

FROM RESEARCH TO INDUSTRY



SAFER-BY-DESIGN APPROACH TO IDENTIFY QUANTUM DOTS WITH REDUCED TOXICITY

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G Sarret, M Carrière

INTRODUCTION

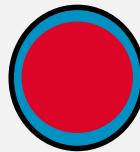
Advantages

Fluorescent semiconductor nanocrystals

core



core/shell

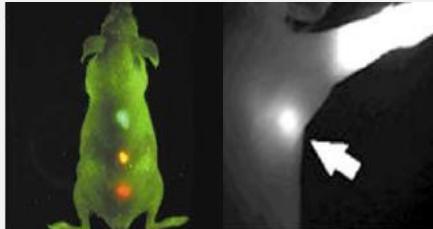


→ unique optical properties

Optoelectronics (LED, photovoltaic cells)



Biology (imaging, biosensing)



Drawbacks

Contains Cadmium (mostly)

CdSe-CdTe QDs: *in vitro* and *in vivo* toxicity

- Cell mortality
- DNA damage
- Neurotoxicity ...

→ Alternative: indium-based QDs

OBJECTIVE

Design QDs which are **less toxic** for human health

Throughout the **life cycle** of the QDs

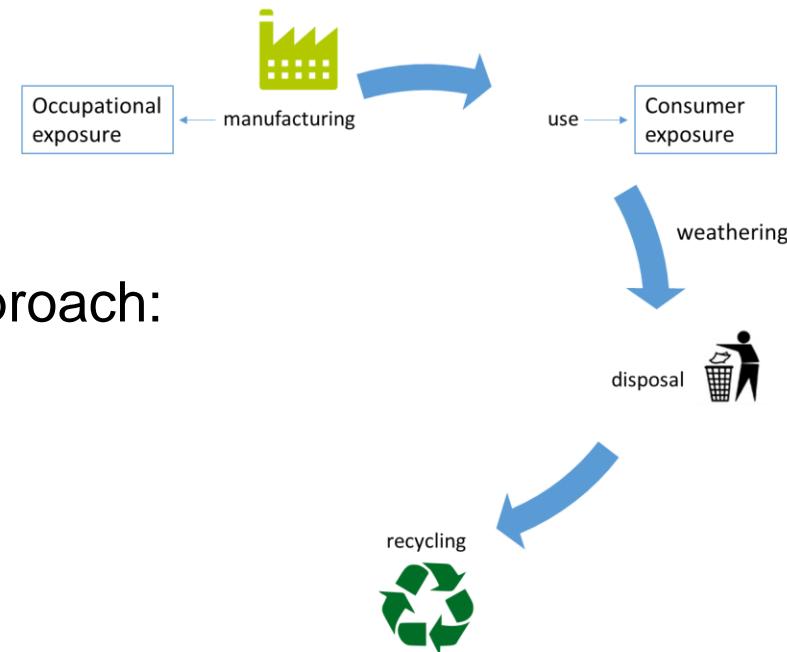
→ impact of **ageing**?

By using a **safer-by-design** scientific approach:

Cd replaced by less toxic element (indium)

Limited dissolution (double shell protection)

Different types of surface ligands



Toxicity assays using a human **skin model**: human primary keratinocytes

STRATEGY

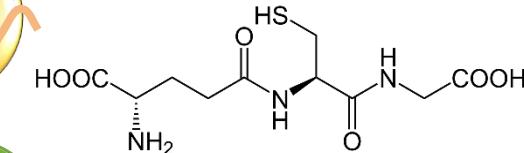
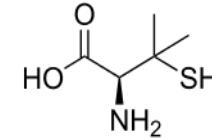
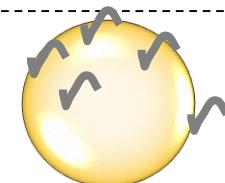
SYNTHESIS



