

# Motor-Driven Assembly of Dynamic, Self-Healing Lipid Nanotube Networks

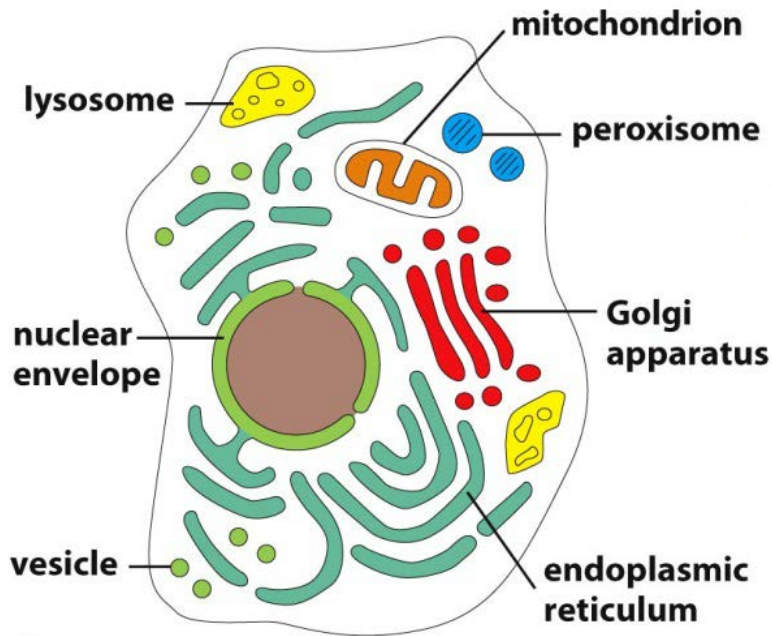
Nathan Bouxsein, Amanda Carroll-Portillo, Marlene Bachand, Ian  
Henderson, Darryl Sasaki, Walter Paxton, and George Bachand

Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM

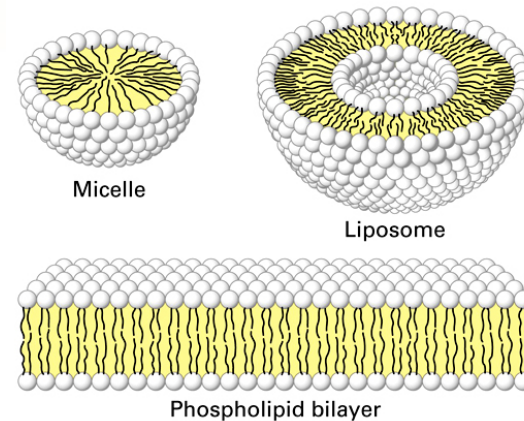
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# Natural vs. Synthetic Lipid Assemblies

Non-equilibrium lipid assemblies are critical to a wide range of cellular functions (e.g., energy conversion), but difficult to reproduce in artificial environments.



Alberts et al., *Essential Cell Biology* (2010)



<http://andersonlab.qb3.berkeley.edu>



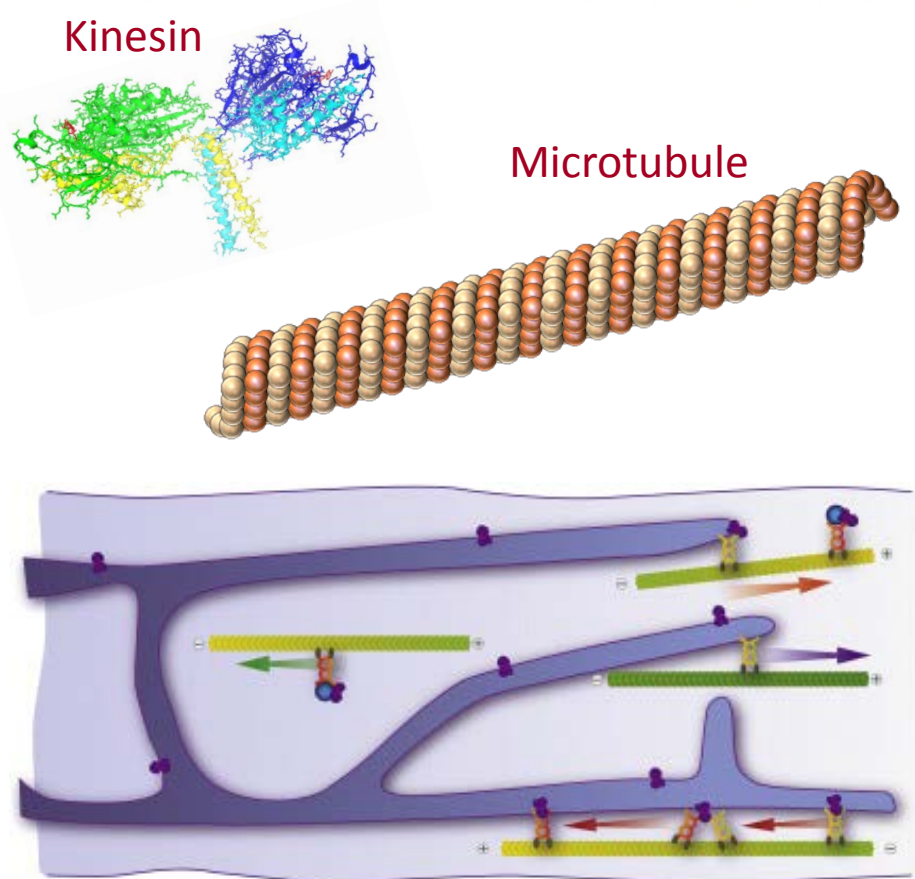
Wegrzyn et al., 2011, *Nano Commun. Netw.*, **2**, 4

How does Nature form these highly complex and functional lipid structures?

