

# NANOBIOSENSORS FOR HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND SECURITY APPLICATIONS

**Arben Merkoçi**

*Nanobioelectronics & Biosensors Group*

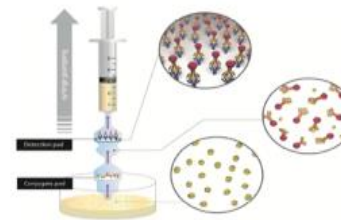
ICREA & Institut Català de Nanociència i Nanotecnologia (ICN2)

Barcelona, Spain

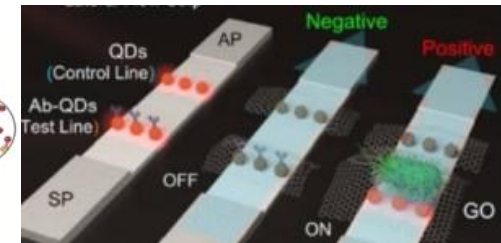
e-mail: [arben.merkoci@icn2.cat](mailto:arben.merkoci@icn2.cat)



[www.icn2.cat](http://www.icn2.cat)



[www.icrea.es](http://www.icrea.es)



[www.nanobiosensors.org](http://www.nanobiosensors.org)

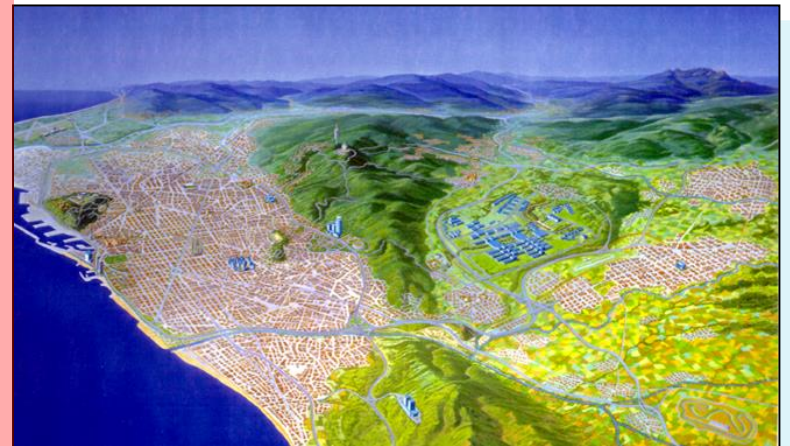
# The Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (ICN2)



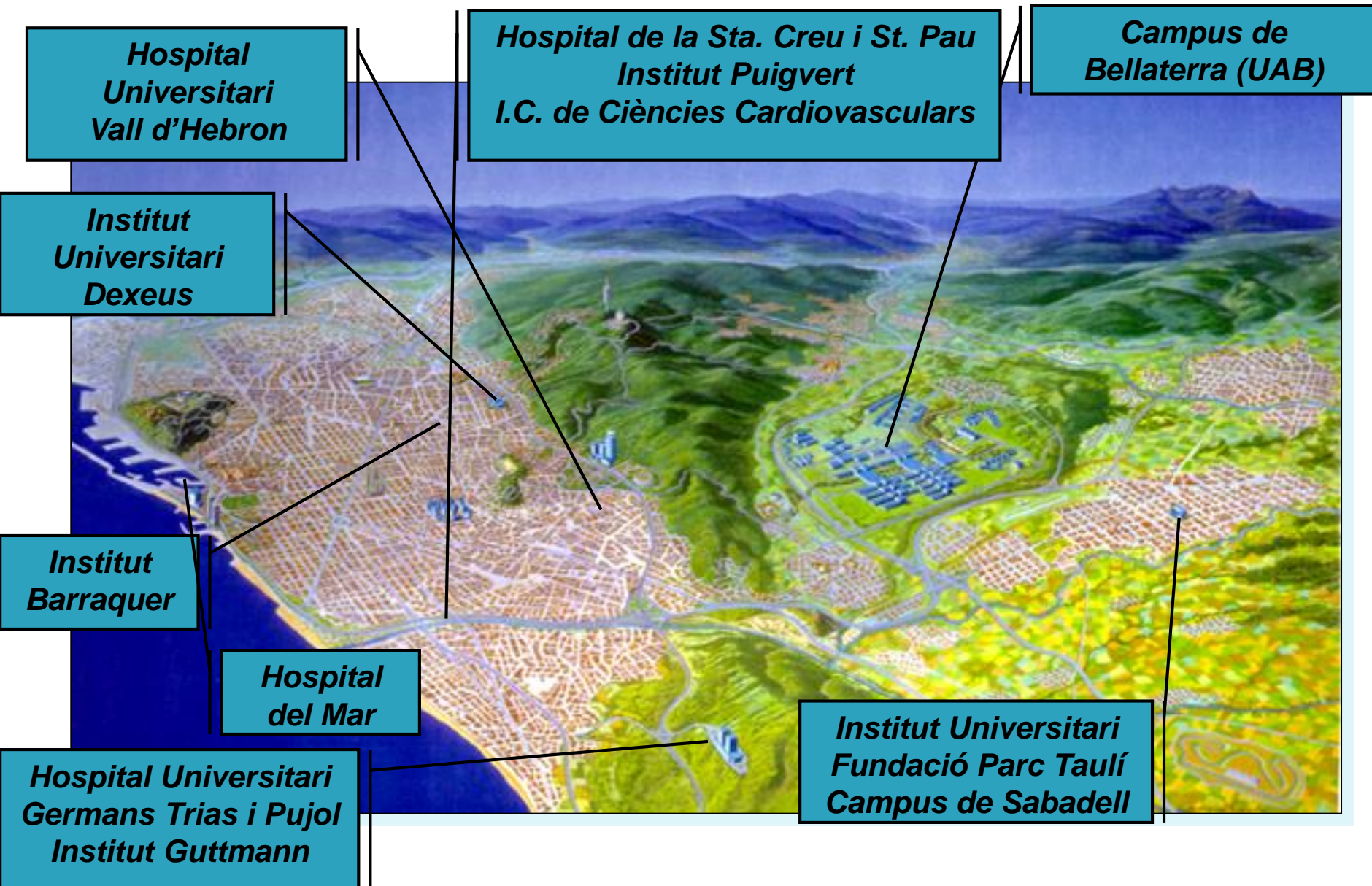


# Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology





# Geographical Distribution of Centres



# Strategic Location: UAB CEI (Campus of International Excellence)

ESADE CREAPOLIS



UAB RESEARCH PARK



ALBA SYNCHROTRON



INNOVATION SERVICES



INTERMODAL STATION BUSINESS AREA



PARC DE L'ALBA



PARC TECNOLÒGIC DEL VALLÈS



# CNM-CSIC Clean Room Facility

1400m<sup>2</sup> devoted to micro & nanofabrication



## **Mission:**

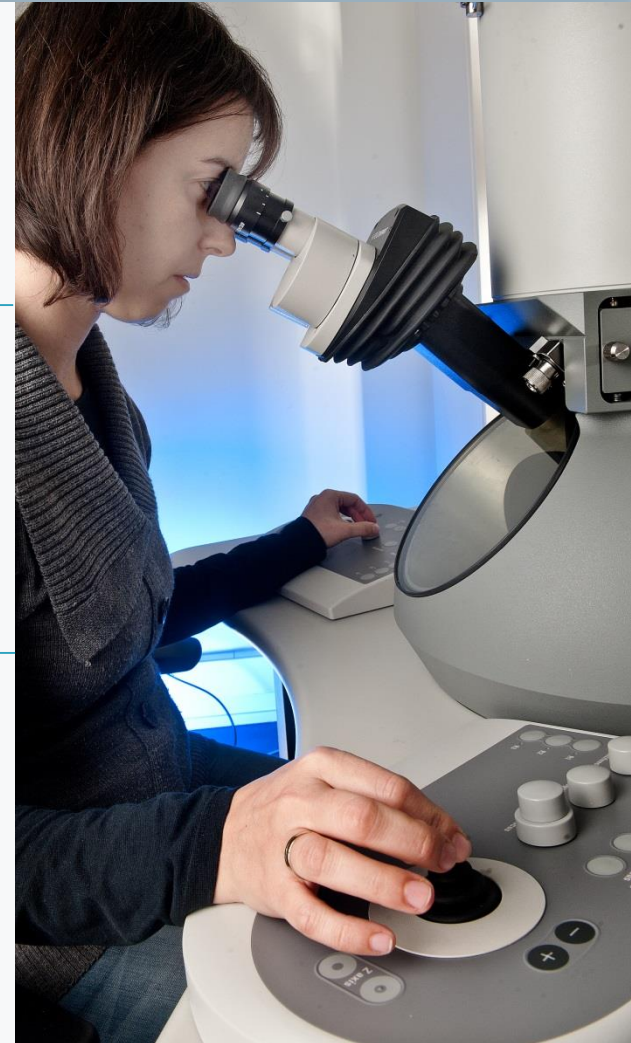
To become an international centre of reference in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology.

## **Core activities:**

- Nano-scale Frontier Research
- Technology Transfer
- Public Outreach

## **Role in Society:**

To facilitate the adoption and integration of nanotechnologies in Catalan society and industry.





# ICN<sub>2</sub>: Frontier research

Biosensing and Bioelectronics

Chemical Synthesis of Nanostructures

Materials at the Nanoscale

Microscopy (AFM, SEM, TEM, STM, etc.)

Nanoelectronics

Nanofabrication (FIB) & Nanolithography

Nanomagnetism

Phononics and Photonics

Quantum Theory and Simulation

Spectroscopy (Raman, XRD, XPS, etc.)

Spintronics

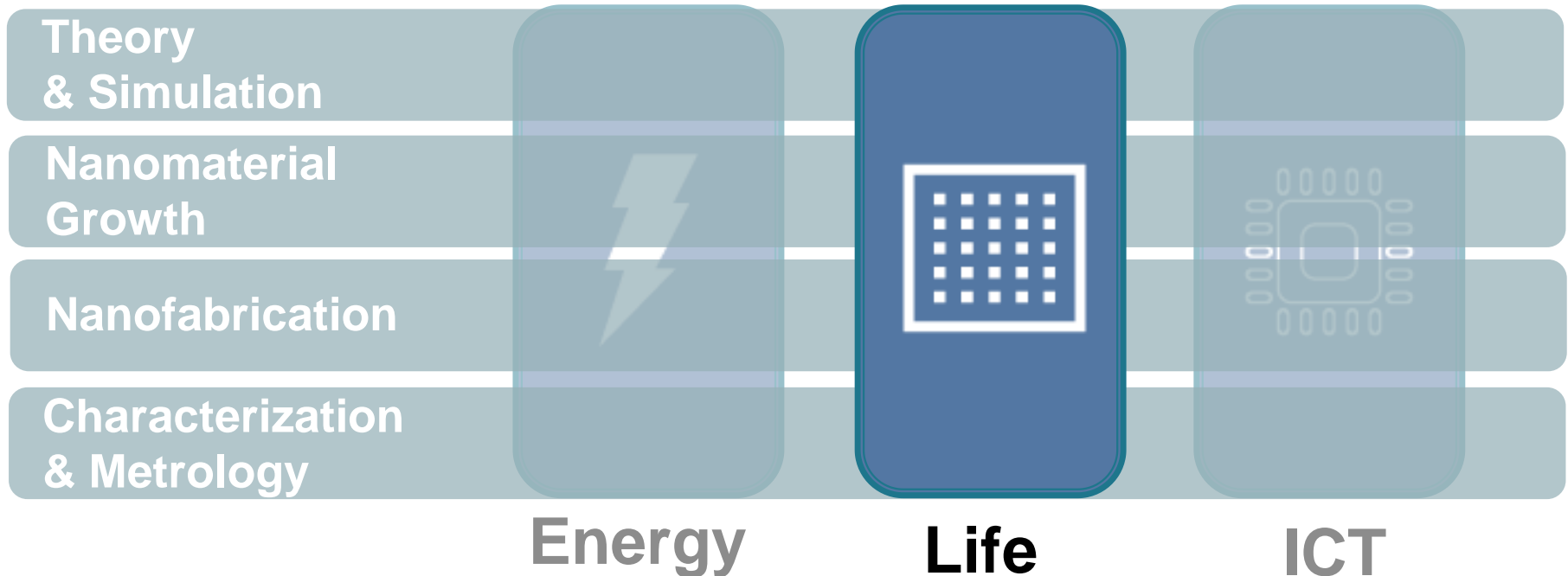
Surface Properties



# Nanodevices for Social Challenges

Three **Core Areas** supported by four **Transversal Platforms**

Fifteen **Research Groups** and four **Technical Divisions**



Impact on all aspects of Life Sciences in general  
and health care particularly

## Diagnostics

Clinical Analysis  
Environment  
Monitoring

## Therapy

Pollutants  
Destruction/Removal

Theranostics  
Sensoremoval

# DISRUPTIVE FORCES SHAPING HEALTHCARE

## Aging of population

Demand access to better healthcare  
By 2050 around 2000 millions aged 60 and over  
[http://www.who.int/ageing/events/idop\\_rationale/en/](http://www.who.int/ageing/events/idop_rationale/en/)

## Chronic diseases

Seven of the top 10 causes of death in 2010 were chronic diseases. Two of these chronic diseases—heart disease and cancer—together accounted for nearly 48% of all deaths.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/overview/>

## Spending on health

Total global expenditure for health  
US\$ 6.5 trillion  
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs319/en/>

## Pandemics

US \$60 billion-a-year global risk  
<http://www.cnbc.com/>



# MEDICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL DIAGNOSTICS

## Traditional laboratory techniques

- ✓ Sensitivity
- ✓ Information
- ✓ Suitable for basic research

- X High costs
- X Time consuming
- X Sophisticated equipment
- X Trained users
- X Facilities
- X Low throughput



<http://www.rdkengineers.com/Boston-Heart-Diagnostics.cfm>



[http://www.lekhisoftmedicalsoftware.com/products/diagnostic\\_management](http://www.lekhisoftmedicalsoftware.com/products/diagnostic_management)

## Point of care diagnostics (POC)

- In situ/immediate testing.
- Close control and monitoring



<http://cpoct.com/blog/>

Molecular diagnostics → **Biosensors** → People



<http://continuuminnovation.com>



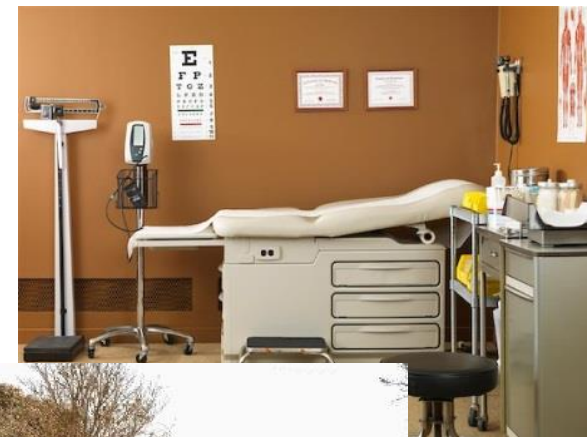
New advances → **Biosensors** → Diagnostics

# Biosensors

## Challenges of point of care devices

Diagnostic devices to be used in Point of Care should be **ASSURED**:

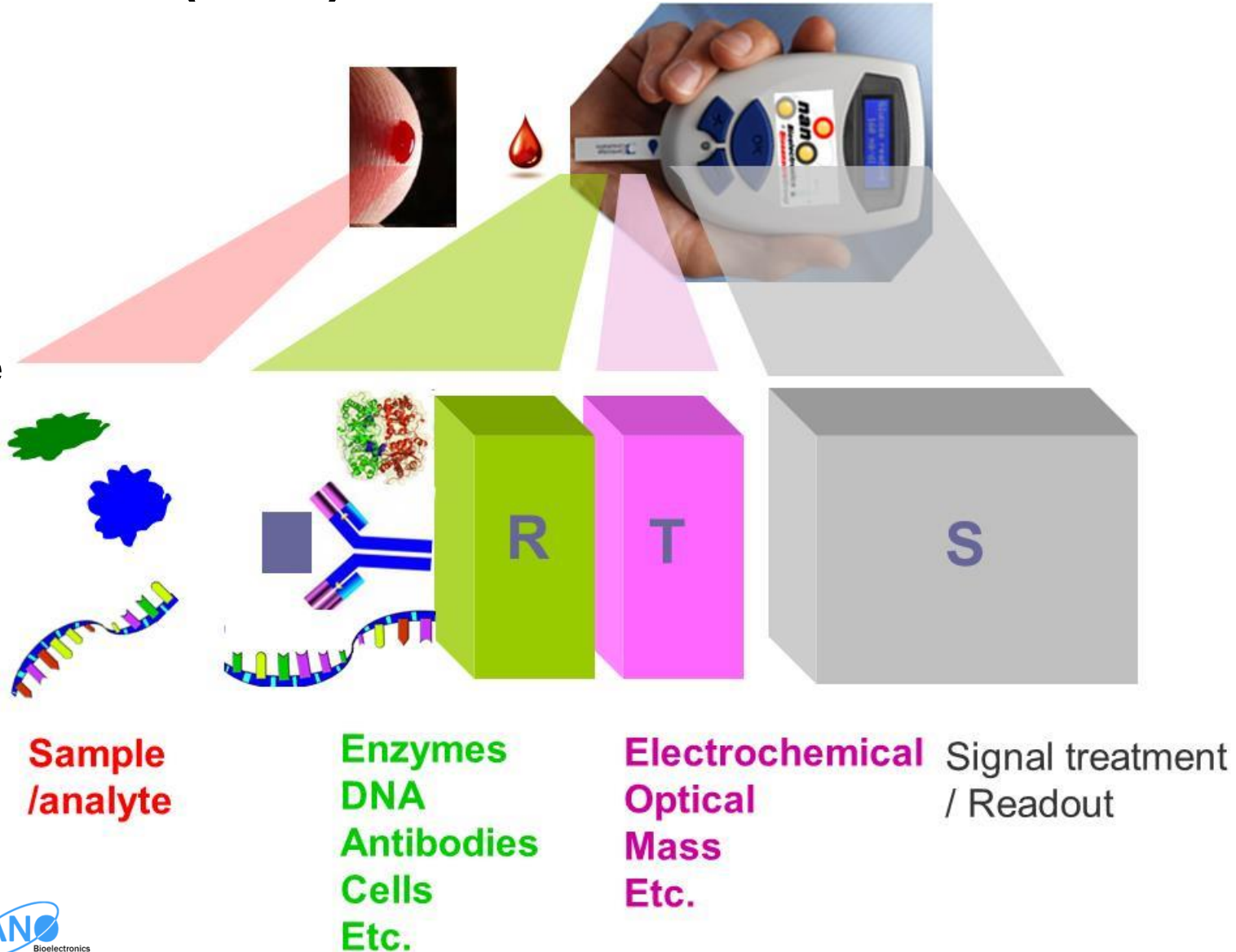
- Affordable
- Sensitive
- Specific
- User-friendly
- Rapid and Robust
- Equipment-free
- Delivered



# Biosensors: Capable to fulfil POC and ASSURED

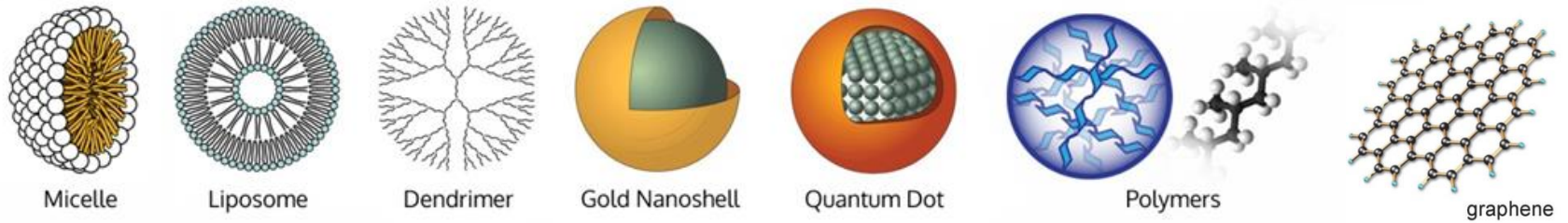
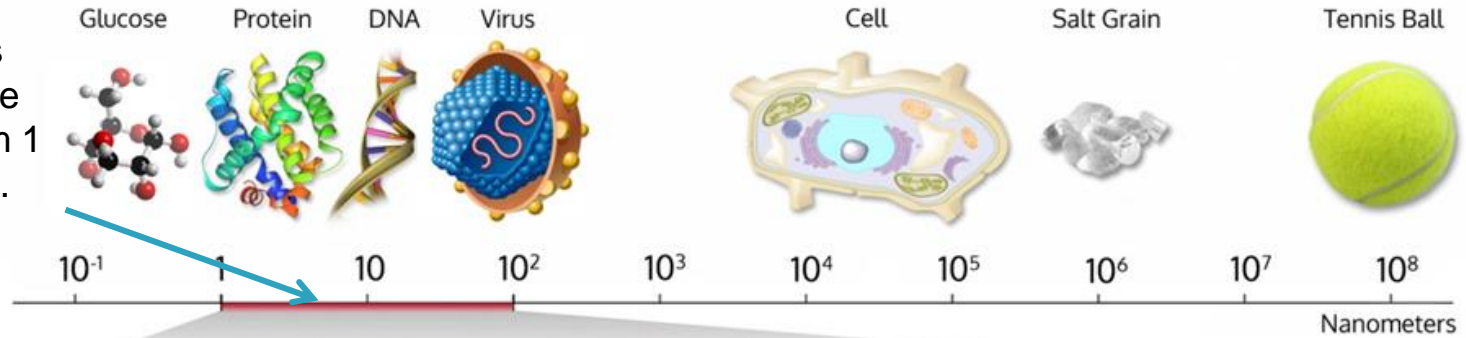
## ASSURED criteria (WHO)

- Affordable
- Sensitive
- Specific
- User Friendly
- Robust
- Equipment free
- Deliverable



**Nanotechnology:** New source of possibilities to improve biosensors. Most of expectations comes from the fact that matter behaves differently at the nanoscale -> Plenty of new possibilities emerge from nanomaterials.

Materials whose size ranges from 1 to 100nm.



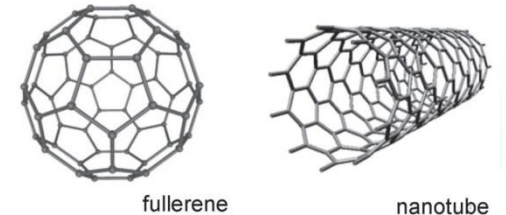
<http://wichlab.com/research/>

**Nanomaterials advantages:**

- Large surface-to-volume ratio
- Shape
- Physicochemical properties regarding composition
- Binding characteristics

**Examples of nanomaterials:**

- **Nanoparticles**
- Nanowires, nanotubes
- Graphene
- **Nanochannels**
- Nanostructured surfaces.



Fullerenes, Graphene and Carbon nanotubes

<http://www.naturphilosophie.co.uk/graphite-graphene-kitchen-blender/>



# PLENTY OF POSSIBILITIES FOR NANOBIOSENSORS

## ASSURED (WHO)

Affordable

Sensitive

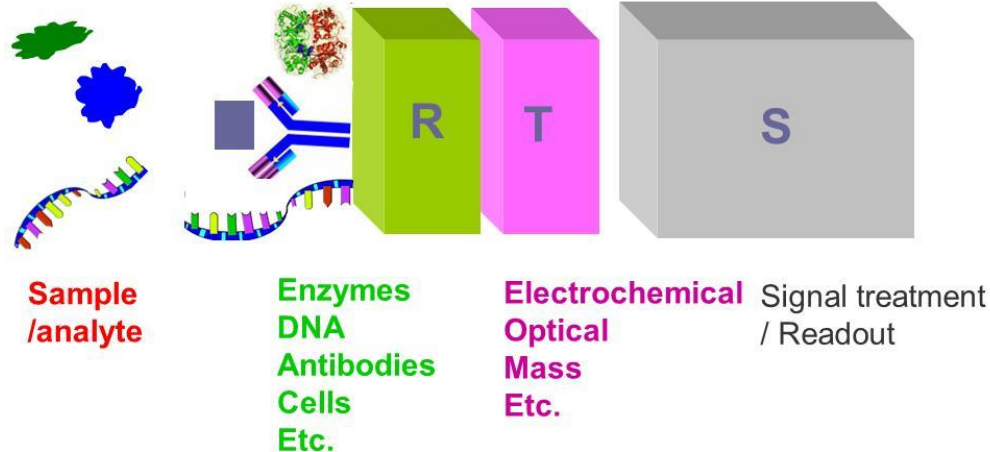
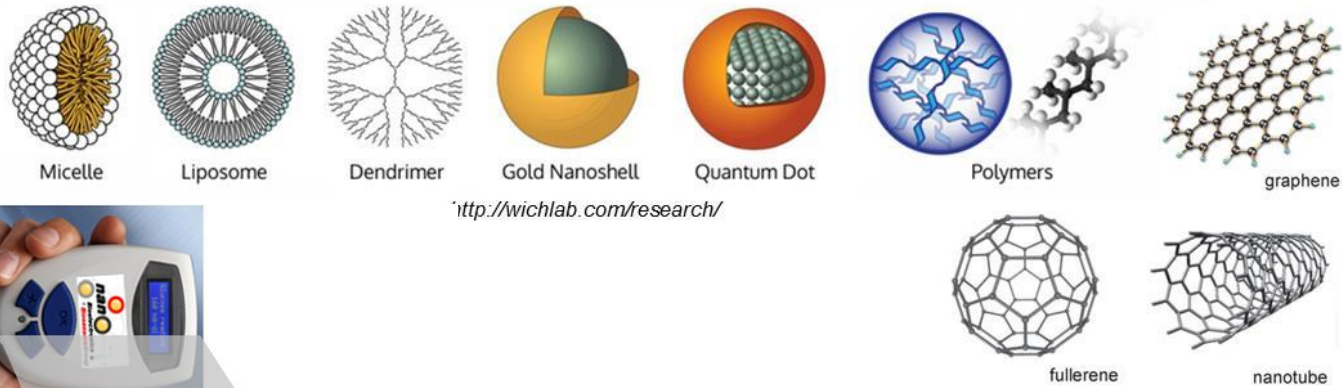
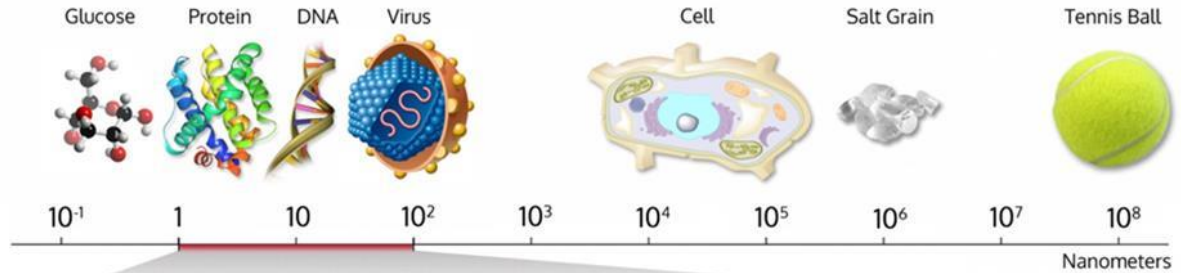
Specific

User Friendly

Robust

Equipment free

Deliverable



## VARIETY OF CONFIGURATIONS

- Wearable sensors
- Smart/packaging and control of food
- Implanted devices
- In-vivo formats
- etc

# BIOSENSORS CAN BE EVERYWHERE



Medical devices



Wearables



Smart Phone



Smart TV



Smart Fridge



Smart washing machine



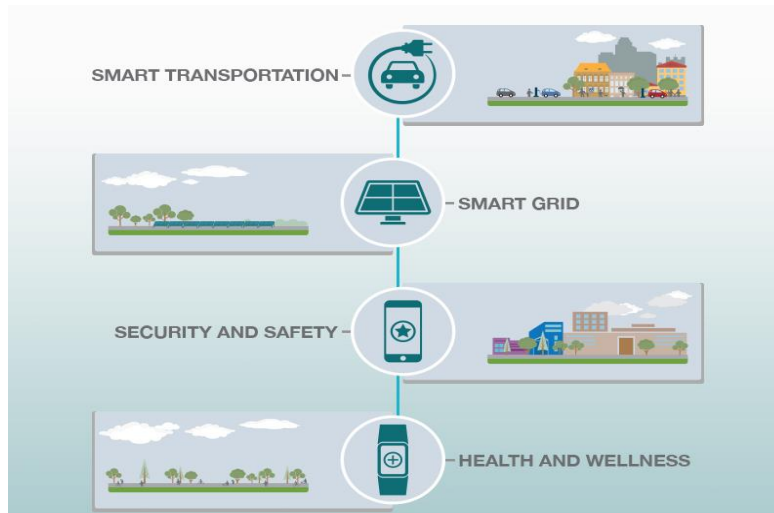
Smart houses



Food/plant control



Environment control



Smart cities

# SMART PHONES CONTROLLING HEALTH

## Samsung SIMBAND



### Current parameters

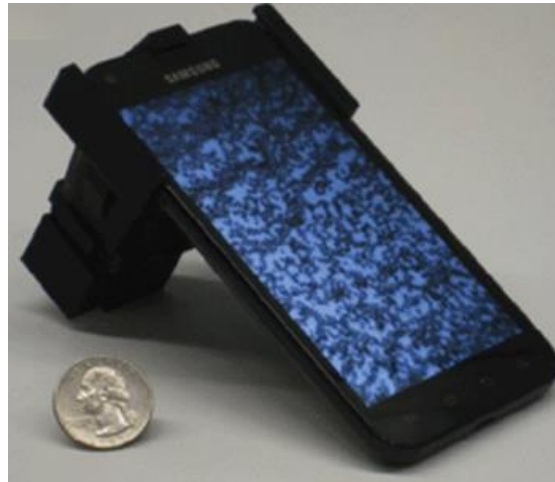


...other parameters in the future

# Integration of biosensors with real world applications



<http://store.idetekt.com>



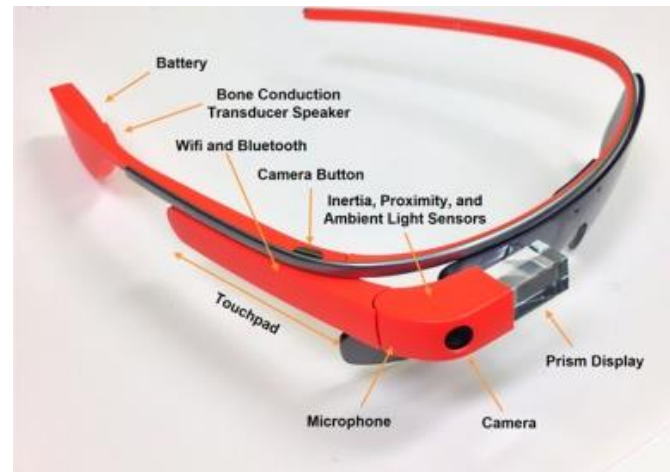
Navruz I, et al. **Lab Chip**, 2013, 13, pp. 4015-4023



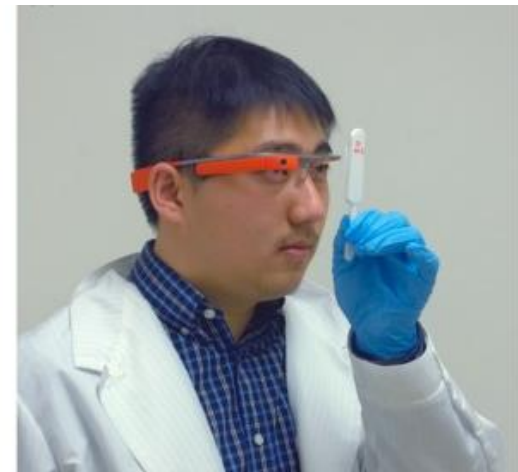
Nimerosky A, et al. **PNAS**, 111, 33, pp. 11984–11989



Gallegos D, et al. **Lab Chip**, 2013, 13, pp. 2124-2132



Feng S, et al. **ACS Nano**. 2014, 8(3), pp. 3069–3079.



# BIOSENSORS AS IMPORTANT PART OF SMART CITIES

## The Smart City Parameters

[Index](#)



**Smart energy:**  
digital Management energy



**Smart Building:** automated intelligent building



**Smart healthcare:**  
intelligent healthcare Technology



**Smart citizen:**  
Civic Digital Natives



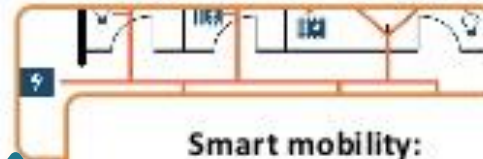
**Smart IT communicate:**  
seamless connectivity



**Smart Governance :**  
Government-on-the-go



**Smart infrastructure:**  
Digital management of infrastructure



**Smart mobility:**  
intelligent mobility

# OUR CHALLENGES

**① Can we make diagnostic devices completely non-invasive?**

**② Can we ensure continuous / real time (bio)monitoring?**

**③ Which partners & expertise's we need to develop devices for real applications that generate (bio)data?**

**④ How to make cheap/low cost devices that can be disposable?**

**⑤ How to correlate (sensor)data to get insights about the body?**

# NanoBiosensors and the key factors for their commercialisations

## **COST PERFORMANCE**

- More attractive than commercially available devices
- Better sensing performance at lower cost



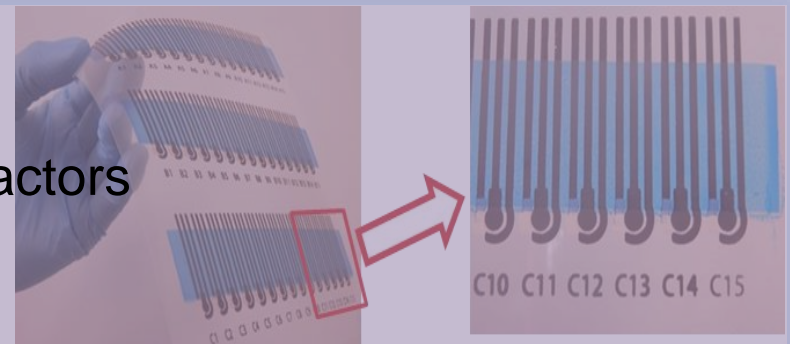
## **MANUFACTURING**

- Single device reproducibility (batch-to-batch)
- New manufacturing solutions that enable new devices



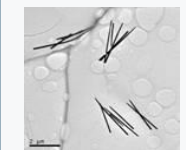
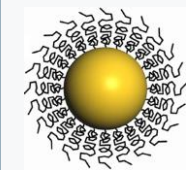
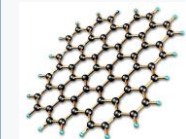
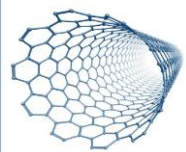
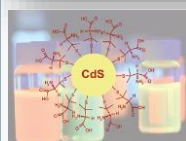
## **MASS-PRODUCTION**

- Scalability of device production / scaling factors
- Biosensing standards & nanometrology

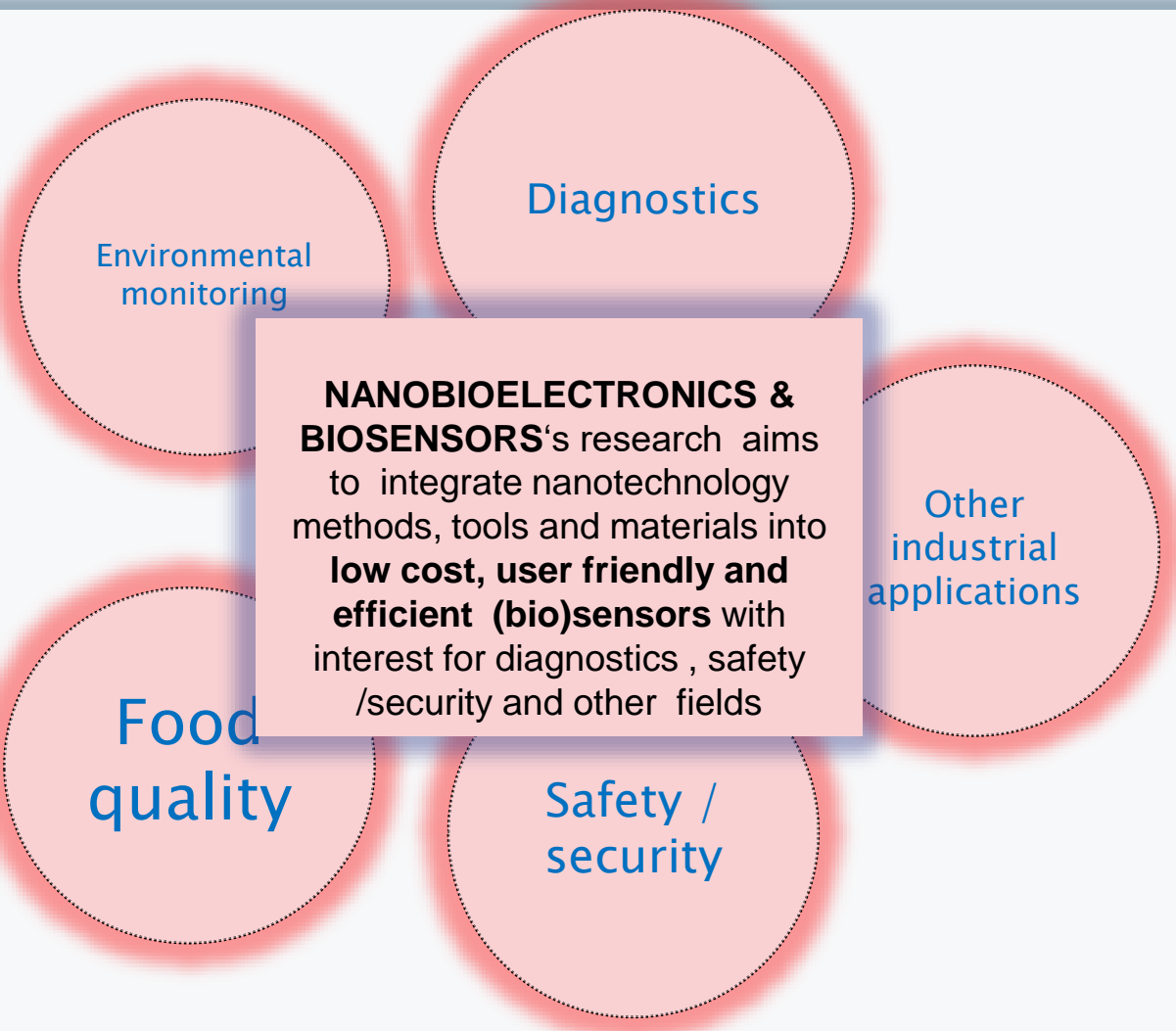
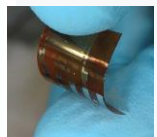
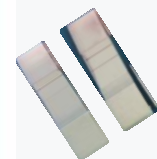
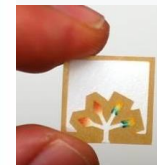




## Objectives



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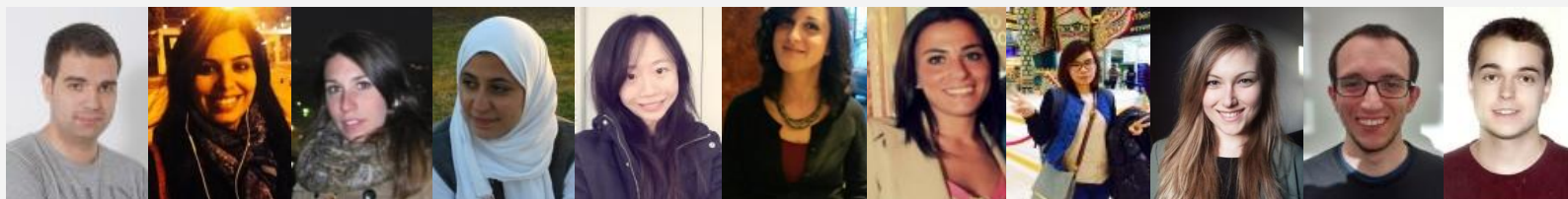




## Prof. Arben Merkoçi



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Jahir Orozco SO Postdoc  
Eden Morales Postdoc  
Ruslán R. Alvarez Visiting Postdoc  
Dalia Elmasry Visiting Postdoc  
Irene Alvarez Lab technician  
Luis Pires PhD student  
Daniel Quesada PhD student  
Lorenz Ruso PhD student  
Andrzej Chalupniak PhD student



Alejandro Zamora PhD student  
Bhawna Nagar PhD student  
Carme Martínez PhD student  
Mohga Khater PhD student  
Jie Liu Visiting PhD Student  
Monica Costantini Visiting PhD Student  
Marialuisa Siepi Visiting PhD Student  
Nopchulee Cheeveevatanagool Visiting PhD Student  
Margherita Montanari Visiting Master Student  
Héctor Yáñez Master Student  
José Francisco Berugua Master Student



Aida Montserrat Master student  
Amadeo Sena Master student  
Christian Vila Undergraduate  
Juan Leva Undergraduate

## 11 Nationalities



***SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS to previous PhD students, now PhDs, and collaborators who left the group but started and did most of the research.***



Gemma Aragay



Claudio Parolo



Adaris Lopez



Lourdes Rivas



Alejandro Chamorro



Maria Guix



Mariana Medina



Hamed  
Golmohammadi



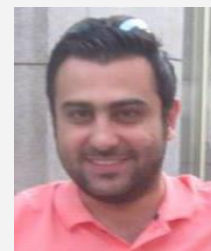
Tina Naghdi



Everson Thiago



Hoda Leli



Erhan Zor



Sandrine Miserere



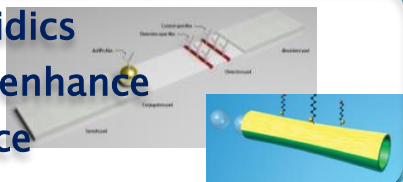
Miquel Cadevall

***and funding Agencies and projects:***

# Our nanobiosensing technologies and their integration

## BIOSENSOREMOVAL & THERANOSTIC NanoTechnologies

Paper/plastic microfluidics  
and nanomotors that enhance  
biosensing performance

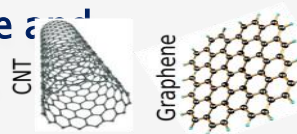


ACS Nano, 2015, 2016  
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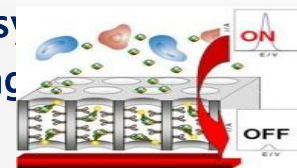
Pesticides  
Phenols  
Heavy metals  
Bacteria  
Others



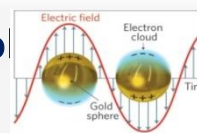
Explore optical/electrical properties of graphene and  
carbon nanotubes and design novel biosensors



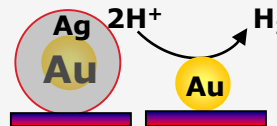
Innovative nanochannels–nanoparticles hybrid systems  
for biosensing applications (filtering and sensing on  
same platform)



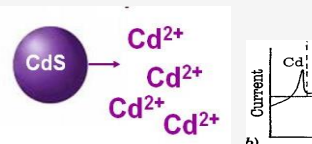
Develop new and improved optical detection technology  
with interest for simple cost/effective platforms



Design highly sensitive biosystems based on  
electrocatalytic nanoparticles



Develop electrochemical stripping technology  
based on Quantum Dots for multiplexing applications



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Nano Lett., 12, 4164–4171 (2012)  
Small 23, 3605–3612 (2012)  
Nanoscale, 3 3350 – 3356 (2011)  
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Anal. Chem., 81, 10268–10274 (2009)

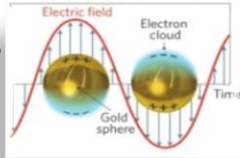
Bioconj. Chem. 22, 180–18 (2011)  
TRAC 24 341-349 (2005)  
Langmuir 21, 9625-9629 (2005)  
Langmuir, 19 989-991 (2003)  
JACS, 125 3214-3215 (2003)

# OUR MOTIVATION

To design new simple nanobiosensors and improve existing ones

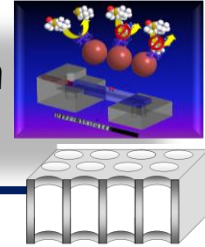
## Nanoparticles

New electro /optical labels



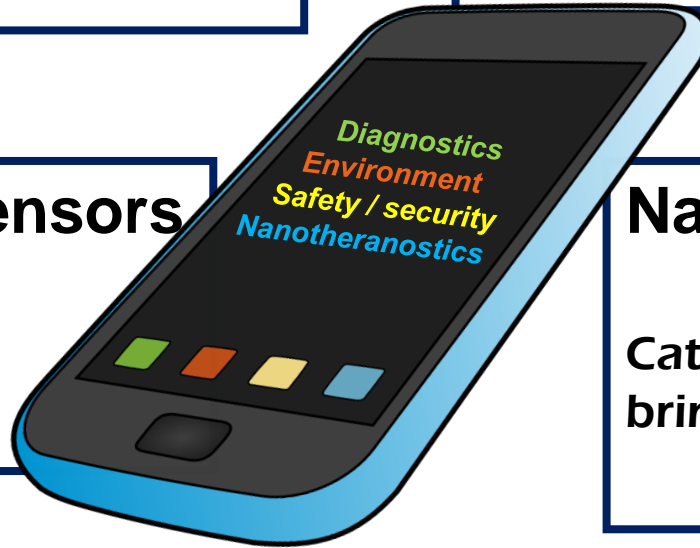
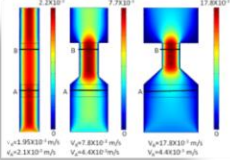
## LOCs / Nanochannels

Preconcentration, filtering, automation



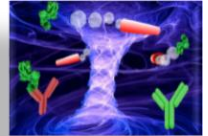
## Paper-based sensors

Simple is the best



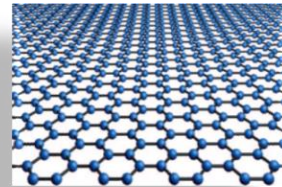
## Nanomotors

Catch even single analyte, bring it to sensing surface



## Graphene

New (bio)sensing opportunities (?)