InPZnS
InPZn

InPZnS@ZnSe/ZnS
InPZn@ZnSe/ZnS

LIGAND EXCHANGE



AGEING



Pristine



Aged



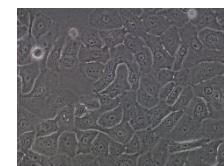
Pristine



Aged



CELLULAR EXPERIMENTS



Primary human
keratinocytes

Plateforme Hybriden

(Collab. Clément Thomassé, Jérôme Faure-Vincent)



Full spectrum sunlight

Temperature: 40°C

Irradiance: 1.44 W/m²

Duration of the ageing cycle: 64 h

Model: QSUN Xe-1
BC with xenon arc lamp

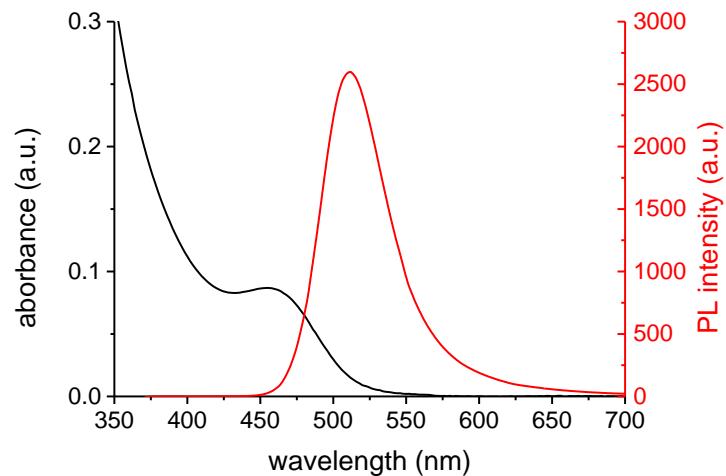
CORE-SHELL QUANTUM DOTS

Collab. LEMOH (KD Wegner, L Mattera, C Lincheneau, P Reiss)

InPZnS@ZnSe/ZnS



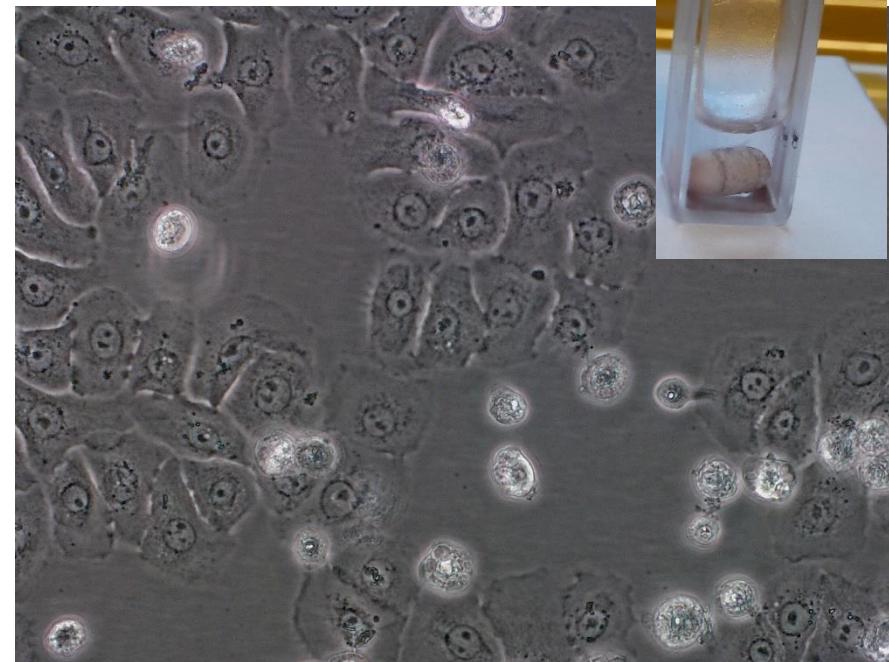
λ_{em} : 530 nm
QY: 22-25%
Primary size: 2 nm
Hydrodynamic diameter: 5 nm
Z pot (in PBS): -35 mV



