

# Graphene oxide coating of hollow fibers for simultaneous adsorption&microfiltration in water purification

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# A Water Issue

**2.2 billion people**

lacked safely managed drinking water in 2017



**80% of wastewaters**

released without adequate treatment



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



«Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all»

# Emerging Contaminants

## What are they?

Anything not commonly monitored with the potential to enter the environment and cause adverse ecological effects

## Where are they?

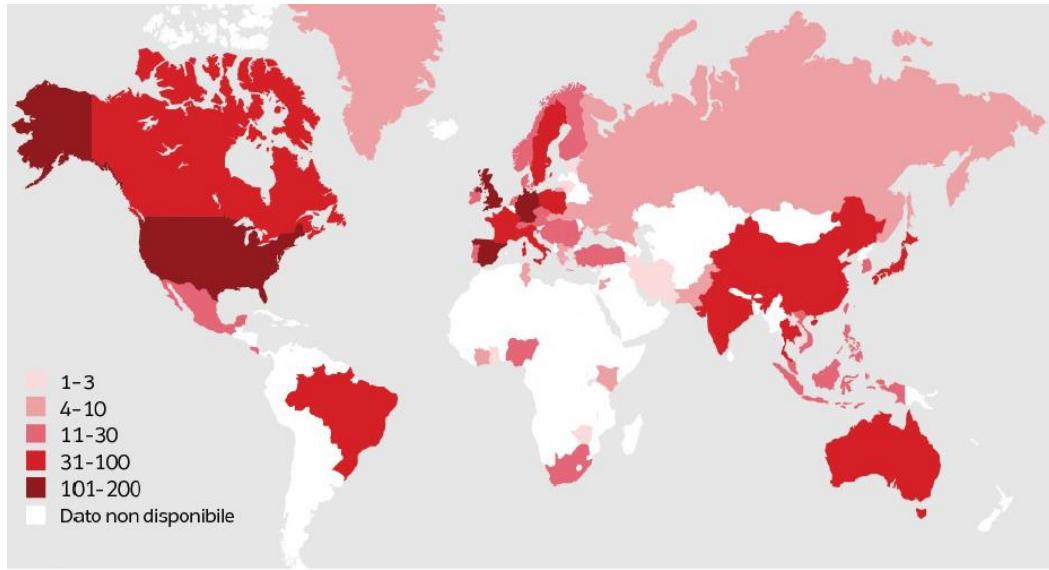
Superficial and ground water,  
wastewater, tap water



## Per Fluoro Alkyl Substances

-  Drugs
-  Pesticides
-  Personal care
-  Heavy metals
-  Bacteria

Number of pharmaceutical products found in water



P. Rosenfield, L. Feng, Risks of Hazardous Wastes, 2011  
Water Research, 153, 2019, 80

## Where do they come from?

- Oil/water/fire repulsion
- Cookware
- Food storage

## Why are they a problem?

- Persistent
- Bioaccumulative
- Toxic

# State of the Art

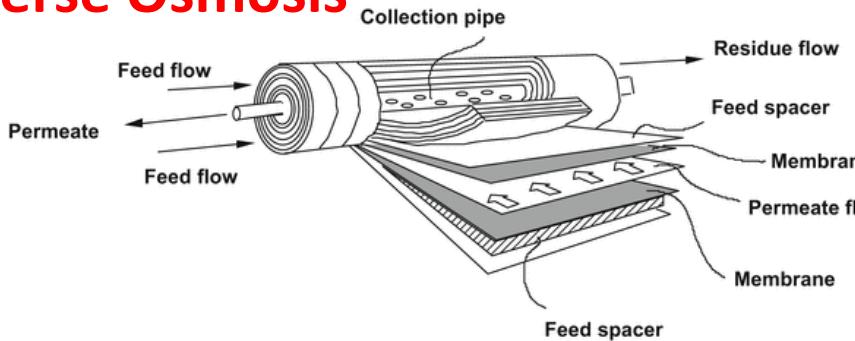


## MULTISTEP APPROACH

- STEP 1: Filtration
- STEP 2: Adsorption
- STEP 3: Disinfection

## MEMBRANE PROCESSES

### Reverse Osmosis



- High water rejection
- Dangerous retentate
- Energy consumption

## ADSORPTION

### Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)



