

# Spirocyclic Polythiophenes- Hybrid material for bio-sensing applications

**Robert Byrne**

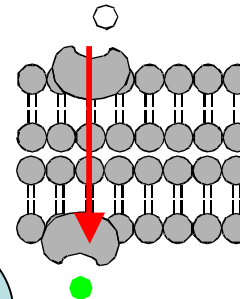
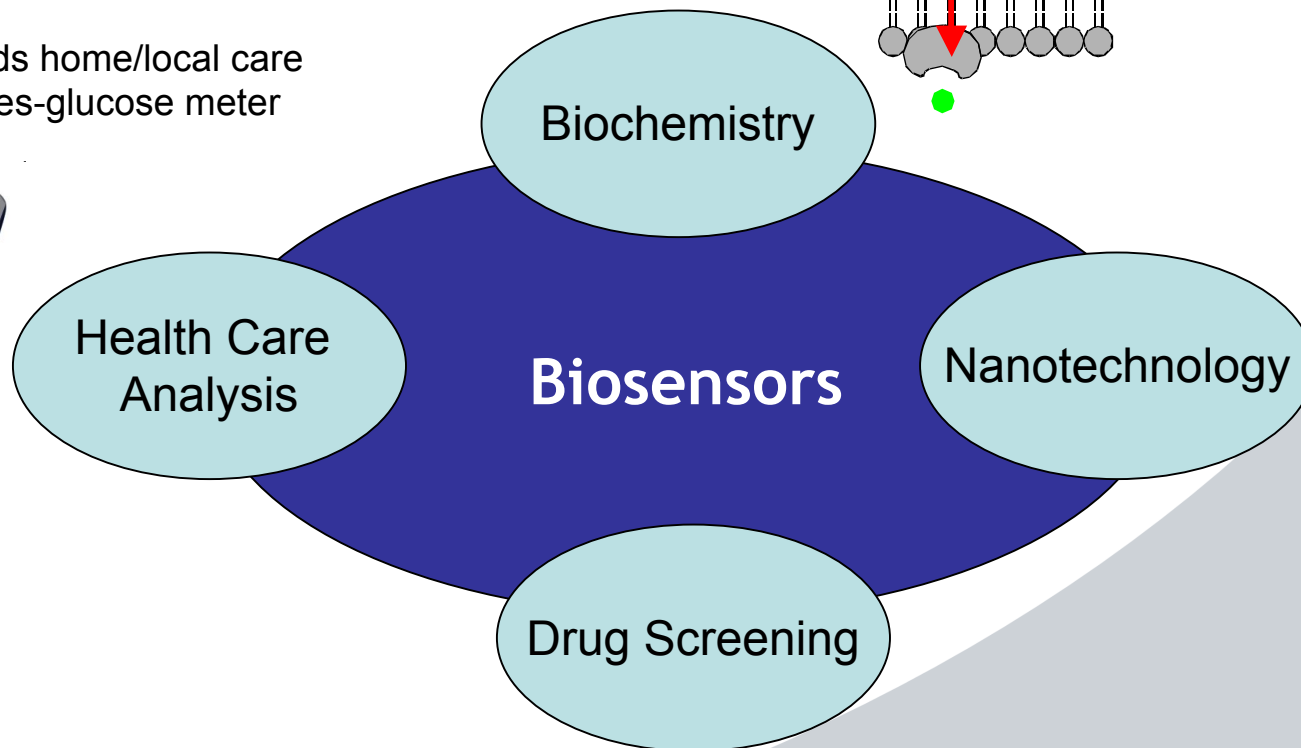
CLARITY

National Centre of Sensor Research  
Dublin City University, Ireland

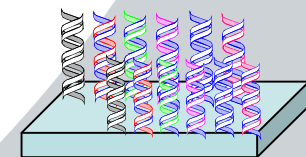


# Bio-sensing applications

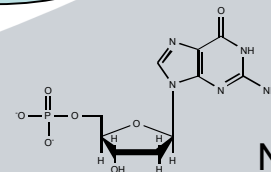
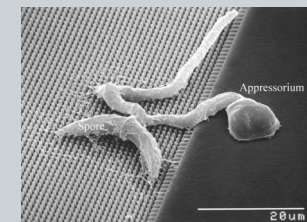
Move towards home/local care  
e.g. diabetes-glucose meter



Understanding biochemical  
pathways



Bio-sensor arrays

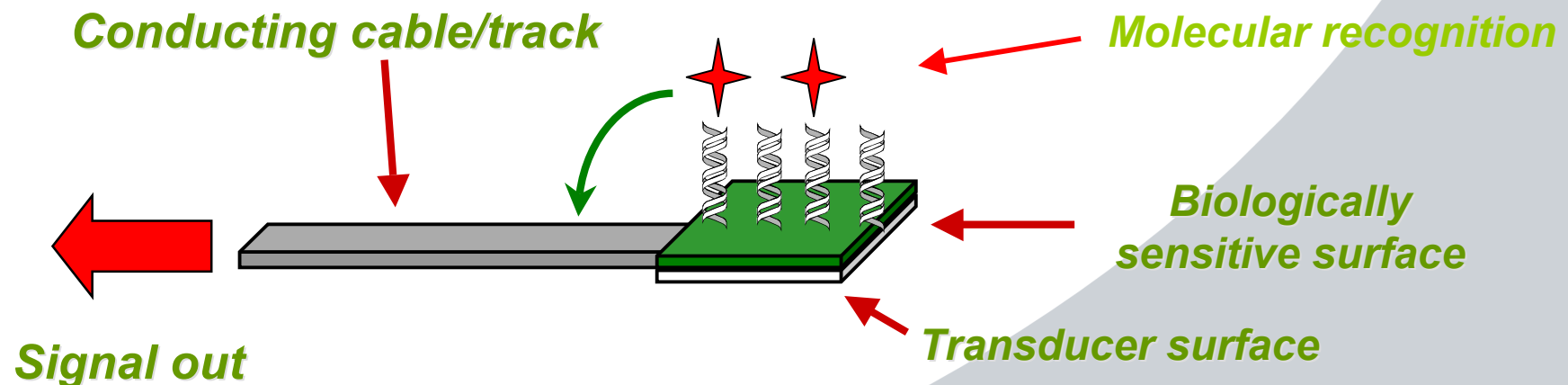


New era of drug development  
Glyco-proteins



# What is a Bio-Sensor?

***‘a device, consisting of a transducer and a biological element of known molecular properties, that generates a signal related to the concentration of particular biological component in a sample’***



***In bio-sensors, the sensing surface must interact selectively with a particular biological marker through molecular recognition association such as antibody-antigen, enzyme-substrate, and complimentary DNA sequencing***



# Modes of transduction

- Electroactive surface >> Electrode
- pH change >> Semi-conductor, pH electrode
- Heat >> Thermistor
- Light >> Photon counter
- Mass change >> Piezoelectric device



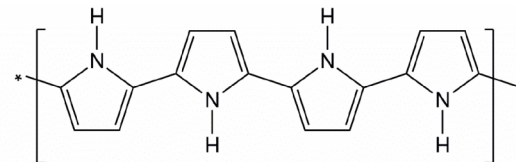
**Output  
Signal**

Conducting polymers are favourable materials for bio-sensing platforms due to their direct and easy deposition on electrodes, control of layer thickness, and redox conductivity

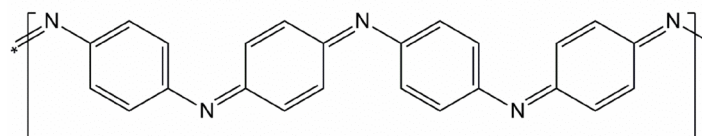


# Biosensors based on Conducting Polymers

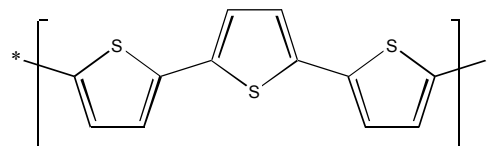
## ➤ Polypyrrole



## ➤ Polyaniline



## ➤ Polythiophene



Active membrane determines sensitivity of electrochemical sensors, the reliability of sensor is thereby linked to quality of chemically active membrane. Immobilisation strategy most important.

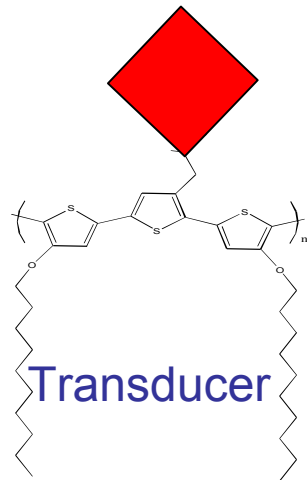
- Covalently coupled bio-component – some proteins denature when immobilised
- Cross linked enzymes- enzymes expensive and cross linking should not affect reactivity
- Gelation of bio-components within polymers- leeching of active species



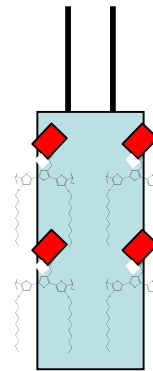
# Design-Biosensing platform

1- Functionalise Terthiophene with photo-switchable material

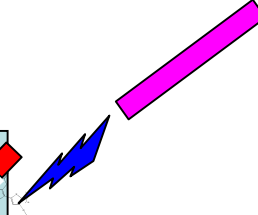
## Photo-reactive Handle



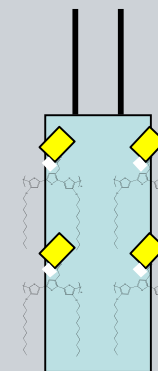
2-Deposit on electrode (ITO)



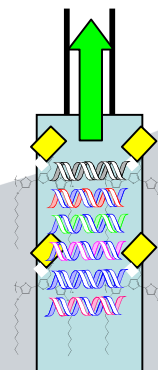
4-Spatial control of reactivity via fibre optic/LED