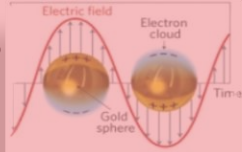


# OUR MOTIVATION

To design new simple nanobiosensors and improve existing ones

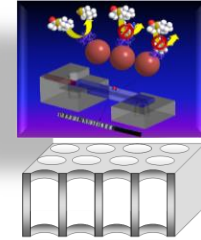
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New electro /optical labels



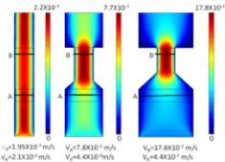
## LOCs / Nanochannels

Preconcentration,  
filtering, automation



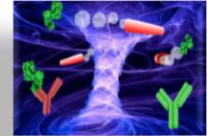
## Paper-based sensors

Simple is the best

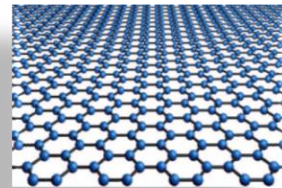


## Nanomotors

Capture even single analyte,  
bring it to sensing surface



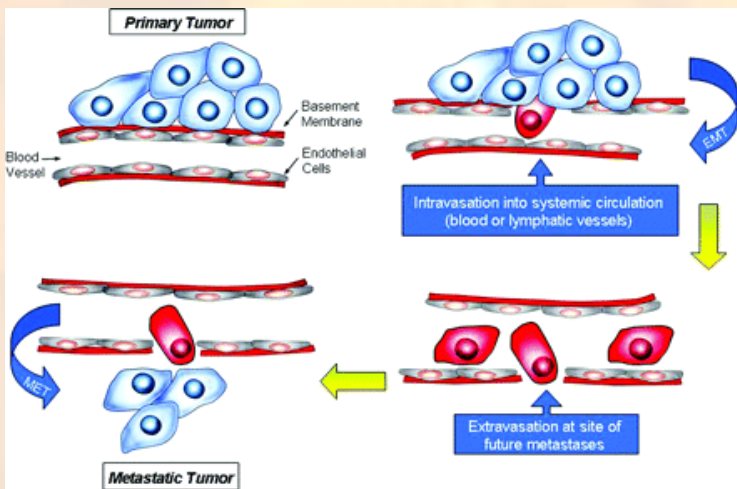
## Graphene



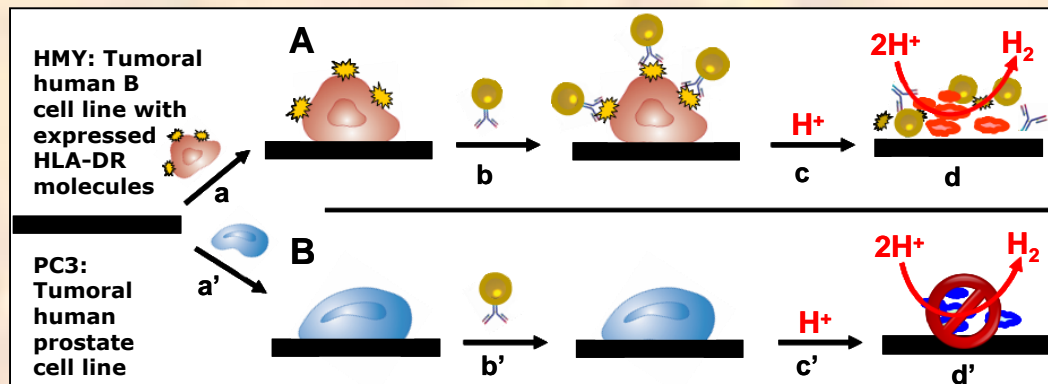
New (bio)sensing  
opportunities (?)

# NPs for cell analysis – fixed cancer cells

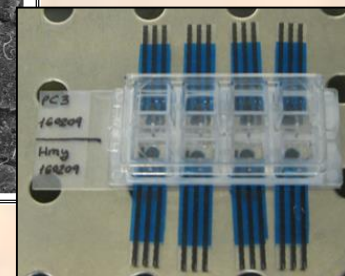
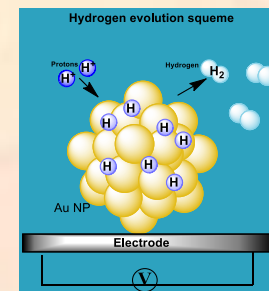
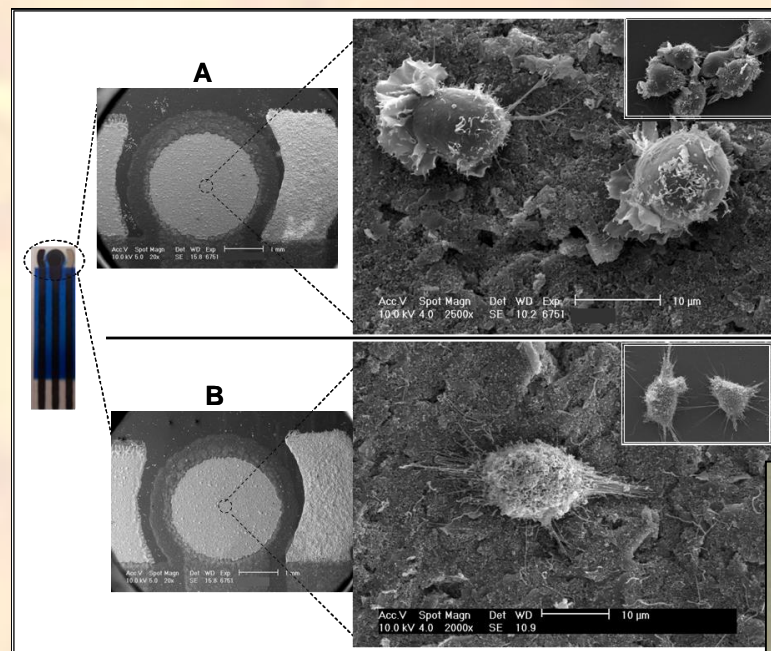
## Cancer Diagnostic



## Detection of fixed cancer cells

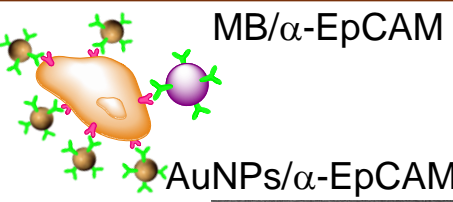


4000 cells per 700  $\mu$ L suspension

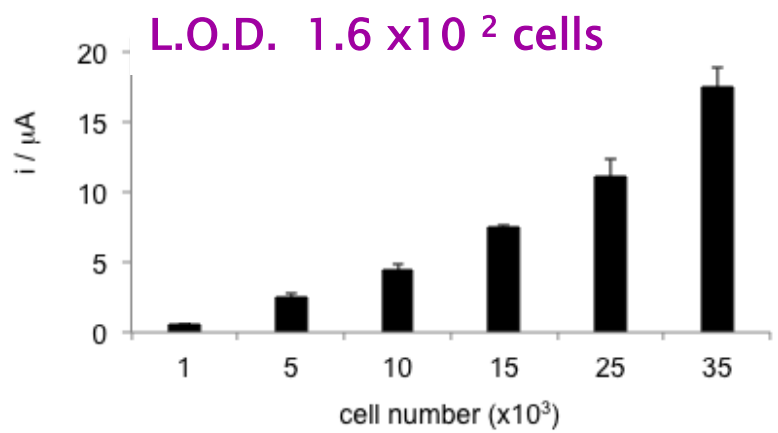
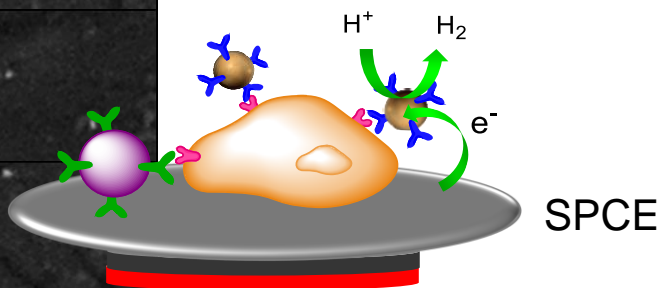
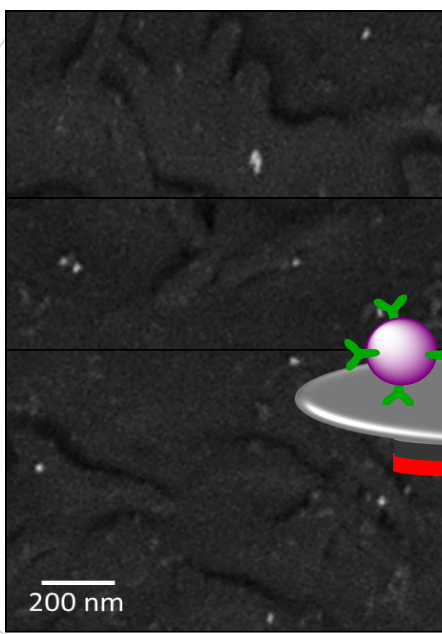
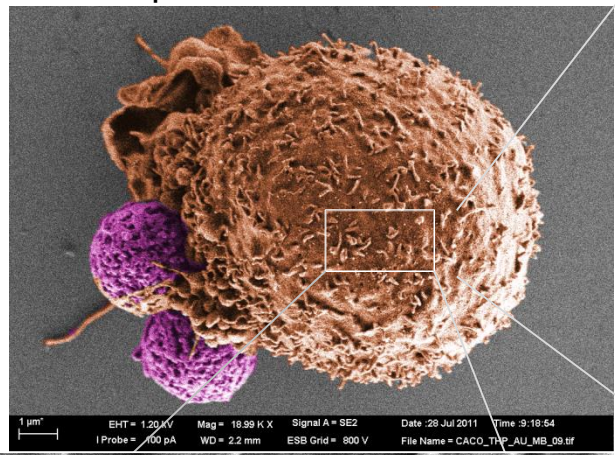


- By 2030, the number of people that will die because of cancer is estimated to reach 11 million.
- 30% of cases are preventable
- 1/3 of cancer cases is subject to treatment in case of an early detection.

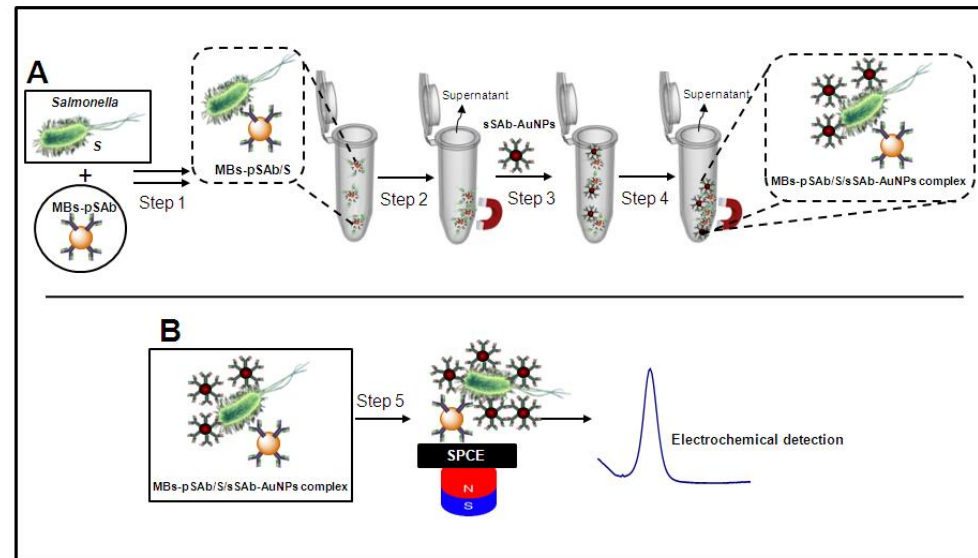
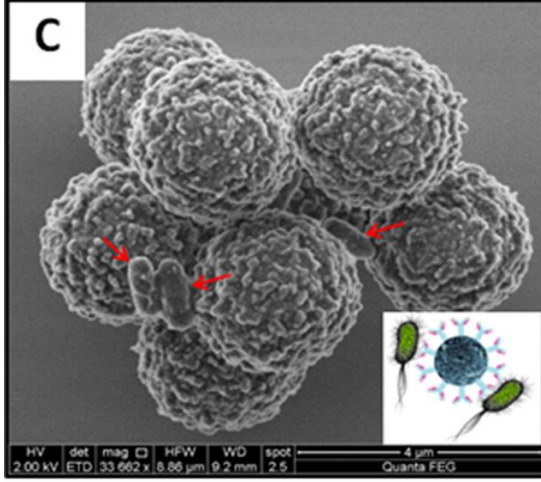
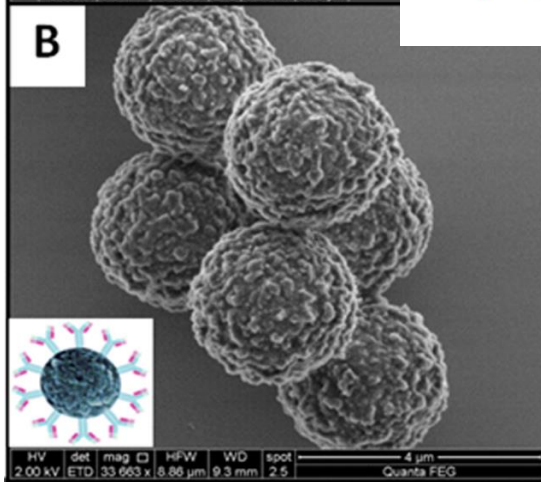
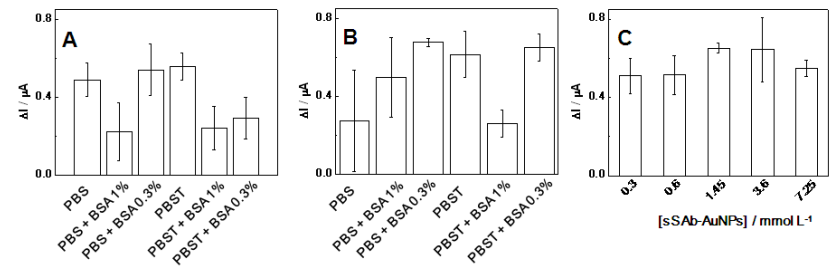
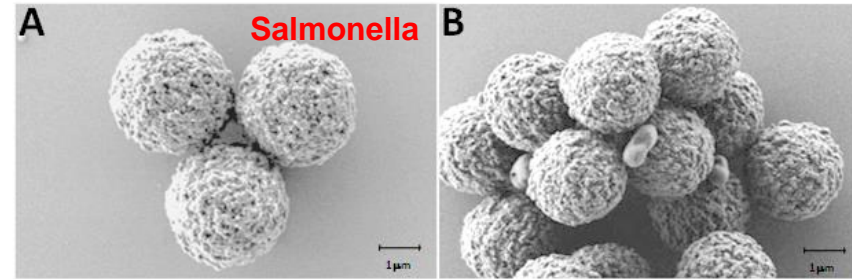
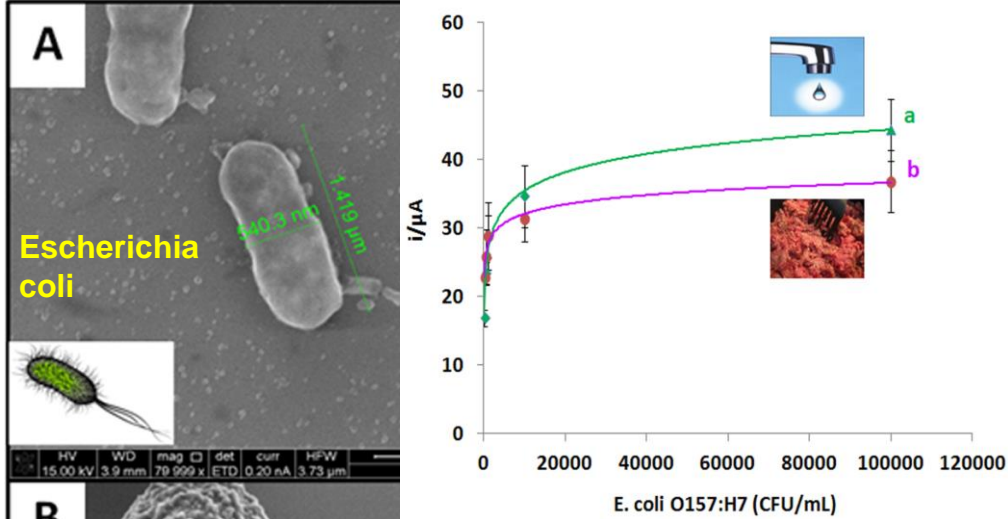
# NPs for cell analysis – Circulating cancer cells (CTC)



Sample mixture with  
80% Caco2  
20% THP-1

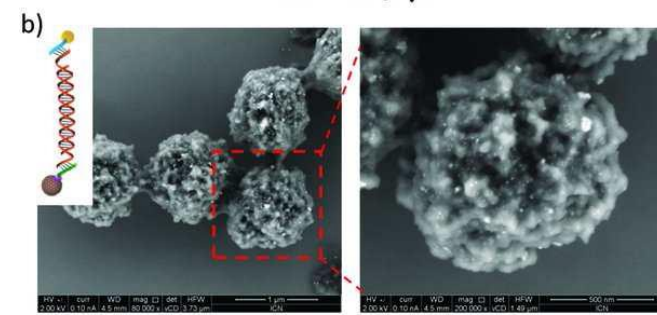
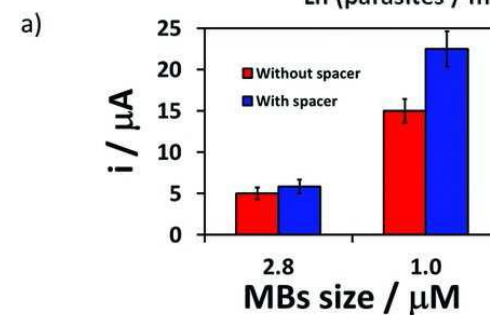
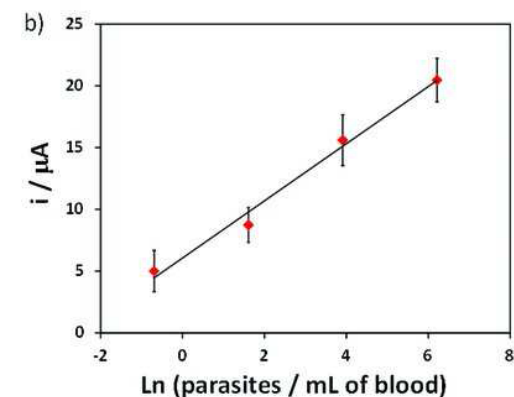
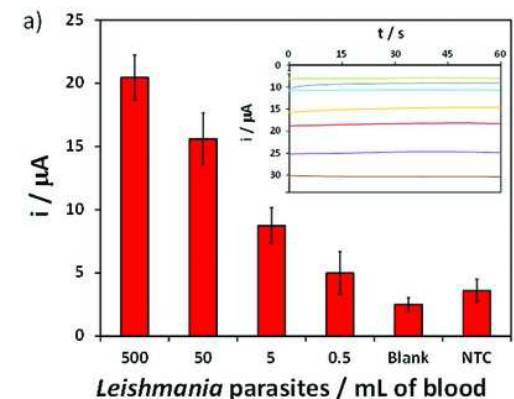
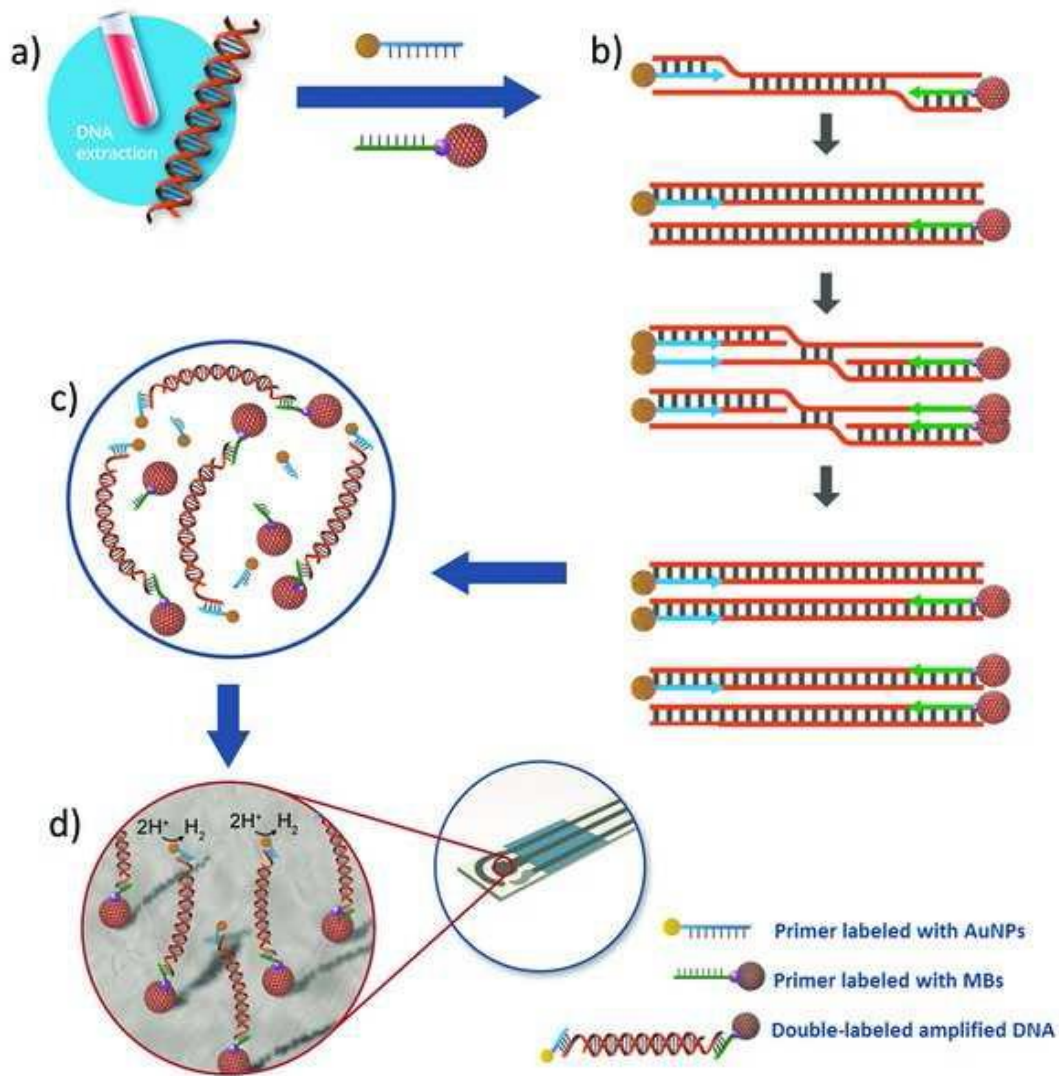


# Au-NP-based detection of bacteria

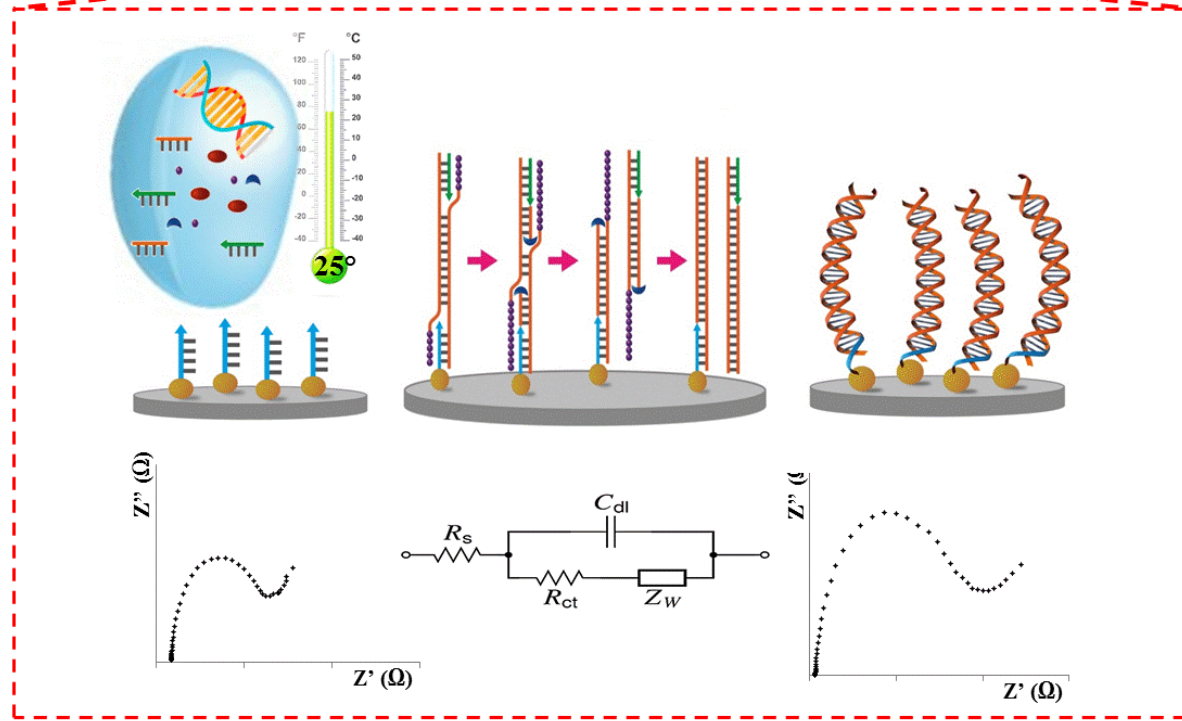




# Magnetic Bead/Gold Nanoparticle Double-Labeled Primers for Electrochemical Detection of Isothermal Amplified *Leishmania* DNA



# In situ plant virus nucleic acid isothermal amplification detection on gold nanoparticle-modified electrodes

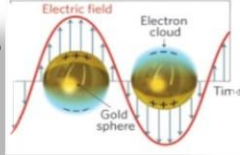


# OUR MOTIVATION

To design new simple nanobiosensors and improve existing ones

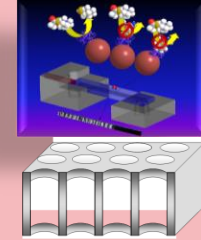
## Nanoparticles

New electro /optical labels



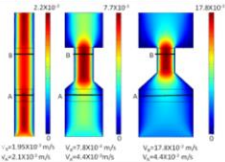
## LOCs / Nanochannels

Preconcentration, filtering, automation



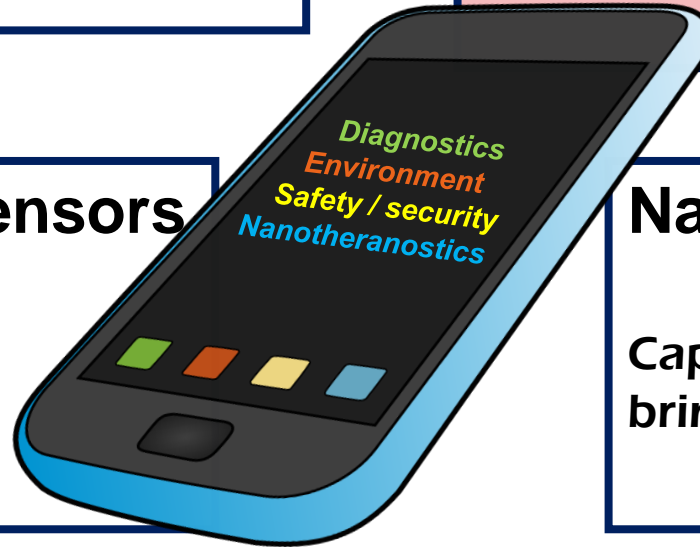
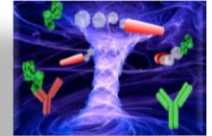
## Paper-based sensors

Simple is the best

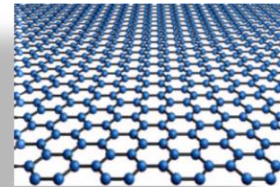


## Nanomotors

Capture even single analyte, bring it to sensing surface



## Graphene

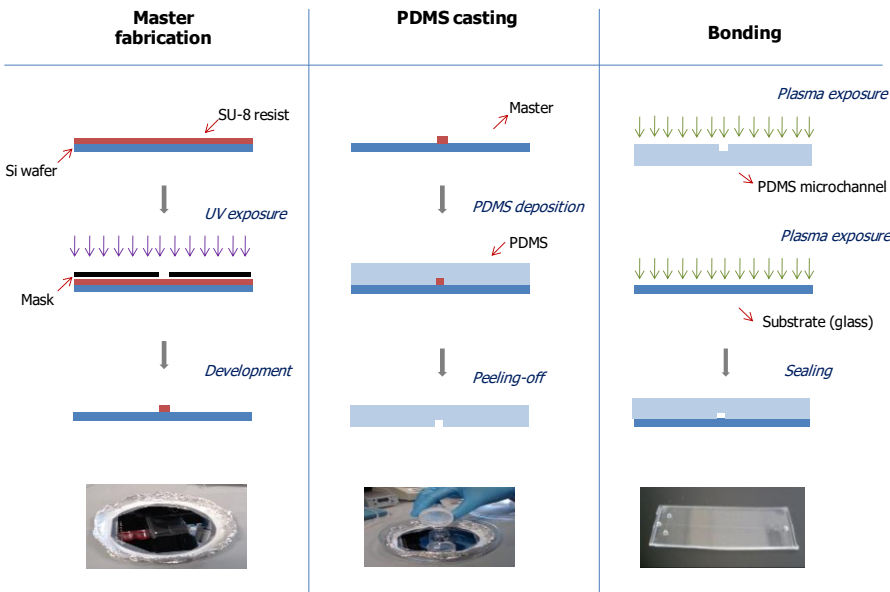


New (bio)sensing opportunities (?)

