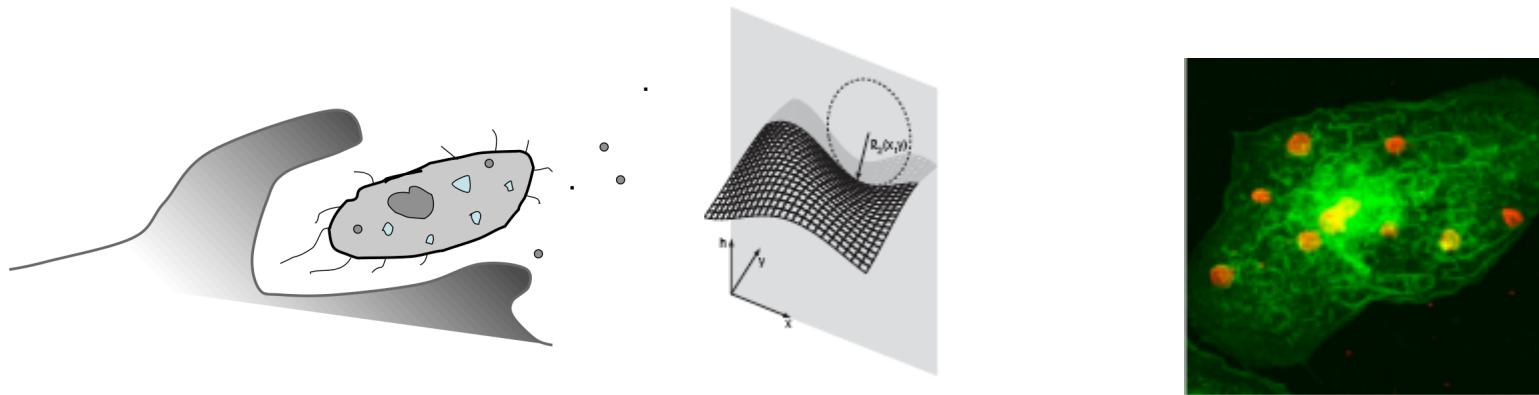


# CISBIC Subproject 2: How one cell eats another – Experiments and modelling elucidate early signalling events and biophysical requirements for uptake



Robert Endres, Sylvain Tollis, Anna Dart

CISBIC IAB Oct 8, 2010

Biological Physics Group at Imperial College:  
<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/biologicalphysics>

# Publications

Tollis, Dart, Tzircotis, Endres, **The zipper mechanism in phagocytosis: Energetic requirements and variability in phagocytic cup shape**, submitted.

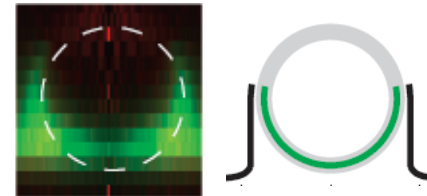
Tzircotis, Braga, Caron, **RNAi screen demonstrates the requirement of RhoG in both Fc $\gamma$ R- and CR3-mediated phagocytosis**, submitted.

Molecular Systems Biology 5; Article number 298; doi:10.1038/msb.2009.59  
Citation: *Molecular Systems Biology* 5:298  
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www.molecularsystemsbiology.com

molecular  
systems  
biology

## A mechanical bottleneck explains the variation in cup growth during Fc $\gamma$ R phagocytosis

Jeroen S van Zon<sup>1,4</sup>, George Tzircotis<sup>1,2,4</sup>, Emmanuelle Caron<sup>1,2</sup> and Martin Howard<sup>3,\*</sup>

