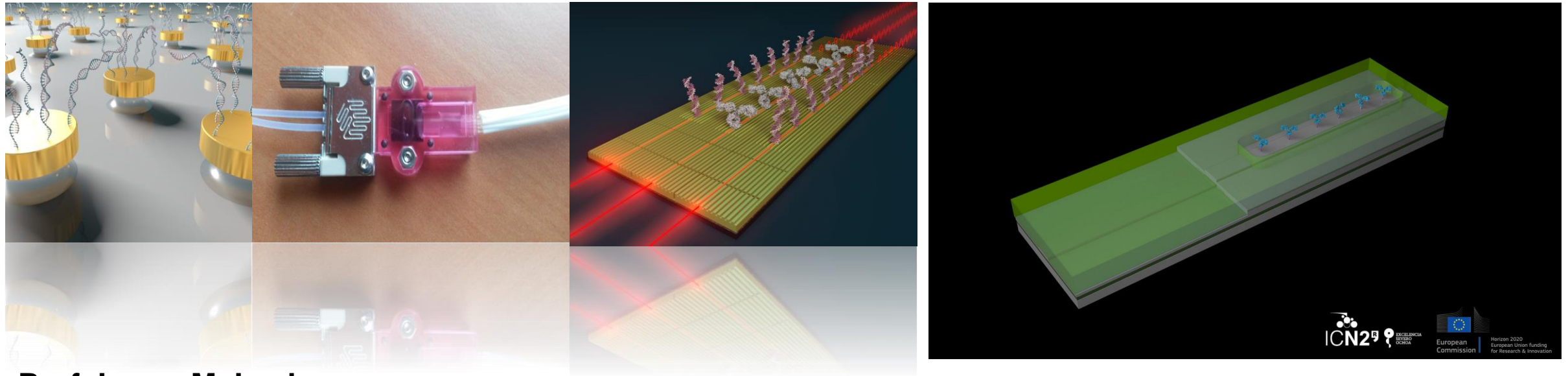


Nanophotonics Biosensor Platforms for Ultrasensitive Biological Analysis



Prof. Laura M. Lechuga

Nanobiosensors and Bioanalytical Applications Group
Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (ICN2)
CSIC, BIST & CIBER-BBN
Barcelona, Spain



@NanoB2A_group

nanob2a.icn2.cat

Clinical Diagnostics: The Problem



Long lines to get a PCR analysis.....



Long times to get a PCR result.....

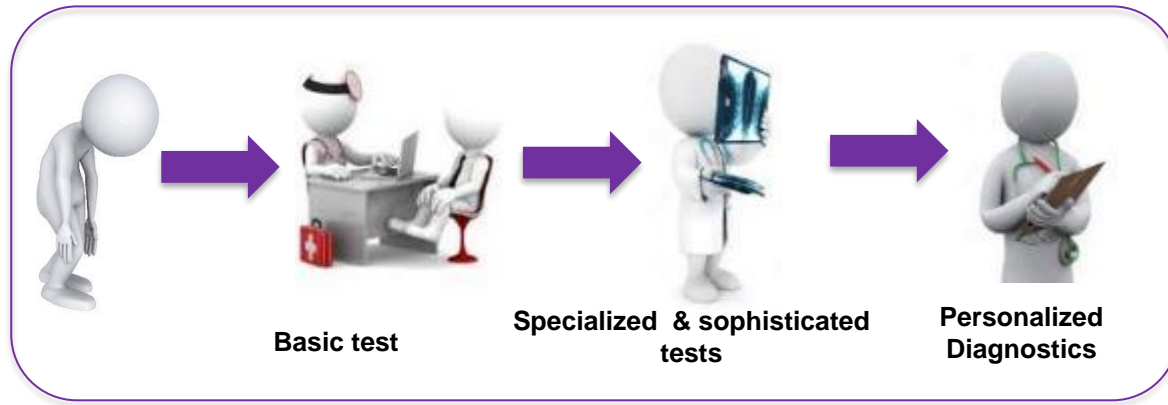
In Europe, 1 Million cancer cases have gone undiagnosed due to the Pandemic

← **Centralized Diagnostics** →

The other ravages of the pandemic: historical records in 2020 for deaths from diabetes, hypertension or suicides

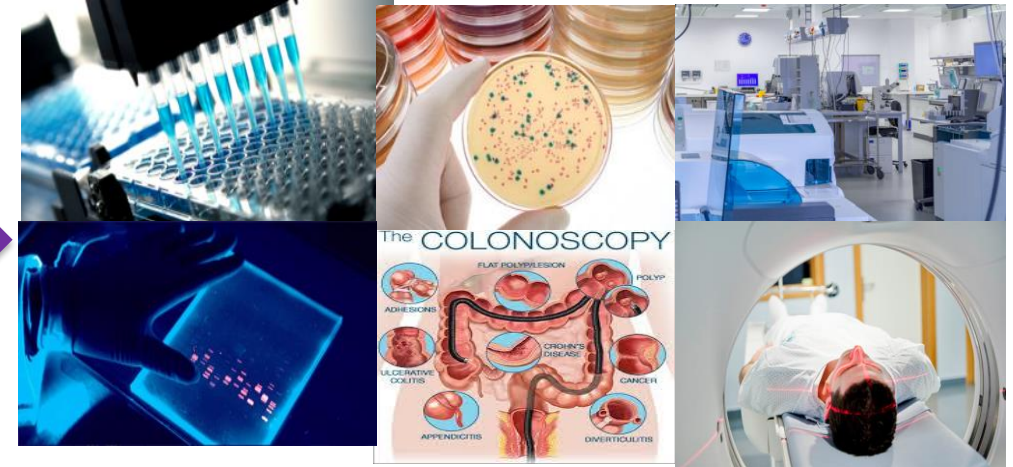
Clinical Diagnostics: The Problem

Based on symptomatology + **clinical analysis of samples**
in **centralized laboratories**



- **WAITING FOR DIAGNOSTICS**
From hours to days
- **LATE DRUG ADMINISTRATION**
Major problem in emergencies
- **INEFFICIENT POPULATION SCREENING**
Too expensive, need of a lab

Excellent diagnostics techniques but....



Laboratory
Techniques

- Time consuming
- High Sample volume
- Trained personnel
- Laboratory installations
- Bulky/expensive instrumentation

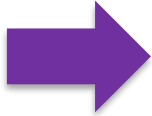
Centralized Diagnostics

Clinical Diagnostics: The Solution

POINT-OF-CARE Biosensor technology for decentralized diagnostics



Drop of sample



Point-of-care (POC) device



Pesonalised Treatment

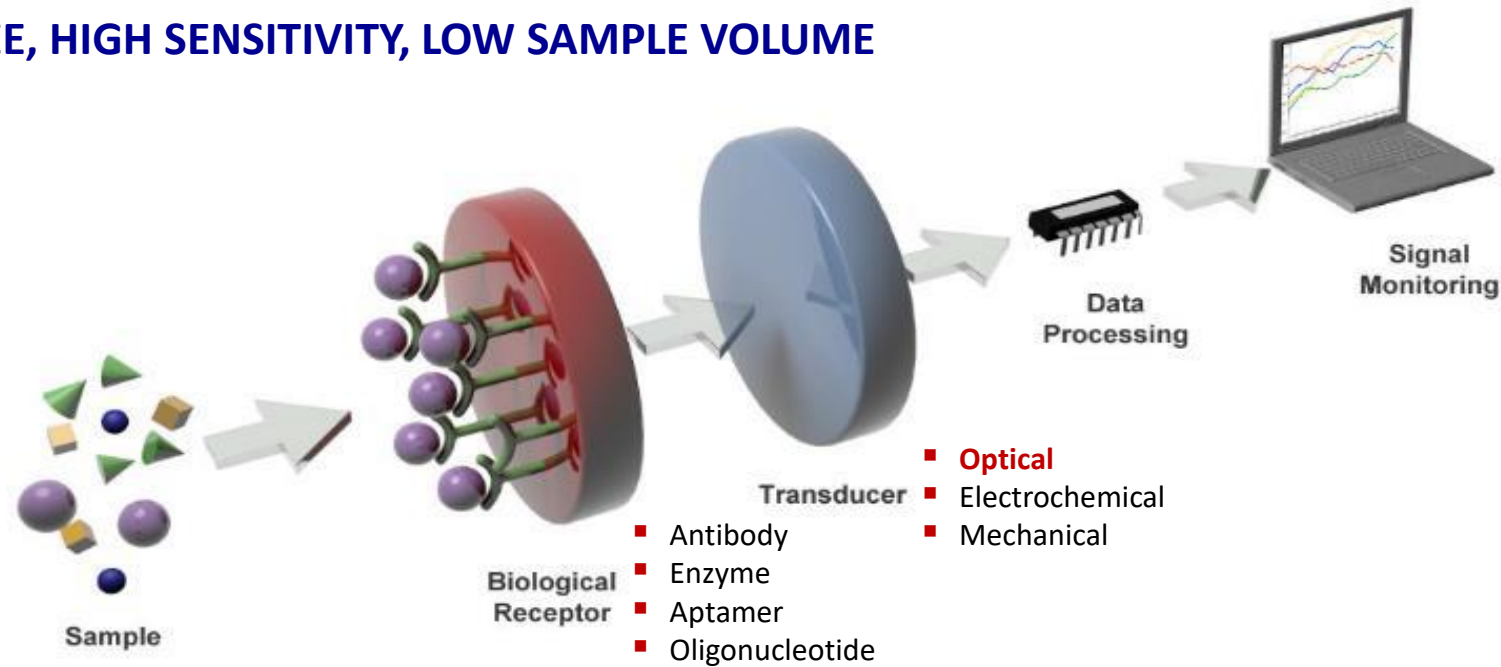
BIOSENSORS provide the possibility to create POINT-OF-CARE devices containing the functionalities of an analytical laboratory



- Easy diagnostics
- High sensitivity and Fast
- Reliability and Quantitative
- Multiplexing capabilities
- User-friendly/minimum operation
- Minimum sample, Competitive cost

BIOSENSOR DEVICE

FAST, DIRECT, LABEL-FREE, HIGH SENSITIVITY, LOW SAMPLE VOLUME



Glucose biosensor



Abbott's FreeStyle Libre

Pregnancy Test



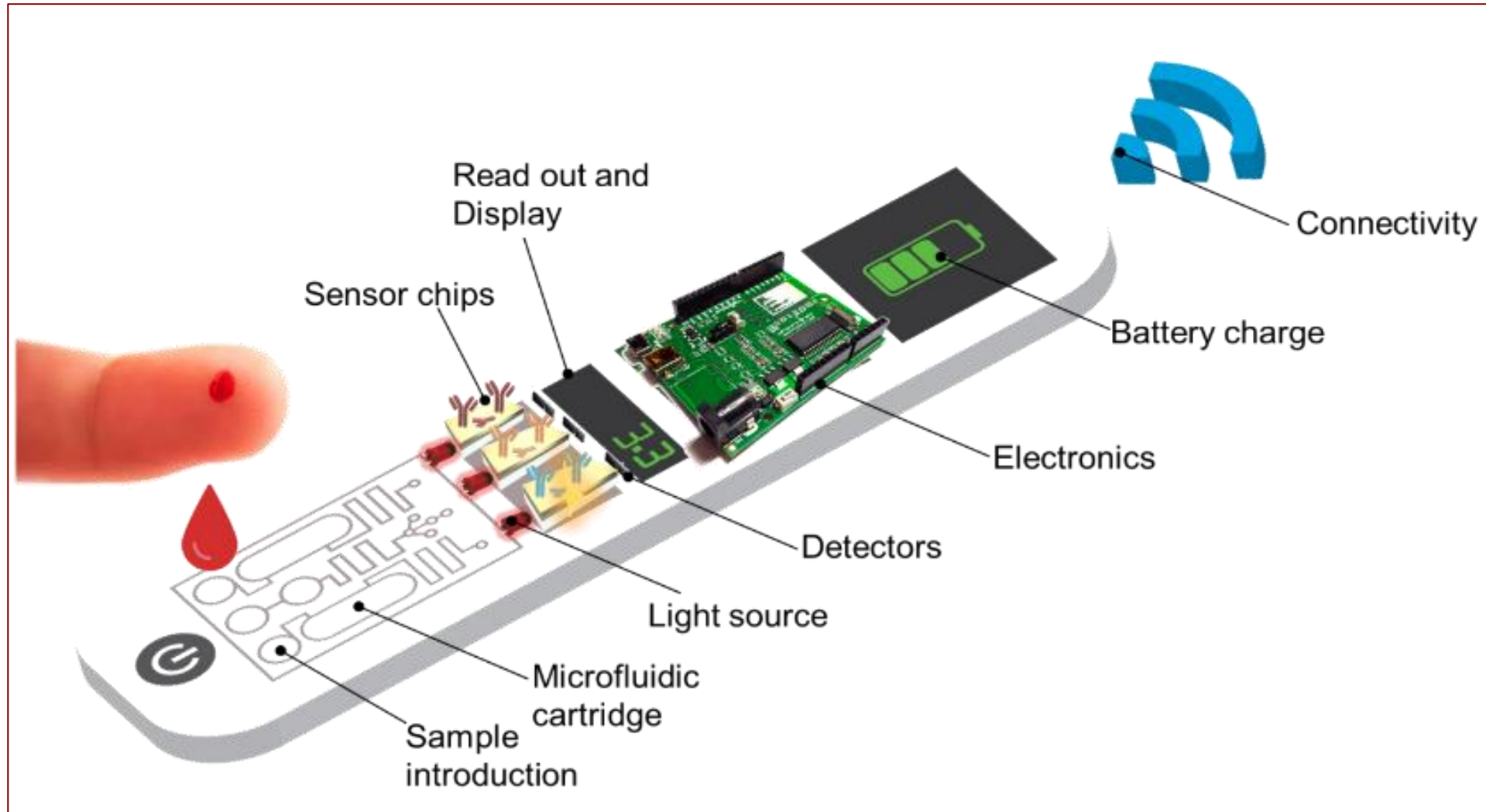
Test COVID-19



i-STAT biosensor



Point-of-Care Biosensor



Biosensor applications & Market

ICU



Emergency room



Ambulances



Family doctor's offices



Rural clinics



Nursing homes



Home testing



Pharmacies

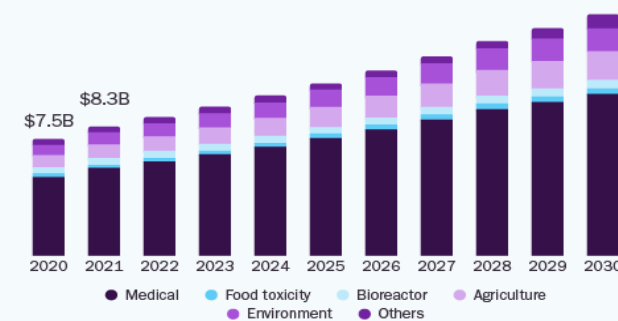


Global biosensor market

USD **24.9 billion** in 2021
Annual growth rate (CAGR):
8.0% from 2022 to 2030

U.S. Biosensors Market

size, by application, 2020 - 2030 (USD Billion)



