

# The Use of Atomic Force Microscope-Infrared Spectroscopy to Assess Co-localization of Fluticasone Propionate/Salmeterol Xinafoate/Lactose Monohydrate in Advair Diskus 100/50 and Wixela Inhub 100/50

**Blessy Joseph,<sup>1</sup> Dipesh Khanal,<sup>1,3</sup> Elizabeth Bielski,<sup>4</sup> Bryan Newman,<sup>4</sup> Huzeyfe Yilmaz,<sup>5</sup> Snober  
Ahmed,<sup>5</sup> Susan Boc,<sup>4</sup> Hak-Kim Chan<sup>3</sup>, Mark Banaszak Holl<sup>1,2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, USA

<sup>2</sup> Division of Pulmonology, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine, Heersink School of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, USA

<sup>3</sup> Advanced Drug Delivery Group, Sydney Pharmacy School, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia

<sup>4</sup> Division of Therapeutic Performance I, Office of Research and Standards, Office of Generic Drugs, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, MD, USA

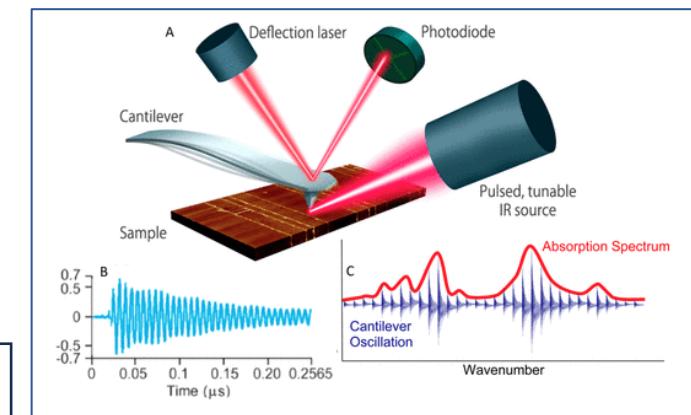
<sup>5</sup> Division of Pharmaceutical Quality Research II, Office of Pharmaceutical Quality Research, Office of Pharmaceutical Quality, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, St. Louis, MO, USA

U.S. FDA Contract 75F40122C00202

Identification of Drug Distribution in Aerosols  
A Nanospectroscopy and NanoThermal Analysis

# INTRODUCTION

- Atomic Force Microscopy coupled with infrared (IR) spectroscopy (AFM-IR) provides better chemical sensitivity and spatial resolution than conventional absorption-based IR microscopy [1].
- AFM-IR can evaluate the physicochemical properties of a dry powder inhalation across the population of aerosolized active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) and excipient particles.
- AFM-IR works by measurement of photothermal expansion of samples when heated up by wavelength tunable IR laser.



*Khanal D, Zhang J, Ke W-R, Banaszak Holl MM, Chan H-K. Anal Chem. 2020;92:8323–32*

# OBJECTIVES

- Employ AFM-IR to characterize the particle distribution and co-localization of fluticasone propionate (FP), salmeterol xinafoate (SX), and lactose monohydrate (L) present in dry powder inhalers (DPIs).
- Assess the ability of AFM-IR to evaluate brand-name and generic drug formulations



Advair Diskus 100/50

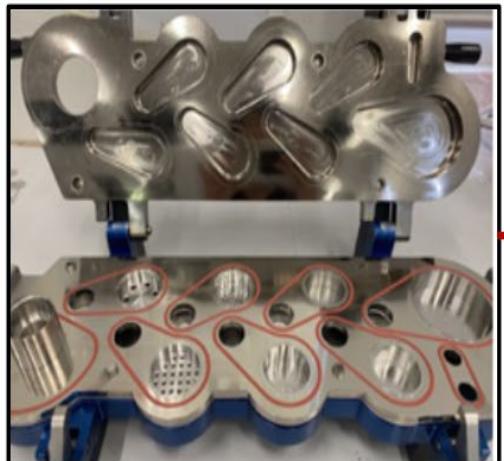


Wixela Inhub 100/50

Fluticasone Propionate; Salmeterol Xinafoate Inhalation Powders

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

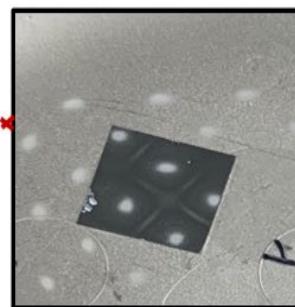
- Deposition of aerosol particles on Si wafer using *Next Generation Impactor (NGI)*



