fluid}} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\gamma L_{fluid}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Tr}(T_{fluid}) = 2 \cdot \text{ch}(\gamma \cdot L_{fluid})$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{L_{fluid}} \text{Argch} \left( \frac{1}{2} \frac{S_{11}^{line} \cdot S_{22}^{thru} + S_{11}^{thru} \cdot S_{22}^{line} - \det[S^{thru}] - \det[S^{line}]}{S_{21}^{line} \cdot S_{12}^{thru}} \right)$$

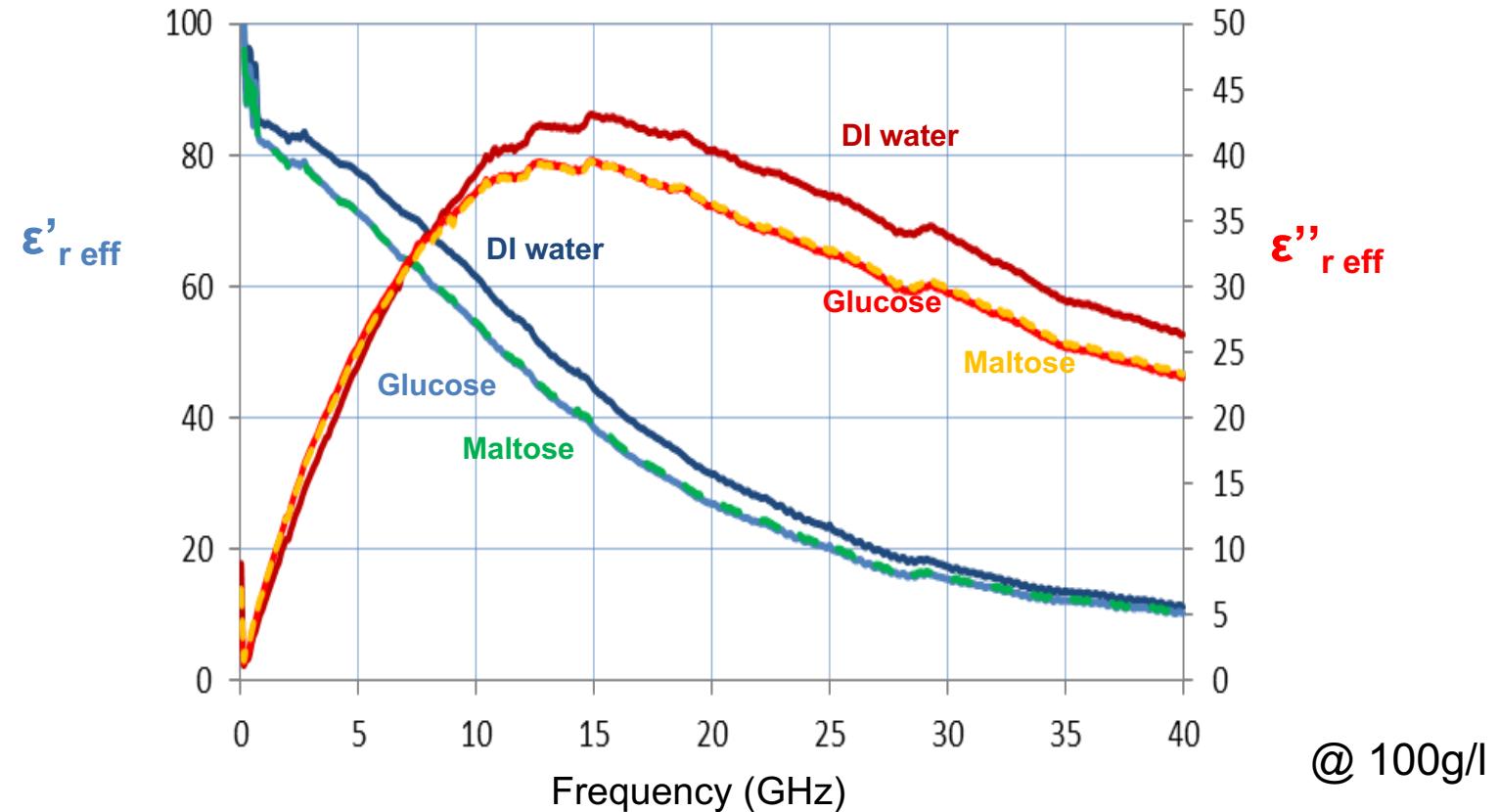
⇒ Complex permittivity extraction of the fluid under test

# Molecules and dielectric spectroscopy



- Microwaves probes the molecules' *dipole reorientational dynamics*
- Specific molecular signature