- Bacterial growth
- High environ. costs
- Ethical issues



# Innovation

Drinking Water Directive  
98/83/EC

SAFETY

1998

New Drinking Water Directive  
EU 2020/2184

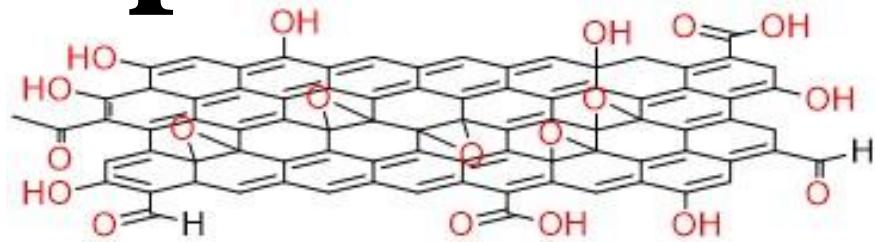
SAFETY

MONITORING

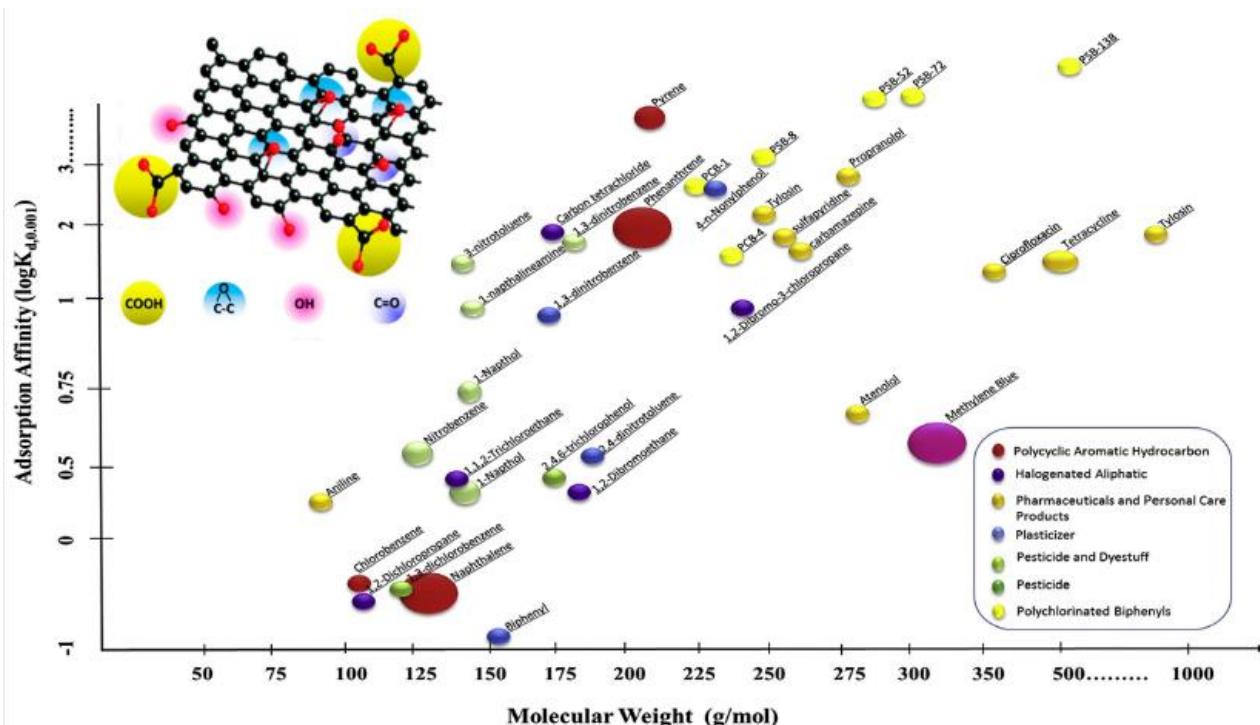
ACCESSIBILITY

12/01/2021

# Graphene Oxide



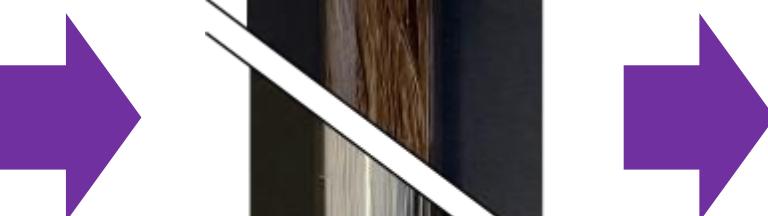
- I High versatility
- II High adsorption efficiency
- III Processability in water



# Our Goal: Multivalent filters



GO → Adsorption  
+  
HF → Filtration



Drinking water purification



# The Cartridges

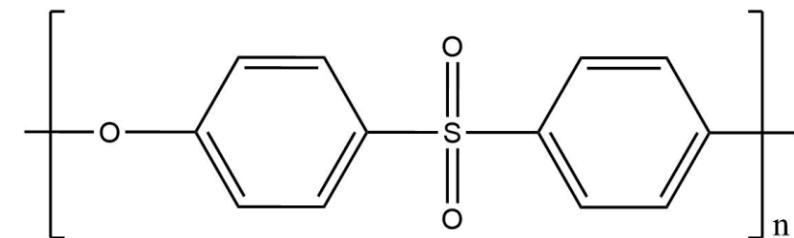
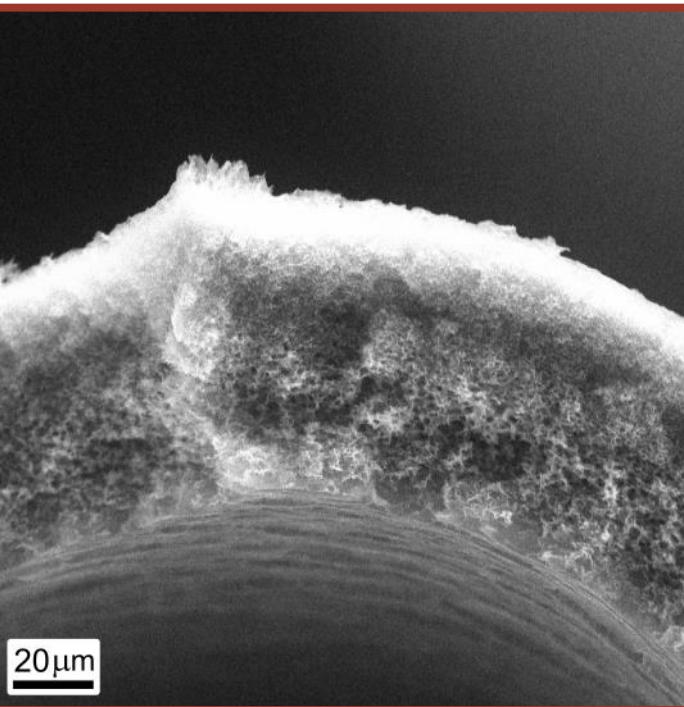
Plasmart 100