Pandemic management



Environmental Control



Animal and livestock health management



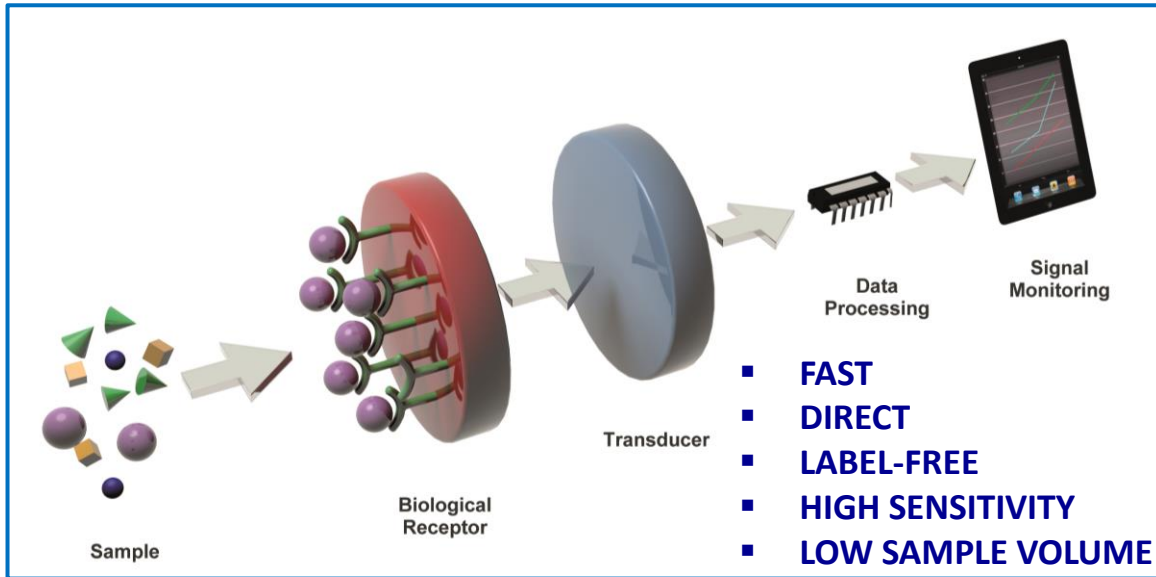
Ocean Control



Food and farming control



Biosensor devices for POC diagnostics

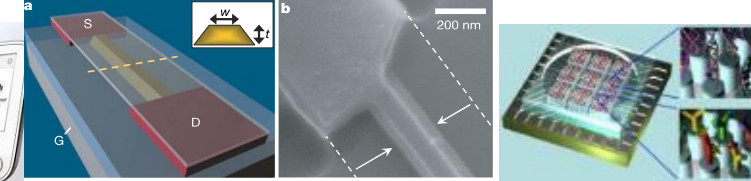


Electrochemical Biosensors

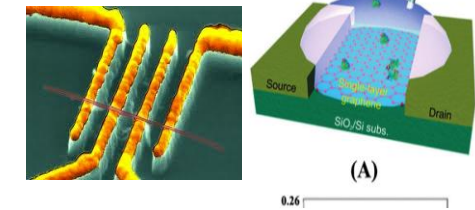
Glucose biosensor



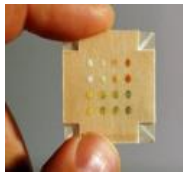
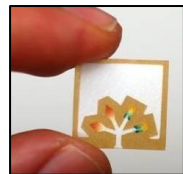
Silicon nanowires (FET)



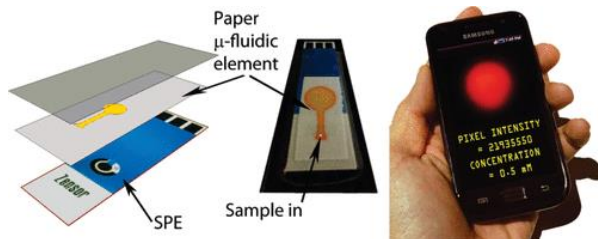
Carbon Nanotubes/Graphene



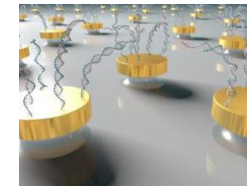
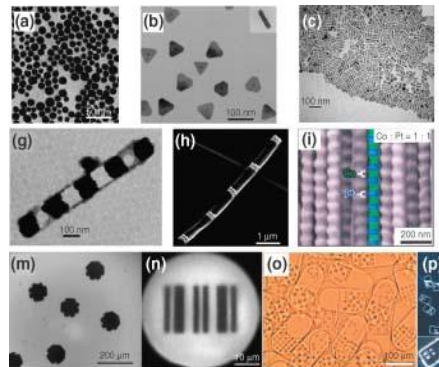
Microfluidic Paper-based Biosensors



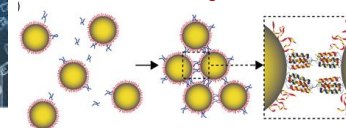
A 3-Cent HIV Test



Biosensors based on Nanoparticles/Nanomaterials



Au Nanoparticles

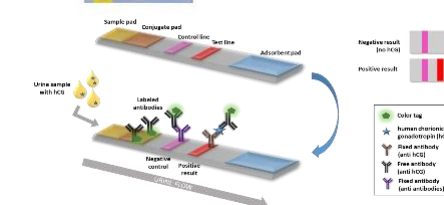


Lateral-Flow (LFA) based Biosensors

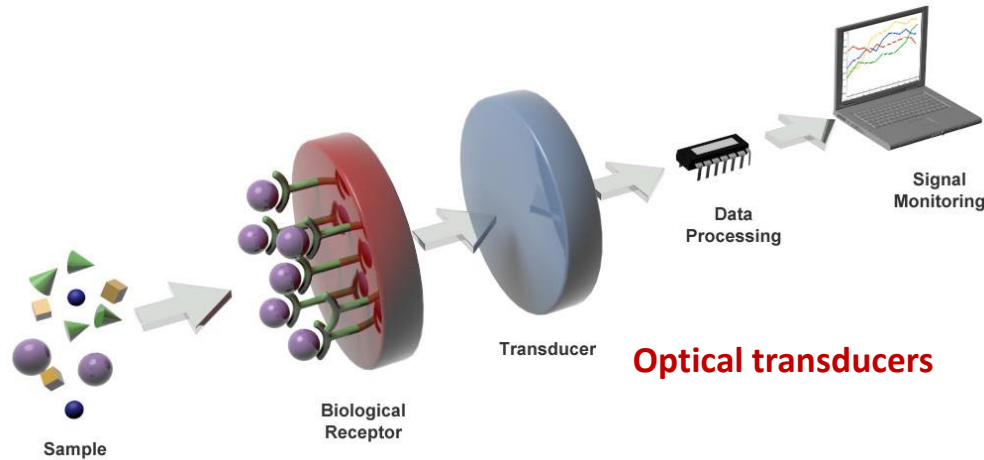
Pregnancy Test



Test COVID-19

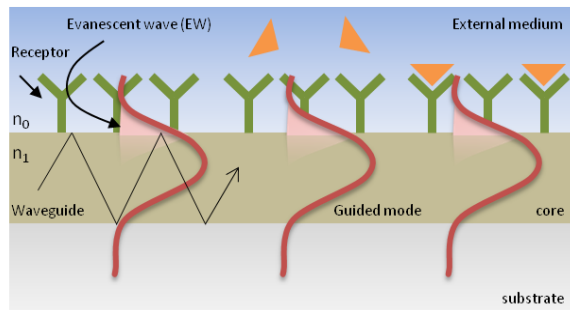


PHOTONIC BIOSENSORS

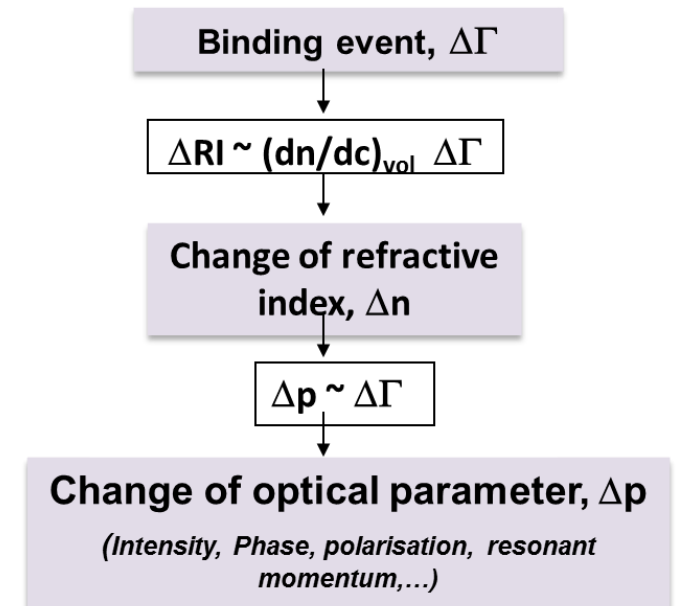
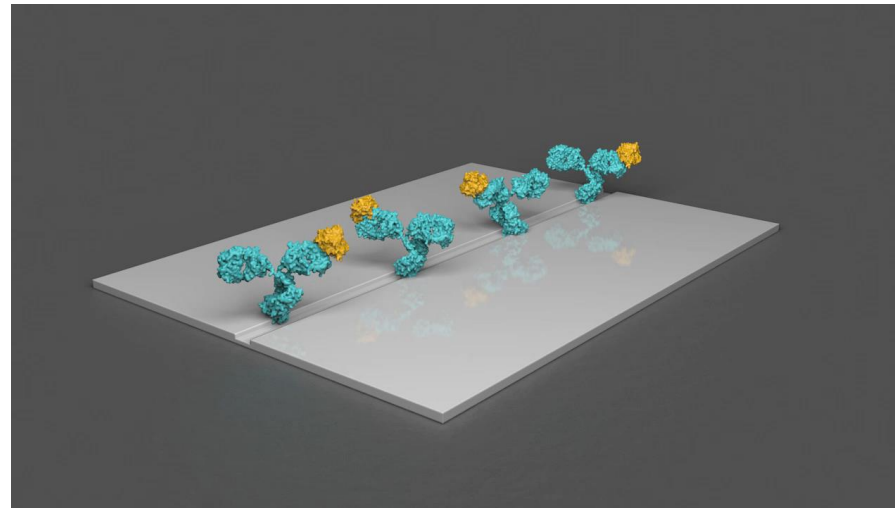


- Immunity to electromagnetic interferences
- **ULTRA SENSITIVITY**
- Miniaturization
- Integration in lab-on-a-chip
- Multiplexing
- **LABEL-FREE**
- **Real-time** analysis
- Quantitative information

**Evanescent wave principle:
refractive index change at the sensor surface**

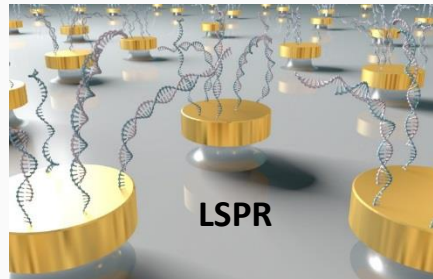
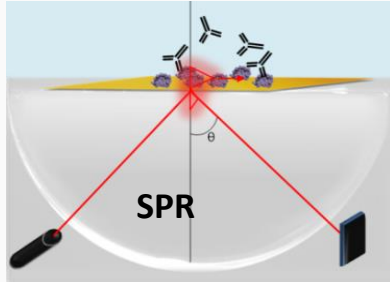


EW sensing: 100-900 nm

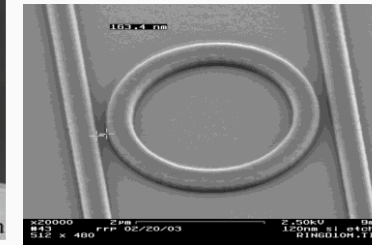
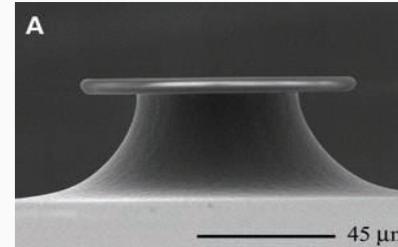


STATE-OF-THE-ART: PHOTONIC BIOSENSORS

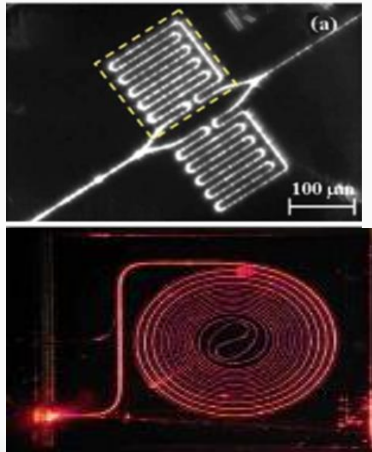
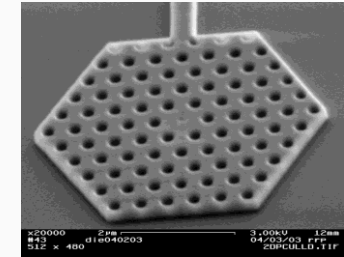
(Nano)Plasmonic sensors



