

Inkjet-printed devices and circuits for ultra-low frequency applications

INSTITUIÇÕES ASSOCIADAS



TÉCNICO
LISBOA



universidade
de aveiro



UNIVERSIDADE DA COIMBRA



NOKIA



UNIVERSIDADE
BEIRA INTERIOR



ISCTE IUL



IPL

Henrique Leonel Gom
hgomes@uc.pt

(Universidade de Coimbra)



instituto de
telecomunicações

Outline

- Why we need devices operating in the mHz frequency range?
- Examples of near-future and high-impact applications that will require sustainable electronics;
- Device requirements from a device physics point of view;
- The importance of printed electronics for low-frequency applications;
- Summary.

Why low frequency signals are so interesting?

- **Detection of microorganisms**

(Bacteria, algae, fungus use low frequency signals to synchronize and coordinate activities. (Smart devices to detect bacteria in food, infections in wounds, etc.);

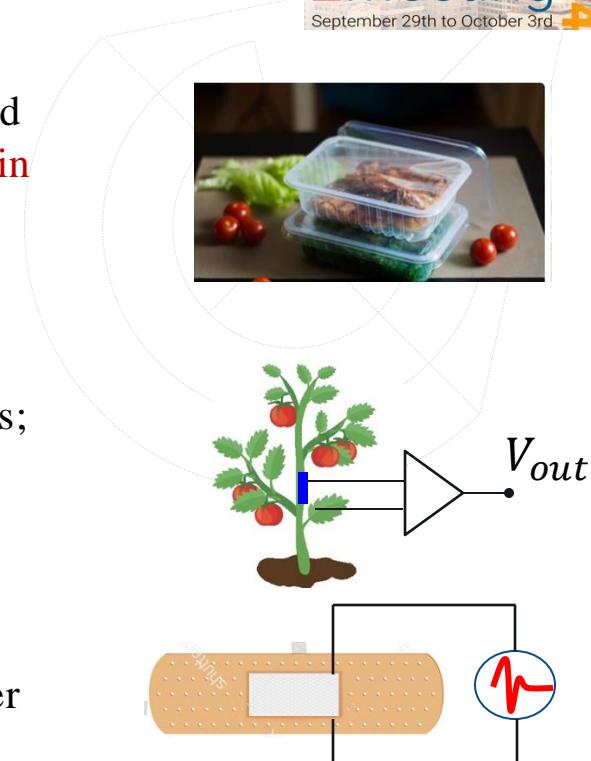
- **Plants bioelectronics**

Plants have a nervous “like” system that operates at low frequencies.
(sensors for monitoring the environment; effects of pollutants, pesticides;
monitoring climate changes; plant-insect interactions, agriculture);

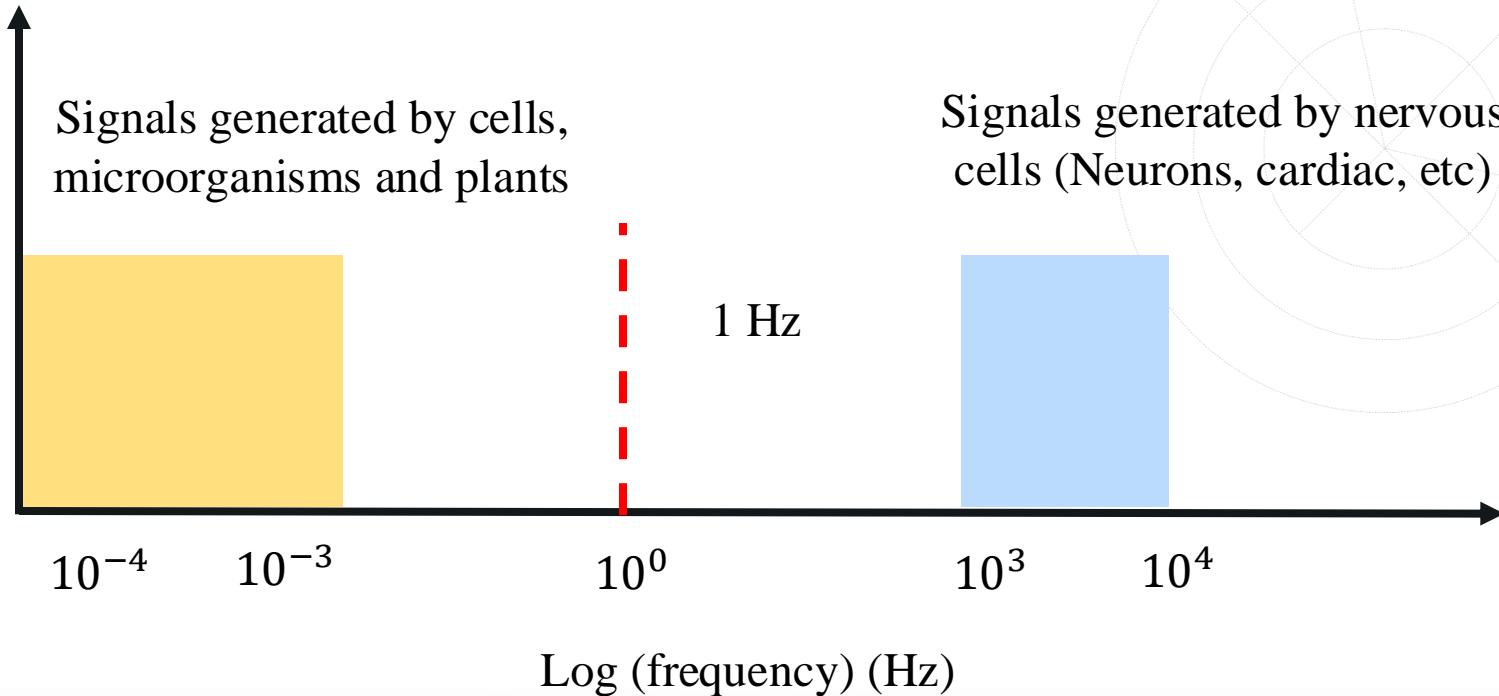
- **Novel biomedical devices**

Skin cells, lung cells, and cancer cells use low-frequency signals to coordinate tasks, namely tissue regeneration, organ formation, and cancer invasion.