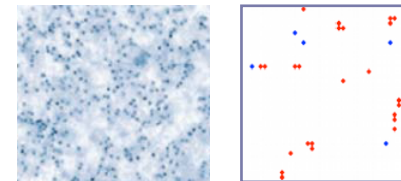


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PLoS one

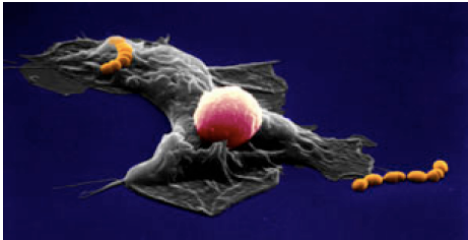
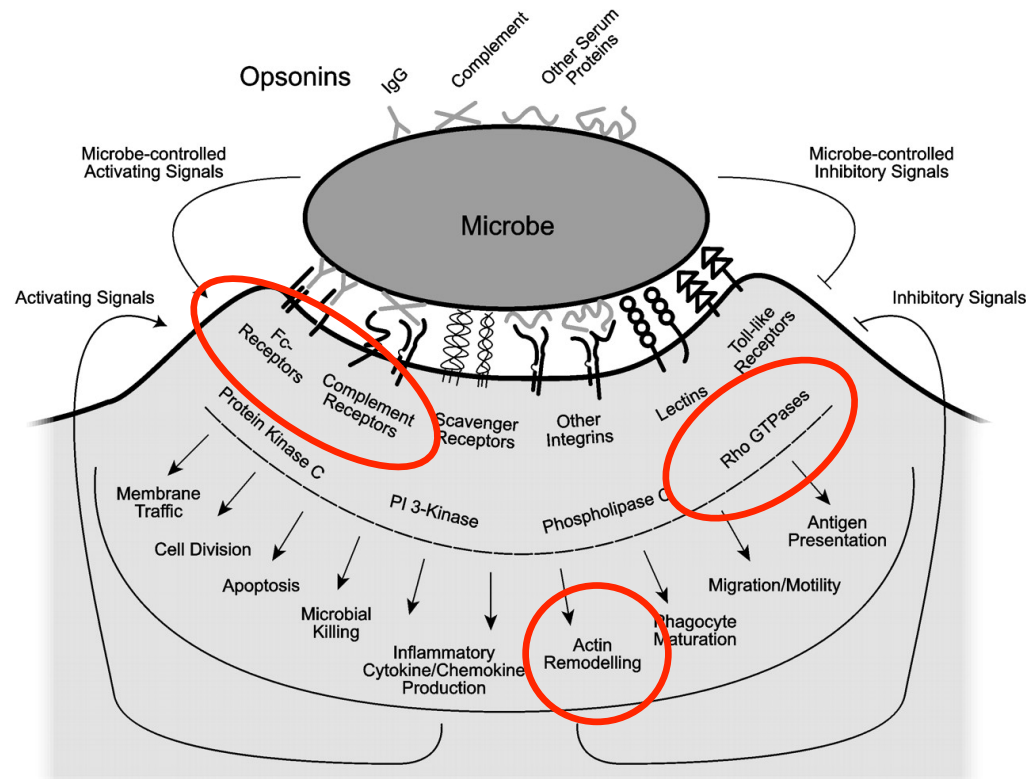
## Biophysical Mechanism for Ras-Nanocluster Formation and Signaling in Plasma Membrane

Thomas Gurry<sup>1,2</sup>, Ozan Kahramanoğulları<sup>1,3</sup>, Robert G. Endres<sup>1,4\*</sup>



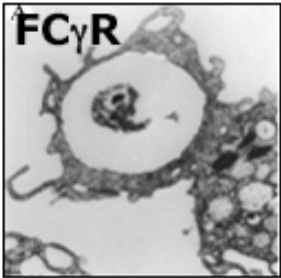
Clausznitzer, Oleksiuk, Løvdok, Sourjik, Endres, **Chemotactic response and adaptation dynamics in *Escherichia coli***. PLoS Comp Biol (2010)

# Daunting signalling complexity in phagocytosis



Underhill & Ozinsky (2002)

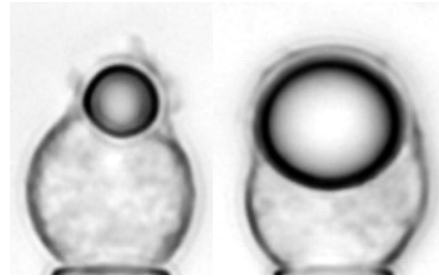
about 140 different molecular species are involved



