Metal nanoparticle enhancement of organic polymer solar cell efficiency: Raman and optical studies
Anne Myers Kelley, University of California, Merced

**Goal:** Use surface enhanced Raman scattering (SERS) to probe how plasmonically active gold and silver nanoparticles enhance power conversion efficiency in organic polymer based solar photovoltaics.

1. **PEDOT:PSS** A transparent polymer blend used to improve hole transport at the cathode.

2. **P3HT:PCBM** A conducting polymer/fullerene blend that absorbs light, generates and conducts charges.

SERS spectra show that Ag nanoparticles re-oxidize chemically reduced PEDOT to its as-received reduced form. Suggests Ag may offer protection against photoreduction of PEDOT.

SERS spectra show no chemical changes. SERS enhancements closely follow electromagnetic theory, suggesting solar power enhancement is largely a plasmonic effect on electromagnetic field.