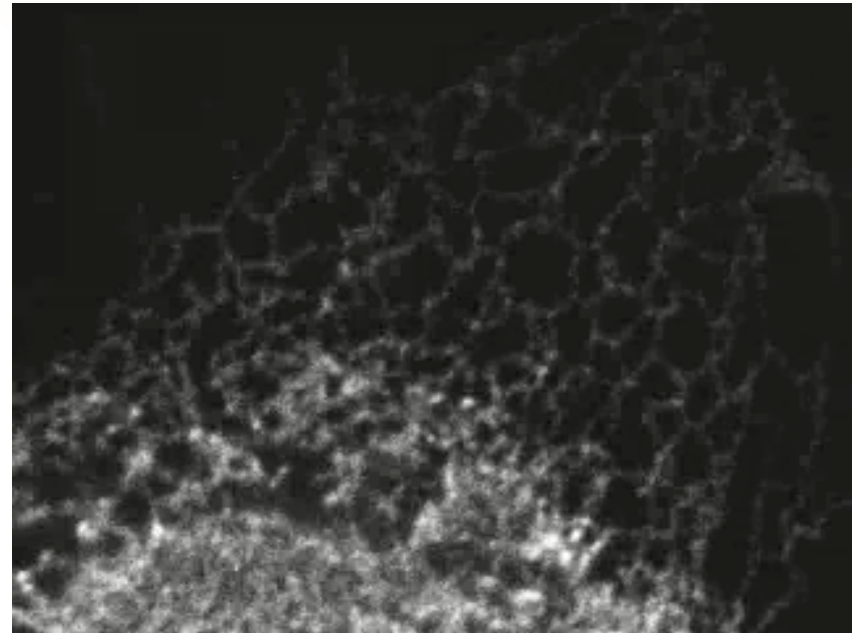


# Dynamic Assembly of Lipid Structures

Energy-dissipative, active transport drives the formation and reorganization of lipid-based organelles into complex structures such as the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and Golgi apparatus.



Valenzuela et al. (2011) *Mol. Cell. Neurosci.*, 48, 269



Alberts et al., *Essential Cell Biology* (2010)

Can we reconstruct a similar system  
in vitro?





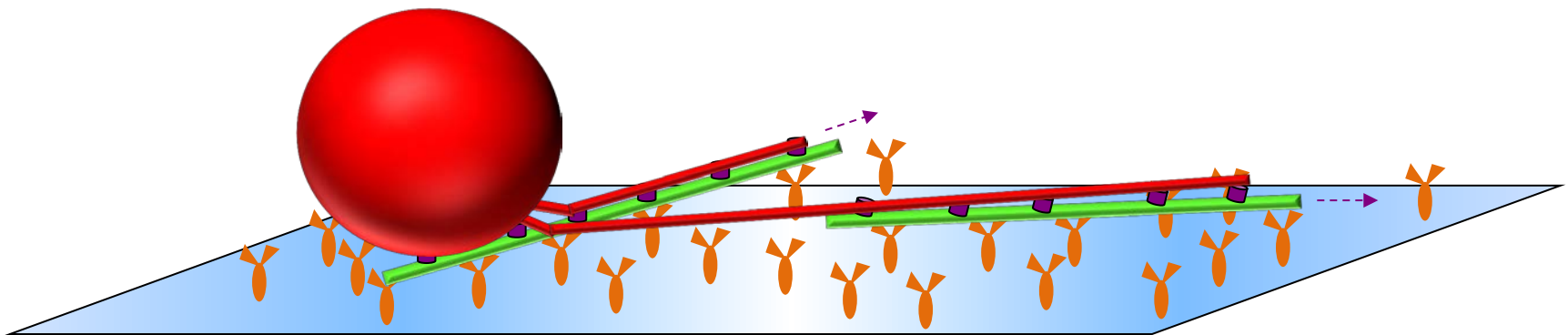
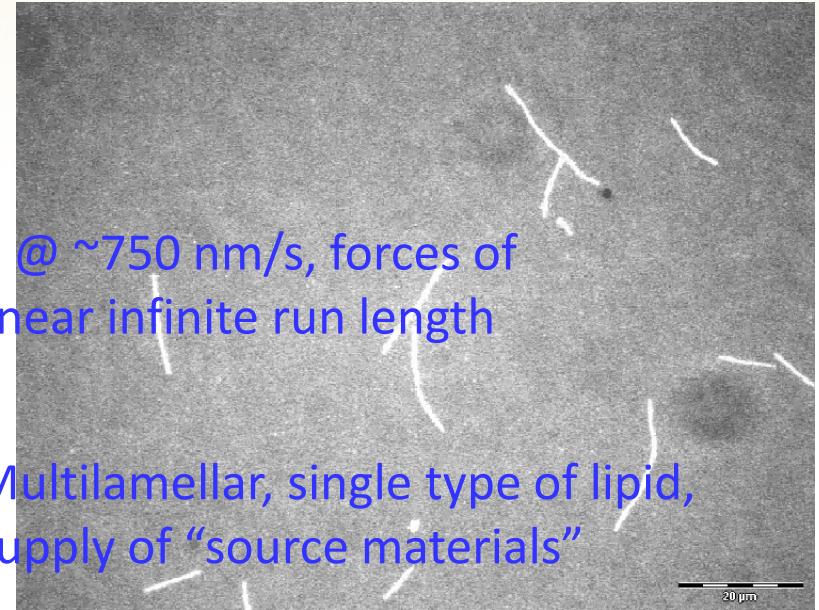
# A Synthetic System for Creating Lipid Networks

