

# Programmable DNA-based electrochemical sensors for molecular diagnostics



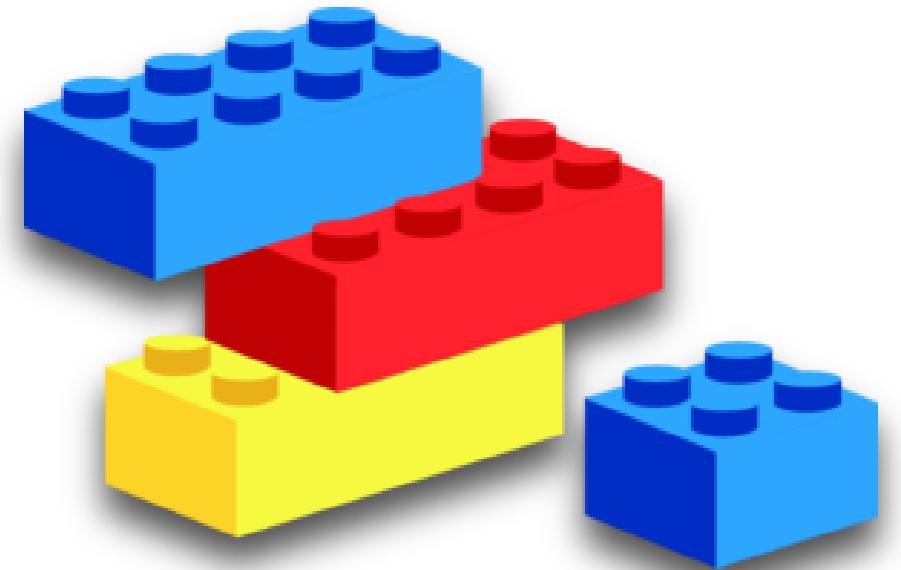
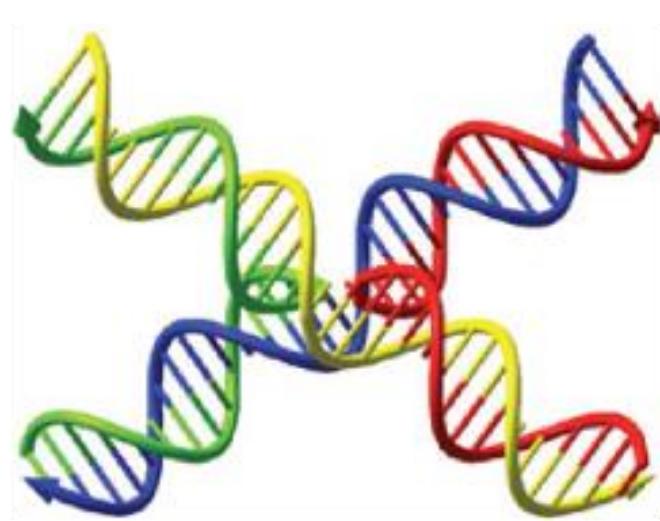
17-11-2022



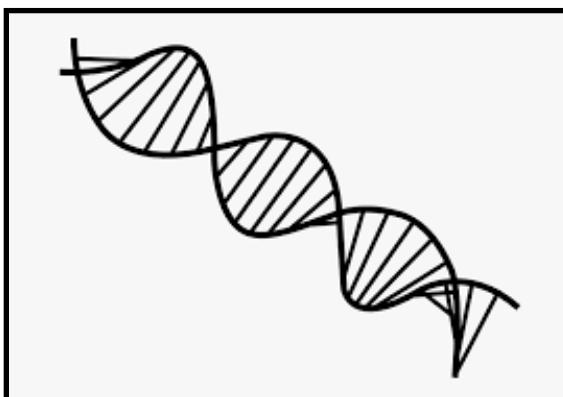
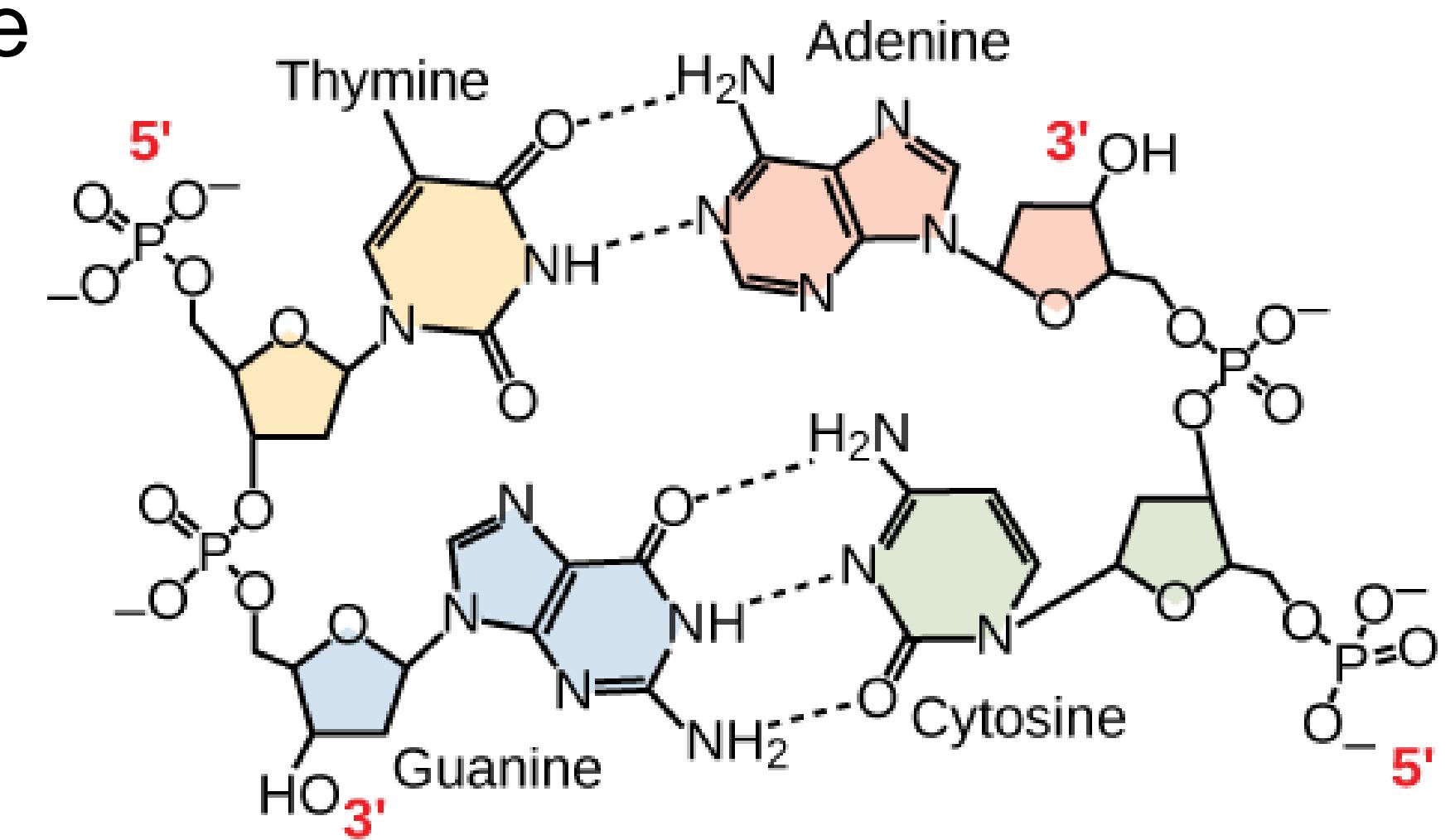
UNIVERSITÀ  
DI PARMA

Alessandro Bertucci

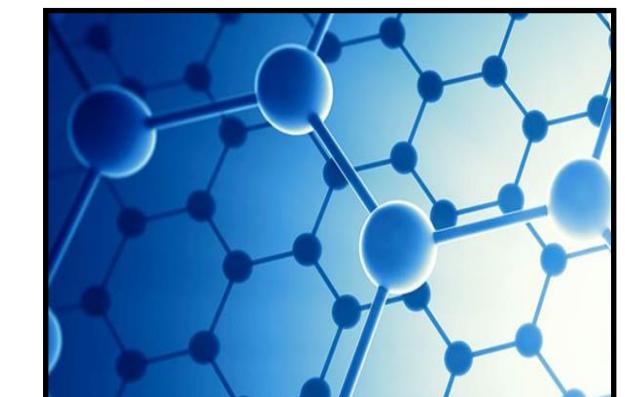
# DNA nanotechnology uses DNA as an engineering material

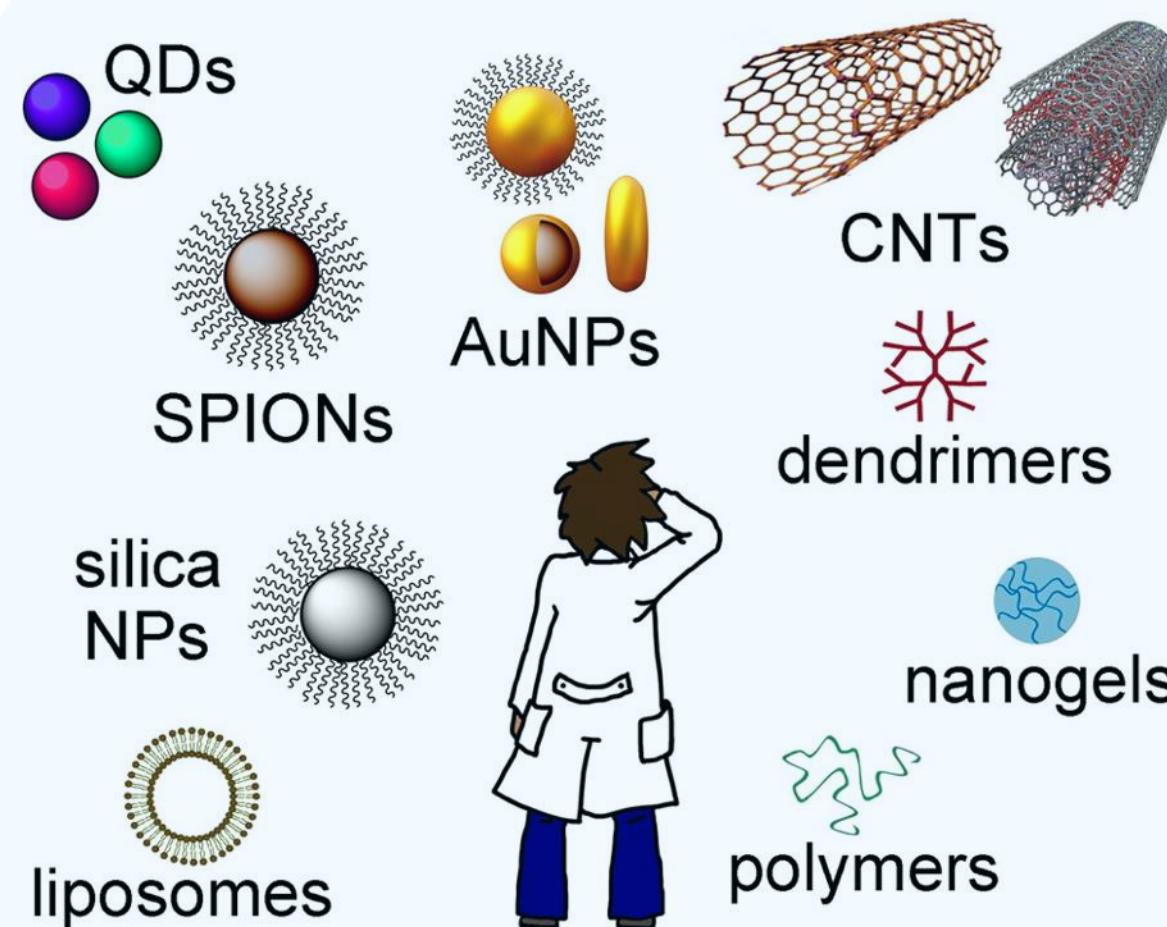


Programmable and controllable  
Nanodevices  
Nanomachines  
Dynamic structures  
Origami



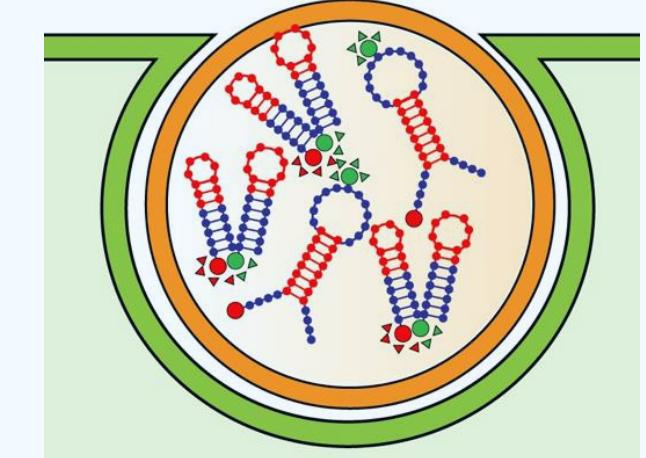
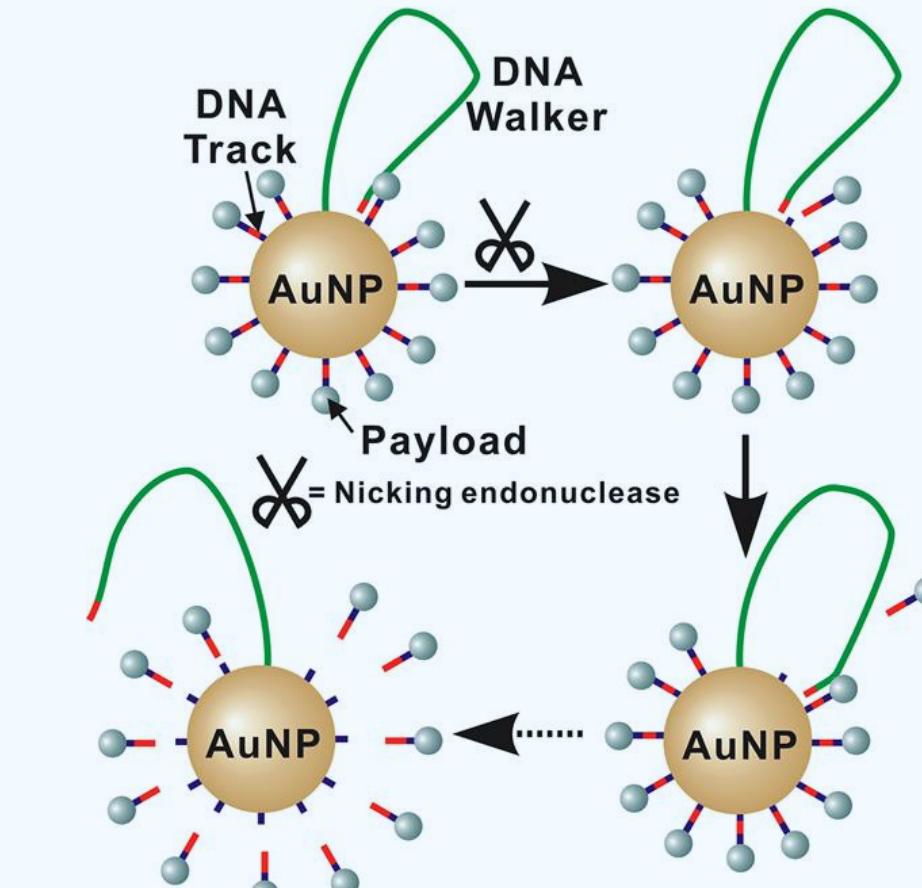
DNA nanotechnologies can be combined with materials





