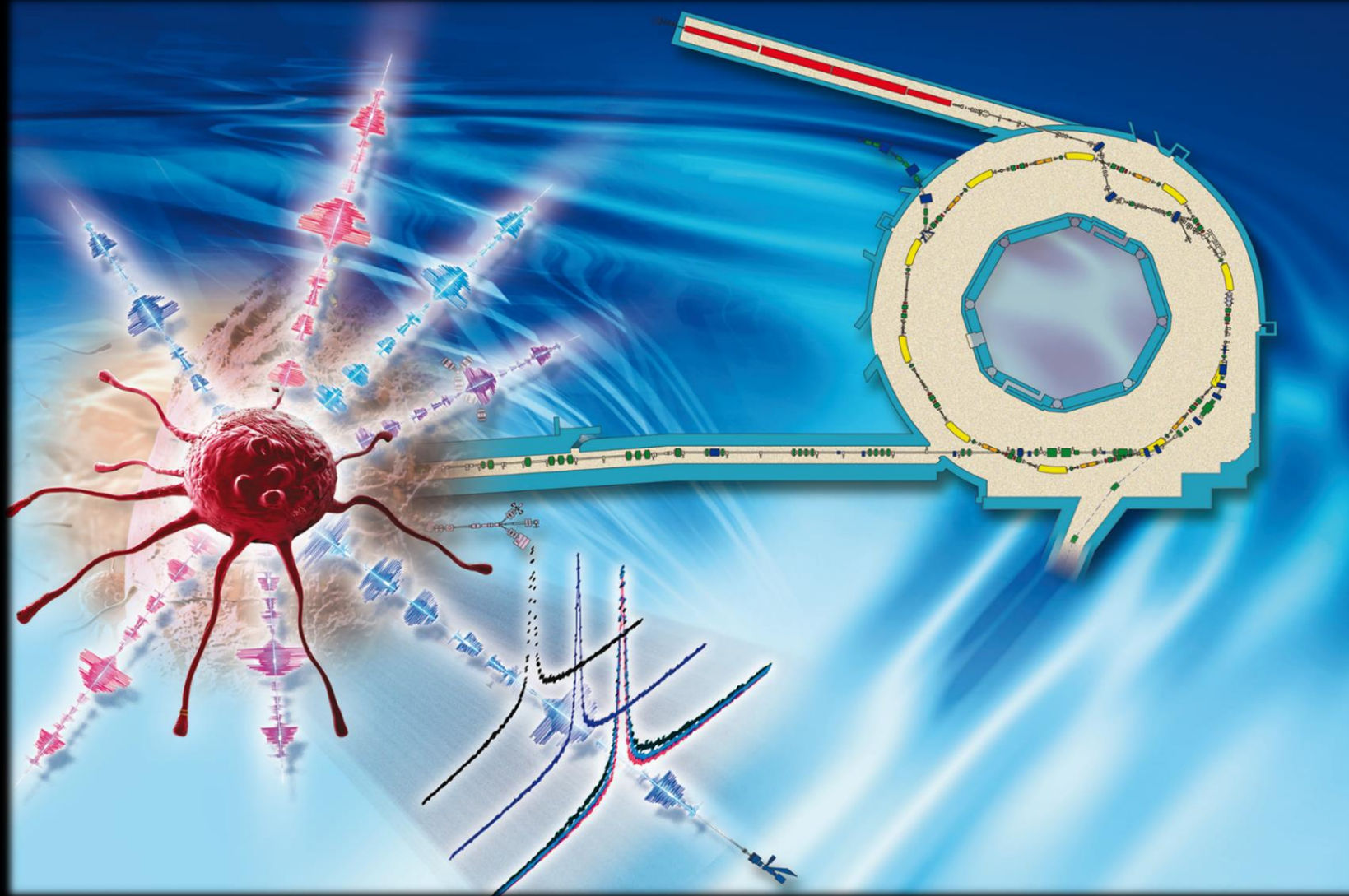


# Shining the Beam on Water in Human Cells and Tissues



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*"Molecular Physical-Chemistry"*  
University of Coimbra PORTUGAL



# INTRACELLULAR WATER

## MAJOR CELLULAR CONSTITUENT

**protein  
stability & folding**

**enzyme  
catalysis**

**DNA  
packaging**

**membrane  
properties**

**normal-to-cancer  
transition**

**cancer  
invasiveness  
metastasis**

**signalling  
processes**

# INTRACELLULAR WATER DYNAMICS

**disruption of coherent  
structure & DYNAMICS  
of cellular water**

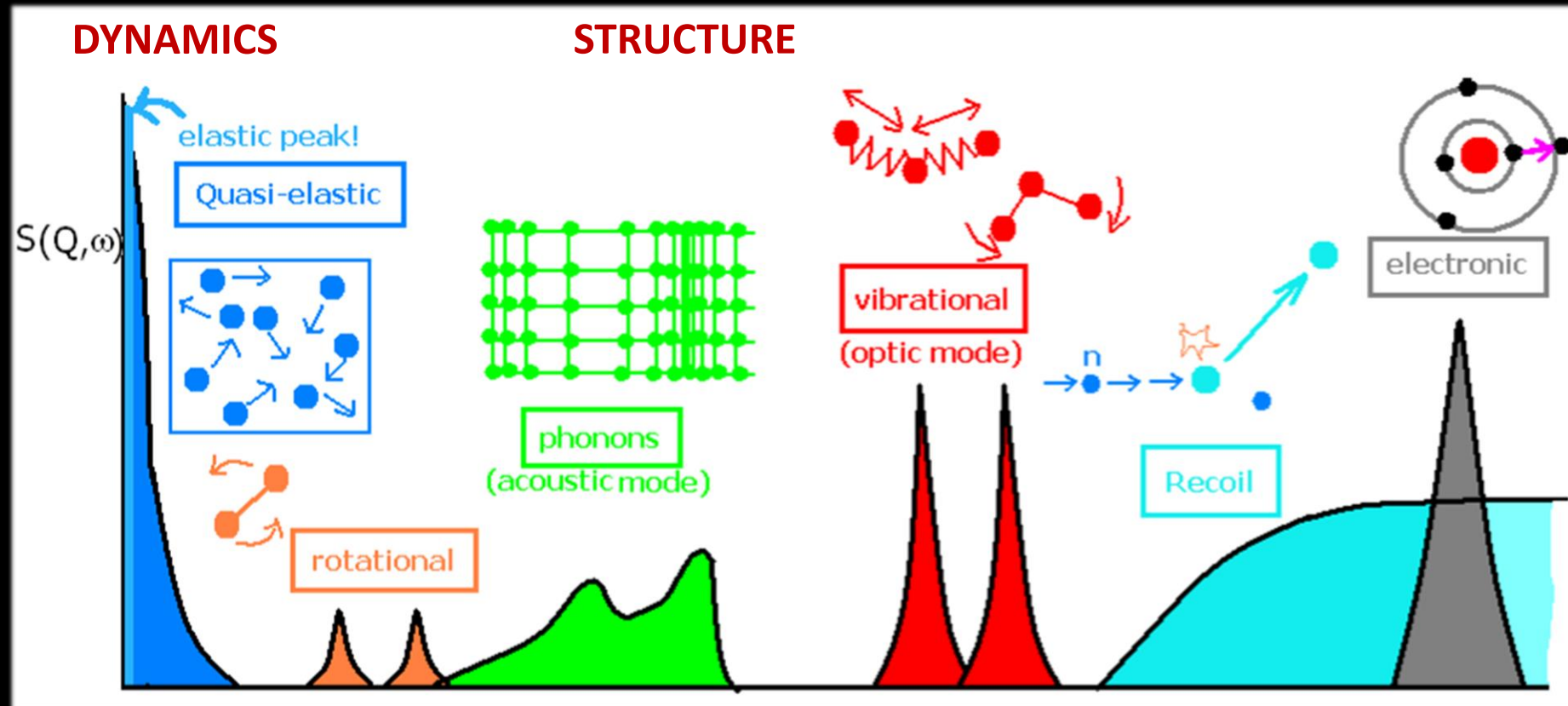
**may impact on normal  
CELLULAR FUNCTION**