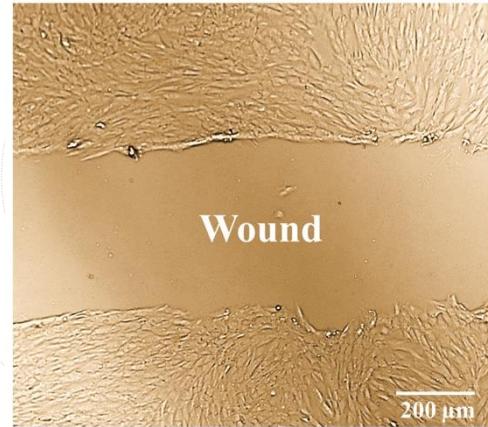
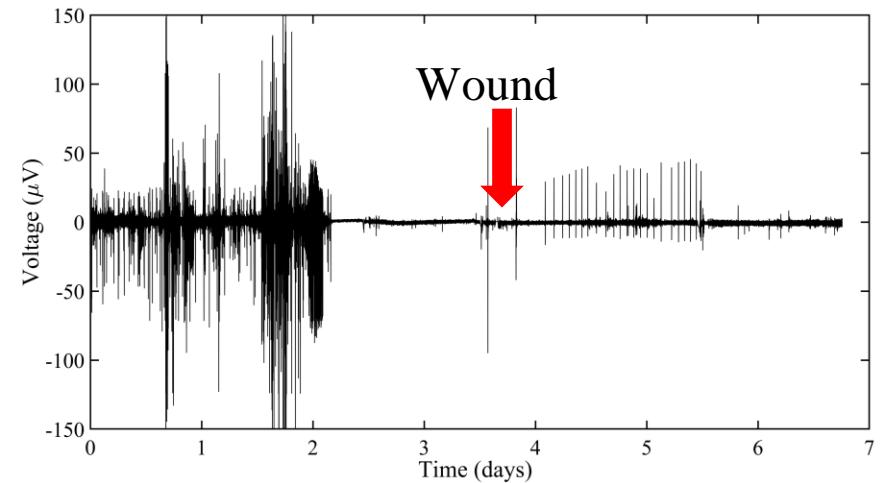
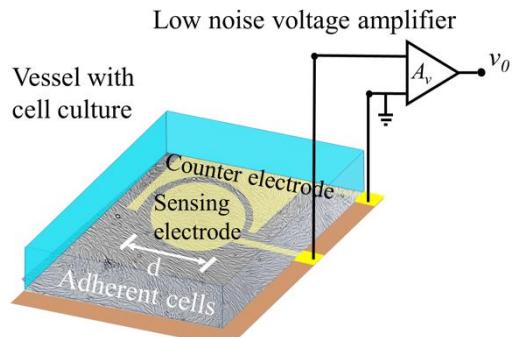
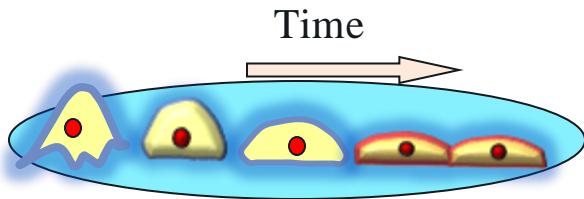
(Smart wound dressings, therapeutic devices for cancer)



How low is ultra low frequency?

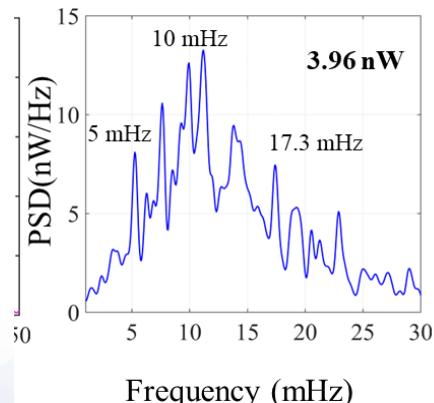
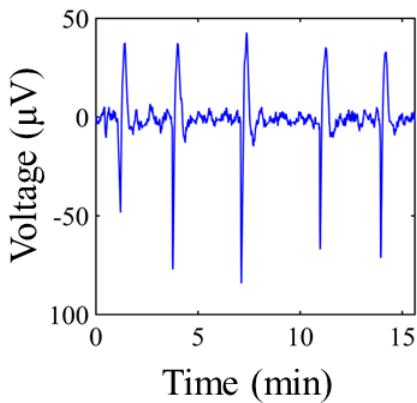
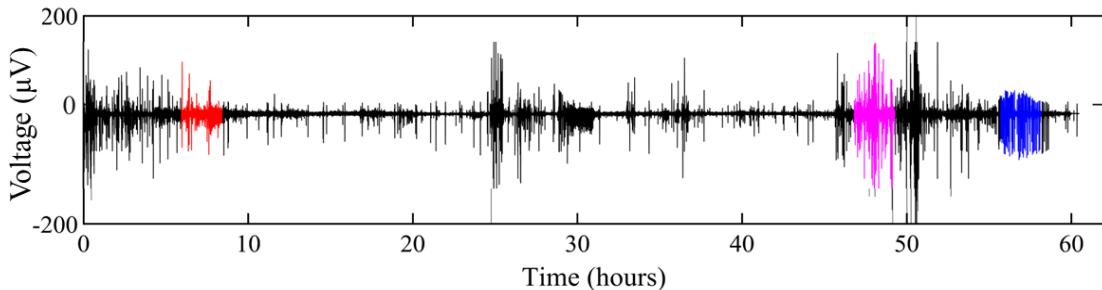


An example: Signal frequencies in the skin !

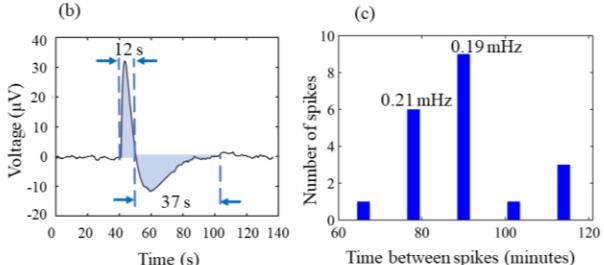
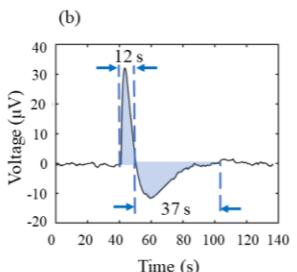
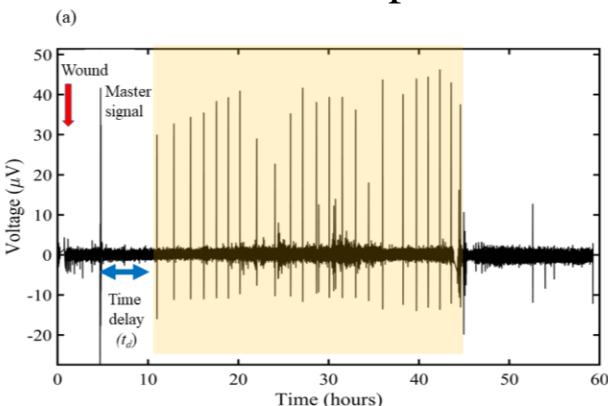


An example: Signal frequencies in the skin !

