



Università  
degli Studi  
di Ferrara

**Finanziamenti europei per ricerca e innovazione:  
Le opportunità di Horizon2020 presso i Tecnopoli**

**FOCUS SALUTE**

5 Luglio 2018

presso il Tecnopolo - via Saragat 13 - Ferrara

**ROBERTO GAMBARI – Il Progetto  
ULTRAPLACAD (ULTRAsensitive PLAsmonic  
devices for early Cancer Diagnosis)  
gam@unife.it**

# Bright ideas and innovative activities



- HORIZON-2020: **ULTRAsensitive PLAsmonic devices for early CAncer Diagnosis**
- *Innovation: ultrasensitive detection, PCR-free, non-invasive diagnostics*

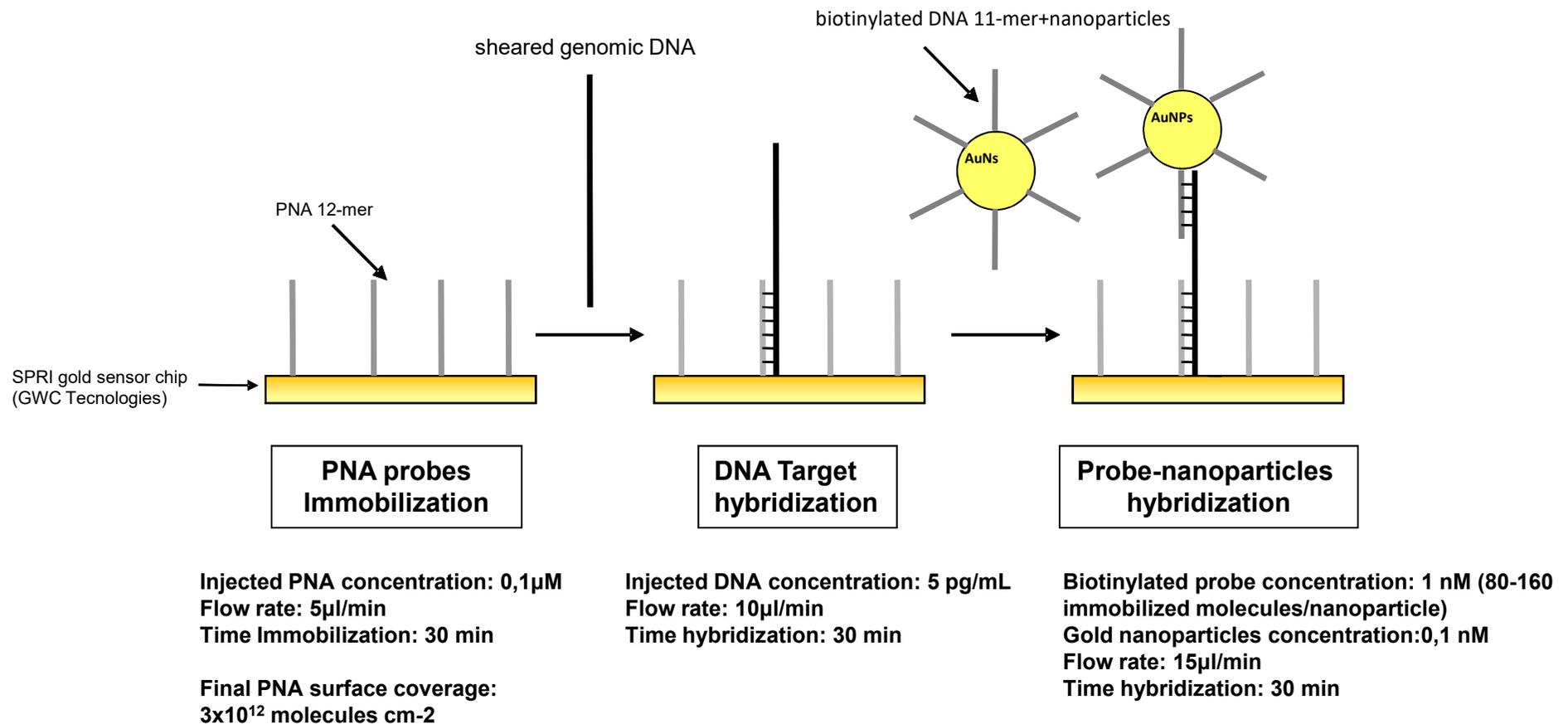
# Background

D'Agata R, Breveglieri G, Zanolini LM, Borgatti M, Spoto G, Gambari R.

Direct detection of point mutations in nonamplified human genomic DNA.

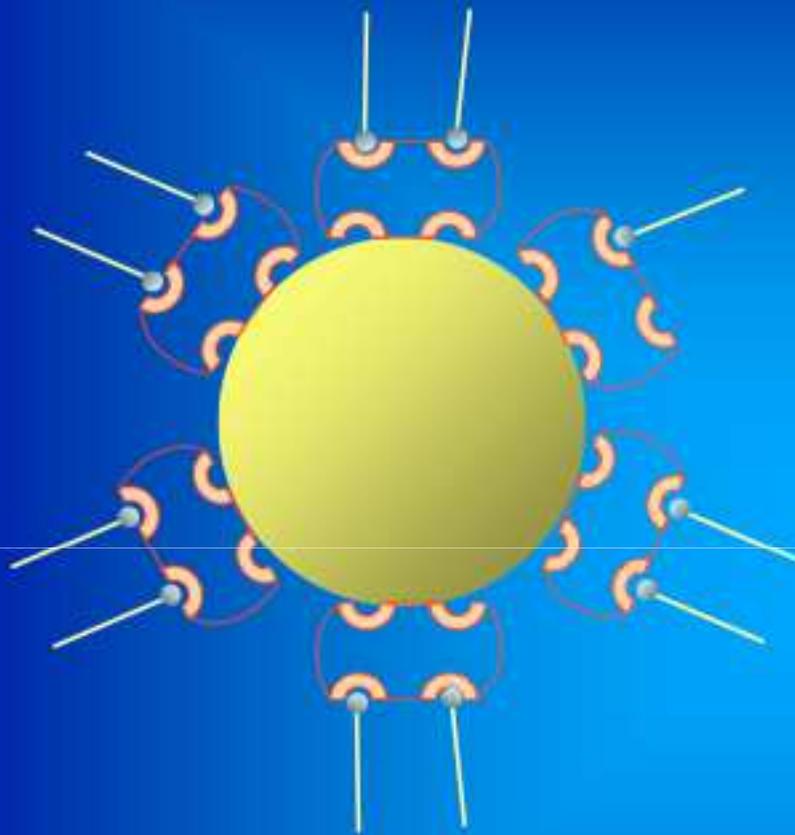
Anal Chem. 2011 Nov 15;83(22):8711-7. doi: 10.1021/ac2021932. Epub 2011 Oct 21.

## SPR-I experiment for PCR-free genomic DNA analysis



- Functionalization of SPR gold chip (GWC Technologies) using Lomant's reagent
- Preparation of modified gold nanoparticles by sodium citrate reduction
- Microfluidic device production by replica molding technique
- Preparation of sheared genomic DNA (genomic DNA is fragmented by sonication and before analysis is boiled and cooling on ice immediately)

