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Italiadomani
PIANO NAZIONALE
DI RIPRESA E RESILIENZA



The two-faced plant viruses: from plant pathogen to smart nanoparticles

Chiara Lico
Biotechnologies Laboratory

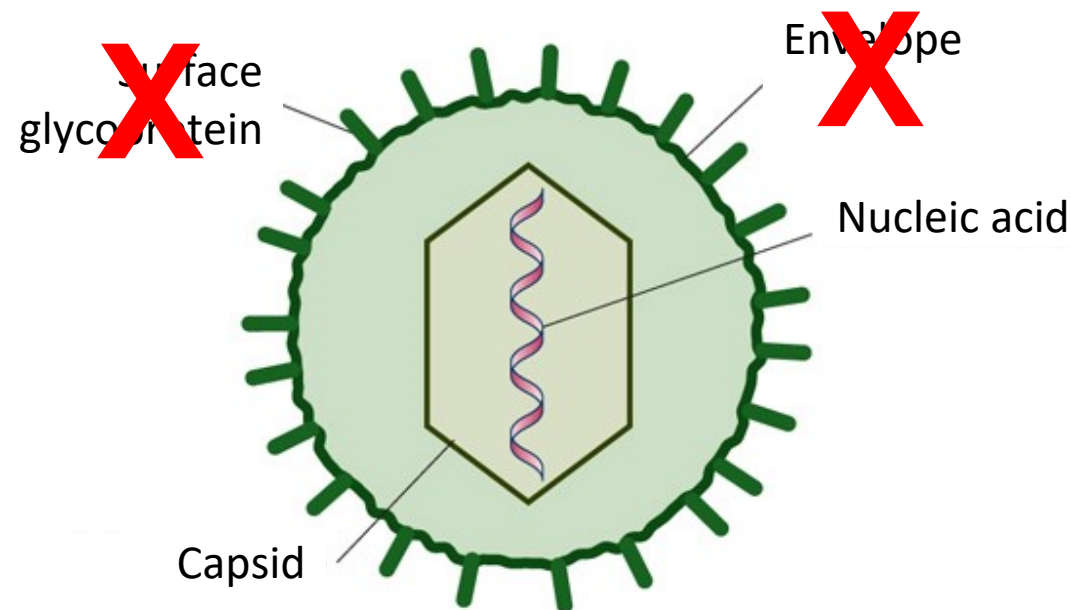
November 28, 2023
Training course SUS-MIRRI.IT





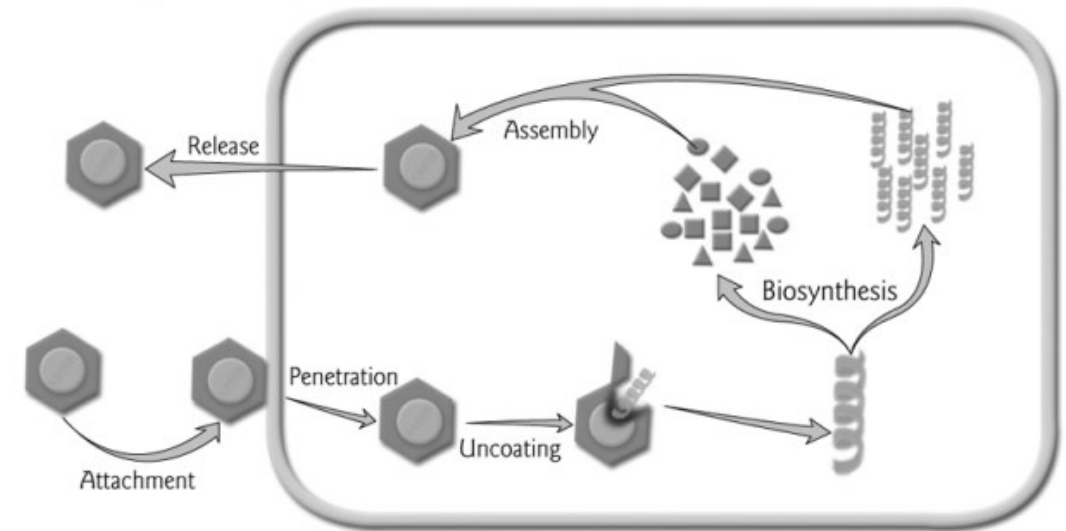
Obligate intracellular parasite

Infectious agent capable of replicating exclusively within a cell (animal, vegetable, bacterial) in a highly host-specific manner





- 1- Cell entry, disassembly, viral genome release.
- 2- Viral genome translation to immediately produce viral proteins involved in replication.
- 3- Subgenomic RNAs production (if requested).
- 4- Production of proteins involved in movement and assembly.
- 5- Virion assembly.
- 6- Virion movement and systemic infection spreading.





• Viral genome organization

- 1- Few ORF coding for multifunctional proteins
- 2- Adoption of several strategies to produce different polyproteins, as leaky stop codons, frameshift....
- 3- Subgenomic RNAs

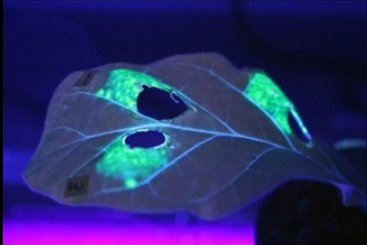
• Uses

- “cross-protection” or “mild strain protection” systems
- **Viral vectors for heterologous proteins expression or epitope presentation**
- Vectors for host gene silencing and functional genomics analysis
- **Nanotechnology**