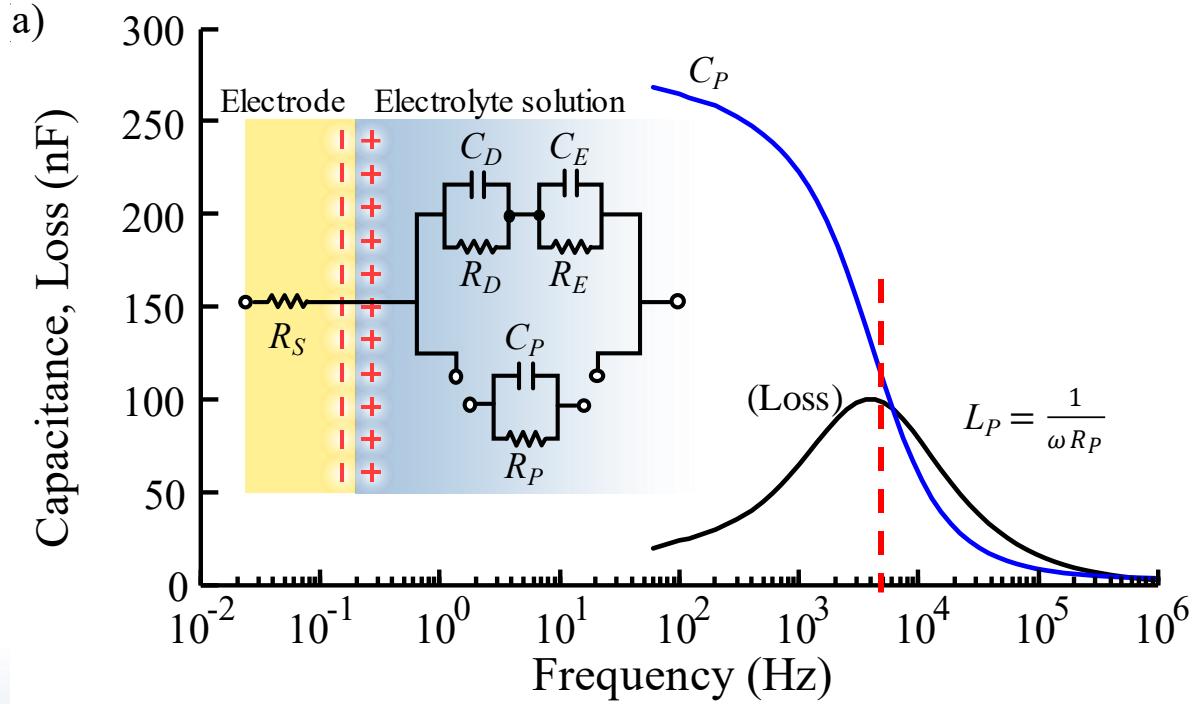
Cell monolayer forming



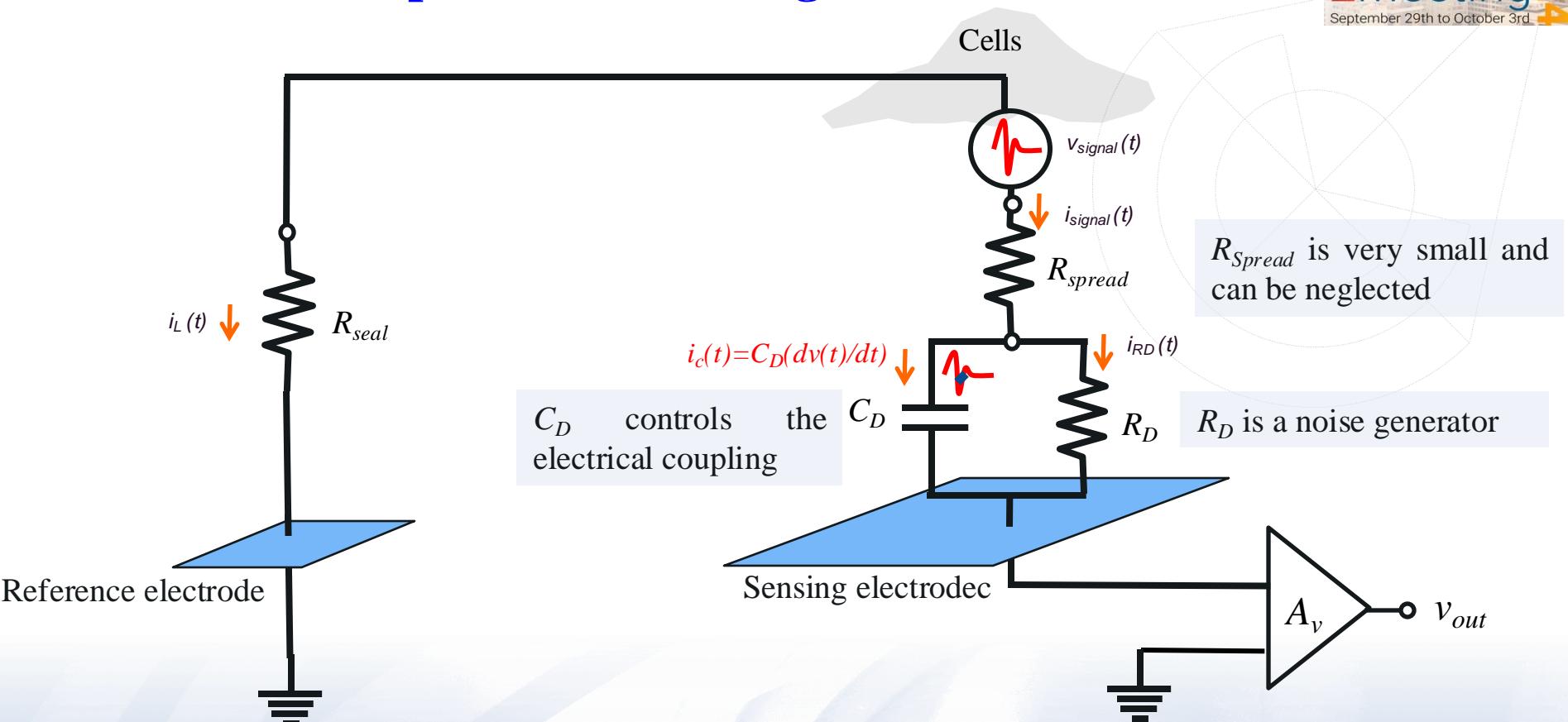
Wound repair



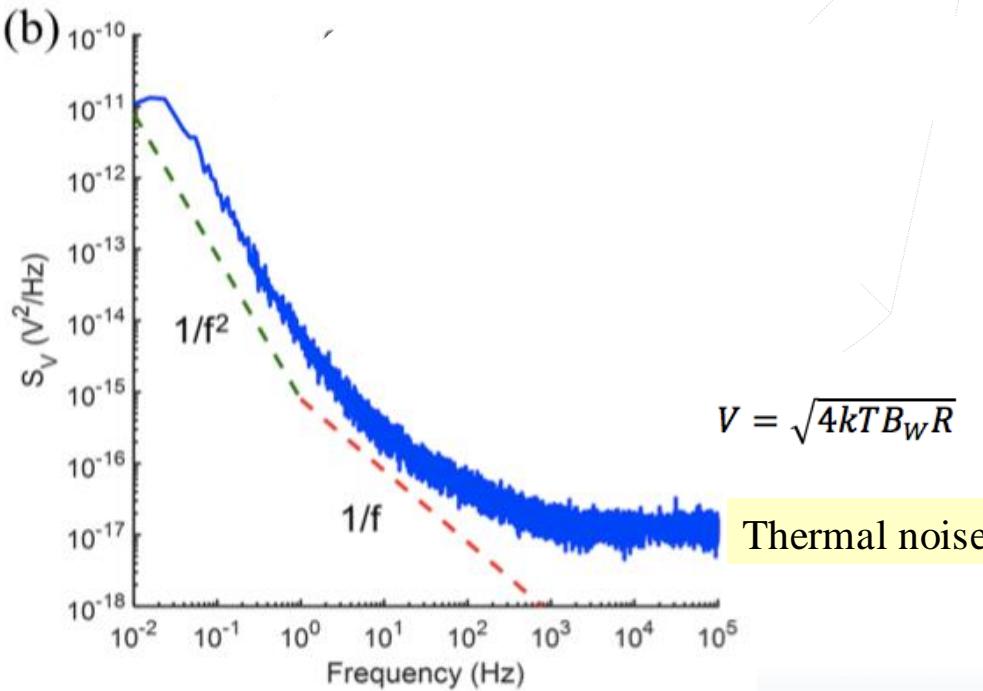
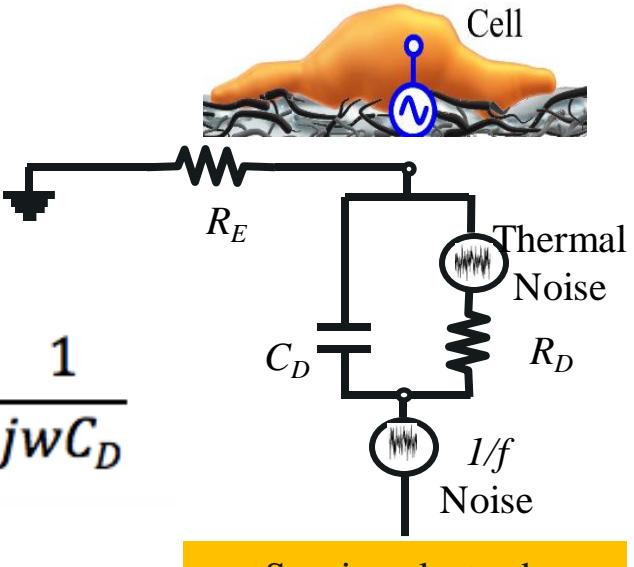
The impedance of the electrical double-layer