KERATINOCYTES EXPOSED TO InPZnS CORE SHELL QDs



Pristine

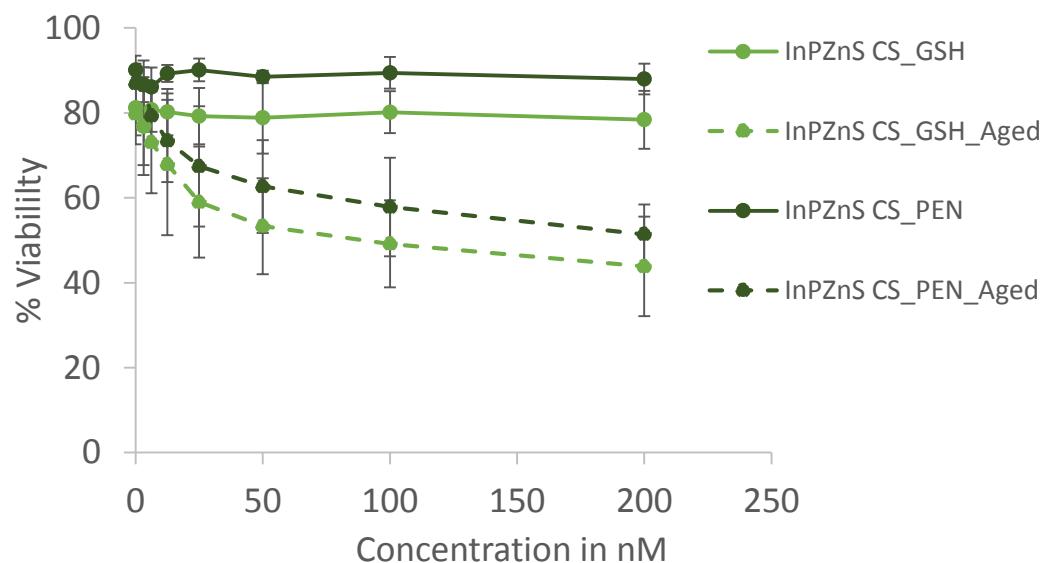


Aged

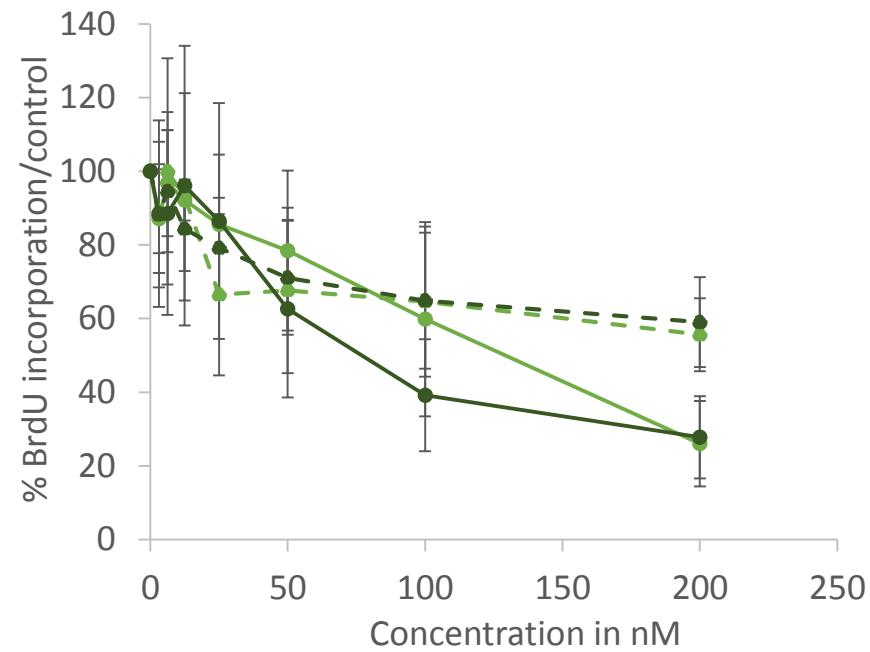
Exposure: 50 nM for 24h

At 24h

CELL VIABILITY (LDH assay)



