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**Supporting information for article:**

**Custom AFM for X-ray beamlines: *in situ* biological investigations under physiological conditions**

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S1- Filter setting used during the acquisition of the Reflectivity data.

Figure S1 shows the transmitted beam after the filter as a function of  $Q_z$  employed for the acquisition of a Reflectivity curve. The flux at the sample position without filters was  $2 \cdot 10^{13}$  photons/s.

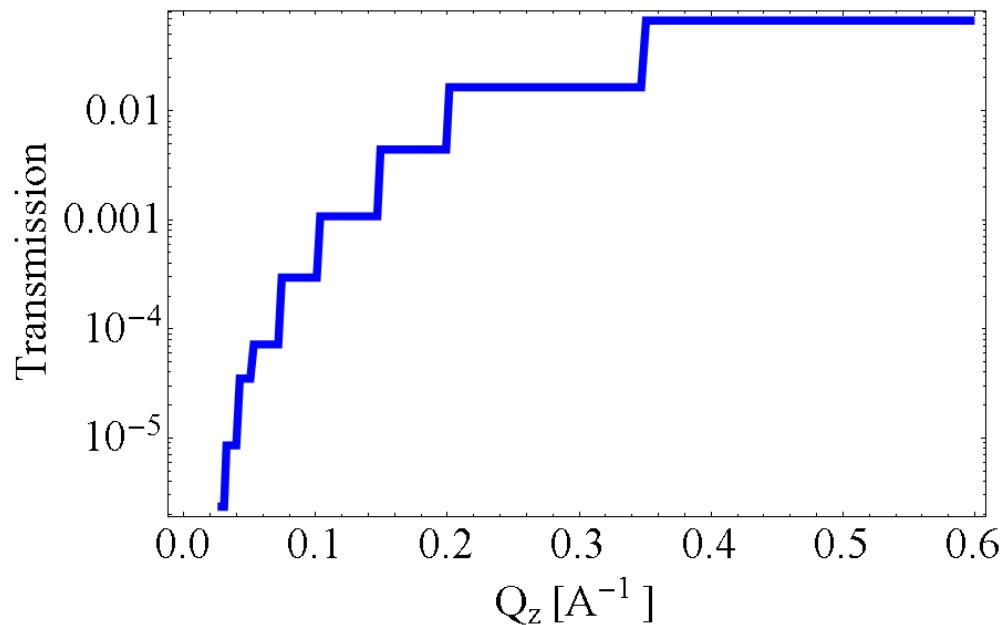


Figure S1: Transmitted beam used for the acquisition of the Reflectivity curves as a function of  $Q_z$ .

### S2- Beam-Tip alignment:

The AFM cantilever and the beam have been aligned either by measuring the current flowing in the cantilever (see Figure 4d in the main manuscript) or by Scanning X-Ray Transmission Microscopy. Figure S2 shows the transmitted beam scans measured at different heights with the ID03 detector. The inset presents schematically the scan geometry. Black curve: the beam crossing the optical fiber and subsequently the AFM chip. Red curve: beam crossing solely the optical fiber. Blue curve: beam crossing the AFM cantilever.