# Chip fabrication and electrode integration

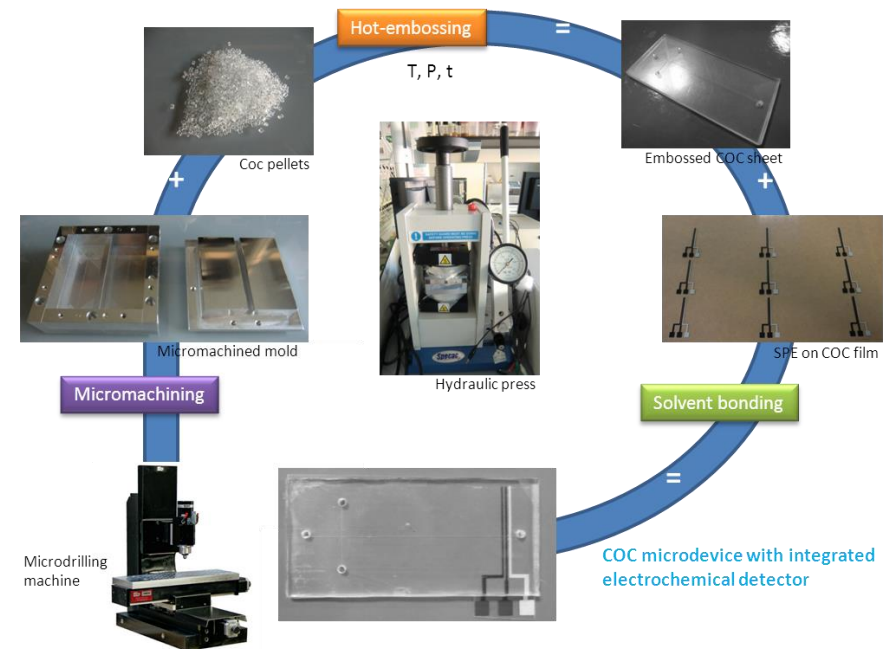
## PDMS Chips

### softlithography process

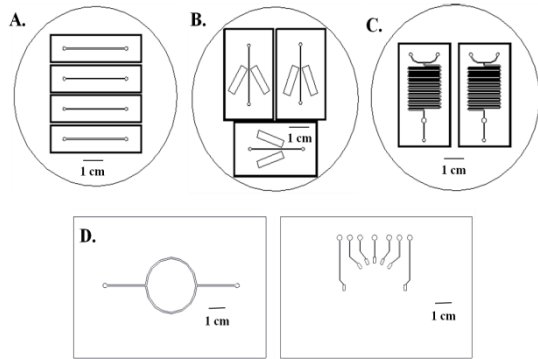


## COC Chips (Collaboration. J.L.Viovy)

### Simple and low cost fabrication techniques

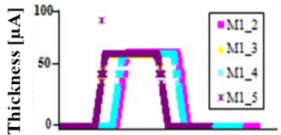
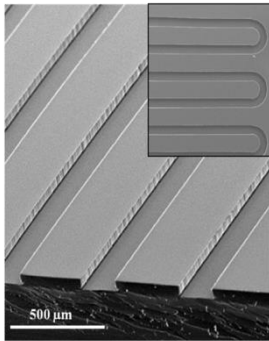


# Chip fabrication and electrode integration

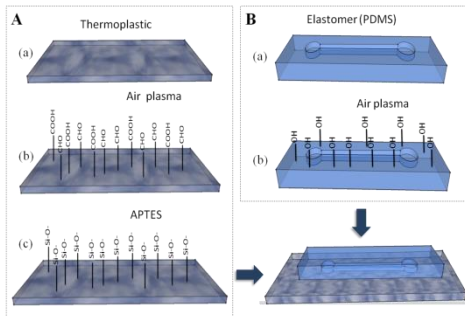


Designs of different microfluidic platforms

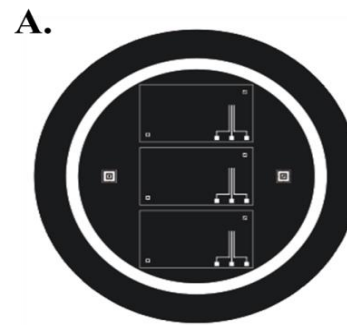
M1	63.12 $\mu\text{m}$		
M2	71.37 $\mu\text{m}$		
M3	64.87 $\mu\text{m}$	Average	54.89 $\mu\text{m}$
M4	61.47 $\mu\text{m}$	Standard Deviation	3.82 $\mu\text{m}$
M5	61.99 $\mu\text{m}$		
M6	57.49 $\mu\text{m}$		



SEM images of the PDMS channel



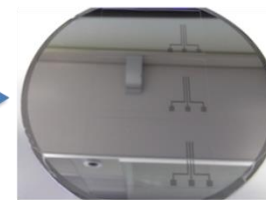
Bonding thermoplastics and PDMS



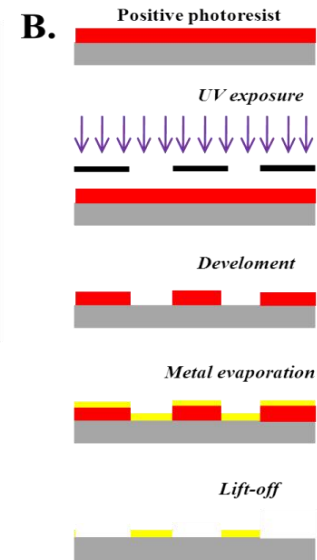
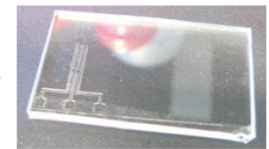
CAD Design



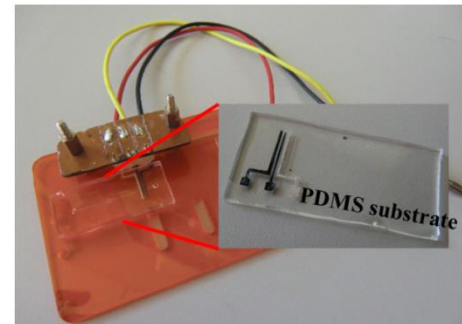
Master fabrication with negative photoresist SU8-50



PDMS casting



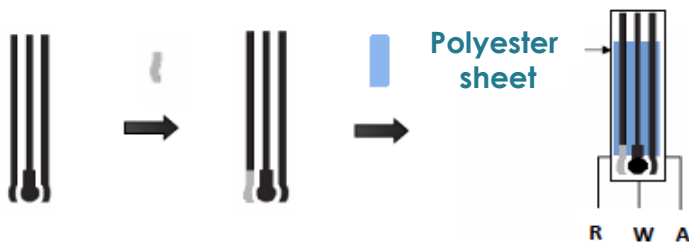
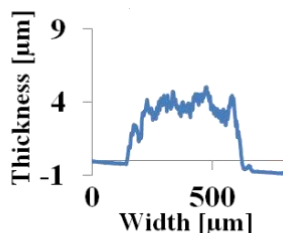
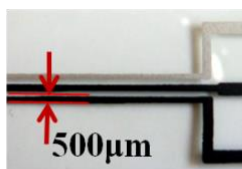
Microfluidic channel



Electrode integration

# Electrode fabrication

## Screen printing

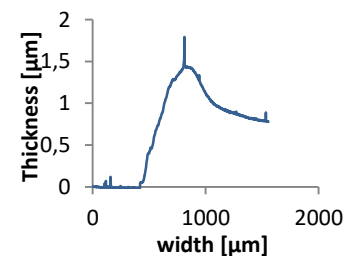
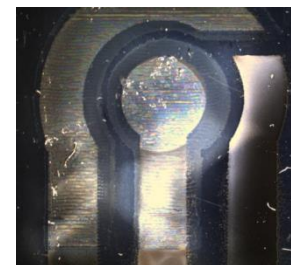
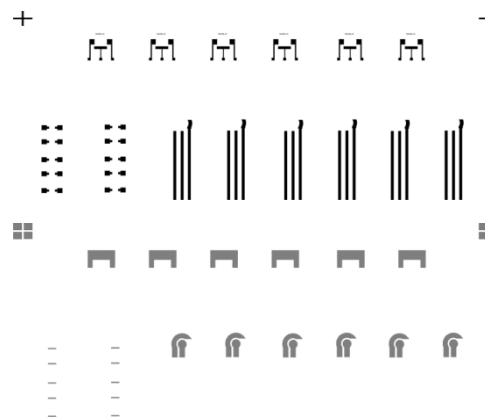
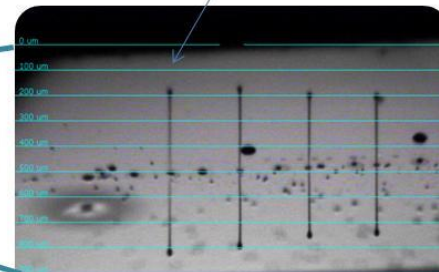


- High viscosity inks
- Electrodes width up to 20  $\mu\text{m}$  (if the surface is pretreated)
- Thickness up to  $\sim 4 \mu\text{m}$

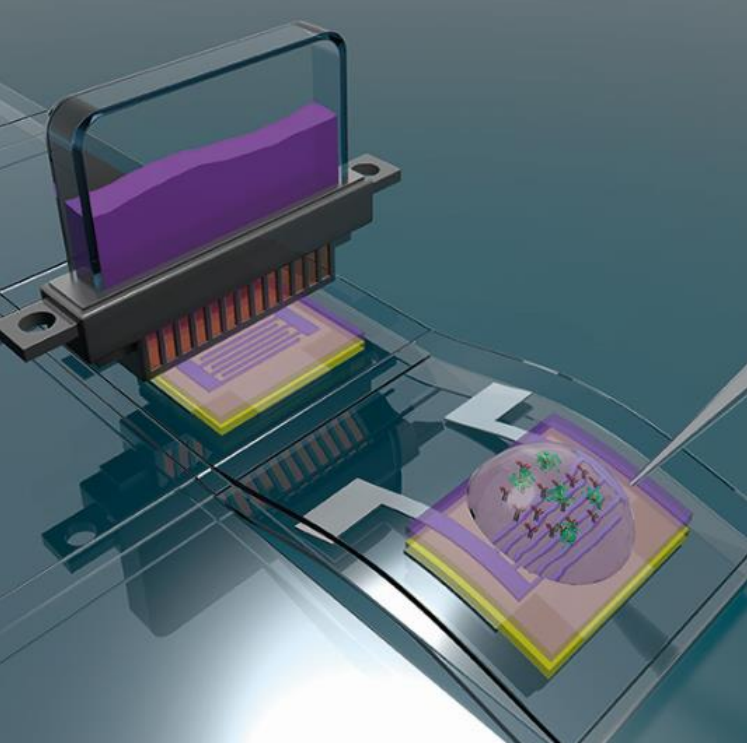
## Inkjet printing



Nozzle outlets (ink)



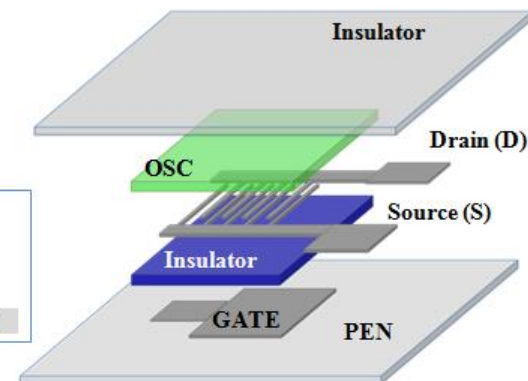
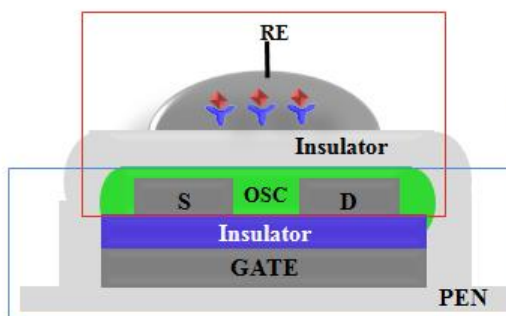
- Low viscosity inks
- Electrode width up to 20  $\mu\text{m}$  without surface treatment
- Thicknesses up to 1  $\mu\text{m}$



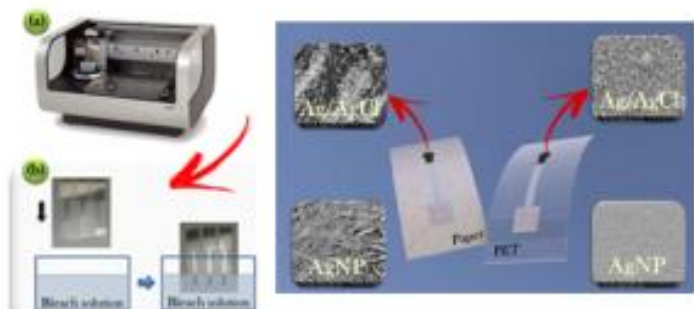
# Inkjet-printed sensing platforms using nanomaterial-based inks and other materials

No need for clean room at all!

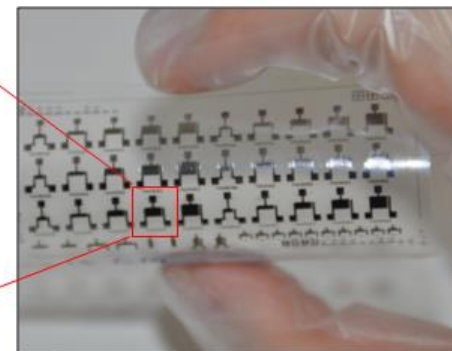
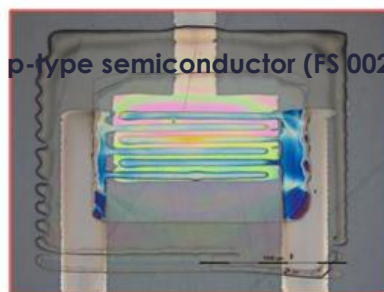
## BioFET



## AgNP-ink jet printed reference electrode in paper or plastic



Polymer p-type semiconductor (FS 0027)



Merkoçi et al.

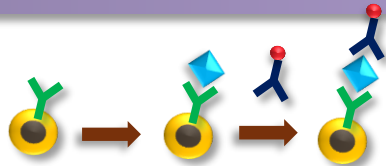
Advanced Functional Materials, 20, 6291–6302. 2014

Merkoçi et al. Anal. Chem. 86, 10531–10534. 2014

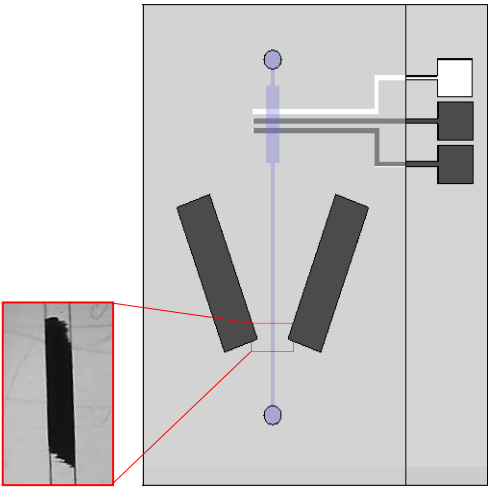
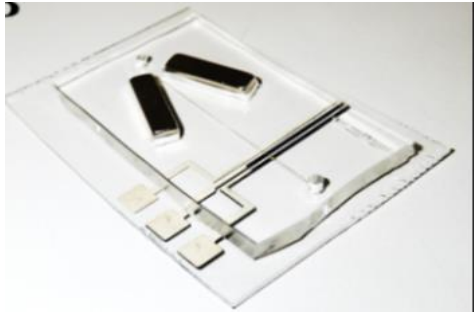
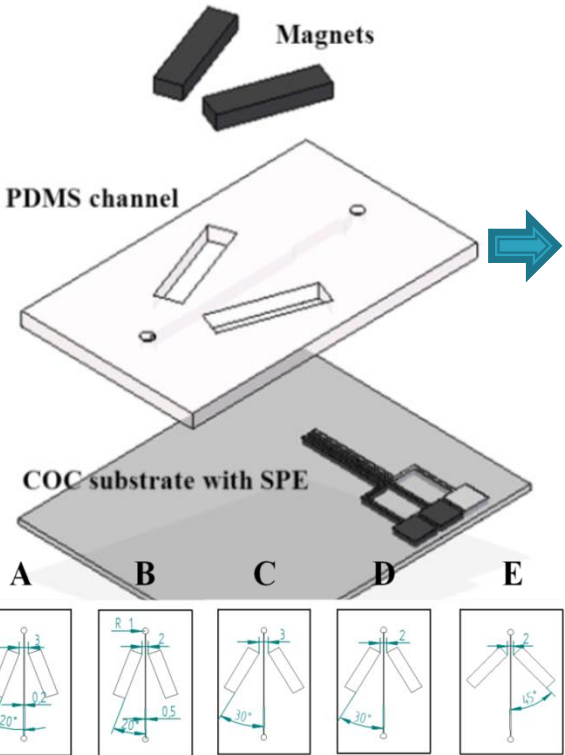
# Novel strategies to obtain electrochemical LOCs with enhanced sensitivity

## Fabrication steps

## Magnetic plug

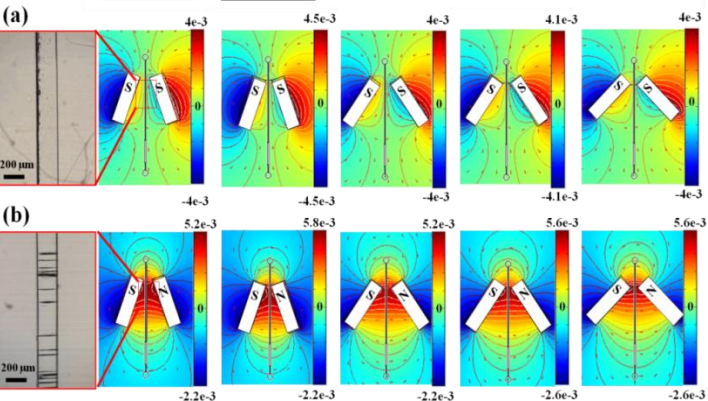


- MB
- Capture Ab
- BSA cover
- Analyte
- Detection Ab
- QD



Magnetic retention zone

**Channel length** = 3cm  
**Channel dimensions** = 200 X 100 μm  
**Measurement zone dimensions** = 500 X 100 μm  
**Electrodes** = 500μm width





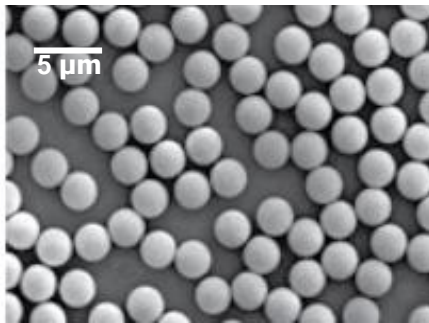
# Quantum dots as electrochemical reporters

## Magneto-immunoassay in chip

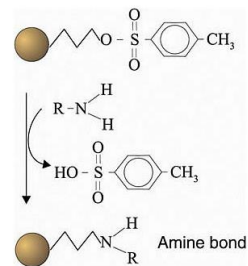
Steps of the magneto-immunoassay in chip

ApoE : Apolipoprotein E (Alzheimer's biomarker)

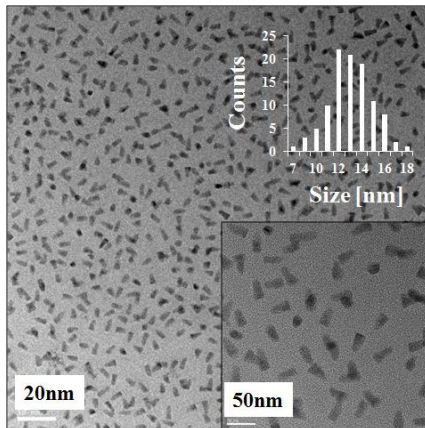
### SEM and TEM Images



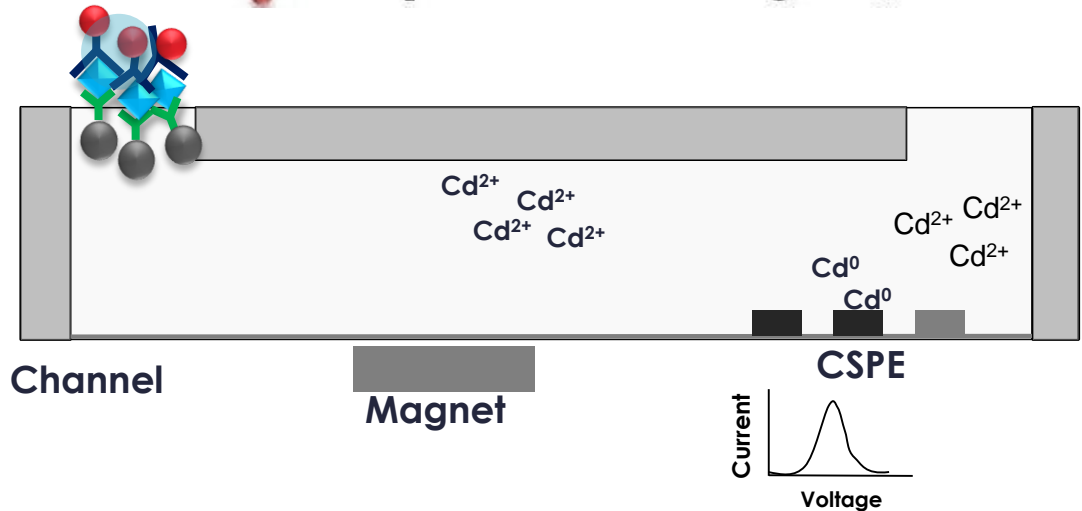
Magnetic beads  
Dynabeads



CdSe@ZnS QDs



- Tosylactivated magnetic beads (2.8 μm)
- Capture antibody [Anti ApoE]
- ApoE
- Biotinylated detection antibody [Anti ApoE]
- Streptavidin core shell CdSe@ZnS QDs



M. Medina-Sánchez, et al.,  
Biosens. Bioelectron. 54, 15  
April 2014, Pages 279–284

	ApoE
LOD (standards)	12.5 ng mL <sup>-1</sup>
Plasma*	80 ± 4.6 μg mL <sup>-1</sup>

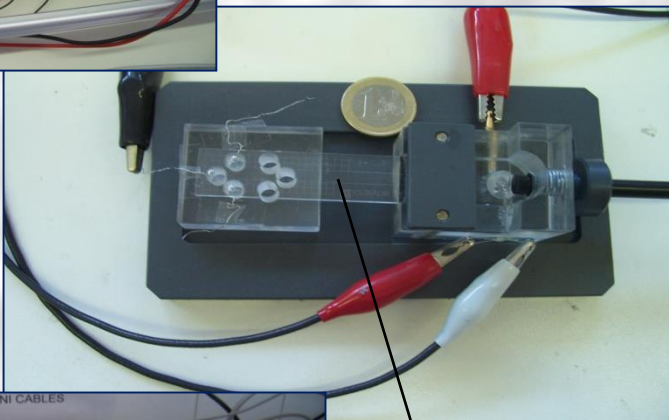


# CNT / LOC and capillary electrophoresis-based analysis

**Carbon based detectors for out-channel LOC detections**  
Rigid Graphite-Epoxy Composite Detector / CNT modified electrodes  
Detection of nitrocompounds, phenols etc.



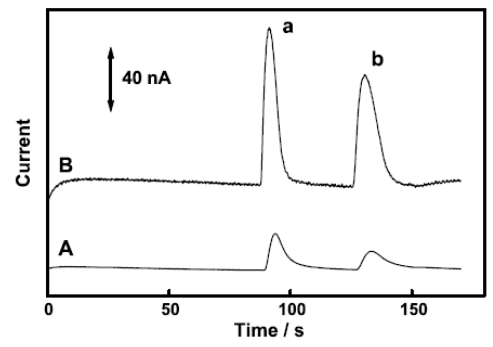
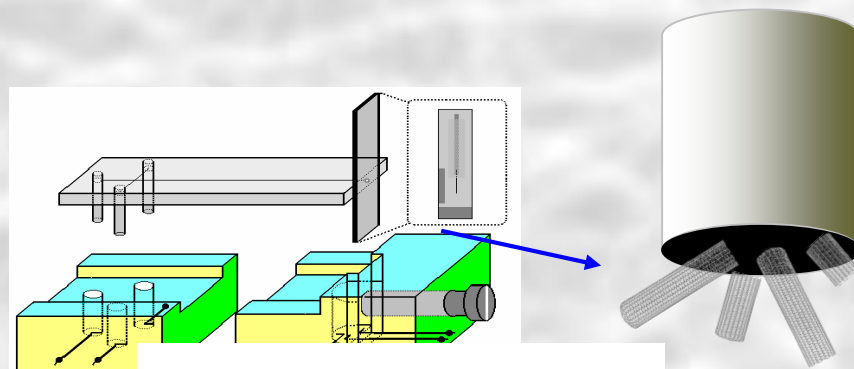
High voltage



Chip (Micralyne; MC-BF4-001)



Measuring instrument



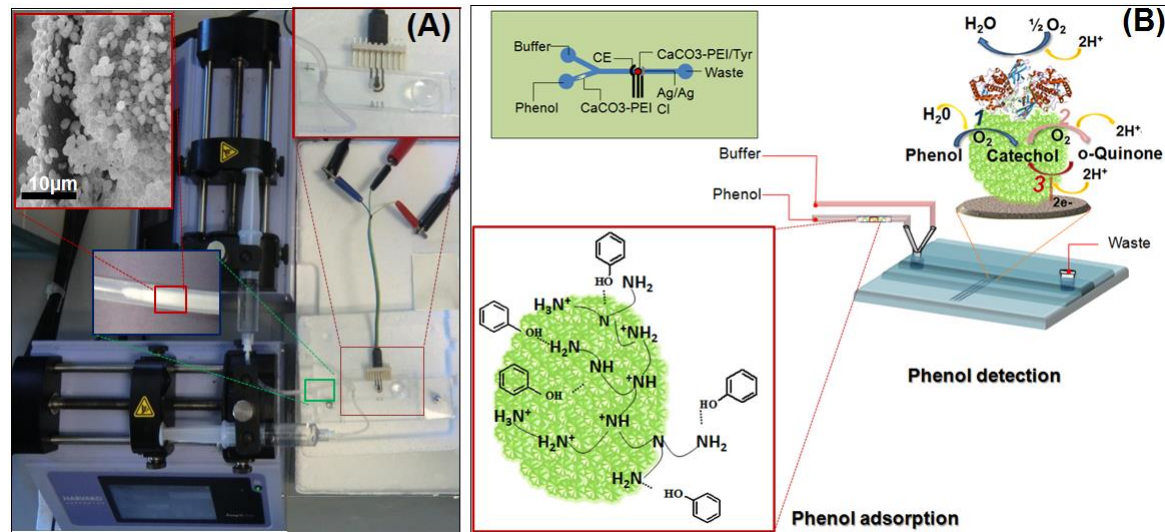
p-aminophenol (a)  
o-aminophenol (b)



Microchimica Acta, 152, 261–265, 2006  
Electrophoresis 27, 5068–5072, 2006  
Electroanalysis 18, 207 – 210, 2006  
Electrophoresis 28, 1274–1280, 2007

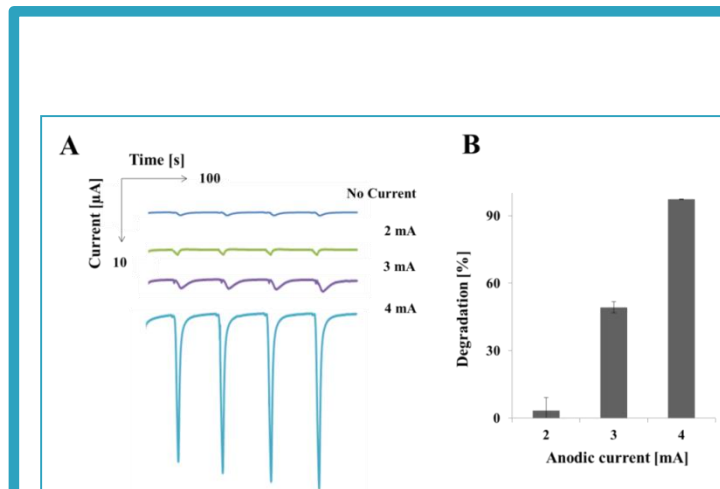
# BIOSENSOREMOVAL NanoTechnologies

## Phenol detection and removal

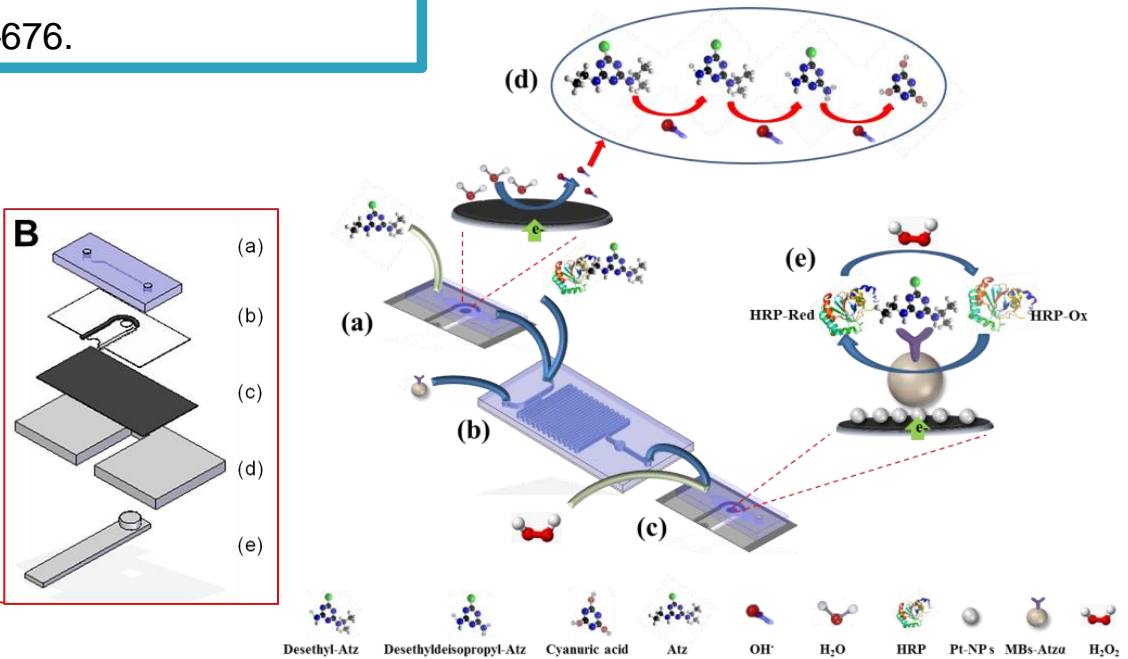
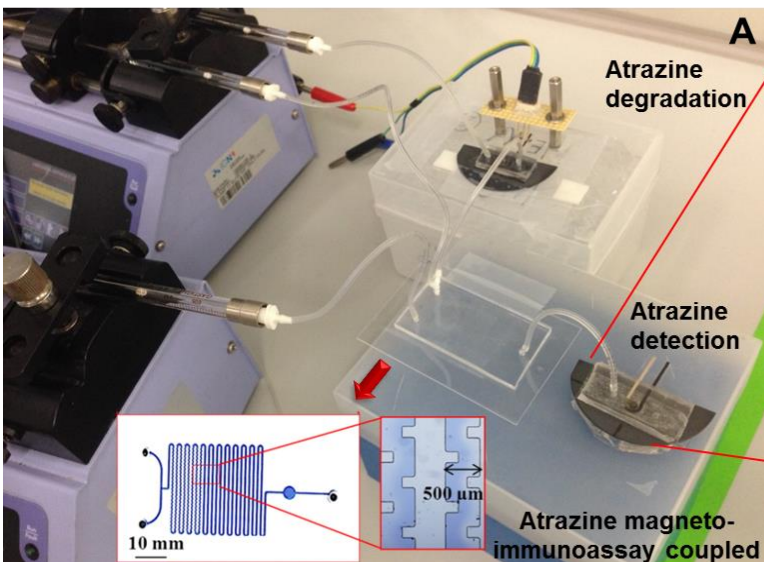


Nanostructured vaterite (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) / Poly(ethyleneimine) (PEI)

Biosensors and Bioelectronics, 2015, 67, 670–676.



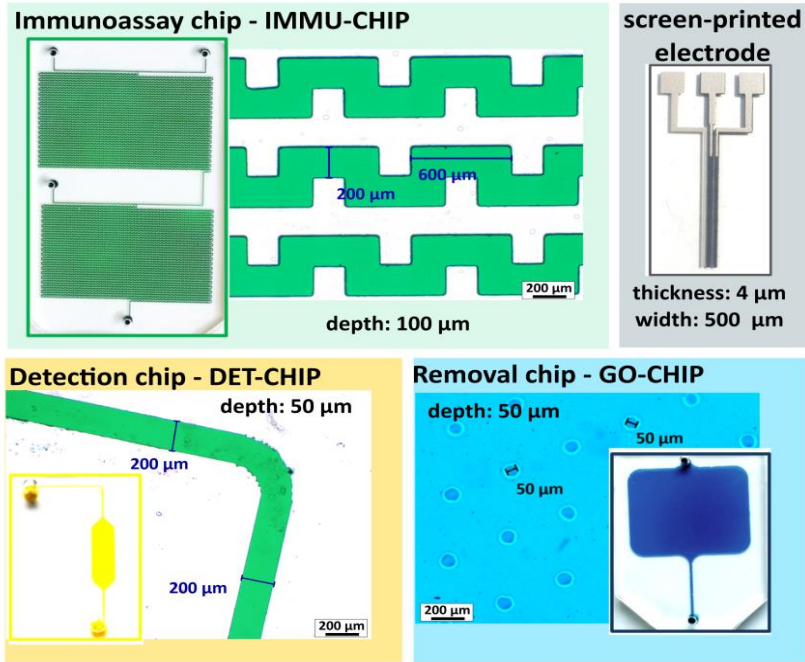
## Pesticide detection and removal



Biosensors & Bioelectronics 2015, in print

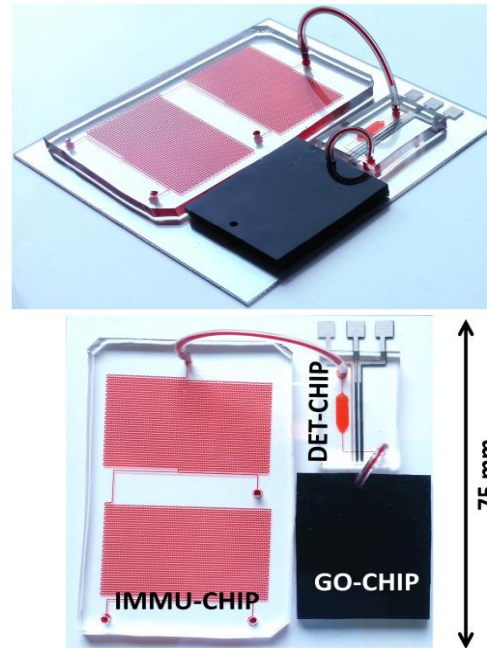
# BIOSENSOREMOVAL NanoTechnologies

(a)



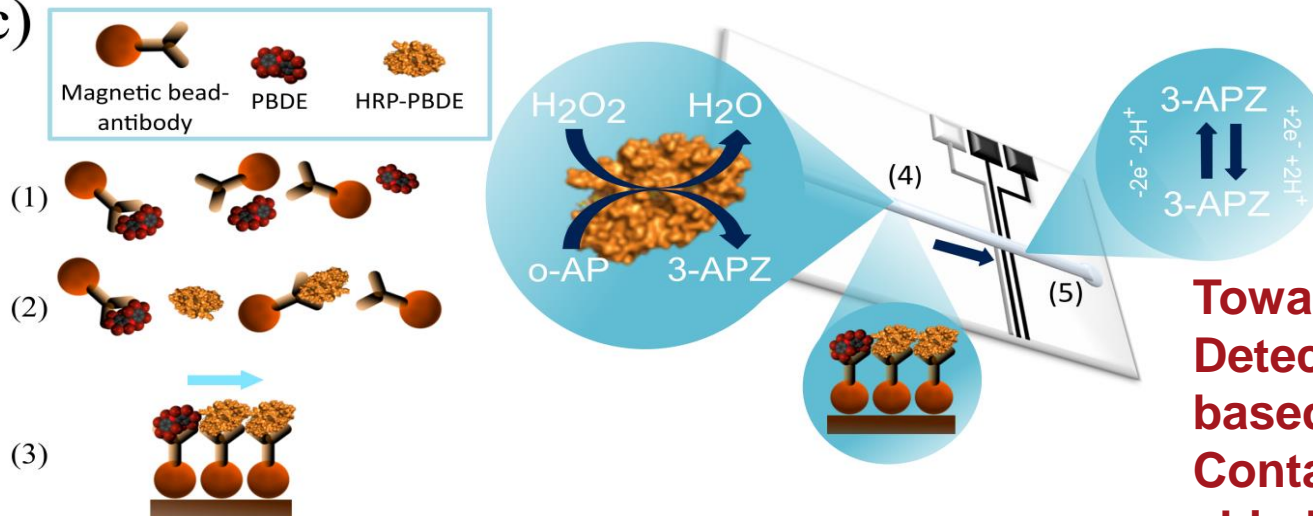
(b)

Lab-on-a-chip platform



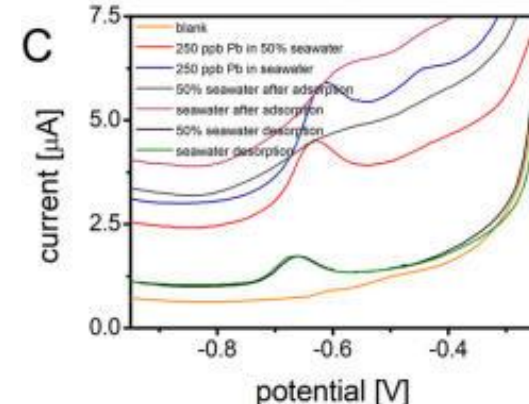
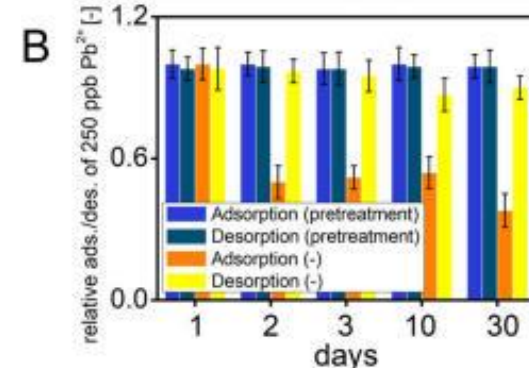
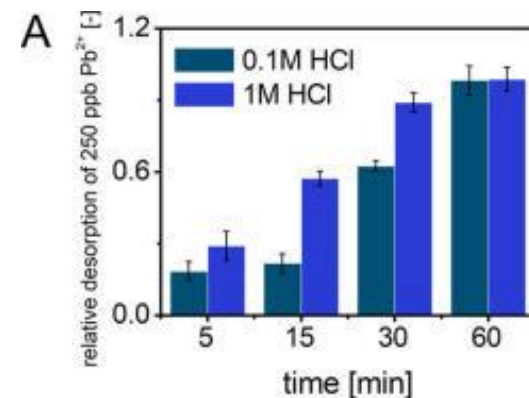
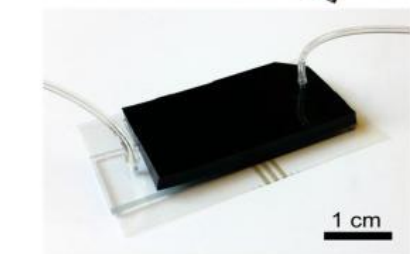
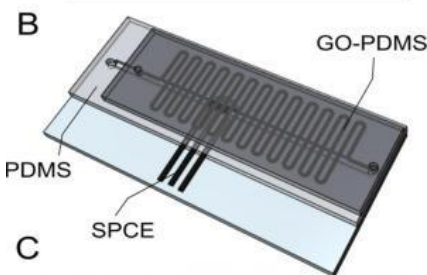
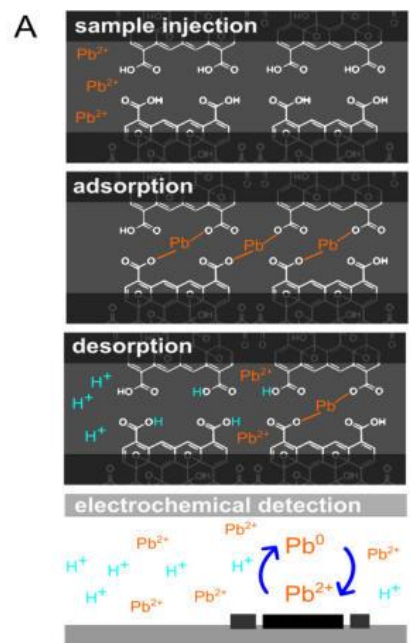
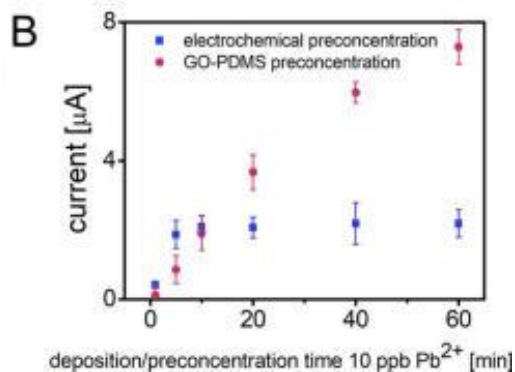
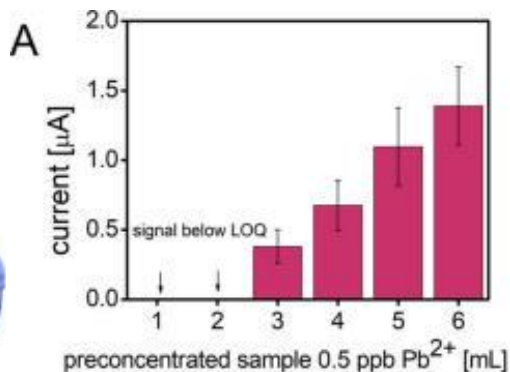
Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), a class of halogenated compounds, similar to polychlorinated diphenyls (PCBs) and commonly used as flame retardants.

