# **Carbon Nanopipettes**

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# Challenge: how do you integrate a nanoscopic structure with a macroscopic handle?

### Solution: integrated manufacturing

**Pull Quartz Micropipettes** 



**Expose Carbon Tip with BHF** 



Kim, B. M, Murray, T., and Bau, H. H., 2005, The Fabrication of Integrated Carbon Pipes with Sub Micron Diameters, <u>Nanotechnology</u>, 16, 1317-1320.

B. M. Kim and H. H. Bau, Nano and Micros Scale Structures: Methods, Devices and Applications Thereof, Patent application 2006/0116971

#### **Carbon NanoPipette (CNP) - No Assembly Required**



# **CNP's Mechanical Characteristics**



When pushed against hard surface, the CNP's tip buckles without breaking (left) yet the CNP is stiff enough to penetrate into a biological cell (right)



Schrlau, M. G.; Falls, E. M.; Ziober, B. L.; Bau, H. H., Nanotechnology, 2008

# **CNP: Optical Properties**



(a) A schematic of a carbon pipette partially filled with a suspension of 50nm fluorescent particles in water-glycerin blend.

(b) A fluorescent image of a portion of the tip filled with a suspension.

(c) An optical image complementing the fluorescent image of b.

(d) An optical image of the suspension-air interface inside the carbon pipette.

(e) A florescent image complementing the optical image of Fig. d. The liquid part of the suspension is a water-glycerin mixture.

#### Carbon NanoPipes are transparent to: Light, electrons, and X-rays

Kim B. M, Murray, T., and Bau, H. H., 2005, The Fabrication of Integrated Carbon Pipes with Sub Micron Diameters, <u>Nanotechnology</u>, 16, 1317-1320.

#### **Sample Holders for Electron Microscope Imaging**





Carbon Nanopipe Diameter: ~500nm

Particles ~40nm, Fluorescent Polystyrene

Kim, B. M., Qian, S., and Bau, H., H., 2005, Filling Carbon Nanotubes with Particles, <u>Nano</u> <u>Letters</u>, *5* (5) 873 – 878

## **CNPs' Electrical Properties**

#### **Ohmic Resistance**

Electrical resistance of CNPs : the current is depicted as a function of the potential difference. Solid lines (theory). Symbols (experiments).

Typical resistance ~15k $\Omega$ 



#### Flow Characteristics of the Carbon Nanopipes



The position of the fluorescent particle inside the nanotube as liquid flows from the smaller drop to the bigger drop. The arrow indicates the location of the particle.



### **MEASURING FLOW RATES at ATTOLITER PER SECOND**





 $\sigma$ =surface tension  $\eta$ =viscosity  $\theta$ =contact angle a = tube radius

$$\chi = \left(3 + \left(\frac{1 - \cos\theta}{\sin\theta}\right)^2\right) \left(\frac{1 - \cos\theta}{\sin\theta}\right)$$

Sinha, S., Rossi, M., Mattia, D., Gogotsi, Y., and **Bau, H. H.,** 2007, Induction and Measurement of Minute Flow Rates through Nanopipes, *Physics of Fluids* 19, 013603

# **Probing Cells**







Probing Cells Under an Inverted Microscope. (a) Schematic depicting a CNP probing a plated adherent cell in a Petri dish. (b) Phase contrast optical image showing a CNP probing an adherent OSCC (10 um).

# **Cell Viability upon Probing with CNPs**



## Trypan Blue Exclusion Test

The cells along the edge were probed for short times with CNPs (A, dotted line). When Trypan Blue was added to the extracellular solution, the probed cells remained colorless (viable) while dying or dead cells turned blue (B, dotted circles).

# **CNPs' Cell Toxicity**

#### Cells Remain Viable After CNP Probing



(a) OSCC prior to injection. (b) Same OSCC subsequent to dye injection (observation with fluorescence microscopy)

Schrlau, M. G.; Falls, E. M.; Ziober, B. L.; Bau, H. H., *Nanotechnology*, **2008** 



(a) Right to left: proliferation of speared OSCC observed over two weeks.
(b) Average normalized number of speared (circle) and unspeared (square) OSCC as a function of time.

# **Injection of Fluorescent Dye into Cells**



- (a) Left to right: OSCC before and after fluorescent dye injection with a CNP.
- (b) Left to right: Fluorescent images show an OSCC being injected three times with a CNP. Scale bar, 10 μm.
- (c) Left to right: Fluorescent images shows two neuron cells remain viable 1 week after being injected with fluorescent dye by a CNP.

## **Calcium Signaling: Secondary Messenger Injection**

Intracellular Ca<sup>+2</sup> regulates processes by activating or inhibiting signaling pathways

Short Term

- Secretion
  Contraction
  Synaptic transmission
- Metabolism



- Gene expression
- Cell cycles
- Growth
- Division
- Apoptosis

Secondary messengers transduce membrane signals to release calcium from intracellular calcium stores



Figure 15–36. Molecular Biology of the Cell, 4th Edition.