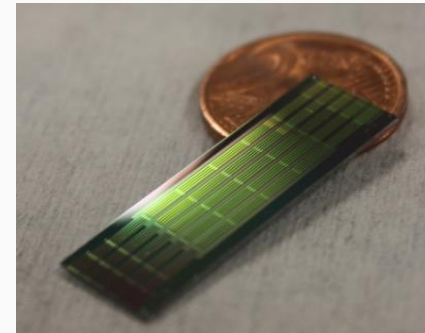
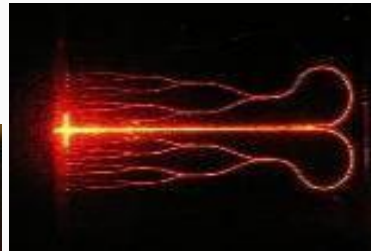
Microring resonators



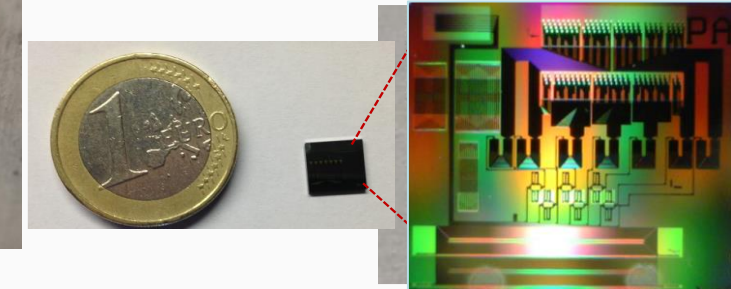
Photonic crystals



Silicon wires, slot, subwavelength WG



Integrated Interferometers



Limit of detection: 10^{-6} - 10^{-8} RIU

SILICON PHOTONICS

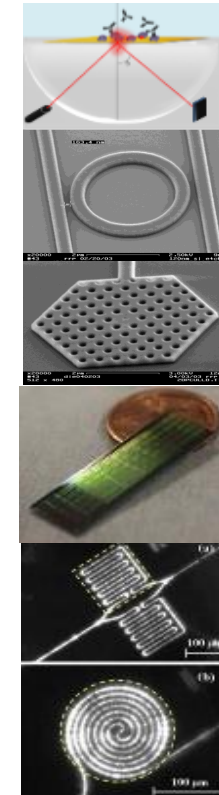
- Ultrasensitivity, label-free
- High multiplexing
- Miniaturization, Integration, Portable
- Mass production, SINGLE USE

Laser & Photonics Reviews 6, 463-487 (2012)
Analytical Chimica Acta 806, 55-73 (2014)
Analytical Methods 8, 8380 – 8394 (2016)
Sensors 16(3), 285 (2016)
Nanophotonics 6, 123–136, (2017)
Optics and Photonics News 31 (4), 24 (2020)
Optics Letters 45 (24), 6595 (2020)

Sensitivity comparison

STATE-OF-THE-ART: PHOTONIC BIOSENSORS

Biosensor	RI detection limit (RIU)	Mass detection limit (pg/mm ²)
Nanoplasmonics	$10^{-5} - 10^{-7}$	0.1 - 1
Grating couplers	$2 \cdot 10^{-6}$	0.3
Microring resonators	$10^{-5} - 7 \cdot 10^{-7}$	1.5 - 3
Photonic crystals	10^{-5}	0.4 - 7.5
Mach-Zehnder interferometer	$10^{-7} - 2 \cdot 10^{-8}$	0.01 - 0.06
Young interferometer	$6 \cdot 10^{-8} - 9 \cdot 10^{-9}$	0.01 - 0.75
Bimodal waveguide interferometer	10^{-8}	0.01
Silicon wires	$2 \cdot 10^{-6}$	0.25
Slot waveguides	10^{-6}	0.9 - 16



Γ Calculated according

$$\Gamma = \frac{(n_t - n_o)}{\left(\frac{dn}{d[C]} \right) \left(\frac{\partial N_{eff}}{\partial d_t} \right)} \Delta N_{eff}$$

Laser & Photonics Reviews 6, 463-487 (2012)

Analytical Chimica Acta 806, 55-73 (2014)

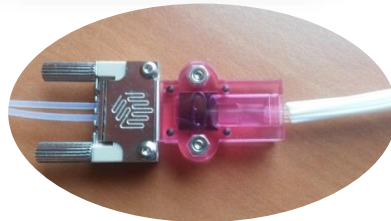
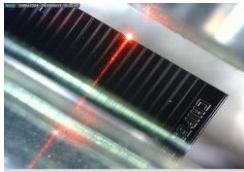
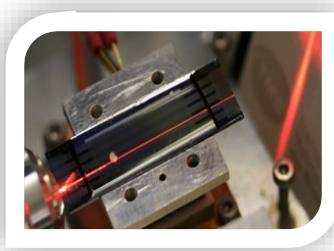
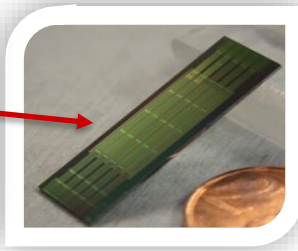
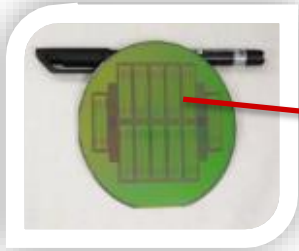
Analytical Methods 8, 8380 – 8394 (2016)

Sensors 16(3), 285 (2016)

Nanophotonics 6, 123 (2017)

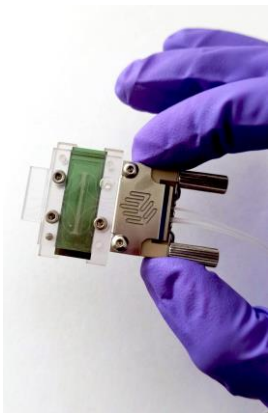
Photonics NanoBiosensors POC @ Nanob2a Group

Nanophotonic Waveguide Interferometric Biosensors



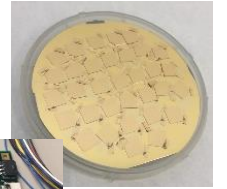
Silicon Photonics Technology

LOD: pM-fM



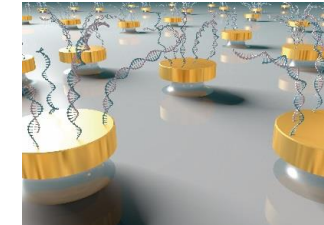
NanoPlasmonic Biosensors (SPR & LSPR)

POC- SPR Biosensor

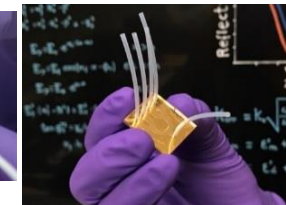
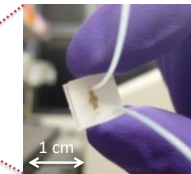
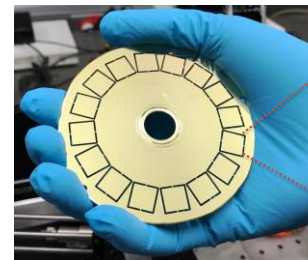


LSPR Biosensor

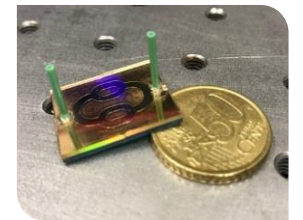
- Nanodiscs
- Nanogratings



LOD: nM-pM



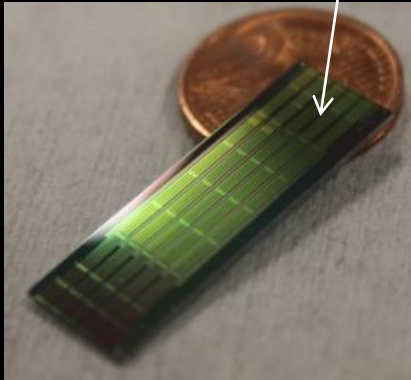
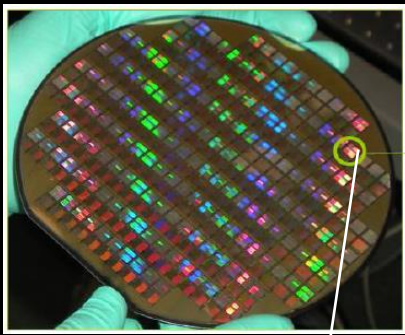
Multiplex



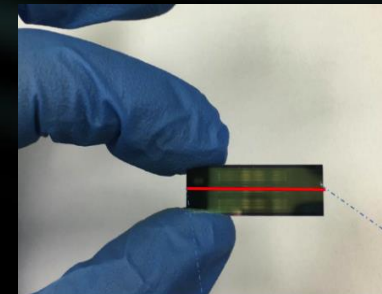
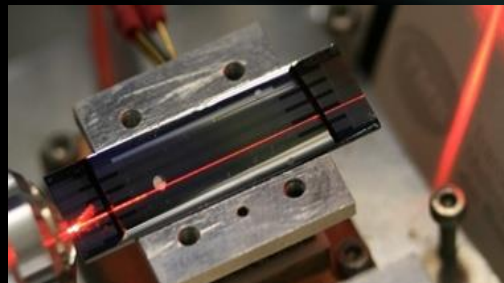
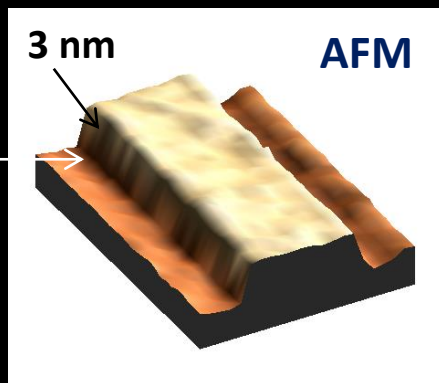
- Complete in-house design, fabrication and assembly
- Miniaturized & compact lab platforms



Nanophotonic interferometric biosensors



Nanometric waveguides in
silicon technology (3 nm)

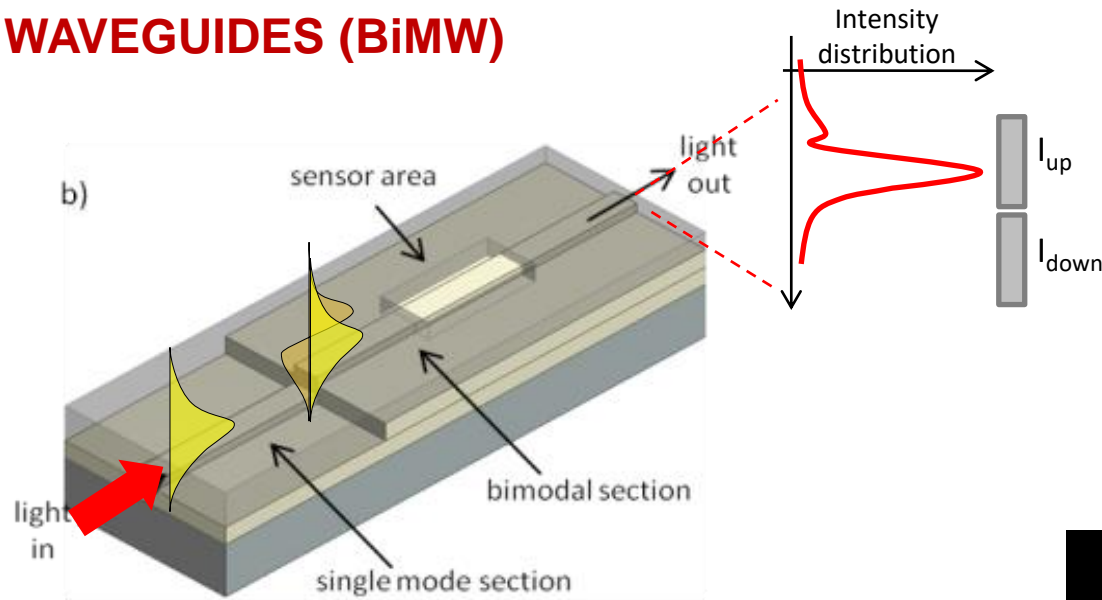


Label-free detection
in the pM-fM range

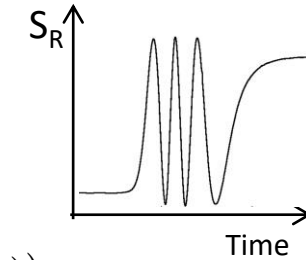


Bimodal waveguide interferometer (BiMW)

BIMODAL WAVEGUIDES (BiMW)



$$S_R(t) = \frac{I_{up} - I_{down}}{I_{up} + I_{down}}$$



$$S_R(t) \propto V \cos(\Delta\phi_S(t))$$

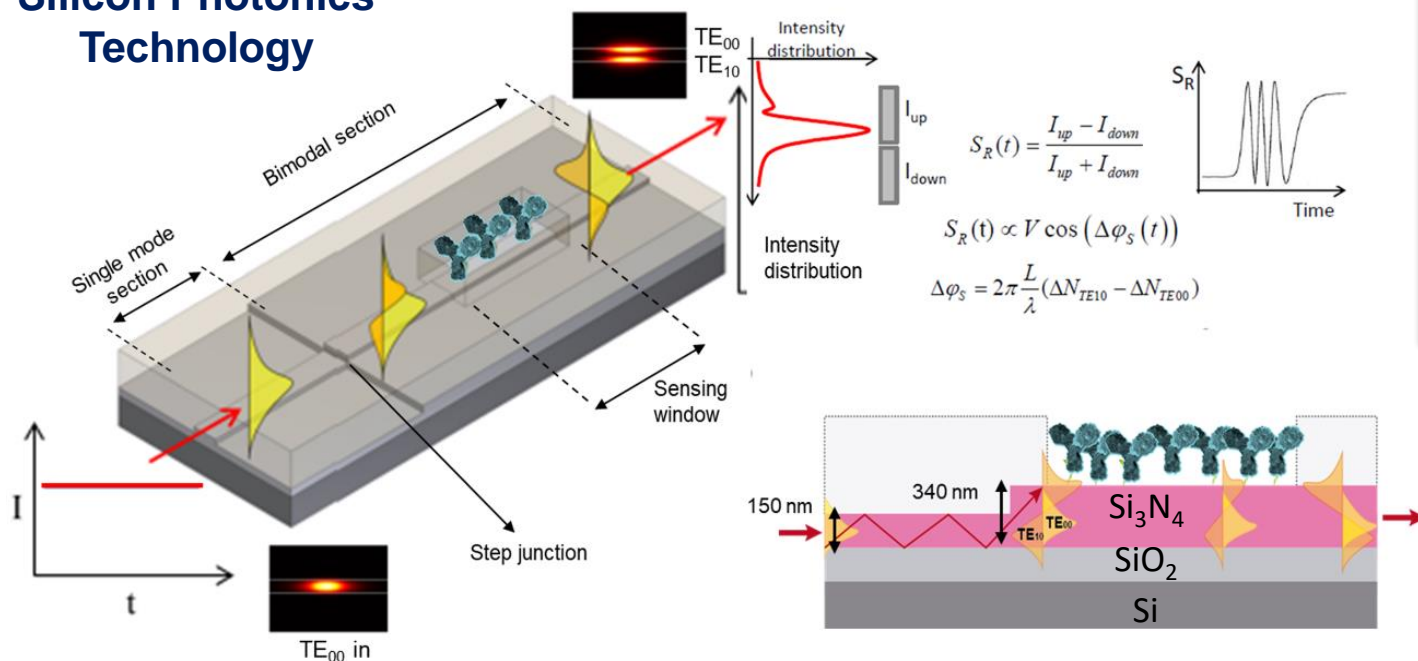
$$\Delta\phi_S = 2\pi \frac{L}{\lambda} (\Delta N_{TE10} - \Delta N_{TE00})$$

PRINCIPLE OF OPERATION

- Single channel waveguide interferometer
- Operated on interference of two light modes (fundamental and first order) of the same polarization
- No need anymore of Y-shape splitters (as in MZI or Young Interferometer)
- The modes propagate with different velocities and create an interference pattern at the exit, which intensity distribution depends on the refractive index of the cladding layer through the interaction with the evanescent field.

