

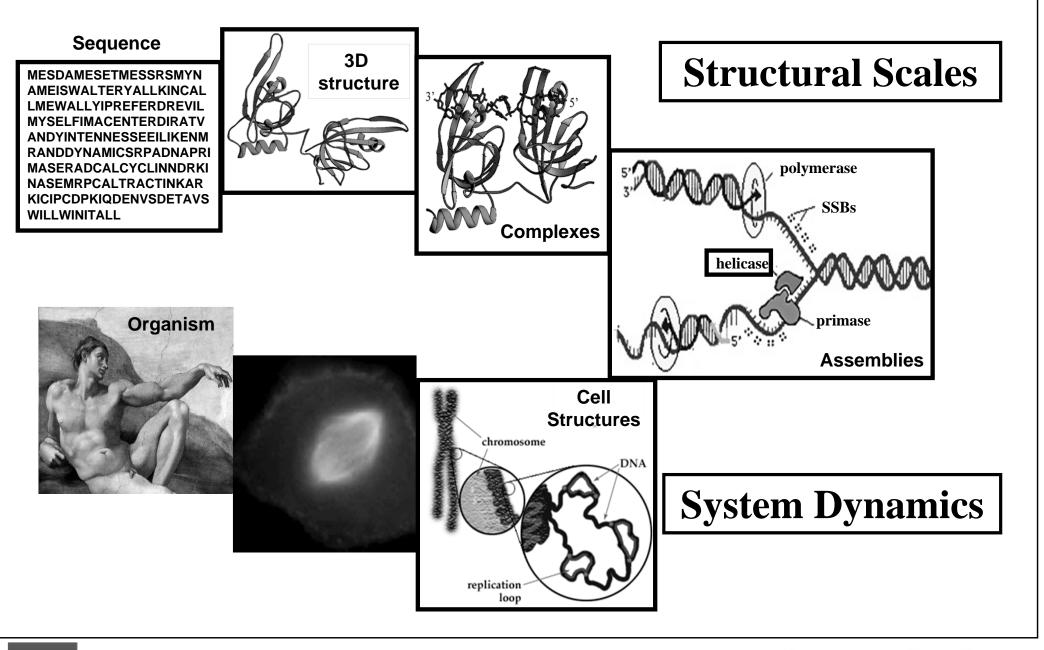
### NEW EXPERIMENTAL APPROACHES FOR STUDIYNG FUNCTIONAL INTERACTIONS

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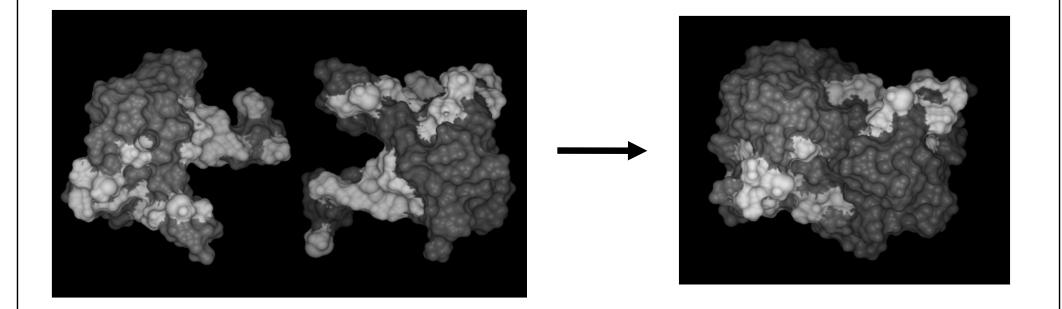


#### **Molecular Interactions and Biological Structure/Function**





## **High Resolution Structural Biology**



## Determine atomic structure Analyze why molecules interact





## **High Resolution Structural Biology**

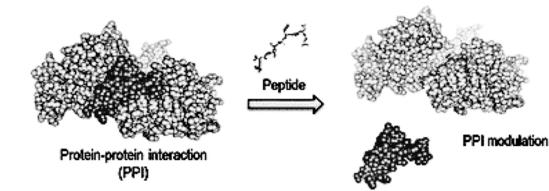
### $\textbf{Organ} \rightarrow \textbf{Tissue} \rightarrow \textbf{Cell} \rightarrow \textbf{Molecule} \rightarrow \textbf{Atoms}$

