

# **Carbon nanofiber nanoelectrodes for neural stimulation and chemical detection The era of “smart” deep brain stimulation**

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# Biosensor Motivation



## NASA Applications

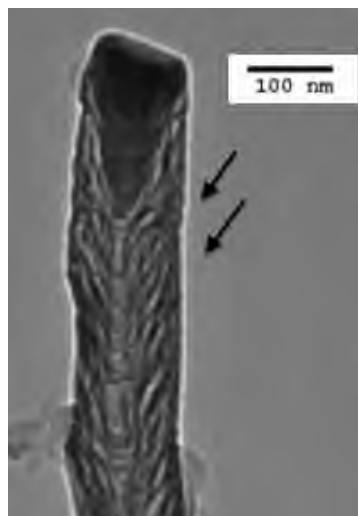
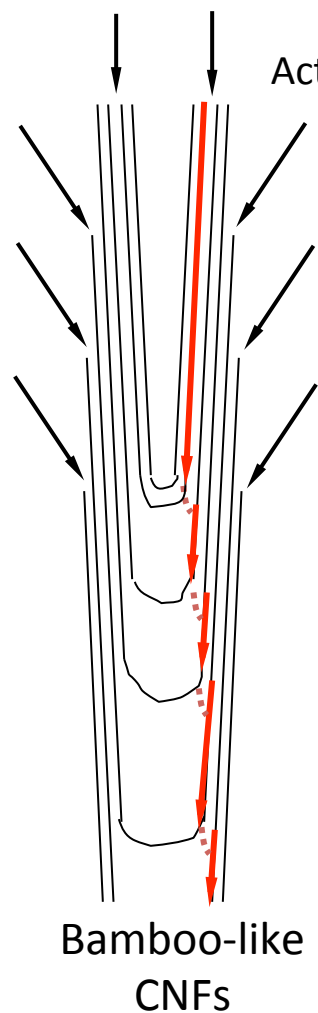
- Astronaut health monitoring
  - Lab-on-a-chip
- Water Quality monitoring
  - Pathogen detection on ISS and long duration missions
- Planetary exploration
  - Life on other planets

## Outside Applications and Customers

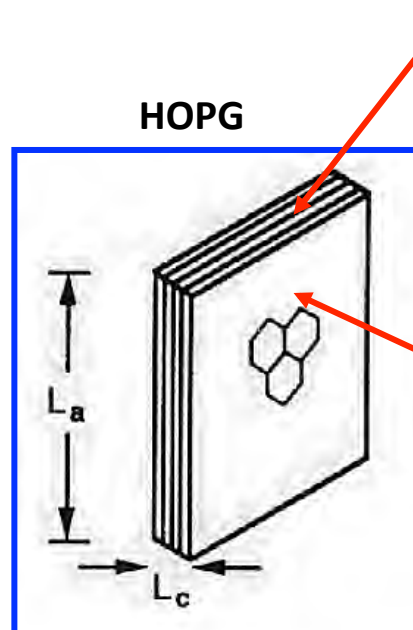
- Medical Diagnostics
  - NIH, DARPA
- Environmental Monitoring
  - EPA, NIH
- Biowarfare agent detection
  - DHS, DARPA
- Food Safety
  - FDA



# What are Carbon Nanofibers (CNFs)?



TEM of CNF



## Edge Plane:

- (1) High electron transfer rate ( $\sim 0.1$  cm/s)
- (2) Very high specific capacitance ( $>60$   $\mu\text{F}/\text{cm}^2$ )

## Basal Plane:

- (1) Low electron transfer rate ( $< 10^{-7}$  cm/s)
- (2) Anomalously low capacitance ( $\sim 1.9$   $\mu\text{F}/\text{cm}^2$ )

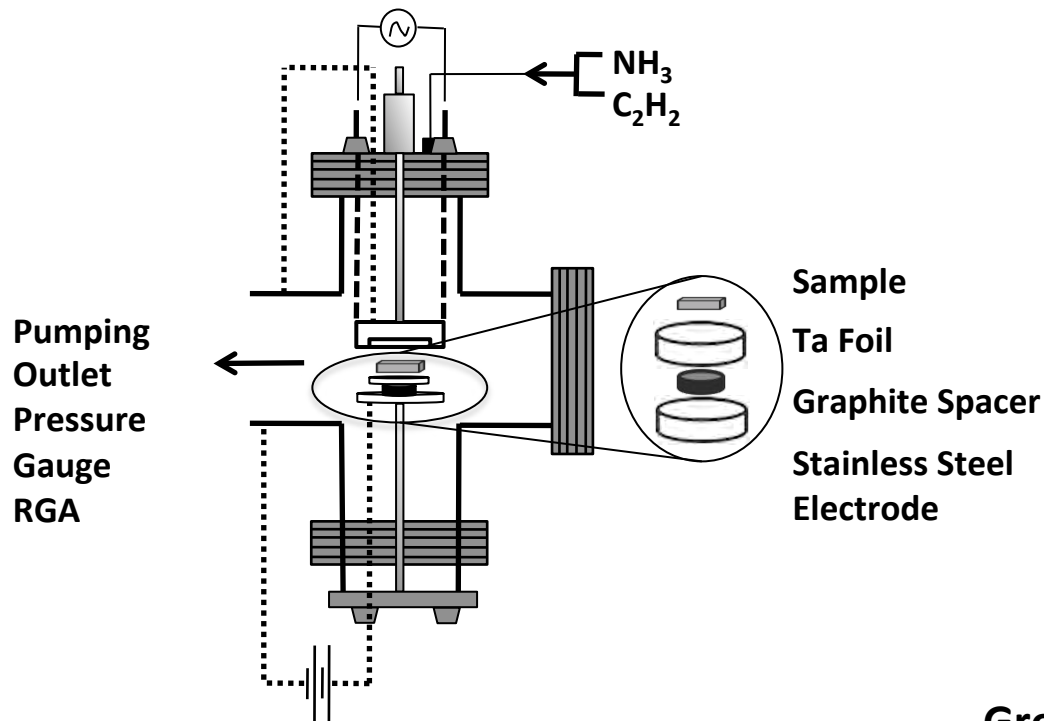
R. L. McCreery, A. J. Bard, in *Electroanalytical Chemistry*, Ed., 1991, 17, 221.

## Why CNF as biosensor electrode material?

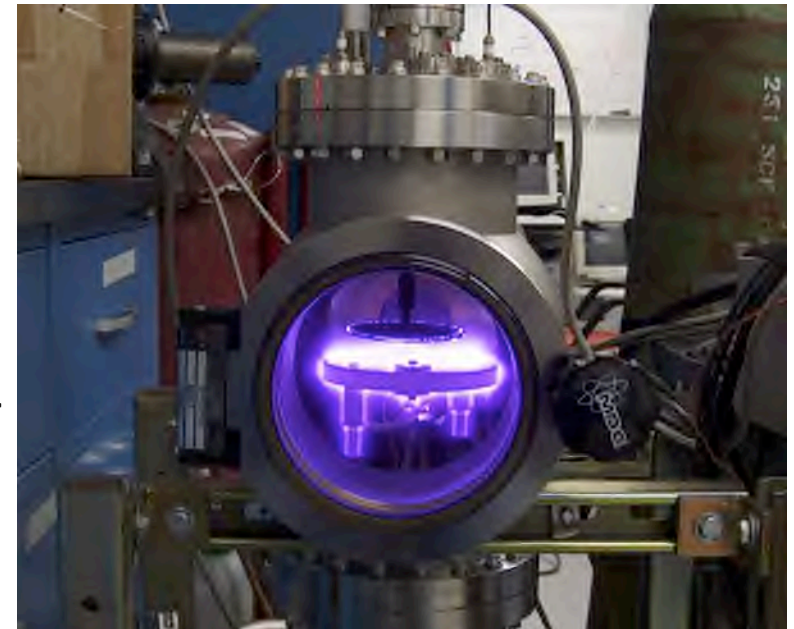
- 1) Good conductivity
- 2) Wide potential window
- 3) Many active sites for electron transfer
- 4) Easy to pattern, grow and process on silicon devices

# CNF Growth by Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition (PECVD)

PECVD Reactor Schematic



Custom Built PECVD Reactor

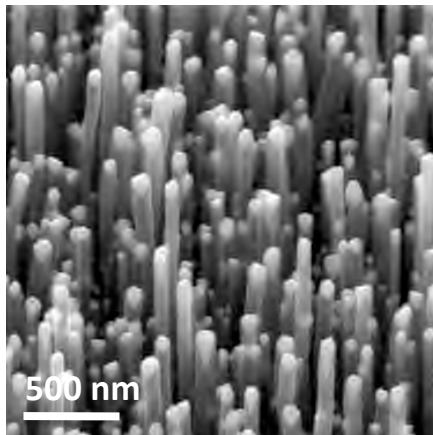


## Growth Process

- Heated to 650 C
- Plasma discharge 500 W, 530 V, 0.97 A
- 150 sccm  $\text{NH}_3$ /50 sccm  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$ , 5-6 torr
- Growth rate- 1000 nm/min
- Quality is good, alignment is good

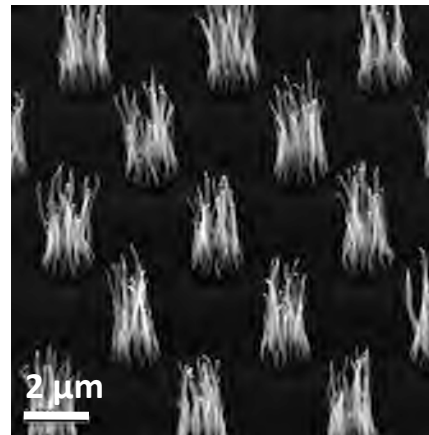
# Define CNF Placement by Catalyst Placement

