water insolubility of HY, one of its major draw-backs. The aggregation and binding of HY in the presence of PVP were studied and digitized fluorescence endoscopic imaging (DFEI) was used to study the effect of the pharmaceutical formulation with the *in vivo* tumor implanted chick chorioallantoic membrane (CAM) model. The combined results from FCS and DFEI studies reveal the coordination of HY-PVP binding, HY disaggregation in the presence of PVP and strengthened HY tumor uptake selectivity. PVP is thus suggested as a potential adjuvant to previously investigated N-methyl pyrrolidone (NMP) in the HY delivery system as well as a replacement for the conventionally used albumin in the HY bladder instillation fluids preparation for clinical use. The findings were then further confirmed by FLIM studies in HY solutions, followed by measurements in MGH and RT112 cells incubated with HY and PVP solutions in dark. Fluorescence lifetime of intracellular HY showed similar trend of prolongation with the presence of PVP as that was observed with FLIM measurements in solutions. The FLIM results, supported by colocalization studies by confocal imaging with fluorescently labeled PVP, strongly suggest that PVP is uptaken in cancer cells despite the large number of contrary reports.

225-Pos Board B104
Brightness Analysis of Nuclear Receptor Interactions in a Cell-Free Expression System
Patrick J. Macdonald[1], Jolene Johnson[1], Yan Chen[1], Bin Wu[2], Joachim Mueller[1].
[1]University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA, [2]Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY, USA.
Brightness analysis with fluorescent fluctuation spectroscopy examines protein interactions in real time. The analysis is based on the principle that the brightness of an oligomer is proportional to the number of fluorophores in the protein complex. We previously applied brightness analysis inside living cells to decipher both homo- and hetero-interactions between proteins. While experiments in cells probe protein interactions in the natural environment, solution studies probe interactions between isolated proteins. In some cases we observed different results in cells than expected from solution studies. In order to identify the origin of such differences, we adapt brightness analysis to solution studies by utilizing a cell-free expression system. Cell-free expression takes advantage of genetic tags for labeling proteins while providing a much more controllable environment than the living cell. We first characterize the behavior of mCherry and EGFP in a cell-free expression system to optimize it for brightness analysis. The samples are measured in microfluidic devices using two-photon excitation. Using this system, we study the oligomerization states and interaction of nuclear receptor proteins RXR and RAR by means of brightness analysis. We determine the binding affinity of these receptor proteins for comparison with measurements made in living cells and on purified protein systems. This work is supported by the National Science Foundation (PHY-0346782) and NIH grant R01GM064589.

226-Pos Board B105
Resolvability of PCH in Two Dimensional Systems
Yu Li, Bill McConnaughey, Yanxin Liu, Guy Genin, Elliot Elson.
Washington Universtiy in st. Louis, St. Louis, MO, USA.
Although the ability of PCH analysis to resolve the components of mixtures of fluorescent molecules has been carefully studied in three-dimensional systems (Muller, Chen et al. 2000), it has not been investigated in two dimensions. We explored the characteristics of the reduced $\chi 2$ surface of two dimensional binary mixtures, specifically, the principal curvature at the $\chi 2$ minimum as a function of brightness and molecular concentration. Our results are in good agreement with the previously published results.
A potential problem can arise from errors in focusing in two dimensional systems . When data acquisition time and therefore the data record is insufficient to to resolve species in a mixture, independent information about each species, e.g., measurements of brightness, can be used to extract more accurate results. Our experiments on Giant Unilamellar Vesicles (GUVs) labeled with a single lipid analog allow us to estimate brightness variations due to focusing. Combining this information and the PCH from mixtures yield reasonable estimations of the parameters of interest
Muller, J. D., Y. Chen, et al. (2000). "Resolving heterogeneity on the single molecular level with the photon-counting histogram." Biophys J 78(1): 474-86.