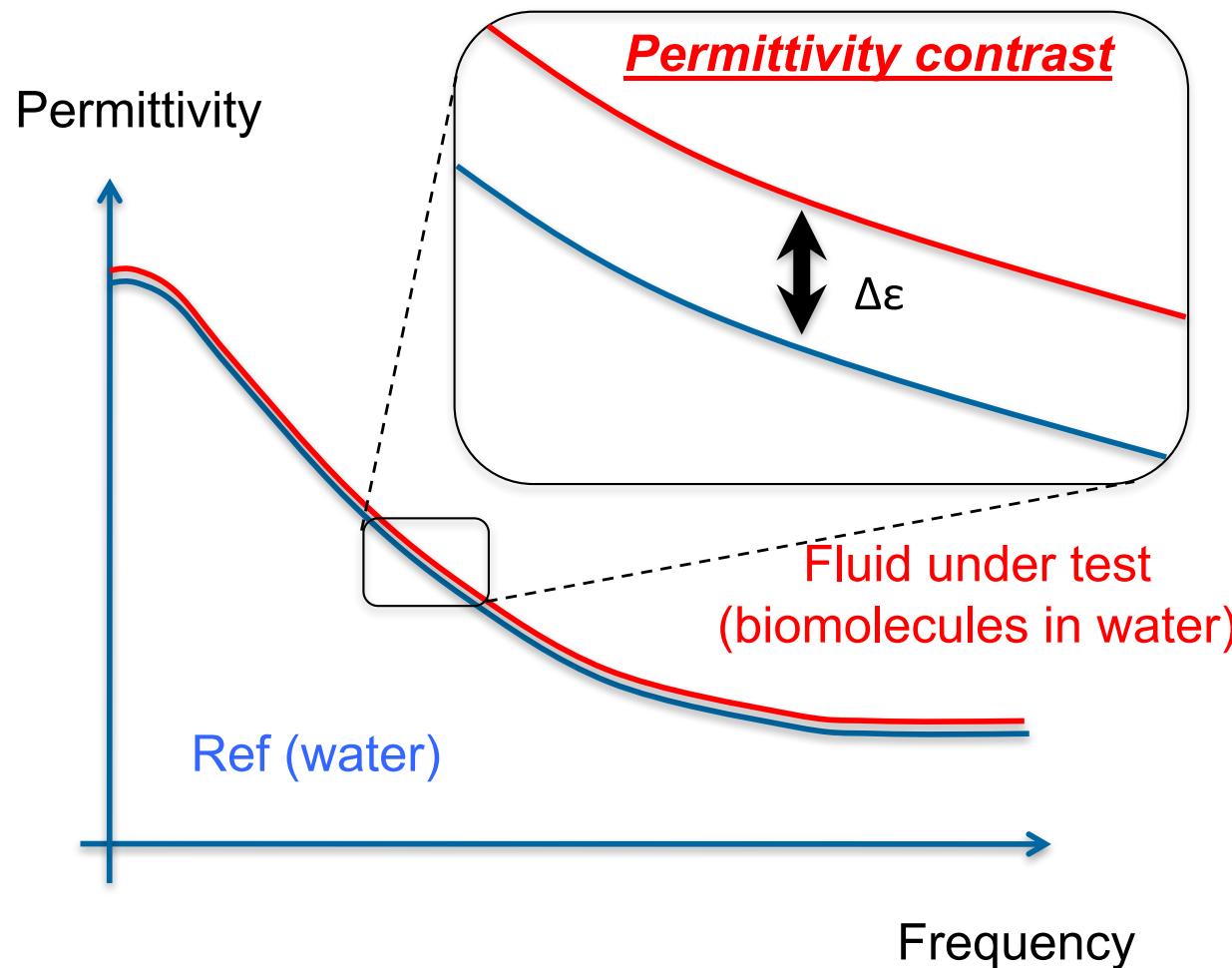
# Carbohydrates in aqueous solution



Very weak differences between carbohydrates signatures

⇒ Use of permittivity contrasts

# Data processing approach



Large relaxation



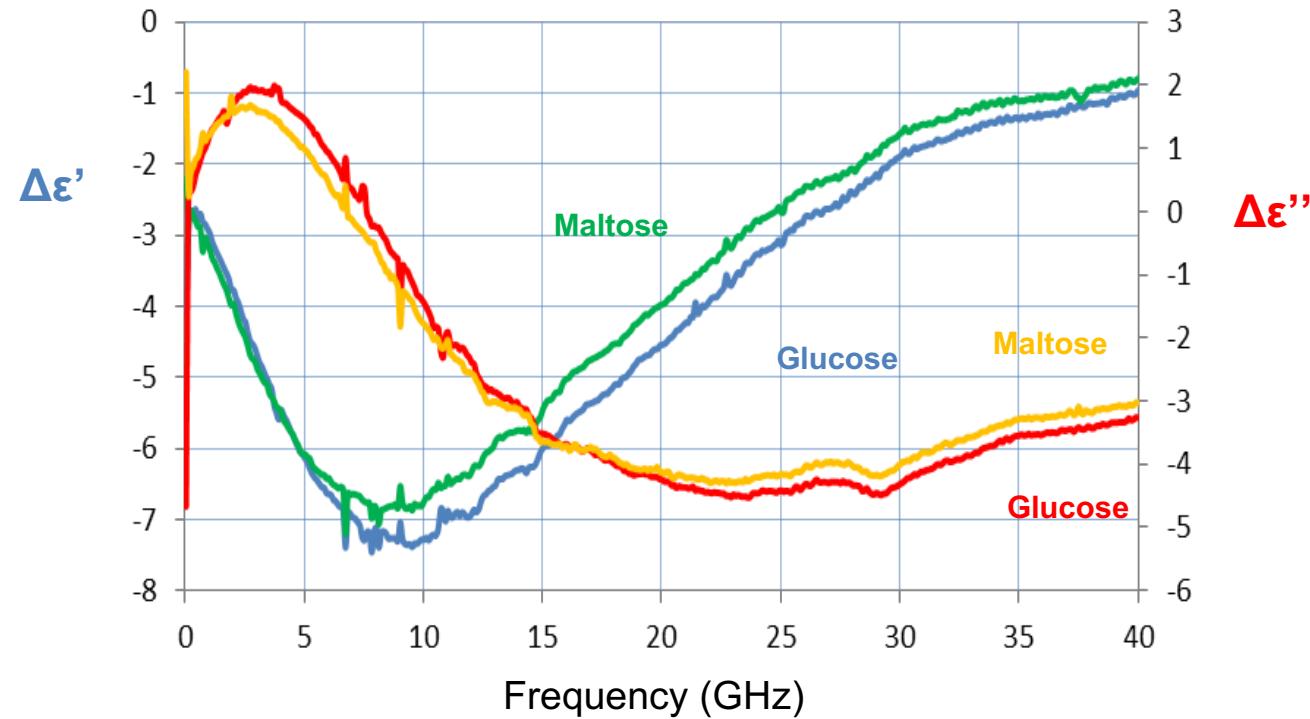
Large  $\epsilon$  variation  
But small perturbation



Contrast evaluation  
to compare similar fluids

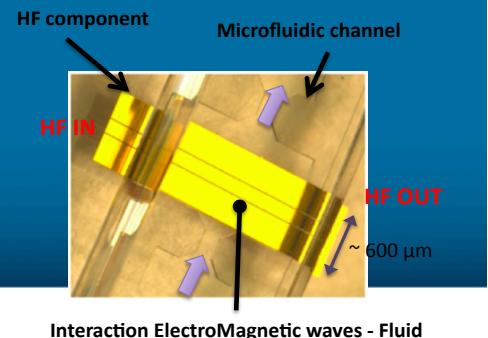
$$\Delta\epsilon = \epsilon_{\text{fluid under test}} - \epsilon_{\text{ref}}$$

# Dielectric contrasts of carbohydrates

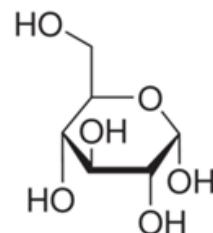
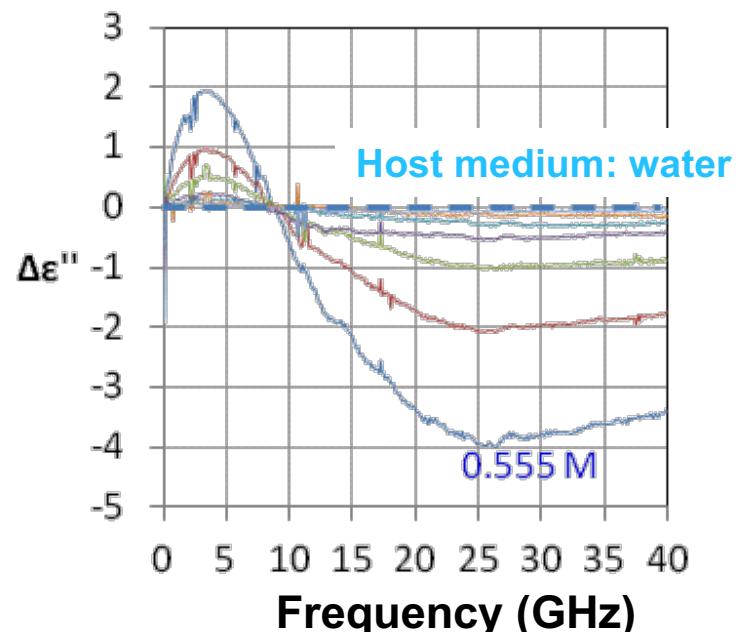
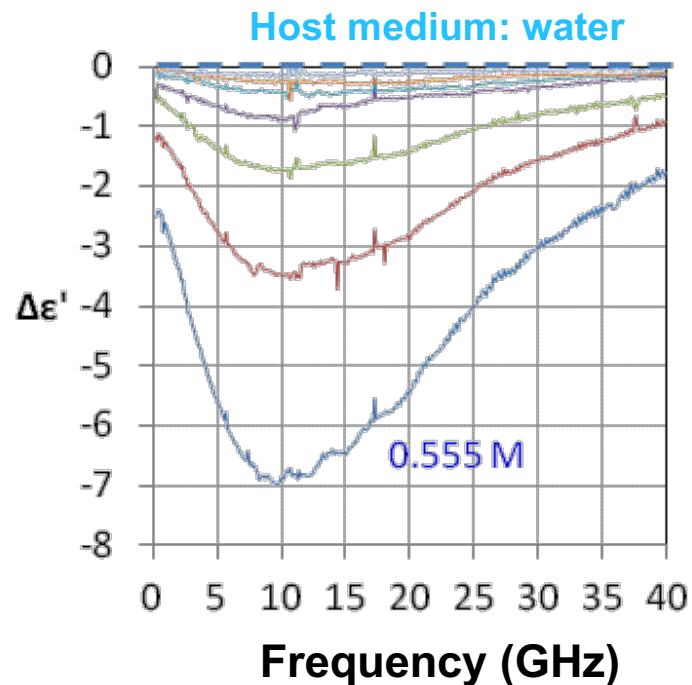


