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Microcavity Supported Lipid Bilayers; Evaluation of Drug- Lipid Membrane Interactions by Electrochemical Impedance and Fluorescence Correlation Spectroscopy

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Abstract

Many drugs have intracellular or membrane-associated targets thus understanding their interaction with the cell membrane is of value in drug development. Cell-free tools used to predict membrane interactions should replicate the molecular organization of the membrane. Microcavity array supported lipid bilayer (MSLB) platform are versatile biophysical models of the cell membrane that combine liposome-like membrane fluidity with stability and addressability. We used an MSLB herein to interrogate drug-membrane interactions across seven drugs from different classes, including non-steroidal anti-inflammatories; Ibuprofen (Ibu) and Diclofenac (Dic), antibiotics; Rifampicin (Rif), Levofloxacin (Levo) and Pefloxacin (Pef), and bisphosphonates; Alendronate (Ale) and Clodronate (Clo). Fluorescence lifetime correlation spectroscopy (FLCS) and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) were used to evaluate the impact of drug on DOPC and binary bilayers over physiologically relevant drug concentrations. Whereas FLCS data revealed Ibu, Levo, Pef, Ale and Clo had no impact on lipid lateral

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3 mobility, EIS which is more sensitive to membrane structural change, indicated modest but significant
4 decreases to membrane resistivity consistent with adsorption but weak penetration of drugs at the
5 membrane. Ale and Clo, evaluated at pH 5.25, did not impact the impedance of the membrane except at
6 concentrations exceeding 4mM. Conversely, Dic and Rif dramatically altered bilayer fluidity, suggesting
7 their translocation through the bilayer and, EIS data, showed resistivity of the membrane decreased
8 substantially with increasing drug concentration. Capacitance changes to the bilayer in most cases were
9 insignificant. Using a Langmuir-Freundlich model to fit the EIS data, we propose R_{sat} as an empirical
10 value that reflects permeation. Overall, the data indicate that Ibu, Levo, and Pef, adsorb at the interface of
11 the lipid membrane but Dic and Rif interact strongly, permeating the membrane core modifying the
12 water/ion permeability of the bilayer structure. These observations are discussed in the context of
13 previously reported data on drug permeability and Log P.
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24 *Keywords:* Microcavity supported lipid bilayer (MSLB), Fluorescence lifetime correlation spectroscopy
25 (FLCS), Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS), Lipid diffusivity, Fluorescent lifetime and
26 Molecular brightness, Membrane permeabilization
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29 *Abbreviations:* Ibu – Ibuprofen; Dic – Diclofenac; Rif-Rifampicin; ATTO – DOPE-Atto655, BODIPY –
30 β -BODIPY- C_5 -HPC; MSLB – microcavity supported lipid bilayer; FLCS – fluorescence lifetime
31 correlation spectroscopy; EIS – electrochemical impedance spectroscopy; MH - 6-mercapto-1-hexanol;
32 DOPC – 1,2-dioleoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphocholine; DMPC – 1,2-dimyristoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-
33 phosphocholine; τ_i – fluorescent lifetime; MB – Molecular brightness
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Introduction

Irrespective of its target, a drug must typically cross numerous membrane structures within an organism, following its administration. Understanding the extent and structural basis of interaction of pharmaceuticals with the lipid membrane is crucial in drug discovery as such information can aid in predicting membrane permeability or membrane-associated toxicity during the design of drugs with intracellular targets.¹⁻³ The cellular membranes are semi-permeable barriers comprised of complex matrices of the phospholipid bilayer, sterol and associated membrane proteins. Many drug molecules have intra-cellular targets. The alterations such species impose on membranes as they associate with and permeate these dynamic structures can have a profound influence on membrane structure, such as thickness, curvature, permeability and fluidity.^{4,5} And, can affect biological function including the integrity of the membrane barrier effect, cell signaling and adhesion, and thus in the toxicity of the drug.⁶⁻⁹ For example, anesthetic molecules such as chloroform, halothane and diethyl ether have been shown to induce lateral expansion in the membrane, increasing local disorder in lipid tails adjacent to the intercalating anesthetic molecule.¹⁰ Similarly, amphotericin B, an antifungal agent, disrupts the fungal cell wall by making pores on the membrane that lead to cell death.¹¹⁻¹³ Valinomycin and gramicidin A (gA) permeate the bilayer by forming ion channels that alter the membrane electrochemical resistivity.¹⁴⁻¹⁶

Molecular lipophilicity is one of the key physicochemical properties considered predictive of passive molecular diffusion across the biological membrane¹⁷. Log P is one of the most commonly used reference systems for the assessment of molecular lipophilicity and prediction of permeability. Where P is the partition coefficient of a neutral molecule between an aqueous and lipophilic (usually octanol) phase. For ionized species the distribution coefficients, *LogD*, the ratio of the sum of the concentrations of ionized and unionized forms of the compound in two phases is more appropriate.¹¹ Though widely used in the pharmaceutical industry, these parameters are fairly crude predictors of membrane association and permeability that provide limited insight into the molecular nature of drug-membrane interaction. Indeed, recent evidence indicates that not only hydrophobicity but also lipid composition plays an important role in the passive diffusion of drugs across the lipid bilayer.^{4,18,19}

Artificial membranes offer a valuable means to study the interactions of drugs with the membrane during the earliest stages of drug development and can be used to anticipate both passive membrane permeability and membrane associated toxicological problems isolated from the complexity of the living cell.²⁰ Also, where the molecular target is a membrane protein or where permeation is mediated through protein interaction, molecular insights into membrane-molecular interactions are important. Various biomimetic models such as liposomes and supported lipid bilayers (SLB) methods are widely used to

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3 interrogate the behavior of membrane lipids with small molecules. However, undulation of the membrane,
4 limited stability, compositional versatility and means of interrogation are drawbacks attributed to
5 unilamellar vesicles. Whilst, interference from the interfacial support on the fluidity and functionality of
6 the bilayer and associated proteins in SLBs, are limitations to the application of these models in study of
7 lateral diffusion of proteins and lipids in the membrane.^{21,22} Several modifications have been introduced
8 to improve fluidity in supported membrane models, including tethered lipid bilayer membranes and
9 cushioned bilayer membranes,²³ but the lateral mobility of lipids and reconstituted proteins typically do
10 not attain the mobility reported for giant unilamellar vesicles. Alternative approaches have emerged that
11 assemble membranes supported over pores which can improve fluidity whilst maintaining stability.^{24–26}
12 We recently reported a microcavity supported lipid bilayer (MSLB) formed from polystyrene sphere
13 templated polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS)²⁷ for optical measurements and on gold-coated silicon wafers
14 for electrochemical measurements. These platforms, because of their aqueous filled pore underlying the
15 bilayer, combine the fluidity of a liposome with stability and versatility reminiscent of an SLB. These
16 properties, along with their ease of interrogation by electrochemical and optical microscopy means and
17 the deep aqueous reservoir below their proximal lipid leaflet make the MSLBs a versatile platform for
18 interrogating molecular -membrane interactions at a lipid bilayer membrane in a robust, relatively quick
19 and facile manner.

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22 Herein, using MSLB platforms, we examined the interactions of seven well-characterized drugs with
23 biomembranes from three different families; non-steroidal anti-inflammatories; Ibuprofen (Ibu) and
24 Diclofenac (Dic), antibiotics; Rifampicin (Rif), Levofloxacin (Levo) and Pefloxacin (Pef), and
25 bisphosphonates; Alendronate (Ale) and Clodronate (Clo)., selected because they span different
26 solubility, *Log P* and apparent permeability coefficients (P_{app}). The concentration of the drugs incident at
27 the microcavity supported lipid bilayer was systematically varied and fluorescence lifetime correlation
28 spectroscopy (FLCS) was used to evaluate and compare the changes in the lateral mobility, fluorescence
29 lifetime (τ_i) and molecular brightness (MB) of lipid probes in the membrane in response to drug
30 concentration. In parallel, electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) was used to evaluate changes to
31 membrane thickness and permeability as a function of drug concentration. Our data show significant and
32 consistent changes on membrane interactions with drug type and provide new insights into drug-
33 membrane behavior. The study indicates that the microcavity SLB platform is a useful and versatile
34 interrogative tool for understanding and evaluating drug-lipid membrane using interactions.

Materials and Methods

Materials

1,2-Dioleoyl-*sn*-glycerophosphocholine (DOPC), 1,2-Dioleoyl-*sn*-glycerophosphoethanolamine (DOPE), 1,2-Dioleoyl-*sn*-glycerophosphoserine (DOPS), and 1,2-Dioleoyl-*sn*-glycerophosphoglycerol (DOPG) in powder form were purchased from Avanti polar lipids (Instruchemie, The Netherlands). Ibuprofen (Ibu), Diclofenac (Dic) sodium salt, Levofloxacin, Pefloxacin, Rifampicin, Alendronates, Clodronates and phosphate buffer saline (PBS) tablets were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Wicklow, Ireland), β -BODIPY- C_5 -HPC ((2-(4,4-Difluoro-5,7-Dimethyl-4-Bora-3a,4a-Diaza-s-Indacene-3-Pentanoyl)-1-Hexadecanoyl-*sn*-Glycero-3-Phosphocholine) (530/550nm) was purchased from Thermofisher (Ireland) and DOPE-atto655 (ex. 650/em. 670nm) was purchased from Atto-tech GmbH (Siegen, Germany). All other chemicals were of HPLC grade from Sigma-Aldrich (Wicklow, Ireland), and were used as purchased. Ultrapure water with a resistivity ≥ 18.2 M Ω cm was produced by a MilliQ (Millipore Academic) system and used for buffer preparation.

Vesicle preparation

The one component, binary and ternary lipid mixtures were prepared from DOPC, DOPC:DOPG (3:1), DOPC:DOPS (3:1), DOPC:DOPG:DOPE (2:1:1), [mol:mol]. For FLCS, lipids and fluorescent lipid probe (β -BODIPY- C_5 -HPC (BODIPY) and DOPE-Atto655 (ATTO)) were mixed in a ratio of 10000:1 mol/mol and dried under vacuum. The dried lipid films were rehydrated in 1 ml of 0.01 M phosphate buffer saline (PBS), pH 7.4 or 0.02 M Tris buffer, pH 5.25 and vortexed for a period of 30-60 s. Next, the lipid suspensions were extruded 11 times through a 100 nm polycarbonate filter using a mini-extruder (Avanti Polar Lipids) to form large unilamellar vesicles (LUV) that were then diluted to final concentration of 0.25 mg/ml and stored at 4 °C for further use. The vesicles were prepared in the same way but without the fluorescent probe for EIS measurements.