Continuous Layer of  
Catalyst

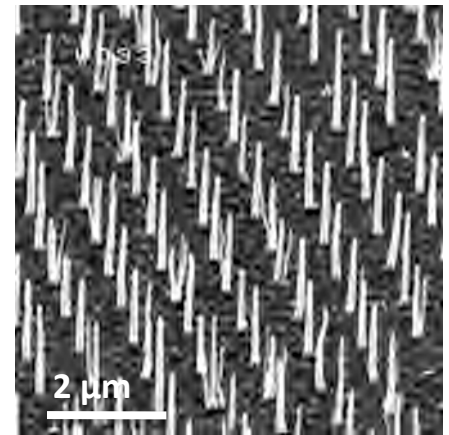


As Grown  
CNFs

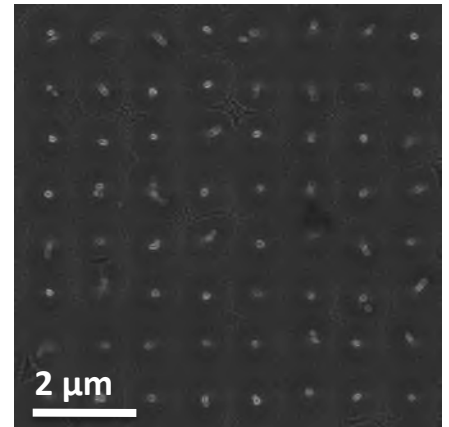
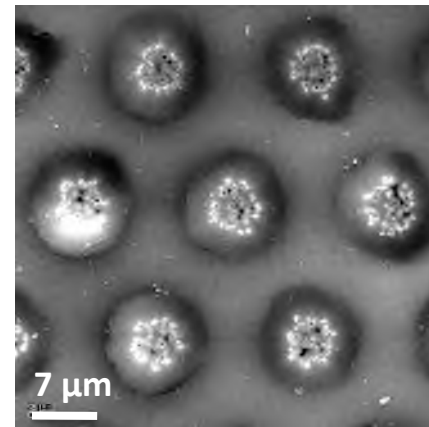
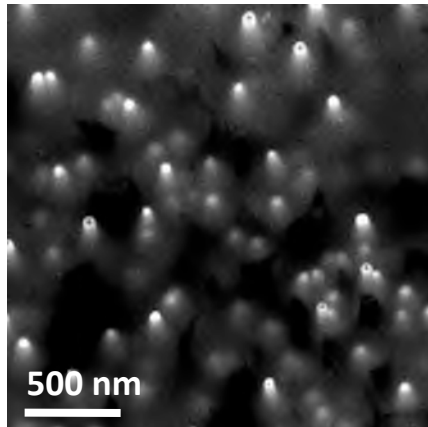
Photolithography  
Defined Catalyst Spots



Electron Beam Lithography  
Defined Catalyst Spots



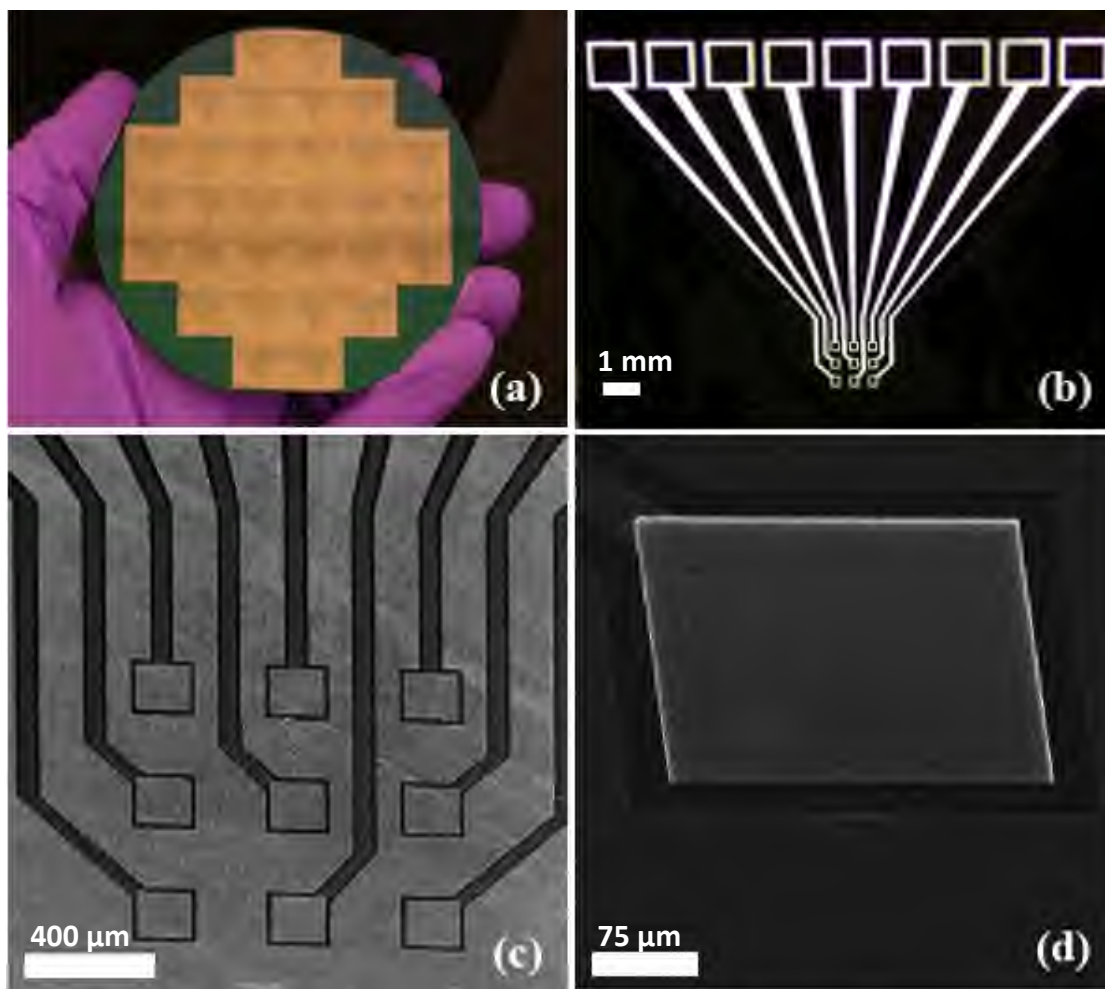
$\text{SiO}_2$   
Encapsulated  
CNFs





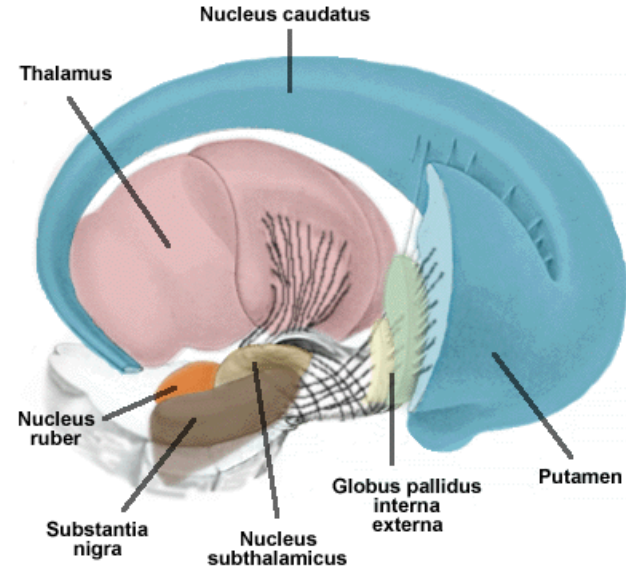
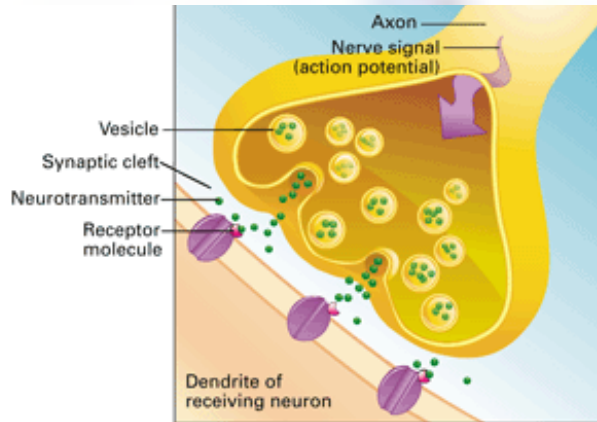
# Fabrication of 3x3 Array

30 devices on  
a 4" Si wafer



- 200  $\mu\text{m}$  by 200  $\mu\text{m}$  electrode dimensions
- 9 individually addressed electrodes
- potentially 9 different target molecules

# Motivation: Parkinson's Disease



Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder in which patients have insufficient production of dopamine from dopaminergic cells in the substantia nigra

Current treatments include L-dopa, dopamine agonists, MAO-B inhibitors, surgery (ablation and deep brain stimulation)

# Deep Brain Stimulation

## Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)

- Started in the 1960's
- Over 80,000 successful surgeries
- Has been demonstrated to be an effective neurosurgical treatment for several pathologies including:

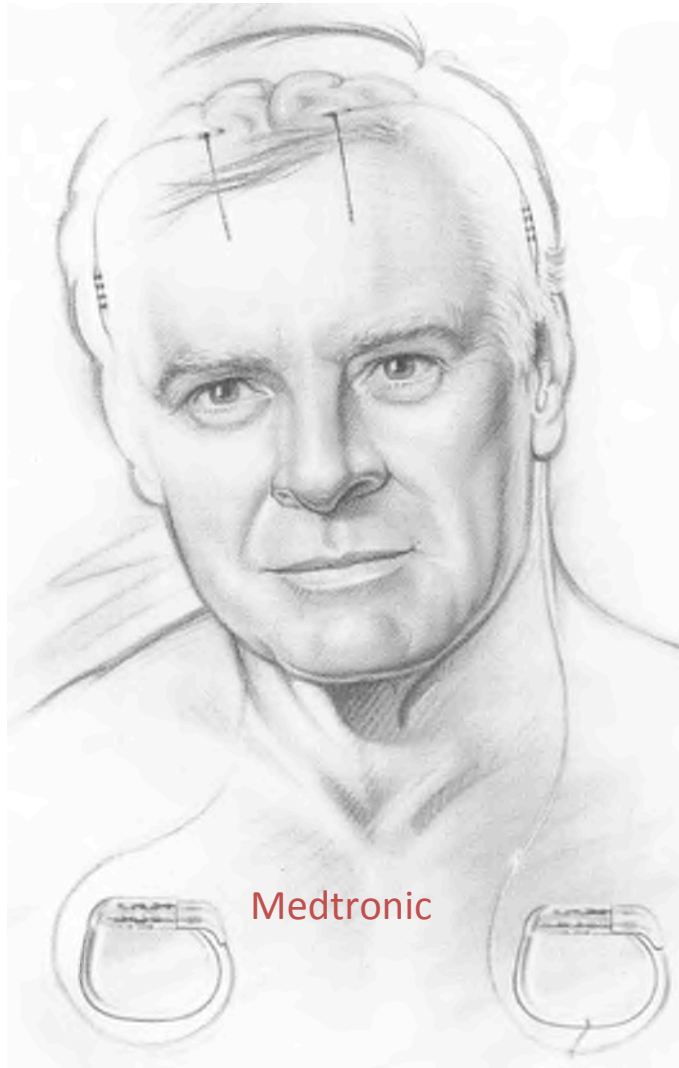
- tremor
- epilepsy
- Parkinson's disease
- depression
- Tourette syndrome
- chronic pain

## How DBS Works

- Brain pacemaker, electrical impulses to different areas of the brain
- Stimulation 24/7

## Potential Improvements

- Time consuming and difficult to program without feedback
- Want real-time monitoring of the neurochemical output
- Development of chemically-guided placement of DBS electrodes *in vivo*.