=> Possible discrimination between these 2 carbohydrates

# Sensitivity to molecular concentration

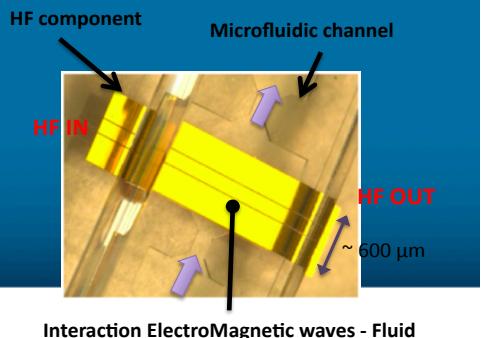


D-Glucose in DI water

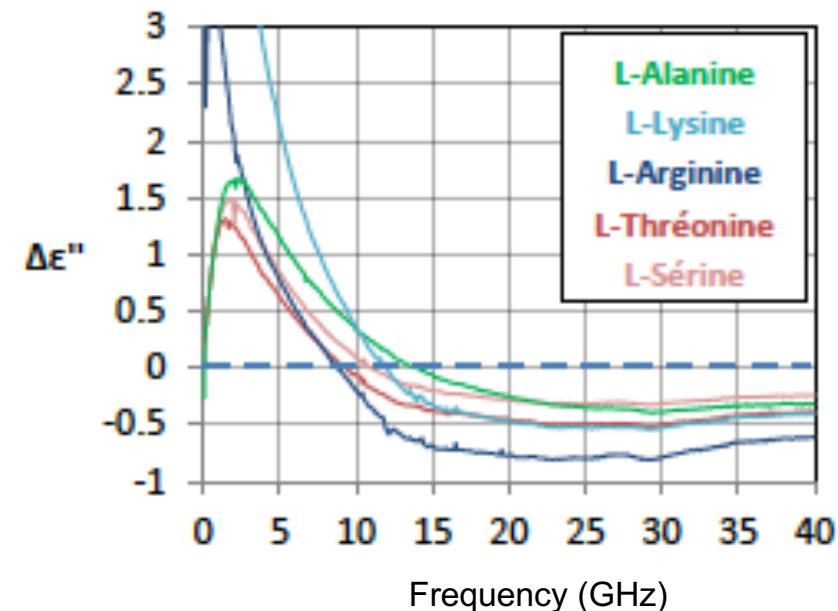
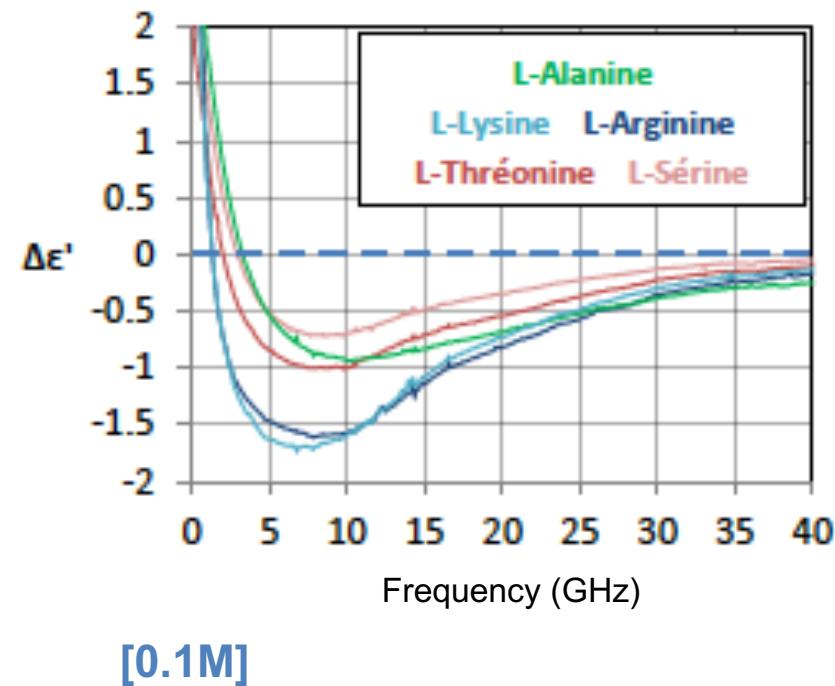


Molecular quantification

# Sensitivity to molecular types



Amino acids

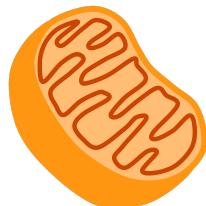
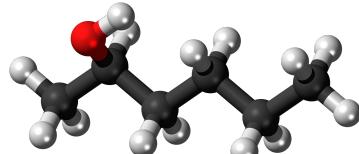


F. Artis et al., IEEE Biowireless, 2015  
K. Grenier et al., IEEE TMTT 2013

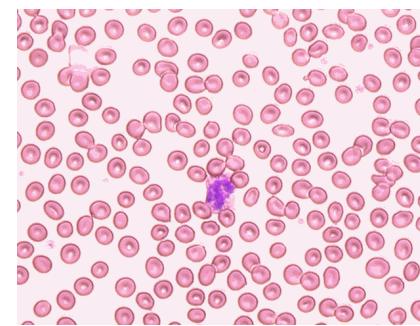
Molecular identification  
Dielectric signatures - specificity

# Biological complexity

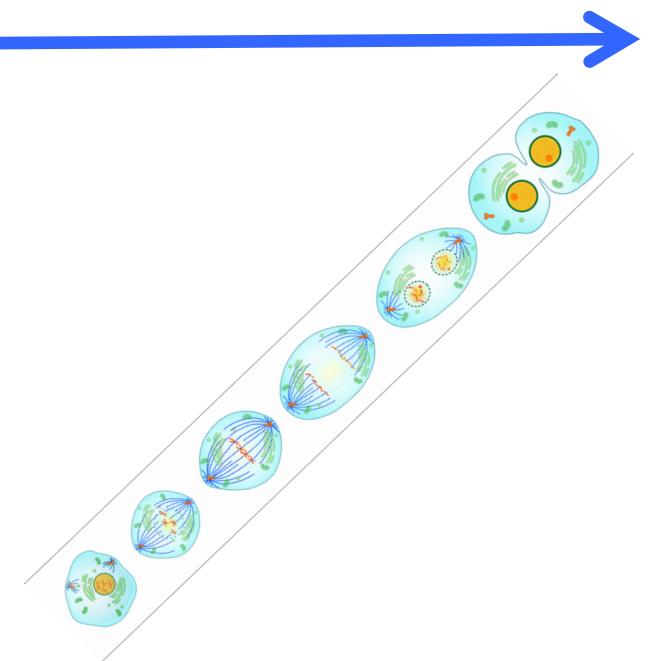
1-Biomolecules and supramolecular complexes



2-Live normal & cancer cells



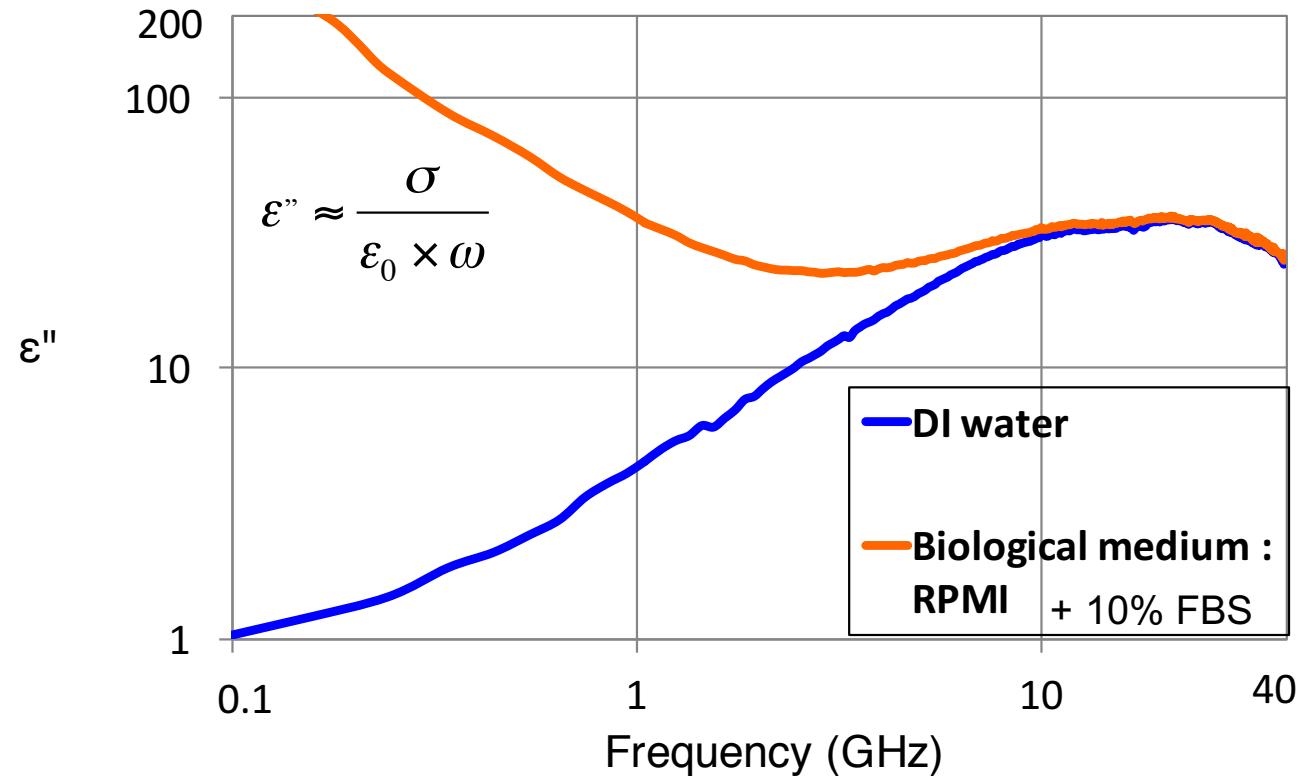
3-Biological mechanisms



Direct measurement:

