

Session: Nanomedicine and Nanoscale Delivery III

# Urease-Powered Nanomotor for Bladder Cancer Immunotherapy

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Department of Materials Science and Engineering, POSTECH



INTEGRATING  
**Delivery Science**  
ACROSS DISCIPLINES



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## I. Introduction

Nature Communications, In Revision (2024)  
Bioactive Materials, 9, 54-62 (2022)  
Biomaterials, 279, 121201 (2021)  
Nature Reviews Materials, 5, 149-165 (2020)  
ACS Nano, 14(6), 6683-6692 (2020)  
ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces, 10, 2338-2346 (2018)

## II. Results and Discussion

- **Synthesis of Urase-Powered Nanomotors**
- **Characteristics of Urase-Powered Nanomotors**
- **Bladder Cancer Immunotherapy**

## III. Summary and Future Works



# 1. Introduction

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**1-1. Bladder Cancer**

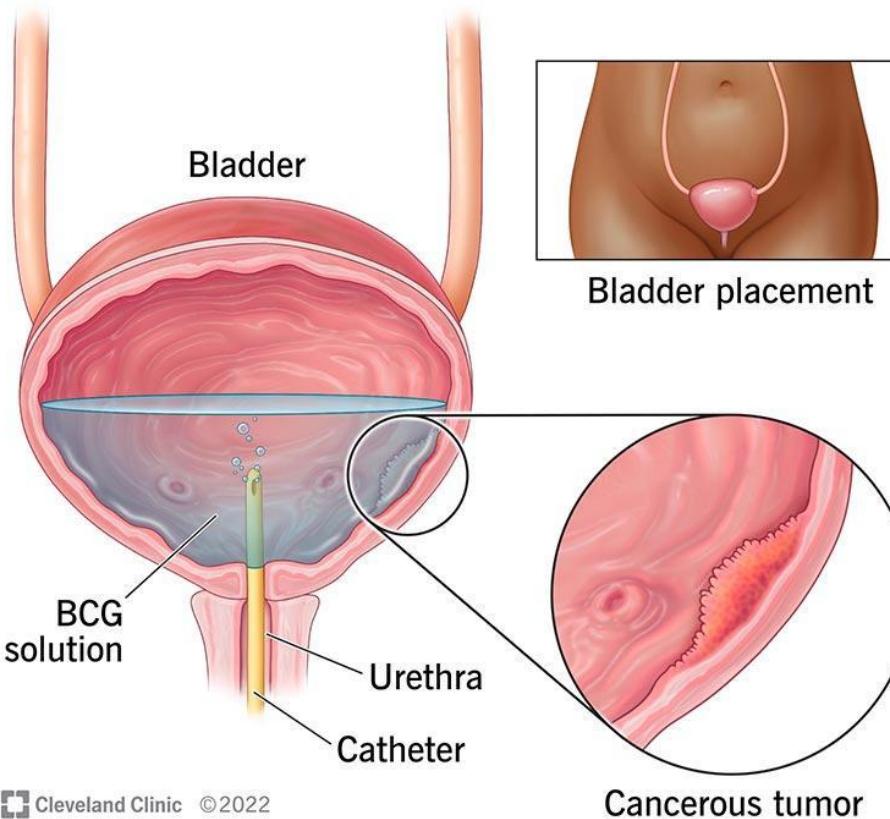
**1-2. STING Agonist Immunotherapy**

**1-3. Micronanomotors**

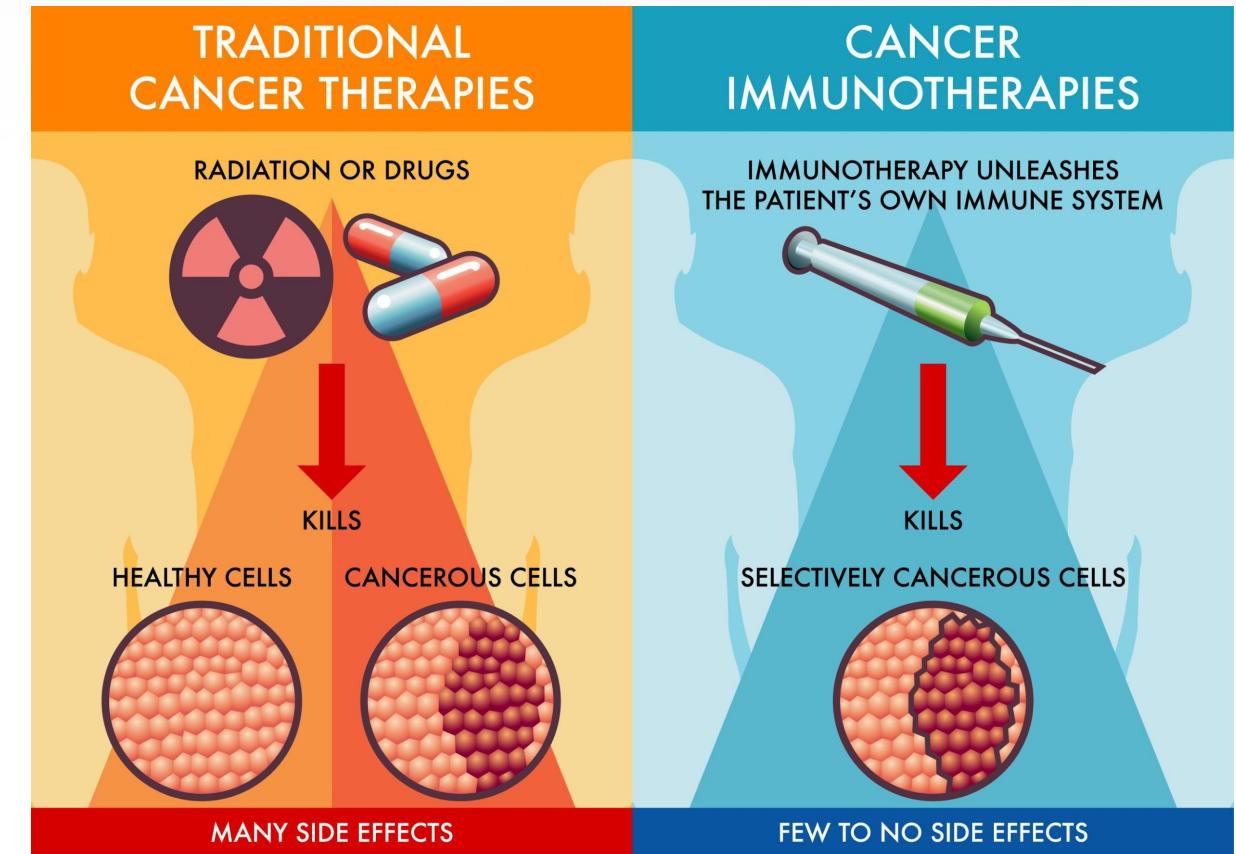


## ❖ Bladder cancer and intravesical immunotherapy

- Non-muscle invasive papillary carcinomas over 75%
- Muscle invasive urothelial cancers



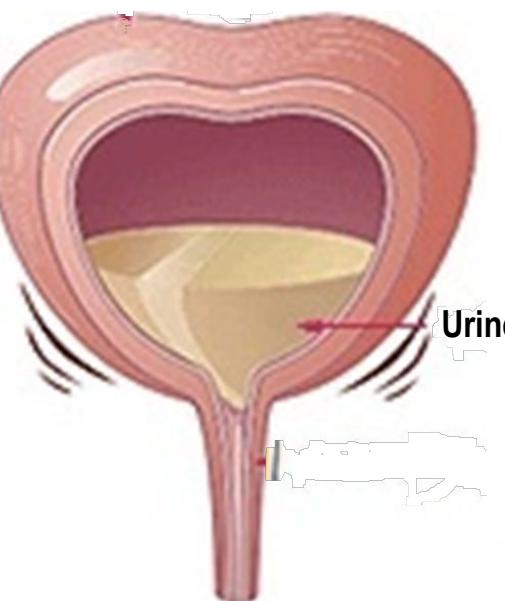
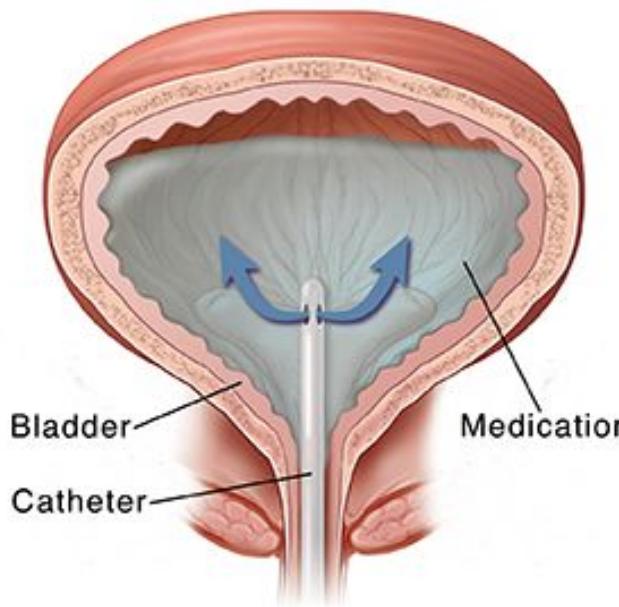
**Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) Treatment**



**Nature Reviews Cancer 2021, 21, 104–121**

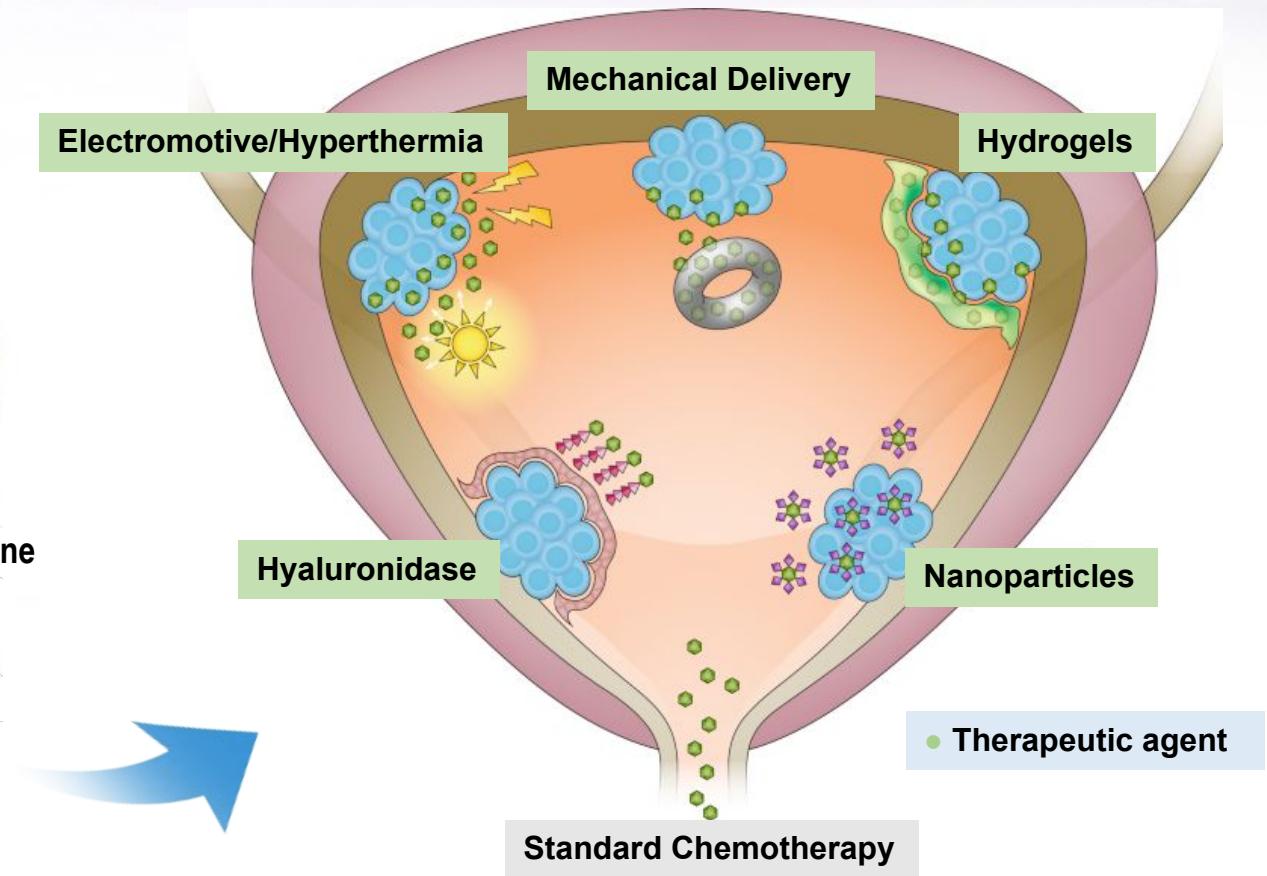
## ◆ Limitations of conventional intravesical cancer therapy