# Nanoparticles as delivery and materials platforms

## Nanomedicine



# Biointerfaces for sensor design

Synthetic receptors

Molecular processor layers

Dynamic probes/transducers

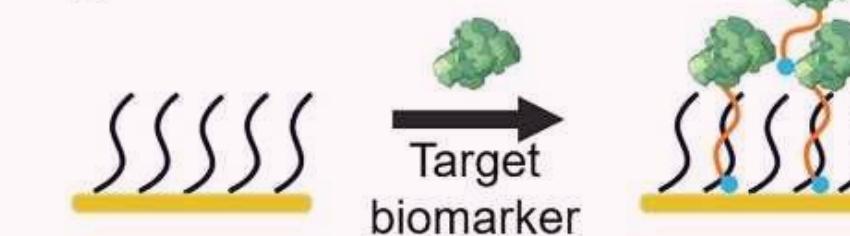
### (A) Recognition probes

#### (i) Hybridization

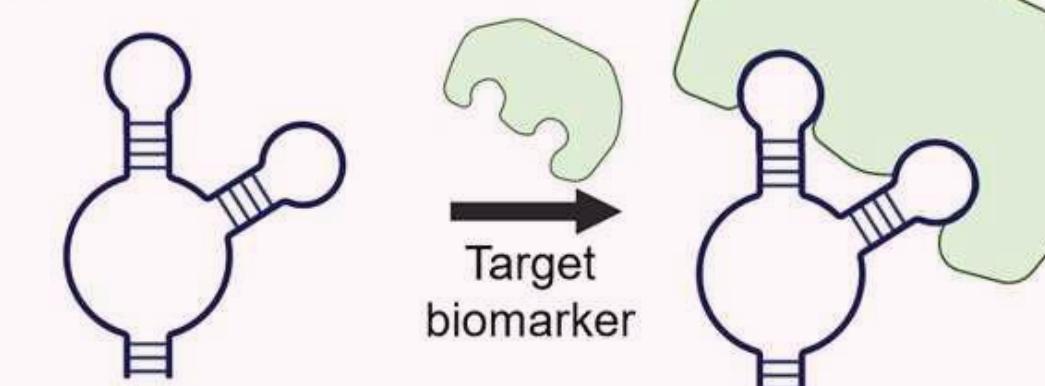


### (B) Reporting probes

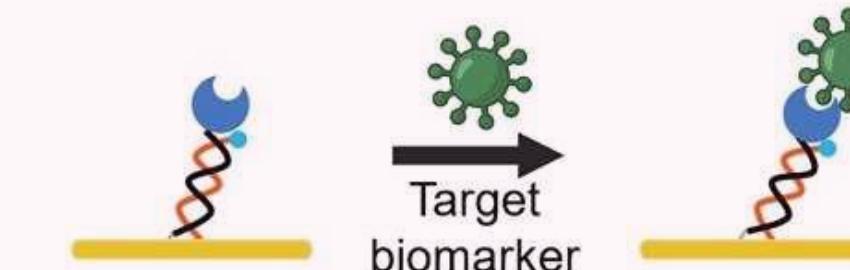
#### (i) Steric hindrance



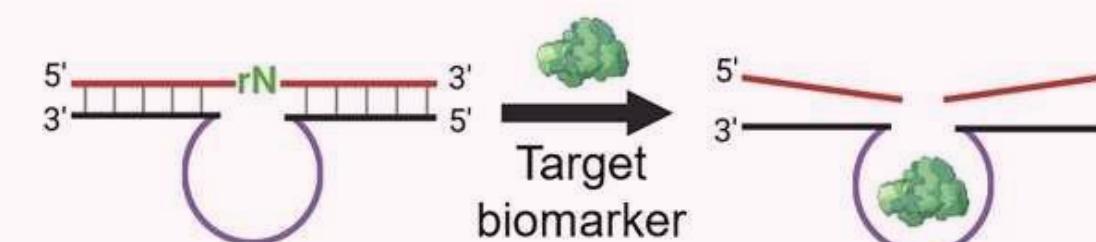
#### (ii) Aptamer



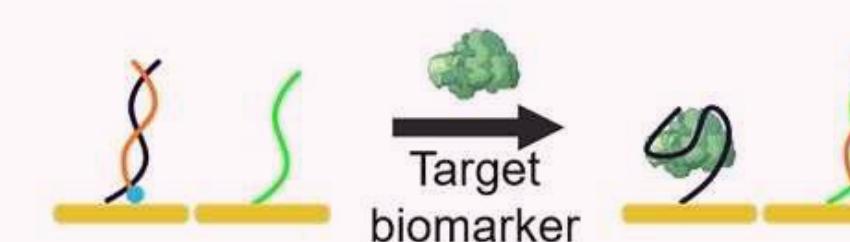
#### (ii) DNA dynamic



#### (iii) DNAzyme



#### (iii) Barcode transfer

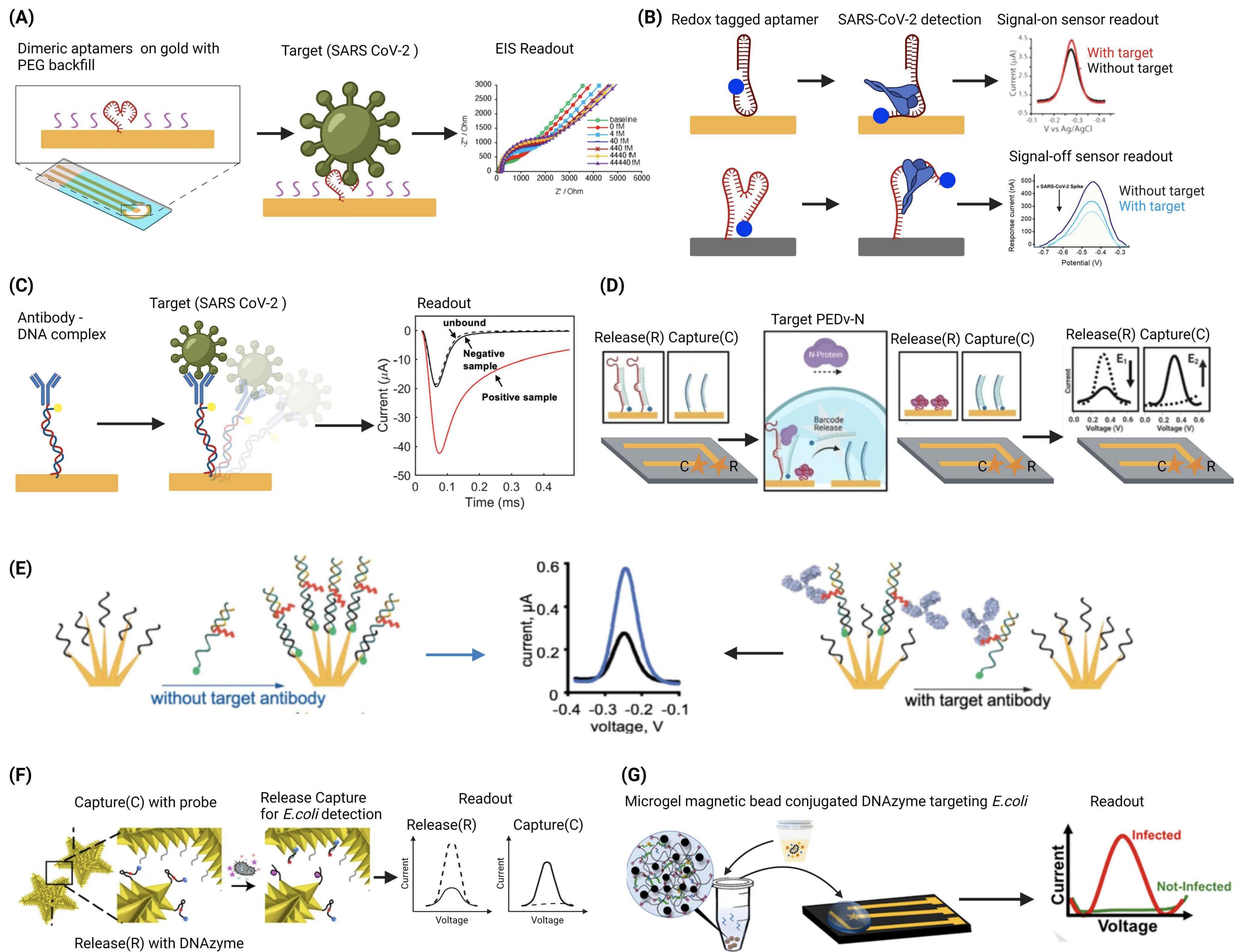


Fortunati, Bertucci, Anal Sens 2022

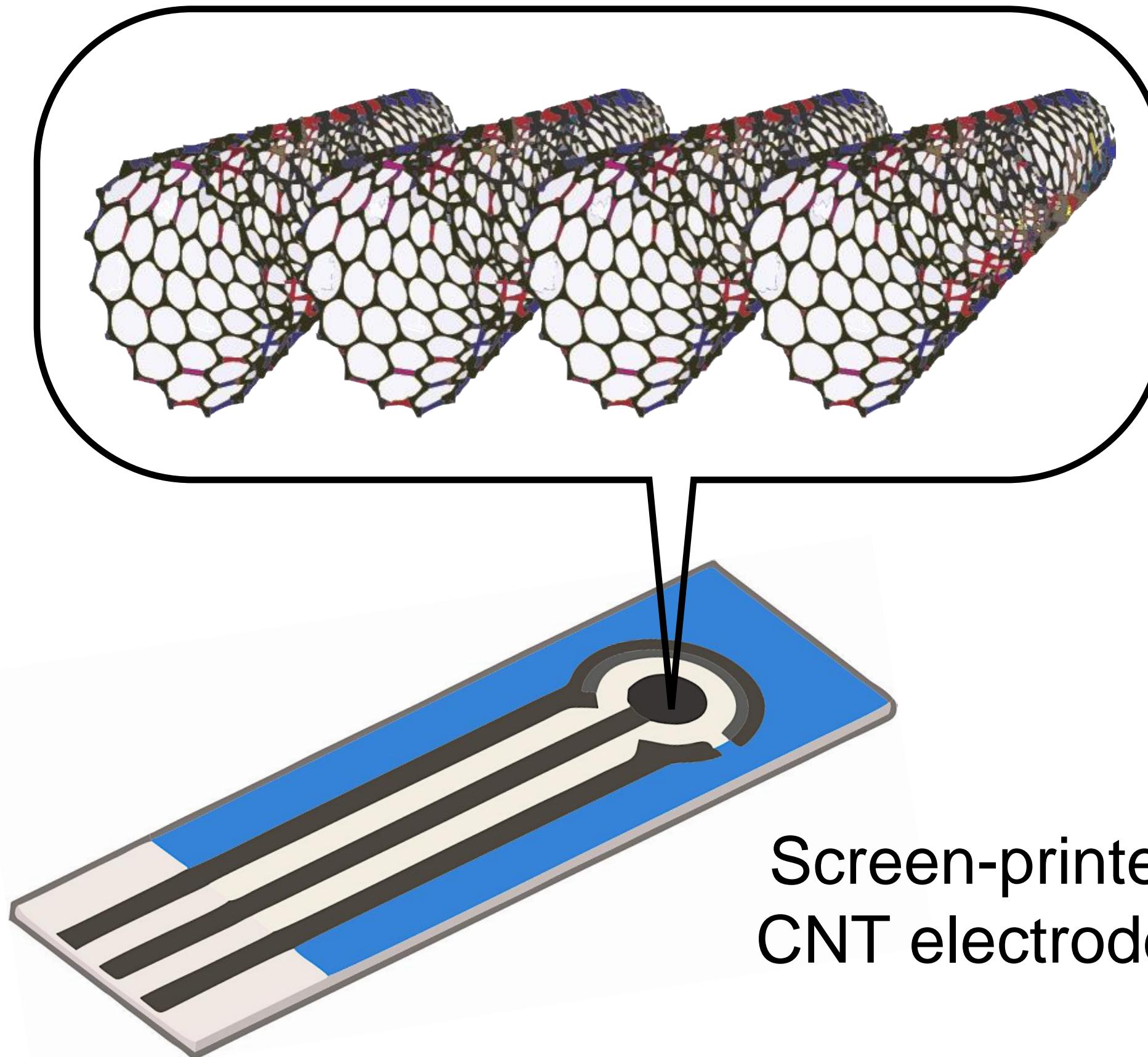
Chao, Fan, Biosensors Bioelectron 2016

Xe, Fan, Annu Rev Anal Chem 2018

Wang, Zu, Chem Soc Rev 2019

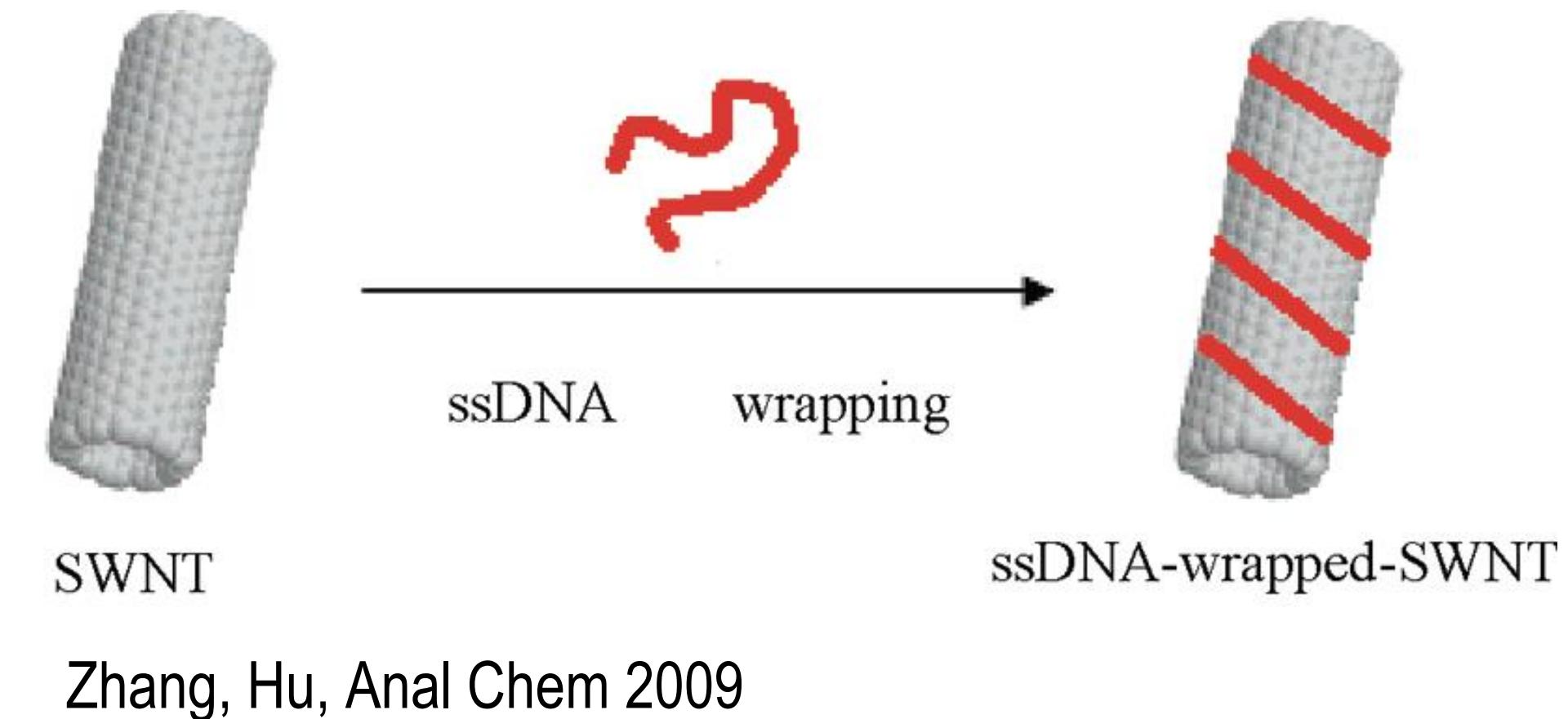


# Carbon nanotube (CNT) electrodes are desirable electrochemical platforms



- ✓ Cheaper than gold
- ✓ Highly conductive
- ✓ Large surface area

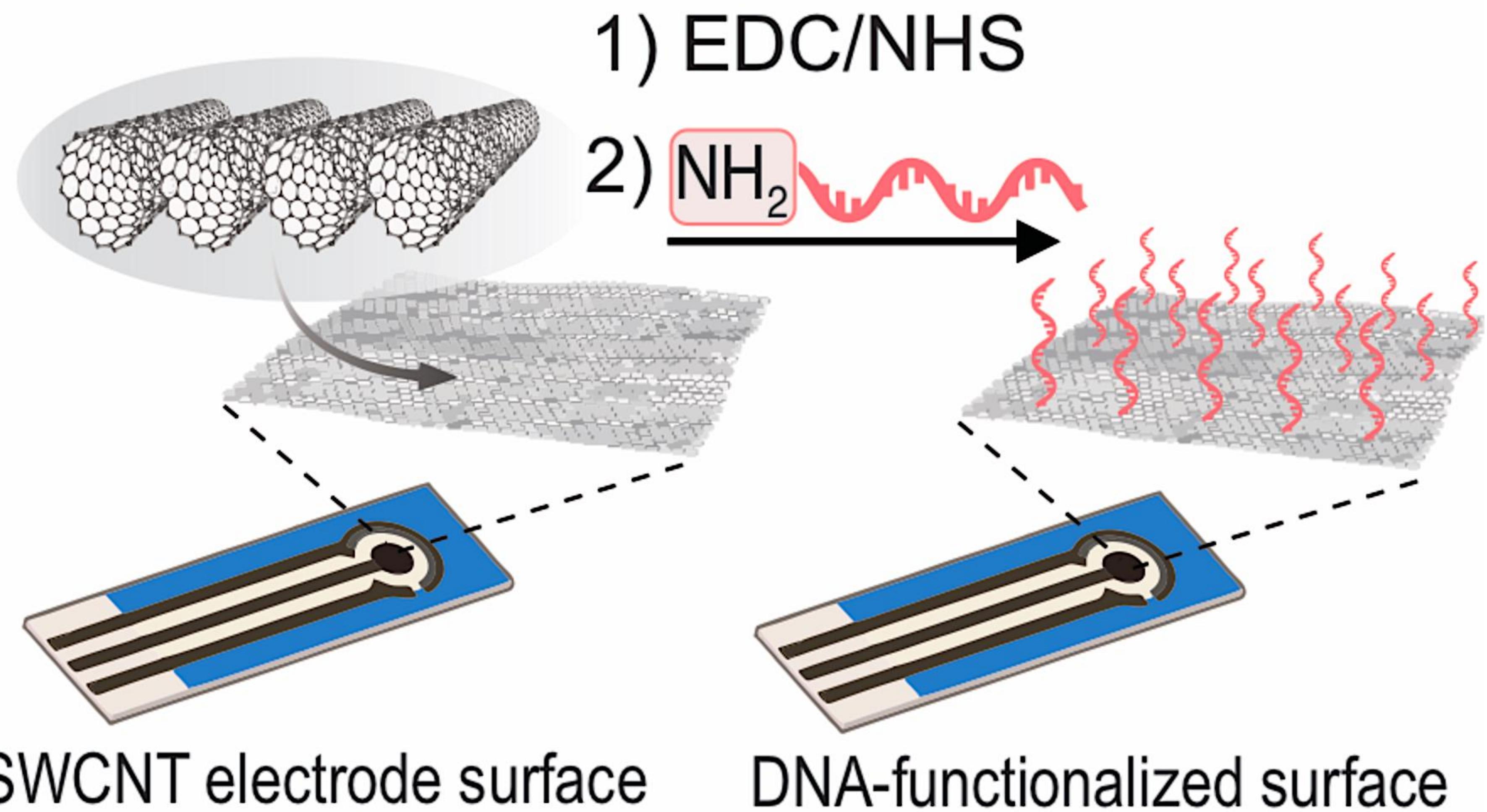
✗ Nonspecific DNA physisorption due to strong  $\pi$ - $\pi$



