

BMG 744 - Spring 2011  
David Stella  
February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## Mass Spectrometry Imaging (MSI)

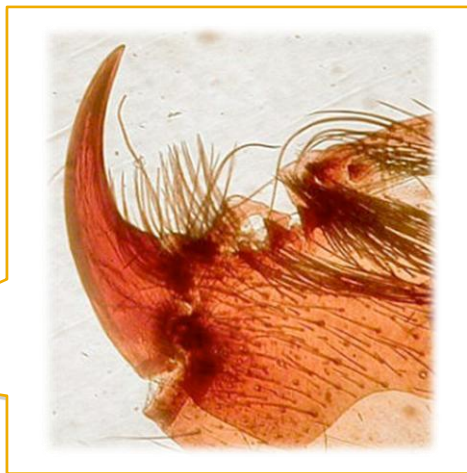
### MSI: part I

What usefulness is imaging in  
the pursuit of biological  
research?

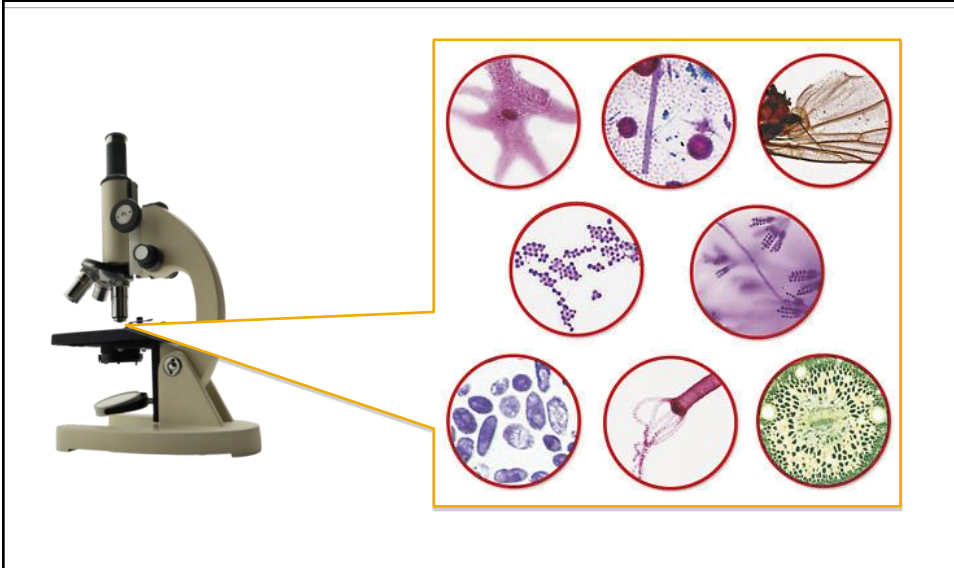
## Imaging Experiments

- What kind of questions can be answered?
  - What's there?
  - Who's there?
  - How much is there?
  - What changes occurred?
  - Others...???

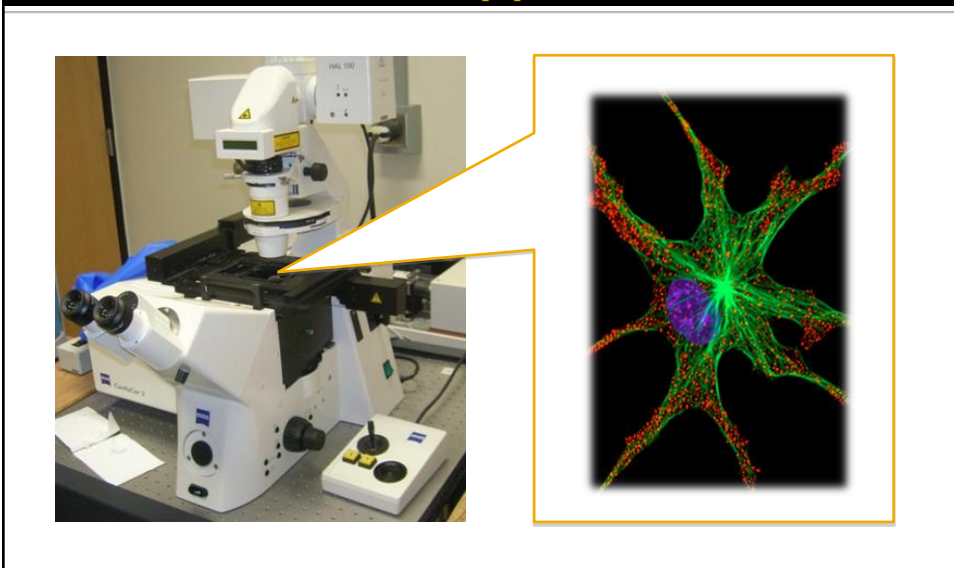
## Imaging and biological research: dissecting microscope