5-Activated surface binds bio-component



7-Bio-component binds its specific analyte

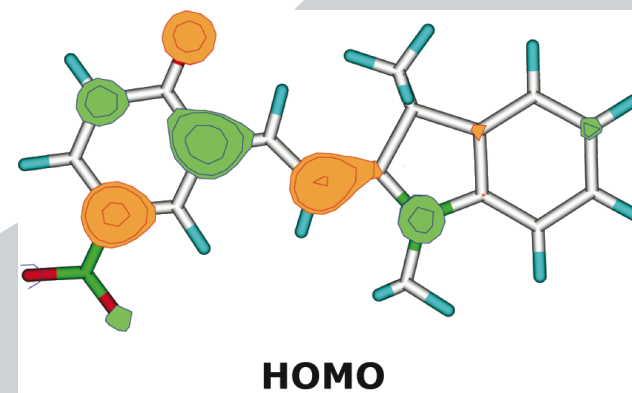
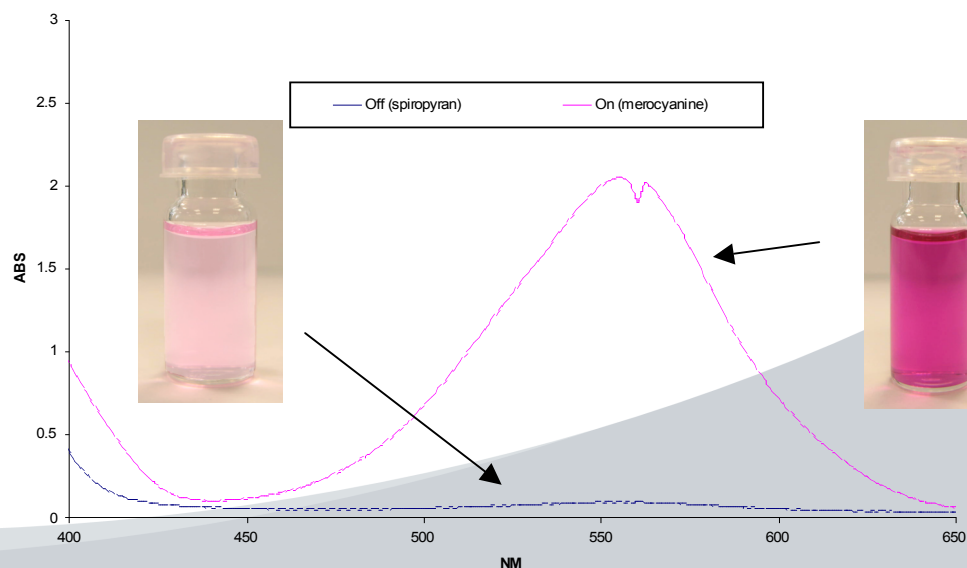
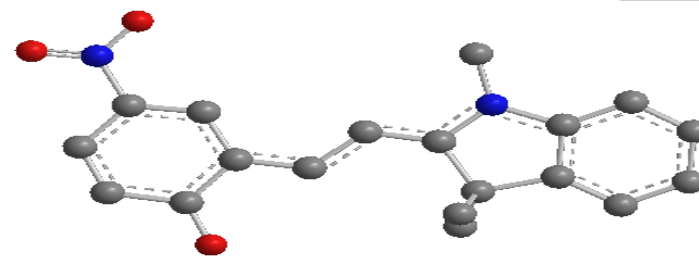
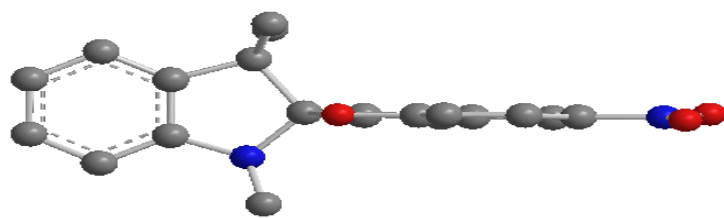
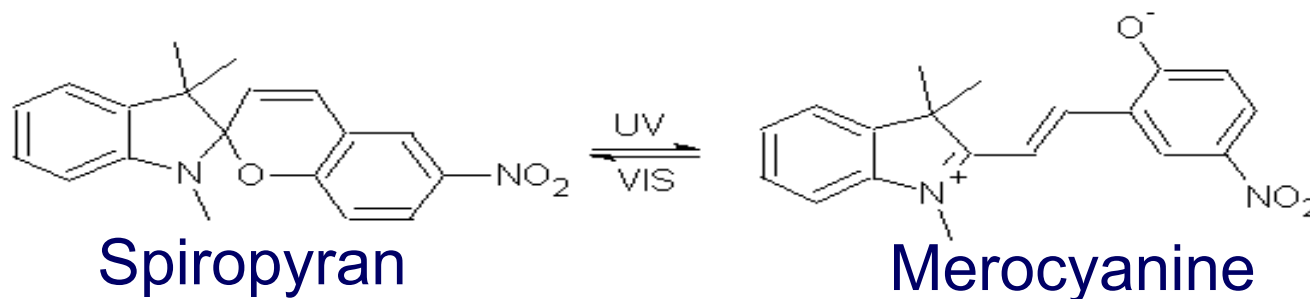


8-Signal of binding event

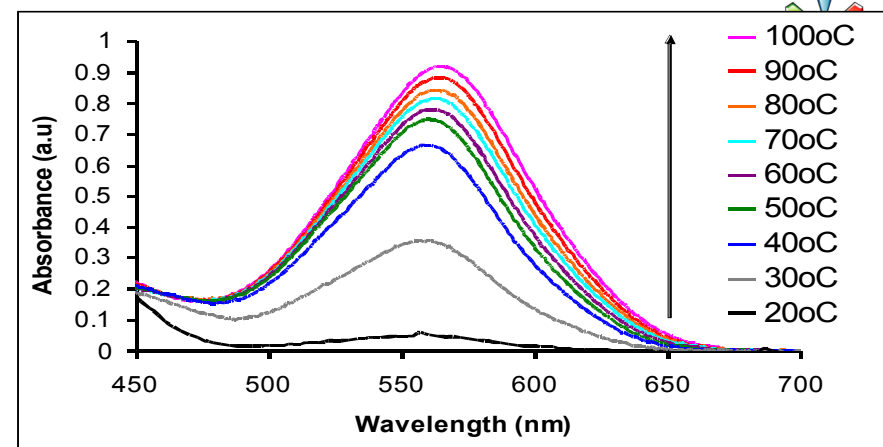
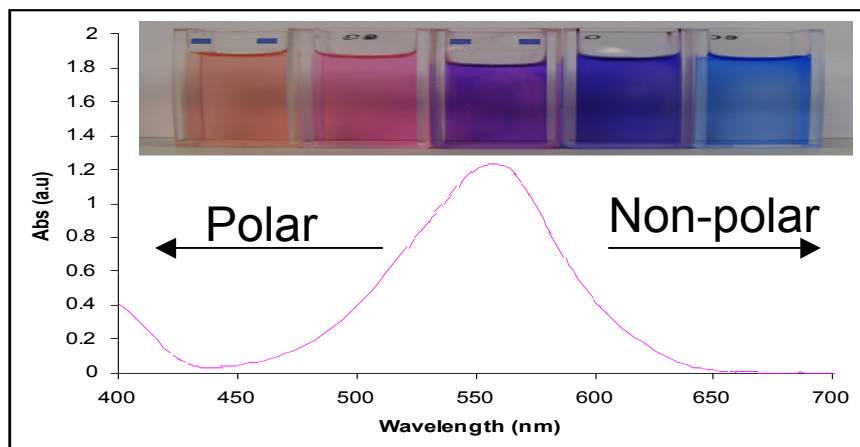
9-Photonic irradiation cleans surface, ready for new measurement



# Photoswitchable Material- Spiropyran

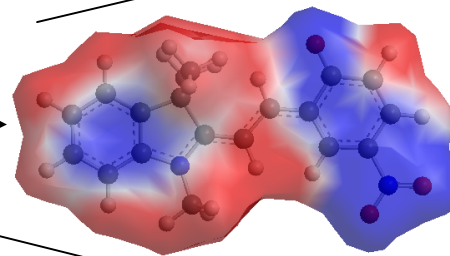
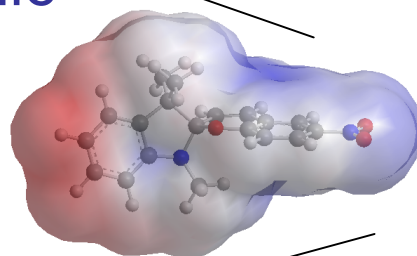






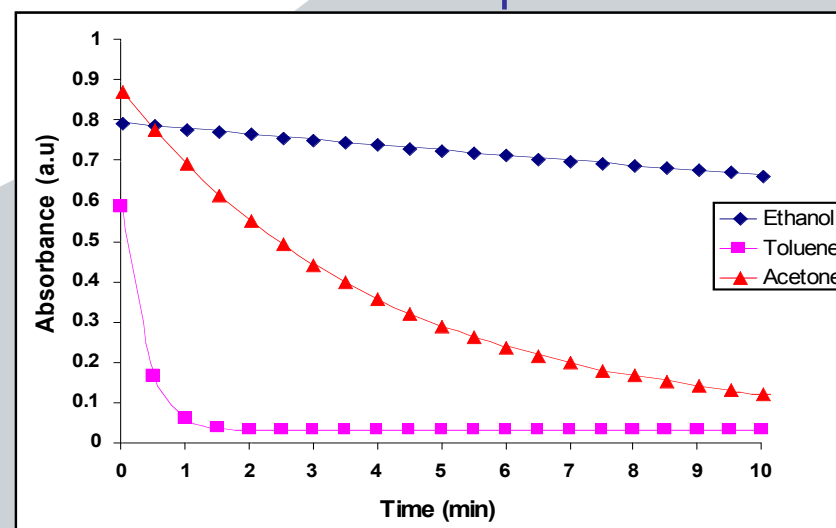
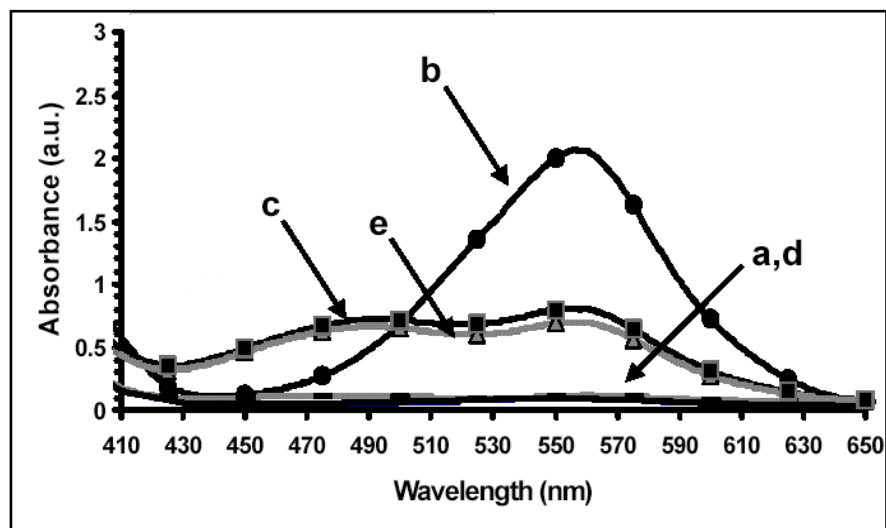
Solvatochromic