- Clearance from the bladder by repeated urination
- Penetration inhibition by GAG layer



Urination

Intravesical instillation

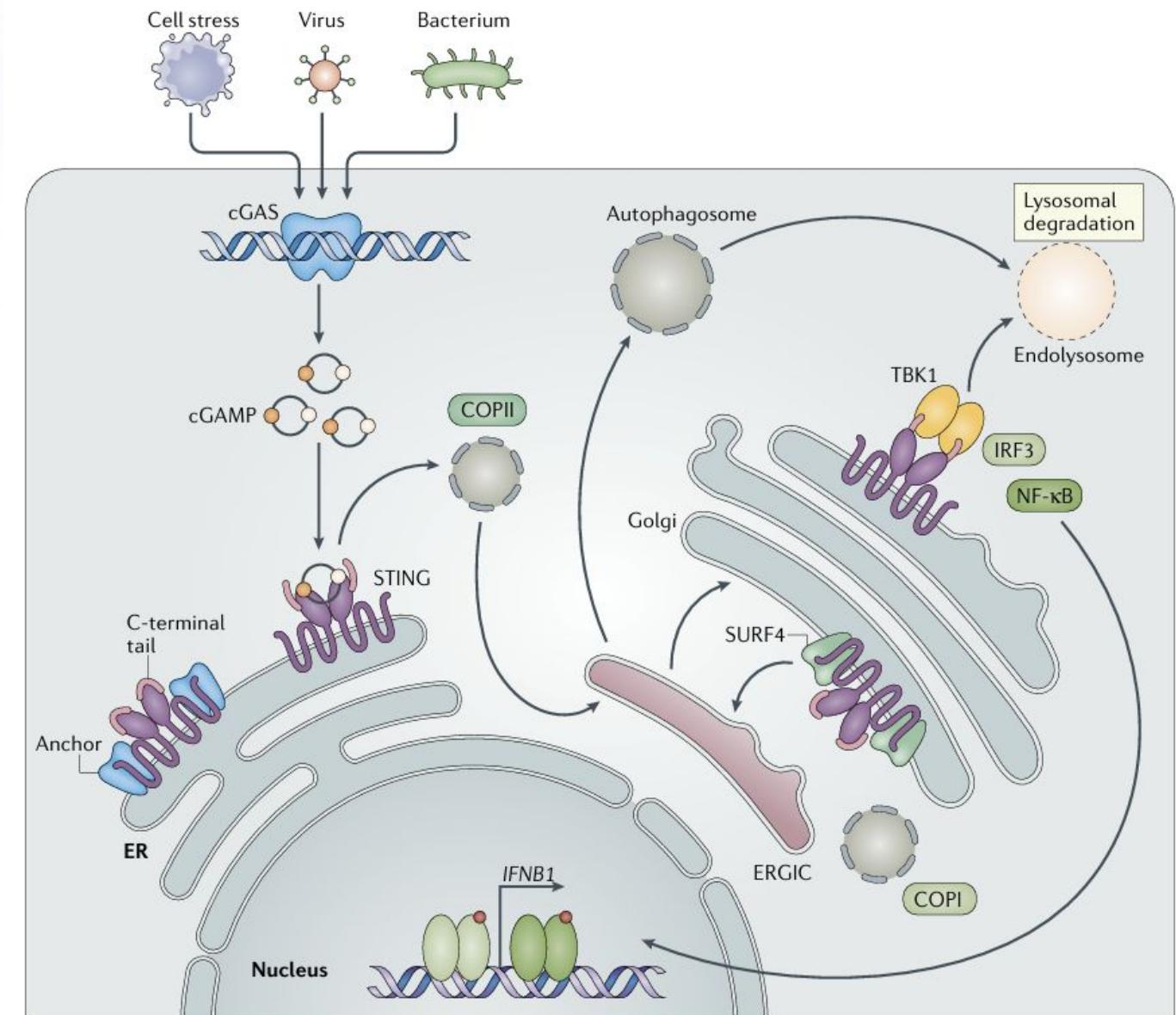
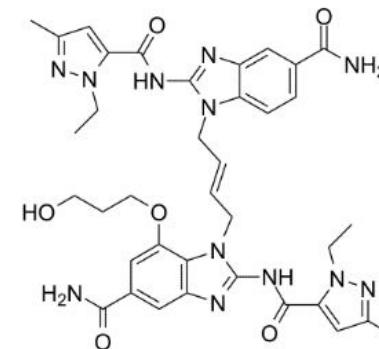


## ◆ STING pathway in dendritic cell

- STimulator of INterferon Genes (STING) mediates innate and adaptive immune system.
- Aberrant cytoplasmic exposure of double strand DNAs is recognized by cyclic GMP-AMP synthase to trigger STING pathway for cancer immunotherapy.



STING Agonist

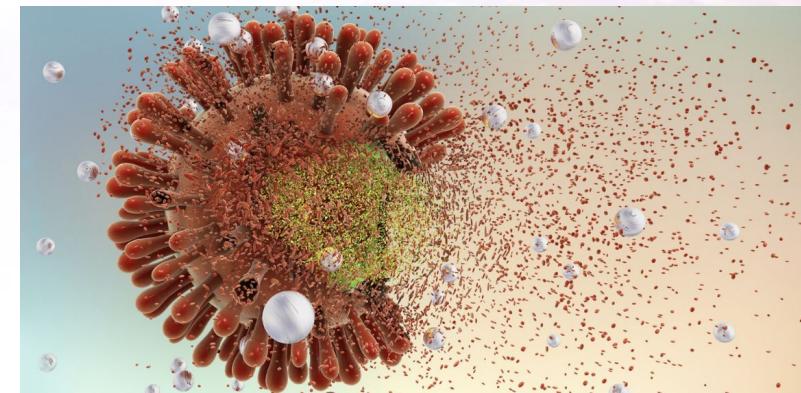


## NATURE REVIEWS | MATERIALS

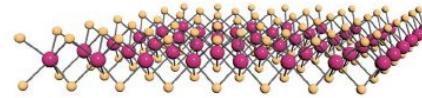
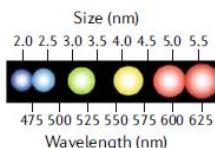
### Multifunctional materials for implantable and wearable photonic healthcare devices

Geon-Hui Lee<sup>1,2,9</sup>, Hanul Moon<sup>2,3,9</sup>, Hyemin Kim<sup>4,9</sup>, Gae Hwang Lee<sup>2,5</sup>, Woosung Kwon<sup>6</sup>, Seunghyup Yoo<sup>3</sup>, David Myung<sup>2,7</sup>, Seok Hyun Yun<sup>1,8\*</sup>, Zhenan Bao<sup>1,2\*</sup> and Sei Kwang Hahn<sup>1,2,4\*</sup>

[Nature Reviews Materials 2020, IF = 84.5, Citation 460]



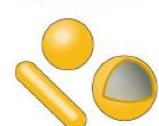
#### Light-responsive materials



Transition-metal dichalcogenides

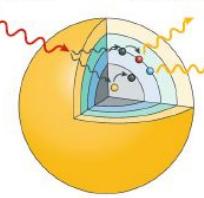


Quantum dots

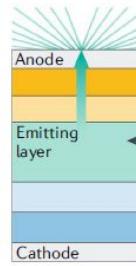


Gold nanomaterials

NIR excitation



Upconversion nanoparticles

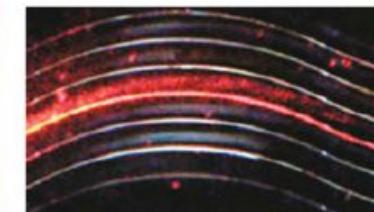


Organic semiconductors

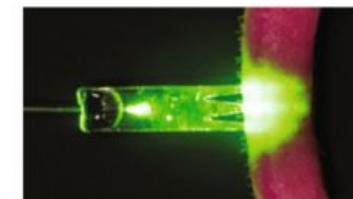
#### Light-delivering materials



Silica glass fibre



Natural silk fibre

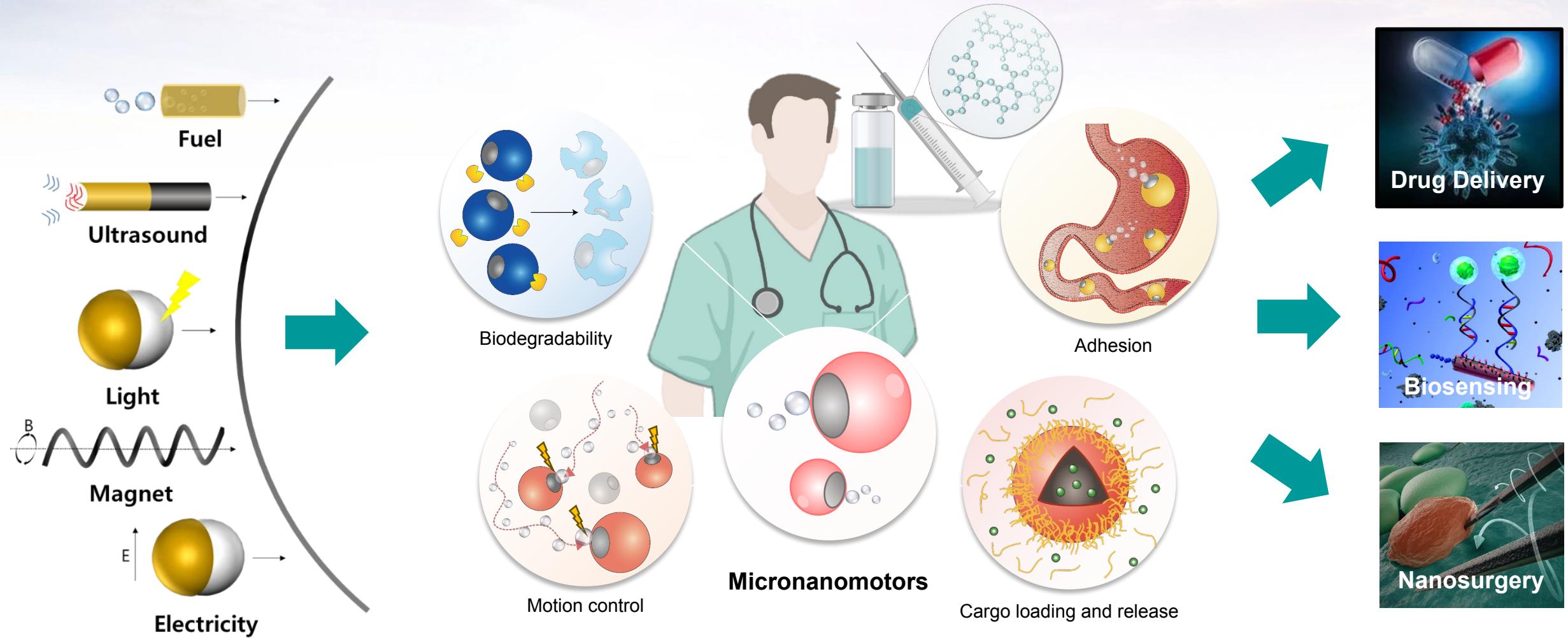


PLA waveguide



PEG hydrogel waveguide

## ◆ Propulsion mechanisms, characteristics, and applications of micronanomotors



## II. Results and Discussion

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**II-1. Synthesis of Urase-Powered Nanomotors**