Unregulated calcium release implicated in cancer [Monteith et al, Nat Rev Cancer, 2007]

## **Second Messenger Injection using CNPs**



Confocal by Brailoiu GC, Temple

#### Second Messengers:

- *IP*<sub>3</sub> Inositol trisphosphate
- cADPr Cyclic adenosine diphosphate ribose
- NAADP Nicotinic acid adenine dinucleotide phosphate

#### **Calcium Stores:**

- Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) sensitive to IP3 and cADPr (in some cells)
- Lysosomes (Ly) sensitive to NAADP (controversial)

Basal

Release



Breast cancer cells (SKBR3) loaded with Fura-2AM Ex: 340, 380 nm Em: 540 nm Fluorescent Images (340nm/380nm)



### **Calcium Signaling via Second Messenger Injection**



Confocal by Brailoiu GC, Temple

 Proper cell probing techniques drastically reduce damage to cells and increase injection efficiency



### IP<sub>3</sub>-Induced Ca<sup>+2</sup> Release in Breast Cancer Cells



Schrlau M, Brailoiu, E., Patel, S., Gogotsi, Y., Dun, N., and Bau, H. H., 2008, Carbon Nanopipettes Characterize Calcium Release Pathways in Breast Cancer Cells, <u>Nanotechnology 19</u>, 325102

### cADPr-Induced Ca<sup>+2</sup> Release in Breast Cancer Cells

#### cADPr – cyclic adenosine diphosphate ribose

- Calcium released by cADPr when acidic calcium stores are depleted.
- No calcium released when Ry receptor is blocked.
- Conclusion → ER is sensitive to cADPr through Ry receptor.

cADPr 🔺



Traces = average 6 cells +/- s.e.m

Schrlau M, Brailoiu, E., Patel, S., Gogotsi, Y., Dun, N., and Bau, H. H., 2008, Carbon Nanopipettes Characterize Calcium Release Pathways in Breast Cancer Cells, <u>Nanotechnology 19</u>, 325102

### NAADP-Induced Ca<sup>+2</sup> Release in Breast Cancer Cells

#### NAADP - nicotinic acid adenine dinucleotide phosphate

- No calcium released when acidic calcium stores are depleted.
- Partial release when Ry receptor is blocked.
- Conclusion → Ly is sensitive to NAADP.
   Calcium-induced calcium release from ER through Ry receptor.

CICR



Traces = average 6 cells +/- s.e.m

Schrlau M, Brailoiu, E., Patel, S., Gogotsi, Y., Dun, N., and Bau, H. H., 2008, Carbon Nanopipettes Characterize Calcium Release Pathways in Breast Cancer Cells, <u>Nanotechnology 19</u>, 325102

NAADP +

Ca<sup>2+</sup>

### **Carbon Nanopipettes for Cell Electrophysiology**



#### **Cell Membrane Potential**



Probing events are electrically recorded with CNPs

Schrlau, M., Dun, N., and **Bau, H. H.**, 2009, Cell Electrophysiology with Carbon Nanopipettes, <u>ACS</u> <u>Nano 3</u> (3), 563-568

#### **Measuring Cell Response to Chemical Stimuli**



#### **Experimental Results compared with Nernst Predictions**



### **Measuring Response to Pharmacological Stimuli**



G\_C G G G С G **Hyperpolarization** HBSS + BIC then GABA G G G B G G No change



## Carbon Nanopipettes (CNPs) for automated microinjection & the study subcellular tRNA dynamics





## **Motivation**

Microinjection provides about the only means to controllably introduce reagents with known compositions at a known time into cells to enable dynamic studies of cell functions

Conventional microinjection is a low throughput, tedious process that requires a great amount of skill

Our objectives are to improve injection tools, automate the injection process, and use our system to carry out various studies in cell biology such as alternations in tRNA intracellular distribution, resulting from stressors

## **Detection of Cell Penetration**



Anderson, S., and Bau, H. H., 2014, Electrical Detection of Cellular Penetration during Microinjection with Carbon Nanopipettes, Nanotechnology 25, 245102

Anderson, S., and Bau, H. H., 2015, Carbon Nanoelectrodes for Single-Cell Probing, Nanotechnology **26**, 185101