**WATER DYNAMICS  
and  
NORMAL-to-CANCER  
transition**

**WATER as a  
NEW DRUG TARGET**

# PROBED by VIBRATIONAL SPECTROSCOPY

## quasi-elastic neutron scattering

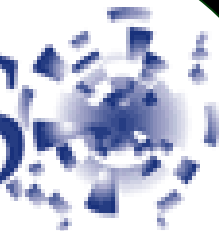


**QENS**

**INS / FTIR / Raman**  
molecular vibrations



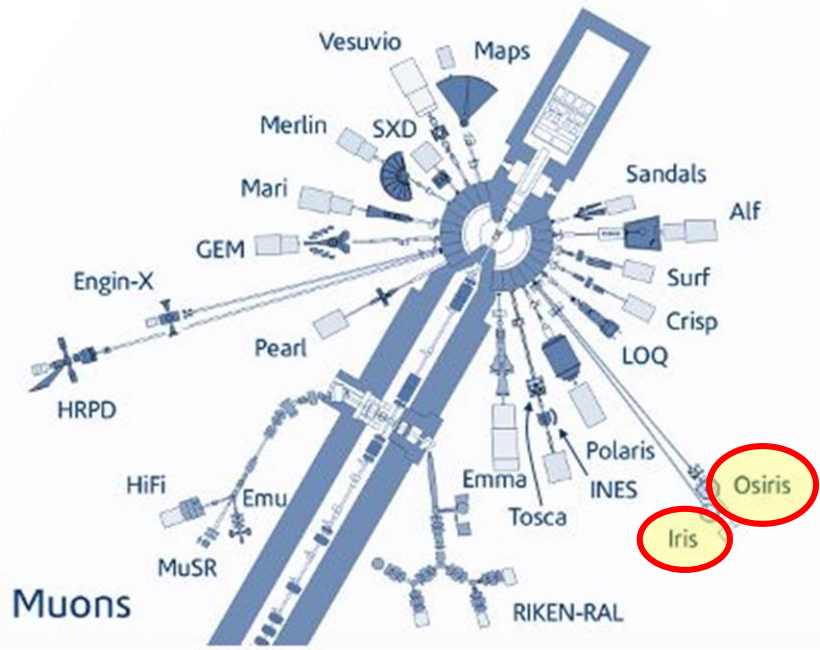
ISIS



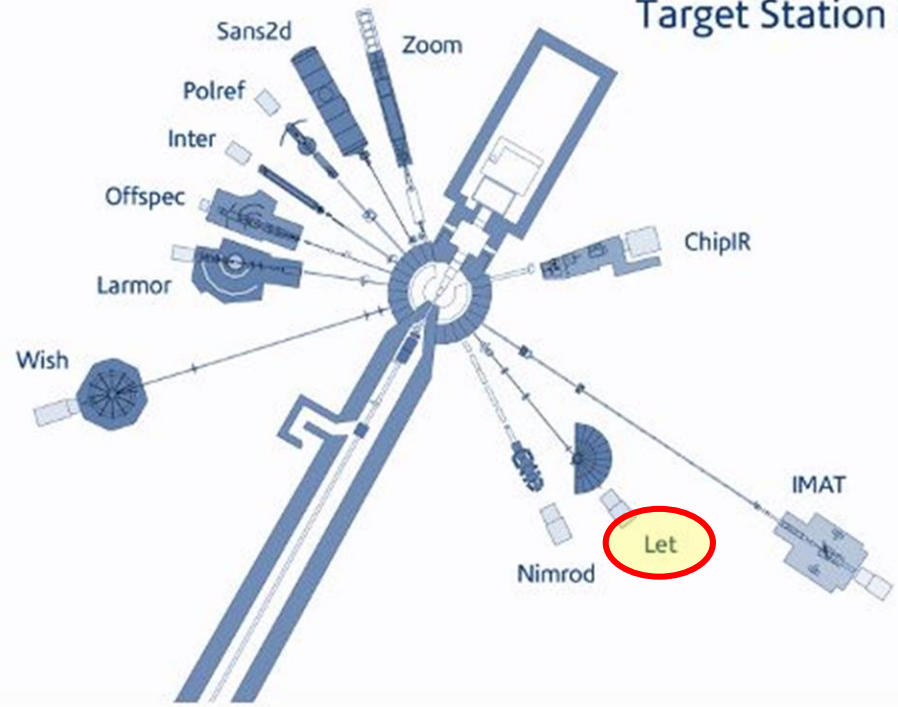