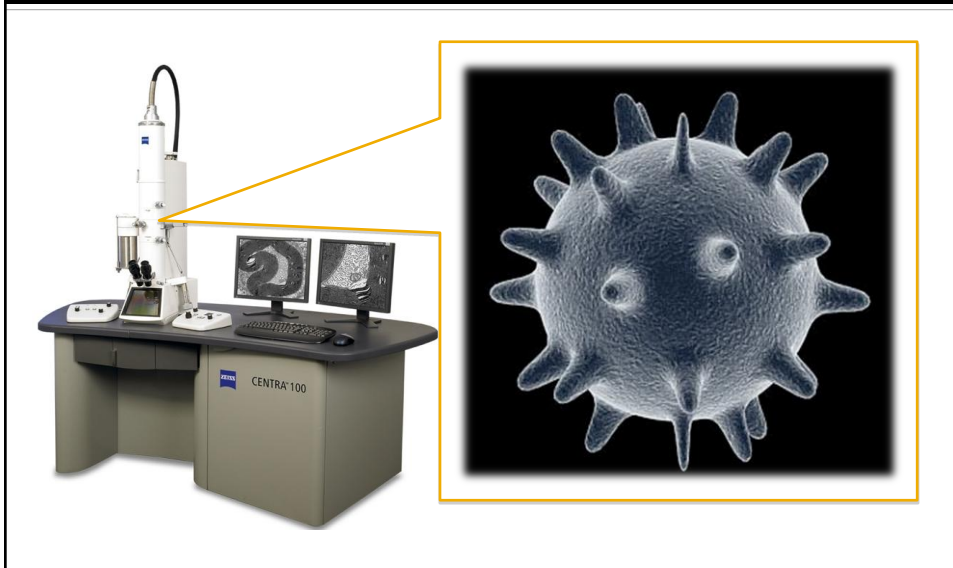
## Imaging and biological research: light microscopy



## Imaging and biological research: confocal microscopy



## Imaging and biological research: electron microscopy



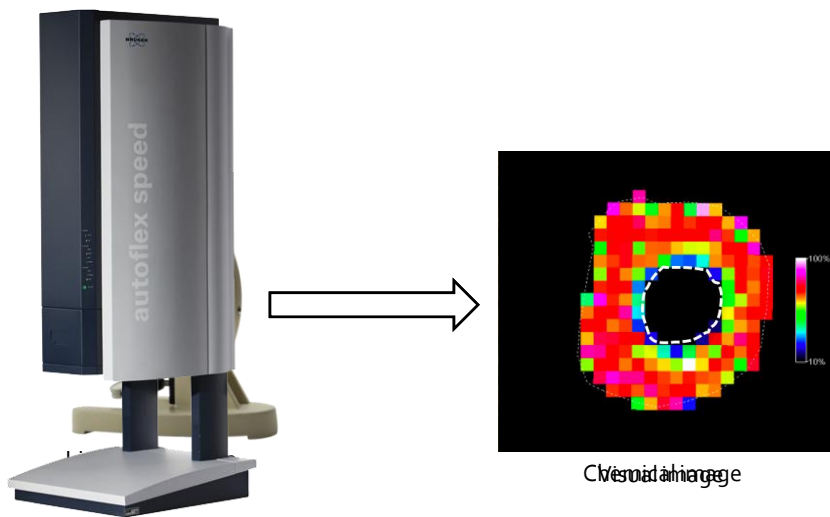
## The technology

- Using MS to create pretty images.
- Comparable to traditional histochemistry techniques to identify macromolecular species present in tissue sections
- Diverse applications and approaches to answering biological research questions

## Mass spectrometry

- What kind of questions can be answered?
  - What's there?
  - Who's there?
  - How much is there?
  - What changes occurred?
  - Others...???

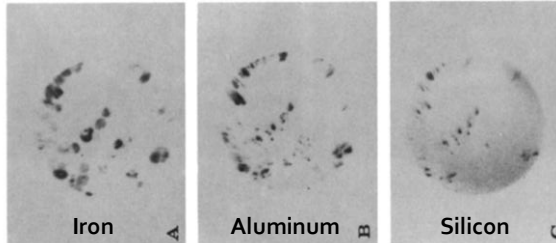
## Mass spectrometry imaging (MSI)



MALDI-TOF mass spectrometer

## Early MSI: elemental analysis

Smoker's lung  
macrophages



*Environmental Health Perspectives*  
Vol 56 pp 169-189 1981

### New Techniques for Imaging and Analyzing Lung Tissue

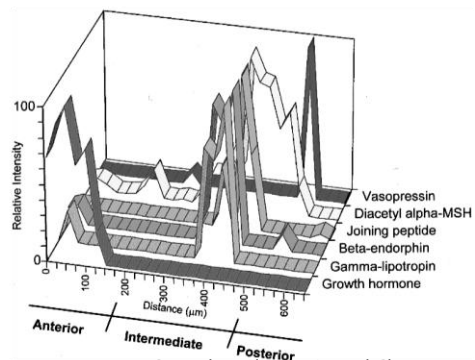
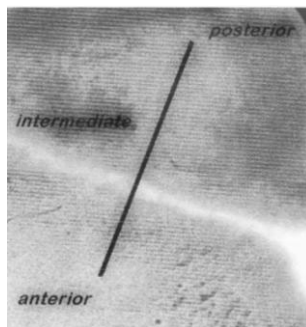
by Victor L. Roggli,\* Peter Ingram,† Richard W. Linton,‡  
William F. Gutknecht,† Pat Mastin,\* and John D. Shelburne\*