(c)



**Towards Integrated Detection and Graphene-based Removal of Contaminants in Lab-on-a-chip Platform**

# Graphene Oxide–Poly(dimethylsiloxane)-Based Lab-on-a-Chip Platform for Heavy-Metals Preconcentration and Electrochemical Detection



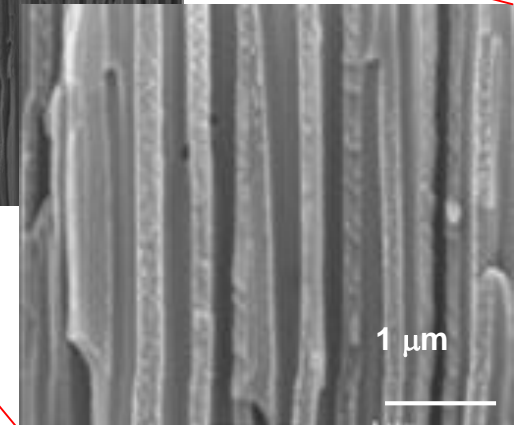
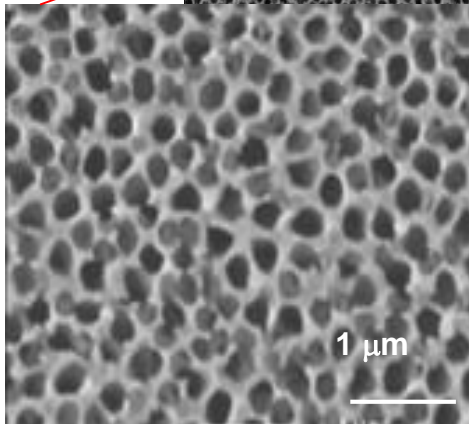
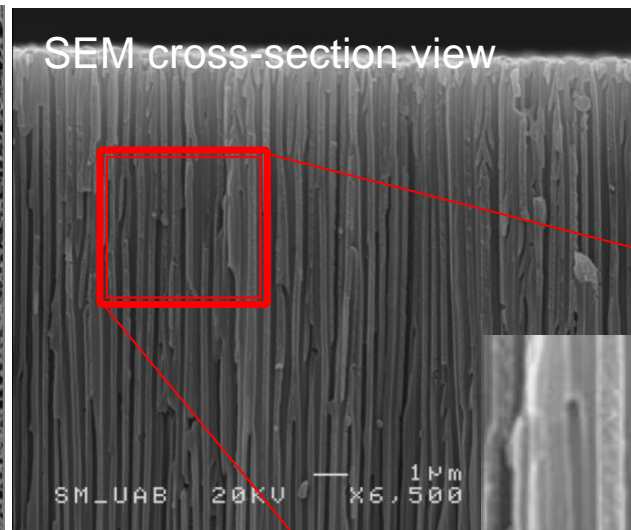
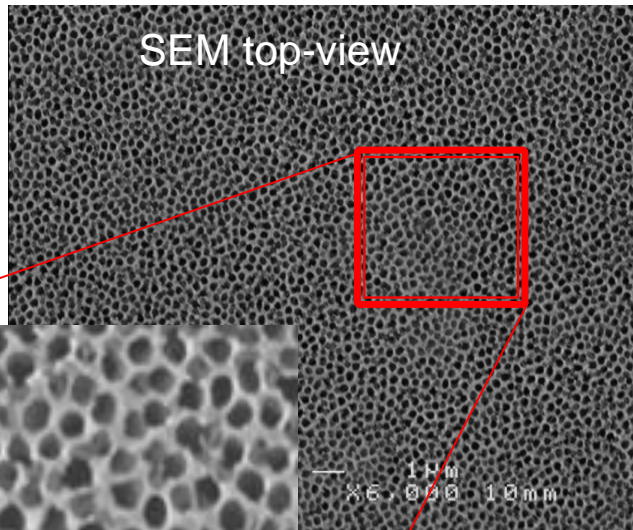
# Nanochannels for ON-OFF biosensing

## Anodized aluminium oxide (AAO) nanoporous membranes



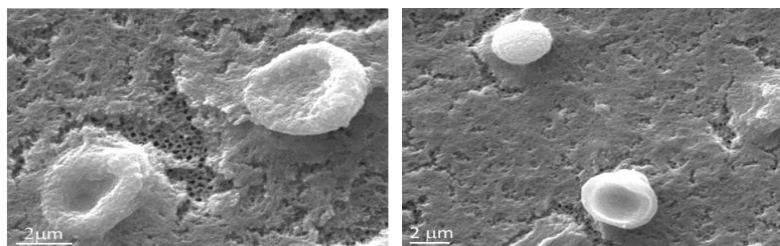
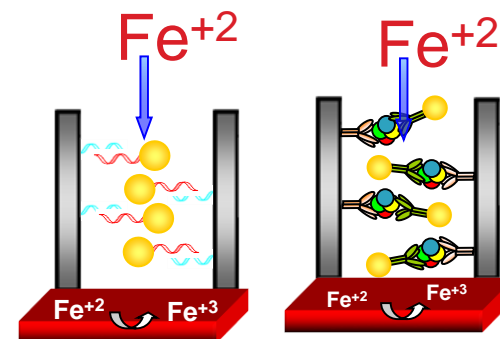
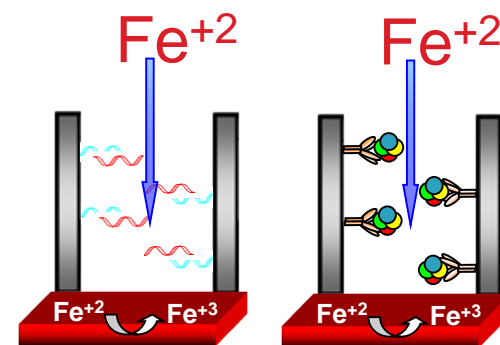
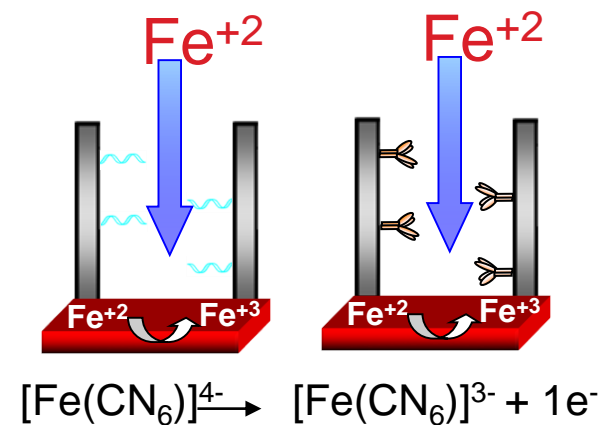
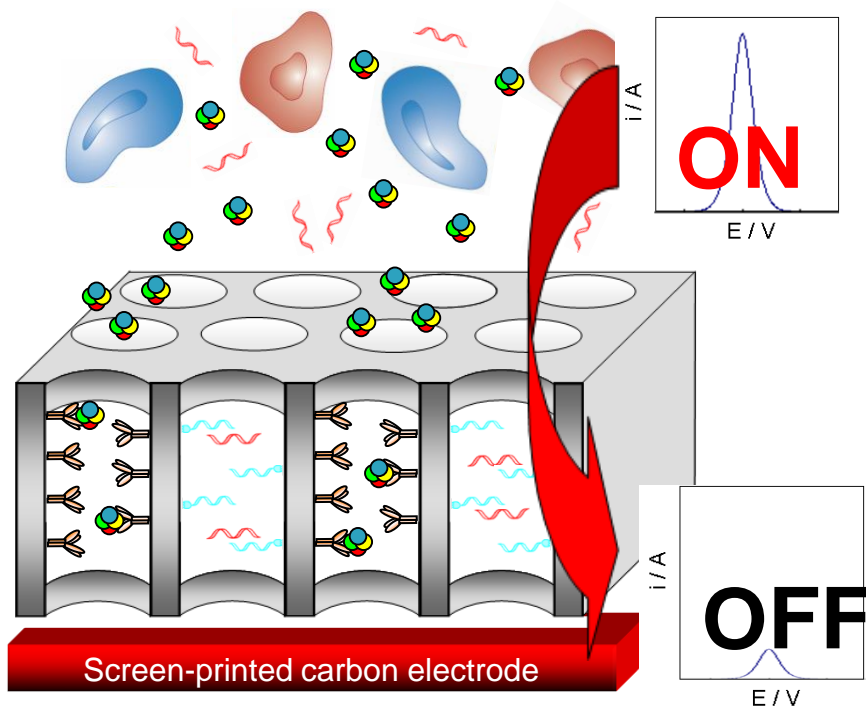
### *Whatman* filter membranes

- Diameter: 13 mm; 200 nm pore size
- High pore density ( $1 \times 10^9 / \text{cm}^2$ )
- 60  $\mu\text{m}$  in depth
- Easily functionalised



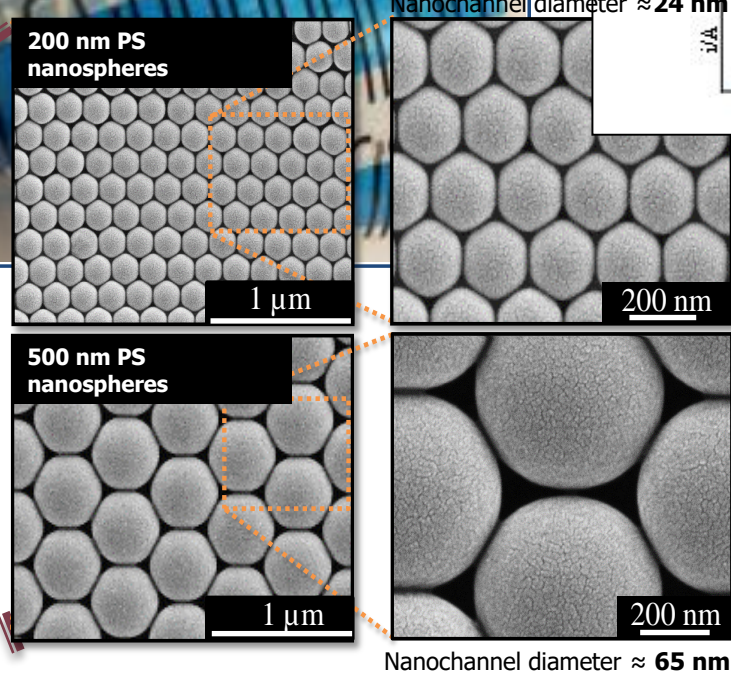
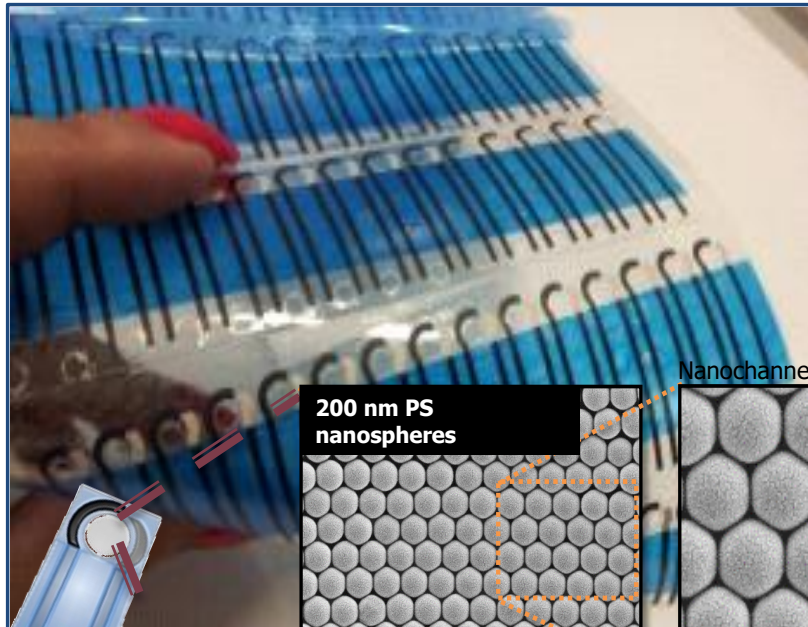
# Nanochannels for ON-OFF biosensing

## Detection of proteins, DNA through nanochannels blocking



# Nanochannels for ON-OFF biosensing

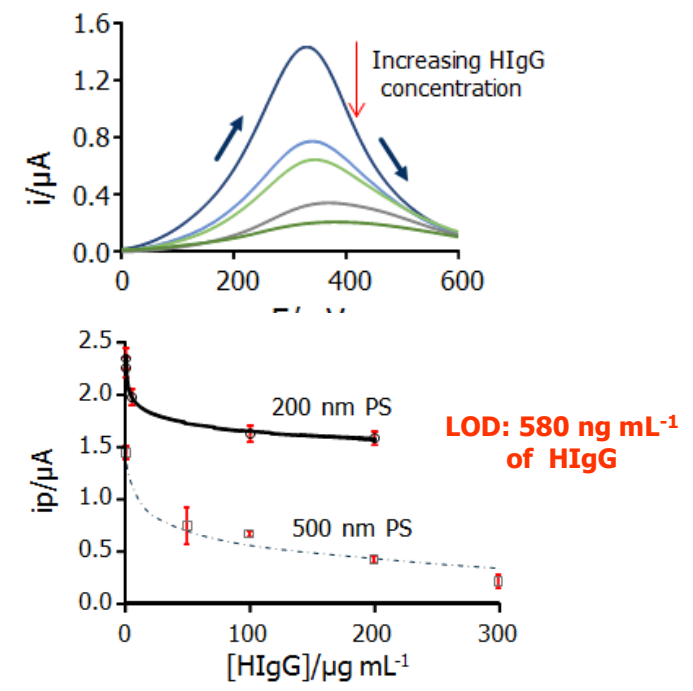
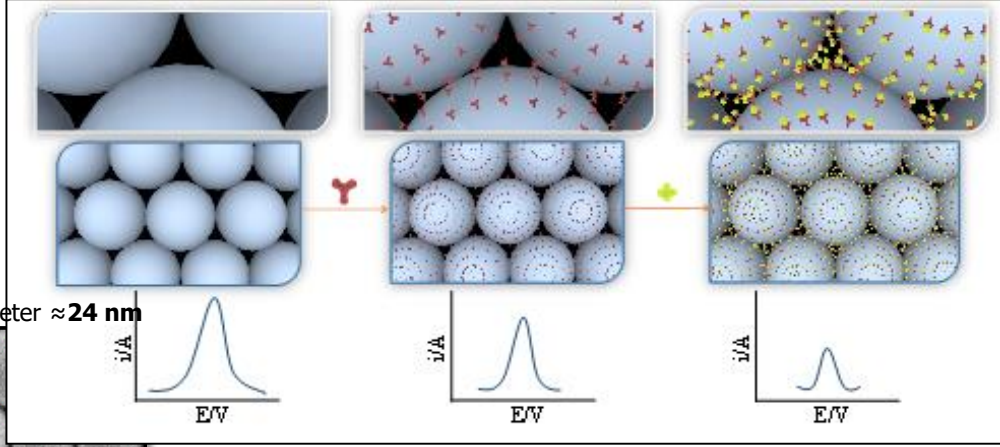
## Assembled nanoparticles-based nanochannels



Hybrid Screen-printed ITO electrode (SPIE) modified by using dip-coating



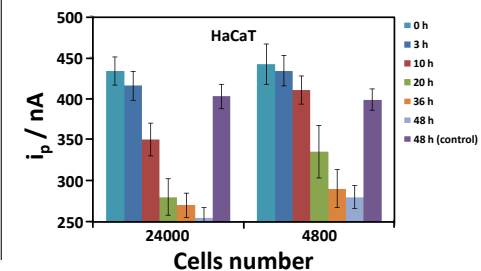
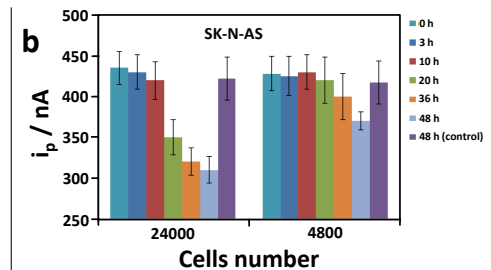
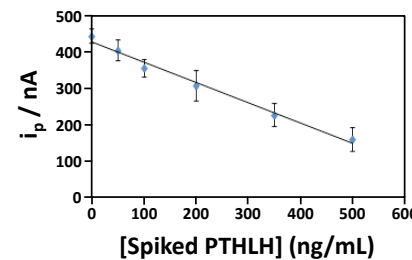
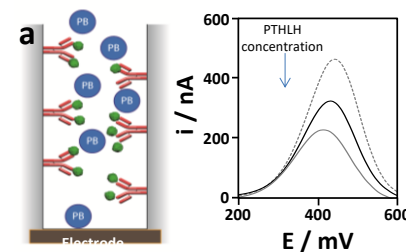
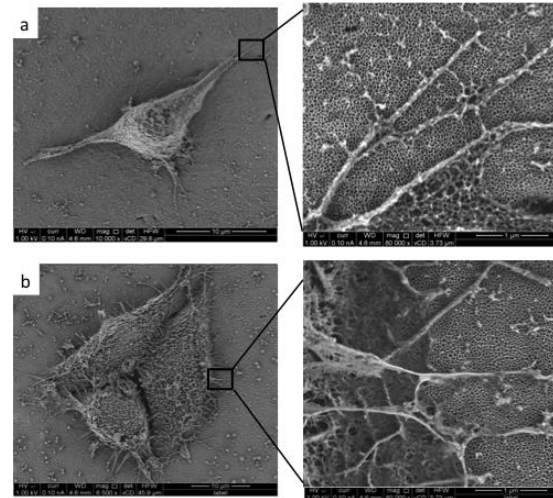
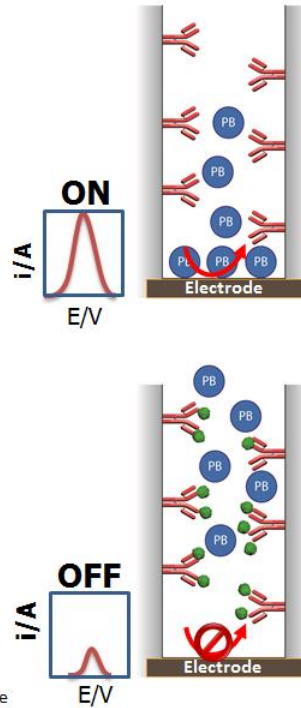
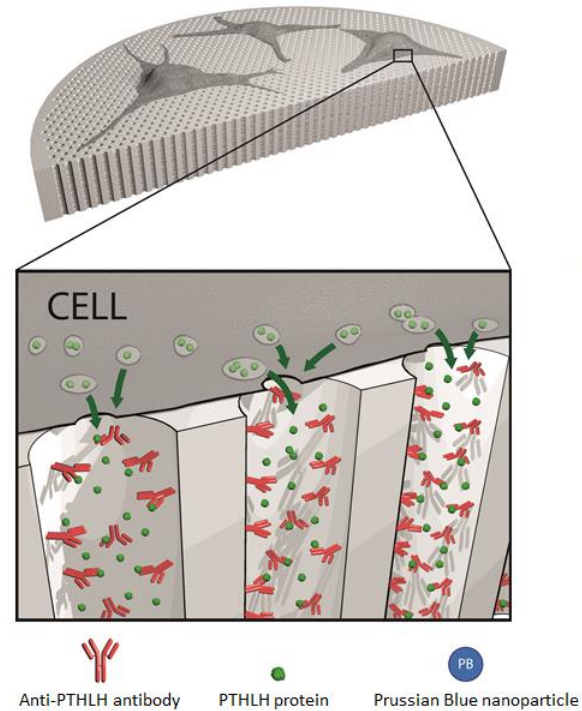
### Polystyrene nanospheres monolayer



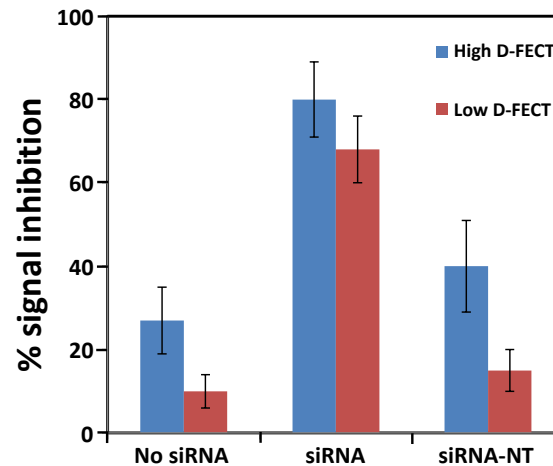
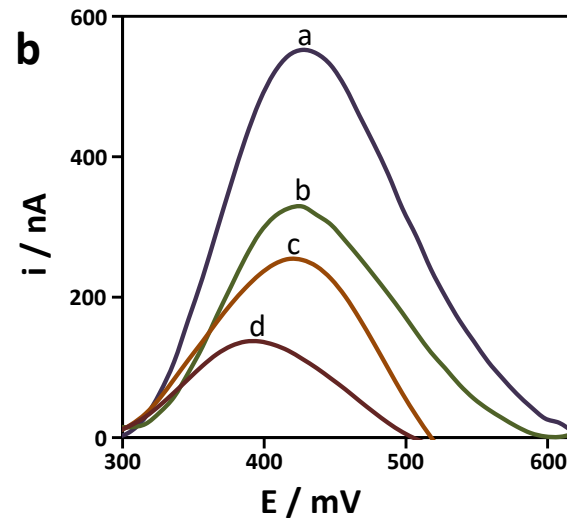
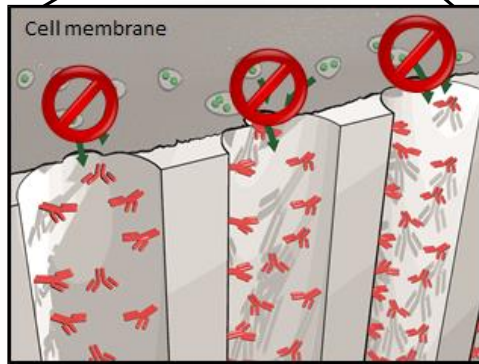
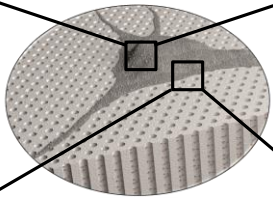
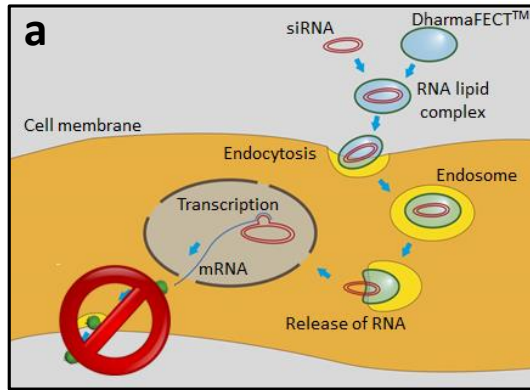


# Nanochannels for *in-situ* monitoring of cancer cells

## PTHLH secretion in neuroblastoma cells



# Nanochannels for *in-situ* monitoring of cancer cells



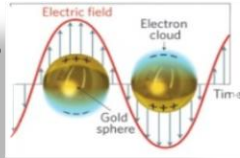
Inhibition of PTHLH secretion by small interfering RNA (siRNA) and a transfection reagent (DharmaFECT™) which inhibits *PTHLH* mRNA expression.

# OUR MOTIVATION

To design new simple nanobiosensors and improve existing ones

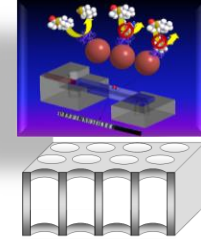
## Nanoparticles

New electro /optical labels



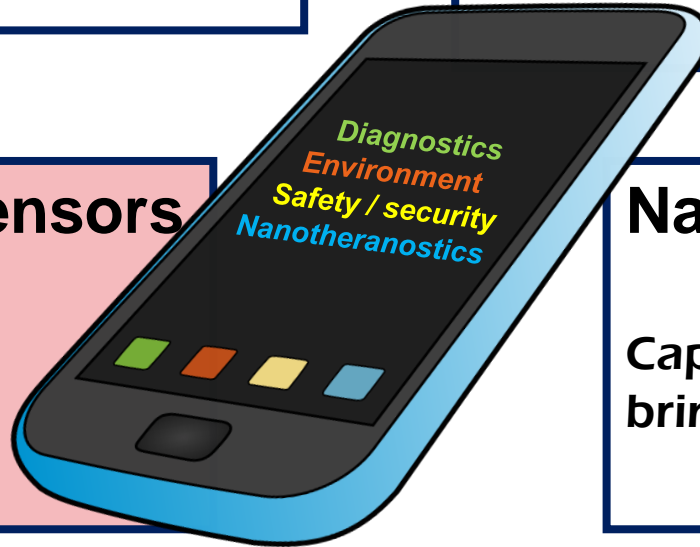
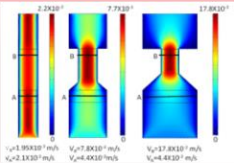
## LOCs / Nanochannels

Preconcentration,  
filtering, automation



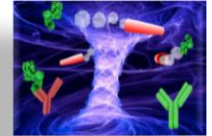
## Paper-based sensors

Simple is the best



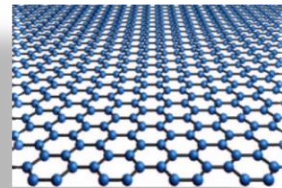
## Nanomotors

Capture even single analyte,  
bring it to sensing surface



## Graphene

New (bio)sensing  
opportunities (?)



## Why to move biosensors to paper format?

Paper...

...is formed by cellulose.

- Low-cost and abundant material.
- Easy to manufacture
- Recyclable & biosustainable.

...has a porous matrix.

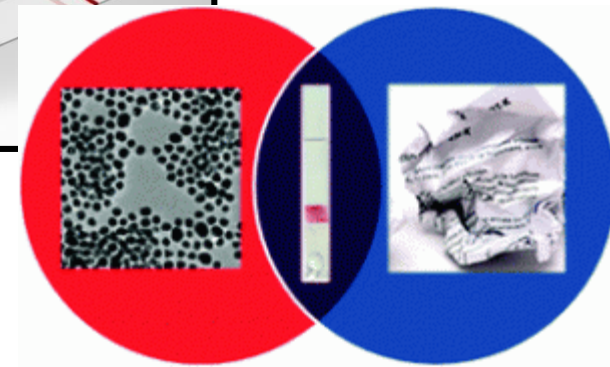
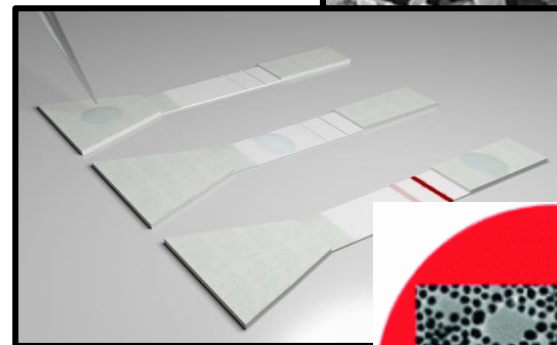
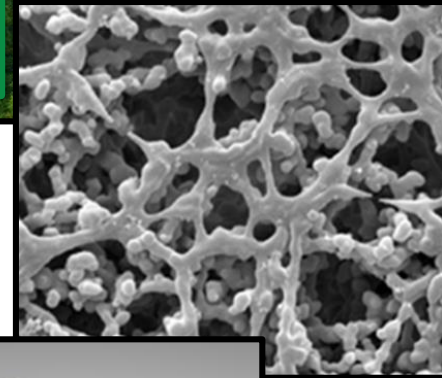
- Several reactions can be carried out within it.
- The porosity can be modified.
- Capillary forces creates autonomous microfluidics making “zero energy” device!

...is easily tunable.

- Its microfluidics by porosity.
- Its architecture.

...is compatible with nanomaterials

- Printing of nanomaterials
- Easy nanoplasmonics



# Paper based biosensors

Simple is the best

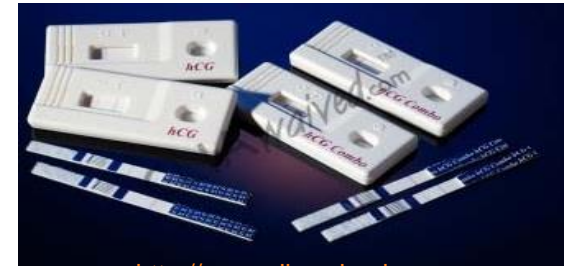
- Dipsticks

- Lateral Flow strips

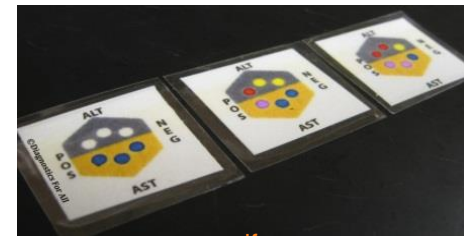
- Microfluidic devices



<https://www.microessentiallab.com/>



<http://www.cliawaived.com>

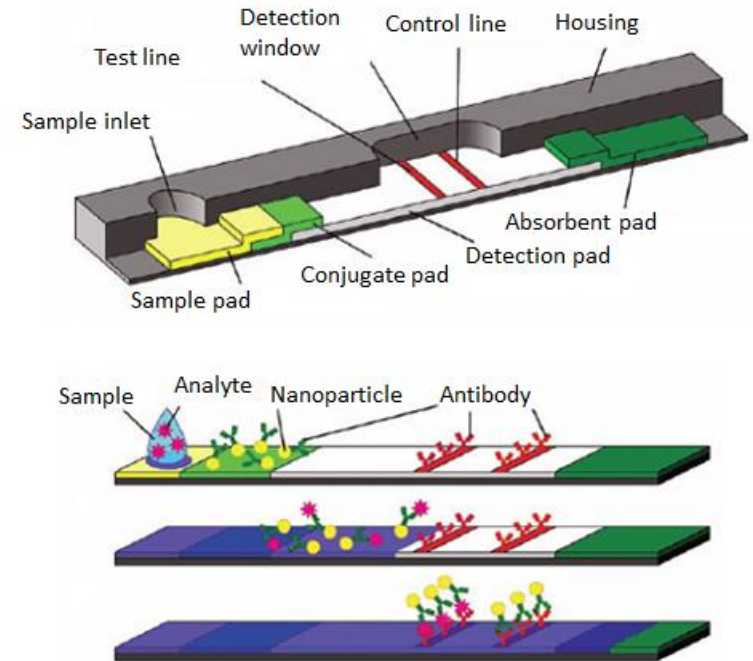
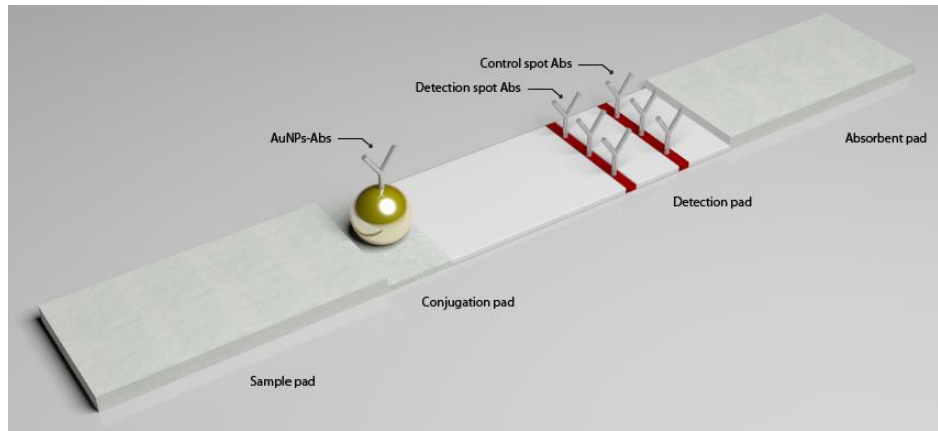


[www.dfa.org](http://www.dfa.org)

Type of paper-based biosensor	Possible detection methods	Advantages	Disadvantages
Dipstick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy design</li> <li>• Fast optimization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just one step</li> <li>• Only optical detection</li> <li>• Mostly no quantification</li> </ul>
LFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optical</li> <li>• Electrochemical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Versatile</li> <li>• Flow</li> <li>• Electrochemical detection</li> <li>• Possible quantification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long optimization times</li> <li>• Long fabrication</li> <li>• Sample volume (around 100 <math>\mu</math>L)</li> </ul>
$\mu$ PAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optical</li> <li>• Electrochemical</li> <li>• Chemiluminescence</li> <li>• MEMS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Versatile</li> <li>• Flow</li> <li>• Different detection methods</li> <li>• Quantification</li> <li>• Small sample volume (less than 10 <math>\mu</math>L)</li> <li>• Massive production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long optimization times</li> </ul>

# NP-based lateral flow immunoassay

More antigen  $\rightarrow$  More AuNPs  $\rightarrow$  More color intensity



**Analyte concentration**

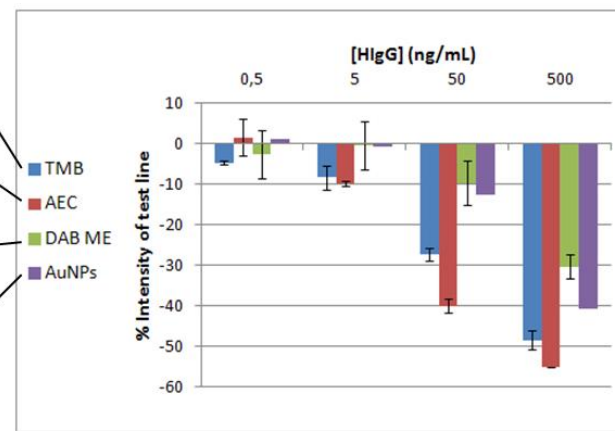
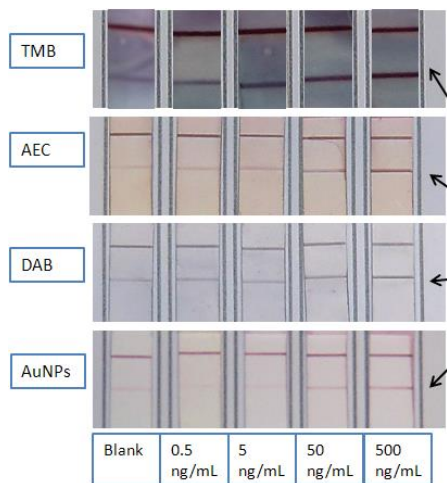
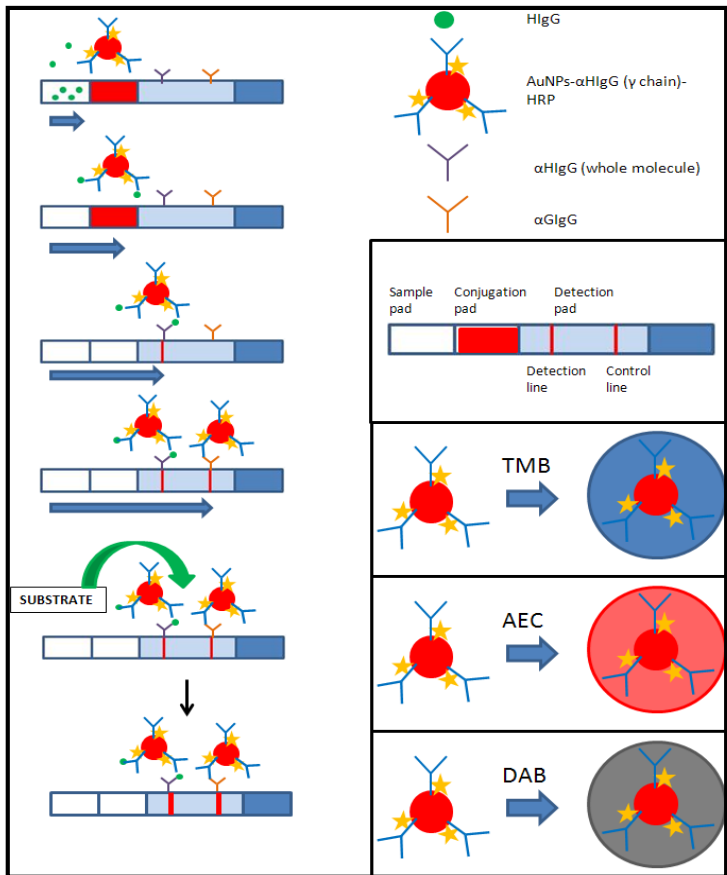


<http://www.bbiinternational.com/>

# Paper based biosensors

*Lateral flow strips: Amplification strategies*

AuNPs as both labels and carriers of enzyme.



**Improvement of LOD for HlgG:**

-Naked eyes: from 50 ng/mL to **5 ng/mL**

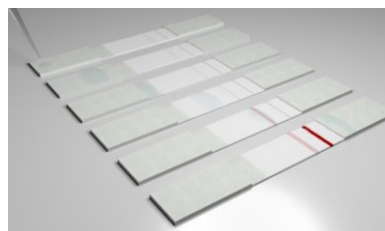
-Strip reader : from 2 ng/mL to **0.2 ng/mL**



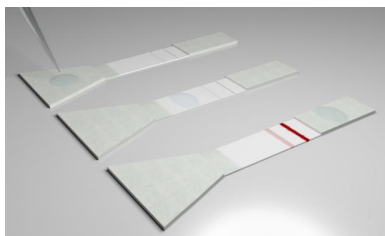
# Paper based biosensors

## Lateral flow strips: Architecture tuning

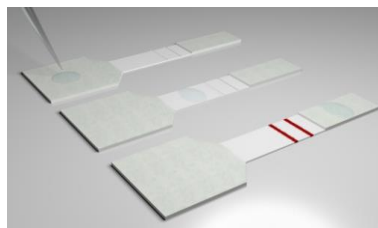
Change of the geometry → Preconcentration effect



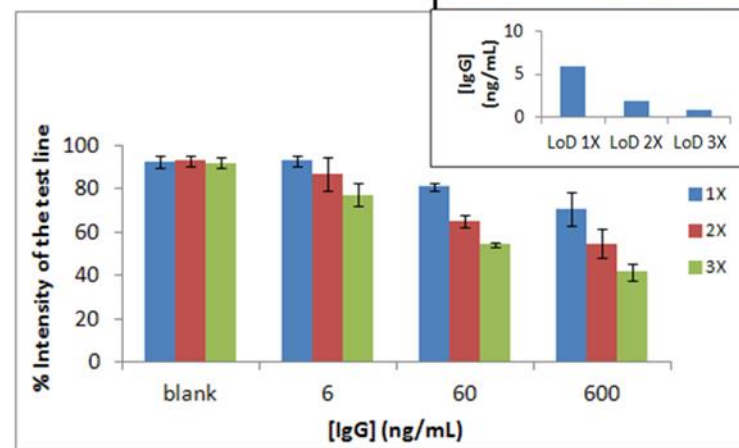
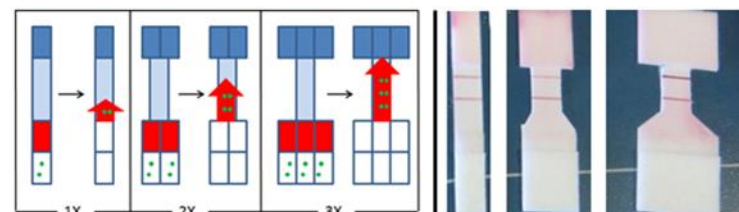
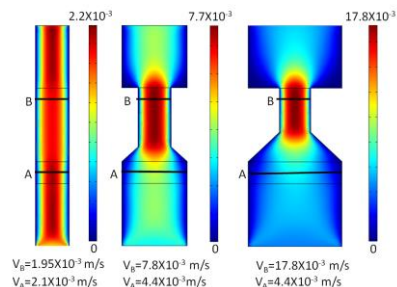
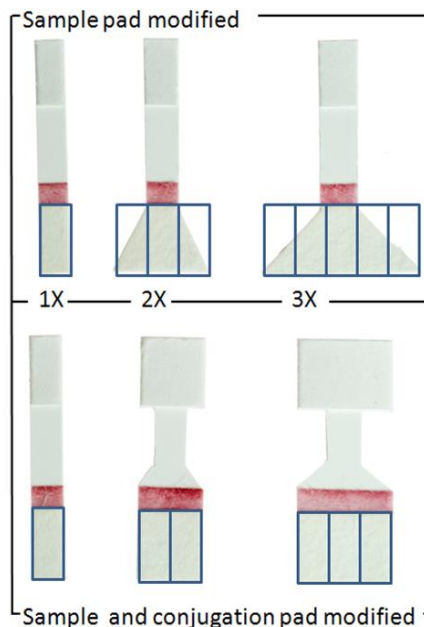
Standard geometry



Bigger sample pad



Bigger sample and conjugation pads



## Improvement of LOD for HIgG:

-Standard: 5.9 ng/mL

-2X: 1.8 ng/mL

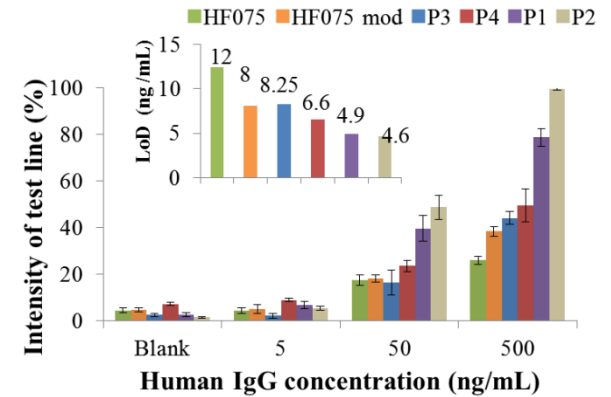
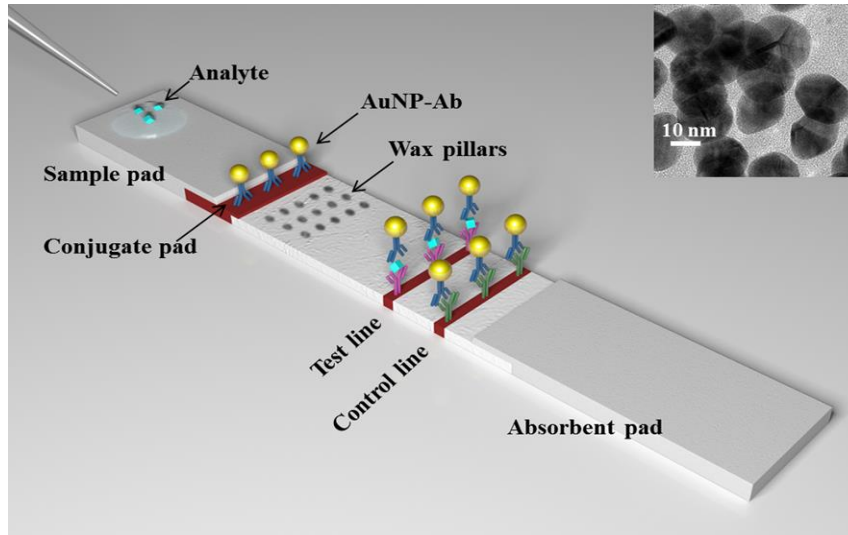
-3X: 0.7 ng/mL



# Paper based biosensors

Lateral flow strips: Flow modification

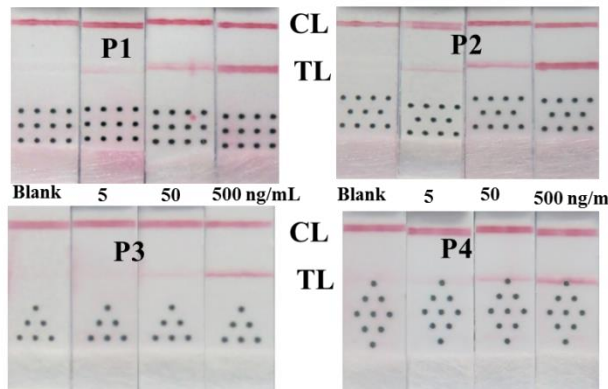
Insertion of wax printed micropillars.



