

# Mikroplast i Mennesker

Jes Vollertsen

Kara Koffman-Rea, Manasi Agrawal, Laura Simon Sánchez, Claudia Lorenz, Jeanette Lykkemark, Karen Samonds, Kristine Allin, Alvis Vianello



**AALBORG  
UNIVERSITY**



**Northern Illinois  
University**



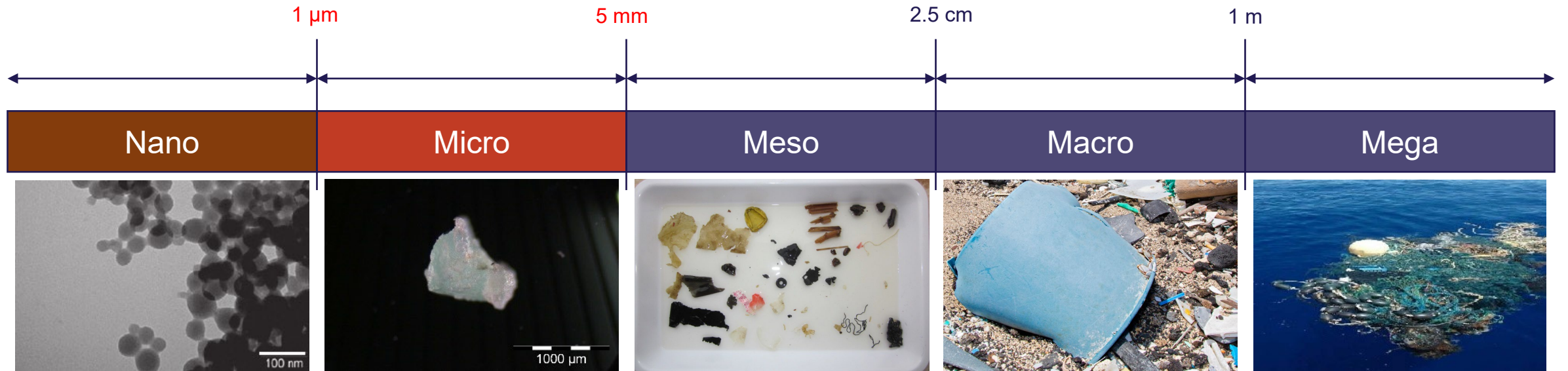
**Icahn School  
of Medicine at  
Mount  
Sinai**



**North  
Atlantic  
Microplastic  
Centre**

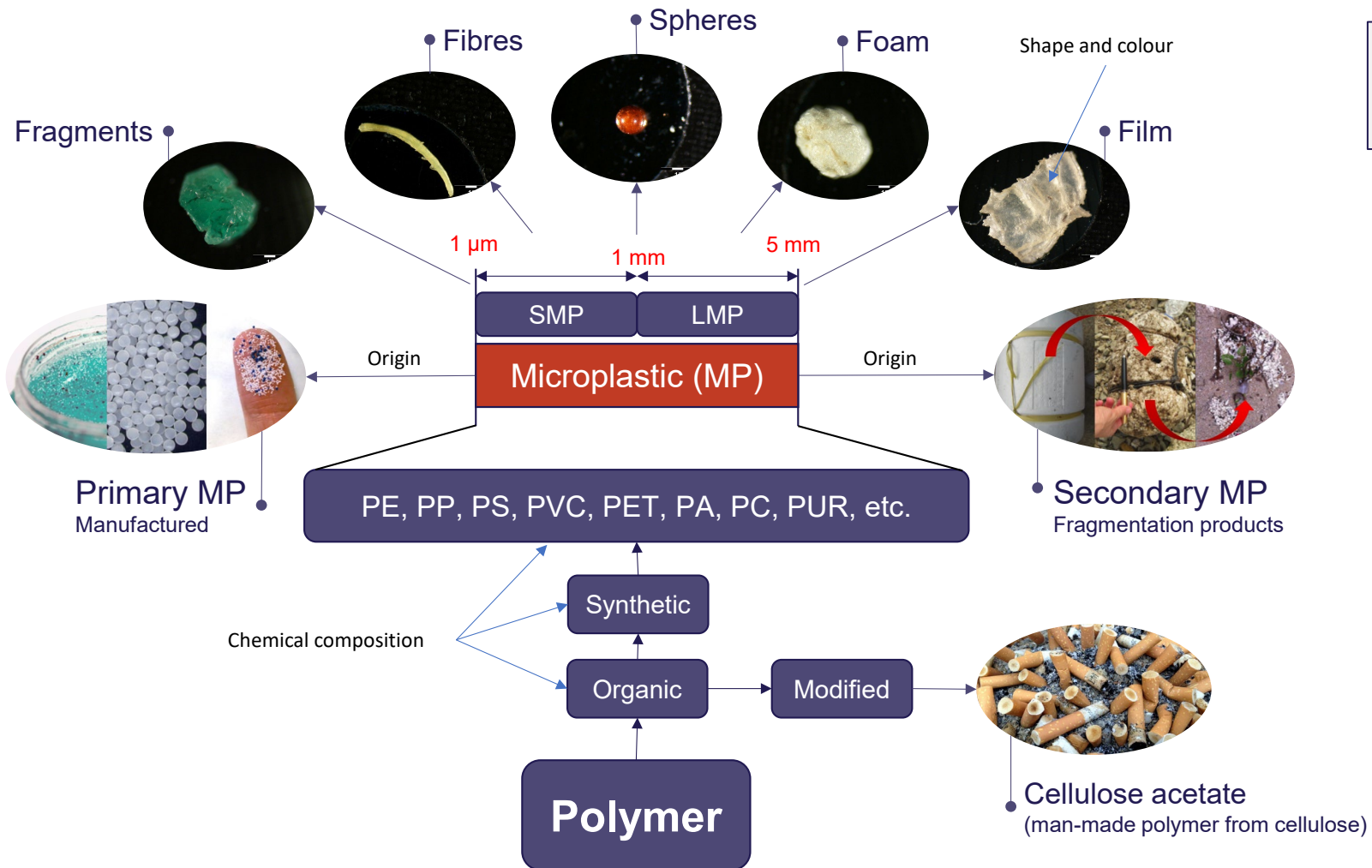


# Micro- and nanoplastics definition





# Micro- and nanoplastics definition



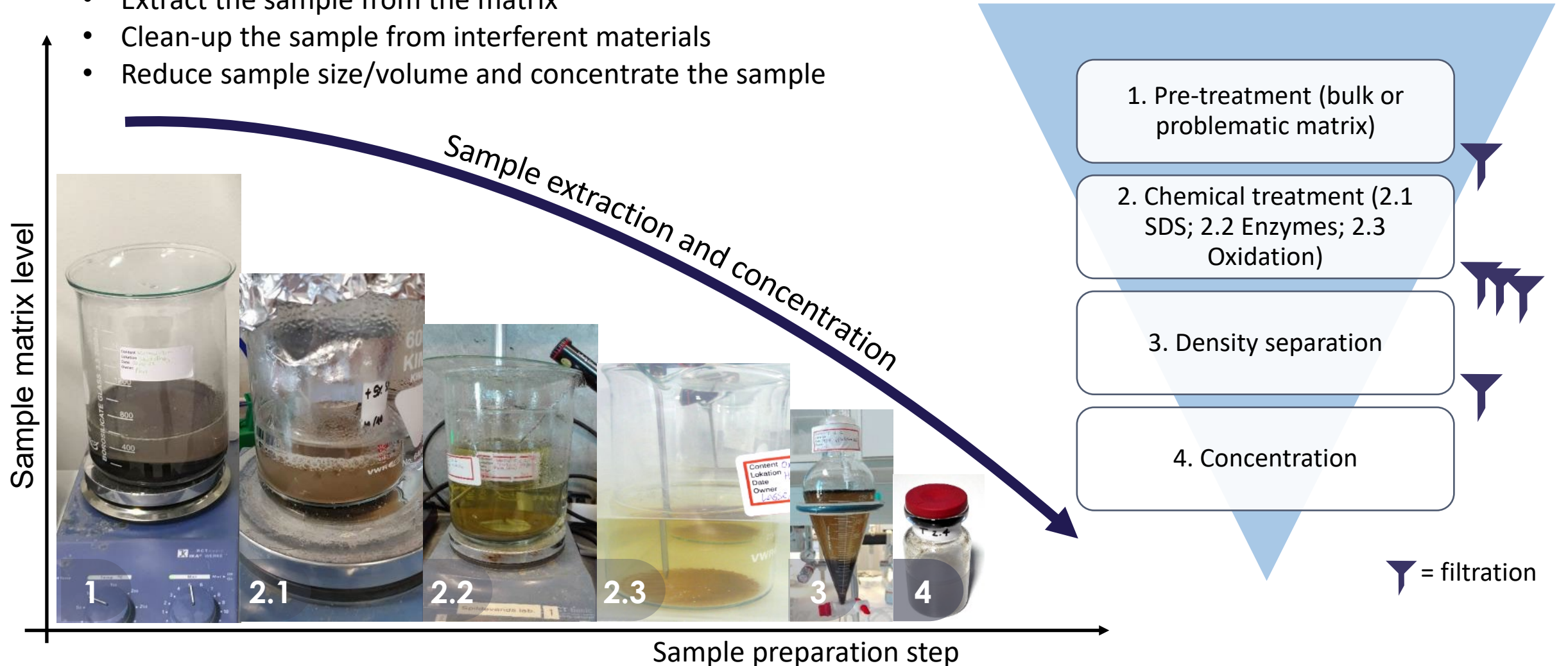
Microplastics come in all shapes and many materials





