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## Advanced STED microscopy of the membrane organisation in activated T-cells

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## T-cells – key element of the immune system







## T-cell signalling







Kinase (Lck) Phosphatase (CD45) Phosphorylated TCR

exclusion of CD45  $\rightarrow$  local net phosphorylation of TCR



## Roles of the lipid environment in T-cell signaling?



## Membrane organisation in T-cells?



## Local membrane properties to investigate in T-cells



#### Lipid order

Fluorescence microspectroscopy (spectral imaging) with polaritysensitive probes

#### **Diffusion rate**

Fluorescence correlation spectroscopy (FCS)

#### **Diffusion modes**

Spot-variation (super-resolution) STED-FCS

## Lipid order? Polarity-sensitive probes



Such probes **red-shift** their emission spectrum in more polar environment, e.g. **disordered membranes** 

Empirical index of lipid order: **Generalised Polarisation (GP)** 

$$GP = \frac{I_1 - I_2}{I_1 + I_2}$$

## Spectral sensitivity – pitfals of GP





GP contrast depends on the  $\lambda$ -pair

## Maximising spectral sensitivity





#### Using all spectral datapoints helps

Sezgin ChemPhysChem 2015, Urbančič Opt Express 2013, Fereidouni Opt Express 2012

## Lipid order in activated T-cells

Spectral imaging

with polarity-sensitive membrane probe NR12S



## Lipid order in activated T-cells





#### NR12S peak position

600

595

585

580









Protein fluorescence

TCR concentrates in more **ordered** domains

Jurkat T-cells at OKT3-coated surface, 37 °C

### Lipid order in activated T-cells



600 595 590 585 0 1 2 3 4 5

605

Protein fluorescence

CD45 partitions into more disordered domains

Jurkat T-cells at OKT3-coated surface, 37 °C

# Does the membrane order correlate with the lipid diffusion rates?

Fluorescence correlation spectroscopy (FCS) with Atto647N-DPPE

## Fluorescence Correlation Spectroscopy (FCS)



Diffusion coefficient (D)

## Scanning FCS



Spatial variability of D

## Diffusion rates of PE-lipids in activated T-cells





Slowed-down lipid diffusion at TCR

Jurkat Fab-488 Atto647N-DPPE, OKT3 surface, 37 °C

# Do lipids diffuse freely at the sites of TCR / CD45?

Spot-variation super-resolution STED-FCS with Atto647N-sphingomyelin

## Lipid diffusion modes? Spot-variation STED-FCS



## Lipid diffusion modes? Spot-variation STED-FCS



Depletion beam

## Diffusion modes of sphingomyelin (SM) in activated T-cells



Trapping diffusion at TCR

Free diffusion at CD45

## Membrane properties of activated T-cells



## Triggering of T-cells on poly-L-lysine (PLL)



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