Hemodialysis filters

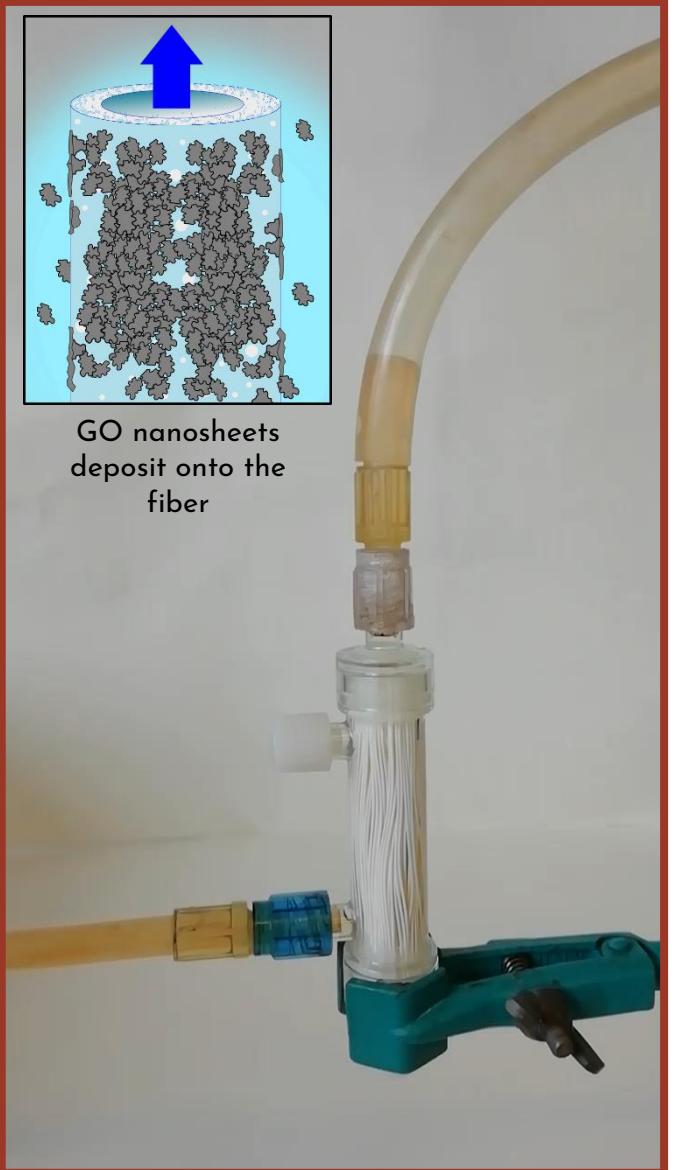


Versatile<sup>TM</sup> PES  
Polyethersulfone (PES)



Plasmart 25

# Core-Shell PES-GO



## Step 1 Filtration

(1 bar or 100 mL/min; 2 mg/mL)

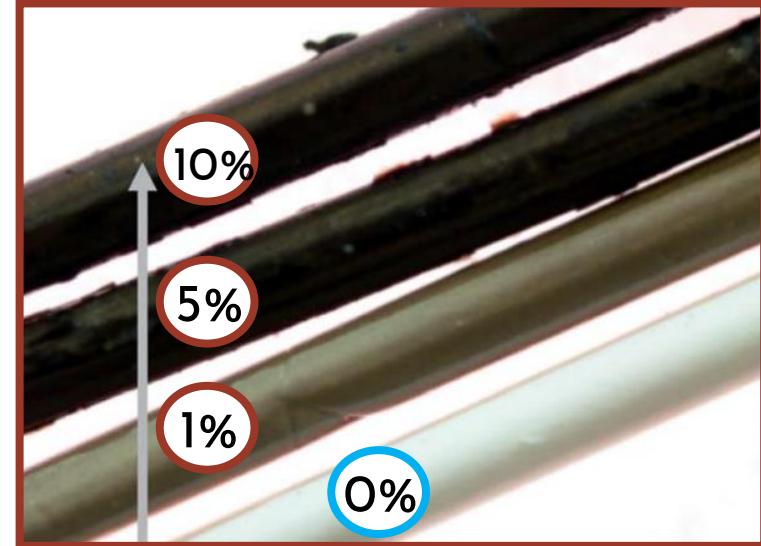
## Step 2 Thermal annealing

(Overnight 80 °C)