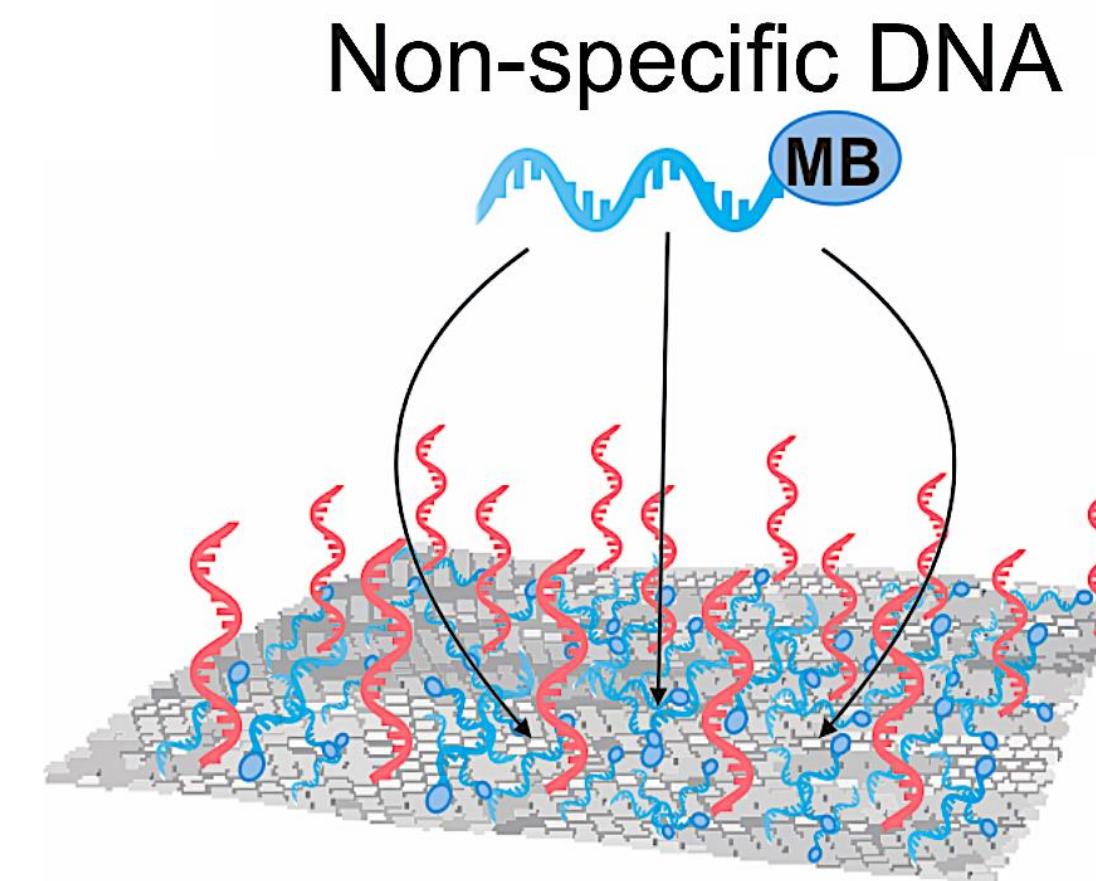
Zhang, Hu, Anal Chem 2009

Programming and controlling dynamic and specific DNA-based interactions at the surface of single-walled carbon nanotubes electrodes can be challenging

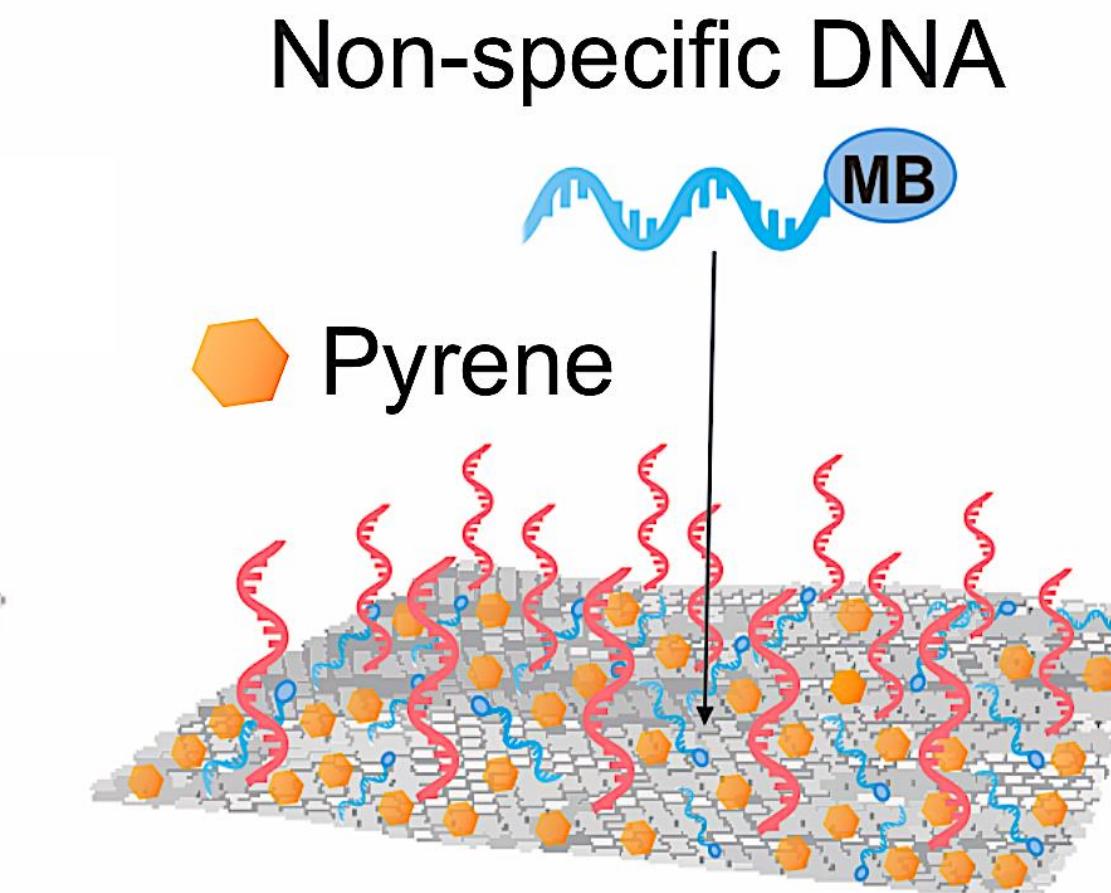
DNA probes can be efficiently attached to the CNT surface via covalent coupling



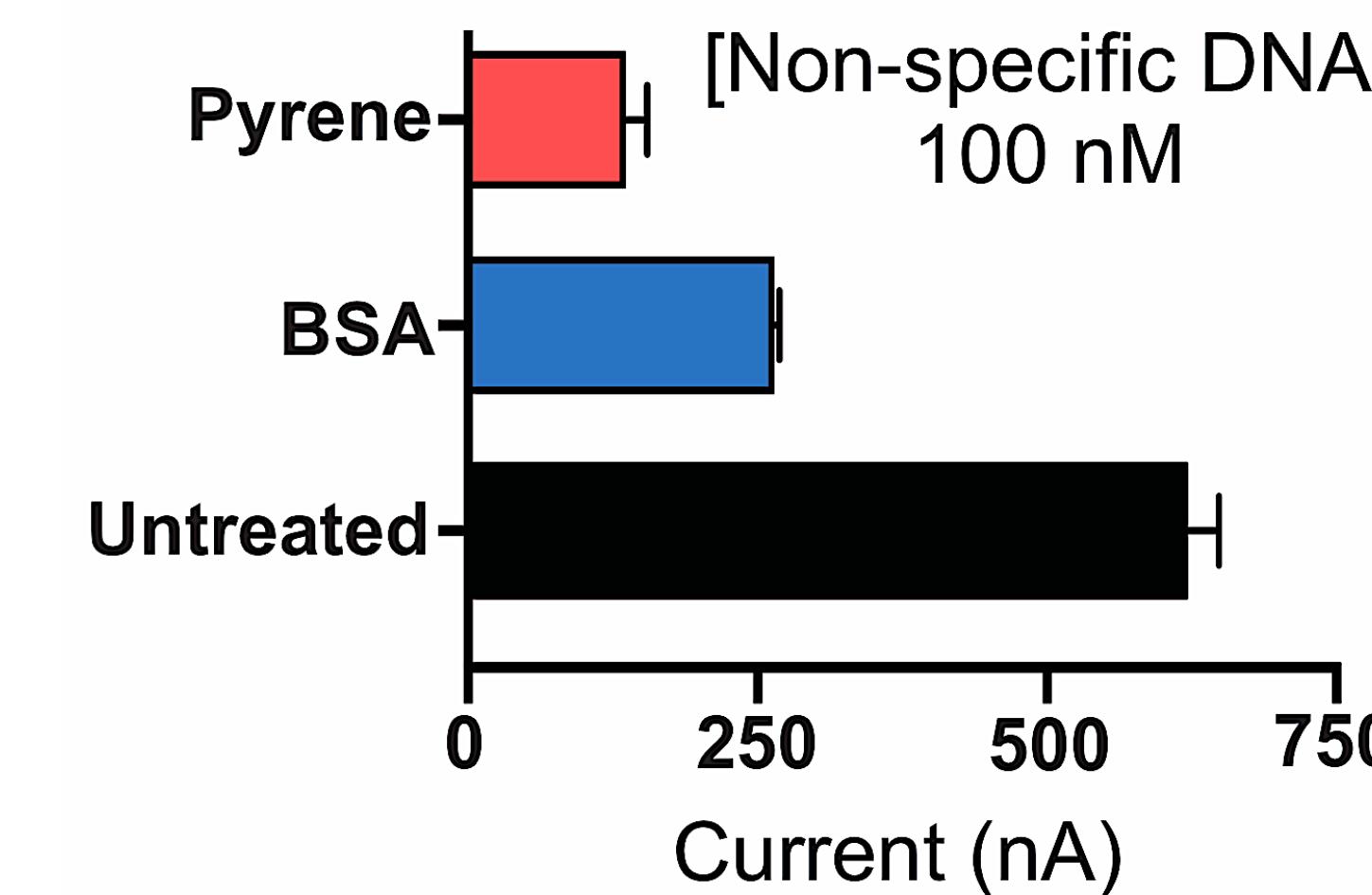
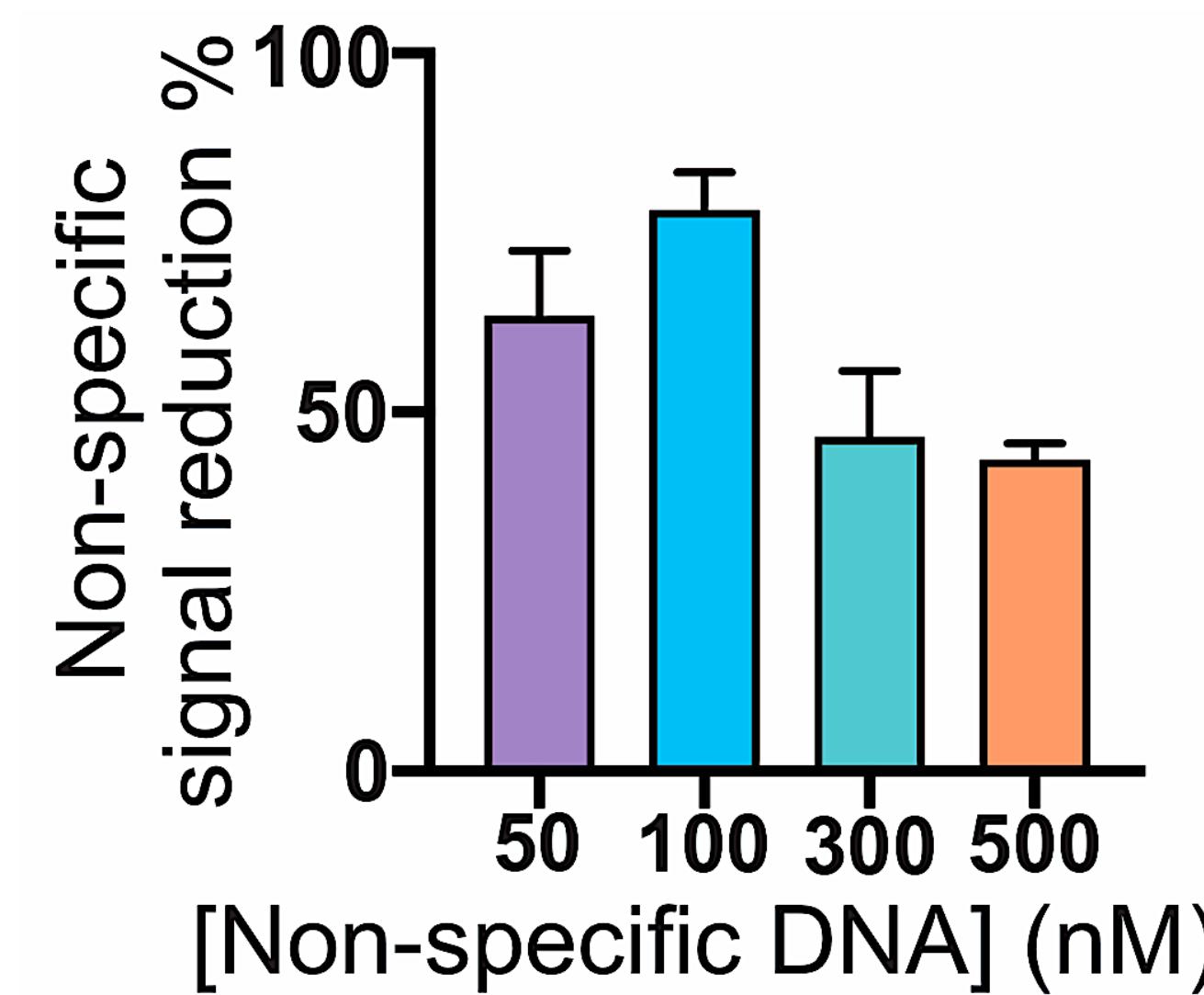
# Nonspecific adsorption is greatly reduced when using pyrene as a backfilling agent