## Early MSI: Bio-macromolecules

### Molecular Imaging of Biological Samples: Localization of Peptides and Proteins Using MALDI-TOF MS

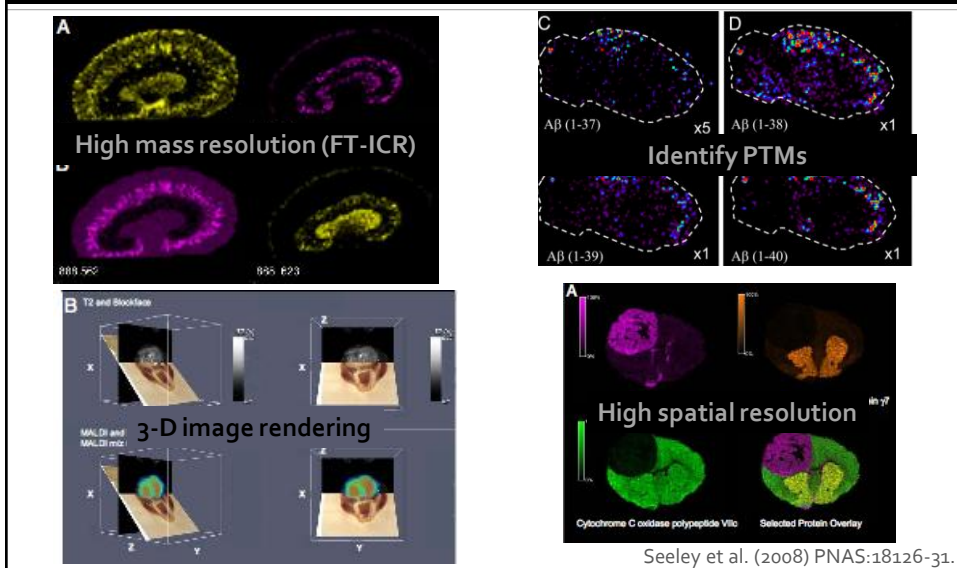
Richard M. Caprioli,\* Terry B. Farmer, and Jocelyn Gile

*Anal. Chem.* 1997, 69, 4751–4760



Caprioli et al. (1997) *Anal. Chem.*:4751-60.

## MSI today



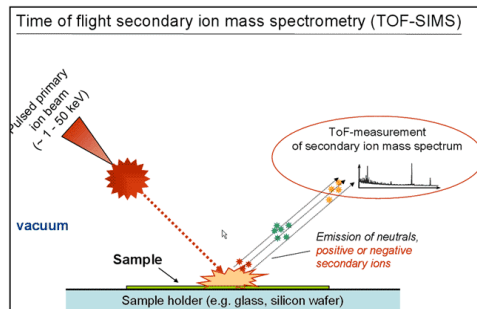
## What ionization source is commonly used?

- SIMS - Secondary Ion MS
- DESI - Desorption ElectroSpray Ionization
- MALDI - Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization
- MALDESI
- LAESI -Laser Ablation ElectroSpray Ionization

·  
·  
·

## SIMS

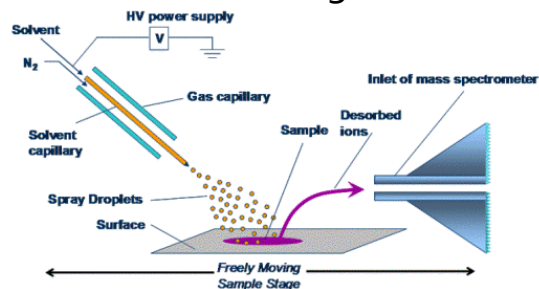
- Used in early studies (elemental analyses)
- Very high resolution (>50 nm)
- Principle of ionization: collated ion beam



- Destructive, penetrating, low mass range

## DESI

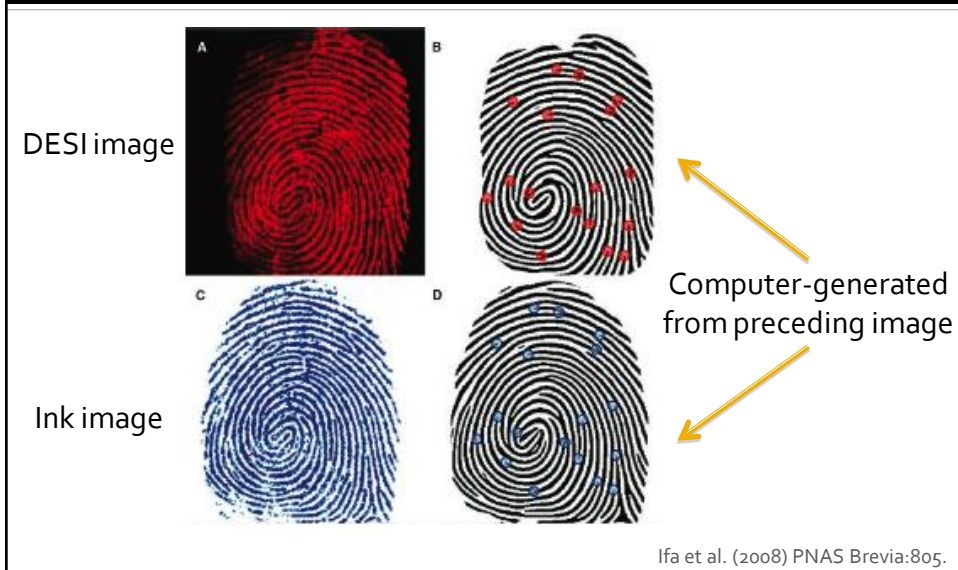
- Moderate resolution (20 - 300  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- Principle of ionization: Charged solvent spray