Chilton, UK



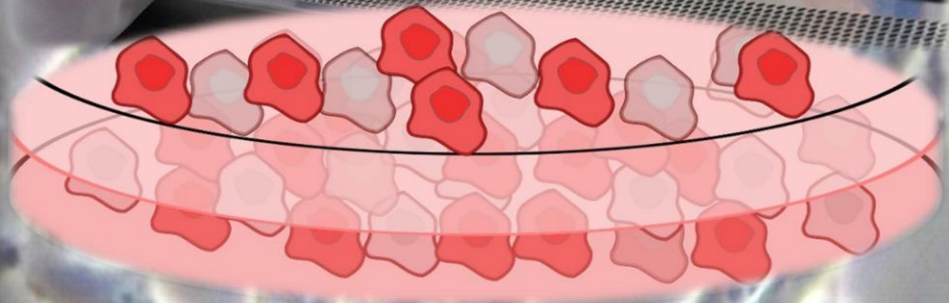
Target Station 1



Target Station 2



**cell culture lab**

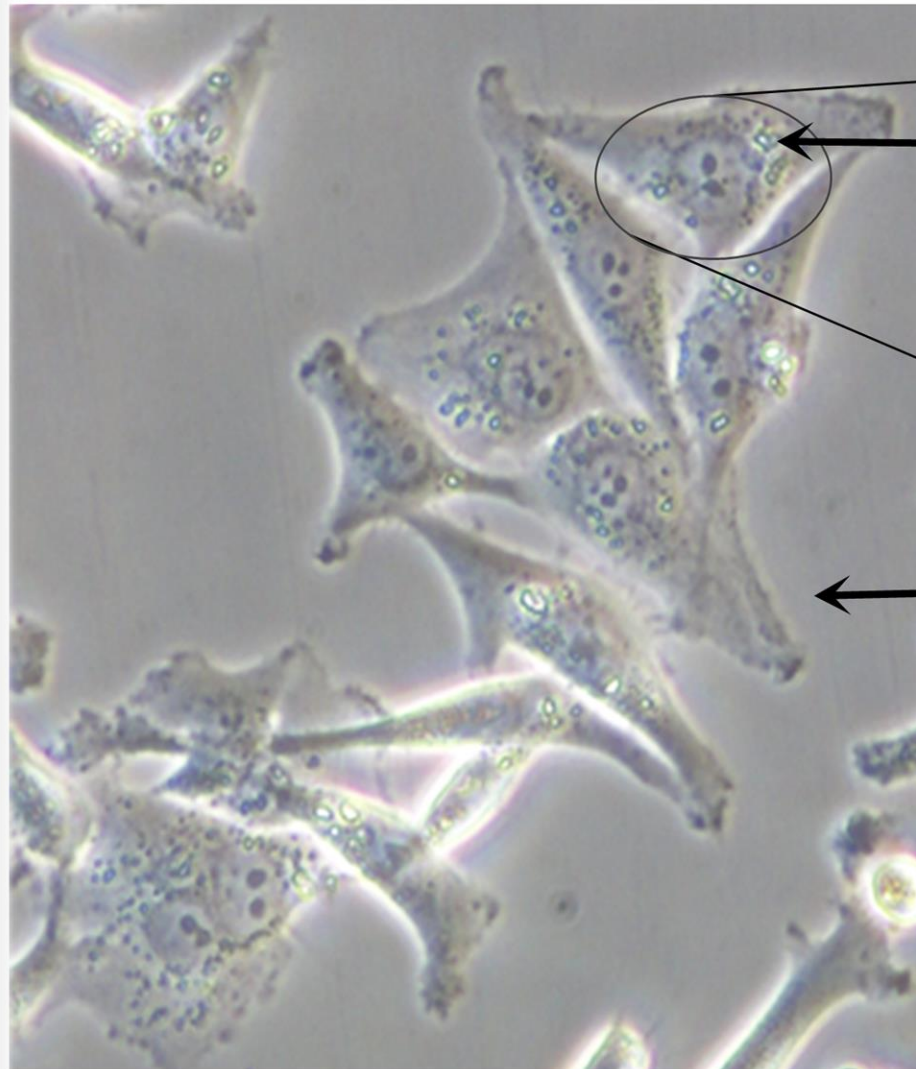


**beam**

**QENS @ OSIRIS**



# cells/tissues - different types of intracellular water

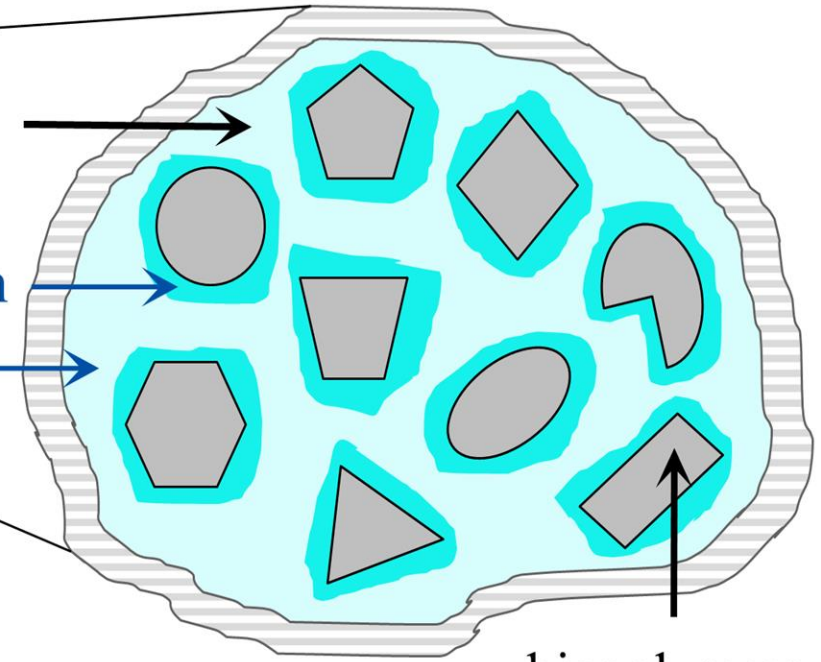


intracellular  
water

hydration

cytosol

extracellular  
water