The role of the impedance on the signal detection



Noise and the electrical double-layer

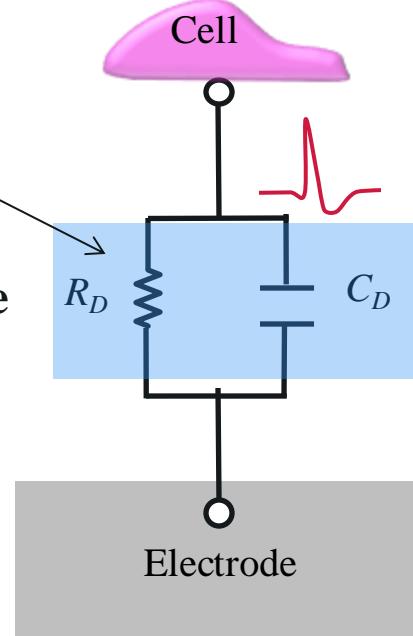


Where is the thermal noise coming from?

The beauty of a PEDOT:PSS electrode is that it establish a very low interfacial resistance

R_D is a noise generator

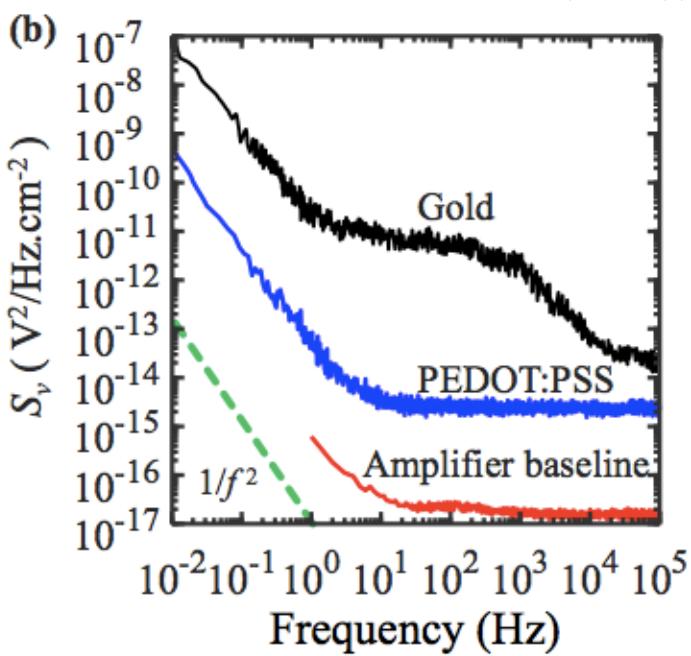
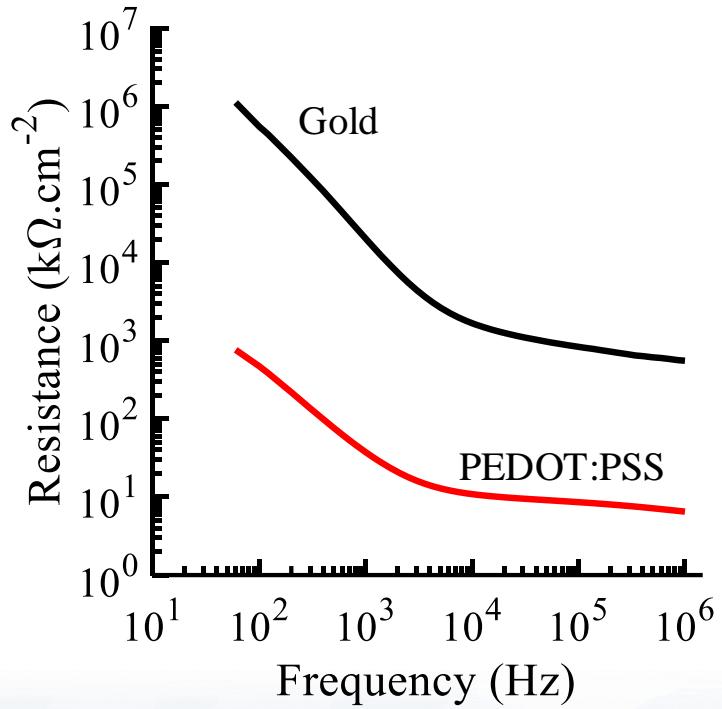
$$V = \sqrt{4kTB_W R}$$



C_D controls
the electrical coupling
Offers a low impedance
path

$$X_c = \frac{1}{j\omega C_D}$$

Interfacial resistance and intrinsic noise

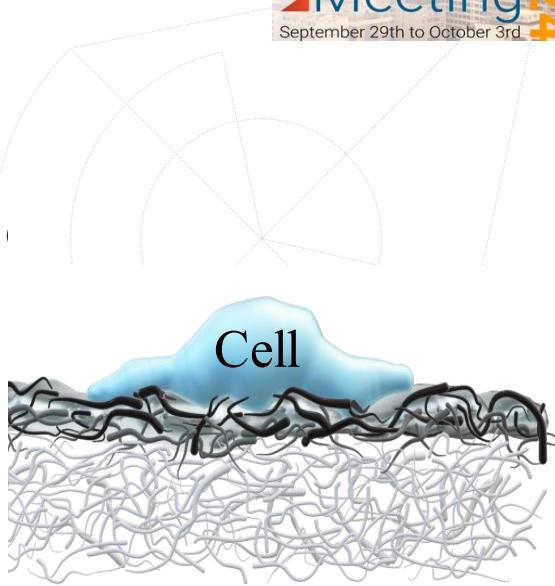
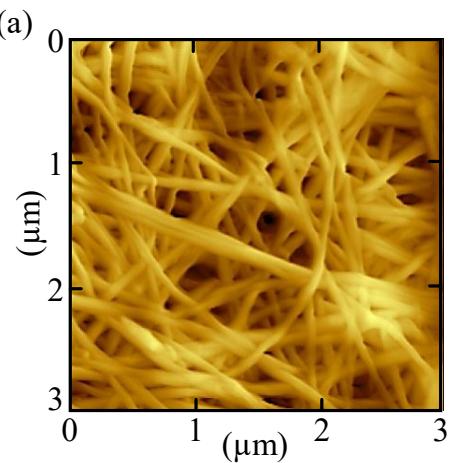
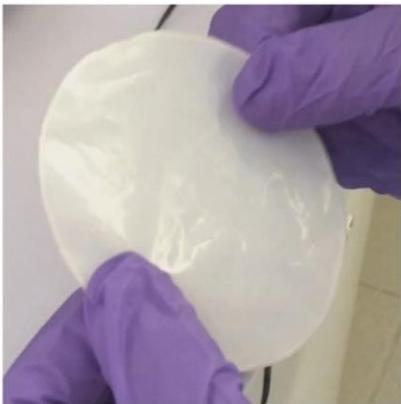
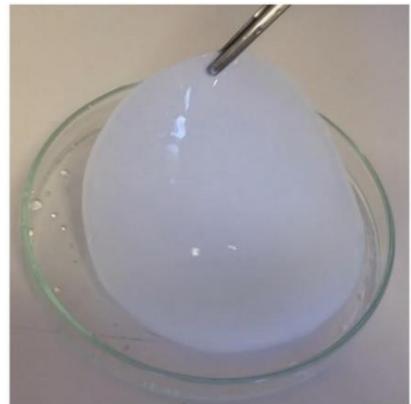