**Two Modalities**  
Inside or outside the fibers

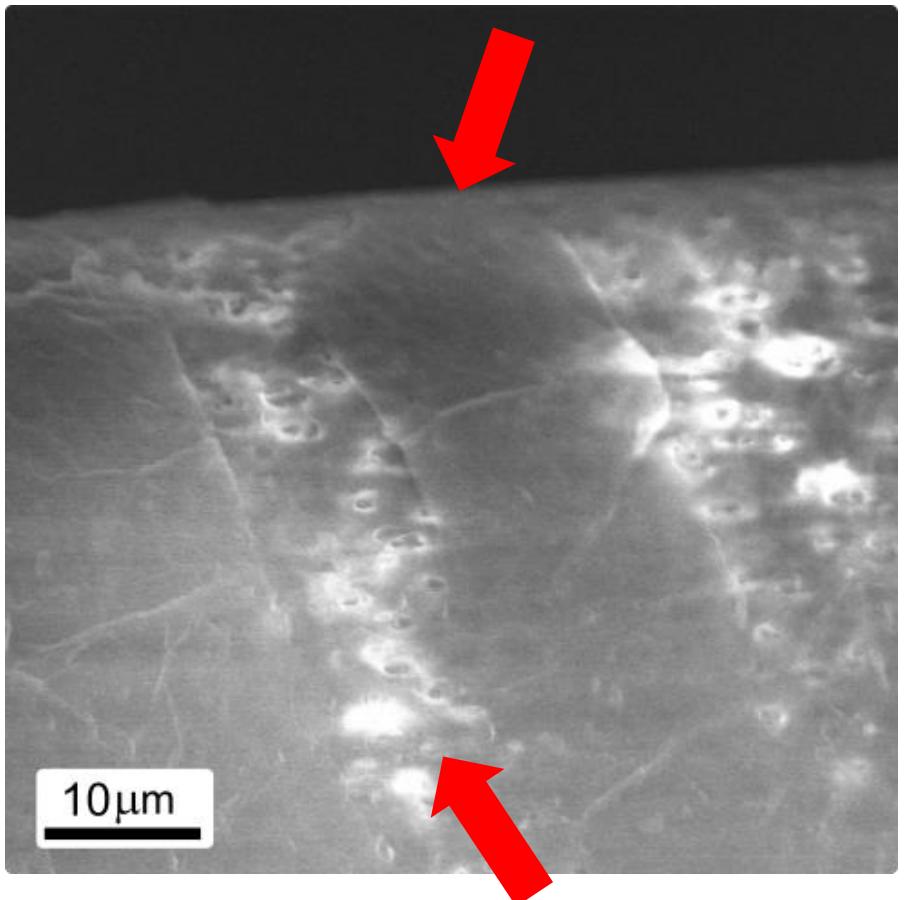


**Repeat**  
to tune percentage of GO