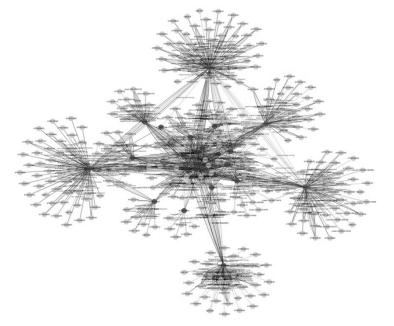
- A cell is an organization of millions of molecules
- Proper communication between these molecules is essential to the normal functioning of the cell
- To understand communication:
  - \* Determine the Organization of INTERACTIONS\*

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## **Protein-Protein Interaction (PPI)**





Information stored in specific PPIs databases that can be used for:

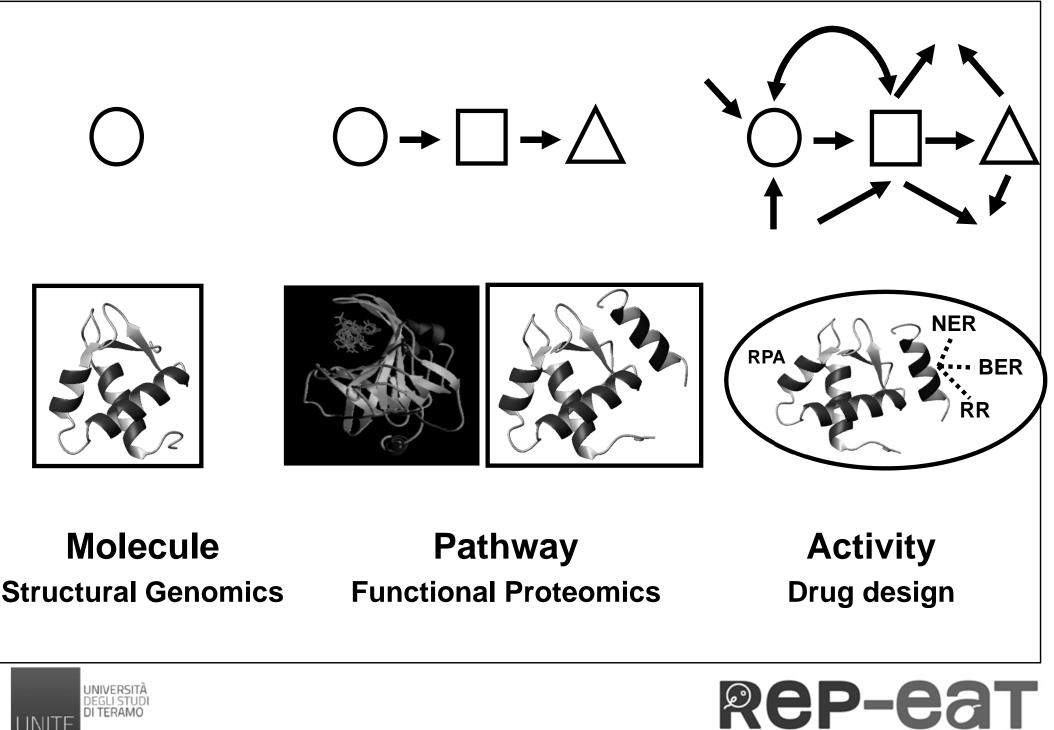
1) Prediction of interacting sites of proteins and design of specific interacting molecules;

2) Reliability Assessment of Protein-Protein Interactions;