Pedro Inácio

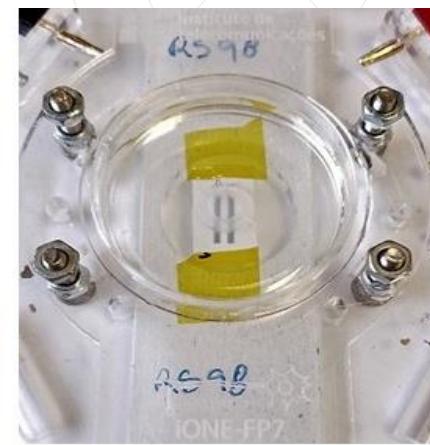
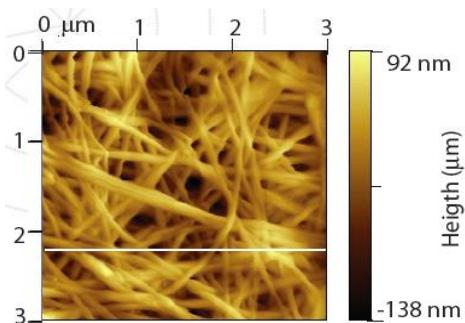
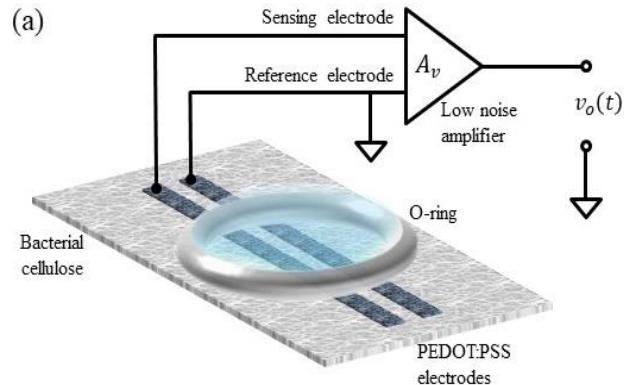
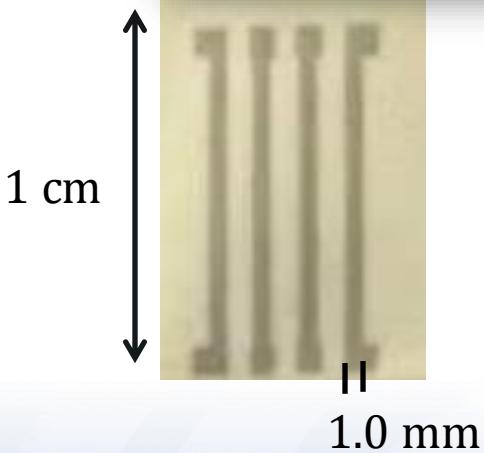
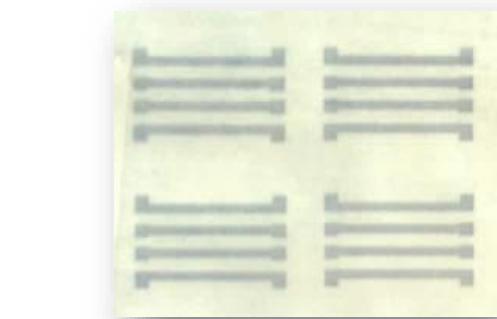


Sanaz
Asgarifar

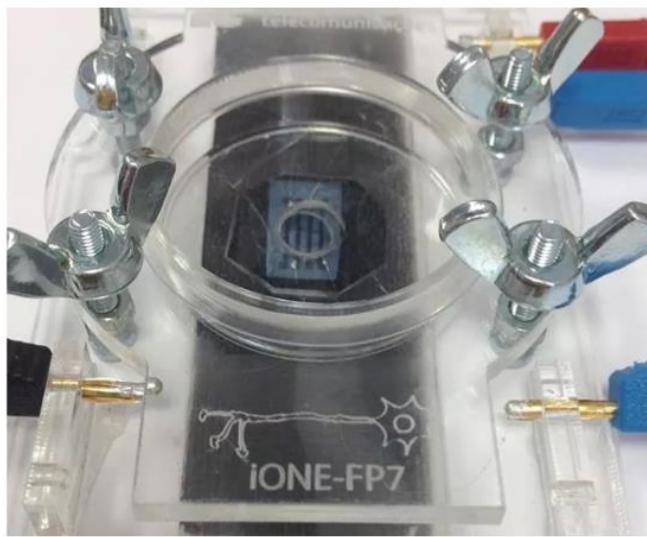
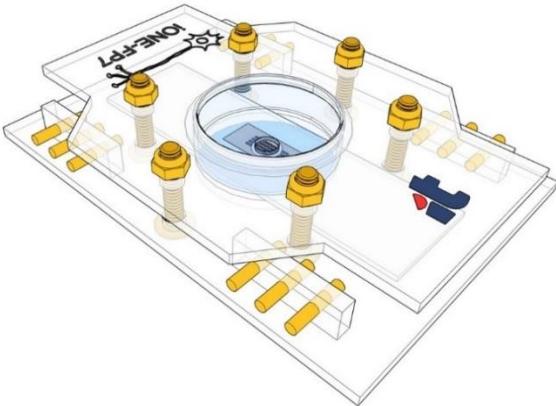
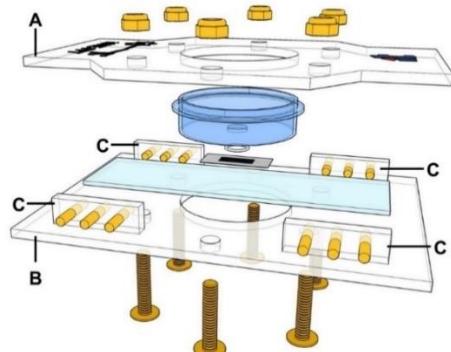
Bacterial cellulose substrates