Next Generation Impactor



NGI cup with Si wafer after  
particle deposition



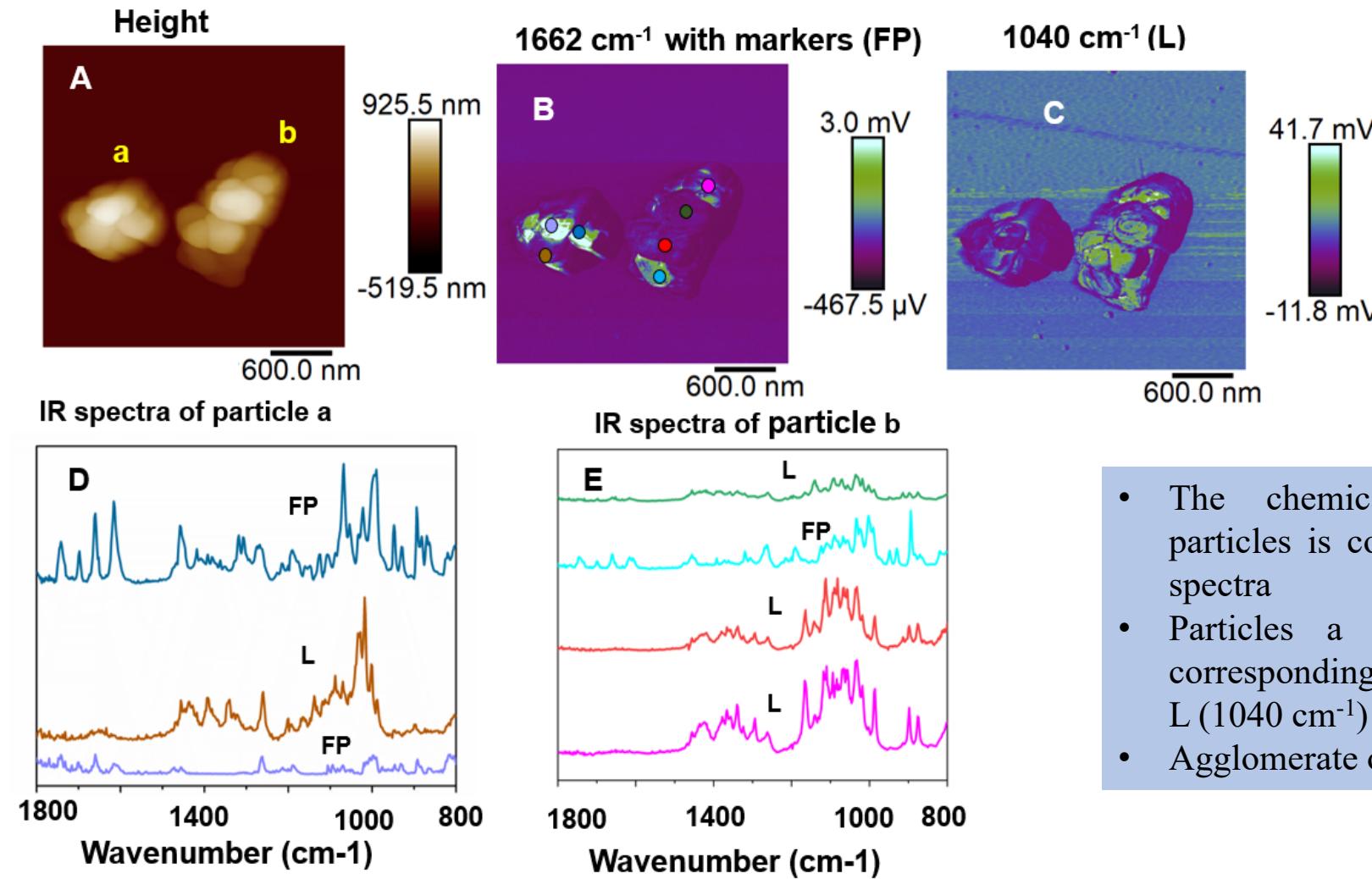
Aerosol particles on Si wafer



*Icon-IR AFM-IR instrument (Bruker, Santa Barbara, CA, USA)*

# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

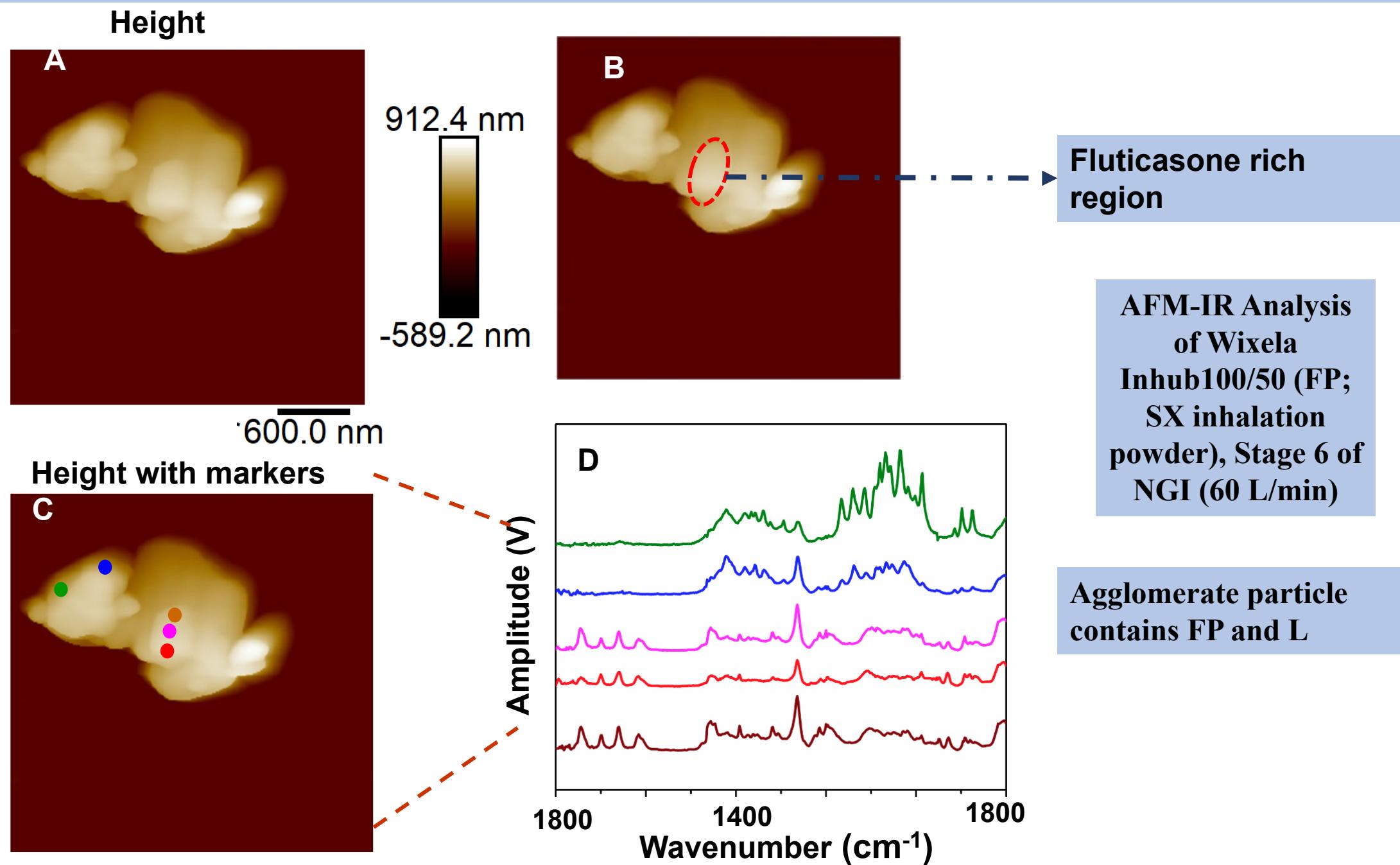
**AFM-IR Analysis  
of Wixela Inhub  
100/50 (FP; SX  
inhalation  
powder), Stage 6 of  
NGI (60 L/min)**