Thermochromic



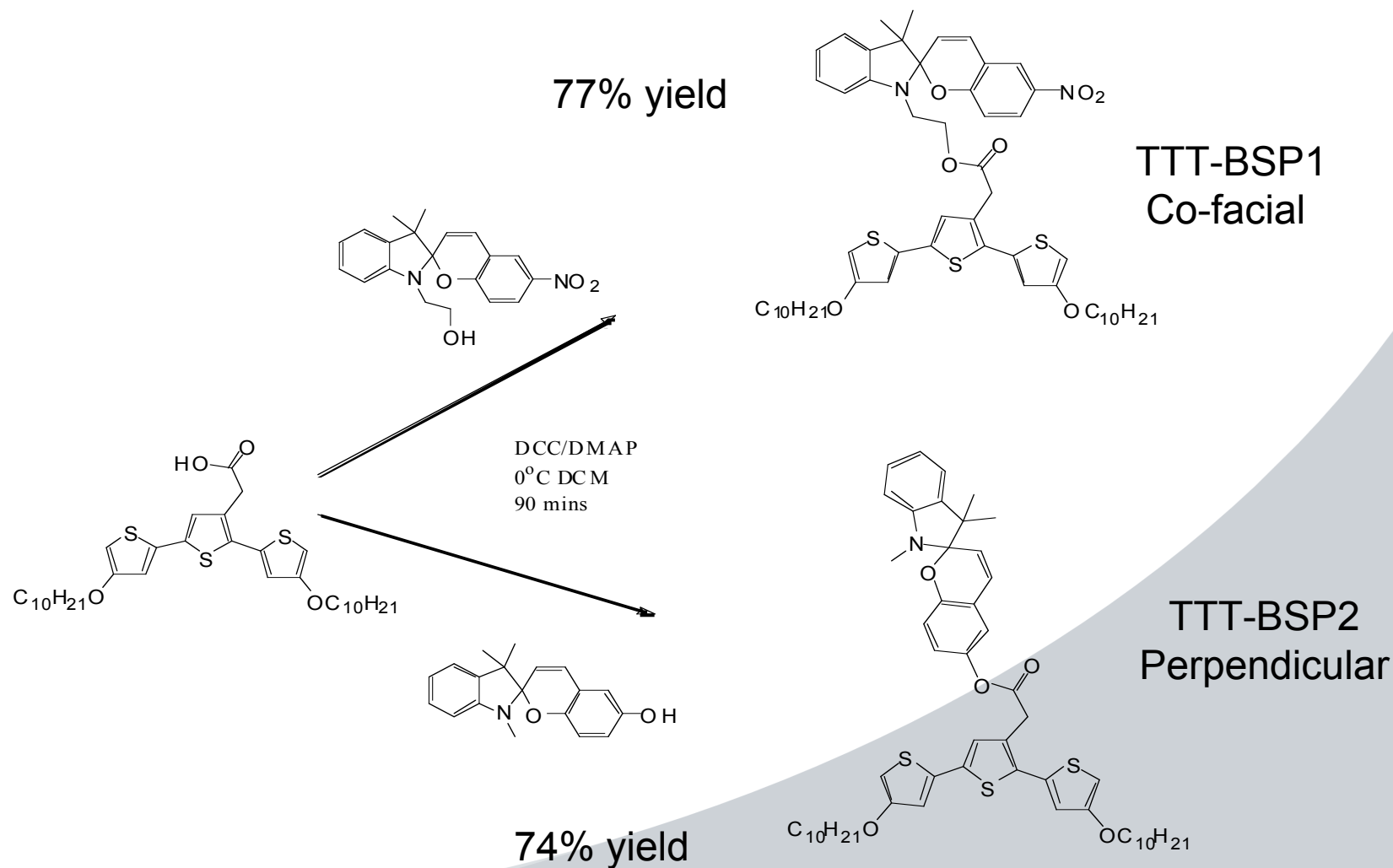
M<sup>+</sup>, H<sup>+</sup> and amino acid recognition

Thermal relaxation dependent on all processes!