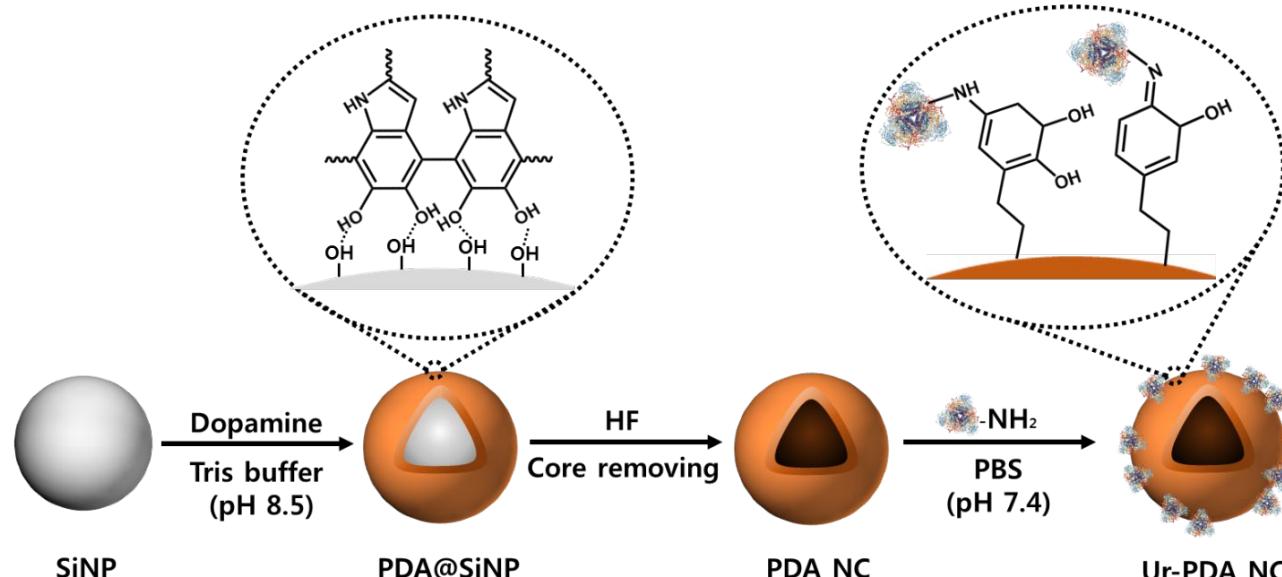
**II-2. Characteristics of Urase-Powered Nanomotors**

**II-3. Bladder Cancer Immunotherapy**

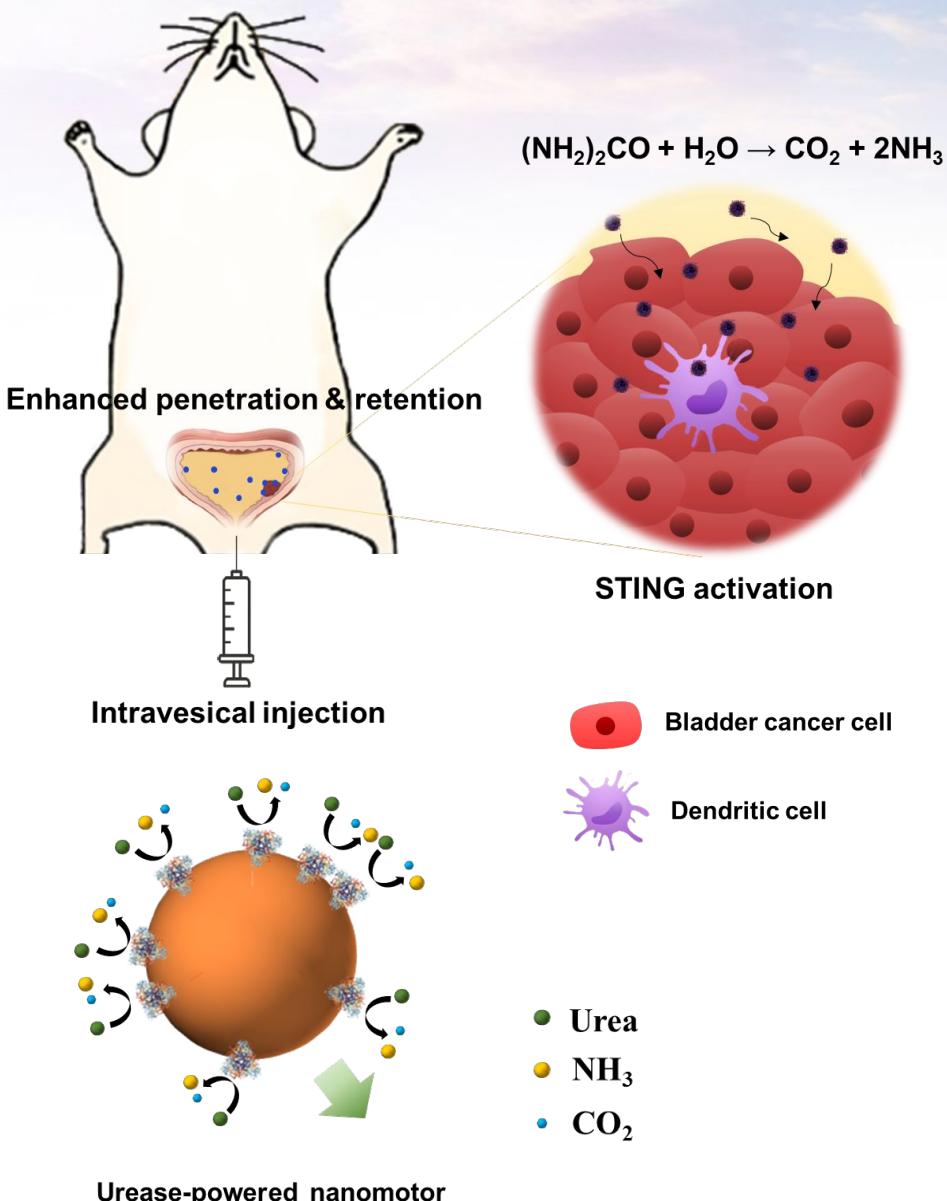


## ❖ Synthesis of urease-powered nanomotor

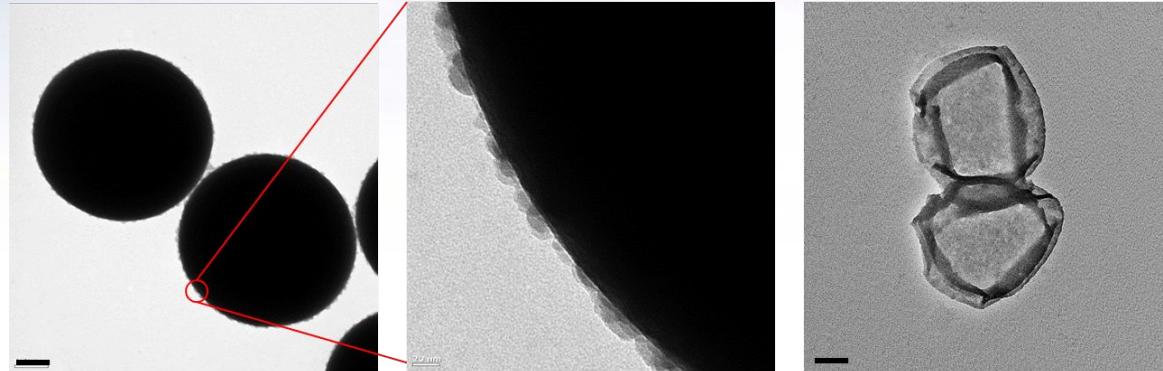
- Coating of PDA onto the silica nanoparticle (SiNP)
- Core removing to form PDA nanocapsule (PDA NC)
- Immobilization of urease onto the PDA NC



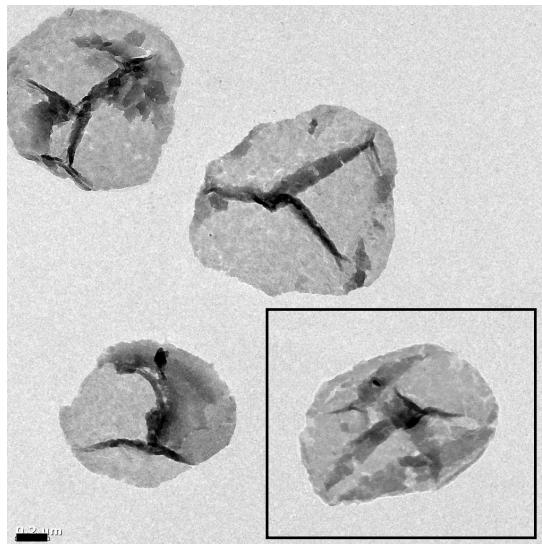
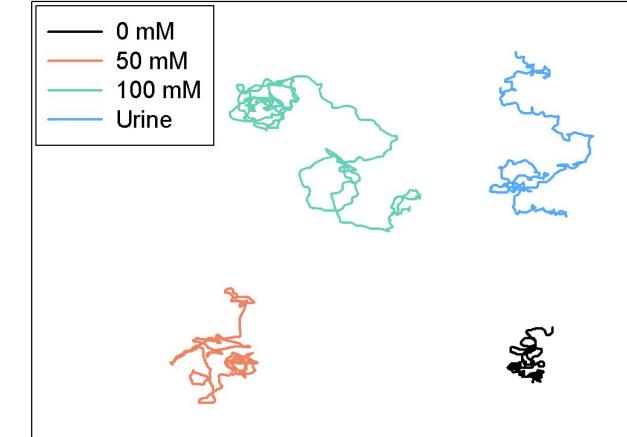
Hahn et al. ACS Nano, 14, 6683-6692 (2020)



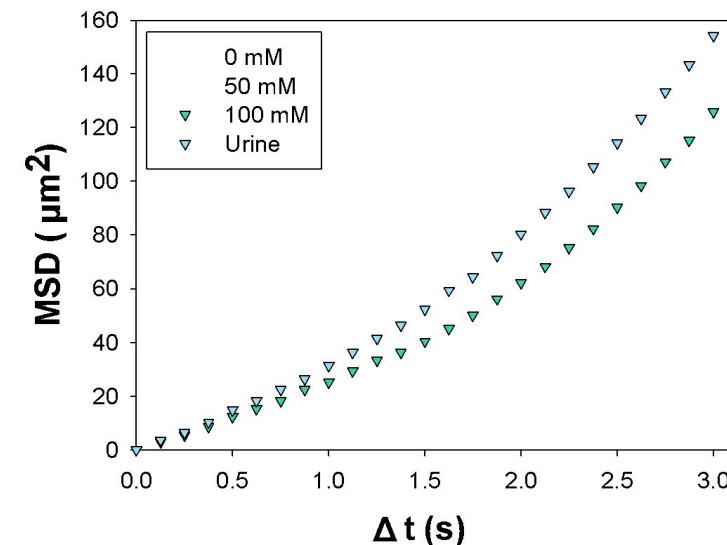
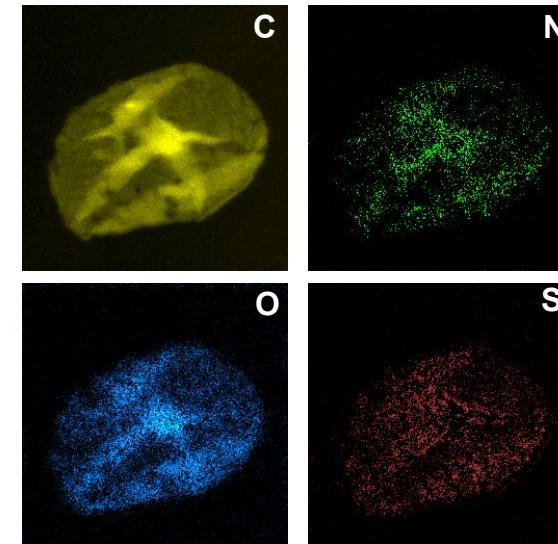
## ◆ Characteristics of urease-powered nanomotor