CELL PROLIFERATION (BrdU assay)



- ↓ in the cell viability following exposure to the aged QDs
- ↓ in the cell proliferation pristine InPZnS CS > aged InPZnS CS at the highest dose

XAS ANALYSIS OF InPZnS CS (In K-EDGE)

Collab. Géraldine Sarret



EXAFS analysis of:

Core: InPZnS or InPZn

Shell: ZnSe/ZnS

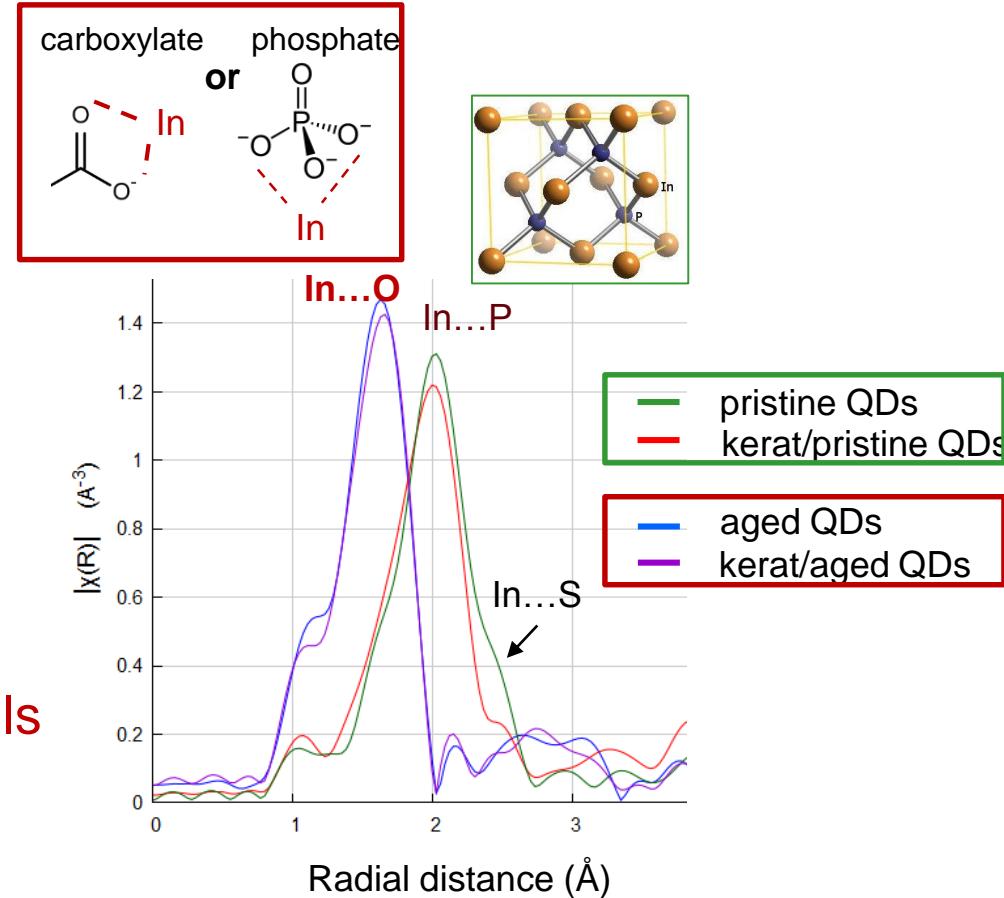
Ligand: penicillamine or glutathione

Pristine or aged

QDs or keratinocytes exposed to QDs

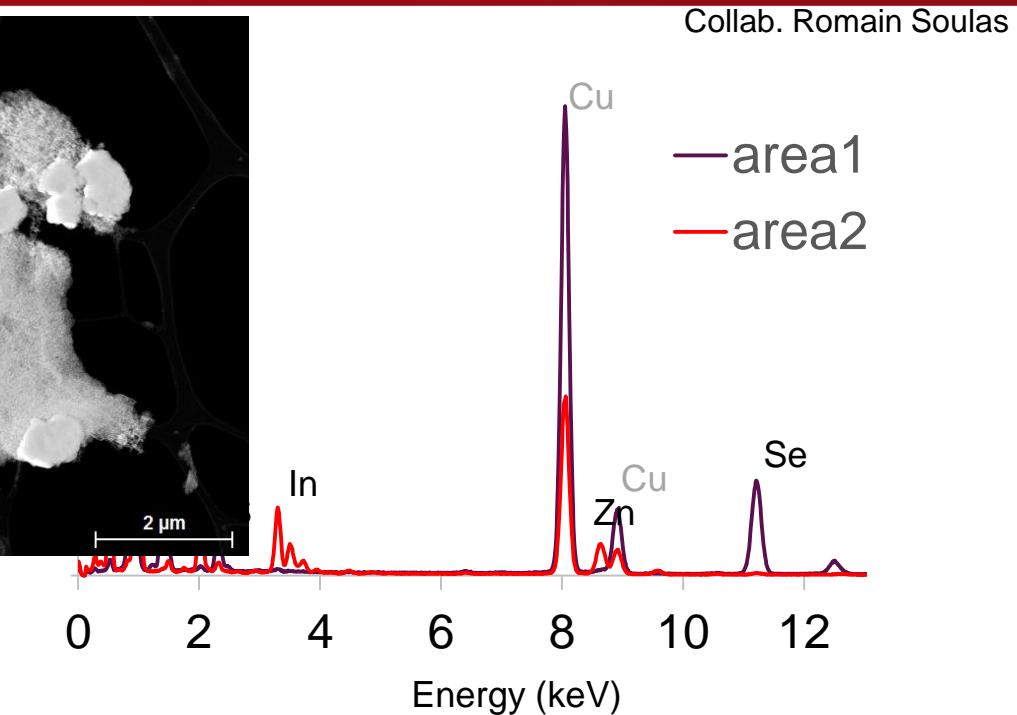
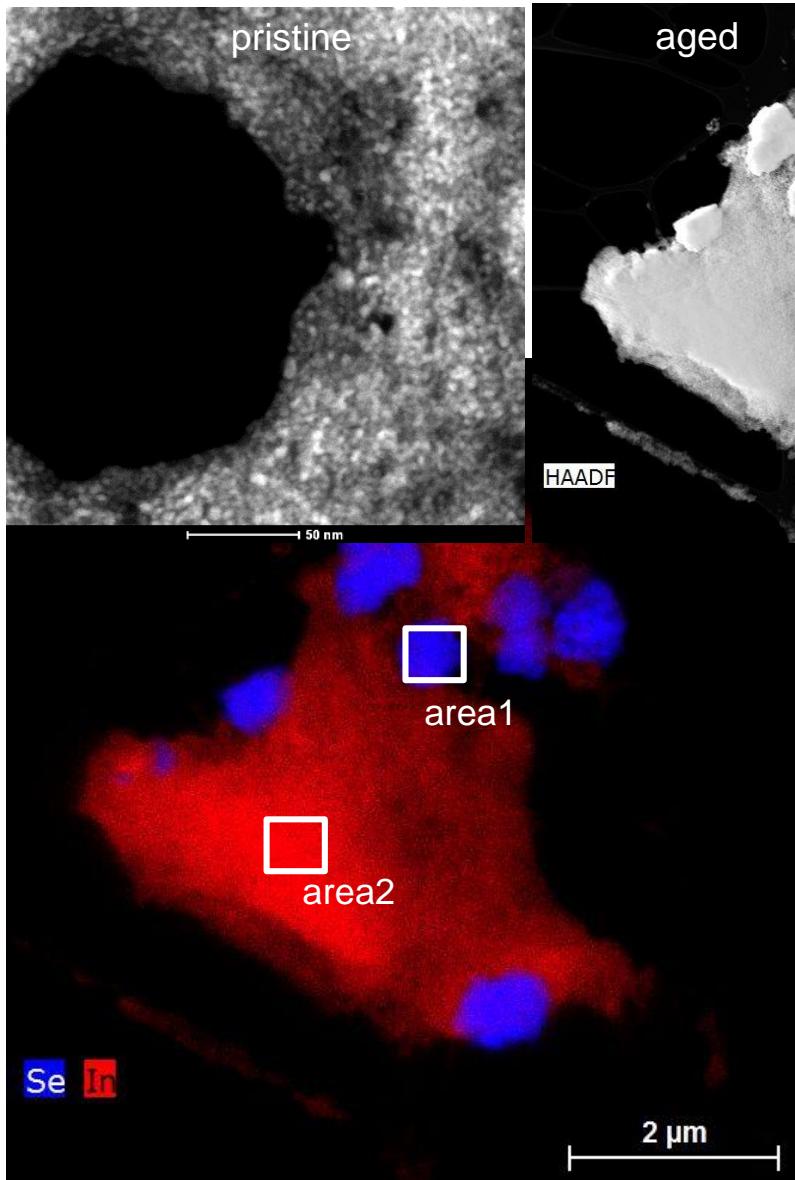
→ transformation after ageing,
→ no transformations into the cells