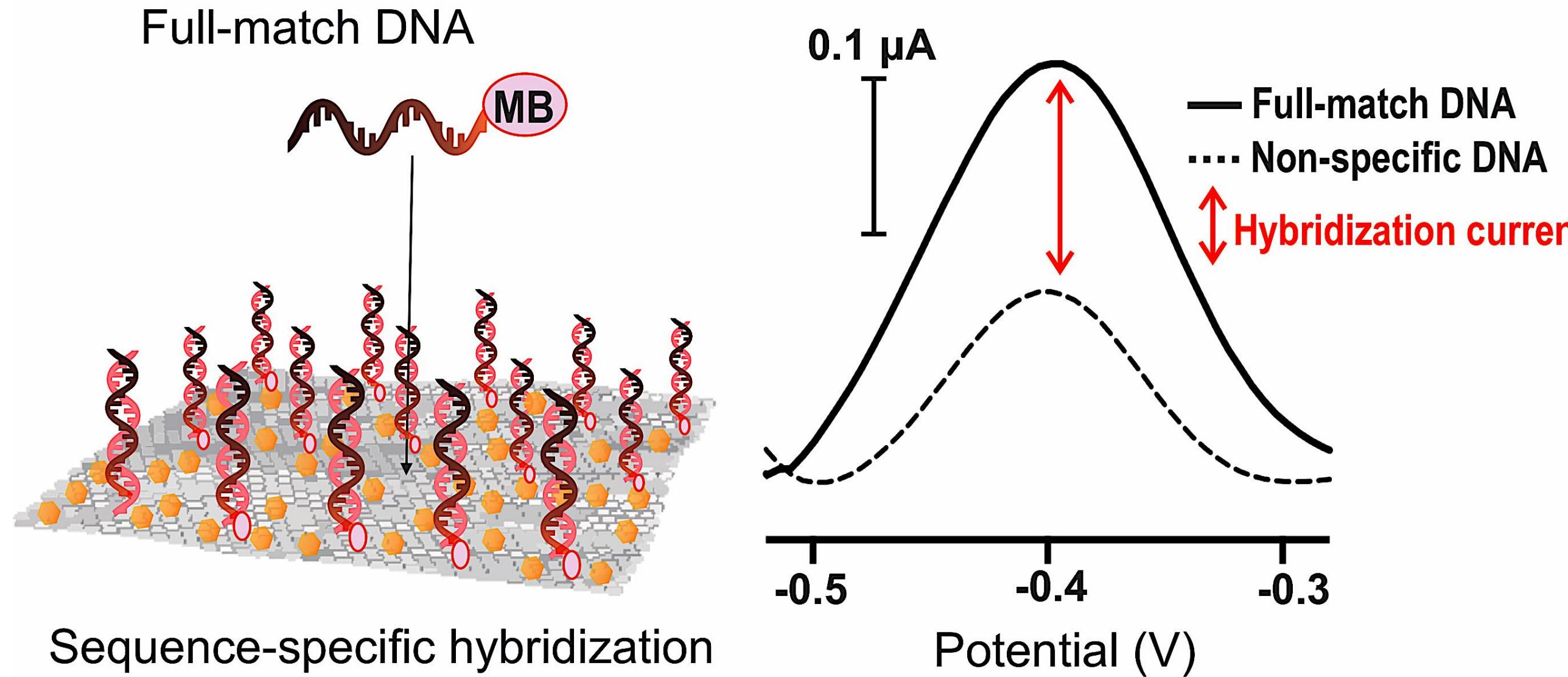
High non-specific  
DNA adsorption



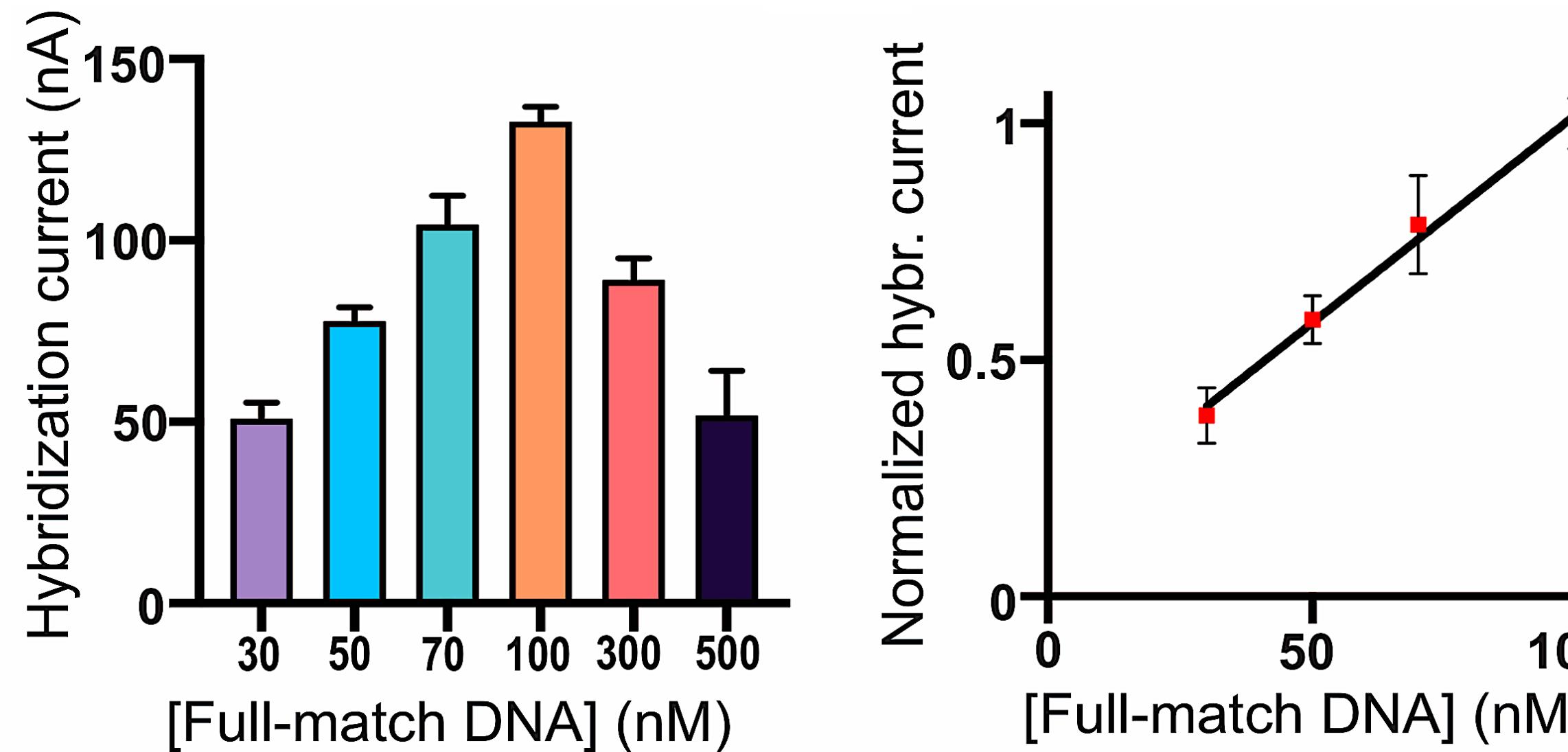
Low non-specific  
DNA adsorption



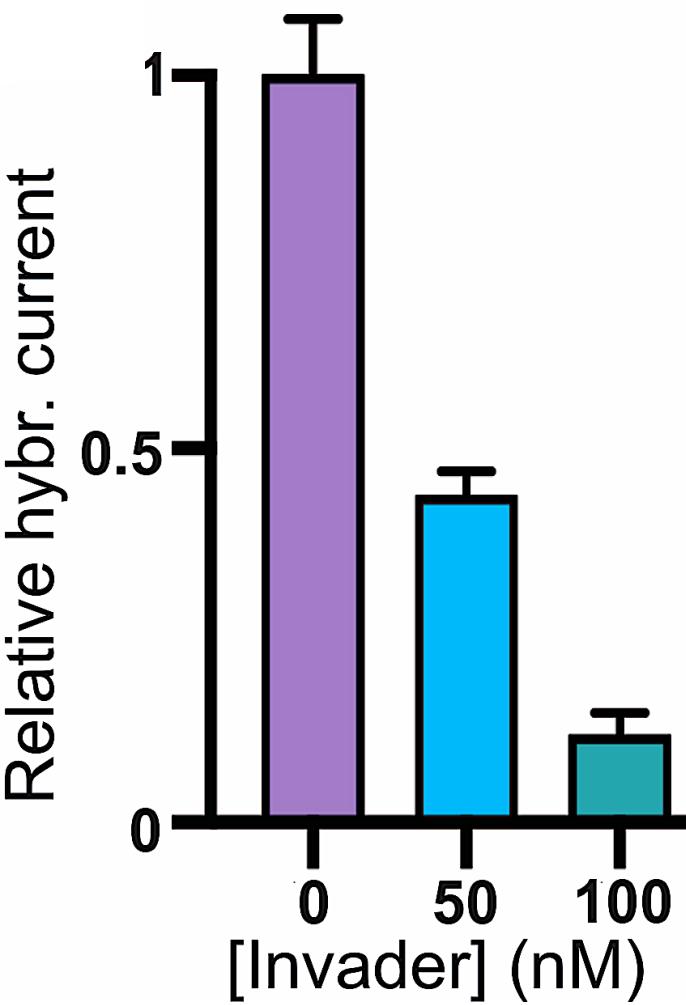
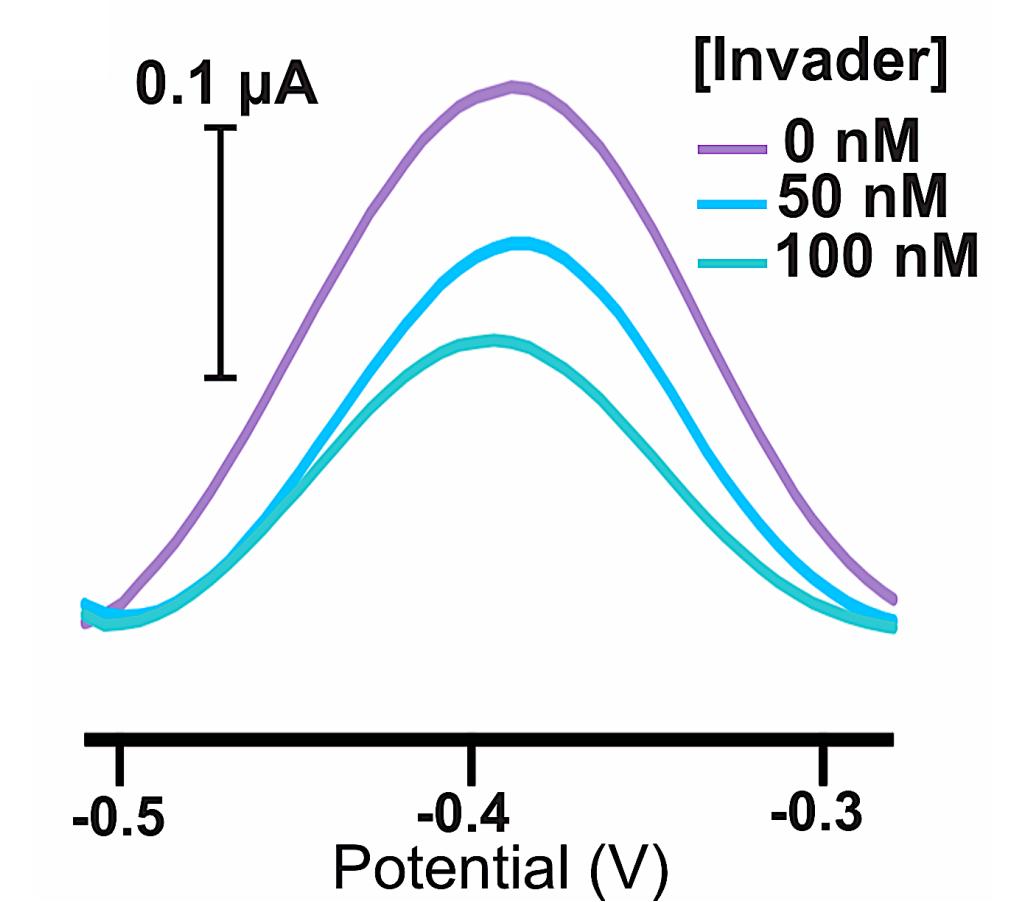
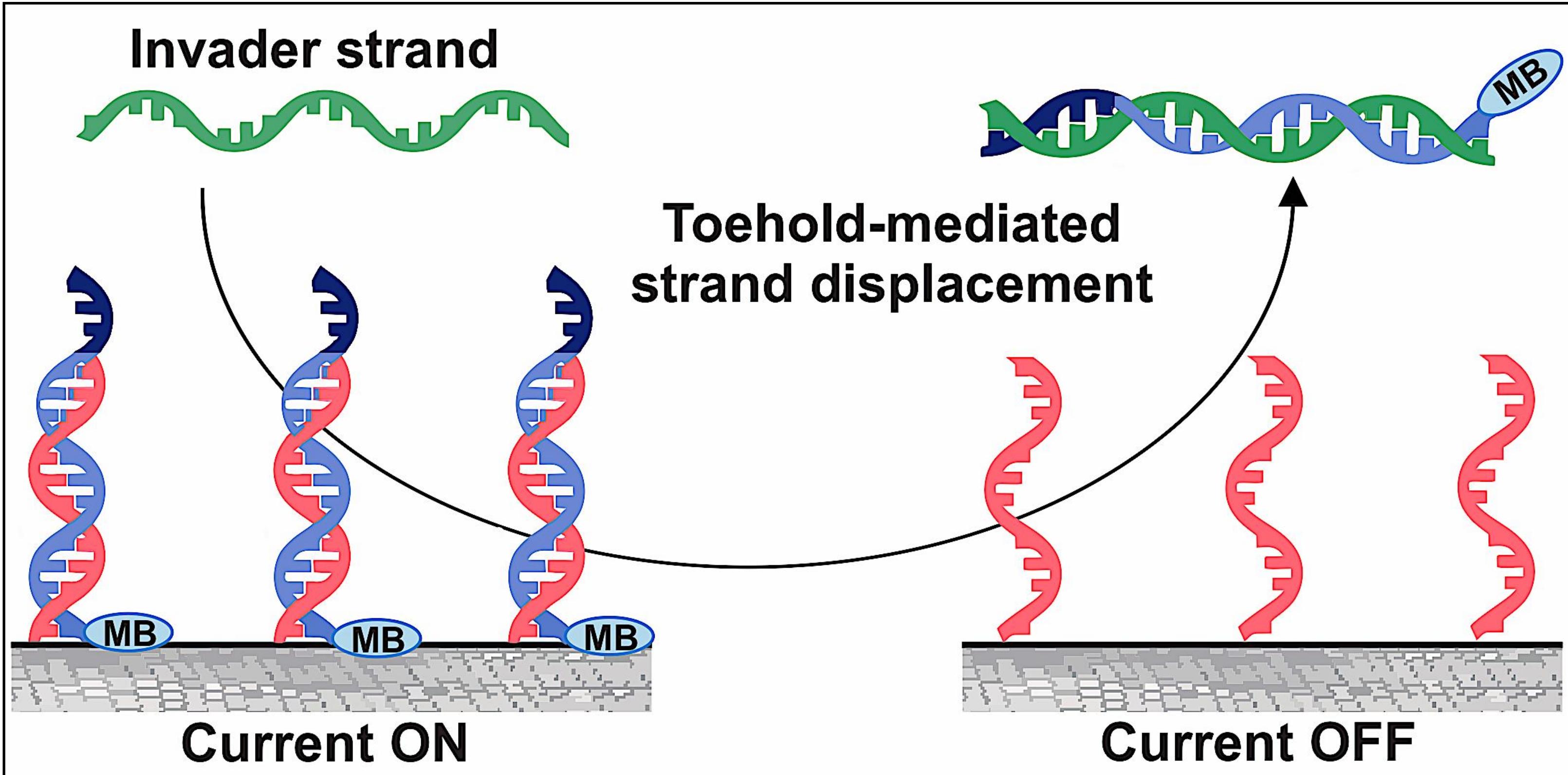
# DNA duplexes can be formed in a controlled way on the CNT surface



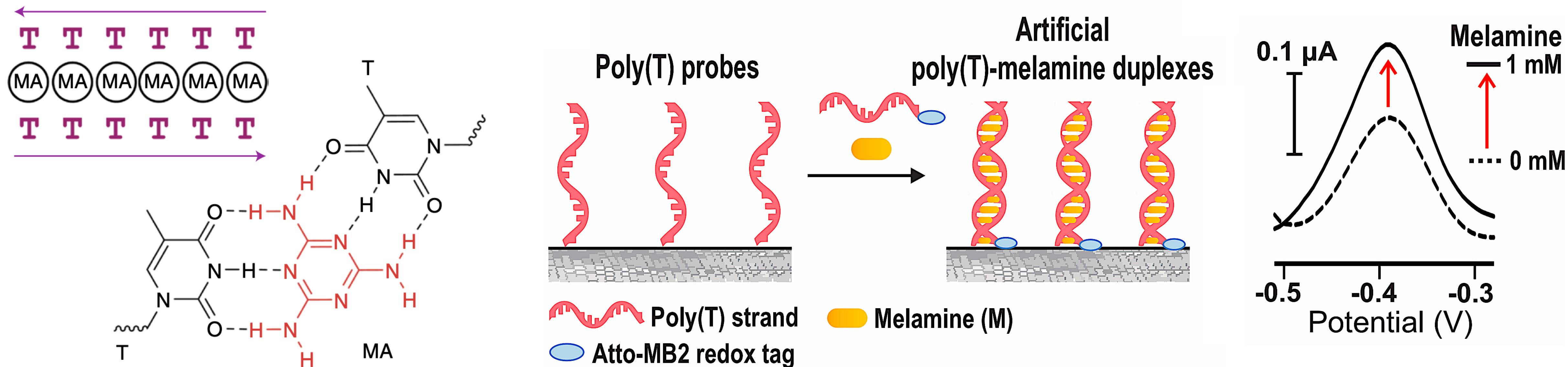
**“Hybridization current”** is introduced as a measure of specific DNA hybridization