- Surface molecules, multiply charged, low - mid mass range



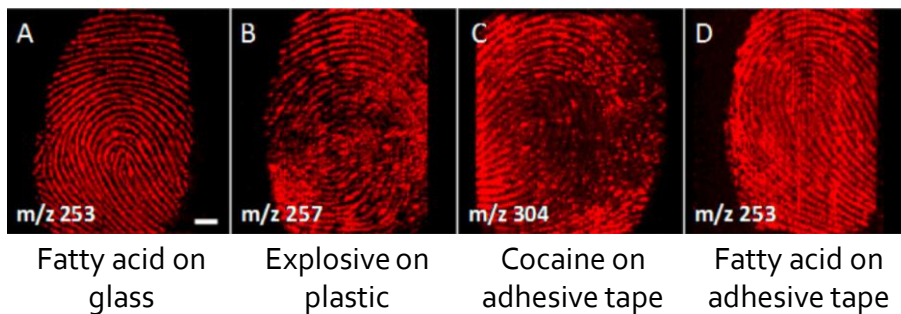
## A pretty darn cool MSI experiment...



## A pretty darn cool MSI experiment...

### Latent Fingerprint Chemical Imaging by Mass Spectrometry

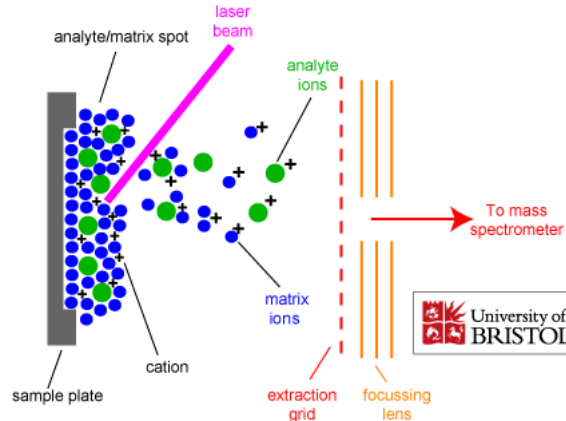
Demian R. Ifa, Nicholas E. Manicke, Allison L. Dill, R. Graham Cooks\*



Ifa et al. (2008) PNAS Brevia:805.

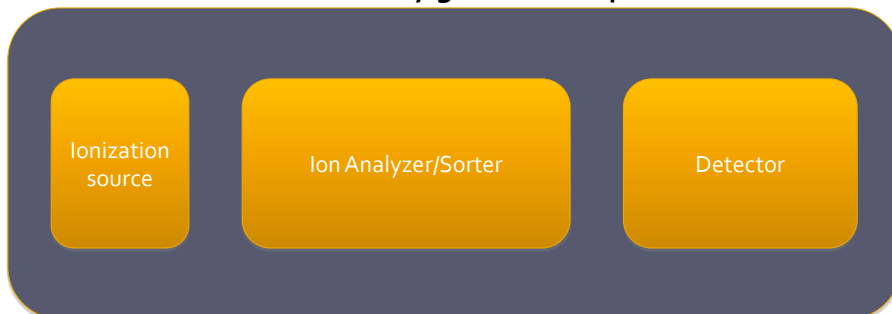
## MALDI

- Currently the more commonly used ionization source in MSI



## Analyzers/detectors

Basic schematic of any given mass spectrometer

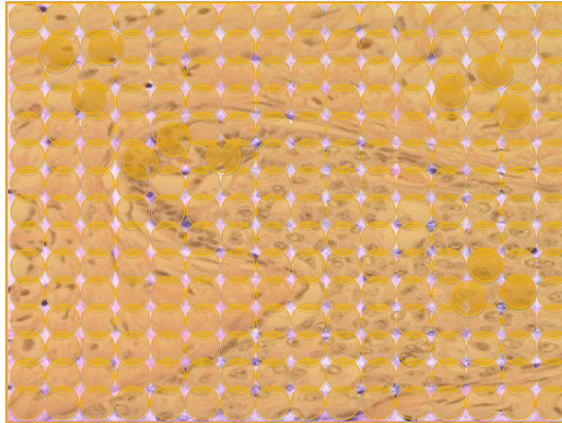


What MS platforms can you think of and how they can be used for MSI?

## “Profiling” versus “imaging”

### BREAST CANCER TISSUE

● = MALDI matrix

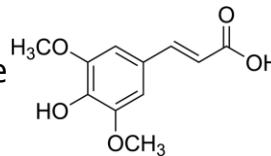
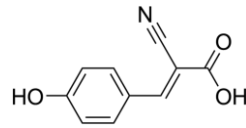
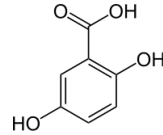


## “Profiling” versus “imaging”

- Profiling:
  - Limited, directed information
  - Rapid analysis → high throughput
  - Useful for clinical applications and biomarker discovery.
  
- Imaging:
  - Extensive, high-resolution
  - Time consuming, laborious
  - Useful for investigative research (and fingerprints...)