Plant viruses as expression vectors

Transient transformation

Agroinfiltration



Plant virus infection



Viral vector

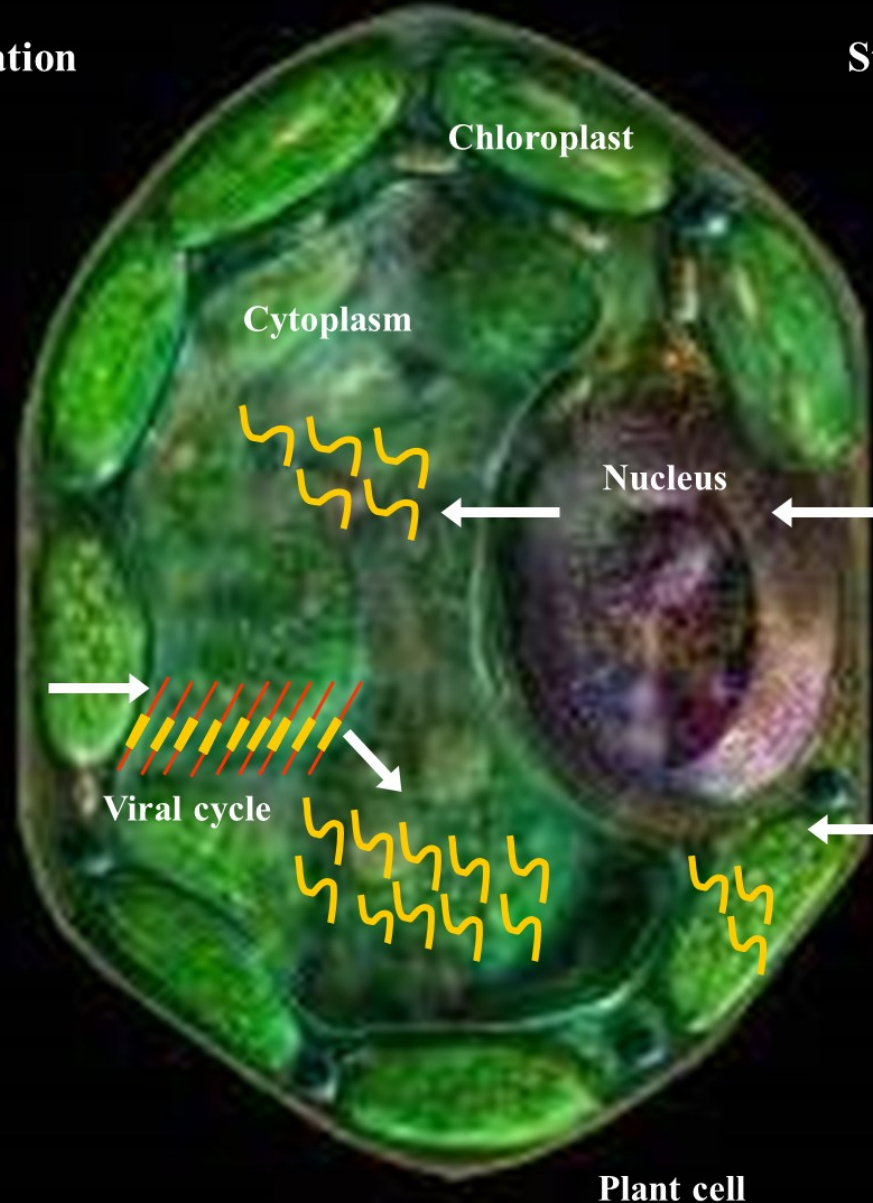


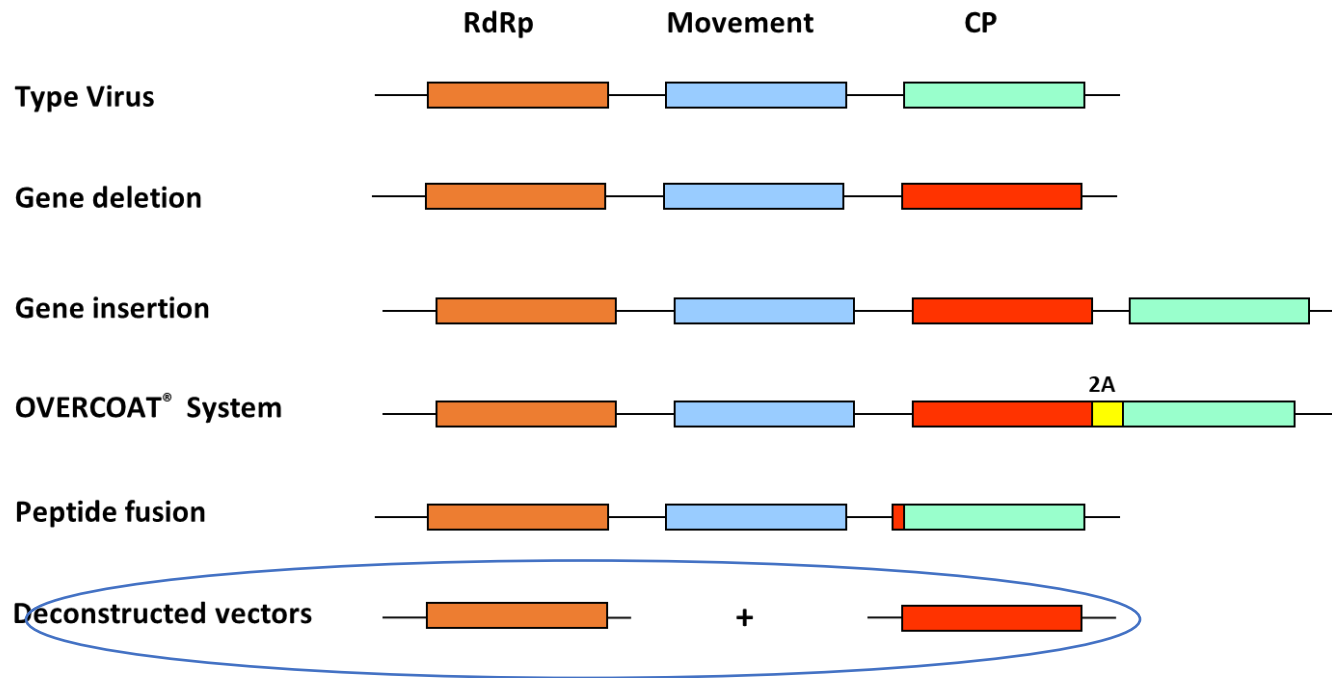
Stable transformation

Nuclear transformation mediated by *A. tumefaciens*

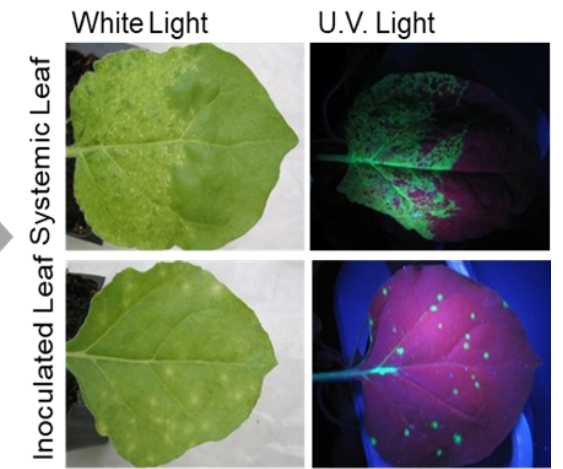


Chloroplast transformation through biolistic method

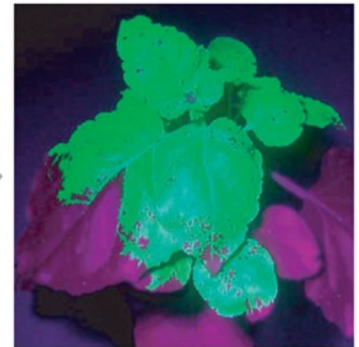
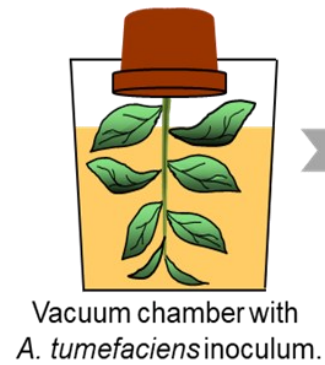




a) Full virus inoculum and spread throughout the plant



b) Agroinfiltration strategy scheme.





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Plant viruses for biopharmaceuticals production





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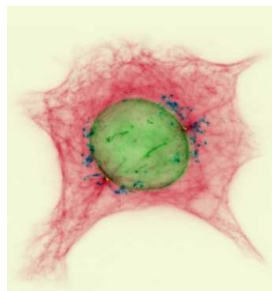
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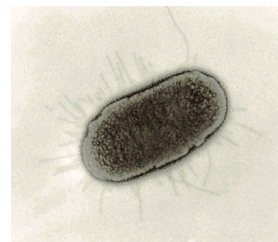
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Bioreactors



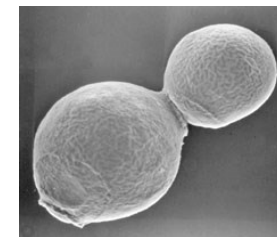
Mammals cells lines



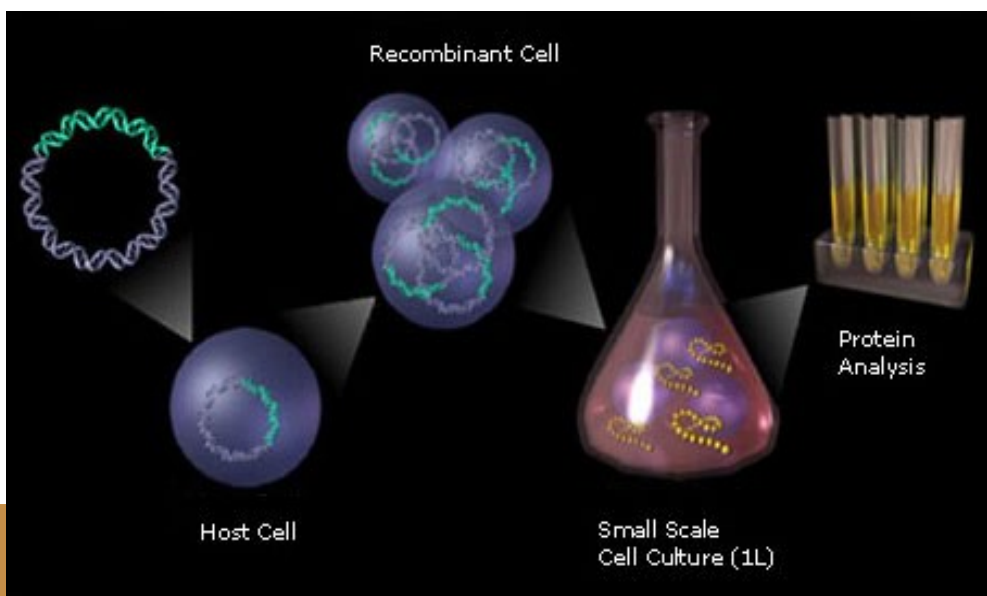
E. coli



Insect cells lines



Yeast





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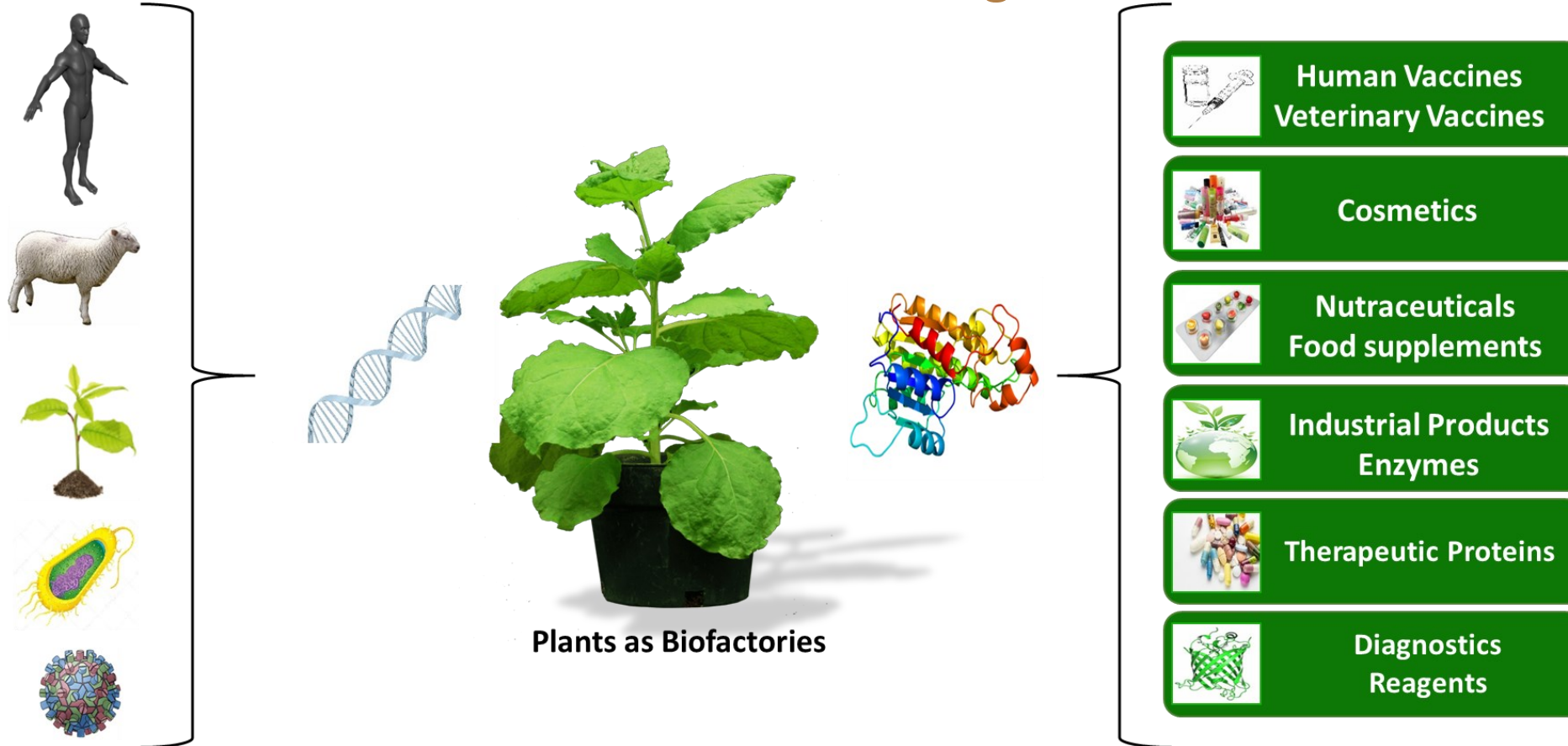
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Plant Molecular Farming