**20-30%**  
biomolecules  
metabolites

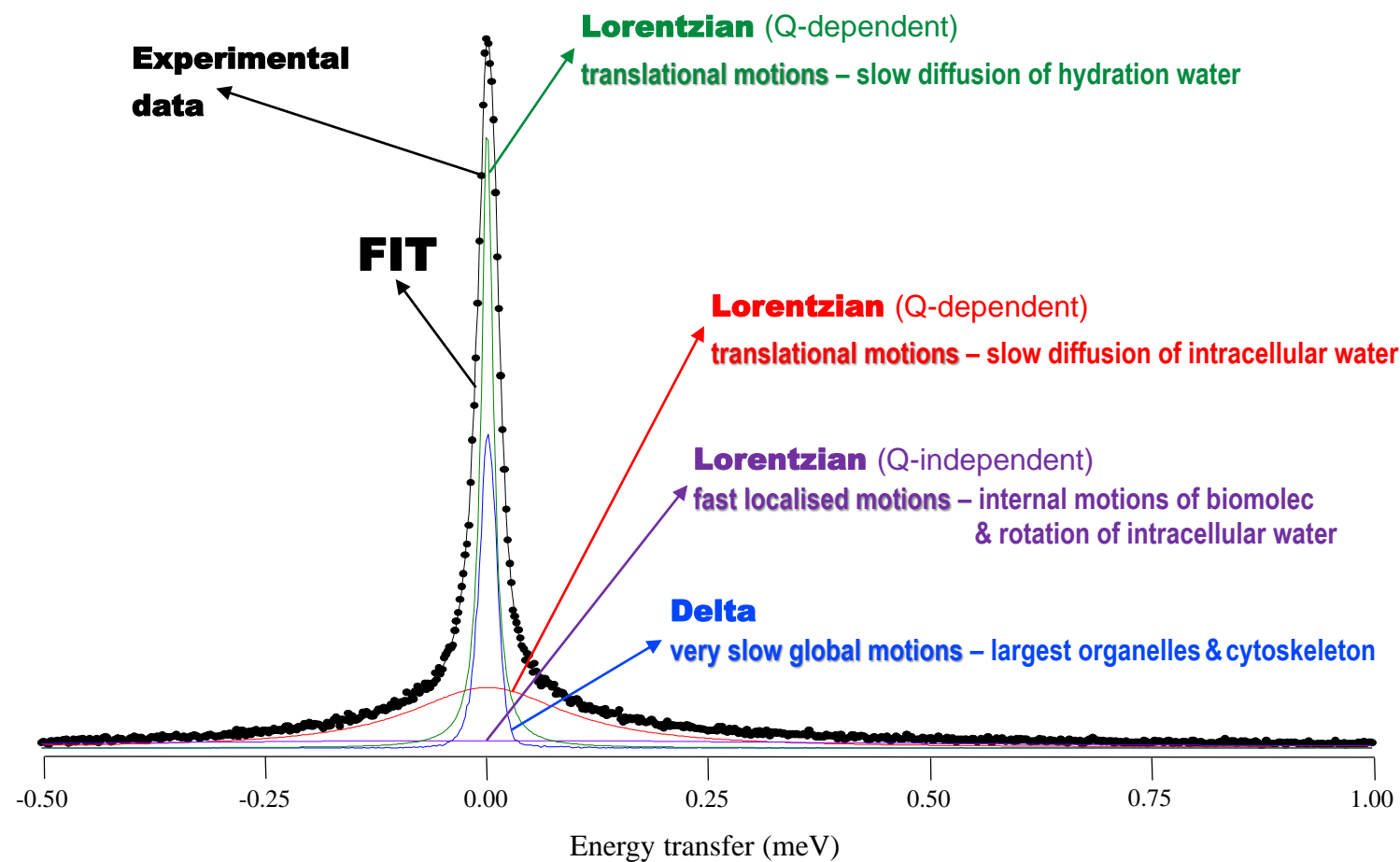
**70-80%**  
intracellular water



# fitting QENS data to represent the various dynamic componentes within the cell

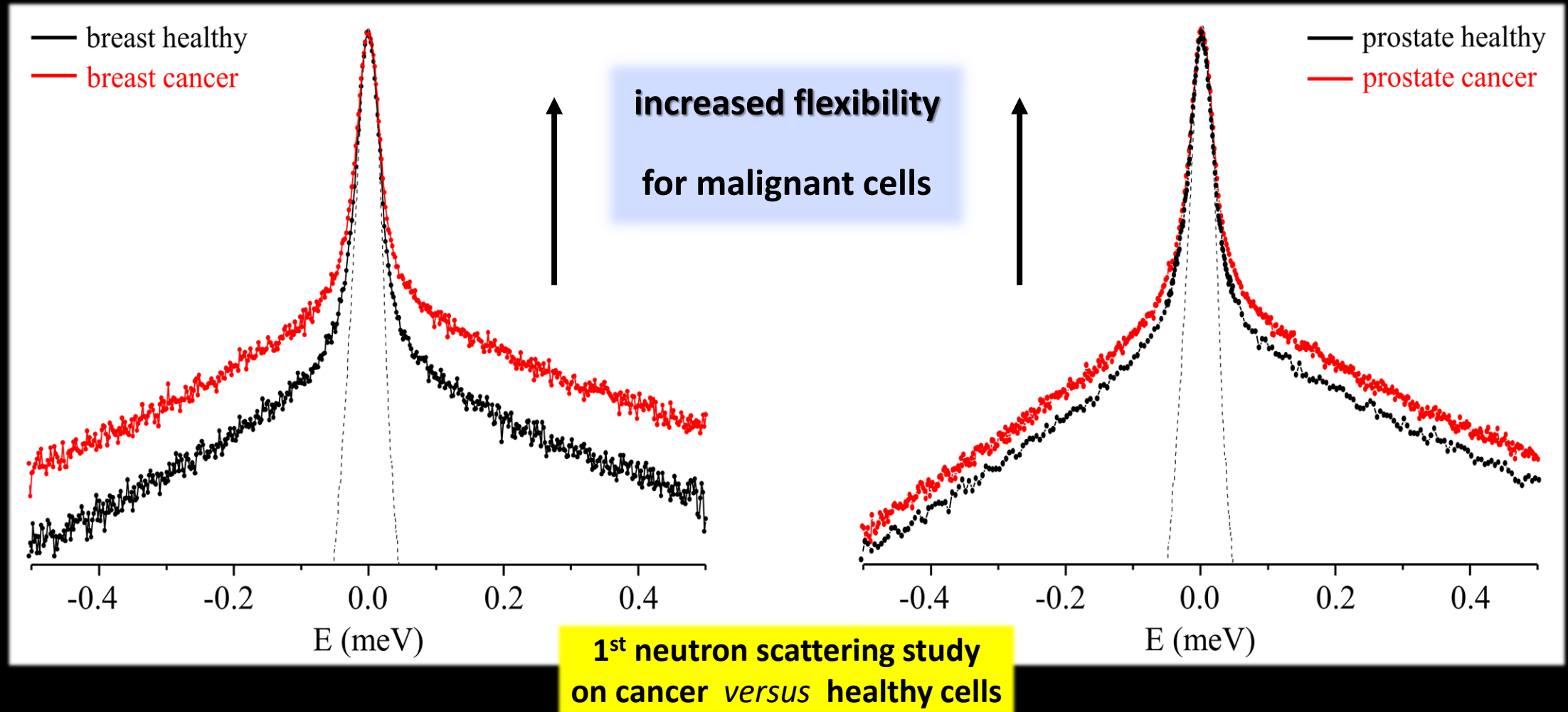
## 1 Delta + 3 Lorentzians

cisplatin-treated cells (8  $\mu\text{M}$ ) – 298 K (human triple negative breast cancer)



