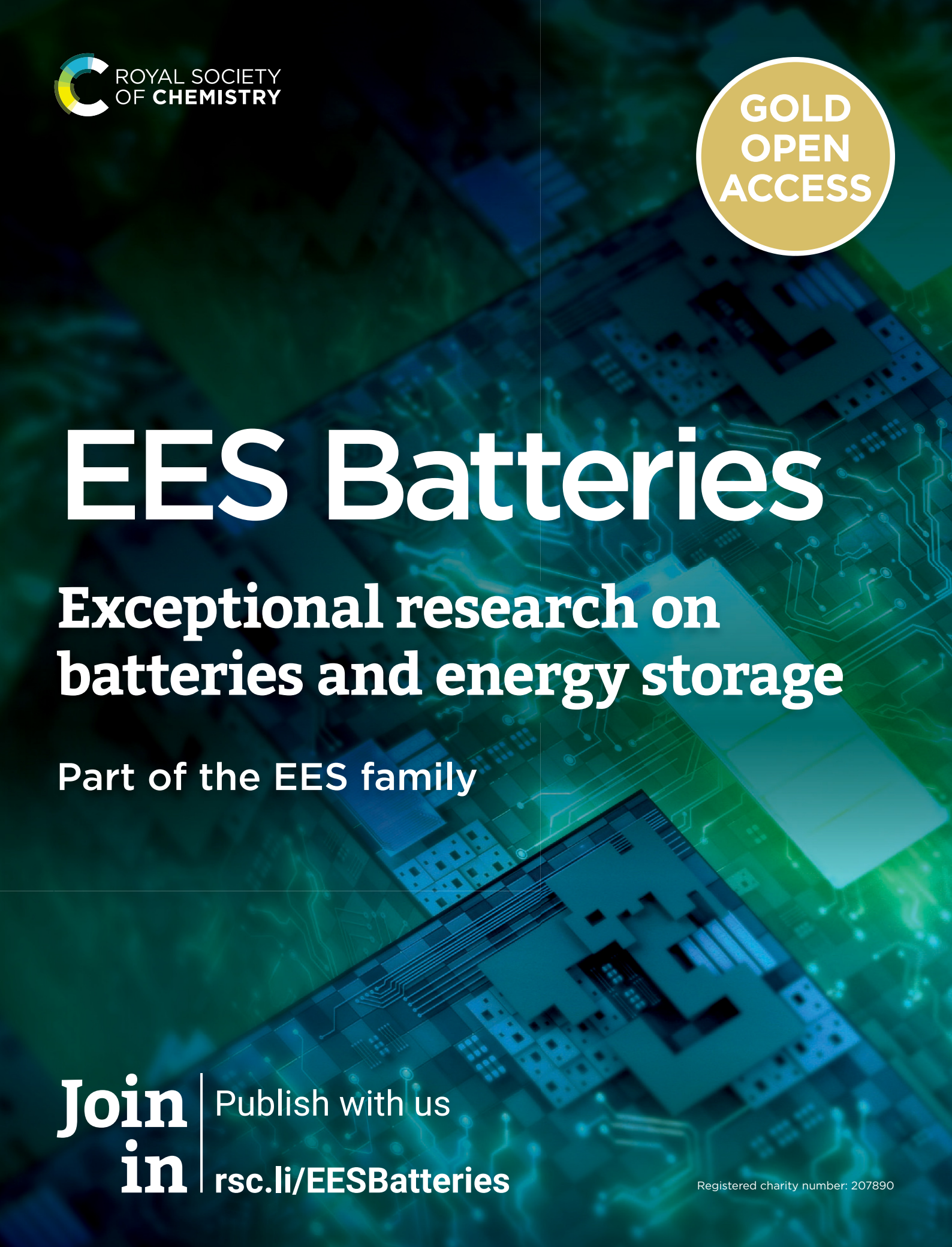
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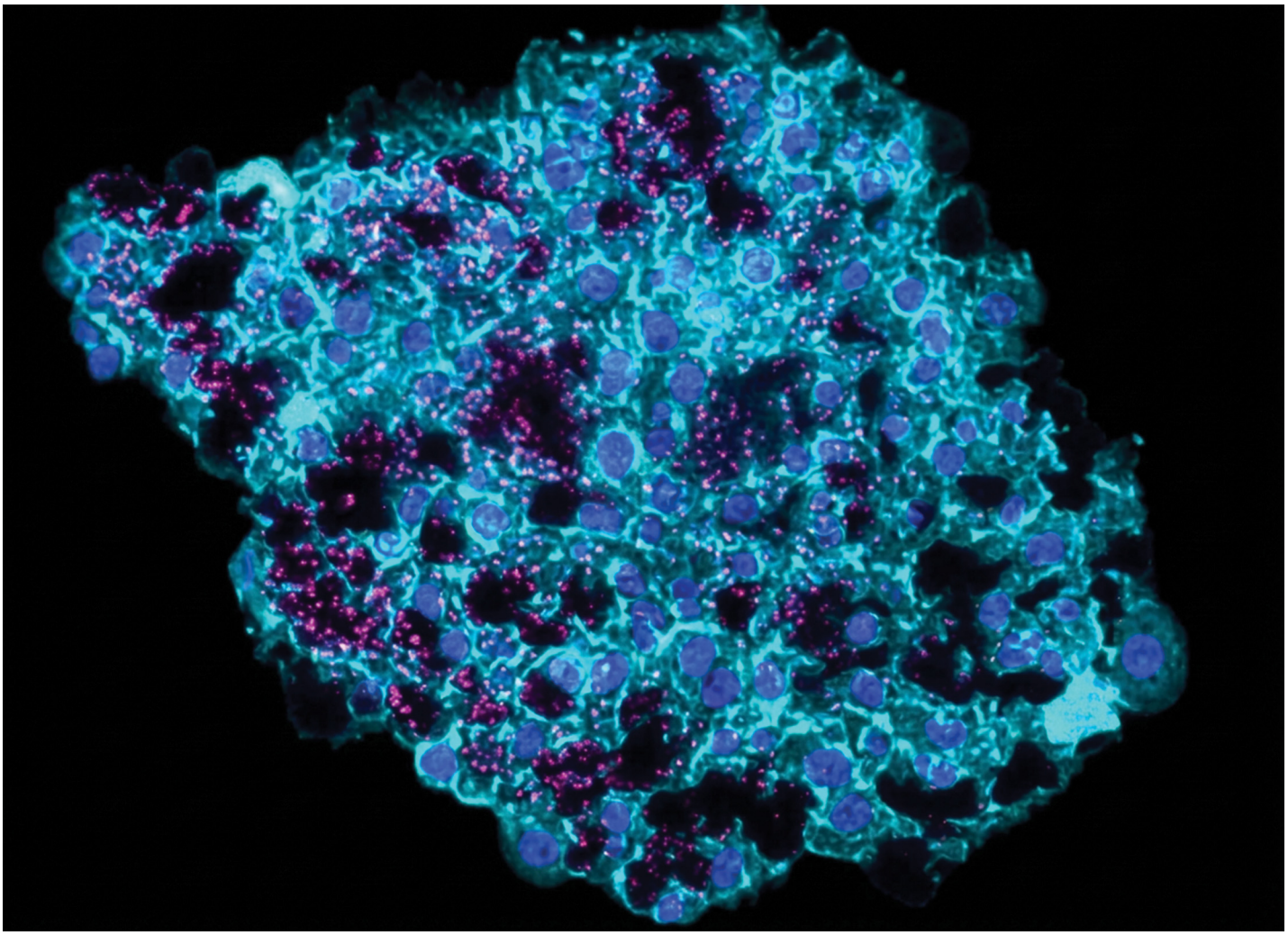

Showcasing research from Professor Gkikas's laboratory, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115, USA.

Hormone-coated nanocontrast agent promotes ER+ breast cancer cell detection

Around 70–80% of breast cancer cases are correlated with overexpression of hormone receptors. In this work we show a way to detect estrogen-receptor positive (ER+) breast cancer cells and aggregates (spheroids) using ~4 nm estrogen-coated NPs and fluorescence microscopy, optical microscopy (cover photo), or micro-CT. Our receptor-targeting molecular imaging diagnostic probes can bind to ERs (transmembrane and cytosolic) and internalize, allowing for early identification of tumors/micro-tumors, detection at low metal amounts, and reduced side effects related to non-specificity (non-targeted probes).

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As featured in:

See Ankan Biswas and Manos Gkikas, *Mater. Adv.*, 2026, **7**, 4081.

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