# Gold nanoparticles



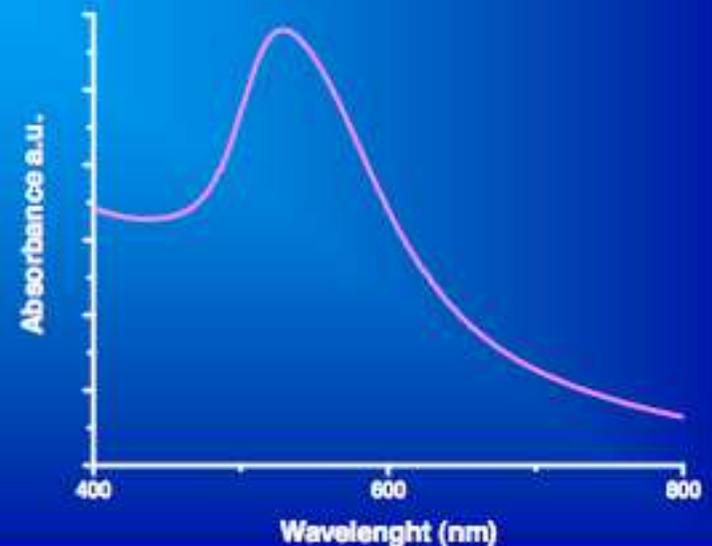
Streptavidin



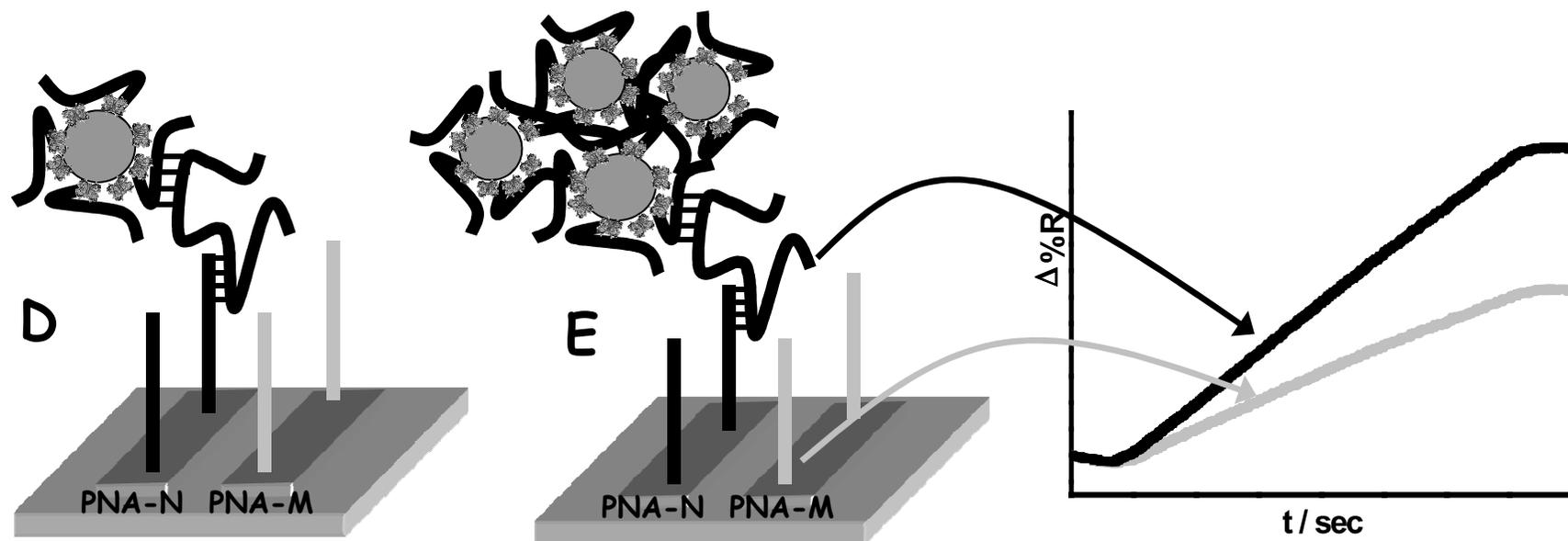
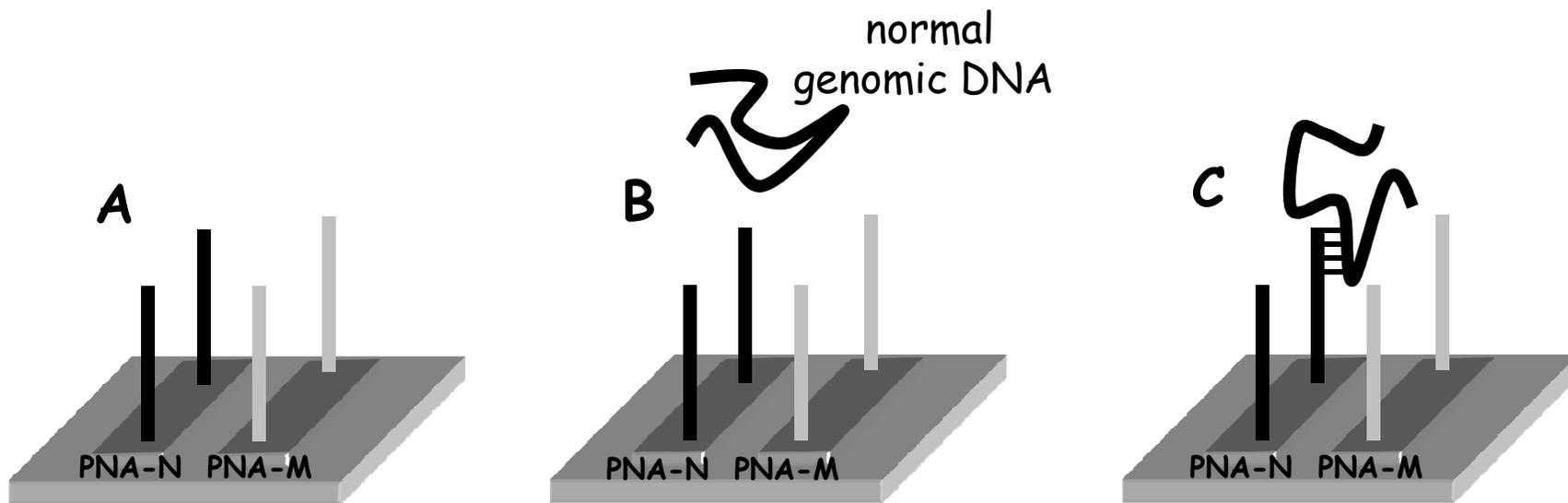
5'-GCAGCTTATCGT-3'-Biotin



$d=20 (\pm 5)$  nm



K. C. Grabar et al. *Anal. Chem.* 1995.67. 735-743  
L. He et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2000. 122. 9071-9077





## **ULTRAsensitive PLAsmonic devices for early Cancer Diagnosis**

- Type of Action: Research and Innovation Actions
- Focus area: Personalising Health and Care
- Call: H2020-PHC-2014-two-stage
- Topic: PHC-10-2014: Development of new diagnostic tools and technologies: in vitro devices, assays and platforms
- Stage 1: 11 March 2014; proposals: 462
- Stage 2: 19 August 2014; proposals: 132
- Maximum EU Grant amount: 6.026.456 €
- Start date: 01/05/2015
- Duration: 42 months
- Grant Agreement no.: 633937



# The consortium

National Institute of Biostructures and Biosystems (Univ. Catania – Coord., Univ. Firenze, Univ. Parma)	IT	RTD
Austrian Institute of Technology	AT	RTD
Institute of Photonics and Electronics	CZ	RTD
University of Twente	NL	UNI
University of Siegen	DE	UNI
University of Ferrara	IT	UNI
VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland	FI	RTD
Italian National Cancer Institute Regina Elena	IT	HSP
Scriba Nanotecnologie	IT	SME
Ginolis Oy	FI	SME
Future Diagnostics Solutions	NL	SME
Horiba Jobin Yvon SAS	FR	IND
Amires s.r.o.	CZ	SME



# Early diagnosis and personalized cancer treatment: bottlenecks

**Biomarkers (companion diagnostics)**

**Cost**



**Easy and timely access to diagnostics**

# Gold standard: tissue biopsy

## Limitations

Invasive approach

Potential clinical complications

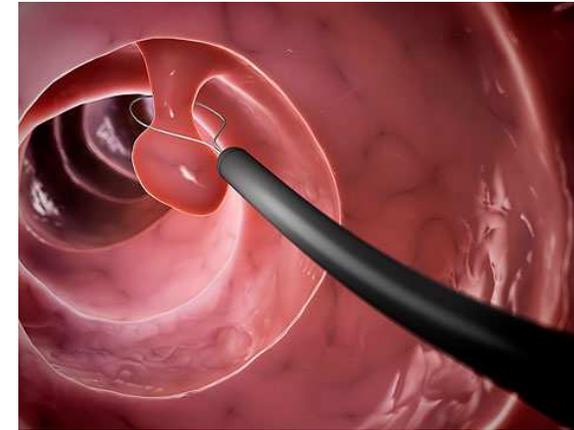
Snapshot:

difficulty in accounting for tumor heterogeneity

Subject to tumor accessibility and patient condition

No frequent monitoring

Costly



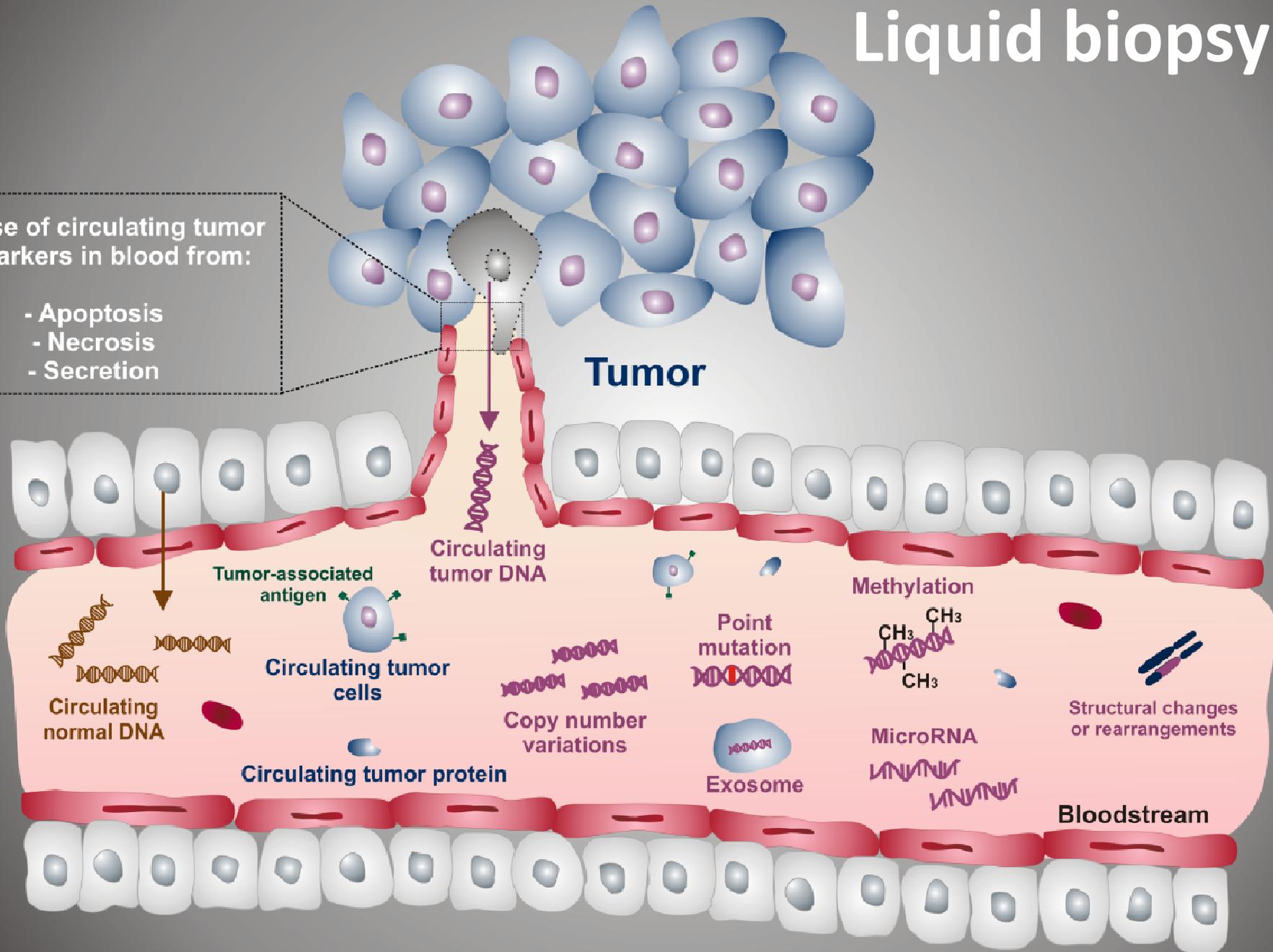
**2.6 million  
breast and prostate  
biopsies per year  
in the U.S.\***

\*M. Denis *The Pathologist*, 6, 2015, 33.