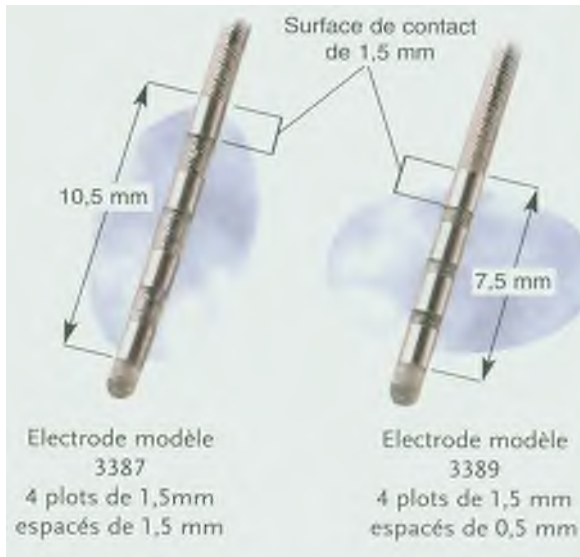


**Clinical efficacy is not questioned, but mechanisms are very poorly understood**

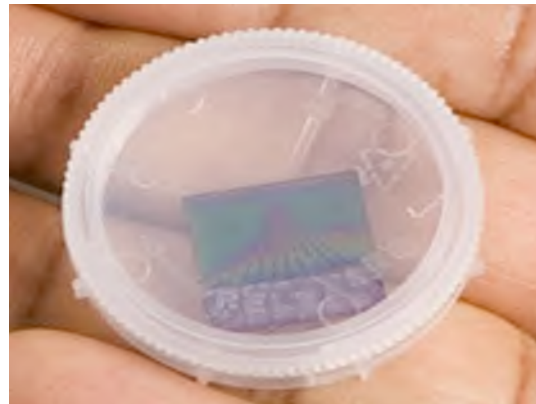
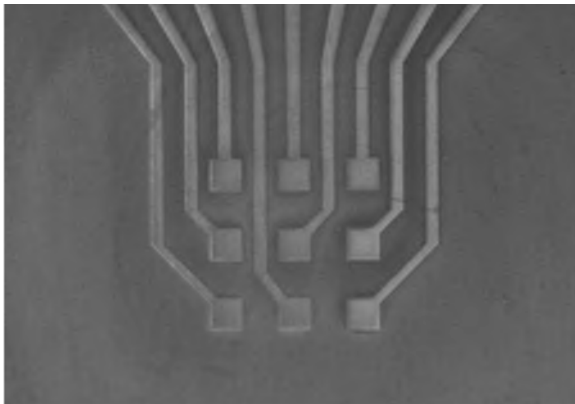


# Deep Brain Stimulation Electrodes

## DBS Electrodes from Medtronic

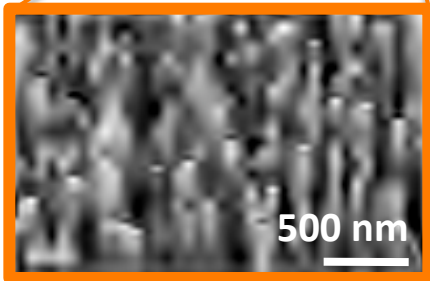
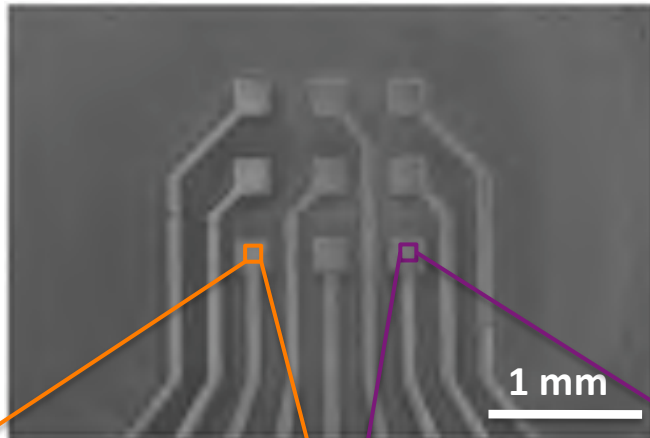


## CNF Electrodes



Current 3x3 CNF device does not have an optimal geometry for implantation but can be used for preliminary in vitro investigations.

# Electrochemical Detection of Neurotransmitters



## Stimulating Electrode:

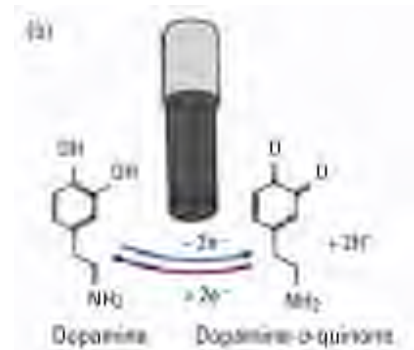
Bare CNFs with high capacitance and low impedance



## Recording Electrode:

CNFs embedded in  $\text{SiO}_2$  with ultrahigh sensitivity

- Molecules of Interest
  - Dopamine
    - Movement disorders, addiction
  - Serotonin
    - Depression, hunger
  - Adenosine
  - Oxygen
  - pH



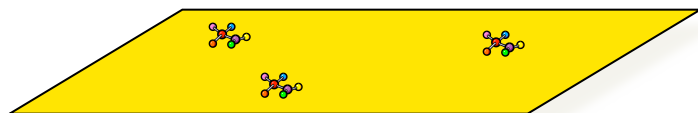
- Techniques
  - Differential Pulse Voltammetry
    - More sensitive
  - Fast Scan Cyclic Voltammetry
    - Better temporal resolution

# Nanoelectrodes for Chemical Sensing

Nanoscale electrodes create a dramatic improvement in signal detection over traditional electrodes for small analyte concentrations

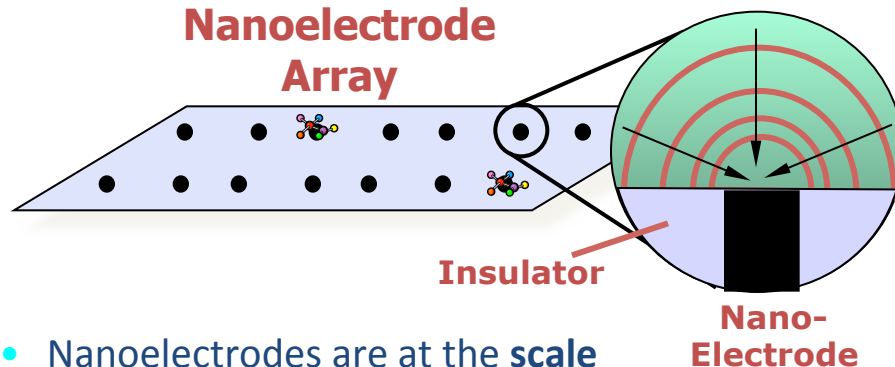
$$\text{Background: } i_n \propto C_d^0 A$$

## Traditional Macroelectrode



- **Scale difference** between macroelectrode and molecules is tremendous
- **Background noise** on electrode surface is therefore significant
- **Significant amount** of target molecules required