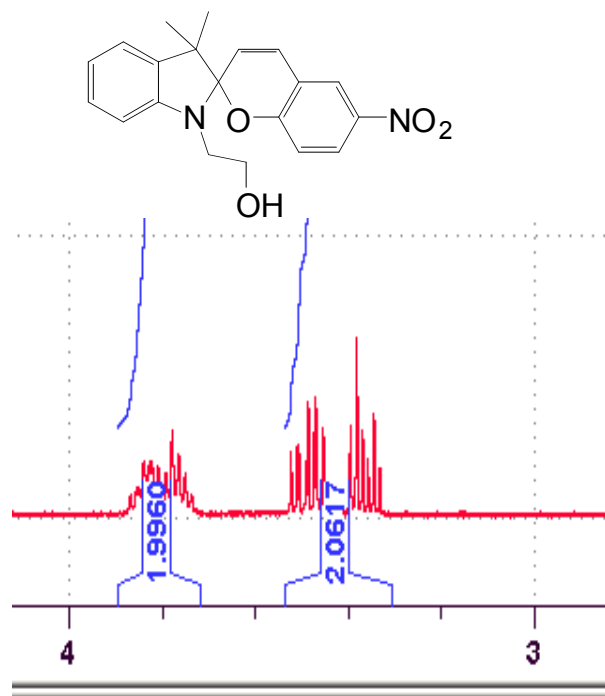


# Synthesis of photo-switchable monomers

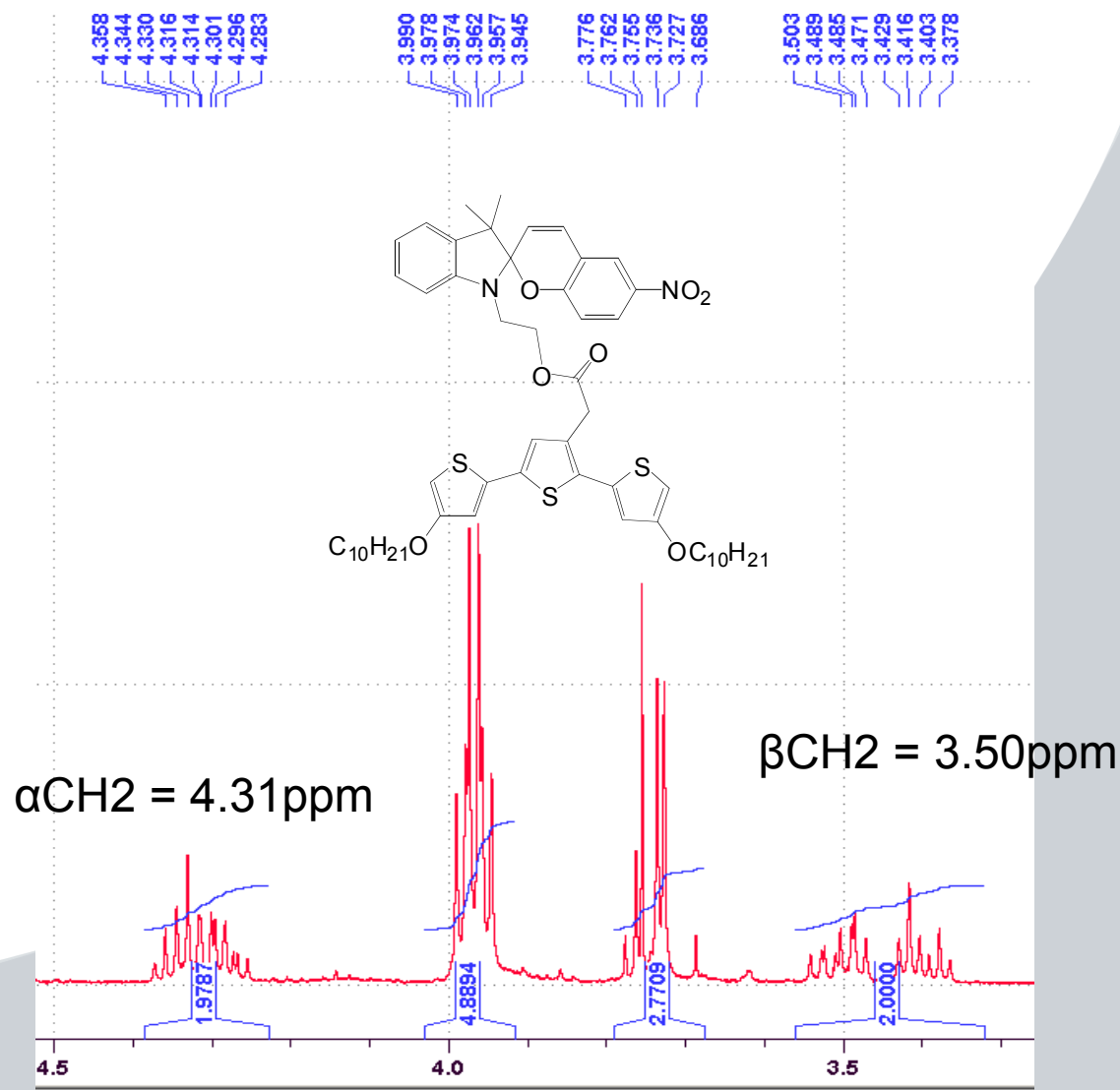




# TTT-BSP1 $^1\text{H}$ -NMR

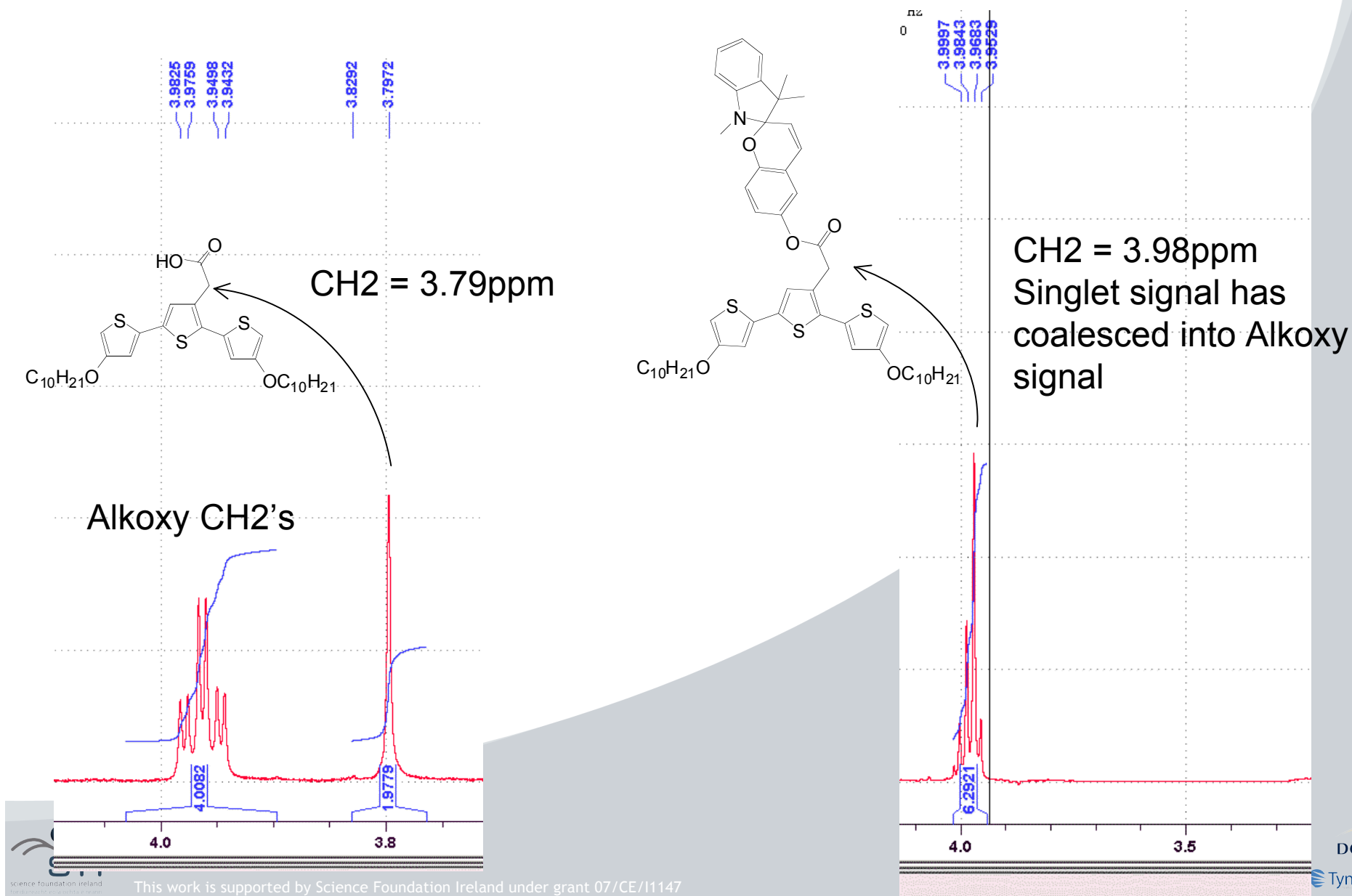


$\alpha\text{CH}_2$  = 3.86ppm  
 $\beta\text{CH}_2$  = 3.48ppm





# TTT-BSP2 $^1\text{H}$ -NMR

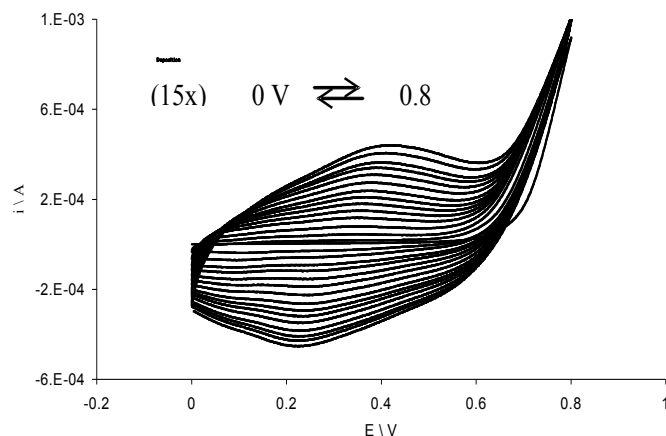




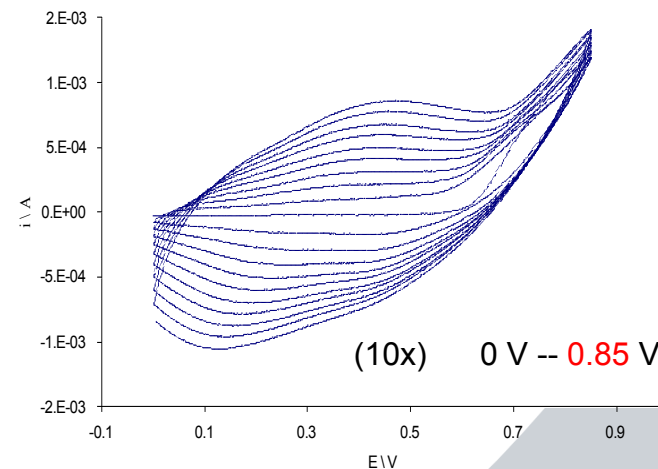
# Electro-polymerization on ITO

Conditions: 8 mM monomer in 0.1 M TBAP DCM : ACN (2 : 3)

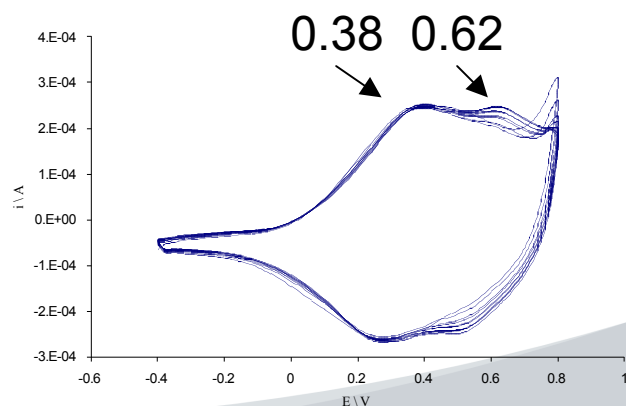
poly(TTT-BSP1)



poly(TTT-BSP2)

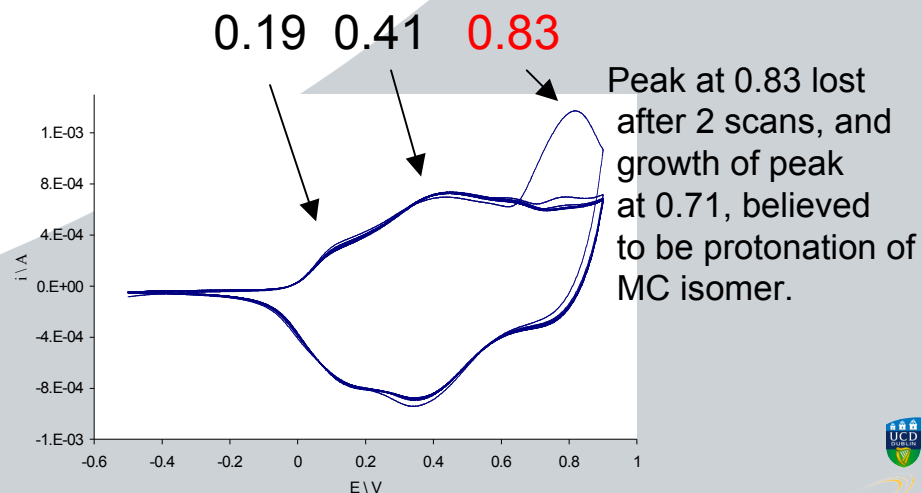


Post CV of the film deposited at 0.8 V, 40 s



(20x) -0.4 V -- 0.8 V

Post CV of the film deposited at 0.75 V, 20 seconds

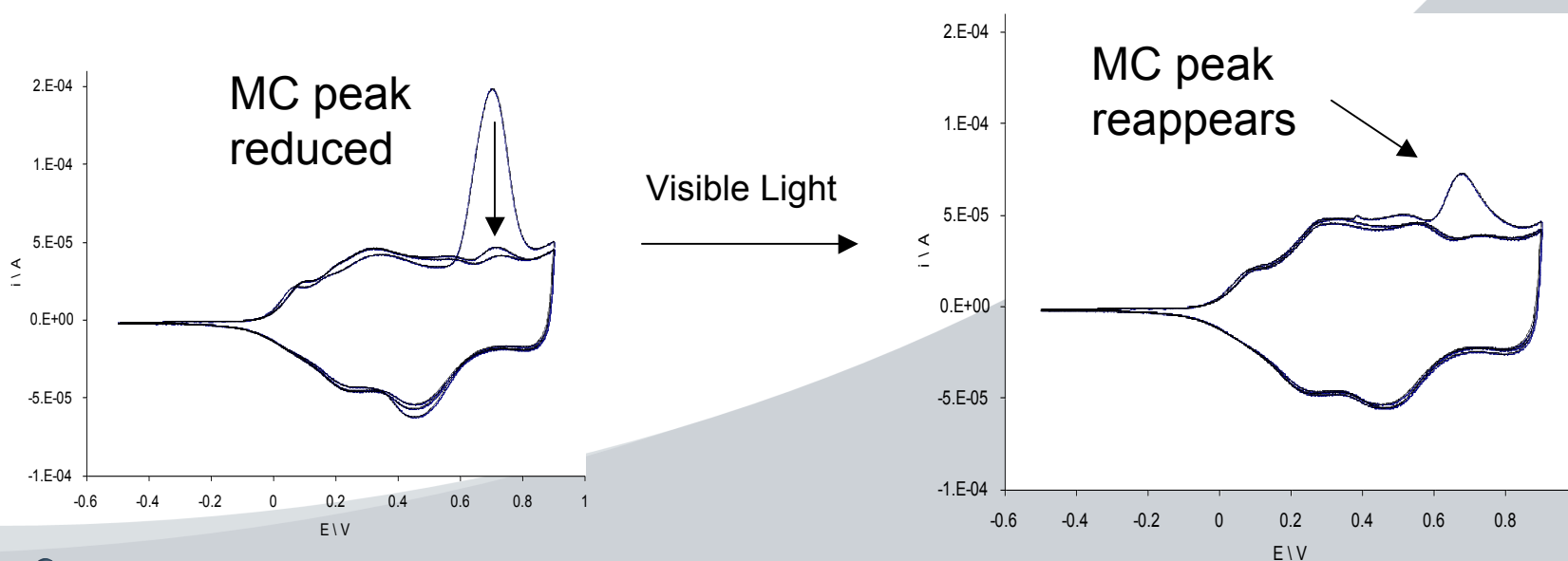
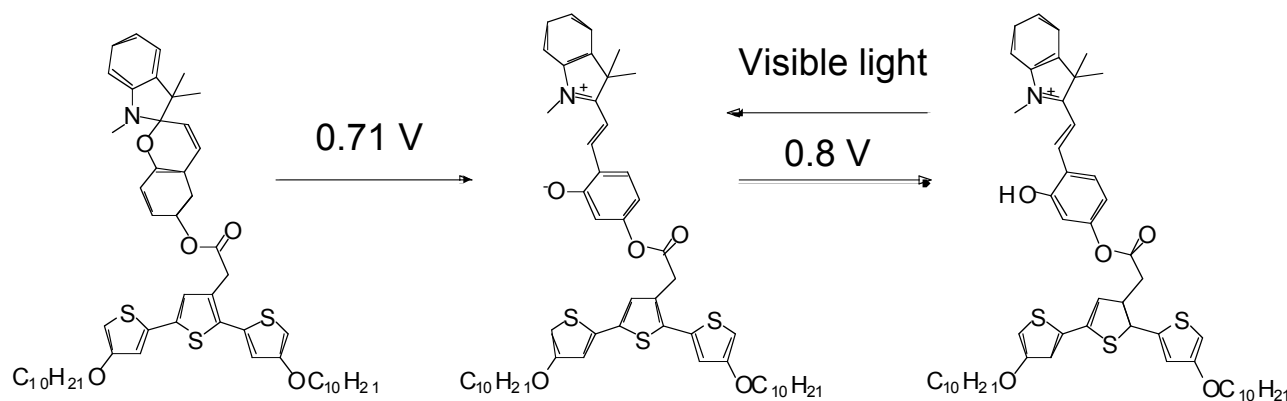