Bimodal waveguide interferometer (BiMW)

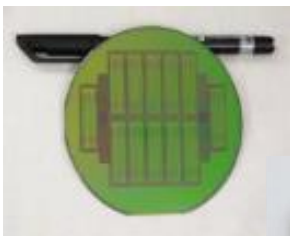
Silicon Photonics Technology



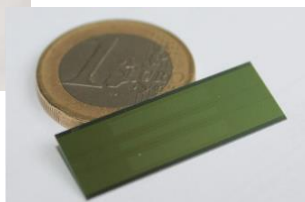
- One of the most sensitive EW sensors
- A simple PIC sensor
- High Multiplexing capabilities
- Operating in the visible range
- Mass production (Clean Room foundries)

- Si₃N₄ **150 nm** (single mode)/ **340 nm** (bimodal)
- rib depth: **1- 3 nm**
- Waveguide width ≤ 3μm

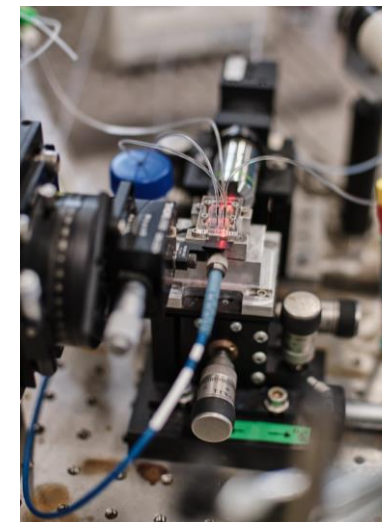
Robust and Reproducible SiN technology



12 chips/wafer



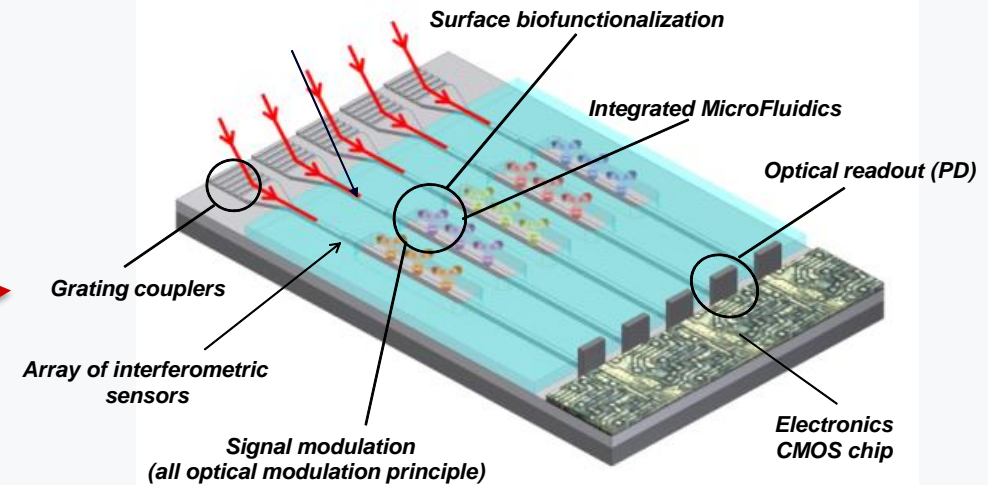
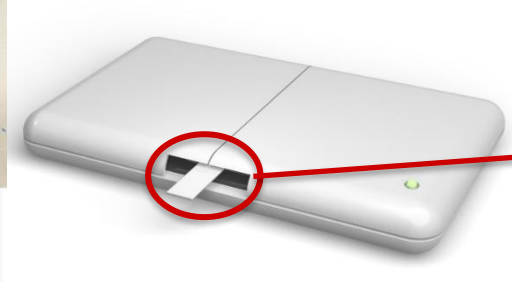
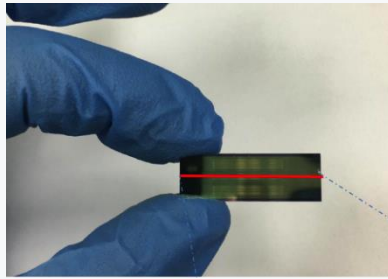
20 sensors/chip



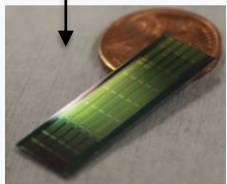
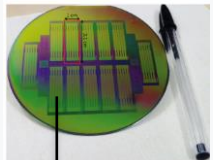
LOD: 10⁻⁸ RIU
(low pg/mL range)

Engineering of the BiMW POC biosensor

Portable POC Biosensor platform

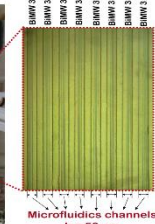
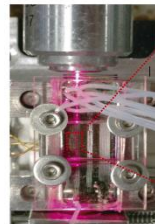


Sensor chip (SiN technology)

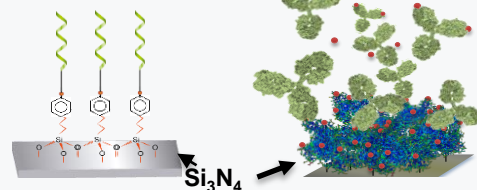


Fabrication
@Clean Room

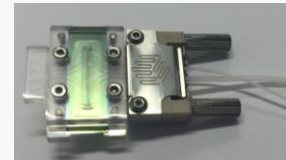
Polymer microfluidics



Surface Biofunctionalization

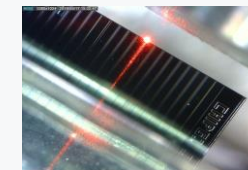
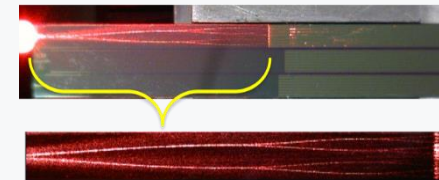


Cartridge development

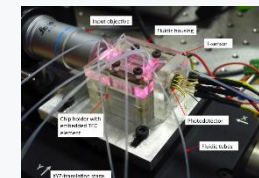


Packaging
& Storage

Light incoupling & Modulation

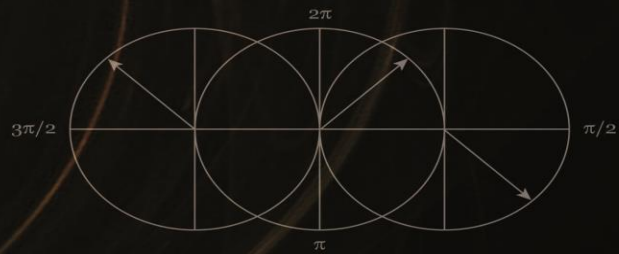


Optical readout & Signal processing



Laser & Photonics Reviews 9 (2), 248-255 (2015)
Journal of Physics: Photonics 1 (2), 025002 (2019)

BIOFUNCTIONALIZATION



Surface biofunctionalization

✱ Chemical Surface activation (1st step)

- Introduction of functional groups to bind to the bioreceptor

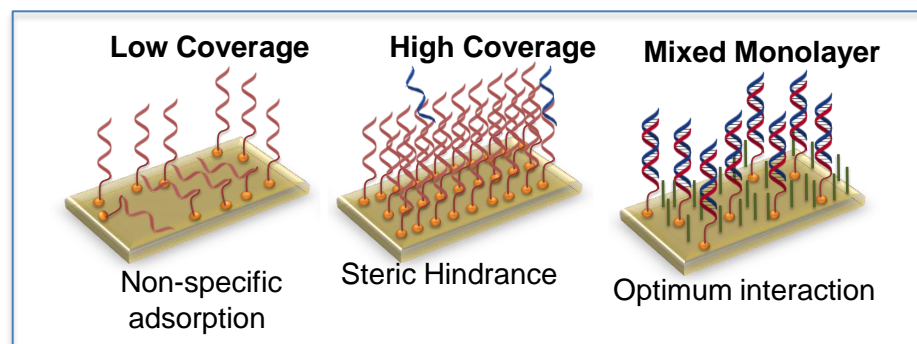
✱ Surface biofunctionalization (2nd step)

Maintaining structure and functional properties

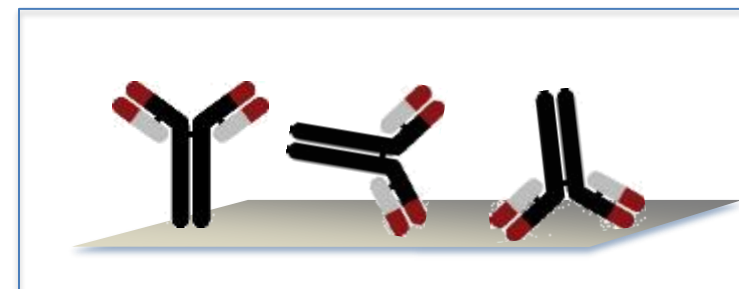
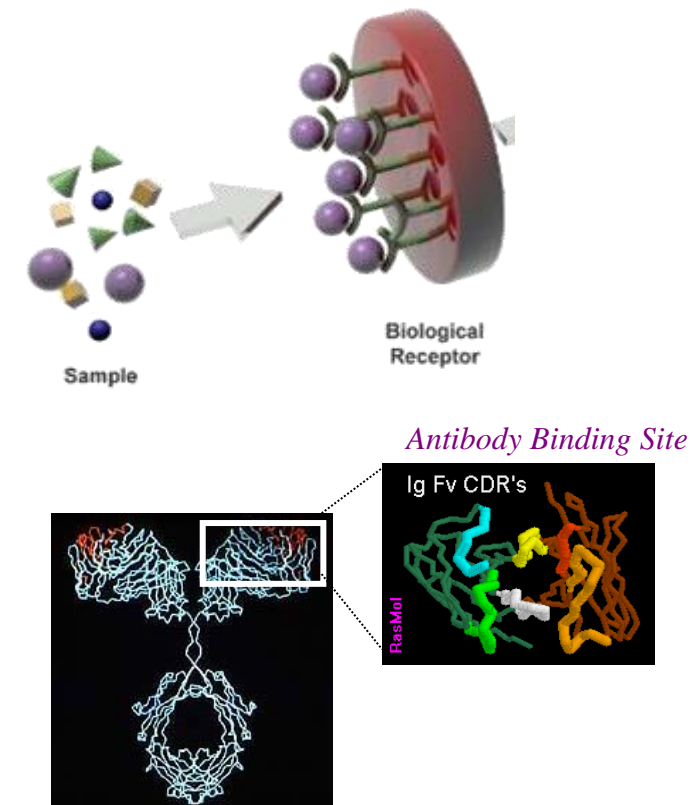
- **Stable** linkage between the biomolecule and the surface
- Optimized **density** of functional groups
- Favorable **orientation**
- Good **accessibility** to the target (horizontal and vertical spacers)

✱ Antifouling surfaces (3rd step)

- Prevention of non-specific adsorptions from real samples



KEY STEPS

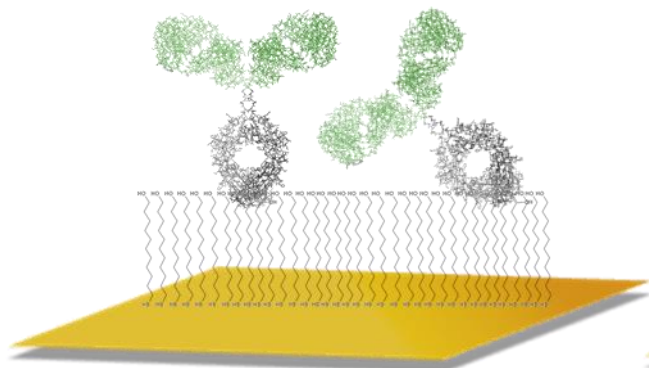


TRAC 79,191-198 (2016)

Soler et al. Anal Bioanal Chem (2021)