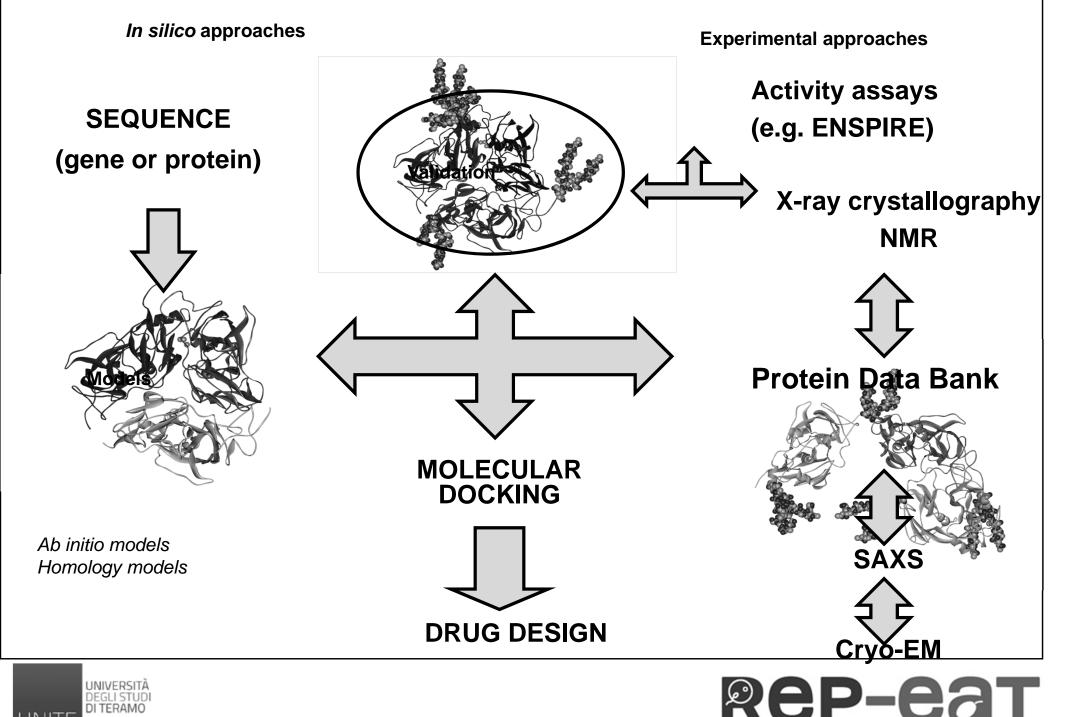
3) Establishment of interaction networks for specific collections of proteins, and involved with pathological/physiological processing.



