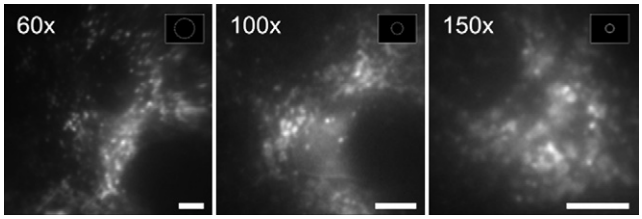
and experiments using objectives with different magnification (and hence different back pupils). We illustrate the system performance by demonstrating ultra-low background TIRF imaging of 200 Hz Qdot blinking, vinculin-EGFP labeled cellular adhesion sites and lysosomal dynamics in cortical astrocytes.



Platform H: Membrane Physical Chemistry I

90-Plat
Charges in phospholipid layers
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The interfacial properties of a membrane are determinant for interaction among bio-membranes / lipid bilayers, or for establishing contact among layer surfaces and substrates approaching from the bulk. The access to the bilayer and its local structural modifications upon interaction with an adsorbing guest molecule are influenced significantly by the presence of charges, and local changes in surface charge density. Results are being presented on model mono- and bilayers prepared from zwitterionic POPC (DPPC) (1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-ethylphosphocholine) and its cationic sibling lipids E-POPC (E-DPPC) (1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-ethyl-phosphocholine/ di-1,2-palmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-ethyl-phosphocholine) that served to inoculate charge densities at different mol percentages. Monolayer compression isotherms obtained for the mixtures are compared with isotherms of pure POPC as a reference system. The presence of layer charges is manifested in an earlier onset of interaction, the range of interaction is increased. POPC bilayers with the same charge densities as the monolayers studied were then investigated by single molecule tracking using the fluorophore DiI-C18 for diffusion tracing. Initial results indicate a linear decrease of the lateral diffusion coefficient with increasing charge density. In the course of the study indications for domain formation in pure POPC layers were observed as novel peculiarities; these will be presented and discussed. Preliminary results about the adsorption of partially charged phospholipid layers onto hydrogel polyelectrolyte cushions on solid supports will be presented.

91-Plat
Domain/Raft Exploration in Lipid Mono- & Bilayer by Freeze-fracture Electron Microscopy on Nano-Resolution Scale
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Lateral chemical and physical inhomogeneities of biological membranes such as domains/rafts seem to play an important role in signal transduction, membrane traffic, and diseases.
Freeze-fracture electron microscopy (ff-em) as a cryofixation TEM technique is a powerful to explore such small and highly dynamic domains in a probe-free mode. Since the resolution of this technique is 2 nm we are able to study lipid-, protein-, toxin-, as well as drug domains on a nano-resolution scale. Since replica, resistant to beam damage, can be produced from large, micro-meter size objects, ff-em allows us to study nano-scale events in micro-scale biological as well as artificial assemblies. The fact that the fracture plane follows the area of weakest forces, allows insides into the hydrophobic center of lipid bilayer [1-3] as well as into the lipid/gas interface of lipid monolayer stabilizing gas bubbles [4].
Examples will be given for domains in liposomal bilayer made of drugs [5], proteins, and toxin. Lipid-induced modulation of 2-D crystals of bacteriorhodopsin in liposomal bilayer will be shown as an extreme example for domain formation of intrinsic proteins [6-8]. Additionally, liquid ordered (Lo) domains will be shown recently detected in lipid monolayer, stabilizing hydrophobic gas bubbles.
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92-Plat
Sterol Uptake From Liposomes By MβCD Is Influenced By The Extent Of Sterol Superlattice In The Membrane
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Cholesterol transfer regulates the intracellular distribution and the metabolism of cholesterol, thus having a direct impact on cholesterol homeostasis in cells. The present work investigates the effect of lipid lateral organization (i.e., the extent of sterol superlattice) on sterol transfer from liposomes to methyl-Beta-cyclodextrin (MβCD), a water-soluble macrocyclic compound able to pick up sterols from the membranes. Several sample sets of large unilamellar vesicles (LUVs) composed of POPC, dehydroergosterol (DHE) and Dansyl-PE were examined. Each sample set contained ~15 samples centered at one of critical sterol mole fractions (C_r) theoretically predicted for maximal sterol superlattice formation (e.g., 20.0, 22.2, 25.0, 33.3, 40.0 and 50.0 mol%). Within the same sample set, the DHE content in the sample was varied using 0.4 mol% increments. The molar ratio of DHE to Dansyl-PE was kept constant (15:1) in all samples. The rate of sterol transfer was monitored in real time based on the resonance energy transfer between DHE (donor) and Dansyl-PE (acceptor). The fluorescence intensity of Dansyl-PE versus time was monitored at 500 nm upon addition of MβCD. When DHE is transferred from LUVs to MβCD, the energy transfer efficiency is decreased and, consequently, the fluorescence intensity of Dansyl-PE is decreased over time. The initial rate of DHE transfer was determined by a linear fit of the data collected in the first few seconds of the transfer process. The initial rate of the DHE transfer was found to vary with DHE content in a biphasic manner at C_r. This result demonstrates that the rate of DHE transfer from LUVs to MβCD is governed by the extent of sterol superlattice in the liposomal membrane. (Supported by AHA, NSF and PDOH)

93-Plat
Lipid Diffusion In Domain-forming Bilayers Studied By Pfg-nmr
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The pulsed field gradient (pfg)-NMR method for measurements of translational diffusion of molecules in aligned lipid bilayers is presented. Lateral phase separation of lipids has been successfully studied as well as their dynamics within the bilayer organization. Support was obtained for that the lateral diffusion depends on lipid packing and acyl chain ordering. Therefore, investigations of order parameters of perdeuterated acyl chains, using 2H NMR quadrupole splittings, were useful complements. Here, some of our recent achievements on lipid membranes will be summarized. In particular, bilayers exhibiting two-phase coexistence of liquid disordered (ld) and liquid ordered (lo) phases are considered in detail. Among our major results are that the lateral diffusion is the same for all components, independent of the molecular structure (including cholesterol (CHOL)), if they reside in the same domain in the membrane. Furthermore, quite unexpectedly CHOL seems to partition into the ld and lo phases to roughly the same extent, indicating that CHOL has no strong preference for any of these phases. We propose that the lateral phase separation in bilayers containing one high Tm and one low Tm lipid together with CHOL is driven by the increasing difficulty of incorporating an unsaturated or prenyl lipid into the highly ordered bilayer formed by a saturated lipid and CHOL, i.e. the phase transition is entropy driven to keep the disorder of the hydrocarbon chains of the unsaturated lipid.

94-Plat
Lipid Sorting In Membranes Nanotubes
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Several studies have shown that lipids are sorted at every step of intracellular trafficking [1], for example in [2] it has been shown that COPI-coated vesicles have a different lipid composition than the Golgi apparatus they originate from. But general principles governing lipid sorting are not fully understood yet. In particular, general physical principles in sorting must be investigated closely. As transport intermediates are highly curved, the role of membrane curvature must be considered. As a driving force for sorting we propose, that composition