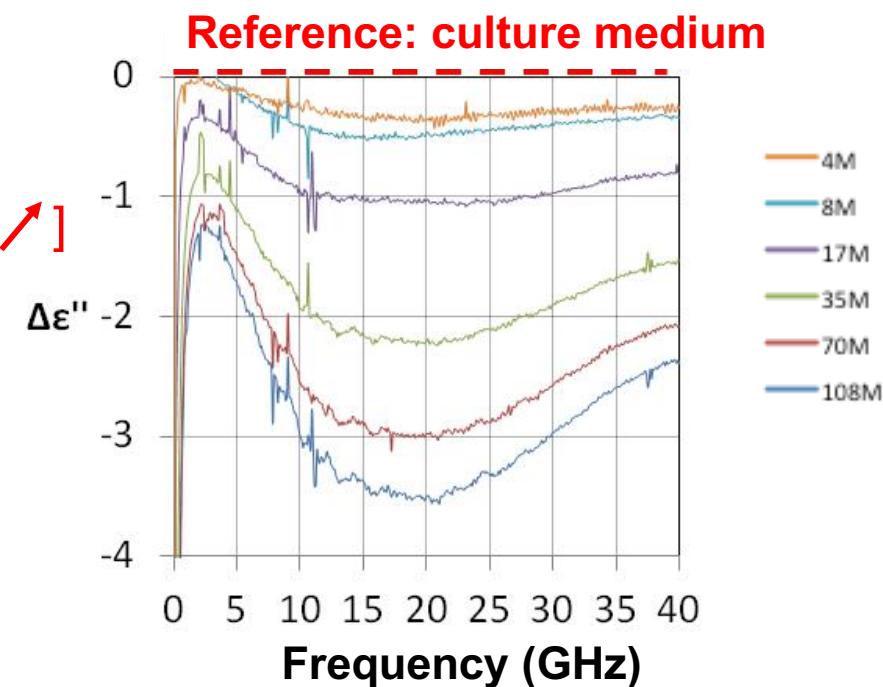
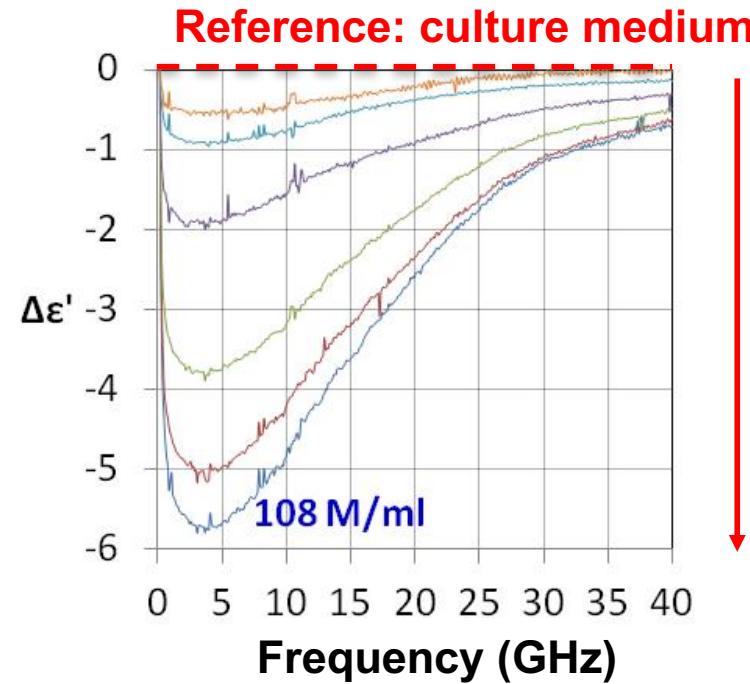
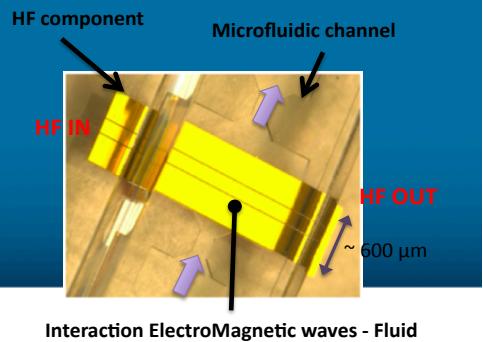
No specific preparation, label free, cells in their culture medium

# No screening with salt/ion content



# Sensitivity to cell concentration

DOHH2 lymphoma  
in suspension

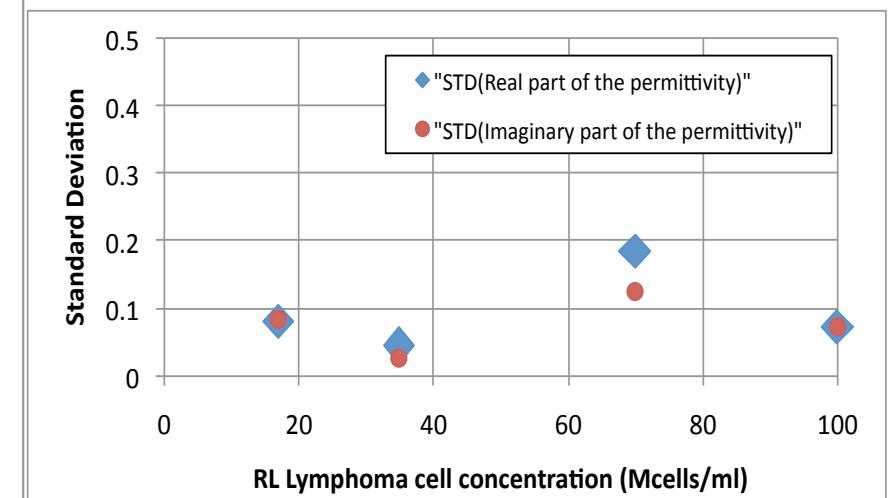
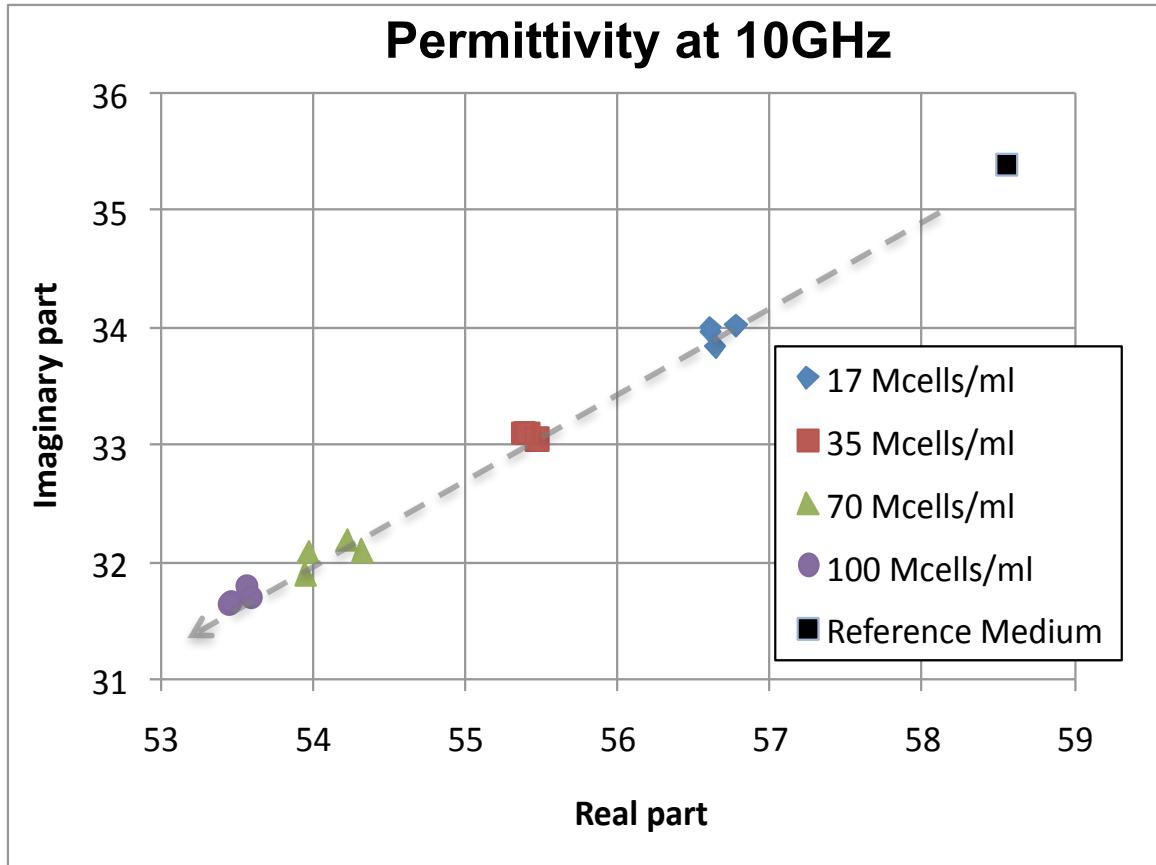
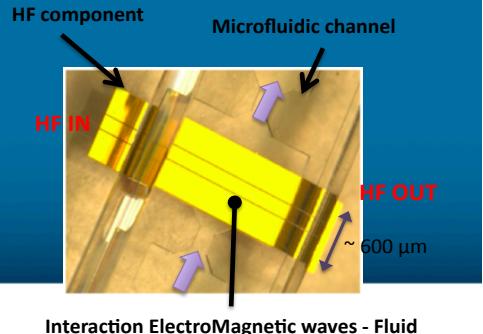


F. Artis et al., IEEE EuMW 2013  
K. Grenier et al., IEEE Biowireless 2011

Cell quantification



# Repeatability



F Artis et al., IEEE EuMC 2013

At low concentration -> standard deviation of the real part of the permittivity is < 0.1