PDA@SiNP

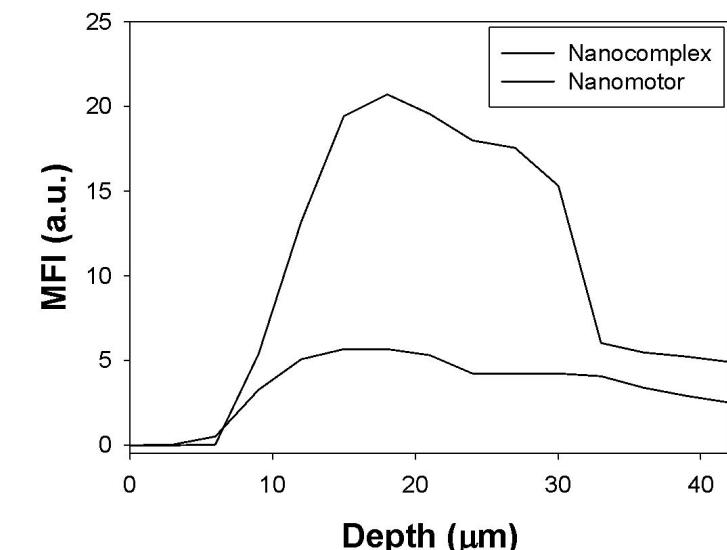
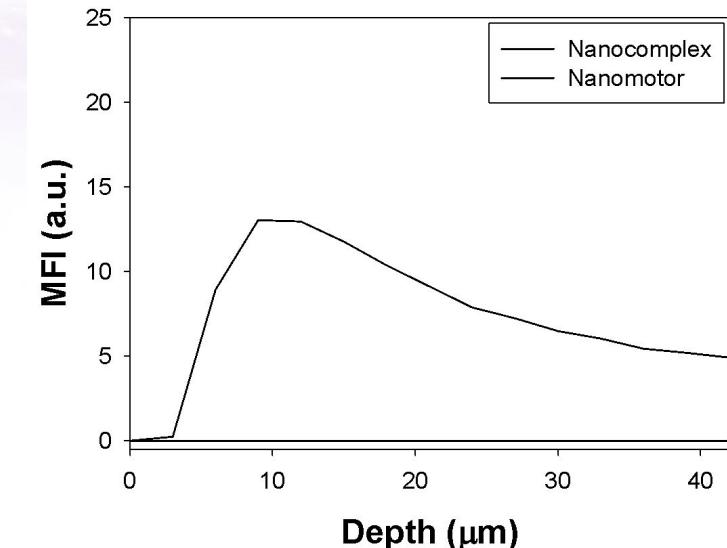
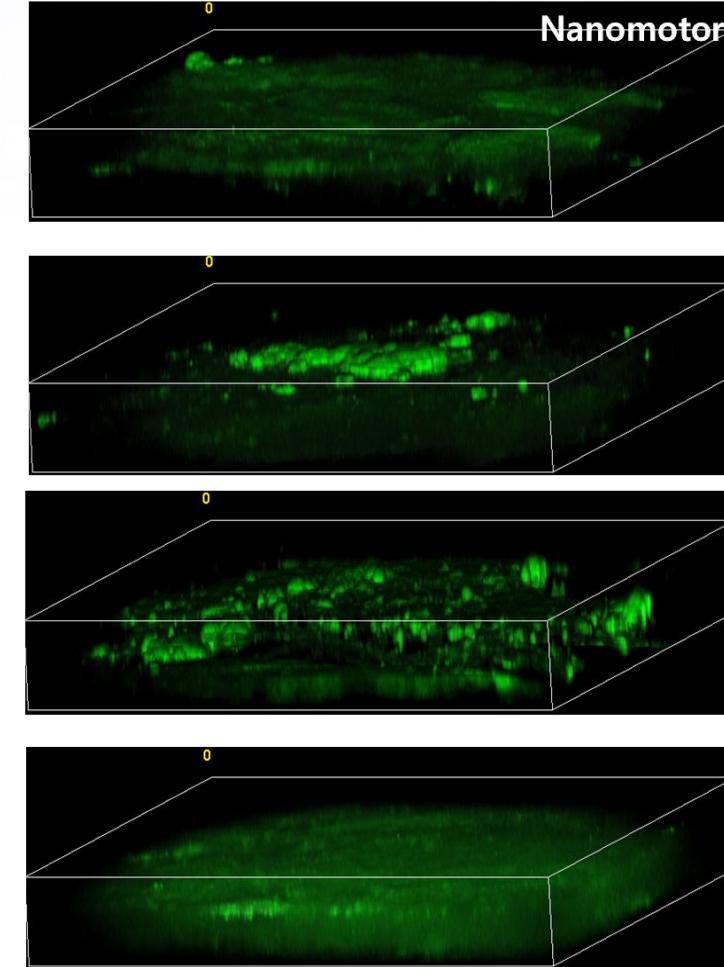
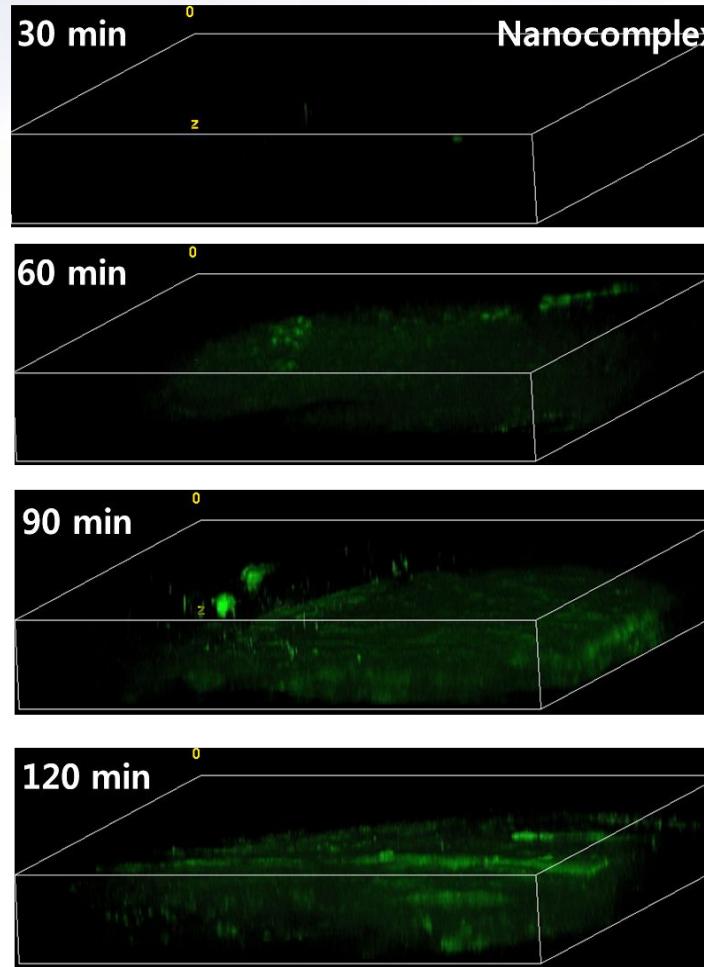


PDA NC



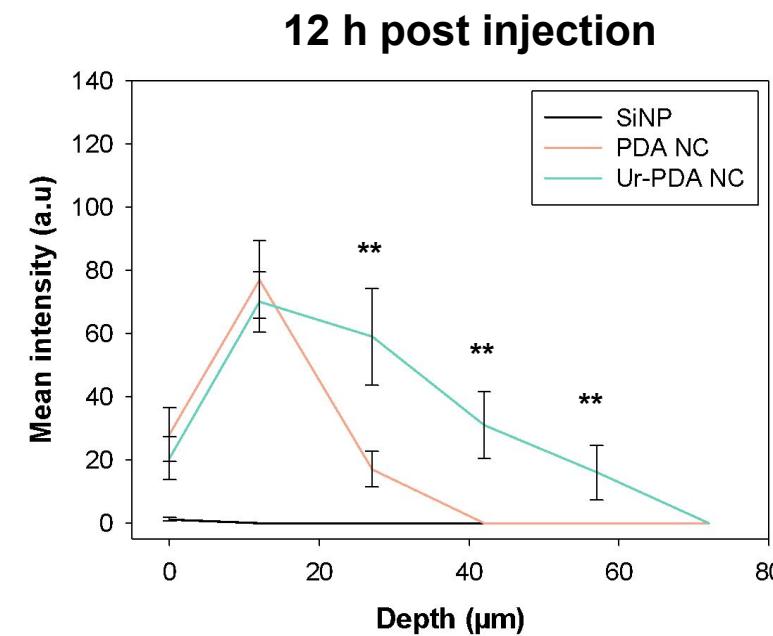
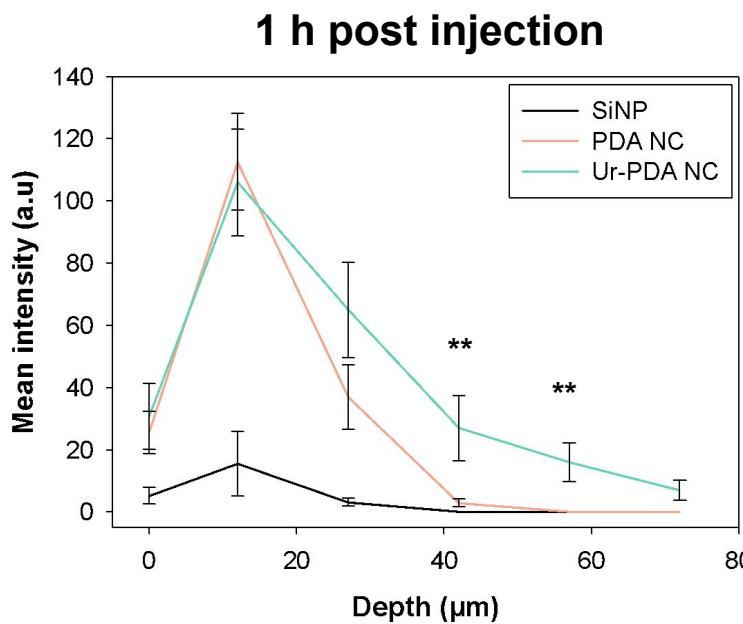
100 mM

## ❖ *Ex vivo* bladder penetration

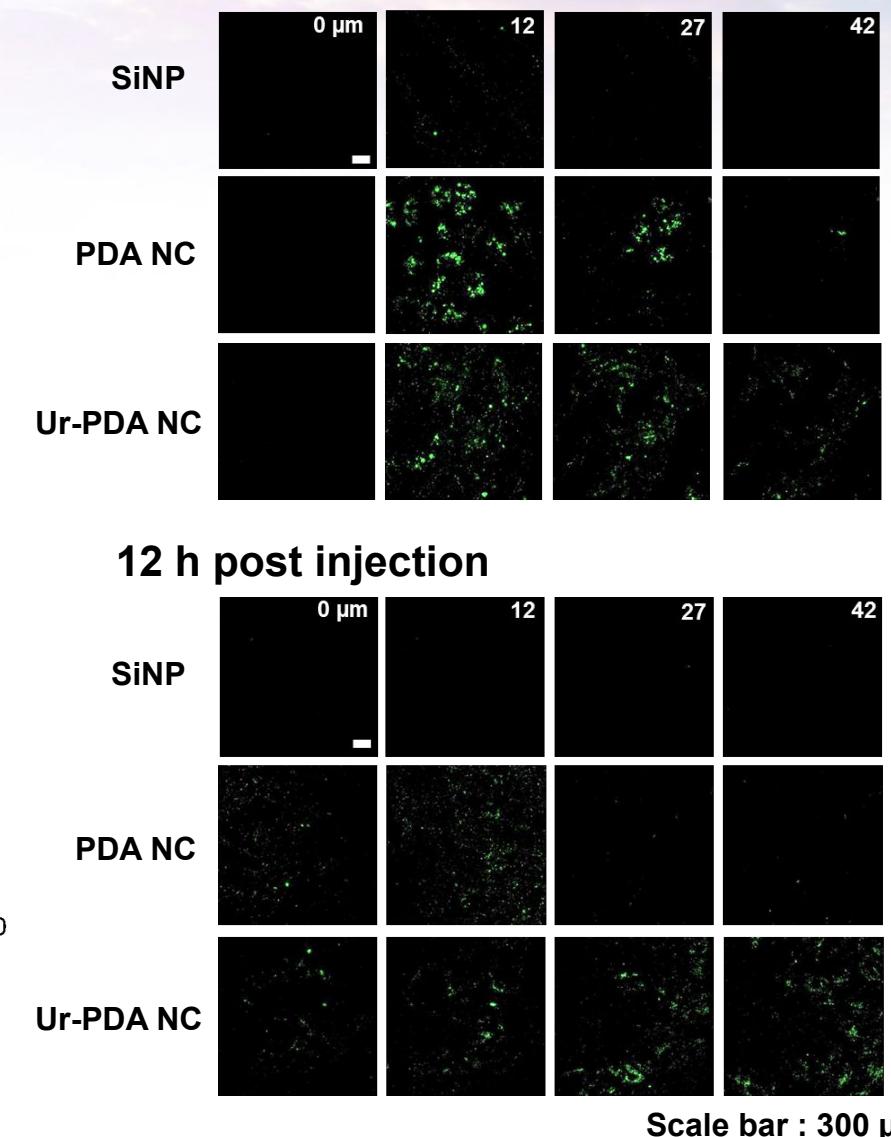


## ◆ Penetration and Retention of Nanomotor

- FITC-labelled Samples (SiNP, PDA NC and nanomotor)
- Two-photon images of bladder after intravesical injection