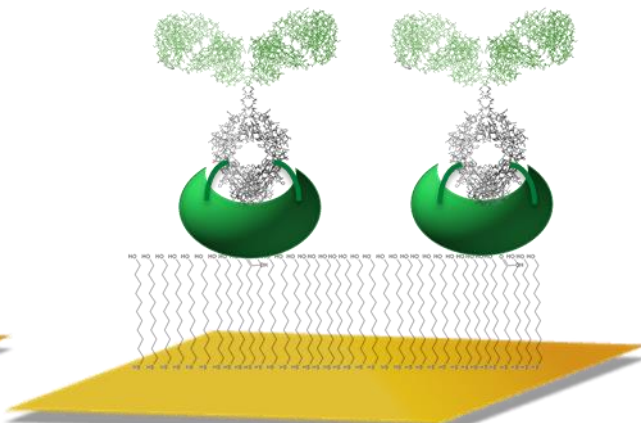
Bioreceptor Immobilization Strategies

Covalent Strategy



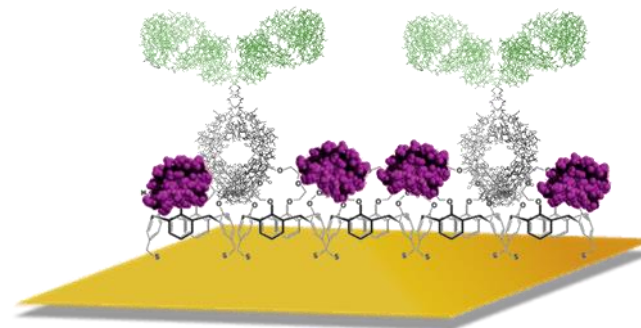
- 1) Alkanethiol SAM (SH-ROH:SH-RCO₂H)
- 2) Antibody covalent binding

Protein G Strategy



- 1) Alkanethiol SAM (SH-ROH:SH-RCO₂H)
- 2) Protein G covalent binding
- 3) Antibody (Fc region) affinity capture
- 4) Crosslinking ProteinG-mAb (BS³)

Calixarene Strategy



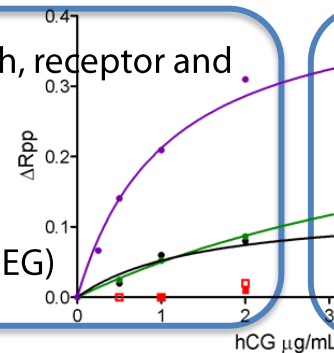
- 1) Prolinker™
- 2) Antibody affinity capture
- 3) BSA blocking

Parameters to be optimized: surface chemistry, pH, ionic strength, receptor and Ab concentration, regeneration solution

Controlled Antibody Orientation	Low	High	High
Antibody Modification	High	Medium	Low
Efficiency on Biosurface Regeneration	High	High	Very High

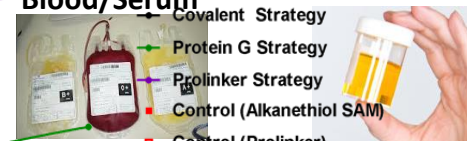
Antifouling Strategies for real samples evaluation

- Modifying medium composition: surfactants, additives
- Modifying surface behaviour: hydrophilic blocking agents (as PEG)



Real Samples

Blood/Serum



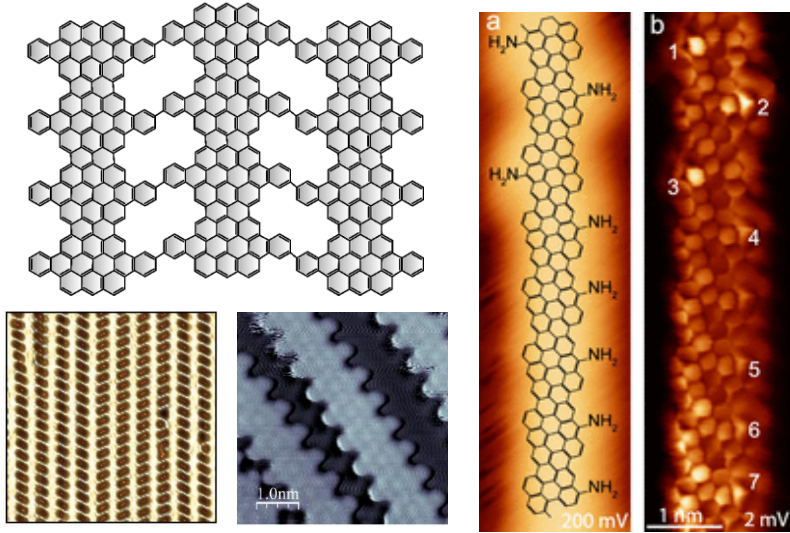
Tears



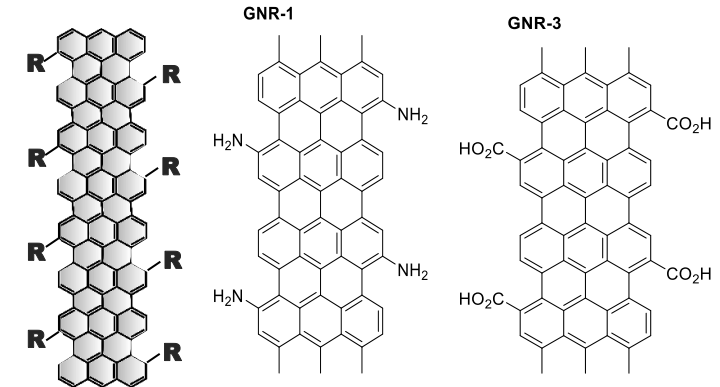
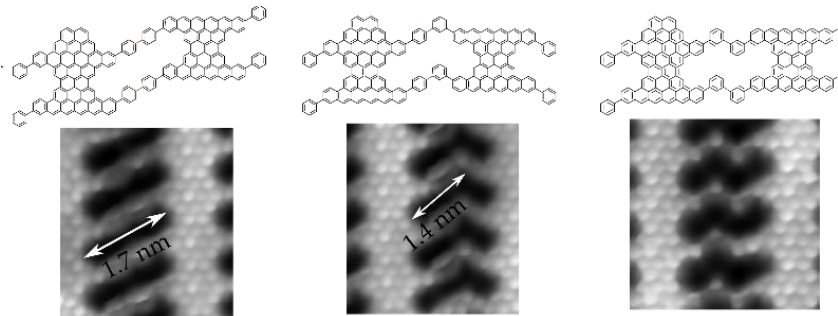
Urine

2D Graphene Nanostructures as Sensor Biofunctionalization Template

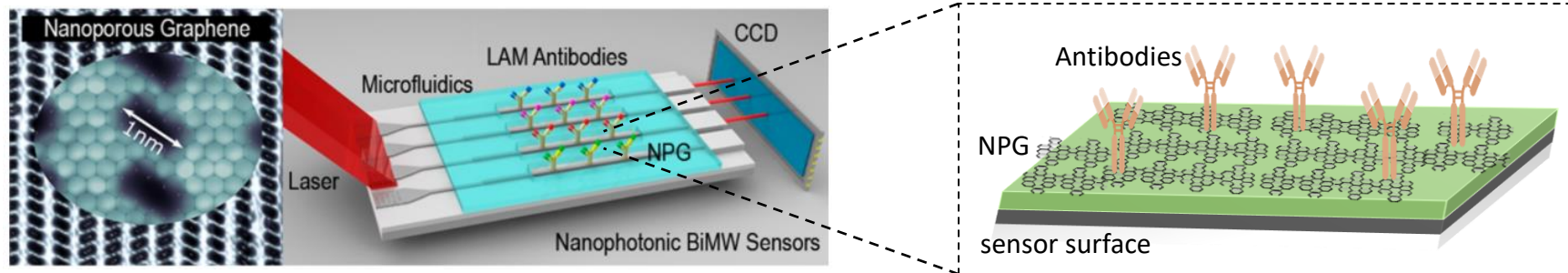
Nanoporous Graphene (NPG) and Graphene Nanoribbons (GNR)



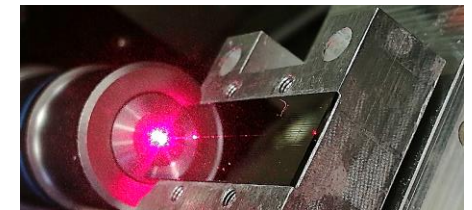
in collaboration with: César Moreno & Aitor Mugarza (AMS, ICN2)
Bottom-up synthesis of multifunctional nanoporous graphene
C. Moreno, et al. Science (2018) 360, 199-203



2D Functional Organic Template for Biofunctionalization



Preliminary results



LOD= 2 E-7 RIU

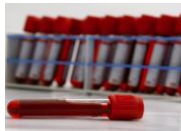
- Control of size and shape of the nanoporous
- Bottom-up introduction of functional groups
- Uniform and atomically precise distribution
- Controlled density of bioreceptors
- Applicable to all silicon-based surfaces

Summary of Biosensor Applications @NanoB2A Group

PROTEIN BIOMARKERS

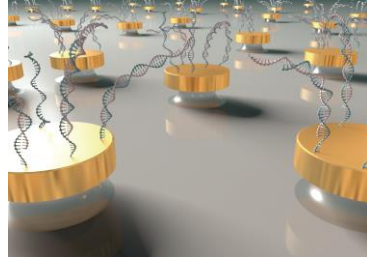


Early Colorectal cancer (autoantibodies)
Gluten consumption
Hormone level alteration
Doping control
Tuberculosis diagnosis
Allergy diagnosis (IgE)
Growth factors
Antibiotics

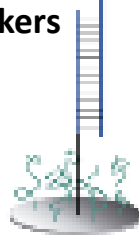


Urine, serum,
plasma, tears

NUCLEIC ACIDS



Single DNA cancer mutations
microRNAs biomarkers
Messenger RNA
DNA Epigenetics
Alternative splicing RNA
Antibiotic resistance markers



Urine, serum,
plasma, tissue

SMALL ORGANIC MOLECULES

Environmental water pollutants

Pesticides, antibiotics
Organo-halogenated compounds, biocides



Food contaminants

Pesticides residues:
canned food, oranges

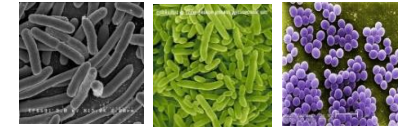


Drugs

Antibiotics
Anticoagulants (Sintrom®)

Waste- sea-tap-
river-water, food

INFECTIOUS PATHOGENS



Nosocomial infections

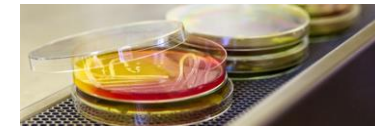
Chronic liver failure

Sepsis

Resistant bacteria

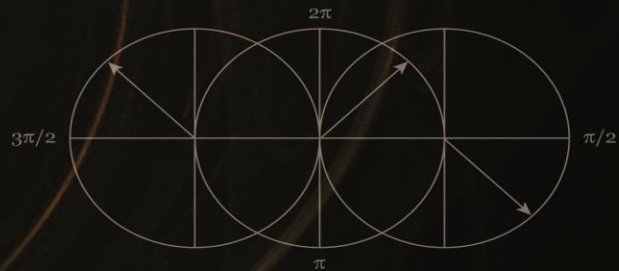
Water pathogens

Respiratory virus



Urine, serum,
plasma, ascetic fluid

EARLY DISEASES DIAGNOSIS



POC biosensor for Early colon cancer diagnosis

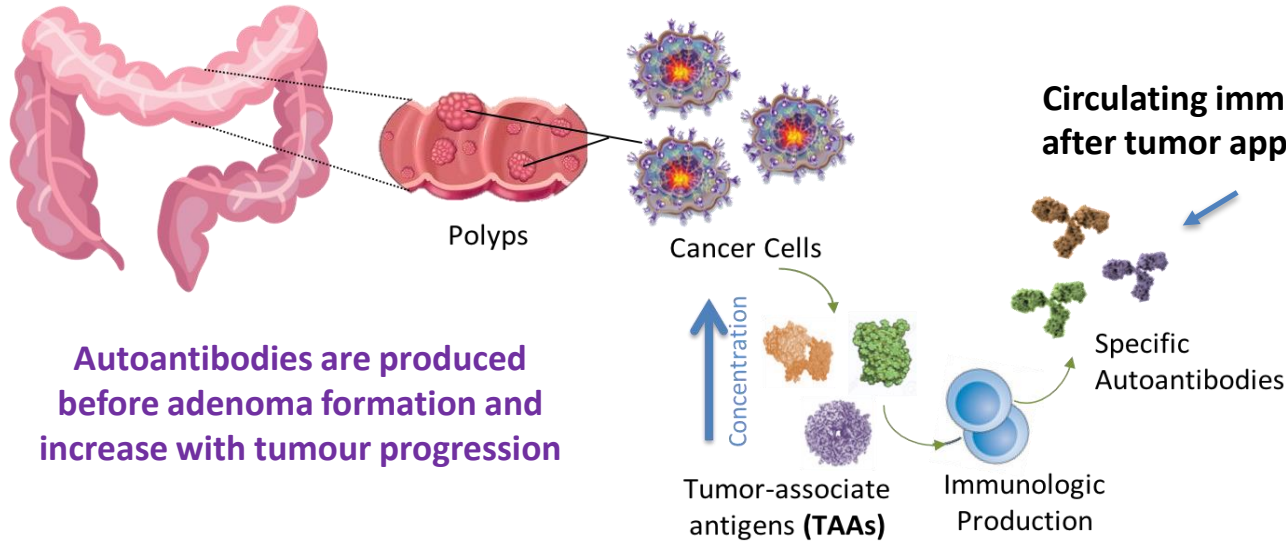
Colorectal Cancer Diagnosis:

- Colonoscopy/Sigmoidoscopy
- Faecal occult blood test (FOBT)