- The chemical mapping of the particles is consistent with the point spectra
- Particles a and b show spectra corresponding to FP (1662 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and L (1040 cm<sup>-1</sup>)
- Agglomerate of 50-200 nm particles

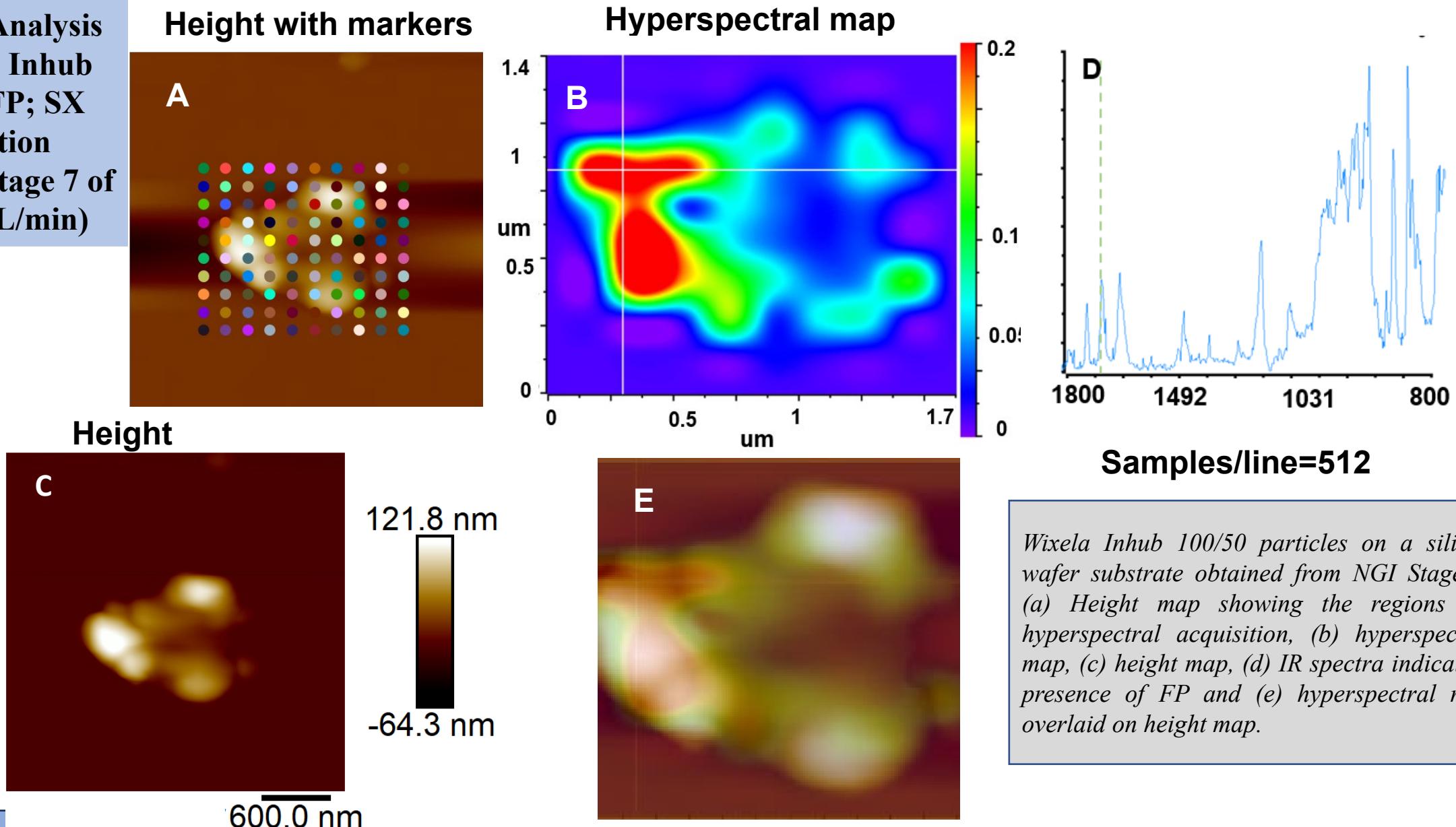
*Wixela Inhub 100/50 particles on a silicon wafer substrate obtained from NGI Stage 6. (a) Height image with markers (b) 1662 cm<sup>-1</sup> (FP) intensity chemical map showing the regions for spectral acquisition, (c) 1040 cm<sup>-1</sup> (L) intensity chemical map, (d) IR spectra of particle a, and (e) IR spectra of particle b.*

# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

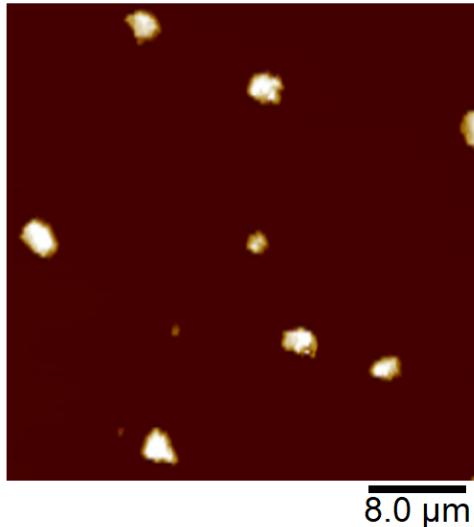
AFM-IR Analysis  
of Wixela Inhub  
100/50 (FP; SX  
inhalation  
powder), Stage 7 of  
NGI (60 L/min)



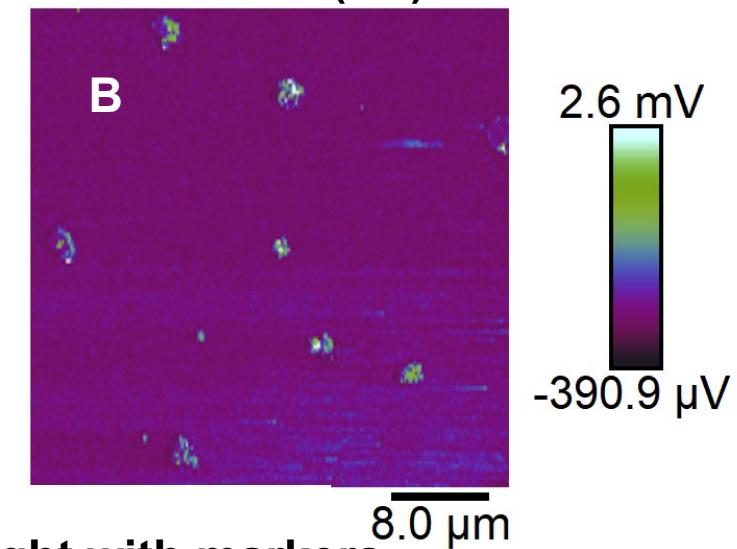
# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## AFM-IR Analysis of Advair Diskus 100/50 (FP; SX inhalation powder), Stage 6 of NGI (60 L/min)

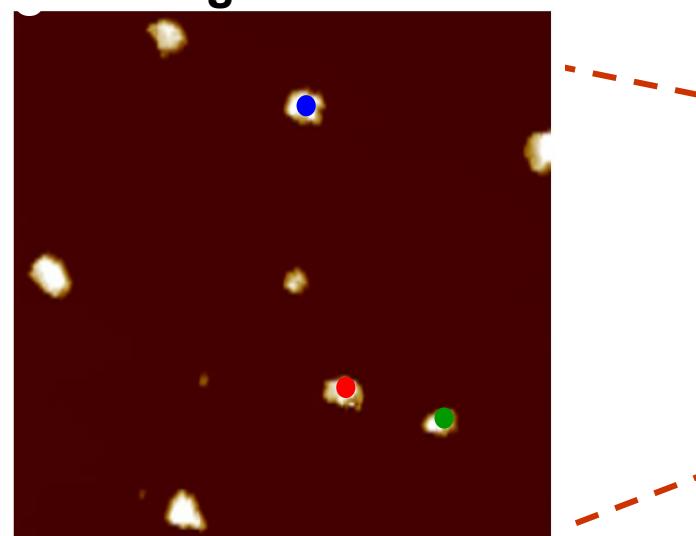
Height



1559 cm<sup>-1</sup> (SX)