# Liquid biopsy

Release of circulating tumor biomarkers in blood from:

- Apoptosis
- Necrosis
- Secretion



# Liquid biopsy

## Advantages



**Non invasive**

**Assesment of tumor heterogeneity**

**No subject to tumor accessibility  
and patient condition**

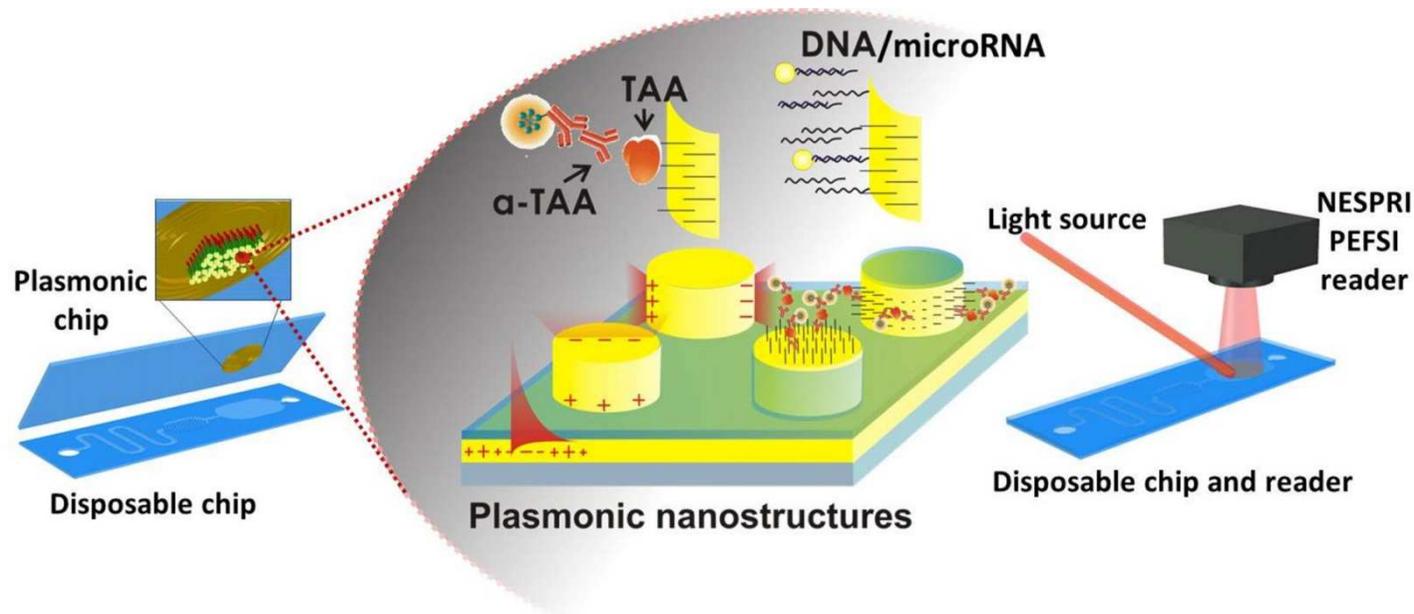
**Frequent monitoring**

**Faster and cheaper than tissue biopsy**



# The aim

Novel in vitro diagnostic system for minimally invasive colorectal cancer early diagnosis, prognosis, patient follow-up and therapy efficacy assessment.





# Colorectal cancer in Europe

- **Second most frequent cancer**  
(471,000 in 2012) (breast cancer is the most frequent)
- **Second most common cause of death from cancer**  
(228,000 in 2012) (lung cancer is the most common)
- **Equal distribution among women and men**  
(Incidence: 255,000 male, 216,000 women.  
Mortality: 120,000 male, 108,000 women).
- **Responsible for more than 10% of all cancer deaths**  
and for 3% of all deaths within the Europe



# Colorectal cancer diagnosis and prognosis

- **Actionable biomarkers**

- DNA: all-RAS mutations**

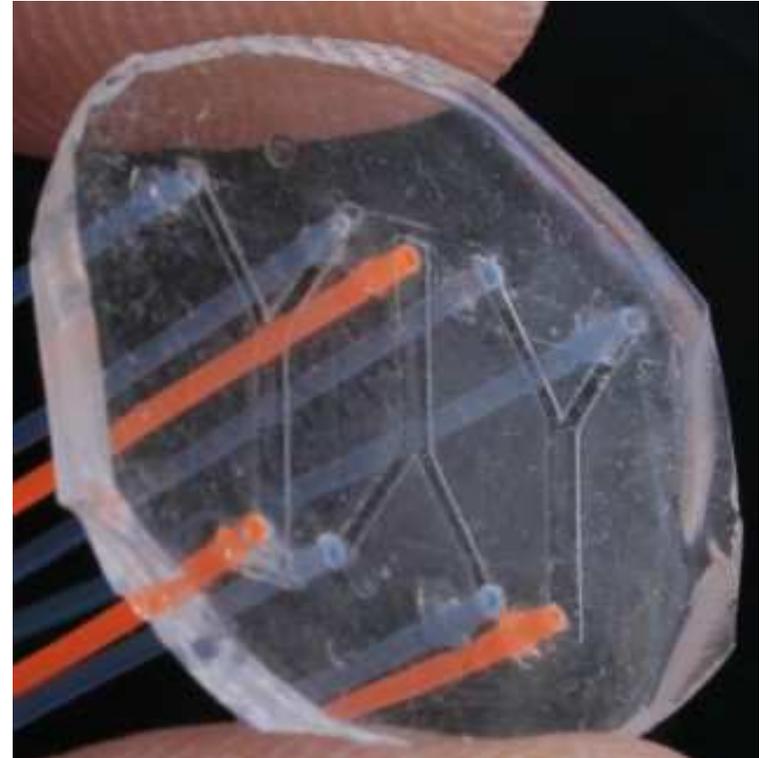
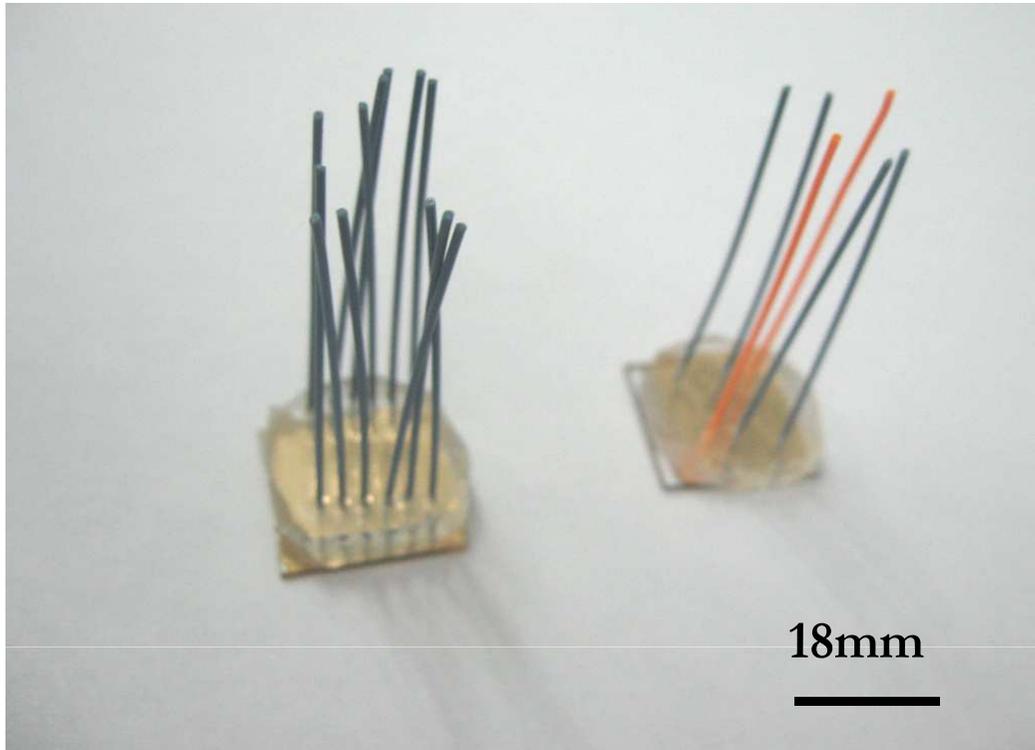
- (standard biomarkers for prognosis, follow-up and therapy assessment from solid tissue biopsy)

- RNA: microRNAs**

- (miR-221/222, miR-141)