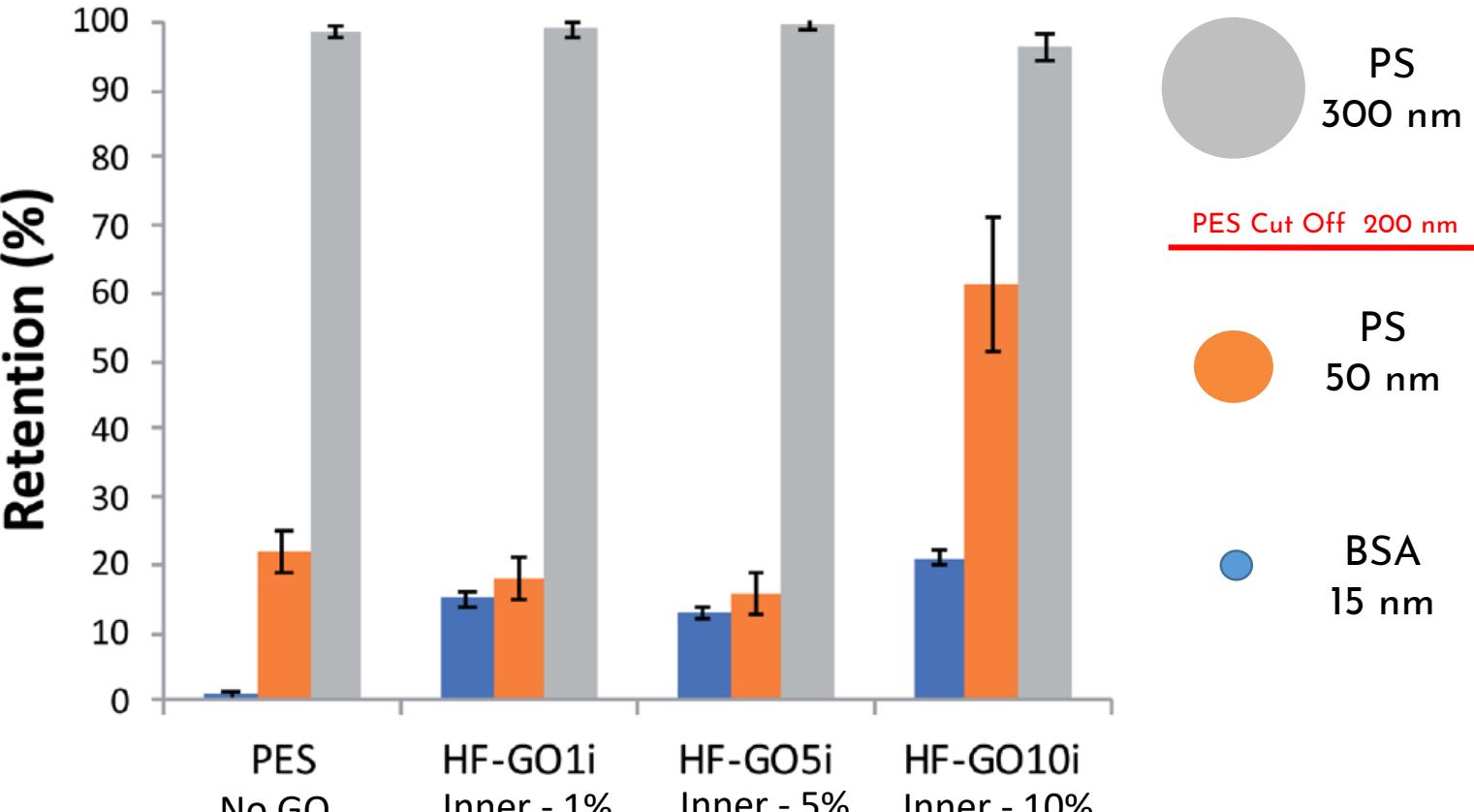


# Characterization

GO coating

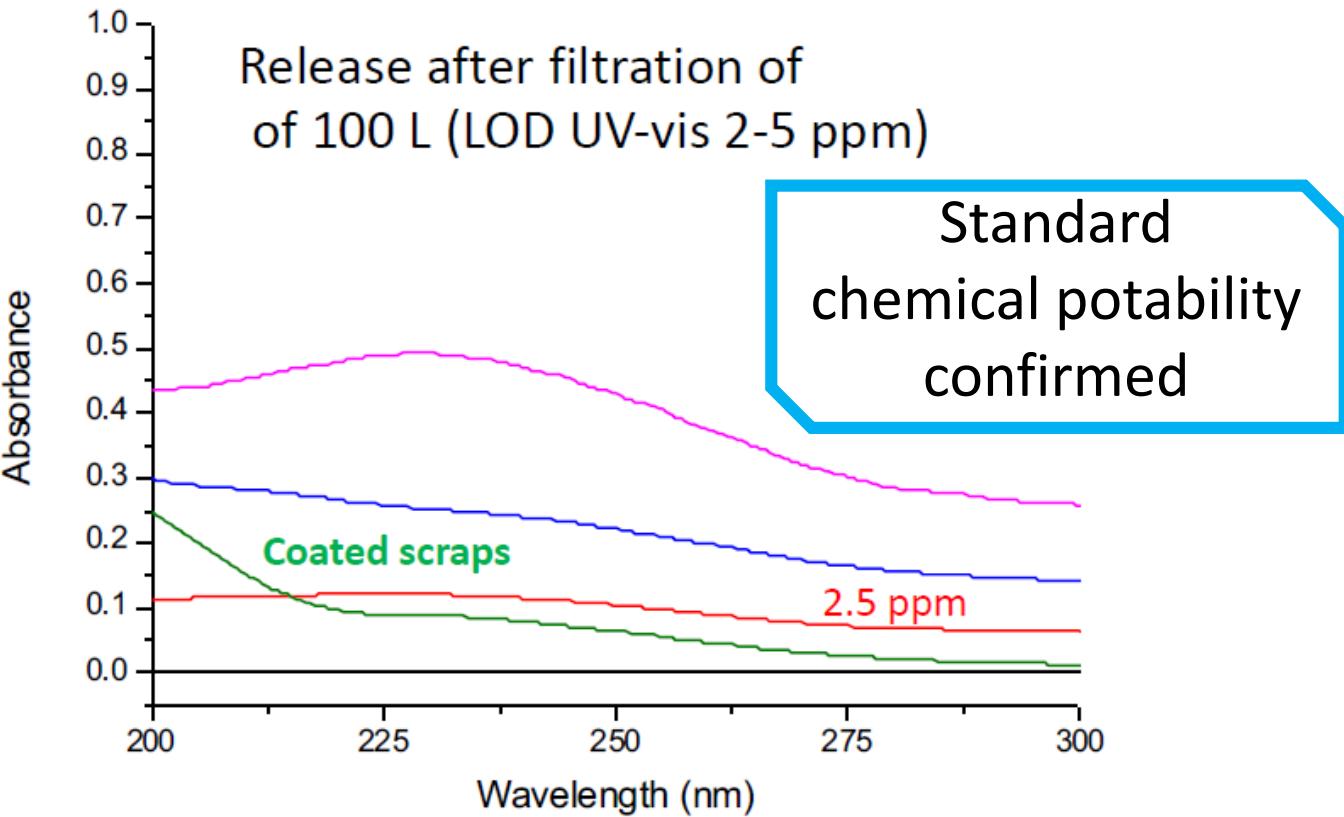
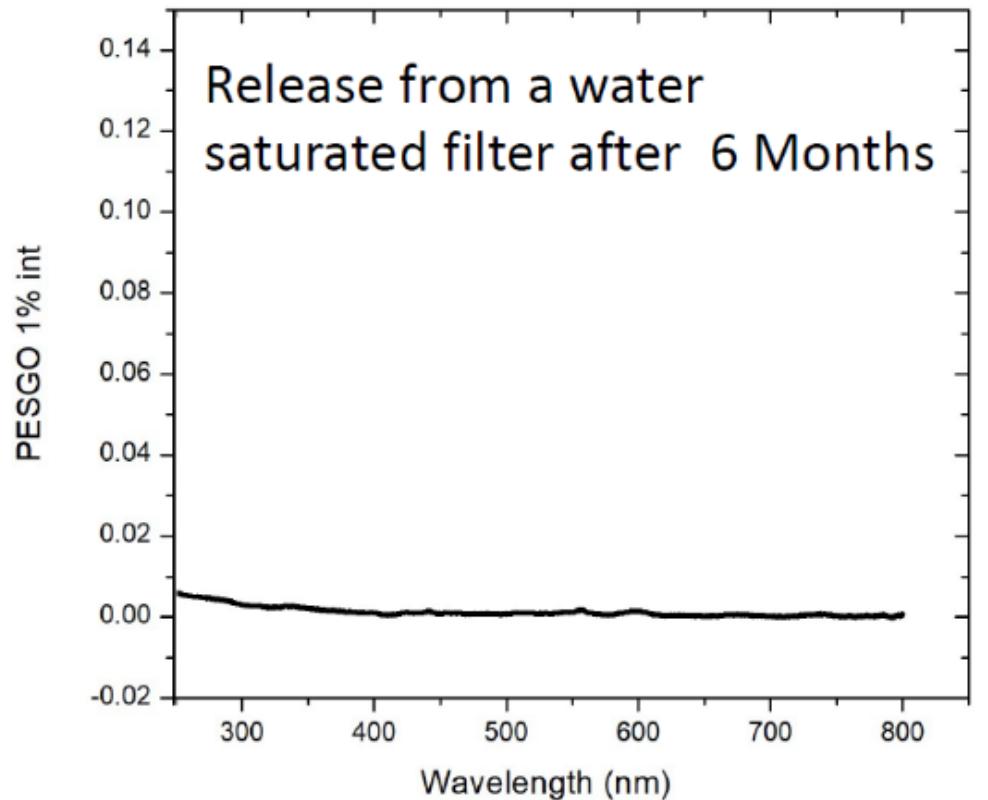