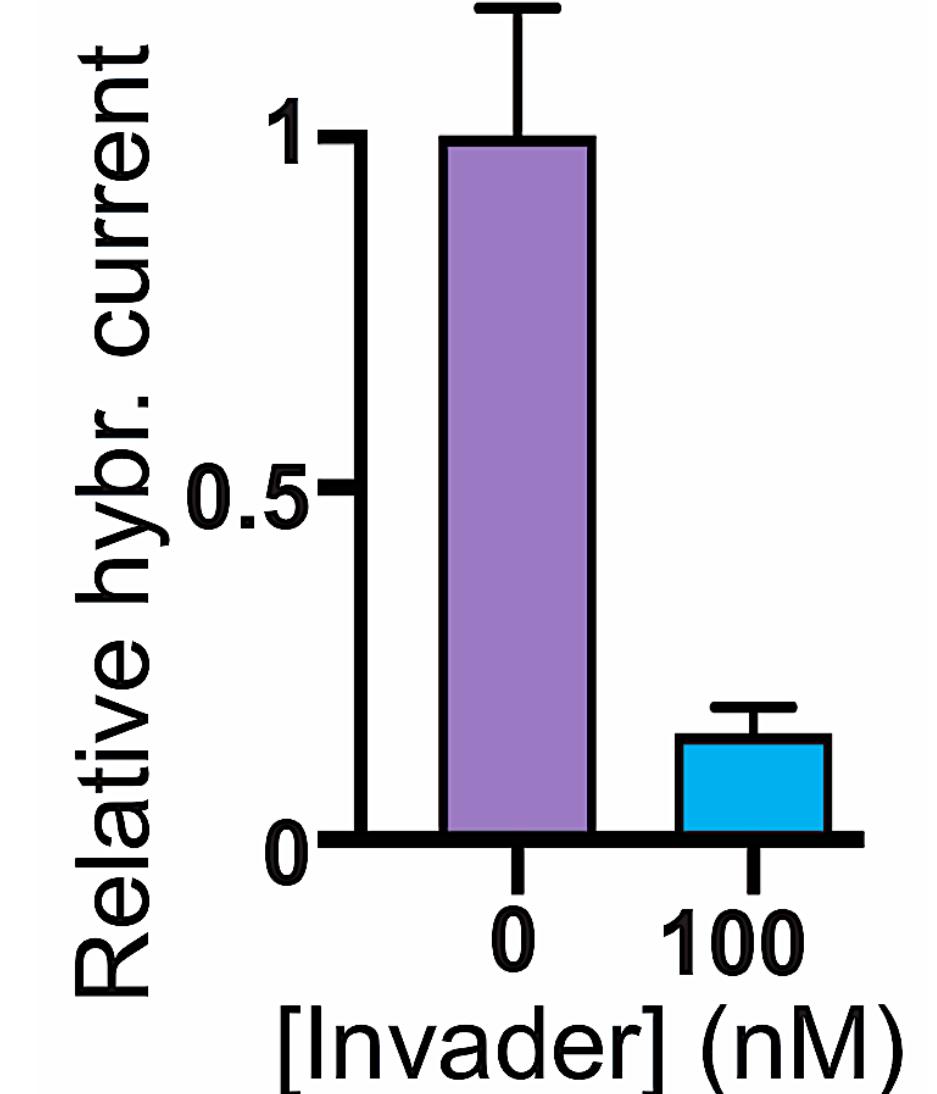
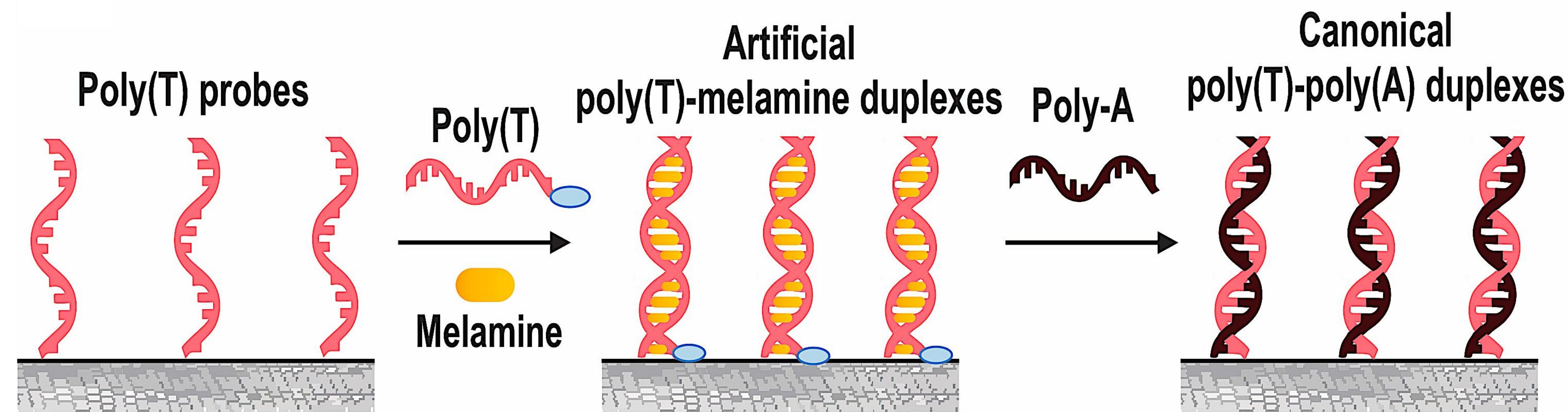
Toehold-mediated strand displacement reactions can be carried out at the electrode surface