A minimalistic system can be assembled from:

- Solid surface
- Kinesin motor proteins
- Biotinylated microtubules
- Streptavidin bridge
- Biotinylated lipid vesicle

Transport @  $\sim 750$  nm/s, forces of 100s pN, near infinite run length

Multilamellar, single type of lipid, supply of “source materials”

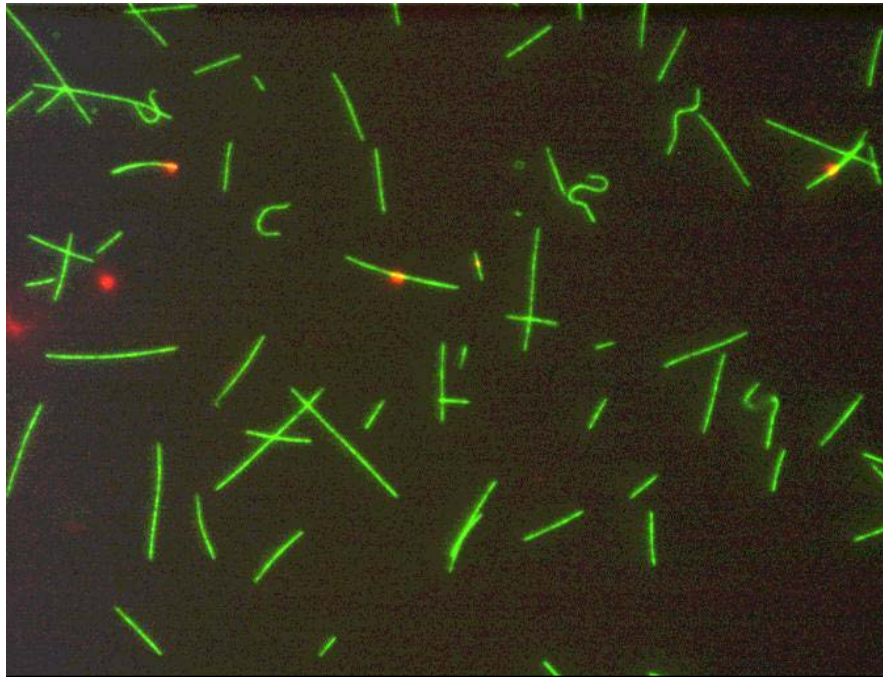


# Transport, Nanotube and Network Formation

Motor protein-based transport enables various behavior depending upon the vesicle size (i.e., amount of source material).

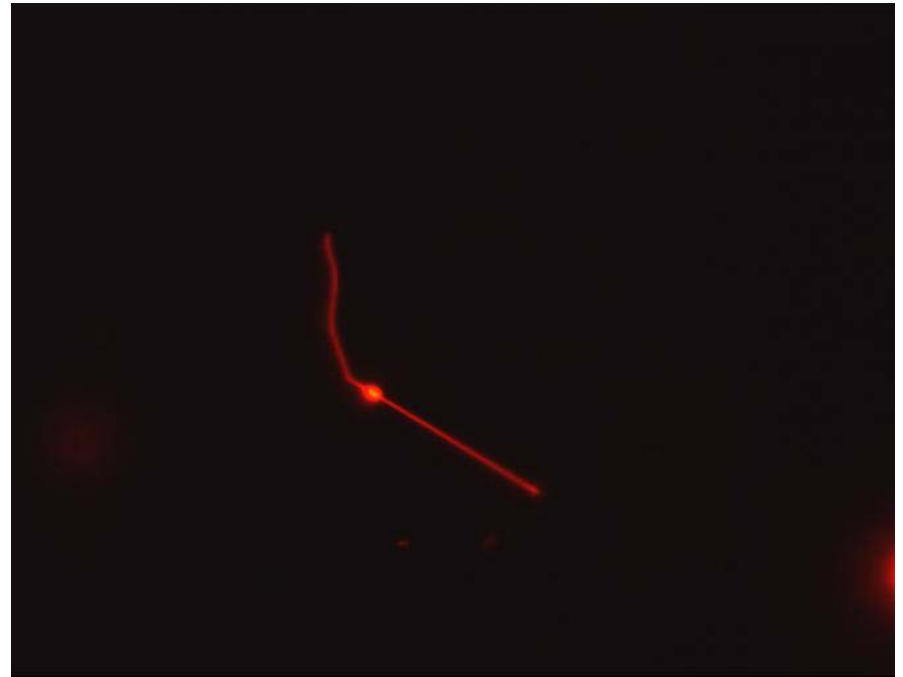
## Vesicle Size

Vesicle transport (1-2  $\mu\text{m}$ )



Vesicle = red; MTs = green

Self-limiting networks (2-5  $\mu\text{m}$ )