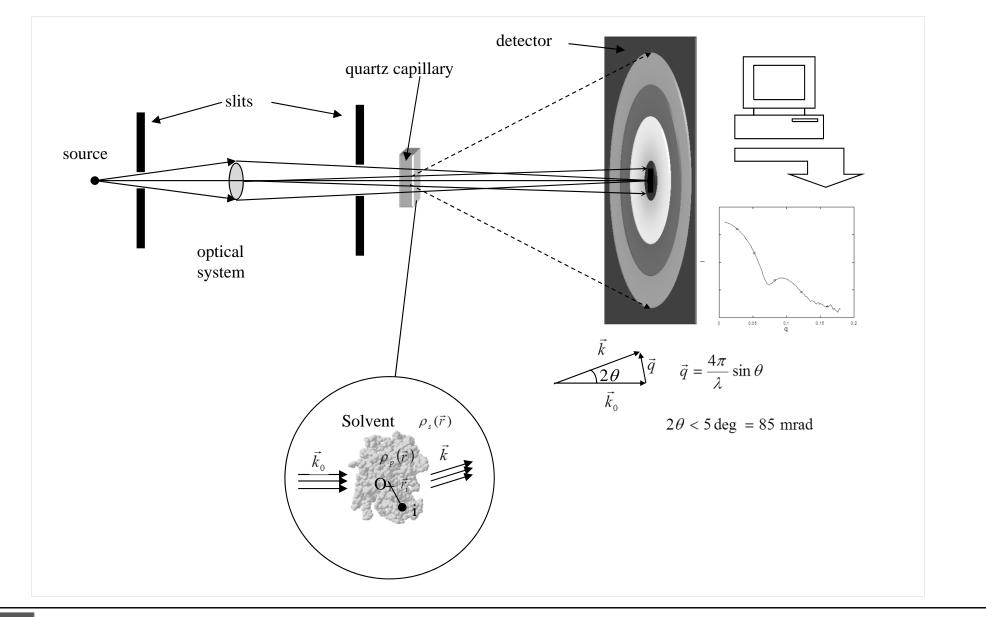
#### How Atomic Structure Fits In



#### **Structural Biology**



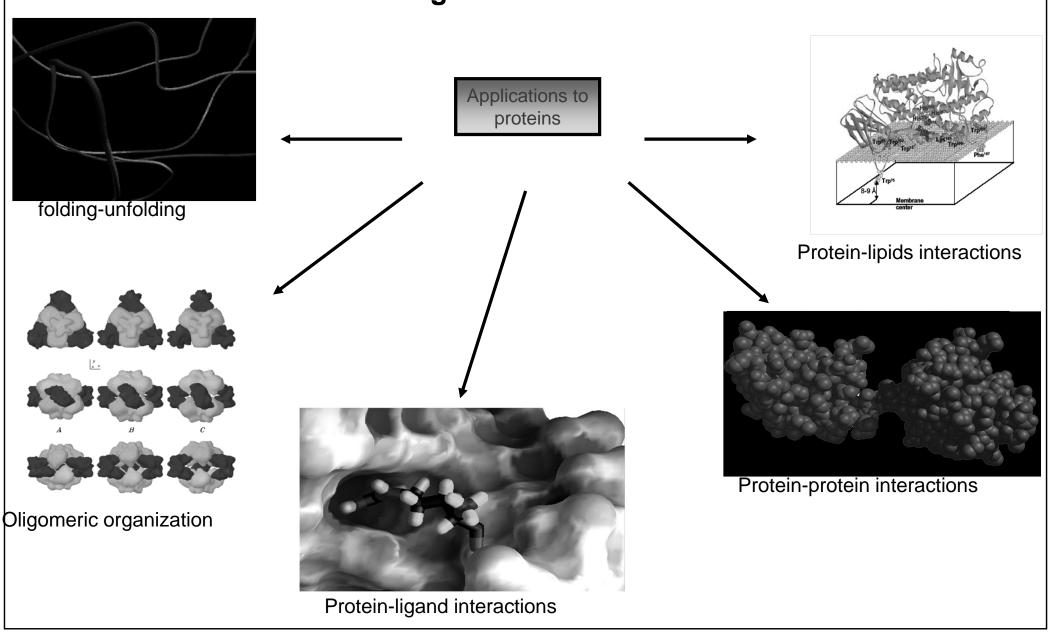
#### SMALL ANGLE X-RAY SCATTERING





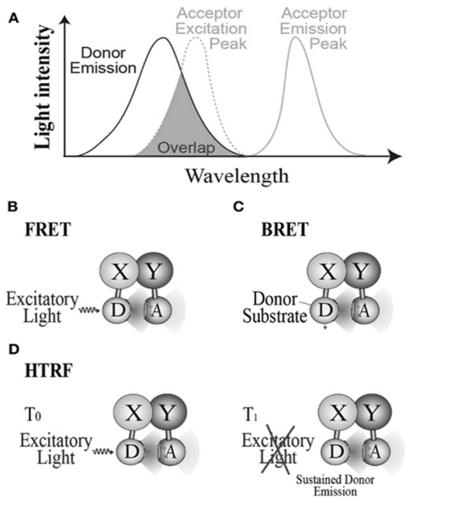


#### Studies by SAXS: interactions with Biological macromolecules





## **Additional experimental approaches**

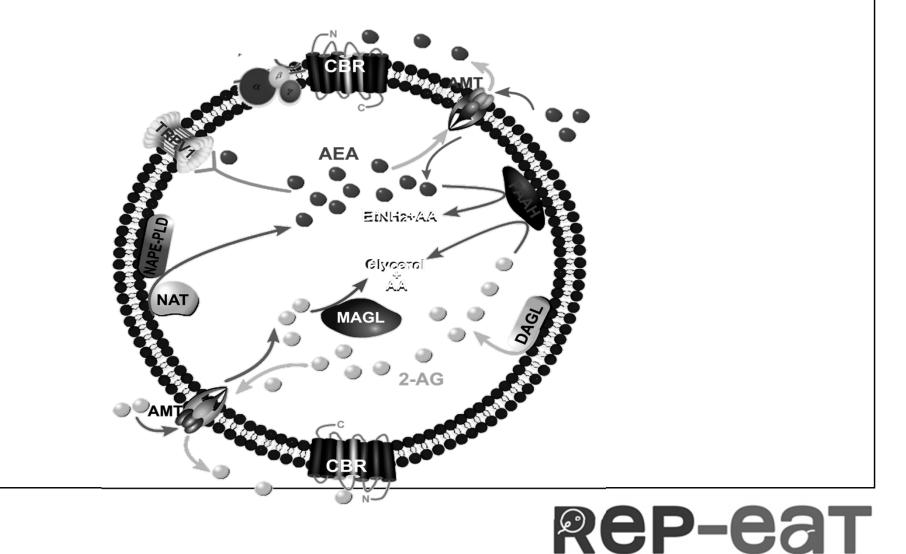


