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JPK reports on single molecule research at IISER Pune in India using AFM and CellHesion techniques.

Berlin, 21st May 2013: JPK Instruments, a world-leading manufacturer of nanoanalytic instrumentation for research in life sciences and soft matter, reports on the work of the Nano-Mechanics Laboratory at the Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER) Pune, India.

The Nano-mechanics group develops and uses novel techniques to understand molecular processes and has recently developed new instrumentation in the fields of single molecule force spectroscopy and correlation spectroscopy. There are three main areas of research: protein folding using AFM, measuring the mechanical properties of supported lipid bilayers and following the mechanical response of nano-confined fluids. This last area is performed on home-built instruments.

Assistant Professor, Shivprasad Patil, leads the research team. He describes his work and reasons for selecting JPK's NanoWizard® AFM platform and CellHesion™ modules to help speed his research efforts. "For our protein folding research, we modified our JPK system to enable the detection of the change in fluorescence intensity as the protein unfolds. We will measure the autocorrelation of such intensity fluctuations as the protein visits its complex energy landscape when clamped at different loads. We have modified the AFM to excite the tip-sample junction and collect the light from single molecule under a given load. In the future, we plan to perform autocorrelation of fluorescence intensities as the protein fluctuates across various conformations."

Making the choice to buy from JPK was quite simple: "One of the important things about JPK instrument is its ability to provide access to the optical tip-sample junction. This helped us in modifying it for our need to attach fluorescence correlation spectroscopy to it."

Describing the lipid bilayer mechanical property studies, Professor Patil continued: "Straining supported bi-layers and measuring the stress generated in lipid-bi-layer systems is important from the perspective of understanding the processes of endocytosis and exocytosis in intracellular transport. We are using JPK's CellHesion module to measure bending rigidity of lipid bi-layers. This allowed us to pull on tethers formed from supported bi-layers by 50 to 100 microns. Having this 100 micron pulling range is most important to our work and appears unique when compared to competitive systems."

For more details about JPK's NanoWizard, the CellHesion module and applications for the bio and nano sciences, please contact JPK on +49 30533112070, visit the web site: www.jpk.com or see more on Facebook: www.jpk.com/facebook and on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/jpkinstruments>.

Attachment:



Professor Shivprasad Patil of IISER, India, with his JPK NanoWizard AFM system

For a high resolution copy of the image, either right click to download or contact Jezz Leckenby at Talking Science.

About JPK Instruments

JPK Instruments AG is a world leading manufacturer of nanoanalytic instruments that enable unparalleled access at the nanotechnology level. JPK was recognized as Germany's fastest growing nanotechnology company in 2007 and 2008 (Deloitte). The product portfolio is based around atomic force microscopes and optical tweezers for a wide range of applications, from soft matter physics to nano-optics, from surface chemistry to cellular and molecular biology. Leading-edge instruments from JPK are used by the most renowned research institutes across the world. Headquartered in Berlin and with operations in Dresden (Germany), Cambridge (UK), Singapore, Tokyo (Japan) and Paris (France), JPK maintains a global network of distributors and support centers and provides on the spot applications and service support to an ever-growing community of researchers.

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