Eukaryotic expression system

Easy and rapid scale-up

Biosafety

Low costs

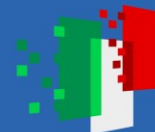


Table 1. Comparison of production and effective cost for three countries and two presentations

	Korea or India	United States		Korea		India	
	Yeast derived 10-dose vials	Plant-derived single dose packet	Plant-derived 10-dose packet	Plant-derived single dose packet	Plant-derived 10-dose packet	Plant-derived single dose packet	Plant-derived 10-dose packet
Cost	\$0.27	\$0.15	\$0.06	\$0.09	\$0.04	\$0.075	\$0.03
Effective Cost	\$0.42	\$0.16	\$0.08	\$0.10	\$0.05	\$0.08	\$0.04
% savings for plant derived vaccine against yeast derived for effective cost		62%	81%	76%	88%	81%	90%

Arntzen C, R Mahoney, A Elliott, B Holtz, A Krattiger, CK Lee, S Slater. 2006. Plant-derived Vaccines: Cost of Production. The Biodesign Institute, Arizona State University: Tempe. www.biodesign.asu.edu/centers/idv/projects/provacs



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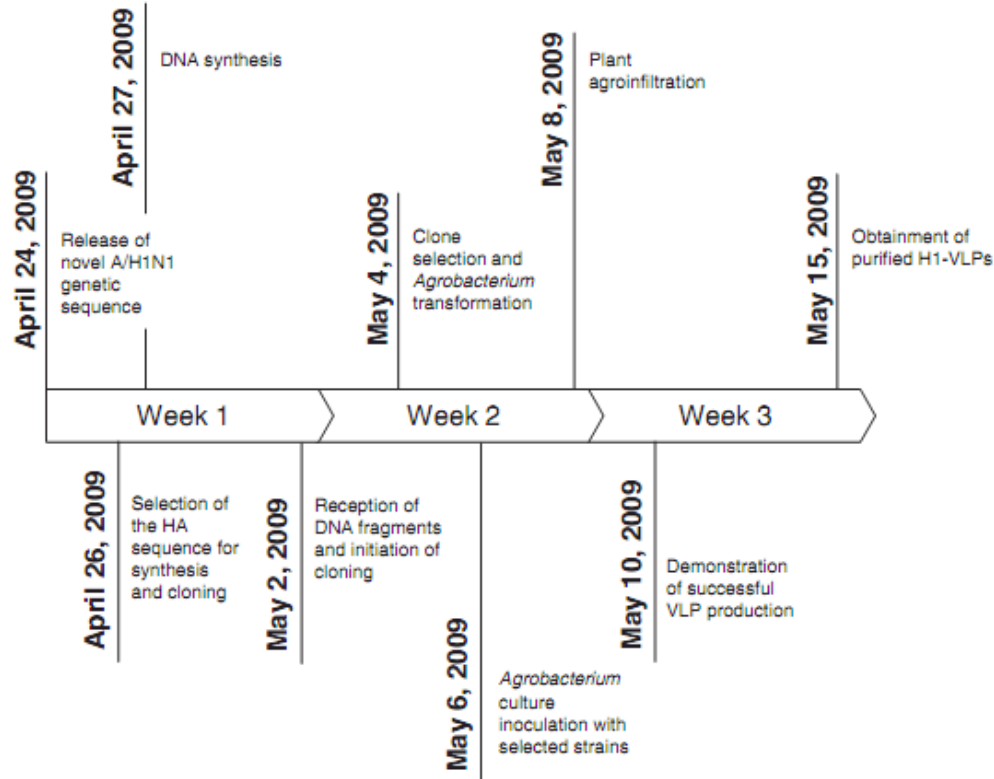


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Vertical farming

medicago

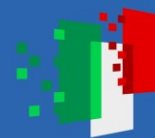




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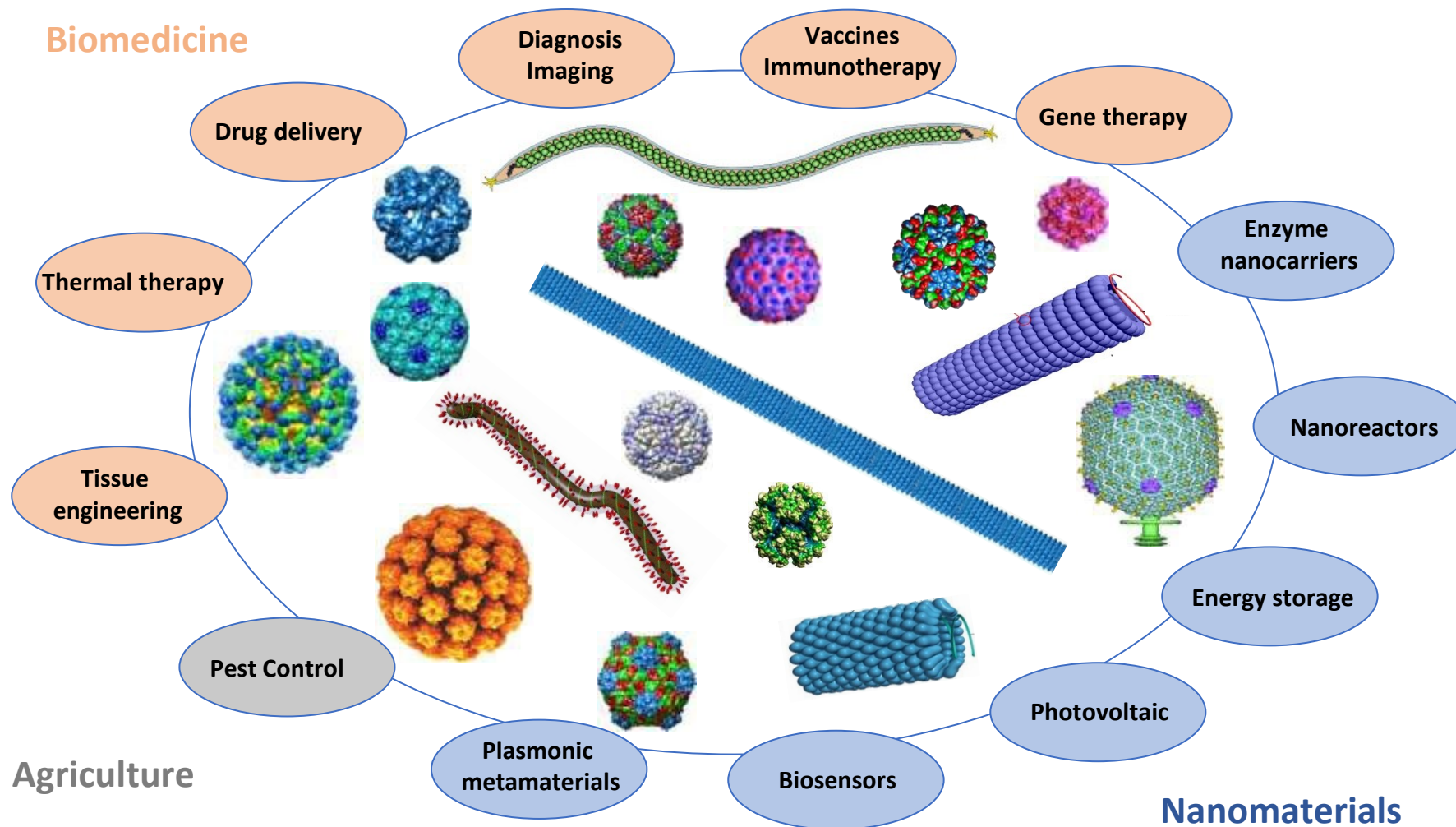
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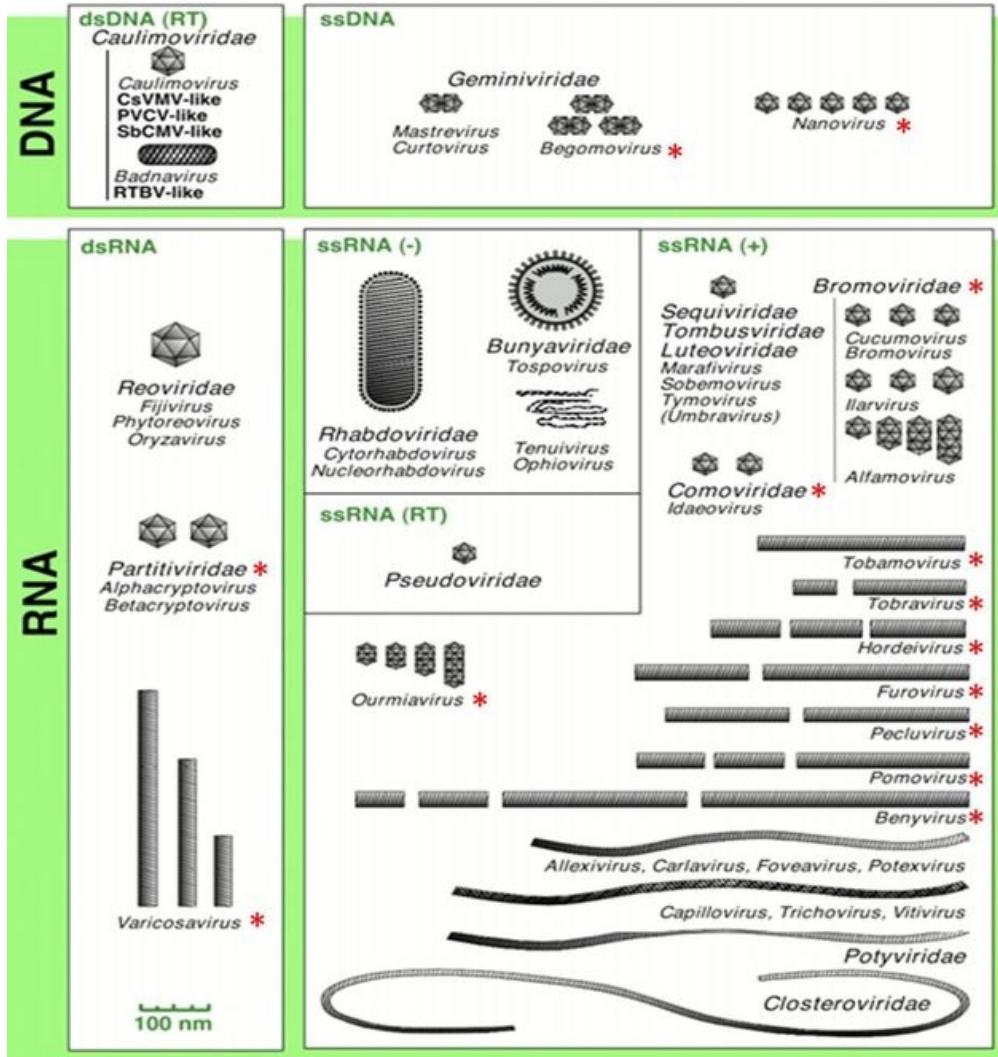