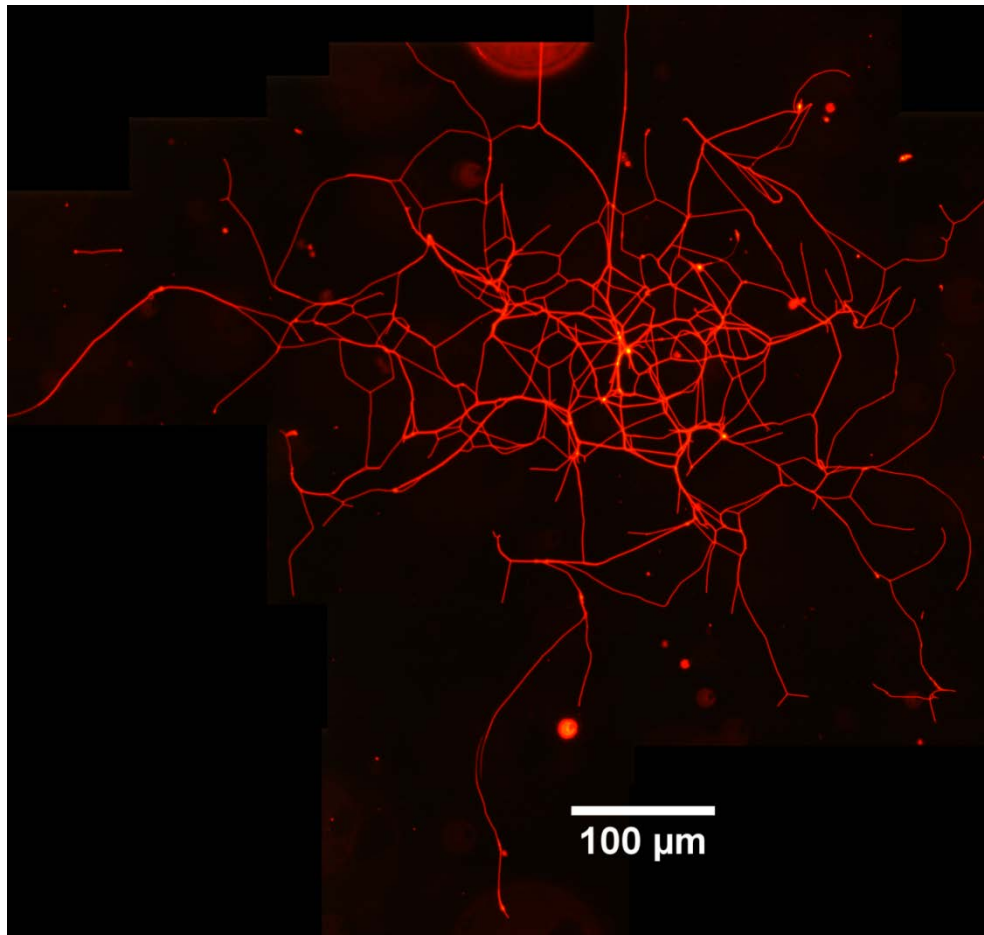


Vesicle = red; MTs = not visible

# Transport, Nanotube and Network Formation

Motor protein-based transport enables various behavior depending upon the vesicle size.

Large, highly bifurcate networks (10-20  $\mu\text{m}$ )



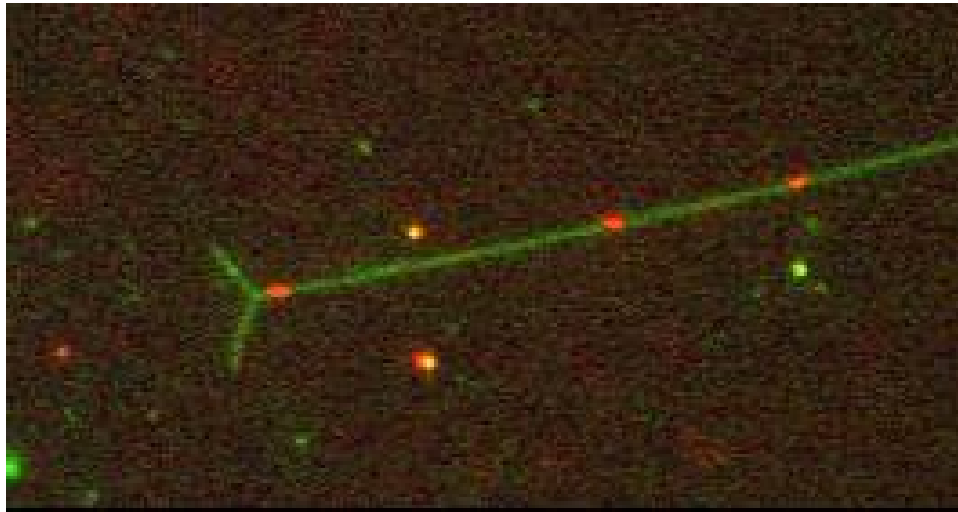
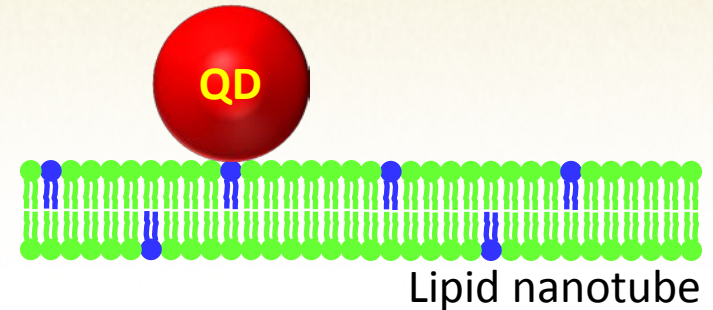
- Total network size >10 mm from a single MLV
- Assembly within 15 min
- Self-healing: networks continue growing, shrinking, moving
- Morphology can be altered by surface density of moving microtubules



# Materials Transport on Lipid Nanotube Highways

Nanoparticle (red) “surfing” – transport of materials on outer leaflet of lipid nanotubes (green) via thermal motion.