# Micro- and nanoplastics analysis

- Extract the sample from the matrix
- Clean-up the sample from interferent materials
- Reduce sample size/volume and concentrate the sample

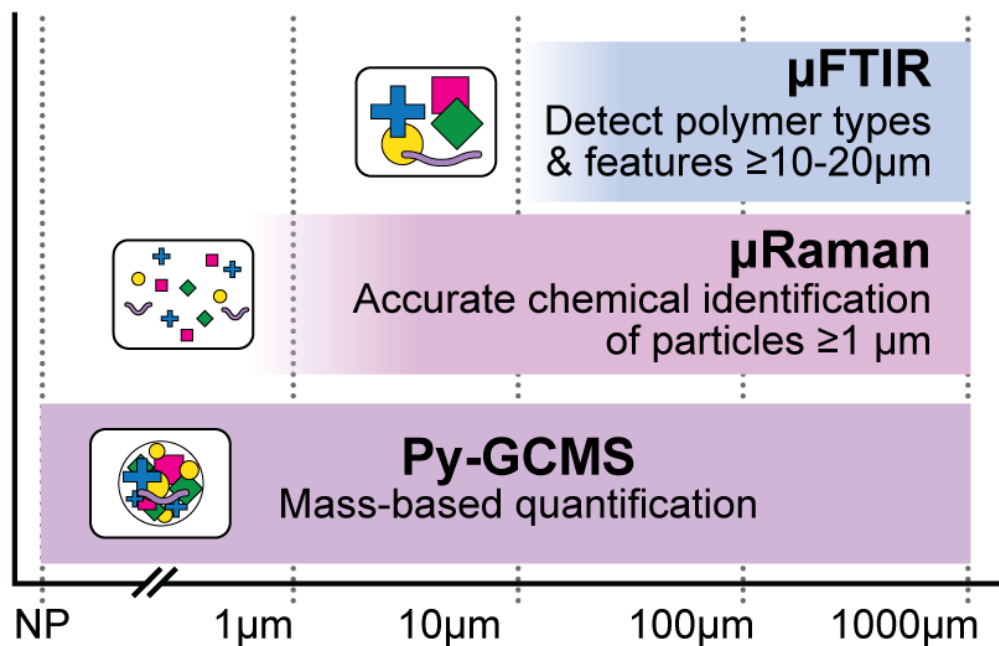




# Micro- and nanoplastics analysis



## MNPs detection and quantification



There are huge differences in the methods people have applied for analysis  
Some use quite crude methods, e.g. microscopy. Methods should be able chemically determine the composition of a particle !!!





# Evidence of MNPs contamination in humans



Environment International 163 (2022) 107199

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)



Environment International

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/envint](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/envint)



Full length article

## Discovery and quantification of plastic particle pollution in human blood

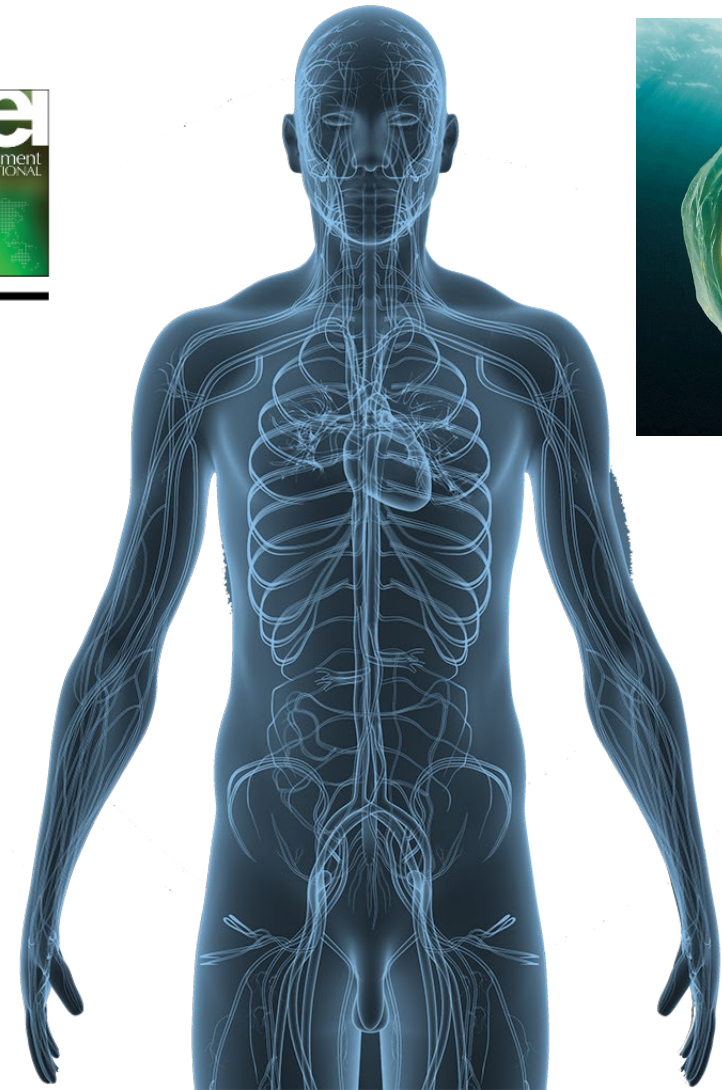
Heather A. Leslie<sup>a</sup>, Martin J.M. van Velzen<sup>a</sup>, Sicco H. Brandsma<sup>a</sup>, A. Dick Vethaak<sup>a,b</sup>, Juan J. Garcia-Vallejo<sup>c</sup>, Maija H. Lamoree<sup>a,\*</sup>



A small set of donors were studied.

The mean of the sum quantifiable plastic particles in blood was  $1.5 \mu\text{g/g}$

This is about the same as one finds in raw wastewater





# Evidence of MNPs contamination in humans



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Microplastics and Nanoplastics in Atheromas and Cardiovascular Events

R. Marfella, F. Prattichizzo, C. Sardu, G. Fulgenzi, L. Graciotti, T. Spadoni,

304 patients – PE (polyethylene) detected in arotid artery plaque of 150 patients

Mean level of  $21.7 \pm 24.5$   $\mu\text{g}$  per milligram of plaque (which means that 2.17% of the plaque was plastic ...)

31 patients had measurable amounts of PVC (polyvinyl chloride)

“Patients in whom MNPs were detected within the atheroma were at higher risk for a primary end-point event than those in whom these substances were not detected”







# Evidence of MNPs contamination in humans

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## Microplastics and Nanoplastics in Atheromas and Cardiovascular Events

R. Marfella, F. Prattichizzo, C. Sardu, G. Fulgenzi, L. Graciotti, T. Spadoni,

Environment International 146 (2021) 106274

Science of the Total Environment 831 (2022) 154907

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Science of the Total Environment

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Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environment International

ELSEVIER

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/envint](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/envint)



### Detection of microplastics in human lung tissue using $\mu$ FTIR spectroscopy

Lauren C. Jenner<sup>a</sup>, Jeanette M. Rotchell<sup>b</sup>, Robert T. Bennett<sup>c</sup>, Michael Cowen<sup>c</sup>, Vasileios Tentzeris<sup>c</sup>, Laura R. Sadofsky<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Hull York Medical School, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX, United Kingdom  
<sup>b</sup> Department of Biological and Marine Sciences, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX, United Kingdom  
<sup>c</sup> Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Castle Hill Hospital, Cottingham HU16 5JQ, United Kingdom

### Plasticenta: First evidence of microplastics in human placenta

Antonio Ragusa<sup>a</sup>, Alessandro Svelato<sup>a,\*</sup>, Criselda Santacroce<sup>b</sup>, Piera Catalano<sup>b</sup>, Notarstefano<sup>c</sup>, Oliana Carnevali<sup>c</sup>, Fabrizio Papa<sup>b</sup>, Mauro Citro Antonio Rongioletti<sup>b</sup>, Simona<sup>c</sup>, Simonetta Draghi<sup>a</sup>, Elisabetta D'Amore<sup>a</sup>, Denise Rinaldo<sup>d</sup>, Maria Matta<sup>e</sup>, Giordani<sup>c</sup>