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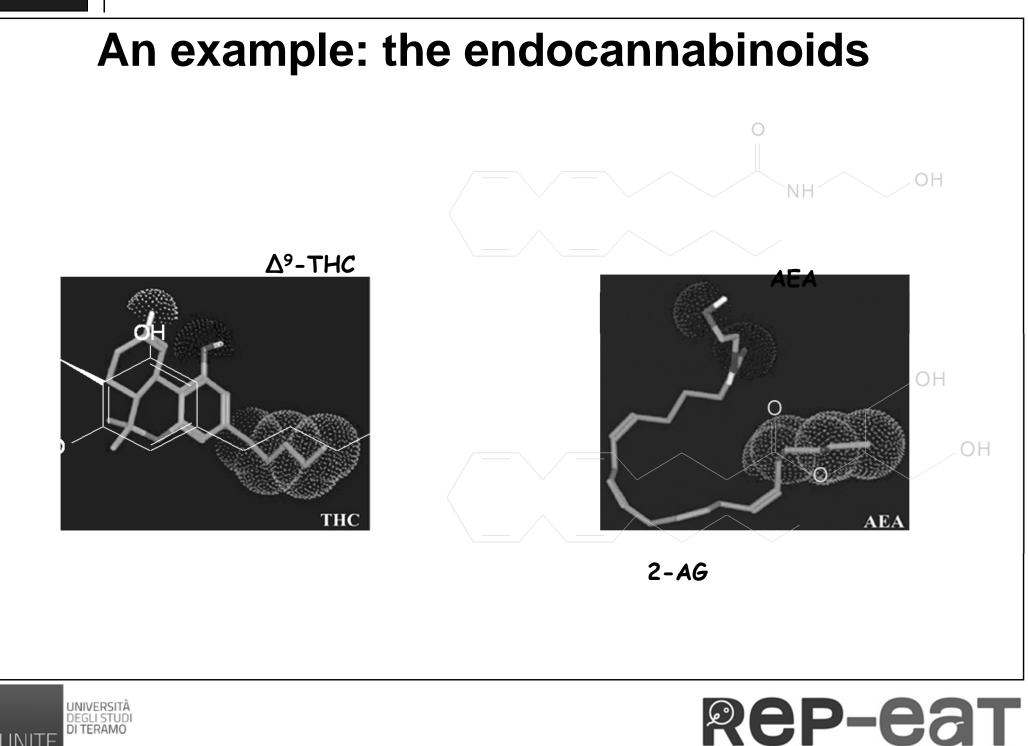
DEGLI STUD

- Label Transfer Protein Interaction Analysis (FRET-HTRF-BRET-FCS)
- Co-immunoprecipitation (co-IP)
- Pull-Down Assay
- Crosslinking Protein Interaction Analysis
- Far-Western Blot Analysis