Highly invasive – Advanced stages – Low accuracy



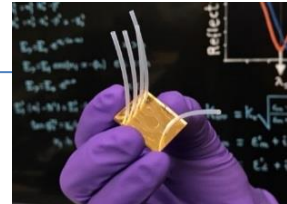
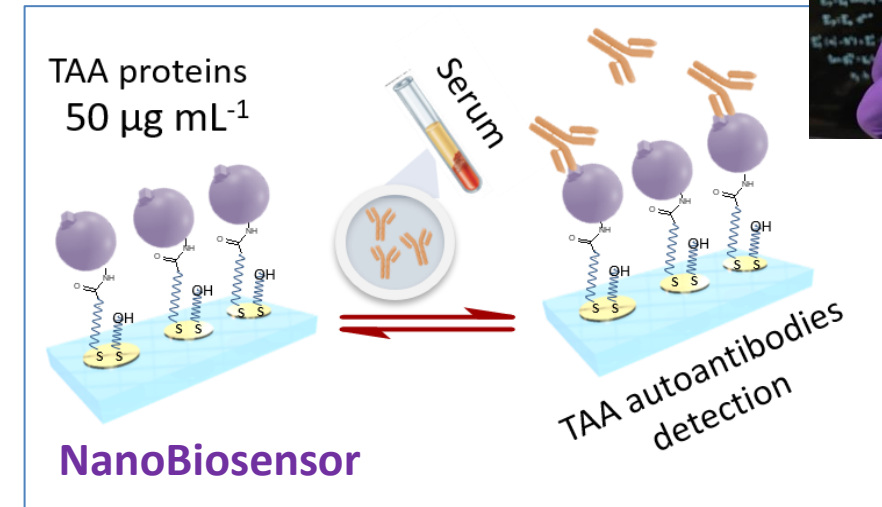
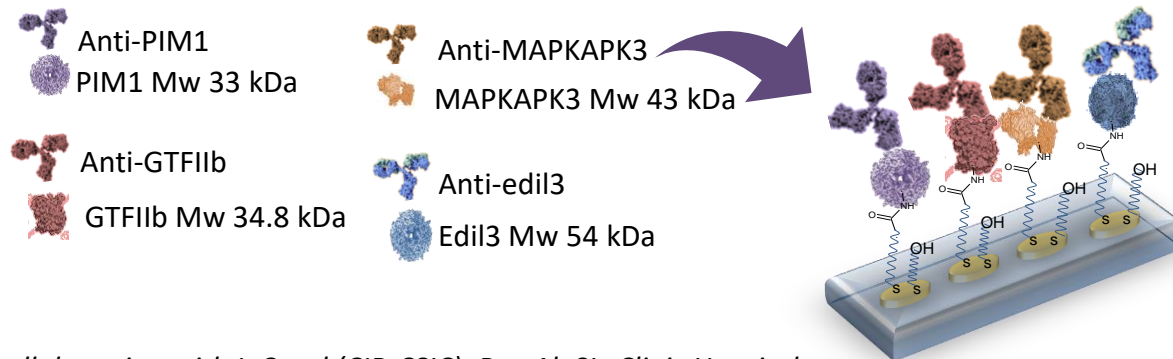
Immunologic Reaction to Cancer



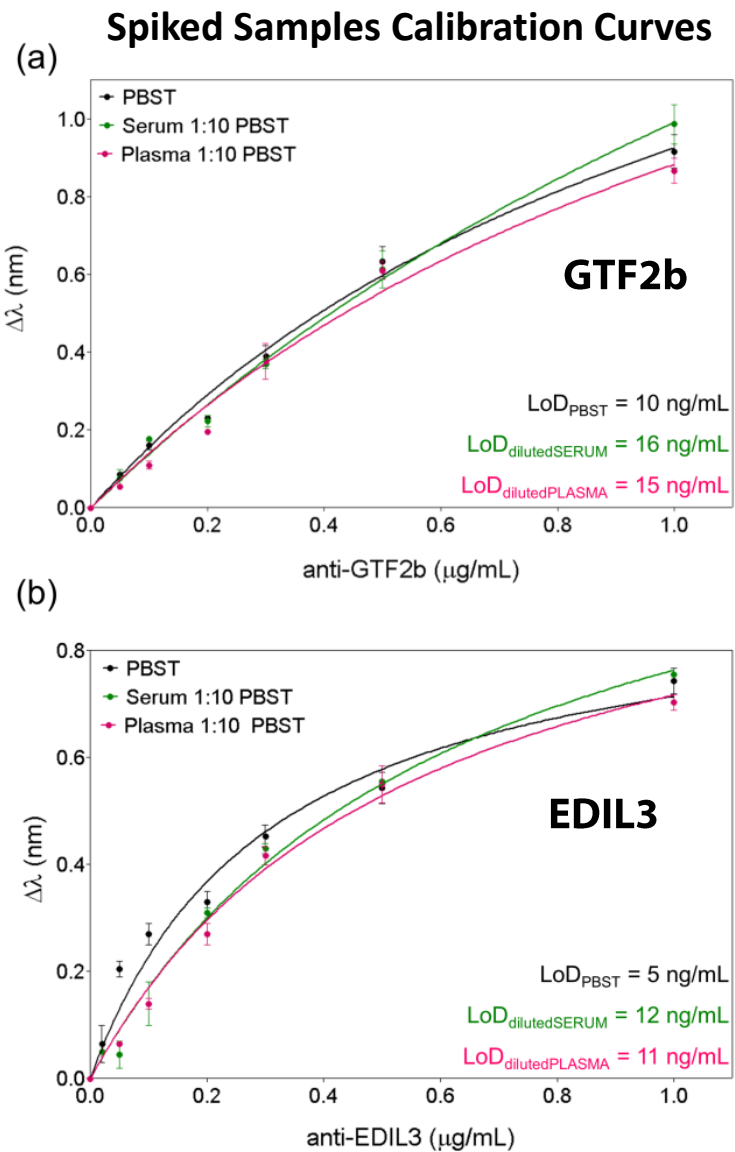
Colorectal Cancer TAAs

- **GTF2b** MW: 34.8 kDa
- **Edil3** MW: 54 kDa
- **MAPKAPK3** MW: 43 kDa
- **PIM1** MW: 33 kDa

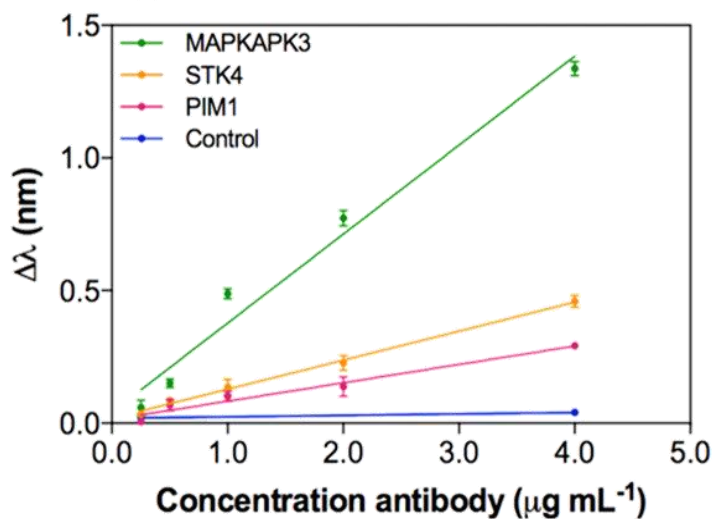
Multiplexed biosensor for specific autoantibody panels



POC biosensor for Early colon cancer diagnosis



Direct Quantification in Serum or Plasma



Clinical Samples

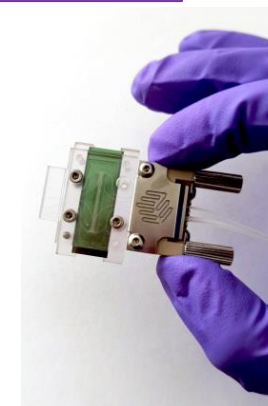
GTF2b Analysis:

	ELISA (OD)	Biosensor (μg/mL)
S1	0.18	ND
S2	0.48	0.175 ± 0.008
S3	0.56	0.254 ± 0.010
S4	0.13	ND

Hospital de Gijón

- Direct and label-free detection of tumour-associated autoantibodies
- Good sensitivity, selectivity and reproducibility
- Feasibility to quantify the TAA autoantibodies in serum and plasma
- Qualitative validation: correlation with clinical analysis results

An easy POC biosensor test while avoiding colonoscopy



Recombinant proteins and commercial TAA antibodies as model target of the human autoantibodies

Early detection of bladder cancer

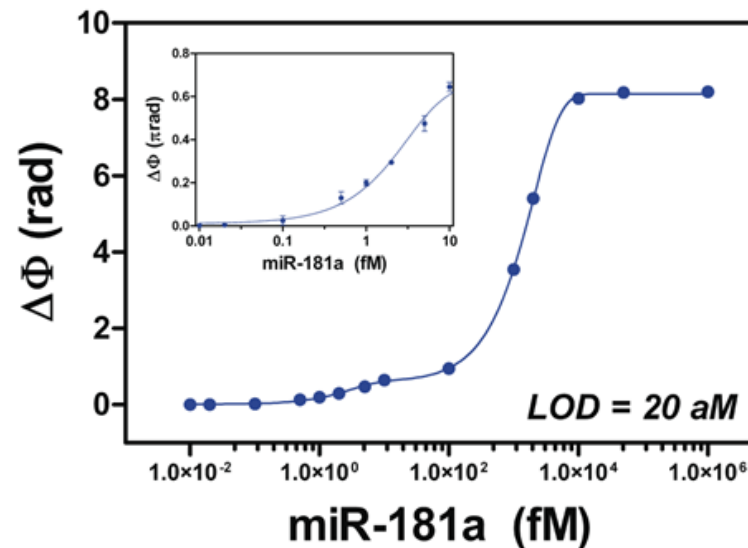
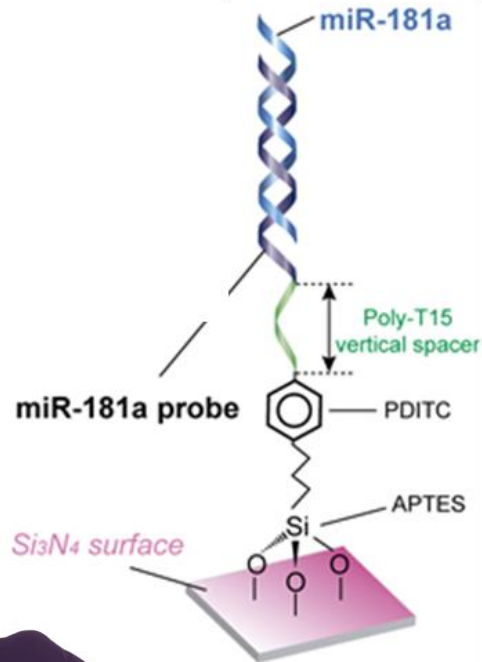


Micro-RNAs (miRNA) are short RNAs (~ 20 nt) implicated in many diseases as: **Cancer**, **Neurodegenerative disorders**, **Diabetes**. They are present in **biofluids** as blood, urine, saliva.

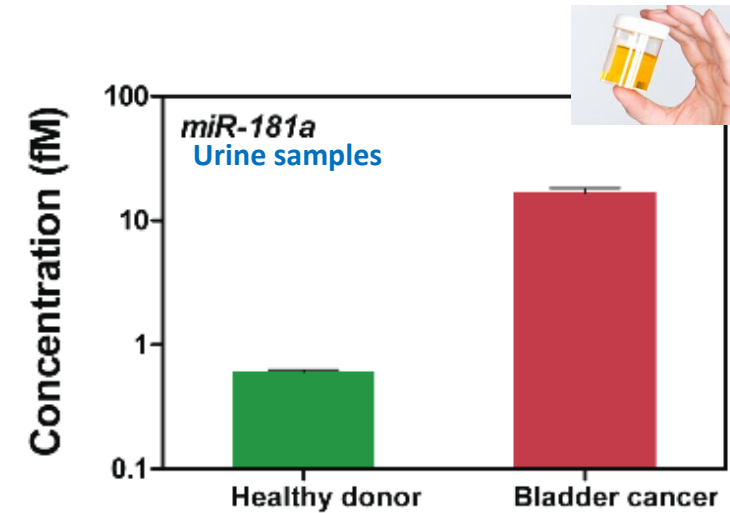
Detection drawbacks

- ✗ Very low concentration levels in biofluids (pM-aM range)
- ✗ Difficult to detect due to the presence of homologous miRNAa

Development of a biosensor strategy to determine bladder cancer stage in urine using MicroRNA 181a as biomarker



- **Ultra-low LOD of only 20 aM**
- miR-181a concentrations: 10 aM to 10 pM
- LOQ: 100 aM without amplification steps
- Full selectivity as compared to miR homologous



- **Stratification of real patients**

POC Biosensor for Celiac Disease Follow-up

CELIAC DISEASE



Gluten Intolerance



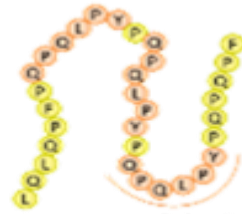
Usual ingestion of small quantities of gluten can lead to serious injuries in Celiac Disease patients



Gliadin

Main component of gluten

Digestion



33-mer Gliadin Peptide

- Resistant to digestion process
- Detectable in urine or faeces

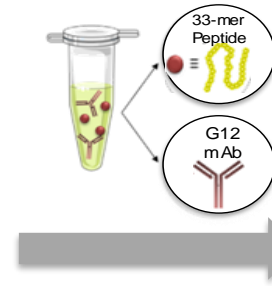
POC Biosensor:

Monitoring of gluten immunogenic Peptide in urine (Gliadin 33-mer)

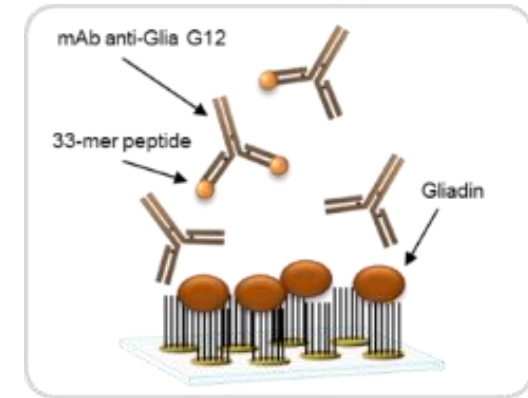
Only effective therapy:
Gluten-Free Diet (GFD)