ENVIRONMENTAL Science & Technology

pubs.acs.org/est

Article

### Detection of Various Microplastics in Patients Undergoing Cardiac Surgery

Yunxiao Yang, Enzehua Xie, Zhiyong Du, Zhan Peng, Zhongyi Han, Linyi Li, Rui Zhao, Yanwen Mianqi Xue, Fengwang Li, Kun Hua<sup>\*</sup> and Xiubin Yang<sup>\*</sup>

Cite This: *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2023, 57, 10911–10918

Read Online

polymers

Article

### Raman Microspectroscopy Detection and Characterisation of Microplastics in Human Breastmilk

Antonio Ragusa<sup>1</sup>, Valentina Notarstefano<sup>2,\*</sup>, Alessandro Svelato<sup>3</sup>, Alessia Belloni<sup>2</sup>, Giorgia Giordani<sup>2</sup>, Christine Blondeel<sup>3</sup>, Emma Zucchelli<sup>3</sup>, Caterina De Luca<sup>3</sup>, Sara D'Avino<sup>3</sup>, Alessandra Gulotta<sup>4</sup>, Oliana Carnevali<sup>2</sup> and Elisabetta Giordani<sup>2</sup>



ENVIRONMENTAL Science & Technology

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Article

### Analysis of Microplastics in Human Feces Reveals a Correlation between Fecal Microplastics and Inflammatory Bowel Disease Symptoms

Zehua Yan, Yafei Liu, Ting Zhang, Faming Zhang<sup>\*</sup>, Hongqiang Ren, and Yan Zhang<sup>\*</sup>

Cite This: *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2022, 56, 414–421

Read Online

Environment International 163 (2022) 107199

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environment International

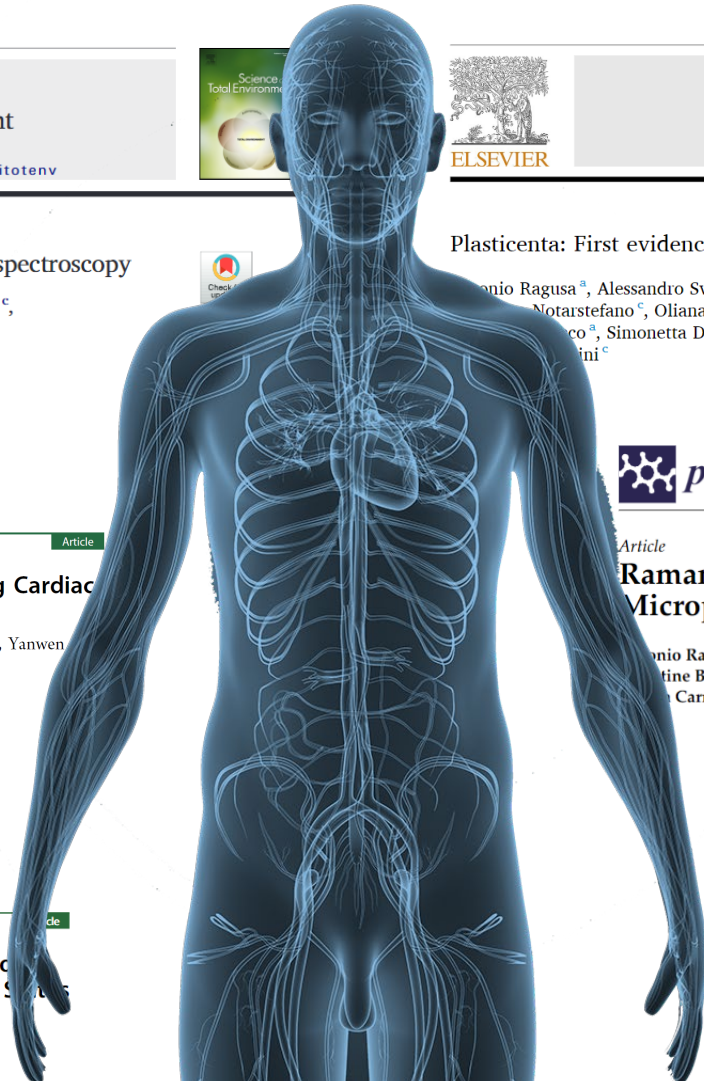
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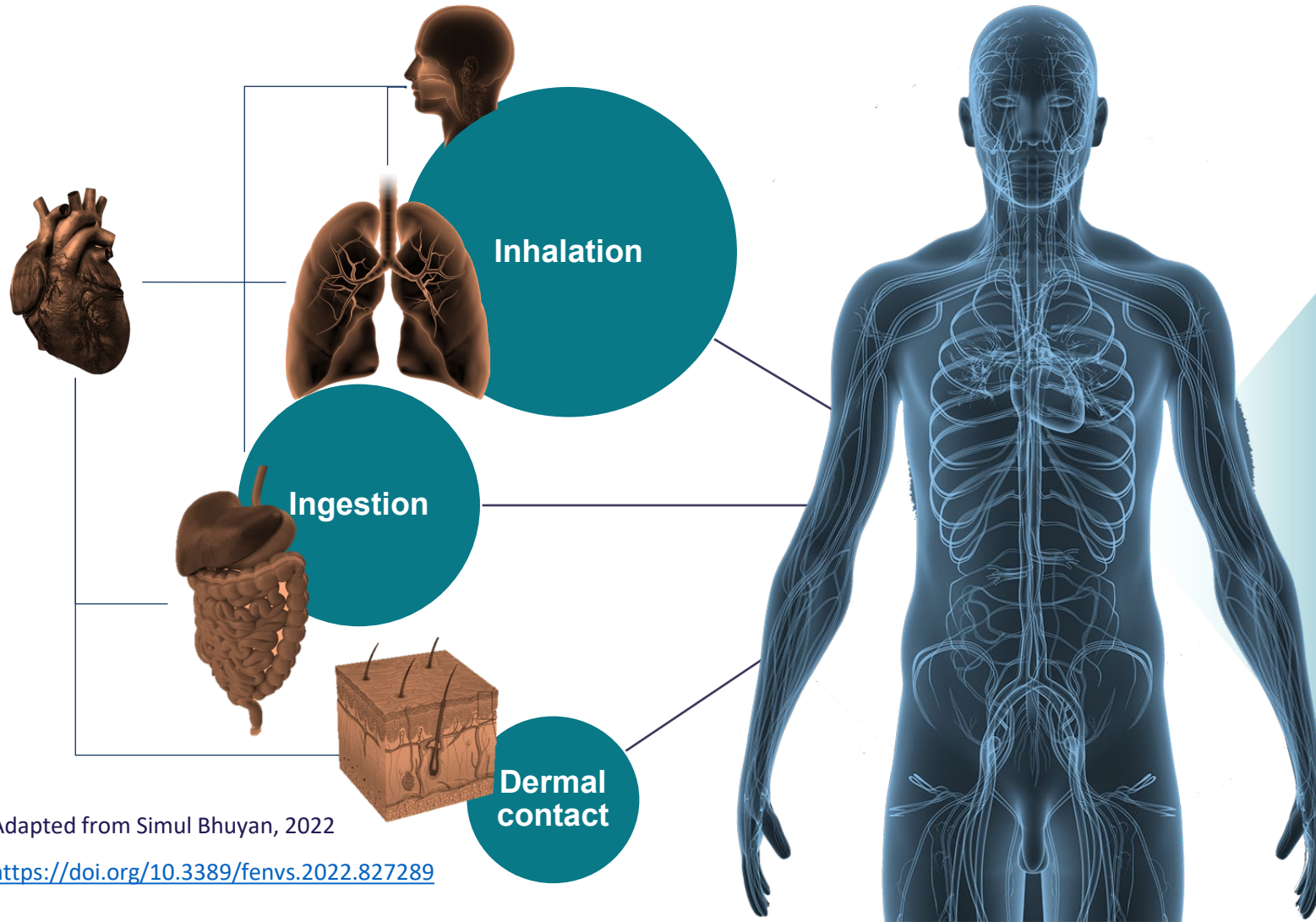
Heather A. Leslie<sup>a</sup>, Martin J.M. van Velzen<sup>a</sup>, Sicco H. Brandsma<sup>a</sup>, A. Dick Vethaak<sup>a,b</sup>, Juan J. Garcia-Vallejo<sup>c</sup>, Marja H. Lamoree<sup>a,\*</sup>