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Plant viruses in nanotechnology



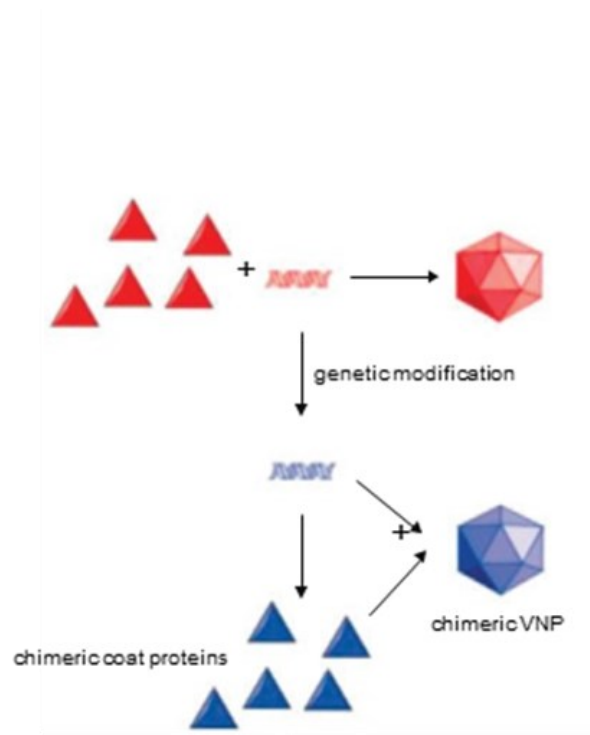


- Very different in shape and dimension
- Easy, safe, rapid production in plants
- Self-assembly
- High surface/volume ratio
- Modification of the surface
- Modification of the inner
- Genetic engineering
- Bioconjugation
- Standard chemistries

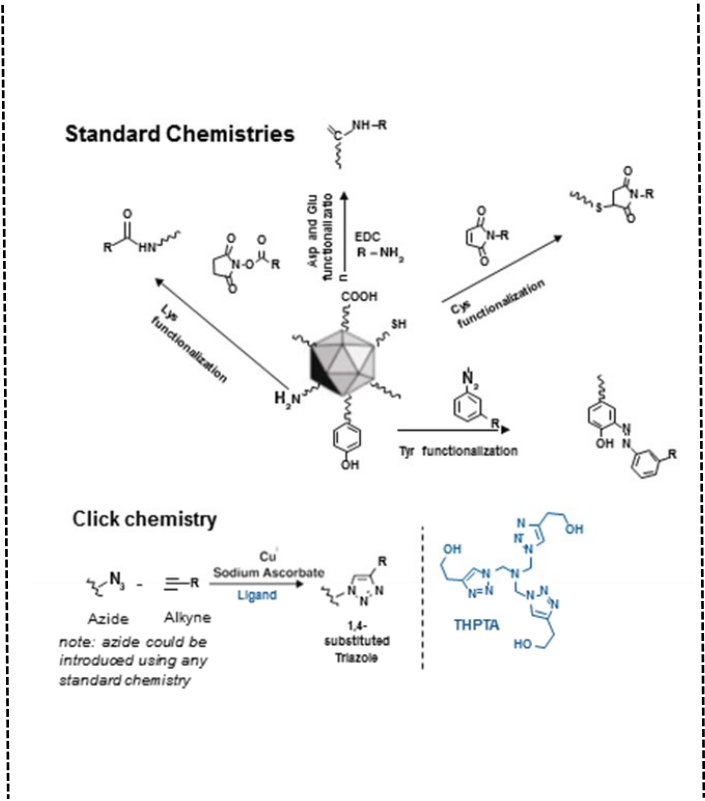


How can we modify plant viruses ?