## Matrix choices - depends on desired analysis

- DHB- 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid
  - Commonly used for small molecules
- CHCA-  $\alpha$ -Cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid
  - Commonly used for peptides and small proteins
- SA- Sinapinic acid
  - Commonly used for peptides and whole proteins (<100 kDa)



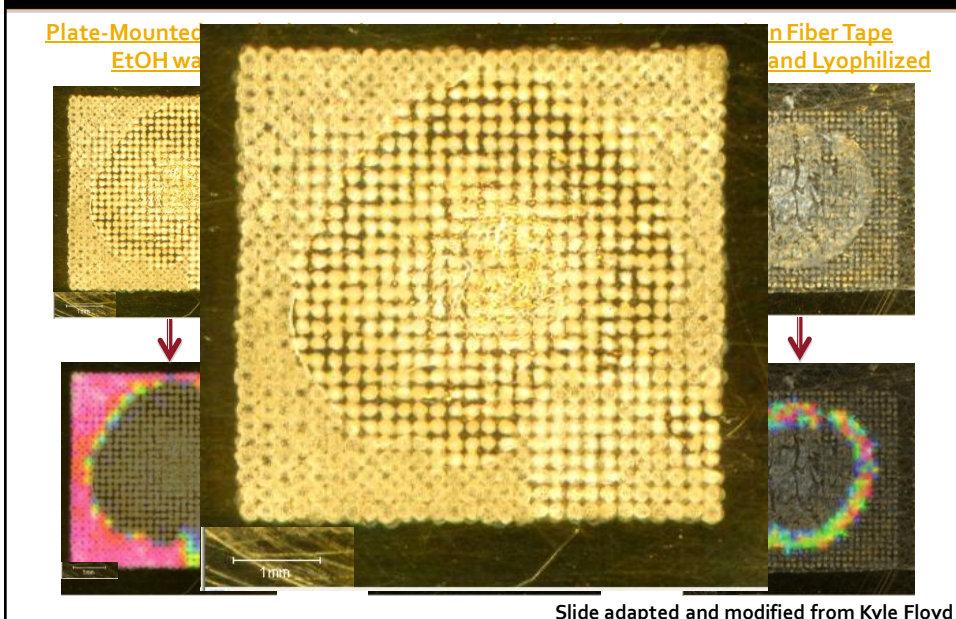
## Matrix solvent/acid

- Acetonitrile is the solvent of choice
  - Range of percentage of solvent
    - Depends on application (tissue types)
  - Sometimes the solution is augmented with different additives including detergents
- Acid is also present in the matrix solution
  - Commonly formic acid
  - Promotes ionization
  - Ranges of percentage is also possible (upwards of 10%)

## Spotting/spraying matrix

- Multiple technologies available:
  - Hand-spotting
  - TLC spraying
  - Sublimation
  - Precision mechanical spotting:
    - Acoustic devices.
    - Chemical printers
    - Inkjet printers

## Many options = OPTIMIZATION!



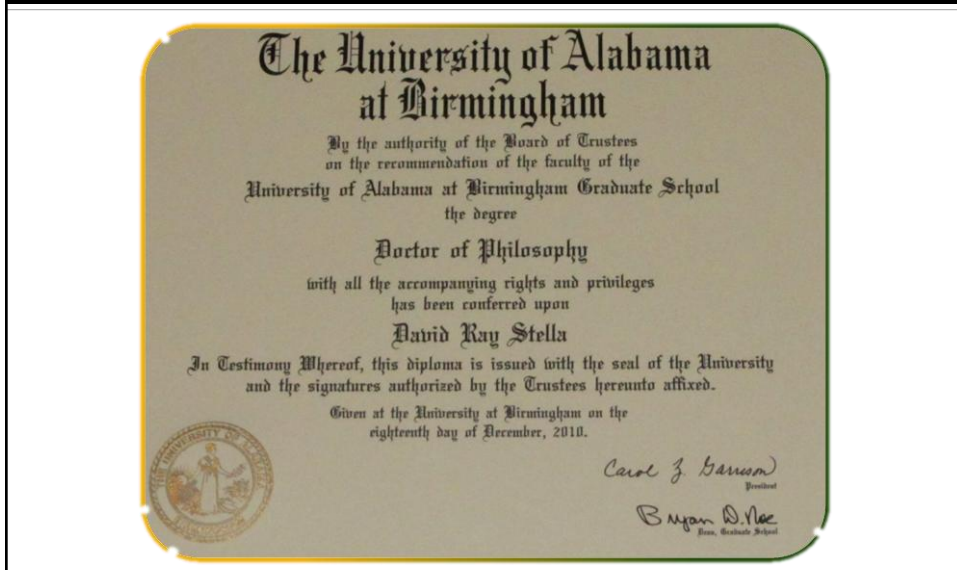
## MSI: part II

### Application of the technology

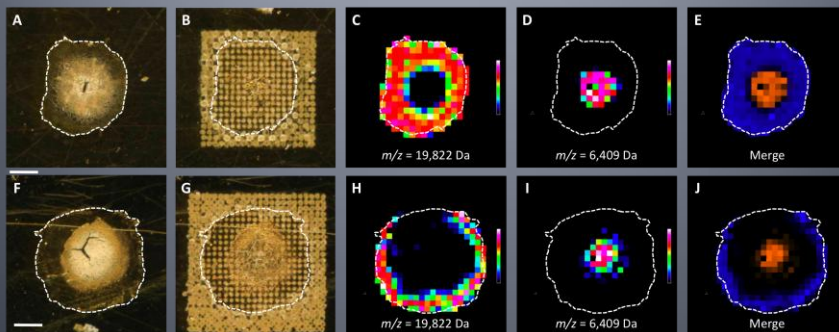
### A true application of the technology

- The greatest project in the history of science
  - Led to and continues to lead to scientific journal articles
  - Facilitated the funding of multiple research projects
  - Advanced the field of vision science
  - AND.....