Uncoated PES



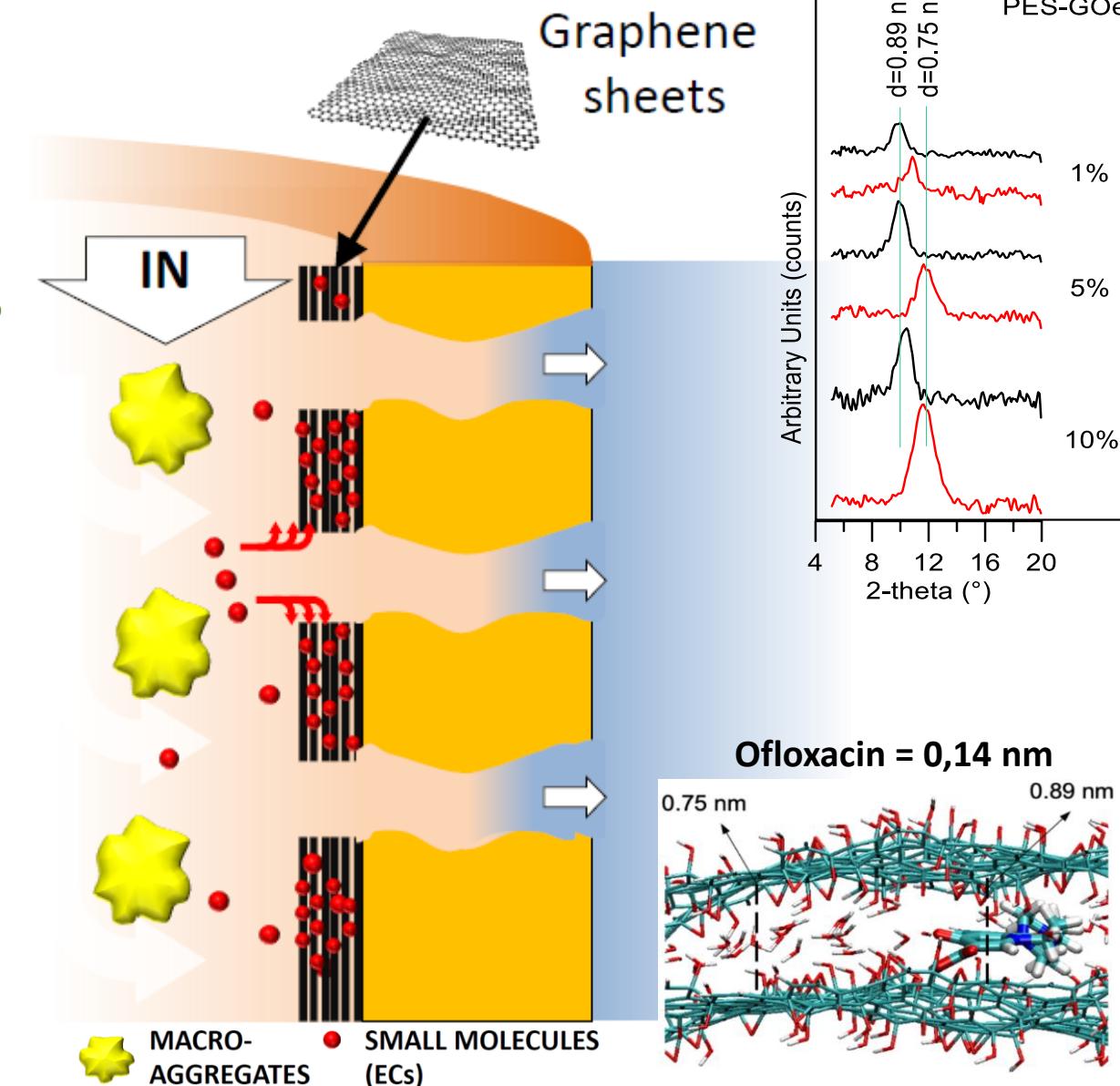
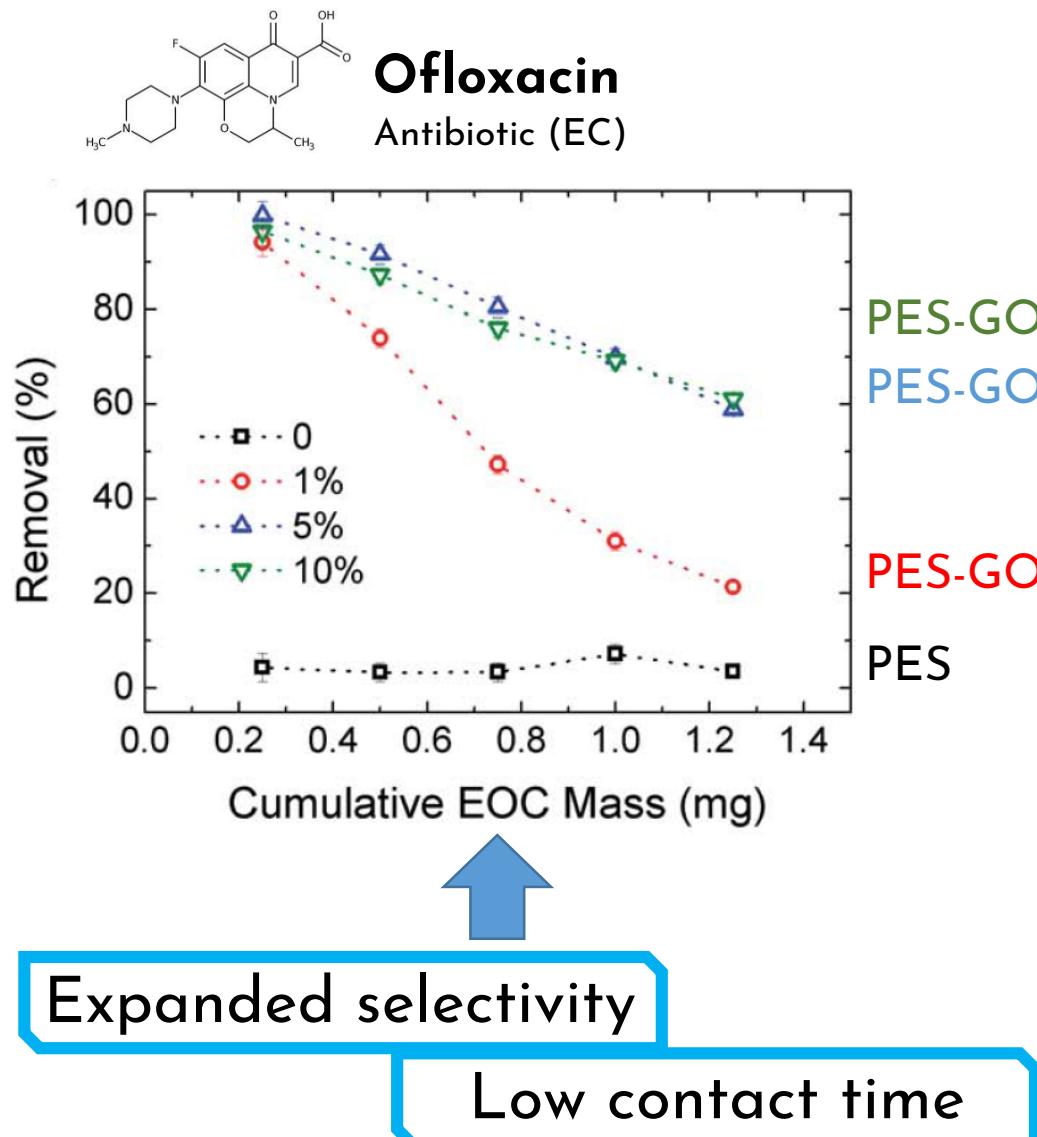
Microfiltration capability preserved

# Stability & Potability



(Salts, TOC, metal ions, organoleptic characteristics)  
D . Lgs. 31/01 Agg. D.M. 14/06/2017