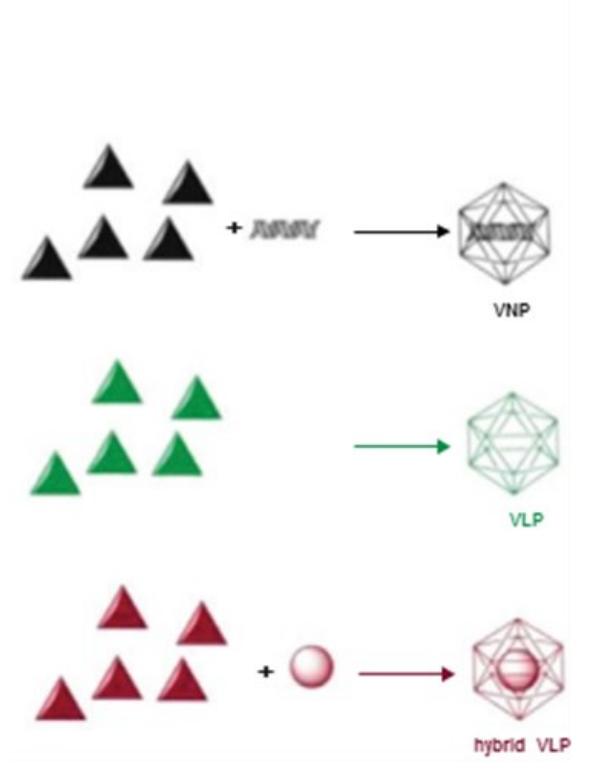
Genetic modification



Bioconjugation



Encapsulation

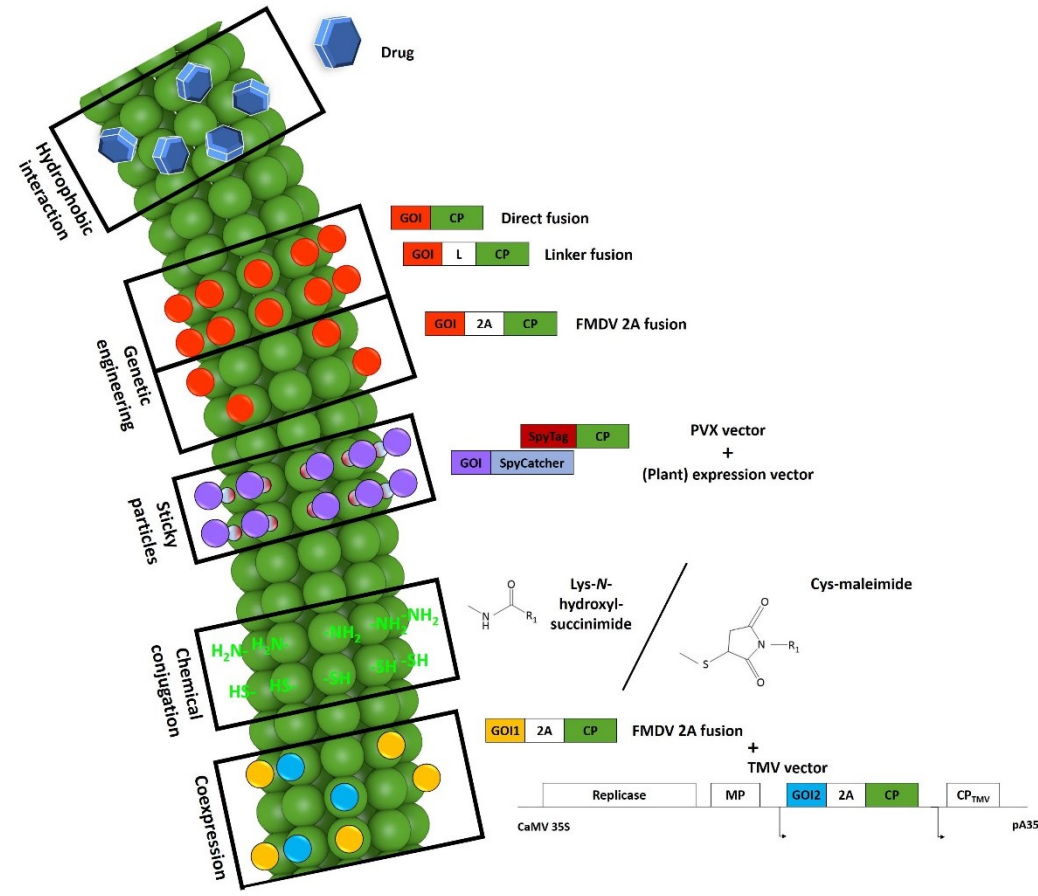


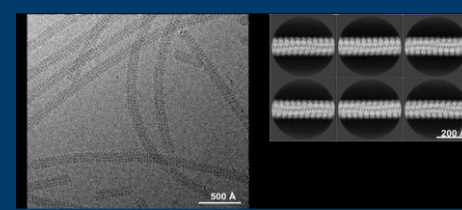


Plant Viruses @ ENEA

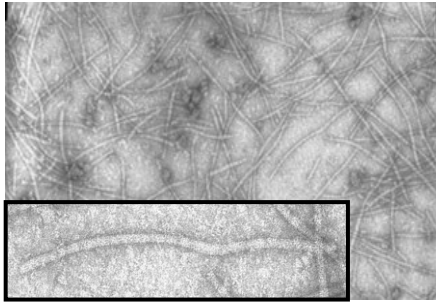
POTATO VIRUS X - PVX

- Alphaflexiviridae
- Potexvirus
- Filamentous, flexible
- Length: 500 nm
- Diameter: 13 nm
- ss(+) RNA 6400 nt
- 1300 Coat Protein (CP)

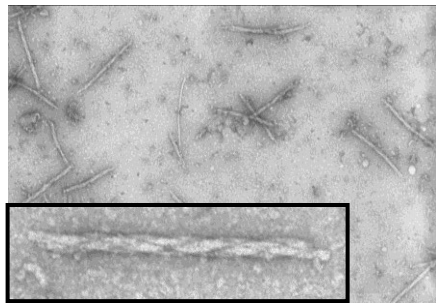




PVX wt

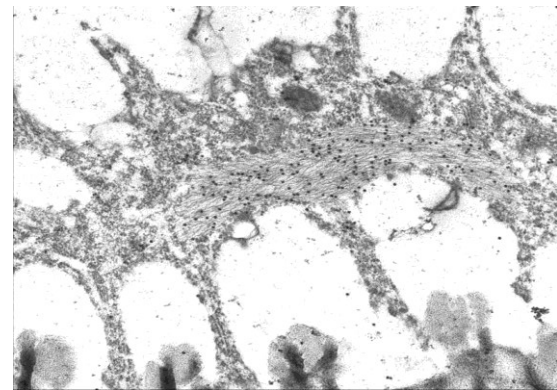
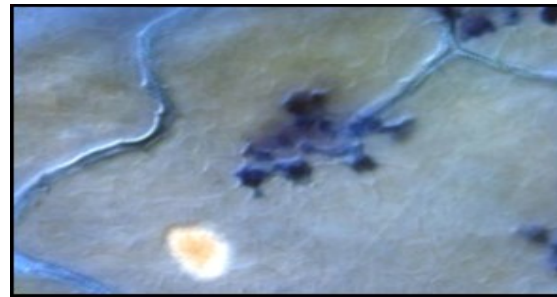


PVX mutant

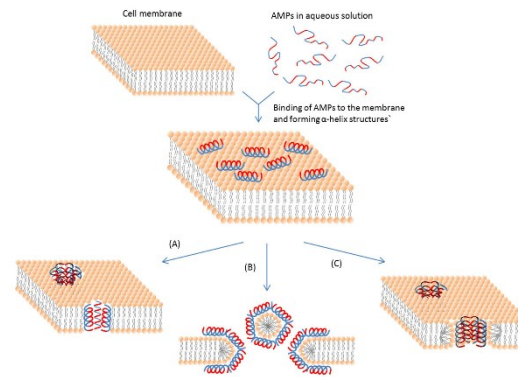


Plant virology

CVPs stability
Virus movement
CP-Virion structure

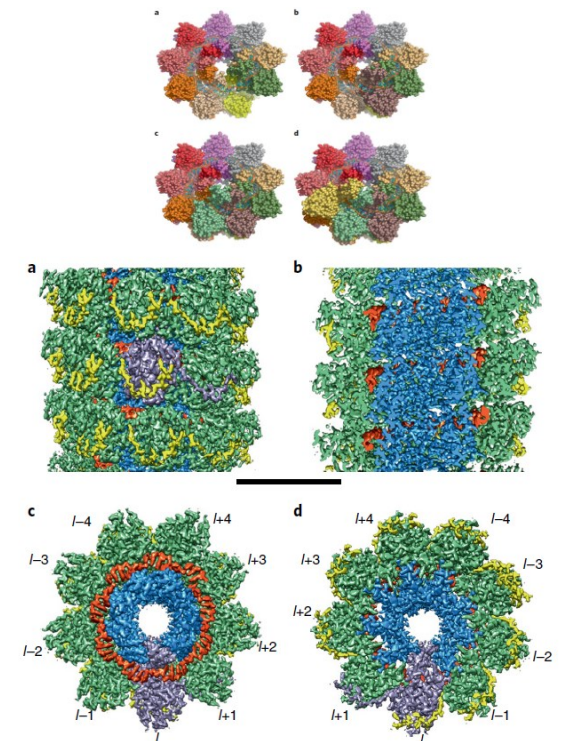


Antimicrobial peptides

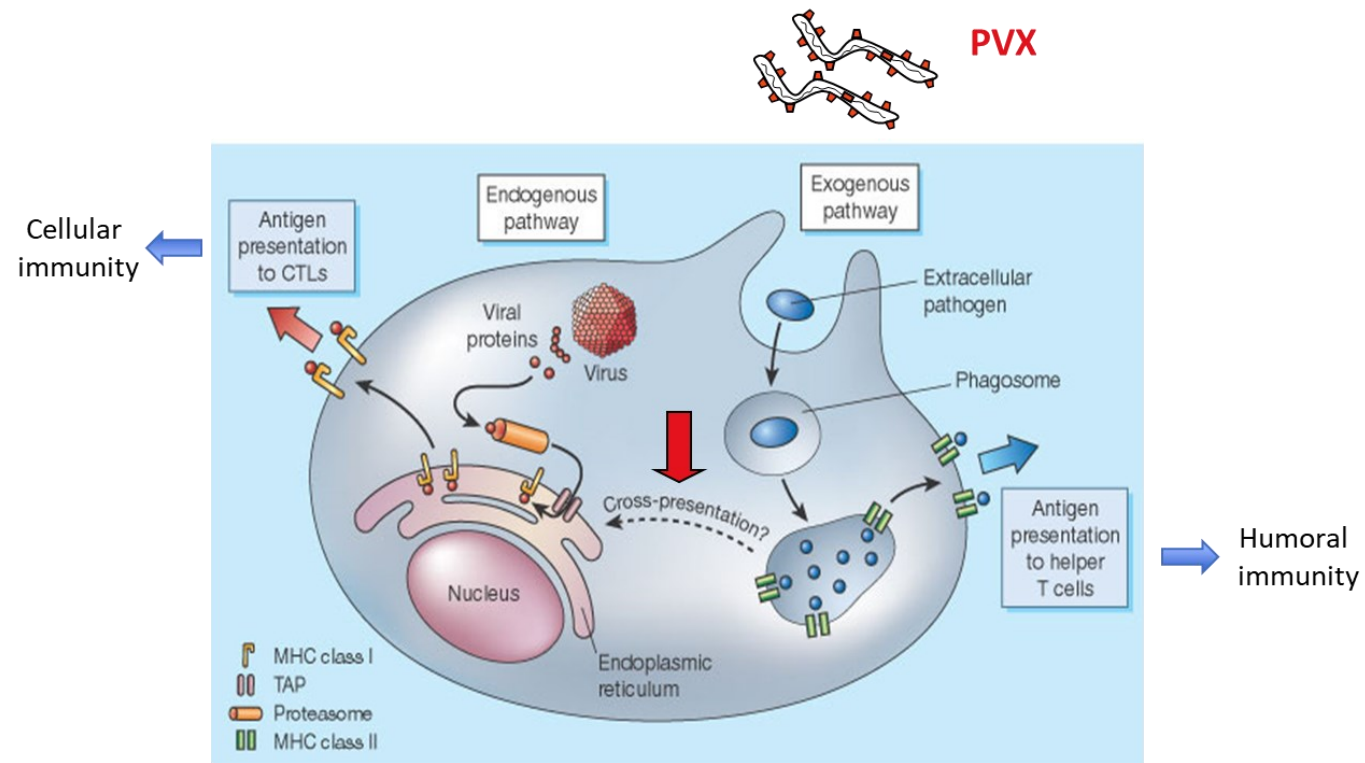
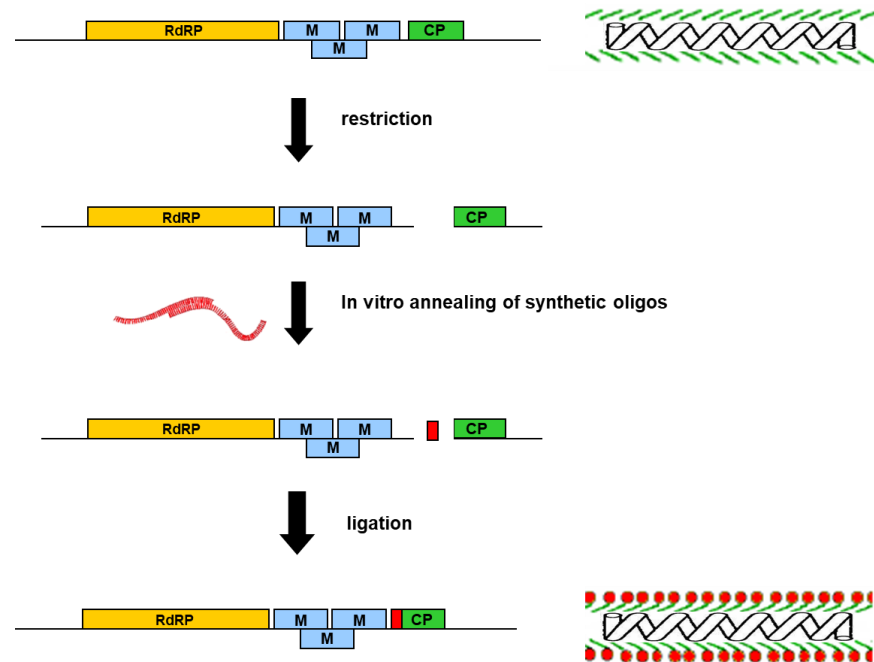
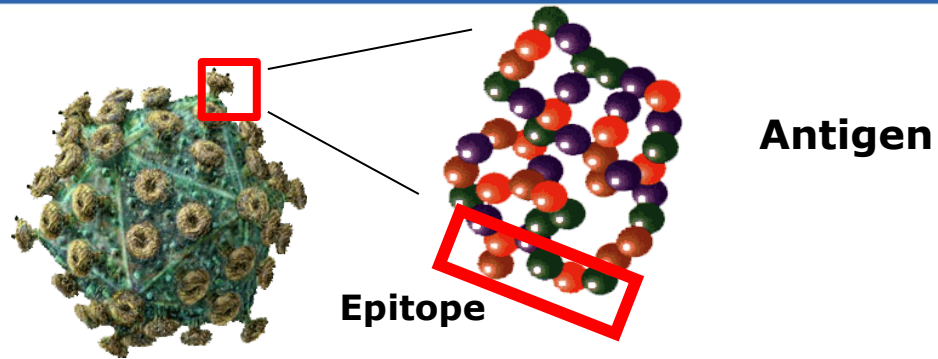