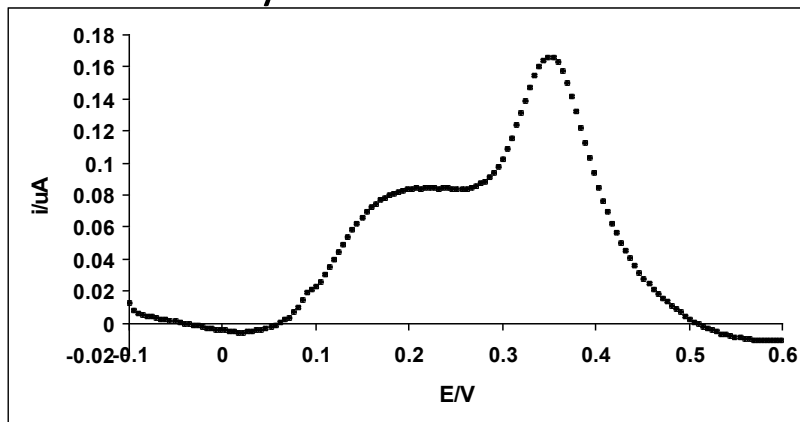
## Nanoelectrode Array



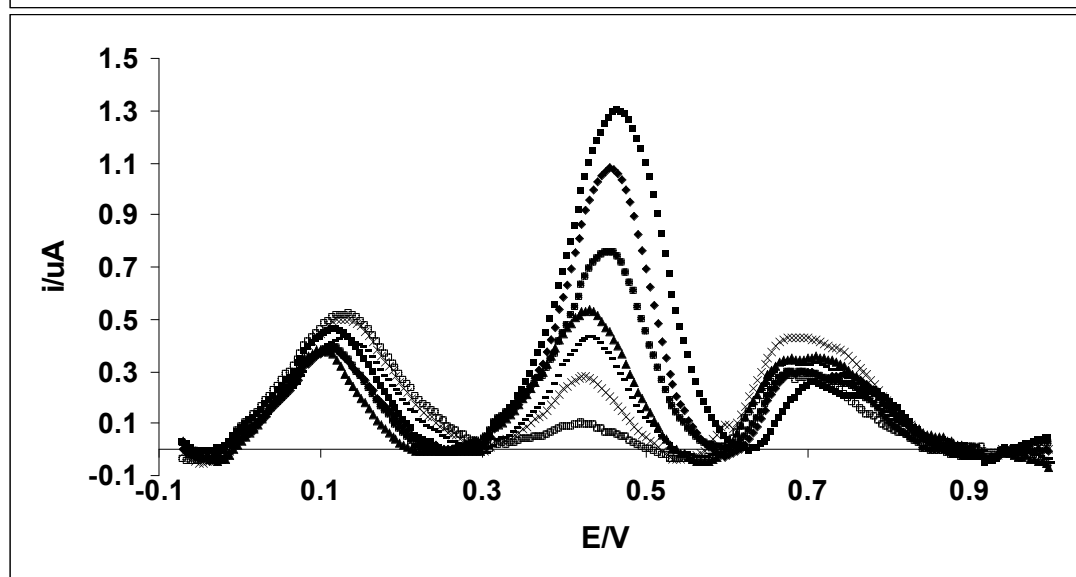
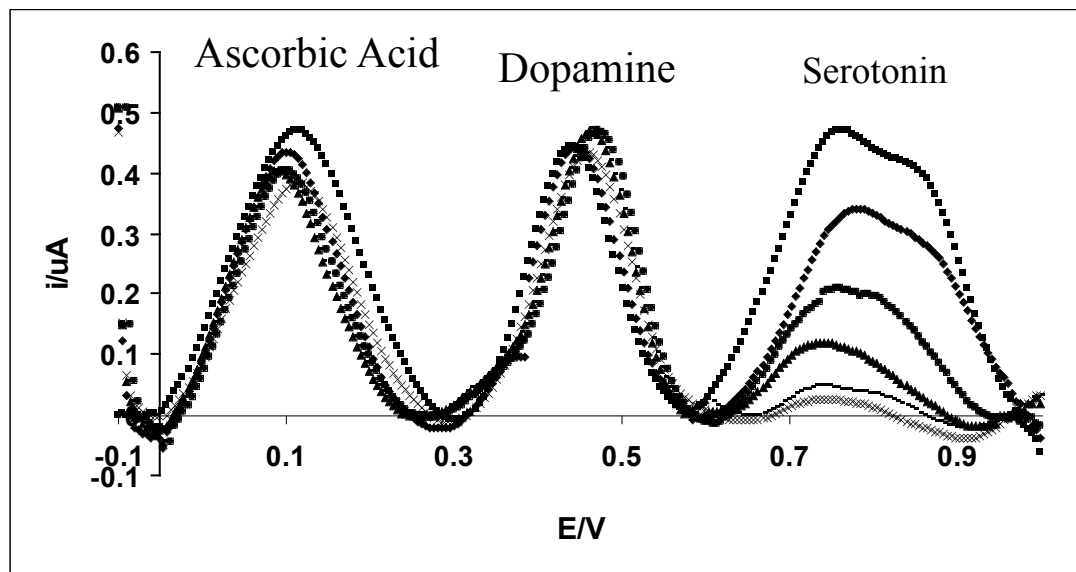
- Nanoelectrodes are at the **scale close to** molecules
- with dramatically **reduced background noise**
- Multiple electrodes results in **magnified signal** and **desired redundancy** for statistical reliability.

# Simultaneous Detection of Neurotransmitters

## Glassy Carbon Electrode



## Carbon Nanofiber Electrode



- CNF electrode has ability to distinguish multiple electroactive brain chemicals in a mixture!
- Detection limits 50nM for DA and 100nM for 5-HT

# Wireless Instantaneous Neurotransmitter Concentration Sensor (WINCS)

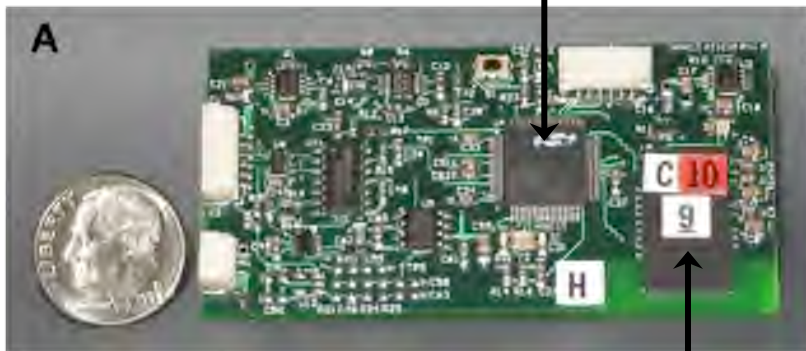
The Mayo Clinic-developed WINCS is a microprocessor-controlled, MRI-compatible, battery-powered instrument that combines Bluetooth® digital telemetry with fast scan cyclic voltammetry and constant potential amperometry.

## Standard Potentiostat



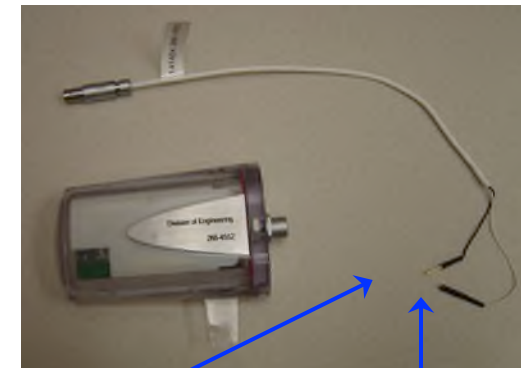
## Printed Circuit Board

Microprocessor



Bluetooth®

## Sterilizable WINCS Unit



Reference Electrode Lead

Working Electrode Lead

**WINCS was designed in compliance with FDA-recognized standards for medical electrical device safety.**



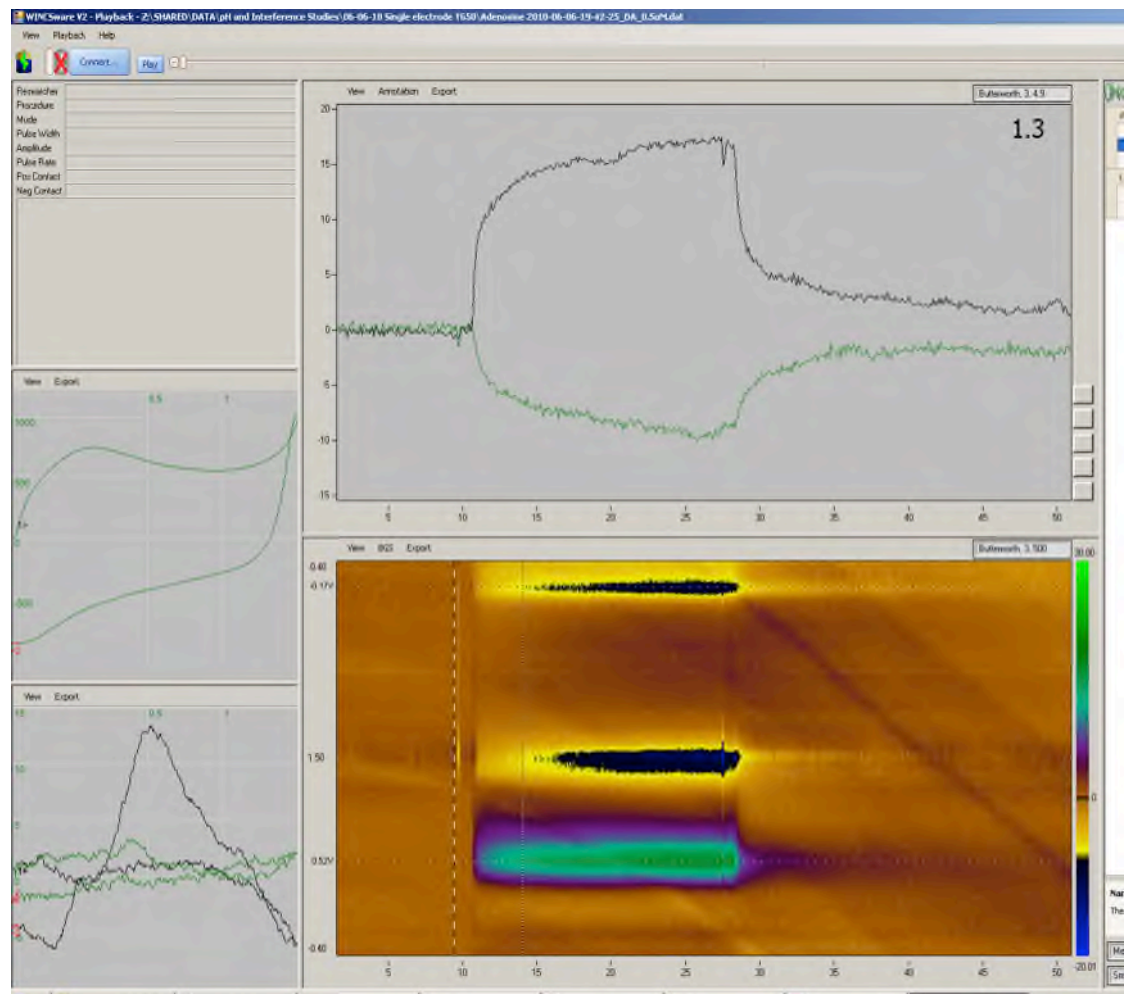
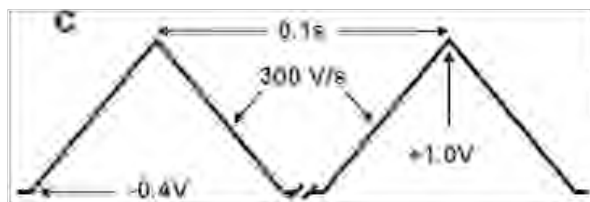
# WINCSware User Interface



Solution in (2 mL/min)

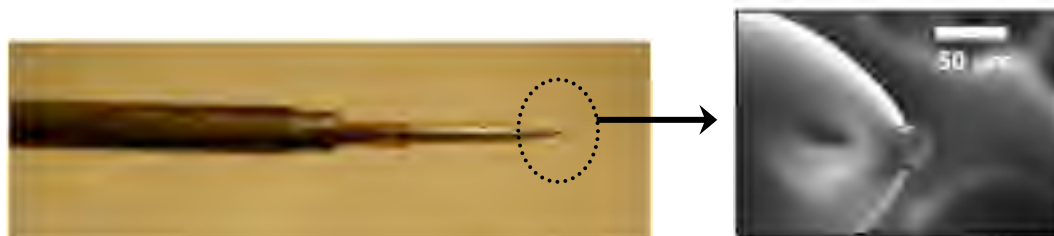
### Electrical lead

## Sample



## WINCSware allows viewing of the data in nearly real-time

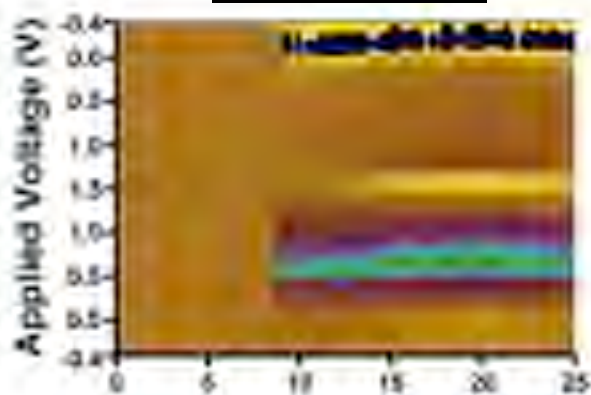
# WINCStroke for the Detection of Dopamine



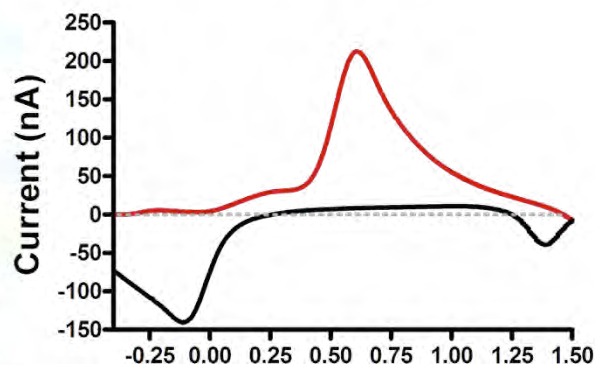
The WINCS carbon fiber electrode (WINCStroke) is based on an approved human extracellular tungsten electrophysiology electrode that was modified by the addition of a short section of carbon-fiber to enable FSCV recordings.