# Synergistic Effect

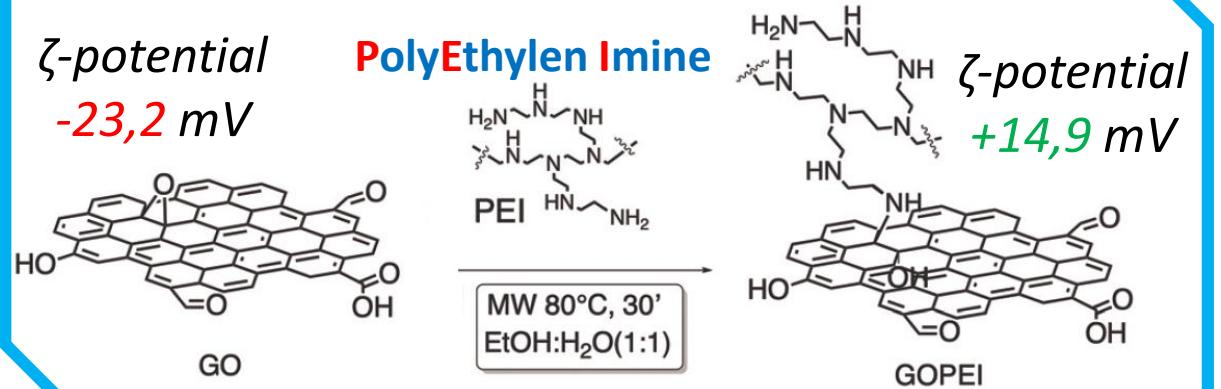


# PFAS Removal

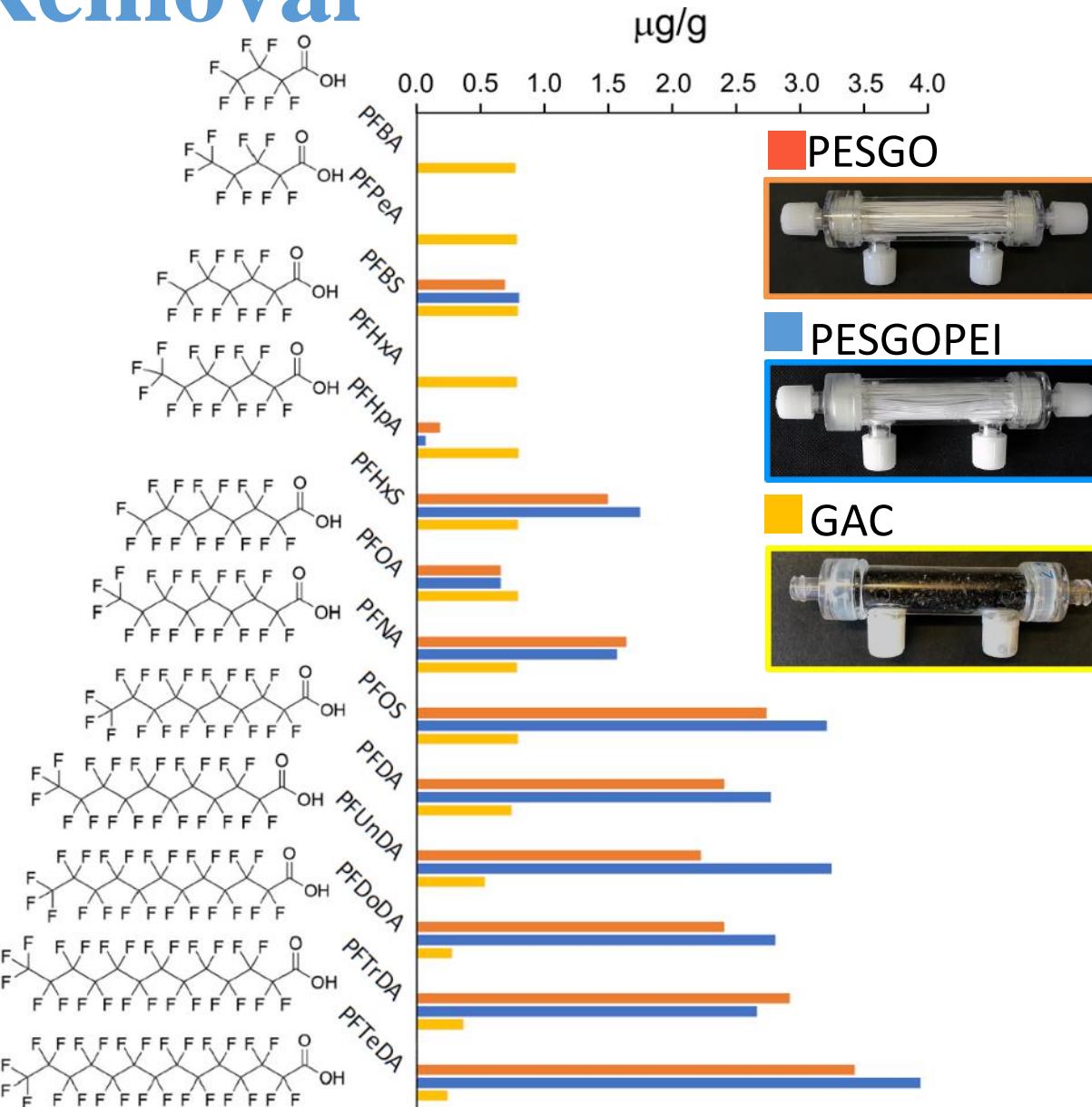
## Chemical Manipulation

$\zeta$ -potential  
-23,2 mV

PolyEthylen Imine

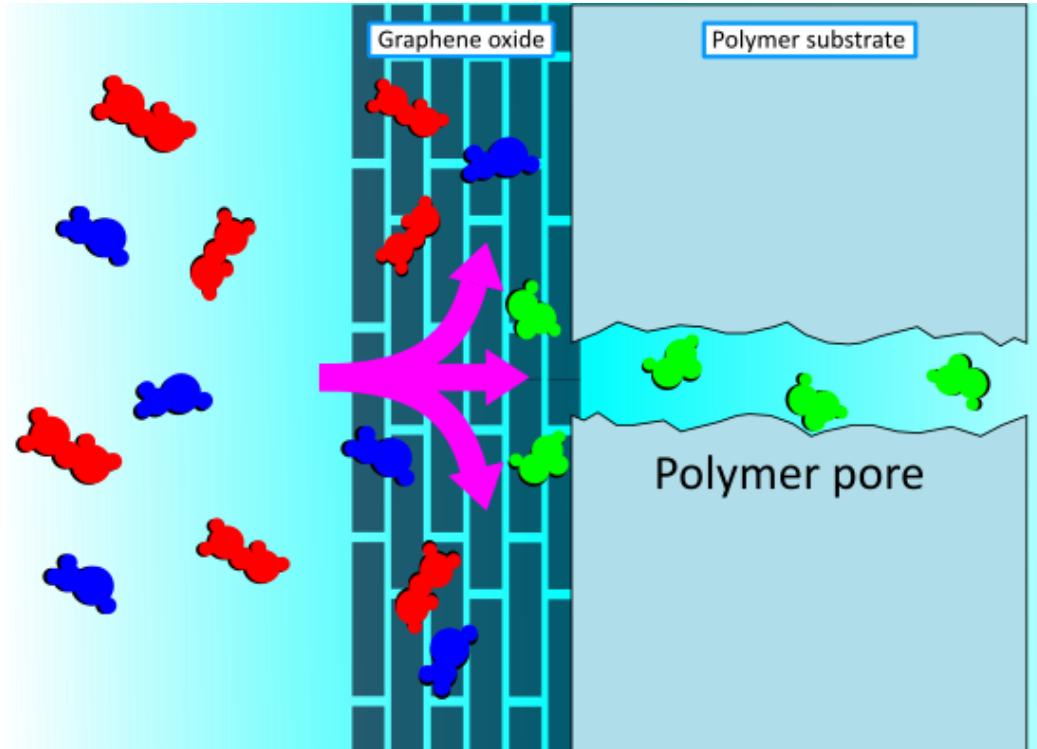


Institute  
for Water  
Research



# Application of HF-GO Filters

## Flow-Catalysis



Reagents

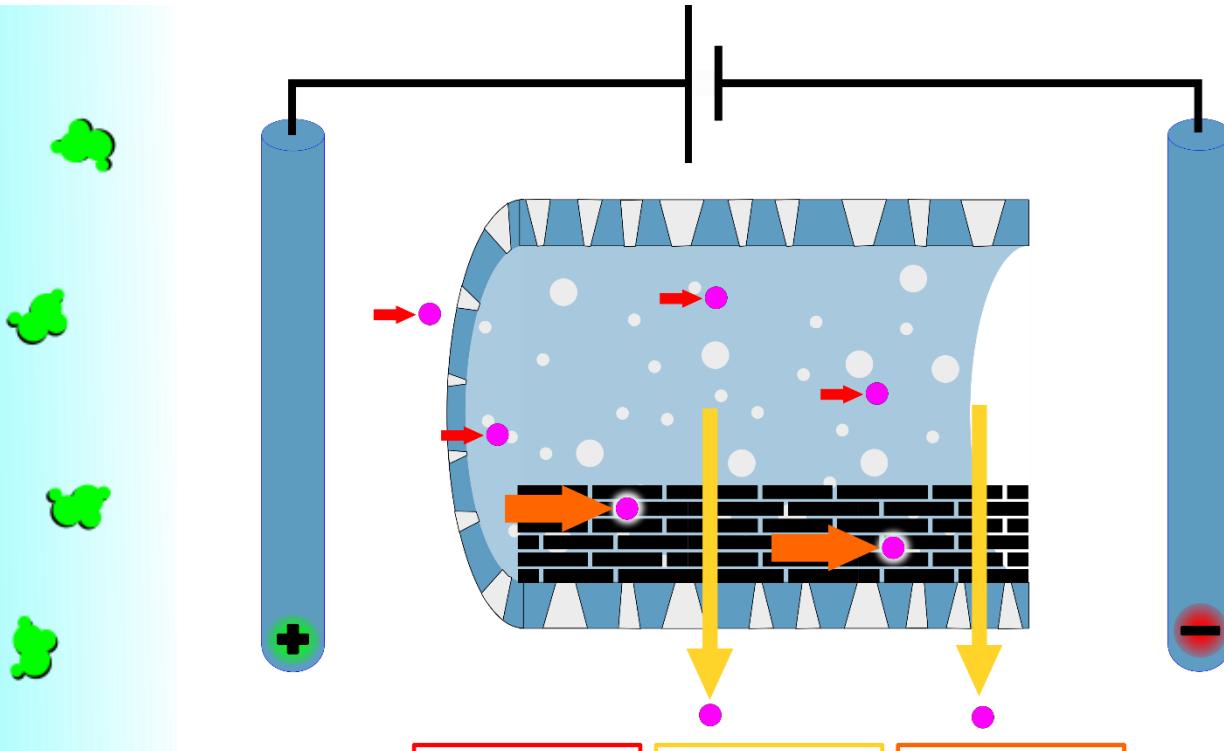
Products



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## Ion sieving



Diffusion

Out of Plane

In Plane



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MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA



# Acknowledgments

Manuela Melucci  
Cristian Bettini

Laura Favaretto  
Sara Khalifa

Massimo Zambianchi  
Sebastiano Mantovani  
Francesca Tunioli

Vincenzo Palermo  
Massimo Gazzano

Maria Luisa Navacchia  
Alessandro Kovtun



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M. Bandini  
M. Calvaresi



S. Polesello  
S. Valsecchi  
B. Casentini

Core-shell graphene oxide-polymer hollow fibers as water filters with enhanced performance and selectivity

A. Bianchi', A. Kovtun', M. Zambianchi, C. Bettini, F. Corticelli, G. Ruani, L. Bocchi, F. Stante, M. Gazzano, T. D. Marforio, M. Calvaresi, M. Minelli, M. L. Navacchia, V. Palermo\* and M. Melucci\*, *Faraday Discuss.*, 2021, 227, 274-290

*Chem. Commun.*, 2021, 57, 3765-3768    *Chem. Eng. J.*, 2017, 130-140

*Nanoscale*, 2019, 11, 22780

*J. Mater. Chem.*, 2010, 20, 9052-9060



Thank you for  
the kind attention!