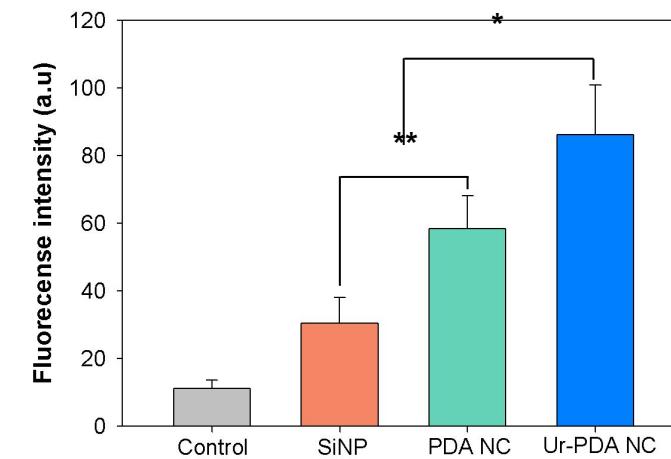
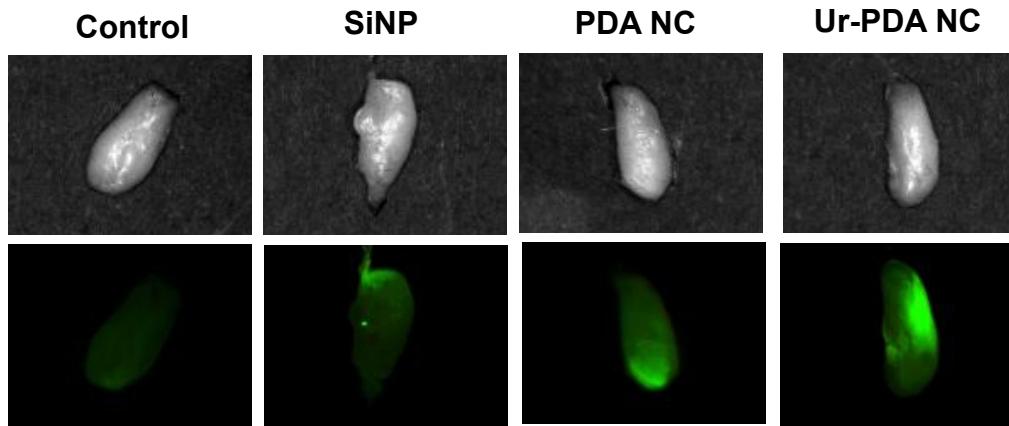
[Two-photon image by depth 1 h post-injection]



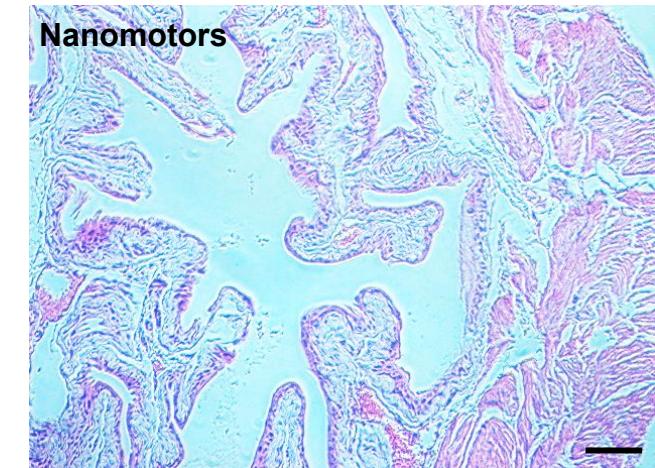
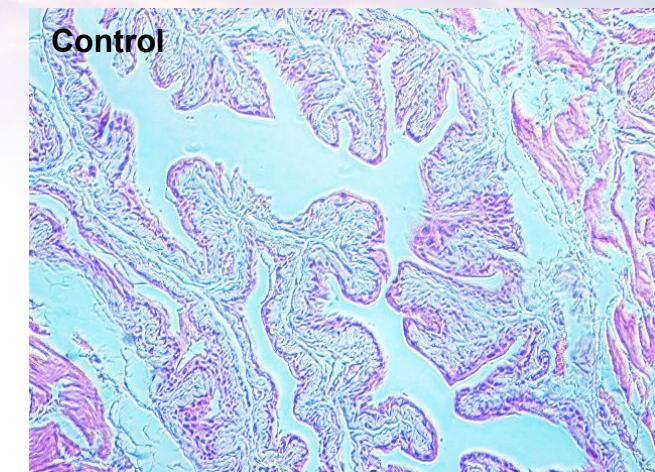
## ◆ Retention of nanomotors

- No difference between control and nanomotors injection group
- No necrosis of bladder after 12 h-post injection of nanomotors

## [Ex vivo bioimaging]



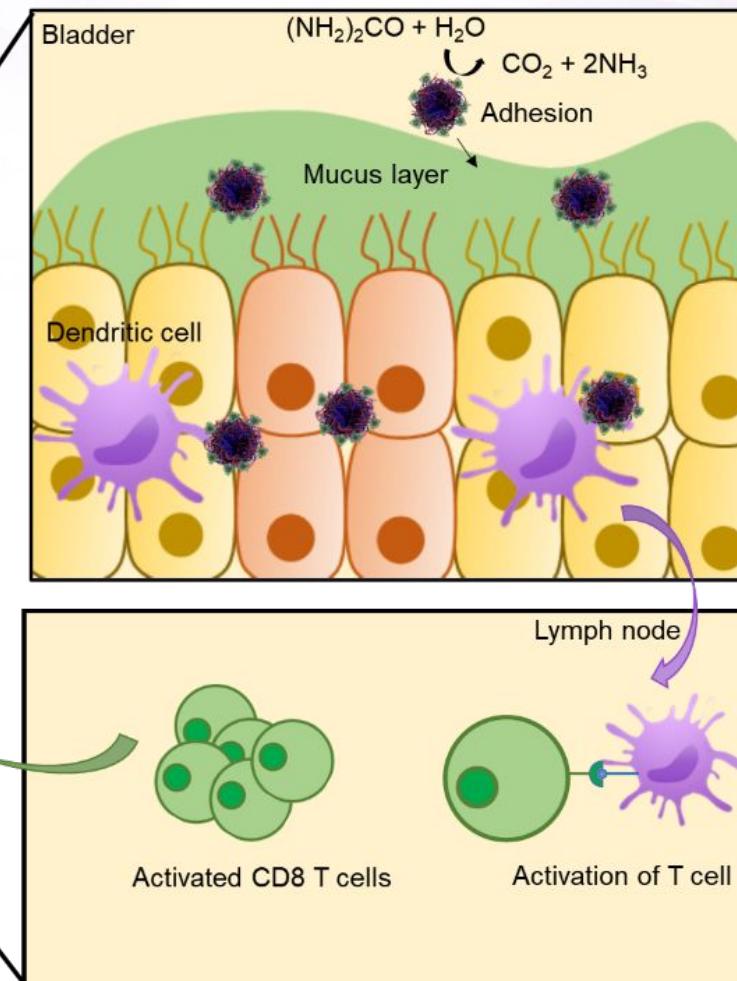
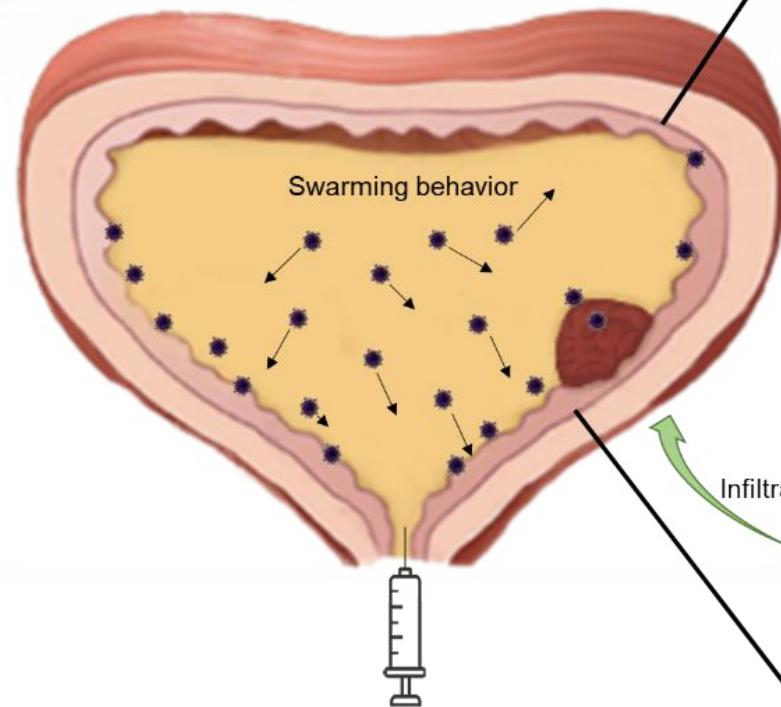
## [Histology]



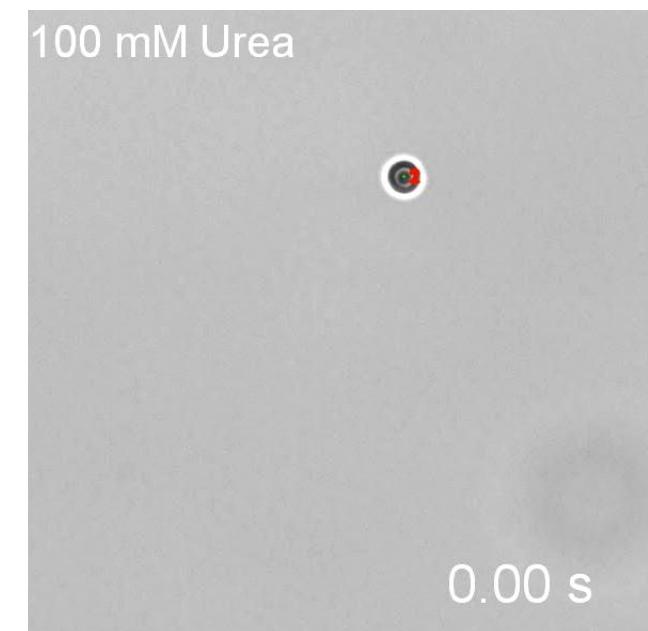
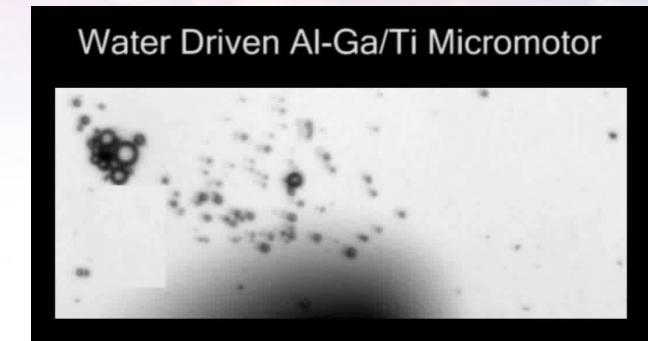
(Scale bar : 100  $\mu$ m)

