## Organic Photochemistry with the Harbron Group



CHARTERED 1693

#### Photochemists use light...

 $\lambda_{\underline{UV}}$ 

• to do chemistry

to interrogate molecules

Α



or to do both





В



• Stimulus-responsive fluorescence



# Fluorophores range from small molecules to macromolecules

• rhodamine B



green fluorescent protein (2008 Nobel Prize)



conjugated polymer nanoparticles (CPNs or Pdots)



McNeill, Chiu, et al. Angewandte Chemie Int. Ed. Engl. 2011, 50, 3430

# CPNs are small, spherical, and highly fluorescent



Tuncel & Demir Nanoscale 2010, 2, 484

### CPNs possess key advantages for sensing and imaging



- stably suspended in water
- can be functionalized with dyes or other polymers
- low cytotoxicity
- photophysical properties
  - exceptional brightness
  - outstanding photostability
  - light harvesting capability



- CPNs as reaction amplifiers
  - Fundamental photophysics



#### **Current Project Areas**

Photoremovable protecting groups





#### **Current Project Areas**

• Optimizing CPNs as reaction amplifiers



ON

OFF



#### **Current Project Areas**

 Determining structure-dosage-property relationships for the production of reactive oxygen species



#### Harbron Research Lab



 $\cap$ + You?

Andrew Dahik '19, Matt McCarron MS '18, Matthew Goodwin '21, Lisa Graves MS '19

#### Lab Life



### Making





- Purification (chromatography)
- Characterization (NMR)
- Nanoparticle preparation

#### Measuring



- Absorption and fluorescence
- Response to stimulus (we have lights! lasers!)

#### Communicating



- Group meeting
- Undergraduate research symposium

#### #labhood