Microcavity array supported lipid bilayers

Lipid bilayers were suspended across aqueous filled microcavity arrays according to protocols modified slightly from previous reports.^{27,28} For fluorescence studies the microcavity arrays were made from polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) [Sylgard 184 base and curing kit, Dow Corning]. Briefly, PDMS was cast onto a dried film of polystyrene spheres of 2.88 μ m diameters, formed on freshly cleaved mica, and cured. The PDMS was peeled off the mica and the spheres were removed to form open spherical cavities embedded in PDMS. The planar PDMS was plasma cleaned, followed by 1 h of sonication in PBS buffer to ensure the cavities were filled with the aqueous solution.

Following aqueous filling, a combination of Langmuir-Blodgett (LB) and vesicle fusion (VF) methods were employed to fabricate MSLB. The details of Langmuir-Blodgett techniques are described in supplementary information. The microcavity for EIS measurements was made in an analogous way at gold-coated silicon wafers and the details are described in SI.

Fluorescence Lifetime Correlation Spectroscopy (FLCS)

FLCS experiments were performed using a Microtime 200 system (PicoQuant GmbH, Germany) consisting of FCS module, dual SPD detection unit, time-correlated single photon counting (TCSPC), and inverted microscope model Olympus X1-71 with a Olympus UPlan SApo 60x/1.2 water immersion objective. The lipid labeled fluorophores BODIPY and ATTO were excited using pulsed picosecond lasers at 532 nm laser PicoTA from Toptica (Picoquant) and 640 nm LDH-P-C-640B Picoquant, respectively. A single mode optical fiber guides the two lasers to the main unit and provides a homogeneous Gaussian profile for both excitations. The lasers were pulsed at 20 MHz, corresponding to an interval of 50 ns. The emitted fluorescence was collected through the microscope objective and dichroic mirror z532/635rpc blocked the backscattered light and HQ550lp AHF/Chroma for 532 nm and HQ670lp AHF/Chroma for 640 nm filters were used to clean up the signal. A 50 μm pinhole was used to confine the volume of detection in the axial direction. Fluorescence was detected using a single photon avalanche diode (SPAD) from MPD (Picoquant). The time-correlated single photon counting system (PicoHarp 300 from Picoquant), enabled simultaneous assessment of the lifetime in a nanosecond range along with the time of diffusion in the millisecond range.⁵⁸ Using TCSPC allowed us to filter any contribution from after-pulsing, suppress scattered light and parasitic signals and background,^{30,31} and in parallel to calculate the fluorescence lifetime of the lipid probes in situ.

To calibrate the FCS confocal volume, Rhodamine 6G (532nm) and Atto655 (640nm) dyes with known diffusion coefficients were used.³² The volume was determined at the start of each set of experiments and at least 15 data points were collected from each sample and each data point was measured for 30 sec. The time-dependent fluctuations of the fluorescence intensity $dI(t)$ were recorded and analyzed by an autocorrelation function $G(t) = I + \langle dI(t') dI(t'+t) \rangle / \langle I(t') \rangle^2$. As has been shown theoretically for an ensemble of m different types of freely diffusing species, $G(t)$ has the following 2-dimensional analytical form:³³

$$G(t) = 1 + \left[1 + \frac{f_T}{1-f_T} e^{-t/\tau_T} \right] \frac{1}{\langle N \rangle} \sum_{i=1}^m \left(1 + \left(\frac{\tau}{\tau_{D_i}} \right)^\alpha \right)^{-1} \quad (1)$$

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3 Here $\langle N \rangle$ is the average number of diffusing fluorescence species in the observation volume, f_T and τ_T
4 are the fractions and the decay time of the triplet state respectively, τ_{Di} is the diffusion time of the i^{th}
5 species, and α is the anomalous exponent respectively. α indicates the extent of deviation of diffusion
6 coefficient (D) from Brownian behavior and it can vary between 0 to 2. A value of 1 indicates the free
7 diffusion.^{34,35} The experimentally obtained $G(t)$ is fit equation (1), to yield the diffusion time, τ_{Di} which is
8 related to the diffusion coefficient D through $D = r_0^2/4\tau_{Di}$, where r_0 is the lateral radius of the confocal
9 volume. The fits of the autocorrelation curves were carried out using the PicoQuant software package
10 using a least square Marquard-Levenberg algorithm.
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16 The fluorescent decays were fit to a multi-exponential model to obtain the luminescent lifetime, τ_i of the
17 probe according to equation 2.³⁶
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$$I(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \exp\left(-t/\tau_i\right) \quad (2)$$

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21 where τ_i are the lifetimes with amplitudes a_i . The values of τ_i and a_i were determined using PicoQuant
22 Symphotime software with nonlinear least-square fitting.
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28 The Molecular Brightness (MB) was calculated by dividing the average photon-counts per second by
29 average number of molecules (N) computed from equation 1, given below^{37,38}
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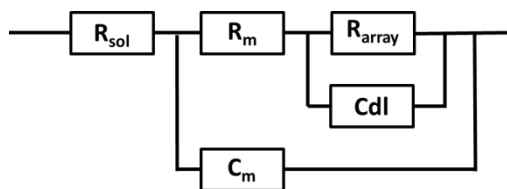
$$\text{MB [counts per second per molecule]} = \langle \text{Average photon-counts} \rangle / \langle N \rangle$$

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34 All measurements were performed at 20 ± 0.4 °C.
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37 *Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy, EIS.*

38 EIS was performed with a CH660A potentiostat (CH Instruments, USA). A standard 3-electrode cell was
39 employed which are comprised of an Ag/AgCl (1M KCl) reference electrode, a platinum wire auxiliary
40 electrode and the gold microcavity array which constituted the working electrode. The EIS data were
41 measured over a frequency range of 0.01 to 10^4 Hz with an ac modulation amplitude of 0.01 V at a
42 potential bias of 0 V (vs Ag/AgCl). All measurements were carried out in a glass cell (approximate
43 volume of 4 ml) in contact with electrolytes PBS buffer maintained at pH 7.4 or 20 mM Tris buffer at pH
44 5.25. The EIS of the aqueous filled microcavity array coated with the lipid bilayer was measured initially
45 prior to addition of drugs to ensure signal stability. Subsequently, drug solutions were titrated into the
46 glass cell containing buffer and the electrochemical impedance response of the lipid bilayer measured for
47 each concentration. Each measurement takes approximately 10 min and were carried out at room
48 temperature (20 ± 0.4 °C). The measured data were analyzed using Z-View software with the fitting
49 model (Scheme 1) to determine the changes in membrane resistivity and conductance on drug interaction.
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3 *Equivalent circuit model for MSLB*
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13 **Scheme 1:** ECM model used to fit EIS data.
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16 In order to extract the resistance and capacitance values for the MSLBs, the EIS data were fit to the
17 equivalent circuit model (ECM) shown in scheme 1 which was described previously for the lipid bilayer
18 modified microcavity array electrode.¹⁰ The circuit consists of the solution resistance (R_{sol}) in series with
19 a resistor and a capacitor, which are in parallel and correspond to the electric and dielectric properties
20 respectively of membrane deposited on the electrode surface (R_m , C_m). The ECM also contains an
21 additional component to account for the resistance of the cavity array (R_{array}), and the double layer
22 capacitance (C_{dl}). The data for the bare cavities and those treated with MH were fitted with a
23 $R_{sol}(R_m||C_m)$, true constant as at this stage, as in the absence of the bilayer, the resistance and capacitance
24 are expected to be uniform along the surface of the electrodes. A Constant Phase Element (CPE) is used
25 in the equivalent circuit instead of pure capacitors to account for surface defects on both the electrode
26 surface and the lipid bilayer. The impedance of a CPE is given by $Z_{CPE} = Q^{-1}(j\omega)^{-\beta}$ where Q is the
27 magnitude of the capacitance of the CPE, ω is the angular frequency, and β is a real number between 1
28 and 0 (the closer β approaches 1, the more ideal the capacitive behavior of the CPE).
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37 *Langmuir and Langmuir-Freundlich Isotherms*
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39 The EIS data for each drug were iteratively fit to non-linearized Langmuir and Langmuir-Freundlich
40 isotherm expression as defined by Eq. (3) and (4) respectively;³⁹
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$$\Delta R = \frac{R_{sat}(K_a C)}{1 + K_a C} \quad (3)$$

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$$\Delta R = \frac{R_{sat}(K_a C)^n}{1 + (K_a C)^n} \quad (4)$$

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49 where ΔR is the change in membrane resistance, as function of bulk drug concentration, R_{sat} is absorption
50 capacity that relates to the number of available binding sites, K_a is affinity constant for adsorption, C is
51 the equilibrium concentration of the drugs and n (dimensionless) is the index of heterogeneity.
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Results

Figure 1 shows a schematic representation of the MSLB platform preparation used in this work. For fluorescence measurements, a microsphere templating method reported previously²⁷ was used to prepare PDMS microcavity arrays and is described in the methods section. The fluorescently labeled bilayers were suspended across the aqueous filled microcavity array by a combined LB-VF method, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

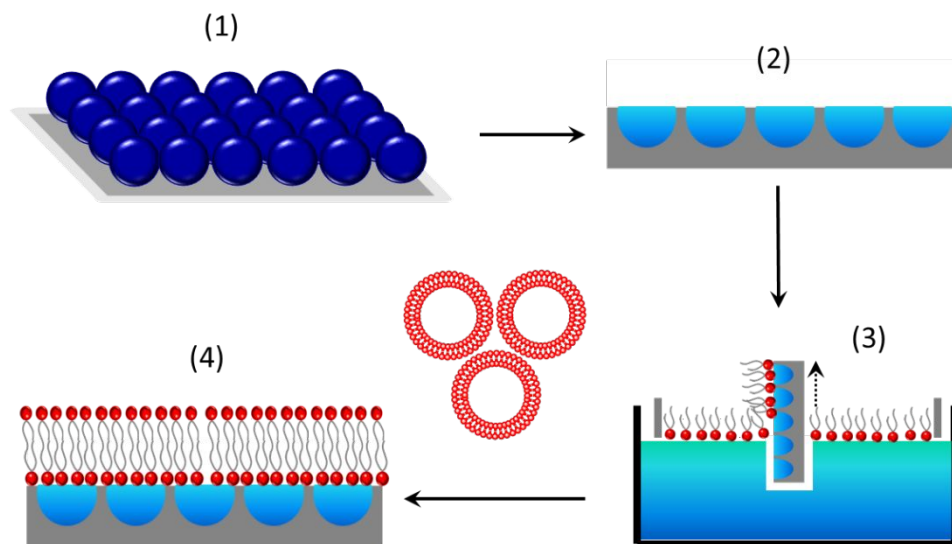


Figure 1: A representation of MSLB platform preparation. (1) The polystyrene beads of diameter 2.88 μm were drop cast either on a gold-coated silicon wafer for EIS or on mica for FLCS measurements, (2) Formation of microcavities on gold using electrodeposition method and on PDMS by a solidifying method. (3) Microcavities were filled with buffer and form a lipid monolayer using the Langmuir-Blodgett technique. (4) Lipid vesicles, with fluorescent lipid probes for FLCS, were allowed to disrupt on the lipid monolayer to form the bilayer. Microcavity made on PDMS, turned into a small portable microfluidic device for FLCS measurement.