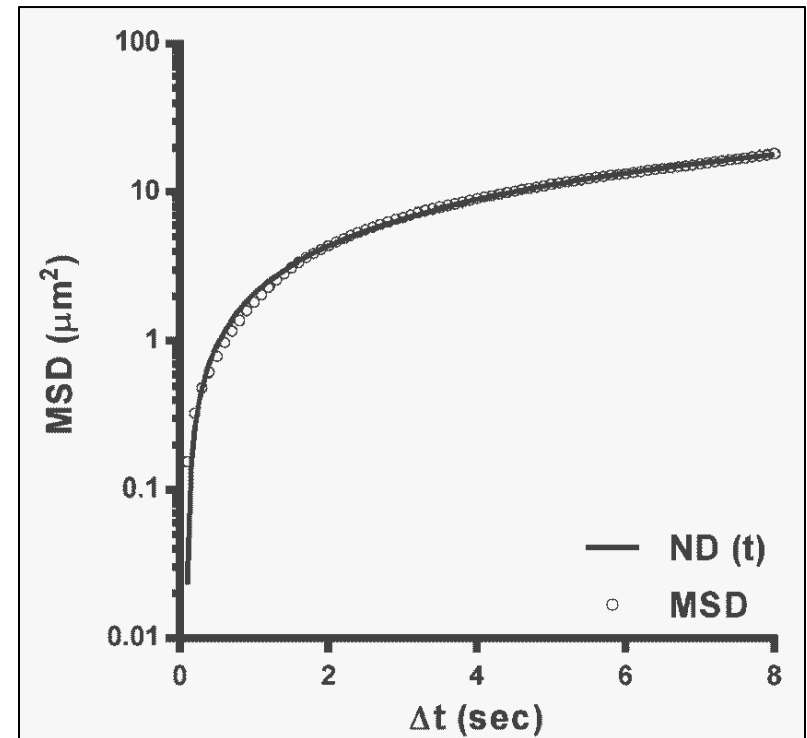
- Fluidity across junctions



Transport follows normal 1D diffusion

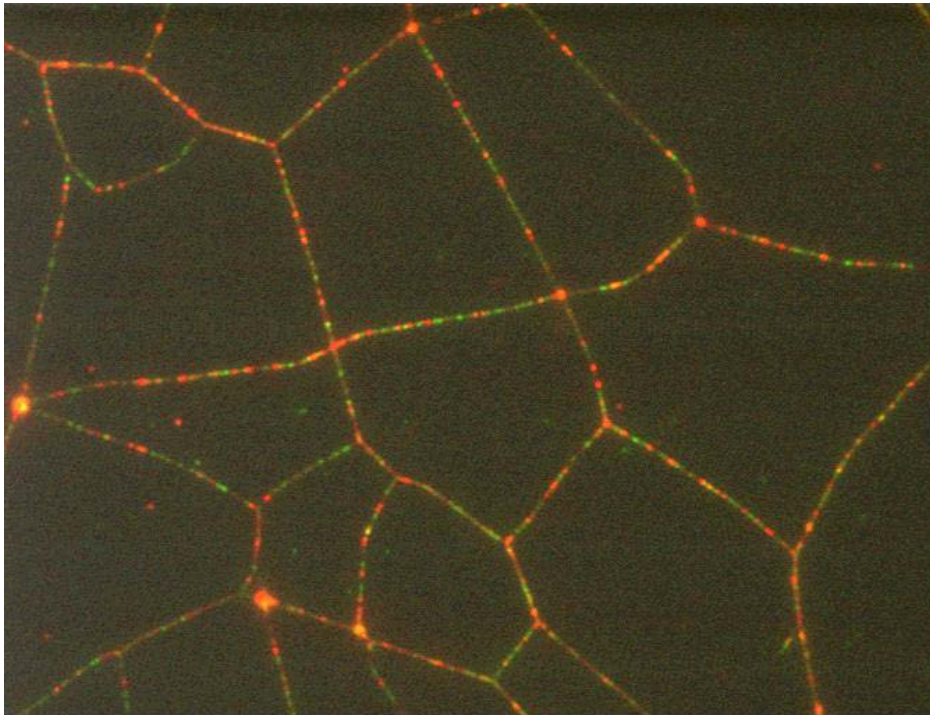
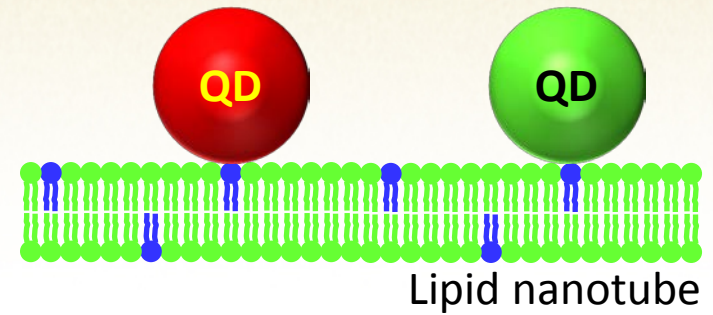
$$D_{QD} = 2.3 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{sec}^{-1}$$

$$(D_{\text{DOPC}} = 9.32 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1})$$