227-Pos Board B106
Insights Into The Microscopic Origin Of Anomalous Diffusion From Crowded Solutions
Jedrzej Szymanski, Matthias Weiss.
German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany.
Subdiffusive motion of tracer molecules has been observed in many crowded environments, ranging from polymer and protein solutions to intracellular fluids. Yet, a clear understanding of the microscopic origins of subdiffusive motion and the variation of the anomaly in crowded media is still missing. To address this point, we have studied the diffusion of tracer molecules in crowded solutions with varying composition using fluorescenc correlation spectroscopy (FCS). Aiming at capturing the essential processes that lead to anomalous diffusion, we observed that none of the artificial mixtures yielded the degree of subdiffusion that has been observed for intracellular fluids, i.e. artificially crowded solutions appear too simple to account for the high degree of anomaly observed in cells. Comparing time and ensemble averages of the tracers' mean square displacement furthermore indicated that ergodicity is unbroken. Hence, the monitored diffusive process cannot be described properly by a (non-stationary) continuous time random walk.

228-Pos Board B107
Bacterial Sec Protein Transport is Rate-limited by Precursor Length: A Single Turnover Study
Fucheng Liang, Umesh Bageshwar, Siegfried Musser.
Department of Molecular and Cellular Medicine, Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, College Station, TX, USA.
An in vitro real-time single-turnover assay for the *Escherichia coli* Sec transport system was developed based on fluorescence dequenching. This assay corrects for the fluorescence quenching that occurs when fluorescent precursor proteins are transported into the lumen of inverted membrane vesicles. We found that: i) the transport kinetics were well fit by single-exponential, even when the ATP concentration was rate-limiting; ii) ATP was utilized during most of the time required for transport; and iii) longer precursor proteins transported more slowly than shorter precursor proteins. Together, these conclusions argue against a model in which precursor movement through the SecYEG translocon is mechanically driven by a series of rate-limiting, discrete translocation steps that result from conformational cycling of the SecA ATPase. Instead, we propose that precursor movement results predominantly from Brownian motion and that SecA regulates pore accessibility through ATP hydrolysis.

229-Pos Board B108
Single Molecule FRET Measurements of Dye-labeled DNA
Nicolas Di Fiori, Amit Meller.
Boston University, Boston, MA, USA.
Single molecule FRET (sm-FRET) measurements of dye-labeled DNA molecules have become a widely-used tool over the last decade to probe the structure, dynamics and function of nucleic acids. As robust as FRET is, quantitative measurements and absolute distances are seldom extracted, mostly due to difficulties in obtaining the correct value of the transfer efficiency and the orientation factor between the dyes. Moreover, additional complications might arise from undesired interactions between the dyes and the nucleotides, or even between the dyes themselves. We present a systematic study of sm-FRET performed on an extensive set of internally labeled DNA molecules with FRET pairs at various inter-dye distances, spanning the entire dynamic range of transfer efficiencies. An automated two-color scanning confocal microscope allows us to obtain long fluorescence time trajectories at high temporal resolution, from which we extract the corrected FRET efficiencies. By fitting these values to a geometrical model of the double helix we obtain the absolute distances between the dyes as well as the orientation factor. At inter-dye distances smaller than 8 nucleotides apart we observe an increased fraction of abrupt fluorescence fluctuations that we attribute to dye-dye interactions. We note that this phenomenon can distort the apparent FRET efficiency towards lower values, consistent with previous reports. We will show single molecule time traces which have allowed us to characterize and study these interactions in detail.

230-Pos Board B109
Structural Dynamics of SERCA and Phospholamban by Fluorescence and Phosphorescence
Ji Li, David D. Thomas.
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA.
We used fluorescence and phosphorescence to investigate the structure and dynamics of phospholamban (PLB), and its regulation of its inhibited target, sarcoplasmic reticulum calcium ATPase (SERCA). Polarized TIRF of PLB, labeled in the cytoplasmic domain helix with bifunctional rhodamine (BFR), shows that this domain lies parallel to the membrane surface. The structural and functional effects of PLB phosphorylation and mutation are under