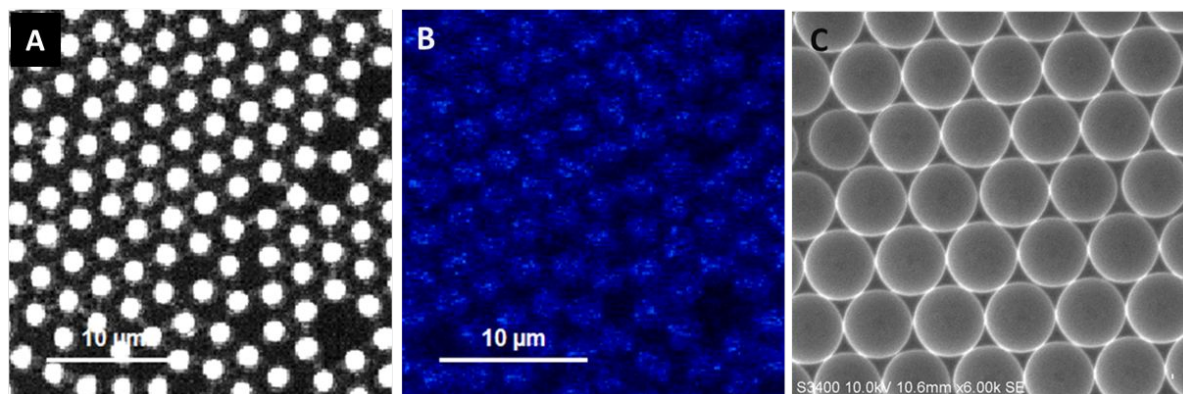


Figure 2: Representative microcavity array formed on PDMS and gold substrate. (A) Reflectance image acquired from confocal microscopy, where the white spot represents an aqueous filled cavity and the black area corresponds to planar and unfilled cavities. (B) Fluorescent image of lipid bilayer labeled with DOPE-Atto655 spread across the microcavity array to form MSLB using the LB-VF method. (C) Scanning electron microscopy image of microcavity array formed on the gold substrate using the electrodeposition method. The scale bar was 10 μm .

The refractive index mismatch between PDMS ($n \sim 1.45$) and the buffer ($n \sim 1.33$) enables precise location of the pore suspended bilayers as the aqueous filled pores appear as intensely reflective spots in the white light back reflectance images as shown in Figures 2A and B. On locating the spanning bilayer, the observation volume is positioned at the center of a micropore and the bilayer located by z-scanning to find the most intense fluorescence point from where the autocorrelation function (ACF) trace is then collected. Time traces were, in all cases, acquired for 30 s and SymPhoTime 64 software was used to acquire and analyze the time traces. Representative ACF curves for labeled lipid diffusion in DOPC over a cavity are shown in Figure 3 (*vide infra*) along with their fit to the 2D-diffusion model (equation 1). The calculated diffusion coefficient of DOPE-ATTO655 in DOPC lipid membrane is $11.7 \pm 0.47 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ and that of β -BODIPY-C5-HPC, $14.20 \pm 0.8 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$. These values are consistent with reported literature diffusion coefficient values for these probes at microcavity suspended bilayers as well as giant unilamellar vesicles (GUVs),^{27,40,41} and reflect the high degree of fluidity of the lipids supported across the aqueous filled micropores.

For EIS studies, the microcavities were prepared by polystyrene sphere templating and electrodeposition of gold onto gold-coated silicon wafers as reported previously^{14,28} and the step by step protocol is also presented in experimental methods. Figure 2C shows a representative SEM image of the working area of the electrode. Such images confirm that the gold electro-deposition technique implemented produced uniform areas ($\sim 1 \text{ cm}^2$) of ordered closely packed $2.80 \pm 0.04 \mu\text{m}$ microcavity arrays. The impedance of

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3 the bilayer was monitored over 8 h to confirm that the impedance signal and thus the membrane is stable
4 with no spontaneous changes to EIS signal observed during the experimental time window (cf. Fig. S1
5 and Table S1, supplementary information (SI))
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9 **Drug-Membrane Interactions**

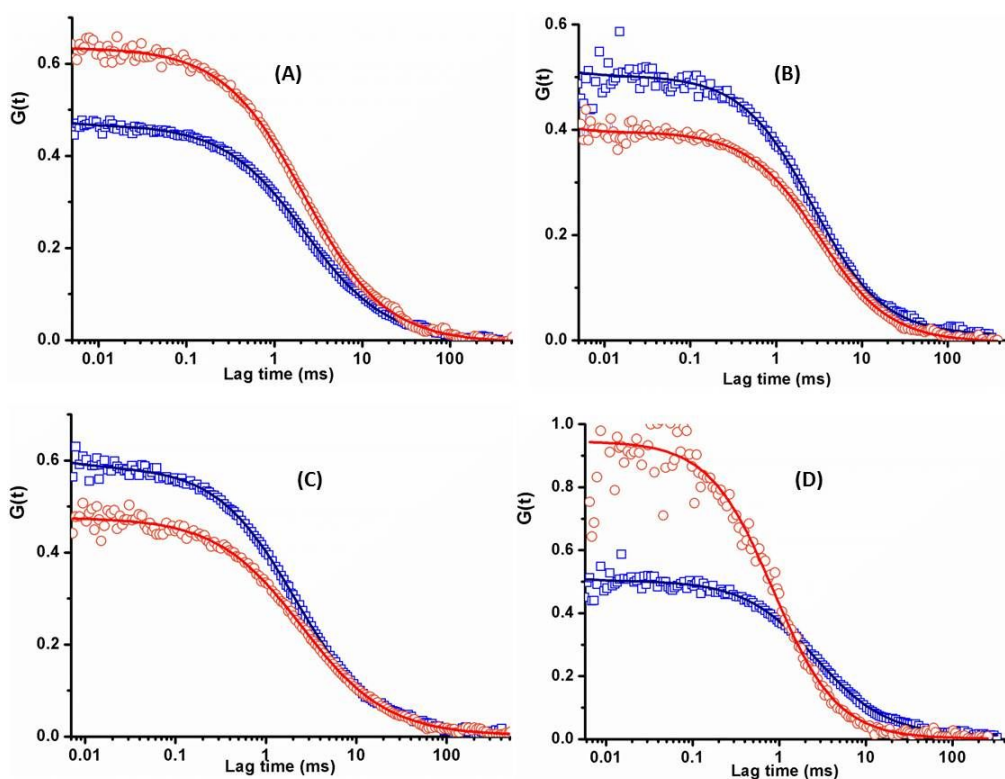
10 **NSAIDs: Ibuprofen and Diclofenac**

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13 The impact of Ibu on the fluidity of a DOPC lipid bilayer membrane was examined by systematically
14 varying the concentration of Ibu from 1 μM to 1 mM. This concentration range was selected to encompass
15 the reported therapeutic blood plasma levels of Ibu which lie in the range of 2 - 40 μM with higher
16 concentrations lying the range present in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract.⁴²⁻⁴⁴ Ibu in PBS buffer was
17 injected into the flow chamber and allowed to equilibrate for 10 mins with the DOPC MSLB. Control
18 experiments where the equilibration times were extended over an hour confirmed no further changes to
19 lipid mobility occurred beyond 10 mins. To build statistical significance, ACFs were collected from
20 between 20 and 30 different micropores across a single substrate. ATTO655-DOPE (ATTO) and β -
21 BODIPY-C₅-HPC (BODIPY) were both used to probe the different aspects of the membrane
22 environment. The ATTO is a cationic oxazine probe, which is relatively hydrophilic and conjugated to the
23 lipid headgroup so resides at the aqueous interface of the lipid bilayer. Conversely, BODIPY is a
24 hydrophobic probe, expected to orient relatively deeply into the hydrophobic core of the bilayer. These
25 probes are well suited for FCS studies due to their high photostability and quantum yields.⁴⁵ Figures 3A
26 and B show representative ACF curves for ATTO and BODIPY lipid probes at DOPC MSLBs
27 respectively following addition to 400 μM of Ibu. The resulting data, following curve fitting to equation
28 (1), is shown in the supplementary information (Table S2a,b, SI). FLCS enables us to simultaneously
29 measure the fluorescence lifetime of the lipid probe along with FCS data. The molecular brightness (MB)
30 of the lipid probe in the membrane as a function of Ibu concentration also was calculated.
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43 The diffusion coefficients of the ATTO probe across the different drug concentrations were, within
44 experimental error, unaffected by bilayer exposure to Ibu (Table S2a, SI). The fluorescence lifetime of
45 ATTO in the DOPC MSLB was 3.3 ± 0.02 ns with an MB of 6300 ± 600 counts per seconds per molecule
46 (cpsm); both parameters were similarly unaffected by the presence of Ibu in the contacting medium. As
47 expected, α values for diffusion of the lipid probe both in the absence and across all the concentrations of
48 Ibu were 0.98 ± 0.02 , reflecting Brownian diffusion of ATTO in DOPC membrane.
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53 The diffusion coefficient of BODIPY in the DOPC bilayer was found to be 14.20 ± 0.8 $\mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ and
54 although only slightly dependent on Ibu concentrations, at the highest Ibu concentration (1000 μM) D had
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3 decreased to $12.40 \pm 0.7 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ (Table S2b, SI). The BODIPY probe exhibits faster diffusion than the
4 ATTO. The fluorescence lifetime of BODIPY obtained in our studies is comparable to reported values in
5 unilamellar vesicles and in methanol.^{30,46} The α value for this probe was 0.98 ± 0.01 consistent again with
6 normal Brownian diffusion and similarly, no significant changes to diffusion modality were observed
7 upon addition of Ibu to the contacting media. The fluorescent lifetime of the BODIPY probe was $5.94 \pm$
8 0.08 ns for DOPC alone and this decreased modestly to $5.83 \pm 0.03 \text{ ns}$ when the bilayer was in contact
9 with Ibu concentrations exceeding $100 \mu\text{M}$. The MB of BODIPY was unaffected by increasing
10 concentrations of Ibu and measured as $12700 \pm 1100 \text{ cpsm}$. Thus we conclude from FLCS that
11 introduction of Ibu has modest impact on the fluidity or viscosity of the DOPC lipid membrane.
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44 **Figure 3:** Representative ACF data for (A) Ibuprofen BODIPY, (B) Ibuprofen ATTO, (C) Diclofenac
45 BODIPY, (D) Diclofenac ATTO in DOPC lipid membrane on PDMS microcavity as a function of (□) 0
46 and (○) $400 \mu\text{M}$ of drug concentration. The lipid membrane suspended across the $2.88 \mu\text{m}$ cavity was
47 filled with the PBS buffer, pH 7.4. 532 nm and 640 nm pulsed lasers were used to excite the BODIPY and
48 ATTO molecules.
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52 Next, we studied the interaction of Dic with the DOPC lipid bilayer under the same conditions and
53 concentrations used for Ibu, as their physiological concentrations are the same.⁴⁷ Figures 3C and D show
54 representative ACF data for DOPC MSLB labeled with BODIPY and ATTO lipid probes respectively
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before and after 400 μM Dic. Whereas, as reflected in Figures 3C and D, changes in the ACF data for the BODIPY labeled DOPC bilayer were modest, systematic concentration-dependent changes were observed for the ATTO labeled membrane. Tables 1 and S3 (SI) show the outcome of the fitting of FLCS data for ATTO and BODIPY labeled DOPC lipid membranes against the Dic concentrations. The D value of ATTO-DOPE in DOPC bilayer alone was $11.7 \pm 0.47 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ and this was unchanged at the lowest concentrations of Dic (1 and 4 μM). However, D dramatically rises to $43.5 \pm 4.7 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ for 800 μM and 1000 μM (Table 1). The number of molecules (N) in the observation volume was reduced from 3 for DOPC MSLB in the absence of Dic to 1 at higher concentrations of Dic (Table 1). Interestingly, the α value for ATTO was also influenced by Dic where it increased from ~ 1 for DOPC bilayer alone/lower Dic concentrations to 1.21 ± 0.09 for concentrations of Dic exceeding 10 μM . The fluorescence lifetime of ATTO in DOPC lipid bilayer was reduced from $3.3 \pm 0.02 \text{ ns}$ to $2.44 \pm 0.06 \text{ ns}$ with increasing concentration of Dic in the contacting solution. Similarly, MB of the ATTO in DOPC lipid bilayer was reduced from $6300 \pm 600 \text{ cpsm}$ in the absence of Dic to $1000 \pm 100 \text{ cpsm}$ for 1 mM of Dic concentration in the contacting solution. At the end of the titration, the membrane contacting buffer was exchanged for fresh PBS buffer to remove the drugs from the contacting solution. Following this treatment the D value of ATTO reduced to $22.0 \pm 2.0 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ but did not fully recover, suggesting Dic irreversibly associated or permeates the membrane.