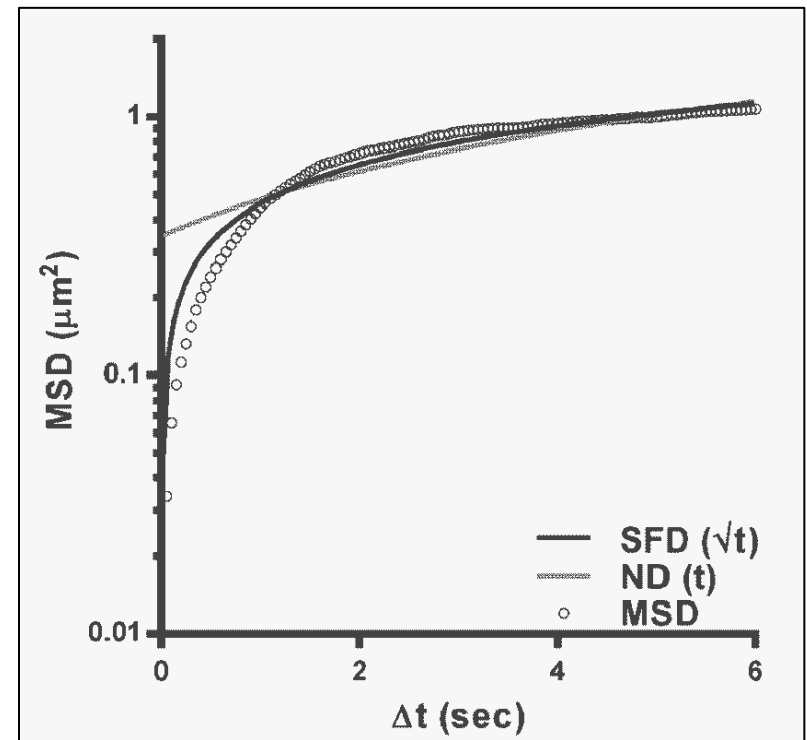


# Lipid Nanotube Highways – Effects of Traffic

At high capture densities, nanoparticle surfing experiences significant traffic effects (red and green QDs).



Transport follows single file 1D diffusion  
i.e., Qdots cannot pass each other



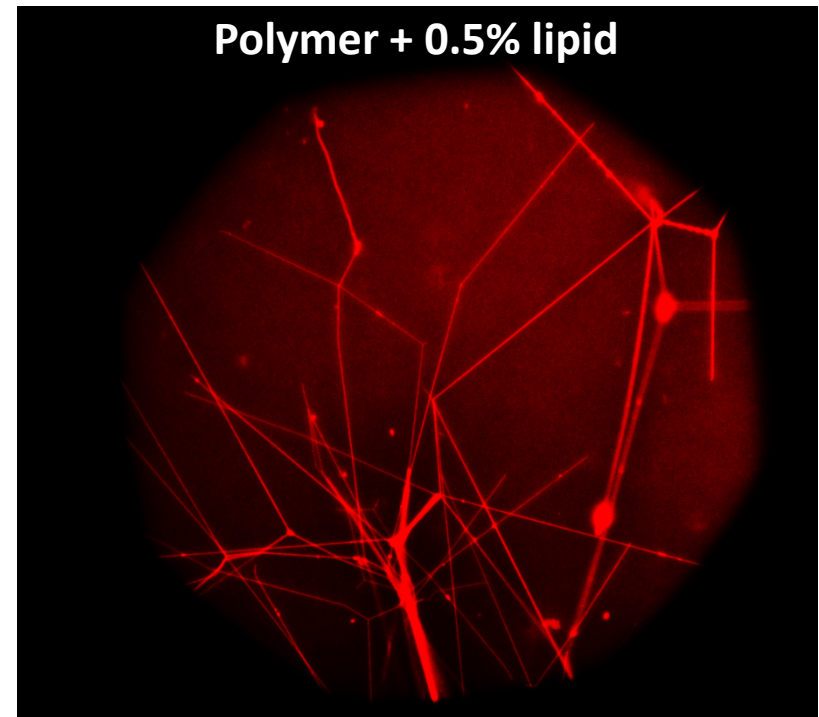
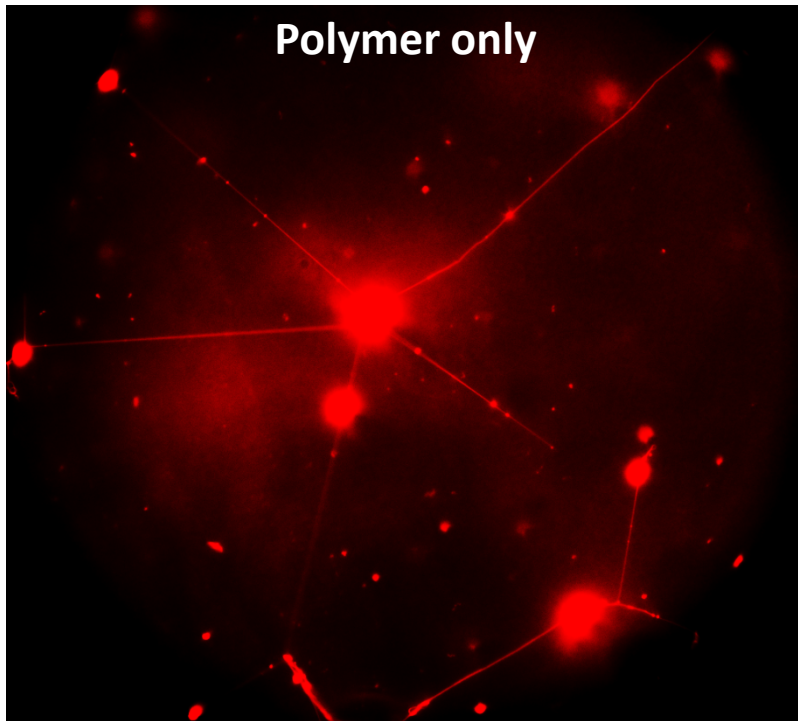
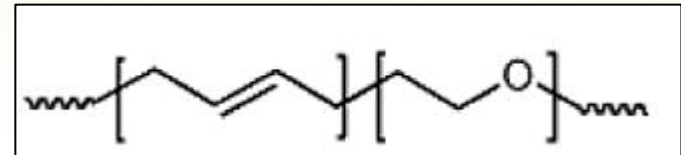