Allen & Aderem (1996)

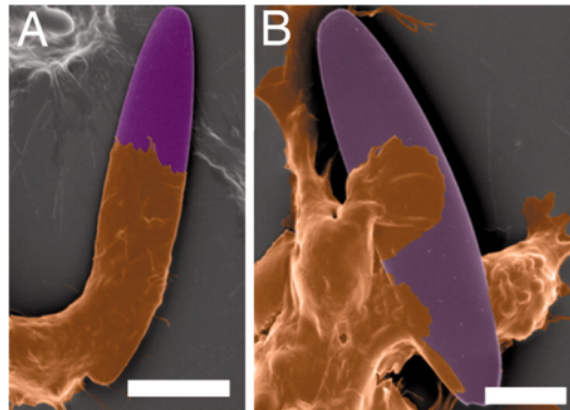
# Universal biophysical aspects of phagocytosis

Size independence



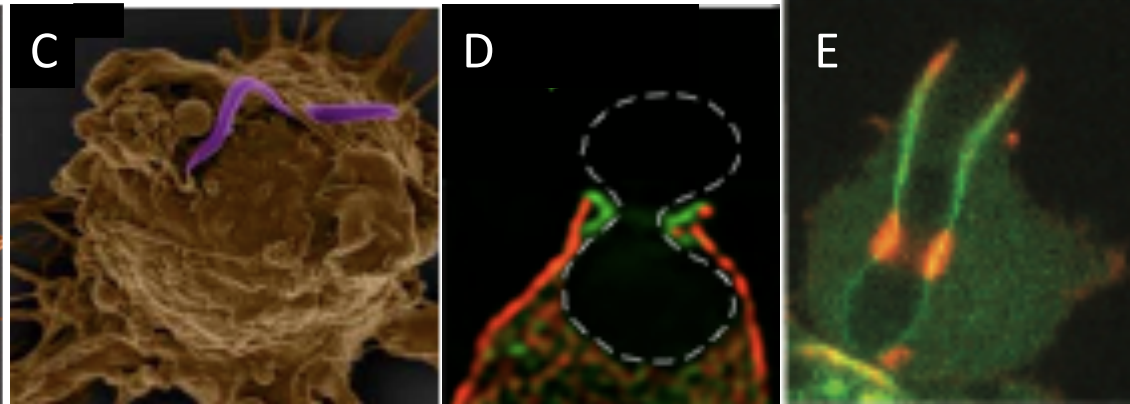
Herant et al. (2006)

Shape and orientation dependence



Champion et al. (2006,2009)