Table 1: FLCS determined parameters of ATTO lipid probes in the DOPC lipid membrane at designated doses of Dic in PBS buffer, pH 7.4.

Conc. (μM)	Mol. Brightness (X 1000)	Fluor. lifetime (ns)	Anomalous exponent α	N	D ($\mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$)
0	6.3 ± 0.6	3.3 ± 0.02	0.98 ± 0.02	3.0 ± 0.5	11.7 ± 0.47
1	6.2 ± 0.5	3.3 ± 0.01	1.05 ± 0.02	2.5 ± 1	13.7 ± 0.3
4	6.1 ± 0.5	3.28 ± 0.01	1.0 ± 0.02	3.5 ± 0.5	11.9 ± 0.75
10	6.2 ± 0.4	3.24 ± 0.01	1.15 ± 0.02	2.0 ± 0.5	16.6 ± 0.8
40	5.0 ± 0.4	3.16 ± 0.01	1.08 ± 0.03	1.5 ± 0.5	18.0 ± 1.2
100	3.9 ± 0.5	3.04 ± 0.01	1.19 ± 0.04	1.0 ± 0.2	24.0 ± 2.4
400	1.6 ± 0.2	2.78 ± 0.04	1.21 ± 0.06	1.0 ± 0.4	34.3 ± 3.0
800	1.1 ± 0.1	2.5 ± 0.07	1.16 ± 0.5	1.0 ± 0.5	43.5 ± 4.7
1000	1.0 ± 0.1	2.44 ± 0.06	1.21 ± 0.09	1.5 ± 0.5	41.5 ± 5.0
After wash	6.0 ± 0.5	3.15 ± 0.02	1.14 ± 0.02	1.5 ± 0.5	22.0 ± 2.0

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3 As a control measure, we introduced Dic at random concentrations to the bilayer and subsequently
4 removed the drug from the contacting solution and measured the changes using FLCS (Table S4, SI) to
5 preclude the possibility that changes observed in the membrane are due to systematic damage to the
6 bilayer caused by long exposure time to Dic. As shown in Table S4 (SI), the changes in the membrane
7 dynamics either due to systematic titration of Dic or random addition of drug led to the same numerical
8 values at each concentration point. This result indicates that Dic binds irreversibly to the membrane in a
9 concentration-dependent manner where it impacts on the diffusion of ATTO which is oriented at the
10 membrane aqueous interface. The behavior of the ATTO probe, its increasing diffusion coefficient and
11 the anomalous exponent is similar to behavior observed when PEG was used to treat the DOPC bilayer.⁴⁸
12 We had attributed this behavior to the association of the ATTO probe with the bound interfacial PEG and
13 its localization at the membrane interface. Here, the changes are only observed at concentrations of Dic
14 exceeding 10 μM . We speculate that the opposing charges at the ATTO and Dic adsorbed at the bilayer
15 interface lead to electrostatic interactions between the two, leading to the association of the ATTO with
16 the Dic at the bilayer interface.

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19 We then examined the impact of Dic on BODIPY diffusion as this uncharged species orients within the
20 bilayer core. The ACF fits for diffusion of BODIPY are tabulated in Table S3, SI. The diffusivity was
21 observed to decrease slightly following the introduction of the drug, from $14.2 \pm 0.8 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ for the DOPC
22 in the absence of Dic to an average D value of $12.27 \pm 0.75 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ for 1, 4, 10 and 40 μM of Dic (Table
23 S3, SI). Although this change was minimal relative to standard error, the mean trend was highly
24 consistent across all replicates. The diffusivity decreased further to $11.44 \pm 0.8 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ at Dic
25 concentrations exceeding 100 μM . Unlike ATTO, the N and α values were unaffected by the presence of
26 Dic, whereas the τ_i and MB of the BODIPY in DOPC lipid bilayer decreased upon increasing the
27 concentration of Dic in the contacting solution (Table S3, SI). The lifetime of the BODIPY label within
28 the bilayer was $5.94 \pm 0.08 \text{ ns}$ in the absence of Dic and systematically decreased with increasing Dic
29 concentration to $4.12 \pm 0.03 \text{ ns}$ at 1 mM Dic concentration. Correspondingly, the MB value of the probe
30 decreased from $12700 \pm 1100 \text{ cpsm}$ for DOPC to $3400 \pm 400 \text{ cpsm}$ for 1 mM Dic concentration. To
31 exclude the possibility of Dic interaction with BODIPY that leads to the reduction of its lifetime (τ_i), we
32 independently measured the τ_i of BODIPY in chloroform : methanol (1:1) solution in the absence of
33 bilayer. Upon introducing different concentrations of Dic upto 1mM, no change in the lifetime of the
34 probe was detected compare to the untreated solution (Table S5, SI) suggesting the change in τ_i only
35 occur in the membrane and not in solution. Taken together, the data indicate penetration of the Dic into
36 the hydrophobic core of the membrane. The modification to florescence lifetime and molecular brightness
37 indicate a change in the probes environment which can only occur if the Dic is penetrating the