# Assembly of Polymer Nanotube Networks

Can motor proteins actively assemble similar nanotube networks from polymersomes?

Yes, but...

PBD-PEO diblock copolymer



Formation of large extended networks requires the addition of a lipid to the polymersomes. **What is the lipid's role?**



# Mobility in Polymer Nanotube Networks

Addition of lipid significantly affects the diffusivity of the polymers:

- Increase in 1D diffusivity of polymer
- Decrease in half-time of recovery ( $\tau$ ) of polymer
- Fraction recovered (mobile fraction) of polymer is unchanged

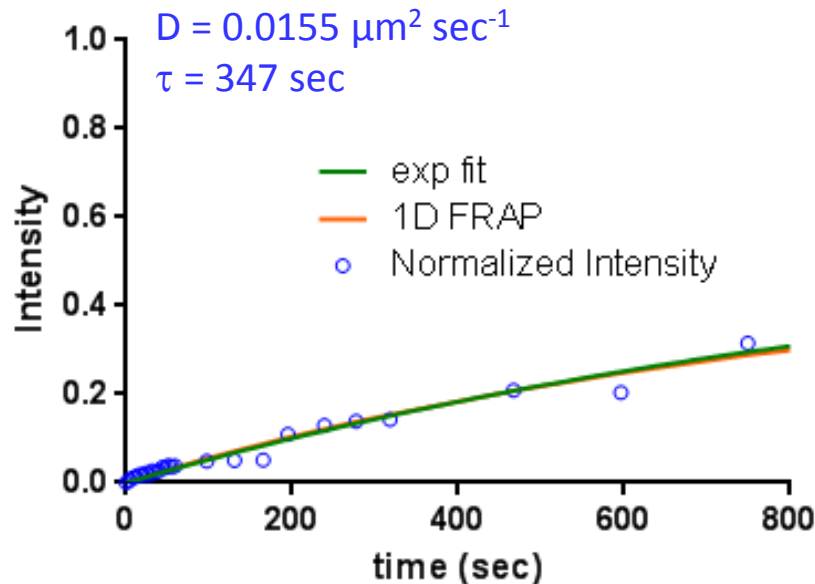
## FRAP of Fluorescent Polymer Alone

TRITC-polymer

Mobile fraction = ~30%

$D = 0.0155 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{sec}^{-1}$

$\tau = 347 \text{ sec}$



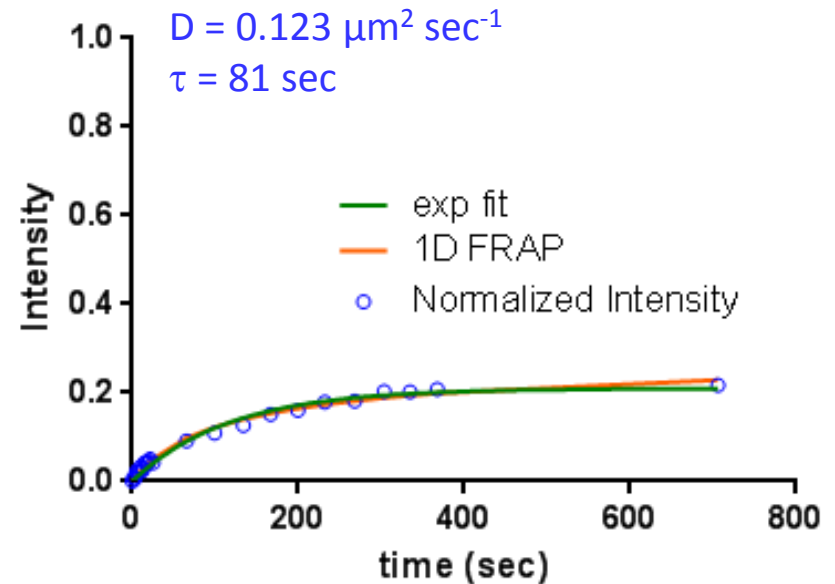
## FRAP of Fluorescent Polymer + Lipid

TRITC-polymer

Mobile fraction = ~20%

$D = 0.123 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{sec}^{-1}$

$\tau = 81 \text{ sec}$



# Mobility in Polymer Nanotube Networks

Diffusivity and half life of recovery of lipid and mobile polymer are relatively equivalent, but...