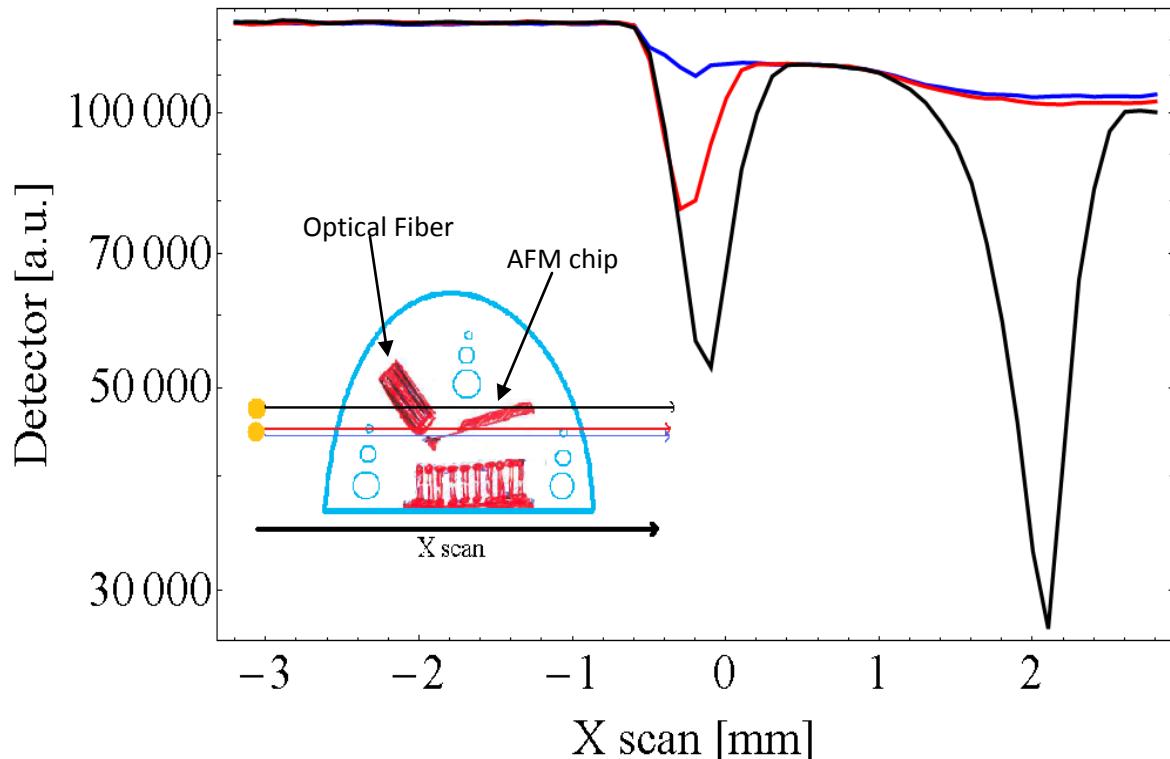


Figure S2: transmitted beam scans measured along the X-Axes at different heights corresponding to different colours. Inset: pictorial scheme of the measurement set up.

### S3- Reflectivity for DPPC: Best fit parameters for data shown in Figure 4c of the main manuscript:

Derived values for thicknesses ( $d$ ) , electron density ( $\rho$ ) and the roughness parameter ( $\sigma$ ) of the first head-groups  $H_1$  (the closest to the substrate), the two hydrocarbon chains  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , the  $CH_3$  group and the second head-groups  $H_2$  from the best fit of the data presented in Figure 4c.

$\sigma_{H2O}$  ,  $\sigma_{SiO2}$  and  $\sigma_{Si}$  are the roughness parameters for the water layer below the head-groups  $H_1$ , the  $SiO_2$  and the Silicon Substrate.

Parameter	DPPC
$d_{H1}$ (nm)	0.76
$d_{C1}$ (nm)	1.55
$d_{CH_3}$ (nm)	0.49
$d_{C2}$ (nm)	1.60
$d_{H2}$ (nm)	1.09
$\rho_{H1}$ ( $e^-/A^3$ )	0.58
$\rho_{C1}$ ( $e^-/A^3$ )	0.31
$\rho_{CH_3}$ ( $e^-/A^3$ )	0.23

$\rho_{C2}$ ( $e^-/A^3$ )	0.31
$\rho_{H2}$ ( $e^-/A^3$ )	0.55
$\sigma_{H1}$ (at/A)	1.00
$\sigma_{C1}$ (at/A)	1.00
$\sigma_{CH3}$ (at/A)	1.34
$\sigma_{C2}$ (at/A)	1.89
$\sigma_{H2}$ (at/A)	1.82
$\sigma_{H20}$ (at/A)	1.00
$\sigma_{SiO2}$ (at/A)	2.76
$\sigma_{Si}$ (at/A)	23

S4 Reflectivity for DOPC: Best fit parameters for data shown in Figure 5c of the main manuscript:

Derived values for thicknesses (d) , electron density ( $\rho$ ) and the roughness parameter ( $\sigma$ ) of the first head-groups H<sub>1</sub> (the closest to the substrate), the two hydrocarbon chains C<sub>1</sub> and C<sub>2</sub>, the CH<sub>3</sub> group and the second head-groups H<sub>2</sub> from the best fit of the data presented in Figure 5c.

$\sigma_{H20}$  ,  $\sigma_{SiO2}$  and  $\sigma_{Si}$  are the roughness parameters for the water layer below the head-groups H<sub>1</sub>, the SiO<sub>2</sub> and the Silicon Substrate.

Parameter	DOPC (blue data)	DOPC (red data)
d <sub>H1</sub> (nm)	1.12	1.18
d <sub>C1</sub> (nm)	1.11	0.92
d <sub>CH3</sub> (nm)	0.72	0.85
d <sub>C2</sub> (nm)	0.75	0.59
d <sub>H2</sub> (nm)	0.67	0.74
$\rho_{H1}$ ( $e^-/A^3$ )	0.48	0.43
$\rho_{C1}$ ( $e^-/A^3$ )	0.26	0.30
$\rho_{CH3}$ ( $e^-/A^3$ )	0.21	0.27
$\rho_{C2}$ ( $e^-/A^3$ )	0.28	0.35
$\rho_{H2}$ ( $e^-/A^3$ )	0.40	0.38
$\sigma_{H1}$ (at/A)	1.24	1.01
$\sigma_{C1}$ (at/A)	2.17	2.99
$\sigma_{CH3}$ (at/A)	2.19	2.82
$\sigma_{C2}$ (at/A)	2.05	2.84
$\sigma_{H2}$ (at/A)	2.27	1.94
$\sigma_{H20}$ (at/A)	1.01	1.01
$\sigma_{SiO2}$ (at/A)	2.84	2.84
$\sigma_{Si}$ (at/A)	9.36	9.36