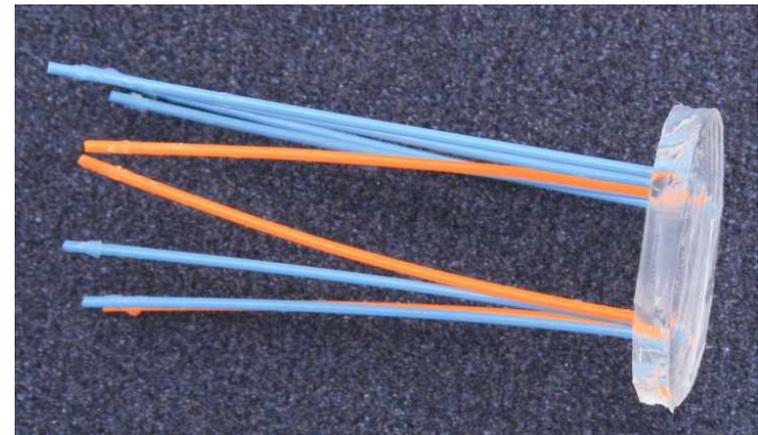
- Proteins: autoantibodies against tumor associated antigens**

- (a-TAAs)



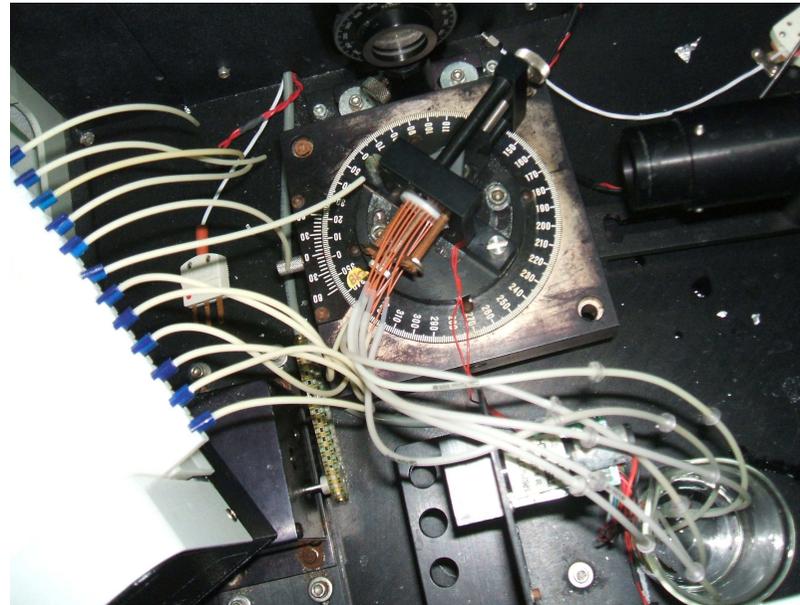
microchannels:  
80  $\mu\text{m}$  depth, 1.4 cm length,  
400  $\mu\text{m}$  width

circular reservoir: 400  $\mu\text{m}$





**SPRI technology**





ULTRAPLACAD

# Bimodal industrial prototype





# Disposable chip: low cost production





# External Advisory Board

**Jola Gore-Booth**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer at EuropaColon

**Patrice M. Milos**, President and Chief Executive Officer at Medley Genomics, Providence

**Maurizio Ferrari**, President of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC)

**Markus Paulmichl**, Member (Vice Chair) of the Pharmacogenomics Working Party at European Medicines Agency

**David N. Reinhoudt**, responsible for the Radboud Nanomedicine Alliance at Radboud University Nijmegen

**Francesca Spinella**, Scientific coordinator at Laboratorio GENOMA Group srl

**Santiago Valor**, Chief Medical Officer at SYNLAB Group, Madrid





- Stage 1: 11 March 2014; proposals: 462
- Stage 2: 19 August 2014; proposals: 132
- Funded: 9
- Final Ranking ULTRAPLACAD (unofficial): 1<sup>st</sup>



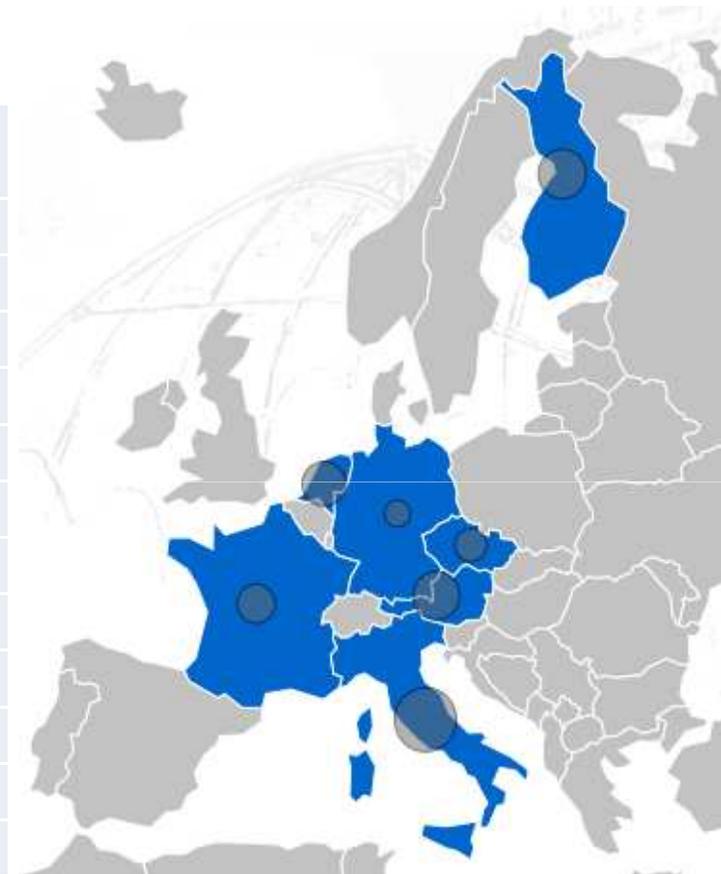
# ULTRAPLACAD



[www.ultraplacad.eu](http://www.ultraplacad.eu)

# The consortium

National Institute of Biostructures and Biosystems	IT	RTD
Austrian Institute of Technology	AT	RTD
Institute of Photonics and Electronics	CZ	RTD
Italian National Cancer Institute Regina Elena	IT	RTD
University of Twente	NL	UNI
University of Siegen	DE	UNI
University of Ferrara	IT	UNI
VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland	FI	RTD
Scriba Nanotecnologie	IT	SME
Ginolis Oy	FI	SME
Future Diagnostics Solutions	NL	SME
Horiba Jobin Yvon SAS	FR	IND
Amires s.r.o.	CZ	SME



Dissemination  
Burocracy  
Contacts with UE

## **DISSEMINATION:**

Research papers

Patients Associations

Clinicians

SME/Companies

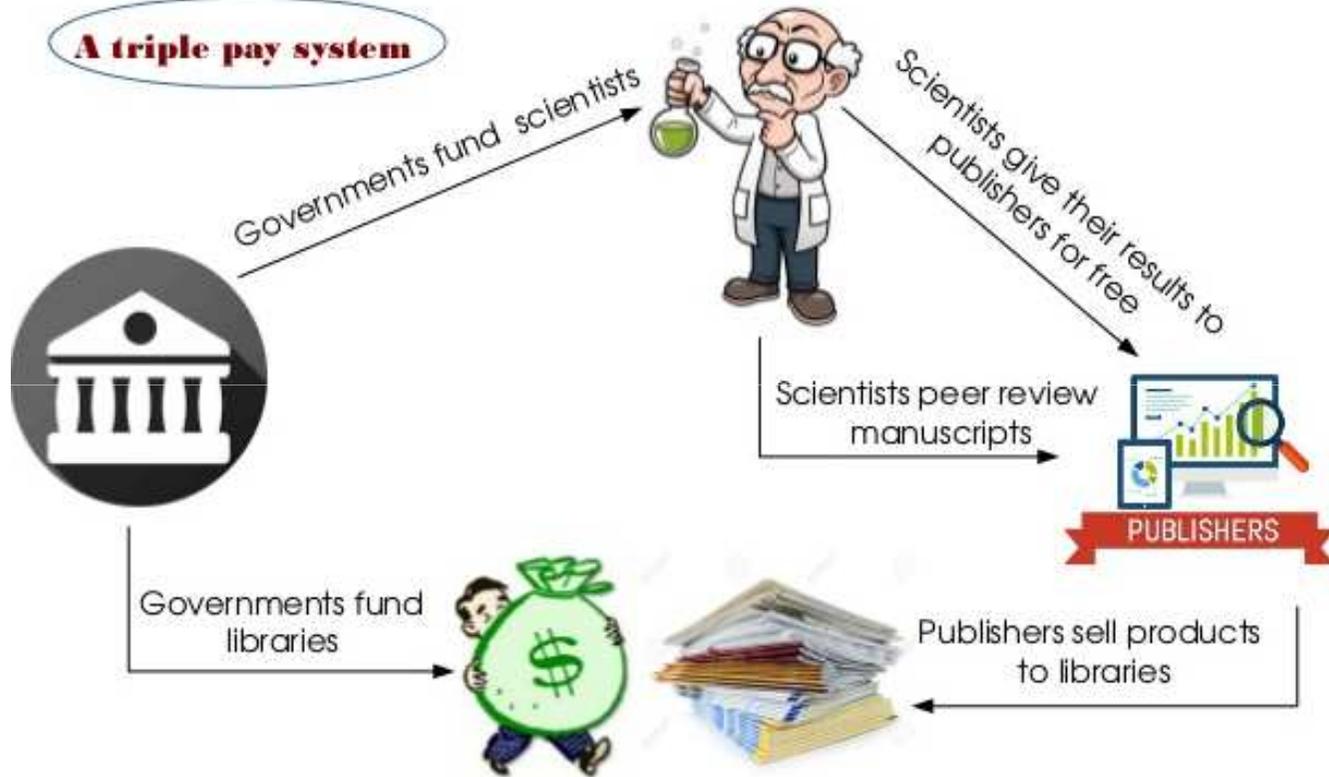
Students

Society (newspapers, TV .....