## Dopamine Detection:

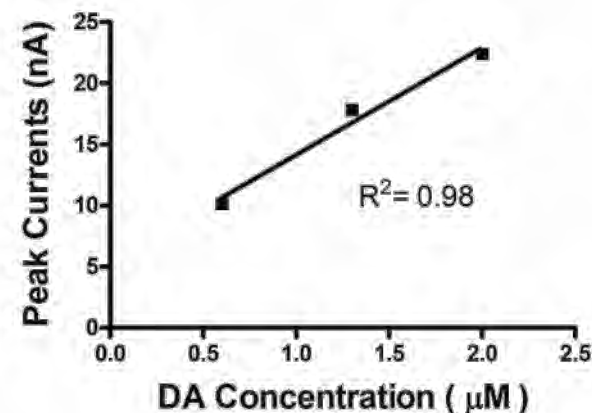
### 3D Color Plots



### Background Subtracted Cyclic Voltammogram

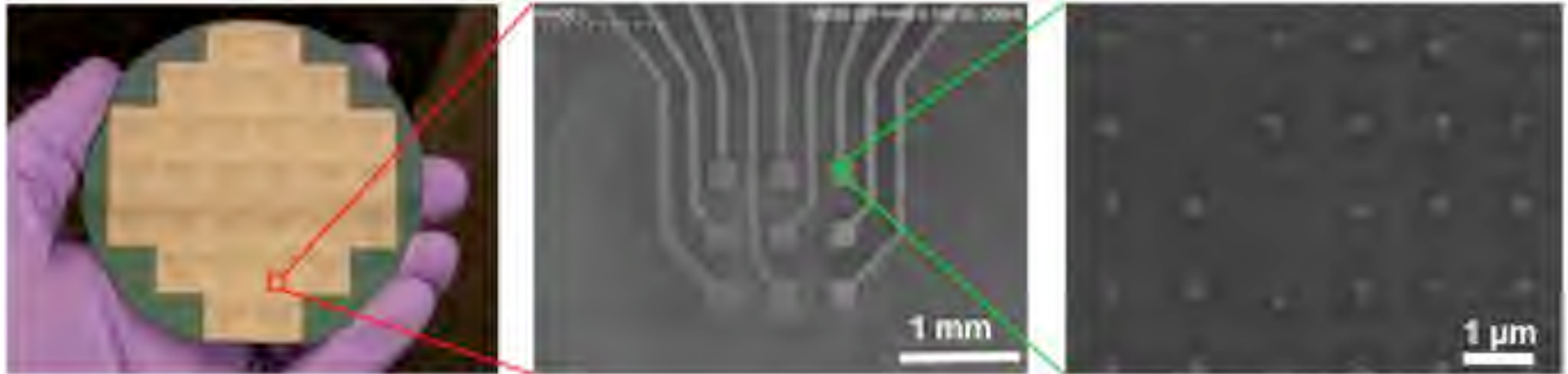


### Calibration Curve

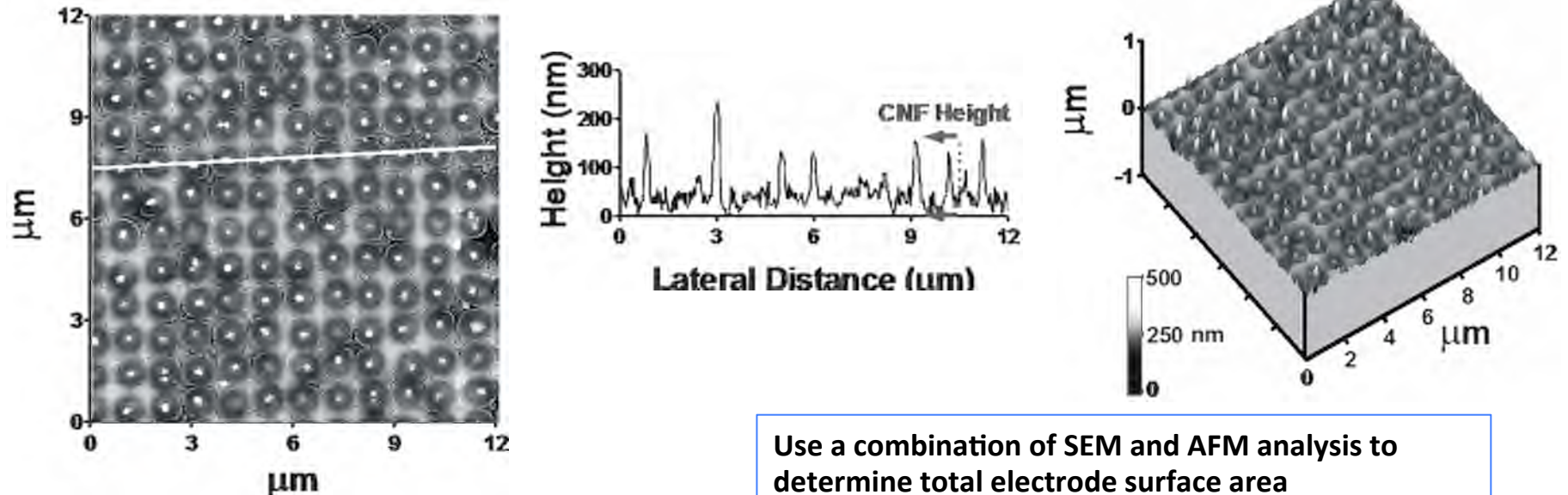


# WINCS Carbon Nanofiber Electrode (WINCSnanotrode)

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) Data:



Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) Data:

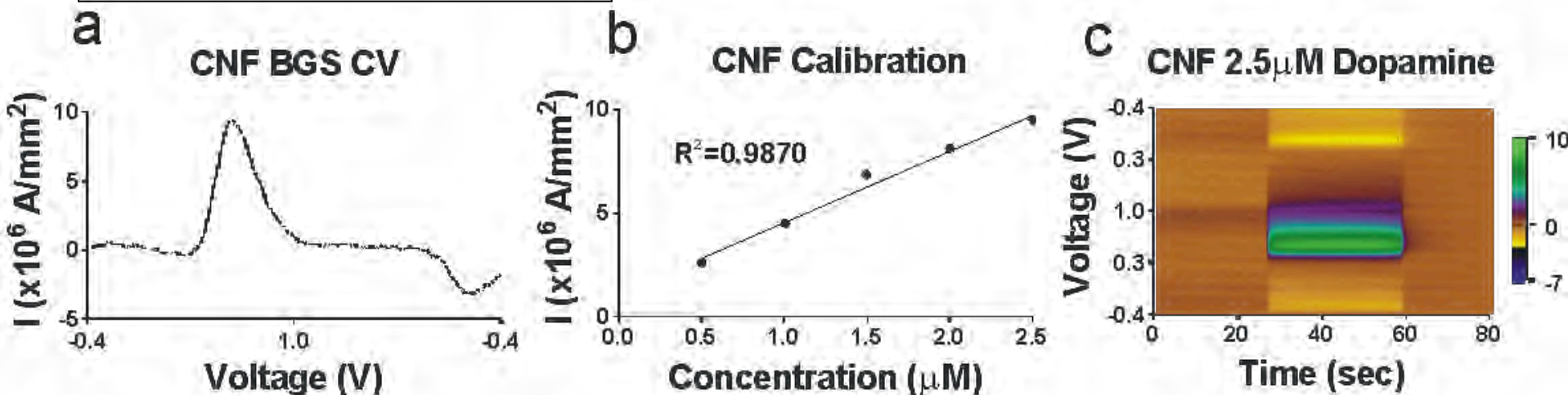


Use a combination of SEM and AFM analysis to determine total electrode surface area