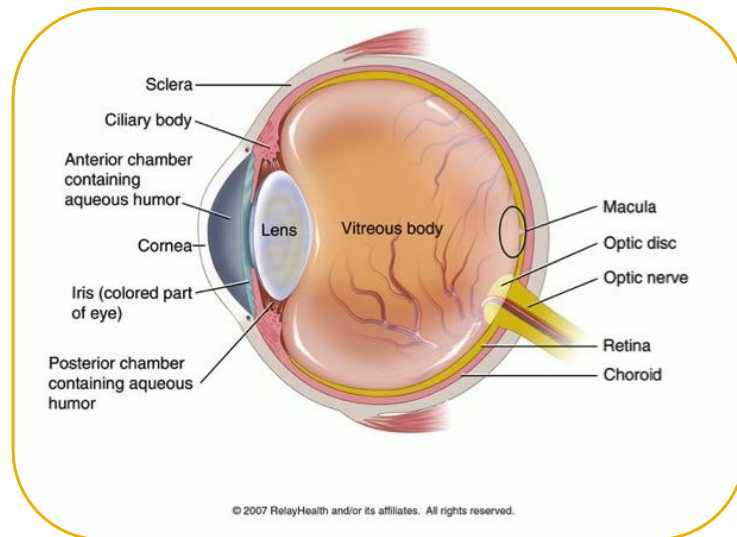
## A true application of the technology



## LENS CATARACT: BIOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ALPHA CRYSTALLINS



## Anatomy of the eye

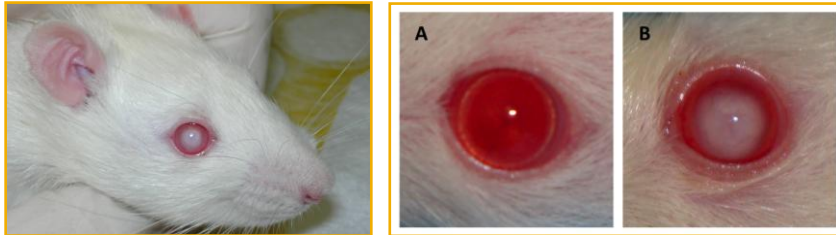


## What was the project?

- Understand more about the protein localization in the ocular lens.
  - Interesting lens facts:
    - From “womb to tomb”
    - No protein turnover
    - Limited translated proteome
      - Expanded PTM proteome though!
    - Predominantly alpha crystallin proteins
      - small heat-shock proteins

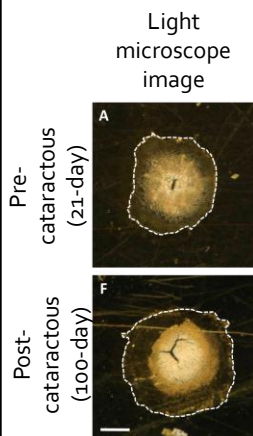


## Rat model of cataract disease.



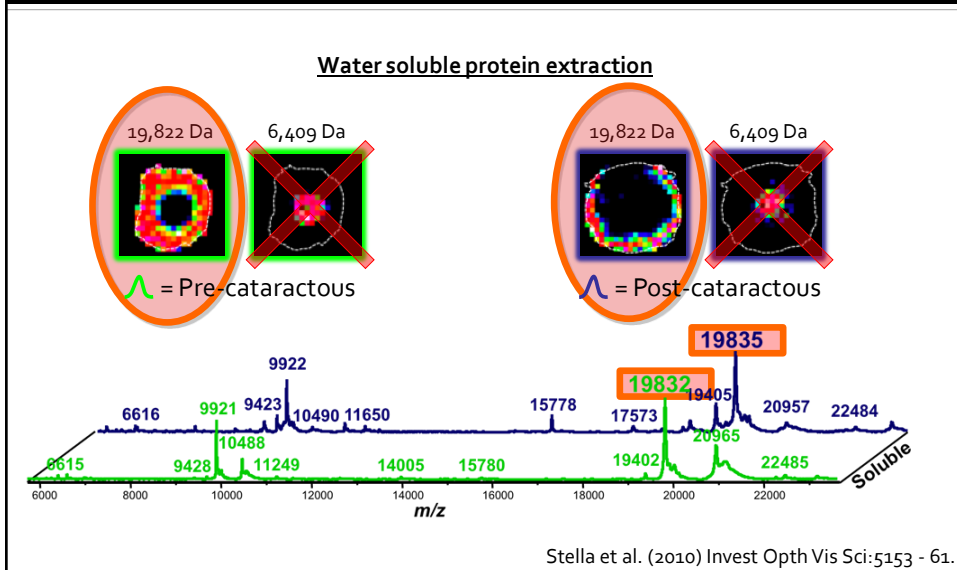
- ICR/f rat (Ihara/Inherited Cataract Rat, strain-f)
  - Model of age-related disease.
  - Spontaneously develops cataracts by 10 weeks of age.
    - Possible result of early oxidative insult.
    - Compare 21-day vs. 100-day