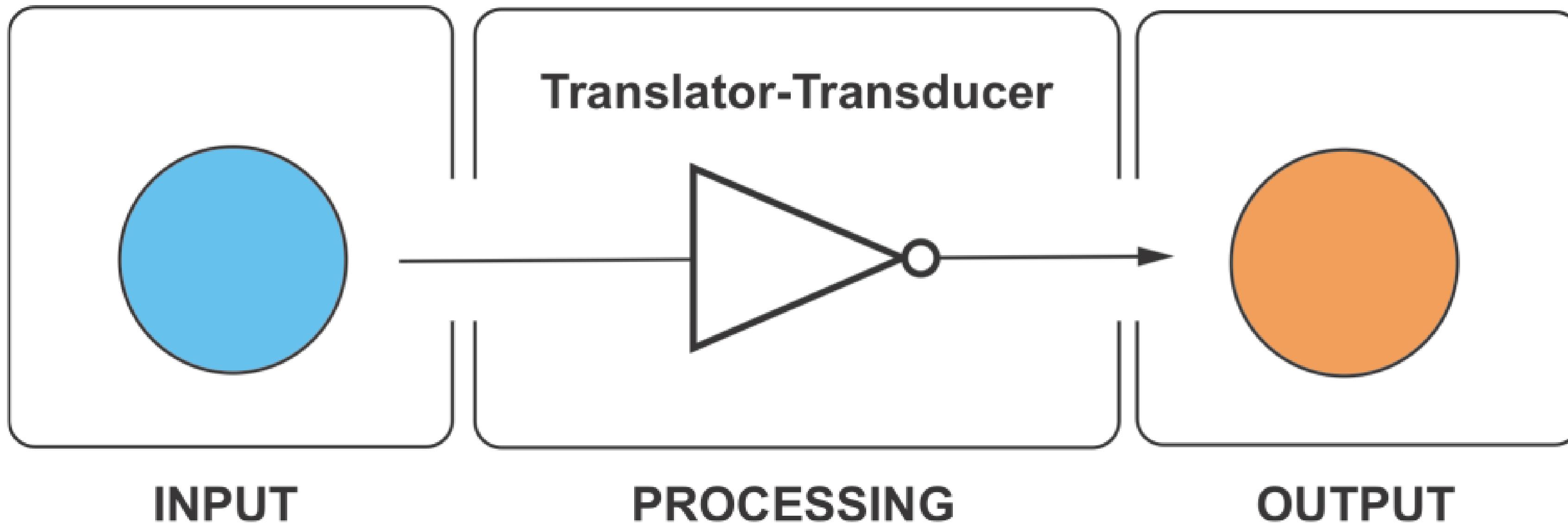


# Artificial poly(T)-melamine duplexes enable toehold-free DNA strand displacement



Li, Sleiman, Mao, Nat. Mater 2020



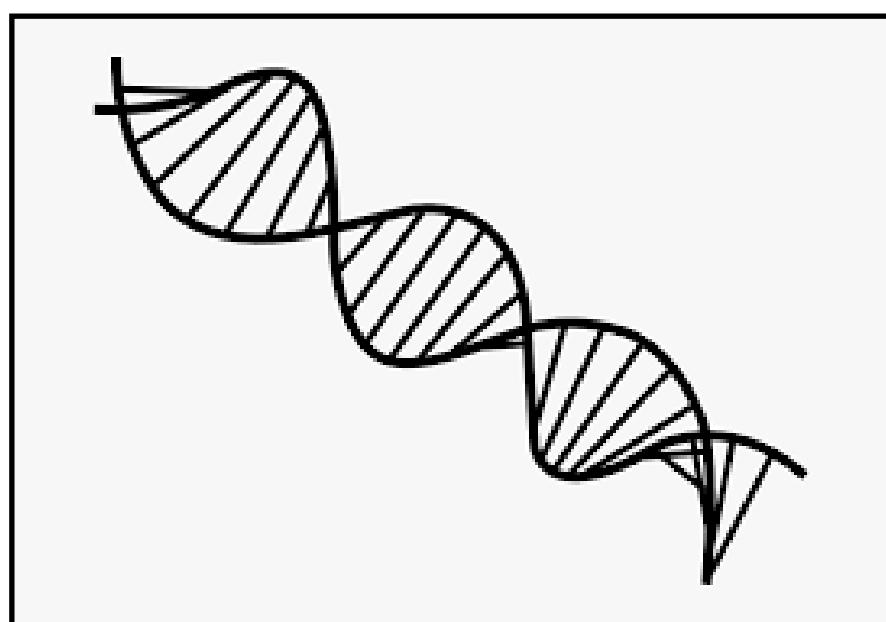


INPUT

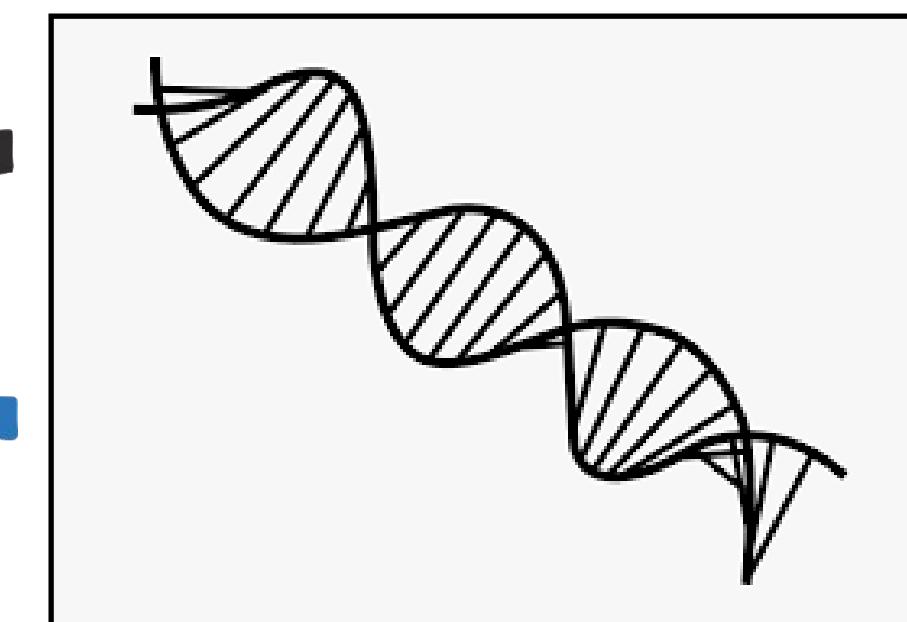
PROCESSING

OUTPUT

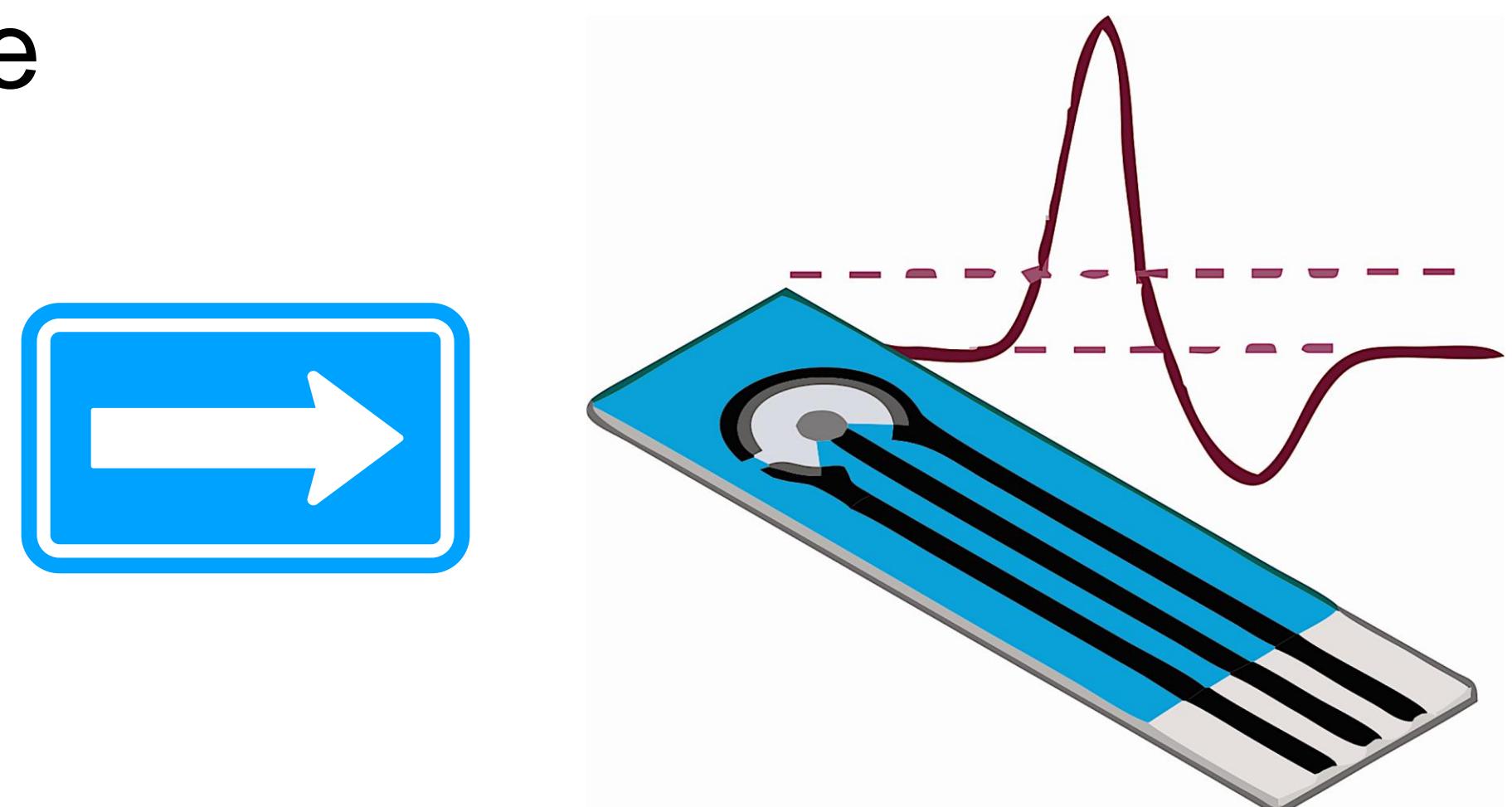
Nucleic acid input



Nucleic acid probe

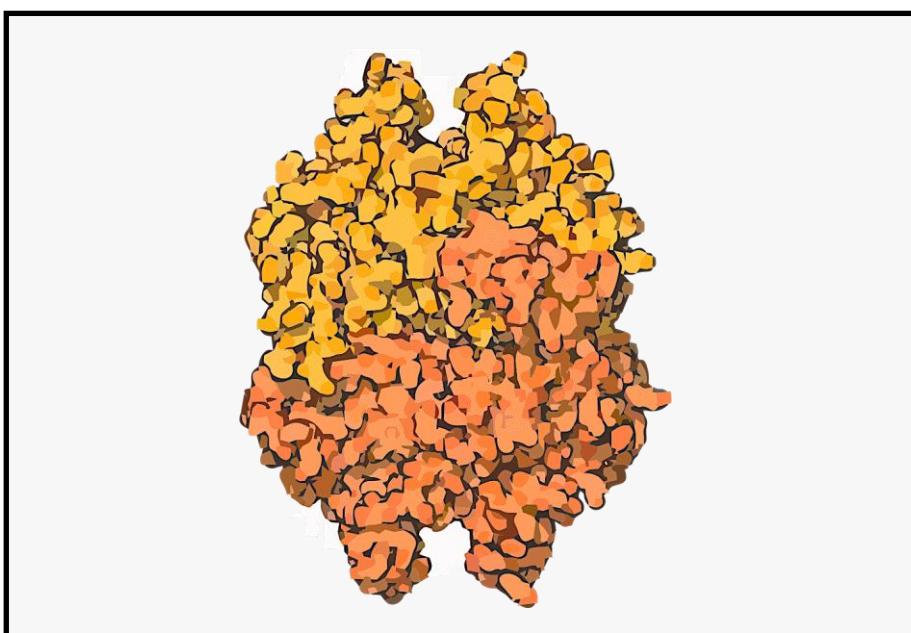


Electrochemical output

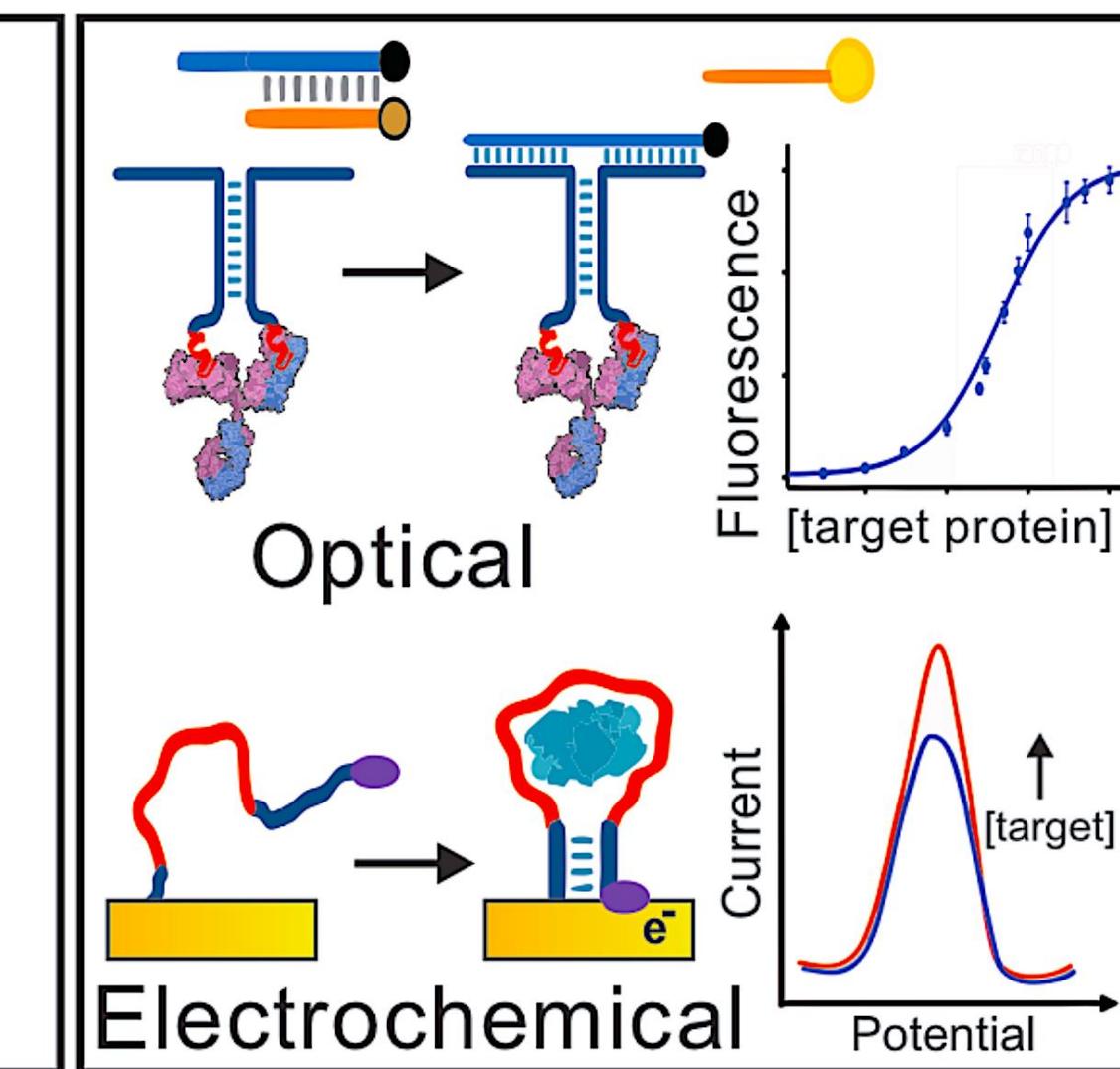
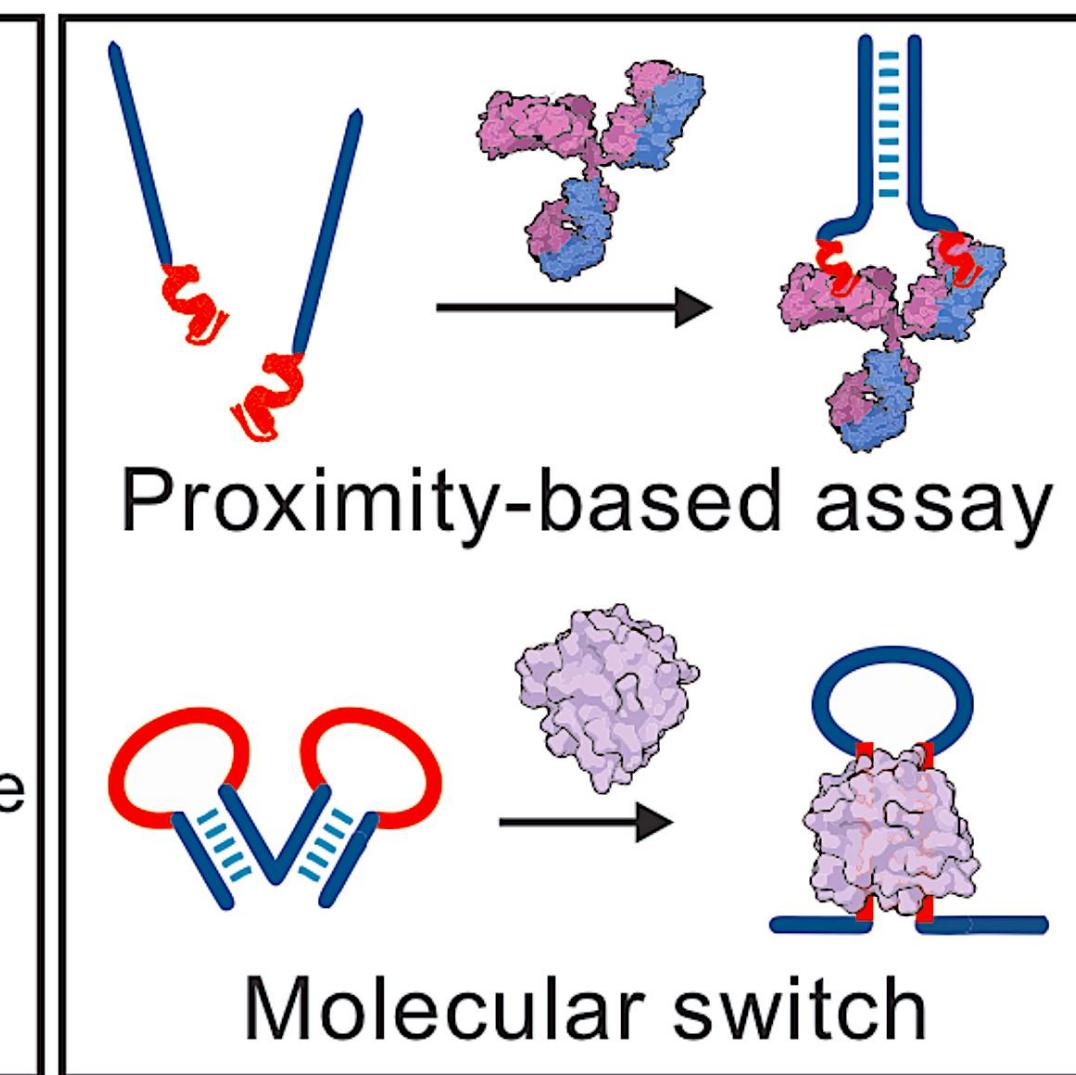
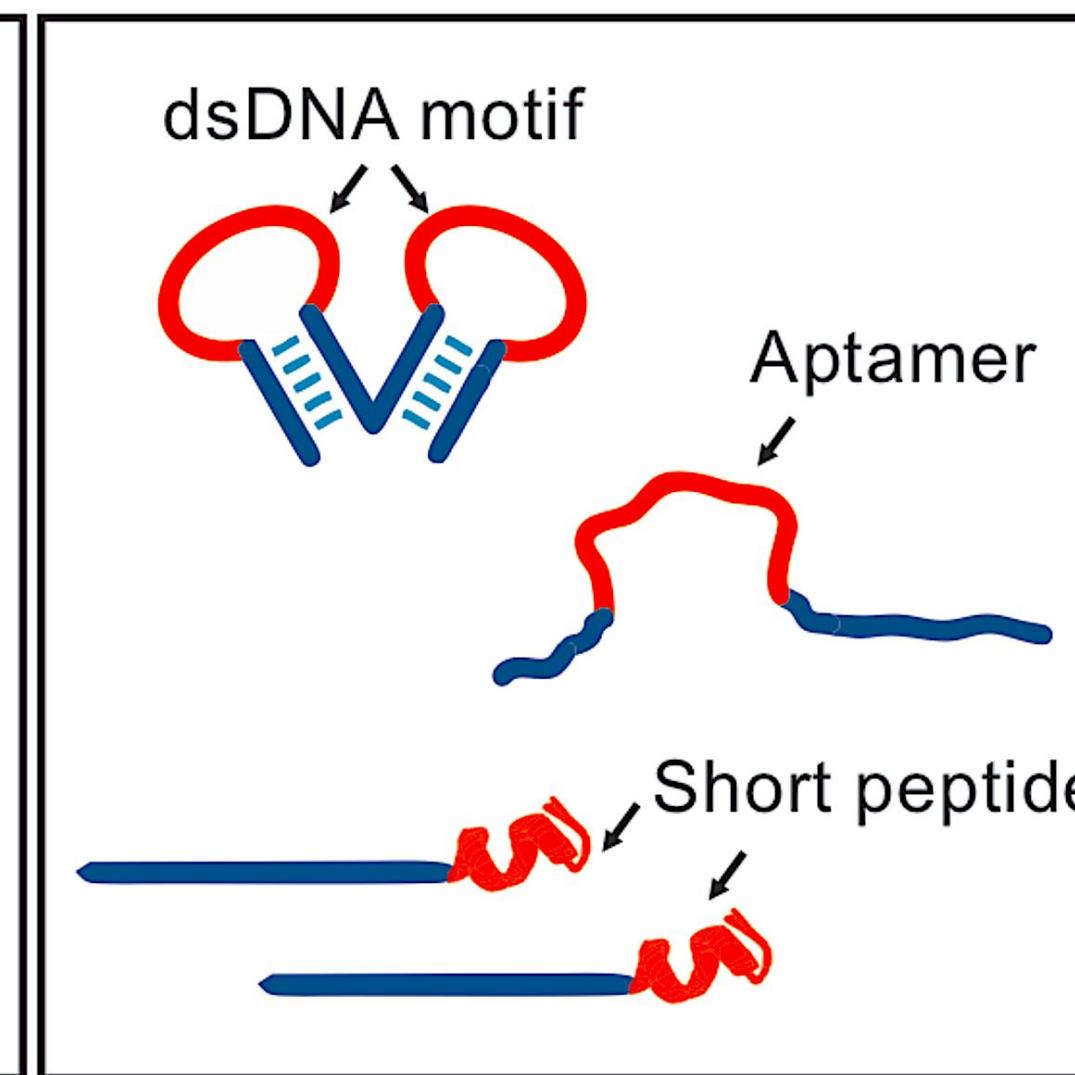
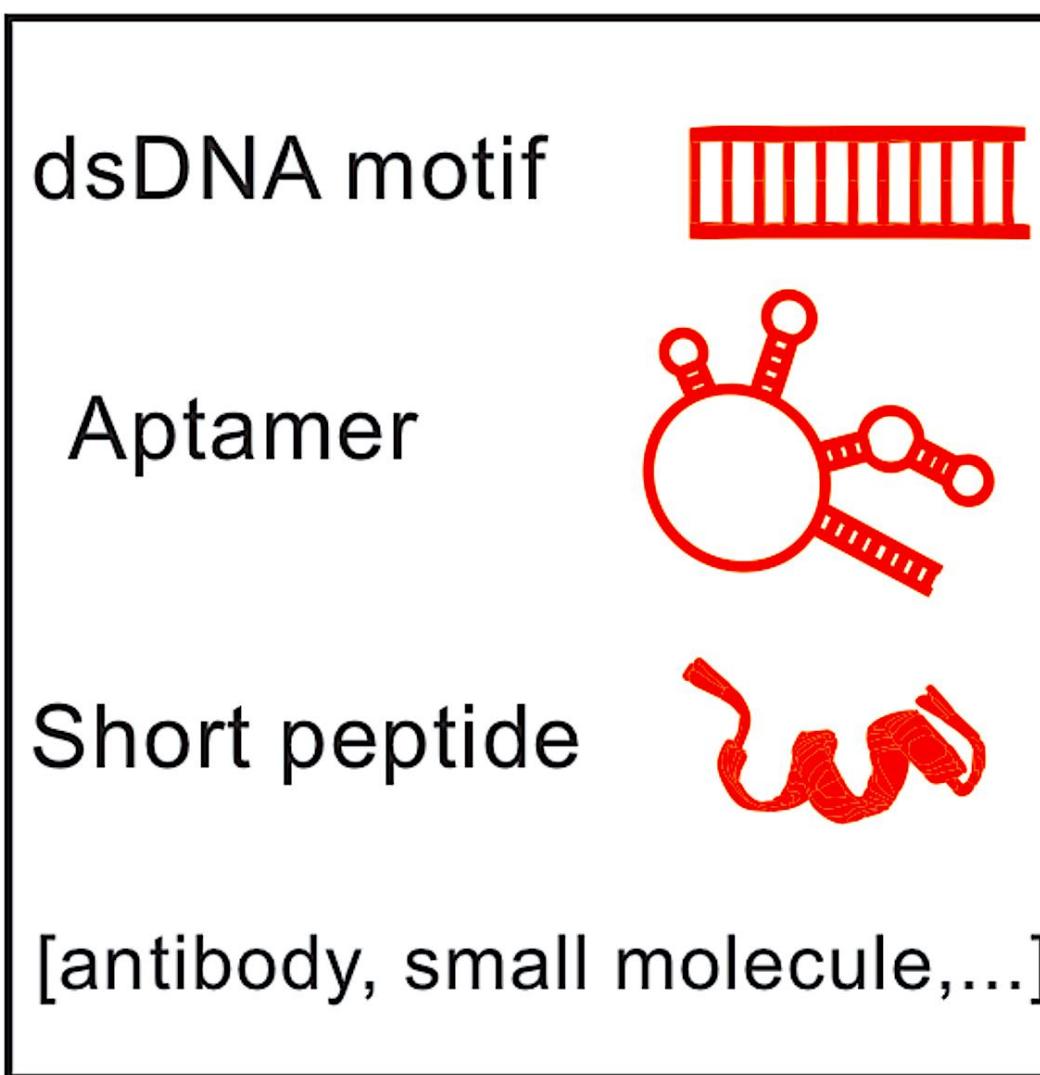
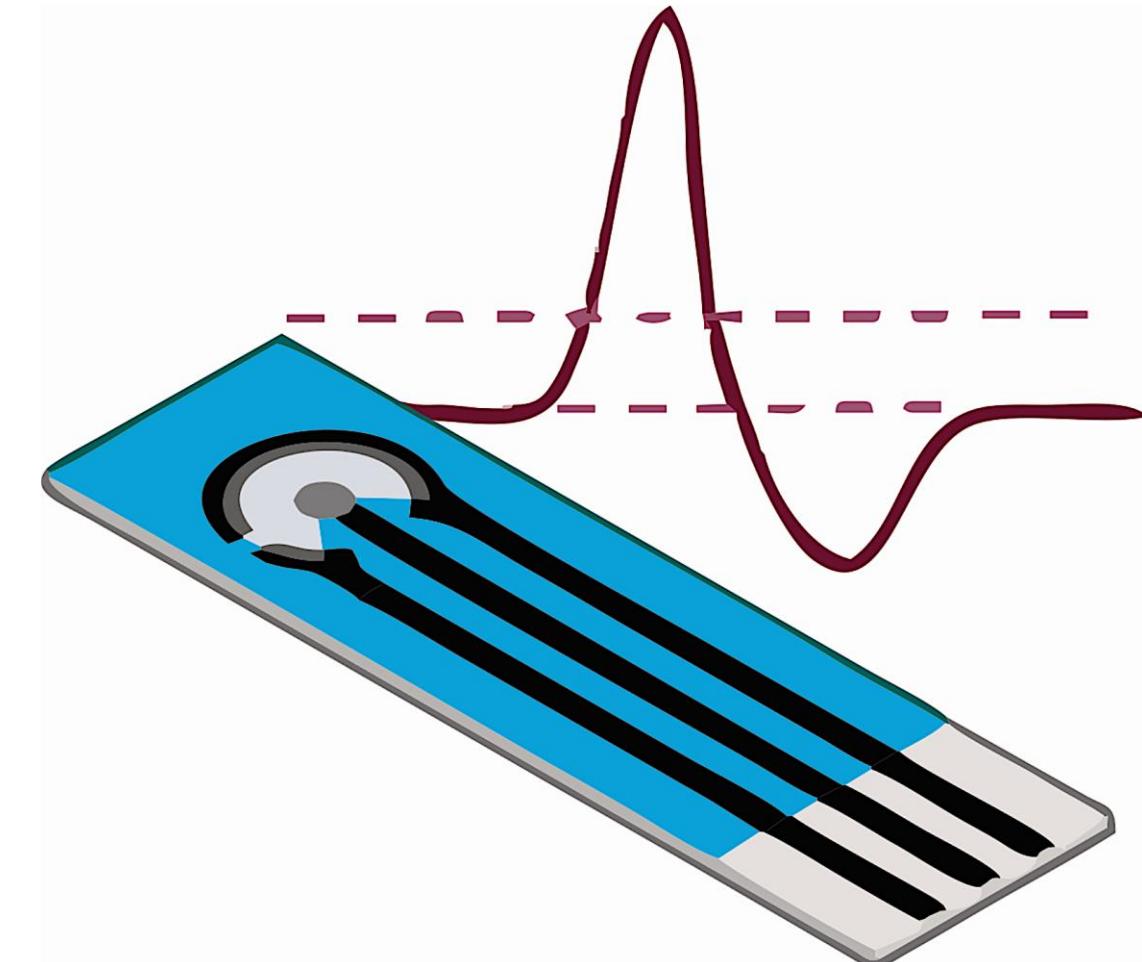
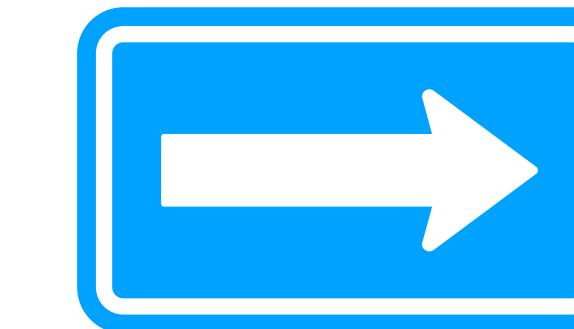
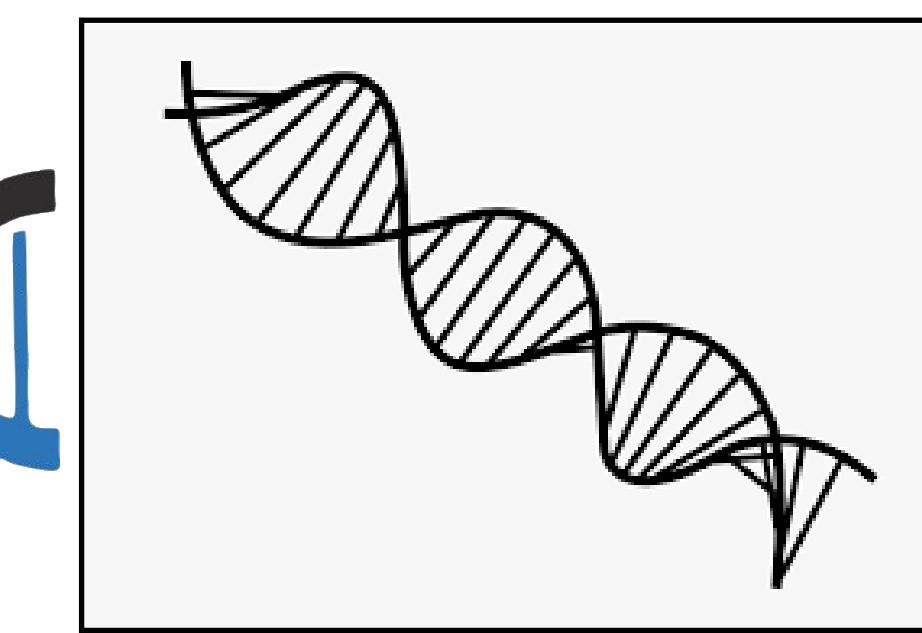