Exception: InPZn core only



Cell exposure: 50 nM for 24h

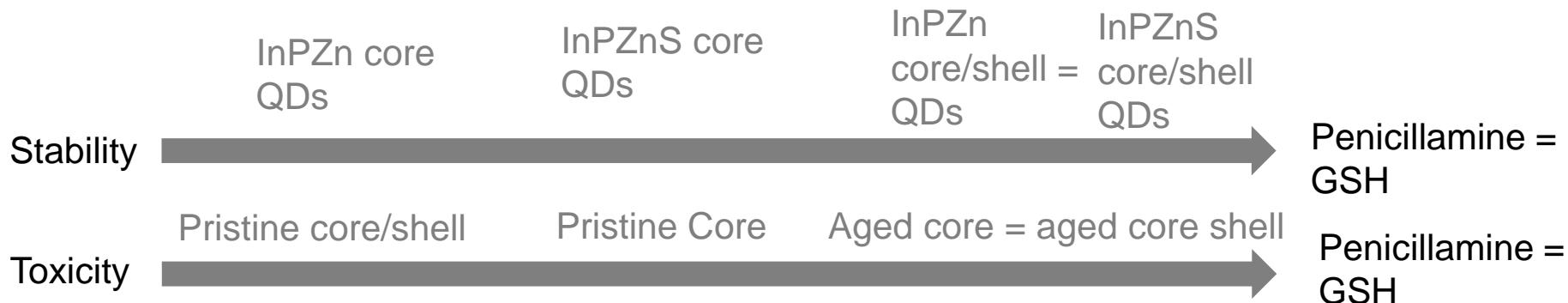
STEM/EDX ANALYSIS OF InPZnS QDs



→ area1 = Se, S
→ area2 = In, P, O, Zn



CONCLUSIONS & PERSPECTIVES



SAFER-BY-DESIGN STRATEGY



In > Cd
Core-shell > core only
InPZnS > InPZn
Penicillamine = GSH



dissolution and toxicity
following ageing

Necessity to test other types of ligands

AKNOWLEDGMENT

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Plateforme Hybriden

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Thank you for your attention!