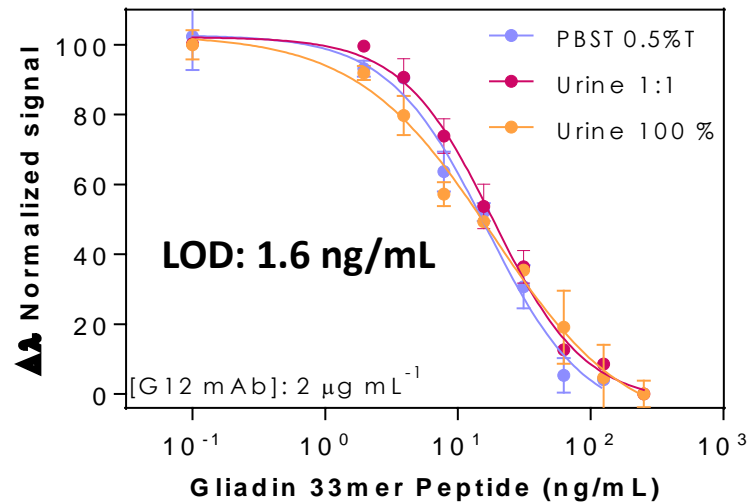
GLUTEN FREE



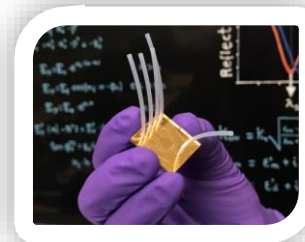
Urine 100 %



Competitive Immunoassay

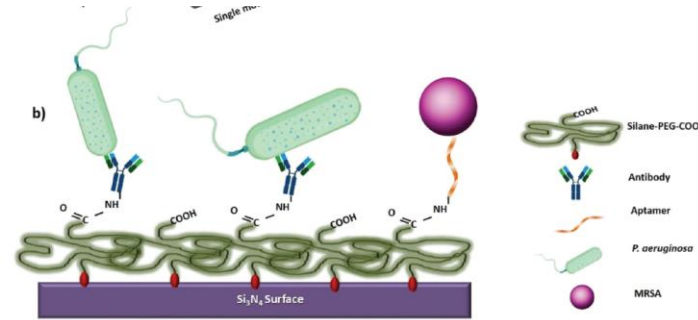
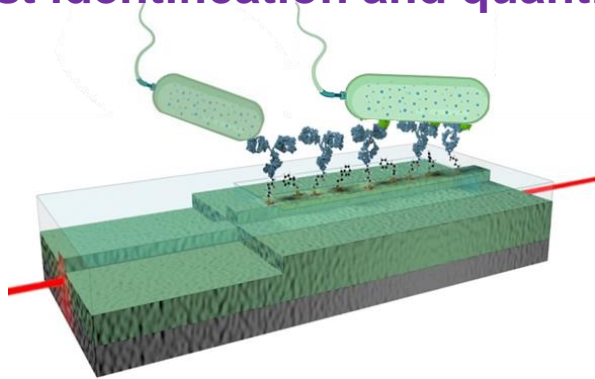


- High sensitivity and reproducibility
- Direct, non-invasive detection in urine
- No extraction or purification
- Good Correlation with clinical samples



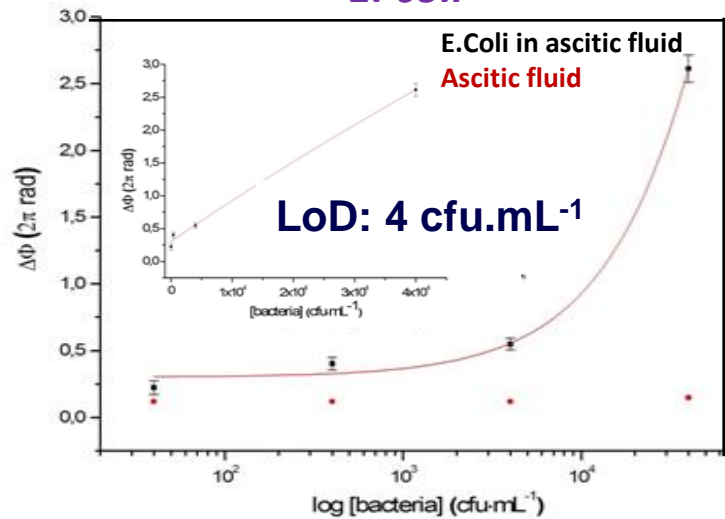
Early infection detection

Fast identification and quantification of bacteria



- Analysis time: 25 min
- Sample volume: 150-250 μL
- Direct detection (specific recognition)
- Custom biosurface for each bacteria
- Highly sensitive

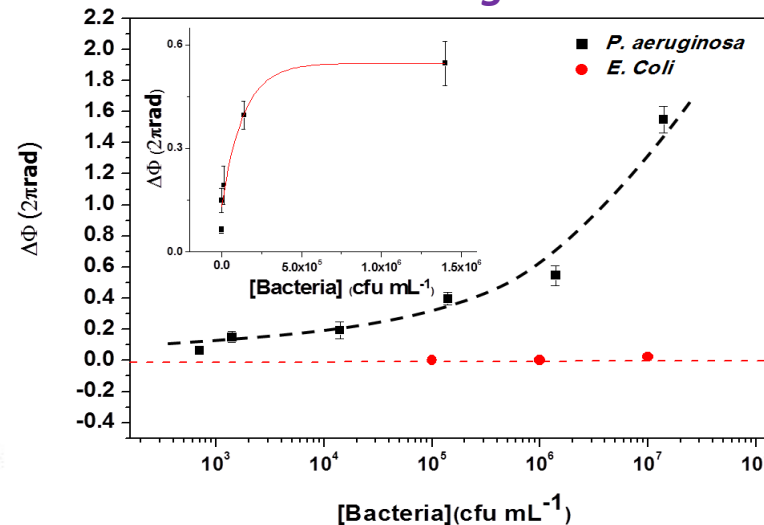
E. coli



- Identification of infections in cirrhotic patients
- Ascitic fluid
- LOQ= 40 cfu/mL

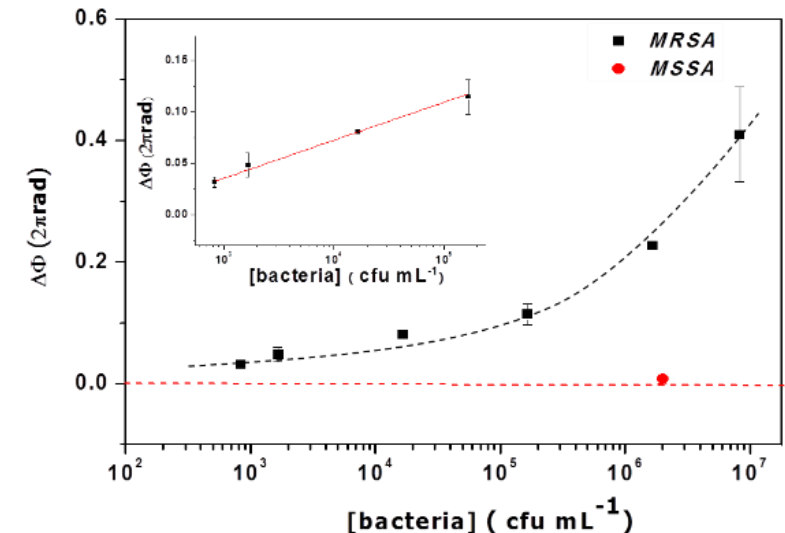


P. aeruginosa



- LOD= 50 cfu/mL

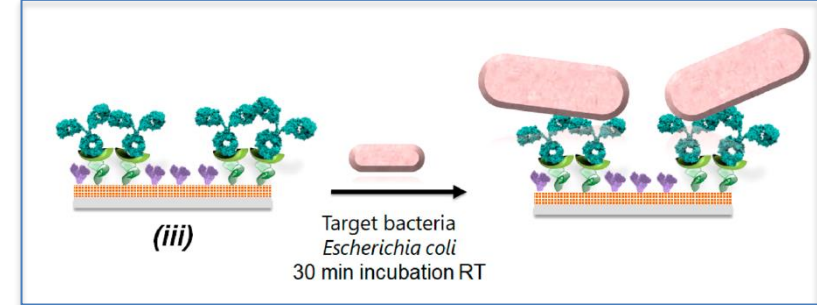
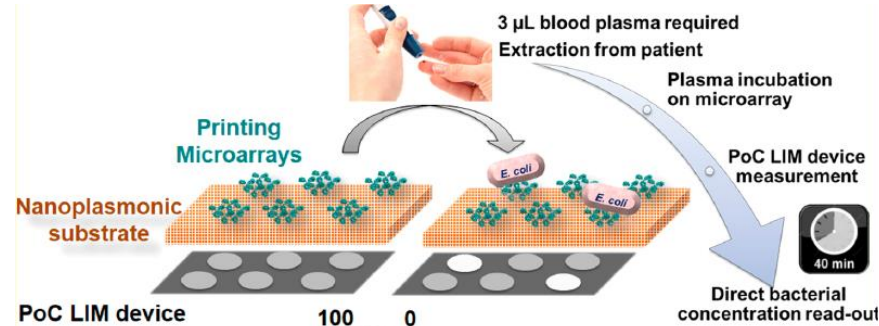
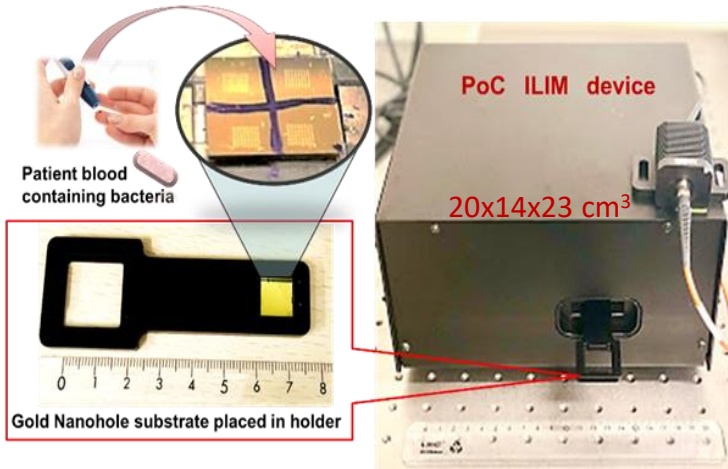
MRSA (vs MSSA)



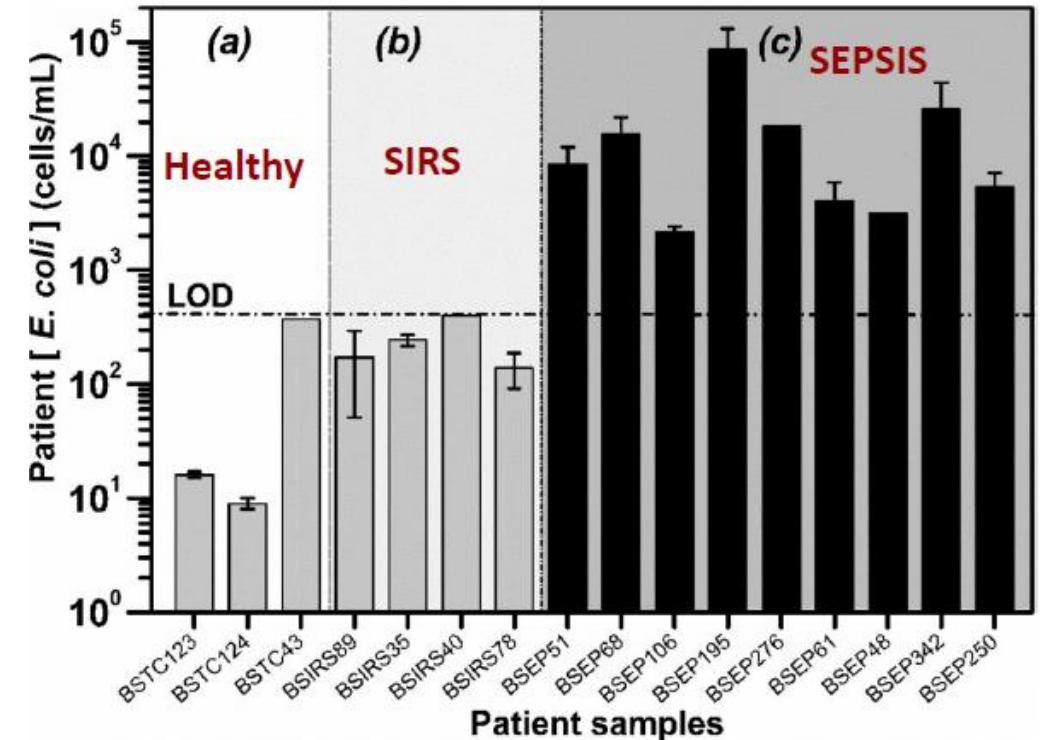
- Differentiation of the resistant strain (aptamer PBP2a)
- LOD= 30 cfu/mL

POC Biosensor for Fast diagnostics of sepsis

PORTABLE OPTICAL PLATFORM



REAL SAMPLES VALIDATION (PLASMA)

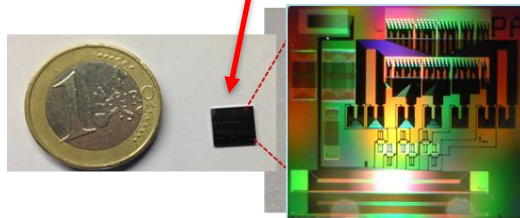
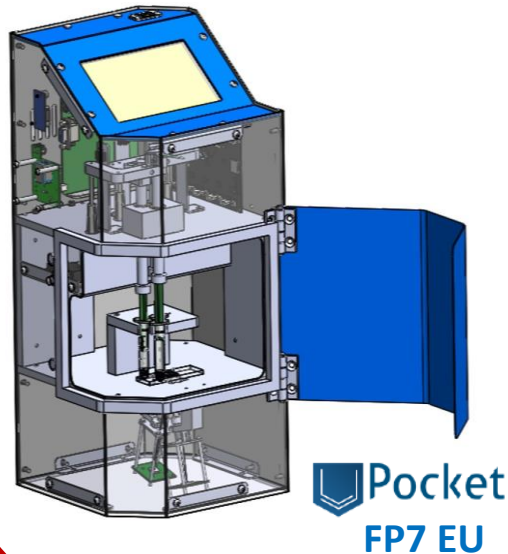
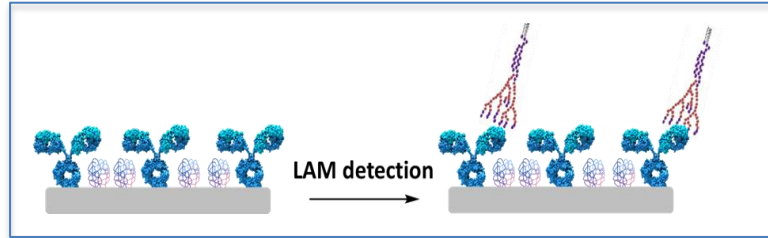