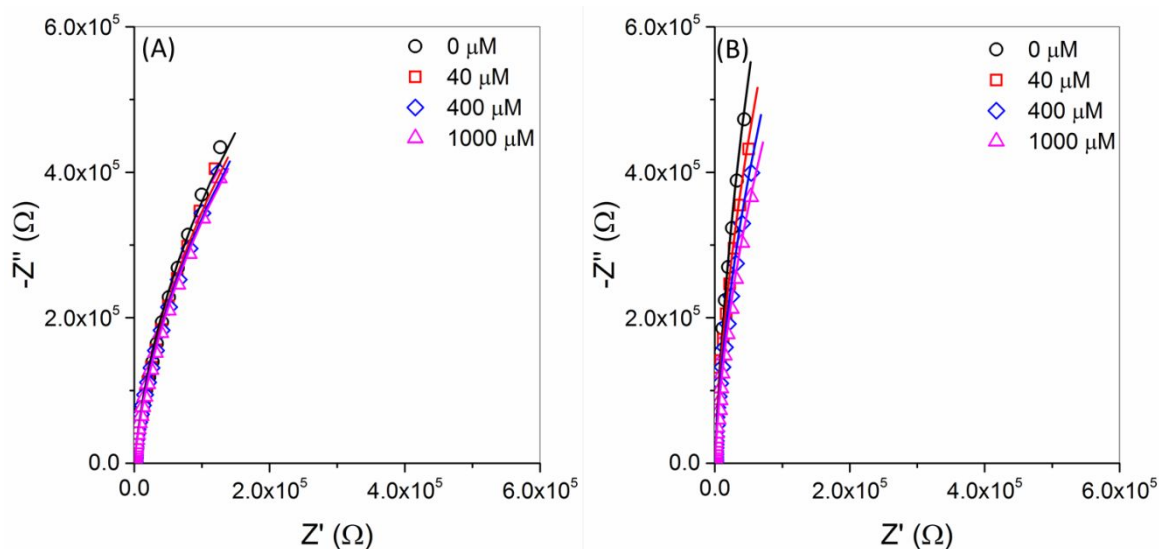
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3 hydrophobic core and suggests taken with the irreversibility of the response at the ATTO probe that Dic
4 permeates the membrane. Finally, we introduced fresh PBS buffer to the MSLB to remove the drug from
5 the contacting solution and acquired ACF data for the probe in the membrane. As observed for the ATTO
6 labelled bilayer D , τ_i and MB only partly recovered indicating Dic remains bound, penetrating the
7 hydrophobic core of the membrane (see after wash in Table S3, SI).
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12 EIS was then used to evaluate the impact of Ibu on changes in resistance and capacitance of lipid
13 bilayer as this method is expected to be highly sensitive to ion permeation or modifications to bilayer
14 packing or thickness if induced by the drug. The Ibu sodium salt in PBS buffer was introduced to the
15 contacting solution of a DOPC bilayer on a gold microcavity, which functioned as the working electrode
16 under the same conditions as described for the FLCS studies. The membrane resistance of the bilayer was
17 evaluated prior to addition of the drug and found to be $5.56 \pm 0.23 \text{ M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$ (cf. Fig. S1 and Table S1, SI),
18 which is consistent with the reported values for other SLBs based on either DOPC and/or different lipid
19 compositions which are typically in the range of 0.1 to $4 \text{ M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$,^{14,21,23,49–52} depending on the
20 modification of electrode surface and surface area.
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27 The Ibu concentration was systematically increased from $1 \mu\text{M}$ to 4 mM , where the cavity was filled with
28 PBS buffer at pH 7.4 (Table S6, SI). Equilibration time was 10 mins after each concentration increase
29 before EIS was measured, as before controls indicated no further change beyond this time interval. Data
30 were measured for each drug concentration in triplicate. There was no variation in response over these
31 triplicate measurements again, confirming equilibrium between the drug and membrane occurred quickly.
32 Each EIS measurement took 10 min to complete and the repeat measurement was taken directly after the
33 preceding measurement. Then, after the highest concentration had been introduced, allowed to equilibrate,
34 and EIS measured in triplicate, the lipid bilayer was washed through twice with PBS buffer to clear any
35 remaining drug from the contacting solution. This was carried out to assess the reversibility of drug
36 binding. In a separate EIS control experiment, we confirmed that exchanging the bilayer contact solution
37 in this way had no measurable impact on the bilayer impedance.
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45 Figure 4A shows a representative Nyquist plot of the complex impedance data for a single DOPC lipid-
46 MSLB with variable concentrations (0, 40, 400, 100 μM) of Ibu. For a Nyquist plot, the sum of the real,
47 Z' , and imaginary, Z'' components represents the complex impedance (Fig. 4) which originates from the
48 resistance and capacitance of the cell. An EIS data shifts towards Z'' (y-axis), indicates that there is an
49 increase in the impedance of the bilayer. Similarly, a shift towards Z' (x-axis) implies that the bilayer
50 impedance is reduced. In lipid bilayer systems, reduced impedance (or admittance) is typically
51 attributable to increased permeability or membrane ionic/aqueous leakiness,⁵³ i.e. reduced electrochemical
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3 resistance arising typically from changes to lipid packing or ion permeability. From visual inspection of
4 the EIS curves, it is evident that Ibu causes a small but systematic decrease on bilayer impedance, as
5 illustrated in Figure 4A. For quantitative insight, we extracted the resistance values of the lipid bilayer by
6 fitting the EIS data to the equivalent circuit model (ECM) shown in Scheme 1. The relative change in
7 resistance and capacitance values before and after drug addition, the data extracted from the fit results are
8 summarized in Table 2.
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32 **Figure 4:** Nyquist plot titration of Ibu and Dic drugs into contacting solution at a DOPC bilayer
33 suspended across 2.88 μm cavities in a 0.01 M PBS solution (pH 7.4): frequency range 0.01 Hz to 10^4 Hz
34 with a bias potential of 0.0 V vs Ag/AgCl (1 M KCl). The \circ , \square , \diamond , Δ symbols represent DOPC lipid
35 bilayer for 40 μM , 400 μM and 1 mM concentration of (A) Ibuprofen and (B) Diclofenac in contacting
36 solution.
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41 It is evident, comparing the absolute resistance values from fitting across two substrates (Table S6, SI),
42 that the initial resistance values vary from substrate to substrate. This is unsurprising, given the nature of
43 the substrates, and is attributed to variations in the uniformity of cavity packing and consequent
44 microscale roughness of gold substrate and surface coverage. Therefore, we compared data across several
45 substrates and report the average relative changes in bilayer resistance and capacitance rather than
46 absolute values as shown in Table 2. Ibu induces a modest but significant (by comparison with control, of
47 a DOPC MSLB in absence of Ibu, Table S8, SI) and systematic decrease in bilayer resistance with
48 increasing drug concentration. These changes were accompanied by small increases to the bilayer
49 capacitance at higher drug concentrations. Together, the data indicate that the bilayer becomes more
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3 permeable on Ibu interaction, which is attributed, from the modest change in capacitance, to decrease in
4 membrane thickness indicating Ibu adsorption at the bilayer interface.
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7 FLCS data indicated that compared to Ibu, Dic elicits very significant changes in the DOPC lipid
8 membrane fluidity affecting both probes oriented at the aqueous membrane interface and within the
9 hydrophobic core. Figure 4B shows the impedance response at a gold supported DOPC MSLB at
10 different concentrations of Dic (0, 40, 400 and 1000 μ M). From visual inspection of the EIS response
11 shown in Figure 4B, it is evident, and consistent with the FLCS data that Dic interacts in a more intimate
12 way with the bilayer than Ibu. In contrast to Ibu, impedance decreases with increasing concentration of
13 Dic at the DOPC membrane. Furthermore, the magnitudes of the relative change in impedance are
14 significantly greater and evident even at the lowest concentration of Dic (1 μ M). Removal of Dic from the
15 contacting solution at the end of the titration left the impedance spectra relatively unchanged. This
16 observation is consistent with FLCS data indicating the drug associates strongly, penetrates deeply and
17 irreversibly into the phosphatidylcholine membrane.⁵
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25 The resistance and capacitance data for Dic are summarized in Table 2. The data shown were collected
26 from three independently prepared and studied gold cavity array substrates. As a control, the stability of
27 bilayer at an intermediate Dic concentration of 100 μ M was monitored and it was observed that no
28 significant changes to the bilayer resistivity over 3-4 hrs (Fig. S2 and Table S7, SI). As Dic was prepared
29 in a minimum volume of methanol to aid solubility, a control was conducted to ensure that the membrane
30 resistance change was not due to membrane disruption by methanol (Figures S3, S4 and Table S9, SI).
31 The impact of methanol at the concentration of 0.1% V/V used here, was insignificant compared with the
32 impact of Dic, confirming that the change in resistance is due to Dic.
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39 EIS shows that both Ibu and Dic induce systematic decreases in membrane resistance with increasing
40 drug concentration. Consistent with FCS data, the magnitude of resistance change is far greater for Dic
41 than Ibu indicating the former is impacting the lateral packing density of the membrane and significantly
42 increasing its ion permeability. We did not observe a significant difference between the capacitance
43 changes of the bilayer between Ibu and Dic, suggesting that the layer thickness in each case is comparable
44 and only modestly affected by these drugs (Table 2).
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Table 2: Effect of Ibu and Dic on the resistance and capacitance of DOPC bilayer at increasing concentrations. Results depict change (Δ) recorded following drug addition, relative to bilayer prior to drug interaction.

Concentration (μM)	Ibuprofen		Diclofenac	
	ΔR_m ($\text{M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$)	ΔC_m (μFcm^{-2})	ΔR_m ($\text{M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$)	ΔC_m (μFcm^{-2})
DOPC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	-0.07 ± 0.06	0.00	0.98 ± 0.07	0.00
5	-0.30 ± 0.04	0.02 ± 0.02	-1.35 ± 0.13	0.03 ± 0.01
20	-0.39 ± 0.17	0.04 ± 0.03	-1.75 ± 0.20	0.05 ± 0.02
40	-0.51 ± 0.25	0.07 ± 0.04	-2.08 ± 0.32	0.05 ± 0.05
100	-0.72 ± 0.31	0.14 ± 0.03	-2.55 ± 0.50	0.18 ± 0.09
400	-0.72 ± 0.39	0.18 ± 0.05	-3.68 ± 0.56	0.25 ± 0.04
1000	-0.76 ± 0.46	0.25 ± 0.03	-3.64 ± 0.49	0.24 ± 0.08

Antibiotics: Rifampicin, Levofloxacin and Pefloxacin.

We examined three antibiotics, Rifampicin, and two synthetic fluoroquinolone antibiotics Levofloxacin and Pefloxacin. The impact of Rif on the fluidity of a DOPC lipid membrane was examined by varying the concentration of Rif from 1 - 20 μM . The experiments were performed, as described for Ibu and Dic and representative ACF curves are provided in the supplementary information (Figure S5A, SI). The data were fitted to a 2D-diffusion model and results are summarized in Table 3a,b. A complication in interrogating the Rif is that has a visible absorbance between 400 – 600 nm (Figure S6, SI) and at concentrations in excess of 20 μM , this feature masks the fluorescence signal from the probe resulting in rather noisy ACF data and very low molecular brightness for lipid probes.

With increasing concentration of Rif, D of ATTO increased dramatically to $209.5 \pm 34.3 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ for 20 μM of drug (Table 3a). The α value for ATTO was also influenced by Rif and increased to 1.13 ± 0.14 at this concentration. The fluorescence lifetime and molecular brightness of ATTO in DOPC lipid bilayer were reduced from 3.3 ± 0.02 ns to 2.99 ± 0.04 ns and 6300 ± 600 cpsm to 1000 ± 100 cpsm with increasing concentration of Rif in the contacting solution. At the end of the titration, the membrane contacting buffer was exchanged for fresh PBS buffer to remove the drugs from the solution. Following this treatment, D of ATTO was $20.8 \pm 5.2 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ and did not fully recover suggesting the Rif irreversibly associates/permeates with the membrane. Rif impacted the fluorescence correlation data for the DOPC membrane in an analogous way to Dic but the concentration of 20 μM at which the effect was observed was much lower for Rif.

To examine the impact of Rif on BODIPY diffusion, we studied 0.01, 0.1, 1 and 5 μM of Rif concentrations. At concentrations exceeding 5 μM , no ACF data were obtained and molecular brightness was very low due to the strong absorbance of Rif drug (data not shown). Table 3b shows diffusion data for BODIPY in DOPC membrane as a function of concentration of Rif. On increasing the concentration of the drug, D decreased to $6.38 \pm 1.5 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ and α was reduced to 0.83 ± 0.04 for 5 μM . Similarly, the lifetime and molecular brightness of the BODIPY label within the bilayer decreased to $4.82 \pm 0.18 \text{ ns}$ and $4500 \pm 1004 \text{ cpsm}$ for 5 μM . The alteration to diffusion coefficient and probe lifetime indicates the drug impacts the probe environment which can only occur if Rif is penetrating into the hydrophobic core. However, measured molecular brightness changes may be due to the filtering of the excitation signal by Rif. On replacing the drug solution with fresh buffer in the microfluidic chamber the D , τ_i and MB values of the probe in the membrane are only partly recovered indicating Rif partitions strongly into the hydrophobic core of the membrane and is permeating the membrane (Table 3b).