Atomic structure of potato virus X, the prototype of the *Alphaflexiviridae* family

Alessandro Grinzato¹, Eazhisai Kandiah², Chiara Lico³, Camilla Betti^{3,4}, Selene Baschieri³ and Giuseppe Zanotti^{1,5}



New Vaccine Formulations



Diagnostic kit for Sjogren's Syndrome



Journal of Autoimmunity 25 (2005) 229–234

Identification of tear lipocalin as a novel autoantigen target in Sjogren's syndrome

Riccardo Navone ^{a,b}, Claudio Lunardi ^a, Roberto Gerli ^c, Elisa Tinazzi ^a,
Dimitri Peterlana ^a, Caterina Bason ^a, Roberto Corrocher ^a, Antonio Puccetti ^{b,d,*}

^a Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Verona, Policlinico GB Rossi, Piazzale LA Scuro 10, 37134 Verona, Italy

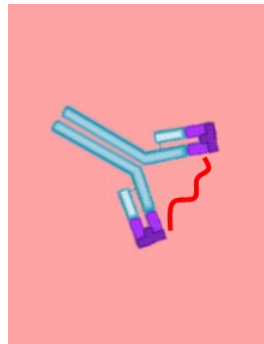
^b Department of Experimental Medicine, University of Genova, Via Marsano 10, 16 Genova, Italy

^c Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Perugia, Policlinico Moneluce, Perugia, Italy

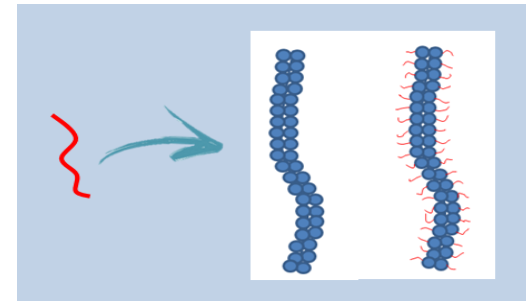
^d Institute G. Gaslini, Genova, Italy

Received 8 June 2005; revised 8 June 2005; accepted 7 September 2005

Lipocalin is the major lipid binding protein in human tear fluid

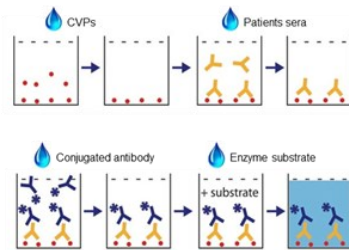
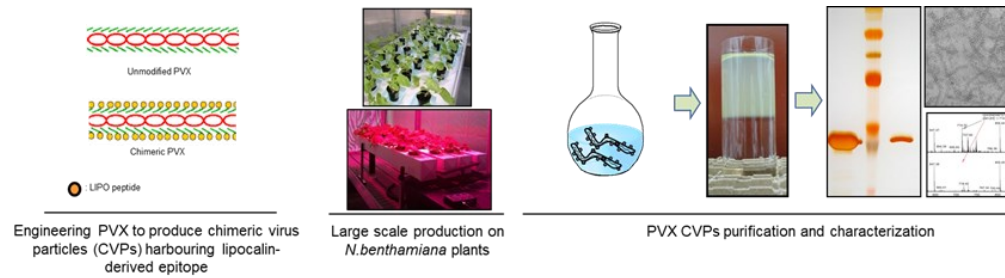


Lipo peptide is recognized by autoantibodies present in patients sera



Fusion of Lipo peptide to PVX CP

How does it work ?

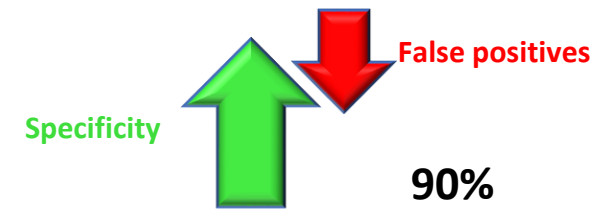


- Sjögren Patient
- Healthy Patient

Does it work ?

SPECIFICITY

Ability to identify healthy people



SENSITIVITY

Ability to identify sick people



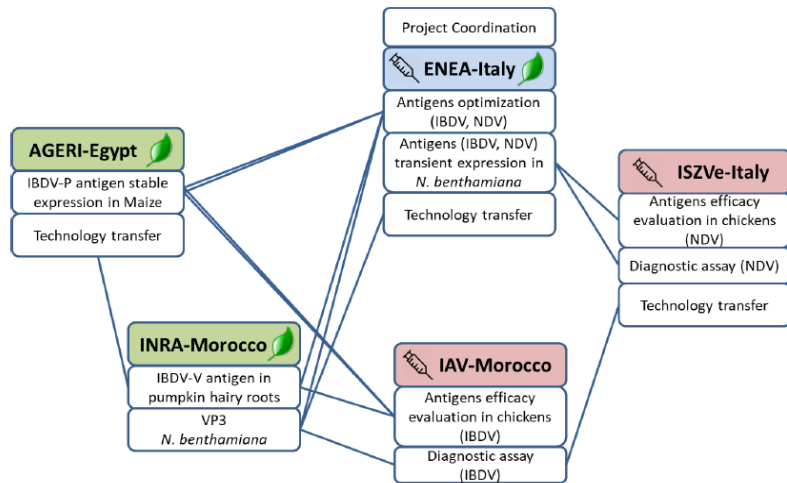
Easy, rapid, not invasive → ELISA test

Reliable, sensible, specific, stable for at least 60 days → lipocalin peptide, PVX

Cheap → *in planta* production

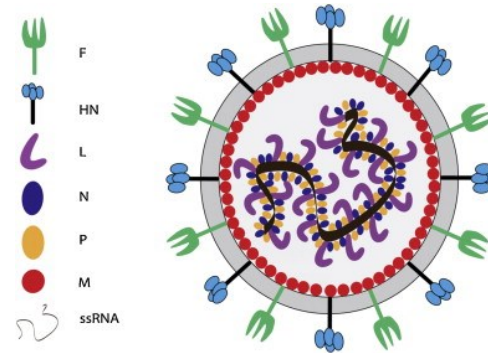


AVian viral disease prevention and control with plant vaccines for the MEDiterranean area (AVIAMED)

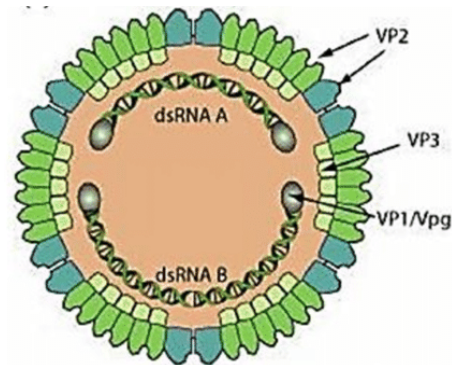


<http://aviamedproject.net/>

NDV



IBDV



Vaccine DIVA test

(Differentiating Infected from Vaccinated Animals)