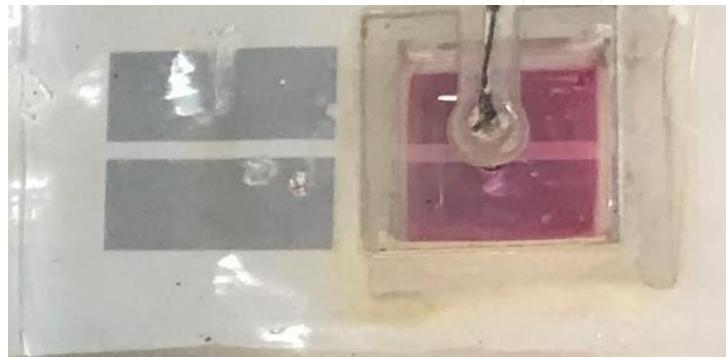
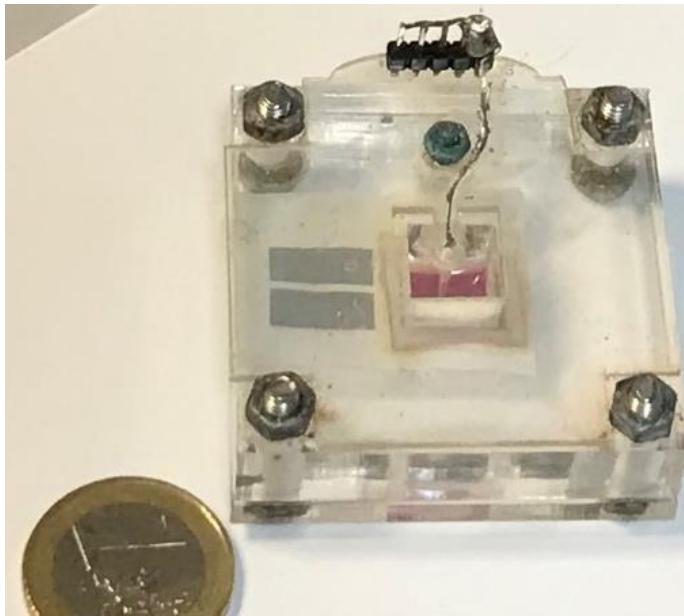
Devices made by ink-jet printing



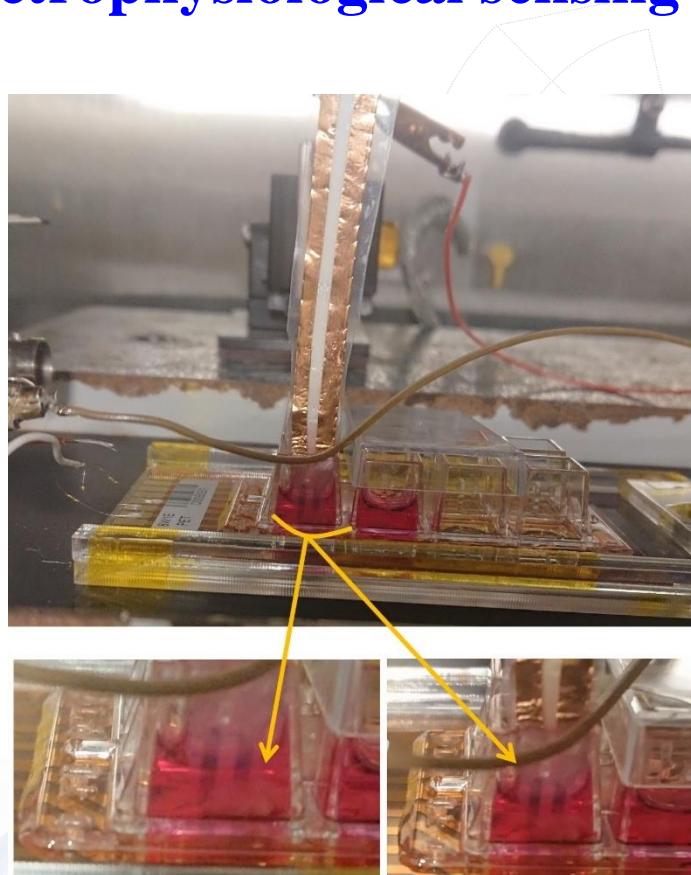
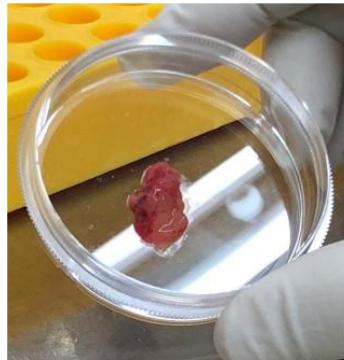
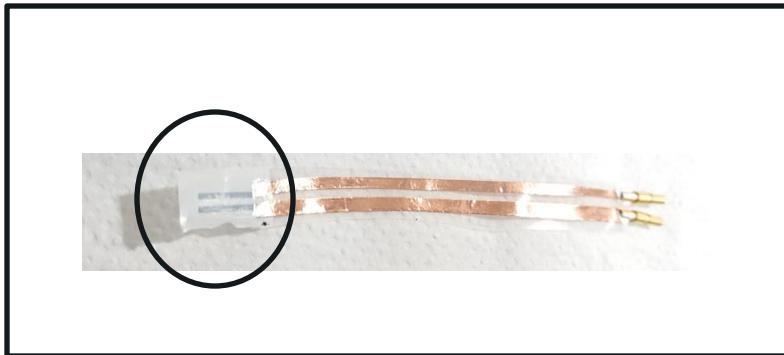
Ink-jet printed electrodes for electrophysiological sensing



Ink-jet printed electrodes for electrophysiological sensing



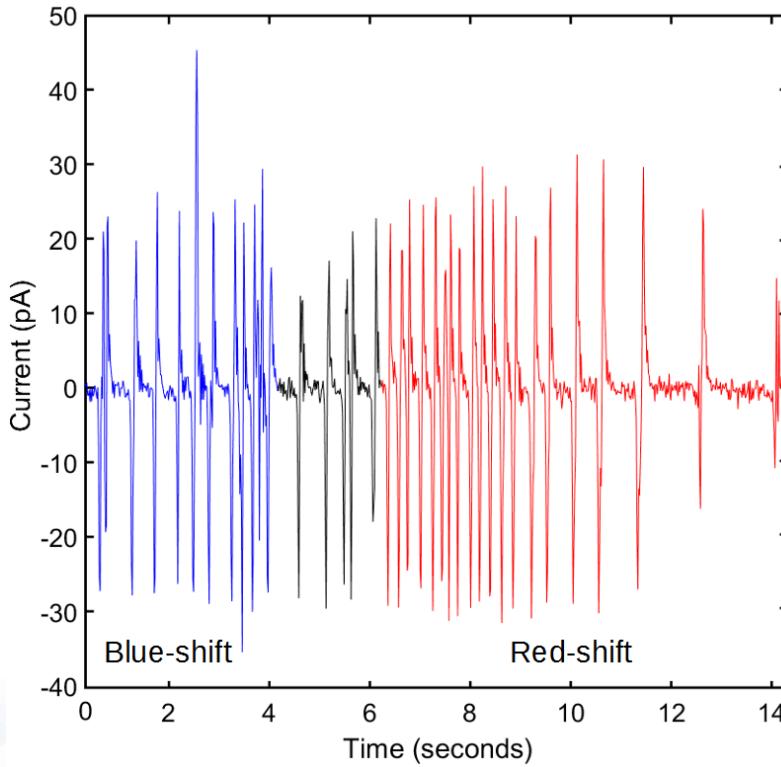
Ink-jet printed electrodes for electrophysiological sensing