# Why Scientific Publishing is so profitable?

**A triple pay system**





# Open Access in Horizon 2020

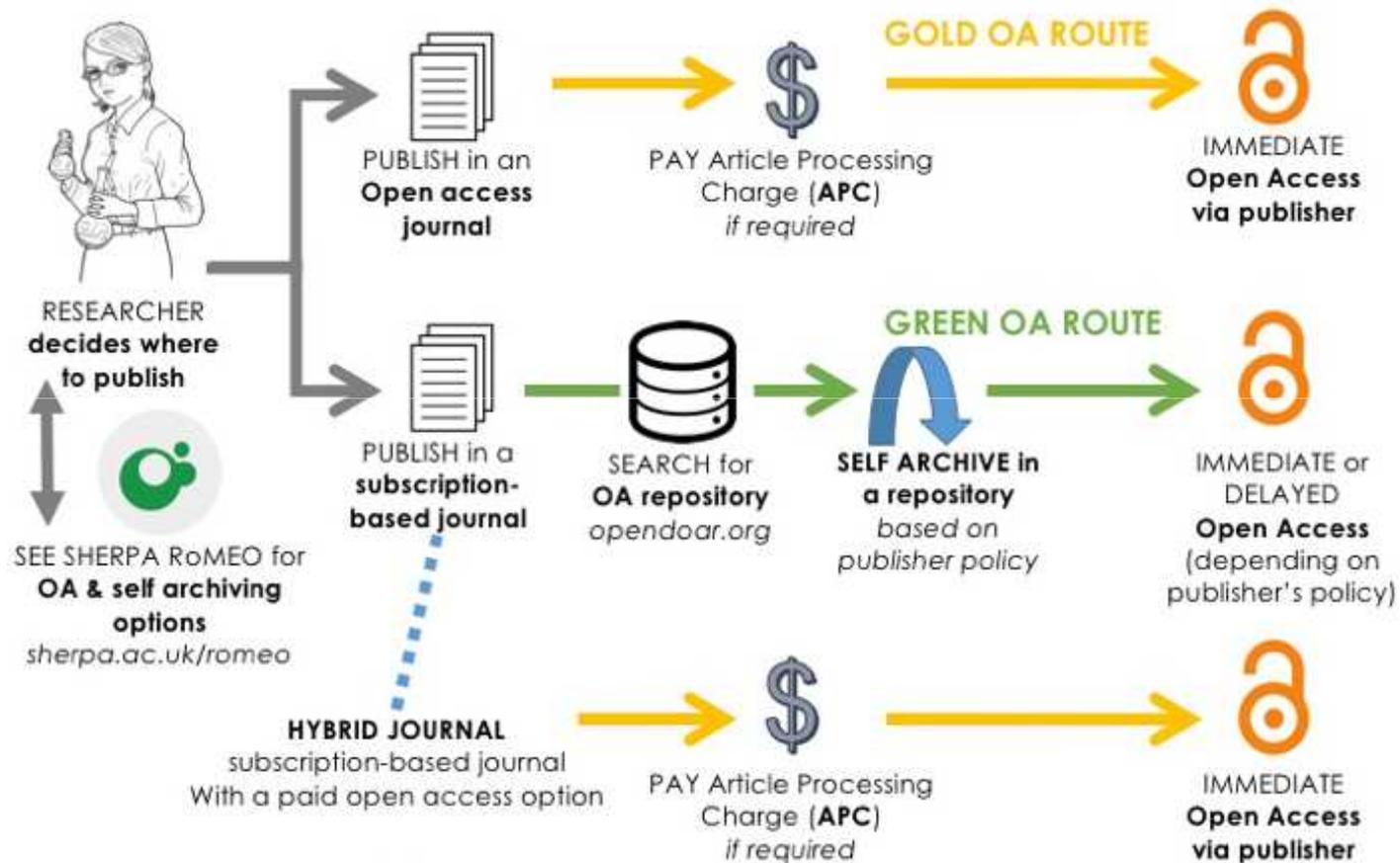
European Commission funded projects

**IN HORIZON 2020,  
THE EC REQUESTS  
ALL PROJECTS TO  
PROVIDE OPEN  
ACCESS TO ALL PEER  
REVIEWED ARTICLES  
ARISING FROM  
PROJECT FUNDING.**