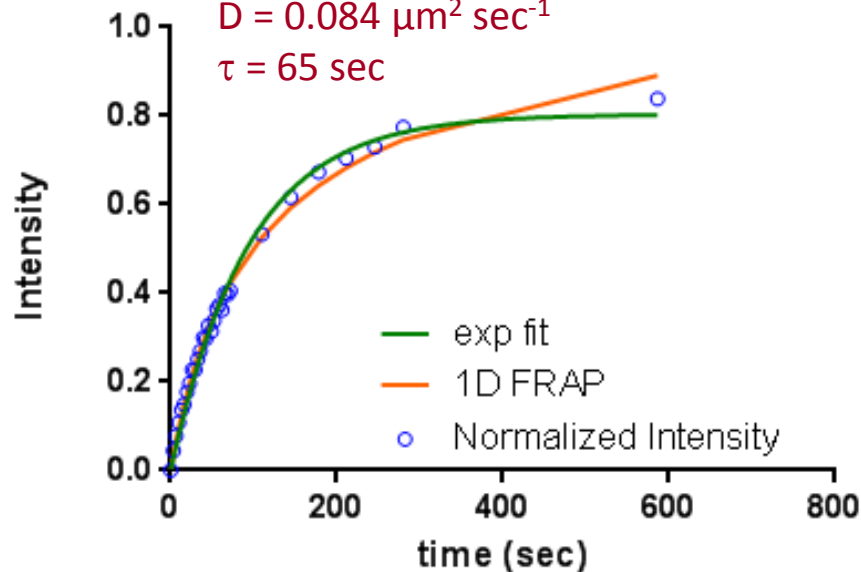
mobile fraction of lipid >> mobile fraction of polymer

FRAP of Fluorescent Lipid  
0.5% Texas Red-DOPE

Mobile fraction = 80%

$D = 0.084 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{sec}^{-1}$

$\tau = 65 \text{ sec}$

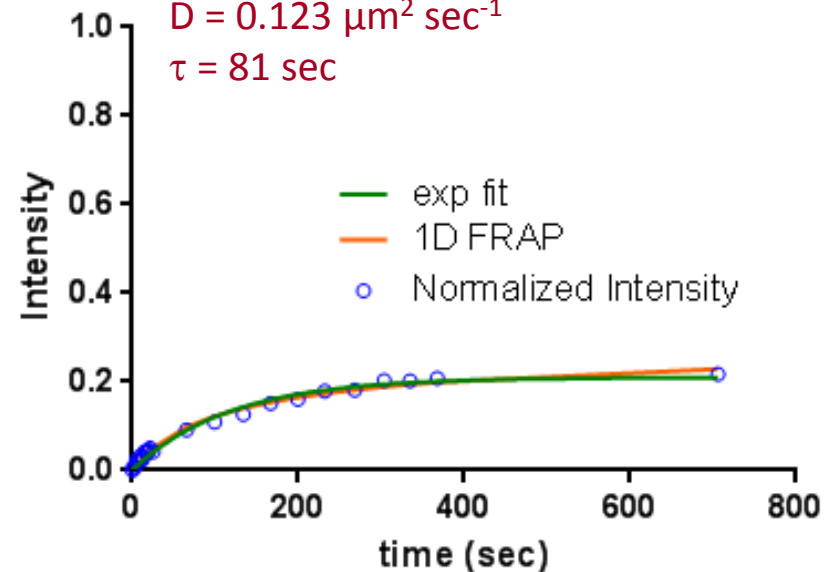


FRAP of Fluorescent Polymer  
TRITC-polymer

Mobile fraction = 20%

$D = 0.123 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{sec}^{-1}$

$\tau = 81 \text{ sec}$





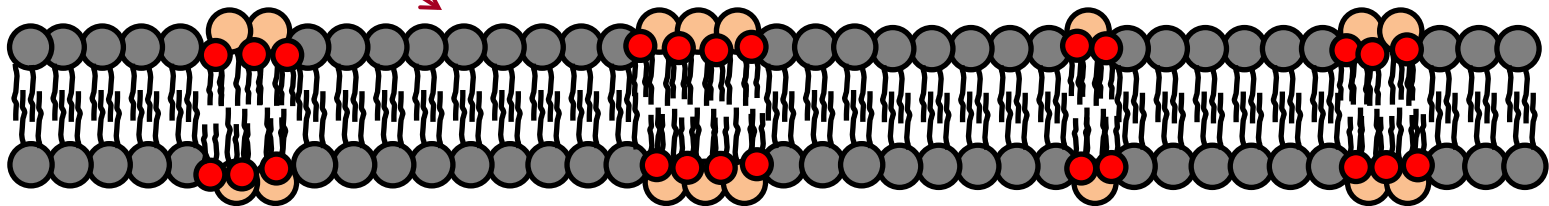
# Mobility in Polymer Nanotube Networks

Hypothesized mechanism of mobility in PNTs:

- Majority of polymer immobile due to entanglement of hydrophobic tails, forming raft-like domains
- Majority of lipid is mobile
- Lipid co-localizes with fraction of polymer, changing interactions between tails
- Polymer and lipid co-diffuse as a unified domain
- Exchange of mobile polymers with immobile raft domains (?)

Immobile polymer  
fraction ("gel  
phase" domains)

Co-diffusive polymer-  
lipid domains



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