Ex-vivo measurements in Human glioblastoma



Glioblastoma

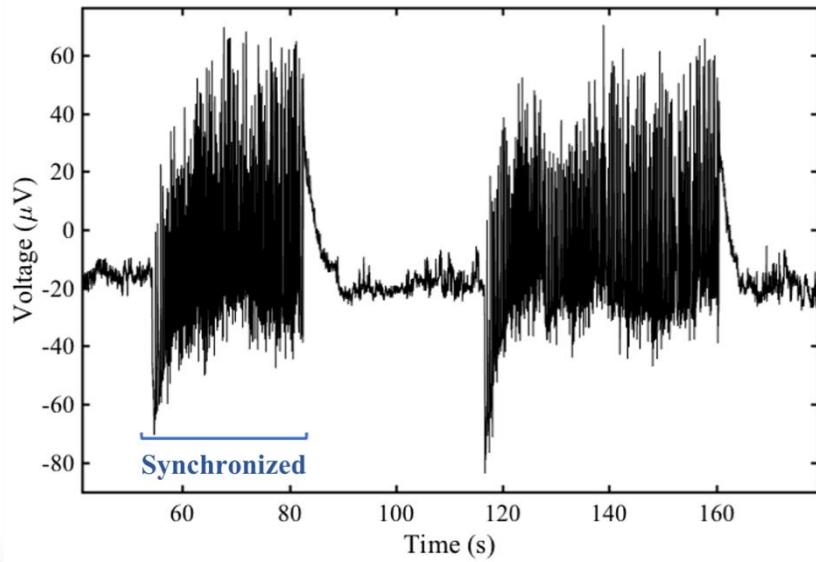


Ana Mestre

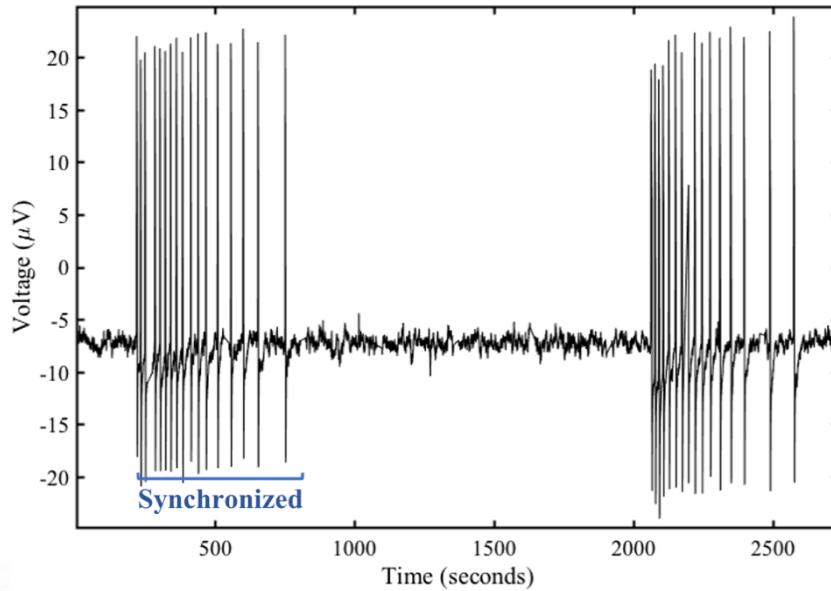
Application;

bioelectrical activity of a glioblastoma (ex-vivo)

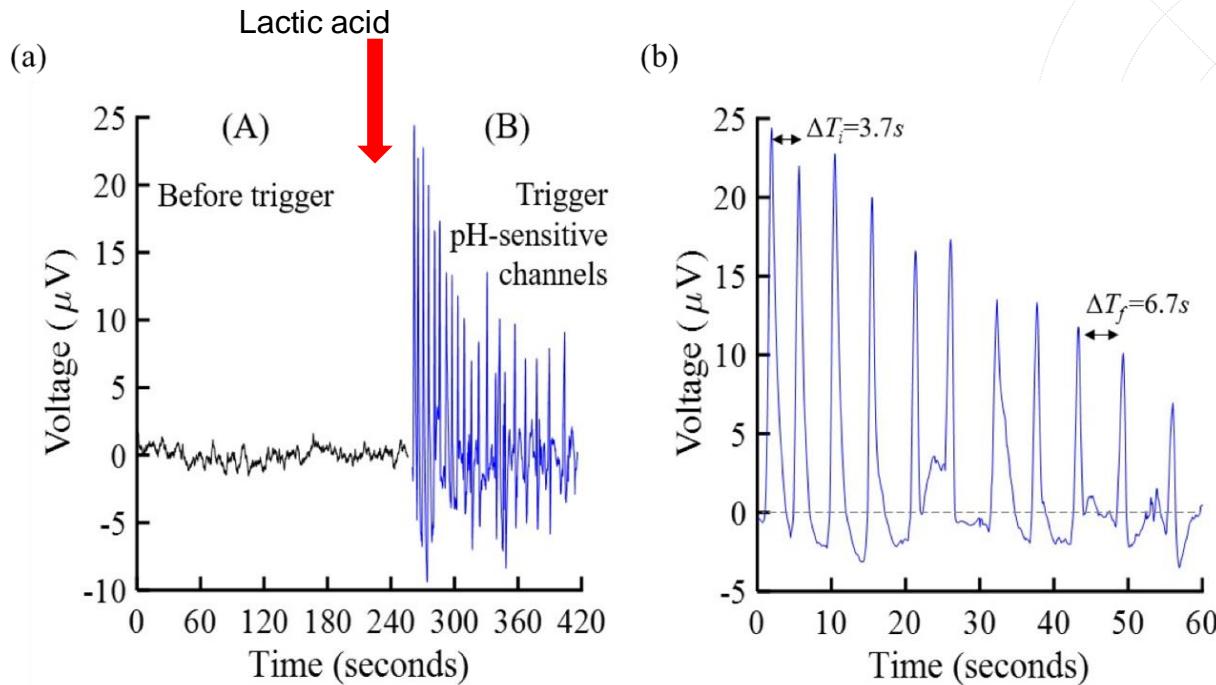
(b)



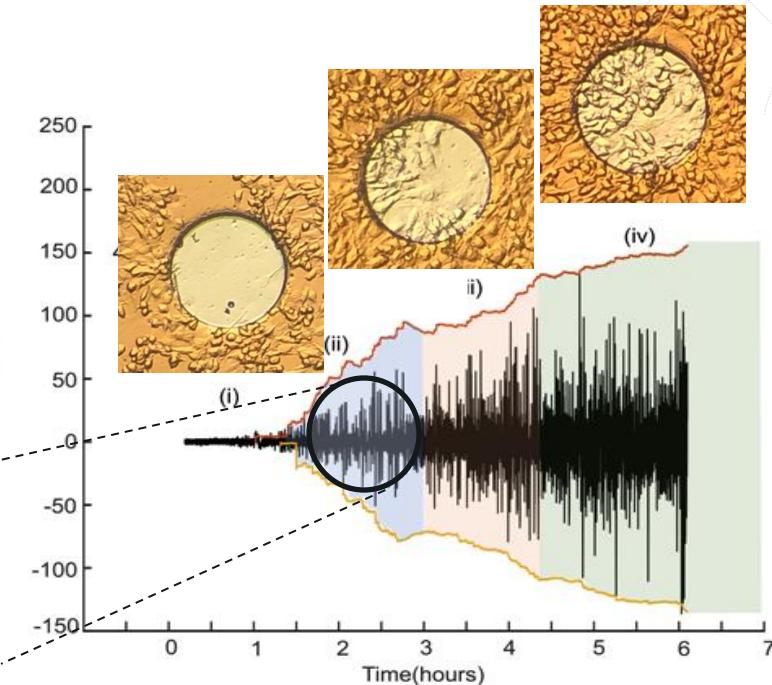
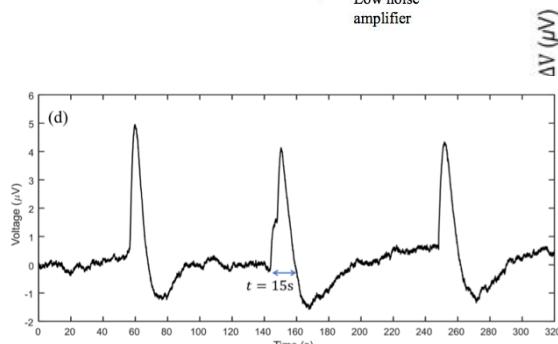
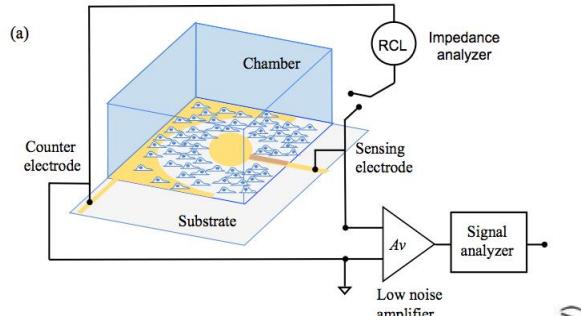
(a)