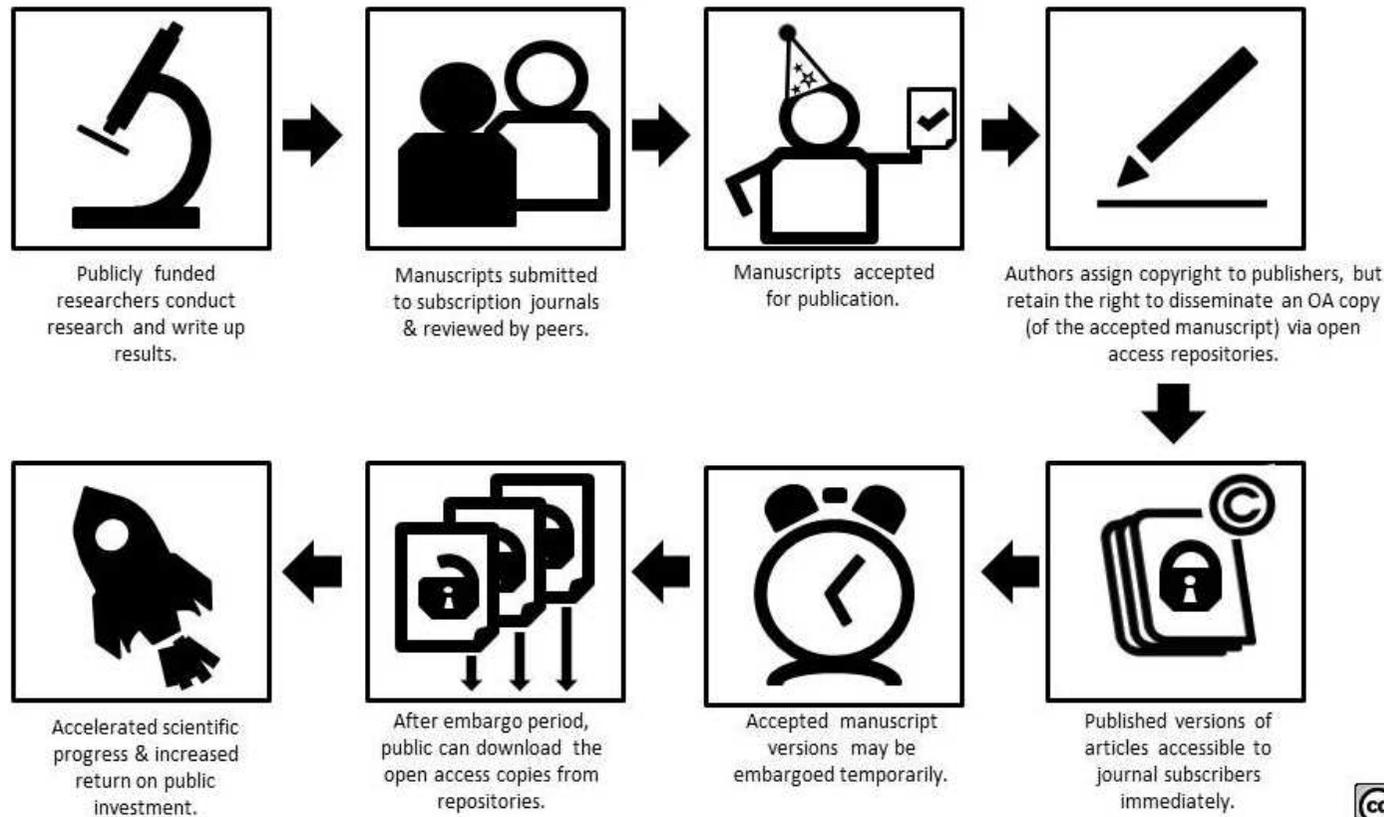


# Open Access Publishing



# GREEN OPEN ACCESS

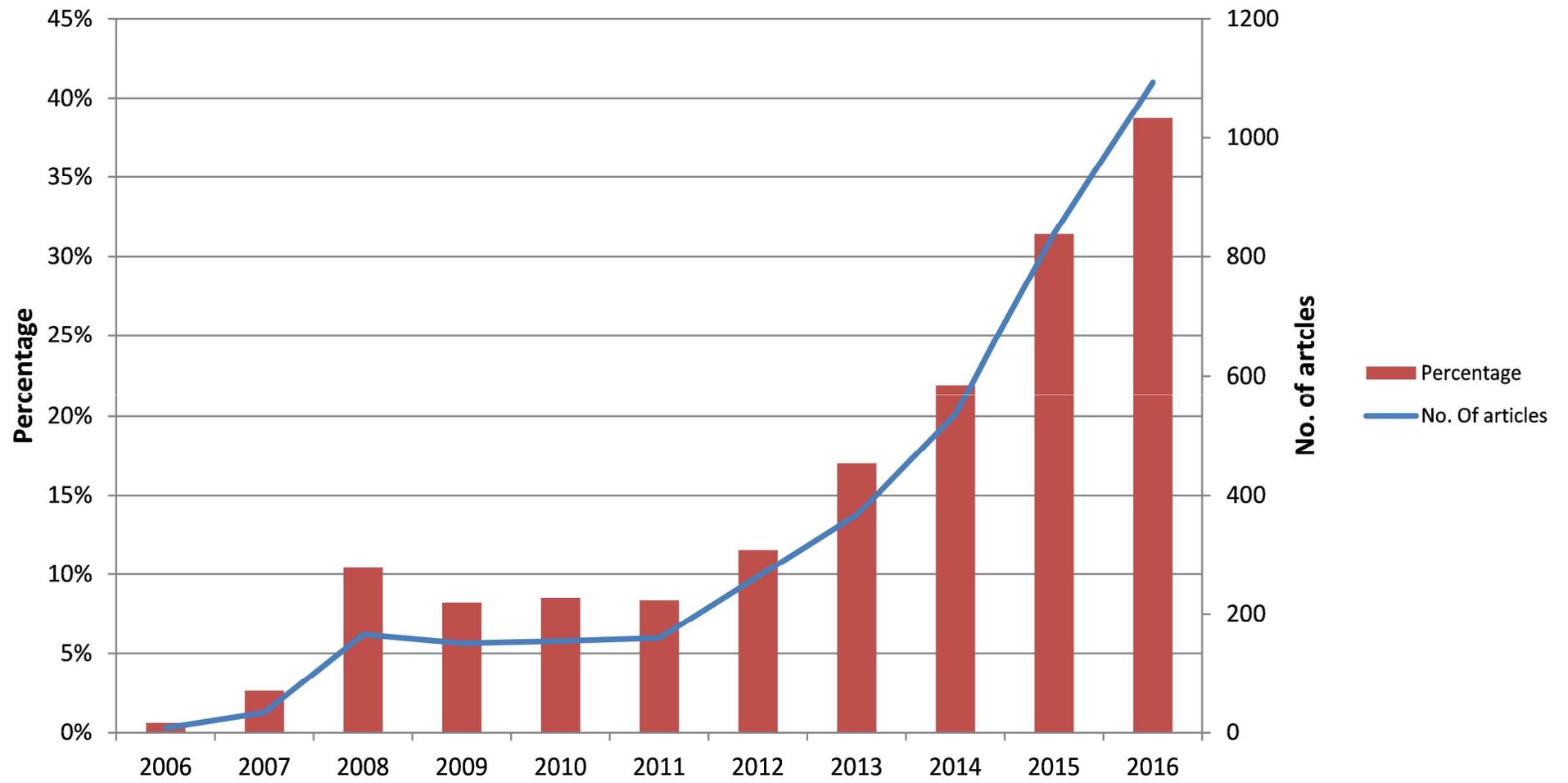
*increased dissemination, economic efficiency & social impact*

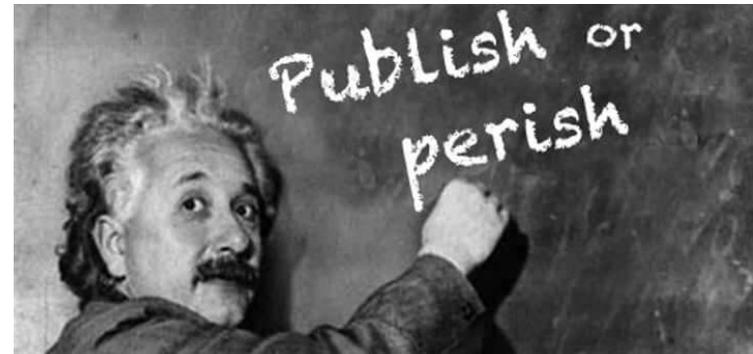
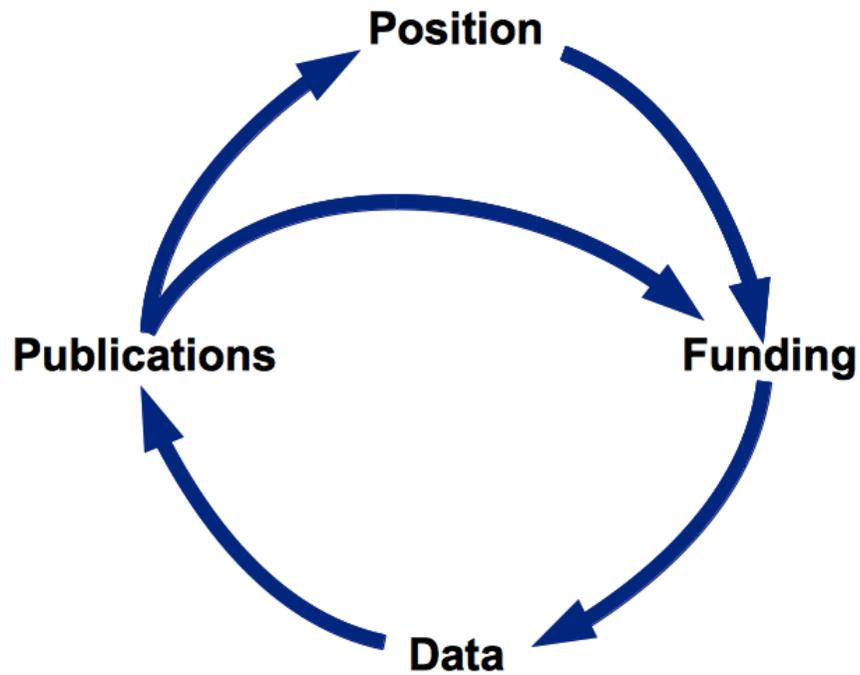
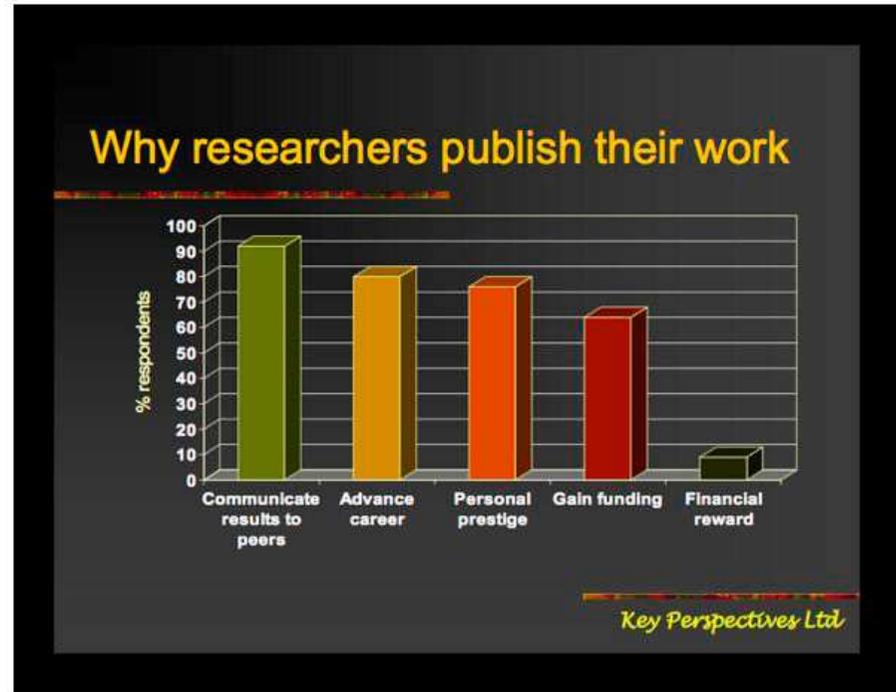
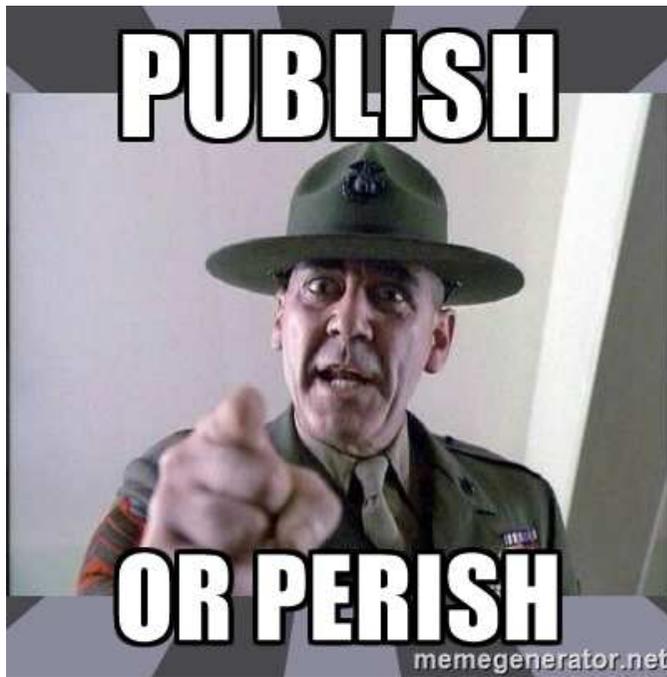


Model and text adapted from Timothy Vollmer and Teresa Sempere Garcia "Research article cycles": [http://wiki.creativecommons.org/File:Research\\_articles\\_cycles.jpg](http://wiki.creativecommons.org/File:Research_articles_cycles.jpg)