Acto-myosin dynamics

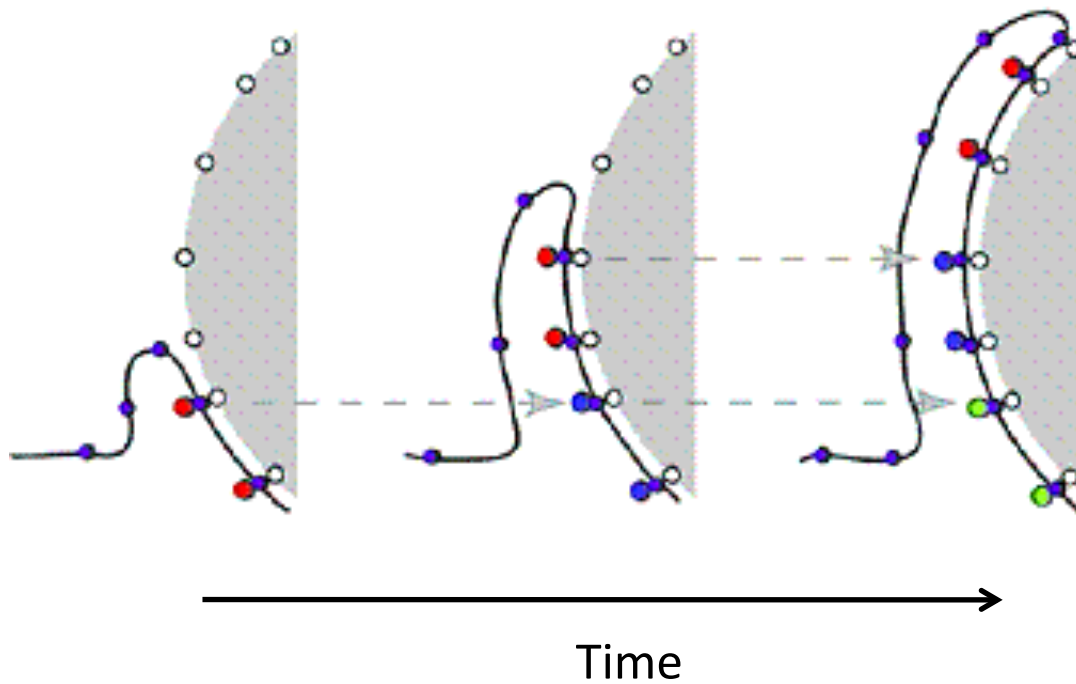


Dieckmann R *et al.* (2010)

Gerisch G *et al.* (2009)

# Conceptual Zipper mechanism

for explaining dependence on ligand density

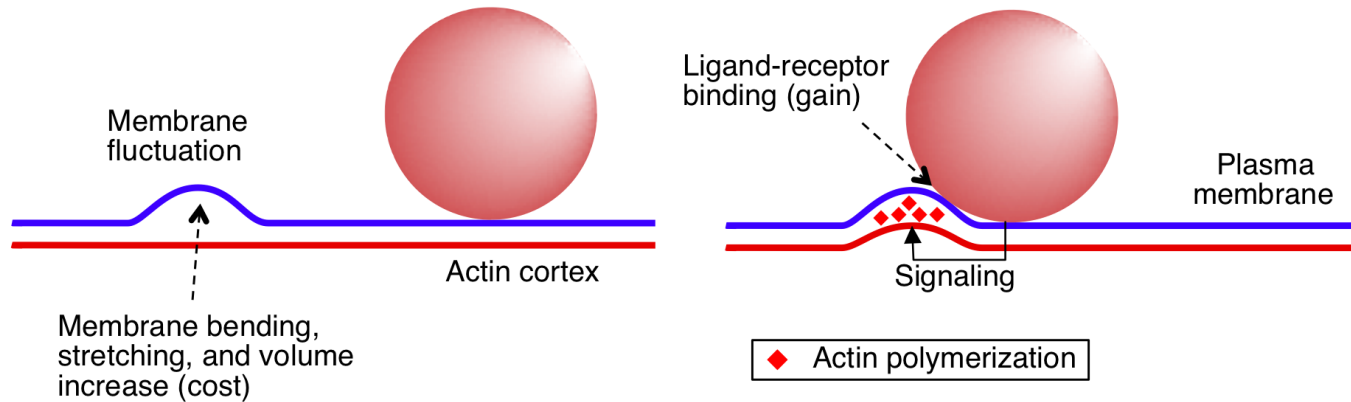


Ratchet

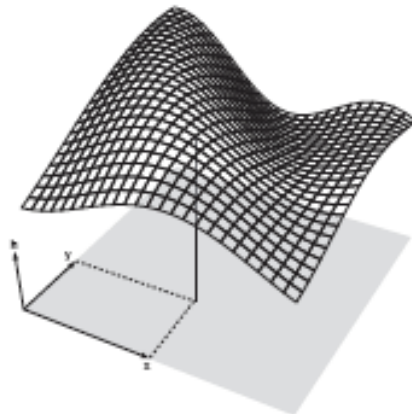


Griffin et al. (1975), Swanson (2008)

# Implementation of zipper mechanism



Cell-membrane energy:



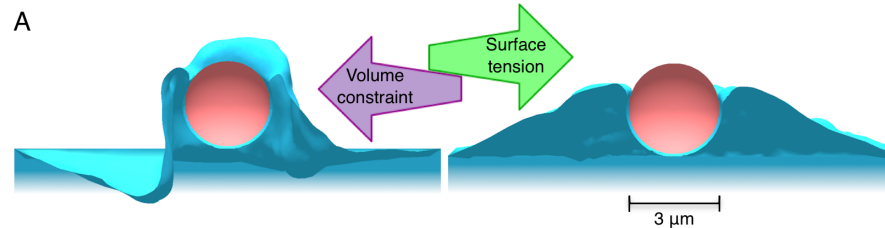
$$E = \frac{K_B}{2} \int (C_1 + C_2 - C_0)^2 dA + \Sigma A + PV + E_{LR}$$

bending
membrane stretching
vesicle swelling
Ligand-receptor binding

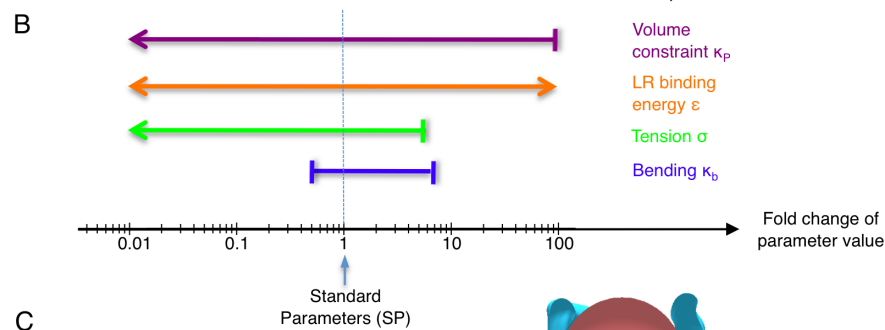
Ligand-receptor binding induces actin polymerization, making membrane deformation effectively irreversible → **ratchet**.