# Different exposure pathways...several target organs...and potential effects in humans



- 
- Translocation to distant tissues
  - Disruption of immune system
  - Metabolism alteration
  - Oxidative stress
  - Cytotoxicity
  - Neurotoxicity
  - Carcinogenicity
  - Reproductive toxicity

Adapted from Simul Bhuyan, 2022

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fenvs.2022.827289>



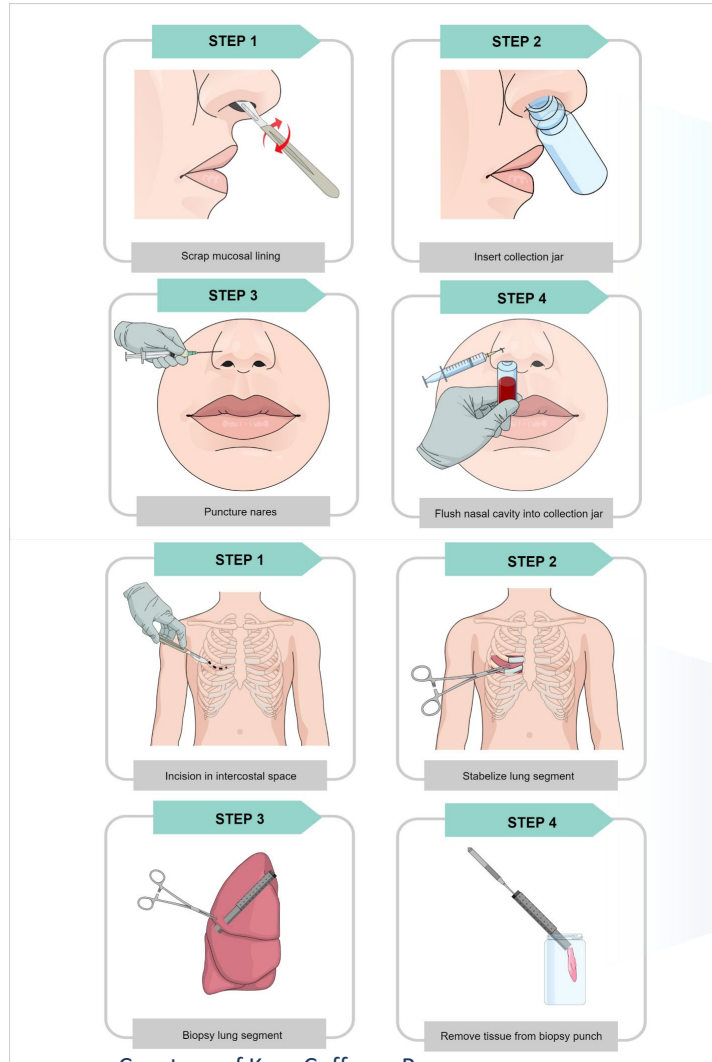
# MPs in lung tissue (and nasal cavity) from cadaver specimen

Sampling protocol specifically developed for MPs analysis

Kara Coffman Rea



Northern Illinois University

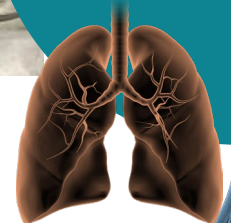
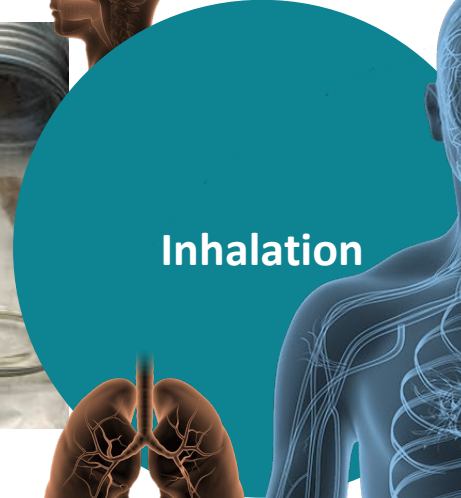


Courtesy of Kara Coffman Rea

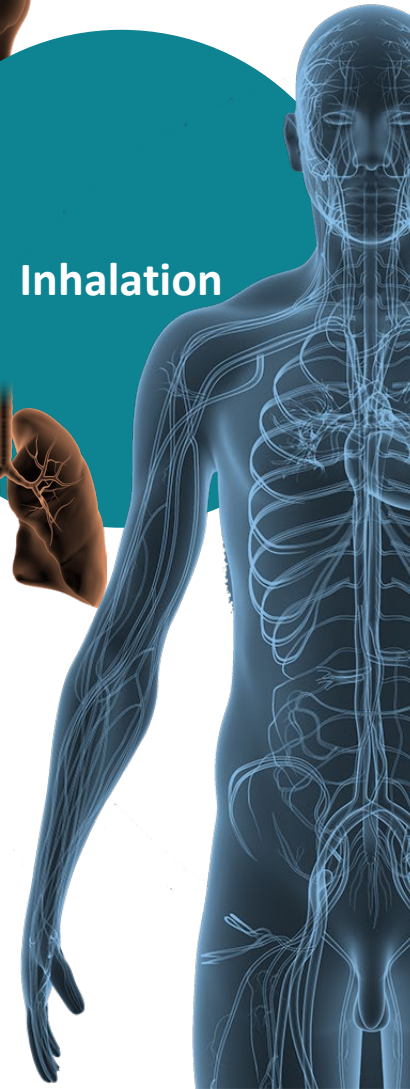
nasal swab samples



lung tissue samples



Inhalation

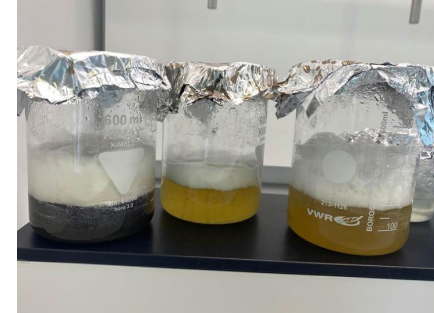
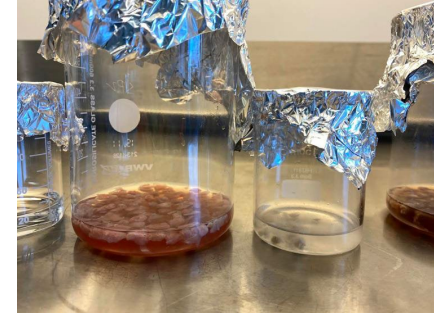
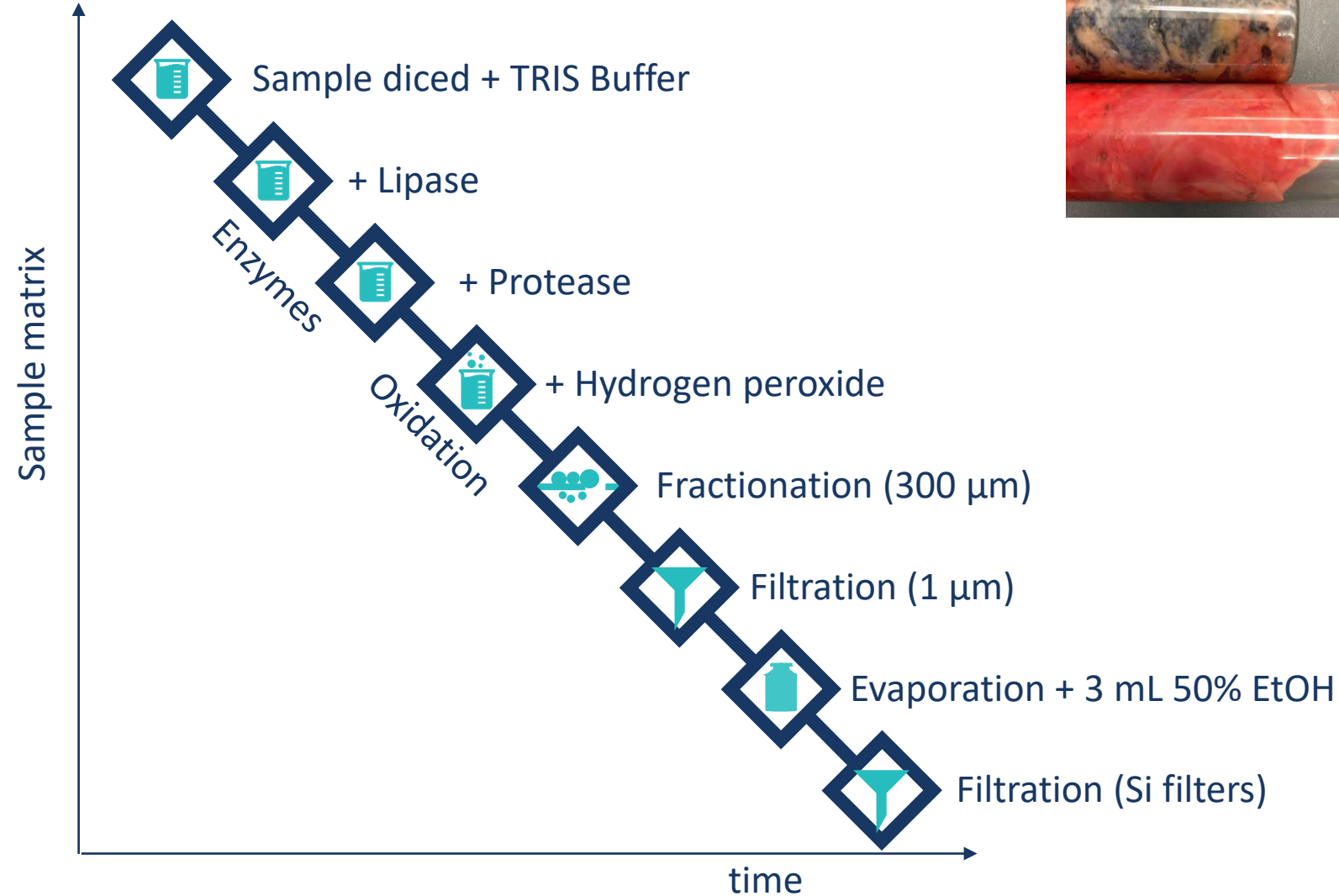