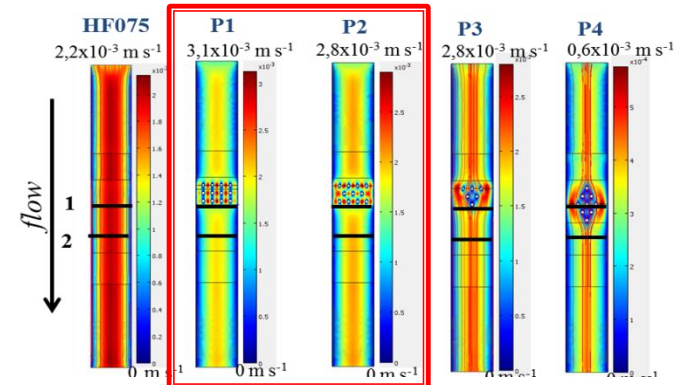
Wax printer



Solid wax ink



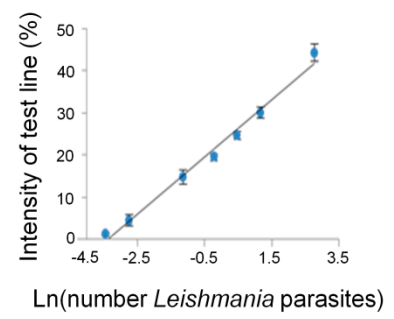
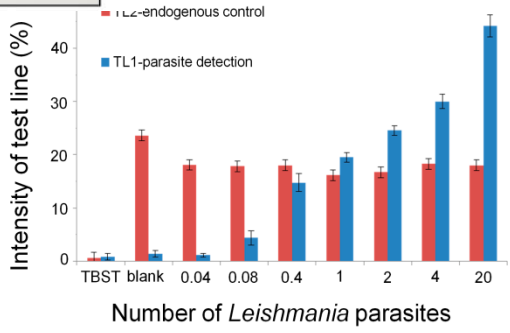
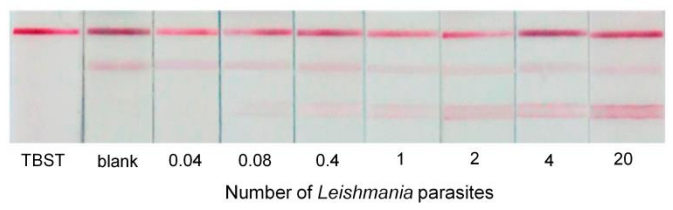
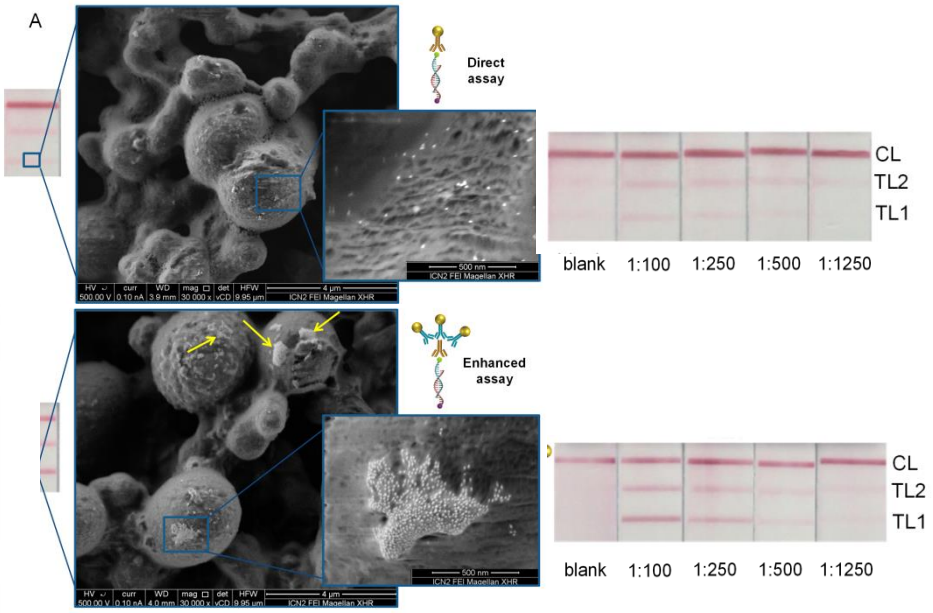
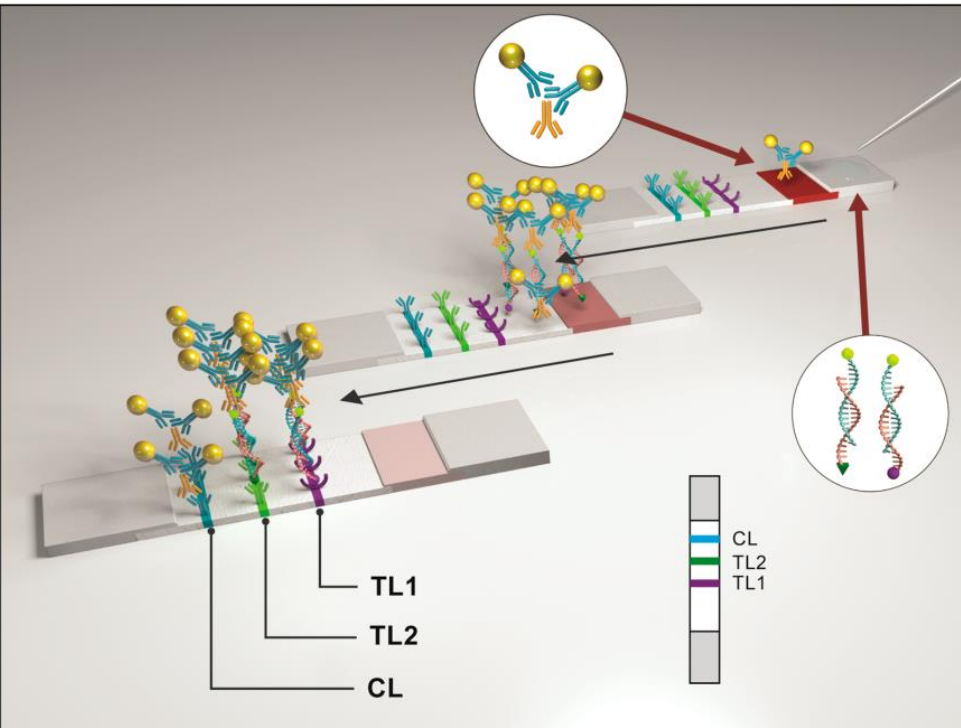
Flow speed simulations



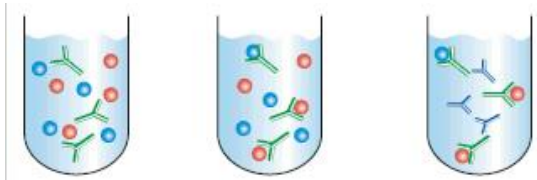
# LF for isothermal amplified Leishmania DNA

## Amplification strategies

### Use of secondary antibodies in three-line systems



# Detection of Parathyroid Hormone–Related Protein (Protects against Mammary Tumor Emergence and Is Associated with Monocyte Infiltration in Ductal Carcinoma In situ)

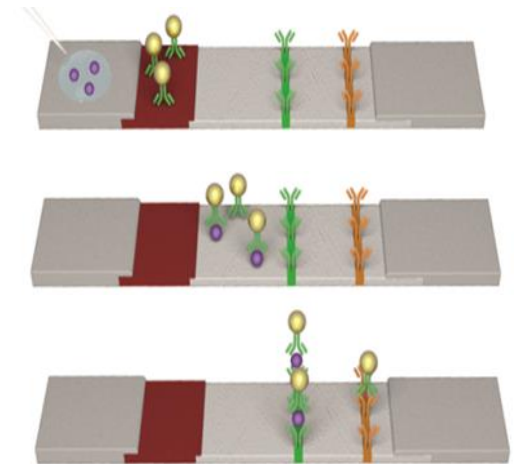
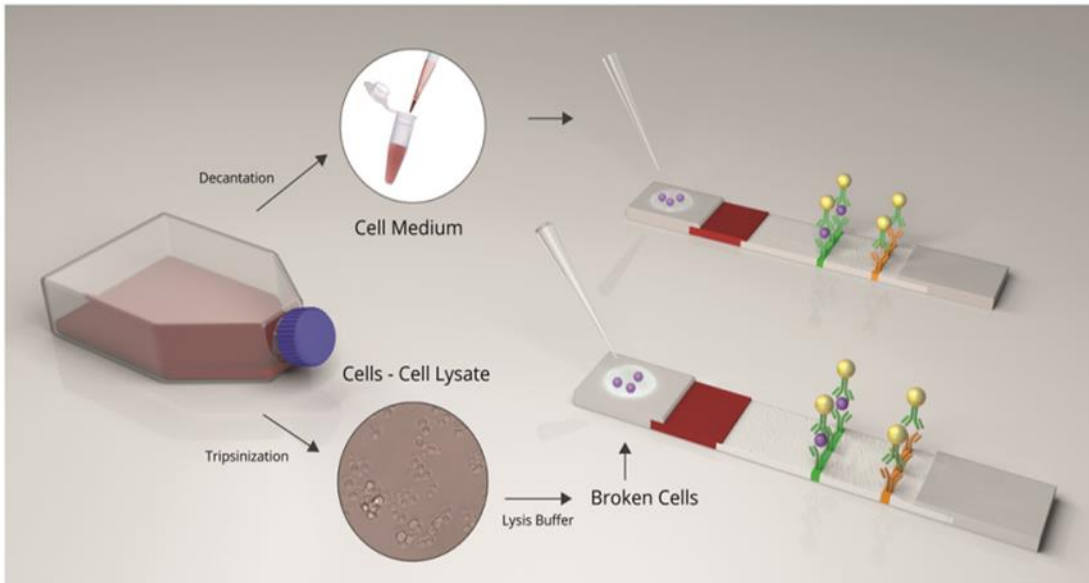


RIA (Radio immunoassay).  
Competitive assay in solution

- Quantitative. Very sensitive.
- Time consuming (long procedure).
- Need of sophisticated and expensive equipment and facilities.
- Hazardous procedure.

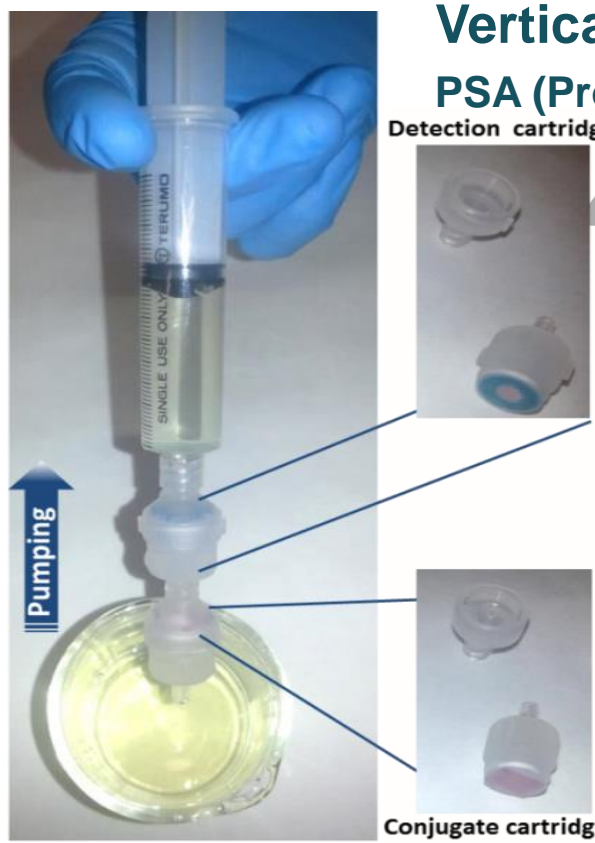


- Rapid tests.
- Possibility to be quantitative.
- No need of sophisticated equipment, nor training.
- Easy to use.
- Low cost of production.



# Vertical Flow / Lab-in-a-syringe

## PSA (Prostate cancer biomarker) in urine



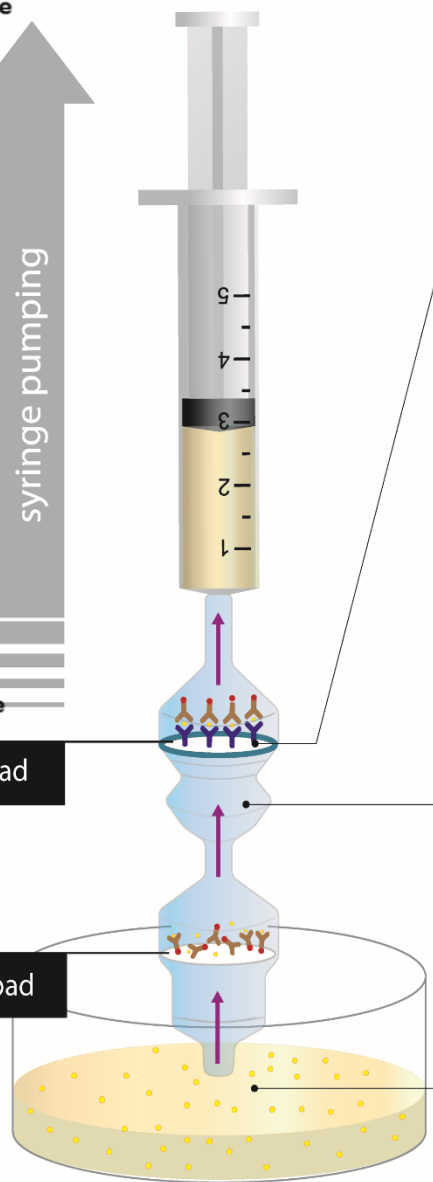
Detection cartridge



Conjugate cartridge

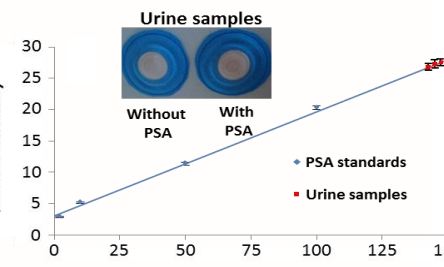
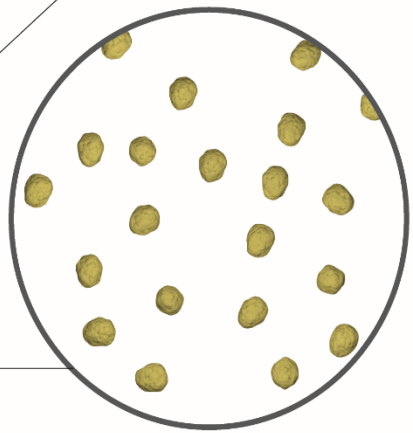
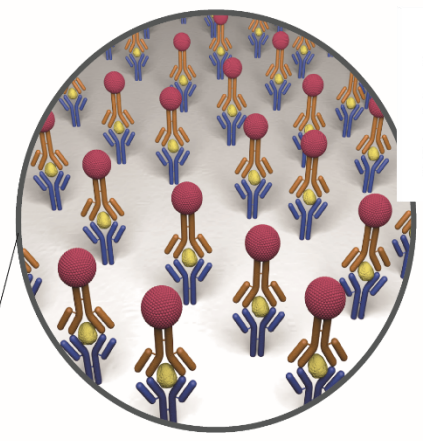


syringe pumping



Detection pad

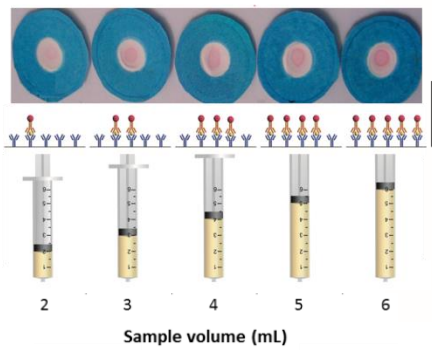
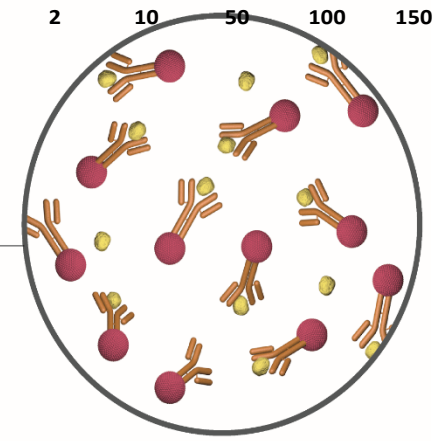
Conjugate pad



Urine samples

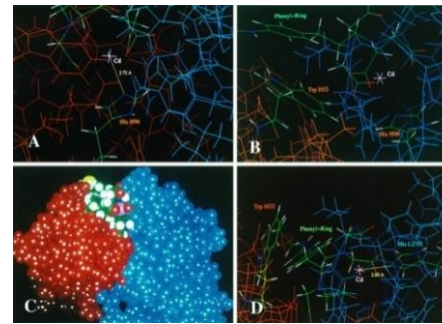
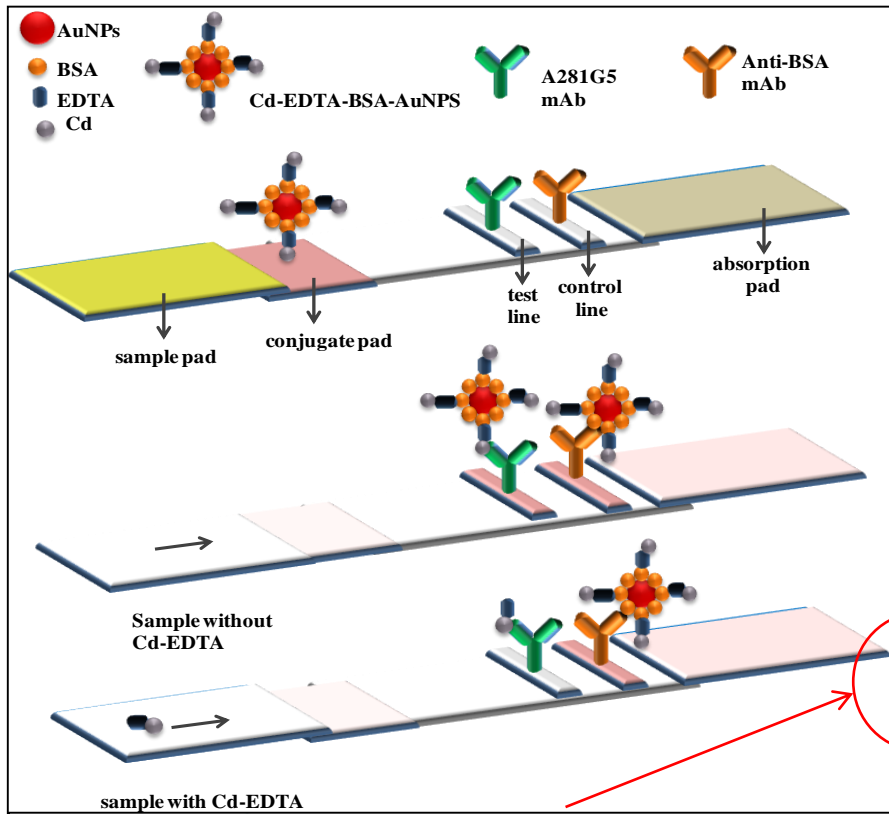


PSA concentration (ng/mL)

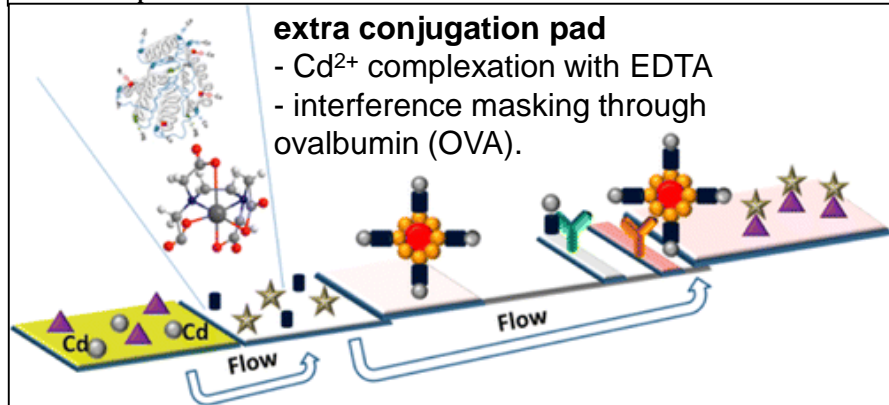
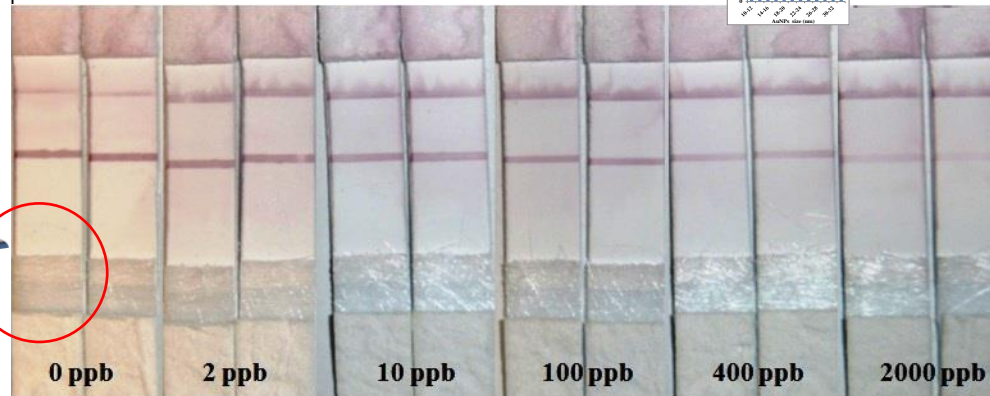
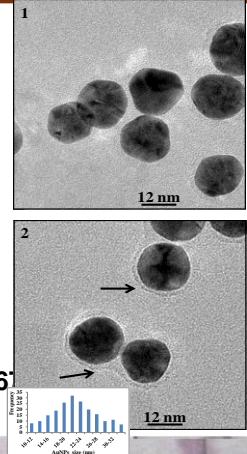


Sample volume (mL)

# LFIA (Cadmium determination in drinking water)

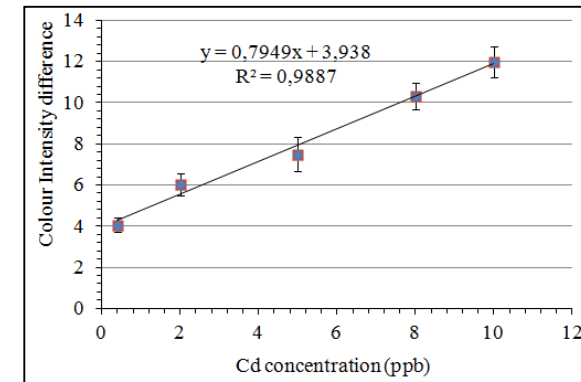


Blake D A et al. J. Biol. Chem. 1996;271:2761



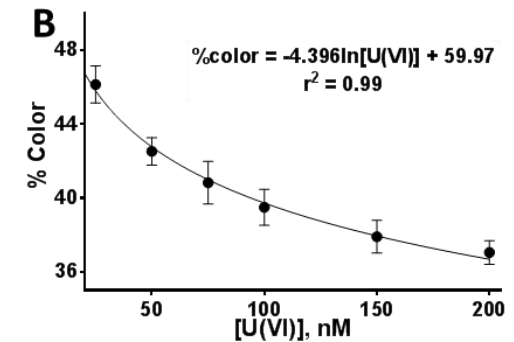
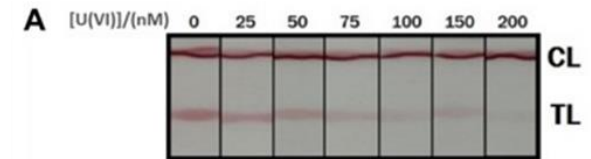
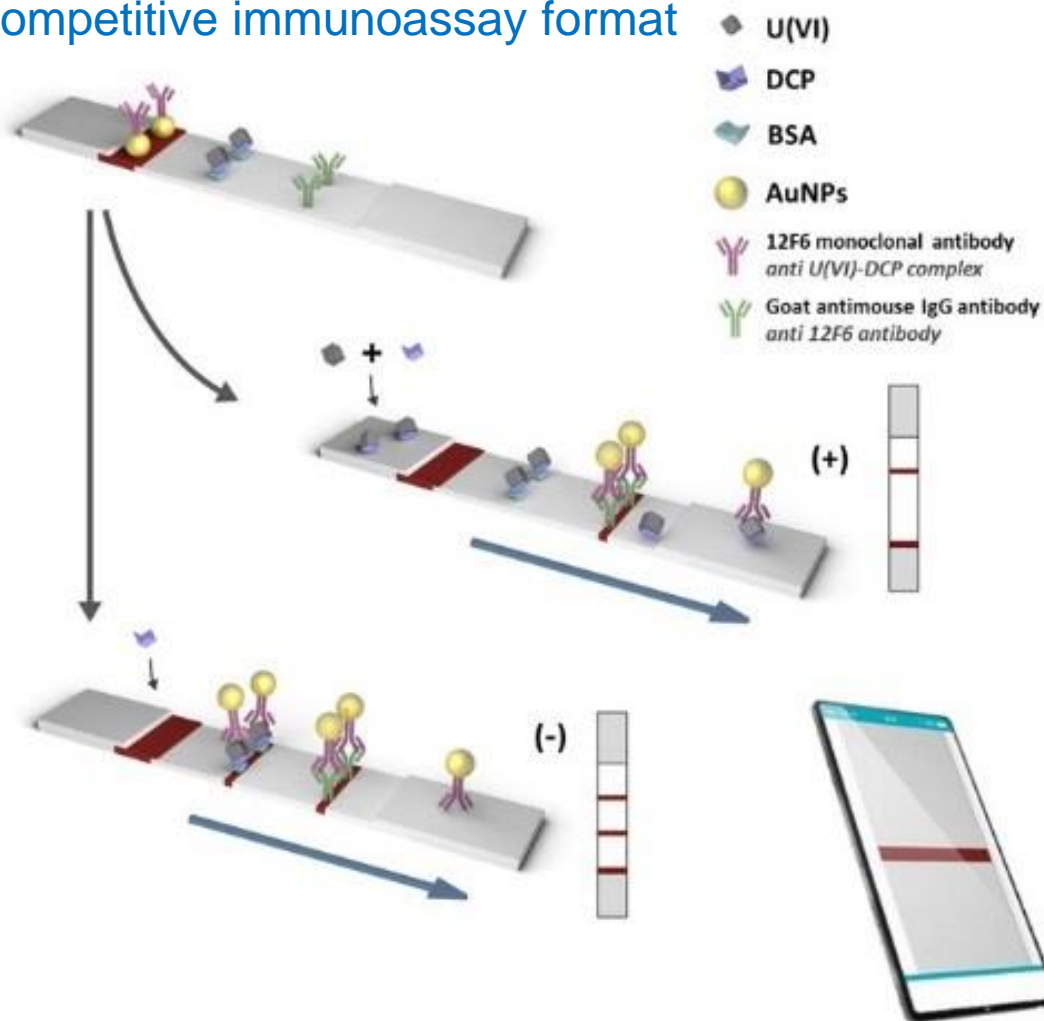
Anal. Chem., 85, 3532–3538 (2013)

LOD < 1 ppb Cd



# Uranium (VI) detection in groundwater using a gold nanoparticle/paper-based lateral flow device

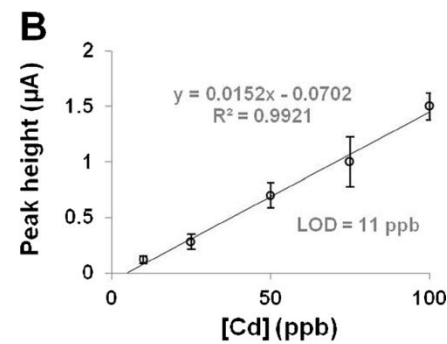
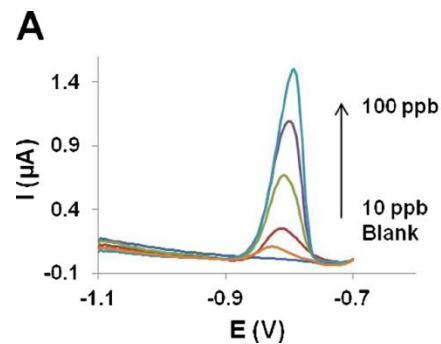
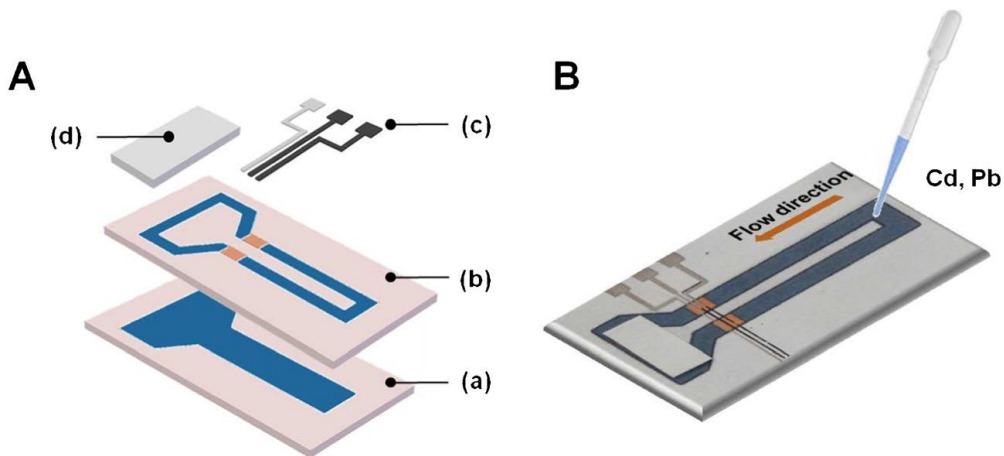
## A competitive immunoassay format



LOD of 6 nM in standards and samples

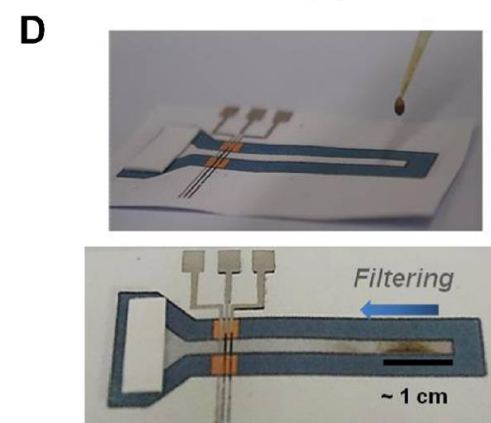
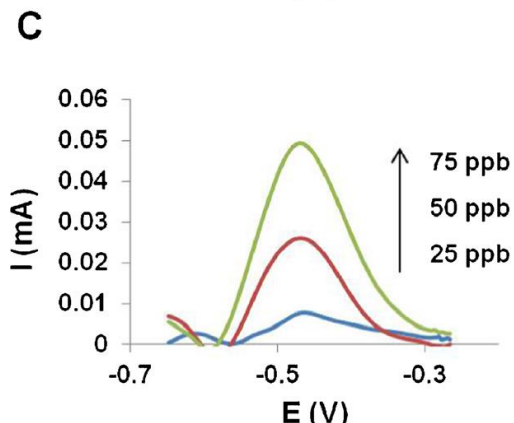
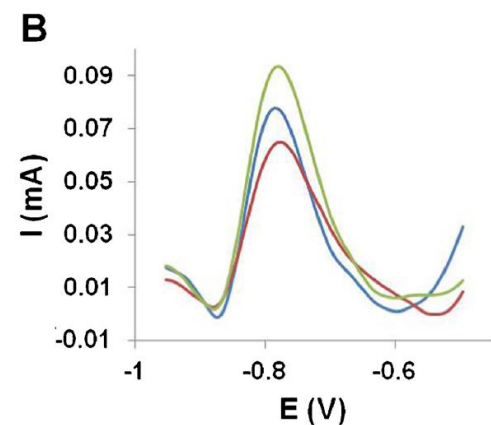
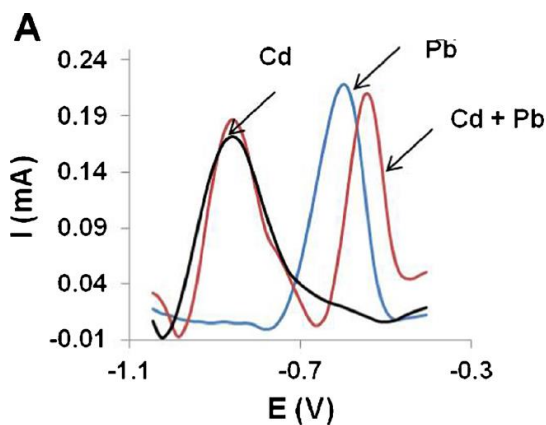
LOD of 36.38 nM in tyreated samples

# Electrochemical lab-on-paper for heavy metal detection



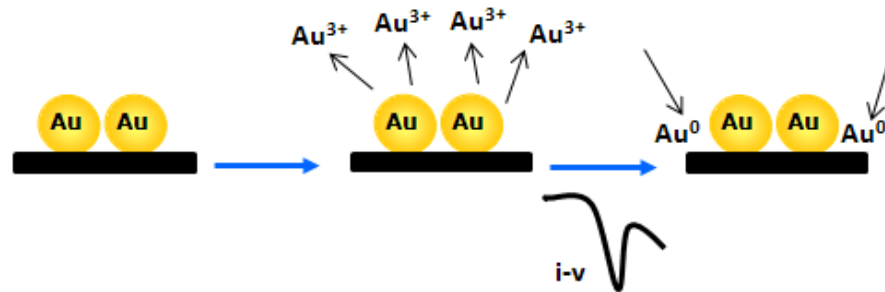
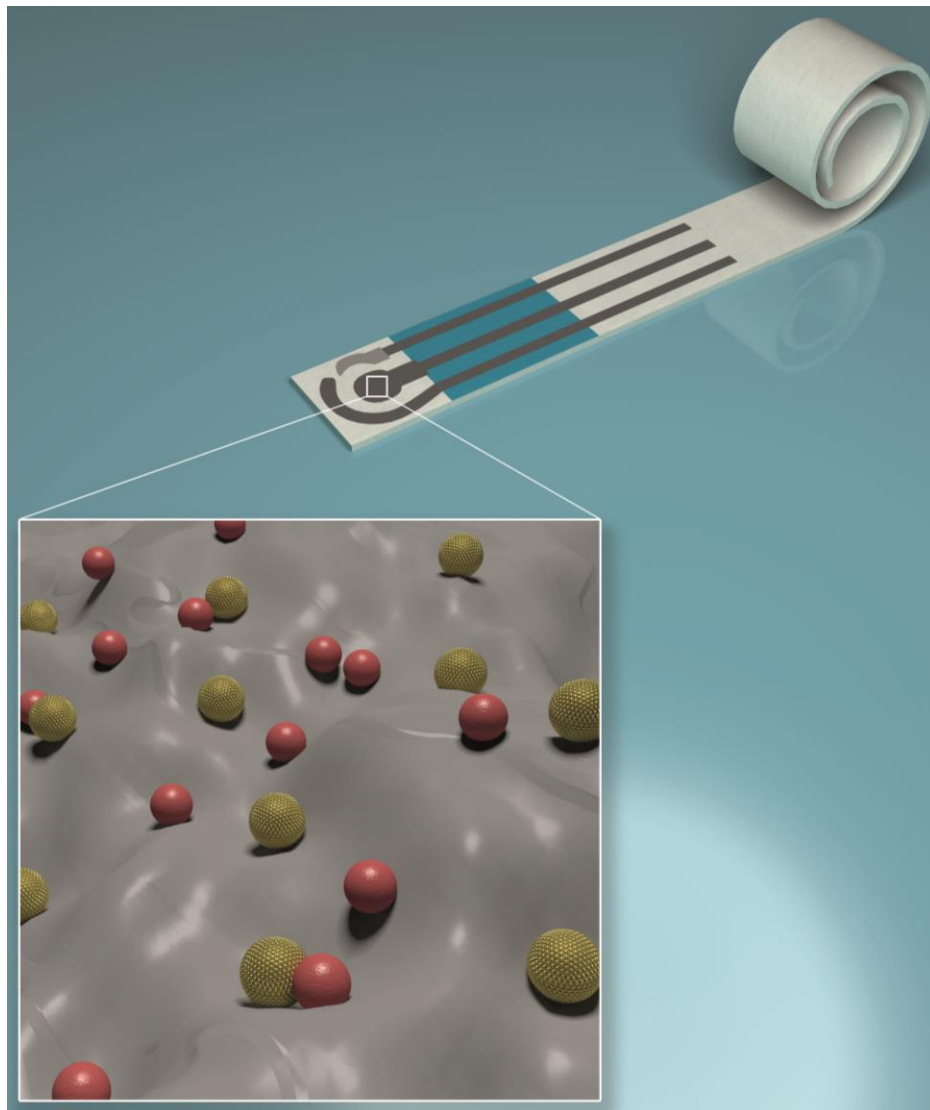
The quantification of lead and cadmium in aqueous samples

from 10 to 100 ppb with a limit of detection of 7 and 11 ppb respectively.