## ❖ Schematic illustration for the mechanism of bladder cancer treatment

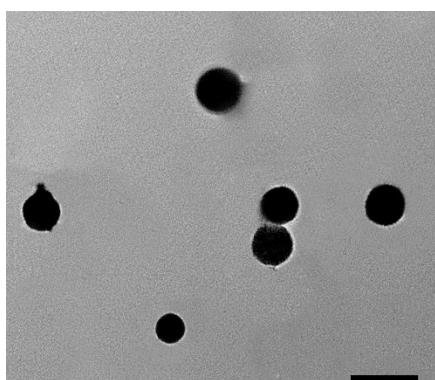
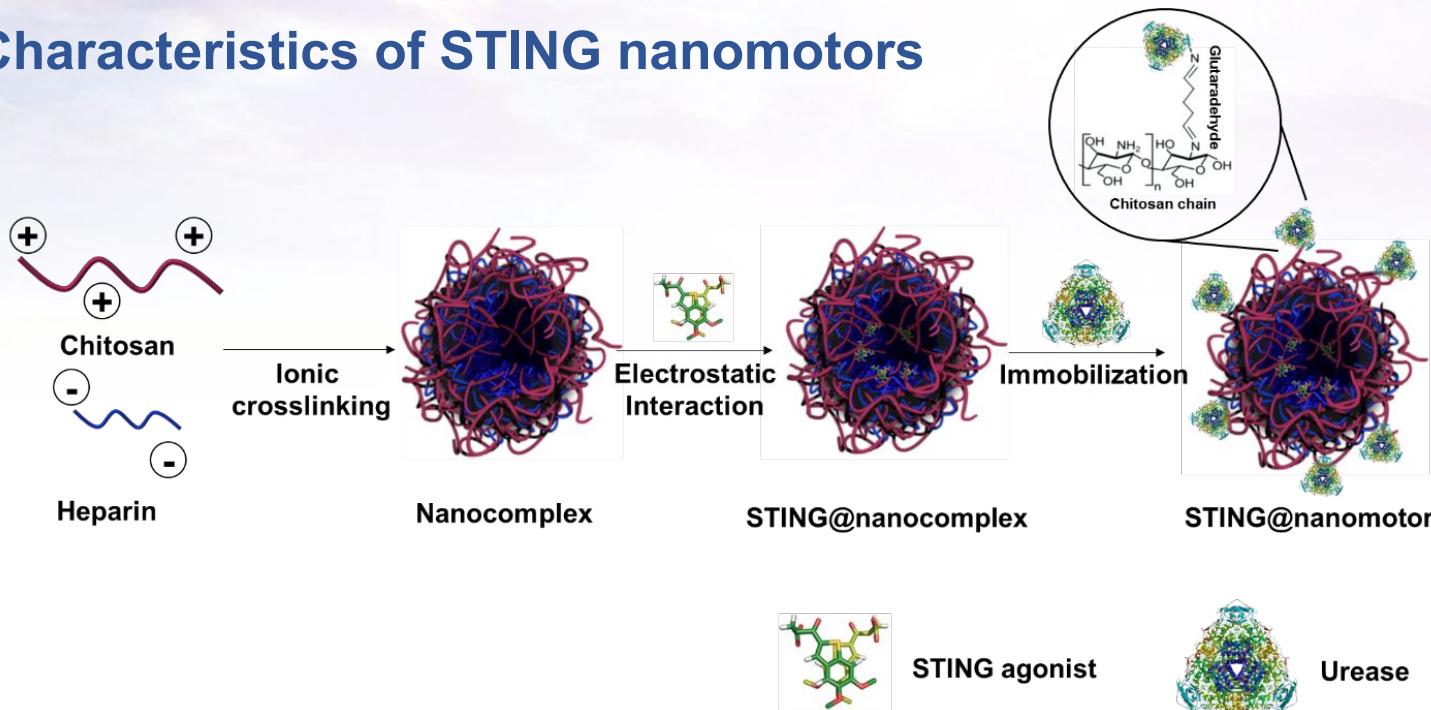
1. Fast and efficient adhesion to the bladder
2. Penetration through the mucus layer



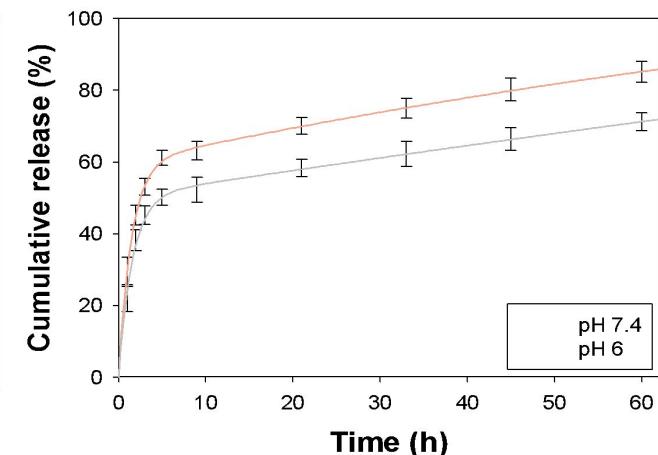
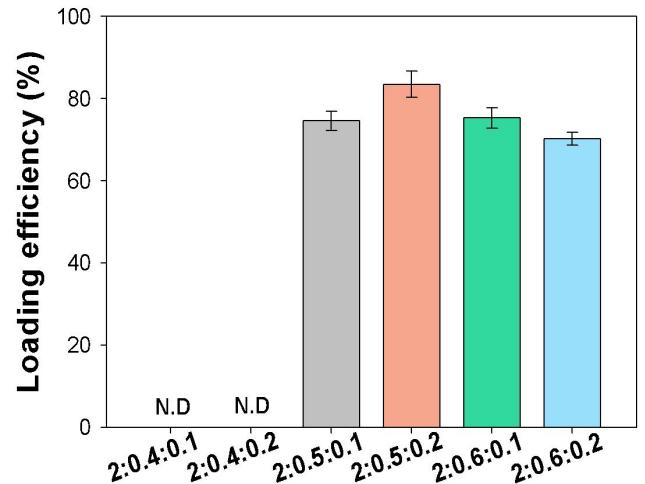
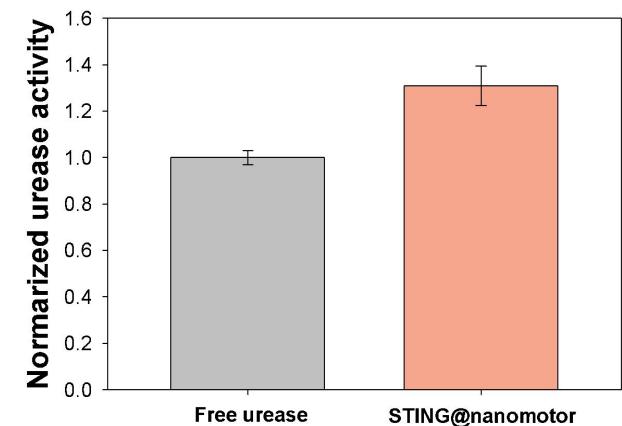
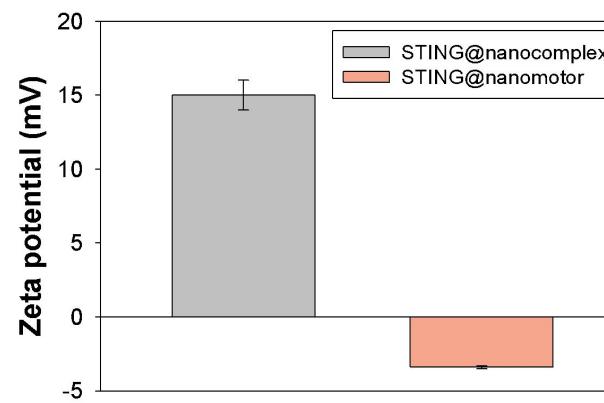
- Chitosan-heparin nanocomplex
- STING agonist encapsulation
- Urease immobilization with GA



## ◆ Characteristics of STING nanomotors

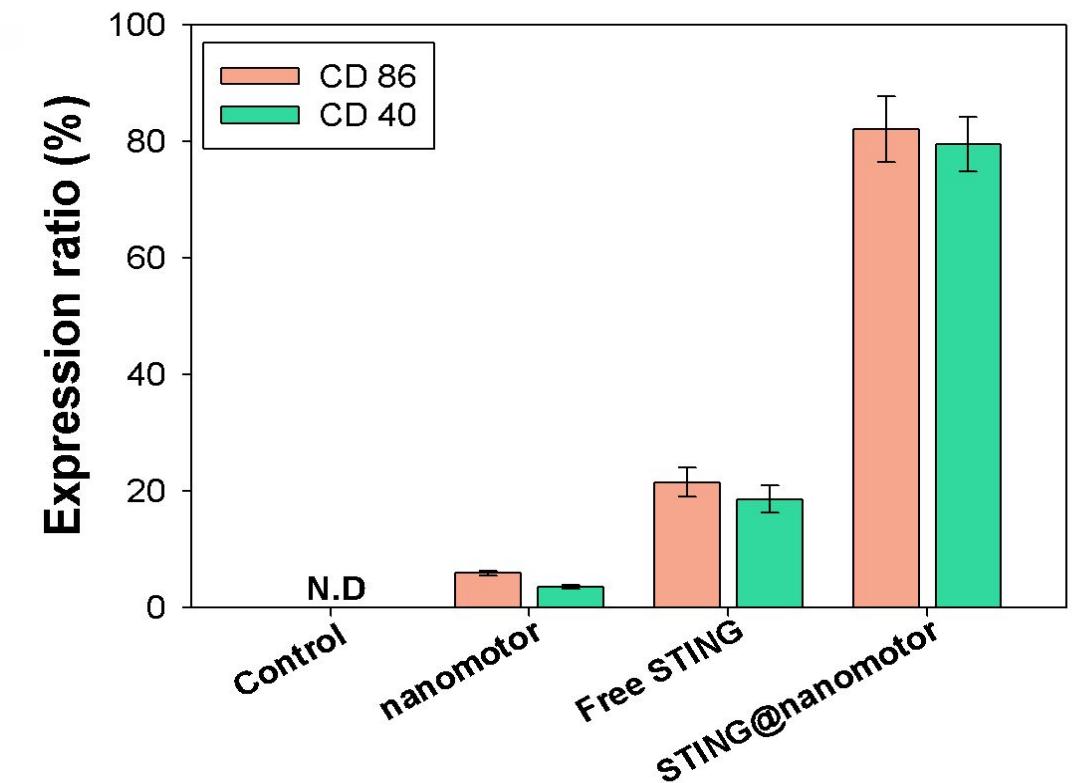
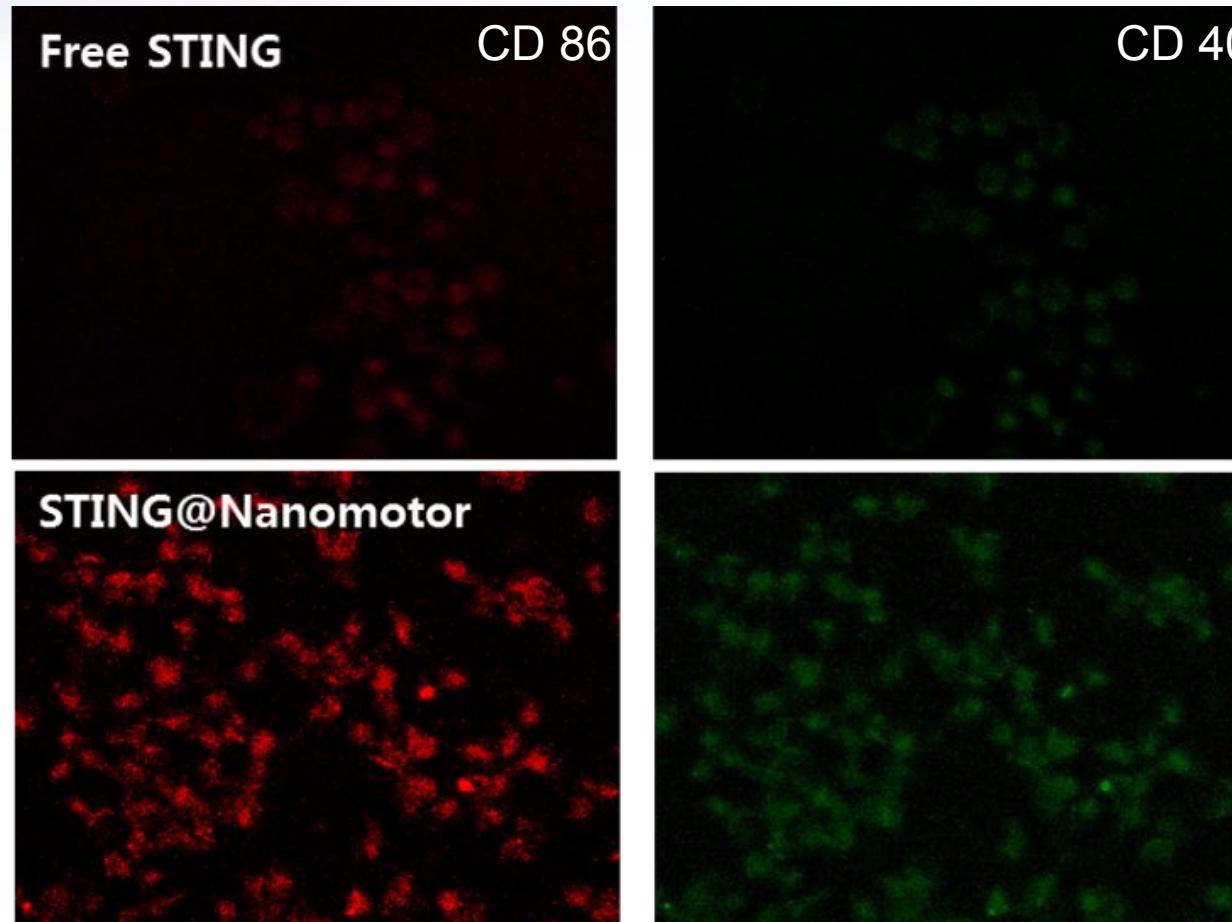