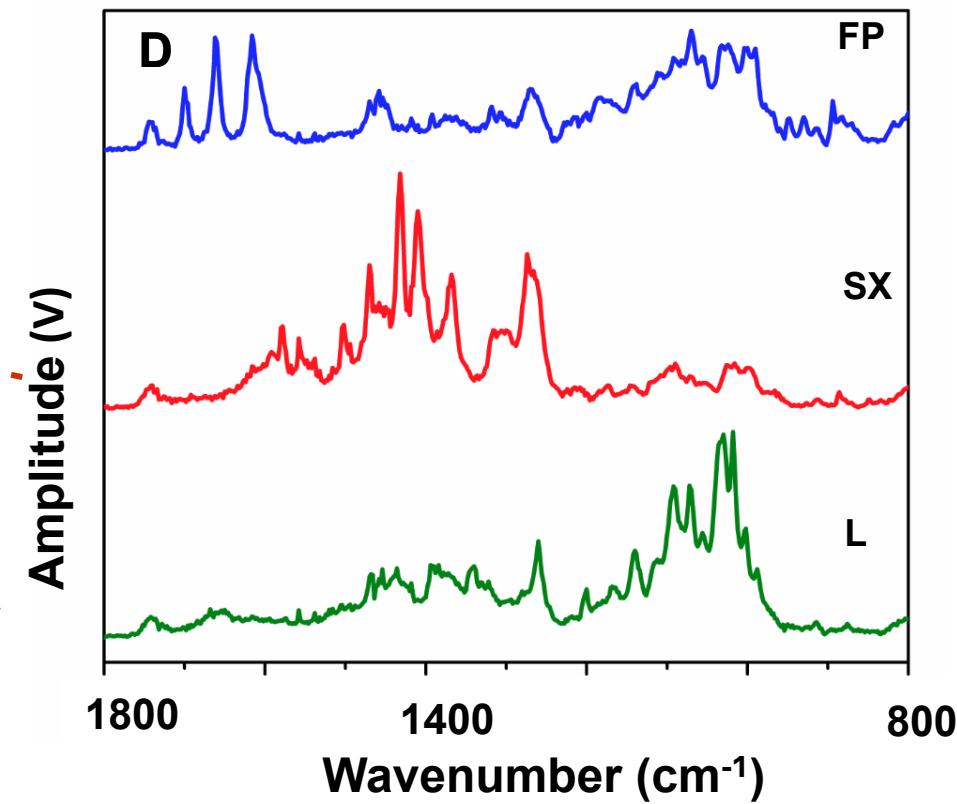


Height with markers



- The chemical mapping of the particles is consistent with the point spectra
- Spectra from FP, SX, and L are obtained

Advair Diskus 100/50 particles on a silicon wafer substrate obtained from NGI Stage 6 (60 L/min). (a) Height image, (b) 1559 cm<sup>-1</sup> (SX) intensity chemical map, (c) Height map showing the regions for spectral acquisition, and (d) IR spectra revealing the presence of FP (blue), SX (red), and L (green).



# CONCLUSION

- Tapping mode AFM-IR was performed to explore particle morphology and API-API and API-excipient co-localization of FP, SX, and L.
- Detailed information about micron-scale particle agglomerates obtained including sub-particle sizes and content and can provide greater insight to DPI product performance.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Funding for this work was made possible by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) through Contract 75F40122C00202; views expressed in this publication are from the authors only and do not necessarily reflect the FDA's official views or policies nor does any mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organization imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

*Thank  
you!*