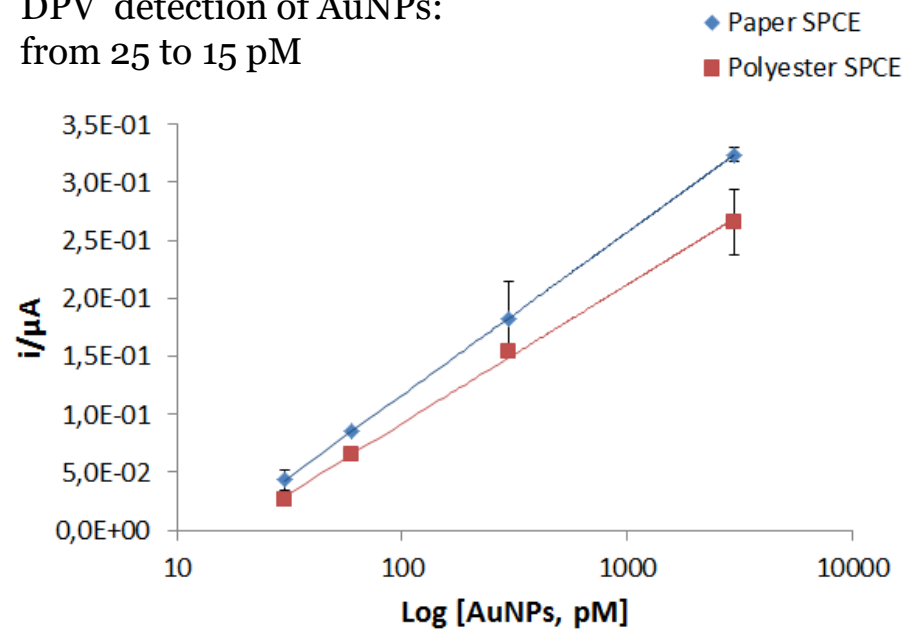


# Paper-based sensors

## Electrochemical detection of nanoparticles - DPV

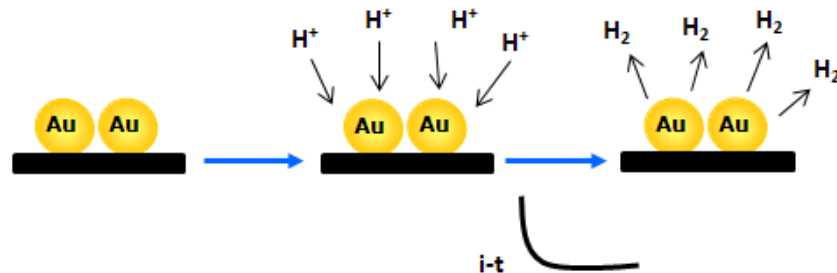
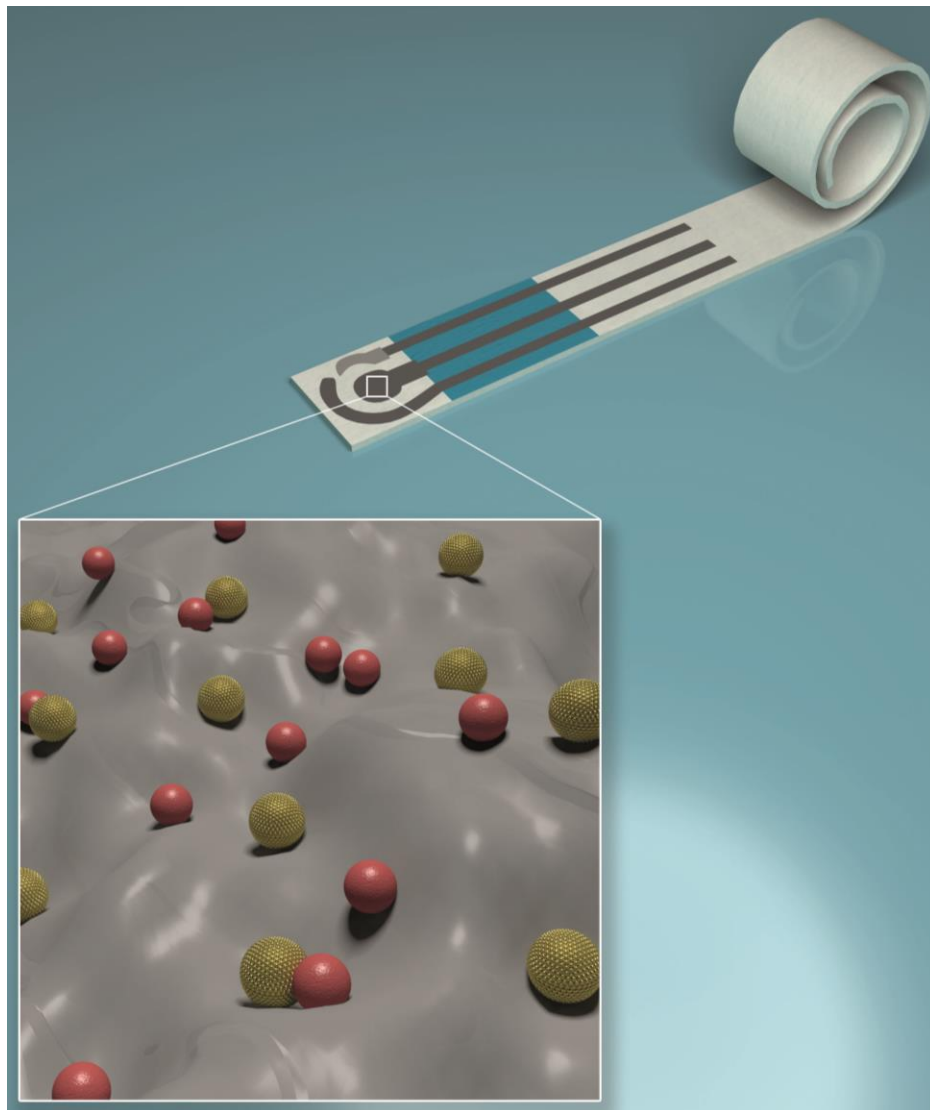


DPV detection of AuNPs:  
from 25 to 15 pM

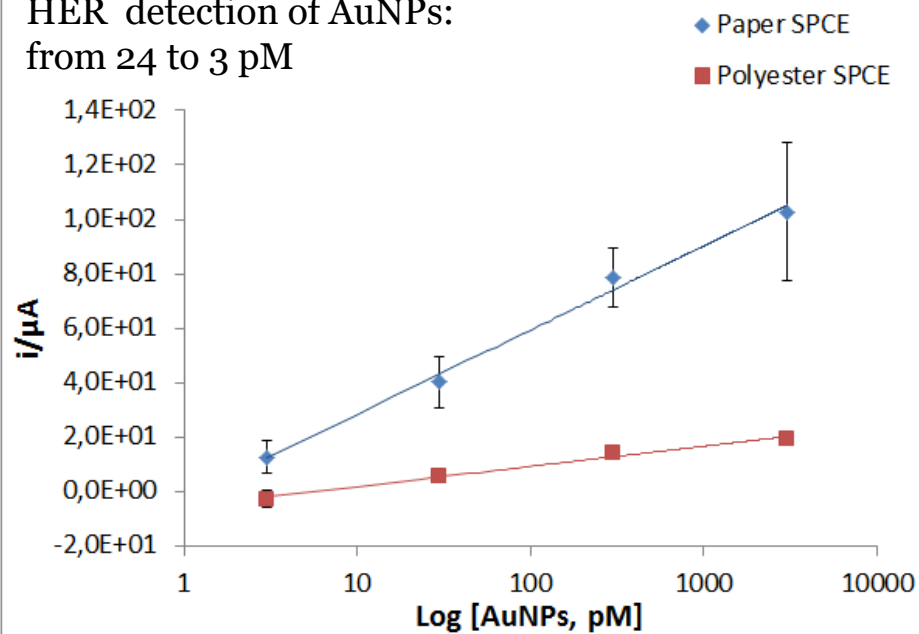




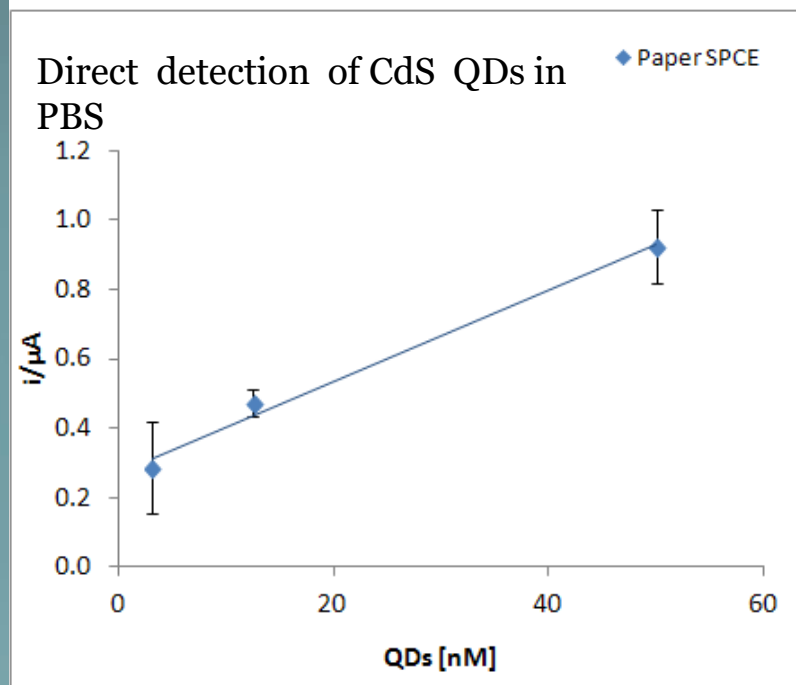
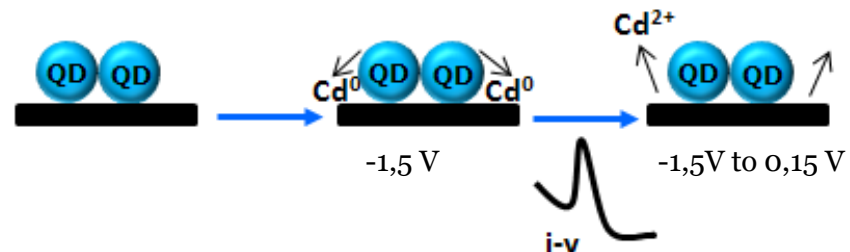
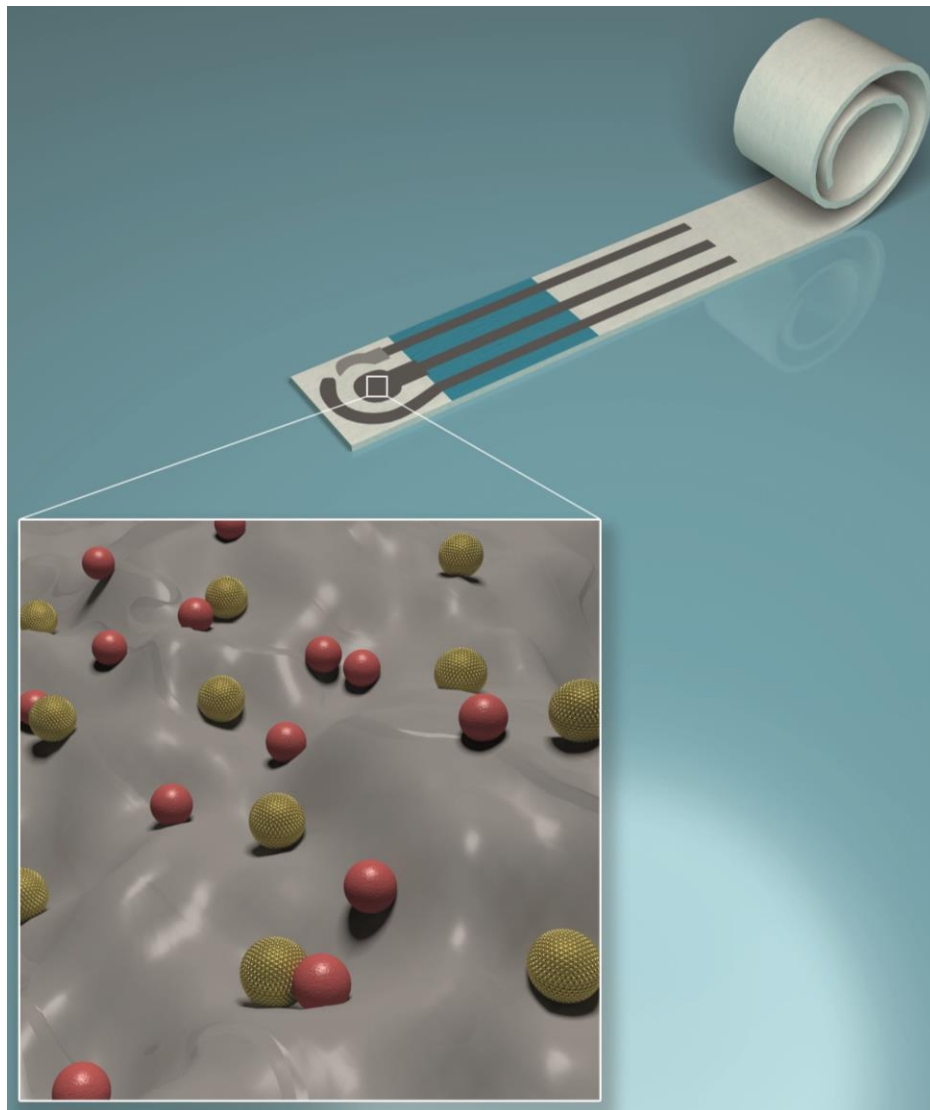
## Electrochemical detection of nanoparticles - HER



HER detection of AuNPs:  
from 24 to 3 pM

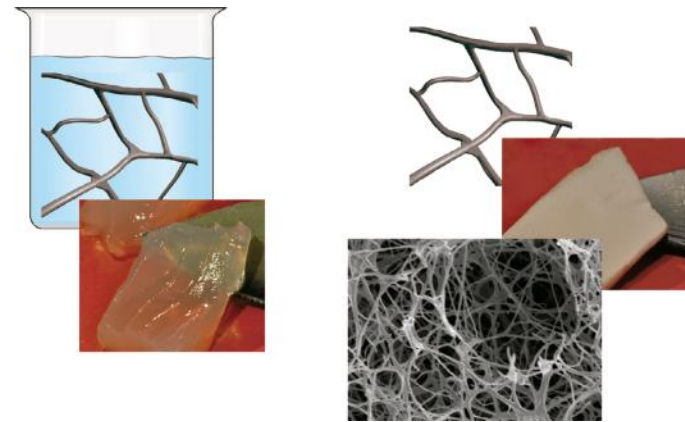


## Electrochemical stripping detection of Quantum Dots

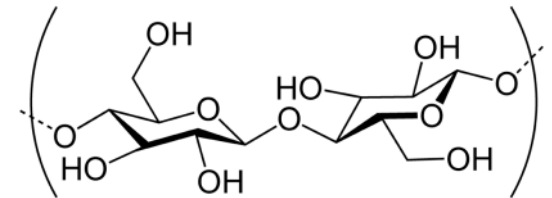


# Bacterial Cellulose Nanopaper

- Multifunctional Biomaterial
- Hydrophilicity
- High porosity
- Broad chemical–modification capabilities
- High surface area

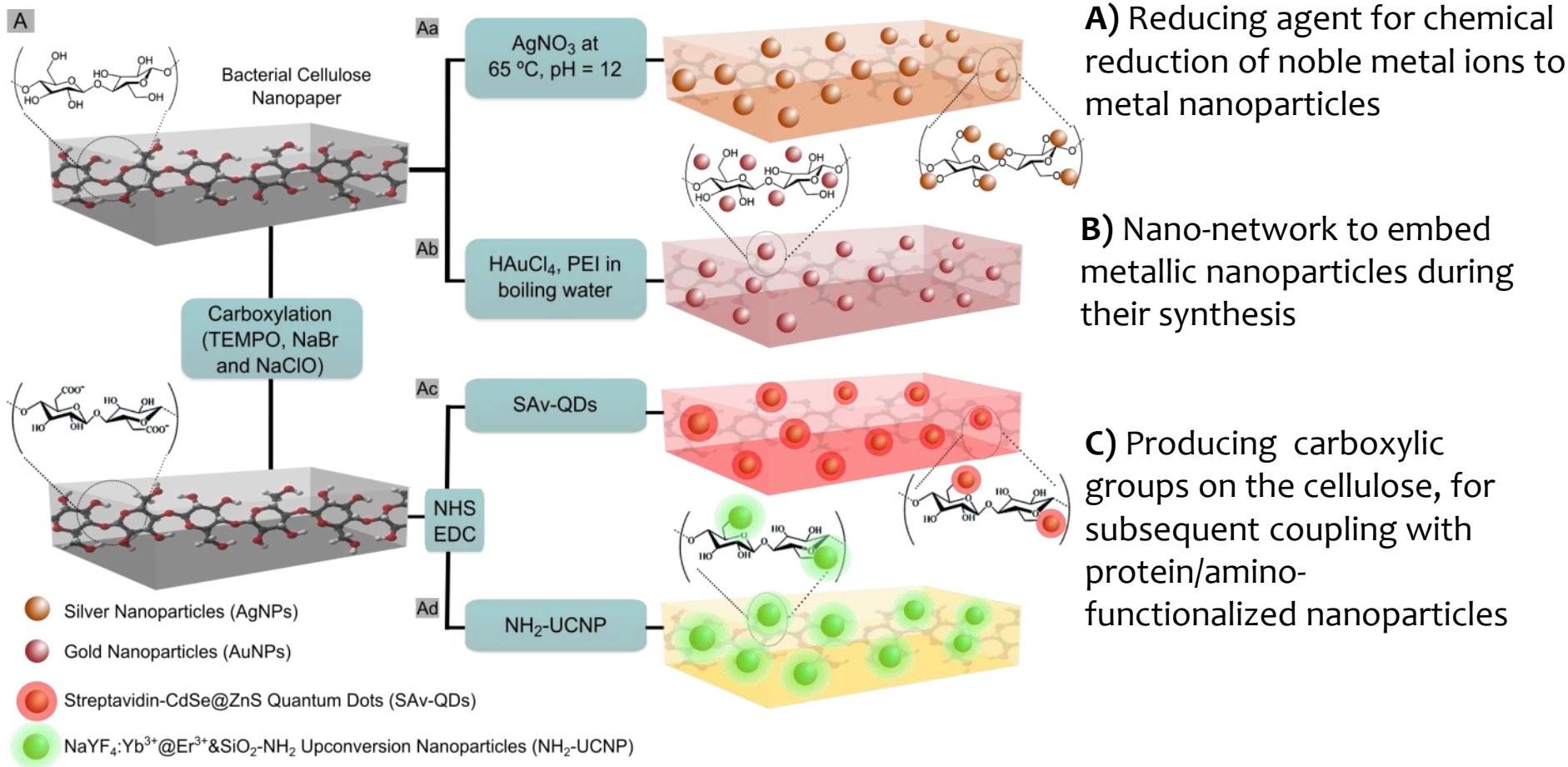


*Nat Nanotech* **2010**, 5:584



# Nanopaper as an Optical Sensing Platform

## Pathways to obtain Plasmonic / Photoluminescent Nanopaper

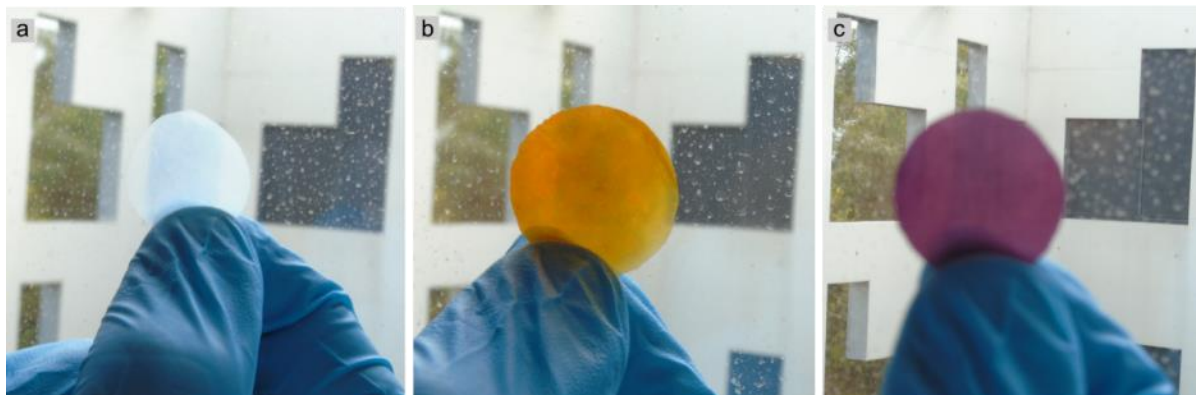


E. Morales-Narváez, H. Golmohammadi, T. Naghdi, H. Yousefi, U. Kostiv, D. Horak, N. Pourreza, A. Merkoçi,

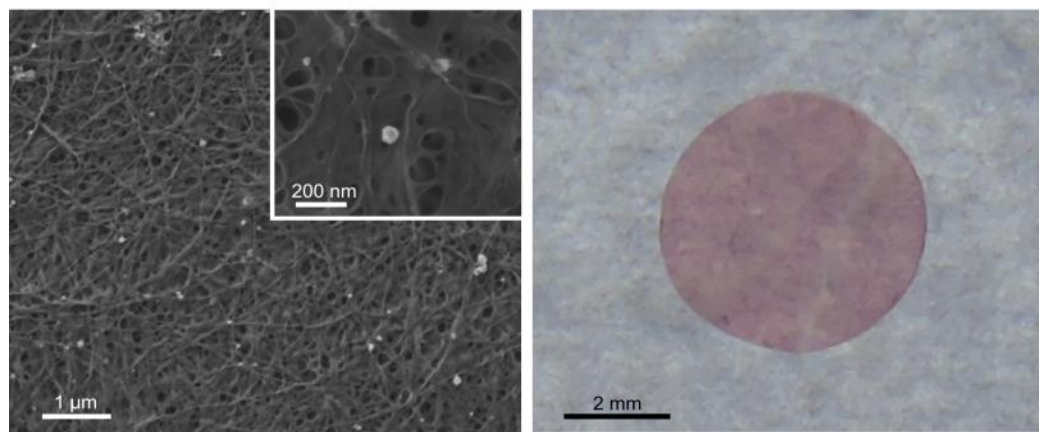
*ACS Nano* **2015**, 9:7296

# Nanopaper as an Optical Sensing Platform

## Plasmonic Nanopaper (appearance)



**a.** Bare BC. **b.** AgNP-BC. **c.** AuNP-BC.



E. Morales-Narváez, H. Golmohammadi, T. Naghdi, H. Yousefi, U. Kostiv, D. Horak, N. Pourreza, A. Merkoçi,  
*ACS Nano* **2015**, 9:7296

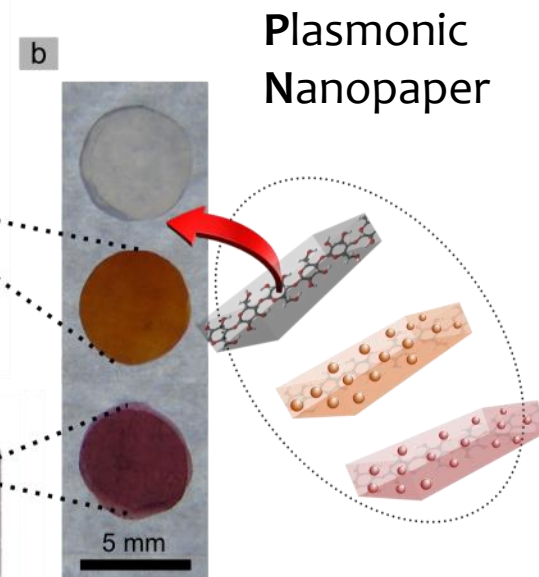
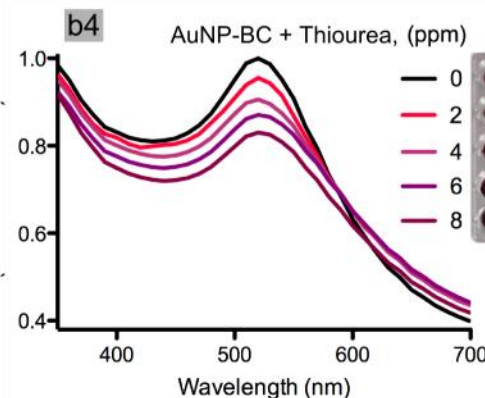
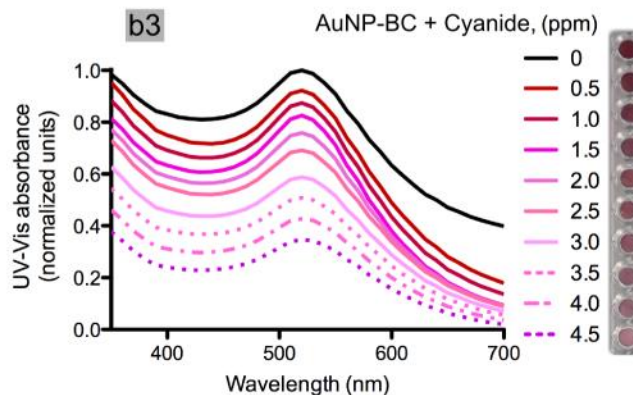
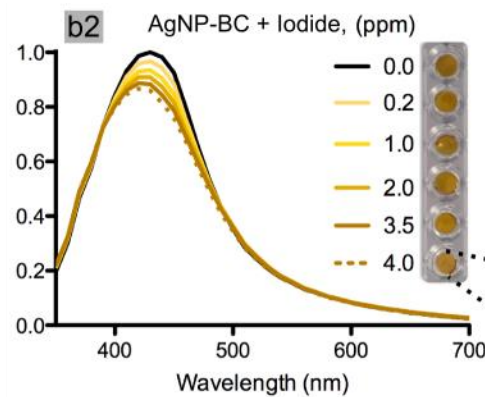
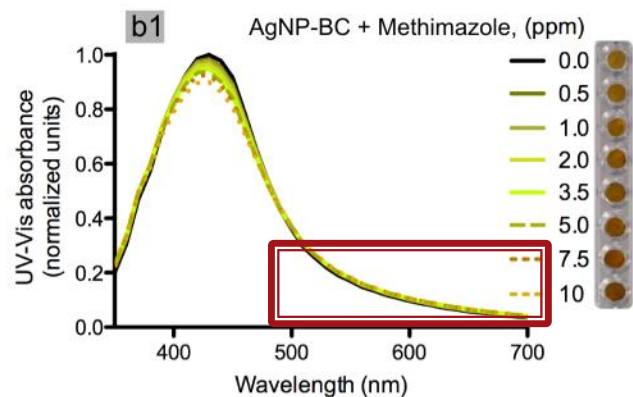
# Nanopaper as an Optical Sensing Platform



E. Morales-Narváez, H. Golmohammadi, T. Naghdi, H. Yousefi, U. Kostiv, D. Horak, N. Pourreza, A. Merkoçi,

*ACS Nano* **2015**, 9:7296

# Nanopaper as an Optical Sensing Platform



Spots for Individual Assays



(M)



(I)



(C)



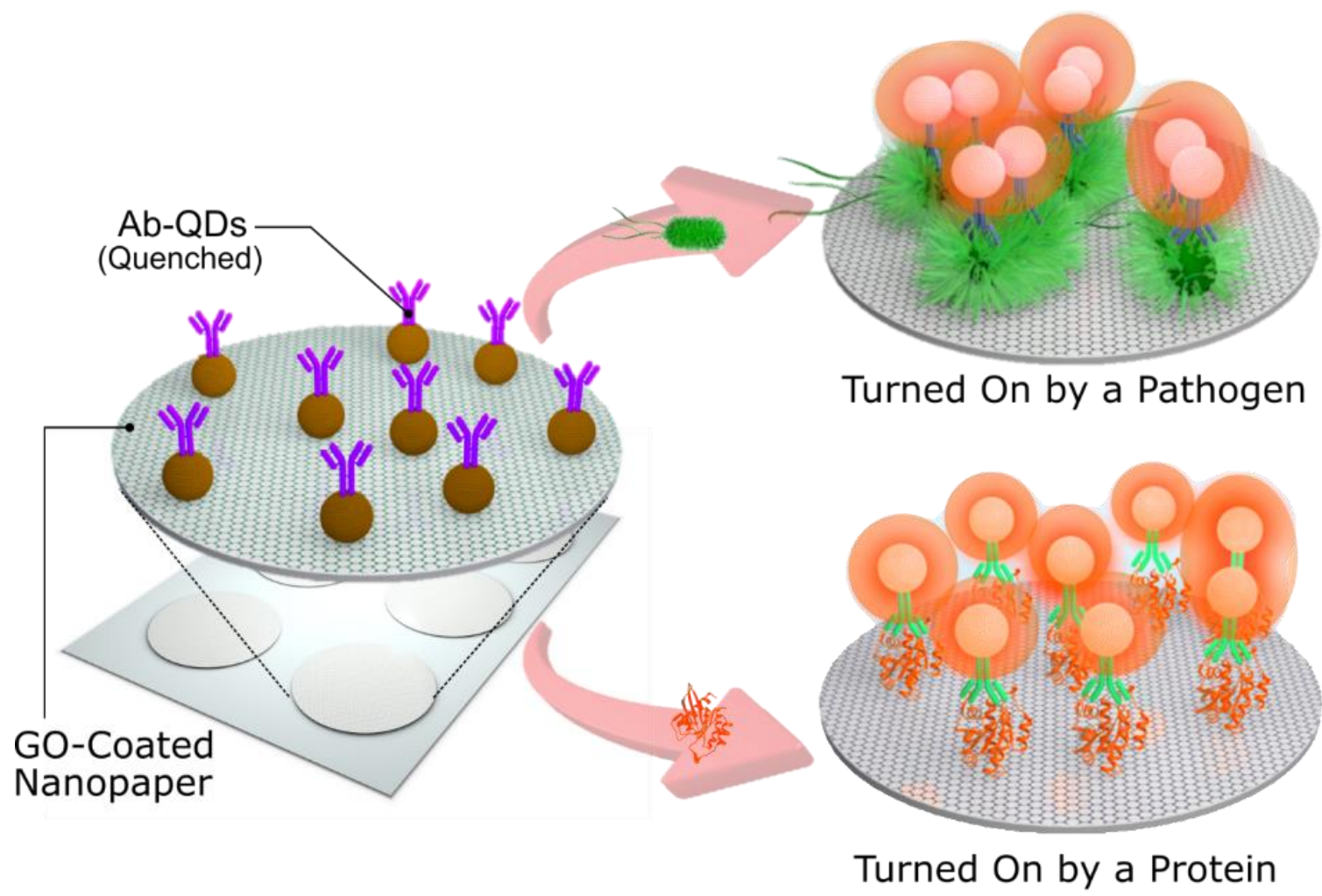
(T)

E. Morales-Narváez, H. Golmohammadi, T. Naghdi, H. Yousefi, U. Kostiv, D. Horak, N. Pourreza, A. Merkoçi,

*ACS Nano* **2015**, 9:7296

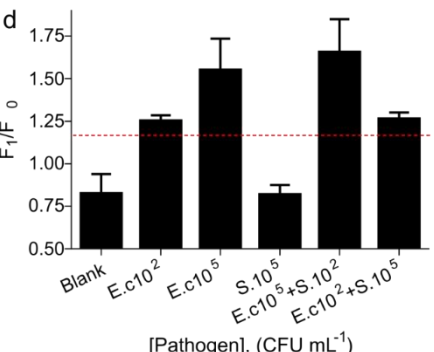
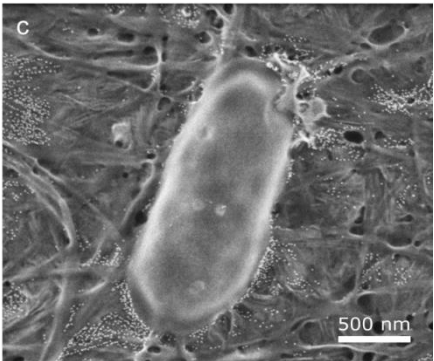
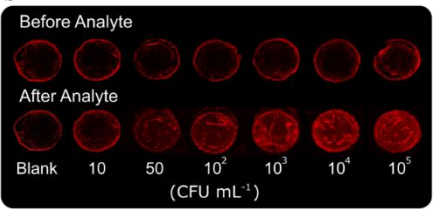
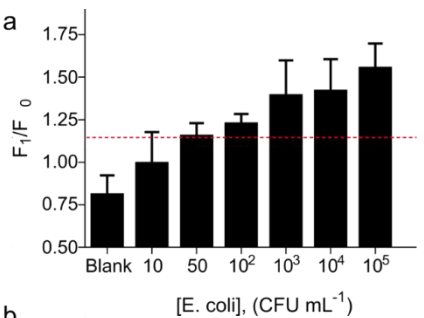
# Straightforward Immunosensing Platform based on Graphene Oxide-Decorated Nanopaper (GONAP)

## A Highly Sensitive and Fast Biosensing Approach



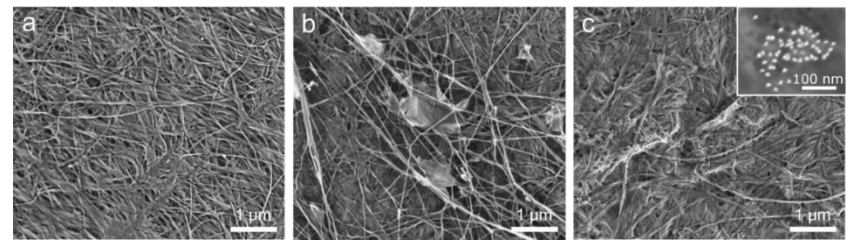
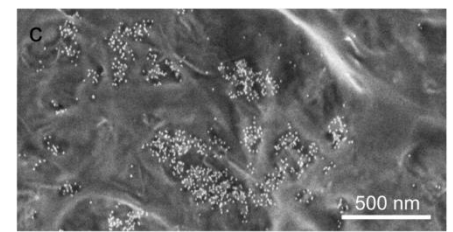
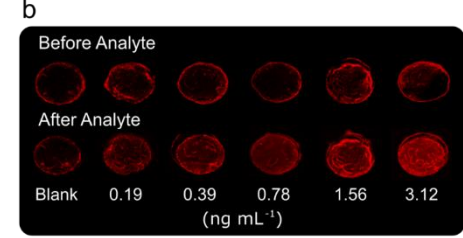
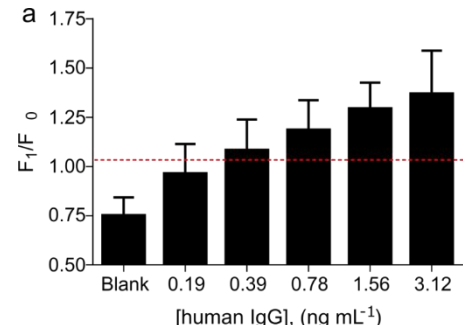


# Straightforward Immunosensing Platform based on Graphene Oxide-Decorated Nanopaper (GONAP)

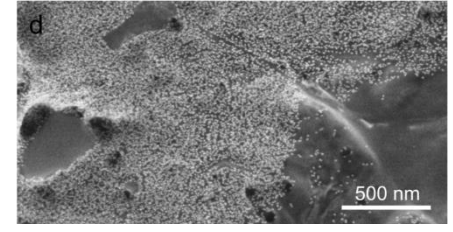


GONAP immunosensing platform for **pathogen detection**

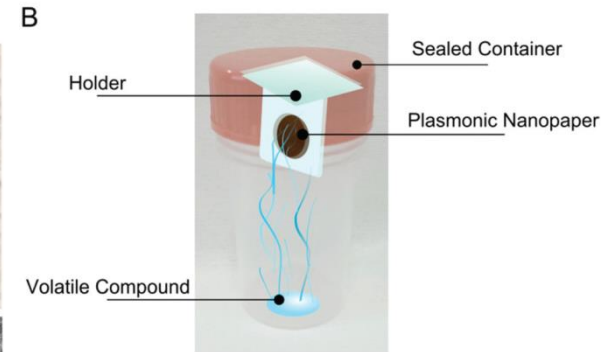
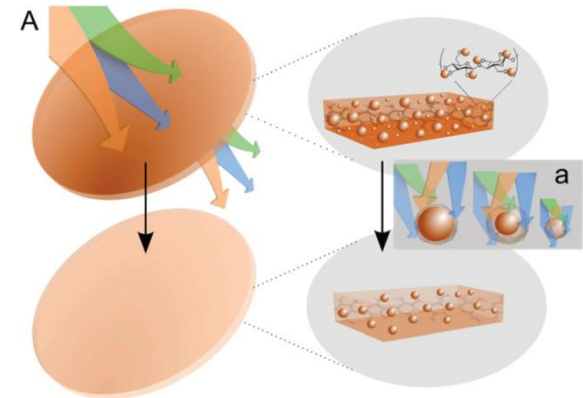
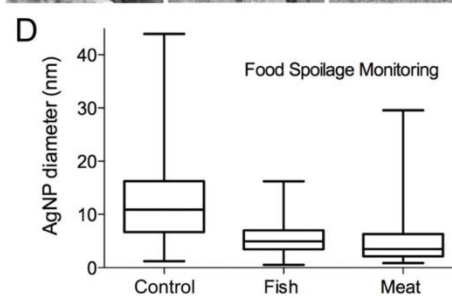
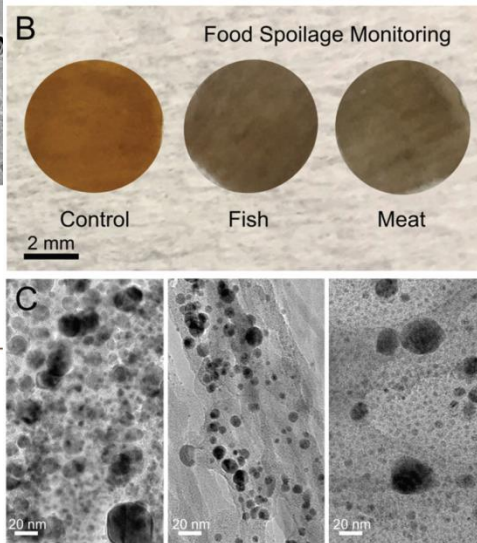
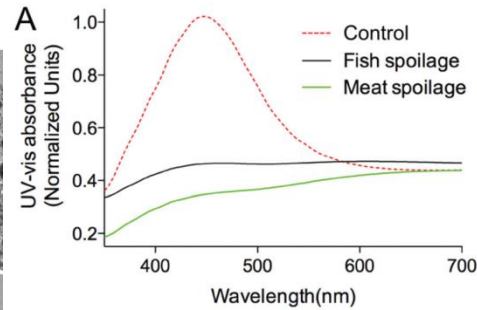
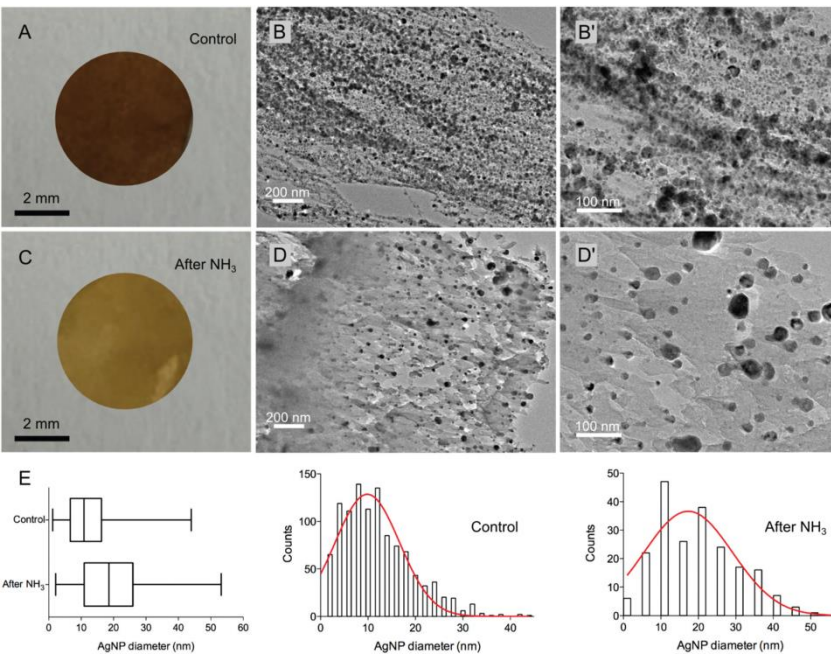
GONAP immunosensing platform for **protein detection**



Scanning-electron micrographs of GONAP platform. **a.** Bare bacterial cellulose nanopaper. **b.** GONAP. **c.** Ab-QDs on GONAP.