## MALDI-MSI of the ICR/f rat lens

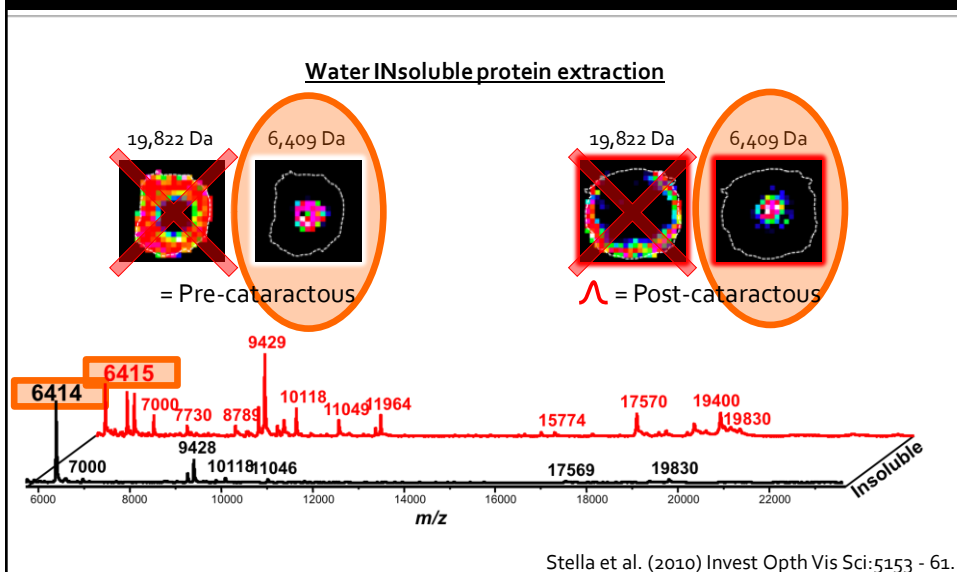


Stella et al. (2010) Invest Opth Vis Sci:5153 - 61.

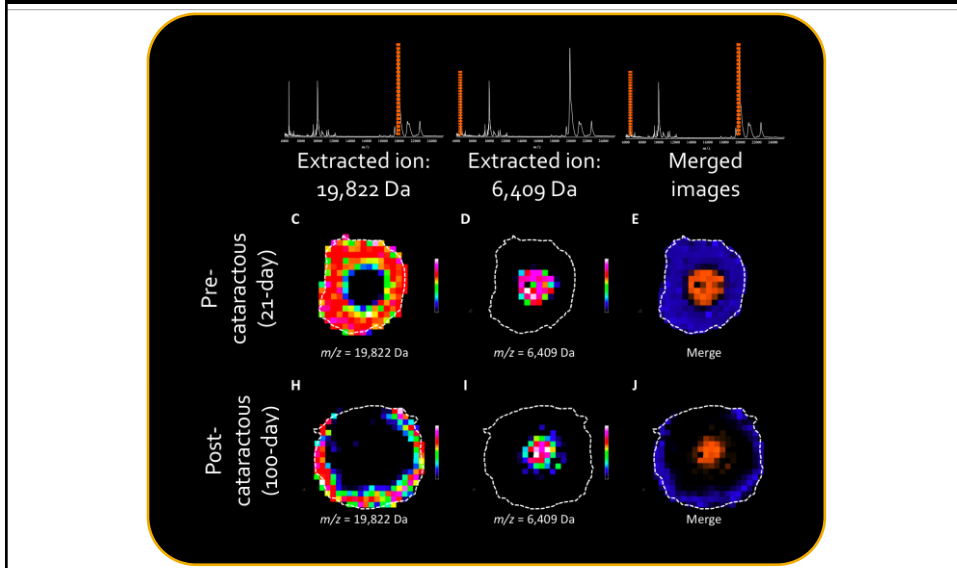
## MALDI-TOF solubility profiles: water soluble



## MALDI-TOF solubility profiles: water INSoluble



## OK, so who are these proteins?



...  
technologies/techniques are  
available for identifying these  
peaks



## “Top-Down” Proteomics

Obtain protein identity *without* proteolytic digestion.  
**“chemistry in the gas phase”**

Using a high-resolution FT-ICR mass spectrometer:

1. Measure mass of the “whole” protein - “Precursor ion”
2. Measure masses of multiple “fragment products” = “Fragment ions”

Precursor Ion

Fragment Ions



## Top-Down Protein Assignment

Protein ID	Predicted Mass (Da)*	Residues
Crystallin, alpha A	5,053.50	1-42
Crystallin, alpha A	6,409.19	1-53
Crystallin, alpha A	6,565.29	1-54
Crystallin, alpha A	9,284.76	1-78
Crystallin, alpha A	9,421.80	1-79
Crystallin, alpha A	10,110.11	1-85
Crystallin, alpha A	11,041.61	1-93
Crystallin, alpha A	11,842.04	1-100
Crystallin, alpha A	11,956.08	1-101
Crystallin, alpha A	17,562.77	1-151 <sup>§</sup>
Crystallin, alpha A	18,043.96	1-156 <sup>§</sup>
Crystallin, alpha A	18,200.06	1-157 <sup>§</sup>
Crystallin, alpha A	18,823.44	1-163 <sup>§</sup>
Crystallin, alpha A	19,393.70	1-168 <sup>§</sup>
Crystallin, alpha A	19,822.89	1-173 <sup>§</sup>