**Cells quantification accuracy  $\approx 1$  Mcells/ml**

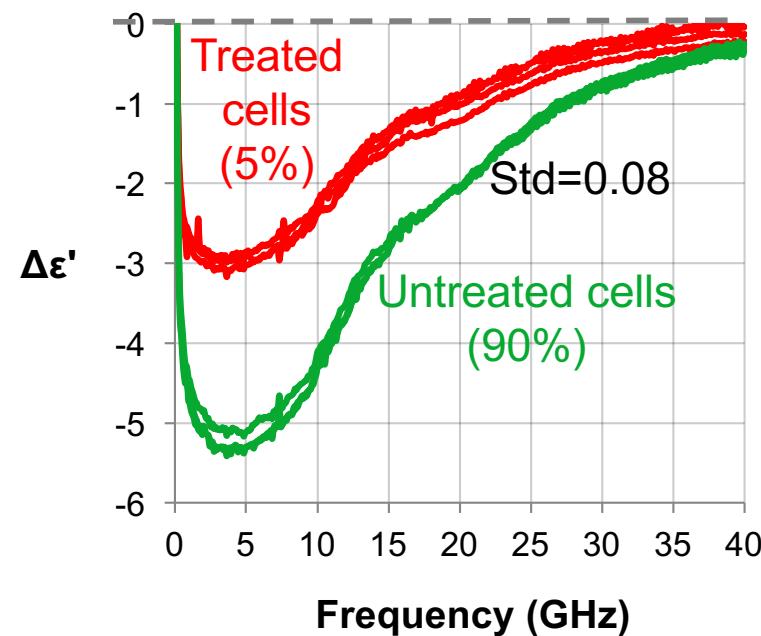
# Sensitivity to cellular permeabilization

saponin

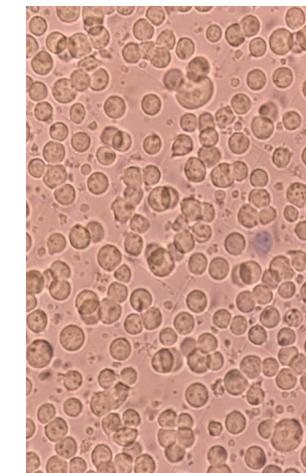


DOHH2 lymphoma  
in suspension

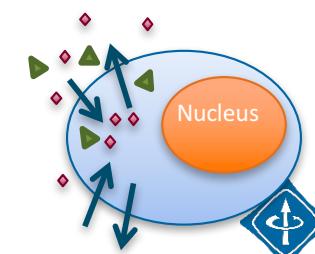
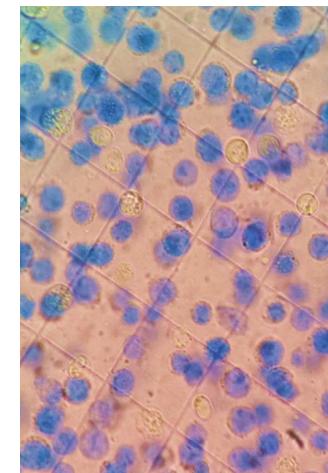
→ Artificial cell death - Integrity of the cells kept  
(nucleus, mitochondria, endoplasmic reticulum and  
cytoskeleton intact)