Paula Callan & Sarah Brown, QUT 2014 CC-BY 4.0



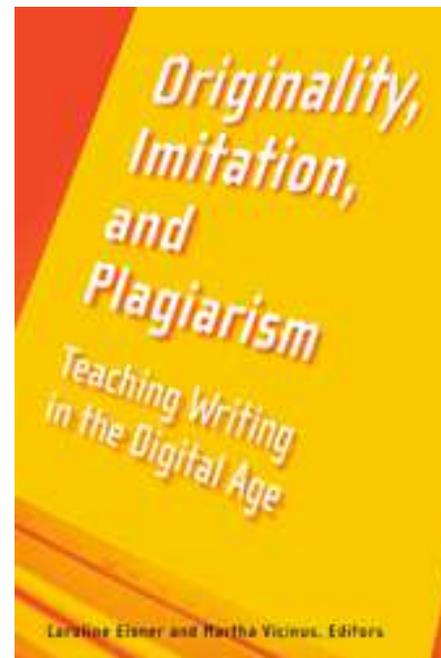




## Plagiarism

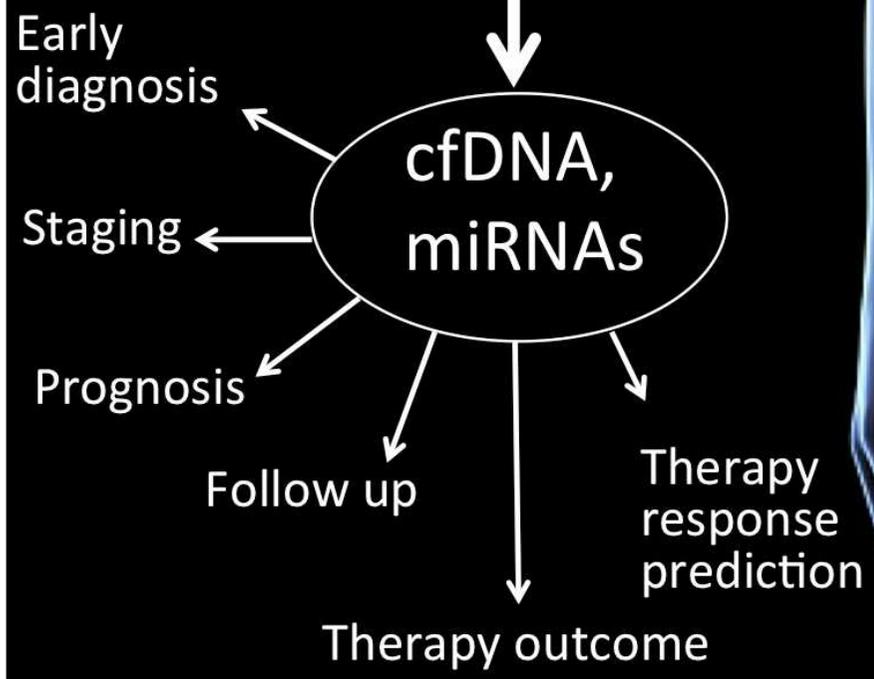
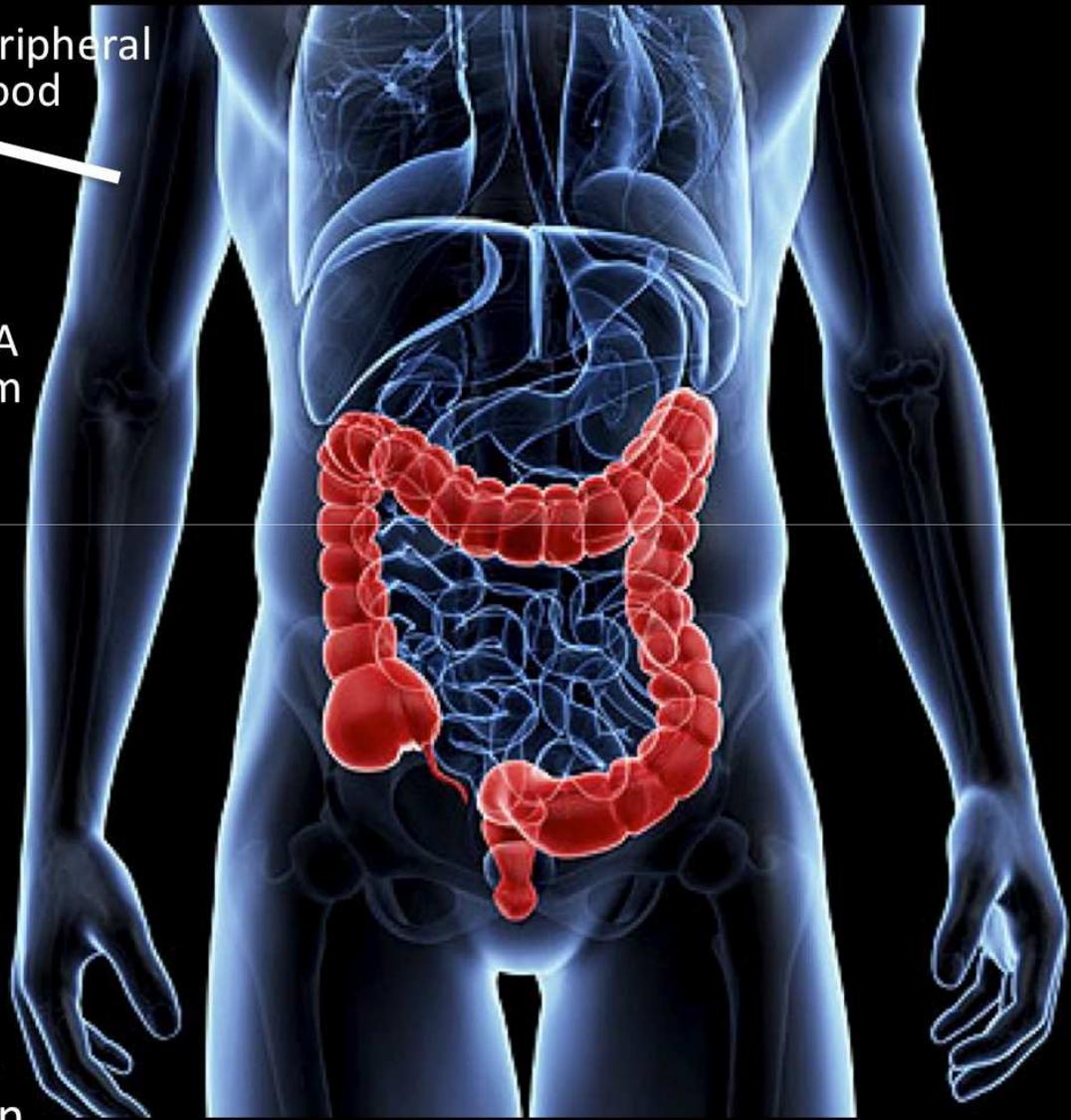
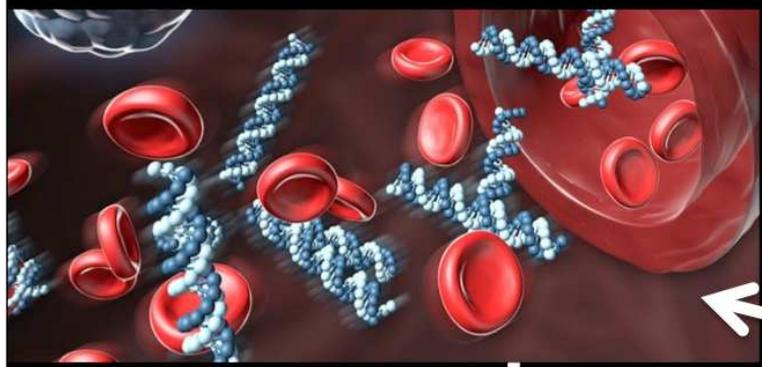
- Paraphrasing an article, book or journal too closely
- Missing out punctuation in a citation
- Submitting a publication that you didn't write
- Copying words or ideas from someone else's work, without giving credit
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- Copying sentence structure but changing words around, without giving credit
- Copying from your own work