Analogous FCS studies of Levo and Pef, in contact with DOPC MSLB, were carried out and the data are shown in Tables S10A and B (SI). The concentrations used in this study correspond to the reported plasma level which is in the range of $10 \mu\text{M}^{54}$. Notably, unlike Rif, neither Levofloxacin nor Pefloxacin exerted any significant impact on the D value of ATTO in DOPC membrane (Figure S7, SI). Similarly, the mobility of BODIPY probes in DOPC lipid membrane was not affected by the presence of 20 μM Levo and Pef in contacting solution (Table S11 SI), τ_i , MB, and α values for both probes also were unaffected by the presence of Levo and Pef.

Table 3: FLCS data analysis of ATTO and BODIPY in microcavity supported DOPC lipid bilayer as a function of Rif concentration

a) ATTO

Conc. (μM)	Mol. Brightness (X 1000) cpsm	Fluor. lifetime (ns)	Anomalous exponent α	D ($\mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$)
0	6.20 ± 0.9	3.30 ± 0.03	0.98 ± 0.03	11.71 ± 0.82
1	4.20 ± 0.3	3.21 ± 0.05	1.06 ± 0.09	19.58 ± 2.09
5	5.3 ± 0.3	3.27 ± 0.01	0.95 ± 0.03	48.83 ± 2.80
10	2.5 ± 0.3	3.10 ± 0.04	1.16 ± 0.08	125.7 ± 18.3
20	2.0 ± 0.2	2.99 ± 0.04	1.13 ± 0.14	209.5 ± 34.3
After wash	4.15 ± 0.9	3.10 ± 0.05	0.75 ± 0.12	20.8 ± 5.2

b) β -BODIPY- C_5 -HPC

Conc. (μM)	Mol. Brightness (X 1000) cpsm	Fluor. lifetime (ns)	Anomalous exponent α	D ($\mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$)
0	12.45 \pm 2.40	6.0 \pm 0.1	0.95 \pm 0.03	11.52 \pm 1.20
0.01	12.81 \pm 2.75	6.03 \pm 0.09	0.97 \pm 0.02	11.23 \pm 0.74
0.1	10.20 \pm 2.00	5.77 \pm 0.26	0.93 \pm 0.02	9.31 \pm 0.56
1	6.50 \pm 1.75	5.25 \pm 0.16	0.82 \pm 0.05	6.97 \pm 1.14
5	4.50 \pm 1.04	4.82 \pm 0.14	0.83 \pm 0.04	6.38 \pm 1.50
After wash	9.58 \pm 2.45	5.87 \pm 0.13	0.93 \pm 0.05	9.76 \pm 1.23

Representative Nyquist plots for Rif (Fig. S8, SI), Levo and Pef (Figs. S9A and B) drugs on interaction with DOPC membrane at gold microcavity SLB are provided in supplementary information. The membrane resistance was observed to decrease with increasing drug concentration, across all of the antibiotics, but consistent with FCS, the effect was most pronounced for Rif and moderate for Levo and Pef. (Table 4). Similarly, the capacitance was increased in the presence of Rif, modestly increased for Levo and Pef did not measurably affect membrane capacitance (cf. Table 4). Given the inverse relationship between capacitance and the thickness of the dielectric, this response indicates the membrane becomes thinner in the presence of Rif. The direction and magnitude of the changes in the resistance data correlated well with changes in the diffusion coefficient observed for each drug.

Table 4: Effect of Rif, Levo and Pef on the resistance and capacitance of a DOPC lipid bilayer with increasing concentration. Results presented depict the change (Δ) recorded following drug addition, relative to bilayer prior to drug interaction.

[Drug] (μM)	Rifampicin		Levofloxacin		Pefloxacin	
	ΔR_m ($\text{M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$)	ΔC_m (μFcm^{-2})	ΔR_m ($\text{M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$)	ΔC_m (μFcm^{-2})	ΔR_m ($\text{M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$)	ΔC_m (μFcm^{-2})
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	-0.21 \pm 0.02	0.05 \pm 0.001	-0.01 \pm 0.03	0.15 \pm 0.01	-0.06 \pm 0.02	0.08 \pm 0.001
5	-1.74 \pm 0.04	0.27 \pm 0.004	-0.11 \pm 0.02	0.23 \pm 0.01	-0.07 \pm 0.04	0.09 \pm 0.004
10	-4.119 \pm 0.03	0.47 \pm 0.08	-0.14 \pm 0.01	0.34 \pm 0.02	-0.082 \pm 0.03	-0.10 \pm 0.007
20	-4.365 \pm 0.02	0.97 \pm 0.01	-0.21 \pm 0.01	0.40 \pm 0.01	-0.12 \pm 0.01	-0.12 \pm 0.06

Interaction of Rifampicin with different lipid compositions

Given the evidence for permeation of the Rifampicin into the bilayer, we studied the interaction of Rif with different lipid compositions representative of bacterial membranes. Here, we used lipid mixtures

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3 made from phosphatidylglycerol (PG), phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) and phosphatidylserine (PS). (PG
4 and PE are the most prevalent lipids in bacterial membrane⁵⁵⁻⁵⁷ and PS is anionic lipid from the
5 mammalian membrane⁵⁵) so that we could compare the impact of the anionic charge on the lipid, for PS
6 and PG on drug interactions. These experiments were carried out as described for Rif interaction with
7 DOPC lipid membrane, varying the concentration of Rif from 1 - 20 μM . Representative ACF data and
8 analysis are provided as supplementary information (Figure S5 and Tables S12-S14, SI).

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13 We examined Rif interaction at MSLBs with 3 different lipid compositions: DOPC:DOPG (4:1),
14 DOPC:DOPS (4:1) and DOPC:DOPG:DOPE (3:1:1) (mole ratio). The D value of ATTO in all lipid
15 mixtures increased with increasing concentration of drug, consistent with the data observed for pristine
16 DOPC bilayer. However, by 20 μM Rif addition, D was found to be $52.60 \pm 6.8 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ (Tables S12-S14,
17 SI), which was approximately 4 times less than observed at the DOPC only bilayer. Figure 5 describes the
18 relative change in lipid diffusion for a given concentration of Rif against the lipid diffusion without drugs
19 for lipid mixtures. The impact of Rif was similar across all lipid compositions with no significant
20 variation between DOPG and DOPS. The α value for ATTO in all the lipid mixtures was greater than 1 at
21 20 μM like behavior in a DOPC bilayer. Similarly, the fluorescence lifetime and molecular brightness of
22 ATTO in DOPC:DOPG, DOPC:DOPS, DOPC:DOPG:DOPE was reduced on increasing the
23 concentration of Rif, indicating the drug is disrupting the interfacial region of the bilayer, however the
24 effect is dramatically reduced in the presence of anionic phospholipid. On conclusion of the titration, the
25 membrane contacting buffer was exchanged for fresh PBS buffer and D value of ATTO was close to that
26 found on exposure to 1 μM Rif indicating some Rif remains associated with the membrane (Tables S12-
27 S14, SI).

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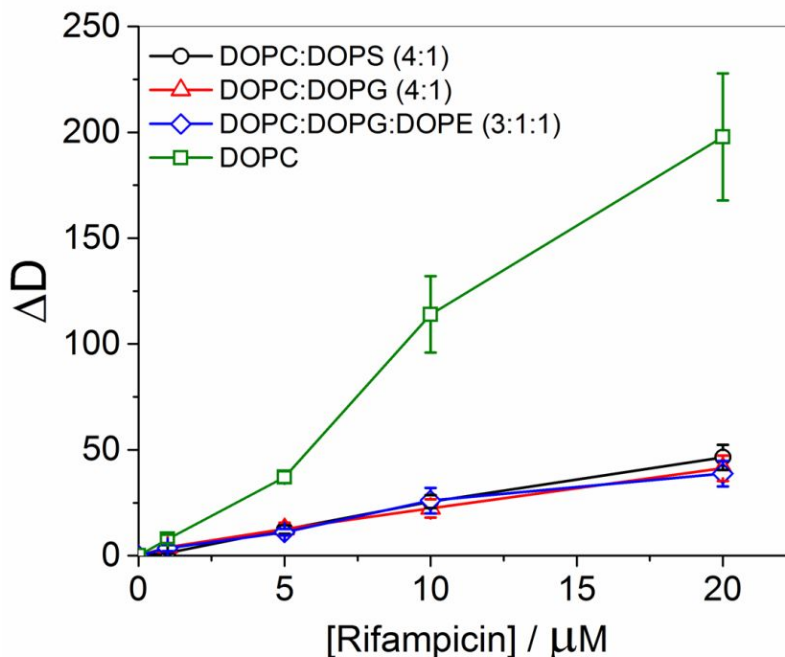


Figure 5: Change in diffusion coefficient ($\Delta D = D - D_0$) of Rifampicin in designated lipid mixtures: DOPC: DOPS [4:1] (\circ , black), DOPC: DOPG [4:1] (Δ , red), DOPC:DOPG:DOPE [3:1:1] (\diamond , blue), DOPC (\square , olive). The D value was measured as a function of concentration of drug on lipid the composition described above using FLCS and bilayer was spread across the microcavity supported lipid bilayer.

Analogous EIS experiments were then completed to evaluate changes to membrane thickness and permeability. The changes in the resistance and capacitance for all the lipid compositions in the presence of Rif are summarized in Table 5. For all lipid compositions, membrane resistance decreased with increasing concentration of Rif (Fig. S10, SI). However consistent with the FLCS data, the magnitude of the resistance decrease is 4 times lower compared the DOPC-only membrane (Table 3). Notably, the magnitude of the decrease in bilayer resistance is far greater in the presence of DOPG compared to DOPS lipids. For example, at the highest concentration of Rif explored, 20 μM , the resistance had decreased on average by 1.63 $\text{M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$ for a DOPC:DOPS(4:1) MSLB composition compared to 2.49 $\text{M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$ and 4.65 $\text{M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$ for DOPC:DOPG(4:1) and DOPC:DOPG:DOPE(3:1:1) respectively. This indicates that although both DOPG and DOPS are acidic lipids (anionic at neutral pH) Rif interacts significantly more strongly with DOPG. Although by far the strongest perturbation of the bilayer is evident for the neutral DOPC-only bilayer. Clearly charge influences Rif interaction with the membrane, Rif is a neutral species at

physiological pH, it is zwitterionic and is both a H-bond donor and acceptor and such interactions likely inhibit penetration of the drug into charged bilayers.

Table 5: Resistance data for different lipid mixtures as a function of concentration of Rif. Results presented reflect the change (Δ) recorded following drug addition, relative to bilayer prior to drug interaction.