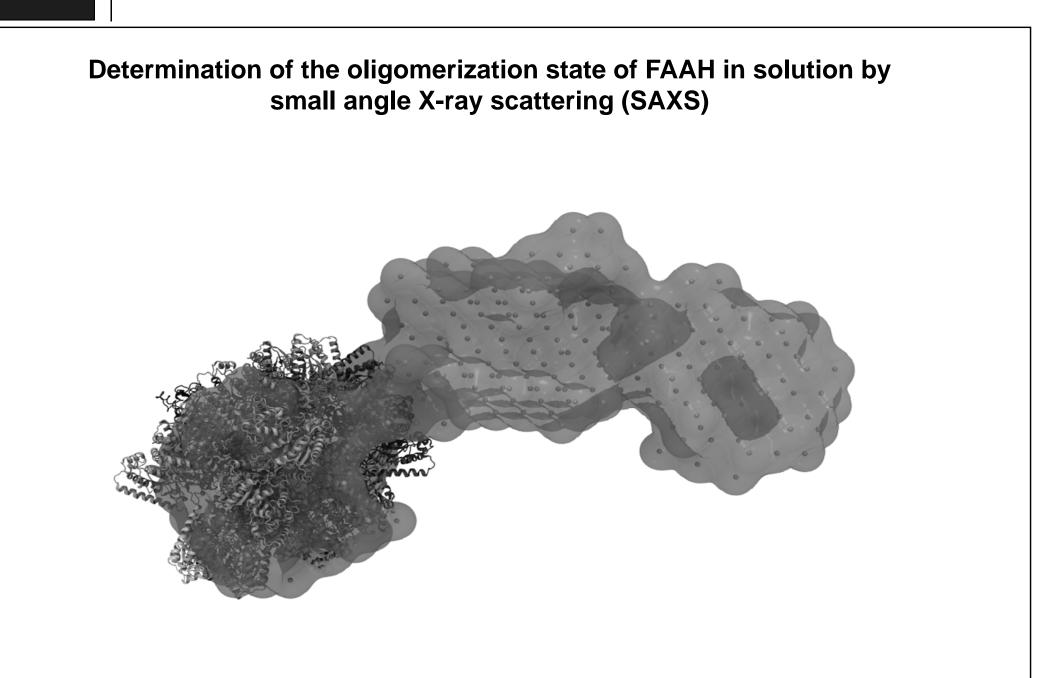
# An example: developing drugs modulating the endocannabinoid system