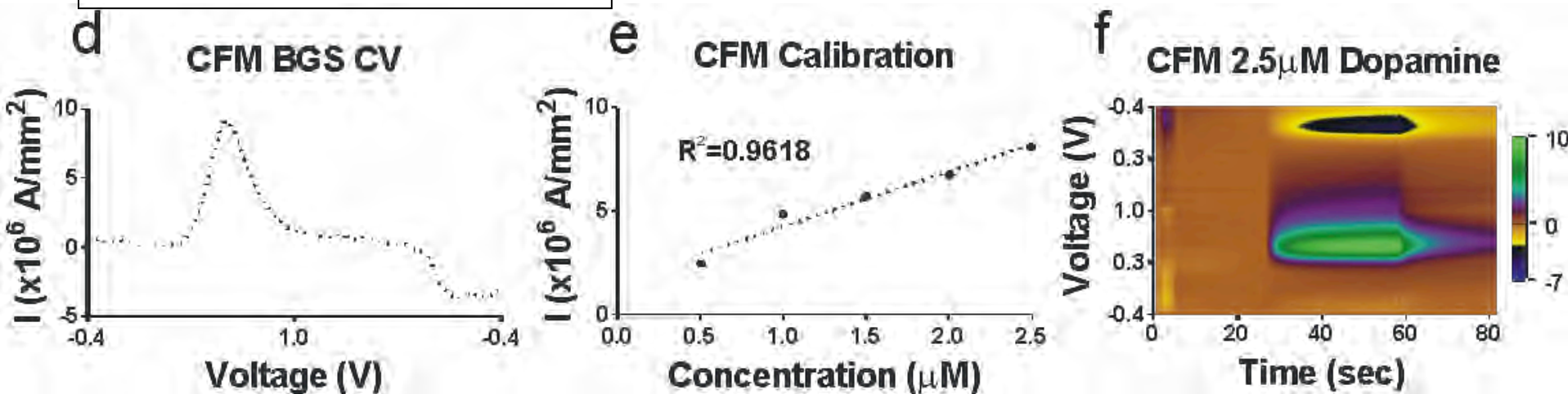


# Dopamine Detection

## Carbon Nanofiber Electrode

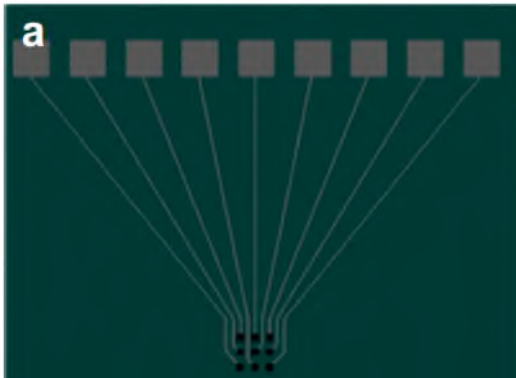


## Carbon Fiber Microelectrode



# Multichannel Recording

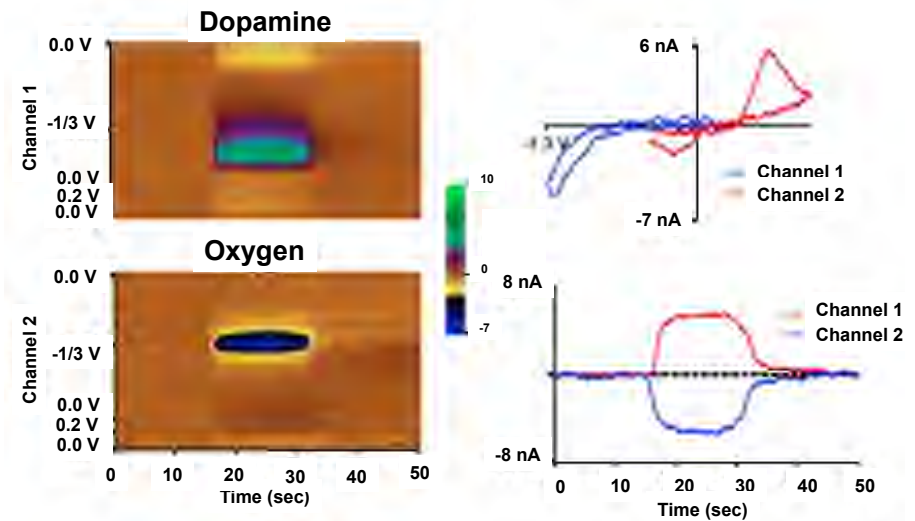
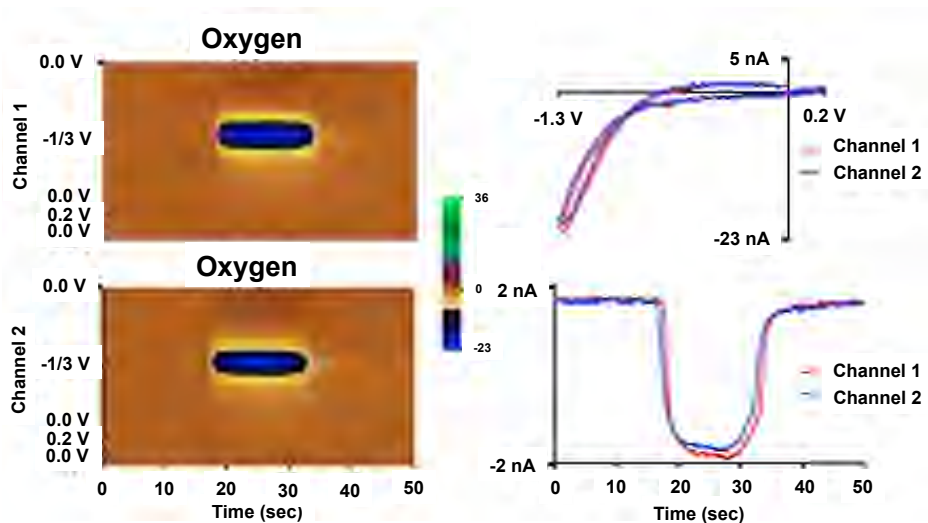
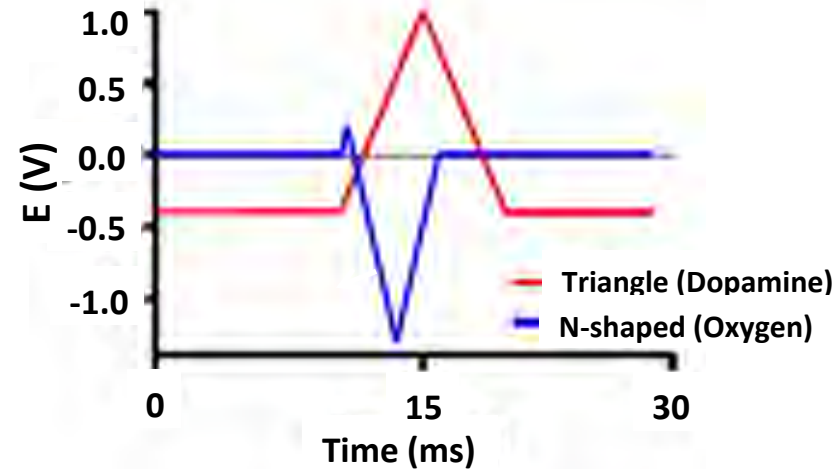
Device: 3x3 Array



Instruments: 2 WINCS



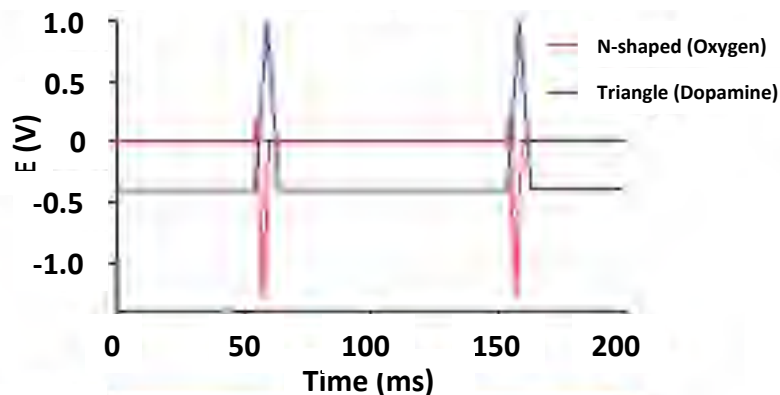
Waveforms



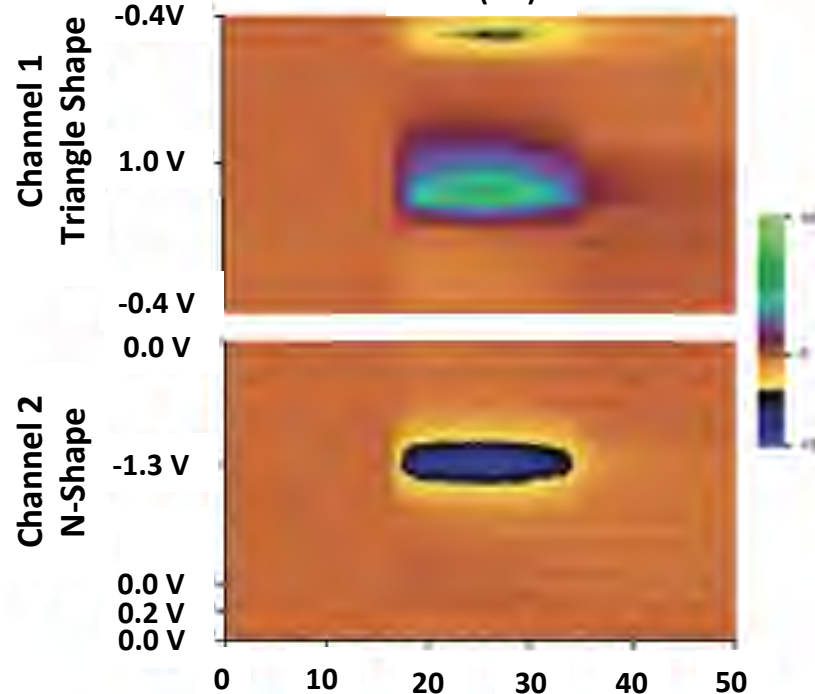
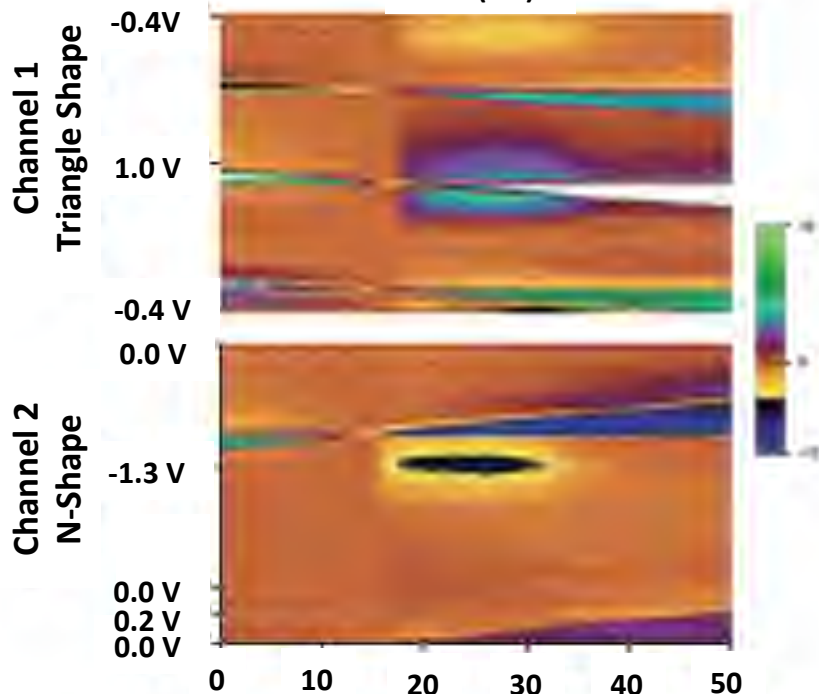
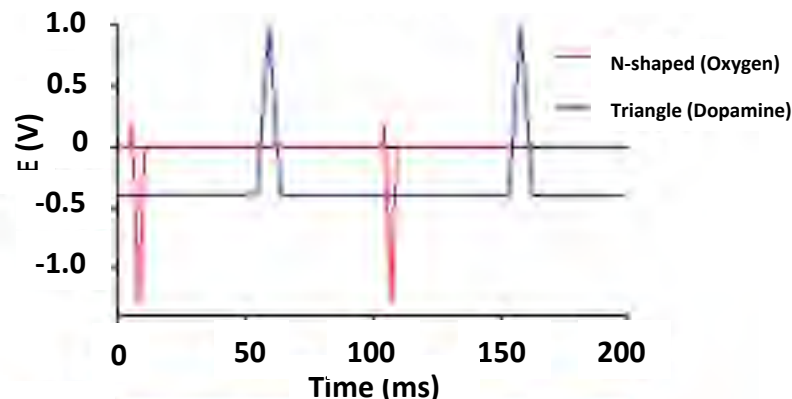