# Visual detection of volatile compounds in a piece of AgNP-based plasmonic nanopaper

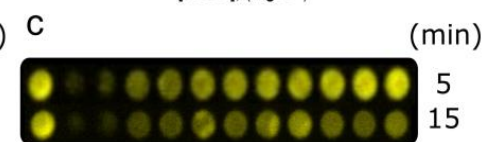
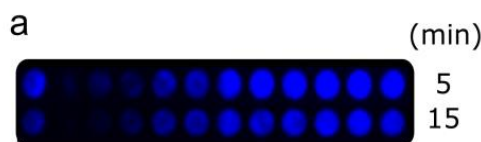
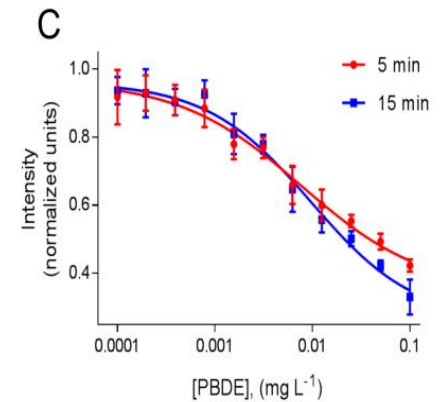
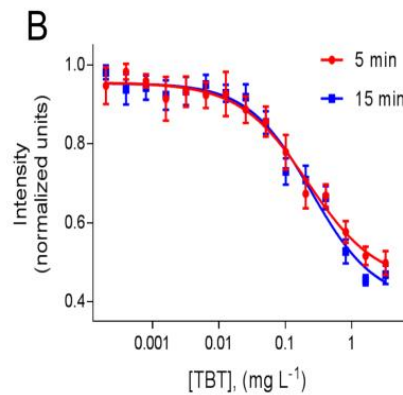
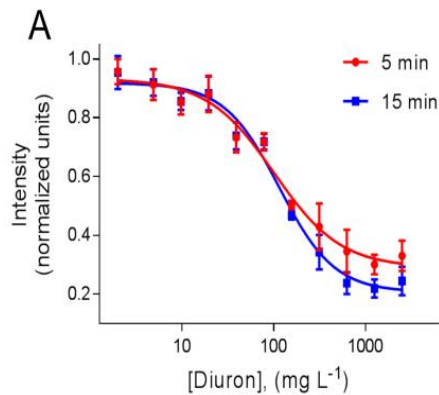
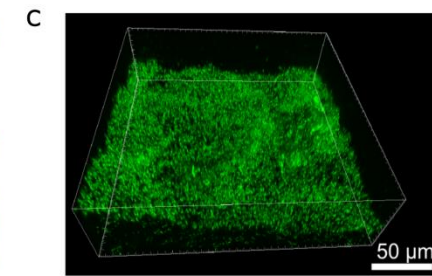
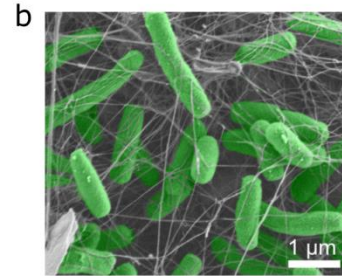
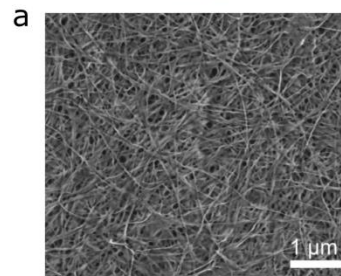
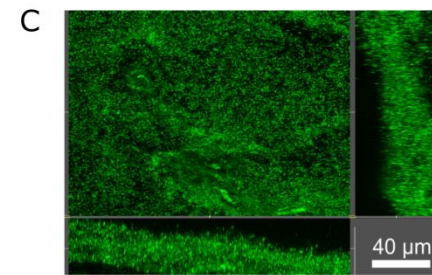
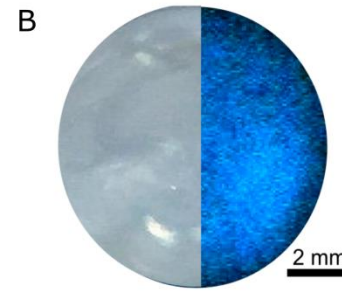
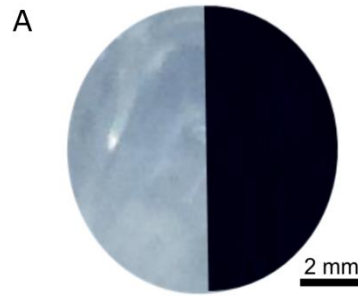
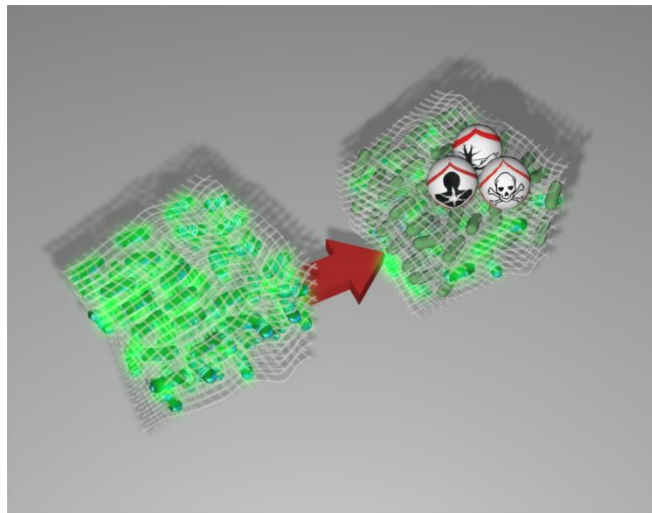


Modulation of population density and size of **silver nanoparticles** embedded in bacterial cellulose via ammonia exposure:

Merkoçi et al., Nanoscale, 2016

a simple visual detection, which opens the way to innovative approaches and capabilities in gas sensing and smart packaging

# Bioluminescent Nanopaper for the rapid Screening of Toxic Substances

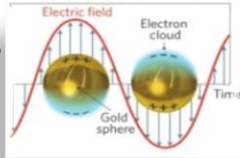


# OUR MOTIVATION

To design new simple nanobiosensors and improve existing ones

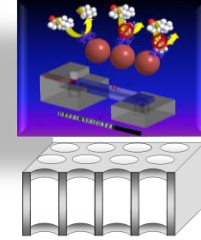
## Nanoparticles

New electro /optical labels



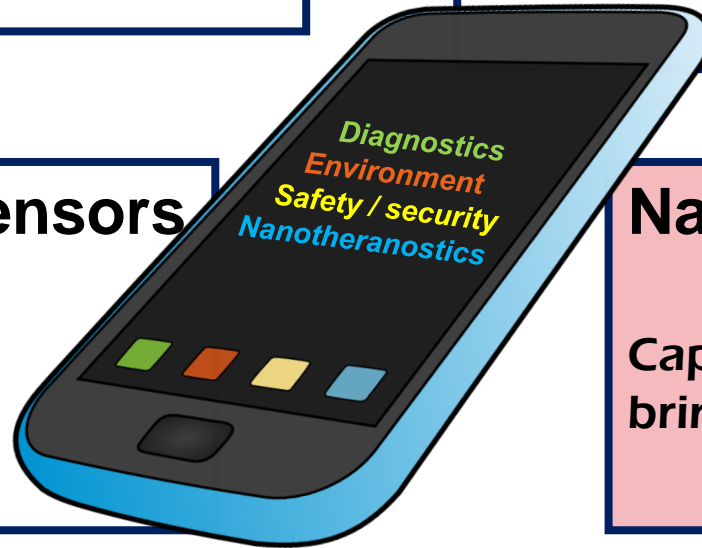
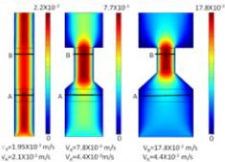
## LOCs / Nanochannels

Preconcentration,  
filtering, automation



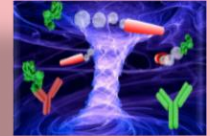
## Paper-based sensors

Simple is the best

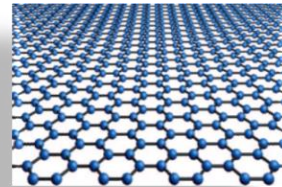


## Nanomotors

Capture even single analyte,  
bring it to sensing surface



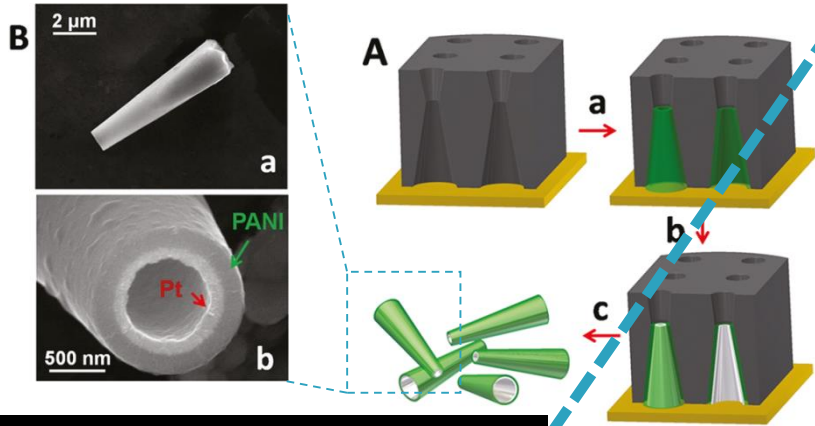
## Graphene



New (bio)sensing  
opportunities (?)

## Enhancing of biosensing

Template-based catalytic microengines  
(no need for clean room)  
Au/Ni/PANI Polyaniline/Pt

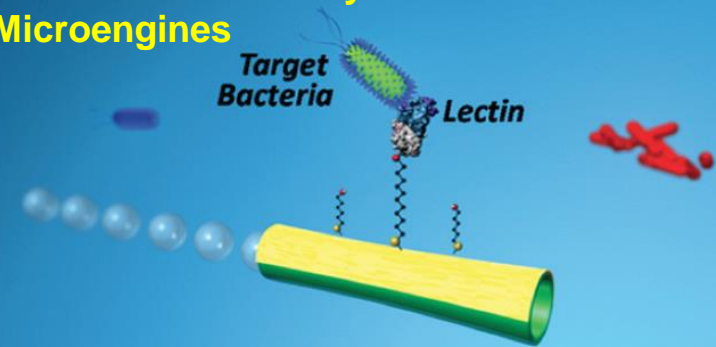


Magnetic Control  
Trilayer PANI/Ni/Pt Microengine



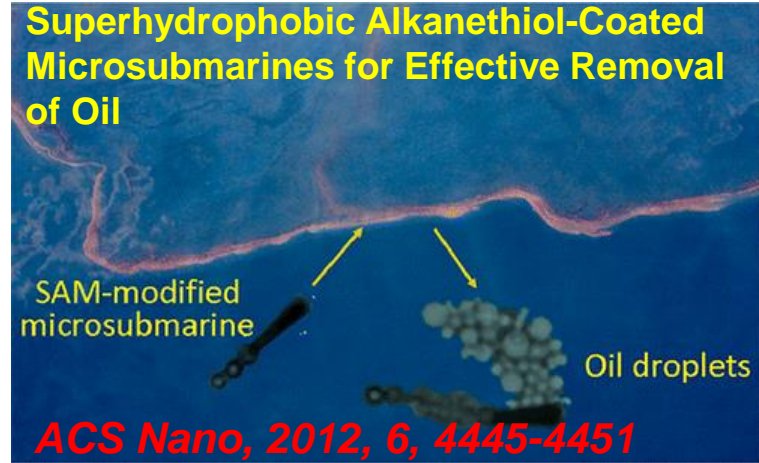
## Coupling nanomotors effect with biosensing

### Bacterial Isolation by Lectin-Modified Microengines

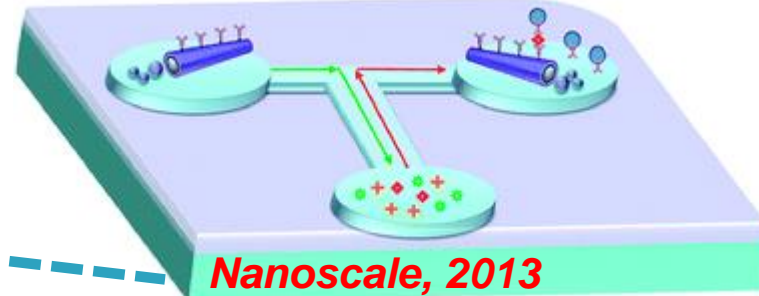


*Nano Letters*, 12, 396-401. 2012

### Superhydrophobic Alkanethiol-Coated Microsubmarines for Effective Removal of Oil



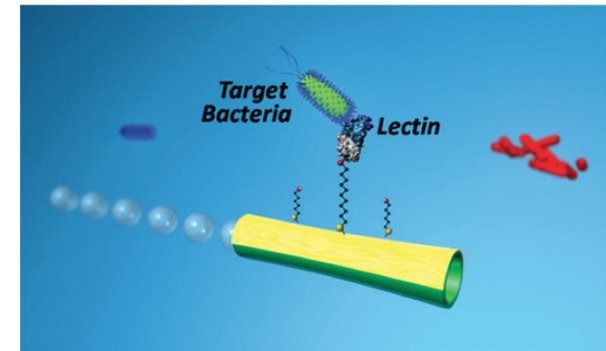
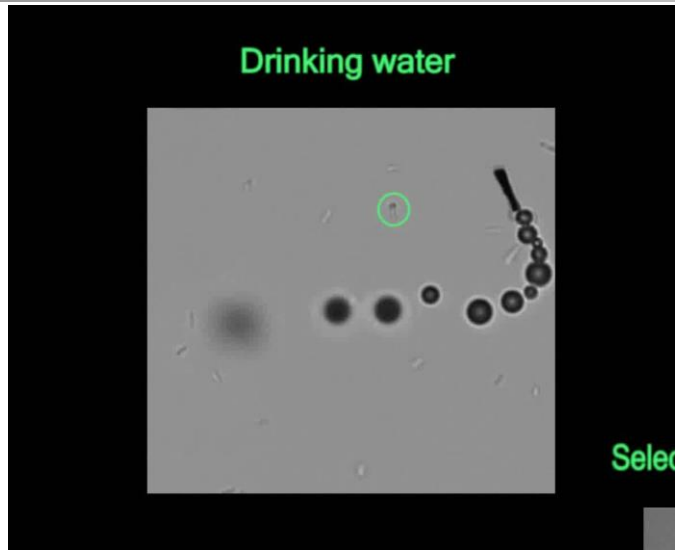
*ACS Nano*, 2012, 6, 4445-4451



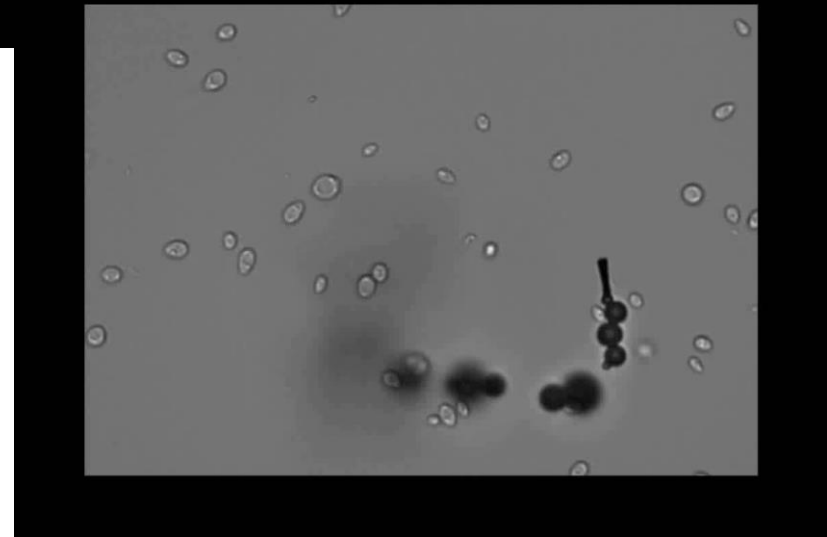
*Nanoscale*, 2013

# Bacterial Isolation by lectin-modified microengines

Selective capture of *Escherichia coli* from **food** and **clinical** samples

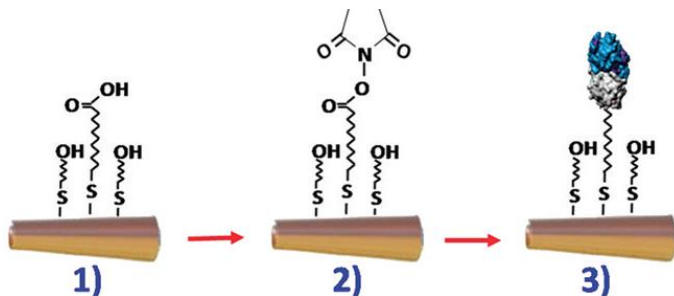


Selective pick-up of *E. coli* in presence of *S. cerevisiae*

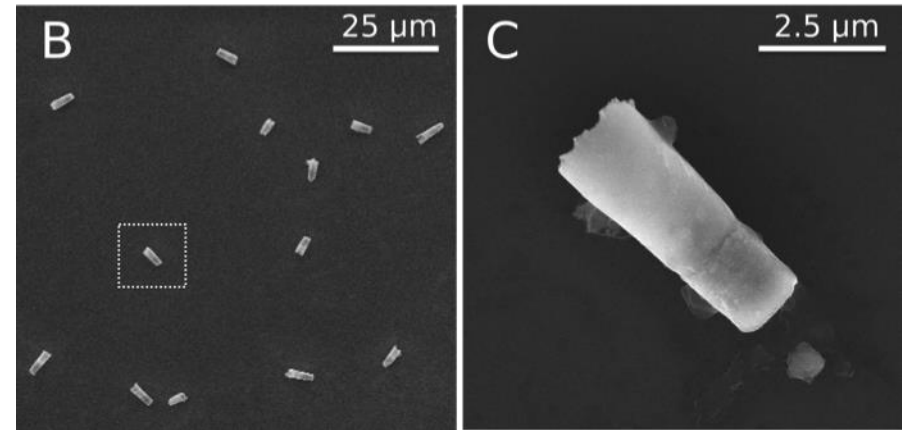
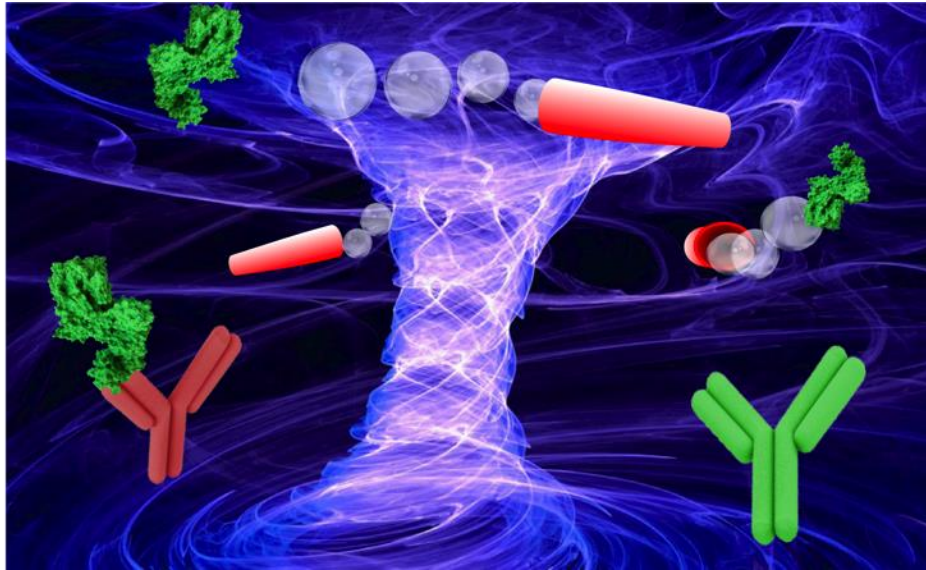


Template-based self-propelled microengine  
Au/Ni/PANI/Pt

Modified with **Concanavalin A** (ConA: lectin bioreceptor)



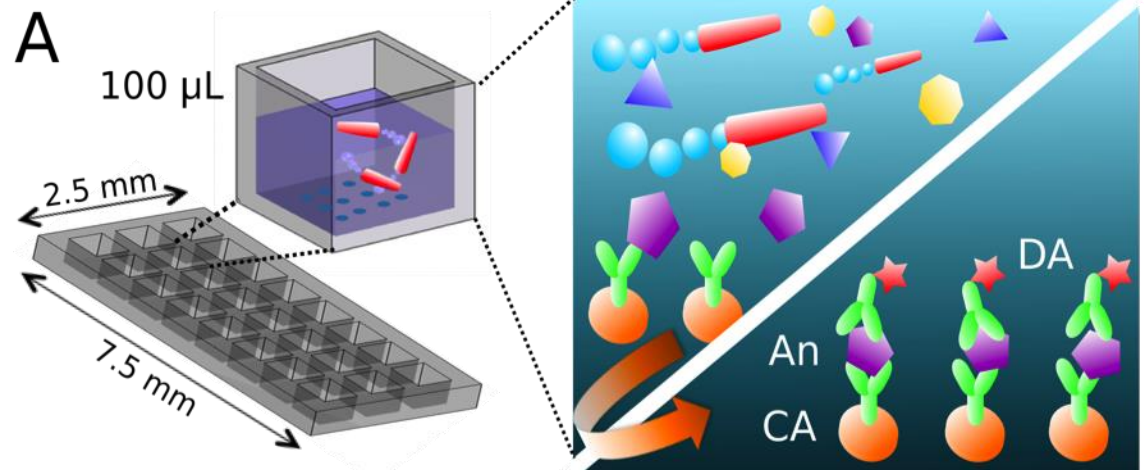
# Microengines meet $\mu$ A technology



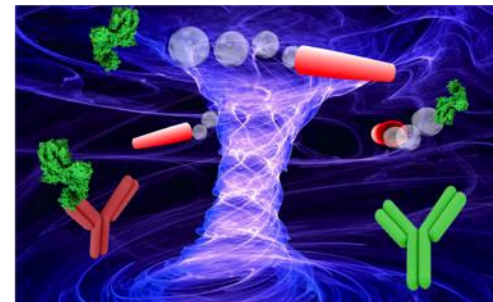
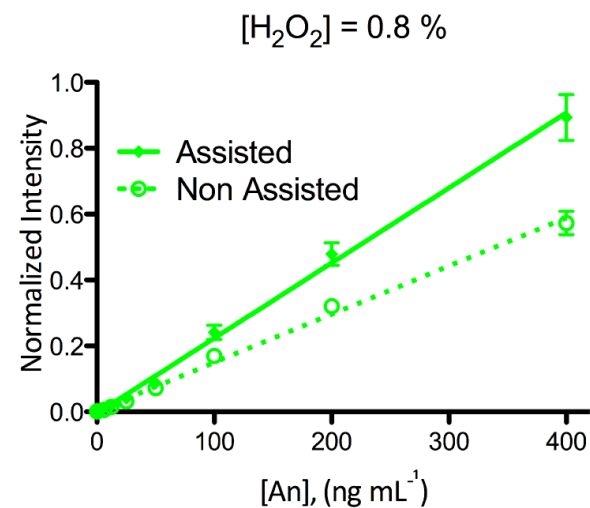
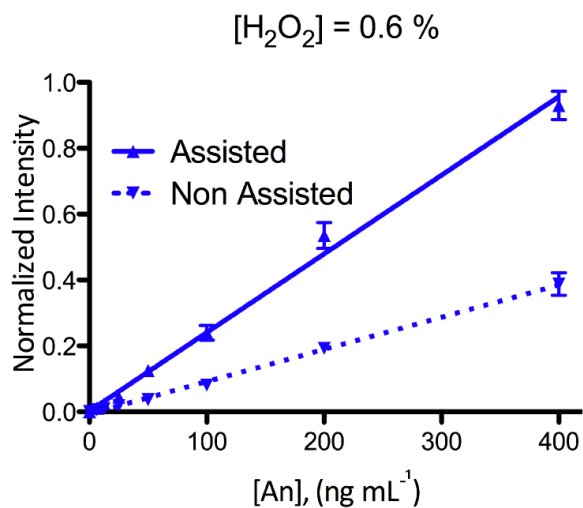
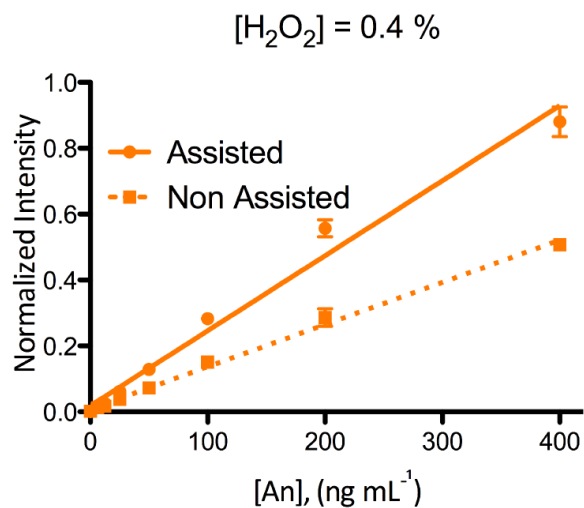
Hydrodynamic motion



Antigen – Antibody  
interaction



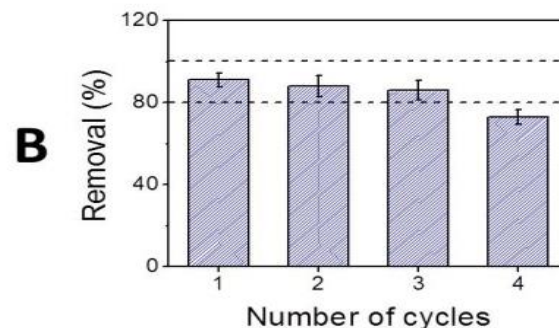
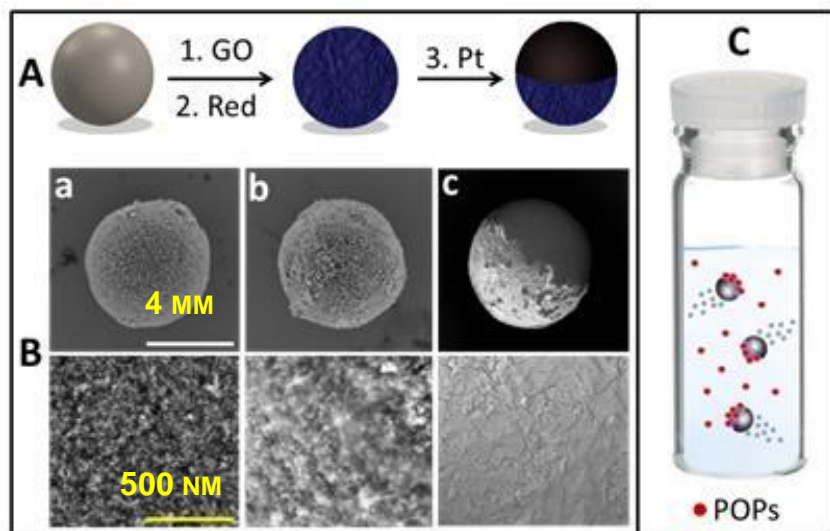
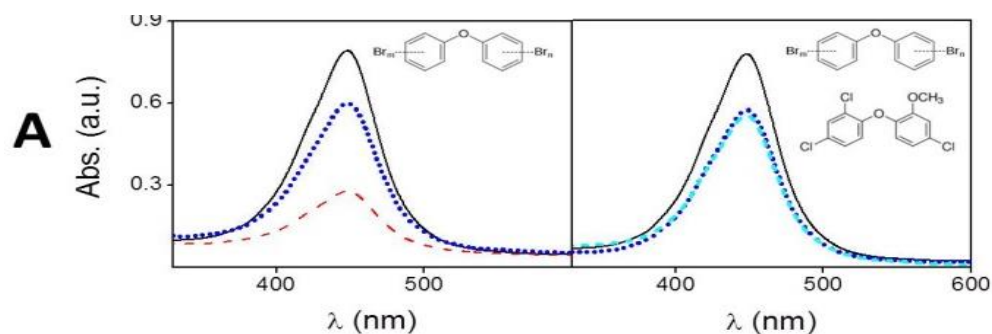
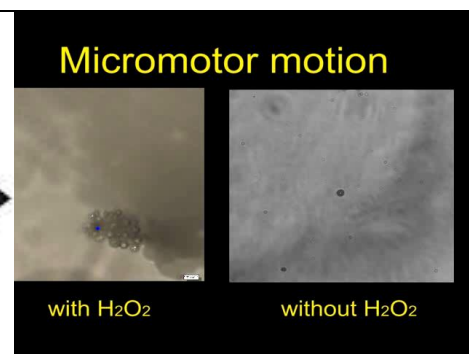
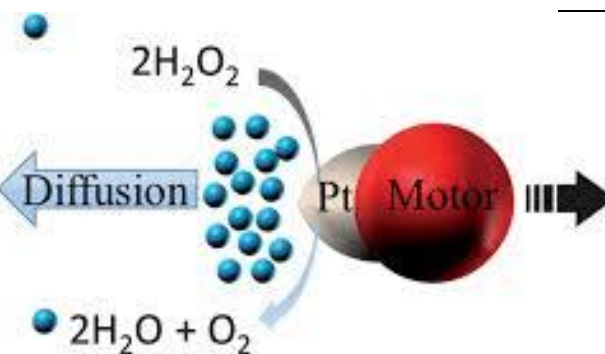
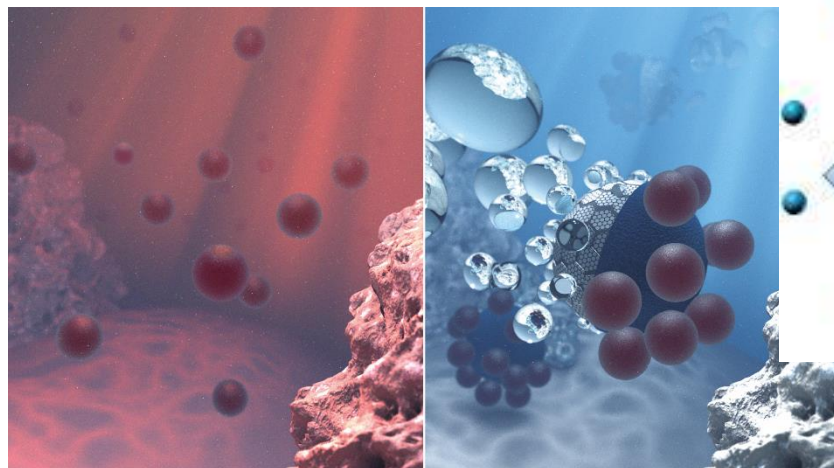
# Microengines meet $\mu$ A technology





# SiO<sub>2</sub>@rGO-Pt Janus Micromotors

## Enhanced removal of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)



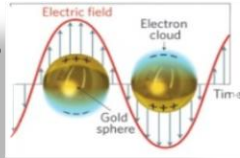
Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs)  
 5-chloro-2-(2,4-dichlorophenoxy) phenol (triclosan)

# OUR MOTIVATION

To design new simple nanobiosensors and improve existing ones

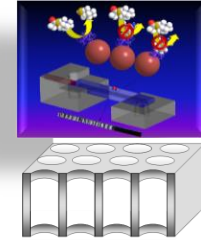
## Nanoparticles

New electro /optical labels



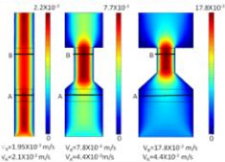
## LOCs / Nanochannels

Preconcentration,  
filtering, automation



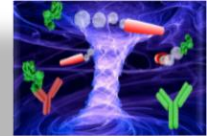
## Paper-based sensors

Simple is the best



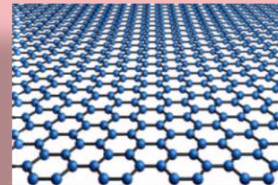
## Nanomotors

Capture even single analyte,  
bring it to sensing surface



## Graphene

New (bio)sensing  
opportunities (?)





# Properties with interest in Biosensing

- Superlative mechanical strength

Yung's modulus ca. 1100 GPa

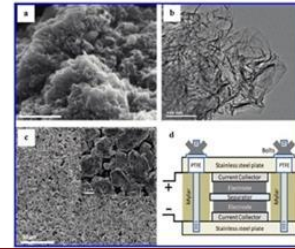
*Science* **2008**, 321:385–388



extremetech.com

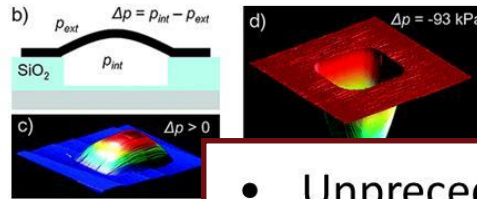
- High planar surface  
 $2630 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$

*Nano Lett* **2008**, 8:3498–3502



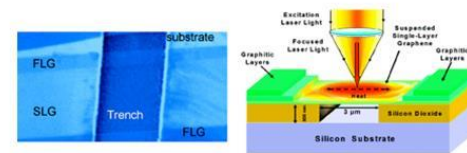
- Impermeable to standard gases including helium

*Nano Lett* **2008**, 8:2458–2462



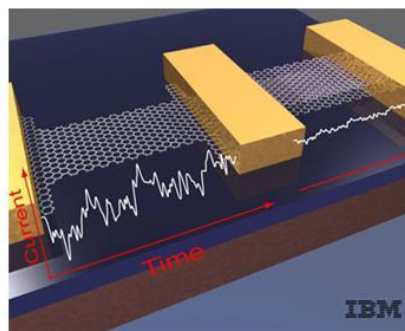
- Unprecedented thermal conductivity  
 $5000 \text{ Wm}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$

*Nano Lett* **2008**, 8:902-907



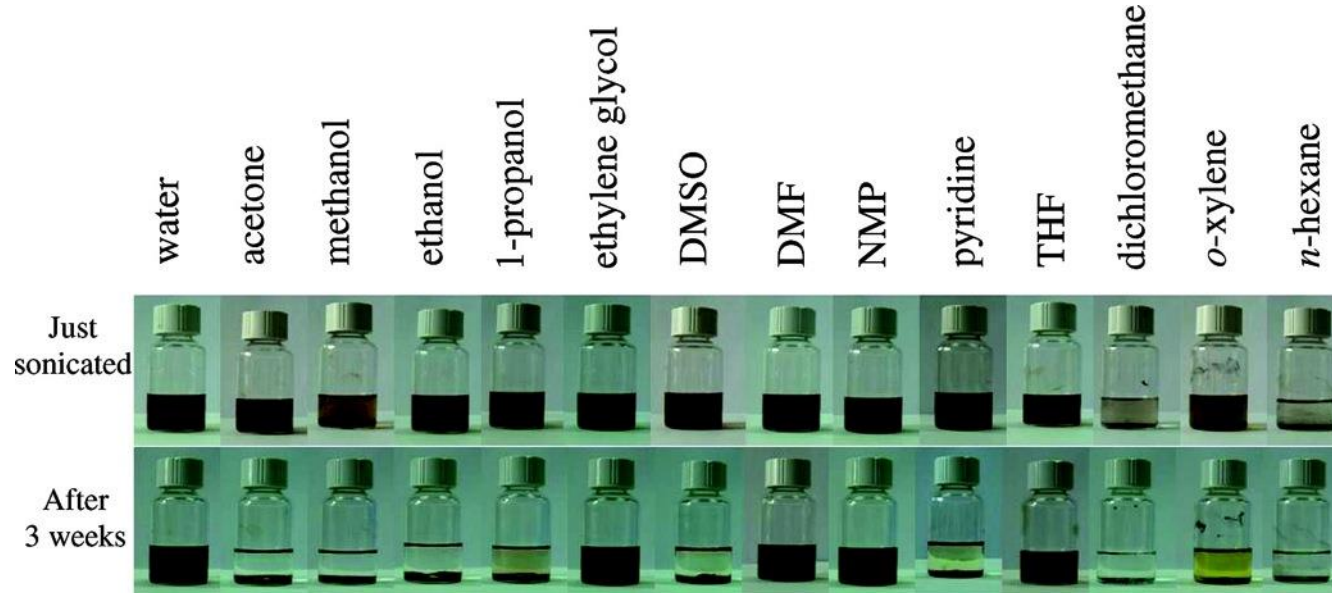
- High electrical conductivity  
 $1738 \text{ S m}^{-1}$

*Science* **2012**, 335:1326-1330



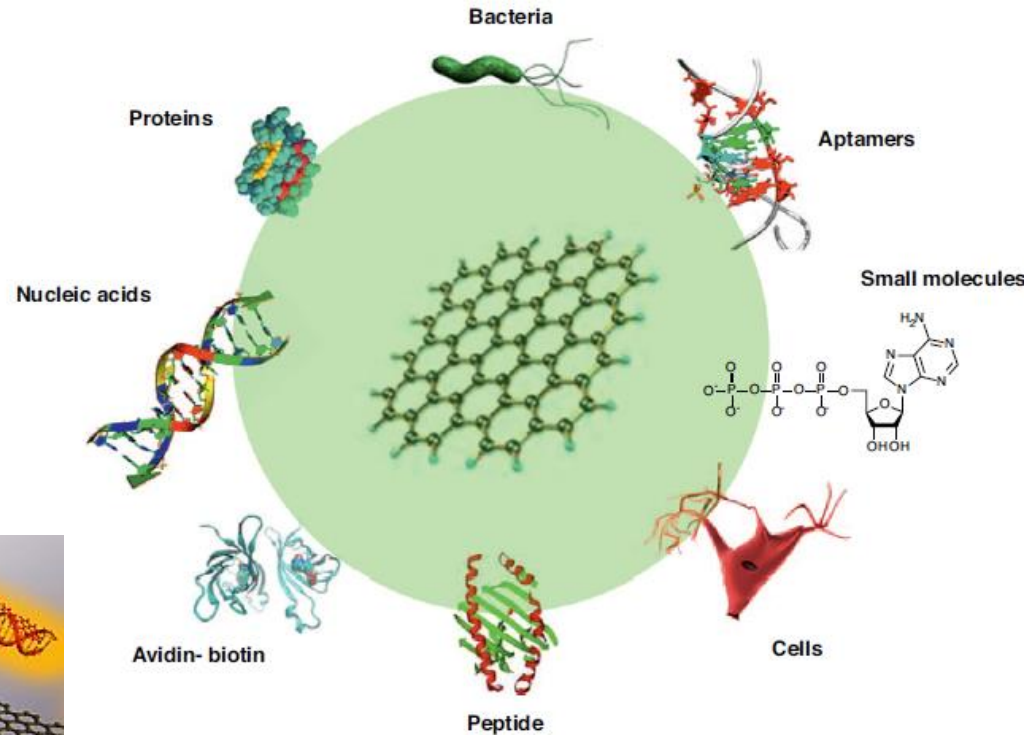
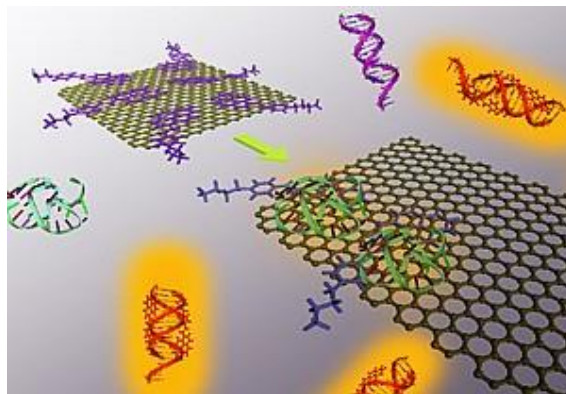
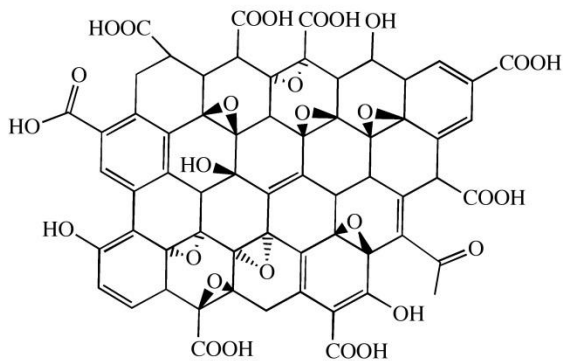
# Properties with interest in Biosensing