Tomato Bushy Stunt Virus TBSV

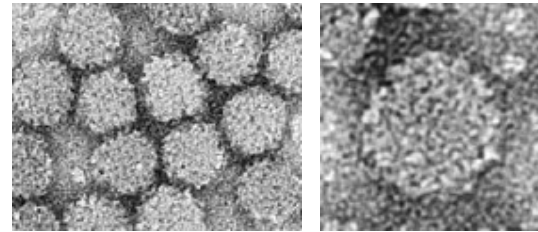
- 🌿 Tombusviridae
- 🌿 Tombusvirus

- 🌿 Icosahedral
- 🌿 Symmetry T=3

- 🌿 Diameter: 30 nm

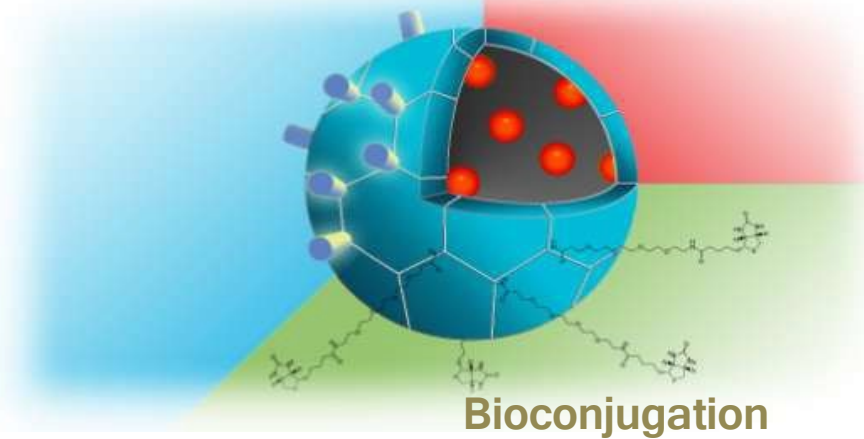
- 🌿 ss(+) RNA 4788 nt

- 🌿 180 Coat Protein (CP)