# Successful engulfment for wide range of parameters

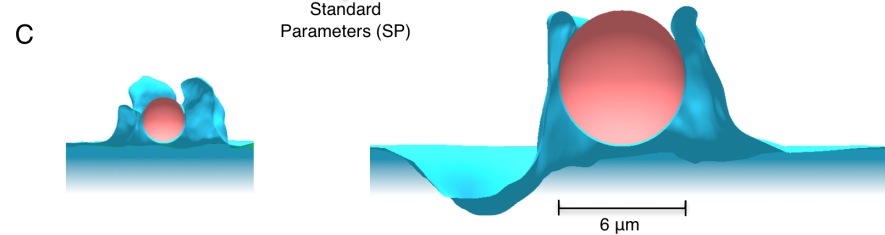
Cup shape



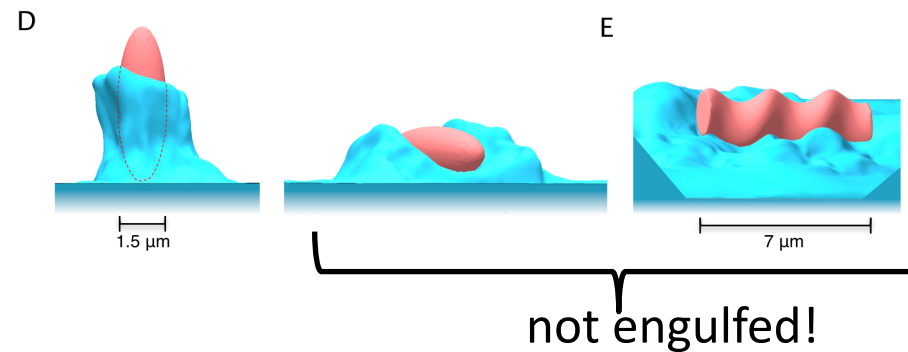
Parameter range



Particle size



Particle shape and orientation

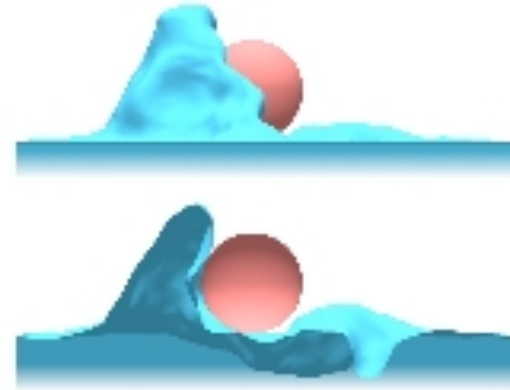
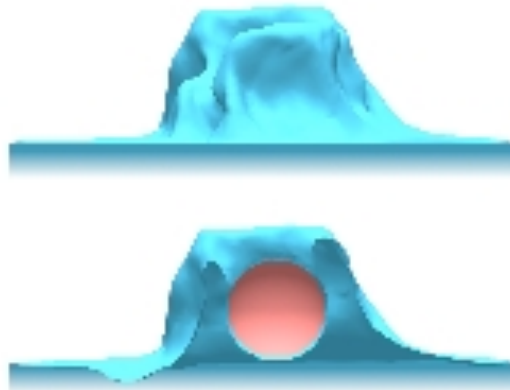


# Energetic requirements of engulfment

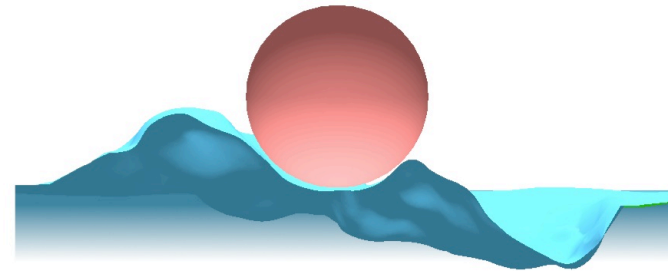
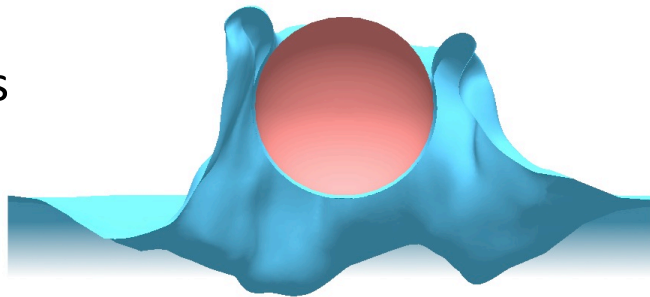
“Active zipper”

“Passive zipper”

Small,  
1.5  $\mu\text{m}$ -radius  
particle



Large,  
3  $\mu\text{m}$ -radius  
particle



Active zipper easily engulfs small and large particles

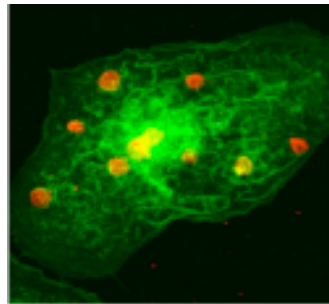
Passive zipper ONLY engulfs small particles - slowly with highly variable cups



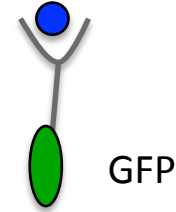
# Experiments and image analysis



COS-7 cell



Fcγ receptor

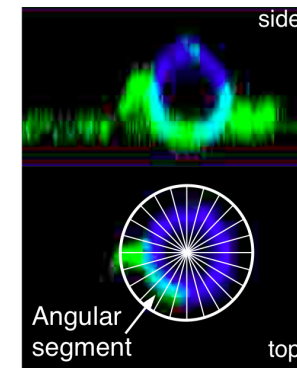
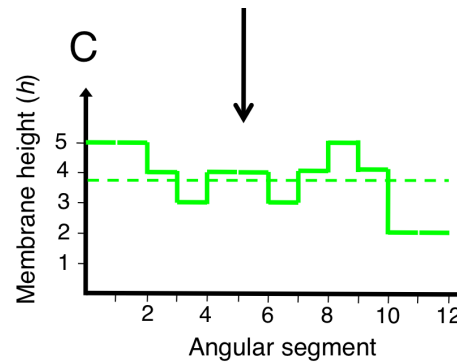
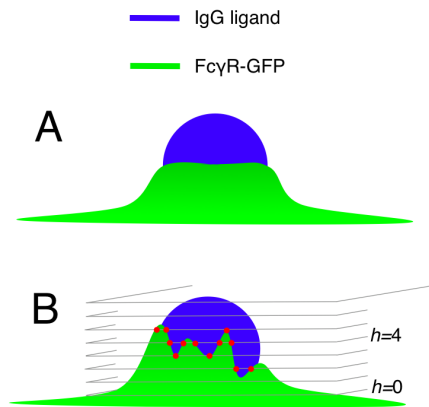