# Multichannel Crosstalk

Overlapped Waveforms



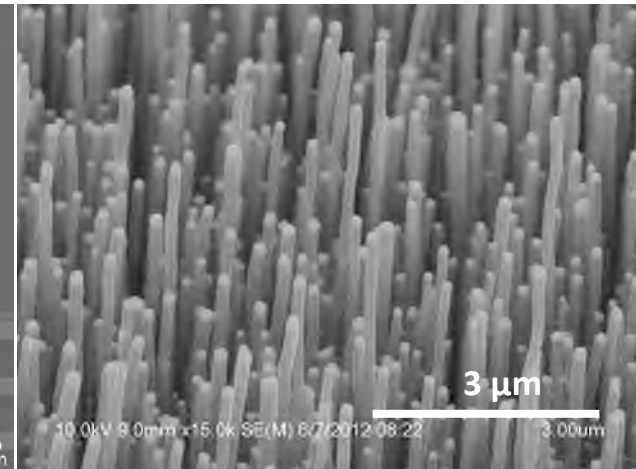
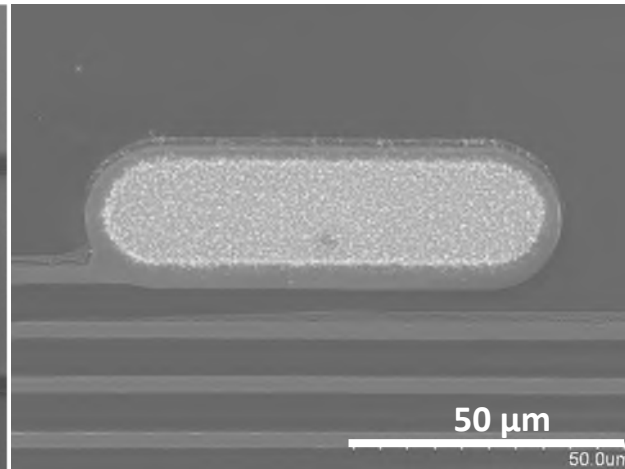
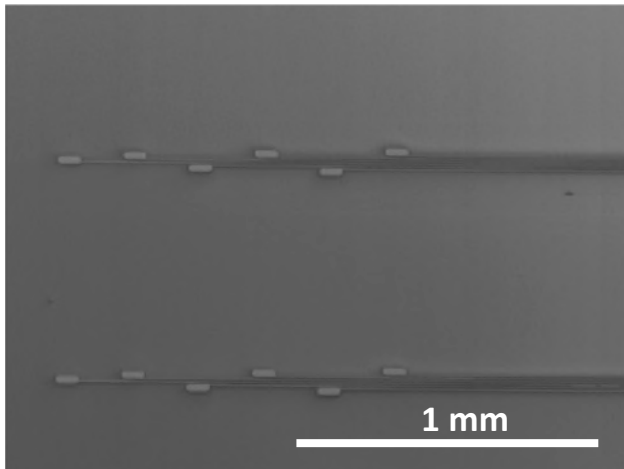
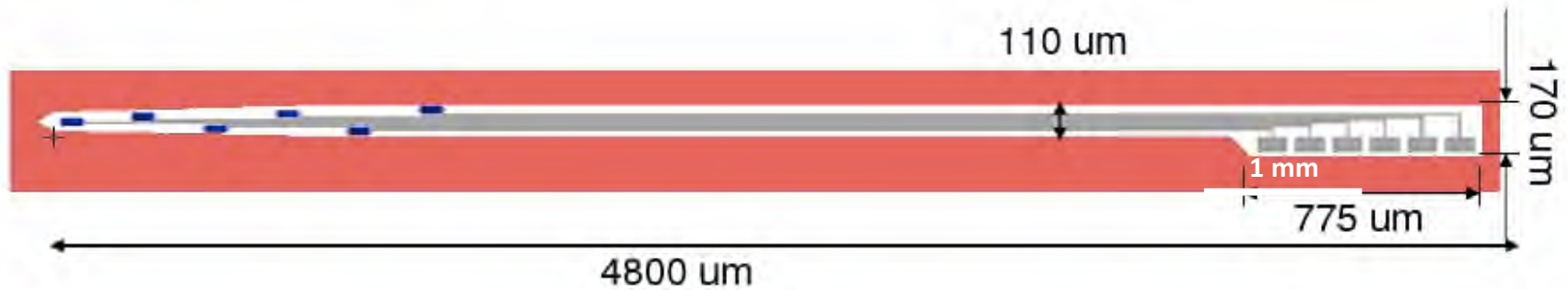
Interleaved Waveforms



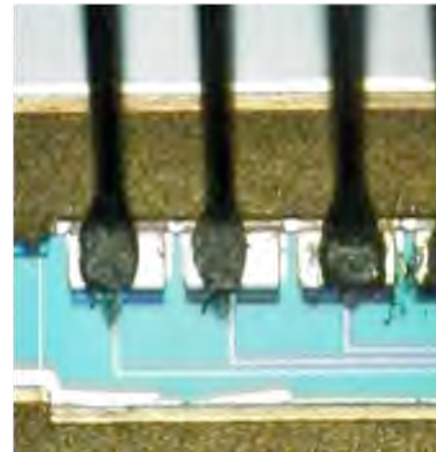
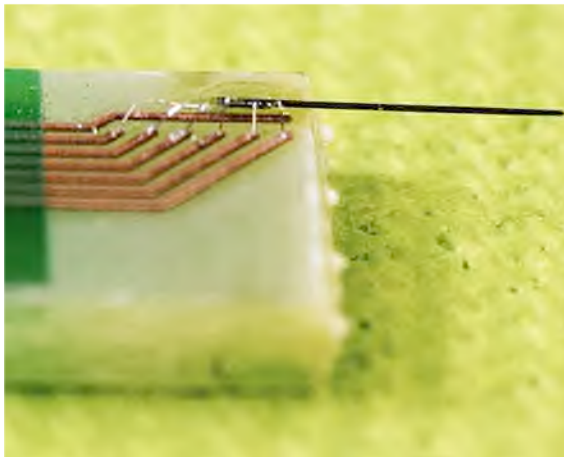
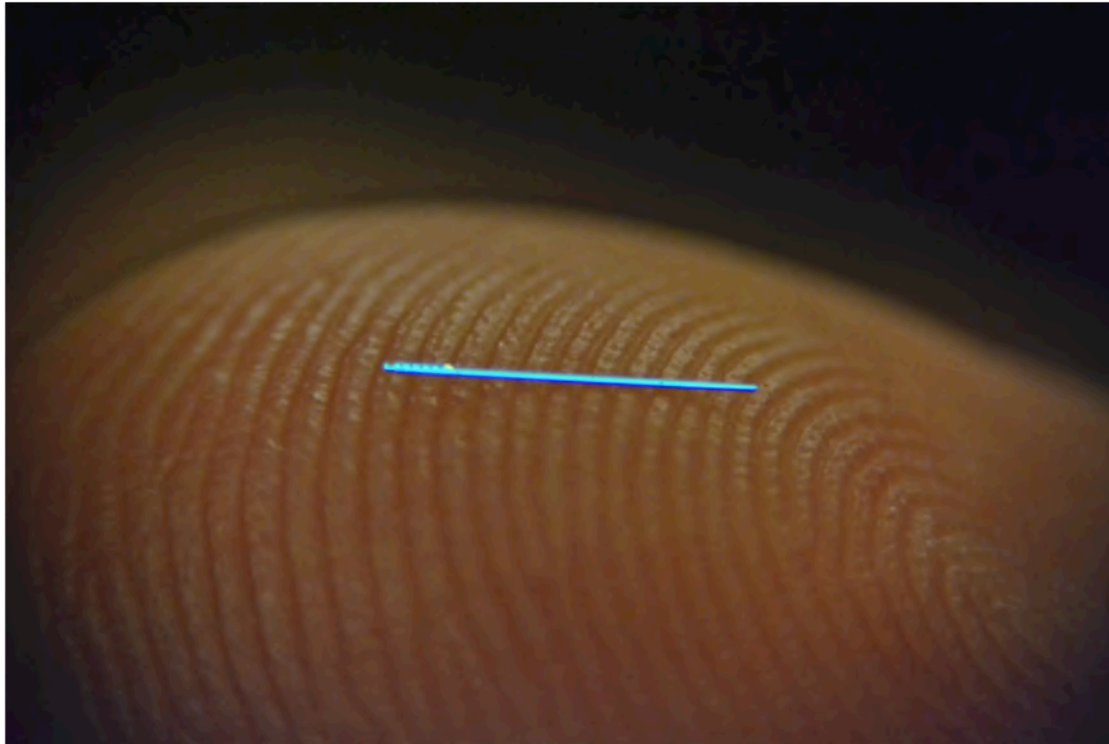
# Implantable Style CNF Electrode Needle