(10x) -0.5 V

0.9 V



# Photo-induced deprotonation of poly(TTT-BSP2)

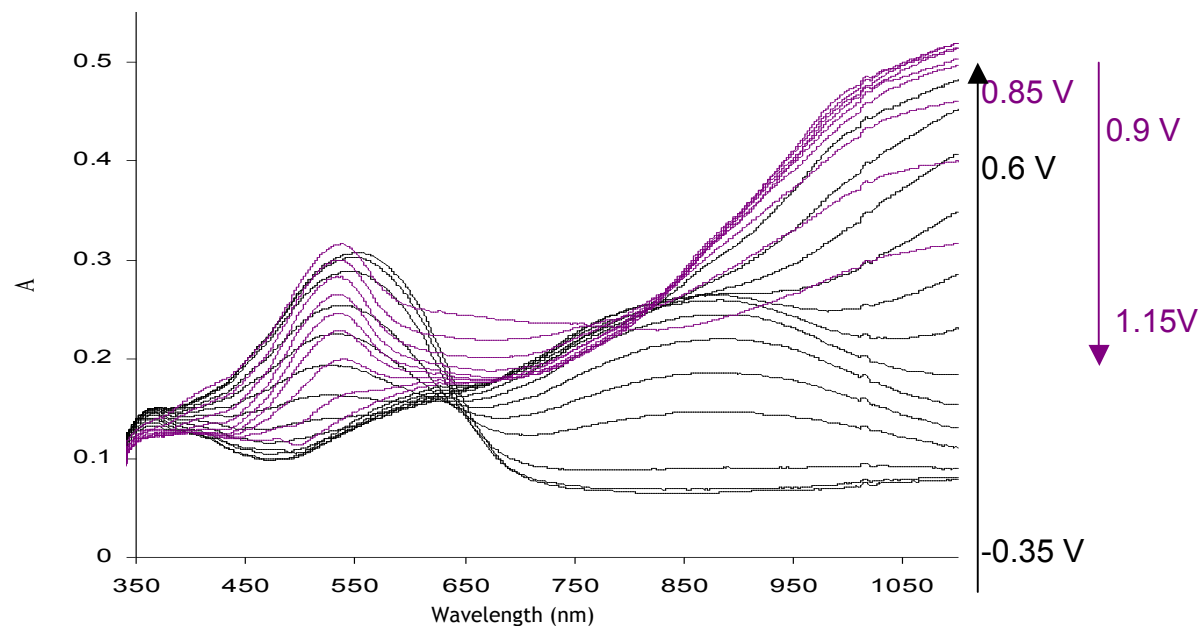




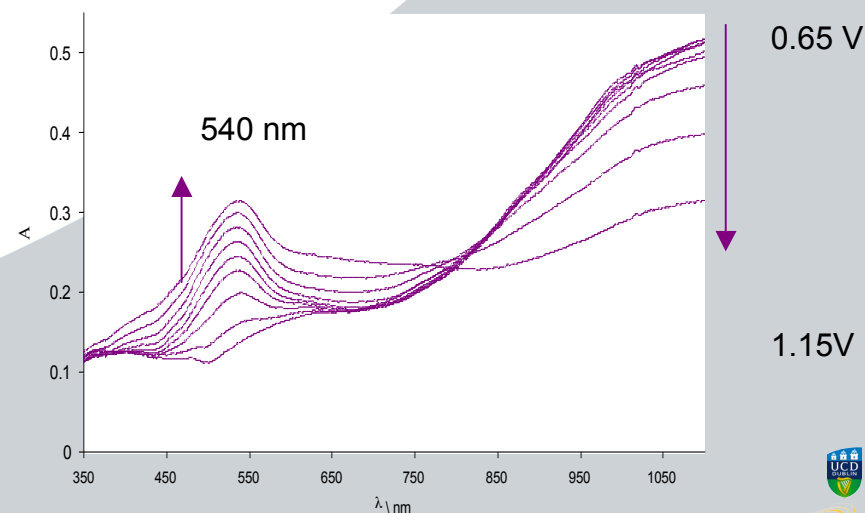
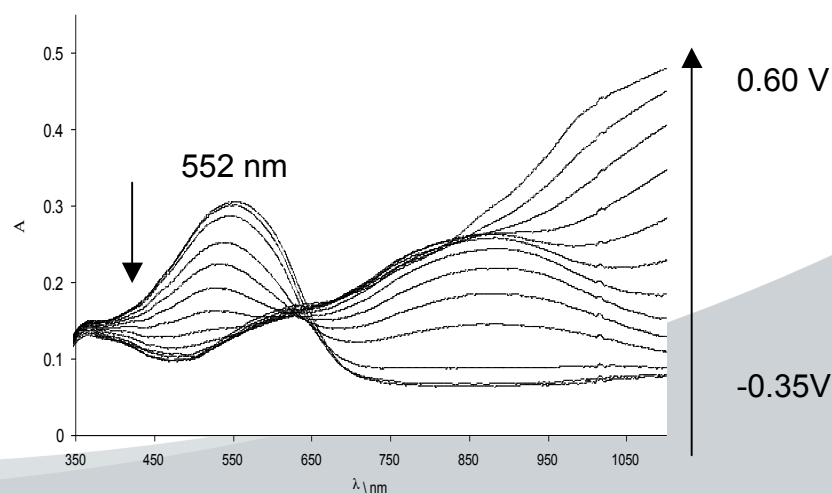
# Spectroelectrochemistry poly(TTT-BSP1)



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At 0.65V, the BSP ring starts to open to the MC isomer 540 nm