# MPs extraction from lung tissue and nasal swap

Multi-step MPs extraction



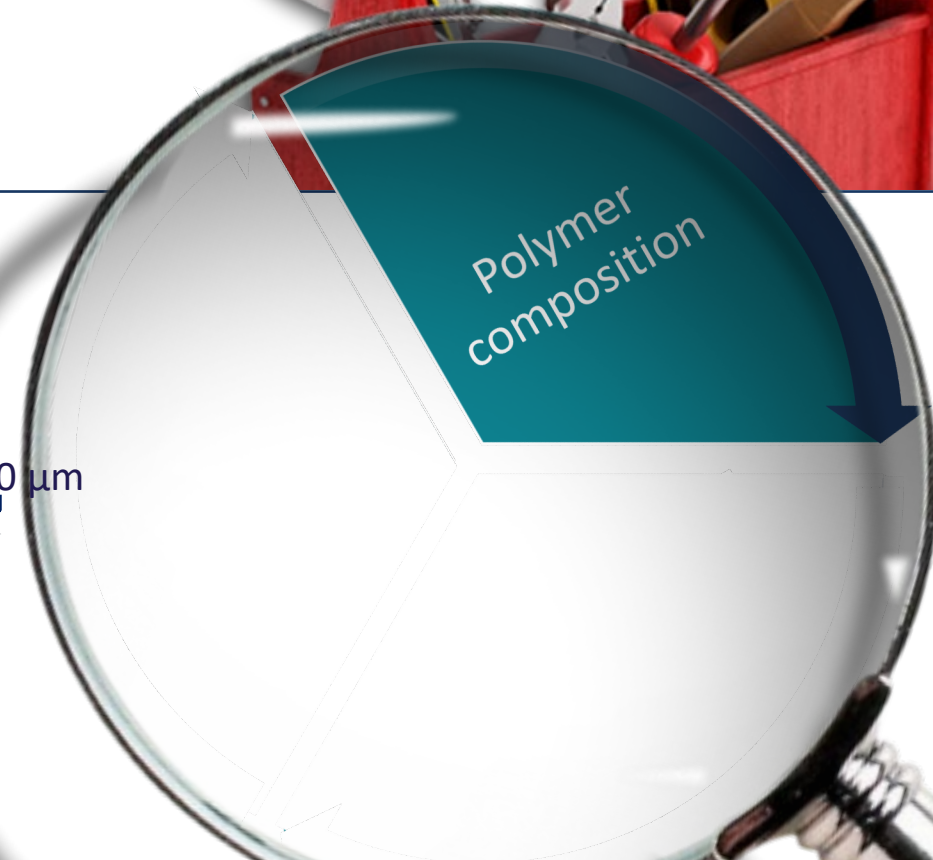
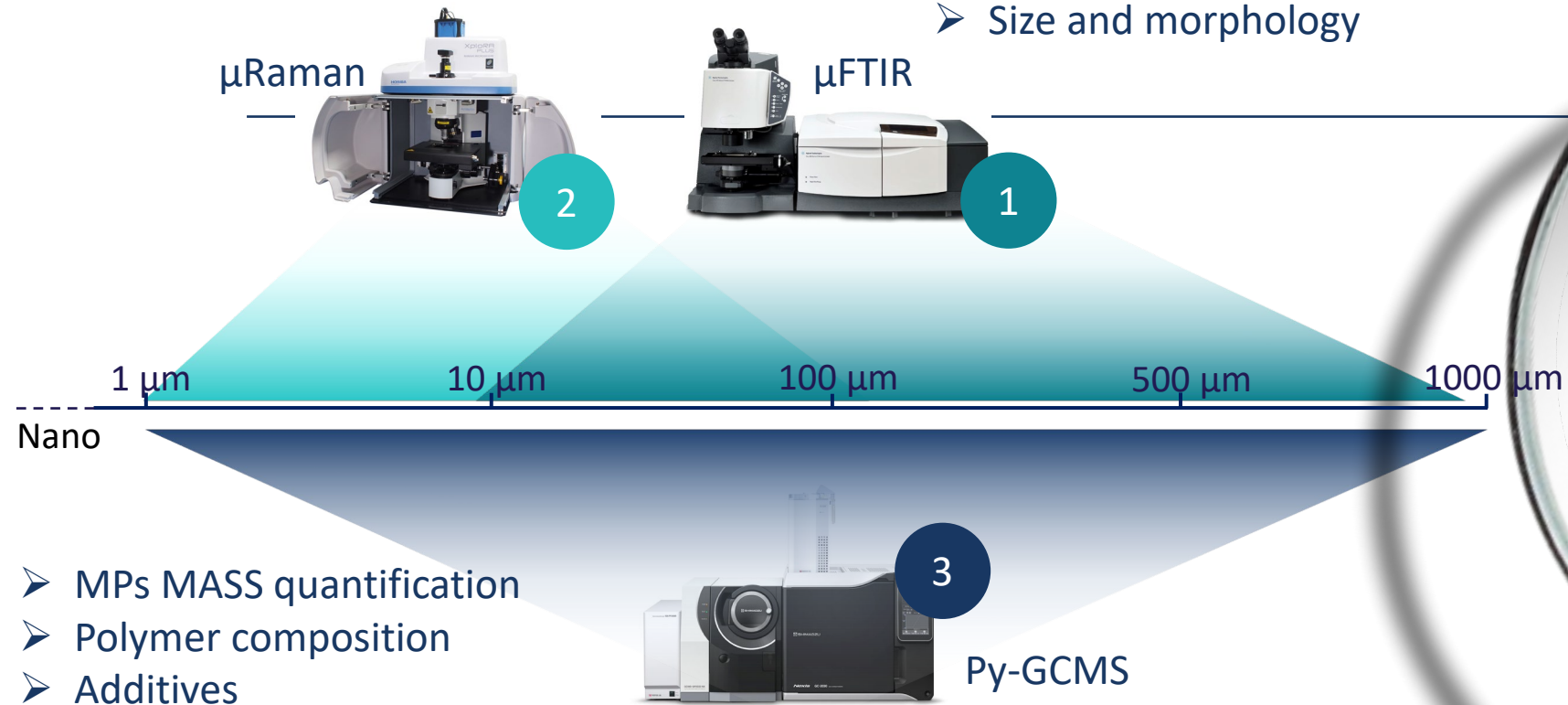