## Upenn semi-automated injection system

nk2gui2	
Auto Injection GUI	
Start / Contin.     End     Reset     ExposureTime     0.01       Gain 8     Offset 74     Contrast Gain 26     ContrastOffset 130	Adjust Type Manual Auto Aut
	save current location Graphic Injection
	Target Ref Z position: -29120 ms OR -1138 um Injection setting is based
	Inject angle (cnp and z-plane): 45 (>3 deg)
THE REAL PROPERTY AND A SECOND	Injection speed (z-v) (um/s): 5 © um Inject
	Move Speed (x,y,z) (um/s):
	pull back delay (s): 0.5 injection 3 Point Inject
	Femitojet Control       Update Setting from Device         Compensation P (hPa)       10       Time (0.1s)       1       Inject P (hPa)       50       Clean         15       100       1       10       15       500       50
A set of the set	Info. Board
	Parameters & Settings
	1 um ~ 25.6 microsteps lower value of Z means farther away from substrate

Operator marks desired injection points on the computer screen. The system calculates an optimal path for the injection probe

## **Computation of Microinjector's Trajectory**



### Semi-automated Injection with Electrical Feedback



## tRNA – more than protein synthesis

## Stressor-Induced tRNA translocation Amino Acid Deprivation



Cy3-labeled bulk tRNA

Rhodamine -labeled bulk tRNA

#### tRNA Trafficking Dynamics – Amino Acid Deprivation





$$V_N \frac{dC_N}{dt} = AK_C C_C - AK_N C_N.$$

$$V_C \frac{dC_C}{dt} = AK_N C_N - AK_C C_C.$$
$$\frac{C_N(t)}{C_C(t)} = \frac{\left(1 - e^{-(k_N + k_C \varphi)t}\right)}{\left(\frac{k_N}{k_C} + \varphi e^{-(k_N + k_C \varphi)t}\right)}$$

# **Other Applications of CNPs**

- Monitoring neurotransmitters concentrations in the *Drosophila* Brain.
- H. R. Rees, S. E. Anderson, E. Privman, H. H. Bau, & B. J. Venton, 2015, Carbon nanopipette electrodes for dopamine detection in Drosophila. Analytical Chemistry 87 (7), 3849-3855
- Monitoring function of ion channel blockers through cell electrophysiology
- Schrlau, M., Dun, N., and **Bau, H. H.**, 2009, Cell Electrophysiology with Carbon Nanopipettes, <u>ACS Nano 3</u> (3), 563-568
- Studying the role of secondary messengers in calcium release in the cell
- Schrlau M, Brailoiu, E., Patel, S., Gogotsi, Y., Dun, N., and Bau, H. H., 2008, Carbon Nanopipettes Characterize Calcium Release Pathways in Breast Cancer Cells, <u>Nanotechnology 19</u>, 325102





## Biosensors



## **Single Bead-Based Electrochemical Sensor**



Liu, C., Schrlau, M., Bau, H. H., 2009, Single bead-based electrochemical biosensor, to appear in Biosensors and Bioelectronics.

# Detection of H<sub>2</sub>0<sub>2</sub>



## **Detection of DNA**





# **CNPs as Magnetic Manipulators**

#### Superparamagnetic (SPM) CNP\*



# Capturing SPM Nanoparticles (150nm dia.)

#### Capturing & Manipulating Microparticles & Arrays







\*B. Polyak, Surgery, Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, USA

# **Electrospray Applications**

#### Electrodripping<sup>†</sup>



#### Electrospray Ionization <sup>‡\*</sup>



*† J. Santiago-Aviles, Electrical & Systems Engineering, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA † D. Byun, Aerospace & Information Engineering, Konkuk University, Seoul, Korea \*C-X Yuan, Proteomics Core Facility, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA* 

#### Electrospinning <sup>†‡</sup>



### **POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS OF CNPs**

Application	Description	
Nanoelectrodes	Electrochemistry	
Nozzles (injectors)	Nanofabrication Printing Protein / Oligo Arrays Electro-spinning Mass spectroscopy	
Cellular Probes	Cell sensing & modifications	

D. Byun, Aerospace & Information Engineering, Konkuk University, Seoul, Korea

### **POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS (CONTINUED)**

Application	Description	Enzyme S Labeled F <sup>+</sup> P <sup>+</sup> Target Addressed Antibody Anligen Particle	
Particle manipulators	Bead arrays Bio-sensors	Carbon Electrode Insulating Glass Capture Antibody	
Sample holders	X ray spectroscopy TEM of viruses & bacteria		(a) 100 nm — (b) 100 nm —

\* Hitchcock, A.P., Johansson, G.A., Mitchell, G.E., Keefe, M.H., and Tyliszcak, T., 2007, 3-d chemical imaging using angle-scan tomography in a soft X-ray scanning transmission X-ray microscope, 15th Vacuum Ultraviolet Radiation Physics Conference, Berlin, August 1, 2007. Accepted for publication in Appl. Phys. A.

### **POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS (CONTINUED)**

Injection	Sensing, Cell function modification	Calcium messengers; Transcription alternations
Sensor	Functionalized surface SERS	
Actuator	Magnetic probe	
Cell- physiology	Cell potential measurements Automated injection	