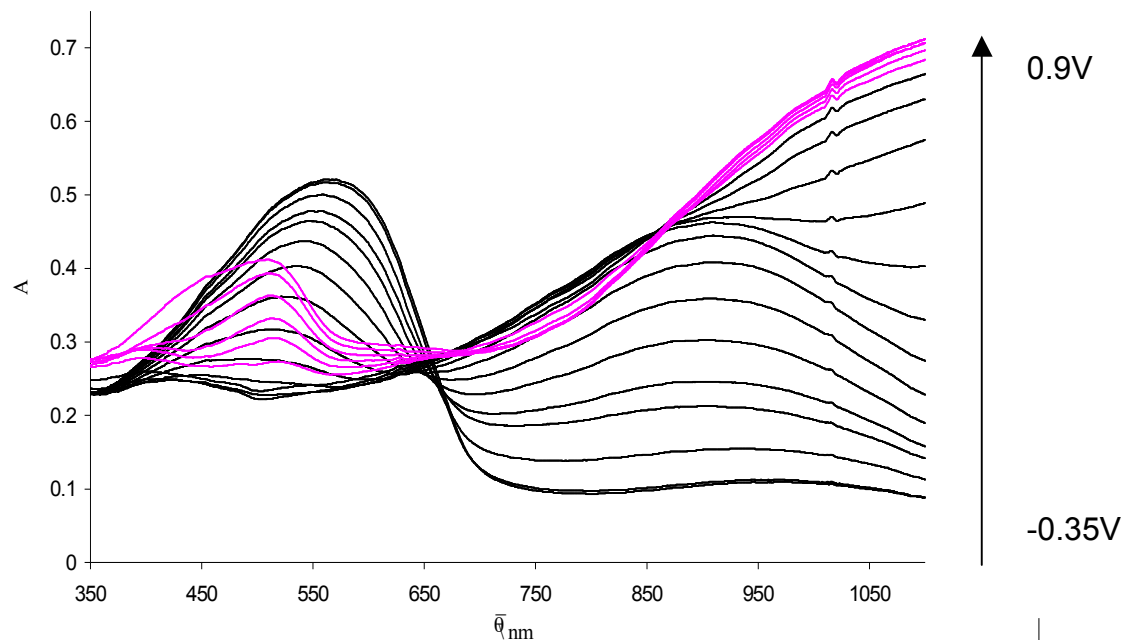




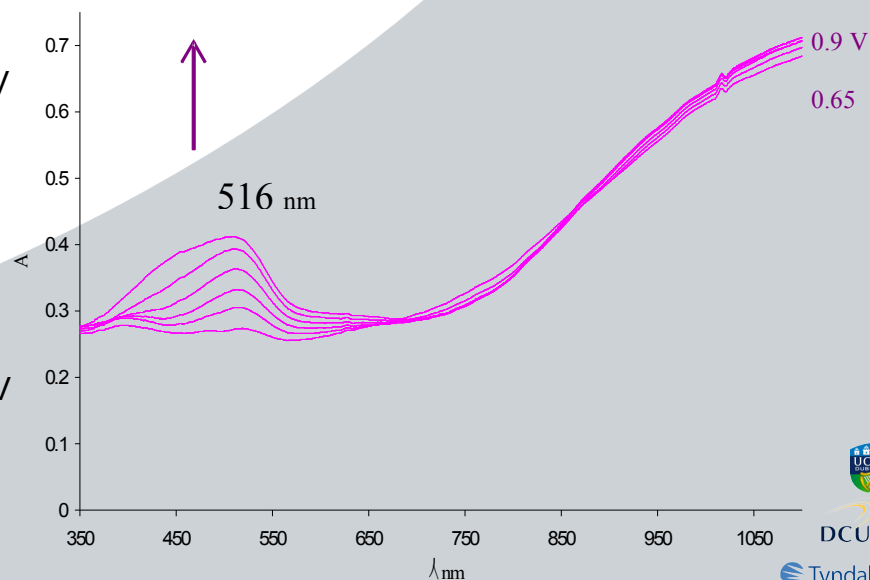
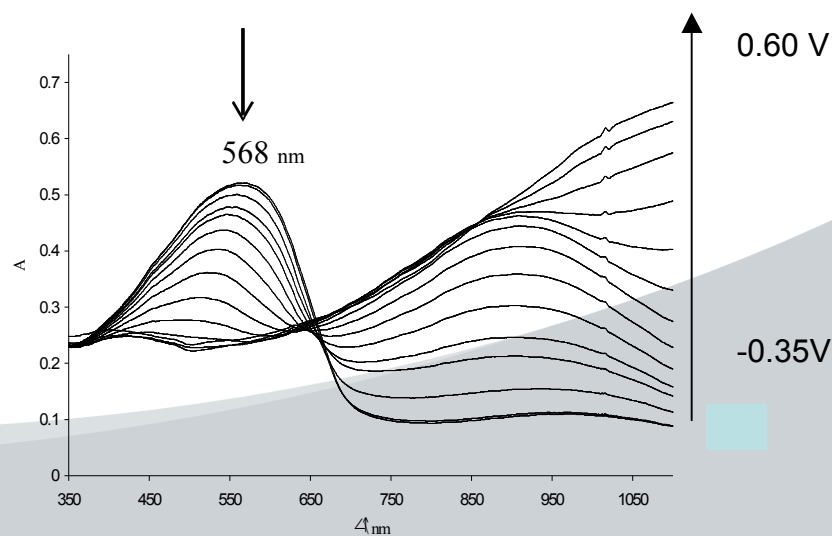
# Spectroelectrochemistry poly(TTT-BSP2)



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SENSOR WEB TECHNOLOGIES

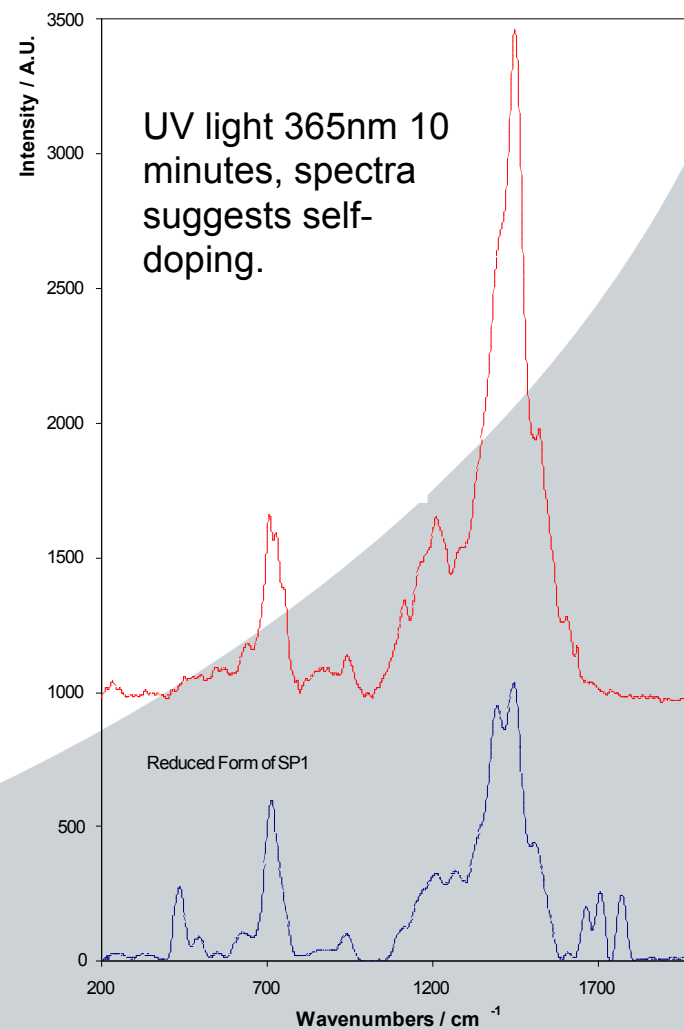
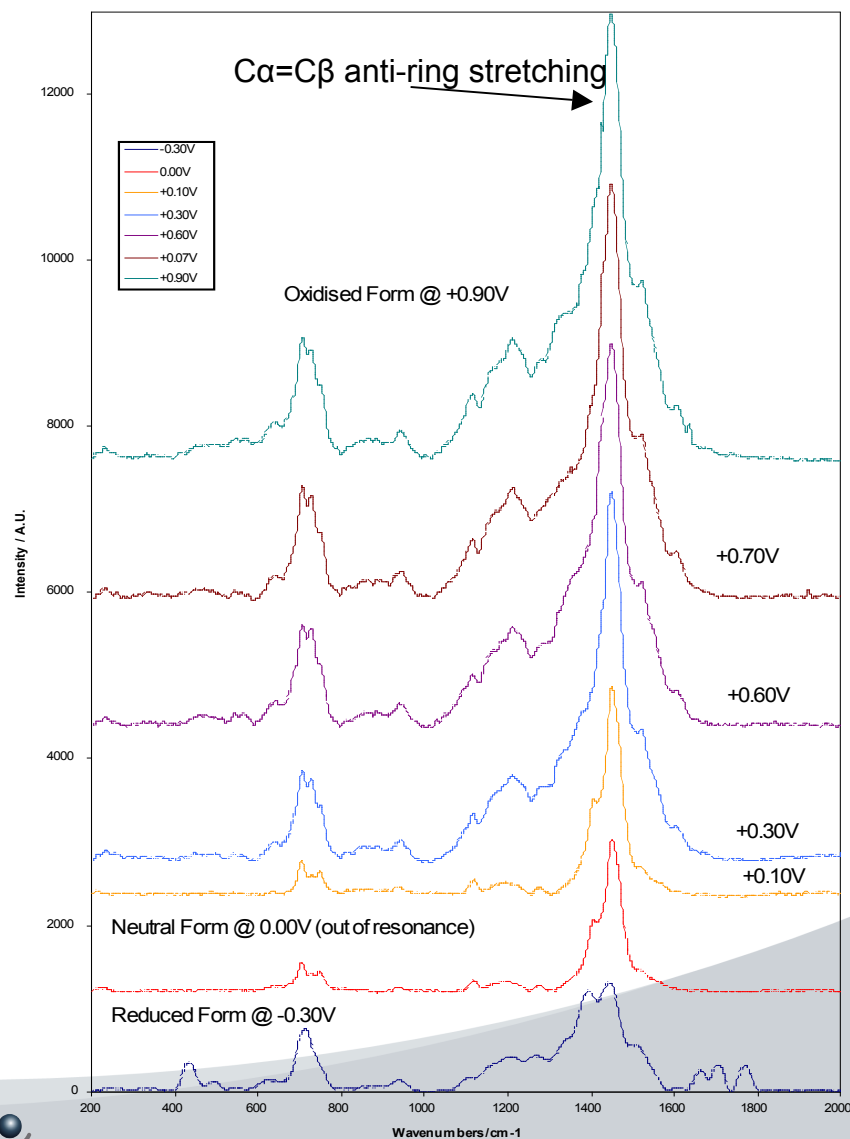


At 0.6V, the BSP ring starts to open to the MC isomer 516 nm





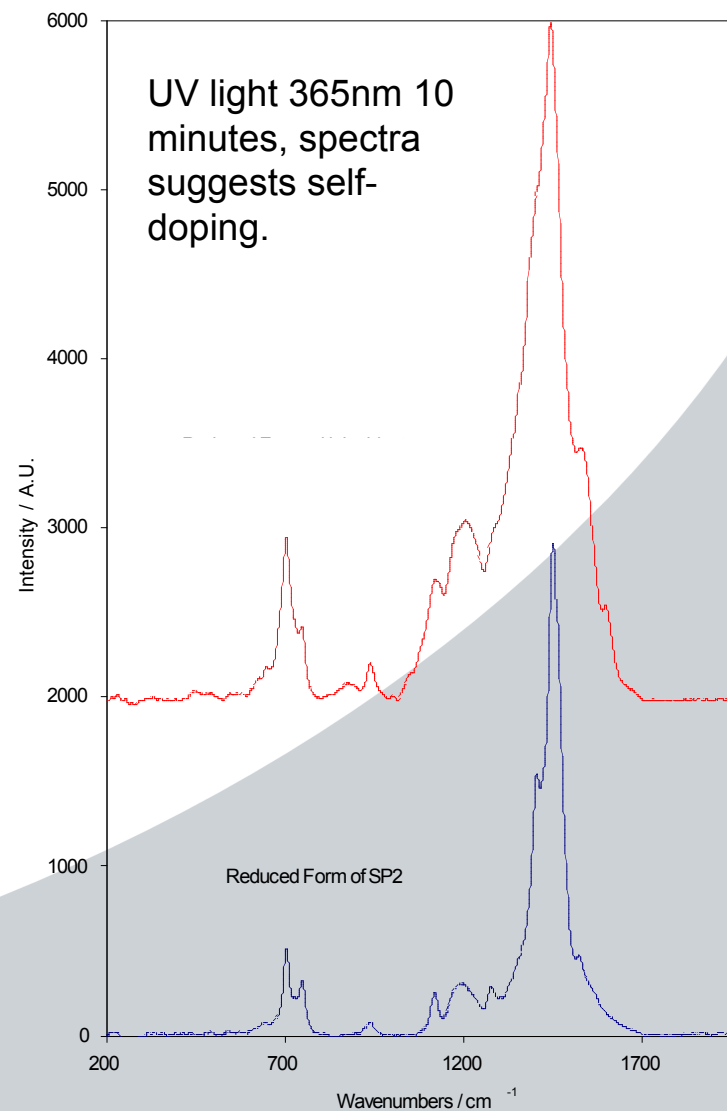
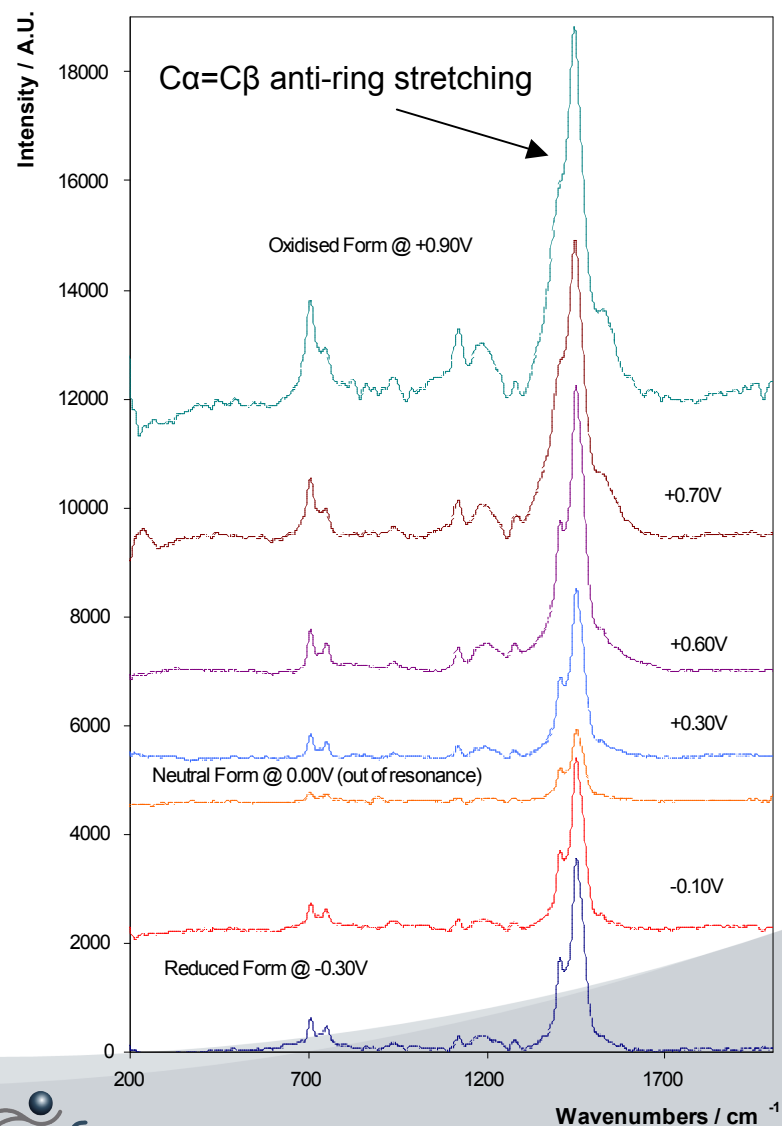
# Raman Spectroelectrochemistry-TTT-BSP1