Application: Bioelectrical activity of a glioblastoma (ex-vivo)



Application: Cancer cell migration



Sanaz
Asgarifar

S. Asgarifar, et al. Biosensors and Bioelectronics 145 (2019) 1117082

Summary

- Slow mobility semiconductors (**ZnO, conjugated polymers**, etc.) and conductors (**PEDOT:PSS**) are ideally suited for recording ultra-slow signals (minutes, hours).
- To minimize the intrinsic noise, we must increase the electrode area. Deposition in porous nanofibrous substrates is appealing.
- Printing (**inkjet, screen printing**, etc.) are suitable technologies for large - area devices.

In summary:

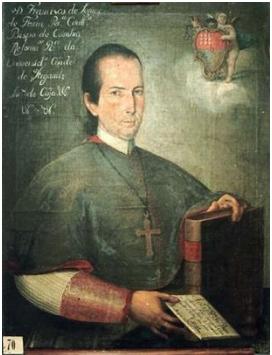
We can create cutting-edge ultra-noise sensing devices using cost-effective processing techniques and materials.

Coimbra

XXII B-MRS Meeting 2024
September 29th to October 3rd



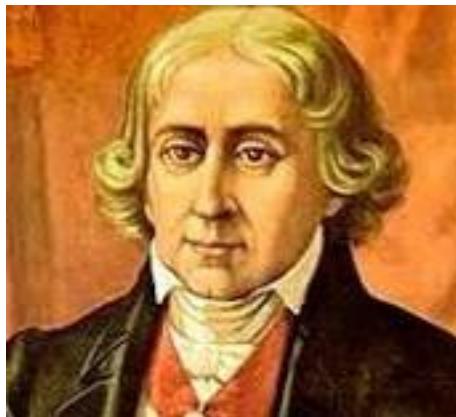
Coimbra–Brasil connection



**D. Francisco Lemos de Faria
Pereira Coutinho**

Nasceu em 1735 no Rio de Janeiro. Foi Reitor durante 31 anos

Reitor Reformador



José Bonifácio de Andrade e Silva

O seu nome esta associado à descoberta do lítio.

Andrade e Silva decobriu 12 novos minerais.



Henrique Leonel Gomes (hgomess@uc.pt)

Joint us this July in beautiful Coimbra

XXII B-MRS Meeting 2024
September 29th to October 3rd



<https://icoe2025.co.it.pt>



Natalie Stingelin



George Malliaras



Thomas Anthopoulos



Henning Sirringhaus



Osvaldo Novais



Thuc-Quyen Nguyen

Acknowledgements



Maria
Medeiros



Leonor
Cancela



Fabio
Biscarini
(Modena,
Italy)



Inês Araújo



Deborah
Power



Ana Mestre



Pedro
Inácio



Youssef Elamine



Sanaz
Asgarifar



Rute Félix



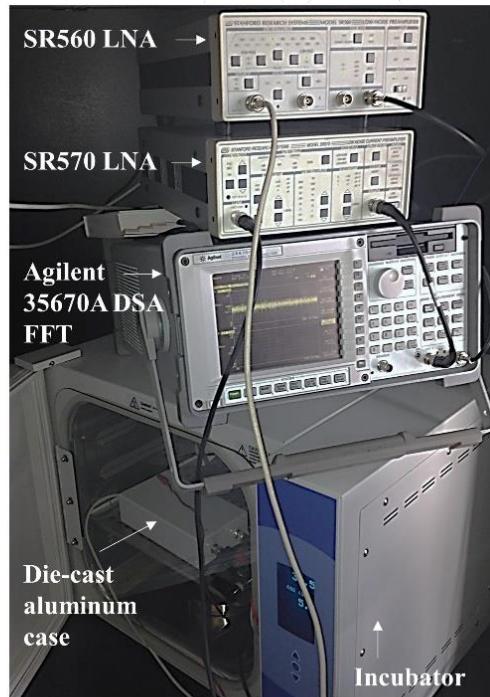
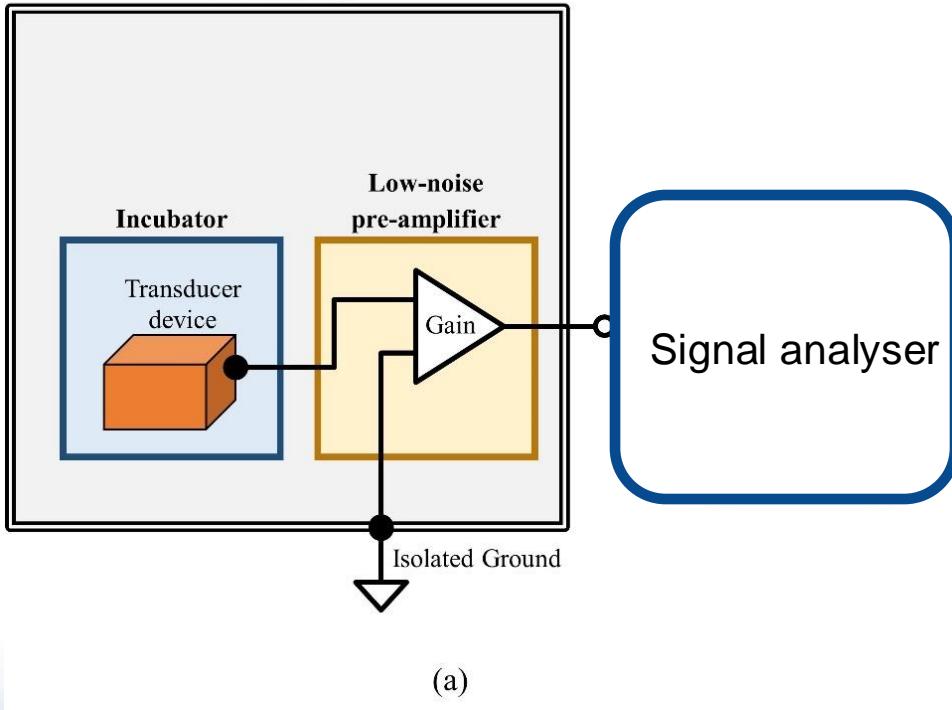
Rita
Monteiro

Thank for you attention

We gratefully acknowledge support the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT/MCTES), through the project “Bioelectronic devices to measure astrocyte-neuron communication (AstroNeuroCircu) Ref. 2022.06979.PTDC and by Instituto de Telecomunicações (UIDB/50008/2020).

Experimental set-up

Faraday cage



(b)