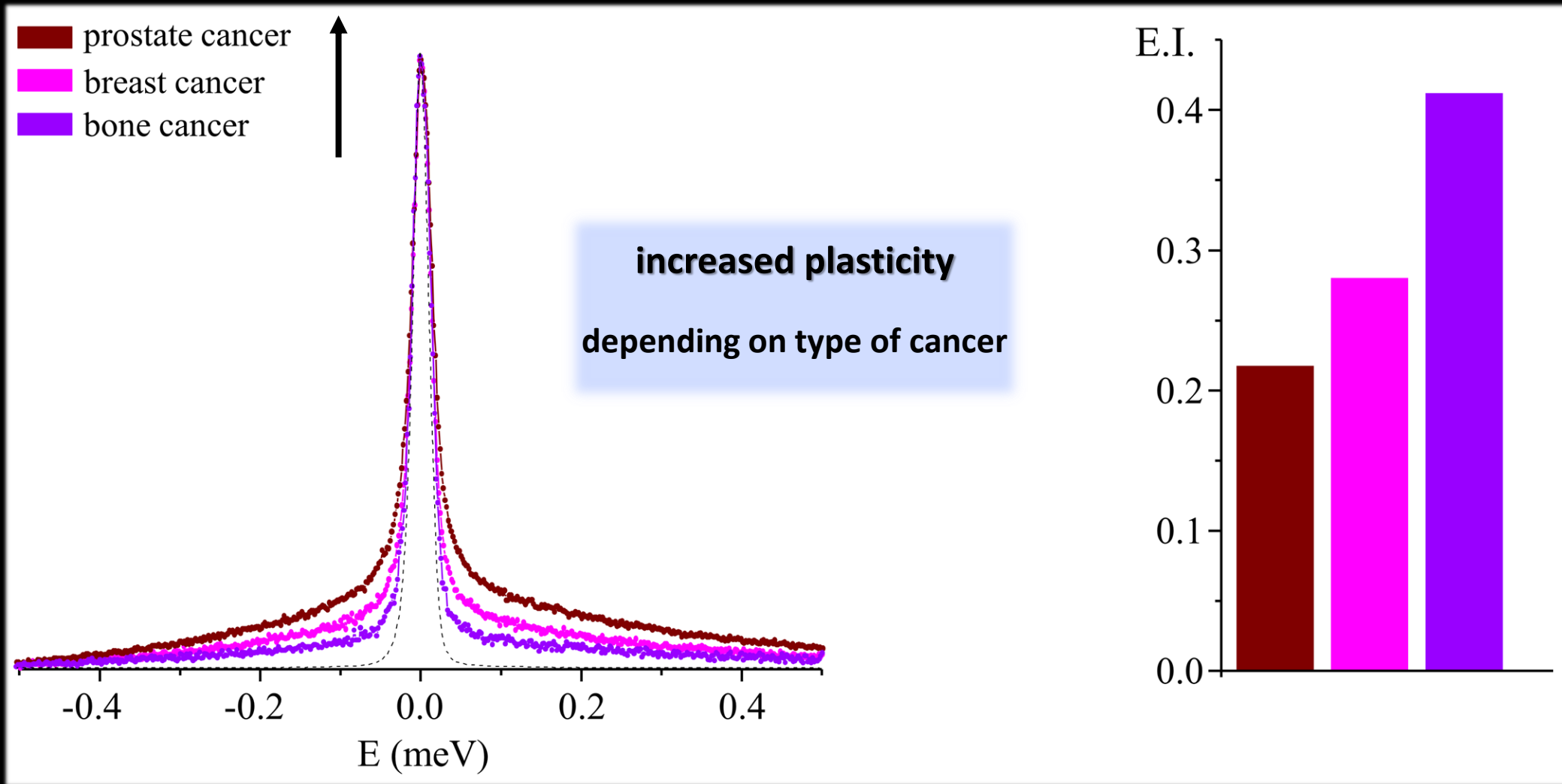
# HUMAN CELLS – healthy vs cancer

## prostate cancer / triple-negative breast cancer



# HUMAN CANCER CELLS – different types of cancer

prostate cancer / triple-negative breast cancer / osteosarcoma



# HUMAN TISSUES – healthy vs cancer

resection specimens from breast and tongue cancer patients  
bulk tumour vs tumour-free surrounding area