(Scale bar = 1  $\mu$ m)



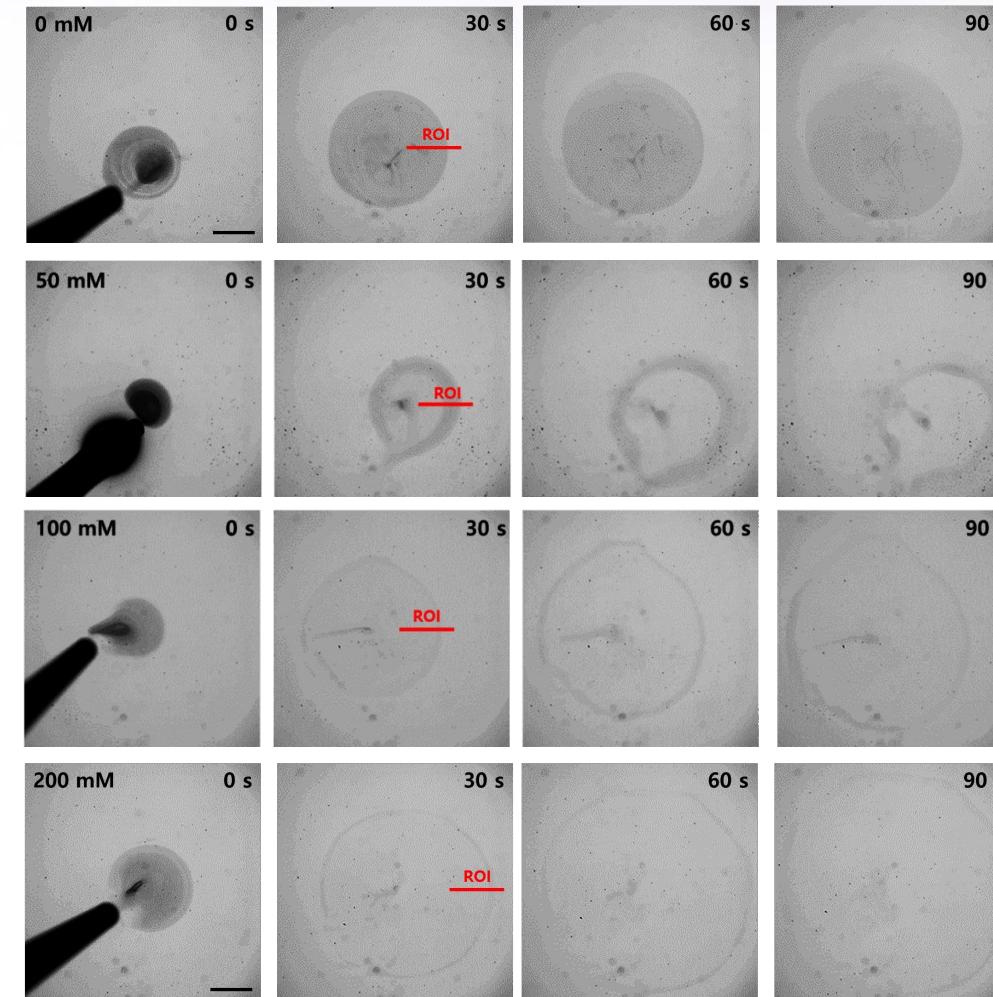
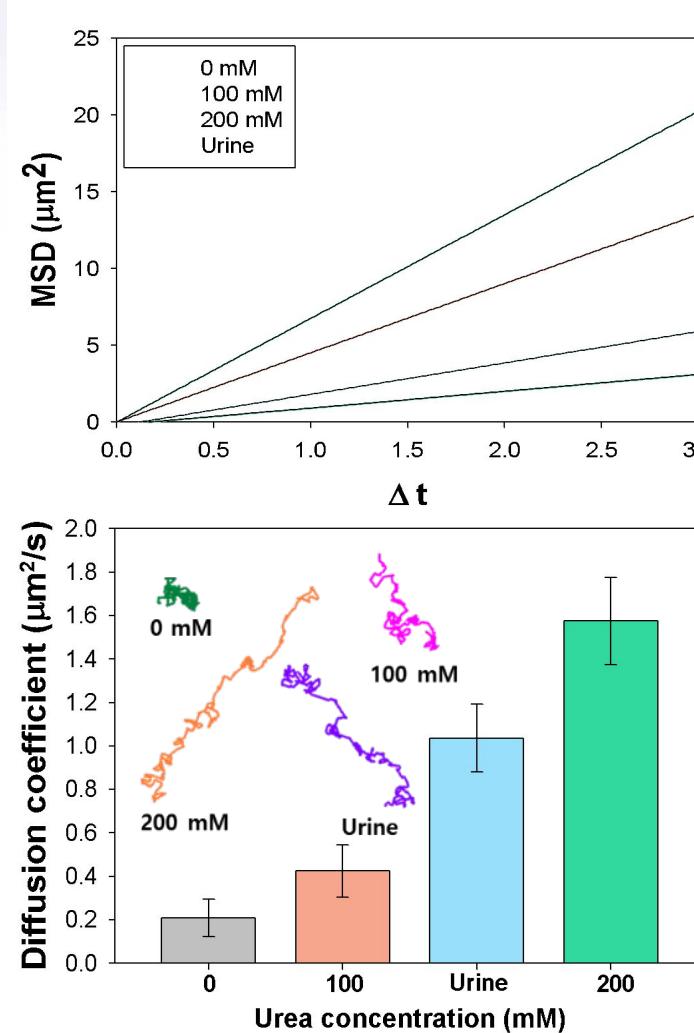
## ❖ Immunostaining of proteins on the dendritic cell

- Enhanced expression ratio of CD 86 and CD 40 in STING@nanomotor.



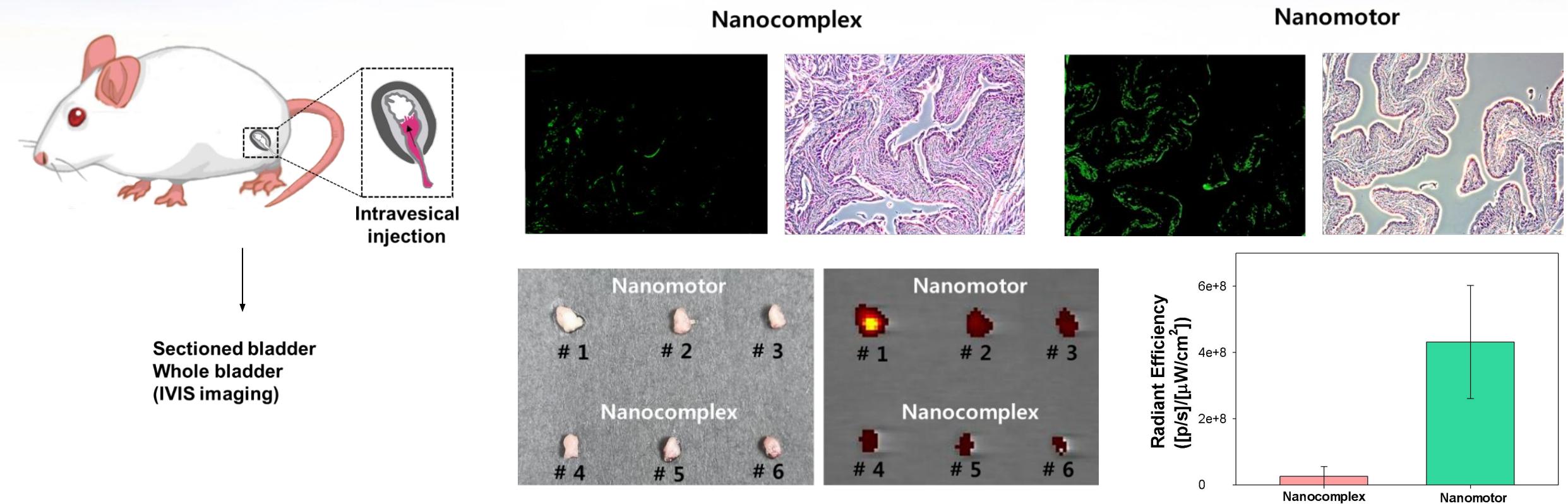
## ❖ Motion analysis of nanomotor depending on urea

- Enhanced individual and collective motion of STING@nanomotor in the presence of urea