Untreated

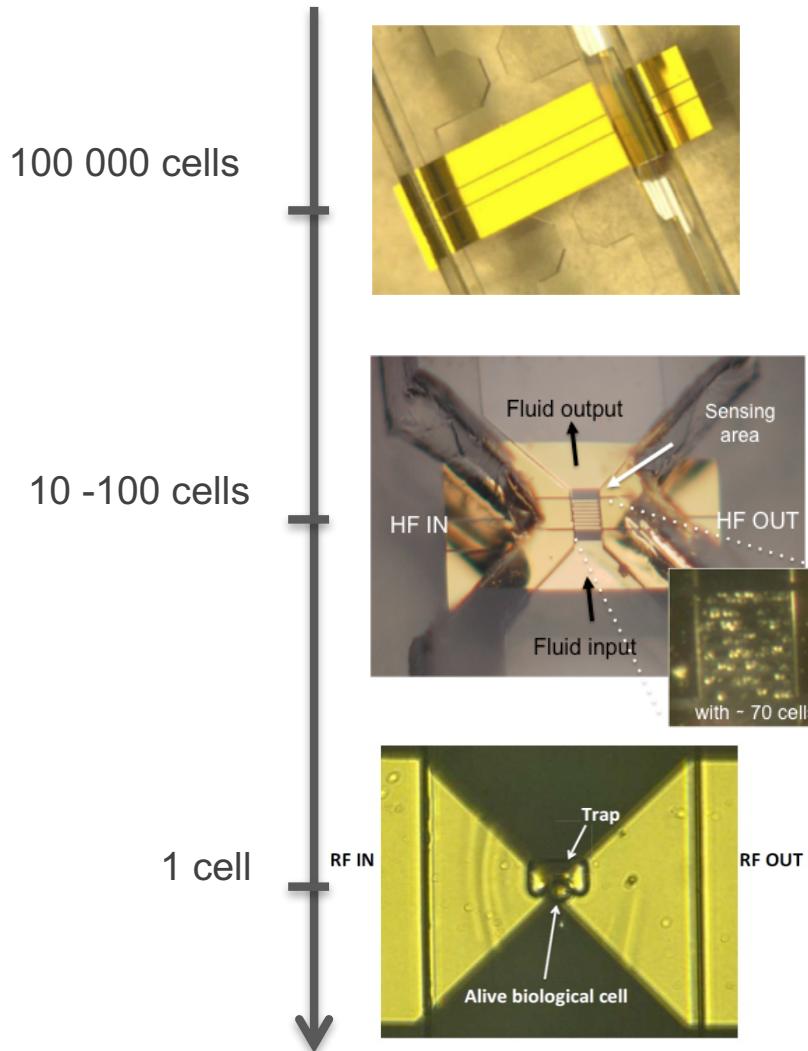


Treated



# Microwave & Microfluidic biosensors

Scalable

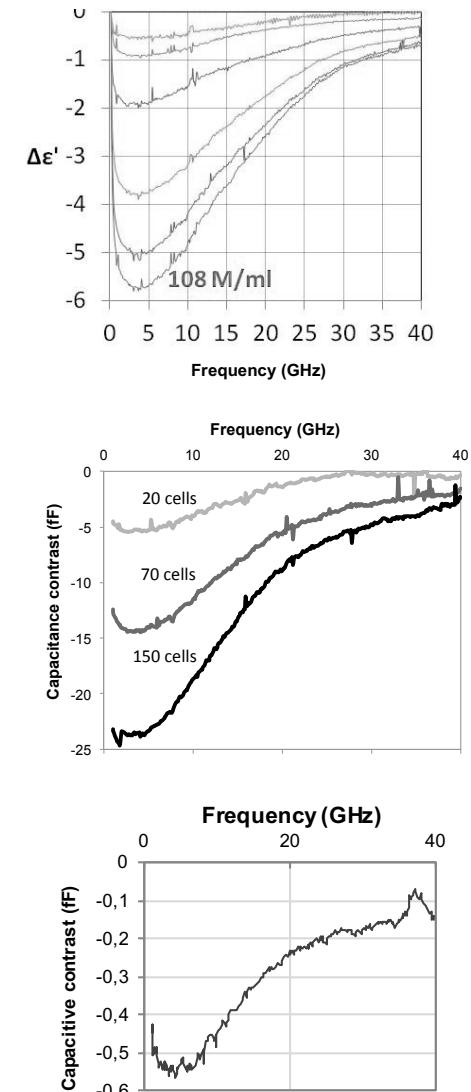


*K. Grenier et al, IEEE TMTT 2009*

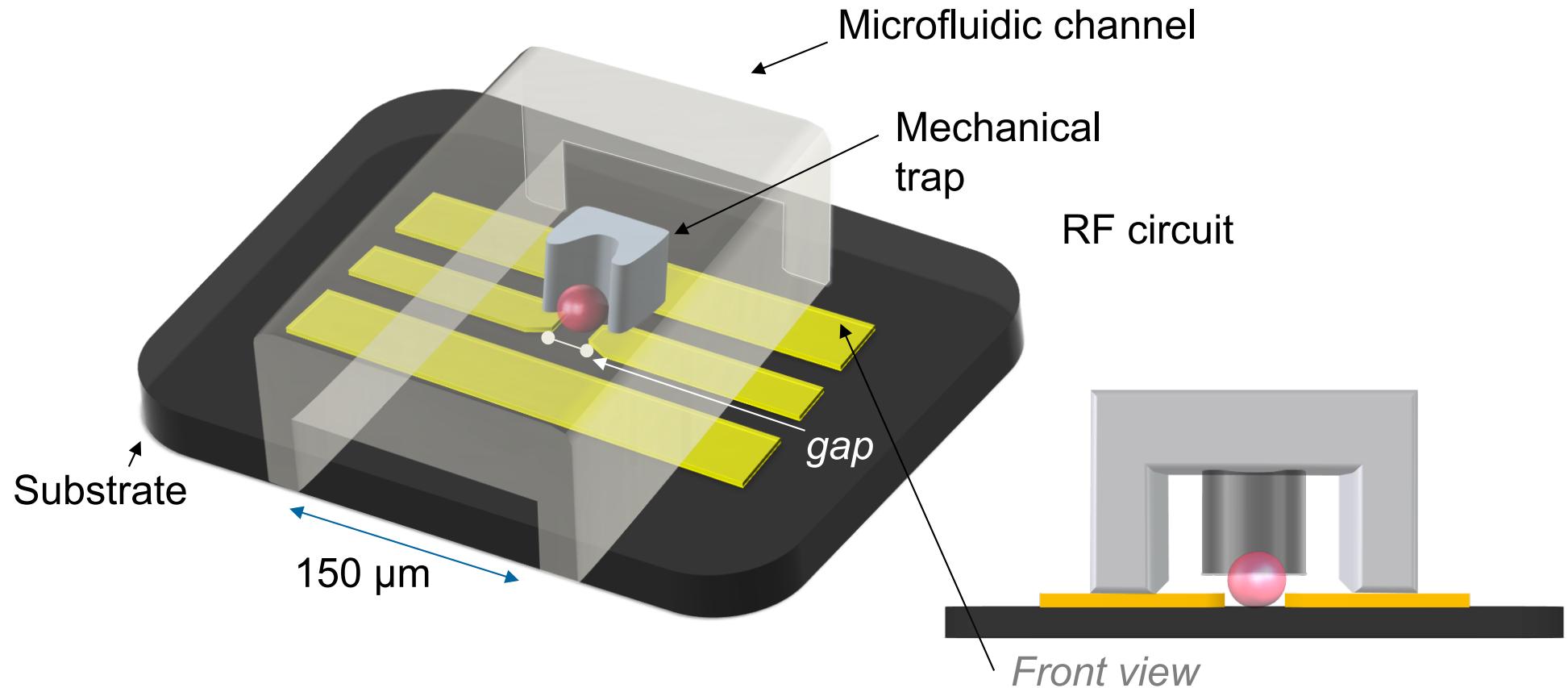
*F. Artis et al. EuMW 2013*

*T. Chen et al. T-MTT Dec. 2012*

*T. Chen et al. IEEE IMS 2013*  
*W. Chen et al. IEEE IMS 2015,  
EuMW 2015*



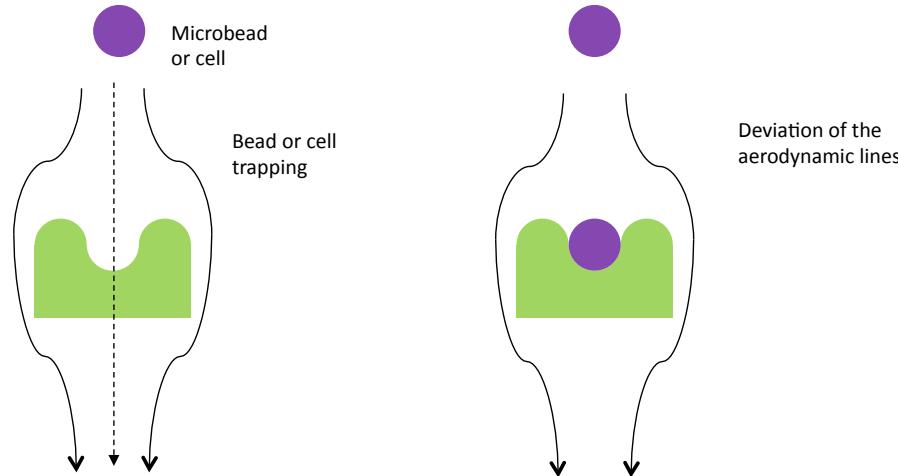
# Broadband single cell detection



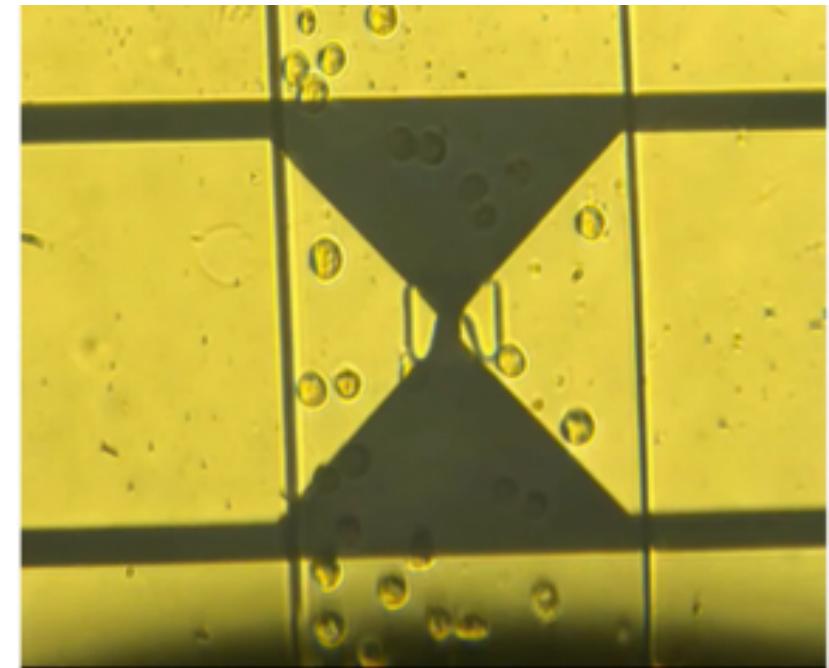
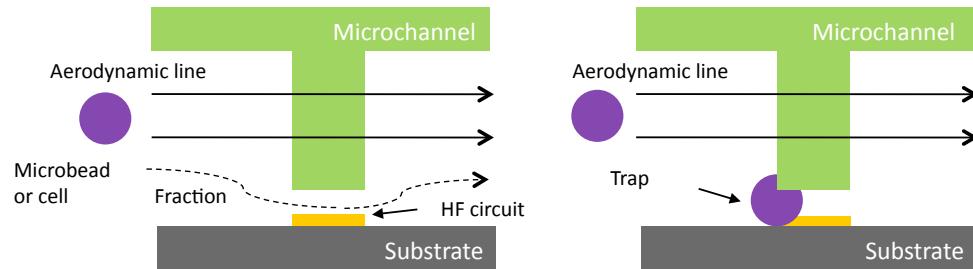
- **Substrate :** quartz
- **Coplanar waveguide:** gold layer of  $0.3 \mu\text{m}$  thick, with a capacitive gap
- **Trap and fluidic channel:** polymer based technology