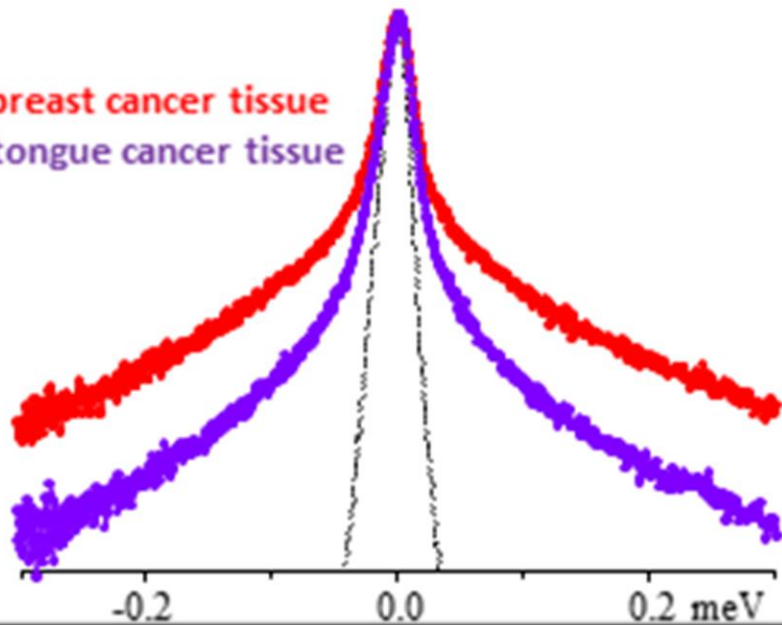


distinct dynamical behaviour

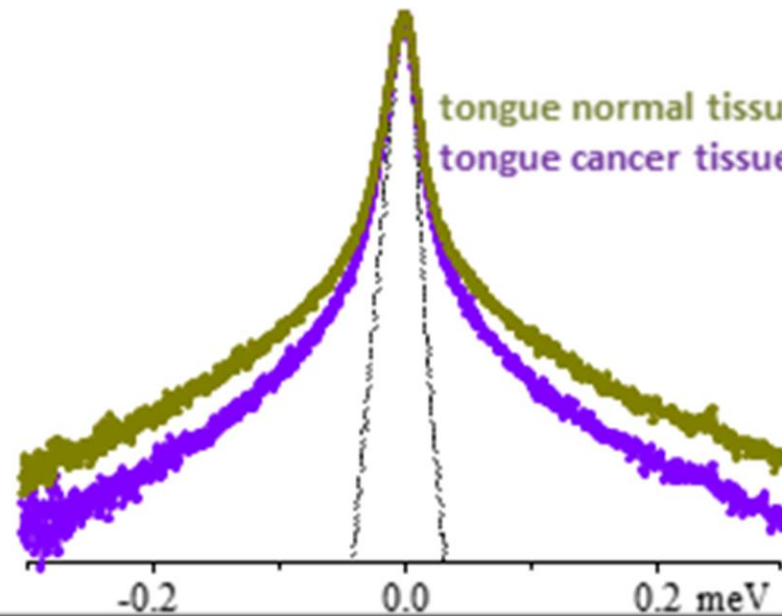
depending on

healthy vs malignant  
type of cancer

breast cancer tissue  
tongue cancer tissue



tongue normal tissue  
tongue cancer tissue

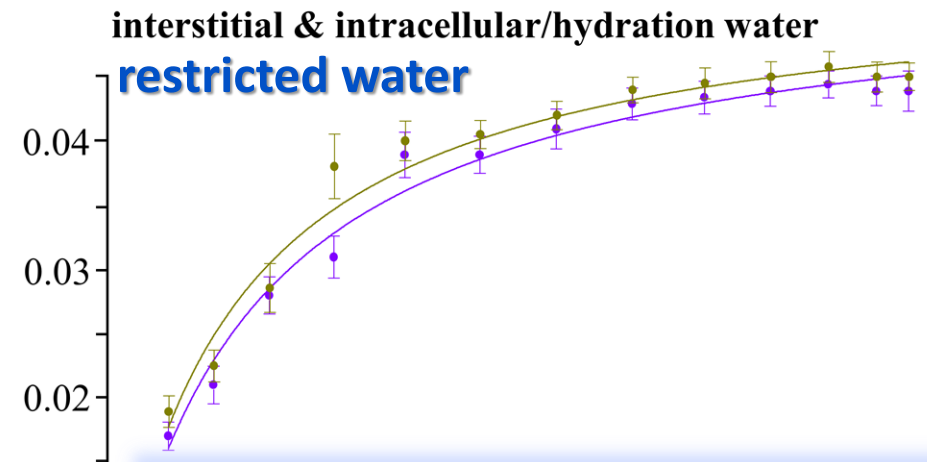
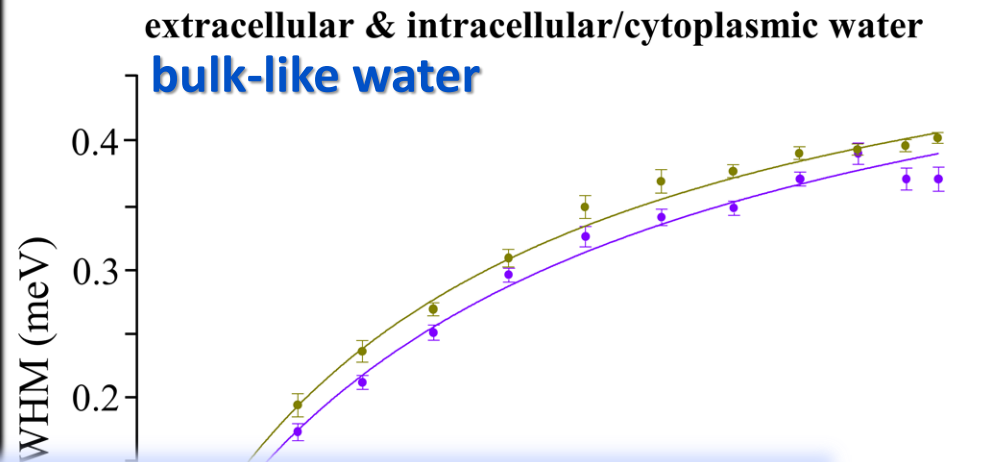


# HUMAN TISSUES – healthy vs cancer

resection specimens from patients – breast and tongue cancer  
bulk tumour vs tumour-free surrounding area