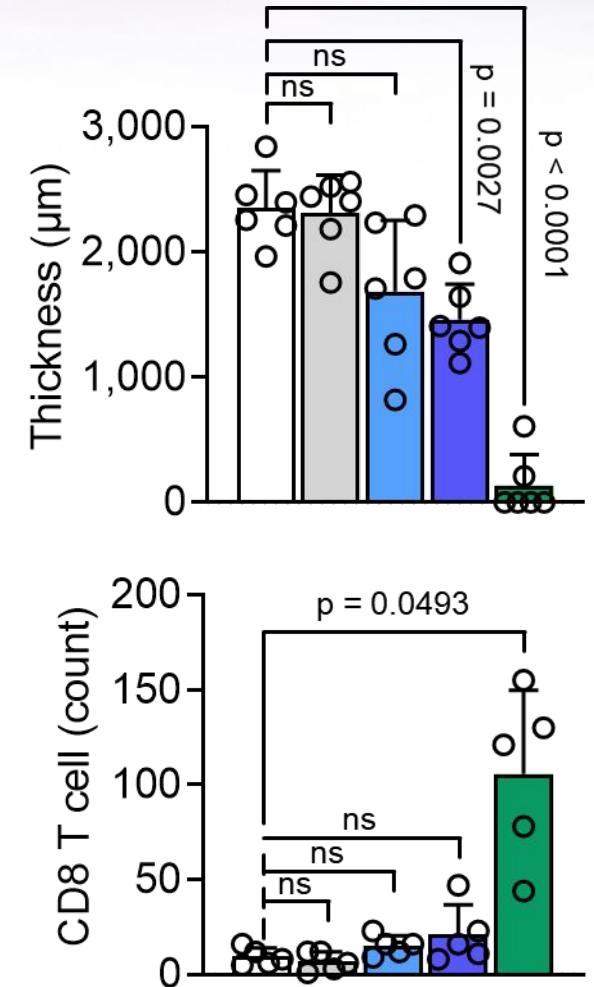
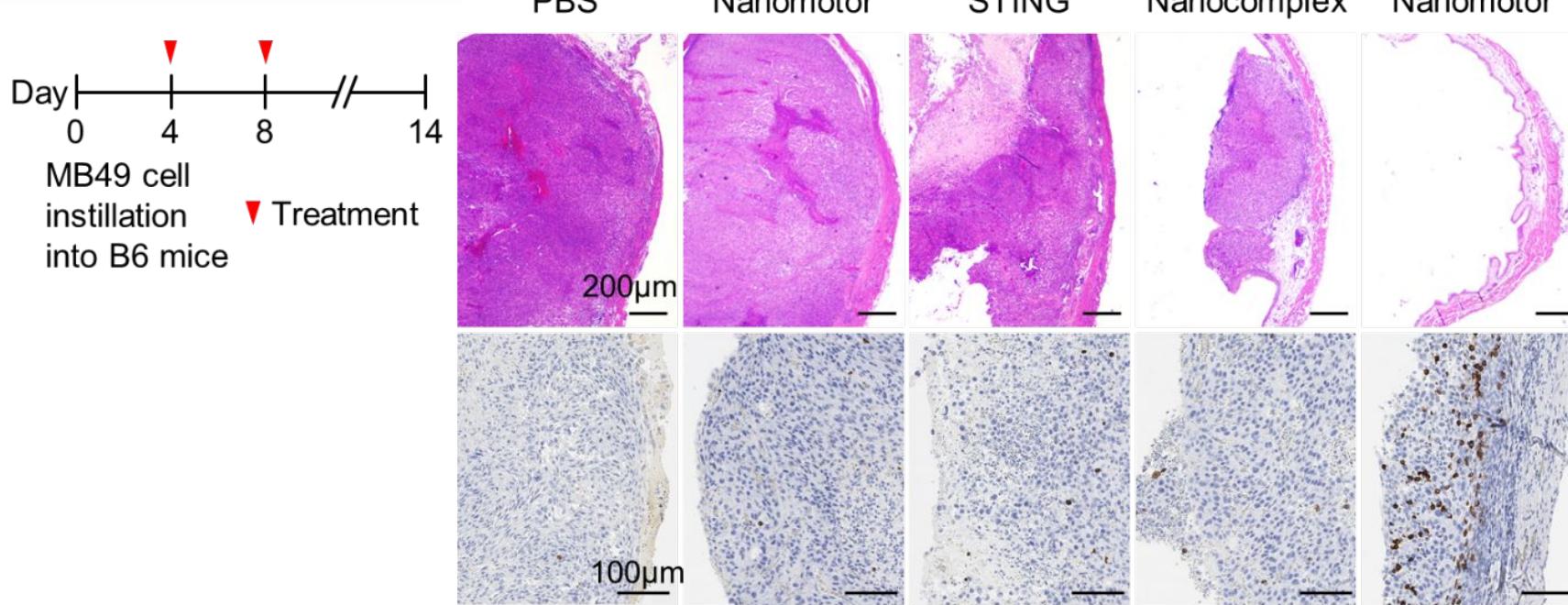
## ❖ *In vivo* retention test depending on self-propulsion effect

- Prolonged retention of nanomotor in bladder after several urination



## ❖ Orthotopic bladder cancer treatment

- Significant anti tumor effect of STING@nanomotor (94.2% of inhibition after 14 d)
- Recruitment of activated T cells (11.2-fold compared with PBS)



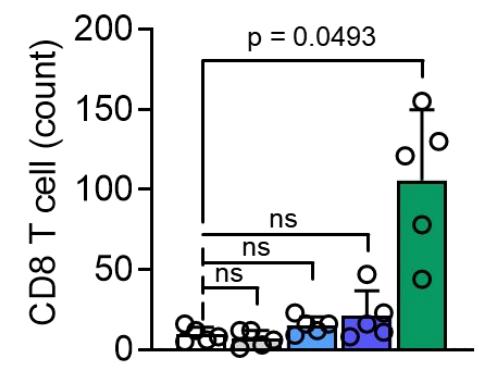
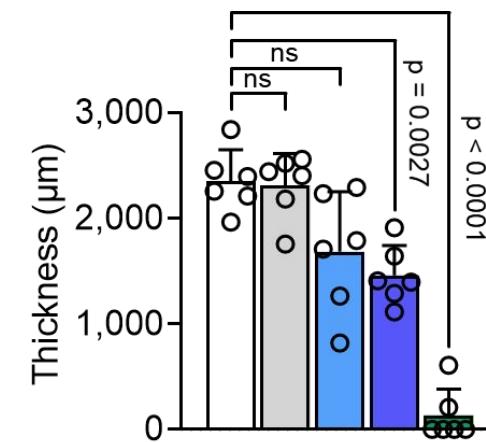
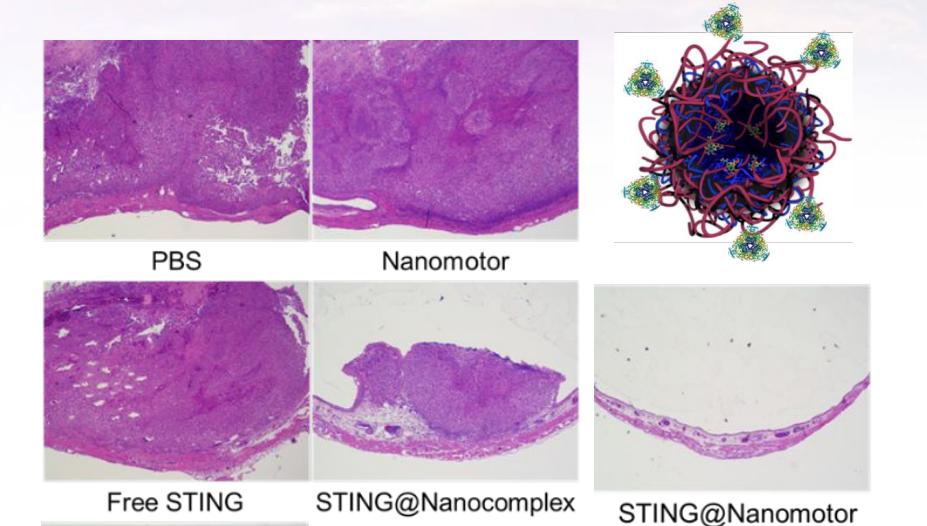
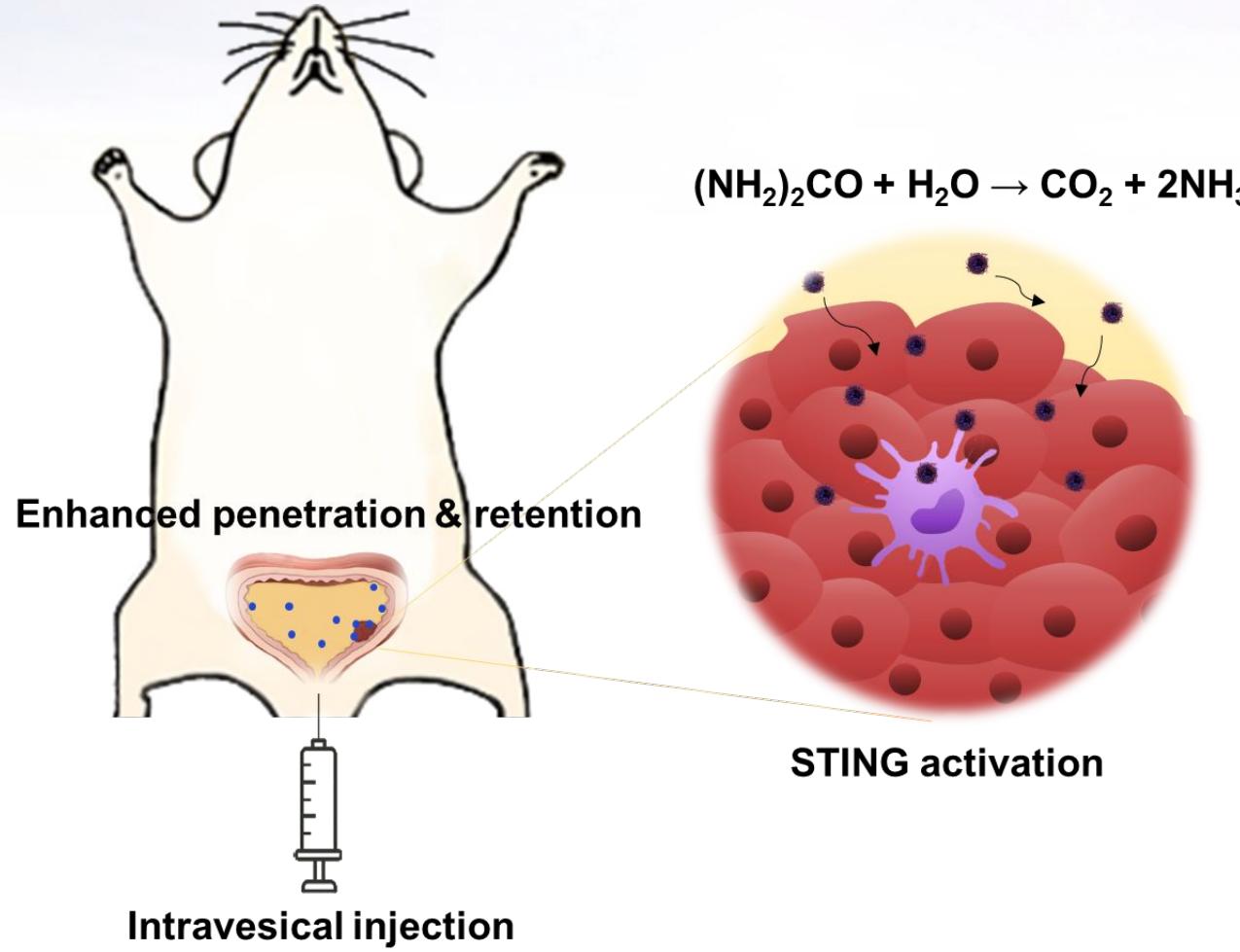
### III. Summary and Future Works

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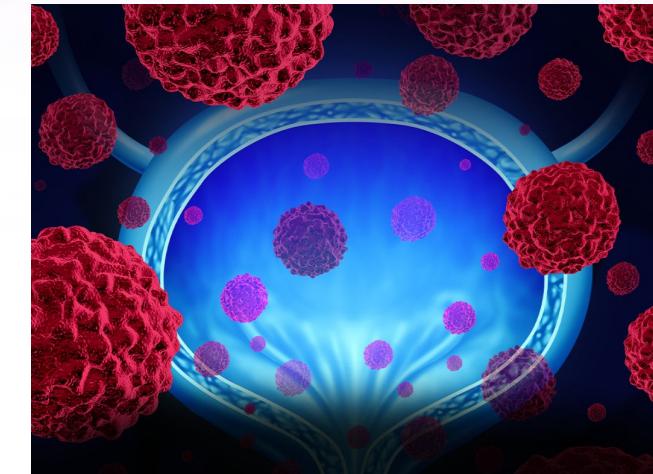
**-For Further Applications of Smart Micro/Nanomotors**



## ◆ Successful orthotopic bladder cancer immunotherapy



## ◆ Collaboration for clinical bladder cancer immunotherapy

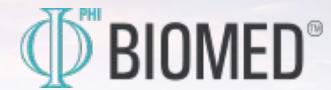


loio+ BioPlus Co.,Ltd.



## ❖ Financial support

- NRF, MHW, MSMV, MSMEs&S, World Class 300, TIPS, Interajo, LG Innotek,



## ❖ Collaboration

- POSTECH: Prof. YC Sung, KM Kim, UY Jung, SJ Jung, JY Sim
- Stanford University: Prof. Zhenan Bao, David Myung
- Harvard Medical School, MGH: Prof. Andy Yun, Mei Wu
- Univ. of Washington: Prof. AS Hoffman, PS Stayton, DH Kim
- Karolinska Institute: Prof. Berggren
- Allergan Co. (Dr. Chee-yub Won)
- Roche group (Dr. Christian Reiser)



# Special Issue Announcement

*Biomaterials Innovations and Challenges for Wearable Bioelectronic Devices*



Executive Guest Editor : Sei Kwang Hahn, POSTECH

Co-Guest Editor : Kam Leong, Columbia University

Co-Guest Editor : John Rogers, Northwestern University



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Executive Guest Editor : Sei Kwang Hahn, POSTECH

Co-Guest Editor : Molly Stevens, Oxford University

Co-Guest Editor : John Rogers, Northwestern University



Session: Nanomedicine and Nanoscale Delivery III

# Thank You for Your Kind Attention

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**Seok Cheon Endowed Chair Prof. Sei Kwang Hahn  
Biomedical Nanomaterials Lab  
Department of Materials Science and Engineering, POSTECH**



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