# The analytical TOOLBOX for this study

Versatile TOOLBOX of COMPLEMENTARY techniques

- reliable quantification and characterization of MNPs and associated chemicals

- MPs quantification/MASS estimate
- Polymer composition
- Size and morphology



Polymer composition

- MPs MASS quantification
- Polymer composition
- Additives

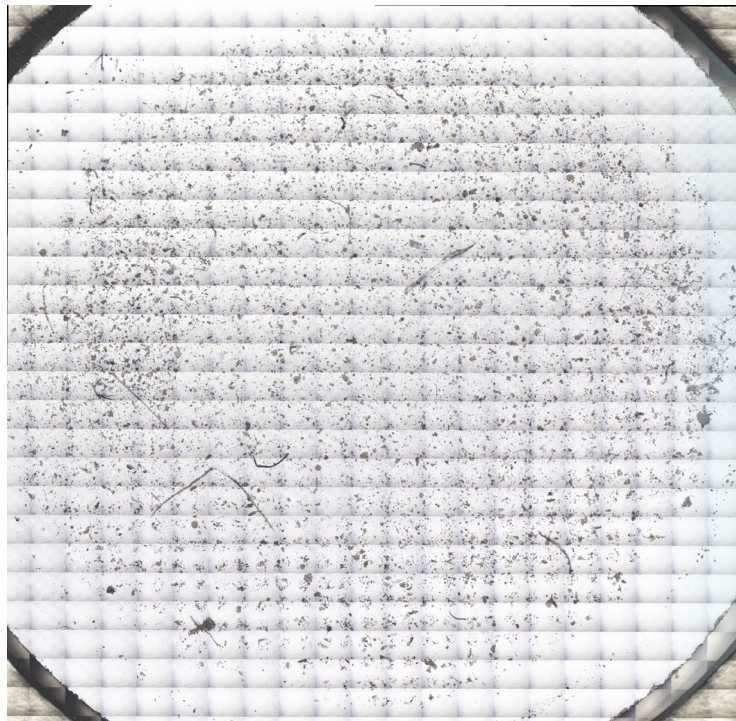




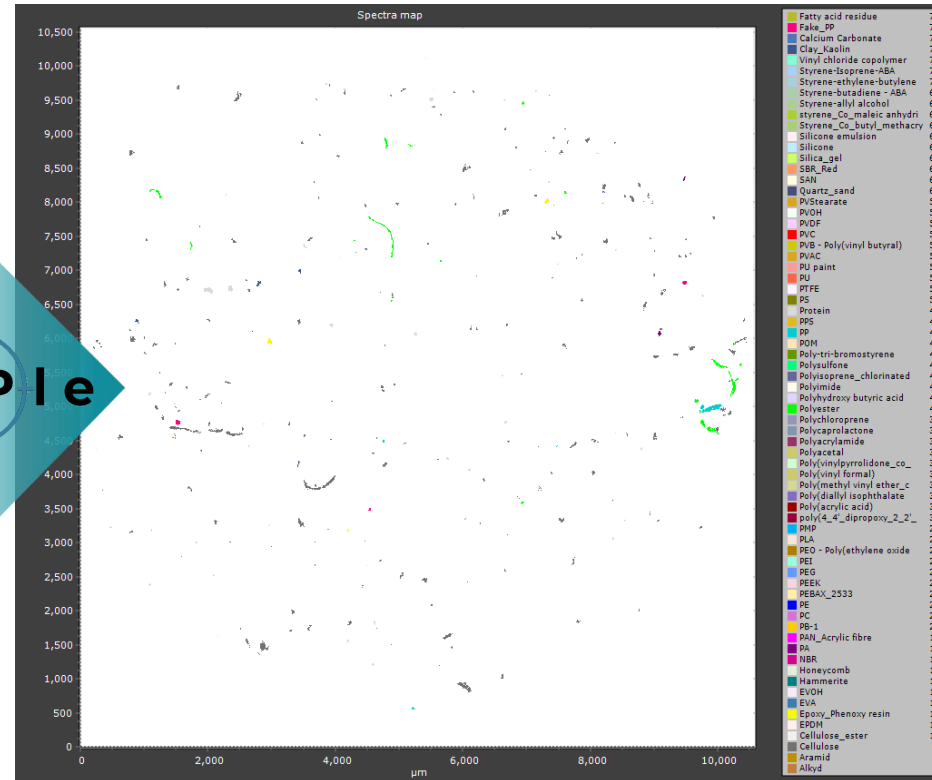
# MPs in the lungs using $\mu$ FTIR

$\mu$ FTIR-Imaging – MPs analysis down to 11  $\mu$ m

- spectral (**WHAT**) and spatial (**WHERE**) information simultaneously



s i M P I e

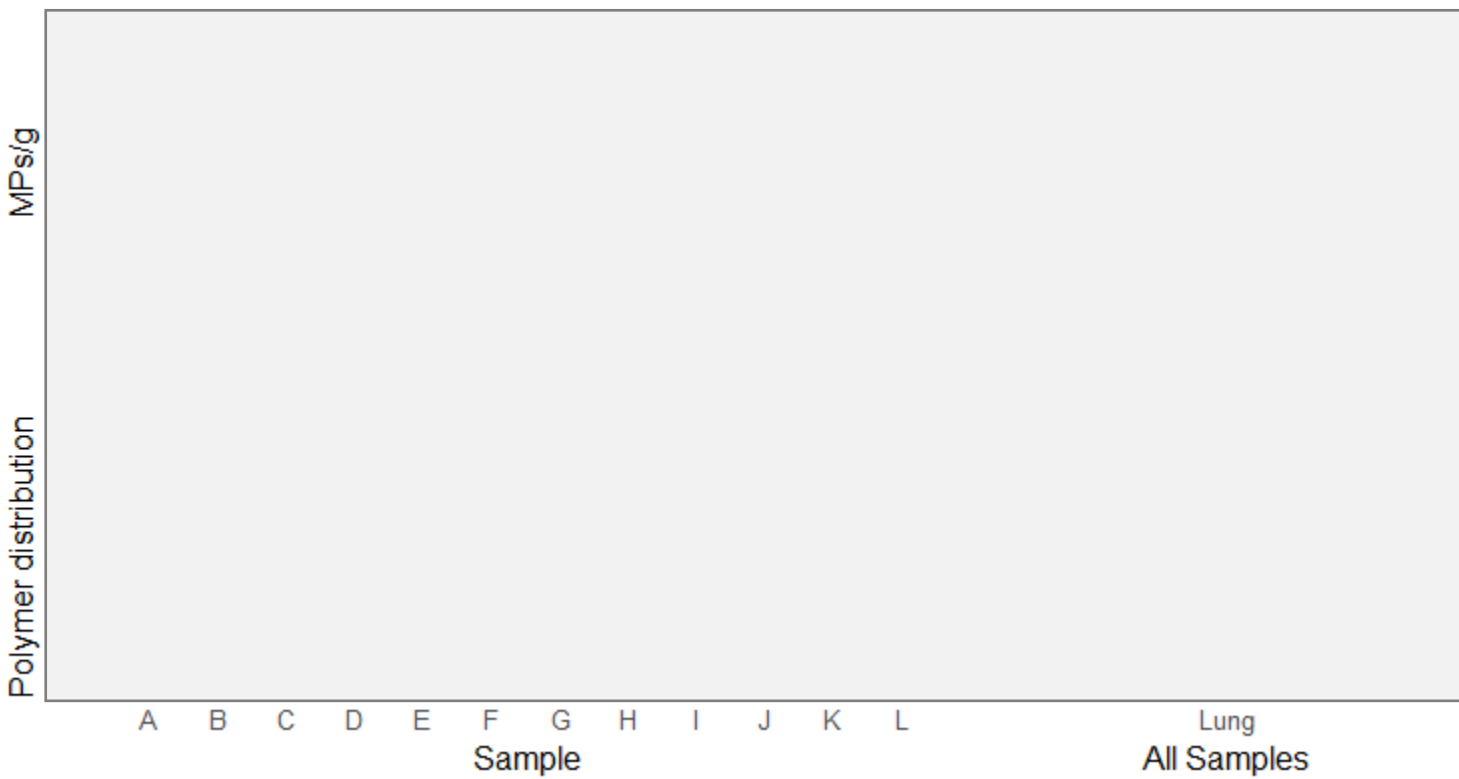


- MPs quantification
- MPs mass estimate
- Polymer composition
- Size and morphology



# MPs in the lungs using $\mu$ FTIR

Preliminary results – MPs concentration and polymer distribution














## MPs concentration\*

- Range =
- Median

## MPs polymer distribution\*\*

- Polyester
- Epoxy\_Ph
- Polyethyl

Polymer	 Acrylates	 Other	 PP	 PVC
	 Acrylic Paint	 PE	 PS	 Vinyl chloride copolymer
	 Epoxy_Phenoxy resin	 Polyester	 PU	