- Accurate categorization of sepsis patients from healthy individuals and non-bacterial-infection (SIRS) patients
- **10 μ L** sample volume
- Fast (40 min): one step on-site quantification
- POC deployed at the hospital
- Tested for the detection of sepsis protein biomarkers

POC biosensor for Tuberculosis detection

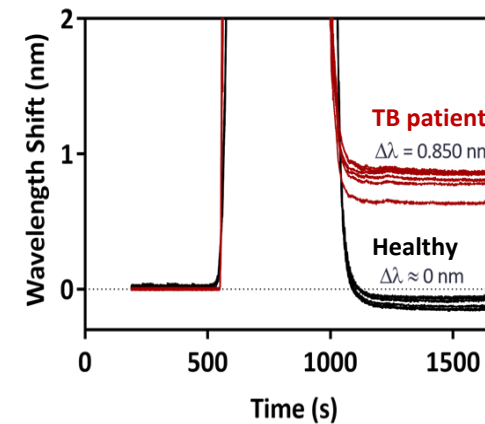
Lipoarabinomannan (LAM)

- Lipopolysaccharide found in **mycobacterial cell wall**
- Only present in **people with active TB**
- Confirmed presence in **urine**
- The only biomarker approved by WHO

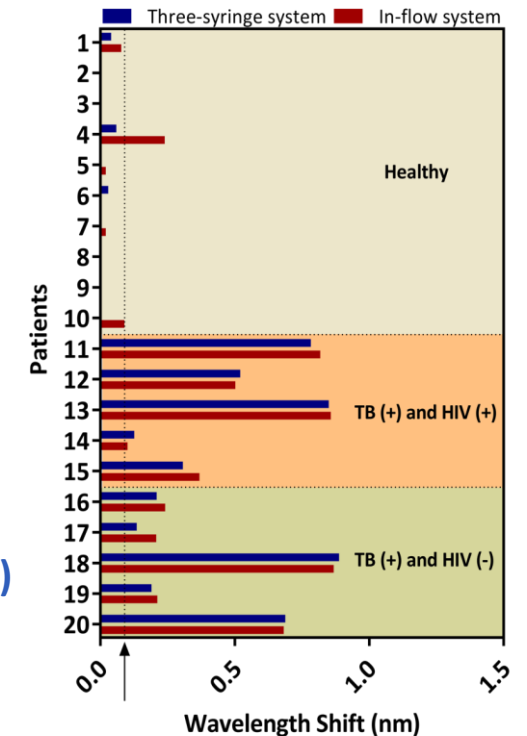


6 MZI Biosensors

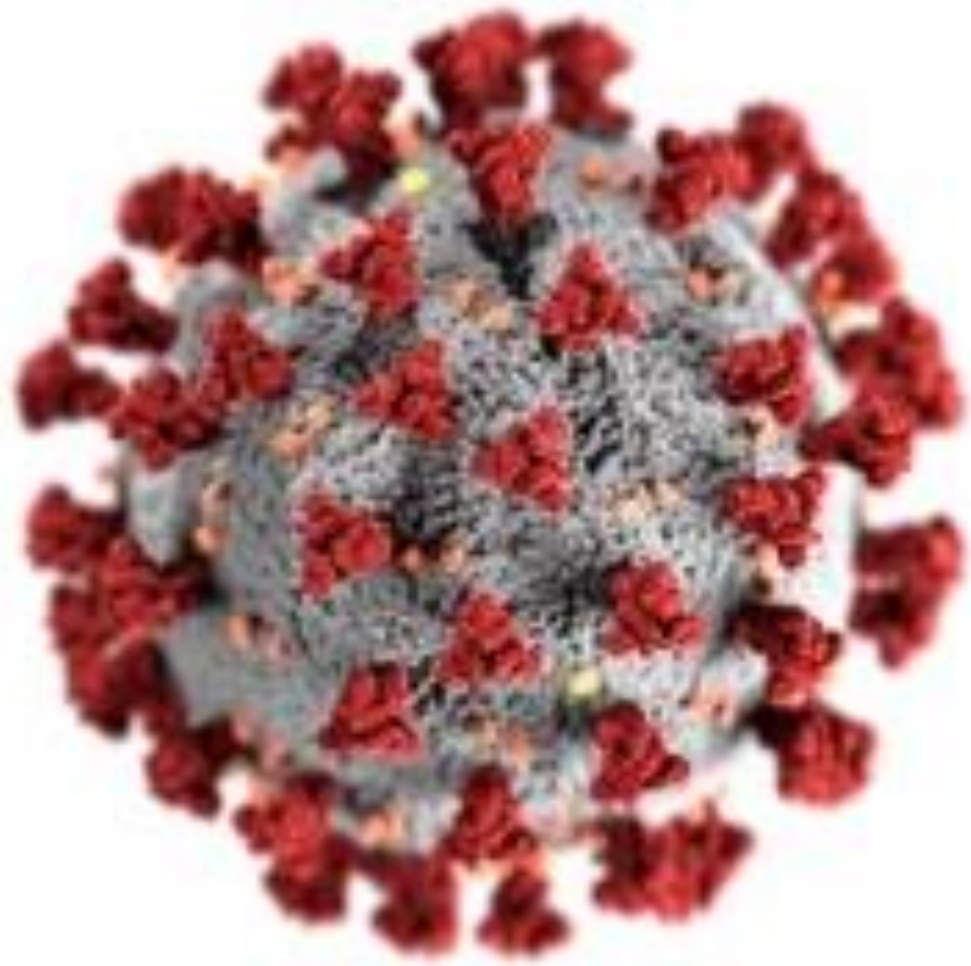
URINE SAMPLES



- Sensitivity= 100 %
- Specificity = 95 %
- Directly in urine (150 μL)
- NO pre-treatment
- < 10 min

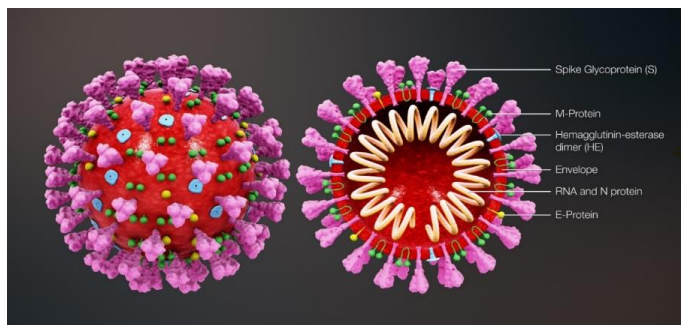


ACS Sensors 3 (10) 2079-2086 (2018)
Anal. Methods 10, 3066-3073 (2018)



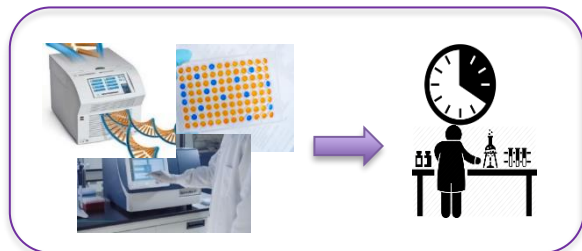
DIAGNOSIS OF COVID-19

SARS-CoV-2



- 1 DETECTION OF THE VIRUS GENOMIC RNA (Nucleic Acid Test)
- 2 DETECTION OF THE VIRUS (Antigen detection test)
- 3 DETECTION OF ANTIBODIES (Serological test)

Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (RT-PCR)

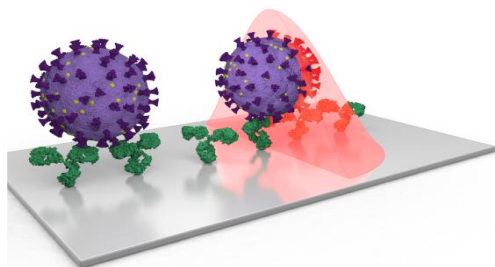


- Time consuming
- Lab installations
- Trained personnel
- Reproducibility

Rapid Tests (Ag/Ab test)



- Limited sensitivity
- Yes/No, no quantification



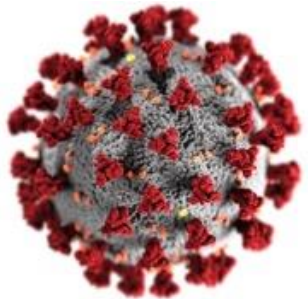
Point-of-care Photonic BIOSENSOR

Opening the route to:

RAPID, SENSITIVE, MASSIVE AND QUANTITATIVE DETECTION

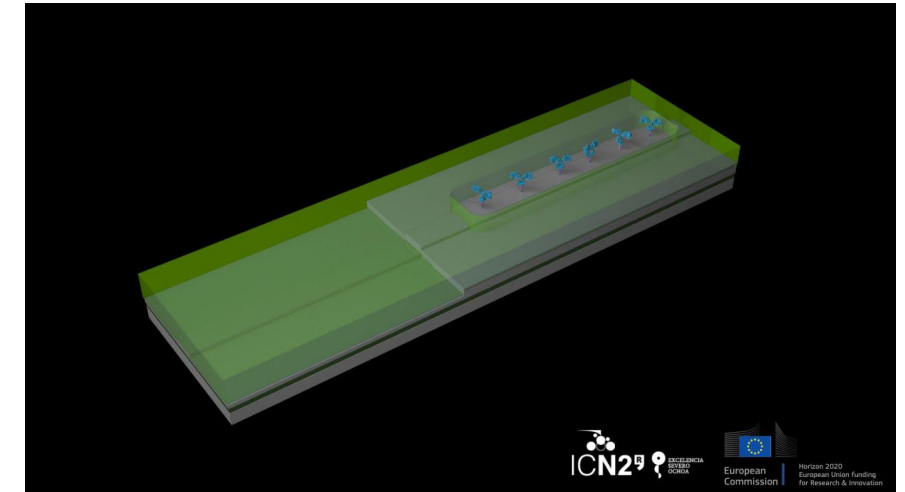
- Easy diagnostics at the Point-of-need
- High sensitivity and selectivity
- **Quantification**
- Fast diagnosis (min)
- User-friendly
- Minimum sample treatment

Photonic Biosensor for virus detection

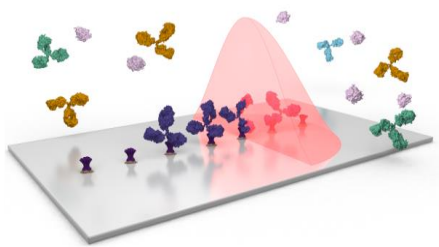


SARS-CoV-2

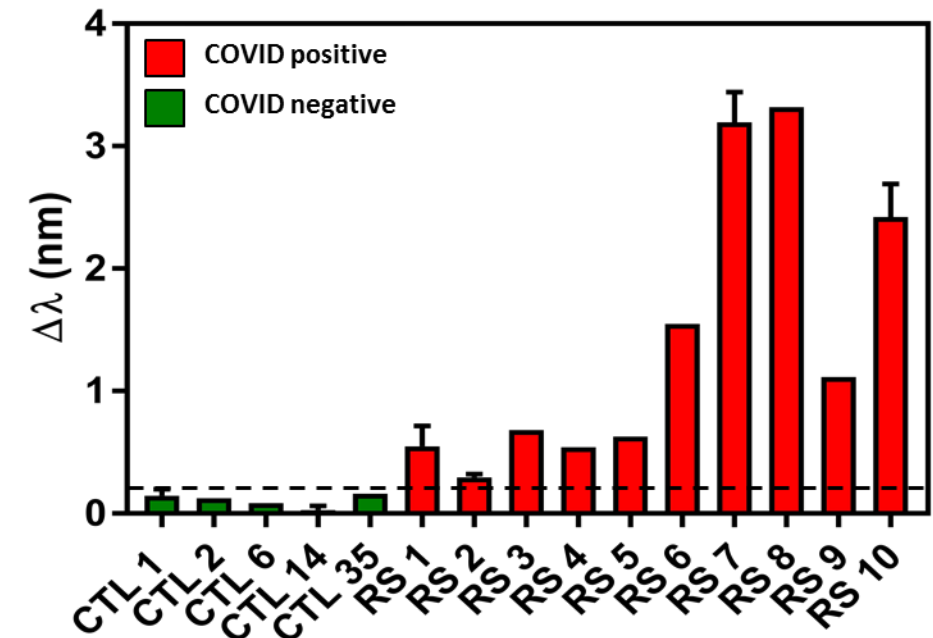
- YES/NO
- Intact virus
- **VIRAL LOAD.** From $100-10^7$ virus/mL
- Time to result: : 15 min
- Clinical validation on-going




Photonic Biosensor for serological detection



- YES/NO
- **QUANTITATIVE.** Number of IgG
- Time to result: : 15 min
- Excellent Sensitivity
- Clinical validation-Tech Transfer initiated





Point-of-care photonic biosensors for decentralized analysis

- **Point-of-care biosensors** are required for fast, direct, label-free, high sensitivity, low sample volume and massive diagnostics for the **post-pandemic era**.
- Nanophotonics biosensors are one of the **most competitive technology**
- Surface chemistry **biofunctionalization** is the **key** for sensors specificity
- Biosensor platforms with **Multiplexing capabilities** will be required

Point-of-care biosensors for decentralized analysis

2003

The Inventor: Out of Blood in Silicon Valley (2019) HBO

The story of Theranos, a multi-billion dollar tech company, and its founder Elizabeth Holmes



>\$9 billions



"The Dropout" (Disney+)
"The Inventor: Out for Blood in Silicon Valley" (HBO)
"Bad Blood" (book by John Carreyrou)



GRACIAS!!!

Multidisciplinary research

biology
engineering
chemistry
telecommunications
physics
mathematics
programming
biotechnology



European Commission