tongue normal tissue

tongue cancer tissue



jump-diffusion model

tongue cancer

$$D = 1.342 \pm 0.026$$

$$\tau = 1.158 \pm 0.042$$

tongue normal

$$D = 1.590 \pm 0.024$$

$$\tau = 1.165 \pm 0.023$$

3.0 3.5

jump-diffusion model

tongue cancer

$$D = 0.332 \pm 0.008$$

$$\tau = 12.410 \pm 0.239$$

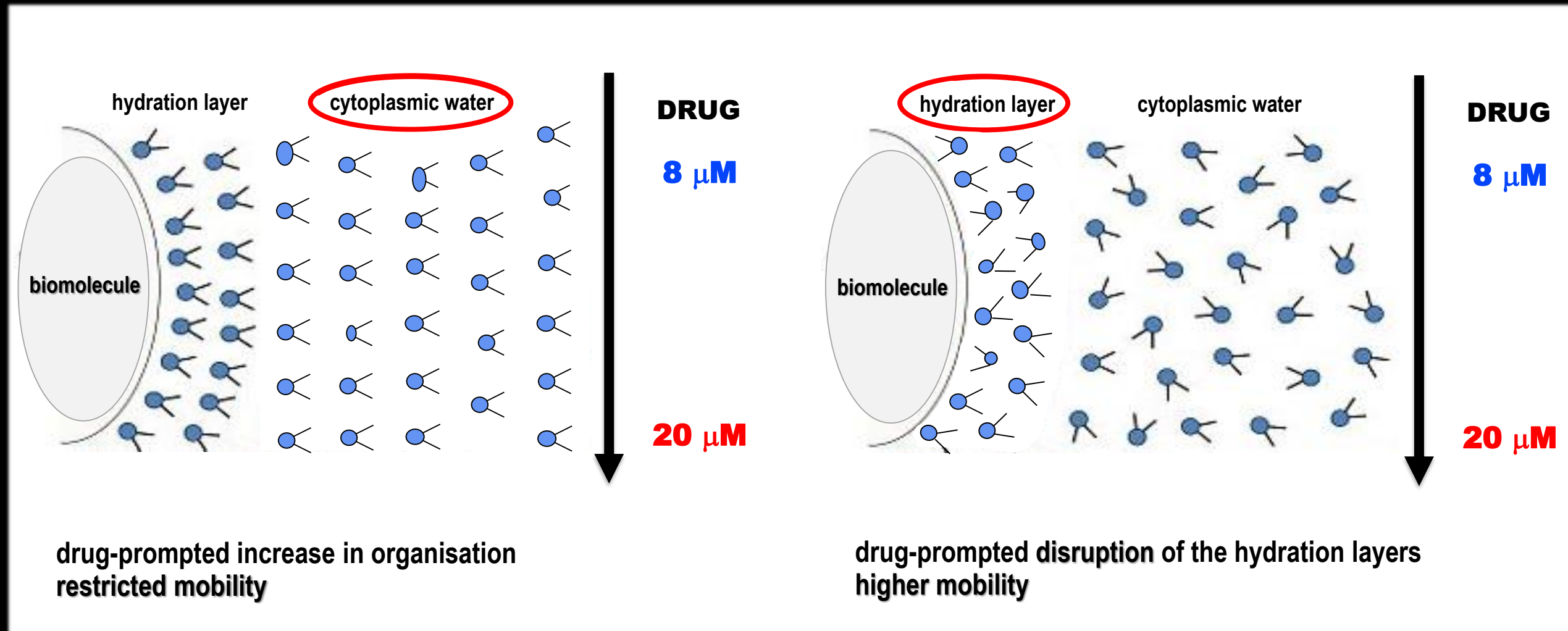
tongue normal

$$D = 0.383 \pm 0.011$$

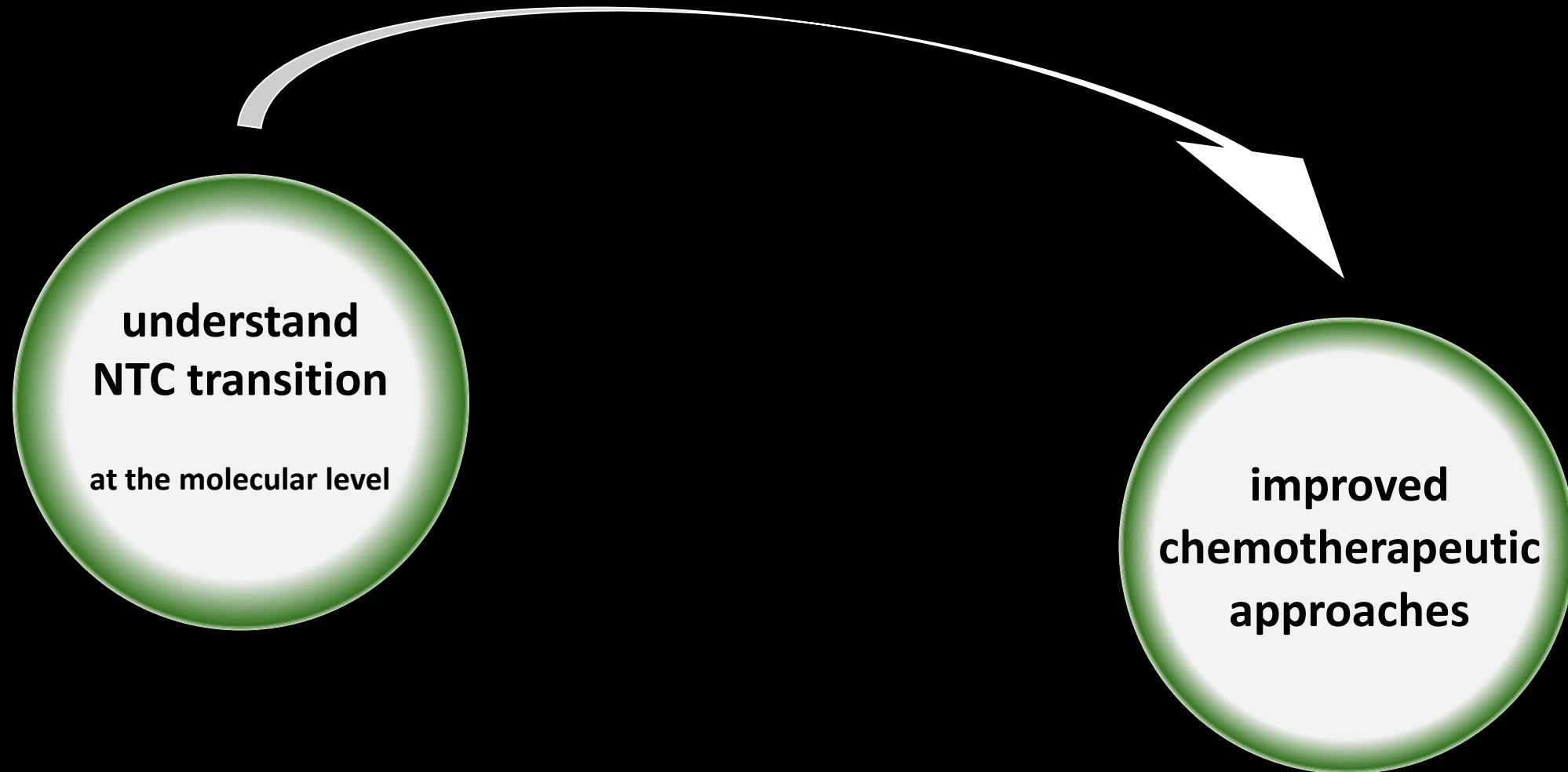
$$\tau = 12.389 \pm 0.248$$

# HUMAN CELLS – Drug effect

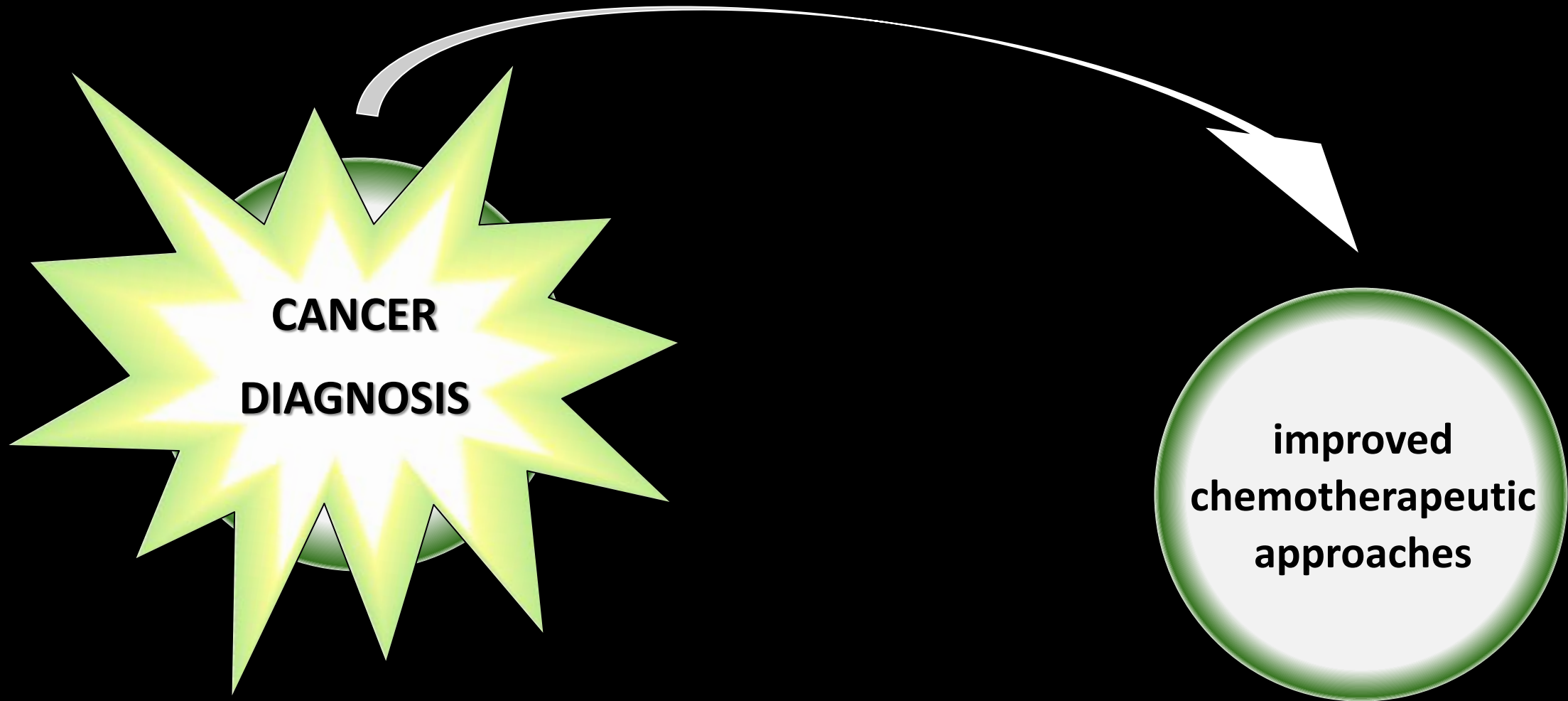