Source: <http://www.scanmyessay.com/plagiarism/what-is-plagiarism.php>

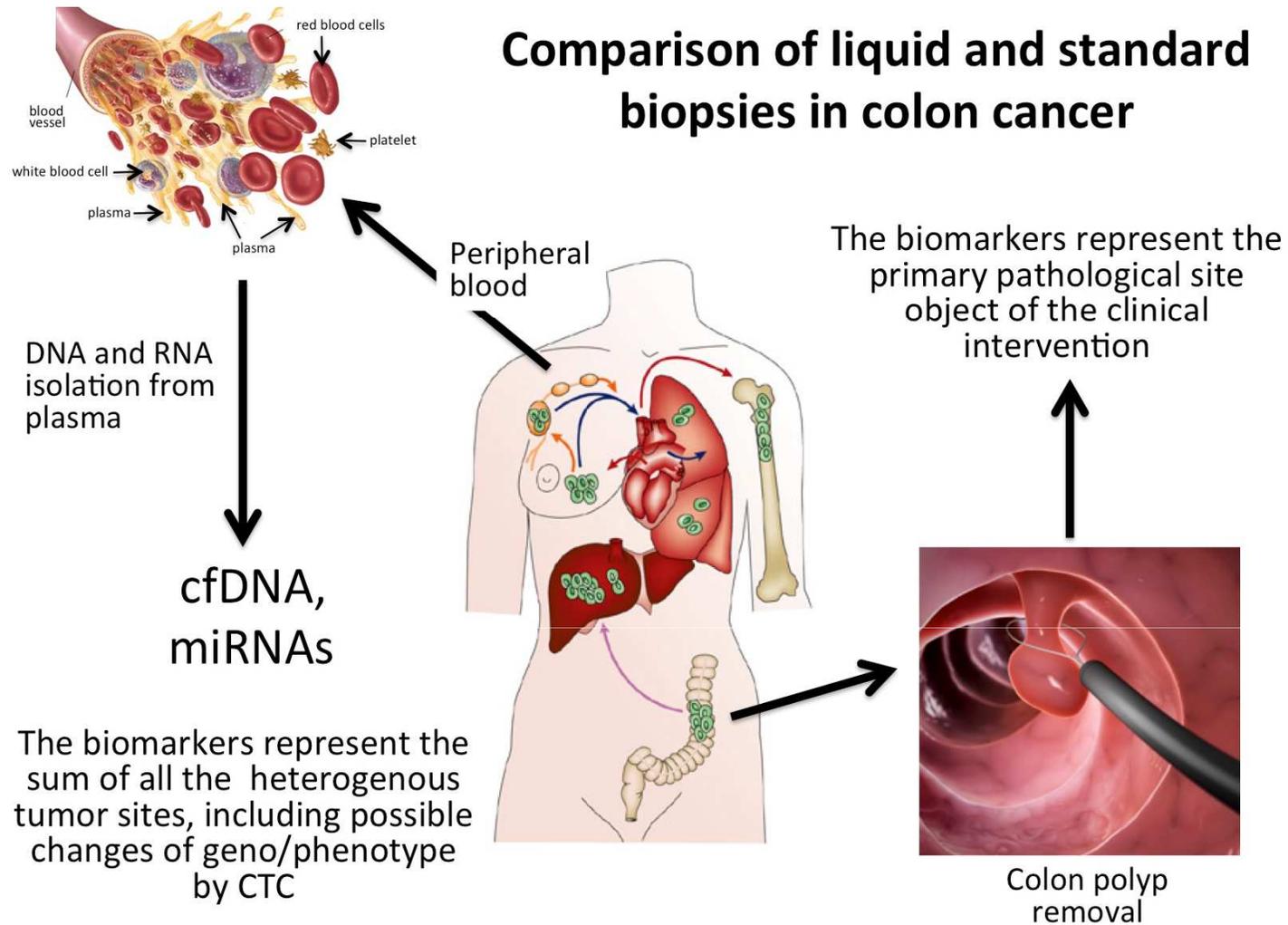




# Liquid biopsy in colon cancer



## Comparison of liquid and standard biopsies in colon cancer



Patrizio Giacomini - Istituto Regina Elena, Roma - 13 luglio 2017, ore 15  
Liquid Biopsy in the Practice of Precision Oncology

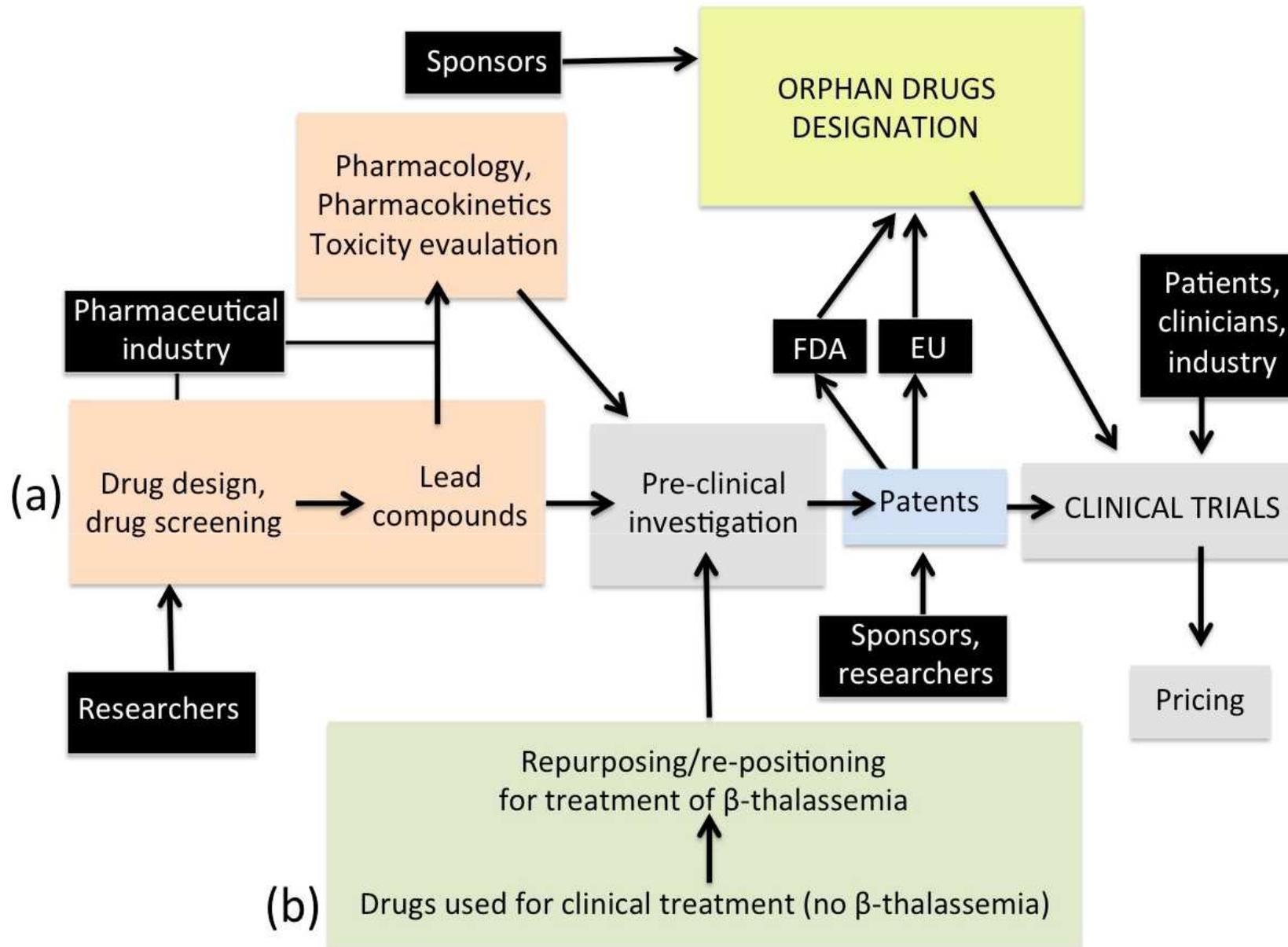
<https://youtu.be/FvEVv-E-SGM>

# Key points sustaining projects within the Health program

- OMICS
- Personalized Therapy
- Rare diseases
- Repurposing of drugs
- Cellular Biobanks

**Orphan drug designation (EMA)**

**Patents**





# ULTRAPLACAD

ULTRAPLACAD

ULTRAPLACAD

ULTRAPLACAD

ULTRAPLACAD

ULTRAPLACAD

ULTRAPLACAD

ULTRAPLACAD



ULTRAPLACAD

ULTRAPLACAD

ULTRAPLACAD

ULTRAPLACAD



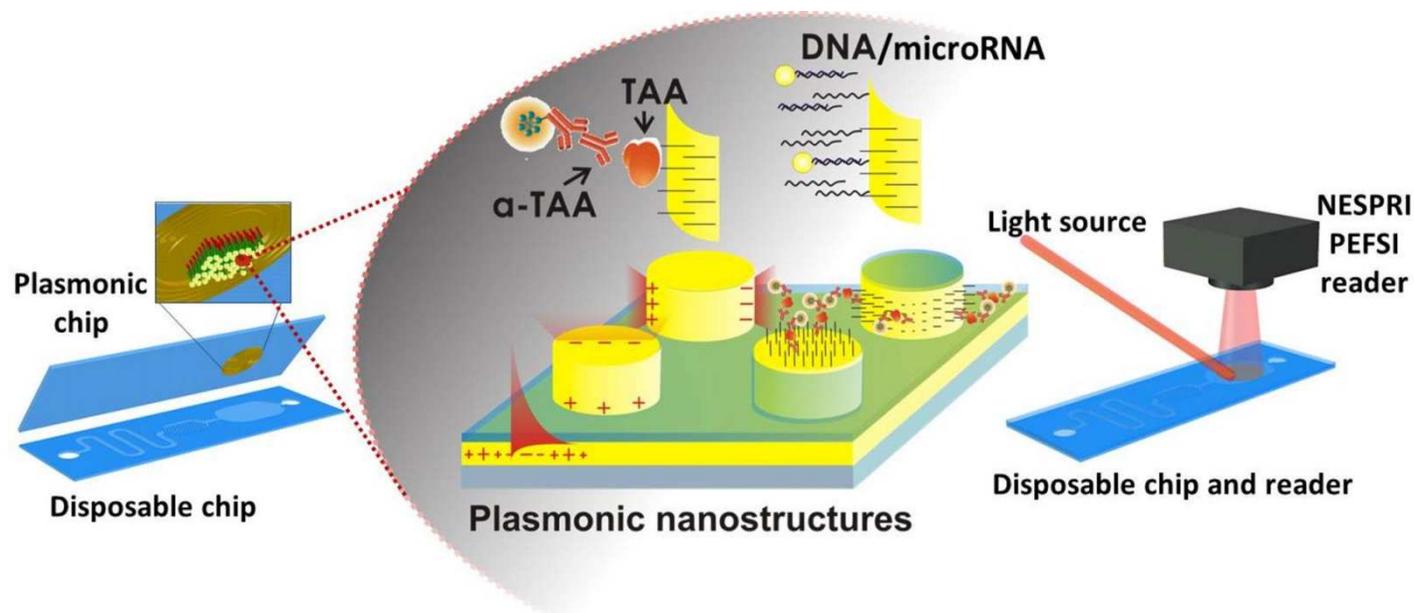
ULTRAPLACAD



ULTRAPLACAD

# *ULTRAsensitive PLAsmonic devices for early CAncer Diagnosis*

Novel in vitro diagnostic system for minimally invasive colorectal cancer early diagnosis, prognosis, patient follow-up and therapy efficacy assessment.



**NESPRI:** Nanoparticle-enhanced surface plasmon resonance imaging: DNA and microRNAs

**PEFSI:** Plasmon-enhanced fluorescence spectroscopy imaging : α-TAAs

THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

HORIZON 2020

The logo for Horizon 2020 features a central globe of the Earth, which is partially obscured by a horizon line. The globe is set against a blue background with a gradient from dark blue at the top to light blue at the bottom. The text 'HORIZON 2020' is written in white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image. The word 'HORIZON' is on the left, '2020' is on the right, and the globe is positioned between the 'O' and 'N' of 'HORIZON'. The globe is surrounded by a bright, glowing aura that radiates outwards, creating a sense of depth and focus. The overall design is clean and modern, with a strong emphasis on the blue color scheme.

**Good luck!!!!**