# Single cell mechanical trapping

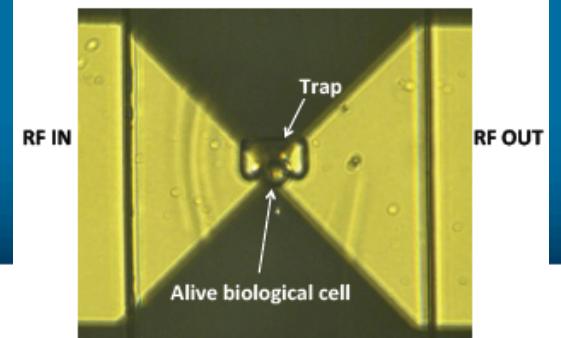
(a) Top views



(b) Cross views

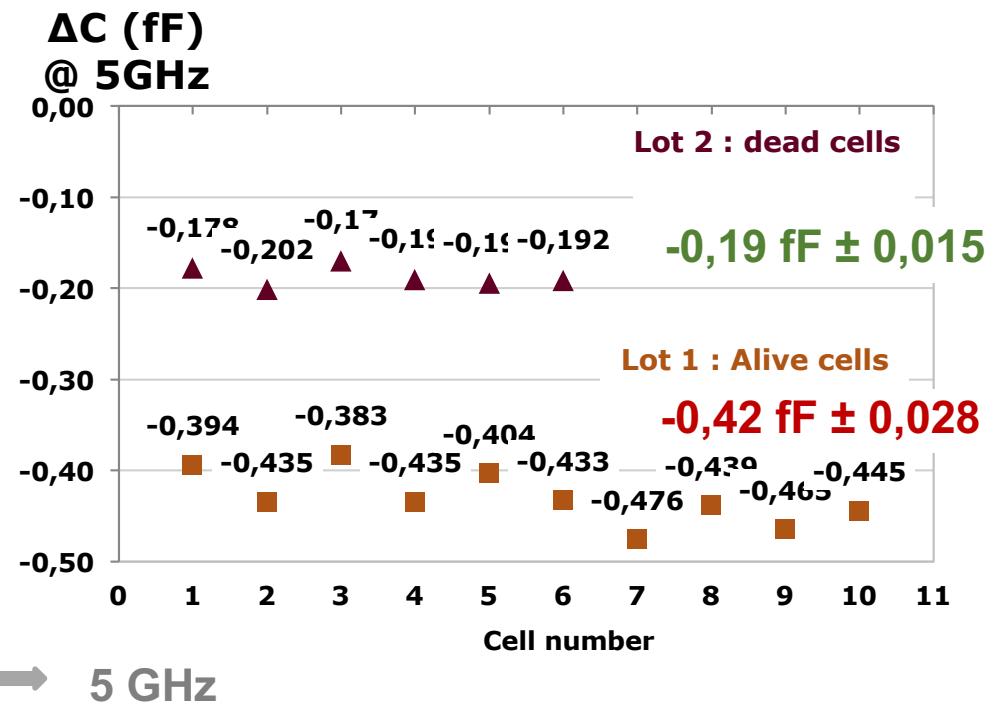
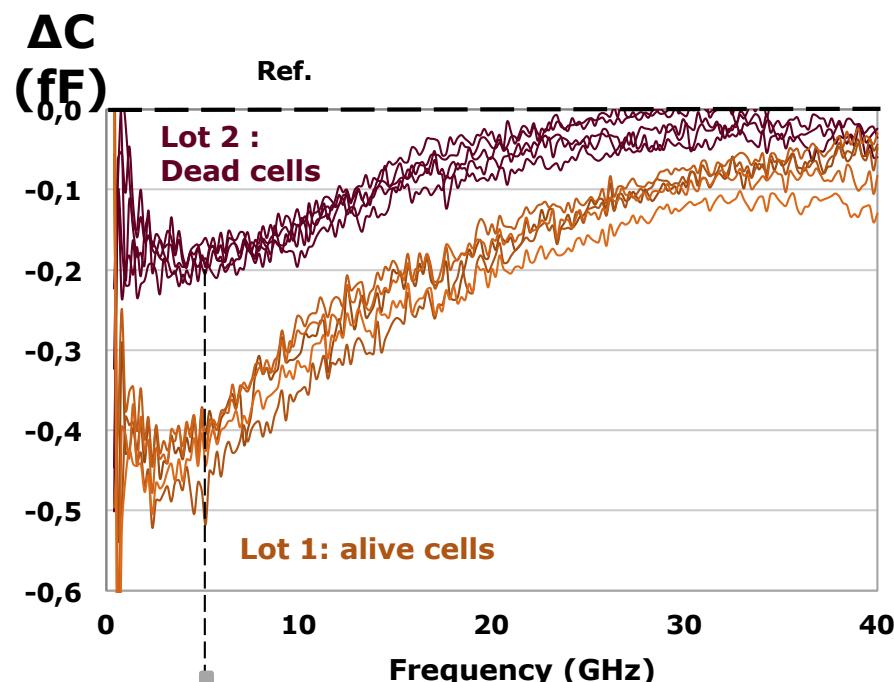


# Sensitivity to cellular state

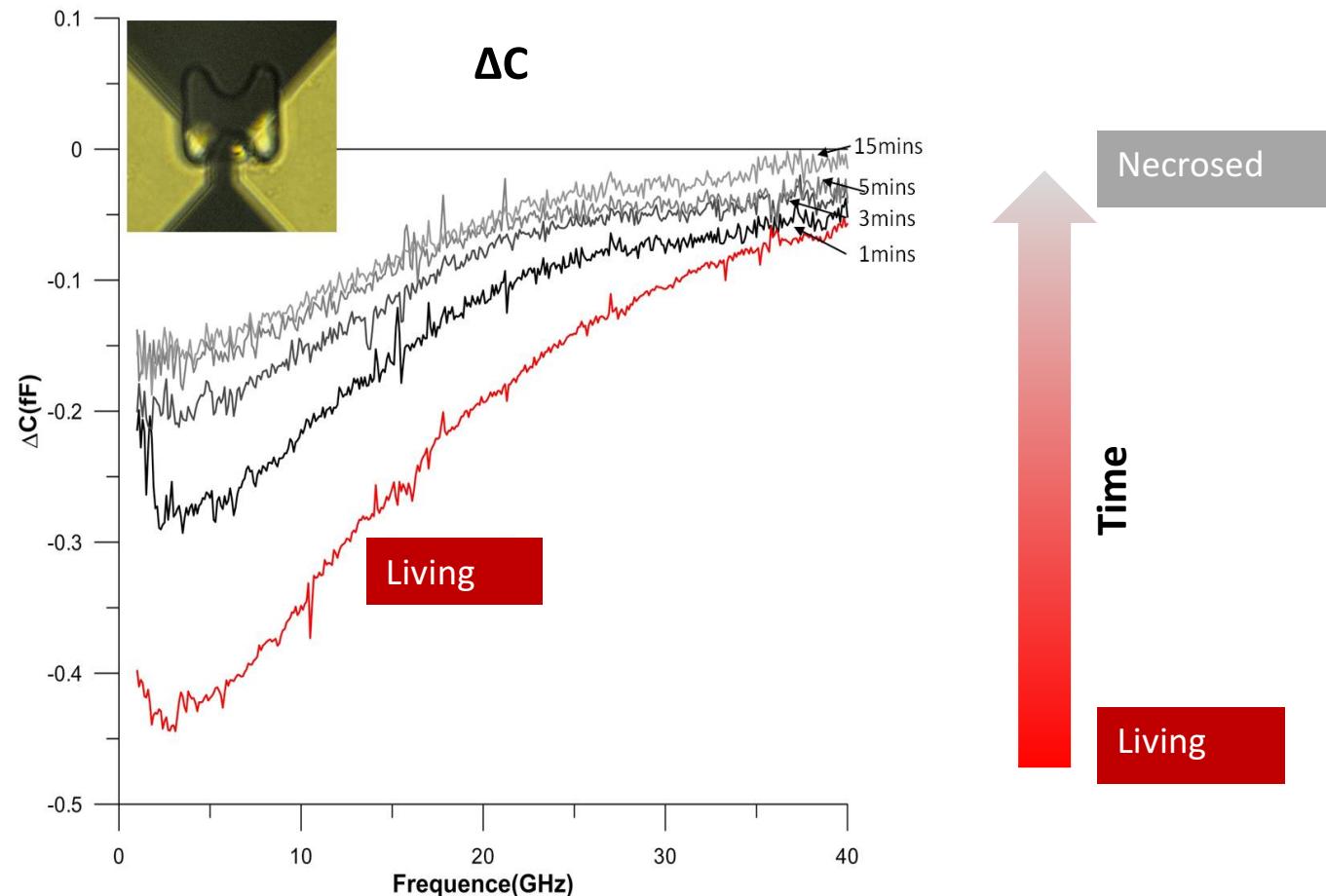


## Cell death induced by starvation

single THP1 cells in culture medium (RPMI+10%FVS)



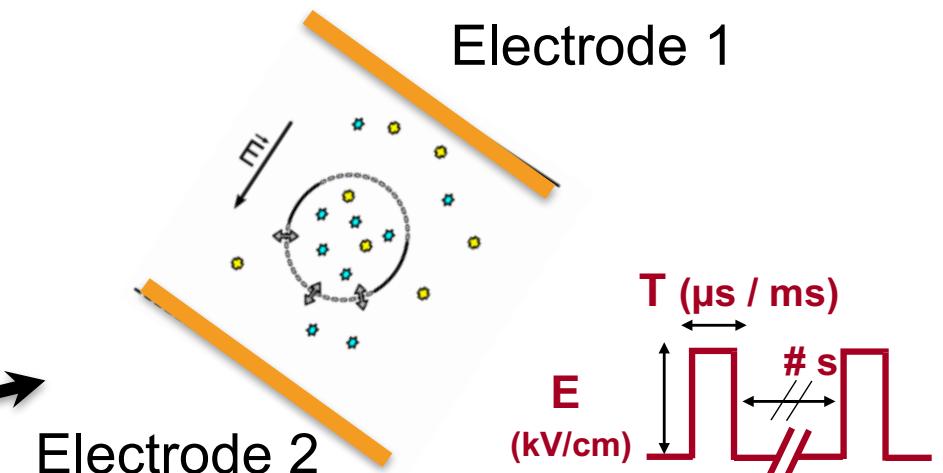
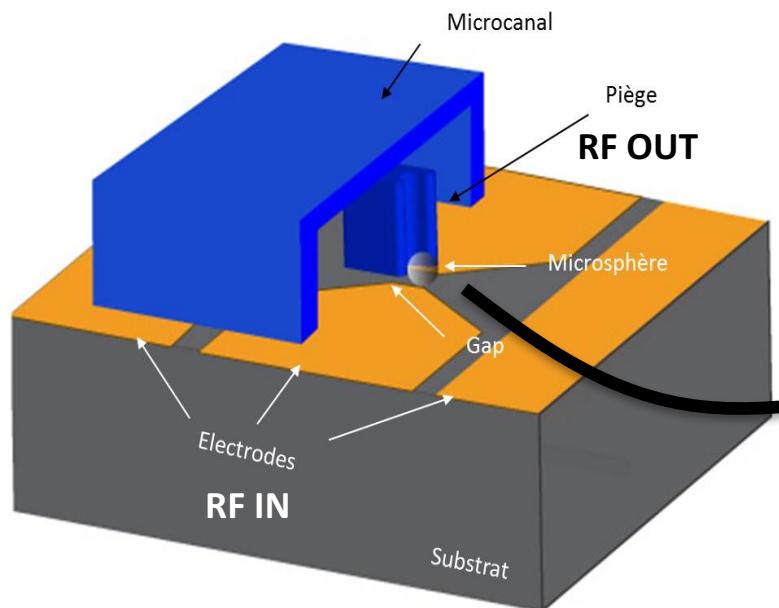
# Real time monitoring of a cell death