Full length →

\* = N-terminal acetylation included (+42.01 Da)

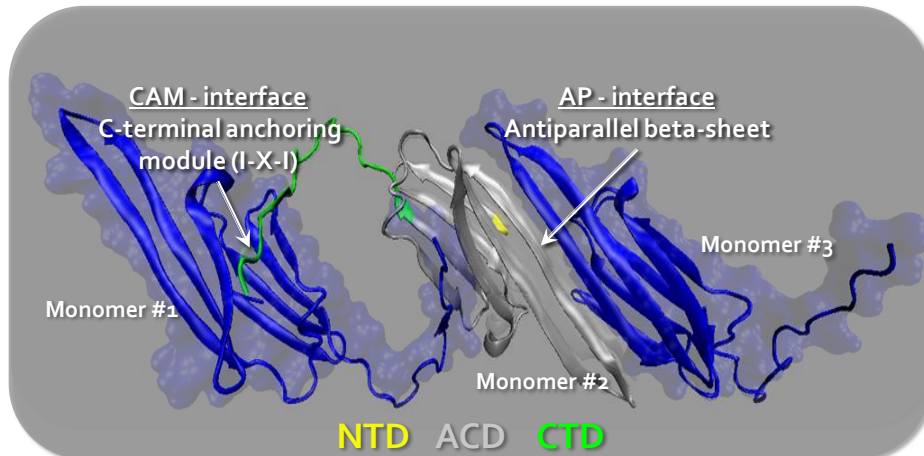
## sHSP Structure: Domains



### Substrate recognition and oligomerization

- NTD - mostly substrate recognition
  - Only 25-30% sequence identity
- CTD - mostly oligomerization
  - 1.5 Å RMSD with 10 sHSP structures
  - I/V/L-X-I/V/L (I-X-I) motif - Found in 96% of >44,00 sHSP sequences

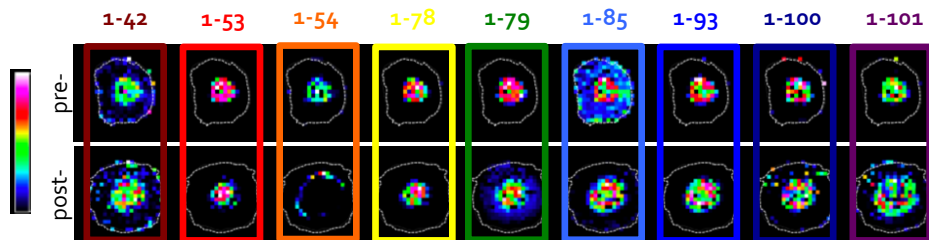
## Partial bovine $\alpha$ A-crystallin Structure: Dimerization Interfaces



Laganowsky et al. (2010) Prot. Sci. :1031-43  
Image generated using PDB: 3L1E with VMD 1.8.6 software

## Localization of Validated $\alpha$ A-crystallin Protein Species

### 1. Nuclear localization



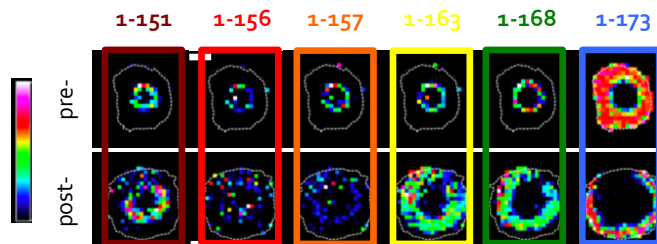
MDVTIQHPWFKRALGPFYPSRLFDQFFGEGLF EYDLLPFLSSTI  
 SPYYRQSLFRTVLDSGISEVRS DRDKFVIFLDV KHFSPEDLTVK  
 VLEDFVEIHGKHNERQDDHGYISREFHRRYRLPSNVDQSALSC  
 SLSADGMLTFSGPKVQSGLDAGHSERAIPVSREEKPSSAPSS

NTD ACD CTD

Stella et al. (2010) Invest Opth Vis Sci:5153 - 61.

## Localization of Validated $\alpha$ A-crystallin Protein Species

### 2. Cortical/Nuclear-ring localization



MDVTIQHPWFKRALGPFYPSRLFDQFFGEGLF EYDLLPFLSSTI  
 SPYYRQSLFRTVLDSGISEVRS DRDKFVIFLDV KHFSPEDLTVK  
 VLEDFVEIHGKHNERQDDHGYISREFHRRYRLPSNVDQSALSC  
 SLSADGMLTFSGPKVQSGLDAGHSERAIPVSR E EKPSSAPSS

NTD ACD CTD

## MS Imaging Study Summary: Biologically functional PTMs

- 14  $\alpha$ A-crystallin truncation products were observed in the ICR/f rat lens.
  - Independent of cataract state.
- $\alpha$ A-crystallin with greater than 22 C-terminally truncated residues were:
  1. localized within lens nucleus.
  2. enriched in the water-insoluble fraction

## Overall

- MSI is providing researchers new tools
- The field has rapidly expanded over the last 5-10 years.
  - An increasing interest is leading to technological breakthroughs
    - Matrix spotting technologies, novel ionization techniques, novel MALDI matrices
- Has across-the-board capabilities - clinical and basic research!