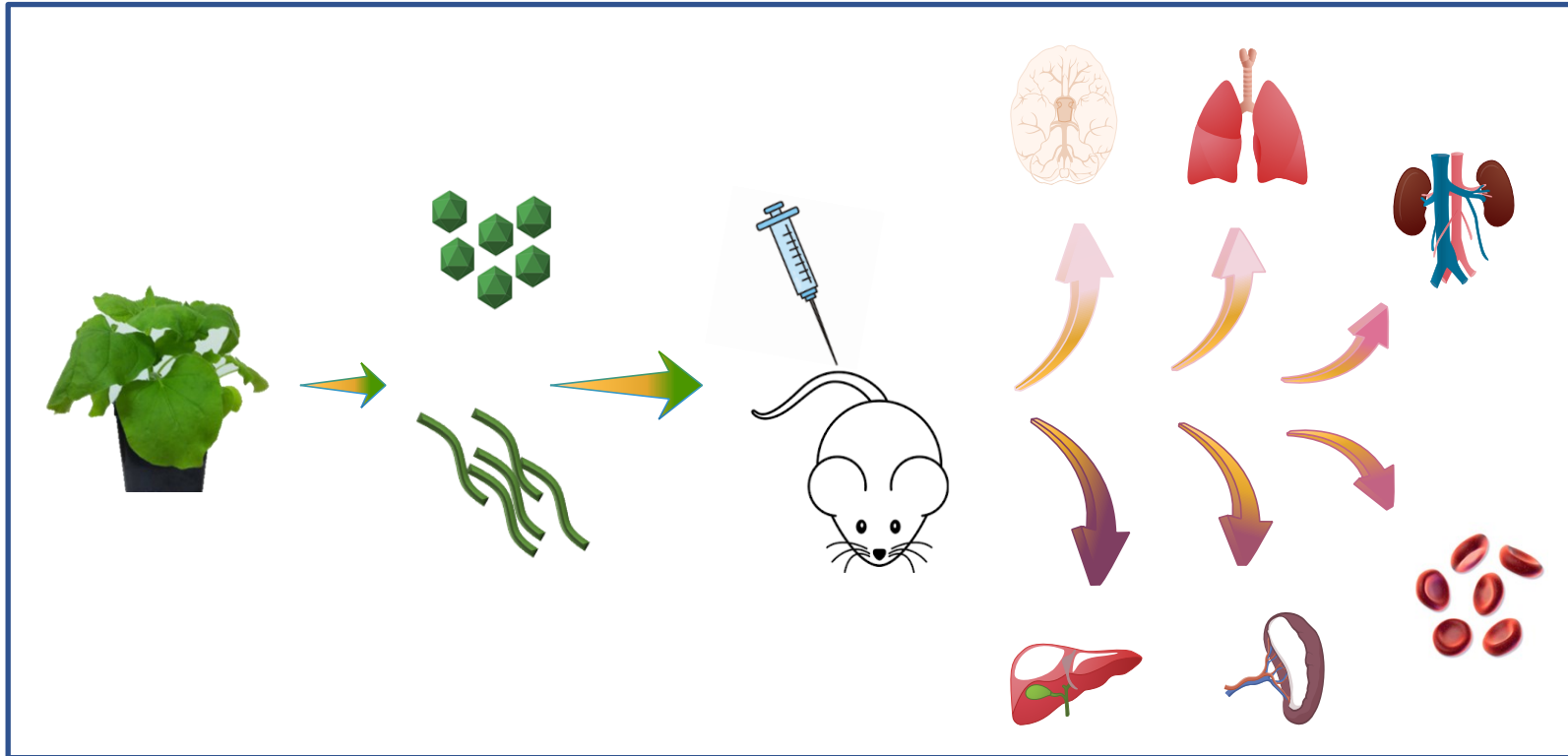


Genetic engineering

Infusion

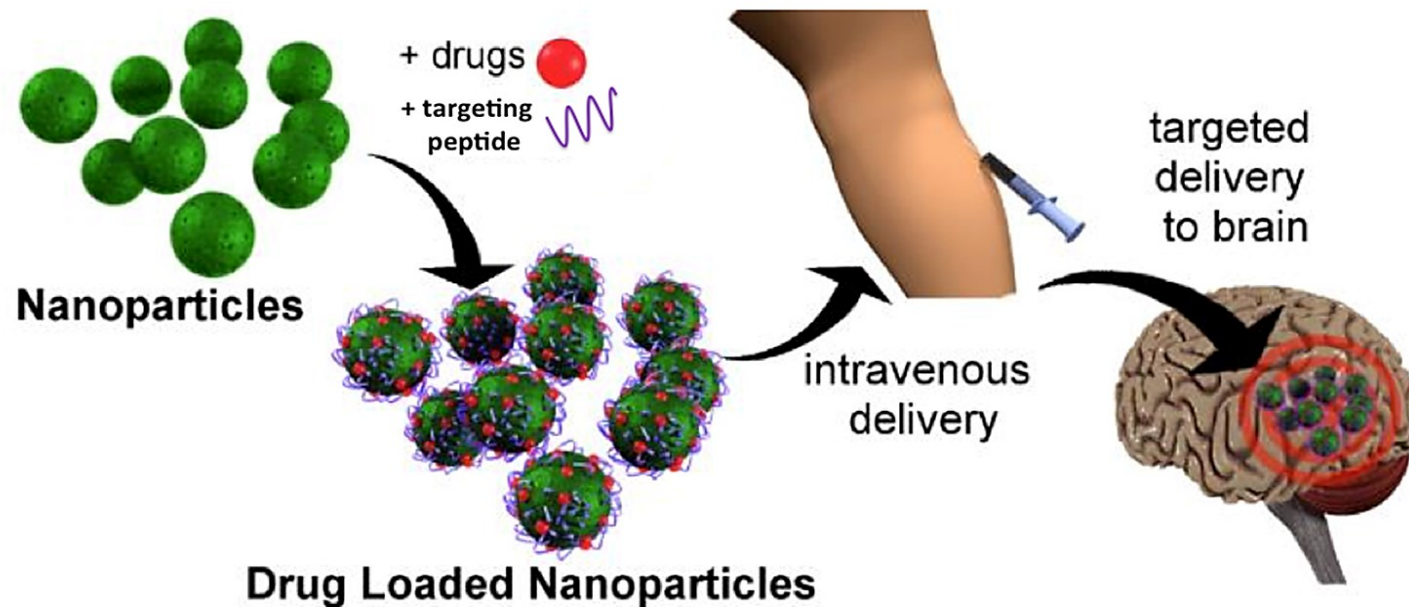


Biodistribution Evaluation



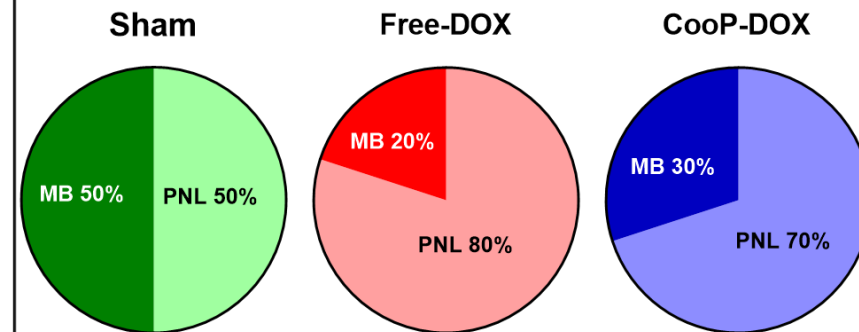
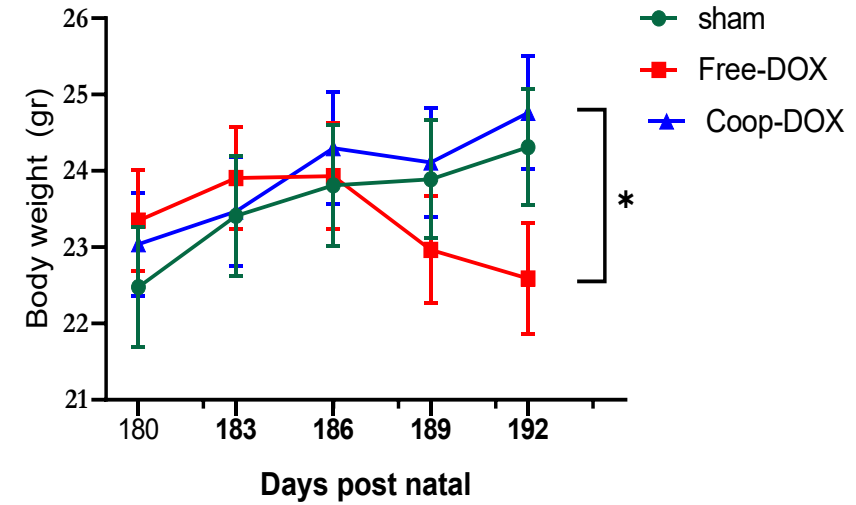
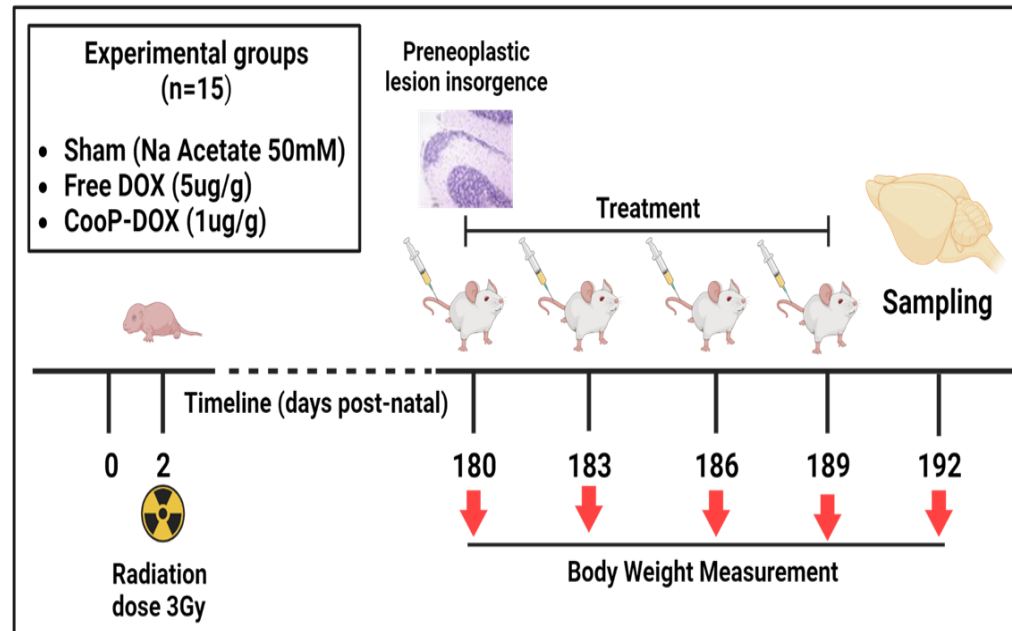
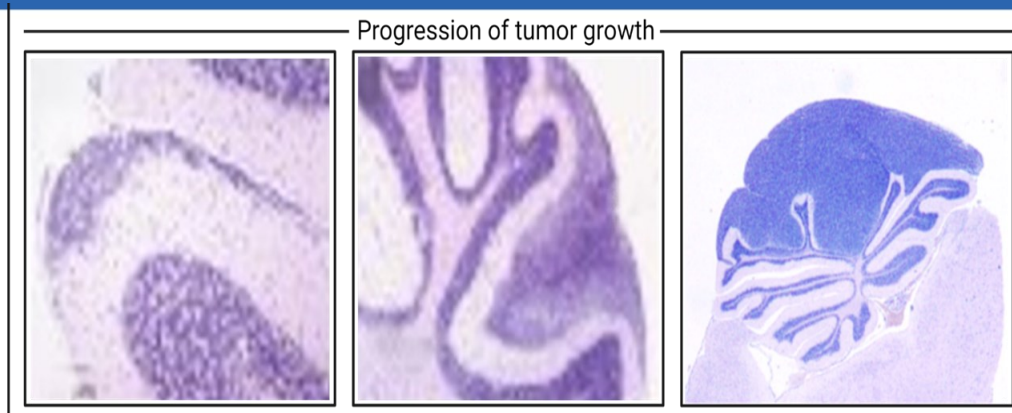
The NANOCROSS project

Plant virus nanoparticles for blood-brain barrier crossing and medulloblastoma targeting



Medulloblastoma is a brain tumor affecting mainly young children, with the highest risk of unfavorable outcome and/or severe and life-long side effects for the aggressive nature of currently used therapy (surgery/radiotherapy/chemiotherapy)

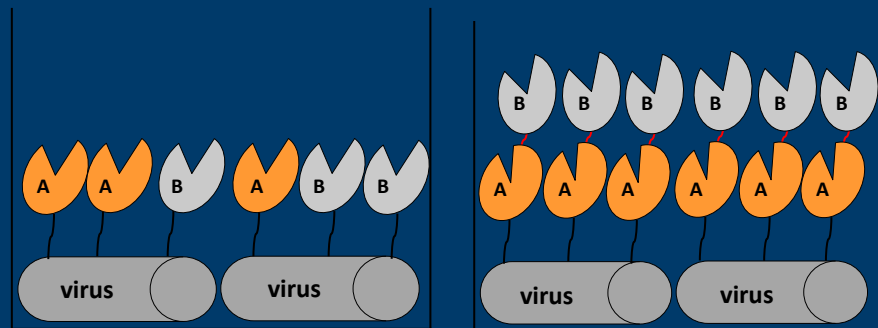
In vivo therapeutic efficacy



Enzyme nanocarriers (ENCs)

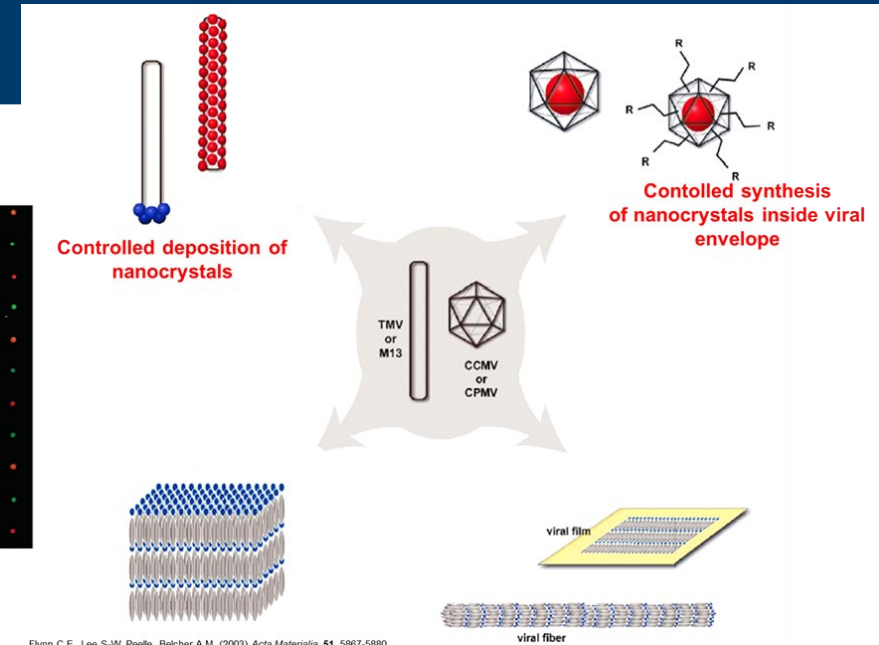
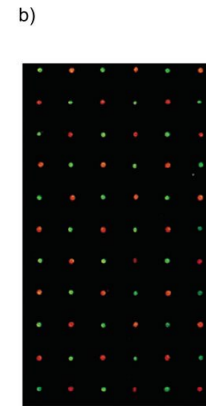
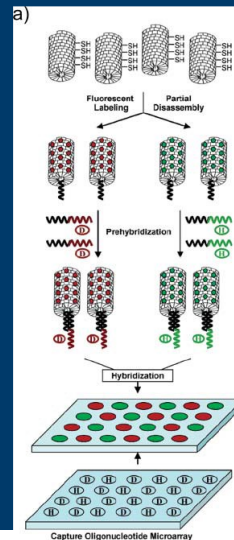
Coiled-coil interaction

Prof. Heribert Warzecha



Viruses as nanomaterials

- Tissue Engineering
- Nucleation cages, mineralization, crystals production
- Liquid crystals systems
- Biosensors
- Photovoltaic devices



Than you for your attention



Chiara Lico

chiara.lico@enea.it

<https://bioag.sspt.enea.it/>