Culture medium +2% methanol

# Monitoring of electro-permeabilization efficiency

Target: - Monitor stimulus effect with microwave spectroscopy



**Cell permeabilization with  
electric fields application**



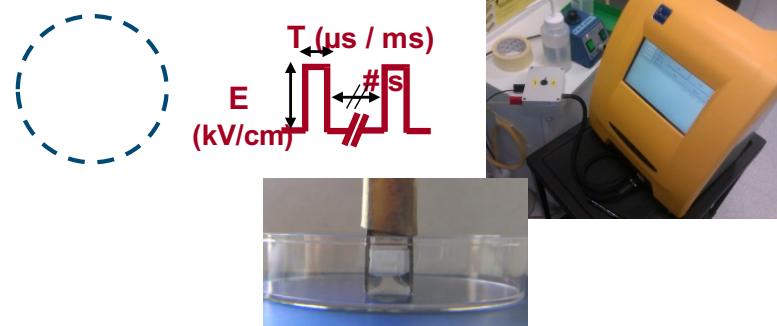
Collaboration M.P. Rolls team  
PhD of Amar Tamra



# Monitoring of electro-permeabilization

## 1/ Electroporation

1,5 kV/cm, 100  $\mu$ s, 1 Hz, n=8



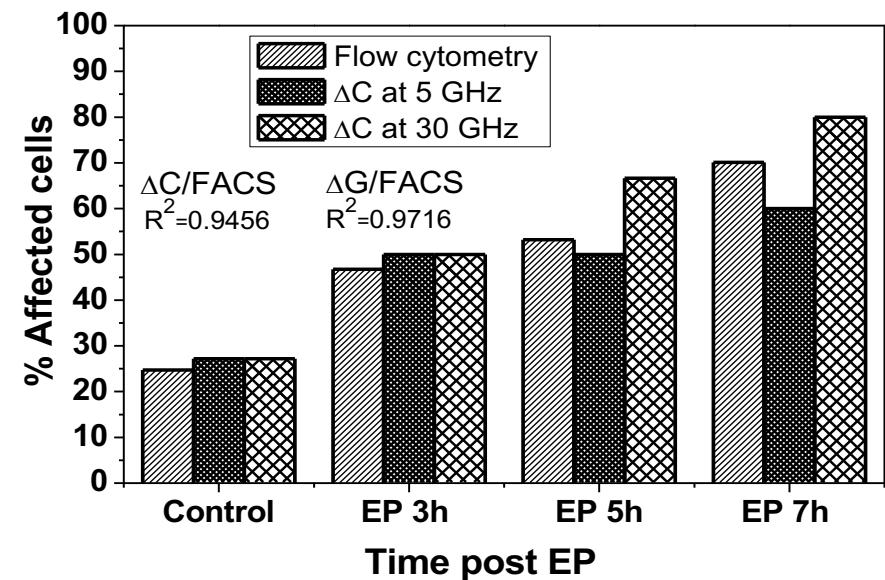
## 2/ Incubation



## 3/ RF and flow cytometry characterization



A. Tamra et al. IEEE IMS 2016



Good correlation between RF and flow cytometry results  
→ efficacy and robustness of the RF technique in depicting the kinetic effects of cell's electroporation

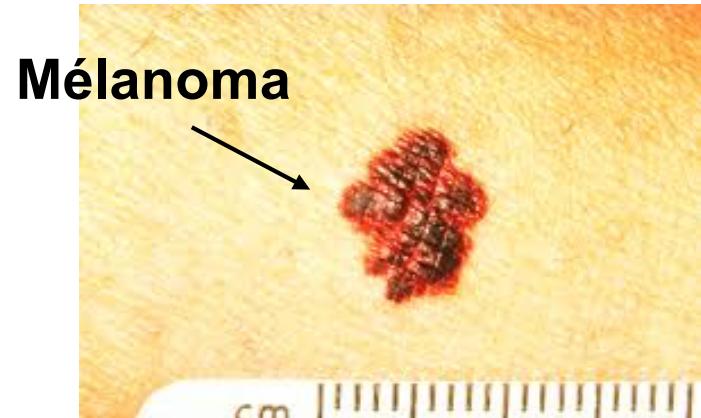
# Toward « in vivo » analysis

## Skin cancer diagnosis

- Performed by trained dermatologists + optically-based microscopy
- Confirmation with biopsy

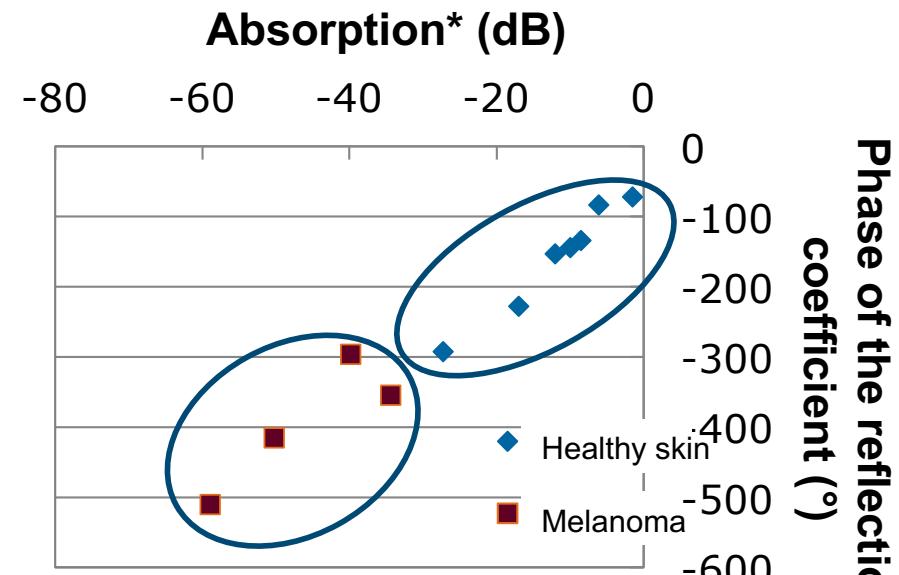
*Early diagnosis proven to drastically increase the chance of recovery and survival*

- Needs:
- Bringing qualitative and quantitative physical parameters
  - Providing **early** diagnostic
  - **Non invasive** detection technique



# Toward « *in vivo* » analysis

Development of a low cost portable microwave test setup,  
compatible with sterile environment for « *in vivo* » measurements



\* Parameters integrated from 0 to 1.5 GHz

K. Grenier et al., IEEE IMBioC 2017

- 2 distinct clouds with variability due to probe positioning
- Larger absorption and phase on the tumor area, which is in agreement with immuno-analysis

# Conclusions

- Interest in developing microwave dielectric spectroscopy for molecular and cellular analysis
  - access to intracellular dielectric activity
- Microwave spectroscopy provides qualitative and quantitative **new bioparameters**: not only cells quantification and viability, but a global state of cell due to intracellular dielectric activity, real time monitoring of biological processes
- Opens **new perspectives** on fundamental biological knowledge and **therapy, diseases diagnostic, personalized medicine** notably (drugs screening on patient cells), with **in vitro** and also **in vivo** investigations, for **ubiquitous healthcare**

# Other complementary research trends

Microwave scanning microscopy

Complete analyzing system miniaturization

Implants

# For further information

- IEEE publications and others;  
IEEE Microwave Mag. May 2015
- Conferences:      ✓ IEEE MTT-S: IMS and IMBioC  
                        ✓ IEEE EMB-S  
                        ✓ BDS
- Books:      ✓ *Dielectric relaxation in biological systems*,  
                    V. Raicu & Y. Feldman, Oxford Univ. Press  
    ✓ *Broadband dielectric spectroscopy*,  
                    F. Kremer & A. Schönhals, Springer  
    ✓ RF/Microwave interaction with biological tissues, A.  
                    Vander Vorst, A. Rosen, Y. Kotsuka, Wiley  
    ✓ Handbook of Biological effects of electromagnetic  
                    fields, C. Polk & E. Postow, CRC Press

Thank you for your attention

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