Raman excitation 638.21 nm



# Raman Spectroelectrochemistry-TTT-BSP2

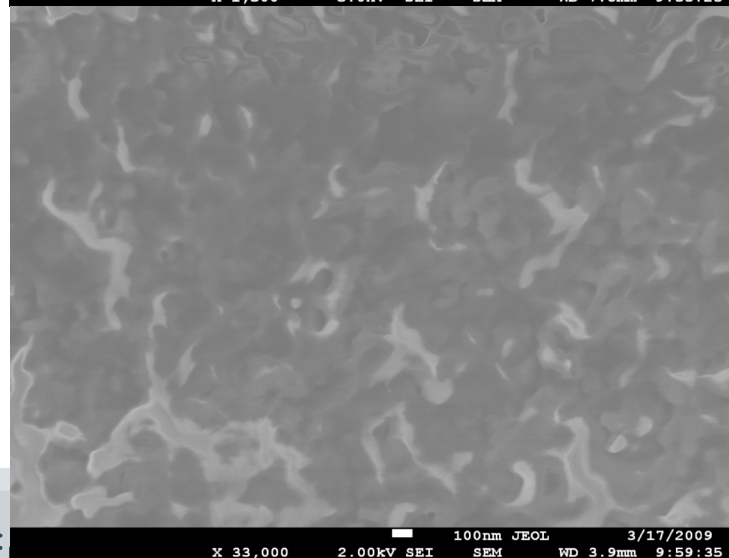
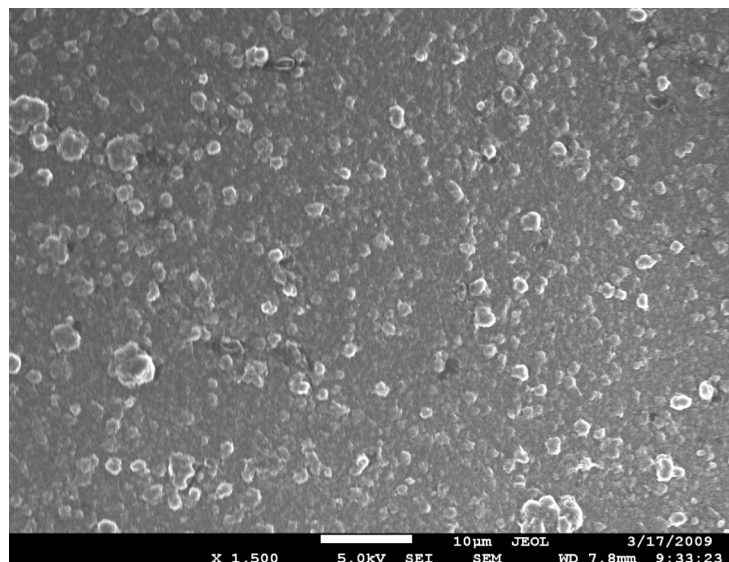


Raman excitation 638.21 nm

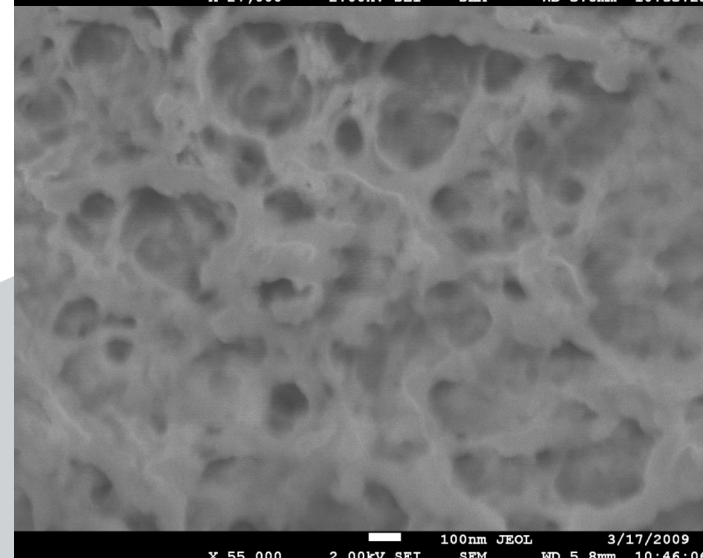
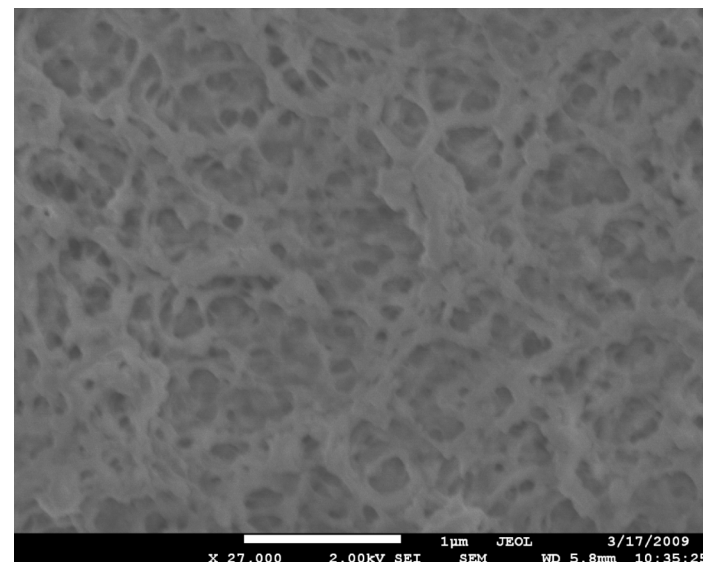


# SEM images of TTT-BSP2

*Reduced polymer-nodular features*



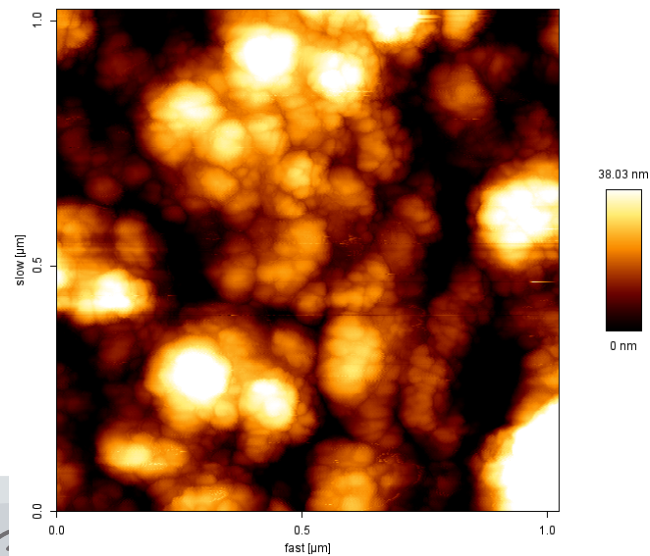
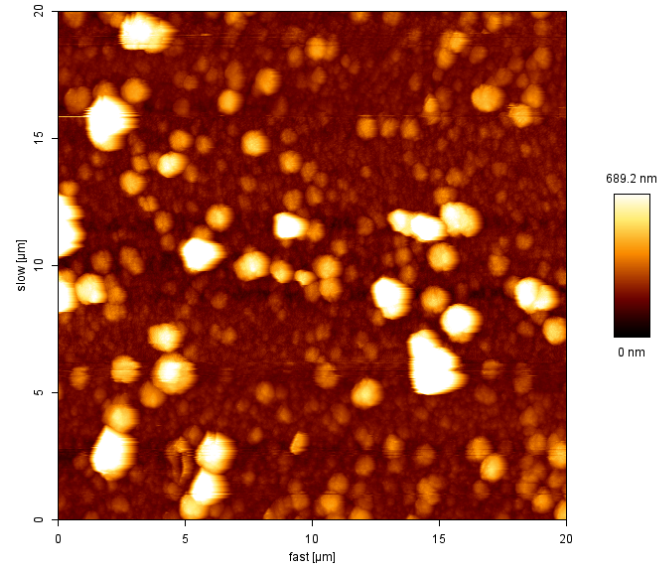
*Oxidised polymer- porous webbed structure*