# Electrochemical output

## Protein input



## Nucleic acid probe



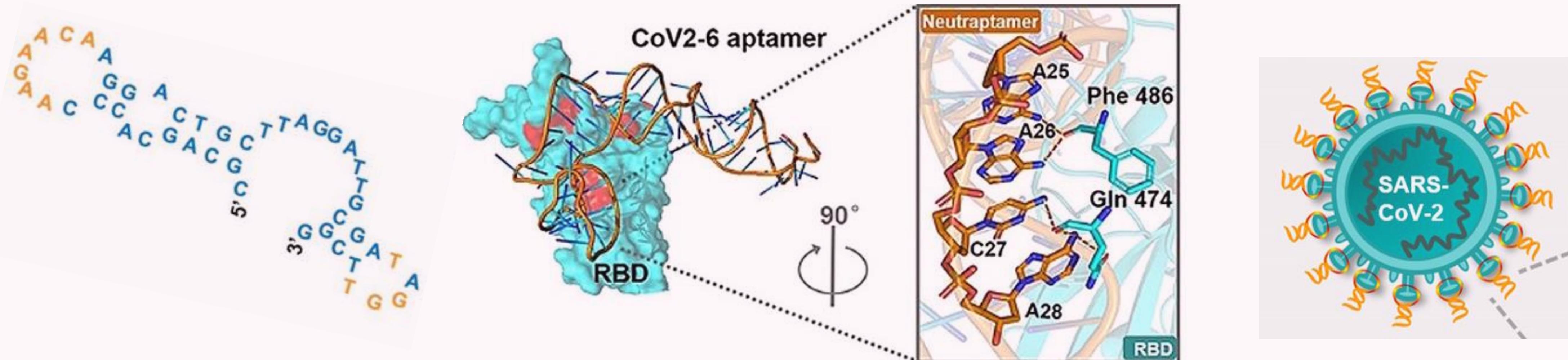
1 - Select a specific recognition element

2 - Design functional protein-interacting nucleic acid probes

3 - Engineer and optimize a binding-induced molecular mechanism

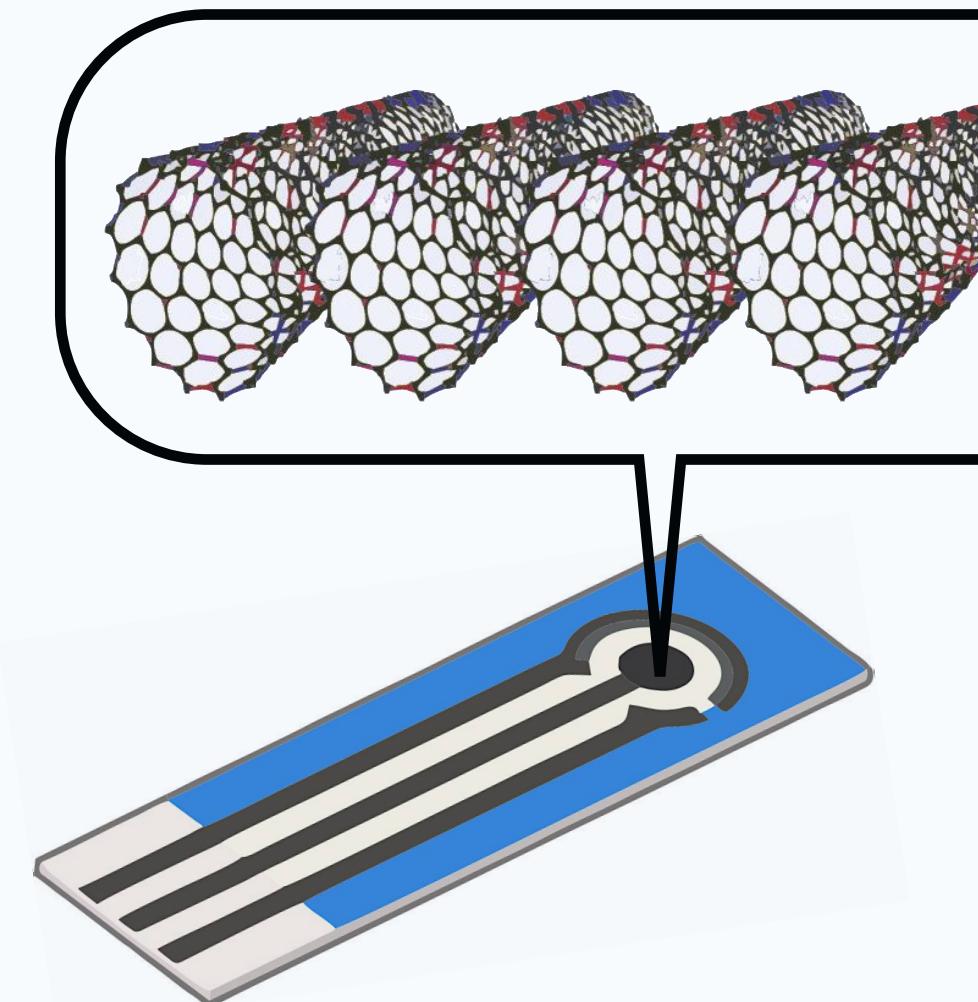
4 - Generate a measurable output

# A DNA aptamer as a dynamic electrochemical probe for the Spike protein

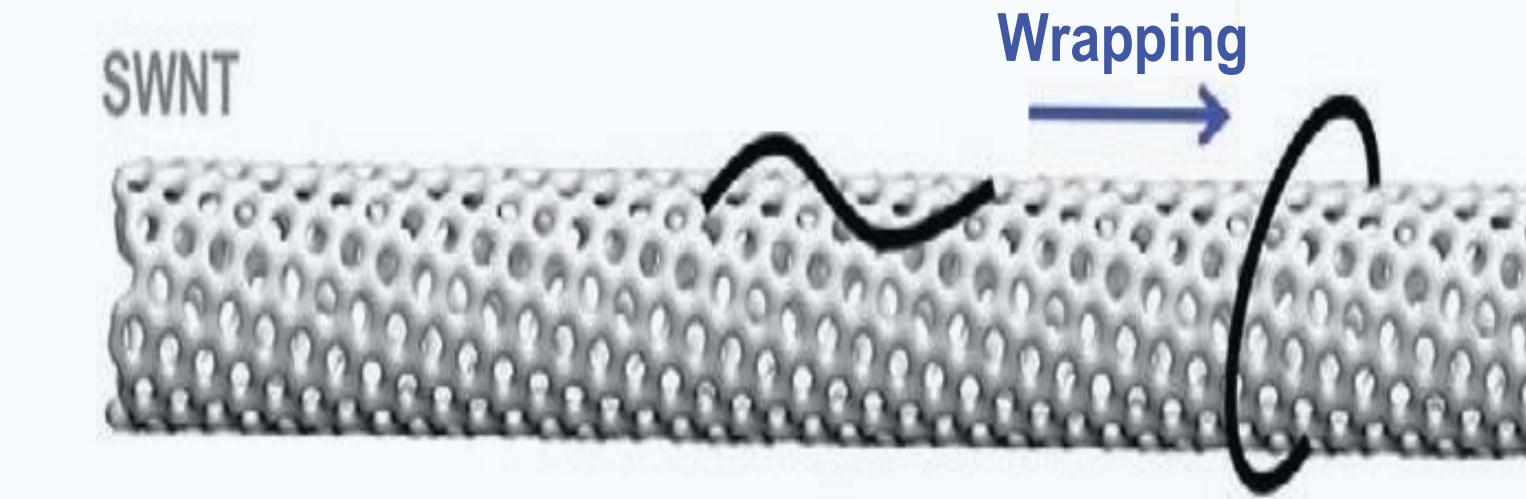


Sun, Song, Yang, Angew Chem 2021

## Screen-printed carbon nanotube electrodes

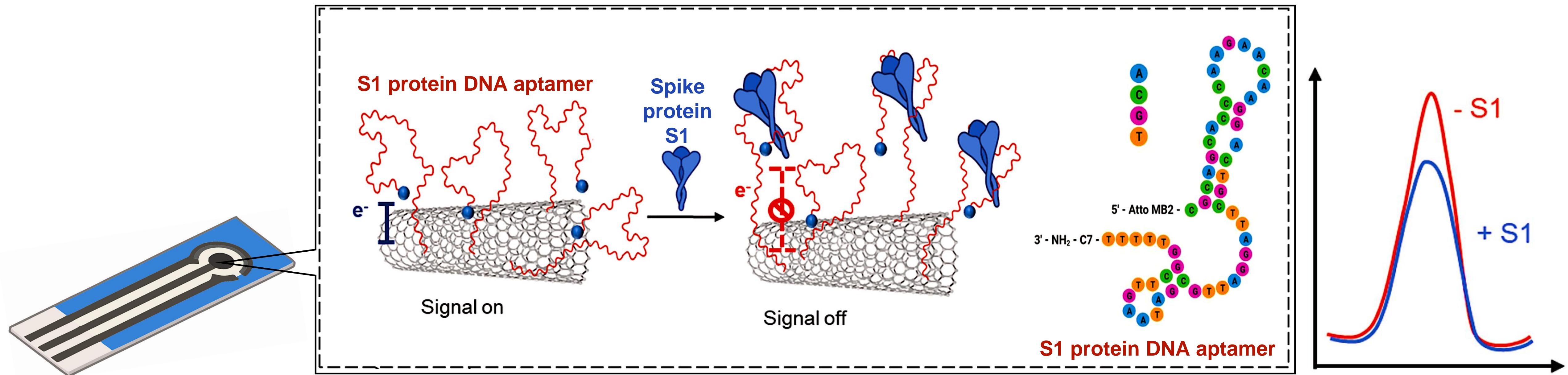


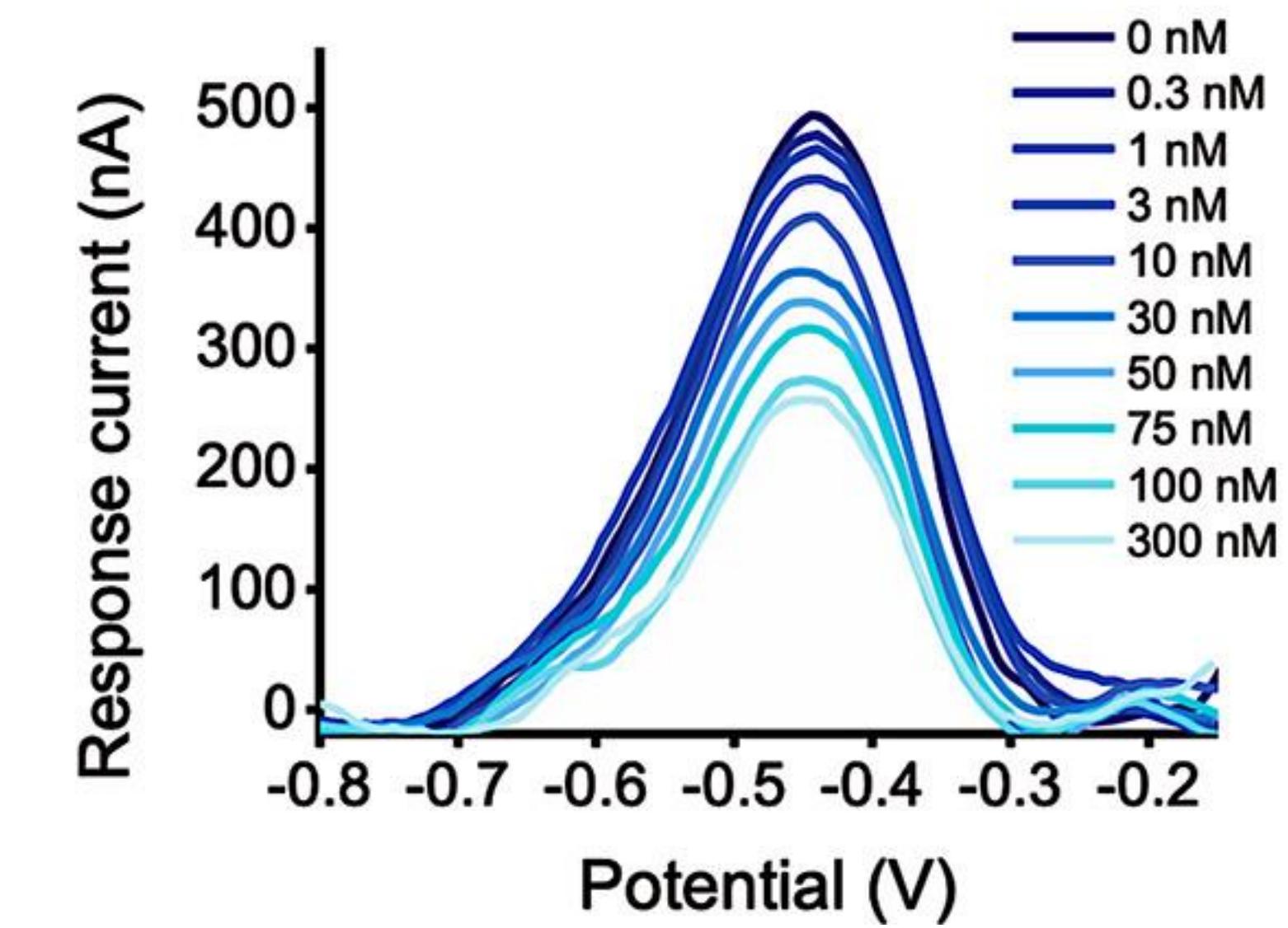
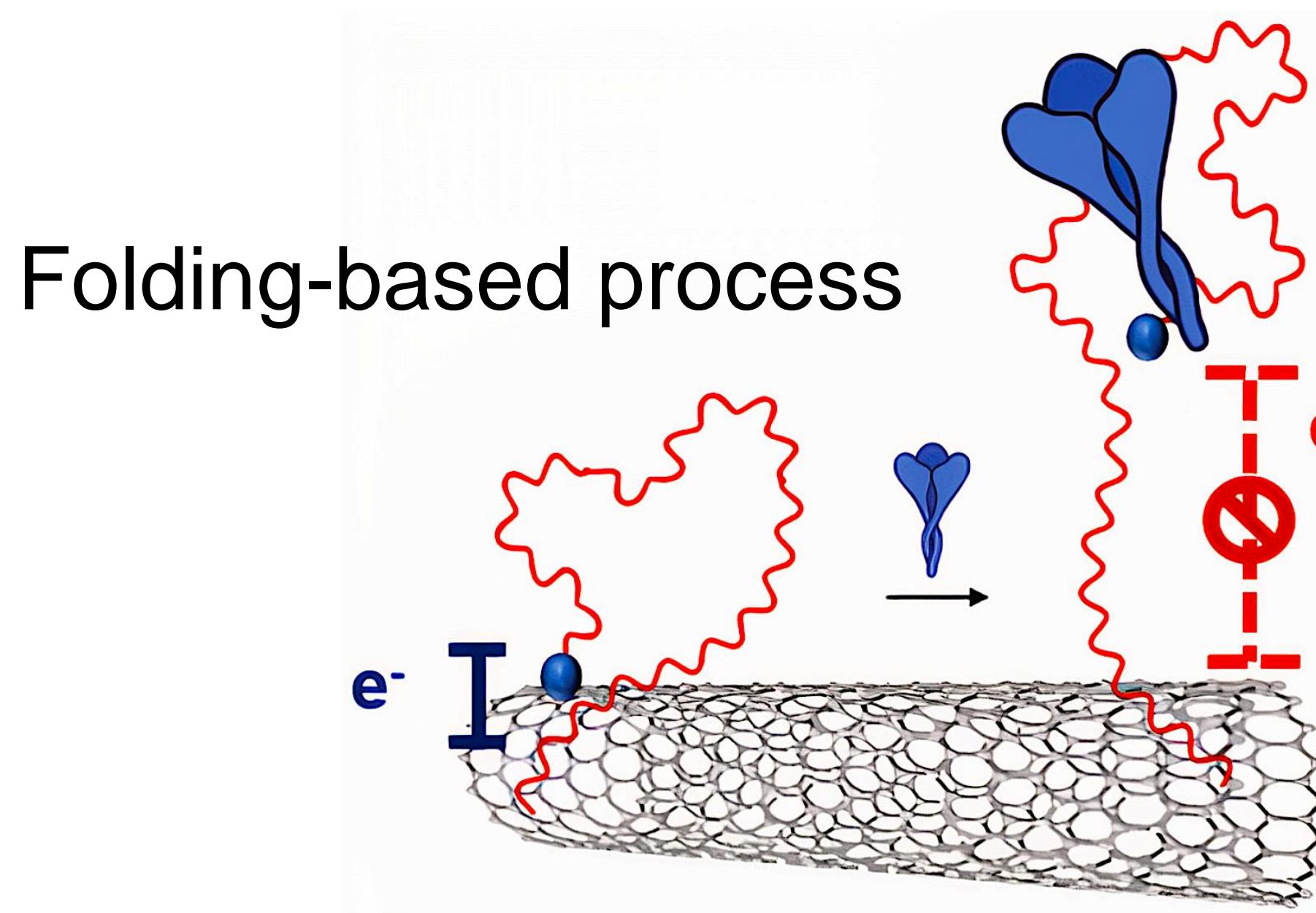
## Strong π-π stacking