\*Results are NOT blank corrected

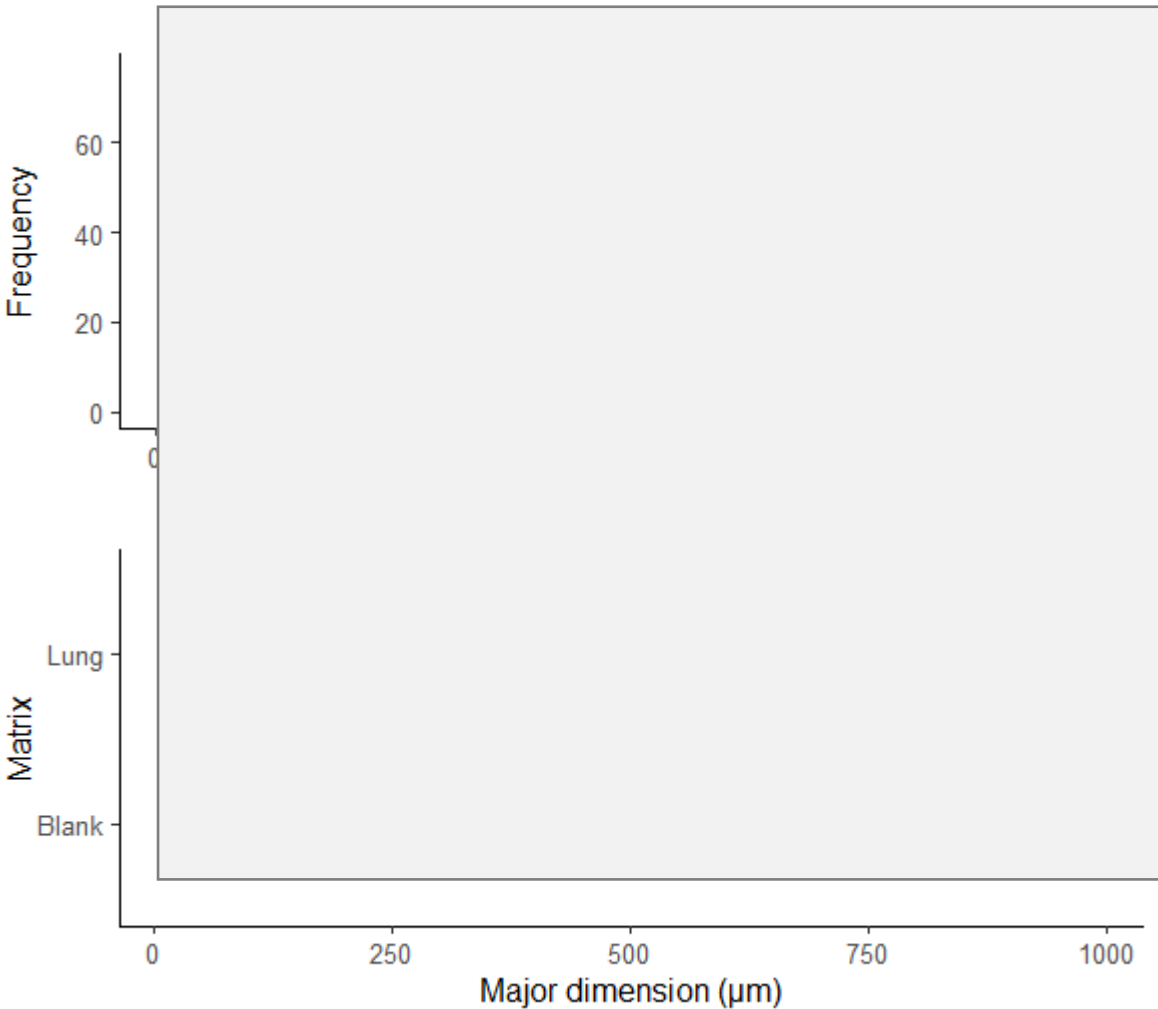
\*\*PA (Nylon) is temporarily excluded from the polymer array for potential interference with protein-based materials





# MPs in the lungs using $\mu$ FTIR

Preliminary results – MPs size distribution



- Median MPs fragme
- Median MPs fibers =



...Checking MPs size in the blank...  
MPs in blanks are significantly smaller than in the tissue



Further data exploration on the presence of long fibers



# ...From $\mu$ FTIR to $\mu$ Raman: a different picture?

- Up to 16 microplastics per  $m^3$  of inhaled air
- Humans could inhale up to 272 microplastics in 24 h

- Up to 684 microplastics per  $m^3$  of inhaled air
- Humans potentially inhale up to 3415 microplastics in 24 h



SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

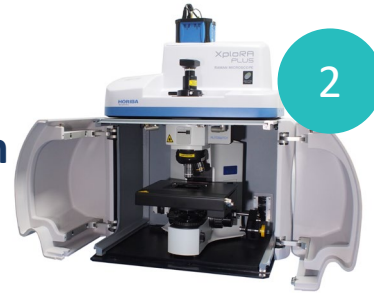
OPEN Simulating human exposure to indoor airborne microplastics using a Breathing Thermal Manikin

1 November 2018  
3 May 2019  
doi: 10.1038/s41598-019-41717-1

$\mu$ FTIR

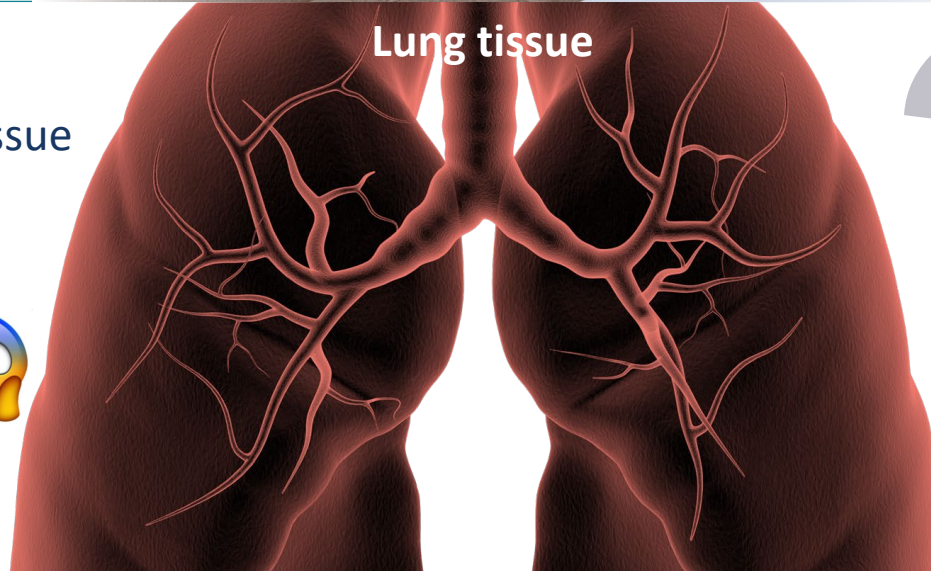


$\mu$ Raman



- Up to 8 microplastics per g of lung tissue
- 2 lungs  $\approx$  800 g  $\rightarrow$  Humans could potentially have up to > 6000 microplastics in their lungs?!!... 🤯

(current unpublished study)



We expect to find quite a lot of MPs (and much smaller!!)



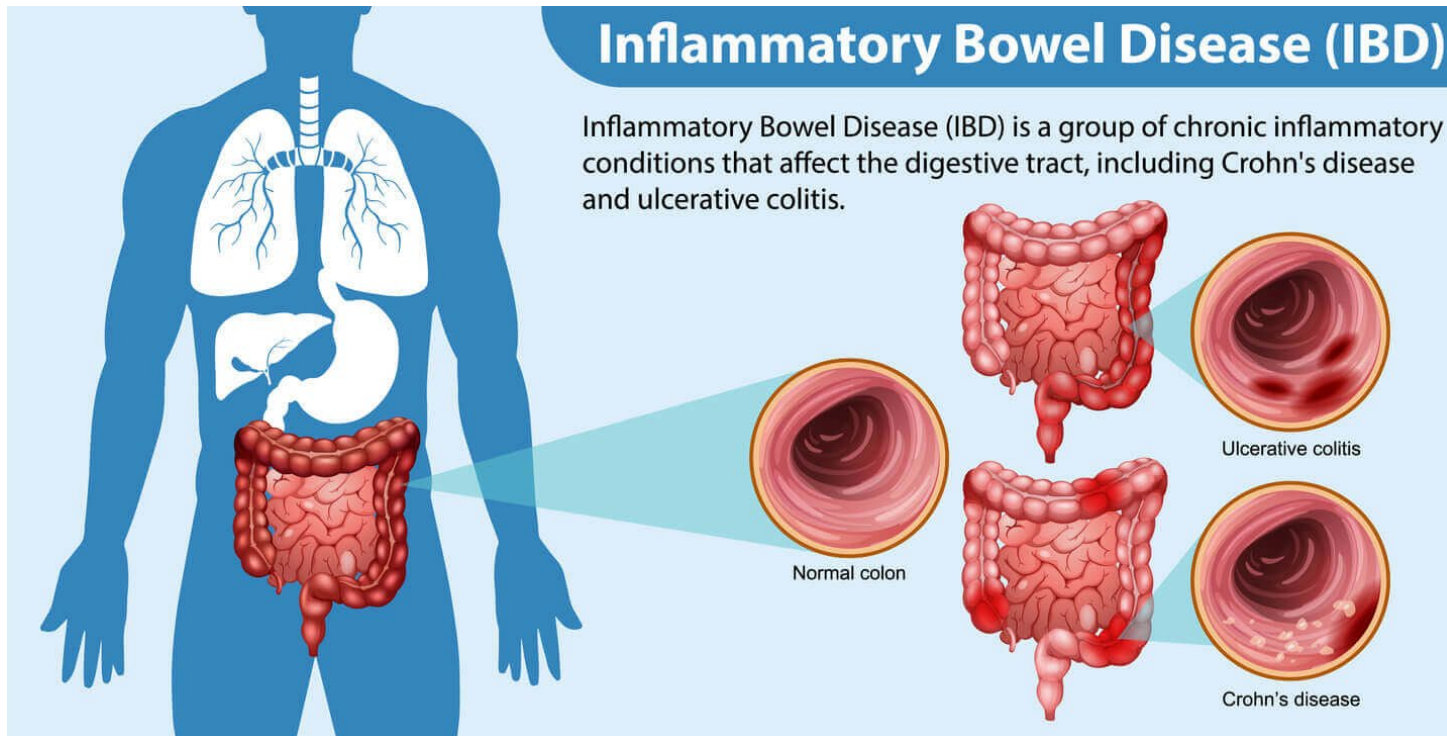


# Ongoing studies: Inflammatory Bowel Disease

No one knows the trigger, what causes it

It is more common in the developed world

Could it be microplastics? Other anthropogenic particles?