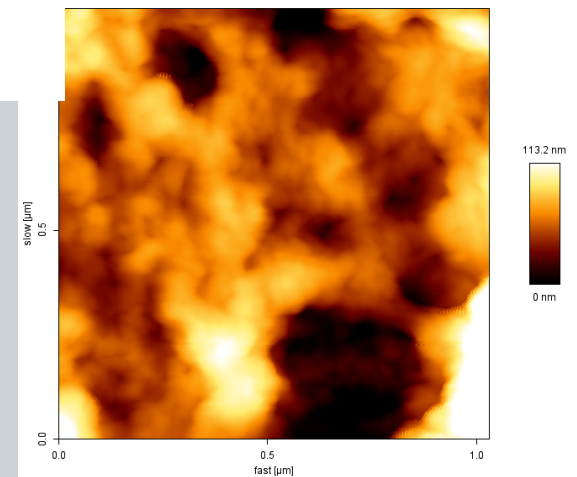
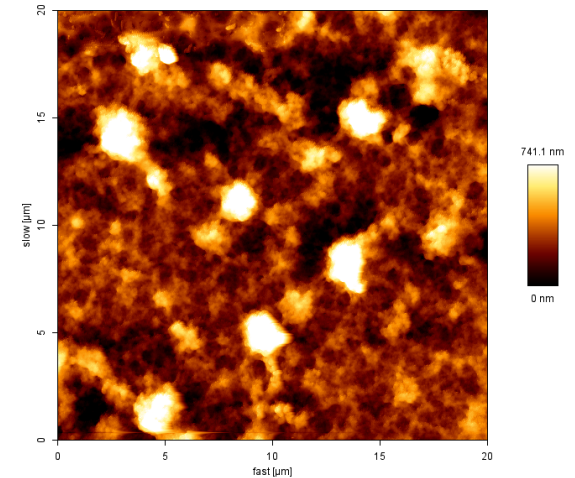
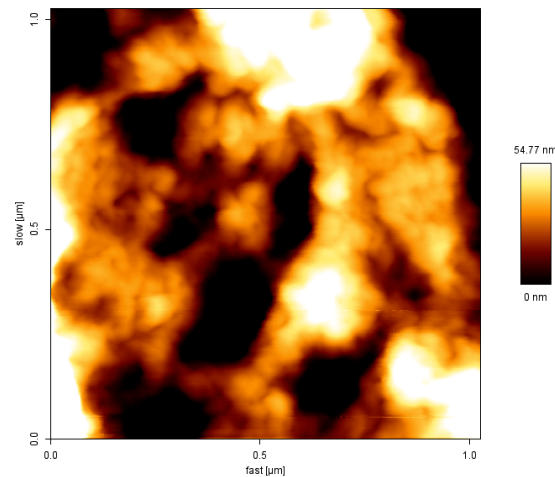


# AFM imaging poly(TTT-BSP2)

## Reduced polymer-nodular structure

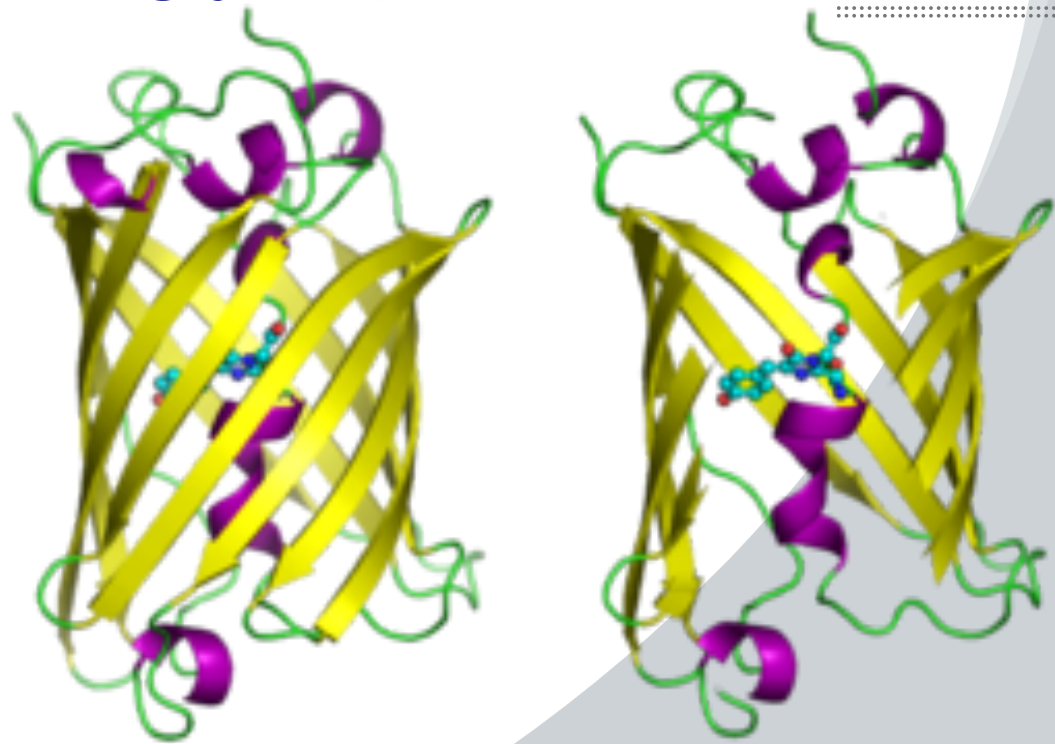
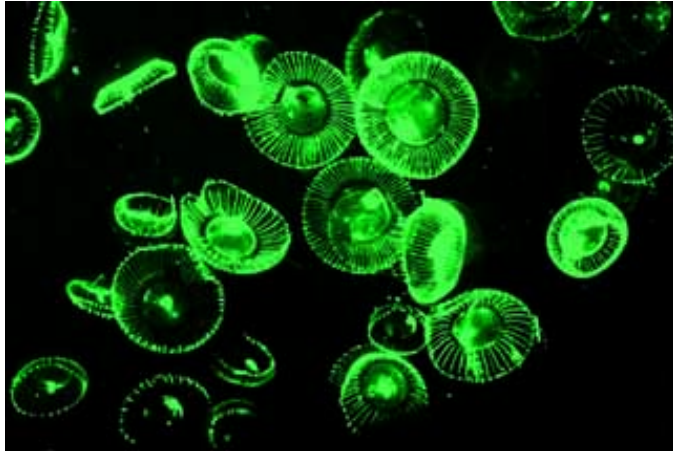


## Oxidised polymer-Porous structure





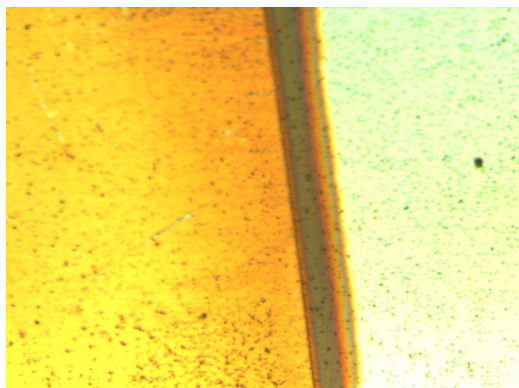
# Capture and release of glyco-protein GFP



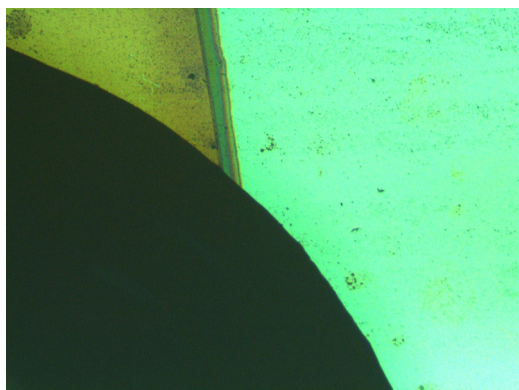
- The jellyfish species Aequorea contains the highly fluorescent glyco-protein GFP.
- GFP folds to protect its fluorescent inner core, this results in a non-polar interior and highly charged exterior.
- Perfect candidate for proof of concept due to proteins robustness and ease of detection.



# Optical release of GFP with spatial control

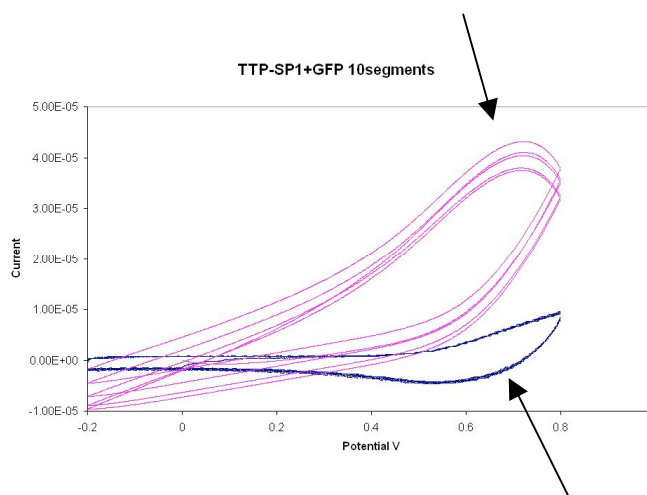


(1) poly(TTT-BSP1) on ITO

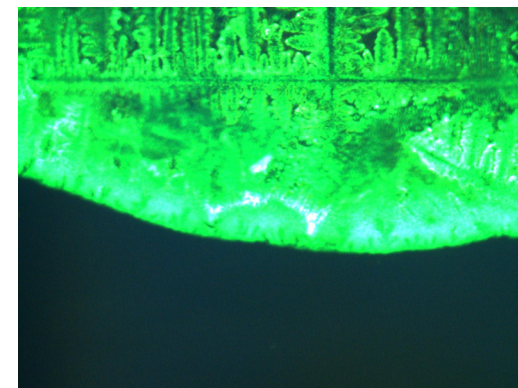


(2) 0.8V + 1mg/ml of GFP 10mins  
Photo mask placed in front of ITO  
substrate, irradiation of 550nm for 10 minutes

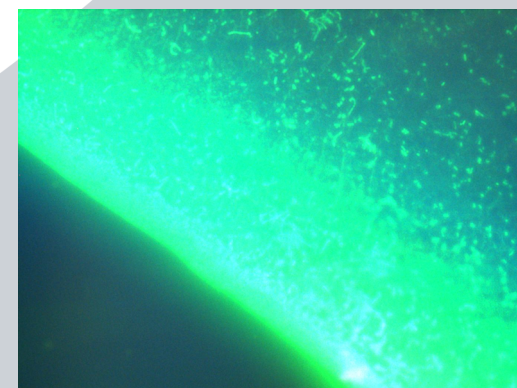
poly(TTT-BSP1) on ITO



After addition of GFP to buffer



(3) Substrate washed with  
buffer and irradiated  
with 470 nm





# Conclusions

- Synthesis of new photo and electrochromic terthiophene polymers
- UV-vis and Raman analysis of electrochemical switching
- Polymer morphology changes drastically upon photo and/or electric stimuli
- Initial experiments show capture/release functionality



# Acknowledgements

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- Dermot Diamond
- David Officer and Gordon Wallace
- Klaudia, Lynn, Michael, and Sanjeev