## **3rd Workshop on the Simultaneous Combination of Spectroscopies with** X-ray Absorption, Scattering and Diffraction Techniques



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## Selective X-ray induced NO-photodissociation in hemoglobin crystals: evidences from a crystallography-assisted Raman microscopy study

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Despite the high physiological relevance, hemoglobin crystal structures with NO bound to heme are less than 1% of the total ligated hemoglobins (Hbs) deposited in the Protein Data Bank. One of the major difficulties in obtaining nitrosyl-ligated Hbs is probably related to oxidative denitrosylation, being nitrosylated species very reactive toward O2. Raman-assisted crystallography can be a valuable tool to follow derivative crystal preparation[1,2], metal coordination states[3,4], and X-ray photodamage[5,6]. Here, using X-ray crystallography-assisted Raman microscopy, we show that upon X-ray exposure (SLS, X10SA beamline), crystals of nitrosylated hemoglobin from Trematomus bernacchii[7] undergo a selective photodissociation of the Fe-NO bond at the  $\beta$  chains generating penta-coordinate species. These data provide a physical explanation of the small amount of nitrosylated Hbs structures available in the literature, suggesting that X-ray induced photodissociation is a frequent and underestimated phenomenon[8,9].

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Primary author: Mr PICA, Andrea (Dept Chemical Sciences, University of Naples "Federico II")

**Co-authors:** Prof. VERGARA, Alessandro (Department of Chemical Sciences, University of Naples "Federico II", Via Cintia, Naples, I-80126, Italy); Dr BALSAMO, Anna (Department of Chemical Sciences, University of Naples "Federico II", Via Cintia, Naples, I-80126, Italy); Dr MERLINO, Antonello (Department of Chemical Sciences, University of Naples "Federico II", Via Cintia, Naples, I-80126, Italy); Dr MERLINO, Antonello (Department of Chemical Sciences, University of Naples "Federico II", Via Cintia, Naples, I-80126, Italy); Dr DWORKOWSKI, Florian (Swiss Light Source, Paul Scherrer Institute, CH-5232 Villigen, Switzerland); Dr POMPIDOR, Guilliaume (Swiss Light Source, Paul Scherrer Institute, CH-5232 Villigen, Switzerland); Prof. MAZZARELLA, Lelio (Department of Chemical Sciences, University of Naples "Federico II", Via Cintia, Naples, I-80126, Italy); Dr FUCHS, Martin (Swiss Light Source, Paul Scherrer Institute, CH-5232 Villigen, Switzerland)

Presenter: Mr PICA, Andrea (Dept Chemical Sciences, University of Naples "Federico II")

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