## cisplatin-8 $\mu\text{M}$ – impact on intracellular water/breast cancer



# INTRACELLULAR WATER DYNAMICS



# INTRACELLULAR WATER DYNAMICS



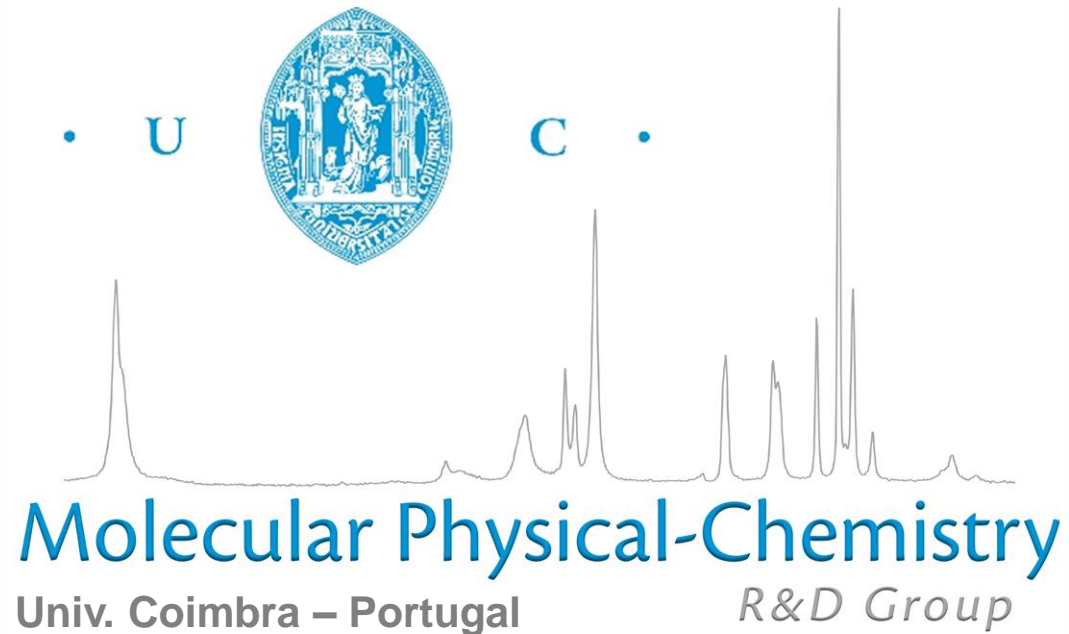


# INTRACELLULAR WATER DYNAMICS



**DISCRIMINATION  
of TUMOUR-FREE  
SURGICAL MARGINS**

**NEW  
DRUG TARGETS**



- Maria Paula Marques
- Luís Batista de Carvalho
- Ana Lúcia Batista de Carvalho
- Inês Santos
- Joana Marques
- Adriana Mamede
- Clara Martins



- Victoria Garcia-Sakai
- Asha Dopplapudi
- Mona Sarter



NIST Centre for  
Neutron Research - USA

- Tyagi Madhusudan



- Gianfelice Cinque
- Mark Frogley



Obrigada