Penetrating multiplexed array

- Ability to spatially resolve

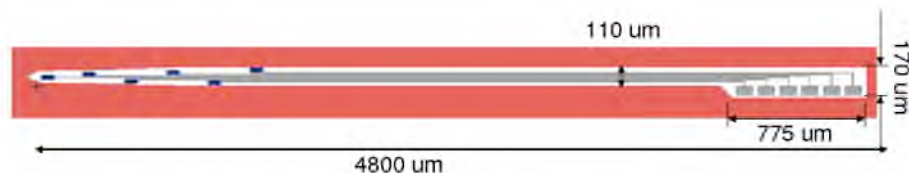


# Needle Assembly

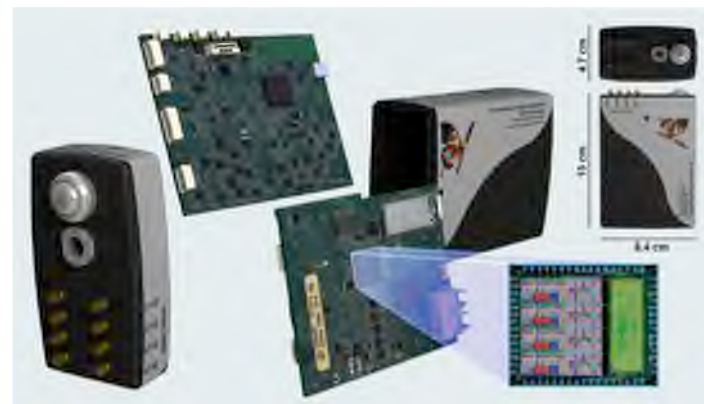


# Simultaneous Multichannel Oxygen Detection

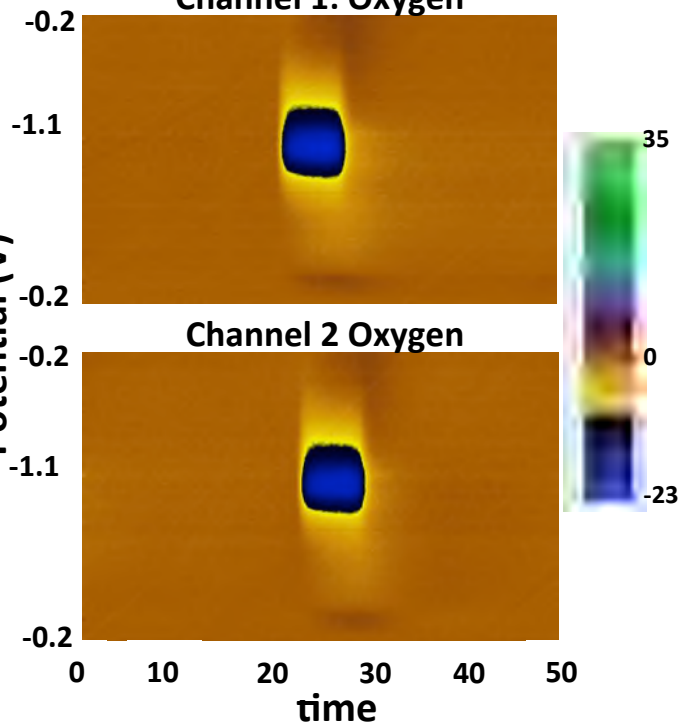
Device: Needle



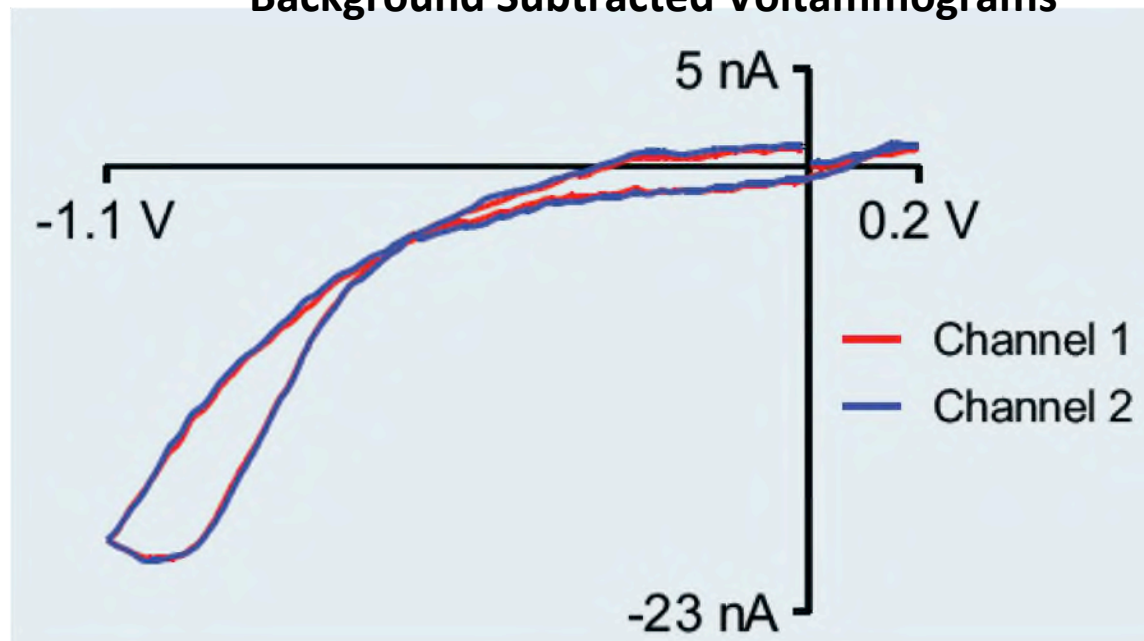
Instrument: WINCS Harmoni



Channel 1: Oxygen



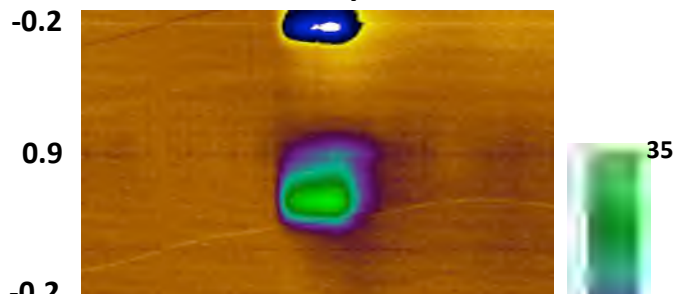
Background Subtracted Voltammograms



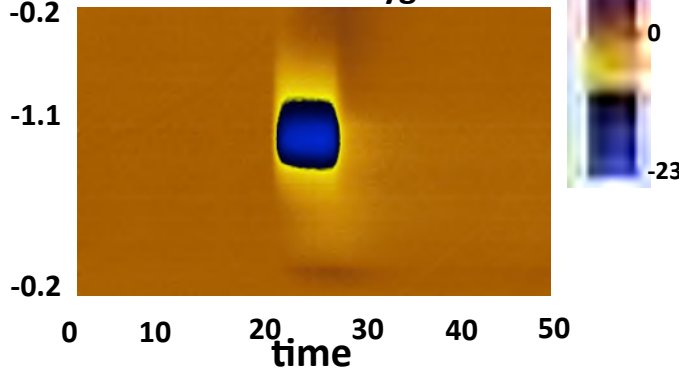


# Multichannel Detection: Dopamine and Oxygen

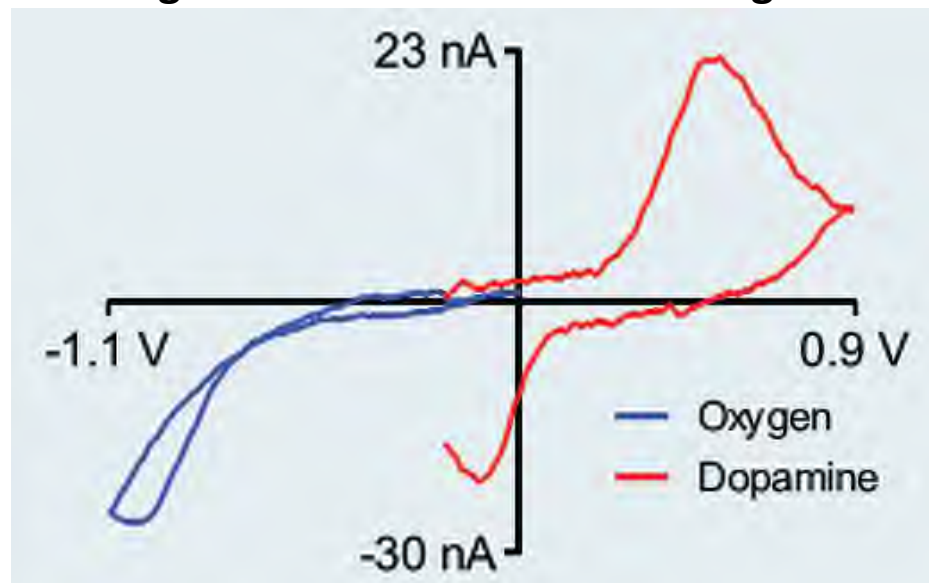
Channel 1: Dopamine



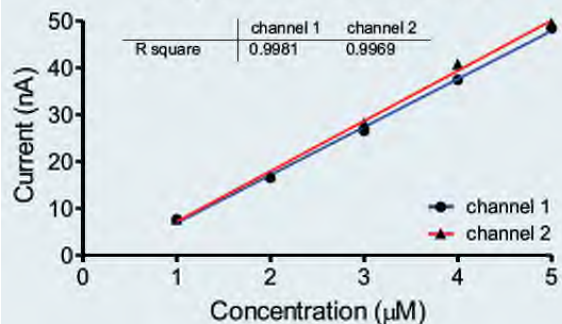
Channel 2: Oxygen



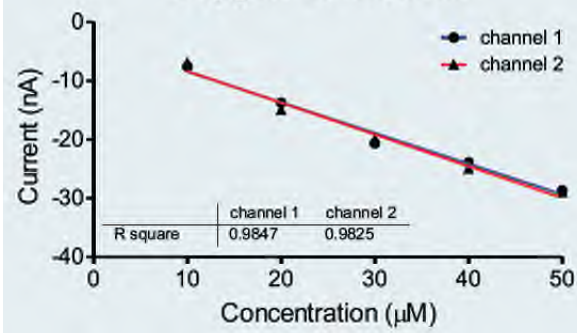
Background Subtracted Voltammograms



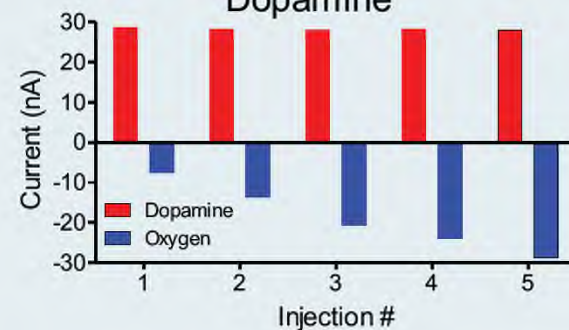
Dopamine Calibration



Oxygen Calibration



Increasing Oxygen with Constant Dopamine





# Next Steps



Device



Rat implant  
Neurochemical sensing



Wikimedia Commons: Vdegroot

Porcine DBS surgery  
Stimulation and Sensing



Human Clinical Trial



# Summary

- Carbon nanofiber electrode device is well suited for the next generation DBS
  - High sensitivity to act as neurochemical sensing electrodes
- Carbon nanofiber electrode sensors can distinguish between multiple analytes
  - From one electrode using differential pulse voltammetry
  - From adjacent electrodes using fast scan cyclic voltammetry
- Needle style electrode is read for animal testing

# Acknowledgements

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  - Department of Engineering
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