[Rif] (μM)	DOPC:DOPG(4:1)		DOPC:DOPS(4:1)		DOPC:DOPG:DOPE(3:1:1)	
	ΔR_m ($\text{M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$)	ΔC_m (μFcm^{-2})	ΔR_m ($\text{M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$)	ΔC_m (μFcm^{-2})	ΔR_m ($\text{M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$)	ΔC_m (μFcm^{-2})
0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	-0.65 ± 0.08	-0.02 ± 0.03	-0.29 ± 0.05	0.01 ± 0.005	-1.88 ± 0.09	-0.03 ± 0.01
5	-1.09 ± 0.06	-0.02 ± 0.01	-0.77 ± 0.14	0.04 ± 0.02	-2.67 ± 0.41	0.00 ± 0.02
10	-1.83 ± 0.20	-0.09 ± 0.01	-1.34 ± 0.09	0.05 ± 0.03	-3.92 ± 0.35	0.02 ± 0.03
20	-2.49 ± 0.47	-0.13 ± 0.05	-1.63 ± 0.16	0.03 ± 0.01	-4.65 ± 0.23	0.03 ± 0.03

Notably, in the presence of anionic lipid, the impact of Rif on membrane capacitance is negligible when compared with DOPC only bilayer. It is also interesting to note that among the three mixed bilayer compositions, the magnitude of change in capacitance is greater for DOPC:DOPG bilayer than DOPC:DOPS and DOPC:DOPG:DOPE bilayers.

Bisphosphonates: Alendronate and Clodronate

Finally, we studied the interaction of membrane impermeable bisphosphonate drugs, Alendronate and Clodronate with the DOPC membrane. Bisphosphonates are acidic and thus we carried out the study at pH 5.25. The Langmuir-Blodgett trough and microcavities were filled with Tris buffer, pH 5.25, 137 mM NaCl, and DOPC lipids were transferred from subphase to form monolayers above the cavities. The DOPC vesicles were prepared using the same buffer and allowed to disrupt above the lipid monolayer to form a bilayer. Otherwise, the experimental setup and procedure were identical to those above. The drugs

were dissolved in the Tris buffer and pH was adjusted to match that of the whole system (pH 5.25). From FCS, the D value of ATTO in DOPC lipid membrane was $11.00 \pm 0.8 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ for Tris buffer, pH 5.25, and as expected is consistent with the value calculated in contact with PBS buffer, pH 7.4. The concentration of drug was increased from 1 to 4 mM in 1 mM step and the D value of ATTO probe was measured at each concentration. Neither Alen nor Clo, induced a change in the D , α , τ and MB in DOPC lipid membrane (Table S15, SI). Furthermore, we studied BODIPY in DOPC lipid membrane at a drug concentration of 4 mM and for both the drugs (Table S16, SI), again no notable changes were observed for D , α , τ and MB indicating the absence of any permeation of drugs across the lipid bilayer.

The interaction of bisphosphonate with a DOPC membrane in Tris buffer, pH 5.25 was studied using EIS. The stability of the bilayer at this pH was first examined by EIS (Figure S11, SI). The constant impedance indicated the DOPC bilayer was stable over the 5 hour window required for the measurement. Then, we systematically introduce the bisphosphonate drugs into the contacting medium and measured EIS as described above. In the case of Alen, no significant changes were observed in membrane resistance, but the small reduction in the capacitance suggested some adsorption of Alen on the DOPC membrane surface. The resistance and capacitance values remain invariable upon interaction with Clo over the concentration range of 1-4 mM (Table 6).

Table 6: Resistance and capacitance changes as a function of the concentration of Alen and Clo. Results reflect the change (Δ) following drug addition, relative to bilayer prior to drug interaction.

[Drug] (mM)	Alendronates		Clodronates	
	ΔR_m ($M\Omega\text{cm}^2$)	ΔC_m (μFcm^{-2})	ΔR_m ($M\Omega\text{cm}^2$)	ΔC_m (μFcm^{-2})
0	0	0	0	0
1	-0.24 ± 0.05	-0.75 ± 0.4	0.13 ± 0.8	-0.02 ± 0.01
2	-0.05 ± 0.05	2.0 ± 0.5	0.19 ± 0.4	0.02 ± 0.02
4	-0.25 ± 0.15	2.01 ± 0.7	0.29 ± 0.15	0.03 ± 0.02

Discussion

There are two mechanisms that have been ascribed to molecular permeation across a pure lipid membrane; the solubility-diffusion (SD) and the transient-pore (TP) mechanisms⁵⁸. In SD, the drug is said to partition into the lipid membrane, diffuse through the core and then partition into solution. In the TP mechanism, transient pores instigated by thermal fluctuations of the membrane are thought to promote permeation⁵⁹. In both cases, the adsorption of the drug at the membrane interface precedes permeation.

EIS is expected to be sensitive to these processes, where porosity is increasing, resistance decreases and capacitance can increase due to thinning of the bilayer. Where adsorption is occurring without permeation, the capacitance may increase without accompanying changes to membrane resistance or fluidity.

From EIS data it is clear that the bilayer resistance (ΔR) increases with drug concentration reaches saturation (Tables 2 and 4); the resulting curves as shown in Figure 6, can be fitted using Langmuir-Freundlich (LF) model.

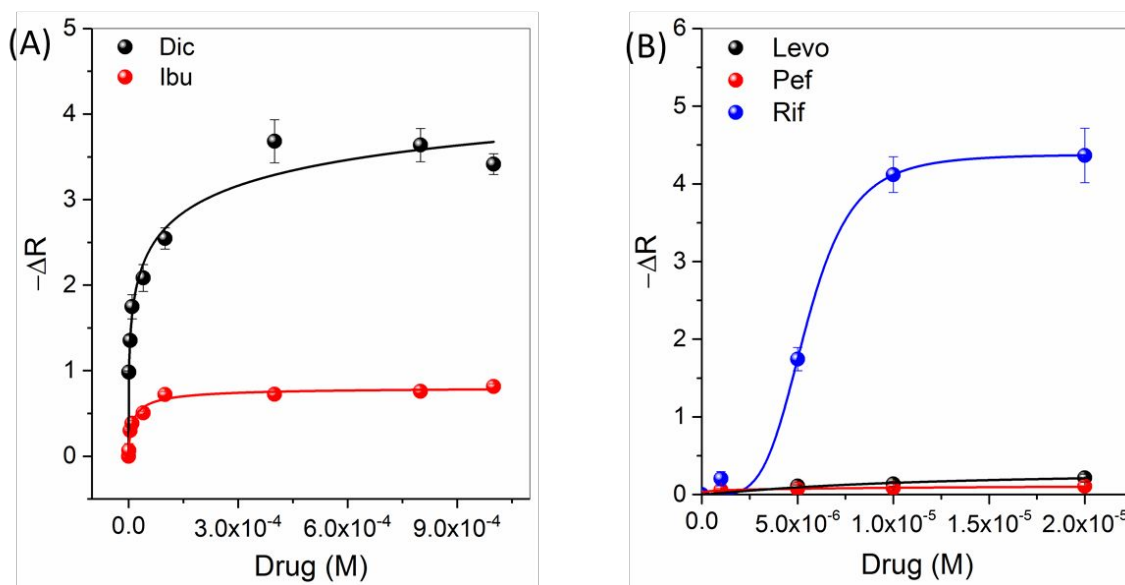


Figure 6: EIS data fitted to non-linear Langmuir-Freundlich (solid line) Isotherms for different drugs, A: Dic and Ibu, and B: Levo, Pef and Rif using Eqn. (4). ΔR correspond the change in membrane resistance after drug addition compared to membrane alone.

Like EIS studies, the relative change in lipid diffusion coefficient of ATTO probe as a function of drug concentration for both Ibu and Dic at the MSLB (Figure S12, SI) also exhibited a sigmoidal response, suggesting saturation binding. However, the modest impact of Ibu on membrane fluidity meant that a reliable binding curve could not be obtained from FLCS data for this drug. Nonetheless, from the EIS data shown in Figure 6A, the plateau regions (saturation binding) occur at approximately $400 \mu\text{M}$ for Dic and $100 \mu\text{M}$ for Ibu. Such a dependence of drug concentration on the physical characteristics of the membrane could be attributed to membrane binding and thus Langmuir-Freundlich isotherm was used to describe the adsorption of the drug onto the DOPC MSLB. On this basis, R_{sat} and a binding constant, K_a

were estimated by non-linear regression analysis and values are summarized in Table 7 along with the reported clogP and P_{app} values for each drug⁶⁰.

From the data shown in Fig. 6A and B, we observed good fit ($R^2 > 0.97$, cf. Table 7) to LF isotherms for all of the drugs explored. The calculated values, of course, are not absolute and will depend on experimental conditions such as membrane area. Nonetheless, for drugs at a given bilayer platform these parameters are a useful empirical measure of the impact of each drug on the lipid bilayer. With the exception of Ibuprofen the R_{sat} values correlate reasonably well with both P_{app} and cLogP . K_a values conversely do not correlate with these parameters. For example, R_{sat} is similar for Ibu and Rif and they are the two most lipophilic of the drugs investigated. Nonetheless K_a calculated from the fits as $1.82 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$ for Rif compared with $0.09 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$ for Dic. Because the drugs are not merely adsorbing at the membrane the low K_a value for Dic from the LF model is tentatively attributed to the high penetration into and passive permeation of this drug across the membrane whereas Rif may be retained more strongly at the membrane.

Table 7: Association constants calculated for drugs by fitting relative change in DOPC membrane to non-linear Langmuir-Freundlich isotherm model. The clogP and P_{app} parameters are literature reported values.