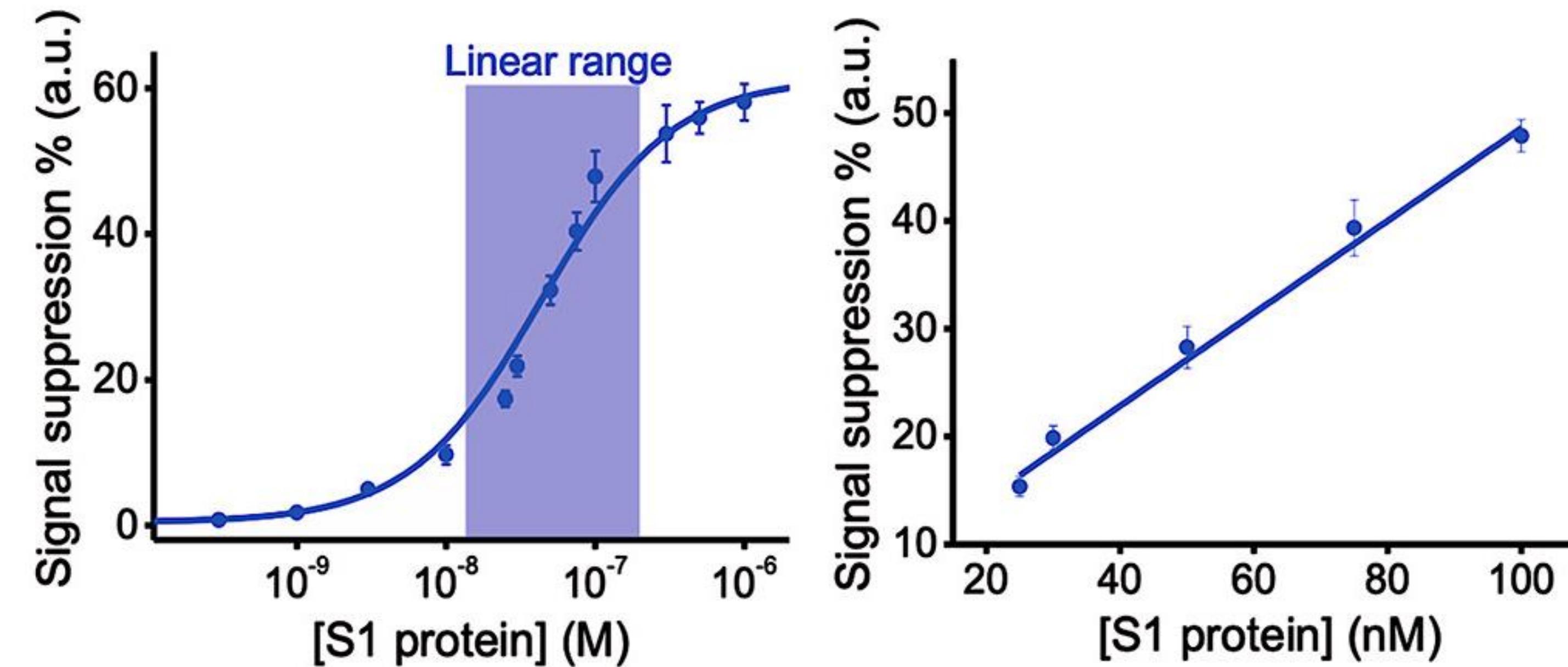
Landry, Vukovic, Adv Mater Interfaces 2020

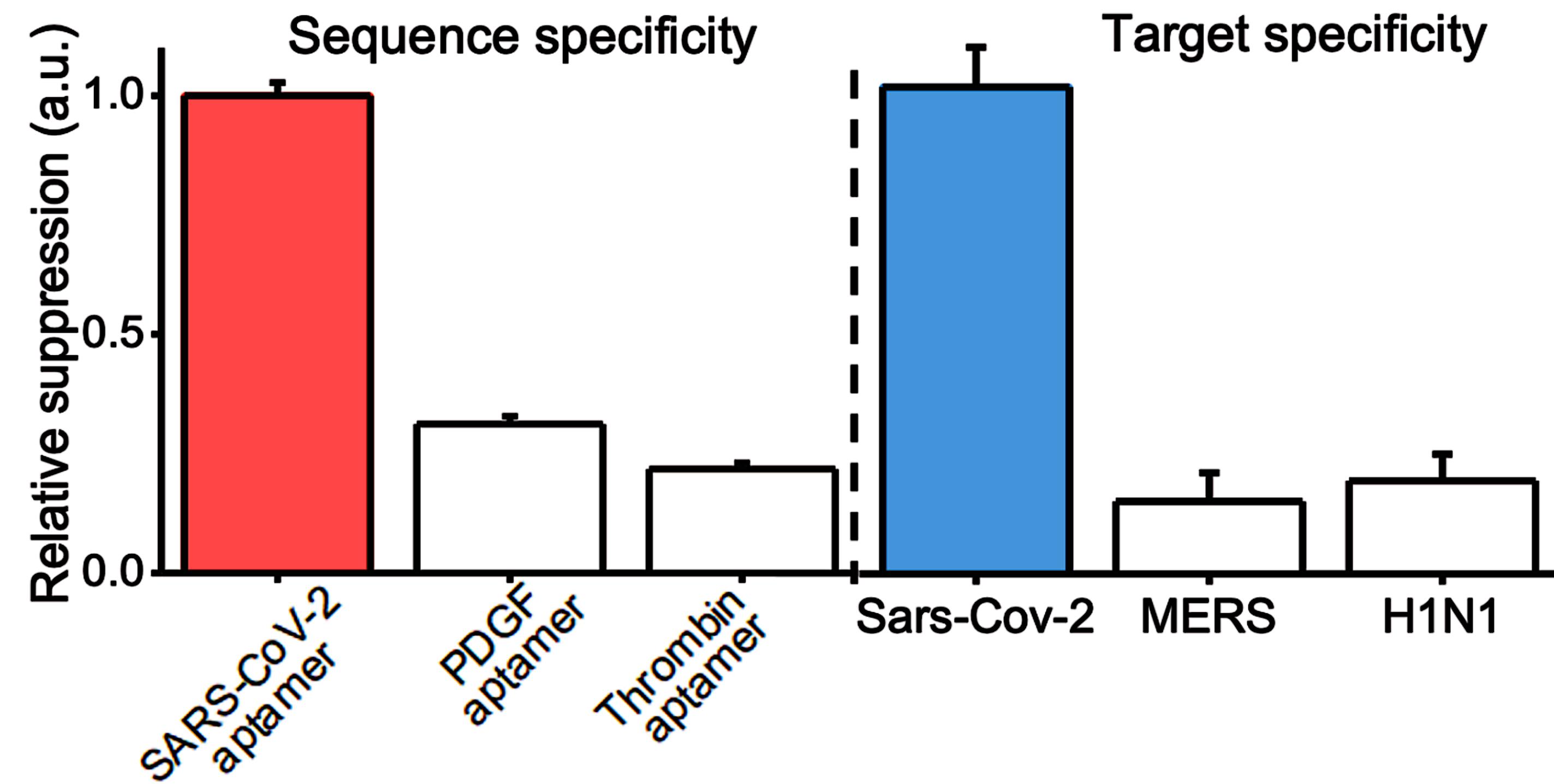
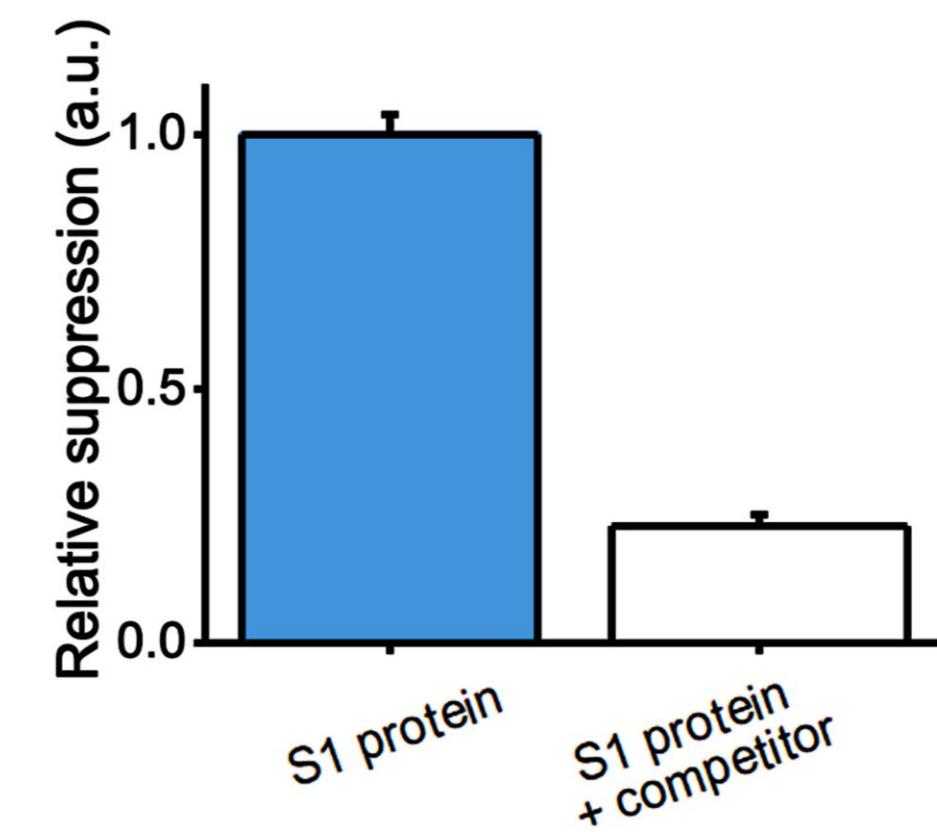
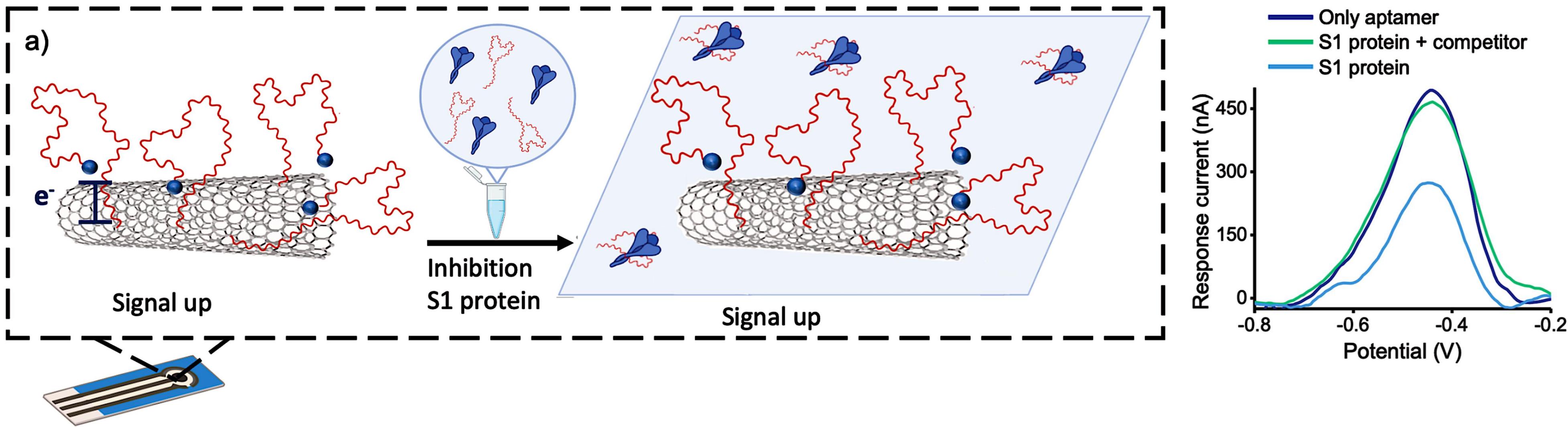
# A Folding-based electrochemical aptasensor





Single-step  
Reagent-free  
Rapid  
Easy to use





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Dr. Federica Curti

Ilaria Vasini

Prof. Marco Giannetto



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Prof. Maria Careri

Prof. Monica Mattarozzi

Prof. Roberto Corradini

Prof. Alessandro Porchetta

Prof. Wolfgang Knoll

## Laboratory of Bioartificial Systems and Programmable Nanotechnologies



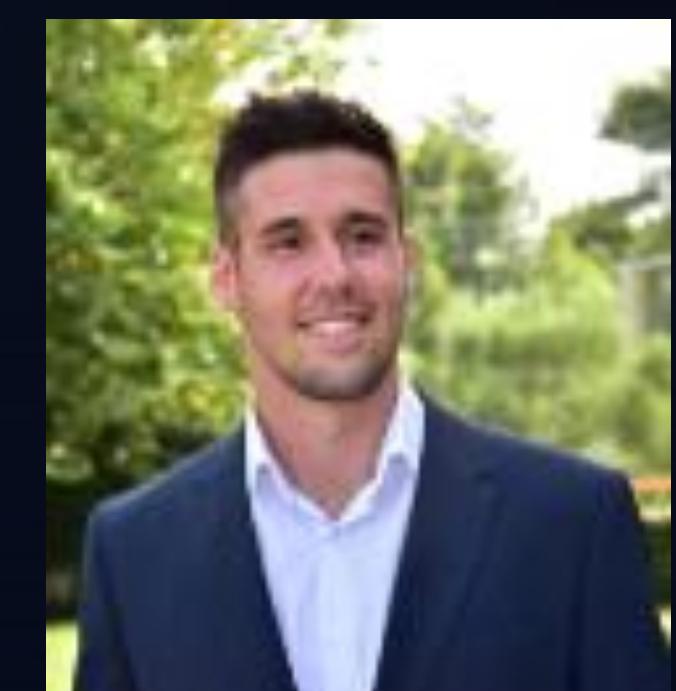
Enrica Russo



Federica Pedrini



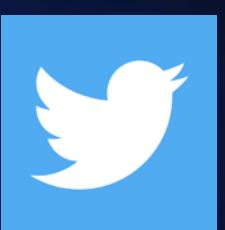
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