(a) Cells expressing wild-type Fcγ receptor = **active zipper**

(b) Cells expressing signalling-dead mutant receptor  
 (c) Cells transfected with cytochalasin D

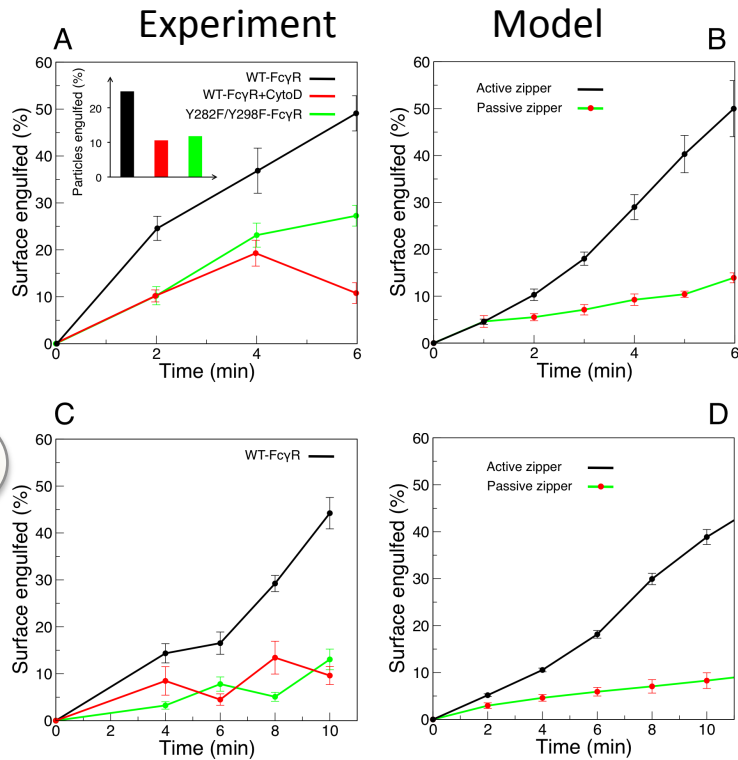
**passive zippers**

→ Cup height and variability



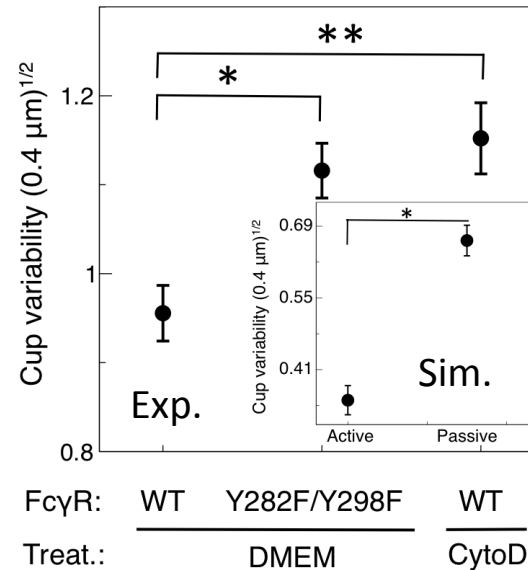
# Test of model predictions by experiments

## Engulfment time



Active zipper engulfs faster than passive zipper

## Variability in cup shape for 20-40% Engulfment



Passive zipper produces more variable cup shapes than active zipper

Due to difficulties in cup closure in model → new round of model and experiments