Drug	clogP^{61}	$K_a (\times 10^5)$	R_{sat}	n	R^2	$P_{\text{app}} (\times 10^{-6} \text{ cm/sec})^a$
Ibuprofen	3.679	0.78 ± 0.18	0.81 ± 0.02	0.74	0.97	10.1 ± 0.2^{62}
Diclofenac	4.726	0.09 ± 0.1	5.42 ± 1.9	0.33	0.97	13.28 ± 0.2^{63}
Rifampicin	2.77	1.82 ± 0.08	4.38 ± 0.15	4.55	0.99	5.0 ± 0.20^{64}
Levofloxacin	-0.879	0.95 ± 0.2	0.31 ± 0.08	1.1	0.96	0.26 ± 0.005^{65}
Pefloxacin	0.27	5.32 ± 3	0.09 ± 0.01	1.2	0.99	
Alendronate	-5.642	--	--			
Clodronate	-2.40	--	--			0.05 ± 0.002^{66}

^aapparent permeability coefficient of drugs in Caco-2 cells; ~ Egg-Phosphatidylcholine lipids

EIS and FLCS data indicate Ibu interaction with the DOPC bilayer at pH 7.4 is confined to weak interactions at the interface of the bilayer which do not affect lipid lateral mobility. Several studies on interaction Ibu with phosphocholine bilayers show the fluidity of the membrane was unaltered leading to the conclusion that the drug resides close to the head group through non-covalent interaction with lipids.^{5,67-69,69} Consistent with this picture, our data suggest surface binding of the ibuprofen to the bilayer,

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3 most likely through electrostatic interaction between the quaternary ammonium part of choline head
4 group and the anionic Ibu. This finding contrasts with *in vivo* studies on cell lines which clearly show Ibu
5 transports across the cell membrane. The P_{app} values of ibuprofen in different cell lines including Caco-2
6 cells are $> 10 \times 10^{-6}$ cm/s consistent with high absorption/permeability across the membrane.^{62,63,70}
7 Interestingly, Novakova et. al, found the transport of Ibu was reduced significantly in the absence of
8 serum and Ibu strongly binds to serum.⁷⁰ Overall, the strong consistency of evidence across model
9 studies and the contrast between biophysical model and cells is consistent with active transport of Ibu
10 within cells mediated by plasma or extracellular proteins and that passive transport is likely to be weak.
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17 In the case of Dic, numerous biophysical studies have demonstrated that this compound exerts a strong
18 interaction with the membrane core.^{3171 72} From our data, the decrease in fluorescence lifetime and
19 increase in diffusion coefficient suggests that the ATTO probe itself interacts strongly with the Dic bound
20 at the interface, possibly lifting the probe from the membrane
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24 However, τ_i and MB of the BODIPY probe decreased which is strongly suggestive of drug permeation
25 through the membrane. The lateral mobility of the hydrophobic probe was reduced in the presence of Dic,
26 indicating a change in the fluidity of the membrane, whilst the anomalous exponent was unchanged,
27 indicating normal diffusion.
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31 The calculated K_a value for Dic is low compared to Ibu (Table 7) and reported P_{app} for Dic in different
32 cell lines is $> 10 \times 10^{-6}$ cm/s suggesting that the drug strongly adsorbs and permeates across the
33 membrane. Overall, our results, combined with reported cell uptake data suggest that whereas Ibu is likely
34 primarily transported through membranes via an active mechanism, Dic is likely to be strongly passively
35 transported across cell membranes. Importantly, membrane capacitance changes were positive and of
36 similar magnitude for both drugs indicating a modest decrease in membrane thickness. However, in each
37 case the membrane integrity is preserved on drug binding, consistent with low membrane toxicity.
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43 Similarly, Langmuir-Freundlich isotherm applied to membrane resistivity for Rif yielded an excellent fit
44 with a $R^2 > 0.99$. The “n” constant in the LF model (Eq. 4) relates to the strength of the adsorption. The n
45 < 1 observed here indicates chemically mediated absorption, n = 1 suggests a linear relationship between
46 the quantity absorbed and the equilibrium drug concentration and n > 1 indicates slightly unfavorable
47 absorption. In our case, n = 4.33 (Table 7) suggesting a highly unfavorable process due to competition
48 with water for absorption sites or more likely due to permeation across the membrane⁷³. In agreement
49 with EIS, our FLCS studies, revealed fast diffusion of DOPE labeled with an ATTO probe, along with a
50 significant reduction in the fluorescence lifetime and molecular brightness indicating the association of
51 Rif with the headgroup of the bilayer. In contrast to ATTO, the BODIPY probe, which is located in the
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3 hydrophobic core of the bilayer, exhibits reduced diffusion for Rif concentrations exceeding 5 μM with
4 accompanying reductions in τ_{f} and MB. This indicates that Rif permeates the core, passively diffusing
5 across the bilayer. Our results are consistent with a previous study by Rodrigues et al. based on
6 fluorescence quenching of probes located at the surface and an inner core of a DPPC bilayer⁷⁴. The
7 similar quenching efficiency for both probes suggested Rif permeates the membrane core.⁷⁵
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11 Both FLCS and EIS data reflect similar differences between Rif and DOPC-only membrane and
12 membranes containing negatively charged lipids. From EIS data the change in membrane resistivity was
13 plotted against Rif concentration for various lipid compositions and data were fitted to the Langmuir-
14 Freundlich model (Figure 6B and Figure S13, SI) to give a calculated association constant $K_{\text{a}} = 1.8 \times 10^5$
15 M^{-1} for DOPC lipids (Table 7) and $0.19 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$ for a membrane containing DOPG lipids (Table S17,
16 SI). The distinction is comparable to partition coefficients (K_{p}) determined for Rif with DMPC liposomes
17 (5.09×10^4) and DOPG liposomes (0.54×10^4).⁷⁴ Recent isothermal titration calorimetry studies on
18 POPC and ternary lipid mixtures POPE/POPC/POPG gave $K_{\text{p}} = 1.9 \times 10^3$ for POPC and 8×10^1 for a
19 ternary lipids membrane in the presence of Rif.⁵⁶ These data clearly indicate that Rif interacts specifically
20 with PC and PG lipids. Consistent with this report, we obtained a different association constant for Rif in
21 these lipid compositions (Table 7 and Table S17, SI). For DOPE:DOPG:DOPC, K_{a} was obtained as 0.77
22 $\times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$ which is lower than DOPC alone and consistent with data reported for liposomes.⁵⁶ As Rif is
23 zwitterionic at physiological pH (7.4) with 40% in the anionic form. The lower affinity of Rif for
24 DOPC:DOPG:DOPE (representative of a bacterial membrane) maybe attributed in part to repulsion
25 between the ionized Rif and negatively charged lipids. In addition, high lateral packing of the membrane
26 due to the presence of phosphatidylethanolamine and phosphatidylglycerol /phosphatidylserine may also
27 reduce the permeability of the drug in such membranes. In particular, lipid-lipid spacing decreases in the
28 presence of PE lipids, due to additional hydrogen bonds with neighboring molecules through the amine
29 headgroup.^{76,77}
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44 For Rif at a DOPS enriched lipid membrane, the lateral mobility of ATTO was the same as for DOPG
45 enriched membranes. However, the relative change in membrane resistivity was different, as detected by
46 the EIS technique which is more sensitive to changes in membrane structure than FCS. The relative
47 change was $-1.63 \pm 0.16 \text{ M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$ for the DOPS membrane compared to $-2.49 \pm 0.47 \text{ M}\Omega\text{cm}^2$ for the
48 DOPG membrane and both can be fitted to the LF model with $R^2 = 0.99$. The significant difference in the
49 affinity of Rif with the charged lipids cannot be explained solely by charge repulsion.
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3 In contrast to Rif, change in the membrane resistivity for Levo can be fitted to a Langmuir Isotherm with
4 $R^2 > 0.99$ suggesting that this drug adsorbs onto the DOPC membrane interface. Although we observed a
5 moderate increase in the membrane capacitance, the lateral mobility of ATTO and BODIPY in the DOPC
6 membrane was relatively unchanged. Conversely, for Pef, we did not observe a significant change in
7 resistivity or capacitance. Langmuir isotherm fit yielded $R^2 > 0.90$ indicating minimal absorption on the
8 membrane. Similarly, diffusivity of ATTO and BODIPY was relatively unchanged. The reported P_{app}
9 value for Levo in Caco-2 cells is $< 1 \times 10^{-6}$ cm/s which is considered poor absorption. It has been
10 proposed that these drugs are transported in membranes through an active mechanism by transporter
11 proteins^{78–80} rather than by passive diffusion, which is consistent with our study.
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18 Finally, the bisphosphonate drugs studied on DOPC MSLBs had a very little impact on the fluorescence
19 or electrochemical properties of the films. The diffusivity of ATTO and BODIPY probes in a DOPC
20 membrane was unaltered in the presence of the drugs. Similarly, no change in the membrane resistivity
21 was observed for Alendronate and only a slight increase was observed for Clodronate at a concentration
22 of 4mM. Conversely, an increase in membrane capacitance was observed with Alen for concentrations ≥ 2
23 mM which may suggest that the film thickness has decreased. This is tentatively attributed to adsorption of
24 the drugs at the membrane interface, at higher concentrations. The low P_{app} and high hydrophilicity
25 indicate that these drugs are poorly permeable to the membrane and they are believed to be transported
26 across the membrane through a paracellular route^{66,81}. Our data support these conclusions.
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34 **Conclusions:** Using FLCS and EIS along with microcavity supported lipid bilayer membranes we
35 compare for the first time the impact that commonly administered anti-inflammatory, antibiotic and
36 bisphosphonate drugs have on lipid membrane fluidity and electrochemical properties.
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40 Upon systematically varying the concentration of drugs over therapeutic ranges, we measure the lipid
41 membrane diffusion coefficient along with the fluorescence lifetime (τ_i) and molecular brightness (MB)
42 of the lipid probe using FLCS. In parallel, we investigated the changes in membrane resistivity and
43 capacitance using EIS.
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47 Neither the mobility of the lipid probes nor their photophysical properties were altered on exposure of
48 bilayer to Ibu, Levo or Pef. However, a modest decrease in the membrane resistivity was observed for
49 each, indicating these drugs adsorb primarily at the membrane-aqueous interface with relatively weak
50 penetration into the bilayer. The quenching of BODIPY fluorescence signal indicated that Dic and Rif
51 pass through the membrane whilst membrane resistivity decreases very significantly in the presence of
52 Dic indicating ion leakiness/porosity of the membrane is increased on binding by Dic and Rif. In the case
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of the ATTO probe, faster mobility and α above 1 suggested that the membrane surface was partially disrupted, plausibly by direct interactions of the probe with Dic at the interface.

Overall, our data suggest that Dic and Rif interact with the lipid head groups, perturbing the membrane packing and permeating across the membrane, whereas other drugs more likely reside on the membrane-water interface. Our data are consistent with previous reports that Ibu, Levo and Pef are poorly passively permeable at a lipid bilayer whereas Dic and Rif display significant passive permeation. The relative changes in membrane resistivity can be fitted to a Langmuir-Freundlich Isotherms which provides empirical quantitative insight into the relative strength of the interaction of each drug with the membrane.

The interaction of Rif with the membrane was strongly dependent on the lipid composition; for binary and ternary mixtures of DOPC:DOPG:DOPS, the lateral mobility of ATTO was 4 times less than for DOPC lipid alone for Rif permeation. In the case of Alen and Clo no changes to lipid mobility or membrane resistivity were observed up to very high concentrations. These drugs are strongly hydrophilic and believed to permeate through a paracellular pathway, which requires minimal or no interaction with the lipid membrane.

Overall, the reported data are consistent with literature mechanisms proposed for drug-membrane interactions suggesting that MSLB models are a useful platform to study the interaction of drugs with the physiological membrane.

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