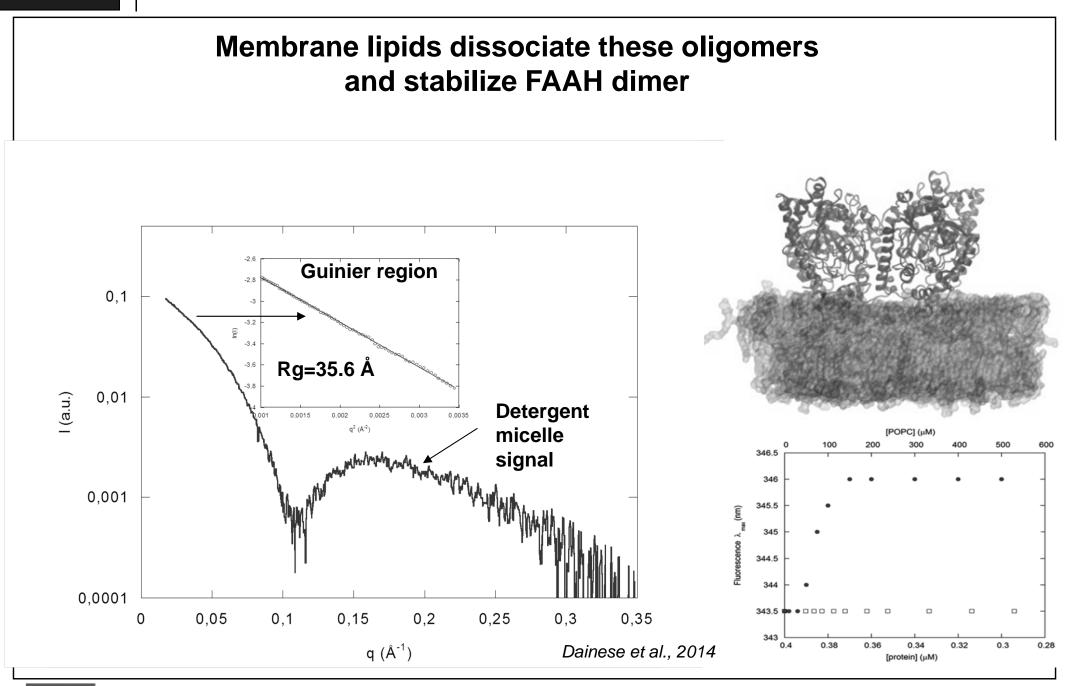


**DI TERAMO** 





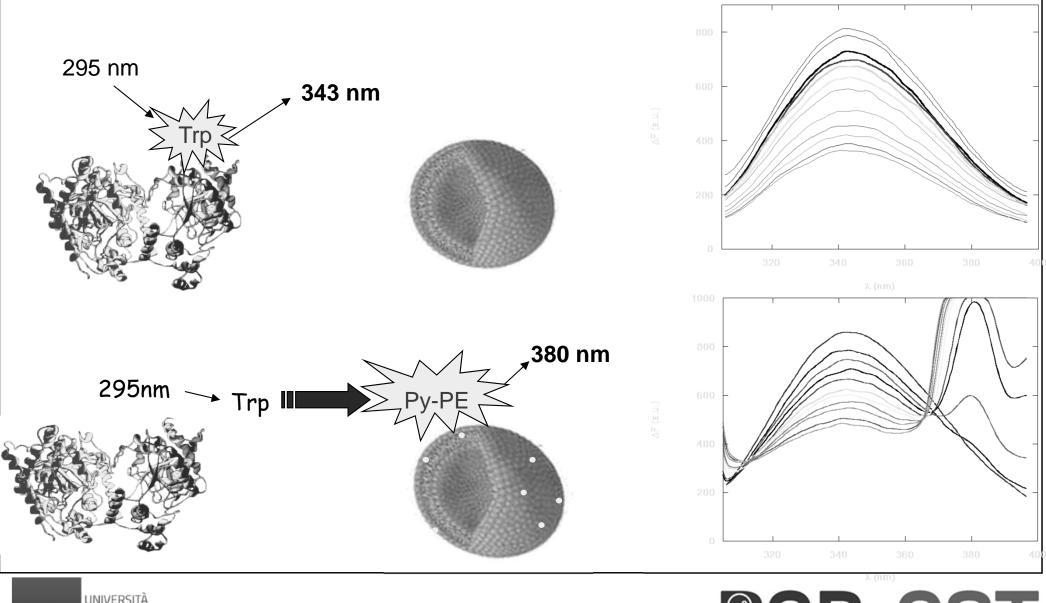




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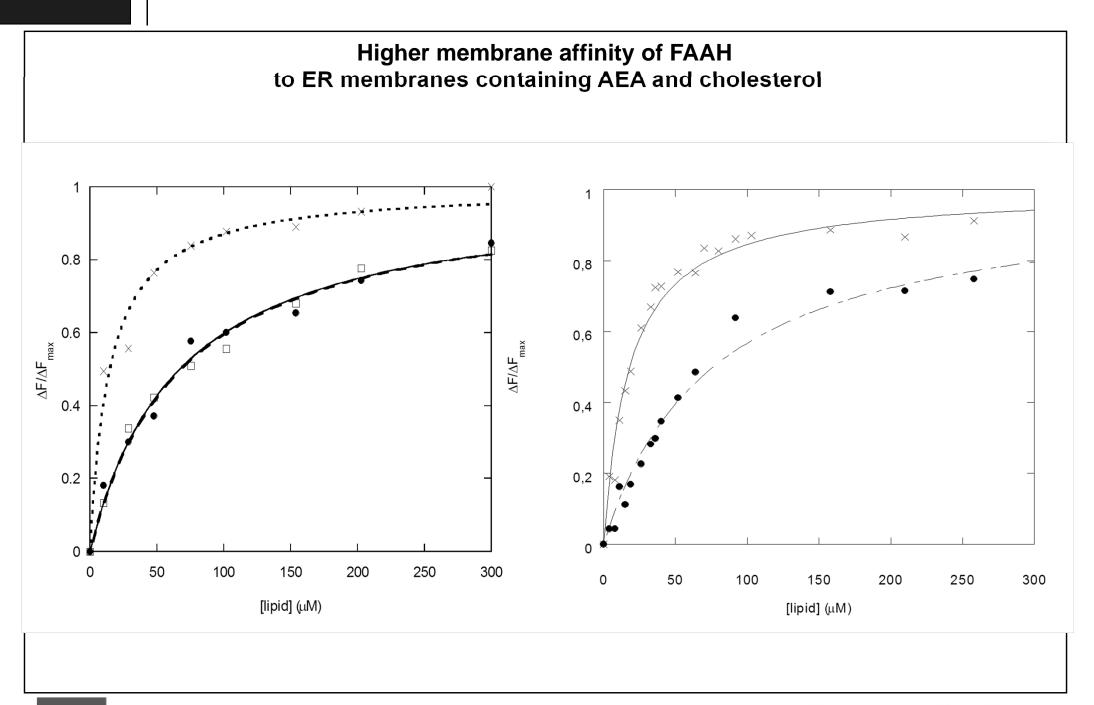


# Study of FAAH/membrane interaction by FRET



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## FAAH activity is strongly increased by membranes containing AEA and cholesterol