GO can be processed in suspension form



*Langmuir* 2008, 24:10560-10564

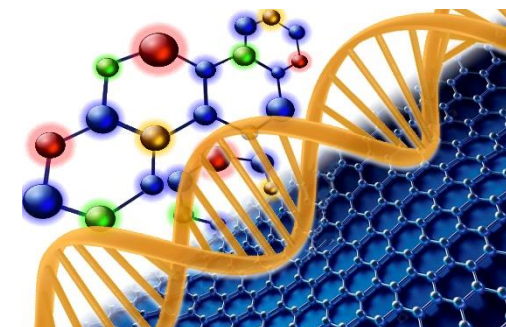
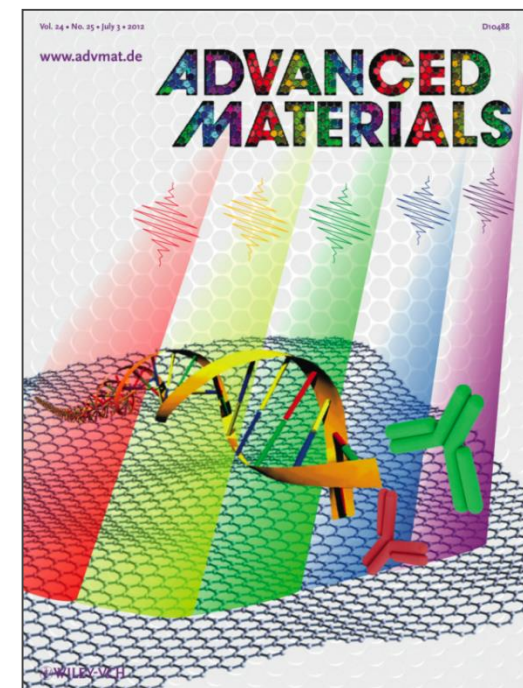
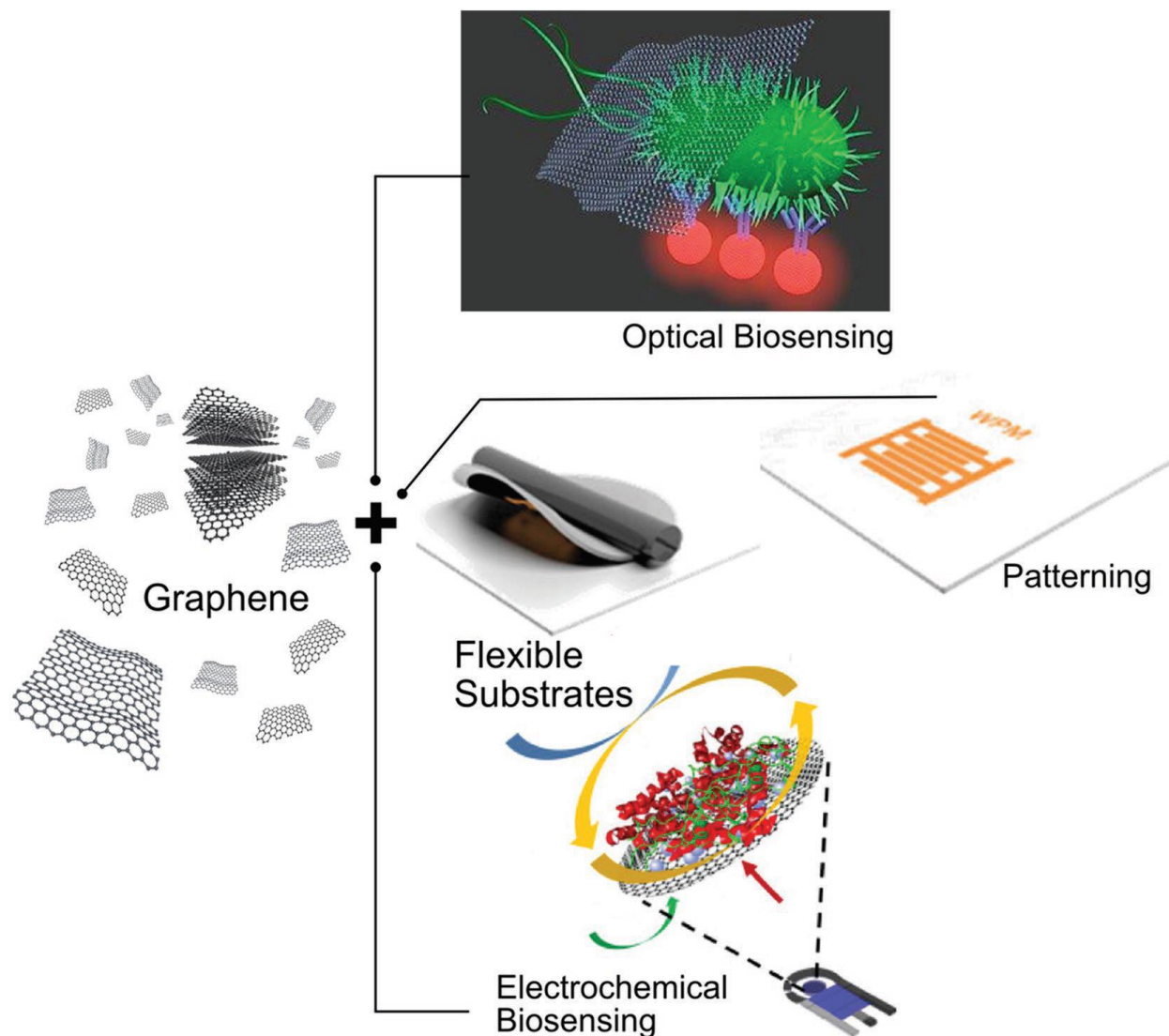
- Direct wiring with biomolecules



*Chem Soc Rev* **2010**, 39:4146–4157

*Trends Biotechnol* **2011**, 29:205-212

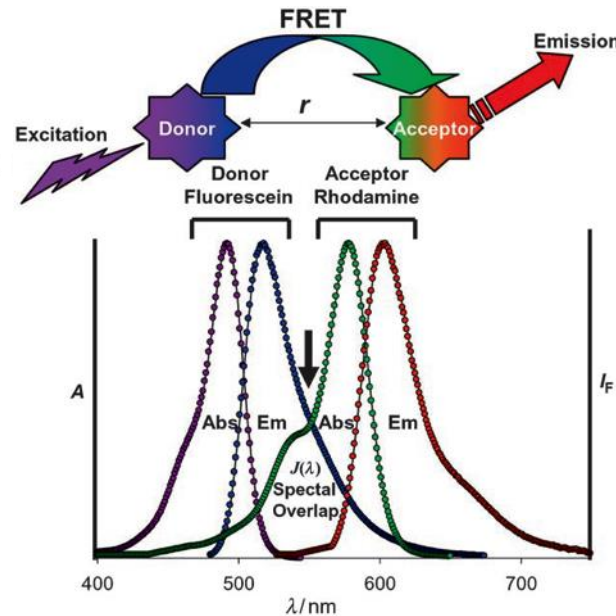
## Graphene-Based Biosensors: Going Simple



Morales, Merkoçi et al.  
Advanced Materials, 2017, 29, 1604905  
Advanced Materials, 2018, In print

## Excellent quencher of fluorescence

FRET entails the transfer of energy from a photoexcited donor to an acceptor molecule



*Angew Chem Int Ed* 2006, 45:4562 – 4588

Typically

$$E = 1 / [1 + (R / R_0)^6]$$

$d \sim 10 \text{ nm}$

Using Graphene

$$E = 1 / [1 + (R / R_0)^4]$$

$d \sim 30 \text{ nm}$

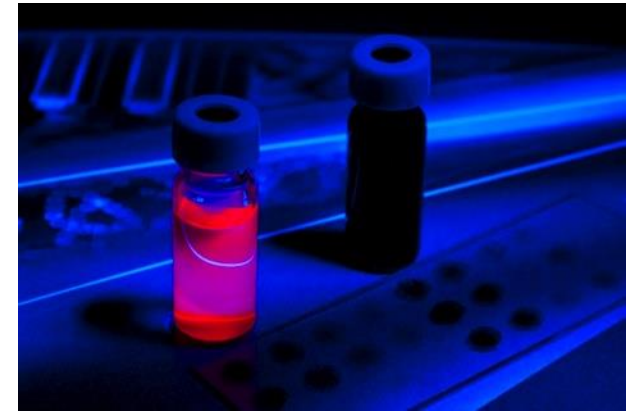
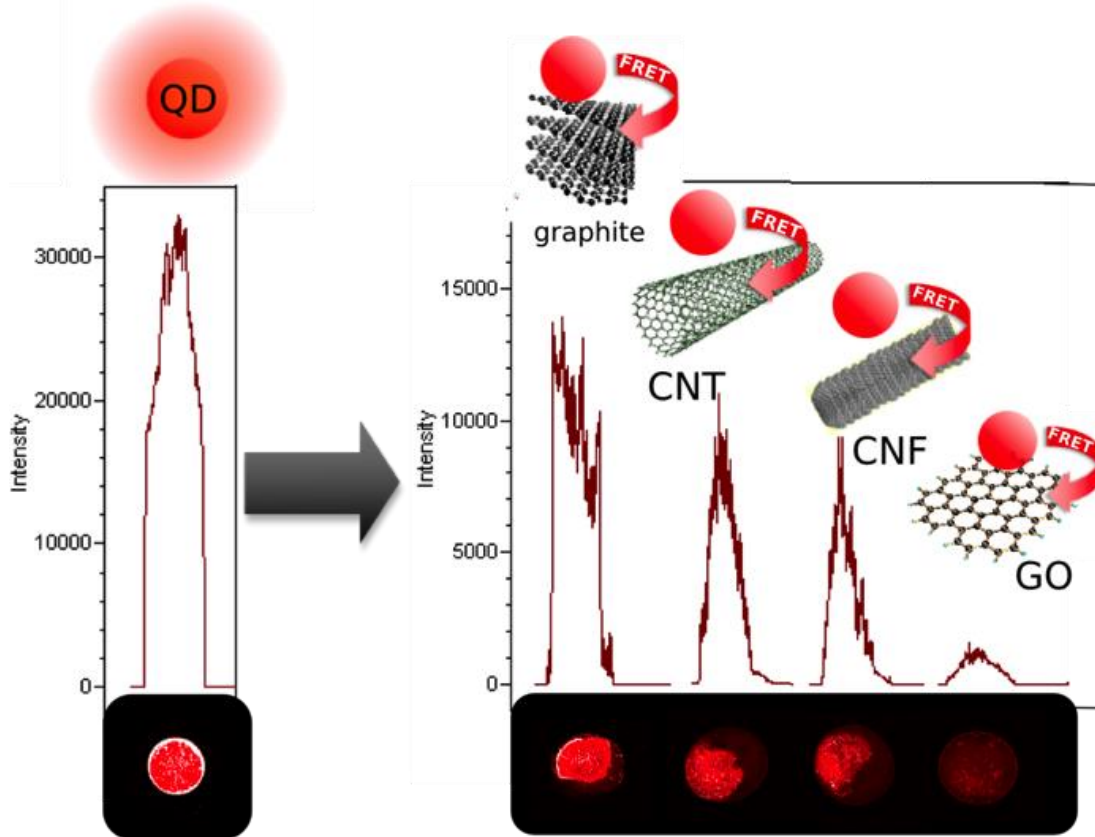
*J Chem Phys* 2009, 130:086101

*Adv Mater* 2012, 24, 3298–3308



# Graphene Oxide in FRET (solid phase)

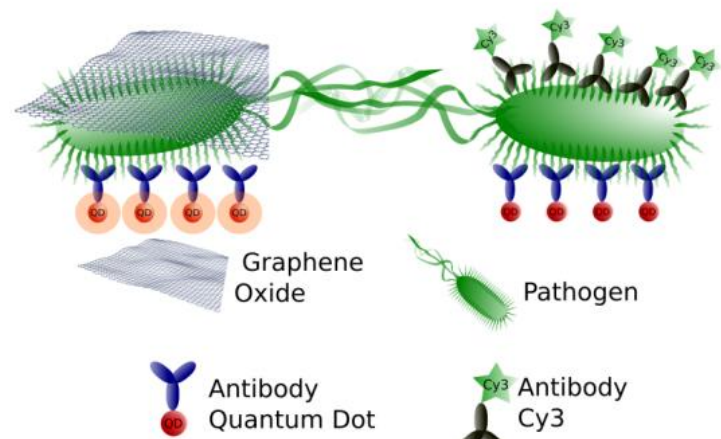
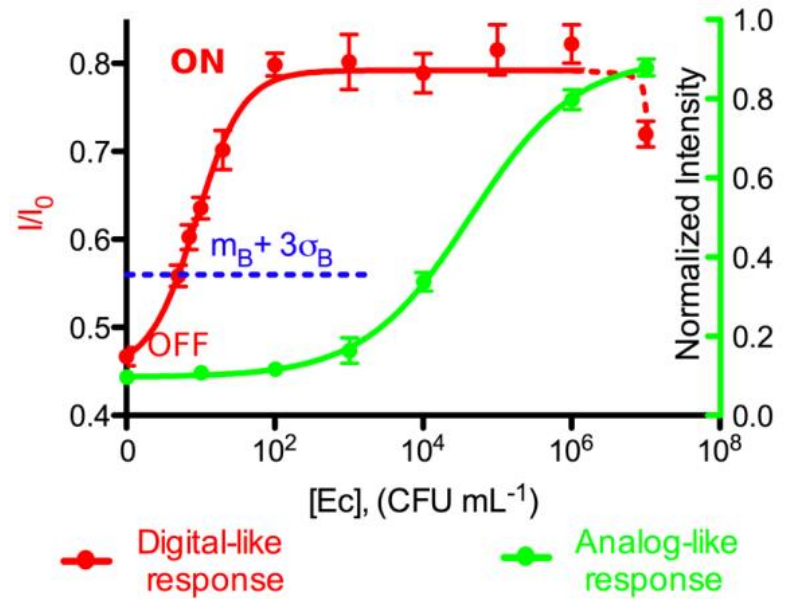
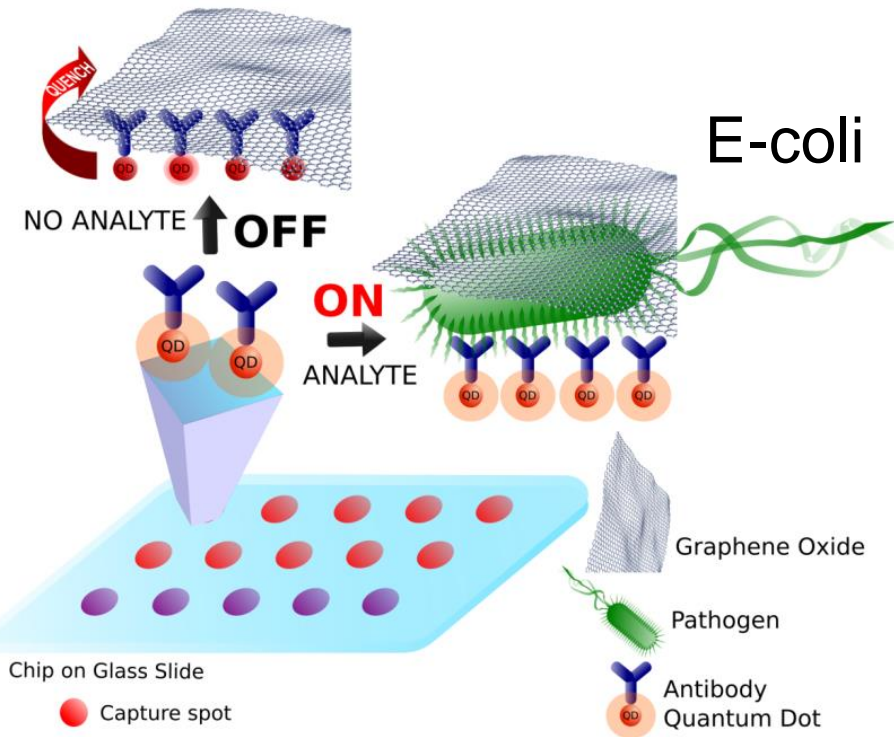
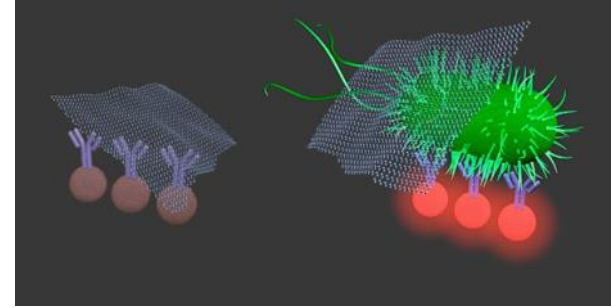
Simple FRET evidence for the ultrahigh QD quenching efficiency by GO compared to other carbon structures



QD Quenching  
Efficiency range (%)

g	17±05 ÷ 66±17
CNT	63±07 ÷ 71±01
CNF	52±10 ÷ 74±07
GO	91±02 ÷ 97±01

# GO as a pathogen-revealing agent



## Patent

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

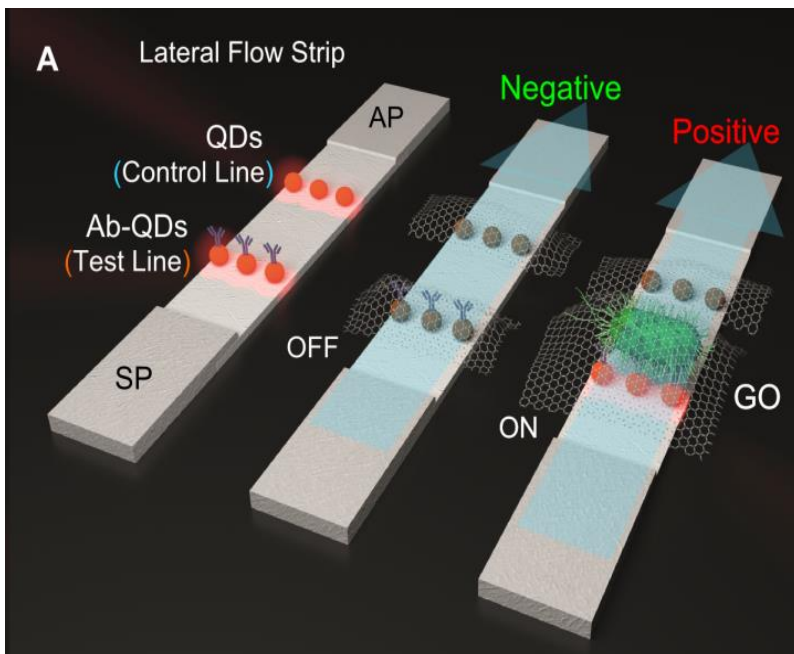
(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



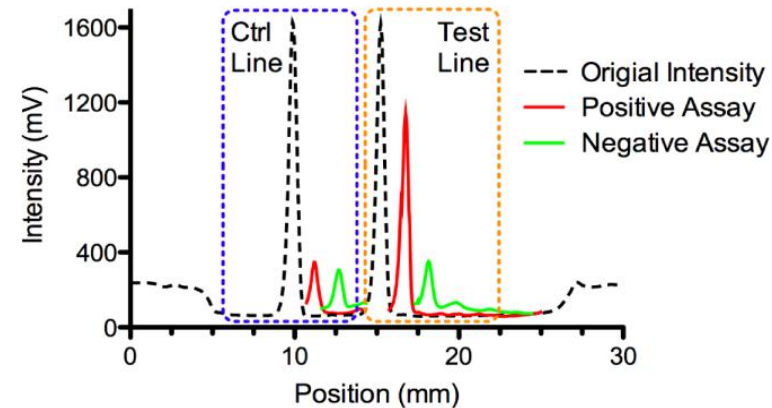
(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2015/055708 A1**

(43) International Publication Date  
23 April 2015 (23.04.2015)

# GO as a pathogen-revealing agent



**B**



Video of the process

## Patent

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau

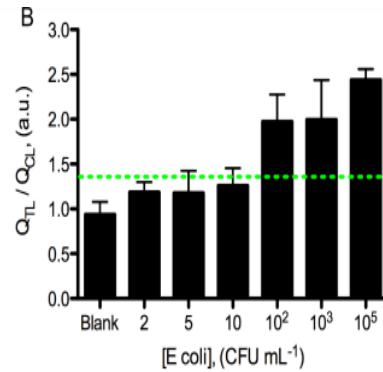
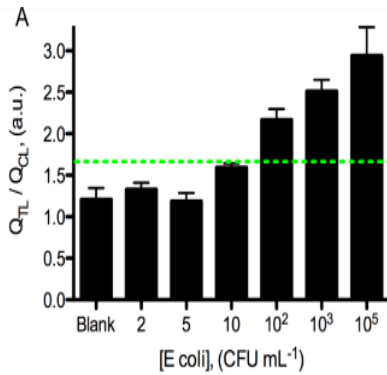
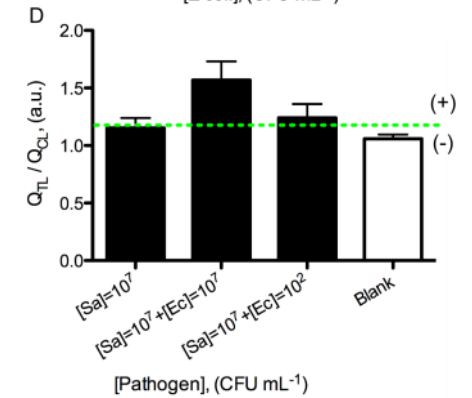
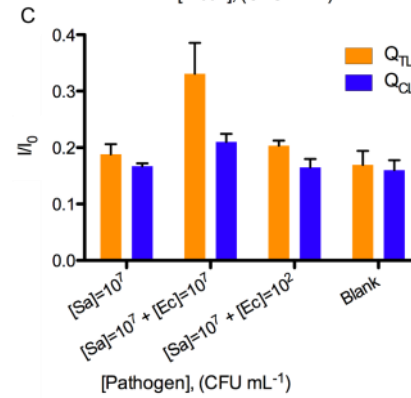
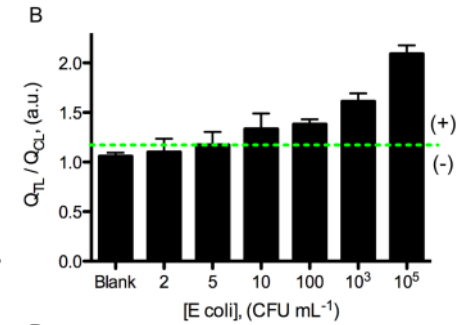
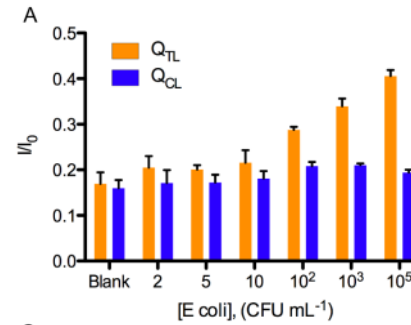
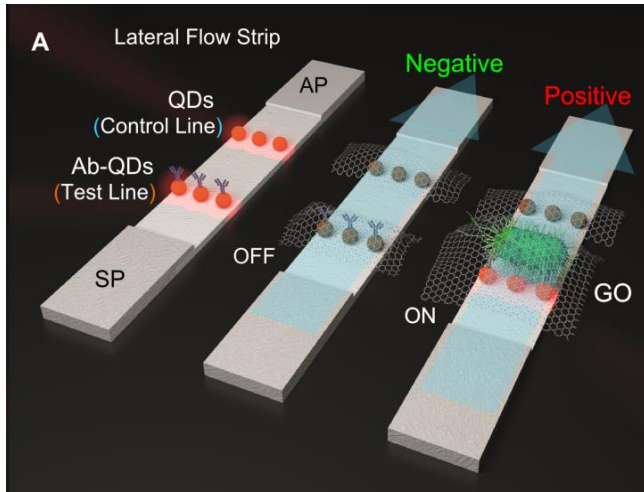


(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2015/055708 A1

ales-Narváez, Naghdi, Zor, Merkoçi, *Anal. Chem.* **2015**, 87:8573

(43) International Publication Date  
23 April 2015 (23.04.2015)

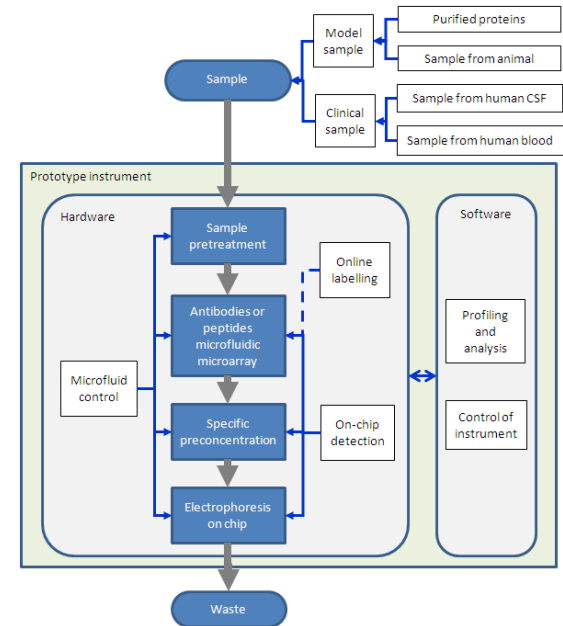
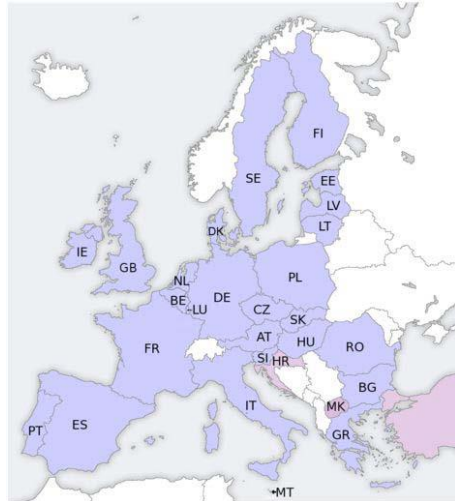
# GO as a pathogen-revealing agent



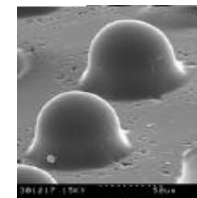
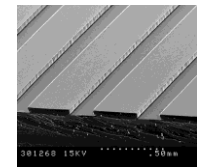
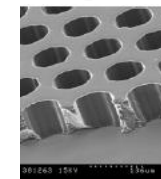
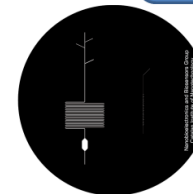
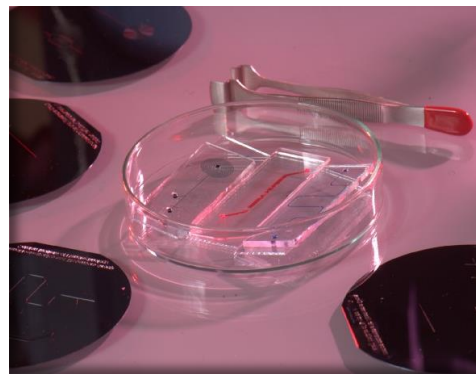
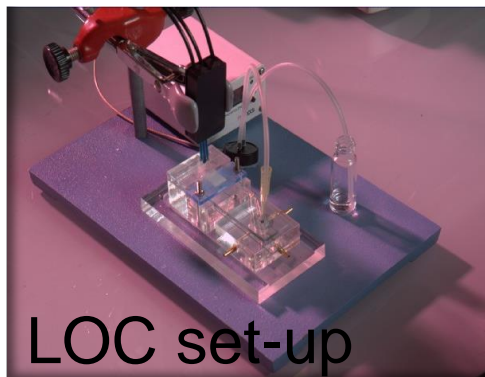
# Applications in diagnostics – future perspectives



NANosystems for early Diagnosis of NEUROdegenerative Diseases



Detection of neurodegenerative related biomarkers using nanobioelectronics based devices and Lab-on-a-chip



# **S**sensing toxicants in **M**arine waters makes **S**ense using biosensors



**SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME  
THE OCEAN OF TOMORROW  
TOPIC NUMBER: OCEAN.2013-1**

**Proposal full title: Sensing toxicants in Marine waters makes Sense using biosensors**

**Proposal acronym: SMS**

**Type of funding scheme: Collaborative Project  
GA n. 613844**



**S**sensing toxicants in  
**M**arine waters makes  
**S**ense using biosensors



# POC4PETS

Point of Care Diagnostics for rapid and cheap pathogen detection of companion animals

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## POC4PETS



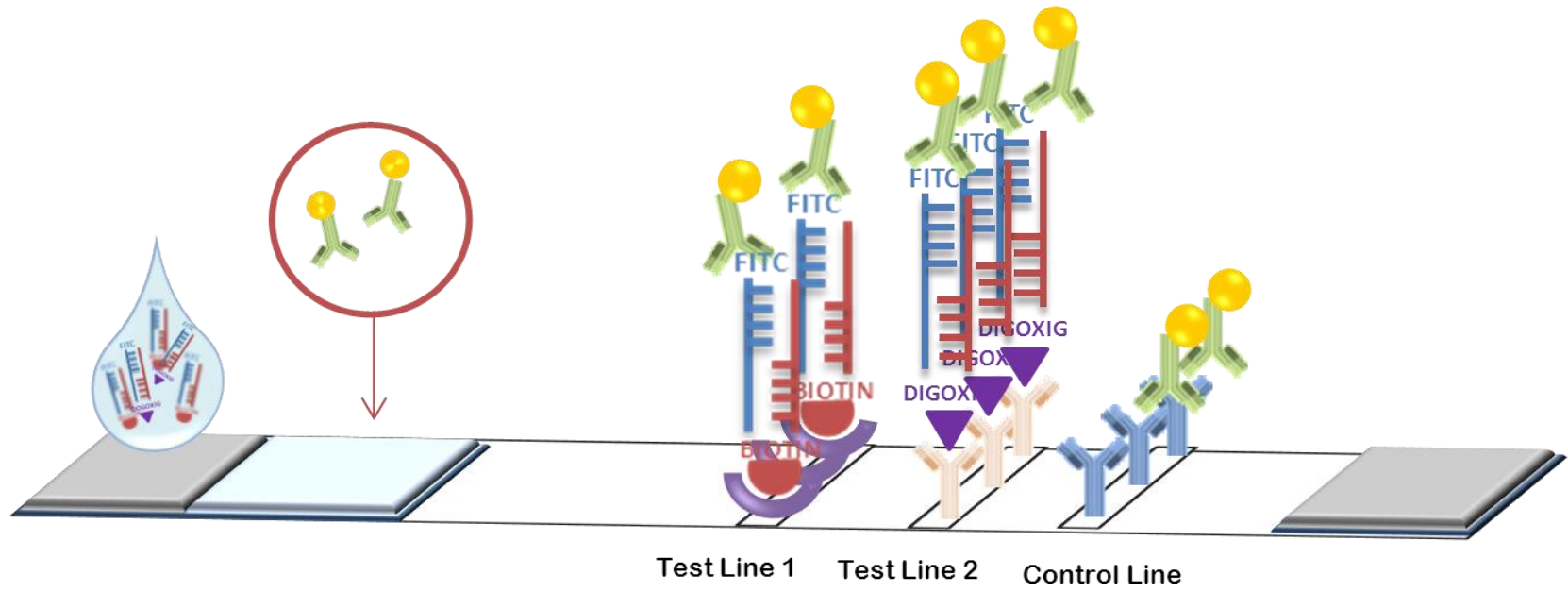
4 public health



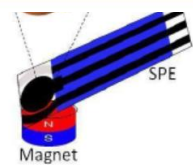
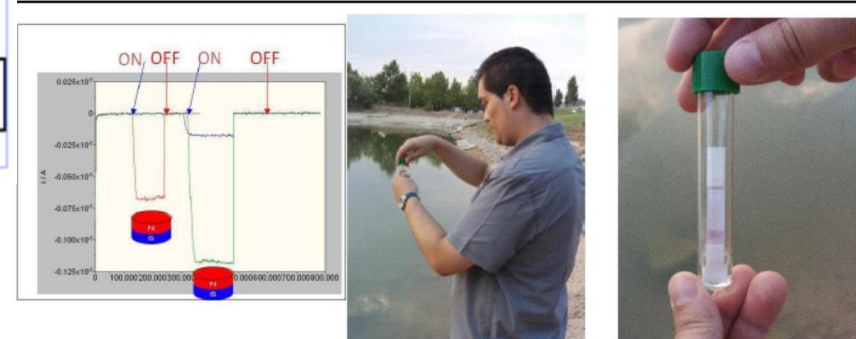
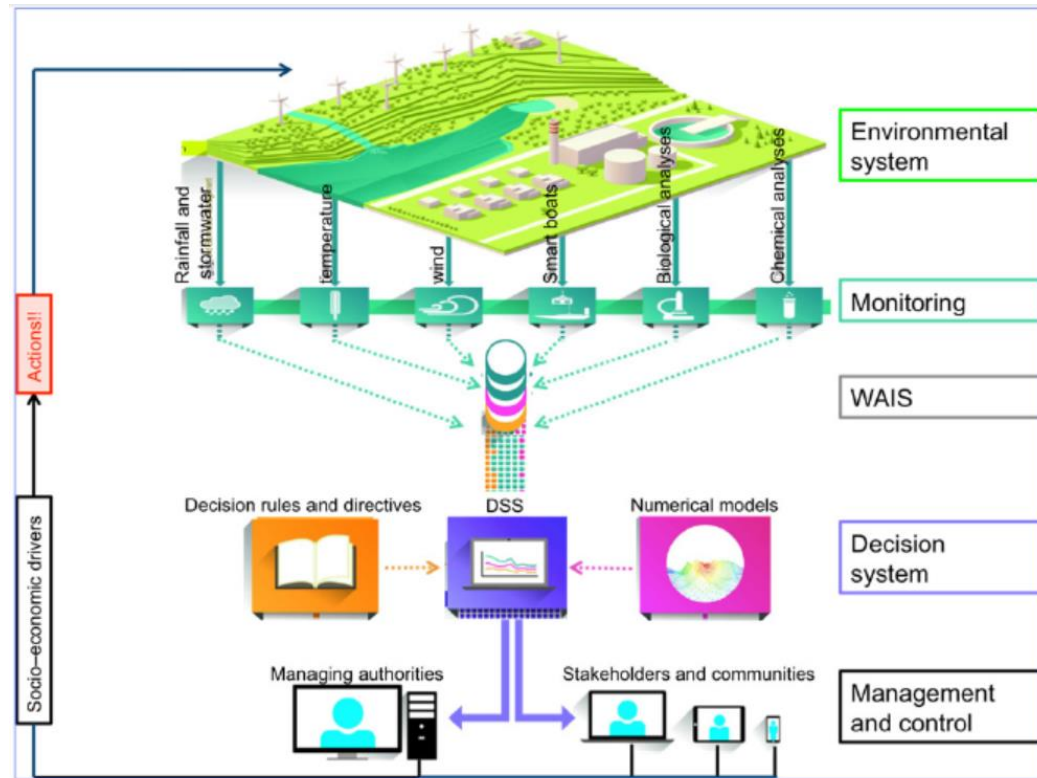
Project meeting  
Verona  
27-28 March 2014

## Research for SMEs FP7-SME-2012-1

### Lateral-flow designs with enhanced sensitivity Based on goldnanoparticles and amplification strategies



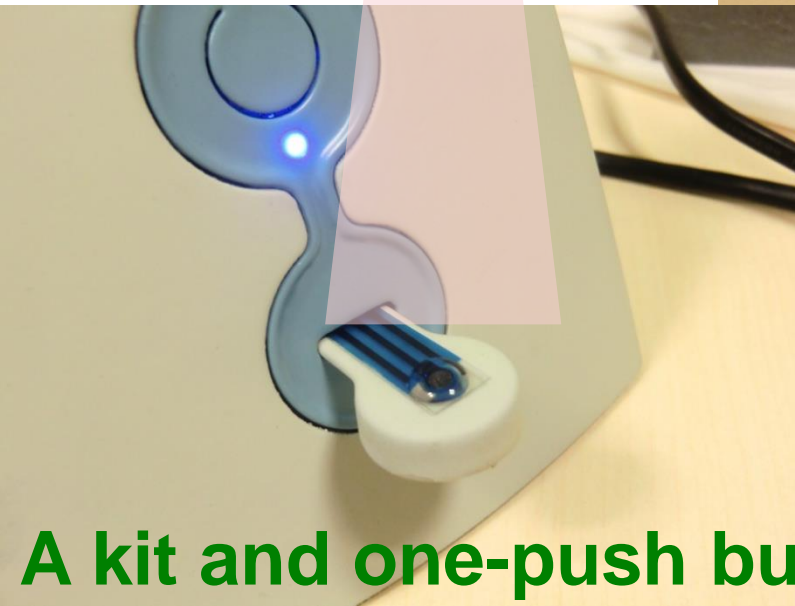
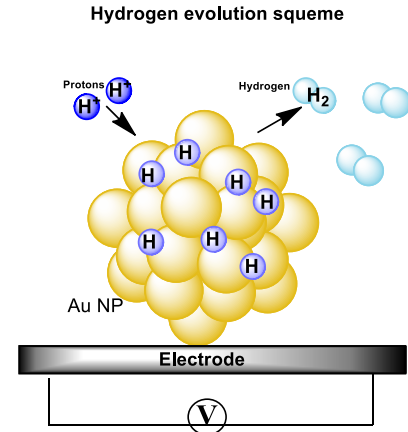
## Innovative monitoring tools for river and lake water quality, and a new business model for 2020 and beyond



**Figure 1.4** The two approaches to using innovative sensors the nanoparticle based metal system for the boats (left), and the land-based strips (right)



**HER based biosensing** device developed by  
Nanobioelectronics & Biosensors Group  
LEITAT



**A kit and one-push button system**

**Nanomaterials** can be easily coupled to plastic/paper-based platforms to build cost/efficient biosensing devices

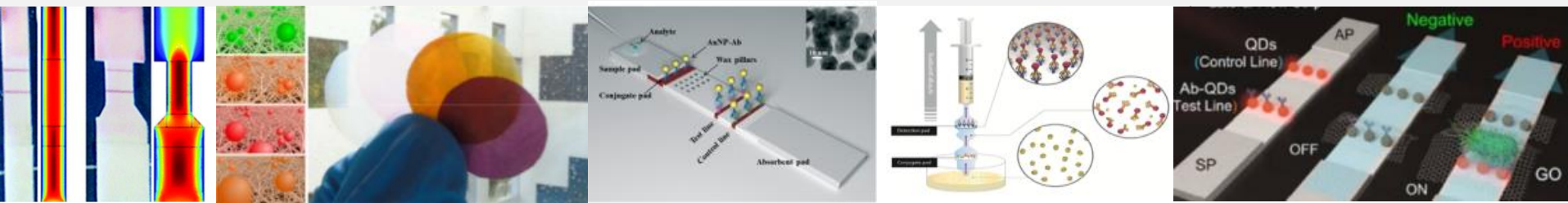
**Paper / nanopaper / graphene** exhibit unprecedented properties as either electrical or optical transducer for Biosensing applications

**Their properties and related platforms can enable:**

- Connection to a variety of (bio)receptors and nanomaterials
- Simple assay procedures and avoid time consuming labours
- Compatibility with mobile phone technology

**Can be used in**

- Security
- Health care and disease screening
- Food testing
- Environmental safety



## CHEMICAL REVIEWS

REVIEW

pubs.acs.org/CR

### Recent Trends in Macro-, Micro-, and Nanomaterial-Based Tools and Strategies for Heavy-Metal Detection

Gemma Aragay,<sup>†,‡</sup> Josefina Pons,<sup>‡</sup> and Arben Merkoçi<sup>\*,†,§</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Nanobioelectronics & Biosensors Group, Institut Català de Nanotecnologia (CIN2, ICN-CSIC), 08193, Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain

<sup>‡</sup>Department of Chemistry, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 08193, Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain

<sup>§</sup>ICREA, Barcelona, Spain

Chemical Reviews, 111, 3433-3458, 2011.

ACS Nano, 2012, DOI: 10.1021/nn301368z

### Nanochannels Preparation and Application in Biosensing

Alfredo de la Escosura-Muñiz<sup>†</sup> and Arben Merkoçi<sup>†,\*,‡</sup>

REVIEW

## CHEMICAL REVIEWS

Review

pubs.acs.org/CR

Chemical Reviews, 2012, 112, 5317-5338

### Nanomaterials for Sensing and Destroying Pesticides

Gemma Aragay,<sup>†</sup> Flavio Pino,<sup>†</sup> and Arben Merkoçi<sup>\*,†,‡</sup>

## CHEMICAL REVIEWS

Review

pubs.acs.org/CR

Chemical Reviews, 114 (12), 6285-6322 (2014)

### Nano/Micromotors in (Bio)chemical Science Applications

Maria Guix,<sup>†</sup> Carmen C. Mayorga-Martinez,<sup>†</sup> and Arben Merkoçi<sup>\*,†,‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Nanobioelectronics & Biosensors Group, Institut Català de Nanociència i Nanotecnologia (ICN2), UAB Campus, 08193 Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain

<sup>‡</sup>ICREA, Passeig de Lluís Companys, 23, 08010 Barcelona, Spain

## Chem Soc Rev

Dynamic Article Links ▶

Cite this: *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2012, 41, 2606-2622

www.rsc.org/csr

TUTORIAL REVIEW

### Cancer detection using nanoparticle-based sensors<sup>†</sup>

Maëlle Perfèzou,<sup>ab</sup> Anthony Turner<sup>bc</sup> and Arben Merkoçi<sup>\*,ad</sup>

## Chem Soc Rev

Dynamic Article Links ▶

Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/c2cs35255a

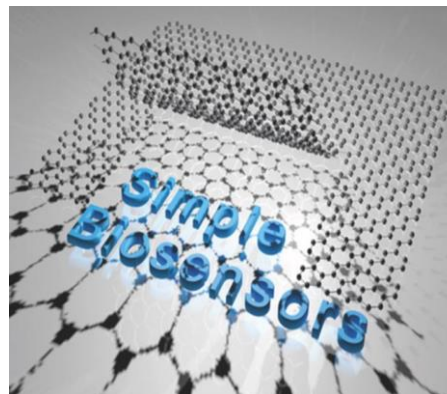
www.rsc.org/csr

TUTORIAL REVIEW

### Paper-based nanobiosensors for diagnostics

Claudio Parolo<sup>a</sup> and Arben Merkoçi<sup>\*,ab</sup>

Received 11th July 2012



### Graphene-Based Biosensors: Going Simple

Eden Morales-Narváez, Luis Baptista-Pires, Alejandro Zamora-Gálvez and Arben Merkoçi

**Advanced Materials, 2016** in press