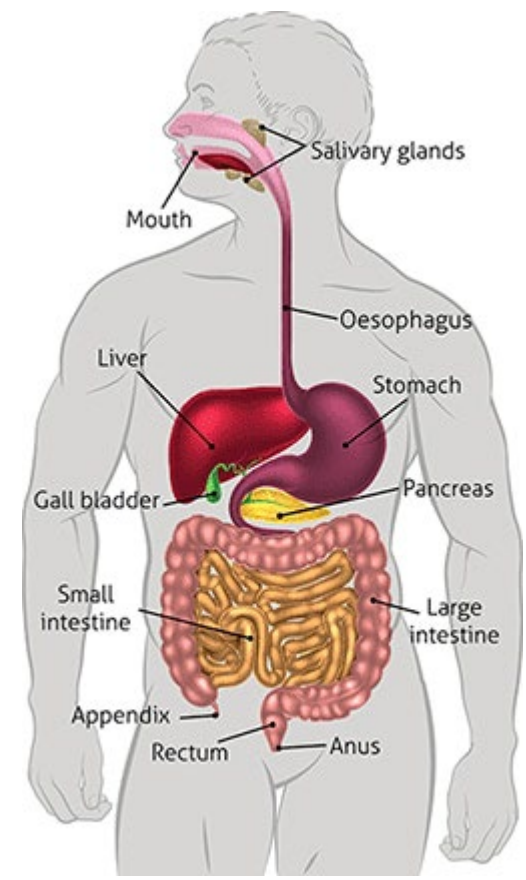


# Inflammatory Bowel Disease

## – Two approaches

Correlation between microplastics in feces and IBD?

Correlation between microplastics in intestine biopsies and IBD?







# Inflammatory Bowel Disease

## – Correlation between microplastics in feces and IBD?

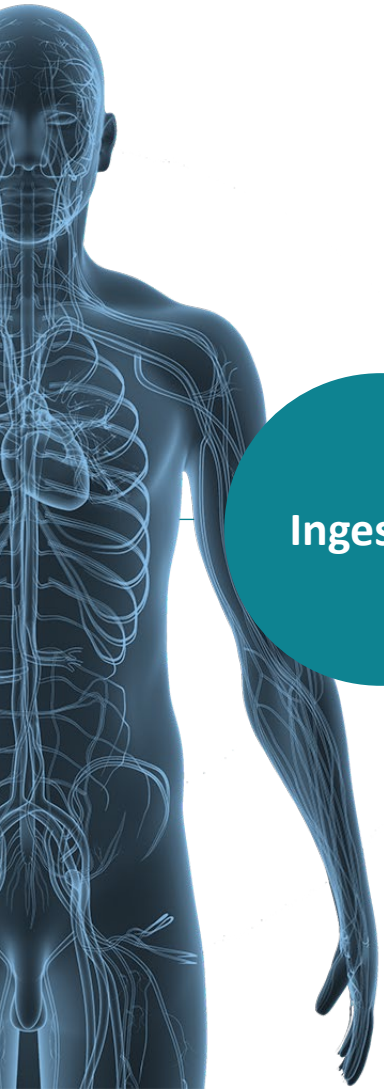
- Chemically analyze concentration, size, and shape distribution of microplastics in stool samples of women with Crohn's Disease and healthy controls
- Determine the impact of microplastics on intestinal inflammation and microbiome composition among women with Crohn's Disease and healthy controls
- Ongoing work – finished next year



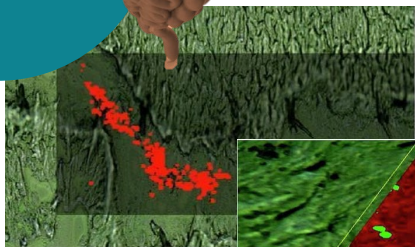
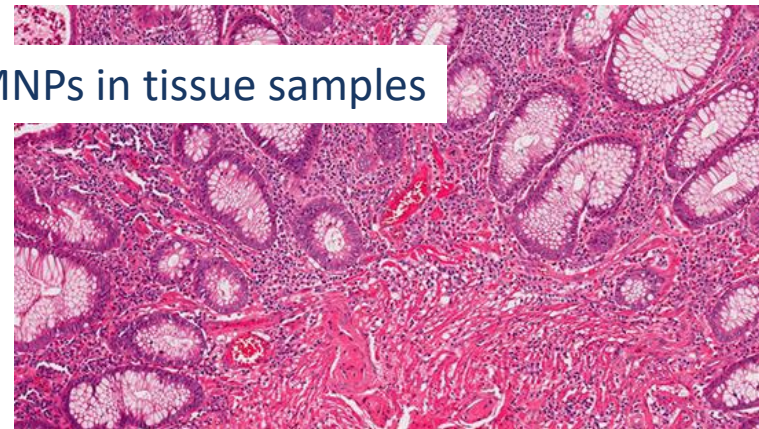
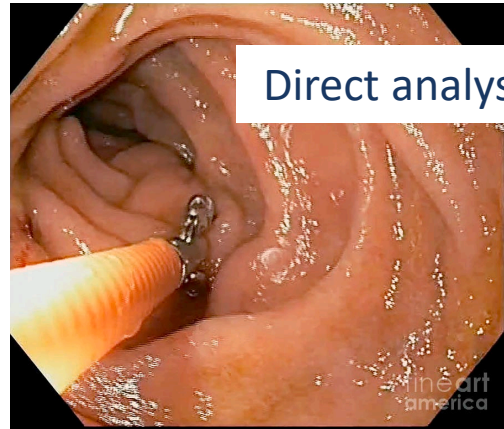


# Inflammatory Bowel Disease

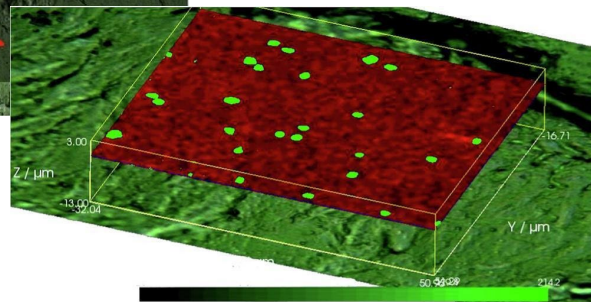
– Correlation between microplastics in intestine biopsies and IBD?



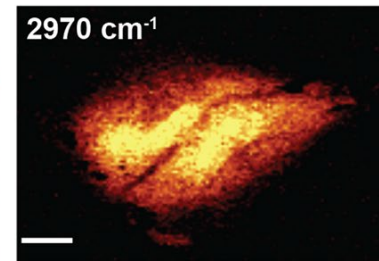
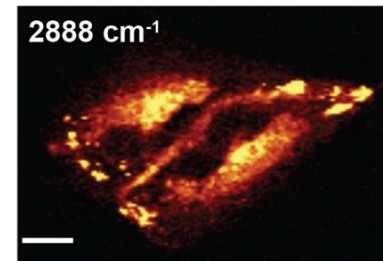
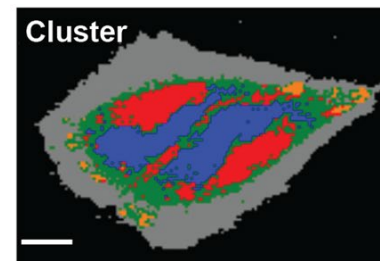
Ingestion



Learning from other fields...



<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.162810>



<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-30407-8>

...directly linking the presence of MNPs to specific inflammation areas in the tissue



Thank you



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